# FRONTIERS AND MILESTONES



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# HOMESTEADS AND HAPPINESS

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank You for the many examples of courage, devotion, and dedication to life which we find written on each and every page of this book.

When times were hard and difficult, we thank You for making Your presence known to our ancestors and all who have gone before; those brave pioneers, both men and women, who have guided us and prepared for us a better way of life.

To them and to You we dedicate this book and we pray that, as it is read by succeeding generations, all may find inspiration and enjoyment in its contents, thus enabling them to continue in that great pioneering spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray,

Amen.

Rev. L. George Macdonald

It is hard for us to imagine how this beautiful Central Alberta countryside looked to those first white explorers who resolutely ventured westward more than two centuries ago. Highways, scattered towns and land developments have altered the landscape some, but the overall beauty of this area remains relatively unchanged, and it is still possible to show, in imagination, their thrill of excitement and challenge.

To those first pioneers and their families who came, struggled and endured and to their descendents this land has been good. But lest we think that the settlers who came from other parts of Canada, or other parts of the world, enjoyed the advantages we have today we must pause briefly and look back over the years. I think it is tremendously important to take time to record the intimate local history that is part of the rich, background tapestry of the Eckville area; record the names, the pictures, and the events which are in fact an integral part of our heritage - and legacy.

The history of a nation is conveyed with broad brushstrokes which record major events affecting the future of the country. The history of a people is a finely etched recording of day to day personal events: the recalling of names and times and places: the reliving of joys and griefs closely shared with loved ones, friends and neighbours.

I am sure this book will provide an invaluable link between our treasured past and our exciting future.

W. Helen Hunley
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Rocky Mountain House Constituency

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Eckville and District Historical Society acknowledges with gratitude the many sources of help received in compiling this book.

We thank those who researched old records and the devoted people who wrote numerous letters, travelled many miles encouraging people to write their family stories. If not for themselves for their children and grandchildren. We also wish to thank our devoted typists and proof-readers who worked so diligently.

Deserving special mention are those long time residents of the area who made available their personal knowledge, recorded memoirs and photographs.

And for a different kind of help, much patience, and great understanding over the past year, a heartfelt thank you to our families. We know roast beef would have tasted better than hot dogs.

No doubt, you will find many errors and omissions, but none of us has ever written a book, we have tried to be accurate in all aspects and if we have missed some information please accept our apologies.

This has been truly a fascinating experience, there have been many ups and downs, as with everything else.

We hope you will enjoy reading this history book as much as we have enjoyed compiling it.

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Helping Hand -
George Macdonald

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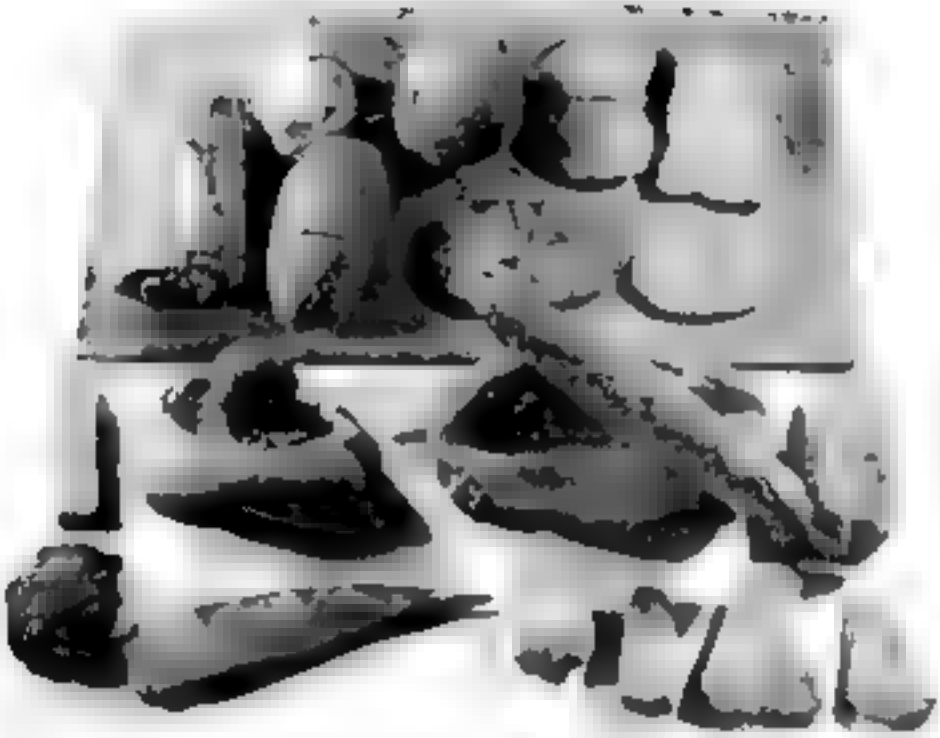
# Indian Tales

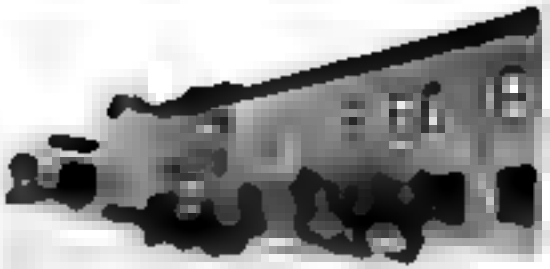


Indian Given Blanket

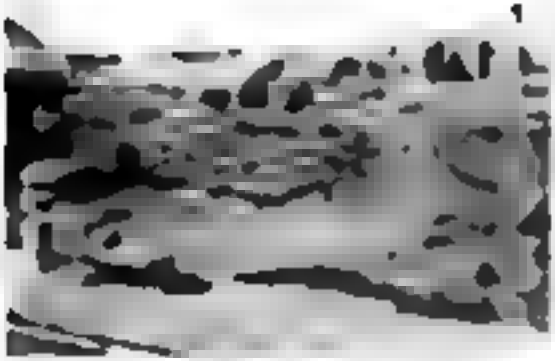
For 111th Birthday

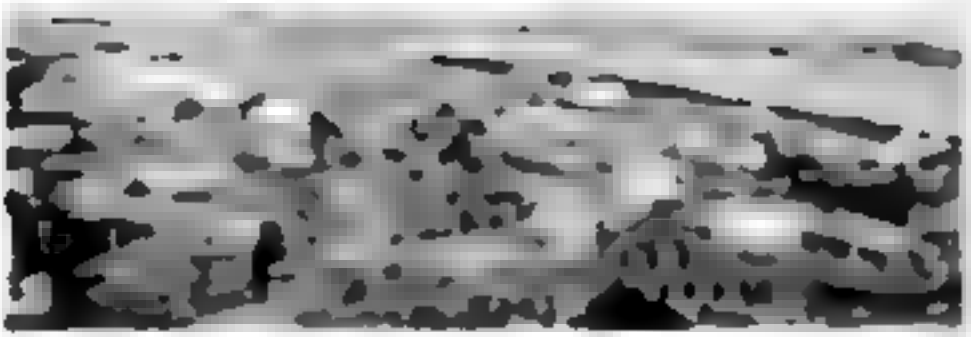
Mr. Bolton after whom Balaklk was named

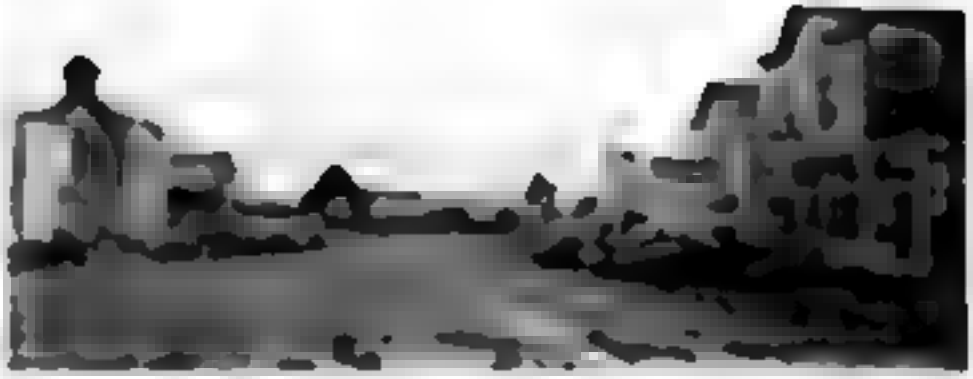
# Echville



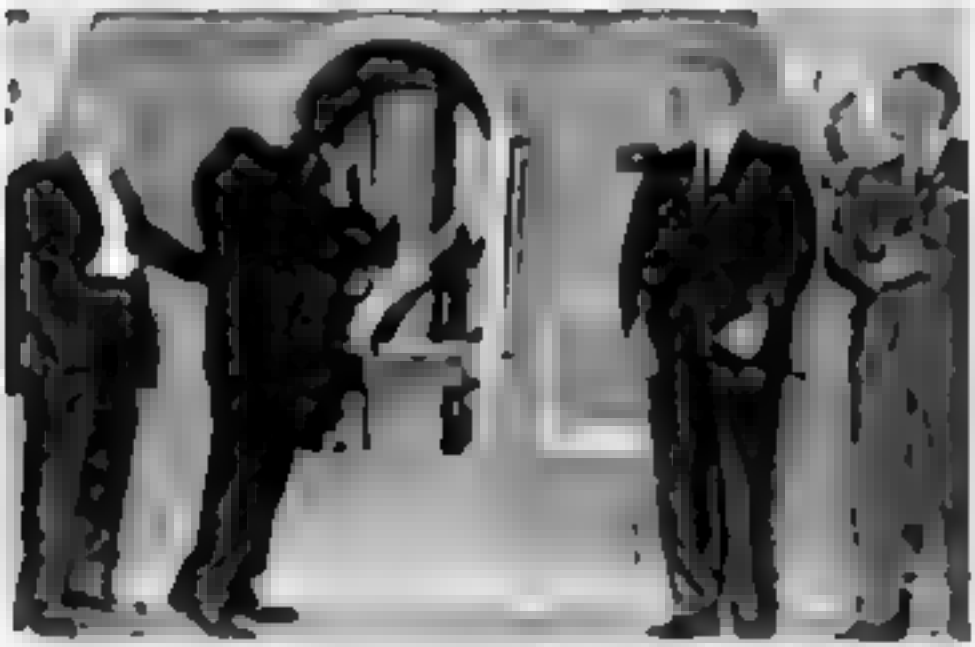
Through the effort of many local residents in





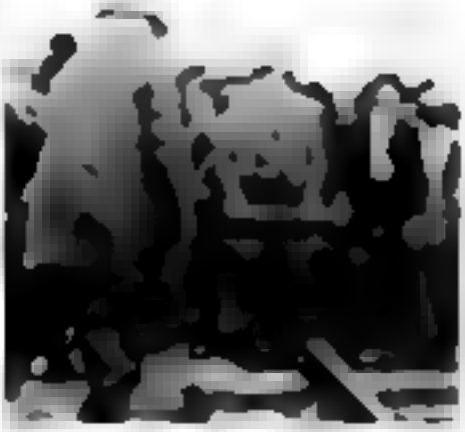


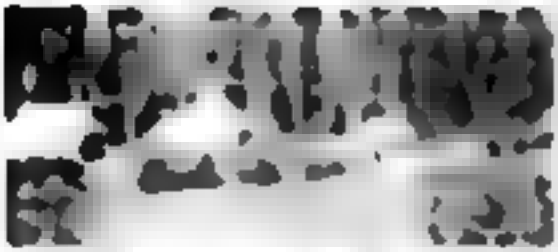
By 1945 it was completed. Sgt. R. L. Tull piched the job.



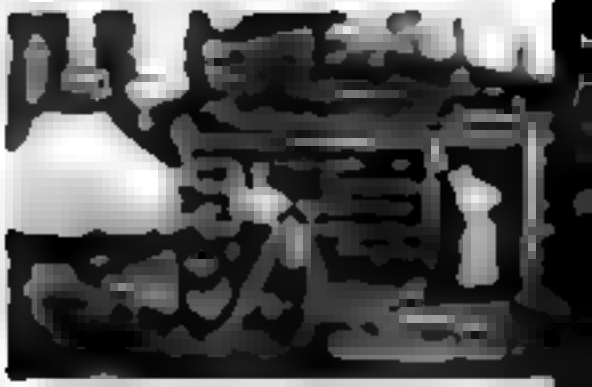
Ribbon is Cut

# CANADA.

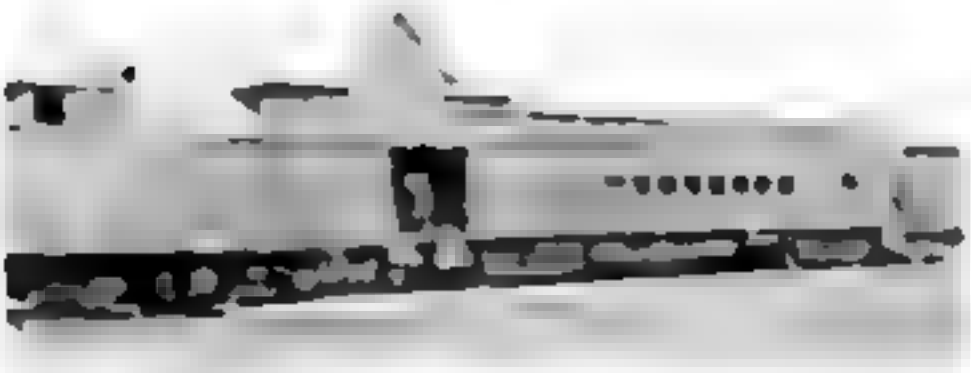




on July 8, 1981, the Company e



By July 1911, the Northern Construction Co



there was an abundance of coal along the western foothills and in the Bow valley. Where it emerged was the natural point [illegible] were ... to ... Pass. Accordingly in ... the ... opened ... and ... opened ... These lines ... that ... and ... were ... and ... which were ... to the Highwood ... As a ... inducement to the ... a ... Federal subsidy was ... to ... Mackenzie and Mann obtained ... but ... the line elsewhere ... the ... Western ... of ... the ... and it was computed as follows in Figure 1.

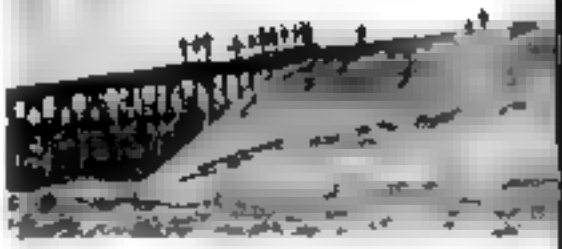
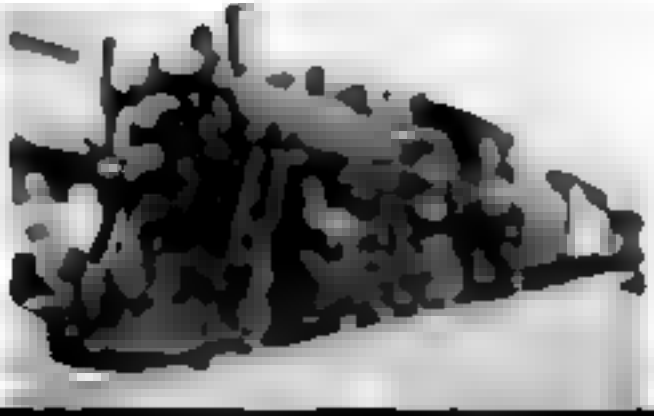


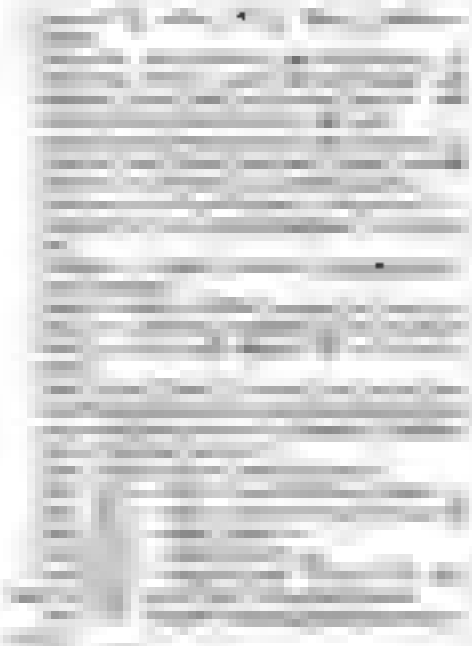
Figure 1

| | Miles | Federal subsidy | Opened for traffic |
|---|---|---|---|
| Warden to Nanton | 35 | $3,200 | August 18, 1911 |
| Nanton to Stavely | 16 | $1,600 | August 18, 1911 |
| Stavely to Mt. House | 6 | $600 | August 18, 1911 |
| Mt. House to Saunders | 56 | $5,600 | August 18, 1911 |
| Saunders to Macleod | 9 ¾ | $975 | [illegible] |

... the South ... the ... and Three Hills ... [illegible] ... the ... and ... point for ... the Bow ... [illegible] ... the ...

... was that there was a ... between the ... and ... Brazeau ... on the ... [illegible] ... the ... [illegible] ... the ... [illegible] ...





G R

# CONTRACT

FOR THE

# CONVEYANCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MAILS

## RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

THIS AGREEMENT entered into the 2nd day of [illegible]

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight between

John Kenlan of the town of Vulcan

in the County of Red Deer in the Province of Alberta

and Dominion of Canada Mail Contractor hereinafter called the Contractor (his Heirs Executors

and Administrators of the one part and the Honourable Peter J. Veniot Postmaster General of Canada acting for and on behalf of His Majesty His Heirs and Successors of the other part.

WITNESSETH that for and in consideration of the sum of money hereinafter mentioned the said Contractor engages COMMENCING the First day of April A.D. 1928

to convey or cause to be conveyed His Majesty's Mails over

ROUTE No. 3, VULCAN.

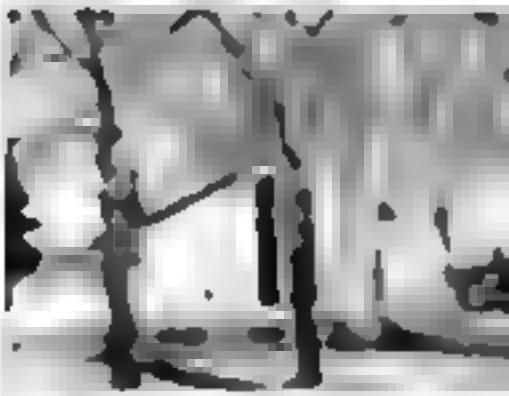
Three times per week in the manner and under stipulations hereinafter set forth leaving at each and every dispatch all the Post Offices established or which may be established [illegible] all the Rural Mail Boxes now erected or which may be erected on the route as being agreed and understood by myself that in case the Postmaster General shall see any change or changes by way either of increase or decrease in the frequency or distance to be travelled upon the Contractor hereby agrees to perform a corresponding service increase or decrease as the case may be and he shall be paid a the annual pay to the Contractor the amount of such increase or decrease to be fixed and finally declared by the Postmaster General.

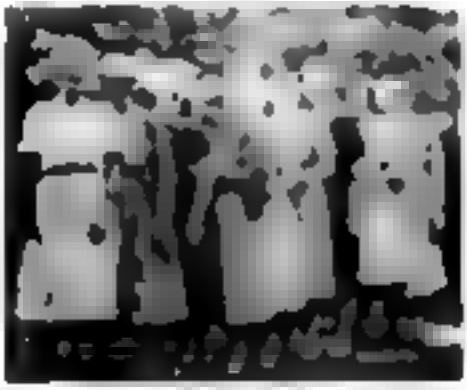
The service to be performed in the conveyance of the mails to be as described in the detail of time and such other route as may be determined by the Postmaster General serving the Post Offices at Milby

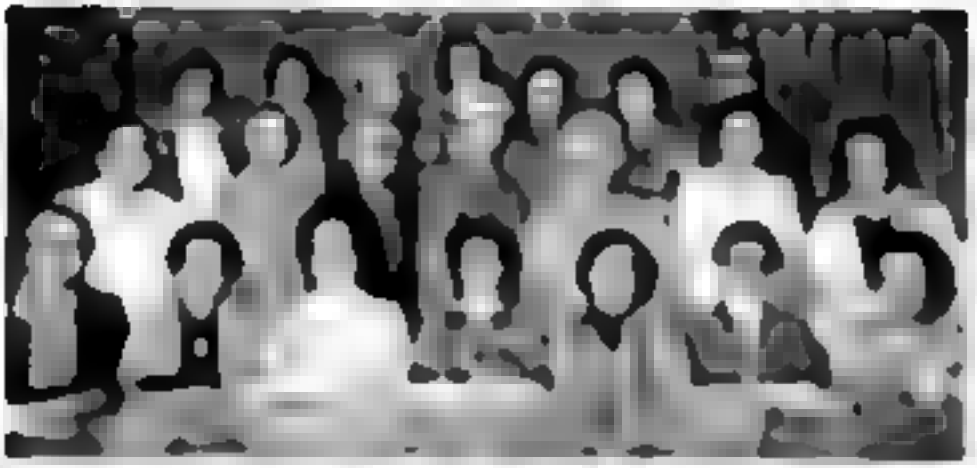
The computed distance which is accepted by the Contractor as the basis of the agreement is 31 miles.

The mails to be conveyed with a suitable vehicle.

12 R. M. D.- 5,000-12-3-28





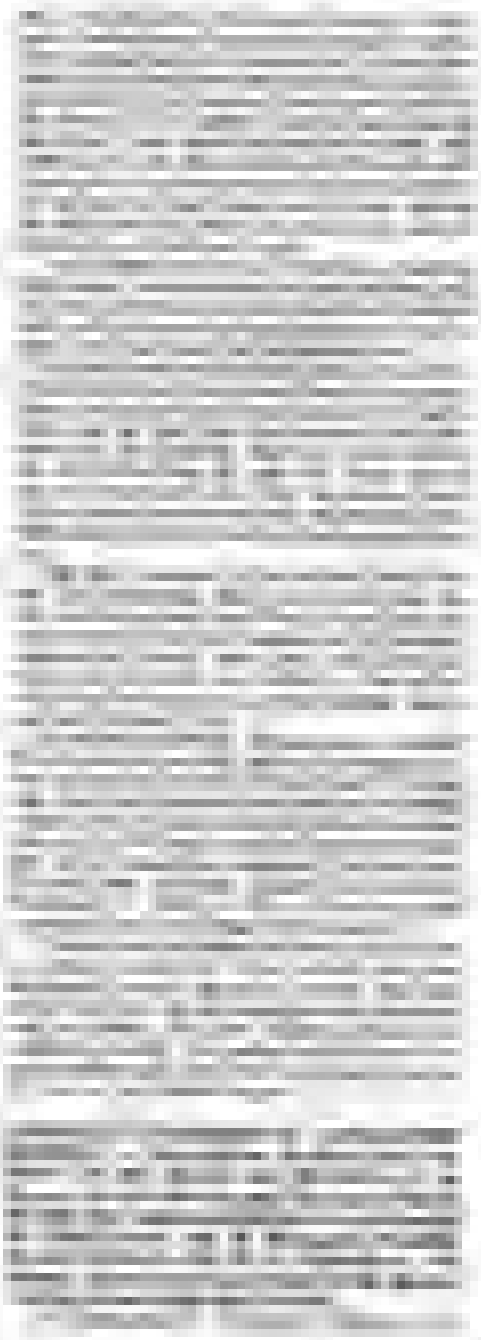


eld in Eckville

C.G.I.T. continues to play a major role

In 1949 Russell Quantz, who was attending

supplies the starch for the



A The meeting was called to order by Henry

be taken regarding our telephone system. It was

in the compiling of this history book of

and then in London, England for more education. [illegible] also Miss Florence [illegible] to Wetaskiwin and district. These boys are now in practice as M[illegible] Practice in Innisfree and Wetaskiwin, under Provincial Government. [illegible] is also a member of the cabinet in the Provincial Government.

[illegible] the milkman was the dray man delivering [illegible] orders. He started with C.P.R. and [illegible] he had a big friendly German Shepherd dog who would come in wherever he stopped to [illegible] a good drink of water. [illegible] and build up his new [illegible] phase.

Original [illegible] agents were [illegible] Hall for Pratt & Whitney also a John Deere dealer. Mose [illegible]

Veterinarians were: Dr. C. Spetz, Dr. James Wagley, Dr. Norman [illegible]

Atlas Lumber managers were: August Harris, Bob [illegible] and Ted Hansen.


**GOOD NEWS!**

[illegible]

**LOOSE THESE RIVETS!**

[illegible]

ROYAL HARNESS [illegible] $32.95

[illegible] $37.20

[illegible]

ORDER NOW

**GREAT WEST SADDLERY COMPANY Limited**



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THE BEST SMALL TOWN THEATRE IN THE WEST

and

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PHONE [illegible] BONVILLE, ALBERTA

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WELDING
ELECTRIC and ACETYLENE
WELDING
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THESE ARE "GOOD SHOES"
PLEASE GIVE THEM
GOOD CARE

1—Scrape all manure from soles and uppers

2—Wash them at least once a week with warm water

3—Dry shoes for about one hour (do not place near stove or fire)

4—Grease well with 'Warm Yellow' or 'Neat's Foot Oil'

5—Never grease with hard.

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.
[illegible] Port St.
WINNIPEG MANITOBA

When leather is burnt, it cracks and rots. So when shoes are wet, please keep away from excessive heat (such as stoves or open fires).

If shoes are to be worn around the barn, insist on purchasing shoes made with 'Neolac' Copper Leathers.

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.
[illegible] Port St.
WINNIPEG MANITOBA

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.
[illegible] Port St.
WINNIPEG MANITOBA

"I guarantee the pair of shoes to give good wear otherwise the purchaser will be entitled to a refund or a new pair of shoes

We cannot accept responsibility for subsequent damage or destruction arising the leather cannot be guaranteed against accidents or other causes beyond our control

**In Witness Whereof,** we have caused the guarantee to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the seal of the Corporation

Shoe No. [illegible]
Name [illegible]
Size [illegible]

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO., LTD.
H. F. Smart
[illegible]

SEAL

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M[illegible]

of [illegible]

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THE INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S AID ASSOCIATION.

[illegible]

By [illegible] Secretary.

Date [illegible]

NOTE: Owner keeps one and sends the duplicate, which will be promptly returned to you with a copy of the veterinary treatment given. [illegible] Long Distance Telephone. When calling give the name of the [illegible] and the number will be charged for your conversation with those who have no telephone.


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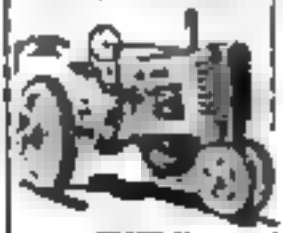

PHONE [illegible]

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[illegible]

Alterations and Repairs

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NORTH RED DEER

Alberta


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They are moving step by step from

FULL PRODUCTION

to

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through co-operation

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT and LABOR

both recognizing each other's rights and both working in each [illegible] interests under a system of

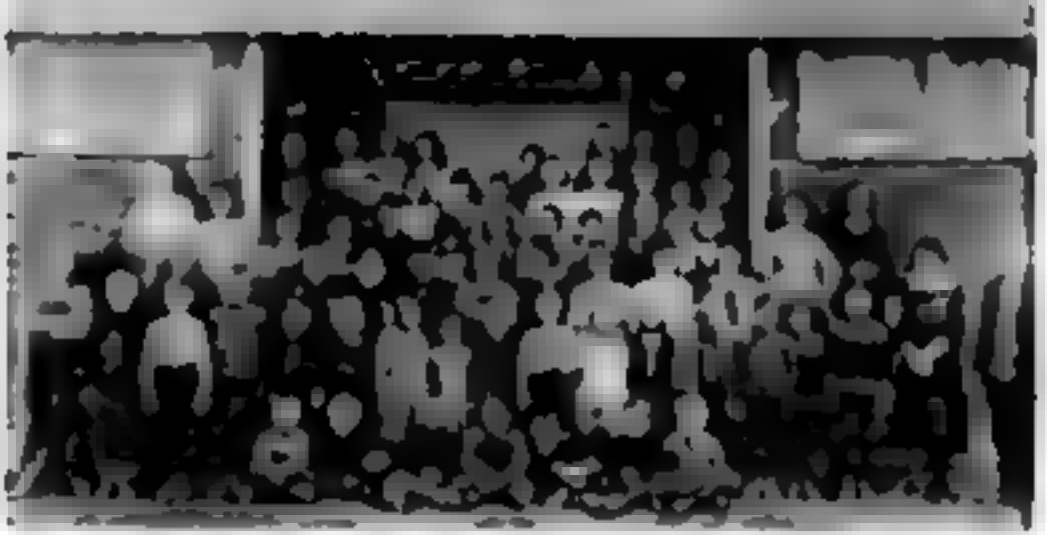
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE and FREE BUYING and SELLING

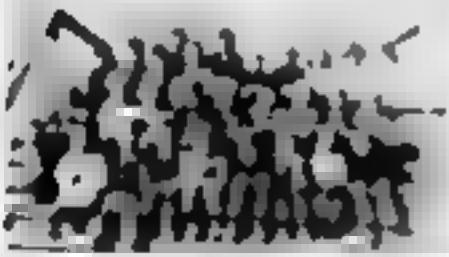
Free from Monopoly

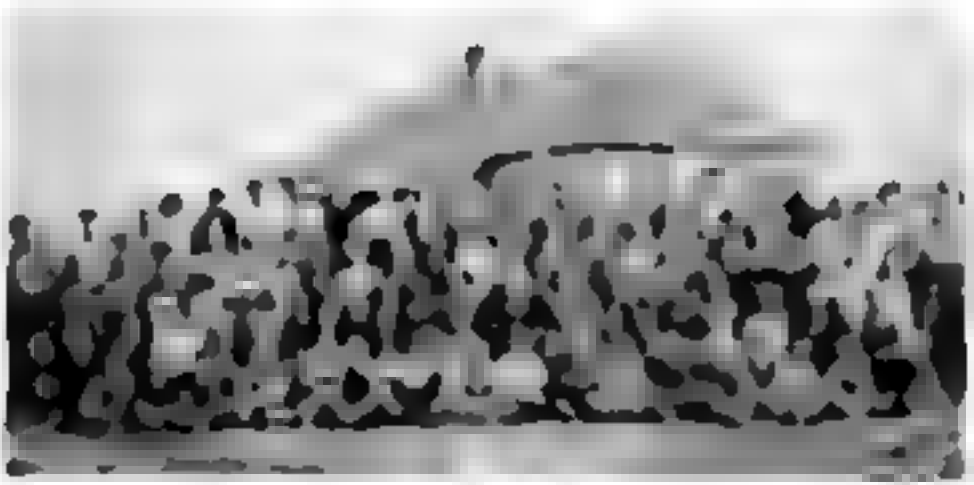
FRIEND

# AUCTION SALE

**Monday March 25th, 1929**

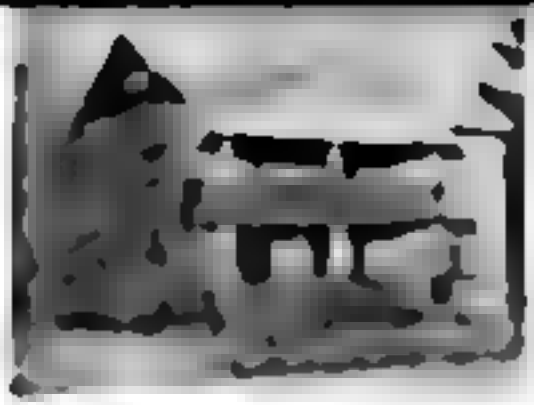


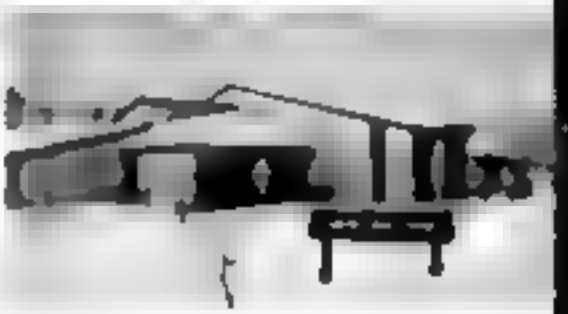




Queen of Hearts. | Queen of Hearts Flower

Christmas and Spring Programs. In addition to





Barbara Thomas, Harriet Benson, Monete Philemplin, Agnes Bardenhagen, Lois Barkfield, and Agnes Bardenhagen.

The Board started work on a 44 bed Senior Citizen's Lodge in 1968 with approval in 1974. Construction bids opened, construction began in early 1975, with completion in February 1976.

To the Memory of

**Dr. Frank H. Coppock**

Whose Joy It Was to Serve His Fellow-man

He walked before the Lord in truth and with a perfect heart. II Kings 20:3.

**1896 - 1953**

## To Keep One

A host of friends, associates, patients and business associates can only watch this day's sad chronicle. Too early in life Dr. Coppock is taken away from a field which attracted his tireless energy for the better part of his adult years.

The old saying "Once a man Doctor" is as he was just as true of Dr. Coppock. Even though he had been in semi-retirement for a number of years, his heart was in his work. People in need of help from whatever source, at any hours of personal loss, all called upon Frank Coppock for a measure of his time and his skill. He was a physician who was dedicated to the alleviation of pain and suffering of people. And from this knowledge as a physician was rewarded. He was a medical man, personal and devoted man. Devoted to the profession he studied long, delved his last mile and the best way he knew how.

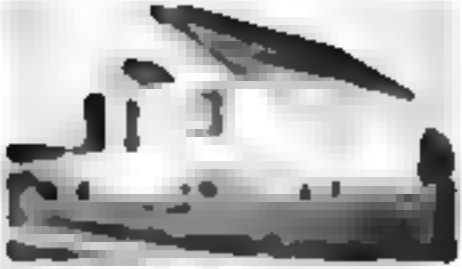
True to the moral concepts of the craftsman, Dr. Coppock was just that - moral to each step on his undertaking. To the best of his ability he kept abreast of the latest advances in medical science and this knowledge was placed at the service of his patients. Death was his greatest enemy and he fought it unceasingly on behalf of those in his charge - at times his personal fight was lost as even it should. However, none were his specialty and the welfare of both remained as much an object and distinction as it had been in his earliest days.

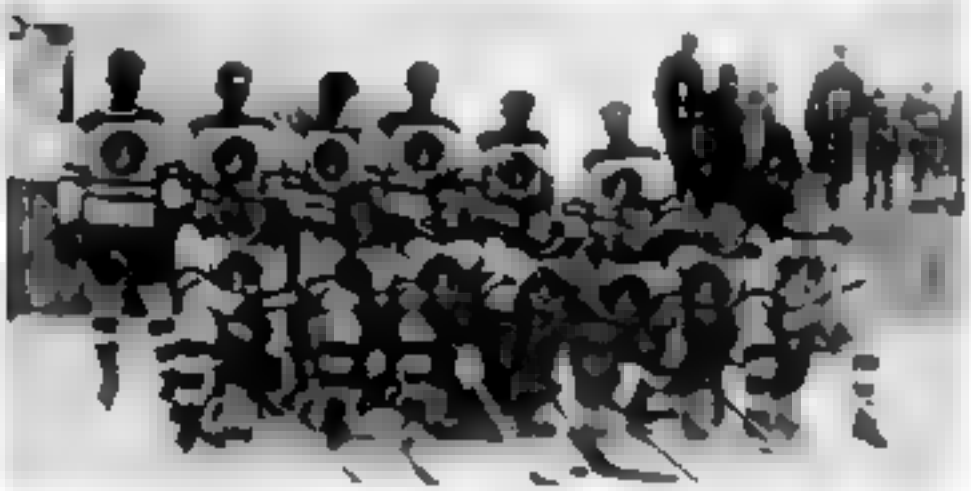
Many words could be used to paint a picture the man who was our doctor. His many, many contributions to the welfare of community through the modern office, the hospital, the ... the ... his ambulance service and his own committee ... the list could be long of his personal contributions of skill through his skill as a physician and whether in service ... community considerations, his assets, various aspects of any thing which stood for a better community and human living conditions of its inhabitants.

It is indicative of Dr. Coppock that he died as he had lived - in the service of his fellow man. It is fitting that as the good doctor passed away in the hospital which was his dream, a new home entered his final day.

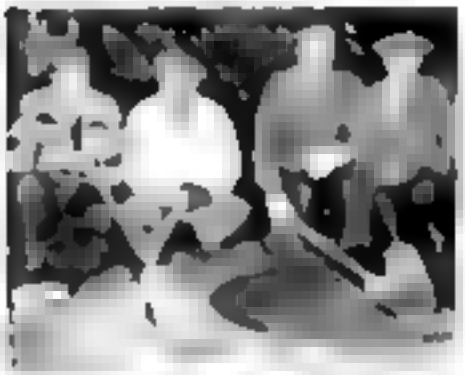
We do not feel it may be appropriate to mark a man as Dr. Frank Coppock because, by virtue of his contributions to the general well being of the community, he has become a part of it and not as individual, but rather as accomplishments as spokesman as the progress of the world.

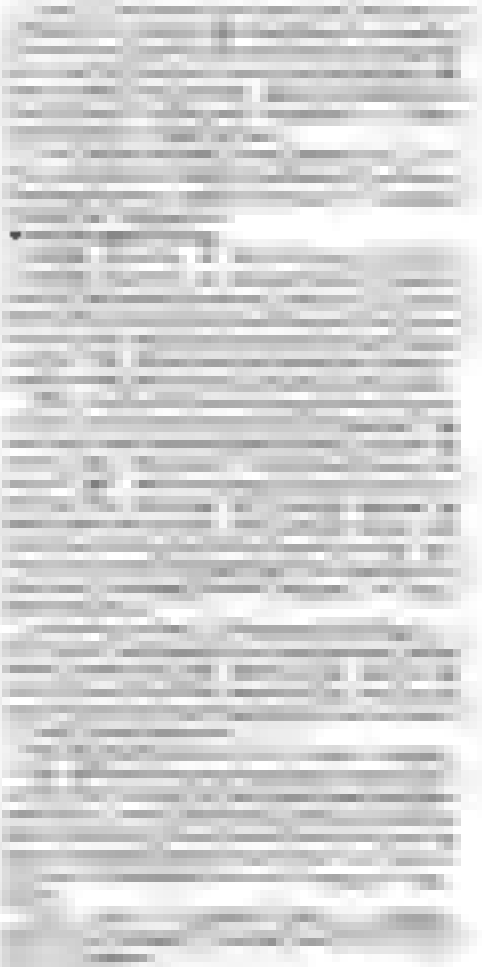
He has given the opportunity to someone who will always be with us in so many ways. Instead of the past year. So long, Doc. Rest in peace assured that you will always live on in the hearts of those you served so well.

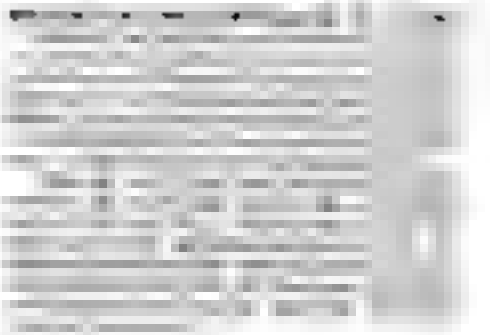


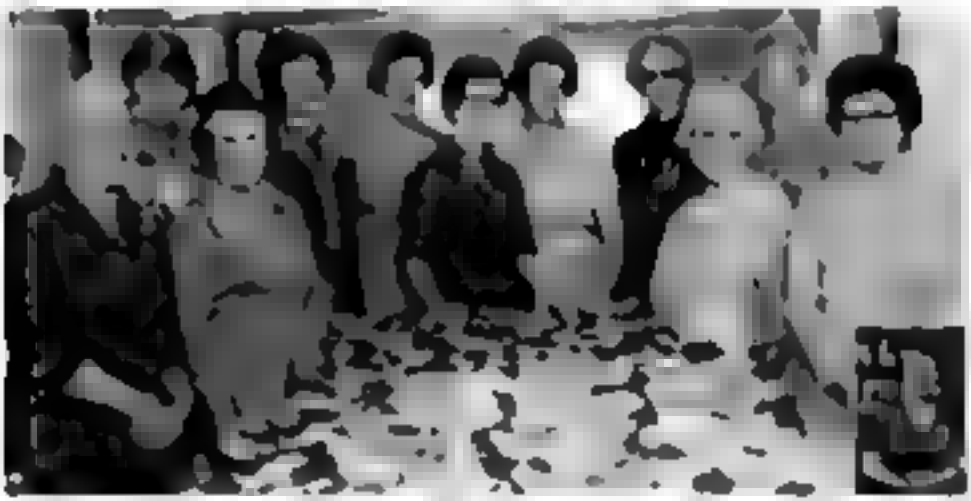


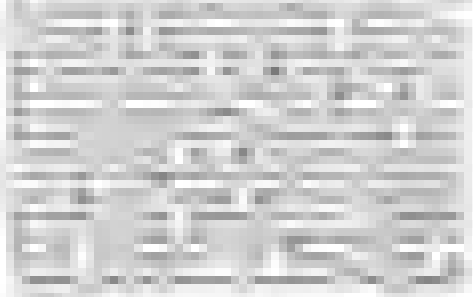
MORIA











Vancouver Registrar

For use of Farmers and Ranchers only



Form T 1a
1919

# DOMINION OF CANADA

# INCOME TAX

## RETURN OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1919

All returns should be prepared in triplicate. One copy should be retained by the taxpayer and two copies must be delivered to the **Inspector of Taxation**, Customs Building CALGARY Alta., on or before **30th April, 1920.**

Name _____ _____
(Surname first) (Christian name in full)

P. O. address of present residence _____

State length of residence in Canada _____ (Years) _____ (Months)

IF LAND OCCUPIED OR USED GIVE DESCRIPTION OF FARM OR RANCH OPERATED

_____ Section or Lot. _____ Township. _____ R. or C. Total acreage _____

Section or Lot. Township. R. or C. Acreage under cultivation _____

Section or Lot. Township. R. or C. Acreage under pasture (other

Section or Lot. Township. R. or C.

Do you own or rent the farm or ranch? _____

Place of residence during 1919. _____

Did you make a Dominion Income Tax Return for 1918? _____ Have you been assessed for Dominion Income Tax for 1918?

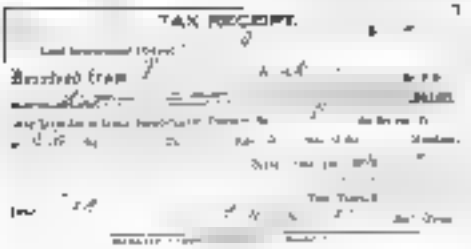
State whether married or unmarried, widow or widower. _____ (If married state whether living with husband or wife, or reason for separation)

State number and ages of children under the age of 18 years dependent on you for support. _____
If supporting dependent brothers or sisters under the age of 18 years or a dependent parent or parents, grandparent or grandparents, give particulars.

If a widow or widower state number and ages of dependent children, if any, under the age of 18 years or over 21 years of age and dependent on you for support on account of physical or mental infirmity.

I hereby certify that the return embodied herein, the supplementary statements and additional schedules attached, if any, contains a true and complete statement of my Gross Income and Deductions claimed for the year 1919.

Date _____ Telephone address _____ Signature _____


TAX RECEIPT.

Received from

ALBERTA BRANCH

Rockyford Alta. Aug 13, 1926

I the undersigned hereby agree to stook on the lands of S B Hovey 527 acres of wheat at the rate of forty-five cents 45c per acre and the said S B Hovey hereby agrees to pay for the said stook up at the aforesaid rate The work is to be done in a good workmanlike manner of which S B Hovey or his attorney shall be the sole judge The shares I shall not be allowed to use on the ground but will be stopped home after the crop is severed from the ground

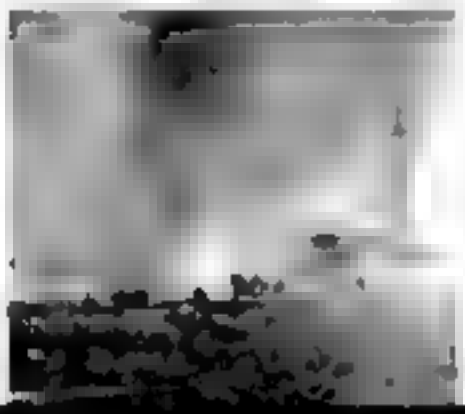
It is also agreed that S B Hovey will board the undersigned and any other man employed by them to stook the said crop free of charge

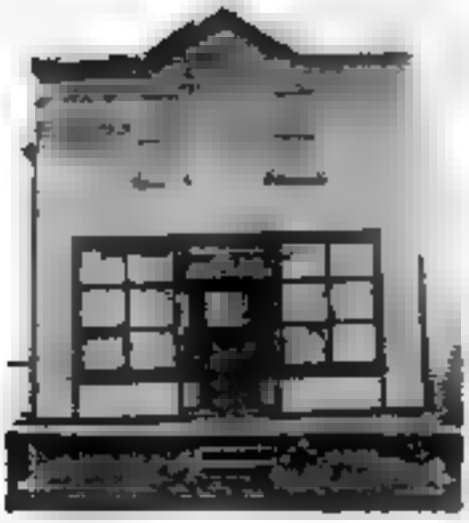
witness John Tiedeman

Arthur M Zandeman

J Lawrence

S B Hovey
per J Hovey



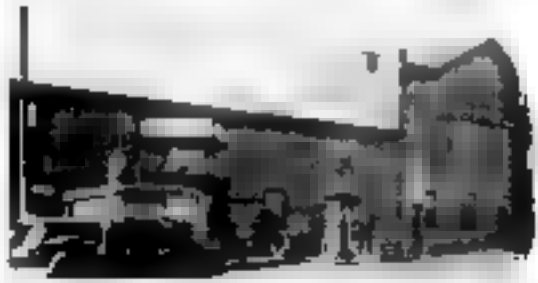


Hicks's Harness and Shoe Shop, 1908

Elevator Inn

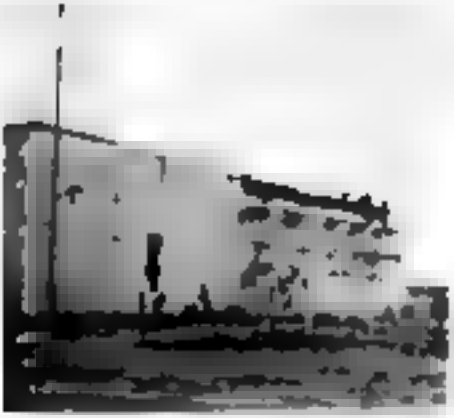
C.A. Sinclair Rabbit Processing Fur Mart

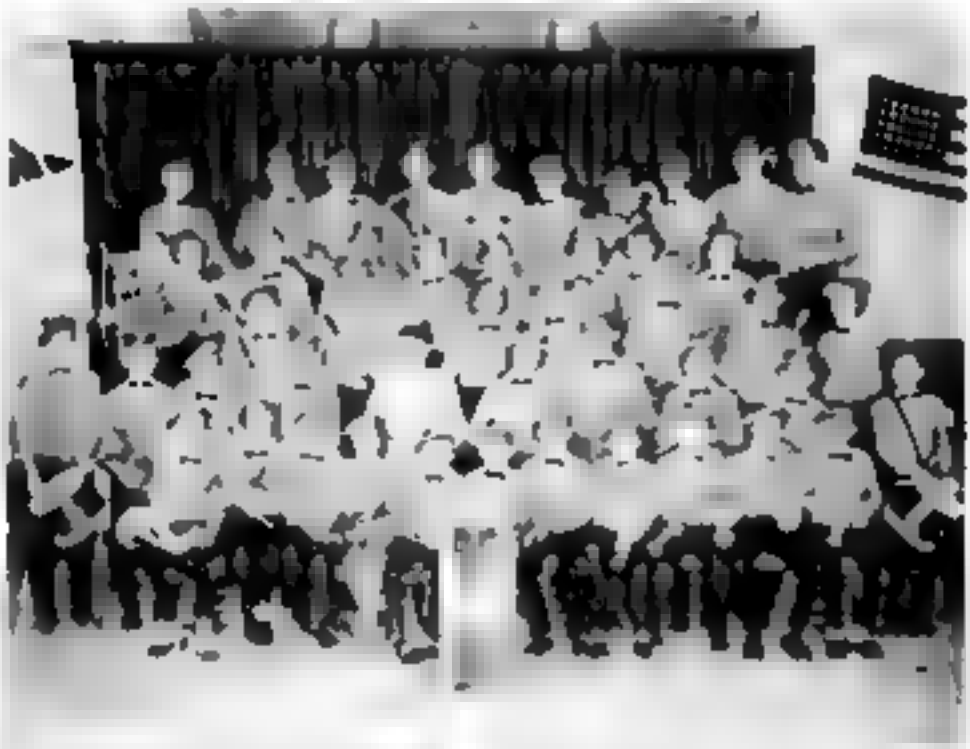
Archer Lee  John Robinson  John Nicola  Arvid Thorleson

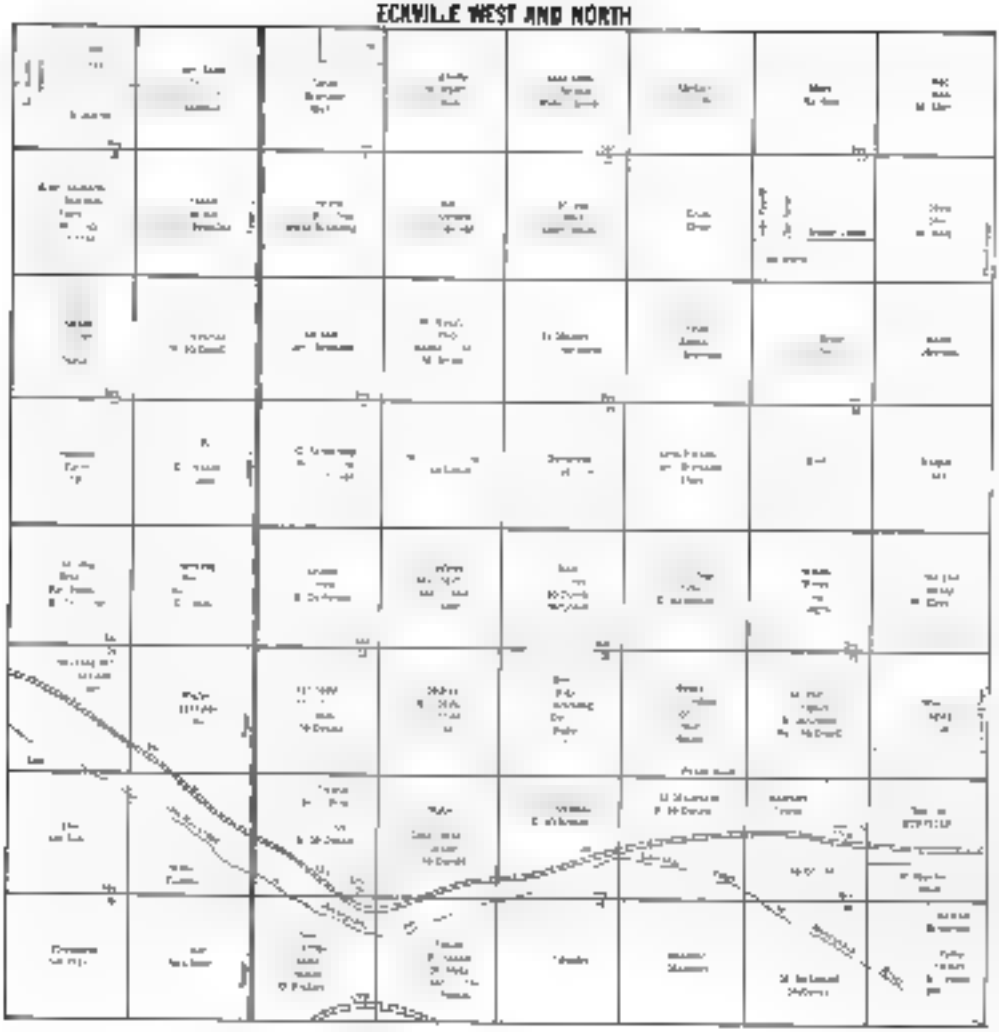


John Nicola St. Georges

Service Blacksmith Shop








# Family Biographies

**ASH W**

I. William Allan Ash, was born in 1892 at South Molton, Devonshire, England. I was the eldest of three boys. I also had two sisters whom I never saw as they died of diptheria before I was born.

My early years were spent at South Molton where I went to school. Later we moved to Woodbury, South east of Exeter Devonshire because my parents died and we lived with relatives.

I came to Canada in 1907. My brothers came after. I did. Harold Joe the second youngest joined up with the Manitoba Dragoons in the First World War and was killed in action. Jack my youngest brother now lives in Amherstburg, Ontario.

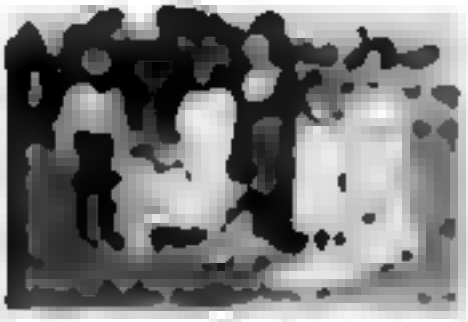
In arriving in Canada I first went to Clanwilliam, North Mikedosa, Manitoba. I

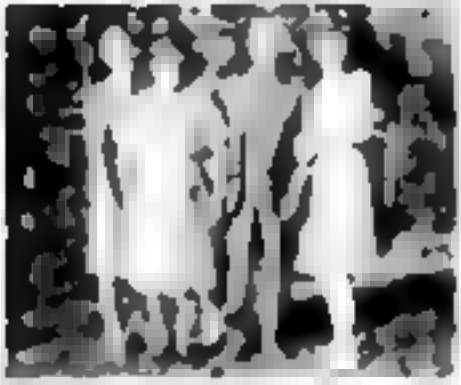
soon set up with his beloved chores to keep him busy.

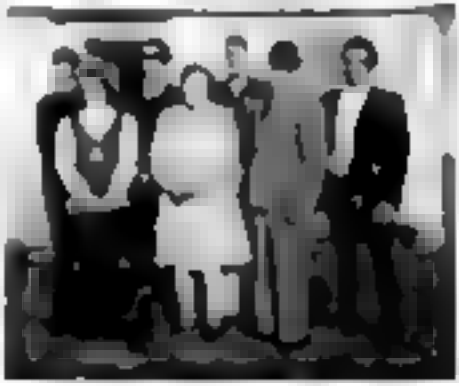
stampede. I also recall him teaching the young

Grandpa." In all, the Bakers, Reg and

-his is my tribute to a great pioneer family



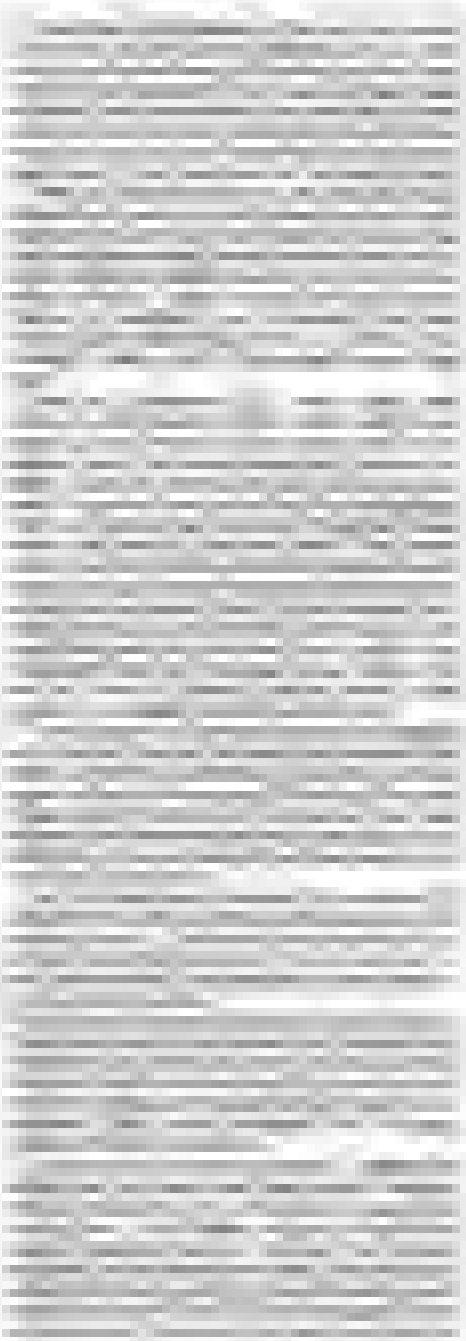


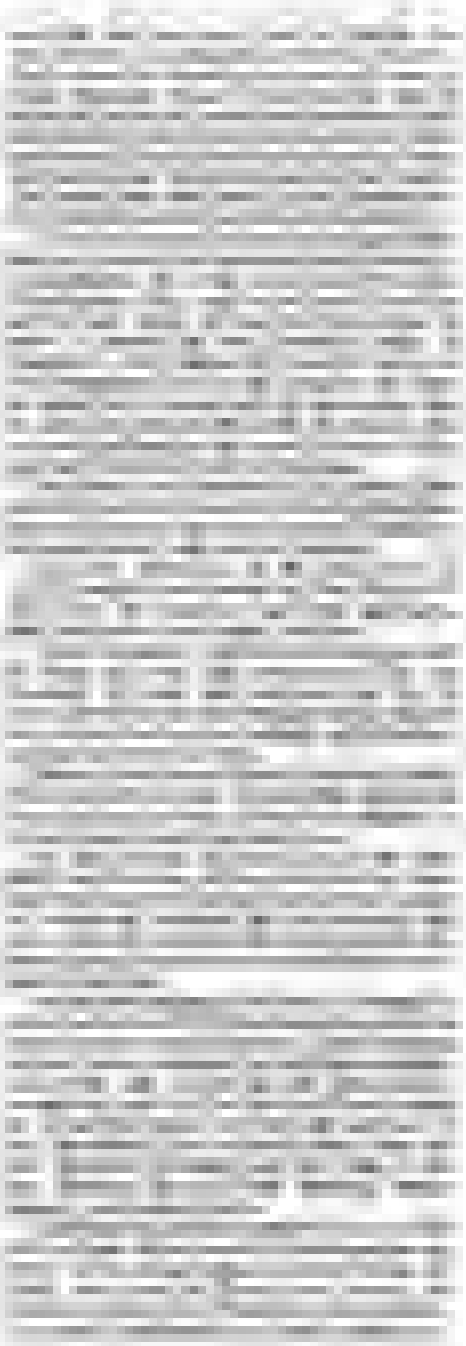


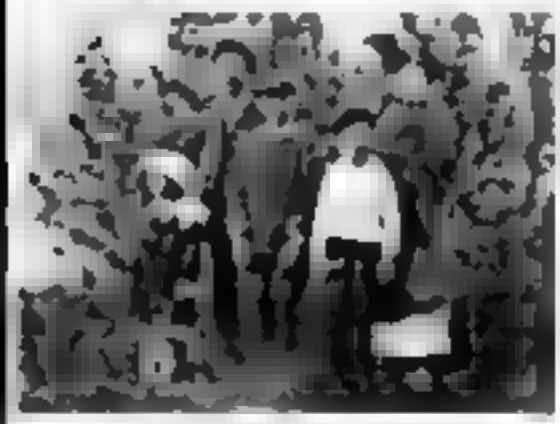
en.

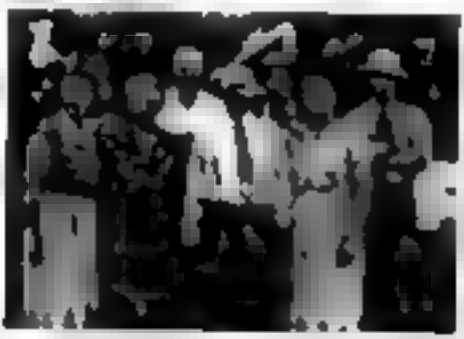
Dad could not keep his plow sharp because

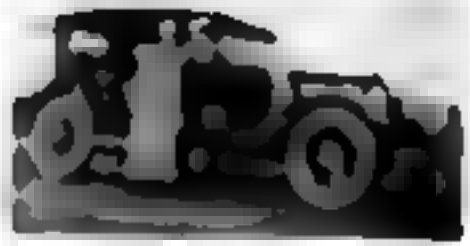
1909 in Finland. My mother brother Henry and I

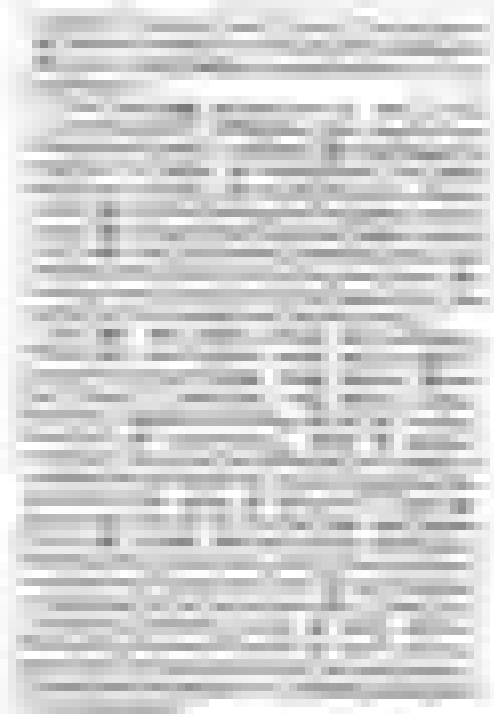


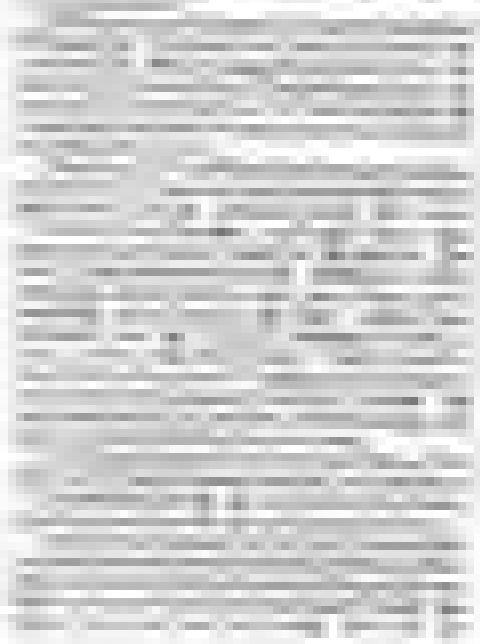




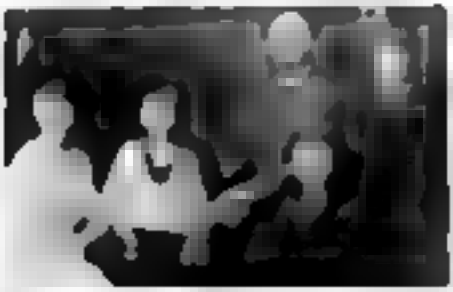


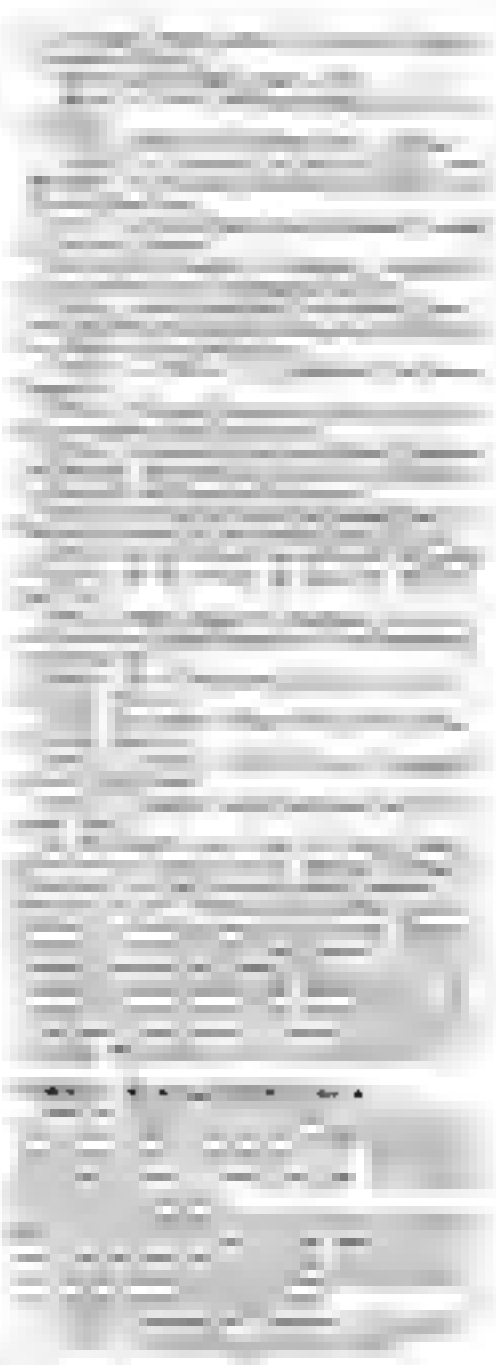


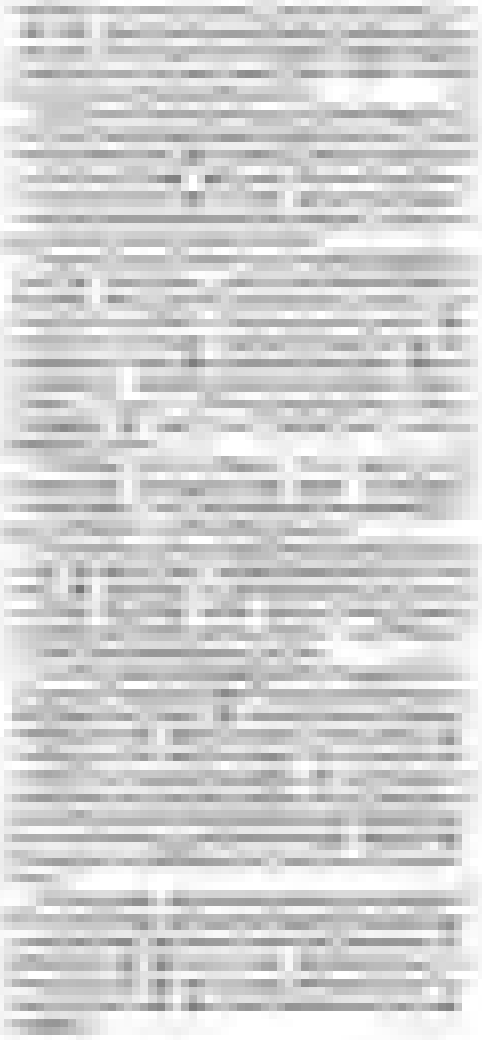


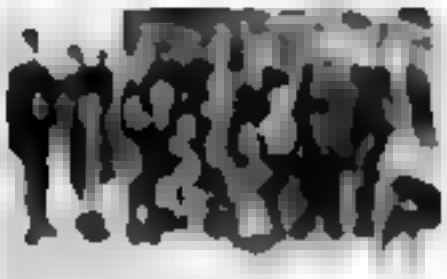


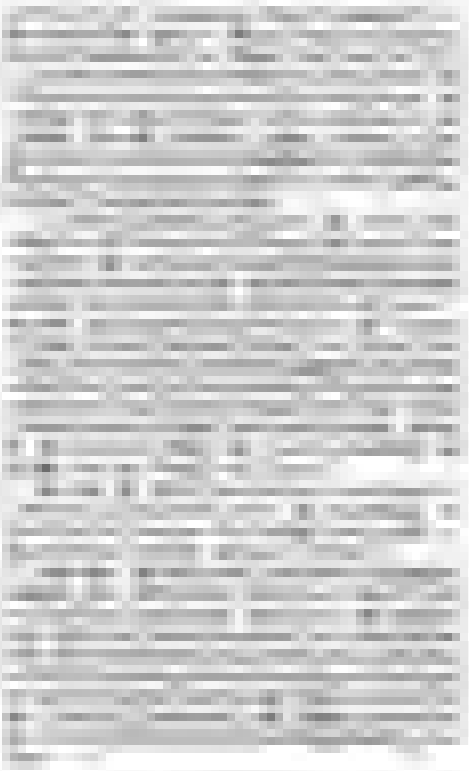
Hon. What a treat to have running water inside toilet.

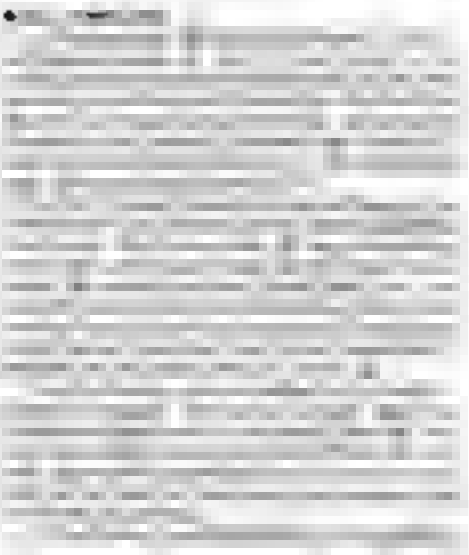


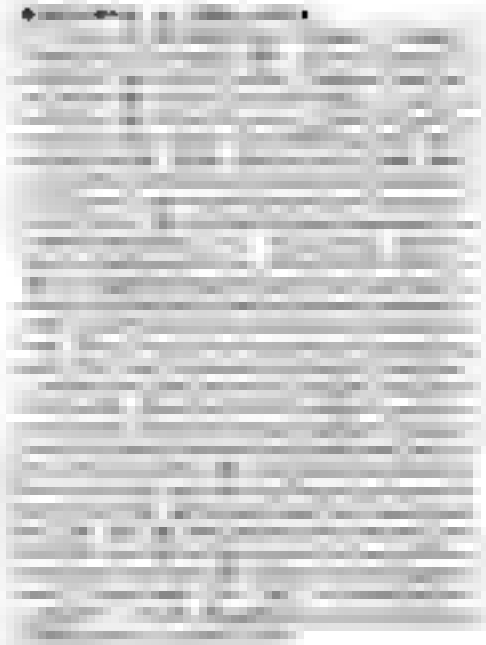




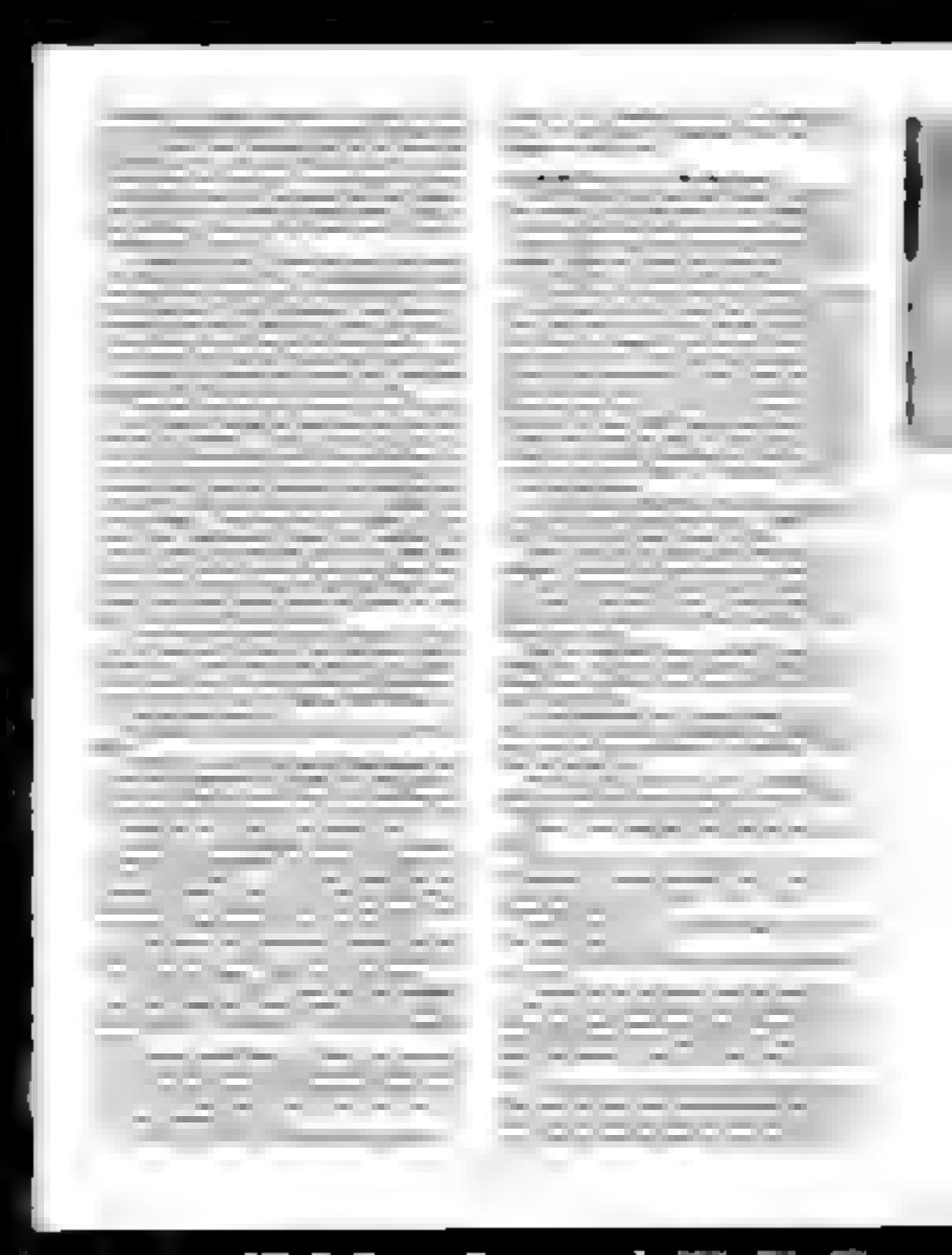


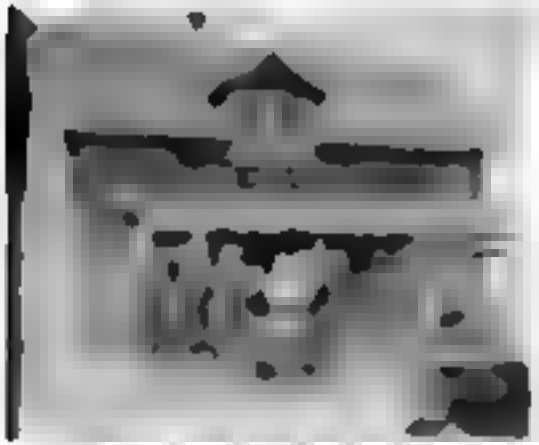






S. F. HERBERT FAMILY — by Mr. Herbert



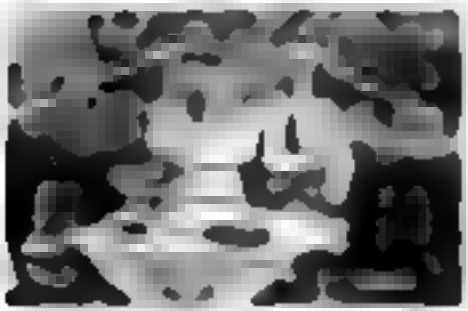


Eckville. They have five boys. They live on

Born in Kauhajoki, Finland. Mr. Jacob Hill immigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 19, where

QUIST

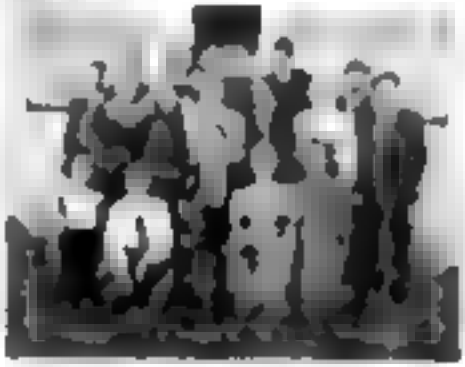
Aubrey Shultz and I were married in Calgary



ost track of him
Now all the family have passed away

IVES, R. C.
R. C. 'Pat' Ives was born at Coleraine C

In 1969, Irene graduated from the Eckville



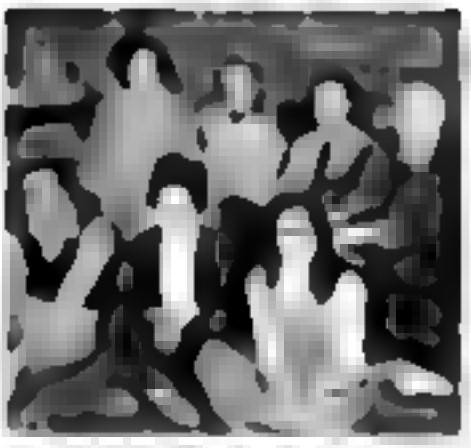
[redacted]

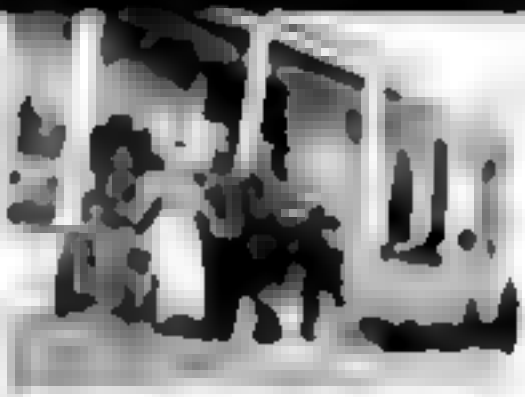
[redacted]

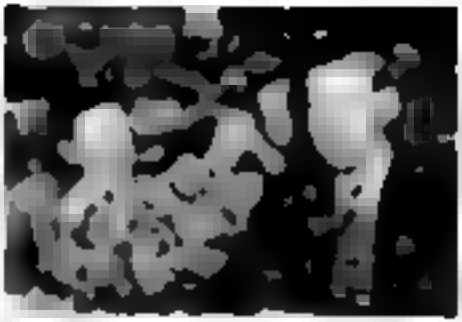
[redacted]

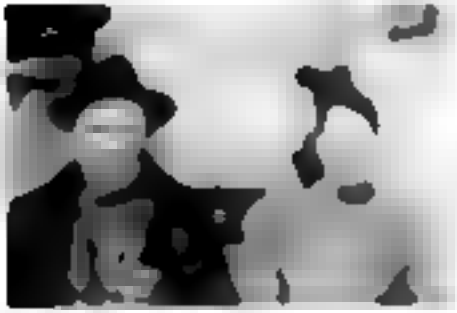
a bread, made jams and

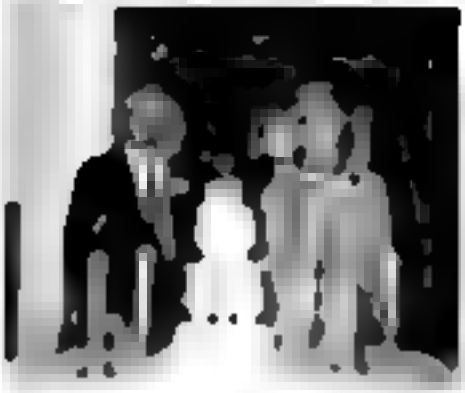
MR. AND MRS. ALBERT — by their







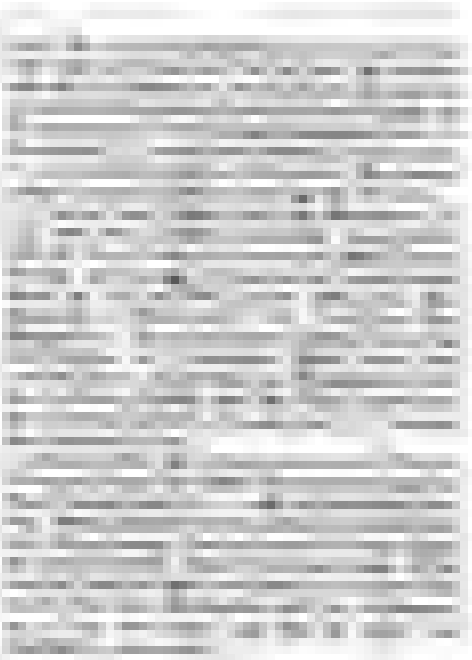




animal slipped into
was at home since

bag of candy

Elsie McDonald lives with her husband



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Settler and Margaret – a Pioneer with daughter Ivy, 1911

[illegible] British [illegible] assemble to enjoy the [illegible]

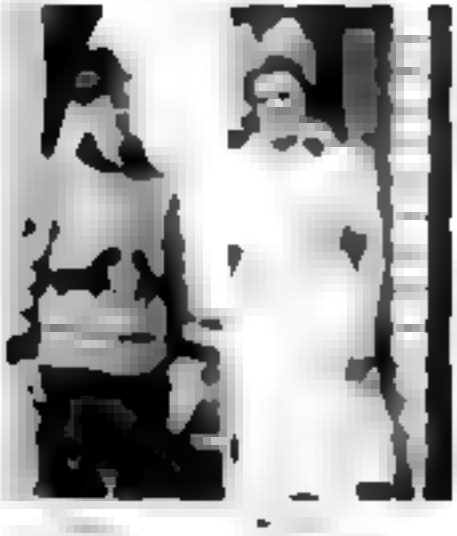
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

life, and acquired his brother's farm
ghters.

d and
ughter

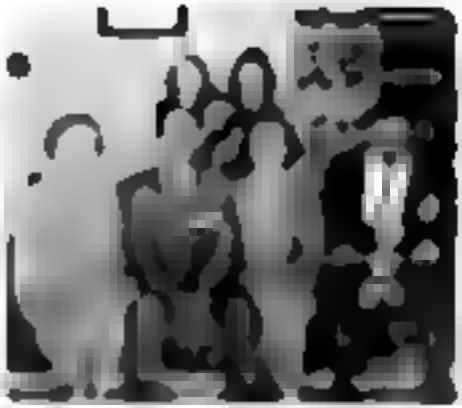
At age 20, in 1903, he journeyed to New

Ruth was busy raising her family but for



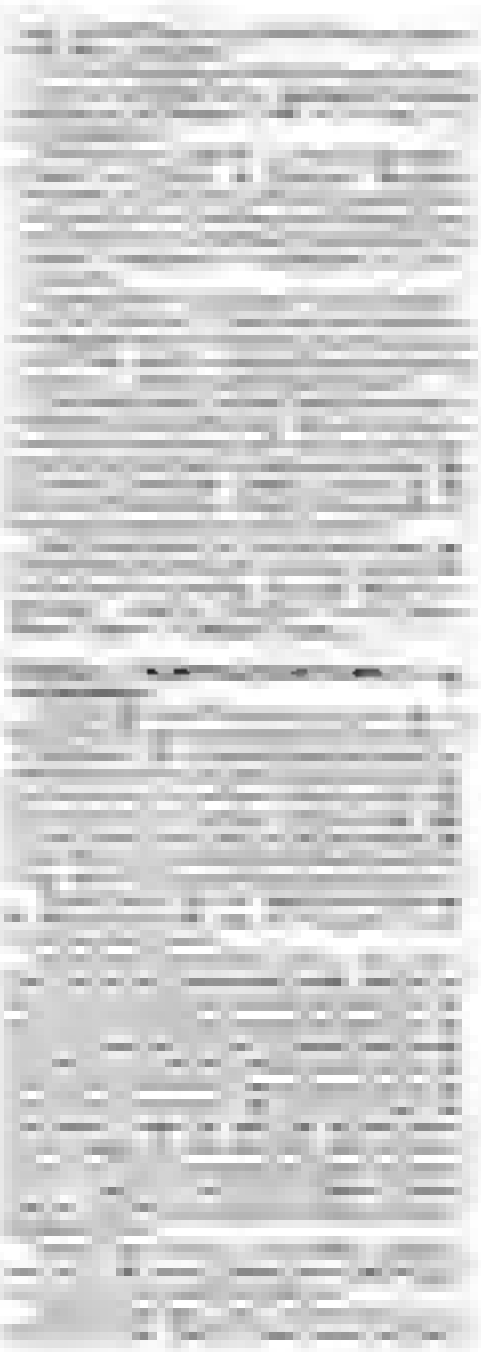
llwack B.C
y married Arnold Matthews in 1945. They

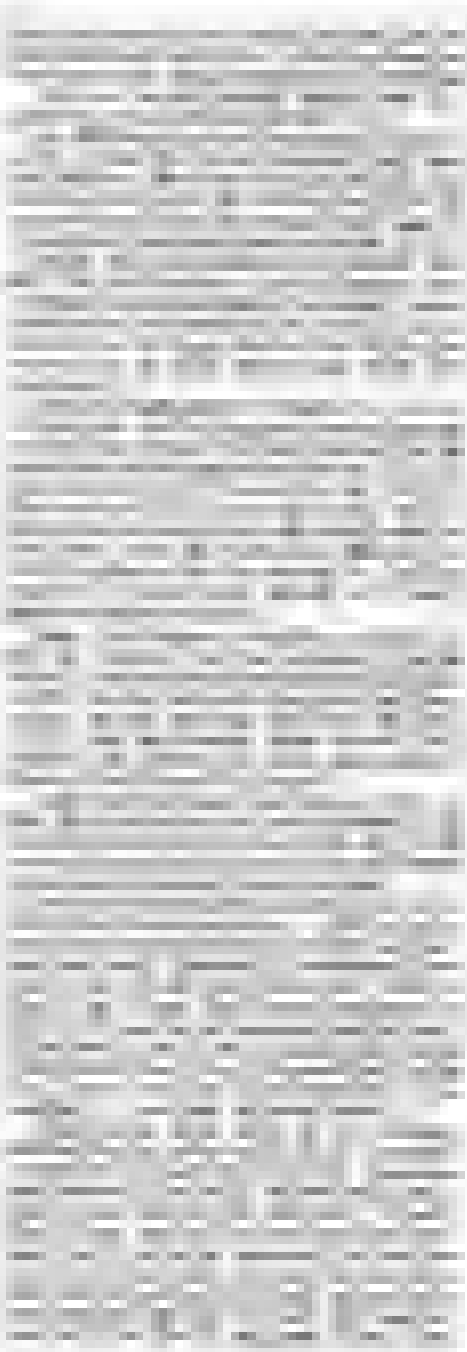
rrespondence work from Queen's



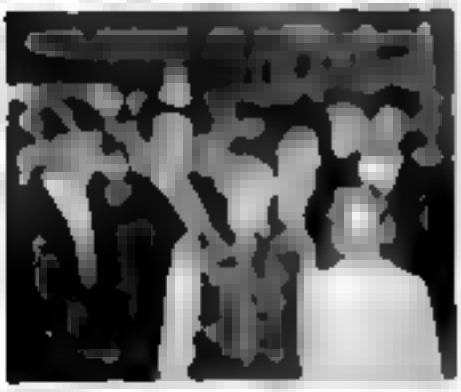
ioxway
Stewart is just eleven and ready for his

is before pape was able
n and in January, 1913.





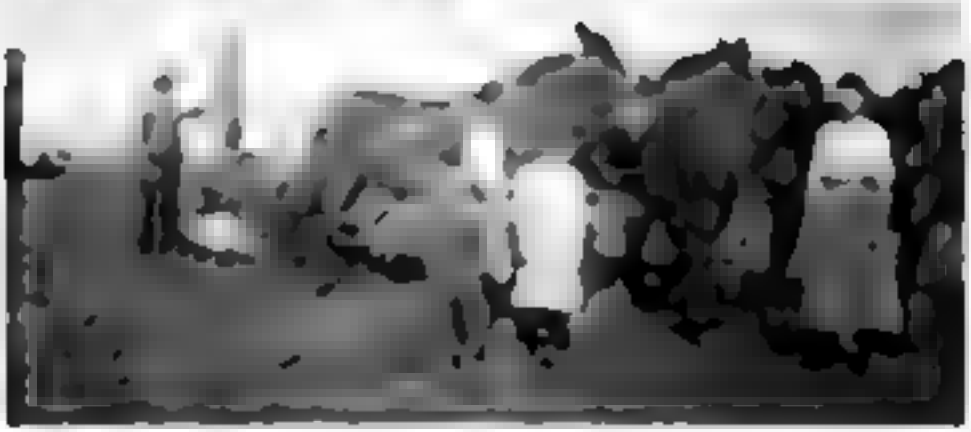
o'clock at night. The first

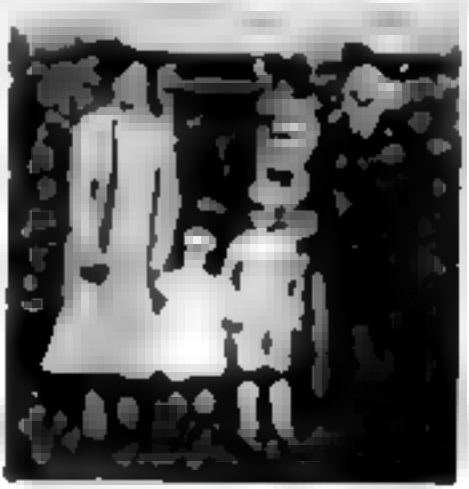


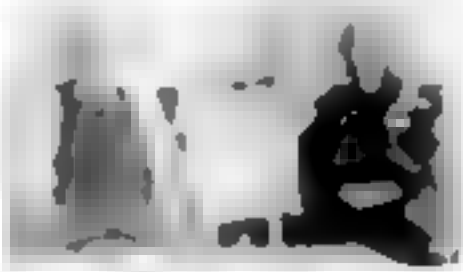
e girls

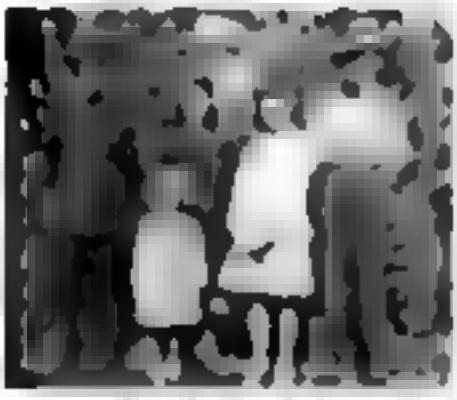
ane Smith
daughter,
Wenatchee
illness. She
Nelson Me

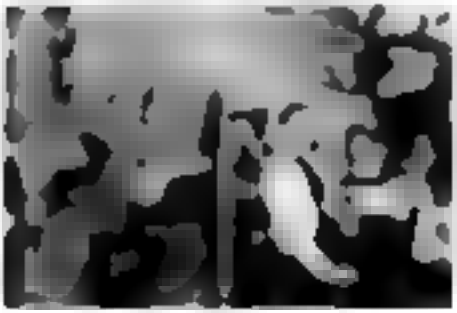
uly 98, 1962, after

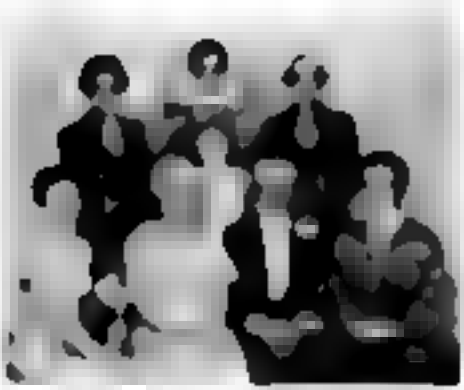


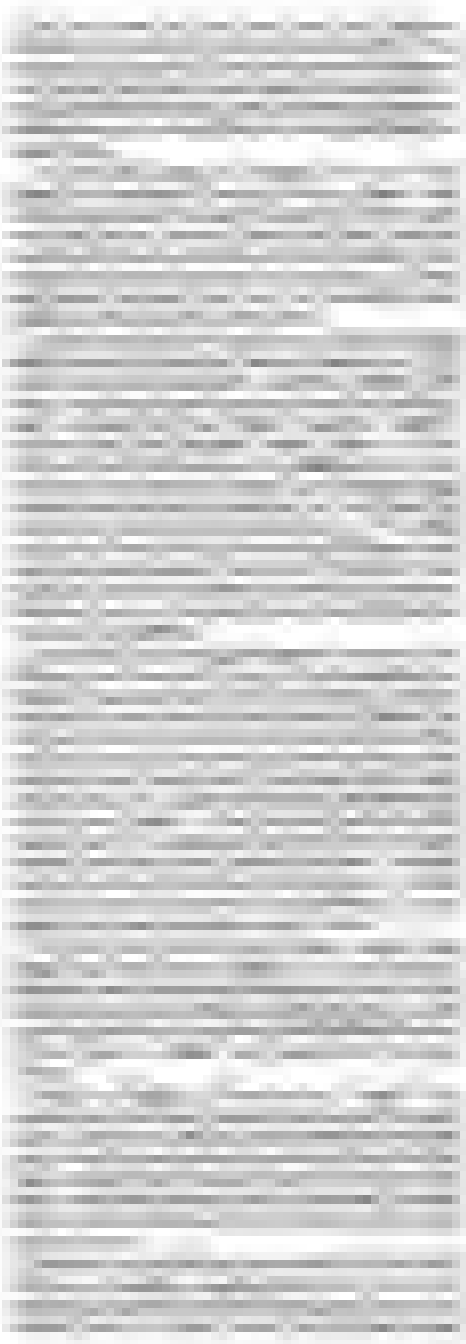






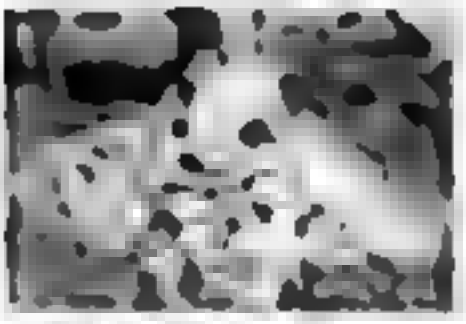


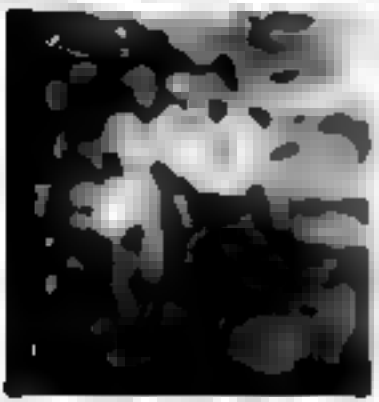


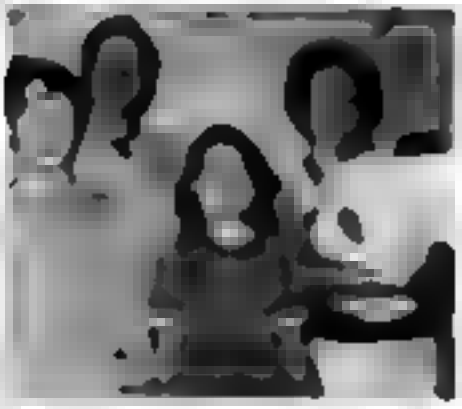


Toronto. Erick remarried, the lady was Met

ist about played out in the cold and







Sammenske. & Cousin,
and Ingeborg Arnold and

OLD SCHEY FAMILY — by R
Steinkjær, Norway in

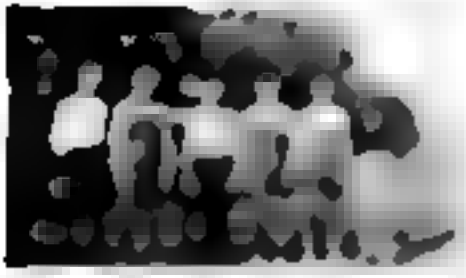
[redacted]

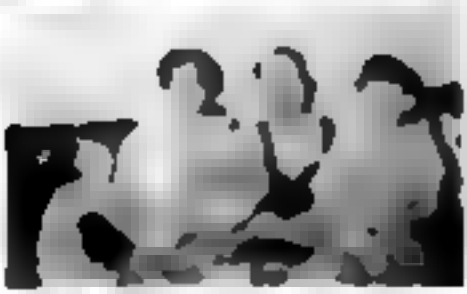
[redacted]

[redacted]

log a barn with vacant stalls, and my mother's

soon. We moved into it just before the cold



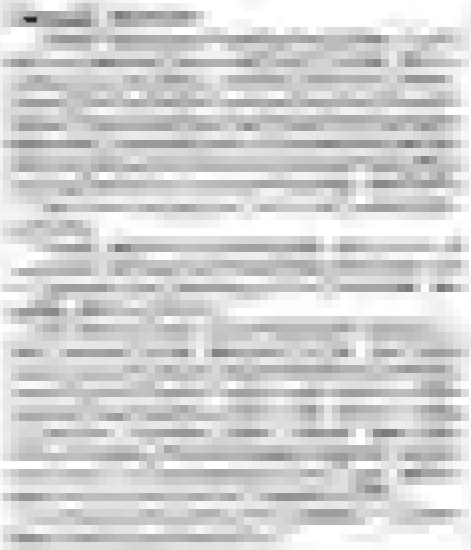


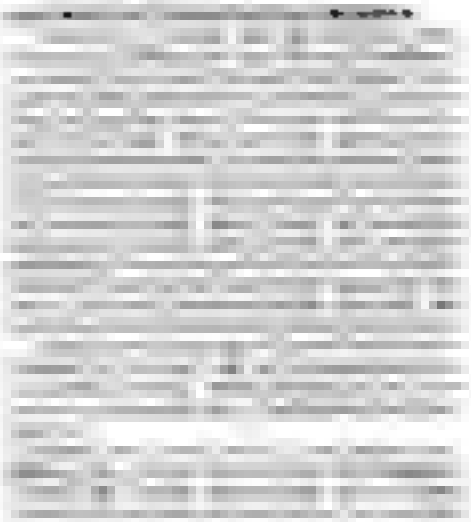
and playing cards wi

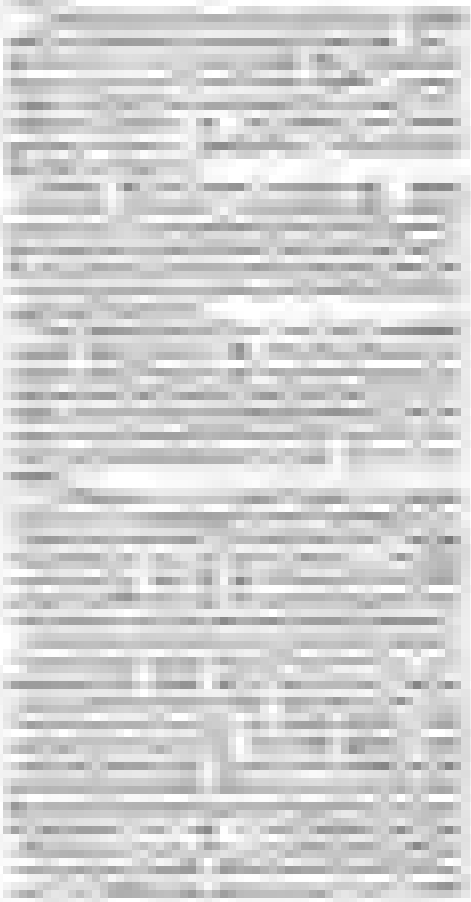
a Quality Control Manager at Met

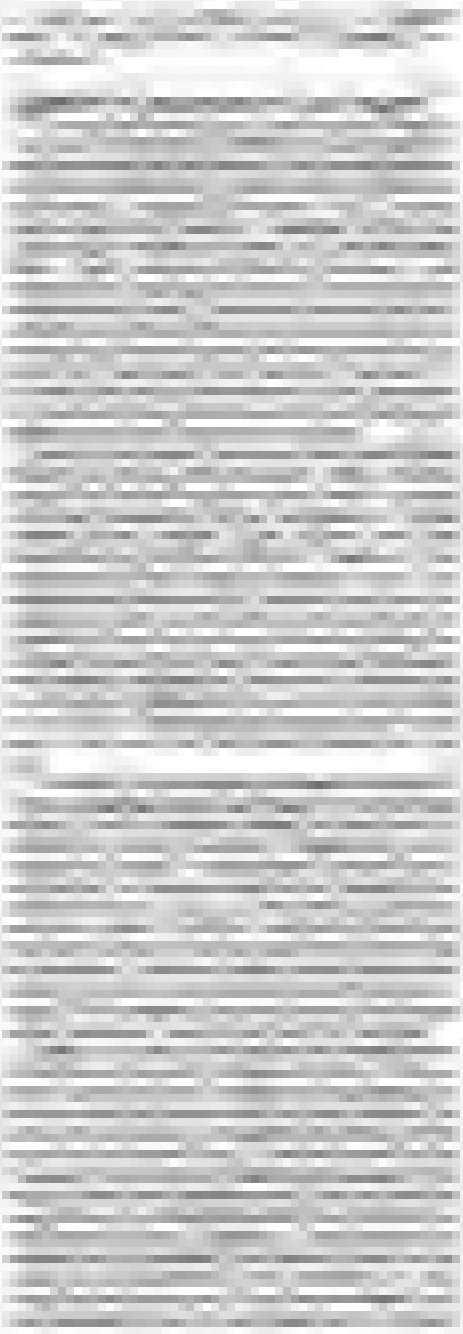
a happ

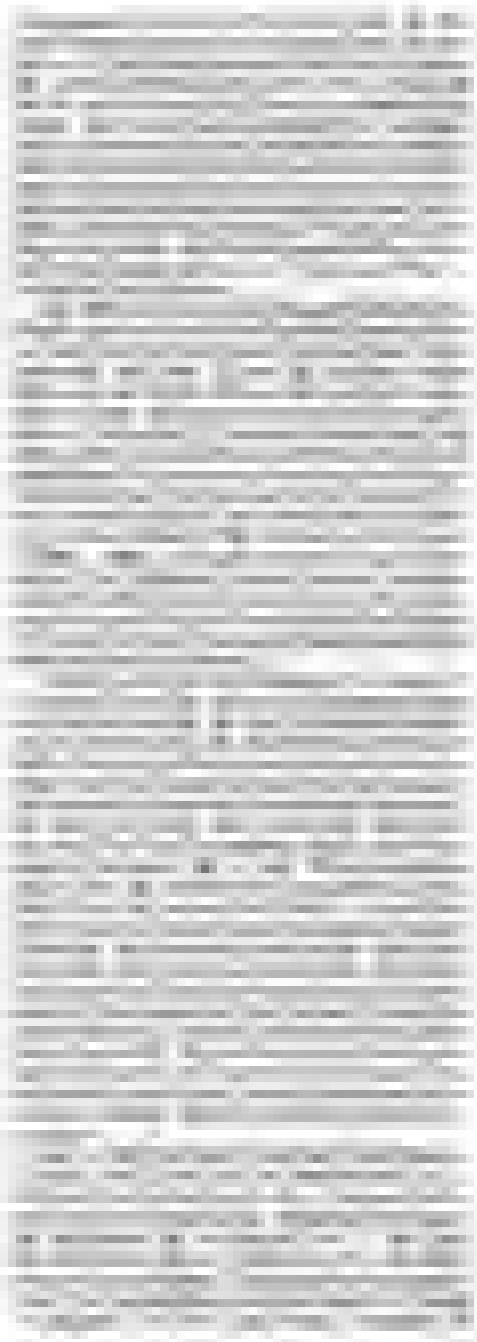
The family consisted of six children, Ada, the

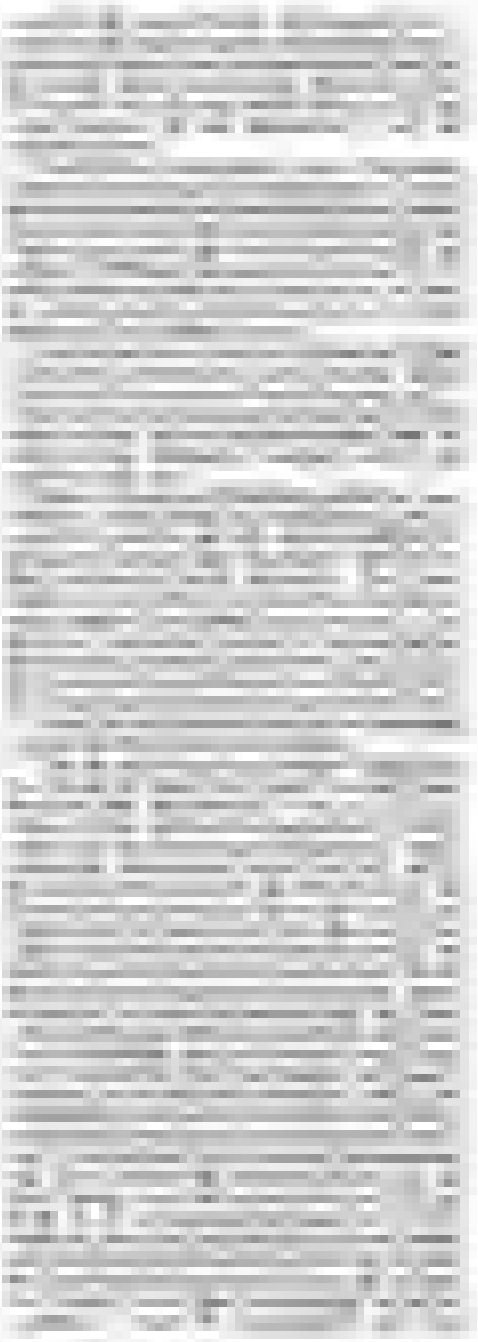












he and Cal Fletcher bought a section of land near

[illegible]

[illegible] This is where the [illegible] married Emma Mahlon Sill and passed away [illegible]

[illegible] married Minnie Kemper in 1908. They had [illegible]

[illegible] married Ralph Kingsley in 1921. They had a son [illegible] and [illegible] married [illegible]. They are buried at the [illegible] cemetery.

## THE HISTORY OF THE [illegible] BAPTIST CHURCH [illegible]

[illegible] spring [illegible] and sugar [illegible] speed [illegible] and be [illegible] the [illegible] Baptist [illegible] place.

[illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

you thought nothing of walking several miles [illegible]

[illegible] he said breathing under the [illegible] ing can on the wood stove while you talked [illegible] mountains [illegible] ing

the word baby either hadn been mined

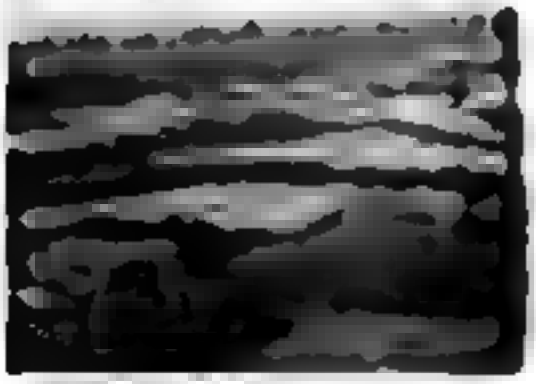
he strained knuckles aching back and sprained ankle mean had spent hours over [illegible] wash load of whining [illegible] cuts

[illegible] made a [illegible] sponse be rumbling a yeast and [illegible] he warm potato water and added flour [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

# ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2930

LEGEND
Original Boundary
School
Historic
Ridge to Ridge
Intermittent Creek

# Alhambra



Main Street, Algonquin, 1908

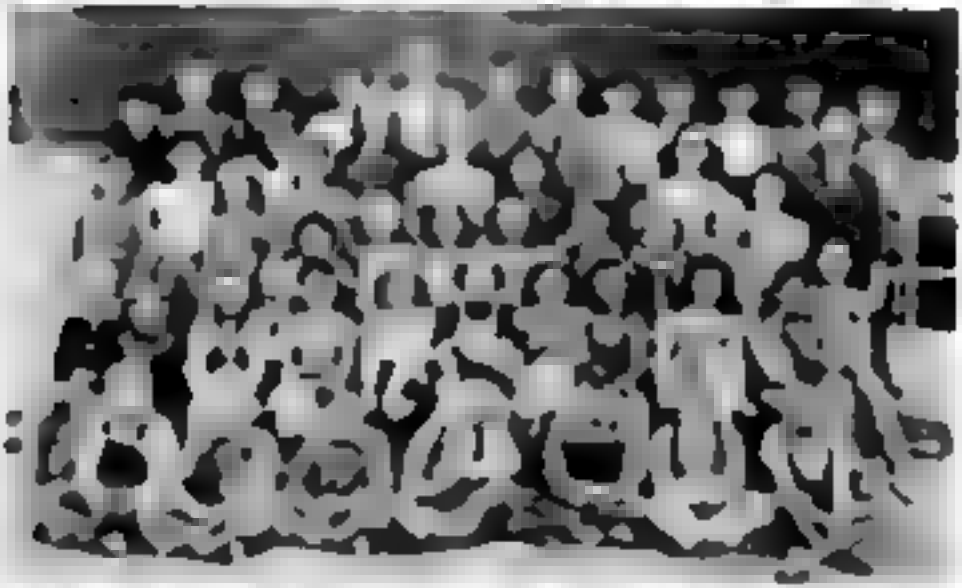
Messrs. Bissett and Searle had the store and shipping business for some time. A community hall and a new church were built in 1913 and 1914. Mr. Wass built the first house in the village. Among the first settlers was Samuel Mc[illegible] who was born in the year 1837. Samuel Mc[illegible] was the first postmaster and also operated a store. He and Mr. Haine bought potash and [illegible] wood from the settlers and manufactured it into potash. The potash was ground in a mill which was run by steam. The village also had a drug store, a boot and shoe shop, a tailor shop, a pool room and a barber shop and a blacksmith shop. A fire destroyed the village in 1924 leaving only a few of these places. Mr. Haine's business practically [illegible] after the fire. The [illegible] he gave too much credit and got [illegible].

World War I [illegible] heavily on all from every district in Canada and Newfoundland. It was no exception. Recorded here are the names of those who [illegible] and served in Canada at home and abroad. Some returned not much the worse for their experience, some returned wounded and [illegible] and some [illegible] in Flanders Fields. The names of [illegible] given below were not all from this neighborhood.

[illegible] Patterson Wounded
W [illegible] Killed
J. Rooke
Mr. Jarvis
J. [illegible]
Wm. [illegible]
H. Rooke Killed in action
T. [illegible] Wounded
P. [illegible] Gassed
J. Hall
R. Miller
N. [illegible]
W. [illegible]
W. Mc[illegible] Killed
E. Pa[illegible] Killed
J. Mc[illegible] Died of wounds
W. H. W[illegible] Gassed
W. [illegible]
P. [illegible] Battleford
[illegible]
T. Rook
W. [illegible] M. M.
[illegible] M.
T. [illegible]
A. [illegible]
H. P. [illegible] Royal Canadian Navy
F. [illegible]
[illegible]
N. Macdonald
[illegible] Wounded
[illegible] Mention M. M.
Herb. [illegible]
R. Speedie

By 1919 the soldiers were returning from overseas. The Soldiers Memorial Board was busy and [illegible] he returned men and said values increased. The Peace [illegible] after the war was held at the Bissett Park in July 19, 1919. The veterans were [illegible] the front of the [illegible] and [illegible] a huge [illegible] was with a large arch [illegible] and [illegible] reading [illegible].

Many were absent who [illegible] a good home and [illegible] but answered the call with a hearty [illegible] the [illegible] of all. The [illegible] and in the [illegible] [illegible]. The Bissett area [illegible] and ready [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible] the [illegible] the Barrages, the Somme, the



necessary so another school was moved in and also a teacherage was built. This school and teacherage were later sold. The two room school was closed in 1964 and the children were bused to Lesterville and Dacid Thompson High. The Alhambra community bought the school from the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 8. The Community has recently sold the school house.

### ALHAMBRA

This book deals with Alhambra
From its very earliest day
From creek with stubborn oxen
To C-B and Chevrolet

The month the Great War started
Brought to us our first train
And with the men departed
Made many tears and pain

A big shack served the purpose
Of a temporary shade
Until they built the schoolhouse
At the corner of the road.

The hamlet near the station
With a stopping house began.
It was built by Mr. Perry
In a very simple plan

Soon a store was added
Also filled with all things nice
Where you could sell your surplus eggs
And trade for prunes and rice

Many days have passed since then
Twenty years or more
And now you buy your groceries
At H. von Hollen's Store

If you should want some medicine
Or lotion for your face
Then you must walk across the street
To Miss Jessie's place

If your disk or plow needs fixing
To a tractor you must go
He'll fix it cheaply while you wait
He's neither rough nor slow

Miss Scott's our postmistress
And her patience does not fail.
Though you may be a little late
In going for your mail

And if you want to sell some grain
Then go to Hall Hill.
He'll grade it fairly, give you cheques
That will your bankbook fill

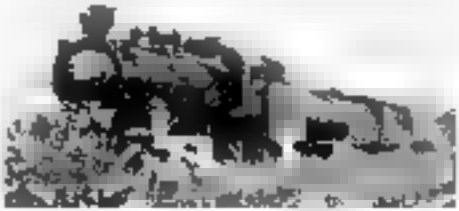
Emil Mushka as the section boss.
Has been here many years
Upon his charge you leave your cream
Then you need have no fears

Wm. Farquharson is the shipper
Of your fine Barrow hog
On Wednesdays he's always there
In rain or snow or fog.

The hall in this community
Is near the softball ground.
And though a little out of town
It's very easily found.

Miss Sande is our teacher
And she takes great care
And urges all to do their best
For Lesterville School Fair

By RUTH KERR, Grade 8, 1936. Edith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Kerr. Each verse was composed to describe a picture she had taken. She won first prize for this poem at the Lesterville School Fair, September 1936.

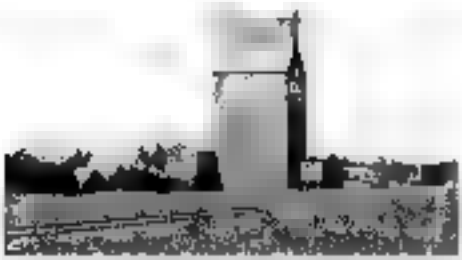


The month the Great War started Brought to us our first train. And with it then departed, Alike many tears and pain.

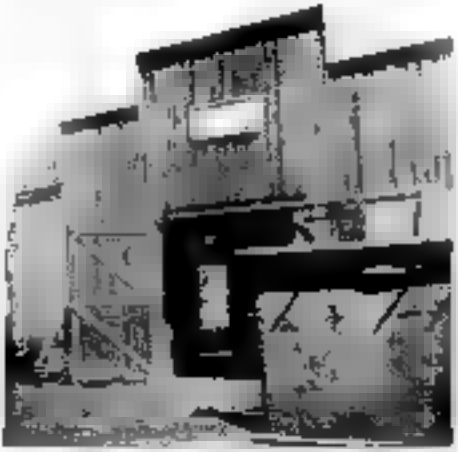
A big shack served the purpose Of a temporary shade Until they built the schoolhouse At the corner of the road.

Many days have passed since then ... many years or more, And now you buy your groceries At H. von Hollen's Store.

If you should wear some medicine On locks for your face. Then you must walk know the street To Mrs. Leveling's place



And if we were to tell some grade That go to the C. H. Old He'll grade it fairly, give pro-charges, Then will fill your flunk book

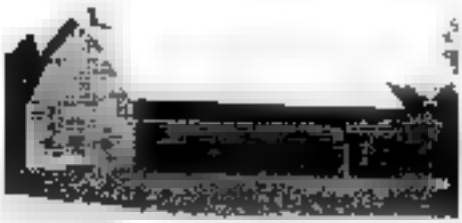


If your dish or plow needs fixing To Penner you must go; He'll fix it 'nearly while you wait. He's neither rough nor slow.

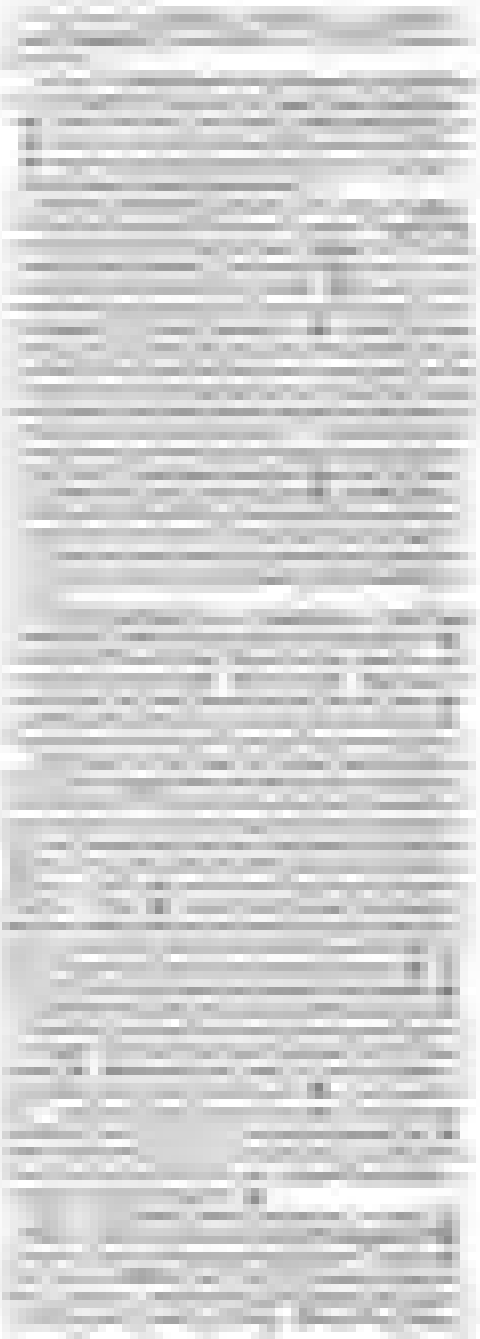
Fred Wiebe is the nicest boss. Has been here many years, If in his charge you leave your victim There you need have no fears

Wm. Fangboner is the shipper Of your hog haven hog. On Wednesday he'll always plan to rain or snow or fog.

Miss Sens is our registrar. And her patience does not fail. Though you may be a little late In going for your mail.

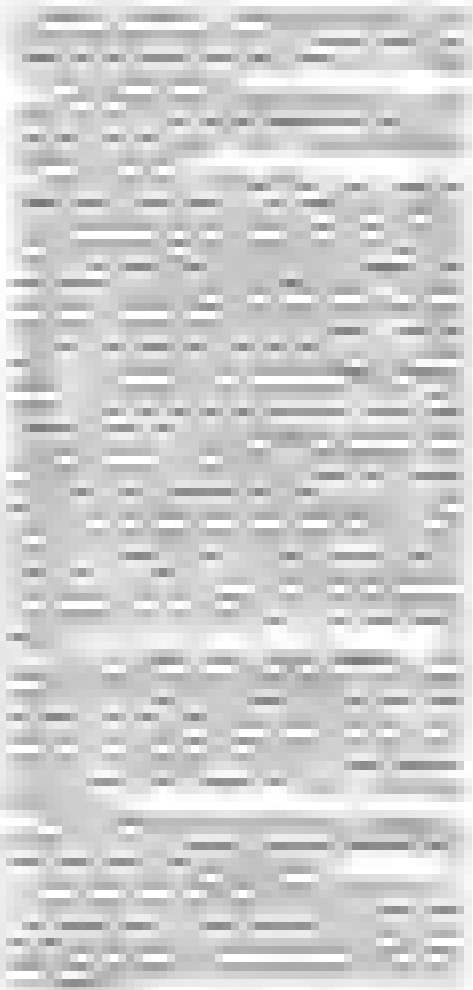


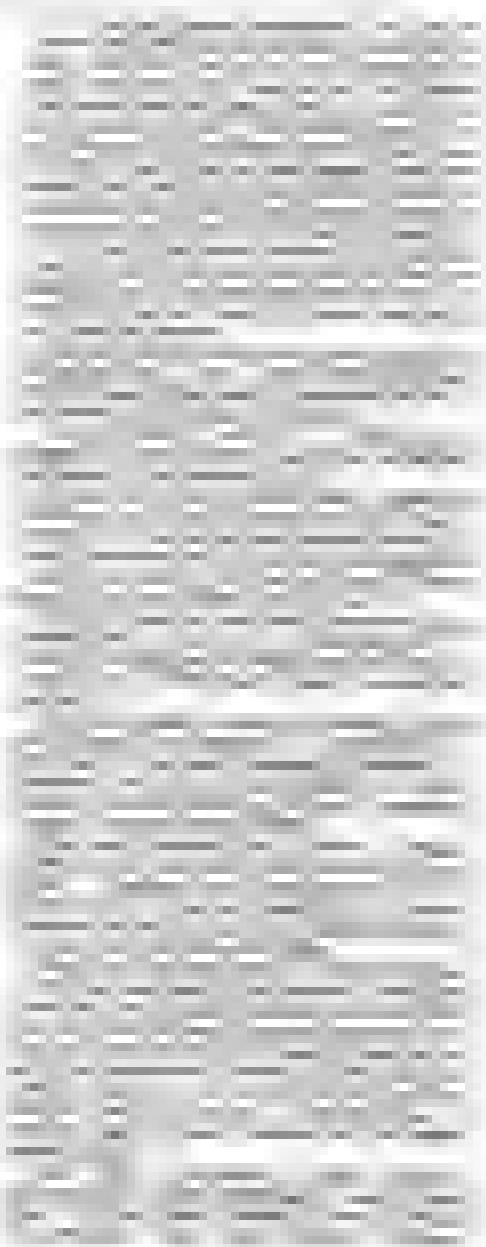
The hall in the community is over the softball ground. And though a little out of town is very easily found



—m the east. The only cook stove she had was a

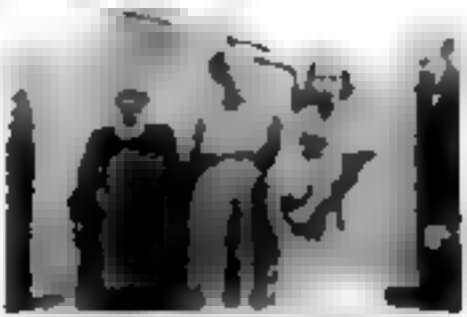
He now resides at the Westview Lodge to



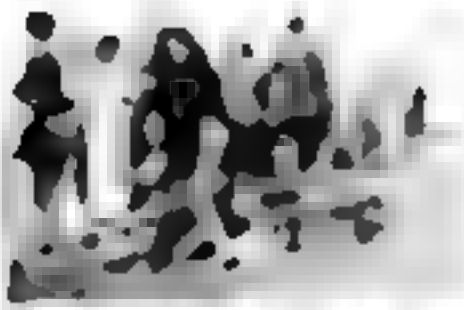


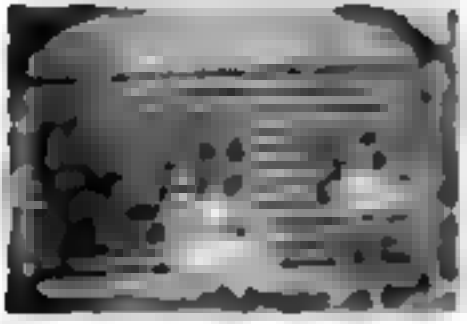
**KARROO BAY AND FAMILY** — by Blanche

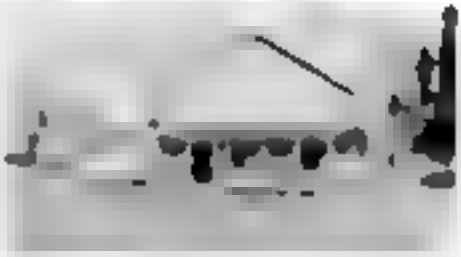
bridge building until
reasoned at the Bay



RICH
UCK





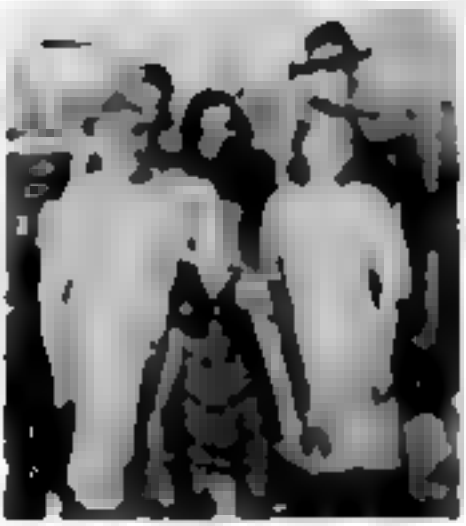


a legal working at the Imperial Bank

children, Cynthia, Donna and Judy

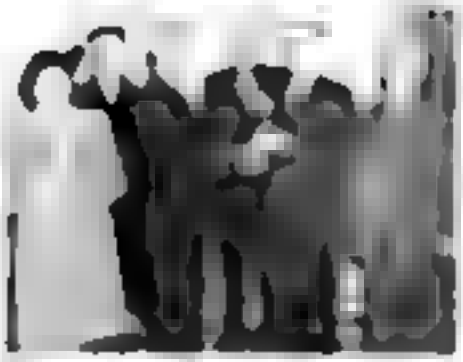
early frosts

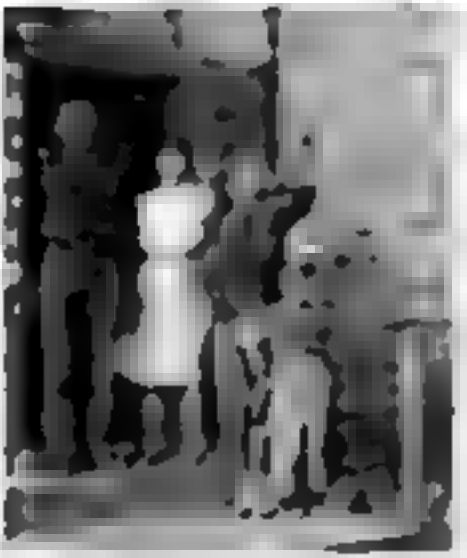
We had good gardens but lost the magic

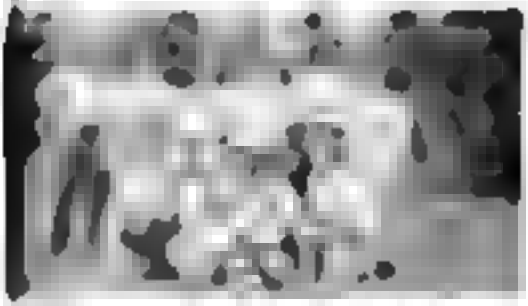


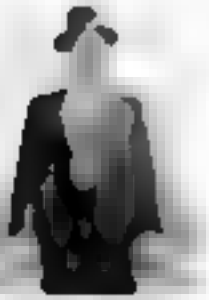
m Meyers Nellie
Edythe Harrison
arried George Woo

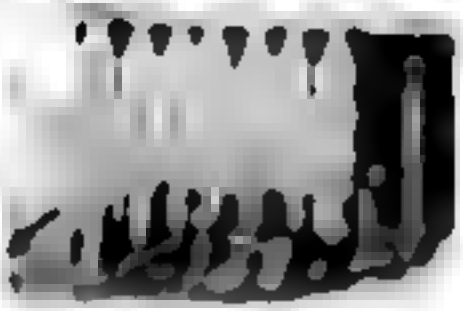
mikes and were always ready to help each other

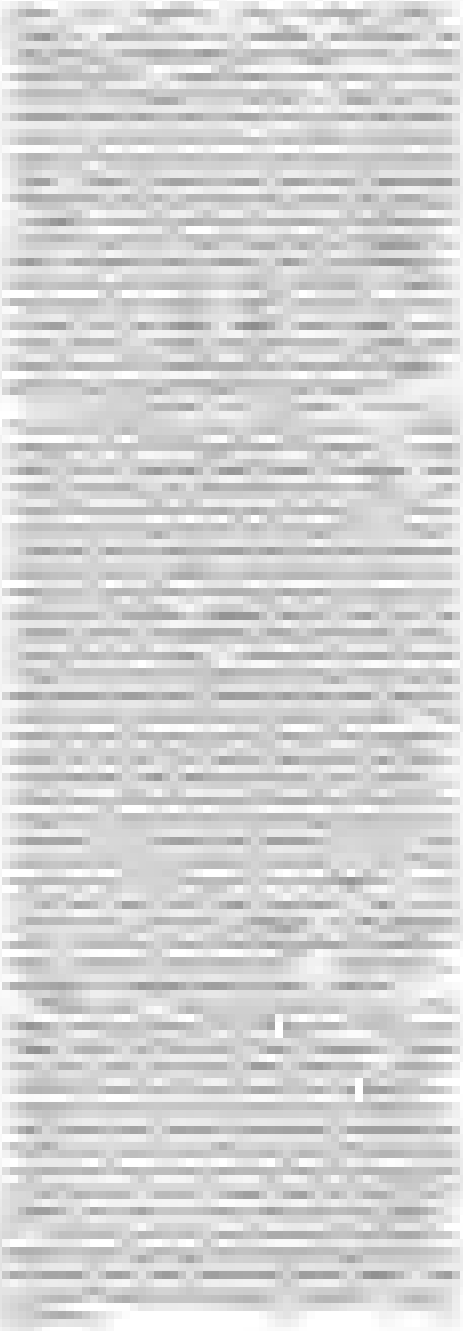


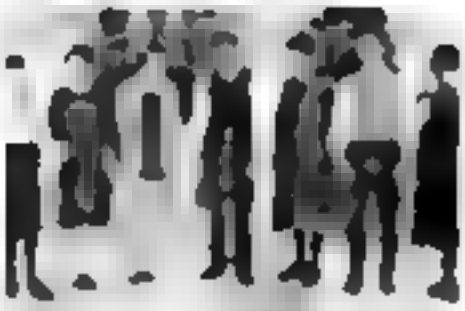


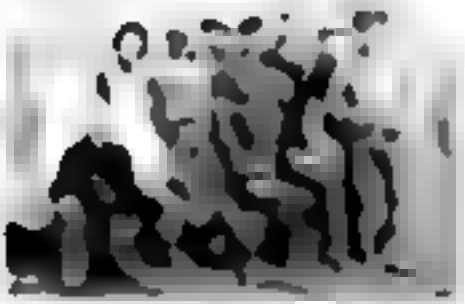


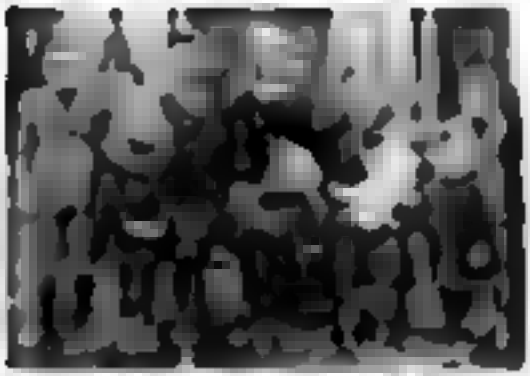


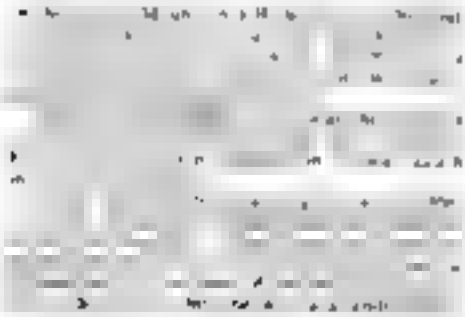


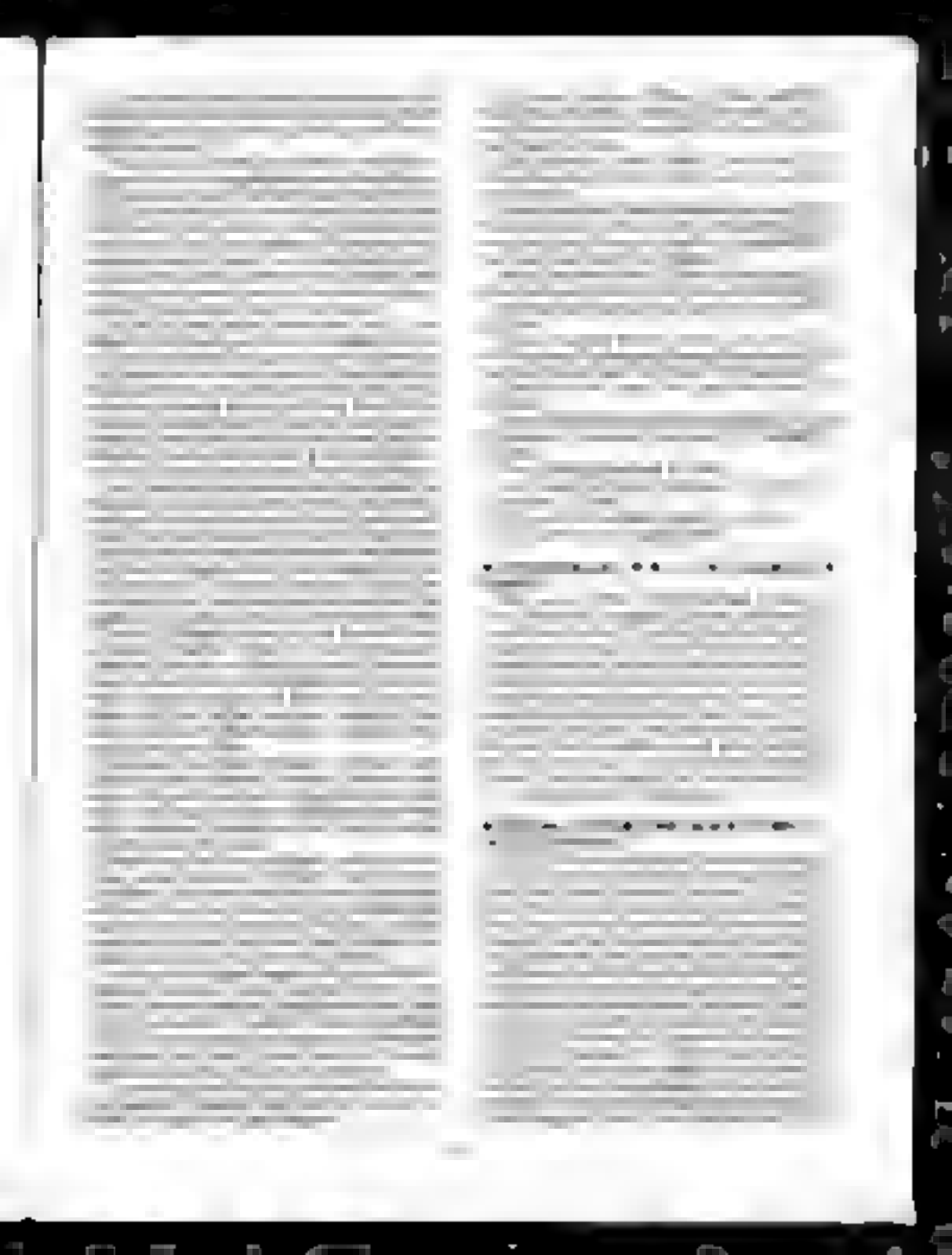


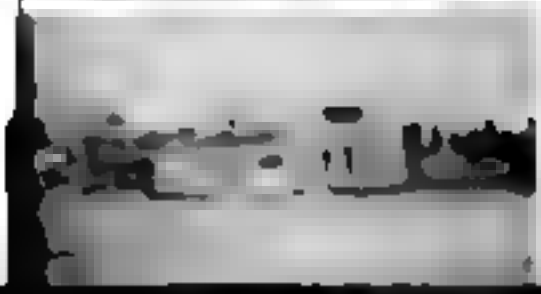






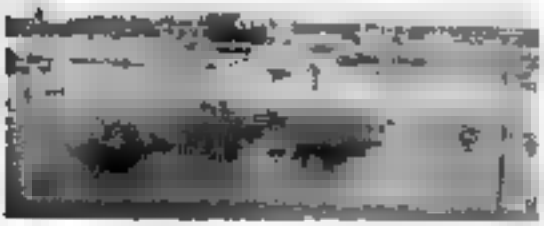




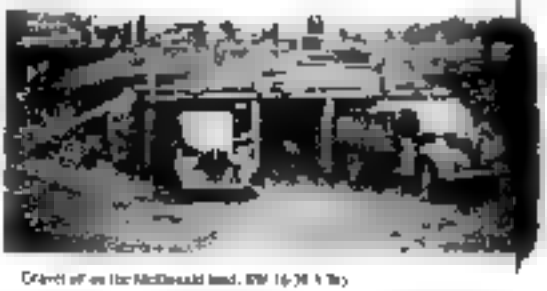


From Entwistle in 1953. They have three children and now live in Edson. Jennie Mrs. Stan Sich Diane of Stettler has one son Bert Mrs. Merle Dunlop of Lousana also has a son Pat Hazel Mrs. Bill McClung of Entwistle has five children Stan married Betty Lowe of Blackfalds in March 1956 and they live in Red Deer. Stan works in the business. Fabio and Stan works in the estate. Bert and Jim work at Trans Alpine Drilling and Harry works main and Phyllis Scott of Ridgewood. They first lived in Red Deer and had two sons. Kevin and Curtis Later he divorced and remarried Mary Lou Gardner. They now make their home in a mile trailer. Viola Mrs. Joe Fiddler lives in Red Deer. They have four sons and two daughters Bruce Terry Blake Bradley Cathy Richard Dee. Ron first married Carol Hollenbeck of Ridgewood and they had two children Kelly and [illegible] later they divorced and Ron married Sharon Dunn We live at Lone Ridge near Wetaskiwin where Dee now resides

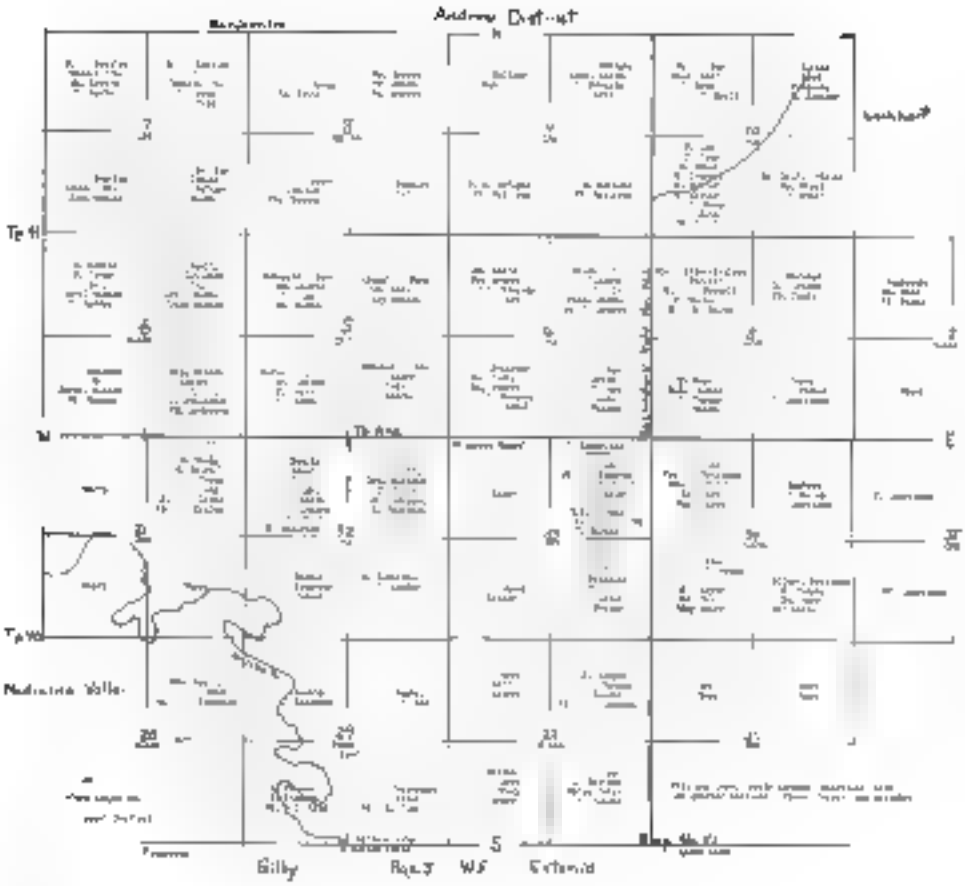
The first ridge north of Entwistle collapses with an eventual horizontal of 1958



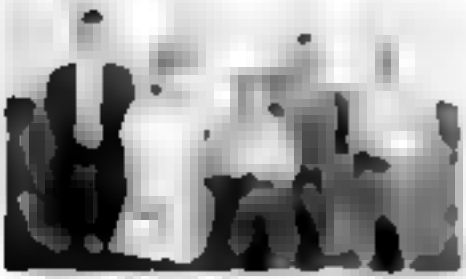
Homeguard crew fired 1945, when Bill MacDonald ran by the West Pembina railway

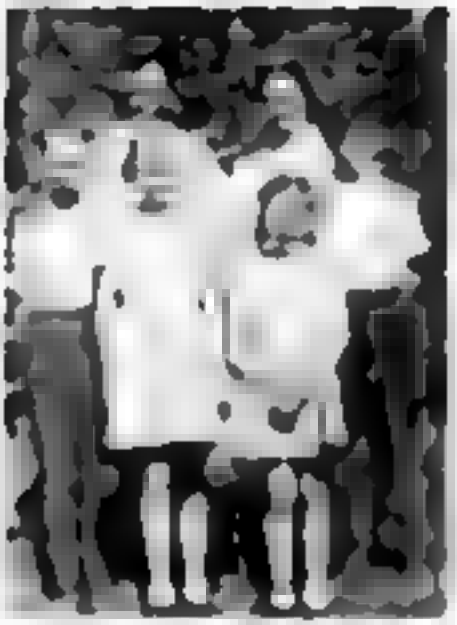


Crawler of on the McDonald lead, 1974 Ray

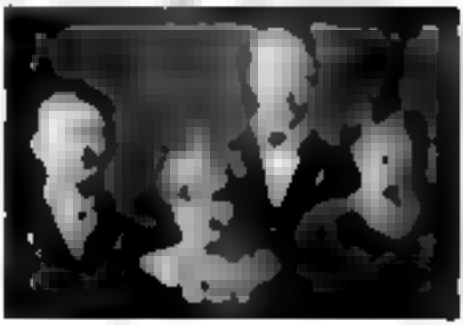


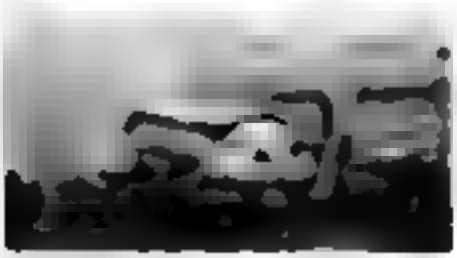
# Andrew

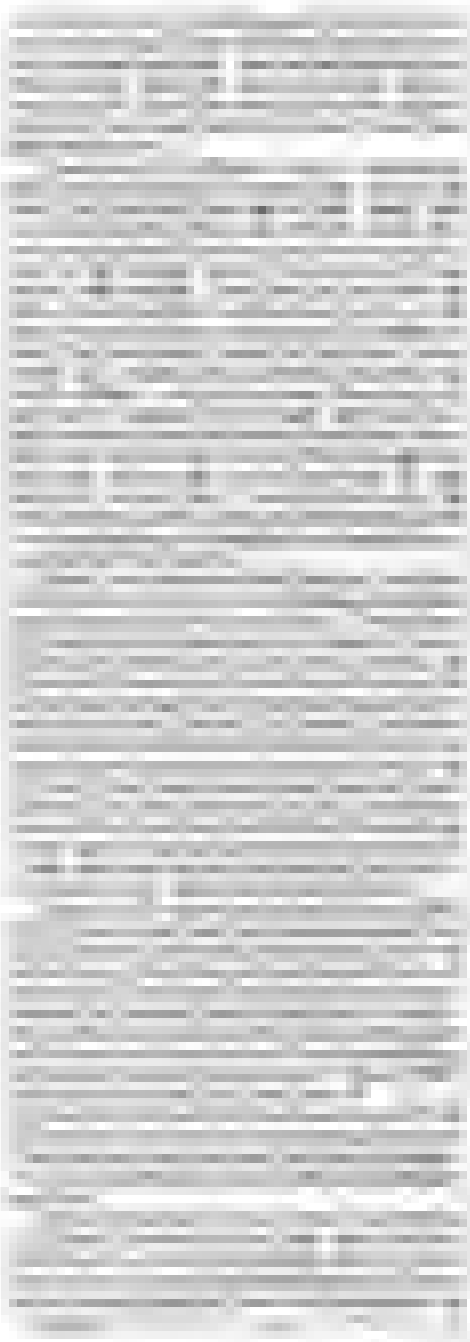




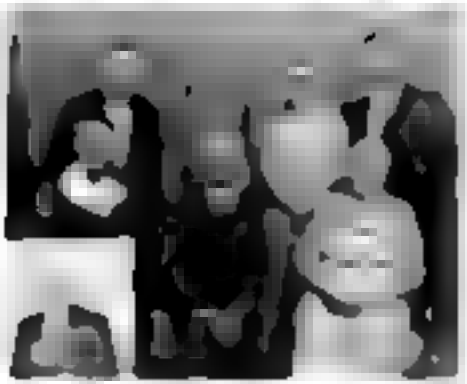
summer months. They also enjoy saddle ponies

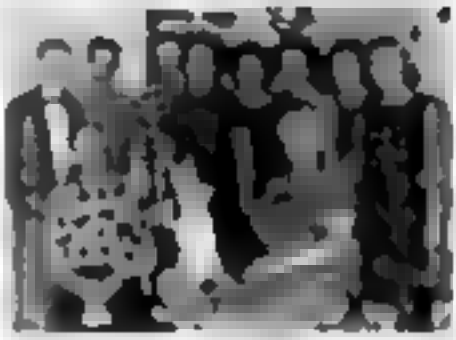


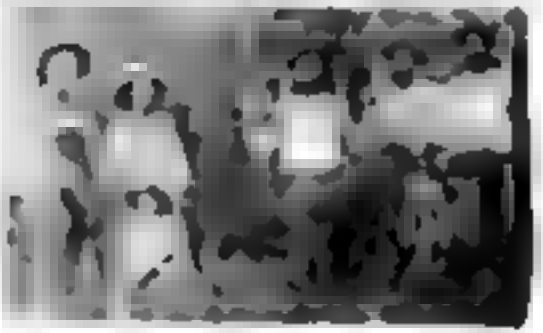


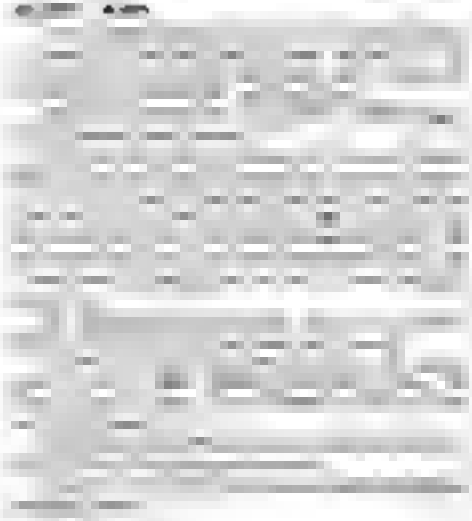


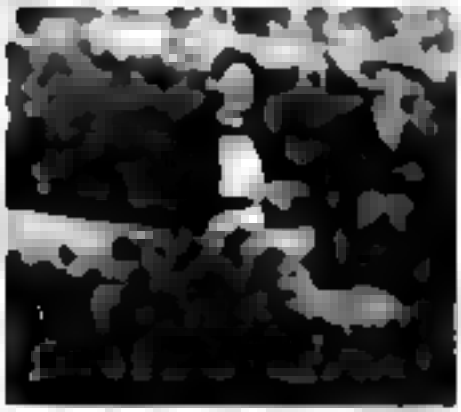
## THE SHERMAN FAMILY by Mrs. Steve



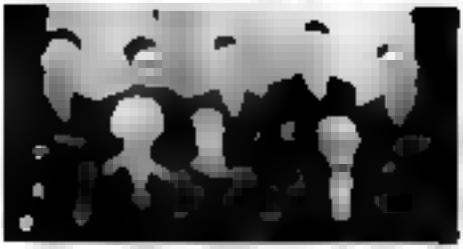


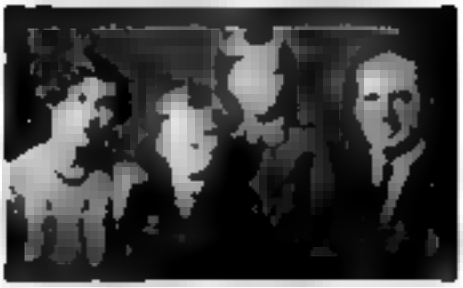






brought about a man-power





[illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible]

[illegible]

## [illegible] by [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

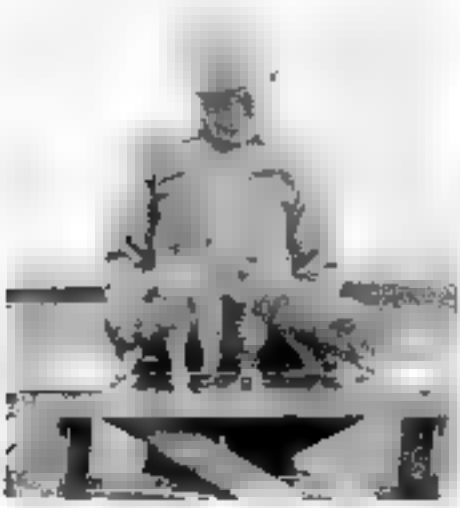
[illegible]

Meeting at the home of a friend, and lunch together before Laura returned to school.

Carl loved to fish and whenever he could find a willing partner he would head out to some stream or lake nearby. He and Laura both appreciated purebred Shorthorn cattle and purchased two quarter sections of land for pasture. This was the SW 20-40-3-W5, where the Leonard Swonsberg family have built their home and SE 21-40-3-W5 which has been purchased by Verral and Anna Tims.

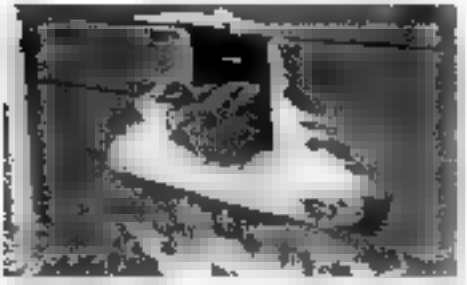
In 1915 Laura transferred to Wellerville School and then to David Thompson in 1917 where she remained teaching until her retirement. Perhaps because Laura and Carl had no children of their own, her interest in 'adopting' those around them. Many students, neighbours, nieces and nephews will remember being made to feel especially important as young people around Mr. and Mrs. Westergard. Following her retirement from classroom teaching 'Westie' brought young people into her home where she taught piano, organ, theory or tutored in academic subjects for a very small fee and often none.

In February 1964, Carl died after a short illness. He is buried in the Gilby Cemetery. The store was too involved for Laura to handle alone and was sold to Jim and Johanna Blades. Carl and Laura had owned it for 30 years. Laura also sold one quarter section of their land and to Simons Bergs but retained the 'home' quarter. She continued to teach music in her home until April 1971 when she died very suddenly. She is buried in Gilby. Laura had married Eric Whidden of Rocky Mountain House in 1917. He is presently living at Rocky Mountain House.



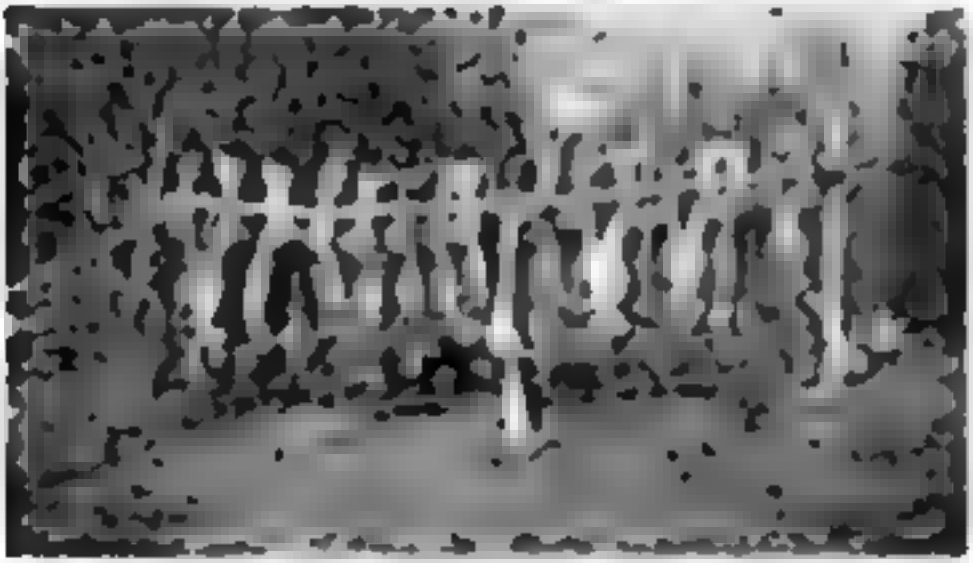
Leonard Phelps with two baby coyotes, 1949

Neil (Billy) McDonald with bottle fed pigs, 1939

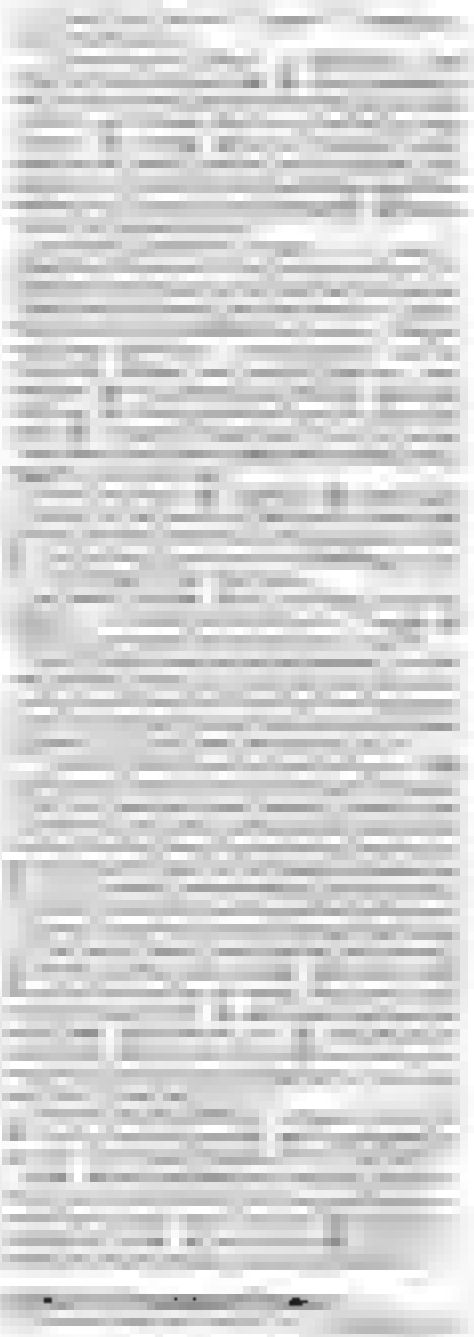


Ranching ropes and Christmas

Art Blackadar with a huge eagle having a wingspan of six feet



# Benalto, Melita



music, believe me! Quite often we would drive

horses the a pony for K named Flash a

The also brought her piano with them Kit pla and the Scripp Turner who soon ma and made would return to be had gi music a but kinda a great leisur W in not hurt All in all it was en Southe human writer also accompanied them on the cruise

A couple of days after her arrival Kit was no being a the Southe took great le on in his a Hi to her about the ran e of its hom to the mountain He was eager to see ung pe ing to the ranch Chey was the same who had a great time although he was unable to be in the The were an ing s and pre and somewhat sh ilin even walking in dance

It was an aften and he decided to ride the village of E while Dalton was or sh n

Dalton was agent for the Mixed Grain growers ele in Bo a years and had the ad because of repeated a acks of ar

## BEGINNING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY by W. E. Buck Austin

Nearly all of one has kept a record of the kn of the of his children has a h and the ick up the and in the things were old Pu and to

The was and in 19 and W was in the of the and in the Mr of the was an ch pa hu the ing Th h the and pa hi Fl n h Ma h hi an ab ou ing Wh hi an ab ou pr known as

W. E. Buck Austin, president of Bonanza Agricultural Society 1911 and 1912

W. A. Atkinson, president of Bonanza Agricultural Society 1907 and 1908 and 1910

Bruce Stevenson, early director and first president of Bonanza Agricultural Society

The first full size race meeting was held in the and a a and a The a in the for a and a Th a in the a Th fi the Bonanza Agricultural Society was held in

The first was held on the society has the gi the a and a the and a in the Th and in the ing a he was the all and up in a and he a and a Wh he and the and

Bruce was the first president and the other were Stevenson and the Atkinson Bruce also served as Secretary-Treasurer for some years. See Figure 3

## Directors

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Talson | F Jenkins | L B Walker | C Barhan |
| J Hohnson | L Hyvonen | R L Armstrong | J W W Slack |
| J D Barhan | J S Stropson | J M Craig | L Taining |
| A McPherson | J F Armstrong | R L Tednedl | |

## Past Presidents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S E McKee | 1912-23 | 7 years |
| Henry Talson | 1924-26 | 3 years |
| E N Cameron — 2 terms | 1927-29 and 1931-33 | 5 years |
| W Holsworth | 1930 | 1 year |
| Harry Love | 1934 | 1 year |
| Thomas Smith | 1935-40 | 6 years |
| Jack McBride | 1941-42 | 2 years |
| Clyde Stauffer — 2 terms | 1943-48 and 1954-58 | 12 years |
| Lloyd McNeil | 1949-50 | 2 years |
| Ray Nemeth — 3 terms | 1951-53, 1960-62 and 1966-67 | 8 years |
| Murray Stauffer | 1963 | 1 year |
| G R Sterling | 1964-65 | 2 years |
| G R Lougheed | 1968-? | 10 years |

## Stampede Managers

They were called sports directors from 1931-36

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| F G Jenkins — 2 terms | 1912-26 and 1931-36 | 16 years |
| Chas Jenkins | 1927-30 | 4 years |
| Orval Gatzke Asst | 1936 | 1 year |
| Clyde Stauffer | 1937-40 | 4 years |
| Dewey Nielson | 1941-48 | 8 years |
| Louis Kaibol | 1949-51 | 3 years |
| Swan Abderson | 1952-57 | 6 years |
| Evans Ball | 1958-? | 10 years |

## Stampede Secretaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S ten | 1912-36 | 2 years |
| Wilson Amerson | 1939-40 | 2 years |
| Grant Cameron | 1941-48 | 8 years |
| Harry Durward | 1949-67 | 19 years |
| Dennis Bramall | 1968-74 | 7 years |
| Les Ray | 1975 | 1 year |
| Bev Stanforth | 1976-? | 2 years |

## Secretary Treasurers

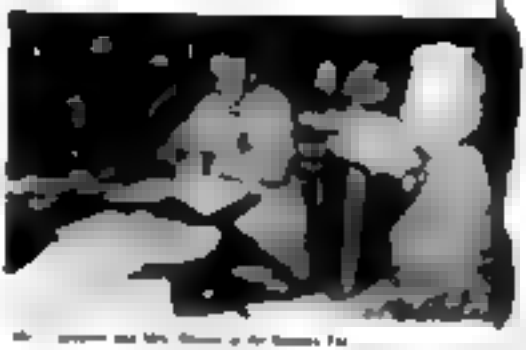
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P T McKee | 1912-22 | 6 years |
| A Norton — 2 terms | 1923-28 and 1934-40 | 13 years |
| J S Simpson | 1929-33 | 5 years |
| C D Pugh | 1941-44 | 4 years |
| Geo Richardson | 1945-48 | 4 years |
| Jim Fink | 1949-52 | 4 years |
| G R Sterling | 1952-56 | 5 years |
| Jack Purdie | 1957 | 1 year |
| Peter Karlinski | 1958-60 | 3 years |
| Dale Manaix | 1961 | 1 year |
| Robert Brown | 1962-64 | 3 years |
| Bev Stanforth — 2 terms | 1965-67 and 1971-?? | 6 years |
| Pat Knowles | 1974-? | 4 years |

Figure 3

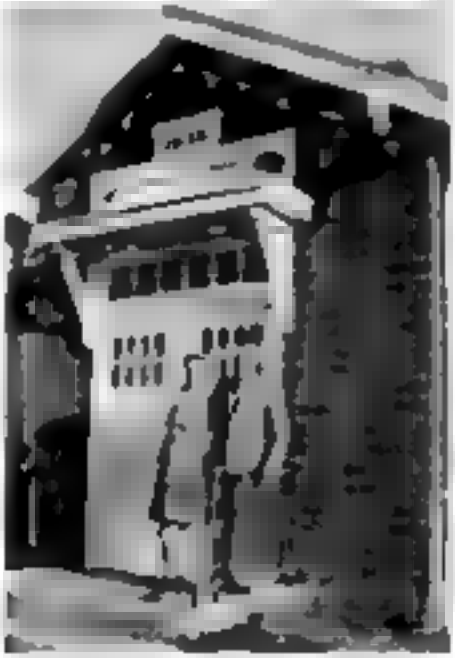
Original slate of officers President S. E. McKee First Vice-Pres J W Warwick Sec and Vice Pres T B. Miller Sec Treasurer P T McKee

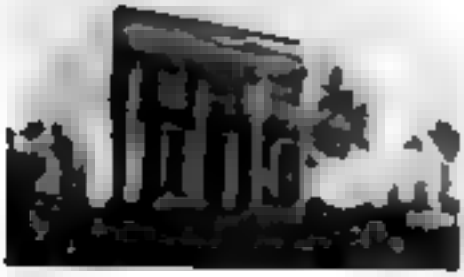
Along with these officers hundreds of directors and other members over the years have put countless hours of work into the society to make it what it is today

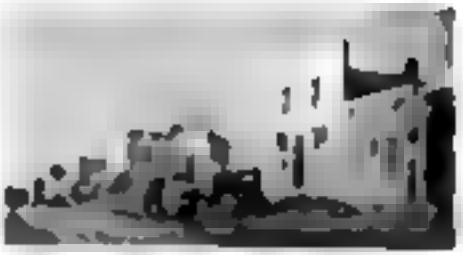
The Stampede in itself can be to the credit of the late F Jenkins and the Armstrong Brothers They organized the first show and ran it for many years to make it one of the main

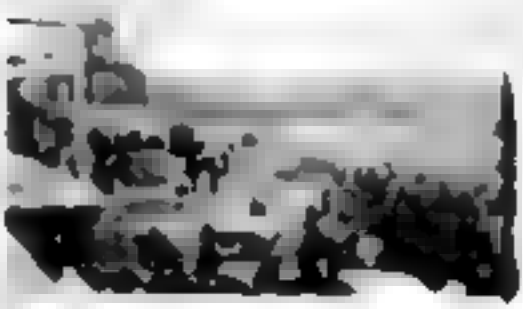


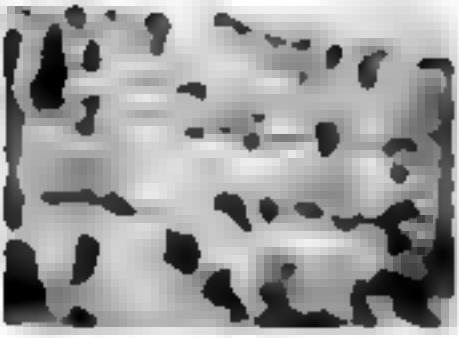
ppy Bill, Craig and

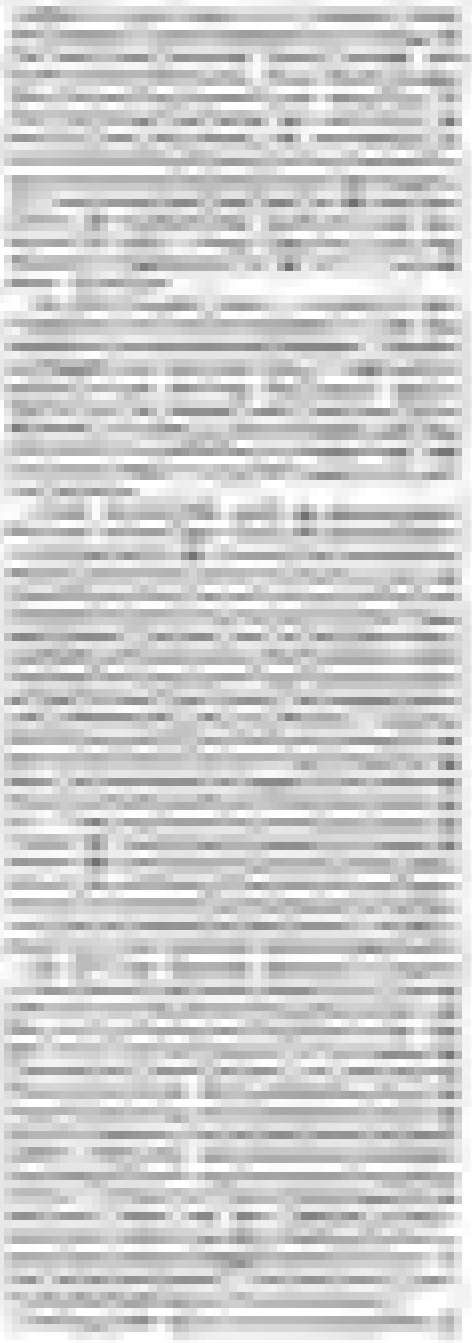


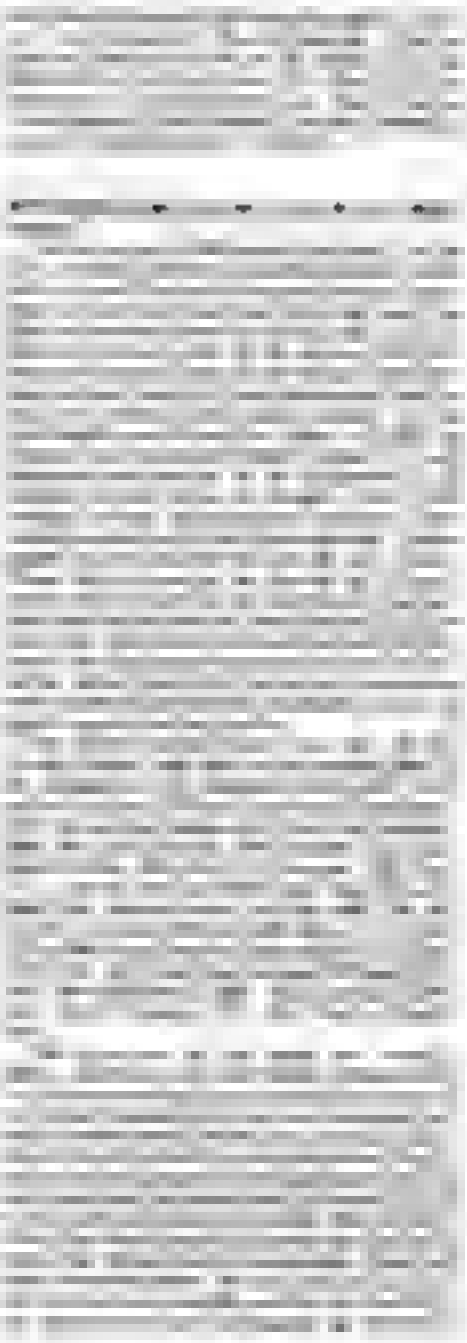




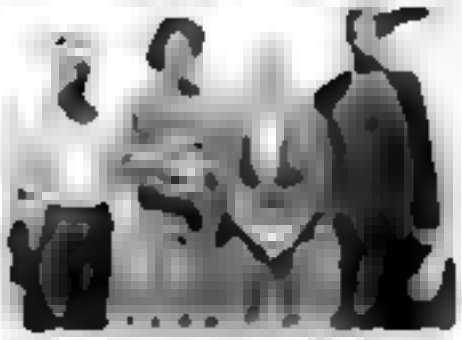




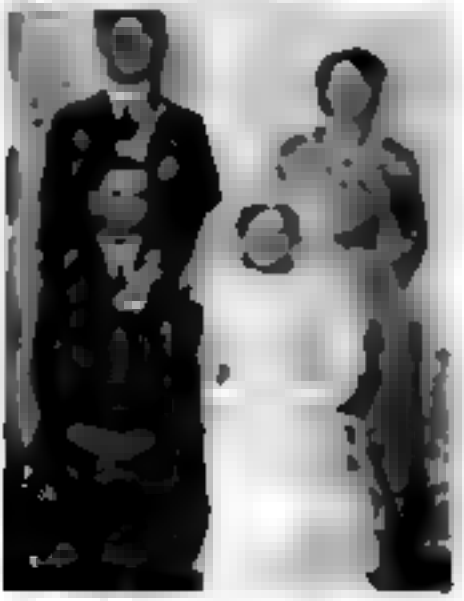


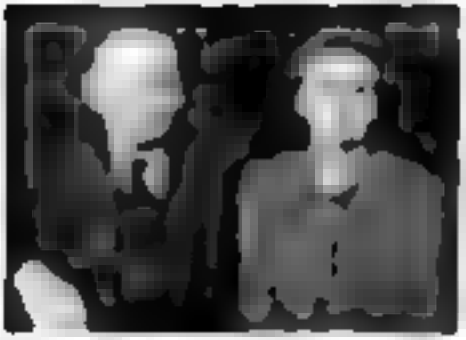


slotte was sold on May 26, 1947. Extras have been



When Einar bought the farm
a bushel. He broke some land





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[redacted] JOHNSON FAMILY - by Audrey

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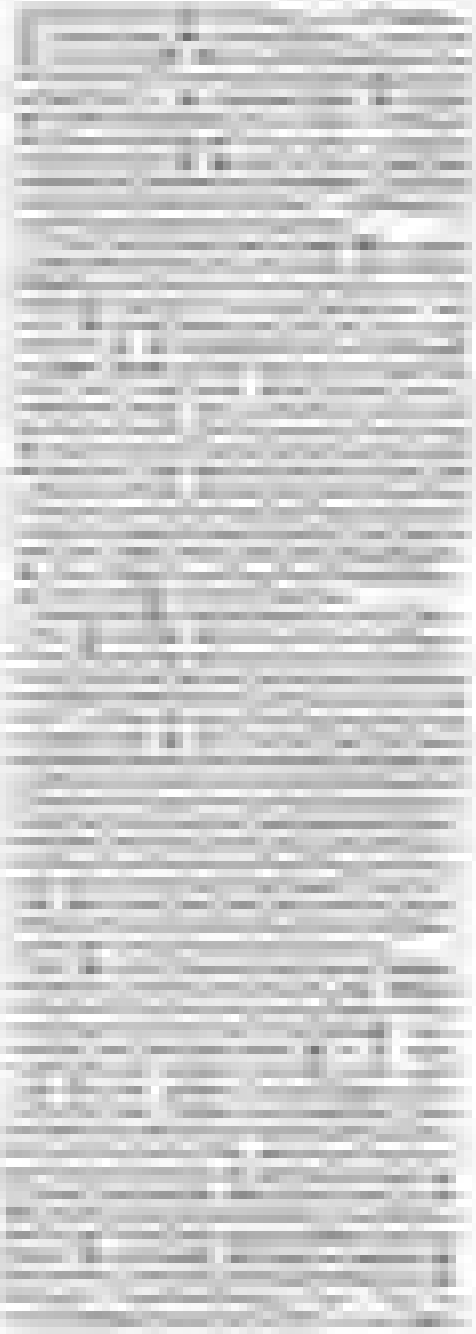
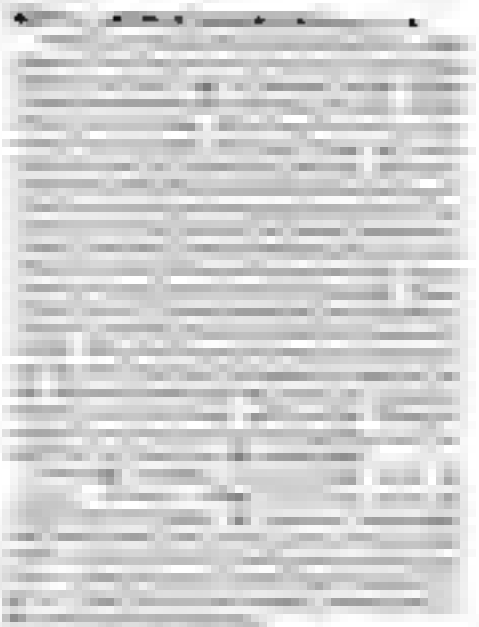
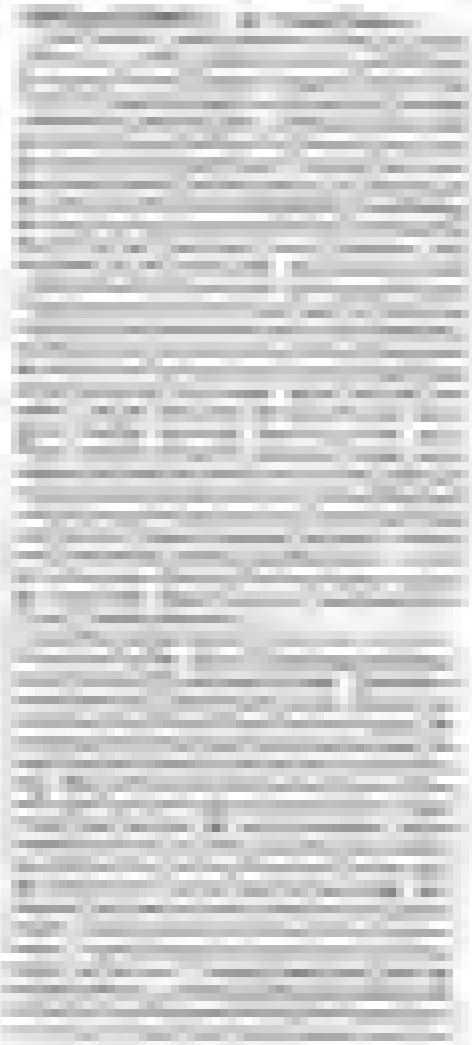
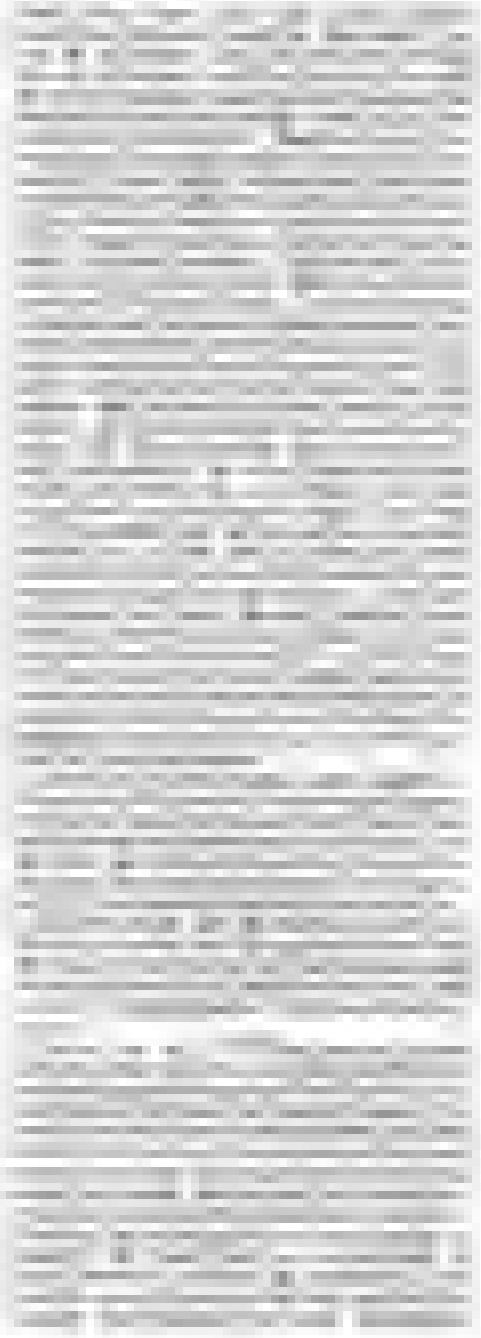
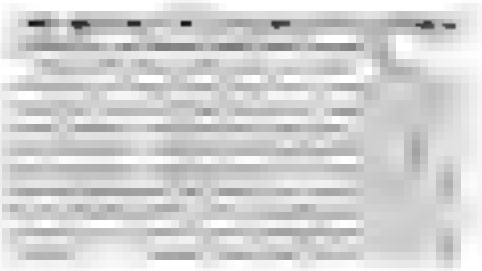
BLAC JOHNSON FAMILY - by Mr L E John-

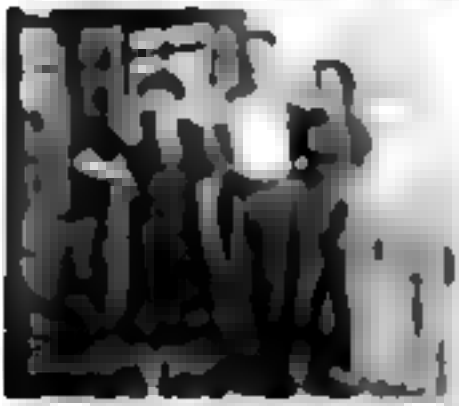


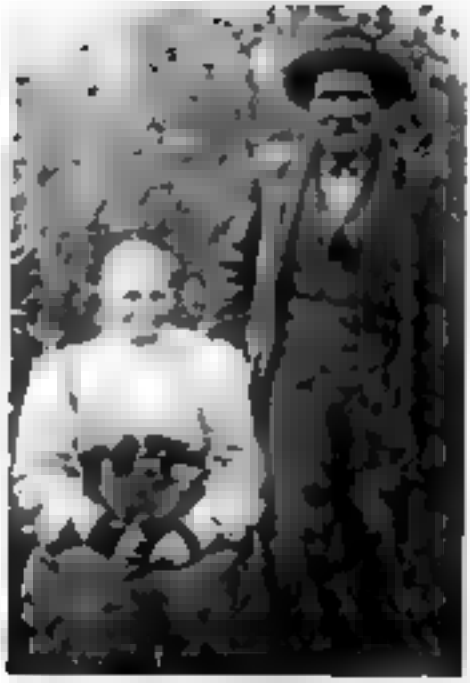




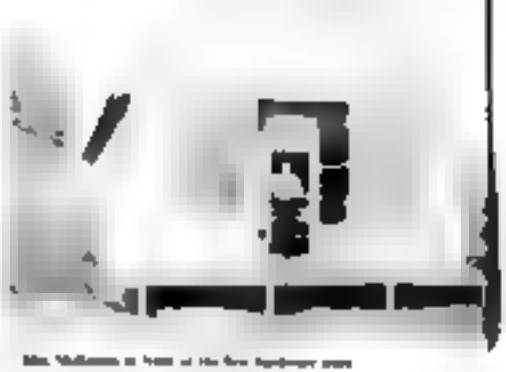




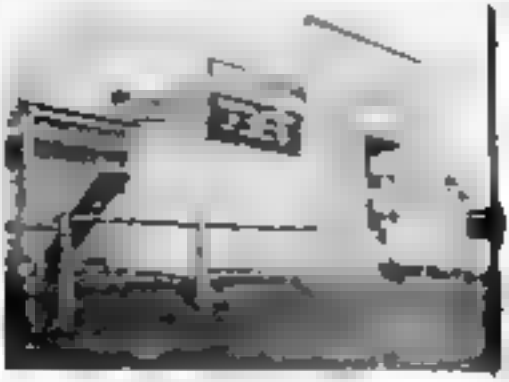




Annie and Jessie Lucas.



Mac McKenzie in front of his first business



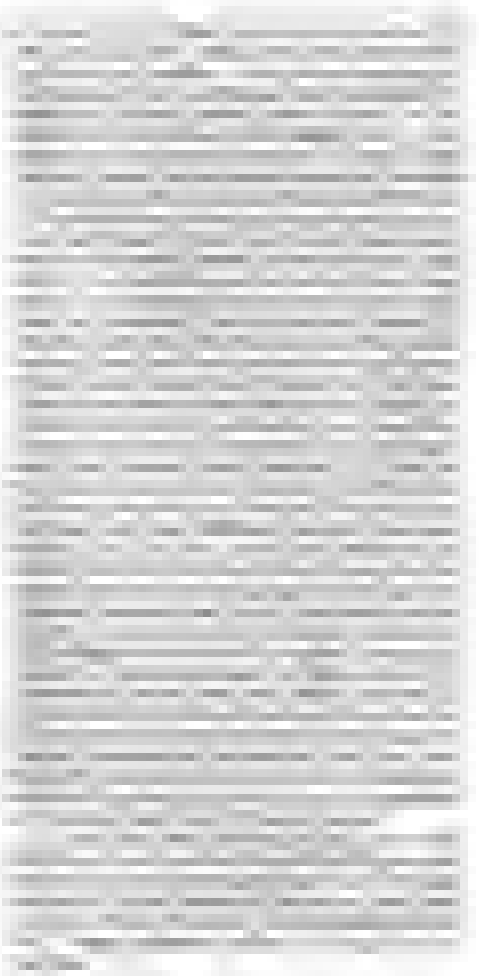
Number Nineteen Store and gateway, 1925

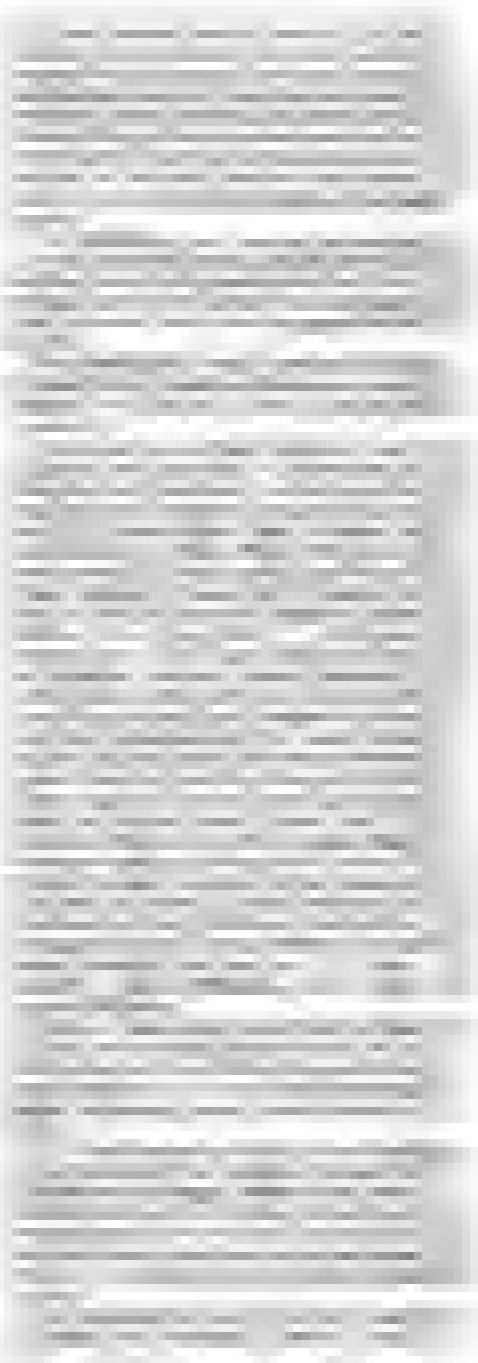
**McKENZIE, CARL AND MACKENZIE, JACK PAMELIA** by Mac Dennis McKenzie and Lucille McKenzie Perry

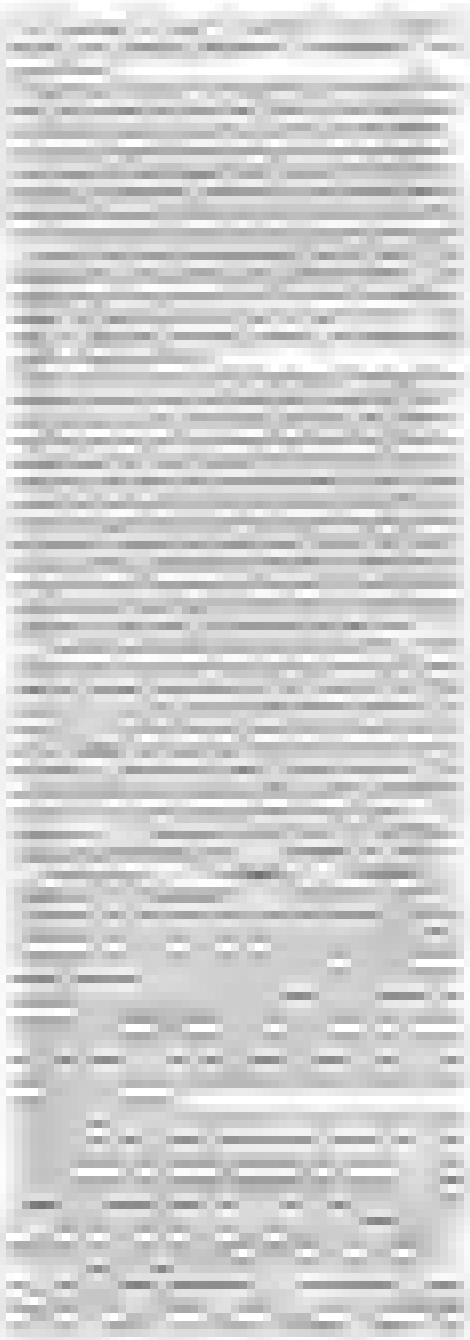
[illegible]

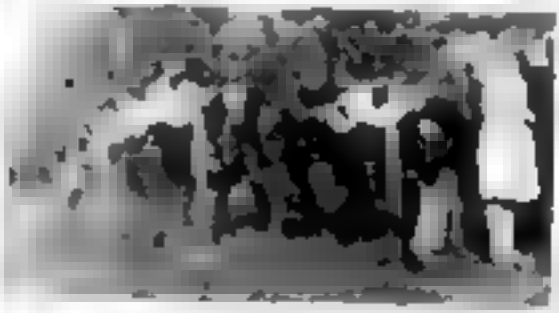
[illegible]

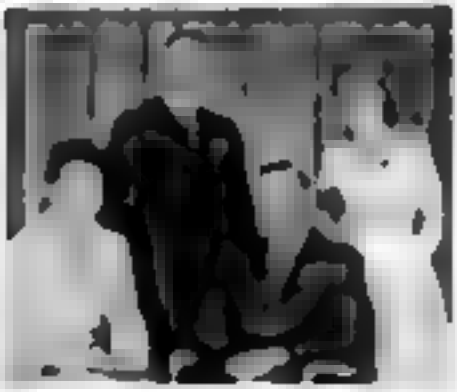
[illegible]

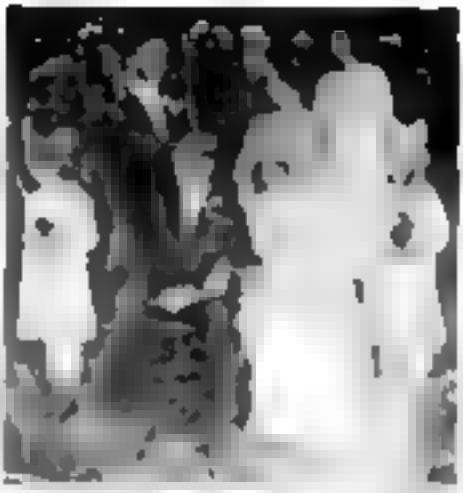


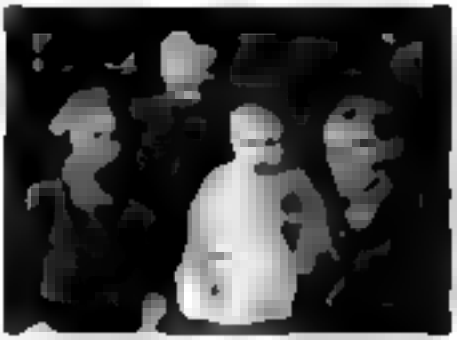


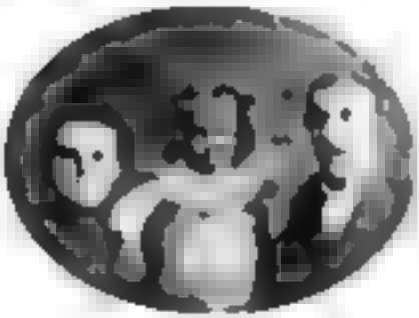


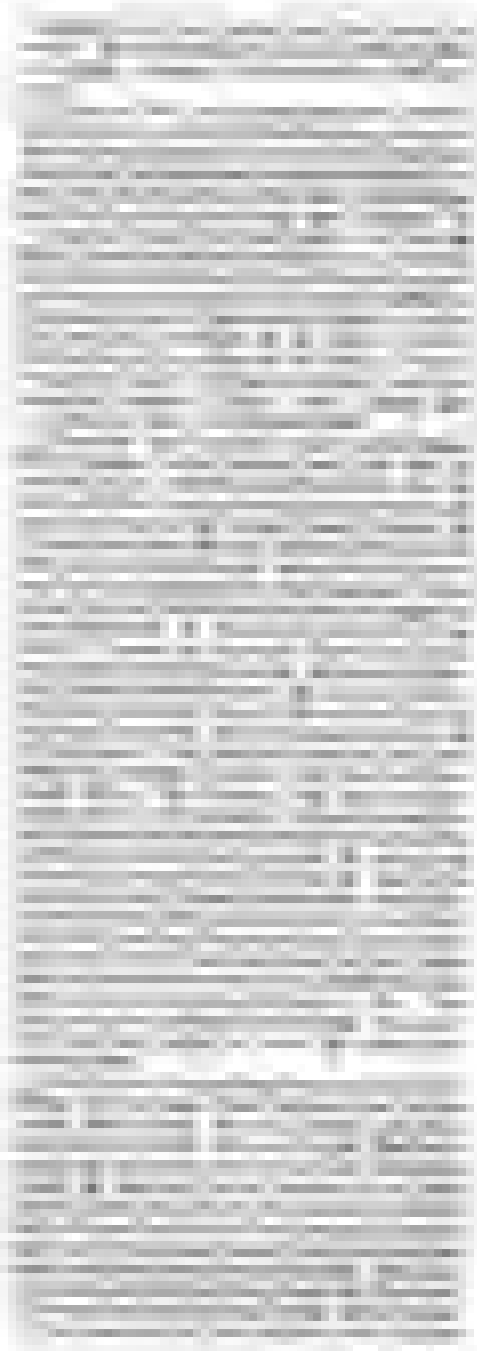


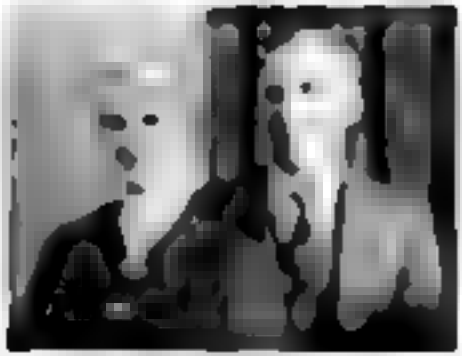


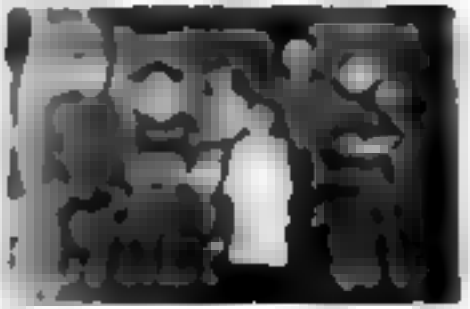


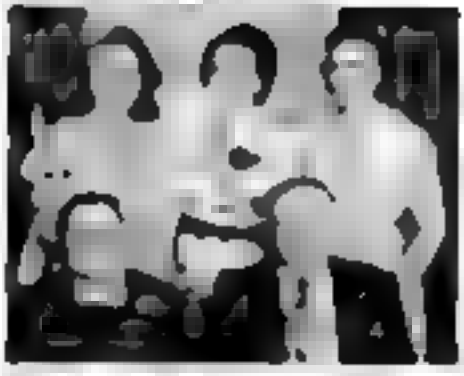




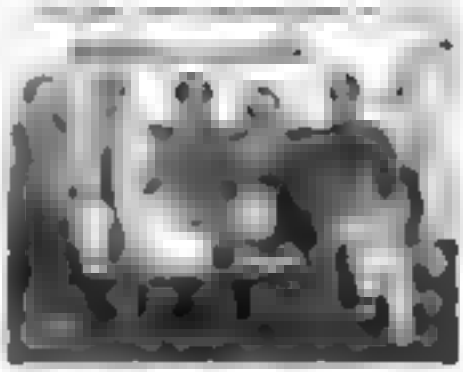








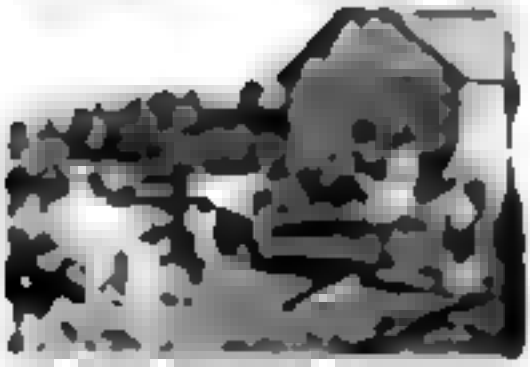
When Mac joined the Navy and was sent to

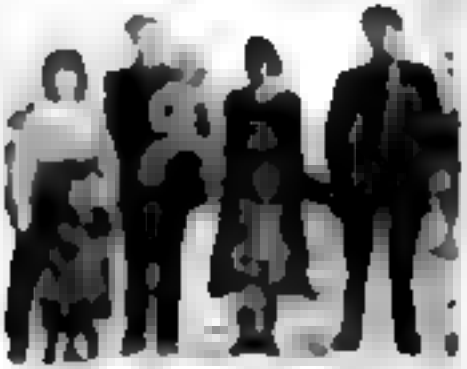


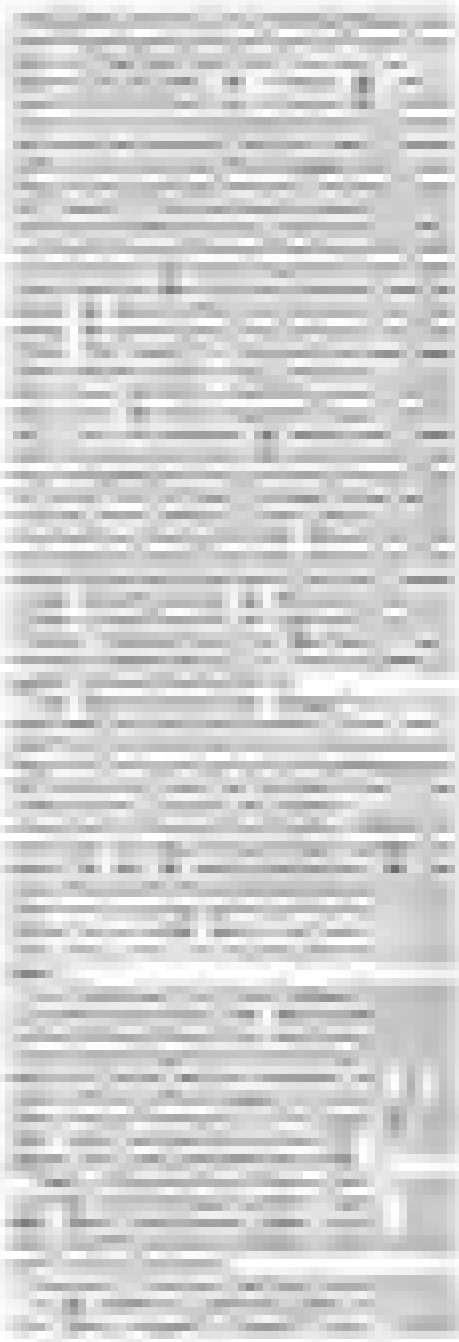
and I am kept busy with my teaching activities

s days are usually quite

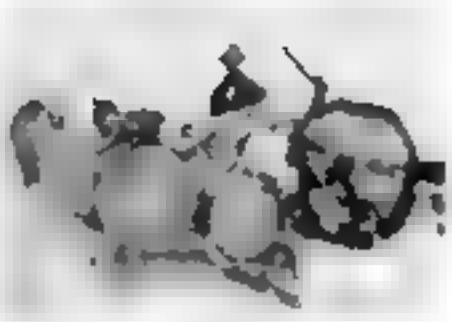
and School Association. I enjoyed a group called

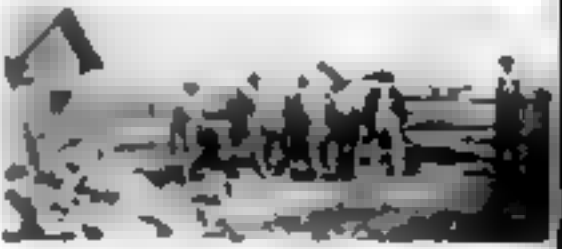




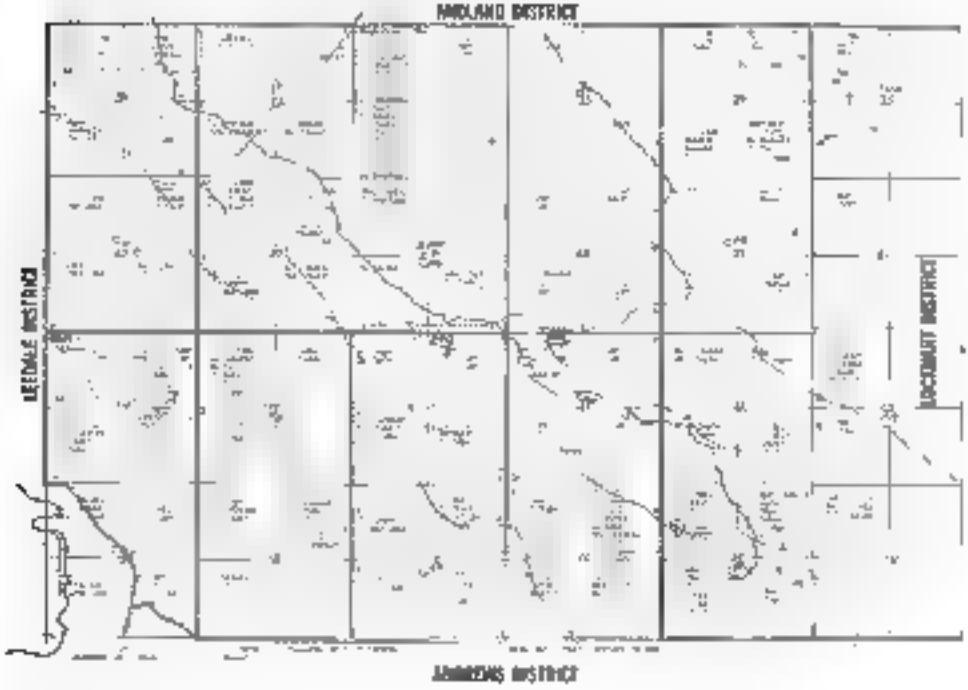


[illegible] red [illegible] spruce branches of the bank in [illegible] and Bi[illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] as [illegible] to the [illegible] pa[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] k at St. F[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

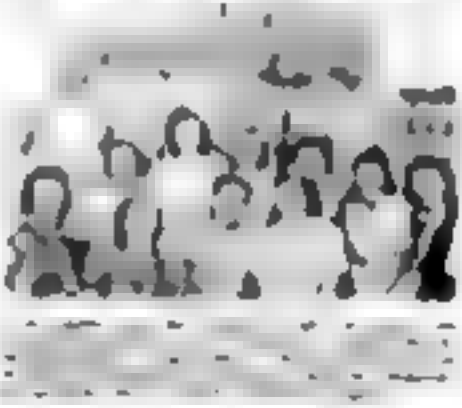


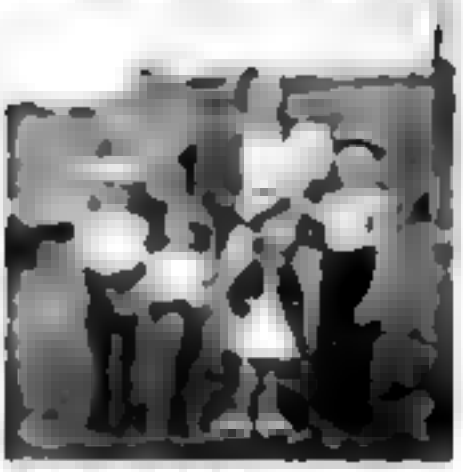


# BENJAMIN DISTRICT MAP



# Benjamin

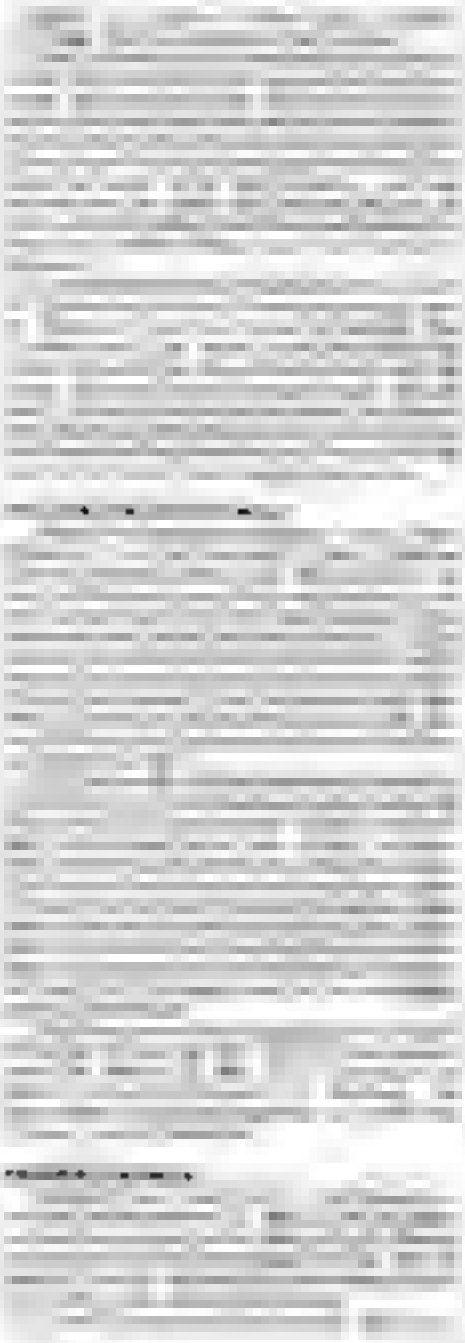




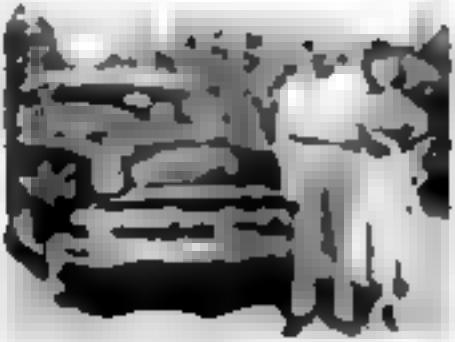
first two children were
and Marjorie Jean. As

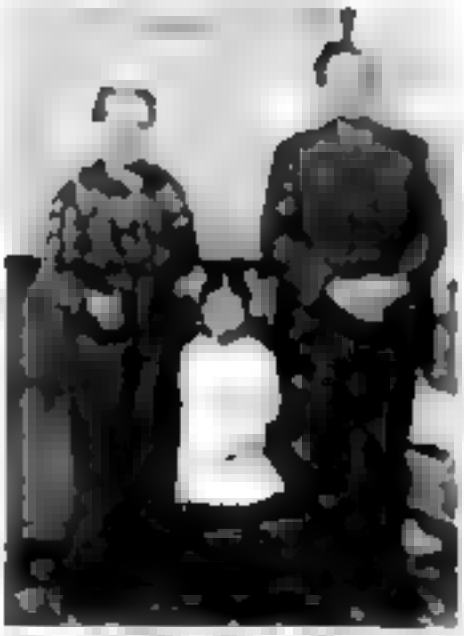
announced to relatives the
birth of their child.

Jonty became secretary of the Benjamin

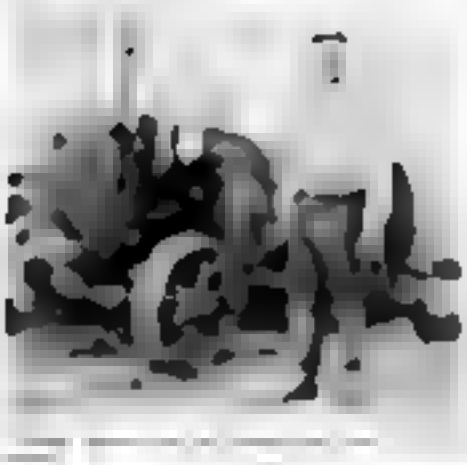


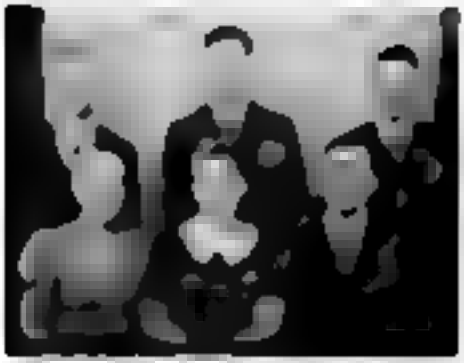
presently employed on the maintenance staff of

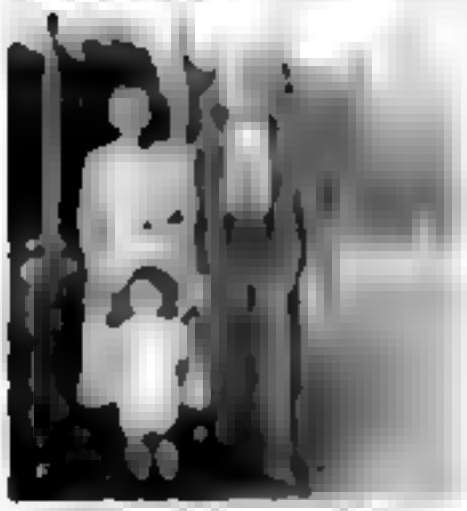




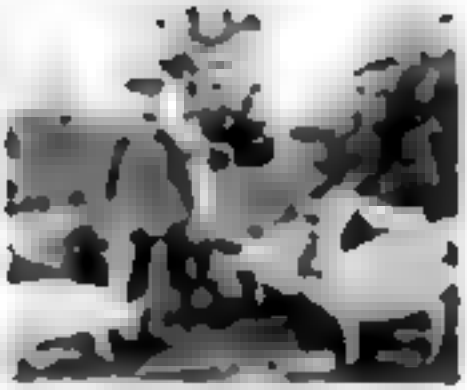
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamilton

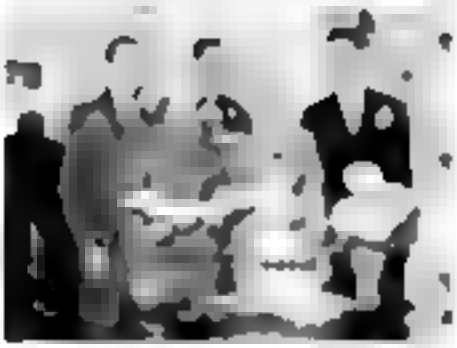


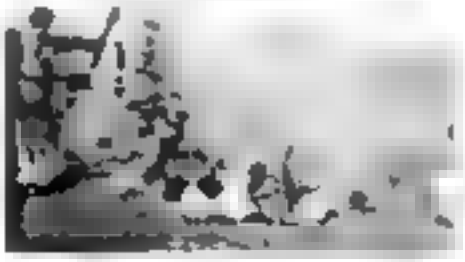




loc of the early families in the Benjamin (is







Don passed away at Berkley on November 2, 1963, with interment in Bentley cemetery.

Eva and her husband Howard Lockhart live in Spokane Washington where they are retired.

**REIDLINGER JOHN** by Clydie Roth

Mr. John Reidlinger was married to Lydia Sclevanoff in North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1914. They were both born and raised in North Dakota. They came to Sunny Alberta shortly after their marriage and farmed near Medicine Hat until moving to the town of Medicine Hat in 1924. Here John worked whenever he could find employment. They had nine children while living in and around Medicine Hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reidlinger

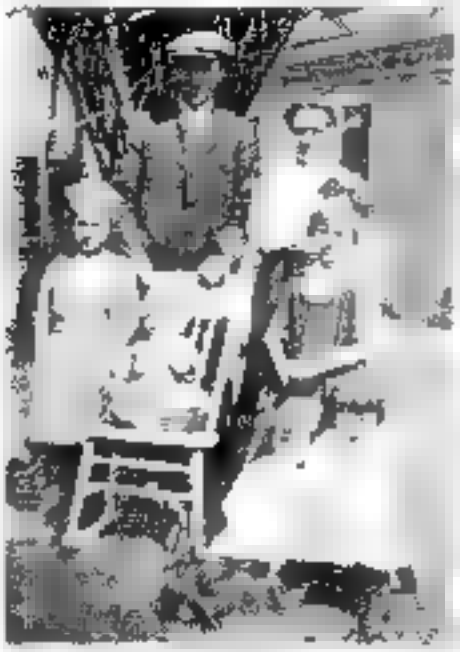
We left Medicine Hat in the 'hungry thirties' and, along with five other families moved west of Leedale. Our farm was about 12 miles west. We came up on the '$600 Plan'. This meeny had to buy everything — two horses, one cow, a wagon, machinery and another $600 was what we have to live on. Some months we had $10 and also remember sometimes it was only $5. From this amount we had to buy 200 pounds of flour per month. And whatever was left was spent for other necessities. We surely learned to live off of the land. Getting to school was not easy either. We had to walk four miles to the Aurora School, while in Medicine Hat we had had to go only two blocks.

All six of the families moved into the Indian Cabins, which were two miles from the farm. They all traveled back and forth every day.

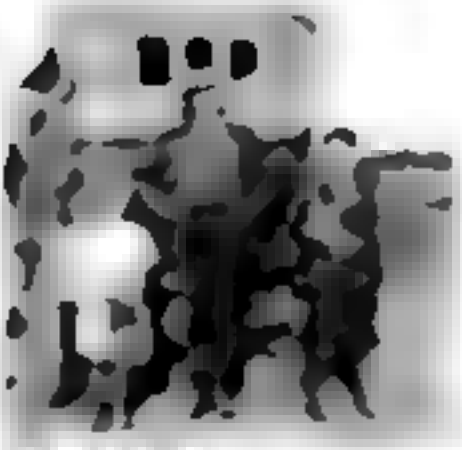
The Indian Cabins had sod roofs and dirt floors. When it rained we had pots and pans set out everywhere to catch the drip. Dad found a frame house closer to our farm, and we then lived in this until we got our log house finished enough to move into. We still had dirt floors in part of the house when we moved in.

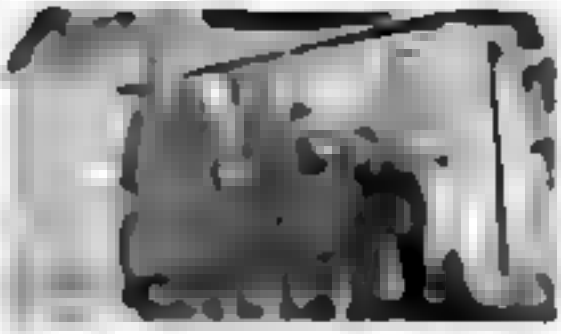
In later years, when most of the family had left home, Dad built another house, but Mother never lived to enjoy it. She died of cancer in May 1951, at the age of 49 years. She was buried in the Rumsey Cemetery. Dad never went back to the farm to live, and later sold it to Hugh Halliday.

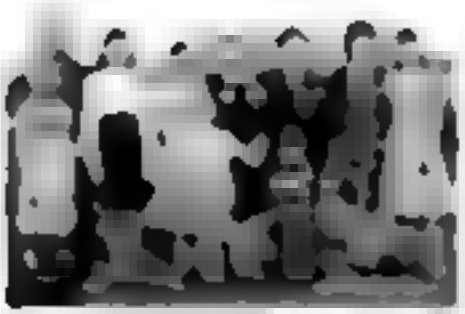
Dad lived in a granary on Perry Thomas's farm for a year or so, then built himself a little house on a corner of a quarter owned by his daughter Clydie and her husband, Irvin Roth in the Andrew area north of Eckville. He lived here for a number of years, but eventually went to the Senior Citizen's Lodge in Innisfree, in Rocky Mountain House, and in Sylvan Lake where he would spend the winter, but come home to his own house in the summers. He always enjoyed a little farming if he could drive the John Deere tractor.

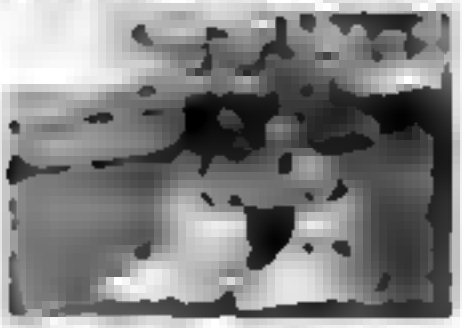


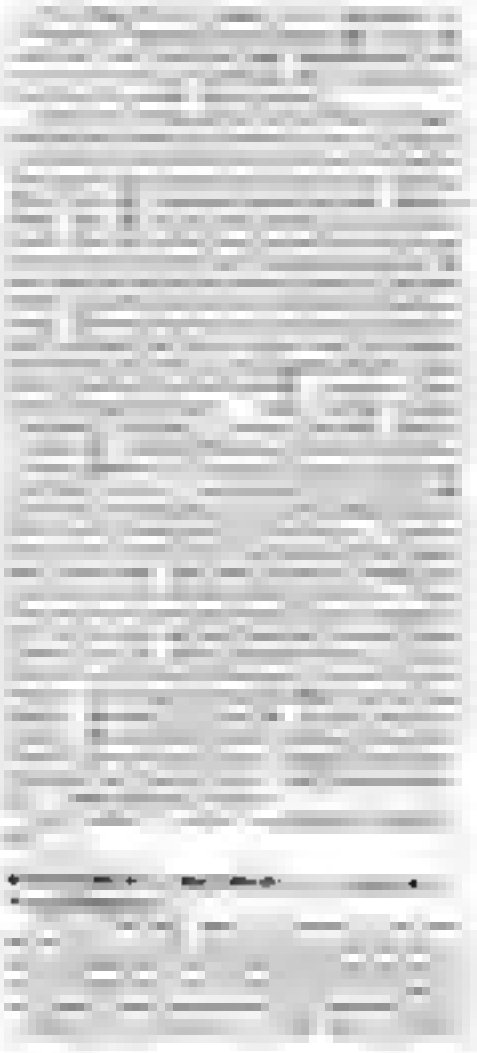
Joe and Anna Reidlinger and five children



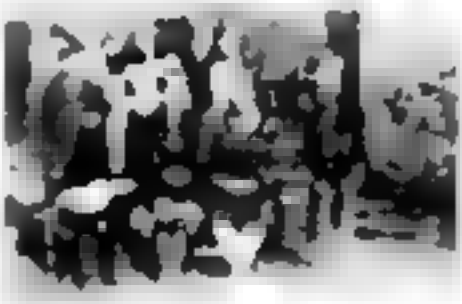


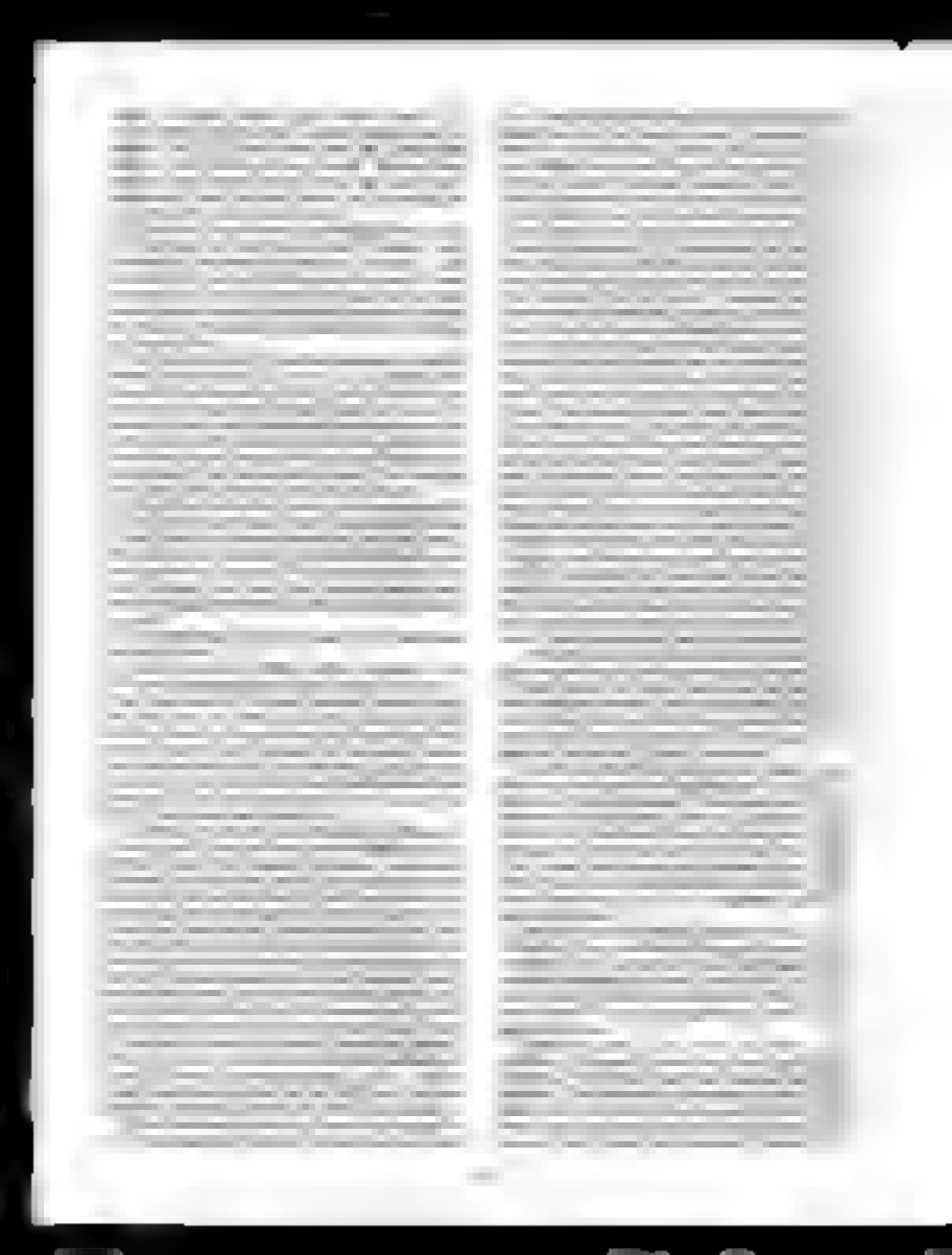




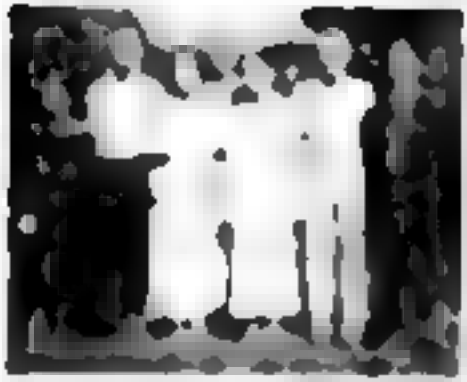


# Boyle





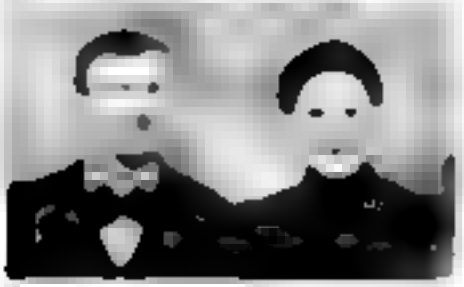
Eckville High School, then worked

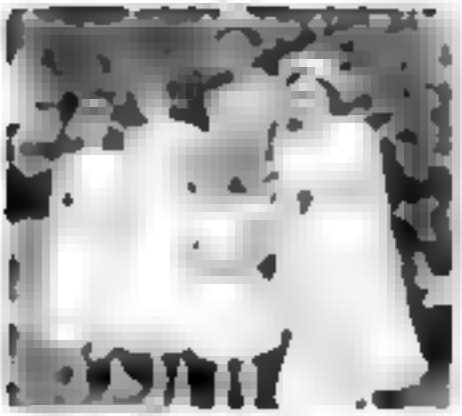


Johnson.

These were very exciting and enjoyable

times of our lives- especially for my parents, as

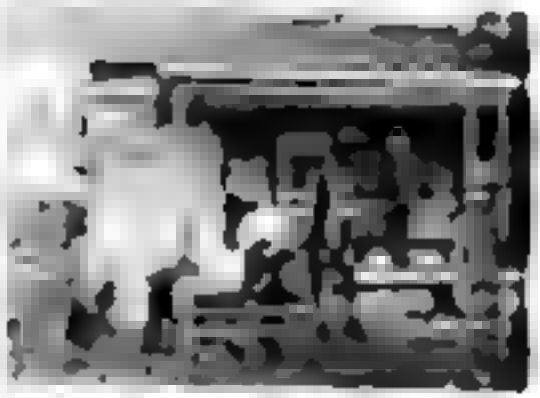


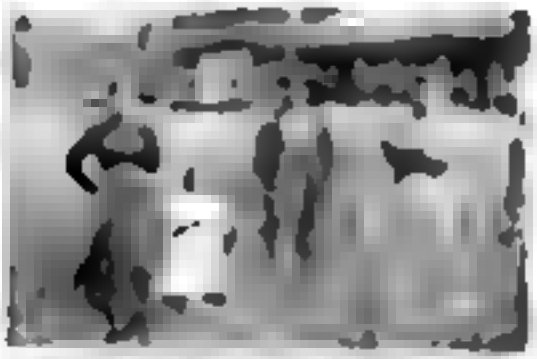


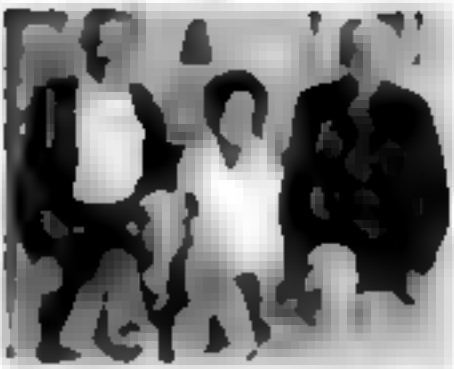
Doris and Vicky went on to High School in [illegible] Dear

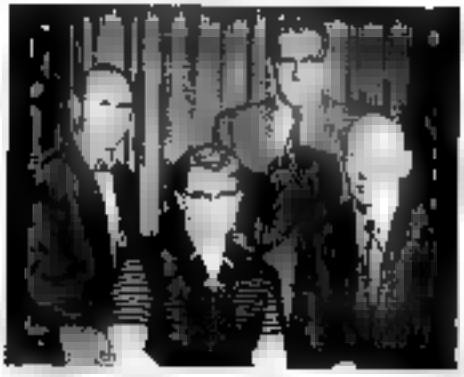
[illegible] the Christmas tree and set it up and we up the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

eight years later
David John Kujak









Allie and Ole Solberg and their sons Melvin and Fred

g for his horses. In the early days, Ole's hobby was auction sales. Ole eventually bought the John Palm farm, Allie's home.

Allie was known for her gardening and plants. She enjoyed needlework and spinning wool which she loved to knit many pairs of socks and mitts as well as heavy sweaters.

Many teachers of the Hoyle School boarded at the Solberg home.

Ole and Allie had two sons, Melvin and Fred. Melvin married Hilda Melling of Abbotsford, B.C. They have five children: Beverly, James, Barry, Raymond and Sharon. They reside in Abbotsford, B.C. Fred lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Allie and Ole celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1969 shortly after retiring to their home in Penhold. Ole passed away on January 23, 1976 at the age of 92. He is buried in the Vig Cemetery, west of Bentley. Since then, Allie has resided in Red Deer.

## VIG, CARL

Came from North Dakota in 1900. lived with his parents and other members of the family, filed on a homestead, SE 9-40-2-W5 in the Boyle district before he was 21. In 1918 he married Anne Perry who came from Colorado when she was 11 years old to live with her father Henry Perry on his homestead in the Sunset Hills – they moved to their own place in 1918. lived here till 1927 with four members of their family moved to SW 15-40-2-W5 where five younger children were raised.

**Ella** married Harold Bjornberg — has four children.

**Chester** married Rubyrose Benson — has five children.

**Howard** married Joyce Atherton — was married in England during the war. they had five children. Howard and one daughter died in an accident in 1958. Chester and Howard served in the Second World War, returning home in 1944.

**Doris** married Ole Skjonsberg — has five children.

**Carl** married Bernice Johnson — has nine children.

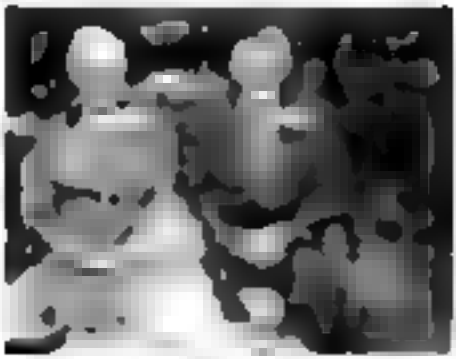
**Bernice** has six children.

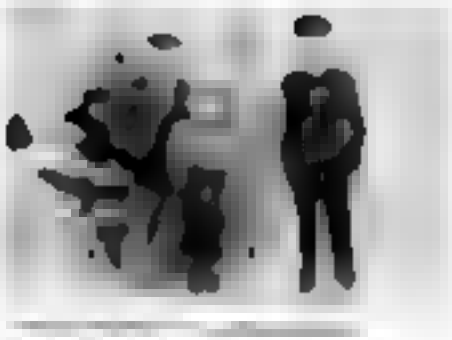
**Delbert** — deceased July 3, 1976.

**Dorcas** has four children.

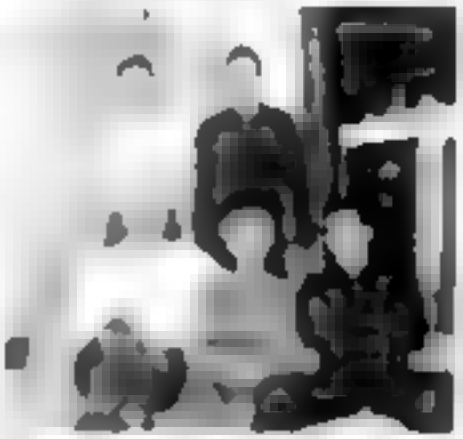
**Donna** has four children.

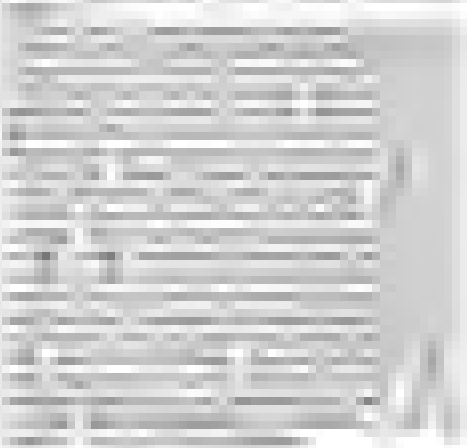
# Carlos

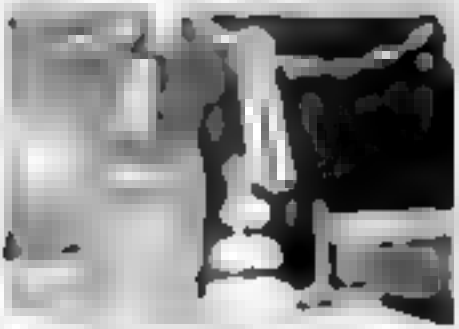


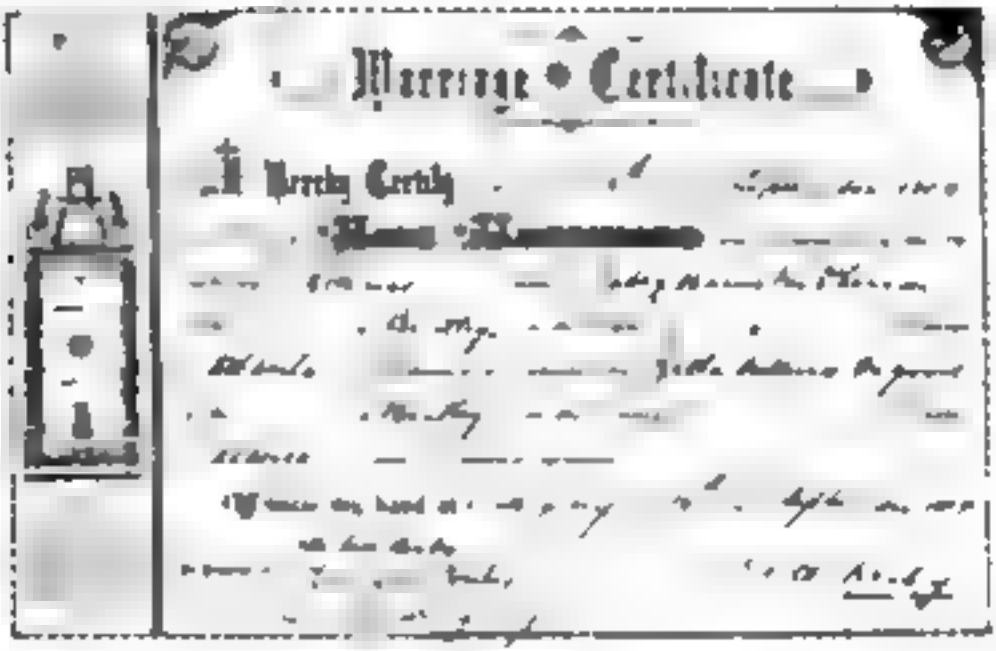


o en oy the company of many of h e



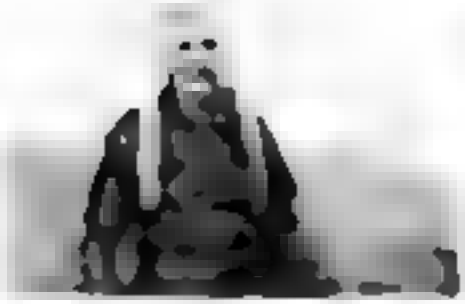




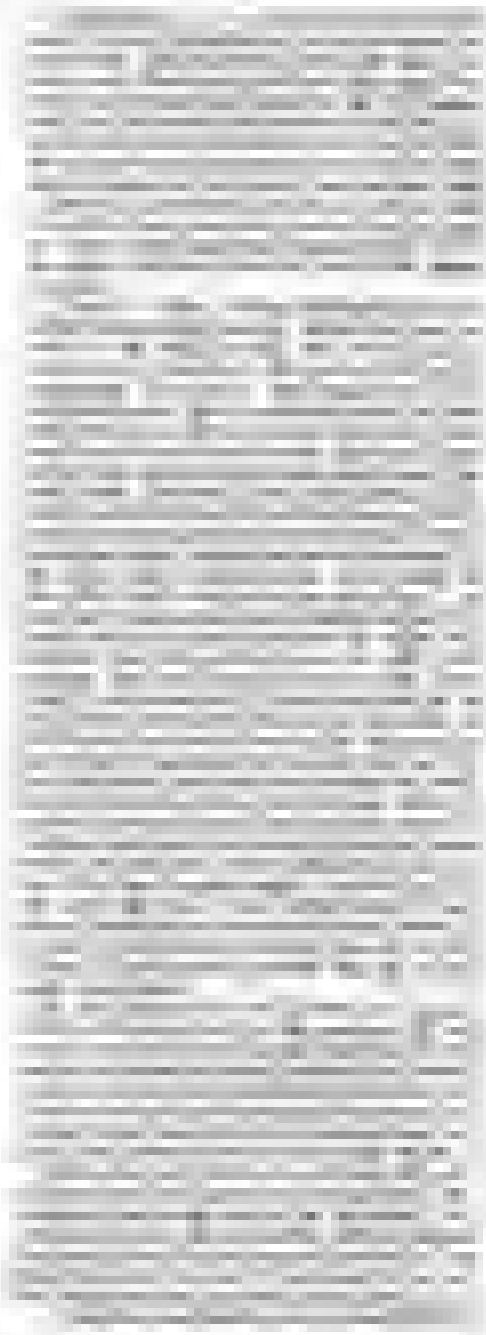


Marriage Certificate

This Certifies



AZEL married Ordell Murphy and they



Peter Robinson was born in Calgary on May 3, 1930. He helped at home and attended Ran
Heights Schools, and

## WHEN PA IS SICK

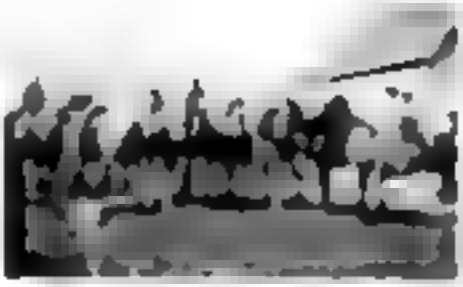
When Pa is sick, he's scared to death.
An' Ma an us jes' hold our breath.
He crawls in bed an' puffs an' grunts
And does all kinds of crazy stunts.
He wants Doc Brown in mighty quick
For when Pa's ill, he's awful sick.
He gasps an moans an sighs sighs
He talks so hoarse an rolls his eyes
Ma jumps and runs all 'round us
An' all the house is in a fuss,
An' peace an joy is mighty skeerce
When Pa is sick, it's somethin fierce

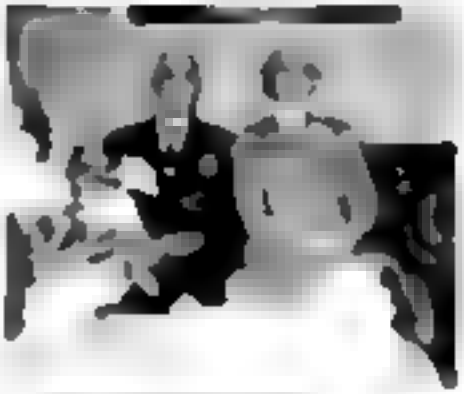
## WHEN MA IS SICK

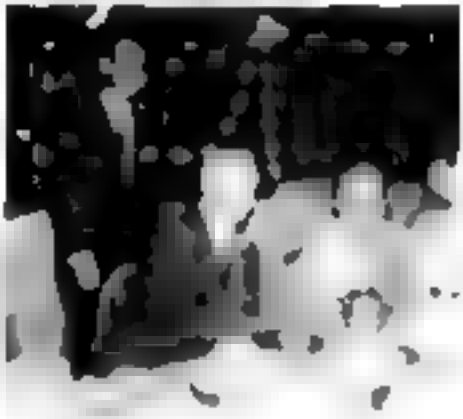
When Ma is sick she pegs away
She's quiet enough, not much to say
She goes 'bout an addin' things.
And sometimes laughs, or even sings.
She says she don't feel so extra well,
But when she's just a kinda spell
She'll be alright tomorrow sure
An good ole sleep will be the cure
An Pa, he sniffs and makes no kick
For women folks is always sick
An Ma, she smiles lets on she's glad.
When Ma is sick it ain't so bad

Woman was created from the rib of man
She was not made from his head to top him.
Nor out of his feet to be trampled upon.
But out of His side to be equal to him.
Under his arm to be protected;
And near his heart, to be loved

# Diamond Valley, Bluebell



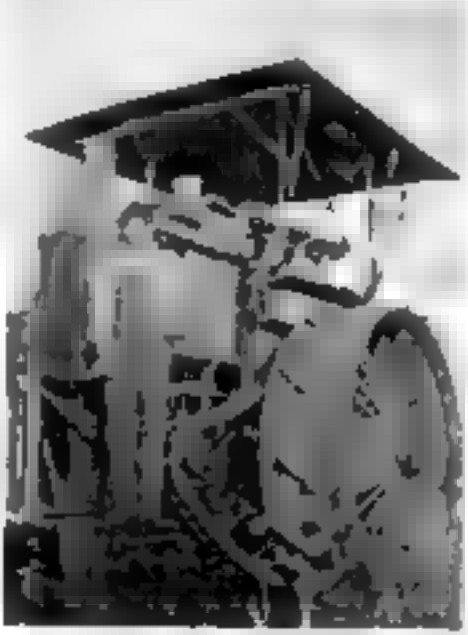


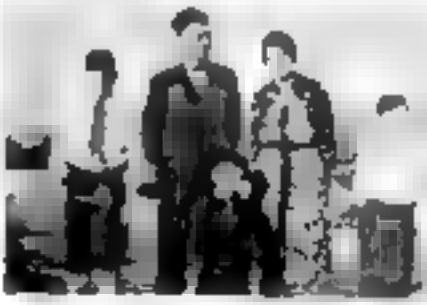


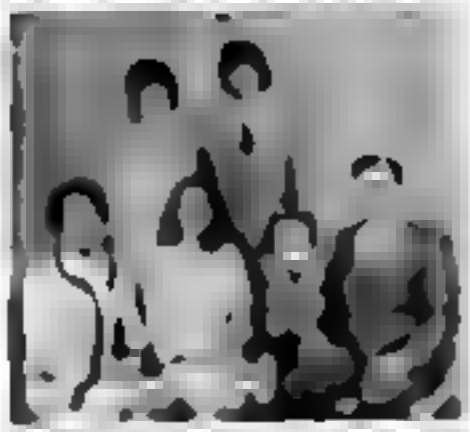
## MANTON BROWNLEE PARTY

## BURNS AND PEEPS – by W. T. Burns

Mr and Mrs B Pass





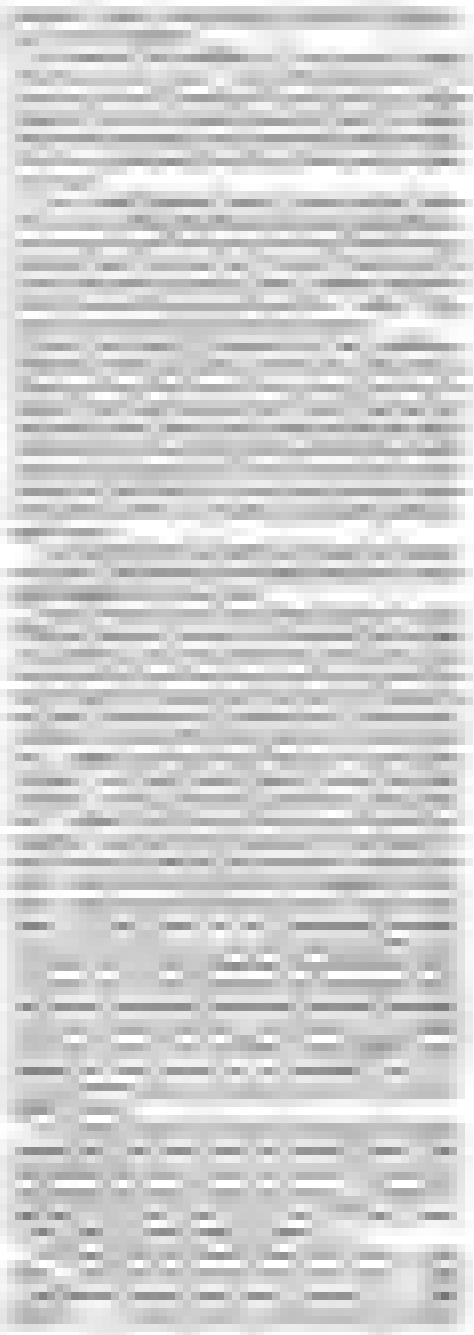


che only member of che family born

based the Doug Snyder farm

traditions of good farming that he had practiced.

the departure of the Upsalla the



A meeting on August [illegible] was the [illegible]

[illegible]

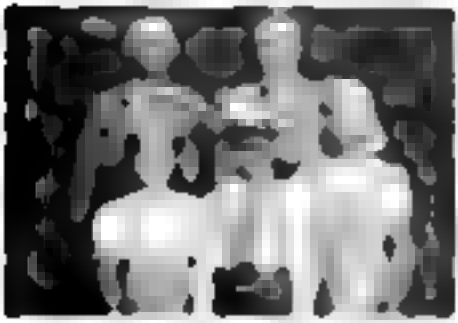
[illegible]

[

All the girls are married and have their own

MARTIN GREFLES — by Horatio Nelson

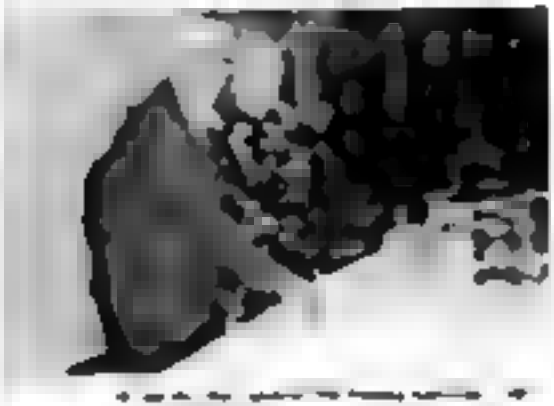
by train to Red Deer. They stopped overnight in

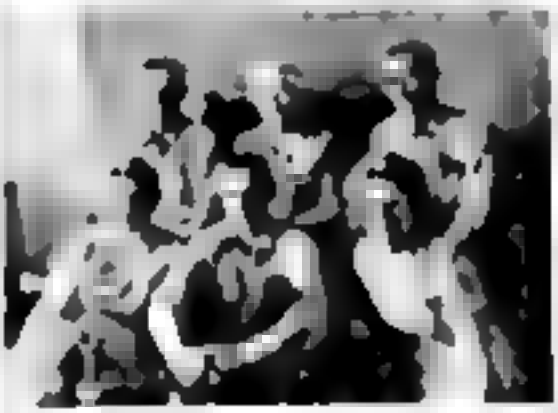


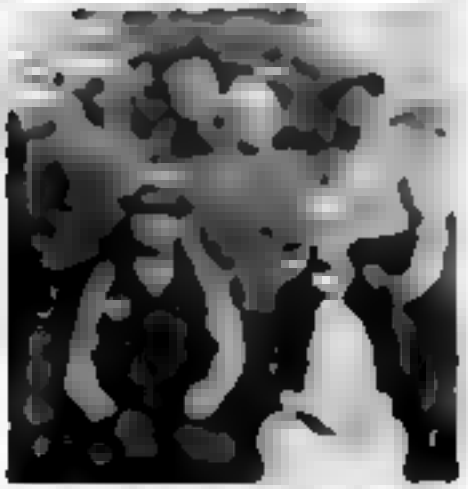
the Brisk House on April 15, 1909 with nine e

all the neighbours with whom he had been in con

HOLMSEN, [illegible] — by Margaret Cus-

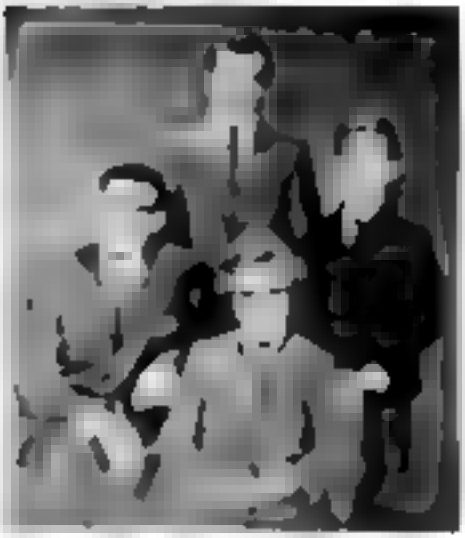


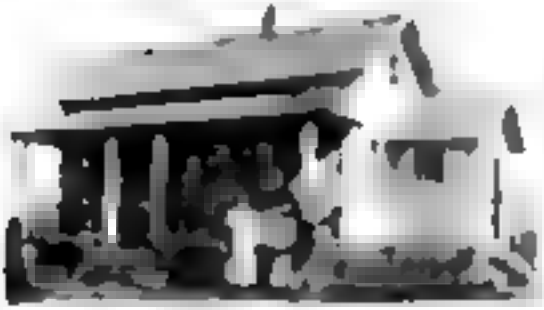


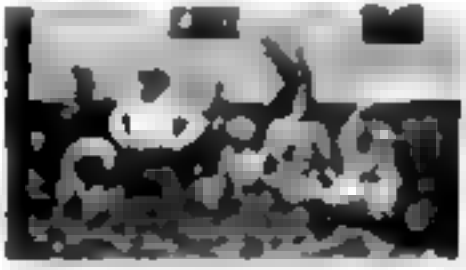


one could have a good time without

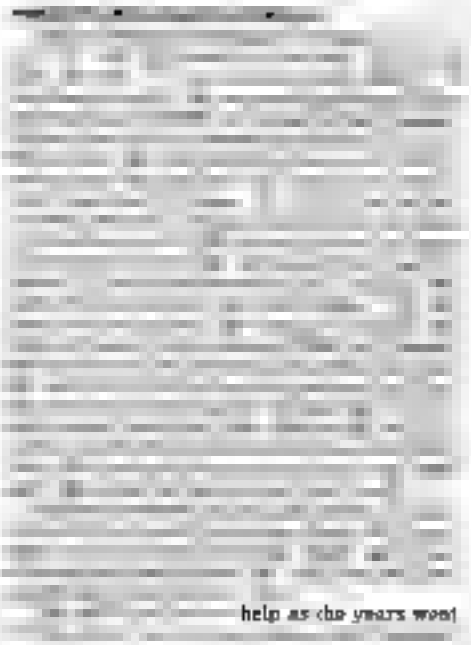
MURPHY HUGH — by Barbara

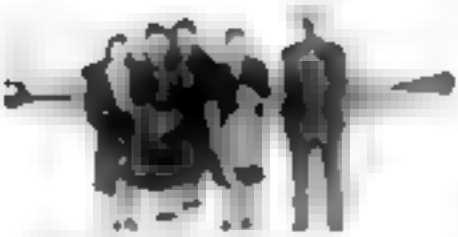






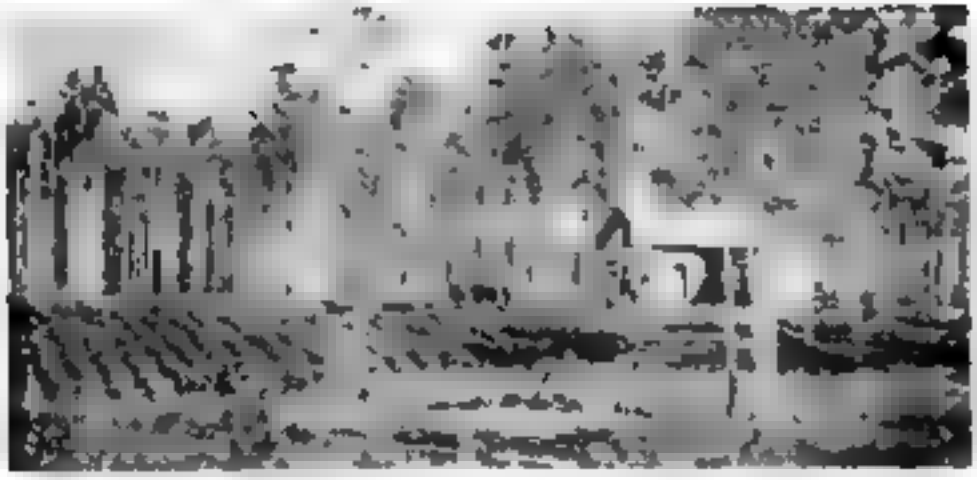
of Antonio Speroski


help as the years went



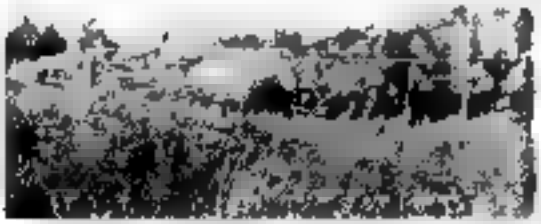
and a Liberal in politi
kind, generous and

[illegible] daughter Rosalie was born to them in September, 1922



Harry Mindt and August Christianson

Ben Weigelt ready for the field in the 1940's

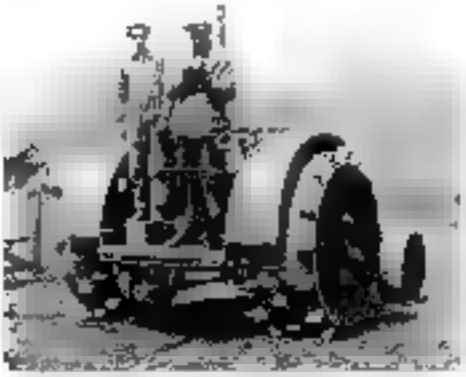


Frank Johnson and Link Boyer road-working gang their horses in 1915

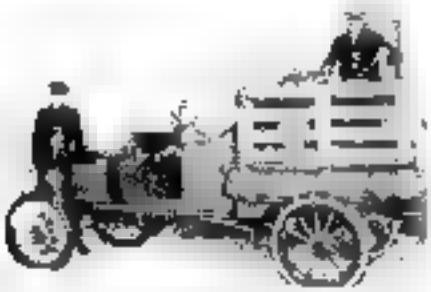
Charlie Gustavson and Ross Lundberg breaking sod in 1910

Well drilling outfit.

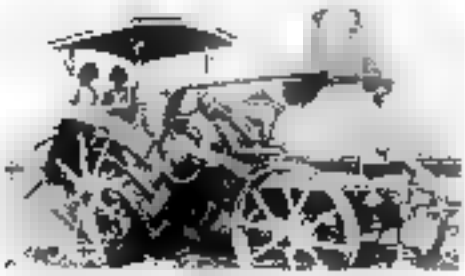
Modern haying equipment



George Lucas and Billy Armstrong on McCormick D40-40

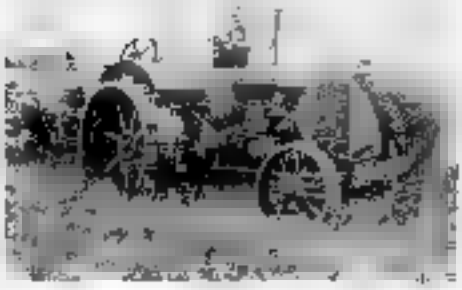


Harold and Harry Thomas with pigs bound for town.



Advance Runabout Range and Road Hub.

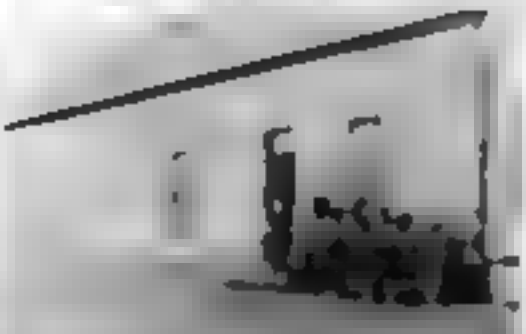
Brush Hog built by Charles Shockeyes.

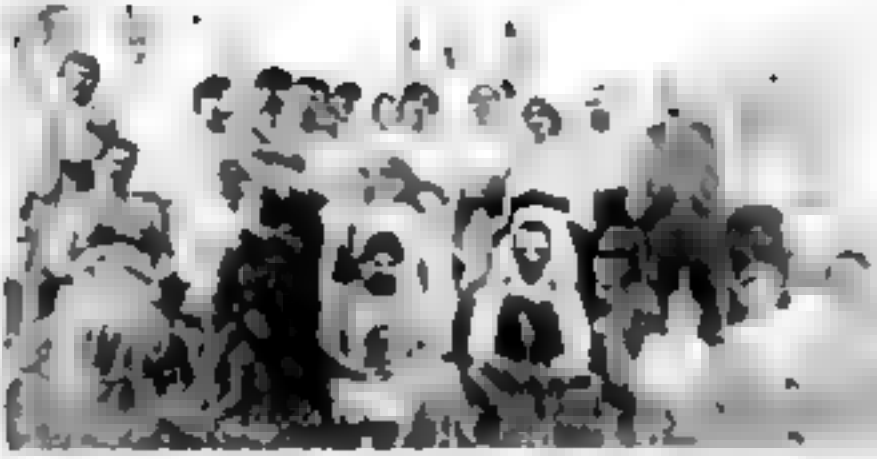


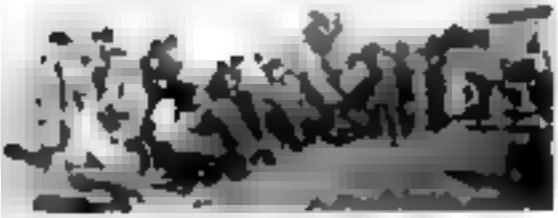
Fred and Alfred Molander with Walk-Over 1934

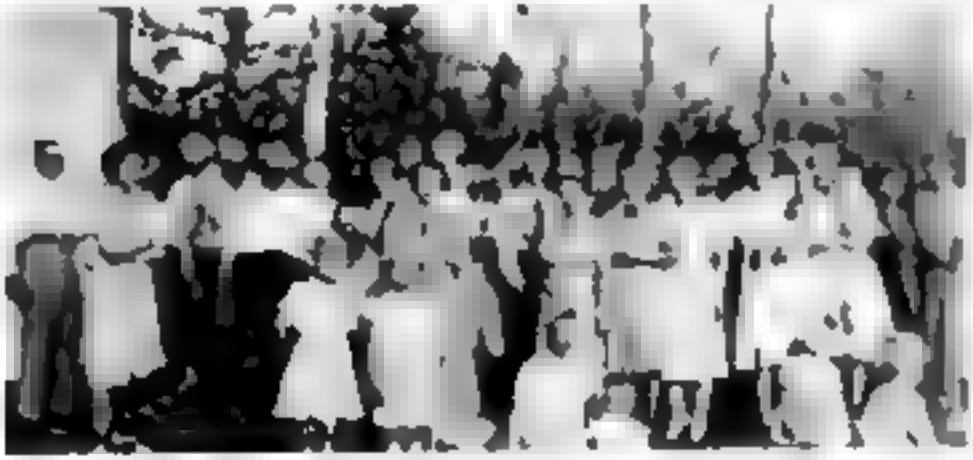
Front view of Brush Hog.

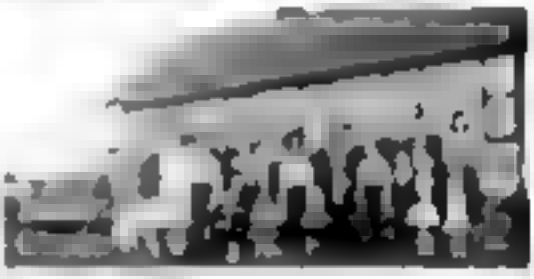
# Estonian

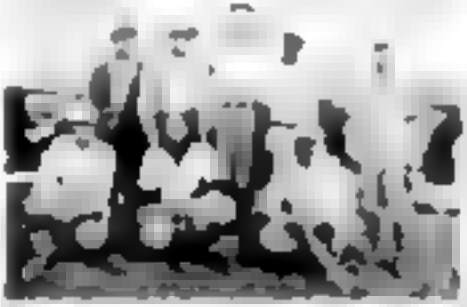


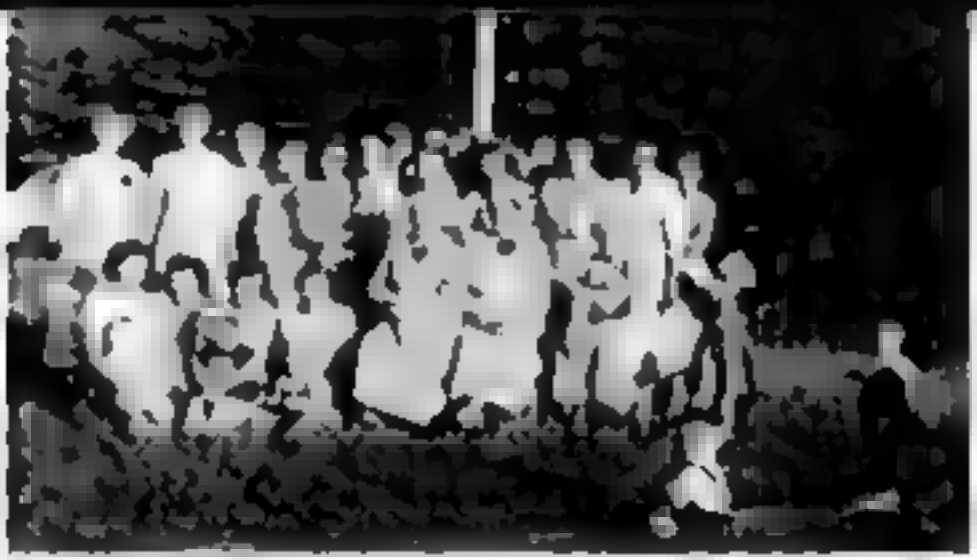












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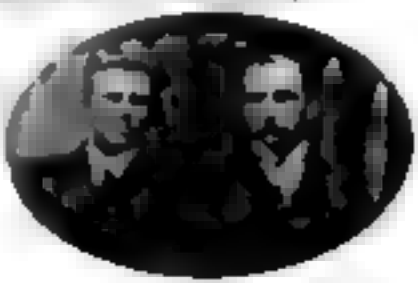
[illegible]



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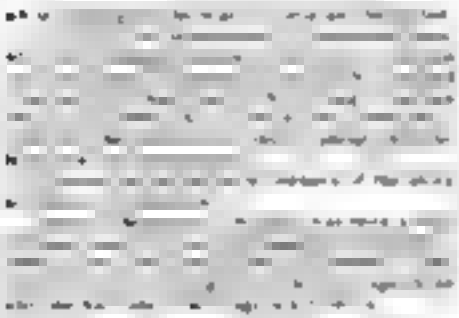

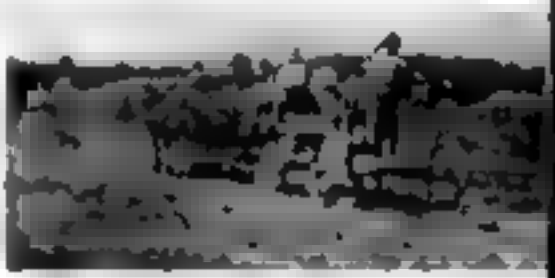

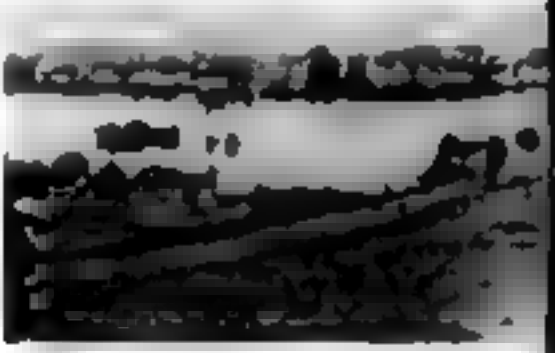

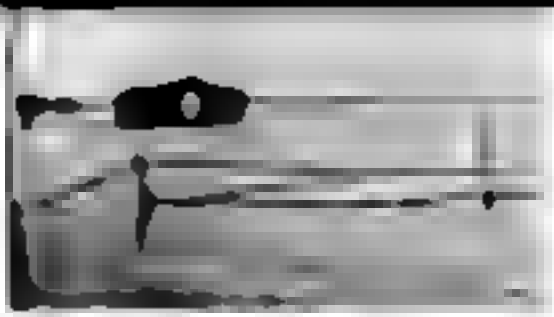

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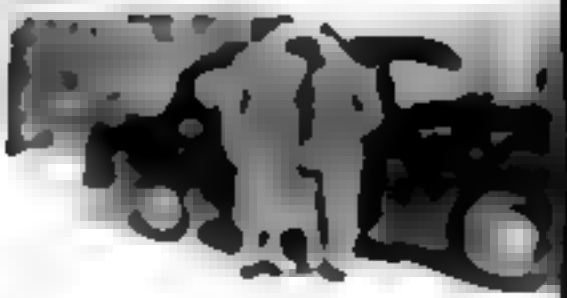
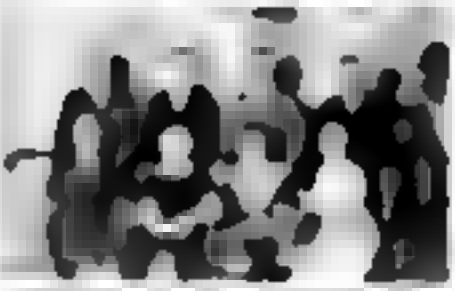


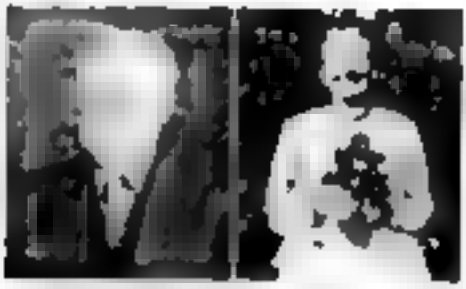
spring.

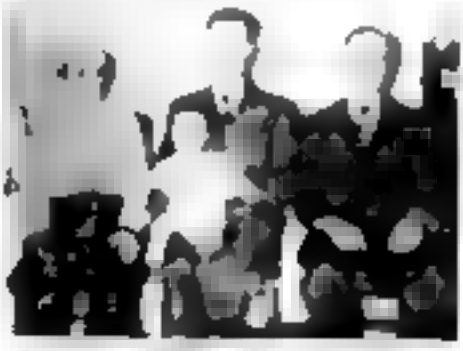
Charlie and Sarah were both very warm

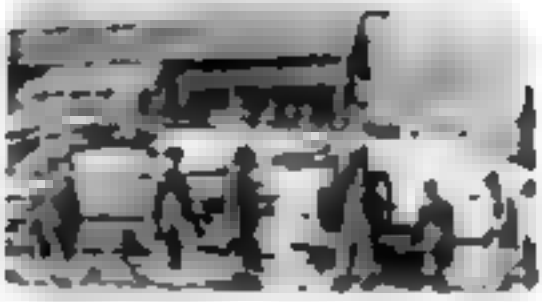
KINGSLEY, [redacted] — by Mrs. Selena Fallo

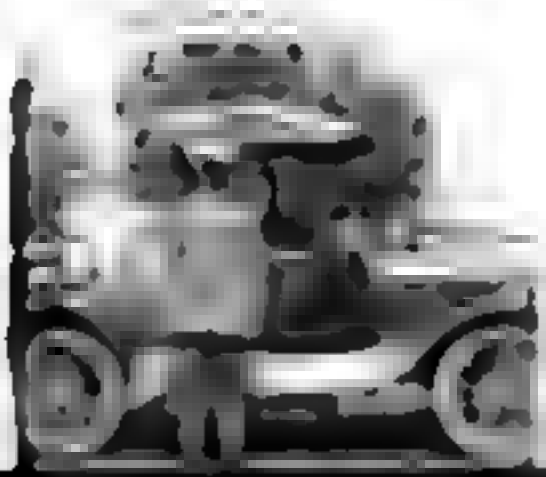
for the payment of only $20 under a homestead

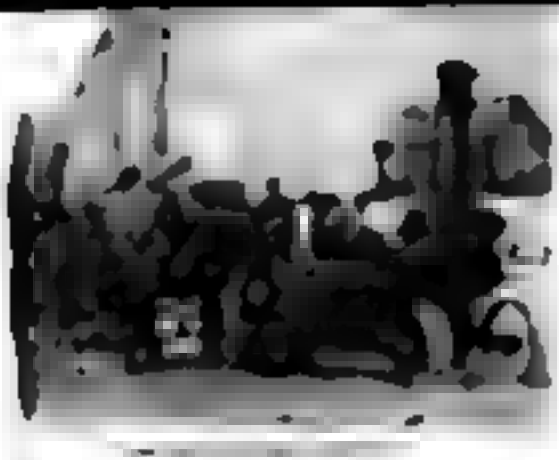


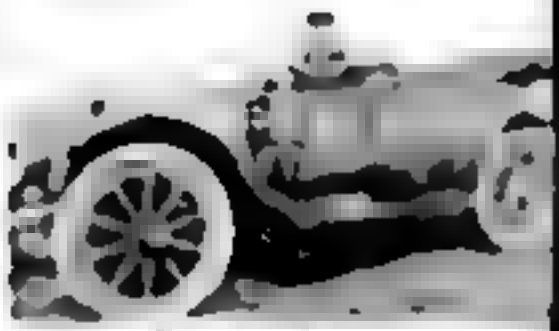




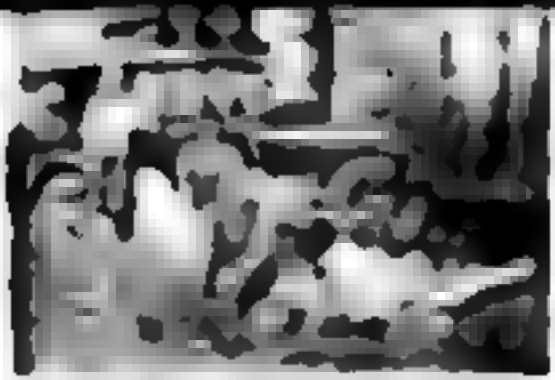


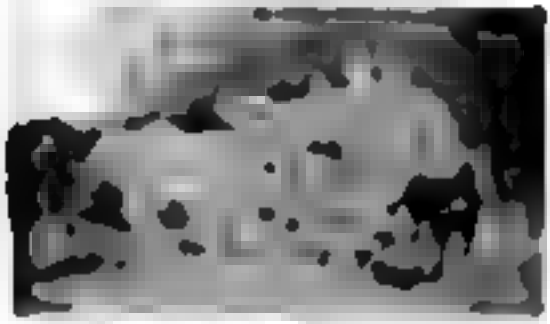


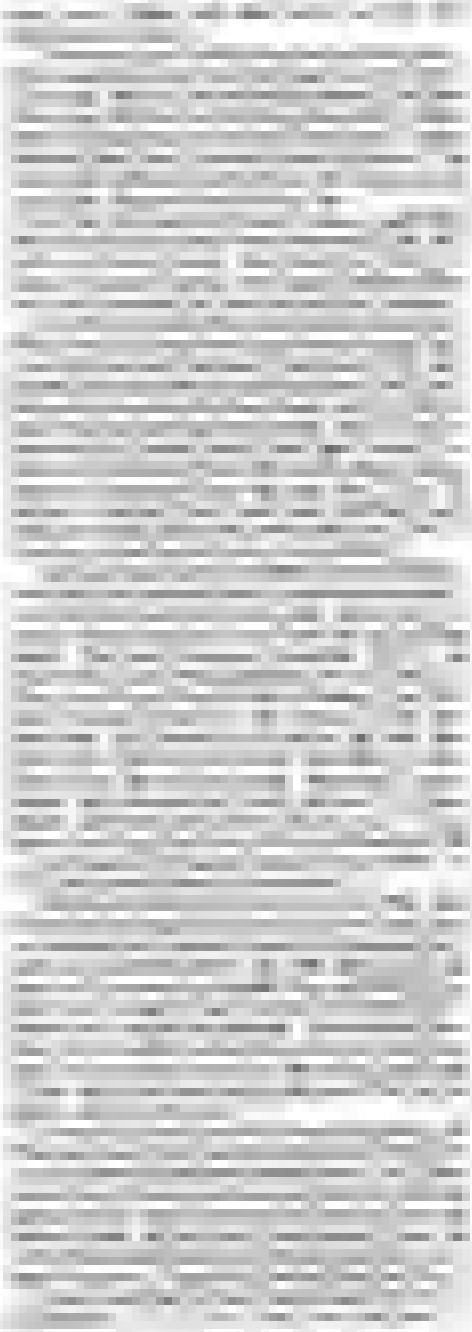


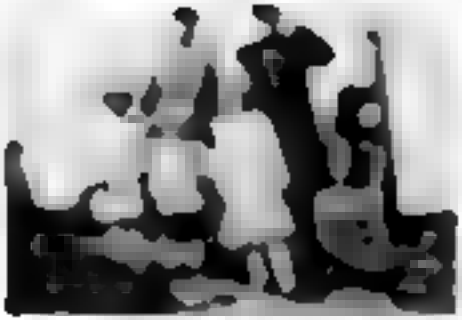


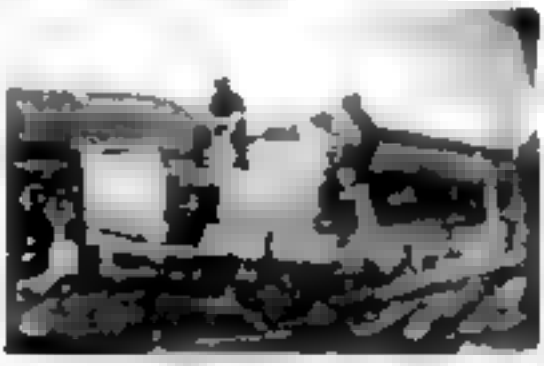
LANCER PRIDE

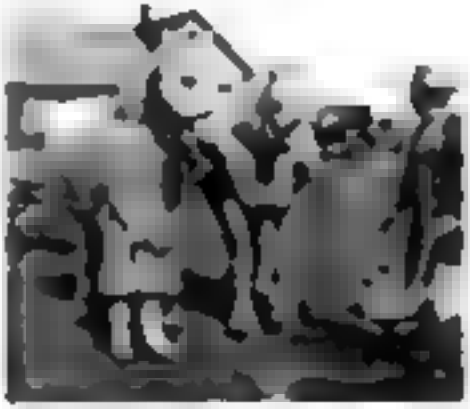


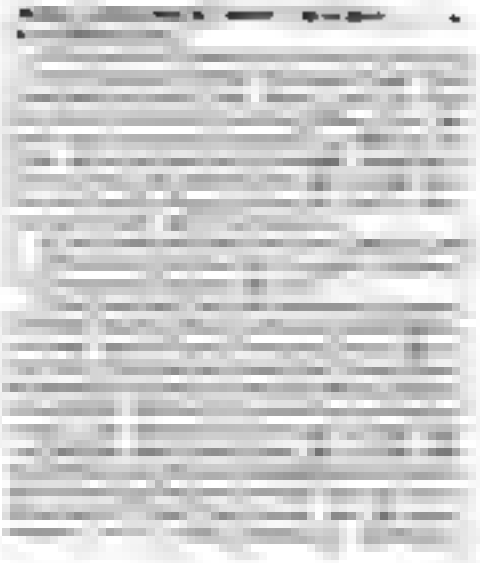


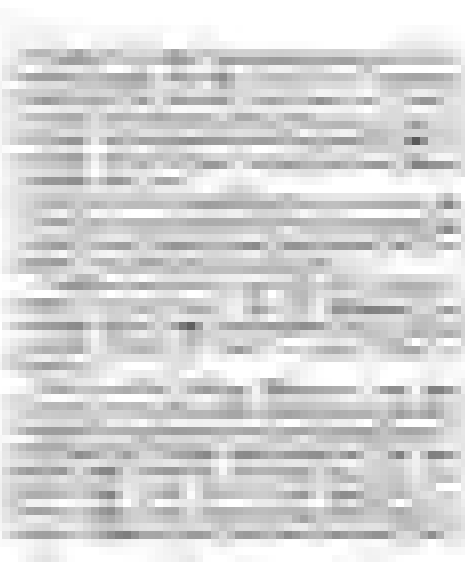


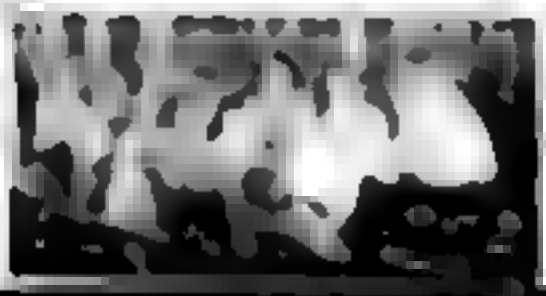


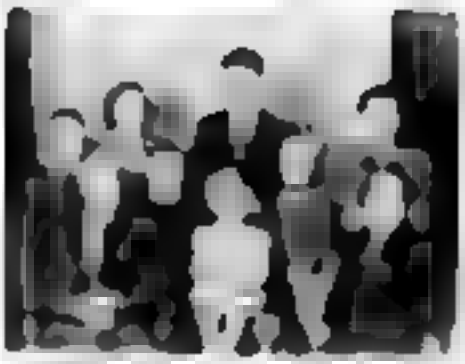


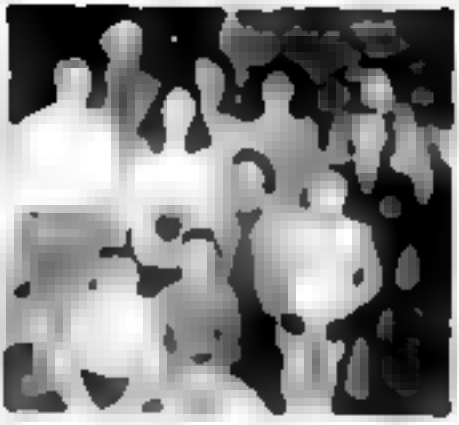






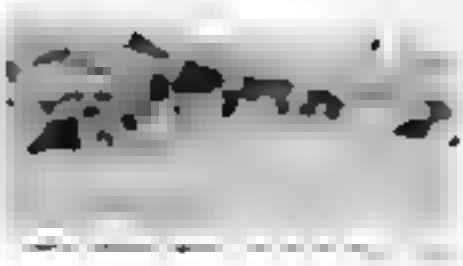


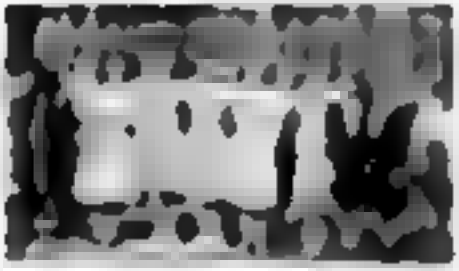


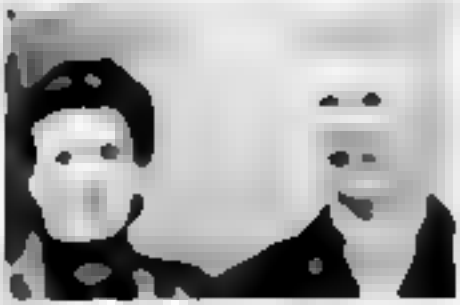


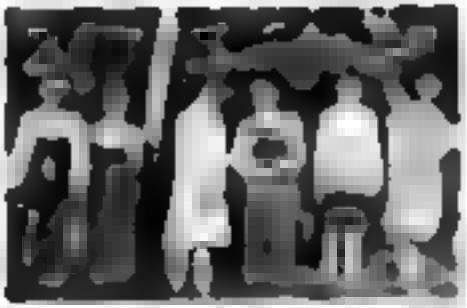
Always willing to lend a helping hand, Mr

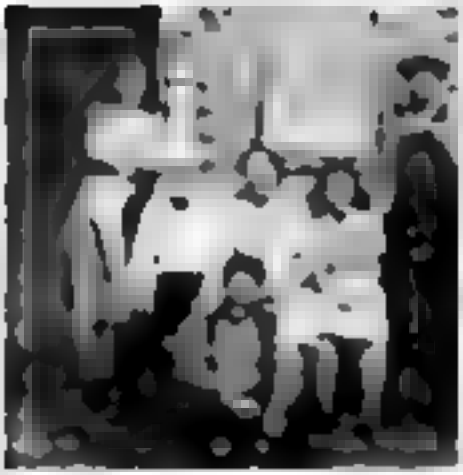
Lydia grew up very much alone playing with

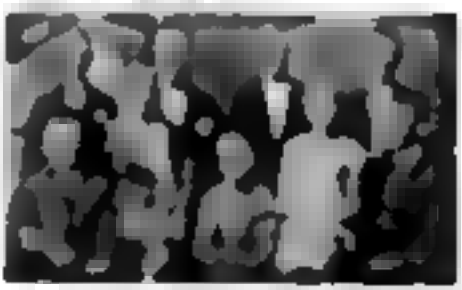


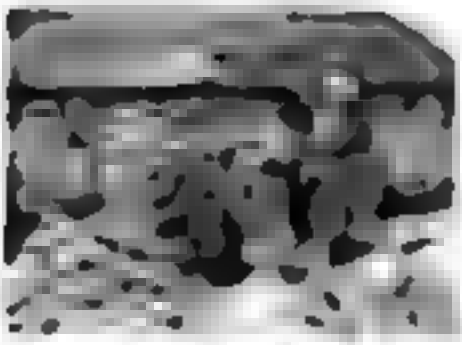












laundry
We had a pressure system out in the

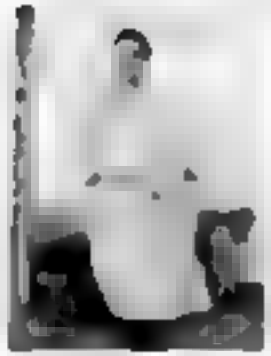
ace.
After a time Trygve bought a bigger tractor

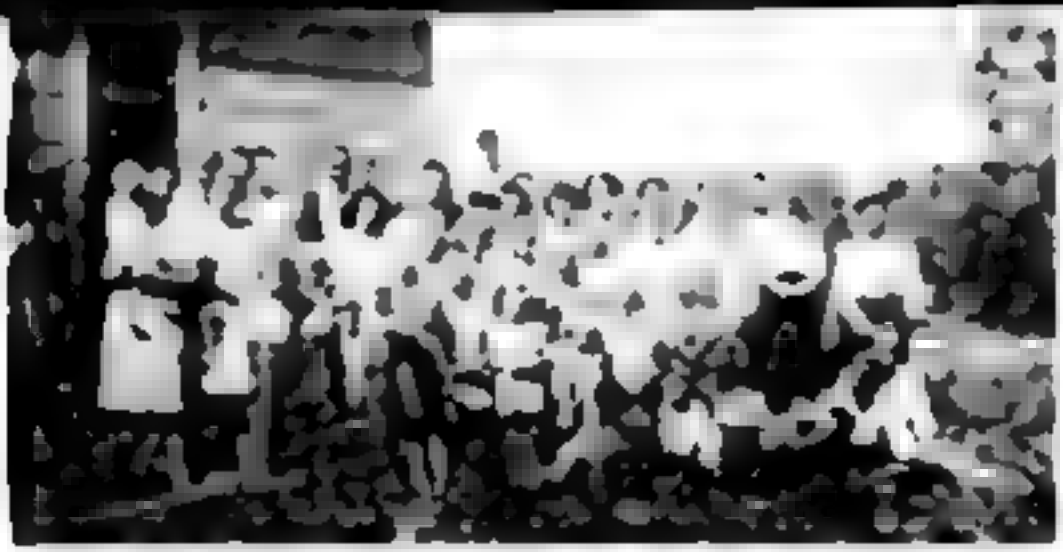
had to use instruments. Quick-witted Mike

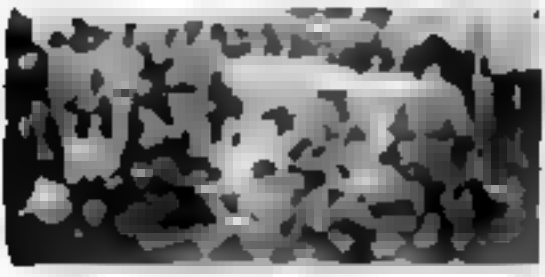
retirement).

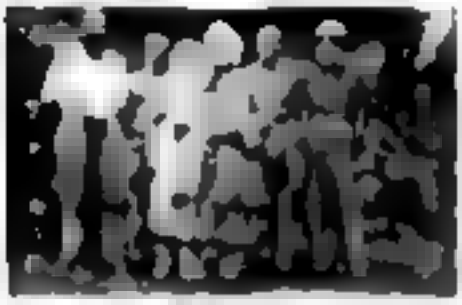
Son, Ursal (John) is married to Marjorie

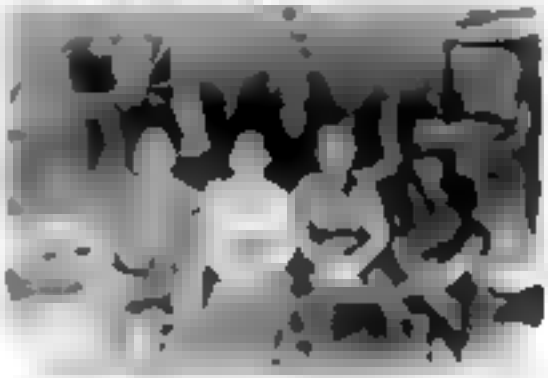
SAMBROOKE, ARNOLD 'DICK' AND VIVIAN

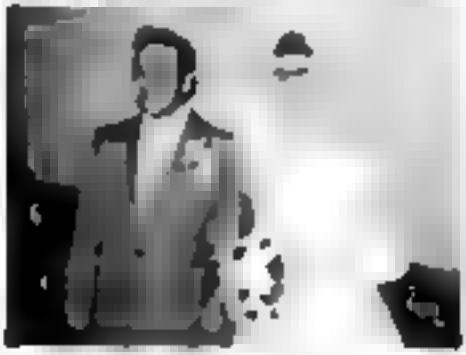












Summerland, B.C. and a deal was made. His homestead and stock were traded for a ten acre orchard with a house plus implements and a horse named Jerry who also went with the place when sold later.

On May 24, 1916, John, Emma and a family of four children left Gilby for B.C. going by train to Okanagan Landing and the rest of the way by boat S.S. Sicamous which is now a museum on the lake shore at Penticton to Summerland. Here they stayed for four years during which time he built up the orchard and remodelled the house which still stands in Summerland.

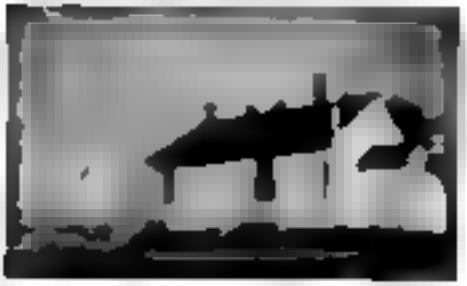
In 1920 they decided to return to Estonia, now with five children. John's parents were still in the same house as when he left in 1905. As John was now a Canadian citizen he was not entitled to own land in Estonia. To fill in time he had a machine agency until he could get started on a farm for himself. The three eldest returned to Canada, namely Henry in 1926, Anna in 1927 and Eddie in 1929 leaving two brothers and one sister and their parents in Estonia. John passed away in 1949 at the age of 75 and Emma in 1962 at the age of 80.

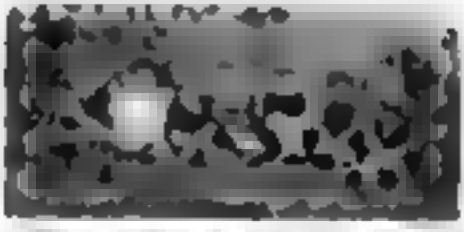
On coming to Canada Henry attended Technical School in Calgary taking up Industrial Electrical Engineering. This was during the Depression and not many jobs available of our choosing so was offered and accepted a motor mechanic's job and stayed at it for over thirty years, over 29 years with Edmonton Motors, until retiring in 1976. During this time he married and raised two boys and one girl and presently has five grandchildren. Henry and his wife are in Edmonton and previous to that lived in the Peace River country.

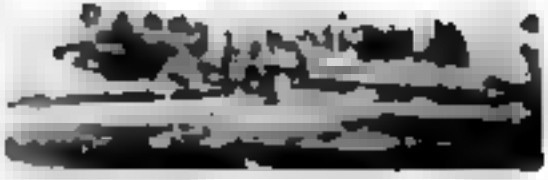
Anna married soon after arriving in Canada and raised three boys and six girls and now has 27 grandchildren. Anna was widowed some years ago.

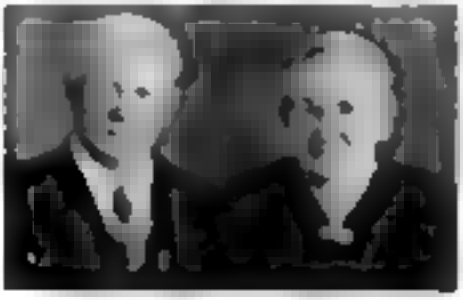
Eddie did farming and carpentering in B.C. Here he married and raised two boys and three girls and now has five grandchildren.

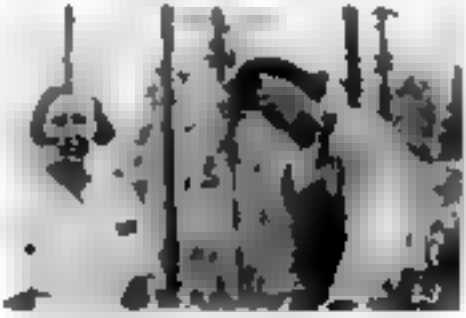
# Gimlet

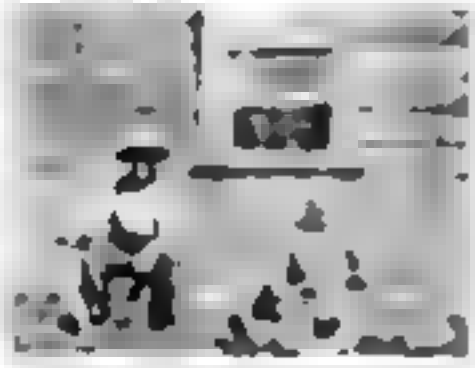


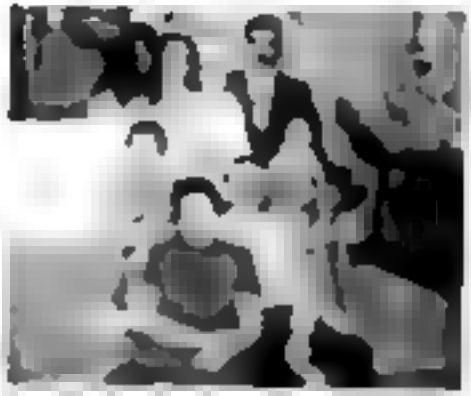


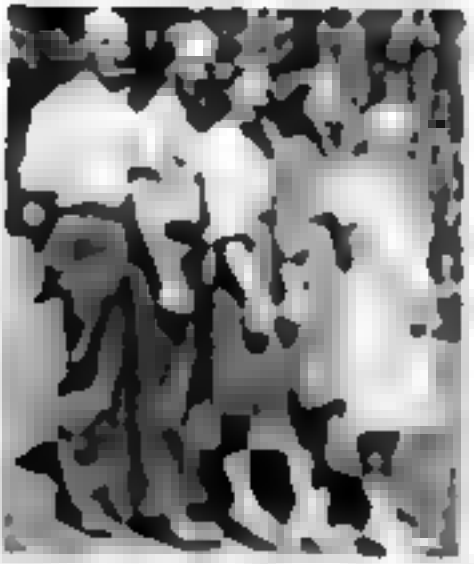




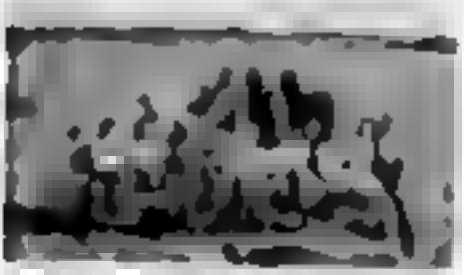


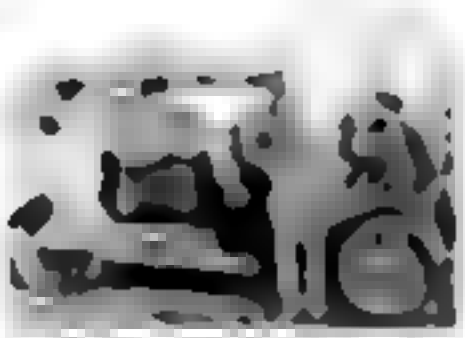




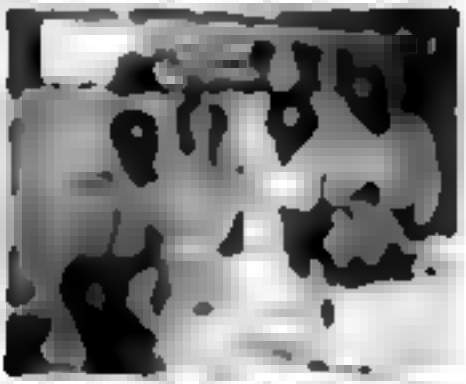


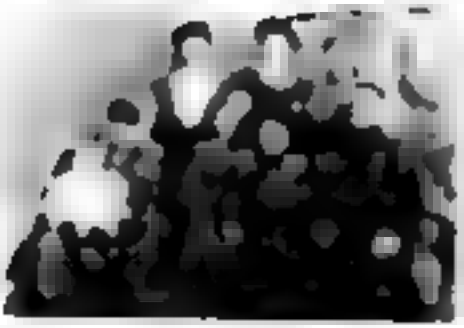
of travelling also and are enjoying our retire

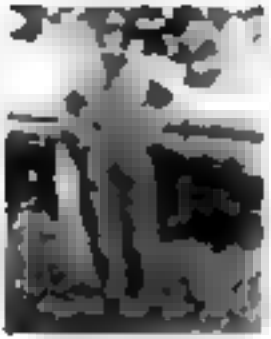




LEINONEN JOHN AÑO BELJA

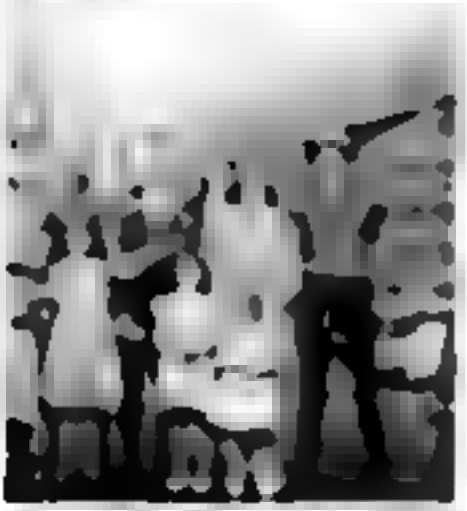


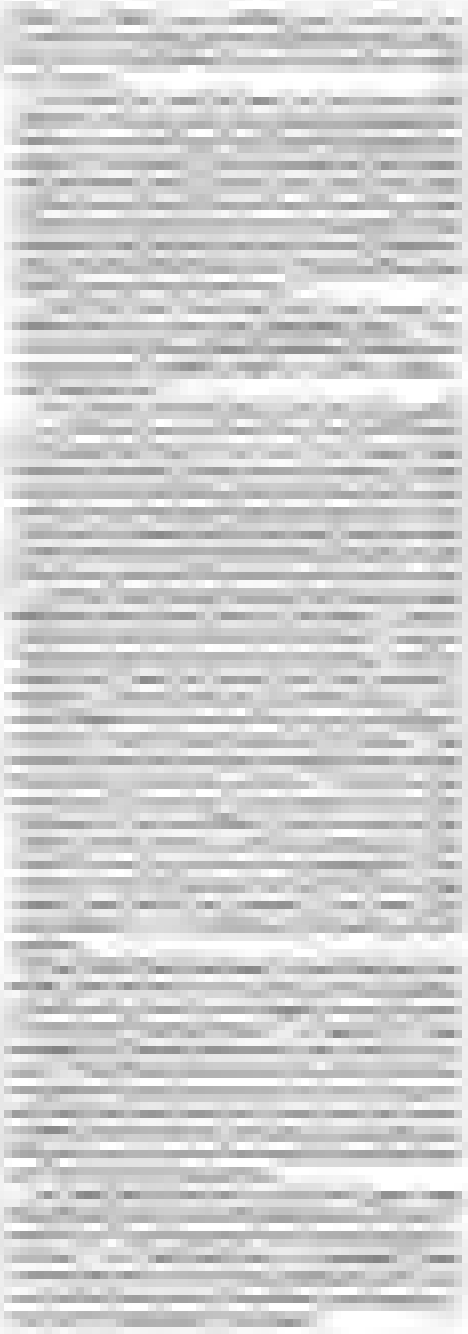


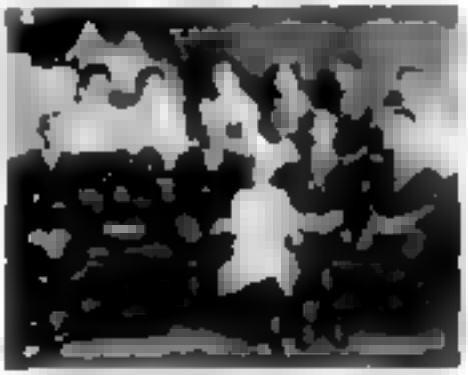


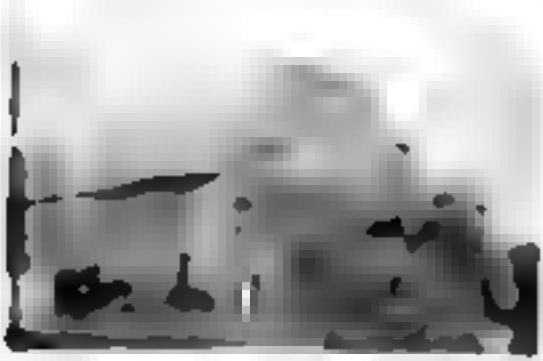
supplies. They travelled together with one

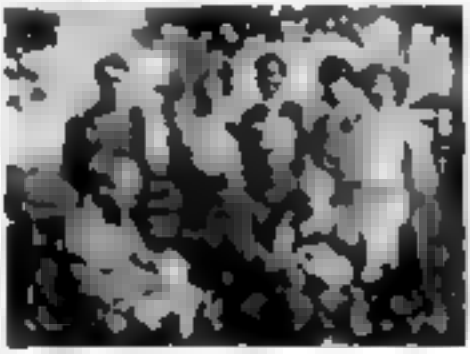
grandparents of four children



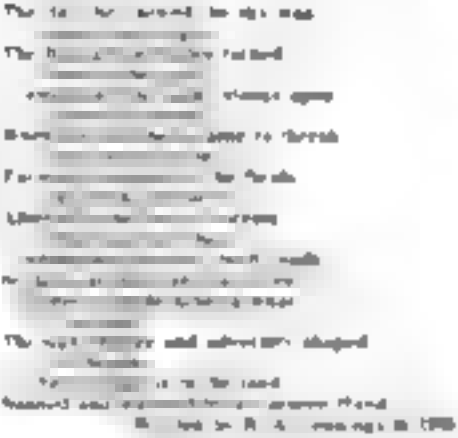


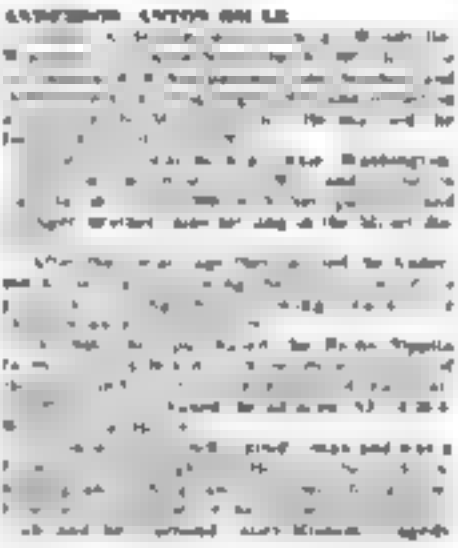


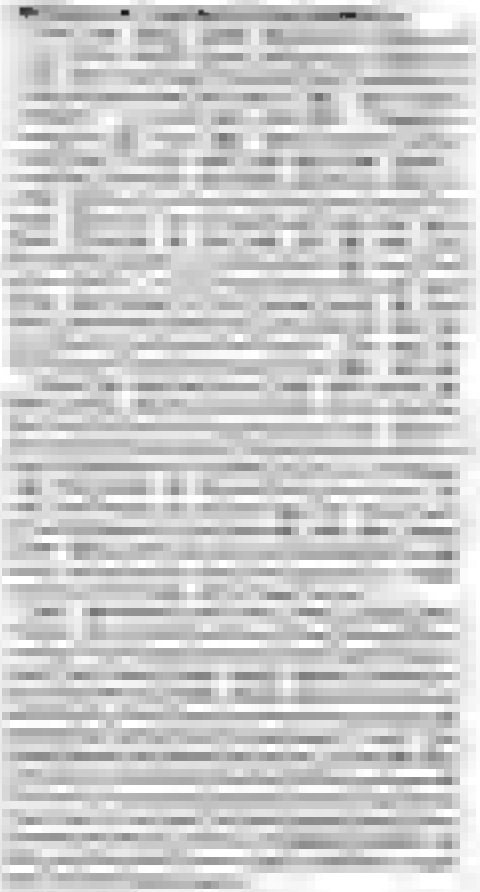




# Hespero, Condor, Shady Lane



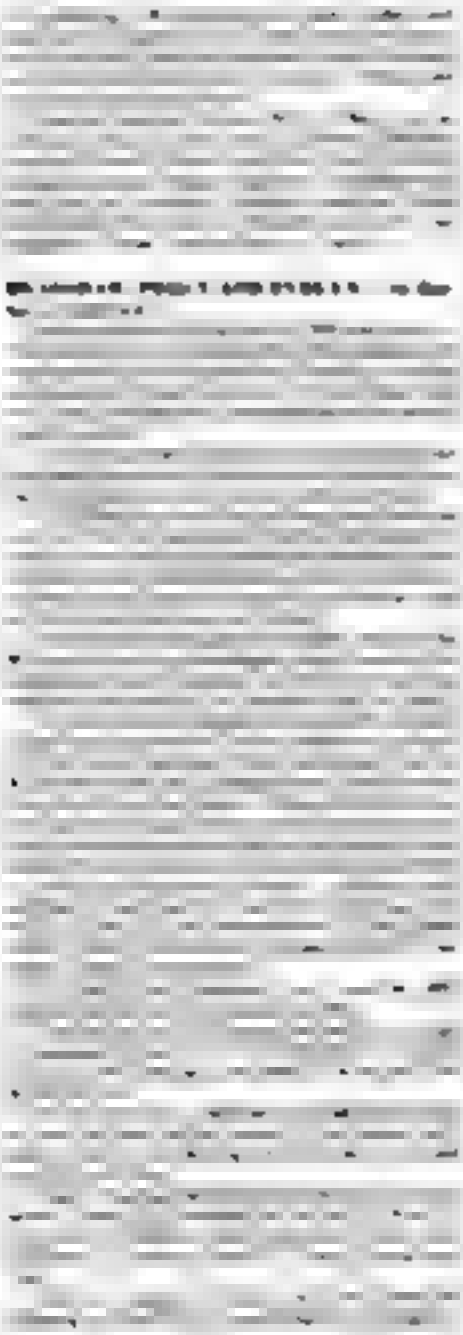




When the harvest was completed each fall

have four children. Bud married Edna Leahy

lives in Calgary. They have two children, Lana and Cody



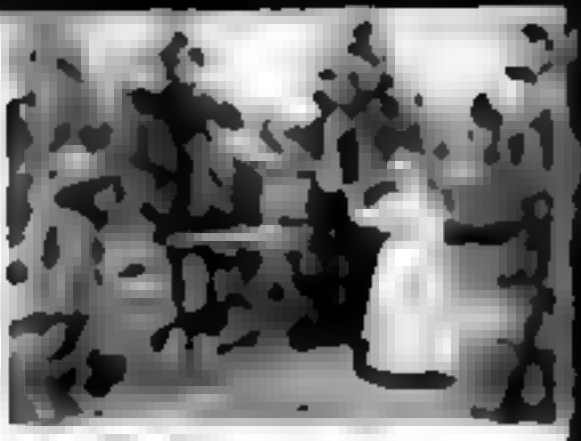
And a gentle mother to light our childhood.

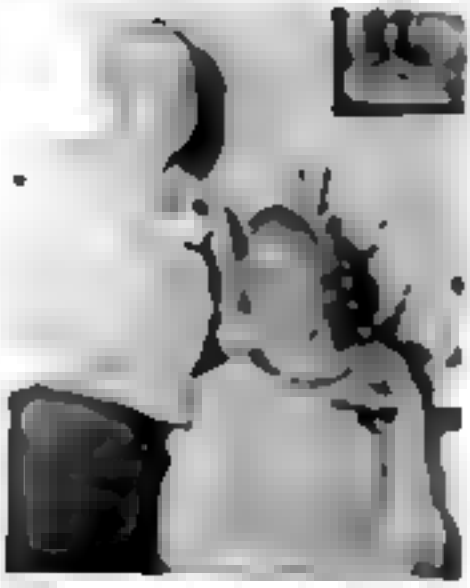
I so enjoyed my shopping,
In the days that used to be

1931 a member told about pioneer times in

Wendell Frazier and Magda

He served overseas with
Highlanders in World War II





GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

[redacted] 4201.

[redacted] in. Edmonton, 15th June, 1910.

Registered.

Sir,-

Enclosed herewith you will find cheque in favor of yourself and men for work done in the month of May, 1910. Kindly see that these cheques are handed to the proper parties as soon as possible.

No. 14565, R.E.Edgar.....$38.50. Paid
No. 14566, R.E.Edgar .....24.00. Paid
No. 14569, A.J.Fred.....16.00. Paid
No. 14572, Eric Cullens..... 3.50.
No. 14573, S.Fred.....24.00. Paid
No. 14574, Jack Colts.....10.00 Paid
No. 14575, Edward Ago.....18.00. Paid
No. 14577, John Soggs.....22.00 Paid
No. 14578, T.E.Edgar.....24.00. Paid
No. 14580, John A.Edgar.....48.00. Paid

Your obedient servant,

R. S. Tellis

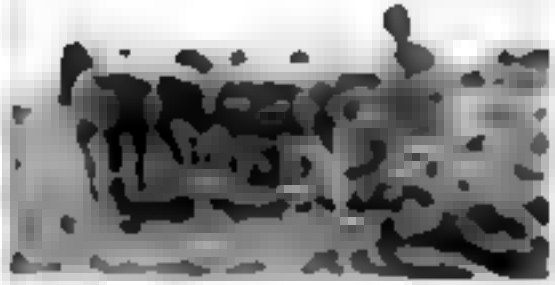
CHIEF CLERK.

R.E.Edgar, Esq.,

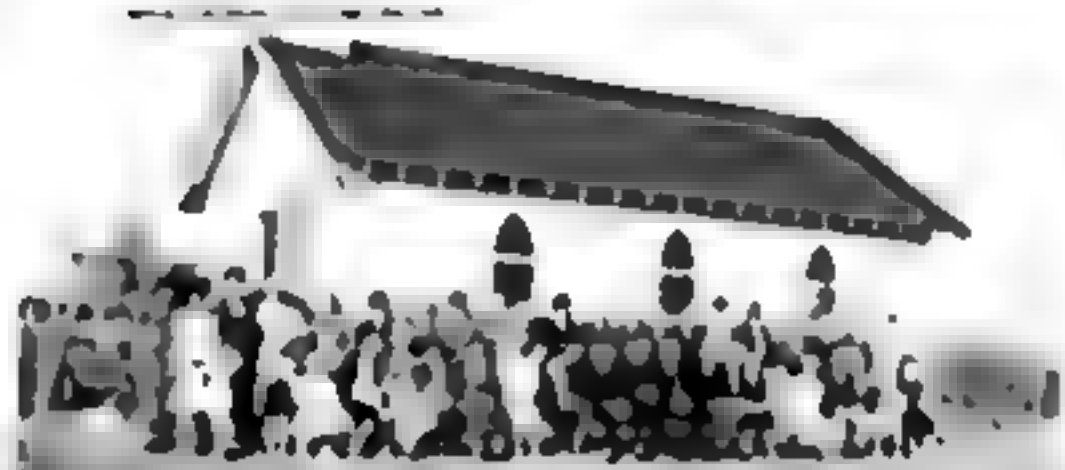
[redacted].

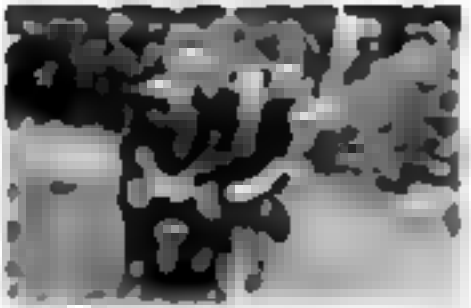
Pitoon. Alta.

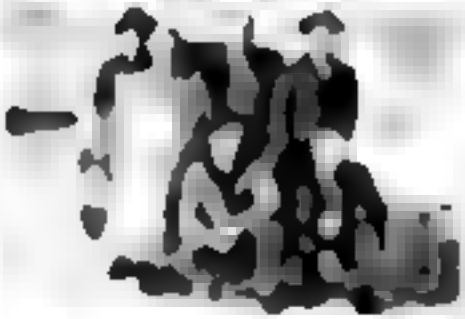
H. Edgar continued to live in Red Deer

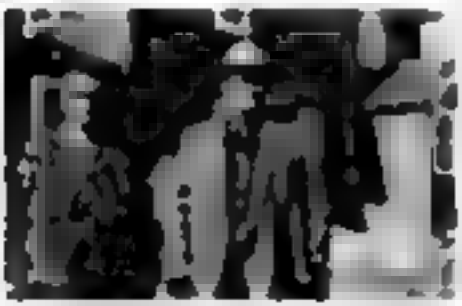


quarters of land, and John was more than wil

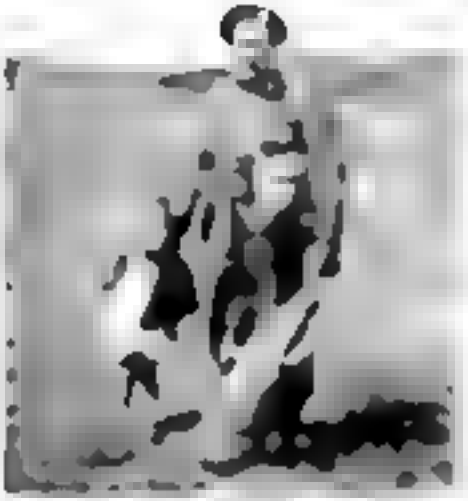






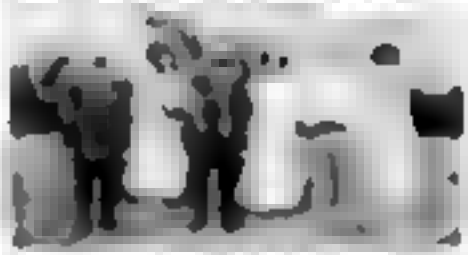


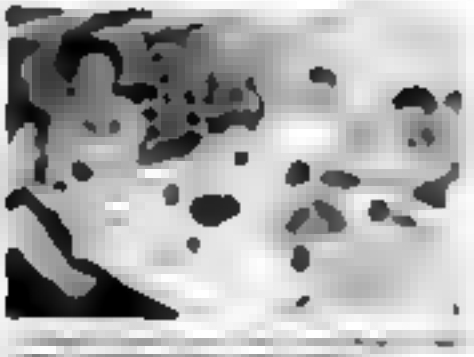
or twice and he was able to play it perfectly by ear

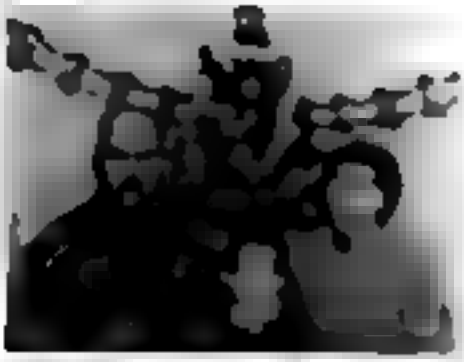


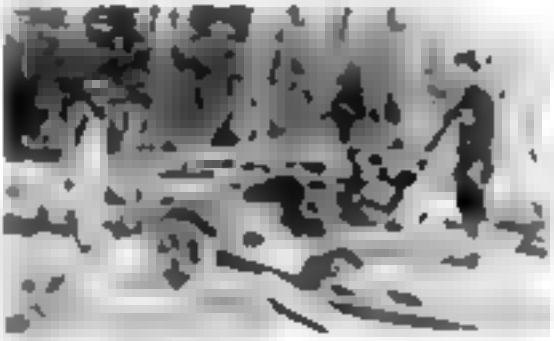
'nas married Dick Feys of Rocky Mountain

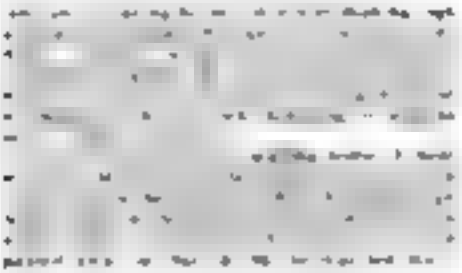
Lee was born in Yorkshire, England

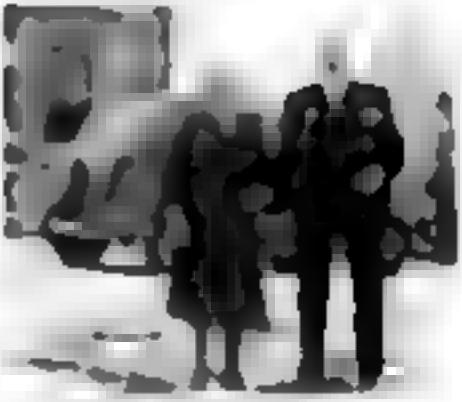


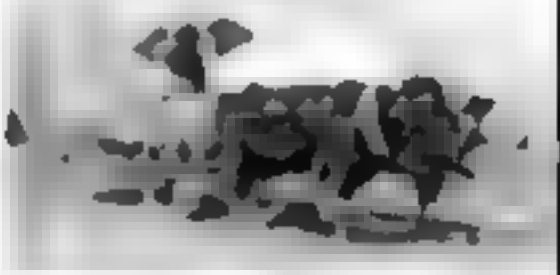


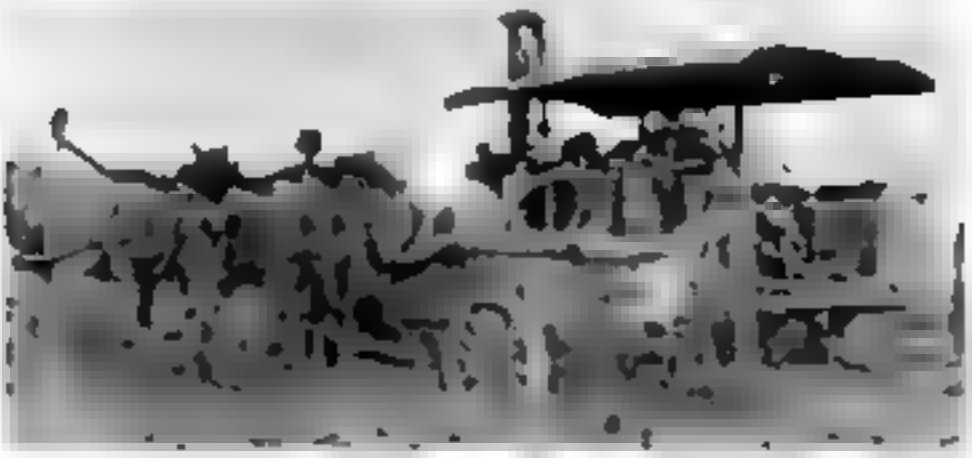




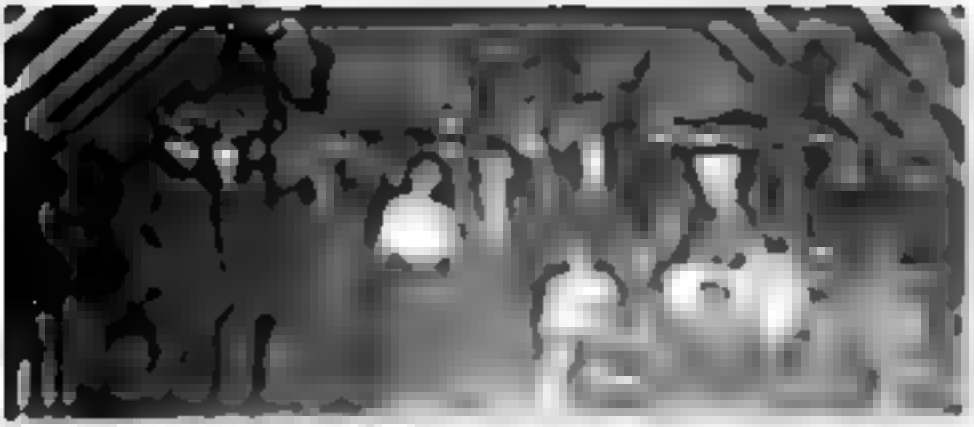


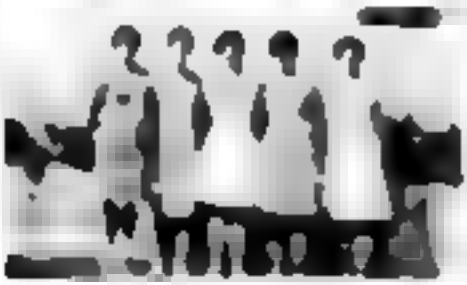


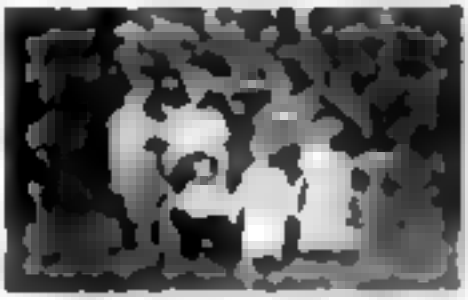


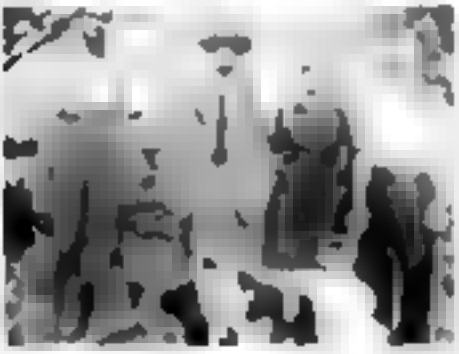


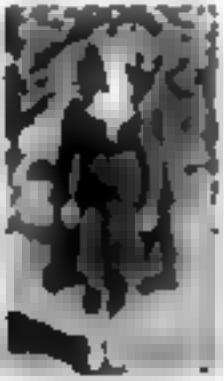
Marjorie Macdonnell, after three years ser

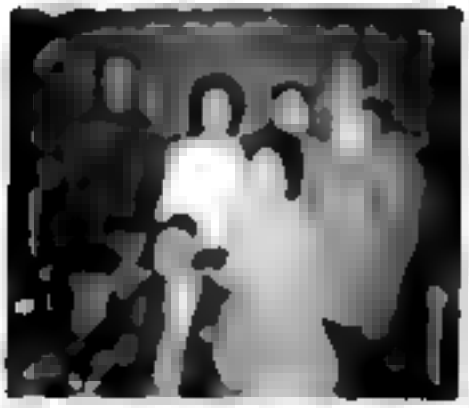




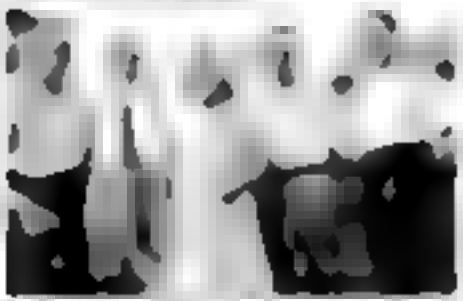




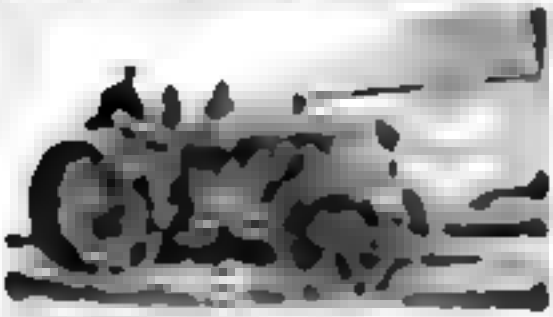




Squadron and wing



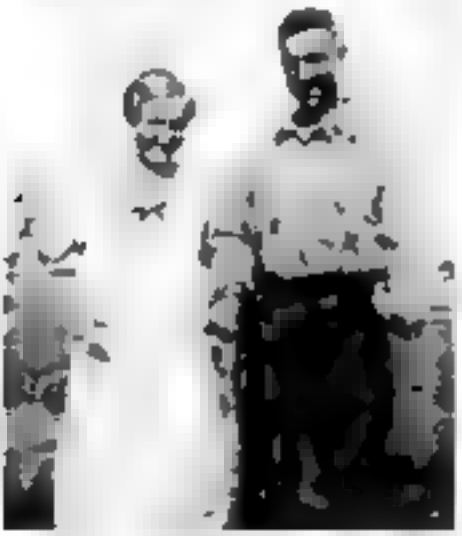
O. J. Miller was born in Island Brook, Quebec



Caption illegible. Appears to be a group photo.

Here for a while they farmed. It was hard to make ends meet. One day Hugh came home to tell Annie that he had met a man who had a homestead claim to sell. He had been offered $300 for it. He thought he could make a good profit on it. He suggested that they sell their farm and move to Saskatchewan. Annie was not happy about the move but agreed. Hugh left for Saskatchewan in March and Annie followed in May with the children. They settled on the homestead near Kelvington, Saskatchewan.

Finding it lonesome, he found himself a wife



Alice and Clara Dodson

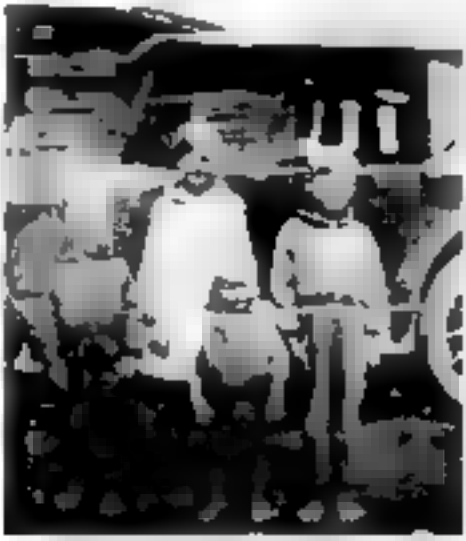
being married. Alice Pemberton, who was a neighbor, was the only woman in the area. Hugh and Alice were married on [illegible] 1909. They lost all their crops that year and had to go to work for other farmers. Hugh and Alice had a son, Hugh, who died at birth. They had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Alice. Hugh and Alice were very active in the community. They were members of the Methodist church. Hugh was a member of the school board. He was also a member of the local lodge. He was a good neighbor and friend. He was always willing to help others. He was a hard worker and a good provider. He was a man of his word. He was a man of integrity. He was a man of character. He was a man of faith. He was a man of prayer. He was a man of love. He was a man of peace. He was a man of joy. He was a man of hope. He was a man of courage. He was a man of strength. He was a man of wisdom. He was a man of knowledge. He was a man of understanding. He was a man of compassion. He was a man of mercy. He was a man of grace. He was a man of truth. He was a man of righteousness. He was a man of holiness. He was a man of purity. He was a man of humility. He was a man of meekness. He was a man of gentleness. He was a man of goodness. He was a man of faithfulness. He was a man of self-control. He was a man of love. He was a man of peace. He was a man of joy. He was a man of hope. He was a man of courage. He was a man of strength. He was a man of wisdom. He was a man of knowledge. He was a man of understanding. He was a man of compassion. He was a man of mercy. He was a man of grace. He was a man of truth. He was a man of righteousness. He was a man of holiness. He was a man of purity. He was a man of humility. He was a man of meekness. He was a man of gentleness. He was a man of goodness. He was a man of faithfulness. He was a man of self-control.

In November 1909 they lost all their crops. They had to go to work for other farmers. Hugh and Alice had a son, Hugh, who died at birth. They had a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Alice. Hugh and Alice were very active in the community. They were members of the Methodist church. Hugh was a member of the school board. He was also a member of the local lodge. He was a good neighbor and friend. He was always willing to help others. He was a hard worker and a good provider. He was a man of his word. He was a man of integrity. He was a man of character. He was a man of faith. He was a man of prayer. He was a man of love. He was a man of peace. He was a man of joy. He was a man of hope. He was a man of courage. He was a man of strength. He was a man of wisdom. He was a man of knowledge. He was a man of understanding. He was a man of compassion. He was a man of mercy. He was a man of grace. He was a man of truth. He was a man of righteousness. He was a man of holiness. He was a man of purity. He was a man of humility. He was a man of meekness. He was a man of gentleness. He was a man of goodness. He was a man of faithfulness. He was a man of self-control.

The following spring they decided to start out [illegible] and had an auction sale on March [illegible] Saskatchewan where they had [illegible] the new province opened up [illegible] where they could get [illegible] bushels to the acre. The dust storms and [illegible] were terrible in the thirties. They had [illegible] Saskatchewan. They farmed the [illegible]

Finally Hugh and Andrew decided that it was [illegible] Hugh's health [illegible] gave up the land. Hugh and his family came to Washington and Andrew Pearson and his family [illegible] Newton.

Hugh and Alice were living in Pennsylvania when their oldest son, Ernest, was born



Ernie Dean, Alfred and Donald Dodson

[redacted]

[redacted]

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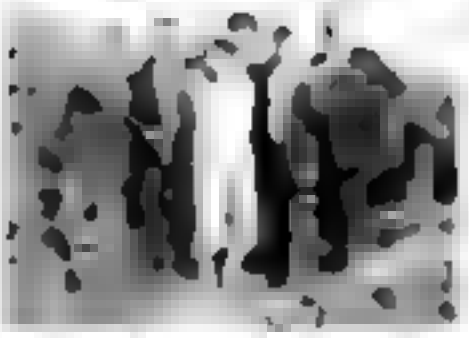
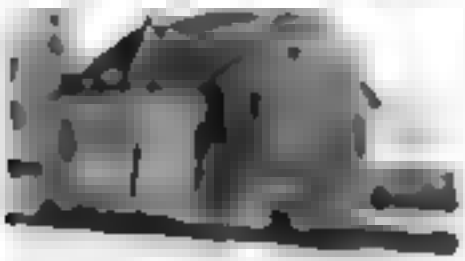
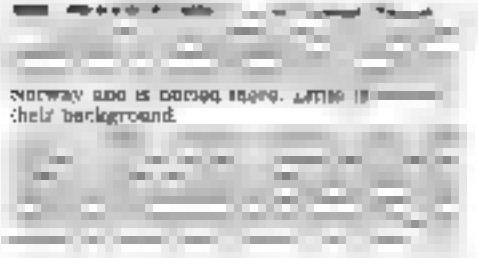




Gordon Shea was one of the pupils in the last

home when the river froze hard enough to cross

Everything was crawling with bedbugs



Norway and is carried aboard. Attie is their background.

hey have two children, Jill and Darrell

Our brother Ted, inherited the love of sports from his father. He was and still is a good hockey player. I can remember him waiting for the radio station in Red Deer and telling them he wanted to be a goalie like Turk Broda, who was the star for the Toronto Maple Leafs. He never attained that status, however that is what dreams are made of!

S. Reaman and Treena Mielke

**ROY AND ROSIE WARDEN FAMILY TREE**

1. HORACE LENARD — Born Jan. 17, 1933.

2. SHIRLEY ROSE — Born Nov. 13, 1934.
   married Al Reaman
   — live in Red Deer
   a. Kerry
   b. Randy
   c. Kathy
      married Dave Bezak
   d. Michael
   e. Danny — 1963-1967
   f. Colleen

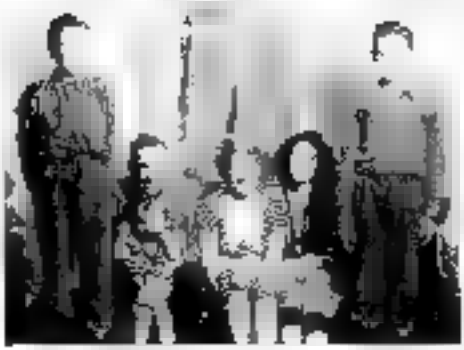
3. ELSIE MAE — Born Sept. 18, 1936
   married Bill Harrington
   live in Calgary
   a. Dawn
      married Jerry Paulson
      Crystal
   b. Bobby
   c. Lori
   d. Cindy

4. RONALD BRUCE — Born Dec. 25, 1937
   — married Sabine Warden
   live in Sylvan Lake
   a. Michelle
   b. Timothy

5. EDWIN ROY — Born July 2, 1939
   married Gail Warden
   live in Benalto
   a. Tammie
   b. Jason
   c. Trevor

6. TREENA EMILY — Born Feb. 15, 1949
   married Peter Mielke
   live in Eckville
   a. Devin
   b. Derése
   c. Jill

7. SHELLEY ROSE — Born Feb. 19, 1955.



Warden family, 1951. Ted, Roy holding his daughter Treena. Rosie, Shirley and Bruce.

**E. T. WOLD FAMILY** by Magda Anderson

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wold, came to Condor in the spring of 1924. Thelma, Elvin, Roy and Erling arrived with them and came after school closed at Cedar for the holidays. We rented land in this area for a few years. Then they went to dad's homestead near Bretton, Alberta. The boys attended school at Prairie Rose and Shady Lane. Erling took Grade Eight at Daisy Nook. Mother passed away in 1966 and dad in 1968.

Thelma worked in Calgary, married Ed Long and raised five children, Laurence, Edwin, Thelma, Donna and Gordon. Edwin was killed in a shooting accident when he was 16 years old.

Elvin married Anna Jensen of Bretton. They have three sons, Arman, Victor and Raymond. Elvin and Anna live in Leduc, after selling their farm south of Warburg. For a number of years they had the Battle Lake Store. Erling and Roy are farming south of Waphusy.

I, Magda, married Norman Anderson and have lived west of Eckville ever since. Our daughter Glenda married Robert Wacker and they live on the Anderson place. They have three children, Cathy, Steven and Vicki.

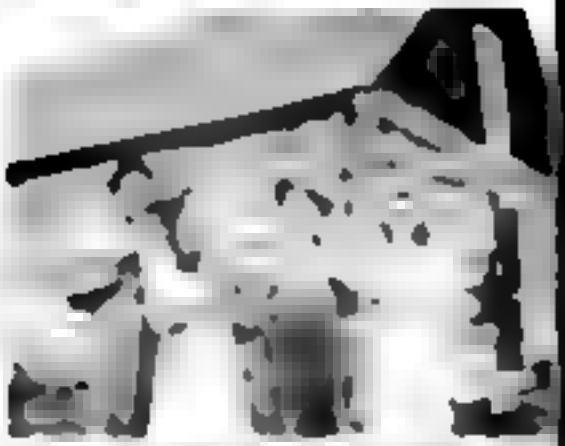
Our son, Norman Jr. lived only 17 months.

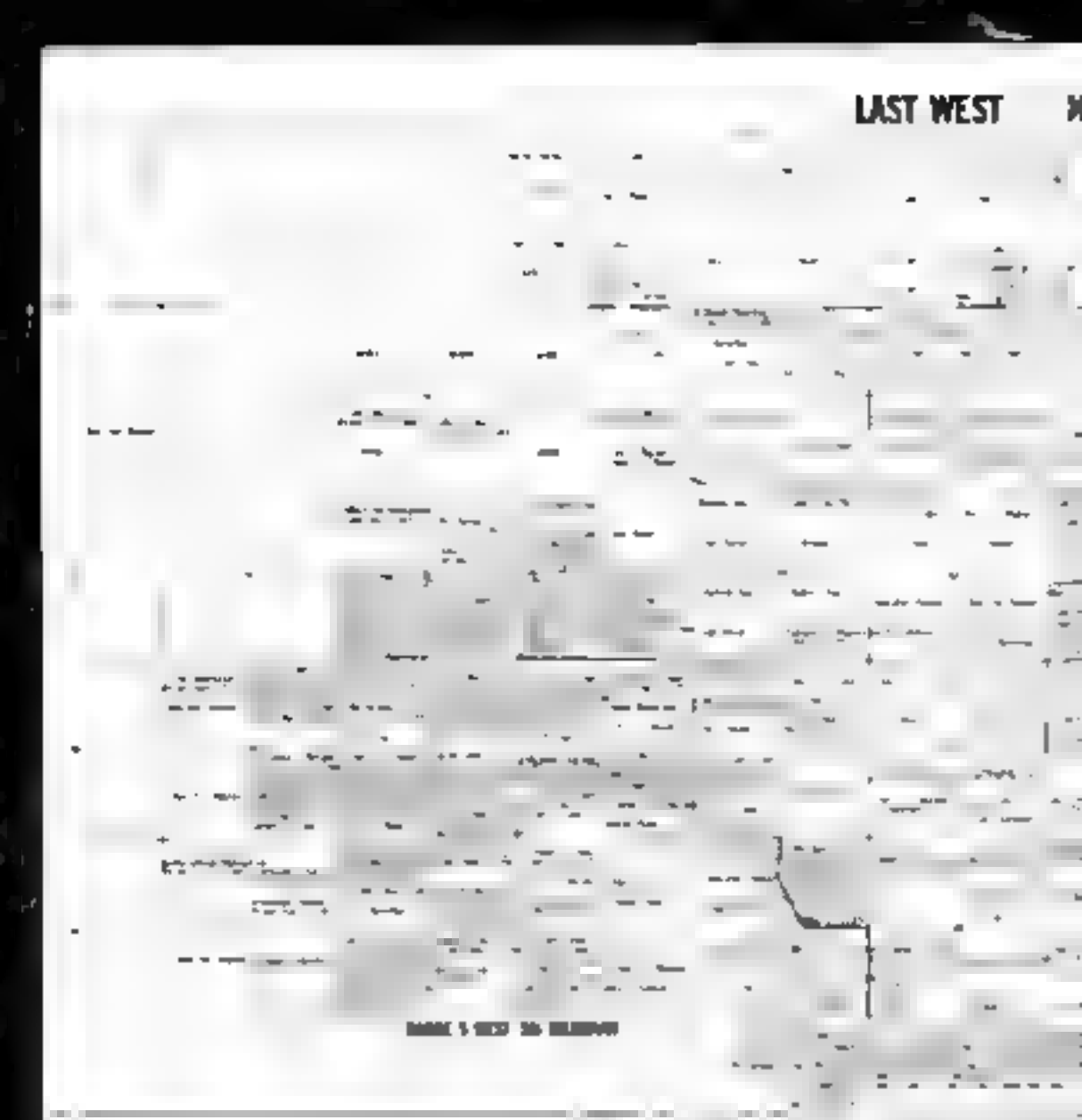
Marjorie married Vern Heybourne and they have two sons, Kevin and Shane. They live at Abbotsford, B.C.

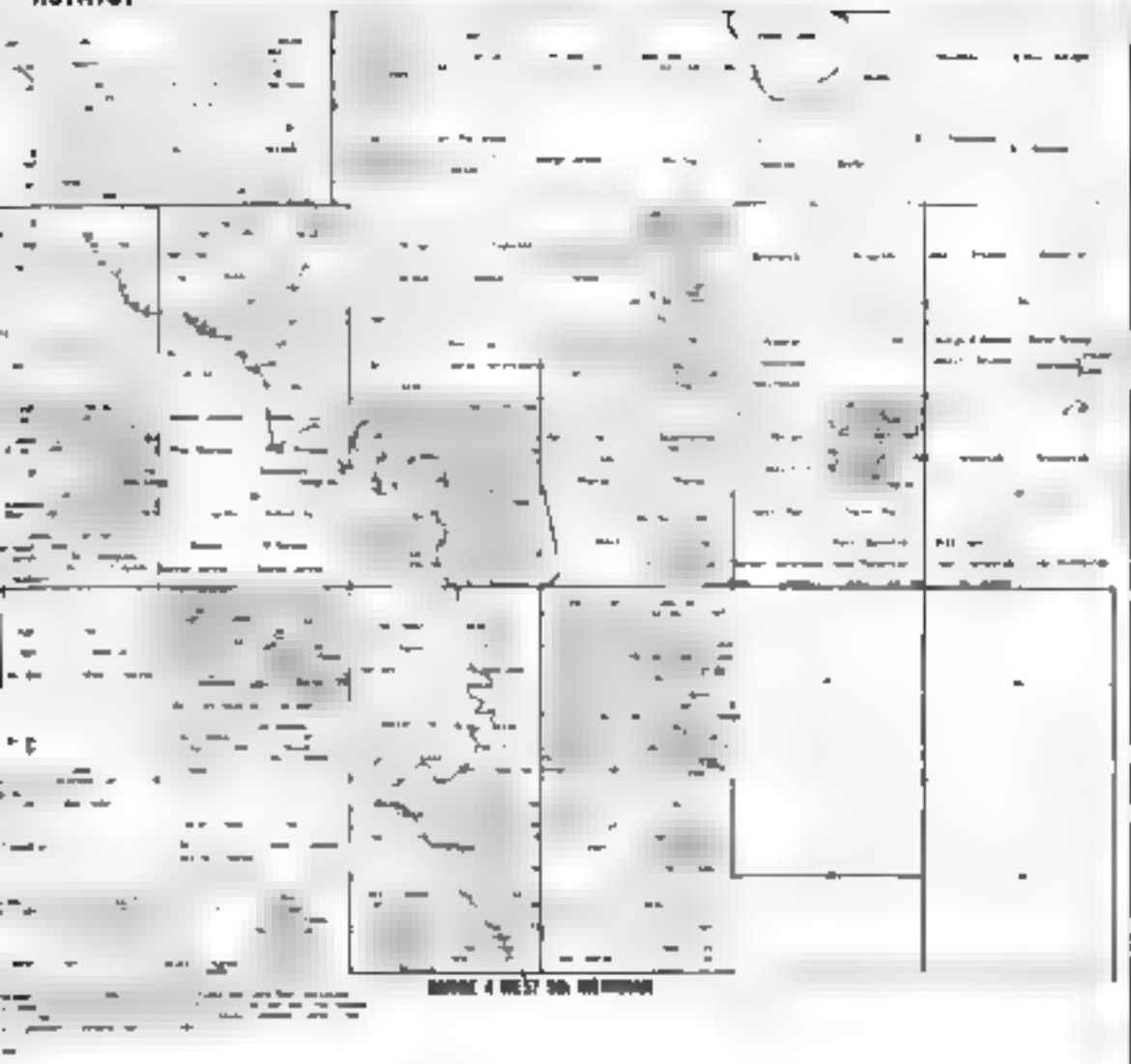
Norman died in 1973. He was interested in hunting and fishing and was a good shot. He shot a bear in their barnyard in 1972. Friends will remember Norman for his old-time violin music.

Taught school in this area for over 25 years.

# Last West







## MATTHEW EWART EL

[illegible] was married in the Meadow[illegible] Mary [illegible] and had [illegible] children. Matthew worked in sawmills there before building his own sawmill and sawed fine wood and [illegible] square timber for the [illegible] Meadow[illegible] Mary died [illegible] and Matthew went to the Meadow[illegible] area [illegible] Pearl Creek [illegible] and [illegible] helped build [illegible] school. He married [illegible] and [illegible] had [illegible] children. He also helped build [illegible] roads and bridges [illegible] he

**BENSON, LEO – by Norman Benson**

In 1905 or [illegible] Benson came to Glenwood, Minnesota and homesteaded in NW [illegible]-Wilmar, being five miles north west of Leedale church at that time was known as Wilmburg. There were very few settlers in the area at that time and supplies were brought in from Alexandria generally twice a year in the spring and fall. One of the main items was a gallon of alcohol, which was used for medicinal purposes. Very little was ever used for social events.

Leo Benson [illegible] ready to [illegible]

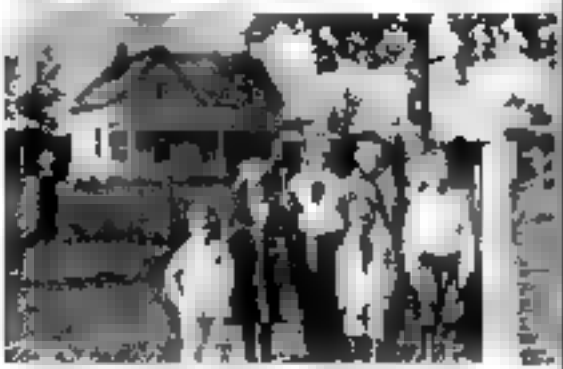
A friend came up from Glenwood the following year and homesteaded the [illegible]-23-41 W1. His name was [illegible] Miller. The two were followed by others and there was left no [illegible] Arthur [illegible] on all corners. The Grand Trunk Railroad was being built. Its northern alberta at that time and there found plenty of stiff competition among the settlers and workers.

Frank Harper stood his homestead to Josephine Gramma Simmons and went back to Minneapolis where he joined the City Police Force. While trying to apprehend some men who had just robbed a bank, he was shot and killed.

In 1910 Norman and Harold Chiarneck with their sister Geraldine came from Detroit. Much gossip and took homesteads in what is now [illegible] and the Midland district. Norman homesteaded the farm now owned by Harold Lemieux. Harold took the place now owned by Florian [illegible]. The new Wilmburg school was built [illegible] and Geraldine Chiarneck was one of the pupils. The teacher was a Mr. [illegible] in 1915 she was married to Leo Benson in Fort [illegible] and after a honeymoon in Banff and Calgary returned to the homestead.

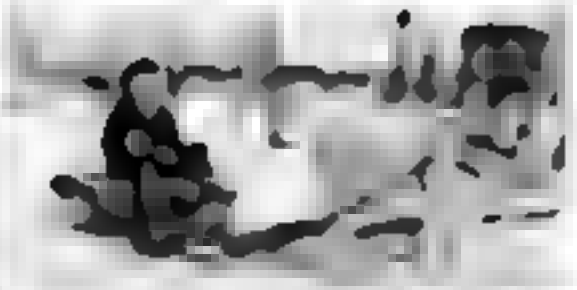
Life was always a challenge in those early days, being no doctor closer than Lacombe. Gramma Simmons was a practical nurse and was always there when needed. Many families owed a great deal to this wonderful person.

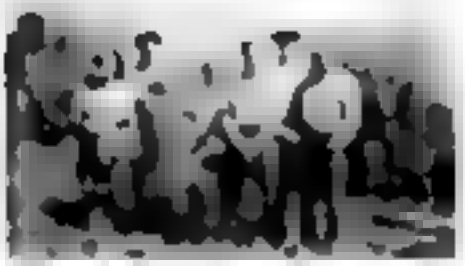
The Bensons raised a large family, there being eleven children. Lloyd, the first born, then Gilman, Claude, Vernon, Elmo, Melvin, Cora, Norman, Rose, Stella and Gordon. Only seven, Melvin, Norman, Rose and Stella are left. The rest of the family have been taken by illness and accidents. Leo Benson passed away in 1941. His widow in 1974.



The Benson children [illegible] Melvin, Vernon, Norman, Lloyd, Claude, Cora, Elmo in front and Mr. Benson in back on the horse.

Mrs. Geraldine Benson with her son, Norman.





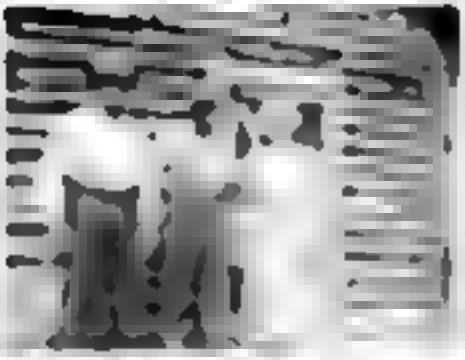
## [illegible] FRANK ZILLA, AND AUBREY [illegible]

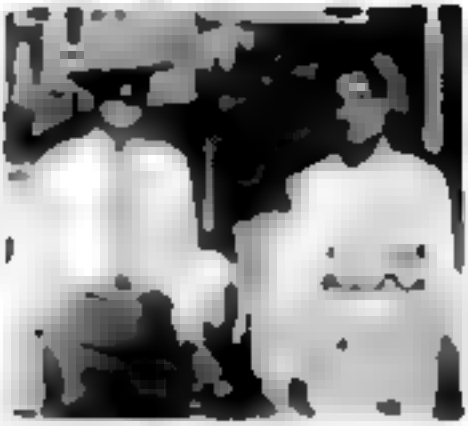
By Mike Bob Fox

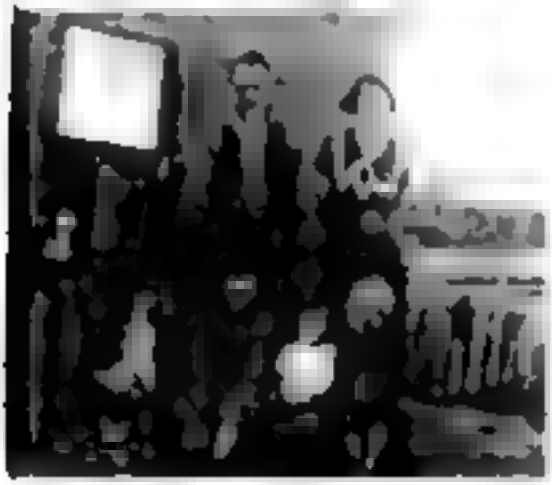
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



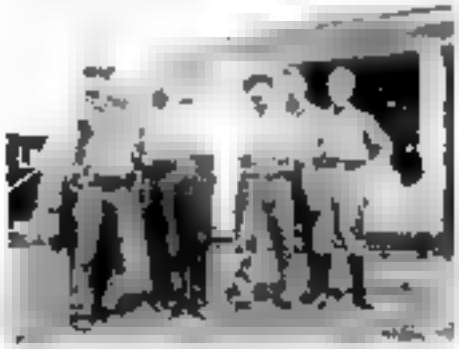




nion Bridge Mr Carson passed away in 1945. In

SE 22-42-3-W5, L. P. Robinson, 1951. Ralph

NW 7-42-4-W5 M Pigeon 1911 Emanuel Batard Bob [illegible]
SE 16-42-4-W5 Mr and Mrs Bob Patterson 9 children and 11 of their grandchildren Jessie Hall Ed Russell Mc Jean Hall now deceased and she lives in Calgary E Elsworth and Tiny Scody Bergston [illegible] Sylvia
E 12-42-4-W5 E A Eaton 1922 Mr and Mrs Brian Ed Solberg
SE [illegible] Russel Stewart Cleo Price [illegible]
SW 16-42-4-W5 Frank Fox Jim Fuhrer
NW [illegible] Bob Fox K Washkevich P Washkevich
N 16-42-4-W5 Bert Archer 1907 [illegible] Headlee S R Weedbrook Norman Benson Tom Fox Keith Deebe
NW 16-42-4-W5 Jim Benson, 1905 Gordon Benson Jr Beebe
SE 16-42-4-W5 Frank Allen 1907 Josephine Simmons 1908 Harry Bell John Benson Dennis Simmons Ted Simm Tom Simmons
SW 16-42-4-W5 Mark Campman 1907 Harold Nelson and [illegible] John Walters
SE [illegible] W5 Jim [illegible] 1930
SE [illegible] W5 Ernest Bean 1936 A Engelbrecht Herman Lowe Otto Repus Mar Mehl [illegible] Clarke Morgan
W [illegible] W5 Mike Tirpak Ed Jestin [illegible]
SE 16-42-4-W5 M Repus
SW [illegible] W5 Ben Tkatch Perry Simms
SE [illegible] W5 Fred Harlone [illegible]
SE [illegible] W5 Steary Chabot 1918 Bill Wilhelm [illegible] Abbe
N 16-42-5-W5 Frank Pike 1920
NE 16-42-5-W5 A Munson 1911 John Mahaffee
SE 8-42-5-W5 Jim Smith 1912
SW 16-42-5-W5 Bob and Bill Mann 1925 John Mahaffee
SW 16-42-5-W5 E York 1918 Melvin Lowe H Gibson



Mount View Pool room 1948 Clarence Holmes Dick Northcott Gregory Nicholson Alison Bennett Willie Thompson Darcy Lawler [illegible] Bennett there were two pages boys named Ross and George

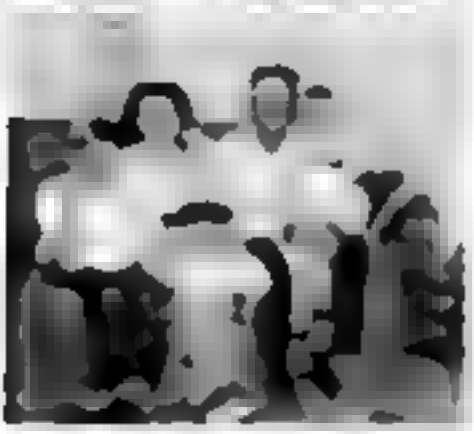
## MOUNT VIEW SCHOOL

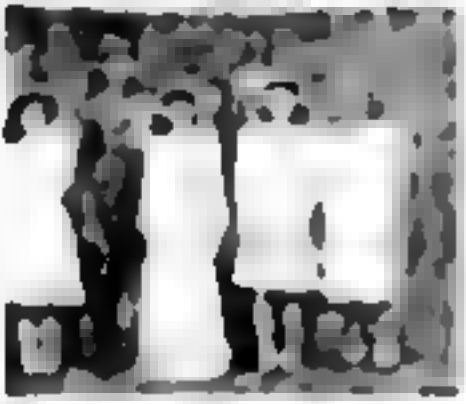
This school was built in 192[illegible] and opened in about 19[illegible] The following are most of the teachers that taught in the school. Their names are not necessarily in proper order [illegible] Howard Ruth Walker Cecil Brand Old Barhan Tona Sloan Mr [illegible] A hu [illegible] umberland. Edna Hall Kay Beckwith Bernice Simmons [illegible] T Shandus Mrs Presentation A Chas [illegible] Duncan [illegible] Mona Winters. Jean Moore Peggy [illegible] Viola Edgerton Ruth Wright Eleanor Osborne Mrs Ewart Brown

Mount View Adam Thompson Brian Boyle Evelyn Bronson Jim Hamilton Anne Tirpak Merlin Bacon Jane Brearley Ken Hamilton Marlene Bronson Sandy Thompson Brian Linda Bronson Joe Tirpak at home at right Isabelle Thompson at home T Shandus teacher

Mount View School June 1934. Back row [illegible] Velma Bell Catherine Cooper Melva Brown [illegible] Ed Perkins Jean Bennett Gerald Ross Emerson Bennett [illegible] Evelyn Philip Elsie David Thompson Evelyn Price Allan Bell front row Jean Bennett Albert Bennett Norman Brown [illegible] Bell Mary Zaza, Donald Bell and others and teacher Vivian Winters

ar. They live at Rocky Mountain





Ethel and Bob Gribble and Bobbie Blake during Golden Wedding cake

When we left there so many are the letters we got from them wishing we were back there and on our golden wedding anniversary so many of them came all the way down here to wish us well

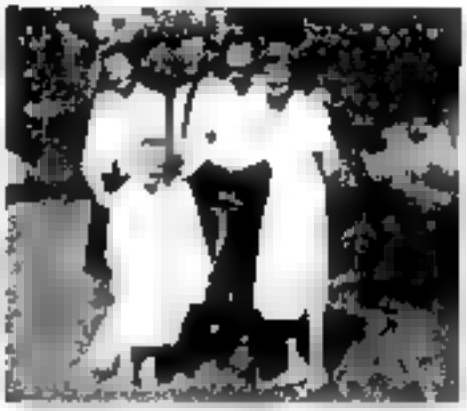
Is it any wonder that we forget the bad and remember the good in Those dear hearts and gentle people that live and love in my home town

The strains of the music had long since died away and something more modern was on the radio but she still didn't hear it Her mind was still back with her friends of years ago The sun had set now and all the red glow of the sun set object there as she sat in her rocking chair and he read his paper

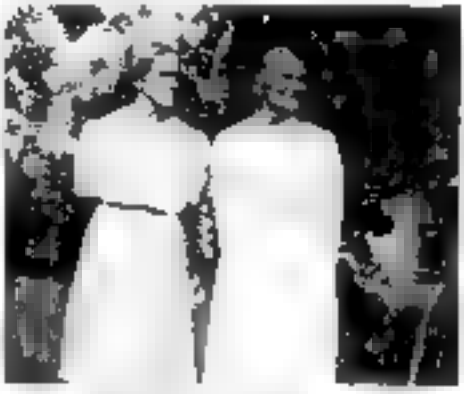
**SIMMONS, JOSEPHINE**

Mr and Mrs Joe Simmons and family moved to Seba Beach in the early 1900's from Minnesota U.S.A. Joe Simmons worked on building railroad bed west to build Seba Beach Mr Simmons and one daughter Myrtle passed away there Josephine Simmons and family moved in Viking for a time then came to farm at Wilmenburg the SE 16-47-4 W5 which she bought from Frank Hallet in 1919 They came from Lacombe on a lumber wagon with all their possessions Her children were Cora and Ed Agnes Tara Dewey and Tommy

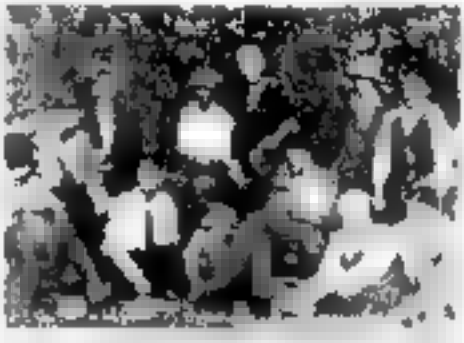
Ed was in World War and was killed at Passchendaele



Mrs Josephine Simmons and family Clara, Ed, Tommy, Agnes, and Grandma Simmons



Mrs Simmons (on left) and Grandma Simmons



Birthday party at Simmons's Back row Peggy Fox Greg Engebretson Hank Johnston C.A. Barwick Mike Hall Sitting from A.B. Hamstad Willie Thompson Herman Fox Paul Payne Fred Kellner Joe Hawkins Lee Beaver Ben Waggoner and Hanks

had married [illegible] Pritchett. She passed away at [illegible] on [illegible]

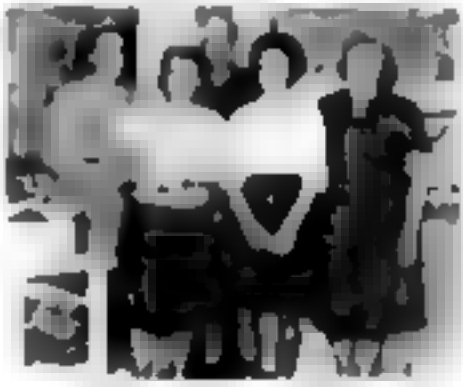
[illegible] was born on [illegible] 1842 at [illegible]. She was married to [illegible] and [illegible] on [illegible] and was good at the piano. She had one son [illegible] who passed away [illegible] the age of [illegible].

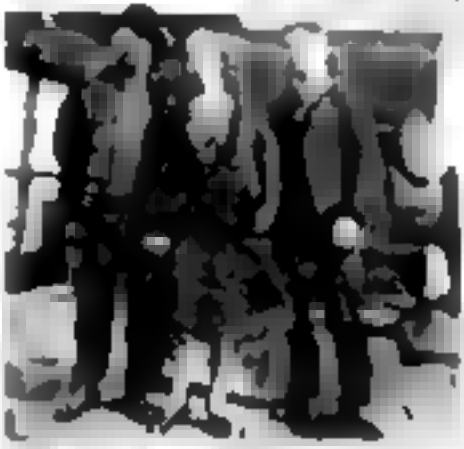
[illegible] was a very [illegible] and [illegible] children. They were [illegible] and [illegible]. Agnes passed away [illegible].

[illegible] had one daughter [illegible] and [illegible] in [illegible].

[illegible] married [illegible]. They had four children [illegible] Dick and Alfred. They [illegible] at [illegible]. [illegible] passed away [illegible].

[illegible] married Ethel [illegible]. They had [illegible] children [illegible] and [illegible]. They [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]





behind. A cattle car and a settler's effects car came on on the Peanut behind an old steam locomotive. Our cattle looked pretty sad on the snow in the stock yards. Later Dad and I took them up Rimbey's main street out to strawpiles at Tarrabain's farm just north of town. The snow was gone when we left the Porcupine Hills.

That first summer at Mount View was a busy one for the Tyndalls. A house was started, some land was cleared and sheds were put up.

We stacked over one hundred ton of hay for Jack Barwick for one-quarter share to get feed for the stock for the winter. Dad and I then went up to Fred Wagar's farm and bayed till it snowed in October. I was so sick of haying I wished we were back on the prairies.

We left the Mount View district in 1958 and bought a farm at Holmeglen, northeast of Rimbey. Thad died in 1956 and Mom passed away in 1967 after a long illness.

While we lived at Mount View Thad built a water well drilling rig to drill a well at the barn. Thirty three years later I am still drilling wells in the Leedale - Rimbey area. Tyndall drilling is now the oldest drilling business in this area. A modern cable-tool rig had been added and there had been many changes to this trade.

My wife Carole and I were married in Lacombe in 1959 and still live on the old farm at Holmeglen. Carole is the daughter of George "Doc" and Cora Allison of Rimbey. We were blessed with three girls. Dallas married Russel Adams and has one son Darrell. Lois and Dixie are still at home.

I have many memories and many good friends from the early years out west. There was a community spirit then that is missing now. I wish we had it back.

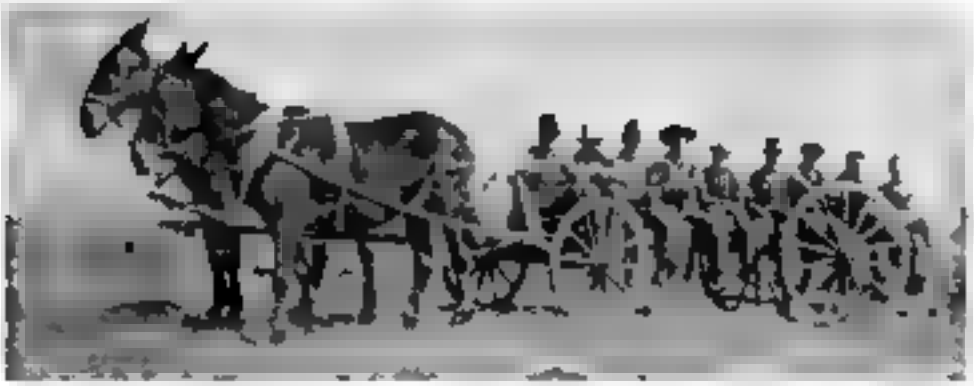
## TRANSPORTATION

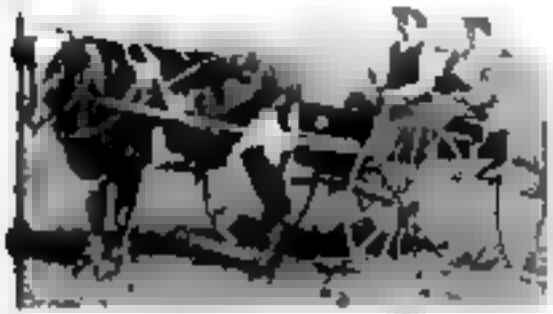
Oxen at Edgars.

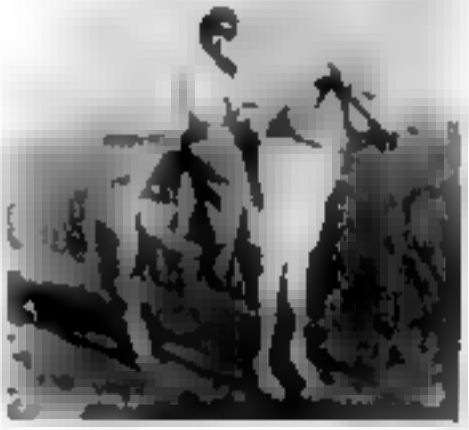
Mrs. F. Wagner riding sidesaddle on one of the fine horses they owned. 1919.

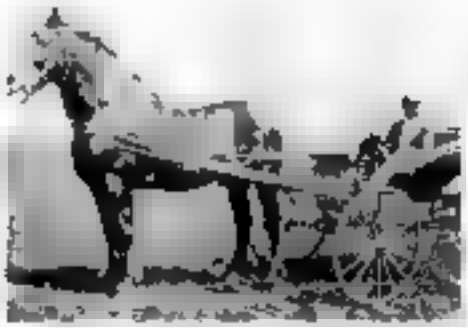
Mr. Hopkins with his mules.

Allie and Ole Sellers. Courtesy days. 1919.

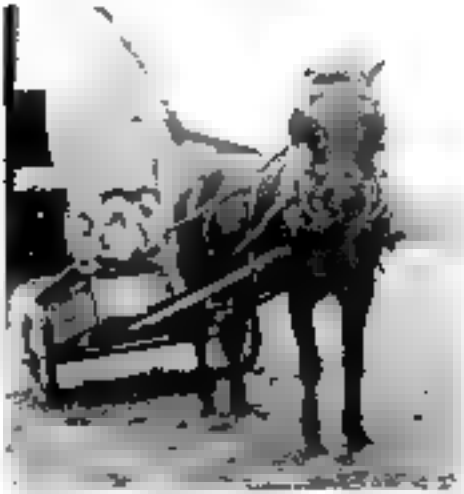








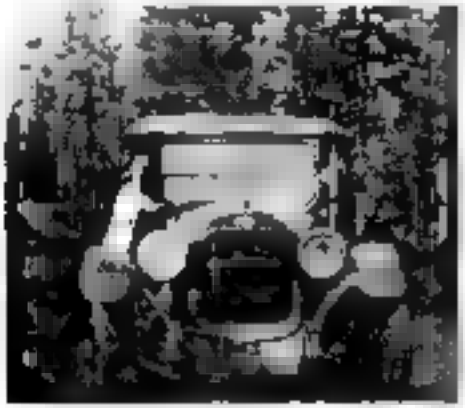
Dick Thornton with Pawnee Indians, Reg. no. 2993, Omaha, Nebraska, 1914.



Two-wheeled cart often used for transportation in school

Orson Ben Chris and Ethel Archer 1918

All Kiowa children and their dog, Chief



Boston Mission, Baby Grand Choir 1921

Carriage in front Methodist Mission on Rainy Mountain near Lawton

First car owned by A.B. Keeler. Eddy, Annie, Esther, Elsie, Mother, Joseph and William.

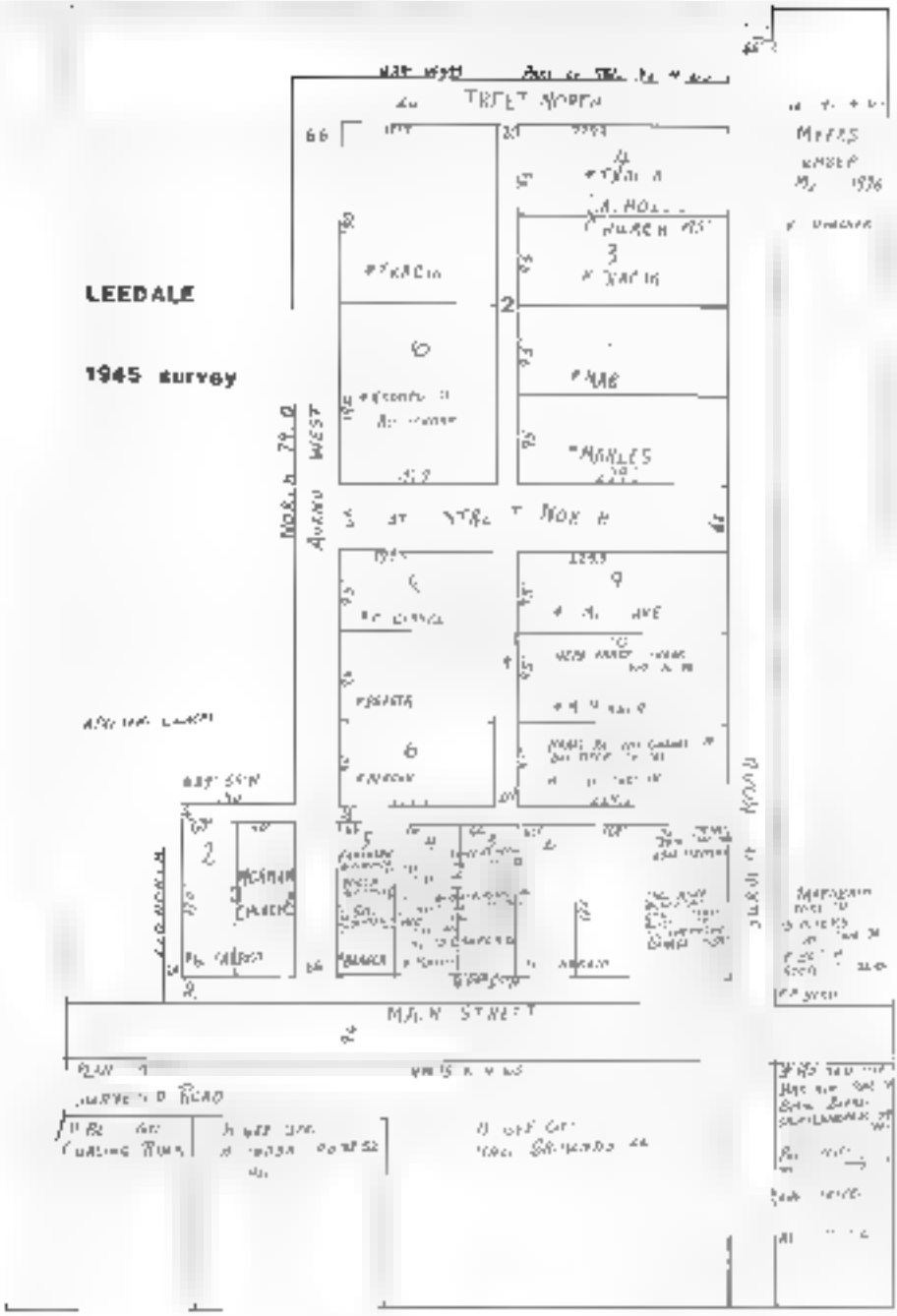
Alfred Kilpatrick and his team hauling two ton of ditchy tool 1913.

The first snow car in the district. Driver: Bert Archer with Mrs. Frank Hatcher and two boys.

Model A Ford 1926. Arvold, Charlotte and Charles Thorbeau

Bill MacDonald's snowmobile used to deliver coal and for Dr. Coppock's calls

Forest Vitals - earliest school bus operator.


LEEDALE
1945 survey
MAIN STREET
MAIN STREET

# Leedale

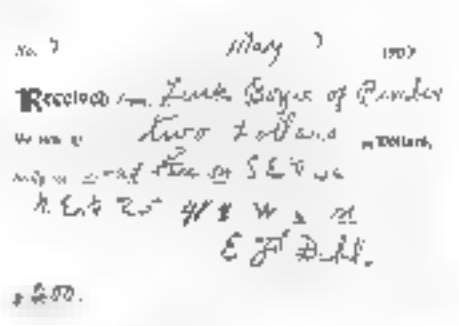
**WITTENBURG — LEEDALE — research by Carrol Mannis**

In 1902 ABRAHAM LINCOLN (TINEY) BOYER from Valparaiso, Indiana and GERRY GUY FARROW from Mitchell, South Dakota came to the Medicine River Valley. They cut a trail from the Fred Schrader homestead, south of Rimbey to the Boyer homestead, SE 26-37-6-W5, one and one half miles east one mile south of Leedale. They thought they had found wonderful cattle and horse range but the valley soon settled with homesteaders.

In April 1903 MR AND MRS PAUL BRODERSEN came from Jennings, Kansas, and in 1907 started the first post office and store. Mr Brodersen named the business Wittenburg.

Mrs Brodersen and Anna in front of building which was home, Post office, store and dance hall Wittenburg.

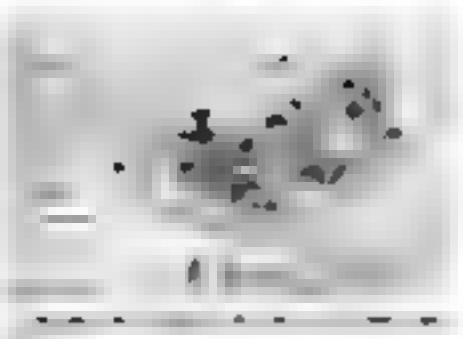
A.L. (Tiny) Boyer one of the first to settle at Leedale (Wittenburg 1902).

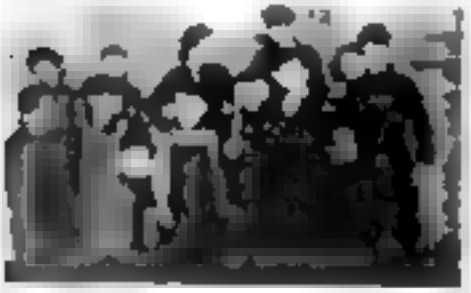


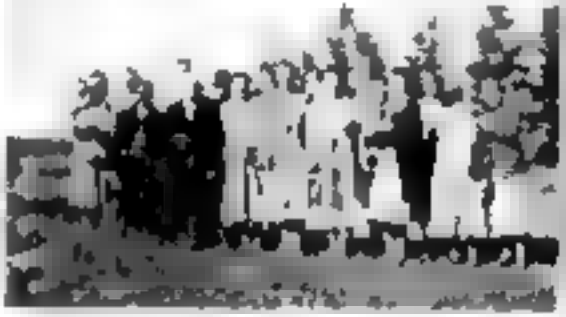
after his ancestral home in Denmark. He ran the post office and store until the end of the First World War.

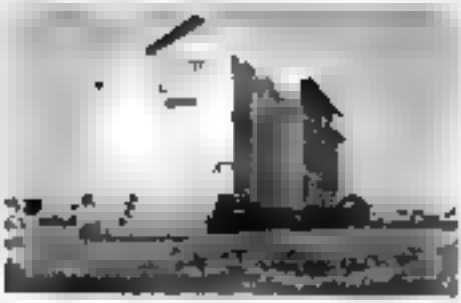
In 1904, WILLIAM, THOMAS AND CHARLES GARDNER homesteaded west of the Medicine River W½ and NE 3-42-4-W5 and were the first to do so in this area. Tom and Bill lived there all their lives.

Wittenburg postal stamp





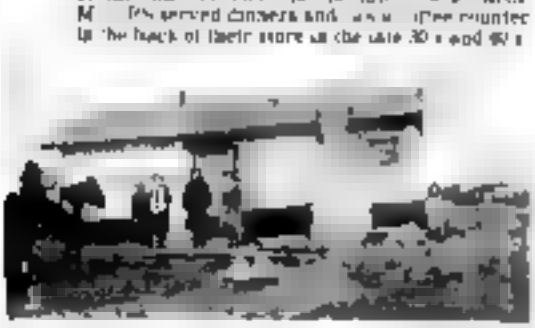




The Town Hall which was purchased and moved by [illegible]

floured in September 1907 as the Church was opened in August of that year. The Church has been sold and moved, and is presently Lee Building with a garage.

[illegible] LAND operated a cafe and confectionary shop called the Bargain Store. [illegible] a building on the present site in the mid 1930's. MRS. [illegible] ran a cafe on the site of the old service station in the late 40's. MRS. M[illegible]ES served dinners and [illegible] counter in the back of their store in the late 30's and 40's.



The Tillotson Store which was run by Lee Chadsey

In 1926-27 the Lewisville Hall was built. Shares were sold at $5 a piece. MR. [illegible] TH was [illegible] of the building. Lumber was hauled in from a [illegible] rock was hauled from the [illegible] and being [illegible] in the district to be fermented in for the installation and in 1927 it was ready for use. Whose families were for the opening [illegible] he first [illegible] is believed was supplied by [illegible] and [illegible] There was [illegible] a dollar to be paid at the door for the men where the ladies got one dollar for their evening but the women with children were admitted free. The ladies supplied the lunch.

[illegible] MAY TAYLOR and [illegible] SUMMERLIN also had oil heat gas which supplied much of many dances. There was [illegible] HAZEL TAYLOR held the first Christmas concert in the hall in 1928 and put on the next five. There is still a concert held in the hall every Christmas, marking 50 years in 1978. Silent Movies were shown in the hall for a few years when it was first opened and movies were shown there again by [illegible] in the early 1950's for a short time. A new hardwood floor was put down in the 1960's when the [illegible] FAMILY orchestra was making good use of the hall.

About 1935 FRANK TARHARAIN built a new store east of the old one which he ran until selling to DAN MYERS in 1936. DAN MYERS [illegible] moved [illegible] in 1936 and it was closed and [illegible] in a house in 1975.

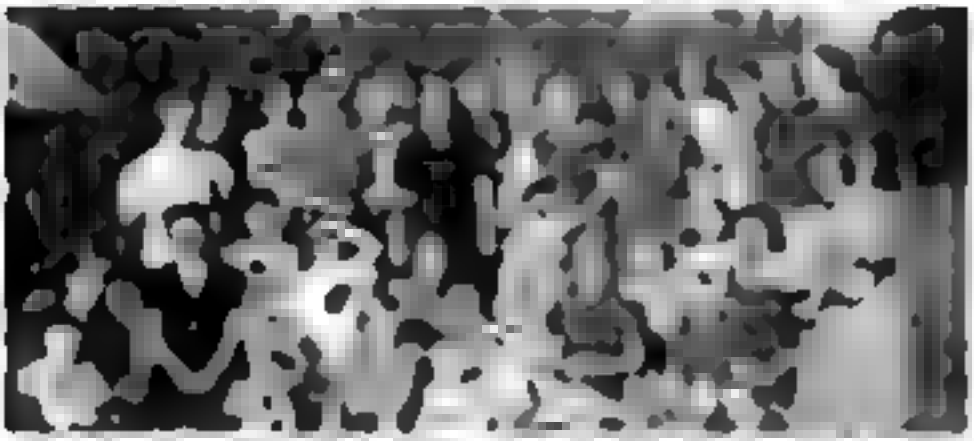
[illegible] PETTY operated a number used and gas business which was open from 1936 to 1940.

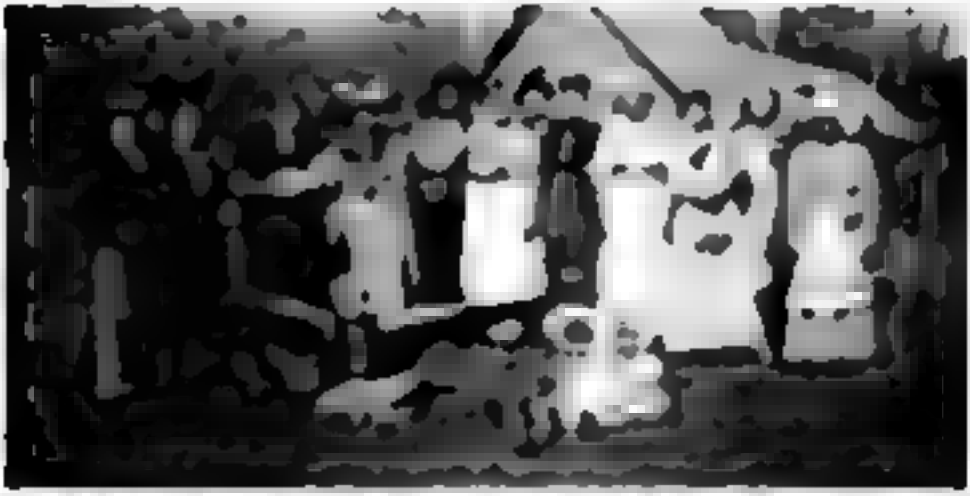
Shortly after DAN MYERS came in 1936 to operate the store he started a number mill. DAN [illegible] AMS ran the [illegible] for several years.

HARRY PARKINS started a garage business

Old Store building operated by the Lewisville High School

Lewisville High School 1938 - 39 Front row, left to right: Art Rutledge, Doris Holland, Jessie Irene, Bird Mayer, Gordon Harrell, Second row: Edwin [illegible], Jimmie Hooker, Eva Wagner, Bernice Brown, Katherine Gillespie, [illegible], Mildred Dora Parrish, Back row: [illegible], Ben Lawson, Donnie Ray Elliot, Hayward Elliot Barnes, Teacher Miss McNeely, Roberts Wagner, Ray Brown, and Elsie Johnson





Bowes" was all that could be desired and wielded the gong with such diplomacy that the victims actually liked it.

Members of the Leedale Women's Institute, of which Mrs. Wm. Brodderson is president and Mrs. Kenneth Willis secretary, served midnight supper and furthered the entertainment of the assembly by providing a dance orchestra under the leadership of Bert Archer of Edmonton and dancing continued until the hours of early morning.

Miss Blanche Wallace, teacher at Benjamin school, J. Hembury of the Rimbey High School staff, and Mrs. A. E. MacDonald of Rimbey acted as judges in the amateur contest.

Erasmus Murray, employed at Leo Benson's sawmill, was winner of the beautiful wooden quilt in a draw that was made during the supper hour. The quilt was made by the Leedale W.I. and the funds derived from the sale go into the treasury.

## LEEDALE, JUNE 1941

For many years the Indians in this central area had a Rain Dance in the spring. For a week before the ceremonial dance the Indians passed through Leedale in great numbers. Their destination was a pretty secluded valley 10 miles west of Leedale.

John Strawberry, an Indian who died at 110 years.

Most of them drove a team and wagon and many were leading horses. There were always two or three dogs and sometimes more with each wagon. The squaws and the children sat on the floor of the wagon box. Many stopped at the store on get a few supplies which usually included tobacco, baking powder, flour, matches and a yard of brightly covered material. They would hang the cloth on the limbs of the trees which surrounded the encampment and dancing area.

If the dance was meant to bring rain it certainly accomplished its purpose as it usually rained the whole week of the dance.

## BUSH FIRES

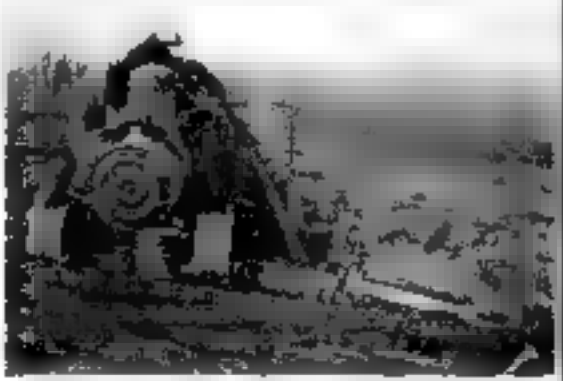
Every spring we live in fear of bush and grass fires. Years ago there was very little equipment that was very effective in controlling the dreaded fires.

Many settlers lost their homes and belongings in the raging fires which were fanned by strong winds in the under dry bush.

In 1917 Mrs. Lapeare saved her home from the flames although the barn, chicken house and wood pile burned.

In April 1941 Dick Hollingsworth, and S. A. Lyons narrowly escaped losing their buildings and fire fighters were out for several nights trying to protect homes and granaries.

Right from high log pile at McTighe Mill burned to ground. April 1941.

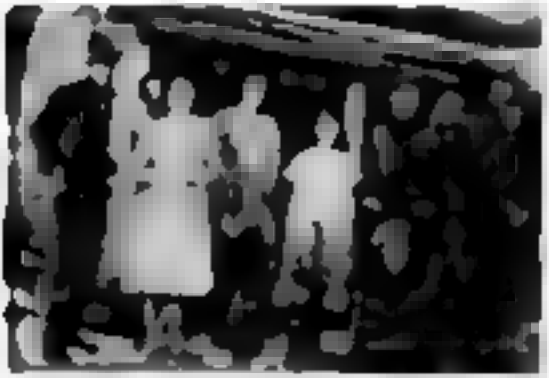


McTighe Saw Mill, April 1941. Music Wheels melted down as are flat on bottom.

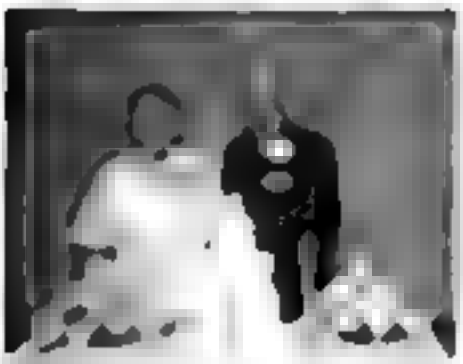
That same month a raging bush fire swept into the McTighe Saw Mill 25 miles west of Leedale and burned the mill and log pile. Several families were living at the sight and they lost all their

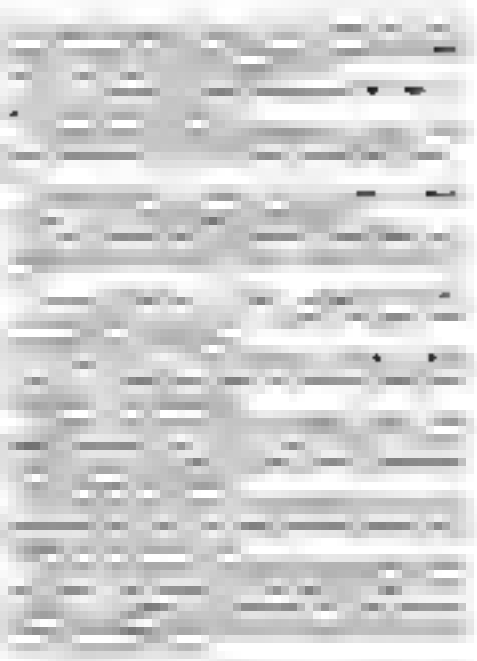
Several weeks later a far-away neighbor was

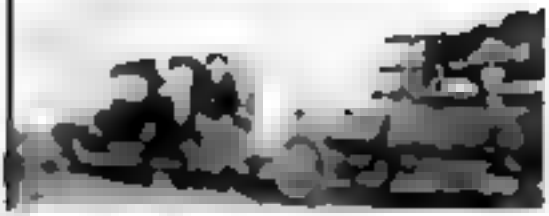
beat any horse in 18
B. When an airplane

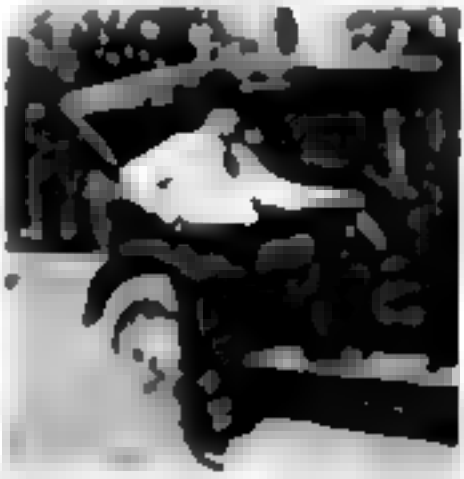


as with light. The hydrogen









usually Saturday nights Bing Englebelt

enter their yard There is always a friendly

In [illegible] he built a new house and in 1963 [illegible] moved [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible] Mr. Brown [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible] Arcadale and [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible] their 60th wedding anniversary in February 1969

[illegible] October of 1972 they moved to the Parkland Manor in Melville where he [illegible] Mr. Brown passed away in October 1973 and Mrs. Brown in December 1975.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN S. BROWN, NE 36-40-6-W3**
by T. Hanna

Mr. parents arrived in Canada from Christiania [illegible] Norway in the early 1900's. Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Minnesota and in the fall of 1909 [illegible] arrived at Regina by sailing ship. [illegible] left Minnesota and [illegible] about 30 miles north of Regina at [illegible] Saskatchewan where he and Mrs. [illegible] Brown were married. [illegible] moved [illegible] we moved [illegible] south here Saskatchewan [illegible] one half mile from the Manitoba border. [illegible] but [illegible] and covered with

[illegible] Mr. and Mrs. John Brown and dog Spot

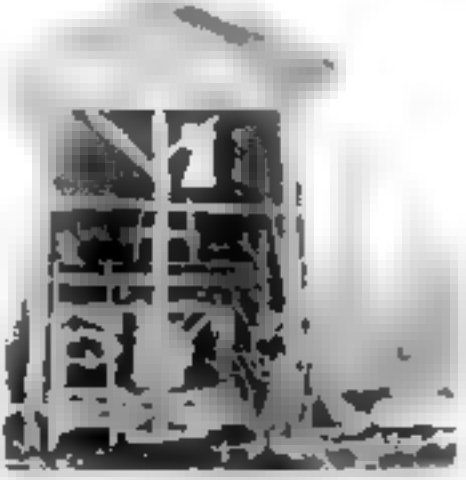
bleached buffalo bones [illegible] of antelope and [illegible] grass [illegible] drought [illegible]

During the hungry thirties [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. Brown [illegible] Fred and [illegible] Virginia Rangstrom [illegible] the Minot [illegible] Dakota [illegible] Saskatchewan [illegible] Minot [illegible] Saskatchewan [illegible] which seemed like a [illegible] when leaving he [illegible] dust dunes in Saskatchewan.

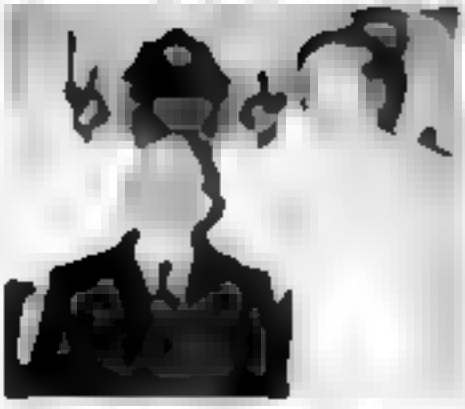
The [illegible] Eagle Hills west of Battleford [illegible] of raising the Medicine River [illegible]

[illegible] had [illegible] house and [illegible] shop [illegible] They [illegible] purchased the [illegible] NE 4-36-6-W3 which was two and one half miles north of Arcadale.

They moved the [illegible] buildings and worked



Mr. John Brown's fleet and his struggle on [illegible] Ready for [illegible] and the [illegible]



# Old timer dies at 104

**Terry Chetland** Terry Chetland passed away on November 21 1977 at the age of 84 years. A popular long-time resident of the Rimbey town and district Mr Chetland enjoyed life to the full.

He was born in Iowa, the eldest of a family of seven, on February 8 1873 and came to Canada in 1906 to the Lacombe district. He returned to the USA in 1907 and returned with his bride Lovenah Archer. They proved up a homestead in the Lacombe area southwest of Rimbey where he farmed until 1952 when he moved to Rimbey. He kept an interest in farming and even helped with some of the work on the farm in his 90th year.

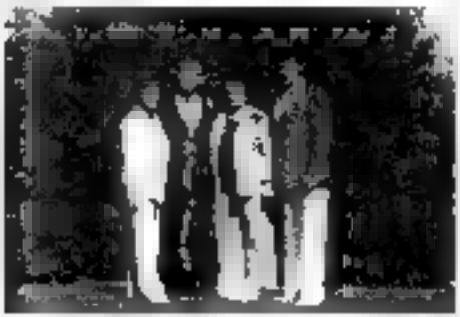
He entered the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1969 where he resided until his death. Funeral services were held on Thursday November 24.

Rimbey Alma married Edward Bell also of [illegible] Bell was a well-known figure in the district [illegible] and was a [illegible] Bell [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Saskatchewan. Our first baby, Edward was born on March 22 1940 at the Rimbey Hospital which is now a Nursing Home.

That same year Pete's brother-in-law and sister Nick and Helen Sulak from Edson, purchased Palamuk place. In the fall of 1941 we had a sale to raise enough funds to make a down payment on the land we purchased northeast of Rimbey. We rented Sulak place for a year then moved to our new home on April Fool's Day of 1943. There was so much snow that there were deep banks on each side of the road. As we turned the corner to make the last half-mile home the horses and sleigh kept on going and the rack with our belongings was left hanging on the snowbank.

On February 22, 1944 our second baby Deanna was born.



Chiles family. Deanna, Peter, Lillian and Edward.

We are semi-retired living on the same farm north east of Rimbey. Edward married Mildred Jensen, have two children and is Bank Manager of the Treasury Branch in Castor, Alberta. Deanna married to Charles Montalbetti have two children and are living in Edmonton.

## CHINE

Mr. Chine, a bachelor came from France first to the Aurora district, then bought a raw Canadian Pacific Railway quarter NE 33-41-4-W5, about 1919. He sold to A. E. Westlake about 1921 and returned to France.

## HAROLD CUMBERLAND - NW 23-42-5-W5

Harold Cumberland was born in 1890, in the Wallace Township, Perth County, near Listowel, Ontario to Wellington and Hester Cumberland. He moved to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba in 1907.

He convinced his parents to sell and move west in 1911 and he moved on to Saskatchewan in 1912.

He married Mae Greer in 1913, at Moose Jaw then brought his bride west to the homestead his father had filed on for him, NW 23-42-5-W5.

However, because of its remoteness and his love for the prairies, Harold and Mae stayed only until 1916, and returned to the Dunford farm.

He kept up the taxes on the homestead until the dirty thirties.

They raised nine children. Harold died in Rimbey in 1972. He was predeceased by his wife in 1967.

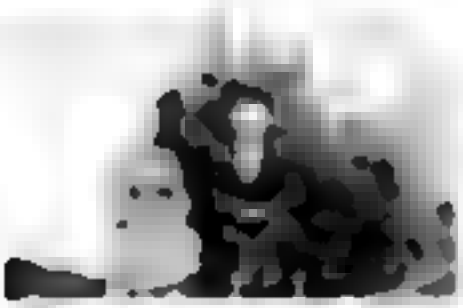
L. to R. Marley, Florence and Harold Cumberland.

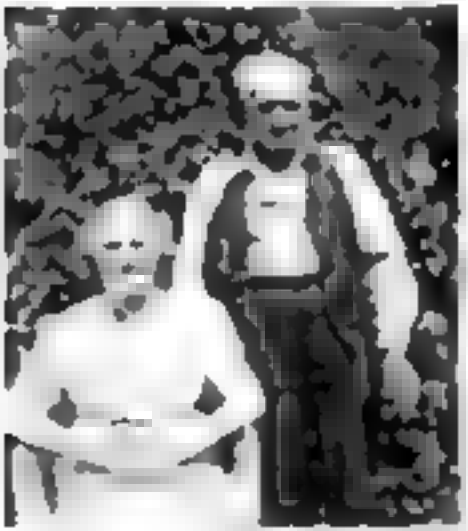
## JAMES D. CUMBERLAND by Mildred Cumberland Parker

My father James D. Cumberland, came west from Listowel, Ontario in March 1917. He had bought the S.W. 36-41-4-W5 from a Mr. Dahl in the Medicine Valley. Post office "Wilenburg", store and dance hall operated by Mr. Brodersen.

Dad and my elder half brother, Elwyn Casey, had moved out in February 1912 with furniture and some farm implements. Mother and we three younger children, Mildred, Nelson and Arthur, came a month later. Dad met us in Lacombe with a wagon, spent the night at Bentley at a Stopping House and spent the next day getting to Wilenburg. Turned west at about the present hamlet of Pinehee. There was really no road - moved cross-country of our trail and forded creeks.

Dad had moved west for health reasons. He had been plagued with boils while in the east. His doctor advised him that a change in climate might be beneficial. It did! There were the dreams - one being that the railroad had surveyed through the valley.





GARDNER, WILLIAM AND SARAH by Lucy

[redacted]

## [redacted] WILLIAM HENRY — by B. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

## [redacted] HONORE

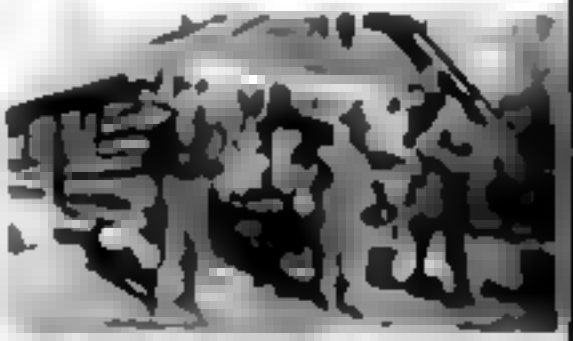
[redacted]

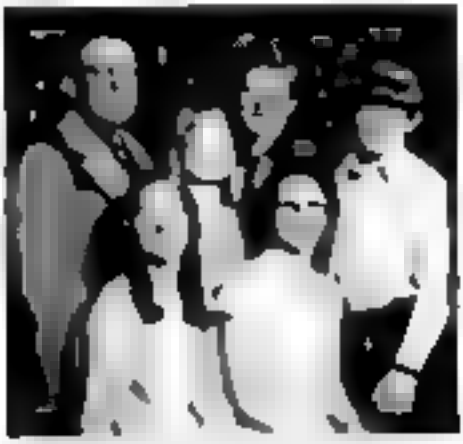
## GREAT UPHEAVE

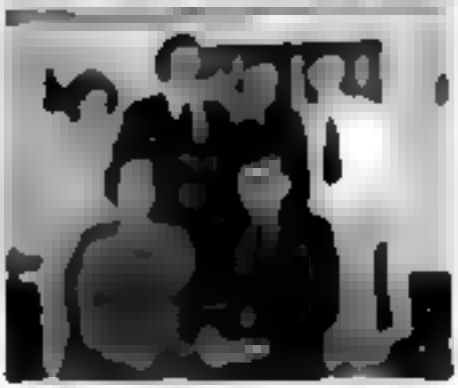
[redacted]

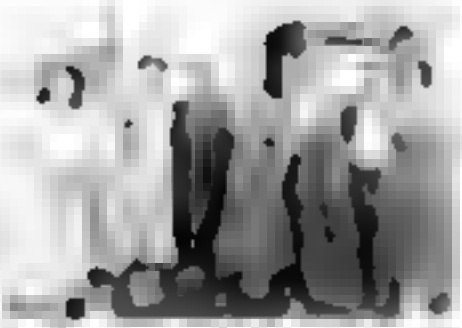
## [redacted] ELDER AND YOUNG

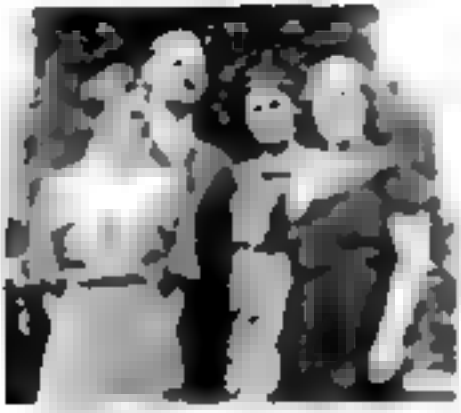
[redacted]

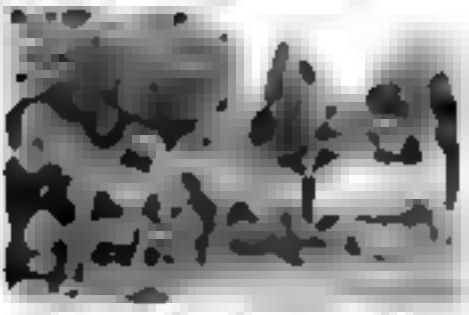


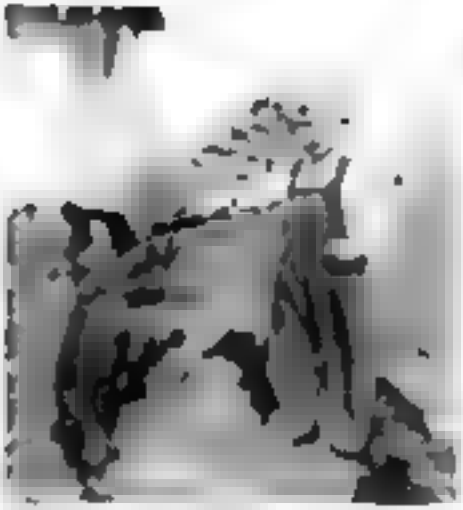


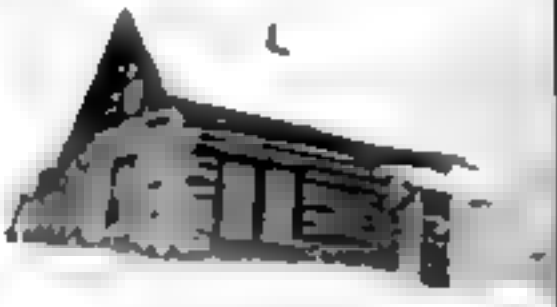


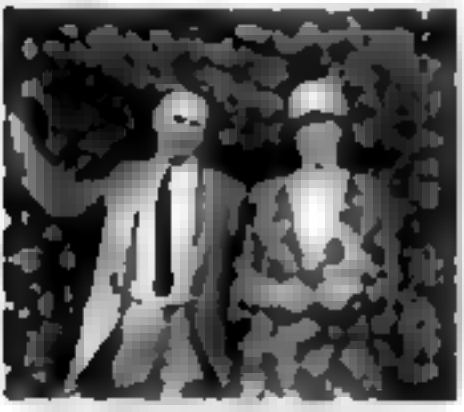


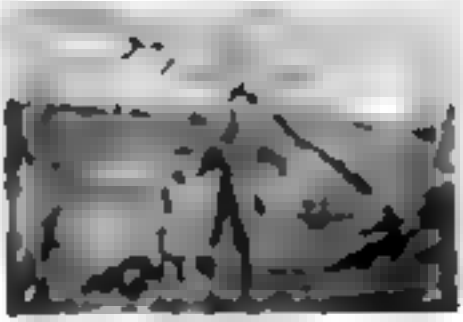


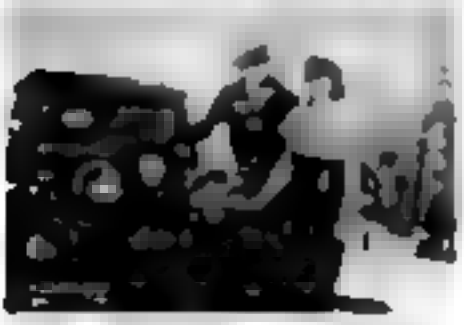


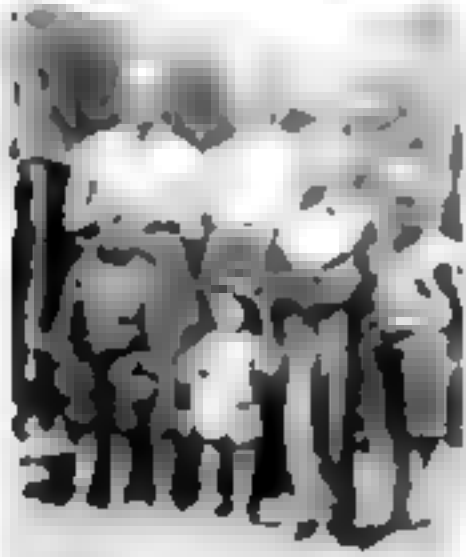




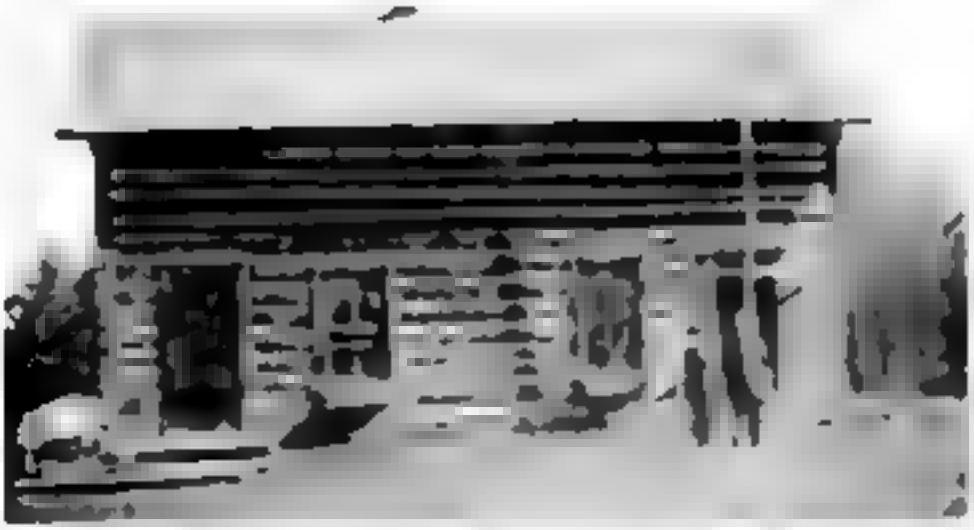


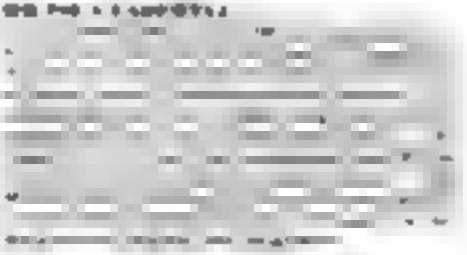






pleted their high school
schooling in Nimbey

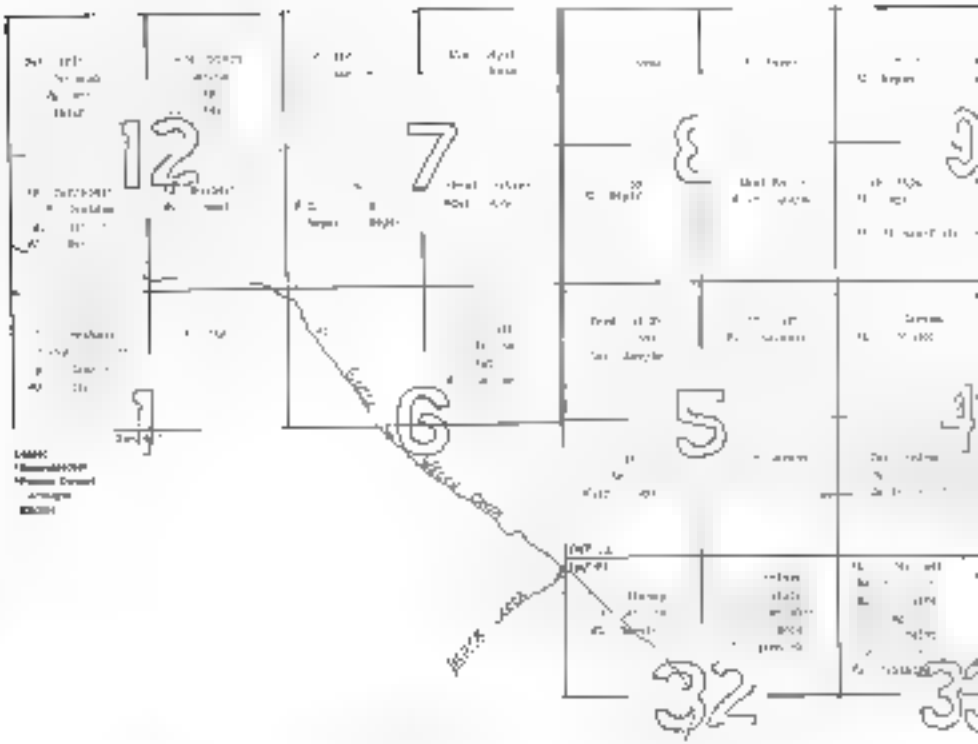


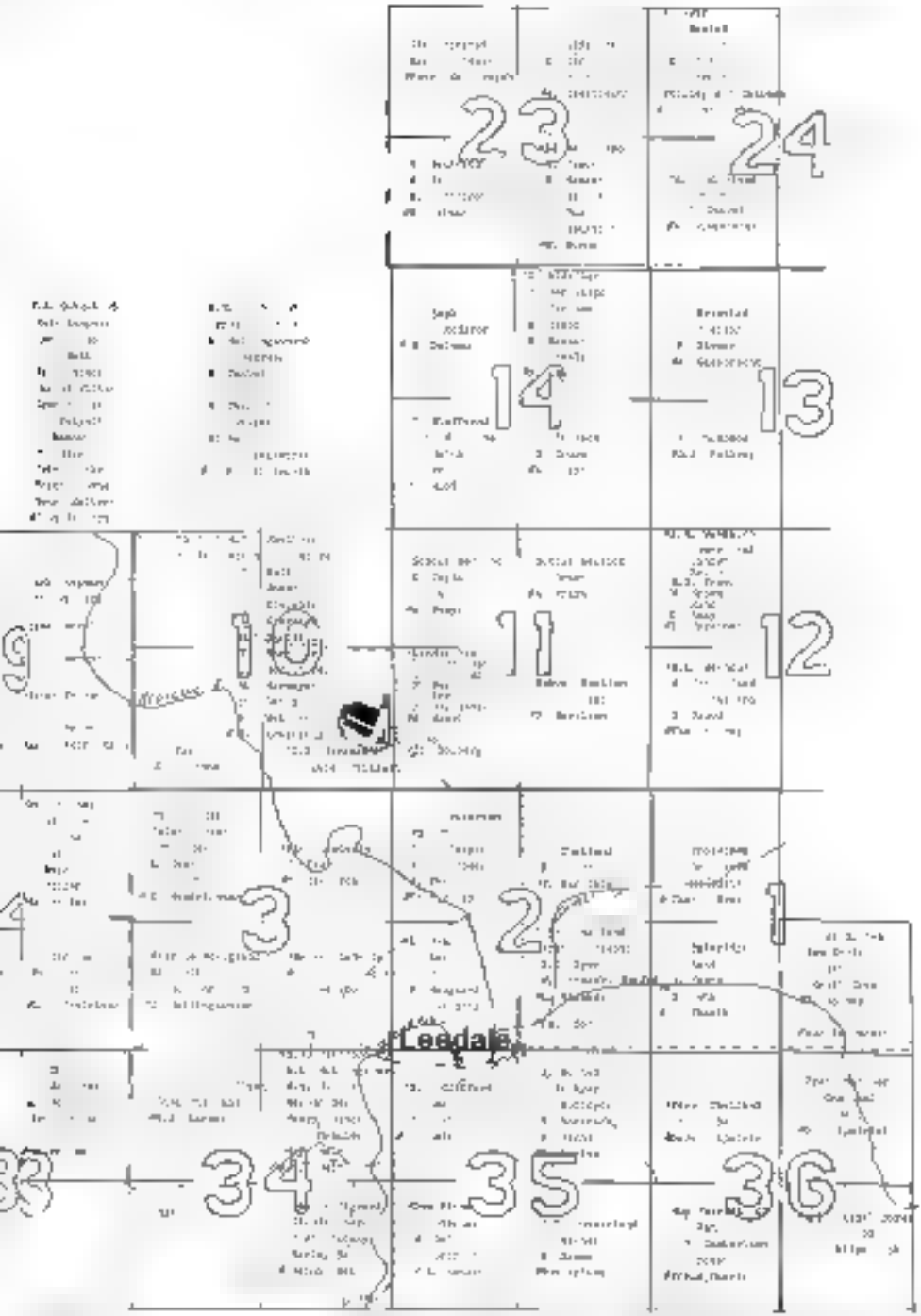


# WITTENBURG-

# LEEDALE

# DISTRICT




Leedale

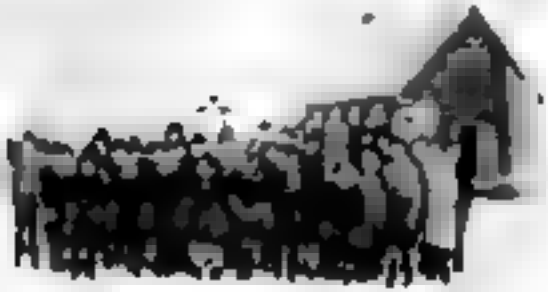
## JUDGE NOT

Pray don't find fault with the man that limps
Or stumbles along the road,
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt
Though hidden away from view
Or the burden he bears placed on your back,
Might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today
Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall or felt his shame
That only the fallen know
You may be strong, but still the blows
That were his as dealt to you.
In the selfsame way as the selfsame time
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins.
Or pelt him with words or stones.
Unless you are sure, yea, double sure.
That you have no sins of your own.
For you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice
Should whisper as soft to you
As it did to him when he went astray
Would cause you to falter, too.

# Leslieville



After the Bingley School District was in

[illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] and very much enjoyed a Lumberville

The sawmill and planer were located where the [illegible]

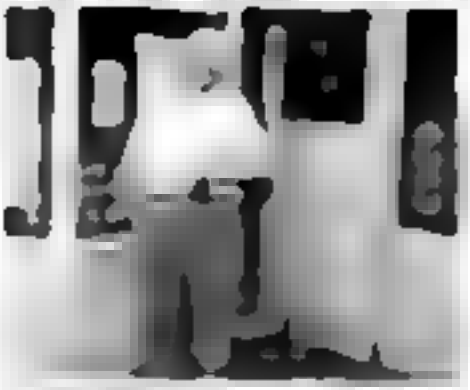
Mr. [illegible] and lived in the age of 90 years [illegible] she got her first smooth floors but never did get a chance to walk [illegible]

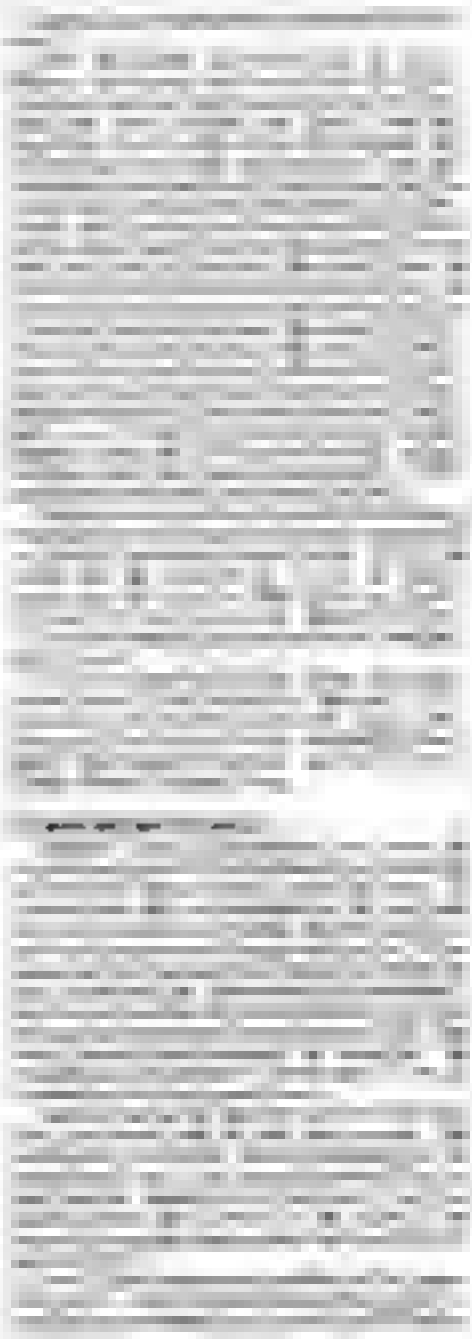
Peg and Mother and [illegible]

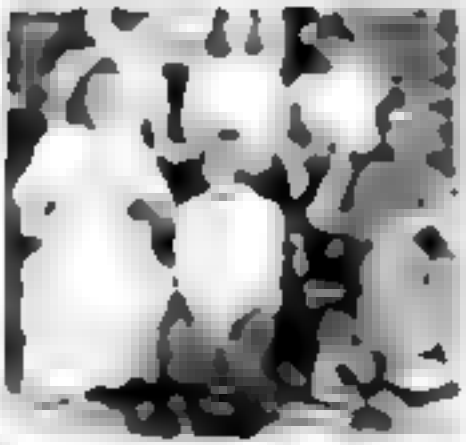
[illegible] and sons had a saw and planer mill [illegible] the [illegible] Mr. [illegible] had [illegible] Mr. [illegible] had [illegible] and [illegible]

**CLARA PETER** by Dianna Clarke

[illegible] Clara [illegible] Peter [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mrs.







[illegible] in Red Deer Lawrence in Calgary. Marjorie

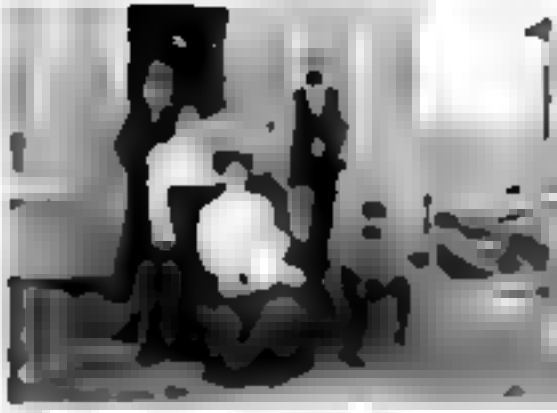
[illegible] ground Leadville just
[illegible] just a mile north then

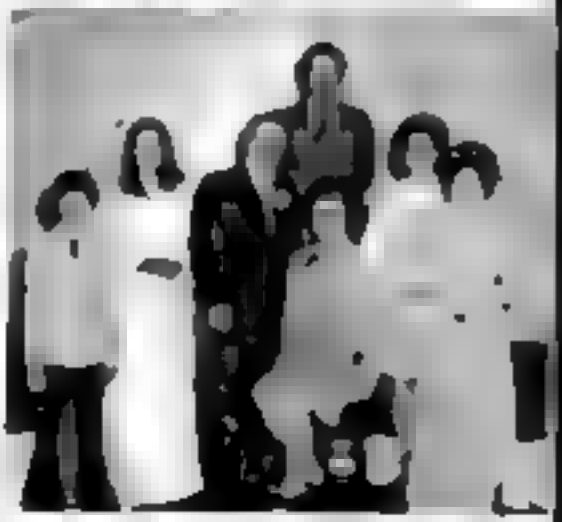
[illegible] Maitland b. ½ [illegible]
[illegible] recized to Rocky for a year

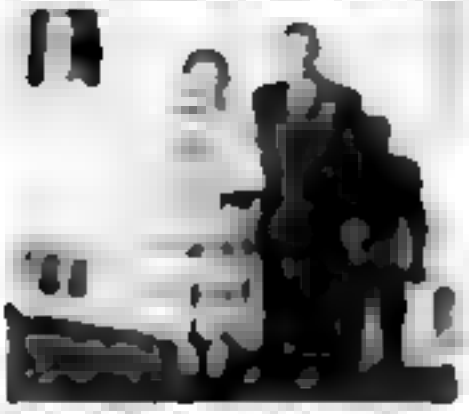
[illegible]

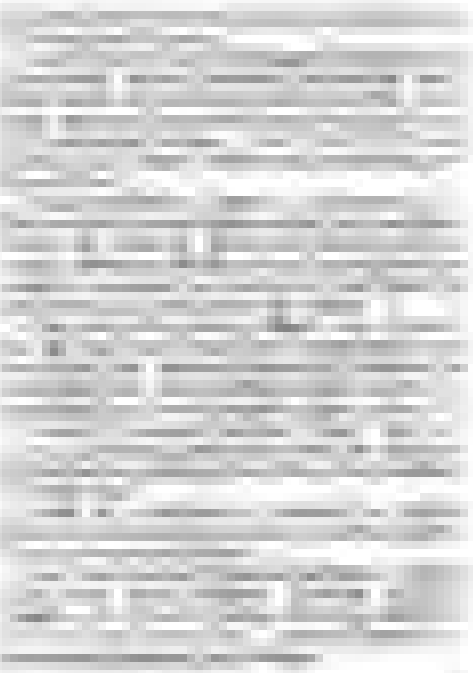
[illegible]

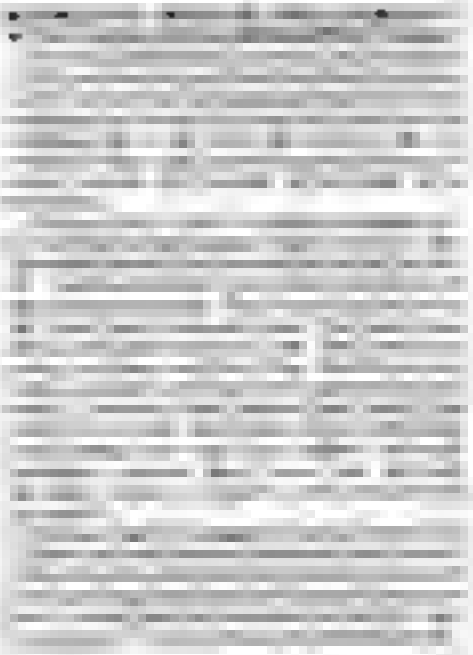
[illegible]



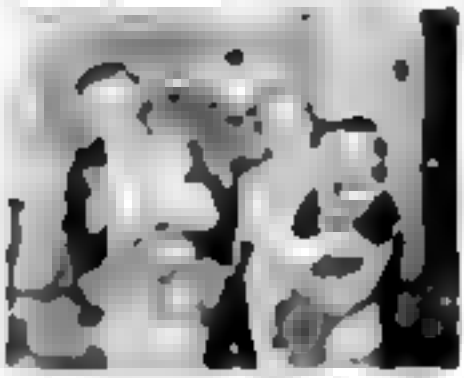


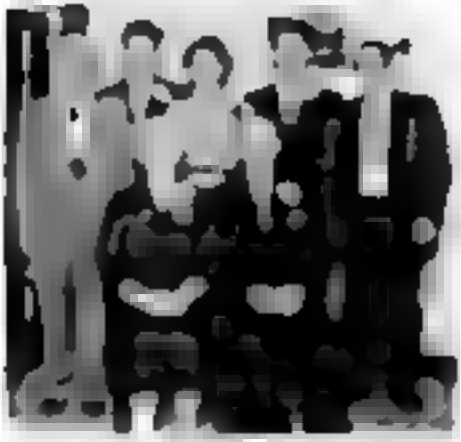


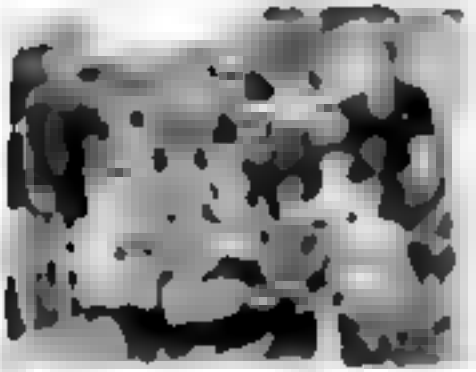


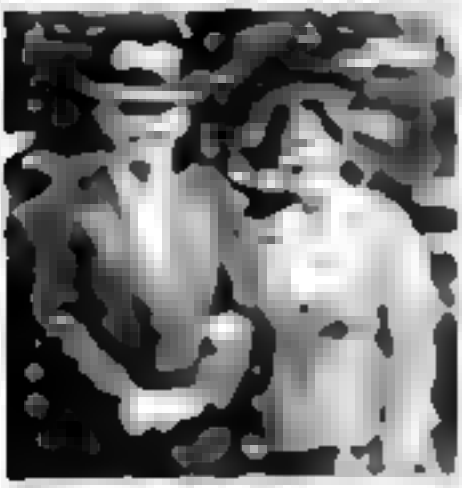


going to high school and Cora was helping at the

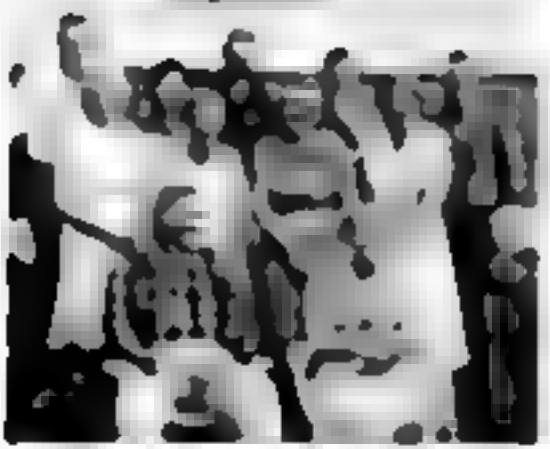








annual picnics held a



made a land scouting trip the previous summer and purchased the NW 30-39-4 W5 from Mr. A. Dobson in Ontario who had homesteaded this land some years beforehand.

They drove up in a model 'T' Ford car with their two daughters, Joy and Mary. Their son Lawrence came up with a car load of settlers effects and a few head of horses and cows. They farmed here until 1941 when they moved into Leslieville, their son taking over the farm, upon his marriage to Agnes Measles of the district.

Mr. Oliver worked in the local hardware store run by Mr. Clarence Pinkbeiner. He also had a barber shop set up in the same location for several years.

Arthur and Fanny Oliver

Mrs. Oliver was noted for her quilt making. She made many that were on display in various places.

Mr. Oliver enjoyed singing, reciting, and dancing and was always in the fore at social functions and gatherings. They had a family of one son, Lawrence and three daughters - Aileen, Joy and Mary and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Oliver died in 1956 at the age of 75 years and Mrs. Oliver died in 1964 at the age of 78 years.

**PEEVER, S — by Jenny Peever Shoveller**

In 1925, my dad, Charles Peever, came to the North Leslieville district from the drier, outer areas of Carendish, west of Empress, Alberta. My mother had died in 1923, so I was the only one to accompany my dad.

I, Jenny, was born near Cobden, Ontario on the family farm where my father was also born.

For the first year that we were in the Carlos district we lived in a house on the SE 32 until we located the land to buy, the former Ambery homestead, SW 10-4-5-W5.

For many years the school teachers of Washington Heights found a hearty welcome and many meals at our home. Some of the teachers that boarded with us were: Margaret Whiteside, now Mrs. Tim Nelson, Washington Heights was her first job in the teaching profession. Florence Everett, who later went to Africa as a missionary and married Leslie Crawford. Mrs. Gertie Wilson from [illegible] M. Boyer, Miss Koengerski, Lyla Fretwell, Isabelle Simpson, Ruth Lindsay, Hattie Dobbs, Salme Peabbs, Roy Watson and Shug Sterling were others who served with us. The last teacher was Miss Adelle Hallman who married and is still teaching out in Victoria. My dad was a trustee for several years. He also built a cement foundation for the school in 1928. Mr. Hank Ulzer and Neal Johnston helped with his project.

My dad passed away in December 1940 at 194[illegible]. I married a farmer who lived nearby, Earl Skoveen. We were married in Rocky and have continued to live on the farm here ever since.

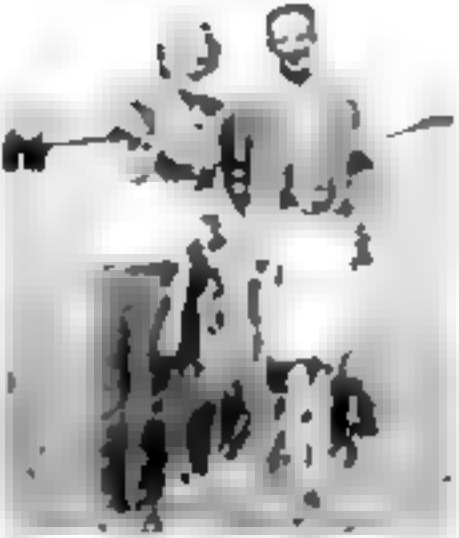
**PEPPER, EDWARD L.**

Fate has decreed that Jimmie Pepper be the one responsible for writing an account of the Pepper family, one of the early homesteaders in the Leslieville community. Although at this late date there are many gaps in my memory concerning the events that took place and the order in which they occurred. What follows is my best recollection of the lives of our family.

My mother and father met in San Blas, Argentina, South America. Both of them were employed by an English family who had a large ranch and other holdings in that area. My mother was a governess in the family and my father was one of the overseers.

Thomas and Edward Pepper on their wedding day, 1911, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

My mother and father were married in Buenos Aires, Argentina circa 1900 and shortly after went into ranching on their own. Annie, Eileen and I were all born in San Blas but lived at the headquarters of our ranch at Punta Alouva, about 30 miles from San Blas. A severe and extended drought forced the family to sell out in 1910 and seek a more favorable place in which to make a living.



[illegible]

[illegible]

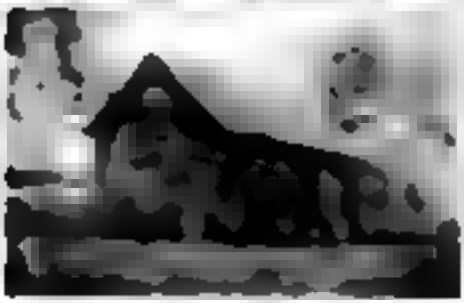
[illegible]

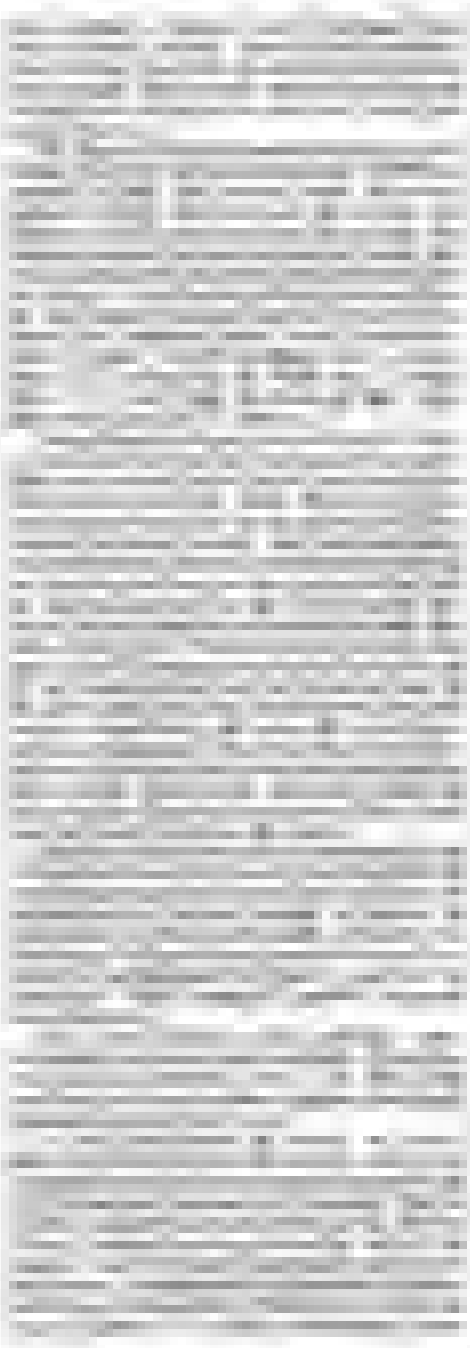
Douglas was born in Eatonville on January 16,

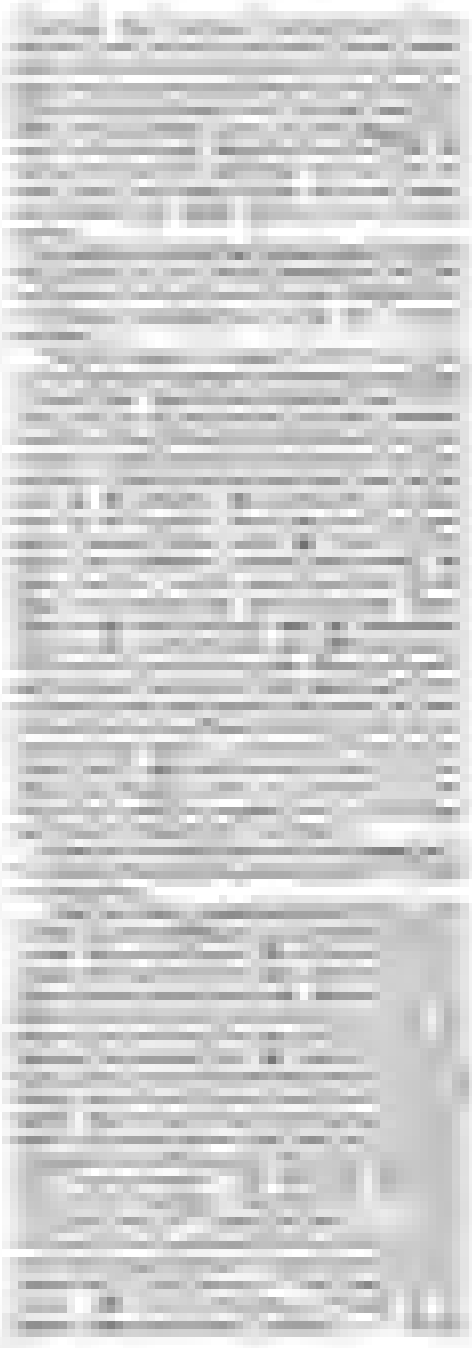
they have an acreage on the eight

RODGERS, JAMES R. by Barry Rodgers

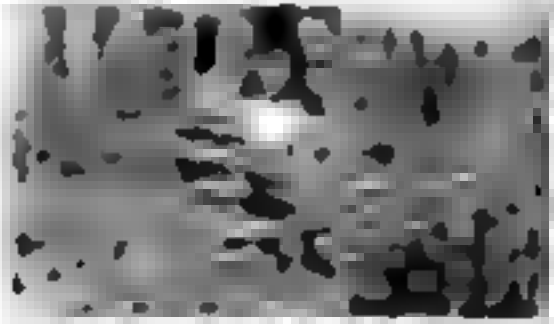
in the early days and later rode



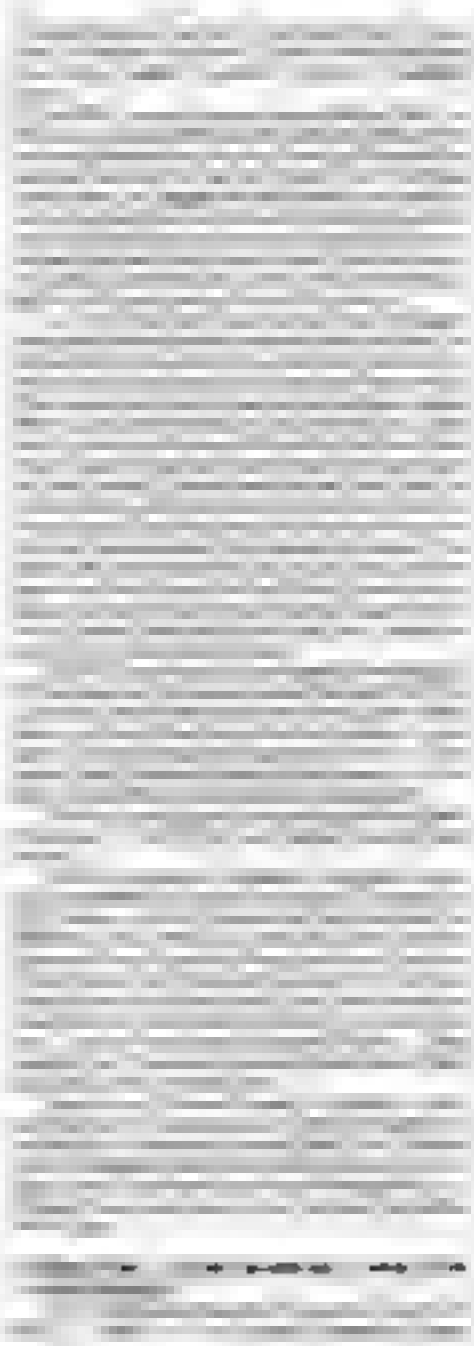




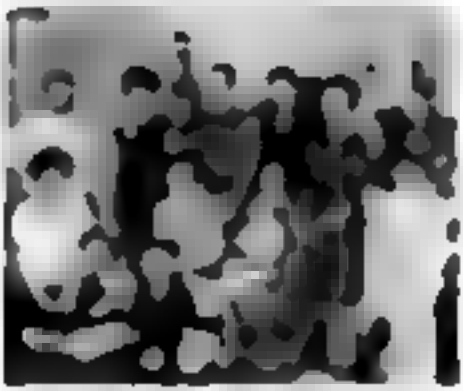
Astrid and Sigurd nestled on their farth all



nice bright morning after
Dad and I went to see how



as a youth David had major interests in

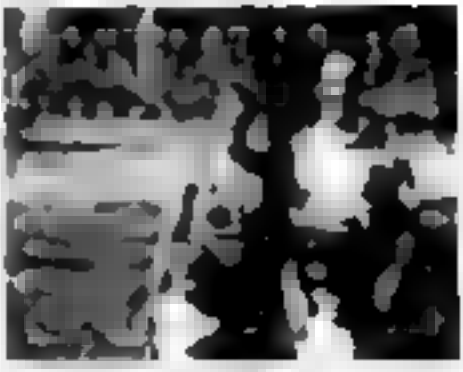


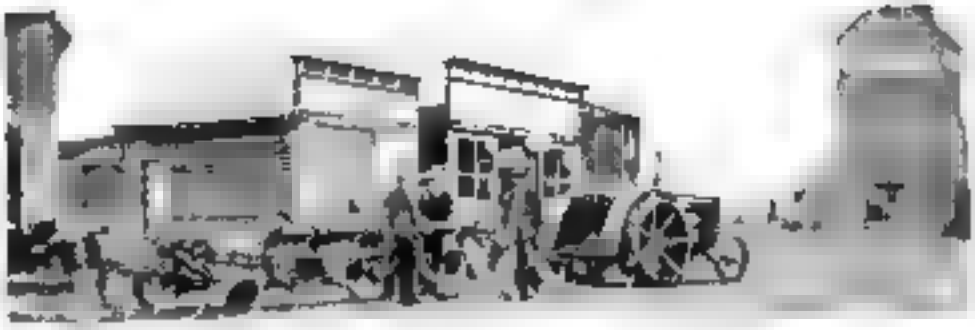
At times in the evening
When neighbors dropped in
Before saying "Good-night"
They sang parting hymns.

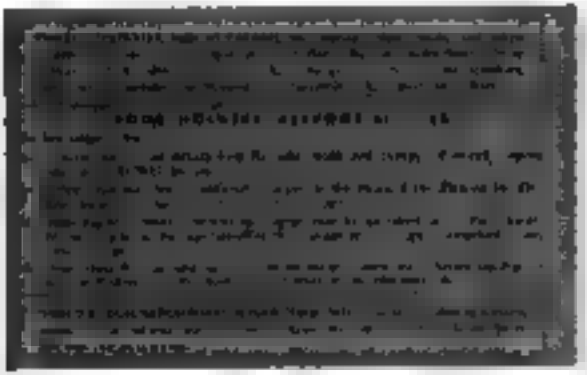
In the country rich in our
Come climb our highest mountains
Descend the deepest shaft
You may even see a red deer

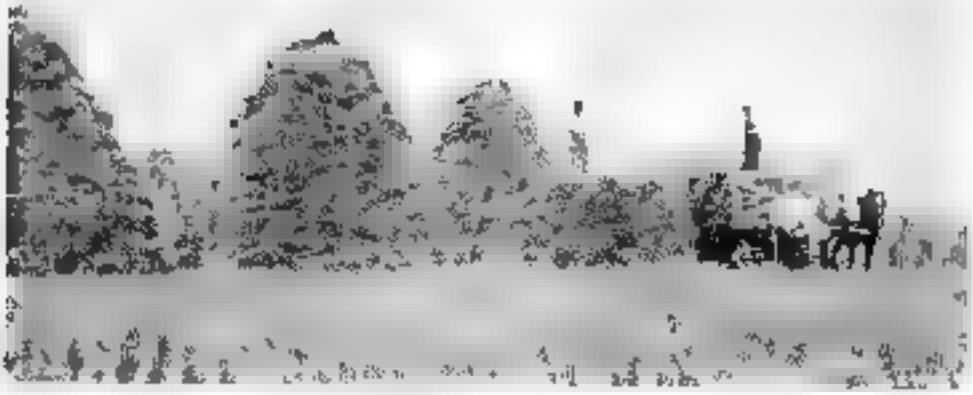
bought over 40 years ago

noon. The farmers would help each other until all







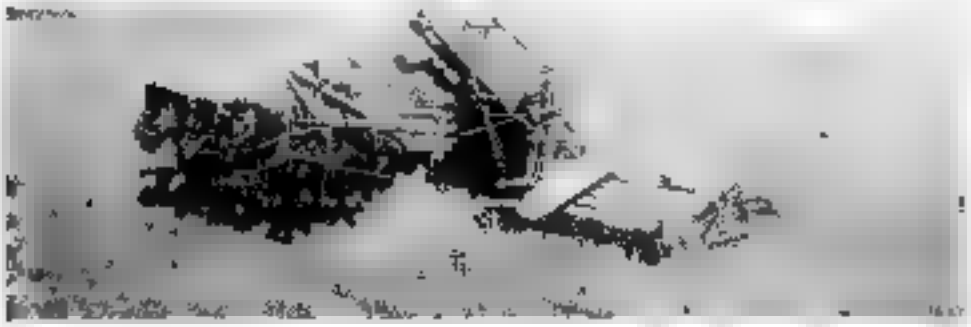


Passing the grain bundles in packs which will be thrashed later in the fall or by the beginning of the next year. On the right, Boxer Rebellion.

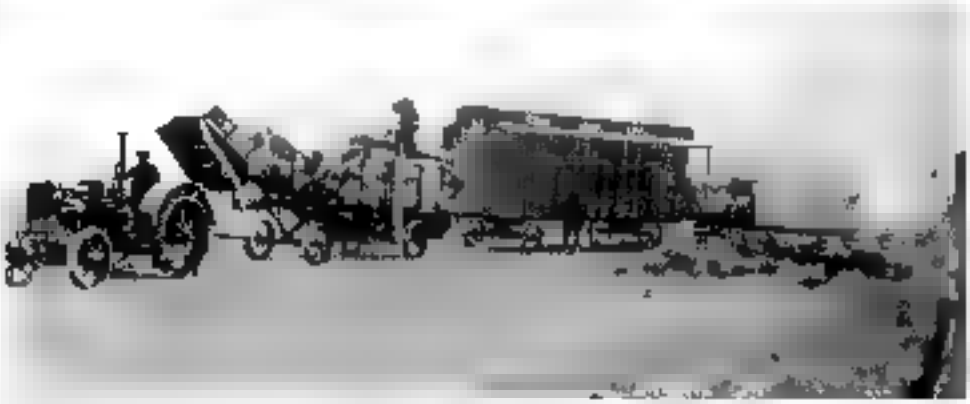
Stack threshing.

Threshing - japanese and korean engine.

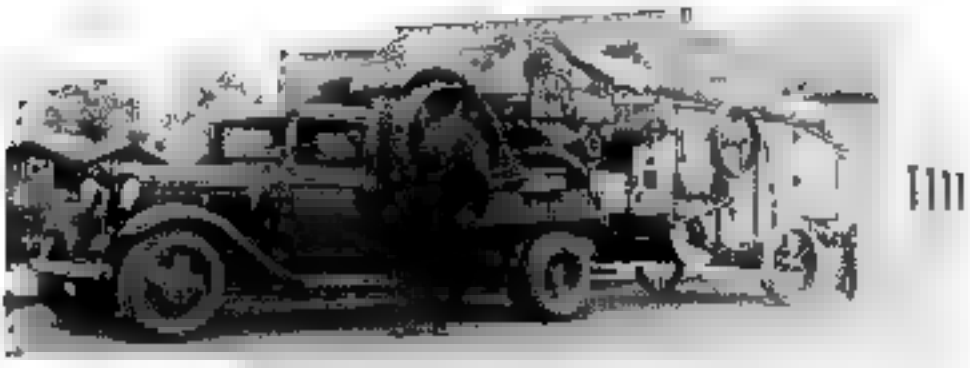
Double wagon used for chestnuts



Charles and Wallace Thurlow loading rocks, 1942



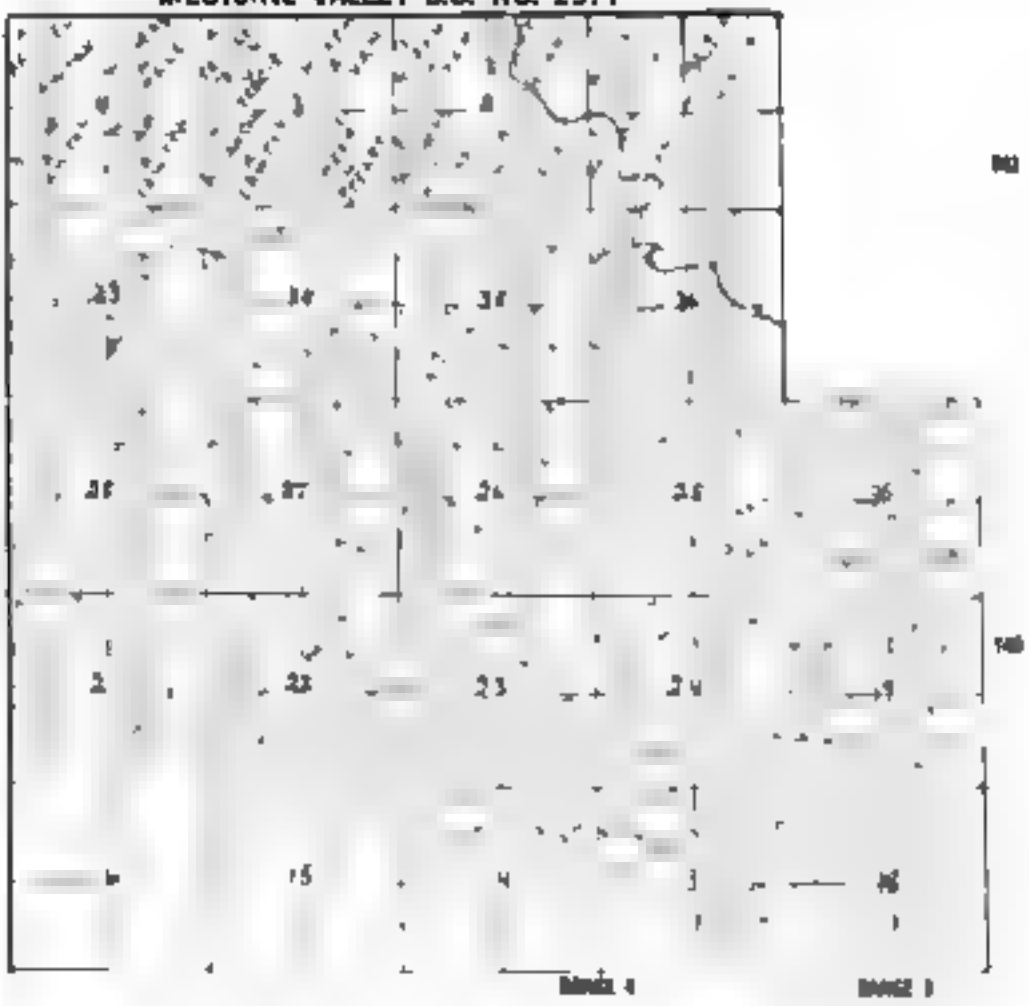
Moving a threshing outfit



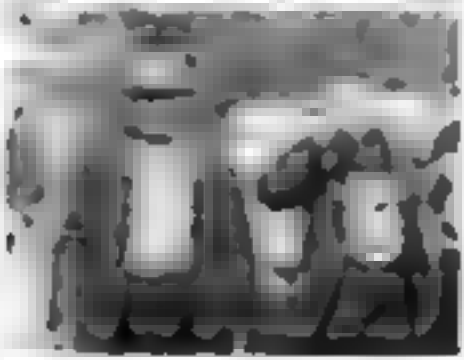
Allen Motorette Tractors. This truck took three gallons of gas to cross from Calgary

Three-ton Essex tractor-swept by the Hub family

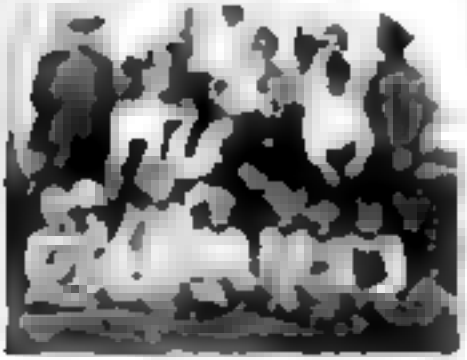
# MEDICINE VALLEY S.D. NO. 2577



# Medicine Valley



We are just living and enjoying o

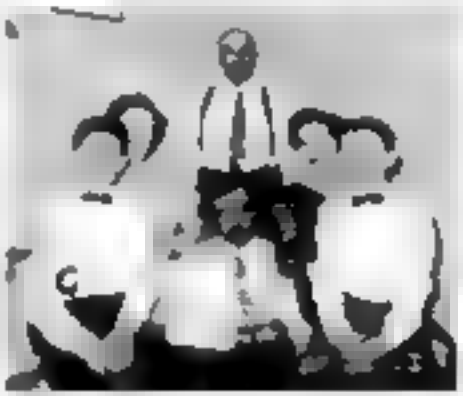


**THE BERNARD FAMILY -- As related by**

first teacher was Sophie Tipman, and, by

[illegible]

[illegible]

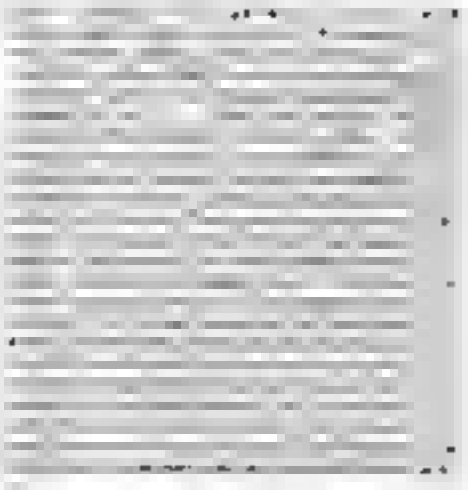


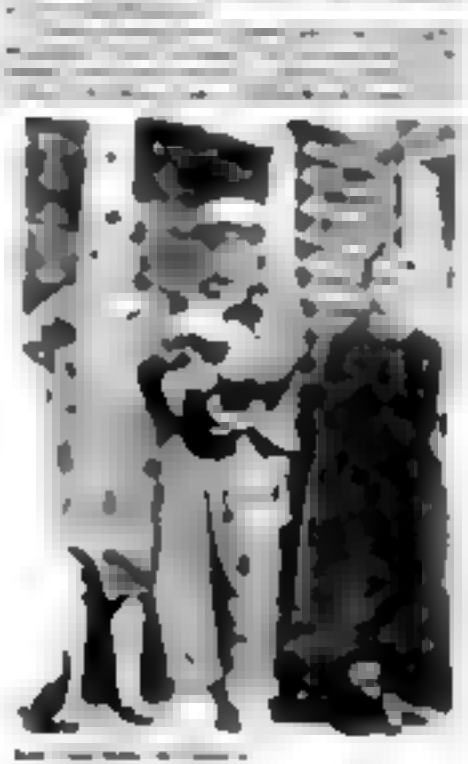
[illegible]

[illegible]

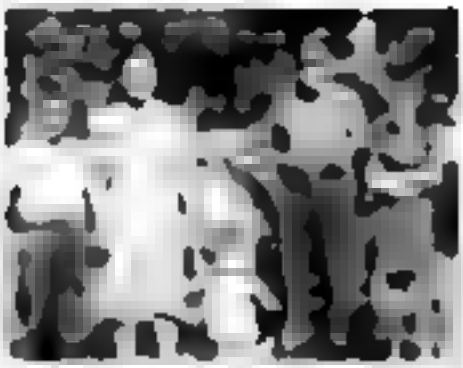
**THE [illegible] FAMILY** — by [illegible]

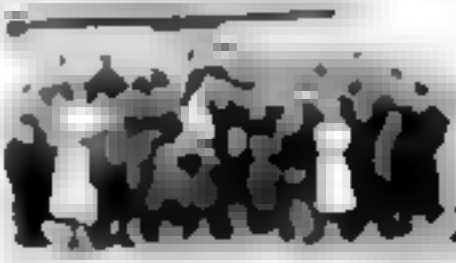
[illegible]



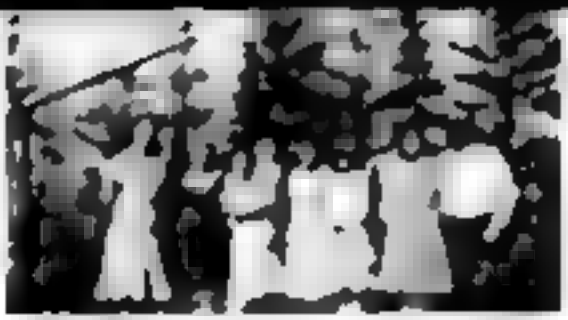


e". Seven or eight farmers
and bundle rocks and drove

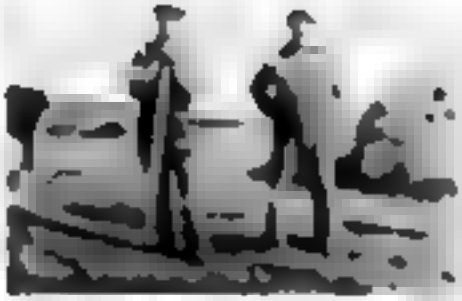


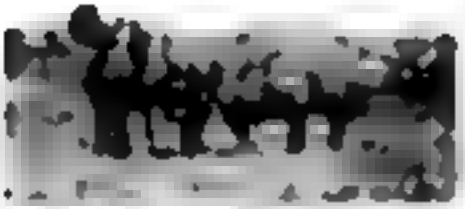


boys and three
Myrha, Sammy



**FREDERICKSON, ANDREW** — by Anne Meadows

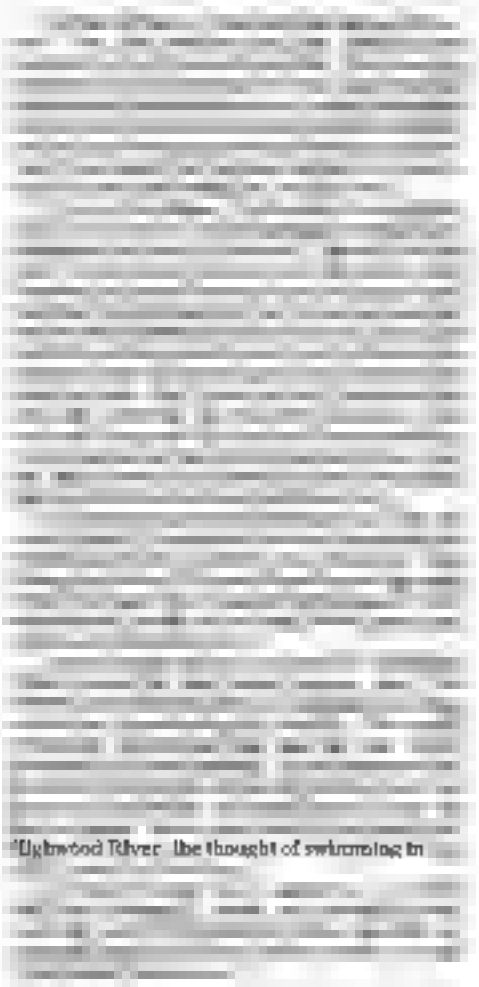


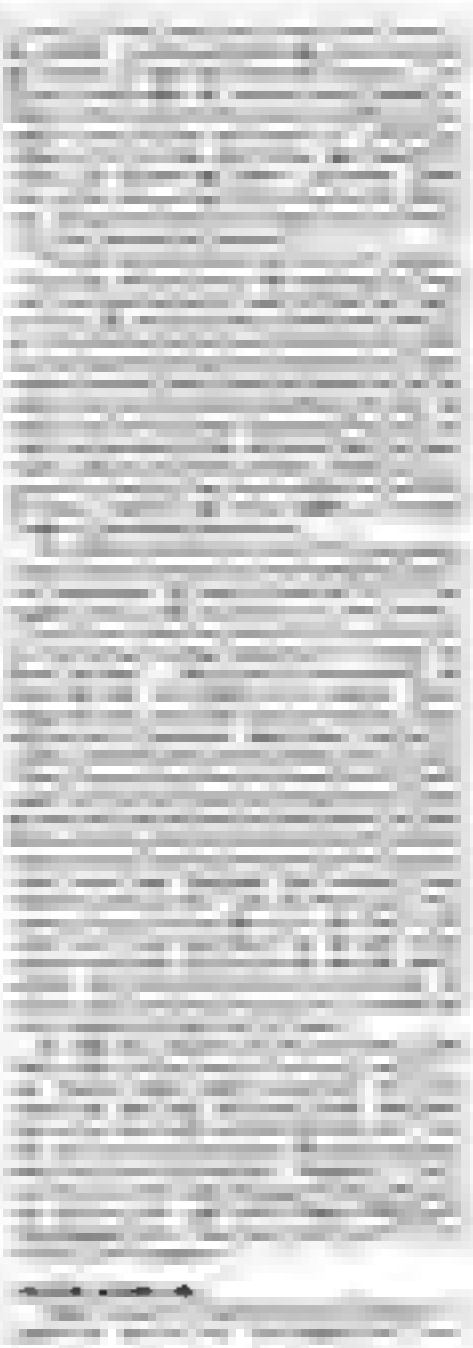


[illegible] by Jean Hutchison

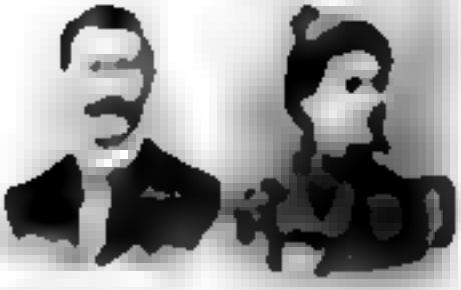
[illegible]

September of 1941. He was never married

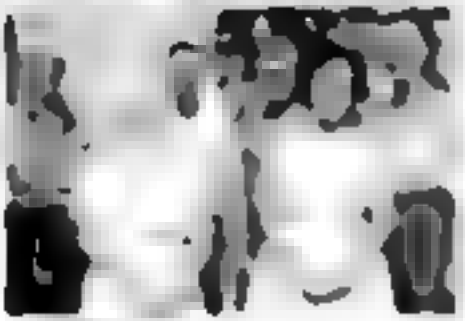




day we were put on the coas
13th of May we landed in Que



and Joan Lawton. The rate of
eight cents per acre. The
r got $30 per year. The
as $40 per month, and he did
the janitor work. Mr. Fallis taught the 1914 term



...they hauled rigs to be
...t was bought 30 miles

...to the northwest. Dodge has
...vated as horses and still enjoys

Alick and Elsie Lawson

Richard and Dorothy Lawson

who was then 11 living on what is now the Mazik Station when she took ill. She walked to a spring for a pail of water some distance from the house when suddenly she was overcome by a white light about her. Alick as he returned to the house saw it hovering above him and then circled the house several times before disappearing. Apparently she was ill for a few months and was bedridden for a few weeks around that date. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given as to what it was.

Alick and Hodge Lawson have always had a great deal of satisfaction in accomplishing what many would call a rough and hard life here. He went deeply into the old Livered Wagon Hauling trade.

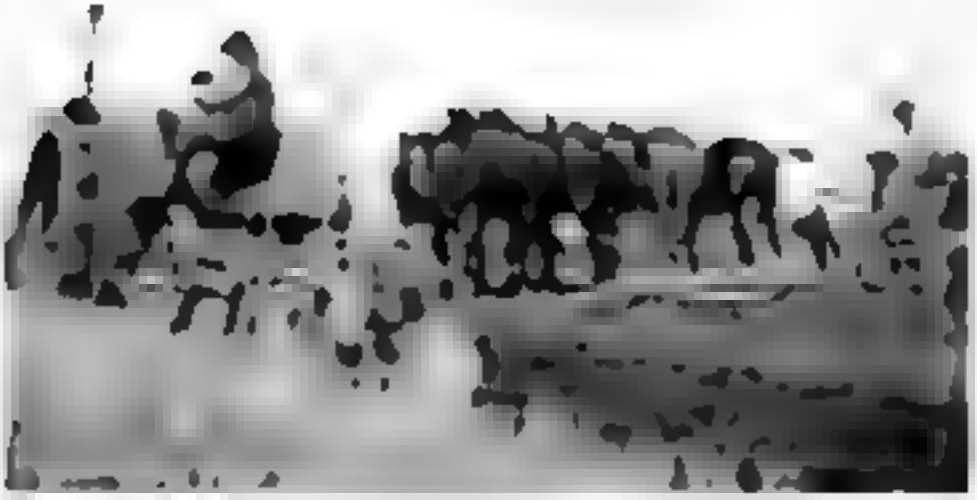
Dick passed away February 1978 with interment in the Derby cemetery.

## LAWSON DICK AND DOROTHY

Richard Dick Lawson and Dorothy Rawhana were married in Rambey on June 29, 1957. Prior to their marriage Dorothy had taught school in Rimbey and Alliston. She was born west of Rocky Mountain House where she took her early schooling and later attended Concordia College and [illegible] of Alberta Edmonton.

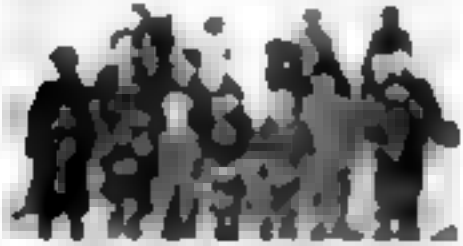
Dick was born in the Derby District northwest of Rocky Mountain House and attended the Medicine Valley school. He later farmed with his brothers Bill, Alick and Roger. Their father had passed away in 1951. They also ran a sawmill near home and later moved the mill 30 miles north of Rocky Mountain House.

In the spring of 1940 a big fire went through the area burning out the McIntyre and Mourga. Mills but missed the Lawson camp. A large amount of logs and lumber was lost at the Mountain Mill but about 200,000 feet of sawn Brown lumber which had been hauled there for the summer road job [illegible] was saved. The McTighe [illegible] who their crew were trapped at the mill and in the confusion, were separated. However most of them escaped by a bush road past Mourga's Mill. Percy and Maurice McTighe and a few others had almost given up hope of getting out but managed to get away through before the valley sank and the flames engulfed them. Dick and Dick Lawson got there about 10 o'clock at night and found the whole mountain on fire. He managed to get into the mill yard and bring out a man suffering burns and exposure. He had climbed into a large [illegible] water [illegible] he passed after that night. The fire cut off the road out burning the two bridges over the Wolf Creek so he had to stay at the burnt out mill until the road [illegible] the bridges. Two men [illegible] and their bodies were found right where the fire caught them.

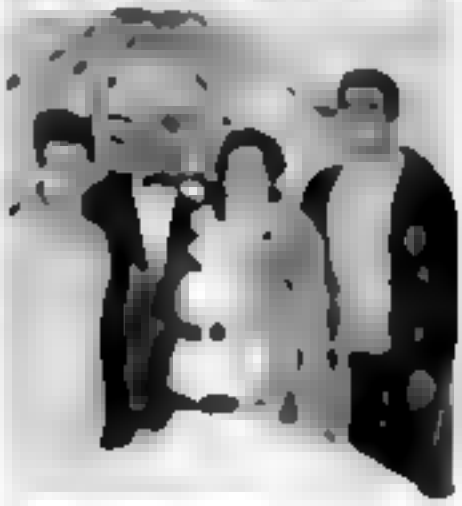


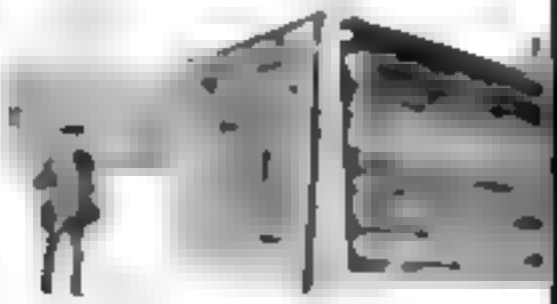
years.

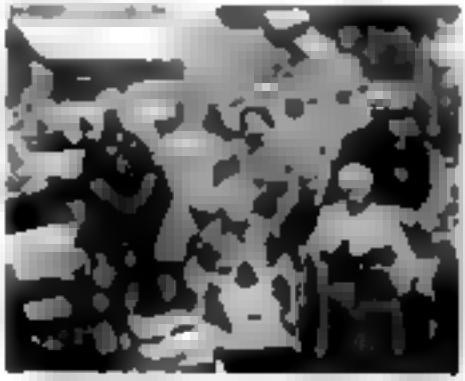
In 1984, they built a new home on their

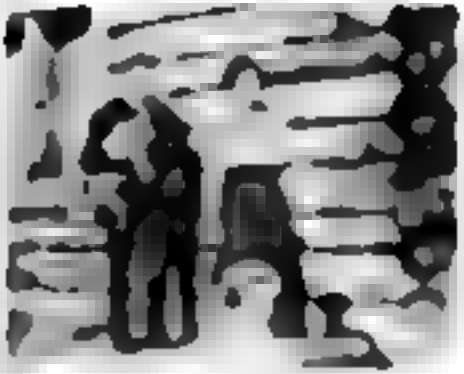


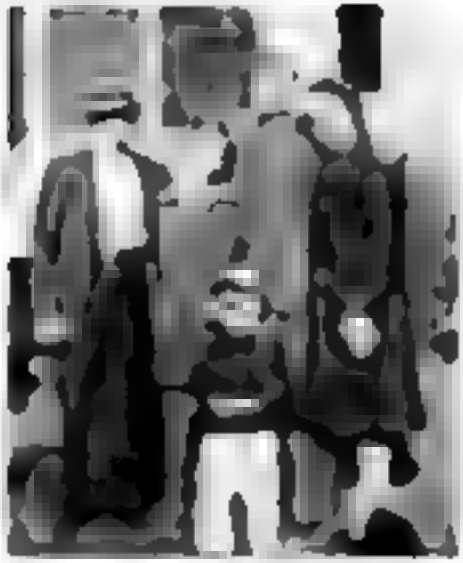
[illegible] started to come on. Then lights at the gas plants







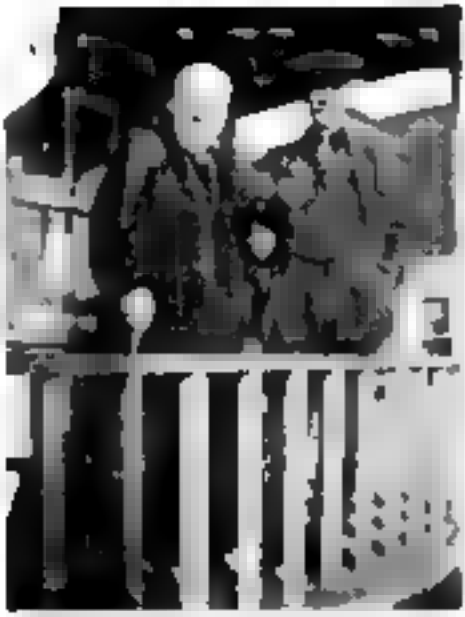




SPIRES, MAURICE – by Tom Spirés

who was a very good father and neighbour

taken Seth to the hospital and he was very



Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Dobson 50th Anniversary

Ring and Mary's family consisted of two of Mary's sisters and their families. Mrs. [illegible] Mrs. Mildred [illegible] and Mrs. Mabel [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Mary's brother and his family. Mrs. Mildred [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Mary's brother and his family. Mrs. Mildred [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] Mary's brother and his family.

## [illegible] and Mrs. E.T.

Mr. and Mrs. E.T. [illegible] of Spring Springs with their three sons, Mr. [illegible] Barnes and Harry and daughter Mrs. [illegible] were very [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] was in Medicine [illegible] the spring of 1917.

Mr. [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] came from the [illegible] in the spring of 1916 and Harry and Mrs. [illegible] were married [illegible] the spring of 1916. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] have been married in 1916. The wedding took place [illegible]

After Mr. [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] were married he [illegible] in Medicine [illegible] was called Medicine [illegible] where Medicine [illegible] off was then known as Medicine [illegible] and a mail [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] had the [illegible] post office known as [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] the Mr. [illegible] post office [illegible] the Mr. [illegible] was brought in from [illegible] Mr. [illegible] There would be a gathering of many people of the area who would stay for hours and talk over the [illegible] and [illegible] about the [illegible] and other topics of interest to all [illegible] used.

Later when [illegible] parents had brought an organ [illegible] Mr. [illegible] have a [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Withers: Medicine Valley P.O.

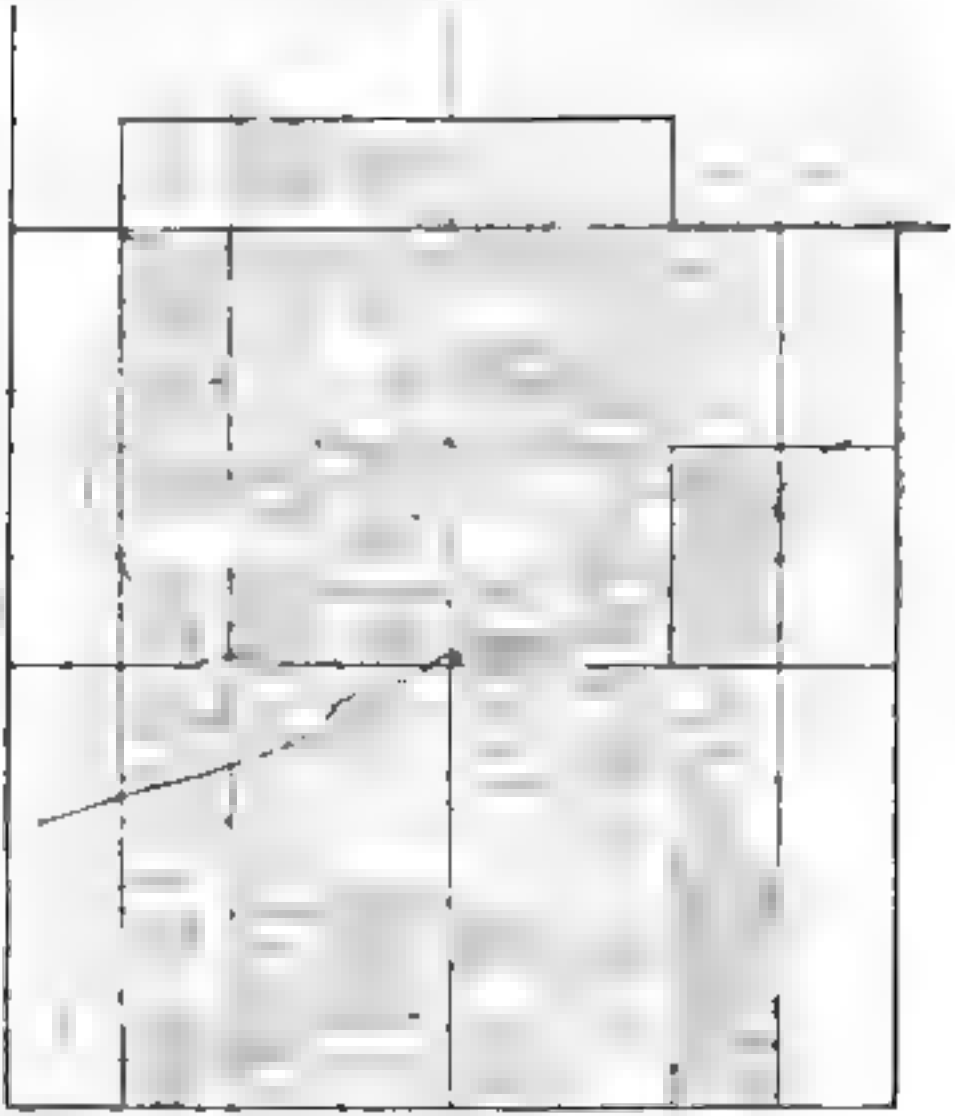
there to attend the dances. Mrs. Best was the only trained nurse and the closest doctor was in Lacombe. Mrs. Best would ride horseback through the swamps to assist at births and other illnesses.

Fred Lange of Iowa, U.S.A. filed on a homestead in Medicine Valley in 1910 and he and Nora Withers were married in the spring of 1913. They lived on their homestead until 1937 when they and their two children moved to Iowa, U.S.A.

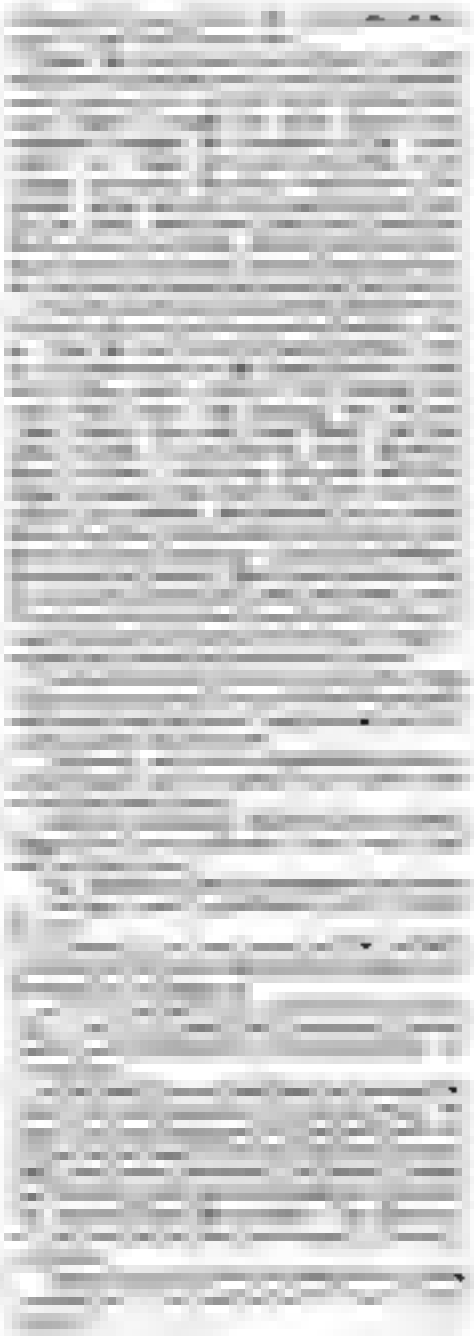
Mrs. Best the trained nurse started a girls basketball team. From a previous marriage she had three girls and one boy by the name of Thompson. The girls on the original team were Anna Bardenhagen (Mrs. Easter), Helen Lockhart, Luella Thompson (Mrs. Best's daughter) and Nora Withers (Lange).

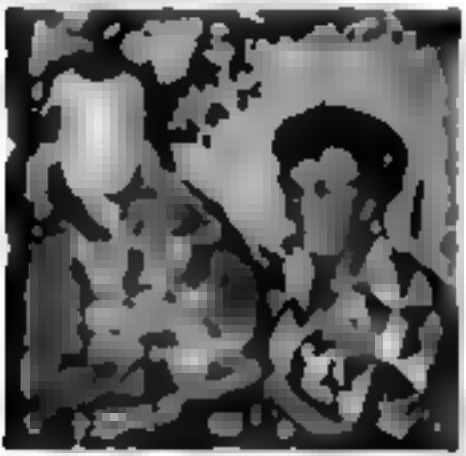
Mr. Amos was the first mail carrier out of the Valley. The first bridge across the Medicine River in our area was built in 1911.

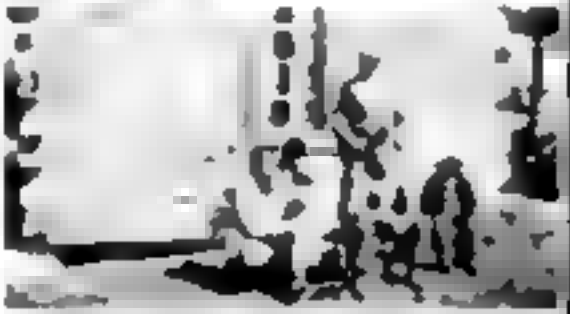
Mrs. Withers passed away in Calgary in 1929 and Mr. Withers passed on a few years later.



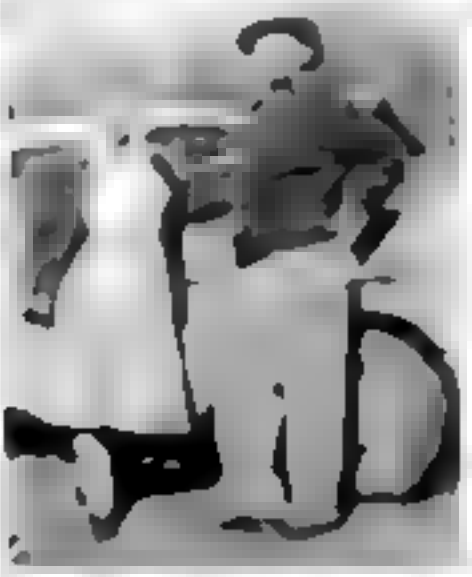
# Midland

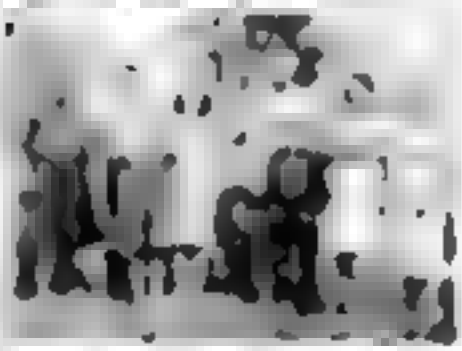


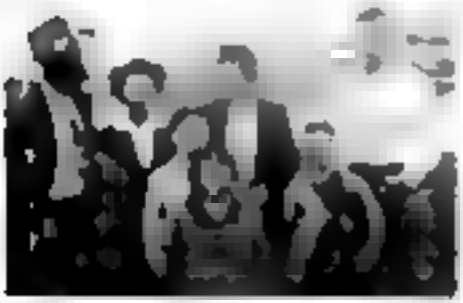


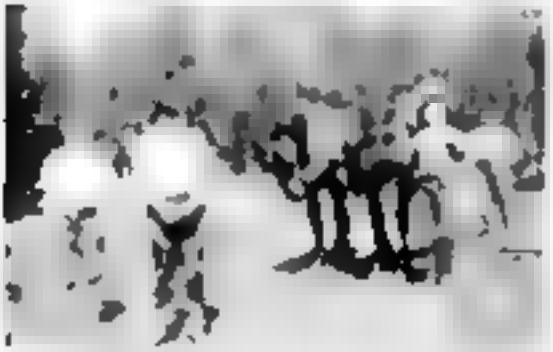


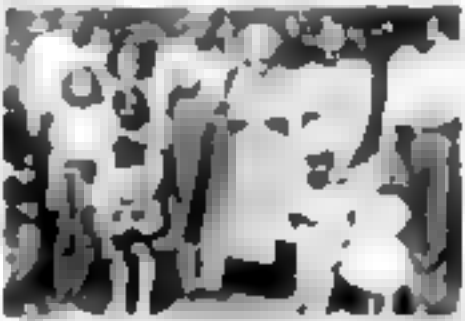
Mrs. Baldridge was a member of the Leedale

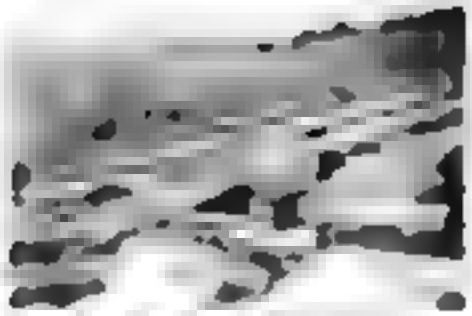












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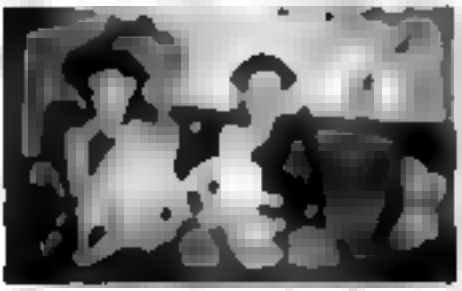


The last years of Uncle Chem's life was not spent in the best of health. He went back to his home in Ohio two or three times and also travelled to Radium Hot Springs for his health. He went to many doctors and finally he was told him he did not have long to live. His last days were spent at his brother's home with his sister in-law nursing him. He passed away on October 8, 1939 at his brother Frank's home.

Frank Johnsman taken circa 1907.

**JOHNSMAN, FRANK**

Frank came from Ohio in 1907 and homesteaded east of Wittenburg and resided there until 1915 when he moved to the Benjamin district. The complete history will appear there.

No 233635

# DOMINION LANDS

## INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 16436

Agency
Land Office
Aug 23 1907
Registered

I Certify that I have received from Frank Johnsman

Esq

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for N½

Quarter of Section 12 Township 42 Range 3

West of 5th Meridian, and that the said F. Johnsman

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

Land Agent.

NOTICE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and the amendments thereto governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Must be returned on or before the expiration of six months from date, otherwise the entry will be cancelled.

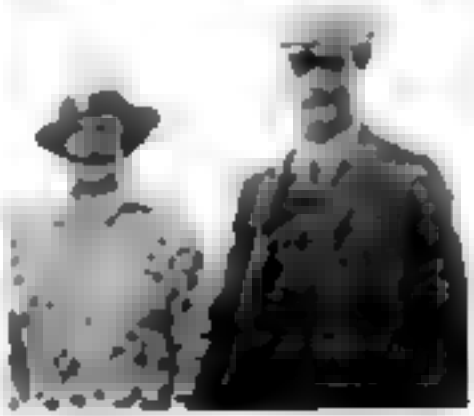
## [illegible]

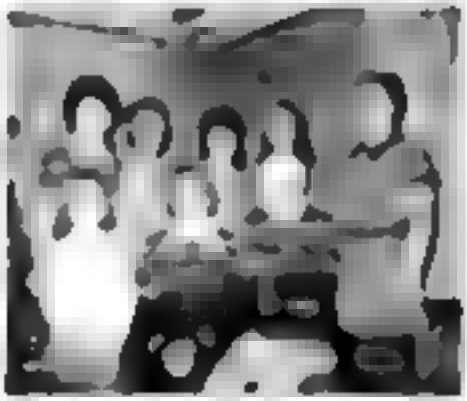
[illegible] and [illegible] with the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

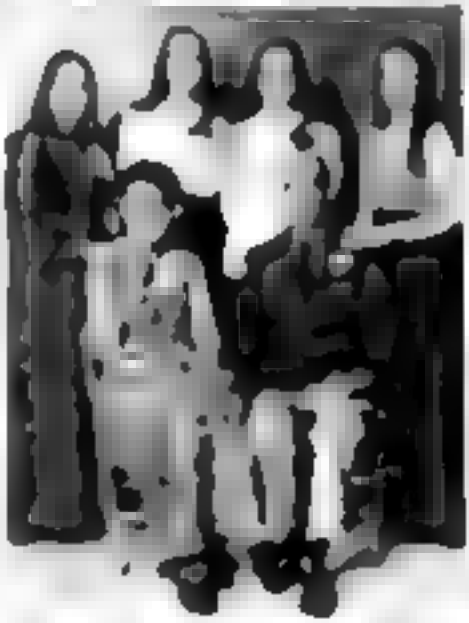
Home Arrested and deported in 1914

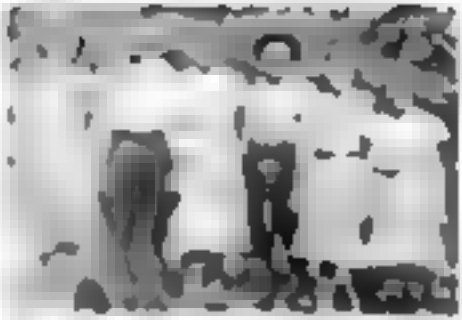
Pirque Ramona was six years old when brought the W[illegible] W[illegible] purchase of produce [illegible] Pirque. He [illegible] had a girl and was born Sharon Wayne and [illegible]

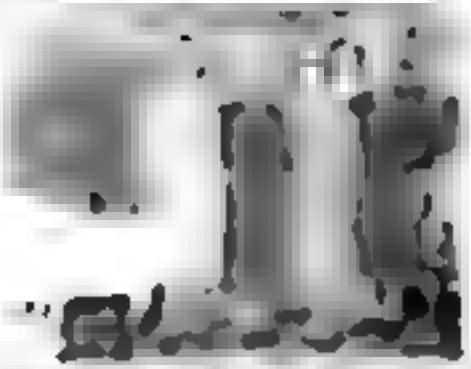
[illegible] Ireland Grove and married to [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

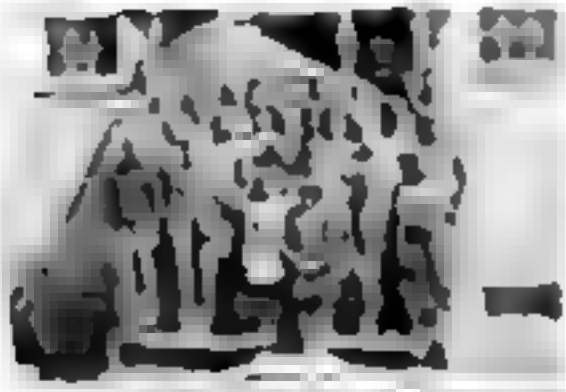


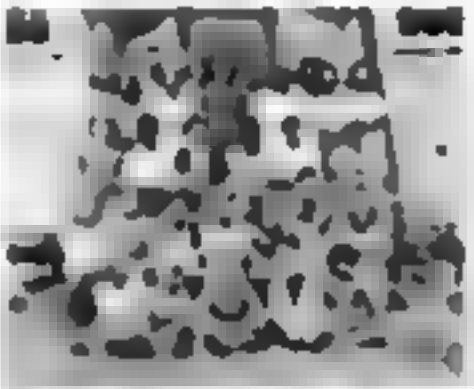






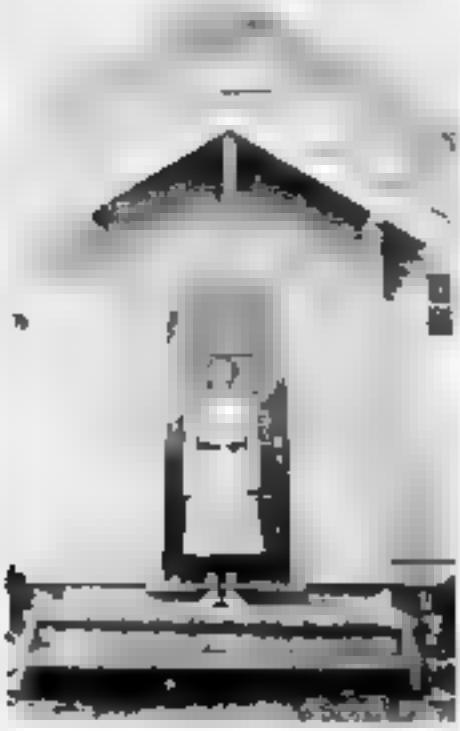






[illegible] limited supplementary material or equipment.

Sports activities were also of a very limited nature. Softball was the main sport in the spring. Each school [illegible] and a softball and bat was the [illegible] all sorts of sports equipment by the divisional board. Practices at the race meet was started early in the spring. This used to be a big event of the year when the [illegible] from each school assisted in the back of a bus or truck to Ponoka to participate in the divisional sports meet in the early part of June. Mid-winter school always brought many of the tribulations borne



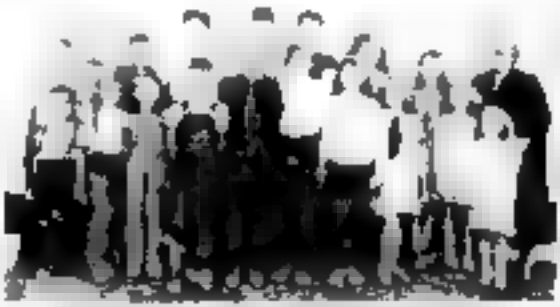
Mrs. Esther Stellings as Nurse at Midland School. She taught 1940-1941 and 1941-1942.

When the 1940 fall term opened Mrs. Esther Stellings accepted the teaching post in which she held [illegible] years. In [illegible] the board [illegible] a teacher shortage was necessary as the teacher was but.

I am not sure in what order the teachers came for the next few years but [illegible] Stevens, Frank Mowingram, Miss Storeshanko, Doreen Mason, [illegible] Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Viola Beeson taught [illegible] 1946.

Then Mr. Duncan Jarvis came in September 1946 and taught until June 1949. Dale Hagel taught the 1949-1950 term. Mrs. [illegible] Sorrell 1950-1951, M[illegible] Nolan [illegible] 1951-1952, Miss June Wiles 1952-1953, [illegible] Mr. Hagel 1953-1954 and Miss Marie Barnett the 1954-1955 term. [illegible] are not sure of their [illegible] taught.

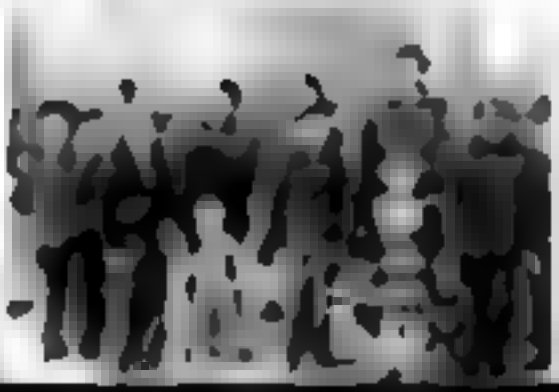
On February 5, 1947 the Ponoka School Division No. 34 was included in subdivision 4.

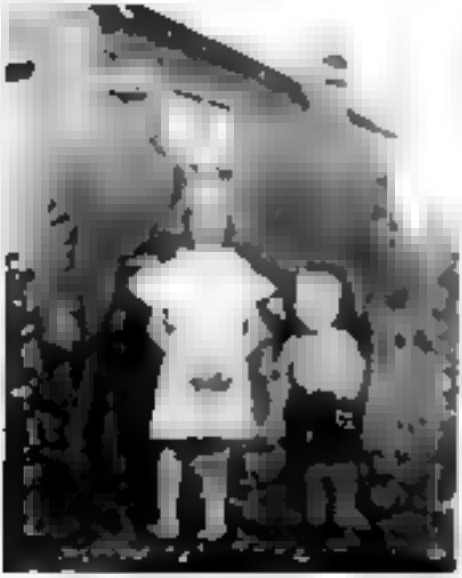


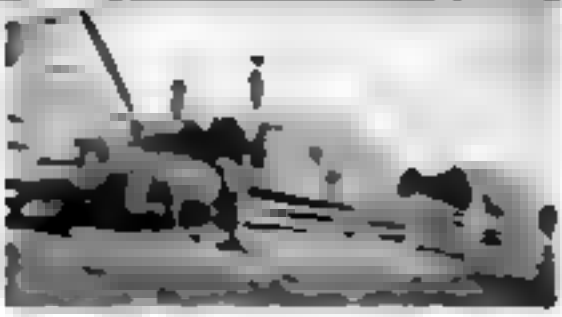
Midland School 1941-1942. Mrs. [illegible] Teacher. Front row left to right: Wayne Blair, Bernard Beeson, Bob Parker, Ken Blair, Mr. [illegible], Allan Dunbar, Ken Blair, Bob Parker, Ken Blair, Helen Watkins, Bob Parker, Betty Jo Wayne Parker and Beverly Ann Blair. Back row: Mrs. Stellings, Bill Sorensen, Ron Blair, Joyce Lebsack, Gloria Beeson and Mrs. Beeson (teacher).

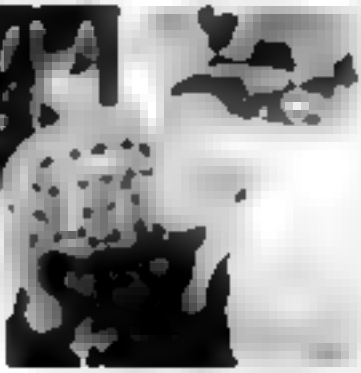
Then on December 22, 1947 all the Municipal District of Ponoka No. 61 and parts of Improvement District No. 19, No. 18 and No. 16 were incorporated in Municipal District of Ponoka No. 1. On January 1, 1962 the name of Ponoka No. 1 was established. Thus the Midland School District No. 3859 was enclosed within the same boundaries and [illegible] small communities such as Gull Lake. Interested parents were involved with school matters at one time or another. Besides those [illegible] mentioned [illegible] were Stewart McArnold, Slim Mazur, Sam Speerstra, R. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas, [illegible] Melvin Simmons, Mrs. [illegible] Mr. and Mrs. [illegible], Fred Shaw, Sam [illegible] and [illegible] families. Mrs. Wagner who played the organ at the [illegible] and Mrs. Flo Booth who [illegible] and [illegible] the school [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] including [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] dollars. [illegible] Fiske was secretary and Harold Lemieux chairman of the board when the school closed.

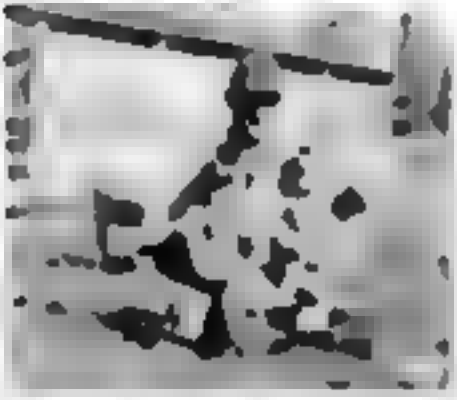
During the 15 years the school was open there were many community [illegible] Christmas concerts, Hallowe'en parties, [illegible] and box socials held at the school. Then with the introduction of school consolidation, the Midland school along with many other country schools was closed and the children bussed to Rimbey.

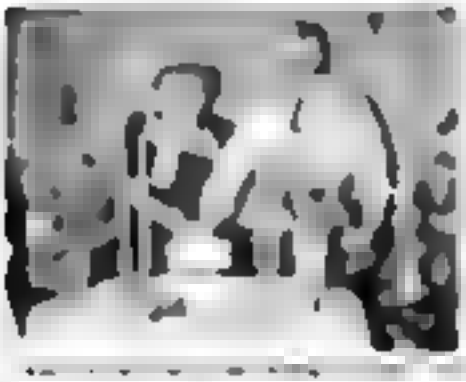


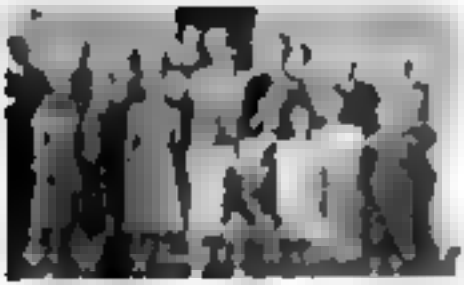


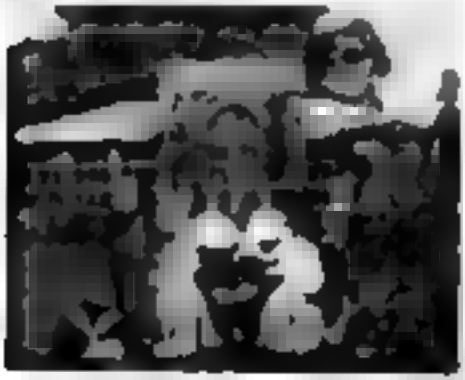


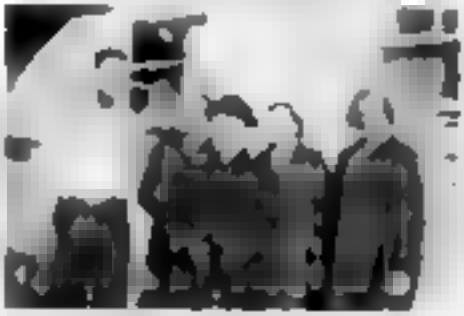












Nanaimo with three children. Daphne in P[illegible] and Oregon with two children. Muriel of Port Alberni with two children and Mabel of Nanaimo with four children. Ben moved to Nanaimo several years ago and passed away in 96[illegible]. His daughters Daphne and Muriel attended the Midland school.

Winnifred Wilhelmi and Leonard Jones Taylor who were [illegible] the Pass in Rocky Mountain House before 1914 and were superintendent of Hobbema Indian Reserve in 1920.

Winnifred Wilhelmi Taylor had two girls and a boy. The youngest daughter Audrey was the first white baby to be born at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

She married Sandy Thompson of the Midland district and lived on the NE 1-42-5 W5 for some years before moving to Creston, B.C.

## GEORGE HENRY EDWARD HARRY AND MABEL WILLIAMS — SW 16-42-5 W5

Harry Williams was a veteran of the 1899 Boer War and because of a physical defect he contracted during this war he was unable to join His Majesty's forces in the first World War.

Three of his brothers had gone to Canada early in the 1900's and in 1916 he followed them.

He took over the Francis Marshall homestead on SW 16-42-5 W5 which joined his brothers land.

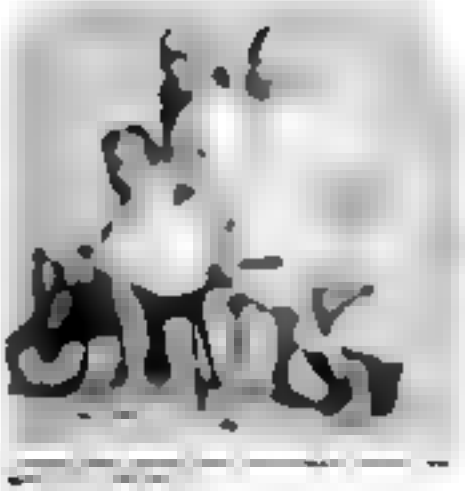
He freighted goods from Edmonton to Rimbey in 1918-19 with his team Prince and Bess bought from Mel Sheppard of Rimbey.

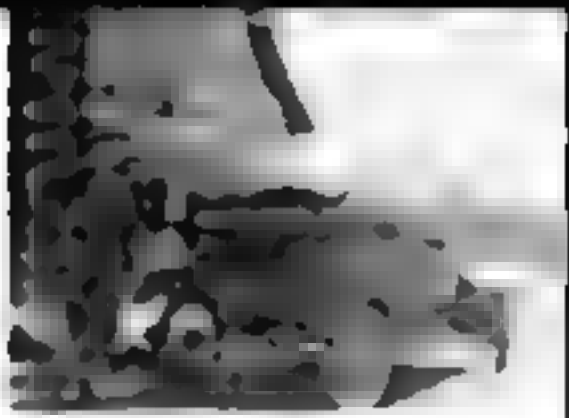
In September 1919 he was joined by his wife Mabel and two children Barbara Joan Norton and Helen. They farmed there until Harry died in 1936. The farm was then taken over by his son Norton Jr. he joined the army in 1943 in World War II. He returned in 1945 bought another quarter and continued farming until he passed away in February 1976. The family farm and

Taken in 918. The small shack on the right is Francis Marshall's original home still standing. Harry and Mabel Williams' home and their pride and joy the garden they took many years at the Rimbey Fair.

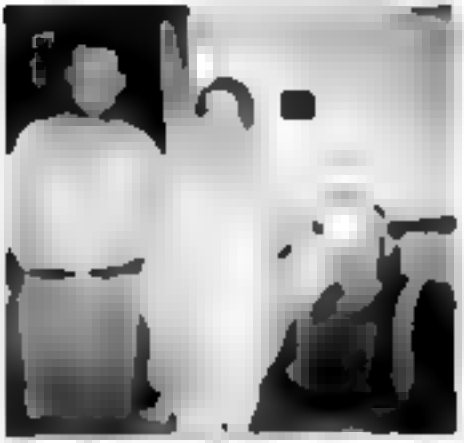
Mabel (Watson) Williams wife of Harry. She had an excellent Musical education and was also a painter in oils and water colors.

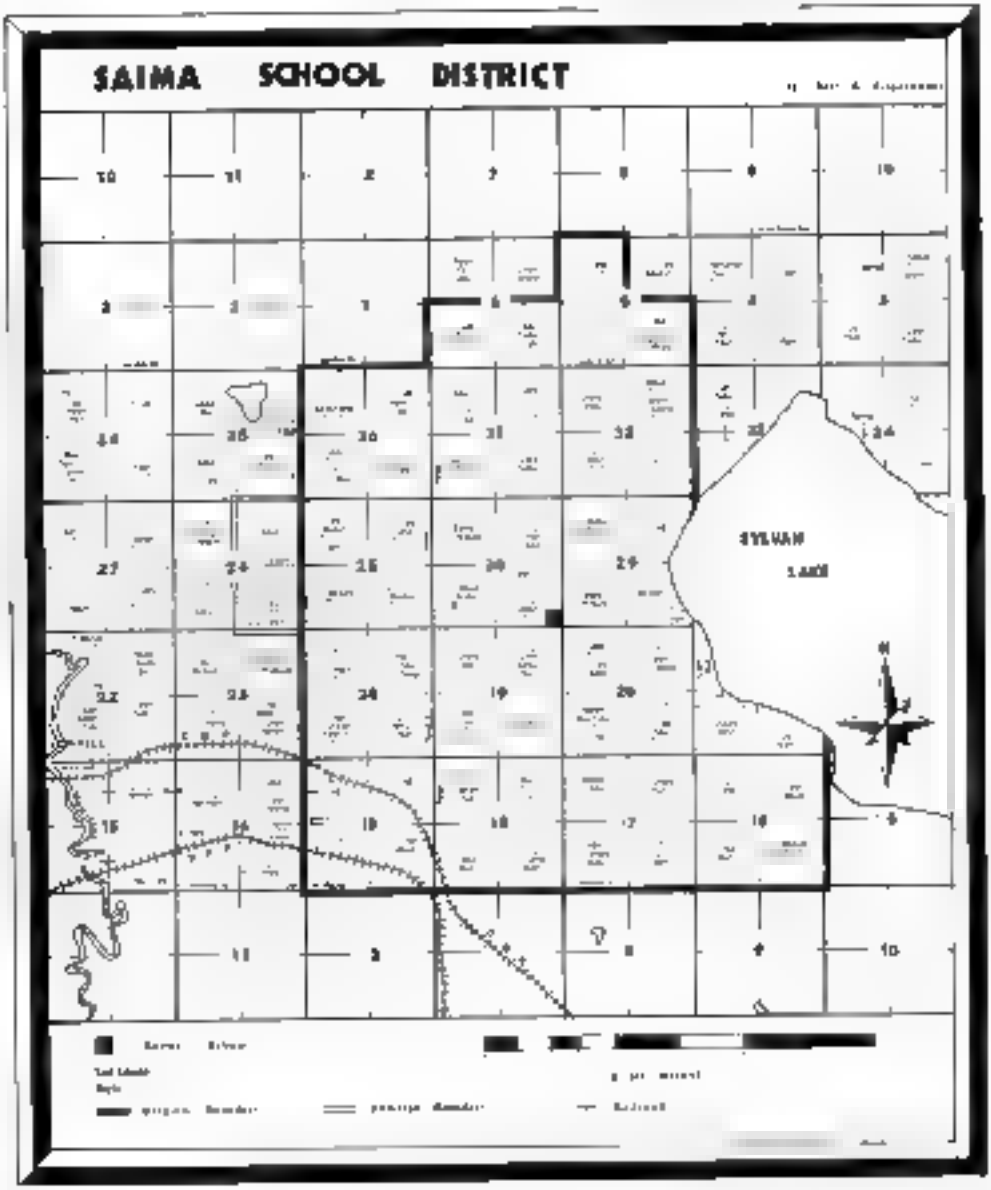
George Henry Edward (Harry) Williams





Norton's are now owned by a nephew Terrance




SAIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SYLVAN LAKE

# Saima

**MATT ANDERSON – by Sylvia Thorkman**

Matt Anderson was born on a farm [illegible] Matt was quite [illegible] the farm [illegible] a logging [illegible] this [illegible] back [illegible] the middle [illegible] living repairing shoes and making harness.

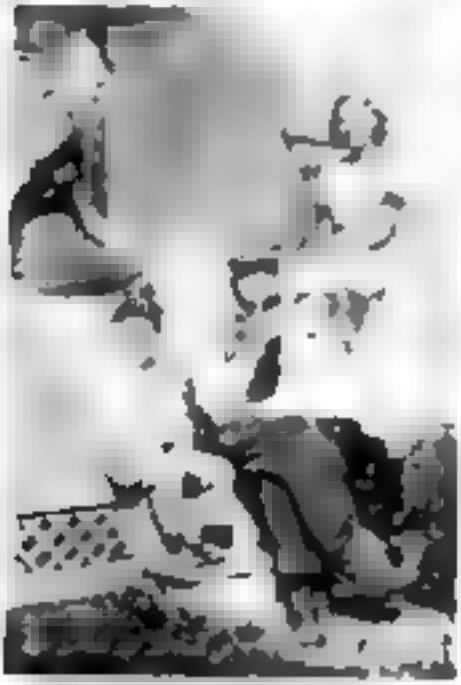
[illegible] passed away in the Hamilton hospital and is buried in the Hamilton cemetery.

**ANGLE CHARLES AND MARY – by Agnes Bardenhagen**

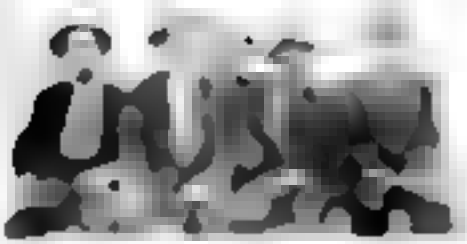
[illegible] Mr. Angle and family came from [illegible] Mr. Angle's brother had settled near Alix. He died [illegible] Mr. Angle had some sheep on his farm.

Charles and Mary Angle

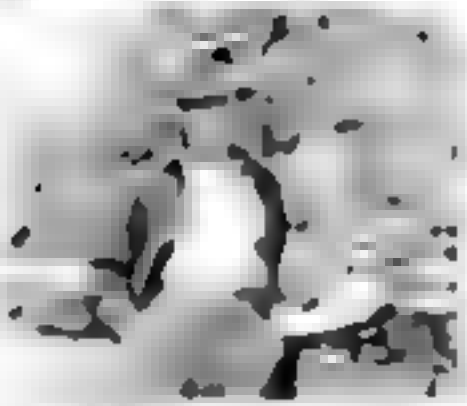
no real home and [illegible] he built a [illegible] on the [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] the [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] stables and other [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] Mr. [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] had died [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] had died [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] Mr. Angle [illegible] Mr. Angle



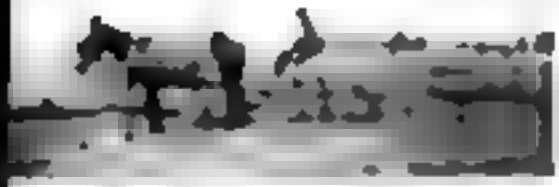
THE JAMES W. GRANT FAMILY — by James

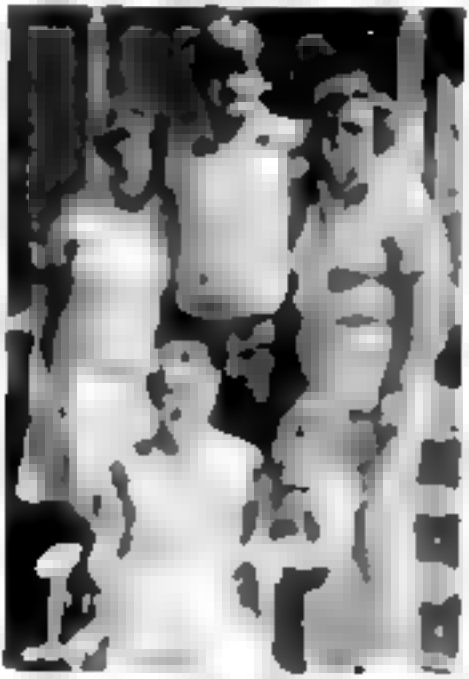


he only way to prevent a
a fate a snowbank



Ida died suddenly on Augu
on the farm till 1960 when I





Melvin Glenn Ignatius, Donna, Blaine Norman

miles east and one mile north of Eckville to the late Wayne Stinson property which he rented for three years while he purchased an acreage one half mile south. He Nw 24-39-W5 q. This is the Melvin was working for Amoco hauling right of ways for pipelines. Dukes took the details of the sale. Mel in partnership he business, which is now known as Holmen and Son construction Ltd.

Jackie married Donna Delbridge of Bentley on August 24, 19 and they have a daughter on. Marie. They reside in the Eckville Trailer ma

ilen resides in Red Deer, Alberta and Thane is still at home and is attending high school in Eckville.

**IGNATIUS, George and Olga**

George Edward Ignatius was born August 20, 1886 in Antelope, a small mining town five miles east of Banff where his father worked in a coal mine. The family left Antelope for Butte, Montana, U.S.A. where his mother operated a boarding house. After the death of his father, his mother thought it wise to leave the big city with the children and return to Canada in hopes of finding a homestead where she could raise the family.

George arrived at the homestead site SW 13-38-4 W5 a the tender age of nine years with his mother, two brothers and two sisters, in the year 1906.

Even though the children were very young it was necessary for them to help in one way or another. George chose to help his mother fence the quarter.

At the age of ten George went to work for a farmer, Martin Anderson who lived in Bentley. There he worked on the threshing crew cutting the twine from the bundles as they were fed into the threshing machine.

Supplementing the farm income George worked in the coal mines in Nordegg and assisted in clearing more land on the home place.

At the age of 28 in the early 1920's just prior to his marriage he purchased the adjoining quarter SW 13-38-4-W5. from Henry Jensen.

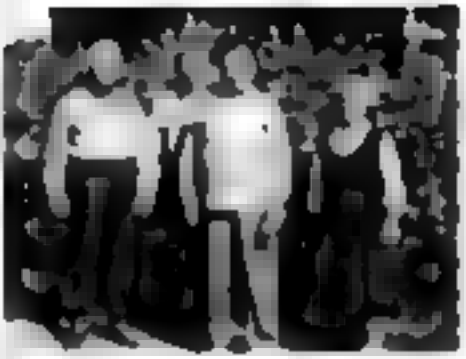
Money was difficult to borrow from banks and George did not have sufficient funds to get married. Rudolph Simpsen kindly lent him $50 to defray the expenses. He was united in marriage to Olga Mary Kuhlmann, aged 21 years 3 days in the United church in Red Deer by the Rev. Churchill. She was the eldest daughter of Abram and Mary Kuhlmann born February 17, 1894 at her home one mile west of Penhold. Olga took her schooling at Mellita. Education was difficult for her as she had to assist on the farm during the spring in all months year ing only the winter months for school attendance.

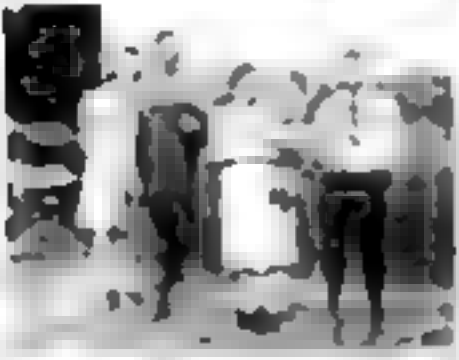
Olga and George Ignatius 1920

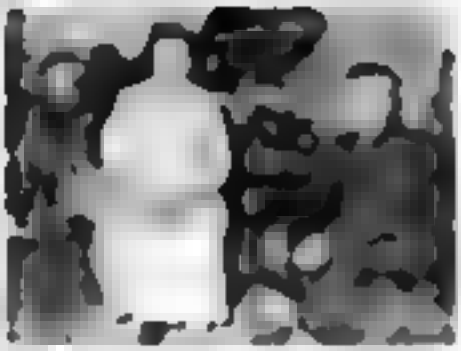
One of her summer daily duties consisted of rounding up the geese on horseback. This to be rid of ticks. There were bulls and mules of men and on the cattle to graze on. Very often a cow would stray away from the herd causing many tiring days of searching. Many times Olga reminisces about an incident happening while in search of cattle.

Quite her horse being a high spirited one sensed a car following on highway and wished to play in the lane. This it did for approximately three quarters of a mile when Olga decided to leave the highway and turn off on a side road. The car also came to a halt and informed her it was a young girl who are now in the movies. The men in the car had been taking movies of their countless performances.

Hurdle jumping was known in those days, for



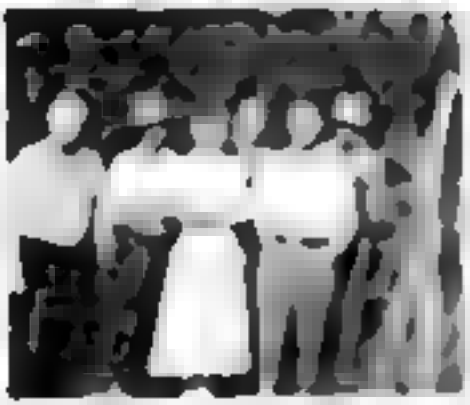


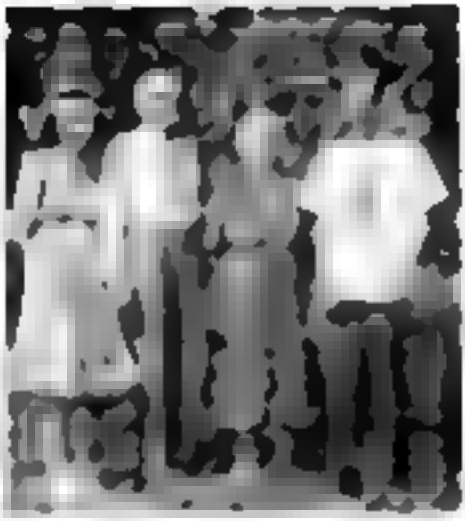


The copper mines in Botte
ed gold about he northern

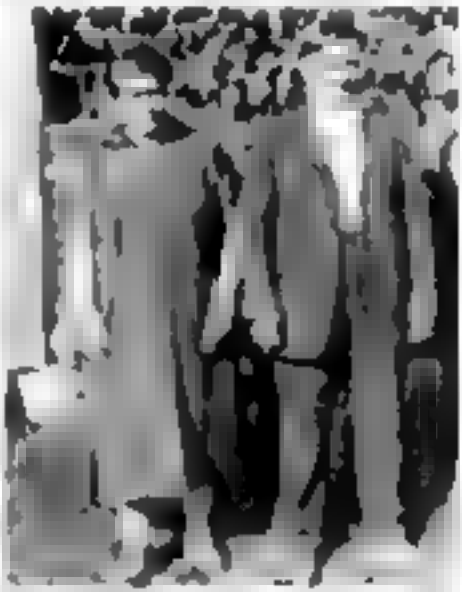
copper mine
on of which I
Cemetery

Mr. aged 78, Mrs. Hilde Koski passed away in



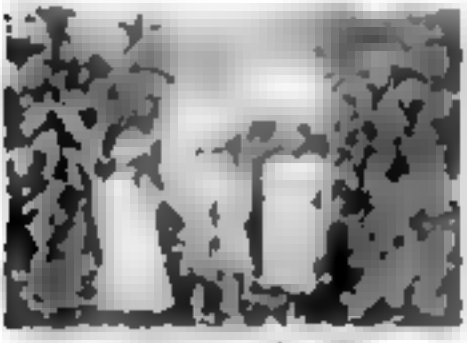


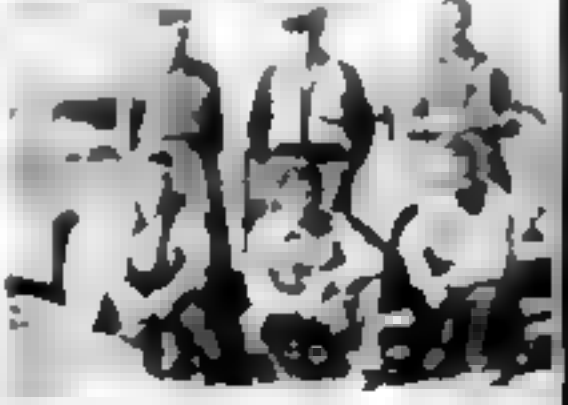
ood. sawing huge woodpiles

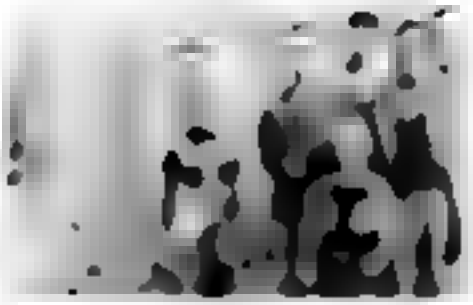


ake months to explore it all. It took all of

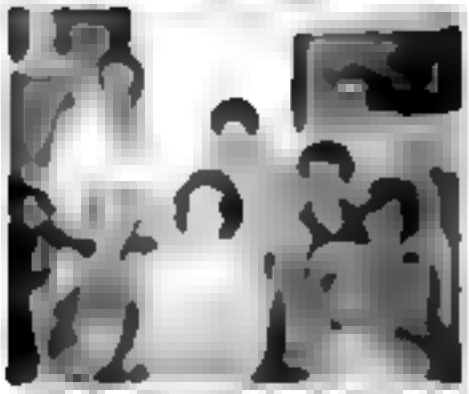
MEGG. JOHEN -- by Sylvia Thorinson

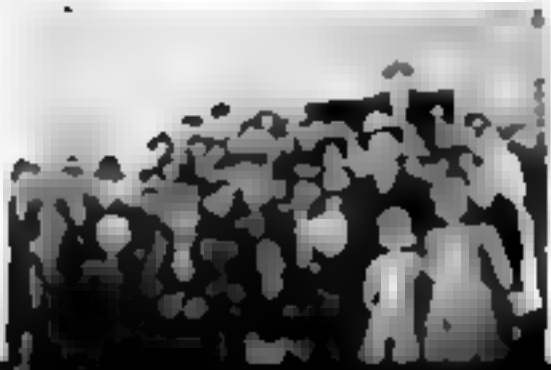


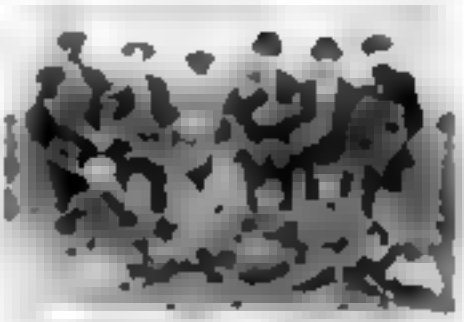


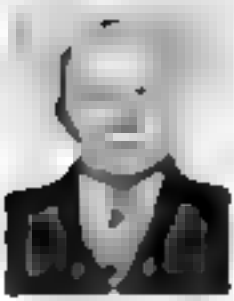


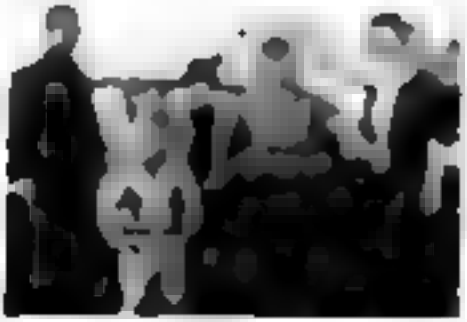
on the Mill girls Dad Jones bought a team

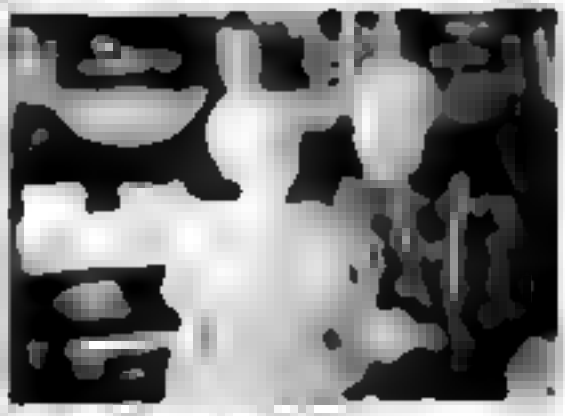






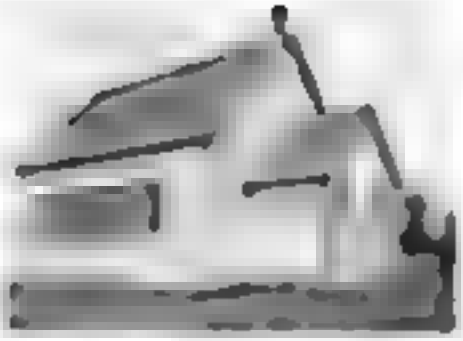


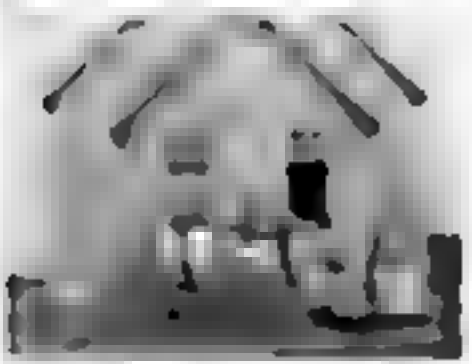


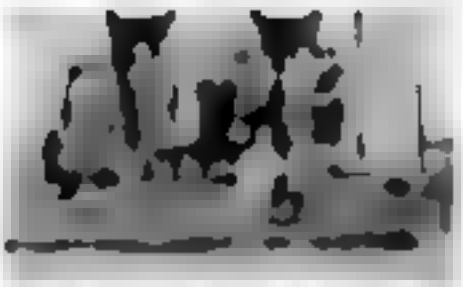


r people who were great fun

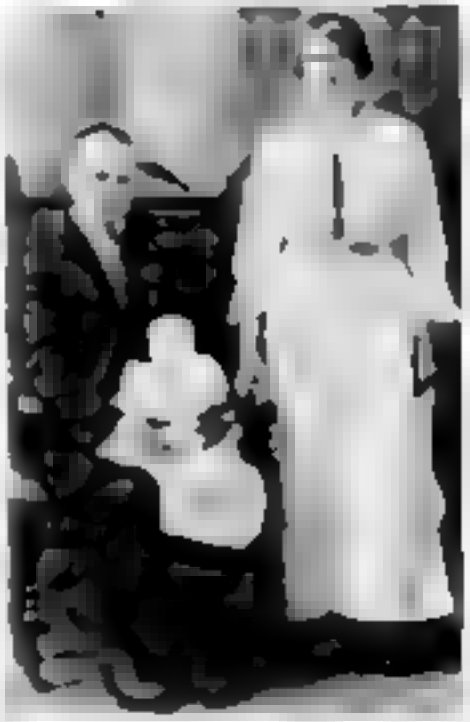
probably stupid. How nice it was for him to take





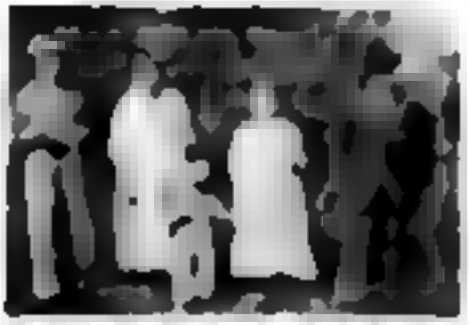


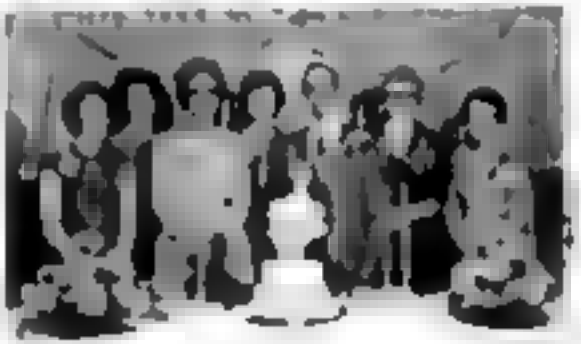
participants on the cross-co
which he helped organize.

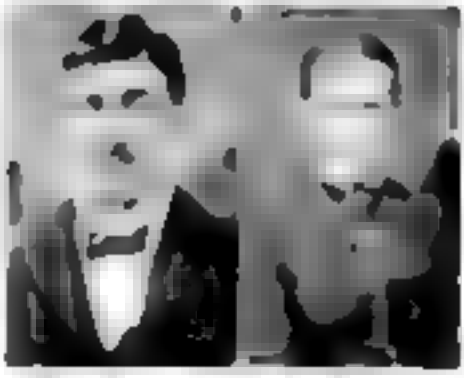


live in Edmonton. Judy is

nearby neighbors, and Oscar had to endure a lot of teasing about this incident for quite some time.







Rock Springs for

# PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT ALTA.

F No 577

*Extracts from Record of Brands. I K F 382 No 6602*

CATTLE BRAND

POSITION LEFT Shoulder

RECORDED PART OF ANTE

NAME OF OWNER Thomas Thornton

POST OFFICE ADDRESS Bokville, Alberta

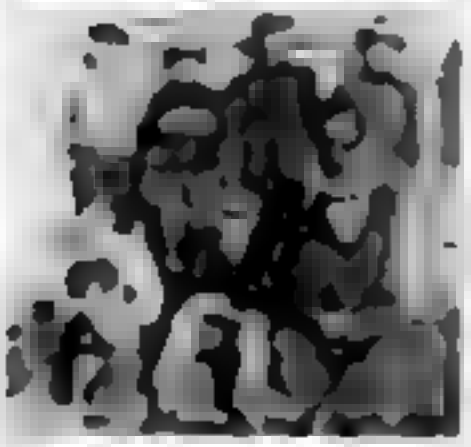
DATE OF RECORD 25th, May, 1916.

DATE OF CANCELLATION 31st December 1920

*I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of the Brand Act of the Province of Alberta and amendments thereto, as is appeared on the* Twenty-fifth, *day of* May, *A.D. 19*16

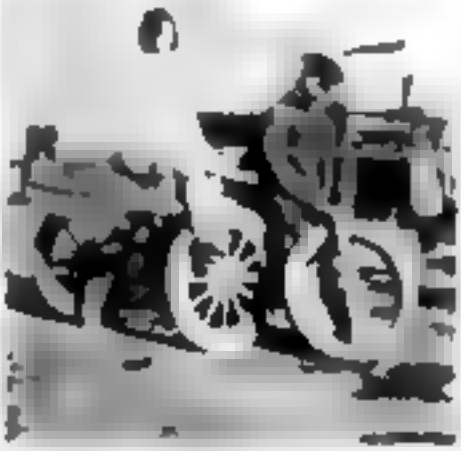
*Medicine Hat, Alta.* 25th, May. 1916

*Recorder of Brands.*



on the construction and also worked at bridge building.

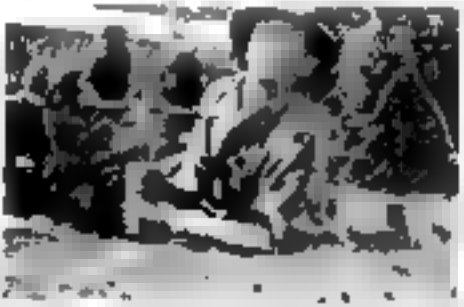
[illegible] filed on a homestead in the [illegible] he built a log house, [illegible] and broke land. When he got [illegible] he went back to Minnesota and [illegible] and married [illegible]. He returned to the homestead and [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible]



Easter creation

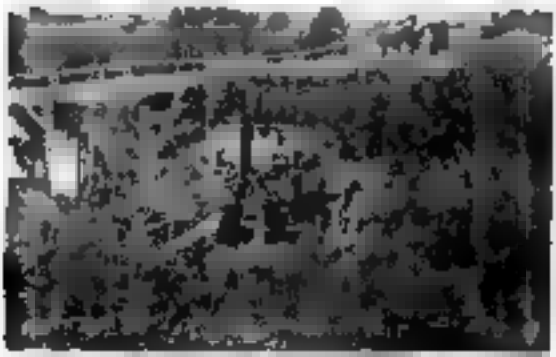
Annie Patterson and Kate MacKenzie planning up pennants during the War

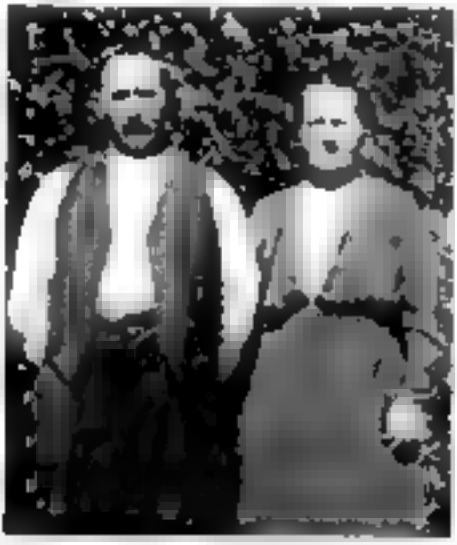
Women Anglicans - the next wave



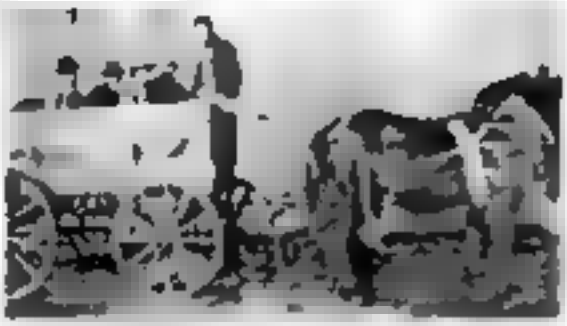
Dear Vegas was a gas at times. Rinky and Jenny had very heavy pals. They don't drink but it appears and were in town the week of the Jubilee. It was a blast and we got the crew to parade at Mrs. Vegas' direction on the hood of the garbage

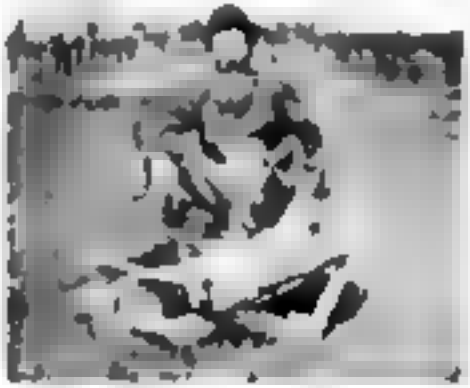
Accidents happened then too

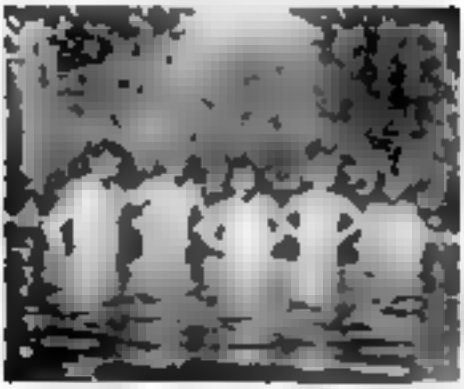


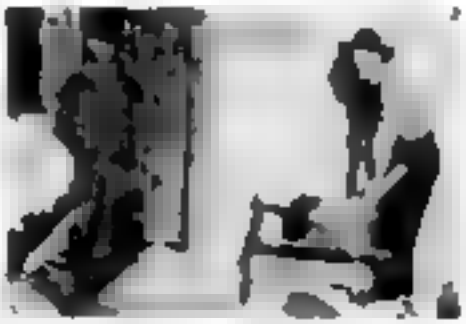


Mr. and Mrs. Frank Noble, 50th Wedding Anniversary





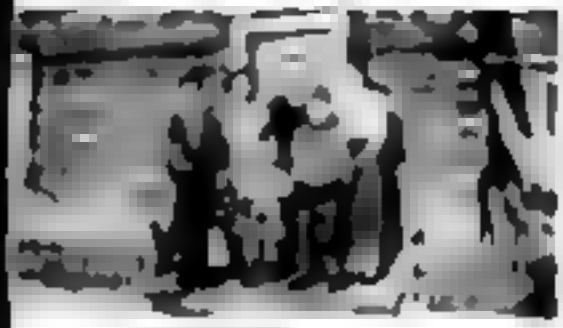


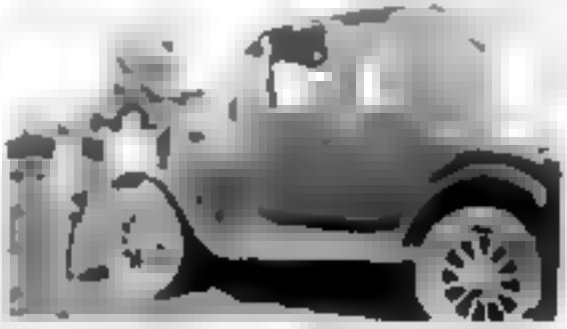


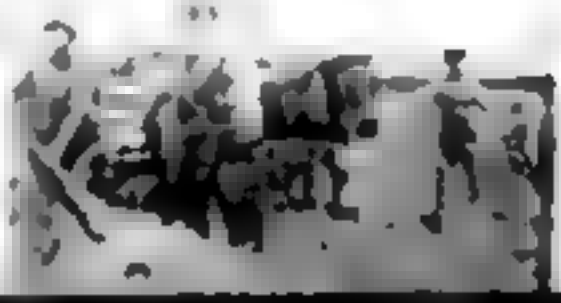
# Withrow, Wolfe

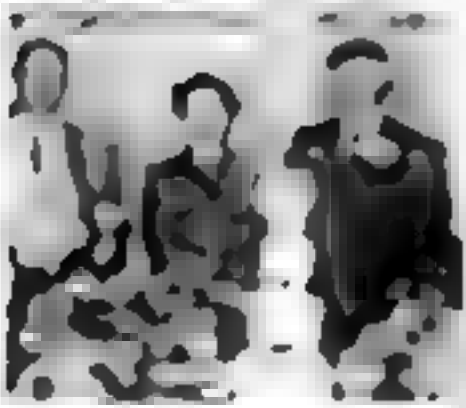
to his having worked all day at an anvil between

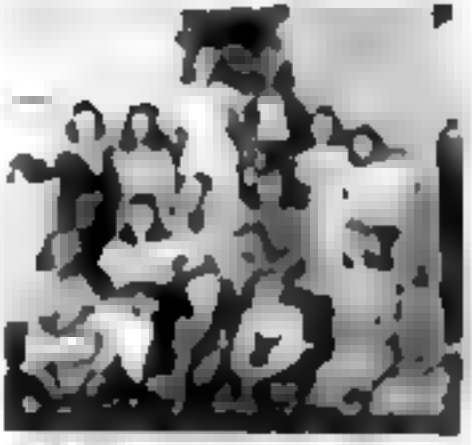
Harry Easton, being a gifted violinist and his











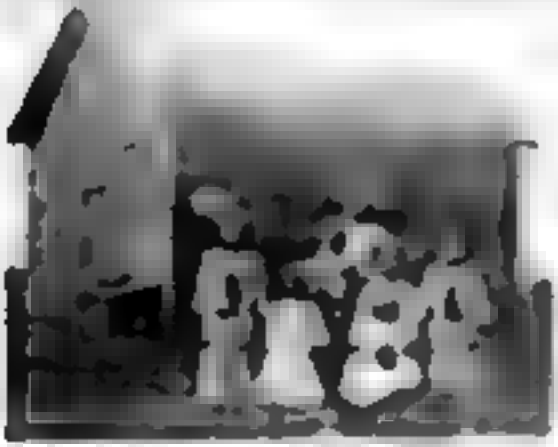
[redacted]

[redacted]

homestead was sold to Mat and daughter Ilma

[redacted]

[redacted]

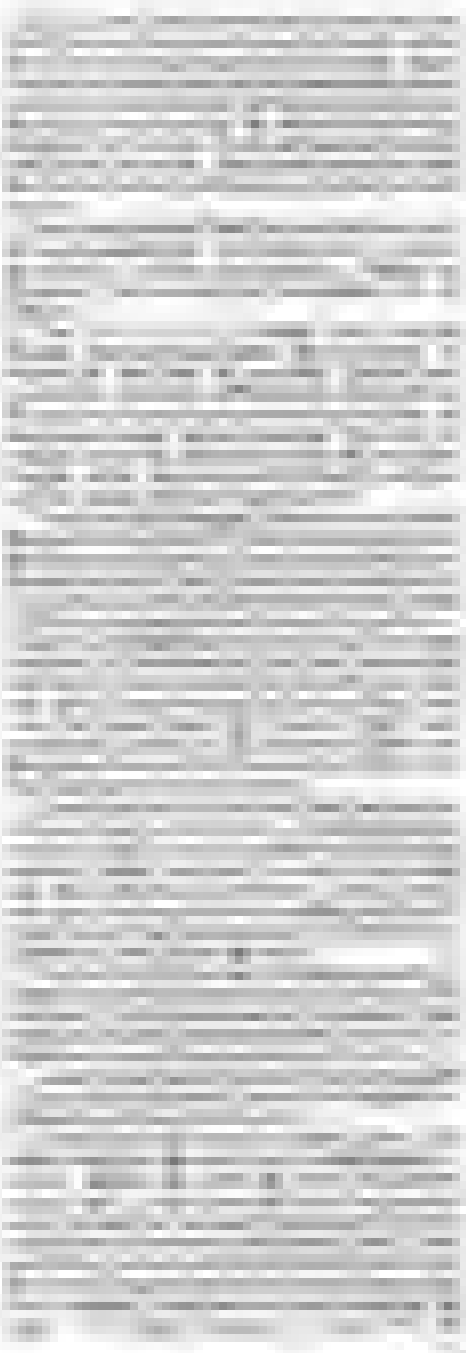


Albo began the job of following Walsh's tracks

cracks. The roads were
places. About 30 people

searchers walked in a line through the area

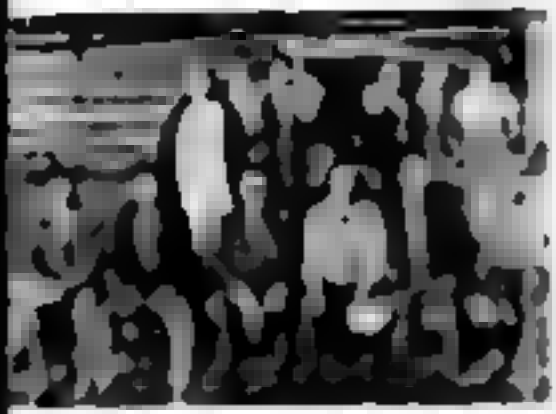
of the Witches' Story)



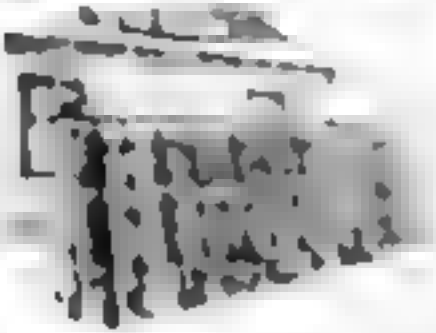
[redacted]

[redacted]

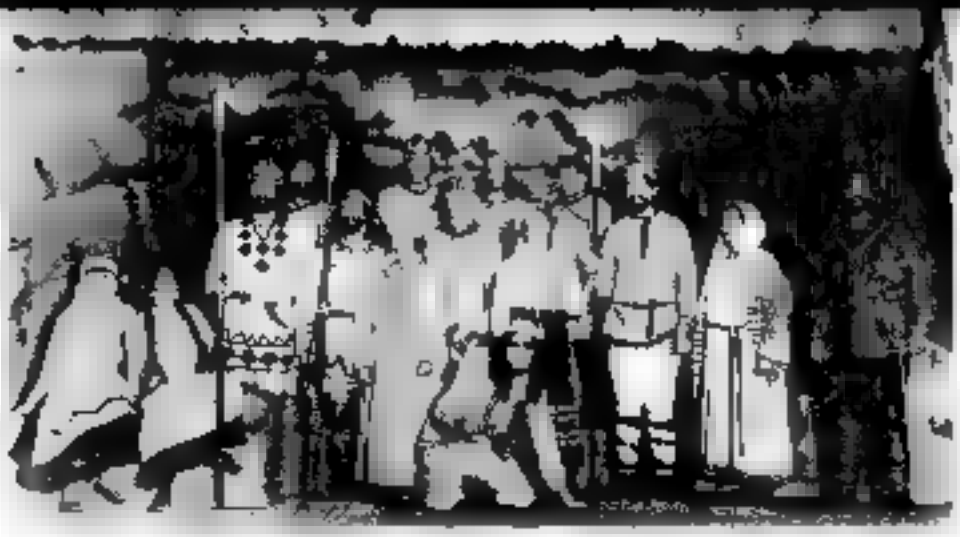
[redacted]



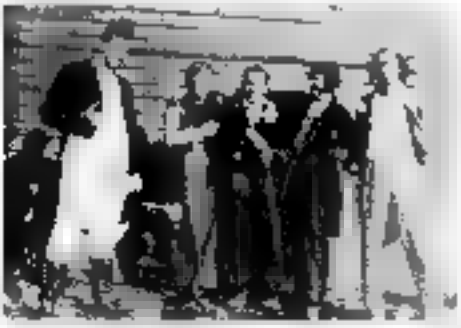
ERA IN HAMVILLE AND DISTRICT — by



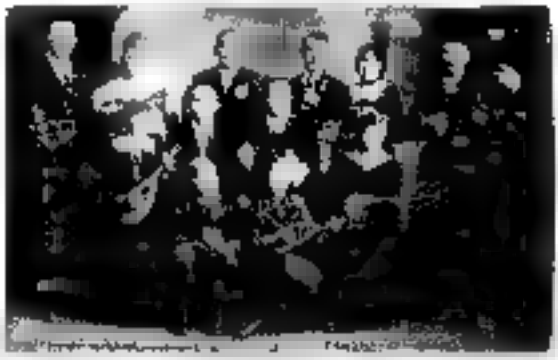
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [



Cast in a Female Play at the opening of the Schools (left)



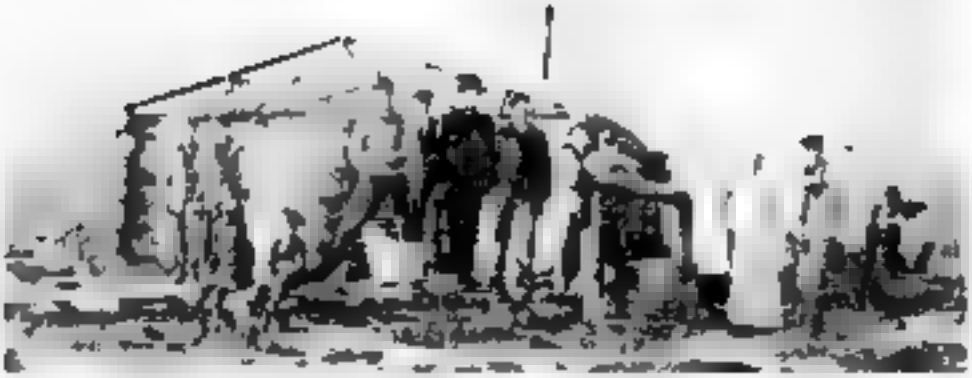
Missionaries to the early days

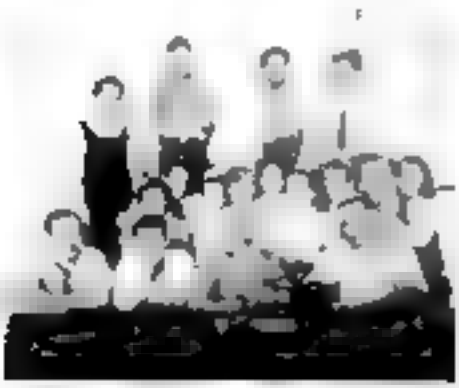


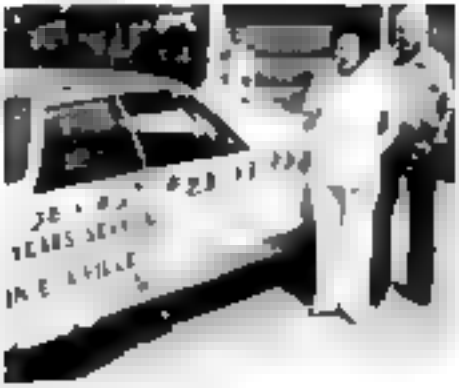
John Pitcairn's hand before the First World War

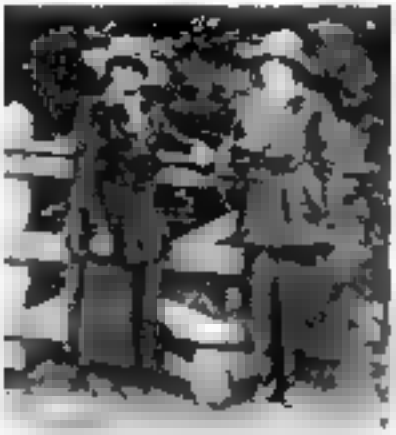
Classes at Work: A. to R. John Thomas in spinning, and Mrs [illegible] Stewart's workshop

Sears Bull in his bedding rugs for a real Lion.







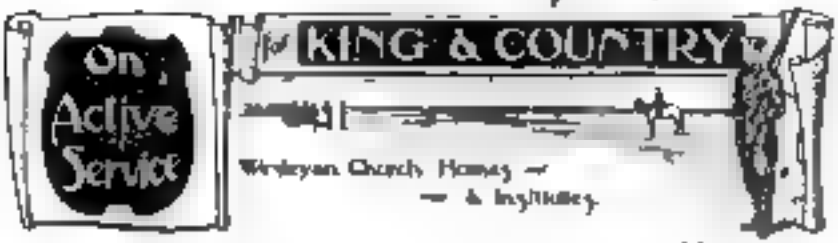


On Active Service

YMCA

# WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

15th June-1918




Nov 29th 1916

No. [redacted] Co. C Bat. 196th Regt.

[redacted]

Well, there has been half-a-dozen of the 191st men "napped" already, but I think I'll be safe enough, alright. We take our turn in the line again [redacted] They are feeding us very good just now in

J. E. Lewis

Date Nov. 14th 1917

LETTER IS LIKE THE ONE AS WE WERE SEVERELY CENSORED DURING THE FIERCE BATTLES IN FRANCE IN '18. FINALLY LETTERS WERE NOT ALLOWED AT ALL. HOPE THE ABOVE TYPE OF LAND.

# Roll of Honour

Eskville Veterans

Francis W. Andrew

Fred Benson

W. T. Betts

Anthony A.H. Bytynes

Arnold R. Bytynes

John A. Bytynes

John James Condos

Thomas E. Cunningham

Walter J. Cruickshank

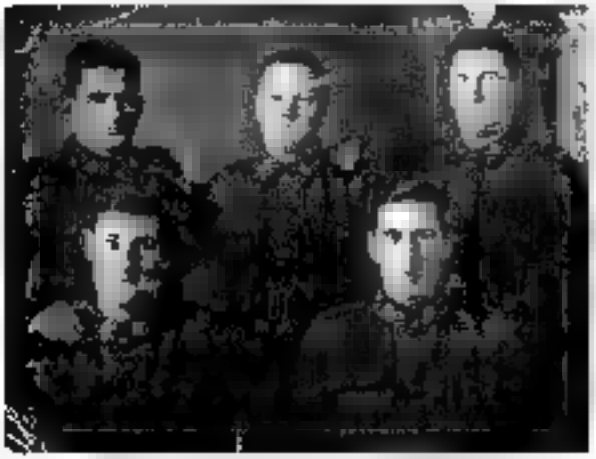
Harold Dale

Norman Eastman

W.E. Flynn

J.A. Hagland

Edwin Herbert

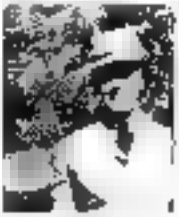


Standing: Bill Cottle, Martin Cottle and Merton Cottle. Seated: Rudy Backstrom and Elsa McCleary.

Wilbur Hinkle

George Ignatius

Wayne Ignatius



Gerald Johnson

John Eric Kalaveras

August Kasper

Jack Kato

Alfred William Kind

John Charles Klak

Floyd Kraft

Fred Kraft

Robert Kraft

Albert [illegible]

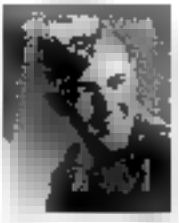
Clarence [illegible]

George Lutz

Simon Markusen

Otto Mehl

John Mehl



Helen Mehl

William Marks

Mark McDonald

James B. Merriam

Bill B. Merriam

Cedric Meyers

Donald Stanley Milner

Rudy Moreau

Charles Mund

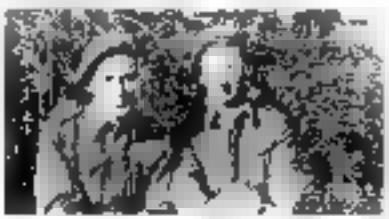
Harry Mund

Lawrence Mund

Vesta Mund

Donald Chase

R.M. Simpson



William and Thomas Smith

George Steinberger

Rosina Steinberger

Edward Stevens

Wayne Stevens

Frank Talato

Chris Talato

Evan Thomas

Arthur M. Thornton

Peter Bragg Townsend

Ray Talarico

Alma Wood

Ronald Wood

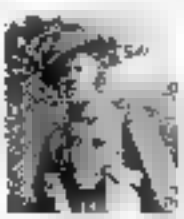
Mr. and Mrs. Hess Wood

Thelma and Vicki Wood

Ashville Honor Roll

Bessie Church Scroll

Benjamin Veterans



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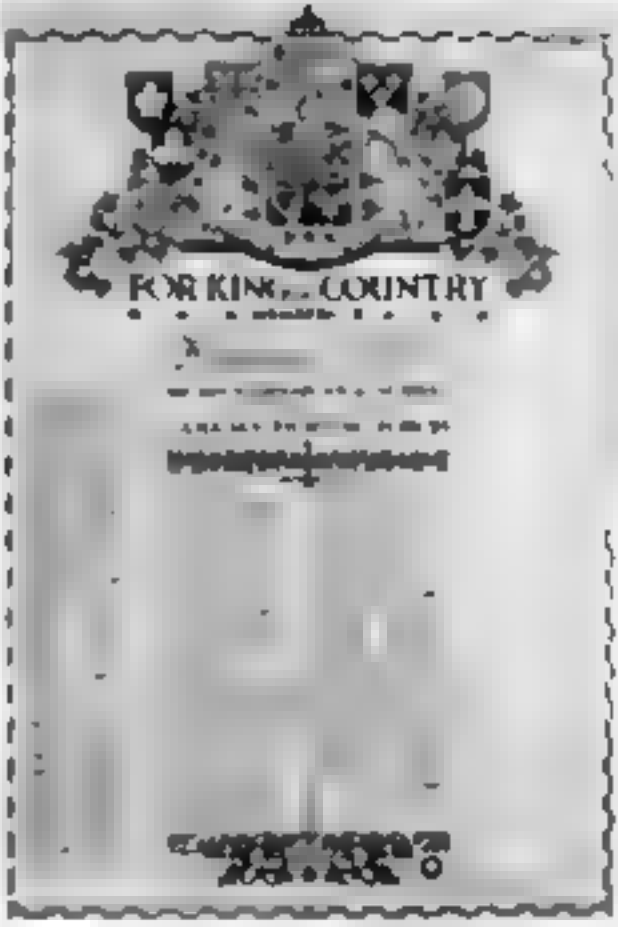
Albert Cook

Rudy Hays

Robbie Jones

Preston Kilpatrick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Condor Veterans

Glenlee Veterans

Last West Veterans

Herbert Baierbach

Norman Bauer

Edwin Edwin Bowers M.M.

Bob and Yvonne Fox

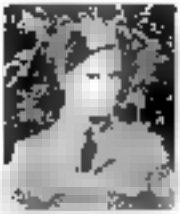
Orvo Hautala

George Jones

Stan and Walter McKinnon

Chester Moses

Lamar Moses



William Perkins

David and Lloyd Stuber

Dave Thompson

W.S. Thompson

Leedale Veterans

Cpl Melvin Adam M61617

F/O Dallas E. Bell

Edward Bell

Gordon Leslie Bell

Roy Bell

Spt Arthur W. Chapman

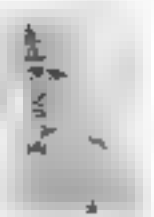
Pte Harry Klopotic

Hugh Lindsay

O.V. Uzzle Cpl.

Edwin Teddy Marsh and John Marsh

John Marsh 3433365



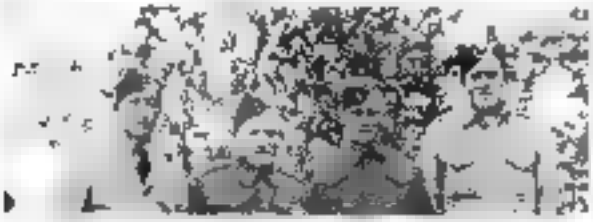
Pte Thomas Henry Marsh

Joseph C Randolphegis

George Boyce

Valmi Travis

Roy Bell, Ronald Woolgate, Bert Watty, Dick Chappell and Melvin Ada



Gordon Baldridge, George Boyce, Art Baldridge and Charles Carroll

Castleville Veterans

Ethel Johnston, C. W.A.C.

Gabriel Phillips

Eric Mace

Cliff McBeth

Percy McCall

Harold Purcell

Samuel Smith

Jim Thompson

John Thompson

Medicine Valley Veterans

Jarvis Maddox

# Midland Veterans

Arthur Wilkes Jr

Arthur Wilkes Sr.

George H.E. Williams

Harold Chinnock

L.A.W. Gladys Bailie

Spt. Cecil Bailie

Pte. Oliver Chiles

Flight Spt. Wm. Bailie

C.W.A.C. Anita Bailie

Pte. Bristol A. Harris

Pte. Mary Jane Hayward

Walter Ernest Hayward

Cfn. E. Audrey Hallberg

L.A.C. Clifford Hallberg

L.A.C. Ingmar Hallberg

Cpl. John Branco

Trooper Morris A. Parker

Pte. Lawrence Stocker

Pte. Vinay Stoffan

George H.N. Wilkes

Roll of Honour

Roll of Honour
CANADIAN ACHIEVE SERVICE

The organizational meeting of the Eckville and District Historical Society was held January 31 1977 at the home of Mrs. Helen Terry

What an enthusiastic group they were Eckville and District was going to compile a book of their heritage

Oh We thought this would be a neat challenge, everyone seemed like mature intelligent individuals who would enjoy working together

We were soon to find that we had problems. Due to these delays some of our pioneers are not with us to see our book in print

Our book will no doubt have errors and omissions. Please accept our apologies If it had not been for sheer determination on the part of some members this book would not have materialized.

God willing, in the near future Eckville will compile a follow-up book and hopefully things will go more smoothly

The Book Committee

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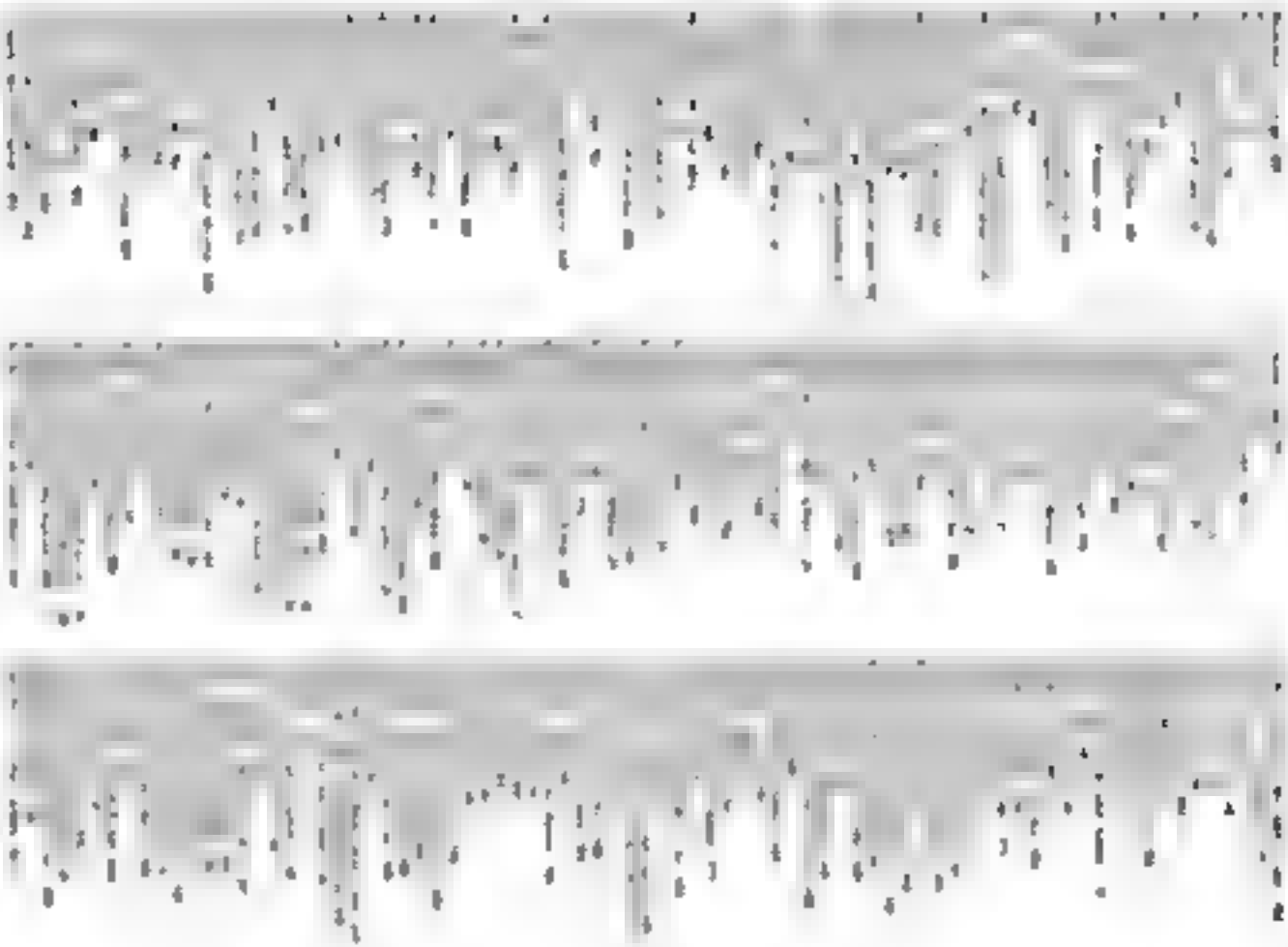

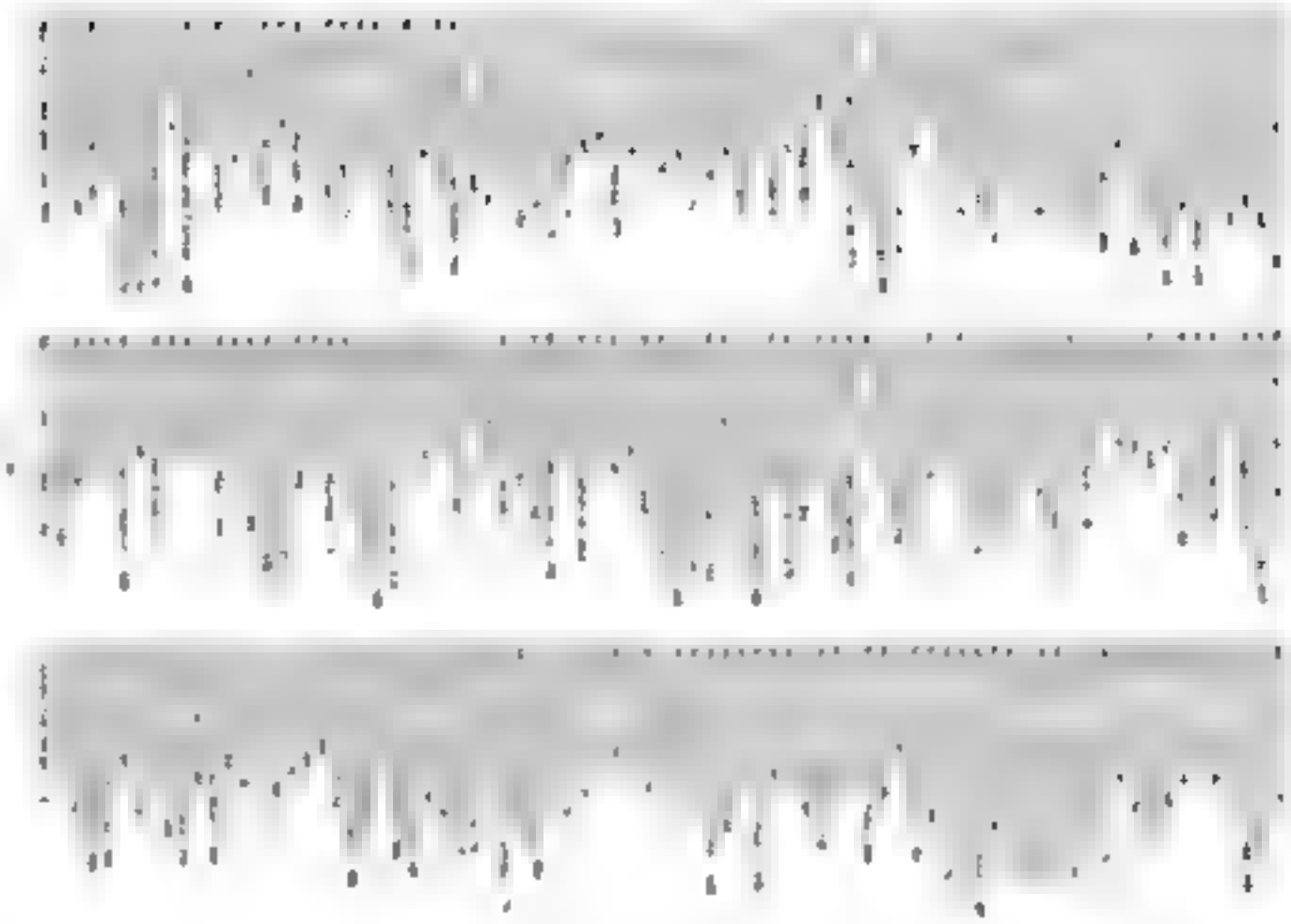

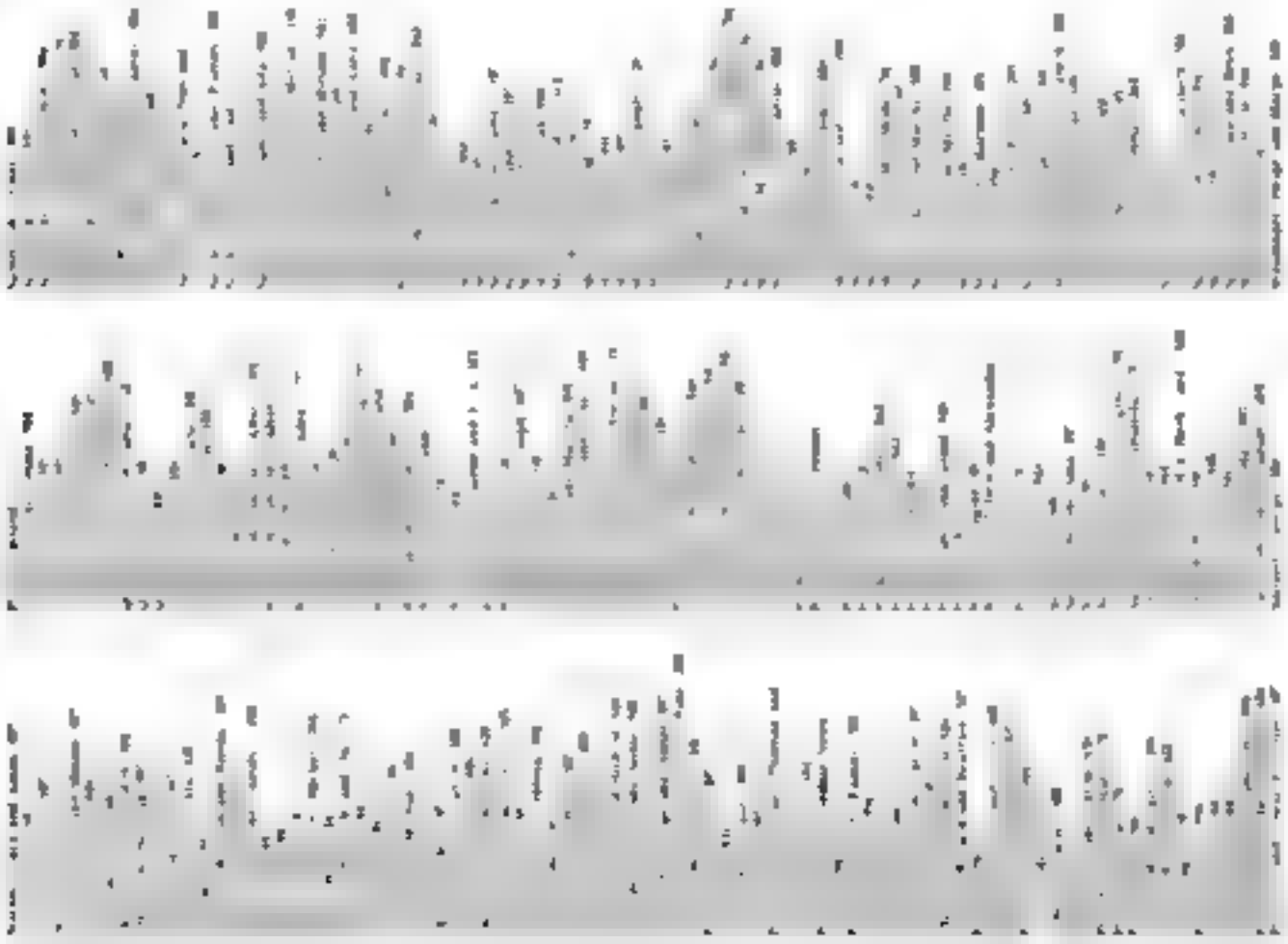

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank You for the many examples of courage, devotion, and dedication to life which we find written on each and every page of this book.

When times were hard and difficult, we thank You for making Your presence known to our ancestors and all who have gone before, those brave pioneers, both men and women, who have guided us and prepared for us a better way of life.

To them and to You we dedicate this book and we pray that, as it is read by succeeding generations, all may find inspiration and enjoyment in its contents, thus enabling them to continue in that great pioneering spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Rev. L. George Macdonald

It is hard for us to imagine how this beautiful Central Alberta countryside looked to those first white explorers who resolutely ventured westward more than two centuries ago. Highways, scattered towns and land developments have altered the landscape some, but the overall beauty of this area remains relatively unchanged, and it is still possible to share, in imagination, their thrill of excitement and challenge.

To those first pioneers and their families who came, struggled and endured and to their descendents this land has been good. But lest we think that the settlers who came from other parts of Canada, or other parts of the world, enjoyed the advantages we have today we must pause briefly and look back over the years. I think it is tremendously important to take time to record the intimate local history that is part of the rich background tapestry of the Echville area, record the names, the pictures, and the events which are in fact an integral part of our heritage - and legacy.

The history of a nation is conveyed with broad brushstrokes which record major events affecting the future of the country. The history of a people is a finely etched recording of day to day personal events, the recalling of names and times and places, the reliving of joys and griefs closely shared with loved ones, friends and neighbours.

I am sure this book will provide an invaluable link between our treasured past and our exciting future.

M. Helen Hunley

M. Helen Hunley
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Rocky Mountain House Constituency

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Eckville and District Historical Society acknowledges with gratitude the many sources of help received in compiling this book

We thank those who researched old records and the devoted people who wrote numerous letters, travelled many miles encouraging people to write their family stories. If not for themselves for their children and grandchildren. We also wish to thank our devoted typists and proof-readers who worked so diligently

Deserving special mention are those long time residents of the area who made available their personal knowledge, recorded memoirs and photographs.

And for a different kind of help much patience and great understanding over the past year, a heartfelt thank you to our families We know roast beef would have tasted better than hot dogs.

No doubt you will find many errors and omissions, but none of us has ever written a book, we have tried to be accurate in all aspects and if we have missed some information please accept our apologies.

This has been truly a fascinating experience, there have been many ups and downs, as with everything else

We hope you will enjoy reading this history book as much as we have enjoyed compiling it

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Dedication - - -

# Indian Tales

**THE BUFFALO POUND — by Bob Campbell**

There is a buffalo pound on our home place. This pound was used by the Indians. They would watch for the buffalo as they came down to the lick, then they would chase the animals up the valley to the pound and kill them. The Indians had dug a ditch to lower the water in a slough, so they could build a catching pen.

There was a cram and curing pit. In the summer time after the animal was butchered the meat would be cut in pieces, wrapped with grass then rolled in the mud at the mud hole. This was their way of cooling, or getting the animal heat out of the meat, in the shortest possible time to avoid spoiling. After that, the meat would be smoked.

There is another pound up near Lampman Valley. There is a big swamp near Squaw Hill, west of Open Creek Dam, where there are narrow holes and a buffalo lick. Indians would chase the buffalo over the east end of Squaw hill. They had a cram and curing pit there too.

**THE INDIANS AND THE COW — a story by Bob Campbell**

Mr. R. C. Block was always having fun with the Indians. One day in March, 1930, three Indians came through here on the Hudson Bay trail. Our cow had just had a calf. Mr. Block asked the Indians to come and look at the new calf. The cow took one look and gave chase. One Indian went along side of the barn and held on to some rails that were there. Another Indian went over the manure pile and the third jumped the fence. My brother Clifford, was there and popped through the fence. The cow hit the fence right behind him.

About two weeks later the same Indians came by.

Mr. Block said, "How would you boys like to buy a new calf?"

The said "NO, no, your crazy cows do not like Indians, they give chase."

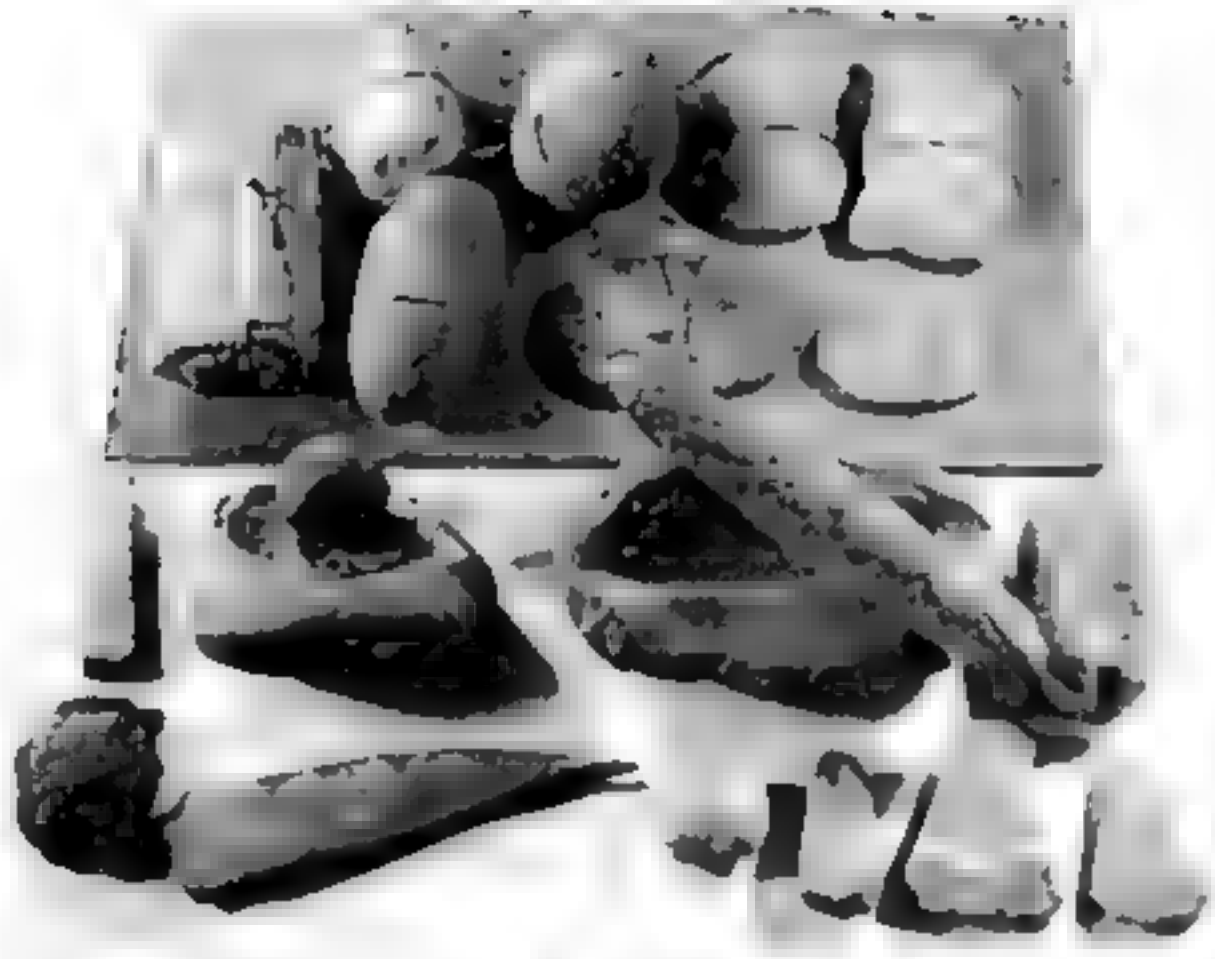
When I see one of the Indians in Rocky Mountain House he often asks me if we still have those crazy cows that chase the Indians.

**INDIAN ARTIFACTS — by Bob Campbell**

Mr. Block came in the spring of 1921, just west of where Aurora school now stands. I came in the spring of 1930. Before I came Mr. Block had found some arrow heads. I have found some every year since.

There are some arrow heads that date back to 6500 to 7000 B.C. I have a spear near 7000 years old and several clam shells which are 12 million years old. I have had archealogists from Glenbow Foundation and the Archives of Alberta confirm the ages of these finds.

Bob Campbell showing a portion of his arrow head collection



In my collection are hide skinners, battle axes corn pounders, a corn roller stone hoe, wheat stone, tomahawk, pemmican hammers, hide scraper tanning tools, petrified raw lava burned lava and petrified wood These have all been found on the SW 4-5-5

We started a guest book on October 5, 1975 recording the names of people who came to see the artifacts. It has signatures from Norway Denmark, Holland Australia, Albuquerque New Mexico and all parts of Alberta and British Columbia So far 195 people have signed the book

Some old Indians tell that Rev Gaetz from Red Deer did fur trading and missionary work in this area around 1885

Jack Bunk an archaeologist from the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton came to see my artifacts and look at the buffalo pound They will be doing some digging in the spring and summer of 1978 and will give us a record of what they find

**PIONEER TALES OF THE INDIANS IN THE CARLOS AREA – by Bob Campbell**

Jonah Strawberry tells of how he and another Indian named Joshua shot a young grizzly bear in about 1898, up on Kinnikinic hill between sections 9 and 4-42-5, east of Ival Johnston's buildings. The old Indians say that they never heard of a grizzly bear coming this far out from the mountains before

The old timers tell me that all the Indian families had dog teams, and big dogs that they used for packing. They tell me a big dog can pack 35 to 40 pounds on their back. Josie Strawberry had a pack dog in the 1940's. Two brothers, Len and Rudy Kruger, who lived on the SW 5-41-5 Glen Bradshaw's place had a dog team

Jim Yellow Face had around 75 head of horses in the old days They were branded Y/F Yellow Face kept his horses in the Lampman Valley He camped for years on the S½ 17-42-5 near a slough that is between two hills that run north west

Other Indians camped on the SE 8-42-5 and in Campman Valley. They trapped for furs in winter and dug seneca root in spring and summer. They sold these things to Louis Robinson, a fur buyer who lived at Leedale. They also cleared land for farmers, and in fall they stooked grain and helped with threshing.

Old timers also tell me of the existence of two totem poles up by Gimlet creek.

The Indians had sundances up in the area around SE 8-42-5. They travelled through our home place and we have seen as many as 150 teams and wagons go up for one sundance. The least we ever saw in any year was 68 wagons. Some of the Indians that came here were from Montana, North Dakota, White Court, Hobbema and Gleichen. Ival Johnston bought the SE 8 in about 1944 and the Indians moved their sundance grounds farther north.

There are some Indian graves on the corner of NW 9-42-5. Old timers tell of seeing guns, blankets, and footwear left on the graves. There are also two graves on the east of Kinnaminie Hill, NW 34-41-5.

I've heard tell of a Stoney Indian who lived on the E½ 23-41-5 by a small lake in the centre of the land. He had a cabin and a small dug out that he used for a cooler. He was buried near the lake somewhere, on the land later owned by Fred Valouch and Harold Allen.

Some of the Indian families who lived in the area in the early days were named Strawberry, Brenner, Red Bear, Little Bear, O'Chiese, White Calf, Beaver Bone, Iron Bow, Lagrell, Big Child, Daychief, Yellow Eyes, Yellow Face, Sunchild, Crookedlegs, Little John, Goodrunner, Joshua, Red Calf, Whitford, Todd, Frenchemier, Joseph, Dan, John and Bill Swan.

**STRAWBERRY J. — by Bob Campbell**

Josie Strawberry, son of Jonah Strawberry, lived on the SW 15-42-5, by a spring. He built a log cabin. Josie bought some cattle from Jack Davies and Jimmy Smith around 1940 or so. He put up hay for Bill Gardner on shares for several years around 1945.

In 1946 Josie and Bill Swan cleared land in the district for Rob Ervin.

In around 1956 Josie moved his family and livestock out to the Sunchild-O'Chiese Reserve.

## Indian Given Blanket

## For IIIth Birthday

[illegible] for the white man. In those days, hunting and trapping kept them busy and their squaws and children looked after the [illegible]

Mr Eckford after whom Eckville was named.

# Eckville

**HISTORY OF ECKVILLE**

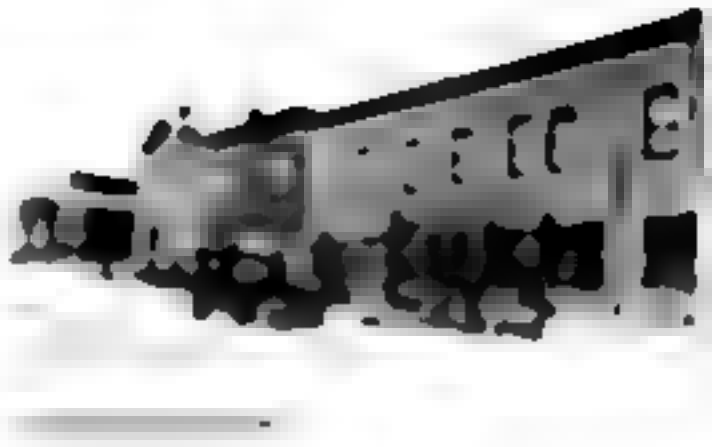
Mr Arthur Eckford came to this district in 1902 He was the original owner of NW 22-39-3 W5. This was later subdivided and became known as Eckville or as we call it today Old Eckville Jarvis Onofryszyn now owns the land where Old Eckville was situated and would be about a mile and a half north east of our present townsite. The actual subdivision map is dated April 2, 1906. Mr Eckford donated the land for the first store and post office, and Eckville was named after him. Their first son, Thomas, was born on the farm on October 20, 1915, second son, Edward was born in Red Deer, May 14, 1917 and number three son, Arthur, was born in North Vancouver on May 13, 1920. To our knowledge, Mrs Eckford still lives in Vancouver Mr J H Killick built the store and was the first postmaster in 1905, having the two combined in the one building A B. Koski (August hauled the mail from the Evarts post office to Old Eckville for five and a half years. His pay was $1 70 for the round trip. His contract with the government was dated December 1, 1905. The mail was hauled by team with a rig that Mr Koski made himself Fritz Kinna then took over this mail haul from Mr Koski. It was in 1904 that the bridge north of Eckville was built over the Medicine River Mr Killick sold his business to a Mr Rene Bruyseraed and moved to the town of Rocky Mountain House. In 1910, Dan Clausen and Oswald Forhan bought out this store and post office. Then, Mrs. Snell and her sons came out from Red Deer and built a hotel and feed barn T B. Millar started a cheese factory; Mr Foreman from Lesheville built a blacksmith shop — Eckville was booming — streets were named Main Street, Dominion Street, Willow Street and Prince Street There were probably a lot more buildings out there but we cannot find a record of them now

In 1906, it was decided that there were enough children to go to school so a school should be built. On March 29, 1906, the first school board held a meeting with board members Charley Kasper as chairman, J H Killick as secretar treasurer and W W Gasgarth the member That same spring they sold debentures in the amount of $800 and the school was built Nothing slow about our forefathers, once they made up their mind to do something. Mr E E. Randall owned the land west of the river and this is where the school was built. Later this land became the home of Mr and Mrs Lenny Kingsep. Miss A Fenerty was the first teacher with a salary of $50

Around 1910, word spread that the C N R. was looking for land and would build a railroad Much speculation took place on where this would be built and people from Eckville were watching very closely Finally, the C N R. purchased the NW 16-39-3-W5. Ralph Wesley Matchett owned this land, having taken title to it on April 2, 1907 Thus the C N R started construction and was completed in about 1912. The Alberta Central Railway later known as the C P R. came into Kootuk or South Eckville in 1914. Now with the building of the railroads, the folks from out at Old Eckville started moving or building their shops and homes in New Eckville, our location today Oswald Forhan and Dan Clausen started their store and post office on the site where the present drug store now stands. The first building to be erected in the new townsite was the kitchen part of the Dan Clausen residence (now the site of the Alberta Government Liquor Store) Many a man had their meals in this kitchen with the Clausens while they were building their own places. Mr Forhan built his house across from the store and this was later Dr Crosby's drug store and residence, and then again in later years, the Forhan Drug Store. Clausen Brothers had a mill, and logs and lumber were purchased for many of the buildings in the town from them Clausen Bros. put up a pool hall on the east side of Main Street and Jack Clausen built his house Dr W G. Evans, moved in his residence and drug store were on the west side of main street and beside it was the Erickson Bros butcher shop. Harry Palmer had a blacksmith shop located where Revelstoke Building Materials have their lumber storage today His residence was there as well. Emanuel Olson opened up a restaurant on the east side of main street and a few months later sold out to John E Lundberg who in a couple of years with additions

and alterations made it into a hotel. August Mitzner also built a hotel on the east side of main street beside the Clausen pool hall. Charlie Gustavson opened up a livery stable which was sold to John Kemila and later to Fred Isaacson who remodelled it for a garage, and today Eckville Motor uses this lot for storage. Mr Gustavson owned the first automobile in Eckville. The co-op store was built where now stands the J & K Food Store (the old Bakery) and some of its first managers were Archie Litt Dan Clausen, Bill Rogers, and Oswald Umari along with many others along the line. After leaving the Co-op. Mr Rogers had Charley Kasper build him a store of his own Mr Eckford had his real estate office on the south side of the Co-op store Gus Sestrap had a hardware store to the east of the Clausen residence. August Mitzner's feed barn and wood sawing was along railway avenue to the west and a feed mill beside it Mr Storey owned the feed mill. In 1912 Forhan and Clausen picked out a site for a dance hall or as they called it a "Town Hall. So once again with the same spirit that the original town was built, a meeting was held this was on May 12, 1912, the first sports meeting The floor was laid to be used as a dance pavilion. In 1913, the Eckville Improvement Company was formed and incorporated shares sold with which to build a hall on the same floor It seems that they must have had an outdoor dance hall for awhile. This building was used as such until it was sold for a restaurant some years later Now. Art's Jewellery and Gift Shop is located in this old town hall. The C N R station is still in the same place as it was originally We presume that the elevators were built during this time. as well as other buildings throughout the years. J M McDonald built his house in 1918. Mike Sestrap built his house and today there is a modern four-plex dwelling going up on this lot with the old house being demolished a short time ago. The George Lutz House and the Fred Isaacson homes were built in 1919 and 1920. Many old timers will never forget the year 1918, the year of the flu. Anybody who was able was called out to do nursing duties and to help out in any way possible during this siege Mr Bill Brown opened up a creamery or receiving station across from the McDonald residence now the modern A G.T building is located on the land. The cream was tested and the farmers received their cheques from the Browns. We presume the cream was shipped to Alx

In 1918, the Canadian Bank of Commerce opened up their bank on the lot where they have now their beautiful new building The old original bank was donated to the town in 1976, and this in turn was turned over to the Eckville and District Friendship Club for their use as a drop-in centre. Mr J W McIntosh was the first bank manager Mr Matt Perry was an early accountant who was, a few years ago, living in Calgary We are not sure if it was the Imperial Bank or the Bank of Commerce for whom he



worked. In January 1920. Dan Clausen raised a petition requesting the hamlet of Eckville to be incorporated into a village. The first man to sign the petition on January 25, 1920, was Mike Sestrap. Other signers were Bill McHattie (a blacksmith), Archie Litt (manager of the co-op store , J M McDonald, J F Helmbecker Harry Lowe, E Wickstrom, R. Bertram Dan Clausen, and J Johnson. At this time there were 30 buildings in the hamlet — nine dwellings, eleven business premises also occupied as dwellings and ten business premises with no dwelling space There was an elevator, hotel, restaurant, hardware store, lumber yard, meat market, two real estate offices, a bakery presumably in the restaurant) a feed and livery barn, two general stores, a public hall, blacksmith shop, creamery Bank of Commerce, dry goods store, garage one implement store. and one Imperial Oil station. I believe the Imperial Oil station was run by Mr Von Holtum. The petition was given to John A Gaetz, MLA for Red Deer constituency, who in turn handed it to Mr J H. Lamb, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. An inspector from the government, Bill Robertson came out. inspected the hamlet and said "no" It included too much farm land and there were not sufficient dwellings to meet the requirements of a village Dr P. L. Backus had his residence and office and a few spare beds for emergencies in what is now he Roy Saari residence, but this was not in the hamlet In 1921 a committee of Bill McHattie. Dan Clausen, Mr Crosbie, Mr Garries with Joe Marshall as chairman formed to work on incorporation again. On February 18. 1921. Mr A. H Garries wrote to Edmonton to say that he had been appointed to a committee to look after the incorporation Another petition dated May 30. 921. was signed by Mike Sestrap, general store manager Dr P L. Backus, Jack Coughlin, hotel keeper J F Helmbecker, Walter Herring, John Kemila, Mrs. Augusta Clausen, Joe Marshall. W McHattie. and J M McDonald. This time the inspector that came out was Mr Alex Sout er He found that there was now a school in the hamlet. this being moved in, and that folks were most anxious to incorporate to enable themselves to make some provisions towards proper fire

protection. Finally on Sept. 15, 1921 in the early morning Mr. Art Garries, an implement dealer and an auctioneer posted notices which had been signed by the Hon. R. G. Reid, Minister of Municipal Affairs which were notices of intention to incorporate. One was posted in the hotel one in the post office and one on the town hall. Some acreage owners in the area but not included within the hamlet were John Platham, C. H. Von Hottum, Mrs. M. Johnson, Henry K. and Charley Kasper. On November 5, 1921, Mr. Reid signed an order that the hamlet of Eckville was now the village of Eckville, effective that date. Now the village had to have a village council. Dan Clausen, then a hardware employee was named returning officer for an election for councillors. Nominations were received at 8 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 1921 in the town hall. There was no election required. Bill McHattie, Clarence Crosby and Joseph T. Marshall were elected by acclamation. Thus was Eckville's first council. The first meeting was held on January 3, 1922, and Clarence Crosby was appointed as reeve or mayor with Dan Clausen as secretary-treasurer. The surrounding area was then known as the Municipal District of Lorne, No. 400, now the County of Lacombe No. 14. Messrs. Crosby and Colpitts of Red Deer and Eckville were the solicitors for the village. Mr. J. M. McDonald was the agent for the Home Insurance Co. of New York.

February 16, 1922, saw the first by-laws of the village passed. No. 1 being the adoption of the common seal. No. 2 — set out the proceedings of council. No. 3 — appointed Dan Clausen as secretary-treasurer at a salary of $125 per year and appointed Dr. P. L. Backus as Medical Health Officer for the village. A number of very active people in town who deserve a lot of credit for the time and effort they put in in helping make Eckville a thriving village were Jack Clausen who with Brother Dan had a construction company and sold most of the logs or lumber that was used in the building program, Gus Sestrap in his hardware store, Ralph Brown, James Olsen, the Isaacson families, Armstrong Bros., O. M. Forhan, Mrs. Frank Andrew and Mrs. Orval Rasmussen (the Botten girls), J. F. Knorr, Fritz Kinna, Glen Caton and family, the Thorkman families, Dr. Somerville, Dr. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Herring, Dr. Claxton and many many more that we do not hear about or have their names. Cal Fletcher came here from Kansas City in 1919 and stayed till 1925 and then went to Hespero until 1946 when he moved to British Columbia. He was a man of all trades and worked in every store and business in Eckville except the blacksmith shop. He stayed with the Louis Weeks' on the present Tom Smith farm. The Presbyterian Church was moved in 1921. It was the school at Old Eckville and the first minister, we understand, was Rev.

Through the effort of many local residents in 1916, it was decided to build rural phone lines so in 1917 some rural lines were built to Gilby, then to Hugo Mottus's. Mrs. Frank Andrew worked for the Lundbergs in the hotel. The phone lines were operated from there, so she was the first telephone operator. Five lines ran from the hotel, four in the country and one in town. At this time no long distance calls could be made. The town and rural lines, known as the Eckville and Gilby Telephone Company were then incorporated and changed to the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. This was being operated from the Clausen front room with Theresa Botten (Mrs. Orval Rasmussen) as the operator. She worked there for six years. Fifty years later in 1967 came the dial system to Eckville and in 1969 the direct distance dialing. We had many operators during this time and names cannot be found of all of them but we know there was Esther Johnson (Mrs. Bill Oliver), Mrs. Morrie Cross, Sylvia Wuori, Mrs. Kit Armstrong, Mrs. Louise Delaney who for many years was a faithful worker at the switchboard along with Kathy Ferguson as night operator. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford McNeil and Mrs. Erna Soerd also gave faithful service. The Forhan family left here around 1921, and were at the coast for a number of years — came back around 1925.

Dan Clausen went to work on the railroad in 1923, came home around 1928. The Sinclairs left in 1925. That same year saw Fritz Kinna going to Tech in Calgary to take an electrical course. When he came home he wired buildings in town and the power was supplied by the Moro Bros. from their flour mill on the east side of the village.

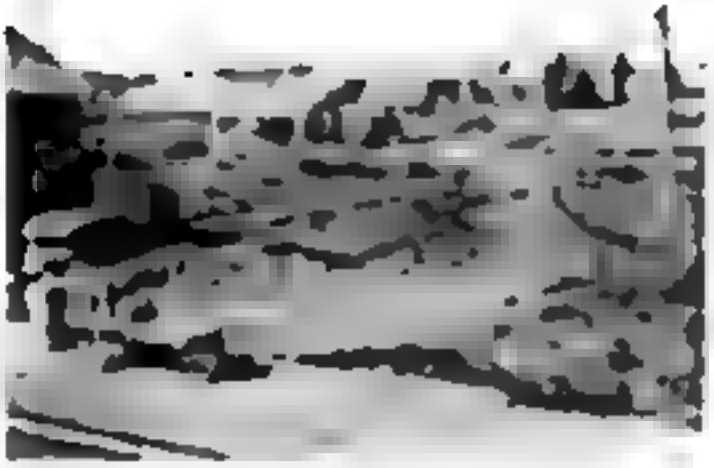
In 1926, Feb. 2, Walter Herring was appointed as secretary-treasurer and O. M. Forhan as reeve. On Dec. 13, 1926, there were six candidates nominated — for council — Joe Marshall, W. H. Cowen, Mike Sestrap, J. F. Helmbecker, Oswald Umarl, and O. M. Forhan. Mr. Forhan withdrew before the election. There were 33 votes cast with Messrs. Marshall, Umarl, and Sestrap elected. Mr. Marshall was mayor and Mr. Herring secretary-treasurer. In 1924 saw Harry Lowe as reeve with O. M. Forhan as secretary-treasurer. From 1928 to 1930 Bernie Dennett was reeve with Don Clausen as secretary-treasurer, a position Mr. Clausen held until 1935. During those years Joe Marshall, Bernie Dennett and Mike Sestrap were named as reeves. From 1936 to 1942 Bernie Dennett was mayor with Robert G. Gish as secretary-treasurer. Some of these men as they went off as reeve were still on the council. William MacDonald and Fred Isaacson are names listed as councillors.

March 31, 1924, saw the Bank of Commerce close. Jack Bromling opened his meat market in the bank building. He closed this in the fall of 1930. The Imperial Bank opened a sub branch from Sylvan Lake in November 1927. This was on a three times a week basis, and was operated

from a small office next to what was then the Atlas Lumber and now Carritt & Sons Hardware Fred Appleton or Harold S. Mann, with one assistant would make the trip. If the roads were passable they came by car; when not which was about half the time, they came with a very good driving team. In this bank's supply of stationery and equipment, were two very good buffalo robes, probably the only bank that had this added equipment At times, they came by train Have any of you ever travelled on a mixed train in the olden days? Cecil Caton at that time was the janitor at the bank He had to be around early to get the fires going and have the ink wells thawed out before the others got there. This building was later used as the office of the Medicine Valley Livestock Co-op under the able managership of Alf Thubron Phil Laybourne John Reid and Tom Smith, Sr In December, 1930, the Imperial Bank became a full-time branch and the old Commerce building was purchased from Jack Bromling, and with some alterations and the addition of a vault the bank moved n Harold Mann and Cecil Caton were the staff. Now the Imperial Bank and the Bank of Commerce have amalgamated and just a short year ago the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce moved into their spacious and beautiful new bank. The old one was donated to he town who in turn turned it over to the Eckville and District Friendship Club for their drop-in centre

Mrs. Porter (Mrs. Laura Marshall a mother a registered nurse, came to Eckville from Condor in 1929. and opened up a nursing home in the house now owned by Janet Handford. This was operated until 1932 and without this service and the willing hands that served, some of our folks would not be here today No one was ever turned away She looked after many patients brought to her by the local doctors, Dr Somerville and later Dr Claxton

We cannot forget the creamery built in 1921 on the southeast corner of town, built by Pete

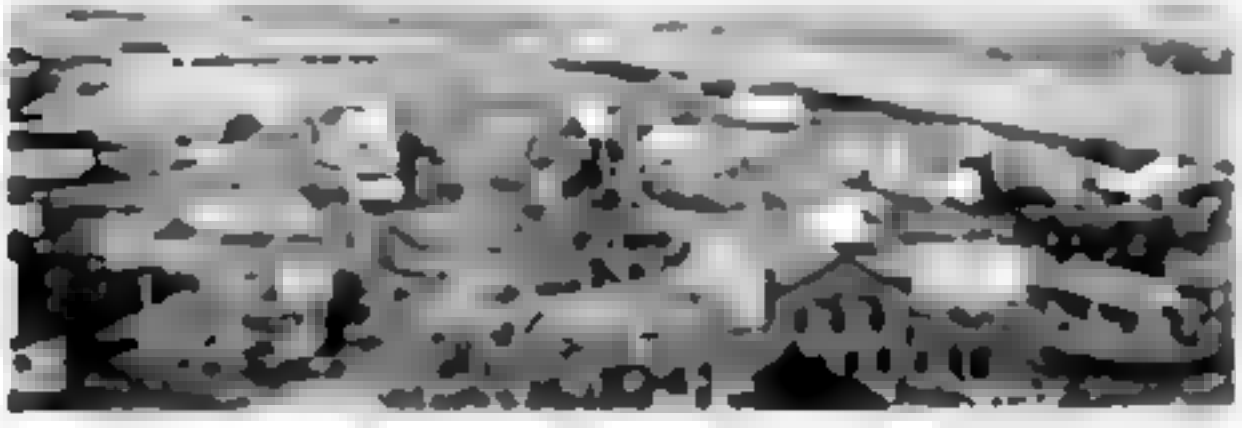


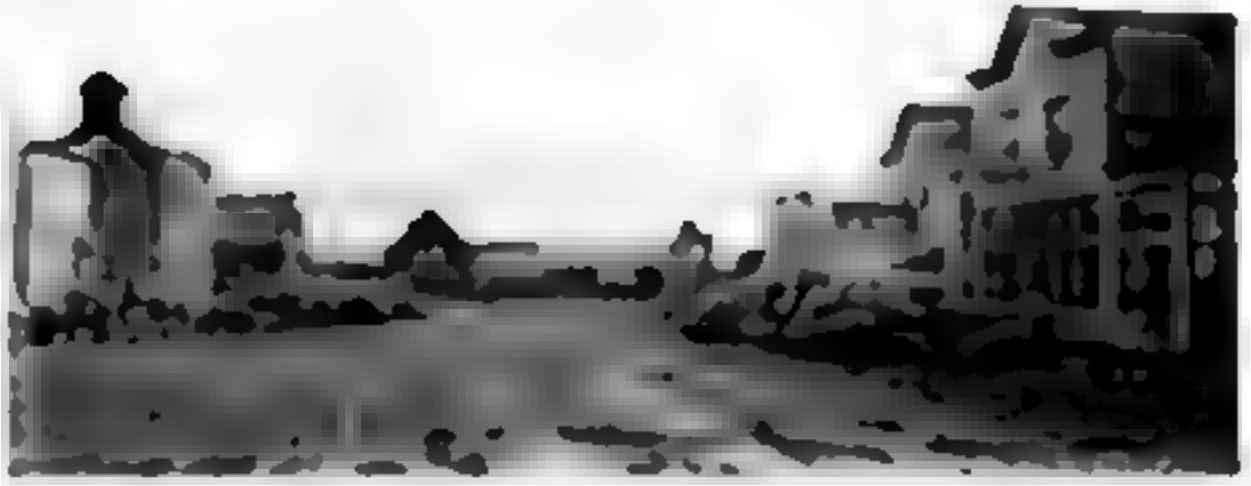
Palleisn with Harry Woods as manager It burnt down in 1928 and a Mr Patchett rebuilt it and Henry Hansen was manager followed by Bill Morris, who managed it for a good number of years – several others following until it was finally closed down

On April 19, 1924, around 4 p.m., Mike Sestrap's store on the west side of main street burnt down. First thing taken out when the fire started was the cash register set out in the middle of the street. Fire again struck in 1928 when the whole business section on the east side of main street was lost. They were soon replaced, folks had a lot of faith in the growth of Eckville

In 1937 residents of Eckville voted for Calgary Power to supply them with power This vote passed with a big majority and thus Calgary Power came to Eckville and still serves us today with much higher rates of course

The annual meeting held in January of 1938 showed the town was really active. The report showed that in 1937 26 ½ yards of gravel had been purchased, with some of the previous years stock pile being used as well, 1490 feet of lumber





had been bought and used to build and repair wooden sidewalks. The tax arrears list shows $581 42 unpaid taxes at the end of 1937 This was $67.81 higher than the previous year Still they ended the year with a bank balance of $427 43 They had also signed a new lease with the Eckville Curling Club. This was a three year lease at $150 a year The rink was built by volunteer help in 1936

1936 — The Medicine Valley Community Hospital, operating from the Dr Backus original home was in financial difficulties and asked the village for help. They were given $50. Nineteen thirty-eight saw the mill rate go up by 10 mills

penses of the garbage grounds and street lights The school board approached council on using the club room of the curling rink for a class room until the new school was built The board would pay for part of the cost of a new floor in the building By the fall of 1939, the curling club was in financial trouble they could not pay their rent — some members had not paid their dues for a couple of years. Times were tough

In March 1939, the council decided to try to have the garbage hauled out on a contract basis Prior to this, folks hauled out their own The by law enforcing garbage regulations was put into effect Garbage cans sold at $3 and the pay for picking up the garbage was set at $2 50 per week No garbage was hauled out during the winter months. Pay to the contractor was stopped in October

April, 1939, saw the purchase of a fire siren Then in 1939, the village was able to put the mill rate down nine mills. The curling club were able to pay their rent of $150 The estimated expenses for the village that year were set out in their budget as $806

Lance Rowatt opened a pool hall in September 1939. By this time the Co-op had moved to their new location from what we now know as J & K Food Store to the premises where the Co-op main store now is situated. James Needham, presently retired and living in Eckville, opened up a bakery in the old Co-op building around 1937 or 38. He later sold to Ernest Jackson who in turn turned it over to his sisters, Alice Snyder and Frances Cooper, and her husband. They in turn sold to the Coppens family who operated it for several years before selling to Jim and Karen Tubbs. It is no longer a bakery

November 1938, a Mr Harvey Thompson was appointed as night watchman for the village The following year, 1940 a tree trimmer had to be appointed, this was Dan Clausen and his pay was 50 cents a year For a couple of years the mill rate stayed at 10 mills plus three for a social service tax However, the village did have to borrow $400 this year in order to do some gravelling on the streets. The M D of Lorne had a gravel crusher in the district and since it would be moving out, the council had to get the gravel right away and pay cash for it

In 1943, a proper hospital district was formed and work started on the construction of a hospital, one that is still being used today In 1949 the mill rate went up to 18 mills. It was in 1944 that Calgary Power requested that the village permit them to bill customers every two months instead of monthly Their reason a shortage of paper as well as staff

The Knights of Phythias Lodge trustees approached council on taking over the cemetery They would donate the land and a trust fund of $115.68 that was held by them for cemetery purposes. The land was all ready in use for this purpose. Thus, it became the Eckville Municipal Cemetery Around 1946, the Eckville Cemetery Association was formed and taken over by them Mr J Hopkins had cut most of the brush on the

cemetery land and spent a great deal of time and work on this project with gratifying results

1945 saw cement crosswalks, more wooden sidewalks, and sidewalk repairs done. In the five blocks of the village, there were nine street lights. The hospital was not in the village limits at this time. This was the year that saw a fire fighting pump purchased at a cost of $19.56. Four fire fighting ladders had been built at a cost of $2.50 each. Residents felt quite safe with this fire fighting equipment. In 1944, the matter of building a tie shed for the farmers to tie their horses to when coming to town was discussed and by 1945 it was completed. Mr. R. L. Tuck completed the job.

In 1946, the village had to start collecting the school taxes. Before this time, the school board had to do it. Thus the secretary's salary was boosted to $240 a year.

The theatre was built in 1946. Previous to this, shows had been held in the hall. As years went on, the village grew, improvements were made. In 1953, garbage was hauled all year around.

Five, five-gallon tanks for fire fighting were purchased and placed on power poles around the village. Each fall, these had to be checked to see that the right solution was in them so they would not freeze up. In 1947, a more up to date fire siren was purchased. This was three quarter of a mile vertical non corroding fire siren which was installed on the telephone office. When a fire call was rung in, the telephone operators would ring the siren.

In October 1949, after many months of working on annexation, 12 more blocks were added to the village. This was officially declared annexed on January 1, 1950. We were now 17 blocks large. Prior to the annexation of the 12 blocks, a road grader was purchased.

Now to go back to 1942 and list some of the councilors and officials of the town. They were Fred Isaacson, Jake Bussinger, Dan Clausen, Mike Sestrap. In 1942, Bernie Dennett left town so resigned his position and Phil Laybourne took the office. Tom Forhan took over as secretary-treasurer. Clarence Ferguson was acting secretary-treasurer in 1944 for a month or so, and then Bob Gish went back on until 1947 when Larry Forgues took over the position. He left in March 1949 and Mrs. Lea Zeb from Calgary took the position. She had to leave and go back to Calgary so on April 4, 1949, Margaret Schofer was appointed as secretary-treasurer, a position she still holds today. Other active and civic minded men that took on the job as councillors were Russell Eastman, Tom Forhan, Tom Smith, Sr., Red McAndrews, Dr. Gordon Gibson, Larry Knudsen, Albert Schofer, Stanley Nunn, Chester Kasha, Archie Huhtala, George Armenean, Olva Elson, Alfred Miller, Julian Sambrook, Gordon McNeil, Bill Maki, Arvid Anderson, Rex Baker, Ken Krintila, Adrian Vandevelde, Bob Mathews, Bill Elliuk, Don Macrae, Hans Coppens, Bill Gordon, Leo Remillard, Arthur L. Carritt, Lyall French, James Keegstra, Ed. Olsen, Harold Leach, Dennis Guenther, Doug Rhodes, Clarence Phol, and at this date, November 1977, our present councillors are Jim D'Amico, Jim Lecert, Jim Keegstra, Bob Kraft, Peter Mielke, Randy Forhan and Harold Leach as mayor.

The early years were hard years for the council members, there was not much money, not too much borrowing power and not enough people to pay for the things that we needed and that we have finally acquired. Way back in 1948, water and sewer installation for the village were discussed. This is as far as it got until 1953 when it was possible to borrow money. Thus, a debenture was issued for $52,500 and the sewer was installed in 1953-54.

In 1954, a modern up to date fire engine was purchased and brought home from the factory in June by Helen Kasha and the late Chester Kasha. A fire hall was built in the same year which also housed the town office. In 1956, the town had a well drilled at the fire hall and a pump installed. Thus ended the hauling of water to the reservoir under the fire hall. Now we have a very modern three bay fire hall built in 1975 and 76. This houses our own fire truck plus a county of Lacombe fire truck that our local

building is used for storage of town equipment. Our fire department is well looked after, with about 22 volunteer men. We cannot give these boys enough credit as they are ready to go any time, whether they have to leave their jobs or leave their nice warm beds. Doug Rhodes was fire chief for many years and the instigator of getting the fire hall. Corny Hughes is now our

had put in enough years of this, and it was now time for someone else to take over.

A covered arena was the next step towards modernizing the town and get the recreation program going. Thus in 1964, through donations of money and hard work, our present arena was under construction. There were no debentures issued to pay for this. It was all donated. Through the years some equipment had to be purchased and a new front end put on the arena. For this purpose money was borrowed from the government and with the very active Eckville Arena Operating Committee, sponsoring rodeos, ice carnivals and other activities, this money has been paid back. Now in 1977 the big project is for artificial ice in the arena. It is hoped that this will be completed in 1979.

Another big project, and, we feel a big step forward, was in the installation of the water system with the water tower located in the Memorial Park Grounds. The official opening of this was held on August 6, 1965 with the Major Dr. Gordon Gibson turning the valve.

Natural gas, installed by Northwestern Utilities was another step towards progress. This was done in 1961 and the late Mr. Dan Clausen

**Ribbon is Cut**

was elected to light the flare which signalled natural gas in Eckville and a lot of fuel oil barrels and propane tanks soon disappeared from yards

The new town office was built in 1983 and 1984 It was opened in March 1984 and was quite a change from the old buildings. It had been moved several times since the fire hall origin but now we have a permanent spot and already we have outgrown it Hopefully an extension will be built in the next year or two. On one side of the office is the library This was originally the council chambers and council meetings are still held here, and many other organizations use this as a meeting room.

In 1965, we annexed about 10 acres to the town and again in 1974 the property east of the secondary highway No. 766 was annexed to town We are presently in the process of annexing another .55 acres, more or less. This land, if it is approved, will be to the north of town, taking in some of the Bill Elliot and Bill McDonnell land and also south of the railroad tracks. This is, at this time, almost sure to go through but there is still a lot of government red tape

The Centennial project was the building of the Childrens' Playground. This was done with government help and equipped through donations of merchants and organizations in town and country

In 1966 Eckville's population was 766, and at this time to become a town, we required a population of 700 people Thus, on July 1, 1966, Eckville became a town instead of a village This order was signed by Ernest C. Manning. In 1968 house numbers, street names and number signs were erected. Also, in 1968 and 1969 some of the streets were paved and since then a few more have been done

When we finally paid off our original sewer installation debenture, our Provincial Government came along and said the septic tank system was out dated and we had to build a sewage lagoon Again we were forced into debt. We borrowed $271 960 and installed two pumping stations and the lagoon

The Eckville and District Agricultural Society was formed April 25, 1973, and this was done for the purpose of getting grant money to build a multi-purpose building, which houses the new curling rink Construction started in the spring of 1975, and the curling rink part of the building was officially opened in January 1977 A draw was made to see who would throw the first rock and

Pat Baker was the winner, and a very suitable one at that, as she had spent many hours as secretary of the society to get things going. The upper hall of the building was completed in November 1977, and the lower room in October and is now occupied by the Mother Goose Playhouse. The curling area has a cement floor and is used in summer for larger events, rodeo dances, auctions, firemen's barbecue and many other functions. The old curling rink, some 50 years old, was demolished by Bud Lightbown and Bob Kraft during the summer of 1977.

This is the story of the growth of Eckville, a small community, but one we are very proud of. Our population as of June 1977 is 797. We are growing. Our gratitude for what we have today goes to the many, many folks who came to this land in the early years and with perseverance and fore-sight helped make Eckville what it is to day. Through the years, many new things have come into being to make our life one of comparative ease and pleasure. If only some of the original settlers could see what their work and time brought us. We should all pause in our daily routine and give thanks to those folks who worked so hard for Eckville.

**ELECTION RETURNS FOR ECKVILLE**

1906 (Federal) Michael Clark (Liberal) 28, George F. Root (Conservative) 16. Mr. Clark won the constituency with 346 votes to Mr. Root's 332.

1909 Provincial J. T. Moore (Liberal) 15, E. Michener (Independent Conservative) 15, D. McClure (Socialist) 21. Mr. Michener won the constituency as a whole with 547 votes to Moore's 436 and McClure's 128.

1911 (Federal) Michael Clark (Liberal) 47, Alexander McGillivray (Conservative) 33. Mr. Clark won with 6711 votes to Mr. McGillivray's 3858.

1913 (Provincial) E. Michener (Conservative) 18, R. B. Welliver (Liberal) 22, George Paton (Socialist) 23. Mr. Michener won with 862 votes to Mr. Welliver's 761 and Mr. Paton's 130.

1917 (Federal) Michael Clark (Liberal-Unionist) 13, William Puffer (Laurier Liberal) 16, Joseph Knight, 28. Mr. Clark won with 6213 votes to Mr. Puffer's 3800 and Mr. Knight's 701.

1917 Provincial E. Michener (Conservative) 24, R. B. Welliver (Liberal) 26, George Paton (Socialist) 30. Mr. Michener won with 1289 votes to Mr. Welliver's 1258 and Mr. Paton's 190.

1918 (Provincial By-election) F. W. Galbraith (Unionist) 13, J. J. Gaetz (Liberal) 65. Mr. Gaetz won with 1746 votes to Mr. [illegible]

1921 (Federal) Alfred Speakman (Progressive-U.F.A.) 84, John Day (Conservative) 36, William McInnes (Liberal) 3. Mr. Speakman won with 10,348 votes to Mr. Day's 2644 and Mr. McInnes's 2207.

1921 Provincial J. J. Gaetz (Liberal) 32, G. W. Smith (United Farmers of Alberta) 94. Mr. Smith won with 2150 votes to Mr. Gaetz's 1146.

**Eckville Population**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1922 — | 125 | 1951 | 230 |
| 1924 — | 125 | 195[illegible] | [illegible] |
| 1926 — | 178 | | [illegible] |
| 193[illegible] — | 169 | | |
| 1936 — | 159 | | |
| 194[illegible] — | 125 | | |
| 1946 — | 196 | | [illegible] |

**ECKVILLE IN THE EARLY DAYS — by A. [illegible] Denham**

Back to 1925 after my second year in theology at Knox College I was appointed as student missionary for the summer to the Eckville pastoral charge in Alberta. Dr. James Edison was home missions secretary in Toronto and the Reverend Walter Brown, a big man in every way, was Red Deer Presbytery's home missions convener. He asked to come to the college to interview students.

Over the space of 50 years time one's recollections diminish, but I remember being welcomed by the McDonald family at Eckville and having my first meal with them. Mr. McDonald had an artificial leg and so was known locally as "Peggy", which he didn't seem to mind. He was one of the kingpins of the church but no "mealy mouthed Christian". I do not remember where I stayed at first, but eventually I moved in with Doctor Sommerville, where I was housekeeper, cook, laundress and also anaesthetist for minor operations. His sister, who had been keeping house for him, left to go East to be married.

[illegible]

house. We had a small congregation and a Sunday school. We also had a boys' group, either Tuxis or Trail Rangers. During the summer we camped at Sylvan Lake where I built a fireplace over and baked pies and Yorkshire pudding. Some summer evenings we swam in the Horseguard River and on one of these occasions we were fooling around when I realized that one of the Sestrap boys was drowning. I carried him out of the river and he soon recovered. I don't think anyone knew about this incident.

I can't remember whether we had any Finnish families in our congregations but we did have some of their sons in our boys' groups. The Sestrap family had the general store and Leyda Sestrap went to Calgary Normal School at the same time as the young lady who later became my wife. After teaching she went into the army having in the meantime studied medicine. I met Leyda many years later at the Menninger Foundation in Kansas, U.S.A. where I was also studying. She took up practice in Victoria under her married name of Lythgoe.

The manager of the lumber yard was a Scot named Sinclair and he and his wife were in

terested in the church. The local druggist was an Anglican who used to pull teeth. He sold out to a family named Hayes who attended our church. Dr. Sommerville, fresh from medical school in Manitoba, bought his practice from Dr. Backus, who had built a house which was really too large for us, but we used it sometimes as a hospital. Backus eventually became a psychiatrist of some note in London, England. Dr. Sommerville's mother was the widow of a Methodist minister and she visited us from Manitoba.

There was a preaching point west of Eckville at Condor and I usually got a ride to it though sometimes I rode horseback. The Scott Hastie family had a store at Condor and were particular friends and church supporters. Mrs. Hastie, who was English and Anglican, was a great reader and hungry for good conversation. I held an occasional service at Leslieville which was further west. Further west still at Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg, Harry Lennox served one summer. He used to tell about one of the male members of his congregation turning up somewhat inebriated and having a difficult time finding the hymn number. In a stage whisper he asked, "where the hell is it?"

Once I was asked to conduct the funeral of a bachelor at a cemetery about three miles out in the country. It was 'Peggy' McDonald who drove me there in his open Gray Dort touring car. The roads were almost impassable due to rain and it took over an hour of slipping and sliding in the sticky clay to arrive at the cemetery. Before we left the car outside the cemetery fence "Peggy" asked me if I would like a bottle of beer. I told him that if I drank one, there might be a repetition of Hamlet's grave scene with me in the grave beside the corpse. When we stood at the graveside the rain pelted down and ran out of the bottom of my trouser legs. I don't think I have ever been more glad than I was that day to get back to Eckville still in one piece but soaked to the skin.

The summer of 1925 was a rather pleasant one for me since Dr. Sommerville and I got along well together. We remained friends throughout his lifetime. He became the Deputy Minister of Health for Alberta and was responsible for many of the good health measures in the province.

**THE ALBERTA CENTRAL RAILWAY**

The Alberta Central Railway got its start in May 1901 when the Dominion Government granted a charter to G. W. Smith, W. A. Moore and George W. Greene of Red Deer, D. J. Munn of New Westminster and John T. Moore, John Flett and Roger C. Clute of Toronto. Initially, the line was to run from Coal Banks (a point near the Content Bridge) to Red Deer, and then on to a point in Township 39, Range 7, West of the 5th (near present day Rocky Mountain House). Over the years the planned route was expanded west to the Fraser Valley via the Yellowhead Pass and east to Moose Jaw with a further extension to Saskatoon and on to Fort Churchill on the Hudson's Bay. In short, eventually it was planned that the A.C.R. become a "transcontinental" extending across the whole breadth of the prairies and on to the Pacific Coast.

For many years, very little happened with the A.C.R. Time extensions to the charter were granted by the Dominion Government in 1903, 1905 and 1907 but no surveys were made and no agreements were made with other railroads to buy or lease the charter and construct a railline. This is not to say that the A.C.R. was forgotten. J. T. Moore, who had become president of the company, had political ambitions and in the 1905 provincial election, he made a successful attempt to become Red Deer's first M.L.A. He also made an unsuccessful attempt to secure the Liberal nomination in the 1908 federal election. In both these campaigns Mr. Moore played up his role in the A.C.R. to garner votes, particularly in the Pine Lake, Burnt Lake, Evarts, Eckville and Leslieville areas. It was proposed that the A.C.R. would run through these districts, and a railroad would provide a much-needed boost in growth and development.

By the end of 1908 there was a growing cynicism about the continued promises of construction of the A.C.R. made by Mr. Moore, and a growing anger over the lack of any meaningful action. During the 1908 election campaign Mr. Moore sent an un-named surveyor to the area west of Red Deer, but this action did nothing to reduce the angry feelings because it appeared that this mysterious person was only putting survey stakes in politically sensitive areas in readily noticeable locations.

By December 1908 criticism of Mr. Moore and the A.C.R. became very loud and widespread. Mr. Dick Bleay, leader of the Medicine Valley Labor Party, organized a protest meeting at Evarts, where demands were made that either the A.C.R. begin construction immediately or sell its charter to another railroad, such as the C.P.R. or the Canadian Northern. A petition was circulated and signed by over 250 persons. The Red Deer Board of Trade held a special meeting on the A.C.R. and a motion was put forward asking the A.C.R. to give an option on its charter to any bona fide purchaser for the expenses of the charter up to a maximum of $10,000.

All this came at a critical time for the A.C.R. and Mr. Moore. The two-year extension to the charter that had been granted by the Dominion Government in 1907 was running out, thereby necessitating an application for another extension, and Mr. Moore was in the midst of a bid for reelection to the provincial legislature. Moore attempted to counter the criticism by claiming that the A.C.R. had discussed with the C.P.R. the possibility of an arrangement whereby construction of the line could be started in the near future. He also claimed that unnamed parties had offered to purchase the A.C.R.'s charter, but had been turned down because they would not

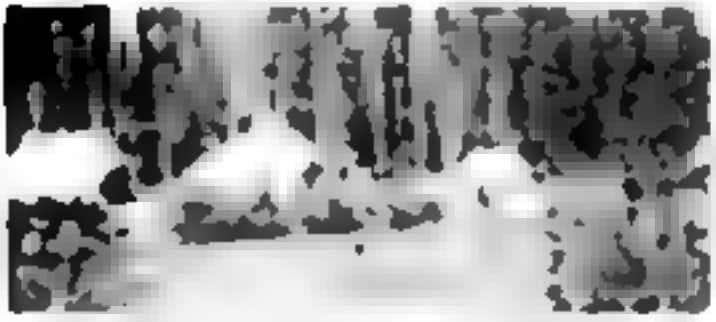
# CANADA.

Edward the Seventh

guarantee that they would take steps to immediately start construction

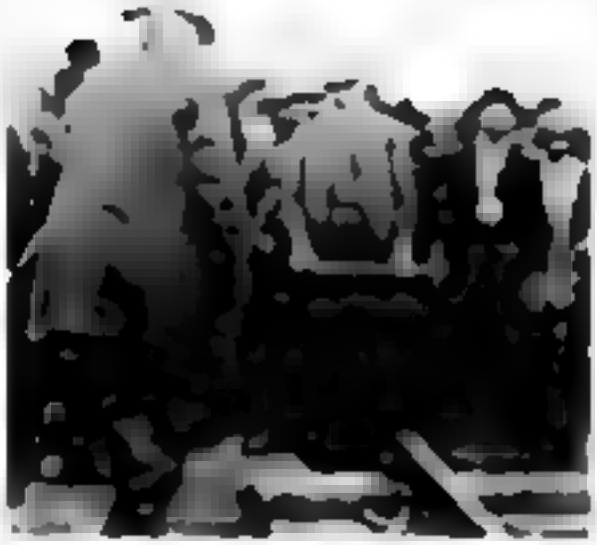
Eventually, Moore managed to persuade many of his critics to support the A.C.R. in its bid for one more extension to its charter. Although Moore himself lost in his bid for reelection to Edward Michener (the father of the former Governor-General, Roland Michener). In April 1909 the Dominion Government granted a two year extension to the A.C.R. charter and also agreed to offer a subsidy of $6400 per mile to a railway constructed between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House.

Greatly aided by this offer of a subsidy the A.C.R. now managed to find enough capital primarily in Great Britain to make it feasible for the company to start making concrete plans for construction. In the fall of 1909 and continuing in the spring of 1910, surveys were made in the area between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and by March 1910 the A.C.R. was able to file a route map with railway authorities in Ottawa. In May, a construction department of the company was formed and work began in the area west of the town of Red Deer and east of the Red Deer River.



In August of 1910, the Canadian Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived in Red Deer together with G. P. Graham, Federal Minister of Railroads and A. L. Sifton the Premier of Alberta, to drive the first spike of the A.C.R. The ceremony took place at the proposed station grounds near the present-day location of Mountview School and was cut short by the sudden appearance of a summer rainstorm.

Work on the A.C.R. continued throughout the



rest of the summer and early fall. Brushing and grading were carried out and starts were made on the bridges over the Red Deer River and Waskasoo Creek as well as a trench to drain off part of Burnt Lake. Several hundred men and teams were hired either by the Company itself or by small sub-contractors, and by October 1910, there were four main work camps in operation with some 300 to 350 men in each camp. These camps were located at the Red Deer River west of town, at Burnt Lake, at Evarts and at Pelcox (now Hespero). In November a camp was set up some four miles east of Eckville and another at Edwel.

For administrative purposes, the Company divided the area west of Red Deer into three divisions with a resident engineer in charge of each division. Mr. Robert G. Dawe was in charge of Division No. 1 which extended from Red Deer to Sylvan Lake. Mr. George S. MacKay was in charge of Division No. 2, which extended from Sylvan Lake to Evarts, and Mr. James M. Robertson was in charge of Division No. 3, which covered the area west of Evarts. Mr. J. Grant MacGregor was the chief engineer.

In the winter months of 1910 and 1911 some work continued with survey parties under Mr. Paget, Mr. Chalk and Mr. Woodbury working in the area west of Rocky Mountain House. Also gangs of men started work on the bridges across the Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House and the Medicine River south of Eckville. However, the A.C.R. found itself in increasing difficulties. The Company, which had already spent over $3,000,000 by the end of 1910, was [illegible] to face a scarcity of funds. The sub[illegible] from the Dominion Government was

slow in coming through, since payments were only made as each mile of construction was completed. There were heavy expenditures caused by the construction of the concrete and steel bridges across the Red Deer and Saskatchewan Rivers and by the maintenance of the very high quality of grade (.4% or 20 feet to the mile with curves of no more than three percent), to which the Company had committed itself in order to become a "transcontinental" line.

The shortage of funds was also complicated by the appearance of competition in the form of the Canadian Northern Western Railway which in late 1910 began construction of a rail line which paralleled the A.C.R.'s line from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. This competition meant that the A.C.R. could not afford to delay construction, as this would mean forfeiting the better grades to the C.N.W.R. It also created a scarcity of available labour and materials, which forced up their cost. For example, the A.C.R. had been paying $2.50 a day for men (75¢ a day deducted for room and board) and $5.00 a day for men with teams. With the coming of the C.N.W.R. the A.C.R. found it necessary to pay $3.00 per day for men and $6.00 a day for men with teams. The cost of oats reached 80¢ a bushel at Rocky Mountain House and 35¢ a bushel at Red Deer in contrast to the 20¢ to 25¢ that a bushel of oats cost in Edmonton.

The A.C.R. faced numerous other problems, being that 1911 was an extremely wet year and this made the roads in the west country all but impassible. The heavy traffic brought about by the freighting done by the A.C.R. and the C.N.W.R. compounded the problem. As an illustration of the seriousness of the situation, an A.C.R. contractor had to use 10 horses to get a grader out on the main road west of Pitcox to a grading camp.

The A.C.R. was also plagued by illness among those who occupied its key management positions. John T. Moore's health deteriorated to the extent that he was no longer able to deal with the necessary detail work. Mathew Neilsen, the A.C.R.'s general manager and vice president came out from Montreal to take Mr. Moore's place, but came down with a fatal case of pneumonia.

In late March 1911, the Board of Directors of the A.C.R. decided not to rely on day labor and small sub-contractors any longer, and announced its intention to let out the contract for the balance of construction. An agreement was made by John T. Moore and J. Grant MacGregor with James McDonnell & Co., but the Board of Directors found McDonnell's price of $2,500,000 far too high. It ordered that the plans and specifications be amended and that a call for new tenders be made. In the meantime, the Company found itself so stranded for funds that it had to close down some of the work camps pending the result of an inquiry as to the status of the subsidy of the Dominion Government.

Finally on July 8, 1911 the Company awarded the contract to Duncan F. MacArthur of Winnipeg at the cost of $25,000 per mile for some 70 miles of construction. Immediately the pace of work picked up, with MacArthur starting up seven new grading camps in one week. The town sites at Benalto and Sylvan Lake were surveyed.

The flurry of activity was short lived, and by the end of 1911 the A.C.R. found itself completely unable to cope with its legal, administrative and financial problems. An informal agreement was made with the C.P.R. in December, 1911, and that company began to take over construction of the line. In January 1912, the C.P.R. began issuing the pay cheques on behalf of the A.C.R. and in December 1912 a formal agreement was drawn up whereby the C.P.R. leased the A.C.R.'s charter for 999 years.

For a while there was talk of the C.P.R. using the Alberta Central line as the main line from the prairies to the coast because of the high quality of the grade and because the C.P.R. was looking for ways of relieving pressure on its main line to the south. However, gradually it became apparent that the C.P.R. was really not interested in the A.C.R. line. Agreements were made with the C.N.W.R. for joint use of track near Rocky Mountain House and the bridge over the Saskatchewan River. Modifications were made to the grade and right-of-way in order to reduce construction costs, and it was not until August 1914 that the line from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was finally completed.

The A.C.R. has left its mark on the Central Alberta area. It helped to open up a strip of farmland 60 miles long west of Red Deer and it provided homesteaders struggling to get started with both well-paying jobs to help get the money necessary to make it through the difficult early years and with ready markets for their produce. However it seems the line will not last much longer, as it is one of the rail lines slated to be abandoned in the near future.

## THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

In 1908 and 1909, rich coal fields were discovered in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains west of Rocky Mountain House. In April, 1910, the German Development Company and Mackenzie & Mann, the railway magnates behind the Canadian Northern Railway, formed a company by the name of Brazeau Collieries to exploit these newly-found coal fields. Shortly thereafter, Mackenzie, Mann & Co. announced that they would construct a rail line from Stewartwyn, Stettler to the Brazeau coal fields in order to gain access to the holdings of the new company.

Mackenzie, Mann & Co. wasted very little time in getting started. By August 1910 they had presented to the federal railroad authorities for approval a route map, even though they had not done any significant surveying. Mackenzie, Mann & Co. were able to do this by borrowing

heavily from surveys and plans made by the Alberta Central Railway in the winter of 1909 and 1910 which had been placed on file in Ottawa in March 1910. The proposed route of the C N R followed the A.C R 's line. In the meantime, approval was given to the C.N R 's planned route from Stewartwyn to Range 25

The C N R. was in no mood to slow down, and by September 23, it had pushed its grading to a point which was just east of Blackfalds and some 25 to 30 miles west of the limit of Range 25 set by the federal railroads authorities. It also dispatched parties of surveyors to work on a new route west of Blackfalds By November 9, these surveyors had progressed as far as Eckville

In late November 1910, Mackenzie, Mann & Co. decided to seek a charter from the provincial government, in part to avoid some of the entanglements with the federal railroad authorities and in part to secure a bonding power of $35,000 per mile Previously they had been relying on a charter granted to a subsidiary company, the Alberta Midland Railway and a Dominion charter granted to the German Development Company As might be expected, the bill to grant the charter caused stormy debate in the Alberta Legislature, particularly from those who were friendly to the Alberta Central Railway However, the carter was eventually granted with the name of the new railway to be "The Canadian Northern Western Railway Co." The provisional directors were F.H Phippen, Gerard G Ruel, George F Macdonnell, Reginald Temple and J H. Phippen. These men held only 60 of the 20,000 shares in the new company with Mackenzie, Mann & Co. holding the rest. The charter also expressly allowed the C.N.W R. to make agreements with the Canadian Northern Railway to sell or lease the line

In February 1911, the surveys were practically completed to Rocky Mountain House and the Provincial government agreed to guarantee the bonds of the C.N.W R. The Northern Construction Co. a subsidiary of Foley, Welch and Stewart, in which Mackenzie, Mann, & Co had an interest was given the contract for the construction west of Red Deer

For the months of March and April, the Northern Construction Co. devoted itself to freighting in necessary construction materials before the roads broke up in the spring Surveyors were also sent out to put in the grade stakes along the line

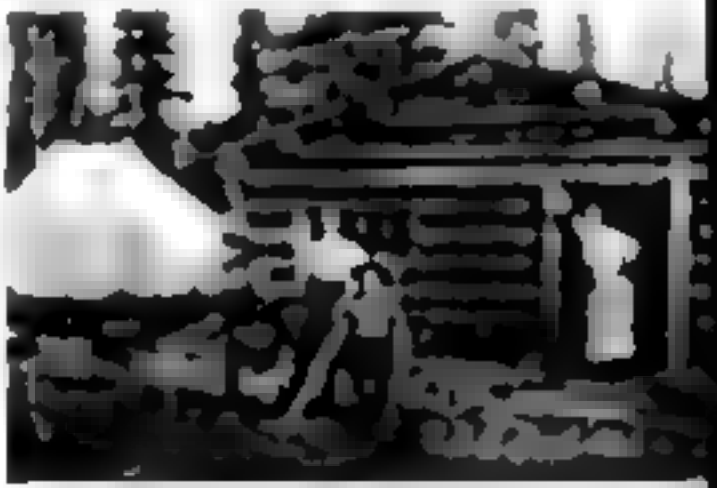
At the beginning of May the Northern Construction Co began grading and brushing work north of Red Deer and west towards Sylvan Lake Camps were quickly established all along the line. There were four camps set up within a short distance of Eckville alone, and two quite large ones were set up at Lesliеville By mid May the Northern Construction Co. had some 2300 teams and more than that number of men at work west of Red Deer

While all this feverish work was going on, the C N W R. was busy locating possible station sites at Sylvan Lake, a site belonging to M. Matchet which was two miles south of Old Eckville NW 15-39-3 W5 and a site at Lesliеville (S 26-38-5 W5 The Canadian Northern announced that it was investigating the possibility of erecting a mammoth summer hotel at Sylvan Lake

The work on the C N W R was not without its problems and delays. The years 1911 and 1912 were extremely wet and the roads were very bad hereby making the movement of men, horses, equipment and construction materials very difficult The C N W R often faced legal problems with trespass because of an inability to secure the right-of way fast enough. At one point, the C N.W R faced five restraining injunctions from the Saskatchewan Land & Homestead Company alone

The C N W R was also involved in extremely fierce competition with the Alberta Central Railway, whose line it paralleled. The A.C.R sought and received injunctions preventing the C N W R. from crossing its properties, particularly in the Rocky Mountain House area. The C.N W R. where possible put its grade up to six feet above the A.C R. grades where the two lines

There were a few incidents of violence between the men of the two companies. In late October 1910, a survey crew of the C.N W R. got involved in a prolonged fist fight with an A.C R crew which the Red Deer Advocate described as a near riot Later in 1911 a C N.W R crew tossed into a nearby slough several A C R. constables who were guarding the A.C.R. right-of way The A.C.R. responded by having the C N W R men arrested, transported to Red Deer and left there to find their own way back out west



By July 1911, the Northern Construction Co had begun to lay steel and by September 8 they had reached the Blindman River, where they were held up by a court injunction granted to the

Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company and by the need to build a large trestle across the river valley. By October, the C.N.W.R. had managed to have all the court injunctions along its line removed and the laying of steel continued rapidly sometimes at a rate of three miles a day. By late October steel had reached Sylvan [illegible].

Once freeze-up came, the Northern Construction Co. continued to blast some cuts between Eckville and Lestieville. The last of the grading was finished up and a decision was made to lay some of the steel over muskeg in order to help move in supplies for the next year's work. Government surveyors were hired to survey the C.N.W.R. townsites at Sylvan Lake, Eckville and Lestieville and in February 1912, people began to move out of the old village of Eckville to the C.N.W.R. townsite. Forhan and Clausen were the first to build a store in the new town but by mid March 25 lots had been sold and there were a few stores and two pool rooms in operation at the townsite. Not everyone was happy about the move. The Eckville correspondent to the Red Deer Advocate complained that the new townsite was a place of "open on Sunday" pool rooms and "seven day" stores. He advised a change of name to Cripple Creek. Actually, the name Sakatoo was used by the railroad for some time as a name for the new town.

With the coming of spring, construction of the line moved ahead rapidly and by April steel had reached Lestieville. A phone line was built alongside the line as far as Eckville and by June some people were shipping freight in and out over the new line. On June 10, 1912 the line was completed to Rocky Mountain House, with J. H. Bertrand driving the last spike at that point.

For the rest of 1912 and 1913, the C.N.W.R. was pushed on to the Brazeau coal fields. Ballasting of the track and construction of station grounds were carried out between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Repairs were made to the track at points where the rapid construction of the line was all too evident. For example the trestle at Poplar Ridge sank three feet shortly after it was built and heavy rains severly damaged the track in the Lestieville area.

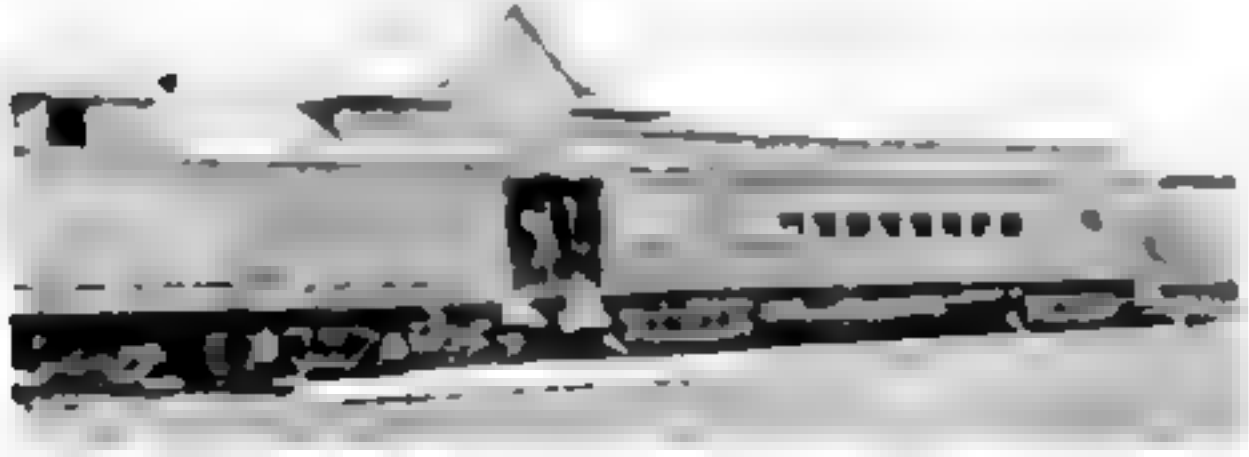
By March 1914, trains were running every day, regular shipments of coal from Nordegg began to be made. It was in August 1914 that the whole line was officially completed.

The C.N.W.R. became eventually part of the Canadian National Railway system, and like the A.C.R. line to the south, it helped the farmers by opening up the country between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Among the many people who helped work on the road were such contractors as Mike Madden, H. J. Griffith, F. M. Mahon, Boomer and Hughes, Carrol and Harvey and W. D. Maxey. Local contractors such as A. Eckford, Capt. Dominique and Henry Reinholt, as well as such lumber outfits as McDougall and Martin, Walsh Bros. and Wright and F. R. Pettepher did a lot of work for the C.N.W.R. Right-of-way agents were G. A. Mantell and R. [illegible]ohnston. Some of the doctors who worked for the C.N.W.R. were Drs. Collison and Grey at Red Deer and Dr. Honey at Eckville.

**HISTORY OF THE BRAZEAU SUBDIVISION OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**
**by W. J. Bothwell**

The Brazeau subdivision of the Canadian National Railways, on which Eckville is situated at mileage 85.7, was constructed by the Canadian Northern Western Railway, a subsidiary of the Canadian Northern Railway. The Canadian Northern Railway placed most of their construction contracts with the noted financiers Mackenzie and Mann who in turn sub-contracted the [illegible].

A more substantial fuel than that being used on the prairies was required for the winters and



[illegible]

there was an abundance of coal along the eastern Rockies and in the Red Deer Valley where Drumheller was the central point. Lines were constructed from Drumheller to principal connecting points such as Drumheller-Vegreville (for Edmonton) a distance of 173 miles, opened November 29, 1911, Aisask-Munson Jct (for Saskatoon), 222 miles, opened October 27 1911, and Drumheller-Calgary, 85 miles, opened February 12, 1914. These lines ensured that Drumheller and it's coal fields were adequately served, and the Canadian Northern turned it's interest to the Brazeau coal fields which were situated in close proximity to the Bighorn Range. As a further inducement to the railroads, a Federal subsidy was offered for a railway to these coal fields. Mackenzie and Mann obtained this and then built the line elsewhere, originating their line at Warden, 64 miles north of Drumheller on the Drumheller-Vegreville line and it was completed as follows in Fig. 1

Building cradle east of Ecleville.

| | Miles | First Laid | Opened for Traffic |
|---|---|---|---|
| Warden-Otway Via Ecleville | 115 | 1912 | August 18, 1914 |
| Otway-Ullin (Jct at Rocky Mt. House) | 4 | 1913 | August 18, 1914 |
| Ullin Brazeau Via Saunders, | 54 | 1914 | August 18, 1914 |
| Alix south Jct to mileage 0.54) | 0.54 | 1921 | 1921 |

Figure 1

In 1921 Alix South Jct became the Junction of the Brazeau and Three Hills subdivisions. Mirror became the home terminal and originating point for trains to the Brazeau subdivision and still is.

An interesting story was that there was a "race" between the CNWR and CPR to reach Brazeau, the latter having taken over from the Alberta Central Railway in 1911 during the construction of their line to reach the Brazeau coal fields. I do not know how much credence may be placed in this story, but when the CNWR reached Brazeau in 1914, the CPR had only arrived at a point between Saunders and Alexo. They ceased immediately the grading of their roadbed at that point. I have seen this final abrupt point of the roadbed and it may still be seen. The CPR however stole a march on the CNWR when their surveyors were surveying prior to building from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and across the North Saskatchewan river. They had selected the best site for the railway bridge. The CNWR would now have to build a bridge next to it or go much farther west to find a suitable location which would necessitate much more capital. This seemed unwise considering that the bridge would cost about a quarter-million dollars while one bridge could easily handle all the traffic of both railways. The subsequent negotiations resulted finally in a grant of running rights over the bridge to the CNWR, by the CPR and for which they must remunerate the CPR in accordance with the terms of the lease. The bridge, which is located on a six-mile stretch of joint trackage from Otway to Ullin Junction, is owned and maintained by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Brazeau Collieries opened in 1914. The man most responsible for the formation of this Company was Martin Nordegg, whose family name was Cohn and changed to Nordegg after his arrival in Canada in 1906 from Germany.

Martin Nordegg came to Canada with a great deal of German investors' money. He was backed by German financiers and businessmen and a syndicate set up to finance him. He passed up other opportunities to speculate and decided to invest in Alberta coal fields, some of which he was to discover himself.

Nordegg first discovered, staked and filed claims to the South Brazeau, Race Creek and Bighorn coal fields and later the Nordegg coal basin in 1910-11 which turned out to be the more important field as he had forseen. In the latter, several geologists had seen the dark streaks or coal strata in the southern mountain of the two

mountains forming the well-known gap, but had failed to realize the meaning as Nordegg had

Nordegg was soon in a successful partnership with the widely known promoters, Mackenzie and Mann, of the Canadian Northern Railway Within six years, he had a complete coal-mining operation working which produced 155, 322 tons of coal in their first year of commercial operations, 1915. In Martin Nordegg's last year at the mines, they produced 261,156 tons. He also had a town named after him which still bears his name The railway station was originally named Nordegg also but altered to Brazeau during the first world war

In all probability the most successful of all the Canadian Northern undertakings were the coal s. It was a matter of only months after completion of the lines that they were moving large volumes of coal and of which the Nordegg coal was only a small portion

Nordegg coal was considered to be of a good grade and probably the best grade for coke Briquettes were also made from this coal. Nordegg coal was eagerly sought by the railroads for use in their steam locomotives Most of the coal produced at Nordegg was used by the Canadian Northern Railway and by settlers living near the Canadian Northern Railway s prairie lines

The coal movement from Nordegg in particular but also the coal from Saunders and Anexo to a much lesser extent, formed the largest carload movement on the CNR Brazeau subdivision at that time. This coal traffic continued until 1955 when the last coal mine in Nordegg closed although the volume had been decreasing since the first mine closed in 1948. Between these years the coal industry faced many problems including a post war decline and a drop in domestic and international coal markets The change from coal burning steam engines to diesel-electric locomotives on the railways doomed the Brazeau mines, which had been opened specifically to supply Canadian Northern locomotives with coal

Lumber was also one of the commodities moved by carload but I have been unable to ascertain the volume of this traffic

Following is a synoptical history of the Canadian Northern Western Railway

## CANADIAN NORTHERN WESTERN RAILWAY

### INCLUDED IN CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO AFTER AMALGAMATION

INCORPORATION December 5, 1910. The Canadian Northern Western Railway was incorporated under the laws of Alberta, Act 1, Geo. V Chapter 48, Statutes of 1910. to build certain lines in the Province of Alberta

CAPITAL STOCK Prior to amalgamation The amount of capital stock was Authorized 60,000 shares—par value $100-$6,000,000. Issued 20,000 shares — par value $100-$2,000,000. The issued stock was pledged as security for the Dominion Guaranteed Debenture stock

BONDS 1). 4½% First Mortgage Guaranteed Debenture Stock and Bonds The amount authorized was $2,851.750 of which $6.424,000 was issued and held by the public Date of maturity was February 16, 1942 This issued was guaranteed by the Province of Alberta

(2) 4½% First Mortgage Guaranteed Debenture Stock and Bonds. The amount authorized was $2,851.750 of which $2,799.997 73 was issued and held by the public Date of maturity was October 22. 1943. This issue was guaranteed by the Province of Alberta

(3) 4% Debentures. This issue was a charge on the Canadian Northern Western Railway to the extent of $2,124.164 for which supplementary indentures had been drawn up and pledged as security under the 4% Dominion Guaranteed Debenture stock

DECLARATORY Works and undertaking declared to be works for the general advantage of Canada - Dominion Act 4-5, Geo. V Chapter 20. 1914, P C. 443. February 20. 1917

HISTORY Under Act 1, per foregoing, Canadian Northern Western Railway Company was incorporated to construct and operate a railway from Edmonton or Strathcona to Pine or Peace River Pass also a line from the Canadian Northern Railway between Edmonton and Calgary to Rocky Mountain House to Brazeau and McLeod Rivers, with branches to coal areas, etc Dominion P C 443, February 20. 1917 declared the Railway for the advantage of Canada and open for traffic

NATURE OF CORPORATE & OPERATING CONTROL The Canadian Northern Railway Company controls the Canadian Northern Western Railway through 100% Capital Stock

The Company was operated as a part of the Canadian National Railways and it's accounts are included in those of the System

| PROPERTY | MILEAGE |
|---|---|
| Whitecourt to Peace River Jct | 72 3 |
| St Paul to St Paul Jct | |
| Camrose to Alliance | |
| Red Deer Jct. to Red Deer | |
| Medicine Hat Jct to Steveville | |
| Red Deer Jct to Warden | |
| Brazeau to Red Deer Jct | |

AMALGAMATION Many smaller railroads which had become financially troubled and or bankrupt had already been taken over by the Canadian Government and were known as the Canadian Government Railways. During 1915 and 1916 two of the largest railways, the Grand Trunk and Canadian Northern and their subsidiaries, were in serious financial trouble A Royal Commission known as the Drayton Acworth Report recommended by a 2-1 majority vote of the three-man committee, that both

railways be acquired and operated by the Canadian Government. This report was tabled in Parliament in May 1917. In August, the Government passed legislation to acquire the stock, the price of which was to be decided by a board of arbitration. In December, 1918, a new Board of Directors was appointed and took over management of the "Canadian Government Railways" including the Canadian Northern Railway and it's subsidiaries.

An Order-in-Council, P.C. 3122 dated December 20, 1918, was passed and this was the first official use of the title, Canadian National Railways, by the Board of Directors.

In the meantime, the Grand Trunk Railway held out against the Government until March 1919, when the railway went into receivership and in November, 1919, was taken over by the Government. Again, a Board of Arbitration settled the cost factor and in January 1920, the Grand Trunk Railway was operated by the Board of Directors of Government Railways.

Privy Council Order 2094, dated October 4, 1922, with the appointment of the Directors of the Canadian National Railway Company, finally

[illegible]

here appears to be a confusion as to the date of complete amalgamation. This is probably due mainly to the matter of legal technicalities of some titles and including same in the corporate name of Canadian National Railway Company. For all intents and purposes the final amalgamation is considered to have been in early 1923.

The mixed train service which was operated on the Brazeau subdivision by the Canadian National Railways for many years was discontinued in early 1959. These trains were known as No. 319 in the Westward direction and No. 320 in the Eastward direction.

The last steam locomotive to pass through Eckville was number 2139 on Train Extra 2139 east, March 13, 1959. The first diesel-electric locomotive to pass through Eckville was No. 1043 on Train Extra 1043 west, March 16, 1959. I took pictures of these locomotives and same are accompanying this history.

The Brazeau subdivision has always been a busy line in carload traffic and in recent years the volume has been increasing steadily through the movement of new commodities.

The construction of the propane facility at Elspeth was completed in December, 1967. The first car of propane shipped was on December 26, 1967, consigned to Continental Oil Company at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. The average number of cars shipped from this facility is fourteen cars per week.

The pipeline system bringing propane to Elspeth originated at Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Co. Ltd., Sylvan Lake Gas Processing Plant located six miles south on Diamond Valley road from Highway 11 and one mile west. It was subsequently extended to the HBOG Caroline Gas Plant located approximately twenty miles west of Bowden. Propane from Chevron Standard Plant two miles south of Elspeth also is marketed through Elspeth. The pipeline system for propane terminates at Elspeth. HBOG provided the pipeline and loading facility at Elspeth and operates same. Propane for all shareholders in the three Gas Plants is handled there although some of the companies involved market their own share of the product. HBOG handles and loads cars for these companies. Allan Russell has operated this Elspeth terminal since it was built and is still doing so. This propane loading facility is located at mileage 57.6 on the CNR Brazeau subdivision.

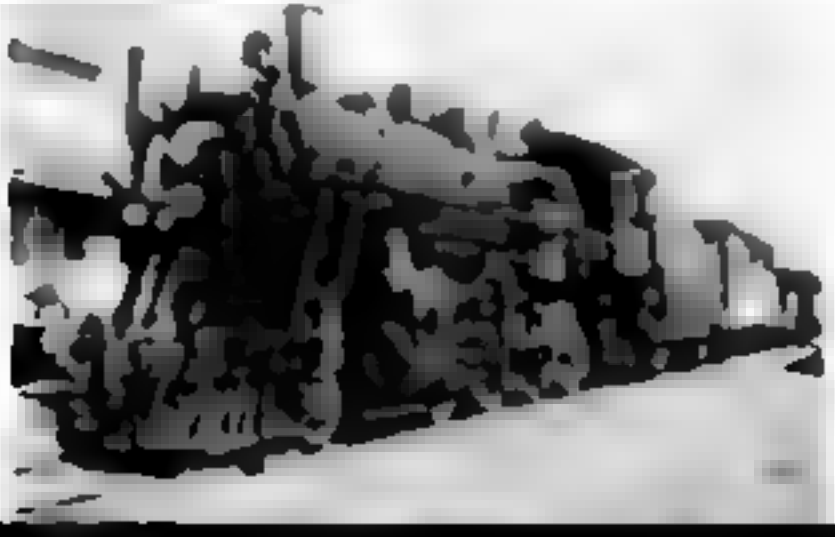
Having been unable to obtain information in connection with the Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd., propane loading dock at mileage 64.5 Brazeau subdivision, I can only say that I believe it was built in 1969-70 and that the first cars of propane shipped were two cars on October 22, 1970, destined Melville, Saskatchewan.

There is another propane loading dock on the Brazeau subdivision at mileage 93.9, Lochearn. The Company concerned is Amerada Petroleum Corporation.

Re Aquitaine Company of Canada Ltd. Ram

[illegible]

Engine 2139. Last steam engine to pass through Eckville March



— located 32 miles SW of Rocky Mountain House
prepares raw material gas for market by removing water, hydro-carbon liquids and harmful gases such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide from the raw gas
natural gas is transported from the plant by Alberta Gas Trunk line and Trans Canada Pipeline to markets in Eastern Canada
— hydrocarbon liquids are transported by pipeline to Dome processing plant in Edmon

— hydrogen sulphide is burned to produce pure liquid sulphur
— liquid sulphur is either poured to block for long term storage, shipped by rail in liquid form or slated and shipped by rail in solid

— Ram River Plant is among the larger gas processing plants in Canada and is the largest single sulphur producer in Canada (4400 long tons of sulphur per day)
plant is built in two identical stages
July 1970 start of construction of stage I
May 1971 start of construction of stage II
Feb. 1972 stage I start up
Sept 1972 stage II start up
Nov 1974 - completion of 27 mile CNR rail spur to plant from Rocky Mountain House
Dec. 1974 — started shipping liquid sulphur by

Aug. 1975 — completed sulphur slating facilities
Apr 1976 — started shipping solid slated slated sulphur by CN rail on a steady basis
sulphur market is very transient but they average approximately two to three trains per week of slated sulphur (80 cars per train 100 long tons per car) via CNR
— most of this sulphur goes to Vancouver where it is loaded on to ships for transport to foreign markets such as Japan, Australia and South Africa
— 45 cars per week of liquid sulphur (86 long tons per car
most of this sulphur is shipped to Eastern United States to the large chemical com

Eckville has always been considered an excellent business town, and the carload traffic received and forwarded via CNR testifies to this Some of the commodities received regularly were — Eckville Co-op mill goods, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia and others. Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd. various machinery and implements, etc. E. Nilhonen various machinery and implements. John Deere (W Elliott various machinery and implements. Imperial Oil (Geo. Armeneau) gasoline, fuel oil, fertilizer etc Searle Grain Co. coal. Eckville Co-op Livestock Association J Sambrook) hogs every week one to three carloads Alberta Wheat Pool and Searle Grain Co. grain (mostly barley) Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd propane Elspeth loading facility propane waybilled in Eckville (CNR station)

The CNR station in Eckville was built in 1912 It was stuccoed in 1945 with electricity being installed at that time Additions and improvements were made to the living quarters which were provided for the agent, over the years including connection to the town water system when the town undertook this project My wife, Hester, son Craig, daughter Diane, and myself lived in the living quarters during our sixteen years in Eckville

I have been unable to obtain the names of all CNR station agents who have worked and served Eckville and district in the Eckville station, but following are those I can recall

Mr Barnett dates unknown but understand he was agent in Eckville for 25 years probably up to 1950-51

A H Elliott approximately three years 950-51 to 1954

E R. Rogers three years, 1954 to 1956

W J Rothwell 16 years, 1956 to 1972. Retired in 1972 but returned to work each summer in Eckville station until July 18, 1975, on which date I had the unpleasant duty of closing the Eckville station permanently

F A Theberge One year 1972-73

M. Medved. Two years, 1973-75

The only section foremen of the CNR at Eckville whom I can recall are: R T Stout 1951 1962; G. Gillis, 1962-1963 M Rogutski 1963-1970. R T Stout 1970-1972 His return to Eckville gave Bob a total of 12 years there. , G. Brzak 1972-to present date

In my railroad career, I witnessed many events, both tragic and otherwise. One event which was the most unusual occurred on the Brazeau subdivision. In 1972, two empty propane cars which were in the Elspeth yard, mileage 57.6, in some way started moving, which indicated that brakes were not set. ran through the west switch and onward along the main line westward. The section men on their motor car eastbound were rounding a curve when they saw these two cars approaching and had time only to jump off the track motor car to save their lives The motor car upon impact with the two propane cars did not leave the rails and continued on with the runaway cars, being pushed. The section foreman on motor car was Bob Stout who had to walk a considerable distance to a farm house to notify CNR of this and they in turn informed me It was a peculiar sight as they passed my office window and one person came in soon after and said that it was the first time he had seen a railway motor car pulling two tank cars. There was a train coming from the west and while I knew there was practically no chance of these cars being able to climb hills near Withrow and Lesliville, especially the latter I had to take the precaution of having the train use the necessary protection which I did through the elevator agent, A Dennis at Lesliville by telephone. A

collision could easily have resulted in a catastrophe and when you think of two runaway tank cars together with the possibility of motor vehicles passing over unprotected private crossings it was a matter of great concern However the two tank cars stalled on the first hill at mileage 66.0 near Wilbrow , rolled back down the hill and came to a stop. They had travelled a distance of 10.4 miles. The train pushed them into the Eckville yard. I have a picture of these two motorless runaway cars. All is well that ends well.

During 1973-1975, the Canadian National Railways re-built their roadbed on the Brazeau subdivision and installed 100-125 pound main line ribbon steel bringing it up to near main line level. This was necessary in order to handle the large amount of traffic in 100 ton cars and 90 or more cars per train. such as the sulphur from Aquitaine Plant and propane from Elspeth and Eckville. The CNR now operates unit trains on the Brazeau subdivision with several engines according to the tonnage of traffic to be handled

Eckville is a busy town on a busy railway line Caution at railway crossings is essential as the trains now operate at a higher rate of speed than we had become accustomed to

Portions of some of the information used in the foregoing History were based on material from the following Canadian National Railways, Historical Research Officer Mr J N Lowe. Montreal Canadian National Railways Officials in Edmonton. Public Archives Canada Ottawa. Book "The Possibilities of Canada are Truly Great", memoirs by Martin Nordegg edited by T D. Regehr Books: "History of the Canadian National Railways volumes one and two. author G. R Stevens

## HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICES OF ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

In the early 1900's, as settlers were gradually moving westward from the main Calgary Edmonton line. mail facilities were called for with the result that in the year 1903 plans were made for a post office that was to become the centre of Eckville

Mr Eckford. a homesteader and one of the progressive type, erected a suitable building to house the post office and a trading post on his land, and then looked for a man to operate both of them for the benefit of the community [illegible] made plans for the building, Mr Eckford obtained permission to operate a post office so that when Mr John Killick, a young Englishman not long out from the old country was chosen as the businessman to operate the post office and store authority and supplies arrived in the name of Eckford Post Office. Mr Eckford, considering the name too personal. changed it to Eckville – a name which has since become well known throughout the country

In December of 1905. the post office and trading centre was officially opened at a site

about a mile northeast of the present town of Eckville. a spot known for many years as Liberty Hall Corner, just west of the J Onofryszyn residence

Mail was first hauled from the Evarts post office. about 12 miles southeast, by the late Mr A B Koski. Two years later the mail contract was taken over by Mr F Kinna. Mr Kinna later hauled the mail from Red Deer for several years

In those days, travel was very different. as rivers and creeks had to be forded muskegs were numerous. and roads were only trails that led to the west so no doubt many difficulties were experienced before mail or other supplies reached the settlers

Mr Killick gave up the post office in 1906 and moved 30 miles west. to Rocky Mountain House where he operated a general store for more than 47 years. Following his departure, the Eckville post office was taken over by Mr R Brunsenaede who carried on until 1911

In 1910 the country west of Red Deer was being rapidly developed, with farming, timber and coal mines which called for transportation To fill this need, the C P R. and the C N.R. both built railway lines west to Rocky Mountain House, with the C N.R going 60 miles further west to the coal fields at Nordegg

When the railway went past Eckville in 1911 the trading centre and post office was moved from Old Eckville to its present site, and the late Mr O M. Forhan was pos master and storekeeper from 1911 until 1918. Mr C. S Crosby was postmaster from 1918 until 1925 when he was succeeded by Mr W E. Hayes, who carried on for about a year Mr Daniel Clausen

G R

# CONTRACT

FOR THE

# CONVEYANCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MAILS

## (RURAL MAIL DELIVERY)

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this eighth day of March,

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight between

John Kemble of the town of Okville

in the County of Red Deer in the Province of Alberta

and Dominion of Canada Mail Contractor hereinafter called the Contractor his Heirs Executors

and Administrators of the one part and the Honourable Peter J. Veniot Postmaster General of Canada acting for and on behalf of His Majesty His Heirs and Successors of the other part

WITNESSETH that for and in consideration of the sum of money hereinafter mentioned the said Contractor engages COMMENCING the First day of April A.D. 1928

to convey or cause to be conveyed His Majesty's Mails over

OKVILLE RURAL ROUTE NO. 1 VIA GILBY.

Three times per week in the manner and under stipulations hereinafter set forth serving on each and every trip or journey all the Post Offices now established or which may be established and all the Rural Mail Boxes now erected or which may be erected on the route it being agreed and understood however that in case the Postmaster General makes any change or changes by way either of increase or decrease in the frequency or distance to be travelled which the Contractor hereby agrees to perform a corresponding rateable increase or decrease as the case may be shall be made in the amount paid to the Contractor the amount of such increase or decrease to be fixed and finally declared by the Postmaster General

The route to be pursued in the conveyance of the mails to be as described in the detail of travel or via such other roads as may be determined by the Postmaster General serving the Post Offices at Gilby

The computed distance which is accepted by the Contractor as the basis of this contract is 31 miles.

The mails to be conveyed in a suitable vehicle.

12 R. M. D.- 5,000-26-3-23.

now deceased, then took over the position and was postmaster for 24 years — until he retired in 1[illegible]

Mr Clausen saw the greatest changes take place with the village growing rapidly for about ten years, until the district had a complete line of services that few other villages of its size had to offer. As land was cleared and roads were being built, the population of the district increased, calling for extra mail services, so that in 1928 the first rural mail delivery was inaugurated and later this was increased to three routes which served about 300 farm families with mail service three times a week.

About 1937 daily mail delivery was given to Eckville. By this time both railway trains were hauling mail. The trains travelled on alternate days, thus giving a great improvement in the mail service, which had previously been three times a week.

Mr Clausen and his staff saw the change that took post office employees into the Civil Service in 1948. This was a great step forward for the employees because it gave them better working conditions, regular hours, holidays with pay, and a steady salary according to average work performed.

When Mr Clausen retired in 1950, his assistant, Mrs. M. K. Schofer took charge for seven months until the position was filled late in the same year by Gordon McNeil, who is still the postmaster in 1977. Fifty years of progress have seen many changes and many moves from the first little office that was only a corner in a pioneer store to the present large modern office. The post office was moved to the present building in September, 1966, from its former location in the building now occupied by Rhode's Radio and TV.

The latest improvement in mail service has been that the mail delivery from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was changed from rail travel to Motor Transport in September, 1955. A daily schedule gives the most regular and fastest service possible between Eckville and the main city points. Of course, these improvements, and others, must be paid for. Postage rates for letters have risen from three cents in the pioneer days to the cost of 12 cents for mailing a letter in Canada in 1977, and the end is not in sight.

**EARLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT ECKVILLE AND CONDOR — by Reverend J Mayne**

In 1926 I was appointed by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada to the Student Mission Field at Eckville and Condor. My experience there was fairly successful, although church attendance at both places could have been better. I had learned from previous experience not to be discouraged on Sundays when the congregations were small. I boarded at the McDonald home in Eckville and was well taken care of in that way. Generally after I had been a few weeks on a Field, I would hear of the previous students, and could judge in that way how my work was going. I do not remember hearing such comments on the Eckville-Condor Charge, and had to be content.

On all my student mission fields I did considerable visitation and thus got better acquainted with the people, some of whom never came to the services. On one such visit in Condor district the man considered himself above attending the service — or, was it below? We had a considerable amount of discussion but neither was able to persuade the other to his way of thinking. I think I could find the house where we lived, but I have forgotten the name.

At Condor there was a small but active Orange Lodge. On the twelfth of July there was a meeting in the morning which I attended as I was a member of the Order. The parade at Condor was small, compared with ones I had seen in other places, particularly Northern Ireland where I had lived until coming to Canada at the age of fifteen.

For transportation on Sundays and during the week I used a bicycle. On two wet Sundays I started to walk to Condor on the railway track. The Section man was out with his hand car and gave me a ride almost to Condor. When the weather cleared I again used my bicycle.

At that time the late Mr. William Aberhart was beginning his preaching. I was not personally interested in his line of thought. One or two of the Condor congregations, perhaps more, I felt were drawn to Mr. Aberhart.

Bill Bradshaw, of Alhambra, was doing high school work in Eckville at this time and he was boarding with me at McDonald's. I was invited to his home on two or three occasions and had a very pleasant time, as Bill's parents were very kind to me. Several years later I read in the paper that Bill had been killed in a highway accident, but I never learned any of the details.

Nineteen twenty-six was fifty-one years ago so I do not remember many names. Scott and Mrs. Hastie and Peter "Wink" Ormie McKee and Laura Porter were some at Condor. Doctor and Mrs. Sommerville, the McDonalds, and Joe Marshall come to my mind at Eckville.

A Sports Day was held in Eckville and for me the specialty was the bicycle race. About half an hour before this race was to start a young lad asked to borrow my bicycle for a few minutes. I let him have it and away he went, not to return until the race was over. Bill Bradshaw insisted on me using his bike. An older boy had his bike fixed with a larger gear to enable him to go faster. However he was not strong enough to push it for the one-mile distance of the race. At the three-quarter mark I looked back and the nearest rider was at the half-mile mark. I coasted the rest of the way and it was announced that I had done the mile in four minutes. Had I known that I was being timed, I could easily have completed the mile in less time.

**ST PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — by Mr T E. Curran**

The history of St Paul's Presbyterian Church dates back to 1920 when the original building a school house located one mile north of town, was bought for a community church and moved to the site where the present church stands. The title was held by several interested people in the town. Rev. W G. Brown, the Presbyterian minister in Red Deer, was a promoter of the [illegible], of Toronto was the first student minister, coming in May 1922. He stayed for the summer in the Dr Backus home, now the Roy Saari home. Next came a blind minister who took the services at Sylvan Lake, Evarts, and Eckville.

In 1921 the "Ladies Auxiliary to the Eckville Community Church" was organized. The Charter Members were Mrs. Helmbecker, Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Litt, Mrs. J. M. McDonald and Miss Tompson. During the year they donated one hundred and twenty-five dollars towards purchase of the church building, held an ice cream and strawberry social, bought and varnished the benches in the church, had a refreshment booth at the baseball tournament and put on a chicken supper at which they charged fifty cents for adults and twenty-five cents for [illegible].

When the vote was taken for church union in 1925 there were four votes for union and one opposed. Under the United Church student ministers were included, Mr Mayne from Edmonton, Mr Wilson from Toronto and Mr LaCorow from Newfoundland. A two-room shack moved on to the church grounds served as accommodation for the student ministers. Then for a few years there were no church services and the building was rented by the school board to be used as a school.

Unable to continue, the United Church recommended that the Eckville parish be returned to the Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church. The first Presbyterian student Mr Harold Corky arrived from Ireland for the spring and summer of 1931. He travelled by bicycle, and saddle horse before obtaining a light delivery truck for fifty dollars from Red Deer, which he learned to drive on the return trip to Eckville.

Summer, 1932, brought Mr Hartley Casler from Ontario. In 1933 Mr Essler was sent out to the Eckville field. He lived in Benalto during the summer as it seemed more central. In 1935 Mr Malcolm McLean was the student minister. He remained here until the fall of the following year.

He was followed by Mr Duncan Campbell. During his ministry Benalto instead of Centreville became associated with Eckville and Hespero, a manse was built on the church grounds, a church was built at Hespero and the use of the church in Eckville for a school room was discontinued. The ladies changed the name of their organization to Eckville Church Ladies Aid.

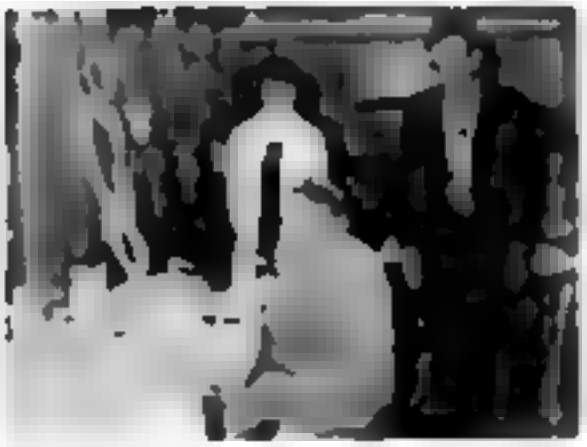
Mr T M. Fraser came in 1941. It was during his ministry that the trees were planted on the church property and the grounds were fenced. The early 1940's brought a dedicated deaconess, Miss Ruby Walker, who travelled to Rocky Mountain House to give religious instruction to outlying schools and formed a young people's group and a Mission Band, as well as conducting services.

The first ordained minister to be called to Eckville was Rev Fred Howick, who came in 1946. Up to this time the church had been run by the Ladies' Aid and a board of managers. Now a Kirk Session was elected and the Eckville Church was given the name St Paul's. The title to the church was transferred from the United Church to the Presbyterian Church.

During the late 1940's an evening group of the Ladies' Aid was organized for those who could not attend afternoon meetings. They have continued to carry on the work of supporting the church started by the senior group. Their turkey supper put on every fall has become a community attraction and a tradition.

The new church building was started in 1960 and dedicated in 1962. Many volunteers from the community assisted in excavating, pouring concrete, and constructing the new building. The old building was sold to Eric Korhonen who now uses it as his residence. A mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1971 and the Eckville and Hespero charges were united in 1974. Plans are now being made for the construction of a new manse on a lot purchased on 53rd Street.

Other ministers, students and deaconesses who have served in our Church include Mr A V Bentum, Mr R L. Bacon, Mr Forbes, Mr M Coles, Mr C F McGregor, Rev Kingsley King, Rev D L. Crecker, Rev. Wm. Klempa, Mr K. C



Grant Rev Peter Walters, Rev Sheldon McKenzie, Rev Howard Grace Mr Peter Booth, Mr Hugh Simpson Miss Iris Ford, Rev R S Hartley Rev Kenneth Knight Mr Kennelh McLeod, Rev R J Burton, Rev Sidney Chang and our present minister, Rev L. George Mac donald

**SAINT PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR LADIES AID — ECKVILLE by Janet Smith and Iris Elliott**

On February 5, 1921 an organizational mee ing was held at the home of Mrs Heinbecker to form a church auxiliary Mrs Heinbecker was acting chairman and Miss Thompson acted as secretary The name chosen for the auxiliary was "The Ladies Auxiliary to the Eckville Community Church The ladies present at this meeting were: Mrs. Heinbecker Mrs Coughlin, Mrs. (Dr ) Backus, Mrs O'Brien Mrs Herring Mrs. Litt, Mrs. Garries and Miss Thompson

On February 25, 1921, the first meeting of the new organization was held at the home of Mrs Heinbecker The members enrolling in the club at this first meeting were. Mrs Heinbecker Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Litt, Mrs McDonald and Miss Thompson. Mrs Heinbecker was [illegible] president, Mrs. McDonald as secretary and Mrs Coughlin as treasurer

Junior members who became members of the club in April, 1921 were Jessie Orr, Olga Mackie Edith Smith, Edith Herring, Olive Garries and Rosa Hansen. At the end of the first year there were 18 members belonging to the club

In August, 1921, $30 worth of lumber was purchased from Wilson Lumber to build church seats. W H Johnson hauled 10 loads of gravel for the foundation of the church at a cost price of $18

The ladies held a chicken supper in the fall of 1921. They charged 50¢ per adult and 25¢ for small children Proceeds $29

The ladies were very busy through the years [illegible] money raising projects were: grab bag sales guessing contests, sale of candy and home-made flowers, lunch at the annual meeting, social evenings, suppers, plays, St. Patricks teas booth at the Sports Day and ball tournament strawberry and ice-cream socials' lawn suppers pie socials, birthday socials, bazaars, lunch at the home cooking contest at the school, on elec tion day, ploughing bees, auction sales, Jubilee tea induction service, catered to Sestrap s wed ding reception, goose auction and held an old maids convention

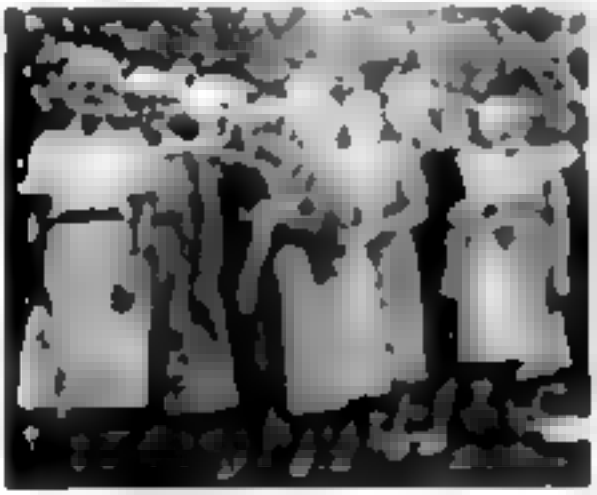
At a social evening in 1925, the adies decided to have a sawdust pie. They collected 100 articles and had one pie for 10¢ articles and one for 20¢ ar ticles. I believe it is similar to our fish pond

Many months they held two meetings as there was a lot of organizing to do

In February ,1928, the name of the society was changed to the "Ladies Auxiliary of the Eckville United Church

In March, 1929, a cabin was purchased from Mrs Dahl for $125 and moved onto the church lots to be used by the studen minister later it was rented out for $5 per month

In 1936, because of the change in the church denomination to Presbyterian, the auxiliary name was changed to "The Eckville Church Ladies Aid



Many of the charities the ladies supported were teas for ladies who were not members donations of money and clothing to the Womens Missionary Society donated articles toward the Post Office, handkerchief showers for new comers, reception for Mr Clarihue, donations to he choir CGIT, Camp Kannawin and the Mis sion Band pantry shower for minister scholarships for students to attend school at

Medicine Ha. from the Red Deer Presbytery - later from anywhere in Alberta

They acted as judges of home cooking at the school, held picnics, made payments on the mortgage on the old church, new church, old manse, paid insurance on church and transferred deed on old church

Built chimney in cabin, painted church and cabin, varnished seats, fenced around church purchased chairs, hymn books and song books for church, built cupboards in the manse Donated often toward minister's stipend. They did a lot of visiting to the sick and shut-ins, gave farewell gifts to ministers and hospital patients They made quilts for needy families, for the Red Cross and donated a quilt to Camp Kannawin

The ladies decorated the church for Easter Mother's Day Thanksgiving and Christmas

It all amounted to many hours of work and time given to the church and community The Ladies Aid decided to try to organize a younger womens group which was formed in January 1948. The Senior Ladies group disbanded in 1966

**ST PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN "EVENING GROUP" — Eckville — by Verna Parsell**

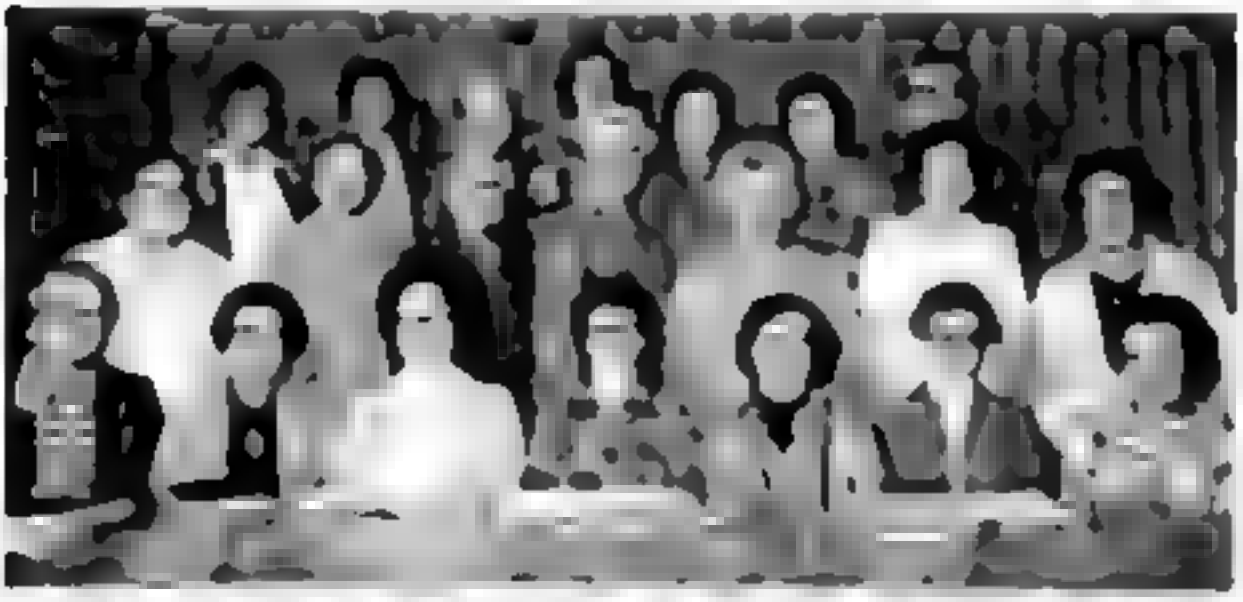
In January 8, 1948, Mrs. Crocker reported to the Senior Ladies Aid of St Paul's that a meeting was to be held to form a Junior Group of St Paul's Church Charter members of the Junior Group included Mrs Jean Stopsen, Mrs Crocker Mrs. Myral Sestrap, Mrs Ann McIntyre Mrs. Esther Yeo plus several more we do not have a record of Mrs. Jean Stopsen is still a member of our group and the only one of the original charter members

We do not have any records of the first 10 but no doubt they were busy worthwhile years with lots of activities. One of which was a play, put on in 1952 by members of the Group to help raise money

Ten meetings were held during the year with no meetings held during July and August unless some important event came up and then executive meetings were held Memberships have been as high as 26 and as low as 16. A highlight of 1959 was the group visit to CKRD-TV program "Late Breakfast" A play was also put on in 1958 with the proceeds going to the building fund for the new church. Rev Sheldon MacKenzie was the minister at St Paul's at that time and he also took part in this play Members served a turkey dinner as well as morning and afternoon coffee to the 30 some men who turned out to help pour the cement for the new church basement in June 1960 Church services were held in what is now "Carriti's Hardware Store until the church basement was able to be used before the upstairs completed. Dedication of the new church was held on April 12, 1962 with the guest speaker being the Rev Peter Walters, a former minister at St Paul's Deaconess Miss Iris Ford was minister at that time and put a tremendous amount of effort into the dedication Iris has since been ordained a Presbyterian Minister in January 19, 1978, after many years of study and hard work Being a very dedicated person, she

Group served a dinner and lunch for this special Dedication Service

Several missionaries and deaconesses have invited to speak at our meetings over the and their experiences have proven very interesting Members of the group have done



volunteer visiting to the sick and shut-ins and at one time visited all new-comers to the town and district

The group have helped financially in conjunction with the Ladies Aid and the Hespero Presbyterian Ladies Aid with the up-keep of the manse as well as buying furnishings, cleaning and painting the manse at various times when needed. As well they have made several donations to help pay off the mortgages on the old manse which was finally paid off in 1965

Our group has given financial assistance to the church youth groups such as C.O.C.'s, Explorers C.G.I.T. and the Sunday school and have sponsored girls to various camps. Members also assist with Mother and Daughters banquets. Among the several fund raising projects over the years have been putting on plays, rummage sales, bake sales, bazaars and teas as well as our main annual event the turkey supper. Twenty two of these suppers have been held up to date. We have also served lunch after funerals and at auction sales and helped with the beef barbecue sponsored by the church board.

The Junior Group worked in conjunction with the Senior Ladies Aid in several of their activities until the Seniors disbanded in January 1968. Since then, we call our Group "St. Paul Evening Group". Mrs. J. M. McDonald and Mrs. Cummings attended our meetings for many years and so became our Honorary Members. Some early memories of the group were contributing home baking and canning to our many single student ministers. We also have hosted dinners for several W.M.S. and Presbytery meetings, hosted and took part in World Day of Prayer Services, served lunches for Induction and Recognition Services for new ministers as well as taking part in clean-up bees and financial aid to Camp Kanawan. Also have helped with T.B. x-ray clinics in Town.

In December, 1970, the Evening Group donated $1000 to the Church Board to finish paying off the mortgage on the church. A Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held in April 18, 1971, with Rev. Sheldon MacKenzie of Newfoundland, a former minister here and very instrumental in getting the new church program started, as guest speaker.

After the new church was built, a Memorial fund was started to help pay for an electric organ. The latest venture has been the building of a new Presbyterian Church Manse in Eckville. A tremendous amount of volunteer labour has been put into this by the men of the church and several of our group have painted and cleaned. Rev. George Macdonald, our present minister, came to us from Nova Scotia and he moved into this new Manse in February, 1978. An Induction Service is to be held April 16, 1978, with which the Ladies will be assisting.

Our group presented Mrs. J. M. McDonald with a Life Membership and pin in the W.M.S. for her many years of faithful service to both rounds. It was presented to her at the 50th An

eldest member of the church. Mrs. J. M. McDonald and the youngest member, Mrs. Sharon Lemke (nee Onofryszyn) had the honour of cutting the Anniversary cake.

At the present time, March, 1978, our group has 23 members and one honourary member. Our group continues to be active and enjoys good

## GIRLS' GROUPS OF ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

C.G.I.T. began in Eckville in 1925 when a group of girls was organized and led by Miss Kathy Herring. The girls met each week with their leader at the Herring home after school. Sometimes the girls from the country rode horses. Some of the activities included sleigh riding down Kasper's hill, picnics with homemade ice cream, and hikes looking for snails, frogs and things of nature. The Christmas party where homemade gifts were exchanged was a highlight of the year.

The group was led by Miss Ena Paul in 1928-1929. Some of the girls who belonged were Bessie Bromling, Lela Lowe, Ada Tolvonen, Sylvia Kanaputas, Elvie Sestrap and Evelyn Spurgeon. With no resident minister, Vesper Services, Mother-Daughter Banquets and Graduation ceremonies were not possible.

In 1933 the group was led by Margaret McKinnon and Ruth Craig. Leaders and girls would walk to the homes for meetings — sometimes as far as three miles.

An event that the girls looked forward to was three weeks at Camp Kasota on Half Moon Bay. The total cost of camp was $5. Girls slept in cabins and were asked to bring their own mattress "ticks". Fresh straw would be supplied. Girls from the surrounding towns came and became good friends of the local girls.

In 1942 with the arrival of the deaconess, Miss Ruby Walker, C.G.I.T. again became very active. Meetings were now held in the manse. The girls assisted with the Christmas service of the church and helped the Ladies Aid in packing Christmas baskets for the needy. They took the lead in the first World Day of Prayer Service held in Eckville.

C.G.I.T. continues to play a major role in the spiritual and social development of teen-age girls in the community. Present-day activities include Bible study, crafts and games, and singing. The girls take turns running the "Tuck Shop" in the hospital. The C.G.I.T. Choir can be heard at many community affairs such as the Remembrance Day Service. The Christmas Vesper Service, the Mother Daughter Banquet and the Senior Citizen's Tea are the main events of the year.

The Explorer group of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was organized by Mrs. Marie Wilson and Mrs. Janet Lightbown in Oc

tober of 1961. The program for the Explorers includes Star Ceremonies, Mission Study and a Mother and Daughter Banquet. Singing, Bible study, crafts, hikes and games are included in the meetings.

The C.O.C. (Children of Church) group for little [illegible] organized a year or two after the Explorers. The program is much the same as for the Explorers.

Miss Iris Ford, the deaconess who served the church at this time, was the instigator behind the organization of both girls' groups.

At the present time the C.G.I.T. leaders are Barbara Olsen, Maxine Taylor, Iris Eluik.

The Explorer leaders are Donna Andersen, Pat Lindberg and Sharon Watson.

The C.O.C. was reorganized in 1973 by Susan Skocdopole and Ingrid Lindberg. The present C.O.C. leaders are Susan Skocdopole, Ingrid Lindberg and Sandra Cordon.

**ECKVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

The Church of the Nazarene came to Eckville because a family was interested and asked the district church leader for services to be held here. Early in 1948 a Christian Workers group from Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer took the responsibility for services, which were held in the Mike Covlin home. For a few months services were held upstairs in the "Den" of the Memorial Hall, then again in Mike and Eileen's home.

In 1949 Russell Quantz, who was attending C.N.C., accepted the pastorate and for a short time came from Red Deer by bus on the weekends with his wife and two children to Covlin's home. They visited extensively and the work began to grow. Two lots were purchased on what is now 53rd Avenue from Mrs. Fanny Jones, and under the leadership of Russell a church building was soon erected, even though by this time he was also pastoring in Rocky Mountain House. Many thanks to several farmers, business men of the village and others, both men and women, who so willingly gave money for the lots and materials, and labor for the building. The church was completed and ready for use at Easter 1950, and was dedicated in July of the same year.

A four-room parsonage was built on the other lot. Miss Ruth Lawrence, who was then the pastor, did some of the building herself. Rev. Garfield Ferris of Red Deer was pastor from 1952 to 1954, when Rev. Herbert Quantz came with his family from Victoria to live here. He pastored for seven years, leaving to move to Calgary in the summer of 1961 to attend University. Rev. E. V. Swarthout followed as pastor for almost a year and then Rev. Norman Falk was a supply pastor for four months. Rev. Harold Quantz came in August of 1962 from a pastorate in Redcliff.

In the fall of 1963 the congregation ventured on another building program on the same lot, to provide needed Sunday School classrooms. So Pastor Harold Quantz and various people worked diligently during the fall and winter and the first service in the new superstructure was held in April, 1964. Many thanks go again to everyone who worked and gave in any way. Numerous cups of coffee were shared in hospitality and much fun, too, as we worked together. The pen in the office surely seemed lightweight after laying blocks during noon hour. What do you do when you paint yourself into a corner? Finishing work continued so that the building was dedicated in October, 1965. The former church building was moved, as it was sold to the village of Eckville for a garage. In 1967 the present parsonage was purchased from Archie Hubtala and the former residence was sold.

Rev. William Baptist became pastor in 1967 and continued for five years, then Rev. Victor Bulley came. In January, 1974 he left to take studies at Canadian Bible College, now in Winnipeg. Rev. Isaac Reatman came from Red Deer and supplied until Rev. Harold Quantz came back as pastor for a second time in July of 1974 and is at present the pastor.

As life is, pastors come and then move on, people come and go; but we believe each has contributed to the work of God's Kingdom. As we continue to work and worship together may we follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and tell the good news of salvation and serve our generation.

**ECKVILLE ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The group started in December 1958 as the Catholic Ladies Organization. Some of the founding members who still belong are Dorothy Forhan, Ellen Armeneau, Helen Kasha, Jenny Psikula, Hazel Cordon, and Gertrude McDonald. Others who are not too far away are Bert Kuntz, Birdie Peta and Maxine McAndrew. Another founding member was Aileen Forhan who passed away December 10, 1976.

The group had hopes, at one time, of having a local church and were willed two lots in town for that purpose. With changing times, better roads and faster travel it never came about so we are part of the Sylvan Lake parish.

As in any organization, we have had our share of bake sales, bingos, raffles, rummage sales and catering to raise money for what we thought was a good cause, at the time. Times changed and circumstances altered our needs. We do some service work such as helping host showers, serving coffee at funerals, taking a turn for the World Day of Prayer and have helped with T.B. X-Ray clinics by addressing cards, supplying postage and helping on clinic days.

Our Lady of Victory Camp at Gull Lake has received our support and of course our children over the years attended summer camps Aileen Forhan cooked at camp one summer For a number of years we helped with food by supplying two pies each (enough for a meal) or double batches of cookies

During the school term we used to hold catechism classes in our homes on Fridays after school (later changed to Monday) until our classes became too large. We had Christmas parties in the hall for families. For a few years catechism was held in the school. For the last few years, it has been held at Sylvan Lake after mass on Sunday in conjunction with the children from that district Our Eckville group always supplies the lunch for the catechism Christmas parties at Sylvan Lake, ever since we started this amalgamation

April 26, 1961 was charter night for our St Mary's Catholic Women's League as a part of a world organization. It was in the form of a banquet catered to by Mrs Greenman and attended by ladies of surrounding organizations and priests. The ladies have helped with house clean

taking part in parish picnics and socials Catholic youth groups have been held for periods off and on over the years under various names through special interests of some of the priests

In 1962 our C.W.L. started a scholarship to the top boy and girl students in grade nine. These were first based on results of departmental examinations but, since they were discontinued it has been left up to the staff Following is a list of winners to the present, according to our records and those at the school. 1962—Clara Dobbs Allan Toivonen 1963—Vicky Liska, Gerald Sambrooke 1964—Dianne Covlin. Rein Mattsen 1965—Sylvia Andrew, Robert Spittal 1966—Bernadette McDonald, Bryan Kasper, 1967 Judith Kuntz, Ron Rietala, 1968—Faye Johnson Ronald Koots, 1969 Debbie Soerd Harry Thomas 1970—Ann Kasha. Dwayne Ophus 1971—Pat Purnell, Clarence Koots, 1972—Ruth Rietala, Keith Pragoda, 1973—Wendy Keegstra Tim Gefle, 1974—Noreen Onofryszyn, Mark Lavam, 1975—Ingrid Lundberg, Paul Twa 1976 Nancy Fischer, Micheal Weitstein 1977 Shirley Nelson Leslie Burdick

Since 1962 our club has bought the flowers for Christmas for the altar at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Sylvan Lake In November 1968 we wrote a letter to Mr Hooke about having a senior citizens home in Eckville Eight years later this small request may have helped it to become a reality On November 20, 1974 we gave up our Eckville C.W.L. charter to become a circle of the Sylvan Lake group. During the winter of 1975 we ried whist card parties as a form of socializing We are still somewhat active so you will probably be approached to buy a ticket by one of our group to support our commitments such as the scholarship or the good cause of the time

## FINNISH MINISTERS AND CHURCH HISTORY — by Mrs. Anne Parkkari

In the early 1900's, when many Finnish families had settled in Alberta, there were also short-time ministers of the Presbyterian Church who came to minister The first recorded minister was Reverend Hjelt, succeeded by Pastor Blomgren. Then in 1910 Reverend K E Korhonen came to serve more permanently and faithfully served until his death In 1913 Reverend and Mrs. Andrew Harju and family moved into the parsonage east of Eckville and served also at Kuusamo, Brightview and Manyberries. In 1919 he moved to Portland Oregon, U.S.A

On July 19, 1919 Reverend and Mrs John Luomala and family moved into the parsonage coming from New Hampshire, U.S.A. He served

more years. After this the parsonage was empty until it was moved to Sylvan Lake for a Presbyterian Church Manse

In 1932 a Reverend Kopra and family ministered for a while He built a house at Sylvan Lake which he sold and moved away

Reverend Kultunen was a well-educated man and had been here for a short visit

Reverend Jarvinen from California, U.S.A. was preaching at one time for a short period These two men were through here after Reverend Kopra. Reverend Muroma from Finland kept a service or two at Sylvan Lake and a year or so later Reverend Yuonen from Finland had a few services

Reverend and Mrs. Wallas from Finland were here for about a year and a half, making their home at Sylvan Lake. One summer Reverend and Mrs Lehto from the States held meetings. In the early 1940's a young graduate minister Alex Koski served here and at Wapella, Saskatchewan as a temporary minister At this time also there was a young lady, a graduate of Camrose Lutheran College, that did preaching among the Finnish congregation Her name was Jenny Ecola

Then in the late 1940's two young Pentecostal ladies traveled by car and preached in different homes, mostly in the summer months. Their names were Lahja Rouhiainen and Eva Ecola A few years later another two ladies visited the area and had meetings in homes. They were Anna Ponni and Aina Monkare

At present there is Mr and Mrs. Elia and Emil Klump come from Calgary about once a month and hold services in Eckville

## CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE

In November 1927 the Canadian Imperial Bank decided to open in Eckville a sub-branch of the Sylvan Lake branch Mr Harold S. Mann who was employed in the bank at Sylvan Lake was delegated to come to Eckville two or three times a week to handle the business. Sometimes

Mr Fred Appelton, the bank manager, would come, theoretically to check up on the business The banking facilities consisted of a little wire teller's cage and a desk and counter in a small office north of the lumber yard (now Carrill's Hardware) Mr Colpitts, a lawyer, also shared the office There was a tiny safe in the bank, but nothing was left there overnight. When Harold Mann and the junior clerk went across the street to the hotel for their lunch one of them carried the bills and the other one the silver, and of course one of them had a gun

Cecil Caton, who at that time was attending high school, was employed to light the fires and do other custodial work. He must have done his work well, for when the bank opened full time in 1930, Cecil was taken on the banking staff

In 1918 a bank building was constructed on the corner lot where the present bank is located This operated on a part-time basis at first, but in December of 1930 Eckville became a full-time branch of the Imperial Bank of Commerce. In the original building Mr and Mrs Mann moved into the living quarters — four tiny rooms. Later a 10 by 10 foot kitchen was built on, and one of the bedrooms was converted into the manager's office

The first manager of the original bank was Mr J M. McIntosh, and it is believed that the first accountant was Matt Perry When the bank was opened for full time business in 1930 the staff consisted of Harold Mann and Cecil Caton At that time a vault was added, a few other alterations were made, and the building was in use until October 1976

In October of 1976 the old bank was moved off the site and temporarily the staff operated out of two trailers at the rear of the property During this time a new modern bank building was being constructed. The new building came into use on January 31, 1977, with a staff of 10 employees and Mr A. G. Drapaka as manager The new bank building was officially opened on Saturday February 5, 1977, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the public

The new building offers expanded services for its many customers. Four tellers are now employed, a night depository service has been added, and several new safety deposit boxes are also available The new modern structure is unique in design. The inside is built from concrete rafters and is the first of its kind to be put into use in the Alberta region

**ECKVILLE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED Information derived from the Notice of the Report and Statistics to be Presented at the 50th Annual Meeting on March 21, 1963. The Anniversary Review was written by Mr. John Lilyam, and the Manager's Progress Report written by Mr W G McAndrews. Additional information was provided by Mr. Morley Cowling, General Manager, in 1975**

The formation of the present Eckville Co-operative Association Limited was the out growth of an early experiment, utilizing the advantages of co-operative buying, which was begun in Lacombe in 1939. The United Farmers of Alberta also encouraged this practice, and it was to the Red Deer branch of the U F A. that the Medicine Valley Estonian Society turned for information as to the steps leading to the formal establishment of a Consumer's Co-operative The Estonian Society was first formed in 1910 for social purposes, but apparently deviated from this restriction and on April 9, 1911 met to discuss the formation of a consumer co-operative. A public meeting held in the month of June 1912 drew considerable interest and it was decided at that meeting to organize the Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Company By August a provisional board was organized and they engaged the services of a Mr Archibald Litt from Hamilton, Ontario as Manager Mr E. N. Matchett was chosen as president. Mr Fritz Kinna as vice president, and A. E. T Eckford secretary treasurer Other board members were Carl Langer, R Stopsen M. Rangen and A. Litt. A later formal organization meeting was probably held at which time F Kinna was made president J Lundberg vice-president and A E T Eckford secretary C Raabis, H. Kingsep and C Gustavson were chosen as directors

Operating capital was obtained by issuing shares of $50.00 each. Many people invested their savings in these shares thus enabling the Co-operative to purchase facilities and inventory The first premises of the new organization was where the Eckville Bakery now the J and K Foods, now stands. Their first six months of business brought a profit of $71.00 which the members agreed to re-invest in the business to provide additional capital. At this same meeting on April 13, Mr A. Isaacson was added to the board of directors. During an Estonian Society meeting held at the Henry Kinna home on September 14, 1913, the members present decided that the store manager could assume the position of the Co-operative s secretary treasurer, following the resignation of Mr Eckford from this position. The store manager was to be paid an additional sum for his added duties. The minutes of this meeting also note that H. Kinna would be invited to take an inventory for the year-end report, due late in November

For the next two decades, the volume of business showed a slow increase, probably due to the economic conditions of the time. A Mr Rogers, newly arrived from England, soon succeeded Mr Litt as manager and, while acting in the dual role as secretary-treasurer and manager, helped write out many of the original by-laws of the organization. During this time Mr Rogers was also the entire staff of the store, as well as a real estate dealer on the side. In 1932 Mr D. Clausen replaced Mr Rogers as manager

The Government of the Province of Alberta

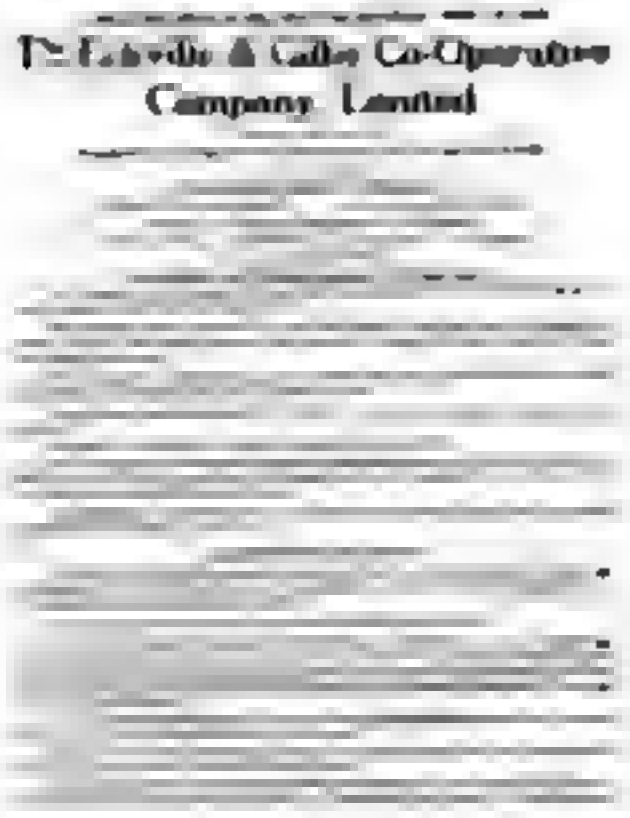
passed the Co-operative Association Act in 1937 and the following year the Eckville and Gilby Co operative Company was incorporated as "The Eckville Co-operative Association Limited", with the objective of the Association being "to operate a general store" The number of shares to be issued is unlimited and the value is fixed at five dollars each Head office of the Association is to be situated in Eckville. Mr O Umart was manager at this time The business expanded to include a lumberyard and about 1938 a new store building was built on the present site

Business was apparently good, and when Mr L Kalla took the manager's helm in 1939 it began to expand quite rapidly U F A. oils was taken up from private contractors in 1944 and in 1947 a locker plant and slaughterhouse was added to the services provided for Co-op members, followed by a seed and feedmill in 1949. The capital for this particular venture was pledged by members, but, unfortunately only two of the pledges were honoured and the Association was forced to borrow the greater part of the money that was needed to purchase and remodel the flour mill which C. Moro had constructed some years earlier

Although this new service greatly aided the community, such large borrowing reduced the association's available operating capital and prompted the board to venture into the automobile retail field in 1950. as a means of in creasing turnover Further. a parts service for Canadian Co-operatives Implements Limited was added to the services provided. This proved to be too great a burden for the capitalization of the enterprise and sharp credit restrictions began to curb the Association's activities. The board was forced to make policy changes and decided to change managers as well W G McAndrews, formerly as assistant manager was made co-manager with Mr W McIntyre. who had been managing the lumberyard

In 1936, under the management of Mr Oswald Umart. a new store was built on the site the present store now occupies Mr Dee Kalla followed Mr Umart as manager and under the guidance of Mr Kalla the association had an era of expan sion and by 1950 the business departments con sisted of groceries, meat. dry goods, hardware, lumber, garage machinery feed and seed mill, trucking petroleum and lockers. The Associa tion was doing about $500.000.00 volume of business a year and was regarded as one of the better co-operatives in the Province of Alberta Records are not available from 1936 to 1950. but there was quite an era of expansion and the volume increased by leaps and bounds However one director stated that the entire volume of business in 1945 had been less than $100,000.00

In 1950, Mr Kalla left the Association and W G. McAndrews took over as general manager Due to the heavy expansion program, increase in inventories, personnel, etc., the Association




found itself in an embarrassing financial posi tion. The board of directors at this time decided to cut back on some of their departments until a stable financial position could be established The petroleum and garage business was dis posed of and a campaign to raise new share capital was embarked upon

A quota of $20,000 was set, but only about $9. 000 of this was raised. With this new share capital and loyal support from the members business continued to increase and by the end of 1955 the current liability to current assets ratio which in 1950 was in a bad position at 1.1, was back to a very healthy position of almost 4 to 1 Total volume was still about the half million dollar mark, but the Association had two departments less than in 1950. namely the petroleum and the garage

Fertilizer sales were added to the business in 1956 and have continued to increase each year since. Sale of the garage and implement parts business at a severe loss) and retirement from the retail sale of oil and gasoline followed in short order

In the meantime Mr McIntyre had left for another position and "Red" McAndrews was left in sole possession of the post of manager of the entire Association. Fire destroyed the main store and its contents on the night of November 13. 1957, and at first it looked almost hopeless to try to finance a new operation. However, the board entered into an agreement with the Atlas

Lumber Company (now Revelstoke Sawmills Ltd.) whereby the Atlas bought the Co-op lumber yard and after this Co-op was back in business in groceries, meat, and some dry goods, the new store being officially opened on September 5 1958

The new era of prosperity which seemed to have begun was interrupted by another major fire in the spring of 1961 which destroyed the old feedmill. This meant a further expenditure of capital when it was decided to rebuild on the present site of the feedmill. The new feedm began operations in June of 1961. During 19 new fertilizer storage sheds were built and with our new premises the total Association sales in 1962 were $900,000 with a total savings of $43,000

A membership meeting held on November 10 '71 approved the renovation of the main store and the construction of a new hardware - home furnishings center. This work was carried out through the winter and on April 20, 1972 the official opening of the new center was held and Mr Fritz Kinna, the first president and charter member of the Association cut the ribbon and declared the new center officially open

Mr McAndrews served as manager of the Association from 1950 until he resigned on August 12, 1967. Mr Oliver Stopsen was then chosen as manager and served in this position until November 1, 1973, when he was succeeded by Mr Morley Couling

These remarks out of the past constitute a brief review of how the Eckville Co-operative Association Limited made its first steps up a path leading from its first retail outlet in the building now occupied by the J and K Foods store with their first six months of business realizing a profit of $71.00 to its present modern facilities and a volume of business rising from $677,000 in 1966 to $1,242,000 in 1971, and a still higher figure of $2,300,000 in 1975

Many people have served on the Eckville Co operative Association's board of directors. All of them have so contributed to community welfare in this and other ways that their names have become familiar to us. People like C. Gustavson H. Mottus, H. Talson, John Saari, H. Lapp, H. Kingsep, J. D. Phillips, R. Sestrap, J. Lundberg A. B. Koski A. Llivam, W. Burns, J. Caton, E. I Erickson, Bill Smith, F. Andrew C. Raabis and many others

## THE ECKVILLE MUTUAL TELEPHONE

The Eckville Mutual Telephone Central served several subsidiary lines surrounding the village. These party lines each served an area of approximately 20 square miles. Such a telephone network served an area south and east of Eckville in the Benalto district. This was mostly a Finnish settlement. Persons wishing to join were charged $1.8.65, later lowered to $100 per membership, which sum paid for the construction of a line to the homes. Members paid 25 cents per month above the long distance charges. Each member had his own signal ring which was heard throughout in each home

Poles were assessed at $1.75 each. A two-wire system was strung, but proved unsatisfactory. The second wire was eventually sold to the United Grain Growers Elevator Co. at Kootuk for a stretch of one and a half miles of line. Wire was sold for $27 and insulators at 10 cents apiece

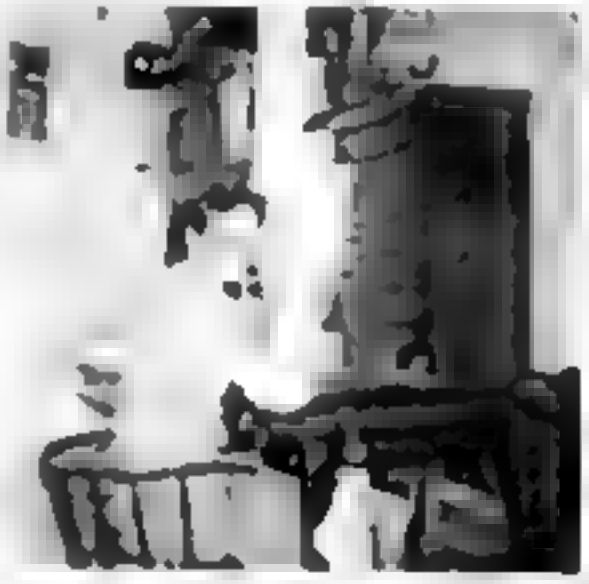
When it became necessary to replace four poles at two railroad crossings, Mr. John Heikkinen agreed to supply these for the grand total of $11. Poles were to be tamaracks 30 feet long and not less than six inches in diameter at the top; the used poles sold at $1.30 each

The treasury seldom had a large sum of money, as witness the treasurer's report of $3.20 and $1.30 on two occasions

Considerable friction was aroused by the fact that in case of emergency it was impossible to reach Eckville Central on Sundays and holidays except from 10:00 a.m. until noon

In 1936, following the advent of the Calgary Power line which caused interference, it was decided to sever the line to Eckville Central and members maintained the line between themselves. Lines were strung, avoiding the power line, and sometimes using insulators on fence posts to carry the wires

Meetings throughout the period from 1919 to 1936 were held and the minutes were recorded in the Finnish language. The following are translations of their organizational and final meetings



Evelyn Andrew on the switchboard of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association.

Minutes of the organizational meeting of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association held at the home of Herman Talson December 7 1919, for the purpose of discussing and resolving matters concerning the Association

1 The meeting was called to order by Henry Talson. He explained the purpose of this meeting and suggested officers be elected to represent this telephone association

2 Officers elected were the following Chairman – Henry Talson. Secretary – Frank Nikkola, Treasurer — Abram Huhtala

3 The drafting committee for the constitution Alexander Hietala, John Heikkinen and Henry Talson

4. Executive Committee — Abram Huhtala Henry Talson and Frank Nikkola

5. Henry Talson was unanimously chosen as a representative to the Eckville Mutual Telephone

6. Following a discussion, it was decided that new telephone poles be installed. These were to be ready by August 1, 1920; also that a two-line system would be strung at this time

7 A discussion arose as to whether more members would be accepted into our association It was decided that membership be limited

8. The meeting was notified that the following persons had applied for membership G.N Barhan, Buchanan, and Kinna, Weeks, and George Gilpatrick

9. The following applications were accepted G N Barhan. Buchanan. and Kinna. Mr Weeks was rejected because of the distance to his home George Gilpatrick's application was tabled

10. The secretary was authorized to purchase a minute book at the association's expense Meeting adjourned, Frank Nikkola, Sect., H Talson, Chairman, Last Recorded Minutes

Minutes of Telephone Association meeting held at the Young Peoples Hall on June 19, 1926

1 The meeting was called to order by the chairman Henry Talson Undersigned acted as

2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read

3. The former executive committee were unanimously re-elected

4. A discussion arose as to what action should be taken regarding our telephone system. It was mutually agreed to repair the line for members' use between themselves, the system to be disconnected from the Eckville exchange by severing the line west on Henry Hietala's. David Hietala volunteered to cut these wires

5. Ray Niemela and David Hietala each volunteered to repair their share of the line

6. Members agreed that payments to the Eckville exchange be withheld from the time Calgary power line was activated, due to in

Meeting adjourned. Eli Nikkola. Secretary

**ECKVILLE BUSINESSMEN**

In the compiling of this history book of Eckville and district many former residents will have been overlooked or we have been unable to contact them or their families

Some come to mind when thinking of some early business people. Creamery (Pallisen Pete. E. W Taylor Henry Hansen, John Pialon, Patchett Bill Morris and it was during Bill time that the C.A.D.P bought out the Pallisen Creamery

Early hoteliers were Jack Coglan, Harry Lowe. Bert Thompson B Dennett, Bill Marsh G D Amico and presently V Clancy

Walter Herring, Sr was secretary of the school while living in town He previously farmed in the Evergreen district. He was known for his good penmanship He left when his health started to fail to make his home with his son Walter in Saskatchewan where he is buried

In the garage business was Fred Isaacson His building was on the east side of main street This burned down in the fire of August, 1928 Other garage operators were Art Garries, Sid Paston. Larry Knudsen and Nick Sherba

We also had two butcher shops other than those connected with the grocery stores. Jack Bromling opened one in the old Bank of Commerce building. He had a niece, Bessie Bromling (Nelson , who kept the customers smiling with the humorous cartoons she was noted for drawing Chris Baker also had a meat market on the east side of main street but at a later time than Jack

Dan Clausen. our congenial postmaster for many years, was a diligent community worker, too. The family consisted of three children, Edgar Richard (Dick) and Bertha. They were very musical and had a dance orchestra at one

An early grain buyer was Fred Heimbecher He and his wife were well known for their hospitality They had six children Margaret George. Albert, Lyle, Edith and Jack

We had two Jackson's here at one time. both bachelors One a grocery store owner The other, Ernest Jackson. the baker His sisters, Mrs Snyder and Mrs. Cooper helped in the shop He sold the business to M A. Coppens

In the restaurant business we had a Mrs Pearson. Mrs. Carter, Sam Lee (Chinese) and the old timers still remember "Happy

The early blacksmiths were Harry Palmer Bill McHattie, Jules Setvais, Bill Likala and Herb Riley

Pool hall and barber shop operators were Jack Coghlin, Bill Marks, Lance Rowett and Hans Rangen

Cobbler or shoe-maker in the early days was Bill Gillies and later Wally Pukk

The early druggists in the old building that was torn down to make way for the new Co-op hardware was Clare Crosby and W E. Hayes The post office at the time was housed in this building Mr Crosby had a Mrs. Roberts keeping house for him while here. she had two children the boy Herchel.

One of the early doctors was Percy Backus from 1920-1924. He moved to Red Deer to practise

and then to London, England for more education. Dr. and Mrs. Backus have two boys: Winston and Barrie. These boys are now in practise as M.D.'s. Barrie in Ponoka and Winston in Grande Prairie. Winston is also a member of the cabinet in the Provincial Legislature.

Clarence Haven was the dray man delivering freight, etc. from the stations, both C.P.R. and C.N.R. He had a big friendly German Shepherd dog who would come in wherever Clarence stopped to deliver goods, jump on a chair if one was available, and hold out his paw to shake.

Imperial Oil agents were Von Holtum, Phil. Lavbourne, also a John Deere dealer — Mose Loewen.

Veterinarians were Dr. C. Speirs, Dr. James Neufeld, Dr. Norman Guenther.

Atlas Lumber managers were August Harju, Bob Gish and Ted Hansen.


## GOOD NEWS!

OUR REMARKABLE JANUARY HARNESS OFFERING HELD OVER FOR ANOTHER MONTH.

POSITIVELY YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SEASON'S GREATEST HARNESS VALUE

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ROYAL HARNESS, as above [illegible] **$32.95**

REGAL HARNESS, as above but with the popular [illegible] **$37.25**

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ORDER NOW!

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This Advertisement appeared in February issue of The [illegible] and Farm and Ranch Review.

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We suggest that you—

1—Scrape all manure from soles and uppers.

2—Wash them at least once a week with warm water.

3—Dry shoes for about one hour (do not place near stove or fire)

4—Grease well with "Warm Tallow" or "Neat's Foot Oil."

5—Never grease with lard.

**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
363 Furt St.
WINNIPEG · MANITOBA

When leather is burnt it cracks and rots so, when shoes are wet, please keep away from excessive heat (such as stoves or open fires).

Note to Purchasers:—If shoes are to be worn around the barn, insist on purchasing shoes made with "Helan" Upper Leather.

**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
363 Furt St.
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**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
363 Furt St.
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*We guarantee this pair of shoes to give good wear otherwise the purchaser will be entitled to a refund or a new pair of shoes*

*We cannot accept responsibility for improper greasing, or premature wearing of the leather caused by moisture or acid, excessive perspiration, accidents or other causes beyond our control.*

**In Witness Whereof,** *the Corporation has caused this guarantee to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation*

*Dated this day of*

*at* TOWN

*Signed*

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO., LTD.

W. H. Smith — MANAGER

SEAL

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is hereby enrolled as a member of said Association and is entitled for five years to absolutely free consultation with Dr. W. C. Fair, V. S., concerning the diseases, symptoms, treatment, breeding or feeding of any live stock owned by himself or any member of his family.

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(SEAL)

By [illegible] Salesman.

Date [illegible] 19[illegible]

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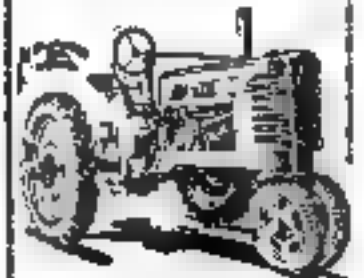

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## Monday March 25th, 1929

Sale to start at 11 o'clock — Lunch at Noon

6 HEAD OF HORSES

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ECKVILLE HOTEL COFFEE SHOP

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ECKVILLE, ALBERTA


**HISTORY OF ECKVILLE SCHOOL**

Eckville School had its beginning at the site of Old Eckville" Mr A. E T Eckford was the owner of the land on which the town was situated. The name Eckville preserved his name. The agitation to establish a school when there were enough children in the settlement took definite form. The first meeting of the elected board of Eckville School District No 1459 was held on March 29. 1906 at the Eckville Post Office. The late Charlie Kasper was elected chairman. Mr J H Killick was elected secretary-treasurer Another member was W W Gosgarth That same spring, debentures for $800 were sold and the school was built west of the river on the land then owned by E E Randall. later the L. Kingsep farm. and now owned by Bill Eliuk Miss A Fenerty, from the Maritimes, was the first teacher Her salary was set at $50 per month She boarded with Mrs Killick The school opened with the fall term of 1906. Other early teachers were Amy Richardson who stayed with the Eckfords, Agnes Hampton, Miss McMann, who boarded with the Matchetts, and Emma Goodmanson who later became Mrs Art Kinna

[illegible]

In 1920. the original school building was sold to St Paul's Presbyterian Church for the sum of $200. It was moved into town from its location, one mile north. and relocated where the Presbyterian Church still stands. (1)

On May 30. 1921 the residents of Eckville signed a petition to have Eckville declared a hamlet This carried because of the consolidated school. The club room of the curling rink was used for school rooms until a new school was built. For this, the school board paid part of the cost of a new floor As well, in the later 1920's the old school building purchased by the church, was once again used as a temporary classroom. The rent for use of the Presbyterian Church was set

School Class at the old Presbyterian Church in 1919. Back row

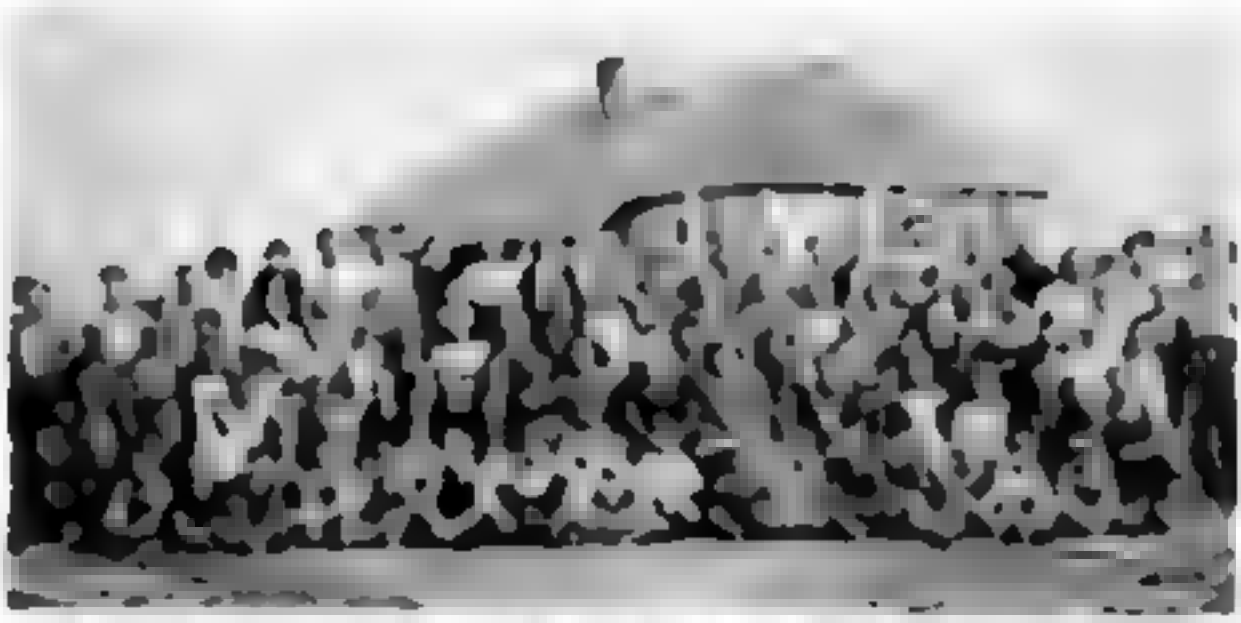
at $75 per year. In June, 1930 the rent was raised to $100 per year. Some of the teachers of the 1920's and 1930's were: Gladys Jones, Ena Paul, Henry Ludwig, Laura Byers, Lydia Lunitsky, E. Baldwin, M. McKinnon, Ruth Craig, Benjamin Upshaw, John Benjamin Scott, Margaret Gardiner, Catherine Farries, Ada Tipman and J. Henley-Lewis. A. W. Harju was treasurer in 1928 and in 1929 Mrs. Ruth Lundberg assumed this job.

The early school days were not totally without fun. In a letter from Archie Litt's memories of November 15, 1971 we read: "The box socials were great, the gals would pack the refreshments, and the young bucks would bid on them at auction. Some good looking school teachers would raise bids up to $15 or $20 which was real money then — especially in the scarcity of that particular commodity. If the boys were wise to anyone who was after any particular gal they thoroughly enjoyed bidding them up." (2.)

During these early years, students from outside the Eckville School district were permitted to attend Eckville School to get their high school. Tuition was set at $3 per month. This was paid either by parents or by their local school district if so authorized.

On July 14, 1936 an ad was put in a Calgary paper to sell debentures for $5,500 in order to borrow enough money to build a new school. This building stands yet at the north end of a present Junior Senior High School complex. Mrs. Agnes Bowen acted as Secretary of the Eckville School District for many years.

September 14, 1940, the largest School Fair was held with 1,613 entries. Ewart McDonald won the scholarships with 126 points. Elsie Kult of Shady Lane won the girl's scholarship with 91 points.



In 1946, the village started collecting the school taxes. Previously it was done by the local school board. The next change was the organization of the Lacombe School Division No 56 on January 1, 1947 Due to the shortage of teachers several neighboring districts had been placed under the charge of correspondence supervisors The school term 1948-49 saw the inclusion of Eckville School District into the Lacombe School Division No. 56. Centralization continued to be he dominant theme throughout the early 1950's due to teacher shortage and improved school facilities Many stormy meetings were held between local district boards and members of the Lacombe Division Local districts that finally were included in the Eckville centralization program were. Estonian, Andrew Benjamin, Medicine Valley, Wolfe, Saima and Blue Bell. About this time the Home Economics and Shop Programs were offered as part of the Curriculum

The Home and School Association was organized in about 1950 It was very active in supporting school programs and projects. Driver Education was one of the topics initiated by Mrs Olga Stenvig This brief was presented to the Provincial Government. This has been realized and has become part of the High School Program now. Bill Rothwell, as well as others, served as President. This group disbanded in 1968 due to lack of support of parents. Through the years Eckville High School had a Glee Club under Marge Lazzer; also the band grew under the direction of Mr Barrigan

The Eckford Trophy was set up in 1953. The letters leading to this follow Since the awarding of this coveted award each year, several other awards have been set up. The list is included

No. 1
Granthams Landing B.C
.4 12 52
To: Mr Eldon Bliss, Principal

I wonder if it would meet with your approval [redacted] educational or sports for a small trophy or cup? You see, it was fifty years ago this past summer that I took up a homestead on land that was a few years later the site of "Old Eckville"

I have pleasant memories of those early days and would like to leave some small remembrance Our two older boys, born while we lived on the farm, were not of school age when we left Eckville district for the coast in Dec. 1918 but I have always been interested in young people — their work and play

No. 2
Eckville December 31, 1952
To Mr Arthur E. T Eckford
Granthums Landing B C

, feel that it is most fitting that a trophy be offered for annual competition by the founder of this town, and so I heartily accept your suggestion. I suggest, and I know that the students here will feel, that such a trophy, no matter what its actual monetary value, should be the most highly prized award in the school. Therefore, I would like to recommend that your contribution take the form of a trophy to be awarded annually to the student who contributes the most to the life of the school while in attendance at this High School. That would mean that the award would go to the Grade Twelve student who, from Grade X to Grade XII was the outstanding student scholastically, athletically, and executively. Such an award would not go to a student who was an outstanding scholar but contributed nothing to the life of the school in the way of Athletics or Student Union representation. Similarly it would not go to a student who is an outstanding athlete and Student's Union representative but a poor scholar.

In my opinion such a trophy should remain in the school and have a base sufficiently large so that each year the name of the winning student could be affixed to it, engraved on a small silver shield.

I might also suggest that the trophy be one of the "statue" type rather than of the "cup" type. In my opinion, the inscription should read something as follows:

The ARTHUR E. T. ECKFORD Trophy
Awarded annually to the
Eckville Student
Who has contributed the most to
his school in the academic, athletic
and executive fields.

Granthums Landing B.C
To Mr. Eldon Bliss, Principal

Dear Mr. Bliss:

Many thanks for your letter of Dec. 31st. I should apologize for having written to you at such a busy time, but mine was really a much delayed letter — put off from time to time during the past year. I was really a bit doubtful as to how you would receive my suggestion of a trophy. Now that I have your kind letter — and your acceptance, it was quite a relief! I will do my best to find something suitable for such an

**AWARDS IN ECKVILLE SCHOOL**

Students require incentive, encouragement and recognition in their growth toward adult maturity. Recognition of this fact has led to the establishment of a number of trophies and awards that are presented to deserving students each year. Most of these trophies and awards are kept on display in the school.

**A. Eckford Trophy** — This trophy is to be awarded to the grade 12 student who has contributed the most to the school in his or her school career. The student must be outstanding scholastically, athletically and executively. The candidate is chosen by a vote of the grade 12 class with the principal and staff making the final decision. This trophy is presented at the Graduation Exercises.

**B. Athletic Trophies** (Presented at the Graduation Exercises). 1. **Most Valuable Athlete Awards** — presented by Dave and Mona Beckman. One trophy is awarded to the top girl athlete and one is awarded to the top boy athlete in Eckville High School. The candidates eligible for this award must participate in a number of sports, demonstrate good sportsmanship and help create good school spirit. This award may be won only once by a given student. The students in High School select three boys and three girls as a nominees for the trophies and the coaches and Phy. Ed. teachers are to make the final choice. 2. **Eckville High School Co-op Bonspiel Champions** — This award is given to the best High School rink. 3. **Eckville High School League Champions** — This award is given to the best High School rink if in Eckville High School there is a High School Curling League. 4. **McDonald Trophy** (Junior Athlete) — This trophy is awarded to the most outstanding boy or girl athlete in the Junior High School. The candidate is selected by coaches and Phys. Ed. teachers. 5. **Weikum Trophy** — This trophy is awarded by coaches and Phys. Ed. teachers to the top athlete from grade 1-12. The candidate must posses leadership qualities and must be of good character. (Staff reserves right not to award this trophy.

C. **Academic Awards** (Presented at the Graduation Exercises). 1. Academic Award — Grade 10 (H. N. Anderson). 2. Academic Award — Grade 11 (T. H. Curran). 3. Academic Award — Grade 12. (Home and School Association). Each of the above awards is presented to the student with the highest academic average in each grade. (Note: The H and S also presents the Valedictorian in Grade 12 with a cheque.) 4. **Legion Award** — This is a cash award given to the diploma student in grade 12 with the highest average. 5. **A. T. A. Honor Pins** — The Lacombe Local of the A. T. A. presents honor pins to all honor students in grades 9 and 12 and to the top honor student in grades 10 and 11. 6. **Eckville Junior High School Award for Academic Achievement** — The name of the top boy student in each of grades 7, 8, and 9 is engraved on one plaque and the name of the top girl student in each of grades 7, 8, and 9 is engraved on another plaque. 7. **Catholic Women's League Award** — The grade 9 boy with the highest average and the grade 9 girl with the highest average each presented with a $25 award.

D. **Queen of Hearts.** 1. **Queen of Hearts Plaque** — The Senior High Student Union has the name

of the Queen of Hearts engraved on a plaque which is kept in the school. The Queen of Hearts, who is a grade 12 girl, is selected by vote of the high school students and is traditionally crowned by the previous year's Queen as part of the Queen of Hearts program. 2 **Queen of Hearts Locket** - - The H and S Association presents a locket to the Queen of Hearts each year.

E **Senior High Students Union Awards** (Presented at the Graduation Exercises) 1 Senior High Student Union Pins — The Senior High Students Union presents Student Union Pins to each of the Student Union Officers: Pres., Vice-pres., Sec. Treas., Social Convenor, Ways and Means Convenor, Boy's Sports Rep., Girl's Sports Rep. and Room Representatives. 2 **Year Book Editor Pin** — The Senior High Students Union presents the Year Book Editor with a pin each year.

F **Junior High Student Union Pins** — The Junior High Students Union presents pins to each of the Student Union Officers.

In 1959 a new addition was built onto the old High School to accommodate the Junior-High and Senior-High population. As well, a gymnasium was constructed. The school population from Grades 1-12 were now housed in one building.

Lacombe School Division No. 66 changed to County of Lacombe No. 14 effective January 1961. By this legislation, Eckville school and district had coterminous boundaries for school administration. Financial matters were now handled by one administration body instead of two separate units.

In 1961, a parcel of land was purchased from L. Kingsep. A new six-room school was built on this property to house Grades 1-3. This move resolved the problem of over-crowding found in the one school unit. In 1970, the new addition - four classrooms, library and offices plus a gymnasium were added to the original elementary school at a cost of $213,000. This unit now accommodated Grades 1-6. The other unit is used for Grades 7-12. In 1977-78, Eckville Schools (Grades 1-12) have a student population of about 465 students and has 24 teachers. Secretarial services are provided by Mrs. Laura Sambrook. Mrs. S. Haglund and Mrs. B. Wyzykoski are Teacher Aides.

The High School has an annual formal affair called the Queen of Hearts, which is held in February. Grade 12 girls who have been chosen through the years are: 1961 — Tiuu Koppel, 1962 - Nora Sambrooke, 1963 — Beverly Anderson, 1964 — Anna Haapala, 1965 — Patricia Dunn, 1966 — Frances Frid, 1967 - Muriel Fiss, 1968 - Isabel Smith, 1969 — Janice Matthews, 1970 - Joanne Erickson, 1971 — Jean Erickson, 1972 — Mary Ann Waisanen, 1973 - Ann Kasha, 1974 - Pat Purnell, 1975 — Debbie French, 1976 — Gwen Erickson and 1977 — Sandra Taylor. Graduation Banquet and Exercises are held in early June of each year. The Elementary School has an annual Christmas and Spring Program. In addition to this, the track meet is held in the spring. For the last four years, this school has been involved in two E.O.F. projects — one in reading improvement and the other dealing with leisure time. Many parents have helped with teaching crafts to these young people.

Some of the names of teachers who have spent many years or several years serving the Eckville School are: Eldon Bliss, Mr. Inman, B. Curran, Henry Anderson, Marge Lazzer, Lynne and Harry Densmore, Steve and Berdu Peta, Dorothy Lawton, Gertie McDonald, Jim Keegstra, A. Ralph, Mrs. H. Terry and the present High School Principal, Ed Olsen. Elementary school teachers who have taught here or are teaching now include: Mrs. E. Morrisey, Miss E. Graves, Mrs. D. Hoven, Mrs. M. Niemi, Mrs. M. Palm, Mrs. H. Rothwell, Mrs. M. Wilson, Mrs. J. Kasha, Mrs. M. Brososky, Mr. V. Angus, Mrs. C. Frostad, Mrs. G. McCann, Miss A. Coverdale and the present Principal of the Elementary School, Mr. J. Walker.

1. Files at the Eckville Town Office re Eckville's 50th Anniversary.

2) Letter to Eckville Town Office from Archie Litt.

**THE ECKVILLE AIRPORT — by Douglas Hawkes**

Previous to 1928, the federal government assumed responsibilities for the natural resources of Canada. The R.C.A.F. was engaged in fire observation for the forests of the eastern watershed of the Rockies and their main airport for this was at High River. One day a flight would go south to the U.S.A. border with an emergency landing facility at Pincher Creek. The following day, the flight would be up to Rocky Mountain House with an emergency landing field on the north side of Eckville, where the Elementary School is now located.

This was one of Canada's first few airports. The only airman posted at Eckville was Corporal Stan Green. He remained for one summer to receive two flights for refueling. After the province took over the responsibility for natural resources, the airport was abandoned.

Corporal Green went on to head the aviation section of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. In retirement he built a replica of the Blerlot aircraft which was the first aircraft type to fly over the English Channel. At the time of writing he is building a replica of the Sepwith Triplane single seat fighter circa 1915), at the Calgary Centennial Planetarium.

Eckville was further identified with the R.C.A.F. with a camera installation for bombing exercises for the Service Flying Station at Penhold during World War II.

During the early 1930's Earl C. (Rudy) Platt of Rimbey had a plane he brought to Eckville, on sports days, to provide rides to those daring enough to buy a ticket. There are various

opinions as to the admission charged He had a helper along who would take tickets and turn the propeller to start the motor When the helper turned the propeller to compression he called "contact" and the pilot turned on the ignition Hopefully the plane would start with the next turn of he propeller

Rudy was married to Edythe Andrew of the Gilby district He lost his life in April 1943, in a plane crash, while flying a load of fish from the far north

The pilot needed assistance to start the plane on one occasion, so Edgar Clausen, a Grade nine student in the Eckville school, had the privelege of leaving class to turn the propeller and pushing the plane thus getting it started. It was sometimes necessary to push the plane across the field until it got enough momentum to get air borne

**THE ECKVILLE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL**

Early in the fall of 1934 a number of public spirited citizens met in the Eckville Hall to discuss the need for a district hospital in Eckville This original meeting was chaired by H. S Mann. After considerable discussion, a committee was formed consisting of W S Ignatius G. L. Caton, J Buresh, H T Arnold, J Mullarkey H. B Belt F Kinna, J Saari, with H S. Mann as secretary and O. M Forhan as chairman A person-to-person canvas for funds was conducted, bringing in $321 in cash and $100 in promises. Due to poor crops in the area, very little was accomplished until the spring of 1936, at which time the original committee was discharged with thanks and an official board of managers was appointed. This board was made up of O. M. Forhan, J. Saari, Dr S M Palmer D Clausen, G. L. Caton and E I. Erickson, with H. S. Mann as chairman

Their directive was "to get busy and do something" The establishment of the Medicine Valley Community Hospital was officialy underway! The "Jenkins" house was purchased and opened as a hospital on September 1, 1937 The first month's operations were considered most satisfactory, with 119 patient days and a surplus of funds The hospital operated until May 16, 1938, when it was forced to close due to lack of funds

The hospital was again opened on October 15,

and set up a medical practice. Dr Coppock was

In April, 1943 the Minister of Health instructed the Eckville Hospital Board to have a meeting with regard to building a new hospital. The first hospital board members were R. B Cash, representing the Municipal District of Eckville O. Omari, representing the Municipal District of Lorne, A. E Avery, representing the Municipal District of Lochearn, Alec Duncan representing the Municipal District of Golden West and J Buresh, representing the Municipal

District of Raven. H S. Mann was appointed secretary-treasurer The purpose of the meeting was to acquire the present Medicine Valley Community Hospital and to purchase a suitable site to erect a 15-bed hospital They also prepared a plebiscite to obtain authorization to borrow $42,000 by way of 20-year debentures at five percent interest.

The plebiscite was held on August 5, 1943 Results of the vote were. For — 545, Against — 106 Spoiled — two; Total — 653 Percentage in favor — 83.6%. Walter Crouch of Condor was the Returning Officer Ratepayers were to [illegible] hospitalization for one dollar per day if they p a hospital tax of $6 per quarter section of land per year. Non-ratepayers were to receive hospitalization for one dollar per day if they paid a yearly sum of $6 to the hospital

Eight acres of land was purchased on the west side of the village for $400 from Mr W H Cowan Walter Crouch was appointed the first auditor Fred Moos drilled the well for the hospital in June, 1944. Contracts for the new hospital were awarded to General Construction, Morin Bros Edmonton whose bid was $27,500. Plumbing and heating contract was awarded to Locherbi and Hole, Edmonton, for $8,948 90. Meeres and Hicks of Red Deer contracted the electrical work for $3,105. Morin Bros were given the contract to complete the east end of the basement of the new hospital for nurses' quarters for $2,585

The old hospital building was sold to W B Cowan for $2,000 and was rented by the Board for

$25 per month until the new hospital was ready. The funds from this sale went toward building of the nurses' quarters in the basement of the new hospital. The Hospital Aid operated a booth at the Benalto Fair and donated their proceeds of $200 to the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Heath were appointed the first janitor and cook for the hospital.

In 1949 supporters rates were: individual residents of the district — $12, family residents of the district — $16, individual non-residents of the district — $16, family non-residents of the district — $20.

In 1967 the total operating cost was $28,466.40 with a patient day cost of $4.55. In 1977 the budget allowed $606,000, with a patient day cost of $93.

The hospital land was annexed into the village of Eckville in April, 1949.

In February, 1950, Dr. Frank Coppock proposed increased hospital accommodation by building a nurses' residence to house 18 staff members. This would increase the hospital capacity by eight adult beds and four childrens beds. The board agreed and tenders were placed in January 1951. The tender was awarded to the Sandquist Construction of Red Deer at a cost of $56,463.10.

In July, 1953, a tender for the solarium to be built on the west end of the hospital was awarded to Frank Fernell of Red Deer at a cost of $6,116.82.

Minor structural alterations were made on the top floor of the hospital in April, 1968, but this did not reduce the number of beds. The Edmonton hospital planning authorities did not give any encouragement for a new hospital or any major changes to be done.

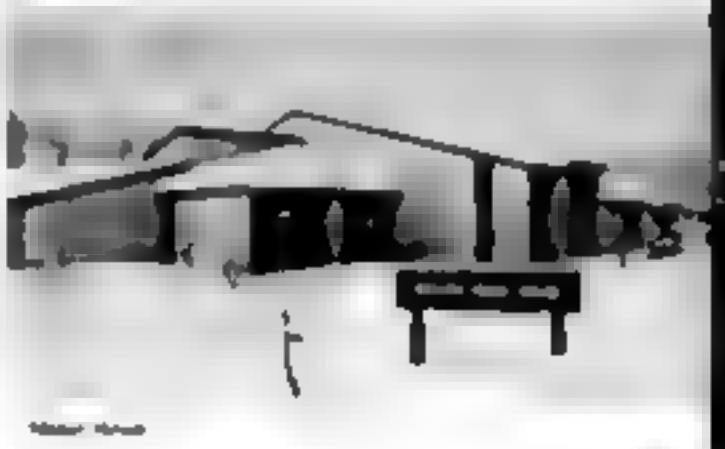
In August, 1969, the Board met with Mr. Lang of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, who was to assess the hospital. His survey here indicated several areas within the hospital which were totally inadequate and facilities poorly arranged. Currently the board is actively involved with essential upgrading of the hospital to present day safety standards at an approximate cost of $100,000. Looking into the next five-year plan, a new hospital complex is expected. This would be a combination of extended care as well as active care hospital.

Eckville Hospital Board Members past and present include: R. B. Gish, 1943-1948, O. Umard 1943-1944, A. E. Avery 1943-1945, Alec Duncan 1943-1946, J. Buresh, 1943-1948, Martin Stenvig 1944-1950, F. J. Pattison, 1945-1955, M. W. Resetz 1946-?, W. T. Burns 1946-1963; J. T. Marshall, 1948-1967; Mrs. Barbara Luomala 1950-1952; Herman Lapp, 1952-1967; Lloyd McNeil, March 1963- to the present time; Henry Benecke 1955-1971, Eldon Kinder, January 1968 to the present time; Mrs. Evelyn Onofryszyn, 1967 to the present time; Tom Forhan 1968 to the present time; Alex Strem, 1971-1972, A. N. Hoven, July 1972 to the present time.

Doctors serving the Eckville Hospital and District include: Dr. S. M. Palmer (deceased), Dr. Frank Coppock, 1938-1953 (deceased), Dr. Brian Sproule, Dr. Ben Dlin, Dr. Gordon Gibson (Eckville) July 1953 to 1966, Dr. Sydney Cookson (Sylvan Lake) August, 1962 to the present time, Dr. Peter Rowell (Sylvan Lake) July 1965 to 1973; Dr. Robert Swain (Eckville) October 1965 to 1975; Dr. Allen and Dr. David Ward, Dr. J. D. Binning (Sylvan Lake) 1973 to 1977 (deceased), Dr. John Bell (Eckville) 1975 to 1977, Dr. G. A. ray (Eckville) 1975 and the practicing physician at the present time; Dr. Inglis (Sylvan Lake) 1977.

Secretary Treasurers and Administrators include: H. S. Mann from the start of hospital formation until his retirement in October, 1947; I. orgues, November 1947 to July 1948; D. I. Crocker July 1948 to May 1950; R. C. Ives, June 1950 to June 1966; Mrs. E. L. Yacoubin, July 1966 to July 1968 (she was the first woman secretary-treasurer); Mrs. H. Misner August 1968 to June 1969 (first woman administrator); J. H. Nickel, July 1969 to July 1976; G. K. Schmidt October 1976 to the present time.

Directors of Nursing in order of service include: M. Greening, Alice Johnson, Ana Elliott



Barbara Lucraft, Harriet Benson, Monete Phalempin, Agnes Bardenhagen, Lila Bickford and Agnes Bardenhagen.

The Board started work on a 44-bed Senior Citizen's Lodge in 1969 with approval in 1974. Construction by Bird Construction began in early 1975, with completion in February 1976.

## To the Memory of

# Dr. Frank H. Coppock

## Whose Joy It Was to Serve His Fellow-man

"He walked before the Lord in truth and with a perfect heart." II Kings 20:3.

## 1896 - 1953

## *"So long, Doc"*

A host of friends, acquaintances, patients and business associates, not only within this district but throughout the province and Dominion, became aware in the grief which surrounded the Christmas season for Dr. Frank Coppock's family this year.

The old 'Doc' or just "Doc" as he was best known to most of us, through his many years of service to his neighbors had become an integral part of their lives. Rich or poor, old or young, native born or newcomer, they were one and the same to him — people in need of help. From personal experience he knew the strain of long hours of physical labor, the absence of material wealth, the struggle for success, the brevity of life and the suffering of pain — and from this knowledge he gave us what was needed. His was a dedicated life, personal gain counted little compared to the satisfaction he obtained from doing his job well and the best way he knew how.

True to the finest concepts of the traditional 'country doctor' Dr. Coppock was yet not content to coast along on his reputation. To the best of his ability he kept abreast of the latest advances in medical science and this knowledge was placed at the service of his patients. Death was his greatest enemy and he fought it relentlessly on behalf of those in his charge, yet, when his personal fight was lost, he met it calmly. Maternity cases were his specialty and the wonder of birth remained to him as fresh and miraculous as it had been in his earliest days.

Mere words cannot in themselves picture the man who was 'our doctor'. His many, many contributions to the community, materially through the modern office, the hospital, the nurses residence, the 'ambulance' service and his yet unfulfilled dream — the old folks home; or his personal contributions of self, through his skill as a physician and adviser, his service to community organizations, his active, earnest support of anything which stood for a better community and better living conditions of its residents.

It is indicative of Dr. Coppock that he died as he had lived — in the service of his fellow man. It is fitting that as the good doctor passed away in the hospital which was his dream, a new baby uttered its first cry.

We do not find it easy to say 'goodbye' to such a man as Dr. Frank Coppock because by virtue of his unforgettable contributions to the general well-being of the community he has become to all of us not an individual but rather an institution, as aglow as the process of life itself.

No, we cannot say "goodbye" to someone who will always be with us in so many ways. Instead, let us just say 'So long, Doc' first in prose, secured that you will always live on in the hearts of those you served so well.

E.

**THE DOCTORS OF ECKVILLE — by Laura Marshall**

The first doctor to practice in the village of Eckville previous to 1920 was Dr Evans followed by Dr McDonald, who stayed only a short time Dr Evans left Eckville to practice in Didsbury The only information the writer has been able to unearth of Dr Evans is that he had a son, Alfred, who taught school in Calgary

In 1920 Dr. Percy Backus opened a practice here and built the present residence of Roy Saarl It was home and office combined. Some minor surgery was perhaps performed, such as tonsilectomies, or lancing of an abcess. Perhaps even extracting a tooth occasionally In 1924 Dr Backus sold his practice to the late Dr A Sommerville In 1931 Dr Sommerville sold to Dr Claxton and left for Toronto to take a course in Public Health. He later became the doctor in charge of the High River Public Health Unit Following this he was deputy Minister of Health in the Aberhart Government

As his last patient from Eckville, Dr Claxton performed an appendectomy on Mrs. Laura Marshall He said good-bye to her in the Red Deer General Hospital A Dr Schreiber then practiced in Eckville for about a year Then Dr Palmer arrived to take over the medical needs of our community He opened the Dr Backus house as a hospital and Miss Jolly was the matron and nurse, helped with the cleaning and even worked in the garden when she found time Ruby Land, now Mrs. Edward Mottus, was maid of all work and also the cook. The dining-room was turned into an operating room, if you can believe it! I think the maternity cases were on the second floor This being during the "dirty thirties" when there was no government health care programs, the hospital finally had to close down due to economic reasons

In 1938 Dr Frank Coppock arrived in town he at once rolled up his sleeves and told Dr Palmer, who was residing in Eckville in the house that Jim Brown now lives in, I'm opening up the hospital. He opened an office on Main Street but later moved his office into the residence now owned by the Pat Hovens and used this building until he built the present Eckville Clinic

After the death of Dr Coppock in December of 1956 Dr Gordon Gibson took over the practice He had been working with Dr Coppock for some months previous to the death of Dr Coppock. Dr Gibson sold the practice to Dr Bob Swain, who had come out from England to look the situation over in 1965

Much to the regret of all in the community Dr Swain left Eckville in 1974 and moved to British Columbia. Since then our medical needs have been attended to by a succession of doctors some of whom have been here for only a very short time. These have included two Dr Wards Dr Binning, Dr Inglis, Dr Bell and Dr Gray

**THE ECKVILLE CEMETERY**

In 1927 Charles Kasper donated three and a half acres of land for a cemetery site This parcel of land is bordered on the north by the C P railway and on the east by the Medicine River A county road on the south side makes this a very suitable location for a cemetery It is located on the SW 15-39-3-W5

The Knights of Pythias were very active in the district at the time They had the land surveyed and registered as the Eckville Cemetery The first burials in the cemetery were in 1928, being the bodies of Mrs. Jack Mackie, Jim Merriman Sr and Charles Kasper, Sr

Two blocks had been surveyed. The first grave lots sold for $5 a lot Later three more blocks were surveyed and these sold for $10 a lot The third survey made brought the price of lots to the present price of $25

There have been 200 burials in the cemetery and 400 lots surveyed

Joe Marshall was the first secretary treasurer for the cemetery, and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1947 Ed Stopsen has been the secretary-treasurer and caretaker for the past 30 years

As one of their community projects over the years, the Country Ladies' Aid purchased the cemetery sign and the wrought-iron gate and had them placed at the entrance to the cemetery

Burials during the early years were often on the farms. As well, many people had purchased lots in the Kuusamo and Guby cemeteries and are buried there. Others have been taken to Red Deer for burial

**ECKVILLE BASEBALL — As Told to Sylvia Thorkman**

Baseball was a very active part of Eckville during the 1920's. The first baseball team recalled is a team coached by Bert Bertram He was the section foreman on the CNR in Eckville at the time. They were in a league with Ponoka Lacombe, Red Deer, Olds and Innisfail The summer of 1922, they received the pennant in that Central Alberta league. Players recalled are: Bill Wacker and Fred Hopper, who worked on the section, Percy McGill and George Cummerford, from Lesliеville Grainger, from

Baseball Team. Back row: Ike Kaila, Mgr., Ben

Red Deer, Homer Isaacson and Matt Kalaputas, local boys. Percy was an accountant in the Canada Bank of Commerce and Steiner Johnson from Sylvan Lake. Williams came from Oregon. He stayed with the Harper family, and had played pro ball. There were probably other players which cannot be recalled.

During the years baseball went on and in 1938 and 1939 another group of players grew up. They were coached by Mr. Biss from Sylvan Lake. Mr. Biss had played ball in the National League. He coached the Eckville players twice a week and Sundays, when they played teams exhibition games, like the House of Davids, the Zuloos from the U.S.A. teams named Cubans, Edmonton Cardinals, Calgary Pucksters and Nacimine Miners besides their league games. These players were Fred and Ole Bardenhagen, Carl, Waldo and Arthur Raabis, Ray and Bill Tolvanen, Ralph Kingsep, Ray Morris, Bill Marks and Tom

There may be some names here which have not been recalled.

During World War II baseball was at a standstill, but was resumed after the war.

**ECKVILLE BASEBALL FROM 1946 TO 1955 - by Don McDonald**

Following the war, baseball was once again renewed. In the year 1946, A league was formed, consisting of teams from Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House, Eckville and Benalto. Some of Eckville's senior players were Tom Forhan, Ole and Fred Bardenhagen. The younger ones were Charlie and John Phillips, Bob Umari, Don McDonald and Jack Bardenhagen. In the final, Nordegg played Eckville. Nordegg won, mostly because of their terrific fan support.

In 1947 the Eckville team improved greatly with Ike Kaila as manager and Tom Forhan as coach. The League expanded to two divisions, East and West, with Rocky Mountain House, Eckville, Bentley and Benalto in the west. Red Deer, Lacombe, Clive and Ponoka made up the East division.

In 1948 baseball was still gaining popularity in town. Ike Kaila was still manager, assisted by Bill Marsh and coach Tom Forhan. On the year's team the players were John and Charlie Phillips, Wally Franks, who had previously played in Nordegg, Howard Mullen, who played previously for Benalto, along with Ted Hansen, Bert Cole, Bob Umari, Jack Bardenhagen, Bill Hawkins and Don McDonald completed the team. Our bat boy was Jack Marsh.

Nineteen forty-nine was perhaps the best year for baseball in Eckville. A new ball diamond was built, with an eight-foot fence surrounding it. Complete with dugouts and an official score sign, it was without doubt the best ball park in Central Alberta. The team participated in eight ball tournaments, winning top money in seven of these. Some of the games were played in Brooks, Carstairs, Olds, Stettler, Clive and Rimbey.

That year the team won the league with 20 wins and eight losses, and swept the playoffs over Ponoka. New faces on the teams included Frank Leslie, Ernie Gare, Red McAndrews, Bernie Hanna, Roger Berlando and Art and Leslie Stone. The club physician was Dr. Coppock and Ken Krintila was Bat Boy. The coach was Ted Hansen, who also played. For a town of 500 population, it was not uncommon to get three or four hundred spectators to a game.

In 1950 Alfred Isaacson was lured out of retirement to play a few games for Eckville. Alfred was the best local ball player ever on the Eckville team, having played professional ball both in Canada and in the United States.

During the following years baseball interest slowly declined and the local interest went with it. By 1955 the local team was playing only exhibition games and tournaments. Fastball was gaining popularity, with the younger players taking up this game.

Alfred Isaacson still farms just north of Gilby. Red McAndrews is now working for the Co-op in Winnipeg. Tom Forhan and Jack Bardenhagen are still living in Eckville. John Phillips and Don McDonald farm in the Eckville area. Charlie Phillips farms in the Joffre district. Bob Umari lives in British Columbia and still occasionally visits in Eckville. Ernie Gare lives in Trail, B.C. Roger and Jimmy Berlando live in Drumheller. Ted Hansen works for Revelstoke in Calgary and Howard Mullen lives in Red Deer. Bernie Hanna came from Trochu and coaches baseball in Edmonton.

**HOCKEY IN ECKVILLE**

1927 — The first hockey in Eckville was

now the Coppen's residence or in the earlier days, east of Moro's flour mill.

Around 1931, the rink was moved up town and was on the ground that is now the Lions playground. Some of the early hockey players

who played on the river or on the new rink up town were. Bill and Barry Armstrong. Bill, Reg and Ray Morris, Arvo Pickles? George and Ray Sestrap, George Johanson. Bill Toivanen, Ted Barnett Dick Mayer who used to work in the Bank Ken Coutts senior) George Finley, school teacher later became a Colonel in the army. Tom and Harold Forhan

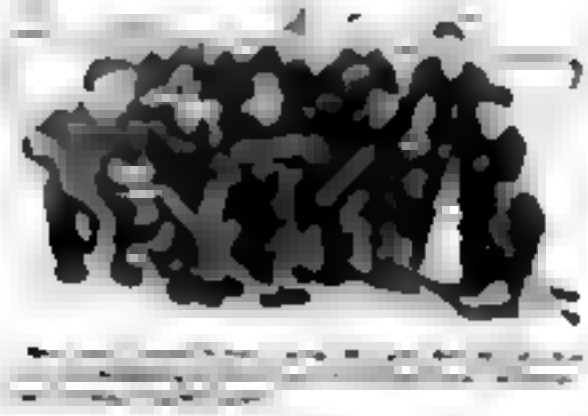
When the rink was first moved up town they had no electricity, so they purchased two Delco generating plants, which worked sometimes and these were used until Calgary Power came to town in around 1937

In those days of open air rinks, it was quite a problem to get the snow off the rink If there was a game on Sunday afternoon, we would have to spend the forenoon cleaning and flooding the ice all by hand and when the snow piled up so no more could be shovelled over the boards we would have to have some shovelled back to make

During the war years, there was a lull in hockey In 1945-6 things picked up again. We had some return men coming back who had played before the war and some younger ones came along. We had some very spirited games with Nordegg and other teams, too. We used to go by train to Nordegg on a Saturday afternoon and play that night on their open air rink beside the railroad track and again on Sunday afternoon and return home on the Monday train

Later we went by car and that was a real expedition as there was only one way traffic between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg If you met something bigger than your vehicle, you took the snow bank and the heavier vehicle

McDonald, Jim Morrison, Bob Unser, Jack Sandercock, Allan Prestage.



would almost always pull you back on the road

In those days, plumbing and running water were not too common especially in the country But Nordegg had both in the miners hostels where we stayed

We will never forget Clare Thomas's astonishment when he found he had a well right in his bedroom. The only complaint he had was that every time he went for a drink the lid fell down and hit him on the head

Transportation got more modern and later we used to charter buses to take players and fans to the various playoffs in which we were involved Those trips were far from dull. We think everyone who was involved had a great time

In 1961, the rink was moved to the fair grounds and a cement block building was built to house dressing rooms and lunch counter These facilities were used for only three years when a canvas was organized under the capable chair

build an arena. The canvas was an overwhelming success and the arena was built Later a whole new front end was added The whole venture has been of great benefit to hockey figure skating and the annual indoor rodeo and also other community activities

After the arena was built a minor hockey association was formed and has served the younger players very well This has only been accomplished with the dedicated help of parents, coaches and referees

We think a tribute should be paid to those who by their involvement and support have helped to make possible what we have today Mr Goldfinch, Maud and Uno Krintala Ike and rene Kaila. J M. McDonald. Mrs. Ku Armstrong the oldest and most constant hockey fan Eckville ever had Ole and Helen Bardenhagen

We, also, think a tribute should be paid to Don McDonald who by virtue of his ability got to play for the Olds Elks and went on to win the Central Alberta Hockey League scoring championship in 951 52. Following that he played professional hockey in Scotland

**A SUMMARY OF OUR LOCAL MIXED BONSPIEL — by J. E. Schisler — Love and Kisses, March 3, 1960**

I've been requested to unree
A rhyme about our mixed bonspiel
To tell you who won, which and how
And every incidental row
If all went fairly smooth this year
And all of us are in the clear
Except a few of the lively boys
Who won a game by making noise
It's very well to root and cheer,
But don t you think there's something queer
About a man who s such a pest
He will not give a moment's rest
To skips, while they are trying a shot?
Or do you think 'tis tommyrot?

When Dr Palmer played Bill Marks
The air was thick with lively sparks
Hardly had they started play
When the Doc was called away
Two skips rushed out to take his place —
Norman Forhan won that race
One end was played, Bill counted one
The doctor came back on the run
Said he. "What s all the fuss about?
"We'll start all over rub than one out
Now Goldfinch and Deman played ball,
When Bernie Dennett caused a squall
Said he, as he began to grouse
A lead can't sweep within the house
"You can t get away with that you know
You this and that, you so and so

There was a rumor 'round the town
That a certain skip of high renown
Did rage and fiercely bang his broom
Against the wall like the crack of doom
And just because he missed his shot
He carried on like a tiny tot

I would be amusing, my dear friends.
To jot down all the incidents,
All the trivial tales of woe.
How so and so could be so low
So much of that is better unsaid
I'll deal in prizes now instead

First there was the challenge grand —
To win that round it took some sand
Kennedy played against Deman
And played as only Kennedy can
Never a man so smartly played.
Nor yet his rocks so neatly laid
He must have plotted many moons
Just how he'd play to win the spoons
Deman came in for second best
And there the cake plates came to rest
Battling Marks — please don't be sore
I'd dearly love to give you more
But as you only won third place,
Accept the crumb trays with good grace
Mr Campbell, full of tricks,
Finished fourth for the candlesticks
But after all is said and done
Half a loaf is better than none

Memorial Park showing Multi-purpose building and Rotunda

First prize in the Primary event
Again to Mr Kennedy went
While Mr Campbell, looking dour
Got fifty pounds of Robin Hood flour
Harrison crawls into a hole
And munches at his cottage roll
He might have gone to greater heights,
But stays up much too late at nights
What does he do, where does he go?
I'll bet a dime you'd like to know

The secondary event came next
Where many a skip was sorely vexed
Mr Mann did sweat and toil,

[illegible]

And drilled and bored until he struck oil
A Banker's Toady" — you will say
But lest you chance to get too gay
Let me remind you of the fate
Of men now looking through a grate
For putting words like those in print
So kindly take the proffered hint
Derman won coffee — not too bad
For such a mediocre lad
He won flour by the bag
But listen to this — it's not a gag,
He saved the town a lot of grief
By keeping Goudy off relief
With sausages, and biscuits, too,
I think they'll almost see him through

Now we're in the final heat
Where all the second-raters meet
And haggle over meagre spoils
As they unsheath their curling foils
Marks got sweaters nice and blue
To better clothe his fighting crew
He ousted the Doc in the final bow
Who humbly took his bag of flour
Norman Forhan came in last.
By all the others he was passed
But even so, he's not so slow
He won free tickets to the show

I hope you will take this in fun
And not go reaching for your gun
For I have spent a lot of time
In trying to make these verses rhyme
So if I've said a thing or two
That might have irritated you,
Stop a while and think a bit
Don't wear the shoe if it doesn't fit

**DIVERSIFIED FARM AREA REAL MODEL**
**District, Sure-Crop Belt West of Red Deer, Draws Many Settlers June 21, 1946**
**Eckville Busy Spot**
**Dairying, Stock Raising, Grain Growing. Year round Markets**

Featuring the village of Eckville a program was given over Journal radio station CJCA Wednesday night. Included in the program was an article on the district text of which follows

The district of Eckville might be called and rightly so, the sure-crop district of the southwest part of central Alberta For never in its many years of production, has it felt the disastrous effects of drouth plague, frost or extensive hail While parts of the district are occasionally so visited the activities of the farmers are so diversified that use is put to every kind and condition of grain and fodder to great advantage

So this area might well be held up as an example of real diversified farming. The results have been so noticeable that the attention of credit men of large machinery firms and wholesalers has been attracted. Much favorable comment has followed

Eckville is one of the oldest settlements west of Red Deer And since the first settler located on the banks of the Medicine River it has attracted many people of various races. They have succeeded in establishing substantial homes as well as raising thriving families

Throughout the area one may notice the features of peoples from many of the countries of central Europe, as well as from the Scandinavian countries. The Finnish and Estonian people predominate north of the Central Alberta railway while Scandinavians are most numerous to the south

**Dependable Citizens**

While there is a tendency for a few Finnish and Estonian people to lean toward Communism, it cannot be regarded as the more radical type practiced by some in the east It has not spoiled their ability to realize the advantages of living in a country blessed with many good things. They are energetic, industrious, very dependable and peaceable A good many of them are well-to-do and influential in the district They farm well and their activities as such have done much to bring a good name to the district

While the village comprises only a small group of buildings Eckville is the scene of a great deal of business in the space of a year Four elevators attend to the many carloads of wheat and coarse grains that are shipped out The two great railway systems operate regular services for both passengers and freight over their branch lines

A large creamery operates the year round, turning out over one-third of a million pounds of butter annually This in itself is a great asset to the community for it provides ready cash daily to supply the tables of practically every farmhouse around.

One of the most up-to-date and efficient of smaller flour mills in the west operates steadily It turns out flour of different grades, wheatlets and other by products every hour of the day the year round. The product ranks favorably with that of larger mills and customers are drawn from places 60 miles distant

Two large shipping firms handle the cattle, hogs and sheep raised in the district And every Wednesday sees several carloads of livestock loaded and shipped out

**Home-Trained Players**

While Eckville is but two miles from a gravelled highway one does not have to travel to the city to conduct business. Four stores handle extensive lines of merchandise and the prices vary little, if any from those prevailing in larger centres. The village has the reputation of being a good trading centre and it deserves the name

The social activities are many Several community halls have been built throughout the area and there is maintained a lively program of events the year round. The village boasts the largest and best equipped of these, provided through the donations of a goodly number of public-spirited citizens. It is used for lodge purposes as well as for clubs, dances, movies and other activities. The building is provided with a clubroom, dressing rooms, balcony and well equipped stage

In sports, hockey, badminton and skiing are the favorite pastimes in the colder months while tennis, basketball and baseball are played at other times. Eckville boasts of a real home product baseball team that gives a good account of itself in any company

Steady improvements may be seen from day to day Settlers from other parts have been coming into the district for two years past and now practically every available piece of land is taken. Outside of two or three farmers who work large acreages, lands round about are widely held and a maximum number of people are supported

It is a rare bit of country to live in, and one is making no mistake in picking the Eckville district for a home

**HISTORY OF THE ECKVILLE R. E. A. LTD**

As early as 1945 the area farmers were talking about the feasibility of rural power in the Eckville area. Whenever farmers got together in homes or on street corners the talk was rural power A few of the farmers had lighting plants or wind chargers, but these plants did not prove very satisfactory but gave us electric lights

Then on July 3, 1947 the first organizational meeting on record was held in the community hall at Eckville. Mr J M McDonald called the meeting to order and explained the situation He then suggested that the meeting appoint a chairman and secretary Mr H Bice was nominated as chairman who took the chair Mr Eastman acted as Secretary

Prior to this date it is believed that a few farmers locally had been contacted regarding power on the farm, with the idea that Calgary Power would build all farmers' lines. Each farmer to pay $100 cash and $5 per month service charge, plus two and a half cents per kilowatt used. At the above mentioned meeting, Mr F T Gale, Superintendant of Farm Electrification for Calgary Power explained that the Power Company had built four such areas in the province as experimental areas, but had discontinued building any more. Mr Gale then went on to explain a new system to the farmers which he felt would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

His proposal was that all interested farmers form an association. The Power Company would build the lines at cost. The farmers were to pay the cost and two dollars and fifty cents per month service charge plus two cents per kilowatt used. The Association would then own the lines. His suggestions were not acceptable to several attending the meeting. However, at the meeting a provisional board was appointed to further investigate and feel out farmers as to their personal opinions. Those appointed on that board were: Mr Harry Bice, Condor; Mr Albert Hansen, Diamond Valley; Mr Clyde Stauffer, Evarts; Mr Charlie Skocdopole, Hespero and Mr Adolph Roke, Evergreen.

August 5, 1947 the provisional board met in Eckville. Mr H. Bice was appointed chairman, Mr Hansen, secretary. In attendance at this meeting was Mr Fitzpatrick, Supervisor of Co-op activities for the Provincial Government. He explained that an association could get financial assistance for building the lines from the Government. The secretary was instructed to carry on negotiations with the Power Company.

November 13, 1947 the Provisional Board met at the home of Clyde Stauffer. The secretary was instructed to write Calgary Power and get definite information on the points listed below:

I estimate cost per mile

II estimate cost per month for public liability and total maintenance

III definite date Calgary Power would be prepared to build the lines and supply us with power and

IV ask the Power Company to send a man to attend our next meeting that could give us a definite deal so we would have something with which to go to our people.

December 11, 1947, the Provisional Board met at the home of Harry Bice, with F T Gale in attendance. He explained that line costs were about 12 cents per foot, with a flat rate of $250 from the main line to the farmers' buildings. He also stated the Power Company would guarantee to construct the lines and make the power available to farmers by Christmas 1948. Mr Gale also agreed to send us the necessary material to sign up the farmers. The Board then agreed to set up an association, its name to be Eckville Rural Electrification Association Ltd.

January 5, 1948. The Board met at the home of Albert Hansen. Ninety-three farmers had signed contracts since the December 5 meeting. An estimation of 3/5 of a mile seemed to be about the distance between farmers willing to sign contracts at an estimated cost of $645 each.

January 12, 1948. The board met at the home of Clyde Stauffer. Four directors had gone to Calgary to see Mr Gale. They have a report on their talk with Mr Gale. Also, 116 members were paid up to date.

February 11, 1948. The board members met at the home of Albert Hansen. Arrangements for the annual meeting, March 6, at the Hespero Hall were made.

March 6, 1948. The first annual meeting of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association was held in the Hespero Hall. An estimate of 175 members and visitors attended. Mr J D Phillips was elected to take the chair for this meeting. A new board was elected to take the place of the Provisional Board. Henry Benecke, Harry Bice, Charlie Skocdopole, Clyde Stauffer, Lloyd Wells, Ed Tollefson and Albert Hansen.

Nine meetings were held by the Provisional Board previous to March 6, 1948, when the first annual meeting was held. Most of these meetings started at 8 P M and did not finish until after midnight. Also, during this time the directors drove many a hundred miles between meetings signing up contracts and doing organizational work. They all gave their time and energy freely and received no money for their work and expenses until the February, 1951 annual meeting. They were then voted mileage and $4 per meeting.

At a directors meeting on February 28, 1949, Clyde Stauffer was appointed President of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association Board, a position he held until March 12, 1974. Albert and Hazel Hansen looked after the secretary duties for 17 years.

Through the summer of 1948 progress seemed slow, so at an October board meeting, C. Skocdopole, H. Bice and H. Benecke were instructed to go out and try and find a suitable digger for digging holes. A digger was purchased, rebuilt and reinforced at Skocdopole's shop and put to work and approximately 300 holes were dug with the machine, and 200 by hand. The machine was then sold.

Then on March 10, 1949 the first power was turned on serving the rural people in the Eckville district. A banquet to celebrate the occasion was held on June 2, 1949. The Eckville R.E.A. was incorporated January 21, 1949. The estimated cost of the project was $120,000; there were 175 members to start and it cost each farmer $645 for power at this time.

This covered a land area of approximately 230 square miles. There are now 330 subscribers using electricity in a land area of over 200 square miles. When the first hook up was made the cost of a power line was 12¢ a foot. It is now $1 a foot.

The average farmer now uses approximately 700 kilowatt hours per month, compared to 108 kilowatts when power was first introduced

On April 6, 1950 at a directors meeting the secretary, Mr Hansen, was instructed by the board to contact other R E.A 's in the province as to the feasability of organizing a central body The central body was formed and called the Alberta Union of Rural Electrification Associations. Clyde Stauffer was elected president and Albert Hansen was elected secretary of this Association. Positions they held for many

On April 18, 1975 a banquet and dance was held in the Elks Hall, Benalto to honor those members who were involved with the organization of the Eckville R E.A. Ltd

Members of the first board the late Harry Bice, the late Albert Hansen, Clyde Stauffer Charlie Skoodopole, Adolph Roke and Henry Benecke and their wives were among those honoured Also, Ray Niemela and Alex Strem - honoured for long service on the board of directors. A group from Caroline led by Mrs Berdette Bystrom provided musical entertain

Slate of officers over the years are listed below

Mr Harry Bice. President until February 28, 1949.
Clyde Stauffer President until March 12, 1974
Alex Strem,-President — March 12, 1974 to November 30. 1977
Stan Burns, President — 1977 to present time
Albert Hansen, Secretary — 1947 1964
Stan Burns Secretary — 1964
Marie Boti Secretary 1973-to present time

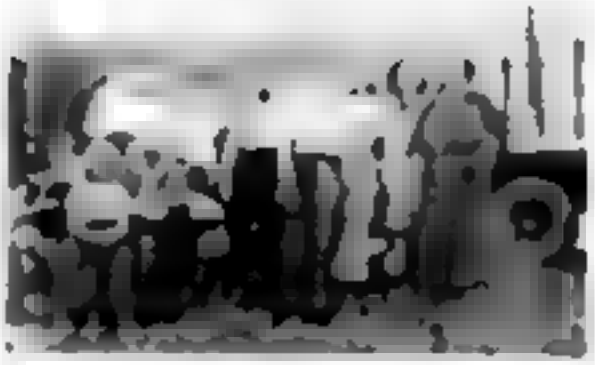
The present Board of Directors of the Eckville R E A. Ltd., include — Stan Burns President. Ray Niemela, Vice-President, Marie Boti — Secretary-Treasurer Directors Ewart McDonald Edward Sebek. John Robertson Bud Bradshaw and Ed Boti

## COUNTRY LADIES AID

What started as an afternoon get-to-gether with neighborhood friends in 1939 was later organized into the Country Ladies Aid. Old records bring back memories of times and roads quite different from the present time. Members braved snow drifts, ankle-deep mud and bush trails, mostly on foot, to attend a much awaited afternoon with friends

At first, to occupy busy fingers, several autographed quilts were made. Hattie Bromling is the proud possessor of one of these original quilts. It carries the following names Effie Cates, Mabel Lewis. Mary Rogers Fannie Jones, Hattie Bromling, Bette Greenman, Iva Gustavson, Agnes Gustavson, Gladys Payne Mora McDonell and Gerda Gustavson. Two of these Mora and Iva are still members

Quilt making is still a popular pastime. A crib quilt is made yearly for the Eckville New Year's



Country Ladies' Aid. Frank Bice, Fannie Kasper. Agnes

Baby, and one quilt is always kept on hand in case fire strikes a district home The outstanding quilt was an appliqued Centennial quilt raffled during 1967

Early in our history Dr Coppock was attempting to establish a hospital where the Roy Saari family now lives. In order to buy linoleum and other hospital supplies the newly-formed club held dances at Liberty Hall now Onofryazyn property). Quilts were also made and raffled and even barn dances were a popular way of raising money

During the war years the Red Cross received help with cash donations as well as large quantities of sewing and knitting. Parcels were packed for overseas relief, as well as for individual gifts for local soldiers. To help swell the Club's coffers lunch was served at farm sales sometimes as often as four in a

homes. Cards and happy times are remembered About this time a blind member was the recipient of $20 per month until a pension was secured for her Amateur shows, wedding receptions, bazaars, Hobo teas, travelling baskets and lunches at wedding dances were undertaken Yearly donations of $10 each were now sent to Cancer Society, Red Cross, T B. Fund, Easter seals, and Woods Christian Home With the exception of the latter these donations still continue with the Cancer Society receiving a portion of farm sales proceeds. The Arthritic Fund received a sizeable donation. A number of burned out families and several cases where tragedy has struck have been given $25 in goods

When the present hospital was built a room was furnished. The hospital has been the recipient of a number of things since then. Six overbed tables and patient name holders for each bed, as well as donations of cash towards a hi-low bed, wheel chair croup tent, and a heat therapy machine. A $300 cheque was given to help with the heart monitoring machine. Pyjamas, robes, and slippers have been made over the years. A lawn bench and two chairs were

L. to R. Mrs. J. Lundberg, Fraser, C. Gustavson, Kingsp. M. Thorkman, J. Coutts, F. Kinna, M. Lowe

added for the comfort of patients able to be out of

Before the advent of Town water and modern plumbing a rest room was furnished and maintained where the coin wash is now located. Other undertakings were two $50 gifts toward the Manitoba Flood relief fund, the Institute for the Blind, Home and School Association, and monthly cheques to a crippled girl.

In more recent times the Arena Building Committee received two $100 cheques and the Senior Hockey Team $100 towards new uniforms. Minor hockey, figure skating, Eckville Fish and Game, Niemala's Dam, driver training and the Eckville Friendship Club each have received $50. Cheer leaders were given $25 to help pay for new uniforms. The Eckville Legion received 25 metal chairs and the Lions Club received 50

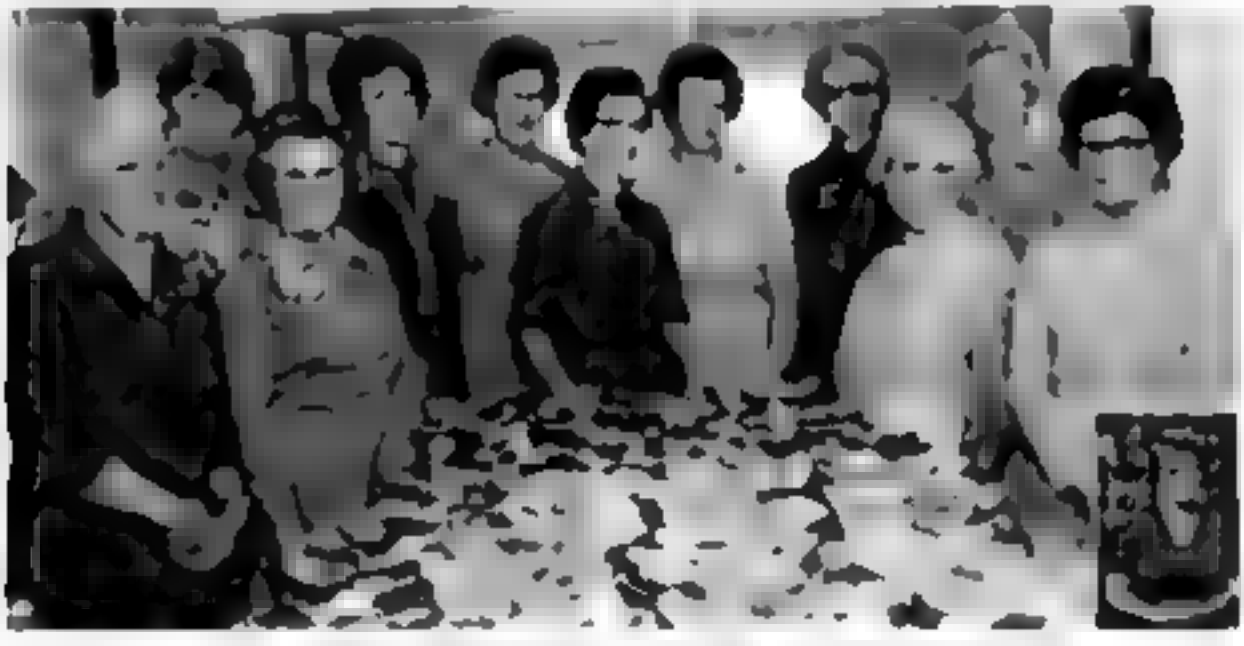
In 1966 a Centennial Rug, designed by Hilja Takkinen, was made and raffled. The resulting $210 had been set aside as a gift for the then promised senior citizens lodge. We are pleased to say that a considerable amount has been added and a colored T.V. has been provided for the new Eckville Manor.

During Centennial Year our project, a sign for the cemetery, was completed and installed. Over the years countless friends have received fruit baskets or flowers while confined to hospital. District families are remembered with a sympathy card at the passing of a loved one. Several sewing clinics have been sponsored by the Club.

Recently engraved coffee spoons were presented to 25-year members and to some of our senior members. On the list of 25-year members we find the following names: Mora McDonell, Hilja Takkinen, Iva Gustavson, Sylvia Thorkman, and Fannie Kasper. The list of Senior Members is made up of Clara Bromling, Bertha [illegible]. However, Hilja Takkinen passed away on February 11, 1974 and Clara Bromling passed away on May 25, 1976.

To make sure that our Senior citizens are not forgotten at Christmas time a yearly party is held especially for them. This is held in conjunction with the annual "Santa Claus Day" in Eckville. On Farmers' Day favors for patients trays are taken to the hospital.

Besides our monthly meetings a pot luck supper near Christmas time is enjoyed by members and friends.



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At the present time there are fifteen members all of whom have been members for nine years or longer. The membership roll includes Hilda Bromling, Ruth Dobbs, Elsie Gustavson, Iva Gustavson, Hertha Hillman, Margaret Houston, Annie Jobs, Gladys Johnson, Fannie Kasper, Gertie McDonald, Hazel McDonell, Mora McDonell, Jean Opbus, Fern Skoedopole and Sylvia Thorkman.

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, ECKVILLE BRANCH NO. 156 — Information obtained from Early Records**

The charter president of the Legion was Russell E. Eastman and secretary-treasurer was R. W. Needham. The first bank record is October 22, 1945. The next secretary was James B. Merriman to 1946, followed by Ed Stopsen from 1947 to 1950, during which period Harrold Tennant was president. Alex V. Brown was Secretary from 1951 to 1953.

About 1947 the Legion was given Lot 5, Block 3 by the Medicine Valley Livestock Association, from which in building they operated their business under the management of the late Thomas Smith. The Legion made some improvements to the building, and it was rented for over 20 years as a shoe-maker shop to Roy Saari and the late Wally Pukk. In 1947 the Legion paid for getting the masonry gates built to the south entrance of the Memorial Park, and also provided uniforms for the boys' hockey team and also equipment for several soft-ball teams.

Names of members gleaned from early records of what was then known as British Empire Service League No. 156 were: Russell E. Eastman, deceased June 16, 1974; R. W. Needham, James Brown, Alex Brown, Ralph Downs, Jack A. Furnell, Thomas Hanna, Mrs. Geneve Hanna, Ralph Kingsep, John R. Lemmala, A. Charles McMow, John A. MacLean, John MacNeil, James Merriman, Calvin F. Needham, Ralph Pihooja, Willard A. Philips, Thomas Hrdlika, Simon MacKenzie, Thomas Smith, Ed Stopsen, John Sulles, Jacob A. Tolonen, Harold Tennant, deceased, and Russell Aubrey.

By 1953 the membership had fallen to eight members so the Branch was declared inactive except for Comrades Jim Brown and Ed Stopsen looking after the building rental and expenses. Branch was re-organized as the Royal Canadian Legion No. 156 in 1963 with Comrade Jacob A. Tolonen as president. Ed Stopsen was treasurer.

The minutes from 1963 to 1968 seem to be misplaced. However, by April 1968 the present Legion Hall had been purchased from George Sestrap, who had used the building as a cafe. At this time there were 23 members in attendance with H. Bergh being president, W. Balch secretary, and George Johnson treasurer.

In about 1968 or 1969 the tin warehouse was sold. About this same time the sign was painted by Mr. Nygaard, a member from the United States. Tables, benches, and a piano were bought. A portrait of the Queen was donated by the Krlotilas, and the brass plate and inscription for the portrait was donated by Mr. Chesterman. Repairs were made to the chimney and supports for the floor.

Bingo equipment was bought, which was used as a weekly entertainment for some years, as well as a big yearly Bingo as a source of income for the Legion. This equipment was also lent to the Senior Citizens when they used the Legion Hall as their Drop-In Centre.

The Legion has sponsored the Burn's Night in conjunction with the Legion Auxiliary since 1969. The two groups have sponsored the Armistice Day Church Service and the evening gathering since 1968. The Poppy Fund has always been cared for by Mr. Jim Brown. The booth at the Benalto Fair was a joint project for a few years. For some years V. E. Day and Vimy Night were remembered. Fund-raising projects were the Friendship Calendar and raffles of sides of beef and pork. Donations were made to the Eckville Hospital Fund, Colonel Belcher Hospital Polio Fund and C. E. L. Christmas Hampers are given annually. Gifts are given to members in hospital and farewell gifts to members who have left. Members have been helped with plumbing expenses, funeral expenses, and victims of fires have been helped. A barbeque or social is held in June with the Ladies Auxiliary as guests. The Hall has been used for dancing lessons, play school, Cubs weekly meetings, bake sales, strawberry teas, rummage sales and general meetings and socials.

In 1970 chairs were bought, a new larger furnace was installed, and a donation of additional chairs from the Country Ladies Aid was much appreciated. The mortgage on the Legion Hall was burnt on October 16, 1971. The payment of the mortgage had been another joint project with the Ladies' Auxiliary. In June 1974 the Legion and Auxiliary entertained a bus load of Veterans from Calgary, as a friendly gesture.

Under the direction of Jim Merriman a new roof was put on the Legion Hall and the big windows were replaced with hardboard. In October 1975 the vacant lot which had been the home of the shoe shop was sold to Allen Post.

The gable ends of the Hall were covered with tin by Art Carritt and a sign erected, which Mrs. Neale painted after the outside of the Hall had been painted. The Hall was painted by Mr. Young.

Past President Pins have been received by J. A. Tolonen, H. Bergh, A. Guest, E. Fiss, J. B. Merriman, A. Vandeveide, A. Carritt, and W. E. Austin. T. Smith was president of the Legion in 1977 and L. French in 1978. Legion members attend District and Provincial Rallies, and care for the building with regards to insurance, power, heat, and janitor services.

**HISTORY OF THE ECKVILLE LIONS CLUB, 1946-1975 — by W. J. (Lion Bill) Rothwell**

The Lions Club of Eckville was sponsored by the Lions Club of Red Deer. Charter Presentation Night was May 20, 1946, with District Governor Marshal Murray presenting the Charter to the first President of the Eckville Club, Lion Ike Kalla. The Red Deer Club took a bus load of Lions and their ladies to Eckville for this occasion.

The following were the Charter Members of the Eckville Lions Club:

Charter President: Ike Kalla (now deceased)
1st Vice President: T. O. (Tom) Forhan
2nd Vice President: J. Alcock deceased
Secretary: J. Stafford
Lion Members: R. B. Gish
A. (Art) Langer
R. B. Lawson
M. Anderson

R. E. Eastman deceased)
Dr. R. Coppock deceased
D. Clausen (deceased
I. E. Lundberg deceased
G. McNeil
H. S. Mann deceased
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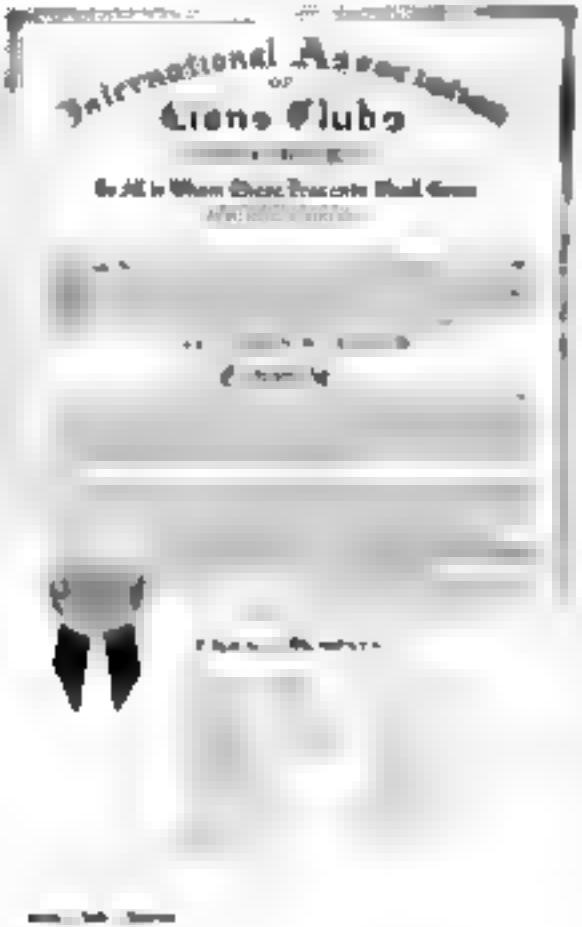

A. Scholer
Rev. Howick
John Reid

It appears that the minutes of the early years of the Club have been mislaid. The only information obtainable is that the Lions Club members joined the labor force with regard to the building of the park with baseball diamond in the 1940's.

Having joined the Eckville Lions Club in September 1956, I can recall many of the main projects up to 1973, which are as follows: The [illegible] before I became a member and assumed responsibility [illegible] and otherwise.

The Club paid rent into the hall fund for its own use of the hall, including meetings and projects etc.

For years assumed payment of hall rent for baby clinic and is still doing this.

Sponsored the Boy Scouts and among other things paid the hall rent for their use of same, which the club is still doing.

[illegible] jamborees, etc. and is still doing this.

[illegible] behalf of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The club has received letter of congratulations in the past for their showing in this project.

This project is still being carried on.

Sponsored a Little League baseball team. This was in the late 1950's. In the fall of 1960 a major project involved extensive alterations and remodelling to the hall. A new front was constructed and was two stories high, measuring 16 x 36 feet. The size of the Lions' Den upstairs was increased as were the kitchen and cloakroom downstairs. In addition ladies' and men's washrooms were installed. Entrance to the hall was moved from the front to the side of the hall with a wide sidewalk leading to the entrance door. These improvements cost over $5,000. This back in 1960 and very little labour costs as Lion members performed the work. This was a lengthy, hard-work project, and I must mention that not one Lion member reneged on his weekly turns to work. In the previous ten years, the Lions had spent another $4,000 on the hall and again labor costs were minimal since Lion members performed most of the work. We had two competent carpenters in our club who could direct the work program, namely Don Macrae and Dr. Gordon Gibson. We also had a membership approaching 50 in number at that time.

On October 8, 1960, the Lions Club sponsored a barbeque, carnival with games of skill such as bingo, etc. and a dance, in the hall with proceeds going towards the cost of the hall alterations which were already in progress. It was advertised as a "mammoth" community activity and it turned out to be just that with an overflow crowd attending.

St John s Ambulance first aid course spon sored with Lion Dr Gordon Gibson as instructor There was a large pre-course enrollment which began on January 17 1961

For several years the club sponsored sports days with baseball tournaments, men's and ladies games of skill, etc and a dance at night

Organized Santa Claus Day each year and still doing this

Easter Seal Campaign and still doing this

Sponsored New Year's Eve dances and con tinuing to do this

Participated in Lions International's World Wide Peace Essay Contest" in 1966 with $50,000 in prize money for students 14 years of age and under 22 years of age. The contest involved a local level, district level, multiple district level and on up to a World-wide contest, with first prize in the latter level being $25,000. On the local level Miss Lana Wingate, a Grade 12 student in the Eckville High School, was the winner and was presented with a Lions Club award and cheque Her essay was then forwarded for com petition in the Lions District Level

Participated in sale of cookbooks entitled "A Lion in the Kitchen" with over 900 recipes from Lions members throughout the world, in 1965. On July 29, 1966, the Eckville Lions Club sponsored a Car Bingo with many other prizes in addition to the car which was a 1966 Plymouth sedan and won by Ed Solverson of Eckville. The event was well attended and was one of the Club's most successful project ventures

The Club has sponsored a candidate in the Eckville Ice Carnival Queen Contest for some

Donated money to the Blind Golfer's Associa

Annually hosts a barbeque in the latter part of June. Farmers and other men in the community who are not Lion members are invited

Clean-up day in the Town of Eckville is organized annually by the Lions

Club has provided wheel chairs for Jimmy

Has hosted and/or assisted Teen Club, etc., in providing dances for other forms of recreation in

Further work on the hall since 1972 has in cluded repairs to the Kitchen, electrical wiring installed fans, put carpeting in the den, built more tables, painted and installed new door hardware etc. In most years repairs have to be made to the roof and this often requires bringing in a trained man for the job

1974 and on, club has donated $100 or more per year to the Eckville public library

1975 sponsored a peddle pusher group

1976 - sponsored a defensive driving course donated $50 to a group of school students going to France and sponsored a carol festival which has since become an annual project

1976 and onward, club has helped raise money for the Agriculture Multi-purpose Building in Eckville and helped raise money for artificial ice in the arena. I understand that a monetary com mitment has been made by the club in connec tion with the former building

The Eckville Lions Club has, since it was Chartered, regularly held the following

Charter Night Held annually in November rather than the date of receiving its Charter in the spring

Ladies' Night The Lions of Eckville honour their ladies on this occasion annually Usually held in late April or early May

During the 1960's the Club held a Past Presidents' night annually to honour the Past Presidents of the club It was later discontinued

The club celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 6, 1971, with a capacity crowd in attendance. Guest speaker for the occasion was Past International Director Dr W T Bill Waite, of Saskatoon It was certainly a celebra tion that all Eckville Lions will remember and we hope all others who were in attendance will also

The Eckville Club sponsored the Rocky Moun tain House Lions Club, and the Charter Presenta tion Night was January 12, 1968. The Charter was presented by International Director Lion Virgil P Moshansky of Vegreville and accepted by Charter President Norman Swainger A large number of Eckville Lions Club members and their ladies attended this event

The Eckville Club members have been con scious of the goodwill generated through visitations to other Lions Clubs and as a result many of such visitations were made

The Eckville Lions Club has for many years sent their incoming officers to the Lions Training School prior to their assuming office The club for as long as I have been associated with it has sent delegates to District Conventions and Mid Winter Conferences. While I was a member of the Eckville Club, I attended two International Conventions. In addition to being there as a District Governor Elect on the first occasion and as an International Counsellor on the second oc casion. I was there on both occasions as a delegate of the Eckville Lions Club. Hester and I plan to attend another International Convention this coming June in Tokyo, Japan and wherever possible I shall act as a publicity man for the Eckville Lions Club

In the Lions fiscal year, 1960-61, every Lions Club member in Eckville attained 100% atten dance. It was an outstanding achievement and the club was rewarded with several awards for both attendance and also the highest percentage of membership increase for that year The club increased from under 40 members to about 53 members. The awards were. Lions International plaque in attendance contest District 37E pla que contest winner (involves attendance) District 37E award, a speaker's stand, involving highest membership increase that year

There are several Lions in the Eckville Club

who have had perfect attendance for as long as they have been members. Past President Ed Stopsen has had 27 years of membership with 100% attendance. Lion A f Molander has had 21 years of membership with perfect attendance. Lion Lloyd Purnell has had 18 years of membership with 100% attendance, Lion Rex Baker has had 16 years of membership with perfect attendance.

Following are the names of Presidents who have served the Eckville Club since it was Chartered —

1946-47 — Ike Kaila Charter President
1947-48 Arthur Langer
1948-49 George Anderson
1949-50 Ted Hanson
1950-51 John H. Neale
1951-52 A Harold Elliott
1952-53 — W G (Red) McAndrews
1953-54 — Elmer Kristensen
1954-55 — Eldon Buss Jan. Dan Clausen
1955-56 — Thomas O (Tom) Forhan
1956-57 — Howard Whiting
1957-58 — Dr A Gordon Gibson
1958-59 — Norman N. (Norm) Forhan
1959-60 Chester F Kasha
1960-61 W J (Bill) Rothwell
1961-62 — T H (Bert) Curran
1962-63 — Julien K Sambrook
1963-64 — Derrick (Dick) Lawton
1964-65 — Arthur R. (Archie) Ruhtala
1965-66 — Stanley G. (Stan) Maki
1966-67 Donald (Don) MacRae
1967-68 George Armeneau
1968-69 Edward L. (Ed) Stopsen
1969-70 Edwin R (Ed) Olsen
1970-71 C (Corny) Hughes
1971-72 S. M. (Stan) McCreight
1972-73 — Joseph (Joe) Lundberg
1973-74 — D (Doug) Mulvey
1974-75 — Adrian Vandevelde
1975-76 — A. L. (Art) Carrit
1976-77 — A. J (Al) Page
1977-78 — Gerald Roy

Upon completion of his term as President, Lion Stan Maki was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year 1966-67.

Upon completion of his term as President, Lion Adrian Vandevelde was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year, 1975-76.

Upon completion of my term as President, I was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year 1961-62. I was then appointed Deputy District Governor for 1962-63 of Region two in which Eckville was included. At the District Convention held in Calgary I was elected District Governor of District 'E' for the year 1963-64. Upon completion of that term of office I was appointed International Counsellor by Lions International. The latter appointment has now been discontinued and when a District Governor completes his term as such he is referred to as Past District Governor.

Lions are pledged to help through Lionism those less fortunate than themselves. Lionism is non-sectarian, yet it encourages religious observances and church loyalties. It is non-political, yet it inculcates a lively interest in government and civic affairs.

The purpose of a Lions Club is to determine community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through its own efforts or in co-operation with other agencies. At the same time Lions Clubs provide good fellowship and club social life for their members. A Lions Club also keeps friendships in good repair.

Lionism is an active and efficient medium for united community effort and enterprise. The prestige and importance of Lions work in all fields of endeavour is recognized throughout the entire world.

The motto of the Lions is — 'We Serve'.

**THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL — by O. M. Sargent**

Alberta Wheat Pool's grain handling facilities at Eckville consist of three elevators. Eckville No. 1 was a 28,000 bushel elevator purchased from United Grain Growers in 1929. It was dismantled in 1963 and the salvage was used in constructing a new composite elevator. The new structure has a capacity of 157,000 bushels consisting of a 50,000-bushel elevator, a 67,000-bushel crib annex and a 43,000-bushel crib annex. The 43,000-bushel crib annex was built in 1948 while the other two parts of the facilities were built in 1963.

Alberta Wheat Pool acquired Eckville No. 2 and Eckville No. 3 from Federal Grain Company in 1972. The No. 2 facilities consists of a 26,000 bushel elevator built in 1929, a 30,000-bushel balloon annex built in 1950 and a 65,000-bushel crib annex built in 1959. The No. 3 facilities had a 23,000 bushel capacity. It was built in 1919 and was dismantled in January, 1974.

From 1932-1976 the Pool's elevators at Eckville have handled 11,834,948 bushels of grain. Nineteen seventy-three — seventy-four was the highest handling year at 674,017 bushels, the lowest grain handling was 49,052 bushels in 1934-1935.

Beginning on September 18, 1929 the wheat pool elevator managers have been W McDonald, R. R. Beattie, O. J. Myers, E. I. DeMann, A. Langer, J. E. Alcock, A. Langer (again), A. J. Kuntz, and L. A. Haglund, who took over as manager in 1971 and is still located in Eckville, in 1977.

From March, 1972, the date of Federal Grain Company purchase by Alberta Pool, Mr. H. W. Johnson was elevator manager at the pool's Eckville No. 2 and No. 3 facilities. On July 13, 1974 Mr. Johnson left this position. On this date Mr. L. A. Haglund became the manager of

Eckville No. 3 and No. 2 in addition to managing the No. 1 facilities

Pool members who have been elected as delegates to represent the members in the sub district which includes Benalto and Eckville are as follows. J. H. Suggett of Bentley N. S. Smith, of Olds, J. W. McLachlan of Hespero R. Pye of Penhold, J. W. Robson of Rimbey; Alfred B. Haarstad of Bentley Mike Bittner of Thorsby Alfred B. Haarstad (again) of Bentley J. D. Phillips of [redacted] Glen R. Nelson elected in 1974 and still serving in 1977

Delegates who have been elected to the pool's seven-man board of directors for the district in which Benalto and Eckville are located are as follows R. A. Macpherson of Delia N. D. Stewart of Chinook, R. A. Macpherson of Delia again) W. J. Blair of Naco, and G. W. Braithwaite of Red Deer was elected in 1969 and is still serving in 1977

N.B. During the 1976-77 Leonard Haglund reached the one million bushel mark in grain shipments

**THE ECKVILLE HANDICRAFT GUILD — by Iva Gustavson**

In the fall of 1968, adult classes in art and pottery were conducted by Velma Ebl and Gordon Thorsell. These classes were enthusiastically received. The following year 1969, a Handicraft Guild was formed. Volunteers agreed to share their knowledge of needlework, candle making and other crafts. Reg Baker offered to teach leather tooling. It was a small beginning, but has grown steadily through the years

In 1977 instruction was given in macrame, decoupage, soft leather, tooled leather needlework, crochet knitting art pottery basketry cake decorating, lapidary and chenille novelties. All of these are still conducted by volunteers

For other projects, where outside teachers are required, a small fee is charged. During the past few years upholstery furniture refinishing stretch and sew and jean making have been enjoyed by capacity classes

In order to make it possible for everyone to take advantage of a hobby the membership fee has remained at one dollar per season. Over 100 have joined each of the past two years

The highlight of the season has been the annual display and sale. It is held each year at the closing of the year's activities. It has proven to be very successful with over 500 attending and enjoying the fine displays. Proceeds from this function help buy the equipment and supplies necessary to keep operating.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB, ECKVILLE & DISTRICT**

In 1972 a group of older people of Eckville began discussing the possibility of having some sort of organization for the purpose of providing social and recreational activities of the senior citizens of the area. The idea gained momentum with the result that on July 10, 1972 a meeting was held in the Eckville Legion Hall. A formal group, which became known as the Eckville and District Friendship Club, was organized, with the help of Paul Olsen, the Preventative Social Services representative from Lacombe. We were further assisted from time to time by Rick Sloan who attended a number of our meetings, and by Ed Brandt.

The Eckville Legion offered their assistance by providing a meeting place, free of charge, for the first year, and later renting us the Legion Hall for our weekly Thursday meetings until we moved into our own building in August of 1977. Local merchants also assisted from time to time by donations of oranges or other goodies for our special parties, and by offering a discount on articles purchase from them. Interested individuals and organizations have also been liberal with their cash donations.

Membership was open to interested adults, and the fee was set at $1 per year. Eighty-seven persons joined the Club the first year, and the membership has remained approximately the same throughout the years.

In addition to the weekly get-togethers a number of organized bus tours to points of interest in surrounding towns or area have been arranged.

For several years the Friendship Club sponsored a horseshoe tournament in the fall, under the capable leadership of our most enthusiastic horseshoe player Ralph Rolfsen, assisted by several others of our group. Various Eckville merchants made cash donations to provide the trophies which were awarded to the winners of the various events. A dinner, open to the public was held each year in conjunction with the tournament as a means of raising money for the Club.

Another yearly fund-raising event has been the "Fish-Mulligan" a picnic type supper featuring fish mulligan as the main dish, supplemented by casseroles, salads, and pies. Some years this was held at near-by camp grounds and other years was served in the Club hall. These meals were always much enjoyed and well supported by the general public.

A raffle of articles donated by club members was held one year and a fabric sale in 1976 added a tidy sum to our bank account.

A picture, purchased by the Friendship Club was presented to the residents of the Eckville Manor soon after its opening, and money was donated toward the purchase of a piano for the Manor. The Club also had benches built and placed on the downtown sidewalks for the benefit of anyone who wished to "sit fer a spell."

Members who, over the years, have given of their time and talents to serve as members of the club executive have been Presidents, Bert Curran, Helen Terry Mabel Kelm, Anna Jobs vice-presidents, Isabel Guest, Rudolph Dahl Roy Kendrew, Secretaries, Jim Brown, Helen

Terry, Treasurers, Ruth Dobbs, Nora Moos Bert Curran and Esther Mottus. With apologies to any whose names may have been omitted.) Recognition also should be given to Wally Mottus and Mrs. Mable Kelm for their leadership in carrying out the New Horizons Project of providing our own Club Centre

The year 1977 has been the most outstanding in the history of the Friendship Club. It was during this time that the Club secured its own property. Through the New Horizons project of the Federal Government a grant of money made possible the renovation of the former Canadian Imperial Bank building in Eckville to be used as the Friendship Club Centre. The building was made available to the Club by the Imperial Bank and the foundation construction and moving the building, along with the installation of gas water and sewer provided by the Town of Eckville Many hours of labor were donated by the men as well as by the ladies) of the Club during the summer months to make the necessary renovations

The first meeting in our own Club Centre was held on August 3, 1977 with the Grand Opening taking place on October 6, 1977 The ribbon was cut and the Centre declared officially open by Mr Jim Brown, our senior member and one whose interest in the Club has been shown in so many ways since its organization in 1972 Special guests at this memorable affair were Mr Donald Mayne, representing the New Horizons, the Honourable Gordon Towers, M.P , along with several local dignitaries. All of the speakers were lavish in their praise of what the Friendship Club had accomplished

The Club is now open two days a week, with one day being devoted to a whist party with prizes given. A pool table and shuffleboard keep the men busy and the horseshoe pits are a pop

held once a month always prove popular As a service to the Eckville Manor residents the Friendship Club conducts a "bingo" one night each month, at the Manor Roy Kendrew is our genial bingo caller with Rudolph Dahl substituting at times when necessary

The Club Centre is nicely decorated by several oil paintings, as well as clocks, lamps and other decorations donated by some of the members. The families of Mrs. Clara Bromling made a cash donation to the Friendship Club in her memory A large oil painting, selected by Mrs. Helen Terry, was approved by the Club as a fitting memorial to one of our first, and most faithful Club members. A second oil painting selected by Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Jobs and Mrs Kelm was purchased by means of a donation made by his family as a memoral to the late Mr Joe Maki A third painting was presented to the Club by the residents of the Eckville Manor at the time of our Grand Opening, and later a picture of the Queen was presented by Mrs Spink, representing the Lacomb Council on Aging

Our refrigerator was donated by Mrs. Mabel Kelm and her children in memory of another of our early members, Mr Jack Kelm The Club piano was purchased by funds provided by a bequest from the estate of the late Mr Leonard

Many other interested individuals and organizations have made donations of cash or of equipment or supplies, and the Club members are very grateful for this help. We feel very fortunate to have such a Club Centre for our own use, and were very pleased to receive, at the time of our Grand Opening, such lavish praise for our accomplishments. We hope that all senior citizens of the area will feel free to come and join us in the enjoyment of these fine facilities for years to come

**THE OIL INDUSTRY**

Probably the most significant industry that has come or ever will come to this area is the Oil Industry

In October 1956 Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas drilled their discovery well in L.S.D.7 32-39-3 W5. This well was drilled by Richfield Oil Corporation under the terms of a Farmout Agreement with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. Hudson's Bay was the holder of a petroleum and natural gas lease issued to it by the Province of Alberta, covering the south half of section 32. Drilling of the well commenced on June 27 1956 and it was completed on September 6 of that year Oil production was encountered from the Basal Quartz and Mississippian formations The discovery was given an initial potential of 40 barrels per day of production. The surface rights for the well were acquired from V A Elson as owner of the SE 32-39-3-W5, and Mr Elson still resides on this property

The Medicine River field was classified as an area of 2,480 acres and Estimated Recoverable oil at 5,710,000 S. T barrels

This field map shows the discovery well in L D S. 32-39-3 W5

For assistance in interpreting the map solid black dots represent oil wells, an open circle surrounded by little lines, gas wells and an open circle with a cross, a dry hole

The Medicine River field produces from rock of Jurassic age. The Jurassic age is a portion of the Mesozoic era generally known as the age of reptiles. The sedimentary rocks in the area of Jurassic age were laid down as sediments in a shallow tropical sea. Approximately 85 wells were controlled from this group office

OIL WELL
GAS WELL
DRY HOLE

**WILDCAT DRILLING ECKVILLE AREA**

To our knowledge, the first wildcat well drilled in the Eckville area was Amurex Richfield-Hudson Bay Medicine River 2-32 located in Lsd. 2, Section 32 Township 39, Range

| Producing | | Thick- | Producing | Original | Oil | Oil |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cretaceous | | | | barrels | barrels | million |
| C Sand | | | | barrels | barrels | million barrels |
| Mississippian | 7250' | 36 | 13 | 7.3 million | 2.8 million | 4.5 |

Figure 2

3, West of the Fifth Meridian, about two miles north-northwest of the town. It was spudded on December 10, 1953 and completed on March 25 1954 at a total depth of 8,967 feet. The well discovered oil in the Lower Cretaceous Basal Quartz sandstone at 7,027 feet and in the Mississippian Pekisko limestone at 7,230 feet

As of August 1, 1976, statistics on the Medicine River field are listed in figure 2

In summary, total original recoverable oil in the field was 35.8 million barrels, 9.3 million barrels have been produced, and 26.5 million barrels remain to be produced

In addition to the oil, the original gas reserves in the field totalled 377 billion cubic feet of which 42 billion cubic feet have been produced, with remaining reserves of 333 billion cubic feet

These reserves and production statistics were taken from a publication entitled 'Canadian Oil and Natural Gas Developments", prepared by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd
C. D. Drysdale
Chief Geologist

**MOTHER GOOSE PLAYHOUSE HISTORY — by Johanne Kasha**

The Mother Goose Playhouse for four-year old children was formed in September of 1975 by a group of interested mothers. At this time the Jack & Jill Playschool had a heavy enrolment of five-year-old children, thus necessitating two classes for them. This left the four year-old group without a teacher or a classroom

The first executive consisted of President Gail Latilla (who later was replaced by Sharon Cooper), Vice President — Louise Moench Secretary — Emelia Thibeault, Treasurer — Johanne Kasha. Other board members were Terri Cunningham and Marie Posti. The teacher was Mrs. Debra OpdenDries

The Playhouse first operated in a room in the Eckville Arena on Monday Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to 11 30 a.m. but soon had to move from the Arena because of various regulations. Then the class moved to the Lion's Hall and finally to the Legion Hall to finish the 1975-1976 session in June

The Mother Goose Playhouse was greatly assisted in its first difficult year of operation by the Town of Eckville, the Recreation Board, local businesses, the Arena Committee, the Lion's Club and the Legion

The 1976-1977 session was conducted in the Jack & Jill Playschool room in the north end of the High School building

Mrs. Patricia Green of Rocky Mountain House was the teacher for both the Mother Goose Playhouse and the Jack & Jill Playschool during this school year

**REMINISCINGS OF AN ECKVILLE SCHOOL GIRL — by Alice Hawkins**

All the exhibitions with their death defying rides will never produce the excitement, the "my stomach's falling out" feeling that I experienced sliding down Kasper's Hill. Whether on a toboggan or skis, without the benefit of poles, the inevitable pile up was an experience. Hurled face first into the ditch of white, soft, glistening snow was exhilarating

Smells produce fantastic memories. All the seasons were heralded by their smells. We predicted the weather by smells. It smells like rain, it smells like a chinook, (which is magic in itself), the smell of the soft warm wind that appeared from nowhere. It smells like snow. The cold air would rush up your nose on a crisp, clear winter night and it was a good clean smell. The delicate smell of spring, fresh green leaves and

The bakery had a smell that would tease your appetite. Hot bread must be the best smell in the world, and you could watch Mr. Jackson putting all those good smells on trays in the window not only one day, but every day of the week

The Co-op Store was full of good smells. The coffee brewing, hamburger being ground and sawdust on the floor. The dry goods with the smell of winter or summer clothes, depending on the season. The smell of vegetables, fruit, binder twine, leather. It was fascinating to experience all the different smells in one quick walk through the store

Garages smelled good, too. They had an earthy smell, combined with gas and grease that

was sometimes sharp but always stimulating The train pulling into the station had a special smell, perhaps it was a smell of longing to move on as many of us did

Summer had a warm exciting smell — bicycle hikes to the gravel pit, a game of scrub in the va lot, jacks and marbles played in the dir Run Sheep Run and Red Light, Green Light played every night after supper Sandwiches, watermelon and homemade ice cream, summer great for smells Fall brought with it all the smells that made you feel safe and warm inside The farmers stooking, digging new potatoes, chopping wood, raking the leaves, airing the blankets, these smells gave you the assurance of a close, cosy winter

Not all the smells were good, one especially very frightening, the smell of smoke We had several bad fires. We watched Kennedy's house burn to the ground, partly out of a certain curiosity but mostly in genuine concern, to offer assistance. Every chimney fire was a potential danger Volunteers worked tirelessly to help put out the fires.

A sage piece of advice is to cross your bridges when you come to them, but this is not always as as it sounds. A particularly troublesome bridge to cross was the trestle over the Horseguard river I have always regretted the fact that I never had courage enough to walk across it. It was exciting to get to the trestle gaze at those tracks that seemed to stretch endlessly to the other side, and think "Today I'm going to do it."

It was easy to start out with bravado A certain gait would lead you from one railroad tie to the other and I could go for perhaps 60 feet without any problem. Each time I attempted the crossing, I vowed I would not look down. Two things contributed greatly to my fear First, there was nothing to hang on to, and second, it seemed a very long way down. Once I got almost half way across, and although I hadn't looked down, I was aware that there was water beneath me. Each step I took from tie to tie, increased my anxiety. I never made it Something compelled me to look down, and that finished it As on so many previous attempts, I would sit down and gingerly turn over on my hands and knees In this position I would start the long trek back, as my stomach produced all kinds of revolting things which I swallowed. I would end up back where I had started much to the disgust of myself and some of my companions I certainly admired those who could walk all the way across, and I was awed by the few who dared to while I was disappointed by my inability to conquer the trestle. I was able to find some consolation among many of my friends who, like myself, never crossed that bridge

Even though the venture of crossing the trestle ended in consistent failure there were rewards Sometimes the train would go by while we were there The engineer always waved and blew the whistle and we watched the steam come rolling through the cow catcher in big white clouds. One of our favorite games was to put pennies on the track and watch the train wheels whirr over them. Then we would pick them up and admire how flattened they were Beside the tracks, and along the river the orange tiger lilies and the tiny purple shooting stars were resplendent If the season was right, we would find wild strawberries or brilliant yellow buttercups

On our street we had an implement shed and because Mr Cowan owned it, we called it Cowan's Implement Shed." To me, it appeared huge. It was constructed of corrugated tin and I think it had sliding doors, although I very seldom saw the doors shut This was a storage shed for the farm machinery Mr Cowan sold

Every time we walked by it we would run our fingers along the outside wall, or grab a stick and run that along the side. It made a super rumbling sound. Sometimes we played inside the shed. If it was raining that was an added bonus. The rain drops on the tin roof sounded like machine guns It was an ideal place to play cowboys and Indians or Hide and Seek You could hide around the tractors or harrows and keep moving from one place to another as the "seeker" spent many frustrating minutes trying to find you

While the shed was an intriguing and mysterious place in which to play during the day as the shadows lengthened it took on a sinister air With the moonlight and the street light shining into the shed, the implements took on all sorts of menacing features. Each time I had to pass it on my way home, I was certain something would leap out and grab me. Most times I would run down the middle of the road until I was past it and then walk very quickly home

Occasionally I would elect to walk down the sidewalk The walk was elevated along Cowan's house and then it dipped two or three feet on the approach to the shed. There was a window in the Cowan house that faced out onto the walk and it was hard to walk by and NOT look in. Mr Cowan always sat in a chair next to that window and read. I could have touched him he was so close I would walk as far as to where he was sitting, and stop. He was very nice and many times I contemplated knocking on the door and asking him to take me home but I never did Instead I would take a deep breath, hold it, and run as fast as my legs would go, past the shed, past the houses and almost home finally to breathe again

Although I have outlived the Cowan shed its memory is still with me I think of the shed as I watch my own figure cast a shadow and I especially think of it when I have occasion to hold my breath!

It was inspiring to go to school in Eckville There were always so many things happening — decorating the school or making costumes for Valentines, St Patricks or Hallowe en. Labelling

new equipment, unpacking new and exciting books, preparing for the exams, waiting for new teachers to arrive, going to another town for a sports event, there was always something to look forward to

Everybody went to school regardless of weather If it was 40 below you just wrapped another scarf around your head. Many mornings I tried unsuccessfully to smooth out the bumps" under my stockings caused by the underwear What a challenge to appear feminine without Stanfields wrinkles and lumps in evidence. But, unless you were extremely ill, you went to school

Sports were fun in those days, everyone got to play regardless of ability and school spirit was high on the ball field, the hockey rink and the track

My first school was held in the Presbyterian Church. Miss McKinnon was the teacher She was a fantastic woman blessed with patience and good humor I met her 30 years later and despite many years of teaching reluctant children both those good qualities were still much in evidence

A more serious incident at school was the scabies epidemic. Everywhere you looked kids were scratching. It was terrible. Dr Coppock prescribed a foul smelling sulphur ointment that we plastered all over our bodies. Eventually the outbreak was controlled but the itching seemed to last an eternity

As we progressed to the higher grades school became more sophisticated. We experienced a greater range of emotions. We all witnessed the school fire. The School was a gathering place of friends, the nucleus of all our activities we were happy there. As we watched the flames ravage the building, we felt a very personal loss

By the time you reached Grade 9 or 10 it was very much in vogue to address everyone by their last name or by a nickname. We had some good ones for the boys Smix Corky Two-Ton, Newt,

In order to ensure our attendance was regular we were given vitamin pills daily Kay MacDonald used to bring her dog, Ricky to school and we all fed him all our pills. He was probably the healthiest dog in the country

The teacher that created the biggest impression on me was Horace McCall. It was like an awakening when he arrived. It was as if he said "O.K., open your eyes, this is what it's all about. His classes were always interesting and stimulating. Perhaps it was a combination of age, teacher and the times

Although I have always been grateful to Mike Worsley for helping me pass my Physics, I can remember at least five mice that through his courtesy, ran through my desk The year I was in Grade 12 I had the fortune or misfortune, to be the only girl in the grade. It was only my sense of humour that sustained me through it I must have sat on 500 tacks that year

The "Coup" of my high school years had to be the "Great Window Caper." It must have occurred during Math class which required a good deal of board work on the teacher's part. Every time the teacher wrote on the blackboard one of us would jump out the window You had to move quickly, but silently out of your desk, sit on the window sill, pull your legs through and drop to the ground outside, which was a pretty fair drop The excitement was in not knowing at what moment the teacher would turn around. A more difficult task was maintaining a straight face and appearing interested in the lesson I think we all made it, and I remember standing on the ground under the window, doubled over in laughter It really WAS an accomplishment and it is one of my favorite memories

**IN 1939 WE SAW THE KING AND QUEEN — by Mrs. Frank Coppock**

We finally succumbed to the spirit which prevailed throughout Canada and we, too followed the thousands who flocked into Edmonton on Friday to see the King and Queen

When it was finally conceded that Frank would not be able to make the trip with us by car I decided to take Audrey and Donna upon the special train which ran through South Eckville, on the C.P.R., one mile from here. Miss Jolly made the trip with us and certainly made the day much easier for me by the assistance she rendered to the youngsters

Frank took us across to the station at eight thirty in the morning. There was quite a crowd there when we arrived, as the teachers were taking the rest of the school children who hadn't gone by car It must have been about nine o'clock when our Royal Train, as Miss Jolly called it, pulled out of the station We really didn't mind the long hours we were on the train The youngsters spent the first hour getting all the windows opened, and did remarkably well to lean out as far as they did without falling out About ten o'clock the cry of 'when do we eat?'" became quite general, Mr Scott, the Principal, was the first to feel the pangs of hunger We didn't eat just then, but it was not long before 12 when the first munchers started eating

New recruits came in all along the line, and there was a great deal of cheering at each town we passed through We had plenty of room in our coach and, as there were not any more added to it, I surmised that each town had a coach to themselves The bridges proved a great attraction to the children, and they got in some practice cheering each time we went over one of them

As we drew near the city, the teachers decided that they would march with the children from the station to their seats, a distance of about two miles out on Jasper Avenue Audrey and Donna had their seats reserved with the rest

of the school children bu neither Miss Jolly nor I had seats arranged for Mr Scott advised us to take the bus out to where they were going and take a chance on getting in somewhere near them. However, as we came into the city we passed right by the Parliament buildings and we figured that would be an ideal spot from which to see everything, so, at the station Miss Jolly and I and the children left the rest

From inquiries at a small ticket booth at the station we found that all the seats up near the Parliament buildings were gone but since they were a dollar apiece we didn't weep over that' Not to be daunted, we boarded a street car and got off at the entrance to the Parliament buildings. That was about two-thirty and at that time there were very few spectators around at least compared to what came later Most were outside along the curb and sidewalks. Just a few were inside the gates, and that is where we parked, right on the curb, just inside the gates No one seemed to know whether we would be allowed to stay there or not, as there was a first aid station right behind us and the way to it had to be kept open However, we were lucky but had we known at the time we might even have been able to get quite close to the steps and seen the King and Queen alight from the car and enter the building The soldiers were lined up in a guard of honor right in front of us but they told us that the car would enter the other gate a few feet behind us. We were skeptical, but when we saw the Dragoons gallop by with their red tunics and silver plumed helmets and enter the other gate we realized our mistake Miss Jolly said, "Come on let's go." and I said "What about our things?" which were in a pile on the curb. But she took it all in her stride and with one swoop had all the coats, lunch, etc., in her arms and one of the youngsters under her guard for good measure We had just a few feet to go; Audrey and Miss Jolly got a good look at both the King and Queen that time. I don't know what Donna saw and I was so busy with my camera trying to get a picture that I missed out on that view I had the camera all set and aimed at the car which I thought carried the Royal Couple, but I always look before I aim so I realized that not any in that car were the ones I was after so I didn't even snap a picture

By that time the crowd was running up toward the steps and Donna and Miss Jolly had disappeared. Audrey and I went back to our first spot but I was pretty uneasy when I didn t see the other two. I left Audrey parked between two soldiers with orders not to dare move. I soon found Miss Jolly and Donna farther up the line and they came back with me, which was a better place. It was then four-thirty and we had one hour to wait before the King and Queen were to come out of the building This time we were sure they were coming right in front of us, so we stood packed right in line for the whole hour

The guard of honor along each side moved up close together with just room enough for the cars to pass in between I had Audrey and Donna between two soldiers and we were right behind them, so we all got a perfect view this time, although I was left with the feeling that it couldn't be possible that I had actually seen them

The crowd long before this had come down from their seats in the bleachers and were massed outside the gates. In our first two-hour wait we had seen the members and their wives and all those who were to be presented go by and enter the Legislative building. We had a good chance to see the fashions of the day, and had a good mind to chuck our shopping bags and lunch and take a chance on following them in Nevertheless, we didn't make the attempt and there was plenty of entertainment in the form of bands, bagpipes and marching to help pass the time quickly It was five-thirty when the procession left the Parliament buildings. We then wandered out of the gates and, upon inquiring found that traffic would be tied up for more than an hour

This portion of a letter written by Marjorie Coppock in the summer of 1939 was found by her daughters, Audrey and Donna after her death The Miss Jolly referred to in the letter was a Eckville Hospital nurse who later married a man named Ball. The Frank referred to is of course her husband, Frank Coppock

Vernon Ogilvie

For use of Farmers and Ranchers only



Form T-1a
1919

# DOMINION OF CANADA

# INCOME TAX

## RETURN OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

All returns should be prepared in triplicate. One copy should be retained by the taxpayer and two copies must be delivered to the **Inspector of Taxation,** Customs Building, CALGARY Alta., on or before 30th **April, 1920.**

**Name** ..... (Surname first) (Christian names in full)

**P. O.** address of present residence.

State length of residence in Canada. Total Months

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM OR RANCH OPERATED

..... Section or Lot. ..... Township. ..... R. or C.

..... Section or Lot. ..... Township. ..... R. or C.

..... Section or Lot ..... Township. ..... R. or C.

..... Section or Lot ..... Township. ..... R. or C

Total acreage

Acreage under cultivation

Acreage under summer fallow

Do you own or rent the farm or ranch?

Place of residence during 1918.

Did you make a Dominion Income Tax Return for 1918? Have you been assessed for Dominion Income Tax for 1918?

State whether married or unmarried, widow or widower (If married state when changed during the year, date and cause of change)

State number and ages of children under the age of 18 years dependent on you for support. If supporting dependent brothers or sisters under the age of 18 years or a dependent parent or parents, grandparent or grandparents, give particulars.

If a widow or widower state number and ages of dependent children, if any, under the age of 21 years, or over 21 years of age and dependent on you for support on account of physical or mental incapacity.

**I hereby certify that the return embodied herein, the supplementary statements and additional schedules attached, if any, contains a true and complete statement of my Gross Income and Deductions claimed for the year 1919.**

Date ..... Telephone address. Signature

DOMINION OF CANADA

FIVE

CINQ

WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICAT D'ÉPARGNE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU DOMINION DU CANADA

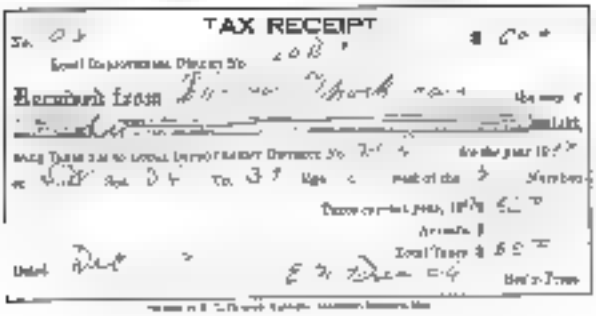
15. 1.-45

MRS ES FERN AVE NS
NURSES HOME
HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL
CALGARY ALTA

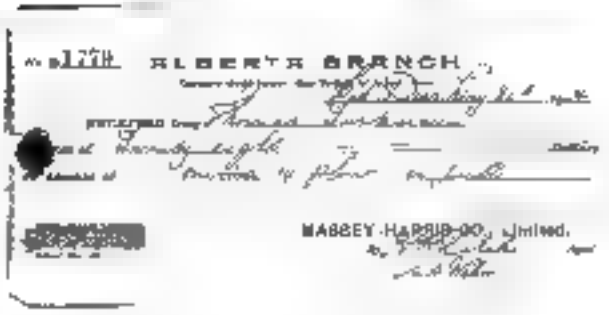
TH 366895

FIVE DOLLARS

CINQ DOLLARS


TAX RECEIPT

Received from


ALBERTA BRANCH

MASSEY-HARRIS CO. Limited.

Rockyford, Alta.,
Aug 13, 1926.

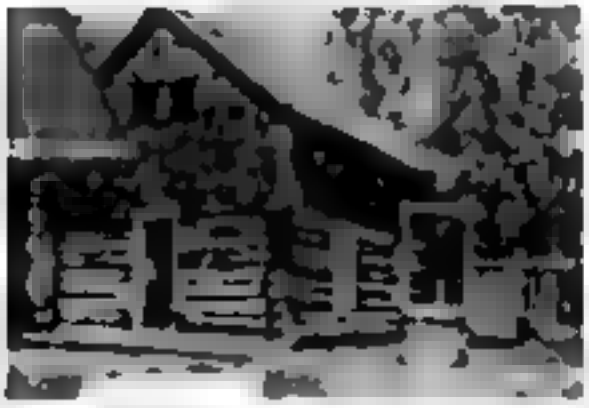
We, the undersigned, hereby agree to stook on the lands of S B.Hovey 577 acres of wheat at the rate of forty-five cents (45¢) per acre, and the said S B.Hovey hereby agrees to pay for the said stooking at the aforesaid rate. The work is to be done in a good husbandlike manner, of which S.B.Hovey or his attorney shall be the sole judge The sheaves x shall not be allowed to lie on the ground but will be stooked immediately the crop is severed from the ground.

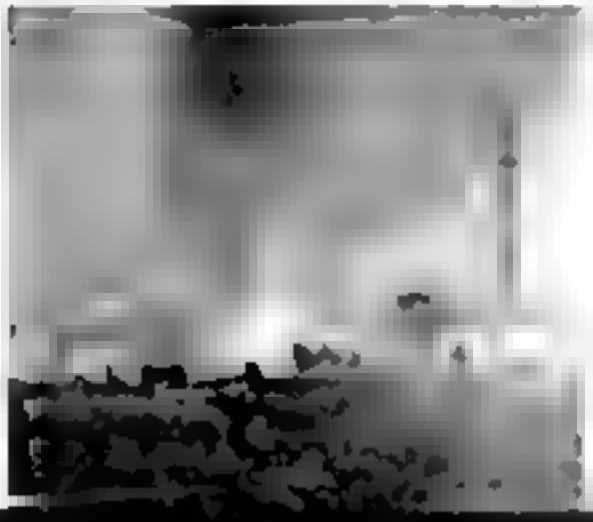
It is also agreed that S.B.Hovey will board the undersigned and any other men employed by them to stook the said crop free of charge.

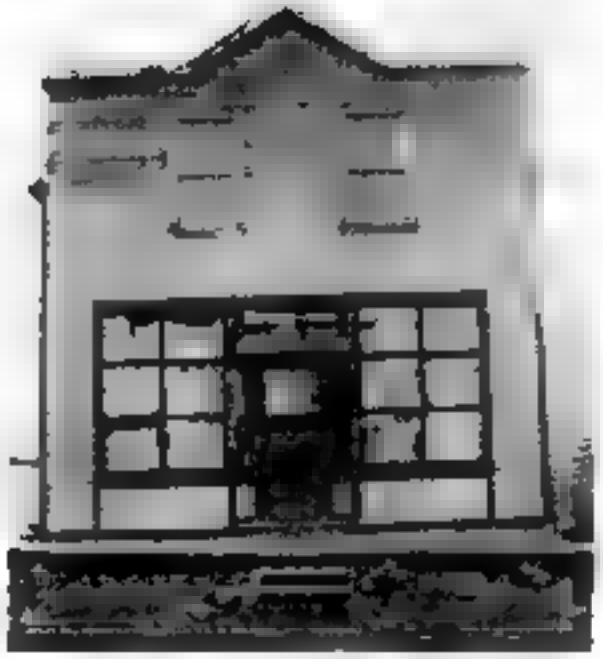
witness John Tekelbaus.

Stookers Arthur M Trankman
J S Learnsley

men S B HOVEY
per S B HOVEY







Mehl's Harness and Shoe Shop - 1910

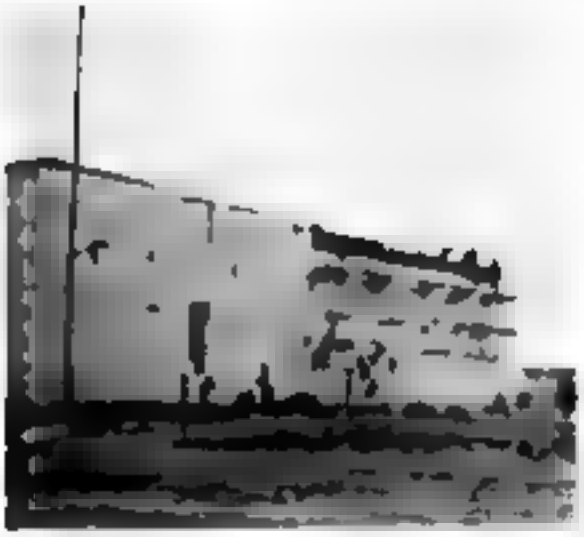
Elevator fire

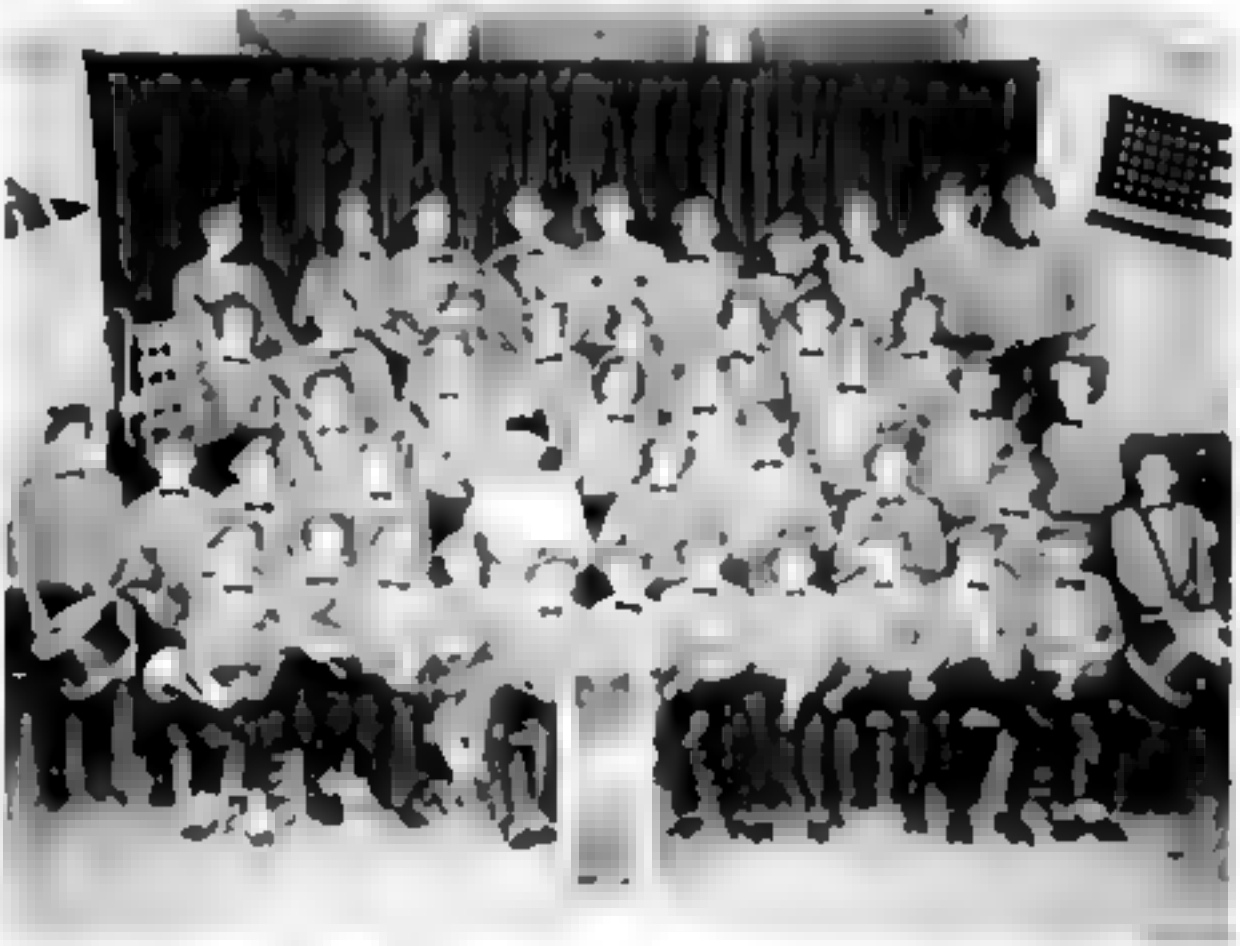
U. F. A. Service Station Proprietor: Fred Moen

Archie Lee, John Johnson, John Vitala, ? Arvid Thorlaasa

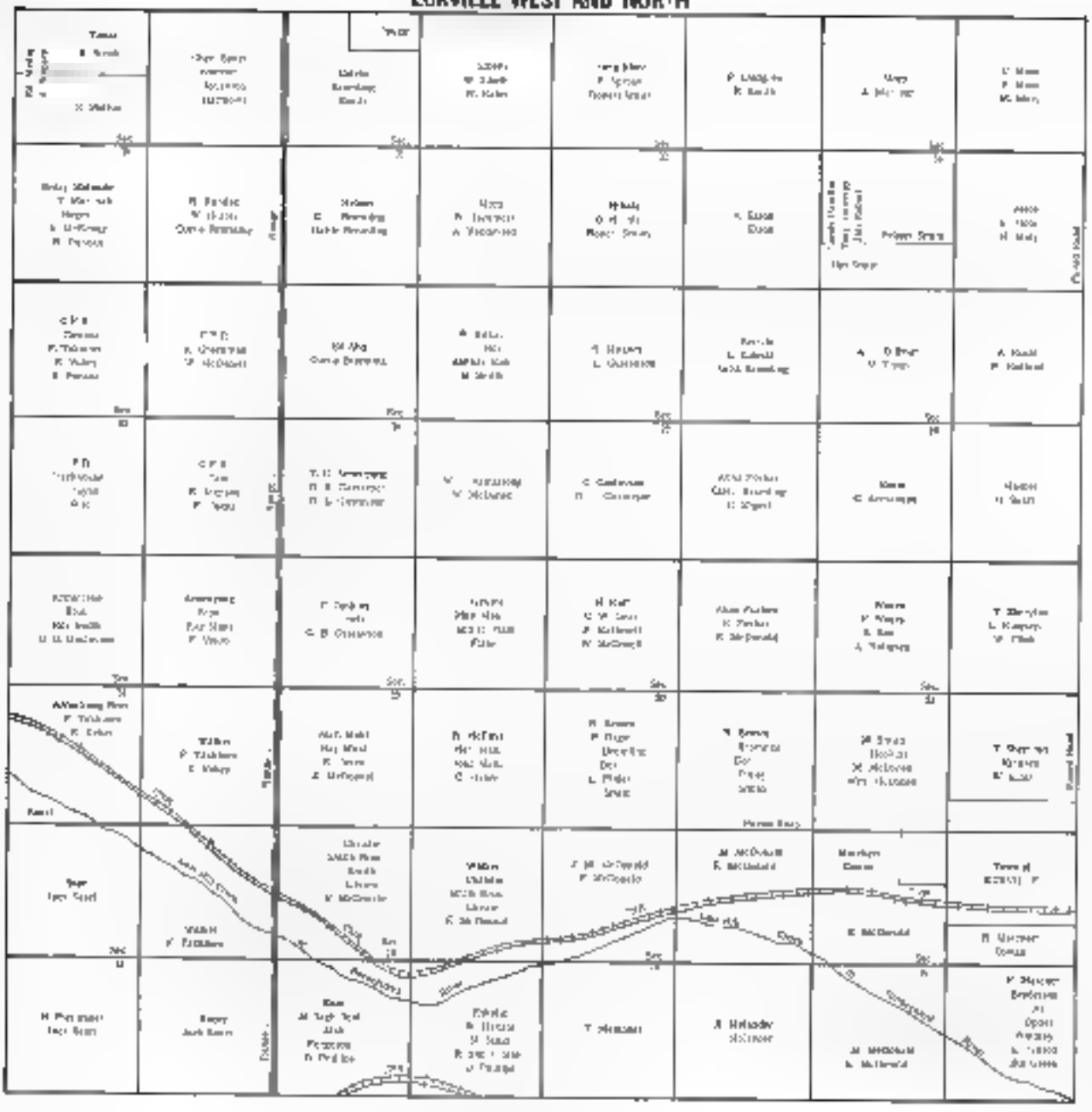
John Kanala Sr. Garage

Selvas Blacksmith Shop





## ECKVILLE WEST AND NORTH



# Family Biographies

**ASH, W**

I, William Allan Ash was born in 1892, at South Molton Devonshire. England I was the oldest of three boys. I also had two sisters, whom I never saw as they died of diptheria before I was born.

My early years were spent at South Molton where I went to school. Later we moved to Woodbury, south east of Exeter Devonshire because my parents died and we lived with relatives.

I came to Canada in 1907 My brothers came after I did. Harold Joe, the second youngest joined up with the Manitoba Dragoons in the first World War and was killed in action. Jack, my youngest brother now lives in Ameleusberg, Ontario.

On arriving in Canada I first went to Clanw Ham, North Minedosa, Manitoba I

worked on a farm owned by Melville McKinny who was a South African Veteran for about three years. In 1910 Melville moved to a homestead about 65 miles north east of Brooks and I moved with him as well as another S.A veteran, Henry Monroe. I was not supposed to ride in the settlers box car as I was not a member of the family however, Henry Monroe told me to wait at the side of the track farther away from the station, and when the train pulled out of

I homesteaded the SW 32-26-10-W4 later called the Square Deal district. In November 1910, although I was not quite 18 years old they stretched a point for me so I could qualify Later I also acquired the SE 32 to make a half section farm.

I worked a short time on the Bassano Dam which was being built in 1912. Through the early years I worked out through the summers for Melville McKinny and Henry Monroe, staying on the homestead in the winter as I had built a house the first thing

I was called up for the first War but failed my

In 1915 I worked in Calgary dismantling old buildings to salvage the lumber In 1916 I worked in the Gleichen district on farms. I started farming in 1917 having bought some horses with a loan from Melville McKinny In 1918 my friend, Melville died and I was asked to and did, rent his land as it was a section with more land broken than on mine I rented mine out as it was too far from the McKinny section. In all the years I farmed the McKinny land I had only two good crops, in 1923 and again in 1925. With some of the 1925 crop money I bought a new Model T Ford. Wheat at that time was as near as I can remember at $2.50 a bushel

In the fall of 1926 I married Lily Susan Kearon, whose folks had farmed near me. In 1934 we decided to leave the desert for the rains of Lesserville A brother-in-law Robert (Bob Roberts, having already moved to the area was renting the SW 24-41-5. We brought two car loads of effects and livestock. For awhile we lived on the SE 24-41-6, then my wife took over a homestead from her father, the NE 7-41-5, in 1936 We skidded a house that I had built on section 24 with teams to the north east corner of quarter, where it accidently burned down 34 years later just after I sold the quarter to Ned Godlonton in 1970

In 1940 I bought the SE 7 41-5 for $200 and this I sold in 1960

At different times I worked out at local saw mills such as McDougall and Milton Dahmer where I looked after the steam engine. I remember one time when the belt broke on the flyball governor The saw got going at a fearful speed. The crew working at the mill disappeared like streaks of lightning It was a few moments

before I was able to get the engine and all I could think of was the blade going through me It had a fearful scream at that high speed

Lilly and I had one child, a girl we named May Lillian. She was born on July 27 1927 May went to school at Washington Heights and helped us on the farm up to, and for awhile after her marriage to Elmer Howard Mason In the fall of 1948, they moved in to Rocky Mountain House They have three daughters, Margaret, twins Marilyn and Marie, and two boys Clayton and Brian. In the fall of 1971 Elmer passed away May still lives there with their two boys. She has worked at the Mount View and David Thompson Hotels for the passed 17 years. All of her daughters are married

I now reside in Eckville where I have lived for almost nine years

**BAKER, MAUDE (McFAUL**

Maudie Baker daughter of James and Ella McFaul came to Red Deer N.W.T with her parents in 1901 from Michigan U.S.A. She went to school in Red Deer for a short time Then worked for Bell Telephone until her parents moved to their homestead in 1902 Maudie went on this venture with them A few years later her mother's health began to fail, they decided to move to Vancouver and give up the homestead It was here she met her future husband. Ernie Baker who at that time was a barber They were married and decided to look for greener pastures. They moved to Coombes on Vancouver Island where they operated a General store for many years. They retired in Nanaimo where they were both very active in church work Maudie was organist at the Brechin United Church for many years Ernie, although failing in health, taught ceramics at a senior complex in Nanaimo until his death in 1974. Maudie and Ernie had three children. Harvey the only one living lives in Victoria He is also active in musical circles and church work. His family are very musical also, and wife, May, keeps busy as a registered nurse

**THE REG BAKER FAMILY — by a daughter Winnifred Cameron**

In the year 1910 my father Reg Baker with his wife, Nora, came from England to the west of Canada. With his wife and small daughter Betty he took up a homestead and pre-emption at a place called Metishon, Alberta. They brought with them just their personal things and a few household goods. Here they quickly built a sod house that provided a roof over their heads for a short time until their house was built. Their first furniture was made from packing boxes and barrels, and made homely with coverings. Then came two chickens, one cow and a pig. With this, plus a team of oxen and a plough they were all set to get going.

Here they lived and worked hard to make a home and farm for nine years. During this time I, Winnie, was born, also my sister, Cecilie, and my brother Rex.

By this time, the area was getting very dry and my father thought it was time to move. So, after some looking in British Columbia and Alberta, in August of 1920 we found ourselves landing in a place called Condor. We brought with us three train car loads of stock, machinery and household goods. My dad had bought a farm that had belonged to a Mr. Claude Saker who, later was killed in the First World War.

This farm was in the bush country about two miles north west of Condor as the crow flies, and this was about the way we used to travel as there were no roads to speak of at that time and very few fences. However, roads soon became necessary as land was taken up and fences were built. The men of the district would work off their taxes by doing road work with horse-drawn slips and graders – and hard work it was! Many of the roads were made over swamps. Here poles were put down crossways close together and then covered with dirt. In dry weather, if kept graded, this made a fair road, but when the rains came the wheels cut down to the poles and were very bumpy and hard on the horses.

The first night in Condor we spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Prendergast who lived in Condor, and the second night with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Patterson who were our neighbors to the south of our farm. By the next night we were settled in the one-room shack of Mr. Saker's. We would bring beds in at night from a shed and take them out in the morning to make room to get meals. So, of course the first thing to think of was a home. With the help of many good neighbors we were into this home before Christmas, less than four months from our arrival.

The reason my dad bought this farm was because it was just half a mile from a school, and with four small children schooling had to be thought of. My memories of Prairie Rose School is that of a steady stream of teachers. I don't know if we were extra bad kids, or if they saw greener pastures elsewhere. In the two years I attended Prairie Rose School I remember only some of the teachers. Miss Gertl Reighley was a local girl, and she stayed the longest time. She later married a Mr. Bob Shaw and the last I heard they were living in England. I often see two of her sisters, Mrs. Bertha McCallum and Mrs. Matile Martin, both living in Red Deer. The other teachers I remember were Miss Smith, Miss Thompson, Mrs. English, Miss Summerhaze, Mr. Metcalf and a Mr. Springbet. I am sure there were more. A number of them boarded at our home.

That first year, having come in the fall, my dad had to buy all his stock feed, and it was a long cold winter. By the time spring came there was a hay shortage in the area, and it was very expensive. Then a slump in livestock prices created a real disaster. However, like it was at that time there seemed to be many good neighbors on hand to help. I remember a Mr. Ludwig coming one day and saying "I have a large stack of hay that I won't be needing, so help yourself, Reg — we'll talk about payment later." Then came Mr. Frank Patterson with, "Help yourself to straw. I have more than I will need."

My dad, being a veterinarian, was very useful to all, in those days. I am sure he returned in full the many things done for him. He never turned down a request to go and attend a sick animal, and stayed with them for hours if necessary. I remember this well, as many of these trips seemed to come just at milking time!

The country in 1920 was not well settled and there were lots of open sections of land. This was a great delight to prairie-born kids. We would often lie quietly by a stream and watch the beavers building their dams, but just let us move or cough and "slap" would go the old beaver's tail and all would be out of sight for some time. This was on the river known as the Horseguard although at that time it was shown on maps as Last Hill Creek. The beavers had made many backwaters to float logs for dams and flood to the farmers, but they made up a series of little islands, and these were great fun for us to explore. The three younger of us kids would get Mom to pack a lunch and we would go exploring in what we called the Cannibal Islands, one-half a mile from home.

Both my mother and dad, who had left servant-run homes in England, must have found it a great change living in Canada, but they both loved nature and animals. They seemed always to have time for taking us for walks and explaining butterflies, giving each their proper names. Many times these trips were made useful too, as we would pick wild fruit, of which the country had a great quantity and a great variety. Both Mother and Dad worked hard on the farm but still seemed to have time for family and friends and community work.

Dad served on school boards, Chamber of Commerce, and was weed inspector on several

occasions. He was also a great worker for the Chatauqua that came each year to our community, for a few days, bringing us a touch of the outside world with good music, plays, lectures and many other interesting things. Each sponsor, like my father would guarantee the sale of so many tickets, and I well remember going with my mother to sell these tickets, and the things we took in trade, as money was scarce in those days. By trading for grain, meat, chickens, or most anything it made it possible for a lot of people to take this in who otherwise could not have gone.

My mother, with six to feed plus a teacher to board, still had time for Red Cross, W.I. and for helping neighbors when sickness struck in their homes.

Going back to school days, after two years at Prairie Rose the powers that were saw fit to move the school to Condor and that left us in a different school district. From then on we went the three miles to school at Lesliеville.

Living as we did in the center of a triangle we were three miles by road from three different towns — Condor, Alhambra, and Lesliеville, and at different times they were each our mailing address. Over the years we knew many people in all three areas.

At this time I should mention another neighbor a Mr. Bob Graham, Mr. Bob' to us kids. In his early days he had been a mountain guide, and was full of great stories. He would often take us for walks, and taught us a great deal about nature and the way to avoid getting lost in the bush, as well as what berries were good to eat. In later years, as he became quite crippled, one of us would go the mile to his place every day to see if he was O.K. I remember him teaching my mother how to cook beaver meat: three long boilings in clean water, then cook as other meat.

In 1953 Dad and Mother moved to Eckville to help me take care of my daughter, Laurie, as I had just become a widow that year and knew I would have to go to work. We all settled in on an eight-acre place, with a large old home, on the edge of Eckville town. With a great deal of renovations the home was soon ready, and this was to be retirement for Dad and Mom. However, Dad brought along a team of horses, pigs, two cows and some chickens, so he was soon set up with his beloved chores to keep him busy.

Dad soon joined the Light Horse Association and would judge classes of horses at the local stampede. I also recall him teaching the young folks how to shoe horses, and giving many good hints to them regarding owning a horse.

Dad also took up leather carving and became so good at it that he soon was teaching it at the Handicraft Guild which had been organized in Eckville. Many school classes came down to his work shop and there they would see not only leather carving but also a number of interesting things in his artifact collection. Many of these things are now in the Edmonton museum.

For Mom this was the first time since she came to Canada that she was able to become active in the Anglican Church. She was an active member of the Auxiliary up to the time of her passing. She also enjoyed many a good bridge game. To everyone in Eckville, young and old, my parents soon became "Grannie" and Grandpa". In all, the Bakers, Reg and Nora, raised a happy, useful (I hope!) family.

Of the family, Betty married Emil Ulmer, and farmed and taught school for many years at Onoway, Alberta. For the last few years of her life she taught at Sylvan Lake. Betty and Emil had two children, Ken and Fern. Ken lost his life in a drowning accident, and left four small children. Fern married David Brooks and lives at Fort McMurray where she had gone to teach school. For the past several years she has been librarian there. They have one girl, Lamsin.

J. Winnie, married Fred Cameron, who was a C.N.R. agent and was well known in the area as he was agent at Lesueville for 17 years. He belonged to the Rocky Mountain House Masonic lodge and took his term as Master and was made official bard of the lodge. As a C.N.R. agent we moved many times, living in many Alberta towns and loving them all. Fred's last station was at Galahad, where he died in 1953.

Our son John is an official with the C.N.R. in Edmonton and our daughter Laurie, graduated from the University of Alberta as a social worker. She married Bill Johnson. They live in Edmonton and have two boys.

I had a jewellery store in Sylvan Lake for 20 years, but I retired in 1977.

Cecelia, daughter number three of Reg and Nora married Al Chandler and lived and taught school in Edmonton until the time of her passing. They had a son Frank, now Dr. Frank Chandler of Dartmouth University, Halifax.

Rex, the only son of Reg and Nora, married Pat Baker from Okanagan, B.C. They farmed at the old home farm and Rex's farm that used to belong to Mr. Bob until 1953. In that year Rex became afflicted with polio and was no longer able to farm. He became a jeweller and had a jewelery store in Eckville for 22 years, until his retirement in January, 1977.

Rex and Pat had four children. Peter is married and lives at Penhold. Debby lives in Eckville. Mike is married and lives near Eckville and Venora is still at home. The Baker family will carry on the name for at least two more generations, with Peter and Mike and their two sons, Darin and Ben.

This is my tribute to a great pioneer family.

**LISA LUNDBERG BALDWIN**

Charlie Gustavson went for the doctor in 1908, when Lisa was born on the homestead in the

There are very few memories of this first

home because the child was only four years old when the family moved from there to Eckville However she does remember the peddler who called with his enclosed vehicle filled with many things to sell such as fabrics, buttons and thread kitchen utensils, tools and groceries, including oranges The child delighted in the color and taste of the new fruit, causing the delicious flavor to linger still in her mind

The family lived in Eckville from 1912 to 1918, during which time Lisa attended the old Eckville school a mile north of the village. While growing up she played and quarreled with the kids there Some of the children remembered are the Clausens, Ted Rogers, Evelyn Spurgeon, the Herring girls, the Garries and the Sestraps. Lisa remembers racial and nationality prejudices — the idea being that only those of British ancestry were good people

The Lundberg family moved to the farm in 1918, about three miles east

Some memorable incidents she remembers while growing, and later as an adult were

Falling through the ice on the Medicine River when returning from school, and her brother Okey pulling her out

Helping with farm and household chores Once, Lisa tripped and fell with two pails full of milk

The sad death of her mother in 1918 and she and Lester living with the Botten family south of Eckville for about two years

Her father's second marriage to Ida Pearson in 1920

Contracting TB when 13 years of age and having to stay out of school for a year

Completing schooling in Eckville and Red Deer and attending Normal in Calgary in 1925 1926 and there living with the Storeys, former Eckville residents

Teaching north of Eckville, in the Andrews school in Bentley, Okotoks, and in and around Calgary for 23 years, taking time out while her daughter, Beverly, was growing up

Travelling extensively, including four trips to Sweden to visit relatives and to other parts of Europe Russia Romania Czechoslovakia, Hawaii and the States

Her marriage to Everett Baldwin, principal of the Eckville High School in 1951

Being always and continuously interested in world affairs and politics, and running as a candidate for the provincial New Democratic Party

The unspeakable sadness caused by the deaths of members of her family — her mother in 1918, her father in 1950, and her two brothers Okey in 1970 and Lester in 1974

In later years, Lisa has come to the conclusion that the two periods in one's lifetime that are most enjoyable are childhood and retirement, because each entails freedom from tension and compulsory work, enabling one to pursue desired endeavors

**BARDENHAGEN, JACK AND AGNES — by Agnes Bardenhagen**

John Franklin (Jack Bardenhagen was born at Bentley, on March 25, 1928

Agnes Fern Sveinson was born at Markerville on October 6, 1925

Jack and Agnes were married in the Markerville Lutheran Church on October 6, 1950

Their attendants were Jack's cousin Robert Kraft and Agnes's cousin Thora Fisher and her younger sister Shirley Sveinson

Jack has lived all his life in the Eckville district first on the farm at Gilby and then in town where he attended school

Agnes took her preliminary education in Markerville and attended High School in Dickson and Innisfail. She entered Nurses' Training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary in 1943 graduating in 1946

She nursed in Calgary and Wayne Alberta, before coming to the Eckville Hospital in February, 1948. She remembers that year well for the "big flood." Jack's cousin Floyd Kraft drowned in the Horseguard River that spring

Jack played baseball and hockey He started playing baseball with his father Ole and Uncle Fred He coached the Bashaw Men's Team when living at Dorenlee, Alberta

He played hockey in Calgary in 1945 with the Calgary Buffalo Junior Team. He was a member of the Eckville Highway 11 Champs in 1946-1947

Jack and Agnes' first two children were born in

Eckville William John Bill on July 1, 1952 and Beverly Agnes on November 21, 1953. A third child, Donald Blair was born on July 7 1955 at Lacombe

Jack bought livestock with his father for several years and then worked for Bill Marsh in the Eckville Hotel In 1953 he began buying grain for Searle Grain Company He bought grain at Dorenlee and Huxley, Alberta, and then returned to Eckville to work for Roy Berry at the hotel

In 1958 1959 Jack and Agnes rented the Lesliville Hotel from Archie and Mabel Richardson. This was a most enjoyable year and they enjoyed curling and the friendly communi

In the past few years Jack has worked on the Trans-Canada Pipeline and enjoyed traveling and meeting new people

Agnes resumed her Nursing career in 1959 and except for a short time she spent in Red Deer in 1969. has been on the Eckville Hospital Staff continuously since then

Bill lives at home and works on construction and trucking. He has played hockey with the Eckville Eagles but his favorite pastime is working with motors in his shop at home

Beverly lives at Yellowknife, N.W.T. where she is employed at the Bank of Montreal and has established a permanent residence there this year by purchasing a trailer She truly loves the North Country and participates in various sports. She particularly likes camping and fishing in the northern lakes

Donald married Beverly Ann Smith, on June 28, 1975 in Eckville and they have a son Alan Donald born February 24, 1977

**BARDENHAGEN, OLE AND HELEN — by Agnes Bardenhagen**

Ole Bardenhagen came with his parents to Canada in 1905 from the U.S.A., where he was born in Michigan in December, 1896. Helena Caroline Johnson was born in Hancock Michigan on February 11 1901. She later lived in Butte Montana and from there came to Canada with her mother and stepfather, Charles Angle in 1910.

Ole and Helen Bardenhagen were married in Red Deer on March 9, 1918 After their marriage they lived in Lacombe for a few years and then moved to their farm west of Gilby For the first year they lived with Ole's parents, Carson and Gunhild Bardenhagen, then moved to their farm which they had purchased from Tomingas, one mile south of the Gilby Cemetery The old log house and garage still remain, quite tumbled down, on the east side of the road and the red barn and corrals are on the west side

A daughter Dorothy Mary was born to Helen and Ole on October 19 1923, but lived only two days. A son, John Franklin (Jack was born on March 25, 1929 at the Bentley Hospital. He was the first baby born by Caesarian Section in Bentley Dr Henry was the attending doctor

Ole served as councillor for the M.D. of Lorne for several years and then travelled many miles

Eckville had a hospital. He also served as sheriff in the Eckville district which was not always an easy or pleasant task He was active in baseball and was the catcher for the Gilby Giants team Helen was an ardent fan and supporter

Ole was a fun-loving person and would go to great lengths to entertain people or make them laugh. Consequently their home was a popular meeting place for family and friends, and, of course, the good food supplied by Helen was also another attraction

Eric Bardenhagen farmed and lived with his brother Ole until he married Linda Matthews on April 20. 1935. Ole and Helen stayed on the farm until the fall of that year and then moved into Eckville where they lived in the house presently owned by J Onofryszyn at 4916 51st Avenue They continued to help Eric on the farm and Ole joined Leo Zaleski in livestock dealing. In 1936 they purchased the Matt Heikkila property on the east side of town where Jack and his family still reside

Helen raised chickens, milked cows, and raised a big garden. She kept boarders for many years When the Eckville Creamery was in operation the young men who came to work here were assured of good room and board at Helen Bardenhagens Their home in Eckville was a great gathering place for smear players as well as for fund-raising card parties during the Second World War Helen's mother Mary Angle, lived her last years with Helen and Ole from 1946 until her death in 1951.

As a result of many fractures and injuries of his leg, Ole had the leg amputated in 1953, as

there seemed nothing else to do. This left him a semi invalid until his death in 1959. Helen remained in her own home until her death in October 1969.

Ole and Helen Bardenhagen will always be considerate members of the Eckville and surrounding area communities.

**BARLUND FRANK**

Frank Victor Barlund was born in Nakilla Finland September 5, 1872. Anne Marie Solen was born in Sukasissa, Finland October 5, 1878.

They were married in 1898 in Finland. He immigrated to the U.S. before the turn of the century, having heard of the booming times in the U.S. in letters he got from his wife's brother Henry Solin in Michigan, besides this persuasion, the clothing business he was in was very slow in Finland at the time.

He (Dad) worked in several places in the U.S. but his brother-in-law Charles Randall was homesteading in the Eckville area of Alberta Canada and hearing of the "free land boom" — 160 acres of land for $10 and a clear title if you break 30 acres and put up livable buildings — so he decided to try his luck at farming, arriving at Eckville about 1908, working the first few months on the Charles Randall farm to get ideas on farming. In 1909 he filed on the SE 35-40-4-W5 north of Leslieville. At this time the country was very new — no roads, just trails. A main trail was called the Hudson Bay Trail which crossed the Medicine River near the Charles Randall farm going west over the Lutz (Matchett's) farm, winding around and up over the Pattison farm (at that time Bantons and Hazletts) and over the Blueberry Hills following the high ground to Rocky Mountain House.

Never having farmed before, Frank was a bit green, but knew he needed timber for building and water so chose a homestead with timber on it, and a good spring.

Then he started preparations to send for his wife and two children Henry and Ina. When they arrived, they lived with the Charles Randall family south of Eckville and Henry and Ina went to Eckville school with their cousins Elno and Arne when the school first started.

As soon as Frank got his house built on the homestead, the family moved there and Henry and Ina were some of the first class held at Leafland School. By now they had two more children, Ernest and Carolyn.

Dad and Henry would cut the trees and brush and Mother and Ina would pile them to get a trail made to the homestead, as once you got off the Hudson Bay Trail, a new one had to be made. The homesteaders made their own trails at that time, costing the Government nothing. And they cleared the land the same way with grub-hoe and axe.

Once they filed on their homesteads they were on their own, no welfare or government assistance, yet they were very happy for they could see what they had accomplished with their own hands.

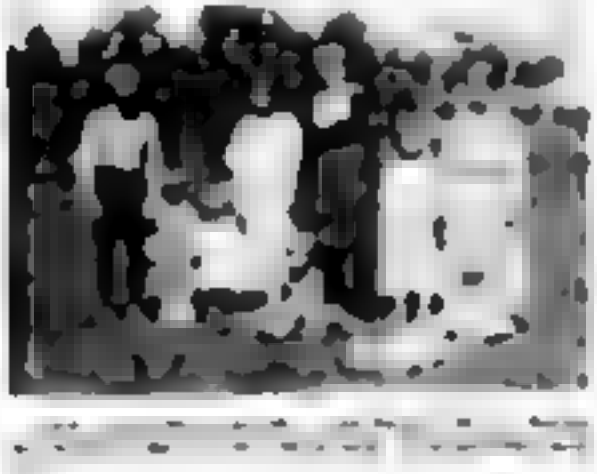
Frank broke land in the summer and also worked on bridge building crews for the Grand Trunk Railway and then for the C.N.R. These old bridges Frank and other old timers helped to build 60 years ago are still in use today. Frank Barlund and A. B. Koski hauled timber for some of the first horse bridges in the Eckville area. They had good horses. Dad always admired the Koski horses and the good care Mr. Koski gave them.

The homestead was polluted with big stones after Dad broke about 35 acres. He had great difficulty in keeping his plow sharp. So he decided to rent the Charles Randall farm since they were leaving for Rainier, Washington, farming there for awhile, before buying the SW 8-39-3-5 and the NE 6-39-3-5. Dad again started building from scratch. This was raw land with very good soil. From this farm us kids went to school at Bluebell. We never were hungry in the thirties or before. Men would stop at our place looking for work. Mother would always give them a meal. The Indians mother was sorry for, she would give them milk, eggs and homemade bread. They sure would remember and come back now and then.

Now I will talk of some vivid memories of mine.

In 1920 and 1930 Dad would go logging at McDougall's in the winter, and we kids would look after the stock.

In the coldest weather he would be out with horses, logging, and come with the horses all sweated up with icicles hanging from their noses and Dad would have icicles stuck to his whiskers. He would take feed and oats with him for the horses and bring back a load of lumber. Dad would leave the logging camp at daybreak with his load of lumber and get home very late at night, for the horses did not travel very fast with a heavily loaded sleigh. The dog would bark and us kids would run outside to listen in the crisp



cold night. We would hear the jingle of the heel chains and the squeak and groan that the runners would make on the ice and snow because of the heavy load. When Dad came home before Christmas, Mother would say "Maybe it is Santa Claus coming" when we went out to listen. It was 35 to 45 below lots of times. The snow was drifted big piles. We would cut the snow in chunks and make igloos and pretend we were Eskimos. Dad surely worked hard to keep us well fed and warmly clothed. He said he liked it here for he could work and build on his own and not have a dictator tell him what to do and how to do it. Those were the happy times with Mother and Dad.

Mother and her midwife and nurse's aide training in the old country, which came in handy out here in the early days. A good neighbor Art Lawson, asked Mother if she would come and help them, for they were having their first child. Art had in the meantime sent word for a doctor. The weather and trails were bad and the doctors travelled with horses in those days, consequently the baby came before the doctor arrived, so Mother delivered little Clifford Lawson. When the doctor arrived, he looked things over. He said, "I made the trip for nothing, for I could not do any better than Mrs. Barlund has done." We all thought it was very good of the doctor to say so. We were all proud of our mother.

Dad died November 11, 1953. Mother died on June 10, 1967. They are buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**BARLUND, ERNEST** submitted by E [illegible]

My sister Caroline and I were born before a permanent doctor came to Eckville, and Mrs. J. Olsen was the midwife. At my sister Caroline's birth, was her aunt, Mrs. Charles Randall, and at my sister Ellen's birth, Mrs. J. Kemilla.

The Randalls and Barlunds were in this area before the bridges, roads, hospitals, and schools were built. We had to ford the rivers when the water was high and it was dangerous to cross. My dad and A. B. Knott had a contract to haul the bridge material for this area because they had very good horses. In later years the rivers here have claimed several people such as W. MacDonald and Mr. Kraft.

When my dad bought the SW 8-38-3-W5 and the NE 8-38-3-W5, I went to the Bluebell school and later the Tech. in Calgary. I then went to work for my brother when he built the Alec Stewart barn. We built some of the finest houses in the country like the house of C. Martin, the Lobiaw house, barn and garage, at the present time the property of Jim Smith, and dozens of buildings [illegible].

During the war I worked for the army building barracks.

Then I decided to go farming so I bought the NE 6-38-3-W5 from my dad. In 1946 I bought the NW 10-40-4-W5, where I am living today. In 1948, the SW 18-37-3-W5, NW 7-37-3-W5 and NW 7-37-3-W5 was bought from Bergstrom, and in 1951 I bought the NW 9-40-4-W5 and SE 9-40-4-W5. Finally in 1965 I bought the SW 9-40-4-W5 and the SW 15-40-4-W5.

I married Thelma Hall and we have five children. See Thelma Hall History.

I remember when J. Plathan would bring his brass band to our farm for a practice. We would have a real picnic and Mother would put on a big spread and dress us up in our best clothes.

I remember Isaac Hakkala for his songs, a grandfather to Albert Rein. I will always remember John Molander for his comical jokes.

I remember this country when it was a boy's paradise. There were thousands of rabbits and prairie chickens, and partridge by the hundreds sat on a fair-sized knoll, doing their chicken dance. On a clear morning you could hear them for miles. It was also a pleasure to hear the

meadowlark and the robins singing in the trees We had no radio or T V but we had na ure to

made spending money selling rabbits to Mr D. Hamilton and would sell hides of rabbits weasels, and coyotes to Mr Leavesley The first cattle I raised were Herefords and Angus cross Then I bought a herd of registered Angus from Mr Bruns, through K. Sim

**BARLUND, HENRY — by Ernie Barlund**

Henry was the oldest child of Mr and Mrs Frank Barlund. Henry and Ina were the first students at the Leafland school with Frank and May Kangas and the Rolfsen children, Connie and Emil. The first teacher was Mr Ludwig but he was not allowed to teach when World War I started because he was German therefore his wife taught instead under the name of Mrs Lewis. The name of the hamlet of Leedale as changed from Wittenburg because it was a

Henry was a great help to mother when she was left alone on the farm to take care of the children and livestock in the winter Dad would be out building bridges for the C N R. Henry would take a long pole with a snare on the end of it and snare partridges. In those days the partridges would just sit in the trees and look at you It was a long way to town and we only got to town once a winter for supplies You would have to find your way around snow drifts because there were no snow plows then

In the summer Dad would break and with oxen and a walking plow He would guide the plow and Henry would drive the oxen. The oxen would feed on luscious green grass and when Henry would hit them with a switch to go through stumps, they would lift up their tails and let the fertilizer fly It was the only way the poor oxen could protest against the whip punishment and Henry would sure be a mess by the end of the day He then made up his mind there must be other ways of making a living besides driving ox

Dad could not keep his plow sharp because there were too many stones on the homestead, so he decided to leave it and rent the Charles Randall farm at Eckville Charles Randall wanted his sons to get a college education so they left for Washington, U S.A. Henry and Ina were again some of the first students at the Eckville school along with Ed and Ernie Kosk., O. Kasper, E Clausen John Maki and Elno and Arne Randall The Randall family stayed awhile with the Barlunds while Charles Randall was getting a home ready at Rainier, Washington

Henry played the corner in the John Flatban brass band when we moved to Eckville Henry got a job as a carpenter's helper when the new school was relocated to the C N R location. Then my dad's brother Oscar arrived from Finland Oscar was a master carpenter because he had completed his carpentry schooling in the old country and worked as a cabinet maker In the early '20's" he built many a fine house He took Henry to work with him and they built the house for Oswald Lmari which is still standing in Eckville today They also built a house for Pete Moro on his farm that all the people around really admired and came from miles around to see. They built two houses for Mike Sestrap and Mike said that as long as Oscar was around he was the only carpenter for him and it was also the same with Henry after Oscar returned to

Then Henry left for Calgary to work on the Hudson Bay store and the Eaton store When the prairie fire burnt out Wainwright, Henry helped build the new Wainwright Hotel and Drugstore Henry was working in Calgary when the Depression hit in 1929 Lots of people were going on relief at that time but Henry said he would not if he could possibly help it

He got a contract from Alex Stewart to build his barn which is still in excellent shape today This is when I went to work for Henry We built houses and barns for Charles Snider O. Nielson, Johnnie Razaline B. Dennett, Ted Lobtaw and many more all in central Alberta

When the war broke out Henry went to work for the city of Calgary as foreman. He worked for the city for 25 years until he got his city pension and old age pension. He died shortly after and was buried in Calgary His wife May, owns his house in Calgary and his farm at Eckville, the SW 8-39-3-5. She has three boys and one daughter

**INA BARLUND — by Ina Barlund Garneau**

I, Ina Maria Barlund was born September 30, 1909 in Finland. My mother, brother Henry and I emigrated from Finland in 1912 to join my father, who was already in Eckville. Later we homesteaded in the Lesliеville area.

I was approximately three years old then, but I recall the swarms of mosquitoes when we would go to the spring for water, which was about one-fourth of a mile away I too, tried to help and carried the water home in a five-pound Rogers syrup pail. One day I was out playing and a fierce-looking cougar was stalking me. I didn't lose any time running to the house and into bed covering my head with the blankets

In 1914 we came back to Eckville. My father and mother Frank and Aina Barlund, and five children Henry, Ina, Ernie, Mandy and Ellen Father was a tailor by trade and had worked in a shop in Marquette, Michigan, U.S.A. Then, during the big farming expansion in Alberta he came there as did many more old-timers from Michigan and Montana. We children received our education in the Bluebell and the Eckville schools

I remember the day the First World War was declared Father came home with a newspaper It was pink with black print even now, when I see ads printed on colored paper it brings back memories.

Soon after the beginning of the war we moved to Eckville on the Charlie Randall farm located about a mile southeast of Eckville, across from the Eckville cemetery. That land now has three oil wells. Later we moved to our own home farm about one and one-half miles west. As children we didn't realize how beautiful our old home place was. It too, has three oil wells on it now.

How we looked forward to the Benalto Fair. Mom would pack a picnic basket and nice cold lemonade in a crockery jar. Then we would sit on the fresh grass under young poplars for shade. A grass-hopper got inside the sleeves of my dress which created some panic. Mother would remove it carefully, so it wouldn't soil my Sunday-go-to-meeting dress of white embroidery, always with a pink sash around the waist.

June 24 "Johannus" St. John's Day was another great yearly event, with much to-do about spring cleaning. Everything had to be shining clean. We would bring wild flowers in doors to get the festive air, also poplar boughs over the gate to form an arbor. Poplar saplings lined each side of the doorway. The fresh blown leaves had such a fragrant scent. The house wasn't the only thing scrubbed. Mother would take the young children to the sauna and we were bathed and scrubbed. Well, I'd say almost parboiled. It was a a great feeling and we slept like logs. Then next day into our finery and to the community hall for the great picnic where we had all sorts of sports, races, horse shoe pitching, pie eating contest, and so forth.

I remember the first silent movie in Eckville with Charlie Chaplin. We didn't see much of the movie as the film kept breaking and then nothing appeared but darkness and flickering. Then the circus came to town. In my estimation that was the most awe-inspiring and enjoyable day of my whole life. To say nothing of the Chautauqua that was held in Lesliеville.

In 1918 there was a serious flu epidemic. I remember wearing a white cloth mask over my nose and mouth. There were many deaths in the outlying districts. However I recall only one. Mrs. Mike Sestrap, the mercantile store owner's wife, a kindly person.

Berry picking time could be called an event. There were many wild blueberries, raspberries, saskatoons and high and low bush cranberries. The small wild strawberries I'll never forget, with their special aroma and taste — never to be equaled. They grew alongside the railroad tracks and in the meadows.

Even though life was strenuous it seemed so simple and we were busy and happy. Sunday visiting was such a joy with many young folks coming over. Our closest neighbors were the August Kangas family. Maemi, the oldest daughter would come over often. We had such secrets as young girls do to share with each other. Our other friend, Lillian Kerkanen lived six miles away. We would visit back and forth as often as we could. Of course we had many other girl and boy friends. It would be nice to hear from some of them — still, so many have passed on.

In 1975 we had a get-together here in Seattle when Mae and Bill Scott and Lillian Kerkanen (Mrs. Olnonen), were visiting my husband and me. I called three other ex Eckville gals, Verna Lampi (Mrs. Larson), Alli Lampi (Mrs. Craig) and Ida Koski (Mrs Johnson). We had a marvelous day at the beach, and I couldn't help but note how well preserved everyone was in spite of our years.

In the earlier years in Eckville our main transportation was horses. I used to ride like the wind and often challenged my friends to race with me. Later came the cars, rumble seat and all, then the airplanes. The first plane I saw close at hand was an open cockpit monoplane at the Eckville Sports Day celebration. The pilot took a passenger aboard (a pretty young lady who worked in the post office) for a ride. Unfortunately, he flew too low, hit some telephone wires and crashed. The passenger was injured but later recovered. If I remember correctly, the pilot was unhurt.

Threshing time was quite an event. The old steam engine threshing outfit had 18 to 20 men working on the crew. I'll always remember the water man who hauled the tank of water for the engine. The big meals and morning and afternoon coffee carried to the fields kept the women folks busy.

Dancing was a popular form of entertainment in those days. Friday nights being the end of the week we could dance until three in the morning but there was no dancing after midnight on Saturdays. In the summer everyone went to swimming. Those were happy days!

One of the most interesting people I remember was Mr. J. Olson. He was a great gentleman. I never tired of his tales and his telling us about evolution. A most interesting man. There were many more interesting people, but cannot recall their names.

I attended the Bluebell and the Eckville schools. I was married to Harold Poirie in 1929 in Calgary. He passed away in 1950. In 1957 I married Captain Sidney Garness. Harold and I had two boys, Paul and Ronald. Paul died at the age of 28 years. He was in the service in Germany then taught school until his death. Ronald lives in California.

I have spent some time living in the United States, first in Montana and then I went to Seattle in 1941. I now live in Seattle with my husband, Sidney. We both enjoy our retirement.

**LYDIA W. [illegible]STROM**

In the spring of 1893 my parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Halverson, together with their family of two children, a boy, Nick, and a girl, Lydia, arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia from Sweden.

Before we became settled here, however, we were encouraged by relatives living in Chicago Illinois, to come to the United States. This we did, and our relatives helped my dad find work.

We remained in the U.S. for two years, but, in 1895, we responded to the encouragement of friends to come to Canada and get a "free homestead." Our friends had settled in the Burnt Lake district, which at that time was a part of the Northwest Territories of Canada. We travelled by train as far as Red Deer, and from there our transportation was by lumber wagon, pulled by horses. There were no roads through the country — only trails which wound around, avoiding as much as possible the bogs and sloughs which were numerous. Mosquitoes were a constant pest, but the people we met seemed to be happy, which was an encouragement to us.

My father took up a homestead, the SE 16-38-1-W-5. This land was heavily timbered and stony, but it had two good springs for our water supply. So, with wood and water, he felt quite satisfied. He soon built a two-room log cabin with a shingled roof that didn't leak too much, and with a rough plank floor that wasn't quite level. The door did not completely open very easily, either. Still, it was the best home all around, and we were quite content and happy living in it. All the land clearing was done by hand, as this was long before anyone had ever heard of a tractor or a bull-dozer. We cut the timber and sawed it into piles of stove wood. We grubbed out the stumps and picked the rocks and hauled them off from about twenty-five acres of land which we had cleared.

My father had purchased a quarter of CPR land but cash money with which to make the payments was very hard to find. After reading an advertisement in a paper indicating that men were wanted to work in a sawmill at Ballard, Washington, U.S.A., Dad decided that this might be a solution to the lack of cash. "Good climate, good pay" were offered in the ad as inducements for people to respond. So we were off again for the United States! However, we found that the climate was wet, the pay was $1.75 for a ten-hour day, and the work was wheeling scrub boards to a burner. The pressing need for cash, though, persuaded us to make the best of it. My brother quite school and got a good job in a shingle mill. Together, they were able to accumulate a little bit of extra money and in 1904 we all returned to Canada, being very happy to be back on our homestead. Sister Hilda had been born in Ballard, now Seattle, Washington, while we were living there.

In 1918 my family had a visit from a photographer, John Hillberg, from Anaconda, Montana. He had got our address from relatives in Sweden, so he had decided to take a trip to Canada in July, and came to see us while on his trip. At this time we got our mail in Red Deer, and he found someone there to bring him out to our farm. In the course of our conversations I became much interested in the photography business, and, at his invitation, went to Anaconda in October of 1918 to work and to learn the photography trade. This trip required two days of travel, involving six train changes. When I reached Anaconda I was very ill and landed in the hospital with the flu, where I remained for three weeks. During the flu epidemic the hospital staff wore masks over their faces all of the time.

John and I were married in 1919. We remained in Anaconda for a short time, then spent five years in Twin Falls, Idaho, followed by four years in Bellingham, Washington, where John passed away in February, 1929.

In October of 1929 I returned to Canada. My family were still living in the Burnt Lake area, so I built a house in Sylvan Lake where I lived until I sold the house in the summer of 1934. During a part of this time I boarded a girl who worked as a clerk in the bank, and in this way I kept busy.

December 1934, brought a change in my life when I married John Bergstrom, who was a farmer in the Diamond Valley area south of Eckville. On the farm we raised grain, livestock, hogs, turkeys, and chickens. Prices were low in those days, but with hard work and keeping busy we continued on the farm until 1946. At this time we sold the farm and the machinery, and bought an acreage at Eckville to which we moved. Here we built a house and reserved space for a big garden, but rented out the rest of the land.

This was our retirement home until April of 1961, at which time John passed away, and was buried in the Arrest Cemetery in Red Deer. That summer I sold the acreage and bought a house in Eckville on 52nd Avenue, where I am living at the present time.

**BROWLING, CLINTON AND CLARA AND FAMILY — Written by their Eldest Daughter Hattie**

We moved from Mankato, Minnesota, U.S.A. in the year 1913 to Eckville, Alberta. Our first stop was with our grandparents, August and Julia Mitzner, in Eckville, as they owned and operated a hotel there at that time. We became very interested in watching the different teams of oxen that would come to town. Sometimes there would be six or eight teams tied to the hitching rail on Main Street.

We then moved to the August Mitzner farm (SE 25-39-3-W5), which was northeast of town. We lived here for two years. In 1914 our father hauled freight from Red Deer to Eckville with a team of horses. He would leave early in the morning and be in Red Deer by twelve o'clock. After loading his wagon he would rest his horses

overnight and then start back to Eckville the next morning — a long and hard trip at the best. That winter he worked at a saw mill west of Rocky Mountain House. It was easy for him to get work, as he had owned and operated a mill while living in the United States, and he was a good sawyer. During this time Mom stayed home and looked after the family and did the chores. That same year our sister Leilah Alberta was born, making another addition to the family.

In 1915 we moved to John Bromling's farm south of Eckville, the farm now being owned by Cunninghams. We lived here until 1918. Our father made a trip back to the United States to sell his farm there. He was the first person to make a deposit in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which is now the Drop-In Centre for the Friendship Club. While living on the John Bromling farm Father and Bill Schunamen cut by hand and hauled 100 cords of wood to the creamery in Eckville one winter. Our sister Julia was born while we lived on this place.

Our father was interested in all sports, and spent several winters out West hunting. He was a personal friend of the late Clarence Sands, the big game hunter and guide at Nordegg.

Our next move was to the farm west of Eckville which is now owned by Tom Smith. SE 20-39-3-W5). We lived there until 1932, and Curtis and Cletis were born during this time.

In 1922 our father, with Calvin helping, hauled ice from the river for refrigeration for the creamery in town, and continued this for 25 years. Curtis helped with this job during the last ten years. Curtis also helped with digging several basements in town.

He and Calvin hauled gravel from the pit west of Eckville with two four-horse outfits and loaded it on flat cars in town. It was then shipped to Sylvan Lake to build the hotel there.

We were all fond of horses, and at one time had 20 work horses. All the farm work in those days was done with horses. Calvin broke horses for Armstrong Brothers, as they owned a big horse ranch. He also rode bucking horses at the rodeos around the country, and won first prize at Bonalto one year.

We had some music in the family — enough to amuse ourselves with. Calvin played a cornett in John Flatban's band at one time. John Bromling and our father organized an old-time orchestra one winter and played for old time dances around the country. They wouldn't have made the Grand Ole Opera, but they did have alot of fun. Members of the orchestra were John and Clint Bromling, Rudolph and Art Dahl, Ernie and Clarence Havens, Slim Meyers, Bernie Dennett, and August Harju.

In 1932 we moved to our present location south of Wood Lake. Mom moved to Eckville at the age of 62. She took and raised a foster daughter Carol, who lives in Texas now, where she married Donald York. They have two children. Curtis and I stayed with our dad on this place.

Bessie married Greg Nelson and they had five children. Emma married Bert Bagstad and they had five children. Leilah married Frank Watson, and they also had five children. Julia married Art Lutz and they had eight children.

Our father passed away in 1956. Curtis and I farmed here until 1962. He met and married Hilde Bouwsema, and they moved onto the Zaleski farm north of town. They have two children. Hilde had come to Canada from the Netherlands in the year 1956. Cletis served in the armed forces in World War II. He married Lovera Kye and now lives in Rocky Mountain House.

Our Mom was a member of the County Ladies Aid for several years. She was interested in card games and bingo. She passed away in 1976 at the age of 92 years.

## CATES, MR. AND MRS. STANLEY

We were married in a small town, Wheatley Ontario in the year 1917. Shortly after the wedding we came west to Travers. Our three daughters were all born in the Travers district. Meryl in 1918, Madaline in 1921 and Rena in 1925. We lived through the heartache of sandstorms, cut worms, grasshoppers and drought for 16 years.

Through the glowing stories of a school teacher from Bentley, who boarded with us for a short time, we became interested in the Bentley Eckville district. We came looked it over and decided to stay. We bought a quarter section of C.P.R. land northwest of Eckville.

We moved in September, 1933. The winter of 1933 was a very cold one. We lived in a granary that winter, and nearly froze at times. Many times we were thankful to our many wonderful neighbors for the help they gave us. The next year we built a log house.

Our son Kenneth was born in 1936. The children went to three different schools. First was Shady Lane, where crossing the Horseguard River was sometimes impossible because of floods, and in winter because of the deep snow. Madaline and Rena went there, usually on horseback or in a home-made sled. Kenneth and Rena went to Wolfe school for a while, then to Eckville, where they finished their schooling. I belonged to the Country Ladies Aid for many [illegible].

We moved to Calgary in 1965, where our family had settled. Meryl married Maurice Dean, Madaline married Henry Gable and now lives in British Columbia. Rena married Orville Liddicoat and lives in Edmonton. Kenneth married Hazel Dipple and lives at De Winton.

Mr. Cates died in 1972, and I, Effie Cates, now live in a unit as Elbow Valley Lodge, a senior citizens' home in Calgary.

**CLAUSEN DAN — 1908**

Eckville has made great strides since the early days. We now boast of a theatre, three grocery stores, four dry goods stores, three hardwares three cafes, four implement agencies, jewelry store, Imperial Bank, Treasury Branch — Eckville Credit Union, two drug stores, two oil agencies, four garages, barber shop and beauty parlor three insurance and real estate agencies, weekly newspaper (The Examiner), bake shop, licensed hotel, sash and door factory, new Presbyterian and Nazarene churches, memorial park, community hall, curling rink, eight school rooms and an additional four rooms under construction where grades are taught from one to twelve

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clausen, Eckville, Alberta and Child — 1908

**THE CHRISTIE FAMILY — by Iva Gustavson**

The Christie family, consisting of brothers George and Jack and sister Mary, arrived in the Eckville area in 1919. They bought a quarter section of land, two miles west of Eckville, from Jay Walker, an uncle of Kit Armstrong. An additional quarter section was purchased from the CPR.

After emigrating from Fife, Scotland, they had spent a number of years in Calgary George was a World War I veteran. The brothers were excellent stonemasons and worked on the Banff Springs Hotel before and after coming to Eckville. Here they were in great demand as chimney builders. The Eckville Memorial Hall once boasted a fireplace built by the Christies

They enjoyed their extensive library classics, politics and religion — nothing frivolous The weekly Boston Symphony Concert on the radio, was thoroughly enjoyed George played the concertina when neighbors gathered for a sing-song George was a familiar figure on his bob-tailed sorrel horse, Rufus He was a regular visitor to the Mukl household for the weekly Saturday "sauna"

Mary was a marvelous cook and loved to entertain her visitors with cake and tea. In 1926, she returned to Scotland to care for their elderly parents. After they passed away she returned to her home at Eckville in 1930

George passed away in 1938. Shortly after his death Jack and Mary sold their farm to the Smith Brothers and held an auction sale

Jack and Mary moved to Victoria and later to Vancouver Mary cared for Jack for the many years he was confined to a wheelchair After his passing she lived with a friend finally going to a nursing home She lived to the age of 101 years

**DR. FRANK HOUSTON COPPOCK**

Frank Coppock was born in Winnipeg in 1896 the eldest son of Ernest and Mary Coppock. He moved with his family to North Battleford in about 1906. Following the completion of his high school work he attended the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and graduated with a B.A. in 1917 He joined the Flying Corps and, following demobilization, took University work in medicine, graduating from the University of Manitoba with his M.D in 1925. He interned at the Winnipeg General Hospital, then worked briefly with Dr H E Alexander of Saskatoon before establishing his own practice in April

Miss Lulu Andrew and Chester Lodgson — 1918

926, having bought out the practice of Dr A B Stewart of Rosthern, Saskatchewan.

While in Rosthern Dr Coppock served on the Town Council and was campaign manager for his friend, Mr Walter Tucker. He was active in medical circles of the province, and was an active member of the local Masonic Lodge.

Following his marriage to Marjorie Frawley of Rosthern in 1928 he continued his medical practice there until September 1938. At this time he moved, with his wife and two daughters Audrey and Donna, to Eckville, Alberta. Dr Coppock maintained his active association with the Masonic Order and with the Alberta and the Canadian Medical Associations as well as finding time to contribute to the local endeavours of the growing village of Eckville.

The Coppock family first lived in the house now owned by Mr and Mrs. Allan Ralph but later bought the late Oswald Umari's house, now owned by Mrs. Florence Wansman. His first office was at the south end of Main Street on the west side. Later he moved his office into the house, now the home of the Pat Hovens, and he built the present Eckville Clinic.

At this time the old hospital had been closed due to lack of finances. It had been operated by Dr Palmer who had retired. Doctor Coppock at once took steps to reopen the hospital (the present home of Roy Saari). It was soon found that this building was too small to accommodate the patients seeking admission. As a result, Doctor Coppock started the procedures necessary to have the present hospital built and it was due to his untiring efforts that we now have what is known as the Eckville Municipal Hospital, which was opened in 1946.

In addition to his dedicated attention to the medical needs of the community, Doctor Coppock found time to serve on the local school board and on the Village Council, and was active in all community affairs until his death in December 1953. He was president of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons at the time of his death.

Mrs. Coppock passed away in Calgary in 1973 and is buried beside her husband in the Red Deer Cemetery. Dr and Mrs. Coppock had two daughters, Donna and Audrey.

Donna Coppock (McCaider) was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on September 30, 1932. Her early education was obtained in the schools of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Eckville and Red Deer before she attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton, graduating with a B Ed degree. Donna has worked as a teacher in the Calgary schools for many years. She has two children.

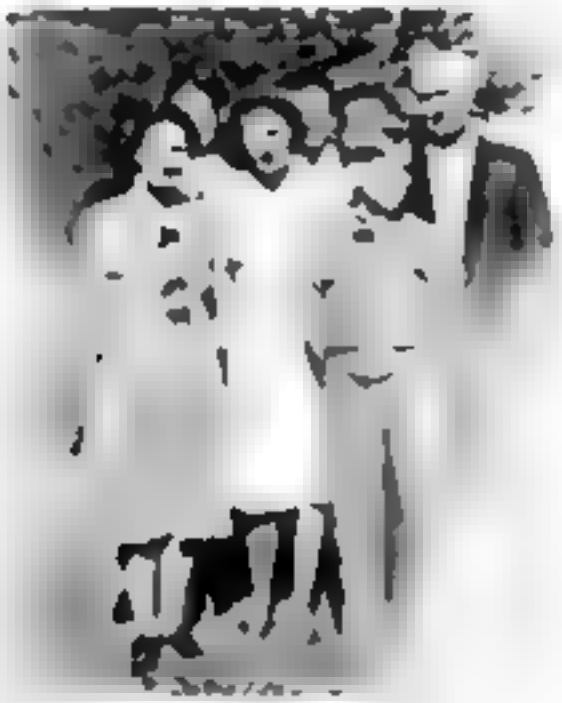
Audrey Coppock (Sloan) was born in Saskatoon on May 30, 1929. She also attended school in Rosthern before coming to Alberta where her schooling was continued in the Eckville and Calgary schools before her attendance at the University of Alberta at Edmonton where she obtained a Master's degree in Social work. She was a social worker in Calgary for a number of years and is now in Regina. She worked as a director in a hospital there, for quite some time, but is now retired. She has two children.

## LURAH AND JOSEPH COUTTS AND FAMILY — by Alberta Elliott

Lurah Coutts was born Lurah Elizabeth Shoemaker in Corning, Iowa, U.S.A. on January 15, 1890. She grew up and went to school near Corning and worked as a milliner in that area.

Joseph Coutts was born in Sunnyslope, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1878. In the late 1800's he emigrated from Scotland, working his passage across on a cattle boat. For several years he worked on farms in Iowa, showing cattle on several occasions at the fairs in Chicago. While working on a farm near the Shoemaker family he met Lurah. They were married February 8, 1913 and moved to a farm in the Camrose district in Saskatchewan. In 1918 they moved to Eckville where they bought the old Eckford place, one and one-half miles from the present town of Eckville. In 1944 they sold the farm and retired to Calgary. Joseph passed away in August 1951 and Lurah in August 1979. Lurah and Joseph had six children.

Evelyn (deceased in 1960) was married to Joe Morrisroe, of Bentley, Alberta in 1941. They had one daughter.



[illegible]

Rowena passed away at the age of three [illegible]

Josephine married Alphonse Stan in 1943 They reside in Rockyford

Donald married in 1960, and lives in Calgary He has two children

Alberta married Carl Ehret in 1948 and lives at Ardrossan. They have five children

Charles now resides in Youngstown

In the early days at Eckville the travelling Watkins and Raleigh salesmen wound their way through the countryside selling everything from lodine to vanilla, to thread and needles, plus a lot of salves, ointments and health remedies. My mother always kept a full can of strong menthol ointment on hand, which she would rub vigorously on the chests of any of her children who showed signs of developing the inevitable cold Thick flannel cloths were then wrapped around the necks and chests and the perspiring off spring were sent off to bed. It was very important that colds be watched carefully as pneumonia was a killer in those days, and there were no antibiotics to check its advance. The local doctor did not have an easy life then, and had to make house calls in all kinds of weather

I am told that when I decided to arrive, during a raging blizzard in March, a neighbor, Jimmy Merriman was also trying to make his presence known The doctor finally made it to both places in a car equipped with skis in the place of front wheels and cracks on the back wheels

We did not have such things as school buses when I went to school and we had a one and one-half mile trek to town In the winter, when the river was frozen over, we were able to cut that distance in half The Medicine River provided much of our recreation in those days — swimming during the summer and skating in the [illegible]

The Liberty Hall, about a mile and a half north of town and adjacent to our farm, was a great social gathering place for the Finnish community when I was growing up Although many of the plays and concerts held there were in the Finnish language, we all went and enjoyed watching whatever was offered. Dances were also held there, and the Liberty Hall had the distinction of having the best floor in the country

My mother and father enjoyed the whist and bridge games held weekly or monthly in the Eckville Hall in town. These social evenings were followed by dances. All the girls learned to dance when they were 10 or 12 years old by dancing with each other It was a big thrill when the [illegible]

**COVLIN, MIKE**

Mike Covlin was born in North Dakota and moved with his parents and family to the Stettler district. In 1906, they moved to a farm in the Loyalist, Alberta area, where he grew up and later, after the passing of his parents, he and his four brothers farmed until 1938 when Mike bought a garage-machine shop and moved into Consort

Eileen Covlin (nee Lloyd) as a child, moved from Calgary to the Lloyd Hill district in the spring of 1920. This district was named after Albert Lloyd who managed the Post Office from 1912-1928

In September, 1939, Mike and Eileen were married and lived in Consort until August 22 1946, when they sold the business and moved to Eckville. By this time, Helen Priscilla, aged five years, Richard William three years, and Margaret Elizabeth, three months, had been born into the Covlin family

Mike purchased the two lots on the corner of main street where the "body shop" now stands, and two acres down by the river from Mr Von Holtum who at that time, lived in Vancouver The dwelling was adjacent to the Moro Flour Mill, just north, close to the bank of the Medicine River

Mr and Mrs. Cyr, who lived across the track south of the old C.A.D.P., kindly let us store our garage equipment until the garage was built.

Coming from the dried-out area, rain was welcome, but our first week here it rained almost all the time

Mike sent to the States for a pattern to make the machine in which the cement block was made. The late Charlie Johnson and one other older man helped. In the fall of 1947 the building was ready and business began and the name, Eckvide Farm Equipment was soon erected

Mike was agent for J F Case Machinery and Imperial Oil and subagent for Hillman cars Dianne Marie was born May 30, 1949

In the spring of 1952, Albert Schofer bought the acreage by the river and Mike bought 53 acres from Mr Cowan south of the track. Soon he moved an old storage shed over and, again with the help of Charlie Johnson, it began to take shape and the family took up residence. The spring of 1960, an oil company drilled a well on the property and as a result workers flocked to town and thus the "Cavlin Trailer Court" came into being

All four children received their education at Eckville

Helen worked in the Imperial Bank of Commerce later in 1962 married Stan Makl. At this writing they live in Rocky [illegible] Stan is manager of the Credit Union. Their boys Cameron, 14, and Wendell, 12, are both hockey players

Richard joined the Canadian Air Force and later married Verna Saari. At present they live in Edmonton and to them was born Kristina, now seven years, and Terri-Jean, five years. After leaving the Air Force, Richard studied law at the U of A, becoming a lawyer Verna is a school teacher

Margaret took a course at SAIT and became a dental assistant and worked in Edmonton. At present she is married to Ronald Lysell and they have Robin Michael 10 years and twins Nicole and Kent six years. Ronald being in the Canadian Navy, they live for a time at the east coast or the west; at the present are in Victoria

Dianne Marie attended Junior College Red Deer and on to the U of A and graduated with her B.Ec. in Edmonton

Mike Cavlin passed away January 23, 1967 The garage was sold also the trailer court Eileen worked for several years in the cafeteria of the Co-op but in 1974 had to retire because of ill health. She continues to make her home in [illegible]

**COWEN WILLIAM H**

Mr and Mrs. William Cowen moved to Eckville in 1919 from Merritt, B.C. After his arrival in Eckville, Mr. Cowen established a hardware store Later that same year Mrs Cowen passed away. There were no children Mrs. Cowen had been the former Clemantine Beamish. She was born in Ontario and had been trained as a nurse Before moving to Eckville she had been the matron of the Merritt Hospital Mr Cowen took her remains to Ontario for burial.

In 1921 Mr Cowen married Agnes Elizabeth Edgar Miss Edgar had come to Eckville to visit a friend, Mrs. Fred Helmbecker, with whom she had gone to school In this way she became acquainted with Mr Cowen, and they were married in December 1921 In August 1923 twins were born to them The boy was named Robert (Bob), and the girl was named Selina

After some years in the hardware business Mr Cowen sold the store to Builders Hardware He then went into the implement business, along with bulk oil sales, and continued with this until his retirement

Mrs. Cowen passed away in February, 1949, and in 1950 Mr Cowen sold their home in Eckville and moved to Calgary to be with his daughter, who was working there at that time

Selina married Fred C Boarland, formerly of Matador, Texas, U.S.A. in 1953. After her marriage Mr Cowen moved to Devon, Alberta to be with his son Bob. In 1955 Bob married Marie LeRoy formerly of Fort Saskatchewan At the time of their marriage she was a nurse in the Devon Hospital

Mr Cowen later returned to Calgary where he remained until his death in July 1958, at the age of 85 years. He was a former member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. He donated the land where the Eckville Memorial Hall now stands

Mr and Mrs Cowen are buried in the [illegible]

**THE CUNNINGHAM STORY — by Minnie Cun[illegible]**

Mr and Mrs James Madison Cunningham and six children came from Conquest Saskatchewan in 1926 to make their home in the Eckville district, three and a half miles southwest of the village

James Madison, of "JM" as he was called, was born at Lakeport Ontario in 1876 and came west with his parents to homestead at Bounty Saskatchewan in 1906. Edith Mary Burcham was born in London, England in 1882. She came to Canada in 1898, then returned to England and again came to Canada in 1908 to marry "JM"

Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Cunningham in 1908

A cyclone passed through the Conquest area on July 25, 1925, destroying a large barn, wind mill, pump and water tank, so a move to a new region seemed necessary. The relocation proved to be a wise one because a few years later a great depression spread across the prairies.

The farm consisted of a half section, S.E. 5-39-3-W3 and N.W. 4-39-3-W3 plus a quarter section of rented land, N.W. 5-39-3-W3, which "JM" purchased two years later.

The family included four sons and two daughters: Archie, Laura, Claude, Audrey, Tom and Wally. The younger four attended school at Bluebell. Claude, being one of the big boys, took the job of lighting the fire and sweeping the school. He would leave early in the morning to do this, going on horseback. He got six dollars per month.

When Archie was about twenty he acquired a Stainer violin for twenty dollars. He played for dances with Mrs. Bill MacDonald pianist. Clarence Fitch sometimes chorded on the piano substituting for Mrs. MacDonald. Roe Hancher performed on the saxaphone. The drums were played by whoever was available and willing. Claude helped out, and also John Vitalis. It is interesting to note that this orchestra initiated the twenty-five cent admission fee for dances at Liberty Hall where capacity crowds attended. Lunch was extra. This example was soon adopted by other communities. These were "the good old days!"

It was nothing to go to a dance in 30 or 40 below zero weather with a fast team and sleigh. No one noticed the cold when bundled up and tucked in with a heavy robe. The horses travelling at a good pace, the runners crackling over the snow, and the stars shining brightly in a cold dark sky. On one occasion they were out with a one-tier wagon box and sleigh heading home in the wee small hours. Archie was driving in company with Laura, Audrey and Helen, Mamie and Ralph Kangas. The horses were going at a fast trot down Lutz's hill half a mile south of Eckville. The road was icy and the sleigh started to slide sideways. Something hit the box and it overturned in the ditch, dumping everyone in the soft snow. Archie held onto the lines, stopping the horses. After a stunned minute or two, all recovered and gave a boost to right the box and put it back into position. The snow-covered passengers piled in and all arrived home safely a short while later.

Laura, Wally, Mrs. Cunningham, Tom, Mr. Cunningham, Claude, Audrey and Archie

Audrey was the first to be married. In 1935 she became the bride of Harry Olsen. They have farmed in the Bluebell district ever since. They have two daughters, Joanne and Faye. Joanne and Bill Budvardson and two sons, Jim and Perry, now living in Eckville. Faye and Melvin Molander live in Didsbury and have two children, Cheryl and Corey.

Laura married Charles McCune of Red Deer in 1936. They farmed at Shady Nook. In the fall of 1947 they moved to Kelowna where they bought a two-acre orchard. They had three daughters, Carol, Betty and Colleen. Carol works in Kelowna. Betty and Wimp Hughes live in Calgary. They have three children, Garth, Gavin and Lorrae. Colleen and Mick Logan live in the Eckville district and have two daughters, Holly and Kim. Charles McCune passed away in 1957.

Claude and Margaret Olsen were married in 1936. They live one mile east of the old home place. There are three children, Lloyd, Dale and Judy. Lloyd and Linda are living in Eckville and have a daughter and son, Dawn and Neal. Dale and Mary are living on the old Cunningham farm. They have a son, Ronnie. Judy is working in Calgary.

Tom married Phyllis Binks in 1940. That summer Tom enlisted in the 17th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery and was based in Calgary until January when he went overseas. Tom returned home in May, 1945 and farmed in the Eckville district for a few years. They are now living at Mirror. They had three sons, Bob and twins Barry and Brian (Brian passed away in 1967) and two daughters, Barbara and Brenda. Bob and Carol live in Calgary and have two boys, Tim and Kelly. Barry and Ena and two sons, Brent and Curtis, live in Red Deer. Barbara works in Red Deer and Brenda is in Calgary.

Archie and Minnie Binks were married in 1941. They farmed in the Eckville area for several years, and now reside in Red Deer. They had four children, Doreen, Derek, Glenn and Eileen. Doreen and Graeme Storck live in Calgary. They have a son, Aric Justin. Derek and Audrey also live in Calgary, and have a daughter, Pamela. Glen and Edythe are also in the same city. Eileen and Arthur Lawrence are living on the farm at Pine Lake and have three children, Leita, Tanya and Jarret.

Wally and Betty Maddox were married in 1951, and have always lived in the Eckville area. They have a family of four children, Lois, Gerry, Darryl and Susan. (An infant son, Greg, died in 1956). Lois and Peter Duncan live near Eckville. They have two children, Kelli and Shawn. Gerry and Terri Mottus have a son and a daughter, Jeremey and Melanie. Gerry was employed in the hardware department of the Eckville Co-op Store, but after taking special training at the Saskatoon Co-op College and apprenticing at the Red Deer Co-op Store, he is now hardware manager of the Co-op Service Center in Fort St. John, where they are now living. Darryl and Susan are still at home. Wally enlisted in the Canadian Infantry in 1943. After his discharge in 1945 and until he was married, he lived at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 1, 1958. For two days a blizzard had raged. The roads were impassable. Laura had arrived a few days earlier, which was fortunate. The only other family members able to come were Archie's family. However two days later when the plows had been through, all other family members were able to be present including "J.M's" only surviving brother, Fred, from Bounty, Saskat.

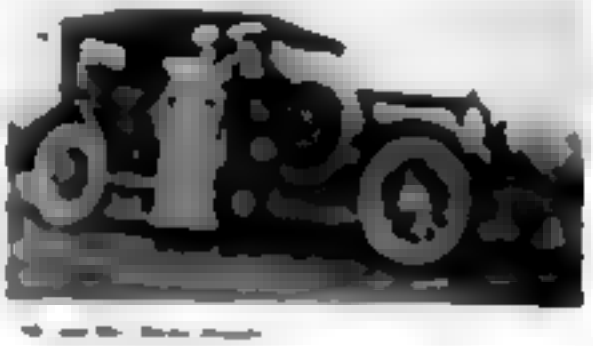
J. M. Cunningham passed away at Eckville in January, 1960. Mrs. Cunningham continued to live on the farm for a few years, then went to stay with Laura in Kelowna where she died in March, 1970. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are buried at Red Deer.

A good job done and rest well won.

**BENNETT, BERNIE — by Family Members**

Bernie Bennett was born in England in 1894, and immigrated to Hespero, Alberta in 1909 with his aunt, Emma Closnier. He hired out to Jerry Macdonnell, clearing land with teams of oxen. When war broke out he joined the 89th Battalion in 1914, serving overseas until being wounded at Vimy Ridge in 1917. After spending several months in the hospital in England, he was given a medical discharge, and returned to Red Deer.

In Red Deer Bernie operated a pool hall, taxi business, and was a distributor for a brewery. In 1924 he married Ethel Harrigan, who was chief telephone operator in Red Deer. In 1926 he purchased the Eckville Hotel from Harry Lowe. This hotel burned down in 1928, in a fire that demolished a complete block of Main Street. The hotel was rebuilt the following year and operated until 1942. Many will remember Hank Bardenhagen as the bartender for many years. Bernie spent several months of each year in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary. While in Eckville he served for a time as mayor, at that time there was no such thing as remuneration for public service. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, Masons, Elks, and the Legion, plus several community clubs.



After spending a few years on the farm in the Hespero district the Bennetts went back into the hotel business, first in Bowden and then in Innisfail, until ill health forced Bernie to retire in 1950, in Nanaimo, B.C. Being idle did not agree with him so a china shop was purchased and operated until 1960, when he once again was forced to retire due to ill health. A move to Vancouver was then made, where they resided until Bernie's passing in 1967. Mrs. Bennett remained in Vancouver until 1975, but is presently residing in Red Deer at the Pines Lodge.

Five children were born to Bernie and Ethel. A daughter, Dawna (Billy) died in 1941. Mrs. Alf Sloan (Muriel) lives in Stettler, Alberta. Mrs. Fred Radford (Patricia) lives in Blind Bay, B.C., Mrs. Arthur Snow (Marion) lives in Berwyn, Alberta, and Mr. Bud Bennett lives in Prince George, B.C.

**ECKFORD, ARTHUR E. T. — by Eva Eckford**

In the year 1920 Arthur E. T. Eckford left Dublin, Ireland, where he was born and educated, to immigrate to Canada. During the fall and winter of that year he worked on one of

Pat Burns ranches near Calgary For his labor he received twenty-five dollars per month plus his board and sleeping accommodation in the

After reaching his land-to-be in 1903, it was "first things first" This meant the construction of a log cabin with a sod roof The sod helped to keep heat in during the winter time This cabin was to be Arthur's home for the next several years. During the building period Arthur and his friend, Mr Roper, lived with the Carney family in a large tent all having travelled from Red Deer together As well as having a large tent the Carneys had a large family, but apparently this family did not remain long in this area

By this time more settlers were arriving Those best remembered were the families of Matchett Mitzner, Kinna, Koski. Kasper, Brown and Pisetl. It was not long before Arthur Eckford assumed a leading role in the development of the community When it became necessary to have a Post Office, in 1905, he put up a suitable building on his own land, and gave the post office the name of "Eckville" Under an agreement with J. H Killick, this was turned over to Mr Killick, who built a store on the land Subsequently this corner of Mr Eckford's land was surveyed into lots, and Arthur Eckford donated one lot for the building by C Snell, of a Stopping House' early in 1907 Arthur Eckford's position of Justice of the Peace was one of the first appointments in the west country He was also a notary public, a school trustee, and a road councillor

After making the required improvements on his land, Mr Eckford went back to Dublin and returned in 1908, bringing his mother Mrs M Eckford with him. Mrs. Eckford spent her first months in a very new part of Alberta in the log cabin until the farm house proper was built during the same year

When the CNR built its lines through the area in 1911 1912, a townsite was established about a mile south of the original town. The name Eckville was retained a fitting tribute to the man who had done so much for the district The new village expanded rapidly Business quickly built up and included a new post office, hotel boarding house, the Co-Op Store (whose first manager was Mr A. Litt Sestrap s Store, a drug store, butcher shop, livery stable blacksmith shop, and of course, a community hall. The new postmaster was Mr Forban The early arrival of Dr and Mrs. Evans also proved to be a great boom to the new area

The original townsite was referred to as "Old Eckville" Harry Woods was the last one to occupy a building on the old site, where his cheese making plant turned out an excellent product

So the years passed. In 1913 Mr Eckford felt the long winters were a hardship for his mother, and decided to take her back to Ireland. It was with real regret that the community heard this news! Eckville and adjoining districts got together and planned a surprise gathering in the hall. Mrs. Eckford was presented with a pretty silver candy basket as a token of the esteem in which the recipient was held. The address and the presentation was given by Miss Gladys Matchett and Agnes Hampton (a school teacher) However, the "call of the west evidently was strong, as Mrs. Eckford made an unexpected return to Canada, remarking that, during the years of absence from her old-country home her relatives and friends had changed In fact, life in the west had altered her own outlook

It was in the spring of 1914 that I, Eva McElveny, came into the picture. After the long journey from my home in Dublin, Arthur Eckford, his mother and I were met in Red Deer by Norman Turner (Mr and Mrs. Matchett s new son-in-law who drove us out to the Matchett home where we were guests for a few days. On that drive out to Eckville I saw prairie crocuses growing, the first flower to be picked for me in this new country

I really enjoyed the new life new surroundings, and all the kindnesses extended to a newcomer Sports Day held on the May 24 holiday (when weather permitted) with races and baseball games and a dance in the evening, was one of the year's highlights. Picnics in the different communities provided a great opportunity to meet friends and, of course, exchange news Often people went home to do their chores and then returned later in the evening for the dance

Life in a pioneer community provided some exciting experiences. Coming home one night from a dance in the Bluebell direction and starting down Lindquist Hill, our team ran off the trail. The wagon box (on runners) upset throwing all four occupants out into the snow, tangled up in cowhide robes! Arthur, although being dragged down the hill on his stomach, managed to hold onto the horses until he got them stopped On another occasion we went to a dance via a railway hand car Those were the days!

On September 9, 1914, Arthur and I went to Lacombe to be married by the Reverend Arthur Patstone, a family friend. After a brief honeymoon in Red Deer it was back to Eckville for us As a delegation of friends was waiting at Kootuk the train stopped and let us off before entering the station. However the well-wishers overtook us, and we were driven home in style in a democrat Our wedding was celebrated in true prairie fashion by a charivari that evening Of course we promised to give a dance later, in the hall, for all our friends

In the spring we moved onto the farm, which we called "Riverside Farm" In October of 1915 our oldest son, Tom, was born there Dr Evans was in attendance and Mrs. Ralph Brown took good care of me and the new baby Later that year Reverend Patstone, when travelling through the district, was a guest at our home and while with us, he christened our son. This was a

happy event for us' In May, 1917 our second son Edward was born in Red Deer and later on he was christened there

The Canadian Bank of Commerce opened its first branch in the village in Arthur Eckford's little office next to the Co-Op Store. The banking business was conducted from this location while the bank building was under construction. The first manager was Mr McIntosh. He and his wife were very active in many village affairs, and were one of the popular couples of the village. The first Savings Account opened in the new bank was in the name of Thomas D Eckford. He was about one year old at the time.

The year 1916 found us into the second year of war. Many young men from the surrounding districts left to "join up", which created anxious times for all with relatives and friends participating overseas. No radio gave us any news in those days! (Twenty five years later during the next war, our concern was much deeper and more personal, with three sons and two daughters-in-law in active service in different branches of the Armed Forces overseas.

The ladies of the village formed a Red Cross group. The first gathering was held at Riverside Farm, but I believe that the first business meeting was held by Mrs. Rogers at her home in Eckville. During Sports Day in 1916 I sold Red Cross ribbons for the benefit of Red Cross work.

In the forenoon of November 11, 1918, the ringing of bells and the blowing of horns and whistles automatically announced the wonderful news — that the horrors of war at last were over. There was great rejoicing in Red Deer, but for some there was also sadness, knowing that their loved ones would not be returning home. Arthur's mother and I took the boys with us to take a small part in that afternoon's celebrations.

During 1918 we talked about moving to British Columbia, and finally the decision was made. After the farm and livestock were sold Mrs Eckford Sr., myself and the two little boys went to stay in Red Deer until Arthur finished his business in Eckville — that of buying grain and hogs for shipment to Calgary. However owing to the flu epidemic travel was banned, and it was some time before we were permitted to start our journey to Vancouver, our destination. In 1920 our third son, Arthur Dermot was born in Vancouver. North Vancouver was our home until 1947 when Arthur and I moved to Grantham's Landing, a spot right by the sea and loved by all of us.

It was at Grantham that Mr Bliss of the Eckville High School, corresponded with my husband, with the result that we donated a trophy to the high school to be awarded to the outstanding pupil of the year. Very nice letters of thanks were received from Mr Bliss and the president of the Student Council. This expression of their appreciation was most gratifying. Now there are Eckford great-grandchildren attending schools here in British Columbia. Perhaps, in the

future, they may be honour students, and be worthy of receiving such a trophy

Of our eight grandsons and granddaughters there are seven surviving. Our oldest grandson passed away suddenly in 1971. Of course his death brought great sorrow to us all. Five of our family still live here in British Columbia. Our granddaughter and her husband and little girl live in Oshawa, Ontario, while one grandson and his wife live in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. The five great-grandchildren, four boys and one girl, all live adjacent to Vancouver. The oldest of those children was 11 years old in 1977 and the youngest was six years old.

In 1961, after a long illness, Arthur E. T. Eckford passed away in Shaughnessay Military Hospital in Vancouver. He was a Boer War Veteran. So ended the life of one who had always been active in the affairs of every community in which he lived.

**MCKEE, PAUL AND MARION AND FAMILY**

Before I met Paul, I had become a widow seven years previous, when my husband, Arnold Anderson, died, leaving me with three children, Sven Richard, four years, Kathryn Lynn, three years, and Marion Susan, two years old. (See Swan Anderson history.)

We lived on the Swan Anderson farm for two years following his death. Then we moved to my son's inherited land, across from the Eckville

I had the old log house moved closer to the road and started to repair it. Kids from town had used it as a playhouse, and cattle that had pastured there had got inside the house and demolished it somewhat as well. With the help of John Robertson of Benalto doing the carpenter work for me, and Mr. Sterling of Benalto (Revelstoke) allowing me to buy the material needed on a monthly basis, I was able to make a home for the children and myself.

There was no well for water, so I hauled it in my cream cans. We used gas lamps for a few months until the power was installed. Our coal and wood stove provided us with heat and cooking facilities and our gas heater worked—sometimes.

I baby-sat for Mrs. Marg Palm for two years, taking Susan with me, as she was not yet in school. Then I got a job at Elgenes' Restaurant owned by Ella and Gene Salsauler, and that is how I met Paul, who is originally from central Saskatchewan. He was working for McGregor Telephone and Power. They say that a way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and Paul always came in for meals and flapper pie. At least that's what he claims he married me for.

On December 31, 1964 we were married in Benalto. That winter we had a cold spell with a wind chill of 90° below F. The wind chill whistled through the house and froze everything that was upstairs. In the spring we demolished the house and bought a trailer putting it on the same location. What a treat to have running water and an inside toilet!

Paul continued to work for McGregor Telephone and Power until spring, but decided he didn't like being away from home all the time, so he changed jobs and worked for Co-op for three years and then for Bud and Dave Lightbown for three and one half years driving truck. During that time we tried our hand at raising calves, pigs, and chickens, and milked some

Three children were born to us. Terrance Paul on January 18, 1966, Rodney David on September 5, 1967 and Lezlie Ann on December 18, 1969. I drove school bus for Eckville, and then got a job at the Eckville hospital as a certified nursing aid, where I am still working.

Everyone has some major tragedy in his lifetime, and ours was when we lost Terrance at the age of five years in a drowning accident. The people of Eckville and surrounding districts were just tremendous during our loss, helping with trying to find his body, providing food, donations, words of kindness and understanding.

Our small trailer, 12 by 52 feet, was getting a little cramped, so we bought a double wide trailer and moved into town. Paul had gone into the business of erecting steel bins. Today his business has expanded to all over central Alberta and the North Country. We lived in town for two years and then bought an acreage where the Young Peoples Hall used to be. We built a new home and at present are still living there. Rod and Lez are taking their schooling at Eckville and are involved in hockey and figure skating.

Rick, Kath, and Sue took their schooling in Eckville until grade 10 and then took 11 and 12 in Red Deer at the Comprehensive High School, commuting by car with other Eckville students going there. After their schooling Rick continued on at the Olds College, taking farm mechanics. It was here that he met his wife, Angele Doucet, from Fahler, where she was taking Fashion Merchandizing. When they graduated they were married on June 29, 1973. They then took a trip over to England, Scotland, France and down to Italy. While looking for jobs in Italy, Angele had an accident with her Moped bike and landed in the hospital for a week. As they were running out of money, they decided to return home after one month. They now live on their land in a mobile home across from the Eckville cemetery. Rick worked for Grand Equipment in Red Deer, tried his hand at steel building with his dad, farming and oil rigs. But his main interest is in farming. Angele worked for the Eckville Bank of Commerce until they started a family. They now have two children — Christine Marie, two years old, and Sven Daniel, nine months.

Kath worked at the Eckville Hospital as a ward aid for two years after completing school, then went into training at the U of A for an R.N. degree, graduating in January of 1976. She then got married on March 6, 1976, to Bill Zaleski, a

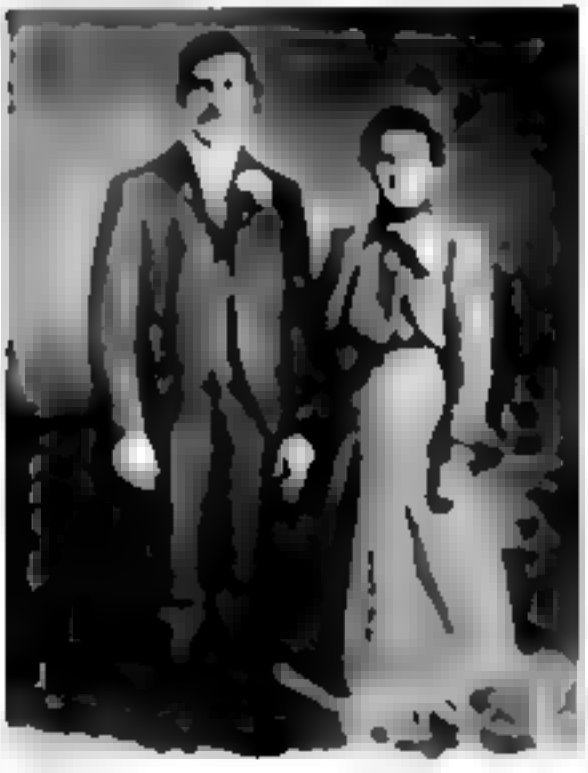
childhood sweetheart. She is employed at the Lacombe hospital. Bill is a licensed mechanic and worked for Kipp Scott's in Red Deer for three years, leased Eckville Motors garage for eight months, and now has a job in Ponoka as mechanic foreman and shop manager. They are now living seven miles north of Eckville on their land in a mobile home.

Sue worked at the Eckville hospital for one year as a ward aid. She then also took her training at the U. of A. for an R.N. Susan graduated in August 1976, and then married November 6, 1976. She met her husband, Blair Penner, at the University. Blair's home is in Calgary, but the Eckville district was known to him before as his grandmother's sister is married to a Mr. Bob Findley who was manager of the Bank of Commerce some 20 years ago. His family used to come and visit the Findleys. At present Blair and Sue are residing in Edmonton. Sue is working at the Edmonton General Hospital and Blair is in his last year of the instrumentation course. They will be moving to their land in the Benalto area this year.

It is nice to have all the family close together.

**ELSON, ANDREW — by Alva Elson**

Andrew Elson was born in Teura, Finland June 15, 1878. He immigrated in 1898 to Butte Montana where he worked in the steel mills for a few years. In 1902, he married Alexsandra Hakala. She also immigrated from Finland in 1898 to Butte, Montana. After their marriage they came to Canada, and took up a homestead one mile west and two miles north of Eckville.



In 1906, they started clearing land with oxen to improve their homestead. To begin with, they built a small log house which they lived in for a few years. Also, they built a barn in 1907 which is still on the farm. In 1910 they built a new house and used the old one for a chicken house. Their closest town was Red Deer, where they had to get their supplies with an ox team. They did not have any children for many years. In 1912 the Lampis passed away within three months of each other leaving four children. Muriel Lampi was two months old when Mr. and Mrs. Elson adopted her. In 1919 they were blessed with their first son Olva. In 1921 the stork came knocking on the door again with another son, Verner. Also lost two in infancy.

In 1928 they had a sale, sold all the cattle all the horses but two, machinery and all the household items. They rented the land out to his brother-in-law Matt Rein. The Elsons then moved to a warmer climate, Burnaby B.C., and purchased a chicken ranch. Well, this chicken ranch in those depression years wasn't a very good paying thing: the feed cost a lot of money. The chicken eggs sold at 10 cents a dozen. The bounty in Alberta on magpie eggs was 12 cents a dozen, and you didn't have to feed them.

To make ends meet, Andrew Elson came out to the prairies in the fall to help harvest. As this venture in the chicken ranch was a failure, they sold it and returned to their homestead in Eckville in 1931, and resumed farming. He purchased four purebred Percheron mares in foal from John Hyvonen of Benalto, raised two stallions, sold one. Four years later he took first prize in Red Deer and Benalto Fairs with his stallion. He was proud of his big Percheron horses. They weighed from 1600 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. each. He also raised purebred Red Poll cattle. He took great pride in his livestock. They were always rolling in fat. He also raised hogs. In the 30's he took in some 220 pound hogs they brought him $3. a head. Just enough to get some [illegible].

Saturdays they use to warm up the sauna bath, and some of the neighbors would come over for the evening for a sauna bath and play cards and have cake and coffee. The lighting wasn't very good, only coal oil lamps and wood burning [illegible].

Sundays Mr. Elson would be the barber and cut hair. It seemed that there wasn't a Sunday that someone didn't come for a haircut. The price was right — free.

In 1939 they purchased a Massey Harris tractor called the Wallis, also got some heavier equipment to be able to control the quack grass, and from then on began to get better crops. They lived on the homestead until 1949 when they retired to a house they purchased from Everett Tarvas in the town of Eckville. Their youngest

son Verner took over the farm. One of the first oil wells in the Eckville area was drilled on the old homestead in around 1950. It is still in production. Verner also remodeled the old house and got Calgary Power. Their oldest son, Oiva, moved to Eckville and started a trucking business. Their daughter, Anne, married Floyd Bartesko. They had a daughter Myrna, and moved to Red Deer. The oldest daughter, Muriel married Everett McNeil and moved to Alert Bay, B.C. They had four children — Gordon, Bertha Clarence deceased), Jackie Muriel McNeil passed away at the age of 48 years in 1960. After living in Eckville for seven years, Mrs. Alexsandra Elson passed away January 14, 1956 at the age of 74 years. Mr. Andrew Elson passed away February 4, 1962, at the age of 84 years. They were both laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

Andrew, Sandra, and oldest granddaughter Myrna, went visiting riding the tractor. Coming home they had to come down Kasper's Hill. Brakes went on the tractor so Sandra and Myrna jumped off and started walking down, sure enough, Andrew had made it and was waiting for them. While cutting grain with horses and binder Andrew had a runaway he fell off, horses going on their own, even made the corners pretty good. Andrew found his rubber boot in a bundle.

**ELSON OIVA - by Oiva Elson**

Oiva Elson was born at Eckville on August 9, 1919, attended Eckville Elementary School while living on the farm with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Elson. He continued farming until the fall of 1945. On June 12, 1942, he married Freda Oastrom of Hespero. They continued living on the farm until the fall of 1945. Then, moved to the town of Eckville where they purchased some property, built a house and garage and went into the trucking business. General trucking and gravel hauling for seventeen years. He was also grain buyer for eight years for Searle Grain Co. at Eckville and Hespero. Oiva coached hockey teams from juniors to juveniles which he enjoyed very much. He was an active member of the Lions Club for several years and was very interested in town progress. He was on the town council for several years as councilor and deputy mayor for one year. He was on the Presbyterian Church Board for three years.

Oiva and Freda raised a family of three. Daryl, the oldest born in 1946, a daughter Dianne in 1951 and number two son, Kevin, in 1957.

Daryl was quite talented in his younger days. He enjoyed singing and won many first prizes at all the talent shows. He sang on TV on the Red Deer station for a season. When he moved to Calgary where he was in the Civic Choir for a few years. Daryl finished his schooling in Eckville graduating in 1964. He came to Calgary to look for employment, got on as clerk with the City of Calgary. In August 1970 he took Linda Johnson of Red Deer to be his loving wife. They both went to work for four years, saved up their money and purchased a house. Linda a banker and Daryl as dispatcher for the emergency fire police and ambulance for the City. On June 11, 1974, they were blessed with twins, Chad and Crystal who are three and a half and are real darlings.

Daughter Dianne received most of her schooling in Eckville. In April 1967 she married Jack Lamberigts. They lived at Sylvan Lake and had two children. Angelene and Roger. Angelene is 10 years old and Roger is eight years old. In May, 1970, Jack Lamberigts was killed in a car accident. In 1970 Dianne and the children moved to Calgary and started a new life. Dianne took more schooling and is now working in the Calgary Court House. She remarried and has a son Eddy Compstone who is five years old.

Number two son Kevin took part of his schooling in Eckville until 1967 and continued schooling in Calgary. He has been employed on construction work in and around the city. After moving to Calgary, Oiva worked with the city for six months. Then in February 12, 1968, went to work for Western Canadian Seed Processors of Lethbridge as a field representative covering an area from Crossfield to the Montana border. He worked as a field representative for eight years. The company changed their name to Canbra Foods Ltd. two years ago and gave me a promotion as field co-ordinator. Now I travel the whole province and into Prince Albert Saskatchewan. My job is looking after 47 gathering points for the company. This is January 1978. I hope this job see's me into retirement with this company. Also, wish the next generation will

**ELSON, VERNER**

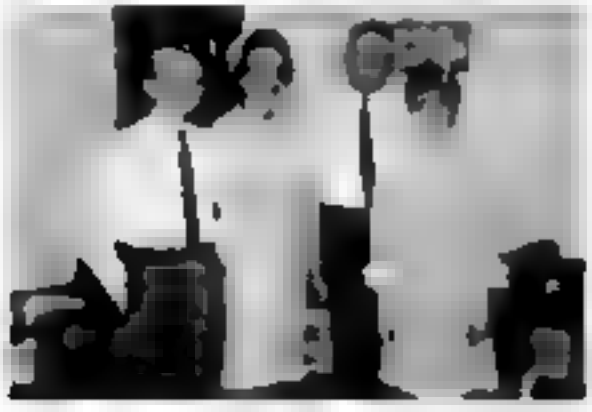
Verner Andrew Elson was born May 31, 1926. He took all his schooling in Eckville. He walked the three miles to school until he got a horse. Some mornings he would get out of going to school by scaring his horse off with rocks and then telling his parents he couldn't catch his horse for some strange reason. Also played hooky once in awhile with a friend. Verner Elson was in air cadets while he was attending school. He enjoyed such sports as hockey and softball. He is still on his father's homestead SE 32-39-3 W5 and also farms another quarter which he purchased in 1947. He spent all his years on the farm except for 1943 when he lived at Alert Bay B.C. and worked at a logging camp at Beaver Cove.

In 1948, he married Jennie Syren (of Condor). Jennie took her schooling at a country school called Northup which was built in 1921. She was the janitor for some time and had to keep the old pot belly stove fired up with wood. She helped her

ondor so many years that some people started calling it Jennie's place. Also worked at Hespero store which included a post office. She missed the train one morning and the boss had to drive and finally caught the train at Sylvan Lake to get

he mail on it. In 1947 she came to work at Eckville Co-op Store and remained there until her marriage to Verner Elson on April 16, 1949.

Verner and Jennie began farming together after their marriage. They used to raise pigs and also used to milk quite a number of cows, by hand, and shipped cream until the Eckville Creamery closed its doors. Their farming now includes grain, hay and beef cattle. You could usually find Verner and Jennie working together but this one day Jennie thought she would finish shingling a granary roof alone while Verner worked in the field. After Jennie got to the peak on the granary she was scared to come down and had to wait until Verner came so he could guide her down to the ladder. Even though Jennie herself was a farm girl, Verner found he had to teach her a thing or two about rolling barbed wire after he saw her trying it one day. Her sister was standing on one end of the wire while Jennie had the other end and was running around in circles.



Over the years they made many improvements to the land and buildings. Some of which included getting the power, putting plumbing in the house which saved them some mighty chilly trips to the shack out back. Shortly after they converted the familiar old sauna into a chicken house. They also upgraded their machinery from some horse drawn equipment to all tractor operated type.

They have also changed the appearance of the yard by moving old buildings such as the old wood shed. Now as you drive by the yard will catch your eye with its painted fences and buildings and well kept lawn. It means several hours of work a week but the new riding lawn mower helps lighten the load.

Jennie used to raise many chickens. She even raised turkeys to pay the hospital bill when their first child, a son, Dwayne, was born December 5, 1949. Their second child was a daughter Loree born October 5, 1953. After Dwayne finished his schooling he was draftsman for Calgary Power in Calgary for five years. He married Shelley (Olsen of Calgary) September 3, 1971. After living in the city they moved to Caroline and have been operating Spruceview Transport since the beginning of 1977. They have two girls, Leane and Dayna.

Loree graduated from Eckville High School in 1971. She worked in a cafe and also in the drugstore in Eckville. She was fond of the farm and shortly after her marriage to Gene Sears September 22, 1973, they bought a quarter from Reg Whillier west of Gilby, where they are presently living. As well as farming, Gene also owns and operates his own welding business. They have two girls, Katrina and Juli.

Verner and Jennie were quite active in curling in the 1960's.

**ELIUK, WILLIAM AND IRIS**

William Eliuk was born at Kaleland, Alberta in 1928, and in 1946 he moved with his parents to a farm in the Pinehill district. In 1951 he married Iris Thorlakson from New Centerville, and they moved to his farm west of Markerville.

In 1952 Bill was employed by Chester Kaster but in January, 1957 we took over the U F A Co-op agency and John Deere dealership, known as Bill's Corner Service and moved to Eckville. We purchased the old Co-op Lumberyard property and in 1965 erected a building, known as Eliuk's Farm Supplies Ltd., to house the John Deere dealership, as the U F A. Co-op building was too small for both businesses. Both businesses were expanding and proved to be too much work for us, so we resigned as U F A. Co-op agents.

We sold our farm at Markerville in 1966, and purchased the farm north of Eckville, where we now reside. In 1973, we relinquished the John Deere dealership.

We have four sons and one daughter. Richard (Rick) was born in 1952. In 1972, he married

Shirley Laye from the Leedale district, and they have two boys, Ryan and Colin. They reside in Olds, where Rick is parts manager for Greenline Equipment.

Randy was born in 1954. He is employed with Dowell Chemical and lives in Blackfalds.

Marvin was born in 1957 and works in the oilfield business. Kevin was born in 1961 and is employed by Revelstoke Lumber in Red Deer. He lives at home. Marcia was born in 1964 and is attending school in Eckville.

**ENGEN, GLEN FAMILY**

Glen was born in Bentley in May, 1934, the only son of Cassius and Mabel Engen. He worked with heavy equipment, starting at the age of 14 years.

In December, 1954 Glen married Myrtle Hansen. They have four children: Kenneth, JoAnne, Terry and Colleen.

JoAnne married Neal Knopp of Condor in June, 1975. They reside on a farm south of Condor. In 1967 Glen purchased his first Cat and still remains in the construction business, residing in Eckville.

**ESKI, JOHN — by Nina Sjoblom**

John Eski came from his native Finland when a very young man. He came first to the United States, where he worked in various places before deciding to come to Canada to homestead. He filed on a quarter section of land on Blueberry Hill, next to his friend, E. Saarela. This was NE 18-40-4-W5. He filed on this place about 1910.

John lived on this place for a number of years and worked out as well. He was a hard-working man, and read a lot, taking a real interest in world affairs.

In the 1930's John sold his homestead and had a small house just south of Eckville which he called home. However being a bachelor, he continued working out. When living in his small place here he did always raise a good garden, all kinds of vegetables, but gave most of them away to his friends and neighbors.

He suffered from arthritis and passed away around 1956 or 1957.

**FERGUSON, ALEC — by Loretta Ferguson**

Tiny (Alec), son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ferguson, has always been very active in hockey. Finishing school in 1955, he worked at the Co-op in Eckville and played hockey as a goalie with the Red Deer Monarchs, getting a trophy for the most valuable player.

He was married to Loretta Anderson in June, 1959. Following their marriage, they moved around to several places while Tiny was working on the oil rigs. He was away from hockey for about six years, then, when they settled down in Red Deer, he started playing as a goalie, and continued until 1973. He now coaches the Eckville Eagles Hockey Team.

The family took over the old Sestrap grocery store in April of 1971, calling it "Ferguson Mayfair Foods". They have continued to operate the store since that time.

Tiny and Loretta have four daughters. Cheryl was born in April, 1960, Sandra in June, 1961, Laureen in March, 1964 and Dawna-Lynn in December, 1968.

Tiny is involved in the affairs of the community being a member of the Lions Club and doing many valuable things for the arena committee. He was a director of the committee for several years. He is quite an avid fisherman and hunter. The biggest fish always gets away!

**FORHAN, OSWALD MICHAEL**

Mr. O. M. Forhan was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on January 16, 1877. His father, Michael Forhan, was a watchmaker. Some of the watches he made are still in the family.

Oswald M. Forhan graduated from the Ontario School of Pharmacy (Toronto) in 1901. He came west with his brother P. H. Harold Forhan in 1903. They settled in the Evarts area where they both took out a homestead. While in Evarts he bought and operated a general store for a number of years. He later sold this business to a Mr. Jack Robinson. He and his brother broke virgin sod with the help of one ox, one horse, and an axe. While in Evarts he met his future wife, Annie McGregor, who came west as a young girl and was the second school teacher in the Evarts School. Her friend Miss Ada Belle Brown was the first school teacher in the Evarts School. They came west together from Nova Scotia in 1901. In Calgary in 1907, Mr. Forhan was united to marriage to Miss Annie McGregor.

At this time Harold Forhan left the homestead and took a job with Galts wholesale grocery firm in Calgary. He later moved to Camrose where he managed a branch wholesale house for Galts. It was here through a friend, Mr. Jack Donleavy, that he met his future wife Estelle McCaul, whose father J. McCaul was a Dominion Government Railway Commissioner. Mr. Donleavy was later the CNR station agent at Sylvan Lake.

Harold and Estelle later returned to Ottawa where he established a brick factory which he worked at until his death. His wife Estelle is still living and resides in Ottawa. She was an ardent curler in her younger and not so young years.

Mrs. Forhan, nee McGregor, came west at the age of 21 years from her home in New Glasgow, Pictou County, Nova Scotia in the year 1901. Her grandfather established the Presbyterian Church in Canada and there is a cairn in Nova Scotia to perpetuate his memory.

When Annie McGregor first came west she taught at the Bennett School east of Olds. In 1904 she taught at the Evarts Schools, and later moved to the Melita School on Highway 11. She boarded with a Mrs. Warwick later the Lloyd Wells' residence west of Benalto. She rode horseback to school and in the winter had to get

to school early as she had to light the fires so the school would be warm for the children when they arrived

Annie McGregor born in Nova Scotia in 1866 was married to Oswald M. Forhan in 1907. She died in the Eckville Municipal Hospital January 19, 1964, at the age of 83. She was laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery next to her husband who predeceased her in 1951

Mr O. M. Forhan after selling his store in Evarts, left his homestead and moved to Old Eckville which was situated on what is now the Jarvis Onondryzyn farm just north of present Eckville and just north of the Medicine River. He operated a store here for a couple of years. When the railroad came through he moved to what is now the present site of Eckville and opened a general store in partnership with Mr. Dan Clausen. After dissolving this partnership, he opened a drug store on the site of the present Co op Hardware Store. This store also housed the post office. He sold the Drug Store to a Mr Crosby and moved to Red Deer in 1915 and opened up a drug store there. He sold this business and moved to Vancouver in 1920. After the stock market crash of 1929, he returned to Eckville where he operated the old drug store un

In 1946, Mr Forhan and his son Thomas built what is now the present drug store in the town of Eckville. Mr Forhan was active in the drug business until his passing in 1951 at the age of 74 years. Mr Forhan was active in community affairs and was instrumental in starting the first hospital in Eckville in the building which is now owned by Mr Roy Saari. In the early days, as well as running the drug store, Mr Forhan operated a farm northwest of Eckville where he raised hogs and also a mink ranch. At the peak of his operations he had as many as 500 mink. It was the second largest mink ranch in Alberta. Mr Forhan was affectionately known as ' doc ' in the early days as he looked after the ills of both man and beast as we had no veterinarians at those days and at times the closest doctor was in Red Deer

There were four sons from his marriage to Miss Annie McGregor. Norman McGregor, Harold Fitzpatrick Thomas Oswald and Allan Francis.

**FORHAN, THOMAS OSWALD**

Thomas Oswald was born in Eckville in 1913. He moved to Red Deer with his parents at the age of four. At the age of seven his parents again moved, this time to Vancouver. It was here that Thomas took most of his elementary schooling, graduating from Lord Byng High School. Thomas was active in athletics and in his senior year was selected to the Vancouver High School All Star Team in English Rugby. At the age of 17 he won the Western Canadian Junior Tennis Championship. After graduating from high school, he worked in Vancouver for two years. He returned to Eckville in 1932 and apprenticed with his father, Oswald, in the drug store. After apprenticing for three years, he attended the U. of A. graduating in Pharmacy in 1939. While attending university he played with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and also represented the University on the tennis team. After graduating from the U. of A. he worked in Edmonton for one year. He then returned to Eckville and entered the drug business with his father Dr F. H. Coppock was the local doctor at that time.

Thomas Forhan who is known as the Pill Doctor by many of his friends is an ardent sportsman and quite active in community affairs. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and curling.

In 1956, he represented Eckville for Zone 18 in the Northern British Consols Curling Playdowns which was held in Edmonton. Playing with him was Robert Kraft Don McDonald and Red McAndrew.

While working with his father he held the position of secretary for the village. He later was elected to council where he served for 12 years. Six of these as the mayor. He was also the first secretary of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union and later served as the chairman of the Credit Committee serving this institution for 15 years. During these years he kept busy in athletics, namely baseball, hockey and tennis and as an honorary member of the Eckville Canadian Legion he served as Athletic Coordinator for that organization for four years. He was a charter member and past president of the Eckville Lions Club having retired from the club after 25 years of service. He is a past president of the Eckville Curling Club as well as being the first president of the Eckville Minor Hockey Association. He was also active as a hockey player in his younger years and was a catcher for the Eckville Senior Men's Baseball Team which won many laurels around Central Alberta. While catching for Eckville, he played with the Central Alberta All Stars who played many touring U.S. baseball teams. The most notable being

the colored house of door 5. Most of these games were played at Sylvan Lake. When the new arena was built he coached many minor hockey teams as well as a one year stint with the senior hockey

After retiring from hockey and baseball as an active player he refereed for all classes of hockey and was well known around Central Alberta as a baseball umpire. When baseball died out, he coached and umpired both for the men's as well as the ladies' fastball teams. He is still active in these pastimes. At present he still operates the drug store in Eckville and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eckville Municipal Hospital

Mr. Thomas Oswald Forhan was married to Helen Dorothy Toivanen on August 12, 1946 and they have one daughter and two sons, Brenda Anne, Randolph Thomas and James Peter. Brenda Anne was born in Eckville on January 1, 1950. She went to school in Eckville, Red Deer and Vancouver. She was united in marriage to Gerry Gaienzoski on September 1, 1974. Gerry is employed in the Identification division of the RCMP and is stationed in Red Deer. They have two children Michelle Leigh aged three years and Christopher Jon aged one.

Randolph Thomas Forhan was born in Eckville on November 16, 1951, and attended school in Eckville from Grade 1 to 10. He finished Grade 11 and 12 at Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer. He played football for the Red Deer Raiders. After graduating from high school, he played football with the Red Deer Junior Packers and enrolled at the Red Deer College. While playing a football game against Edmonton, he suffered torn ligaments to his right knee which necessitated surgery. This injury ended his football career and also college for that year. Randy is an avid sportsman and enjoys hunting and fishing and plays some fastball although he is hampered somewhat by his knee injury. He is presently living in Eckville and is employed by Cactus Drilling Co. In November, 1977 he was elected to the council of the Town of Eckville.

James Peter Forhan was born in Eckville on October 22, 1960. He played for the Lacombe Bantam Baseball Team when they hosted the Western Canadian Bantam Championships. He pitched and played third base. They won the Bronze medal in the playoffs. He also played goal for the Eckville Midget Hockey Team in 1977. They were second in the Provincial Finals losing out to Sherwood Park. He enjoys playing tennis and badminton and pitches for the Eckville Senior Men's Fastball Team. James is presently living at home is taking Grade 12 at the Eckville Senior High School.

**FORHAN, ALAN FRANCIS**

Alan Francis Forhan, youngest son of Oswald and Ann Forhan was born February 5, 1924, in Vancouver, B.C.

Attended Public School in Dunbar Heights, Vancouver 1930-32.

Moved to Eckville, Alberta 1932.

1932-41 — Public and high school in Eckville, Alberta.

1942 — High school in Red Deer, Alberta.

1943-45 — Enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and stationed in Toronto, Ontario and Souris and Rivers, Manitoba.

1946 — Attended high school refresher course in Calgary, Alberta.

1947-49 — University of Alberta, Edmonton and graduated as a Pharmacist in 1949.

1950 — Joined Schering Corporation of Montreal as Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for Alberta, living in Calgary.

1951-52 — Moved to Edmonton in same capacity.

1953 — February moved to Toronto area as Representative and promoted

for Ontario. Travelled all Ontario from Windsor in the south to Timmins in the north.

1955 — Married in Ottawa the former Marilyn Mielke, October 15. Resided in Toronto.

1956 — First Regional Manager with Schering Corp. to do $1 million in sales in his own territory.

1956 — Infant daughter Stephanie was born and deceased. Born September 18 and deceased November 22.

1958 — First son Mark Alan born in Scarborough, Feb. 15.

1959 — Daughter, Allison Mary born in Scarborough, March 9.

1960 — Moved to Ottawa and purchased Howe's Drug Store.

962 — Daughter Laurie Ann was born in Ottawa, July 25.

In the intervening years, the whole family have worked their share in keeping Forhan's Pharmacy Ltd. of Ottawa a going concern. At present in 1977, Mark is attending Guelph University working towards a Science Degree. Alison is presently attending Seneca College in

tending Confederation High School taking the

is president and owner of Forhan's Pharmacy Limited, 789 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

**FORHAN, HAROLD FITZPATRICK**

Harold Fitzpatrick Forhan was born in Eckville in 1911. I took my schooling in Eckville, Red Deer and Vancouver. After graduating from high school, I went into the real estate business in Vancouver.

In 1932, I returned to Eckville where I worked for my father on the farm. I also opened the first egg grading station in Eckville. In those days our main market for eggs was Nordegg which was a thriving coal mining town.

In 1940, I returned to Vancouver and my first love which was building and real estate

In 1950, I was united in marriage to Theresa McDaniel. We have three children Michael, Norman, and Maureen, all residing in Van

**FORHAN, NORMAN McGREGOR**

Norman McGregor Forhan was born in Evarts Alberta, in 1908. My first schooling was in Eckville. At that time the school was on the Turner farm north of the present site of Eckville We had to walk to school which was about a mile from the village When I was a little older, my father sent me to the convent in Red Deer for further schooling When my father moved to Red Deer in 1916, I attended public school there until we moved to Vancouver in 1920 where I finished my schooling

After leaving school, my first job was in the Stock Brokers Exchange After the stock market crash of 1929 I returned to Eckville with my father and have resided here ever since with the exception of a couple of years when I took a job with Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. in the N W T After returning from the north, my father and I started a mink ranch. At one time, we had as many as 500 minks which was the second largest ranch in Alberta. When the market dropped out of the fur business, we sold out as it was no longer a viable operation

In the 1930's, I assisted my father in the drug store These years were known as the dirty 30's because of the hard times. In those days we had to be jack of all trades. We made many calls to assist the farmers with their veterinary problems. The most notable being injections for milk fever and inoculating for black leg We also fumigated many farm homes for bed bugs as they were a common pest in the days of the harvest crews who moved around the country in the fall of the year

Another pastime I had was going out on calls with Dr Claxton On other occasions he would call me to assist him to set broken bones

In 1946, I was united in marriage to Alfeen Langer We opened a ladies' and men's ready to wear store. Our first location was in the old drugstore building. We later built our own store next to the drug store This business was known as Forhan's Ready to Wear which we operated for over 30 years. We retired in 1973 and sold the business to Mr Cliff Pitkanen

In December of 1976, my wife, Alfeen passed away and was laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery

**FULTON, VIVIAN AND EILEEN**

Vivian and Eileen Fulton were raised in the Minburn area of Alberta They came to Eckville in 1943 — Vivian in the spring, to work in the bank and Eileen in the fall to go to school. Eileen graduated from Grade 12 in 1945 and then went to Sylvan Lake to work in the bank She was transferred to Banff, and later to Calgary where she is still employed She married Gus Beauchamp, and they have one son, who is married and also lives in Calgary

Vivian worked in the Eckville Bank until the fall of 1945, and then was transferred to Sylvan Lake and later to Calgary While in Calgary she studied to be a school teacher and went to teach in the Vermilion area There she met and married Frank Farkash. They live on a farm and have raised seven children

**WHAT ECKVILLE MEANS TO DR. AND MRS. GIBSON AND FAMILY**

Eckville held a lot of firsts for us It was our first home — we were married on June 20, 1953, and moved into the old Mottus house on July 7

Eckville was Gordon's first practice and after the untimely passing of Dr Coppock he found it to be a very grave responsibility Dr Coppock was a hard man to follow and it took a few years to establish the trust and confidence necessary to be a good doctor

After a year in the Mottus house we built our own home, bought our first car, and had our first garden. Gordon even had his first taste of politics there when he became mayor It was during this time that the water tower was built and it was a real thrill to have had a part in this vital step in the community

Our three lovely children got their start in life in Eckville. David had two years of schooling there and all three have many happy memories of their childhood there

All in all, Eckville, has had a very special place in our lives and we will always value the experience and the many lovely friends we gained in the 12 years we were living there

## THE R. B. (BOB) GISH FAMILY

Bob Gish, with wife, Lillian, was transferred to Eckville from Delburne in the spring of 1930 as the new manager of the Atlas Lumber Company. They had two daughters, Dorothy, seven and Sylvia, three years of age. Their first son, Robert, was born at home, in Eckville, in August of that year, and son Norman in October 1935.

Bob became very active in the community and served as secretary-treasurer of town council for some years and was chairman of the first hospital board. He was very interested in the sports activities of the town and served as a member of the annual sports day committee as special promotor on local baseball and tennis tournaments. Bob was also an active member on the committee to build the first covered curling rink which housed two sheets of ice. Both he and Lillian were active curlers and participated in the ladies', men's and mixed curling teams and bonspiels.

The whole family was involved in the church life of the town, with services being held in the little old schoolhouse. Bob was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and was inducted as an Elder in the Presbyterian church. Lillian was an active member in the Women's Missionary Group and served as president of the ladies' aid. Dorothy taught Sunday School and later was pianist for the evening church services. Bob and Dorothy were instrumental in forming a small choir, that would perform on special occasions at the services in Eckville and in Hespero. Sylvia soon was of an age to become a member of the choir and to teach Sunday School. Both Dorothy and Sylvia were members of C.G.I.T. groups and then became leaders.

Dorothy worked in the Imperial Bank in Sylvan Lake and Eckville after high school, and then moved to Calgary, where she was married in April, 1947. Sylvia worked in the office of the Atlas Lumber Company and was married in Eckville in August, 1947.

ng up, going to school and taking part in the usual hockey and baseball activities.

Bob was moved to Red Deer in the fall of 1947 to manage the John's Hardware Store which had been purchased by his company and was then called Builders Hardware Store.

Lillian and Bob Gish are now retired and live in Kelowna, B.C. Dorothy and husband, Douglas Hawkes, live in Calgary. They have a family of five sons, three daughters-in-law and two grandchildren. Doug is a real estate agent. Sylvia and husband, Ray Lawson, live in Red Deer. Ray took his high school in Eckville and is now hospital administrator at Michener Centre. The Lawsons have two sons, a daughter, two daughters-in-law and a grandchild. Robert a school teacher, and Norman, chairman of the B.C. Energy Commission, live in Vancouver. They are both married and Robert has one son and Norman has two sons and one daughter.

## GOARD, BLANCHE (McFAUL)

Blanche Goard, daughter of James and Ella McFaul, came to Red Deer N.W.T. from Michigan, U.S.A. in 1901. She worked in the post office in Red Deer before her marriage to W. J. Goard.

Mr. Goard and his brother owned and operated a Jewellery store, which they later sold out to H. H. Humbe)

After W.J. and Blanche were married they also went homesteading west of the present town of Eckville on the SW 20-39-4W5. They soon found out that this was not the life for them.

They gave up the homestead in favour of Paul Pykett, who was married to Dorcas Brown. Her parents had come from the United States with the McFauls and Matchetts, the three families were very close friends.

Blanche and Will moved to Vancouver where he went into business again. Their three children, Stanley, Ronald and Alberta were born there. Will passed away several years ago. Blanche lives in Nanaimo with her sister.

## GRANT, REVEREND ED. A.

Reverend Ed. A. Grant was the Presbyterian minister in the area west of Sylvan Lake in 1910 and 1911. Previously, he had served with his wife as a missionary in Hyderbad City, South India. Rev. Grant held services at Diamond Valley twice monthly at 11 a.m., twice monthly at Pinerox at 3 p.m., twice monthly at Eckville at 11:30 a.m., and at Marianne every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. In late 1911 Rev. Grant moved on to Caribou Creek, near Calgary.

## THE GUSTAVSON FAMILY

Charlie Gustavson arrived in Quebec from Sweden on July 20, 1903. He was born September 17, 1881 near Göteborg, Sweden. His father was a sailor and his mother raised the family on a small farm. Opportunities for schooling were very limited, and at the tender age of eight years he worked very hard for the local minister.

After spending a compulsary two-year stint in the Swedish navy he decided to do as so many others — to come and find his fortune in America. For a time he worked in a sawmill at Chabaygan, Michigan, in the U.S.A. It was while he was here that he met John Lundberg, who was to become his life-long friend. Together they later went to saw mills near Portland, Oregon. While here they saw an advertisement for homestead land in Alberta, which sounded like the answer to a dream. Free land. Fare was one cent per mile, or $12 to Wetaskawin. They decided to come and "own your own piece of land."

Charlie and John arrived in Alberta in March of 1905. It did indeed look promising with some farmers already in the fields. However, in 1906 winter arrived on October first and lasted until May 1907. Many of the homesteaders al

his time were not prepared for such severe weather and many cattle starved to death even though old straw roofs were dismantled for feed. Charlie and John had no livestock to feed, but even they found the weather a test for their courage.

After looking over homestead land near Camrose they decided that the open prairie land with few trees, was not to their liking. They returned to Lacombe, and after Charlie homesteaded near Gull Lake and John near Lockhart. Years of brush cutting, building a log house, walking over bush trails to Lacombe for supplies, even working on the railroad to earn a little cash, passed slowly. Potatoes were planted where brush piles had been burned. A fair crop resulted. Fish and wild life provided the main part of their livelihood. Later, after acquiring horses and oxen, they contracted land breaking with a team of horses in the lead, followed by a team of oxen, and a breaking plow. In this way many acres had their first furrow turned.

After proving up their homesteads they decided to sell their land and move to the fledgling town of Eckville. The railroad had just recently been built and a new town was in the making. John Lundberg took over the local hotel and in 1913 Charlie built a large livery stable. It occupied the lot between the present Co-op store and Eckville Motors. He operated a dray business, hauling from the C.P.R. as well as the C.N.R. It proved to be hard work, especially when he would tuck a hundred pound sack of flour under each arm, and carry them to an upstairs storage room.

As well as the dray business, he operated a livery. He was justly proud of his matched team of sorrels. Fanny, a small Indian Pony, and Maudie, her daughter, made a very fast team and had the endurance only the little wild ponies possessed. Travellers were taken in the high top buggy to Red Deer, Lesserville, Markerville, or "wherever". On occasion he drove the R.C.M.P. constable to carry out his duties. Several times when the assignment proved difficult, Charlie would be deputized. It was always his fear that he might be called on to use force — something quite foreign to his gentle nature. He kept this special team of horses until they passed on when he very carefully buried his old friends.

Times were changing. In 1914 Charlie bought one of the first Model T cars. Now his passengers could ride in luxury. The roads meandered from one hilltop to the next, trying to avoid the treacherous muskeg. If the car mired down it meant getting out and hoisting the back end over to firmer ground. Occasionally this would prove impossible so a team was hired from a near-by farmer to pull the car out. It was even rumored that some of these fellows worked very hard hauling water to keep the hole impassable. The Model T proved temperamental, too. If the gas tank was below half-full and a steep hill was encountered it meant backing up the hill because the gas was gravity fed so didn't reach the motor otherwise.

On April 7, 1916, Charlie married a long-time girl friend, Gerda Anderson. Gerda was born near Stromsted, Sweden on July 26, 1893. She made the long trip to America alone, wondering what this new life, new language, new country would be like. A shy, retiring person, very fond of handwork, and gardening, she made a good home for her family. Shortly after she arrived they made the hazardous trip to Banff in the Model T. It proved to be quite a trip, but an enjoyable one.

On September 13, 1917 a son, Gilbert, was born and five years later, on May 1, 1922, a daughter, Agnes, was born.

During the war years, farming looked much better with the increase in grain and livestock prices. In 1918 the livery stable was sold to John Kemila, who converted it into a garage. During the following years this building changed hands several times — to Fred Isaacson, the Co-op Association and finally to Skerba Brothers, who lost it by fire.

For a time Charlie and family lived on the half section north of Eckville, then known as the Shenton place, later as Lenny Kingseps, and now as Bill Elcik's. This same land boasted a flying field, too. Meantime, Charlie was slowly clearing trees from his own quarter section of school land, SW 29-39-3-W5, as well as farming his rented land.

He built a log house and moved to their new home in 1927. These were hard years with the depression soon upon them. Prices fell with wheat at 24 cents a bushel, barley brought six to eight cents a bushel and oats brought five cents. A good cow sold for $20 and a 200-pound hog for $1.50. After carefully dressing a large number of turkeys they took them to town to a buyer, who sorted them into two piles. For one pile he

offered two cents a pound and for the other pile the offer was three cents. Charlie looked at him and said "You'll give me nothing", and promptly took his turkeys back home. That winter canned turkey was often on the menu.

In spite of the depression, this area didn't suffer from the drought plaguing the prairies. Crops and garden stuff was plentiful. Wheat was taken to a local flour mill and returned as flour, pickets, bran, etc. In the fall several boxcar loads of vegetables were shipped out to the less fortunate people on the prairies.

Socials, card games and visiting helped to pass the time away, and wood-sawing bees or building bees — even grain-hauling bees — got neighbors together to help each other and at the same time do some visiting. It was during the depression years that so many new folks moved to this area, starved or blown out of their prairie homes. Many of these newcomers were recipients of food from Charlie and Gerda's meager larder.

Charlie was a Wheat Pool and Co-op shareholder. He spent many years on the local school board, with its attending headaches, trying to finance it with little to go on.

Following a lingering illness, Gerda passed away in April, 1942. Agnes stayed with her dad until her marriage to Fred Sundberg of Seattle on May 27, 1945. After several lonely years Charlie married Albertina Bodin from Provost in 1947. She passed away in 1964.

In 1955, being in failing health, Charlie moved to a small house in Gilbert's yard where he spent his remaining years. He owned a small Prefect which allowed him to inspect crops and to go visiting in the neighborhood. He spent many hours in carving sailing ships as he remembered them from his long-ago sailing days. They were exquisite works, complete with delicate rigging, movable steering, and other details. Many of his friends are proud owners of these lovely mementos.

A very quiet soft-spoken person, Charlie read widely and took an immense interest in local and public affairs. He passed away on December 11, 1964, leaving behind a host of friends, one of whom, Mr. J. M. McDonald, wrote of him, "He was a great man who never entertained a small thought."

**GILBERT GUSTAVSON FAMILY**

Gilbert Gustavson attended school in Eckville. Walking, horseback, and bicycle provided his means of getting to school. On October 26, 1938 he married Iva Lewis. Iva was born and raised at Laverna, Saskatchewan. She completed her schooling there and worked for a number of years in the Post Office. She arrived here in 1935 to join her family who had previously come to Alberta.

Gilbert and Iva have two children, Gerald (Gerry), born June 10, 1940 and Marilyn, born March 30, 1943. As with all others growing up during these years, they have known hard work and learned to get along with what was available. A herd of cattle, pigs, and a flock of laying hens kept everyone busy. Eggs for hatching were sold for a number of years. As times improved the cattle and chickens gave way to modern hog barns.

After finishing a course at Olds Agricultural College Gerry and his father formed a partnership. Between them they farm six quarters of land and grain farming is the mainstay of the operation.

Gilbert spent nine years on the Credit Union Board of Directors and also was a member of the Eckville Livestock Board for quite some time. He is a member of the Wheat Pool, the Co-op, and the Fish and Game Association. He is an avid fisherman and hunter, and loves the west mountain country.

Iva is a charter member of the Country Ladies Aid. She is also active in the Handicraft Guild, where she has held an executive and teaching position. She enjoys gardening, needlepoint, pottery and lapidary. She has been district convener for the Cancer Canvas for [illegible].

**GERALD GUSTAVSON**

On October 28, 1967 Gerald and Elsie Kirk were married. Elsie was born in Nigeria where her parents were missionaries. She obtained her schooling in Nigeria and in Canada. She is a registered nurse, having graduated from Calgary General Hospital. They have three sons. Joel was born on December 11, 1970; Wesley on December 23, 1972, and Andrew on March 22, 1974.

Gerry has been on the Co-op Board of Directors and is presently serving as president. He is an active outdoors man, enjoying fishing and hunting. He also enjoys working in his shop, especially with his metal lathe.

Elsie works hard with Hospital Auxiliary, Country Ladies Aid, and her Church work and activities in the Handicraft Guild keep her quite [illegible].

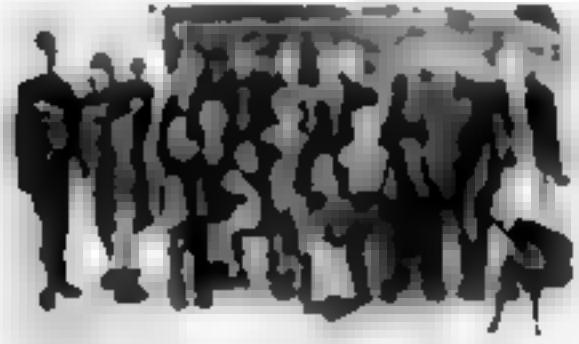
**THE HAAPALA FAMILY — by Vivian Bench**

My father, Matti Haapala, was not one of the early pioneers of the Eckville District. It was not until 1941 that he moved from Manyberries, Alberta, bringing with him a large family. After many dry years on the prairie he decided to follow his former Finnish neighbors to the Eckville area which indeed, was greener pastures to us. He was able to rent land from Mr. McDonald and Mr. Marshall, of Eckville, which was situated west of Eckville just next to Alfred Molander's.

Moving, itself, was a major undertaking for us. My mother had passed away in 1935 and the two older girls, Esther and Miriam, were married. My oldest brother, Reino, remained in Manyberries to farm for that summer, and

George was working in Saskatchewan, so that left a family of nine to move. My brothers, Arnie and Albert, came by train along with the cattle and machinery. Dad drove the 400 miles in a Model T Ford truck with the chickens in a box in the back! The late Mr. Jack Macky was good enough to offer to come and get the rest of us. We made quite a car full with Dora, Pearl, Grace, Vivian, Dorothy, Wilfred and Vernon and a friend, Vivian Kakkonen, as well as the driver. Needless to say, it must have been a very trying trip for him, and to this day I feel much gratitude toward him and his wife, Hulda, who is now a resident of the Manor House in Eckville, for all the help they gave us.

To us kids our new home was splendid. The outside walls of the house were brown weathered siding that had never seen paint, but we were used to that. The interior was bright and cozy. Of course there was no electricity, phone or plumbing. How we loved the trees, after living on the bald prairie! The Horseguard River ran back of the land, and we'd walk through the huge spruce trees to have picnics by the river and to skate in the wintertime.



Our crop was good that year and I can recall my dad saying that he made more from his share of the crop that year than he had made in the past 10 years on the prairie. He was very happy in this new area, going fishing in the nearby lakes, picking blueberries with us, and visiting friends. Our home was such a hospitable place, everyone was welcome, and we have many wonderful memories of our dad and the good life we had.

Starting at a new school that fall was another hurdle for us kids. To top it off, dad had sold the Model T to a stranger who offered to give us a ride to school in it before he took it home. We agreed to go if he'd let us off up town and we'd walk to the school. When we arrived in town he laughingly drove right up main street and up to the school, where we all jumped out with red faces, much to the amusement of all watching! Two years later the school burned and we then had classes in the hall. Mr. Bill Davidson was our teacher then.

Among other new experiences we had were the sight of Indians travelling and camping just one mile away from our buildings. They would often come and ask for vegetables or other things, and we soon lost our fear of them. As far as I can remember, they never caused any trouble for us.

My dad had married again in 1943. His bride was Miss Emily Hill of Eckville. He bought a farm at Withrow and Reino, and later Albert and Vernon, went to help him there. Arnie rented the McKee farm at Benalto and we moved with him as we couldn't get to school from Withrow due to poor roads. This ended the chapter of our life near Eckville.

George was in the Army and didn't get home until the end of 1945. He was followed by his war bride the following summer. The family is scattered around now, with only a few of us remaining in this area. My father passed away in March, 1960, and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. My step-mother, Emily, still lives with her sister, Mrs. Glen Hare, in Duncan, B.C. Arnie lives at Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan. Wilfred at Dunblane, Dorothy at Hawarden, Pearl near Rocanville, all in Saskatchewan. Grace lives at Surrey, B.C., George in Menahga, Minnesota, U.S.A., Vivian near Lesliеville, Alberta, and Dora, Reino and Albert and Vernon living near Eckville.

**THE LEONARD HAGLUND FAMILY — by Hadie Haglund**

Our family arrived in Eckville during the spring of 1971 to operate the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator. We came from a small town named Hythe, located in the Peace River country about 400 miles from Eckville.

Len was born in Brandview, Saskatchewan, the son of John and Helen Haglund. In his early childhood he moved with his family to a farm in the Beaverlodge area of Alberta. Here he received his education. After working at odd jobs for a period of time Len went to Grande Prairie and enlisted in the Regina Rifle Regiment in 1943. He took his basic training in Camrose and Calgary, then was sent overseas that same year. He saw action in Holland, France and Germany before being discharged in June, 1946.

After his discharge from the Army, Len started working for the Alberta Wheat Pool. During his time of employment with the Pool he has been located at Saxsmith, Wembley and Hythe before to Eckville in 1971. Leonard was one of the 16 Wheat Pool managers in Alberta who handled a million bushels of grain during the 1976-1977 crop year. It is the first time Len had hit the million bushel mark and this achievement sets a record for any wheat pool elevator in Eckville. Entry into the million-bushel club coincides with a quarter century of Wheat Pool employment for Len. In January of 1977 Len was presented with a

gold watch in recognition of his 25 years of service with the Alberta Wheat Pool and will be further honored by the Wheat Pool later in 1977

In the communities where we have lived Les has worked with a number of youth groups, including the Gilby 4-H Club. He is a member of the United Church, Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star the Royal Canadian Legion and the Fish and Game Association. He enjoys golfing, curling, fishing and hunting

I, Sadie Haglund, was born in Hythe, the daughter of Walter and Thora Tanchuk. I was raised in this area, and received my education in the local schools and in the McTavish Business College in Edmonton. For several years I worked as a school supervisor, in the Grande Prairie School Division Office, the Hythe Post Office, Sambrooke Insurance Agency in Eckville and at the Eckville Junior-Senior High School as a teachers' aid I have helped with the United Church Sunday School with girls' groups, Order of the Eastern Star, the Ladies Auxiliary at Hythe and the Handi-craft Guild

On July 20, 1951 I was united in marriage to Leonard A. Haglund. After our marriage we lived for a time on the family farm south of Beaverlodge, before moving to Hythe

Maureen, our only child, was born at Hythe on August 26 1955. Here she was raised and received her education, except for one year of high school at Beaverlodge and two years at the Eckville High School, from which she graduated in 1973. While in high school she enjoyed and participated in school sports, and was a member of the Eckville Yearbook Staff. Since furnishing high school Maureen has been employed in Red Deer

**HALL, THELMA**

I Thelma Hall (Barlund was born at Loverna, Saskatchewan in 1918. I lived there for 13 years and went to school at Antelope. In 1931 my parents two sisters and I moved to the Eckville district. I attended school there till we moved to Evarts in 1933 where I finished my Grade 9. I went to work for the Stewarts in the store and post office and was there till 1940

In 1941 I came to work at the old hospital in Eckville for Dr Coppock Miss Coates and Miss Snow were the nurses here. It was interesting work but sometimes really hectic when there would be more patients than beds and we wouldn t know where to put them Then there was the time the bathroom upstairs flooded and water ran all over the floor Miss Coates and I mopped for an hour getting it dried up

One Christmas we were invited to the doctor's house for supper The doctor always liked his Christmas cheer and he had plenty that day but was supposed to carve the turkey However the knife somehow slipped and so did the turkey right on the floor but the doctor just scooped it up and went on carving

We had lots of good times there and sad times too, when someone would pass away We got to know everyone so well, it was just like family

I married Ernie Barlund in 1944 and we have lived around the area except for three years in Red Deer We came to our present home in 1951 and have lived here ever since

We have four boys and one girl They went to school at Leslieville and David Thompson High through Grade 12. Bruce went to Red Deer College one year then joined city police in Calgary. He was there for nine years. He has resigned now and has gone farming at Spirit River He is married to Carol Middlestead of Grande Prairie and they have two girls

Robert went to U of A and took Agriculture He has been working for five years for Energy and Natural Resources in the Peace River country He married Arlene Elhorn of Wanham and they have one son and one daughter

Douglas went to U of A and took Agriculture He was with Farm Credit Corporation for four years at Fairview Grande Prairie and St Paul Now he is in Regina, Saskatchewan with the Bank of Commerce, a farm loan officer He married Dana Fleming of Holden and they have

Dale went to Olds College for two years and now is land assessor with Municipal Affairs at Hanna

Sharon went to U of A and took Agriculture She is now credit advisor with Farm Credit Corporation in Lethbridge

**HALLGREN, AL AND JOYCE**

Al and Joyce Hallgren and family moved to Eckville in February, 1963 Al was then self employed as a tank trucker, hauling crude oil and water for drilling and servicing oil and gas wells in the Eckville area. Eckville was a beehive of activity in the oilfield at that time having roughly 35 big rigs drilling at one time

Al and Joyce had previously lived in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake where Al owned and operated a gravel truck Before this, Al was employed in a doodlebugging or in plainer words, seismograph exploration, from 1951 to 1955. In 1961, he rigged up his first tank truck and went to work at Whitecourt, Alberta He soon returned to work out of Sylvan Lake, where they lived at the time. They lived in various areas while hauling water for a big rig before moving to Eckville

When they first moved to Eckville, they lived in a mobile home in Covlin's trailer court for three years. They then bought the Gust Nygaard house in Eckville where they lived until July of 1973. They moved to the new house they built on the ski-doo hill one and a half miles northwest of town. This hill, so we have been told, was called the Last Hill by the Indians who roamed this country many years ago Some Indian artifacts have been found on this hill as proof the Indians used to camp here. The "hill" is located on N ½ 21 39-3-W5, which Hallgrens purchased from Rudolph Saari in April, 1973

Joyce helps run the business by answering the phone and dispatching trucks. Al and Joyce have been in the tank truck business continually since arriving in Eckville 15 years ago. They still operate their tank truck business which has grown over the years and done very well. Al and his sons own and operate an oil reclamation centre just out of Eckville. The "oil rec. centre handles oil spill clean-ups and re-claims crude oil. This helps prevent pollution from these materials laying around. Son Darrell is running this operation, besides driving trucks for his dad.

Al's grandfather, John Peter Hallgren, coming from near Stockholm, Sweden, was one of the first white settlers in the Red Deer area. He homesteaded just three miles east of Red Deer at that time. The old Hallgren homestead is now occupied by a Chinese market gardener.

Al's father, Andrew Edgar Hallgren, was born on the old homestead. He moved to Delburne and later to a farm two and one-half miles south of Sylvan Lake in 1931.

Al's mother, Mary Louise Augustine Leroy was born in Nice, Normandy (France). She came to Canada in 1914 and married Ed Hallgren in March 1916.

Al was born at Delburne, Alberta and took his schooling at Marianne, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. He had five brothers and four sisters. From 1942 to 1945, Al helped his dad run a riding academy in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake.

Joyce Hallgren, nee Joyce Doreen Harden, was born and raised about 25 miles west of Wetaskiwin. She attended school at Bonnie Glen and Canyon Creek.

Joyce's father, LeRoy Harden, now farms in the Bonnie Glen district. He spent much time in the Eckville area in his younger years. He was well-known for his skill at cutting the necks off beer bottles with a whip or driving line.

Al and Joyce had six children. Dale Alexander and Donna Joy, twins, were born at Wetaskiwin in 1951. Donna is now Mrs. Harry Thomas of Eckville. Dale passed away in a car accident in August 1973. Dale and Donna attended school at Sylvan Lake. Audrie and

Deborah Dorothy Louise, born in Red Deer in 1956, took her schooling at Eckville. She is now Mrs. Jack French of Eckville.

Darrell Lee, born in Red Deer in 1958, went to school in Eckville. He is at present living at home and helping with the business.

Kelvin Alexis, born in Red Deer in 1960, is living at home and working out.

Allen Edgar, born in Eckville in 1964, is living at home and attending school in Eckville.

**HEBNER, EDITH**

I, Edith Hebner, was born September 1, 1898 at Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. I came to Canada May 1, to Toronto, Ontario. William Hebner and I were married in October 1921 and left for the West on December 10, 1921.

We arrived at the homestead in Turtle Valley, B.C., and there had several surprises. My first surprise was to know I had only one white neighbor who lived five miles away. The rest of the folks were Indians. There was no water supply on the homestead so we had to carry it about one half mile. I learned lots of things from the Indians. They became real good friends, and, although I am now 79 years old, I keep in touch with some of them. They kept me in deer meat and salmon for years after my husband died.

I had never seen a wood stove before, and believe me, I had quite a time before I got used to it. I also had quite a problem with coal oil lamps. Our log cabin was really very small, but we managed to raise our three children there.

Our children were Harry, born October 5, 1922; Pauline, born December 21, 1926, and Kathleen, born October 31, 1929. In 1929 my husband took over the Rawleigh business and stayed with it for ten years.

Later we bought another homestead in the same valley. It was a beautiful place to live. My husband died in 1951 and I stayed there until 1957 when I moved to Eckville in June of that year. I bought a very small house, which I was told was the first bank building that Eckville ever had, and it later became a pool hall. Finally I made it livable and spent quite a few happy years there. In 1976 I moved into the Eckville Manor, where I feel quite content and happy to be.

**S. F. HERBERT FAMILY -- by Mr. Herbert**

I was born on November 30, 1904, on a ranch just south and east of where the hamlet of Lousana, Alberta now stands. In the spring of 1905, my parents moved to their homestead five miles south and west of Lousana. My childhood was much the same as that of any children of the early settlers -- trapping rats in the fall, shooting gophers in the spring, rounding up cattle and generally helping with the farm work. I received my education at Collins School, about two miles from where we lived. I have one sister and two brothers.

At the age of 15 years I went to work in the Lousana Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada. I worked in quite a number of different branches such as Rocky Mountain House, Wetaskiwin, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Regina and Broadview. In 1925, I left the bank and went to work for the Northern Electric Company in Winnipeg. It was about this time that many of the large city exchanges were being changed to automatic. This job consisted of installing automatic equipment. After about a year I moved back to my father's farm at Lousana.

In the spring of 1929, I started farming on my own. What with 20¢ wheat and eight and 10¢ a pound butterfat, it was a pretty rough deal. In the spring of 1934, I moved the family to Eckville, and travelled for the W. T. Rawleigh Company for the next seven years.

With no gravel roads and very little snow

plowing in the winter and not much money in the country, this business just made me a living. My district was from Markerville in the south to Bluffton in the north, and from Lesliеville to six miles west of Bentley. I traded quite a few Rawleigh products for horsehair and beef hides, and also quite a number of beer bottles. Most of the articles I took in trade were sold to Louis Robinson of Leedale.

In the fall of 1941 I joined the army and went overseas in August, 1942. We landed in England the day of the Dieppe Raid. I was stationed at the Headquarters of the Ordinance Corp, where I worked in an office. Outside of a few air raids, a plane crash very close to the camp and a few buzz bombs, my stay in England was uneventful. I returned to Canada in October 1945, and was discharged from the army in May 1946.

I worked for several farmers in the Elnora District and in the fall of 1948 took over the post office in Lousana. I had a small oil and insurance business along with the post office. In the fall of 1954 the post office in Alix was open for competition. I applied, wrote a civil service examination, and was successful in winning the competition. I took over the post office in Alix and was postmaster there for almost 15 years. Having reached the age of 65 in 1969, the government turned me out to pasture. I must say with a civil service pension and the other pensions they have these days the grass in the pasture remained quite green.

I have a good house in Alix and am quite active in community affairs. I also do quite a bit of travelling. I have been from Mexico to Alaska, both the east and the west coasts of Canada and have made two trips to England and Holland. I still enjoy good health.

My family consisted of three boys and three girls.

Edwin is head of the parts department for Costello Equipment in Calgary. He does quite a bit of travelling between Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. His wife Joyce works for Woodwards in Calgary. They have a son.

Donald is maintenance man for Molson's Brewery in Edmonton. He spends his summer holidays building a retirement home on the Shuswap Lakes in British Columbia. His wife, Barbara, is a housekeeper for an auxiliary hospital in Edmonton. They have two girls.

Allan works for Continental Packers in Red Deer. His wife, Mary, works at the Michener Centre in Red Deer. They have three boys.

Evelyn, Mrs. R. W. Green, and her husband run the Eastgate Shell service in Calgary. Evelyn is also a housewife. They have a boy and a girl.

Florence is now Mrs. H. J. Dean. Her husband is retired from the American Air Force, and works for Continental Oil. Flo runs her own beauty parlor. They have four girls. They live in Moore, Oklahoma, U.S.A.

Doris, now Mrs. Adolph Mevey, lives on a farm in the Lousana district. She works part time in the Elnora Hospital. They have two daughters and a son.

**JACK HITTALA — by Martha Leeti**

Jack Hutala was born in Raahe, Finland on December 5, 1879. He came to the United States in 1902 and worked in various areas before going to Butte, Montana where he worked in the copper mines. While in Butte he married Elizabeth Kyhonen, who also was born in Finland.

In 1906 Mr. Hutala came to Alberta to look for land, and was able to buy the S.W. 32-39-3-W5. This land was located four miles north-west of Eckville. He brought his wife and first child to the farm in late 1907. He was naturalized in Alberta on September 2, 1910. They had three girls and one boy. Martha was born in Butte, Montana on July 10, 1907; Hilja was born at Eckville in June, 1908; Fanny was born in 1910. Vaino was born in 1912. In 1913 Mrs. Hiltala returned to Butte, Montana for medical treatment, but she died there in November, 1913. She is buried in Butte.

Jack later married Hilda Torsti and had four more children. Elsie was born in 1916, Ivy in 1917, Otto in 1920, and Violet in 1926.

They lived on the farm until 1950 when they bought a home in Sylvan Lake and moved there for their retirement. Jack died in December, 1952 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Martha married Elmer Leeti of Sylvan Lake. Their four children were Aileen, born in 1928, Helen, born in 1936, Irven, born in 1938, and Gordon, born in 1942.

Aileen married Don Lyons of Red Deer and they had six children. The oldest boy, George, is married and has two children. He and his family live in Surrey, B.C.

Helen Leeti married Jack Anderson of Bentley and they have three girls and one boy. They live on a farm west of Bentley.

Irven is not married and lives on the home

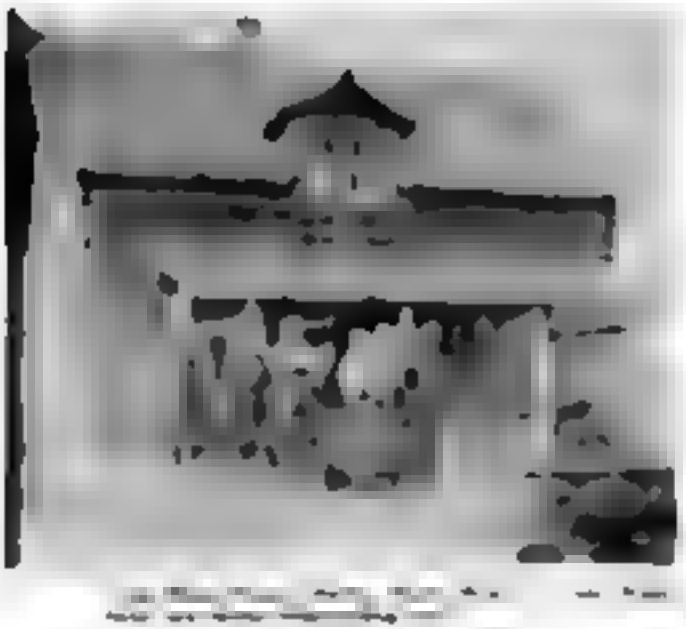
Gordon married Johanna Lauter of Kindersley, Saskatchewan. They have two children — a girl and a boy. They live in Sherwood Park, Alta.

Hilja married Toivo in Port Moody, B.C., and they still live in B.C.

Fanny died in 1924 and is buried in Kuusamo cemetery.

Vaino stayed on the home farm and worked until the second World War. Then he went into the army and was overseas about two years. He married Astred Rowan and they lived at Onoway until his death in January, 1969. He is buried here.

Elsie married Bill Johnson of Eckville and they had six sons and two daughters. Ronald is married and lives at Stony Plain. He has three sons. Jack is married and has two girls. He lives



in Rocky Mountain House. Marvin is married has three children, and lives at Beaumont, Alberta. Elaine married George Piller and has one girl. They live at Sylvan Lake. Dennis is married and has a boy and a girl. They live at Lesserville. Larry is married and lives at Rimbey. He has one boy. Leslie is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House. Deloyce is married and lives at Sylvan Lake.

Bill and Elsie lived on a farm five miles west and one mile north of Eckville until they sold their farm and moved to Sylvan Lake in 1968. Elsie died in September of 1968 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Ivy married Bill Wright. They have a girl and boy.

Donna is married and has three girls and a boy. They live on a farm east of Rocky Mountain House.

Otto Matala married Lillie Rogers of Eckville. They have five boys. They live on a farm at High Level, Alberta. The son Brian is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House. The other boys were Arnie, Craig, Dean, and Eric.

Violet married Eli Saarela of Lesserville and they have three girls and one boy. Eileen married Terry Fedderson. They have two girls and live on a farm west of Gilby. Beverly married Brian Adams and they have three girls and one boy. They live at Midnapore, Alberta. Judy married Harley Peterson. They have one girl and live at Condor. Wesley is married and has three girls and lives on the farm. Wesley and his dad farm together north of Lesserville.

**THE JACOB (JACK) HILL FAMILY — by Mrs [illegible]**

Born in Kauhajoki, Finland, Mr. Jacob Hill immigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 19, where other older members of his family had moved earlier. Working in the mines and on farms in Michigan and the Dakotas for one dollar a day for long hours was not to his liking, so he moved to the coal-mining towns in the Crow's Nest Pass. Here he met Ida Maki, who had left her birthplace, Kuortane, Finland, a few years earlier, coming to Nanaimo, B.C. and later moving to the Crow's Nest area.

The couple were married on April 7, 1907 and settled on a homestead in the Eckville district, on which Mr. Hill had filed two or three years earlier. During the next few winters they moved back to the Crow's Nest area where Mr. Hill again worked in the mines, until a mine explosion occurred in Bellevue, which killed a great number of men, many of them close friends. Mr. Hill, who was working on a different shift, was saved, but this tragedy cast such a pall on the community that many people left and never returned, among them the Hills.

It was about this time, the winter of 1909 and 1910, that the Jack Woory family, who had moved up from Wyoming, occupied the Hill home during the absence of the Hill family and for several months after their return, while their own home, about four miles north, was being completed. The two families became great friends and remained very close until the last member, Mrs. Woory, died, Mr. Woory and daughters, Sylvia (Isaacson) and Mae, having predeceased her.

In common with most pioneers, the Hill family had their share of misfortunes, hardships and tragedies. The nearest shipping point was Lacombe or Red Deer, and roads being mere trails, it would often take two days for the round trip. Mrs. Hill relates that when she would try to listen for the rumble of the home-coming wagon in the late evening, the croaking of the myriads of frogs would drown out all other sounds.

Mrs. Hill also recalls how terrified she was of the countless, but harmless, garter snakes, and was always thankful to have some of the neighboring lads come over to dispose of some of them. Brush fires were a menace in dry weather as were sudden winter blizzards, especially when the children were in school.

To augment the family income, Mr. Hill [illegible] right-of-way. They also sold eggs and butter to the store and milk to the cheese factory built on the old Eckville site, and later sold cream to the creamery. At times, Mrs. Hill boarded men who were working on the railway.

A team of stubborn, breachy mules was replaced by a team of horses, one of which, the mare, died while having a foal. This misfortune was a severe set-back, especially as they still owed for the team, and a good, well-broken horse was possibly one of the most expensive farm items. Somehow, more horses were eventually bought and raised, and by dint of back-breaking labor, the farm began to provide a fair living for

hese hardy pioneers Improvements were gradually made to buildings, and more farm machinery was procured, as well as a few labor saving appliances for the home One of these was a brand new "Magnet" cream separator, which eliminated the work of cooling the milk in the well and then skimming it by hand. Later cellhouses or pits became a familiar feature in most farm yards

Life was not all work, however as there were many diversions, and visiting was a pleasant pastime, especially on Saturday, or "sauna night, when neighbors without this traditional Finnish facility would come to enjoy a bath, followed by a coffee party There were a few community halls where plays, followed by a dance, were presented. The whole family would attend and the small children would be placed under tables where they slept, undisturbed by the noise.

The major event, especially for the children was the yearly picnic at Palm Beach and the Benalto Fair and Stampede Sometimes, as a special treat, the family attended the Red Deer Fair and the sights and sounds there were awesome, indeed. The Hill children, however, were permitted to ride only in the tubs or small boats on the merry-go-round, the horses being considered too dangerous

The children born to Mrs. Hill, as to most of the pioneer women, were born at home, with usually only a mid-wife, or perhaps just a neighbor lady in attendance. One of these wonderful women to whom our own family was much indebted was Mrs (Granny) Ignatius, who would leave her own family for days, not only to assist with the birth, but to take over the care of the children and the housework On one of the rare occasions when a doctor was urgently needed by a neighbor lady in labor Mr Hill rode to Lacombe to summon a doctor Fortunately, the mother's life was saved, although the baby died

Both Mr and Mrs. Hill were active in the early community enterprises. Mr Hill was on the Eckville Co-op board of directors for a number of years and worked for and supported the Mutual Telephone Company

Mr and Mrs. Hill sold their farm to their daughter and son-in-law, Aubrey and Lymie Shultz in 1950 and retired to the town of Eckville where Mr Hill died in August of 1964, the morning after the wedding of his granddaughter Lynae Shultz to Ray Carson. Mrs. Hill moved to the Sylvan Lake Lodge in 1967 where she still resides in 1977 in fairly good health at the age of 94 years.

Of their four children, the eldest Helvi, died in infancy in 1908, and the youngest Hazel, died in the Red Deer hospital in July, 1932, at the age of seven years, following a tonsilectomy. The death of this child of their middle years was the greatest tragedy in the lives of the parents, creating an aching void for many, many years

Lymie and Aubrey Shultz sold the family farm in 1974, to retire to Red Deer

Lempie married Frank Quist in 1936, and, with their daughter, Diane, moved to the west coast in 1940. They have lived in Vancouver for about 36 years, making yearly visits to Alberta to see her relatives here

I must not end this chronicle without mentioning Uncle John Makl, Mrs. Hill's brother who made his home with the Hills whenever he was not away working elsewhere. He was a companion for the Hill children, making them many toys and games for their enjoyment and his help was especially appreciated during the many months when Mr Hill was hospitalized and taking treatments for a growth on his jaw and throat This was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester Minnesota, about 1923 or 1924

Uncle John took an active part in many of the Finnish organizations and sports and was an excellent cross-country skier He loved to hunt, and supplied meat in the form of wild fowl and rabbits, as well as venison, for the family table. He later bought an acreage on the west shore of Sylvan Lake, now occupied by Miss Jean Yuill He finally moved to Karelia U.S.S.R. in the early 1930's, where he died a few years later

## HILL, LYMIE SHULTZ AND HILL, LEMPI [illegible]

Lymie and Lempi are the surviving daughter of Mr and Mrs. Jacob (Jack) Hill. the eldest Helvi, having died in infancy before I (Lymie) was born, and the youngest one died in 1932

We had a normal, happy childhood, and the family fortunes did not affect us greatly, as we were always well fed and clothed, and cleanliness was a passion with our mother It is true, we did not have many "boughten" toys, but we did have a family of homemade dolls, some with china heads and by way of paper dolls, we cut out figures from the colored pages in the catalogues and dressed them in clothing from the same source Lempi did long for a beautiful doll and in fact there was a lovely doll with real hair and eyes that opened and closed, in our home but it had been a gift to our eldest deceased sister, and we were not allowed to play with it until we were older Our Uncle John, who made his home with us from time to time, made us such toys as a sled, a checker game and card games, and bought us some toys when he could afford it

We had few playmates in our earliest years, but we did not really miss them. However, we were intimate with the Jack Wuori family who lived about four miles north of us, and Lempi and I would stay at their home for a few days, and the girls would visit us in turn. We always accompanied our parents to various community gatherings and to visit friends of theirs, and we were always happy when we found children of our own age at these homes. Of course the annual

mid-summer picnics, especially the ones held at Palm Beach, were a special treat when we were allowed to enter the water with a number of other children, or to go for a ride in Mr Netsel's motor boat On one of these occasions, the engine stalled and we were very late getting back Another time my brand-new hat blew into the water, and, sad to say, was never the same afterwards. The annual Benalto Fair and Stampede was almost never missed, and one or two trips to Red Deer to attend the fair there were never-to-be forgotten experiences, especially our first ride on the merry-go-round and our first taste of a banana ice cream sundae

I started school at the old Eckville School and then attended Saima School for a while. While the Harper family lived one-half mile east of us. I usually rode "double with Della Harper, but after Lempi started, we usually walked the two and one half miles, in summer at least On one occasion we were looking down into an old well on the Harper place and dropped our lunch bucket into the well, hearing our cries, Ray Harper got a ladder and climbed down, but was not able to retieve the nd which we considered a major catastrophe We went home and out of the field where our mother was digging potatoes, sobbing wildly all the time. She was so relieved o discover the reason for our grief that she did not even scold us, although we had been warned not to go near that well

When we were a little older, we attended the new school in Eckville about four miles distant By this time, the John Lundberg family had moved to the old John Heikkinen place and a deal was made whereby we drove to school with the Lundberg children, using our horse and buggy or cutter, and theirs by turn, with the boys driving and caring for the horse. This arrangement worked very well, and we children established a warm and lasting relationship. I can hardly remember having any teacher but Mr Henry Ludwig, as I had him for seven years. He was a strict disciplinarian, and how we wished he would have a sick day occasionally But he never did However he was a good teacher and I am sure his pupils will never forget the terms of the "Magna Carta" or the 'Quebec Act" or the rules of grammar which he so assiduously instilled into our young minds. Friday afternoons were always a treat when the primary teacher, Miss Thompson, would come and teach us art

At home, we were expected to do some household chores especially during the holidays. Lempi was diligent and industrious, while I was always rather indolent. I was an avid reader and would follow her through the house, reading out loud while she did the work However, I was usually expected to ride up into the bush to bring in the cows, and I learned to milk at an early age

Lempi had the usual childhood diseases most of which I escaped While our father was taking treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, I did become quite ill and had to stay away from school for several weeks This illness was never diagnosed, as I did not see a doctor, but a daily dose of 'Rawleigh's Liniment", which I heartily detested and avoided taking whenever possible, was my only medication and eventually the illness left as suddenly as it had come

When we became teen-agers we attended various functions at the community halls, at first accompanied by our indulgent father and later we joined other young people of our own age. By this time our youngest sister, Hazel, had been born, whom we all adored during her short life time She passed away following a tonsillectomy at the Red Deer Hospital in 1932 at the age of seven years, which cast a deep shadow on our lives, and I doubt if our parents ever fully recovered from the tragedy

I took my Grade 12 in Calgary, and Lempi and I both attended Camrose Normal School. I taught in various schools, but she was unable to get a school, this being in the depth of the depression

Aubrey Shultz and I were married in Calgary on July 5, 1934 and farmed in the Byemore area until 1950, when we took over the old family farm at Eckville selling out in 1974 and moving to Red Deer We have two children, Jim is a helicopter pilot with the C A F He is married, has three sons, and lives in Fort Saskatchewan since 1971 Lynne (Mrs Ray Carson), lives with her husband and three children in Red Deer

Reminiscing on her school days, Lempi recalls in particular, her most memorable Christmas concert held at Saima school under the tutorship of the teacher, Miss Grimson, whose home was in the Burnt Lake district She had just started school in the fall, and as the youngest pupil, she was selected to deliver the opening recitation, which performance was, she thinks, the proudest moment in her life Her favorite teacher, unfortunately died the following spring, a victim of the flu epidemic which swept over the world following the First World War

Mr Ludwig was Lempi's teacher at the old Eckville School, then after a few years in Miss da Thompson's room in town, she again had the former as her teacher until she graduated in 929, at which time Mr Ludwig also left Eckville. Hence, at his farewell party she made him a presentation, having been his pupil in the primary grades and again upon her graduation

This was also the year of the market crash and the beginning of the depression, when jobs became very scarce, and teaching positions, for which Lempi was trained, were well-nigh unobtainable, especially for those without previous experience However, there was plenty of work on the farm, and being a good seamstress, she made all her own clothes, and did a great deal of sewing for other people She took an active part in young people's activities, such as dances,

plays and singing groups. Thus, for her the early years of the depression were busy ones

In early 1936 she and Frank Quist were married, eventually moving to the west coast They settled in Vancouver, where they built their home, in which they have lived for close to 40 years They have one daughter, Mrs. Diane White, and one grandson, both living in Van

Each year brings Lempi and Frank, and as recently their grandson, back 'home' to visit relatives and friends in Alberta, and particularly the Eckville and Sylvan Lake areas

To bring this history up to date, our mother moved to the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer from the Sylvan Lake Lodge, where she had lived for over 10 years, on December 5, 1977 This was her own decision, as she felt the burden of her old age and increasing feebleness necessitated the move. Always having been very adaptable, it is to be hoped that she will adjust to this change in her circumstances

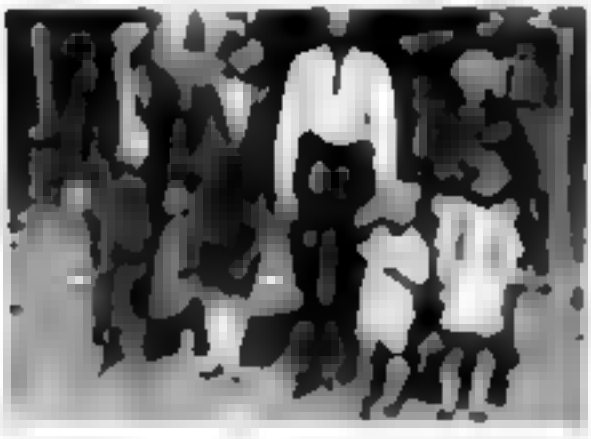
**JOHN FRANKLIN HOPKINS — by Mora [illegible]**

John Hopkins was born in Kentucky, U.S.A in 1866. Sadie McGhee was born in Oklahoma, U.S.A. in 1869 They were married in 1899 in Oklahoma. Both were school teachers at the time of their marriage, but they later took up farming

John and Sadie Hopkins immigrated to Canada in the fall of 1912 to Bassano, Alberta During the winter John filed on a homestead in the Hutton district and in the spring of 1913 the family moved to their homestead John borrowed a team and wagon and drove 40 miles to Bassano to get lumber Before a small house was built the family lived under a big tarp and cooked on an open fire. What a glorious day it was when the cook stove arrived from Eatons and the family moved into the new house

The Hopkins family lived on the homestead until 1921 and then moved to Gem Colony, near Bassano. Here John rented an irrigated farm from the C.P.R. In November of 1925 they moved to the Gilby district and rented land there which they farmed for six years. Then in 1931 the family moved to the Eckville area, John having bought the former Henry Smith farm. Mr Hopkins had a team of mules with which he farmed, along with horses. His were the only mules in the area at that time

Mr and Mrs. Hopkins had one daughter, Mora born in Oklahoma in 1904 After moving to Alberta Mora was married to Douglas McDonell Mrs Hopkins died at the age of 70 years in July, 1939. Mr Hopkins lived on the farm alone for quite a few years then moved into the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer in 1956. He passed away in 1957 at the age of 91 years. Both Mr and Mrs Hopkins were laid to rest in the Eckville



Mora and Mary Hopkins, Mr and Mrs Hopkins, 1905 and Marie

**THE HUBL HISTORY**

Louis Hubl was born in Prague Czechoslovakia in 1886. He lived a short time there before immigrating to Canada in the early 1900s. Since he came across on a boat and landed in Newfoundland the only direction he could take was to head west He then started to work his way west, stopping for a time in Manitoba to work on the railroad. As it was, though, he wanted to see greener pastures, so he headed south and west ending up in North Dakota, and later in Montana. While there he was hired on as a cowboy, was given a horse and a revolver and told to ride the range, checking stock and fixing fences. One day while out riding he saw a little animal, and, not being able to catch it, he shot it instead, soon finding out it was scented. He then realized that the cowboy life wasn't for him

He then moved to Frank, Alberta and tried his hand at mining. One night, in 1903, he borrowed a horse to go girling in a nearby town. This was also the night of the Turtle Mountain slide. But the slide did not discourage him. he continued to work in the mines in that area

In 1906 two girls arrived from Czechoslovakia on the boat "August Victoria" They caught a train from Ontario to points west. One of its many stops was at Frank, and Louis was there, holding his horse because it was scared of the noise the train was making The ladies stepped down from the train and that is how Louis met his future wife, Julie Antonia Kec

Louis and Julie were married in Frank on August 13, 1906. Louis Mark (Sr.), Joe Edl and Charlie Mottl played for their wedding dance After they were married the happy couple continued to live in Frank, and their first son Edward, was born there

In 1908 the stories started in the mines, and since they had heard shortly before that the government was giving away free homestead land by Bowell, (near Medicine Hat,) they decided to move there. Once they had been there for awhile they found out that farming wasn't easy as, drought prairie fires, rattlesnakes and fear of Indians were always present. During one

of the winters at Bowell a bad blizzard hit and antelope were found frozen standing up in railway sheds. People came from miles around to get meat from the dead animals to can for use later.

As money was dwindling, Louis decided to get some extra jobs. Being a harness maker by trade, he was able to get a job with the Wheatland Co. making harnesses for mules and horses. He was supplied with a Franklin car and later a McLaughlin Buick to drive to camps in Cypress Hills, Estevan, Saskatchewan and back to Medicine Hat fixing and making harness. Since harness making was slow in the winter he also got a job at a glass factory in Redcliff just for the winter months.

After 17 years of facing hardships on the prairie they decided to leave, so by train they brought their family (now seven children) to the Eckville district. In 1924 they purchased a half section from Phil Laybourne, this being the N½ 1-38-4-W5. They then had their machinery shipped to Hespero by train. The machinery that they had, though, was not very adaptable to this part of the province as the Avery three-wheeled tractor was built with two wheels in the front and one large wheel in the back and was always getting stuck. Also they had brought along a 12 bottom plough that worked fine on the prairie but proved to be useless in this type of soil. The tractor was replaced by a Rumely oil-pull which was later replaced by a 20-35 Allis Chalmers. The new tractor was then used for all the farm work plus doing custom threshing for the neighbors.

A harness shop was started on the farm, then moved to Eckville into Isaacson's garage. The garage burnt down in 1928, so Louis had a new shop built by Art Bellika. In 1940 the shop and the tools were traded to Jake Busslinger, (later sold to Chester Kasha) for a pull type combine. Later a shop was started on the farm again and harness was made by the gross, (144 pieces of each) from there they were shipped to wholesale outfits all over the province. Some interesting stories were told in the shop by Jesse Craig, Fred Isaacson, the Armstrong brothers and Charlie Thorkman. A very amusing story told by Charlie was "How to Rid Your Horse of Lice." It starts out: "You put your horse in the barn for three weeks and feed it nothing but salt – no water. Then you take him to the creek for a drink of water; the lice will be thirsty and jump into the creek for a drink. You quickly lead your horse away and your lousy horse won't be lousy anymore."

In 1947 a fruit farm was bought in Creston, B.C. and on this land Louis built a small shop where he fixed bridles and saddles for people of the community while also selling clothing and other merchandise. Being very active, he accepted an invitation to join the Creston Valley Fruit Packers Board and was a director for quite a few years.

Louis Hubl passed away on February 8, 1963.

His wife, Julie, lived in their home until 1974 when she moved into the Swan Valley Lodge in Creston where she still resides. She keeps busy by reading, crocheting and watching television. It gives her much enjoyment to have visitors from Alberta.

The Hubl family consists of:

Edward married to Lenora Senkyr, their children are Ken and Shirley.

Emma married Charlie Taskila, their children are Fay, Pat and Irene.

Rose married Gillie Bjornson, their children are Gail, Margaret, Gail and Norman.

Clara married Oscar Rafnson, their children — Robert (deceased) and Judy.

Julia married Jack Bagstad, their children are John and Hank.

Louis married Lucy Nagraft, their children are Tom and Linda.

Robert married Eleanor Taskila, their children are Alma, Sheila, Stanley and Marvin.

Mary married John Faynor, their children are Bill, James, Susie and Ricky.

Henry married Evelyn Stewart, their children are Ralph, Dianne, Jeanette and Patricia.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubl celebrated their Golden Wedding August 13, 1956.

[redacted]

Jonas and Emma Huesa were born in Oulu Lan, Finland. Emma was a sister of Mrs. August E. Koski. The family emigrated from Finland to the U.S.A.

In the spring of 1902 Jonas moved from Bonner, Montana to the Eckville district. Here he filed on a homestead of S.W. 34-39-3-W5. On this quarter he built a small log house and a shelter for a cow and a team of oxen. He then moved his wife and family to live on the farm. They had two girls, Annie and Elsa, and two boys, Andrew and Hans.

Because of the condition of Emma's health they found the hardships of pioneering too great. She could not stand the privation they had to suf-

fer. so, in 1910 Mr Hussa sold their quarter of land to Mr Tigersted. With the proceeds from the farm he was able to take his family back to Finland

Mr Hussa returned to Eckville after he settled his family in Finland. He was employed by the Canadian National Railway in building the railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House Later he moved on from Eckville and we lost track of him

Now all the family have passed away

* * *

R C. Pat Ives was born at Coleraine. County Derry Ireland, where his father, Capt J F Ives, was stationed with the British Army in 1903. The family was transferred to England. Pat attended King's school in Peterborough and St Oswald's College

On completing his education, he joined the Provincial Bank of England. In 1924, he came to Canada to Sangudo. Alberta, where he joined the Imperial Bank serving in Sangudo, Red Deer and Banff before returning to England in 1926

While in Red Deer he met Ella Botterill daughter of pioneer resident. Mr and Mrs. W J Botterill. In October 1928, they were married at Peterborough, where Pat was Paymaster at Kemil Ltd silk manufacturers. Their son David was born in Peterborough. In 1934, they returned to Red Deer where Pat joined Mr Botterill in the Real Estate and Insurance Business. When the Red Deer School Division was formed Pat was its first secretary treasurer until 1941 when he took leave of absence to serve with the R C A S.C and served in the Pay Corps until he was discharged due to a heart attack He returned to the school division

In 1946, he opened his Real Estate, Insurance and Accounting business in Eckville. In 1949, he became secretary-treasurer of the Eckville Municipal Hospital

When David joined the R C.A F in 1949 and daughter, Margaret born in Red Deer entered nursing training, Ella became a partner in the Eckville business then known as Ives & Ives. Pat continued with the Eckville Hospital until December 1966. He was forced to retire due to several heart attacks. The business was sold and they retired to Red Deer in 1967

Major David Ives is stationed at Namao after 20 years with the R.C A.F in Eastern Canada and the U S.A He and his wife, Maureen Parry and their family of two daughters and three sons live at St Albert. Alberta

Margaret who nursed at Eckville for a time and her husband Ronald Soderberg and family of two sons and one daughter live in Bayside. California. Margaret is Director of Nurses at a Geriatric Hospital and Ronald is Chief of Inhalation Therapy at another hospital. Ella and Pat are enjoying their hobbies and retirement at 5051 45 Avenue. Red Deer, where the door is always open to friends and clients of Eckville and District

**HERBERT JOBS' FAMILY — by Anna Jobs**

Herbert Jobs was born in 1906 at Brightview Alberta His father died when Herb was only 14. making it necessary for him to share in the

and one sister

In 1929. Herb purchased a quarter of land in the Happy Hill District. Here he led a busy life clearing land, and taking care of his few range cattle With the help of Joe Hinman he built a log house. On June 16, 1937 he married Anna Schmidek, a daughter of his close neighbors, Mr and Mrs. Dan Schmidek The young couple received five milk cows from the Jobs' family and a sow with little pigs, a milk cow and two calves from the Schmidecks, to help them get started with mixed farming Herb and Anna had two sons, George and Arthur, and one daughter Irene.

In the early 1940's, Herb bought a water well drilling outfit as a means of earning extra money Many people wanted drilled water wells and Herb drilled more than 30 water wells during his time. Meanwhile, he bought a quarter of land five miles away from his home quarter as it was the only land available to purchase. With two growing sons who were becoming interested in farming, Herb was looking for still more land Mr Peter Carlyle had three quarters of land near Eckville for sale, and it had a river to fish in too The family all enjoyed fishing and often went fishing along with the Pete Carlyle family Finally, Herb decided to sell his own quarter of land to help buy the land from Mr Carlyle. with the result that in 1955 the Jobs' family moved to NE 10-39-3 W5 in the Eckville District

That the soil was good was evident — waist high quack grass was growing in abundance. It was necessary to work the land repeatedly until the quack grass was under control. By this time, George had finished Grade 8 in school and he stayed home to help with the farming. Soon the small house was cleaned and painted. Old buildings were ripped down and new ones slowly erected. The crops were good, and the family enjoyed the new district. Their old home place at Happy Hill was sold when the family decided to stay in the Eckville District

The family often milked up to 14 cows by hand but finally invested in a milking machine. The cream was sold to the Eckville Creamery and the cheque fed and clothed the family For a number of years extra income was also derived from the sale of around 500 turkeys which were sold during the Christmas season each year

The family enjoyed friends and relatives coming to visit them, and often hosted card parties with the neighbors. Mrs. Kasper soon had persuaded Anna to join in the Country Ladies'

In 1960, Irene graduated from the Eckville

High School and then went out to work. In 1964, she married Albert Nagy of Evansburg, Alberta and now they live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. They have two daughters, Danielle and Kristine.

A large new house was built on the farm in 1963. In February of 1964, Herb had a stroke and has since been unable to work.

George married Audrey Sestrap of Eckville in 1968. They purchased a trailer in which they lived on the home farm. Their children are Wanda and Bradley. Audrey decided that Anna should learn to drive a car so bought her some driving lessons in Rimbey. Anna learned to drive and was soon sporting a new green Datsun.

Meanwhile, Art finished his schooling in Eckville and went out working during the winter time. In 1971, he married Carol Sunde of Alhambra. The basement in the large house on the home farm was finished for Art and Carol to live downstairs. They have a daughter, Deanna and twin boys, Dean and Devon.

In 1972, George purchased three quarters from Mr. A. Stopsen. They then sold their trailer and moved from the home farm. George and Art decided that mom and dad should move from the farm, and bought a lot in Eckville in 1974. On this lot they built a house to which Herb and Anna moved in 1975.

In 1977, Herb and Anna were entertained at the home farm on the occasion of their 40th wed[illegible]

Herb and Anna are still active members of the Craig Lutheran Church. Their enjoyment from fishing has not diminished so they still drive out to Prairie Creek to catch some trout. Anna was president of the Eckville Friendship Club in 1977, and she and Herb both enjoy attending the Club's functions. They especially enjoy having friends and relatives come for a visit or a card game.

**JOBS, ARTHUR AND CAROL**

Carol Louise is the youngest child of Knut and Anna Sunde. Schooling was taken in Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson High School.

Her interests included riding horses during the holidays and the 4-H Beef Club. Travelling was also enjoyed. In 1965, she was one of the Centennial Exchange Students from the David Thompson High that travelled to Ontario and she hosted one of the return students to this area. The Centennial year 1967 meant a trip to Expo and a fast tour of Europe with her sister Audrey and friends, Lois and Miriam Farrington, and Maureen Killick. Carol's education continued at the Red Deer College and at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, where she graduated receiving her B.Sc. with a major in Home [illegible]

In the spring of 1971, Carol was united in marriage to Arthur Leonard Jobs of Eckville. Life began on his mixed farm near Eckville. Their children, Deanna Dawn born December 16, 1973, and the twins, Dean Maxwell and Devon Tyson born September 20, 1975, bring them much joy and life is very rewarding.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN JOHNSON — by Josephine Hanich**

John and Mina Johnson (a well-known couple among the Eckville Finlanders) first homesteaded on a quarter in the Leslieville (Risula) area. Then, during the first World War they bought the Tigerstedt farm two miles north of Eckville. Mr. Johnson farmed here for a short time before selling the farm to Mr. Harrison very stable and garage man in Eckville. Mr. Harrison rented the farm first to Matt Heikkila and wife, and then to the Yakovliz family.

After this, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson built and ran one of the first restaurants on the main street of Eckville. It was a common sight to see boys in khaki uniforms who had returned from the war enjoying the fresh cooked meals. When the work got too heavy for the Johnsons, they sold their restaurant to Mr. Archibald Litt.

While living in the Eckville district the Johnsons took an active part in organizing and building the Liberty Hall that stood where old Eckville had been located. This hall was later sold to Matt Johnson. With the lumber he built himself a home in Eckville.

John and Mina's next residence was on the west end of Sylvan Lake. Thus they traded for a home in British Columbia. At the west coast

[illegible]

where they moved to Ramey, they bought an acreage and made it their home. Soon after moving, Mr. Johnson passed away. Their son Elmer and his family of Seattle, Washington, came to live with his widowed mother. Mrs. Johnson passed away a few years later.

Elmer, the Johnson's only son, passed away in 1961. He was married to Ida Koski. They have two sons and one daughter, all living in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

**JOHNSON, MATTI FAMILY**

Matti Nikodemus Harju (in Canada known as Johnson) was born on February 25, 1881 at Alavaden, Finland. Hulda Elizabeth Talson was born in Almy, Wyoming, U.S.A.

The Johnsons had the first steam outfit and John Deere tractor in the area. They also did custom breaking, clearing land of J. McDonald Land, and surrounding areas.

Matt Johnson's farm was a very busy place with 14 youngsters of their own and the A. B. Koski's across the road and the Jack Hietala and Andrew (Antti) Elson families nearby. The four families would often get together for an afternoon of ball playing, horseshoeing and swimming in the Medicine River below A. B. Koski's home. After the day's activities there was fresh home-made ice cream to eat at the Johnson's.

Helvie Elizabeth was born May 28, 1908. She lost her eyesight when she was 21 years old, so spent the biggest part of her life in C.N.I.B. in Calgary. It was there she met and married Walter Young. They had some very happy years together before she died in 1957.

Sylvia was born in 1910, but passed away in infancy due to whooping cough.

Charles Mathew was born May 25, 1911 and died January 1972. He worked in logging camps before retiring to Vancouver Island, where he resided until his passing.

William John "Bill" was born July 28, 1913. He married Elsie Hillcoat (daughter of Jack and Hilda) of Eckville and they had six sons and two daughters. They farmed for many years west of Eckville before retiring to Sylvan Lake in 1967. Elsie passed away September 25, 1968. Bill still living at Sylvan Lake.

Ronald William was born in 1941 and married Donna Wadell of Valleyview. They have three sons, William, Kelly and Ronald Jr.

Jack Arnold was born in 1946 and married Yvonne Rodtka in 1970, of Rocky Mountain House. They have two daughters, Tracey born June 8, 1975 and Linda born June 10, 1976.

Marvin Wayne was born in 1947 and married Carol Maser. Their two children were Tammy Lynn and Ricky. He later married Candace and their daughter is named Lana.

Elaine Helvie, born on April 11, 1950, married George Pillar of Sylvan Lake. Their daughter Marlene, was born November 30, 1968.

Dennis Mathew was born in 1952. He married Myrna O'Hara in 1970. Their two children are Aaron and Malena. They are presently in Saudi Arabia.

Larry Walter, born in 1954, married Shelly Mason. Their two sons are Shawn, born November 28, 1974 and Bryce, born in February 1977.

Leslie Allan was born in 1956 and married Deborah Rice of Eckville on July 26, 1975. They have one daughter, Marsie, born August 28, 1977.

Deloyce Hilda married Jim Danielson. Their daughter, Brandy, was born in December 1976.

Aillie Saraphia, March 30, 1915 — January 7 1978. She worked for many years in the Markerville area and for the J. Lawrence store in Red Deer until her marriage in 1939 to Hal Thompson. Hal was born in 1912 in Okotoks, came with his parents to the Poplar Ridge area in 1923, where Aillie and he farmed. Aillie also worked for a few years in the 1950's for Builder's Hardware in Red Deer. They have two [illegible]

Beverly Jean was born November 10, 1942. She married Joseph Roth Jr. in 1961, of Shady Nook. They farm in the Poplar Ridge district. Their three daughters are Yvonne Elizabeth (Bonnie), born April 21, 1961; Rose Marie, born August 22, 1963, and Karrie Jean born March 26 1966.

Yvonne Elizabeth (Beth) was born March 20, 1945 and married Bill Boyce of Penhold on June 5, 1965. They live in Calgary, and have three sons: Glenn William, born April 22, 1966, Calvin born June 13, 1970, and Daniel John, born October 24, 1972.

Arnold Eino was born April 1, 1917, and passed away January, 1972. He worked as a farmhand for Hans and Nora Moos and later stayed with Hal and Aillie at Red Deer. He spent some time, also, working in lumber camps in British Columbia.

Roy was born January 25, 1918. He married Donne Saandilka. He was a diesel mechanic until a few years ago when he retired in Penticton, B.C.

Edwin Herman (Eddie) was born April 4, 1920 and passed away in 1955. He worked for Dave Bourne in Red Deer trucking and as a cat operator until his death.

Ernest Wilfred (Ernie) was born August 20, 1922 and passed away on April 4, 1975. He worked for C.N. Elevator Builders crew until his marriage to Lil McNeil of Evarts. For some time he sold Rawleigh products in the Eckville area, then worked for many years as a butcher at A.S.H. and Deerhome in Red Deer. His two daughters are Katherine Elizabeth, born in 1954 and Helvie Lee, born May 14, 1957. She married Dwayne Ball in 1975.

Elsie Bernal was born May 5, 1924 and married Clifford McNeil of Coronation on September 28, 1944. Their first home was the Eckville Mutual Telephone Office. Clifford and Elsie moved to Midway, B.C. in 1951, where Cliff passed away on March 7, 1973. They had three sons and two daughters.

David was born April 1, 1952. He married Marilyn, and they have a son and a daughter.

Alan Peter born August 4, 1954, lives in Surrey, B.C.

Carolyn Margaret, born April 6, 1957, lives in Midway, B.C.

Patricia Marion, born March 8, 1960, lives at home, as does Donald Mathew, born February 13, 1961.

Dorothy Mildred, born November 17, 1925, married Charlie Niemi of Eckville in 1942. Charlie passed away September 1976. They have two daughters and six sons.

Charlette Ann, born May 25, 1944 in Rocky Mountain House, married Dieter Huhn in 1967.

Gerald Mathew, born November 11, 1946 married Charlotte Chamberlin of Lumby, B.C. in 1966. They reside in Revelstoke, B.C. Their two sons are Daryl, born in 1967 and Allen born in 1968.

Alexander Malcome, born June 8, 1948 [illegible] Liana Cremers in 1968. They reside in [illegible]

Judith Alice, born August 17, 1948, married Jim Melnick in 1973. They reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

James Willard, born August 29, 1952, was married in 1975 and lives in Grand Forks, B.C.

Cameron Charles, born July 28, 1959, married Lorraine Brown of Grand Forks, B.C. in 1977 and lives in Edmonton.

Timothy Arnold, born October 8, 1960, and lives at home in Grand Forks, B.C.

Daniel Eugene, born October 3, 1965, died in a house fire at Salmon Arm, B.C. in December [illegible]

Elmer Raymond, born May 2, 1927, married Eleanor Johnson of Stettler, Alberta on June 25, 1949. Elmer has been in the plastering and stucco business since 1948, being his own boss since 1966. That year he bought the Stanley Cates farm at Eckville and the family had their first taste of farming. They spent four wonderful years there, then sold the farm to Ernie Vokes and moved back to Red Deer. But farming was in their blood, so one year later they bought the Ernest Traskel farm in the Burnt Lake district and are still happily farming. They have one son and five daughters.

Linda Gail, born April 13, 1950, married Daryl Elson of Eckville on August 8, 1970. They have twin children, Chad Michel and Crystal Rose, born June 11, 1974. They live in Calgary.

Valerie Ann, born March 18, 1952, married Don McLean of Eckville on September 5, 1970 and had one daughter, Melanie Ann, born March 1971. Valerie later married Doug Denman and they have a daughter, Candace Marie, born on March 15, 1977. They live in Edson.

Raymond Elmer, born July 10, 1954, married Theresa Irene Sutherland of Air Force Base Penhold, on December 17, 1976. Raymond farms and stuccoes with his father.

Nancy Edwina, born May 3, 1957, married Terrence Kumm of Red Deer May 21, 1977. They live in Red Deer.

Robert Mathew, born July 20, 1959, married Linda Joan Hollom of Sylvan Lake October 30, 1976. Their son is Michael Robert, born September 9, 1977. They live at Sylvan Lake.

Dixie Lynn was born July 4, 1961, Mark Reginald on October 25, 1962, and Shannon Grace September 28, 1965. All are living at home and attending school at Sylvan Lake.

Helen was born in 1929 and married Melvin Kleeberger of Saskatchewan. They are now living at Dixon, California, U.S.A. They have three sons and one daughter.

Darryl Melvin was born in 1948 and was killed in a car accident in June 1966.

Randolph Lee was born January 11, 1951. Steven Charles on August 1, 1954. Phyllis Ann on October 7, 1956.

Rose Margaret was born May 10, 1931. She worked at the J. Lawrence Store in Red Deer until she moved to British Columbia. There she married Lyall Cross of Kelowna, B.C. on May 10, 1952. They moved to California and have one son and one daughter. Robert Patrick was born March 17, 1967 and Patricia Margaret on April 1, 1969.

**JOKINEN, HENRY**

Henry Jokinen was born in Tampere, Finland on February 12, 1885. He was the oldest son of a tailor. All clothes were then made by hand. He [illegible] college in Tampere, majoring in physical education and drama.

In 1909 he decided to emigrate to America, where it was rumored that the streets were paved with gold and fortunes would be easy to make. He worked at various jobs, such as clerk in a grocery store, in lumber camps, and in mines. However, his real interests lay in gymnastics, and he participated in establishing ski groups in the Y.M.C.A., using rings, parallel bars, tumbling and pyramids. He also organized theatre groups and directed many plays. Most of the communities where he lived had a majority of Finnish people, such as Eckville, and the scripts were in the Finnish language.

Maria Helena Skarp was born in Oulu, Finland on April 18, 1895. Her father was a sea captain who sank with his ship in the North Atlantic Ocean when she was seven years old. At the age of 18 years when she came to Duluth, Minnesota, she went to work for an uncle who owned a restaurant. It was there that she met her husband and they were married September 20, 1915. The next year a daughter, Helen Katherine, was born in Iron River, Michigan. They later moved to Butte, Montana, where Henry worked in the mines.

Maria contacted polio during the epidemic, and was partially paralyzed on her right side. Gradually, with physiotherapy administered by her husband, she overcame it, but was unable to have any more children. During their stay in Butte they were again very active in amateur theatre, both directing and acting.

In 1927 they decided to homestead in Canada. Henry arrived by train at Sylvan Lake in January. The temperature was 40 degrees below zero, one of the most severe winters in years—and he was then very skeptical about his decision to move to Canada. The following year the beauty of the country unfolded and the

Helen Jokinen

newness and the challenge of the pioneer living excited him, so he sent for his wife and daughter who was then 11 years old. They bought an acreage beside the Medicine River and began to build their house.

Henry worked as a carpenter in Eckville, Benalto and Sylvan Lake and the surrounding areas. He made many of the early buildings of logs, using an adze to square the corners. In the wintertime he liked to read, and had a large collection of books in English and Finnish. He made skis and poles out of poplar and birch wood. Candle wax was used to smooth the bottom of the skis. Races were held every winter. His love of dramatics prompted him to organize the building of a community hall, and he formed a little theatre group. The first play, "Seven Brothers", was a great success, and the admission was only 35 cents. The hall was also a warm dry place to hold physical exercise classes. The "Sisu Club" was made up of those interested in organized exercising.

Maria had a bit of trouble adjusting to pioneer life. Once she singed all her eyebrows off trying to light the wood-burning stove. The first

summer here she mistook a skunk for a black and white kitty. Luckily for her, the skunk was the faster runner! She loved gardening, and took much pride in her vegetables and the many varieties of flowers, as well as her indoor plants. She baked her own bread, made jams and canned wild berries.

For bathing a steam bath was used, as most of the families had a steam bath house.

Helen Jokinen finished her schooling in Eckville. She was very active in community affairs, and had a lovely singing voice. She went into training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. In 1936 she graduated as a registered nurse, then returned home to work in the old Eckville Hospital for one year. She was offered a position at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and there met and married Charles John Harris. A daughter, Mavis Elaine, was born to them on November 20, 1944. In July 1945 Helen moved back to Eckville with the baby while Mr. Harris moved to British Columbia to establish a home for the family. Helen went back to work at the local hospital, but on December 20, 1945 she died of a brain hemorrhage while working the night shift.

The grandparents received custody of Mavis and she grew up and took all of her schooling here, graduating from Grade 12 in the Eckville school in 1962. Mavis married Fred Oczko in February, 1966. They have two boys. Andy James was born February 25, 1967 and Brent Allan was born March 14, 1969. Mavis graduated as a registered nurse in 1974 and at this time she is employed in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Henry died October 15, 1970. Maria lived in Eckville until 1974, when she went to Lethbridge to live with her granddaughter until her death on November 18, 1975. Both Henry and Maria are buried in the family plot in Eckville cemetery along with their only child, Helen.

**JONES, MR. AND MRS. ALBERT — by their daughter, Mrs. Alvin Greenman**

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones, moved to Eckville in 1943. During the first winter they lived on the Tom Smith place, but later bought a lot in Eckville and built a house on it. Mrs. McCann now owns the house they built.

[illegible] the winters in Eckville. His health was [illegible] away and was buried in the Travers cemetery.

Mother remarried on August 19, 1953 to Jesse Benge of Benkelman, Nebraska, U.S.A. and moved there.

She and Jesse returned here for visits several times. She passed away on September 4, 1970 at the age of 87 years. She was buried in Benkelman, Nebraska.

**KANGAS, AUGUST AND SELINA**

August and Selina Kangas and their two children, Frank Selden and Maemi came to Alberta from Butte, Montana in 1911. They travelled by horse and wagon from Red Deer to Leafland, six miles north of Lesliemille, to their homestead. Two of their friends, John Leinonen and John Kuju had arrived earlier and had built a one-room cabin on Leinonen's place where August and Selina stayed until they built a cabin on August's homestead. August and Selina immigrated to the U.S.A. to Michigan in 1903 where they met and married. Their first child Frank Selden was born there. From there they moved to Butte where their second child, Maemi was born.

They lived on the homestead for five years. The area was all virgin land. The neighbors were newcomers, most of them Finns from Butte or the northern states. They were the people who opened the surrounding country, built the schools and made the roads. Mr. Henry Ludwig was the teacher when Leafland School opened its doors for the first time. Later on he taught high school in Eckville so he was Maemi's and Selden's first and last teacher.

The life on the homestead had hardships and happy times too. Wild berries and game were plentiful. Selina with her two children picked berries and August hunted birds or game and never came back empty-handed. Selden and Maemi set snares for rabbits which were in abundance, just thousands of them. Selina fixed them, made stews or chopped up for delicious meat balls or hamburgers as they are called now. Later on the rabbits developed a sickness and haven't been as numerous since.

In the summer there were the picnics and in the winter socials and dances. The dances were held in anyone's place who was fortunate enough to have a house or barn loft big enough to hold a crowd. They were really family affairs, they all bundled in bobsleds and away they would go to dance until the wee hours in the morning. August and Selina were very fond of dancing. Bill Austin was the chief caller for quadrilles and square dances. The summer picnics were fun too. There was always lots of lemonade and ice cream sometimes if someone still had ice in their dugouts. The children had games and races and then there were sing-songs and speeches on politics or current affairs. Victor Mattson was the speaker mostly. They all came dressed in their best finery — no blue jeans or t-shirts. In some respects life was good but money was scarce. Some winters August would go back to Butte to the mines to earn money to provide clothing for the family, three children now. Helen was born in 1912 and was to be the only Canadian born in their family of four. Then there was the need for implements and stock to buy. Selina stayed on the homestead and would get someone in to help with the chores and for company. The winters were cold and lonely. One winter Mildred Schey Olson from Eckville stayed. One day Mildred rescued Maemi when a mad pig attacked her. She beat the pig with a

broom until he released a very frightened little girl but not badly hurt, only minor teeth marks and scratches. Another winter Selden developed a kidney problem. August rode horseback to the nearest doctor in Eckville for medication. Selden got well and there were no more health problems.

In 1916 they tired of homestead life. Prospects of making a better life were promising in Butte as copper was in great demand. World War I was raging in Europe. The first year was fine but later on in the second year the miners went on strike which lasted nine months. The strike ended, August worked again for a while and before long they decided to come back to Alberta with their four children. Ralph was born in Butte.

In June 1918 they arrived in Eckville at the Kootuk railway depot. Ole Olson was there to meet them. They stayed with Olsons until they bought a farm one-half mile west, which is now the late Simon Wansanen's farm. There was a frame house on the place but no barns. So again August was starting from scratch. It was hard going as during the war the cost of living had

Little by little August got going, getting more implements and stock as the time went on. Selden, Maerni and Helen attended Blue Bell School about two miles south. Life was about the same as on the homesteads with its ups and downs. There were drought years with poor crops, so again August went in the winters back to the mines to earn more money, sometimes to Butte or to the coal mines in Nordegg. As Selden and Maerni grew older they helped out with doing the janitor work in the Blue Bell School. Selina at times worked for town people.

August and Selina took part in all social activities. They did their share in getting funds to build the Liberty Hall north of Eckville. One time Selina made all the costumes for a Finnish play conducted by Jokinen and held in the Eckville Hall. Both August and Selina were always willing to help a neighbor. When babies were born, Selina was often the mid-wife. August even delivered a neighbor's baby safe and sound. He went to help a neighbor with the haying. When he got there and was waiting in the house while the neighbor went for his horses from the pasture, the wife went into labor and there was no time to get outside help. This baby is still living somewhere in Alberta.

In 1920 August rented the Charlie Randall's farm and moved his family to live there. Maerni and Helen attended Eckville School when the pupils moved from the old school north of town to the new two-room school in town. Later on after the family moved back to their own place Maerni attended Eckville School again for the high school grades which Mr. Ludwig taught. Helen did the same. Selden dropped out of school early and went to work for the C.P.R. section crew. During harvest he worked around Trochu and Barons. Finally he moved to Butte to the miners, and then to California where he died in 1954.

August and Ralph were the last to leave the farm in 1938. The only surviving members of the Kangas family are Ralph in Ladysmith, B.C. and Maerni in Calgary. Helen moved to Montana and then Seattle where she married and went to Alaska. She died there in 1941.

**CHESTER KASHA — by Helen Kasha**

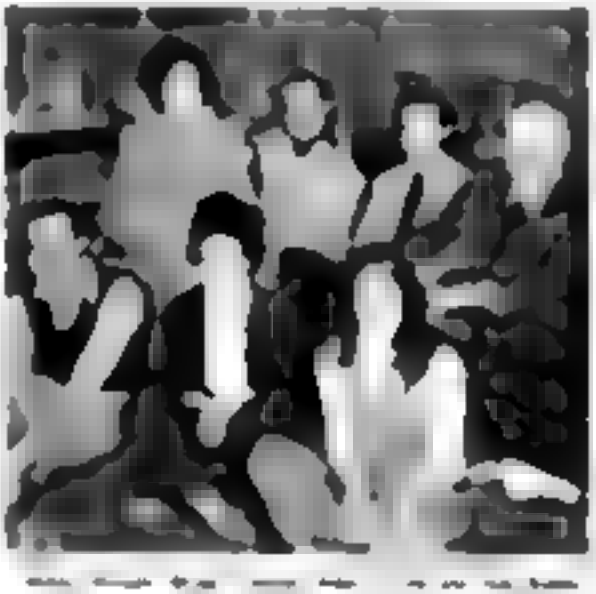
Chester Kasha was born in Lacombe in 1911 and I (the former Helen Susut) was born in southern Alberta in the Retlaw area in 1911. My family (the Susuts) moved to the Clive and Lacombe area in 1927.

Chester and I were married in Red Deer in 1935. We farmed in the Iowaita district near Lacombe for eleven years. Then we bought a farm five and one-half miles northwest of Rimbey. In 1946 we left the Iowaita district and moved to Rimbey where we farmed for three

In 1949 we sold the farm and bought the Massey-Harris business from Jake Busslinger's estate in Eckville. This business was located where the present A. H. Moench Hardware and the Credit Union are now. We also bought the Busslinger home, where I still live. In 1963 Chester bought the Axel Hansen farm south of Eckville, near Highway 11. A new building was built and in 1964 we moved the business out there. This is where the Massey Ferguson dealership still operates.

Our four children, Verna, Don, Ed and Bryan were born in Lacombe, and the fifth child, Ann was born in Eckville in 1955. They all completed their schooling and graduated in Eckville.

Ann is enrolled in the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Verna married Paul Haljan of Edmonton and they are living in Edmonton. They have three boys.



David, Gregory and Paulie. The histories of the other children appear separately in this book.

Chester was elected to the Town Council in March 1953, served as deputy Mayor and Mayor until 1956, at which time he resigned as Mayor and still stayed on Council until October of 1962. He was a member of the Eckville Lion's Club and was president during the 1959-1960 term. Through the years we attended many Lion's conventions. He was also a member of the Red Deer Elks Club, the Eckville Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade and the Curling Club.

I am a member of the Eckville Catholic Women's League and the Benalto Roya. Purple. In earlier years I was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary, the Women's Institute, the Evening Group and the Curling Club in Eckville.

In 1974 we celebrated 25 years of Massey Ferguson business in Eckville. The business is called Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd.

Chester passed away on April 3, 1975. His sons operate the business at present, and I hope it will stay in the family for many years.

**CHESTER DONALD KASHA AND FAMILY — by Mrs. Kasha**

Don Kasha was born in Lacombe on July 17 1940, the son of Chester and Helen Kasha. At the age of five the family moved to Rimbey where he went to school for three years. In the year 1949 his family moved to Eckville and Don finished his schooling here. Shortly after Don was out of school he tried his hand at driving a truck hauling pulp wood to the mill at Hinton. Finding that there was no future in it, he came to work selling farm machinery for his father.

As a young boy Don was very interested in hockey and once he was out of school he began playing for the Eckville Eagles Senior Hockey Team.

In the early sixties Don was the fire-chief of the Eckville Volunteer Fire Department living and working very close to the fire hall was quite an asset in this activity.

On August 25, 1962 Don married Elaine May Johnson. Elaine was born on March 8, 1943 in New Westminster, B.C. and she received her schooling in Surrey, B.C.

Don and Ela ne made their home in a suite that was owned by Don's father, Chester Kasha. The Massey-Ferguson Implement dealership, also owned by Don's father was downstairs in the same building.

In 1965 Don built a home on an acreage two and a half miles south of Eckville.

There are two children in the Don Kasha family. The oldest child is a boy, Brett Joseph, born on February 15, 1963 and a girl, Jayme May, born on July 31, 1966.

**KASHA, BRYAN CHARLES — by Mrs. Bryan [illegible]**

Bryan Charles was born September 15, 1945 in Lacombe, the third son of Chester Frank and Helen Marie (Susut) Kasha. He lived with his parents, sister Verna and brothers Donald and Edward on a farm in the Iowaita District near Lacombe. In 1946 they moved to a farm five miles west of Rimbey, and in 1949 the family moved to Eckville when Chester purchased the Massey-Harris dealership.

Bryan attended the elementary, junior and senior high schools in Eckville. His first teacher was Mrs. Morrisey. One year the Grade 5 class was taught in the Lion's Hall by Mrs. Marjorie Lazzer because there was not enough classroom space available in the school building. Some high school shop classes were held in a building that was on the present site of the Co-op Hardware.

During his school years Bryan participated in track and field, curling and the Eckville community band, in which he played the French horn and the snare drum.

Bryan played hockey with the Eckville Eagles for many years as a goalie, left wing and defence. He was also active in the Eckville Pony Chariot and Chuckwagon Club when it first was formed for several years afterwards.

Upon graduation from high school in 1964 Bryan enrolled in automotive mechanics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. While there he played hockey with the S.A.I.T. Trojans. After completion of this course

[illegible] Bryan, Jan, Shawn, Kasha

In 1966 Bryan continued working in his father's business in Eckville. He later completed the Heavy Duty Diesel Mechanics course at S.A.I.T.

On July 23, 1966 Bryan married Johanne Iris Evenishen in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. She taught Grades 4 to 6 in the Eckville Elementary School until 1973 and is now doing substitute teaching whenever needed.

Bryan and Johanne resided in the Carl Fisher apartments for several years and then rented the J. Tulloch farm south and west of Eckville. In 1969 they purchased a trailer and lived near Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd. at S.W. 3-38-3-W5. A house was erected there in 1975. A daughter, Melesia, was born May 4, 1971 and a son, Kes was born June 11, 1973. Both children were born in Eckville.

**KASHA, EDWARD AND LEAH — by Leah Kasha**

Eddie, the second son of Helen and the late Chester Kasha, was born in Lacombe in 1942. In 1949 the Kasha's moved to Eckville where Eddie received his education. After leaving school, he went to work as an apprenticing mechanic for his father, who owned the Massey Ferguson dealership. In 1961 he started going to technical school in Calgary, and later continued on in Edmonton until receiving his automotive and heavy duty mechanics license.

Over the years Eddie has been involved in many local organizations. As a boy he belonged to Cubs, Scouts, and Army Cadets. Later he was a scout leader. Also, he was interested in hockey, playing with the Eckville Eagles, and coaching a midget team.

Eddie married a local girl, Leah Lutz, the daughter of Julia and the late Arthur Lutz. Leah was born in Eckville and received her education there. She is an active member of the curling club and the O.O.R.P. of Benalto. Since 1965 she has worked part-time at the local Post office.

Eddie and Leah have two children, Lonnie and Julie. They both attend school in Eckville. They reside on an acreage close to the family business south of Eckville.

**THE CHARLES KASPER FAMILY — by Mrs. August Kasper**

Charles Kasper was born in the district of Wasa, Finland, on January 26, 1873. He emigrated to the United States at an early age where he lived for a time in Nebraska and also in Minnesota. During that time he served for a period in the U.S. army. Later he worked in the mines in Butte, Montana. It was here that he married Nanni Kultala on December 3, 1903. She had been born in Raahi, Finland, and emigrated to the United States to Butte with her brother Henry Kultala.

In 1905, along with other settlers including the Frank Heltalas and the Frank Palms, the Kaspers came to Alberta and took up a homestead on SW 26-38-3-W5. They came in January

Charles and Nanni Kasper and children Annie, Otto, Mrs. August, Charlie, Nanni and Raymond.

and the winter was bitterly cold. Little is known of their hardships during those early homesteading days. Mr. Kasper did go back to the mines at Butte during the winters. Later they milked cows and the milk was taken to the local cheese factory one and one-half miles away.

Charles Kasper contributed much to the community in which he lived. Being a very active man, he gave a lot of his time to public affairs. The Eckville School District probably received more of his time than any other organization as he was a school board member for a period of more than 30 years, and was the chairman of the board at the time of his death. He was also councillor for the district of Lorne for a number of years. He took a leading part in establishing a Pool creamery for the district and served as a director for several years. Being an enterprising farmer and dairyman, he was some of the first ones in the district to own a manure spreader. He helped to organize the Eckville Mutual Telephone system and was one of the first to install a delco light system on his farm. He served the Presbyterian Church as chairman of the board for a few years and was largely responsible for moving the old school building into town to be used as the first church in Eckville.

Mr. Kasper died suddenly on December 7, 1929. He was on his usual morning run delivering milk to the village of Eckville when he had a stroke from which he never recovered. Mrs. Kasper, with the help of her family, kept the farm and the dairying operations going until her death in October 1960.

At the Eckville Home & School Association meeting on March 17, 1966, Mr. Julian Sambrooke, Divisional Trustee, presented a set of books to the school from the Encyclopaedia Britannica Company to be known as "The Charles Kasper Encyclopedia."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kasper had nine children, eight of whom were born at Eckville. Annie was born in Butte, Montana. She married Guy Heath of Olmont, Montana. They had one

son, George, who married Doreen Soerd. George and Doreen had two children – a daughter Valerie, and a son, Leonard, both living in Calgary. Alline and Guy lived in Eckville for about 28 years after which they moved to Penticton, B.C. Guy died in Eckville in 1971 and Alline makes her home in Penticton.

Ottie married Ivey Kujala and they had two sons, Gale and Keith, and a daughter Jean. They later moved to Vancouver to make their home. Ottie passed away in 1970.

Eino died in 1961 at the age of 52 years.

Lempi was born in 1910, and died in 1917. Benny was born in 1912 and died in 1916.

August was born in 1914 and is still active on his farm near Eckville.

Nanny was born in 1916 and married Frank Zaleski. They had four sons – Jimmy, Darwin, Dallas, and Bill. Jimmy and Dallas are since deceased. Darwin and his family live in Calgary. Bill married Katherine Anderson and they live in Blackfalds, Alberta.

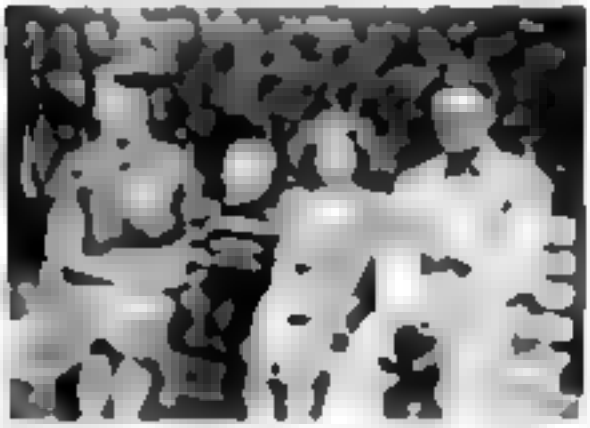
Charlie was born in 1921. He and his wife Carrol, make their home in Summerland, B.C.

Ray died in Calgary in 1974 at the age of 51 years.

**THE AUGUST KASPER FAMILY — by Mrs. August Kasper**

August Kasper was born in Eckville in 1914, the son of Charles and Nanna Kasper. He left school at the age of 14 to help with the farm work after his father's death in 1928. In 1938 he married Fannie Tulsky of Manyberries, Alberta, and they had two children. Judy has been a teacher with the Calgary Public School System for eight years, after having received her B.Ed. Degree "With Distinction" from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Bryon, of Edmonton, is a professional engineer and is presently studying for his Master's Degree at the University of Alberta on a two-year scholarship awarded by the National Research Council of Ottawa.

During the Second World War, in the spring of 1941, August and Fannie left for Edmonton where August took a course in sheet metal at a Youth Training Center. Later he was employed by Air Craft Repair, working on planes. Fannie worked at the New Method Laundry for the four years of their stay in Edmonton. Early in 1943 August enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and was discharged in 1945 at the end of the war having spent two years in the Service in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia.



Following his return, August and Fannie came back to Eckville to the farm. They bought a half section (S.15-38-3-W5) from his mother with the help of the V.L.A. They spent all of their earnings of the past four years on clearing the land to start farming. Later they were able to build a barn and started milking cows. Following this enterprise they went quite extensively into the raising of hogs. At present their main interest is the raising of Simmental cattle.

About 1960 August was in the "Save the Soil" campaign sponsored by the Eckville Board of Trade. He worked closely with the District Agriculturist of Lacombe to improve his farming methods and to keep his farm productive.

At present August is a director for the Diamond Valley Gas Co-op, and is the secretary of the Eckville Credit Union. Fannie is the librarian at the Eckville Public Library during the winter months and also is a long-time member of the Country Ladies Aid.

**KAUPPI — written by Sylvia Thorkmann**

Mr. Kauppi, one of the very first residents in the Eckville area, squatted on the S.W. 22-38-2W5 in the 1900's.

Very little is known about this brave man. He lived in a tent the first years, later building himself a log cabin by the Medicine River.

His only companion was his cat Mara.

One day a neighbor had stopped in for a visit, and while they were visiting, a very wet Mara walked in.

Mr. Kauppi looked at the cat and said 'Mara has tried to do a little fishing.'

When homesteads were available, he filed on this property and received his title for the land.

A few years later his health began to deteriorate and he was cared for by the Charlie Kasper family until his passing.

He had no known relatives.

**THE HISTORY OF THE KEMILA FAMILY**

Mathew and Madgelena Kemila were originally from Oulu, Finland. In the late 1800's they left Oulu and immigrated to the Dakota's in the United States of America.

With their seven children, Mary, John, Charlie, Mathew, Elmer, Gus and Jenny, Mathew and Madgelena began a new life in Rock Lake, North Dakota. Tragedy struck several years later when Mathew was critically injured in an accident. Several horses bolted and ran, throwing Mathew under the wheel of the grain wagon. Mathew passed away three days later.

In 1906, Madgelena and her family left North Dakota and moved to Sylvan Lake, Alberta. For a short period of time they all stayed at Alix Kinnunen's until they settled in the Gilby district. In later years all the children would homestead in this area also.

Mathew and Madgelenas' first child, Mary, moved to Saskatchewan where she met and married Edward Niska. One of their children is Mrs. Hazel Johnson who married the late Charlie Johnson. Hazel resides in Sylvan Lake.

Gus Kemila also moved to Saskatchewan. Here he farmed until his passing. Elmer moved to Saskatchewan where he farmed before returning to the United States.

In 1912, Jenny married Gus Sestrap. They operated a general store in the Gilby district. In later years Matt Mathew Kemila married and left the Gilby district to farm in the Saskatchewan area. He later returned to the United States.

Charlie also spent some time in Saskatchewan but later returned to the Sylvan Lake district where he married Wilhelmena Kinnunen. Charlie lived on a small acreage west of Sylvan Lake where they made their living selling garden supplies and dairy products to stores and summer campers. Here they resided until their passing. They had no family.

John Kemila married Mary Elizabeth Koski and farmed in the Gilby District for a short time until they settled in Eckville, Alberta. John was a mail carrier out of Eckville from 1912 to 1932. He delivered mail for the Alberta Government during the First World War, carrying mail from the Eckville, Gilby, and Leedale districts. This was a distance of 30 miles. Many funny incidents occurred during this time. One time one of the horses balked and lay down when John hooked them up. It took him a good half hour to get the horse up. Incidentally, this horse turned out to be the best one of the bunch because he never stopped once he got going.

In 1924, John Kemila built his first truck which was just a frame to which he added a box. This replaced the horses which he had used to haul freight to the Gilby, Lockhart and Leedale districts. John Kemila was known to be a jovial character. He was also the sheriff in Eckville for

In 1932, John started a livery stable and a garage where it doubled as a supply house for coffins and funeral supplies. While John had the garage, he and a neighbor, Charlie Gustavson built what was known then as a snowmobile car. Actually what it was, was a car mounted on a type of ski runners and powered by an engine with a prop in front of it. This machine was used as transportation for Dr. Sommerville for traveling across the fields to take care of his patients. It is understood that this machine is in the museum at Wetaskiwin. John Kemila passed away on December 4, 1959.

John and Elizabeth Kemila had five children,

Senia, Selma, John, Elmer and Emil. Senia was the first child born on July 20, 1908. Senia was married to the late George Mattson. George was a mechanic in Sylvan Lake in 1941 until moving to Condor where he farmed. Later he purchased another farm in Sylvan Lake. George Mattson died in 1963. Senia and George had two children, Walter and Viola. Senia lived in Sylvan Lake until she died in March of 1975.

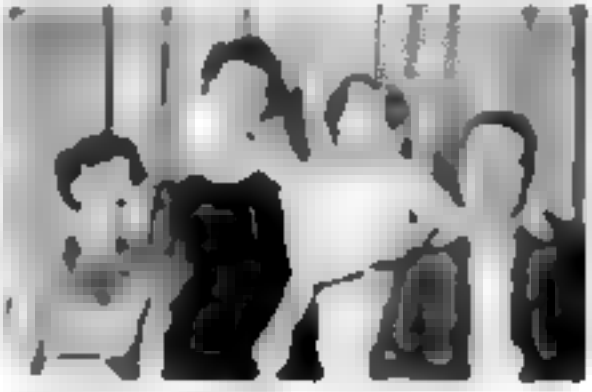
Walter Mattson now resides in Red Deer, Alberta with his wife Jeanette. Walter and Jeanette had four children, Garth, Brian, Susan and Janice. Garth died in 1957 at the age of seven. Brian married Donna Horsley), and they have a son Shane born to them in 1976.

Viola married Frank Reese, and they have one son Micheal. They reside in Costa Mesa, California.

Selma was the second child born, September 30, 1909. Selma was married to the late Ed Koski. They had three children, Ethel, Helen, and Edward. Selma now resides in Edmonton.

Their third child was John, he was born on May 11, 1911. He was known in the district for a good many years as a trucker and a welder. Little John was considered a humorous fellow. Little John was the first man to have a truck equipped with a P.T.O. for loading grain.

John married Lily Lindequist) and they had



two children, Irene and Jean. Irene is now living in Port Arthur Ontario and Jean is in Vancouver B.C. Little John passed away on April 21 1896.

Elmer was the fourth child of John and Elizabeth Kemble. Elmer was born on November 15, 1912, and died on January 7, 1925, at the early age of 12. Cause of death is not known.

Their fifth child, Emil, has also passed away leaving his wife, Ella and five children, Elmer Sylvia, Clara, Clifford and Beverly. There were also five grandchildren. Emil passed away on May 9, 1968.

**ROY AND LIZ — (as told by Roy)**

My parents emigrated from England to the Eastern United States in 1906. 10 years later arriving in Red Deer Alberta. I was born in a small red house on Michener Hill in Red Deer. A few years later we moved to Edwell, east of Red Deer where I put in my first year of school. from here we were transferred to Willowdale, an adjoining school district where I finished my Grade 9.

After school I spent several years on the home farm, then took off on my own, working on several local farms and later in construction. I worked for Charlie Ross who was foreman for the Mutual Telephone Company at the time, and for numerous other construction companies.

In 1937 I married Elizabeth Holland of the Tom Holland family, she was born in England in 1918. They came from England to Canada in 1924 and to the Lesueville district in 1930.

I continued farming, doing construction jobs whenever possible. we put in a year in the Sylvan Lake area and then back to Red Deer.

In 1941 our son Keith was born while we were renting a farm in the Shady Nook area a few miles west of Red Deer.

In 1943, our daughter Sheila was born. We were on the Bob Cruickshank farm while Bob was serving overseas in the Second World War.

In 1944, we purchased the Springvale Manse and acreage where we resided for a couple of years, working on local farms and in construction.

In 1946, we purchased a farm in the Markerville district — SE 27 37 2-W5. where we farmed till the winter of 1959 and 60. We then sold out and moved to Eckville. Here my wife worked at the Eckville Hospital for over 18 years. I put in three years as "butter maker" at the Eckville Creamery — two years as "nightman" at the Eckville Hotel — then worked at the Eckville Hospital from 1965 till 1975. After leaving the hospital we retired and are living at home in Eckville.

Our son Keith was married to Maureen Carroll and had two children Shauna and Ryan. Keith and Maureen were divorced and went their [illegible]

Keith is now married to Lillian Barbus and they reside in Rimbey. Their family consists of two boys. Colin and Jason.

Our daughter Sheila is married to Lyal Johnston of Rimbey. they have three children Norma, Angela and Wesley.

Added notes by hospital patients:

1 "During the 10 years Roy and Lizzie worked at the Eckville Hospital I'm sure most patients will remember the visits they made to patients. My, how it brightened their stay in hospital. Roy always had a joke for everyone which made their stay seem shorter. Lizzie did many things to cheer up patients, but never wanted to take credit for such as doing many a janitor job, nurse maid or what have you. Many of us who spent time in hospital, especially long periods of time will be forever grateful to Roy and Lizzie."

2 "After many stays in hospital, some of my pleasant memories were Roy's cheery night whistle and infectious laughter in passing our rooms, and his genuinely interested friendly visits. When I was on special diet I remember Liz smiling at my door "What would you like to eat to-day"? It made you feel like nothing was too much trouble — and that's a good feeling when [illegible]

**KENNEDY, BOB AND OLIVAR (MAC**

Bob and I were married in Hanna and moved to Eckville in 1936. Robert was then two years old and Barry was born in 1937. Bob passed away in October 1946. I was working in the Co-op Store

Our house burned down in 1941 and we then lived over Ferris' store before buying the house next to Emma Lutz.

Robert spent five years in the Air Force, then married Margaret in the East. He has lived in Montreal for 15 or 16 years. They have three children — Robbie, 16 years, Joanne, 12 years and Gail, 9 years. He works in a rug business where he has been for the past six years.

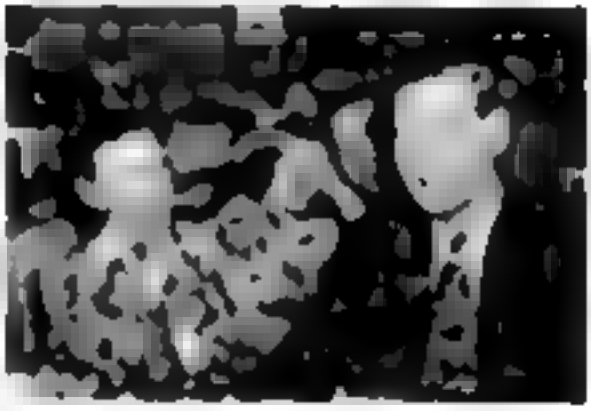
Barry and Roseann live in Prince George, B.C. Barry works for the Northwest Paving where he has been employed for many years. They have three children, Wendal is 14, Jan 13, and Debbie is 10 years old.

We left Rockyford where I worked for the Alberta Government Telephones from 1950 to 1955 and then lived in Prince George, where I worked for the Co-op for one year. After this I married Charles Thompson and we moved to the Okanagan in 1957. We have lived in Kelowna for four and one-half years.

Mom and Dad lived on the old Weeks place and later moved into town at the railroad. Dad passed away in Eckville in 1946 and Mom passed away in Kelowna in 1966.

**KENNEDY, MRS. J. (nee Barlund**

I, Mandy Caroline Barlund born on April 15 1916 in Eckville, Alberta, Canada. I went to Bluebell School, Eckville High School and Garbutt Business College in Calgary. I then went to work in North Vancouver, British Columbia. In 1940 I moved to Seattle, Washington where I now



reside. On May 8, 1943 I married Jesse G. Kennedy Jr. We have four children, Carolyn Lilacy, Sandra Marie, Kathryn Barlund and Jesse G. Kennedy III.

Here are a few incidents which I recall. When my mother went into labor with my younger sister Ellen, my brother ran about one and one half miles to a neighbor and told her that mother was about to have the baby and would she come to take care of mother as had been arranged beforehand. The neighbor lady said, "No, I'm sorry I can't come because Pa is going hunting with Oswald O. Forhan and I have to patch his pants." Henry ran back home and then he and my sister Ina ran to Eckville to see if they could get any help. They stopped at the John Kennedys. Mrs. Kennedy had company but she left them and rushed with Henry and Ina to come and be a midwife for mother and just in time. What a traumatic experience that must have been for two young children.

I was five years old when I went on our first camping trip with my mother and dad, Ernest and Ellen. We went to the northwest shore of Sylvan Lake in a wagon. We got there in the afternoon and Dad went fishing and caught several pike. He put the fish and some potatoes to cook in the coals of the campfire. We were sure that Dad would ruin all that beautiful fish in the coals. Mother prepared the rest of the meal. What a dinner! I have never since had such delicious fish. For the night we all bedded down in the wagon box. The next morning we woke up to one of those truly beautiful Alberta sunny days. Ina arrived on horseback. She had had to stay at home to do the chores, milk cows, feed and water cattle. Dad went fishing again and when he had his catch we all played out in the water then Dad swam out a long ways and yelled "goodbye" then disappeared under the water. We children drew in our breaths because we thought he had drowned when up he popped several yards from where he had disappeared. He did this several times. It was the first time I had seen anyone swim under water. In the afternoon we went blueberry picking. Nothing can

compare in flavor to the Alberta low bush blueberry. When we started dinner a huge black cloud appeared in the sky. We had barely finished when the sky seemed to rip open with lightning and the thunder was deafening. It started to rain so we rushed to a nearby

in for the night. I suppose I remember this picnic so well because everyone in the family had such a happy time!

The Indians always fascinated me. My dad hired some of them to help him clear some land. Mother gave them milk and eggs and bread. After that, every summer long wagonloads of Indians came to our place for a handout. They had found out that mother was an "easy touch". I remember seeing the Indians camped by the Horseguard river. I hated to see their hobbled horses. I felt so sorry for the horses. After the Indians left we'd go to their campsite and we'd see the framework of their steam baths. One Sunday many young Indian men came to our place to show us how far they could shoot their arrows. The height and distance was incredible. I always wondered where they spent their winters because they had so few possessions and the winters were so harsh.

Although money was so scarce in the 1920's we created our own entertainment: softball, baseball, swimming, skiing, skating and dances. We had a lot of fun and there are many happy

**KERCH, JOE, ERNIE AND DOLLY**

Sometime during the first World War, Joe and Ernie Kerch arrived in the Eckville area. They lived on several farms, finally settling on the E½ 8-39-3-W5. A sister Dolly and her husband Jack Bromling arrived a little later and established themselves on the now Cunningham farm. About 1918 another brother Levi drove a four mule team and wagon loaded with machinery from Minnesota, to join his brothers. A home and other buildings were readied for the arrival of their parents, John and Ann Kerch and a fourth brother Ervin.

Working as a family they were soon farming

several quarters, had a good herd of Hereford cattle, some excellent hogs, a well-drilling outfit, a steam engine and threshing machine. They did their own carpentry and mechanical work. Detailed information was kept on each of the 1000 wells drilled, such as depth, quantity and quality of water obtained.

Jack Bromling was Searle elevator man for years in Eckville. The elder Kerch's passed on in the 1930's.

The brothers continued to farm till 1943, when a farm sale was held. Fred Moos bought the well drilling outfit and Alfred Molander still has the 1916 threshing machine, which is still in very good condition.

After their sale the brothers and Dolly and Jack Bromling moved to Corning, California, U.S.A. Ernie and Joe, though up in years, still reside there, the others having passed on.

**KERKKANEN LEMPI AND SIMON**

Lempi and Simon Kerkkanen were married in Butte, Montana in 1907 after having come from Finland some years before. In 1911, with their daughter Lillian, they moved to homestead in the Withrow district. For a few years Simon worked in the copper mines in Butte to supplement the income needed on the homestead. In 1912 they moved to their quarter section three miles northeast of Eckville, living in a small one roomed home which they later converted into a chicken house. They moved the house from the homestead to their farm and added on to it in 1927-28. At this time their daughter was married and they took Agnes and William, a niece and nephew of Mrs. Kerkkanen, into their home. William, however, died in 1934 at the age of 21. Mr. Kerkkanen died on June 2, 1936, being caused by injuries received in an auto collision.

Lempi remarried in 1939 to Verner Junnila and together they continued to farm until 1956. At this time they retired to Eckville, but in 1958 Verner passed away after a lengthy illness.

In 1961 Lempi was married again and moved to Rainier, Washington. After her third husband Tony Kalla, passed away in 1965, she moved to Ladysmith, B.C., where she passed away in February of 1966. Lempi was buried in the Eckville Cemetery in the family plot there.

**THE IKE KALLA FAMILY — by Shirley McPhee, a Daughter**

Ike and Irene Kalla moved to Eckville in 1927 and lived in a house belonging to Mrs. Langer's father. Ike was a clerk in the Co-op Store, which was located where the J & K Foods store is now. They bought Umari's old house, and their first daughter Alice, was born here in September, 1929, delivered by Dr. Sommerville. Their second daughter, Shirley, was born in the Bentley hospital in June, 1934, delivered by Dr. Henry. In 1939 Ike and Irene bought the old Odd Fellows Hall and renovated it and lived there. When the new Co-op was built, Ike worked there, replacing Oswald Umari as manager, when Oswald retired

in 1940. A few years later they moved into their new house, which was built next to the ball park.

Movies were shown once a week in the Eckville Hall by Mr. Watkiss from Sylvan Lake. Ike purchased this business and in 1947 opened the Ecko Theatre, in a building owned by Ernest Jackson. It is still in its present location. About the same time, Ike purchased the local Chinese Cafe from "Happy", renovated it, and it became a popular eating spot.

Under Ike's management, the Co-op grew from a small general store to one that had large individual departments, including groceries, meats and cold storage, drygoods, hardware, lumber, service station, gas and oils, machinery and a lunch-counter.

Ike was very active in community affairs. He was a charter member and president of the Lions Club, a member of the Recreation Association, was instrumental in the formation of the Credit Union, managed the local baseball team in the late 1940's (when Eckville's team was recognized throughout Alberta), was chairman of the schoolboard that got the high school back to Eckville, and managed the hockey team at various times, usually with Uno Krinilla as his right-hand man. Both Ike and Irene were ardent

Ike, Irene and Shirley moved to Red Deer in 1950. In 1956 Ike and Irene moved to Edmonton where, in 1960 Ike suffered a stroke. He continued in poor health until he passed away on July 22, 1976, but he always managed to maintain his zest for living. Irene still lives in Edmonton and enjoys good health.

Alice married W. G. (Bill) Hawkins, who ran the U.G.G. elevator in Kootuk in 1949. Their older son, James, was born in Eckville in 1950, delivered by Dr. Coppock. Alice, being a talented pianist, played for many dances, social events and funerals in Eckville and the surrounding area. Alice and Bill left Eckville in 1951 when Bill joined the R.C.A.F. They now live in Richmond, B.C. They have four children. James, who received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, is married and lives in Calgary. He is employed by Imperial Oil. Bradley lives in Ottawa where he is employed by a consulting engineer. Katherine is employed in Richmond, and Kimberly is still in school.

Shirley received her certification as an X-ray technician while working at Parson's Clinic in Red Deer, and received her B.S. Degree in medical technology from the University of Alberta. She married Donald James McPhee from Red Deer, and they now reside out of St. Albert. They have two sons, Gregory, who is attending U. of A. in the faculty of mechanical engineering, and Gary, who has just completed high school.

**KILLICK, J. H. AND FAMILY**

Mr. J. H. Killick came to Canada from England in 1899 and in 1900 took up land in the Pine Lake district. Not liking the cold winter, he returned to England (the fare from Red Deer to London was $65 at that time), but was back in Canada by the fall of 1902.

At that time Evarts was a busy place serving the whole area, and especially the immense district west to the Saskatchewan River. Mr. Killick chose Evarts as the place to start a store in 1903.

He married Miss Ada Belle Brown in 1906. She had come from Nova Scotia in 1906 and was teaching in Evarts. In 1905 she was the first teacher in the Bluebell School, built in 1905, west of Evarts. In 1905 Mr. Killick established a store on the Medicine River, two miles north of the present town of Eckville. He successfully applied for a post office for the area, and it must be given a name. Because he was leasing land from a Mr. Eckford, he called the post office "Eckville" — which is how Eckville got its name.

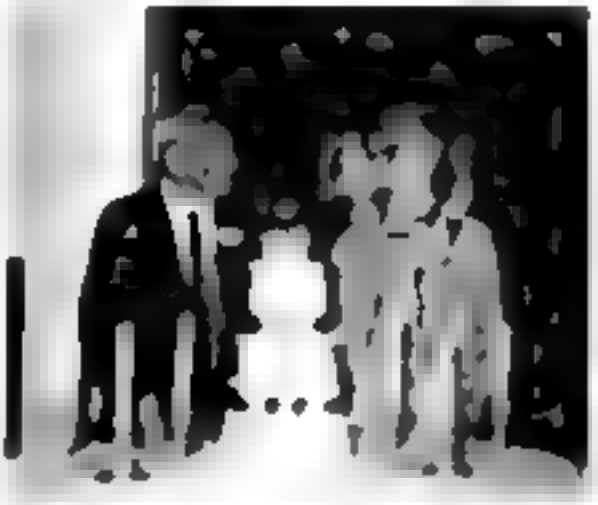
In 1907 he sold his Eckville store to a Be[illegible] Mr. Brownscrade, and moved back to Evarts where he bought the hotel from Mr. Bob [illegible] store and the post office, but Alf. Maward bought the hotel in 1911.

In 1908 Harold, the eldest son, was born in Red Deer with Dr. Richard Parsons in attendance. Bernard, the second son, was born in January 1910, and Gordon was born in 1912.

In the spring of 1912 Mr. Killick disposed of all his holdings in Evarts and went west across the Saskatchewan River to a homestead about two [illegible] being built, and he obtained a contract to supply [illegible]

The construction of the bridge over the Saskatchewan River was a tremendous undertaking because the dirt for the large grades was put there by teams of horses or mules using [illegible]

Business was very brisk at that time. In addition to the railroad business many settlers were moving in, and Indians were bringing their furs



[illegible]

from as far west as the Kootenay Plains. They came down the Saskatchewan River in canoes

Vera, their first daughter, was born at this trading post In 1913 they moved across the river to the new townsite of Rocky Mountain House which had just been established on the homestead of J H Bertrand Here Marjorie, the youngest daughter, was bor

Affectionately known as "Jack", Mr Killick became a sort of legend in Rocky Mountain House Many needing it asked for, and received help from him both in advice and in credit so they could get a start. The business grew and prospered until five stores were in operation. In 1959 the Hudson's Bay Company bought the store and Mr and Mrs. Killick retired

On October 28, 1969 Mrs. Killick passed away and on May 26, 1973 Mr Killick passed on He and of course Mrs. Killick, will always be remembered in Evarts, Eckville and Rocky Mountain House They helped build this country His good counsel and sound advice was eagerly sought by newcomers. It was through his generosity and sympathy that many settlers in this area remained and eventually prospered

Harold Killick was born in 1908 in Red Deer on April 29, 1905. He started school in Rocky Mountain House where Mrs. Sadie Durnford was the teacher He was married in 1938 to Rakel Edin of Asker They had two boys, Jack and Ronald Jack is presently president of Dilex Industries while Ron is manager of Turbo Resources for Saskatchewan and Manitoba Harold later became a druggist and operated successful drug stores in Rocky Mountain House, Olds, Three Hills and Stettler He is now retired and living on his farm 10 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House, having sold his Stettler drug store in 197

Bernard Killick was born in Evarts on April 29, 1910. He started school with Harold He took a business education course and was a bookkeeper He married the matron of the hospital in Rocky Mountain House Miss Irene McRae Their two children are Jim and Maureen. Jim is in charge of a M.S. institution in Saanich B.C Maureen is No 1 for Time Air in Calgary

Gordon Killick was born in 1912 while his parents were living in Evarts. He started school in Rocky Mountain House and went on to the U of A graduating in Geology. He worked with oil drilling companies until his retirement in Calgary He married Elsie Bradshaw, and they had a son, John. John is now a very influential man with Brascan in Calgary Elsie and Gordon have adopted three children — Margaret, Bruce and Doreen — a great credit to them

Vera Killick Ada and Jack's eldest daughter was born on Tom Gray's homestead. She married Dan Elliott now deceased Dan was ticket agent for the CPR in Edmonton, Calgary Ottawa and Banff

Marjorie Killick stayed single, and after years of successfully managing our ladies dry goods department, bought her own store in Jasper She eventually sold this store after years of successfully operating it, and retired to Gabriola Island near Nanaimo B.C

**THE FAMILY PIANO - by Mrs. N. Watson**

In the year 1907 Mr and Mrs. J H. Killick purchased a Gourley piano from Brumpton's Store in Red Deer the salesman being Joseph Wright The piano was moved from Red Deer to Eckville by wagon and team where Mr Killick had just opened the first post office

The next move for the piano was to Evarts where Mr Killick had just bought a hotel, paying for it with horses The business and post office in Eckville was sold to a relative of Charles Snell of Red Deer

The piano remained in Evarts for four years 1908 to 1912, when it was moved to the Tom Gray place west of the Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House where Mr Killick had a few months previously opened a new store The next move was to Rocky Mountain House when Mr Killick moved his store from west of the river to [redacted] of Rocky Mountain House in [redacted] ed until 1921, although it was moved into three different residences in the [redacted]

Mr Killick sold his business in Rocky Mountain House to Mr Seth Wilson and moved his family to Victoria in the summer of 1921, again moving the piano with them

Although in 1923 Mr Killick again went into business in Rocky Mountain House, Mrs Killick and the children took up residence in Edmonton so that the children could finish school and this time the piano was moved to Edmonton, where it remained until 1934, then being brought back to Rocky Mountain House

Once again, in 1971 it has been moved to Kelowna to the home of Mrs. Vera Elliott the second eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Killick

The piano was originally bought for approximately $60 to $120, and, for all its travels it still looks and sounds like new. Not a scratch on its polished mahogony surface!

**KINGSEP LEONARD — METALA FAMILY**
**by Violet E. Bimmelreich (Kingsep)**

My father's life began in Warroo, Estonia, on the Baltic Sea on the second of May 1892 The family decided to emigrate to Canada, so my grandfather, Christian Kingsep came and took out a homestead near Sylvan Lake. Four years later the family came to Red Deer where my grandfather was doing construction work, helping to build the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer My dad, Leonard Kingsep, came out with his uncle a year ahead of the rest of the family They came by boat to Montreal and landed on Canadian soil on September 15, 1898. They came by train from Montreal to Red Deer To get out to [redacted] homestead they had a slow journey by [redacted] and a team of oxen. My dad had two younger

brothers, Eustace and Kenneth, and two older sisters, Helma and Lillian. The only available schooling was at the nearby Norma School, which was opened when enough settlers had come into the area. They attended school whenever there was time from farm duties. Dad says that they got more education from experience than they ever got from attending

My grandfather Christian, was a sailor and a wanderer, so, after moving his family to Canada he left to seek his fortune elsewhere, and Grandmother Tina was left to raise her brood the best way that she could. She lived on the homestead all the rest of her life, and lived to be well past eighty years of age.

Times in the beginning were very hard with not much to eat and no money available for necessary machinery and livestock. Land had to be cleared and cultivated before there could be a crop or even a garden. Although homestead land was cheap and even free in some cases, it had to be improved, cleared and fenced before you could own it, according to government regulations. Dad told me that they even made their own crude shoes from cowhide. They farmed with oxen instead of horses.

By the time Dad was 21 the first world War was brewing. His two brothers served in the army. Eustace went to France and Kenneth went into the American army and was stationed in Panama. Dad was exempted from service because he was needed on the farm. It was at this stage of his life that my mother entered the pic

My mother was born, Euphemia Hietala, in Butte, Montana on September 16, 1895. Mom's folks had come from Finland just after their marriage (leaving all of the relatives behind). They settled in Butte where my grandfather Frank Hietala, went to work in the copper mines. Copper dust proved to be very injurious to the lungs and my grandfather knew that he was developing the dreaded miner's consumption which afflicted almost anyone who worked in the mines for any length of time.

Grandfather decided that it would be a healthier life to move to Canada so he emigrated to the area west of Sylvan Lake. Quite a few Finnish families moved into the same area, a number of them also coming from Butte, Montana. There developed such a solid little community of Finns that my grandmother, Emma, never found it necessary to learn to speak English although she lived to be well past eighty years of age.

Grandfather Frank did not live very long after getting his family established on the farm so his wife and children had to make the best of building a new life in a new land. My mother and Uncle Henry were the eldest children. There were two other sisters — Emma (Cunningham) and Vie (Pilkanen) and a younger brother Alex who died when he was 21. In the beginning the family lived in a two-story frame house and farmed with oxen.

My mother had never lived in the country before. She had never seen grass anywhere except in a city park, with signs saying "Keep off the grass." She thought that the milk they obtained in the city came from a special pump that the milk man had. It was a real revelation to discover that cows gave milk. She remembers being ecstatic to think that they could raise their own turnips.

All the children went to a little country school to learn their ABC's. My mother already had had a few years of schooling in Butte before she came to Canada. The late Mr. J. M. McDonald of Eckville was one of their teachers. He was a young handsome fellow just arrived from eastern Canada at that time. Although times were hard and money was scarce there still were enjoyable, memorable times, and they were blessed with wonderful, helpful neighbors.

Their 24th of May picnic was a great annual event with picnic lunches, races, contests, and games and with a dance in the community hall in the evening. There were always enough musicians in the area for a pick-up orchestra. Everyone attended, from the wee babies to grandma. All the young ladies turned out in their best home-made dresses with bows in their hair and wearing high button boots.

It was on one of these occasions that my mother and dad met which led to their marriage on December 6, 1917. The war was still on in Europe and times were becoming a little better for people on the homesteads. My dad and mother rented a farm south-east of Eckville and set up housekeeping. In those days no one had very much when they began their married life but that was of very little consequence. My brother Ralph was the first addition to their family, followed by Ivan, and I was number three.

When I was a baby the price of wheat went up to three dollars a bushel and my father was able to buy his first car. We lived in a big two-story log house and my faint recollections of those days are mostly happy ones. The setting for that log house was a pretty place with lots of natural trees on the banks of the Medicine River. For years Mother had to carry water up the steep

I remember Mother doing her washing on the river bank on the nice days of summer in order to save some of the hard work of carrying water. She would build a fire under her boiler and heat water and wash her clothes by hand in a wash tub with a wash board and home-made soap. Then they were hung to dry on twine lines tied from tree to tree on the river bank. My brothers and I would play about in the trees while she did her washing. My brother Ivan fell into the river one day and Mom had to jump in and rescue him in water that was almost up to her neck. One of my early fears was of the bats that used to fly in

and out of our attic as it began to get dark in the evenings

Mother always had a lot of flowers planted around the house and she raised a big garden We always went picking wild berries in the summertime and there was always a contest to see who would be first to get his pail filled with the wild raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons or blueberries Some years we even found wild hazel nuts in the woods

In the spring Dad alway put a net in the river as soon as the ice was gone and he caught a lot of suckers and pike. Mom made the best fish mulligan I have ever tasted out of fish, milk, potatoes, and onions. We lived almost entirely off the land so had little need for stores. Our clothes were all home made from whatever material or yarn we could afford. Times may have been hard but life to me seemed good and the summers long and sunny Families and friends visited a lot and it was always exciting to have

On Saturday nights we alway went to Grandmother Hietala's place for a Sauna (steam bath and there was always coffee and cake afterward, along with lots of visiting The sauna was a wonderful invention which was found at every Finn homestead Grandmother's bath house was built of logs. There was a dressing room and a steam room In the steam and wash room there was a stove built out of a large drum. An enclosure around the drum held lots of fairly large rocks to absorb the heat when the fire was on. My Uncle Henry would build the fire in the morning and keep it stoked up all day to heat the rocks We would have pans of water and soap to wash with and then we poured water on the rocks to create steam. Grandmother made willow switches which you could beat yourself with to improve your circulation. After sitting in the hot steam for as long as you thought you could stand it, the next thing to do would be to splash cold water all over yourself to cool off enough to get dry After getting dressed and stepping out into the cool night, I remember it made me feel like a million dollars

We had another little brother added to our family while we lived in the big house by the river but he was so tiny that he lived for only a few days. He was born at home and of course there were no incubators to be had in those days Even though I was very young I still remember those sad days very vividly

The year before I started to school we moved to the farm just north of Eckville. For me school days were the best days of my life. Although my brothers did not especially like school, I loved it and could hardly wait until vacation was over so I could go back and start another term in a new grade My teacher for grades one, two and three was Miss Gladys Jones, then I had Miss Byers and Miss Craig through grades four five, and six. For junior high I was in Mr Baldwin's room after having had lady teachers it was a bit scary to have a man teacher In high school I had Mr Scott and Mr Lewis and my best teacher and a real gem), was Mrs Westergard. One of my favorite memories is of our great basketball team and our outdoor basketball court as we had no gymnasium. Softball games and track meets were fun too

Every fall at our school fair we could exhibit our vegetables that we had grown during the summer On one occasion I dug up a whole row of carrots just to get six that were exactly alike We made pressed weed and wildflower collections and caught and mounted butterflies and insects Our best artwork, maps and penmanship were handed in for competition. We led calves and colts in front of the judges and brought pens of chickens and ducks and rabbits and pigs. There were classes for cooking and canning and sewing For me all this was a serious business because money was given as the prizes, and sometimes this was the only spending money I could count on having in a whole year

Among the pleasant and indelible memories of my childhood were the days of harvest in the fall The threshing crews were huge when they had steam threshers. There was always a feeling of excitement when the bundle haulers and the big machine moved into our field and started to work. Mother always had extra women neighbors or sisters, over to help feed the men The place was like a huge bakery to me with all the pies, buns and bread baking There were large pots of potatoes and vegetables, roasts and gravy, and homemade pickles

A long table was set with a white oilcloth cover and homemade benches were used to seat all those hungry men. We always had tin basins and large cream cans of warm water placed outside the door for the men to wash before each meal. There was always lots of practical joking and laughter along with all the work, and everyone seemed to enjoy it all, in spite of the hard work for both men and women. Everyone was up before daybreak Huge breakfasts were prepared by the women while the men fed watered and harnessed their horses I was allowed to go out to the threshing machine when the ladies took coffee and hot rolls out to the men for a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon lunch

Christmas was special in those days, even though it was usually a simple and homey occasion with relatives usually being invited for dinner Christmas concerts were very important with Santa arriving to give out treats after the stage program All the children took part in the concert of singing recitations, drills and stage plays

My mother was the heart and soul of our family Through the years she kept in contact with all the relatives, near and far by writing lots and lots of letters and by sewing, knitting, or crocheting little gifts for them

We enjoyed swimming in the river when the days were warm in summer and skated for miles

up and down the river in winter when the ice was good. Every winter my dad and some of his friends went fishing to Buck Lake right after the New Year. They fished with nets through the ice. The fish they brought home were very good eating. Mother canned or smoked many of them. Although there were no deep freezes in those days we froze the fish into a big snow bank by digging out a big hole then putting the fish in it and pouring water over them. We chopped them out in chunks with an axe as we needed them to.

Another necessary project on farms was putting up a supply of wood before winter set in. This involved falling the trees and hauling them in. Then they had to be sawed into blocks for the heater and some of the blocks split into smaller pieces to be used in the kitchen stove. This needed to be done early in the season because the wood did not burn well unless it had some time to dry out before being used. It was the duty of my brothers and me to pile the wood into a long row against a fence after it was split and then during the winter it was our regular chore to keep the woodbox in the back shed filled with wood.

Mother and Dad lived on their farm near Eckville until 1968. In the spring of that year they sold the farm and retired to Summerland, B.C. Mother's health had failed by this time but they enjoyed the milder winters and especially enjoyed having fruit trees, roses and chrysanthemums in their back yard.

Ralph has spent most of his adult life in B.C. near the coast, felling trees for the lumber industry. His eldest son, Ellis, lives in Los Angeles while Lenny, Mark, and daughter Laura live in Port Coquitlam.

Ivan first went north when the Alaska Highway was being built. His work was to haul fuel for the outfits working on the project. He lived most of the time at Fort St. John until his death in June, 1971. His son, Leslie and family live at Fort St. John, but his two daughters, Diane and Shelley, now live in Alberta.

After finishing high school I took teacher training in Edmonton and have spent 14 years as a classroom teacher, mostly at the grade one level. During the war I worked in the Colonel Belcher Hospital in Calgary as a typist and office clerk in the Outpatient Clinic. I married Robert Himmelreich in 1946 and we have two children. Our daughter, Sherrill, is married and lives in Lethbridge. Her daughter, Danielle is our first grandchild. Our son, Keith, lives in Calgary.

Mother passed away in Summerland on the 12th of July, 1969, in her 74th year. Dad returned to Eckville in April, 1976 and passed away on the 10th of November, 1976, at the age of 84.

**KINGSLEY, LOUISE TIPMAN (MOTTUS) — by Louise Kingsley**

Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Tipman and family of four sailed from Russia in 1902 to begin a new life in Canada. The trip took two weeks on an old ship, which included three days in very dense fog. After landing in Eastern Canada we took a train to Red Deer and then by horses and wagon to Sylvan Lake, where several Estonian families had already settled. For two years we lived with an aunt and uncle and dad worked in a lumber mill in Red Deer at the going wage of one dollar and fifty cents a day.

In September of 1904 we moved to our homestead in the Stettler area where Dad had built a large one-room cabin with a dirt floor and dirt roof. All of our belongings were loaded into a covered wagon which was pulled by two oxen — named Eric and Billy. We had a cow and bull tied to the wagon and a dozen chickens in a crate. Our trip was quite uneventful until we had to cross a creek. The wagon was too heavily loaded to use the bridge, so we forded the creek. Halfway across Eric decided to lay down and cool off, as it was a very warm day. However the spot he picked was quite unsuitable as his head couldn't be kept out of the water. So eight-year-old John went to the rescue by crawling out on the tongue of the wagon and, taking hold of the reins, could pull Eric's head up. No amount of coaxing or swearing could get that ox up until he was quite ready to do so himself. During all this excitement Billy quietly stood by and chewed his cud.

We arrived at our destination after three days of travel and settled into our cabin. It was furnished with a home-made stove made of rock and clay with a cast iron top. Beds were made with rails and straw-filled mattresses. The fireplace was used to bake bread, which was wrapped in cabbage leaves until we acquired bread pans to bake it in. As we had no outbuildings at this time, the chickens were kept in the cabin, fenced in under the bed. They kept us in eggs all winter and there was no sleeping in as the rooster crowed regularly at day break.

After Dad had made sure we were settled in for the winter he returned to his work at the lumber mill in Red Deer. Mother and brothers, John and Mike, and myself, Louise, put up the hay which was cut by hand, loaded onto a home made willow stoneboat and pulled over to the cabin by the bull who was harness broke. In the spring Dad cultivated five acres of land with the aid of the oxen and seeded it to a mixture of barley, oats and rye. We also had a small plot for a garden. In the fall this crop was cut and threshed by hand. The straw was salvaged and used to make a straw roof for the cabin.

To bring in a supply of groceries for the winter was quite an ordeal, as the trip had to be made to Red Deer and took a week to complete. The bobsled was loaded with hay to feed the oxen and enough food to last. Dad had to be packed. As more settlers had moved into the area, each one was called on and a list of supplies taken from each and delivered on his return. The years passed and improvements were made in living and working conditions. The family grew to five sons and three daughters — John, Mike, Ado,

Ferdie, Edward, Mary, Sophie and myself. There was no school in the area until 1910 and until then Dad and Mom helped us with our reading. Dad taught us some German as well. Being a school teacher was the only occupation to strive for at the time, and two brothers and two sisters took this step.

In 1913 Dad passed away at the early age of 48 years, due to a threshing accident. The family continued farming, and eight years later, also at the age of 49 years, Mother died after a lengthy illness. Ado, Edward, Mary and Sophie became teachers, and John, Mike, and Ferdie carried on the farming.

In 1914 I met and married Hugo Mottus and we moved to the Gilby district where we raised a family of four sons and three daughters. We had many hard times during the depression, as did everyone with a family to feed and educate. Hugo was very much involved with the Medicine Valley Calf Club, being one of the organizers. However, after 13 years he resigned, due to ill health. He raised purebred Hereford cattle. He was one of the first members of the Eckville Co-op and served as board member. In addition to being one of the organizers of the Credit Union.

With his brothers Alex and Oscar Mottus owning a threshing outfit, they travelled the district doing threshing for neighbors as well as for themselves. With a crew of twenty at times, it was a very busy season for us housewives — doing chores while the men were away and doing the cooking while they were at our place. Everyone pitched in and did their bit so it was quite an exciting week.

With a lot of hard work and a lot of belt tightening we were able to give our family the education they desired. All seven of the children received their public schooling at the Medicine Valley School, which was three miles from our home. Our oldest son, Edward, became a school teacher and taught school for a year before going to the Air Force during World War II. Upon his discharge he furthered his education to receive his Ph. D. in organic chemistry. He did research for Monsanto in the U.S.A. for several years and presently is Senior Research Specialist. He married the former Ruby Land and they reside in Missouri, U.S.A. They have a family of two sons and a daughter.

Edna received her Grade 12 and worked in the creamery office for several years, before marrying George LeBehan. They presently reside in Edmonton where George works as steam engineer. They have one son and one daughter.

Arthur finished his grade nine, but farming was in his blood so he remained on the farm. He married the former Betty Walls and they have two sons and two daughters.

After Art's marriage Hugo and I retired to our Wood Lake quarter. We bought a log house and had it moved to a site overlooking the lake. Many good times were had there as it was an ideal place for weiner roasts, skating parties, and family reunions. The house is still used as a [illegible].

Roy finished high school in Eckville and then worked for McMillan and Blodel in Edmonton. He married Shirley Walker and they have two sons and four daughters. They live in South Burnaby, B.C., and presently Roy is part owner in a wholesale lumber company.

Sylvia finished high school in Lacombe and supervised Sunset School for six months. She married Alex Brown, who is Utilities Officer for I.D. No. 10. They live in Rocky Mountain House and have four sons.

Amy also finished high school in Lacombe and then did office work until marrying Ed Zack who is presently District Engineer for the [illegible].

Our youngest son, Dick, finished school and worked for International Harvester as assistant service supervisor for many years. He married the former Shirley Ceasor and they have two sons. They presently reside in Innisfail and Dick teaches hydraulics at the Olds Agricultural School.

Hugo passed away in November 1956 after several years of ill health. I remained at Wood Lake for a year and then bought a little house in Eckville. After working and travelling for 15 years I married Leonard Kingsep in 1970 at Sylvan Lake. We moved to Summerland, B.C. and lived there until the spring of 1976 when Lennie was forced to sell his beautiful property due to ill health. We returned to Eckville, as Lennie wanted to be near old friends and his daughter Violet who lives near Carstairs. Lennie was always ready to help his neighbors when any help was needed. In November of the same year he passed away.

Presently I am living in Eckville, and with my family, 26 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren life is full of unexpected [illegible].

**KORHONEN, Erkki and Annie — by Medra Moon and Maija Korhonen**

Erkki Korhonen and Annie Maata were both born in Sotkamo, Oulan, Finland in 1906, Annie on January 4, and Erkki on December 14. They sailed to Canada in March of 1928, traveling by train from Halifax to Toronto, stopping at Erkki's sister's place. From there they boarded a train for Rocky Mountain House. Their first residence in Canada was at another of Erkki's sisters, Mrs. Ida Heikkinen's farm in the Bingley area. That spring he assisted his brother-in-law on the farm and Annie moved to Nordegg where she'd found work at a boarding house.

In the months to come, Erkki worked in a lumber camp and at various other jobs. In 1929 Erkki purchased a quarter section in the Taimi district from Mr. John Jackson for $550. Only 45 acres of this was broken. For the next year he

was hard at work clearing more of his land and also continuing his work at the lumber camps

Although Annie and Erkki were each following their own endeavors, they were keeping in touch. They were married in Sylvan Lake on July 10, 1930. They settled on their quarter to farm. The next year with the spring came their first born, a son, Mauno, on June 10, 1931. The days passed by quickly as there was lots of hard work to farming. But, also, they enjoyed good times for the community people would get together to present plays in the local hall and, an occasional social evening for dancing. Their second child, a girl, Maila, was born on September 11, 1934, during one of the worst and earliest blizzards they can remember

In March of the next year the Korhonens sold their farm and packed up the children, bag and baggage and headed for Russia. They settled in a place called Petrozavodsk where Erkki was employed as a catskinner. Two years later, July 10, 1937, a third child was born, a daughter, Maira. Times were very hard in Russia at this time so in the spring of the following year they were travelling again. They returned to their birth place, Sotkamo, where Erkki was employed at lumber camps

Two years later in 1940, Erkki was drafted into the Finnish Army. His enlistment lasted two years and he then returned home to farm. Two years passed and he was again called to the army but this time to fight. A son Eric was born June 29, 1944 several weeks after Erkki had left. He did not see his newest son until November of that year when he came home. The war was

The years slipped by with the good and the bad. Their last child was born on March 12, 1947 a daughter Maija. The family had grown to a good size since that farm in Canada and the Korhonens had, thus far travelled many many miles in several countries. Nevertheless their itchy feet had not quite given up. In May of 1951 Mom, Dad and family left Finland again. We travelled by train, ship and car and arrived in Lesueville in June. Dad rented a quarter section north of Leslieville for approximately two years. In the spring of 1953, the family moved into the village of Eckville

The following several years brought a few changes with the older children leaving home. A gala event was the double wedding of the two oldest daughters on July 15, 1955. Also Dad tried his hand at farming for several years in the Eckville district. In the spring of 1959, Dad and Mom purchased a lot in the Town of Eckville. About a year later they bought the old St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, moved it to this lot and remodelled it into what is still their home.

During the years that Anne and Erkki have resided in Eckville and district, they have enjoyed the many friends they have made and the friendliness of the community. Both Anne and Erkki were employed at the Eckville Elementary School as janitors for many years. Erkki also worked as a carpenter for various residents and businesses in the district. The Korhonens are enjoying their retirement in fairly good health. They take great pride in their garden which is their summer pass time. Annie enjoys her handwork and Erkki his fishing. Both are active members of the Friendship Club.

The children are all now residing in various parts of the country. Mauno married Jeanine LeClerg from Geraldton, Ontario. They have three children, two sons and one daughter. Mauno is employed by Kimberley Clark in the pulp and paper industry.

Maila married Raymond Anderson, youngest son of Charles and Lillian Anderson from Sylvan Lake. The live in Oliver, B.C. and have six children, four daughters, and two sons.

Maira married Clarence Moos, eldest son of Hans and Nora Moos of Eckville. They are farming northeast of town and are the parents of one son and one daughter.

Eric married Teresa Bellew of Coutts, Alberta. They are residing in Coutts where Eric is self employed as a contract painter. They have six children, three sons and three daughters. They lost one son at the age of five months.

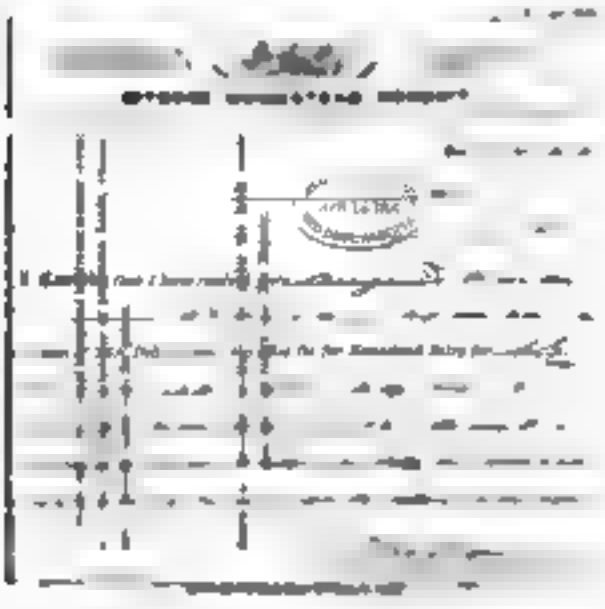
Maija is residing in Edmonton where she is self-employed as a book-keeper.

**THE AUGUST B. KOSKI FAMILY** – written by [illegible]

August B. Koski was born in Kauas, Finland on August 27, 1876. At the age of 17 years he came to the United States, where he moved from place

to place, working in lumber camps, mines, and in a furniture factory

Anna Maria Hyvari was born on October 8, 1878 and emigrated from Finland to the U.S.A. where she was united in marriage to August Koski at Hamilton, Montana, on November 16, 1900. Through the years eleven children — four sons and seven daughters — were born to them. Two daughters, Mary and Annie have passed away as well as one son, Eddie, who died in March, 1977. Ida Johnson lives in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.; Josephine Halstein at Sylvan Lake; Kuusamo , Emma Lutz at Eckville; Arthur at Eckville; Lempi Christensen [illegible] liam at Prince George, B.C. Elsie McDonald at Cloverdale, B.C., and Ernest at Eckville.

In 1904 Mr. Koski was a lean, broad shouldered man in his late twenties, with black curly hair and a handle-bar moustache. He decided about this time to change his environment, and went to Red Deer, N.W.T., and then made his way thirty miles to the west. After walking about in the wilderness of the Medicine River valley, he found a pleasing site and filed on a homestead on S.E. 28-39-3W5, which is cornerwise with Old Eckville. He liked the winding river, having left behind similar scenery in his childhood home. Not only was it picturesque, but it was ideal cattle raising country with flat low land, rich in grass for pasture or hay with plenty of water within reach.

On this land he chose a spot of higher ground for buildings with the river on both sides forming a horseshoe flat on the far end of the house yard. This river that flooded its banks many times played a big part in the lives of the Koski family. The river was a benefit as a watering place for the livestock and it also helped to feed the family. Mr. Koski made his own net and boat, and the family enjoyed many meals of Kala Mojaka made with sucker, pike, or even an occasional whitefish. Problems, too, were sometimes created by the river, especially when it flooded. The first such occurrence was in the middle of the summer. The rain fell night and day until the water reached dangerously close to the level of the buildings, stopping however, before any serious damage was done. The next big flood was in the spring of 1920. At this time the whole Koski quarter, except a small area around the buildings, was under water and well over a half mile of road was cut off. During this time when Dr. McDonald needed to make a house call to the north of Eckville. He started off with a horse and buggy but after reaching the flooded area he would tie his horse to a tree and one of the Koski boys would row him across this long stretch of treacherous water. Here he was usually met by a member of the patient's family and taken to the home. Later he would return to Eckville by the same means. Fortunately there already were telephones in the country. No lives were lost in either of these two floods, but some years later there were some drownings on the other side of Eckville when the waters rose high again.

After living on his homestead in 1904 Mr. Koski started building a one-room log house with the help of his brother-in-law, Mr. Hussa, who had already settled his family on a homestead site one mile to the north. Mr. Hussa owned a team of oxen that were useful for hauling the poplar logs from the river bank to the place of construction. The work was heavy, but it sometimes had its funny side, too. On one occasion when the oxen refused to pull the load, Mr. Hussa calmly stepped behind them, got down on his hands and knees and barked like a dog. This persuaded the oxen to continue moving the load. After the house was finished Mr. Koski made some furniture, making good use of his earlier experience in the furniture factory.

In December of 1904 Mrs. Koski, with their three small children, came to Eckville. Since the

Koski house was not yet ready to live in they spent the first winter in the home of her sister, Mrs. Hussa. Mrs. Koski was a small, plump person, timid by nature and very shy of strangers. She often talked about how frightened she was when she travelled alone with three little ones into a strange land. New friendships soon sprang up with neighboring families, but the center of Mrs. Koski's interest always remained with her growing family.

Pioneer life was usually hard for the women and children. Much of Mr. Koski's work was away from home, and this left the responsibility of caring for the children and the livestock to the wife. The cows, milked by hand, provided the cream which was churned into butter to be exchanged for groceries. Later the milk was sold to a near-by cheese factory. Everyone had to help with the haying, one of the older children staying in the house to take care of the baby. At first the Koskis had only two horses, one of which soon had her first colt. One day this precious new animal slipped into the river when Mrs. Koski was at home alone with the children. She heard the mare neighing and rushed to help. Not knowing how to swim, she grasped hold of a near-by willow branch, lowered herself into the water and pulled the colt to safety. The occastional loss of an animal by drowning was not so serious after the herd got bigger.

Although Mr. Koski was able to build up a large herd of cattle from a very small start, his greatest pride was in the horses that he raised and improved. Some of these heavy work horses of Percheron strain won him prizes through the years at the Benalto Fair. Hogs also were included in the mixed farming operations.

As the years passed more land was broken. The main crop was oats, which were used mainly for livestock feed. Enough wheat for home use was ground into flour. The grain was of a poor quality because the growth was heavy and slow at ripening and the frost came early. Later more wheat and then barley was sown and the grain was hauled to an elevator. Rye was grown for hog pasture. The well-known Langer Brothers threshing outfit circulated around the country doing the threshing for many of the farmers. A blast of the steam engine whistle announced their arrival at a farm and bustle and excitement reigned until the outfit was taken on to the next.

During those first years there was very little money to spend on recreation, nor on unnecessary clothing. If a child wore shoes to school in the summertime everyone guessed that he must come from a well-to-do family. The youngsters enjoyed bathing and swimming in the river even though most of them had never heard of it as a part of making a living. Even tramping a load of hay was fun if the weather wasn't too hot. The boys made their own skis and stilts and if they were lucky enough to get skates they skated.

Sunday was always a big day at the Koski home. Whenever there were no church services at the schoolhouse the neighbors from miles around visited one another. When the boys grew bigger a Mr. Flathan organized a boys' brass band. Practices were held on Sunday afternoons — which meant a gathering of young people often at the Koski home. Mrs. Koski always set coffee for all who were present. She always remained her light-hearted self, and even after a hard day's work often took part in the children's games, or sat by and enjoyed watching them.

Mr. Koski was more stern by nature, and took life seriously. When he entered the house his word was law. Although he was a man with a great determination to better himself, he never turned down a neighbor in distress. When death struck at a neighbor's and they could not afford an undertaker, (even if one had been available) they came to Mr. Koski for help. He painstakingly built the coffin and then prepared the body for burial. If someone needed help with a sick animal he took his veterinary book along and set out to give whatever assistance he could to save the animal.

His interest in the improvement of the community led Mr. Koski to help with the organization of the local Cooperative Association, of which he was an active member until his death and of which he was a director for several years. He also served as a school trustee and was an active member of several farm organizations.

A. B., (as he was known around Eckville) was the first mail carrier and served the community in this way for five and half years. His first contract, dated December 1, 1905, called for one trip a week to carry the mail from Evarts to the new post office in Eckville. He received one dollar and seventy cents for each round trip, this amount later being increased to two dollars and fifty cents when, after a years and a half mail service was inaugurated to Leslieville, a distance of 13 miles. Later Pitcox (now Hespero) was added to the route and three dollars was now paid for the round trip. This amount was later increased to three dollars and fifty cents.

In relating some of the difficulties of his job Mr. Koski emphasized the fact that it seemed that rain fell continuously during the summer and since there were no roads or bridges this made transportation difficult. The horse-drawn vehicle used for the conveyance of the mail during the first years was the front gear of a wagon. The tongue had been taken off and shafts fitted in. A home-made box on the top completed the carriage.

The Koskis had a hard life, but a life with a wealth of experience. There were many illnesses in the family but fortunately there was always a complete recovery. In the years when no doctor could be reached a three-year-old girl was left paralyzed from the hip down on one side as the result of an illness. With daily massage by her

devoted family she eventually regained the use of the her limb. Later when the oldest daughter became ill with double pneumonia Dr. McDonald was called. He immediately called a trained nurse, Mrs. Herring, and, thanks to their competent treatment and care, the girl recovered.

The original house that Mr. Koski had built is still in use, with rooms having been added on through the years as the family increased in numbers. An ornamental cupboard built by Mr. Koski still hangs on the wall in the place where he placed it after having made it. Ernest is still living on the original Koski homestead.

Mr. Koski died on August 29, 1949, and his wife passed away on November 16, 1951. Both are laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

A very unforseen incident happened one day when Mr. Bruynseraede's cow got loose. Mr. Bruynseraede, who was running the general store in Old Eckville at the time, owned a milk cow. He had built a small barn for this animal but she refused to stand in her stall long enough to be tied. To discourage her in his bad habit, he set up a pitchfork behind her in such a way that when she tried to back up the prongs of the fork poked her and reminded her to stay put. However this time when he went to tie her she bolted back with such force that the fork stuck to her hind quarters and away she went, fork and all. She ended up at the Koski farm. When Ed and Ernest, still quite young, saw what had happened they chased the animal, with fork still attached to her, back to her owner.

Mr. Bruynseraede was so pleased to see his cow again that he rewarded the boys with an extra big bag of candy.

As of June, 1977, several of the Koski family have passed away. Ida's husband, Elmer Johnson, was the first to go, in the summer of 1962 when they were living in New Westminster, B.C. He died suddenly while working on the lawn. Ida moved to Seattle, Washington, after Elmer passed away and worked in a hospital for some time. They have two sons, Edwin and Arthur, and one daughter, Alice, all living in Seattle.

The next to go was Stewart Leavesly, 71, husband of Mary. Stewart passed away in 1967 at the wheel of his car in Coquitlam, B.C. Mary steered the car to a curb and went for help but he was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Mary's Hospital. He had suffered a heart attack while driving his car. Mary Leavesley followed her husband in death in 1972 while living in New Westminster. She died of a heart attack in a near-by hospital, at the age of 71.

Kenneth Coutts, of Sylvan Lake, husband of Annie, passed away in the Eckville Hospital on September 24, 1973, after a lengthy illness. He was 59 years of age. Annie Coutts passed away on June 11, 1974 at the age of 60 years, just nine months after the death of her husband. She died very suddenly on her way to Fort Saskatchewan with her son Jim. Annie and Kenneth are survived by two sons: Kenneth of Geraldton, Ontario, and Jim of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Edward Koski passed away in the Eckville Hospital on March 22, 1977 at the age of 74 years. Eddie had spent his last years with his brother Ernest in the old home a mile north of Eckville. Eddie suffered from severe arthritis for the last few years of his life. However he was never confined to a wheel chair. He is survived by two daughters, Ethel and Helen, of Edmonton. A son, Eddie, predeceased him.

Ernest Koski still lives in the farm home north of Eckville left by his parents but is planning to move into the town of Eckville before the end of 1977. He had several serious operations in 1974, but is enjoying good health now.

Josephine Hasselin lives with her husband Iver on their farm west of Sylvan Lake. They have two daughters. Esther Dube, living west of Sylvan Lake, and Dorothy Wisotzki, living in Richmond, B.C.

Emma Lutz and her husband George live in the town of Eckville. They have a family of four. Norman lives in Calgary, Elizabeth (Betty) Spiers lives in Red Deer. Darlene Taylor lives in Red Deer, and Brian lives in Rocky Mountain House.

Arthur Koski has retired, due to poor health, and lives in the Eckville Manor House.

Lempi Christensen and her husband Kai live in the town of Eckville. Lempi works at the hospital part-time.

William Koski has made his home in Prince George, B.C. where he has worked through the years as a carpenter, and at various other jobs from time to time.

Elsie McDonald lives with her husband Donald in Burnaby, B.C. They have one son, Kenneth.

A most tragic occurrence took place in 1933 in the Koski and Maki families when Nell Maki became ill with spinal meningitis and passed away at the age of 25 years, leaving behind a young widow, Emma, and two small children, Norman, age three years and Betty, age one year.

Gene and Darlene Taylor have four children, Cindy, Tammy, Cameron, and Tara.

Brian Lutz married Charlene Murray and they have two children, Gregory and Kirsty Dawn.

Betty and Cecil Spiers have two sons, Dale and Neal.

**THE ALLEN J. HUNTE FAMILY — by the**

Allen was from Heister, Alberta, and Bert was from Grand Falls, New Brunswick. Both of them served in the Canadian [illegible] years and then were [illegible] January 1947.

Al began employment with the Alberta Wheat Pool in May 1946 and now has 31 years with the company. The first year he was at the Elspeth Elevator, then the next 23 years were spent at

the Eckville Elevator and since 197[illegible] has been at the Pool Elevator No. 1 at Red Deer

Bert began employment at the Eckville Hospital in November 1966, where she worked in the office for the next five years, before moving to Red Deer

Bert and Allen have three children. Dianne was born in 1947 and was married to Steve Cherniak in 1970. They have two boys Darren and Dean. They live in Lacombe

Judy was born in 1952 and was married to Dwayne Waisman in 1972. They live in Black Diamond

Ron was born in 1957. He lives and works in Red Deer

**LAURILA, ERO MATT** by Ken Laurila

Ero Matt Laurila was born in Manaville Minnesota, U.S.A. on October 14, 1906. He moved back to Finland with his parents early in 1908. In 1928 Eero boarded the ship "Stockholm" in Helsinki, Finland and after eight days, landed in Halifax, having reached Canada on June 24. He had forty-five dollars in his pocket. He had had fifty dollars, but lent five dollars to a friend so that the friend had the required twenty-five dollars in order to enter Canada

From Halifax Eero travelled via C.P.R. to Sudbury, Ontario. There he found a job at a saw mill at Blind River. He worked there for about a [illegible] for thirty five cents an hour. In 1932 broke and out of a job, he grabbed a freight in Kirkland Lake, Ontario and headed west, looking for harvest work. After six days without eating, he jumped off in Lethbridge. Finding no work there he jumped on another freight headed for Blackie Alberta. Upon arrival in Blackie, he immediately got a ten-day job stooking for one dollar and fifty cents a day and board. After finishing that he got a twelve-day job threshing for two dollars a day and meals

The winter of 1932-1933 was spent on a soup [illegible] north to Wetaskawin. There he found work in the Brightview district, brushing, for fifteen dollars a [illegible]

Eero came to the Eckville area in the spring of 1934. Soon after his arrival he met Eva Sylvia Lahteri and married her on December 12, 1934. They started married life with thirty dollars cash, seven milk cows, and a few chickens. Having no means of transportation they carried cream in three-gallon cans three miles to the creamery in Eckville

In the spring of 1935 they borrowed four horses and and a disc to work some land. They hired a neighbor to seed wheat. After harvest they sold the wheat for thirty-five cents a bushel delivered at the elevator in Benalto. That fall after selling the crop, and the calves for five dollars a head they bought a buggy and a horse by the name of Charlie. The total price for the buggy and Charlie was forty-five dollars. The purchase was made at a horse sale in Benalto

Charlie was retired part-time with the coming of a Model A Ford car. Old Lizzy would usually start in the coldest weather if you put hot ashes under the oil pan, two changes of hot water in the radiator, and cranked like hell. Horses, however, were the most reliable means of transportation up until the mid 1950's, as the roads were not graded and often overflowing seismograph holes turned the roads into a muddy trail during the summer months. During the winter they were drifted solid. Eero drove the kids to school regardless of the weather

[illegible]

Eero and Sylvia had three children. The oldest, Walter Edward, was born October 8, 1935 at the hospital in Bentley. He attended school in Eckville until his passing on December 24, 1965.

Raymond William, the second eldest, was born May 21, 1938, also at the hospital in Bentley. He too, attended school at Eckville. The building that he started school in is presently the welding shop in Eckville. He moved to Edmonton around 1955. There he attended a trade school and later went to work as a machinist. On November 5 1960 he was married to Hazel Diane Hazelwood of Edmonton. They have four children. Angela was born in June, 1961. Trevor and twin sister Heather were born in November 1963 and Sharon was born in March 1966. They are presently residing in Edmonton

Kenneth Cameron, the youngest of the Laurila children was born in the new hospital in Eckville on April 2, 1945. He attended school in Eckville. After finishing school he drove school bus for a short time then worked as a motor grader operator with the country of Lacombe. From there he went to work for Northern Geophysical

and was trained as a vibrator operator. He worked in northern Alberta, the foothills of Alberta, northern British Columbia and in the Arctic.

Ken took over the home farm about 1964 and still resides there. He met Gail Annette Hennel during the summer of 1969, while she was employed at the Deerhome in Red Deer. They were married in Stettler (Gail's home town) on June 20, 1970. Their two children are Rachelle born in March, 1972 in Eckville, and Daryl, born on his grandfather Laitila's birthday in October 1973 at the hospital in Red Deer.

Eva Sylvia Laitila passed away on December 23, 1961 after a long illness. She was very kind and considerate at all times and was a wonderful cook. When company came and there was no cake, it took her only a few minutes to whip one up. When she made coffee there was always something extra good about it. Sylvia was a hard worker who never put off until tomorrow what could be done today.

Eero, after Sylvia's passing, married Senia Mattson of Sylvan Lake. They resided at Sylvan Lake until Senia's passing in March of 1978. He then moved back to the farm at Eckville. After residing there for a short time he moved into the Eckville Manor House, where he is presently residing. He was a hard worker and was always willing to give anyone a helping hand. He served on the Young People's Hall Board and on the Eckville Cemetery Board for a number of years.

Through hard work and by sometimes doing without things they needed, Eero and Sylvia increased their holdings and raised their family.

## THE GENE LAZZER FAMILY — by Mrs. [illegible]

The Gene Lazzer family, consisting then of Gene, Marge, and Brian, who was just three years old, arrived in Eckville in late August, 1952 from the Barrhead area. Gene's job was to operate the first fleet of school buses to serve Eckville and Marge had come to teach school starting with a combined grade six and seven in one room of the old two-room school in the north west corner of the school yard.

The Lazzers lived in Eckville for fifteen years before moving to Red Deer in August, 1967. During that time they saw many changes in the town and district. The school bus fleet had started out with only three buses but as new areas were served it increased to a fleet of nine. Changes in road conditions over those years were unbelievable. At first some of them were hardly more than trails with many mud-holes and ruts. After heavy rains many roads became almost impassable. But within a few years all became high-graded, widened and gravelled.

Gene had a bus barn in one corner of the school yard which later doubled as a small tire shop business. From this beginning eventually a service station, tire shop and welding business developed on the site of the present tire shop at the south-east corner of town.

In the early 1960's, after selling his school buses to the County of Lacombe, Gene also had a fleet of four gravel trucks that were kept busy in various parts of Alberta during the extensive road-building projects run by the government.

After selling the trucks and the tire shop Gene started his own real estate business in Eckville. This is still his field as he is working for Block Bros. in Red Deer.

Modernizing the town started soon after Lazzers moved there and they were involved in part of it. Street building, new sidewalks and town sewer all came in about the time Lazzers and Dr. Gibson built the first more modern homes in the summer of 1954.

Community activities were important to the Lazzers, also. Square dancing was the rage the first few years and they were active club members. Gene was active in the Lion's Club all the years he lived in Eckville. The community drama group was of special interest for a number of years. Home and School activities, hockey for the boys, coaching school teams and being active in the Anglican church were also very much a part of their family life.

The Lazzer family grew considerably over the years. To keep Brian company, there arrived, in due course, Don, Barry, Allen and Brenda. With the exception of Brian, who is working in Lubya, some 800 miles out in the desert from Tripoli, for an Arab oil company, the family is all near. Don is employed in the oil industry in Red Deer and Allen is a part-time postal clerk and full-time student about to enter Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Barry is the only one married. He married Viola McGhan from Penhold and they live in Edmonton where Barry is attending the University of Alberta. He is entering the faculty of engineering to obtain a degree in electrical engineering after having just received a B.Sc. in Physics. Brenda, being still a little girl, is in elementary school. Marge continued her teaching career after moving to Red Deer and is employed by the Red Deer School District.

## CHARLIE AND MABEL LEWIS

Charlie and Mabel Lewis moved to the new prairie town of Laverna, Saskatchewan after their marriage in October, 1913. Both were born and raised in Ontario. Charlie was a blacksmith and carried on a good business until the drought hit. Being unable to collect anything for his hard work, they decided to take what they could carry and try for greener pastures.

They arrived in Eckville in October, 1933. He bought the NW 19-39-3-W5, which was then C.P.R. land. The following years were very difficult, with hard work, no money, and plenty of worries. This resulted in a perforated ulcer for Charlie and he passed away in June, 1936.

Mabel continued to live in her house on the

farm. She enjoyed gardening and caring for her few head of livestock. For a year she was in charge of a dormitory for high school students situated in the present Lion's Hall in Eckville. In 1914 she and her two youngest daughters went to Steveston, B.C. where she worked as cook on the P.G.E. railway until her retirement. She passed away in April of 1962, at the age of 70 years.

Charley and Mabel had five daughters: — Iva, now Mrs. Gilbert Gustavson, Anne, (Mrs. Bill McIntyre) who had three children, Sylvia, Phyllis, and Gregg of Vancouver. Anne passed away in July of 1983. Myrel, now Mrs. Ray Sestrap of Clearbrook, B.C., who has two daughters — Sandy, of Beverly Hills, California and Debbie, of Clearbrook. Hazel, now Mrs. Charles Boyd, of Bremerton, Washington, who has two sons, Chucky and Jim. Elda, who is now Mrs. George McBeth of Eagle Bay, B.C. She has one daughter, Gina.

Shortly after his arrival in Eckville, Charlie met a neighbor, Matt Makl. He very cordially invited Charlie over for a bath on Saturday evening. Being unaware of the custom of visiting and enjoying a sauna, Charlie was a bit concerned. He asked Mabel when he arrived home if he smelled that bad that a neighbor had to offer him a bath. However, he soon learned the real meaning of the invitation, and was to enjoy the hospitality immensely.

**LIGHTBOWN, DAVID — by Pat Lightbown**

David Lightbown was born in Red Deer and grew up in the Diamond Valley district. He is the youngest son of Max and Margaret Lightbown. He started school at Gaetz and then moved to Red Deer for a few months. When Edd, his oldest brother, was called into the army, his folks moved back to the farm and Dave finished his grade one at Bluebell school. He went to school there until grade four, when Diamond Valley School opened again. His folks sold their farm when Dave was in Grade Five. They moved to Matsqui, B.C. where he finished his elementary schooling. He graduated from Abbotsford High School and then headed back for Alberta.

He worked for George Armeneau that summer and worked at Kitimat, B.C. the next winter. He worked at Lake Louise the summer of 1957 hauling asphalt on the Banff-Jasper highway. He worked for his brother, Robert for a few years before they went into partnership in the trucking business.

David married Patricia Forsell in November of 1962 and they have lived at Eckville since then. He trucked with his brother for about ten years and then bought out the business himself. He continued in this business until February of 1976 when he sold his business to Gerry Forsell. Dave then went to work for Texaco Canada Ltd. at the Gilby Gas Plant. Dave and Pat have four children, Kerry, Keith, Julie and Heather. The three older children now attend the Eckville schools, and Heather will soon attend play school.

**ROBERT LIGHTBOWN FAMILY—by Janet Lightbown**

Robert Lightbown (Bud), second son of Mr. and Mrs. Max Lightbown of the Diamond Valley district, married Janet Brown, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown of the Gaetz district in Eckville in 1952. Bud owned and operated a general trucking business in the Eckville district for many years, until 1974. Being an ardent rodeo fan, Bud was instrumental in starting the Eckville Indoor Rodeo and also the Eckville Pony Club.

Robert and Janet's family consists of two daughters and three sons. Karen married Jim Tubbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tubbs of Condor. They operate the J & K Foods and the Echo Theatre. They have two sons, Jamie and Micheal, and a daughter, Janelle.

Myrna married Peter McLellan of Rocky Mountain House and they farm in that area. Their two sons are Cody and Layne.

Garry is attending NAIT in Edmonton in 1977, and Murray and Dean attend school in Eckville.

We live on an acreage just north of Eckville, located on the SW 22-38-3-W5.

**J.O. LINDBERG FAMILY HISTORY**

Joseph and Patricia Lindberg, with their four children, came to Eckville in 1970. They lived in the teacherage across the street from the school until they built their own home on the west side of Eckville in 1973. Joe was principal of the Eckville High School from 1970 until 1975.

Joe grew up in Saskatchewan and took his B.A. degree there in 1947. Later he received his B.Ed. degree from the University of Alberta. He taught school in Saskatchewan for several years before coming to Alberta.

Pat, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Avery, was born in their farmhouse in the Condor district, with Dr. Greenaway attending. She attended school in Northup and Condor and later completed high school in Qualicum Beach, B.C. She was employed with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in British Columbia and also in Red Deer.

Joe and Pat met in Condor in 1956 when Pat returned to visit her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crouch. They were married at the Condor Mission Church in June 1957. Their first three children—Ian, Ingrid and Sonja—were born in Rocky Mountain House. Wanda was born in Viking, Alberta, in 1967.

Joe's teaching career has taken the family to many interesting places, including Mayo, Yukon, Edmonton, Condor, Holden, Bashaw and Meeting Creek, Alberta. Of particular interest was the launching of the new David Thompson High School in 1967.

Since coming to Eckville the family's main area of service has been in St. Paul's

Presbyterian Church. Joe also held several of fices in the Lions Club

**LINDQUIST A W VICTOR — by E. A. Bchey**

A. W. Victor Lindquist came as an immigrant from Sweden and worked on many construction obs including the Field Tunnel west of Banff. In 1904 he settled in the Eckville district on land now owned by Claude Cunningham, some two miles south of Eckville.

He was a very inventive fellow and at one time completely built from scratch his own threshing machine with which he harvested his own crop. He also built a sawmill on his place and sawed lumber for many of his neighbors at neighborly prices.

At one time he envisaged a power dam and turbine which was to be located on the river on the old John Armstrong place across the road. Needless to say this never materialized.

A very helpful and friendly fellow, one of his first loves was playing cards or horseshoes and he sometimes spent several nights a week at these pastimes. I well remember him trudging down the hill with his lantern on dark nights to our place to pick up milk for his several cats and to spend the evening. He was quite musical and played both the harmonica and single row accordion for parties in the neighborhood.

A unique character, he was one of the true pioneers of the Eckville district. In or about 1944 he sold his land at Eckville and moved to Pigeon Lake where he died in 1947.

**LINGREN FRANK RICHARD — by Marie Meyers**

In 1898 my father, Frank Richard Lingren, emigrated with his parents from Finland to Red Lodge, Montana, U.S.A. In 1906 they moved to Canada, where his folks filed on a homestead near Gabriel Lake. That year father worked in Red Deer, driving a dray team. He also hauled rock for the first United Church in Red Deer.

In the winter of 1907 my father worked with his father west of Edmonton in the bush as a timber cruiser. Coming home in the spring they built a raft and floated down the Pembina River as close as possible to Edmonton, walking the rest of the wa[illegible]

My mother, Emma Hilma Olson, was born at Frontier, Wyoming, U.S.A. In 1903, at the age of nine years, she immigrated to Canada with her parents, where they filed on a homestead south of Eckville, N.E. 32-39-3 W5.

Mother and Father were married in 1913. They moved to Butte, Montana for three years where Father worked in the copper mines. In 1917 they moved back to Alberta and to the homestead north of Eckville.

There were seven girls in the family. Ivy, the oldest, was born in Butte, Montana, and the rest were all born at Eckville. Ivy, Jennie and Helen have passed away. Ivy and Jennie were never married. Helen was married to Final Evenson. They had seven children — five girls and two boys. They were Joan, Joyce, Janice, Carol, Stanley, Sherry and Dean. Marjorie was married to Henry Postl. Their three boys are Alan, Howard and Jim. Marie married Ed Meyers and their children are Richard and Patricia. Bernice married Alex Prusak. Their two girls are Bonnie Lynn and Linda Jane. Shirley Anne passed away as a baby.

My father passed away in December of 1955 and mother passed away in 1970. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**ARCHIE LITT AND FAMILY — by Archie Litt**

Archibald Litt — born at South Camp, Aldershot, England, March 27, 1887.

Margaret Litt — born at Heysham, Lancaster, England, December 13, 1884, died August, 1949, at Vancouver, British Columbia.

Two children, Freda A., born at Eckville, Alberta, August 8, 1914. Robert A., born at Eckville, Alberta, November 20, 1920.

In the year 1977 the family consists of the two children above mentioned, seven grandchildren [illegible]

Archie Litt arrived in Eckville in the year 1912. The purpose of his coming was to organize a co-operative association. Having had experience in co-operatives in England and being a graudate from the English Co-operative Union in general management, he was recommended by the Canadian Co-operative Union.

The Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Association was then organized and commenced business with very small cash working capital, the founders having little or nothing to spare from the needs of their farming activities and living. Contributions were made to the capital by labor on the store building construction. Imbued by the spirit of the Rochdale pioneers, who started the co-operative movement in Rochdale, Lancashire, England, with a capital of 28 pounds which later developed into big business until it embraced about one-third of the population of Great Britain, the business commenced in Eckville with a paid-up capital of less than $1 500, including the contributions through labor on the building. The store was stocked with groceries, hardware, drygoods and footwear and other items, depending upon trade terms and turnover. It was a bold venture and a nerve racking experience for the manager.

In April of 1916 A. Litt left the co-operative and enlisted with the armed forces in Calgary in the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance, and proceeded overseas as a private. He returned in October 1919, having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After returning to Eckville Archie was employed by Mike Sestrap's store until April 1921. Then he was appointed to the position of manager of the Bentley Co-operative Association where he remained until the year 1926. He then

Archer and Margaret Lott Family with daughter Freda, 1917

moved on to British Columbia to enjoy the warmer climate.

The hard work at Eckville was lightened and brightened by a good social life. Association, neighborliness, visiting, barn dances, dances in the town hall and at school houses bring back pleasant memories. Box socials were also common, and a good-looking school ma'am often contributed to the revenue by drawing high bidding. All the young men wanted her box. At the dances in the outlying school houses and halls the babies were taken along and laid out in a row at the side of the building on tables strung along, the babies being laid side by side. The music was supplied by a fiddler and accompaniment of an organ of the foot pedal type. On many occasions A. Litt did the fiddling. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies bringing sandwiches and cakes.

We had a small orchestra in which I enjoyed being a member and playing with my violin. It was conducted by Arthur Kinna, who was a good musician, producing good tone on his violin. Fritz Kinna played the cello, John Vernick the flute, Norman Turner on the piano and John Plaitian the cornet if I remember correctly. One of the Koots boys also played the violin.

These were the days of the pioneers, when roads were constructed with poplar poles on the muskeg over which the stage drove through driven by a Mr. Foster, who was a very interesting character. The stage carried the mail and passengers from Red Deer.

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. We have grown with the times, and benefited by experience. Life has been worthwhile, and we are thankful for the opportunity of making our contribution to the progress as pioneers.

**LUDWIG, HENRY**

Henry Ludwig was born at Rolfield, Germany where members of his family are still living in the family house. He was at school in Heidelberg and Astralfenberg. He did private tutoring in France and spent a considerable time at Edinburgh University. He was on the staff of a boys' residential school and day school for some time. He had a London degree.

He came to Canada in 1908, went to normal school and taught in Evarts for a short time and then taught at Haultain School in Calgary. He left Calgary at the beginning of the first war and moved to the country, isolated at that time. In 1920, Mr. Ludwig came to Eckville but he left in 1929, the pupils at that time were finishing Grade 11. He was 14 years on the staff of the High School at Medicine Hat. He moved to Victoria in 1943. He died there in 1952 after a long illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ludwig, Frances, Margaret and Philip (Ann Anthony is missing) - 1929

## ISAAC AND ELIZABETH LUMBY FAMILY

Isaac Lumby was born in Finland about 1873 His family consisted of his wife, Elizabeth, born in Vasa Finland on October 30, 1877 and four step-daughters, Mary, born in Eureka, Utah, February 2, 1900 Emily, born in Butte, Montana on May 13, 1902 Verna born in Virginia City, Montana on June 1, 1904 Allie, born in Butte. Montana on August 15, 1906

Isaac Lumby came from Finland to Butte Montana in the early 1890's where he worked in the mines. After his brother, John, was killed in the mines in 1908, Isaac married Elizabeth John's wife, and acquired his brother's family of four daughters

Elizabeth Lumby born in Vasa, Finland October 30 1877 came to Butte, Montana when she was 18 years old. She married John Lumby and they have five children. Their only son, Evart, died when he was two years old. It is not known whether he died of hemophilia, but it later was established that Elizabeth was a carrier One of her five grandsons and a great-grandson were to have hemophilia in later years. When her husband, John, was killed in a mining accident in Butte in 1908, Elizabeth was left with four daughters to raise She later married her

Isaac, ill from working the mines, needed a change. The family moved to the fresh air of Gilby in 1909. Their 165-acre homestead was seven miles west of Gilby between the Eckford and Koskinen farms

Home was a small log cabin about 24 by 20' — one room with a sleeping loft. Before a well house was made, food was kept cool in a large box on the north side of the house After a bear raided all of the food, a well house was built and ice, made during the winter, lasted all summer to keep food cold

After living on the homestead at Gilby for about eight years, the Lumbys sold the homestead and bought a farm a mile north of Eckville. The neighbors to the south were the August Koskis, across the road were the Matt Johnson's, and C.P.R. land lay to the north

During the winter Isaac worked in the mines at Nordegg to supplement the family income Food was always on the table, but there were no frills. All clothing was home-made from materials brought during the summer from Butte by Elizabeth's sister, Susan Rinda. The eldest daughter, Mary lived with Mrs. Rinda in Butte and visited the family during the summer when school was out

One by one, the daughters moved to Vancouver British Columbia and then to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. In 1928 Isaac passed away and Elizabeth, with her youngest daughter, Allie, moved south to be with the rest of their

Elizabeth Lumby Saare passed away in Seattle in 1954

she had two sons

Allie Hill passed away in Seattle in 1956

Mary Swetman and Verna Larson both reside in Seattle. Mary has two sons and two daughters Verna has a son

## JOHN LUNDBERG

Born near Goteborg, Sweden, John attended elementary and secondary schools, graduating from the Folk School at the age of 14 at the head of his class. He apprenticed and worked as a baker in Goteborg from 1898 until 1903, and took part in a controversial strike, helping organize a baker's union

At age 20, in 1903, he journeyed to New York and thence to Chaboygan, Michigan, where he met another immigrant who was to become a life-long friend, Charlie Gustavson. The two then travelled to Portland Oregon, where they worked in the lumber yards and sawmills

John never became a U.S. citizen, although he signed a declaration of intention for citizenship He and Charlie became interested in the free homestead land available near Wetaskiwin Northwest Territories. They came up from Portland, Oregon on a homesteaders excursion in 1905

In Canada the two friends first worked on the Wetaskiwin Camrose railroad. They then travelled westward from Lacombe with a man and outfit hired for this purpose After days of travel over bad roads, they decided they would never find land as long as the man was being paid on a daily basis, so they set off on foot They walked from Lacombe to west of Bentley to the Lockhart district. John noticed that the stream through the promised land yielded fish and that potatoes could be grown on the hillsides. The land was registered in the Dominion Lands Office in Red Deer

A log house, with a sod roof was the first Canadian home. Charlie took out land on the northeast corner of Gull Lake

Hilda Johansen came out from the old home in Sweden and she and John were married on her arrival at Lacombe in 1906. Two boys, Okey and Bert were born here, and a daughter, Lisa

In 1912, when John heard of the village of Eckville 14 miles southwest, he loaded up potatoes and took them there to sell. Having dinner in the restaurant John learned that the owner planned to sell Mr Lundberg bought the property. He wanted to be near a school for his children. It was planned that Charlie would build a livery stable thus enabling the two to cater to all the travellers' needs

John later became a dealer in John Deere Implements and De Laval cream separators

While in Eckville and district from 1912 to 1950 this ingenious man became involved in many activities. He helped organize and operate the Co-operative store of which he was secretary for many years; the Wheat Pool also

received his dedicated support. He was a member of the school board, the Rural Electrification Association, the Save the Soil campaign, the Lion's Club, the Modern Woodman and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federa

From 1914 until his death in 1950, he was a reporter for the Red Deer Advocate, using his weekly columns for local news and as a tool for the building of a good community

John Lundberg, along with Mike Sestrap built the telephone lines from Gilby to Eckville and into the Leedale and Kuusamo districts

none so much as when the two men stripped an waded into water to put in poles and weight their bases down with stones. Some insulators were na ed to trees

The switchboard was located in the hotel and consisted of a wall-type te ephone with a switchbox at the bottom containing five lines Clara Botten, working in the hotel, also operated it In 1918 the switchboard was moved to Dan Clausen's house and operated by Teressa, Clara's sister In the mid-thirties John Lundberg installed the new switch panel covering a large wall area in the new telephone building Starting in 1914, he was the telephone and lines trouble shooter for the district for many

The 'Mountain View' hotel was sold to Harry Low on November 1, 1918 because the entire community was anxious for a beer parlour but No way " said Mr Lundberg, would I raise my family under these conditions

He moved the family to the farm which he had purchased from John Heikkinen, three miles from Eckville. May 18, 1918. While here, the youngest child Lester was born in Red Deer On May 21, 192 he also purchased one quarter section across the road, west, belonging to John L. Harper for four thousand, four hundred dollars This was previously C P R land

Just before Christmas, 1918, Mrs. Lundberg Hilda passed away from peritonitis caused by a ruptured appendix. Roads were blocked with and the nearest doctor Dr DeLong was located in Red Deer Due to the great delay in the doctor's arrival at the farm, and the long trip with Hilda into the Red Deer hospital, the four children lost their mother She lived for 11 days and was buried in the Red Deer cemet cold winter's day

January 1, 1920. John married Ida Pearson of Cove, Washington, who became his helpmate un il his dea h

The cold in winter seemed more severe then than now because of the inadequate home heating facilities. This consisted of a wood-burning heater in the living room and the kitchen stove with the wood box beside it. Warm water came from the tank at the side of the kitchen stove This tank was called a reservoir

There were severe and damaging hail storms some summers, at a time when there was no in

surance available, causing great hardship to those affected

The Lundberg children, except Lester attended the old Eckville school one mile north of Eckville This school was later moved into the village and used as a school there. Mrs. Bert Lundberg being the first teacher Later this old school became a church After this the children attended school in the village and Salma school east of the farm

John and Charlie purchased the first car a 1914 Model T Ford, in Red Deer The car had car bide lights. Driving home, west of Red Deer they were unable to put the car into high gear When they returned to Bottenheimer's garage where the car had been purchased, it was found that the emergency lever had not been let down to allow it to move into high, causing the engine to boil. While driving through the low grassy areas, in the early evenings, great interest was caused by the fireflies shooting off in all directions The children have memories of what seemed a long trip, into Red Deer and back to Eckville in those days. Many times they fell asleep during those trips. Overhauling and upkeep of the car was done by John himself as there were no local garages

The annual picnic was held on May 24 and was looked forward to by adults and children alike When it rained that day there were many sad

ple people met and visited, children ran races for prizes. Ice cream was the cherished treat for all, and the day's celebrations wound up with a ball game at which the well-known local players were wildly cheered. A dance followed in the village ha

Annual Christmas concerts were attended by everyone for miles around The school children provided the program and each child present received a bag of treats and a present The centre of attraction in each school was the gaily decorated and huge Christmas tree, which was lit with many burning candles. Small children and babies were brought along and as the evening wore on they slept in various places at the sides of the stage, on benches or in any available

was prepared by local women and served at the close of the concert A dance usually rounded out the evening's entertainment

The Lundberg children remember well the discussions engendered by the first World War as their father was an avid anti-war advocate He had many a heated debate with all and sundry as most people had accepted the propaganda prevalent then — that the war was for a good cause — without reference to the cost, in material and lives, of this holocaust. Lisa, the daughter remembers one such argument with a

disagreement he spat forcefully and often on the ground, but one of these sputums landed in Lisa s

hair. The child's mother was especially put out at this evident indication of bad manners.

The mode of transportation was with horse or horses and buggy in summer and bob sled or cutter and horses in winter. Straw and blankets were put in the sled for warmth and failing that family members got out and ran behind in order to stir up the circulation.

In winter and summer families visited one another by this manner and sometimes the adults played whist till morning and stayed for breakfast. The children played in the bedroom till exhausted.

The nearest hospital was at Red Deer although Eckville had a resident doctor, one of the first being Dr. Evans. Dentists pulled teeth without benefit of anaesthesia. During the 1918-1919 flu epidemic everyone wore masks over their nose and mouth to avoid the spread of viruses, but, even so, many people became seriously ill or died from this epidemic.

Farm power, on the homestead, was supplied by oxen, followed by the walking plow and the riding plow pulled by horses, and later the tractor. The children usually took forenoon and afternoon lunch to the father in the field, which they all partook of while he and the horses rested a bit.

The official language of the Eckville district was English but most of the settlers spoke Finnish. There was a sprinkling of Estonian and Swedish settlers.

The Lundberg children along with the Hill girls, Lymie and Lempi, took turns with the buggy or cutter and horse to school — about three miles. The horse, Roanie, had been a race horse earlier and would run fast if there was a child on horseback teasing him.

The drumming of the male partridge in the spring, in a thicket near the farm house, is well remembered, as are the lovely cowslips in a marsh close by. Also remembered is the rush and roar of the creek that flowed through the land across the road and the large violets which grew beside this same creek in the summer. There was also the fun the kids had sleigh riding down what seemed a steep hill by the house in winter. Seeing the hill since, it seems to have lost a lot of its steepness. We skated on the slough across the road and played in the hayloft.

In 1948 John Lundberg gave up active farming to devote himself to his other interests. He was a great lover of people and of nature and was always helping one or the other. He planted more than three thousand trees on his own place, and delighted in his garden.

He was a giver — not a receiver. He was profoundly convinced that the co-operative philosophy was the only sound way of living and devoted more than half a century to practicing and preaching that idea.

In 1927 arrangements were made through Herbert Greenfield, Premier of Alberta, and the C.N.R. for John to go to Sweden as an immigration officer. He held many meetings, where he spoke to groups of people explaining the opportunities in Canada. The trip was made in January by rail and the steamship "Drotningham".

After a visit with his family and completing his immigration duties, four young men returned to Alberta with him. They have made their homes here and have become good citizens of the country.

His life story was skilfully dramatized by Elsie Park in the CBC radio "Summerfallow" series.

The good works John Lundberg accomplished will keep his memory green for years to come.

**LUNDBERG, Okey**

Okey was born in May 1907 on the family homestead at Lockhart which is about 15 miles north and east of Eckville. His father was originally from Sweden and had settled on a rough hilly quarter section. He was of farm stock but found the life there very primitive and hard. He persuaded his sweetheart to join him and they were married and started their family.

Okey was the first born, but he remembered very little of the early life on the farm. The family bought the hotel at Eckville at the time the railroad was being laid through that area, so Mr. and Mrs. Lundberg were very busy people feeding the working crews.

Okey remembers feeling very lost when they moved to the tiny village. Not being able to speak English must have been the hardest part of the move for him. He soon learned however, and attended school first at the old school site north of the village and later in the village itself. He often spoke of Mr. Ludvig, his last teacher. He was a very stern disciplinarian and didn't hesitate to give his pupils a crack on the knuckles or a sharp rap on the head. He later told Okey's wife that he had been a very bad boy and was really surprised that he grew up to be such a

Okey, being the oldest of the family of four, was often expected to assist both his mother and dad.

Later they purchased a farm just a few miles out of Eckville and went back to farming. Mr. Lundberg was a man of very high principles and when it seemed necessary to run a beer parlor in conjunction with a hotel, he would have none of it, hence the move back to the farm.

On the farm Okey was his right hand man. His dad was always at the head of any progressive movement and was soon busy organizing the telephone lines in the area. He and Okey spent days putting up lines, climbing the poles, and all the chores necessary for the job. Around this time Mrs. Lundberg passed away leaving an infant boy to be raised. The family tried to manage as best they could until Mr. Lundberg married a lady from his homeland, Ida Sundberg who was willing to help him out.

Okey was attending school, but he also played in a band, help with the threshing crews at harvest time, and always with the milking at home. When he was only sixteen he went with a chum to the mountains to nail boxcar doors – a rough life in camp for a couple of youngsters. Even so Okey managed to get his first year in high school, but during the next year he spent so much time with the threshing crews that he couldn't pick up the grade ten work and so dropped out of school. In a year or two he attended short courses at the University and became a government cream inspector. He worked in Calgary and surrounding district. The creamery at Eckville had burnt, but when it was rebuilt, Okey became buttermaker under Mr. Bill Morris.

In 1928 he married a teacher in the district, Ruth Garries, from Bentley, and they built a small house on the outskirts of Eckville. It was an acre of land and they planted two rows of trees around it. These trees have made a lovely green spot on the edge of town and there are many houses built in their shade.

Okey was transferred to Lacombe where he became manager of the creamery there. His two children were born there, Oliver David in 1933 and Leslie Jean in 1936. While the children were still very small, Okey purchased the creamery in Rimbey and the family moved there. Okey built a freezer plant in conjunction with the creamery. His two children spent their early years in school in Rimbey. Those years in Rimbey were during the second world war and it was very hard to obtain good help. His business grew by leaps and bounds. Ruth helped all she could. She learned to grade eggs and to do the office work.

Meanwhile the Central Alberta Dairy Pool wanted Okey in their business, so shortly after the end of the war Okey sold his creamery and became manager of the home factory of the Dairy Pool at Alix.

At Alix, Okey managed a very large creamery, which made butter and printed it into pounds. They had huge freezers that received butter from other smaller Dairy Pool creameries and from creameries in

ter for the Safeway stores in Western Canada.

Here Okey became involved in town affairs and for thirteen years was the mayor of Alix. While he was there, they installed both water and sewer and opened up an entire new area for the town's house building projects. He was also president of Central Alberta Hockey teams and president of the Central Alberta Boards of Trade and it was during his time in office that the Board of Trade organized the Cavalcade, first to Biggar, Saskatchewan and then to Saskatchewan crossing on the Banff-Jasper highway. This road was a mere trail in the mountains. They forded rivers and cut trees. It is now a broad, beautiful road, which cuts off many miles for central Alberta tourists.

Ruth was busy raising her family but for three years she taught a 4-H club of girls with great success. The first year two of the girls won a competition in Alberta, which permitted them to go to Toronto Winter Fair where they again won top spot for all of Canada for their sewing class. The second year two more girls won the chance to go again to the Winter Fair and again won honors for their cooking class.

In 1961, the Dairy Pool moved Okey to Calgary to take over their plant there. Here here was also a dairy which delivered milk all over the city and made ice cream which was sold all over Central Alberta.

In 1969, Okey suffered a severe heart seizure, followed by more heart trouble so that he was forced to retire.

In the meantime his son and daughter had married and had families. David married Betty Deen of Alix and they live in Drayton Valley, David working in the office for an oil company and Betty working most of her married life as a trained nurse in the Drayton Valley Hospital.

Leslie Jean married Clayton Lofstrand of Erskine and she and her husband lived at Whitecourt where they had three children. They are now divorced and Leslie and her baby daughter now live with her mother in Red Deer.

The families are as follows: David and Betty–Debra, Jacqueline and Sheryl. Leslie and Clayton–Leonard, Kim and Erin.

After Okey and Ruth sold their house in Calgary they moved to Vernon, B.C. where they built a house overlooking the beautiful Lake Kalamalka, but they were not to enjoy it for very long. Okey passed away quietly sitting in his chair on April 26, 1970.

His wife sold the house and is now living in a trailer in the "Pines" area in Red Deer.

**LUNDBERG, BERTIL IVER**

Bertil was born in the Lockhart district November 29, 1909 and at the age of three moved with the family to Eckville where his father and mother took over the restaurant and hotel. The first day in Eckville he got lost. There were three houses in Eckville besides the hotel, Forhan's, Dan Clausens, and Dr. Evans' and Bertil was used to there being only one.

During the time between 1912 and 1914, when the railway was being built, he remembers the large crews of workers that stopped for meals and overnight lodging. After the telephone was installed, quite often a call would advise him of 100 workers coming for dinner that day. His mother worked very hard — beautiful white tablecloths on long tables, laden with food prepared on a wood-burning stove; and what huge piles of wood were put up each winter to heat the rooms as well as for the cooking. One year's supply of wood required a great amount. John L., being a baker by trade, was able to do much of the baking for the restaurant.

Other memories of daily occurrences such as

drunks falling asleep on the platform of the hotel. His father, being a strong man, would load them into a wheelbarrow and wheel them to the tracks where he would load them into an empty box car. Sometimes fights took place in the hotel, along with one gunfight, when the children hid under the table.

The children have a pleasant memory of going to sleep listening to strains of music coming from the room above, played by John Plathan on a violin or one of many other instruments. Or the C.N.R. foreman by the name of "Pinkie" standing on the corner on a cold winter night, singing his heart out.

One very fond memory was of going with Charlie Gustavson (who was like a big uncle) with his team and top buggy on various taxi errands throughout the country. One trip took a policeman to Gilby to try to subdue a boiler man who had gone berserk and was shooting from a little log shack just south of the Gilby bridge. Incidentally, he escaped through a back door into the brush and was never captured.

A regular guest of the hotel was "Foster", who hauled "His Majesty's Mail", and would put a bullet through the hat of anyone who would not give him the right-of-way. Another thought that comes to mind is of Benson, the "Rawleigh Man" in his carriage-type buggy and horses who carried his head with severe tilt to the right.

The horses belonging to the guests of the hotel were put up in Charlie Gustavsen's livery stable which proved that the thinking of John and Charlie worked out as planned.

Berthil attended school for three years in the old Eckville School a mile north of town. When they started to school Lisa, Okey and he could speak no English. Some of the teachers were Lillian Benedictson, Mrs. Quigley and Mrs. Kin

The highligh. of the early years was the annual trip to Banff. Starting from Eckville in the early morning hours, over ruts, corduroy roads, and the muskeg flats to Red Deer and south to Calgary over the winding prairie wagon trails, and after a stop for ice-cream in Calgary, west towards Banff proved to be quite a trip. He remembers a great mud hole between Calgary and Cochrane, where one was sure to get stuck, as there was no way around it. The neighboring farmer was always willing to pull you through for two dollars. His horse was always standing ready. It was later said that the farmer hauled barrels of water by night to maintain the mud hole for his own benefit.

Further west when you hit the mountains you must "sound claxton" on every curve, as the road was one car width and one vehicle would have to wait or back up to a wider spot in order to meet any oncoming car and have room to pass. Eventually you arrived at the park gate and later at the Homestead Hotel in Banff at about three in the morning. The year that registration of cars entering the park began, John Lundberg's car was the first car entered in the

In 1918 the hotel was sold to Harry and Anna E. Lowe and the Lundberg family moved to the farm, one mile north and two miles east of the town of Eckville. The children attended Salma school for two years. The John Earle Harper property across the road was purchased by J. L. Having, and in the Eckville school district entitled the children to go to the Eckville school. As this was their market place, it was more convenient that they go there.

In 1920 the new Eckville school was built. Henry Ludwig was the principal and Ida Thompson was the teacher. Okey, Lisa, Berthil Lundberg, and several others were the pupils.

After finishing school Bert helped on the farm until 1929. His father thought it best that he learn a trade, so he began working at Rocky Mountain House in the creamery making butter, under John Plathan, an old friend of the family. From there he moved to Rimbey to work for Central Creameries until 1935. Then he went to Innisfail where he worked for the Independent Creameries until 1941. The next move was to Red Deer for a few months in the Hepworth Creamery. At that time the Central Alberta Dairy Pool was going to open a new creamery and offered him the position of manager. Because of the co-operative teaching of his father, he accepted. During this time the plant where he worked won many prizes at the agricultural fairs for the excellent butter submitted. Shortly afterward the egg and live poultry departments were opened, followed by the eviscerating department, and finally the canners of Farmgold poultry. This covered a period of twenty years of research and expan

In 1962 Bert was transferred from these departments to the department of packaged goods, which entailed considerable travelling for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool (Alpha Milk) over the prairie provinces, British Columbia and Northwest Territories. His last assignment was the opening of new territory in Washington and Oregon U.S.A. to sell Alpha honey. On April 15, 1968, the morning of the last meeting to be held in Seattle before shipping was to begin, Bert suffered a stroke and was forced into retirement.

After a partial recovery from the paralysis he rebuilt and winterized his cottage in the summer village of Norglenwold, on Sylvan Lake. At present (1977) Bert is restoring a Model A Ford car, as well as enjoying his yard and flowers.

Each summer the family consisting of Beryl (California), Georgie (Ontario), Earle (Edmonton) and their children spend holidays with their parents, Bert and his wife (Gladys Jones) who was the first primary room teacher in the Eckville school.

Bert, like his sister, sadly thinks about all the members of the family who have passed on —

mother in 1918, Father in 1936, Stepmother in 1962, Okey in 1970 and Lester in 1973

**LUNDBERG, LESTER — 1918-1973**

Lester, the youngest member of the Lundberg family was born on March 9, 1918, when the family was living on their farm. When he was nine months old his mother passed away, making it necessary for his father to get someone to care for the baby. Along with having a housekeeper part of the time, Lester stayed at Nielsons in the Evarts area, and for a longer period of time with the Bolton family in Diamond Valley. He was brought home when his father remarried in 1920.

Lester went to school in Eckville, on a bicycle in summer and horseback in winter. Like a farm children, he helped with the chores and drove horses and farm equipment. Whenever they could arrange it, he and Gilbert Gustavson could be seen packing their guns to hunt gophers or, in season, game birds. As he grew older the farm duties took more and more of his time.

One of the pleasant memories the family has is Lester's humorous side. He saw the funny side of most things in life,and and wherever there was a group of people he had them splitting their sides with laughter.

Lester married Mary Toonen, a local girl, on November 22, 1937 and they took over the farming operations. His father and mother moved west, across the road to the Harper quarter where Mr. Lundberg had built a modern new home.

Two sons were born to Lester and Mary. Jack on December 23, 1938 and Stanley on November 21, 1944. Mary and he worked very hard on the farm. They milked several cows and began building up a herd of Holstein cattle. In 1946 Lester decided he would like to learn a trade. They sold the farm to Mary's brother Jake and his Scottish war bride, Agnes. The equipment and livestock were sold at an auction sale. That was a sad day for a certain neighbor child — it meant no more delicious home-made ice cream.

Lester and his family stayed with his sister in Calgary while he attended technical school, studying mechanics. On completion of the course he managed to serve two years on the Fort Saskatchewan Town Council.

For recreation Lester and the boys were ardent curlers, and won many trophies at various bonspiels. Lester also loved horse racing. Mary and he went to Calgary and Edmonton and to Phoenix every year to attend the races. Incidentally he did very well at the races. Another sport he enjoyed was fishing. Many weekends they went north with their camper and boat. Long-standing friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Yeo (an Eckville barber of the early days), were often companions on their excursions.

Lester suffered from diabetes for many years and at the early age of 55 years he passed away on September 16, 1973 from heart failure.

Mary is now living in an apartment in Fort Saskatchewan and spends her time travelling, or with various activities with her many friends and grandchildren.

John (Jack) married Lynne Hietland on December 24, 1969. They have two children. Lori was born August 12, 1970, and Dean was born March 25, 1972.

Stan married Donna Luckyfassel on April 9, 1966. Their three children are Jeff, born March 2, 1969, Jody, born February 26, 1971, and Sheryl born August 24, 1973.

**LEVI MARSHALL LUTZ FAMILY** by Jean [illegible]

Born in Westmorlin County, New Brunswick of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry, on March 25 1874, Levi Marshall Lutz worked during his youth in construction work in lumber camps in Maine U.S.A.

At the age of 13 years he picked up the habit of chewing tobacco — a habit which was to remain with him all of his years. At one time in his later life, one of his sons, Albert, and a grandson Donald Hansen, calculated that through the years he had chewed his way through enough plugs of tobacco that, if placed end to end, they would measure 13 miles!

On February 6, 1907 he married Grace Alma Brown, born October 9, 1888 in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick. A son, Lee, was born on October 1 1907 in New Brunswick. In 1908 the family moved to Fernie, B.C., where Levi worked as a carpenter, and while there he helped rebuild the town, which had been levelled by fire. Here another son, Arthur, was born on January 1 1909, followed by a daughter, Hazel, on September 10, 1910.

In 1912 the family moved to Irvine, Alberta where Levi filed on a homestead. There the rest of the family were born. Ethel on January 21, 1913, George on September 8, 1914, Clarence on May 28, 1916, Myrtle on June 15, 1918, Albert on November 24, 1919, Wilfred on January 22, 1922 and Jean on December 21, 1924.

During this time many hardships assailed the family, such as drought and sickness. As a result, Lee passed away in 1918 at the age of 11

years, and Myrtle in January, 1919, at the age of six months

In 1925, with the help of a government agent and was located in the Benalto and Eckville areas for many drought-stricken farmers on the prairies. Two box cars were allotted each family with which to move to these new locations. In these all possessions were loaded. Any animals or machinery for which there was no room were left behind beside the railroad tracks. Upon returning later Levi found the horses that had been left behind, but they were now wearing someone else's brand, so possession was never regained.

Thus, on a cold rainy October evening the family arrived by C.P.R. in Eckville. Horses were harnessed and the wagons were reloaded. The family, with the exception of Ethel, who had gone to live with an aunt in Winnipeg, proceeded to a two-room house on the Medicine River two miles south of Eckville. This was located on land owned by John Armstrong. Upon arrival at the house it was found that no one had remembered to bring matches with which to light a fire, but Mrs. Armstrong (fondly known as "Kit") arrived on the scene, riding her fine horse "Headlight", and soon had the family warm, fed and settled for the night.

In the spring of 1926 the house on the NE 10-39-3-W5 was vacated, and the family settled in on the land, also owned by John Armstrong, for which they were originally destined. Besides this quarter of land Levi rented and farmed the quarter east and another quarter southeast of the quarter on which the buildings were located. This property is now owned by the Herbert John family.

As was the custom on the prairies, the family planted a huge garden in the spring of 1926, never realizing that the yield would be many times over what had previously grown on the prairie. This feat brought many chuckles from neighbors, but, at the same time, filled many tables both at home for the family and for friends and neighbors.

During these years Levi not only farmed, but did carpenter work for other people. Much time was spent in clearing land, from which he cut, sawed, split and sold wood. Huge wood piles, wherever he lived, kept many families besides his own warm and comfortable. Working at building and maintaining roads also helped pay taxes and supplement the family income.

In 1929 Levi bought the SE 16-39-3-W5 from E. M. Matchett, this land being immediately south of the town of Eckville. He did not take possession until the fall of 1930. This quarter at this time was occupied by the Hans Broderson family, who then moved each of the town of Sylvan Lake. During this year the family recalls picking pails of saskatoons on this newly-purchased land. Every afternoon any family member who was assigned other chores took two milk pails to fill to the top with berries and return home in time for the evening milking.

After moving to this new location Levi farmed portions of NE 16-39-3-W5, owned by W. H. Cowan, and also farmed the NW 16-39-3-W5, belonging to Mrs. Sharron, daughter of E. M. Matchett. This quarter, which is divided by the C.N.R. is now almost completely included, on the north of the railroad, in the town of Eckville. The remainder is owned by Ewart McDonald.

On the road beside the buildings on the home place was a steep hill, referred to as "Matchett's Hill" which was famous for its excellence as a place to go sleigh riding in winter. This sport was enjoyed by everyone.

During these many years Grace Lutz was an active member of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid, and during the depression years every transient who knocked on their door was fed. Anyone traveling with horses, without a place to sleep, always found shelter and food for himself and his animals.

As tractors began replacing horse power on the farms in the early 1940's, Levi purchased a tractor and later a grain separator and threshed grain for farmers for many miles around. For several years, during the war, Levi farmed the Merriman land directly east of Eckville. After the war he reduced the amount of land he farmed, but continued to help two of his sons, Clarence and George, who had returned from the army and had started farming. In 1956 he sold the home quarter to his son-in-law, Ivar Ophus, but continued to reside there until his passing in August, 1958, at the age of 85 years. Grace passed away in February, 1959, at the age of 71 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lutz are laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery.

**ARTHUR LUTZ FAMILY — by Jean Ogilvie**

Arthur Lutz was born in Fernie, B.C. on January 1 1908. He moved with his parents to the Irvine, Alberta area, and then to Eckville in October of 1923. He attended school at Irvine and for a short time in Eckville.

For several years he worked for the Moro Brothers in their flour mill in Eckville. During the war he worked in the North, hauling freight on the Alaska Highway. After the war he bought

gravel on many roads being built in Central Alberta. Winters were spent hauling logs and lumber in the west country. When rural electrification came to Alberta he hauled poles for powerline construction in many parts of Alberta.

Arthur married Julia Bromling and they had eight children. They are Lesh, now married to Eddy Kasha (twins), Monty and Ha.., Hal is married to Linda Lipka), Clara, married to Donald Lockwood. Shelly married to Edwin Engen. Darcy, married to Donna Renaud. Deanna and Kerry still at home.

In 1963 Art decided to try his hand at farming. For a time he rented land, and then purchased the SW 35-39-3-W5. He then moved from the town of Eckville to this land where he continued farming his own land and several rented quarters until his death in December 1975.

At the time of his passing, Art still had a crew

power lines and fencing right-of ways.

Arthur was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He was of a quiet disposition, but his ready smile and quick laugh as well as his love of playing cards (a pastime at which he spent many many hours) will long be remembered by his many friends.

**LUTZ, ALBERT AND IRMA — by Jean Ogilvie**

Albert Lutz was born at Irvine, Alberta on November 23, 1919 and came to the Eckville area with his family in October, 1925. His school years were all spent in Eckville and after leaving school he went to the West coast where he worked at various jobs until enlisting in the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1939. After completing his basic training he went overseas and saw active combat duty in Belgium and France.

After returning from the army in 1946 Albert spent several years doing carpenter work in and around Eckville. Winter employment was found in the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House.

In August, 1946 he married Irma Turner whose home was in Burnaby, B.C. After living in Eckville for several years they moved to Red Deer and Albert went to work as a maintenance man at the R.C.A.F. base at Penhold, a position he still held at the time of his death in December, 1971, at the age of 52 years.

During his years after the war Albert was an active member of the Elks Lodge and made many friends throughout central Alberta through his association with the Lodge.

**LUTZ, WILFRED HERBERT**

Wilfred Herbert Lutz was born at Irvine, Alberta, on January 21, 1922. In 1925 he came to the Eckville district with his parents, brothers and sisters.

He attended school at Eckville, completing Grade 10. During his years on the farm Bill enjoyed riding horses and even now living in the city, he often rides just for relaxation. After leaving school he worked for a time in the co-op butcher shop, drove trucks for Bill MacDonald, Ed Needham and Harry Brooks, hauling freight, machinery, grain, cattle, or anything there was to be hauled. He also worked for a short time in a lumber camp. He worked for Watson Construction during the building of the Trans-Canada Highway at Golden, B.C. and in the construction of irrigation ditches in southern Alberta. He worked for Lambs in Saskatchewan and various parts of Alberta.

In July 1957 he married Harriet Benson, who was matron of the Eckville Municipal Hospital. They later moved to Calgary after a short time in Sundre, and they still reside there.

For several years Bill owned his own gravel truck, but he is now employed by C. G. Brown Construction Ltd.

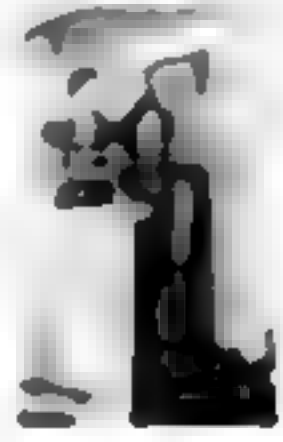
Bill and Harriet have two children, Karen and Grant. Both children are still at home and are attending school.

**MacDONALD, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM (BILL) — by Dr. Kay MacDonald**

Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) MacDonald arrived in Eckville in 1926. Their daughter, Kay (Kathleen), was born in 1928.

Mother had the first orchestra, with Mrs. Findlay, Later Joe Shilley, Walter Hogtune, and Mr. Clausen played for many wedding dances. Mother taught music to many of the children of the community, and also taught school.

Dad had a trucking company and carried the mail for years on the rural routes numbers one and three. He also had a small farm near



Hespero, and one west and north of Gilby. He loved horses and Aberdeen cattle, which he had at the time of his sudden death

A snowmobile was used for transporting the mail on his mail routes and also for frequently taking Dr Coppock on his winter calls

Both mother and dad loved hunting and I can still remember Sunday mornings, going out to hunt birds north of Eckville

Dad was drowned in the Horseguard River in [redacted] flood waters. He was only 48 years old at the time of his passing

Mother passed away on April 7, 1948, also at the age of 48 years. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery

Our home, which dad built in Eckville, is still standing, and belongs to the Presbyterian [redacted]

**THE MATTHEW MAKI FAMILY** by [redacted]

Matt Maki arrived in Central Alberta in 1911 coming from the United States. At the age of 12 years he had come to the United States with his uncle He worked and remained in the United States for 17 years, returning to Finland in 1905 and a while later married and settled down to farming there. A few years later he returned to the United States and found his old buddies getting ready to come to Canada, so he joined them

They all came to Rocky Mountain House and Matt took up a homestead there A year later he had a chance to buy two parcels of land, left from the young men who had gone to the Boer War in Africa and had not returned. This was called Script land, and was available only to a homesteader, who could buy it for $1.00 per acre if he had proved up on his own homestead. All this land was low and muskeg, which had to be ditched

Dad ditched his homestead and broke one hundred acres the first two years with his four oxen and walking plow. He seeded all this land into timothy hay and it grew for years to come He had built a one-room log house, a log barn, dug a well and was quite established when, in 1913, he decided to send for his family from Finland, which consisted of mother and we three children, John, Saimi and myself Hilja). We learned later that mother didn't take kindly to the new home, but she tried and worked hard to make a home there. They added another room to the house and got cows and small animals, pigs, chickens, and so forth. By now Dad had a team of horses and got more later

Two children were born in Rocky Mountain House—Rannar and Helvie. In 1917 the family moved to the Eckville area, two miles west of town. Dad wanted higher land where he could raise grain, and everyone was happy with the move. Dad's first crop in Eckville was 30 acres of wheat and 10 acres of oats. He cut all the sloughs for hay and, with the oats, had plenty for their five cows and horses The creek banks were cut with a scythe. Before leaving his farm at Rocky Mountain House dad had cut big pine logs for a house and barn on the new place. He hauled them home, one wall at a time, the following winter Both buildings are still standing, and in good shape. 60 years later

Eckville was starting to grow, it had several business places, store creamery and a school for us children. The first winters it was hard for the smaller ones to get to school as it was so bitterly cold. The school was moved to the village and a new two-room school was built which we all enjoyed. The first year in Eckville, John then 10 years old had a nasty accident. A horse kicked him in the face. There was no doctor near so Dad rushed to town The druggist, Mr O Forhan advised John's going to Red Deer for a doctor's care He phoned Fritz Kinna, who had the only car around, and away they went Mr Forhan attended to John the best he could, as he was bleeding badly Dad went along, and also Mr Clausen the postmaster, in case they had to push the car through the mud holes

Eventually there were eight children in our family Uy was born in August of 1917 Reino on October 1, 1919, and Ray on July 12 1922. By now we older ones were good farm hands and we all had to work hard. The girls worked in the fields as well as milking cows

Our mother was a quiet woman, and a home loving type. She had to work hard and in the winter evenings she would knit mittens and socks until far into the night. She sewed everything we wore when we were young, but always had time to feed anyone who came around at mealtime She was a strong woman, as most women had to be, in order to take all the hardships of pioneer life Leaving everything behind back home in Finland and starting from scratch, almost and weathering depression times, she still managed a smile and said, "Things will be better " She enjoyed going to the odd picnic, the neighbors gathered at Wood Lake at least every June 24, and the U F A and U F W A usually had an outing at some farm which everybody in the community attended These were fun times, as were also the Christmas concerts The Finnish Christmas concert and dance was held at the home of one of our neighbors—Jack Hiltala—because the upstairs in their house was one big room, a hall, you might say Later, when the Liberty Hall was built, the picnics and dances were held there This was about 1924 We used to go there in the wintertime with a team and bob sleigh, all bundled up, and later on cars became popular so that made traveling nicer

As the years passed we children went away to work and later on to other places and provinces Saimi went to Vancouver B.C in 1933. I followed her in 1934 and John and Helvie came in 1936 John worked in the Britannia Beach mines. By

then Saimi had married August Veinman and I had married William Sjoblom

In 1939 Dad had taken ill and passed away in July of that year We all came home and John stayed home to help with the farming,as the farm had grown much larger because dad had been able to acquire more land from time to time In October of 1939 tragedy struck again when Saimi and August Veinman lost their two and-a-half year old son

War had broken out and the young men were getting nervous. Reino got his call for the armed forces in 1940, and he was overseas for five years. John was in the army for four years, with some harvest leaves to help Rannar and Ray, who were doing the farming

In the spring of 1940 Hilja and Bill Sjoblom moved from Vancouver to a farm in the Eckville district, with their two small girls, Helen, four years old and Katherine, one year old. Their son Allan was born in 1941 Helen, now Mrs Bergeson has six children. David, Wesley, Randy, Verlynn, Karen and Gary She and her husband keep busy on their farm near Bentley Their son David is married to Pat St Jean and they have a daughter Teja, born in 1977 This gives the Bill Sjoblums a great-granddaughter Katherine, now Mrs. Kubbernus, lives in Calgary, where her husband, Leon. is foreman of a tin-smith shop. Both Kay and Leon are

regularly participate in these sports at Banff and other areas. They are members of the Alpine Mountain Climbers organization. Bill and Hilja lived on their farm north of Eckville for 36 years before their retirement In 1976 they bought a home in Eckville where they, along with their son Allan now live

In addition to the son which they lost, Saimi and August Veinman had one daughter Lorraine. They left Vancouver and moved to Seattle. Washington, U.S.A. after the war Lorraine became a registered nurse and later married Fred Ewing She now has seven children The Fred Ewing family now resides in Edmonds, Washington

Helvie married Ted Hagkull in 1939 Their four sons are Ronald, of St. Paul, Robert of Chilliwack, Ramon of Chilliwack and Roger of Hope, B.C. Helvie and Ted are living in Chilliwack B.C.

Ily married Arnold Matthews in 1945. They farmed in the Gilby district until their retirement to Eckville in 1974. Arnold passed away in 1975, and Ily continues to live in her home in Eckville

Reino married Margaret Koskela after returning from overseas. They with their son, Rick reside in Vancouver

Ray married Jennie Sutherland in 1944 and they have three girls. Trudy married Ivan Houston and they have three children, Krister Tyler, and Pamela. They live on a farm near Eckville. Barbara married Kenneth Ryan of New Westminster B.C. Joan married Kenneth Bly of Edmonton. They have one son, Shane

Rannar married Geneva Dockes and they have two sons. Kenneth, now of Calgary is married, but has no children Donald, also living in Calgary, is married and has two children Rannar and Geneva now live in Drayton Valley Alberta

In 1951 Mother had a pleasant surprise when her sister came to visit her from Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. They had not seen each other for 35 years. In May, 1952 mother took ill and passed away in June

**MAKI, RAY**

Ray Maki, the youngest of the Matt Maki family was born on July 12, 1921 He was raised on the farm just west of Eckville. As one of a family of eight, he developed a good sense of humor and a willingness to help anyone in need

On March 29, 1944, he married Jennie Sutherland of Rocky Mountain House. who had been working in the Eckville Hospital since 1939 They farmed a half section, the SW 19-39-3-W5 and the NE 24-39-4-W5, neighboring the Maki home place.

Ray and his brother John had an additional quarter SE 18-39-3-W5, which they jointly owned for pasture

Ray and Jennie built up the farmsite, starting with the house in 1945 and the barn in 1947 They raised three daughters, Trudy, Barbara and Joan

On December 25, 1966. Ray passed away at the age of 46 years

Trudy married Ivan Houston in 1967 They farm in the Gimlet district north of Eckville Trudy and Ivan have three children. Krister Tyler and Pamela

Joan married Ken Bly in 1974. They have one son, Shayne, and live in Edmonton

Barbara Mrs. Ken Ryan, of Vancouver was married in 1975. They have one daughter born December 27, 1977 Jennifer Rae is named for both her maternal grandparents

Jennie was remarried. to Elwood Averill in 1970. They farm in the Happy Hill district south of Eckville

**MANN, HAROLD, MAE, AND FAMILY**

Harold S. Mann was born in Exmouth Devon England. His father was in the Salvation Army at the time they came to Alberta in the spring of 1905. They were living in Edmonton when Alberta became a province

The family moved around often, as Harold's father was a minister They really had no "home town" Harold took his last two years of high school at Alberta College, which is now St Stevens, in Edmonton He later completed two years correspondence work from Queen's University He taught school west of Bowden on a permit for a semester before being accepted as a bank employee when an opening occurred

In 1925 Harold was transferred to the bank in Sylvan Lake, and in that year he and Mae decided to get married

In 1927 the bank decided to open a sub-branch in Eckville, so Harold was assigned to come to Eckville two or three times a week to handle the business. When he didn't come, Mr Fred Appleton, the Sylvan Lake bank manager came, theoretically, to check up on business They had a little wire teller's cage, a desk and a counter in a small office north of the lumber yard (which is now Carrick Hardware.) Mr Colpitts, a lawyer, also shared this office, which later became a doctor's office They used to go across the street to the hotel for lunch, which always had the same menu. However at that time the CNR train went west on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and the train crew always ate at the hotel, too. There was always a fresh roast for

There was a tiny safe in the bank but nothing was left there overnight When Harold and the junior clerk went for lunch, one carried bills and the other the silver and of course one of them had a gun

Mr and Mrs. Mann moved into the bank living quarters — four tiny rooms — with three children and another one on the way, when a full time bank was opened in Eckville in 1930 Mr Mann was made manager, at this time being only 32 years of age

Mr Mann was transferred to Winnipeg in 1948 and we were there for four years. However, Harold missed his farmer customers and we all missed Alberta so Harold asked for a transfer back to Alberta. We moved to Athabasca in 1951 and to Medicine Hat in 1957 We thought we had reached our "Happy Hunting Grounds" for sure and intended to retire in Medicine Hat Well, the best laid plans go awry (as Robbie Burns wrote and ours certainly did Harold died on November 18, 1964, after having worked for 42 years without sick leave

**MAE MANN (Wife of Harold Mann)**

and at the age of three or four years my family moved to the United States, where we lived for a few years. In 1912 we moved to Alberta My high school education was obtained in Didsbury but after I began teaching I was there only during the summer holidays. Later my father moved to the west coast, so I had no place I could call home. I love Nova Scotia, and have been back to visit there several times

I guess Eckville can be called my background, as we were there for 17 years, and our three youngest children were born there Two older boys finished school there Some of those years were pretty rugged. Wouldn't it be awful to go back to keeping house without running water and electricity! Our big entertainment was to go to Red Deer and spend 50 or 60 cents for dinner at the Club Cafe and 40 cents each for a show ticket. When I didn't have a girl to help in the house I had to hire a baby-sitter for 35 cents. (Big deal!) Sometimes we'd splurge after the show for a milk shake 15 cents each. We were supposed to be well-to-do bankers

One thing that I felt was a sacrifice, but one which we were willing to make, was burning so much wood, in the bank and at home because we felt that we should buy the wood from the farmers. It would have been easier to burn coal but none of the bank customers was a miner

Our oldest son, Avard, is a meteorologist and has been supervisor of weather services for Alberta, Yukon Territory and part of the North West Territories since 1958. He resides in Ed

Lance, the second son, is also with the weather service and is a radio sound technician on the weather ship, "Vancouver" He likes being at sea He is out for seven weeks and on shore for five weeks. He and his family live in Victoria

Marland, the third son, lives in Toronto and has two sons and one daughter He is manager for a storage and distribution company

Mary lives in Penawa, Manitoba, which is the town for atomic research establishment She works in the hospital admitting office. Her name is now Peterson, and she has two boys and one girl

Fleur, the youngest daughter has recently moved to Prince George from Toronto. Her husband is the manager of McLeods store. They have three daughters. Her name is now Beliske

**WILLIAM HENRY AND ELIZABETH JANE PRICE) MANNIX**

William (Billie) and Elizabeth Mannix came to homestead the NW 14-40-6-W5, in the Bingley district on October 22, 1906 from Okotoks, Alta With them came William Joseph, born Feb. 26 1903 and Mabel Jane, born May 8, 1905. Norris Alberta was born Sept 26, 1908

Billie worked for Martin and McDougall Sawmill the winter of 1906-07 The mill was situated on the west side of the NE 3-40-6 W5. For many years he supplemented his farm income by sawing wood around the country with a buzz saw covering the area from Lesliеville to Sylvan Lake

They later bought and moved to a C.P.R. quarter SE 23-39-4-W5. three miles west of Eckville, and lived there until 1920 when they sold to Frank Bolton

The children, Joe and Mabel, started school in 1911 by walking five miles to the Beaver Flats school. In 1912 the farmers laid corduroy across the swamp and built a bridge across the Last Hill Creek, Horseguard River which could be used only on foot or saddle horse. That made it two miles closer to school for children travelling that

From the C P R quarter they moved south of Withrow where they lived until 1923, when they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C

William Henry Mason and his sons (1909)

William Joseph, Norris Alberta, and Mabel Jane Mason about 1909

William Joseph married Vera Merle Pendergast June 2, 1934. They have five children and reside at Sylvan Lake

Mabel Jane married Chester Mason in 1918. They had eight children. Mabel died in 1960. Chester in 1970.

Norris Alberta married Helen Jacobson in 1941. They have two girls and reside in Calgary.

William Henry died Feb. 8, 1935 and is buried at Lesueville.

Elizabeth Jane died Jan. 4, 1960 and is buried at Rocky Mountain House.

**MR. AND MRS. BILL MARKS**

Bill Marks arrived in Eckville on October 9, 1927, just past his 19th birthday, to take over the barbershop and poolroom. This was located in the hotel and had recently been vacated by Irvine Palmer, who had moved to Bentley. In February of 1928, Bill was married to Georgina Robertson, of Red Deer, who was then working in the hotel dining room. They moved into a suite over the post office, on Main Street. Sometime between then and June, they moved to a small house opposite the old Co-op Store, now owned by the Pat Hovens. This was a rather fortunate move, because on the last Sunday night of June 1928, fire destroyed one block on the east side of Main Street. Mr. Morris had arrived in Eckville that day, to take over the management of the creamery, and was staying at the hotel. He mentioned quite often that he sure got a warm reception at Eckville.

The barber chair was saved, and Bill set up shop on the stage of the community hall, which "Happy", the Chinese man, purchased and converted into a restaurant, having lost his in the fire. Mike Sestrap put up a building to the south of this, and it housed the barbershop and poolroom on the south side and the post office on the north side. Dan Clausen put up a new building back on the east side, and Bill and [illegible] opened up the Jiffy Lunch in the part vacated by Dan.

Bill Jr. was born in January of 1930 in the house just east of their house, which was operated as a nursing home by a Mrs. Porter (Mrs. Joe Marshall's mother). There was no hospital in Eckville at that time. The doctor was Dr. Sommerville.

Lighting for the barbershop and poolroom was first by gasoline lamps, then gasoline burners (mantles) with a gasoline pressure tank outside and piped into the burners. The next improvement was a 32-volt lighting plant, followed by electricity from August Moro's plant at fifty cents a K.W., and finally by Calgary Power.

Recreation was mainly baseball, badminton and dancing. Curling was added, as soon as the curling rink was built. Eckville had one of the best baseball teams in the district, helped, no doubt, by second baseman Freddie Bardenhagen, who used to "doctor" the baseballs for pitchers Carl and Art Raabis.

Bill and Georgie sold the barbershop in 1940 and the Jiffy Lunch in 1942, when Bill joined the R.C.A.F. At this time Georgie and Bill Jr. moved to Sylvan Lake. After Bill's discharge from the

service they operated an electrical shop at Sylvan Lake for approximately 29 years. They have now retired, but are still living in Sylvan Lake

**MARSHALL, JOSEPH T. — by Mrs. Laura Marshall**

Joseph T Marshall was born October 1886 He emigrated from Armagh, North Ireland to Toronto in 1909. Having had training as a druggist he was able to secure a job there working for Timothy Eaton in the drug department of the store for three years. In 1912 he and a cousin the late Charles Rolston, also a druggist, decided to heed the slogan "Go West, young man, go west and grow up with the country." From Toronto they worked their way westward, stopping off at many places, until they reached Sylvan Lake The C.N.R. had just been built through this area in the fall of 1911

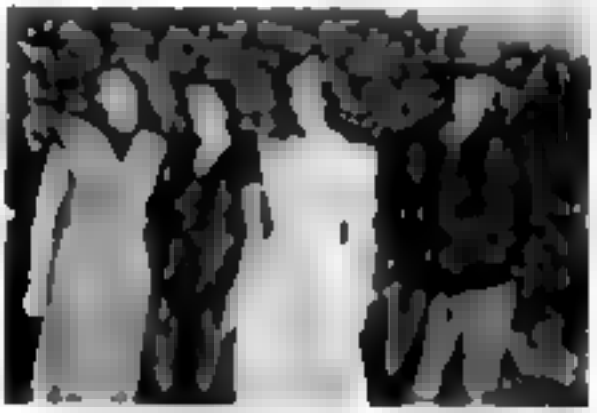
In Sylvan Lake they built and operated a drug store, later branching out into groceries and dry goods. In the fall of 1919 they sold out this business, Joe taking off for the "Ould Sod for a holiday (Charles Rolston returned to Toronto with his wife, but they were soon back to Alberta where they opened a store in Rimbey

Joe returned to Canada in May 1920, this time ending up at Eckville. I might add here, that the snow was on the ground when he left Red Deer in October, 1919, and was still on the ground upon his return in May, 1920 Many will remember the hard, long winter of '19 and '20. At about this time Bill Cowan's first wife had died and Bill had taken the body east for burial. Joe was engaged to manage the Cowan's Hardware Store while Bill was away

In the fall of 1920 Joe built his own store and operated it as "Marshall's Hardware and Dry Goods" Ably assisted by his wife, he continued in this business in the same location until his retirement in 1964, when he sold the business to Art Moench. A period of 44 years in the same business at the same place testifies to Joe's success in the venture

In 1928 he married Miss Laura Porter of Condor They had a family of three daughters — Mavis, (who passed away in 1975), Maureen, and Josephine. Mavis and Josephine received their R N. from Holy Cross in Calgary and Maureen became a secretary and bookkeeper

Joe served the town of Eckville in many capacities. When the village was incorporated in 1921 Joe, along with Bill McHattie and Clare Crosbie, made up the first village council, and Joe is now the only surviving member of this council. Off and on through the years he served many terms as a council member He also served on the local school board for several terms and was for one term on the Eckville Mutual Telephone Board. For nineteen consecutive years he was a member of the local hospital board



In 1971 Joe was honored by the town and was presented by Miss Helen Hunley (M.L.A with a plaque for dedicated service to the town of Eckville He is still alert, and is interested in local activities as well as provincial and federal politics. He reached his 90th birthday in the fall of 1976. He and his wife, Laura, are enjoying their retirement in their home in Eckville

**THE E. M. MATCHETT FAMILY — by Gladys Matchett Turner**

My father and mother Mr and Mrs. E. M Matchett, along with my two brothers, Ralph and Edward, and myself, moved from St Thomas, Ontario to Red Deer about the year 1902 or 1903, where we lived for about a year and a half My father and two brothers took homesteads and my sister, who lived in the East bought a C.P.R. quarter on the banks of the

Horseguard creek. My uncle, Mr Ralph Brown and family settled on a homestead about two miles west and a Mr James McFaul and family a little farther on. Later my brother Ed sold his quarter to the C P R. for the town-site of [illegible].

Mr and Mrs. J Carney and family lived to the east on the Medicine River They moved to Dutton, Montana – I don't remember the date. Dorcas Brown married Paul Pyklet. She is now living in Kansas, U.S.A Theresa Brown married Lewis Fitch and lived at Rocky Mountain House She passed away in 1976

I believe the first teacher when the school was north of the town was Miss Fenerty, from the Maritimes. She boarded with a cousin, Mrs Killick, at old Eckville Amy Richardson, another teacher, stayed with the Eckfords. Agnes Hampton and Miss McMann stopped with mother

I believe Dr Evans was the first doctor He later moved to Didsbury In the winter we had dances at different homes, sometimes driving as [illegible] McFaul and Albert Armstrong played the violin Later, when the hall was built, the dances were held there My husband played the piano and helped out We had skating parties on a slough on my dad's farm and on the Medicine River at the Carney's. In the winter my brother hauled fence posts from a tamarack swamp west and a little south of the town. In early days there were quite a few prairie fires, which were frightening, as well as hail storms

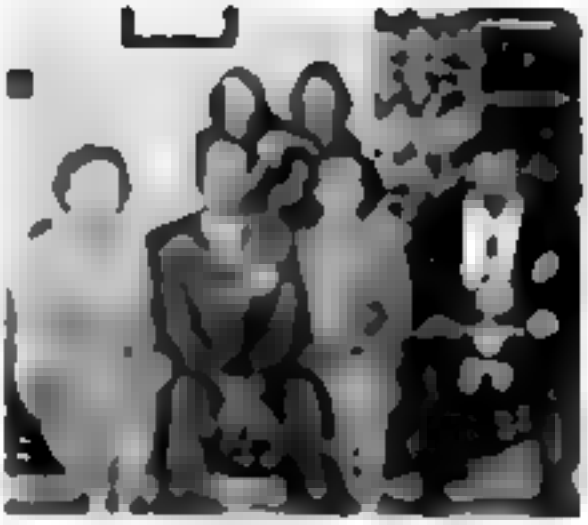
**MATTHEWS, FELIX AND ETHEL — by Ethel Matthews**

Felix Maynard Matthews was born November 24, 1909 on the homestead SW 28-40-3 W5 now owned by Walter Andrew He was the fourth child of Adam and Anna Matteus. He attended Andrews school until his parents bought NW 17-40-3-W5; then he attended Estonian school. When his brother was teaching Gaetz school he went to school there for a year

Felix and his brother farmed in the Bow Island, Alberta district for several years, returning to Eckville in 1930. He was married to Ethel Lutz on December 23, 1931

Ethel was born in Irvine, Alberta on January 1913 and went to school in Irvine, and Winnipeg, Manitoba She arrived in Eckville in April of 1928. She worked in Red Deer Edmonton and Eckville prior to her marriage. Clifford Arthur was born in Eckville on January 8, 1933

The family moved to Rimbey in March of 1933. Grace Iona was born there on October 16 1935. They returned to the Gilby district in 1937 to the SE 17-40-3-W5, which they had purchased before moving to Rimbey As there were only 15 acres broke, they set to work with grub hoes and axes to clear the rest of the land. To earn a little cash Felix played drums in an orchestra with Mrs William MacDonald and Archie Cun



[illegible]

ningham for a dollar a night Felix was also a mechanic and helped the neighbors to keep their cars and tractors running

Jean Arlene was born in Eckville on October 16, 1944, and Beverly Elaine on March 11 1946

In 1944-1945 Felix operated a Caterpillar for Murry Construction, loading gravel for the roads in the M.D of Red Deer, M D of Lacombe, and the Local Improvement District In 1946 Felix bought a TD9 International tractor and worked at gravelling roads He also had a backhoe with which he dug basements and put in sewer lines in Eckville and farm sewer systems He also worked for Calgary Power with a pole-hole digger digging holes for power lines in several districts in Alberta In 1950 Felix, Ethel and family moved to the town of Eckville, renting the farm to Arnold Matthews, who later bought the land. Felix sold out in 1966 and spent a year in Vancouver

Clifford is married to Dorothy Engen and they have two children, Nolan and Gwen. Iona is married to Herbert Ojs and they have four children Ian Lorne, Laureen and John. Arlene was married to Robert Wise and had two girls, Roberta and Rhonda. She is now married to Gerald Heft and they have two children, Brian and Tracey Beverly is married to Vincent Bowker and their two children are Wanita and Vincent

Felix passed away October 13, 1971 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery. Ethel is now living in Granisle B.C

**MATTHEWS, ROBERT (BOB) AND EILEEN — by Eileen Matthews**

Robert Eugene, youngest son of Adam and Anna Matthews, was married to Eileen Ferguson in May 1944 Bob worked on road construction with the municipality for two years, then went to work for his older brother Felix, hauling gravel

In 1960 Bob went to work for the Massey Harris agent, the late Chester Kasha. This is when Bob decided to become a mechanic and each winter for three years he attended a short term at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary to obtain a journey-man's certificate.

Bob, being of musical nature, played the piano with several different orchestras. They played for country dances once, and sometimes twice, a week, which really helped the family budget.

Bob and Eileen have three children — Larry born May, 1945, Wayne born in September 1946 and Janice born in May, 1951.

Larry is married to Rhonda Jarvis and they now live in Eckville. Larry and Rhonda spent eight years in the Yukon where Larry worked for the Department of Transport, as a radio operator. Their three sons are Steven, Daryl and Blaine.

Wayne is married to Keltie Hughes and workes for an oil company as an off-shore drilling superintendent. Their two children are Shane and Melanie.

Janice is married to Dr. Greg Edwards and they live in Ponoka, where Greg has a dentistry practice.

Eileen has been employed at the Eckville Co-op since 1960.

In 1966 Bob became the U.F.A. bulk fuel agent in Eckville and also operated a garage in connection with the business. However, in 1975 the garage was burned and was not re-built. Bob and son Larry now operate the bulk fuel delivery and a small service station.

**THE W. G. McANDREWS FAMILY — by Maxine McAndrews**

William, best known by everybody as "Red" and Maxine McAndrews and children, Murray and Margaret Anne, moved to Eckville from Calgary in March, 1948. Red was hired as Dry Goods and Grocery Manager for the Eckville Co-op Store, and in 1950 became General Manager. He held that position until July 1967, then moved to Calgary as Retail Adviser for Federated Co-operative.

During our 18 years in Eckville we had three more children — Jerry, Philip and Stewart. All but Stewart attended school in Eckville. Margaret Anne took a C.N.A. course in Edmonton in 1967 and in 1969 she married Don Sheets. They have two children — Kelly, six, and Glenda, three, and presently live in Stonehaven, Scotland. Don is a tool pusher on an oil rig in the North Sea.

Jerry married Sandra MacDonald from Calgary in 1972. They are still in Edmonton. Jerry attends the University of Alberta in the faculty of Dentistry and will graduate in May 1978. Sandy works as a Dental Hygenist, but will soon retire to care for our third grandchild.

Murray married Donna Henning of Beaverlodge in 1974. They live in Calgary where Murray works for Calgary Co-Op and Donna at Primco Home Supplies.

Philip is manager and Karate Master at Simons Karate Studio in Edmonton. He was married in November, 1975 to Jackie Mah, and she is his receptionist. Philip has had diabetes since 1972, but seems to live a good active life.

Stewart is just sixteen and ready for his driver's license. He is in grade ten at Westwood Collegiate, plays hockey, football and basketball, as well as working part-time at Red River Co-op.

All the boys have been very active in sports, especially hockey and football.

While in Eckville Red was mayor from March 1954 to 1960. In 1953-1954 the town sewer system was installed, a new fire truck purchased and a fire hall built. He was back on council from 1963 to 1967 and was mayor from 1964 to 1966, when the water system was installed.

He was secretary of the Arena Building Committee. The Arena was officially opened on January 25, 1964, with an ice carnival. Mr. J. M. McDonald cut the ribbon at the opening. The original building, seats and waiting room cost $54,600. Of this amount $28,000 was raised by donations from farmers and business men. The government grant provided $5,200, winter works [illegible] village $3,500, the Lion's Club $5,000 and two ice carnivals and two rodeos together raised $5,000. A fine tribute to a hard-working community! For the opening day we made one hundred thirty pounds of hamburger into patties in our kitchen.

Red played first base or third base for the Eckville baseball team from 1949 until 1955. He was also an avid curler and took in all the local bonspiels. He was on a rink with Tom Forhan, Don McDonald, and Bob Kraft for the Council Play-offs in Edmonton.

I was kept busy looking after an active, growing family, but spent some time with the Ladies Aid, Ladies Curling Club, Home and School, and Boy Scout Parents Group. We fondly remember the good times at the Lion's "do's", the firemen's masquerades, the New Year's dances and sing songs, the high school graduations and the Eckville Sportsday parades.

We lived in Calgary from 1967 to 1969 then moved to Red Deer, where Red was general manager of the Co-op there until 1974. He then came to Winnipeg as Region Manager of Manitoba, but is now back in retail business as General Manager of Red River Co-op of Winnipeg.

We hope to move back to Alberta upon retirement to enjoy visiting our family and old-time friends.

**MRS. J. M. McDONALD (NEE MARGARET McNEIL) — by Mrs. Margaret McDonald**

Quebec was the birthplace of both my parents, Hugh and Martha McNeil. I was born at

Pointe aue Chene, Quebec, in 1892 and was the eldest of eight children. For 12 years we lived in Quebec, halfway between Montreal and Ottawa on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

In 1904 the family of eight children moved to Riverside (later named Elbow), Saskatchewan, and filed on a homestead. By 1912 there were seven children and papa wished for more land we set out west to purchase a farm where was more readily available. We resided in combe for a few months before papa was able to buy a suitable location and in January, 1913 we settled on the N-W 22-38-3 W5.

I will try to give you some idea of the village as it was during the years 1913 to 1920. There were two railway lines only one mile apart. Eckville was situated on the C.N. Railway and Kootuk on the C.P. Railway. There was one building at Kootuk a box car, which was the station. John Lundberg managed the hotel in Eckville which was more like a boarding and rooming house. When John Lundberg sold his business, it was bought by Harry Low. During the time Harry was the proprietor he married Miss Thompson, teacher of the Eckville Elementary School. There was one elevator (Parish and Heimbecker). Heimbecker had his living quarters where the Carritt Hardware is now located. He had an office in the front. There were two grocery stores, a garage, livery barn, lumberyard and a small bank, where the Bank of Commerce is at present. I believe there were eight or 10 dwellings.

Some villagers kept a few livestock. We had a barn on a back lot now owned by Margaret Schofer, where we housed a cow, a dozen chickens, two horses and the occasional pigs or rabbits. In 1936 my husband bought 14 acres of and one mile west of Eckville and the barn was moved to what is now the Ewart McDonald farm.

In the early days we provided our own amusements. There were social evenings every Saturday night at which we played whist and had community singing and some games. Then bridge became a more popular card game, and we had to be more settled and serious to play bridge. When there were no parties in the hall some couple would have two or three tables of cards in their home and we would play until one or two o'clock in the morning.

My husband, J. M. McDonald, was born at Valleyfield, Prince Edward Island in 1891. During most of his childhood he suffered from bovine tuberculosis. When he was 16 years old, doctors found it necessary to amputate his leg, which was certainly a major operation at that time. Between illness and trying to educate himself he became despondent and, as a last resort, decided to emigrate west. He travelled to Regina and stayed with a cousin, who was a Mountie there. The prairies did not appeal to him, and, in 1910 he took the train to Red Deer. Upon inquiring about land, G. W. Brown, the Presbyterian minister, suggested that he might get a homestead in the Lesliеville area. Without delay he filed on the SW 3-40-5 W5. While working at brushing and such rigors of homesteading, although severely handicapped, he gained a measure of health.

He had taught school on Prince Edward Island, taking his training at Prince of Wales College, so he took on teaching duties at the newly built Campbell School. Although his parents were poverty ridden, education was given priority and some of the family had a college education. My husband continued teaching in the Lesliеville area until 1914, when he went to Calgary Normal School, as school regulations required it. Financing a year at Normal School was a real problem. Along with buying books, paying for board, he needed new clothes, as the ones he had were threadbare. He bought a blue serge suit for $12 and even that meant a "large hole in his pocket." He finished Normal School in June, went to teach at Melita, near Benalto, and was there for four years. During the flu epidemic of 1918 he volunteered to drive the nurse throughout the district. As no medicine was prescribed by doctors, they experimented and found that alcohol worked miracles, particularly on abstainers. They were fortunate in not losing a patient.

I met my husband at Melita when he bought my box at a box social. We were married in Red Deer, September 28, 1920, by a Presbyterian minister, W. G. Brown, to whom I referred earlier. The West had been so good to him that we were able to afford a very enjoyable two months honeymoon in Prince Edward Island. On December 1, 1920 we moved into the house, in Eckville which he had previously built for an office, in 1918. The original is still standing although enlarged and renovated many times.

He went back to teaching and taught for two years at Benalta. Mack had a faithful pony, Frankie, and a cutter or buggy, which he drove the 14 miles every weekend. He was then Principal at Estoma for two years. The other teacher was Miss Benedicson, a wonderful per

For health reasons he finally found it necessary to discontinue teaching and, instead, dealt in insurance. He was appointed auditor and justice of the peace in 1913. He retained the position of auditor until schools were consolidated and was J.P. for Alberta, a record number of years, which was at least 50! He was also game warden, and dealt in hay, too, so was busy with a number of jobs.

Real Estate business was of great interest to him. Besides selling land for others he often bought land himself. According to a map, dated 1923, he owned the E34-39-3 W5. I remember how concerned I was, and wished that he would quit dealing, when he had bought the NW 23-39-5 W5. Henry Mitzner, when visiting one day, inquired of dad why he would buy a quarter that was nothing but willow brush and swamp. The land

was brushed and water was drained into a creek at the south end of the quarter. Now, this is considered a piece of choice land. Later, he bought the SW16-38-3 W5, which was owned by the C.P. Railway. This was another deal that was shunned by many and was considered a poor investment, as the soil was very rocky. Up to the present time huge amounts of valuable gravel have been taken from this quarter.

In 1925 he bought his first car, a Gray Dort and we went to Waterton Lakes. We had a very pleasant holiday there with McGregors, who had previously lived in Eckville. While here, Ken McGregor was employed as a salesman, selling parts for machinery — such machines as there were in those days.

On July 24, 1928, there was a terrible hailstorm that played havoc with grain crops in the area. During the same storm lightning struck a large stack of hay that we had just piled on the NW 23-38-3 W5. This fire meant a considerable loss to us, as, for various reasons, we were at a financial bind at the time.

August 3, 1928, proved to be a disastrous day for the village of Eckville, as a fire began where the drugstore is now located and completely swept down the east side of the street. Mr. Von Holtum had a gas and oil station located there and it was thought that lightning struck the building. Richard Clausen, the first to notice the fire, sounded the alarm, about two a.m. By the way, a number of you likely recall the antiquated fire alarm that was in the form of a large pole with a metal disc at the top, which gong when struck by a huge metal spike that was attached to a rope, made a loud noise that carried considerable distance. Residents soon arose, but a "bucket brigade" was ineffective in controlling the blaze. A Chinese, "Happy" had just started a restaurant on the east side of the street. Volunteers helped him move his equipment to safety. I clearly recall "Happy's" excited, frenzied state, and that he was completely incapable of assisting in the moving of the dishes, cooking utensils, counters. Dad had built a garage on the side of our barn and the restaurant equipment was stored there temporarily. My husband bought the hall that is presently the jewellery store in Eckville and in a short time carpenters had made alterations to the building so that it was ready to be used as a cafe. Happ[illegible] certainly pleased with his new location, and operated the cafe there for a number of years.

Twelve o'clock noon was a time for activity and excitement and was looked forward to by many, as this was the time when the train stopped in the village on its way to and from Nordegg. The crew and passengers got their meals at the hotel, but, as it had also been destroyed by the fire, the crew boarded at our place. At the same time there were hall adjustors in the area who got board and room with us. Although this meant a lot of work, it was enjoyable cooking for the trainmen and hall adjustors, as they were jolly and had fun joking [illegible].

'Tis said "Life is for living". We must have been in agreement with this adage as during the early 30s we had a cottage at Sylvan Lake. We spent considerable time vacationing there with family and friends.

Soon came the depression, which affected a good deal of the world, particularly the prairies. We didn't suffer, in this part of Alberta, as we got enough moisture to have fair crops. In the year 1936, the district donated a carload of vegetables to Saskatchewan, as there was a terrible drought in that province. That was the first year we attempted farming, and we had an acre garden west of town that produced well, thus we had an abundance of vegetables to give away to those less fortunate.

In 1937 Mack was appointed administrator for the Debt Adjustment Act by the federal government. The act was a scheme introduced whereby farmers had their debts reduced. As this project covered a large area, Mack required a secretary. One of these was Myla (nee Hoglund) and the other was Ada Doupe of Red Deer. She married Morley Obee, who was then employed by the creamery. They now reside in Cranbrook, B.C.

[illegible]

We managed to convince our two eldest sons that farming was a good life to pursue. By helping them with management and finances, Mack got them to continue his love of animals and the land. He also showed his interest in agriculture by assisting with school fairs, calf clubs, and

Save the Soil Program at which time he worked with Peter Yacooshin

One of the highlights of his life was the honor of cutting the ribbon for the opening of the arena in Eckville in January, 1966, as he was very sports-minded

We had five children — Phyllis (Andrew), Donald and Ewart of Eckville Margaret Ferguson of Red Deer, and our youngest son, Neil, and his wife, Darlene, and children Dean and Danni, live in Lethbridge. Neil works for the Federal Department of Agriculture, as a horticulturist

Looking over my husband's diary for 1962 I read the following. "I had many worries during my long life and my present most pressing one is which I am unable to get my friends to share is 'Inflation'." What would he say of today

For many years I enjoyed being a member of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid The year 1971 was a memorable one for me, as I was honored by the town for having been a continuous resident for 50 years. I was also given a plaque by the Eckville Presbyterian Church, indicating that I had been a member for half a century

Our years spent in Eckville were very enjoyable and satisfying ones, no doubt because we met so many interesting congenial folks. I am presently living in Eckville's lovely Manor House, a home for Senior Citizens

**DONALD A. McDONALD AND FAMILY — by Don McDonald**

Donald McDonald was born in Eckville on April 29, 1923, the eldest son of Mr and Mrs. J M. McDonald He attended Eckville School for the years then was at Olds Agricultural College for two years. He graduated from there in 1942 Following this, he farmed with his father and brother Ewart until 1954. In 1951 he bought the NE 23 from John Lundberg and was already farming the NW 23, as his father owned this land

Donald moved into the John Lundberg house in the spring of 1935 and he "batched" on the farm for a few years

He is very interested in sports, and was a keen competitor He enjoyed hockey and played for the Olds Elks from 1948 to 1952. He spent the winter of 1952-1953 in Scotland, playing for the Falkirk Lions. He returned to Canada and played for Olds again from 1953-1954. His last year in the Central Alberta Hockey League he played for the Red Deer Shamrocks. He was awarded the MacKenzie Trophy for being the highest scorer in the League in 1951-1952. Age and his health have forced him to hang up his blades, but he has been a coach in the Eckville Minor Hockey League, and also with the Rocky Rams in Rocky Mountain House

During the summers of 1947 to 1955, although busy with the farm, Donald managed to play quite a lot of baseball for Eckville

Donald has also been a member of the Eckville Curling Club for many years. In 1956 a rink comprised of Tom Forhan, Red McAndrew Don McDonald and Robert Kraft represented their zone in the Briar Playdowns in Edmonton

He now enjoys playing bridge, and is a member of the Red Deer Bridge Club

In 1958 Donald met and married Hilary Voes an R N from the United Kingdom. They have two children. Mary was born in 1959 and Neil John was born in 1966. In 1966 they bought the NE quarter from Mrs. McColman. They have a mixed farm, with hogs, beef cattle and grain

Hilary Frances McDonald was born on May 29, 1934 in Chandlers Ford, England She received all her education in that country before immigrating to Canada in 1957, coming first to Toronto then moving on west to Eckville. She has worked as an R N before and since her marriage

A small slight person who had never lived on a farm, she soon built up her muscles helping with the farm work. Her main interests in her spare time are her singing and her church work She was a C G I T leader in the Eckville Presbyterian Church from 1968 to 1974 She is a member of the church choir and also of a choir in Red Deer, called the Waska-Sues. Born with a vivid imagination and a sense of fun she has played produced and helped with many humorous skits and plays

Mary Lois McDonald was born on August 15 1959 in Eckville. She has attended Eckville School graduating with her high school diploma in 1977 She has been active in church and community groups, including the Ruby 4-H Club, C G.I.T and as a Sunday School teacher As a student, she studied the piano, obtaining her Grade VI and Theory 1 diplomas

Neil John McDonald was born on May 19 1966. He is an active boy and is attending the Eckville Elementary School. He is also a 4-H member, minor hockey player, attends Sunday School and is learning to play the piano

One story that should not go unrecorded is the story of the blizzard on January 1, 1959 A family dinner was planned at the Roy Andrew farm a

[redacted] everyone settled down to play cards or visit The Andrew residence is a large well-constructed home sheltered by trees From time to time, someone would glance out a window and remark that it seemed to be blowing a bit, but no one was really interested in the weather — it was nice and warm inside

Following a lunch early in the evening families started gathering up their respective youngsters to depart for home The Laurence Fergusons with four small children under seven years of age were the first ones ready to leave The blizzard was at its height, and there were some bad drifts in the driveway The car was stuck before they went very far but they were confident that with a bit of help they would be fine once they got onto the road. Roy Andrew who had a fine line of machinery under cover

started up the tractor and pulled the car to the highway. They were then on their way, and the men returned to the house to get warm. Someone remarked in a casual way that it seemed to be drifting quite a bit.

The other members of the party made ready to leave. Mr. J. M. McDonald was in his wheelchair and would have to be carried out to the car. This took a little time, and some were beginning to wonder if they should start out at all. But then, the Fergusons had left, so the road must be all right. Since Mr. McDonald Sr. was in the car by this time, it was agreed all should leave together in case they ran into some trouble.

Roy was just getting ready to pull the car down the driveway and Phyllis, his wife, was busy bringing blankets in case they were needed on the trip, when a figure appeared, staggering up the road. It was Laurence, who looked like he had had a brush with death. He had got only about half a mile down the road and the car was hopelessly stuck. He had had to retrace his steps into the storm. Being a city slicker, he didn't have his long johns along, and almost perished in the walk back to the house.

This changed the situation drastically. Quickly the tractor and all available men left the farm and went to the stranded vehicle. Fortunately, all was well with those left in the car, and the car was towed back to the farm. Everyone then prepared to stay the night and wait for the weather to moderate. What could well have been a tragic and senseless incident in the McDonald history turned out to become the longest and best remembered New Year's dinner of a lifetime.

**EWART McDONALD FAMILY — by Vivian McDonald**

Third child, second son of John and Margaret McDonald, born July 18, 1925, in the family home in Eckville. He attended school in Eckville seeing before completing his Grade 12 — the farm chores beckoned more loudly than the school bell.

His earliest recollections of Eckville were going to school with a lot of "Finnish" children, some had to learn English at school. Their [illegible] only a few words.

Winter carnivals were a big event for young people. The Finnish ethnic group dominated the skiing events. Ewart remembers the fancy toques they wore and the skiing equipment. Some of the contestants couldn't speak English so the cheering and shouts of encouragement were like a touch of the Olympics.

The Finnish were community-minded people having their own drama club and athletic group that practised in the hall adjacent to our home. He remembers Mr. Jokinen as barking the commands as they were doing tumbling acts and building pyramids to the ceiling. Their saunas were a popular thing on Saturday nights and their first luxury. Most of the Finnish people were successful farmers and influential people in the community.

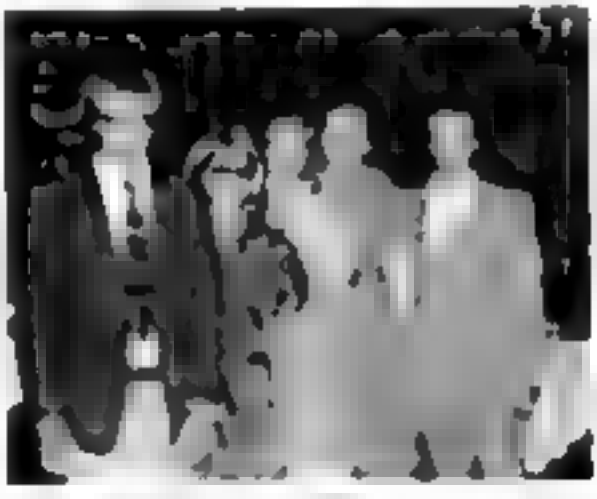
Where did he get his "kicks"? Trying to tease the local Chinaman in the restaurant, skating on the rivers, playing marbles, walking to Shorty Westphal's to gamble on his punchboard and riding his saddlehorse to Grandpa and Grandma McNeils' on the week-ends — and be important for a couple of days. In winter he enjoyed tobogganing down Forhan's hill and in summer swimming in the Horseguard and Medicine Rivers. They would go upstream in the Spring, build a raft and float it down when the ice was going out.

How was he punished for getting into trouble? Barred from seeing the show that was shown in the hall every two weeks. Occasionally in the winter, on a Saturday, he was made to go to the Medicine and bring home a sack of fish. Sometimes this did not take too long, he now wonders where the fish have gone. He thinks he can remember the last Pow Wow held in this area by the Indians, which is now part of our land. He and two other boys (Goldfinch's) walked west from town on the track and watched the proceedings one afternoon and when spotted by the Indians they immediately ran all the way back to Eckville. This certainly made an impression and probably broke a speed record for their age.

Later in life, (his father had bought and sold land for Hudson Bay), his father purchased a quarter and put deposits on two others. His idea to get something to get his sons out of the "Metropolis".

This 114 acres west of town (N 17-39-3-W5) became the home place, being a ten minute run from town. This is where we are now living with other adjoining land being acquired.

We have been in mixed farming, 20 years selling hatching eggs, registered grain growing



[illegible]

dairying (supplied milk for Eckville for 14 years. Our next venture was the most exciting raising Maine Anjou cattle. However, we are aking it much easier now keeping a few cattle and raising grain.

Recalling the changes, he is sure the oil and gas discoveries were the most impressive. Very few have mineral rights and the area hasn't been recognized as much as other areas. There are four gas plants in the area and none have been named with "Eckville" in their locations.

In 1950, Ewart found time to "run-off" and get married to Gertrude Hagerman of Sylvan Lake, who had taught at Shady Lane School where he met her. Raising three children and part-time Home Economics teaching for 10 years has kept Gertie's life busy.

Bernadette was born in 1951. She is now married to Frank Wyzykoski and lives south of town with their three children.

Adair born in 1953 is apprenticing as a plumber in Red Deer. He married Susan Parker from Prince Edward Island.

Vivian, 20 years old, is hoping to complete her fourth year at University of Alberta, Bachelor of Education program with Home Economics Ma ,or.

**McDONELL, DOUGLAS AND MORA — by Mora McDonell**

Douglas McDonell was born in Medicine Hat Alberta in 1896, the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter McDonell of Okotoks, Alberta. He married Mora Hopkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hopkins, in Brooks in July, 1924. They lived on a farm near Gem, Alberta before moving to the Gilby district in November 1925, along with Mora's parents.

The livestock, machinery, and other possessions of the two families were loaded into four box cars and were shipped to Eckvile. I Mora), my mother and my daughter. Mari spent some time at Didsbury visiting Mother's sister. We planned to give the men time to get to the farm with the possessions which had been shipped by rail. However, the box cars were side tracked, for some reason, and there were other delays, with the result that they got to Eckville only one day before Mother, Marie and I arrived. Only the livestock had been taken to the farm. After our arrival, Father, Doug, and I each drove a team and wagon, hauling other things to the farm. The roads were very icy, and after reaching the place where Onofryszyns now live, I became frightened at the road conditions and refused to drive my team any further. The team was then tied behind the grain tank which Doug's four-horse team was pulling, and I rode on the grain tank which Doug's four-horse team was pulling, and I rode on the grain tank with him. After a time we reached a steep, icy hill with a narrow bridge across a stream at the bottom. The road was so icy that the wagons would sway from side to side, and one of the wheel horses fell on the ice. The other three horses continued on down the hill the best they could, and we got across the narrow bridge (which I thought we'd never be able to do!).

Mother, Dad and Marie were on the other wagon, and they made the trip with no mishaps. Such was our introduction to Eckville!

We had started out from Eckville right after dinner, and didn't get to the farm until eight o clock at night. The first job was to set up the heating stove, by the light of a smoky coal oil lantern. I made a pot of coffee on the heating stove — the best cup of coffee I'd ever drank! I thought maybe if I could make such good coffee with this water) in this country, it might be worthwhile coming up here — but I've never made another cup of coffee that tasted so good!

Doug, Marie and I lived on the farm at Gilby until April, 1927 when we moved to the NW 20-38 3 W5, which we had secured near Eckville. We lived on this farm for 30 years.

Doug and I had two children, both of whom received their education in the Eckville schools. Marie was born in March, 1925 at Bassano, Alberta. After being employed in Calgary for some time, she joined the Armed Forces there in 1947 and was sent to Vancouver, where she served some time in the army before returning to Calgary. She met and married Marc Ferland and they moved to Montreal to live until 1957 then moved to California. Their three children were Phyllis, Fyrn (deceased) and Ray. Marie was later married to O. D. Smith, and they live in California. Phyllis lives in Texas and has two children. Ray is in California, and is attending University in San Diego.

Our son Bill was born at Gilby in 1927. He is married to Hazel Wulff. They live on a farm near Eckville, and they have four children. Lawrence is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House. He has one daughter. Brian is married and lives in Calgary. Clarence and Marilyn are at home. Marilyn is attending the Eckville High School and Clarence is attending the Agricultural College at Olds.

In 1926 Ruth Dyrland (now Ruth Dobbe) and I started berry-picking together, and have continued this practise up to the present time — a period of more than 51 years! We have enjoyed many fishing trips together.

Weather always makes a good topic for conversation, but 1951 was the year of the BIG STORM. This occured in March. For a while, the only way one could get to town, or any other place, was to walk on top of the big drifts. It was weeks before we could get out with a vehicle.

This March day had been a beautiful day and the storm came up suddenly as we were coming home from town. By suppertime snow was coming down very hard, and continued falling steadily for two or three days. We had ordered baby chicks, but the phone lines were out so we could not phone to have the order delayed. We did get to town with Curtis Bromling and phoned from

there to ask that the chickens not be sent. The horses were white with lather by the time we got to Eckville. They broke through the snow from time to time, and floundered around trying to get out of the drifts and keep going. The weather was not extremely cold, but there was lots of wind which piled the snow up high enough so that

and touch the telephone lines just east of our house. Finally snow plows came from the west so we could get to town by first going west. However the holes got so bad that everybody was getting stuck. Neighbors got together, using tillers, shovels, picks and axes, and opened up the road so that we could reach Eckville by going east. The men had to cut through a huge drift that was still blocking the road in April.

In 1957 Doug and I moved to the SW 21-39-3 W5, near Eckville. Doug passed away in May 1979. I continue to live in my home on this place.

**McDONELL, BILL AND HAZEL**

I, Bill (William Douglas) McDonell was born in January, 1927, the only son of Doug and Mora McDonell. I attended the Eckville school.

At the age of 13 years, Fred Molander (also 13 years old) and I hauled bundles at threshing time. We worked as one man, but ate like two men. In 1944 I took a brief holiday from school to help Jim Smith haul gravel for the cement work on the local hospital, then being built. This was hauled with a team and wagon, loading with a scoop shovel. Heavy work! John Maki and Curtis Bromling were also hauling gravel.

After finishing school I worked during 1945 to 1948 as a cabinet maker for Bill McIntyre. I bought the SE 30-39-3-W5 from Armstrong in 1948 and started farming, using dad's machinery. Winters were spent working in bush camps west of Rocky Mountain House.

I married Hazel Doreen Wuth of Alhambra in 1954. Hazel was employed in the Eckville Hospital. As I had no house at that time, we rented one from Cletis Bromling for $15 per month. Three months later we moved to the Forhan place, which my father and I rented. Later we lived on the John Maki farm until our house was ready. We were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Lawrence (1955) married Colleen Pellar in 1976. They have one daughter, Angelina. Clarence (1957) is attending Olds Agricultural College and farms with his dad. Brian (1959) married Debra McDonald in 1977. He has one daughter, Sandra Lynn. He is apprenticing as a painter in Calgary. Marilyn (1961) is taking her Grade 11 in Eckville in 1977-1978.

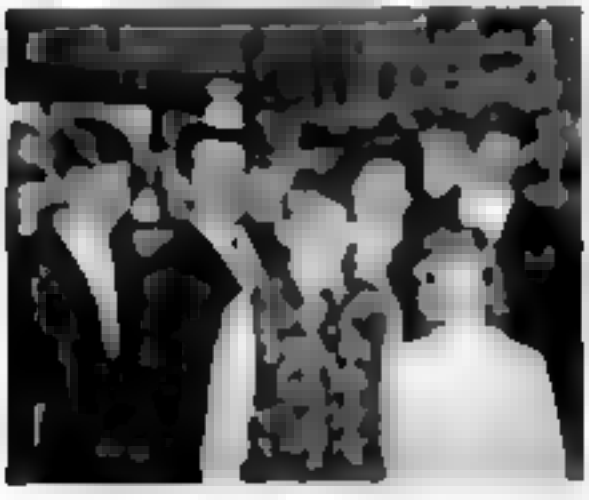
Hazel and I have been deeply involved with the 4-H Beef Club, of which I am presently Assistant Leader. Hazel joined [redacted] Aid in 1956 and has been an active [redacted] that time. She is also an active member of the Eckville Handicraft Guild.

Since buying our first quarter of land we have added three more quarters. In 1959 we purchased the NE 25-39-4-W5 from Al Greenman. In 1969 we purchased the NW 20-39-3-W5 and the SW 21-39-3-W5 from my dad. The 6M Ranch is the name we have chosen for our farm.

**McFAUL, JAMES**

Mr. and Mrs. James McFaul came from Michigan, U.S.A. to Red Deer, N.W.T. in 1901 with their three children Blanche the eldest, Russell and Maudie.

James worked as brick layer and carpenter. One of the houses he helped to build still stands. It is the home of Mrs. Dr. Parsons, Sr. and was formerly owned by the Goard family, Blanche's future in-laws. Blanche was working in the post office. Russell and Maudie went to school for a short time, he worked part-time for the C.P.R. as a car checker until he took a homestead west of Red Deer in 1902. Maudie worked for Bell Telephone. It was also 1902 when James and Ella McFaul moved to their homestead which was



located near the Horseguard River on the NE 18-39-4W5 just west of the present town of Eckville Maudie went on this venture with her parents Blanche stayed in Red Deer and was married at a later date. She and her husband took the SW 20-39-4W5 (separate story) to be near her parents However, Mrs. McFaul's health began to fail. she was advised to move to a warmer climate so a move was made to Vancouver, Maudie going along. While in Vancouver another son was born to James and Ella, they named him Howard

In the early 1920's, Mr. and Mrs McFaul came back to visit their son They lived for awhile at Prairie Ranch (Russell's homestead While here, Howard started school at Shady Lane. In the meantime, Russell and his father James were building a home and blacksmith shop in Condor where James would live and operate the shop. They only lived there a few years, Howard had been going to Prairie Rose school, this was a long walk to the original location south of Lealievtile

Once again the urge came to move They sold out to Guy Mills and went back to Vancouver and later to the Inland where they passed away in the late 1930's. They are buried at Coombes, B.C

Their son Howard and wife Kay live at West [redacted]

[redacted]

**McFAUL, RUSSELL**

Russell McFaul came to Red Deer, N W T with his parents and two sisters in 1901 from Michigan, U S.A. He went to school in Red Deer [redacted] a car checker

In 1902, Russell took a homestead located one mile south of what is now known as Withrow He named it Prairie Ranch. He had to go to Red Deer every two weeks for the mail and groceries [redacted] spoke of having to open 17 gates each way on about 40 miles of trail

One of the great pleasures Russell spoke of, was to have Mrs. Eli Anderson make bread for him as she did for several other bachelors in the area. It was the best in the west, he always said

In 1905, Macdonnell Brothers opened a store They named it Pitcox; for many years he got his mail and supplies there. He said you could purchase anything from a horse collar and harness to a pin in this store. When the railway came through, the Macdonnell store was relocated and the post office was named [redacted]

Russell worked for nearby homesteaders and for Pat Burns in British Columbia While there he was visiting at a ranch where he met his future wife Rosie Jones. She had come from Doncaster, England, to work for friends of her Welsh parents. They thought the climate would be beneficial to her health, as she had suffered with asthma since childhood. It was love at first sight and several months later they were married in Milner British Columbia and left shortly after for "Prairie Ranch" This proved to be quite a change for Rosie, as she was used to having nearby ranchers' wives and children for company Neighbors were few near 'Prairie Ranch" However, she loved to ride horses and was able to get around. She made friends easily their home, not much to look at outside, was very cozy inside and was the gathering place for the bachelors

Rosie loved to cook and her specialty was cream pie, enjoyed by many, including her [redacted]

When Fred and Keitha Bott settled on the quarter west Rosie was delighted, as she had someone to have a cup of tea with, and often spoke of the fresh bread and home made butter they had with their tea

Rosie was the first president of the W.I in Condor, which was organized April 21, 1921 She wrote a paper on Canadianization and National events. This had high praise from other institutes in Alberta and in Eastern Canada. Three children were born to Russell and Rosie while living on the homestead, Hazel, Gwen and [redacted]

Hazel and Gwen went to school at Shady Lane. Walking was the only way to get there rain or shine There wasn't even a horse to ride

The McFauls had a lot of hard luck while living on the homestead, crop failures and always losing a good milk cow or other animals. Russell finally had enough of working hard and in the end having nothing to show for his efforts. Fred and Keitha Bott bought the place, it is now the

home of their youngest son Max. We understand they still call the place "Prairie Ranch

The McFaul family moved to their Hudson Bay quarter which joined the Jack Albert place on the east. The girls went to school at Prairie Rose, which had been relocated in Condor from a former sight south of Leslieville

Bad luck seemed to follow the family. Russell decided he would go to Red Deer and find work. There was a considerable amount of building going on, and he got a job as a carpenter. He continued in this line of work until he retired.

In 1928, the McFauls had a sale in Hespero for odds and ends that were sold on the farm. Most of the cattle was bought by a new-comer to the district. This did not seem to be a problem, now to move the personal belongings to Red Deer where Russell had the good luck of buying a four bedroom house for $250. This house was put up for sale by the city of Red Deer for taxes. The cobles seemed to turn from that point. The girls started to school. Russell's work was plentiful. Rosie was a police matron for the city, handling female cases. She held this position until her death in 1951. Many of the prisoners in the early days were cared for in her own home. They came from all walks of life, colour and creed. She cared for many abandoned children, some of which she found homes for in the district.

Several prisoners wrote to her while serving their sentences, some even visited her after their release. A few had changed their ways and had become useful citizens. Rosie used to recall how sad it made her when she had to accompany mental patients to institutions. Some of these girls and women she had known all their lives. She was always accompanied by a male police officer on these trips, either by train or car. The McFaul home was always open to those who needed a bed or a meal.

After Rosie's death, Russell's oldest sister Blanche kept house for him for two years. When Russell decided to retire, he sold his home in Red Deer and bought a home at Parksville, Vancouver Island. Once again Blanche kept house for him until his death in 1974. He was a life member of the Red Deer Old Timers Association. Both Rosie and Russell are buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

The eldest daughter, Hazel May married Matt Kalaputas, formerly of the Benalto district. They have two children — John Richard living in Red Deer and Sheila Dawn married to Harvey Wylie formerly of the Benalto district. They have two girls, Becky Dawn and Stacy Lynn.

Gwen (Olive Gwendolyn) served in the C.W.A.C. during the second world war as a sergeant, stationed in England. After the war she married Dale Brimble. They have one daughter, Beverley, R.N. Gwen passed away in Wenatchee, Washington, 1976, after a lengthy illness. She is buried in the veterans' section of Nelson Memorial Park, Nelson, B.C., where Dale and she had lived for many years.

Ronald Mervin served in the Navy during World War II. He married Phylis Just. They have three girls. Merle married Gordon Gauthier of Calgary, Gloria married Lawrence Murphy of Diamond Valley. Chyrl at home in Edmonton.

[redacted]

W. J. Blakely McNeil was born May 29, 1879 at Bristol Mines, Quebec. He was one of 16 c[redacted] He came west in 1897 and worked in mines in British Columbia and the Yukon. He was also employed for some time on the railroad being put in from Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse.

In 1908, after working on the Cochrane Ranch in southern Alberta, he headed out to find a homestead, which he did, in the Esther Alberta area. He built and lived in a small sod shack. Blake, being the first settler there, remembers sighting a wagon appearing across the prairies. He ran a mile to wave them in so he could have someone to talk to. He obtained some horses and then continued raising horses. He broke and sold some of these horses, as well as using them to break his land.

Blake built a house and in 1917 married Mrs. Christina Micheal Gagne. Christina was born November 14, 1885 at Bancroft, Ontario. She came from Kindersley, Saskatchewan to Loverna, Saskatchewan after the death of her first husband and daughter. She arrived in Loverna in 1915 and worked in the general store. There were five children born to Blake and Christina. One daughter died at birth and one son, Franklin, died of diphtheria in 1925 at the age of three years. They raised a son Alfred (Bud) and two daughters, Dora and Erma.

Mr. McNeil was an Alberta Wheat Pool member and had the privilege of hauling the first grain to the elevator in Esther, Alberta. He was also a school trustee for many years. Grain returns were very good, and with the sale of horses, he prospered until the drought hit the prairies.

In 1932 Blake and his brother-in-law, Charlie Lewis, a blacksmith, at Loverna, Saskatche

wan, went in search of land. They located a quarter NW 19-39-3-W5, of timbered land west of Eckville. In the spring of 1933 soon after the crop was seeded, a caravan of eight wagons loaded with lumber (from granaries which they tore down), household goods, tools, spare wagon and harness parts, as well as supplies were loaded. They headed for the new home. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, their two small daughters, Hazel and Elda, an elder daughter Ann and friend, Wilma English acted as cooks. They also did the laundry for all the men. Henry Benecke, who had arrived from Germany in 1927 and made his home with the McNeils, was in charge of the caravan. Many hardships were endured as roads were terrible and in places 10 horses had to be used to pull each of the eight wagons through wet, boggy stretches. Many repairs to wagons and harnesses had to be made. Extra horses were taken along, as well as a cow for milk. When they finally arrived at the selected quarter a building site was cleared, and corrals built for the animals. A house was built by rebuilding the granaries, back to back, and building them higher for bedrooms upstairs. There were sheds built of poles with straw roofs to accommodate the animals that were to come later by rail. A well also was dug.

Mr. McNeil took his crop off at Esther. Henry had returned to accompany the remaining loads to Eckville. There were eight boxcars loaded with machinery, Mr. Lewis' equipment, the remaining household goods, cattle, pigs, chickens and horses. Henry had to feed and water the animals on the train trip.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, their three children and niece, Myrel Lewis, left the farm in an old Ford car complete with canvas snap-on curtains and mica type windows. They carried their own food and spare parts for the car. Bundled up in their blankets, they finally arrived in Eckville on October 31, 1933. Henry had arrived with the train loads. Everything had been transferred to the farm, including the McNeil children's Pinto pony, which they were delighted to see again.

Life started anew for everyone. The Lewis family and Joe Brando, who had driven a wagon on the caravan, lived in one-half of the house and the McNeils and Henry lived in the other half. Money was very scarce, of course, Joe and Henry had hauled bundles around Eckville that fall and had taken vegetables of all kinds, hay, straw and grain as the largest part of their wages. This, along with money received from the sale of wood which was cut, sawed and hauled to Eckville, sustained the two families.

It was still a happy time, evenings were spent with group singing, which Henry accompanied on his accordion. People dropped in for card games and house parties for the young and old alike. The McNeil children and Hazel Lewis went three and a half miles to school in Eckville. Ann and Myrel Lewis acquired work in Eckville. Iva, the eldest Lewis girl, had remained in Loverna to work in the post office. She visited in Eckville the following year for Christmas, and came to stay in July 1935.

That winter Mr. McNeil heard of a farm for sale in the Evergreen district. This was the NW 22-37-4-W4, owned by Mr. Ropus. It had a house and buildings and some land broken. There was also another quarter of land that could be used for hay and pasture. Blake had a lot of horses and a herd of cattle. This land was purchased with help from Phil Laybourne. Mr. McNeil, Henry and Joe put the crop in that spring. The machinery and the animals except six milk cows were moved. This was an 18-mile trip. As soon as school was out Mrs. McNeil, the children, the remaining household items and the milk cows were moved. That fall the three children started to Gaetz school with Miss Dorothy Collier as teacher. They rode three and a half miles on horseback to school.

The Lewis family remained at Eckville.

Blake cleared more land in the spring and summer, along with his farming, and worked in the lumber mills in the winter. Bud joined in farming as soon as he finished his schooling. By this time Henry and Joe had acquired land of their own. Henry still lived with the McNeils [illegible] he built a house on his own land. He married Annie Lipka and they moved into their own house.

Mrs. McNeil and the girls did chores in the winter. Many cows, sometimes as many as 14 [illegible] 98 cents to $1.25 for a five-gallon can. This, along with selling eggs and turkeys, supplied the family with all the necessary things. One summer the house was struck by lightning and set on fire, but it was soon put out by a bucket brigade. The farm was finally cleared and paid for, but by this time Blake's health had started to fail.

Dora married Jim Carlyle in December 1942 and Bud married Laurine Vanhorne in November 1944. Ferna married Ed Palkot in November 1947.

Bud and Laurine took over the farm in 1946 and Mr. and Mrs. McNeil took employment as cook and caretaker at lumber mills in the Rocky Mountain House-Horburg area. They purchased a quarter of land in the Evergreen district in 1949 and built a home there. They also worked as cook and caretaker on the David Thompson Highway when it was first started. They then retired to their new home. Bud farmed their land until he sold out and went as a heavy duty mechanic with the army in Whitehorse, Yukon. Their son-in-law, Ed, farmed it for several years after that. They sold this place in 1955 and moved to a smaller house in Ferna's yard at Innisfail. Ed and Ferna had sold their farm at Stauffer and bought another farm west of Innisfail. The McNeils made several trips to Whitehorse to visit their families there. Jim and Dora had moved to Whitehorse in 1953 where Jim worked as a heavy duty mechanic and later in the army.

warehouse stores. Mr. and Mrs. McNeil enjoyed these trips and visited Alaska many times, as well as seeing Dawson City and Atlin, British Columbia, two of the early gold rush cities.

Mrs. McNeil passed away July 26, 1961, after an illness covering a long period of time. From then on Blake made his home among his three children. While in Whitehorse he had the pleasure of a trip from there to Skagway and back on the narrow gauge railway. This is the railroad he had worked on when it was first started. He was active in the Whitehorse dart league and had trophies as the oldest player, most sportsmanlike team and best team in the league, one year. His hobby was building replicas of all the first buildings in Whitehorse. He made these of willow, which he peeled and cut to size. He shingled some with vegetable crates, which the storekeepers saved for him, and others with tin. They were made identical to the originals, including all stairs, windows and doors. His daughter Dora has them now and they are to go to Larry, his eldest grandson.

Mr. McNeil entered the Senior Citizens Home at Sylvan Lake in 1968 and had remained there except for trips to visit his families in the north. He passed away on February 8, 1970.

Bud and Laurine now live in Surrey, B.C. They have three children — Diana, Kenny and Dale. Diana is married to Rem Gaucher and they have a son, Blaise.

Dora and Jim reside at Markerville, Alberta. Their son Larry works as a geologist at Keno Hill Mines at Elsa, Yukon. He is married and has two children, Cathrina and Darren. Their daughter Lavilla, is married to Fred Johannson and they farm at Markerville. They have two children, Heath and Bette Ann. Jim now works for the Alberta Forestry.

[illegible]d and Fern[illegible] farm at Innisfail. Their daughter Linda is married to Ray Smith and has two children, Kelly and Carmen. They live and work on the home farm. Their other daughter, Marilyn, is married to Bill Howard and they farm at Wimborne.

**PETER AND MARION McNEIL**

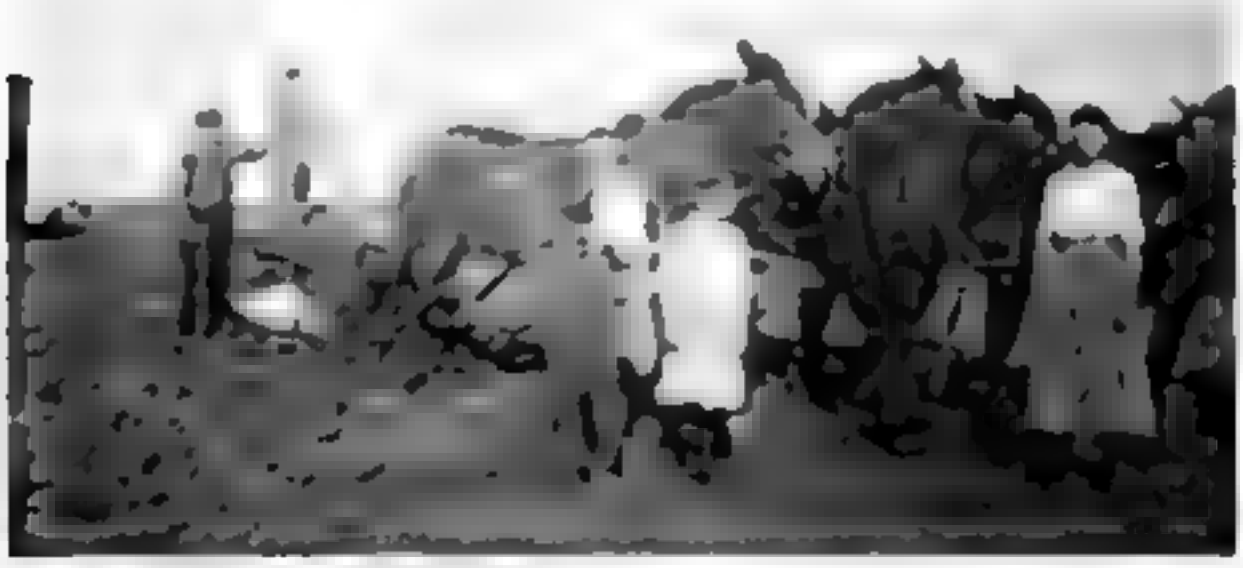
Peter McNeil was born in Ontario. His wife, Marion, was born in Scotland but immigrated with her parents to Ontario as a child.

In 1898 the adventuresome Peter went, like thousands of others, to Alaska to join the raging Gold Rush. But love overwhelmed the lust for gold and he returned to Ontario after a two-year absence to sail the sea of matrimony. The hardships of the North did not daunt the spirits of Peter and he and Marion ventured West in 1907 to the Gadsby District. Three years later Mr. McNeil filed on a homestead near Coronation, farming there until 1937. At this time, Eckville, somehow, seemed to beckon to them, and they moved here, taking up residence on the east edge of town. In 1946 Peter passed away at the age of seventy. Marion resided at Eckville until 1960 when she moved to British Columbia. She passed away in 1966 at the age of eighty-three.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil had four children. Olvah, born in 1900 in Ontario, Addie, born at Gadsby in 1908. Clifford, born at Coronation in 1913 and Peter Gordon, also born at Coronation, in 1914.

Olvah Thompson, formerly Mrs. Robert Kennedy, resided in Eckville from 1936 until 1953. She was a telephone operator at Rockyford. Then moved to Prince George, B.C. and is now retired at Kelowna with her husband, Charles. Olvah had two sons by her former marriage. Robert lives in Montreal and Barry resides in Prince George.

Addie married Mel Cummings, a bank manager. Their two daughters live in B.C. and Addie and Mel also retired in Kelowna.



Clifford, who came to live in Eckville in 1937, married Elsie Johnson. They moved to West bridge B.C. in 1950, where their five children were born. Clifford passed away in 1973. Elsie and the family reside at Midway B.C.

Gordon came to Eckville in 1936. From 1940 to 1945 he served his country in World War II, travelling extensively throughout Europe and the British Isles.

Upon returning from overseas he married Empi Maki of Hespero. They have one daughter who is now Mrs. Bryan Foord. She and her husband reside at Penhold. Gordon is still the postmaster at the Eckville Post Office, having assumed that position in 1950.

**"THE MERRIMAN" — by J. B. Merriman**

To the best of my knowledge the name Merriman originated from "Moorman" who were supposed to have been nomads who used to roam the moors of Orkney Scotland.

Magness Merriman, my great-grandfather was recruited into the service of the Hudson's Bay Co. in the 1800's as a fur trader in the North West as it was called in those days. He spent most of his time in the Hudson Bay area based out of Fort Garry which is now Winnipeg. He served out his time and went back to Orkney where he married and raised a family.

My grandfather, James Merriman was his oldest son. My grandfather never left Orkney or ever was in Canada.

My father, James Merriman his oldest son was born in 1888 and sat at his grandfather's knee listening to stories of the North West.

Dad, at the age of 13, went to the ship building yards at Greenock, Scotland to learn his trade as a ship's carpenter.

The stories of the North West he had heard from his grandfather must have kept calling him because at the age of 17, he in company with one of his uncles immigrated to Canada in 1905 to High River Alberta where he had two uncles who had been in Canada since around 1880.

There being no ships to build on the prairies dad turned to bridge building. Tiring of that he went to Vancouver and signed on a ship and worked his way to Australia. He stopped here and there but worked his way to New Zealand and many other Islands in the Pacific.

In due course he returned to Canada and decided he would take a trip back to Orkney for the winter and during this visit he met the girl who would one day be my mother, Jean Harry.

Dad came back to Canada and the girl who was to be my mother together with her sister immigrated to Spokane, Washington where she had an uncle and took her nurse's training at St. Luke's hospital in Spokane.

Dad worked here and there at the carpenter trade. When the town of Nordegg was being built he worked there until he enlisted in the 10 Field Engineers in Calgary in 1915. He was decorated for bravery later in the war, receiving the M.M.

In 1919 after the war dad came back to High River to his uncle's and stayed for sometime.

He then decided to make a trip to Nordegg to look for work. On the way he decided to stop in Eckville to see a piece of land he had seen from the train going to Nordegg years before. He put up at the hotel and enquired as to who owned this piece of land with a log house and a log barn just east of Eckville. He found that a section man by the name of Kelly owned it and I guess a deal was made that night, because it is our home today.

Dad went to Nordegg and worked the winter. In April of 1920 he went to Spokane and married my mother and they moved on to our farm.

In March of 1921 I came along. Three years later in May, 1924 my sister Isabel Margaret was born.

[illegible]

Things were pretty tough for dad and mom those days. They were dealt a very hard blow by the big hail storm in 1924 which left them nothing. However, they held on by milking cows and feeding a few pigs and chickens.

Dad was quite active in the community serving on the school board. He had a hand in building the new school in 1930 and I believe in moving the school from north of town on the Medicine River into Eckville, which was done with horses.

Threshing was done with the steam engines those days and quite a bit of stack threshing was done.

We never owned a car but got around with horse power; even going to Evarts to the Burn's festivities in the sleigh with lots of straw and hot bricks to keep us kids warm.

In October, 1926 a great catastrophe hit our

family dad and mom were just getting on their feet when dad; working on a threshing rig pitching bundles got a barley beard in his abdomen under his belt The blood poisoning which followed took his life in three or four days, at the age of 40 years

Mom sold all the stock and machinery and went to Orkney where she thought she could live but found she could not, so we came back to the farm in 1929 The farm had been rented to Henry Mitzner a very fine man who mom married in 1932. Henry Mitzner was a big farmer for those days; farming six quarter sections mostly with horses, but he had a tractor and a threshing machine also. Unfortunately, he was not destined to live very long and died in December 1934 at the age of 43

Again mom sold the machinery and most of the horses and cattle. Mom, Isabel and I carried on raising pigs and cattle

As soon as I got out of school I started farming and did so until I joined the R.C.A.F in the 2nd World War I was an air gunner and flew with 192 Squadron of the Royal Air Force which was a special duty squadron. Following my release from the R.C.A.F in 1945, I returned to farming and am still at it

In 1943 my sister Isabel started training to be a nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, graduating in 1947 Following graduation she took post graduate training specializing in operating room nursing in Toronto. She returned to Edmonton and worked in the operating room until she married Dr Vernon Krause in August, 1950. Vern had a practise in Mayerthorpe for some years, then specialized in pathology and is today one of the top men in his field. They now live in Dartmouth N.S. where Isabel still has a few horses which she always liked Isabel and Vern have a family of two boys and two girls

On August 12, 1960 I married Marlene Guenther

August 30, 1960 our mother passed away

In due course Marlene and I were blessed with three healthy children Loree Marlene James William and Mary Jean. We enjoy the outdoors, and the girls especially like their horses. I think this has been the best part of my life

Mr and Mrs. Merriman Sr and Henry Mitzner are buried in the Eckville Cemetery

**MEYERS, MATTHEW AND LILLIE — by Lillie Meyers**

Matthew and Lillie Meyers first came to Eckville with the John Meyers family in May 1925. Because of eczema they returned to Medicine Hat to Dr Smythe. When we returned later in 1925 Mrs Anna Dahl and Rudolph Dahl, Lillie's mother and brother also came to Eckville. Mrs. Anna Dahl was the janitor of the school at Eckville for 17 and one half years and also did laundry In 1939 she married Oscar Mottus, of the Wolfe School district. They resided in Eckville until her passing in July 1965. In 1927 the Matthew Meyers' returned to Manyberries and farmed there for eight years In October, 1935 the Conrad Meyers' and Matthew Meyers' families came to Withrow

Slim and Lil acquired a house on a farmstead of Bill Dirsten s, northwest of Withrow and lived there, along with the Conrad Meyers family. The children of these families had to walk three and one half miles to Blueberry Valley School which was a hard way to get an education. The next year they had to walk the same distance to Wolfe School where two of the teachers remembered are Miss Munroe and Miss Blanche Arndt They were always tired when they got home from school — one had to feel sorry for the little tykes Our entertainment was the annual Christmas concert and the dance afterwards The kids got a candy bag at the concert of Christmas candy orange and peanuts Slim and Rudolph or Art often, or mostly, supplied the music for the dance by playing the violin and guita

At Withrow the post office was operated by Lil Meyers for 12 and one half years and had 30 customers who came and picked up their mail The going salary was $8.33 per month and for the mail carrying which meant going and picking up the mail from the train, they received $13.33

Jack Scofield got Slim to go buying grain at Alhambra. Wally Meyers took over the oil business at Withrow and in 1946 he took over the post office when he married Vera Blomgren of Donalda who was working at the Lumber yard at Rocky Mountain House and Vera became postmistress for a few years

Rationing books during the war had to be picked up at Eckville and were given out at the store when the supplies were purchased

Matthew (Slim) Meyers and wife Lillian on their 50th wedding

However we could buy only so much, and when the coupons were gone for that month we went without. We often traded coupons amongst ourselves to get the things we needed. The store was not supposed to take loose coupons so we took each other's books in order that we could all manage as some needed some things more than others. For example, we did not need butter coupons and traded them for sugar coupons.

Our only medical care was with Dr. Coppock of Eckville.

Most weddings were very simple, however when Faye and Walter were married they had a reception in a cafe in Red Deer in 1941. Most of our clothes were made from boughten materials. However back in the early thirties we made most of our clothes and underwear from flour sacks.

In 1936 bread cost 10 cents a loaf. Lil often read tea cups to tell the future often for a good .

Matthew Meyers died in January 1974 and was laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery. Lillie Meyers lives in Red Deer. Their son Wallace and Vera reside in Torrington and have four children, Sharon, Shirley, Janet and Alvin.

Their daughter Dorothy (Mrs. E. Glenn Good) resides at Red Deer and have three children, Trudy, Brian and Stanley.

Their daughter Marlene was born some 24 years after her sister Dorothy in November, 1950, delivered by Dr. Coppock in Eckville hospital. Marlene married Stanley Krawiec Jr. and they have one son Stanley Krawiec the 3rd.

**MITZNER, AUGUST AND JULIA**

August Mitzner was born at Pasen, Germany and left for the United States at the age of 11. In 1890, in Minnesota, he married Julia Zeigo.

Following the stream of people seeking land, he came to Alberta in 1904. In 1905, he brought the rest of the family to Alberta with the exception of Clara, Mrs. C. Bromling. She and her husband and four children came in 1913.

They took up a homestead north of Sylvan Lake, the SE 6-40-2-W5. They later bought and improved the farm north of Eckville. This remained their home until their passing.

They owned and operated a hotel and livery barn in Eckville, for a while, then moved back to the farm.

Their home was a stopping place for immigrants as they were travelling through or looking for homesteads.

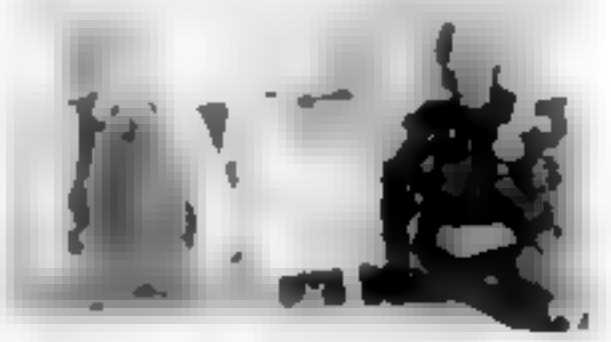
When the railroad was being built, the construction crews with their mule teams, sometimes as many as 40, made this their head quarters. Cooking for this gang of men and caring for the animals was a big undertaking.

They had their share of hardships and grief as did all the early settlers who helped build this wonderful country to make it what it is now.

August took an active interest in community affairs. He served on the old Local Improvement council, on school boards and was a charter member of the local Co-op Store.

The family scattered, some going back to the United States. Charlie served in the Canadian armed forces and Frank in the U.S. armed forces.

On December 21, 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Mitzner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



August and Julia Mitzner - Diamond Wedding

August passed away March 21, 1943 at 80 years of age. Julia died on May 29, 1955 in her 90's. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Edward Mitzner lived in Billings, Montana with his wife and one son, Lloyd. He returned to the family farm in Eckville. His wife passed away and his son and family remained in Billings. He passed away in 1971.

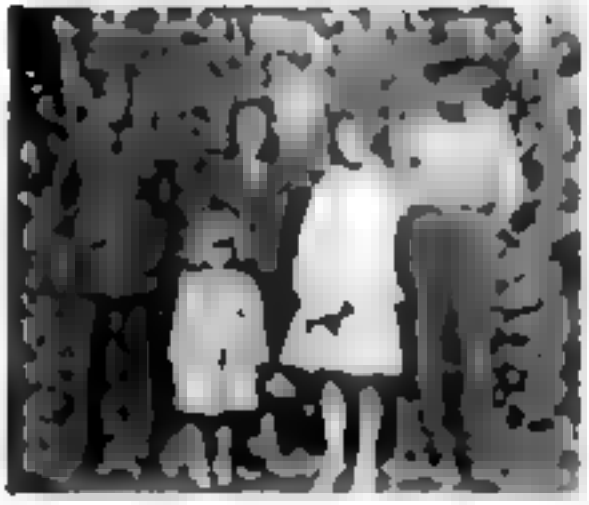
Hattie, Mrs. Stevens, lived in Billings, Montana. She had one son, Gordon.

Emma, Mrs. Brown, is still making her home in Billings, Montana, operating a Ladies' Wear shop. She had no children.

Frank Mitzner died in a sanatorium in Walla Walla, Washington.

Charlie Mitzner had no children.

Henry passed away in 1934.



Louis married Burt Brown. They make their home at Fort St. John, B.C. They had three children, Donald died at an early age leaving his wife and eight children. He is buried at Vig Lutheran cemetery Bentley

Beth now Mrs. Bruder and Lillian Mrs. Pete Neal, both live at Prince George

Clara Bromling's history appears elsewhere in the book

**THE ART MOENCH FAMILY — by A. H Moench**

Art Moench and his wife, Martha came to Eckville in August 1956 from Calgary We had a son Douglas, age seven, born in Medicine Hat Alberta and a daughter Carol, age one, born in Calgary, Alberta. In 1964 we were blessed with another daughter, Shawna, born in Eckville

Upon my arrival from Calgary I became the Department Manager for the Eckville Co-Op Hardware in the old building where the new Co Op Hardware is now in operation

In March, 1958 the Co-op Grocery and Dry goods Store on the corner of Railway Street was ruined by fire. By August, 1958 the store was rebuilt on a larger scale, with the hardware department in the basement of the new store While I worked in the basement my wife was also employed in the same department. She also managed the toy department during the Christmas season, first in the old hardware then later in the old Revelstoke Store, which was then owned by the Co-op. (This store was later sold to Art Langer and he in turn sold it to Carrell and Sons, who own and operate it at the present time.

While employed at the Co-op we worked under W G. McAndrew General Manager at the time until May of 1964 In June, 1964, we bought out the former Joe Marshall Hardware located next to the Legion Hall. We operated in that store until May, 1974 when we purchased the Chester F Kasha building and moved our stock from the other store to our new location

Due to health reasons, I was forced to seek retirement and at present we still own the store and with the help of our family, we are still operating it

The years we've spent in Eckville have been very challenging and rewarding. We have met many people and made many friends. We are proud to say that Eckvile is truly a wonderful place to live with the most beautiful area surrounding it The changes from 1956 to 1977 have been terrific, and many more are in sight, as you can see. The town is still growing, business-wise as well as in the residential section

Our children have attended school in Eckville moved on after graduation and then returned to Eckville again a few years later

Our son Douglas is married to Louise Mottus and they have two daughters — Kandice and Krystal. Douglas is an electrician, has his own business and also helps us with the hardware

Our daughter Carol married Dennis Murray Carol is a C N A. and works at the Eckville Hospital and helps out in the hardware. Her husband, Dennis, is employed by us in the [illegible]

Our youngest daughter Shawna, is attending Eckville Junior High. She will likely go on to other areas after graduation but will probably land back in Eckville to help with the family business

The 21 years in Eckvile have passed so fast that I don't actually feel as an old timer, but maybe the next book will be written by our children, so they can carry on from where we left off

For now I'll sit back and visit with the many customers and friends that we've made over the years. We've always been too busy to do this before. So I hope to see you all in the future It's been a pleasure meeting you and serving you all

**HENRY HOLANDER FAMILY — by Vera Holander**

Henry Holander and Anna Charlotta Erickson were united in marriage in Revelstoke B.C in 1906. Henry worked there in the sawmills In the spring of 1907 they came east across the mountains to Alberta to settle in Red Deer at the Conquist House While there Henry worked in the brickyards, and Anna sold milk to the neighbors to earn a little money Alfred their first son, was born in 1907

In 1908 Henry and Anna moved to a farm the SW 36-39-4 W5. Their nearest neighbors were Ed Medin, John Randall, the McLeans, the Mattilas and the Tomingas family In 1911 Albert was born, then in 1913 Harold was born, followed by Lenna in 1916 and Elsie in 1918

In the spring of 1918 Henry and Anna moved to the Billy Mannis farm, which now belongs to George Duncan, Sr They lived there one year

before moving to Forhan's farm, where they stayed for five years

Helen was born in 1921, weighing only two pounds and four ounces at birth. That same year the school first opened and Alfred started to school. He walked to school in the spring and summer and in the wintertime he drove a horse with a stoneboat behind. The first Eckville school was moved across the river and made into a church. Alfred went to school only one year. The two-room school, built in Eckville in 1921, is now a blacksmith shop on Railroad Avenue.

When living in Red Deer they had bought a cow in the spring so they would have their own milk. The cow gave more milk than needed for the family so they sold milk to neighbors and others in the town. When living southwest of ville, Henry and Anna milked up to 20 cows a

oks were too poor to pay for the milk, but, pay or not, they still got their milk. Henry and Anna sold milk right up until the late 40's just before leaving the farm to retire in Eckville in 1952. They lived in a house just north of the hospital in Eckville. Anna died in August of 1955 and Henry in 1962. These people were very kind-hearted and would give you the shirt off their back if you needed it.

When living on Forhan's farm, the boys went out picking saskatoons. There were so many and so big (the size of grapes) that they filled every container they could find. Anna didn't know what to do with them all as she didn't have enough jars for them and had no way to freeze them.

When Albert and Alfred went to school they hauled the milk on the stoneboat and delivered it in town before nine o'clock. The teacher they had would look out the window and see them, then set the clock ahead and start class, so they'd be late.

Miss Kunna was Alfred's first teacher. Other teacher's names were: Mr. Ludwig, Miss Moller, Miss Thompson (married Harry Low), Miss Hope and Miss Benidictson. They can remember in the winter all huddling around the stove and walking around the room, trying to keep warm. The ink was frozen in the ink wells and it was noon before everything thawed.

Some of the doctors well remembered in Eckville were Dr. Evans, Dr. Backus, Dr. Somerville, Dr. Schreiber and Dr. Claxton. Later came Dr. Palmer, Dr. Coppock and Dr. Gibson. Home remedies for colds were goose grease and flannel cloths, warmed up on the cook stove. A wee drop of coal oil and sugar helped sore throats. For diarrhea a tiny drop of the very powerful "Hoffman Drops" helped. A mixture of sulphur and molasses worked as a spring tonic. Sweet oil was often used for earaches and cloves for toothaches. Brown paper soaked in vinegar with pepper sprinkled on it worked before a doctor pulled a tooth.

When Elsie was very small she had pneumonia. Dr. Claxton was afraid that she would not live, but with goose grease, mustard plasters, turpentine and steam, he managed to save her, although she has always had weak lungs.

In the 30's, when it was so dry, the price of machinery, livestock and grain was very low. The highest price remembered for machinery was $1,445 for a tractor and $200. for a plow. One thing they remembered about the price of cattle was their bull, weighing 1900 pounds and selling for $19. Pigs were three dollars each. Barley went as low as eight cents a bushel and wheat 30¢ a bushel. People would sell their animals and many times they were buied for the freight. Oxen were used for farming before horses became commonly used. They had buggies and democrats pulled by the horses. In 1923 Henry and Anna bought their first car, a 1918 Model T Ford.

From 1924 to 1930 Henry worked on the railroad, travelling throughout the province. In January of 1927 Fred, the youngest, was born. Alfred went out in the bitter cold to get the mid wife for his mother.

The roads were only cow trails. There were no fences, and people travelled on the high parts of the land. Roads were built later often by men who worked on them as a way to pay their taxes. This was much easier than paying cash, when money was hard to get. When it rained the trails were so bad they couldn't get through with the Model T. No one went anywhere without haywire, the most used article to keep your car together and running. A rope was also carried so a horse could pull you out when you got stuck — that is, if the horse didn't shy away from the noise of the car.

In 1911 the Canadian National Railroad was built to Nordegg from Red Deer. Then in 1911 the Canadian Pacific Railway was built as far as Rocky Mountain House. Farmers went to help build the railroads after the crops were seeded. Picks, horses, shovels and slips were used. Hay was hauled to Withrow to be sold to the C P R to feed the horses.

One day when Alfred was out cutting hay on Kingseps an airplane came over very low. His horse just crumbled to the ground with fright. The plane had come about two feet above the shed he was behind. The noise of the plane was enough to put a scare into anyone. Planes would land on level ground near the school on Lenny Kingsep's land. School children would rush to look at them, as they were something quite new to them at this time.

Anna had a horse (Dolly) and a buggy of her own to use for going to town. The horse had to be led to get it going, then she would jump in and the horse wouldn't stop until it reached Eckville. One day Alfred put the harness on Dolly for his mother to go to town. Anna and the baby got in. Alfred put in a crate of eggs, and got the horse going. Just as he let go, he remembered he had forgotten to put the bridle on the horse. There was no stopping or slowing Dolly without it.

Anna took Harold, the baby, by the collar and dropped him off the buggy, just missing a big tree. Then she herself jumped out. After running back to get the baby, who was fine, she realized that she had lost a $20. cheque in all the excitement. She walked back and forth over the track until she finally found it.

**MOLANDER, ALFRED AND BERTHA — by Vera Molander**

Alfred Molander and Bertha Molander were united in marriage on December 21, 1933. Alfred took his bride to his home on the SW 16-39-3-W5 where they are still living at the present time.

Vernon was born in 1934. He farms with his dad.

Melvin was born May 30, 1938. He married Faye Olson in 1960. They have two children Cheryl and Corey. Melvin is now driving truck in Calgary.

May was born March 2, 1942. She married Albert Cook in 1961. They have two children Lorna and Alvin. They are living at Grimshaw Alberta, on a farm.

**MOLANDER, HAROLD AND VERA — by Vera Molander**

Harold Molander and Vera Thyssen were married on December 22, 1944 at the Dyrland home. They had 10 children, six boys and four girls. Their first baby, a boy was stillborn. Then in December, 1956 their second youngest boy Richard, died at the age of five years of a brain tumor. They now have four boys and four girls Barbara, Teresa, Edward, Eric, Dale, Betty Charlotte and Neal.

Barbara was born April 2, 1947. She has been working with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce since 1968, having worked in Eckville, Grande Cache, Yellowknife and Grande Prairie, and is now working in Edmonton.

Teresa was born February 14, 1949, and is married to Wayne Hewett, a gas plant operator now working in Mulhurst, Alberta. Teresa is a psychiatric nurse and is working in Red Deer.

Edward, who was born on March 17, 1950, works as a second foreman at Fleetwood in Red Deer. He married Lois Golem, and they have a son, Daryl.

Eric, the second oldest boy, was born on May 6, 1954. He is presently at home, helping on the farm. He helps his uncle put in his crops and helps put up the hay for his father.

Dale, born April 29, 1955, is in Vernon, B.C. working with a construction company.

Betty, born December 14, 1956, was married to Kevin Larlo, of Red Deer, on October 8, 1977. They are living at Fort McMurray, where Kevin works in the insulation and aluminum siding business.

Charlotte Ellen, born April 18, 1958 is married to Lyle Rennie. They live in Red Deer, where Lyle is employed as a welder at Sorenson Distributors. They have one son, Alan.

Neal, the youngest child, was born March 19, 1964. He goes to the Eckville Junior High School and is active in Boy Scouts. He is in Grade 8 in 1977, and hopes to go through Grade 12.

Barbara, Teresa, Edward and Betty all have their high school diplomas.

Harold Molander has been working for the town of Eckville since June 20, 1964.

**THE FRED MOLANDER FAMILY — by Frances Molander**

Fred is the youngest son of the late Henry and Anna Molander. He was born January 2, 1927 on the home place — S.E. 17-39-3-W5. On October 30, 1948 he was united in marriage to Frances Taylor, daughter of "Curley" and Louise Taylor of the Stauffer district. From this union there are four daughters — Harriet, born July 18, 1949. Coral, born December 29, 1954. Penny, born July 3, 1956, and Rhonda, born July 6, 1958. Their children, in turn, have given them four grandchildren. Michelle and Clinton are daughter and son of Harriet and Maurice Clark of Eckville. Corin is the son of Coral and Wes Lewis of Red Deer, and Tasha is the daughter of Penny and Raymond Muller of Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Molander, Rhonda, Penny, Harriet and

Fred is well known in the area as a "darn good" mechanic. He has been at this type of work since he was 16 years old. Also, in his younger years he helped his brother Albert in the trucking business. Grain augers were not too plentiful in those days, so scoop shovels were used for loading grain.

In 1949 Henry turned the farm over to his son Fred, who moved to the farm in 1952 and has resided there ever since. He has his own shop on the farm and still does mechanical work on every type of machinery.

Fred and Frances are also known in the community as Jehovah's Witnesses. Perhaps you have had a visit from them in the Bible Educational work. Apart from what has been said here, Fred and his family lead a calm and quiet life.

**UNCLE JOHN MOLANDER (1881-1974) — by Vera Molander**

Uncle John was born in Sweden, and grew up there. When he was in his early 20's he sailed for Canada, arriving in Kenora, Ontario in the spring of 1903. It took his ship 30 days to cross the Atlantic, due to stormy weather.

He found a job digging trenches by hand. After staying in Kenora for a few years he took the train west to British Columbia to work as a scaler in the logging camps. He was also a foreman in a lumber camp in Washington U.S.A. for a period of time.

When Uncle John retired from the woods in 1939, he bought a farm near Forshee, southeast of Rimbey. He never built a house or barn on the land, but instead stayed with his neighbors 'Rigby's when he was there, or batched in an old granary. During the 1940's and 1950's he rented out his land, then later sold it to Leo Palm.

He lived in a house in Eckville with Henry and Anna Molander which was sold later to Bruce and Joan Bardenhagen. He then moved to the Rocky Mountain House Lodge and lived there for a number of years. He often came to the home farm where Fred and Frances Molander now live, on the SE 17 39-3 W5.

Uncle John visited with his many friends and relatives in the Eckville area. Everyone who knew him called him "Uncle John", he was loved by all.

Uncle John lived to the age of 93 years. He died in a Rimbey hospital in October of 1974 and was buried in Red Deer beside his brother Henry and Henry's wife, Anna.

**THE AUGUST MORO FAMILY — by Mr. and Mrs. August Moro**

Karl Moro and his brother John emigrated from Estonia to Canada in 1904. They were drawn to the Eckville area where an Estonian community was developing. Included in this community were the Kingseps and the Kannas with whom the Moros had been acquainted in Estonia. With him, Karl brought his wife, Mary, and his sons August, George, and Oscar. August had been born in 1901.

Both Karl and John acquired homesteads about three miles north of the present site of Eckville, their land being separated by the Medicine River. The farming work was done at this time with oxen supplying the power. In 1919 Karl left his original homestead, having bought land 7½ miles north of Eckville. (This land was later sold to his cousins Pete and Ed Moro, and is still known as the Pete Moro place.) The family was moved to the new location, but Mrs. Moro suffered a stroke in 1921, and passed away in 1924. She was buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Karl built a flour mill in 1923 located where the Coppens' house now stands. However his sons, Oscar and August, formed a partnership and bought the flour mill from their father in 1925. In 1928 Karl, along with his sons, George and Otto, had moved to the Peace River area. Karl took up market gardening, and the boys worked in a sawmill. (In 1959 Karl passed away and is buried at Peace River.)

This country appealed to Oscar as well, so he dissolved his partnership with August in the flour mill at Eckville in 1929, so that he could join his father and brothers at Peace River. Here he, along with his cousin, Ed Moro, built and operated a flour mill, which business they continued for about three years. Oscar is now operating a farm machine shop as well as farming at Peace River. Ed is retired, and spends his summers in Summerland, B.C., and his winters in Desert Springs, California.

August continued operating the flour mill at Eckville until 1947 except for a period of two years, 1935-1937, during which he rented the mill to his brother Oscar. During this period August was occupied with a saw mill business in the Prairie Creek area. The mill, in addition to grinding grain into flour, generated electricity and in 1939 the town of Eckville was first supplied with electric lighting. Anyone with power outage trouble came directly to August for a solution to their problems. August was once refunded the amount of a monthly power bill after the electricity service was taken over by Calgary Power. This was because he had been the longest user of electric power in Eckville.

In 1947 August sold the flour mill to the Eckville Co-op and it was then operated as a feed mill and seed cleaning plant until it burned down in 1957. The sale of his house along with the mill necessitated the acquisition of another house, so, in 1947 August built a house in Eckville on his present lot. This house was replaced, in 1962, by a larger house which August built assisted by two carpenters. This house was built from 4" by 4" squared logs, and the total cost was only $3,500.

After selling the flour mill August again became interested in working with the timber. He built and operated his own sawmill and planer. This business was carried on in various locations in the Rocky Mountain House area until 1972, at which time he decided to quit working and enjoy his retirement years with his wife, Lily, at their home in Eckville.

August was married in 1927 to Lilly Waisanen, in Calgary. Their honeymoon was their trip by

car, from Calgary to Eckville. Their car was a Ford "bug", which resembled a race car. Prior to their marriage Lilly had been working in Calgary in the Ontario Steam Laundry and August spent that summer working in Cochrane in a garage.

Their family consisted of three children. Clarence was born at home, with Dr. Somerville officiating, in 1928. He is now employed in construction work in Edmonton. He and his wife Martha (Letendre) have three girls — Wendy, Cindy and Candy.

Norman was born in the Bentley hospital in 1932, with Dr. Henry in attendance. He now lives in Calgary and is associated with the F. J. Toole and Cote Real Estate, Ltd. He married Lorraine Dancer, from Winnipeg. Their family consists of two girls, Carolyn and Pamela, and one boy, Gary.

Alice was born in 1942 in the Eckville hospital with Dr. Coppock in charge. She is married to Calvin Kenzie and now lives in Calgary. They have two daughters, Susan and Alexis, both still

**MURRAY CHIC AND MARGARET**

Charles (Chic) and Margaret Murray arrived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on February 1, 1948, after leaving their home in Perth, Scotland and flying out from Prestwick. They were accompanied by their eldest daughter, Gatie who was then 11 months old and Margaret's mother, Elsie Adams.

Chic had just finished five years in the Army having served with the Fife, Forfar Yeo. They were attached to the Canadian Forces and landed with them on "D" day.

They made their home in Birch Hills Saskatchewan where son Frank and daughter Moria Charlene were born.

In the fall of 1971 they moved to Eckville accompanied by Charlene, where Chic took up employment with Kaska Farm Supplies as partsman.

On July 12, 1974, Moria Charlene married Brian George Lutz in the Eckville Presbyterian Church. They have a son Gregory Brian and a daughter, Kirsty Dawn and are living in Rocky Mountain House.

**THE FRED NEEDHAM FAMILY (MARGARET SCHOFER) — by Margaret Schofer**

In April of 1910 my Dad, Fred Needham and his brother-in-law Leo Franke, went to Stettler Alberta from Erie, North Dakota. They were met by Dad's brother Walter, who took them to the Lloyd George district where he had picked his own land. Dad filed on homestead rights on the NE 24-32-19 W5 and pre-emption rights on the SE ¼ of the same section. Fred, Dad and Uncle Leo then went back to North Dakota to finish their affairs and bring their families and belongings to their new home-land. They left Uncle Walter to take care of their interests and break the required amount of land to hold homestead rights.

Dad and Uncle Leo came out again in October, 1910, shipping their settlers' effects and livestock to Stettler. They loaded the furniture and other things that would be needed right away for the homestead on wagons and left the balance on freight cars to be re-routed to Morrin, as the railroad was being built south. This freight did not arrive until in March, 1911. Lumber bought in Stettler, meant a return trip. The first loads were taken to Uncle Walter's, a two-day trip, and left in his yard. By this time the women folk and families had been advised to come.

My mother, Bertha Needham, was a very young woman with two children, Edward, one and a half years old and four-month-old Pearl, who is now Mrs. Archie McAlister of Big Valley. Uncle Leo's wife, Pearl, was the mother of two year-old Frances. Another Needham brother Uncle Wesley, came to help the ladies with the children. He also took up a homestead in Alberta.

On the trip out from Erie, more immigrant cars were added to the train. Passengers were mostly women and children going to join their menfolk on homesteads in the new land. On the train, and before leaving North Dakota the ladies had heard some wild stories about cowboys and Indians in Alberta.

Upon arriving in Stettler in early November they had to stay overnight. They got rooms in a hotel operated by "Daddy" Vart and his wife who was a mother to all who came with children. Their rooms were on the main floor of the hotel near the office. As usual, there was a lot of noise around, and when the women looked out of their rooms to see what was going on, they saw men wearing cowboy clothes and guns. They were not long in closing their door. The men folk came from the homestead in the early hours of the morning and collected their families, and the next day started on the long trail, travelling over frozen ground for a full day's trip.

Homes had to be built before winter set in. A work bee was arranged and wonderful neighbors, Jack and Laurie Smith, Albert Chase and Mr. Reinhold, all new settlers themselves, were there to lend a helping hand. As the saying goes, "Many hands make the load light", and soon homestead shacks were built, although many hardships were yet facing the women and men alike. Many years later proper homes were built.

On one of the first nights in their new homes, the women and children were left alone, as again the menfolk had to go to Stettler for supplies. There were no locks on the doors and the women were still not very brave in this new land. To protect themselves against any possible intruders, all the big knives that could be found were put in the door. When the menfolk did return, it took some time before they could get into the house, with all the knives to be taken out.

Needless to say the locks were put on the door the next day — but very seldom used after the folks got used to the country

As the years went by more children were added to the Fred Needham family There was James, who is with the Alberta Wheat Pool at Breton and who will be retiring from this position in 1977 Calvin, who is now at Claresholm, Ina Mrs. John Moore) living at Langley, B.C. Irene Mrs. George DeWild) at Airdrie, Alberta Margaret Mrs. Schofer) at Eckville: Ralph, living in Calgary Frances Mrs Carmen Baird at Rancho Mirage California, Clarence at Alhambra, Gordon in Calgary, Roy at Big Valley Lloyd at Hemet California, Edward in Calg and Pearl Mrs. Archie McAlister) at Big Valley

Dad passed away on February 12, 1962 in Stettler, after many years of illness Our baby sister Eleanor, passed away on October 7, 1972, in a plane crash. Eleanor her husband, Tony Giesebrecht, and their youngest son, Freddy age 16 years, owned their own light aircraft They resided at Nanaimo, B.C , along with two older boys. However, it was Eleanor Tony and Freddy who were flying from Nanaimo to Lethbridge airport for the Thanksgiving weekend — Tony's folks lived at MacLeod and they were going to visit them Ten minutes after their aircraft left the Kelowna Airport the plane crashed, and all three were killed They were found in the early hours on the next day Their two oldest boys, Dwayne and Donald, are still at Nanaimo

In July, 1972 Garry Needham, Edward's eldest son was killed in a motorcycle accident in Calgary

It was in 1933 that the family moved to the Benalto-Evarts district — to the SE 26-38-3 W5, known to us as the Black farm, and which is now the home of Mr and Mrs. Leo Soerd. We went to school at Evarts, in the winter with the sleigh and in the summer on horseback, with a wagon,

Our closest neighbors were the Dewey Nielsens, Mr and Mrs Dave Hamilton, and the Robert Medins These homes were our second home — we spent many happy hours with these wonderful neighbors. In 1935 we moved to the town of Eckville, and from there the family broke up and moved to many different places Mother is still with us, spending most of the winter in California with Frances and Lloyd. In the summer of 1976 she was not able to go back to her home in Big Valley and happy to say she has been with me since coming back from California. She was 85 years young on November 15 1976.

Through the early years in the Lloyd George area our home was 10 miles east of Rowley Alberta — the Needham families helped the community in every way possible. They helped to build the Lloyd George School (in the early years it was called Mickield boarded many of the teachers, and served on the school boards. Dad was one of the district's musicians, playing violin, piano or banjo, along with his friend and neighbor, Jesse Miller, on the drums. They played for many school and good old barn dances and in homes. They were always active in community affairs and the Needham doors were never closed to any one in need

After a few years in this new land the folks did not worry about locking their doors - they soon found they did not need the knives in the door In those very early days everyone had to depend on their neighbor for help, and it was always there In our family this willingness to help carried on throughout the years as long as it was humanly possible for mom and dad to do it As I sit and write these memories with the help of my sister Pearl and mother (most of it came from them) along with my brother-in-law Archie McAlister a lot of very pleasants thoughts go through my mind Most of the memories are of the good times we had at home. Although there were many of us, and times were tough in the 1930's we did have a happy home life and are very thankful for every minute that we had together The bad times seemed to bring us closer together We always enjoyed our neighbors wherever we lived and Sundays were a big day when we lived at Rowley — there were always neighbors coming over or we were at the neighbors' homes for that friendly ball game or horse-shoe game, and usually, at the end of the day a big picnic lunch with lots of homemade ice cream Those were the good old days

I, Margaret started to work in the Eckville Town office on April 4, 1949 and am still on the job in 1977 I worked in the post office for a number of years with Dan Clausen, also for a short time after Gordon McNeil became postmaster My brother Jim had the rural mail route number three and I helped out on this at that time and later became involved with it again When we first started on this route I remember Jim going out with a team and sleigh, leaving at seven o'clock in the morning and getting home around seven at night His pay (?) was about three or four dollars a day He would change teams about half way around the route. At the present time the same mail route covers the Evarts area and very seldom does it take more than three hours to do it even in the winter time with roads being kept open and no need to use horses and sleighs anymore. Well, times change and we must keep up with the times

**THE NEUFELDS**

Alice and Jim Neufeld came to Eckville in March of 1963 to operate the local veterinary clinic. The business was called Parkland Veterinary Clinic. At that time it was the only veterinary service west of Red Deer It serviced an area as far flung as Winfield to Caroline and Bentley to Markerville. The business employed three veterinarians and three non-professional

people during his busy years. In December 1968 the practice was terminated in order that Jim could begin a new career in Veterinary

During the years in Eckville they built a house in the west-end subdivision of the town.

Son Jamie arrived in Eckville in the summer of 1968.

Jim was involved with the Lesserville Elks, Eckville Legion and was probably best known for his addiction to curling, spending a great deal of time in local curling clubs and attending local bonspiels. Jim also participated in activities of the 4-H beef clubs and presented a trophy each year to the best group of five calves in competition at the annual Achievement Day.

Alice was very active in the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid and was a founder and first teacher of the Eckville Figure Skating Club. (In the winter of 1968-69 we think.)

In September of 1970 the Neufelds moved away from Eckville to Ottawa.

**OLDFORD, WILLIAM AND RHODA**

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Oldford lived just south of Eckville for a number of years before moving away to British Columbia. Rhoda is a daughter of a very early pioneer of the Blueberry Valley.

Her father P. A. Smith wrote in a letter to a friend in 1955: "I do know that we had quite a time in April, 1912 when we drove from Red Deer to Lesserville with oxen. It seems to me that it took almost a week to make the journey. We slept one night by the old Finn hall. The roads were so bad that we were getting bogged down pretty often, but there was one thing in our favour — we had plenty to eat. We had lots of fruit that we had preserved in Ontario, and a couple of good hams and plenty of bread, and of course we had a cow with us. We had a tough time, and I always figure that the ten years that we put in up on "them thar hills" were wasted."

Here Phil Smith seems to be referring to the homesteads he and his wife's people filed on in the Blueberry Hills north of Withrow — he later settled on a farm further west where his family grew up and he was quite successful, and a respected neighbor. His son Neal has lived there all his life, and raised his family of seven there.

Rhoda was a happy, carefree girl, always pleasant to be with. She had a great fondness for horses and riding.

She and Bill now live at Penticton, B.C.

**EDWIN OLSEN FAMILY — by Edwin and Barbara Olsen**

Edwin Richard Olsen was born on April 12, 1941 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His father, Kaare Olsen, was born on January 20, 1909 at Mosvik in Nord Frondelag, Norway and came to Canada in April 1929. His mother, Anna Friesen, was born on January 25, 1910 in Armawir, Kuban Province, Russia and came to Canada in October 1924.

Barbara Jean Hawkins was born on April 25, 1946 at Bentley, Alberta. Her father, Elton Hohn Hawkings, was born on October 5, 1921 at Bentley, Alberta and her mother, Helen Margaret Terry, was born on October 15, 1924 at Cookstown, Ontario. Both Ed and Barb spent most of their growing-up years northwest of Bentley.

Ed went to Lockhart school for Grades 1 to 6 and finished his schooling in Bentley. He went to the University of Alberta for four years following his graduation from high school, and received his B.Ed. During the summers he worked on the Louis Gyori farm as a hired hand for three years and then marked correspondence lessons in Edmonton. He also marked Grade XII Mathematics Departmental Exams in Edmonton for two summers. Ed came to Eckville to intern teach in May and June, 1963 and began teaching full time in Eckville in September 1963. During this time he lived with his parents and commuted.

Barb went to Bentley school for Grades 1 to 4, to Poplar Ridge for Grade 5 and part of Grade 6 and finished Grade 6 at Riverglen School in Red Deer. Grades 7 through 12 were taken in Bentley. In April 1964 she began work in the Bank of Montreal in Bentley.

On December 26, 1964 Ed and Barb were married in the Anglican Church of Epiphany in Rumbey, Alberta. They moved into Eckville on January 1, 1965.

Ed became vice-principal of the Eckville Junior-Senior High School in 1966. Following summer school attendance and evening credit courses, Ed, Barb and the children moved to Edmonton in August 1971 where Ed completed his Masters Degree on a Sabbatical Leave. They moved back to Eckville in June 1972, at which time they bought their home and Ed began teaching again. In 1975 he became principal.

Ed and Barb's two children were born in Eckville. Richard John on October 25, 1965 and Rhonda Lynne on January 10, 1968, with Dr. Bob Swain attending both births.

Ed has been active in the community of Eckville and with other organizations. When the Anglican Church was in Eckville he was secretary of the board. He was treasurer for the Mathematics Council, Alberta Teachers Association for three years, was on the Eckville Recreation Board as secretary and as chairman of the Lacombe Regional Recreation Board, and also served part of a term as Town Councillor of Eckville. At present he is secretary of the Lions Club, after having held several other offices, including that of president. He received his ten year perfect attendance pin this year. He is also

Lacombe Local ATA and is the Lacombe Representative on Council of School Administra

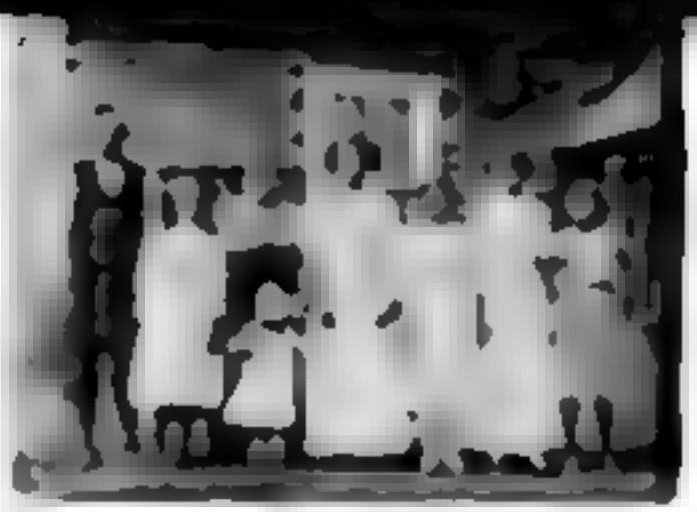
Ed's hobbies are key collecting and mechanics. At the present time he is taking a mechanics course through International Correspondence Schools.

Barb has also been active. When the Anglican Church was in Eckville she was in the Women's Auxiliary as secretary and she also taught Sunday School and had a Youth Group for boys and girls. She has also taught Sunday School and has been a leader for CGIT's and Explorers in the Presbyterian Church. She taught the Jack and Jill Playschool for three years and subbed for [illegible] year. She was secretary of the Board of Directors when the Playschool became affiliated with Preventive Social Services. In the fall of 1975 she approached the Town Council for permission to form a voluntary Welcome Mat for the town of Eckville and a five-mile radius. With the help of Dorothy Carritt the Eckville Welcome Mat was formed and Barb has been hostess for it. Since October 1975 76 new families have been welcomed to the community. At present time she is secretary of St. Paul's Presbyterian Evening Group, is beginning her sixth year as a CGIT leader is in the Presbyterian Church Choir and is on the Parent Group Committee for the Eckville Scouting Organization. Barb's hobbies collecting souvenir spoons and stamps.

Rick was in Eckville Cubs and is now in Scouts. He belongs to the Presbyterian Teeners Youth Group. Rhonda belongs to Explorers after graduating from CGC. She is also taking figure

piano lessons.

In June of 1977 Ed, Barb and the children transferred their membership from the Anglican Church to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.



**THE JAMES OLSON FAMILY — by B. A. Schey**

James Olson and his wife Minnie arrived at Eckville in March, 1903 from Cumberland, Wyoming, U.S.A. They immigrated to the United States from Finland in about 1890, and were married in Ishpeming, Michigan on July 2, 1896. They had seven daughters and one son. One daughter and the only son died in infancy. The surviving daughters were Mrs. Ole Schey (Mildred) Mrs. Frank Lingren (Emma) Mrs. Henry Lingren (Ida), Mrs. Ed Aho Annie of Eckville, Mrs. Joe Connole (Jean), of Butte, Montana, and Mrs. Albert Saari (Mary) of Kaslo B.C.

Mrs. Olson died at Eckville in December of 1936 and Mr. Olson in August of 1944. They homesteaded two miles south of Eckville, on what is now Joe Rasmussen's place. SW 10-39 3 W5.

Mr. Olson was one of the first settlers in the area and had for his mode of transport a horse and oxen hitched to a wagon, with which he hauled supplies from Red Deer (a two or three day trip). He followed the trail which passed through the Burnt Lake country. Mr. Olson cleared a lot of land for himself and other neighbors, doing it the hard way — with grub hoe and axe. He also built many log buildings in the area, some of which still stand today. Some have been covered with siding so that they are no longer recognizable as log buildings. One example is the old Gustavson house, some two or three miles northwest of Eckville. He made most of his tools out of old scrap iron from which he fashioned, among other things, skis and poles of birch and willow. Mr. Olson skied a great deal during his lifetime.

He handmade fish nets and boats, with which he reaped a harvest of different fish from the Medicine River which bisects the homestead. He had his own smoke house and produced many delicious meals of smoked fish. Many of the saunas around the district were of his craftsmanship, and many people of the district enjoyed his saunas on a Saturday night.

**MICHAEL ONOFRYSZYN FAMILY**

Mike Onofryszyn emigrated from Poland to southern Alberta in 1928. He worked for farmers for a short time, then took a job as section man with the CNR. In 1935 his wife, Maria, and only son, Jarvis, came from Poland to join him.

The family's first home was Scotfield, Alberta and a year later they moved to Youngstown. The family had been farmers in Poland so when

Mike transferred to the CN section at Eckville it was only natural they would return to the land They purchased the old John Johnson homestead two and one-half miles north of town. In 1948 they moved to the old Eckford place one mile north of town. They moved to the town of Eckville in 1953

Mike retired from the CNR in 1962 and passed away in October, 1968. His wife, Maria passed away in September of 1969

**JARVIS ONOFRYSZYN FAMILY**

Jarvis Onofryszyn married Evelyn Smale of the Gilby district in May 1952 and took over farming his parents' land making their home on the old Eckford homestead

Four daughters arrived to bless their life Elaine in 1953, Sharon in 1955, Noreen in 1959 and Karen in 1969. The family has been very involved in the community over the years, taking active parts in the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Farmers Union, Curling Club, Home & School, 4 H Club work and local politics

The three oldest daughters graduated from the Eckville High School. Elaine married Leonard Engen of the Gilby district They have built a new home on the first farm purchased by Mike Onofryszyn and have one son, Trent

Sharon married David Lemke of the Diamond Valley district and they have made their home on the Waldemar Lemke farm and have a son Nathan

Noreen distinguished herself in the 4-H Club movement by winning the Alberta 4-H Premier's Award for 1977. She is attending Red Deer

Karen attends the Eckville Elementary School

**OPHUS, PEDER — by Jean Ophus**

Peder and Thora Ophus were married in Norway in 1907 and came to Canada in June, 1915, bringing with them three children Carrie, born in March, 1908, Ivor born in May 1911, and Johanna, born in October 1915. Upon arrival in Canada they settled in the Asker district, east of Ponoka

In the spring of 1916 they moved to the Springdale area Here another daughter Mary was born in November, 1920. In 1925 they moved to Bentley and in 1927 to Lacombe Peder was a painter by trade in Norway and continued this trade and also did carpentry work in every area in which he lived

In 1930 the family moved to the Eckville district, settling on the N W 25-40-3-W5. They lived there until 1949 when they moved to the town of Eckville. Ivar still owned this quarter of land when they moved and it was rented by Elias Dyrland for several years

Thora was an excellent seamstress and did sewing for many people as well as her own family Her sewing was all done on a hand-operated sewing machine (not a treadle machine) brought from Norway, and she never owned a different machine

Peder was a quiet soft spoken man, and in his later years liked nothing better than to spend his time playing games with his grandchildren Peder passed away in April of 1957 and Thora in April of 1963

In 1927 Carrie married Burton Shales, who came from Lacombe For a time they lived on the farm at Lacombe where Burt farmed with his father William Shales The William Shales also lived in Eckville in their retirement years

Burt and Carrie lived in the Gilby area and then in British Columbia Returning from British Columbia they purchased the S.W 18-40-3-W5 and farmed there until moving to the town of Eckville. Burt and Carrie had two chosen children, Arnold and Linda

Carrie passed away in April, 1955 and Burt in 1974

**OPHUS, IVAR — by Jean Ophus**

Ivar Ophus was born in Norway on May 15, 1911 and came with his parents to Canada in June, 1916. He lived in several parts of Alberta before settling on the N W 25-40-3-W5 in the Gilby area in 1930

Ivar spent many winters working in the lumber camps Just a few of the many men he worked with are Alex, Rodger and Bill Lawton Eric Bardenhagen, Burton Shales and Arthur Garbutt Carpentry work, construction work, and grinding feed, are only a few of the jobs he

In April, 1953 he was united in marriage to Jean Lutz and they bought a house in Eckville There are six children in this family a daughter and a son, Geneva and Maurice Clark by Jean's previous marriage The eldest daughter, Geneva, born on February 21, 1946 completed her schooling in Eckville and trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton to become a registered nurse

In December 1967 she married James Burk who came from the Sundre area James was a teacher and taught at Sundre and Stoney Plain before joining the Department of Education in Edmonton. Geneva worked at the Olds, Sundre

and Royal Alexandra Hospital as well as five years at the W W Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton. In October 1976 James transferred to the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and they moved to Regina

They have two children, a daughter Jill and son Jay

Maurice Clark was born August 13, 1948 and took all of his schooling at Eckville. Since leaving school he has worked at several jobs, including McGregor Power and Telephone in 1967 when the underground telephone cables were installed in the Eckville area In July 1967 he married Harriet Molander eldest daughter of Fred and Frances Molander they have moved around to various parts of Alberta, including Calgary, where Maurice worked for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and also operated an Eelectrical Business In 1975 they purchased the S.W ¼ 2-40-3-W5 from Harold Molander northwest of Eckville, and are living there

Maurice is very fond of horses and buys, selling and training them They have two children — a daughter Michelle, and a son, Clinton

Cheryl, born December 23, 1953, graduated from High School in Eckville in 1971 After leaving school she has been employed continuously at the Alberta School Hospital, now known as Michener Centre In January, 1976, she married Gerald Burdinsky, who is employed at Menzies-Herbert Sash and Door in Red Deer

Duane born April 28, 1955, completed his high school in Eckville and after one year at the University of Alberta is employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce He is presently working in Edmonton

Lyle, born on April 15, 1956, took his elementary and junior high schooling in Eckville and his high school at the Composite High School in Lacombe He has worked in various construction jobs and is presently working with his brother Maurice

Melanie was born on June 1 1967 and is fondly known as our "Centennial Baby She is attending Eckville Elementary School

In 1956 Ivar and Jean purchased the S.E 16-38-3-W5 from Jean's dad, Levi Lutz and farmed there until 1964

In 1964 Ivar and Jean sold this quarter to Stanley and Charlotte Whitney and the quarter northwest of Gilby to Elias Dyrland. They then purchased the E ½ 13-38-3-W5 from Mrs. John (Kit) Armstrong

During the years of their marriage, along with his farming operations, Ivar had done carpentry work drove a school bus, and was employed for 12 years as a battery operator by various oil companies. In 1974 they sold the farm to George and Elaine Burkholder and purchased a house from Hans and Helen Coppens in the town of Eckville Ivar is now employed at Kasha Farm Supplies

**ORR, MR AND MRS JAMES AND FAMILY—by Sylvia Thackeray**

Mr and Mrs. James Orr came originally from Ontario to the Eckville district about 1916

community-spirited people, belonging to various organizations Mrs. Orr was a member of the local U F W A during the years

They had five children: Jessie, Andy, Nellie, John and Walter Jessie was employed in the Eckville Hotel for a number of years

The annual Sports Day and Picnic was held on Victoria Day (May 24) and was always a very gala affair and was well attended. Some years plane rides were available for a fee. Jessie was one who went up for a ride, and coming in for a landing the plane hit the telegraph line and crashed. The plane was a wreck, and the passenger, Jessie, received a broken arm

When last known, Jessie had married and was living in Courtney B.C. John and Walter attended Eckville School. In 1923 the Orrs held an auction sale and returned to Ontario

**PORTER, MRS. MARGARET N — 1881-1971 — by Laura Marshall**

My mother, Mrs. Porter, emigrated to Canada in 1926, from Middlesbrough, Yorks, England

She married Harry W Porter in 1905. From this union were born seven children Laura (Marshall), James, Malcolm, Walter, Cecil and Margaret (Sleenson My father was called up at the outbreak of World War I as he was in what was known as the territorials, and was automatically called at the outbreak of the war He was seriously wounded in 1915 and died from the wounds. I'd like to point out here that my mother had to pay for the blanket he was buried in, out of the pittance the Imperial Government was paying war widows. Sure, he was awarded several medals, but does that feed and clothe a widow and seven children?

At the close of the first war my mother decided to come to Canada, as she had two brothers in Alberta. First she came to Chinook and, as she had had a great deal of experience in first aid and maternity work, she was in demand when news got around that she was proficient in these fields.

In 1925 she came to Condor and was busy mainly in maternity work. Many a baby she delivered without the aid of a doctor. At first she went out to the homes. Here she took care of mother and babe, cooked, did the laundry and took care of other members of the family. All this was done without the aid of modern conveniences such as we know today.

In 1926 the late Dr. A. Somerville persuaded her to move to Eckville, and in January of 1929 she opened and operated a nursing home. The house, located across the street from the bakery now occupied by the Wally Hanford family, became the first nursing home. Many of the children born there are now grandparents. My first two children were born there, Mavis being born without the aid of a doctor. At that time Dr. Somerville went to Leslieville every Tuesday and held office hours. It was on a Tuesday that Mavis decided to enter the world. The doctor had to go and isolate a number of infectious diseases that day and so the baby was born before he returned to Eckville.

After two years the government started to interfere, and wanted a lot of information in regard to patient care, etc. As a result, mother decided to move back to the farm at Condor. In the meantime Dr. Somerville had left Eckville and Dr. Claxton took over. My mother regarded both birth and death as of a serious nature, and she felt that Dr. Claxton was too indifferent in either case. Many of her former patients still wanted her in attendance at the birth of their babies, and they also passed the word around that patients could expect good care. Consequently, Mother reserved one bedroom in her home to be used as a maternity room.

In 1944 she moved to Calgary where she joined the Red Cross. About this time the war wounded were returning so she again took up her duties of serving coffee, doughnuts, etc. to the returning soldiers. In about 1949 Mother moved to Red Deer to make her home with brother, Walter.

With the influx of war wives, many with babies and little ones, Mother was in her element again. Cots were set up and babies bathed and fed, giving the mothers a chance to rest after the long journey from England. After all this excitement was over mother took a breather, except for her church work at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer.

Mother still made her home with Walter until her failing health required that she enter the Father Lacombe Home at Midnapore. She was a patient there for three years. She fell and broke her hip and didn't recover from the operation of setting it.

Of Mrs. Porter all can say "Well done good and faithful servant."

**PURNELL, LLOYD AND VERNA — by Verna Purnell**

Lloyd and Verna were both born at Ponoka, Alberta, and were married there on August 31, 1947.

In the fall of 1949 they moved to Eckville, Alberta. Lloyd and his brother-in-law, Denny Sheppard, bought the International Harvester business from Rus Eastman. Mr. Verne Starr (whom many will remember) was zone manager in this area for the International Harvester Company at that time. They operated the business in the building which is now the Legion Hall until the spring of 1959. Lloyd then worked in Red Deer for Nance Company until September 1959, at which time he started working for the County of Lacombe as school bus foreman for Eckville. He is still working for the County in that position.

Denny and Hazel Sheppard and family moved to Red Deer in 1959.

Lloyd and Verna have two sons and one daughter. Brian Lloyd was born January 6, 1950 and was married to Margaret Derk in Edmonton on August 17, 1974. They now reside in Edson, Alberta, where Brian works at the Hudson Bay Gas Plant.

Kenneth Edward was born March 10, 1954 and was married to Ronny Hughes in June, 1976. They reside at Eckville. Ken works for McGregor Telephone and Power, erecting steel towers for the Calgary Power lines.

Patricia Leanne was born February 8, 1956 and was married to Duane Engman on February 12, 1977. They live on Duane's farm in the New Hill district south of Eckville. Pat works for the Hudson Bay Gas Plant south of Eckville.

**QUANTZ, HAROLD FAMILY**

There is something about small town friendliness that one appreciates. This was the feeling of Harold (formerly from Alliance, Alberta) and Dorothy (Vliet from Rimbey, Alberta) as they moved from Calgary to Eckville in August 1958. Since Harold had a brother here and the town is close to Rimbey, and we were able to rent a house, we arrived in time for our oldest child, Carol, to start Grade 1 in Eckville. Harold did carpenter work and was employed on the building of the south addition to the school.

Because Harold was feeling a call to enter the Christian ministry, we moved to Redcliff in December 1959; but came back to Eckville in August 1962 as the minister in the local Church of the Nazarene. With the help of many people giving of their labor and their finances the present church building was erected between 1963 and 1964.

Our youngest child, Maribee, started school

here, and although we were away for seven years (two in High Prairie and five in Calgary east) she was in the graduating class with those with whom she had started to school.

Our son, Jerry, married Cindy Taylor from Calgary and they have two children, Chris and Angela. Jerry enjoys playing hockey with former classmates and friends. Our children lived here during their junior years, so consider Eckville their home town. When we were travelling between Rimbey and Calgary we often stopped to greet friends.

Make new friends but keep the old
One is silver, the other is gold

We probably hold a record, as we have lived in Eckville during three different periods of time for a total of 10 years at the time of writing, in a 21 year span. We appreciate the friendship and kindnesses which have been shown to us over

**QUANTZ, HERBERT**

Minister in the Church of the Nazarene in Eckville 1954-1961.

Herbert and Jean Quantz, with three children (Douglas, Karen and Donnie), came to Eckville in 1954 to be pastor in the local Church of the Nazarene. Herbert had taken a three year course at Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer after having been discharged from the Air Force.

In Red Deer and later in Victoria, B.C. Herb worked for T. Eaton Company, but feeling that God's will was for him to be in the ministry, he subsequently accepted the pastorate here in Eckville. He clerked in Jenkin's grocery store as well as doing pastoral preaching and visiting.

Leaving here in 1961 he moved to Calgary and attended the University of Calgary, where he gained a Degree in Education. For a number of years he was both teacher and pastor, but is currently teaching in Drumheller, is active in the local church, and supplies as minister when needed.

**RALPH, ALLAN AND IRENE**

On January 24, 1874, John Alexander Ralph was born, the first son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ralph at Port Perry, Ontario. On December 16, 1885, Susan Albertha Morgan was born, the 11th child of Thomas and Catherine Morgan at Sandhill, Ontario. In March of 1886 the Morgan family moved to Treherne, Manitoba.

As a young man, Jack Ralph moved to the Treherne area where he met and later married Susan Morgan on December 26, 1906. In January 1907 they moved to what later became the Nut Mountain district of Saskatchewan. It was not until April, 1908 that the young Mrs. Ralph saw another white woman, when new settlers finally arrived.

In 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph welcomed into their home their chosen son, Allan, who was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 19, 1926.

In 1914, the Nut Grove School District No. 2924 came into being. It was in this school that Allan received his first 10 years of education. He later graduated in Saskatoon in 1945, being the first student of the Nut Grove School to graduate from high school. He entered the teaching profession in September 1945 and taught for three years. In 1952 he graduated from Two Rivers Bible Institute at Carlea, Saskatchewan.

In July, 1953, Susan Ralph passed away at Kelvington, Saskatchewan at the age of 68 years. Her husband, Jack Ralph, passed away six months later, on January 4, 1954, also at Kelvington, at the age of 79 years.

George Brown Hill was born in Preston, England on October 13, 1887. He immigrated to Canada after the first World War, having served in His Majesty's armed forces. In 1928 he married Mary (May) Black of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Their daughter Irene was born on October 23, 1930 and their son Gordon on October 21, 1933. Mr. Hill had one daughter, Frances, by a previous marriage. May Hill passed away on November 25, 1953 at the age of 46 years. George Hill passed away on March 25, 1968 at the age of 71 years.

In 1936 Allan Ralph moved to Vancouver, B.C. where he was employed by the B.C. Telephone Company for more than 10 years. He met and later married Irene Hill on July 26, 1957. In 1966 he returned to teach at Leader, Saskatchewan for four years. In 1970 he accepted the position of French teacher in the Eckville Junior Senior High School, where he is still employed in 1978. Irene Ralph began working at the newly-employed Treasury Branches of Alberta office in December, 1970 at Rimbey, Alberta, where she continues to work.

**RANDALL, FAMILY — by Ernest Rachuk**

Charlie, Erick, and Elmer Randall were born in Finland. Their father E. E. Randall filed on his homestead the NE 30-38-3-W5 about the turn of the century.

CHARLES RANDALL filed on his homestead NW 10-38-3-W5 later than his dad, about 1905. He

came to the district from Butte Montana with the Hietala family (Henry Hietala still lives on his father's homestead one and one half miles east of Randall's farm)

Charles wanted a homestead with timber to build with and water for livestock so he built on the west side of the Medicine River

The Hudson Bay trail crossed the river by the Randall farm. All the first homesteaders like Erick Randall and my dad, Frank Barlund travelled the Hudson Bay trail to their homesteads north of Leslieville

When on the homestead they had hardships with cattle dying of blackleg and other diseases as there was no vaccination in those days

One time when coming home from Red Deer with clothing for himself and family and groceries and other supplies he had a near catastrophe. The river had become higher due to spring run-off. While crossing, the brand new wagon box came loose from the wagon and upset spilling contents in the river All the supplies and the box were lost The horses and wagon barely made it to shore, and Charles nearly lost his life He said if it had not been for his son Eino on shore, telling him Come on dad: you can make it, try again" he would have given up for he was just about played out in the cold and murky water

Charlie wanted his sons to get a college education or better, but they did not have a chance on the farm Eino and Arne were the first students at the old Eckville school

Charlie farmed until about 1915, then he had a sale and left for Reiner, Washington to make a home on an acreage. He took a job as carpenter with the Libby Co

Eino finished college and started in insurance business in Seattle

Arne finished his education and became a teacher, then a principal at Mossyback Washington and later as inspector of schools in Alaska, and other American points

Reino became a professor of Arts at Ellensburg Washington

My aunt and Uncle Charles, died a few years ago. Arne died after a lengthy illness on August 1 1977 at Polson Montana ERICK RANDALL homesteaded on the SW 25-40-4-W5 (the T Heikkinen land He was a trustee for the Leaf and school and a councilor for the Leslieville area. Erick had a university education in Stockholm so he was well qualified

He farmed until about 1931, when his wife died. Then he sold the farm to Heikkinens and left for Toronto. The log barn that Erick built still stands on the hill in Thelma Heikkinen's yard

Ericks's wife was a Finn-Swede who was very fluent in the Swedish, Finnish and English languages. She too, served on the Leafland school board for many years They did not have

After his wife died and before he left for Toronto, Erick remarried, the lady was Matt Heikkinen's sister

ELMER RANDALL homesteaded the SE 26 40-5-W5. He had two sons, Roy and Irvine, who live in British Columbia where they have been logging Elmer left the homestead and died many years ago

**MATTHEW (MATT AND ALMA (PAANANEN RAUHALA**

Matthew and Alma Rauhala were married on July 3, 1916. They lived in the Usona area for four years before they moved to the Red district, northwest of Ponoka, in 1920, where they lived for 50 years In June, 1970, they retired and moved to Eckville

Mr and Mrs. Rauhala have two sons, who both live in Red Deer Emil and his wife, Ann have two sons and one daughter Henry and his wife, Barbara, have one boy and one girl

Of the Rauhala a four daughters, the oldest Dagmar who married Roy Rook lives in Alberta Beach and has five sons. Martha and her husband, Frank Jones, have recently bought a farm near Eckville. They have one son and one daughter Dorothy and her husband, Derrick, Lawton, live in Eckville and they have three daughters. Elma and her husband, Ray Kelm, live in Rimbey Mr and Mrs. Rauhala also have a number of great-grandchildren

In 1963 Matt and Alma flew to Finland where they had a pleasant time visiting with relatives On July 3, 1965 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, with open house for family and friends Matt passed away on December 23, 1971

Alma greatly enjoys doing handicrafts and makes most of the gifts she gives away She often lends a helping hand to others. She belongs to a whist club, and takes part in the activities of the Eckvine and District Friendship Club. She continues to live in her own home in Eckville

**RHODES, WALTER AND ELLA**

Walter Douglas was born in Douglas, North Dakota U S.A. in February 1909. He came to Beverly Saskatchewan as a small child with his parents Mr and Mrs. Mark M Rhodes They farmed for many years and his father was elevator agent there They returned to the U S.A to Alhambra, California, for a few years and in 1928 moved back to Canada Walter went to school in Beverly and Alhambra

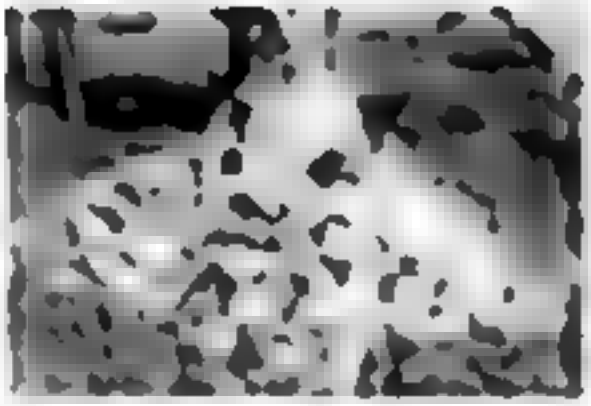
I Ella I Bassett was born in Crocker Missouri, U S.A. in September 1910 and came to the homestead at Cowan, Manitoba with my parents, Mr and Mrs. Jay D Bassett. In the spring 1913. We moved to Travers, Alberta to my Uncle Guy S. Bassett's farm in the spring of 1915 We were lucky to escape the 1918-1919 flu. We walked the three miles home from school many times through the dust storms that gradually covered the Russian thistles in the fence lines Travers was a lovely little town on the wide open prairie but by 1923 we were "broke" and gave up

and went to Woonsocket, South Dakota where we farmed with grandfather that year. In the spring of 1924, we came back to Canada to Taber, Alberta and to irrigation farming. I went to Ingelview and sold Coin schools in Travers and Milwaukee and Woonsocket schools in South Dakota. In Taber I attended Central school then took a complete dressmaking and designing course.

The depression years were hard on the prairie. We worked at anything we could, regardless of conditions, hours or pay. I hoed sugar beets at $12.50 per acre, my limit was five acres. Thinning, hoeing, topping and piling — took all summer. One winter we sorted pea seed for the Broder Canning Company in a cold old mill for 25 cents an hour. We wore our Dad's underwear, overalls, and heavy wool socks with overshoes. Our crew of eight girls were on night shift and we had fun. My better employment was a cook on the cook-car at harvest time for $5.00 a day, starting with breakfast about daylight and finishing at 11 p.m.

Walter and I met in Taber at my folks home in 1928 and were married in the Taber United Church Manse on January 9, 1933. We went to Milo for six months and then returned to Taber and lived in a 12' by 12' shack on 10 acres of irrigated land. This shack had been a brooder house for baby chicks. We cleaned it well and put in a new floor and covered the walls with gray building paper with lath on each side of the two by fours to hold it there.

Walter (Dusty) came to Red Deer with a brush-cutting outfit in the spring of 1936. He cut brush in the Red Deer area and for a number of farmers in the Eckville district. In late September he brought Douglas and me here from Athabaska where we were visiting his folks. That first winter we lived on Myles Scowan's farm north of Eckville, where Balch now lives. That winter was very nice until the day before Christmas when it snowed and turned very cold. We were new to the country and had



cut any wood so we were busy sawing and splitting it all winter. Our good neighbour Hans Moos, loaned us a team to haul the logs home. We moved to Fred Moos' farm in the spring of 1938. When not busy on the farm Walter worked for Alfred Kinna in his welding shop — this shop later belonged to Luther Finley. We needed this extra work because we were not to be paid until after harvest. We farmed for Fred until winter of 1941 when we moved into [illegible] Bardenhagen's little house in Eckville as Douglas had started school. That winter Walter worked in Calgary returning in the spring to work for the Lacombe Municipal District on road construction. The winter of 1942 he was mail carrier for R.R. 3. He became foreman of the road construction in the spring of 1943 and was there until late fall of 1947, construction work in summer and snow plowing in winter. He then went south where he did construction work for many years. In 1954 he went to British Columbia where he presently resides. Some of his crew here were Bob Matthews, Herb Matthews, Louis Mitzner, Herb Riley, Alfred Kinna, Clarence Haarstad, Stan Leavsley and Frank Wine as cook.

Walter played the Hawaiian guitar and sang at many parties, concerts and played for dances in an orchestra with John Viitala, Robert Kinna, Bob Matthews and others. Alfred Kinna had an amplifier which not many orchestras had at that time. The dances were held in barns, schools and halls. I especially remember one wedding dance at Gilby. It was one of our long rainy spells, the roads were in poor condition and the one north from town was under construction with the road crew camped near town. We went to the dance by this road, driving in the ditches to pass the road construction and we decided to return by the west road. At the hall we parked in front of the door and we discovered later that someone had stolen our gas when we ran out at Felix Matthew's farm. We obtained gas from Waldo Raabi's farm, had coffee with the Matthews and started out again. It was raining so hard and we were sliding around and stuck so many times

that we ran out of gas again. By this time we were tired, hungry and muddy. It was getting night again and we were worried about our children. I wanted to walk but couldn't in spike heels. The Maki boys came along and took me home, brought back gas for the car and followed Walter home. We were lucky to have Mrs. Clara Bromling baby-sitting. She was still there and wondering what we were up to. The next day we heard that the police were stuck in the new grade all night and one of the road crew had started the "cat" and pulled them out when he came from the dance.

We were happy to stay in Eckville where we had met so many nice people. Some couldn't speak much English but someone was always there to translate for us. The "Bath House" was a new experience for us and we liked it. We enjoyed the visiting and lovely lunches afterwards. We used to go out west fishing, berry picking, camping or just driving with Lilly and August Moro, Mary and Fred Moos and their families and had wonderful times, lots of berries and fish.

I did dressmaking for many years in Eckville. I was the first Librarian when the Parkland Regional Library opened in the school in 1956. I enjoyed the Library, students, teachers and people who came for books. I also went to the Home and School convention for Eckville that year. In November 1957, I left the Library to work in Dr. Gibson's office and stayed on with Dr. Swain until I retired in 1967 due to ill health. I still live in Eckville on part of the acre we bought outside of [illegible]

We have three children, Douglas, LeRoy and Jacquelyn.

Douglas was born in my folks home in Taber in September 1935 and came to Eckville in 1938. His history is elsewhere in this book.

LeRoy was born in the old hospital (Saari's house) in August 1942. He went to Eckville School, was a cadet under Mr. Bliss when he was 10 years old and never was old enough to go to cadet camp while we had cadets here. He worked at the Co-op Store, Eckville, the Hudson Bay store, Rocky Mountain House, then worked with an oil crew, later moving to Brooks. He had a Taxi business there and drove ambulance at the same time. He did painting for awhile then was employed by an oil company, his present job. He married June Rath of Brooks. They have a son Bradley, and daughter Trena, and a son Brent (deceased). They reside in Brooks.

Jacquelyn was born at the Eckville Hospital in March 1947. She went to the Eckville School and worked at odd jobs, babysitting, ironing and at the Elgene restaurant for Gene and Ella Salsaulier. She married Earl Dyrland of Leedale. They have a trucking business and haul for Great West Feeds in Red Deer and reside in Red Deer. They had two children, Shelley (deceased February 1977) and Bartley who attends River Glen school.

**THE DOUG RHODES FAMILY — by Mrs. Rhodes**

Doug Rhodes came to Eckville as a small child with his parents, and took his schooling here. After completing his education he worked on a seismic crew and in a lumber camp at Nordegg. Following this, he worked for Chester Kasha for a summer. In 1956 he started working for Art Langer where he worked for 13 years learning the trade of television and radio technician. He attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary where he furthered his [illegible]

Doug married the former Georgina Reitmeier of Benalto, and they have three daughters, Holly (Mrs. Glenn Cornell of Red Deer, Trudi and Tammi. They also have two grandchildren, Ryan and Christa.

In 1967 Doug and Georgina started their own business in a small room in the back of Art Langer's shop, and in 1972 they moved their business to the former Kinna building on Main Street, which they later purchased. In 1977 they renovated the building and built an addition onto the back of it.

As well as operating his own business, Doug has worked at many different jobs. He worked part time as trouble-shooter for Eckville Mutual Telephones, Northwestern Utilities, and Calgary Power, as well as being projectionist at the local theatre and operating a school bus for Gene Lazzer. Doug has been a member of the local volunteer fire department for 22 years, the last seven of these as chief. He is now the past mayor of the Town of Eckville.

Doug was a member of the cadets for several years and attended camps at Vernon, B.C. and Dundurn, Saskatchewan. He also played hockey with the Eckville Eagles, and baseball with the Eckville Club. He is a former president of the Eckville Fish and Game Association. He enjoys fishing, camping and canoeing in his spare time, and also does a bit of cross-country skiing.

Georgina worked for a short time at the local hospital, the Co-op store, and then for seven years at the telephone office. She started the C.G.I.T. group in 1958, along with Donna Wilson, whose husband, Harvey, was local manager of Revelstoke Lumber, and continued as leader of this group for three years. She was also an active member of St. Paul's choir for several years. At the time of writing, Georgina has been a member of the Order of Royal Purple No. 233, Benalto Lodge for the last 12 years, and works full time at the store.

Holly took her education in Eckville, where she was on the cheerleading team. She was a member of Explorers, C.G.I.T. and Junior Choir. She taught Sunday School at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for three years. She is now kept busy with her young family.

Trudi was a member of C.O.C.'s and Explorers, and is still attending C.G.I.T. She also

taught Sunday school, is an ardent artist and enjoys sewing, cooking and babysitting. She would like to become an interior designer upon completion of High School.

Tammi also was a member of C.O.C.'s and Explorers, and of St. Paul's Sunday School. She enjoys Highland Dancing, which she hopes to teach. She also enjoys her pet dog, "Bashful". She enjoys sports, music, camping, travelling and babysitting.

Last summer the family enjoyed a three-week trip to the Yukon and Alaska along with Doug's mother, Ella Rhodes, and Georgina's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Reitmeier of Red Deer. They also took Georgina's niece and nephew, Robbie and Leah Reitmeier of Calgary. They had a very good trip and would like to return to the beautiful Yukon again in a few years.

Although the family is kept busy with their business and their many and varied activities they enjoy living and working in the growing community of Eckville.

[redacted]

Red (Harley) Rice was the youngest of 12 children born to Charlie and Annie Rice on May 21, 1936 at Viking, Alberta. They farmed at Viking until Red was in junior high, then retired and moved to Lacombe.

Red and Mary Ann Rice- September 1, 1956

Mary Ann, youngest of six children was born to Joe and Ingeborg Hansen on February 2, 1938 at High Prairie, Alberta. One year later the Hansens moved to Battle Lake, Alberta where they lived for seven years. After a few moves, they returned to Westerose country where they lived until Joe retired and moved to Wetaskiwin.

When Mary Ann left school she took a job at Lacombe hospital and soon met up with Red Rice. They were married on September 1, 1956 at Westerose Church. They lived a few months at Lacombe, then moved to Sundre where they resided for 10 years. Red worked for Hudson's Bay and Canadian Superior.

Red and Mary Ann have three daughters — Debbie Ann, born July 17, 1957 at Lacombe, Donna Marie, born April 21, 1959 at Olds, and Diana Charlene, born June 9, 1963 at Olds.

In 1966 the Rices moved to Eckville. Red went to work as a battery operator for Brinkerhoff who sold out later that year to Sun Oil Co. Red is still with Sun Oil. Mary Ann worked a few years at a local grocery, first called Sestrap and Co., then Ferguson Foods. She is now employed as casual help at the Post Office.

On July 26, 1975 Debbie married Les Johnson, youngest son of Bill Johnson and the late Elsie Johnson (nee Heitlena) formerly of Eckville, now retired at Sylvan Lake. Deb and Les live at Rocky Mountain House where Les is employed by Delta Controls. On August 26, 1977 they became the happy parents of a daughter Marsie Ann.

Donna is currently working at the Red Deer Golf and Country Club and sharing an apartment in Red Deer with Linda Armeneau.

Diana is still at home and a Grade 9 student at Eckville Junior High.

**JOHN AND VIRGINIA SAFRONOVICH — by [redacted]**

John Safronovich of Buck Creek, Alberta and Virginia Pshka were married in Red Deer, Alberta, on July 23, 1958. Virginia graduated from Eckville High School and was a bookkeeper in the Eckville Co-op before her marriage. John was employed in the oil fields as a derrick man.

After their four-day wedding celebration at the Pshka farm, (which is tradional of Ukranian-Czechoslovakian families) the young couple went to live in a rented apartment in Olds. In August — a great surprise! John won a trip for two to Hawaii. Since they had not had a honeymoon, this was it.

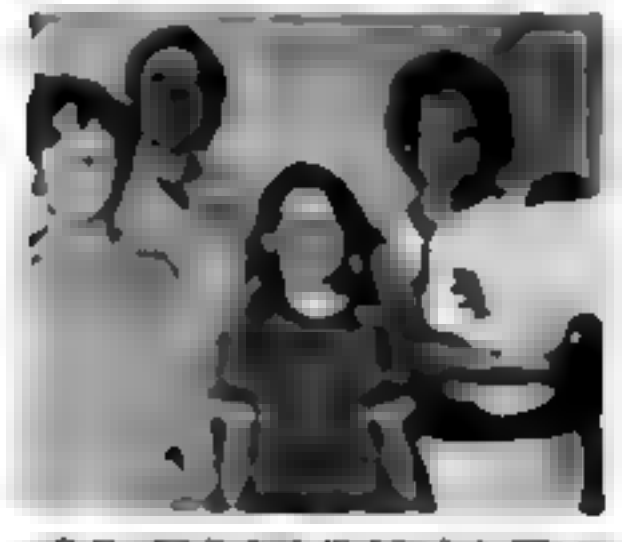
They purchased a house trailer and traveled to several places, following the rigs in Central, Southern and Northern Alberta. Randy was born in Olds in 1960 and Deborah was born in Eckville in 1961. By this time John was a driller and every now and then the pink trailer would be parked in the Pshka yard, as the rig moved in and out of the area. In 1962, John was involved in a serious car accident near Gilby on his way

home from work. This accident kept him off the job for three months

By this time the couple were tired of all the moving and were eager to farm. After several tries to borrow money from government agencies, they found it was "no go". Finally, on November 12, 1963, they purchased the Chucas farm, which was one quarter of land. This took all their savings and a loan from the Eckville Credit Union. In the spring of 1965, the quarter was sold, making a few more dollars. Through savings and another loan from the Eckville Credit Union the Clarence Lutz property, W 26 39-3 W5, was purchased. The home quarter was originally owned by Mrs. Junnila and the other by Mr. Gunnar Forseli. This was a big change for the whole family, as they had been used to living in an 8 by 35-foot trailer for seven years. At that time the house seemed very large

John continued working for Cactus Drilling as a tool push. By 1968, he started his own trucking company — Whatley Trucking Ltd. He bought a full line of farm machinery. Working on the rig and farming proved to be quite a challenge. Virginia started driving the tractor. Neighbours knew when she did it all right there was the top of one hill that was never done. One year at combining time, John was sent to the United States border for two weeks. Everyone was wondering how ripe we wanted the crop to get before harvesting it. Well, we get the crop in the bin that year, also some fast bote in Coutts, Alberta

One day Willis McGonigal, who was elevator agent in Eckville, phoned to tell John that his grain had been accepted for malt, and could he please hurry and haul three carloads right away. Well, John, always being in a hurry, was in the midst of building a truck box. The end gate was to be finished. He sawed the top of the end gate for the hole, instead of the bottom. There were some fancy words, when he went to put it on the box. There was quite some laughing going on by the time he had finished hauling the three carloads of barley, with the hole in the top of the end gate in the truck box.



They farmed for five years, and then John sold his machinery and rented the land to Ralph Tatlock, who is still farming it today. In the spring of 1973, the big hip-roofed barn, which was a Junnila landmark, was torn down and burned, being replaced by a large steel quonset.

Gary was born on August 29, 1973 — a real joy to the whole family.

John became interested in flying. He obtained his private pilot's license in January 1974 and in February, with his instructor, flew a single engine plane to the Bahamas across the 600-mile Gulf of Mexico to Mexico and then home again. He became so involved with flying that he started Central a Business Services Ltd. of Lacombe, in which he buys and sells aircraft. John is a member of the Lacombe Flying Club and also a member of the Benalto Elks.

In July 1974, John promoted his first oil well. He formed, and was president of, Panther Oil Limited, of which friends and relatives held shares. Land was bought at Red Water, and in September our first well was spudded. There were anxious moments towards the end of the hole. Dry well. The land has since been sold, but there are a few of us around that had the thrill of drilling their first and last "oil well".

In the summer of 1976 we took on the project of building an 1800-square-foot addition to our home. The last of the Junnila house went up in flames in June, 1976, when the Eckville Fire Department came and burned it. With the old house out of the way, we proceeded to build on to the bungalow that Clarence and Irene Lutz had built in 1962. This house now became a one-and one-half-storey building, we are getting it completed in 1977.

Virginia keeps busy with bookkeeping for their companies. She also enjoys gardening, boating, swimming, "back seat" flying, and also belongs to the Catholic Women's League.

Randy, a student at Eckville High School, enjoys snow and water skiing, riding horses, basketball, volleyball, swimming, hunting and fishing. He is also learning to be a pilot.

Debbie, who was in Grade 9 in 1977, enjoys both water and snow skiing, flying with dad, riding horses, curling, volleyball, basketball and swimming.

Through the years the family has been involved in Boy Scouts, hockey, figure skating, music lessons, swimming, 4-H clubs and Catholic youth groups.

There are two old landmarks of the Junnila property, which are an old ice house and a sauna.

## ELLA ROSELEA MOTTUS SALSAULEW

Ella Roselea Mottus married Arthur Dahl in 1936 at Sylvan Lake. They farmed north of Withrow until 1946, when Arthur's poor health

forced him to give up the hard work on the farm. They then moved to Eckville, where Ella was employed at the Co-op lunch counter and Arthur worked as a part-time ice-maker at the arena. Arthur passed away in 1955.

In 1963 Ella married Eugene Salsauler and operated a restaurant in Eckville until 1967 when they moved to Lacombe. In 1974 they bought an orchard in Abbotsford, B.C., but soon moved back to Eckville, where they now reside in the new home which they built for themselves. There were no children from either of these unions.

**SAMBROOKE, ARNOLD E. AND HAZEL — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Mother nature taught Arnold a lot before his formal education started at the age of seven at the Estonian School. His love for the tall timber was ever been present for he learned to fish and track wildlife very early in his life. Depending upon the weather, Arnold walked, rode horseback or skied to school, joined by the families of Mike Dvornik and Gust Mottus.

Learning to use a trowel in his early teens, he helped his father (Arnold Sr., better known as Dick) build chimneys and was put to plastering small closets. Little did he realize then, that he would live with his own work later in life when he plastered the Mike Sestrap farm home, our home today. SE 14-3-39 W5.

On November 24, 1941 Arnold married Hazel A. Jamieson, daughter of Harvey and Margaret Jamieson of Sylvan Lake, and we made Eckville our first home. Arnold operated a mobile seed cleaner.

I came to Eckville in the spring of 1939 first to help Irene and Lance Rowat, owners of the Barber Shop and Pool Hall, to operate "Jiffy Lunch." Later I joined the staff of the Alex Ferris General Store, and worked here until our marriage. I was employed afterward by the Eckville Bakery, which was owned and operated by E. Jackson, until Arnold joined the Armoured section of the R.C.A.F. (1942-1945) during which time we lived at Ladner and Coal Harbour. Upon discharge from the R.C.A.F. at Abbotsford, B.C. we returned to Sylvan Lake and picked up the trowel again. Many of the homes in Central Alberta were plastered or stuccoed by the Sambrookes. Harlan Sambrooke, a cousin had learned the trade and joined Arnold and Dick.

In 1953 we purchased the old home quarter from Arnold's father SW 26-40-3-W5. Arnold worked part-time for the County of Lacombe repair crew. While in the Gilby area we were active members of the Gilby Sunday School and Hall Board. Ten years later we sold our holdings in the area to Walter Kalev and purchased land two miles east of the town of Eckville from Mr. Scotty Glover. The farm is better known as the Mike Sestrap farm.

We had four children. Nora May, was born in 1944. She started her schooling at the Estonian School and was later bused to Eckville. She was crowned Queen of Hearts at the Eckville High School in 1962, and was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She later went on to study for her B.A. degree and in 1967 she married Floyd Schamber, a son of Ben and Urma Schamber of Sylvan Lake. They have made their home in Rocky Mountain House. Nora is teaching school and Floyd is with the Alberta Forestry Service.

Gerald Arnold, was born in 1948. He completed his schooling in Eckville and then went on to NAIT, training to become a forest ranger. He has been working in the Crowsnest Forest and Grande Prairie Forest Reserves. In 1975 he married Lorraine Warkentin, a daughter of John and Anne Warkentin of Debolt, Alberta.

Lorne Bruce, born in 1953, completed high school in Eckville and then became a grain buyer. In 1972 he married Donna Irwin, a daughter of Ed and Clara Irwin of Rimbey. They now have a daughter, Tracy Lee, and are living at Lougheed, Alberta.

Evelyn Patricia was born in 1960. She started her education in the Eckville Schools and completed school at Lacombe Composite High School. She is very active in the community in C.G.I.T., 4-H Club work and junior leadership activities.

Arnold was the custodian of the Eckville Elementary School for several years after he stopped driving the Express Bus run to Lacombe. At present he is semi-retired and is living on the farm.

**OLE SCHEY FAMILY — by R. A. Schey**

Ole Schey came from Steinkjoer, Norway in 1912 on the liner Olympic, a sister ship of the Titanic. He arrived in North Dakota, U.S.A. and worked his way west over a period of years, finally arriving in Butte, Montana. It was there that he met Mildred Olson, of Eckville and they were married in 1918.

They arrived in Eckville on September 12, 1919. Mr. Schey bought a quarter of land two miles south of Eckville (it is now the east quarter of the late Simon Waisanen farm - the SE-9-39-3 W5. He farmed this and also Mr. James Olson's land until 1946 when the land was sold to Simon Waisanen and Joe Rasmussen. They then moved to Calgary where Mr. Schey went back to his original occupation of painting and decorating, which he continued to do almost to the time of his death in 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Schey had six children. Pearl, Ray, Gloria, Gordon, Joyce and Terry. All live in Calgary with the exception of Gloria, who lives at Forestburg.

Mrs. Ole Schey still resides at 508-9th Street, South West Calgary.

**SCHOFER, ALBERT AND MARIA**

Albert Schofer left Estonia, Saskatchewan during the latter part of the depression to seek employment in the Eckville district in 1937.

For six years he worked for different farmers in the area. In 1943 he married the former Maria Razzolini of the Bluebell School district.

In 1944 he was employed by the Eckville Co-op and worked there until 1950. In 1951 he started his own business and continued in business as Abe's Super Service for 22 years.

In the years he lived in Eckville he served on the town council as well as mayor, director of the Eckville Co-op, one of the founding members of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union, also as supervisor in the Credit Union Board and many recreation boards.

Three children were born to them. Gayford married Sylvia Greenwood of the Evergreen district. They have two children, Chelsey and Ryan. They reside in the Eckville district.

Tim married Fay Wilson of the Clive district and they live in Ponoka.

Tina Marie has gone into psychiatric training in Edmonton.

Albert and Maria are now retired and live in Creston, B.C.

**SELVAIS, JULES**

Mr. and Mrs. Jules Selvais came to Canada [illegible] stopped at Morrinville, then arrived at Kootus late in the spring. Mr. Selvais was able to secure employment with the C.P.R. for that summer and the next one. They returned to Belgium in November of 1921.

However, Mr. and Mrs. Selvais and their daughter, Marie Louise, came back to Canada in April, 1926. This time they located at Elspeth where Mr. Selvais purchased some land, and again worked for the C.P.R. He was a blacksmith by trade so, when he learned that Mr. McHattie in Eckville had his blacksmith shop for sale, Mr. Selvais sold his land at Elspeth and bought the shop. He operated the blacksmith shop in Eckville for 12 years. In 1940 he sold his business in Eckville and bought another shop in Lacombe. The Selvais, with their children, Marie Louise and Roger, then moved to [illegible].

Mr. Selvais passed away in 1966 and the shop was then taken over by his son, Roger, who continues to operate it at the present time. Roger had taken a course at a vocational school in Calgary, which helped him in carrying on the business. He and his wife, Doreen, have three children.

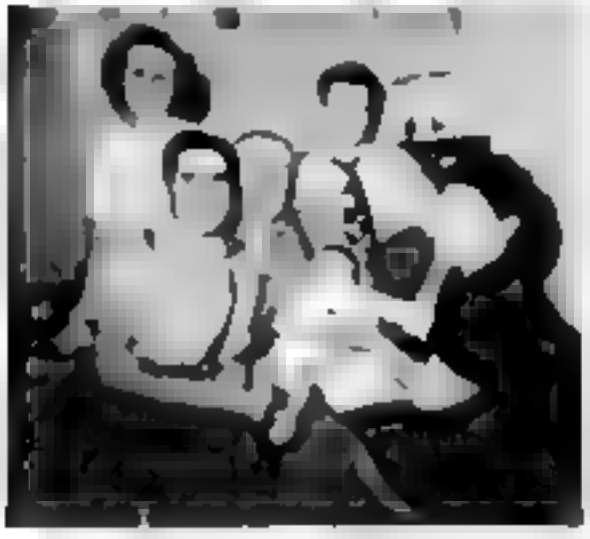
Marie Louise joined the armed forces and was overseas from 1942 until 1944. Following her return she married Frank Morissette, and they have made their home in Vancouver since then. They have a family of seven children.

Mrs. Selvais continues to live in Lacombe.

**SESTRAP, MIKE — by Audrey John**

Mike Sestrap arrived in Canada from Rakvere, Estonia, along with his two brothers, Mart and Gust, on January 21, 1905. He worked on the Calgary-Banff railroad for a while to gain enough capital, and then started a homestead at [illegible].

In Estonia, Mike rejected the idea of becoming a priest and turned his attention to tailoring. He became a master tailor at a very early age. He brought his sewing machine and iron with him to Canada, but they have since been lost.



Marie Louise Morrissette (Selvais), husband Frank, first baby [illegible]

Peggy and Mike Sestrap [illegible]

Mike and Gust started building the Gilby e in 1907, using timber they cut and had made into lumber at Maasep's Mill (Marsep's which incidentally was powered by a water wheel. By 1908 the store was in operation. During this time supplies were obtained from Lacombe, a two or three day trip by oxen. Mike bought out Gust's share in the store after a few years, then ran the business himself. Gust and his wife, Jenny, then moved to Moorcroft Wyoming where they resided until his passing in 1975. Jenny had passed on in 1951 or 1952.

Fanny Krinsila nee Kangas (1889-1919) was a widow with one son, Uno, (1910-1972) at the time she came from Massachusetts, U.S.A. to visit her sister Mrs. John Heikkinen. She went to keep house for Mike at Gilby and later married him in 1912. Fanny and Mike had four children besides Uno, these being Elvie, Arvo, George and Ray. In 1918 Mike sold the Gilby Store and Post Office to Shorrocks, and moved to Eckville, buying a store from Mr. Eckhart. During this time Mike had also helped to build the telephone lines between Eckville and Gilby.

In the spring of 1919 Fanny died, a victim of the flu epidemic, leaving Mike with five young children. For a period of time the children were "farmed out" until Mike could get a housekeeper in to look after them. The first housekeeper was a Mrs. Herring, followed by Mrs. Banton, an elderly lady. Mrs. Fred Pattison also looked after the family during a two-month leave of absence taken by Mrs. Banton to tend a sick relative in Winnipeg. Mrs. Pattison relates that Mike was a very quiet man — very seldom offering any conversation. Anything required from the store was promptly sent home, with one exception. She wanted to make the children some gingerbeer and ordered the ginger and lemons several times but it never arrived. Mike was strictly opposed to liquor and thought gingerbeer must be some kind of Beer — thus the necessary requirements for the beverage never arrived. Mrs. Pattison also recounted a time when Uno, whose chore it was to haul water into the house was being very sloppy not knowing his step father was following him into the house. Mike reprimanded him, and Uno tore off upstairs and umped out of a second storey window. Miraculously he wasn't seriously hurt.

In 1923 Mike caught wind of an eligible young woman coming out from Tartu, Estonia, to marry a friend of his. He couldn't pass up the opportunity so he discreetly enquired when the young lady was to arrive in Red Deer and made sure he arrived there first. Mike and Alma were married in 1922. Alma was a very astute woman and Mike many times gave her credit for a good business head. They had their share of hardships, as did most families of that era.

In 1923, one Saturday afternoon, there was a big "do" at the local hall, when the towns-people discovered a fire on main street. The Atlas Lumber Company, Hembecker residence, and the Sestrap Store were all in flames. Mike ran into the store and grabbed the first thing handy to save — the cash register — and ran into the street with it. The fire was a hard blow, but with the insurance money and all the salvage clothing and goods which Alma cleaned and sold, they raised enough to start another store in the empty Charlie Kasper building, farther up the street. In 1928 another bad fire wiped out the East street of

During this time Mike also helped to finance and build the Memorial Hall (now the Lion's Hall. Mr. H. Jokinen (now deceased) was the head carpenter, and Dr. Asbury Somerville (now deceased) wired it. Electricity was supplied by

residents. The Sestrap Delco Plant supplied the house and store with power. He also had one of the first cars in the district — a Model T Ford followed by a Grey Dort.

in the district. He was known as a good businessman. Many times, at Christmas, the customers would find a bag of candy included in their purchases. In 1939 Mike sold the store to Abousaffy and Ferris, and bought a store in Bowden, which Uno and Ray managed with occasional visits by Mike. By 1944 Mike was back in town again, once more in the store until he sold the business to Mr. Jenkins in 1949. Back in harness after a couple of years, Mike had Uno run the grocery store and the dry goods section was leased to Mr. McIvor.

Alma passed away in 1956 and Mike followed her in 1958. Uno and his son Ken then bought the Sestrap and Company Store and operated it until

The following poem (incomplete) was composed by Mr. J. T. Marshall about three pioneers of Eckville — Mike Sestrap, J. M. McDonald and Mr. MacIntosh.

There is a place called Eckville
  which is a great town
Because of three gentlemen,
  Of established renown
They were Mike, Mac and McIntosh
  A trio hard to bea
And these three gentlemen are noted
  For holding down the street

Now if you chance to Eckville come
You'll surely meet this clan,
With a smile upon their countenance
That would jar a healthy man
They would gladly take you by the hand
And waltz you all around,
And tell you all the secrets
About our little town
And if at night you chance to wake
To noise upon the street,
You'll know it's these famous gentlemen
That's holding down the street
Used with permission

**THE FAMILY OF MIKE SESTRAP — by Audrey John**

Mike and Fanny's son, Uno Kristian was born in Pittsburg, Penn. in 1910, coming north with his mother as a toddler. He helped Mike in the store from the age of eight and was in the store business for the rest of his life. He operated a store at Rycroft, Benalto, Bowden and Eckville. Maude and Uno were married in 1933 and had one son, Ken, who is married and at present working as manager of a store in Gibsons, B.C. Uno was very enthusiastic about sports, especially hockey, and will be long remembered for his participation with the youth. He died in 1972. Maude is retired at Gibsons, B.C.

Elvie (born in 1913) took all her schooling in Eckville from Mr. Ludwig and Miss Thompson, then furthered her education in the U. of A., Edmonton, for a B.A. in Languages. She married Clifford Vertine in 1947 and is presently retired in Victoria, B.C.

Arvo, (born in 1914) took his schooling in Eckville. He is now in Terrace, B.C. with his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1939. Their two children are Sharon and Jan. Arvo now has a charter operation 40 miles down channel from [illegible].

George, born in 1916, also took schooling in Eckville. He helped in the store until 1940, then married Lydia Kraft in 1941 and they lived on the family farm three miles east of Eckville until 1945. Then he went to work for Geoprosco. Due to ill health he quit oil work in 1960 and then, in 1962, he and Lydia started Sestrap's Cafe, which they operated until 1974. From 1971 to 1974 they also operated the pool hall. In 1974 they sold their businesses and retired to Penhold. Their three children are: Ronald, Audrey and Cindy.

Ray (born in 1918) was also in the store with Mike, Uno and George. He helped Uno in Benalto and Bowden, as well. In 1940 he married Myrel Lewis and they have two daughters, Sandra and Deborah. He bought the farm by the creamery in 1947 and worked for Larry Knudson in the garage until he sold the farm to Mrs. John Armstrong in 1951. He is now retired and living in Clearbrook, B.C.

**SETTERS, JAMES AND PAT - by J. Pat Setters**

Jim was born and raised at Mirror, Alberta. He came to Eckville in 1945 at the end of World War Two. He had served overseas for four years in the army (R.C.E.M.E.). He met Russ Eastman while overseas and came to visit him, deciding to stay and work for him. Russ was the International Harvester dealer then. Jim also worked for Jake Bussinger. In the fall of 1946, he bought a welding shop from Dick Tooley.

We were married in 1947. I am the second daughter of Jim and Helen Brown who farmed in the Diamond Valley district. We attended Gaetz School.

We sold the welding shop in the winter of 1947 to Russ Aubrey. In the spring of 1948, Jim bought his first gravel truck, hauling gravel in the summer and cattle, grain and lumber in the winter. He hauled lumber from many camps in the Rocky Mountain House area.

In 1957 we moved to Red Deer, still in the trucking business.

We formed a Limited Company in 1973 operating under the name of J. T. Setters and Sons Construction Limited. We also moved to an acreage on Highway 2A, north toward [illegible].

We have three children. Janice was born at Eckville. She married Dick Gehrke, the son of Orville and Ruth Gehrke of the Burnt Lake district. They went to Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A. where Dick attended the Palmer School of Chiropractic. Upon their return to Red Deer, Dick practiced with Dr. Whitney. He soon set up his own clinic in Rocky Mountain House (Dr. R. J. Gehrke D.C.). They moved to Rocky in 1973. They have two children, Tania Jill and Tyson John.

Byron was born at Eckville. He married Melinda Staples, daughter of Dr. J. C. and Mrs. Staples, formerly of Red Deer and now of Richmond, B.C. Byron is part owner and helps manage our company.

Wilson was born at Red Deer and is still at home. He operates one of the machines in our [illegible].

**SHANKS, JOHN**

Mr. John Thomson Shanks were born Dec. 17, 1887 in Scotland, one of a very large family raised on a farm, worked in a store for five years but wished to be a farmer some day. He left Scotland in the fall of 1912 with a ticket bought for Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, to settle on a homestead, free land, as was advertised at that time. He spent the first winter in Edmonton hauling coal with sleigh and team of horses. He met a gentleman who had his family living in the Mayerthorpe area where there was land still to be homesteaded, so thus he lived in the Mayerthorpe district. Next winter was spent at a logging camp near Athabaska. The following winter was spent on the homestead in a log cabin

with sod roof which he had built Groceries were hauled for 20 miles

The spring of 1914, he went to the prairies Vulcan area and worked for a farmer for five years. Then back to the homestead to clear land by hand and build a two roomed cabin

In the fall of 1920, he went to Scotland where he married Isabella Murray. She was born in Scotland February 13, 1892. She was a housekeeper They were married on January 26, 1921, and spent their honeymoon in Scotland visiting relatives and friends and arrived in Mayerthorpe April 1, 1921. after travelling by ship for seven days across the Atlantic to Halifax then three days and three nights by train to Saskatchewan They spent a week visiting, then went on to Edmonton and Sangudo as far as the train went The last 20 miles by horses and buggy with their belongings in three trunks. The mailman and his wife brought them to Mayerthorpe

My father milked cows, shipped cream and cleared land by hand to start farming. May 1923

supplies were brought by train since the railway had been built My father farmed in the Mayerthorpe district until 1954 when he sold his and and retired to Eckville

Mr and Mrs Shanks bought a house and lot from Mr Bill Thomas father of Clare Thomas Mr Shanks died September 12, 1960 and is buried in Eckville Cemetery Mrs. Shanks died May 9, 1967 and is also buried in Eckville Cemetery

My father read a lot and was interested in community affairs. He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the church board, as well as a member of the school board for a few years. My mother was a member of the church ladies aid

**HENRY AND MYRTLE SMITH AND FAMILY**
**by Edith Smith Russell**

Henry W Smith was raised on an Iowa corn farm. He married Lela Myrtle Howard in 1903 then, in 1908, he took his Iowa-bred wife and three-year-old daughter Edith to a homestead section in Dandhills near Whitman, Nebraska Here Howard was born in 191. and Alice in 1913

While harvesting in the Dakotas Father caught the "Canada Fever" with the result that the homestead was sold early in 1914. In June he landed in Red Deer with an immigrant car loaded with our household effects, a cow two dogs, two saddle horses and three mares with foals. (Most of the horses later died from swamp fever The family followed by rail via St Paul, a weary journey for a mother with three small children. Father rented a house and then started looking for land. He finally decided to rent for a year however

In August the family moved to the Jack Kulp place north of Pitcox, now Hespero. The trip from Red Deer took three days with the household goods loaded on a hayrack The cow and some of the horses were strung out behind with me Edith herding them on horseback. The first night was spent at Bill Prevo's, east of Sylvan Lake, the second at Wright's, near the Eckville corner What I remember most was mosquitoes, thirst, and bubbles rising on the muskeg as we jolted over the corduroy

Our first home was a two-room moss-chinked log shack with a ladder to an attic. There was a cribbed open well with a bucket and a pulley this was used as a fridge for cream cans until freeze-up. There was a privy without any seat and a garden patch which my father manured and fenced with slabs. Everything but the potatoes froze the first year it was planted There was some land in crop and I remember a threshing rig, pulled by oxen, coming that fall Mr Molander was one of the crew The grain was bound, stooked, and stacked before

I recall also the welcome visit of a bachelor Mr Knorr, and his gift of a half-gallon sealer of wild strawberry jam. Another frequent visitor was an illiterate young mother of three, to whom I read the funny papers sent by my grandmother A Mrs. Taylor taught me to knit, and to love sunsets and northern lights

I rode to Shady Lane School (which was later moved to Condor and used for a store room Mrs. Sam Edgar was the teacher, followed by a cultured Englishwoman, Mrs Brown, whose homesteader husband looked after their four year-old son during the week while she boarded at Hicks' She taught me to waltz, sight-read music and to love watercolour painting which has become a hobby of mine since my retirement Other early teachers at the Old Eckville School were Miss Goodmundson, Miss Klaus Mr Ludwig, Miss Thompson, Miss Benedickson and Miss Paul in the town school. Alice and Hope also attended the Convent in Red Deer We were all in High School in Red Deer at different times Howard attended Olds School of Agriculture prior to joining the U.S. Navy. Alice and I attended Camrose Normal School. Alice took degrees in music at Toronto Conservatory and in Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A. Belatedly, I received a

degree in education from the iversi y of Alberta. So much for education

Back to 1914. The nearest store was run by the Macdonnell Brothers at Pitcox. For some reason, though Eckville was our post office and many a trip I made on horseback after school for mail and a few groceries. Usually it was dark and the coyotes were howling before I got home. There was no surveyed road, just a rail through successive uncleared farms. Struggling to open and close gates caused torn clothes and even tears. The gates with a loop and stick to lean against were O.K. but those that looped wire over the post were really tough.

Five of us lived in that log house over two winters. We were joined during part of the second winter by Russell and Rosie McFaul, since Rosie's first baby was expected and their homestead was quite isolated.

Rabbits were abundant during the winter of 1914-1915. Hundreds of them frolicked in the moonlight right near our house. In Nebraska a jackrabbit was fresh meat, but Alberta neighbors warned us not to eat the "snowshoes". However we never lacked for meat. In addition to being a good butcher, my father was a good shot, prairie chickens were plentiful, and we went moose-hunting every year.

We often went to the Christmas concert in the old Eckville hall, driving down the Horseguard in a grainbox on a bobsled. Though padded underneath with straw and covered with quilts and horse blankets, it was still a drowsy cold trip, but the sleighbells kept us awake.

During this time the Smiths attended many auction sales, as discouraged oldtimers unloaded and went back "home". In this way we were able to acquire implements, livestock and even boxes of books. These books were a share when I was left to baby-sit Howard and Alice and sometimes loaf and bake the bread in the old Majestic woodburning range. Once, deep in "Uncle Tom's Cabin", I let the fire go out.

In 1916 a C.P.R. quarter adjoining Eckville was bought, a big granary built and lifted with bunks, and we lived in that while the new house was built by the Kopsala family. Paul Pykett, son-in-law of the Browns lived on the next quarter west, before the Bromlings and the Weeks broke most of the quarter with a gang plow and our horses. The land required no clearing — low birch shrubs were plowed under. He had to work around a couple of sloughs which, however, are now long since gone and are growing grain.

The new house, a two-story seven-room frame building finished inside with lathe and plaster, Iowa-style, was completed none too soon. We moved into it just before the cold weather set in. A finely-mounted moose head and a new piano were much admired by visitors, but the old "His Master's Voice" gramophone and pile of scratchy records were also an attraction. Being located conveniently near Eckville, having a barn with vacant stalls, and my mother's good cooking, kept the extra leaves in the table at all times.

Hope was born in this house — a bit prematurely and without a doctor — on January 18, 1918. Subsequently Mother was in poor health and finally was hospitalized in Red Deer. This was one of the reasons for the auction sale which my father held in June. This was a black day for me, for I had to part with Foxy, the sorrel pony some people may remember as being the winner of many pony and free-for-all races at sports days in Eckville, Benalto, and Sylvan Lake.

My parents and Grandmother Smith took an extended holiday to British Columbia, going down the coast by ship to Los Angeles. There, our first car, the old Overland, was bought and then driven to Iowa where a Mrs. Dirsten had, in the meantime, taken the young Smiths to their maternal grandmother's.

During the flu year, I attended four different Iowa schools, celebrated one false and then the real Armistice, and had the flu, along with my father, Hope and Alice. Howard and Mother escaped it completely.

In the spring of 1919 the family moved to Wyoming where my father worked on the construction of the Lincoln Highway and I became an "easterner" in Rawlins High School.

News that the house, occupied by the Weeks family, had burned triggered our return to Eckville. It was a memorable trip from Rawlins via Yellowstone Park in August. We travelled in the Overland car, tenting at night, with an extended stopover at Ladner, waiting for car parts. Through it all Mom, with a frying pan and dutchoven, fed us well. Service stations, roads and camp facilities have changed a lot since 1920.

We lived briefly above the garage in Eckville where my father was for a time in business with Fred Isaacson. We later moved back to the farm into a small converted building. Father worked at the creamery (and made some of the prize winning butter), put up ice for the stores and for our own use with a team and flat bed, butchered beef for the stores, delivered gravel from the pit on leased C.P.R. pasture land, raised purebred hogs and luscious strawberries. He gardened by the moon.

My mother's specialties were pansy beds, houseplants, and canaries. She also raised belligerent turkey toms, flocks of geese, and guinea fowl. The latter were a D.E.W. against coyotes.

Eventually the home place was sold to M. Hopkins. Father continued farming for a time on the Talson place and on rented land near Gilby with the family living again in a log house. A new venture here was a flock of sheep, but in the 1930's the price of lamb and wool was very low. By then married, each of the Smith children received not a wool quilt, but a mattress filled with approximately 40 pounds of carded wool, the joint work of our parents.

Farming was abandoned later on and the family lived in Red Deer while my father worked on C.P.R. bridge crews. After this we moved to Seattle where during the War, he worked in the shipyards, and mother on the Bremerton Ferry. Hope and Alice (with the music degrees) worked for Boeing. After a ten-year lapse I resumed teaching, temporarily and continued until 1969.

The last Smith home was in Rumsey where Alice's husband had a general store. I was teaching in Stettler nearby. After a lengthy illness my father died of leukemia in the Stettler Hospital, in May, 1955.

Mother lived in various places thereafter. She spent some time with Howard in Honolulu. He was a retired Lieut.-Commander, employed by an American Red Cross Unit attached to U.S. troops abroad and in California until his retirement last year. She also lived with Hope (Mrs. F. E. McElroy) in Maryland and Seattle and with Alice (Mrs. Harold Ruskin, who recently retired from teaching, along with her husband. While visiting the latter in Fullbrook, California, Mother fell and broke her hip in 1961. She accompanied my husband, Douglas Russell, and I back to Edmonton in 1962. She underwent surgery there but was in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. She spent several years at Rimoka Lodge in Ponoka. I was teaching at Ponoka Composite High School until we moved to Victoria in 1971. In May of 1972 Mother suffered a stroke which left her speechless and partially paralyzed. She died in the Red Deer Nursing Home in January, 1973 at the age of 99 years.

**SMITH, THOMAS SR. AND ELIZABETH**

Thomas Smith and Elizabeth Mary Johnston were married in Scotland in 1908 and came to the Medicine Hat area of Alberta to homestead nine miles north of Irvine in 1910. Mrs. Smith's brother James Johnston came and took the adjoining homestead, but was killed in action in France during World War I.

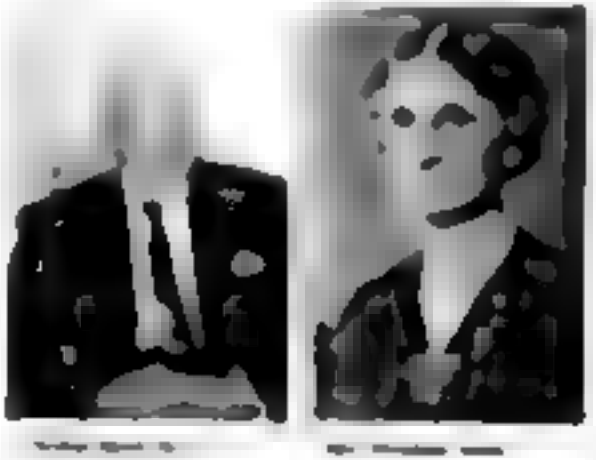
Life on the prairie was a succession of hardships, with crop failures from drought or grasshoppers taking 11 out of 14 crops. The first winter was spent in a single-board frame shack which was improved on slightly over the following years. The barn was made of sods. Wood had to be hauled from the Cypress Hills, so the main fuel in summer was dried cow chips gathered by the children. Mrs. Kemp, a neighbour, was the midwife at the birth of the six children — George, John, James, Thomas, William and Robert — all born on the homestead. The four oldest children all attended the Long Valley

In December 1924 the family came to the Alex Stauffinger farm, SW 22-38-2-W5, southeast of Benalto, which they rented for three years. The Peter Anderson and Arthur Caton families came from Irvine to Benalto at the same time. The rain bringing them and their possessions arrived at Benalto carrying seven carloads of settlers' effects and 15 children. One unusual occurrence on the trip up here was the time the box car was opened for inspection at Calgary and their dog got out. Imagine their surprise, while sitting in the C.P.R. station at Red Deer waiting for the train to Benalto, to have their dog walk in. It must have hung on some place under or on the coupling of the box car. The conductor said, "I am going to make an exception, your dog can ride with you to Benalto." About 50 of the Smith's horses were driven up from the prairie the following summer by Fred Cowan. Nine of the horses drowned in the swamp on the Staudinger farm as soon as they were turned out and quite a few more didn't survive the first winter. During these three years the children went to the Evarts school.

Thomas Smith's mother, Margaret, lived with the family from 1925 until her death in 194 at the age of 91 years. She was buried in the Medicine Hat Cemetery.

The next move was in 1927 to the former Gust Kalaputus farm, NW 28-38-2-W5, two miles east of Benalto, which they bought from Charlie Jenkins. They also bought Pt SE 33-38-2-W5 from Julius Selvais, who moved to Eckville. Much of this land was covered by poplar trees which was cleared and broken the hard way — with grub hoe, axe and horses. The children went to school at Kiousamo, which then had two rooms, until 1934, when the senior room was closed and then Bill and Robert went to Eckville High School.

Thomas Smith managed the Medicine Valley Livestock Association for a number of years. It had buyers at Sylvan Lake, Benalto, Eckville, Hespero and Rocky Mountain House and handled cattle, sheep and hogs. He was campaign manager for Mr. Gaetz, U.F.A. in one election campaign and for A. J. Hooke in two elections. Both Elizabeth and Tom were active in church and community affairs: she being a member of the Ladies' Aid and a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society. Tom was a Presbyterian Church Elder and for six years he was president of the Agricultural Society. Dur



ing the war years they were busy with Victory Bond drives and with Red Cross work

When Mr and Mrs Smith left to reside in the Eckville district in 1950 they sold their land to their eldest son, George and his wife, Edna. Edna was born and raised in the Carbon district southeast of Three Hills. She has lived nearly 34 years on Grandpa and Grandma's home place two and one half miles east of Bena to, and was their first daughter-in-law. George and Edna raised two children, Patricia and David, and both attended public school at Benalto. In the fall of 1977 their daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs. Richard Meyers and baby son came to live on the 60-acre parcel of land at Elspeth, Pt. SE 33-38-3-W5. She has worked for many years at the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville, and he does carpenter work, and is a sub-contractor. In 1967 the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Ltd. bought from the Smith a small parcel of land off Pt SE 33-38-3-W5, along the C.N.R. right-of-way. It is called the Elspeth Propane Terminal.

Four of the Senior Smith sons farm in the Eckville area.

James and wife Elsie have four sons and one daughter — Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Gordon and Linda.

Thomas Jr. and wife Janet have two sons and two daughters — Ronald, Murray, Isabel and Edith.

William and wife Jean have four daughters — Beth, Sharon, Mary, and Beverly.

Robert and wife Kay have four sons and a daughter — Gary, Dale, Philip, Jim and Kathy.

John and his wife Marlene live on Salt Spring Island, B.C. They have three sons and a daughter — Kenneth, John, Bradley and Becky.

In the spring of 1947 Thomas Sr. and Elizabeth left their farm east of Benalto to live with their son Robert on the Sproski farm in the Eckville district, later moving to their town home on 54th Street. (later sold to Lionel Ramstead, who presently occupies this property.

Mrs. Smith died on November 3, 1955 at the age of 69 years. Mr. Smith continued to live in his own home in Eckville for a few years, then sold his home and lived with various members of the family until eventually going into the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer. He passed away on November 3, 1976 at the age of 94 years. Both Tom and Elizabeth are buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**SMITH, JOHN J. AND MARLENE**

[illegible]with boys all started out on our own in 1967 when the quarter section just across the road from Elson's farm was bought. In 1968 George Christie's place was bought and this

In 1946 in October the Smith Bros. partnership was dissolved. Each one went his own way, but I got George Christie's old place as

my share. I lived there until I sold it to August Lilvam in the fall of 1959. I continued living there until my auction sale in April, 1960, at which time I moved to Eckville.

In Eckville I had a share in building the first Kingdom Hall, which was completed in 1961. In 1962 I married Marlene Bayhurst and we have four children, three boys and a girl. We built a house in Eckville next to the Kingdom Hall in 1968. In August of 1973 we sold our home in Eckville to Jim Bass and we moved to Salt Spring Island and bought a home on a one and three quarters acre plot, on which we now live.

I became one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1952 and the presiding overseer of Jehovah's Witnesses in Eckville prior to moving from Eckville for 17 years.

**SMITH, ROBERT AND FAMILY**

Robert is the youngest of six sons born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith in a homesteader's shack in the Irvine district about 20 miles east of Medicine Hat. The house is still standing, and it is hard to imagine the hardships our parents must have endured, living in a house like that with a family of six. They endured 13 years on the homestead before moving north to the Benalto district in 1924. They rented a farm from Staudingers for three years and then bought a farm two miles east of Benalto. This was where I was brought up.

Since I was only one and one-half years old when leaving Irvine, my first memories are of our home at Benalto. I went to school at Kuusamo through Grade 8 and then to Eckville High School. During all of my growing up years the depression was in full force. It was not an common to see men riding the freight trains at Elspeth. A few came to our home for a meal, which they always got. We didn't have any money but we never went hungry, and my memories of childhood are happy ones. Before I finished school my older brothers had bought land north of Eckville belonging to Tony Andrelus. Jim and I still farm this place: 1977 being the 41st crop harvested there. In 1939 we formed a partnership (George, John, James, Tom, Bill and Robert) and from then on we did business

under the name Smith Brothers. The same year we bought the Christie place west of Eckville where I lived until March 15, 1947. I had bought the Frank Sproski place in the summer of 1946 and then worked in the mine at Nordegg during the winter of 1946-1947. Made big money too — $1.01 per hour less board, and union dues. I came home in March and moved to my own farm, NW 32-39-3-W5, which is now known as "Standalane Farm", with very little furniture, nine head of cattle and lots of debt. Father and Mother had sold the home place to George and Edna, so they came and lived with me until January 1950. I was married to Kay Hebner of Turtle Valley B.C. on January 14, 1950. Kay was born in Chase, B.C. in 1929. She had a brother and sister. Her brother Harry lives in Salmon Arm, B.C. and her sister Pauline Anderson, lives in Rocky Mountain House. Kay took her schooling in Turtle Valley then worked at various jobs until we were married. Kay's father died in 1951 and her mother moved to the Eckville district in 1957. When we were first married we lived in the old log house built by the Moros, the original owners of this farm. We lived in it for 11 years during which time Garry, Dale, Philip, Kathy, and James were born. We built and moved into our present home in 1961. Everet Tarvis was our carpenter and Robert Ranger did the inside finishing work.

Earlier years Family — Garry, Dale, Jim, Robert, Philip, Kay and Kathy

In 1956 we bought the SW 32-39-3-W5 from Otto Hiltala. Later we bought the Wayne Hiltala place and still own the SE 6-40-3-W5, and 80 acres of the SW 5-40-3-W5. Later we bought the NE 32-39-3-W5 from Mrs. Frank Lingren and Garry now owns this quarter. In 1972 we bought the NW 3-41 3-W5, which we still own. Garry, our oldest son, was born October 26, 1950. He took his schooling in Eckville and two years at Olds School of Agriculture. He was always interested in farming, and is now in the process of taking over the farm.

Dale was born February 28, 1953. He also took his schooling in Eckville but wasn't interested in farming. He took employment with Hunt Construction of Eckville, where he is presently employed. Dale was married to Val Jerden of Red Deer June 30, 1973. They have two sons Jason and Robert.

Four generations of the Smith family — Standing: Parents Dale [illegible] Kay; Seated: Mrs. [illegible] and Jason

Philip, our third son, was born July 18, 1957 took his schooling in Eckville and went on to Olds Agricultural School for two years. He then decided to take an apprenticeship course to become an electrician. He is presently working in Calgary.

Kathy, our daughter was born September 27 1958. She is presently in Grade 12 at the Eckville High School and plans to go to university to become a home economics teacher. Kathy is in C.G.I.T., and was president of the organization in 1976.

Jim, our youngest son, was born September 26, 1960. He is in Grade 12 at Eckville and intends to go to Olds Agricultural School for two years. If Jim comes back to the farm maybe "The Gaffer" an English term for "The Boss") will be able to get a little more time for fishing travelling and other activities.

Our four boys have all been in Cubs and Scouts and have enjoyed the camps and outings very much. Garry earned a trip to England in 1965. Jim earned a trip to Sooke, B.C. in 1974 and to Norway in 1975. Garry has been a Scout leader in Eckville for seven years.

The years have gone quickly with their share of rewards and setbacks. One of the most difficult things to accept is the frequent hailstorms. Nineteen seventy-seven was the 31st crop on our home place and in ten of those years we had hail some very severe storms which took nearly all our grain crops and even our hay was badly damaged. We have always kept a good-sized herd of cattle and in recent years we have been

buying feeder cattle and fattening them for market. In the bad hail years it is the cattle that pay the bills.

One more thing I would like to mention is that we are part of a family that have worked and visited together all through the years. We have always got along well [illegible] family reunion in July, 1977, with 63 of the family attending. I hope our family enjoy the same good fortune in the years ahead.

**SMITH, THOMAS AND JANET**

Tom was born on a farm at Irvine, Alberta on June 1, 1917, the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Smith Sr. and started school at Long Valley, a small school on the prairie. The house Tom was born in still stands and is occupied mostly by pigeons. The old school is used as a grain bin for wheat.

In 1924, the family moved to a farm rented from Alex Staudinger in the Benalto district. From there he went to school at Evarts by horse and cutter in the winter and saddle horse in the summer (without the saddle). Three years later father bought a farm two miles east of Benalto from Charlie Jenkins and from here he went to school at Kinusamo. It was on No. 11 Highway one mile east of the cemetery but is no longer there. Ena Wolma taught grades one to six in the one room and the other room was seven to 10. He gave up on school when he got to be 17 and went farming with his brothers at Benalto and Eckville. He worked out one spring for a neighbor and got $22 a month driving horses to put in the crop.

He joined the army in November, 1941, and went to trade school at Hamilton for nine months and took mechanics. He graduated from trade school to get top wages of $1.75 per day, then went overseas with R.C.A.S.C. in March 1943 and served in England, Sicily, Italy, France, Holland, and Germany and came home in [illegible].

The farm he now lives on was bought in partnership with his brother, Bill, while both were in the army. It is the S 20-39-3-W5 and was formerly owned by Luther Finlay. We farmed with tractor and horses until we both were married, after that no more batching.

On December 18, 1947, he married Janet Shanks, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Shanks, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta. Janet was born May 19, 1923 in a small two room homestead house two miles from Mayerthorpe. She went to a one-roomed school at Deer Lodge with one teacher, teaching Grades one to nine. Janet either walked or rode a horse to school two and a half miles every day. Then three years of high school in Mayerthorpe with one teacher teaching the three grades. She then went to Edmonton for nurses' training and graduated from U. of A.H. as an R.N. in 1947. She worked for one year at U. of A.H., then sometime in the Eckville Hospital in 1948.

Janet was a member of C.G.I.T. for three years and joined the United Church at Padstow as a teenager.

In the spring of 1948, we had a very heavy snow storm and Tom took Janet into work at the Eckville Hospital with a team and sleigh in early May. We started on the land on May 19 and seeded wheat May 24. That was the only good grade of wheat ever grown on this farm. In 1949, we were hailed out 100% and had no hail in [illegible].

[illegible]

Tom and Janet have two sons and two daughters. Ronald married Sharyl Stuart of Red Deer. They have one daughter Karen. Ronald is a heavy duty mechanic and works for R. Angus & Co., and they live in Red Deer. Ronald went over to Derbyshire, England with a Scout Group to a Jamboree in 1965. Isabel has B. of Ed. taught one year at Linden, Alta., then married A. Wymann who works for Hilton Hotels. They live in Berlin now, but have lived in Singapore and Manila. They have one daughter Christina, who has flown around the world before she was two years old. Murray has a dairy farm on the former Ranner Maki farm, NE 30-39-3-W5. He married Pat Staniforth, daughter of Bill Staniforth of Evarts on September 3, 1977. Murray also farms with his father. Edith is at home and attends high school in Eckville. She works part time at the Eckville Manor House.

Tom has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Eckville since 1956. He spent 30 years on the Church Board and was chairman of the building committee when the church was built. He served three years on the arena committee and is a member of the Eckville Legion. Janet has been a member of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid for over 25 years, two years president of the club and Scout Parent Group and taught Sunday School for 13 years and also helped with Explorers for six years.

**SOMERVILLE, DR. ASBURY — by Mrs. Edythe Somerville**

Asbury Somerville was born in Hartney, Manitoba on September 6, 1896. He was the son of Reverend William and Fanny (Ruskin) Somer

ville. He received his secondary education at St. John's High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba graduating from the matriculation course. He later attended the University of Manitoba receiving his B.A. in 1917 and his M.D. in 1924.

He was married to Edythe Lavina E. Wales of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on January 1, 1928. Their children are Mrs. E. E. Newhall and Mrs. D. F. Leslie.

Following his graduation from the University of Manitoba Dr. Somerville came to Eckville where he engaged in private practice from 1924 until 1931. He then attended the University of Toronto from which he received his degree in Public Health in 1932. He then returned to Red Deer but, since there were no immediate openings in the field of public health, he carried on in private practice in Ponoka from 1932 until 1936.

During the years from 1936 to 1942 he served as director of the Foothills Health Unit at High River, Alberta. From 1942 until 1952 he was Assistant Deputy Minister of Health in Alberta and Deputy Minister from 1952 until 1961. He also was chairman of Glenrose Hospital Board in Edmonton for a time.

Dr. Somerville earned considerable recognition in the field of public health. He was president of the Alberta Public Health Association in 1949, and president of the Canadian Public Health Association from 1954 to 1955. He was chosen to direct an Alberta Health Survey conducted from 1948 to 1950. He was made a Senior Member of the Canadian Medical Association.

In 1953 Dr. Somerville was awarded, along with his good friend, Morley Young, the Coronation Medal. He was given this honor for having given the most to his profession during his years of service in the field of medicine.

During the First World War Dr. Somerville joined the Canadian Army and served with the First Machine Gun Battalion in France from 1916 to 1919. Along with his practice of medicine at Eckville he also found time to serve as a trustee for the local schools for three years, and served in a similar capacity for three years while in High River. During his stay at High River he was president of the Rotary Club and of the Knights of Pythias, each for one term. He was a member of the United Church, and was a non-active member of the Masonic Lodge. Photography was one of his recreational interests. He also served at one time as president of the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies.

Dr. and Mrs. Somerville made their home in Edmonton for several years. Dr. Somerville passed away there on August 17, 1967 and his body was cremated. Mrs. Somerville still maintains her home in Edmonton, although she enjoys travelling a great deal, and makes frequent trips to Toronto to visit her daughter living there, or to Vancouver to visit her other daughter. She goes on various tours as well, to enjoy other areas of the country.

**CECIL SPEIRS FAMILY**

Dr. Cecil Speirs came to Eckville in June 1951 after graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph, Ontario. He set up Eckville's first veterinary clinic and practise. In September 1952 he married the former Betty Mackie, of Eckville, who taught at Calkins Valley, Benjamin and Bentley schools. They purchased the August Moro property as their first office and residence. This house was later moved three blocks into town, where Cecil set up the first trailer court, in the summer of 1955.

Two sons were born to them, Dale in November 1955 and Neil in August, 1957. The Speirs moved to Red Deer in July, 1963. Cecil is now operating a veterinary clinic there.

Dale and Neil are both attending the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Dale is studying horticulture and Neil is studying agricultural engineering.

**SPITTAL, PHYLLIS URSULA AND BOYS**

Having been asked for something about ourselves to put in the history book we shall put in a few words.

Mother, my two boys Robert and Lloyd, and I came to Eckville August 4, 1962. Why did we come? Because we had been told Eckville had a good General Hospital and a good school, and having been assured that Bertha and Arvid Anderson would take us to our church (Full Gospel at Diamond Valley) — the one reason being as important as the other.

People say, 'My family are the most important to me' — same here, but seeing they are and I being the supporter, my job is and has been of uppermost importance. Therefore often things at home have to suffer in order for me to have sufficient rest to be able to work. We have had our good days and our bad, like everyone else. Being a midwife besides an R.N. and volunteering to be more or less on 24 hour call to help the Stork make a good arrival has been a joy — but there are drawbacks to that: a cake in the oven — bread rising — ask my good neighbour Lorraine Keegstra to pop over and take the cake out at such and such a time. The bread? Punch it down and hope for the best.

One time I had peas soaked and ready to plant, someone's dog or what came and took off with the peas and the can! While we were building our garage - Lloyd's Small Engine Repair Shop (Mr. Harold Quantz was carpenter) in putting on the shingles I was called off the roof three times. Nevertheless each delivery has its own joy.

Mother returned to Ontario when Lloyd was 10 years old and Robert about 12. Since then she has paid her sisters a visit in England and several times she has been able to travel to British Columbia and stopped here for a year once. Mother will be 89 in March — and has just flown to Pender Island, B.C. to be with my sister

I have enjoyed my life here at Eckville, but now I find I am slowing down. Therefore it is time to step out, allowing room for the younger person who has a lively step and more modern knowledge of nursing today. I look forward to a partial retirement and having a three day work week, to retire August 7, 1979.

Robert is in Calgary working for Stephens Medical and Surgical Company and has been there six years. Lloyd is home and has his repair shop, we hope business will pick up.

I have enjoyed my over 40 years of nursing and cannot imagine life without it, however I do have plans to keep myself active in retirement. Added by a hospital patient.

Much more could have been said about our Nurse Spittal, but it wouldn't be said by her so we'll add a bit in appreciation. We remember the special care — the things no one else seemed to think of — the going beyond the regular line of duty to provide some creature comfort — the truly sympathetic help. Then we remember her dry sense of humour and her ability in dramatics when the occasion arose at hospital parties or at entertainments. She really knew how to make us all laugh, remembering that "a merry [illegible] doeth good like a medicine". Thank you Ursula.

**AGNES GUSTAVSON SUNDBERG**

Following her marriage to Fred Sundberg they made their home in Seattle. They have three children — Allen, Gordon (who is now married), and Darlene. Fred passed away suddenly in March of 1961. Agnes still lives in Seattle with her daughter.

**TAKKINEN, JOHN — written by Fred Takkinen**

John Takkinen was born in Rovaniemi, Finland, in 1881. He immigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. There he worked as a miner and a fisherman. He met Linnea Ylinen in Butte, Montana. They were married in 1910 and were blessed with a son, Fred, on March 13, 1911.

In 1912 John moved his family to Alberta to homestead on the SW 19-40-6-W5 in the Taimi school district. Their daughter Nora was born on October 3, 1912 on the homestead. Another son, Harold, was born in 1918. He passed away in 1923 and was buried in the Rocky Mountain House cemetery at the age of six years. Nora and I walked a mile to the Taimi school where we took all of our schooling.

For years John worked hauling telephone poles and railway ties into Rocky Mountain House with a team of horses. He was very interested in Percheron horses and had a stud horse which he took with him all around the areas for many years.

In 1928 the family moved to the Eckville district where they bought the NE 13-39-4-W5 from the C.P.R. I farmed there with my dad until 1935 when he passed away. I married Hilja Tolonen on August 5, 1935 and we were blessed with three children, Alice, Lawrence, and Karen.

We had mostly good luck farming, although the crops of 1943, 1949 and 1951 were hailed out. During the summer of 1951 the old house on the farm was sold and moved into the town of Eckville, where it is still being lived in. We then built a new modern home on the farm where we lived until I sold the farm in 1969. We then retired to Eckville, to a new home which we had built there. My wife, Hilja, passed away on February 21, 1974 after 38 years of happily married life.

Our children are all married now. Alice went to university to become a teacher and after graduating moved to Acme to teach. There she married Jim Bates and they now live on a farm near Acme with their four children, Sherry, Joanne, Doug and Tana.

Lawrence went to work for the C.P.R. in Calgary. He married Jean Vipond and they have two sons, Michael and Garth. Lawrence was transferred to Revelstoke, B.C. where they lived for many years. From there he went to Nelson for a short stay before moving back to Revelstoke. He now lives in Cranbrook, B.C. where he is still working for the C.P.R.

Karen graduated from high school in Eckville in 1975 and then took a secretarial course in Red Deer. She married Dale Harrison and they are now both working and living in Red Deer.

My sister Nora is married to Hans Moos of Eckville. They lived on a farm for most of their lives, but are now retired and living in the town of Eckville.

Our mother, Linnea Maki, is living in the Eckville Manor after living for many years at Sylvan Lake. She moved into the Manor House right after its opening, so that she could be close to her children and many grandchildren.

I am now enjoying my retirement by spending my time fishing and hunting in the west country and playing crib with my friends.

**TERRY, THE LOWELL AND HELEN FAMILY—by Helen Terry**

Lowell Floyd Terry, eldest son of Floyd I. Terry and Lula Boice, Terry, was born near Virgelle, Montana, U.S.A. on December 19, 1914. Helen Margaret Terry, the only daughter of Guy Collins and Lois Seright Collins, was born on August 16, 1914 at the farm home of her parents near Montague, Montana.

Both Lowell and Helen received their elementary education in rural schools of Montana. Lowell attended high school in Big Sandy, Montana, and Helen received her high school education at Geraldine, Montana. Based upon her standing as Salutatorian of her high school graduating class, Helen was awarded a one-year scholarship from the Greater University of Montana. In addition, she was the recipient of a four year scholarship awarded by the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. After four years spent at Montana State College, located in Bozeman, Helen was graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Secretarial Studies and a Secondary

School Teaching Certificate, in June of 1936. She then spent three years teaching business education in high schools in Montana.

In the meantime Lowell had completed his schooling and had joined the Civilian Conservation Corp, a government-sponsored work project designed to provide employment for young men during the depression years. Following this experience he was employed as a construction worker on the Fort Peck Dam being built on the Missouri River near Glasgow Montana.

After their marriage on March 3, 1938 in Great Falls, Montana, Lowell and Helen lived and farmed in various areas of north-central Montana, and through the years they were blessed with five daughters and three sons.

Their children received their education in various rural schools until the family settled in Big Sandy in 1951. Lucille, Joyce, Frances and Floyd all graduated from the Big Sandy High School, having the distinction of each one being made a member of the National Honor Society (a precedent set for them by their mother during her high school days). Lucille and Joyce both became teachers in Montana—Lucille receiving her University training at Montana State College and Northern Montana College and Joyce receiving hers from the Montana State Normal College at Dillon and the University of Montana at Missoula.

Lucille was married in 1963 to Loyd Kuehne of Wolf Point, Montana. Loyd had graduated from Montana State College with a B.Sc. degree in Animal Industry in 1961. Lucille continued her teaching career until they moved to Great Falls, where Loyd was employed by the 7 Up Bottling Company. They have a daughter, Rachel, born in 1965.

In 1965 Joyce was married to Maynard Brant, of Libby Montana. Soon after their marriage they moved to Seattle, Washington, where Maynard was employed by Boeing Aircraft and Joyce continued her work as a teacher in the Kent and Renton schools near Seattle. They later returned to Montana where Joyce has continued her teaching career and Maynard is employed as an accountant by the Cal Gas Company in Kalispell. Their two children are Michael, born in 1967 and Michelle born in 1969.

After their children all reached school age Helen returned to the teaching profession, this time teaching on the elementary level. She attended summer courses at Northern Montana College at Havre, and on August 9, 1957 she was awarded a B.Sc. degree in Elementary Teacher Education, and received the Elementary School Advanced Teaching Certificate.

The family was now beginning to think of a new location and a land-seeking trip in August of 1958 and another in 1959 resulted in their purchase of the NW 6-4-5-W5, in the Bingley area northwest of Lesliieville. A short time later they were able to purchase three more adjoining ...

Lowell had arrived in Alberta in February of 1960 but Helen and the children were obliged to remain in Montana until Helen finished her year of teaching and the children had completed their school year. So it was that on June 1, 1960 the final ties were cut in Montana for all but Lucille and Joyce, and Alberta became their new home. They brought with them many happy memories as well as the memory of two tragic events in their early family life—the death of Joyce's twin sister Janet, at the age of six and a half years, in a public swimming pool in Lewistown, Montana and the loss of their home and entire contents by fire on their farm north of Forest Grove, Montana, in 1951.

In 1958 Frances had been married to Paul Bogner of Fort Benton, Montana, and they immigrated to Alberta at the same time and to the same area as the rest of the family. In 1960 the Bogner family moved to Nordegg, where Paul was employed as a guard at the Correctional Institute there later being transferred to the Provincial Institute at Peace River. He is presently employed as a Corrections Officer II at Peace River. Frances has been employed for a time as an attendant at the Autumn Lodge (Senior Citizen's Home) in Berwyn and since '74 has been a nursing attendant at the Hotel Dieu Hospital at Whitelaw, Alberta. They purchased a farm near Berwyn in August of 1972 where they make their home and carry on the farming operations "in their spare time". They have seven children, the oldest of whom will graduate from a Peace River High School in the spring of 1978. His plans are then to enter the Military Academy in Kingston, Ontario.

After Floyd's graduation from high school in Big Sandy he was awarded a scholarship by the local Lutheran Church which enabled him to attend Concordia College in Moorehead ... employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank at Camrose and at Claresholm. However he decided that the indoor, sedentary nature of

workers in a bank was not to his liking so he resigned to work at more outdoor active jobs, including farming service station work and electrical work, before going to Montana to work in the lumbering industry and then on a livestock ranch at Big Sandy. He is presently employed in a lumber yard in Big Sandy, Montana and does a good deal of trucking in connection with this operation. In 1965 he married Marlene Ames, daughter of Austin and Edna Ames of Rocky Mountain House. Their two children, Victoria and Frederick, are both attending school in Big Sandy.

Of Lowell and Helen's other children, Ruth Ann and Kenneth graduated from the Rocky Mountain House High School and Robert graduated from the Camrose Composite High School. Ruth Ann and Robert both attended the Alberta Bible Institute in Camrose, from which Ruth Ann graduated in 1966 with a Ministerial Diploma, and Robert graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Kenneth took training in Auto Mechanics at SAIT in Calgary and was employed by Edwards Garage in Rocky Mountain House for some time before being lured to the oil industry. He worked his way up through the ranks, and has held the position of driller for the past several years. During his employment on the oil rigs he has won many safety awards. He owns a farm northwest of Leslieville and on his days off carries on his farming and livestock operations. [redacted] wife, the former Waltareena Thompson of Leslieville. Their two children, James and Marie, both attend the Leslieville school.

Robert accepted a pastorate at Biggar, Saskatchewan in August 1973, and served as pastor of the Biggar Church of God for four years before resigning to further his education at the Anderson School of Theology, at Anderson, Indiana, U.S.A. He expects to receive his Master of Theology degree in 1981. Robert was married on May 2, 1971, to the former Bonnie Mastrae of Drayton Valley. Bonnie received her R.N. degree from Archer Memorial Hospital at Lamont, Alberta, on August 3, 1972, being a member of the last class of nurses to graduate from this hospital. Bonnie and Robert have a son, Shawn, born October 4, 1973 and a daughter Jody, born August 1, 1975.

Following her graduation from Alberta Bible Institute Ruth Ann worked as a medical receptionist and secretary in Red Deer and later in Calgary before going to Ontario where she worked as a bookkeeper. On August 26, 1972 she was married to Ronald Paul of Napanee, Ontario, and has since made her home in Ontario. After graduating from the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph with a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture, Ronald has taught school, has been a Genetics Technologist at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, and since 1974 has been employed as a Quality Control Manager at Metcalfe Foods of Deseronto, Ontario. He and Ruth Ann own a farm near Enterprise, where they live but lease out the farm land. They have two daughters, Caralee, born November 16, 1973 and Ronda Joleen, born November 19, 1977. Their [redacted] William, was born March 22, 1976. In addition to being a mother and housewife Ruth Ann finds time to be a very successful Tupperware demonstrator and saleslady.

Lowell was a man of quiet disposition and one who had considerable ability in a number of fields. Because his father had raised and used horses on his farm as a young boy Lowell developed an interest in livestock, particularly in horses. The favorite recreation of him and his chums always involved horses in one way or another—usually roping a horse off the range and then trying their luck at riding him. For several years before his marriage Lowell participated in many of the amateur rodeos of his [redacted] winning his share of the awards given.

Big game hunting was another of Lowell's interests. In Montana he made a yearly major hunting trip each season, and after coming to Alberta he obtained his official Guide's license and took hunting parties into the big game surrounding Fox Creek, Whitecourt and Valleyview.

While farming Lowell always did his own mechanical and other necessary repair work on his equipment. After coming to Alberta he took the required provincial examinations and was granted an Alberta Mechanics license. After leaving the farm he was employed by Schnell and Barrie, an International Harvester farm machinery dealership in Camrose, and later by Petterson's in Daysland. His ability as a carpenter enabled him to build or remodel several of the homes in which the family lived. His knowledge of electrical work and plumbing made it possible for each of these homes to be modernized.

In 1966 Lowell suffered a heart attack, and because of this the farm was rented and later sold to Loyd and Lucille Kuehne. In August of 1967 Lowell and Helen rented out their home in Daysland and bought a home in Eckville, where Helen had accepted a position as business education teacher in the Eckville high school. Lowell's interest always remained with the farm and he helped out there during the busy season until his failing health forced him into complete retirement. He then enjoyed playing cards with his friends.

Easter time proved to be an ideal time for a short holiday, so Lowell and Helen made a number of plane trips to Las Vegas to "try their luck" and to visit Helen's father and his wife who lived there. Prior to one of these trips they had been fortunate enough to be awarded an all expense-paid trip for two to Las Vegas! This was quite a happy surprise. Each summer also [redacted] of the family or friends in Montana, Washington, British Columbia or Saskatchewan. In 1975 they

made a trip by truck and camper to Ontario to visit their daughter and family as well as points of interest along the way

In March of 1964 the children honored their parents with a 25th Wedding Anniversary reception held in the Bingley Hall. In 1974 the parents were again honored—and delightfully surprised—by a special family dinner and party held at the Elks Club in Red Deer, this being the occasion of their 35th Wedding Anniversary

The Terrys were a close-knit family and every Christmas all of the children with their families planned to spend the holidays with Lowell and Helen if it were at all possible. The Christmas of 1975 was to be extra special, for all seven children, with their families, planned to be present at the family gathering in Eckville. Lowell and Helen were enroute to the Calgary airport to meet Ruth Ann and her family when Lowell became critically ill and had to be rushed by ambulance to the Red Deer General Hospital where he passed away on December 19, 1975—on the 61st anniversary of his birthday. He was buried in the Eckville cemetery

Helen has continued her teaching in the Eckville High School and in addition, taught adult classes in typewriting and accounting during the spring of 1978. She has taken an active part in the Eckville and District Historical Society and in the local Friendship Club. She has held the office of president of the Friendship Club and for the past two years has been secretary of the club. Travel continues to be a part of her activities, with frequent visits to the homes of her children. A visit with friends and relatives in Montana occupies a part of each summer. In the summer of 1977 she accompanied her daughter Joyce and her family on an extended sight seeing trip through parts of Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and Washington.

Lowell had often made the comment that "My only regret is that we didn't come to make our home in Alberta 20 years before we did." Helen is in complete agreement with this feeling and plans to continue living in her home in Eckville. Her hobbies are gardening and various handicrafts—when she can find time to pursue them.

**THOMPSON, FRANK L.**

Having sold a farm and all machinery in the [illegible] became apparent we were going to miss not having any land. Six months later in July we bought from Ezra and Homer Isaacson of Eckville the NW 27-38-3-W5, the west half of 34-38-3-W5 and NE 34-38-3-W5. We bought a full line of machinery again and took great pleasure making the yard into a show place by planting trees and lawn. We got two knobbies (burls), painted them red and set them close to the highway along with a sign – "Bonny View Farm"

The family consisted of myself, wife Marie, son Gary born March 5, 1948 and Mary Gayle born May 3, 1956. Both children were in school and Marie looked after them and took care of our 11 suite Bonny View Apartments in Red Deer. Because of this I had to batch most of the time.

I liked the large spruce trees that had been planted years ago by the Isaacsons that surrounded the house and the wrens that sang and built their nests in the bird houses I had built for them. The neighbors were friendly and helpful. I was proud to be part of the community. Ten happy years were spent growing rape and barley, some was sold as seed to the neighbors or put through the elevator at Eckville.

The crops were mostly very good. I owe a great deal to those who helped with the farm work — Bob Dickie (the mail man) — Ralph Lougheed – Ralph Dowler — Chris Anderson — Ken Ackerman — Lorne Hamilton and later my son Gary. Many more gave me their help and moral support. Thank you all.

During September 1972, three quarters were sold to the Gefle Brothers of Eckville. The river quarter was sold to Dr. Marriott of Red Deer.

Gary is married to Donna Richie of Lucknow, Ontario. Mary Gayle married Ron Taylor of Red Deer and they have a little daughter, June Autumn. They reside in Red Deer. Marie and I live in a small but cozy house at 5135 45 Avenue in Red Deer.

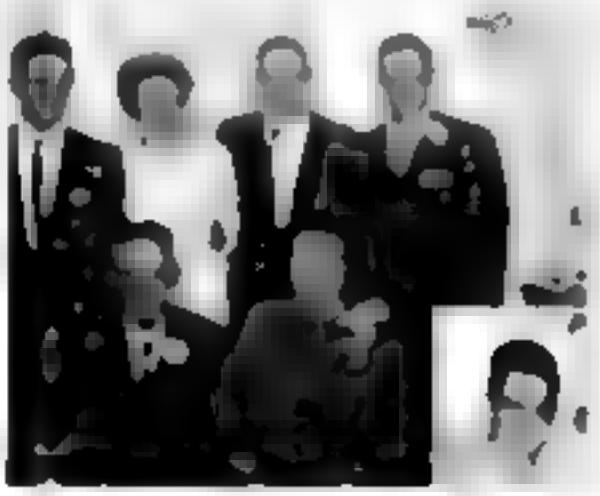
Would we do it all over again? — sure would.

**THORKMAN, JACOB RICHARD**

Jacob Richard Thorkman, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Thorkman was born February 7, 1901, at Rock Springs, Wyoming U.S.A.

In the spring of 1903, Richard came with his parents and brothers to the Eckville district.

Richard married Mary Holland, eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary Holland of Condor. Mary was born in England, coming to Canada with her parents as a young girl.



Dick Thorkman family: Jim, Faye, Wilf, Robert, Richard and Mary, and Richard Jr. (inset).

Richard and Mary farmed the SW 35-30-3-W5 This is where their five children were born Richard Jr., Wilfred, Jimmy Robert and daughter Faye Shirley

The children took their schooling at Eatonia and Eckville schools

Richard and Rose lived at Pincher Creek and they have two sons Kim and Wayne

Wilfred and Pat living at Leduc, have two daughters, Sandra and Terry

Jim, living at Warburg, has two children Steven and Susan

Robert, living at Warburg, has one son

Faye (Mrs. Neil Ricalton) of Red Deer has two children Tony and Jason

Richard and Mary lived on the farm until retiring to the town of Rimbey in 1966

In May 1968, Richard passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital at the age of 77 years He is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery

Mary is remarried, to Joe Bunch of Rimbey and they presently reside in Drayton Valley

**TIIHONEN, EDDIE AND LOUISE**

Eddie Frederick Tiihonen was born in the Oras district near Rocky Mountain House on the farm of his maternal grandparents, Andrew and Matilda Rahko. At one month of age he returned with his mother and father Ed and Ina Tiihonen to their farm southeast of Sylvan Lake. His father, Ate (known as Ed) was born in Mikkeli Finland and came to Canada at the age of seven years. Eddie spoke only Finnish until he started school, where, however, he learned English quickly He took his schooling at the Maraunne School and the Composite High School, Red Deer

He completed his mechanic's apprenticeship at Lakeview Garage in Sylvan Lake which was owned by Joe Untinen Sr

Eddie was married to Mary Louise Warner of Red Deer in 1956. After living in Sylvan Lake for the first four and a half years of their marriage, they moved to Eckville in October, 1960 First living in the house owned by George Johnson but after two years they built their own home on the crescent, west of the hospital, the first house to be built there. During these two years, Eddie carried on an automotive repair garage at Bill's Corner Service owned by Bill Elliuk

Being a born entrepreneur, however, he purchased a piece of land formerly owned by Searle Grain Company and he and Louise set up their own business under the name of Eddie's Automotive and Tractor Ltd. As their business grew, staff was hired and after about three years they became a dealer for New Holland farm machinery Eventually an extension to the garage had to be built. The business has grown steadily

Eddie and Louise have two children, a son Mark Aaron, born in 1962 and a daughter, Jill born in 1965, both attending school in Eckville

The whole family enjoys outdoor life and when time permits do some hiking, camping and fishing in the mountains

**MIKE TOIVANEN AND PETE TOIVANEN FAMILY — by Ray Toivanen**

At the turn of the century (1901), Mike Toivanen arrived in Eckville from Sebeka, Minnesota, U.S.A. to establish a homestead on SE 14-38-3-W5. After building a home located two and a half miles east of Eckville he sent for his

[redacted]

(rain station now an historical reminder) has been well maintained and is still in current use The Toivanen family was reunited in a heavy downpour, which later caused their horse and wagon to become firmly bogged down in mud between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake Such was their first glimpse of "Sunny Alberta

Seven years later, in 1909, Mike Toivanen passed away, leaving his only son, Pete, to continue with the farming operation assisted by his new bride, the former Katherine Lempi Maki He continued farming until 1926 when he sold his farm to Mike Sestrap, and moved into the village of Eckville

Some of Dad's occupations in the early days consisted of hauling groceries from Red Deer by horse and wagon for Mr Kittick, operator of the store situated at the original site of Eckville, one

[redacted]

mile north of the present town. He was a Director for the Co-op Store, and bought hogs at Kootuk for Fred Patterson and later for the Medicine Valley Co-op Association from the early 1930's to the mid-1930's.

After business comes pleasure. Pete was one of the instigators of the building of the Young Peoples' Hall, a gathering place for picnics, dances, fairs, and church on Sundays. Frequently dad played the violin accompanied by mother on the organ, for dances held there.

The Tolvanen farm was a gathering place for Sunday afternoon ballgames. Another favorite pastime in the early days was picking wild berries. Saskatoons, raspberries, chokecherries, blueberries, gooseberries and strawberries were in plentiful supply. In fact, an afternoon of picking, by the whole family, yielded sufficient berries to preserve a winter's supply.

The north end of Sylvan Lake, called "the Eckville Beach", was a favorite spot for picnics and sports days. On those occasions, instead of a picnic lunch, the housewives brought the ingredients, which consisted of fresh milk and vegetables, to cook a Finnish "Fish Mulligan". The fishermen were always successful in catching enough fish to make a good pot of Mulligan.

Dad was the mailman for Rural Route No. 3 covering the area east of Eckville. Many interesting stories to his family arose from this occupation. The slogan "Neither wind nor snow, nor sleet or hail will stop the delivery of this mail" must have evolved here. After a heavy snowfall and strong winds had built up the snow drifts, dad would take a good run at them with his car in order to plough his way through. Snowploughs were unheard of then! Later, when the rural residents came to town, they told of the big flurry of snow heralding dad's arrival. They would also relate how they'd waited to see if dad made it through the drifts, and, if successful, they would then venture a trip into town.

However, on the north end of the run, near the farm of Charlie Anderson, the drifts were often very difficult to maneuver. Consequently, Charlie would have his horses harnessed and ready to pull dad through this stretch. This is a fine example of the pioneer spirit, always willing to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever it was needed. Only when the snow became too deep for the automobile did dad resort to his horse and sleigh. This was a hardship in itself, as a cold winter day with sub-zero temperatures and blizzard conditions became a very long and difficult 12 to 14 hours to endure.

A common practice which adds a little "spice" to the early settlers image was the chewing of snuff by the men. For example, dad chewed snuff at the rate of three to four boxes per week, beginning at the age of 17 years and continuing until age 86 years. Thus, a rough calculation indicates that he went through approximately 12,750 boxes in his lifetime — enough to make a stockpile approximately 1100 feet high. Snuff chewing caused problems of its own. Dad's first car, a Grey Dort, purchased in the early 1920's, was an open touring model. When those of us who had the misfortune to ride in the back seat sensed that dad was getting ready to unload some of the snooze, there was a mad scramble in the back to hit the floor, or duck under any available cover in order to miss the "spray".

Mrs. Pete Tolvanen, nee Katherine Lempi Maki, came to Eckville in 1903 with her parents from Butte, Montana, U.S.A. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Maki homesteaded about four and one half miles northeast of Eckville. Pete and Lempi were married in 1907 and lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1957.

Mother was active in the rural area. She was a member of the Church, the Women's Institute and the Young Peoples' Hall Board. The farmers' wives had their work cut out for them during harvest season. In later years they looked back with fond memories to when the steam engine pulling the separator and bunk car pulled into the yard. Again the pioneer and community spirit prevailed, as all the neighbor ladies arrived to lend a helping hand to feed the threshing crew.

Mother was very fortunate in being able to survive the flu epidemic in 1919. When very ill, Chinese nurse arrived at the farm, helping to nurse her back to good health.

The family consisted of six children. Ada, the eldest, born in 1909, married Jim Sloan and they raised two sons, David and Robert. Ada passed away in Calgary in 1974.

The second daughter, Elsie, born in 1911, became Mrs. Joe Hyde. She passed away in Calgary in 1961. She did not have any children.

Ernest, born in 1914, married Shirley Steven son of Lesliville. He enlisted with the army in 1939, going overseas the same year. He served in England, Sicily, Italy, Holland, France, and Germany before returning home in 1945. Shirley passed away several years ago in Calgary where their only child, a daughter, Terry, resides with her husband, Ron Ager, and four children. Ernie is presently living in Vancouver.

Bill, born in 1916, married to Dorothy Bergstrom of Eckville, has two sons, Bob and Terry, and four grandchildren. He served in the army overseas from 1942 until 1945. They are now Lethbridge residents.

Ray married Irene Erickson of Stettler in 1950. He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. as a pilot in 1942. Upon his release in 1945 Ray began employment with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, and is still employed with that company. Ray and Irene have two children, Scott and Janie, and one grandchild. They now live in Red Deer.

Dorothy, Mrs. Tom Forhan, resides in Eckville. The Forhans have three children — Brenda, Randy and Jim and two grandchildren.

**TOIVANEN, HELEN DOROTHY**

Helen Dorothy Toivanen is the youngest child of Mr and Mrs Peter Toivanen She was born on the homestead on August 12, 1923 Dorothy took all her schooling in Eckville except for the last year of high school which she took at the Lethbridge Collegiate

Miss Gladys Jones was her first teacher for two years who then married Bert Lundberg. Margaret McKinnon for two years, then Ruth Craig, Mr Baldwin, Ado Tipman, Mr John Henley-Lewis and Mrs. Westergard. Mr Scott taught us music

Dorothy was flower girl for the Lisa Lundberg-Everett Baldwin wedding

After graduation, Dorothy came back to Eckville She worked at Aboussaffy and Farris General Store, at the telephone office with Esther Johnson and Mrs. Louise Tink. Then went to work at Forhan's Pharmacy In 1946 she married Thomas Forhan

Dorothy recalls the skating rink on the river below Kult's house (where we lived) Barry and Bill Armstrong, Pickles (Arvo) and George Sestrap, Teddy Barnett George Johnson Brother Bill, Bill and Reg Morris and many more playing hockey there

Marg McKinnon was our C.G.I.T leader There were 10 or more. Dorothy and Sylvia sh, Selina Cowen, Violet Kingsep, Alberta Coutts, Marie Louise Servais, Phyllis MacDonald, Marie McDonnell, Isabel Merriman and myself. We walked to the different farms for meetings. Also went to Kasota Beach for two summers. Most of us keep in touch at Christmas

We also had a hockey team with almost all the same girls plus Ailine Langer in goal. We played Rimbey. Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake and one game with Red Deer who were above us They let us have one boy to play and Bob Umari played. We won

We also played soft ball with most of the same crew and against the same towns

Mr Maclean, a Presbyterian minister was a lean tall man. I remember the first time Mrs Von Hottum saw him stand up in church she

She was a lovely tiny lady He was our basketball teacher and coach. We won most of our games and played Rimbey, Rocky Mountain House Sylvan Lake and Bentley

Once when coming back from Rimbey, we stopped at Bentley to see Mr Bernie Dennett At the time the doctor had maggots on his knee (a war injury) and he told us he'd lost two of the maggots Back in Mr Maclean's open air car, he started scratching and shifting around. Naturally, we asked what was wrong and he said "I guess I've got Mr Dennett's maggots." We were horrified at first and then laughed

I have been president of the curling club Started curling when 15 or 16. First bonspiel was at Leslieville with Mrs. Bergstrom and Kit Armstrong, don't recall who the 4th was. We won a cake plate. Leslieville rink was baled straw for

I have beens secretary and president of the Catholic Women's League, vice-president of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary

**OSWALD UMARI - ELLEN KALLA**

Oswald Umari was born in Butte, Montana, and Ellen Kalla was born in Belt, Montana. As young people, they made their way to Alberta, and were married in Red Deer, in 1917 They lived at Sylvan Lake for a time after their marriage, then moved to Eckville about 1921

Oswald was one of the managers of the Co-op store in Sylvan Lake and Eckville They both took an active part in the affairs of the community, and enjoyed curling, tennis, badminton, and other sports

The Umaris left Alberta in 1945 and located at Enderly, B.C. Here they operated a grocery business with Bob and Wilbur until the business was sold in 1972

Oswald and Ellen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1967 Oswald passed away February 11 1973 and Ellen passed away on July 26, 1975

Their children, Bob, Wilbur, and Mildred all live in British Columbia

**VANSCO, VINCE**

I was born in Hungary, and came out from there at the time of the Revolution in November 1956, to Austria where I spent two months in the camp. From Austria I went to Holland where I spent another month and a half From there we started to Canada on the Holland Ship. It took 15 days to get to Halifax because of an accident on the sea on the fourth day out when an Italian ship hauling wheat from Italy to Norway ran into us We had to go to the nearest port, which took three days and we ended up in Brest France It took a day to move things from the Holland Ship to another one and seven days from there to Halifax where we landed on March 25, 1957 Another two days of travelling from Halifax to Merlin Ontario and I found my aunt and uncle and other relatives It was three days later when I started to work for Dr McKibbon in the Veterinary Clinic in Whitley, Ontario. I worked there for three years and then went to Calgary for a month's holiday in the spring of 1960 to visit friends who had come from the Old Country with me I never returned East except to visit my relatives. I got work with Dr Cecil Speirs on April 1, 1960, at the Eckville Veterinary Clinic and have worked for him about 10 years I found a place to live with Mr and Mrs. Slim Heath and this was my home for five years

In April 1965, I married Sylvia Edwards from Rocky Mountain House who had lost her husband in an accident a few years before. We bought the Slim Heath home and this has been our home ever since The Heaths moved to Penticton B.C Sylvia had three children — Pat, Dick and Greg

Pat married Garry Poliit of Leslieville, Dick married Brenda Wasson of Pine Point, N W T. and Greg married Janice Matthews of Eckville

On November 10, 1966, our daughter Sheryl was born and is getting her education in Eckville. In 1976, Sylvia, Sheryl and myself made a trip back to my homeland to visit my parents, two sisters, one brother and other relatives. It was good to go home to see the folks but it was great to get back to our home here a wonderful community to live in

**VITALA, ERNEST**

Ernest Vitala was born on his parents' farm four and one half miles north of Eckville He remained on the farm, working with his father From 1956 to 1962 he worked on the Eckville Mutual Telephone lines, and found this was quite interesting, meeting most of the people in the district. In 1965 he worked with Kingsep Water Well Drilling, and also continued farming until 1973 At this time he sold the farm and moved into

Ernest secured a position with the County of Lacombe, driving the school bus from Eckville to Lacombe and working in the Lacombe bus garage during the day

On July 20, 1974 Ernest married Juanita I Lee. Juanita is the daughter of Mr and Mrs George Lee of Evarts She was born in Eckville, raised in the Evarts District and worked in the Eckville Hospital from 1952 to 1956, before taking a Certified Nursing Aide Course. She then worked in Olds, Ponoka Mental Hospital and for nine years at Deerhome in Red Deer, before returning to the Eckville Hospital in 1973

In 1975 Juanita left active nursing to devote more time to her home life

**VON HOLTUM CONSTANTINE HERBER**

Constantine Herber von Holtum was born January 22, 1882 in Solingen Wald, Rhineland, Germany His father Wilhelm von Holtum was a lawyer and subsequently served as a judge in Aix-Ca-Chapelle, where Von recieved his education with a view for a career in banking as a foreign correspondent In order to acquire fluency in French and Dutch he spent part of his school years abroad He had a marked aptitude for languages and, apart from the academic languages Latin and Greek, he became proficient in seven tongues of the modern world However, work in the bank did not appeal to Von and in his early twenties he quit his post and went on a visit to an uncle in Minnesota, U.S.A

After a short time spent there Von came to Canada in 1904 and took up a homestead near Leslieville, Alberta. While proving up on it he worked as a store clerk in Trochu, Red Deer and

When the First World War broke out although by this time he had become a Canadian citizen, the Tories treated him as an alien Wrongfully accused of being a spy he was imprisoned and brought to trial. Fortunately the Liberals, of which party he was a member effected his release after two weeks imprisonment (He lost ten pounds in that fortnight) Although he was acquitted, he lost, through this persecution, his homestead and other property except for a quarter section of land to which Mr Joe Huerlmann held the title, and which he was farming on shares. Following his release from jail Von remained in Calgary and became a partner with a Mr Cohen in a secondhand store

Eventually Von needed an operation on his lungs, part of which was removed. In order to recuperate he went to Eckville where he started a filling station for the Imperial Oil Company Along with this he commenced to build an automotive parts business After some years he had a promising business going and this encouraged him to take a wife and start a family He was married to Anne Bajohr on January 20

The Wall Street crash came in the fall of 1929 and the following depression wiped out Von's business in a very short time. But somehow, people survived those interminable, dismal years. In 1938 Von succeeded in getting three thousand dollars for the above mentioned quarter section of land which was nominally farmed on shares

Hoping to find some employment opportunities in Vancouver, and lured by the milder climate of B.C we settled in Burnaby However the chances for employment were not any better than in Alberta, and Von had to eke out a meagre living by growing a garden and tending people's grounds for pittance

The Second World War was well advanced before there was a job with the Vancouver Engineering Works, where he was employed for

things were for Von the same as before his fortunes never changed till the end. The pension for which he became eligible at age 70 was very small

In 1964, when he was past 82 years of age, his leg had to be amputated above the knee due to circulation blockage I visited him every second day while he was at Taylor Manor, a nursing home run by the city of Vancouver The day before his 86th birthday he suffered a light stroke and consequently he became slightly confused

After he was placed in a private hospital I visited him every day Von was an undemonstrative man, but it was obvious that he came to look forward to my daily visits. One day the nurse told me "Your husband was very worried over the delay He kept asking when you'd be turning up." After a few months in the hospital it became evident that a circulation blockage was occurring in the other leg. In times of sickness Von was a very patient and uncomplaining man but I couldn't help feeling very sad over his lot When I went to visit him on April 28, 1968, he was unconscious I was allowed

to stay past the visiting time, and he passed away at four o'clock, without regaining consciousness

**von HOLTUM, Anne Katherine (nee Bajohr)**

I, Anne Katherine von Holtum, nee Bajohr was born December 27, 1892 in Riga, Russia. I was introduced to the three R's at home, starting my formal education at age eight in a private girls school, which I attended for 11 years graduating with a teacher's diploma in 1914, the year the first world war broke out. My deceased father had emigrated from Germany and retained his original citizenship. According to the old-country law I, too was a German citizen. After the out break of the war, I was temporarily interned in Central Russia, but was permitted to leave for Germany via neutral Rumania. I arrived in Berlin in the summer of 1916, received by the Red Cross, which also helped me to get employment with the postal services.

Due to the hunger blockade there was great scarcity of food. The Russians were sending parcels to their prisoners of war. I was occupied with the translation of the addresses of those parcels. After awhile I got a post with the Department of Foreign Affairs, thanks to my knowledge of the Russian language and the geography of the country. The work was most interesting and prestigous. On a Russian typewriter I had to make out forms searching for German prisoners of war, translating messages and making petitions for release of prisoners on the grounds of sickness. These forms were sent to the U.S.A. Embassies in London and Paris, prior to the entry of the United States into the war.

The effect of the hunger blockade was steadily increasing and especially hard on the sick and infirm. I had a younger sister, afflicted with a congenital heart condition, languishing in a hospital in Berlin. To supplement her nutrition I left Berlin for employment in the country at a prisoner-of-war camp as censorship examiner and interpreter. I often went after work to neighboring farms and persuasively presenting the situation, a person here or there was moved to sell a couple of eggs, a bit of butter or home made fruit to make a modest parcel for my sick sister. However she did not survive the war.

I was at a camp in the Rhine Palatinate when the collapse came in November 1918. It was a great upheaval, with soldiers disorganizing on the move and milling around and the rampant flu adding to the misery. Somehow reaching Berlin in an overcrowded train, I landed again in the Foreign Office, where I handled newspaper clippings in the Press Department. This occupation was, however, of short duration, the great inflation which struck Germany, necessitated a drastic cut of the staff. For awhile I eked out a living as a seamstress. The members of my family were scattered, their whereabouts and fate unknown to me. It took years before contact with members of my family in Russia was re established. A sister who was married to a Mennonite teacher in the Ukraine, wrote me that they were about to immigrate to Canada because of religious persecutions. She proposed that I join the transport at the point of embarkation, our birthplace Riga, at that time, the capital of Latvia. The formalities were handled by the C.P.R. Only farmers and domestics were allowed to enter Canada. My relatives passed the screening, but I was stuck in Riga. There followed three weeks of uncertainty and anxious waiting before the "go" sign came from London. I crossed the Atlantic from Southampton to Quebec on the "Empress of Scotland" of the C.P.R. arriving June 10, 1926. During the following summer I stooked and worked as a hired girl on a farm near Winnipeg. In the fall I found in Winnipeg engagement as a maid. I did not mind the work, but I heartily detested the black uniform with white cap and apron I had to wear signifying my servant status. I needed a long time to adjust to a changed social status and I found the prairie winters very cold. When spring arrived I took seasonal job as a dishwasher in a resort hotel at the C.P.R. at Lake Louise, returning in the fall to the city working once more as a domestic. During the holiday season of 1928 I was at Chalean Lake Louise in the laundry. I was enchanted with the Rockies. I had always been keen on hiking. While some of my co-workers at the end of our daily stint in the laundry would nurse their feet with hot water baths and ointments, I would be off to explore the mountains, climbing as far as Lake Agnes. These excursions have remained a vivid and happy memory. There I came to feel the "lure of the west" and so I came to Calgary. In preference to domestic work I found employment as a seamstress with the Simmons Co. I boarded with some German people who happened to be long standing friends of Von. Von and I got married in January 1929, and so it happened that I came to Eckville. Von was 47 and I was 36 years old.

The move to British Columbia in 1938 did not improve our economic circumstances. Von kept quite busy in the garden and liked this work, but he had no knack with tools to keep a home in repair nor the inclination to do so. We had hardly settled in our quarters, when things started to go wrong with the house. With the intent to earn some money for repairs, I started to go out to do cleaning by the hour. Our life style remained the same as during the depression. Von and I did not see eye to eye about the disposition of the available money, so I decided to go it alone — buy a lot and build a house of my own. I had happened to look at a picture in the daily paper a middle-aged woman applying shingles for the roof of a building of which only the frame had been put up by hired labor. I said to myself "this woman can undertake to build a house — can I". I did not stop to think how many more hours I would need with my cleaning

paraphanalia to get to the same point as this other woman employing building tools In the spring of 1944 there seemed to turn up a chance easier on my physique; I was a successful candidate in a cross-Canada competitive examination for German-English I expected this office to be in Vancouver When the call came from Ottawa in September I weighed the pros and cons the war was obviously drawing to a close. in Ottawa accomodations were hard to get and very expensive, while the offered wages did not come up to my expectations, so I concluded that it would not pay to move

By 1948 I decided I had enough funds for the foundation and the shell of a small house to be put next door to Von's place All the time, while persuing my goal, I was up against much sickness, due to the menopause and glandular disturbances, there were acute arthritis attacks, several surgeries, a nervous breakdown. Alone I felt I was racing against time. But I was determined to overcome obstacles and to accomplish what I had set out to do. Naturally, it was necessary to find just a small outfit to whom to give the contract This contract which I gave in 1948, came to nought because of a lumber strike The following spring having engaged another outfit I got struck again due to lumber scarcity caused by the Fraser River flood. Finally I found in North Vancouver some people who were building log houses

When it came to the finishing of the inside of my house. I went for advice to a newspaper man who was writing for the Sun, a Saturday feature on "livable homes" Mr Keith Wiles, who hailed from Didsbury, Alberta was intrigued when he heard that a log house had been built in Burnaby He was much taken with the authentic structure on which the tools had been axe, adze and derrick The "Sun" brought a nice picture with a lengthy write-up. In it Mr Wiles expresses regret that log houses were disappearing from the Canadian scene for lack of incentive Describing this project under discussion, he paid tribute to the pioneering spirit of the little lady for whom this place had been built He stated that people with lots of money would be very proud of this house but that actually it was the achievement of a woman whose earnings came from char work This tribute to my efforts gave me truly a great lift. Everybody who came to the log house in later years, when it happened to be properly heated, said that it had a charming atmosphere

But, to tell the truth, I had very little chance to enjoy the place and be comfortable in it Because, while there still was a balance to be paid to the builders, also all the inside to be done, the equipment to be bought, etc. I fell and cracked three spinal vertebrae. My earnings came to a sudden stop This accident was a great blow The ten working years had been very hard on the body but there had been a buoyancy of spirit in the hope of better days ahead. Now it seemed that I had exhausted myself in pursuit of a mirage It was ironic to squeeze out of a pitiful monthly small social assistance the money for payments on a heater, while living in a cold house because it was impossible to buy the utilities as well

From the beginning of my venture Von maintained that nothing good would come of it. He had become a defeated and pessimistic, man forever hearkening back to the wrong done to him by the Tories, who years ago had stripped him of his property Without remunerative occupation of which there was none for a man past 60 he lived in great poverty He refused to get social assistance as a single person

Von did not move into the log house but living next door he tended my rustic grounds and he stayed with me when either of us was sick I must say that as a patient he was easy to look after because he was so undemanding and uncomplaining Generally, however, each of us

Before graduation from high school our son Herbert Junior, broke his neck in the gym. In vain Von tried to get help for expenditures in orthopedic surgery and treatments. He did not get anywhere with Herbert's part-time employer the C P R., nor with the schoolboard which might have been liable because of the physical education teacher's incompetence Home had a stressful atmosphere. and the boy left home and high school in the middle of grade 12 to take unskilled work and pay off the debt

Faye, too, left home as soon as her education was complete, to teach out of town

The decade before my pension cheque was due at age 70. was a very lonely time and more desolate than the thirties. It was a great day when my first pension cheque arrived. Though the size in the sixties was not auspicious it had a liberating wholesome effect on the spirit because it eliminated the periodic visits by officious people checking up on you and your movements to make sure you adhered to the rigid regulations and restrictions dictated by the book By and by the Federal government started to accord the aged greater consideration giving us regular increases in keeping with the rising cost of living. Another significant change in my life occured when the church where I worshipped was touched by the charismatic movement Learning to worship with adoration praise and thanksgiving does away with discontent worry and stress. giving instead peace of mind and putting joy in the heart It is true what the scriptures say Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. (Luke 12 31) So to the spiritual blessings there have come my way the tangible gifts of comfortable and carefree living conditions Everyday I thank the Lord that he has paved the way for me into this bright, warm and completely satisfying apartment, which the municipality built and

opened in 1972. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places: ye, I have a goodly heritage (Ps. 16 6) I will bless the Lord at all times His praise shall be continuously in my mouth (Ps 34 1)

**WAISANEN SIMON AND TYYNE — by Their [illegible]**

Simon Waisanen was born in Suoumisalmi Finland, November 5, 1904, the second youngest of seven children. During his childhood he spent his time with his brothers. In the summer fishing, or in the winter in lumber camps School, other than a few months of religious instruction was not required

At the age of 21, with the encouragement of his cousin Eli, Simon decided to seek the fortunes of the new land. Saying goodbye to his fami with his fare in his pocket, he set off for Canada They travelled by boat and finally reached Eckville, Alberta, in June, 1927 The day they arrived heavy rains had caused muddy roads. As Eli and Simon walked from the train to the home of their relatives their boots gathered more and more mud, making walking very difficult Simon's first words to his relatives were, "Why we're bringing the whole world with us." They had discovered good old Alberta clay, something unknown in Finland

His first summer was spent working for relatives and neighbors on the neighbourhood threshing crews. In the winter he spent his time at a lumber camp near Rocky Mountain House making railway ties with a broadaxe, at a few cents a tie. In 1928 Simon got a job working for the CPR and his home became the CPR bunkhouse This was a small building which became very hot in the summer time. The biggest joke was to see when the meat would "begin to walk away", seeing as it was not kept very cold as the freezing facilities of the time were very poor

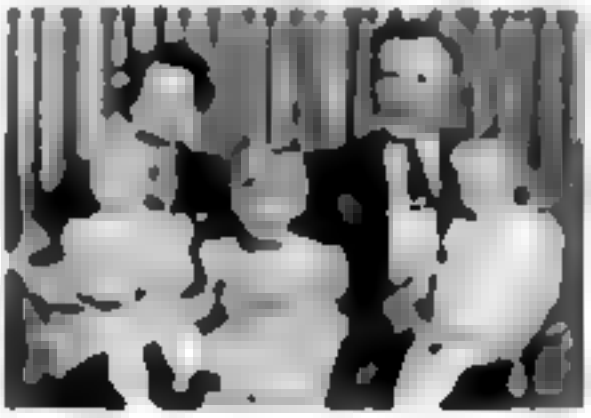
In the winter of 1931 Simon and some friends decided to try their luck at ice fishing They left for Buck Lake in 30° below weather with a team of horses, a sled and their gear The fish were plentiful and this tradition of going fishing was to be kept up until 197

In 1933 Simon bought a farm close to Hespero, but after a few years he decided it was not close enough to the Kootnk station, where he still worked on the CPR He sold this farm and bought another one the very same day from August Kangas, located one-half mile from the CPR station. Simon got up early every morning, did his chores, then walked to work at the railroad station. After working his regular hours he then came home to do his farming. The work was hard, the hours long but there was always time for a cup of coffee a free haircut for a neighbour or friend, and always lots of fun. During the 1940's and 1950's Simon had many cooks and hired men who worked for him. Finally Simon quit the railway and began travelling the country from coast to coast He went back to Finland for a visit in 1946 and returned to find his crops all hailed out. However, as Simon always said "there's always next year!

Finally, a friend, Mr Saarela, who had just come back from the Helsinki Olympics suggested to Simon that he should get married As a matter of fact, stated Mr Saarela, while he had been in Finland he had found just the right woman for Simon. With some help and encouragement from a few friends Simon began a correspondence with this lady and soon the future Mrs. Waisanen was lured to Canada

Tyyne Nykkanen was born April 22, 1922 in Finland. After her correspondence with Simon began she was very impressed with his letters, and finally agreed to come to Canada on the condition that if she didn't like it then she could return to Finland. She arrived in the early part of 1953, not really knowing what to expect She had never previously met Simon she only had a picture of him. However, their first meeting was successful and they were married in Red Deer in May of that same year. There was one condition, however — before she would get married there had to be a steam bath. This problem was quickly solved by the building of a steam bath

Tyyne began adjusting to Canadian life by learning the language in night school. However this progress was stopped when their eldest daughter Mary Ann, was born on May 3, 1954, followed by twins, Helen and John born on May 30, 1956, which kept her very busy However she found time to take an active part in the Presbyterian Church choir and she sang, in Finnish, at many funerals and at the Christmas concerts. She also helped with many functions organized by the Finnish community and was part of the Finnish delegation in the Red Deer folk festival for several years



Many visitors from Finland as well as many from around the community were entertained at the Waisanen home. One could always find a steam bath, a card game, and a cup of coffee with these friendly folks

Simon and Tyyne returned to Finland in 1966 for a six-week visit and enjoyed seeing many relatives again. Simon continued to buy land and build buildings by using the lumber from the and he cleared. The land was good to him and he always said, "Canada is the land of opportunity for those who wish to use it

In 1967 Tyyne became ill and on April 16, 1968 she passed away at the age of 48 years. Simon continued to farm with the help of his son, until he passed away in 1977. Both Simon and Tyyne are buried in the Eckville cemetery

Mary Ann married Stephen J Smith of Eckville on August 9, 1975. They now live on NW 6-39-3-W5. Helen is employed by Simpsons-Sears in Calgary. John farms at the home place, SW 9 34-3-W5. All of the children were educated in the Eckville schools. Mary Ann also attended the University of Alberta and received her teaching certificate. She is presently teaching at the Lesneville school

**WEEKS, FLOYD AND BLANCHE**

Floyd was born in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A in 1901. With his parents and brother Harlan, he immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1917 arriving at the Earl Fitch home (cousins of the Weeks) in the Centreville district. Earl Fitch moved the Weeks family to their farm at Eckville, which was later owned by a Mr Brown, then by Tom Smith. Three years later they moved to the Henry Smith farm. Harlan and Floyd Weeks rented the Frank Jenkin's section a few miles east of Eckville

Floyd Weeks met and married the former Blanch Harden of Raven, in June of 1936. When they were first married they lived in Freewater Oregon, U.S.A., where Floyd was a car salesman. Returning to Eckville, later, they went farming on a C.P.R. quarter that Floyd's parents had bought for seven dollars per acre

Floyd and Blanch were in the restaurant business in Okotoks, Alberta, during the oil boom in that area in 1937, and later managed the restaurant in Eckville. After selling their acreage at Eckville they moved to an apartment in Calgary. To be closer to relatives however, they soon purchased a lovely home in Lacombe

Floyd took some of his early schooling in the old Eckville School on the northern outskirts of

Floyd and Blanch celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June of 1976 in Lacombe, with many friends and relatives present. Since their retirement they have enjoyed a bus tour to California, and they also enjoy gardening and their other hobbies

**WEEKS, HARLAN**

Harlan, the elder son of Louis and Emma Weeks, was born in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A. in 1899. In about 1921-1922 Harlan took teachers' training in Kansas. In his early years he taught at Red Raven, Alberta. After giving up teaching, he and Cal Fletcher bought a section of land near Withrow, Alberta.

Harlan married the former Grace Rathwell of the Rimbey area. To this union two daughters Jean and Eileen, were born. Harlan passed away in February, 1974 of a heart attack, in Sidney Nebraska, U.S.A.

**WEEKS, LOUIS AND EMMA**

In 1917 Louis and Emma Weeks and two young sons, Harlan and Floyd, left their home in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A., accompanied by another young man by the name of Cal Fletcher. They came to Sylvan Lake by train in the spring of 1917. Travelling in those days was a challenge with the sloughs full of water, corduroy roads, many wire gates and a strange land with which to become acquainted. The Weeks family stayed with their cousins, the Earl Fitch family, until locating on a farm near Eckville. Their farm was known as the Brown farm and later became the Tom Smith farm. Louis and Emma Weeks lived on that farm until the farm house burned down. They lost everything they owned, including the pork barrel, which, in today's language, would mean the deep freeze and all its contents. After the fire Mr. and Mrs. Weeks moved in with their sons, Harlan and Floyd, who were then farming the Frank Jenkin's farm

Cattle driving was a big event in the early days, and the Weeks family had their share of this. Hauling cattle by truck was unheard of, but two or three men on horseback and a wagon leading the way loaded with feed, would head off the procession headed for market, which would generally be Red Deer. They would get as far as the Half-way House, on the west side of Sylvan Lake, where there was a rest stop and the cattle were fed and watered. By this time a rest was in order for both man and beast in preparation for the final lap of the journey to Red Deer the next day

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Weeks and Floyd returned to Pleasanton, Kansas. Later, Floyd returned to Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks Sr. made many trips back to Alberta in their Dodge touring car to visit their sons and wives. They both passed away in Pleasanton, Kansas

**MR. AND MRS. ED WICKSTROM**

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wickstrom lived in Eckville in 1919-1920. Ed managed a garage business. They have one son, Lawrence. The Wickstroms moved to Snohomish, Washington, U.S.A., where Ed was in the building business.

Ed passed away at Snohomish. Mrs Wickstrom, who was 96 years of age in 1977 is still living in Washington. Their son Lawrence is married and lives near his mother

**THE JACK WILLIAMS FAMILY — by May Williams**

Jack Williams, with his wife, May, and nine year-old daughter, Edith, arrived in the Eckville

area on August 24, 1952. They spent some months on the John Smith and later on the John Mak farms west of town.

In July 1954 they moved to town when May went to work at the Eckville Bakery, then rented by Norm Forban. Later she worked in Forban's Dry Goods Store for ten years.

Jack unloaded coal for the Arlas Lumber Company and later for the Searle Elevator Company. He also did general draying and odd jobs around town, as well as beaver trapping in the spring and fall. Incidentally, at the age of 82 years, Jack is still trapping, although on a lesser [illegible].

May has worked part-time in the public library in Eckville for the past ten years. This along with the sewing which she does for many of the ladies in and around Eckville, keeps her pretty busy.

Edith attended school at Eckville through Grade 11. She then went to work at a branch of [illegible] holidays. When school reopened in the fall she decided to continue with her job. In April, 1963 she married Dick Cieski, formerly of Sexsmith, Alberta. After her marriage she worked in the Royal Bank in Didsbury. They have two sons — Ricky, born in August, 1964 and Michael, born in December, 1965. They are presently living in Calgary after having been in Toronto, Stettler, Calgary and Edmonton.

Jack was born at Moosomin, Saskatchewan but moved to the LeRoy area at the age of 15 years. Some years later he moved into the town of LeRoy where he had many occupations, including operating a meat market, fur buyer, undertaker, veterinary work and buying livestock. During his last five years at LeRoy he ran the U.G.G. elevator and sold Case farm machinery in addition to handling the B.A. bulk oil sales.

May was born at LaVerl, Saskatchewan, and went to LeRoy in the late 1920's. May and Jack were married in June, 1940 and lived in LeRoy until moving to the farm at White Fox in July 1942. Edith was born in the Nipawin hospital in December 1942.

In the fall of 1946 we sold the farm and moved to the town of Nipawin where we lived until coming to Eckville in 1952.

**YEO, STAN AND ESTHER** - by Esther Yeo

Stan and Esther Yeo came to Eckville in the fall of 1944, from Sylvan Lake where he had a barber shop in the poolroom. His Eckville shop was also in a poolroom run by Mr. Thompson at that time. Stan just couldn't quite decide which he'd rather do — play pool or barber. But, of course, he had to make a living for his family of three: one girl, Nona and two boys, Wesley and Terry.

We built the house where Mrs. Kelm now lives and also a small house at the back of the lot for my mother, Mrs. Strid, which now serves as a garage. Incidentally, our garage was built for next to nothing. Stan had hired Eric and Jack Bardenhagen, also a couple of others to put in the foundation. After paying them for the job, Eric suggested some pool. Less than one hour later Stan had recovered their wages. Eric said that was the last time he was working for Stan.

We spent seven years in Eckville before moving to Fort Saskatchewan where we purchased another barbershop. We are retired now but Stan still haunts the poolroom, only now it is in the Pioneer Home. We thoroughly enjoyed our years in Eckville and it's wonderful community spirit.

Going back to the Fort Saskatchewan district was like going back home to us as Stan was born at Gibbons, Alberta only a few miles away from the Fort. July 22, 1910 and I was born at Camrose, September 17, 1915. We were married at Gibbons, October 30, 1933 and farmed for his dad until the fall of 1939, when we left and Stan took up barbering. His first shop was at Sexsmith, Alberta where we stayed two and a half years before coming to Sylvan Lake.

Our daughter is married with a family of five and resides in Edmonton. Wesley is married with four children and works at Dow Chemical training supervisors. Terry is single and works at the F.M.C. Plant at Squamish, British Columbia.

**ZALESKI, FRANK AND NANNIE**

Frank Zaleski and Nannie Kasper were married in 1938. For a number of years they lived two and a half miles northwest of Eckville on NE 29-38-3 W5.

This is where their children were born. James in June, 1939, passed away October 1952.

Twins Darwin and Dallas were born October 1, 1940.

Darwin married Irene Mover of Nanton in 1962. They have three sons Randy, Rodney and Ricky. Darwin, Irene and family live in Calgary where Darwin works for Firestone.

Dallas married Lorraine Scott of Innisfail. They have a son Danny. Dallas passed away in [illegible].

William was born June 27, 1954. Bill married Kathryn Anderson in March, 1978. They reside in the Salma district on the SW 32-39-2-W5.

Frank and Nannie now live on SE 4-39-3 W5, two and a half miles south of Eckville.

**ZALESKI, LEO AND SALOMA**

Leo Zaleski was born in Poland in 1884. He immigrated to Canada in 1903, working in Nova Scotia before coming west to work in mines in British Columbia and Alberta. In 1909 he married Saloma Murym at Michel.

Saloma was born in 1885 in Lithuania.

Their first child Felix was born at Michel in 1910.

The family moved to a homestead in the Leaf Mountain district in 1911. This is where their second son Frank was born in 1918. Leo decided to sell out and move the family to the Gaby district

Leo and Salome Zaleski's wedding picture

NE 34-3-40W3 in 1920. This is where their daughter Leitha was born. Leo was a cattle and hog buyer in the area for many years. In 1933 the Zaleski's moved to a farm two and a half miles northwest of Eckville. Later moving to the former Charlie Schuneman place on Number 11 highway.

Felix married Emma Maki in 1934 and passed away in July 1939.

Frank married Nannie Kasper in 1938. They had four boys.

Leitha married Ralph Kingsep in 1945. They have a son Ellis born in May of 1947. Leitha and Ellis reside in Los Angeles, California.

Leo passed away in 1947 and Salome in 1959. They are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

## THE SAGA OF THE T. EATON MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE

With our shopping malls and super highways, speedy transportation spelled the end of the T. Eaton mail order catalogue.

Little did we think, back in the early 1900's, and 1920's and even the 1930's, that there would ever be an end to the brown paper rolled Eaton Catalogue. Excitement among the young ladies reigned much higher over the arrival of the Spring and Fall Eaton's Catalogue than any sojourn to a modern shopping plaza.

No book in any household was more carefully scrutinized, criticized, adored and planned with than the T. Eaton Catalogue. Many a child cut pictures to identify Dick and Jane and learned the names of household articles, furniture and machinery from Eaton's Catalogue.

It furnished the window through which the fashion-conscious could study styles created in the large, far-away cities of New York, Montreal and Paris.

When the catalogue was finally read until the covers were off and a new one had arrived, the time came for more practical use by relegating it for the purpose of a hot pan stand, door stop and even to the little house out back, where it was given a final reading.

But, in 1975 the catalogue met its demise, and no longer is the excitement of the Fall and Winter and the Spring and Summer Catalogue creating its usual pleasure in homes across the country.

## REMEMBER WHEN"

Remember when"

the water pail was always empty and the slop" pail full.

the house was full of the acrid smell of kindling toasting in the oven.

washing the lamp chimneys, trimming wicks and filling the lamps with coal oil was a daily chore.

the happy hum of the portable wood saw turned poles into symmetrical blocks.

you matched wits with the old turkey hen cunningly hiding her nest.

the largest "green" block of wood that the air-tight could consume, still didn't keep the water pail from freezing on a cold winter's night.

the cream was always too fresh or too old, too thick or too thin, too warm or too cold, so hours of cranking or dashing were necessary to persuade the butter to form.

the smoky, oily smell of a lantern being lit meant it was evening milking time.

the tar build-up in the chimney and stove pipes resulted in the terrifying roar of a chimney fire.

the frost painted dainty pictures on the window pane, followed, as the cold deepened, by a heavy slab of ice with a small peek-hole made by the impression of a warm thumb.

the three hours boiling in the copper wash boiler so meat, chicken and vegetables could proudly take their place beside the rows of fruit, jams and jellies on the cellar shelf.

the endless task of keeping the wood box full and the ash pan empty.

the fear of falling down the well, as ice built up when the bucket sloshed, as you pulled and pulled with ice-caked mittens to satisfy thirsty cows.

you thought nothing of walking several miles to visit a neighbor

you clustered the "sad irons" under the cast iron frying pan on the hot wood stove, while you tackled that mountainous pile of ironing.

the word "baby-sitter" hadn't been coined

the skinned knuckles, aching back and sprained wrists meant you had spent hours over the wash board scrubbing those heavy work clothes

you made a "sponge" by crumbling a yeast cake into the warm potato water and added flour — tomorrow was bread-baking day

you stuck your hand into the crock and the cold goo, called water glass, to collect an egg for baking.

a carelessly open trap door situated in the kitchen floor and leading to the cellar proved a hazard to the unwary

the low-lying blanket of smoke from the smudge brought relief from the clouds of mosquitoes to man and animal alike

the cozy feel of the crackling wood fire and the sound of the kettle softly singing brought contentment on a blustery night

the togetherness of a family grouped around the kitchen table, sharing the same lamp, yet each doing his own thing

the favorite rocking chair was preempted by the family cat

you pried the clothes pins loose and carried the bed sheets like plywood into the warmth of the kitchen to thaw

handicraft meant knitting mittens and socks or ripping up a still usable garment to make junior a new outfit

half grown chickens paraded around in decently feathered the result of years of poor breeding stock

the only sight more welcome than the threshing rig arriving was seeing it leaving

you tried desperately to trap that little grey mouse before his children and children's children overran the house

it wasn't unusual to see a team of oxen pulling a wagon.

the nearest barber was a friend down the road or worse still, you let your wife hack at it

the hot bricks were carefully transferred from the glowing coals to the drawers of the "foot warmer" which tucked under the buffalo robe, kept toes cozy on the long cutter ride

the meat deep freeze was a bin of oats

you listened with apprehension to the clicks and assorted sound of radios, clocks and children there goes my private talk on the party line

watching the calves reach out long necks to touch the wire, then recoil with a snort — the electric fence was working

you were about to light the gas lamp but found a small pile of white ash Who broke the mantle this time?

tinkering and fixing the crystal set and finally hearing a distant voice

the very warm spot in bed in that cold upstairs room, where the oven-heated rock had rested

the breath-taking smell of lye and rancid fat meant soap-making

a sturdy cardboard box tied with binder twine did duty as a suitcase

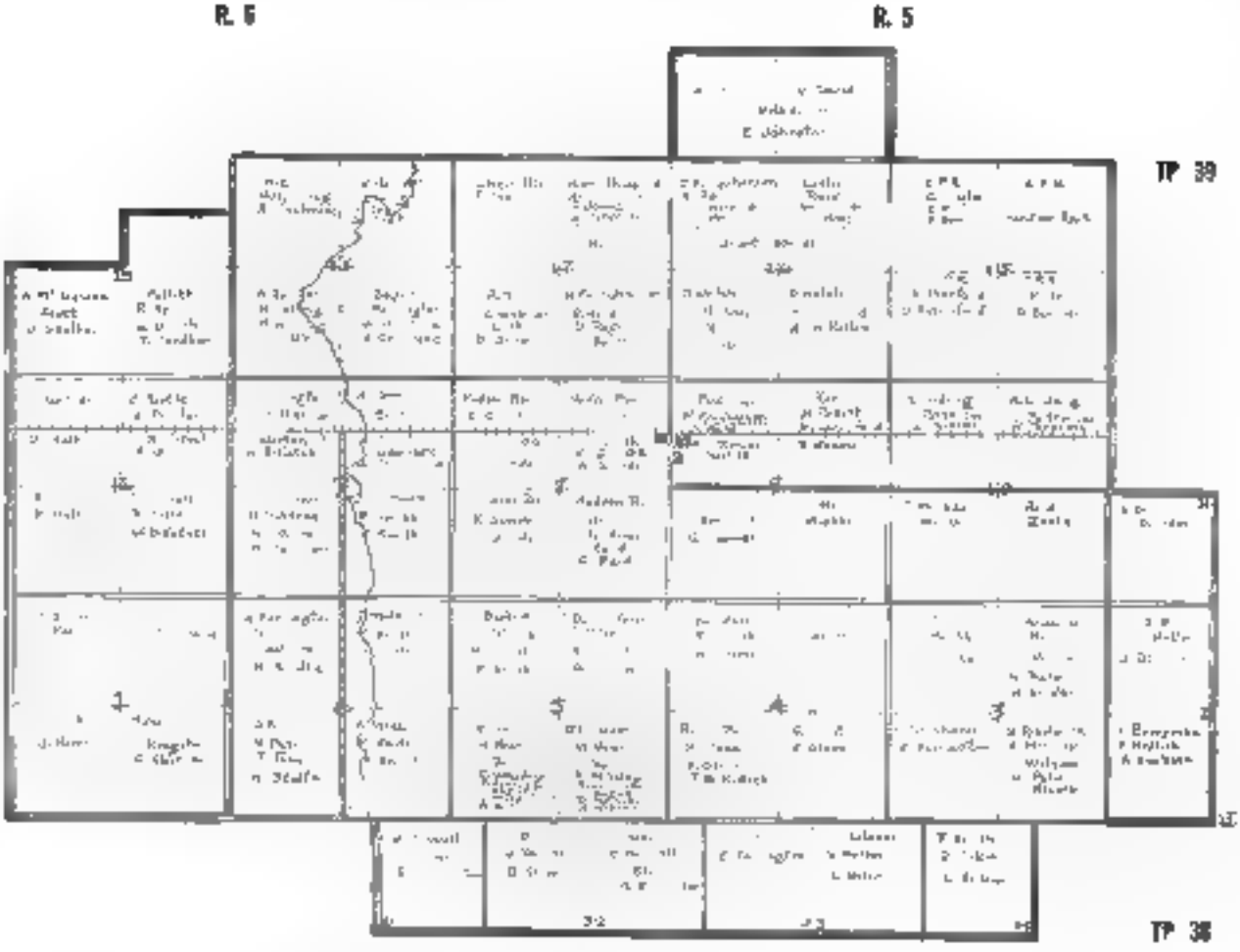
the long binder whip served the dual purpose as an ideal fishing pole as well as a horse persuader

the bobsleigh piled high with blue-green blocks of ice from the lake and hauled and packed in sawdust for next summer's refrigeration.

the tattered gunny sack attached to old Dobbin's bridle provided a bit of relief from nose flies

a young visitor from the city, returning from the "two-holer" out back, excitedly announced, Daddy, they have double plumbing"

# ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2930




LEGEND
Original Boundary
School
Hamlet
Highway No. 13
Bitreguard Creek
C.P.R.

# Alhambra

**THE EARLY HISTORY OF ALHAMBRA**

The Alhambra District, taking in 39-W5, was not completely surveyed until 1906 and it was not until years after this that the district was named. It was generally allowed at that time that the country alongside and west of Horseguard Creek was a no good tamarack swamp and muskeg that never would be any good for farming.

However people were flocking into the west all classes of them and the district got its fair quota of kinds and varieties. The majority of them spoke English — with variations, of course.

John Jones of Ontario, his brother Griff of Ohio and Tom Butler of Ontario came in 1905 and built a log cabin on Tom's quarter. All three had filed on the same section 20-39, just north of the future site of Alhambra, but they had to return the next year to file on it legally when it was open for homesteading and they did return. In March 1906 came the Byram family from England and homesteaded just south of Alhambra. That same year the Helge Lund family and Ole Lund came and took up land in township 38 now known as Horseguard. The following year the Iver Lund family arrived and homesteaded there too. Also the J. P. Hicks family and the Barretts came about the same time. In 1907, Dan Sutherland, Alex McQueen and Donald Tolmie took homesteads on section 6-39 and Jack Davies filed on his homestead that same year. In 1908 when John Kerr homesteaded his land these settlers were here: Jim Scott, Wm. Cooper, Harry Weller, Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. McClure, and E. Roberts. Early in 1909 Mr. Patterson and his son, Frank, took up land. The Wismar brothers, Gust and Austin, had land along the bank of the Horseguard and were among the first to settle there.

J. Kerr's first winter as a homesteader, in 1908, was spent in company with D. Sutherland and D. Tolmie. They all stayed in Sutherland's shack. Towards spring tobacco and some other necessities ran short, so Tolmie and Kerr decided to walk to Leslieville. They had heard that there was such a place about seven miles northeast of them. So they plotted the course by the sections on a map and made a beeline for that place. Somehow or other their calculations were out. They ate their lunch on top of the butte where later Campbell School was built. After seriously considering the situation, they decided they must have passed Leslieville. So they veered southeast a little bit and their conclusions proved correct for there was Leslieville down on the east bank of Lobstick Creek. It was a good sized frame building. The storekeeper's name was Bureau at that time.

Bill and Charlie Farquharson, Andy Lennan, the Pollitt family, father and two sons, Jack and Tom, took up land in the summer of 1909 and by 1910, Gust Nylander, Wm. Cruickshank came about that time and shortly after came the Maxwell, Rutherford and Miller families, the E. G. Larson and Cochrane families. The Bogues, the Askerbergs and the Braithwaites, the Pells and Joe Barbie and W. J. Little came that year also the Luyckfassels, though by that time (1911) most of the free land had been taken up.

For some years before our first settlers came the Alberta Central Railway Co. had a charter to build a railway west of Red Deer but nothing had been done about it, but since the charter had been renewed rumours of a railway and where it could go through were the common topics of conversation at that time. One thing they were all agreed on and that was that the railway would have to be built along the ridges — so thought the homesteaders, but the engineers when building the road thought quite differently and in lots of places it is built across deep muskeg.

There was great excitement among the settlers when it became known that a survey party was working west from Red Deer and when a straight line of surveyers' stakes was run across Kerr's homestead in 1909 the railway was practically assured them. The Railway Co. paid the huge sum of $10 an acre for the right of way but so delighted were the settlers at the prospect of the railway that they could have had it for nothing at the time.

Prospects of the railway brought other settlers into the west country surrounding Kerr's. L. Cooper came in 1909, also the Walsh brothers, Bob and George and about the same time came the MacDonald family. A. I. MacDonald, well known among the Scottish peo

ple as the "Chief" The von Hollen families Fred. Herman, Carl and shortly afterwards Henry came from across the border and settled south of Alhambra a few miles and so did F E Lessing Very few of the settlers who came into the district had money enough to fit themselves out with farm stock and implements. In the first few years horses that were brought into the district did not do well, the disease known as swamp fever was very prevalent then and there seemed to be no cure for it. A good yoke of oxen was considered the best bet and a lot of the land was broken with oxen he first few years

In the "proving up" process of a homestead the aspiring landowner usually arrived with a grubstake sufficient to last several months at a time but despite his best efforts to make supplies eke out there were always some necessities such as tobacco, matches, beans or syrup running out In this event a trip to Evarts had to be undertaken. It was courteous and proper to inform the neighbors that such a trip was contemplated so that the outgoing letters and a list of their requirements from the store could be collected Thus was built up a very friendly intercourse between the settlers for many miles around Many and varied were the experiences that could be told about the long bad roads and mud holes that had to be encountered on the way to the nearest store, or on the trip to the town of Red Deer This part of the country was wet in those early times and there was not much difficulty in getting a plentiful supply of water There was a lot of freighting in consequence of the railway being under construction at that time and with the prolonged wet weather and the heavy traffic the roads were completely cut to pieces and on many of the worst places a detour around hills and through bush and willows had to be made Hay wire, an axe and a logging chain were standard equipment in the wagon box when on the rail

Mr Robert Smith and the family came to the district in 1912 He had been used to rain and wet weather, having farmed for many years in Scotland The two older boys had come to this country the year before to make some preparations for the arrival of the rest of the family Mr and Mrs. John Leslie came to the country with the Smiths in 1912 Mr and Mrs. R Reid arrived from Scotland in 1911. Mrs Reid had three brothers with homesteads in this neighborhood. Fred Mushka came in 1913

Work was commenced on building the Alberta Central Railway in the summer of 1909 A grand ceremony was staged, at Red Deer when the then Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier drove the first spike

Camps were established at different points along the route between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and the settlers sold their cows to the camp for beef and went to work on the building of the grade, with their teams or without. The whole district west began to prosper Different townsites were plotted and established along the route including Alhambra

There was lots of work company and excitement when the railway was under construction The right of way to the Saskatchewan River was cleared There was a big camp at the Horseguard Creek and another at the Saskatchewan River where the company had an office and cache at the old townsite

Teams hauled in baled hay and supplies of all kinds, including cement for the piers of the bridge across the river The muskegs west were corduroyed with tree trunks with spruce bush on top, so it was a hive of industry until the road was completed The most popular and most sought after man of the Alberta Central Railway was Mr Ed Hogg of Red Deer who was paymaster

The building of the Alberta Central Railway was spread over four years and it was August 22 1914 when the first passenger train came from Red Deer The hamlet of "Alhambra" began to grow. There is good reason to believe that Alhambra was named by the president of the Alberta Central Railway Mr John T Moore Perhaps Mr Moore connecting his own family name with the ancient Moores and their palace of splendor in Spain "the Alhambra" suggested the name. Thus there is Alhambra in Alberta about 16 miles east of Rocky Mountain House and 45 miles west of Red Deer After the railway was completed in 1914 many of the settlers made their living by shipping out posts, props, lumber and firewood. A big business was carried on from this point for a number of years

Mr Adams moved a building from his farm and opened a store and a post office He was the first post master Horseguard was the post office name until 1916. Mr Perry built a two story log stopping house. It was fashioned of dry wind fall logs with moss stuffed in between and was roofed with poles, moss and tar paper The first storekeeper did not stay in business very long

Main Street, Alhambra, 1920

Messrs. Bisset and Snarie had the store and stopping house for a time. A community hall and store underneath was built in 1920 and Mr. Chas. Raine rented the store part of the building from 1920 to 1924. That was the most prosperous period in the history of the hamlet. Mr. Emmerson took over the post office and opened a store. He and Mr. Raine bought post, props and firewood from the settlers and enormous quantities were shipped from here! The hamlet was growing! There were two general stores, a dry goods store, a drug store, a butcher shop, a dry hotel, a harness shop, a pool room and a barber shop and a blacksmith shop. A disastrous fire in 1924 cleaned out a lot of these places. Mr. Raine's business practically collapsed after the fire. The common reason, he gave too much credit and got too little cash.

World War I was already taking its toll from every district in Canada and Alhambra district was no exception. Recorded here are the names of those brave fellows who left this district and served overseas at the call of King and Country. Some returned not much the worse for their terrible experience, some returned wounded and in poor health, and some found soldiers' graves in Flanders Fields. The names of the men given below were not all from this neighborhood.

Len Patterson  Wounded
W. J. Little  Killed
J. Rooke
J. McBeth
J. Leslie
Wm. Cochrane
H. Hicks  Killed in action
T. Byram  Wounded
P. [illegible]kfassel
E. Hart
R. Miller
N. Eastman
W. Stockwell
W. McLellan  Killed
L. Patterson  Killed
J. MacDonald  Died of wounds
W. R. Walsh  Gassed
W. E. Gould
F. G. Patterson
C. Smith
D. Blair
J. W. Cochrane M. M. and D. C. M.
F. Pollitt
A. Gould
H. Redmond
J. Smith  Canadian Navy
Fritz von Hollen
C. Lachmund
N. Macdonald
D. Fagg  Wounded
J. Mitchell  won M. M.
Bert Avery
R. Speedie

By 1919 the soldiers were returning from overseas. The Soldiers Settlement Board was buying land for the returned men and land values increased. The Peace celebration after the war was held at the Byram farm on July 26, 1919. The celebration took on the form of a picnic and sports day and was a huge success with a large attendance from the surrounding districts.

Many well known family names around here can date their association with Alhambra to the period after the war and in fact, in the early "twenties". The Bradshaws (who had already homesteaded near Pincox, the Scotts, the Dicksons, the Farringtons, the Chevalliers, the

Catlings, Mrs Mushka and daughter and many others all had a part in the development of our

The flu epidemic in 1918 took its heavy toll from this neighborhood too and there was an out break of smallpox which was alarming but not so fatal

The Alhambra School District was established March 25, 1913. Mr W Bogue was Senior Trustee Authorization was given November 11 1914 to borrow the sum of $1200 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, building and equipping a school house. The Treasurer was Mr J R Kerr Approval was given July 5 1915 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Alhambra School District situated 375 yards north from the southeast corner of the NE-8-39-5-W5 In 1914 a school was opened in a temporary log house a mile south of the hamlet. Mrs. Ralph Patterson was the first teacher Messrs. Bogue, Larson, Byram and Kerr formed the school board. It was not until 916 that the new school was opened. Mrs. H Brown was the first teacher The school house was now the center of the social and community life Parties, dances and religious services were all held in the school. The first Dominion Day picnic was held at the school grounds in 1916. The school trustees were in charge of the event at first Besides a real community picnic there was a big variety of events for young and old, including horse racing, a harness race, and even a Best Baby" show with the two bachelor farmers acting as judges. A big dance and some fireworks at night completed the day

The prosperity lasted until about 1921 when prices started to level off The winter of 1919-1920 was long and the snow was deep and it was about the middle of May before the snow finally went Feed was very scarce Tough wheat bundles off railway cars sold at Alhambra for 25c each. All the old straw stacks and straw roofs were used for feed In the spring cattle were a good price yet but by the following fall the bottom had fallen out of the market The hide of an animal in the spring was worth as much as the whole carcas in the fall. By 1928 the Depression was here and the "hungry 30's" which followed will be well remembered by all but the younger generation and just for their information here are some of the prices for farm produce at that time Hogs live weight four cents a pound: cattle proportionately low cream, 11 cents a pound butterfat wheat down to 25 cents a bushel, oats, four cents, eggs, four cents a dozen wool, four cents a pound. The Depression was attributed to over production

Some of the missionaries of the different religious denominations who visited the district were Mr Heaven, an Anglican clergyman, Mr Gorie, a young Presbyterian student who came in 1914, after the war there was the Rev Alexander Mr Joe Stone, a student. Rev W G Brown, Rev Hjortaas of the Lutheran congregation and the Rev McKechnie the blind minister who was very well known over a large track of country west of Red Deer

There was a goodly number of Scottish people associated with this district from the earliest years. The Scottish folk and many of their friends made merry and "Chief" MacDonald's place on New Year's Day It was an annual event of importance for years. The Scottish people organized a Burns' Club in 1921 and held their first Burns' supper at Mr Alex Rutherford's house This was an annual event but the uncertainty and severity of the weather was a deterring factor On an especially cold twenty-fifth the haggis froze solid in the Alhambra hall

Prosperity did not come easy to this district, the land was too hard to clear, but there was satisfaction in taming the wilderness. A piece of new breaking was always of the utmost interest not only to the owner, but also to his neighbors Despite the discouragements of hail storms frost and unfavorable weather the district had developed generally and there were some wonderful crops of hay, oats, wheat, barley and potatoes grown here In 1936, Mr F G Patterson gained honor for himself and renown for the district when he won second prize for Garnet wheat at Toronto Royal. The following year John and Leonard Sande, in the Beaver Flat district won first and second for oats at Toronto. This from the country out west, which was considered by many to be a no good kind of place where it froze every night of the year

Mr Kerr says in closing that no doubt some who well deserve to be mentioned were forgotten but they were not left out intentionally

Special acknowledgement is made to Edith Kerr) Peel for her kind permission to use excerpts from the publication. "Other Days and Other Ways" — Being the Early History of Alhambra — written by her father the late John R Kerr

**ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2000**

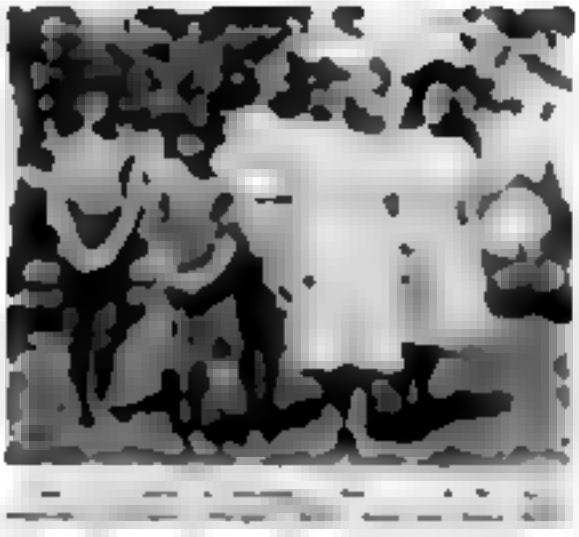
The Alhambra School District was established March 25, 1913 comprising of the following lands. Section 3-10 and 15-18 in 39-5 W5 Mr W Bogue of Pitcox, Alberta was Senior

Authorization was given November 11, 1914 to borrow the sum of $1200 for the purpose of purchasing a school site building and equipping a school house The Treasurer was Mr J Kerr of Pitcox Alberta

Approval was given July 5, 1915 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Alhambra School District, situated 375 yards north from the southeast corner of the NE-8-39-5

The sum of $500 was borrowed June 28, 1926 for the purpose of building a 10 foot extension to the present school. The Treasurer was Mr J R Kerr of Alhambra

Although the Alhambra School District was



organized in 1912 and established in 1913 It was not until 1914 that a school was opened in a temporary log house on the Davidson place a mile south of the hamlet Mrs Ralph Patterson was the first teacher She boarded with the Kerrs and Mrs. Kerr looked after young Lea, aged 10 months On weekends they went back to their own home, three miles away Schoolroom howlers were common then too. One young boy had a seat near the window and was perhaps more interested in things outside the school than in it he informed the teacher "Here comes another kid" — the teacher corrected him — You mustn't say 'kid' you must say 'child'", so profiting by this lesson he announced the next arrival thus "Please teacher here's two childs

It was not until 1916 that the new school was opened. Mrs. H. Brown was the first teacher Other teachers were: Mrs. Kate Ludwig Miss Isobel Thackery Miss R. Foss, Mrs. E. A Patterson, Miss T Crawford, Miss M W Clark. Mr J. A Moir Miss M E. Thorpe. Miss White, Mr J W Hicks, Miss M Hango, Alma Sande unde. Miss W Stagg Miss A. Kennedy Mrs A Stollings. Margaret Stelfox Scott, Mrs. F Fleming, Miss Doris Hall Miss F Hauser M Murdock, M Martz. Mrs McCann Mr MacFarlane. Mr Curlo, Mr and Mrs. H. Smith Mr J Gregorash

In 1945 a new two room school was built During the four previous years a vacant L-shaped house in the hamlet had been used as a classroom as the school population had increased Then a third classroom became

necessary so another school was moved in and also a teacherage was built. This school and teacherage were later sold. The two room school was closed in 1964 and the children were bused to Leslieville School and David Thompson High. The Alhambra Community bought the school from the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15. The Community has recently sold the school house.

**ALHAMBRA**

This book deals with Alhambra
From its very earliest day;
From trek with stubborn oxen
To V-8 and Chevrolet

The month the Great War started
Brought to us our first train,
And with it men departed
Midst many tears and pain

A log shack served the purpose
Of a temporary abode,
Until they built the schoolhouse
At the corner of the road.

The hamlet near the station
With a stopping house began.
It was built by Mr. Perry
On a very simple plan.

Soon a store was added
And filled with all things nice
Where you could take your surplus eggs
And trade for prunes and rice.

Many days have passed since then
Twenty years or more
And now you buy your groceries
At H. von Hollen's Store

If you should want some medicine
Or lotion for your face
Then you must walk across the street
To Mrs. Lessing's place

If your disk or plow needs fixing
To C. Frasier you must go
He'll fix it cheaply while you wait
He's neither rough nor slow

Miss Scott is our postmistress
And her patience does not fail.
Though you may be a little late
In going for your mail.

And if you want to sell some grain
Then go to C. H. Gui,
He'll grade it fairly, give you cheques
That will your bankbook fill.

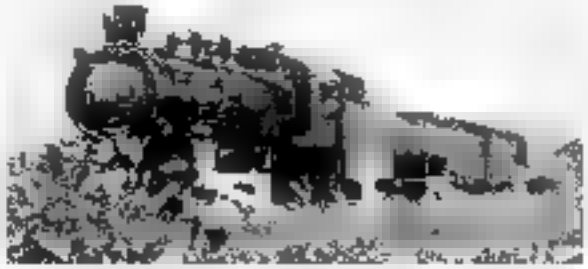
Fred Mushka is the section boss
Has been here many years,
If in his charge you leave your cream
Then you need have no fears

Wm. Farquharson is the shipper
Of your long bacon hog,
On Wednesdays he's always there
In rain or snow or fog

The hall in this community
Is near the softball ground,
And though a little out of town
Is very easily found.

Miss Sande is our teacher
And she takes every care,
And urges all to do their best
For Leslieville School Fair

By EDITH KERR, Grade 8, 1935. Edith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kerr. Each verse was composed to describe a picture she had taken. She won first prize for this poem at the Leslieville School Fair, September 1936.



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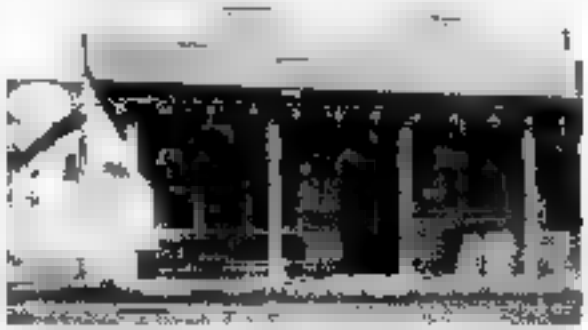

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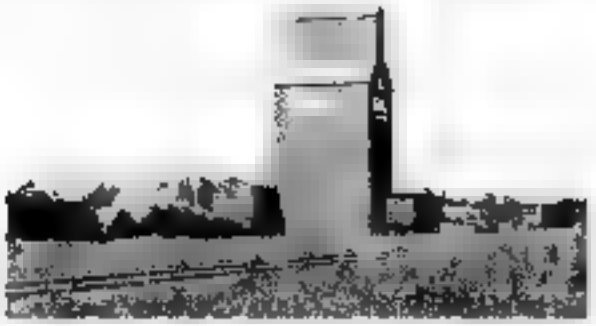
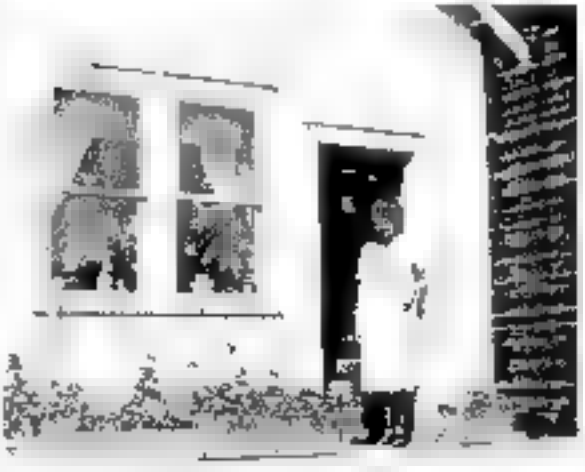


And if you want to sell some grain Then go to the C.H. Gill. He'll grade it fairly, give you cheques, That will fill your Bankbook

If your disk or plow needs fixing To C. Frasier you must go; He'll fix it cheaply while you wait. He's neither rough nor slow

Fred Mushka is the station boss. Has been here many years. If in his charge you leave your cream Then you need have no fears

Wm. Farquharson is the shipper Of your long bacon hog On Wednesday he's always there in rain or snow or fog



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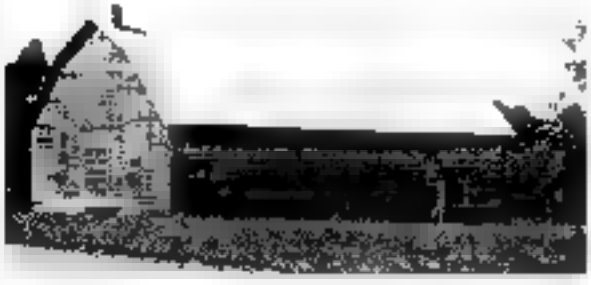


The hall to the community is near the softball ground. And though a little out of town is very easily found

**ALHAMBRA IN 1967 — by Bertha Granlund**

When we were married two stores were situated here, one operated by Mrs. Lessing who also was a Notary Public and the other store operated by Henry von Hollen whose daughter Violet Wulff now operates the store. Margaret Scott was the postmistress. The garage was operated by Charles Frasier. Sunday School was held at the Frasier home. The elevator agent was Charlie Gill. There was a hog buying station and stockyards. The hog buyer was William (Bill) Farquharson. The trainmen picked up cream cans and delivered them to Red Deer. There was a community hall. Both high school and public school were taught which kept the young ones on a learning schedule.

These have all changed. The schools are centralized. One store, the post office and the hall are still here, the elevator, stockyards, station house, section house, tool sheds, garage, and the non-denominational church "gone with the good old days."

**ALHAMBRA TODAY — (By Bert Smith)**

Alhambra at one time was mostly pensioners, the Farquharsons, Mrs. Lessing, Mrs. Sninger, The Pollitts, the Mushkas, H. Mollenhan, Henry Lund, Mrs. Jones, The Fitches, Mrs. Chevallier, the Chapmans, and others. Now many young families have moved in, several trailers can be seen in the hamlet. The younger generation has taken over the duties in the community and have done a wonderful job. The community hall has been renovated and given a new name — "Alhambra Community Centre." It has a full sized basement large enough to cater to large crowds with its modern facilities — electricity, natural gas and running water. It has been a place for many large gatherings and will continue to be used. The young people should be congratulated for the long hours of work many of them have put in and will continue to do.

The little church that was part of Alhambra has been sold and moved to Condor.

The two room school that was built in 1945 was closed in 1964. Alhambra Community bought the school from the Rocky Mountain School Division Number 15. The children are now bused to Lesheville School and David Thompson High School.

**BAUER, JIM FAMILY HISTORY — by Alta Bauer**

Jim and I were raised in the Dog Pound and Bothel areas west of Crossfield. We were married in July 1956, at which time Jim was working for the County of Mountain View. My maiden name was Williamson.

In the fall of 1956 we moved to Three Hills where Jim went to work for General Petroleum drilling. We had a trailer, so moving wasn't much of a job. Jim worked on the rig until 1959, moving all over the province from Valleyview to the Crows Nest Pass.

A daughter, Kathleen Marie, was born to us on May 14, 1957 in the Didsbury hospital. In our travels we came to the Condor area and liked what we saw. We learned that Joe Cesoms wanted to sell his farm located north of Condor so we purchased it in 1959. No one had lived there for eight years, so the house was in bad repair. The garden patch had trees and weeds head high. Clark and Martha Sloan wanted to rent their farm out, and since it was only about a mile from our place we rented it and moved into the house there.

We had another daughter, Carol Lynn, on July 24, 1960, and a son, Keith William, on January 15, 1962. The last few days before Keith was born Jim spent his time going from the barn to check on a sow and then coming back to check on me. The sow had 18 pigs, and since she couldn't nurse them all at once, Jim got up every two hours to switch the pigs, putting nine in and taking nine out. Unfortunately she saved only two of the pigs.

We moved to our own farm in the fall of 1962. We had been working on the house while living on Sloan's place. We applied for the power, but didn't get it until February 1963. We had an air tight heater and a gas lamp we borrowed from my dad. The first night we spent there Jim and I were sitting by the heater reading and I commented on how cosy it was. Just then the lid on the heater started jumping up and down and the gas lamp sputtered a few times and went out. We lived without power for four months, so lived a little like the pioneers did. However I went to Fay Jennings' to wash clothes—my pioneer instinct wasn't strong enough to bring out the wash tubs.

We lived on the farm four years, of which we were hailed out completely once and partially two other years. The storm that hailed our crops out completely came after a rainy spell. The sun came out for about two hours and then down came the hail. They were the size of golf balls and would hit the ground and bounce up again. It's a helpless feeling to see your whole years' gone in a few minutes!

Jim worked out most winters to help make ends meet until we sold our farm to Larry and Sharon David in April, 1967 and moved to Lesheville. He worked for McBrides at Benalto and then for Kidd Construction. We lived in

Lesliville for two and a half years, until the fall of 1969, when we purchased the Parker place, approximately ten miles south of Lesliville. Jim continued to work for Kidd Construction, and was made foreman. However he felt that his job was taking him away from home too much, and seemed to be consuming all of his time, so he got a job with the department of highways in 1974, where he is presently employed as a grader operator. We had rented the farm land out to Bill Von Hollen and Merle Cote.

We had two more daughters—Patricia Anne born on July 1, 1963 and Barbara Jean, born March 20, 1968. Our children attend school at Condor and David Thompson. Kathy graduated in June, 1975 and married Jack Holkestad from Rocky Mountain House in August, 1975. They reside in Rocky Mountain House, and Jack is employed at Aquitane gas plant. Kathy is a secretary at I.G.A.

We attend Gaetz Catholic Church where I have taught catechism for the past eight years.

**THE GARRY BERT FAMILY**

Garry Bert first became familiar with the Alhambra area in 1970, when he became employed at Killick's Esso owned by Bernard Killick. He drove to work each morning from his parent's farm (Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bert) in the Provercourt area.

In December of 1971, he married Vicki Crawford daughter of Bryan and June Crawford of Lesliville and together they set up housekeeping in a small rented house across from the service station. This lasted for three months then they moved into the house adjoining the service station. In July of 1976, they purchased the Esso Station from Bernard Killick and changed the name to Bert's Sales and Service.

**THE BLUETSKI FAMILY**

Walter and Helen Bluetski moved to the Alhambra district on May 1st 1971 along with their four children, Connie — 15, Anna — 14, Timothy — 3, and Martin — 1 year.

Coming from Red Deer, they settled on the Walter's farm (NW 7-39-5-5. Walter worked for R. Angus Caterpillar and farmed part time.

The oldest daughter, Connie, married Stanley Hubi on September 4, 1976. They are now living on the Hubi farm in the Eckville district. Anna finished high school at David Thompson and is now at Red Deer College.

The farm is pretty much the same except for a few of the old buildings and corrals being torn down. The appearance of the house and barn haven't changed.

In the spring of 1975 Walter and Helen separated, Walter moving to Fernie, British Columbia and Helen still living on the farm with the young boys.

**ELTON DOWNES FAMILY**

Elton was born January 17, 1902, at Stanley Bridge, Prince Edward Island. He came to Alberta with his parents and two brothers, Willie and Cecil, in 1907 residing first at Morningside Alberta. His dad decided to go homesteading so they went by covered wagon eastward to Naco but spent that first winter in Castor. In the spring they moved back to the homestead staying there two years, then moved to Veteran and stayed here for about two years. Then they moved back west to Lacombe for a couple of years and then moved back to Morningside. From there they moved south and west to the Eagle Hill district west of Olds where they bought a ¼ section of land in 1920 and farmed until Elton married the former Mildred Ware on August 1, 1935. Mildred came from Llanhilleth, South Wales to Canada. She was born May 31, 1915, and came to Canada with her parents and eleven children. The family came to Canada under the Soldiers Settlement scheme in 1927 to farm in the Eagle Hill district where the families were neighbors.

Elton and Mildred had four children. John born September 9, 1936, and Etta born February 15, 1940, while they lived at Eagle Hill. With their two children they moved to the James River Bridge district and lived with his brother Willie who had taken a homestead there in 1937. Our son James was born while we lived there November 26, 1942, and in the fall of 1944 we purchased three quarters of land from the Waterloo Municipality N.W. ¼, N.E. ¼ and S.E. ¼ Sec. 27 Twp. 39-R. 5-W. 5. In 1945 on November 27 our son Donald was born.

In October 31, 1956, our house and contents were completely destroyed by fire. In August 1957 John married a girl from Tangent Theresa Portalance. They have four children Gerald, Donna, Betty Ann and Dennis. They are residing in Red Deer.

Etta married a boy from Nipawin Saskatchewan in September of 1957 and they have two boys, Robert and Kelly. They reside in Carstairs.

In 1962 we sold our land at James River now realizing land was so hard to find and looked for a year before finding the land we now live on S.E. ¼-Sec. 17-Twp. 39-R. 5-W. 5. We bought this from an elderly man by the name of Dan Page and we moved here May 1, 1963, with our two boys. Jim and Don. Donald stayed one year and went working out at Westerdale where he met the former Sharon Bronson whom he married in December of 1966. They have two girls, Connie and Lori. In 1967 James left and married the former Mrs. May Cowan in July, 1968. James passed away October 12, 1974.

Now we are back to being just the two of us milking a few cows and keeping a few chickens and more or less taking life a little easy surrounded by good friends and neighbors.

[illegible]

— by Vivian Bunce

Over the past 31 years we have lived on four different farms in the area covered by this book

As we were not pioneer settlers nor even permanent residents, I shall write very briefly on each location.

After we were married in Benalto in 1946 we rented our first quarter of land from Gust Moltus. Here we lived in a small tarpaper shack on the land situated between Withrow and Globy. We were hailed out that year so were forced to obtain employment elsewhere.

Walter obtained a steady job with Imperial Oil in the Leduc oil field and it wasn't until 1951 that we were able to purchase a quarter of land from Kalle Kivinen. This was right next to the land we had previously rented. We were only weekend farmers for several years and thoroughly enjoyed coming to the farm. In the last part of 1954 Walter was transfered to a battery job at Lesliеville so we were finally able to move and to live on our farm. Then, due to the poor roads, we were unable to get the children to school, and decided to move to Lesliеville. We lived in town for two years, during which time we were able to purchase another quarter of land, SE 10-40-4-W5, and also bought the Wolfe School House and moved it to the farm. We remodelled it and installed power, sewer and water and by this time the road was high graded and gravelled so we were able to move back in the summer of

Walter had now been transferred to the Red Deer field. Joffre so we moved to the city at the close of 1959 and lived there for ten months and were once again back on the farm. This time it was to be for four years during which time we raised sheep. Finally it proved too much for our health and we sold the farm to Vic Owen in 1964.

We lived in Red Deer for some months while building a large home on one acre in Valleyview Subdivision. We lived there for five years when we again had the farming fever and wanted to our young boys out into the country. After we ur property sold we were able to purchase a farm at Alhambra from Ray and Blanche Harris. Here we raised cattle and thoroughly enjoyed being out in the country again. We were o live here for five years when we decided to move north of Lesliеville onto this farm. SW 31 40-4-W5, which we had purchased from Senia and Charlie Valley. Our son, Gerald, remained on the Alhambra farm with his wife, the former Laurie Urbinsky. During this past summer of 1977 this farm at Alhambra was sold to our neighbors, Clarence and Terry Needham. We purchased a half section from Molly Phelan, the former Lebihan farm which is located adjacent to the land we now live on. Gerald and Laurie with their baby daughter live on this new land and do most of the farming for us.

Our children have attended school at Eckville, Lesliеville and David Thompson High School. Cheryl is married to Robert Green and has three children and are at present living at Innisfail. Joyce is married to Gary Mah, has three children and lives in Rocky Mountain House. Vern is married to Gwen Needham, has three children and lives near Withrow. Janice is married to Gary Dietrich, has one little girl and lives north of Lesliеville. Judy married Ron Marcinek, has two boys and lives near Condor. Wanda married Arnold Gray, has one little girl and they live north-west of Lesliеville on the Gray farm. Sandra is single and works in Red Deer. Dwayne is also single and works around Central Alberta. Donald is in Red Deer, working in a welding shop.

The years we have lived on farms in this area have been our happiest years. It has been a good place to raise a large family and the beauty of this country compares with the best anywhere. For a family on the move, it is a real joy to have a farm to settle on.

**BUTLER, TOM** - (By Ken Martin)

Tom Butler came to Alberta from Ontario in 1906 and homesteaded the N E ¼ 20-39-5 W5, this land being two miles north of the present village of Alhambra. Later on he purchased the N W ¼ 20-39-5 (W5) from Bob McGuire. He farmed this half section until the fall of 1947 when due to ill health he was forced to retire. He never married. His mother and sister Jean, joined him a short time after he came out and his sister, Sally came out a few years later. His mother lived with him until her death in 1940 and his sister Jean lived with him and helped him with his farming until her marriage to Austin Raynor in the middle thirties. Jean was a very good teamster and did her share of the field work which was all done with horses. She also had a fine flock of sheep, approximately one-hundred head. She had a name for each one of them and though they all looked alike she could pick out any one of them at any time and tell you its name. She could also do the same thing with a quite a large herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle which Tom had. She also had a name for each one of the cattle. Sally Butler had been a nurse before coming to this area and at the time she came out here she had tuberculosis quite badly. The doctor in Ontario told her she only had a short time to live. She built herself a small building which was open on the whole south side. She covered the open side with cheesecloth and slept in it and the good western fresh air cured her of this disease and she lived a good healthy life until well over eighty years of age. Sally never married and kept house for her brother Tom all the time they lived here. She looked after her mother who was in ill health for a number of years before she died. Sally was a wonderful cook. All the time they lived here they kept all the furniture which they had brought with them from the east. The only cook stove she had was a small wood stove which could be classed as a real homesteader's stove but could she ever put up good meals with it. She was famous for her steam puddings which she had quite regularly for dessert. They lived in a log house all their

years here and she had scrubbed the board floor until it was worn down until the knots in the boards were higher than the rest of the floor. She was one of the kindest women that I have ever known. Tom was also a kind and gentle man who never got excited and always took lots of time and did things very thoroughly.

He built up a very fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle in which took great pride and was a great lover of horses. His one enjoyment in life was smoking his pipe, he always used the old style plug pipe tobacco which he whittled with his knife and, like all pipe smokers, he used a great deal of matches. He used to sit in an arm chair which had a hardwood seat about one and one half inches thick. he struck matches on the bottom of the seat of this chair always in the same place with the same stroke of his arm until he had a groove worn in it so that it was almost worn through the seat of the chair. At the time he had his auction sale I had my mind made up I would buy that chair regardless of what it cost me but to my disappointment they did not sell any of their household effects.

Tom was a very interesting story teller and I could go on for a long time relating the stories he has told me of the early homesteading days and stories of eastern Canada. In my days as a teenager I used to stook for him for several years and the wonderful meals Sally cooked, especially those steam puddings. I will always remember. Upon retiring in 1947 he sold his farm to Austin Raynor. In 1951 Austin Raynor traded this farm to Joe McGhee for his farm in the Lamoral area which is approximately 40 miles west of Rocky Mountain House. In the fall of 1952 Joe McGhee sold it to Bud and Ken Martin who still farm it at the present time. Tom and Sally Butler moved to Parksville, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. I am not sure but I think Tom passed away two or three years later and Sally passed away sometime in the 1960's, but what year I am not sure. It was a privilege knowing such fine people and I am proud to be living on Tom Butler's homestead at this time.

## COCHRANE, HATTIE AND FAMILY

Mrs. Hattie Cochrane and her three sons came from Tioga, North Dakota and filed on homesteads in the Horseguard district in August 1910. Mrs. Cochrane filed on NE 36-38-6 W5, and her sons, John Whitney on NE 33-38-5 W5, William Hector on NE 31-38-5 W5, and James Edward on NW 36-38-6 W5.

In March, 1911 Mrs. Cochrane at 55 years of age moved her family of three sons, John age 31, William 24, James 18 and four daughters, Eva 21, Gladys 20, Hattie 16, Bernice 14 and John's son, Don, eight years, to her homestead. They lived in a log house for three years until the new house was built in 1914. The house was just a shell when the girls decided they were tired of living in the log house so forced their hand by moving all of their furniture out of the log house. The new house was still without shingles, windows and doors but the girls told their brothers that if they wanted any supper they had to move the cook stove into the new house. So the brothers moved the stove and the piano into the new house. This same piano is in the Alhambra Community Centre today where it has been used for many years and is still used. Mrs. Hattie Cochrane brought it with her from Buffalo, Minnesota, when she moved to homestead in Tioga in 1910.

John's son, Don, died of the flu in 1919 at the age of 15 years in Hanna, Alberta. John was very active in the district. He served 18 years on the council of the Raven Municipal District, six years on the School Board of the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 and he was a director for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. He took the census of the district for many years, and in the early days he rode horseback to do the job. J. W. Cochrane M.M. and D.C.M. served in World War I with the 10th Battalion and he received a medal for services rendered beyond the call of duty for which he received a pension from the King's Purse for the rest of his life. John died in June 1968.

William Hector served in World War I from 1915 to 1918. He returned to Alhambra in July 1919 and farmed with his brothers. He married Margaret von Hollen in October, 1931. They moved to the SE 18-39-5-W5 where they farmed. William rejoined the army in World War II and returned home in 1946. William and Margaret have one daughter, Lorraine, and two sons, Malcolm and J. Angus. William died in February, 1954.

Lorraine married George McCallum and they live in Victoria, B.C. They have five daughters and three sons.

Malcolm lives on his grandmother Hattie Cochrane's homestead. He married Anna Andresen from Ponoka, on June 28, 1969.

Angus lives on his dad's farm. He married Gloria Nothof from Hespero on April 23, 1960. They have two sons, William and James, both at home.

Eva moved to California and married Earl Leason.

Gladys married Tom Hall in 1915. He served in the Canadian Navy and was stricken with the flu on his way home and died in Red Deer. Gladys was remarried in 1921 to Joe Sullivan who was a barber and ran the pool hall in Alhambra. They had two sons, Dave and George. Dave died at the age of five. George lives in the United States. Gladys and Joe moved to Castle Rock, Washington. Gladys later moved back to Alhambra and lived with her brothers. John and Jim now resides at the Hardisty Nursing Home in Edmonton.

James Edward (Jim) farmed in the district and lived with his mother. He raised sheep for 30 years. He bought his first car, a Model T Ford, in 1921. He now resides at the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House.

Hattie worked for Sam Emmerson for two years and then she moved to Hanna and from there to California. She had three sons, William, Terrance, and Donald

Bernice married Arthur Pederson in June 1917 and they lived on his homestead the SE 32 38-5-W5 for two years They had two children. Gloria and Arthur

Mrs. Hattie Cochrane had two married daughters, Edna and Grace, who also came to he Alhambra district. Edna had married G Emil Larson in 1905 in Tioga They also had filed on a homestead, the SW-5-39-5-W5, in August 1910 and moved on it in March, 1911. Their children are Lars who married Ann Steed and they have two sons, Lorne and Adrich, Grace, married William Mofford and they moved to the United States Dave and Ruth, both deceased, Robert born at Alhambra, had rheumatic fever and spent a year on his back then went to his aun. Bernice Pederson in Washington. he is married and they live at Castle Rock, Washington, John William, born at Alhambra, married Marge Birch and they have two children and live in Ed monton. Edna Mae married Chris Moeller, they have three children and they live in the Rocky Mountain House area G. Emil Larson died in 1967 Mrs. G. Emil Larson lives in Rocky Moun ain House with her son, Lars, and grandson, Lorne Mrs. Larson is 92 years of age and is st

Grace married Burr Floyd Randall (Doc Randall and they came to the district about 1930 and lived on the NE-27-38-6-W5. They had two children, Joe married Marie A Fleury, and they have one son and four daughters Grace (Gaye) married Jim Philips. They live in the Arbutus district and they have one son and three

The Cochrane home was known as a stopping house to all homesteaders trekking between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House

In 1924 the Cochrane Brothers had a contract to clear and burn the right of way for the road from Alhambra to Rocky Mountain House, now known as Highway 11 The old winding road was from one half mile to one mile south of the pre sent highway

**DAVID THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL**

The David Thompson High School is situated on the southwest corner of the SE-1-39-5-W5 along Highway 11 leading west to the David Thompson Highway

"This school is the brain child, not of one, but of several men from the Department of Educa tion from the Divisional School Board architects, contractors and carpenters Moreover, the David Thompson grew out of a pressing need for high school classrooms — classrooms to accommodate students from the north east, south and west students brought to its doors by buses from Lesliеville, Condor and

The school opened September, 1957, under pioneering difficulties, certainly at the begin ning of the term — minus several windows, doors and a gym floor and a long list of other things The school was not completed until half of the school term was over The official opening was on February 11, 1958, when a crowd of more than 750 people gathered in this magnificent new school The evening started at 7:30 with a tour of the school and at 8:00 the Opening Ceremony commenced with Mr D Hall as chairman Dr T C. Bryne, Chief Superintendent of Schools for Alberta, cut the ribbon and declared the new building open The invocation was delivered by

the principal speakers

Bryne and Mr J Cony Kerry Bissell of Bissell and Holman, the architects, presented the key to the school, to Principal J. Lindberg

Other speakers were Mr J Cony Mr S Sande, Mr Wm. Lougheed and Orlen von Hollen president of the Students' Union

Two of the Rocky Mountain School Divisional Trustees, Mr Louis Karlsen and Mr Sigurd Sande were honored for long years of service by being presented with gold watches engraved with these words. 40 years School Trustee Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15

The first staff of the David Thompson High School Mr J Lindberg Principal, Mr D Hall, Mr M Sharpe, Mr Wm. Davidson, Mrs. A Sunde. Mrs. L Westergard, Miss J Norton, Mr Dobbs

The first Student Council President — Orlen Hollen, Vice-President — Heather Smith,

Ramona Lipka, Room Representatives — Elaine Rangen, Gerald Brandon, Wayne Lindeberg Leone Torgeson, Audrey Sunde

The first Yearbook Staff: Editors — Donald Holmgren and Ramona Lipka, Faculty Advisor — Mr J Lindberg, Staff Photographer — David Akitt, Staff — Marion Kauppi, Fay Russell, Heather Smith, Arlene Gold, Patricia Brown Wayne Lindeberg, Kenneth Ellis

When the Yearbook Staff was asked why they named this yearbook, "The Explorer" they gave these reasons David Thompson was foremost among Western Canada's great explorers, and like him, this yearbook is blazing a new trail in an effort to establish a worthy tradition for our school moreover, we thought of the Explorer satellite, which we hope, is the precursor of greater things to come. Does not this title indeed seem fitting?

The first Graduating Class, Delores Biswanger, Lorraine Biswanger Louise Brand Patricia Brown, Birdie Diraten, Vernon Dyrland, Ken Ellis, Joyce Granlund, Tommy

Houston, James Kaspersons, Stanley Kaupp Elaine Kubic, John Martin, Lorna Nelson, W Pattison, Florence Poland, Laureen Polnau Hah Rangen, Sharon Smith, Jenny Stolte, Orlen von Hotten, Leonard White

Over the years additional rooms have been built to this High School and as well the gymnasium has been enlarged. This has helped ensure that the rural school children would be offered all the facilities and thus obtain an education of the same quality as urban school children. It was for this reason that the School Division was organized

The other excerpts are taken from the keynote speech delivered by Alma Sunde at the David Thompson High School Graduation Ceremony. May 14, 1976

**DICKSON, SAMUEL AND ALMA**

Samuel Dickson was born in Glasgow Scotland in 1877. In 1898 he came with his parents to the area west of Innisfail, now known as Dickson. Sam went to Toronto to learn watchmaking. He worked at this trade in Innisfail and Red Deer. In 1912 he moved to Fort Frances, Ontario, where he married Alma Wilkes. They operated the Royal Theatre there from 1912-1920. They then returned to Innisfail with their son, John. Sam and Alma, with their children John and Donna moved to the Alhambra district in 1921 where they purchased a farm. Sam and Alma had three more sons, Robert James (Jim), Kenneth, and Gordon. Sam will long be remembered for his musical ability. He played his violin at many parties, dances, and

Mrs. Angus Martin, and Frank Scott. Sam Dickson died in 1952 and is buried in the Lesliieville Cemetery. Alma married Eugene Bayer and they live in Fort Frances, Ontario.

John went to the Prairie Rose School south of Leslieville and later to the Alhambra School. He joined the Canadian Army in 1940 and served overseas for five years. After the War he worked for 27 years in the post office in Fort Frances. He is now retired. In 1950 he married Marjorie and they have five children, Linda, Beverly, John (Jackie), Daniel, and Debra. Beverly is married to Roger Wilson and they have two children. Beverly and Roger live in Stratford, Ontario, where they are registered Linda, Jack and Danny work in Fort Frances and Debbie is in school.

Donna went to school at Alhambra. She later worked at the Telephone Exchange in Sylvan Lake. In 1937 she married John Mac* Pollitt of Alhambra. They have four sons, Robert, James Gary and Donald. Robert (Bob) married Sharon Raymond in 1959. Bob operates "R. Pollitt Oilfield Construction" and Sharon is the receptionist at the Eckville Hospital. They live north of Leslieville and have four children, Wendy, who has graduated from high school, Darren, Melanie and Merrilee are in school. Jimmy married Faye Medin in 1963. They have three children, Dallas and Sandra in school and Shane at home. Jim and Faye live north of Withrow. Jim is employed as battery operator for Tipco Oil Company. Gary married Patricia Edwards in 1966. They have two children, Michelle and Mark, both in school. Gary and Pat live north of Beaver Flat. Gary works for Alberta Gas Trunk Line and Pat at the Treasury Branch in Rocky Mountain House. Donny married Rena Walker on July 6, 1974. He died in an oilfield accident September 16, 1974. Rena lives in Red Deer and works for Peavey Industries. Mac and Donna now live in Leslieville. They work for Speight Construction.

Robert James (Jim) took all his schooling at Alhambra. He joined the Armed Forces in 1944 and was stationed at Camrose and Suffield Alberta. Jim then worked in various points in northwestern Ontario until he returned home in 1947. In 1949 he married Alberta (Bobbie) Hall of Red Deer. In 1951 they bought a half section of land south of Leslieville where they still reside. Jim and Bobbie have eight children, Sharyn, Bruce, Brenda, Kerrilee, Laurel Dean, Susan, Brian and David. Sharyn married Wayne

the former Ray Bunch farm. Sharyn and Wayne have four children, James, Brady, Donald and Chantel. Bruce, after graduating from high school, joined his father on the farm. In 1975 Bruce married Judy Roberts of the Washington Heights area north of Leslieville. They have two sons, Robert and Derek. Brenda received her degree in education. She married Dick Feser in 1975 and they have one daughter, Jennifer. Brenda and Dick live in Red Deer where Brenda teaches at West Park Junior High and Dick is Recreational Manager of the Roland Michener Centre. Kerrilee attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and took Computer Technology. She is employed as a Programmer Analyst at Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton. Laurel Dean married Glen Winchester in 1975. They have one daughter, Janet. Laurel Dean is postmistress at the Leslieville Post Office and Glen has a truck working in Oilfield Maintenance. Susan has graduated from high school and Brian and David are attending school.

Kenneth graduated from Red Deer High School and moved to Fort Frances in 1946 where he became a jeweler. He married Rose DeBenedet in 1949. They moved to Dryden, Ontario where they own and operate a jewellery store. Ken and Rose have three children, Robert, Sandra and Douglas. Robert is studying accounting in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In 1975 Sandra married Martin Lappage and they farm near Oxdrift, Ontario. Douglas is working with his father.

Gordon moved to Fort Frances in 1946. He served many years with the Provincial Police in Atikokan, Ontario. He married Ruth Barrett in

1969. They have four children, Donna, Barbara Janet, and Gordon. Donna is a registered nurse. She married John Naturkach in 1970. They have two children and live in Thunder Bay. Barbara also a registered nurse, married Jack Witiuk in 1974 and they have two children. They live in Thunder Bay where Jack has a motorcycle shop. Janet and Gordy live in Thunder Bay where Gordy attends school. Gordon was remarried to Shirley Bianco in 1974. They live in Sanford, Manitoba where Gordon is a carpenter and Shirley is a nurse.

**EMMERSON, SAM — submitted by Evelyn MacDonald**

Sam Emmerson was a time-keeper on the C.P.R. when it was going through to Rocky Mountain House in 1912. The first store and post office in Alhambra was run by Mr. Bissel. When it burned down Sam Emmerson built the store and ran the post office, later the long distance telephone and rural exchange. He was a well educated man and always returned kindness with kindness but would not be pushed. He always had two girls working for him, one for the post office and the other a clerk, and a heavy man. The first one was Ira Schilling and later Bert Spearing; he, Margaret Scott and I were there when Sam Emmerson died of a heart attack in 1931.

Sam Emmerson — Alhambra — with [illegible]

Sam Emmerson — 1931

Sam Emmerson was on the school board for many years and helped finance the hall which is still used today.

**A FARRINGTON FAMILY — by Ted Farrington**

The Farrington family immigrated to Canada in 1906 and lived in Calgary until March of 1920 when we moved to Alhambra.

There was my father, mother, my brother George and my sister Lucy, and myself. George who had served overseas in the first World War had bought a farm through the Soldier Settlement Board and my dad later homesteaded a ¼ section half a mile south of the place George had bought.

When we left Calgary on the 12 of March the snow was all gone but when we got to Alhambra the snow was still knee deep.

We arrived with four work horses, my saddle horse and two milk cows.

The place George had bought was known as the Big Bogg place. Our nearest neighbors were the Mowat family, who lived on the place later bought by Frank Scott who moved on in 1921 or 22. Jack Pollitt lived on his homestead just to the west of us. In the early days the people seemed to have more time for fun. In the winter there were always surprise parties and card parties. Just before Christmas we used to go to all the Christmas concerts at the schools around the district. A favorite one was Beaver Flat where they always had a good concert.

In the summer the mail came three times a week and the people seemed to have time to go to town. Most evenings we would play ball and then down to the old swimming hole on Scott's or up the creek at Bradshaws. The Bradshaws had moved from Hespero the same year we got to Alhambra and settled north of Alhambra. There were no roads in the district when we first came. We had to follow trails through the Hudson Bay section. The first year we worked on the road west of Alhambra cutting and laying corduroy and then hauled dirt with dump wagons and fresnos. The roads were made then by clearing the brush out by hand and then you plowed the furrows and then with a team and slip put the dirt in the middle of the road to make a grade.

In 1936 Germaine Chevallier and I were married and we rented the farm from my brother and dad. Mother and Dad moved to Calgary for their retirement. In 1942 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

In 1938 Germaine and I bought one of John Cochrane's quarters where we live now.

There was not much broke on it and it was slow work clearing by hand. The first year we cleared 10 acres and Fernie Chevalier broke it with eight horses. The following year, Howard Long who was in charge of Skoodopole's brush

clearing cat, was in the district looking for work and we had some land cleared with it. It was the first brush cutting done in this area. Now we have three quarters of land. We have recently bought a house in Rocky Mountain House for our

**THE ROSS GOODWIN FAMILY**

Ross was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba during the Depression. He was adopted by James and Norma Goodwin and raised in the Oak Lake area. At the early age of 15 he left home.

His first job was freighting in northern Manitoba. He had a variety of jobs and saw a lot of the country and eventually worked on oil rigs. He moved with the Alberta rig, Commonwealth Drilling to Fox Harbour, Nova Scotia in 1963. He met Beverly Benjamin and later married her in 1964.

We, Ross and Bev, left Nova Scotia the end of May in 1964 and travelled by car through several States, then back to Calgary, Alberta. We checked with Commonwealth Drilling and were sent with a rig that moved north of Lesueville. We rented a home there and worked on rigs in that area. In 1965 Ross quit working for oil rigs and bought a backhoe. In 1966 we moved to Alhambra and rented a house from P. Cummerford, which formerly had been owned by Mac Pollitt. Later, we bought the quarter, the NE-9 39-5-W5, that we are now on.

We cleared about 30 acres and drained the low land. At present it is all under cultivation — except for eight acres. We used to pick roots and have a wiener roast. We still live in the house built by Jack Kerr who was helped by Mr. Fitch. Mr. Kerr homesteaded this quarter and built this

We have a family of four. Bobby born November 18, 1964, Jimmy born January 10, 1967, Carla born November 28, 1968, and Donna born April 3, 1970. The children are bused to school at Lesilleville, and enjoy it here. There are many forms of recreation nearby, curling, hockey, bowling, swimming, fishing and camping.

We have noticed over the past few years more things in this area for the children, the annual picnic, the Christmas concert, ball teams, and classes held at the Community Centre.

The community hall has really changed in appearance and name. Alhambra Community Centre. It has brought the community closer together. Also in the last few years we now have a mail route, natural gas, and dial telephones.

**GRANLUND, EINO AND BERTHA**

Eino Granlund emigrated from Finland in 1927. He arrived in the Alhambra district and tried to find a job. He worked at odd jobs, harvesting, helped on threshing crews, cleared land, worked in the winter months in lumber camps cutting railroad ties and worked on the Nordegg highway for awhile. He got a job working on the C.P.R. track for the summer months at 25 cents an hour, while in the winter he cleared land and worked in lumber camps. He applied for Cook's farm and had it for a time. Fred Mushka bought it later.

Bertha came from Geyser, Montana with her family - Mother and seven children. Father had come earlier to look for a place to settle. They came by train to the Brosseau district and stayed for a year. Father located a homestead in the Evergreen district where he built a log cabin with the help of his brother, Charlie. They lived in a rented house at a neighbor's farm until the log cabin was finished. Bertha attended school for one year at Kuusamo and she had to walk three miles, then at Knowledge and at Evergreen for Grade 8 which she was not successful in passing because her help was needed at home as Mother was not too well.

Bertha and Eino were married on August 21, 1937, at the Baptist Church in Red Deer. They lived in the section house at Alhambra with the twins, Neil and Helen, who were a little over a year old. They were interested in land owned by the Hudson's Bay Company which happened to be available so they made a contract with Hudson's Bay to pay for it. They got enough land cleared for a building and had a granary moved on the clearing. They got Eino Lund to build an addition to serve as a living room and kitchen. The granary was made into a couple of bedrooms. Before the house was ready to live in the weather turned cold and they were freezing in the section house so Bertha sewed slippers from old felt liners for the twins' feet to keep them warm on the floor. One week before Christmas they moved into the new house and as the family increased more additions were built. They lived in this house until 1972. The other children are Joyce born 1940, John born 1943 died four days later, Kenneth born 1945 and Rosebud born 1946.

This land was mostly heavy timber and muskeg and needed clearing before breaking could be done in preparation for seeding a crop or even a garden. They got a double bed and a cow from Bertha's parents as a wedding present. They had a few acres cleared by 1939, about 16 acres and Harry Manning did the breaking, Bertha's brother, Charlie, broke another 10 acres in 1940 which they had seeded for feed. Their horse machinery was bought from Bertha's brother-in-law who was planning to go to Red Deer for a job.

They pastured a neighbors' horses and in return were allowed to use them. When the time came to bind the grain, one horse didn't like the job so he lay down in front of the binder. They had to do something! All afternoon Bertha walked beside the binder to keep the horse moving with a whip as a reminder! They only had Labour Day free for cutting the grain as the railroad work was their source of income. After a fashion they did get it done; stooking was the next job. Chores were done late that evening in

the dark. After walking all afternoon in the hot sun, Bertha was very tired. The grain was threshed for the livestock. Elno got an engine and a grinder to grind the grain he bought from his brother-in-law. He also got a circular saw for sawing wood.

In the fall of 1941 Elno was debating if he should apply for active service in the army or buy a pair of work pants. He decided to join up and try his luck. He was accepted. Bertha was left with three little children, the twins five and one-half years old and Joyce one and a half years old. Elno was discharged after the war in 1946. He went back on the job for the C.P.R. on different sections as he wanted to be foreman. The children and Bertha kept the farm in operation as well as they could. Bertha's brother, Charlie, came to help haul feed and grind the grain as there were pigs and cows to feed. The hogs helped to pay for the land even though they only got $20 each for a 220 pound hog. There were so many kind people who came to help through sickness and baby-sitting when needed.

In the late 40's they bought two quarter sections, NE-4-39-6-W5 and SE-28-39-6-W5, adjoining each other for growing hay. They sold this land in the early seventies to the Wolters of Leslieville and then built a modern home on the home place.

Nell married Phyllis Willet and they have four daughters, Joanne, Dianne, Mary Ann and Rae Ann. They reside at Innisfail.

Helen married Ralph Whaley and they have three daughters and one son, Linda, Christine, William and Sandra. Helen and Ralph reside at Medicine Hat. Linda married David Parsons and they have one son, Shaye. They reside in Alhambra.

Joyce married Roger Villadeen and they have two children, Dana and Shelley. They reside at Devon.

Kenneth married Donna Wray and they are awaiting the arrival of their first child. They reside at Edmonton.

Rosebud lives at St. Albert.

**HARRIS RAY AND FAMILY — by Blanche Harris**

Ray Arnold Harris and I. Blanche Ida were married May 9, 1928, in my parents' home. Our parents homesteaded, when Saskatchewan was still part of the North West Territories, south of Carlwale, Saskatchewan.

We were all born in the south-east corner of Saskatchewan, where we farmed for the first 21 years of our married life. Then Ray worked at bridge building until he joined the army. He was stationed at the Royal Canadian Engineer Army Camp, Chilliwack, B.C., where he served his country to the end of the war.

We moved south-east of Rocky Mountain House from Vedder Crossing, B.C. until we located a farm. We met Mr. Pollitt at a railway crossing and in the conversation, he informed us he had a farm for sale. That is how we located in the Alhambra district where we farmed for a

We, with our three youngest children, Joan, Doreen, June, Gwendolene and Larry Vincent moved onto the former Jack and Jessie Pollitt farm in April, 1947, which we purchased through the Veterans' Land Act. Ray was a veteran of the Second World War. Our eldest son, Alton Duane, joined us later.

In May 1954 Ray became postmaster and myself his assistant, we also purchased the building the post office was in. I drove into Alhambra from the farm to care for the post office until September when we moved into Alhambra, with Ray continuing to farm from the hamlet until we sold it in July, 1970 to Walter and Vivian Bunch of Red Deer.

In September, 1969 the first mail route out of Alhambra was formed, Ray contracted to operate it which he has done ever since.

I was news reporter for the local newspaper for several years, quitting early 1977 since, I have acted as an assistant.

Duane joined the Navy early in 1946, he served his enlistment period in an air carrier in many parts of the world. While he was stationed at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia he married Evelyn Francis McKay, October 17, 1952. Their union was blessed with two sons and a daughter.

Joan became a weather observer training in Edmonton, she was stationed in Rocky Mountain, November 1953. Later she became officer in charge until she resigned in 1974. She married Christopher Stanley Pulay of Rocky Mountain House, June 30, 1973. Her hobby is raising purebred Arabian horses.

June worked in a bank and business office in Edmonton where she married James Albert Wiltshire, March 15, 1958. Their union was blessed with a son and a daughter.

Larry worked as a weather observer at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. and various points in Alberta. He then took a two year tour of the world, then he attended university in Edmonton and has taught school at the Olds College, various points in the North West Territories and Alberta. He married Betty Lou Plumm of Wetaskiwin in Edmonton April 7, 1965. Their union was blessed with three sons. We are retiring December 31, 1977 to travel, quilt and collect rocks and Ray will indulge in following sports and play pool.

**HARTLEY WM. (BILL) AND ELIZABETH (LIL) — by Ruby (Hartley) Anderson**

Bill Hartley was born October 4, 1896 in Sub District of Chertsey in the County of Surrey, London, England. He enlisted in World War I in 1915 and served in France until demobilization was declared and he was discharged from the service. He was 22 years old. A few years after recovering from the War he worked for the C.P.R. in the yards. Later he met Lil Hink. She was born October 20, 1894 in Euclid, North Dakota, U.S.A. They got married and lived in

Calgary for a few years where Richard and I Ruby were born

In the early 30's Dad (R. ) and Mom (L.) bought a farm, the NE½-12-38-5-W5 at A hambra where they broke land and farmed with horses but Dad continued working his way up on the C P R and became a fireman In the meantime Mom continued with the farm chores She always grew a large garden enough for all winter canned meat by the quarts and did all the baking We always had our own milk, cream butter and eggs Our yard was a picture of beauty because Mom enjoyed growing flowers She sewed most of our clothes from rags and hand me-down clothes Tilley was born in 1935

Richard and I started school in Ahambra We rode horseback as we were two and one half miles from school Dad had now become an engineer and operated the C P R. engine Number 441 from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House Three times a week the train went west Sometimes Richard and I would go to the railway station after school was out and wait for the train. While the mail and other supplies were being unloaded we would board the engine with Dad for a ride home where he would stop the old engine and set us off Mom and Tilley would be in the barnyard waiting for the two little coal black kids to help with the chores after they had some lunch

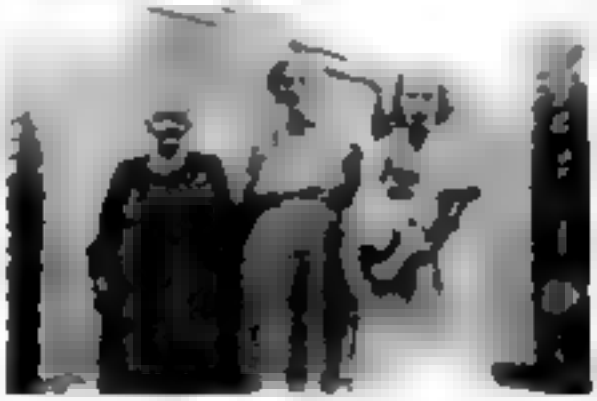
Our first car was a 1934 Chevrolet that Dad bought a few years before we left the farm. In 1944 Dad and Mom sold the farm and moved to Red Deer where they bought a house in West Park Mom really enjoyed her home here as she had Calgary Power and lots of room compared with the little farm house She was free of all house farm chores, so she had more time for her garden and flowers which she loved to care for Dad was still an engineer on the C.P R. running different lines out of Red Deer In 953 they sold his home and built their new home on 43 Street in West Park

Dad was a well-known railway figure In 1932 he was one of a small group responsible for the formation of the Canadian Pacific Railwaymen's Social Club. an organization that has become very active in railway social affairs Dad was chairman of the club for several years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Waskasoo Lodge No. 16 of the I.O.O.F Another field that Dad was very active in was the Red Deer Pioneers' and Oldtimers Association where he served one term as the president

After 37 years of service as an engineer he retired In the fall of 1954 Dad and Mom were honored at a banquet in Red Deer which was attended by top C P R officials in Alberta and

On September 5. 1955 Dad passed away in the Red Deer General Hospital.

*See poem about this train by Lyla Sarasin Here Comes Limpy on page 256



(Stanley) Newman holding daughter, Karen, Red Deer 1952

In the fall of 1962 Mom sold her home and built another new home on the next lot Landscaping this new yard included planting rose bushes, trees flowers and a garden and the result she created a beautiful surrounding for her new home.

When Mom travelled she would go by train to visit her relatives and friends who lived far away

Mom was very active until her passing on February 24, 197

**RUBY (HARTLEY) AND CLARENCE ANDERSON FAMILY — (By Ruby (Hartley) Anderson)**

I was born in Calgary June 16, 1931 and moved with my parents, Bill and Li Hartley and my brother Richard to be farm in Alhambra in the early 30's. In 1938 I started school in Alhambra. I rode horseback most of the time to go the 2 and one half miles to school. Highlights of those years were the Christmas concerts in the Alhambra Hall that were enjoyed by all. Santa's arrival added that extra happiness. Some of my teachers at this school were Anna (Sande) Sunde, Miss Stagg and Mrs. Stollings.

One experience I still remember while living on the farm happened when Richard and I were picking raspberries. In the distance we saw something black coming up the road but we kept on picking and finally our pails were full so we hurried home. After a few minutes our neighbor, August Savory, came and asked Mom if she had seen a bear. She hadn't seen a bear. But we guessed right then that the black object we had seen on the road was a bear coming. We were scared then all right, and didn't go picking berries for a long time.

In July 28, 1944, Dad and Mom sold the farm and moved to Red Deer so I continued my schooling in the city. After finishing my schooling I worked at the Dry Cleaners and then at Scott's 5c to $1 Store. Then I left for Vermilion where I worked for Sandy and Ann Wright's Dry Cleaners. Later when I was back in Red Deer I met Roy (Chub) Newman, formerly from Condor. We were married in Calgary August 30, 1952. He owned his own truck and we moved to Retoks where he hauled grave. Then we moved to Rocky Mountain House where he worked in the bush. Here our son, Roger, was born in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital.

Ruby and Roy (Chub) Newman with son Roger and Karen (inset)

We were looking for a farm and finally settled on a farm seven miles south-west of Rimbey. Roy got a chuckwagon outfit and he was also an outrider for several chuckwagon outfits. We had many happy exciting days and we really enjoyed it. In January, 1956, Karen was born. We continued to farm and run our chuckwagon until 1958, Roy took ill and passed away in September 1958, in the University Hospital, Edmonton as a young man. We stayed on the farm and the children attended school in Rimbey.

In 1960 I married Clarence Anderson, from Bentley, Alberta. We purchased two more quarters of land west of our farm on the Leedale road. I work at the Rimbey Auction Mart, and have worked there for 15 years. I love outdoor life. Clarence is a foreman for Alpine Blasting from Edmonton. In 1962 our daughter Della was born. She attends school in Rimbey now in Grade 10. She has taken swimming lessons and figure skating lessons since she was eight years old. She loves swimming, skating and riding horseback and all outdoor life.

My son Roger married Edith Kemmis in [redacted]. They have two daughters, Wendy Ann five, and Joanne two. Roger is partsman for Roper's Ltd. He also helps me on the farm and he loves animals and farm life, riding horseback, fishing and hunting. They reside on the quarter west of Karen.

My daughter Karen married Randy Cross. They have one daughter, Tanya two. Randy works for Flint at the Rimbey Gas Plant. Karen loves outdoor life, riding horseback, fishing, working in the garden and with flowers. She also likes to cook. They reside on the quarter west of

**D[illegible]TLEY, RICHARD AND RUBY — (By Richard Hartley)**

was born in Calgary, October 30, 1932. I

moved from Calgary with my parents, Bill and Lil Hartley to Alhambra in the early 30s. In 1939 I started school in Alhambra and one of my teachers was Alma (Sande) Sunde. Our farm was two and one half miles from school so I rode horseback. In 1944, I moved with my family to Red Deer where I finished school.

I married Ruby Elizabeth Duncan in 1955. Ruby was born in Pakingham Township in the Ottawa Valley, Ontario. For two years we lived in Red Deer where two of our sons, Richard Jr. and [illegible] were born.

In 1958 we bought an acreage about one mile west of Red Deer and moved into a little trailer which was the bedroom and a granary served as a kitchen. It had a wood and coal stove, a table and chairs and an apple box made into a washstand. We had no power nor running water.

In 1959 we bought a mobile catering service better known as "Richard's Chuckwagon" loading up twice a day with coffee, hot dogs, pop, bars and pastry, etc. we served various business establishments in Red Deer, and built up our business as the city expanded which necessitated our buying two new trucks.

Mrs. W. Hartley and son Richard with the Chuckwagon Catering Service. Mrs. Hartley and Mrs. Richard Hartley

I have been an auctioneer since 1966. Also in 1966 I started my gravel trucking business called 'Canary Trucking". At one time I was in the New and Used Furniture Business.

Our third son, Roy, was born in 1961. The same year we built a new modern home for which we both had worked hard driving our mobile catering trucks.

My sons and I have always been animal lovers. We have ridden in the Red Deer Parades, and in gymkhanas and we have received many trophies and honorable mention several times. Our sons are also very interested in cars and again they have won trophies. Ruby likes to cook, garden and grow flowers.

**RISKE, COURTNEY AND TILLEY — (By Tilley Riske)**

I Tilley Hartley was born on my parents farm west of Alhambra and I am the third child of Bill and Lil Hartley. I started school at Alhambra. When I was nine years old my parents sold the farm and we moved to Red Deer where we lived in a large eight-room house in West Park. I attended Central Elementary, Central Junior High, and Composite High schools.

Tilley Hartley and Richard Hartley going to Alhambra School, 1944.

When I finished school in 1951, I worked for seven years as cashier in the Royal Cafe. Then I moved to Calgary and I worked as an N.C.R. bookkeeping machine operator and cashier in the Parisian.

In 1959 I married Courtney Riske. We bought a home in 1960 in Calgary where we lived until 1977. Then we bought an acreage in Symon's Valley, Calgary and we live there now. Our little girl, Lynde, is three years old. Courtney is employed with Dominion Bridge.

**HICKS, JAMES P. AND ANN**

The James P. Hicks family came to the Little Horseguard district where they took up a homestead about 1907. Mrs. Hicks, the former Ann M. Bond was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, December 25, 1853 and married James P. Hicks December 23, 1875. There were two children of this marriage, Hiram P. and Minnie Estelle. Minnie was born at Bradford, Massachusetts, October 7, 1879. James P. Hicks was a shoemaker by trade before coming to Alberta.

They lived in a log house with a sod roof. The Hicks' were noted gardeners and their beautiful flowers were artistically arranged on either side of the walks, made from poles laid crosswise leading to the workshed, well and garden. Mr. Hicks picked fresh flowers, arranged them in a tin can, and gave them to the children passing by his homestead to give to their teacher. They had a phonograph with the cylindrical records which

they enjoyed, as did their neighbors who came to visit. Mr Hicks threshed his first crops by beating the heads of grain on a spiked log

Later, the Hicks' left their homestead to make their home on an acreage in Alhambra, now the K Sunde residence Here they also had a beautiful flower garden so beautiful that it merited being photographed and put on the front cover of a McKenzie Seed Catalogue

Mrs Hicks was very fond of children and when she no longer was able to look after the flower garden, they picked bouquets of wild flowers for her and in return she gave them candy

Mr Hicks died at Alhambra on January 15 1929 and Mrs. Hicks died on August 11, 1936. They are buried in the Leslieville Cemetery

**HICKS, HIRAM P AND JENNY**

Hiram P Hicks homesteaded in the Little Horseguard district about the same time as his father James P Hicks. Hiram married Jenny Redmond and they had four children. Charlotte, Harry, William and Marjorie

Hiram Hicks was the first school teacher at the Little Horseguard School when it opened in [illegible]

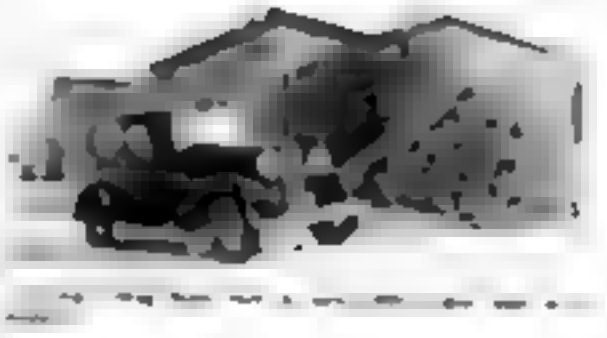
He was a veteran of the Boer War He enlisted in World War 1 and he was killed in action

**LESSING, FERDINAND ERNST AND MINNIE ESTELLE**

Mr Ferdinand Ernst Lessing was a pharmacist who worked for a hospital in Chicago. He was born March 23, 1872 in Germany. He was very interested in going homesteading after realizing how well his friends, Fred and Herman von Hollen were faring after they homesteaded in North Dakota. When the von Hollens left North Dakota to go homesteading in Alberta in the Little Horseguard area in 1909, Mr Lessing came to visit them but stayed and homesteaded land north of Fred's, now the Fritz von Hollen farm For a time Mr Lessing operated a general store at Stauffer where he also stocked medicines. He drove with team and buggy from his homestead to manage the store

On August 21 1909, he married Miss Minnie Estelle Hicks. In 1911 the Lessings took little Stanley Barrett, at two years of age, to live with them as his mother had died. Stanley now lives at Horsefly and at Summerland, B.C

Mr Lessing built and operated a drug store in Alhambra, driving with team and buggy from his homestead to manage the store. In 1931 the Lessings built a home on an acreage in Alhambra and left the homestead When they purchased the Sam Emmerson Store from his nephew Mr Gould, who was looking after the estate, the Lessings stocked this store with medicinal products as they had sold the drug store. Mr Lessing was praised by doctors for his wonderful ability as a pharmacist and for his devotion to his profession. At one time Mr Lessing had a room available in the drug store every Friday for Dr Greenaway to see people in the district who needed medical help. "Mr Lessing with his knowledge of medicine rendered invaluable service to the community and many a one can remember with gratitude his help in time of trouble"



Mr Lessing died on March 20, 1935. His wife continued operating the Lessing Store until she decided to retire in 1947 and she sold the business to John and Evelyn MacDonald

As a young woman she was a secretary to Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911 She was secretary-treasurer of the Alhambra School District No 2930 from 1927 to 1940. Her excellent short-hand was put to good use during all these years, whether in business or in the home

On her 70th birthday she held a birthday party and many friends called to enjoy this day with her She was a gracious hostess. This party became an annual event, a highlight of the year for her many friends

Mrs. Lessing was very interested in outdoor activities and on her 80th birthday she still enjoyed riding her wooden wheeled bicycle with the children in the area. She skated on the open rink at the Community Hall and taught young children how to skate Children enjoyed visiting Mrs. Lessing She let them play with her dolls and toy dishes and gave them real tea parties' She enjoyed her garden with its colorful flowers and a variety of vegetables

In the fall of 1968 she moved to the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens Home. She died November 26, 1968 at the age of 99 years in the Eckville Municipal Hospital after a brief illness. She was buried in the Leslieville Cemetery in the family plot beside her husband

**JOHNSTON, WATER (WATT) — by Ron Hor[illegible]**

Watt Johnston came to the Alhambra area in 1936 At that time he was working for John Honas who had purchased the E ½ 19-39-5 5

They came from the Innisfail area and he had worked for Mr Honan for several years at Innisfail. Watt was a story teller of distinction and renown and he could entertain you for hours at a time. After leaving Honans he worked for Angus Martin in his sawmill and then worked for a time in the Bentley area. After that he returned to Alhambra and made his home with Bill Farquharson when he was not working somewhere else. He worked for Frank Scott on his farm and in the winter months helped Frank Scott with his butchering and meat curing business for two years. He also worked a few crop seasons for Bert Smith on his farm and in the winter months worked for various lumber camps in the Rocky Mountain House and Horburg areas always returning to Bill Farquharson. Watt was a man who could do almost any job. He was a good cook and good with livestock. He was a very handy man to have around if you had a bunch of young boar hogs or bull calves as he was an expert with a knife. Little is known of his early life or where he originated from. He passed away very suddenly in 1956.

**JONES, JOHN AND GRIFF**

In 1905 John Humphrey Jones of Brockville Ontario and his brother Griff, of Cleveland Ohio, decided to answer all the advertisements telling of land for the taking in the Canadian West, and to homestead in Alberta.

John a landlady as she told him goodbye said fearfully "Don't let the Indians get you, Johnny!"

On the train on their way west, they met Tom Butler from Ontario and Tom Peel from England. They decided to travel west together. In Red Deer they bought a team, a wagon, and supplies and headed west. They settled on Section 20-39-5-W5 about five miles west of Lesliеville. On Tom Butler's quarter they built a small log cabin in which they batched. They cut fence posts and did some clearing until winter drove them out to work where they could until they could return in the spring when this land was thrown open for homesteading and they could file on it legally.

John, a moulder by trade, had spent the winter in Victoria, British Columbia, where he worked at his trade but Griff had gone home to Cleveland to prepare to move his family to Alberta. They had begun to build a log house before his departure and the others worked on it in his absence.

On September 3, 1906, the Griff Jones family arrived in Red Deer. After having always lived in a big city they found the contrast overwhelming, especially, as Mrs. Jones never went anywhere to meet other women and so did not see another woman for the first year there.

It was some time before their furniture arrived so it was indeed hard and at last they were fairly comfortable but, alas, come spring the sod roof proved to be too thin to turn the rains and all the furniture was ruined. Oh some of it was usable, but it never looked the same again.

Tom Peel decided he preferred land farther south. Eventually Griff's stepson, George homesteaded the other quarter.

The children were Helen 16, Theresa 14, George seven, all McGuires, children of Mrs. Jones' former marriage. Grace three, and twin sons Harold and Howard, nine months.

They had some good times and some bad ones but the high light was the birth of another daughter in June, 1909. They named her Myrtle.

In April 1911 Helen McGuire and John Jones drove into Red Deer and were married in the Baptist Church. They had a double grain box on the sleigh and besides a load of seed grain for themselves, they had a load for Mr. Malcolm. On the way home a chinook wind blew up and to save the horses they both walked most of the way home. Both being red headed and fair skinned they were both sun and wind burned and their feet were blistered. Helen was sitting with her feet in a basin of water when a commotion arose outside. All the neighbors, mostly young bachelors, had gathered to charivari the newlyweds — very embarrassing at the time but something to laugh about in later years.

In November they moved to Calgary and in February a baby girl was born to them, named Eunice. In the spring they returned home but next year they again went back to Calgary where a son, Richard, was born in August, 1913. At Christmas time they returned to the farm. In the winter of 1915 they moved into Lesliеville and soon John and Fred Forman left for Toronto where John got work in a foundry. In August Helen and the children joined him. In May 1917 twins were born. Norman and Edythe, and in September 1918 a son, Howard, was born. In November of that year the whole family came near to death in the great flu epidemic but eventually they all recovered. They moved to Guelph in 1919 and later they moved to Preston and then in 1921 they moved back to the homestead.

It was too difficult for Eunice and Richard to get to school at Beaver Flat so they moved into Alhambra where they lived for about a year. John worked on the track and Helen ran a cafe. They moved to Calgary in the fall of 1922 where they made their home for the next 11 years, coming to the farm for summer holidays.

In 1922 the Griff Jones family left the farm for good, moving to Rocky Mountain House where the older folks lived for the rest of their lives with the exception of a couple of years spent in British Columbia. They are both buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. As the rest of the family grew

The John Jones family moved back to the farm to stay in 1933. Times were hard but we had some very good times with friends and neighbors dropping in. We seldom had a Sunday without a houseful of guests enjoying the music we had, the

singing not to mention Mom's good cooking, the laughter and the teasing and the jokes.

In October 1936 Edythe and Norman Peterson were married in Red Deer. Norman was the son of another pioneer family and an excellent musician who played his banjo for years all over this part of the country. In August, 1937 they had a son, David, who is also a musician playing the accordian in several dance bands. In March, 1939 a daughter, Coral, was born. In 1940 Norman enlisted and in 1941 he was sent overseas serving there until he was invalided home in 1944. In 1945 a son, Philip, (Skip) was born.

In 1938 Eunice married Fred Manning, a neighboring farmer's son. They lived at the Manning farm for a few months then moved to Calgary where Fred enlisted in the navy and was sent to Comox where Eunice joined him. He served later at Esquimalt and received a medical discharge. They came back to Alberta for a short time, then returned to British Columbia. Fred worked for a few years in the shipyards in Victoria and eventually for B.C. Hydro. He retired to Victoria and then to Qualicum Beach. Eunice passed away in June, 1975. Fred has since remarried and lives in Victoria.

Richard became a baker and worked in Calgary, Rocky Mountain House and Sylvan Lake before enlisting in the navy in 1940. He was sent to the east coast where he saw a great deal of action in convoy duty, was wounded, and served until the end of the war. He moved to Victoria upon receiving his discharge in 1945 and has made his home there ever since. He married Lucille Turcotte in 1947. A daughter, Helen, was born in 1948, and in 1951 a daughter, Judith, was born. Helen is Mrs. Dale Finlan and lives in Vancouver. Judy is Mrs. Larry Gault and lives in

Norman Jones also enlisted but for health reasons was soon discharged. He lived in Calgary and in Edmonton for some years but eventually moved to Vancouver and now lives with his wife, Edith, in Port Alberni. They have two daughters and a son. Both daughters are married as is Norman's daughter Judy by his first marriage. They have four grandchildren.

Howard Jones enlisted in the army and was sent to the east coast on his way overseas but he fell ill in Halifax. After several months in hospital there he was sent back to Alberta where he served in the Provost Corps for the duration. In 1945, he married Millie Latimer in Calgary. They have two children, Bob, born in 1946 and Gwen, born in 1947. Howard drove his truck and worked on road construction. He also bought the homestead from his dad hoping to make his home there eventually but they moved to Calgary and in April, 1958 he was killed in an accident. The two children are now grown up and married and Millie has remarried. They all make their homes in Calgary.

In October, 1955 John Jones died of a heart attack in the Alhambra store, minutes after having said he never felt better in his life. Helen Jones died in the Red Deer General Hospital after a few months' illness in April, 1976. They are buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Norman Peterson became postmaster at Alhambra in 1948. In 1951 the family moved to Vancouver where they lived until 1959 when they returned to Alhambra. Norman passed away in May, 1968. Edythe lives in Alhambra where she is the postmistress.

In March, 1961 David and Joyce Paulson were married in Alhambra. In January, 1962 their daughter, Carol was born. Their daughter Michel was the Eckville New Year's baby in 1973. They live in the Arbutus district.

Coral and Laverne Ahlstrom were married in June 1961. They have three children, Pauline 14 John 11 and Nelson nine. They farm in the Ar

Philip and Terry Cartwright were married on April 5, 1975. They make their home in Alhambra with Terry's three children, Hallie 12, Don 10 and Kim six. Skip is very well known as a

**KERR, JOHN ROBSON**

John Robson Kerr came to Canada in 1907 from New Abbey, Scotland at the age of 22 years. He spent the first winter in Montreal and then in the spring of 1908 he came west to Alberta where he worked on a farm at Airdrie and in the Coronation district. In the fall of 1908 he filed on a homestead in the Alhambra district on the NE 9 39-5-W5 where he lived until his retirement to Red Deer in 1951. He lived there until his death in 1973. (Mrs. Kerr passed away in 1974)

When he lived in the Alhambra district he was active in bringing about the first school and served on the school board for many years. In his later years he wrote a short history of the Alhambra district and was very interested in the keeping of history of different districts.

He was married in 1912 to Nina Thompson also of Scotland. They had two children, Nina

born in 1921 who died of pneumonia in 1928, and ...dith, born in 1923, now living in Edmonton. She married T W Bill Peel in 1947 and they have five children Bill is also the son of an old pioneer of the Northup district near Condor Tom Peel was an early thresherman of the district having one of the first steam outfits and moving on to more modern equipment in the 1920's. In 1918 he was married to Violet Perry of Condor They had two sons and a daughter, Thomas W (Bill George of Sherwood Park, and Doris Mrs. M C Knight of Calgary Mr. Peel died in 1956 and Mrs Peel remarried in 1961 to Dominic Silver They now live in Calgary

The Bill Peel family of Edmonton consists of Brian, 23, assistant manager of Clearview Restaurant in Red Deer Barbara, 22, who is now Mrs. Keith Gheseger of Brooks, Douglas, 19, working for Canadian Propane, Edmonton. Kathy 16, Grade 11 student and partime worker at University Hospital. Jeannie, 10, school girl and a Brownie

**KILLICK, BERNARD AND RENE**

Bernard and Rene Killick purchased the Sloan's Service Station" on Highway 11 at the Alhambra Corner in September 1962, where they operated under the name of "Killick's Esso Service" for the next 14 years. In the spring of 1963 they acquired the quarter section of land that the Station is located on, also from Havelock Sloan, and they built their home east of the Sta

The Quarter SW-4-38-5-W5, has an interesting history It was homesteaded in March 1906 by Bryan Brothers, Percy and John Thomas who were "Glass Bottle Blowers" by trade, from Yorkshire, England, and who knew absolutely nothing about farming, let alone how to clear land and prove up a homestead However they were good workers and eventually cleared enough land to put in a crop. The story goes that when asked what their first crop would be their answer was "Rolled Oats" and so the 'Quarter" was named and to the old timers of the district it is still referred to as the "Rolled Oat Quarter

The Killicks enlarged and modernized the Service Station and for 14 years enjoyed an ever increasing volume of business as the traffic increased on Highway 11 During that time it might be of interest to note some of the employees at the Station. They include Ralph Whaley Warren Randall, Garth Ahlstrom, Milt Zirk, Alec McRae, Doug Hope, Ed Mushka Joe Frith Garry Bert, Havelock Sloan and then of course there was "Bacchus" who came to the station as a pup The big Black Dog" as known to 100's, efficiently guarded the station for 15 years until his death in October 1977

The Killicks sold to Garry Bert in July, 1976

Their son, Jim, was married in 1973 to Miss Linda Johnson of Edmonton. They are living in Brentwood Bay B.C., and have a son, Timothy two years old

Their daughter, Maureen lives in Calgary where she is employed by an airline company

**KIRBY THOMAS M. AND MARY — By Jessie Kirby Harris**

Thomas Miles Kirby was born April 21, 1858 not far from Salt Lick Tennessee He was the eldest of five During the Civil War his mother walked for miles to get cornmeal for her family only to have the rebels take it from her Great Grandpa, Lon Kirby was at war fighting with the Northern soldiers, and the Kirbys lived in the

In 1878, he and Mary Biles eloped in the night and were married. They had eight children Timothy Susan, Jesse, Lucy, Sam, Elter Huston and Zora They lived in Tennessee until 1900 where they were sharecroppers. Then they drove a covered wagon to Illinois with four horses loaded with all their possessions. There in Illinois Grandpa rented land and the boys and girls that were old enough worked out

In 1914, they sold all they had except dishes, bedding, and clothing which was all packed in a large wooden box and shipped to Canada. About November 25, 1914 Grandpa homesteaded the SW 13-38-6-W5. He was a good woodsman The logs in their house were hewed by hand with a broad axe It was a small house, two beds in one end, a table in the centre while the other end served as a kitchen. He dug a well six feet in diameter and 22 feet deep and cribbed it with field stones. It was there for twenty some years. Grandma baked baking powder biscuits for Grandpa three times a day, which almost everybody enjoyed when they were there for meals. She sometimes had to take care of people who came along sick with colds or flu in winter times Their place was mid-way between Caroline and Alhambra on Rocky Mountain House. After Tim Kirby moved away there were no close neighbours

In the early days he cut tamarack posts all

winter and managed to buy a team of horses and a cow. A quarter section of land for $10 was the only way they could own land. They always had people coming in but mostly in the summer as the lake was on one corner of his homestead. There always was a boat on the lake and it was a good place for a picnic.

Each Saturday he could be seen driving his grey mare to town, she was in good shape, but was driven quite fast to town and back again.

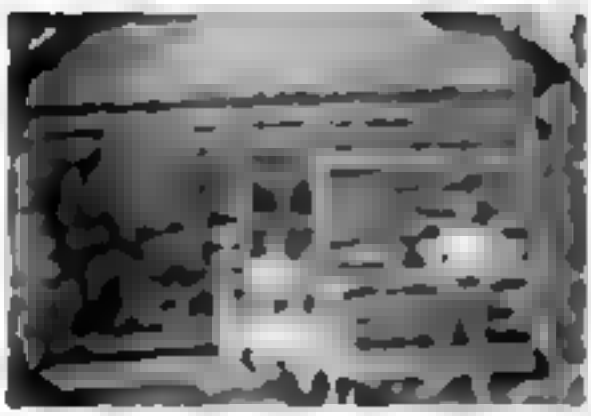
The work on the farm proved to be too much so the farm was traded to Gus Sininger for his blacksmith shop and a small three-room house in Alhambra. Here the Kirbys lived until Grandma passed away in April 1935. Grandpa then went to the Lacombe Home at Midnapore for a short time. He came back looking pale, and said, "If I'd stayed there I would soon died." After that he lived in Rocky Mountain House a short time. He then built a small two-room shack in Alhambra where he lived by himself until he passed away in December 1946. He would have been 89 in April. While he lived the last few years in Alhambra he would walk the four and one half miles to his granddaughter Jessie Harris's house, the old J. C. Adam's place now the Jay Harris farm. When he was ready to go home, he would walk the four and one half miles back. He did not want a car ride, unless it was when he wanted to go. He stood very straight he never stooped from old age.

**KIRBY, TIM, TIMOTHY SR. AND LIZZIE FAMILY — By Ellen Scott**

Tim Kirby was born in Tennessee in 1880. When he was 20 years old his whole family moved to Illinois. He was the eldest of eight children. His mother's father was a blacksmith from Ireland, so he learned from him. In 1904 he married Lizzie Miller who was born in Illinois in 1889. Tim was just a farm hand and did rent some farms but he could never hope to be able to buy a farm of his own in that good farming country so looked elsewhere. There was lot of country opening up in the north and west. After looking over all the information, he decided on western Canada and once he saw Alberta that was it. He even took a whiskey bottle of Bow River water all the way back to Illinois for them to see clear.

We moved up in the fall of 1913 and had a C.P.R. quarter for 1½ years, then homesteaded the present George Cermak farm, NE 12-38-6-W5 in March, 1915. Things weren't too bad but never too good. There seemed to be always children: Jessie, Annie, Maggie, Ellen, Leona, died in 1928, Tim the first boy, Winnie, Norma, the twins William and Willard, Alfred, Fay and David. Nearly all the girls were the oldest and the boys came along after. Poor Tim — raised with seven girls. We girls had to work outside and help in the shop and do the farm work, then the boys were born and raised in town. Phooey!

When the T. S. Kirby family arrived on the



Scott, Maggie (Kirby) Peterson, Annie (Kirby) Addy, and Jessie (Kirby) Harris

homestead in the Horseguard dist[illegible] Jessie was seven, Annie was fiv[illegible] three, and Ellen a year old. Leona, Tim, and Winnie were all born on the homestead. Annie was eight when they started to school at Arbutus where they walked as Tim needed the horses for farm work. Otherwise they went by horse and buggy to the school for four months of every year. Their lunches consisted of biscuits, moose steak and a quart of vegetables and a whole pie. Ellen was quite astounded at the dainty sandwiches and cake the other children had for lunch and asked one child, "Is that all your belly can hold?" Mrs. Hockett was the first teacher they had, followed by Tom O'Connor for two years. The six oldest children contacted small pox in 1917 and Lizzie nursed them through it with only an old doctor book to help her. It advised to drink cream of tartar water to thin the blood. They came through it with no scars and no loss of life. Their nearest neighbor was four miles away and no one came near them.

The older children had the job of threshing grain with clubs, then fanning it through the hand fanning mill. Up until that time there had been no seed grain grown west of Benalto. Annie had a lesson in cash and credit when quite young. Tim had sent her to Alhambra for groceries with the horse and buggy. He gave her strict instructions to pay for the groceries. When she got the groceries, Charlie Raine asked her if that would be cash or credit. She didn't know what he was talking about and was too shy to ask so she said "red," and took off like a scared rabbit. When she got home and Tim found out that she had charged the groceries he gave her quite a lecture on which was which. A few weeks later Henry Lund came by to have a look at the seed oats the children had threshed, and made the comment that he sure had to give the children credit for [illegible] piped up and [illegible] didn't want the credit — she'd take the [illegible]. Tim was quite embarrassed but found out she'd learned her lesson on cash and credit.

Lizzie and Annie were skinning rabbits by lantern light one evening outside with Annie chattering nervously as there were many bears and cougars around. When Annie saw a shadow pass between two buildings, she screamed, Bob cat and ran for the house When she came back with the gun it was to find Lizzie beating Tim on the ground and he laughing as hard as he could It took them an hour to find the knives by lantern light

When we came from the States we had five horses, one of these was a pacer a lovely horse – some relation of Don Patch. We never knew how Pop got him but he came home late one night in Illinois and had this lovely horse He never stole him because no one ever hung him for it He was a pacer and if you tightened the reins nothing ever passed him, not even J C Adams 1919 Model-T car Of course our roads weren't speed ways. That corduroy by the Horseguard Creek on Number 11 was like a rough roller coaster Mr Lessing bought the horse and he ran in Bill Farquharson's pasture till he was over 30 years old

We had two cows when we came to Alhambra but had to let them go for groceries and we were without a cow for nearly two years. In 1916 it was cold and wet and the gardens were poor Pop went out to the prairies to harvest He was gone a long time. Our homestead house had no upstairs till about 1917 then that was better We had more room but the stove pipe went just through the floor above. One morning someone left clothes by the pipe and the upstairs caught on fire Grandpa had just come over to see us about something and ran upstairs with the water pail and threw that on then threw the "thunder mug" on it and Pop came running in from the barn with two big pails of milk and that went on it too. We got it out! Mother lost her three beautiful hats and some clothes and the pane was out of the window but we didn't have to move out We were sure lucky

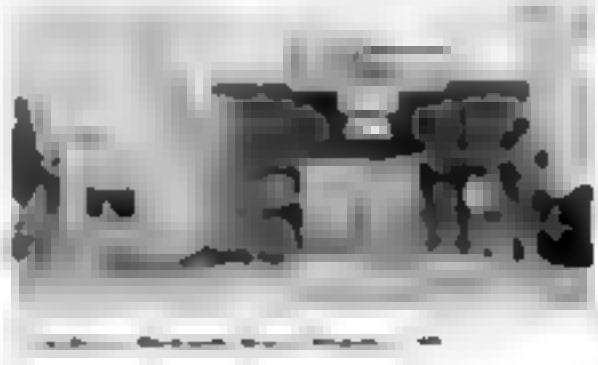
No one lived closer than three miles and we had muskegs to cross to get out We had moose and deer to eat quite often and also ducks and prairie chicken. Pop hunted enough lynx, muskrats and coyotes to get a start in the blacksmith shop in Alhambra. We were too far from school and the roads were terrible so had to carry an axe and a saw to cut the trees out of the road if the wind blew The trees were sure thick and tall. By the time we got established the war was well on and they wouldn't take Pop – he had too many kids – but a lot of homesteaders had gone to war or left the country for easier places

Dave Howard lived between the big and small muskeg lakes and he made bricks. Our well was cribbed with the coal. Grandpa's well was cribbed with stone. We both had well houses and they were dark and cool to keep things in. When we went to town it was an all day ordeal because to Alhambra there were about six gates and to Rocky Mountain House there were 17 but by 1918 the roads were getting a little organized, before that we just went from farmyard to farmyard I don't think Pop did much road work for his taxes but after 1920 a lot of people did. I'm not too sure how much the taxes were, but men and horses scratched away with old skinny horses and old wagons trying to battle the muskegs There were a lot of people who came here to get freedom and didn't have any idea how to hitch or drive a horse, use an axe or shovel and couldn't sharpen an axe Their fence rails looked like a beaver had cut them off Our Grandpa was a real woodsman his axes were razor sharp and it took so much less time and effort A lot of people drove their horses one-half a horse ahead of the other The traces were not the same length, but they were hooked to the last link, one would be tight, the other nearly dragging on the ground. In the late winter and spring of 1919 there was a shortage of hay People came for miles to our place for hay Dad sold it for $10 per wagon box load. They would cover it with blankets so people would not see what they were hauling

On the homestead we learned to tan hides and to make our own lye. We had a hopper like you put poplar wood ashes into and poured rain water over that what came out the bottom was lye that bleached our clothes

We moved to Alhambra in April, 1921, and just got there and had measles, so couldn't get to school for another six weeks by the time it got through all of us Jessie and Annie had had only about four months of schooling by then as the Arbutus school only stayed open for a little while in the summer So when we got to school in Alhambra there was a school for about 28 children and when they all came, which wasn't very often there were 45, three in a double seat I was only eight and all that mass of kids sure astounded me. I will never know how the teachers got things across with all those kids and eight grades and three or four years difference in the ages in each grade. Some kids started when they were five and others not till they were eight or nine My teachers at Alhambra were Miss Foss, Mrs Patterson Miss Crawford Miss Clark, Mr Moir Miss Thorpe and Mr Hicks

Pop was the blacksmith not far from the school and real strict with us. If we did anything wrong someone would tell him, then look out! In



917 Mr Bill Bisset had a store then that burned down. We got smallpox from him in February 918. That was bad! Then Charlie Raine built a big store with a dance hall above with a stage and a grand piano. He got a Delco plant in 1921. Sam Emmerson built a store about 1919, and Mr Lessing a drug store about 1922. There was a pool room on the side of Charlie Raines store till 1923 then Joe Sullivan built a bungalow up where the Post Office is now. Mrs. Bill Wallace was a dress-maker and had some dry goods in a small building just south of Charlie Raine's store then Addy's had the hotel with seven rooms upstairs. A restaurant was just over by the new pool room. There was a butcher shop just north of Charlie Raine's store that hadn't been open very long. A chop house where you got your grain ground was just behind Charlie Raine's and there was a racetrack in the shed behind Wallaces. Mr Wallace was a conductor for the C.P.R. They had a farm just northeast. Well, on the night of April 29, 1924 Jessie had to have a drink of water and she heard a noise and looked out of the window and that hall above Raine's store was in flames. We all tore down there and the Wallaces had only gotten out in their night clothes. There were five children. The store, the floor in the pool hall, the flour shed, Wallace's store, the butcher shop, the chop house and the tractor all went. We didn't have much town left. The wind was from the southeast, otherwise most of the town would have gone. It seemed the 29th of April was a disaster for that place. A couple of times since there have been fires on that day. Then on the 29th of May, the little Lavchfassel two-year old granddaughter got lost and she was found the next day about noon.

The train came by Monday, Wednesday and Friday, anytime between five and 10 o'clock and went back next morning at five. We had pretty good mail service. Every Friday night people would come to town and wait for the mail to get sorted. It was in the corner of Sam Emmerson's store. That store would be packed with people waiting and sometimes they would eat peanuts till the shells covered the floor. In the early twenties, a sugar shortage occurred. One time we had company for supper and ran out of sugar so Maggie and I had to run and get some. She was too shy to ask for it so I had to. Pop said to tell Sam, "I'll be down and pay after supper." He had refused to give anyone sugar without the cash. He looked over his glasses and the counter at me and I said, "Popple wants some sugar" and he said, "Have you got the cash?" I didn't know what cash was and being me never said, "No" in my life hardly. I said, "Yes", so he put the sugar on the counter. I grabbed it and said, "Popple'll pay you after supper" and was out the door before he could say anything. The folks didn't know about it for about three months but those farmers, I guess, learned how to get sugar.

Before the Raine hall burned, we had our Christmas concerts and gatherings in there and had the two Mrs. Callings to play that grand piano, which was wonderful. Then the Christmas after that, 1924, we had to have it in a hall Roy Addy had built about ¼ block east of the school. The weekend before Christmas it started to snow and it snowed till Monday. The snow was nearly waist deep on us kids. We went to school because it was just past the shop. We got the fire started and the teacher and we were the only ones there till Thursday and Friday night was the concert. No one came to town till Wednesday and the train came out on Thursday behind the snowplow. That concert was the poorest we ever had, about one third of the kids didn't come and those who did hadn't practiced for a week. I think that was the year we all got calendar thermometers for Christmas and late in January this lady came in and said, "Sam, have you another calendar? Mine froze and broke." He said, "You shouldn't have put it outside." She said, "I didn't. It was in our house. It was only 10 below."

In the early 20s there was a post yard in Alhambra where Emmerson and Raine bought wood props and posts and stored them just east of town. There was a cattle loading chute and corral. That yard would be full by spring sometimes right up by the station. You would drive up to the store and the man would come out, mark the end of every stick with a colored chalk and give you credit on your grocery bill.

Tim Kirby's first shop in Alhambra was about where Mushka's house is. It was an old black building with a big black poplar in front of the door. Pop would come out and stand under it and we would say, "Under the spreading chestnut tree ..." He was there till 1928. We got a 1917 Overland car in 1923. There were quite a few cars in the district. Everyone went along 'cause you all had to push through all the mud holes. There again you had to carry an axe.

The Kirbys moved to the Ahlstrom farm from 1928 to 1934, then they went to Rocky Mountain House and he was the blacksmith there the rest of his life. Mrs. Kirby learned the trade. She worked in the shop all through the 1939 to 1945 war and said that using the acetylene torch wasn't half as hard as using a broom or mop under the bed.

The five oldest boys are blacksmiths and mechanics and the youngest is a cook in the

Late in 1924, Harvey Anderson, a grain buyer came to Alhambra and built an elevator. It took a long time to build, but was an asset. Fred Mushka was the section man and sure a wonderful person. If we could all be like him this world would be a wonderful place.

In about 1922, Mr. Tomsick from Arbutus came to our school with his trained dog, and put on a show for us. He also had a few shows in the Raine hall. We would all march down two by two to the hall. He took the dog on a tour all through the States and later sold him in California.

Temple Crawford started us playing basket

ball in the summer of 1924. We had a pretty good basketball team. All the girls had to bring 10 or 15 cents to buy the ball and the bladder to go inside

**HARRIS, THE JAY L. AND JESSIE FAMILY — By Jessie Harris**

Jay Louis Harris was born at Silver Creek Nebraska, U.S.A. in a little sod house on October 21 1899. His mother passed away in April, 1900 so his grandparents took him and raised him as their own. In 1903, they came to Ponoka, Alberta where they took a homestead about 12 miles north of Rimbey near Spring Dale. While Jay lived with them, Grandpa Woods did land breaking for customers with oxen. In 1912, Grandpa Woods passed away. Jay then went to Ponoka where he lived with an aunt and went to school for a short time. Then he worked in and around Ponoka he hauled coal to the asylum for a while.

Following that he went on horseback to Lougheed where he worked as a farm hand for farmers in that area for a few years. While in the district, he met Jessie Kirby and they were married in 1926. Jay and Jessie have three children, Irvin born in 1928, farms north of Rocky Mountain House. Wilma Mrs. DeCoteau, lives on an acreage on the home place and Leslie is a mechanic and drives a "cat". In the fall they moved to Alhambra where Jay worked for Tim Kirby for a year. The following winter he hauled saw logs and worked for Pete Peterson at his saw mill.

In the spring of 1930, he rented the Bob Speedie farm, N½ 25-38-6-W5 and farmed there for seven years. The crops were good but some wheat sold as low as 17c a bushel and 200-pound pigs sold for $4 a head! In the fall of 1931, after threshing a little cyclone blew over the house blowing down the radio pole; also it blew the roof off a granary, carried it about 60 feet and deposited it on the straw stack. Jay's father lived with them for seven years.

In 1939, he bought the old J. C. Adams homestead SW 1-39-6-W5 that was where the old Horseguard store and post office had been from 1909 to 1915. Clearing this land meant a lot of hard work with horses and grub hoe. Then later clearing was done with a caterpillar tractor when money permitted.

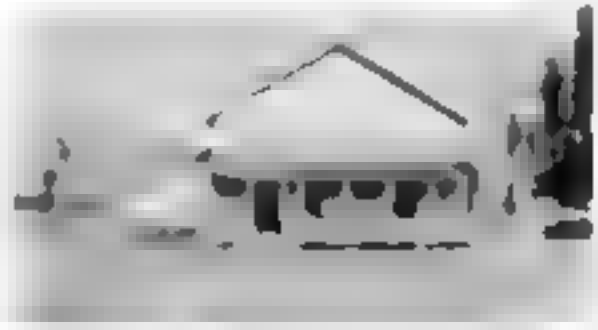
Now, Jay and Jessie live in Rocky Mountain House, where Jay works part-time running the car-wash for Pidherney.

**ADDY THE BOY AND ANNIE FAMILY**

Roy left Ontario in 1903 and worked his way west arriving in Alberta in 1905 where he homesteaded north of Condor. One Christmas Eve he and a neighbor bachelor Joe Nelson decided to steal a chicken from a neighbor family. While Joe stole the chicken, Roy went to the house and kept the family busy, but when he went into the house he "chickened" out and told the family that he thought someone was stealing a chicken. The family of course, caught Joe and invited the two of them to have Christmas dinner with them. Waldos bought his homestead in the 1930's.

Warren (Reilly) Addy homesteaded in the Horseguard area a few years after that, and Roy bought his farm when Warren decided to leave the country and go to Arizona, where he died a few years later. Roy and his mother lived on that farm and later sold it to Laughlin MacDonald and it is now owned by Tom Lund.

Roy built a hotel in Alhambra in 1919-20. The store was built in 1926, but was first used as a dance hall. He married Annie Kirby in January 1923. They lived in the hotel and had four children. Louisa was born in Mrs. Porter's nursing home in Eckville in December 1929. Jean was born at home in July, 1931 as was Evan in July 1933 and Arran in May 1935.



Louisa began school in 1936 with Miss Sande teaching her for all of her school years in Alhambra except for 1941 when Miss Kennedy taught. Jean began in 1937 with Miss Sande teaching her for all of her school years in Alhambra with the exception of 1941 when she had Miss Stagg from Nordegg. Evan began school in 1940 with Miss Sande the first year followed by Mrs. Fleming of Rocky Mountain House, and Mrs. Stollings of Alhambra until 1945-46 when he had Mrs. Sunde nee Sande again. Arran began school in 1941 with Mrs. Peggy Scott followed by Mrs. Stollings until 1947. Annie took Louisa and Jean to Red Deer in 1945 to finish their education.

Roy died on June 25, 1947 at the age of 62 years. Two years later Annie and the children bought the Telephone Office in Rocky Mountain House. In 1952 Annie sold the Telephone Office and after several years of office work, opened her first Fabric Shop in the Old Pewonka building now Link Furniture. When expansion was necessary she moved from there to the Old Town Police Office. At the same time she organized and managed the Frosty Peak Drive In and Restaurant. The last expansion of the Fabric Shop took her to the W. J. Hall. When it became necessary to expand again, she sold to Winnie Chevalier and began Ann's Flea Market which she still operates.

Louisa began working at the Imperial Bank when Annie bought the Telephone Office and worked there until she married Vernon Bergnolli in 1952 and moved to his farm in the Dovercourt area. They have four children Deborah born in 1953, Barbara born in 1957, Roy born in 1958, and Robert born in 1966

Jean worked at the weather office for three years and at the Treasury Branch for another three years before marrying Donald Bertagnoli and moving to his farm in the Dovercourt area They have five children. Rebecca, born in 1956 and married in 1977 to Dale Soppit of Rocky Mountain House — they live in Malta. Joe was born in 1957 and married Joanne Bergos of Bowden. They reside in Edmonton where they are continuing their education. Clark, born in 1959, is in college in Red Deer Karen born in 1961, and Mark born in 1963. They are both at home and attending school in Rocky Mountain House

Evan went to school for two years in Rocky Mountain House and was involved in the army cadets and later the Reserve Army He went to Wainwright with the reserve army and worked on the switchboard there for a year in 1951-52 From there he went to the Red Deer telephone office as central office man. He married Marian Penner of Red Deer in 1956. They have three children, Diane was born in 1959 and is now training for a nurse in Edmonton, where Evan was transferred in 1968. Heather was born in 1962 and is in high school in Edmonton and their chosen son Christopher is six years old. Evan has been employed by A. G. T for 25 years and is now staff supervisor

Arran finished his school in Rocky Mountain House, where he was involved with the army cadets and later with the reserve army He worked with A. G. T in Red Deer from 1956 58. He began the first Frosty Peak Drive-In in Rocky Mountain House in 1958 which he sold in 1966 to Leon LeCerf From there he went to Can Aviation Electronics where he was employed as a radar technitchian, on the construction of the DEW line. Then with A. G. T and Calgary Power in Calgary which he left in 1975 and began his own Tele-Communications business in Calgary under the name of Del-Tronics which he is still associated with. In 1975 he married Betty Persaude of Guyana, South America In 1976 he bought a motel in Florida and spends most of his time there

## KUBIK, KEN AND SUSAN FAMILY

The Ken Kubik family came to the Ashambra community in 1966. They lived on a small spot on the farm of Brian Sloan for six years. They then purchased an acre of land from George Loomer and in 1974 they purchased the rest of the acreage. At this time Ken, Susan and three children, Cynthia, Donna and Jody are residing on the small acreage in the hamlet of Ashambra

## LITTLE HORSEGUARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Little Horseguard School District was established February 24, 1911 comprising of the following lands Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, the E½ 19-38-5 W5 Section 36, E½ 25-38-6 W5. Mr J B. Olson of Pitcox, Alberta was Senior Trustee

Approval was given April 20, 1911 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Little Horseguard School District, situated one quarter of a mile west of SE 29-38-5-W5

The sum of $1000 was borrowed April 24, 1911 upon the security of the Little Horseguard School District, for the purpose of building and equipping a school house The treasurer was Mr H. P Hicks of Evarts

Authorization was given to alter the name of the Little Horseguard School District No. 2377 to Horseguard School District No. 2377, on July 13 1950.

The downstairs of the George Walsh log house was used as a temporary school for a few months. The teacher was Chester Plank from Nova Scotia and when he went back there for Christmas he died of a heart attack. When the Little Horseguard School was opened in 1912 the first teacher was Hiram P Hicks Other teachers were: Mr Chadsey, Mrs. Davis, Mr E Quantz, Mr Leving, Mr C. Springbett, Miss Anderson, Miss Jackson, Miss Carson, Miss A Cook, Miss V Jenson, Miss Mae Blair Miss A Clark, Miss L. Spencer Mr H. McCullough, Mr Jardine Mr Hayhoe, Mrs. R Betker, Mrs F G Patterson Irene Martin—supervised correspondence lessons Mrs. Bligh

The sale of the site and building was approved July 26, 1962 located on the SE-29-38-5-W5

**THE LOOMER FAMILY — C. A. (Ted) and Mena (Dutch), Grant and George**

In November 1934 we moved from the Bindiang area to the Washington Heights School district. We bought a ¼ section in that area. It was very dry on the prairie with lots of wind and dust storms, so we were glad to move to a district where we would get more moisture. And of course, we did get lots of rain! We went through all the hardships of a pioneer family: not enough acres under cultivation for grain and of course early frosts.

We had good gardens but just the basic vegetables. It was too cool at nights for the fussy vegetables: we never grew tomatoes or cucumbers as they always froze.

Most everyone in the area had just moved into the district and we were very pressed for cash but we all worked hard.

Ted did a lot of road work for contractors and worked in the woods during the winter. The pay was not very good in those days but every dollar was a help. He finally got on a job with the government crushing gravel.

We had a boy born to us when we were on the farm. Grant was a darling baby. We enjoyed him.

In the spring of 1941 we had a sale and moved into Rocky Mountain House and bought a house so made our home there.

In February of 1942 George was born, another lovely boy. During the summer of 1942 we went out with Ted. We bought a small trailer house and we lived in camp. It was very crowded but we were all together, although camp life wasn't very good in which to bring up a family.

The crusher was moved to the northern part of the province and I cooked for the crew. We had lots of moves, only had the same camp for three to four months, and we lived in tents the year round. We quit the government job in early 1951 and moved back to Rocky Mountain House. Then Ted bought the farm of Robert Reid at Alhambra and we have lived here ever since.

The boys finished their schooling at Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson. We have enjoyed the district. I was on the community hall committee for several years. It has been a good district. The boys both played ball and were very active at hockey.

Grant married Lorain Bardenhagen from Eckville in June, 1961. They had two sons, Bradley and Kelly, born in 1962 and 1964.

After George quit school he worked for an oil company as battery operator for a few years. In July 1964 he married Heather Smith and they bought the Stollings property in Alhambra and lived there for several years. They have three sons, Derek, Roger, and Trevor, also very interested in sports. When Heather's dad retired George and Heather bought some of his land on which they built a house and are now farming. They sold their property in Alhambra to Ken Kubik.

We retired from the farm in 1971 and bought a house in Alhambra where we now live.

Grant, our oldest son, has taken over the farm. Both boys have been active members of the community, serving on the hall board, etc.

**LUND, HELGE AND ISABELLE AND OLE LUND — by John Thomas (Tommy) Lund**

In 1906 Helge Lund and Ole Lund came from Coal Harbor, North Dakota, to this district in search of land. Helge homesteaded on the NE 30 38-5-W5 and Ole homesteaded the SE¼ of the same section.

In the spring of 1907 they moved here from the USA. Ole was unmarried, but Helge had a wife, Isabelle, and seven children. They were: Hilda 12, Charlot and Herbert (twins) nine, Sophie seven, Olga five, Alfred three, and Marie one. The family lived in Red Deer for about six weeks while the men built a log house (which still stands) on the bank of the Little Horseguard Creek on the homestead. In 1908 another son, Otto, was born being the first white child born in this district. Later on twin girls, Nina and Christine, and finally another son, Tommy, were added to the family.

In 1909 the eldest girl, Hilda, returned to South Dakota as there was no school here at that time. She still lives there, now 82 years of age. Helge passed away in 1916 and Ole returned to the U.S. where he died in 1920. Helge's family took over Ole's land. In 1921 the mother Isabelle died. The second girl, Charlot, had died in the Flu epidemic in 1918. Her twin brother Herbert lived here on the farm until he died in [illegible].

Sophie became a stenographer working in Calgary where she married Herbert Bonham. They stayed in Calgary a number of years, then moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and later to Winnipeg. He died several years ago and Sophie still lives there.

Olga also was a stenographer working in Calgary. She and Sophie also took the younger children there to look after them after their mother's death. In 1926 Olga married the Lutheran minister who was serving this district at that time. They lived in Alhambra until 1928 when he was transferred to Spirit River. Later they moved to Mellowdale where Olga died in 1945.

Alfred spent most of his life in this district farming and sawmilling. He served overseas in the war and after coming back bought a farm 3½ miles northwest of Alhambra where his son, Leo, still farms. Alfred died in 1971.

Marie became a school teacher and taught in various places in Alberta. In 1936 she married Charlie Wilson and moved to West Summerland, B.C. Later she moved to Murrayville, B.C. and died there in 1970.

Otto lived in the U.S.A. from 1925 to 1938. He served overseas during the war and worked as a sawyer in some lumber camps west of Rocky

Mountain House and on the farm after returning. He died in 1969

After finishing school Nina took a job with the Bank of Montreal in Calgary. After several years she transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia and remained with the bank until she retired in 1966. She now lives in Victoria.

Christine went in for nursing. During the war she became a nursing sister and served overseas. After returning she worked for the V.O.N. for a year or so then took a Bible course at Three Hills and in 1948 she went to Ethiopia as a missionary nurse where she served until 1975. She is now matron of the senior citizens' lodge at Manning, Alberta.

Apart from attending school three years in Calgary, Tommy has lived his entire life on the farm here. In 1937 he married Elizabeth MacDonald. They have four children. Tyrone, the eldest, farms with Tom and they have acquired several of the neighboring farms. Curtis, the second son, is a school teacher and lives in Edmonton. He married Sonja Nyback of Camrose and they have four children. Sharlene, the only girl, married Orlen von Hoven and they also live in Edmonton where Orlen teaches. They have two daughters. Mark, the youngest, is at home attending David Thompson High School.

The winter of 1919-20 was the most severe one there has ever been since the white man settled here. The snow became so deep that many fences were completely covered and you could drive right over them. It stayed very cold through March and April and the snow did not start to melt until the first week of May. Of course, then it turned so warm the snow melted very fast causing the worst floods we have ever had. Most of the land was completely under water. P. O. Peterson built a boat at his place and was able to launch it right there and row it almost a mile across country to the Horseguard Creek. With the spring being so late feed became extremely scarce and many horses and cattle in the district simply starved to death. Hay was selling for over $100 per ton if you could find any to buy and very few people had that kind of money at that time. A lot of families only had an income of three or four hundred dollars a year.

There was no school in the district until 1912 when the "Little Horseguard School" was built. Hiram Hicks was the first teacher. He had a homestead 1 mile south of the school. He was killed in the First World War.

Until the 1920s the school operated on a very irregular basis as they could not collect enough from taxes to pay a teacher full time and there was no such thing as government grants at that time.

In 1914 the Lund family attended the Rocky Mountain House fair. They won a prize for having the largest family in attendance. The prize was a 100 lb. sack of flour!

As a young boy the two outstanding events I recall each year were the school Christmas concert and the July 1st sports day held at Alhambra. We would always compete in the races and hopefully win at least a nickel to buy an ice

In the early years several families in the district would often congregate on a Sunday afternoon at some farm where they had a hay field comparatively smooth on which they could organize a baseball game.

A Lutheran minister started holding services in the Horseguard School in 1912. The first years these services were very irregular and far apart. By 1917 they did become more regular although still at least a month apart as the minister lived at Sylvan Lake and had to come out here with team and buggy or cutter depending on the time of year. In 1924 a parsonage was built in Alhambra and Rev. August Fenske moved in, then services were held in the school twice a month. Rev. Fenske and the minister who succeeded him also served other congregations farther away while living here. These church services were held in the Horseguard School regularly until 1951 when a Lutheran church was built on Highway 11 one half mile east of the Alhambra corner. The land on which this church was built was donated by Havelock Sloan. Rev. A. Reiner was the minister here at that time. He was followed by Rev. Paul Gurbert, Rev. George Derwig, Rev. Edwin Lehman, and Rev. Wm. Kronen. By this time it had become very obvious that in order for the church to grow it would have to move into Rocky Mountain House as many people had left the farms. In 1970 a new Lutheran church was built in Rocky Mountain House and the one on Highway 11 was disposed of.

Prior to the building of the church on the highway in March of 1931 the men of the congregation here along with some interested neighbors got together and cut logs which P. O. Peterson sawed and planed at his sawmill for the purpose of building a church. An acre of land had been obtained on the SE corner of 31-38-5-W5 just a few hundred yards east of the Horseguard school for this purpose. However by this time the Depression had really taken over and it was impossible to raise money to go ahead with construction. A few years later this lumber was sold as it was starting to deteriorate and the money was put into a "church building fund" and it was used to help build the church on the highway.

In the fall of 1935 we bought our first car, a 1929 Pontiac for which we paid $350. This seemed like a big step forward as prior to that we had to get around on horseback or with a team or for greater distances, get a ride with someone who had a car.

It was after the last war before cars were used much in the winter as none of the side roads were snow-ploughed so became impassable.

In the spring of 1945 we bought our first tractor. Up to this time we did all our farming with horses, usually working from six to twelve of them.

Yes, there have been many changes and improvements since my folks homesteaded here a little over seventy years ago. But the land that my father and uncle took are two of the very few quarter sections that are still registered under the same last name that was on the original titles

**THE IVER LUND FAMILY — by Evelyn MacDonald**

The Iver Lund family came to the Little Horseguard district in 1907. The nearest place to get supplies was Red Deer, with the Lund homestead being the stopping place between Evarts and Rocky Mountain House. My grandmother's patchwork quilts and butter took prizes at the annual Rocky fair. Grandpa Iver Lund died in 1915. My first memory of a big social gathering was his funeral. All the neighbors always came to funerals to pay their last respects. The coffins were homemade and the women covered and lined them with cloth. Grandma was also the midwife for the district having at times to go on horseback on account of the bad muskeg roads. If one dropped into her place, if only for a minute, he might as well relax until he'd had a cup of coffee and a bit of lunch. The teachers always boarded there as long as she was able to care for them. She died in 1941 a sad day for all of us.

My uncle, Henry Lund, came up with the family, he could always tell you about the best fishing holes and the best part of the country to hunt wild game. After Grandma died Henry sold the home farm to my brother Josh and moved out west where he operated a sawmill for quite a

bought Mrs. M. Eritsland's place and lived there until he passed away in 1973.

**MARTIN, THE ANGUS L. AND SVANHILD FAMILY**

Angus L. (Bud) Martin was born in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, December 29, 1913. In 1915, he moved to the Ridgewood District with his parents where they were farming. Also he had five uncles farming in the same area. He took his early schooling at Ridgewood. In 1926, he moved with his parents to Lesliеville, where he went to school for a time. He says, "in one door and out the other." He recalls skidding logs at a lumber camp, that his Dad operated south-west of Phoenix in 1928-29. In 1930, he came to the Beaver Flat District with the family and in 1935 he started farming on his own, section 29-39-5-W5. His brother Ken, came to work with him and they ran the operation together. Bud spent several winters working in the lumber camps, while Ken did the work on the farm.

In 1947, Bud married Svanhild Sande, and in 1948, Ken married Irene Mushka. They all lived on the farm north of Alhambra that Bud and Ken operated. As well as farming, they had milk cows, range cattle and pigs, which kept them all occupied. In 1953, Ken and family moved to the other land that was purchased and each ran his own operation.

Before marrying Bud, Svanhild was secretary-treasurer of the Beaver Flat School District No. 1914 for a few years, then she worked as a receptionist for Dr. R. S. Wallin, Red Deer. When her sister, Anna, resumed teaching in Alhambra school, Svanhild lived at the Sunde home, taking care of the children, Allan, Sonja and Audrey.

Bud's and Svanhild's only child, Joyce, was born in Rocky Mountain House and attended school there. She attended David Thompson High school where she graduated. Then she worked on the farm before getting a position in Rocky Mountain House. She is presently employed in Calgary.

A few years ago, they moved into their new house on the other quarter. By now, they were established in their "cow-calf" operation, which involves growing hay and grain, and doing a lot of fencing. Several 4-H Beef Club members have bought their prize winning calves from Svanhild and Bud, which shows they have a fine herd of Hereford cattle.

**KEN AND IRENE MARTIN AND FAMILY**

Ken Martin was born in Red Deer, Alberta May 23, 1925, the son of Angus and Mattie Martin, who at that time were farming in the Ridgewood district west of Penhold. In 1926 he moved with his parents to Leslieville and in 1930 moved to the Beaver Flat district. He took all his schooling in the one room school at Beaver Flat. Leaving school at the end of June 1940 he helped his Dad on the farm at Ridgewood for two years. The farming was all done with horses and the summer of 1941 at 16 years of age he plowed 120 acres of hay sod with 12 head of horses pulling a three bottom plow. The winter of the same year he worked in a lumber camp for Wm. C. McDougall hauling logs with a sleigh and four head of horses. In 1942 he started farming with his brother Bud, in the Beaver Flat district.

Ken and Irene Mushka were married November 19, 1948 at Alhambra. Irene Mushka was born July 25, 1927 the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mushka, early settlers of the Alhambra district. Her father was section foreman for the C.P.R. since the start of the railway in this area until his retirement. In December 1952 Irene took all her schooling at Alhambra and High School at Sylvan Lake for two years and one year at Rocky Mountain House.

Ken and Irene lived on and farmed NW-29-39-5-5 from 1948 to 1953 when they moved to NE-20-39-5-5 which they purchased from Joe and Nancy McGhee the fall of 1952 and are still living there at the present time. They are also still farming

Ken and Irene have two children. Jean Marlon born at Rocky Mountain House May 2, 1951 and Marilyn Gayle born at Rocky Mountain

[illegible] wedding, [illegible] at [illegible]

Marilyn and Jean Marvin 1956

House January 20, 1965. Jean attended school at Alhambra, Lesliеville and David Thompson High School graduating in June 1969. The fall of 1969 she attended Olds School of Agriculture graduating in June 1970. She then worked in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at Rocky Mountain House for one year. In 1971, along with a girl from Acme, Alberta with whom she had gone to school at Olds, she went to Australia and for the next three years she worked her way a... over Australia and New Zealand doing [illegible] ng from working in offices to working on a large cattle ranch in Australia. then finished up working with a sheep shearing gang which travelled all over both the north and south Islands of New Zealand. She spent a short time in Suva, Fiji Islands, before returning home to Canada in 1974. At the present time she is working in Edmonton. Marilyn is still at home and attending school at Lesliеville.

As well as farming, Ken worked several winters in a lumber camp for Art Fisher of Rocky Mountain House. The fall of 1954 he started working for the Prairie Farm Assistance Branch of Federal Department of Agriculture as a crop inspector. In 1963 he was appointed assistant supervisor of P F A. under supervisor Ken Geddes of Amance, Alberta. During this time he travelled the area from the Saskatchewan border as far west as there were farmers in the central portion of Alberta. He finished this work the fall of 1974 when the P F A. department was phased out and replaced with Agri Rusk Crop In[illegible]

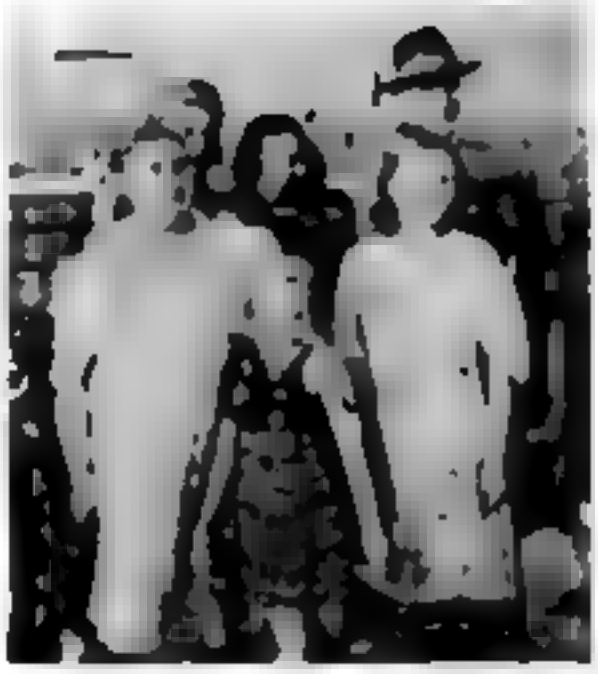
During this 20 years of seasonal work the late fall and winter chores were done by Irene and was quite a hardship on her especially when the children were small as they always had quite a good sized herd of cattle and milked some cows as well as raising some hogs. She always said it was a good thing their children were 14 years apart otherwise she couldn't have done it. In the spring of 1957 Ken started clerking auction sales for Clyde Stauffer of Evarts, Alberta and has clerked sales for several different auctioneers west of Red Deer. Clyde Stauffer retired from auctioneering in 1965 and he then started clerking with Russell Cole of Rimbey. In June of 1966 Russell Cole opened Cole's Auction Mart at Rocky Mountain House and Ken has been his clerk there since the day of the Mart opening until the present time. During this time he has donated his time to clerk many charity auction sales for different organizations the main ones being the Auctioneers' Association sales for Retarded Children and 4-H Calf Club sales for many years. But he says, 'Once a farmer always a farmer' so is still farming. He says he is a "Jack of All Trades and Master of None.

**McGOWAN, MARYANN CAMERON**

Maryann Cameron McGowan (Granny McGowan) left Scot and in the early 1920's and lived with her daughter Mrs. Jack Poplitt for a short while. Then she kept house for Mr. D. Fagg who homesteaded the SE 23-39-6-W5 west of Alhambra. After he died she lived there by herself for many years.

In Scotland she was a dentist's assistant. She attended at the births of many babies both in the Old Country and in the area where she settled here. Granny worked hard on the farm, but she also found time to help her neighbours.

She moved into the hamlet of Alhambra to spend her last years. On April 2, 1955, she passed away in the St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton, at the age of 94 years.



**McGOWAN ARCHIE CAMERON AND MARGARET**

Archie Cameron McGowan born in 1894 came to Canada from Scotland in 1920. His wife Margaret born in 1892 and their four daughters followed in 1923, arriving in Alhambra September 21 and the snow was very deep. They got off the train west of Alhambra at what was known as Poll.t's Crossing. The family stayed with their father's sister Mrs. J Pol tt for three days, then moved to the Dave Welsh farm north of Alhambra. Lizzie and Jessie went to Alhambra School with Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson as their teacher. On this farm they had their first experience in handling animals. They bought a cow from J Polllt named Rosy which they had to learn to milk. In the spring of 1924 they moved to the farm one mile west. Here Jessie had her first experience in handling horses. It was a team of heavyweight grey mares Jess and Dina that were purchased from Harry Hambleton. At this time Lizzie worked for Mrs Addy Sr at the hotel so it was up to Jessie to do the chores and put up the wood for winter. Then they moved to a house that was across the road from Polllt's. Here the first Canadian McGowan was born Archie Cameron, on August 11, 1924. In the spring of 1925 they moved to the Retiley place, south-east of W Hambleton. Lizzie and Jessie walked three and one half miles to Beaver Flat School where Mrs C N Beebe was the teacher. There were times when they had to walk through water to their knees to get to school as the roads were impassable and they had to go through Hambleton s field. When Mary started school Miss Wade was their teacher.

One incident that Jessie remembers well was when Mary took sick at school and the teacher sent her home at 10 o'clock in the morning. When Jessie got out of school in the afternoon she found Mary sitting in the ditch a little way from the school. Jessie carried her nearly all the way home. That was on a Thursday and on Saturday the parents took Mary to the doctor in Rocky Mountain House Dr Wm Hill, who later became Chief Medical Officer of Calgary, examined her and held up the C.N.R. train to send her to Red Deer on a stretcher. She just got there when her appendix burst. The mother had to be away for two weeks so Jessie had to care for Margaret and Archie, do the housework and the chores. Mrs. W. Hambleton came and helped on and baked the bread. The father at this time was away helping the Patersons bale hay around the country. In fact he was working away a lot of the time leaving the family to take over the work of the farm.

Among the many seemingly incredible feats for a young girl only five feet tall that were done by Jessie, apart from chores, were: cut brush and wood — build chicken house and barn — broadcast seed for greenfeed — cut trees and trimmed them, measured them and took them to be sawed into two by fours, slabs and flat lumber — hewed logs-built houses to live in — worked out taxes on road building — broke in horses — — nt on range cow round-ups — drove a bundle team on a threshing outfit — dug wells and cribbed them, but the water was often stagnant so hauled water from elsewhere and ploughed fire guards.

The home the family lived in the longest Jessie was proud of having built, although her father got a carpenter to help with doors, windows and the roof. As protection against cold the logs were chinked outside with cow manure, and she cut long furrows of sod with the old Sulky plow and hauled them on a stoneboat and piled them all around the house three feet high. On the inside she put three layers of tarpaper, then two layers of white building paper and then slats placed in squares, and the house was warm. That house burned down in 1936 or 1937.

They lived almost entirely off the land — had a garden — always had cows for milk and butter sometimes butter was made by putting cream in a jam tin and shaking it — by the kids! — had chickens for eggs and meat. The mother sold butter to the train men and they got customers in Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House for her. The children all went picking wild fruit to sell — it was plentiful so pailsfull were sold to the train men and the customers that they found for them. The blueberries were all cleaned by the children before selling them. These sales made possible the buying of the necessary groceries and coal oil. Jessie used to catch prairie chickens or partridges in trees and their mother stewed them with vegetables. They ate enough rabbits to be completely turned against them. Jessie says that they never went hungry but there was no variety in the meals nor in the school lunches. The Sande girls helped to see that there was some variety in their school lunches. Jessie says they always shared their hot soup or stew with her and Mary that they were a very good family — Mrs Sande purposely put extra soup or stew in for them.

Something Jessie remembers was when her little brother Archie, sat in a pot of boiling potato peelings that her mother had just taken off the stove — she was in the habit of boiling the peelings to feed the pigs.

As one can see times were very hard and Jessie's life so far was so filled with hard work that she had no real girlhood, so in January, 1932 she left home to seek a happier way of life.

This has been mostly Jessie's story.

The complete family of Archie and Margaret McGowan are:

Lizzie born July 31, 1912 in Glasgow Scotland, married to George Farrington.

Jessie born May 3, 1916, in Glasgow Scotland married to Mr Duncan.

Mary born March 20, 1919, in Glasgow Scotland, married to William Peacock.

Margaret born January 9, 1921 in Glasgow Scotland, married to Mr Devore.

Archie Cameron born August 11 1924. Killed in Action July 18, 1944.

Peter Cameron born August 12, 1926.

Nellie Smith born August 8, 1928, married Wm Meyers. Nellie died August 11, 1975.

Edythe Harrison born August 23, 1930 married George Wood.

Lillian born April 30, 1935, married C. D Wilson.

The last five were born in the Alhambra district.

Their mother, Margaret McGowan died February 22, 1948, at age 56.

Their father Archie Cameron, died at age 72.

Mary and Margaret attended school at Beaver Flat and Alhambra. Walking home, a distance of four and one half miles, after participating in a Christmas concert one year they froze their face and hands. Have you ever worn icicle pants? Well, Mary and Margaret did on this cold night.

They both had to work hard at home helping with the chores in the mornings and evenings while going to school and in the summer they helped weed the big family garden. Their father who worked out, was injured on the job in 1929 and spent some time in a hospital in Edmonton. After his recovery he was transferred to Field B.C., as a watchman on the railway. With their father away it was left to the family to take care of the farm.

In 1943 Mary was united in marriage to William Peacock. Her sister, Margaret, is now Mrs Devore.

**WILLER, ERASTUS — by Olive Rutherford, Dave Berryman and Lyle Sarsen**

Father was born in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, in 1873. He was married to Alice Russell at Rockford, Illinois in 1895, and in 1897 brother

Russell was born. In 1901 came brother Albert. In 1907 sister Olive and in 1909 sister Edna arrived. The rest of our family was born in Alberta.

In 1909 our father, ERastus Miller, along with his young family and his three sisters with their husbands and families emigrated from U.S.A. to Alberta where they took homesteads in the Condor and Alhambra districts.

After filing on his homestead claim, Father rented land east of Red Deer for a year or so and worked as builders' helper with his brothers-in-law in Red Deer. He later hauled freight from Red Deer to Pitcox (later called Hespero) with a team and wagon. The times were hard, but our father was a patient man.

While living east of Red Deer we welcomed a new brother, Chester born in 1911 and two years later 1913, a girl, Martha, arrived, much to our

By this time a small house was built and we moved to the homestead. Work was started on the C.P.R. and Father and other members of the family took a contract to build two or three miles of grade between Condor and Alhambra as we remember this was done with both oxen and horses pulling scrapers and fresnos. The roads were very poor and winding from one ridge to another, with corduroy in the low places. Other homesteaders were scattered every few miles and were always ready to help each other in any way. We were especially close to the Frank Maxwell family, our aunt and uncle. They homesteaded two and one-half miles west of us and through all the years were always there to help and cheer us. Often in times of sorrow and illness our families helped each other.

In those early years Mother acted as a mid-wife and often had to change clothes outside behind the house, because the expectant father was inside in the one-room house "waiting till she was ready". The Blairs, Stockwells, Leshes, Coopers and Pykalainen wives were just a few of the settlers she attended. We children basked with Dad until she came home again.

We spent many happy evenings in those days gathered 'round the fires while Mother read to us or sang songs. Wild berries were plentiful, also prairie chicken and rabbits and our older brothers were good with snare and slingshot, which helped out with the food bill. At that time too, there was a lot of timber. In winter time our parents and the older boys cut fence posts, mine props and firewood which also helped to keep things going.

In 1915, Russell enlisted in the army and in a very short time was sent overseas. Albert too, tried twice to enlist, but was turned down because of his age as he was only 15 at the time. Disappointed, he came home and worked for a short time on the railway. Still not happy he returned to the States and joined the navy, where he served for the next five years.

Olive and Edna went to school at what was known as the Davidson House, where school was held at that time, for the first years. It was a four mile drive with the wagon and they were quite small.

Later a school was built northeast of us, three and one-half miles. It was called Prairie Rose. Olive, Edna and Chester all went to school there. Some years later it was moved to Condor and the younger members of the family also attended there. We older ones sometimes rode horseback. The three of us on a brown mare called Kate and sometimes we walked. It was hard to attend regularly in winter as there was not much traffic and the roads would drift full of snow.

In 1915, brother Fred was born. Mrs. Eastman, a nurse who lived two and one-half miles to the south of us, came and attended Mother. She was one of the finest people you could ever find and for many years, travelled the country wherever she was needed, in a one-horse buggy pulled by a chubby little black horse called P[illegible]. She and Mother were close friends over the years and many times we girls were sent to take her a pail of berries or to help her with the washing.

Early in 1917 brother Earl was born and that fall an epidemic of cholera came and many of the younger children died. We lost brother Fred and at the same time, came the wire that Russell was wounded in action. It was a very sad time for us all.

In 1919 Russell came home from overseas. He was married the same year to Alice Cottman and moved to Vancouver, where they made their home. They had three children, Harold, Lorraine, and Wally. Alice passed away in 1966 and Russell in 1972.

In 1921, sister Lyla was born. It was a cold rainy night in September. Olive and Edna were sent to take blue berries to Mrs. Bell, collect the money for them, then stop at the post office at Condor to pick up the C.O.D. order, which was the baby's clothes ordered from the Eaton's catalogue.

There wasn't much money in those days as we remember. Most of our dresses, pants, and petticoats and such, were made from flour sacks. Quite often we had pants with "Purity" or "Robin Hood" written across the seat.

In 1927, Olive was married to Alex Rutherford. They farmed for a few years at Alhambra then moved to Red Deer where they remained. They have one daughter, Audrey. Alex passed away in 1959.

Edna married Charlie Berryman in 1928. They had first a daughter, Joy, then four boys, Clyde, Earl, James and Allan. For some years they farmed at Condor, then moved to Whitecourt, where Charlie passed away in 1953.

In 1939, Martha married Ben Simpkin. They made their home at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and were blessed with four sons, George, Timothy, Blaine and Steven. Ben passed away in 1976.

Lyla was married to Clyde [illegible]sia in 1940.

They lived for a while in Condor and later moved to Red Deer. Their family numbered three: Wendy, David and John. Clyde passed away in 1973.

In 1950, Chester married Thelma Prentice. They had a family of seven: Dorothy, Mary, Fred, Billie, Annie, Olive, and Phyllis. They made their home at Condor where Thelma and the children still live. Chester passed away in [illegible].

Brother Albert made his home in Seattle, Washington and passed away in 1942.

Earl served in the Second World War from 1942 to 1946. He returned home and farmed in the Alhambra district for several years. Mother made her home with him till her death in 1957. Earl's death came in 1967. Father died in 1938.

**OH HERE COMES LIMPY**

When I was a youngster out where the West begins
We went to town on mail-nights to watch the train come in
All the folks would gather at Meeres' General Store
And sit a swappin' tales, till they heard somebody roar!

Chorus: Here comes Limpy. She's comin' down the line
Here comes Limpy. She shore is doin' fine
Her whistle is a-blowin' and her headlight is ash-ine
She done her level best to get the mail here on time

When I was a little older, along about sixteen
There was a little boy I liked, his name was Jimmy Dean
I sat with him one mail-night, he courted me a spell
But when I went to kiss him, he started in to yell

Chorus: Here comes Limpy

I remember once the preacher held a meetin' in the square
It was quite a gathering, most everyone was there.
He said, "Now when the organ plays, each sinner must step out,"
But the whole crowd started runnin' 'cause they heard somebody shout

Chorus: "Here comes Limpy

At Cousin Willie's weddin' it really was a joke
Everyone looked solemn and just the Preacher spoke
Now William, do you take, he said, "this woman for your bride?
But Will looked out the window and here is what he cried

Chorus: Here comes Limpy

My Uncle Ned got sick one day, we all thought he would die
Pa went for the Doctor and Ma began to cry
Uncle Ned just lay there, so feeble and so thin
Till Limpy blew her whistle, then he shouted out like sin

Chorus: "Here comes Limpy

Those days are gone forever now, Limpy is no more
We don't go for our mail, They bring it to the door
But sometimes I get lonely and would give up all my pay
If I could go to town again and hear somebody say

Chorus: Here comes Limpy

This is a poem written about the train that used to run between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House during the years I was growing up.

Lyla Miller Sarasin

**THE FRANK MAXWELL FAMILY** by Lyla Rutherford

My father and mother, Frank and Edna Maxwell, came to Alberta in 1909 with their family. They came from Beloit, Wisconsin, U.S.A. to Red Deer on an immigration train and brought along some horses, cattle, machinery and household effects. Father and my older brother, Harold, came in the cars with the stock while Mother and the rest of the family came in the coach as far as Red Deer.

There was no railroad going west at that time and the roads were winding trails following the high ridges. Father, along with his brother Bert and his brother-in-law Erastus Miller, went west to what is now Condor and Alhambra and filed on their homestead. I think at that time one paid $10 to file claim, then had to live on it six months of the year. One had to fence it and clear and plow 15 acres to prove up and get the title.

Father was a brick-layer and plasterer by trade and to make ends meet, he worked with his brother Bert, on quite a few of the brick houses on what was the called Victoria Ave. in Red Deer also on the W. E. Lord's house and the Old Cronquist house. Dad and Harold also hauled freight from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. They also worked between Condor and Alhambra, building grade for the C.P.R.

For the first two or three years we rented land east of Red Deer as my brothers and I were all of school age and there were no schools close to the homestead.

Around 1912, Father had managed to build a small, two-roomed, tar-paper house on the homestead, and we moved west. There were six of us children in the family then: Harold, Lee, Esther, Lyla, Stanley and Clare. Alice was born in 1912 on the homestead. As I remember, Father and my brother cleared most of the land on the homestead by hand and broke it with horses. The first few years we grew only oats as the land was quite wet and the seasons were short. Later we raised rye and barley and, as more land was

cleared and the land dried, we grew wheat Prices were poor Oats, hauled to Rocky Mountain House were six cents a bushel

Mother was often called upon to go when

As we were a long way from a doctor and hospital we had to rely greatly on one another My parents, however never lost their taste for many American things, such as green tea johnny cake, corn-meal mush and molasses cookies

Stanley Clare and I went to school at what was called the Davidson school opened in 1914 Later a school was built at Alhambra and we also attended school there. Alice, some years later attended the Alhambra school

The first teacher we had at the Davidson school was Mrs Ralph Patterson Next came Mrs. Ludwig, then Mrs Frank Patterson, also Myrtle Smith from Red Deer who later married Mr Markle who ran an electrical business in Red Deer Annie White from Red Deer was one of our teachers also. These teachers worked hard as at that time, they taught from Grades 1 to 8 At Christmas time each school had a concert at which the children did plays, sang songs and did recitations There was always a tree filled with gifts, candy and big red apples

In those first years we gathered at another's homes for sing songs, games and dancing. Later dances were held in school houses one every two weeks, sometimes in one school sometimes in another Often we drove ten or twelve miles with wagons, sleighs or went on horseback to attend them. Music was supplied by Mr Cruickshank or Mr Chisholm on the violin Sometimes Albert Miller played his mouth-organ and if an organ was handy, someone would chord At Alhambra for years, Mrs. Luyckfassell, played the accordian for such occasions. During the first Great War Years, Box and Pie Socials were held and the proceeds were used for the war effort. Red Cross and such

Every year on July 1, we had a celebration at Alhambra There were ball games and foot races for young and old, also tug-of-war Prizes were given to the winner and the children were given a candy bar whether they won or lost. Lunch was served on long tables Everyone brought food and shared even to home-made ice cream

In 1913, Harold returned to the States and brought back our Grandmother Maxwell, who made her home with us until her death in 1925 Harold returned to the States a year or so later married and made his home there He has five

In the year 1915, Lee went back to the States and served for two or three years in the army He later returned to Alberta and purchased a quarter of C P R. land two miles east of Father's place. He returned to the U S A. again 1923 and passed away in 1924

Esther married Frank Birch in 1916. They lived for a short time at Nordegg later moving to Edmonton, where they made their home. They had one daughter Marjorie Esther, who died in 195

In 1923, I was married to Edwin Rutherford We had four children Lee, Grace, Gordon and Alex We farmed for several years in the Alhambra district. Later, we moved to Red Deer where my husband, who was a painter by trade went into the painting business, until the time of his death in 1960

Stanley was married to Vera Truman around 1935. He remained on the home place and farmed with Dad and Clare. Later he bought land close to Rocky Mountain House, where they still live They have three sons

Alice married Jim Anderson about 1936. They lived for a short time at Alhambra and Rocky Mountain House then moved to Drumheller for a few years Later they moved to Lacombe where they settled. Jim still lives there, Alice passed away in 1976

Clare remained at home with Dad and Mother until they passed away, Dad in 1957 and Mother in 1959 After that Clare sold the home place and bought land close to Stanley where he made his home until his death in 1969

## THE EDWIN AND ALEXANDER RUTHERFORD FAMILIES

Edwin J Rutherford, born in Glasgow Scotland in 1888, came to Canda in 1906, where he worked on sheep ranches around Walsh, Alberta

In 1910, his brother Alex G. Rutherford followed. They both worked on ranches to enough money to send for their mother and sister until their mother's passing They then went into the Armed Forces.

After the war they moved to the Alhambra district, where they took up land

In 1923, Edwin married Lyla Maxwell. They had a family of four Edwin was secretary of the U F A for some time He moved to Red Deer in 1928, where he was a sign writer and a painter until his death in 1960

Their sister Mary, married James Lamble at Medicine Hat and later moved to Calgary where he worked for the C P R They had one daughter

In 1926, Alex moved to Vancouver B C where he worked on odd jobs. He married Olive Miller in 1927 Their daughter, Audrey, was born in 1930. He worked for the Standard Oil Company at Matpole until 1937

In the fall of 1937 he moved back to the Alhambra district with his family He bought the C P R quarter one and one half miles east of Alhambra where he lived until the late 40s when he moved to Red Deer where he resided until his passing in May, 1959

## MUSHKA, FRED AND ZENA

Fred John Mushka was born September 15 1888 in Cashwoka, Wolyn, Poland. He served in the Polish army from 1909 to 1911 He married

Zena Maruik (a 1911, who was also born in Cashwoka Wolyn, Poland on November 13, 1891

On March 3, 1913, Fred J Mushka came to Canada aboard the ship Libau, leaving his wife and young daughter, Lupka, behind. Lupka was born in Cashwoka Wolyn, Poland on September 25, 1912

Fred landed at Halifax, then came west to Alberta and started working for the CPR with a bridge gang in Edmonton. Then he helped to build the A.C R branch line between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. He first worked as a laborer on the section of the track between Alhambra and Hespero, but he stayed in Hespero in the section house. When he became section foreman for the A.C R. on November 16, 1916 he moved in the section house in Alhambra

Fred tried to get his wife, Zena, and daughter Lupka to join him in Canada but World War I made this very difficult and for a time it seemed impossible as he could not locate them in Poland Zena and Lupka were separated, Zena was sent to a work camp, but finally they were aboard the SS Minnedosa and landed in Quebec, October 15, 1926. It was a joyous time when they were reunited with Fred and made their home in the C. P R. station house in Alhambra

In September 1920 Fred had purchased the SW 10-39-5-W5, the former Jim Boyd farm, and in 1924 he purchased the Charles Raine acreage, Block K in the hamlet of Alhambra. But the family continued to live in the station house as Fred was still the section foreman. He did some farming as well In September, 1932 he purchased the Cooks' homestead, the NW-3-39-5 W5. Zena was kept very busy caring for their family of two daughters and four sons. She enjoyed her neighbors and always was ready to lend a helping hand

ew members of the family are

rene born July 25, 1927, married Kenneth Martin and they have two daughters

ohn William born April 21 1929

Fred Alexander born August 14, 1930

Leonard Nickoli born January 8, 1933

Edward Peter born September 14, 1936, married Maureen Caldwell

Lupka attended Alhambra School and two of her teachers were Mr Moir and Mr Hicks. She attended St Joseph Convent in Red Deer for further schooling Prior to her marriage to Steve Zaetz of Leedale on July 16, 1938, she worked in the Eckville area. Steve was born on August 2, 1906 in Kobrin, Poland. He came to Canada August 29, 1930 and settled in the Leedale district with his brother Mike, on a homestead. After he and Lupka were married they lived on a farm in the Alhambra district On February 14, 1941 they purchased the SE-10-39-5-W5, formerly owned by Jim Boyd In 1949 they left this farm and moved to Windsor Ontario Here Steve was employed at the Chrysler Assembly Motor Plant until his retirement in 1973. Lupka was employed most of the time at a hotel and she also worked in a restaurant Steve and Lupka reside at Windsor

John attended Alhambra School. Grades 1 through 10 with Anna Sande Stude as his teacher for all but one of those grades. He took Grades 11 and 12 at Rocky Mountain House where he graduated. After completing his schooling he started farming on his dad's farm In 1968 he purchased the Frank G. Patterson farm. His farming operations include growing grain and raising cattle with his brother

Fred Jr attended Alhambra School where he completed Grade 10 and then he went to Edmonton to take a Diesel Automotive Course at the Chicago Vocational Training Centre. Later he worked in Edmonton on construction jobs Then he returned to Alhambra and worked on various jobs around here before settling on the farm and working on it until his death on September 6 1958

Leonard took his schooling at Alhambra where he completed Grade 10. Then he started working on the section for C P R. where he was employed for 10 years. Following this he became grain elevator manager for Federal Grain for eight years until Federal Grain sold to Alberta Pool. Now he has his own farm and he is farming with his brother John

Edward took his schooling in Alhambra and then he moved to Windsor Here he married Maureen Caldwell, R N on October 6, 1962 Edward worked as a mechanic, and for a while he was with the Windsor City Police Patrol Maureen worked in hospitals in Windsor and in Detroit Later they moved to Alhambra and lived on the farm. Edward worked for Bernard Kilbick at the Service Station while Maureen was employed at the Eckville Municipal Hospital Edward died on April 17 1970

Fred retired from the railroad on December 30, 1952. "In line with their practice of honoring fellow-workers when they retire, the Canadian Pacific Social Club held an enjoyable banquet

and dance at the Oddfellows' Hall on Friday evening with Fred Mushka as the guest of honor W Hartley president of the club, presided

Mr Mushka section foreman at Condor was superannuated on December 30, 1952, after 38 years of service with the company He was one of the first men to drive a spike on the high level bridge at Edmonton, in 1913. He was foreman on the A C R in 1917 On behalf of the club, road master Dan Twack made the presentation to him a handsome clock. Mrs R E Jones honorary president of the club, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Mushka

There were 150 present among them being Assistant Superintendent Hall, Calgary George Russell, Calgary, travelling engine foreman section foremen John Hodick Rocky Mountain House. Mr Pollitt Alhambra and Gordon Steadman Benalto also Messrs. Anheller and Carl Lachmund, Alhambra, all with their wives Messrs. Steve Pavlak and F Motte Benalto; J Fillip, Alhambra, G. S Shawe, Tuttle. Pau Novick, Red Deer section foremen and F Mushka Jr., Alhambra

Messages of congratulation on Mr Mushka's long service were received from several high officials of the company

Rebekah ladies catered for the banquet which was followed by an enjoyable dance with music by Willard Trimble and his orchestra Red Deer Advocate February 16, 1953)

After Fred's retirement they moved to the farm where they resided until their new home in the hamlet was completed in the mid-30's

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1961 with their family and a host of friends.

Fred Mushka died in the University Hospital Edmonton on August 30, 1961. Zena Mushka died in the Red Deer Nursing Home on December 18 1969

**CLARENCE NEEDHAM**

Records reveal that various branches of the Needham family were at some time granted Arms, but the oldest of these is the one which will be of greatest interest to our generations based on the assumption that it is attributed to a com

Sir Robert Needham was knighted by Sir William Russel, Lord Deputy of Ireland, September, 1594

A description follows Arms Argen a bend engrailed azure between two buck's heads caboosed sable attired, Crest Aphoenix in flames proper; Motto Nunc Aut Nunquam Authority Burke-General Armory Meaning of Terms. Arms Argent — silver or white shield represents gentleness A Bend means simple form. Engrailed: means draped, Azure: means blue Caboused. means full faced stag head, no neck showing, Sable means dressed in black Crest Phoenix issuing from flames of fire is frequently used as a crest — an emblem of immortality Motto: 'Now or never

This is one of the oldest Irish families, tracing its history back to Mac Niadh of the Time of the ancester of A'Niadh or A'Naihe-Uaidhne The name has been anglicized to O'Needham Needham Needam MacKnee MacNie McNeedem Neville and Neehan

**THE NEEDHAM FAMILY - by Olga Needham**

Clarence Vincent Needham is the son of Fred Moore and Bertha Needham. Fred is the son of James and Faonie (Moore Needham (Bertha is the daughter of Bert and Roseltha (Ayres Fisk

Olga Matilda Syren) Needham is the daughter of Waino Wilhelm and Anna Luosa Syren. (Waino is the son of Gustav and Leen Anttila) Syren ) (Anna is the daughter of Heikki and Agatha (Jakkaho Luosa)

Clarence, number eight child, was born on November 11 1927, at Craigmyle Alberta His wife, Olga, number six child, was born on September 9 1927, at Condor They were united in marriage in 1948

Clarence and his family lived at Airdrie and moved to the Alhambra district in 1961, to their present location, NE-13-39-6-5 NW-13-39-6-5 and

Their family consists of one son and three daughters. Gay is married to William (Bill) Glover of Rocky Mountain House She took her

elementary grades at Airdrie and Alhambra and her high school at David Thompson High She took a stenography course Gwen is married to Vernol Bunch of Leslieville. She attended elementary school at Airdrie and Alhambra and took her high school at David Thompson High She took a hairdressing course. Terry, of Rural Route 1, Alhambra, farms. He attended the Leslieville Elementary School and the David Thompson High School. Greta is married to Ron Desjarlais of Rocky Mountain House She attended the Leslieville Elementary School and the David Thompson High School. She took piano lessons and is presently teaching piano

Clarence conveys mail from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and points in between He farms with Terry as time allows

We like this district and expect we will be in no hurry to move elsewhere

**THE NEWMAN FAMILY — Alhambra 1939-1946, Condor 1946-1948**

The value of a family journal is realized when one is suddenly faced with writing a synopsis of family history covering even a relatively short period of time The following events, relating to the Newman family have been recounted without the benefit of written reference and therefore some of the dates surrounding these events may seem a little vague or may, at times, have to be granted a little give or take

It was however, in the spring of 1939 that three members of the Newman family moved to the John Larson farm the half section situated immediately west of Alhambra corner on the north side of Highway 11. These family members were Mrs. Mable Francis Newman and the two youngest of her four children Roy Allan (Chub who was then 19 years old, and Rita Margaret Margie), 16 years old. Prior to this they had farmed in the Clearview district, south of Red Deer for approximately seven years. This branch of the Newman family originated in the Auburndale district, a community midway between Wainwright and Vermilion, Alberta The father Albert John Newman was at this time, still living on the original home farm The second oldest son, William Irving (Buster worked with him. Buster was 21 years old The oldest son, Clifford Albert (Cipper), had gone to Chicago the preceeding fall, to take a course in airconditioning He was then 22 years old

The actual move from Clearview to Alhambra was accomplished with the help of good friends from the Red Deer district, a brother and sister Raymond and Doris Nicholson and Cliff Stannard all of whom shared good humor and a pioneering spirit It was an event that lasted for several days and was in itself worthy of a short novel. Trials and fun evolved in every aspect of the undertaking The family's old car a 1929 Buick had to be coaxed to make the trip and then after one visit to the hamlet, it refused to start again, ever (It was eventually sold.) There was no electricity or plumbing at the farm, but Mrs. Newman, aided by the girls' cleaning power, made the house a home. With the aid of pitch forks, Doris and Margie then undertook cleaning and repairing the old pole and straw barn, to make it fit to house the milch cows that were to be transported by truck as the house furniture and some machinery had been. When everything else had been either moved or sent on its way Chub and Raymond, with Cliff's help began a two day trek with team and hay rack and saddle horses, trailing out the range cattle and the remaining horses. Before everything was settled, everyone had rare stories to tell In retrospect, this memorable event was to set the pattern for the way of life that followed throughout our the years the family remained in the area adjusting to necessity milking cows (in poor facilities), and farming with only horse power, but through it all enjoying friends, old and new

The first visitors to the farm arrived the second night lamp light was showing from the house. These were Jim and Dickie Davies and Frankie Wilson, curious kids from neighboring farms who had trouble finding enough courage to knock on the door Mrs. Newman and the girls were very amused by the boys giggling in the yard and Mrs Newman had to go out the door to invite them in. Their visit was very welcome and the new residents spent several pleasant hours learning about the neighborhood happenings and people The next day the cows arrived and were settled into the newly cleaned barn While the girls were doing the milking that evening, Dickie

Davies came back to let the girls know the first ball practice of the season was to take place "up town" and the girls were invited to join in. They rushed with chores, then walked the mile and a half to be welcomed into their first community activity. It was a good thing it was an outdoor event, the girls must have had something of an old barn" aroma about them.

Ball games, summer picnics (May 24th at Condor and July 1st at Alhambra) and dances were the main social events the family participated in, although Chub and Raymond, who were exceptional horsemen and aspiring cowboys, made their way to take part in as many stampedes as they could. Raymond had stayed to work and Doris visited as often as the girls could arrange it, which meant these friends shared many of the events surrounding the family during their first year or so in the district. The cowboys had to practice riding, and so to make this possible they built a pole corral with a chute. On occasion, Sundays or evenings, any of the farm animals that would buck were given the opportunity to do so. These practice events drew considerable attention from other cowboy minded young fellows who lived near-by.

Transportation to stampedes was sometimes hard to find, since the old car had given up. When the Rocky Mountain House rodeo was to take place at the end of June that first summer the boys and a neighbor, Eddie Wilson, planned to ride to it on saddle horse. The girls wanted to go too. Mother Newman, as always, soft-hearted and hard-working, agreed to do the chores for the two days they would be away, leaving early on the 29th and returning on the 30th. The boys thought they could discourage the girls because there were not enough saddles to go around. The girls wouldn't be discouraged and so, their first trip to Rocky Mountain House was made on horse back, bare-back. Afterwards the girls were able to brag that they had survived the trip in better condition than the boys. (no allowance was made for the boys participation in the rodeo.) The group arrived in Rocky Mountain House by mid-morning. The boys made their entries and in the afternoon they rode in both bareback and saddle bronc events. In the evening they all took in the stampede dance and then rode a mile or so out of town to spend what was left of the night with the Stanley Maxwells. Next day they returned to the stampede and the boys again made their rides. No record was made of how well the boys placed in the competition, but they did share some of the prize money.) Again that evening the dance was not to be missed, and finally, after mid night they all trooped home, to arrive just in time to help Mother Newman with the chores. Then to bed. It wasn't a long sleep for the girls because by then it was the 1st of July, and they were expected to play ball at the community picnic, which they did. Chub and Raymond barely found the energy to attend the picnic dance that evening. Eddie didn't.

In 1939 the gravel on Highway 11 stopped at Alhambra corner. During wet weather the Highway" traffic faced many problems along the flat west of the farmstead. Among the vehicles that were frequently stuck in the mud were Sorenson's bus and the C A D P milk truck which made daily trips to gather 8-gallon cans of milk at the gates of shippers from a point several miles west, hauling them into Red Deer. It was not uncommon to have some stranded driver walk up to the house looking for help. Sometimes a team could pull them out, sometimes they couldn't. At that time the 'bus was an elongated four seater car. This was probably the first step up from the sedan car that provided the original bus service between Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer. It became a point of interest to watch the vehicles change in size and shape as the bus service grew. Another segment of Highway 11 traffic that was interesting to watch was the horse and wagon caravans of native people who travelled east in the spring to work somewhere during the summer, then in the fall they headed back west to their reserves.

Sorenson's bus service was frequently used by the family for shopping and visiting in Red Deer. The milk truck driver at that time was a very congenial chap named Donald Luck. He was not supposed to carry passengers but occasionally he made an exception because he liked company on the road, and someone would catch a ride into the city with him. This was a favor the family was able to return a few times when the road to the west was so exceptionally bad that it was impossible to haul milk over it. If

the truck swayed too badly through the mud, the cans which had to be stacked, would upset and spill. When Don stayed at the Newman's overnight, he would pitch in and give a hand with drying dishes or any other household chore that came up. On one such occasion the family learned he could handle a flat iron as expertly as he handled the truck. After that, Chub never found it as easy to ask to have his good pants pressed and eventually he learned to do his own pressing.

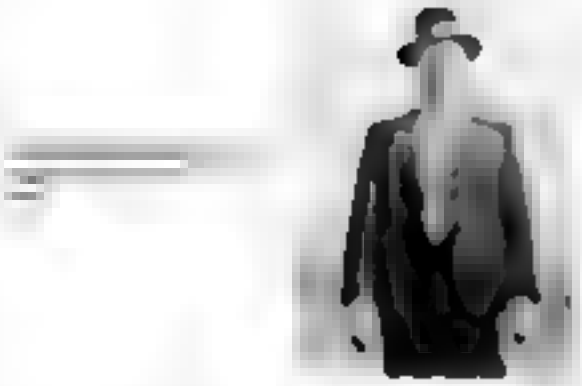
While the bus provided means for traveling to Red Deer, local shopping was done mainly on horseback, or sometimes, by team and wagon. It was not unusual for Margie to have everything from a sack of flour to a kerosene can laying over or hanging from the saddle. Two or three times Margie or Mrs. Newman rode to Rocky with Jack and Marie Davies when they were taking a calf to market by team and wagon. In later years, after these good neighbors had acquired a car, the Davies shared many rides to town.

Their first year in the district produced many new experiences for the family. After freeze-up in the fall, Chub went out to work in the logging camps west of Rocky Mountain House. It was rough, hard work but he enjoyed it and went back again the following winter. He thrilled in telling how well his skid or logging team had performed.

Time and circumstances effected many changes for the family, with World War II causing the greatest disruptions as it did throughout the world. Through many comings and goings by the rest of the family, Mrs. Newman was the only member who never left home for any length of time. She was a hard working, loving and capable woman who faced hardships head-on, a wonderful cook who could always make a tasty meal no matter how limited her pantry provisions became. Hard work was not new to Mable Newman. In the early years at Auburndale, she had worked with her husband in the field while keeping her house and cooking for the family and hired men, as well as doing chores and raising her family. All this combined with the worry of keeping the farm going at this time no doubt contributed to her declining health later.

Among the changes that took place, the family gradually saw less of Doris and Raymond Nicholson. Raymond went back to work with his father and later entered military service. Doris was married in Red Deer to Gordon Towers Dec. 27, 1940.

Shortly after Canada entered the war, the oldest son, Clifford, visited at Alhambra before leaving to go to England to join the R.A.F. He had education was less than would be accepted for a pilot in the R.C.A.F. 'Clipper' was more mechanically minded than his cowboy brothers. He had been responsible for keeping the old car running while the family lived at Red Deer.



Some of the neighbors there had felt that if the Buick had had even parts of wings, it would have flown then. Clifford became a Spit Fire pilot and as the war progressed he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant. During the Battle of Britain his plane was shot down over the English Channel and he was reported missing in action, June 1941. His body was later found on the coast of Holland and he was buried in a Military Cemetery outside of Amsterdam. He was 25 years old on January 21, 194

The second son, Buster, also visited the farm for a few months in 1939. He did not qualify for military service because of a hip damaged in a fall from a horse during his school days. He returned to Alhambra after harvest in 1940. His bride, Elsie (nee Ruud), had arrived before him. They spent most of the winter with the family and added another new member when their daughter, Arlene Mae, was born in Rocky Mountain House on December 24, 1940. When they returned to Vermilion they began farming on their own. They later had three more children, Helen Jeanette, born June 17, 1943, Lena Marguerite, born September 7, 1944 and Lyle Irving, born February 17, 1946. Buster and Elsie visited Alhambra with their two oldest girls for a short time at Christmas in 1941.

In the spring of 1941, Chub was called into the Army's one month training program for 21 year olds. About the time he would have been released, the program was extended to four months, and then again extended to full duty. While he was away Margie became farmer as well as chore boy. Chub later transferred to the R.C.A.F. and while he was training as a Wireless Air Gunner at Winnipeg, he became ill with rheumatic fever and was hospitalized just one week before he was to graduate with a WAG wing. He was confined to hospital for over six months and was eventually released from the service early in 1945 with a medical discharge as a result of damage to his heart during the il

On November 6, 1941 Margie was married to a local man, Angus Macdonald. They went to work for Lorenzo Cooper, a widower with a large farm operation south of Highway 11. On August 18

Newman came to help take care of the

Stuart found them to be special play mates. It was not uncommon to hear a ben squawking in because he was steering it around the yard with a wing in each hand. They never learned to keep out of his reach and the odd one had to take up swimming in the water trough

Muriel Cooper came to Ashambra in 1913, just after she had completed high school. She had been born and raised in part of New York City She came to visit her great-uncle Lorenzo, and originally planned to stay through the summer and then return to the U.S.A. to enter nurses training Her stay grew in length as she found the country living to her liking Although she had never before had the opportunity to ride horseback she greatly enjoyed the saddle horse Mr Cooper bought for her Watching Muriel learn to ride and handle "Blackie" was great fun. Life was quiet for her around her uncle's home so she made a habit of riding over to the Newman's on mail days and Sundays Her smile and bubbly personality were always welcome Her plans to return to school changed when she met a local man Charles Josh) Slinger Eventually Josh followed Muriel back to New York where they were married in 1916. They returned for visits to Ashambra but finally settled into farming at Peon Yann New York. They had one son, John

When Chub came home from the Air Force, he was unsettled and not ready to go back to farming steadily He worked at various jobs in different areas and came back to help out at times, but did not take up permanent residence at the farm again In his travels he acquired a faithful old 1929 Chev car which he left for Margie to use after one of his visits. He spent some of his time back at Vermilion and turned to chuck wagon racing with Buster

Mrs. Newman sold the farm in 1946 to two families named Robinson and Dolphin. The wives were sisters. These people were to take possession in the fall but as they did not have another place to live, they moved in during the summer and used the upstairs portion of the house. The men made use of their time by building a new barn one Marge wished had been here earlier

Mrs. Newman purchased another farm in the Condor district, a half section, formerly owned by the Begg family situated just east of the Withrow corner on the south side of Highway 11 The land was more open and the outbuildings were more usable. Chub arrived to help with the move and to put in the crop in the spring Settling into the Condor community was very easy as the family already had friends and acquaintances in the area. Chub's old car made getting around much easier up il he at last took it to Vermilion with him, and where it too, gave up. Friends often shared rides and it was still convenient to ranch the bus

During the summers at Condor the ball teams were again the centre of social activity, as

dances were during the winters. There were only nine ladies in the district interested in playing ball in the summer of 1947 but they were indeed interested. There were no spares to draw on but he team never was short a player for a scheduled game. They also won their share of the games which were played against Rocky Mountain House. Alhambra and Erkville Some of the ladies would on occasion delay milking their cows until after a game but no one would let the team down

This great team spirit carried into the when they decided to put on a dance to raise money to buy sweaters. The community hall had lacked he care of a cleaning committee for some time, a fact that was so noticeable, attendance at local dances had dropped off because of the heavy dust raised by dancing The ladies decided the hall must be cleaned before 'their' dance and so, the whole group gathered, armed with cleaning equipment of all sorts to do the job They stoked up the fire and kept boilers of water hot while they attacked in full force, starting with the windows and woodwork Before they were through, they had put seven cans of paste wax into the freshly scrubbed hardwood floor Polishing the floor was accomplished by pulling one another around on dry mops that were wrapped in rags The hard work of the day went unnoticed because of the good fun and fellowship that went with it The ladies advertised their clean hall with their dance posters and had a very successful fund raising

ondor School. She was a very attractive young lady a fact that didn't go unnoticed by Chub who was home for part of the fall, or by Dick Davies. who stayed with Chub for a short time Through their escorting Queenie to a dance and a show with Marge riding along, Queenie and Marge became good friends Later when a Friday night outing lasted a little longer than was expected, Queenie often stayed overnight with Marge, so that the people she boarded with would not be concerned about the hours the 'teacher' was keeping Queenie also became a welcome member for the ball team. Her many friends were sorry to see her leave the following June

During the winter of 1947-48, the ladies team again decided to raise funds. This time they added a play to their dance. Members of the men's team willingly agreed to help out. The result wasn't the greatest theatrical production ever presented but it was greatly enjoyed by at least the cast, through the many hours they spent in preparing for it

Stuart reached school age in 1946. His mother took him to the Condor school and thought he might be reluctant to stay alone. Instead, he felt quite at home, the ball diamond was situated in the school yard and the ladies had frequently played against the school team for practice. so young Stuart was well acquainted. He happily waved good-bye to his mother and it was she who was reluctant to leave alone

During the summer of 1948. Mrs. Newman and Marge made the decision to move off the farm and into Red Deer The farm was sold to a gentleman from Wetaskiwin named Pearson It was with some great regrets that preparations were made to leave the community, although Marge was not unhappy to see the end of milking cows. Friends held a farewell party in the community hall It was a sad moment in time for the family when Hilja and Ellie Syren sang "Now is the Hour" The move back to Red Deer was made in November 1948

In 1953, Chub was married to Ruby Hartley who had also lived in the Alhambra district although he had not known her at that time They eventually settled into farming in the Rimbey district They had two children, a son, Roger Allen, born February 22, 1954 and a daughter Karen Gail, born January 3. 1956. Roy Allan Chub Newman succumbed to the heart damage he suffered during the war. September 22, 1958. He would have been 39 years old September 30

Mable Francis Newman passed away in Red Deer at 79 years of age. January 23. 1893-April 6 972

Albert John Newman lived in Vancouver B.C. for many years before he passed away at 81 years (October 25, 1890-November 19, 1971)

At this writing Buster and Elsie Newman are living in the town of Wainwright They still raise cattle on part of their original farm

Margaret (Marge) Macdonald is still living in Red Deer and is employed with A.G.T Her son Stuart is living in Calgary and is employed as a Sales Representative for Labatt's Brewery

## OLSON, EDWIN AND MICKEY FAMILY

My parents, Mr John B. Olson and Martha Olson came west to Rockford, Washington, a small town near Spokane, from North Dakota about 1904. At that time there were two children, Alma born 1902, married Everett Foreman who, as a young boy, had lived in Lesheville They have three children She is a widow now living at Redmond, Washington. Norman was born in 1903, Carl in 1905, and I, Edwin in 1907

In the spring of 1910 we came to the

Home on the J.B. Olson homestead in the Moraguard district built in 1910.

homestead in the Horseguard district, SE 31-30

On July 7 1910, Angie was born, completing the family

We all went to the Little Horseguard School for our early education. To complete their schooling, Alma, Carl, and Angie went back to the U.S.A. and made their homes here

Carl and his wife, Hazel, had one daughter. Angie and her husband, Chester Schillen, had three daughters. Angie died as a result of a car accident in 1966. Carl died in 1969

I spent from April, 1926 to November 1931 at Toppenish, Washington. I came home to spend the winter with intentions of going back in the spring. In March, 1932, Dad passed away suddenly at the age of 66 years. Norman and I farmed together until 1946 when we dissolved the partnership. I bought two quarters of the Byram farm where I still live. E½-9-39-5-W5. Mother passed away in 1960 at the age of 88 years. Norman farmed the home place until he sold it in 1966. He lived in the Rocky Mountain House until his death in 1976

During the years I spent in Washington I met Mildred (Mickey) Thompson. As I had decided to stay on the farm, she came up to Canada with my sister Angie. I talked her into staying. On the 2nd day of October, 1932 we were married. At this time the Depression was really getting bad the cheque for a five gallon can of cream was about $1.45. We managed to get together three or four cheques, took off on a honeymoon in an old "Puddle Jumper" Model T Ford that I had paid $15 for and brought up from the U.S.A. We stayed overnight in Red Deer and came home the next day as that was all our finances would allow

Phyllis was born in 1935. She is now Mrs. Alfred Bolzer. They have two daughters and two sons. They live in Calgary. Delores was born in 1937 and is now Mrs. Donald Armstrong. They have one daughter and one son. They live in Eckville. Our girls went to the Little Horseguard School until we moved to the Alhambra district in 1946

In 1921 I walked the four miles from the homestead to the Alhambra school as there were not enough students to warrant a teacher for that term at the Little Horseguard School. The Depression years were very hard on everyone as all our hard work could not produce much money. We sold 2 100 pound hogs for $5.65 a hundred, oats for 9¢ a bushel, No. 1 timothy hay sold for $6 a ton, baled and loaded into a car at Alhambra, eggs sold at 5¢ a dozen. A yearling calf had very little value, so was kept until it was two or three years old

In 1935 we sold six three-year old steers and three yearling calves. We got a cheque for $62.77 for the nine head. In those years all the cattle were kept in the barn through the winter, so we did a lot of shoveling for what money we got. Trapping a few coyotes each winter brought more clear profit at $5 and $6 each. They helped to pay the taxes more than once

Coyotes trapped by Edwin Olson in 1937

**OLSON, RUNE**

Rune Olson was raised in Saskatchewan where, in 1942, he joined the Armed Forces. Upon returning from overseas in 1946 he came to Eckville and purchased the Sodler farm, SW 5-39-3-W5, 12 miles south on the Diamond Valley road. He brought his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Olson from the prairies the same year. His sister, Elvera, also came west and worked in Eckville for a time, Eckville being the closest town for doctors, hospital, mail route etc.

Later Rune's parents started work at the Raven Trading Store where Rune met Doris, the youngest daughter of Noah Heare, on whose land the store was located. Doris, her two sisters and two brothers were raised in the Raven district. Their father used team and wagon in the early days to transport grain and hogs to Hespero. There he took the team to the livery barn for a feed and rest before starting on the long trip home.

In 1952 Rune and Doris were married and left shortly after for the oil fields around Devon, later moving to Drayton Valley, as the oil fields expanded. They went to the farm only to put in crops and harvest them.

In 1957, after being back on the farm a year, they sold it and moved to Red Deer. Here they got back into the oil patch. The two oldest children, Teresa and Ronald, started and finished school in Red Deer.

After commuting back and forth to Willesongreen, Eckville and other oil fields, they decided in 1971 to move to Alhambra to the farm, NE 12-31-6-W5, they had purchased a year earlier from the Van Dammes'. Earlier residents were Mr. MacIntosh, Hartley's and Paisley's.

Here Mr. Olson kept on with his business and farm. The youngest Olson, Kerry, moved with his parents and started Grade 7 at David Thompson School, completing school in 1977 and is now employed in Red Deer. Teresa got married in 1972 and is now living in Vancouver. In 1973 Ronald came home to work with his father's

Since moving here, natural gas has moved into most rural and urban homes for heating, replacing propane, oil, wood and coal stoves and furnaces.

As 1977 draws to an end, a sour odor is in the air coming from a gas well, out of control in the Lodgepole area. The low ceiling in the atmosphere is carrying the fumes many miles in every direction, as the wind changes. They are hoping to get it capped by Christmas.

**THE PATTERSON FAMILY PRAIRIE ROSE:**

The Patterson twins, Leonard and Frank, came out from England in the spring of 1907. They had attended Dr. Fry's school in England and came to his farm east of Red Deer to learn Canadian ways of farming. They did not stay there for very long, coming out west and filing on land here. Eventually the family came. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Patterson, Ralph, the girls Dollie, Annie and Katie, and the young son Leaman. They settled on young Leonard's land, in the Prairie Rose district, where a very comfortable home awaited them. This home they called "Shendish", after the one they had left in Hertfordshire. Ralph's fiancee eventually came out from England and they settled on his land two miles or so, south-west of "Shendish". Ralph and his wife, Emmie, were married in St. Luke's Church, Red Deer. By now the boys farmed extensively for those days as Frank and his father filed on land in what is known as Alhambra district. Mr. Patterson's land eventually was sold to become part of the village district. Mr. Patterson, who had been in ill health for some time, died in the early part of 1914.

World War I was to interfere seriously with the quiet family life of the Patterson's. Leonard joined up immediately. Later on, Leaman joined the second C.M.R.'s, in Red Deer. Annie Patterson, who had been teaching in Red Deer, married Sergeant Frank Holt of the second C.M.R.s. Leaman was killed in action, June 2, 1916. Sometime later on, Frank Holt was also killed in action. By this time Leonard had been twice wounded, and after being hospitalized for a considerable time in the south of England, was returned to Alberta. Frank had joined the 211th battalion and left for overseas December 1916. With some others of the 211th, he was transferred to the 8th C.R.T., and when the war was over returned to Canada, the spring of 1919.

During their later years, the eldest son, Ralph, and his wife Emmie, enjoyed living in Kaslo, B.C. Ralph and his wife are both buried there. Leonard who stayed with his sister, Mrs. Holt, during the last illness, is buried in Red Deer Cemetery. Frank, who had married Elizabeth Meston, September 1916, on his return overseas service, resumed farming in the Alhambra district. They moved to Rocky Mountain House, where Frank became Justic of the Peace and later, Magistrate for a number of years. They had the pleasure of celebrating their Golden Wedding, September 1966, with their family and friends. The last of the Patterson boys, Frank died February 4, 1968, and was buried in Pinegrove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House.

Ralph and Emmie Patterson had four children. Len is retired from the R.C.M.P. and lives in Regina, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Helen married and lives with her husband Stuart Dick, in Lacadema, Saskatchewan. After a long illness, Helen died about three years ago. Alec and his wife, Florence, still live on their ranch, at Claresholm, and he says he is semi-retired. They have a son and daughter, Ralph and Pat. The youngest of this family, Jane, was from some years, a nurse in the General Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., and married Charles LaCrue. They have one daughter, Anita.

Katie Patterson who taught for many years, married Henry Ludwig. After retiring from teaching at Medicine Hat, they moved to Victoria, B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig have both passed away. Mrs. Annie Holt is the sole survivor of the family. The Frank Patterson's had a

Leaman became a prisoner of war after Dieppe in World War II. Shortly after returning to Canada he married Joyce Ambler of Cochrane. They have four children. James, after extensive travelling, has returned to Canada. Dale is in the Navy. Theresa (Terry) is married with two children and Grant is a photographer on the Campbell River, B.C. "Courier". Frances M. Patterson married Wesley J. Teskey and they have five children. Four of them are grown-up and teaching. The youngest, Christine, is still in high school. Grandmother Mrs. Frank Patterson, still quite active, lives in Rocky Mountain House, enjoying friends and very often the company of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

[redacted]

**Frank Patterson**

It might be interesting to some to remember what teaching was like in the early days in Alberta. The province was young, many people with young families were flung on land. So rural schools were built and teachers were in demand. My first school was a log schoolhouse in the Beaver Flat District. This was in 1912. The pupils were children of people who had moved from the United States and Britain. After finishing at Calgary Normal, I began teaching at Beaver Flat School in the spring of 1912, the secretary being Ted Frodeen and the chairman, Oscar Litchfield. There were five Sims children, three Marshall children, and the three Gaffney children. The Turton children were also pupils as was Effie Washburn, also Cissy Rodgers and

The three R's were stressed. We put in full hours of study with a morning and afternoon

recess and a noon hour where we had lunch in school or out-of-doors if weather permitted. In his group, we had some good singers and all enjoyed Phys. Ed., sometimes taken out-of-doors. We were fortunate in having a well on the grounds and the cloak room was at the entrance, the boys having one side, the girls the other. Some of the children rode horseback. Most of them walked, sometimes barefoot, because Beaver Flat roads in those days were occasionally under water. I preferred to walk the distance from my parents' home to school, a distance of about two-and-a half miles, and I cut through a few fences, crawling under, through or over whichever was easiest. As in all the beginning schools, we certainly could have used more library books. As the years went on, I know this was remedied. The salary for teachers, those bygone days, was generally $50 per month.

Later teaching at Bingley School, I remember Ethel and Jim Stewart, Frank Larsgard, Joe, Mabel and Norris Mannix, Lempi Lake, Mary Mikkela and Wenni Kohtala, also Jesse Nelson. J. W. Christian was secretary and Sigurd Sande was chairman. Kindly J. F. Boyce was then our Inspector of Schools. He would arrive by buggy and team and had the pleasant knack of putting pupils and teachers entirely at ease. At Gaetz School we had some big boys and girls, so to brighten things, we all took part in clearing away quack grass along the front fence facing the main road. Spades and rakes were brought from home. This project was worked on after lunch each day. Somehow or other, we acquired many packages of flower seeds. The results were certainly gratifying. Our inspector came out to visit the pupils, admired the lovely floral border and returned soon after to take a photograph, which was published in the A.T.A. magazine. Needless to say, the pupils felt amply rewarded. This would be around 1915. By this time, we had fairly good roads but in rain they were muddy. So I bought "Prairie Belle" boots to get back and forth to go to school. They were advertised in Eaton's catalogue. In this school were children of families that came from Germany, Austria and Norway — quite an interesting challenge here to teach English.

World War I years saw quite a few of the young men enlisting. In the Beaver Flat area, young Oscar Litchfield, Paul Frodeen, Claud Sims and Billy Rodgers went Overseas. Oscar Litchfield was sent home and died in Red Deer. [illegible]ly Rodgers was killed in ac[illegible] severely wounded, remained in hospital for many months and Paul Frodeen was killed in action a few hours before the signing of the Armistice. Alec Green, son of Mrs. Bert Hilbert, was one who returned safely to Alberta. He married one of my Beaver Flat pupils, Mamie Sims. George Meston was also one of the fortunate ones who returned home safely. He married Violet Innes and later opened the store [illegible].

**PRENTICE AND COWAN FAMILIES — by I. [illegible]**

After living in the Sylvan Lake district for years I took my family to Manitoba for 13 years where I worked for the Manitoba Paper Co. of Pine Falls, manufacturers of newsprint paper. Our last child, Shirley Elizabeth, was born there early in 1946. We already had five born back here in Alberta.

The tug to home overcame the two oldest children and Milton, our first born, and his sister, Thelma, returned to the home place of Thelma's new husband, a quarter section along Highway 11 half-way between the Condor corner and the Ashambra corner. Milton and Chester Miller ran a small sawmill cutting lumber for various people of the district, and farmed the few cultivated acres on the farm. Thelma's husband Chester bought Mr. Bennet's farm on the creek two miles north. With its buildings on the north shore, the Miller's decided to trade in Lesliеville.

Milton went to Sylvan Lake meantime, and he died suddenly there in 1958 on Good Friday. After the funeral, the rest of the family wished to be back in Alberta so, during summer holidays of the year '58, we returned to live in Lesliеville where I had bought a house from Walter Bunch, Ray Bunch's nephew. Later Mrs. Prentice and I took over Allan Scott's butcher shop and our daughter Shirley started attending the David Thompson High School located on Highway 11 and the four Cowan children, our three grandsons and one granddaughter went to Lesliеville Elementary School.

Mrs. Sunde of Ashambra was one of our daughter's teachers at David Thompson High.

After Mrs. Prentice's passing, at Christmas time in 1963, I became involved in a farming venture with Earl Miller until his passing in January of 1967. At that time I went to Caroline to work. My daughter, May, and her daughter Dorothy stayed on at the farm located one mile north and one mile east of Ashambra and Dorothy went to David Thompson High School.

Now May is in Taber and Dorothy is going to the Red Deer College and the youngest Cowan boy, Ronald, is operating the farm.

**THE FRANK SCOTT FAMILY—by Joyce Lemke**

Mrs. Agnes Annie Scott (daughter of Allan and Eleanor Kirkham, nee Pierce) was born December 13, 1882 at 130 Elliot Str., Preston, Lancaster, England. She had two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Crossley, who died September 8, 1965 of Banff, and Mrs. Ethel Clitheroe, now 86, living at White Rock, B.C., both born in England.

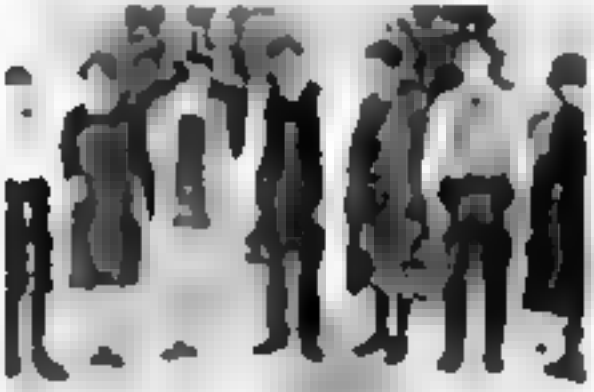
The Kirkham family in England ran a general store and meat market as Mr. Allan Kirkham was a butcher by trade.

Miss Agnes Annie Kirkham married Frank Scott who was born in 1882 in Preston, Lancaster, England, on October 30, 1905. Frank Scott was also a butcher by trade in England. Frank had

two brothers, William Scott of Calgary, now deceased, and Mark Scott of Indiana, both of whom were born in England

Mr and Mrs Frank Scott had three children, Marion Scott, baptised September 18, 1908 Margaret Scott born April 17, 1910, and Allan Scott born January 3, 1914. Marion lived only until age seven. Margaret Scott married Tom Stelfox on November 5, 1946, and had one son Tom born in 1948. Margaret passed away in 1967, age 57

Allan Scott married Margaret (Peggy Stelfox of Rocky Mountain House in 1940, to whom three children were born Joyce, August 27 1941, Margaret, October 3, 1944, and Brent, June 12, 1957 Joyce married Hugo Lemke in 1961 and to this union three children were born. Linda, Brian, and Teresa



In 1913 Mr and Mrs. Frank Scott came to Manitou, Manitoba and then moved to Calgary for a short while before another move to Innisfail. Their daughter Margaret, attended school at Innisfail, where the family lived for nearly 10 years

In 1924 Mr and Mrs F Scott bought a farm at Alhambra N E. 7-38-5-W 5 from Andy Lenon, a bachelor who homesteaded the land. Mr F Scott farmed this land and carried on a butchering trade too, with which the entire family helped. His son, Allan, was taught the skills of butchering by his father, Frank who had been well trained in England. Margaret worked for Sam Emmerson who had a general store in Alhambra. She took over the post office after Mrs. McGrath and she held that position for many years. Her good sense of humor and happy smile will long be remembered

In 1945 Mr and Mrs. F Scott sold their farm to Allan and moved to the coast Margaret also moved to the coast where she married Tom Stelfox They ran a general store in Vancouver for several years. Frank Scott passed away in 1945 as a result of a heart attack

His grand-daughter, Joyce, will always remember the time on the Alhambra farm, when she had left her rag doll on the kitchen table During the short while she was in the other room Grampa Frank Scott applied mustard to the seat of the doll's "undies" On her return Joyce was dismayed when he asked her why she didn't change her doll's diapers more often

Mr and Mrs F Scott had purchased their first team of horses from Henry Stelfox of Rocky Mountain House in 1924 They were heavy English work horses known as Shires. Mrs Scott was very capable of handling and driving the horses, as she had done it in England. Their first tractor was a 1530 McCormick Deering Allan purchased his first truck, a Model A Ford Pick Up, in 1935

Mrs. Frank Scott was always known for her lovely chickens In fact if visitors came and she wasn't in the house Frank would advise them to go and look in the chicken house! It used to annoy Frank when she would feed his good seed wheat to the chickens

Sundays were special days on the Scott farm as friends and neighbors would drop in to play cards or sing songs. Frank Allan and Margaret were all musical. Frank and Allan played violin and guitar for community dances

Allan and Margaret attended school in Alhambra in the early 1920's. Two of their teachers were Temple Crawford and J H. Hicks They rode two miles to school on horseback whenever the weather wasn't too miserable When Peggy and Allan lived on the Scott farm in the late 1940's, Joyce walked the two miles to school.

Around 1950, Peggy and Allan sold the Alhambra farm and built a meat market in Leslieville Allan did a lot of custom curing and was a skilled meat cutter The entire family helped with the business and Joyce and Margaret finished their schooling in Leslieville and David Thompson High School. Allan had the meat business for about twelve years, then decided to return to farming one section of land which he owned northeast of Rocky Mountain House. He and Peggy built a new house on this farm (the old Hall place) and lived there a few years, then Allan sold and moved to another farm he had purchased—eight quarters in all—about twenty miles northeast of Rocky Allan lived on and [illegible]ed that land until his passing on November 1977, age 63, of cancer His mother, Mrs Agnes Annie Scott had lived with him on this farm for two years prior to being in a nursing home in Ponoka for two years before her passing on April 8, 1974, age 91

Allan's passing brings a sad end to the Scott family story but the memories of these four wonderful people—Mr Frank Scott, Mrs. Agnes Annie Scott, Margaret and Allan, will bring smiles to the faces of those who knew them for many years to come They were all kind, humorous, good-natured, hard working folk

## THE SINGER FAMILY—by Evelyn MacDonald

The Singer family came to Canada in 1912 first to Bassano, then Midnapore, Calgary Wilkie Saskatchewan, and finally settled in the Horseguard district in April, 1918. We walked three and one-half miles to school which took us about one hour. We didn't mind really as we always met the von Hollen's and others along the road and it was good company. In the winter our noses froze, but no problem we'd put our pails under the wood stove and by noon they'd be thawed again which was a real fun time.

My dad (Agustus or Gus as he was called) and the other neighbors worked out part of their taxes by building the roads which were over a lot of muskeg. There were five in our family Florence, Violet, myself (Evelyn), John, Si and Charles (Josh), the latter two born in 1918 (December) and 1924. I was so glad the war was over so they wouldn't have to join up but they were both overseas in the second World War.

In the winter the men hauled posts and firewood to Ashambra which Charlie Raine and Sam Emmerson bought to give credit for [illegible]

At that time Ashambra was quite a thriving little place. On the east side of the street was Charlie Raine's store with the dance hall above, Joe Sullivan's pool hall and barber shop (which later moved across the street where Ray Harris live now), the Addy Hotel (on the lot where Chapman's now live), then a dry goods store, next a house where the elevator man and his family lived and a big house on top of the hill which was Charlie Raine's. On the south street was Sam Emmerson's store which had the post office and long distance telephone (later the telephone exchange). Mr. Lessing's drug store and Roy Addis's store. Across the street were the blacksmith shop built by Tim Kirby and a big warehouse that was Sam Dickson's store and later Henry von Hollen's. On the west side was a restaurant and my dad's harness shop.

Chief MacDonald and my dad were on the school board, the teachers got only about $100. a month and at times there wasn't enough money in the treasury for that.

New Year's night was a real highlight at the Chief's, with all the food, the Chief playing the bagpipes and we doing the Scottish dances that they taught us. Another highlight was the 1st of July picnic in Ashambra and the Christmas concert in our school.

Then there were the wet years when one couldn't get the grain off the fields as the binder and horses would bog down. Somehow we came through.

Then came the hungry 30's and the war. I bought a small house in Ashambra for $325. at $25. a month and nothing down. I married Jock MacDonald in 1937 and our son, Richard, was born in 1943. Jock went overseas and came back in 1945. In 1947 we bought the old Sam Emmerson store, then built a store just out of Rocky Mountain House in 1958, and sold it in 1965.

Richard married Jeanne Steenson in 1965. They now have two boys and live in Red Deer.

## THE ROBERT SMITH FAMILY

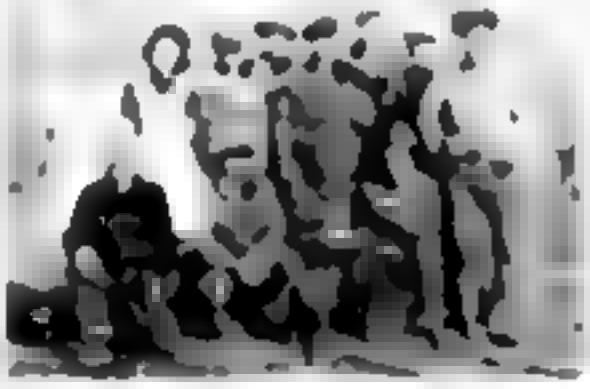
Robert (Bert) Smith came to the Ashambra district with his parents in 1912 at the age of 10. His parents, Robert and Barbara (nee Davidson) had farmed for many years in Scotland before bringing their family of seven to Canada. Robert Sr. had been known there as "Rabbit Robbie" because of the many rabbits he trapped and sold. His wife was referred to as "Butter Babbie" as she made and sold butter. The Smiths homesteaded the SE 34-38-5-W5 and in 1916 bought the SW 9-39-5-W5 next to the hamlet of Ashambra from Frank Hall. They built a new home there and moved into it in 1919. True pioneers, they were popular in the community. Mrs. Smith had been a midwife in Scotland and continued her work here, delivering many babies. There were many happy memories of days when large crowds gathered at the Smith home to celebrate Burns' Day and dance to the wee hours of the morning. Mrs. Smith died in 1947 at the age of 79 and her husband in 1955 at the age of 97.

Of their children, Charles, the oldest, married Lillian Blair of Condor. He was an engineer and worked in mines and mills in various places.

James was in the police force for many years and was a magistrate in Red Deer before his death in 1954. He had married Isobel Thackeray, a school teacher at Ashambra.

George operated the garage at Lesslieville for a number of years before moving to the oil fields in southern Alberta and then to Peachland, B.C. His wife is Mary Speckman of Okotoks.

William married a Lesslieville girl, Francis Hammond and lived and taught school in Red Deer for many years. Now retired from teaching, he lives at Three Hills.



Barbara who married Harry Simmons is now widowed and living with a daughter at St Albert

Jessie and her husband, John Leslie now both deceased, farmed at Leslieville They had five children. Ed, Flora, Jack Bill and Leonard Leonard and his wife, the former Jenny Kaniusis of Condor now live on the family farm with their five children

Robert (Bert) was the son who took over the Smith farm on the retirement of his parents He continued to live in the Alhambra district and work hard for the community until his passing on Oct 5, 1977 In 1940 he married Mabel Wilson of Alhambra and they had two children who still live in the Alhambra district Their son Franklin, married Marlene Howes in 1973 and they have two sons, Ryan and Logan. Daughter Heather, in 1964, married George Loomer and they have three sons Derek, Roger and Trevor

Along with the others in the area, Franklin and Heather took their schooling at Alhambra and were among the first students to attend David Thompson High School. This school brought together students from a very large area, and needless to say had caused much dissention in the area First there were arguments for and against centralization. Then there were arguments as to where a centralized high school should be built as schools then existed at Leslieville, Condor and Alhambra. The problem was resolved by placing it between all three areas, along Highway 11 Classes started in the fall of 1957 with a lot of very thrilled students attending

Following school Franklin took up farming, taking over part of his father's farm. Heather attended the University of Alberta and returned to the area as a teacher in 1961, teaching first in Rocky Mountain House and later at David Thompson High School and at Condor

**THE JAMES WILSON FAMILY**

James and Alice Wilson (nee Ewan) left Scotland in 1924 with their nine children. They arrived in Canada and settled in southern Alberta around the Picture Butte area where they farmed for 10 years before moving north to the Alhambra district. A 10th child had been added to the family by then. Mr Wilson passed away in 1935, shortly after they had moved to the area The farm was carried on by Mrs. Wilson and sons Ed and Frank until they moved to Stettler in the fifties

Frank by then was married to Shirley Mortimer of Rocky and Ed had brought over an English bride Alison Winton Son Jim also farmed in the area until he sold his farm to Wm Palm (It is now occupied by H. Nicolay.) One of the eldest daughters, Alice, married Charles Frasier and they lived in Alhambra for a number of years. They built the garage in the hamlet Mabel married Robert Smith and is the only one of the family still residing in the district The youngest daughter, Elsa, married Alex Poulet also of Alhambra. These members of the family along with Bill, Annie, Violet, and Clara are scattered throughout B.C and Alberta. Mrs Wilson passed away in 1973

**THE STOLTE HERMAN FAMILY**

The Stolte family comes from Overijsel Netherlands. Following the hardships of the Second World War there was great uncertainty about the economic situation in Europe and a massive emigration began As an agent for Canadian Pacific, Herman Stolte came into contact with many immigrants and so in May 1951 he followed the trend and came to Canada with his wife and seven little children

Nine days by boat four days by train and the Stolte family arrived in Lacombe where two brothers who had emigrated before World War II awaited them. These brothers had purchased a farm for Herman Stolte from John H Jones at S.W 6-39-5-5 but, having bought it in the winter they didn't know what the land was really like Herman Stolte was greeted by the expected bush, surprised by the swamp and welcomed by a house and a few outbui

The first few years, (very wet) were spent draining swamp and clearing land. Herman was very appreciative of the warm reception by his new neighbours and the advice of Havelock Sloan on how to farm "a la Canadienne." The English he had learned in Holland was soon augmented by interaction with his neighbours and children who began attending Alhambra school The children started school dressed in Dutch shorts and long socks but they were well accepted and soon learned the language and new dress code. In September the boys returned to school in long pants

At this time (1951-53) travel was difficult due to construction on Number 11 Highway west to

Rocky Mountain House. The children often had to bring back groceries and mail from Alhambra by bus on their way home from school. The family also remembers long trips to Rocky when a now ten mile trip to church could involve driving through Lesliеville. Along with other families in similar straits, they took lunch with them and met socially between services. Mrs. Stolte still remembers the hot chocolate and stacks of sandwiches she prepared each Sunday morning.

After the first four years, the hardest adjustment and work was over and the family could enjoy a new Canadian-born son, Allan. The farm continued to prosper and eventually launched the eight children into the world on their own.

Jenny studied a year at the University of Alberta and then taught in Lacombe. She soon moved to Ontario where, in 1965, she married Harry Van Belle, now a psychologist in the Fraser Valley.

Albert was the only one to continue farming. After working with his father in 1973 he bought his own farm two miles west of the home place and married Leona Vander Woude.

Arend graduated from the U of A and began teaching in Edmonton. He married Geraldine Nyland, a teacher in the same school, in 1968.

Riky studied briefly at the U of A and then went to work in a material store in Ontario. En route she met a Canadian soldier, Cliff Goebel whom she married in 196[illegible].

Gertie graduated form Royal Alexandra School of Nursing in Edmonton and worked there till she met and married David George in 1968. He is now an air traffic controller in Grande Prairie.

Bertha graduated from Calvin College in Michigan and then taught in Edmonton where [illegible] carpenter in [illegible].

Herman also graduated from Calvin College and taught briefly in Edmonton. He married Grace Hoeksma in 1976.

Allan went from his father's farm to work at Van's Sausage Company in Edmonton.

As of 1977, the Stolte's have 14 grandchildren.

## SUNDE, THE KNUT AND ALMA FAMILY

Alma Louise Sunde, the second daughter of Astrid and Sigurd Sande was born October 15 1913, on the homestead. When she was four years old the family moved to the farm one-half mile south. She took Grades 1 through 8 at the Beaver Flat school. In order to continue her education she went to Bingley, Lesliеville, and Red Deer where she graduated in 1933. After her one-year teacher training, 1933-1934, she applied for several teaching positions advertised throughout the province. Four of her applications were accepted and she had to make up her mind where she wanted to teach. She decided to teach in the Alhambra School District No. 2930. After marrying Knut Olav Sunde, December 27, 1940, she resigned the following June and they lived in [illegible].

Knut was born in Olden, Nordfjord, Norway September 29, 1910, on a farm a few miles from the Briksdal Glacier. He attended the school in the district and helped with the farm work which included milking several goats. He helped to build the last part of the mountain trail to the [illegible].

In March, 1929 he immigrated to Alberta and worked on farms in the Duchess area in the summers and in the timber area west of Rocky Mountain House in the winters. At Calders' tie camp at Horborg, he hacked ties for 15¢ each. The following winter at Jack Allen's camp, he hacked ties for 7¢ each. The Depression had hit. He also hacked ties at Edson. While in this area he and a friend designed and built a motor boat the "Viking" intending to travel to Yellowknife via the McLeod River and the Athabaska River. After reaching Chisholm, they abandoned the "Viking" with its broken propellor. Knut went to work building and repairing elevators in Alberta and British Columbia.

At the outbreak of World War Two he did carpenter work at the Currie Barracks, Calgary and then built hangars at the Penhold Training Base. After he married Alma, he worked at the Army Camp in Red Deer. In the winters he loaded ties at Rocky Mountain House, Ferrier, Horborg, Phoenix, Lamoral, and Saunders.

In 1942 they purchased the S W ¼ and the ½ of N W ¼-8-39-5-W5 from Hudson Bay and this land had to be cleared before any farming could be done.

Knut and Alma have one son and three [illegible].

Allan James married Wanda Lynn Gordon. They have two daughters.

Sonja Arlene married Kenneth Robert Tweit. They have one daughter and one son.

Audrey Kathleen married Elmer Harold [illegible].

Carol Louise married Arthur Leonard Jobs. They have one daughter and twin sons.

Their first child, Allan James, was born March 19, 1942, at Rocky Mountain House. The following September, Alma returned to teaching at the Alhambra school for five years. Svanhild her sister worked for her looking after Allan, Sonja Arlene, (born August 12, 1943), and Audrey Kathleen, (born August 12, 1946). Both Sonja and Audrey were born in Rocky Mountain House. During this time, Knut operated his own tie camp, prop camp, cleared his land and did general trucking. Then in 1947, he got work in Nordegg trucking and doing carpenter work at the mine. The following year the family moved to Nordegg but they lived there for less than a year. Their third daughter, Carol Louise, was born July 21, 1949, in Rocky Mountain House.

Knut continued working out doing carpenter work and trucking on various jobs as well as farming. The Sunde family was very interested

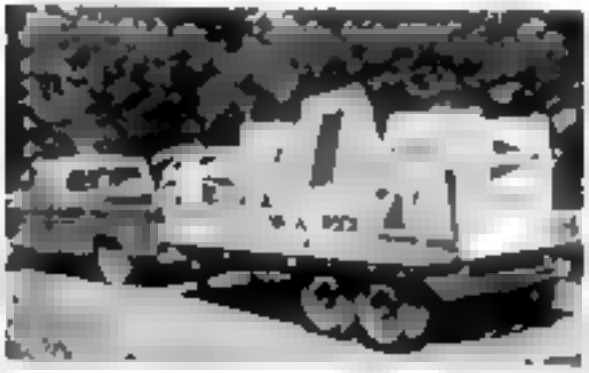
Knut and Alma Sunde family, Monday, Dec. 27. Back row: Dr. R. W. Wanna, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Sunde, Elmer and Audrey Bradbury, Knut and Bob Trout. Women and Alma Sunde, front

Sunde Family now: Audrey and Bruce Trout, Lois and Tom Sunde, Alma Sunde

in the Rocky Mountain 4-H Beef Club. The four children took an active part in it and Knut was one of the directors for a while. In 1953, Alma resumed teaching at Alhambra for two years, then a Rocky Mountain House

One of the highlights of 1957 was the family's four-month trip to Norway to visit relatives. Knut and Alma spent holidays in Norway again in 1970 and in 1975.

Alma resumed her teaching career in 1958, this time at the new David Thompson High. To further her teacher training she took summer school courses at U. of A. and attended evening classes held in Red Deer. When she received her B.Ed. degree in 1969 she was a grandmother!



Alma's centennial Buick ready for trip to Montreal

She taught at David Thompson for more than 16 years and retired in June 1976.

Knut's Centennial project was to commemorate the Voyageurs' Canoe Trip from Rocky Mountain House to Montreal. He and Mr. J. B. Killick trucked a large rock, with a bronze plaque suitably inscribed, from here to a site on the Expo grounds, Montreal. Eleven more plaques were placed around the base of this rock.

The Buick on its permanent base beside Voyageurs' Park, Montreal. Mr. J. B. Killick, the Buick's owner, and Bud Sunde, centennial coordinator for Alberta.

one plaque for each of the ten teams inscribed with the names of the paddlers, and another plaque for the Canadian Army

For a few years, Knut and Allan operated the farm together as well as working out. In 197 Knut left the farming and carpentry businesses and set up an aluminum awning shop in Kelowna, B.C. Alma joined him after retiring from teaching but a year ago they moved back to their home in Alhambra where they presently reside again, Knut has taken up carpentry and has worked on different construction jobs.

Knut enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, skiing and skating. His hobbies include working on the cattle and gardening. Alma's interests include needlecraft, reading, and travelling.

**SUNDE, ALLAN AND WANDA FAMILY**

Allan James is the first child of Knut and Alma Sunde. He attended school in Nordegg, Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House, and David Thompson High where he graduated.

Allan's keen interest in animals led to his active membership in the Rocky Mountain House 4-H Beef Club which continued throughout his school years. When he first joined the Club he was one of the youngest members. His enthusiastic participation won him trophies and prizes several times, including reserve and grand championships of the Club. Later he was the club leader for a few years.

After graduating from high school he attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology where he studied Petroleum Technology. He worked on oil rigs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and British Columbia. Before he decided to farm the "home place" he spent a year at the U. of A., Edmonton, enrolled in the faculty of education.

In 1968, Allan married Wanda Lynn Gordon of Bentley, Alberta. Wanda has her B.Ed. from the U. of A., Edmonton, and has taught mathematics in schools at Grouard, Rocky Mountain House, and David Thompson High.

They have two daughters, Theresa (Teri) Lee born January 23, 1969, and Lori Rae born December 29, 1972.

Besides all the work involved in their "cow-calf" operation on their farm, Wanda finds time to do some substitute teaching and Allan is again a leader of the Rocky Mountain House 4-H Beef Club. Both of them are actively involved in the Alhambra Community Centre, and have served in a number of executive positions.

**TWEIT, KEN AND SONJA FAMILY**

Muddy roads in August set the stage for the [illegible] of Sonja Arlene Sunde. While Knut was attempting to navigate through the mud to the Rocky Mountain House General Hospital, Alma calmly brought forth their first daughter. With such an auspicious beginning Knut decided that she should take the name of a contemporary celebrity, Sonja Henie, the Norwegian figure skater.

Sonja attended school in Alhambra from Grades 1 through 7. Among her fondest recollections of this time was bob-sledding down Grandma and Grandpa Sande's hill at Beaver Flat. Before road construction altered the landscape she, her brother Allan, and her three cousins David, Agnes, and Harold Sande would careen wildly down the mile-long hill. Another memory she recalls is Grandpa Sande's raspberry patch of wide renown. Grandpa Sande personally instructed each grandchild in the fine arts of raspberry picking. Memories of freshly baked bread and pungent coffee aromata emanating from Grandma Sande's kitchen still create feelings of home and comfort to Sonja.

Grandpa Sande was an avid fan of 4-H Beef clubs. Each year Sonja would buy her calf from his Hereford herd and was quite often successful in winning the grand championship of the club.

In 1955, Sonja attended school in Rocky Mountain House for two years where she completed Grades 8 and 9.

In 1957 the family visited in Norway and upon their return, Sonja entered school at David Thompson High to finish Grades 10 through 12. School was made more pleasurable since the David Thompson High School was newly opened. Grandpa Sande was a prime instigator of the construction of this new school and he was duly honored at its opening ceremonies.

Sonja, her brother Allan and sister Audrey would indulge their Grandpa Sande in one of his favorite pastimes playing "Smear". Sonja and her other sister, Carol, enjoyed riding their horses. They would make frequent journeys to their Uncle Bud and Auntie Svanhild's farm, three miles away. Auntie Svanhild became so accustomed to these early morning excursions that she inevitably set a couple of extra places at the breakfast table.

Sonja left to attend the U. of A., Edmonton where she completed her B.Sc. in Household Economics and her B.Ed. degree. In 1966, she accepted her first teaching position at Grouard, Alberta. Her future sister-in-law, Wanda Gordon, whom she met while attending University, also taught in Grouard that year.

The next year Sonja moved to Lacombe to organize and instruct the Home Economics program in the Lacombe Composite High School. In 1970, she became engaged to a fellow teacher, Ken Tweit, whom she married on July 10, 197[illegible]. They purchased a farm five miles west of Lacombe where they still reside. On January 4, 1974, Andrina Kathleen was born to them, and one year later Robert Kenneth arrived on February 17, 1975.

Sonja is presently teaching half-time at the Lacombe Junior High School, and Ken is still teaching Business Education at the Lacombe Composite High School.

They both enjoy golf in the s[illegible]

ng in the winter. Combined with these activities eaching and operating their farm, they remain quite busy.

Ken was raised in Stettler, Alberta where his parents, Barney and Frieda Twelt, owned a farm. They are retired from farming and spend their winters in Phoenix, Arizona.

**ARELIN VON HOLLEN FAMILY**

Arelin was born July 26, 1942 at Butte, Alberta and is the oldest son of Ted and Lillian Von Hollen. When he was approximately three and a half years old the family moved to their present location on number eleven highway-Lesheville corner. He has five brothers and one sister.

At age nineteen Arelin bought the former Carl Lachmund quarter and has lived there since. In the spring of 1962 he married Fay Knopp. Fay was born at Hartline, Washington U.S.A., May 10, 1943, and moved with her family to the Condor district in the fall of 1961 where they settled on the Walter Sheppard quarter. Fay's parents Marvin and Tootsie Knopp have nine children, five girls and four boys.

Arelin and Fay have four children, two boys and two girls: Arlene is fourteen, Kleve thirteen, Jesse eleven, Darren seven and all are still at home. Each child has a special skill or ability that makes him unique as is the way with children the world over.

The family lived in a 12 x 48 house composed of three granaries hooked end to end until the spring of 1972, when they moved part of the old Rocky Mountain House Hospital onto their farm. They are still in the process of renovating and improving their home.

Arelin enjoys curling and pitching horse shoes. Fay's hobbies include gardening, planting trees and rock hounding. The family enjoys fishing trips, swimming outings, and visiting other family groups.

They farm in a very small way and Arelin works out at outside jobs periodically. They enjoy a very simple but satisfying way of life.

**von HOLLEN, FRED AND LILY — by Margaret Cochrane**

Fred and Herman von Hollen came from homesteading in Landa, North Dakota to homestead in the Horseguard district in 1908, followed by Fred's wife, Lily, and two children, Margaret and Sophie a few months later. Fred and Herman shipped two carloads of machinery, furniture, cattle and horses.

When they left Landa they drove 20 miles to Portal where their belongings were inspected before being loaded on the railway cars. Upon arriving at Red Deer they loaded the hay rack with their household effects and equipment in the [illegible] they had loaded it at Landa. But the impassable road from Red Deer west necessitated unloading things at seven different places along the way before they finally arrived at the homestead. While all the necessary belongings were in transport, Lily and two girls lived with Karl von Hollen in North Dakota until word arrived for them to come. Fred and Herman lived in a tent while erecting the log house on the homestead. Fred and Herman's mother came too, but she did not stay very long. The very first spring on the homestead a garden was pla[illegible] and produced very well. The hand-dug well was cribbed with sawed planks and 16 feet deep. It was used as a cooler for the cream cans, as it took a few days to fill the cream can since they did not have many cows. Lily made butter in a big wooden barrel churn and it was taken and sold in Red Deer whenever a trip was necessary to get supplies, which wasn't very often as the trip took three days. When the railway came through in 1914, Lily asked W. E. Lord of Red Deer, if he would buy butter for hats, for the Lily printed butter which was duly shipped to him and in exchange the hats came.

New family members were added, Annie Eugene (Gene) Herman, Lily, August (Gusty) Hilda, Willa and Lorna (twins) Lorna deceased and Anthony (Tony) Mrs. Anna (Grandma) Lund attended at the birth of eight of these children. When Fred made the trips to Red Deer for supplies, Lily couldn't stay alone all these three days with two small girls, and do the chores, looking after pigs, chickens, and milk four cows. Her first helper was Ethel (von Hollen) Walsh, only seven years old, but Lily said she was a wonderful helper. But Ethel was needed at her home so Lily's sister, Elizabeth Lachmund, came from Germany in 1910 to help Fred and Lily. Elizabeth married Herman von Hollen. Other helpers at this time were the Morgeau girls. In 1912 Lily's sister, Sophie Oppel with her two boys, came from Germany and she stayed and helped Lily for over a year. Later she homesteaded in the district.

As there was no school, not even a school district, the downstairs of the George Walsh house was used as the first classroom for a few months. The teacher was Chester Plank who came from Nova Scotia and when he went back there for Christmas he died of a heart attack. Then there was no school until the Little Horseguard School was built and opened in 1912 with Hiram Hicks as the first teacher. The first teachers only taught there as long as the taxpayers' finances permitted which often meant that there was only school for a few months of the year. In 1925 Alma Clark was the first teacher that got enough wages to be able to pay her board and room out of it. Before that time the teachers got a set sum of money plus room and board.

In 1923 the family did the janitor work at the school. The pay was $5 per month in summer and $7 in winter — the $2 extra was for lighting the fires early and carrying in the wood. The old wash basin was accompanied by two or three towels a week which the janitor had to wash. The school was thoroughly scrubbed twice a year and the floor thoroughly oiled to keep down dust.

At that time Grade 8 wrote Departmental Examinations and the teacher, Violet Jenson, from Innisfail gave extra tutoring during noon hours and after school.

There was no shortage of food as they had a big garden and the vegetables were wintered in a good root cellar until the new house was built in 1917. Lily and the girls canned many jars of wild fruit such as raspberries, blueberries, saskatoons and also different vegetables. Sauerkraut was a "must" so it was made every fall and then canned. Rabbits were plentiful and in season so were prairie chickens and partridges, which added meat to the menu.

In 1917 a new large house was built. This home served many purposes - weddings, all the six Fred von Hollen daughters were married in this house and so were some of the relatives. Social activities were often held here, too - a big verandah relieved this large living room of its furniture leaving space for dancing and games. Funerals were also held in this home for the following: Lorna von Hollen, Fred von Hollen, Roy von Hollen, Sophie Oppel, Karl von Hollen.

Rev. Andrew Hjortaas was the first pastor in this district. He drove from Sylvan Lake with a team and held services in the Little Horseguard School. He was followed by Pastor Thies from Morningside who held services every two weeks. The church congregation was inaugurated as the Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1927. The first church for this congregation was built on Highway 11. A few years later services were held in Rocky Mountain House at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Then a new Immanuel Lutheran Church was built in Rocky Mountain House and services are held there every Sunday. The following children of Fred and Lily von Hollen still live in the area and belong to this church, Margaret, Sophie, Annie, Eugene, Herman, Gusty and Hilda.

Margaret married William Cochrane and they have three children, Lorraine, Malcolm and Angus. Lorraine married George McCallum and they have eight children. Malcolm married Anita Andersen. Angus married Gloria Nothof and they have two sons.

Sophie married James Hussin and they have three sons, Kenneth, William and Vernon (deceased). Kenneth married Maria Kuxderka and they have two sons, but the younger son passed away with leukemia. William married Joyce McCalla and they have four children but Karen was dragged to death by a horse.

Annie married Max Hansel and they have five children - Bernice, Dean, Laurine, Steven and Arlene. Bernice married Doug Meston and they have one daughter. Laurine married William McNutt and they have four children. Steven and June have two sons. Arlene married Edward Hammond and they have three children.

Eugene married Bernice Cole and they have one daughter, Jeanne, who married Gerald de Windt and they have one daughter.

Herman married Hildur Nelson and they have four children. Alfred, Beverley, Carmen and Wayne. Alfred married Dorthea Otto and they have two sons.

Lily married John Jack Leslie and they have one son, Gerrie. Gerrie and Lena have two children.

Gusty married Gwen Johnson and they have three children. David, Audrey and Karen. David married Linda Songer. Audrey married Ray Bolt and they have two children.

Hilda married Rev. Alfred Miller and they have three children. Carol, Ronald and Debbie. Carol married Norman Saar and they have three [illegible].

Willa married Walter Miller and they have two children. Myrna and Dennis. Myrna married Gordon Penner and they have two daughters.

Tony married Jean Dory and they have two [illegible].

Fred von Hollen who was born March 9, 1879 in Bremen, Germany, married Lily Lachmund in 1906.

Fred died September 20, 1937.

Lily was born in Bremen, Germany on November 27, 1884.

Lily von Hollen died January 17, 1963.

Lily Leslie died July 29, 1973.

**WATERFIELD, WM. AND FLORENCE FAMILY**

My name is Bill Waterfield and I have my wife, Florence, daughter Evelyn and two sons, Roger and John. I moved from Calgary to Alhambra in August, 1975. We live on the old Lessing place on the north side of the tracks. So being a newcomer I don't have too much history. I have the trees planted around the acre and some day hope to have a very nice corner. I have two ducks, two geese, two guinea fowl, a few rabbits and ban am chickens and also one goat. I am the care-taker at the David Thompson school. I am very happy I'm in the country and love my neighbors all around me.

**WATTERS, PETER AND ALICE FAMILY - (By Alice Perich)**

In 1927 Peter and Alice Watters arrived in Canada from the county of Armagh, Ireland with their three children, Micheal, Mary and Rose. They first settled around the Lacombe district where Peter worked with the railway at Chigwell, and at the experimental farm in the area. However, the quarter they farmed was very swampy and things weren't working out, so in 1928 they moved to the Ridgewood area, where they farmed for eleven years. In March, 1939, the family moved again, this time to the Alhambra district. Peter bought 2 quarters of land from George Farrington, NW 7-39-5-W5 and SE 12-39-6-W5. By this time many things had happened to the family. Four new members of the family had arrived, Peter, Alice, Johnny and Mctachy. The oldest daughter, Mary, was married and in 1940

the second oldest daughter Rose went east to join the convent in Ottawa, Ontario. Mike was no longer going to school by the time they moved to Alhambra, he was out working. The only two going to school were Peter who was in Grade 5 and Alice, who was in Grade 3, the two youngest boys Johnny and Mel were still babies at home. Some of the teachers through the years that taught the Watters' children were Mrs. Anna Sunde (Miss Sande), Miss Stagg, Miss Kennedy and Mrs. Allan Scott. One of the highlights of the family was in 1939 when Peter Watters went to Edmonton with his class to see the King and Queen. For this occasion, a special train was sent out from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, so the children and their escorts could be transported to Edmonton.

On November 23, 1941 Peter Watters Sr. died at the age of 63 years from cancer. For many years he had suffered and during this time, a neighbor, Mrs. Bill Cochrane, would help Alice Watters administer the medicine he required. He was buried at Sylvan Lake.

This left Alice Watters with a farm to manage and five children to feed. So Mike and she continued to farm and manage as best they could. Alice Watters was a very well liked person and even though times were hard and as sick as she was, no one ever left without a cup of tea and something to eat. She had beautiful wavey red hair that stayed red till she died. At this time the boys also started building a new house to replace the log house they lived in since settling there. The youngest daughter, Alice went to train for nurses' aid at the C.N.A. school, in Calgary. She trained in many hospitals throughout Alberta and in 1951 she was called home to look after her mother who was very sick at this time. Grandma Watters never did see the new house the boys were building because in September, 1951, she died from cancer at the age of 55 years. She was also buried at Sylvan Lake beside her husband Peter.

This left the four boys at home batching. Since Johnny and Melachy were only 13 and 15 years old at this time, it was thought they would go to foster homes. So in order that this wouldn't happen Margaret and Harry Manning neighbors at the time, went to Castor to talk to Rose Watters, who was, at this time, Sister Alice of the cross, at the hospital in Castor. It was decided that she would come home and look after the two youngest boys, so they wouldn't have to go to foster homes. In 1952, Rose Watters, left the convent and came home to Alhambra. The years were eventful and there was never a dull moment with the boys around. In 1956, Rose got a job at the Rocky Mountain House creamery till the spring of 1957, when she went to work for Ludwig Construction as a cook. Also in 1957 Johnny and Mel went to work for Mel Laydon Construction where they acquired the experience that helped them later on. Pete and Mike worked in bush camps, Mallet Construction, oil rigs, etc.

March 14, 1961 Rose Watters married Arnold Buster Bye of Hanna, Alberta. They reside in Edmonton where Buster works with Union Tractor and Rose works at a government

Mary Watters, the oldest daughter, married Jacob Roth of Red Deer in 1936. In 1947 they moved from Red Deer to Salmon Arm, British Columbia where they are still living today. They have five children, Theresa, Frances, Dennis, Amy, and Eileen. All but two are married and live in British Columbia. Eileen is attending college in Calgary and Dennis is also in Calgary working.

Alice Watters married Ed Periche of Dovercourt on April 8, 1953. They farmed in the Dovercourt district for 20 years before selling the farm. They now reside on an acreage outside of Rocky Mountain House. They have four children. Jean the oldest is married to Larry Sota of Fort Macleod. Larry works for Alberta Government Telephones, and Jean is an assistant accountant with the Treasury Branch in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Gordon is working with Quon at the Aquitaine Plant (30 miles west of Rocky Mountain House). Linda attends college in Red Deer and Brian will finish grade 12 this year.

Mike Watters is married and has two children, Coleen and Darcy, both are still going to school. Mike works around Rocky Mountain House and area with heavy duty equipment. Also, Mike acquired the old farm in Ireland that was never sold when Grandpa Watters came to Canada.

Melachy Walters married Karen Campbell of Red Deer on April 4, 1959. They presently live in Medicine Hat and have three children Shell Kelly, and Dennis. Shelly attends college in Medicine Hat and the two boys still attend school. The boys are very involved in hockey

Johnny Walters married Donna Heikkinen of Benalto, and they have five children. Danny Loree, Kim, Carrie Lee and Lesne Rae. Danny is finished school and is apprenticing in Red Deer for a carpenter, the four girls still attend school Johnny works with heavy duty construction and Donna works in Red Deer They reside in Joffre Alberta

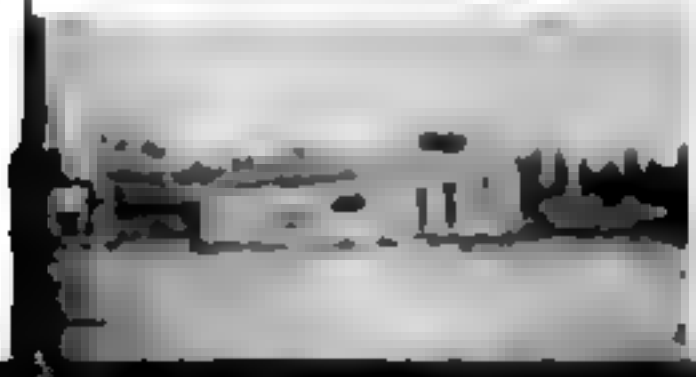
Peter Walters married Claire L'Heureux on January 25 1960 Claire's first husband Henry L'Heureux died from a heart attack leaving her

Diebert on December 4, 1971. and they live in Ed-

they farmed there until 1942, and during this

born to them.

Von Hollen s Store" in Alhambra, situated on Block M 9-38-5-W5, which then became known as Wuff's General Store. This store burned in 1947 but thanks to a very supportive and cooperative community, it was rebuilt in a matter of six months. While in Alhambra the family took an active interest in community affairs, particularly in sports. John kept the rink ready for skaters and the hall ready for parties, and helped organize sports and look after the sports



hockey and ball

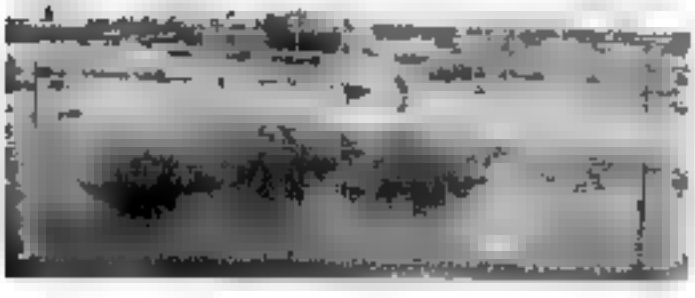
renamed "Vi's General Store

to sleep

their mother, and helps her out whenever the

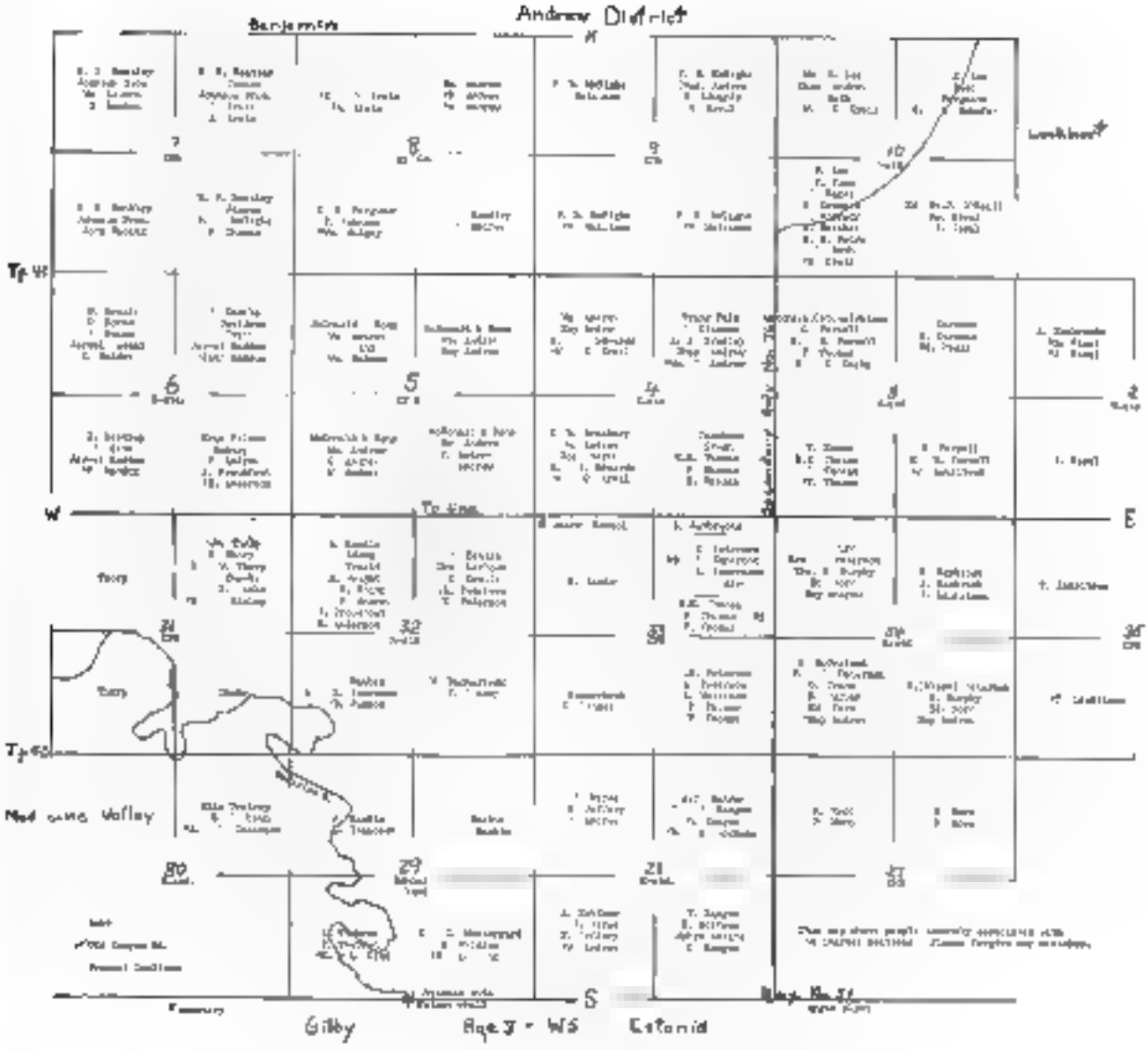
from Entwistle in 1953. They have three children and now live in Elnora. Connie (Mrs. Steve Schiffner) of Stettler has one son. Betty (Mrs. Dave Boulton) of Lousana also has a son. Pat Hazel (Mrs. Bill McDonell) of Eckville has four children. Stan married Betty Lowe of Blackfalds in March, 1955 and they live in Red Deer. Betty conducts the business Fabricana and Stan works in real estate. Their family consists of Vivien, Rodney, Gina and Barry. Jerry married Phyllis Scott of Ridgewood. They first lived in Red Deer and had two sons, Kevin and Curtis. Later they divorced and Jerry married Madelaine Gardner. They now make their home in Grande Prairie. Viola (Mrs. Jerry Fidler) lives in Red Deer. They have four sons and two daughters, Bruce, Darrel, Blake, Bradley, Debbie, and Cheryl. Roy married Carol Hollenbeck of Ridgewood and they had two children, Kelly and Clinton. Later they divorced and Roy married Sharon Dorchester of Lone Ridge, near Wetaskiwin, where they now reside.

The old bridge north of Eckville collapsed with an overload Summer of 59



Hotchguard river flood, 1943, when Bill MacDonald lost his life Note Road under railway

Gravel pit on the McDonald land, SW 16-39-5-W5


Andrew District
Benjamin
Meadow Valley
Gilby
Age 3 - WS
Estonia

# Andrew

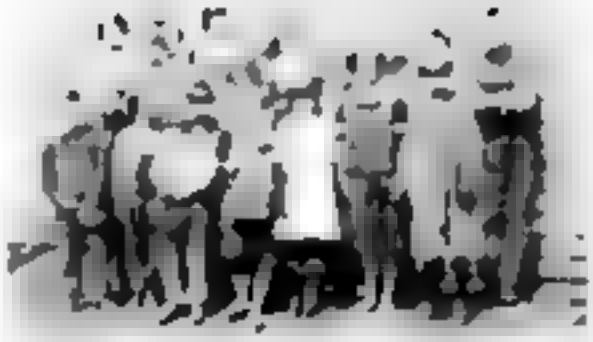
**ANDREW SCHOOL (District No. 3888) – by Myrtle (Linder) Gale**

On January 13, 1912 seven people interested in building a school in the Gilby district met at the home of Tom Sveen. Under the chairmanship of Frank Lee it was a unanimous decision that a school district be formed. The following persons were nominated as trustees, Tom Sveen, Wm Andrew and Karl Linder. Wm. H Lee was appointed secretary.

In March 1912 a meeting was called for the purpose of borrowing $800 to build the 24 by 30 Andrew School, to purchase two acres of land which was to be broken, seeded and fenced and to purchase school furniture. This loan was to be repaid in 10 annual instalments with interest not

The land was broken by John Liner using three oxen, and took one week. The lumber was hauled from Jabez McPherson's mill in Lockhart district, also by oxen driven by Mr. Frank Pike. Mr. and Mrs. Kern a built the school for $150. Charlie put in the windows while Mrs. Kernila shingled the roof.

Many important decisions were made at the board meetings, not the least of which was that at the January 1915 meeting the rate of taxes was set at 7¢ an acre. Tenders were called annually



for supplying 10 cords of wood and the cleaning of the schoolhouse. Frank Palm repaired the school fence with fence posts costing 7 cents each.

Teachers were the heart of the school system then as they are today. Miss Lockhart (Mrs. Norem) was the first teacher hired. Mrs. S. Ethel Sambrook was the second teacher of the school, appointed February 1915, at the rate of $3 a day. She was followed by a succession of dedicated men and women who left their mark on the lives of the children and the community that they served so faithfully. It fell to the last teacher, Mrs. R. Betty Andrew in 1953, to close the doors of the Andrew School, thereby closing an era. The following fall the district children were bussed into Eckville.

To recall some of the happy school memories it was decided to hold an Andrew School reunion. Under the capable and enthusiastic chairmanship of Vivian Forsell Ogilvie and a cooperative steering committee, this proved a resounding success, when around 200 residents gathered at the Gilby Hall on July 8, 1972. Julien Sambrook and Edwin Linder sharing M.C. duties moved the interesting program along to its con

clusion of animated conversation with old school pals and friendly teachers. The teachers present were: Mrs. Norem Miss Lockhart), Mrs Baldwin (Lisa Lundberg) Mrs Crawford Anna Liner Mrs. Pound Nellie Ashley and George Boorman now Dr Boorman of Rimbey

All who were a part of the small school districts such as the Andrew School feel a tug of nostalgia at their demise, and one can be grateful to have been a part of that wonderful time in our history

**ANDERSON, HERB**

Herb and Shirley Anderson, both from Bentley area rented the Wayne Siopsen farm five miles northeast of Eckville for three years, before buying the SE 6-41-3 W5 in 1959 from J Proudfoot When they came to the Gilby district they had three children Greg, Darcy and Jacqueline. Two boys, Wendell and Roland, were born later They built their present home in 1967

Upon selling their property, Jim and Dora Proudfoot moved to Kelowna B.C She had family ties at Kelowna and had lived there previously Jim was from Saskatchewan and has passed

The Anderson family like to have a part in community activities. Herb is an enthusiastic hunter and Shirley has enjoyed playing on the Eckville Ladies' Softball Team for the past 15

Greg and Darcy live at home as they are employed at gas plants nearby Jackie has worked at various jobs since completing Grade XII in June 197

**ANDREW, WILLIAM AND ALICE**

William Andrew and Alice Lee were married in England on January 7 1896

In 1905, they immigrated to Canada with four small children — Elizabeth (Ciss) Frank Charlie and Pryce. With them on the same boat came Mrs. Andrew's parents — Mr and Mrs John Lee her two brothers — Bill and Frank Lee: her sister Polly and husband Ernest Bradbury with their two sons — George and Fred and her sister Edie with husband Harry Battersby

After 22 days on the boat, they landed in Halifax, then came by train to Lacombe which was the end of the railway at that time. Trains moved so slowly then, that often the men would jump off to gather firewood to burn in the settlers' car stove for heating water, cooking and

They all eventually took up homesteads in the Gilby district

The Andrews' family spent the first year in Lacombe. Mr Andrew took employment with Bill McDermid, who was then in the draying business. In 1906, the family moved to the George Garries farm south of Bentley, where they were employed. Their daughter Ethel was born in July 1906, their first child born in Canada

A year or two later the family moved to their homestead on the NW 4-41-3-W5 in the Gilby district. It is believed that the lumber for their first home was hauled by team from Cumming's mill which was located near Gull Lake. Logs were used for the barn and other buildings

When the first few acres had been cleared, with an axe and grub hoe, a team consisting of a horse and a white bull was used for breaking the land. Oats were seeded broadcast and froze before ripening and was cut by hand to provide winter feed for the few head of stock Wild hay was also used for winter feeding In those early years, the rabbits were so numerous that feed stacks required fencing as they would eat much of the precious h

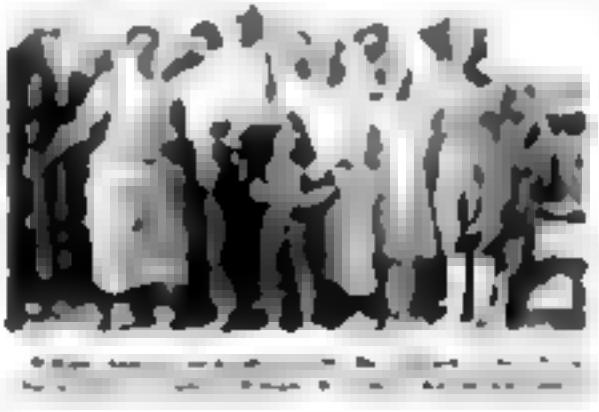
Prairie chickens and partridge, being very plentiful provided many delicious meals when other meat was so scarce. Fishing mostly at Wood Lake was usually good and was a welcome change in diet

Three children born after moving to the homestead were Gladys. Edythe and Roy delivered by Mrs. Tom Mary Sveen, who was a very dependable midwife willing to assist in any circumstance. They lived on the corner where Tom Thomas now resides

The need for a school was evident as the district became more settled and a meeting was held about 191. to begin to organize and plan for building and location. The school grounds were first plowed and disced by John Liner using three head of oxen. The lumber for the school was hauled by oxen from Jabez McPherson's Mill which at that time was located in the Lockhart district The school was first opened in 1912 and was named "Andrews School District" for the Andrew family The first teachers, from out of the district, also boarded in their home

With no community center, socials and dances were held in homes, ones that could provide enough space There were also picnics in the summer and skating parties on the rivers in the winter

The Andrew family were active in helping with the building of the Gilby Hall, contributing many hours of voluntary labor The hall was first



opened in 1921. Their support continued throughout the years they lived in the area.

Mr. Andrew was an enthusiastic gardener but not being familiar with our Alberta climate had some disappointments in the first years. Winter and frost came so early one fall that a grub hoe was needed to dig the potatoes and a fire built to keep them from freezing until they could be brought inside. As years passed, and the boys took over the farm operations, he spent many hours with his garden and flowers. each year his well-kept yard was a blaze of color.

Their first home was destroyed by fire in 1911 and replaced shortly after with lumber from Jabez McPherson's Mill, located in the Lockhart district. Shortly after they purchased SE 4-41-3-W5 from brother-in-law Ernest Bradbury, who with his family moved to a farm at Burbank near Blackfalds.

Field work was all done with horses now and as time went on as many as 16 head were used, with eight being used on the plow, four each on harrows and seed drill. A John Deere tractor was purchased in the early 1930's, which retired many of the horses. They were still used for some field work, hauling feed, wood and hauling grain to the elevator.

Mr. Andrew's real love was good horses and he kept a well-groomed team of grays for driving. They gradually improved the cattle herd and raised good Shorthorn cattle, increasing the herd as time went on.

About 1930, they purchased SE 5-41-3-W5

which was used for grazing and until a tractor was purchased and part of the land was cultivated for grain.

Mrs. Andrew was one of the first members of the Gilby Ladies Club and remained with the Club until their retirement to Rimbey. Being of a very kind and motherly nature, there was scarcely a time through the summer holidays [illegible] part of their time at the farm. In later years, she was affectionately called "Grandma Andrew" by many friends as well as grandchildren.

In 1942 an auction sale was held at the farm after which they retired to Rimbey. Mr. Andrew continued with his gardening and had a very colorful yard through spring and summer. His well-arranged flower beds and vegetable garden were set out with plants, which had been started in his own greenhouse. Mrs. Andrew loved company and spent many afternoons visiting friends and patients in the hospital, often taking flowers from their own yard to add a cheery note.

On January 7, 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family dinner at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Lester (Gladys) Saunders, followed by an open house in their home.

Mr. Andrew passed away in April, 1948 and Mrs. Andrew in March, 1964.

Names of the family in order of age are: Mrs. Albert (Elizabeth) (Miss) Bradley. Frank. Charlie. Pryce. Mrs. Paul (Ethel) Garries. Mrs. Lester (Gladys) Saunders. Mrs. Leslie (Edythe) Uhl and Roy.

**ANDREW, FRANK, FAMILY**

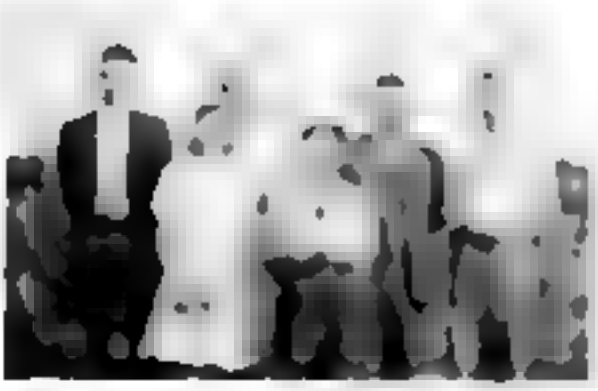
Frank (Francis) William Andrew, son of William and Alice Andrew was born in Suffolk, England on September 9, 1896. He married Clara Olidia Botten on July 26, 1921. Clara was the daughter of Hulover and Gunhild Botten. Born in Brenton, Minnesota, U.S.A. on June 5, 1895, Clara was raised in the Bluebell District and before her marriage was one of the first telephone operators in Eckville working at the Mountain View Hotel.

Frank served in the Canadian Engineers in the 1st World War. He served overseas for two [illegible]

Frank and Clara settled on the Gilby district the farm now owned by Herb and Shirley Anderson (SE 6-41-3-W5). There they had five children — Russell, Walter, Bernadien (born July 3, 1926 deceased December 27, 1928), Ethel and Cecil.

Along with farming, Frank had a breaking outfit with which he broke land for other farmers. While breaking he had a serious accident in 1930. He was run over by the plow losing one kidney and his spleen. Donations of blood from brothers, Pryce and Charlie, helped save him. He also had a threshing outfit, threshing in Leedale and Gilby districts.

In 1956, Frank and Clara sold their farm and retired to Red Deer. They celebrated their 50th



wedding anniversary in 1971. Clara passed away on December 7, 1975 at the age of 80 years. Frank now resides at the Eckville Manor House.

Russell, the eldest of Frank and Clara's family married the former Betty Boulton. Betty was the last teacher to teach at the Andrew School before centralizing in Eckville. Russ and Betty now reside on a farm at Olds where Russ farms and works in the feed mill. Betty teaches school. They have three children, Eric, Sheila, and Rhoda.

In 1942, Walter bought the W½ 28-40-3-W5 from Sid and Emily Jefferey and family — Clifford, John, Joyce, Sidney, Fred and Barbara who moved to a farm west of Edmonton. Walter married the former Evelyn Haarstad of Bentley. They have four children — Lorrie married Niel Judson and they have two sons, Kory and Shawn. Ron married Karen Brownlee and they have a daughter, Gina Dawn. Janice and Debra are both presently employed in banks. The children have always been active in sports and 4-H. Walter led the Gilby 4-H Club for six years. We all always enjoyed the pony practices held at the farm. Walter and Ron farm together in the Gilby district. Walter and Evelyn reside on land homesteaded by Adam Mathews. Selling this land in the early days Mr. Mathews then moved to the farm where Ron and Karen now live. This land was sold by Arnold and Ily Mathews to Ron and Karen in 1974.

Bernadien, their third child, passed away at a very young age (two and a half) in the Bentley Hospital two days before Ethel was born.

Ethel married Laurence Osberg of the Medicine Valley district. They live at Okotoks, Alberta where Laurence has his own roofing company. They have four sons, Dennis, Grant, Greg and Donnie.

Cecil married Helen Stolings of the Alhambra district. They live in Blackfalds where Cecil runs a sand and gravel trucking firm. They have three children, Diane, Darryl and Shelly.

**ANDREW, CHARLES HENRY — by Hazel Andrew**

Charles Henry Andrew was born June 8, 1900 in Shrewsbury, England and came to Canada with his parents, William and Alice Andrew, in 1905.

What little schooling Charlie had was acquired by attending the Benjamin, Stephenson and Andrew Schools. In the early years school was held in the summer months. When Charlie attended the Benjamin School he was lucky if he arrived by noon, as there were no roads, only trails through the bush and around the slough holes. He worked for a farmer in the Bentley area for his room and board while attending the Stephenson School. Many school days were missed as there was always work to be done on the farm.

Leaving school at an early age, Charlie worked in a lumber camp for Jabez McPherson in the Carlos area as a carriage rider in the saw mill. He also worked on a farm at Gleichen. While here, he drove five horses on a fresno digging ditches for irrigation. He later came home and worked for his uncle, William Lee, in the store at Lacombe.

In 1920 Charlie bought his first quarter section, NE 9-41-3-W5, from the C.P.R. This was a bush quarter so he spent many long working hours grubbing trees, brushing, burning, and breaking the land, with many additional hours picking roots and rocks. Breaking was done with horses and a breaking plow. Fencing was done by digging the post holes by hand with a post hole digger. In 1921 he helped build the Gilby Hall and joined the Alberta Wheat Pool in Eckville in 1922.

After his marriage to Ola Meredith of Bentley in 1924 Charlie rented the NE 4-41-3-W5 from his sister Elizabeth (Ciss) Bradley of Calgary. Ola passed away in 1930 after a lengthy illness and is buried in the Bentley Cemetery.

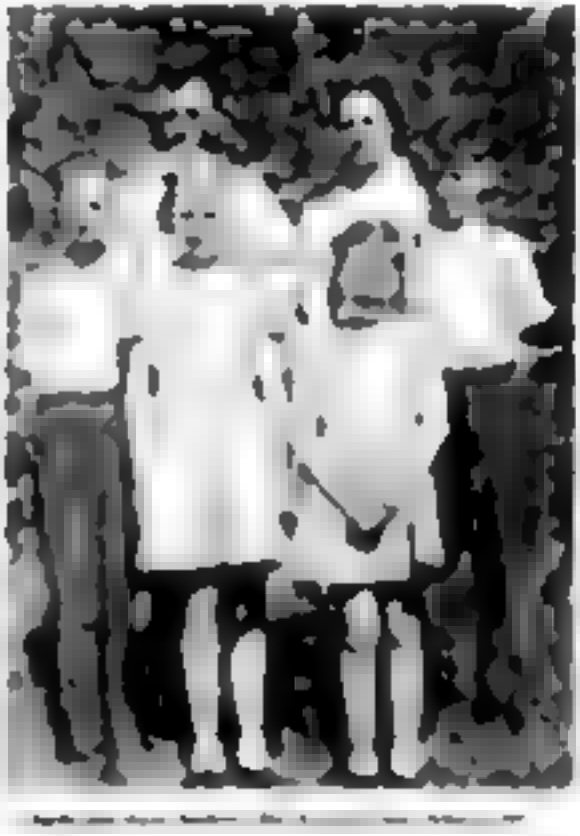
In 1932 Charlie and I, Evelyn Hazel Malcolm, were married. I was born and raised on a farm in the Lockhart district south of Rimbey, taking my schooling first at the Calkins Valley School and in 1930 and 1931 I attended the Olds School of Agriculture. I then returned home and helped my dad and mom (William and Katherine Malcolm) until my marriage. Charlie and I continued mixed farming, raising horses, cattle, hogs and milking cows. Many a mile Charlie walked, driving the horses to and from work on the hill. We were never without a good saddle pony and a good dog.

In 1938 we bought the NW 10-41-3-W5 from his uncle William Lee, and in 1945 we bought the NE 4-41-3-W5, which we had been renting from his sister, Ciss Bradley. This meant more work breaking the land with the help of our children, Bill, Albert, Evelyn and Irene. We would go out and pick roots and rocks, with us all working at it the job seemed easier. The smaller trees were hauled home to be sawed into blocks for firewood to be used in the cookstove and heater. Every farmer had a large wood pile for winter use. We used coal oil lamps in the house for lights and lanterns for outside use. They had to be filled

with coal oil and the globes cleaned every night. Clothes were washed on a wash board until later when we got a hand washing machine. The water was brought in in pails from a hand pump outside for use in the house. Ironing was done with sad irons heated on the stove. We baked our own bread and made our own soap for washing. The most tedious job seemed to be churning the cream into butter. Having a bath on a Saturday night in front of the stove to keep warm, and using a small tub or wash tub, was something else! Later we put in the Calgary Power which was a great help in many ways.

Charlie took great pride in caring for his horses and the harness. He loved to drive the team, especially in the winter months, using the sleigh. He would put the scotch tops, spread rugs and hip bells on the harness. The bells made such a wonderful sound as the team would trot down the road — it was truly a "musical ride". Every March for many years Charlie would take horses to be sold at the Lacombe Horse Sale. It took four to five months of feeding and grooming to get a horse in shape for the sale. Charlie also liked to break horses to drive as well as ride.

Life wasn't all hard work, as we would take our family to fairs, picnics, shows and dances. We went to many dances, as Charlie enjoyed dancing very much. He would be asked to call the square dances, which he enjoyed doing. The Christmas concerts put on by the teacher and her pupils were very much enjoyed by everyone. Quite often Charlie was asked to play the part of Santa Claus, giving the children their gifts and treats from a well decorated tree. The picnics at the end of the school term were enjoyed, too, as that was the day for races and bath games for the children and visiting for the parents, much lunch, coffee and homemade ice cream. We miss this today!



Alfred Molander purchased a 1928 Ford truck from Charlie and his brother Fred had driven it home and had been working on it. There had been a complete motor job, welding and hammering for a few days. One evening there was quite a commotion in the cab of the truck. Investigation disclosed a bantam hen, and behind the seat a nest of eggs. The hen had apparently been there all the time. Fred says he hates to think of what may have happened if the bantam had popped out, squawking, when he was driving home! The children were happy that no harm had come to their bantam hen.

Charlie would often sit down in an evening and play the mouth organ or Jews harp. Whenever we went camping in later years he always had his mouth organ with him. We both enjoyed picking berries, especially blueberries and low bush cranberries.

In 1935 we hired a girl to work for us for two months. The top wages then was $8 a month. We built our new home in 1949, and planted many trees around the yard, including spruce, pine, birch and apple trees. We made a fence in front using lanterns that we had bought at sales and had later painted. The old two-room house was moved away and used for a granary for many years. It is now demolished.

In January, 1953, Charlie, Bill and Albert [illegible] snow. July of that year brought great excitement to the valley when the first oil well was drilled on our place, NE 4-41-3-W5. This well is still producing today. Many a cup of coffee we served whenever the men working on the well came to use the telephone.

From May until October in 1958 Charlie lost his voice — he couldn't speak a word! That summer our good neighbors, George and Isabel Guest and family, Irvin and Clydie Both, Albert Guest and Ellen Guest invited us to go on a trip to Kamloops, B.C. with them. This proved to be a very enjoyable trip, even though Charlie couldn't speak a word.

In 1961 and 1963 we sold the half section on the hill to Shirley Edwards and Irvin Both. They later sold, and the new owners of both quarters, NE 9-41-3-W5 and NW 10-41-3-W5, are Wallace and Carol Kret.

In 1967 we retired from farming, selling our cattle and renting the farm for pasture. Then we were free to travel, go fishing or just take care of our yard, which we both enjoyed doing. We bought a new truck and camper and did a lot of

travelling and fishing. Our first trip was to Alaska which proved very interesting and enjoyable. Every year at the first part of August we would travel with the Cavalcade to the Kootenay Plains for three days of entertainment hikes or visiting over a camp fire in the evenings We never missed going to auction sales, as we liked to visit, or buy some small item or a box of "Junk" to rummage through when we got home Surprising what you can find in one of these box

In 1970 we had a sale and sold our machinery and the antiques we had on display in our home for anyone to see The school teachers would bring their pupils to see and enjoy the antique items, and Charlie was always very happy to explain each piece of them

We sold the farm to our son Bill in 1971 then bought a home in Eckville. Both families moved in May of 1972

In June 1972 our children and the community put on a 40th wedding anniversary party for us in the Gilby Hall This was a day to remember! In that year our eight grandchildren's ages added up to 40 years, the same number of years we had been married

Charlie hadn't been feeling too well since 1971 and passed away December 18, 1973. He is buried in the Bentley Cemetery I continue living in Eckville, where I keep busy with my many hobbies, enjoy travelling, fishing, and taking care of the yard

Our children had taken their schooling at the Andrew and Eckville Schools. An account of each of them follows

William Charles Andrew was born March 12, 1933 He attended a two-year course at the Olds College of Agriculture in 1950 and 1951, returning home to help his dad with the farming until 1954 He then started to work for Texaco Exploration Canada Limited as a battery operator He is now the plant foreman. He married June Gerber of Eckville on June 15, 1963. June had attended Gaetz, Condor and David Thompson Schools After leaving school she worked for the Eckville Co-op as assistant bookkeeper Bill and June have three children, one daughter, Colleen, two sons, Collin and Curtis. They live on the farm and raise a few Hereford cattle

Albert Arthur Andrew was born April 22, 1934 and worked on the Lacombe Experimental Farm when he left school Following this he worked in Uranium City in northwestern Saskatchewan He married Marlene McLachlan June 27 1974, of Swift Current Saskatchewan, where he had worked for several years in the oil fields before moving to Wainwright Alberta Here he has worked for Husky Oil Company as a battery operator since November 1966 They have two sons, David and Douglas, and live on the farm which they purchased when moving to Alberta They raise a few cattle and raise and break the chuck-wagon ponies which Albert drives in the summer months. They also enjoy saddle ponies

Evelyn Mae, born April 12, 1935, worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware when she left school, then worked for the Alpha Dairy Pooled Deer She married Franklin Brown on September 4, 1965 of Ste. Rose Du Lac Manitoba. They have one daughter, Audra Frank has worked for Alberta Government Telephones since 1956 and is now the construction foreman They live on an acreage south of Red Deer

Irene Loretta, born January 13 1938 graduated from school, taking a certified nursing aide course in Calgary She graduated in 1959, then worked in Calgary Drumheller Red Deer and Eckville On March 30, 1961 Irene married Harold Leach of Swanson Saskatchewan. They have two children, a daughter Ledena and a son, Myles. In 1963 Harold worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware until 1967 when he moved to Kindersley Saskatchewan to work for the Co-op Hardware until the Co-op Service Center was opened in 1968, where he worked for another year He moved back to Eckville and worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware for three years. In 1973 Harold started work for Sunoco Oil Company as a battery operator and lives in their new home which they built in Eckville. Harold teaches guitar once a week during the winter months from the basement of his home. He plays the steel guitar himself in an orchestra. In November 1977 Harold was elected Mayor of Eckville for three years He had been a member of the town council for two years previous to becoming Mayor For two years he was on the Lacombe District Regional Recreation Board

**ANDREW PRYCE AND FAMILY**

Pryce Andrew, born in England July 4, 1903, came with his parents, two brothers and a sister to Canada in 1905. Their first year was spent in Lacombe, later moving to south of Bentley to the George Garries farm, where his father was employed A year or two later the family moved to their homestead on NW 4-41 3-W5 in the Gilby

With no school in the district, Pryce and his brother Frank walked several miles to attend Benjamin School about 1910-1911 The walk was shortened in 1912 when the Andrews' School had been built and was opened. As there were no roads, they would cut across the pasture and creek on the shortest route. In the spring, after the morning milking and other chores were finished, would run all the way to school to play ball for a few minutes before the bell rang For two years, Pryce also worked for his aunt and uncle — Ernest and Polly Bradbury of Burbank and attended school at Blackfalds. His uncle operated the electric lighting power plant situated on the banks of the Red Deer River supplying Lacombe with electric power Later he helped his uncle, Bill Lee who owned and

operated the Leedale store, returning home when the school term started

At an early age he was helping with the farm work at home, milking cows, helping to clear land and working with horses in the fields. After leaving school, he continued working on the farm

creasing numbers of cattle, horses and pigs

Entertainment was home-made with ma

often held at the place with the largest space · sometimes the upstairs was used. Horseback was the popular method of transportation — especially with the younger crowd. Many an afternoon was spent horse-trading, with everyone going home thinking he had made a real deal. In 925, the family bought their first car. It was a Ford Touring car and as Pryce recalls, cost $600 new. He was the only driver at the time as his father preferred his driving team

In the summer of 1935, Pryce moved to his own farm on NE 8-41 3-W5 and later the same year on November 21 was married to Jessie Malcolm of the Lockhart district

Although tractors were now becoming popular he farmed with horses until 1940 when the first tractor was bought. In 1945 he purchased another quarter SE 8-41 3-W5 from his brother in-law, Albert Bradley after having rented for several years. Harvesting was still done by cutting grain with a binder, stooking the bundles and threshing separator, with a tractor used for power. Wood was the main source of fuel used for heating and cooking, with some coal used during the winter. Hauling loads and loads of firewood was done in the wintertime — after the pressure of harvesting and field work was over. In spring neighbors exchanged work in sawing the piles of wood into stove lengths. When Calgary Power

was brought in, in 1951, this chore was practically eliminated

Pryce served as a Board Member of Calgary Power when it was organized. He was also on the Gaby Hall Board for many years and on the Andrews School Board prior to the school closing about 1952, when the children were bused into Eckville. Before A G T installed phones in 1967, he was a board member of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association for nine years and worked as line trouble man for this area. From the time he started farming was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

They have four children — Faye, Janet, Allan and Shirley. Faye has three children — Karen, Brian and Drew and lives in Red Deer. Jan married Glyn Pugh and has two children — Terry and Elaine and they farm east of Ponoka. Allan is married to Darlene McLaren from Calgary. They have one daughter, Stacy and live on the home farm. He is presently employed as an electrician and is gradually taking over the farm. Shirley has lived in Yellowknife, N W T since November 1976 where she was employed by the Imperial Bank of Commerce. Since July 1977 she has been employed by the R.C.M.P. Detachment in Yellowknife.

They are still living on the farm and are semi-retired. Pryce, in the last few years, has spent many hours at his hobby of repairing old machinery, harness, and wagons as the farming load gradually decreases.

**ANDREW ROY**

Roy's parents sold him the W½ 4 and the N½ 5-41-3-W5, upon their retirement. He was a bachelor farmer until 1 March 1948 when he married Phyllis McDonald of Eckville. They lived on the homestead for 10 years and it was during those years that four of their six children were born. Their oldest, Donald Roy, was deceased in October 1950.

In April, 1958, Roy bought the W½ and the SE 34-40-3-W5 from Edward Moro and sold the W½ 4 to Shirley Edwards. Being the home place was one-half mile off the road there were many gates to open and close (before the time of the 'Texas gate') so the move meant progress. When the Moro property was purchased, with its complete set of fine buildings, the deal was considered a large venture but is small according to today's holdings.

Roy attended the Andrew School and for a time was the janitor earning the princely sum of 50 cents a day. Phyllis took her schooling at Eckville, attended Edmonton Normal School and taught for six years previous to their marriage. She recalls that boys and girls growing up in Eckville at that time had the chance to participate in many extra activities. There were school fairs, calf clubs, C.G.I.T. and Sunday School. Some of the various sports were skating, skiing, playing ball, biking, hiking and

swimming — there were 'holes' in both the Medicine and Horseguard Rivers. If taking part in the commendable activities were too dull they sometimes went astray and would walk to the crests where they dared one another to climb the structure What a treacherous pastime!

Roy and Phyllis have five daughters. Sylvia the oldest has her R.N degree and is married to Daliph Ganga. They live in Edmonton. Bonnie took a Commercial Cooking course and is employed in Red Deer Lorene has her Distinction Award in aquatics has been employed at swimming pools for the past four summers and is teaching school in Rocky Mountain House Joan is employed as laboratory and X-ray technician at Edson Hospital Mavis attends Eckville High School and is in Grade 12. The girls enjoyed participating in many sports, were in 4-H clothing clubs and took music lessons from a very dedicated teacher, Mrs (Westergard Whidden, who prepared them for Toronto Conservatory Piano Exams in both theory and

Looking back over the past 30 years there is no doubt that the advent of Calgary Power brought the most notable changes in their way of living. When they first got the power in the fall of 1951, their workload was considerably lessened no separator to turn, cream to put down the well, or gas irons to fume away only to mention a few of the improvements that were of their benefit.

Roy and Phyllis consider themselves very fortunate that their pioneering parents came and toiled on homesteads so that they might have the satisfaction of mixed farming in this area

**BAKER, C[illegible]**

Christopher and Nellie Baker came to the Andrew School District from Coronation Alberta in 1922, with their oldest son, Ralph, who was then one year old. They purchased the SW 10-40-3-W5 or better known as the Canyon Place

At that time, their oldest daughter May was living with her grandparents, Mr and Mrs Jack Williams who lived nearby

Their second son, Frank, was born in 1925 and daughter, Olive, was born in Eckville in 192

In about 1928 Chris moved his family to Eckville where he managed the local butcher shop for awhile

From Eckville they moved onto an acreage south of Leslieville in 1929, while there, Chris managed the butcher shop in Leslieville, for sometime

Their son, George, was born at Leslievilie in 1930 and their daughter, Helen, in 1935

Later on they purchased a farm northwest of Leslieville, now known as the Paul Jones farm

In 1942 their oldest son, Ralph, joined the armed forces and spent the better part of four years overseas. He returned home to look after his father's farm in 1946. The farm was sold two years later

Chris and Nellie returned to Leslieville to retire Chris passed away in 1950, and Nellie lived with her son, George, for a few years in Calgary, before moving into a Calgary Senior Citizens home

Ralph married Irene Heikkinen they have six children, and are presently living at Winfield

Frank is married, has two children and is living in Airdrie

May and husband have three children and are now living in Prince George, B.C

Olive married Veno Cech and they had two children. She passed away in 1952

George is married and has one child. They are living in Calgary

Helen married Pete St. Pierre, they have three children and are living in Edmonton

**BOSONWORTH, JACK AND M[illegible] LINDER**
**by Ruth Bosonworth**

I first opened my eyes in a logging camp not far from Warren, Oregon U.S.A I was reported to have been born in a tent, and I guess that accounts for my love of fresh air Before I reached the age of two years my parents were looking for pastures new, and had heard glowing accounts of receiving free land in the form of homesteads in Alberta. Both being young, strong and ambitious, it appealed to them They left Oregon for Alberta to try their luck in farming on a homestead in the Gilby district

In time they acquired two more quarters of land and this was to be their home until they retired. I learned my three R's in the Andrew school, which was situated a mile from home, on one of the folks' quarters. I then took a domestic science course for the fall and winter months When I returned I spent the next winter at Wolfe Creek, giving school lessons to three children, as there was no school there. The necessary school materials were being supplied through the government

In the spring, upon my return to the farm, I was offered a job as a telephone operator at Bentley, which I gladly accepted and enjoyed immensely I was 19 years old at this time Unfortunately, after working there for approximately one year I fell a victim of T.B which started as a result of a bad cold and an attack of pleurisy When after six months of waiting for a bed at the Central Alberta Sanatorium at the Keith, as it was often referred to, about nine miles out of Calgary. I was finally admitted as a patient. I spent one year and 22 days, to be exact there When the folks asked if I could come home I was allowed to be released if I would promise to take my rest hours and continue the cure as I had been doing. I spent several years convalescing at home

In 1936 my brother Edwin, who was then working in Courtenay, B.C wrote to me and encouraged me to come out there for a short holiday Thinking the change might be beneficial, I

needed nobody to twist my arm, and in a very short time I was heading for British Columbia.

When Jack Bosomworth, my boy friend heard of my plans he asked to accompany me which he did. Owing to my present state of health, my parents begged me not to enter the sea of matrimony for at least a year. After visiting with friends for a month or so Edwin told me that a couple of his buddies, who worked for the Comox Logging Company where Edwin was also employed, wondered if I felt strong enough to take a job cooking for them and Edwin. Feeling that I must do something if I was to stay on in B.C. I said I'd try it, and this is what I did. We got a place at Merville B.C., and I was there for about a year cooking for my brother and his friends.

The following year Jack and I were married at Courtenay, B.C., in 1937. After our marriage the boys I had been cooking for wanted to board with us, which they did for a time. On February 27 1938 our first child, a boy was born. We named him Innis John Karl. Shortly after this we moved to Comox, B.C., where our first daughter Beverley Kathleen, was born on October 28, 1940. When she was only three or four weeks old we purchased fourteen acres of land not far from where we were living.

Work at this time was scarce in the line of [illegible] so we moved to Vancouver where Jack got a job in the shipyards, as it was war time. We were there for approximately two years when we again moved back to our place at Comox, as we had heard of a new airport being built only about five or six miles from our home. Jack applied for and got a job on this project.

In 1945 Sharon, our youngest daughter, was born in the Comox hospital, on May 6. All of our children were born in the Comox hospital.

In 1960 our son Innis was married to Diane Ellis, of Courtenay, and a day later we moved to Alberta, where work seemed to be more plentiful, and Innis and Diane moved to our place. We were hoping to be gone for only a year or so, but ended up being away for nine years. In 1969 we moved back to Comox and built a new home for our retirement.

Innis' first marriage ended in divorce, so he married Connie Sharpe, originally from Stettler, on September 16, 1967. A son, Darren Allan, was born to them on October 12, 1975.

Beverley married Elmer Loyck and has three children, two girls and a boy. Lori was born on January 24, 1965, Joneel was born on October 4, 1966, and Dwayne on July 21, 1968. Beverley and Elmer lived around Rimbey for several years where Elmer owned and operated a garage for some time, later selling it to Marvin Sargeant. He then bought several quarters of land south of Benalto and went farming on a large scale. Bev taught school in Rimbey and Stettler before her marriage.

Sharon Marie Ruth married Earl Hadley of Red Deer, and they now live at R.R. 2, Ardrossan. Earl is employed with Schlumberger Oil Company, and works in and out of Edmonton.

Innis, our son, lives on our place where we gave him half an acre. He drives a big oil truck for Gulf Oil.

My husband, Jack was well known both in the Lockhart and Gilby districts, having worked for such old-timers as Mr. Bill Andrew, Mr. McTighe and Hilmer Thorp in the Gilby district and also for several men in the Lockhart district such as Carl Thomas. He left Edinburgh Scotland when he was 18 years old, to be with his brother Stewart, known as "Scottie" to his friends, in Carstairs. Later he came with Twineys, who settled in the Lockhart district. His first job was for Christ Baker, who then resided in what was known as the Canyon.

**BRADLEY, ELIZABETH**

Elizabeth (Ciss) Bradley eldest daughter of William and Alice Andrew came with her parents and other members of the family from England to Canada in 1905. She spent the first year in Lacombe with the family and when her parents moved near Bentley she remained in Lacombe to attend school. After leaving school she worked as a telephone operator.

She is married to Albert J. Bradley and they live in Calgary. They have two children — Doreen, married to Tom Hall who lives in Calgary and have two married sons. Roland and his wife Hazel live with their sons at the West Coast.

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES — by Edna Carroll**

The 1930's I recall
Were very happy times
For I was just a little girl
With my head full of rhymes

Dusty summer country roads
Made soft puffs where ponies stepped
Carrying us off to school
And past the friends we met

Trotting clip-clop by the farms,
And all along the river
And if a thunderstorm came up
We sat, all wet, and shivered

Nine o clock found us in school.
Doing Rapid Calculation
In afternoons the History Class
Taught us all about our nation

At recess time there were ball games
And playing Farmer-in-the-Dell
Oh how we loved hop-scotch,
And picking wild bluebells

Out beside the wood-pile
Where we ate our springtime lunch,
While gophers played and hornets buzzed,
Perched on sun-warmed wood, we munched

Salt pork with lots of mustard
On homemade bread and butter

Tasted just delicious —
While we watched a robin flutter

Built-in Nature Study
Was all around us throbbing
Frogs croaked along the roadside
And ducklings went a-bobbing

As afternoons turned cooler
We started out for home.
To milk the cows, and separate
And be a little while alone

Mother waited by the stove
To lay our supper out
Life on a farm was beautiful.
Of that I have no doubt

**THE HEBRE FERGUSON FAMILY — by Eileen Matthews**

Hebre K. Ferguson, with his wife, Abbey and young son, Clarence, arrived in Edmonton from Truro, Nova Scotia in 1906. Hebre worked there as a carpenter for a number of years. Abbey passed away in 1911, leaving Hebre with a young son to raise.

In 1920 Hebre and Clarence moved to a farm in the Gilby area. Clarence did farm work in the district until the time he was able to purchase his own land.

Clarence married Kathleen Lawton and they farmed in the Gilby district. The land had to be cleared of the timber and brush and broke with horses and a walking plow. The grain from the farm was hauled with a team of horses and wagon 12 miles to Eckville.

Hebre and Kathleen Ferguson, Wedding Picture, 1920

There were cows milked and the cream was sold to the Eckville creamery. These cream cheques helped to buy groceries for the family.

Clarence and Kathy have six children: Eileen, Ralph, Laurence, Leslie, Faye and Alec (Jay). The older children attended Andrew school, which was two and a half miles down the road. Clarence served on the school board for a number of years and was active in other community organizations as well. Throughout the summer months there were baseball games amongst the different communities and Clarence would be the umpire. All the families would attend, and there would be a picnic lunch complete with home-made ice cream after the game.

In 1938 the Gilby Calf Club was formed and the four older children belonged to this organization.

In 1942 the farm was rented out and the family moved to the town of Eckville where Clarence managed Larry Knudson's garage for one year.

In 1942 Clarence took over the John Deere and Imperial Oil Agencies from the late Phil Laybourne. He belonged to the Eckville Curling Club, Board of Trade, and also assisted the hockey club and other sports activities.

The farm was sold to Fred Johnson in 1946. Hebre, having lived on the farm with his son, moved into Eckville at this time. He passed away in 1953.

Clarence passed away in 1965. The oldest son Ralph and his mother managed the business until it was sold to the late Tom Klamak in 1953. This same property was sold to Revelstoke Lumber Company in 1958. At this time Kathy purchased her present home on 53 Avenue in Eckville from the late John Saari.

Kathy was night operator at the local telephone office from 1956 until 1967 at which time Alberta Government Telephones installed the present system.

Before retirement in 1969 Kathy worked in the Eckville Hotel Cafe, and also at the co-op coffee shop.

Ralph married Chris Caldwell and lived in the eastern United States for a number of years before moving to Edmonton, where they presently reside.

Laurence married Margaret McDonald in 1951, and they are presently living in Red Deer. Laurence manages the A & W drive-in restaurants in Red Deer and Wetaskiwin. They have a family of four — two boys and two girls. Eldest son, Sheldon, has a degree in business administration from Northeastern University, Boston. He is married to Dorie and currently coaches the Red Deer Rustler Hockey Club. Ronnie has his bachelor of arts degree from Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He is now a research assistant for Attorney General Jim Foster. Margaret Ann has completed her third year of pharmacy at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Cindy took a teacher-aide course at Red Deer College.

Les married Pat Crawford in July, 1951 and worked for Alberta Wheat Pool for 16 years. He later moved to Red Deer. They have five children: Gwen, Donald, Grant, Dwayne, and Barbara.

Faye married Melvin (Bud) Osborne on May

1, 1953. They have three children, Dale, Rodney and Karen. The family is presently living in Ed

**FORSELL, GUNNAR AND ADELINA — as recalled by Vivian Forsell Ogilvie**

Adelina Erickson emigrated to Seattle, Washington from Uddevalla, Sweden in 1903. She had several cousins already in Seattle with whom she first made her home. She worked as a housekeeper for different families until her marriage. Adelina was born in Alvick, Sweden on July 19, 1883.

Gunnar Forsell, at 17 years of age, emigrated to Tacoma, Washington to be with his uncle Carl G. Forsell, in 1904. Gunnar was born in Vadevalla, Sweden, on April 3, 1885. While attending a dance at the Swedish Club in Seattle, Adelina met Gunnar. On August 3, 1907 they were married and set up a boarding house in Seattle. One of their first patrons was a couple from Alberta, on their honeymoon, namely Mr. and Mrs. Peter Peterson from Gilby. The Petersons who had already established a home in Alberta described the outstanding features of living in Alberta, and one of the features was the homestead. To be able to purchase a 160-acre plot for $10. appealed to the young Forsell couple. After some consideration, the Forsells sold their boarding house, packed all their belongings and entrained for Eckville.

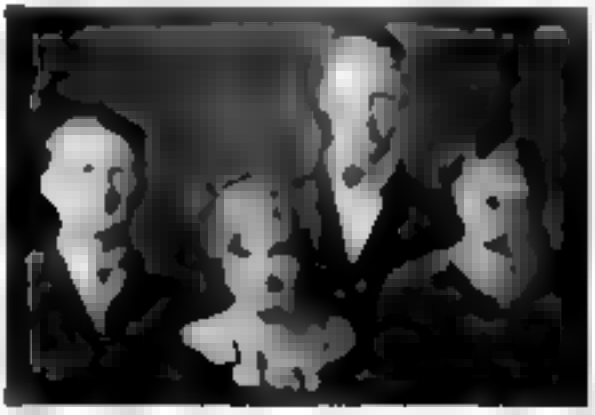
They were full of enthusiasm. Here was an opportunity to be part of the great open country and the possibilities of riches appealed to them. Little did they know of the hardships and deprivations of pioneering. Upon reaching Eckville they hired a Mitzner livery outfit and started north for the Peter Peterson homestead. Mother tells of the rig getting stuck in a slough about three miles north of Eckville and how she gathered up her heavy long skirt, took one long jump, cleared the buggy and a wire fence to land on dry ground.

This young couple struggled like all other pioneers to carve out a home on the homestead they acquired, the SE 3-41-3-W5.

Both Gunnar and Adelina worked in Calgary before establishing a permanent home on their homestead. Working as a team, they cut the logs and hauled them to McPherson's sawmill near Bentley. Their ox and horse provided the power for the haul. A frame house on the hill replaced the little old log house nearer the road. To make ends meet, mother did house work in Calgary and she also bought a horse. Dad drove two or three teams in tandem while hauling freight between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House before the railway was completed.

To augment the often-empty larder resourcefulness was necessary. Partridges and prairie chickens, which were in abundance, helped in the survival, and a garden patch was soon established. Today much emphasis is placed on style — new outfits at least every month but in those early days the same dress or suit had to last for many years. Making something new out of something old became a real art. Many a shirt tail became a cute dress for a little girl and a new piece of material was a prized possession.

Two children were born to Adelina and Gunnar. In March, 1912 Vivian, now Mrs. William Ogilvie, was born and Elzer arrived in 1914. In January, Vivian became a teacher in 1930, having received her training at Camrose. In 1939 she was united in marriage to William Ogilvie, who passed away in Lacombe in 1973. They had one daughter, Dolores, who became a library technician and as of 1977, is working for Alberta Housing in Edmonton.



Elzer married the former Dorothy Simon of Forshee and he had a family of four — Gerald, Patricia, Carol Anne, and Susan. His family story is in a separate account.

The Forsells did their share in the Andrew School District, with dad acting as secretary-treasurer for 16 years. Those days that position meant sending out all tax notices plus collecting the tax money, paying the teacher, and, in general, doing the entire business of the local school district. Finally the books were moved to Bentley under the municipal system and then under the county system. The governing body was centered in Lacombe.

With the exception of one year spent near Tacoma, Washington, with Uncle Carl G. Forsell and four years in Ladner, B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Forsell lived on the homestead.

Mother passed away in 1952, Dad passed away in 1954, and Elzer in 1956. All are buried in the Gilby cemetery. Uncle Carl G. Forsell passed away in 1937, and is also buried in the Gilby cemetery.

The present owner of the Forsell homestead is John Lauritsen.

The early settlers must have been a hardy sort. To survive they had to stand on their own feet. To be successful required even more effort. No doubt the pioneers would have had it no other

way and would do it again — would consider it a challenge and a rewarding experience. There were no government grants, no farm loans, no

come. With the corner grocery maybe 10 or 20 miles away a supply of flour was milled in the local mills from their own grain and stored in a dry place.

Oil wells dotting the countryside, gravel roads replacing the muddy grades and a wide hard-top through the valley would, no doubt provide a big surprise to pioneers if they were to take a look today.

**FORSELLS — by Pat Lightbown**

The wedding of Elzer Forsell and Dorothy Simon in 1942 begins this story. They came to live on the Forsell homestead where he and his father farmed. They had three children, first a son, Gerald and then two daughters, Patricia and Carol Ann.

I remember the harvest season the best because of all the excitement. When the threshing crew came we had a bunk house and a granary for the hired men. These places were supposed to be off bounds for the kids. The Indians camped in the pasture and we weren't supposed to bother them, either, but there were some kids to play with so we were around quite a bit. We had hired men come out from Ontario to work a couple of years during the harvest. We have kept in touch with two of these men and Gerry had visited them when he was stationed in Ontario.

Gerry started school at Andrews School and that year 1949 there were many teachers until finally one settled. Pat started the next year. There were five students in grade one that year and they all graduated together from high school in 1962. We went to school there until the school closed in 1952. We were a mile and a half from the school but didn't always have to walk because some of our neighbors had twice as far to go, so

always room for two more to ride. In the spri

supposed to be wearing shoes or boots we would stash them in a culvert to wear home again. If it was too muddy we had to wash feet under the pump before we were allowed into the school.

In the fall of 1952 we were bussed to Eckville. Carol Ann started school that year, too. The school was too crowded so some of us from that of the district were sent to the Estonian school. The classes were grades three to six, so Carol Ann went to Eckville and Gerry and Pat to

Grandpa and Grandma had moved from the farm to Ladner, B.C. in 1948. They were living there when Grandma died in November of 1952. Grandpa came back to Eckville then and bought a small house in town.

I remember one winter while we were going to Andrews School. The weather had been pretty bad. I don't know if it was really cold, but there was a lot of snow and wind. Our road was drifted in solid from the half mile fence to the corner. As kids, we thought it was great to be able to walk anywhere in the fields without sinking into the snow. One night we went visiting the neighbors by sleigh. Gates and fences were no problem because they were drifted over. When the road was finally cleared out the banks were really high, the road was really narrow. Daddy and Julien Sambrook were going to his hayland early one morning. We were on our way to school when they were coming back with a loaded hay rack. We had to climb the banks to get out of the way. We were above the rack when they went by, and were seriously considering jumping on the load when Daddy looked back. We decided to go to school instead!

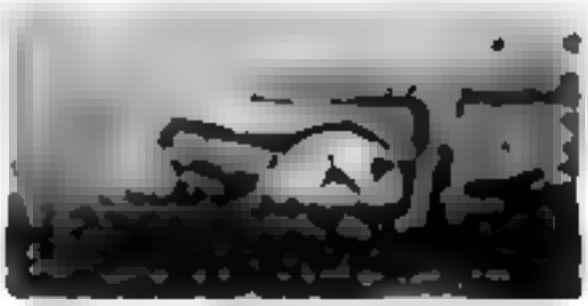
We continued our schooling in Eckville and were there for each new addition, the moving of the teacherage out of the school yard, and many other changes.

Grandpa lived in town for a couple of years but spent lots of time at the farm. He had great patience with us. He loved to play cards, and needing some competition, he taught us how to play crib and canasta and even solitaire, so we would let him rest from playing once in a while too. We used to come to his house in town too, and one night in particular, Hallowe'en night we were there. We had never been trick-or-treating in town before, so we were allowed to tour the next block that night. That was a real change for us, and we thought we'd really got a lot of treats. Grandpa died on New Year's Day of 1954.

The oil business came to our part of the country about 1955. The rigs were quite a strange thing in this part of the country. Daddy drove a water truck for one of the truck owners. The rigs were really busy and the trucking hours were to the extreme.

Alberta's Golden Jubilee was in 1955 and the school had a program in its honor. The teachers worked very hard organizing it. Our part of the program was a dance which we presented on the sidewalk in front of the school. The weather must have been good.

I remember Daddy belonging to the Bentley Elks and the Bentley Band. He was a great one to play a joke on someone. One time he'd bought Mom a new set of dishes. She was away at the time so it was a surprise, and we were very secretive about it. They were a new kind that didn't break. We brought her home and made some coffee before bedtime. She was sitting at the table and Daddy went to the cupboard, opened the doors and showed her the new dishes. Then he threw a cup to her. She was really surprized, but she caught the cup. Then he explained how they wouldn't have broken anyway. We thought it was a real funny joke. He played that trick on many people and we always got a real kick out of it.



Farming had really changed in that time from threshing machines and big crews to combines and a couple of men working together.

It seems that during the summer and fall of 1956 we were always on the go. We'd load up the big truck with friends and go berry picking and picnicking a lot. We'd just pick up and go whenever we could — it didn't matter if it was washday or whatever — if the weather was good or not — off we'd go. Mom and Daddy belonged to many groups, and I think each group had a picnic at Gull Lake every year. It was really fun. Gerry was in Grade eight, Pat in Grade seven and Carol Ann in Grade five when our dad died that November. It was a very hard time for us but we managed. Grandma Simon came to live with us. We had a new baby sister Susan the following January.

We stayed on the farm and rented the land for the next four years, moving to town in 1960. Mom kept the farm until 1964, when she sold the home quarter. In December of 1961 Gerry joined the Air Force and went East for his training. He had graduated from high school earlier that year. Mom was working in the Co-op and had been for a few years. Carol Ann and Pat were still in school. Pat graduated in 1962, Susan started school in 1963. Carol Ann graduated in 1964 and went on to a secretarial school in Calgary. Pat married David Lightbown in November of 1962. Mom and Susan moved to Fairview, Alberta on the Labor Day weekend of 1964. Carol Ann married Ron Craig in July of 1965. They have three children, Kathryn, Bradley and Charlene. They reside near Delburne.

Gerry married Beverly Shearlaw of Three Hills in France, in June of 1967. He bought out Dave Lightbown Trucking in February of 1976 and they now live in this district. They have one daughter, Rhonda.

**TED AND MYRTLE (LINDER) GALE — by Myrtle Gale**

Being the youngest of six children born to Karl and Emma Linder, I was the one privileged to go to high school. I attended the Red Deer High School, from 1939 to 1942, and later took my R.N. training at the Vancouver General Hospital, graduating in 1946.

In November of 1947 Ted Gale of Saskatchewan, and I were married in Nanaimo, B.C. We lived and worked in Vancouver until buying a small farm near Red Deer in 1953. I nursed for ten years in what is now known as the Michener Centre at Red Deer. In 1968 we moved to the Linder farm in the Gilby district, where we are still living.

We have two sons, Gordon Edward, born in 1950 and Bruce James, born in 1951. Gordon was married to Katherine West of Edmonton on December 27, 1975. He has his degree in Education, and is a journeyman plumber. They have a son, Jeffrey, born April 12, 1976.

Bruce was married to Pat Sim of Calgary on December 27, 1975. Bruce has his degree in Education from the University of Calgary and Pat is with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce there.

Both boys have their homes in Calgary.

**CARRIES, ETHEL**

Ethel Carries, second daughter of William and Alice Andrew was born July 3, 1906, their first child born in Canada. She attended Andrews' School and on leaving remained on the farm sometimes helping with field work when needed.

On January 24, 1928 she married Paul Garries who operated Garries' Hardware in Bentley. On April 20, 1929 she passed away. They had one daughter, Muriel, who is married to Arvin Freeman and with their family live at Fox Creek, Alberta.

**MAY THOMAS HARTLEY — by May Hartley**

I was married in 1932 and we lived on the Carl Barhan quarter, about a mile south from Hespero store. Donna was born in 1934 at Mrs. Porter's Nursing Home south of Condor. We went there by team and cutter two o'clock in the morning on February 5. The roads were icy and the poor horses slipped a bit. We were on that farm for two years, then I was home with my parents, and Donna with me, for a year. Then we rented a quarter section from Arthur Thomas (father) for a year. Next we purchased an acreage from Bill Whittle, two miles south and one mile east of Hespero. I did a little of everything while here. We had a dug well so drew water in a bucket for the stock and house for awhile before a pump was put in. Then the water was pumped by hand. We had no pasture for our cows so had to turn them on the road allowance. Many are the miles I walked to get them home.

Later my dad bought the rest of the quarter (Mr. Whittle had passed away) so Mrs. Whittle sold the land, which we paid him for in installments. John was born February 10, 1941 at home. Mrs. Michel came to help. We had a straw and pole barn and chicken house for awhile before a lumber one was built. I took care

of the stock a lot, also the poultry, of course, and did the milking. I also cut wood for the house with axe and buck saw. John helped me with that when he got older. He went to work in an auto body shop in Eckville soon after leaving school. He drove back and forth for a short time, then boarded in town.

I became ill in 1955 and had an operation in Red Deer hospital in December. My brother-in-law, Cliff Harvey, took me to Red Deer. Donna came and stayed to look after the house. She was married and Fran was less than a year old. I was in the hospital nearly two months. It was bitter cold weather. They just got in to see me once. Donna had her husband's car, so my folks and brothers and wives also came. My sister-in-law, Phil MacBride, living in Red Deer, came every day, when I was permitted visitors. My brother Percy brought me home from hospital, but I never regained my strength and didn't feel up to milking cows and sawing wood any more. In November 1965 my brother Percy brought me and my belongings in to Lacombe to my mother's the next day. I went to the doctor the next morning and he put me in the hospital again. I had another major operation, and again was in hospital for two months.

When I was released from hospital, John took me by car to California where Donna and her second husband, Ed Williams, lived. I was there six months or so, regaining my strength. Then a friend of Donna and Ed's was coming to Cardston, Alberta, so I came back with him. We drove right through, only stopping for gas and to get a bite to eat. We left La Puente, California about four in the afternoon and were crossing the line at Sweetgrass the next day about five in the evening. John came down from Penhold International Air Strip the next day in a four-place plane to bring me back to Red Deer, Penhold Air Strip, and by car to Lacombe to my mother's. There was room for only me and my suitcase in the plane so my trunk had to be shipped.

As soon as I was strong enough I took a position as baby-sitter and light housekeeping for a school teacher whose husband was on the town police force. The little girl was two and one half months old. I was there until she started school. I worked for another family then back at Sautz's for another few years as they had another baby girl. When she started school I took a position at the hospital where I worked until October, 1975. I retired at this time, as I was past 65.

The staff took all the house-keeping staff out to dinner at the Crow Bar as my going-away gift. They paid my way and also gave me a present. They are a nice bunch and I still see them now and then.

In November my brother Percy took me out to British Columbia to visit my other brother Martin and a niece live at Abbotsford. Irvin in Vancouver, a niece at Mission. Harold at Chase, an uncle and a niece in Vancouver and a niece at Kamloops. Then we went to Percy's at Sicamous. Percy's son, Mike, and wife came from Alberta, and I came back with them in November. I visited John and Doris at Fort St. John while he was mechanic at the air strip a few years ago. They get down once in a while, as they are now living at Wetaskiwin.

**THE HUSEBYS — by Connie and Louise Huseby**

Halvor Huseby and his wife, Karen Huseby came from Stravanger, Norway to Cottonwood, Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1898. With them they brought their three children, John, born in 1887, Ludwig, born in 1890, and Kristene born in 1895. Another son, Oscar, was born in Cottonwood, Minnesota, in 1899. Halvor and the daughter, Kristene, both passed away in Minnesota.

John Huseby came to Alberta from Cottonwood, Minnesota in 1911 and homesteaded west of Gilby. The following year Ludwig also came to Alberta and in 1913, after the death of her husband and daughter, Mrs. Huseby and Oscar arrived in the Gilby area. They lived with John on his homestead.

Ludwig took a homestead west of the Leafland school. He broke a few acres of land but later traded his property for some equipment, and along with his brothers bought a half section of land a mile east of Gilby and they lived together for a number of years.

He married Connie Rolfsen in 1921, and the family all lived together until 1926. At this time Ludwig, Oscar and their mother moved to a log house which they had built on the south quarter of their land. Their mother died in 1932 and Ludwig and Oscar batched there until Ludwig passed away in 1962.

Oscar married Louise Whiteside in 1962 and they lived on the farm until 1973. Oscar was disabled by a stroke and, being unable to carry on farm work, he then traded the farm for Roy Engen's home in Eckville. Oscar and Louise are living in Eckville at the present time.

John and Connie have a family of six children. Harvey married Josephine Lawrence, a teacher at Andrew's School. (She later taught at Lockhart.) They had two girls.

Muriel is married to Mart Engen and they live on a farm west of Gilby. They have four girls.

Thelma was married to Roy Engen. They lived on the old Engen farm for many years. A boy and a girl were born to them. Thelma passed away in 1969, after they had moved from the farm to a home in Eckville.

Violet is married to Gordon Carroll. They had five children but lost one little girl. They now live in Kelowna, B.C.

Ruby is married to George McTighe, and they live in Eckville. They had three children, but also lost one little girl.

Ken married Bernice Dyrland. They have six children and are living on the old Huseby farm.

John Huseby passed away in 1961 and his wife, Connie is now living in Eckville. For a

period of time following her husband's death she had lived in British Columbia

**IRWIN, CHARLES — by Olga Pedersen Irwin**

My husband, Charles Irwin, was born in 1890 and came to Alberta from Kinnigo, Ireland, in 1921. He first worked on a threshing crew in the Brooks area, but returned to Ireland, living there until 1926, before returning to Alberta. He again worked near Brooks for a year and then came to the Gilby district.

We were married in December 1927 and soon after bought the NW 8-41-3-W5 from the Hudson's Bay Company. Our first home was a granary as times were very "tough". After a year we hired Alex Ferguson, our neighbor, to build us a house which is still my home.

We had a family of five children. Helen was born in 1929 and was deceased in 1934. William, born in 1931, lives at Rocky Mountain House. He and his wife, Donna, have four girls and two boys. Hazel, (Mrs. Melvin Cave) born in 1934, lives at Hoadley and has a son. Florence (Mrs. Andy Anderson, Rimbey) born in 1936 has a family of four, a boy and three girls. Albert, born in 1940, and wife (Darlene Balan) live on the home place. They have three girls. Brenda (born in 1964, Jeanette (born in 1968), and Angela (born in 1971).

My husband passed away in December, 1976 and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

**KREIL, RALPH AND DOROTHY**

We moved to central Alberta from Coaldale in the fall of 1975 and in the spring of 1976 moved to our present home, formerly the Irvin Both farm.

Our children are: one daughter, Dixie, and two sons, Todd and Greg.

We have made a few changes to the farmyard, such as a new house. Since Ralph is a carpenter by trade, we were fortunate enough to build a house. That meant the old house had to find a new home, which it did and is now gone. The old barn, chicken house and pig barns have also been removed.

There is one thing we will never change though and that is our beautiful hill up the canyon. Coming from the dry, windy south, we really feel we live in God's country.

**WALLACE AND CAROLYN KREIL AND FAMILY**

Formerly from southern Alberta and then near Monitor, Alberta, we moved to the Gilby area and in June of 1968 purchased the W½ 4-41-3-W5 from Shirley Edwards.

At this time our children were; Penny age seven, Cindy age six and Edward age five. Marty was born in the fall of 1971.

The first changes that we made in the farmstead were to move the driveway to the west side and to relandscape the yard. Continuing our efforts in 1970 we built a new barn, using as much good material from the old one as possible.

In June 1976 the time came to start building a new home. With the help of our neighbors and their tractors the old house was pulled from its location and into the yard. We lived in it while building our new home on the former site.

Seldom is there a Saturday night that we, Wallace and Carol, aren't playing in the dance band called "Wally's Westerners," along with Ralph Kreil and Jim Wingate.

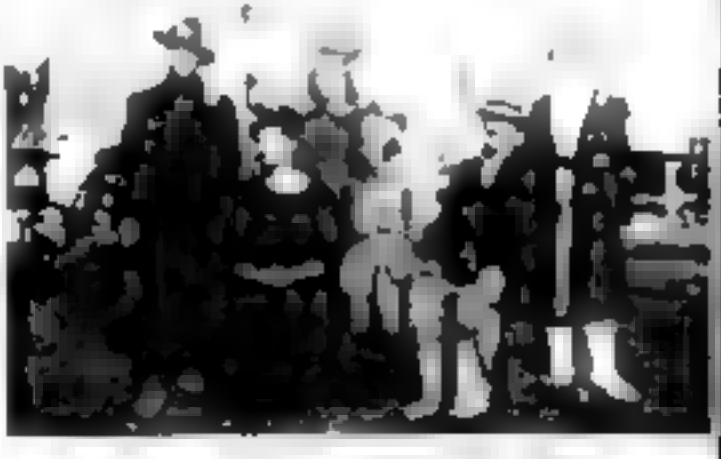
We enjoy living in the Gilby area as we have many wonderful neighbors, friends and relatives here.

**THE KURZMAN FAMILY — by Mrs. Dave Kurzman**

John and Mary Kurzman and two children came from Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. in 1910. They lived first on the Ad Smith farm one and a quarter miles north of Lockhart Hall. Mr. Kurzman filed on his homestead in March, 1910. This was the N E ¼ Sec. 8, Twp. 41, R 3 W 5.

This quarter was all bush land, so first of all land was cleared for a building site. Logs were cut in the hills and hauled by team to the McPherson Mill in the Lockhart district for making lumber. By 1913 the site had been cleared and the house and barn built, so the family was able to move to their own quarter in July, 1913. The house and barn built at that time are still standing.

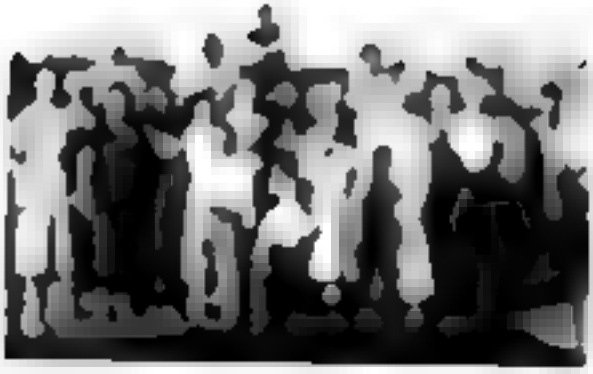
In 1910 a daughter, Esther, was born and Pearl, their fourth daughter, was born on the farm in 1916.



Mr. and Mrs. John Kurzman [illegible]

Mr. Kurzman was a carpenter by trade and built houses and barns for a number of people in the community. He also built the Lockhart Hall. While Mr. Kurzman was busy with his carpenter work Mrs. Kurzman and their son Davie carried on the farm work. Much of the land was broken with a walking plow pulled by a team. Mr. Kurzman passed away in March, 1947.

Mrs. Kurzman was a good cook and the Kurzmans were a very hospitable family. Many picnics were held on their farm and many gallons



of home-made ice-cream were eaten there Dances were frequently held in their home. thus affording good times for the people of the community Mrs Kurzman was a member of the Lockhart Ladies Club and helped with the C.G.I T for the girls. She passed away in March 1945

After his mother's death Davie took over the farm. He worked two years for E. Calkins in Bentley and spent two winters with Hough Mill working as a blacksmith's helper He helped build the Gilby Hall He sawed many loads of wood for the Lockhart and Andrew schools. He received three dollars a cord for this firewood During the threshing season, for several years, he operated the threshing machine for Harry Thomas

After the work was done in the fall a group of neighbors would usually go on a hunting trip This was a form of recreation for them. as well as a means of adding to the winter meat supply for the family Davie always joined in and enjoyed these trips

In 1948. Davie was married to Dorothy Jones of Forshee They lived on the farm and continued the farming operations until 1972 at which time they moved to Rimbey to enjoy their retirement

Davie and Dorothy have a son, Kenneth He is employed by the Westbourne Drilling Company

Violet married Fred Wager and they lived in the Wimsden Green district before moving to Calgary where Fred passed away in 1967 Violet still lives in Calgary They had five children

Esther married Jim Strachan and lives in Rimbey. They have two daughters who live in Edmonton

Pearl married Edd Cumming of Langley, B.C She passed away in 1975

Davie Kurzman was the last of the original settlers of the Lockhart District when he moved to Rimbey His first teacher is still alive and lives in the Red Deer Manor Mrs Zella McPherson, wife of the sawmill operator, is still alive and lives in Lacombe

**LAURITSEN TOM** – by Annie Laesen

Tom Lauritsen was born in the southern part

1925, at the age of 24 years. Upon arriving in Canada he worked for various farmers in Saskatchewan. Later he moved to Peace River, Alberta, where he homesteaded in 1931. After leaving his homestead in Peace River he came to the Gilby district where he worked as a hired hand for the Thorp family This is where he met Julia Pederson, my mother

Mother was born in Red Lake Falls Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1913. The family, of John and Mary Pederson immigrated to Canada when Julia was four years old. They resided in the Gilby district on the N E 32-40-3-W5. Mother received all her schooling in the Andrew School

Following the marriage of Tom and Julia in 1933, they resided in a log house on the William Steel farm N.W 35-40-3-W5) They resided in the log house for a short time until they could clear enough land on which to construct the present frame house in which they still reside. This house is situated on S.W 35-40-3 W5. which dad purchased from the CPR The home quarter was covered with dense brush, which they cleared almost entirely by hand

Throughout the years my parents purchased the three remaining quarters of section 35 which they still own and farm

My early recollections of farming include that of my dad farming with four to six-horse teams One simple implement which stands out in my mind is the brush harrow This harrow was made out of a huge willow bush. Also among the farm implements was the gang and sulky plows Dad continued farming with horses until he purchased his first tractor, a 15-30 McCormick

During the depression my father and mother recollect selling market-weight hogs for three dollars. Dad hauled the hogs to Eckville with a team of horses and wagon box. In return for the three dollar hogs he would buy a 100-pound bag of flour Dad also relates taking an 850-pound steer to market in Calgary, and not receiving enough cash with which to buy Mother her second-hand treadle Singer sewing machine for twenty-five dollars

Father and Mother raised a family of eight children. Betty the oldest daughter, was born in 1934. Betty resides in Red Deer where she is employed as a housekeeper John owns and farms two quarters - N E 34-40-3 W5 and S.E 3-41-3-W5. John married Orpha Jodoin in 1964 They have two sons, Chris and Gary Martin resides on the farm, where he helps dad with the farming. During the winter months he works in the welding shop in Eckville. where he is apprenticing as a welder

Hans and his family reside in Calgary Hans has worked with the oil rigs for several years. He recently spent several months drilling in the United States He has three children, Sand Denise, and Colin

I Annie own a farm in Sylvan Lake area where my family reside. I was married to Ray

Land in 1960. Ray and I have two children, Brenda and Brian. Ray passed away from complications of diabetes in July, 1964. Later I married Elmer Luoma of Eckville in December, 1965, and we have a son, Randy. Elmer also farmed a quarter of land on the north-west side of Sylvan Lake.

Mabel and her husband, Ron Lund were married in 1963. They have two children, Roland and Maureen. At the present time they reside on a farm south of Eckville, where Ron works at various jobs.

Edith resides at home with her parents.

Esther and her husband, Ralph Mockford were married in 1966. They have three children, Steven, Sharon and Darren. Ralph owns and operates a gravel truck. They reside in Eckville in the new mobile home sub-division.

The children all took their early schooling in Andrew School. We had three miles to go to school, and used various means of transportation to get there. When we rode horseback there were three on a horse. Later dad made a one-horse sleigh for winter use and a one-horse cart for summer. After the Andrew School closed in 1953 we were bussed to school in Eckville, from which Hans, Mabel, Esther and I graduated.

At the present time my father and mother still reside on the farm, where they raise cattle and grain. Dad enjoys his hobby of gun collecting and Mom enjoys her gardening.

**NW 10-44-5-W5**

The above quarter was homesteaded by Frank Lee, the NW 10 by his brother, William Bill, and the NE 10 by their mother Elizabeth Lee.

Fred Pimm bought the SW 10 early in 1919 and moved to a quarter in the Symonds district in 1922. (see Leedale for the Lee and F. Pimm histories.

Roy Cousnac bought the land from Chris Baker and lived on the farm from 1930-31. He then moved to Springdale and on to Barrhead, Alberta, where he still resides.

Walter Matthew farmed the quarter from the spring of 1934 until August 1939. There were three children in the family.

Histories of other families living on the SW 10 are in this book.

**LINDER, KARL AND EMMA — by Edwin Linder**

Karl C. Linder, my dad, was born in northern Sweden, in 1882, and my mother, Emma Maria Hultgren, was born in central Sweden, in 1883. They both immigrated to the United States, at the turn of the century. Dad got a job falling timber in Oregon, and often talked of wearily pulling a falling saw, the saw being slowed down by pitch, for a 10 hour day. Mother also settled in Oregon, and got employment in some of the better homes in Portland.

While Dad was working in a sawmill in Portland, he got acquainted with Gustav Hultgren, Emma's brother. He was so impressed with the fine character of this man, that he exclaimed, "Have you a sister? Then I can already begin to call you my brother-in-law." Romance proceeded quickly and in the year 1907 Emma and Karl were married.

Dad heard of homesteads being available in Alberta, Canada, so he and a friend, William Hammerbeck, (then only about 19 years of age and also of an adventurous frame of mind) got on a train and came to Alberta. Mother stayed behind, with the children, on a little acreage that they had bought in Oregon, while waiting for the word to come to Alberta.

In 1911 there were not many homesteads still available in the Gilby district, but there was one lying a mile and one-half northeast of the Gilby store, which had been abandoned by the man who had originally filed on it. Dad filed, and the SE 32-40-3-W5 was to be our home during those years when the family was growing up.

When my sister, Edith, was about three years old, and I was five months old, and my sister Ruth about a year older than I, Mother got on the train at Warren, Oregon, and headed for Alberta with her family.

Those were not the days of welfare offices and handouts. For a man to make a living for a family was a formidable undertaking. Before the homestead could be proved up, there were buildings to erect and a certain amount of land to be broken each year. There was the question of getting some power to pull the breaking plow, and the harrows and discs, so that seed could be planted, and a crop taken off.

Tractors did not arrive on the scene until many many years later. Strange to say, even horses were very scarce. In fact, when we first got a horse, it seemed to me that there had been a real advance made both in farming and transportation. The problem of locomotion was first solved by Dad, when he purchased three sturdy oxen.

Farming was not all glory in that age for even the lowly oxen. Even though grass was thick and luxuriant, the poor old oxen pulling a breaking plow (sometimes then called a "footwarmer" with the farmer following it on foot, had to contend with myriads of mosquitoes and flies. How those poor beasts must have suffered! Even the oxen had a spirit of independence, though, and one day, while pulling my dad's binder, they became so tormented by flies that they struck out for a clump of trees or willows, hoping to find refuge there from the attacks of the flies. Dad, who was intent on harvesting grain, not trees, undoubtedly tried to persuade the oxen to continue harvesting grain, but I understand that the oxen took the binder with them, and harvesting operations were halted for the time being.

Dad recounted how he got up very early to work, about three or four o'clock in the morning

and continued till noon, when he broke off for that day.

The oxen were large and powerful and eventually the sod was broken. This was followed by discing, harrowing and seeding the oxen handling all these assignments.

When winter came Dad, who had grown up in Sweden where the farm animals were treated so kindly and where it would have been unthinkable to expect the animals to spend the nights outdoors, took them in to what passed as a barn. Imagine his surprise in the morning to find that during the night the oxen had broken through the side of the barn and were frolicking in the winter wonderland the next morning! Dad even took time out to do some custom breaking for the neighbours with his oxen.

Later he got a sawing outfit, which consisted of an old Stickney engine, used to operate a circular saw. That old Stickney was hardly new even then but he did some custom cutting of logs for firewood in addition to providing his own. There was really only one source of fuel at that time — good old poplar trees, cut into logs. Some of the neighbours got together, the logs were fed gradually towards the saw and wood, in stove lengths, was snipped off, one by one, to make the familiar 'woodpile' from which in the course of doing chores, farm boys repaired to, to fill the woodbox.

Having arrived on the old homestead, and before the land was cultivated, there was the problem of feeding the family. These were not the days of welfare offices and handouts. What was my dad to do? He found the answer in getting some traps, and tramped around the more unsettled land of that age, trapping muskrats and weasels. The pelts were sometimes mailed as far away as St. Louis, Missouri. The proceeds helped to buy the simple needs of the pioneers.

My parents told us of the multitude of rabbits and deer that were to be found in that day, so there was no shortage of meat. Dad had a trusty 30-30 Winchester and loved hunting. As children we certainly got to know the taste of venison and rabbit meat. As we grew older, we knew that if there was a fall of snow, the Winchester was taken down and the moccasins donned for light walking. Away Dad would go. Rarely were his hunting trips unsuccessful. There remain memories of those days about my father: moccasins for hunting, quinine for colds and putting his feet into hot water when he found a cold approaching. Some of the old remedies like the latter could probably still be profitably used.

So we survived those early days, continuing to grow and be healthy. In those days, long before electric lights, or even gasoline lamps, kerosene was a must. I remember trudging with my mother to the Gilby store. Mike Sestrap, the storekeeper was well known. Going to that country store would be as exciting for us as a modern boy of similar age going to a big town. Those, remember, were not the days when every child's fancies were expected to be gratified. But there were treats on occasion. For example, the

kerosene can might lack a cap for the spout. No problem. Mike put a soft candy over the end of the spout and no spilling occurred on the way home. So a treat awaited me when we got home. The candy, with the spout problem now solved, was mine. Oh sure, it had a little kerosene on it and this did not necessarily improve the flavour but what is a little kerosene on a candy to a boy who had, up to that time, never eaten a chocolate bar!

The store contained products in bins, whether candy or rice. I do not remember packaged goods then. Cloth was found in bolts and sold by the yard. The ladies of that day had to improvise and probably loved to do so; they might as well like it, as there were no other avenues open. I remember the storekeeper skillfully measuring the cloth with his arm, he having been a tailor. I understand in his younger days.

I doubt if it would have been possible to buy bread already made at the store. No, the farm ladies made their own bread. I still cherish the experience of coming home from school to find newly-baked bread or buns on the table, covered with a white sheet. With a school boy's appetite, did I grab one, liberally covered with home churned butter? I sure did. Those were indeed the days.

My brother, Elmer, was born not long after my parents' arrival in Alberta, followed by Irvine and Myrtle.

Going back into the farthest reaches of my memory, I believe a word should be included about early threshing. There was something most exciting about the arrival of the threshing outfit. It invariably had a steam engine to operate it, with the accompanying water wagon. In those days bundles were stacked, and stacking was an art in itself.

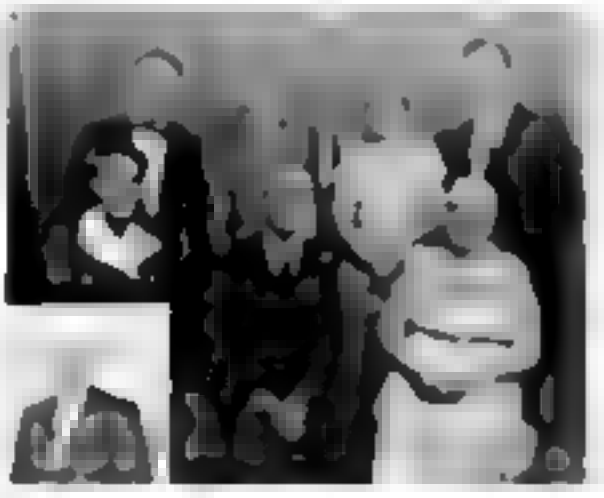
Threshing developed to the bundle rack stage and as my good appetite continued, and still does, I did not mind at all the competition that developed among the farm women to put on a real good spread for the threshers. Then there was, too, the morning and afternoon lunch. Coffee and refreshments were brought out to the threshing outfit, and there was much good natured banter between the threshers and the farmers' daughters as they brought the lunch out to the field.

When Andrew School was built, the acreage on which it stood was fenced off on land that was later bought by Dad, a quarter we dubbed "the C.P.R. quarter" (NW 33-40-3-W5). Dad acquired two quarters of land in addition to the homestead. The other was known as "the Hammerbeck quarter" (SW 33-40-3-W5) in memory of Willie Hammerbeck who had bought that quarter originally, then returned to Oregon and later sold it to Dad. (Mr. Hammerbeck died recently and Mrs. Hammerbeck is still living at Warren, Oregon.

The school was cold in winter and hot in summer, and creaked ominously during a windstorm. However, that is the school where we got our basic education. It was there we played during recess with boys and girls who, like ourselves, were children of the pioneers. It was there we surveyed the surrounding country during our recesses, and shared in the anxiety of our parents as they contended with the hazards of farming, cutworms, frost, hail and other factors. We knew that farming was the source of income our parents and we children depended on. The morals of the parents and children were wholesome and the values I learned there have influenced me all my life.

In thinking of a community we think naturally of the supply of water. Our first well was a dug one. It later provided refrigeration for the cream can. One could not expect to get 'grade special' for the cream if it was not kept in a cool place, so down went the cream can into the well suspended by a trusty rope. It was important to get the best price for cream, after all, our overalls, jackets and the mail order to Eaton's, started from the cream can.

In 1917 Billy Bjornson and his brother Louis came to our home with a real well-drilling outfit. The general principle was the lifting of a heavy object that drove a hole well down to water where the pipes followed to pipe the water up with the use of a pump. The first well was quite a long distance from our house, and we spent many an hour pumping water for the cattle. It was kind of fun missing school once in awhile but carrying pail after pail of water for the house took some of the joy away. Too, the water from the first well was hard. In later years Victor Johanson from Bentley began to drill for a well right at the house, on the porch as a matter of fact. Mother watched the drilling with much interest. One day Victor announced that he had struck water. "Is it soft?" Mother asked. "No, the water is not soft." "Then keep drilling," she replied. He did, continuing on for over 100 feet.



When he next stopped and reported water he said that the water was soft The well is still there, with good water Believe you me IT IS

My parents, Karl and Emma Linder retired from the farm early in the 1940's and spent the last years of their lives living with Edwin Linder, in British Columbia Dad dearly loved fishing for steelhead even when an old man in his last years at the coast Mother continued to be interested in her family until her death in 1966

**A HISTORY OF MY LIFE — by Edwin Linder**

I was born in Warren, Oregon, U S.A. on January 11, 1911, the son of Karl and Emma Linder In 1911, when I was five or six months old, my parents, with my sisters Edith and Ruth, and I came to Alberta and settled in the Gilby area. My brothers Elmer and Irving and my sister Myrtle were born in Canada

I was educated in the old Andrew School located a mile northeast of our home, and continued on the old farm helping with the farm work until I was 23 years of age Most of the depression years I lived in Alberta

In the spring of 1934 I went along with Jack Calling and his mother, from Alhambra, Alberta, who were on their way to settle on Vancouver Island. I got a job working for the Comox Logging and Railway Company in the Courtenay area of Vancouver Island. The logging operation was a few miles north of Courtenay I got a job there first on the section gang, at three dollars a day, and later got a job setting chokers. I continued in that logging operation, and others, advancing in position and pay, and finally moved to Ladysmith, B.C. where I resumed work for the Comox Logging and Railway Company. I sought to provide a home for my parents who, having sold out the farming equipment and livestock were retiring. Both my parents joined me, and I bought a house at Ladysmith in a section of that town known as the Diamond district My parents lived with me here until we moved to Duncan

I became treasurer of the Ladysmith and District Credit Union having learned shorthand and typing while on the old farm and supplementing my knowledge of bookkeeping in a business college in Vancouver when the logging camp was shut down because of heavy snow My knowledge, gained by myself and in school came in handy

In 1948 there was a disruption in the International Woodworkers of America, in which the radical leadership was displaced and new officers installed. I was elected financial secretary and also filled the position of office manager I continued in that job until I retired in 1976, being, to the best of my knowledge, the longest-elected office holder in the whole International Woodworkers of America, from Newfoundland to California, from Alabama to the Yukon

On September 3, 1985, I married Velma Geier then living in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. We live on 5330 Miller Road, Duncan, B C where we have resided since our marriage

My father Karl Linder was born on February 7 1862 and died on February 25, 1956. My mother was born on February 24, 1883, and died on March 17 1967

**IRVING LINDER — by Myrtle Gale**

Following his schooling Irving farmed with his father Karl Linder in the Gilby district In 1943 he and Muriel Shelby, of Campbell River were married in Vancouver Irving drove the bus for the Vancouver Island Coachline for several years before moving back to the Gilby district in 1951 Here he farmed until 1968. He and Muriel then moved back to their home in Campbell River which is scenically situated on the banks of the Campbell River

They had four children. Barry Brian Maureen and Norma

Barry, who has his own roofing company lives in Edmonton

Brian, who is married to the former Susan deHoan, of Dawson Creek, has two sons. Corey and Ryan. The family lives in St Albert Brian has his degree in Science from the U of A

Maureen died suddenly at the age of four years in 1954

Norma, the youngest child, is living and working in Campbell River

**ELMER LINDER — by Edith Storms**

Elmer son of Karl and Emma Linder was born in 1912. In the fall of 1936 he and Dorothy Hutchison were married at Gimlet. They spent the early part of their married life around the Gilby district and then moved to British Columbia.

Their three children are Larry, Verlie and Ross. Larry works in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Verlie is married and lives in Surrey Her children are Bruce, Bobby and Brenda. Ross is married, with two children, and living in Duncan B C

Elmer passed away at Courtney in 1961

**EMIL PETER**

Peter a coal miner's son, was born on July 26 1921, in Coleman, Alberta He received his education in Coleman

In 1940, he left the coal mines and went to Broderick, Saskatchewan, to farm with his parents

On July 17, 1947 Peter married Josie Trautman, a farmer's daughter Josie was born on March 13, 1927 in Strongfield, Saskatchewan She received her education in a country school which was called Cherry-Dale A school bus service has been put in on route from Strongfield so Cherry-Dale is no longer used for classes

In the latter part of June in the year of 1948 Peter lost all the wheat crop on his quarter section in Broderick The grasshoppers came in

herds like cattle and ate crops, gardens, even the leather in harnesses

Farming was a very trying occupation on the bald prairies, and Peter decided to make a move. Leaving his parents behind, he and his wife Josie and her sister Jennie went to Alberta in search of jobs. The three took the passenger train from Broderick. The crops through Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta looked poor. Some parts were invaded by hoppers, in other parts of the country, crops were yellowed from

After travelling all night, they finally arrived in Red Deer. About four hours later they climbed on board a lazy freight and were on their way again. One thing that will always stay vivid in the trios minds is how scenic the countryside looked. Trees and crops were a beautiful green. The leaves and grass looked luscious enough to be used for salad. The tiger lilies were in full bloom along the railroad ditches and the girls had the urge to go out and pick them when the freight stopped for cream pick-ups.

In the latter part of the sunny but humid afternoon, the tired three got off the freight at the CPR station one mile south of Eckville and hitchhiked a ride with Marg Schofer to Eckville where Peter's sister, Mary, and her two sons, Joe and Louis Psikla, waited and took them to their home.

After a few days of enjoyable visit and celebration of Josie's and Peter's first wedding anniversary, Joe Psikla suggested that Peter and Josie apply for a farm hand and cook at the Ray Niemela farm in Benalto where they were employed until the middle of September. Peter's brother, Joe, brought out Peter's 1935 Chev and Peter and Josie went back to Broderick, Sask. Joe Liska stayed in Eckville to stook and after a couple of weeks he went back by train to Broderick.

After several weeks of packing, the family, Josie, Peter and his parents, his brother Joe and wife, Millie, and four girls, Irene, Mary, Helen, and Vicky were on their way back to Alberta. Josie, Peter and parents spent the winter at Wright's farm in Eckville.

On a dry, sunny, warm day in the first week in April of 1949, with the help of Joe and Louis Psikla and Roy Saari, Josie, Peter, and parents moved to the Hilmer Thorp farm, two and a half miles northwest of Gilby, Alberta. Peter and his brother Joe, and families were happy to have a roof over their heads and things looked quite encouraging until spring work began and the old 1927 Minneapolis tractor gave out. Peter's nephew Joe Psikla came to the rescue with his new John Deere D and put in the crop. With two months of dry spring weather and not being aware of what was in the soil, the barley crop turned out to be wild oats and thistle. Snow came early in the fall and harvest was a struggle. The winter of 1950 was miserably cold. There were no storm windows on the house, one heat register in the living room and none in the other seven rooms. There was very little coal and they had to use green wood for fuel. The temperature in the bedrooms upstairs was 23 degrees F. The Liska family felt that they had fallen out of the pan and into the fire.

In 1953, the Liska brothers felt they must repair the house to be comfortable. They remodeled the kitchen in the back part of the house which was the old homestead. A new basement was built adjoining the old one and bins were made for vegetables and coal. A new furnace was installed and hot and cold registers were put into the rooms. In 1958, electricity was put into the house and barn and several years later part plumbing for running water was also installed which made work a little more convenient.

There were approximately 100 acres of brush cleared and land broke for seeding. In 1957, the Liska brothers received an award of merit, seventh prize Regional, for malting barley. Peter and Joe also raised hogs and cattle and milked by hand as many as 18 cows. The Liska ladies helped with chores and raised bountiful gardens, so their deep-freeze was always full of good fresh frozen vegetables and meat.

There were happy times as well. In the fall of 1949, Peter and Josie attended a social at the Gilby Hall. Music was donated. A little bird told Percy Thubron that Peter was musical, so Percy took Peter in his truck to Peter's house and they brought back the old two row button accordion and guitar. Everyone had a nice evening. Shortly after, an orchestra originated which was called "The Polka Dots." Peter played accordion, Josie the guitar, her sister Jennie played piano and Joe Psikla played the violin. A few years later the two sisters left the orchestra and Waldo Raabis and Roy Leach joined the boys. They called the orchestra "Rhythm Boys."

About three years later, Waldo and Roy left the orchestra and Josie and her sister Jennie joined their husbands and are still playing for dances. They call their orchestra "Family Four."

On September 26, 1953, a son Philip was born to Josie and Peter. He received his education in Eckville. Philip was employed for several months with Walley Trucking. In 1972, he worked with his uncle, Carl Trautman, constructing steel buildings. Philip married Barbara Graham in 1973. They have two sons Geoffrey and Jason. Philip has been employed with Fletcher's Fine Foods in Red Deer for five years. The Philip Liska's have a home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

A daughter, Dolores Liska, was born on November 1, 1955. She took her Grade 11 in Eckville and finished high school at the LTCHS in Red Deer. Dolores was employed as secretary for S & B Auto Body Shop in Red Deer for a year. She has since changed positions and is now employed at Pam's Hallmark Shoppe in Red Deer.

In March of 1972 the Liska brothers realized that after 23 years of struggle on the Thorp farm they would never own it, so they set a date on May 3 for a machinery and cattle sale.

Peter and Josie now reside in Red Deer where they own a home. Peter is employed at Federal Pioneer Electric and Josie works at the Red Deer Nursing Home. They are enjoying the convenience of city life.

**JOAN LAWTON) MADDOX** by Joan Maddox

I came from Lacombe in May 1907 at the age of two years by covered wagon with my parents, Frank and Clara Lawton, brother Billy age seven, and sister Kathleen, age four years. My parents settled on NW 34-40-4 W5.

Our early years were spent playing near the buildings, as lynx and bear were often seen. Our three cows had to be herded as they would travel for miles, since there were no fences. Mother did not know her directions away from the buildings.

There was a small lake near by with an island, which Billy claimed as his own. If you were in his favor you were allowed to go with him on the raft. Otherwise he was Robinson Crusoe and had it to himself.

One day, when dad was building the log barn, mother and Miss Sjodahl decided to go blueberry picking. Kathy and I were told to watch Alick closely, as he was only a toddler. However he

soaked. Mother got a large pail of berries, but next morning her eyes were swollen shut from insect bites.

When the men were all away working one midsummer day, Mrs. Jake Amburs came rushing over, carrying a small child. They couldn't find Jimmy, age about four years. Mother gathered us together to go the mile across the fields with her. As we hurried up the hill where a large barrel stood by the trail, up came a fair head from inside the barrel. Jimmy had climbed in and had gone to sleep there.

When Billy was raking hay one hot day on the far side of the farm with the oxen "Sam and Tom", the heel flies struck them. Home they galloped, across the narrow pole bridge and into the lake. Billy was still on the seat of the rake, in water too deep to wade out. In later years, as roads were being built, the lake had to be drained. It was a sad day for us children - no more swimming and rafting — but mother was happy as there would now be fewer wet clothes.

Billy and Kathy often went to John Rechy's on the next quarter. He always gave them a dried prune. He stirred his beans (these two being the main dish for bachelors) with his stove poker. One day I was allowed to go along with Billy and Kathy. I stood by the door, watching, and, sure enough, he poked the fire and then stirred the beans! On the way home they ran ahead and left me, saying the bears would get me. That night I had a terrible nightmare that kept them awake. They were punished!

Mr. McDonald, who lived three and a half miles west, often came by on his way to Gilby with his bay mare and single buggy. He was a minister, and a very educated man. Some of the pioneers thought him rather queer. He and my dad would sit for hours, talking astronomy. One day Alick and I were racing to the house for dinner. There, on the narrow porch, mother had put the rocking chair out for Mr. McDonald as he had walked from Gilby (his mare had died). I was ahead and ran right into him. Being very shy, I was terrified, and cried. The next time he came he brought me a lovely story book.

School days followed, with cold walks in winter and swamps to wade in summer. It closed after the Christmas concert, to open again in March, continuing all summer. I went only through Grade 8, as that year my father passed away and I stayed home to help Billy and Kathy with the farming.

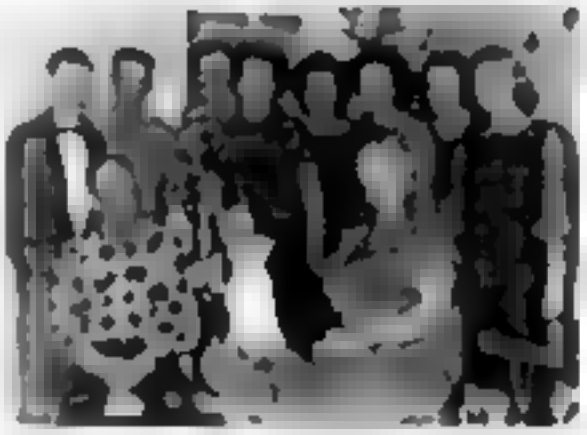
Our social life consisted of dances and box socials. Gilby put on a Saturday social evening when they had boxing, sing songs, and games. We would go for miles in 20-below or colder weather either horseback or by sleigh load. We would have as much fun on the road as at the dance. Jack Mullarkey, a friend of my family, was always along. He had a fine baritone voice and always helped with the entertaining during the supper hour.

In 1928, I married Jervel Maddox who came to the valley with his folks from Missouri, U.S.A. at the age of 14 years. He worked out for farmers the next year. In the spring of 1916, being tired of the job at 50¢ a day, he joined the Canadian Army. He was there a month before his mother was notified. Being not yet 16, she took him out. By that time he had decided that the army wasn't so exciting after all. He joined the U.S. Marines in 1919 and was with them until 1921. At that time he came back to Canada and took a homestead at Winfield, Alberta.

We spent 1926 on the homestead then came back and rented land until March, 1930, when we moved with our daughter Marie (15 months old) to NE 6-41-3-W5, which we had bought for $2000 and poor prices made times rmed with horses, so had few expenses. With the cattle, pigs, chickens, and a large garden plus good management we were able to get better equipment and more land, owning 960 acres when we retired and moved to Eckville in 1967. Our three boys now own the land.

We had nine children: Joan Marie, Elizabeth Lorraine, William Steven, Edythe Pearl, Eunice Thomas Frank, Dianna Joyce, John Gilbert, and Ruby Lee. Five of the children were born on the farm, with the doctor waiting many hours for their arrival.

Our visiting and trips to Eckville were done



with a team and buggy until 1932 when we traded cattle for a second-hand Model T Ford

Cooking for threshers was a big chore even with a girl to help. A large table was brought in to hold the 14 men. We would have to be up at five o clock get breakfast over, milk the cows, get the children off to school and then start dinner Sometimes the men wanted morning lunch as well as lunch in the afternoon. If we ran short of meat, chickens had to be killed

Our children grew up to be very responsible as the years went by enabling us to take a few weeks holiday each year

In September of 1967, we bought a house in Eckville, as Jervel was ill. He passed away on November 28 of that year I still live in the house with my daughter Eunice, who is handicapped, but a cheerful companion. The others took their schooling at Andrew and Eckville Schools

Marie married John Wilson. They had seven children. Ted, who served several years in the armed forces, is now an instructor in pollution a Whitehorse, Yukon. Richard passed away in 1987, after a long illness. Barbara, now Mrs Albert Brandl, has one son, Brent Randy Terry, Dale and Bradley are their four other children

Betty married Walter Cunningham. They had five children Lois now Mrs Peter Duncan, has two children, Kelli and Shawn. Gregory passed away in 1956. Gerald married Terri Mottus and has two children Jay and Melanie Darryl and Susan who is still in school

Bill lives on SW 8-41-3-W5. He married Joyce Dyrland and their four children are Carol, Steven, Marian and David at home

Pearl took a home economics course at Olds College. She worked as a dietician in Calgary General Hospital until she married Michael Dubyna. They have four daughters Sharon Mrs. David Werrett Sandra, Brenda and [illegible]

Tom lives on W 6-41-3-W5. He spent several years working for Mid-West Paper, in Calgary He then took a mechanics course at Olds. He is married to Caroline Chappell. They have three children, Debbie, Jody and Anna-Marie who are still attending Eckville School

Joyce took a secretarial course in Red Deer, then worked in Lacombe until she married Stewart Calkins. They have three children Gwen, Jeffrey, and Shelly

Jack lives on NE 6-41-3-W5. He married Susan Harcus. Their three children are Paul Robyn, and Craig all at home

Ruby-Lee took four years of University in Edmonton, getting a B. Ed. degree. She majored in French, and taught at Rocky Mountain House and in Calgary She married Thomas Houston They have two boys, Timothy and Brett

**VOLDEMAR MATTHSEN and FAMILY**

Voldemar Mathsen and his wife Rita Sigrid arrived with their three children, Hendo, Arne and Eda, at Eckville on June 1948. They were sponsored as immigrants by Volli's brothers, Alfred and Arnold Mathsen. Previous to this they had lived four years in Sweden, having escaped the Russian advance in Estonia at the end of World War II

Having purchased the three quarters of the Frank McTighe farm, W½ and SE 9-41-3-W5 they moved there in January 1949 As luck would have it, the move took place on a record breaking cold day. -50°F providing a hint of [illegible]

A mixed farm operation was commenced to support a family of seven, which now also in

cluded Rita's aunt, Elsbeth Sildver and her mother, Melanie Dreybladt. They were deceased in 1960 and 1970, respectively. They were buried in the Gilby Kalmu Cemetery.

The oldest son, Hendo, entered the Eckville Junior High School and graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer in 1954. He studied Engineering at the University of Alberta. Arne and Eda began their schooling at the Andrew School and were transferred to Eckville in 1953 when the Lacombe County schools were centralized. Arne graduated there in 1958 as Valedictorian and Eda finished in 1962 winning the Eckford Trophy. They both continued their education at the University of Alberta. Arne studying Chemistry and Eda studying Psychology.

Arne married Carolyn Wilfley of Brooks in 1966 and they and their daughter Janet Ray have spent several years in Europe where Arne has been employed as a computer-ing analyst. He recently returned to Calgary as manager at Computalog Services Ltd. Hendo has been employed in the construction industry throughout Alberta. Eda has worked at the University Alberta Hospital as a psychologist since 1966. She married John McClung, an Edmonton lawyer. In 1973, who is now Supreme Court Justice of Alberta living in Edmonton.

The hardships of the early years of farming were eased by the arrival of three productive oil wells. For several years, Volli also worked as a battery operator. After that most of the farm operation focused on cattle and grain. In 1964 Rita entered the University of Alberta, in the Faculty of Education, to supplement her European training in Medicine and Dentistry. She obtained a teaching certificate and commenced teaching at the Eckville Junior and Senior High School in 1965. In addition to teaching she operates the school library.

Volli managed the farm operation until 1974 after which he rented the land. They continue to live there, enjoying the home place which they have developed over the past 29 years. Their children return often on weekends and holidays to enjoy and appreciate the flowers and gardens and the scenery of Medicine Valley.

**THE McCRADY FAMILY**

My mother, Reane, father, Homer John, sons Herb (Sonny), Wilbur (Chick), Milo (Bill) Raymond and daughter, Ruth, moved from Drumheller to a farm in the Andrew school district. The farm was known as "The Canyon Place" because of the road that ran through it in a canyon between Charles Andrew and George Fraser of the Lockhart district. They arrived at the farm in the Easter holidays of 1930 and remained there until 1935 when they moved to a farm in the Lockhart district.

Father had been raised on a farm in Missouri and carried some of his earlier memories into his

[illegible]

One of his earlier efforts in raising hogs caused his neighbors to think he was in the bee [illegible] ge when they looked down from [illegible] A" huts for the pigs were mistaken for beehives. His basket rack for bundles was not a good design for the hills as the sloping sides allowed the load to overhang too far and tip. Mules were not in common use in the area and ours caused a lot of excitement as they were always ready to run, buck, kick or bray in order to get attention.

The McCrady home soon became quite a meeting place as my mother was one of the best cooks around and everybody was always welcome at our table.

Herb had a bright yellow Ford roadster that caught the girls' eyes, but Chick was usually the life of any party with his quick wit and yodeling.

Bill of Rumbey) was the woodsman, hunter and the one to keep the home fires burning when the rest of the family went anywhere. Sister Ruth, was my helper. We were likely given this duty as we were the youngest, except for baby Roy.

Later our older sister, Mrs. Rounds, came back to the family with her three children, Gordon, Geraldine and Marion. Mrs. Paul Eckes, Eckville) She then moved to the Line homestead where she took in Eunice Wells, a dwarf, and sister to Zeth Wells.

I'm sure the years spent on "The Canyon Place" were the happiest of my life even if it did take two bushels of wheat to buy my dad's tobacco. We were never hungry but clothes were very well worn before being discarded.

**F. B. McTIGHE AND FAMILY**

Francis Bernard McTighe was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1879.

In 1905 he came from Holloway, Minnesota to homestead in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, where he met Eva Zengel. Eva was at her widowed mother's homestead in the Humboldt district.

Frank and Eva were married in Cranbrook B.C. on November 11, 1909

Frank bought grain for the Alberta Pacific Company for a period of 17 years

In 1919 they bought three-quarters of land in the Gilby district and lived there until the fall of 1948, when due to ill health the farm was sold to Volk Matlisen

The following January he went to Vancouver and Salt Spring Island on a holiday where he stayed six weeks, then returned to Alberta

He had previously bought a tract of virgin land in the Rocky Mountain House district. Sec 8-42-6-W5, now owned by Eileen Lawton. After Frank's return from the coast, with the aid of a caterpillar and his boys, he began to get this under cultivation. While engaged in this endeavor death overtook him

Frank and Eva had five children, Maurice living in Dawson Creek and Salt Spring Island Eileen Lawton in the Gilby area Phillip in Red Deer, George in Eckville and Nora (Mrs Brodersen) of Winfield

Eva McTighe was a very kindly even tempered lady, with a sense of humor who made the most of things. She was dearly loved by her

Besides her own family she helped raise nieces and nephews, boarded school teachers Miss Agnes Anderson and Miss Lenore McLean cooked for hired men and looked after less fortunate men that Frank would bring home but she drew the line when Frank wanted to adopt two little Indians, in their later years She must have been tired

In 1936 people came to the McTighe's, with horses and fresnos, to level an area for a skating rink Ice was made and a granary was used for a club house where lunch was served. In summer tennis, baseball and horseshoe games were played on the levelled ground

The sports activities were much enjoyed by all the young folks in the district and those coming a distance

After Frank passed on Eva married W A Saunders of Ponoka and lived there until his death 10 years later

She then moved to Eckville and later to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. where she spent her remaining years

Maurice, at a very early age, helped with the farming and was in charge of five to six hundred head of ewes for the summer on a lease 30 miles from home. In the west country

In the spring with his sister, Eileen the flock his two dogs (Bob and Charlie), a covered wagon with a Jersey milk cow tied behind, they'd head west on a trip that took two days. Once settled in a shack, by a spring which came out of the side of the hill, his work would begin. He would shear the sheep, lamb out all the ewes, along with the care of keeping the sheep on the lease as it was not fenced. During the harvest, when Maurice was needed at home, Phillip or George would take their turn at replacing him

One fall the loss of sheep was heavy from rustlers and Frank was interested in sawmilling so the sheep industry was phased out

Maurice then began to build roads and help set up the sawmill. He at one time cooked for a crew of eight men, on a heater besides working with them on the road and when the mill was in operation he did the sawing

The mill was burned one winter and two years later a forest fire swept through burning a yard

Maurice escaped the fire along with Phil, but Maurice's nerves were bad so Frank sent him to Fulford Harbour where he bought a fishing boat "The Ulinston C" and went into fishing business. He then married Tillie Akerman from the Island and they went farming at Progress B.C

There they raised a daughter Mary Lory, two adopted children Don and Jane and two foster children, Roy and Brenda

Maurice and Tillie have built a house at Fulford and intend retiring there. For his good works and help to the Fathers in Progress district the Pope sent him a papal blessing

Eileen spent a great part of her earlier life in the west country and loved every minute of it, at the sheep camp, cooking at the sawmill and, in season picking berries

In 1946 Eileen married Bob Alexander at Mill Bay, Vancouver Island. They adopted two children, John and Pat but before Nan was officially adopted Bob passed away

Eileen then came back to Alberta and married Alick Lawton. Alick and Eileen adopted Nan and had two children of their own Jim and Lorrie

Phillip enjoys living and people He was active in hockey and baseball in his youth. He ran the steam engines at the sawmills and when his sister would go to the boiler room from the kitchen he would remark that she smelled of the kitchen and would let out hisses of steam from the big chrobbing engine

Phillip spent three and one-half years in the navy on the 'Prince David' In Vancouver he

met and married Sybil Green. When the war was over he settled north of the home place and there they raised a son and daughter, Wayne and [illegible]

Sybil passed away after a lengthy illness. Phil then went to work at the Red Deer General Hospital where he is still employed and as a sideline trains dogs. Phil married a widow, Peggy McDonald, from Red Deer

[illegible] were great pals If they went horse trading with Pryce Andrew, who was working across the fence, in the field, George would always see to it that Nora was looked after with a fur neck piece even if she was barefooted

Nora lost her garters so her mo her threatened punishment if it were to happen again. That night at the supper table, mother was very much surprised when she looked down at her youngest daughter and saw that on one leg she was wearing a polka dot bow tie and on the other a red plaid one – George was looking after his little sister

George took over the farming of the land north of Rocky after his father passed on. He married his childhood sweetheart, Ruby Huseby They later moved to Eckville where George worked for an oil company and for Skoodopole Const Ltd. There they raised two children Susan and Bob

Nora spent some time on Salt Spring Island working in a store at Fulford Harbour Later she picked fruit at Sannichton with her sister Eileen, and when the season was over they took over a job painting a house and garage in that [illegible]

Nora returned to Alberta and married Dennis Brodersen They lived in the Lockhart area for awhile, later moving to Winfield, on a farm where they raised a family of ten: Larry, Holly Elden, Debra, Wayne. Layna Bernie. Jilayn, Billy and Angela

**OSBORNE, ROY AND EDITH (LINDER — by Edith Osborne**

Roy was born in Wisconsin U.S.A., but grew up in the Bentley district. I was born in Warren Oregon, U.S.A. in 1908, and my folks, Karl and Emma Linder, moved to Alberta in 1911 I had my schooling at the Andrew school

Roy and I were married in 1931 We spent [illegible] years buying grain and then farmed in the Bentley district and on the Linder farm north of Gilby Later we moved northwest of Cochrane Alberta, and ranched there until our retirement We are now living at Crofton, B C on Vancouver [illegible]

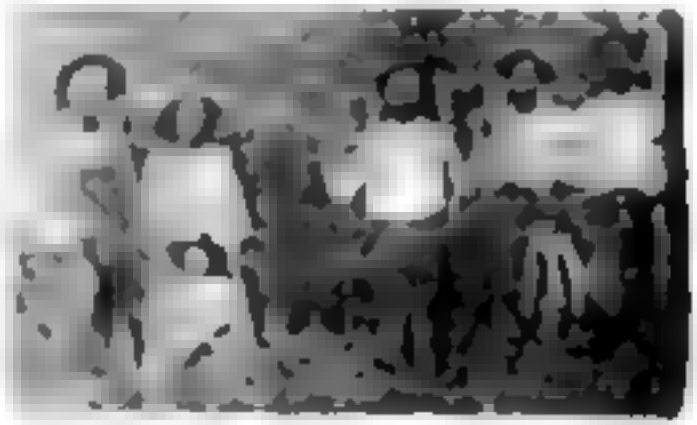
Our three sons are Allan, Boyd and Gordon Allan Myrna and family live in Black Diamond They have two children Lorna and Mitchell

Boyd and wife Edna Kalev) and their children, Daryl and Janice, live in Cremona

[illegible] Jennifer and their children, Christine, Wesley and Lillian, also live in Cremona

**PALM FRANK AND HILMA — by Hazel Andrew**

Frank and Hilma Palm were the original owners of the NE 4-41-3-W5. (the late Charlie Andrew farm homesteading from 1905 to 1915 when they sold out to Jim Clausen (no relation to Dan Clausen. Frank and Hilma moved, and Frank worked at Manyberries and Red Lodge They had four children One son, Harold (now deceased left one daughter Dlorah, living on Vancouver Island. Of the three daughters, Mrs Arnie Gertie) Vander is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery Flora, who was married to a Doctor, is buried in Oregon, U.S.A. Another daughter, Mrs. John (Frances) Glotzan, who is living at Nanaimo, B.C has one daughter



[illegible]

Frank and Hilma separated and in 1930 Frank left for Russia where he married his second wife in 1931 Her name also was Hilma. She passed away in 1944 and is buried in Kaljala Bleio March. Frank passed away in 1937 at the age of 59 years, and is buried in Russia

Jim Clausen farmed the land until 1919 or 1920, when he sold to Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley of Calgary Jim was a bachelor I was unable to find any record as to where he had gone from here

**EDWARD PAULL FAMILY—by Sharyn Paull**

In October, 1972 we purchased the Davie Kurzman farm and moved into the Gilby district We were not complete strangers to this area as I was born and raised in the Rimbey-Bentley area Edward, everyone else calls him Ed, was raised in the Bentley area. Both of our parents are still living at Bentley

We had two girls, Pamela aged five and Leanda, aged three when we decided to start farming The next summer we had a boy Jayson Jay

In 1974 we were able to purchase a half

section southeast of where we live, buying the land from Charley Walker. Everyone calls that land the Dvornek and Carl Johnson place.

Along with our farming, Edward works for Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas; he has been employed with this company for nearly 12 years.

One of these days, with any luck, we hope to be full time farmers and enjoy our farm life and good neighbors more.

**PEDERSON, JOHN E. — by a daughter Olga Irwin**

John Pederson was born in Norway in 1869. He came to the U.S.A. and stayed for a short while in Illinois. While here he married Mary Peterson, who was also from Norway, and had been born in 1869. After their marriage the couple made their home in Minnesota, until 1919 when they moved to the Gilby district, settling on the NE 32-40-3-W5. My parents bought the farm through a land agent O Norem. Charles Kemlin had been the previous owner.

Upon arriving we were surprised to see that cattle had taken shelter in our home. The door had been left open and livestock ran "at large" in those days.

There were four boys and four girls in our family. While in Minnesota a girl passed away in infancy. The seven children coming to Canada and the years of their births were: Magnus — 1898, Albert — 1899 deceased in 1933, Herman — 1900, Elmer — 1901, Bertha (Molander) — 1903, Olga (Irwin) — 1905, and Julia (Lauritsen) —

We were all kept busy as we milked 25 cows. The cows were housed in the large barn which was demolished only a few years ago. We also had many pigs which were fed the milk. The cream was taken to Eckville by team and shipped, by train, to the Dairy Pool creamery at Alix.

Herman resides in Rimbey and was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn.

Magnus and Elmer are living on the home place. Furnishings must have been well constructed in those days, as my brothers are still using the same large Usona cook stove that they brought with them in 1919. Many a meal has been cooked on the stove and, in spite of continuous use, it is still in good condition.

My mother passed away in 1948 and my father in 1950. They are buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

**PETERSON PETER AND CARRIE — recalled by Vivian (Forsell) Ogilvie W½ and NE 34-40-3 W5**

Carrie was first married to Mr Olsen and to this union was born one daughter Esther. A logging accident took the life of Mr Olsen. He was hauling a load of lumber south of the homestead (NW 34-40-3-W4), when the load slid and caught Mr Olsen killing him in about 1905.

Peter Peterson, a bachelor and homesteader living nearby married Carrie Olsen and they

Mr. and Mrs. P. Peterson and daughter Esther from about 1907

made their home on the NW 34. It was this couple, along with Esther, who were guests at the Forsell boarding house in Seattle, Washington.

Esther married a man by the name of Whitey Murphy and they lived on the SW 34-40-3-W5. In 1935 misfortune struck them and their large hip roofed house and valuable contents were completely destroyed by fire. The Murphys then built the cottage-type dwelling that is still on the Roy Andrew farm.

Carrie died in Calgary in 1935 and was buried there. As far as is known Esther and Peter Peterson spent their last days together in Bellingham, Washington.

Peter and Carrie Peterson had many different families living in their buildings and renting the land. So that those pioneers be not entirely forgotten we are including as many as can be remembered in the Peterson history.

Living on the NW 34 was the John Saari family who later moved to the Saima district. Then came Carl Hule a bachelor who lived there with his brother August and wife. About 1925 the Hule Bros. had a sale and the three of them went back to Estonia. Andrew Frederickson a bachelor

and hired hand, was also employed by the Peterson sons. Andrew's living quarters were in a small shanty close to the Peterson dwelling. He died in 1939.

The SW 34 also had many occupants. In the early '20s a family by the name of Crane resided on the quarter and were succeeded by Esther and "Whitey" Murphy. The Whitaker family then rented the three quarters. A hot day in the middle of May 1939 was a tragic one for them as one of their sons was killed by lightning and the other was seriously burned. The brothers were fencing at the time. In March, 1940 the Whitakers had a sale.

Esther Murphy then sold the land to Edward Moro. A very enterprising farmer and businessman, Ed and his wife, Hilda, soon had many superior buildings erected on the farmstead. The property much improved. Ed sold and went to other challenges.

**QUINN, JOHN**

John Quinn emigrated from County Down, Ireland. He worked as fireman on the C.P.R. passenger trains in the Big Valley area and lived in Calgary, Alberta for several years.

In 1921 he bought the W½ of 6-41-3-W5 through O. T. Norem, land agent.

One evening while visiting the Lester Dobbe family and relating a humorous story he tilted the kitchen chair, thinking the wall was behind him, as it was only a curtain, he fell into the bedroom. Another time he ended a tall tale by slapping his leg, igniting a box of matches. He ran outside, gripping his pocket, to save burning himself.

He farmed with horses and also raised Clydesdales of which he was very proud.

In 1949 he sold the farm to Jervel Maddox upon retiring. Mr. Quinn lived in a hotel in Calgary until he was hospitalized for a brief time before his death.

Marie and John Wilson lived there for several years. Tom Maddox now owns it.

This S.W. 6-41-3-W5 was homesteaded by Mike Sestrap about 1910.

**RAABIS, JOHN AND ROSALIE — by Jean Raabis Hutchison**

In 1903 John Raabis immigrated to Canada from his native Estonia, as did many more Estonians, and settled in the Medicine Valley. When he arrived he filed on his homestead about one and one-half miles north of where the Gilby store now stands, on SW 32-40-3-W5. His wife Rosalie, along with others, and her young son Harry arrived in 1904 from their homeland. Arriving in Red Deer, they were met by Mr. Kinna, who had gone in by team and wagon to pick them up and take them to their new homes.

A trip to Red Deer in those early years was a three-day affair by team and wagon. They would go as far as Sylvan Lake the first day and stay overnight with a family that later became very good friends. The next day they would continue on to Red Deer and do their business and return to Sylvan Lake that night. On the third day they would continue the trip, arriving home that night. This journey certainly was a highlight in their lives.

The roads were nothing but bush trails in those days and traveling was very slow. Their first home was a log cabin which they built themselves. These were very difficult and trying times for them.

During the winter months of those first few years John, along with other settlers, went to work on the railroad at Kananaskis while their wives remained on the homestead to look after their cattle and take care of their children. In order to be able to plant a garden, land had to be cleared. The bush was very thick and it was very hard work to clear the necessary plot of ground.

In 1909 Rosalie gave birth to her second son, Carl John, and in 1911 their daughter, Louise, was born. Bush partridge, jack rabbit and fish were plentiful in those early years. Flour, sugar, salt, tea and coffee were the main staples which were bought. Wild berries were picked in the summertime and made into preserves for the winter months. From their garden they were able to store vegetables that would see them through the winter.

[illegible] people, and provided most of their own needs. There were many bad times and good ones, but I think most would agree that the good times surpassed the bad. House parties, picnics and visiting your neighbors was the only form of entertainment in those early years, so quite a community spirit emerged.

In 1916 Rosalie fell and broke her leg. She was taken to Rumbey to the hospital but about ten days later gangrene had set in and she was taken to Lacombe where she had it amputated. This incident was very hard on her, her husband and their young children. Neighbors were very kind though, and somehow they managed. In the following years she had an artificial leg and was able to do her own work. Besides looking after her home and family she was a mid-wife for many years. She delivered several babies for many ladies in the area. Some of their families or descendants still live in the Medicine Valley.

In 1921 the Raabis family was saddened by the death of Harry, the eldest son. He died undergoing an operation on his leg.

In 1928 Mrs. Marie Hermanson, John's sister came from the Old Country and made her home with them.

In 1937 Carl Raabis married me (Jean Hutchinson) and we lived on the homestead with Carl's folks until 1941, when the senior Raabis moved into the house that their daughter Louise had had built. Louise had gone to work in Erkville in 1936 for Mr. Ferris, a merchant. She was married in 1940 to Alfred Isaacson, son of

Mr and Mrs. Fred Isaacson. They made their home in Eckville and later moved to the farm

In December of 1941, Grandpa Raabis was hurt in an accident he had while driving his horses. He died from those injuries. His sister, Marie Hermanson died the following year, 1942, and her death left Grandma Raabis alone. A year later Louise and Alfred moved to the farm and Grandma Raabis lived with them until her death in June of 1949. All three of these old folks are buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Carl and I had three sons: George, Tom and Terry. They attended the Andrew School until it was closed when the Consolidated School Divisions were formed. Then they were bused to Eckville where they finished their schooling.

Carl sold the homestead quarter to his sister, so it still remains in the family. He was employed by the County of Lacombe from 1948 to 1958. He then operated a gravel crusher for Hopkins Construction for several years.

In 1958 our son George left home to work at Banff and then apprenticed there to become a mechanic. He received his journeyman's papers in December of 1962. He was married in 1964 to Florence Kelly, of the Bentley district. She had two children, a boy and a girl, from a previous marriage. George adopted them and he and Florence have one son of their own. They live in British Columbia where George is assistant foreman with the Department of Highways.

Tom, our second son, married Mary Crouch of Condor in 1962. At that time Tom was employed at the co-op store prior to his marriage. He stayed there until 1965, when he moved to Red Deer and was employed by Red Deer Packers until 1968. When the Canada Packers opened in Red Deer in 1968 he transferred and has been employed there ever since. They make their home in Red Deer and have two daughters and one son.

Terry had gone to Edmonton in 1962 to go on the staff of McLeods Store there. He remained there for about six years. In 1964 Terry was married to Beverley Smith of Three Hills. They moved to Red Deer in 1968 and Terry apprenticed to become an electrician. He is now a journeyman electrician. They make their home in Red Deer and have two children, a boy and a girl.

In 1986 I was employed by the Red Deer Nursing Home and worked there for 10½ years, retiring in February of 1997. Carl has been employed since 1966 by a company that sells chemicals, fuel, and so forth in the oil fields, and is still with them. We make our home in Blackfalds, Alberta.

**NE 26-40-3-W5**

In 1931 Carl Rangen moved to his father's (Albert T. Rangen) homestead where he resided until his passing. The farmstead was on the west side of the quarter and Carl batched for 20 years before marrying. In 1949 the family moved their building site to the main road, where a lovely hedge of poplars had been planted. After Carl's passing his wife, Audrey, had a farm sale in November 1972 - see Leedale.

Glenn Rangen then became the owner of the quarter and he in turn had the farmstead made into an acreage, which was bought by Barry and Mary Moxness in August 1977. This couple have two children, Michael and Lisa, and are from Red Deer.

**SAMBROOK, JAMES E.**

March 21, 1924 was not only the beginning of a new season, for another much-loved and very hungry being was born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel "Tim" Sambrooke. Being the "born" in mention, I remember little of that birthday or the spring, some of the following ones held more for me. The first spring that I recall included mountains of snow, and mountains of what later proved to be wood blocks. The latter were brought into the house, but the former were not. Later in the spring the mountains of snow turned to little rivers, sloughs and small lakes, and the wood mountain turned to what my mother said was all out of bounds. Spring meant water, birds, small animals, green leaves, snakes and frogs.

Summer, berry season, fall. Christmas, all held me in a state where my elders wished there was more of spring's attractions at hand, I'm sure. The great dust clouds were tolerable, "that came about that time". If I was closed behind the house doors, although at some times Father had some problems assuring Mother and I that all was well.

More sombre things were in store. Off to Andrew school for eight years. At that time it seemed to me that money could be mine by working, and not by going to school. Later I was off to the grainfields, trucks and sawmills. At about 20 years of age, bricks, plaster and stucco became the focus of my attention. After about 15 years employment with this kind of work, I became allergic to some part of the business — maybe the work!

I then reviewed the surroundings for some kind of work to fulfill my money requirements, and the oilfield seemed to be the answer. After five years in the "oil patch" other requirements seemed needed to be looked after. I viewed the surroundings again, and at Alliance on April 29, 1960 I was married to Jean Sheppard of Alliance. Of this marriage we are blessed with three sons: Gregory, Graham, Garth, and a daughter, Margo. A son, Colin, passed away at age nine months on December 4, 1962. We have since been transferred to Rocky Mountain House where we now live.

**SAMBROOK, JULIEN K.**

Julien K. Sambrook was born November 3, 1916 in Lacombe, Alberta, and is the oldest living son of Samuel S. Sambrook and Ethel Sambrook of the Gilby district. In November of 1917 a

brother Samuel, arrived, and the Sambrook household was soon echoing to the laughter and sometimes screams of two pair of lusty lungs. A third brother, Harlan, arrived in March 1923 to join the Sambrook household.

The Samuel Sambrook family were all blessed with good hearty appetites and no time was lost getting the chairs up to the table when the time was opportune. While it may be considered a good omen to be blessed with a good appetite, there were times when the demand almost exceeded the supply. Father Sambrook was a good hunter and whenever the larder was getting low a brief jaunt to the hills west of the homestead was all that was necessary to replenish the meat supply.

The "dirty thirties" came and went and the second World War was upon us. My brother Sam joined up immediately, and thus started a lifetime career as a soldier. Julien remained on the farm, known as the NE 33-40-3-W5. He married Laura Robson in November 1941 and set about building a small dwelling as soon as his efforts at a saw mill had produced enough lumber. Money was scarce, and Julien and his wife worked in the lumber camps during the winter months. Such was the case in late December of 1943, when his father passed away. Leaving their employment at the mill where they were being paid $200 a month clear for their combined efforts they returned to the farm. Purchasing the farm from his mother, he and his wife began farming in earnest.

In August of 1952, while polio was rampant throughout Alberta, Julien fell prey to the virus. By 1956 it was apparent that he would have to give up the life of a farmer and try something that required less physical stamina. In April of that year he held a sale, after which he began working for the Eckville Co-op Livestock Marketing Association. In 1958 Julien opened an insurance office and remains at this work at the time of writing in 1978.

Two chosen sons were added to the family over the years, Roland in 1962 and William in 1963.

**SAMBROOKE, SAMUEL EARL**

Samuel Earl Sambrooke was born on the homestead on November 9, 1917 and spent his earliest years in a continuing search for food. His problem was caused not by a food shortage but rather by his inability to hold enough to meet his other demands. Despite his shortcomings he managed to complete the curriculum at the Andrew School at age 13 and then offered his skills and talents to the labour force of that day.

His timing couldn't have been worse as the rather attractive wages of the 1920's had been wiped out by the stock market crash in 1929 and he thus commenced work at the very depth of the great depression. All youngsters of that time were faced with almost 10 years of rock bottom wages. $1 a day in summer, $2 to $2.50 for harvesting. The jobless thousands in the cities posed no threat to the jobs for the farm kids who had strong backs and callouses on their hands. The local farmers were a very tolerant lot who gave the local boys preference probably more out of a feeling of social responsibility than anything else.

Sam was an indifferent worker who sought employment only because it was necessary to meet his everyday needs. Distant lands and great green pastures beyond the hills bore a strong attraction for him. When the war broke out he went overseas with the army. There, during six years of war, he proved, if nothing else, that he had a strong survivor instinct. Returning to Eckville in 1945, he farmed for a while in the Lockhart district before he returned to the army to round out his 25 years of service.

After release from the service he and wife Margery (a native of Winnipeg) operated a small motel in Penticton, B.C. until they sold out

couver, B.C., the land of liquid sunshine.

One daughter, Elizabeth (Tillie) now Mrs. Richard Kotylak, lives on a farm at Waskatenau, Alberta, along with her husband and three children. A step-son, Jim, resides in Vancouver.

**SAMBROOKE, SIDNEY (TIM) AND FAMILY**

Samuel S. Sambrooke was born on January 3, 1882 and spent his early years in a small village on the outskirts of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire County, England; the oldest boy in a family of three boys and four girls. At the age of 11 years, his education being completed, he joined his father working at a blast furnace in a steel mill. There, for 12 hours a day, six days a week he hammered out axe-heads for the New Zealand and Canadian markets. Pay was poor, about a shilling a day, and the future not particularly bright.

The rather straight-laced life in the class conscious English society that offered little other than music lessons, singing in the choir and membership in the Guild did not appeal widely to the young men of that day. The C.P.R. advertised widely of the excellent opportunities that existed in Canada, and "Go West, young man, Go West" was the clarion cry of the times. Young Sammy, although ultra-conservative by his background and training, was sufficiently non conformist to yearn for something different. Finally, in the spring of 1903, he had saved sufficient money to book passage from Liverpool to Winnipeg. Had he chosen to take with him one of the axe heads that he had produced in quantity instead of a 38 calibre pistol, he would have been better prepared for the trials that lay ahead.

Aboard ship he met another Englishman of his own age, by the name of George Beddoes who was also booked to Winnipeg. They became close friends and travelled the same trails for the rest of their lives.

Somewhere along the way Sammy dropped

his Christian name could you blame him?) and went by the name of "Tim". Also for some inexplicable reason he dropped the last letter from his surname. Thus explaining why some members of that family spell the name differently depending on their particular viewpoint!

On arrival at Winnipeg George and Tim soon found that Englishmen were not in great demand in the farming community, but they managed to get employment even though little pay was involved. Before long they learned to harness the horses and hook them to the plow and perform other routine farm tasks. Tim always nursed a particular dislike to milking cows because, to use his words, "It's pretty tough in the cold weather, milking with your mitts on". As most farms required farm hands to milk cows at least during the winter Tim found it more convenient to work in the logging camps near Kenora Ontario, returning to the prairie in the summer time.

He was soon joined by his younger brother Arnold, who had returned from service with the British Cavalry in the Boer War. The group of future farmers had now become a trio. Arnold became nicknamed "Dick" by which name he was best known throughout the rest of his life.

It soon became apparent to this group of tenderfeet that no homestead land was available in the arable portion of Manitoba. They conned the Immigration Agent at Winnipeg into believing that they were qualified, as newly arrived immigrants, to reduced fare to Calgary. After fortifying themselves on beer and free crackers and cheese at a hotel near the station at Calgary Tim and Dick looked for work while George Beddoes took the train to Lacombe where, by proxy he filed on four quarters of land — one for each of the "Three Musketeers" and also one for his younger brother Len who by that time had arrived in Winnipeg. George then journeyed all the way back to Winnipeg, picked up his brother and returned to Calgary to rejoin the Sambrooks. Thus in November 1905 the two sets of brothers finally arrived in Lacombe where they legally filed on their land through the Government Agent one Frank Vicarson. They then faced westward to locate their Bonanza.

Having no equipment, and little other gear they easily negotiated transportation to Bentley with John Veefkin, who hauled freight for the Bentley Mercantile. At Bentley they obtained a night's lodging and meals, then proceeded on foot to Jabez McPherson's saw-mill in the Lockhart district. Here they found employment at $1 a day less a small charge for meals. As the food was excellent the greenhorns felt they had struck it rich, a far cry from their days in Manitoba where the meager fare had reduced them to skin and bones.

The winter of 1905-1906 was extremely mild necessitating the transportation of logs to the mill by team and wagon but it provided a fine opportunity for the new landowners to locate and appraise their previously selected acreages. They found that they lay on or near the township line between Townships 40 and 41 and not too far from the mill itself. Their land was situated as follows: George Beddoes, NE 35-40-3-W5; Len Beddoes, NW 35-40-3-W5; Tim Sambrook, NE 33-40-3-W5; Dick Sambrook, NW 3-41-3-W5.

There were three situated high and dry in the Medicine Lodge Hills. Dick's quarter was straddle the ridge immediately to the north of one of the highest features (Rabbit Hill) and Tim was located on the western slope. The question of the soil or difficulty of clearing land did not worry them whatsoever. The most important ingredient, "good hunting" was situated right on the doorstep!

Since they had no tools, farm equipment or horses, their efforts at building cabins progressed slowly but as the country was dotted with areas of good solid fire-killed timber, they made some progress with little other tools than an axe. In the summer of 1906 more homesteaders appeared in the immediate area. Carr and Dad Thomas arrived on the east half of section three with two wagon loads of effects pulled by four huge oxen. The Thomas' were originally from Ontario, had spent some time in the gold rush at Dawson City Yukon Territories and had obtained the equipment and oxen in Vancouver. The bulls were huge brutes, weighing almost a ton each, and had been employed in the clearing of Granville Street in Vancouver before making the pilgrimage to the homestead. The Thomas erected a solid log cabin on their land during the fall of 1906. This cabin reflecting good workmanship with its dove-tailed corners is standing on its original location having served in many different capacities in the 70 years of its existence. The land is now owned by Philip [illegible].

After the arrival of the bulls the bachelors made more rapid progress toward proving up their homesteads. The powerful but docile brutes gave reliable service at all times except "fly time" when they would sometimes panic throw their tails in the air and head for the tall timber taking with them the plow, the wagon or whatever. The ox-yoke used at that time can still be seen at Julien Sambrooke's residence in [illegible].

The Thomas were somewhat more affluent than the rest of the bachelors as they had amassed a few dollars in the Yukon and were thus able to devote full time to farm development. The remainder wandered far afield seeking work to supply the winter larder. During the summer of 1907 Tim and Len worked at construction of the cement plant at Exshaw. In the fall they returned to the homestead with three Cayuses they had bought from the Indians on a reservation at Morley. These ponies were of limited use as farm animals and spent most of their idle moments trying to escape back to the reservation. Not until they had raised colts on

the homesteads did they settle down to their new life

Winter was a time of celebration in the new community as the bachelors re-assembled to swap yarns and display their newly acquired possessions. They conducted the fall hunt to lay in a good supply of meat and thousands of rounds of ammunition were expended in skill-at-arms competitions. The stewing pot was always on, and though they frequently sang "We are poor [illegible] degree of fussiness wasn't always apparent. T[illegible] appointed cook for the day always had to field lots of complaints, such as "Too many pellets in the rabbit stew". "The partridge has been hang ing a month too long

The winter was a convenient time to dig the well. Tim selected a building site in the NE corner of his quarter, offering a panoramic view of the valley, good drainage, and everything seemed right until it came time to get water. After digging through rock, shale and blue clay for 40 feet, he gave up and moved down to the flat, where he got water in 20 feet of easy digging

When the bachelors felt the need for more sophisticated forms of entertainment they could always find it by hiking to Bentley. There they practiced their barbershop quartets while Tim re-acquainted himself with the piano. He had also spent the long nights in the cabin practising on the violin, much to his mates displeasure. Many of the married folks in Bentley were quite young and readily participated in activities. C. F. Damron teamed up with Frank Thorpe to compose little parodies about the local characters, which they would sing and recite at [illegible] brook at that time was very proud of a new fur coat which he maintained was genuine raccoon. His friends agreed it might be coyote, but the village dogs were certain it was goat and treated it accordingly. Also at that time he was being chided about making only a token contribution to the church building fund, so a parody on the big time spender soon appeared. It ran something as

Tim Sambrook, we note, has got a new coat
He surely keeps our eyes a blinkin'
When he got his new coat, he gave them his note
And they took it, of course, without thinkin'
To church he did go, and he made a good show
Till they passed round the plate with the chink in
He showed his good will, with a ten dollar bill
But dropped in a dime, without thinkin

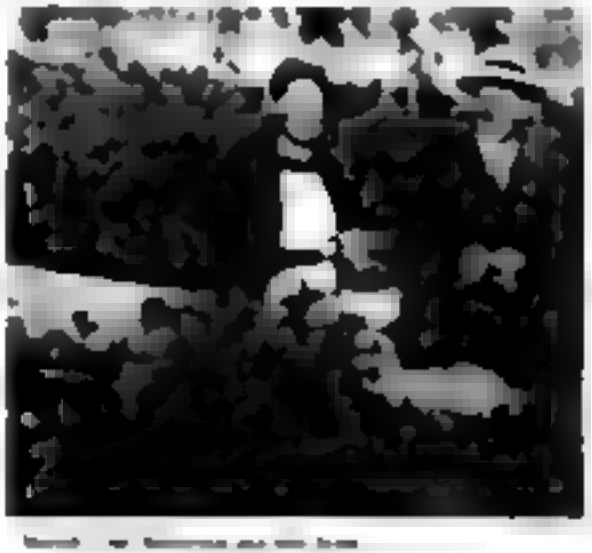
E. St. John O'Neill, who later bought the Len Beddoes homestead, also was selected. He was pretty well a confirmed bachelor even at that time and never did get married, but must have at one time had notions of romance. His ditty was brief

Then there is this singing O'Neill, for whom we all feel
His own clothes he does wash and does rinse
Fell in love no doubt, but it didn't turn out
And he hasn't loved anyone since

Thus the single men added their contribution to the entertainment of the day. Most all of them at one time or another found themselves the target of C. F.'s pointed pen. Humor was often quite personal, and always uncomplimentary, but everyone took it in good grace, as it was considered better to be ribbed than ignored

But the carefree days couldn't last forever. The sounds of revelry eventually gave way to sounds of babies crying in the night as one by one the bachelors got married and adopted a more serious attitude toward the future. The homesteads were fenced, a few acres broken and the land was qualified as being proven up

In 1912 Tim Sambrook married Ethel C. Reed who was teaching at the Bentley school. Ethel was born in 1884 in Iowa, U.S.A. Her mother had died during childbirth and she had been raised by an aunt and uncle at Moville, Iowa, U.S.A. where she attended school and obtained her teaching certificate. After teaching school in Iowa for a time she travelled to Alberta to rejoin her father, who had immigrated earlier and located at Ponoka. After attending Alberta College in Edmonton to obtain an Alberta teachers' certificate, she taught school in two locations in Alberta before arriving at Bentley in 1910



After their marriage in 1912 Tim and Ethel lived for a time in the log cabin on Dick Sambrook's homestead, as it boasted two rooms. With the help and technical direction of John Kurzman, who had located on the NE 4-41-W5, Tim erected a frame structure (two rooms and a path) which Dick plastered inside. This house without a doubt, took the prize as the coldest house in the whole world. The Government of the day didn't offer any grants toward insulation either. Ethel taught school for a year at the As

drew school before the children commenced arriving on the scene

Five children all boys, were born to the couple, two of whom died at birth or shortly after The first of the survivors, born November 3, 1916, was named Julien Kitchener after two World War I military leaders. The second son followed in 1917 and, following the century long tradition of Samuels, was unofficially christened "The Prince of Wails" for obvious reasons. The third son, James Harlan, was born in March, 1923

The Bjornson Brothers of Bentley made a tour of the district during the years of World War I with a well-drilling outfit, and most of the homesteaders availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a good supply of water With water available, the Sambrooks started raising a small herd of cattle and some pigs, the place started to resemble a farm, but many disappointments still lay ahead

The parents both contracted the flu in the deadly epidemic of 1918, and narrowly escaped death Dick Sambrook happened to call by just as everything was freezing solid Tim and Ethel both delirious with fever didn't even know their own names, much less being able to feed the children or look after the stock Dick started the fires, fed the children, took care of the livestock and within a few hours the crisis had passed, with no casualties. The extremely long cold winter didn't pass quickly and the long-drawn out spring of 1919 saw the fledgling herd of cattle finally crawl away and die just as the grass was about to commence growth. The debts incurred for feed at 25¢ a bundle (in the stook and covered with snow) took a number of years to pay off

The "roaring twenties" brought some relief to the beleaguered farmers as grain and hog prices were quite good, and the weather co operative. Tim bought a C P R quarter a half mile west of the homestead, which he called "The Swamp" It offered about 50 acres that was easily brought under cultivation and the remainder varied from pasture land to impossible bog But times were good, only the pessimists worried about tomorrow They would have been better off if they had, as the hungry "thirties" were just around the corner

No attempt will be made here to give an account of that period of suffering that reached into every household and left its scars on the personality of so many Tim Sambrook had suffered throughout his life with a serious thyroid condition for which medical science at that time had provided no cure. This condition affected his temperament, causing deep pessimism to take over from periods of high optimism He seldom lost his sense of humor, but frequently lost his sense of direction of farm operations

The demands of the depression contributed to the development of a small enterprise of the Sambrook farm that was quite successful Because little money could be raised from other farm products, Tim started to raise raspberries and strawberries on a commerical basis In a community that had long relied on the canning of fruit for the winter months, and the fact that over-grazing in the hills had destroyed the wild fruit, this project enjoyed a surprising measure of success

The war years brought about a man-power shortage, pickers could no longer be found and it was necessary to plow up what had been a reliable source of revenue. It is interesting now many years later, and after many unexplained changes in the value of goods, to compare the relative value of a case of berries against the value of other commodities at that time A case of berries (24 pint baskets) brought $3 A select bacon market hog brought $5 A pair of G.W.G. cowboy kings cost $1.45. A two-year-old steer brought $40 The prices quoted were those of about 1936 or 1937 and you can place your own estimate on the farm value of these same commodities today but you will readily see why that was the time "to be in the berries"

Tim Sambrook's health deteriorated steadily and in December of 1943 he passed on to his reward. Ethel lived on in the family home alongside that of her son Julien and his wife Laura, for a number of years before moving back to Bentley to live with her youngest son Suffering from reduced mobility in 1959, she moved back to Eckville for a time before it was finally necessary for her to obtain full-time care in the Rimbey Hospital for Senior Citizens. She passed away in December, 1964 and was laid to rest alongside her husband and one son, in the Bentley Cemetery

The story of the Tim Sambrook elders is not one of great successes or impressive accomplishments, but rather one of perseverance in the face of great odds, an ability to laugh about their own shortcomings, and go back at it again It does depict rather graphically how ill equipped and basically unsuited at least some of

the early homesteaders were for the trials involved in the great land adventure of the early twentieth century

They had a wide circle of friends in both the Lockhart and Medicine Valley. Their life-long friends, Len (now 93 years old) and Flora Beddoes are still hale and hearty living in their own home in Penticton. The friendship between the two families has now endured for 75 years and holds chances of many more years duration. Without the assistance of the Beddoes' keen memory, this writer would have been unable to relate the many facets of life in the early days on the township line.

**SAUNDERS, GLADYS (ANDREW)**

My parents were William and Alice Andrew, homesteaders of the Gilby district. After completing Grade 9 at Andrew School I took a course at the Olds School of Agriculture. In 1926, and in the fall of 1928 went to work at a general store for Charles Rolston, in Rimbey. There I met and married Lester Saunders. We managed different businesses in Rimbey after we had farmed for Lester's dad for four years.

In 1950 we moved to Ponoka where Lester was assistant-secretary for the Municipal District, which later became the County of Ponoka. He was secretary for 23 years. Upon his retirement we enjoyed fishing and travelling. Lester passed away in May 1977 and is buried in the Forest Home Cemetery, Ponoka.

We have two sons. Donald and Gerald. Donald is Ponoka's town manager and he has two children, Blaine and Sharon. Gerald took an electrical course at S.A.I.T. and has worked for Calgary Power for 19 years, still working for them at Brazeau. He lives three miles from Drayton Valley and drives with three others to work, 35 miles away. His two children are Karen and Randy.

I am still living in Ponoka where I belong to a number of organizations.

**SCHOOL PICNICS OF THE 20's**

The end of the year picnic — a very happy day.

Always sunny and dry in the morning although it usually seemed to rain enough to stop the last ball game.

The unusual sight of your neighbors dressed up. All the new babies in their little soft muslin dresses.

Blue jeans hadn't been invented.

No one wore "overalls" to the picnic.

White shirts, suit pants and new caps.

Ladies in fluffy organdy dresses or bright flowered prints.

Kids barefoot for the races; cars polished.

Ladies new colored "anklets" worn with canvas shoes.

Courting couples parked in cars to watch the ball game in delicious solitude unless the boyfriend was on the team. Then the girls stood at home base, cheering until they lost their

That was the "thing to do". If one didn't have a boyfriend, it was dreary.

Everyone enjoyed our school yard, for it was on a hill, and the ladies and babies could put down blankets to sit on and watch from above the softball diamond.

Every lady tried to have home grown radishes ready for her potato salad. The men took turns cranking the ice-cream freezer. Afternoon rain in the lemonade. Remember that indescribable smell of fresh green grass and rainy lemonade?

The school itself seemed foreign, with parents and neighbors seated along the aisles and squeezed into our tiny desks.

It seemed wrong to see children running around the teacher's desk. But it was cool after a race and the voices from the ballgame blew in through the open window.

A lovely lazy day, and all the summer before us.

But sad, too, for we'd have to part with Teacher. (The 17-20 year-old ruler of twenty to forty little, dusty rascals.

Teacher had told us our future outlook on life.

If we were treated fairly and were appreciated, Teacher had our undying love.

If, by chance, through inexperience with people or by accident, Teacher hurt our feelings or wrongly accused us, it left us with a lifetime bitterness or a sensitiveness to others' feelings, depending on our own nature.

Either way, our teacher made more impression on us than almost anyone else in our lives.

Our teachers taught us honesty, Faith in God and respect for others.

The ladies were dainty, sweet and very firm.

The men were gentle and wise and strong.

Oh, I was lucky.

**SCHOOL PONIES**

There was Buck, Dan, Smokey, Red Cloud, Star and many others who should not be overlooked as pioneers in any district. Whether it was 90° or 60° below, these trusty steeds made their way to the drafty building called the school [illegible]. Some pulled a cutter or a buggy or cart. In any way, they were always ready and willing to do their duty. The only pay for their day's work was a bundle of oats or a feed of chop or whole grain — Depending on the shape of their teeth.

Many a race took place on the way home from school, many an arm was broken when the rider fell off the school pony, many a youngster received a nasty kick which may have given a lasting scar — but the ponies still made their way to school.

The early 1950's saw the end of this method of

transportation, when the centralization of schools began. The ponies were put out to pasture when they were gradually replaced by the big yellow vehicles called school busses

It was farewell to the school pony, the school barn and the races often held on the w[illegible] from school. Many a pony knew the w[illegible] without even a touch of the rein. These were the pioneers of the rural school era

**SODERLUND KARL**

In 1902 Karl Soderlund left his country of birth, Finland, to try his luck in the United States. He worked at various places doing carpentry work, a trade he had learned while a young man

In January 1905, Reverend Hjelt persuaded him to come to Canada, as Mr Soderlund could do log work and build log houses. The two travelled as far as Red Deer and then on west. In April 1905, Mr Soderlund filed on a homestead in the Gilby area believed to be a quarter on the W½ 34-40-3-W5. By July of that year he sent for Mrs. Soderlund and their two children. His family made their home with Mr John Heikkinnen, who lived two miles north of Eckville. In the spring of 1906, their homestead house was finished and they moved into it. They sold the property in 1908 for $1 200 and moved to the Elspeth district. In 1950 he built a house in Eckville and lived in it a year before moving to Sylvan Lake.

There were 13 children in the family. Mr and Mrs. Soderlund both passed away in 1950 and are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

**CARL SORENSON**

During the 30s several young men came to the farming areas to act as hired hands. Carl Sorenson emigrated from Denmark during the depression years and worked for William Andrew, where he was happy to receive wages of $12 per month plus room and board. While at the Andrew farm Carl learned many valuable lessons on the care of farm horses.

He served overseas in World War II and while in England married Ivy. Upon retirement from the army Carl came to Lacombe where he and Ivy live in their comfortable bungalow.

**THE STEEL FAMILY**

In the spring of 1906, Mr and Mrs William Steel, (Jack and Anne) landed in Calgary from Scotland. They stayed with the late Mr and Mrs John Davidson and Elsie, whom they had known in Scotland. The Davidson family lived on the quarter where Jack Maddox now lives. During their stay in Calgary Mr Steel got blood poisoning in his hand and had to spend some time in the hospital. While being in and out of hospital he filed on a homestead, SE 10-27-4-W5, north of Cochrane Alberta. The family lived in a tent, on the homestead, during the summer and before winter set in they moved into their log house. It was hard to keep the house warm, the attic was the warmest place to sleep.

Mosquitoes and black flies were very bad and smudges were often lit to give the livestock some relief. The land was not fenced and as a result their cattle wandered away. When located, a calf had a well known rancher brand on it. They did not know about brands until then, but soon obtained one for cattle and horses.

After putting in one year on the homestead they moved to White's ranch at Mitford for the next two winters looking after the horses there. It was there that Anne was knocked down by a horse that her mother was feeding. The doctor came by horse and buggy from Cochrane to set her broken leg. He and Mrs. Steel tore a bed sheet into long strips. She was then instructed to make a pailful of starch. When this was cool enough to handle the cotton strips were soaked in the starch and wound around Anne's leg. She had to lie on a table until the bandages were thoroughly dry. So a pioneer cast was made. While she was laid up, her mother taught her to knit, crochet and sew a neat hem.

Jim was born in Cochrane in May 1909 and Margaret (Peggy) was born on the farm at Cochrane in 1912.

In 1919 they sold the homestead and moved north of Eckville, taking four railway cars of livestock, machinery and household effects. By this time Wm Steel had a number of registered Clydesdale horses.

The Steels had bought the Dick Sambrooke (NW 2-41 3-W5) place and the SE 10-41 3-W5 from S. O'Neill. Jack, Jim and Margaret attended Andrew School. The family shopping was done at Rimby and Eckville. Entertainment was limited a gathering of neighbors in the various homes, to mention a few — Kurzmans, Sambrooks, Forgells and O'Neil Bros. — St. John's Sinjun and William's Bi[illegible] was always an enjoyable affair.

Mr Steel a tailor by trade was very mechanically inclined and as a result made himself a stationary horse-powered threshing machine. Horses were hitched to the machine and walked in a circle, (much like a merry-go-round) providing power for the thresher.

Neighbors recall that Mrs. Steel's scones were very tasty and that her house was always

In 1921 Jack went back to Cochrane where he worked on various farms and did freight trucking from Calgary to Banff. He joined the navy in 1941 and was discharged in 1946. After the war he was in the excavating business and upon retiring did a great deal of travelling. He passed away November 13, 1977.

Mrs. Steel moved back to Cochrane and bought a house where she gave room and board to so many over the years. Jack and Margaret made their home with her. She passed away in 1958 at the age of 81 years. Margaret, still living in Cochrane, takes a great interest in gardening and house plants.

After Mr Steel passed away in 1936, Jim con

moved to farm his dad a half section and had also got a homestead SW 2-41 3-W5. He was a very progressive farmer and was interested in the care and protection of wildlife. Some of his hobbies were: movie pictures at the work, reading, travelling and watching TV. He was the first in the district to have a set. He was a long-time member of the Wheat Pool, Farmer's Union and Lockyer Credit Union. Jim passed away January 13, 1978 and was buried in Rumbey Mt. Auburn Cemetery. John Lauritsen has rented Jim's three quarters for the past 11 years.

Anne Melland married in 1926 and has lived in Calgary since. She has one son, Ian, and two grandchildren, Jeffrey and Jill Anne. She is a member of the Eastern Star and is interested in her church work. Her husband passed away in 1955. Note: Most of the Steel history was given us by Anne Melland.

**STONE, ANNA**

Mrs. Anna Stone and her son, Dan, emigrated from Norway in 1908 and homesteaded the NW 3-41 3-W5. In 1914 Anna married Agot Wilson, a homesteader from the Lockhart district and the three of them moved to a farm east of Gull Lake. Mrs. Wilson rented her homestead quarter, in the Gilby district, until 1933, when she sold to Gunnar Forsell.

Mrs. Wilson passed away in 1954 and Mr. Wilson in 1958.

Dan and his wife, Lily (McNaughton), are now retired and live at Gull Lake.

**SVEEN FAMILY — by Martha E. Piney (Sveen**

In 1884, Mother, at the age of five years, came to America from Norway with her parents and her two younger brothers. They settled in Minnesota, U.S.A, not too far from Staples, where other brothers and sisters were born, 10 in all. Mother being the eldest of the 10 became very responsible, and this probably led to her knowledge of people and problems. My dad also came with his parents from Norway to North Dakota at the age of 15. He was the youngest child and the only son of a family of eight. Being sponsored to America, and having to work out at an early age for little money, led them to be an inventive family.

My mother met my dad while she was working in Devil's Lake, and they were married somewhere near there in 1901, and settled near Adams, N.D. on a farm. A large house was built and it was very modern for those times. It even had a pump in the kitchen! My brother, August, was born there December 28, 1903. The terrible storms of winter, and the tornadoes, and wind and drought in summer brought little money to pay for anything, so they decided to sell their home and go west. Spokane, Washington was the next stop. Five acres of cedar stumps, which is today the center of a metropolis. My brother Melvin was born there. The only thing my mother said she missed when they left was the two Jersey cows that gave so much cream that she was able to sell a lot of butter.

After two seasons of grubbing and blasting stumps they were only able to clear a garden patch, so felt it was hopeless to try and clear the five acres. They soon boarded the ship out of Seattle for Alaska, where Dad worked on the railway for two years and my mother cooked for the crew of eight men, all living in the same tent. This task would seem impossible today in sub zero temperatures. After two years they had earned some money, so set out to take a homestead in Canada. That is when they came to the Gilby district, in 1909. My brother Melvin was two years old then and August was six. These were happy times, building a new home and so many other families around them in the same category. Helping one another with different tasks, picnics, and dances, were the order of a lot of Saturday nights. My dad was a fine violinist. I can recall my mother saying punches were served also oyster stews. They nearly danced their legs off all night. Church services were held at their homes each in turn, on Sunday, usually followed by a picnic lunch outdoors in summer and of course coffee was brewed indoors in the winter. A lot of the services were held outdoors as the houses were small and a lot of homesteaders always gathered.

Schools had to be built also, so my dad having two sons almost ready to attend school decided something must be done, so he and others had a meeting and the Andrew School District was formed between 1911-1912. I believe he was on the school board for several years. I can remember them telling that Melvin had to start school at a very young age to make the number of pupils needed. I can well remember my mother telling of the need for doctors and

eachers and of all the different problems, how they had to help one another delivering babies doing housework, picking roots They finally named mother "the Lady with the Lamp I can also remember her telling about Mrs. Stenvig having to go to Lacombe to have her leg amputated several times before the gangrene was stopped. Mother took her there with a team of mules. and returning in a few weeks the same way going home and having to help her in her home until she was able to get around again on crutches. So it must have been a rushed life for mother doing her own work as well. My dad was a busy man — blacksmithing raising hogs and farming in general, gunsmithing was also his trade and helping neighbors with most everything. They told of how August and Melvin found a coyote pup and raised him Dad built a kennel for him and he was chained but the chickens kept disappearing, every time a hen went past the kennel the coyote had the chicken So many chickens less, a fine bed of feathers for himself, he became a fine pelt the following winter Then I can remember Mother telling of how one day in winter she saw two children coming across the field to their house It was [illegible] vian and Elzer Forsell They announced that they had come to stay Their mother had disciplined them for something so they were leaving home to stay with Sveens where they would be treated as people. I can well remember them talking about different neighbors, Peterson, Wilsons, Forsells, Kurzmans, Linders. Stenvigs. and Mother always regretted leaving such a fine neighbourhood., but at the time it was a frosty territory and they were unable to raise enough grain or potatoes for the hogs or themselves. Dad decided to sell and it was Mr and Mrs. Thomas who decided to move into their home in 1918 They moved to the Athabasca district and farmed there until the time of their death

I was born there on the farm in 1921. so knew very few of the people they talked of from the Gilby district however I can remember the many things they told about the Gilby distric

My husband and I are now retired here in the Wanogan and the door is always open to visitors or travellers as it always was in Sveen home

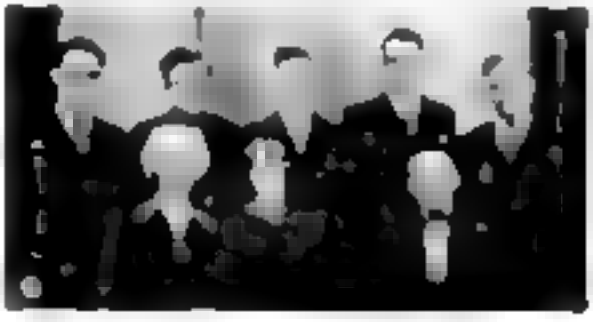
**HARRY E. THOMAS — by Beulah May Thomas. Hartley**

Harry E. Thomas came to Alberta from Iowa. U.S.A. in 1900. Relatives had come on ahead. as Dad came with the livestock to care for them The early arrivals took a homestead for Dad which was hilly, with a few good-sized sloughs Even though he didn't care too much for the location, Dad put up good buildings and lived there until 1917 when he sold out We then took a trip to Iowa and Minnesota, U.S.A., to visit Dad's and Mother's relatives.

Upon our return to Alberta. Dad started looking around for a farm to his liking When he saw the Martin Sveen farm, SW 3-41 3-W5. he looked no further, but purchased the farm, lock. stock and barrel, in 1918. The purchase included four horses. Reppa Becka, King and Roany a pony which would shy and also run away Dad later traded this pony for a smaller sorrel pony which we called Nancy Also in the purchase were included one cow, and I suppose there were some chickens

Father purchased a red Case tractor in 1918 to use for breaking land, as there wasn't much broken The grain was cut stooked. and, when dry, put into stacks to be threshed during the winter There was a dug well, from which we pulled the water up in a bucket. My dad had a man from Bentley drill a well which gave us soft

When we came to the Sveen farm in 1918 there were three of us children. We had all been born in the Haynes district at home on the homestead We were Harold, age 10, born March 4, 1908 May, age eight. born May 30, 1910 and Boyd, born March 17 1913, about five years old Boyd died in 1945 in British Columbia. On August 6 1919 Percy was born at Mrs. Vale's nursing home in Lacombe Mother had fallen sometime before and hurt her leg rather badly so couldn't stay home. when the rest of us were born. with Grandma Thomas to look after her Beatrice Pimm came to look after the house and us older children Martin was born at home on April 12 1922. We had had a blizzard and the roads were drifted. When Harold went to get Mrs. John Raabis. three miles west and north he got stuck when almost home. but managed to get the old Ford dug out and arrived home in plenty of time



[illegible] Percy Boyd, 1941

We all attended Andrews School. walking a mile. Dad would hitch up the team and take us when the snow was deep and the road not traveled. Harry Irvin was born in Lacombe on April 15, 1925. I left school at the age of 14 years so I was at home to look after the house and also to milk the cow

Dad got a larger Case tractor and a thresher and the threshing was done from bundles drawn in by teams of horses hitched to a rack or basket, on the wagon. Busy days, those, for the women as well. with threshers to cook for but we enjoyed those threshing days

In 1922 Dad had an elevator built just south of the old log barn. In 1964 a fire started in the loft of the old barn and the elevator burned too. Later Dad built a barn, using the foundation of the elevator as it had not been damaged by the fire. This gave shelter again for the animals.

Dad supplied the poles and put in a telephone line which was joined to another line running two miles south of our home. He also served on the school board at one time. Dad always kept up with the latest machinery. It took a while to get all the trees off the east quarter. It was necessary to chop the roots through and pull the trees with a team of horses. Stubborn stumps were blown with stumping powder. I remember Charlie Andrew and his wife saying that their dog was afraid of thunder, and when the stumping powder blew he came into the house and crawled under the bed.

We had a McLaughlin Buick car to get around in for a while. We went once or twice a year to Haynes to visit Grandma and Grandpa Thomas. Later we bought a Chrysler sedan. We used to get telephone messages for neighbors who didn't have a phone. I often got the job of taking the message to them. I really enjoyed the horseback ride, but the messages were often of a death, or something serious, and I didn't like that.

In 1929 Dad purchased a Chevrolet truck which seemed like a large one to us. It saved that long trip for the horses to town with grain or pigs. I used to drive it, too. This same year Dad, Mom, Harold, Boyd and Irv (who was then four years old) made a trip up to the Peace River country. As a result of this trip Harold and Boyd took up homesteads in the Hines Creek area. I stayed at home, as Percy and Mart were still in school, and while my parents were gone I took pigs to town with the truck. Mr. Tim Sambrook came and helped to load them.

One teacher boarded at our home in 1922. Her name was Annie Moorhouse. She walked the mile to school. Teachers surely earned their wages in those days. The last year I went to school there must have been about 30 of us, in Grades 1 to 9 and 10. Miss Kingsep was our teacher when I was taking Grade 9. She taught us to play basketball, and the district men put up courts for us. Since there were enough girls old enough to make up a team, we played baseball, girls against the boys, sometimes. At other times we would choose up sides. Later the older ones who had left school used to meet on the school grounds to play ball.

We had parties at one another's homes once in a while, where we played games, or cards, and had a good time. Every summer during school holidays, they had a picnic at Gilby. One time I remember our basketball team played against the Benjamin girls. We often went to the Estonian Hall to play basketball and we played once at the Eckville Sports Day. I left home in 1932, so lost track of things there after that time.

Harold married Mable Ostrem from Peace River. They now live near Chase, B.C. Their five children — Sam, Judith, Ronald, Leatha and Genevieve — are all married.

Percy bought the home farm in the 1940's. Dad and Mom went out to British Columbia for a while where they had a raspberry farm. They had to hire pickers. In the 1950's Mom and Dad sold their land to Mart as he and Anna were also living in the area, and they returned to Alberta where they purchased a home in Rimbey.

Dad later had a stroke which made it necessary for him to use a cane when walking. A second stroke put him in the hospital in Rimbey, but he rallied and came home for a while, only to have to return to the hospital later where he died in April, 1960. He is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

There was a log blacksmith shop north of the house, with a loft. The chimney was made of wide boards. Dad had been doing forge work in there one day, and that night it burned down along with a garage lean-to at the back. It was thought that likely a chimney fire had started it. Our father liked to go hunting and fishing. He would get some neighbor or friend, Mom would pack the grub box and get the blankets and such ready, and he'd be off in the sleigh to Buck Lake for fishing. They would make camp and set nets in the lake. I for one, used to get a little tired of eating fish. It was packed in a big box at home in ice and we had to eat it before warm weather came. We also canned a lot of it. The hunting trips, out by Rocky Mountain House, usually with horses, always resulted in a deer and quite often a moose. When we first came to the farm Dad could take a saddle horse and ride back into the hills and have a deer in a few hours. There were so many prairie chickens then, too, that they'd be thick around the straw piles in the wintertime, and would even come right into the yard at home. When Harold was fairly young he would hunt partridge in the bushes on our own land.

In 1929 Father purchased the swamp quarter across the road south of the west quarter, so we had pasture. He built a straw shed for pigs and put feeder boxes in to feed them their chop. Later a hog barn made of lumber was built in the northeast corner, a well was drilled there, and self-feeders were provided to feed the chop to the pigs. This made taking care of the pigs a lot easier. Dad also had an eight-foot corral built of logs, or rails, where he put colts to wean them, steers to be fattened, or used for whatever purpose needed. This was on the slope south of the house. He built a big straw shed in the lower corner with a long straw-feeder up one side where a big load of straw could be put into it, so the stock did not waste so much while eating.

We had a good saddle horse by the name of Fly". I always thought of him as mine. He was a big bay which Dad had bought when I was about 12 years old. I would often ride him to visit school mates, and sometimes I would ride him

two miles north and to the top of the big hill just for the pleasure of riding

**THOMAS, PERCY AND ANN — by Percy Thomas**

We, Percy and Ann, were married in 1937 and started farming on our own in 1939 in the Leedale district on a C P R quarter, for which we had paid the full price of $700. Our first son Junior" Percy Leroy arrived in 1940 and our second son, Phillip, was born in 1943

In 1945 we bought the former Billy Woods farm at Lockart In 1948 we ran the A B Cafe in Rimbey for six months, but in that same year we bought our half section of the home place from father Harry Thomas

In 1947 our third son, Tom was born

My long series of back operations began in 1949 with infection starting 12 days after surgery Numerous operations followed, trying to stop the bone infection, which however, still exists

Three more sons were born to us Doug in 1950, followed by Harry in 1954 and Michael in 1955

In 1956 we rented the Pete Moro farm and later also part of the Forsell farm the former Annie Stone place

In 1959 son Junior started his university training. He took six years at the University of Alberta and then three years in Australia, where he received his Doctorate in Plant Genetics. He is now doing research work for the Federal Government and is living in Winnipeg

Phillip attended the University of Alberta After receiving his Master's Degree he worked as District Agriculturist in Sangudo and in Vermilion and then was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Crops for the province and is stationed in Lacombe

Harry Douglas and Michael are doing oilfield construction work and are living in Eckville

My father Harry Thomas, was a small man but his size was the only thing small about him He had an endless supply of energy In 1924 he bought a 22-40 Case tractor and a 32-inch thresher, which was a large outfit for those years. That tractor could be heard chugging away on the 4-14 plow at four o'clock every morning

He had a team of horses that weighed 2000 pounds each. I can remember seeing them weighed at the Pool Elevator at Eckville Dad built an extra-wide grain box on the sleigh that held 200 bushels of oats and that team used to haul that load the nine miles to Eckville every day Our neighbor William Andrew used to josh Dad about standing on an apple box when harnessing the team

We raised a lot of chickens in those early years and, of course a few turkeys for Christmas. In the autumn, when they were all fat the owls came at night to feast One night the chickens were squawking and Dad, in his pajamas and armed with the 1897 twelve-gauge, went to the fowls' rescue The blast woke us kids and we rushed out to look for the owl All we could find was the turkey hen, as dead as could be She had decided that night to roost in the top of the tree

My father had bought the second self-propelled combine in the district in 1941. One harvest, on our long steep hills at Leedale, the driveshaft broke and the combine took off at speeds unheard of, and came very close to ending up in the middle of the creek at the end of the field

All of our sons married very lovely and efficient girls, and we have eight grandchildren — six girls and two boys

In 1974 Ann and I sold our farm to our son Tom who had worked with us on the farm for eight years. We then bought an acreage in the Green Park area of Sicamous, B.C. and are now building our own home there

**MARILYN GUSTAVSON THOMAS**

Marilyn went to school in Eckville. She graduated as a registered nurse in January 1965 from the Edmonton University Hospital.

She and Percy Thomas were married on June 19, 1965. Percy is the eldest son of Ann and Percy Thomas. He went to school in Eckville and at Olds Agricultural College He obtained his B.A and M.A. degrees in Agriculture at the University in Edmonton Following their marriage they lived in Winnipeg where Percy worked at the Federal Research Bureau at the University of Manitoba Marilyn worked at the General Hospital there

Percy received a three-year leave of absence to continue his studies in Canberra, Australia, earning his Ph.D. in plant genetics there. They now live permanently in Winnipeg where Percy works in research

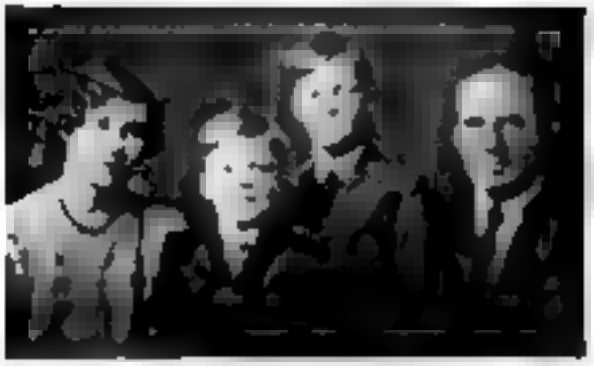
They have a daughter Turi, born in Australia on November 28, 1968, and another daughter, Nicole, born in Winnipeg on November 17, 1970

**THE THORP FAMILY**

Mr Jewel, a pioneer of the Gilby district, went to Tacoma, Washington and told J M Thorp that farm land could be purchased in Central Alberta. Mr Thorp became interested in his friend's stories of the land so that he, too, settled in the area and bought section 31-40-3-W5 from the C P R in 1909. About 1915, his son, Hilmer came up from the U.S. and farmed with his dad Hilmer was joined by his wife, Pearl within a

In 1924 the Thorp family had a household and machinery sale and went back to Tacoma returning to the farm a year later In 1936 the family again sold out returning to Washington and the land has been leased since. Their renters have been John Huseby, Joe and Peter Liska, Bernard Grutterink and presently Walter Andrew

Hilmer and Pearl had two sons, Bill and Russ, who still have joint ownership in their grand



Pearl Russ Bill and Homer Thorp 1924

father's land. The boys were raised in the family s large house on the NE 31 and attended Andrew School. Bill and Russ were the envy of their fellow pupils, they had bicycles to ride to school

They each had three children and Bill now has four grandchildren while Russ has three. Bill has been a life insurance agent for 16 years and Russ is a veteran of the oil, tire and auto parts business. Bill and Russ have been living in the Tacoma area since leaving Gilby 40 years ago

**UHL, EDYTHE**

Edythe Uhl, youngest daughter of William and Alice Andrew was born at the farm in the Gilby area. She attended Andrews School and on leaving worked away from home through the winter returning to help at the farm during the busy season in spring and summer

She married Earl (Rudy) Platt of Rimbey and had three children, Joyce, Lorraine and Rodney (now all married) In 1943 Earl died in a plane crash on a return flight out of the north under adverse conditions. In 1949, Edythe married Leslie Uhl and they have one married daughter Dixie. They farmed west of Rimbey until retiring to Rimbey in 1973

**WARES, RUDY**

His parents, John and Lenna Wares, came to Eckville in 1911 from Estonia They homesteaded a quarter section at Gilby and later bought another quarter from Adam Matthews Rudy s uncle) The two quarters were the W 28-40-3-W5, presently farmed by Walter Andrew

Rudy and his sisters, Elga and Erta, were born on the farm. The family moved to British Columbia in 1933. Mrs. Wares passed away in 1934 and Mr Wares in 1968

Rudy and his wife Maxine, live at Surrey B.C Rudy is employed there as a machinist They have three children — Howard, Theresa, and Barry

Elga and Erta are married and have families They too, live in British Columbia.

**CARL AND LAURA WESTERGARD — by Lorna Tink (Their Niece**

Carl P Westergard purchased the recently rebuilt Gilby Store in the early part of 1938. At Christmas of 1938, he brought his bride, Laura I Whiteside, to share life with him in the community Soon the store became a meeting place for friends exchanging news, as well as a place for purchasing goods

When Laura agreed to teach in the Eckville High School during the war, Carl needed someone to work for him in the store Thus a large group of capable persons found their way into the area throughout the ensuing years, some of which were Jim Nelson, Ada Cumberland, Lyle and Iola Whiteside, Laurie Lonneberg Audrey Branson, Harold Westergard, Etta and Laura Svendsen Minnie Nugent and Mrs Mason

Carl and Laura Westergard

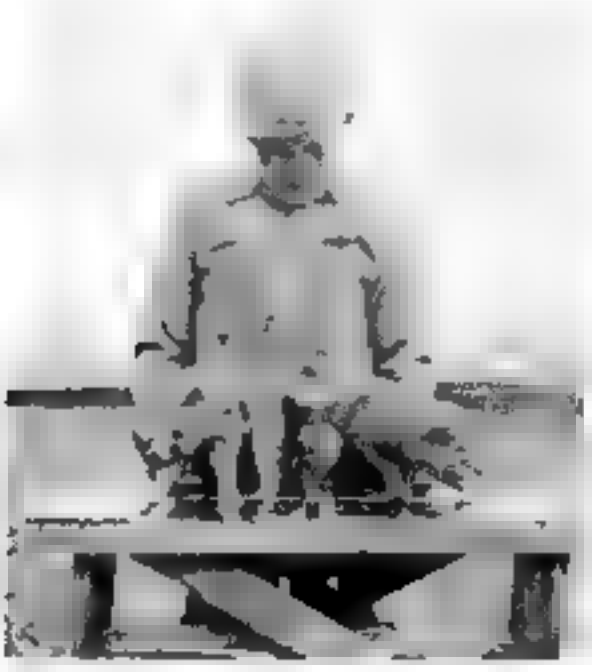
In 1946, Laura was granted the position of Principal at Dickson School grades one to 12 where she was soon dubbed "Westie." This position necessitated weekly trips, as she returned each Friday night to be with Carl and their Gilby friends. Most Saturday nights were "company nights" with someone special arriving — frequently to fare on Carl s superb pancake suppers. Singing, crokinole, checkers or just good conversation were all the entertainment needed. Sundays were celebrated quietly with

"Meeting" at the home of a friend, and lunch together before Laura returned to school.

Carl loved to fish and whenever he could find a willing partner, he would head out to some stream or lake nearby. He and Laura both appreciated purebreed Shorthorn cattle and purchased two quarter-sections of land for pasture. This was the NW 20-40-3 W5, where the Leonard Skjonsberg family have built their home and SE 29-40-3 W5, which has been purchased by Verral and Lorna Fink.

In 1955 Laura transferred to Lesliеville School and then to David Thompson in 1957 where she remained teaching until her retirement. Perhaps because Laura and Carl had no children of their own they seemed to "adopt" those around them. Many students, neighbours, nieces and nephews will remember being made to feel especially important as young people around Mr. and Mrs. Westergard. Following her retirement from classroom teaching, "Westie" brought young people into her home where she taught piano, organ, theory, or tutored in academic subjects for a very small fee, and often none.

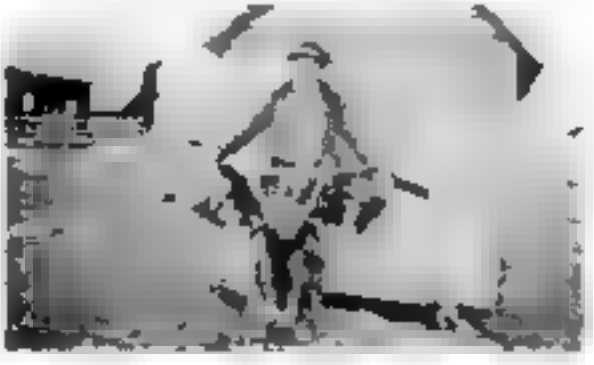
In February 1964, Carl died after a short illness. He is buried in the Gilby Cemetery. The store was too involved for Laura to handle alone, and was sold to Jim and Johanna Blades. Carl and Laura had owned it for 30 years. Laura also sold one quarter-section of their land to Skjonsbergs but retained the "home" quarter. She continued to teach music in her home until April, 1972 when she died very suddenly. She is buried at Gilby. (Laura had married Eric Whidden of Rocky Mountain House in 1971. He is presently living at Rocky Mountain House.



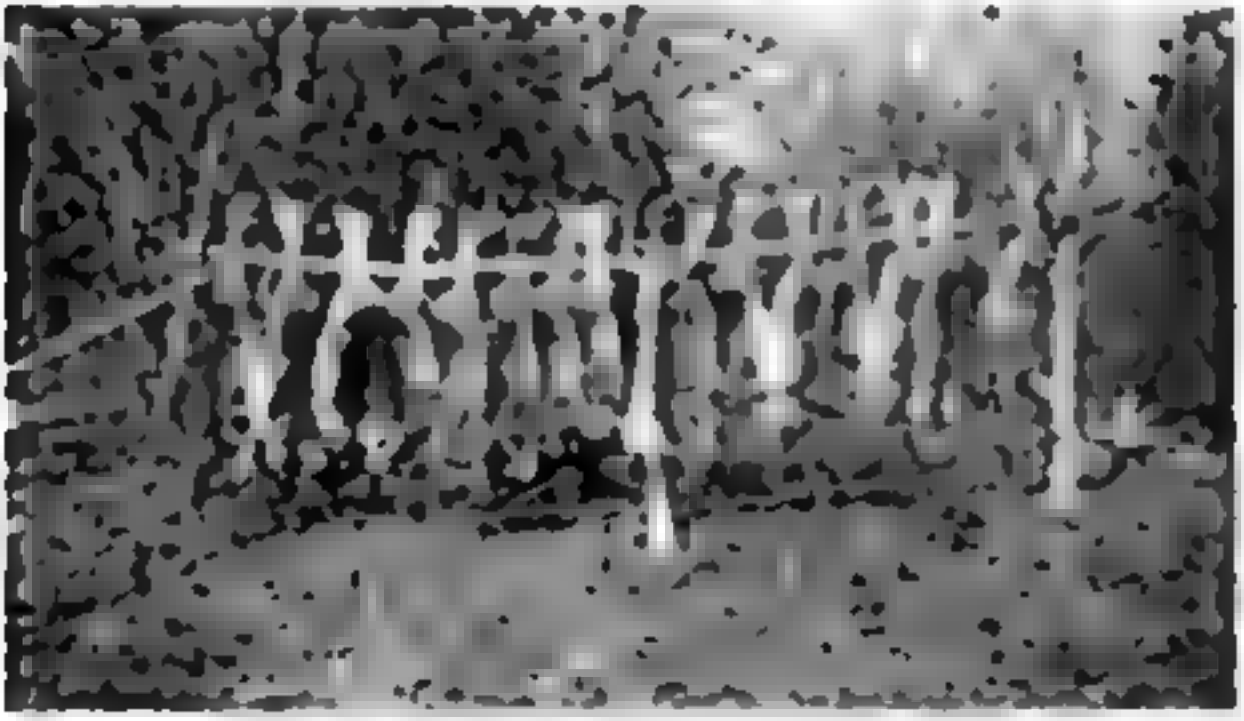
Leonard Phelps with two baby coyotes, 1949

Neil (Billy) McDonald with bottle fed pups, 1950

Thanksgiving and Christmas



Art Baldridge with a huge eagle having a wingspan of six feet



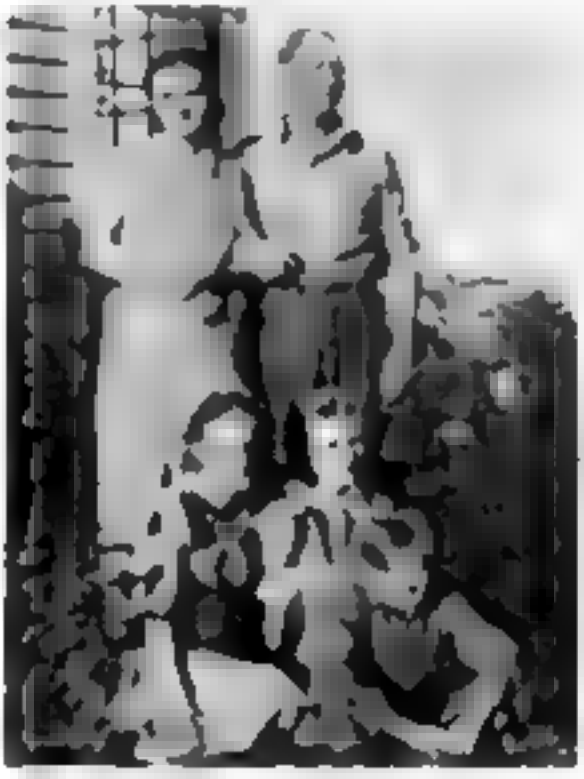
# Benalto, Melita

**ANDERSON, ARNOLD AND MARION — by Mildred Anderson Nierst**

Sven Arnold was the only son born to Swan and Elma Anderson. He was a very welcome addition to the family, especially because he was a boy but also because he was the first new member in the family for eight years, and a brother for Annie and me.

Arnold was still a baby when Grandmother died. However for the first four years of his life he had a very special friend in Granddad. Due to his somewhat failing health Granddad was spending more of his time at home.

As soon as Arnold was able to keep up with Dad they did the chores together. This responsibility grew with the years.



Arnold first attended Melita School then Benalto when it replaced Melita. Now that he had a bicycle he had no problem in getting together with his school chums, Ernest and Arthur Longal.

Arnold was 13 years old when the doctor diagnosed that his failing health was due to diabetes. This he had to contend with the remainder of his life but he learned to accept it and tried to live as normal a life as possible.

As a young lad Arnold went with Mother and Dad on their first holiday from the farm, to visit the Einar Sundstroms and Wayne Heikkinen in Vancouver. Some years later, Mother and Dad accompanied by Arnold and Earle Farris made a trip to Montana. With so many of Mother's relatives around Missoula, there were hosts and hostesses of all ages to entertain them.

For entertainment Arnold enjoyed dancing, curling and traveling when the opportunity arose. It was while he was on a trip to Seattle with Roy and Laurel Nielsen and Bert Cole that all four boys witnessed their first night baseball game. On their return they stopped at Lake Louise and decided to climb the glacier. Having accomplished this feat to their satisfaction they began their descent. It was while they were thus occupied that a ranger confronted them. As they had not received permission for their venture they were soundly "reamed out". This dampened their spirits a bit, but by the time they had reached the car they were ready to continue on to Banff. By about midnight they finally had their tent set up. In the wee hours of the morning a storm blew up and this quartette was rudely awakened by a collapsing tent. After groping their way out from under canvas and tent-poles into the rain, they spent the rest of the night huddled in the car. That was the beginning and end of tenting for this foursome!

While attending high school at Eckville, Arnold was asked why he didn't take one of the junior high school girls to a dance. His comment: "Those kids!" It was one of "Those kids" Marion McCrady Rounds, that he later married. After attending high school at Eckville and then at Red Deer, Arnold began farming with his dad.

Marion was the third of six children born to

Fern and Roy Markely Rounds, in Newcastle, near Drumbeller

Marion started school in Drumbeller but when she was six years old the family moved to the Lockhart area north of Eckville to the farm of Dolly and Homer McCrady Marion's grandparents To attend school at Calkins Valley three miles away, Gordon and Geraldine rode ponies, but Marion rode a Shetland pony Before moving to Eckville, they attended Benjamin School for a short while

Marion's granddad worked at a mine in Saunders, so she left Eckville for awhile to live with him, her grandmother, and her two uncles, Chuck and Raymond. She continued her education through correspondence lessons. Besides supplying their own entertainment such as horseback riding and target practice they attended shows, dances, and hockey games at Nordegg. At times they would walk to Alexo and take the "jigger" hand-car back to Alexo There was even a tennis court and skating rink at Saunders for one year

After returning to Eckville, Marion was a ward-aid in the hospital She took a break and went to British Columbia to thin fruit and to work in the packing plant before returning to the Eckville Hospital for two years

In 1950-51 Marion, Jean Anderson and Doris Walsher attended a Nurse's Aid Course in Calgary, in the old army huts near S.A.I.T.

Shortly after completing her training, Marion and Arnold were married at the Eckville Presbyterian Church. They lived on the family farm. To them were born three children — Sven Richard, Kathryn Lynn and Marion Susan

Farming, chores and a family kept Arnold and Marion busy, but there was time for family get-togethers and picnics, fishing trips and dancing, including participation in a square dance club Day long trips as far as Drumbeller or more lengthy ones to visit family members in British Columbia Saskatchewan and the bordering states, were very much a part of their lives

Arnold's health problems mounted. He finally lost his sight three years before his passing However Marion and Arnold continued their life-style much as before except that now Arnold could no longer farm He never gave up hope for relief from his diabetes, nor for the return of some sight so as to see his children once more especially Susan whom he had never seen. Arnold died in the fall of 1957

Marion and the children continued to live on the family farm for awhile, but then moved to Arnold's farm near Eckville NW 10-39-3-W5

Rick, Angele and their two children, Christine Marie and Sven Daniel, are now making their home on this site near Eckville Kath and Bo Zaleski are living on the S½ of SW 32-39-3-W5 Susan and Blair Penner reside in Edmonton

**CLARENCE ANDERSON FAMILY**

Clarence was the second son of Charley and Lillie Anderson, born in Split Rock, Minnesota U.S.A. in May, 1909 His parents moved to the Manyberries district in southern Alberta later that same year Here they took up farming, raising a family of six boys and two girls. Clarence attended the New Home School, of which he also served as janitor for several years

Following the drought of the early twenties like many other prairie farmers, they were compelled to leave the farm and move further north to the green area of Central Alberta. Clarence was 16 years of age when the family located on a farm in the Eckville-Hespero area In 1929, they moved to the Jack Simpson farm at Benalto

In 1933, he married Aili Huhtala of Benalto She was born there on her family farm Together they took up farming in 1936 on a half section farm owned by Orme McKee Here they lived for eight years, leasing farms from the Armstrong Brothers and Charles Klint. In 1944 Clarence purchased the SE 6-29-2-W5 from the Armstrong Brothers, as well as the quarter section directly across the highway — SE 31-38-2 W5, from Frank Jenkins. There were no buildings on the land so he purchased a small one-room cabin from Mr Jenkins, adding a lean-to kitchen to one side. A small barn was erected for milk cows These buildings served their needs until a larger barn and house were built in 1946 and 1948 respectively. The home quarter had a heavy stand of spruce which was processed into lumber Part of this lumber was used in the buildings, and the remainder was sold

In 1948, he bought the SW 32-38-2 W5 from Paul Burdick Along with these three quarters Clarence also still rented farm land from the Armstrongs and Mr Klint Most years the crops were good, but in 1949, a hailstorm destroyed the entire crop, making it necessary to plow the fields

Following the death of his father Clarence sold the farm to Alfred and Nellie Woehler of Williams Lake, B.C in 1956, and took over the operation of Central Steam Baths in Sylvan Lake. He was interested in carpentry work and built two houses on the property, as well as a four-suite apartment, remodelled from the old Sylvan Lake School In 1963, they sold the steam baths to his brother Richard, and his wife They then moved to live in Rocky Mountain House Clarence worked on construction in Calgary and for the Rocky Mountain School District for some time, preferring, however, to live in semi retirement until his passing in November 1972 Aili still makes her home in Rocky Mountain House

Clarence and Aili had two children; Gary born in 1940 and Delores in 1943. They attended schools in Benalto, Sylvan Lake, and the Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer Later both attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. Gary study

ng Electronics and Deloren Chemica

Gary married Patricia Potticary of Eston Saskatchewan. He is employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Red Deer where they make their home They have a family of four — Kevin Kathy. Kelly and Kimberly

Delores worked in sulphur research in the University of Calgary until her marriage to Forrest Bird of Olds They make their home in Rocky Mountain House where Forrest is vice principal of the Junior-Senior High School. Their three children are Lisa Carl. and Ryan

Clarence was an avid outdoor person He never missed an opportunity to go big-game hunting or fishing — sports in which he encouraged Alll and the children to join him. He also enjoyed curling and was a member of the building committee, promoting the building of the four-sheet curling rink in Benalto. He was a careful, conscientious worker, both in farming and construction work, as evidenced by the result of the work he left behind

**THE ARMSTRONG BROTHERS**

James C Armstrong (1846-1907) of Dutch Mills, Arkansas, U S A , married Mary Elizabeth White (1852-1904 of Cincinnati Arkansas on January 26. 1873 To them were born the following children at Little Rock, Arkansas James Elbert on December 22 1874 Robert Lee on September 11. 1877, William Jackson on October 31 1878 Thomas Gaylord on September 17 1880; Gracie Pearl on March 6. 1882, Sloman Garland on December 13. 1884, and John Peyton on June 16. 1886

The Armstrong family came to Alberta in the latter part of April in 1904. They bought the W 1 38-3-W5 for five dollars an acre. They lived in tents until they were able to accumulate enough logs to build their house (which is still standing today). The house had one room upstairs and one room downstairs. A lean-to was later added which became their kitchen with a small attic for an extra bedroom

Grandma Armstrong, not being well when they came to Alberta, passed away on October 4. 1904. Grandpa passed away on July 9. 1907 after he had acquired a homestead — the quarter east of what used to be Melita School

The Armstrong brothers each took out a homestead and also continued buying and until their holdings eventually added up to seven quarters, much of it under cultivation. At one time they had 300 head of horses some of which supplied entertainment at the " Famous Benalto Fair and Stampede Gaylord was always there decked out in his cowboy hat and striking white chaps, riding around the grounds However, finding pasture and providing winter feed for so many animals sometimes created a problem

Gracie Pearl married Jesse Craig and they farmed south of Benalto until their retirement to Sylvan Lake They had two sons. John married

Gaylord Armstrong, Misty Barham and Gladys Turner

Neva Crawford, who lived in the Diamond Valley District John and Neva's children are Maureen Murray, and Brian Hal married Pat Savage and they took over his parents farm. Pat and Hal have a home in Phoenix. Arizona U S.A. where they spend their winters. They have a summer home in Calgary, and Hal works during the summers as a hail adjuster in some areas Their three children are Wayne, Beverley and Elbert

John married Lulu Lenore (Kit) Barham in 1913. They had three children — James William Bill Barry Barham and Laura Marie

Bill married Lenora Shamlock and they had two children. Gail Marie and Joan Louise Bill served overseas in World War II He passed away in Victoria B.C. in 1958. Lenora and her mother were killed in a car accident west of Ed

Barry married Irene Talson and they had five children Barry Bud Darwin, Barbara Marie. Betty Lou, Bennett John and a baby boy who lived only a few hours and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery Bud married Jeanine Moos Their three children are Debbie Dawn, Dannet Sue and Daileen Marie They reside at Sherwood Park where Bud is in the oil business Barbara married Bill Partica They have a son, Timothy Bill is also in the oil business and they have spent many years overseas Their mobile home is in Sylvan Lake Betty Lou is married to Terry Hannin They have a son, Chad Michael, and live in Red Deer Terry is in the pipeline business. and Betty Lou is a legal secretary Ben is following his great uncle's pattern of remaining single He also works in the pipeline business and makes his home in Red Deer Barry died in 1949

James Elbert William Jackson (Bill), Robert Lee Bob). and Thomas Gaylord remained bachelors. Sloman Garlan passed away on July 2 1935 at Little Rock Arkansas

Sadness came to Kit and John when their little daughter passed away at the tender age of three years. She died of scarlet fever.

The Armstrong brothers, being very musical often played for dances. Left-handed Elbert played a right-handed violin, and it was sweet music, believe me. Quite often we would drive [illegible] summer evenings and hear him playing "[illegible]s Traveller" or "Listen to the Mocking [illegible] or many others of his favorites. Elbert also was "chief cook and bottle washer". Everyone enjoyed his hot biscuits and corn pone (Johnny cake). He left this life on April 29, 1956.

Friends seem to have a special memory of each of the brothers. Bill worked the fields and was about the best story-teller of all. He never laughed at his own jokes. Quite the charmer! Bill passed away on October 30, 1941. Bob was the "Boss Man" until his death on December 15, 1942. He was always consulted about any business transaction in the family. Gaylord was the horseman. He would head the round-up when it came branding time. He also shone as a ladies' man. Bash. He departed this life September 5, 1954. John was the "Old Married Man" as their French housekeeper, Madam Piecereaux, affectionately named him.

John and Kit lived in what is now the Jobs home. They had planned to build a new home and had lumber shipped from British Columbia. The site was selected when one day Kit took off on her horse, Headlight, to choose a new building spot on the hill where the Krause family are now living. Theirs was one of the first homes in the area to have inside plumbing and electricity. John passed away May 7, 1960. Kit and John were avid hockey fans and drove the boys, Bill and Barry included, to their out-of-town games. The Hockey Club's dances in Eckville were very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Kit resides in Red Deer now and attends all the Eckville Eagles' hockey games and functions.

**THE AUSTIN FAMILY**

Henry Luther Austin was born in Wisconsin. Rosie Prevo was born in Iowa. They were married in Nebraska in the latter 1800's. They had two sons in Nebraska, Orlie and W.J. Bill. Lute Austin as he was known by his neighbors homesteaded west of Red Deer in the Poplar Ridge district in 1902. He moved his wife, Rosie, and the two boys to the homestead in 1903. The first home was a sod house. Two more sons and two daughters were all born on the homestead: O.M. (Millard), Vera, Retta, and A.L. (Buster). All went to school in the Poplar Ridge School.

Lute brought one of the first threshing machines to the district, being a 28 inch Case. This machine was hand fed and had no straw blower only a straw carrier. They later modernized this machine by adding a blower and self feeder. After the machine was dealt off it turned up east of Red Deer and was still in use in the 1940's. It was first powered by six or eight horses on a horse power unit. Later a single cylinder gasoline engine was used that had been converted from a stationary engine to a traction engine by means of a friction drive. This had no steering apparatus so had to be steered by horses on a pole. This was called an "old famous". At that time most of the threshing was done from sacks to avoid being snowed under. They threshed from Red Deer to Hespero, and some years were almost late for spring work. The family also operated a sawmill on the farm for a while cutting the native timber for themselves and neighbors as a lot of building was needed.

Bill took over the machinery work about the time of the first World War. Bill and his brother-in-law A.D. Archie Smith bought a new threshing machine, a 28 inch Avery that was used until 1936. They also bought a large gasoline traction engine. This engine was a twin sister of the Mogul, and could have been made by them but was sold by International Harvester and there was no real name on this monster. This engine was a "two cylinder" and had to be left running all night in the cold weather as you could not turn it over. Archie and Bill worked together until 1928 when Archie moved to Rockford, Illinois.

Bill then took over on his own and kept up this work until he sold his farm in 1948. Three quarters of raw land was bought from C.P.R. This was three miles east of the old Sylvan Lake Creamery and there was some extra large timber on some of this land. Along with getting the land cleared, breaking, threshing and some other custom work, Bill also ran a sawmill and lumber planer for a few years at different locations. These were powered by two steam engines. These sawmill operations brought him in contact with the Skoodopole Bros. from Botha who had built one of the first brush cutters in the country. A deal was made for lumber and they cleared the large timber areas of this land and some of his fathers original homestead. Some of this timbered land had stumps so big no ordinary tractor of those times could attempt to break it. As the land was needed for farming the steam engine was fired up and with two ploughs behind breaking was started. As the breaking continued, dry wood became a problem so the old two cylinder gas engine was started up and as long as the ploughs hung together nothing could stop either of these engines. Most of the land was broke by them.

All of the Austin men were the neighborhood handy men. No one would think of getting a mechanic from town before getting consultation from one of them. After the experience on all the old gas engines and all the old machinery the neighbors seldom had to go any farther.

Orlie, the oldest boy, married Connie Wilson, a school teacher who taught school in the Evarts district. They have two girls and one boy. The family moved to British Columbia in the 1920's.

W.J. (Bill) married Mary Caroline (Bea

Smith, a stepdaughter of his uncle, Bill Prevo They have four sons and two daughters

Rosie Marie, married Gus Poffenroth They have three sons and one daughter

Kenny Ann Carey is married and living in Calgary

Janet is married and living in the State of [illegible]

Vern is at home in Red Deer

W E (Dick) married Margaret Swanson they have three daughters and one son

Linda married Gudman Huus and reside in [illegible]

Sharon, married K G (Ken) Lightbown and lives near Markerville William and Sandra live at home

Evelyn Beatrice Bea married M M Moss Jensen, they have a daughter Lorna and a son Merle

B.L. (Lute) married and living in C[illegible] three children. Dianne, Susanne and Lane

E F (Gene) is married to Carol Cody and they reside in Red Deer They have three daughters Theresa, Tammy and Susan, all at [illegible]

Orlie, the youngest son, was lost due to illness at his tender years

Millard, married now living in Edmonton has four sons

Vera married R C. James living at Longview Wash. have two daughters and one [illegible]

Retta married Ray DePauw living in Washington State have two sons and one [illegible]

A. L. (Buster) married Hilda Knoll, live in Red Deer and have three daughters and one son

W J (Bill) Austin carried on the farming and threshing operations until the farm was sold to Bahler Bros. in 1948 and purchased the Benalto Garage

**THE JAMES BARHAM FAMILY**

James Barham was born in Exira, Iowa U.S.A. He came to Alberta in 1911 with Charlie Jenkins, and purchased a section Sec 2-39-3-W5. of land across from Armstrong Brothers. James Barham's son, Guy followed two weeks later in an immigrant car with furniture and horses

Mr and Mrs James Barham's children were Olive, Eloise Skyler Guy and Lulu

Laura (Granny) Barham later brought Lulu who was nicknamed "Kitten" because of her fondness for cats This name was later shortened to "Kit" by which she is presently known to everyone. They were met in Red Deer by grandad (Jim) and Bob Armstrong at the railroad station. Bill, Gaylord, and John Armstrong had been back to Arkansas, U.S.A. to visit with relatives Bob and Jim met Granny and Kit and gran's sister Eva Jenkins, Charlie Jenkins wife, who lived in their house for a time The house was new and had two rooms downstairs which Ava and Charlie occupied. Granny Jim and family had two bedrooms upstairs, plus a pantry and kitchen downstairs. It did not appeal to Kit and granny after leaving a nice home in Iowa, but they managed very well and acclimatized to their new environment

Olive and Eloise married two brothers, Jack Freeman and Clyde Freeman and moved to the United States to live in Oregon

Skyler (Punch) was a druggist at Atlanta Iowa, and remained there, but came to Canada later where he was employed in Calgary by Parson & Denoon Stock Exchange as a salesman. He married Loucila and they have three children — Marion (Knowles Robert Walker, and Janet They are all living in the United States

Olive and Clyde later moved back to Exira and have two children Doris and Jamie

Eloise and Jack Freeman lived on Jim Barham's quarter which Jim had purchased earlier They have three daughters. Laura Mrs Charles Harrison lives in Pender B.C They moved there after Charles' retirement as Fire Chief in Calgary Their three children are Brenda Ann Dana Sue and Charles (Chuck) They all reside in British Columbia

Eva Naomi Mrs. John Murray lives in Calgary. They have six children — Marilyn Nikki Linda, Janice. Colleen and Ken

Norma (Babe married Terry Fowler and they are making their home in Calgary

Guy Barham married Florella Johnston She was one of the first school teachers at the Salma School Everyone loved and respected her She is presently living in Nanaimo, B.C with her son Roy Marjorie, their daughter, is also living in British Columbia All of the school children were saddened when their oldest daughter, Dorothy died in California at the age of three years They had pulled up stakes here to make their home in California They returned after Dorothy's death and Floss came back to teach at Salma. Guy farmed his father's land until he was tragically killed in a binder accident in the fall of 1937 His horses panicked and the horse-drawn binder ran over him

Kit (Lulu Lenore married John Armstrong in 1913 They had two sons and one daughter James William (Bill), Barry Barham and Laura Marie. Bill passed away in Victoria, B.C. in 1969 Barry died in December 1949 and Baby Marie died in 1920 at the age of three years

Mrs Laura Barham, affectionately called "Granny" by everyone, enjoyed the company of young people She cooked huge meals for the ball players who came by to play ball on Sundays She also had her famous recipe for baked beans She often said, "I've got to bake beans in case the Lutz boys come by." The first words Art Lutz would say were "Hey, granny bring on the beans!", whenever he arrived. Granny would chuckle with delight. To our sorrow she passed away on February 21 1950, at the age of 85 years and five months

The Barhams brought with them two cows and

horses, one a pony for Kit named "Flash" a pacer which Kit often rode

They also brought their piano with them. Kit played it and their friends, Gladys and Ralph Matchett, along with Norman Turner. (who later married Gladys would come by, so they had good music. Arthur Kinna, a very good violinist would often join them. All in all, it was very enjoyable. Norman Turner also accompanied them on the piano

A couple of days after her arrival. Kit was out hanging clothes when Bob Edgar rode in on his horse. He told her about the dance at Pilcox (now Hespero) the following night. He was happy to see young people coming to the country. They went to the dance and had a great time although the boys far outnumbered the girls. There were only seven girls in attendance and Guy somewhat shy, didn't even ask a girl to dance

Kit was an ardent curler and she delivered milk to the village of Eckville daily, rain or shine.

John was agent for the United Grain Growers elevator for several years. Unfortunately, he had to retire early because of repeated attacks of arthritis

**BENALTO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY — by W. E. (Dick) Austin**

It's a shame that no one has kept a record of the society, so my history is based on common knowledge of a few of the old timers that are left and bits and pieces picked up here and there. Most of it is from newspaper clippings, some old minute books and old fair books

The original society was formed in 1917 and the first fair was held in 1918. Prior to this, a sports day was held in Evarts, which ran annually from 1905 until 1915. Due to the railroad being moved to north of Evarts and possibly some other reasons this was moved to Benalto in 1916. Some of the old timers claim there were a few bucking horses and a few horse races held along with this in 1916 but it is not known for sure

S.E. McKee, president of Benalto Agricultural Society, 1917 to 1921

P.N. Cameron, president of Benalto Agricultural Society, 1927 to 1929 and 1931 to 1933.

Henry Hewson, early director and past president of Benalto Agricultural Society

The first full scale stampede was held in 1917 and has been held annually since then. There are also some old timers that claim a few exhibits were also in the first stampede but it is not known for sure. The first registered fair under the Benalto Agricultural Society was held in 1918.

The full success of the society has to be given to the early founders of it and to the many men and women as officers that took part in the beginning and the ones to follow them. The fair and stampede were run by two separate groups in the beginning but were run on the same days. After a few years they joined together but the actual year is not known.

Here is a list of the original officers and the others that followed to carry on their work (note some of the time these officers spent in office) See figure 3

## Directors.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Talson | F. G. Jenkins | L. B. Walker | C. Barhan |
| J. Hohnson | I Hyvonen | R. L. Armstrong | J. W. W. Slack |
| J. D. Barhan | J. S. Simpson | J. M. Craig | L. Telming |
| A. McPherson | J. P. Armstrong | R. L. Tennant | |

## Past Presidents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S. E. McKee | 1917-23 | 7 years |
| Henry Talson | 1924-26 | 3 years |
| P. N. Cameron — 2 terms | 1927-29 and 1931-33 | 7 years |
| W. Holsworth | 1930 | 1 year |
| Harry Bice | 1934 | 1 year |
| Thomas Smith | 1935-40 | 6 years |
| Jack McBride | 1941-42 | 2 years |
| Clyde Stauffer — 2 terms | 1943-48 and 1954-59 | 12 years |
| Lloyd McNeil | 1949-50 | 2 years |
| Ray Niemela 3 terms | 1951-53, 1960-62 and 1966-67 | 8 years |
| Murray Stauffer | 1963 | 1 year |
| G. R. Sterling | 1964-65 | 2 years |
| G. R. Lougheed | 1968-? | 10 years |

## Stampede Managers

(They were called sports directors from 1931-38

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| F. G. Jenkins — 2 terms | 1917-26 and 1931-36 | 16 years |
| Chas. Jenkins | 1927-30 | 4 years |
| Orval Gatzke (Asst.) | 1936 | 1 year |
| Clyde Stauffer | 1937-40 | 4 years |
| Dewey Nielsen | 1941-48 | 8 years |
| Louis Kathol | 1949-61 | 13 years |
| Swan Anderson | 1962-67 | 6 years |
| Evart Ball | 1968-? | 10 years |

## Stampede Secretaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S. Lien | 1937-38 | 2 years |
| Wilson Cameron | 1939-40 | 2 years |
| Grant Cameron | 1941-48 | 8 years |
| Harry Durward | 1949-67 | 19 years |
| Dennis Bramall | 1968-74 | 7 years |
| Les Ray | 1975 | 1 year |
| Bev Staniforth | 1976-? | 2 years |

## Secretary Treasurers

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P. T. Mckee | 1917-22 | 6 years |
| A. Norton 2 terms | 1923-26 and 1934-40 | 13 years |
| J. S. Simpson | 1929-33 | 5 years |
| C. B. Pugh | 1941-44 | 4 years |
| Geo. Richardson | 1945-48 | 4 years |
| J. m Fink | 1949-52 | 4 years |
| G. R. Sterling | 1952-56 | 5 years |
| Jack Purdie | 1957 | 1 year |
| Peter Kachmir | 1958-60 | 3 years |
| Dale Mannix | 1961 | 1 year |
| Robert Brown | 1962-64 | 3 years |
| Bev Staniforth — 2 terms | 1965-67 and 1971-73 | 6 years |
| Pat Knowles | 1974-? | 4 years |

Figure 3

Origina state of officers. President S. E. McKee. First Vice-Pres. J. W. Warwick. Second Vice Pres. T. B. Millar. Sec. Treasurer, P. T. Mckee.

Along with these officers, hundreds of directors and other members over the years have put countless hours of work into the society to make it what it is to-day.

The Stampede in itself can be to the credit of the late F. G. Jenkins and the Armstrong Brothers. They organized the first show and ran it for many years to make it one of the main

Bonnie fair and Stampede

summer events in central Alberta. The Armstrongs along with Ed Medin, Orin Wylie and many more supplied the stock for many years of charge. The announcing was done by Frank Jenkins on a saddle horse with the aid of a megaphone.

Many of the early exhibitors turned their prize money back to the society to help pay expenses. One of the early directors did this for many years, this was I. Hyvonen.

In the early 1920's Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Peter Cameron and Mr. and Mrs. A. (Archie) Norton moved into the district. They became exhibitors and promoters for many years. Their years in office and leadership can be appreciated in helping to keep things going during the lean years. In 1919 the total gate receipts were $97. In 1920 an aeroplane ride could be had — 12 minutes for $10. In 1921, $3,900. was paid in prize money. $100. was paid to the best bronc rider. $15. was first prize for a horse race.

By 1924 there was a hall, a poultry building, a horse barn and a grand stand that would seat 500 people. These were all built at a total labor cost of $25. In 1935 under President, Thomas Smith the society became free of debt.

In the first stampede there were no chutes so Bill Hansen was the ear man to ear down the broncs. In the second year only one chute was made so to save time, his services were needed again. Since then several sets of chutes have been built, changing locations at times but always in the same area. In 1968 a new set of steel chutes were built with all new corrals we hope they will outlast many of us.

Some of the riders in the first stampede were Levi Erickson, the Watrin Bros., Sykes Robinson

Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Norton at the Bonnie Fair

and John Chitwood. The winner of top money at his event was a man from Clive but we were not able to come up with his name. The stampede has been run every year despite some horrible weather conditions. In 1937 it had to be postponed for one week due to the weather but was run off a week later in fine style. The cowboys had to billet in the hall for a whole week as the roads were so bad most of them couldn't leave anyway. This is the year that Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir were to have attended the fair on their way to Rocky Mountain House, but the roads were so bad their only stop was at Swan Anderson's.

The fair has been held every year with the exception of 1932. Money was so scarce then the fair was not held but a ball tournament held in its place. Benalto joined the pro rodeo circuit in its early years and have stayed in the circuit ever since.

The original land she is the same location we use to-day. In the early 1920's the land was up for tax sale and had it not been for the efforts of Peter Cameron and the McKees and other, this land would have been lost. The roads were almost impassible as it was during the spring run off, and someone had cut the fences that were used as a telephone line in the early years. However with their efforts and contributions they met the deadline by only a matter of a couple of hours and we still retain the land to-day. It was not until 1946 that the deed was obtained and is now in the name of a board of trustees. We now have one of the finest community grounds in the country and we can be most proud of our forefathers who made it possible. The grounds consist of our rodeo grounds with grand stand and race track, concession booths, a fine community hall, large parking facilities, an outdoor skating rink and our multipurpose building that is used as an agriculture barn by the fair and 4H Clubs and as a curling rink in the winter.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me get this information, and a special thank you to Alice Durward for the use of a complete set of fair books and a scrap book that her mother Mrs. Pete Cameron kept. I'm sure without these my [illegible]

**RENAL TO BAPTIST CHURCH — by G. H. Longhead**

In the fall of 1927 a group of interested families met at Mr. O. McKee's home, and from this beginning a Baptist Church was started. By the spring of 1928, and from the home of Grandma Burdick, the church was organized. The original 20 chartered members included:

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. S. E. McKee | Miss Elsie McKee |
| Mr. Wm. Holsworth | Mr. Lynn Burdick |
| Mrs. S. E. McKee | Mrs. Lillian Nielsen |
| Mrs. Ruth Burdick | Mr. Everett Nielsen |
| Mrs. Wm. Holsworth | Miss Bessie Burdick |
| Mrs. Irene Bardwell | Miss Sarah Burdick |
| Mr. J. E. McKee | Mr. Dave Holsworth |
| Mrs. Elmer McKee. | Mr. W. O. McKee |
| Mrs. W. O. McKee | |

The first Pastor was Rev. Howard Phillips. The congregation held services in several places, such as the Booster Hall and the Knight's of Pythias Hall, until they purchased the Broderson house and had it remodeled. This was then to be their place of worship until 1945. Rev. William MacDonald was now the pastor and under his guidance a new church was built. The old church was sold and is now the lovely home of Orlie Nielsen on his acreage east of town.

This church building served the congregation until 1963, under the pastorate of Rev. Ron Allen. It was overflowing and bursting at the seams. As a result, the new church was built, the lovely building we now worship in. It was a great day in 1970 under the ministry of Rev. Stewart Windrum, that the final payment was made, and the mortgage was burned.

Our present Pastor, Rev. Denis Burriss came in 1972 and in 1974 a new manse was built after selling the old manse, which was moved.

Pastors of the Benalto Baptist Church have been:

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. H. C. Phillips | 1928-1932 |
| Rev. Dickenson | 1932-1933 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rev | Earl Ph ..ps | 1933-1934 |
| Rev | Collins | 1934-1937 |
| Rev | Gibbons | 1937-1938 |
| Rev | D Mi...gan | 1938-194. |
| Rev | Wm McDonald | 1941-1946 |
| Rev | R Beck | 1946-1950 |
| Rev | W Streight | 1951-1955 |
| Rev | Jack Purdie | |
| Rev | J m Stevens | |
| Rev | Stewart Windrum | |
| Rev | Dennis Burriss | 1572 to the present |

The new church we have now under the

time in its worship. They have a full complement of Sunday School classes for every age. The Christian Service Brigade for boys was started in 1975. The Brigade section is under the leadership of Jerry Axelson and Harold Burdick

The Stockades have Gary Hillman Earl vokes, Dennis Burriss and Robert Aki.

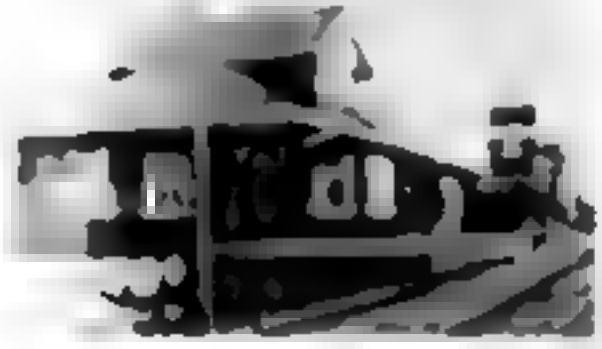
The girls' program has Barbara Hillman and Ruth Burriss as leaders. We can say, "Here is hath the Lord Led

**BENALTO — ITS EARLY SETTLERS ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES — by George Sterling**

Probably the best-known organization around Benalto is the Benalto Booster Club. The history of the club itself dates back to the very beginning of the location of the Hamlet itself, to 1912, when it was first considered that a townsite be surveyed at the present location along the Alberta Central Railway It is shown on the C P R. plan as Blocks 1 to 4, A & B Plan of subdivision of part of S W 31 38-2-W5, made by D. T Rownsend A L S. and dated January 2. 1914 It was registered in the Land Titles Office at Edmonton on the 4th day of June. 1914. as Plan No. 5237 A Y

Frank Jenkins, his cousin, Charlie Jenkins. he Armstrong Brothers, Swan Anderson, Jack Simpson Mait and William Wuori are among the names of those who persuaded and suggested the location of the Hamlet of Bena.to

The first passenger train to come west from Red Deer on the Alberta Central Railway which passed through Benalto. was in 1914. Passengers



on this train included, among others, Charles Little, Locomotive Foreman, Watson Hall district Superintendent, W C. Donley, Red Deer C P R agent, James Carrol, conductor Lloyd Hambly.

The first time that the Booster Club actually held a community program was in 1915 when a small group put on a stampede on or near the same location on the farm of Charlie Jenkins This eventually brought about the acquisition of the present parcel of land, some 27 acres, now known as the Benalto Agricultural and Benalto Booster grounds. Charles Jenkins, with his cousin Frank Jenkins, transferred the ownership eventually to be jointly owned and registered in the name of the Benalto Agricultural Society and he Benalto Booster Club

Frank Jenkins was born on August 17 1873 in he County of Audubon. near the town of Brayton, in the State of Iowa, U S.A He came to this district and purchased land in 1912. During his active years he farmed, was an auctioneer, carried on a livestock shipping business and for a few years operated a livestock business in Calgary, which went under the name of Barbaa and Jenkins, a partnership. In the 1920's it was common to hear the broadcast of the noon prices of this firm over the W W Grant Radio Station now CFCN. He continuously kept his interest in Benalto and the Benalto Booster Club. He was as president from 1917 to 1928 and from 1931 to 1933, and was Stampede Manager for most of these years as well. During the time he was not Stampede Manager, his cousin Charlie took on this work for him until Charlie bought a farm in the Leslieville district. and even then Charlie was on hand to help with the Stampede

Frank's knowledge of the district and his con

enabled him to call on people throughout the whole area to help in the work and activities in putting on a Stampede each year as well as encourage people to come to Benalto to develop various business activities which after all. was the purpose, and still is of the Benalto Booster Club

Among those were the Armstrong Bros., who were some of his best supporters. They had the horses for the Stampede. Ed Medin had the cattle. and Frank needed both horses and cattle to put on the Stampede Gaylord was the horseman Ed the cattleman. and they were always ready to oblige He also had an outlaw horse, owned by Orrin Wylie. that was one of the hardest for the cowboys to ride

The Benalto Booster Club in its earlier years as well as having an interested and active president also had a very active and interested secretary-treasurer George Warren filled this office for many years. He had come to Benalto as its first elevator agent in 1919 Before coming to Benalto he had farmed the SW 25-38-2 W5. which was owned later by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Opp

George Warren was an aggressive type of

fellow and did everything possible, by petition and advertising, to have people come to Benalto, and to help those who came with assistance in starting their business. To encourage McCanna & McKenzie to establish the first Hardware in 1921, the Booster Club bought Lot 4, Block 4 on Railway Avenue, and built a building 28' by 40' with 10' studs, and agreed to sell it at fifty dollars down and twenty-five dollars per month until fully paid. The agreement of sale was apparently fulfilled at the proper time, as McKenna & McKenzie sold out to George Kock of Strathmore in 1926 and George Kock in turn sold out to the Atlas Lumber Company & Builders Hardware in 1928. The building is still used and operated as a Hardware and is part of the building presently owned by George R. Sterling

The Benalto Booster Club worked hard to get the station located in the present Benalto townsite. A copy of 53 names on a petition which includes farmers and businessmen throughout the Markerville, Evarts, Happy Hill, Craig and Benalto districts bear this out

The Stampede and Fair grounds, which consist of over 27 acres, were acquired from Charlie Jenkins for the community. For the earlier years ownership rested separately in the names of the Benalto Booster Club and the Benalto Agricultural Society. The operation of the two organizations on a separate basis often led to considerable discussion as to which one made money and which one lost money, especially after the Fair and Stampede. To make for better relations, the property was finally registered in a joint title in the Land Titles Office, Edmonton, Alberta Certificate No. 17d I. 127 in the name of six trustees, namely: Langton Wells, Swan Anderson, Clifford Hillman, G. R. Lougheed, Lloyd McNeil and Everett Nelsen, these trustees representing both the interests of both the Benalto Booster Club and the Benalto Agricultural Society

This amalgamation marked the commencement of very important growth in the development of the property. A permanent highway serviced by the County of Red Deer No. 23 serves the property. A four-sheet curling rink with modern facilities and cooling refrigeration equipment, is available for the Benalto Agricultural Society for the Fair and other special events and the Benalto Curling Club for winter bonspiels

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 404 entered into a co-partnership with the Benalto Agricultural Society and the Benalto Booster Club for the building and operation of the Community Hall by agreement signed with the trustees on February 22, 1961. Since then a new community hall has been built, fully modern, for the use of the community and under the care and direction of the Elks and Royal Purple

The Benalto Booster Club played its part in getting the Benalto School property. The land was made available for purchase by the Rocky Mountain School Division by the owner, Mr. John Heikkinen in 1937. It was built by Waterman & Waterbury, Regina, with the material supplied by Atlas Lumber Company, Benalto. The 28' 2' x 8' were cut by Dave Adams' mill, west of Rimbey and hauled in by his son, William Adams. The land was levelled through the efforts of a "Bee" under the direction of Mr. Matt Harju of the Kuusamo district, who brought in the largest grader in use in the Municipal District of Lorne at that time. The trustees of the day were Emma Kinna, Archibald Norton, and Everett Neilsen. And Mr. Gust Makl was the representative trustee for the Rocky Mountain School Division. The school was ready for operation in the fall of 1938

Roads were always a problem of which the Benalto Booster Club was aware, and they constantly endeavoured to bring attention to this problem by the government representatives and municipal bodies. In 1930 a big effort was made to have a direct road to Sylvan Lake one mile south of the present Highway No. 11. In 1940 a representative group drove to Edmonton to try to get help from the government. Included in the group was Alex Duncan, Councillor for the Municipal District of Golden West, and Alf Foster, father of the present Attorney General Honorable James Foster. This trip was made in April. To get to Highway No. 11 it was necessary to have Albert Johnson (who at that time was our graymen) haul the car we were to travel in to Highway No. 11, and he also met the committee about ten o'clock that evening when we got back from Edmonton, to haul us back into Benalto. The mud was so deep no vehicle could operate under its own power. That delegation did have some success as a small grant from the government by way of the municipality did get gravel for the mud holes, which was hauled and spread under the direction of Dewey Nielsen acting as foreman. One problem arose as a result of the gravelling — the rocks in the gravel kept coming to the surface. Eventually this problem was solved with the paved road which now leads in from Highway No. 11 from the east and west

In 1937 during the Fair and Stampede the roads into Benalto were practically impassable The Governor General of Canada Lord Tweedsmuir and Lady Tweedsmuir Lord and Lady Buchan were slated to be in attendance for a short visit during the Stampede events, but the rain fell and made the roads impassable for travel into Benalto. The grounds, grandstand and buildings were decorated with Union Jacks and red, blue and white bunting. Three archways were also set up along Railway Avenue, and the bandstand was designated as the place where the guests of honor and their party would be located. The torrents of rain and wind shattered the archways and completely mutilated the decorations It was not a complete disappointment for the Governor-General and his wife, however He had requested on this trip to Benalto, that arrangements be made, if possible, for them to stop at a home with a Finnish Bath. Since the Anderson home was on the highway, they were able to visit at the home of Mr and Mrs. Swan Anderson at the Benalto cor

Due to the heavy rains the Stampede itself had to be postponed for one week. Plans were made to have the cowboys and the midway remain in Benalto. Travel was at a complete halt except by railway E. J Casey Shows, of Winnipeg, had the Midway and were travelling with trucks. To accommodate the cowboys and the showmen the cowboys were given the use of the Agricultural barn and the showmen were given the use of the Booster's Hall. The arrangements went along well for a few days, until some of the cowboys felt that the members of the Midway

result was a raid on the sleeping quarters of the midway, and, as you can imagine. "all Hell broke loose

One word that has always been commonly heard in Benalto is the word "bee" Whenever something was to be done in the community such as build a community hall, build a school, a church, a curling barn and rink, build a grandstand, have a clean-up or even build the new eating booth in 1977 the accomplishment of these projects invariably is carried out by means of a "bee " The names of all the willing helpers for these activities would make a long long list

In the 1920's and early 1930's those who curled in Benalto were members of the Evarts Curling Club. In 1933 it was decided to form a curling club at Benalto. Ray Nourse, who was the agent for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company Ltd arranged through his superintendent, Mr MacMillan, to buy a set of second-hand rocks for two sheets of ice. Mr. MacMillan not only arranged to buy these rocks but also delivered them with his auto on the various trips he made on his inspections at Benalto. These were of variety of weights and sizes — little "Tea Kettles" from an old Scottish Club in Scotland to big bunbos, which were about five pounds heavier than the standard size. Even with the variety of rocks, the members were thrilled to have two complete sets. Curling has proven to be a very successful sport at Benalto. At the official opening in 1933 among those who were invited to throw the first rocks were R. B. Welliver of Red Deer, Percy Duffield of Sylvan Lake and Hugh McLevin of Red Deer Laurel Nielsen can be mentioned as one who down through the years has spent many hours preparing and looking after the ice for the Benalto Curling Club as well as the Benalto Skating Club, which adjoins the Curling Club

Archibald Norton, C. P R. Agent who came to Benalto with his family in 1921, played an important part in the life of Benalto for over 25 years He was always a very enthusiastic Benalto Booster Club member For years he was the correspondent for the Red Deer Advocate, and served many years as the secretary-treasurer for the Benalto Agricultural Society and was honored as Honorary Secretary for his faithful years of service During his years with the C.P.R. he was instrumental in selling many acres of land to those who came into the Benalto Evarts, Happy Hill and Craig districts

Peter Cameron was another who, with Mrs Cameron played an important part in the Benalto community, especially in the life of the Benalto Agricultural Society and the Benalto Presbyterian Church. Whenever a "bee was called you could be sure you would find Mr Cameron along with Mrs. Cameron and their boys, Grant and Wilson, taking an active part in the work A special banquet on January 24, 1946 was held honoring Mr and Mrs. Cameron for their years of support and faithful service to the Benalto community

Clyde Stauffer and his family after moving from Alsask in 1935 and buying the Frank Jackson farm, has played an important part in our community life, as an auctioneer, Hereford breeder, as president of the Rural Electrification Association for the Province of Alberta, as president of the Benalto Agricultural Society and as Stampede Manager

During the 1930's and 1940's the Benalto Tennis Club was active and in 1932 a ladies' competition was held and among the players were Delia McKee and Alma Sterling. Reverend J W MacDonald, minister of the Benalto Baptist Church, was a very active member during the 1940's. As well a large number of other well known people were active members

The Benalto Home and School was very active in the development of the school in the community. The first president was Mrs. Lilian McBride, who served in 1939 and 1940, and again in 1942-1943 and 1945-1947 Others who served as president were Mrs Laura Holsworth, Mrs. Jean Pugh Ralph Lough and Mrs. Pearl Jensen Those who served as secretary-treasurer included Thelma Foster, Jack McBride, William

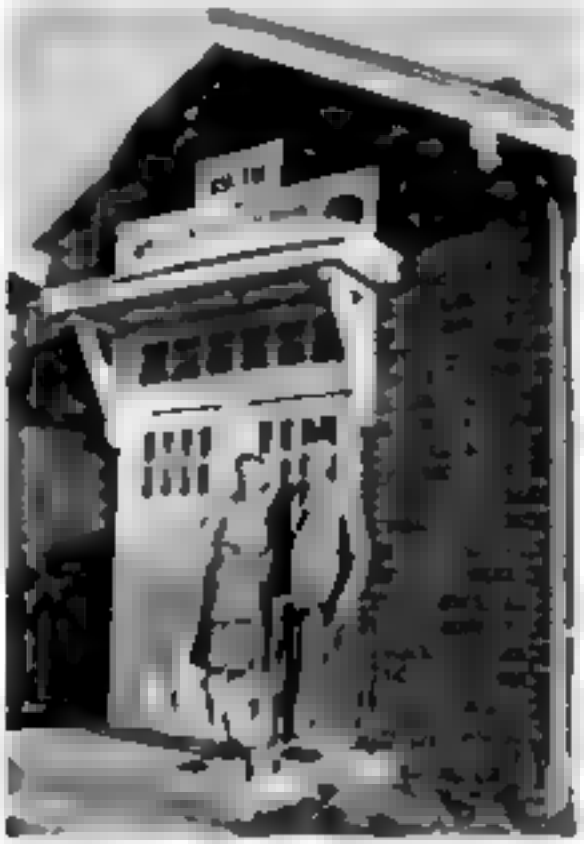
Morris, Bessie Burdick, Laura Holsworth and Grace Benner

A general store was operated for a number of years. It was started in the 1920's by a Mr O C Hansen, on Main Street where Mr and Mrs Gil Hills now live. He sold out in 1931 to Mr H J Arlint who came from Balcarres Saskatchewan. One New Years Eve in 1934 the building burned to the ground. Then a dwelling replaced the store and for a short time Mr W J Pickard operated a jewellery store in this dwelling.

Another fire in the 1920's was the loss of the first Benalto Hotel on Railway Avenue. It was rebuilt in the same location and has since passed through the hands of several owners, being now owned and operated by Ed Toperosky.

The Benalto Booster Club, the Home & School Association, the trustees and the various other supporters who established permanency of a school at Benalto found its greatest support in the splendid teachers that devoted their interest and service down through the years. During the first school year at Benalto, 1938-1939, A Franklin Van Horne was the Principal and Laimi Mak was Assistant Principal. Others who served as Principal were W C Davidson, George Trasov, W E. Farris. Assistants included Clifford Awcock, Anna Sterling who served for several terms. In 1952 an addition was

George Sterling and Wilma Pratt, Anna Sterling and Ruth

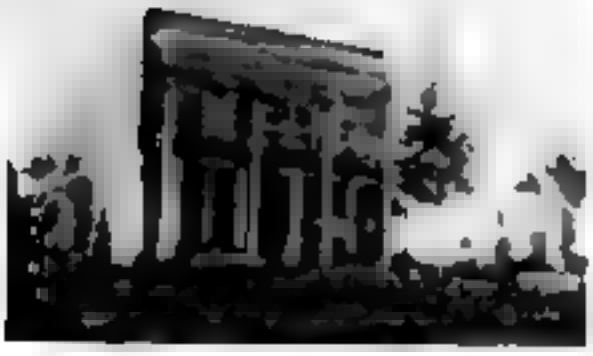


Anna and George Sterling, 1964

built to the school and four rooms came into operation. In 1954 a room was added in the basement, and Annie Simpson joined the staff. Through the years many other dedicated teachers served on the staff. Anna Sterling was on the staff continuously from 1940 until 1971, when she retired. During this time she also served for several years on the Post Secondary Education Board for the Government of Alberta.

It was during the years of the Benalto Home and School Association that a regular contact was continued with the Rocky Mountain School Division by the Benalto Booster Club for support and extension to the school. The trustees for the School Division that gave a listening ear, Bjorn Thorlakson, Gust Mak, John Hillman, David Pearson and, after the transfer to the County of Red Deer No. 23, John Jillman, Levi Erickson, David Pearson, and Stan Swainson. The Home and School Association was discontinued at Benalto, but an association of the parents and teachers still carry on in the name of the Benalto School Parent Group. Among the main activities of later years is their assistance with the Strawberry Tea, the Christmas Concert and the annual year-end school picnic and sports day. The active officers have been Anne Thiels and Lucy Nielsen.

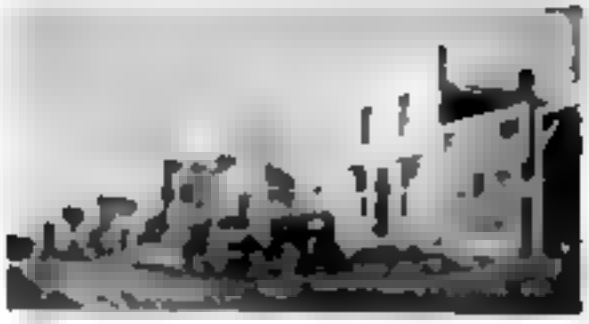
Among the merchants that have served in the Hamlet of Benalto are as follows: Jack Simpson and Scott Hardie who built the first store in 1915



followed by Mr MacRae V. B. Buchanan and Arthur Kinna. Mrs. Emma (Kinna) Jenkins, Donald J. G. Wilkes and Ruth Wilkes, and Mr and Mrs. Roussel, all who, along with the general store, served in the distribution of mail with the post office. Following Mr and Mrs. Roussel, the Post Office was transferred across the main street to G. R. Lougheed, who was operating a general store there, in the same location where the community had been served by the Imperial Bank of Canada, a general store operated in turn by Brodersons, Simpsons, Robinson and Fleming, Foster Mullen, Knowles and now by Dick

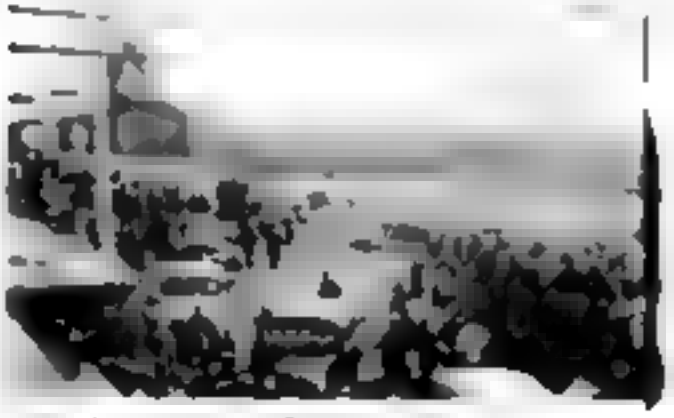
In the late twenties and early thirties Herman Schmidek, along with Emil Schill, operated a hardware store and a machine and oil agency on the west end of Railway Avenue, which is now occupied as a dwelling by Mr and Mrs. R. M. Simpson. Mr James Longair worked with Herman Schmidek during the 1930's as a bookkeeper and also secretary-treasurer for the Benalto Curling Club. In 1939 Mr and Mrs. Longair moved to Calgary where they took over the management of the Woods Christian Home for boys for a short time. Mr Bert Swift carried on a hardware business in this same building for a short time as well as Mr Armitage. This was followed by an electrical business operated by Mr Max Simpson.

Among the builders and carpenters who constructed the various buildings in Benalto the following contributed their skill: S. E. McKee, John Hillman, Joe M. Hillman, and John Rotvik.



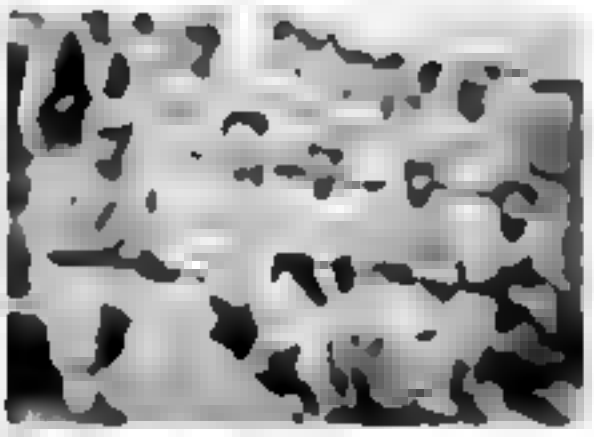
S. E. McKee moved to the Benalto district from Red Deer where he served as mayor of that city. His first active interest in the community was his election as president of the Benalto Agricultural Society. He followed this by his activities in his church. He was one of the original leading officers in the Benalto Baptist Church, which brought about the organizing and building of the new church and manse, now served by Rev. Dennis Burriss as Pastor. John Hillman was for years an active carpenter throughout the Benalto, Evarts and Markerville districts. He also served for years as trustee in the Rocky Mountain School Division and was the councillor

was also active as a carpenter, mail carrier, and for years operated the livery barn at Benalto. John Rotvik, who built his own building on Railway Avenue in Benalto, was also an operator of a threshing machine in the Diamond Valley district for years. His sons, Gus and Elif who now live in the Wetaskiwin area, served as pitcher and catcher on many occasions for the Benalto baseball team during the 1920's and 1930's.



Among those who painted the buildings as they were built during the 1930's and 1940's was Pete Hansen, who was well known throughout the Benalto, Markerville and Dickson districts.

Baseball was a featured sport in Benalto, as



pecially during the years that Frank Jenkins and O M Nielsen and his boys lived in the area. The Benalto Fair and Stampede grounds right from the beginning featured a baseball diamond, and the names of Nielsen, Hambly Fink, Rolvik, Hansen, Stewart, Bardenhagen, Lien, Forhan, Daley Wilkes, Sisson, Swainson, and Farris bring back many memories of Baseball here

Among those recognized down through the years for their interest in the Red Cross and having received their Red Cross Service Pins, were Emma Kinna Jenkins, Alma Sterling and Annie Simpson The Red Cross has always been a well supported charity in the Benalto district During the Second Great War Emma Kinna Jenkins who at that time was postmistress and operator of the general store, gave unstintingly of her time and services to the Canadian Red Cross She grew up the daughter of Thor Gudmundson in the Markerville district, taught school for a number of years, and when she came to Benalto she came as Mrs. Arthur Kinna Her daughter Ruth took over the store and post office after the Second Great War She married D J G Wilkes who had served as a flying officer in the Canadian Air Force. They are living in Peterborough Ontario where Don is employed with the Department of Veterans Affairs

Baseball, and the Stampede program, were the main sources of entertainment during the earlier years at Benalto The Booster Club actually came into being as a result of these sports The district owes a debt of gratitude to the Stampede Managers for their contribution Frank Jenkins was manager from 1918 to 1926, and from 1933 to 1936. Charlie Jenkins from 1927 to 1931 Clyde Stauffer from 1937 to 1940 Dewey Nielsen from 1941 to 1948 Ludwig Kathol from 1949 to 1961 Swan Anderson form 1962 to 1967 Evart G. H Bain was elected in 1968 and continues to serve at the present time (1977) Clyde Stauffer, Ludwig Kathol and Swan Anderson were made Honorary Life Members of the Benalto Agricultural Society

The McBride family in their development of the Riverbend Farms Ltd. have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the community through their interest in the church school, 4-H clubs and the Benalto Agricultural Society On Friday March 2, 1956. Mr and Mrs Jack McBride were honored by the community as winners of the Canadian Rye Championships at the World Seed Fairs held in Toronto and Chicago in 1955

The Livery Barn was an important business in the 1920's. During this time it was operated by J M and Helga Hillman, Orval Gatzke, and Albert Johnson. This property is now owned by G. R. Lougheed The barn has been replaced by a lovely new home at the present time

The blacksmith shop, a very important business in the earlier years, was located south of where the livery barn was. Tom Simon was for years the blacksmith at Evarts, and the mail carrier from Benalto to Evarts Henry Johnson who also operated a trucking business, George McLevin, who now operates McLevin Welding Ltd. Red Deer spent a short time working in this shop with Henry Johnson in the early 1930's L. Bjornson, who came from Iceland made the iron railings on the side of the steps of the Benalto Presbyterian Church In the winter of 1936 the old blacksmith shop burned to the ground The property was taken over by James McGowan, who rebuilt and established a welding shop and a garage along with the Imperial Oil agency Mr McGowan sold out to Uno Lundequist in 1941 and served during the remaining years of the War as an instructor for the War Department of the Government of Canada. After retirement he has made his home in London, Ontario. This business was taken over from Mr Lundequist by William Austin Sr and his son William Austin Jr , the present owners, who now use the building for storage and as a private garage

The buying of livestock at Benalto was a very important business during the early years This, with the selling of grain through the elevators, was the source of income for the farming industry Hundreds of carloads of cattle and hogs were bought and shipped during these years Some of the livestock buyers who dealt with a great many of the shippers from the area were Frank G. Jenkins, George Daley H McLennan Ole Bardenhagen, Thomas Smith Jack Simpson Sivert Lien and Dewey Nielson

The old-time tie rack for teams of horses extended from the elevators to the C P R station along Railway Avenue. It was common to see teams of horses tied the full length while their owners were doing shopping at the stores or having repairs made at the blacksmith shop after they had delivered their loads of grain to the elevators or to the livestock yards. The livestock

yards and scales were located in the area where the Commeo Elevator and shed are now situated One particular teamster, Henry Rowles, who farmed in the Raven area, drove a team of heavy draft horses. He groomed them beautifully So that they would not suffer too much from the heat on their trip during the summertime he would leave home at two o'clock in the morning in order to arrive in Benalto before the sun got so hot, and would wait until late in the afternoon before starting home. Mr Rowles was a brother in-law of Hon George Hoadley, who was Minister of Agriculture in the U F A Government of that day

In order to raise money in support of community projects the Benalto Booster Club often sponsored plays or musical programs. It seemed as though everyone was willing to take part A special feature involving the Kinna's musical talents was the musical saw Jack and Lillian McBride featured a sleight-of-hand act that always kept the audience in a happy mood, and the Norton family were great supporters in putting on plays

Down through the years an entertainment that was featured prior to the Stampede Dance which was held in the Booster Hall was a boxing match. This always attracted a full hall and continued as an attraction until the late 1940's. Soon fireworks became a closing feature for the Stampede events. The first year of the Fireworks a laughable situation arose The Stampede events continued until well after dark. The people were getting restless to get home The boxing match packed to capacity To satisfy the clamour by the grandstand to start the fireworks to wind up the show the committee in charge of the fireworks program set off the display. No sooner had a couple of loud explosions occurred than those attending the boxing match started to vacate the Booster Hall and the boxing match In less than a minute by exit through the windows and doo the hall was emptied. All that was left in the Hall were the two boxers and the referee No one to this day ever knew who won the boxing match

In 1937 the Benalto Recorder produced several issues which were edited by Mr Gordon Simpson while he operated the general store. In he issue for September 27 a letter by the late Rev R S. Stevens, minister of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Lake, was printed Through this letter he was soliciting help for drought striken parts of Saskatchewan in the way of vegetables, clothing and food of any kind Calgary Power was mentioned as having built a line through Benalto, and plans were being made to be on to his service. One of the features in the Simpson a Store add was Shelled walnuts twenty-six cents per pound Nabob coffee thirty nine cents a pound (compared to the 1977 price of four dollars per pound!), and ten bars of Pearl White Naptha Soap for thirty-nine cents

Among those who have served as officers in the Benalto Booster Club down through the years are the following Frank Jenkins, Charlie Jenkins, George Warren, W D. Murphy George Richardson, D. J G. Wilkes, W J Morris, Ralph Lougheed, A. Norton, Sivert Lien, Earle Farris, Alma Sterling Dale Nielsen Gordon Steadman George Sterling, and Ray Walker

**BENALTO ELKS No. 404 — by W. E. (Dick) Austin**

In the spring of 1956 some of our men, which later became members, had the occasion to be invited to an Elks function in a neighboring town Most of them liked what they were told about the Elks and set out to see if an Elks Lodge could be formed in Benalto. Bro M. M. Jenson, who later became the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, got some advice from Bro. John Watson and started the ball rolling The Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada was contacted. Shortly after a Grand organizer was sent out to see the possibility of forming a new lodge in Benalto. There was enough interest so prospective members were called to a meeting After a few meetings 43 men signed up for membership in the new lodge These men were to be known as charter members. The date for the institution of the new lodge was set for June 26 1956. With the aid of the Red Deer Elks patrol team and the Red Deer officers, the initiation ceremony was carried out on the 26th of June 1956. Two of the 43 members were unable to attend this ceremony so only 41 names appear on the charter

The first Exalted Ruler was Bro. M. M Mads) Jenson, who was one of the main ones in the helping to get things started. His term started in June. 1956 and went until November 1957 He was then followed by: Bro. Reg Hambly, 1958; Bro. Eric Matson 1959 and 1960 Bro. Herman Stettner, 1961 Bro. Cliff Hansen, 1962 Bro D. A. Dave) Hietala, 1963: Bro. Jake Tolonen, 1964 Bro Murrie Steele. 1965 and 1966: Bro. W E (Dick) Austin, 1967 and 1968 Bro. C. V (Bud Gefle. 1969. Bro. Don McCutcheon, 1970, 1971 and 1972. Bro. M (Pete DeChamps. 1973 and 1974 Bro. Howard Kathol, 1975, Bro. Les Ray 1976. Bro. Terry Niemela, 1977 Bro. Walter Murto 1978

The principles of the order are charity justice, brotherly love and fidelity Where charity is needed money is also needed and some of the money making projects was an annual car bingo turkey shoots, raffles, etc Our main job in the community other than helping where help is needed is the upkeep of the community hall in which we were the main body in the building of it Our national project is the Elks Purple Cross Fund by which any child under the age of 18 years may obtain medical assistance where and when the need arises. We are very fortunate in our area as we only had to use this service twice As we are fairly new in Benalto, our history is

short. Our membership now stands at 192. Dick Austin is historian for the Lodge.

**BENALTO GARAGE**

Sometime in the early 20's, the exact year that the original building was built is not known, but it was built by a John Henry Johnson. This was expected to be a large business as it was equipped with a double set of blacksmith tools. The original business was called Benalto Blacksmith Shop. As near as we know this business was owned by the Johnson family until it burned down in 1936. Many different people worked there or rented it for short periods of time but it never seemed to grow to the foresight of the builder.

Some of the people that were connected with it at different times were: Emil Schill, George McLevin, Simonds Brothers, there was a Thompson and two other partners whose names are not known, Joe O'Hara, Thor Bjornson who some knew as Lowkie Bjornson, and possibly more that have been forgotten.

The original building having burned, in 1937 Jim McGowan built a new building that is still in operation. Jim sold the business to Uno Lindequist in 1941. Uno operated it until 1946 and for health reasons sold it to W. J. Austin. Under Uno Lindequist the name was changed to Benalto Garage and Blacksmith Shop. The Austins changed it to Benalto Garage and it remains that to-day. It was owned by W. J. Austin until 1961 when he sold it to his son W. E. (Dick) Austin.

Submitted by,
W. E. (Dick) Austin

**BENALTO HOTEL — by Elsie Hellsinen**

Mr. and Mrs. Redell built the Benalto Hotel in 1919. Campbell and Griffin built a buying station and Creamery in 1920-1921. Mr. Alex Karkainen built a pool hall in 1920. There was a lot of over two percent beer sold there during his time. Alberta was dry until 1924, but Mr. Karkainen managed to get over two percent beer in some way from Saskatchewan. The children of the district recall the "jumbo" ice-cream cones that they were able to buy for five cents.

In 1922 a Chinese man bought the [illegible] and opened a restaurant. At four o'[illegible] spring morning in 1924 the restaurant caught fire from an overheated stove. The cook was baking pies and frying doughnuts during the night for a horse sale to be held at the fair grounds the next day. The doughnut grease caught on fire and he couldn't control the blaze. The restaurant as well as the hotel and pool hall were burned.

Alex Karkainen rebuilt the hotel in 1924. He operated it until 1926, when he sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Varley Buchanan. They operated the hotel until the passing of Mrs. Buchanan in June of 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Sivert Lien leased the hotel from July 1, 1942 until October 1, 1946. It was then taken over by Varley Buchanan's son Jack, who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Billings in August 1947.

Mr. Billings ran it until July 1948. It was then bought by Mr. and Mrs. A. West, who managed it until the year 1955. It again changed hands when Mr. and Mrs. John Watson bought it. In the history of the hotel they owned it the longest period of time, staying until 1969.

The next owners were Nick and Nellie Korotuk, who were there from June 1969 until November 1973. In the next three years there were two owners — Bob Stenart and Art Kissinger. In November 1976 it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taperosky, who are the owners at the present time.

**ORDER OF ROYAL PURPLE, LODGE No. 233**

On April 29, 1959 The Order of Royal Purple Auxiliary of the B.P.O. Elks instituted Lodge No. 233 at Benalto. There were 41 charter members, many of whom are still in regular attendance at the monthly meetings. Over the years many of the Eckville ladies have been members of this Lodge and have helped earn monies needed for their charitable causes. Over the years, members of O.O.R.P. Lodges all over Canada have played a big part in helping their Brother [illegible] Detection for Children. In 1976 the Order of Royal Purple contributed a total of $101,411.96 toward this fund.

**BENALTO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — by George E. Sterling**

The first church services that were held regularly at Benalto by the Presbyterian Church were in the early 1920's. The minister, Rev. W. G. McKerlnie at Evarts, arranged to hold alternate services with Evarts and Benalto. There do not appear to be any records of this arrangement but Mrs. Norma (Norton) Stewart tells us that when she came as a girl to Benalto, this was the arrangement at that time. She recalls that about the first Sunday she attended a church service after coming to Benalto, she was requested to be one of the Sunday School teachers.

The church service and Sunday school in those days were held in the Benalto Booster Hall. Lighting the fires and the janitor work was a volunteer service provided for the most part by Archibald Norton, who was station agent for the C.P.R. In the wintertime when it was too cold to have service in the hall, he invited the minister and the congregation to the waiting room of the station, for a church worship on Sunday.

The first records show that Rev. O. E. Mann arranged for regular services at Benalto in 1927 with Thomas Smith and Peter Cameron acting as Elders. He was followed by a Mr. J. S. Dingle who was from Australia and served the field for about a year.

In 1931 Mr. Harold Corkey, a student at the time, spent that summer on the field. His father at that time was the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in northern Ireland.

In 1932 Rev. Joseph Carter, a graduate of

Spurgeon's College in London, England served on the field until the spring of 1933 when he suddenly took ill and died.

During the summer of 1932 Mr. H. Dasler served on the field and in the summer of 1933 a Mr. Forbes served the field.

In 1934 Malcolm S. MacLean of Brampton, Ontario was appointed to field as a student to serve Eckville and Benalto. He continued on the field until 1935. Mac, as he was known to all who knew him, served during the World War II in the Airforce and after the war completed his theology at Knox College in Toronto. He is presently serving the Church in Winnipeg as Superintendent of Missions.

Rev. Duncan Campbell was appointed to the field in 1936, living at Benalto for a short time until a small manse was built at Eckville where he continued to live until 1940, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. M. Fraser.

In 1942 the Women's Missionary Society for the Presbyterian Church, appointed Miss Ruby Walker as a deaconess to the field, at that time serving Eckville, Benalto and Hespero. Miss Walker is presently serving in Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary, Alberta.

In 1943 Mr. Otis MacGregor was appointed to the field and served until 1944 when Rev. Douglas Crocker was appointed for the summer.

In the fall of 1944, Mr. Murray Coles, who farmed at Acton, Ontario, offered his services to the field for that winter and served until the spring of 1945, when Rev. A. F. Howick was appointed.

On graduation with his M.A. from Knox College in 1946, after serving for a short time on Vancouver Island, Rev. Douglas Crocker was appointed to the field, and served until 1949 when he accepted a call to serve Rupert Street Presbyterian Church in Edmonton.

It was during the years that Rev. Crocker served on the field that the Benalto Presbyterian Church was built. The corner stone was laid on May 26, 1947 by Rev. R. A. Sinclair who at that time was Moderator of the Red Deer Presbytery. Rev. Crocker conducted the first baptism in the church on September 4, 1947 when Linda Heikkinen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Heikkinen, was baptised. Rev. Crocker also performed the first wedding ceremony when Roy Nielsen and Inez Johnson were united in marriage on July 2, 1948.

Opening Services, Benalto Presbyterian Church

Dedication of Benalto Presbyterian Church, 1947

In the summer of 1950 Mr. Kingsley King, a student at Knox College, was appointed to the field.

In the summer of 1951, Mr. William J. Klempa, a student at Knox College served on the field. He travelled by bicycle for the most part, and did a thorough job of visiting and looking after the regular church services. He is today one of the outstanding ministers in the church, presently serving Rosedale Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario.

In the fall of 1951 Mr. Kenneth Grant was appointed to the field as a Layman. He carried out an extensive visitation program and held services regularly at Benalto, Eckville and Hespero, as well as at the Happy Hill School. To assist him, Rev. Thomas Roulston, minister of Memorial Presbyterian Church at Sylvan Lake, conducted the sacraments of baptism and communion. The records show that on October 25, 1953, Rev. Roulston baptised nine children at the morning service at Benalto.

In 1956 Rev. Peter Walter was appointed to the field and served until 1958. Rev. Walter is presently the minister of Eastmount Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario.

Rev. Sheldon MacKenzie was appointed to the field in 1958. It was during his year on the field that plans were made to build the church in Eckville. He was also on the committee of

Presbytery that arranged for the building of the new Manse at Rocky Mountain House. After leaving the field in 1958 he served in the First Presbyterian Church in Montreal and the First Presbyterian Church in St. Johns, Newfoundland. He is presently on staff as professor at the Memorial University, St. Johns, Newfoundland.

In 1959 Rev. Howard Grace was appointed to the field and after serving a year he returned to his home in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Hugh Simpson, whose father at that time was the minister of St. Giles Church in Calgary, served the field during 1960 and 1961.

In 1960 the Benalto congregation transferred to the Sylvan Lake field, and since then Rev. John Voos has served as the minister. Since that time Benalto, with Sylvan Lake, has become self-sustaining, and have added to the church furniture, a new Hammond organ, a Baptismal font and a Communion table.

Organists serving during the years have been Emma Jenkins, Norma Stewart, Edna Smith, Mrs. Ray Nourse, Ardis Bramall, Laura Holsworth and Alma Sterling.

Among those who may be mentioned for their assistance in establishing the church at Benalto include Dr. M. S. Blakburn, Dr. J. A. Munro, Mr. A. B. McGorman, Mr. Ernie Ross, Dr. Oliver Nugent, all members of the Presbytery of Red Deer, who at various times were serving offices in the church.

Special mention must be made of the Benalto Presbyterian Ladies Aid, which has been an active organization for the church and the community from the very beginning of Benalto. It was their interest and financial help that made it possible to carry out the construction of the church building in 1947. Their thoughtful interest in the needy, the sick and the newcomer have made them an integral part of the church and the community.

**THE BENALTO PRESBYTERIAN LADIES AID — by Mrs. W. A. Holsworth**

The Ladies' Aid in Benalto has a long history dating back before 1929. The minutes of the meetings prior to 1941 were all destroyed, but a bank book starts with an entry of May 3, 1929 — credit $1.02.

During the war years, Victory Bonds were purchased and donations were given to the Evarts Red Cross, and to the Benalto Red Cross. Parcels were also sent to the soldiers overseas.

When the Eckville Hospital was being furnished, the Ladies Aid gave money to the dining room suite fund. For a number of years the Presbyterian Church of Benalto and that of Eckville were one field. Money was raised for the Eckville manse fund.

The biggest project undertaken over the years was to raise money to help build the Presbyterian Church in Benalto. The corner stone was laid on May 28, 1947. Extras have been

provided, finishing the basement, fencing, carpet for the aisle, choir gowns, hymn books, and money to help buy the pews. Sunday School supplies have been paid for by the Aid. Yearly donations have been made to the W.M.S.

The chicken supper which was held each fall to raise money was also a social event. Often a bazaar was held before Christmas. The Ladies Aid ran a booth at the Benalto Fair with good [illegible]. One spring a fashion show, "The Spring Review", with the husbands modelling the [illegible].

A neighbourly spirit pervades our Ladies Aid [illegible], and the bereaved have been a way of showing that we care.

We enjoy the Christian fellowship of our monthly meetings, our annual church picnic, and the potluck supper at the time of our annual Church Congregation Meeting.

**BENNETT DAVID FAMILY EARLY HISTORY — by Arthur Bennett**

David Thomas Bennett was born in 1867 in Bagnalstown in southern Ireland. Annie Thorpe who later became his wife, was born in 1872 in County Ross, Ireland. They were both Protestants. In 1893 they were married and later travelled to New Zealand where they purchased a dairy farm. Their three children born to them here were John, (who died of rheumatic fever in 1899) Irene and Harry. [illegible] seven years the family returned to Ireland, County Carlow, where the second daughter, Mae, was born. The decision to come to Canada was made with a view to having a look at the homesteads then being offered for settlement. We arrived in Brandon, Manitoba in 1901, where we spent the winter. David had gone to the Calgary area to look for a suitable homestead and applied for a quarter section six miles west of Cayley. Early the next summer we met dad in the town of High River where he had gone on

ahead to begin building a house. We drove out the nine miles with wagon and team, and got our first view of the majestic Rocky Mountains — stretching out as far as the eye could see from north to south. Although the mountains were clearly visible there was no human habitation to be seen. Just the smell of the prairie flowers, the chorus of frogs in the distance, and the feel of the balmy chinook breeze. I remember my mother taking one look at the lonesome landscape, after which she sat down and cried.

We suffered all the hardships common to the early settlers. Fortunately, the winters of 1903 and 1904 were mild, and we were better prepared for the winters that followed. The winter of 1906-1907 was especially severe, and thousands of head of cattle which had been left on the open range, died from the extreme cold and lack of food. Only the horses survived, as they could paw away the snow and feed on the prairie grass below the snow. The Last Chance School was opened in 1905 and Irene and I rode horseback one and a half miles to attend this school.

In the year 1909 my father sold the homestead for $20 per acre and in 1910 bought two quarter sections of land south of Bassano for $11 per acre. During the move to the new location it was my duty to ride our little grey mare, named Minnie and drive the cattle and horses, and with the help of our dog Rover, I managed to keep them together. We spent the first night at the home of a friendly homesteader along the way, and the next day by evening we had reached the big bridge across the Bow River, 12 miles south of Gleichen, on land belonging to the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. Our plan was to continue on to Gleichen that night, but the tired animals kept laying down, so after about two more miles, we decided to leave the wagon and buggy there and return to town for the night, taking the team and the saddle horse. At the hotel a bed for two for the night cost $1, with meals at 25 cents each.

When we got back to the wagon the next morning we found only the cattle — no horses were in sight. After we had spent considerable time searching for the horses two Indian cow-boys came along with half of the number of horses, for which they demanded $4. A $3 compromise was reached, then the Indians said they would bring the rest of the horses for another $4. By this time we had found that two unbranded heifers had disappeared, so Dad agreed to the $4 price if the two heifers were also included. We finally got the horses for the $4, but the Indians agent advised us to accept that deal, and in return an effort would be made to find the two heifers for us. However, we never did hear anything about the missing animals, which was quite discouraging as the $7 Dad had already paid was about half the price of a good cow in those days. This incident was the only unpleasant experience we ever had with the native people, and in later contacts with them we met some very honorable people among them. After reaching Bassano we bought supplies. 12 loaves of bread for $1, 1 pound of butter for 20 cents, a tin of salmon for 20 cents and a pound of tea for 25 cents.

After Dad and I reached the Bassano farm we put up a 12 by 14 foot frame shack and a barbed wire corral for the cows. Then Dad left by train for High River to bring the balance of the farm equipment and household furniture, and the rest of the family to the farm. No school was available however, which meant that we had to move to Bassano for a three-year period, where Fred, Violet and Arthur attended school. We brought the milk cows to town, also, and Irene, May and Violet milked them and carried the milk in pails around town to customers, who paid $1 for 12 to 14 quarts. This was done before and after school, as the girls and I looked upon school as a most interesting pursuit.

In the winter of 1913 Dad had a bad attack of pleurisy, and had to be sent to a hospital in Calgary. He was able to return home in the spring with two tubes inserted in his lower lung to drain off fluid, but he became a semi-invalid and Harry had to take over most of the work.

In 1915 Dad purchased an irrigated farm near Lathom, seven miles east of Bassano. Here the eldest daughter Irene, taught school. At this time three of the children received their public school education under the direction of their sister. Later on Arthur went to high school in Bassano where Mr. Gordon Foster was the principal. In 1922 Irene was married to Cary McKenna, and they lived in Benalto. Harry Bennett worked the Trenholm dry farm, which was located about six miles south east of Bassano. Arthur helped him when not attending high school. He travelled to and from school on horseback during the years 1925 to 1928. For several years Violet held a position as a typist, then in 1927 she married Robert Prowse of Gleichen where they lived for some time on a farm. They later moved to Calgary where their three daughters now live.

Fred Bennett attended Olds Agricultural College in 1925, under the principalship of the

gospel preacher named Howard Phillips, Fred was converted, and attended the Moody Bible Institute in 1926. He became a Baptist minister. In 1940 he enlisted in the second World War and served for more than four years in Italy and France. From 1936 to 1945 he lived with his family, who by now had moved to the Benalto area. During the years from 1947 to 1974 Fred preached under the Southern Baptists in Washington, U.S.A. At present he lives with his wife, Hazel, at Puyallup, Washington.

In 1929-1930 Arthur took his senior matriculation in Red Deer. He attended Camrose Normal in 1930-1931, then taught school until 1945, when he joined up in World War II. He served in England, France, Holland, and Germany with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. He also worked as Educational Corporal at Taplow near London. After three and one-half years war service he returned to his home at Benalto. When teaching in Tortington in 1947 he met Krause, whom he married. They now live in Red Deer where they have retired.

George Bennett studied at Three Hills Bible Institute in 1930-1931 under the Reverend Maxwell. After his marriage in 1943 he and his wife went as missionaries to Japan in 1948, where their two children, Kenneth and Gwendolyn were born. They are now living in Nanaimo, B.C.

It was in 1927 when the Bennetts moved to Benalto, where they settled on the Woodmancy farm. In 1930 they bought the Charlie Jenkin's farm nearby. Harry farmed this place for a number of years with the help, at times, of Fred, Arthur and George. David Bennett, the father, lived in Benalto until his death in 1944. Harry Bennett then bought the B.C. Learned farm east of Sylvan Lake in 1950. He lived on it with his mother. In 1958 Mrs. Bennett moved into the Senior Citizen's Home in Red Deer, where she died in 1961 at the age of 89 years. Harry is now living in Ladysmith, B.C.

Additional information for this account was supplied by Fred Bennett and by Harry Bennett.

**EINARSON, EINAR AND EDNA**

Einar Einarson and Edna Hyvonen were married in Red Deer. Einar was hurt in an accident shortly after. This happened at the C.P.R. crossing near Sylvan Lake Creamery while hauling wheat for Fred Grimson, with a sleigh and four horse outfit, the pole dropped and upset the load on him. They didn't expect to find him alive, but he was, and he was taken to Red Deer hospital.

Their first home was in the Burnt Lake district, south ½ of 3-38-2-W5.

Their first child was Walter who was born in Red Deer.

When Einar bought the farm wheat was $2.00 a bushel. He broke some land and when he sold his first crop of wheat it was 18¢ a bushel.

They farmed in this area until May, 1936, when they moved to Oras, S.W. 14-39-6-W5. They lived in a small house with Ben Kestila and later bought his farm. Einar logged and sawed the lumber for their new house. Pine shingles were used for the roof. Jack McCarrol and Harold Anderson built the house.

During that time they farmed with horses, even had a horse baler. They bought a Model A Ford, which they enjoyed, also using it occasionally to haul groceries for the George Meston store from Rocky. At this time they got their first battery radio and really enjoyed listening to the church services.

Wild fruit was plentiful — raspberries, huckleberries, cranberries and high bush cranberries, which were picked by many buckets full for the winter's and jam.

Walter didn't have many playmates, just Herby and Bunny, so he was happy to have a little sister LaVona arrive. She was born at Rocky Mountain House.

In March 1940, Mr. Hyvonen went to Finland to fight in the Finnish-Russian war, so they went back to Benalto to their dad's farm.

They rented the farm at Oras to the Antila Bros. Later they sold it to Dr. Greenaway and purchased the Wayne Pikanen quarter, S.E. 11-39-3-W5, just west of Hyvonen's.

In 1947 John and Miriam Hyvonen came and lived on the south half of that quarter. The lane to the farm drifted very badly every winter, so Mrs. Hyvonen and the Einarson's moved to Mr. Hyvonen's other quarter, N.W. 6-39-2-W5. They moved a house from Sylvan Lake. Fred Grimson, Walter and Howard Johnson, Ray Niemala and Matt Sytela helped move the house. They used two tractors and sleighs. Later Nick Rahko remodelled the inside.

Most years you could expect hail, but there was always enough feed for the stock. We had a threshing machine and stook-loader so we had lots of straw.

We used a freezer locker in Eckville for meat. This saved a lot of work canning.

It was an exciting day in 1947 when they got Calgary power. A. Huhta did the wiring.

Einar worked at the Penhold Air Base two summers, one summer at Sylvan Lake and five years at Atlas Camp 15 near Nordegg. That is where he became ill, and so in 1956, he sold the farm at Benalto to Jim Davis.

We bought a house in Innisfail from William Gires at 4512-50 Avenue. From there Einar drove to work at C.F.B. Penhold. Ill, he retired in 1975. He also helped in the Innisfail Tip-Top Bakery.

Einar and Edna moved to the town of Rocky Mountain House in 1973, next to the Nazarene church. They could walk to church now.

They now live at Westbourne Place, Calgary. Walter and LaVona went to the Benalto School. Walter later married Gail Morton in Vanderhoof, B.C., where they now reside on an acreage.

Walter operates a tree farm. They have two sons, Steven and Robert

LaVona finished high school in Innisfail and after worked at the Treasury Branch. She married Ray Newsham. They farmed in this area until 1972, when they moved to Calgary where Ray is employed with the Provincial Government. They have three children, Loretta Sheila and Keith

**A SHORT RESUME OF MY LIFE IN BENALTO 1944-1963 — by W Earle Farris**

I came to Benalto in the fall of 1944 as the principal of the Benalto School. Alma Sterling was the second teacher, teaching the grades one to six, and I had the grades seven to ten inclusive I had been transferred from the Dickson school to Benalto and I stayed in the hotel for several months before moving into the old store presently resided in by Mr and Mrs. Max Simpson. While in that building I recall doing the cooking and feeding the Neilsen threshing crew in the fall of 1945. The following year I moved into the house behind the lumber yard which had been the former residence of Elmer Opp and family One of my early memories of the house was the complete overrunning of mice in the pantry It took weeks to get rid of them. Bert Cole came to Benalto to work in the Midland Pacific feed mill and he boarded with me

Bert was one of the star pitchers of the Benalto Baseball team. At that time we were in a league with Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House Eckville, Bentley, Red Deer, Clive and Ponoka What a time each team had to get to Nordegg in a truck if it rained, and it often did Most games in Nordegg were always double-headers so travelling there was cut in half

From the Elmer Opp house I moved to Sivert Liens' house opposite the Midland Pacific elevator It had been a granary, apparently, which the Liens had moved to the property and had fixed up for a home. Bob Sharkey and Vester Niemi's brother boarded with me while they worked at the Midland Pacific

Because the house was small, Matt Sutela who was the handy-man for the Rocky Mountain School Division, built on a nice-sized kitchen The house was moved back on the property and put on a foundation after I was married

On July 6, 1952, I married Janet Margaret Staniforth. What a day it was rain, rain, rain — and of course we were without power for three days before the wedding. With no gravel on the roads, many cars had to be pulled in and out of the Staniforth farm, where the reception was held. My faithful best man, Arnold Anderson saw to it that Jan and I got in and out safely

On July 21, 1954, during the first day of the Benalto Stampede, our first son, William, was born and on Easter Saturday, April 30 our second son, George, was born. The roads were flooded, so it was a long trek over to Eckville to see my wife and George

The Benalto school began to grow substantially and it was not long before two new rooms and a full basement were built onto the old school A fifth room was opened in the basement room shortly after the new part was opened

During the time I lived in Benalto I played ball for the Benalto Ball Club became secretary treasurer of the Benalto Booster Club, secretary treasurer of the Curling Club, became a charter member of the Benalto Elks, for which I was the secretary A very active square dance club was organized for the community and after a winter of instruction from the Sylvan Lake Club I did the instructing of new dances. I helped the Eckville square dance club organize the following year

Of interest to all residents of Benalto and Eckville would be the finding of a part of a shoe along the right-of-way of the C P R. just north of Benalto. The sole and part of the upper sides were of metal construction, with the uppers of leather Some of the leather was still attached Apparently this was a common footwear of the construction gang who worked in the building of the railway It is still in my possession, and is much prized because of its history

As a member of the Presbyterian Church I played an active role in organizing the church booth at the Annual Benalto Fair and Stampede I was a member of the Board of Managers as well as being a member of the session

In the fall of 1962 the senior grades of the school were moved to Sylvan Lake and I went to Spruceview to teach for one year In the spring of 1963 Burt Hansen and I motored to Vancouver Island. The result was that I received a teaching position with the Cowichan School District In August, 1963 our household effects were loaded onto a van and we left Benalto with very fond memories of the years spent there. Our present residence is in Mill Bay B.C on Vancouver Island

**FOSTER, ALFRED J. by Thelma de Baldwin**

My first husband Alfred J Foster and I grew up in Edmonton but we came to Benalto from Saskatoon where he had been managing the branch of the Great West Saddlery for three

His parents, Mr and Mrs James D. Foster came to Edmonton before 1900 and his mother who is 95 years old is still very much alert and ing in her own home in Edmonton

My parents, Lambert B. and Dorothy Griffith came to Red Deer from England in 1906 and were married there My sister Marjorie and I were born in Red Deer bu after the 1st World War we set ed in Edmonton

My children are: Joyce Marilyn, born in Saskatoon and now living in Edmonton. James Lambert, born in Edmonton and now living in Red Deer Jim was elected MLA for Red Deer in 1971 He was appointed Minister of Advanced Education for four years and is now Attorney General for the Province of Alberta. Dorothy lizabeth born in Red Deer and is married to mothy C Lawrence and still lives in Red Deer

**HALL, MAX**

Mr Max Hall was born in Ontario and came west to Estevan, Saskatchewan as a young man to work for his brother He met Grace Roluf who had also come from Ontario to work for her cousin They were married in Arcola Saskatchewan in 1911 They came to homestead at Loverna Saskatchewan in 1912

They had good crops there until the late 1920's. Then it began to get dry, they were completely hailed out in 1928 and had no crops for five years They decided it was time to leave, so in 1931 they loaded their belongings on the train and moved to the Eckville district where they rented Floyd Weeks farm one mile north of town

It was tough going that year but they milked cows and sold eggs. Mrs. Hall also did baking and sold it to the town people on Saturday mor

In 1933 they moved to the Evarts district and resided there til Mr Hall passed away in 1945 Mrs. Hall lived in Benalto and at John Watson s for many years. She passed away in 1974. They are buried in Benalto cemetery

Mr and Mrs. Hall had three daughters. Mrs Madeline Murrle Steele who lived at Benalto and had a gas station and trucking business for 20 years. They sold it and moved to Edmonton They have three sons all married. Howard at Rimbey, has three sons and one daughter Walter in the Phillppines. has one daughter and one son Ray in Edmonton has a son and a daughter Mrs Maxine Alberti McFadden lives in Prince Rupert, B.C Her husband works for the C.N.R They have one son and one daughter Mrs Thelma (Ernie Barlund. lives at Eckville on a farm and they have four sons and one daughter

**THE HIETALA FAMILY — by Marie Hietala**

Alexander Hietala was born in Finland on September 16, 1872. He came to the United States as a young man and worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana. There he met Venla Miller eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. Peter Miller Venla was born on February 28, 1887 in Vadso Norway She came to the United States with her parents in 1891 Alex and Venla were married in Butte in 1903, where they made their home for several years. Their only child, David, was born February 12, 1904 in Butte

In 1906 Alex moved his family to New Port, Oregon, where he had bought a small acreage on which they raised fruit and cattle. The law there required that you buy half high land and half low land. Alex also worked in the logging business hauling logs with team and wagon When he sometimes took Dave with him on these trips, he had to tie Dave onto the top of the load because the hills were very steep. Dave always looked forward to these trips with his father

Beaver Creek ran through the acreage and Dave and two of the neighbor boys used to have fun running and jumping across it One time two of the older neighbor boys held on to both of Dave's hands and dropped him into the creek, which Dave thought was a very dirty trick to play on him

In 1910 Alex moved to Benalto, Alberta and bought 80 acres of Isaac Luoma s land, this being NE 12-39-3-W5. This was the next quarter east of his brother Frank, who had come out a few years earlier Alex's sister and brother-in-law Mr and Mrs. Olaf Johnson arrived a few years later and bought the other 80 acres of the same quarter, the home of Mr and Mrs Isaac Luoma

Venla and her son, David, came to Red Deer, Alberta by train where they were met by M Charles Kasper They drove with horse and

buggy to the home of Frank Hietala, where they resided until their house was ready.

Alex did his first farming with three oxen. For the first three winters he returned to Butte to work in the copper mines while Vena and Dave stayed home on the farm. When the C.P.R. line was built east of the home place, Mrs. Hietala would sell eggs and butter to the railroad workers. About 1916 Alex bought a quarter of land east of the home place, NW 7-39-2-W5, once owned by Max Ernest Bittner. At this time the farming was all done with horses.

Dave took Grades 1 through 8 in the Melita School. His teachers were Mr. J. M. McDonald from the Eckville District and Miss Bertheuson of the Marianne District. Dave and his cousin Walter Johnson, took their Grade 9 in Red Deer. Dave belonged to an athletic club, and took part in boxing and baseball. The neighbor boys used to hold boxing matches in the Young People's Hall.

Dave started helping his father with the farm work at an early age, root picking and clearing. There was a big slough on the east quarter where Dave caught muskrats and sold enough skins to buy his first bicycle. His father drove him to Red Deer by horse and buggy where Dave bought his bike for $10 and proudly rode it home.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hietala and son David Alex

Alex liked to shoot prairie chickens, but on account of his failing health he had to wear a big fur coat. Most of the time the chickens saw him before he saw them. He passed away at the age of 53 years on December 10, 1925. He was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Dave and his mother continued to run the farm, and in May 1929 they built a new seven-room, one-and-a-half storey house. The lumber was ordered from British Columbia. The cost involved was:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Lumber | $1282.60 |
| Cement | 115.00 |
| Bricks | 26.50 |
| Plaster | 108.00 |
| Finish | 45.00 |
| Hardware | 51.95 |
| Paint | 100.00 |
| Flooring | 29.50 |
| Total | $1767.95 |
| Labor: | |
| A. Kopsala | $175.35 |
| Dick Kopsala | 80.00 |
| W. Thorkman | 37.50 |
| Sandquist | 47.25 |
| Sambrook | 111.25 |
| Hoglund | 88.00 |
| Ignatius | 45.00 |
| Total | $588.35 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] |
| | 668.35 |
| Total | $2434.30 |
| | complete house) |
| | 775.00 |
| | new furniture bought in Edmonton |
| | $3209.30 |

A. Kopsala and his son Dick were the head carpenters. The house was plastered by Dick Sambrook and painted by Mr. Hoglund and his son Walter. Dave and W. Thorkman lathed the inside of the house.

David married Marie Jansson, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jansson, on March 31, 1934. Marie was born July 12, 1914 and grew up in the Gilby district. Dave and Marie made their home on the farm with his mother. In 1935 Dave bought his first tractor, a John Deere, having steel wheels with lugs, from Jack Sunnell of Sylvan Lake. The horse-farming was fading out fast. In 1936 Dave bought a quarter of land from Von Holtum of Eckville, NE 7-39-2-W5. On December 10, 1945 he bought a quarter from the estate of the late Matt Talson through Henry Talson, the administrator. The 152 acres, SE 7-39-2-W5, sold for $5000. Since the C.N.R. ran through this quarter, Dave kept the 80 acres adjoining his quarter on the north side of the railroad and sold the remaining 92 acres on the south side of the railroad to Ray Niemela. Dave now owned 445 acres of land.

The Young People's Hall, owned by the Loyal Finns of Canada, was situated a half mile north of the farm. Church, dances and picnics were held there. Every June 24 a midsummer picnic was held. Both young and old enjoyed participating. A cleaning bee was held the day before to clean the windows, floors, benches and the yards outside. The one acre that the hall occupied was sold to Paul Eckes of Eckville in 1973. He burned the hall down and built his new home there.

In 1943 Vena Hietala bought herself a two

bedroom house in Benalto from Walter Koures for $3,300. She made her home there until her passing on August 19, 1947. Vesla was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

In 1949 Calgary Power was available to the Benalto farmers at the rate of $649 per farmer. The introduction of power was the first step in the series of events leading toward the era of

In 1950, Dave and Marie joined the Benalto Curling Club where they made many acquaintances and enjoyed many years of curling. In 1951 Dave bought his first combine, a No. 21 Massey Harris, from Chester Kasha for $3,057.75. In 1951 the two-mile road past the farm to No. 11 highway was graveled. The three neighbors, Niemela, Hietala, and Johnson each paid an equal share of the cost. Alfred Haarstad of Bentley was counsellor for the Lacombe district at this time.

In June, 1956, Dave became a charter member of the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404. In 1966 he was the Exalted Ruler for the Benalto Elks. On October 29, 1971 he was given a life membership in the Benalto Elks Lodge. Marie became a charter member of the Royal Purple of Benalto Lodge No. 233.

On March 31, 1959 Dave and Marie celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the farm. The open house was enjoyed by children, neighbors, relatives, and friends.

Because of failing health, in 1967 Dave rented part of his land, and then raised only hay to feed his cattle on the remaining land until 1973, when he sold the farm to George Burkholder and moved to a new home in the West Park area of Red Deer. On June 7, 1976 Dave passed away, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

In 1970 Dave and Marie had accompanied their daughter and son-in-law, Mae and Neil MacDonald, on a trip to New Port, Oregon, U.S.A. to visit the home Dave had left 60 years ago. The house was still standing and the trees were laden with fruit. Their neighbor's house was still being lived in, but by a new owner.

Dave and Marie raised four children. Harry Irwin, born August 27, 1937, Mae Irene, born May 30, 1942, Albert Alexander, born April 19, 1945 and Ruth Marie, born March 5, 1957.

Harry was born August 27, 1937 in the Red Deer General Hospital. He was an active and mischievous child who loved animals. He took his education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as his first teacher and then Earl Farris, later attending high school in Eckville. In 1950 Harry joined the Benalto 4H Beef Club with Clyde Stauffer as club leader. Harry received a trophy for the best kept record in 1954 and a trophy for most efficiency in 1955; he also belonged to the grain club for a year under the leadership of Ray Niemela. Harry started to curl with the Benalto High School and later joined the Benalto Curling Club. He became a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404 in 1960. On September 8, 1965 Harry and Robert McBride won first prize in a canoe race. They finished a 30-mile run in two hours, 28 minutes and 42 seconds.

Harry enjoyed helping his father with the farming, and was very handy with machinery. He rented some land from Ed Medin for a few years and raised some registered grain. He also worked on oil rigs. He was accidentally killed at Rocky Mountain House on August 22, 1974, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Mae Irene was born May 30, 1942 at the Eckville hospital. She began her education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as her teacher. In 1956 the Lacombe school zone was changed, so Mae took Grades 9 to 11 in Eckville and Grade 12 at Red Deer Composite High School. She joined the sewing club in 1956 with Edith Niemela and Olga Stenvig as leaders. She also curled with the Eckville High School and made many friends through this sport. She studied education at Calgary University and taught her first class in Mirror, Alberta. In 1962 she married Neil Charles MacDonald, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacDonald of Fort Saskatchewan. Neil served in an armed forces station in Calgary and Mae continued teaching in Calgary. In January 1967 Neil and Mae moved to Germany, where they lived for four years. They have two daughters, Robyn Marie, born November 17, 1964 in Calgary, and Karen Mae, born September 10, 1968 in Germany. Mae, Neil and the girls arrived back in Alberta on July 14, 1970. Neil was stationed at an armed forces station at Assiniboia, Saskatchewan for three years. He was then transferred to Grand Centre, Alberta, where they are currently residing. They both enjoy curling, square dancing and traveling. Robyn is active in figure skating, swimming and

gymnastics. Karen also enjoys sports and

Albert Alexander was born April 15, 1945. He began his education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as his teacher. In the summer months when the weather was good Albert rode to school on his bicycle, or his father would drive him to school. In 1956 he began attending the Eckville school, being picked up by school bus. He took grades 5 through 10 in Eckville. For a year Albert drove the Benalto High School bus to Red Deer and drove taxis during the day there. In 1964 he enrolled at SAIT in Calgary, where he took two years of training in Electrical Technology. He was sent to the Westinghouse Company in Hamilton, Ontario. He didn't like it here, so he returned to Benalto and started with Calgary Power in Alix. He was later transferred to Innisfail. On April 13, 1968 Albert married Dorinda Marlene, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Niemela of Benalto. They made their home in Innisfail until January 1970, when Albert was transferred to Hughenden. In the spring of 1973 he was transferred to Rocky Mountain House, where they still reside. Albert and Dorinda have two children, Bonnie Marie was born March 15, 1972 and Trevor was born on June 18, 1973.

Ruth Marie was born on March 5, 1957 at Eckville. She took her first 10 years of education in Eckville and finished her high education at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer. Ruth continued her education at the Red Deer College, where she studied rehabilitation service. She won three academic scholarships during the two-year program. She is presently employed at the Michener Centre Group Homes in Red Deer.

**FRANK AND EMMA HIETALA FAMILY — by Jean Hietala**

Frank Hietala was born at Vihrat, Finland and grew up there. He served his tour of army duties which was compulsory in Finland when you were 21 years of age. He then came to America. Emma Herranen and Caroline Hietala (Frank's sister) had come to Montana, to Butte, and also spent some time in Calumet, Michigan. They worked at domestic sciences. When Frank came over he found work at Butte, in the copper mines. Frank Hietala and Emma Herranen were married in 1893 and settled to live in Butte. Euphemia (Fem) and Henry were born in Butte. In 1900 they decided to go back to Finland, where they stayed for only one year. They came back to Montana and father went to work again in the same place where he had been working before he left. In 1903 Emma was born and mother was kept busy with her family. Copper mines weren't the best places to work, and many a miner lost his health while working in one.

In 1904 father came to see about land here in the Benalto-Eckville area. He was able to buy the NW 12-38-3-W5, which a party had tried but

had given up, but it was still under homestead status. It had a one-roomed cabin, a potato patch and a few improvements. They moved here January 15, 1905 along with a number of other families who settled here at that time.

The cabin was very cold — the wind blew right through it, so they papered it with old newspapers that they had brought with them. The next summer they built a better house. Alec and Vic were born to the family while we were on the homestead.

It was not easy to start with a family in a new land. Father had to go back to work at the mines in Butte for two more winters. It was bad for father's health, and for the last five years before he passed away in 1916 he was not able to do any work. Mother and the children carried on the best they could, and now they are all grown up and time has gone by so quickly. Mother passed away in January of 1947.

Femmie was married to Leonard Klagsep in December, 1917. Emma was married to James Cunningham.

Vic is married to Wayne Pitkanen, of Sylvan Lake. Henry is married to Jean (Jennie

Henry and I have had seven children, four girls and three boys. We have five children grown up. Elsie is married to Laurance Robinson of Red Deer. Their two daughters are Marilyn and Carolyn.

Barbara is married to Preston Parks of Red Deer. They have four children - Danelia, Greg and twins Kevin and Karen.

Allan is still single.

Dorothy is married to Gordon Fisher and they live in Vancouver.

Ronald is married to Shirley Raines, and they live in Calgary.

Baby Violet passed away in 1946 and Ed in 1967.

Henry and I still live on the same farm as Henry came to with his parents over 72 years ago. He still puts in a day's work on the farm.

**BJALMAN, JOHANN (JOE) MARIUS**

Joe Bjalman was born November 15, 1888 at Akra, North Dakota. His parents had emigrated from Iceland. At the age of two, his parents, sister and brother came to Calgary and from here by ox cart to the Markerville area.

Joe attended school at Hola and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Woodman of the World Lodge and the Independent Order of Good Templers. Interested in music he was a member of the original Markerville Brass Band.

He married his childhood sweetheart Gudrun Bjornsson, in November 1913. Four children were born to this union, Helgi Sigmar born July 5, 1914. Johanna Gudrun born December 29, 1915. Larus Magnus born November 29, 1917 and Anna Thordis born October 28, 1919. All were christened by Rev. Peter Hjalmsson who had married their parents.

In May 1920 Gudrun passed away suddenly leaving the four small children. The baby was raised by her parental grandparents and the three eldest lived with their maternal grandparents until they reached school age at which time they returned home to attend Happy Hill School.

During the summer of 1927 while Joe was away building roads a cyclone and hailstorm struck the area badly frightening the children. Leaving the farm Joe moved to Benalto where he operated a livery barn. He did all the local hauling with his horses — all the lumber and coal that came on the train was unloaded and delivered. In 1928 he bought an acre of land and built a small cabin supplementing his income by doing carpenter work and painting. During the Stampede there were many extra jobs. The children now attended Mehta School.

In 1929 Joe took over the operation of the Cockshutt Plow Agency and obtained a milk route. In 1930 he took over the R.R. 3 mail route from Erkville and also the operation of the B.A. Oil agency in Benalto. Joe built a skating rink in Benalto flooding it with water hauled in 45 gallon drums on a stoneboat. Lighting was by Coleman lanterns strung on wires. Later a Delco was installed for electric lights and for pumping water to flood the ice. With the help of Mr. Simpson and Mr. Hastie plans were drawn up and the first curling rink was built by volunteer carpenters interested in curling. Thus the "Booster Club" originated in Benalto.

During the 1930's the children completed their schooling and worked at various jobs.

Johanna married and moved to Carstairs. Soon Joe had a grandson to enjoy. Larus joined and went overseas with the 13th Field Regiment. During the war Joe and Helgi worked on various armed forces building projects.

In 1946-47 Joe built a home for Johanna at the West Coast and decided he liked the climate so he remained there. Helgi married and also lived at the West Coast.

Joe passed away suddenly on November 18, 1961 and is buried at Hasey, British Columbia.

**HOLSWORTH, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM, III — by Mrs. W. A. Holsworth**

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth. Will and Rosa moved from Red Cloud, Nebraska to the Evarts district in 1914. They left Nebraska because they

had no hope of owning the high-priced land there. For 20 years they had moved from rented farm to rented farm. John Holsworth, who had already settled in the Evarts district wrote to them of the good land available for abou $15 an

They came by train to Red Deer with their family of six; Mabel, 18 years old, Edna 16, David 14, William 12, Ethel 10, and Clara eight years old. A neighbour, Mrs. Alice Tennant, made the journey with them to join her two sons, Richard and Charlie, who had homesteaded in the Evarts and Diamond Valley districts. The large wicker lunch basket held enough food for the nine travellers for at least four days

For two years Mr Holsworth rented land from Douglas Walker before purchasing a half section of raw land, N 21-38-2 W5, from Parks and Carscallen, real estate agents in Red Deer A walking plow and four head of horses were used to break the land

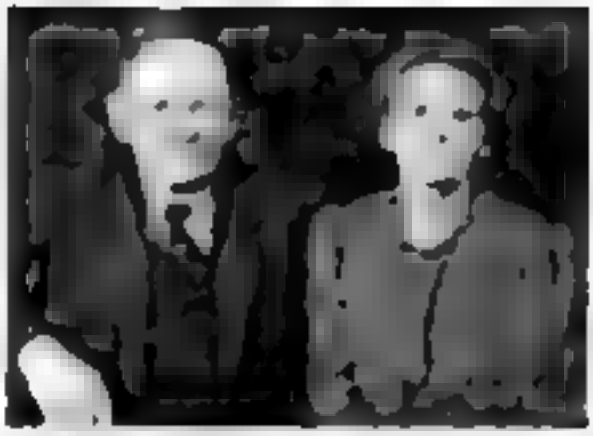
The next spring the Chinese restaurant was moved from Evarts for a house. It took eight teams of horses to pull it on sleighs to its present location on the east quarter A year later an addition was constructed using lumber from the Evarts Creamery which Mr Holsworth purchased and tore down

In the 1920's Mr Holsworth purchased the SE 29-38-2-W5, school land which was sold by auction at Eckville, and also the NE 20-38-2-W5, which was the Charlie Johnson homestead This homestead land was fenced and had 30 acres broken and sown to hay This quarter was very wet, and Bill trapped muskrats to earn money The other quarter had been open pasture, and had been frequently burned over so there were no large trees on it. Eight head of horses pulling a Van Slyke breaking plow were used to break the land

Life was not all hard work In the winter, rabbit hunts were organized, and these were a real social event. Everyone gathered at one home, and while the men were hunting the women prepared a bountiful meal. The men arrived back one time, with a wagon-box load of rabbits, and with good appetites. Target shoots for both men and women were fun at these hunts In the summer there were many outings to Sylvan Lake for fishing or for picking wild raspberries, and always a picnic

Mr Holsworth took an active interest in community affairs. For many years he served on the council of the Municipal District of Golden West He was a founding member of the Benalto Agricultural Society, a director for years, and was the president in 1930-31 He was a member of the Evarts School Board from 1927 to 1930. Mr and Mrs. Holsworth faithfully attended the Evarts Presbyterian Church, and after 1928 they attended the Benalto Baptist Church. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church

Mr and Mrs. Holsworth retired from farming in 1939 and built a house on an acreage east



of Benalto. Mr Holsworth died on July 26 1945 at the age of 76 years Then Mrs. Holsworth moved into Benalto to the house which she bought across the corner from the Baptist Church. Here she resided until shortly before her death on November 17, 1956 at the age of 86 years

The oldest daughter Mabel, married Charles Tennant on June 26, 1918 and moved to his homestead in the Diamond Valley district They had two children, Harold and Alice (Mrs. Asgie Berdahl Harold died in North Africa, and Mabel, Charlie and Alice are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery

The second daughter, Edna, married Edwin Mannerfeldt on December 8, 1920, and they lived on his farm in the Evarts district After Ed died Edna retired in Sylvan Lake. Their daughter Dorothy (Mrs. Harry Periche, lives on the farm

In June 25, 1925 Ethel married William Ormiston McKee, and moved to Condor where Orme was the elevator agent. After a few years they moved to Orme's farm north of Benalto They had two children, Ronald and Margaret Orme is deceased, and Ethel has retired in Victoria, B.C

The youngest daughter, Clara, married Elmer McKee on June 14, 1928. They resided on the McKee farm for a few years before moving to the NE 34-38-2-W5, opposite the Kuusamo school They had two daughters, Doris and Jean. When they retired they moved to Red Deer

William A Holsworth married Laura Norton on July 18, 1930, and remained on the home farm for five years (Their history appears separately)

David Holsworth married Elsie McKee on December 15, 1930. At first they lived on David's farm, and later moved across the road to the William Holsworth farm. Next they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C They had five children Howard deceased , Evelyn, Elsie, Marilyn, and David. All of them live in British Columbia

**HOLSWORTH, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. BILL AND LAURA) — by Laura Holsworth**

We were married on June 18 1930 in a ceremony performed in the garden of the Norton home by Reverend Stevens, the Presbyterian minister I had been teaching for three years, one at Happy Hill and two at Kuusamo. Bill had been farming with his father, and he continued on his own for the first five years of our married life

The depression was a discouraging time. I sold eggs at the O C Hansen store in Benalto for 5¢ a dozen. After they had been government graded, Mr Hansen asked for a few cents back as he had overpaid me. Making butter to sell at the store for seven cents a pound was an unprofitable venture We bought an incubator and after hatching, raising and dressing the chickens, we received 25¢ apiece for them. Bill bought two weaner pigs from Orrin Wylie for $5 After they were fed to market weight they sold for $8. Grain was not worth much, eight to 10 cents for barley and oats, and wheat 15 to 30

We decided to stop farming, and held an auction sale in the fall of 1935 This was the last sale which Mr Frank Jenkins held. Mr Clyde Stauffer, who was a newcomer in the Evarts district, was introduced by Mr Jenkins, and he sold some of the items.

For the next three years we kept a general store in Tees. This was a bad move for us. Business was poor as the depression was still on. People managed with very few groceries. In 1938 we gladly came back to Benalto to farm again This time we lived close to the Benalto School, which was an advantage to our four children Rosemary, Elizabeth, William and Joan

In 1940 I started teaching again, first at Evarts, then at Kuusamo, and finally in Benalto until I retired in 1974. Bill retired from farming in 1970, but we have continued living on our farm

Our eldest daughter, Rosemary, taught in Edmonton, and is at present a music consultant for the Edmonton School Board

Elizabeth married Le Rae (Hap) Nielsen They live near Benalto with their five children Arthur, Ann, Elizabeth Mary and Christine

William married Carol Williams in Perth Australia. At present they live in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia with their four children Mark, Ian, Trevor and Cynthia

Joan married Stanley Mannerfeldt the eldest

trict They now live in Mill Woods, Edmonton and have three children, Rosemary, William and Marilyn

**THE HUHTALA FAMILY**

Being of an adventurous nature and hearing of opportunities in the New World, Abram Huhtala left his home in Siikajoki in the County of Oulu, Finland before the turn of the century He followed the example of many Scandinavian immigrants, arriving in the state of Minnesota U.S.A., and finding work in the mines in Ely

It was here he met and married Helka Mary Salo, who had followed her sister Hilma and brother Matt from Kaustinen, County of Vaasa, Finland, and arrived in Duluth, Minnesota She later found employment in a boardinghouse in Ely Following their marriage in 1900, they moved to the mines in Rock Springs and Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A. Their first son Frans William, was born here on January 9, 1902 In March of that year leaving his wife and son behind Mr Huhtala and his friend, John Lassila decided to find a new home in Canada Homesteads were available by improving the land, and living on it for three years. After arriving by rail to Red Deer, they made their way west, and chose adjoining quarters on 36-38-3-W5: Mr Huhtala choosing the southwest quarter and John Lassila the southeast quarter

Assisting one another each erected a small log cabin on his quarter Abram soon sent word to his wife to dispose of furnishings in Wyoming, and set about clearing a plot large enough to grow potatoes the first year With the help of a close friend, Andrew Jarvis, who acted as auctioneer, Mrs. Huhtala sold their furniture and took the train to her new home in Canada. She was accompanied by Isaac Luoma, who was also coming to homestead here Mother and son of six months arrived in Red Deer on June 26, 1902 having paid a fare of one cent per mile to travel on the railroad. Mr Huhtala, who had no means of travel except walking, hired Mr Abram Holappa with his wagon and team of horses to meet them in Red Deer Their first purchase besides groceries was a door for their home, and flour sacks to serve as covers for the cabin windows. They had to have something to keep out the hordes of mosquitoes

Mrs. Huhtala, having heard stories about hostile Indians in her new country, was a bit apprehensive about meeting them. Her fears were somewhat overcome on leaving Red Deer Following a trail through the trees, they came upon a fallen tree blocking their way Just then an Indian, carrying an axe, came along and obligingly cut and removed the tree. She declared later that she had always remembered her first encounter with an Indian with gratitude

Travel through the forests and muskegs was slow, so the first night was spent at the home of Alex Pasma, a small house located two miles west of Snake Sylvan Lake

As with most pioneers, Mrs. Huhtala worked side by side with her husband, grubbing the poplars and willows, doing her baking and washing at night while her husband wove a fish net to catch fish from the Medicine River, tanned hides, and made shoes. The fish along with rabbits and upland game birds, were the source of their meat supply. During the first summer, they purchased a milk cow from a farmer in the Burnt Lake district and a kind neighbor, Jack

Warwick presented them with a hen and seven chicks. The weather was rainy and humid. Mosquitoes were very numerous, making clearing land a very trying task. With the coming of winter it was necessary for Mr Huhtala to leave his family once more to work in the mines in Frank, Alberta. He was there at the time of the slide, but was in a neighboring town at the time. News of the tragedy reached the people at home and many anxious days passed before they found out who had survived. In the meantime, Mrs. Huhtala took charge of her son, cow and chickens at home. Indians often passed by and never having quite overcome her fear of them she would take her baby and hide in the trees until they were gone. She had several Finnish neighbors. Mr and Mrs. Salamonson and Mr and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and family. Their frequent visits were of great comfort to Mrs

Household facilities were crude. The wash tubs were made by sawing a wooden barrel in two. It was necessary to carry water from a slough a quarter of a mile away until a well was dug the following year. This was accomplished by them both, he working in the well, while Mrs. Huhtala, several months pregnant at the time winched up the pails of clay and rock.

With the money earned in the mines, they were able to buy a yoke of oxen, hand breaking plow and other implements. More land was cleared — enough to grow oats for feed for the livestock. Often Mrs. Huhtala drove the team of oxen on the breaking. While discing one day, the oxen were stung by heel flies, causing a runaway. A tragedy was averted when the oxen ended up in the bush, one on each side of a pole poplar tree. By this time Mrs. Huhtala's foot had slipped between the discs under the axle.

Neighbors took turns driving to Red Deer 25 miles to the east bringing back supplies. Driving a team of horses it was necessary to leave home at 3:00 a.m. in order to return by 10:00 p.m. During frosty winter nights the anxious families at home could hear the screech of the sleigh runners for miles as the men returned. Sounds carried far on still nights. Mr. Lassila, their closest neighbor, was a talented violinist. Often, while walking to visit the Huhtalas, he would play his violin the three quarters of a mile, and his music could be heard for the entire distance.

Earning money in the mines during the winter, and clearing more land made it possible to acquire horses and machinery. Each member of the family who was big enough to help did his or her share. Life became a bit easier with the establishment of the village of Evarts only four miles to the south, eliminating the long trips to Red Deer. Potatoes and eggs were exchanged for

The Huhtala home was a convenient stopping place for people from north and west, going and coming from Evarts, and many were the visits over the ever-present cup of coffee. Mail picked up at the Evarts Post Office was brought in from Red Deer.

Enough land had been cleared to grow oats which were sold as horse feed to the C.P.R. builders, which came through in 1912. Wheat was ground into flour in the mills in Lacombe. The highlight of the year was the threshing season with the huge steam engine operating the grain separator. Grain bundles had been stacked earlier to keep dry until the machine arrived often after a snowfall.

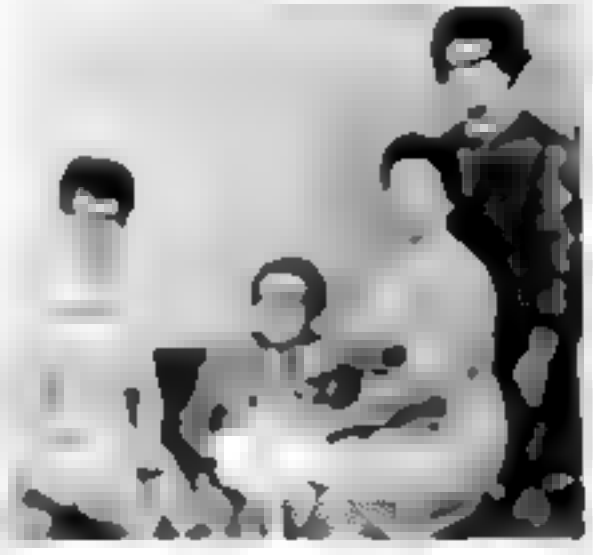
Having cleared most of the original homestead, it became necessary to expand. Mr. Jack Robinson sold them the adjoining northwest quarter and later they purchased the SW 32-38-2-W5 from John Koski.

The Melita School District was founded in 1906. The school was built later the same year by Mr. Matchett. Mr. Jack Warwick having hauled the lumber from Red Deer. This gave the family a school within one and one half miles. Mr. Huhtala served as trustee on the school board for several years.

In 1914, Jack Simpson built a store and post office beside the C.P. railroad. It was here that the hamlet of Benalto was developed. Now the mail and groceries were within one and one-half miles — a far cry from the 25 miles to Red Deer.

Mr. Huhtala took a keen interest in the community. He was one of the founding members of the Alberta Wheat Pool and later of the Eckville Co-op Store, both of which he was a member until his death in 1927 at the age of 60 years.

Mrs. Huhtala continued farming with the help of her family. Later, she married Charles Raunio of Rocky Mountain House, and together they lived on the farm until retiring in 1953, at which time they sold it to Evald and Sylvia Larson. They bought a home in Eckville where they



lived until 1966. In 1967 they moved to the Senior Citizens' Lodge in Sylvan Lake. Mr. Raunio passed away in February 1971. Mrs. Raunio moved to live with her daughter, Olga Harvilow in Sylvan Lake. She was the last of the original pioneers of the Benalto area.

Mr. and Mrs. Huhtala had a family of seven children, two of whom died at a very early age — Edward at 14 months and Arthur at two and one half years. William married Lillian Aho, and moved to live in the Finnish Karelien sector of the U.S.S.R. in 1931. He passed away in 1942 at the age of 40 years. He is survived by his wife and three daughters, Violet, Emily, and Alice.

Olga married George Ignatius. They farmed three miles north of the home farm. They had two daughters, Edith and Hazel. Her husband passed away in 1953. Later, she married Andrew Harvilow, with whom she retired to Sylvan Lake in 1962.

Olva married Ingrid Delaney. They farmed in the Kwusamo District, and had two children, Calvin and Phyllis. In 1962, he retired to Sylvan Lake, where he passed away in 1972 at the age of 60 years.

Alli married Clarence Andersen. They also farmed in the Benalto area. They had a son Gary, and a daughter, Delores. Clarence passed away in November 1972, after having retired to Rocky Mountain House where Alli still resides.

Arthur, the youngest of the family, married Emma Mottus. They have one daughter, Lynn, and now reside in Edmonton. An electrician by trade, Arthur works in Fort McMurray on the tar sands development.

**HYVONEN, JOHN**

John Hyvonen was born in Finland and immigrated to the U.S.A. In 1893 his wife and children joined him there.

After Mrs. Hyvonen's death in 1901 Mr. Hyvonen, with his four sons, Matt, Andrew, John and Bill, settled on land north of Benalto, the same quarter where the Young People's Hall used to be. This was SW 18-39-2-W5.

John Hyvonen remarried (his bride also was from Finland). Soon after this Mr. Hyvonen took his wife and two youngest sons, John and William, back to the U.S.A.

In 1901 his oldest son, Ilmar, drove his one team and wagon from Montana to his dad's farm where Matt and Andrew were still living. In 1906 Ilmar married Ida Kinnunen. In 1907 he bought SW 12-39-3-W5. On this land he built a one-room log house which is still standing. Ilmar and Ida had four children: Olva, Edna, of Rocky Mountain House, Alli, and John, of Sylvan Lake.

At this time there was no town of Eckville or Benalto, and no roads or railroads. Mr. Hyvonen made numerous trips to Red Deer for provisions for his family and for neighbors. This was done, of course, with horses.

The Hyvonens were very hospitable people and many a tired traveller would stop there to

rest awhile on their journey or even to stay over night.

Mr. Hyvonen enjoyed taking in the fairs at Benalto, Red Deer, and Rocky Mountain House. He always showed his animals, and through the years he won many trophies and championships with his Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle, Oxford and Suffolk sheep and Plymouth Rock [illegible].

Ilmar went to Finland in 1940 and enlisted in the Finnish Army. He earned many medals in Finland, and as a result became interested in collecting medals and also coins. He loved to play cards, to travel, and to watch or listen to all kinds of sports.

Mrs. Hyvonen was born in Michigan in the U.S.A. At the age of 14 she came to Red Deer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Kinnunen, her sister Minnie, and four brothers John, Alex, Arvig, and William, in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyvonen stayed on their farm until 1963, when they sold the farm to Ray Niemela and retired to the Autumn Glenn Lodge in Innisfail. Here they celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Mrs. Hyvonen was then 84 years old and Mr. Hyvonen was 91 years of age.

**JENKINS, FRANK G.**

Frank Jenkins will possibly be most remembered in connection with the Benalto Fair and Stampede. Coming to Canada from Iowa in 1911, he and his wife Josephine settled near the north end of Sylvan Lake on a homestead which he subsequently sold to the Murto family during the depression for one dollar down.

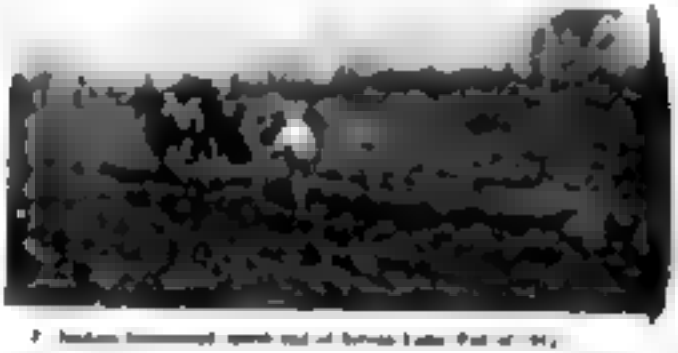
With the coming of the Alberta Central Railway, Benalto became one of the trading centers of the district, and Frank, along with

Many other public spirited settlers, felt that an annual summer celebration would be a welcome event for the area. The Benalto Fair and Stampede began with many improvised facilities but much enthusiasm and enjoyment and is unique in being one of the few continuous affairs of its kind in the province. Many will recall Frank riding his horse around the

stampede enclosure announcing events through a large, hand-carried loudspeaker with Gaylord Armstrong exhibiting his exceptional horsemanship as he picked up contestants. Frank continued as Stampede manager for [illegible].

In common with most pioneers, great skill in hunting and fishing became a way of life, not only for provisions for the home, but primarily as one of the few forms of recreation. The fall big game hunting trips were looked to with great excitement. Trophies were mounted and photographed. Among Frank Jenkin's collection were moose, deer, mountain goats, and a golden eagle. The Armstrong brothers and Arthur Kinnan were frequent companions on these trips.

Not all events can be remembered with as much pleasure as hunting, for tragedy struck many homes during the 'flu epidemic of 1918. Frank recalled taking supplies to many stricken families and, as he was a constant pipe smoker, the story circulated that he remained immune because of the pipe.



Always interested in livestock, Frank became a dealer with shipping points along the Alberta Central Railway and eventually moved to Calgary to continue in the business. He and his wife and Theresa Hoven, who was with them for many years, returned to Benalto in the early thirties to farm and buy livestock until he retired in [illegible].

During the second World War Frank made a noteworthy contribution in his enthusiastic sale of War Bonds. In 1945 he married Emma Kinnan and several years after her death in 1951, he moved to Fairview, Alberta, where he died in 1963.

**JENSON, MR. AND MRS. CARL AND FAMILY — Written by Mrs. Carl Jenson**

We, Mr. and Mrs. Jenson, originally homesteaded in Saskatchewan, but the drought conditions prevalent there at the time drove us out and in 1937 we rented a farm six miles northeast of Camrose, where we lived for seven years. Here we found the winters quite severe, and we missed the chinook winds that we had experienced on the prairie. With these thoughts in mind, we were persuaded, in the spring of 1943

by a salesman from Canada Mortgage in Edmonton, and also a refugee from the dried-out area in Saskatchewan, to buy Section 2-39-3-W5 the former Barham place, for the sum of $8,000.

That summer Mr. Jenson drove an Oliver 99 tractor from Camrose to the newly-purchased farm. This tractor had been purchased in 1940 for the sum of $2,150. He pulled a rubber-tired wagon behind the tractor on which he hauled a tiller with seeder-box attachment. He went right to work in preparing for the next year's income and Gaylord Armstrong told some friends that a crazy man was sowing fall rye in the stubble and quack grass." However this fall seeding resulted in a crop of 2,900 bushels of rye harvested the next year and sold for ninety cents a bushel.

It was not until March of 1945 that we left the Camrose area for good. The last week in March we moved into a very dilapidated house on our property. The many layers of paper had become detached from the laths and hung down in bulges, weighted down by large quantities of dirt. The cracks between the laths made good viewing spaces for the mice, and I'm certain they didn't approve of our taking possession of their home.

Kim Armstrong was our first caller as she rode in on a frisky saddle horse to round up her horses that had been wintering on the section. Neighbors were friendly and this we much appreciated, as I was left alone with the four boys while Mr. Jenson returned to Camrose to fetch the combine. One day Orrin Wylie drove in on his way to Eckville and discovered that I had no gasoline for my wash-machine motor. In just no time he had siphoned some from his car and thus solved my problem.

We had brought with us about 100 laying hens. Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson supplied me with chicken feed. We also had some milk cows which made the creamery in Eckville an important place for us, as we milked cows and sold eggs for a living in those days. Prices weren't very good for either eggs or cream, but we made out all right.

In 1947 we had a good crop of fall rye and prices were good. We had made plans to build a new house, but when we found that labor was so scarce we decided to buy the Heikkinen place close to town. Our five sons never missed a day of school due to weather or road conditions which was a pretty good record.

Our oldest son, Morris, married Audrey Salminen and they have two daughters. Paul lives in Edmonton. Earl married Alva Gray and they have one girl and one boy. They live in Vancouver. Chris married Margaret Pease after finishing his veterinary course in Guelph, Ontario. They have two girls. Allan, his wife, Karen, and daughter Natalie are planning to make their home on the NE 2-39-3-W5 of the Barham section, as it is always called.

In the spring of 1967 we retired to Summerland, B.C. where we are enjoying good health and keeping busy with gardening and social activities.

**THE MORRIS JENSON FAMILY — by Audrey Jenson**

Morris and Audrey Jenson (nee Salminen) reside at SW 2-39-3-W5, which is one mile east of the "Eckville Corner" north side of No. 11 highway in a brown and white house that Gus built.

They raise Hereford cattle and Morris carries on a trucking business during the summer months. They have two daughters. Debra Ann is married to Rick Gordon and lives in Calgary. Their daughter, Lindsey Danielle was born in September 1976.

Sandra Lee graduated from the Eckville High School as valedictorian of her class in 1977. She plans to attend the University of Calgary and will major in education in preparation for becoming

**JOHNSON HOWARD AND HELEN — by Helen Johnson**

Howard's interest in farming kept him on the family farm living on the N ½ of N ½ 12-39-3-W5. We supplemented our income by renting land.

During the years 1947-1948 we operated "Johnson's Dairy" supplying milk to Benalto and Eckville. However Howard was more enthused about mixed farming, so we gradually changed over to beef cattle and rented more land.

Faye Evelyn arrived on February 17, 1953.

We enjoyed our community activities and Howard was as interested in sports as before. Many of the winter evenings were taken up with curling.

Faye was at home until she graduated from high school in Eckville. She moved to Calgary in 1971 to attend university and still lives there. At present she is teaching school.

Howard and I farmed until he passed away in 1973.

The land is rented out now and I am at home living in the original house the Johnsons came in 1913.

**ISAAC JOHNSON FAMILY — by Mr. L. E. Johnson**

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and their family of six boys arrived in Alberta in March of 1902 and settled in what is now known as the Mebin district. The boys were Lester, the youngest at four years of age and David, Philmore, Louis, Steiner and George, the eldest, at 17 years of age. Two older daughters, Ida and Lizzie, remained in Montana. We came by train through Sweet Water, Montana, to Calgary and on to Red Deer where we hired a team and wagon to take us to Sylvan Lake. There were about 10 families already homesteading in Sylvan Lake, most of

whom had come from the same area of Montana We stayed with the Passma Family, whom we had known in Belt, Montana. We homesteaded on SW 6-39-2-W5. There were two families already settled there by the Medicine River the Wylies and a half-breed family by the name of Wilts A log house was built and also a steam bath which was enjoyed by all. An acre or two of land was ploughed for potatoes and vegetables. That first winter Isaac Johnson returned to Montana to work in the mines for the last time

There was a store and a post office called Evarts about five miles south where more people had settled earlier After our arrival the settlers started to come into the country going west and north. No roads were open yet, so everybody travelled the old Indian Trail that went through our place. Many of these settlers put up at our place and none were ever turned away Sometimes there were as many as 20 people staying overnight The Armstrong family was the biggest outfit to come, with their five boys and one girl They bought a quarter of land. 160 acres, for each boy and the girl They came from Oklahoma, and with them they brought horses mules, and about 20 head of cattle They lived in tents until their house was built Shortly after they came Mrs. Armstrong died of blood poisoning after cutting a corn off her foot

About 1905 the Melita School was built Since it was located on our place, we were close to school There were no desks when the school first opened, so we sat around the walls in a circle on seats made from lumber placed on nail kegs and boxes. A Nova Scotia girl by the name of Miss McGregor was our first teacher The first place she boarded was at Jack Warwick's and then she stayed at our place A room was partitioned off for her and the logs were lined with cheese cloth The school was closed for three months at Christmas time. Miss McGregor was a real nice girl she never complained about anything, and really enjoyed the steam bath She taught school for a term and a half and then got married to Mr Forhan who had a small drug store at Evarts Later they had a drug store in Eckville

Mr and Mrs Johnson could speak Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and English. Mr Johnson was called on at times to act as an interpreter on court cases in Red Deer Mrs. Johnson was a midwife, and she was called on at all hours Sometimes she was away for a day and a night

In 1910 the Alberta Central Railway was started by John T Moore and Associates. It was supposed to go on to the Yellow Head Pass. After they got the Charter they were to get a government grant so two camps were established, one at Burnt Lake and the other at our place to see how much it cost to build a mile The workers had to run to Red Deer all winter long to get the wages Moores bought our place as townsite for the railway After they got the government grant they gave the whole thing to the C.P.R The railway siding was moved to C P R. crown land a half mile south. What a farce The railway never did get any further than Rocky Mountain House

It was in 1905 when my sister Lizzie died in Montana and left three boys. They were brought out to our place to live. Their names were Harry Gordon and Tommy Trimmer They were about the same age as we younger ones were and they grew up as a part of our family

The coldest winter that I can remember in Alberta was in 1906-1907 It started in December and for three months the temperature was almost always at least 30 degrees below zero F The winds drifted the snow along the fences so that all you could see were the tops of the fence posts. A thousand head of cattle died in the southern part of the province and in Montana Then came an early break and the grass was green by the end of March

The winter of 1909-1910 was the year Halley's Comet was to split the earth, so they said! It was to be the end of the earth' My brother and I were playing cards at our neighbours' It was a cold winter night with steam clouds floating around We were on our way home about 11 o'clock at night when we saw it in the east at a 45-degree angle. Needless to say, the earth was not split in half'

I came to Vancouver during World War II in 940 and worked at fish processing work in a plant until my retirement There were a lot of

true. There have been so many people coming here, looking for work

The best years of my life were spent on a homestead in the Melita district in Alberta I just passed my 80th birthday Most of my generation have passed on

**JOHNSON, OLAF AND KAROLIINE — by the Johnson Family**

Olaf and Karoline Johnson arrived in the Benalto-Eckville area in May, 1913. Coming from Butte, Montana, they purchased from Isaac and Anna Laioma the N½ of NE 12-39-3-W5

Olaf Mukkala was born in Vadso, Norway in 1866. His parents, fishing people were drowned at sea leaving him an orphan at the age of 12. In 1879, at age 13, Olaf set out with his younger sister Matilda to find his two older brothers Henry and Eric in America

Leaving Matilda in Michigan, Olaf now 17 began to find his way west by working as a water boy for construction crews along the Oregon Trail. Olaf's journey led him to Butte, Montana where he successfully found employment in its copper mines

Karoline Hietala was born in Virrat, Finland on May 15, 1868. When she was 18, she and a friend, Emma Herranen, who would later marry her brother Frank, came to Hancock Michigan Both women worked as housekeepers with families who helped them learn some of the English language Karoline spent time in Michigan with a Methodist minister and his

family as a companion-helper Karoline later followed her two older brothers to Butte, Montana where she found work in boarding houses where miners lived. She worked for a time at the boarding house owned by the Ladic family whose son Karoline's eldest daughter was destined to marry. It was in Butte that Karoline met Olaf

The trials of being an immigrant with just eight days of formal schooling had forced Olaf Mukkala to become Olaf Johnson. Olaf and Karoline Johnson were married on November 28, 1894. In Butte Olaf worked in the mines and daughters Lydia (Beth) and Mary (Rae) were born in 1896 and 1898 respectively

The family moved to Calumet, Michigan and their sons John and Walter were born in 1901 and 1903. The mines in Butte, though, provided secure employment for Olaf Johnson and so the family moved there where Ann was born in 1907 and Ted was born in 1919

It was at this time that Karoline's brothers Frank and Alec Hietala were homesteading land in Alberta and 1913 the Johnsons followed these brothers and settled on the farm between their

Shortly after the family settled in the area their eldest daughter Beth, returned to Butte to attend nursing school. Then, in 1915, the last member of the family Howard, was born. In these years and ones to come, Olaf often spent winters working in the Butte mines to supplement the farm income

The flu epidemic of 1918 saw Beth return home for a period of time. She spent long days and nights with her horse and buggy going to homes of the sick to nurse them and help with chores. Karoline had taught her well by example. In her years on the farm she often would walk miles to visit the sick, usually with a freshly baked cake under her arm. When people came to visit the Johnsons home and see the flower gardens Karoline loved, she usually sent home with them a freshly picked bouquet. And visitors were frequent

The early day church services, mostly Lutheran, were held at the nearby Young People's Hall. These services were well attended even though many in the congregation had to travel long distances by horse and buggy. Every Sunday, the Johnson home had many of these for coffee and there was always company for Sunday dinner

Young People's Hall was a community centre for the area, and when church services or dances were held it was generally one of the Johnson family lighting the fire in the stove before and sweeping the floor after never expecting a nickel. The dirty coffee cups were often taken home where Mother Johnson would wash them clean for the next time

Although breaking new land, planting and harvesting crops, and caring for livestock in Olaf's case hogs, were no easy tasks, it certainly wasn't all work and no play to make son John a dull boy. There were weddings, chivaris dances, ball games, and competitive gymnastics. The two main events in the early days were the mid-summer picnic and dance on June 24 and the Victoria Day dance on May 24

By the 1930's the family had mostly grown and gone. The girls were settled in Seattle. John had gone off prospecting and for a time stayed with the Bill Lowry family when he worked in Drumheller. Walt was working mainly in lumber camps. In 1932 Olaf died

Howard and Ted remained on the family farm with their mother until she died in 1944 and Ted left the farm. During this time both Ted and Howard played softball on the Young People's All Star Team while Walt often acted as scorekeeper

On December 27 1945 Howard married Helen Niemela and there another story begins

**JOHNSON WILLIAM THEODORE (TED) AND RUTH — by Helen Johnson**

Ted moved to Penhold to operate a coffee shop in 1945. While there he married Ruth Soderlund in June, 1946. After they sold their business in Penhold. Ted worked on construction for a number of years. They have one son Gary and one granddaughter

Ted has always had a keen interest in music

and while he was living on the farm he occasionally played at dances

They are living in Calgary

**JOHNSTON THE RALPH FAMILY—by Norma Stewart**

Ralph Johnston arrived in Elspeth in 1[illegible] operate the Wheat Pool Elevator at the s[illegible] between Benalto and Sylvan

In 1930 he was married to the former Marion Mather at Trochu. Their son, Wesley was born in 1932. They left Elspeth in 1935 and after living in southern Alberta, Grand Forks, B.C. and Pimbey they moved to Lacombe where they now reside. Recently they have been spending their winters in Arizona, U.S.A.

While in Elspeth they were closely associated with Benalto, usually walking in during the winter time. Their son, Wes, graduated in Pharmacy from the U. of A. With the help of his wife the former Norma Jean Stewart, he has been operating a drug store in Edmonton. They have two sons, Ralph, recently married to the former Jo-An Olstead, and a member of the Edmonton City Police, and Stewart, who is at home

**KALPUTAS, ANDERSON GUST**

My parents, Gust Kalpuras and Elmina Soderback, were united in marriage in Evanston, Wyoming on June 20, 1894. They immigrated to Canada from Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1903 where dad was employed in a coal mine. They were met in Red Deer by August Halstien and they stayed the winter with them.

Dad homesteaded the NW 28-38-2 W5 which had formerly been homesteaded by Edward Aho and had returned to the crown.

A one-room log house was erected to house the family also a small barn for the cow and oxen. William Aho, who owned the land adjoining on the east was a great assistance in building. Hardships were many for the pioneers the first years on the farm. There wasn't any ready wood pile just tall timber. It all had to be cut into stove lengths.

The snow was deep and often, over night snow piled so high behind the door a shovel had to be used to go out.

Water wells were shallow and froze up. Snow was melted for use in the house during the cold winter as well for the cattle. There were no roads just trails. Trees had been cut down and a trail cleared wide enough for a wagon to pass through. These trails would wind from house to house. A main trail to Evarts passed by our home which was used by travellers from north and east of us.

Our first animals on the farm were a cow and a team of oxen. The one named Mike was a real pet and we could ride him around the yard. Sometimes there were three of us on his back.

Dad was a hard worker, clearing land during the summer with the only tools available, a grub hoe and axe. In the fall and winter he built houses for the settlers. Logs were plentiful and made cheap warm homes. The logs were fitted, hewed and with corners shaped made comfortable houses.

Land was cleared and had to be made into fields. We purchased a team of horses, Dick and Molly from the Indians. They were a great asset to our farming. The horses worked well with the oxen breaking land. They were faster on the road and on needed trips to Evarts and Red Deer. Also, in later years, they were our school ponies.

With an ox and two horses pulling the plow the sod was made into fields to grow feed and grain. Turnips and potatoes were also grown. When harvest time rolled around neighbors helped pick turnips and anyone who came for a visit went home with a boxfull of turnips, which were fed to the stock. The potatoes were taken to Red Deer and traded for essentials.

Machinery was bought together with the neighbors to share cost. Dad had a Massey Harris mower in joint with Sylvester Saha, a rake with John Koski Sr. and a five-foot Deering binder with a right hand cut with Alex Staudinger. This went on for years til they had to get larger machinery.

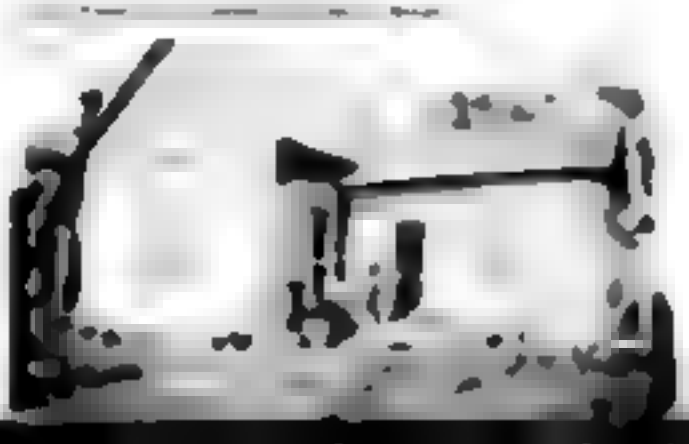
Melita was our first school. School was held in the summer months due to the amount of snow and inclement winters. Then Koutsamo school was moved further west from its original site and we were transferred there. Travelling to school was difficult. There was water everywhere on the way to school. The lowlands and hollows were filled with water. One evening riding home from school we decided to cross one of the bodies of water. Lying on the horse to keep our feet dry, we drove into the water and made it across which was quite a distance. This went on

his yard and reported the incident to our parents. Needless to say our short-cut promptly ended.

In a few years, we had accumulated several milk cows. The cows were milked outside in the summer. Smudges were set burning to ward off the millions of mosquitoes and bugs while milk

Milk was delivered each morning to the cheese factory a distance of four miles. The factory was owned and operated by T. B. Miller.

Wild fruit was plentiful, we picked blueberries, strawberries, saskatoons, currants



and gooseberries. We almost lived on wild fru... during the summer. It was a glad change to the dry fruit diet of prunes, apples, and apricots. Fresh fruit was only available in the store during the summer and this consisted of apples and oranges.

Homesteaders were still arriving, staying with us until finding homesteads further west in the Pincox (Hespero) area. Some were the Mat... Kangas and John Tukkanen families. The house was small but there was always room for a few...

As the years passed by, fields were larger so the need for a threshing machine was evident. A syndicate was formed, a steam engine and thresher were purchased, which was named the Sambo. The shareholders supplied the bundle teams and men, also the grain haulers, counting 18 men in all. The machine operators were hired as was the water monkey. The water man had two wagons with a 400 ga...lon tank on each wagon drawn by four horses. He was the busiest man on the outfit. He pumped water into the tank by hand and sometimes had to haul water quite a distance from creeks or lake. Farmers had water wells but pumped water by hand so it was easier to obtain water somewhere else.

The cooks were also a busy lot. Food prepara...tion went on for days ahead. Few homes had ex...tra dishes, so dishes were borrowed from the neighbors. Those were happy days. Harvest in...volved hard work and long hours but no one com...

The flu epidemic hit the district in 1918 righ... in the midst of threshing. Threshing was com...pleted short handed. In some homes the whole family was stricken. Neighbors were called on to ...eed the threshing crew. My sister Ada and Dad were the two in our family who escaped the flu. They were milking cows and doing chores for neighbors and tending to their care. December 29, 1918, tragedy struck our home when Mother passed away at the age of 44 years. This left Dad with three of us in school but we seemed to manage with the help of kindly neighbors. Mrs. Matt Lund, Mrs. Matt Wuori, the Aug. Halsteins, Saha's and several others.

Dad farmed for a number of years before sell...ing the farm to Charlie Jenkins in 1925 and retir...ing to Sylvan Lake, passing away on January 17 ...9...

Mother and Dad were both laid to rest in the Kuusamo cemetery.

The family consisted of eight children, four girls and four boys.

Elmer Waino, the eldest, born April 21, 1896. Elmer was married to Anna Bay and they lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After Anna passed away Elmer moved to Newport, Washington where he resided until his passing on December 9, 1972. He is buried in the veteran plot of the Newport cemetery.

Mathilde Wilhina, born February 6, 1898, attended Melita School. She is presently living in Vancouver and she is married to Charles Hoicka.

Charles Gust, born March 29, 1900, attended Melita School and after leaving home operated a hotel in Orofino, Idaho. Charlie passed away August, 1951, and is buried in Spokane Washington.

Matt Arvid, born August 31, 1902, attended Melita School. Matt is married to Hazel McFaul, the eldest daughter of Russell and Rosie McFaul of Red Deer. Matt worked for the C.N.R., retiring to Sylvan Lake where he presently resides. They have two children. Sheila Dawn (Mrs. Harvey Wylie) of Rocky Mountain House. Sheila has two daughters, Becky Dawn and Stacey Lynn. John Richard lives in Red Deer.

Ada Elida, born January 3, 1905, attended Melita and Kuusamo schools, married Albert Proudler of Ontario. They lived in Sylvan Lake for a number of years before moving to Caroline, where Albert sold real estate and was Justice of the peace. Albert and Ada had two children. Donald Ivan Francis is transit superintendent for the city of Red Deer, married to Barbara Thomas of Stettler. They have two sons, Steven and David Charles. Dorothy Mae, an R.N., was a Captain in the R.C.A.F. until retiring last year. She lives with her mother in Victoria, B.C. Albert passed away January 25, 1955, and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

John Erlo, born August 21, 1907, attended Kuusamo school. He served with the R.C.A.F. during World War II. John married Eva Mathias of Saunders Creek. They lived at Hammond, B.C. Their daughter Mary Ann (Mrs. Barry Shortt) of Toronto has three sons, Graham, Frazer and Duncan. Judith Margaret (Mrs. Brian Crossett) is living on Vancouver Island and has two children. John passed away October 19, 1949, and is buried in the veterans' plot of the Blaney cemetery.

Sylvia Katherine, born June 2, 1911, attended Kuusamo and Eckville schools. She is married to Charles Thorkman of Eckville. They have farmed in the Salma district since their marriage. Charles and Sylvia have five daughters. Betty Marie (Mrs. M. Leo Silbernagel) of Calgary, took her schooling at Sa... Red Deer, going on to receive her R.N. at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Betty has three sons, Peter Charles, Jerry Stuart and Dale Allan. Margaret Eileen (Mrs. Morley Grose) of ...live, took her schooling at Salma, Eckville and Red Deer, going on to take her B.Ed. at the U. of A. She has two sons, Warren Keith and David Wesley. June Bernice (Mrs. Doug Nelson) of Calgary, attended Salma, Eckville and Red Deer schools, going on to the University of Alberta to receive her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and her Bachelor of Education. She has three children, Phillip Douglas, Timothy Daryl, Jay Kelly Gay.

Jean Edith Elida (Mrs. David Williams) of Hinton, B.C. attended the Salma and Eckville schools. Jean is loans manager with the Royal...

Bank. She had four children, Gregory Gene Katherine Ann, Robert David. Patrick Allan reg passed away May, 1977. Fern Catherine Mrs. Glenn Skoodopole attended school at Saima, Eckville and Edmonton. She has four children twins Steven Charles and Susan Catherine Carla Jean and Gerald Edward.

Frances Louise, born November 15, 1914 attended Kuusamo and Sylvan Lake schools. She s married to Rupert Griffith, formerly of Ridgewood district. They have five children and ive at Peace River. Florence Mrs. Wilfred Chateau) of Fairview has five children. Jean Mrs. Laverne Knox) of Peace River has five children. Mae Mrs. Henry Desanto) of Manning has three children. Beverly (Mrs. Russell Lowe) of Peace River has two sons. Lee and Blaine reside in Peace River.

[redacted]

Music played a central role in a great many pioneer families and so it was within the Kinna home. At an early age in Estonia, Arthur Kinna showed exceptional promise as a violinist and his father, John Kinna, who taught him his first notes, sent him away to study. When the family immigrated to Eckville during Arthur's fourteenth year, his interest in music continued. Together with other members of the family, the Kinna orchestra played for many community events. The first gramophone in the district was owned by Henry Kinna who requested Arthur to choose an excellent selection of records. These records were a great source of instructions in Arthur's musical education and he eventually played with the Calgary Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. On one occasion while playing violin in a Calgary concert, the American guest soloist failed to appear. As Arthur was the only one who knew the selection, he filled the gap admirably.

Although earning a living had to be of [redacted] violin and such pupils as Johanna Schuneman not sure about the name) gave him a great satisfaction. The family mail contract from Red Deer to Burnt Lake, Evarts, and Eckville required trips three times weekly sometimes in adverse weather conditions.

In 1921, Arthur married Emma Gudmundson who taught school in the districts of Beaverflats, Sylvan Lake, Kuusamo, and Estonia. While teaching at Estonia school, she boarded with the Moos family, close neighbors of Kinnas. They began the operations of a general store and Post Office in Benalto in partnership with V. B. Buchanan who had married Arthur's sister, Minnie Kinna.

Education for pioneer families presented many problems. Those with a foreign mother tongue were probably the most eager to advance their learning and Minnie was no exception. With drive and ambition Minnie completed her grade 12 in Red Deer working for her board and won this distinction written on the fly leaf of POEMS OF LONGFELLOW — Presented by the Alberta Women's Association to Minnie Kinna for having made the greatest progress in Grade Eleven of the Red Deer High School during the year ending July 1912. After completing Normal School she taught in many districts until her marriage to Varley Buchanan who was a native of Ontario, coming west to work in the Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Minnie Buchanan was a well respected and ardent worker in the Benalto community affairs.

After dissolving the partnership of Buchanan and Kinna, the Buchanans operated the Benalto Hotel until Minnie's death in 1942. Their son Jack continued in the hotel after his discharge from the R.C.A.F. and he and his sister Mona subsequently sold the business to L. Billings. Jack moved to Brantford, Ontario to be with his father until Jack's death in 1962. Mona married Harold Crawford of Red Deer and their two children Debra and Jack live in Red Deer. Mona died in 1973.

Tragedy struck the Arthur Kinna family in 1928 when after a very short illness Arthur died leaving two small children, Ruth and William. Emma continued the business and was once again bereaved when in 1930 William died. As with all small communities each individual is called on to make contributions to civic affair and Emma endeavored to do so with work in the Red Cross, Booster Club, Ladies Aid, and School Board.

Ruth was the first girl child born in the hamlet and in 1944 married Don Wilkes of Lacombe, Alberta who was on leave from five years service with the R.C.A.F. After his second return from overseas in 1945, he purchased the Kinna store and operated it until 1963 when they sold it to W. Rozek of Red Deer.

Both Don and Ruth served the hamlet of Benalto and area for these years in the Booster Club, Agricultural Society, Curling Club, Boy Scouts, and Presbyterian Church. Three children were born to them, Gregin 1946, Donald in 1948, and Mona in 1960. Moving from Benalto in 1963, they resided in Fairview for seven years and now live in Peterborough, Ontario.

[redacted]

obstacle has been overcome. Many good times are remembered haying with the Wylies, and always being able to depend on Harvey and Bob for help. Cattle and pigs were a big source of income. Evald was active in the Farmers Union and many an interesting meeting was held at our

Another quarter of land in the Diamond Valley district was purchased. Ken and Ron had their schooling in Benalto, Sylvan Lake, Red Deer College and Calgary and Edmonton universities. Evald passed away November 1976. Ken and Ron and myself are still on the farm.

**LONGAIR FAMILY — by Ernest Longair**

The Longair family moved to Benalto from Edmonton in 1933. Jobs were scarce in Edmonton so my father James Longair moved his family to Benalto to work in my uncle's, Herman Schmidek's general store. Herman Schmidek operated a general store, the Benalto Store and the Imperial Oil bulk plant. Having one good hand and a hook, he was able to roll barrels of fuel around with amazing dexterity, combining the two. Fuel was delivered to the surrounding district in his Chevrolet truck. Gasoline was available at the store from two pumps. If the customers arrived too early, it was appreciated if they pumped up their own gas for filling up their cars. Both were hand pumps with overflows at the top for zeroing the gallons. Customers received more for their money on cold days than during summer afternoons, after the gas has heated. Oil for the cars was poured into large metal pouring cans for transfer to the cars. While cars were fairly common, horses with wagons and sleighs were seen driving through town in at least equal numbers. Something that always fascinated me was the Finnish families from north of Benalto coming to town in winter using homemade skits or pushing along foot, a two runnered sleigh with a chair arranged for passengers. These too were handmade with typical Finnish mastery.

As I was six years old I gathered my lunch and enrolled in the Melita School one mile from Benalto on the Sylvan Lake highway. There were approximately 27 students in the one room school under the direction of Miss Myrtle McLean. The following year Miss Annie Anderson became the school teacher much to the delight of most of the boys. This attractive lady walked to and from her home farm one-half mile west of the school. Water was carried in pails therefore proper respect was paid to this valuable commodity. One pail usually lasted the school for the day. The furnace was in the back of the school surrounded by a large metal guard so that people wouldn't accidently burn themselves. Coal was burned, usually handy in a coal scuttle, sitting beside the furnace. Pouring more coal into the fire was always a pleasant diversion when class got boring. As all grades were in the same room one to eight, if your particular lesson wasn't too fascinating you could always listen in on what other classes were doing. At recess we quickly organized a softball game, playing scrub with one bat and one ball. No one owned a glove for several years until Arnold Anderson finally appeared with one. Needless to say, ownership of such a valuable piece of equipment carried considerable clout. Our school used to compete occasionally against Kuusamo School about four miles east. After the softball season and ave over the school, provided entertainment during the recess period. Pum-pum-pull away from the east fence and the school also flared in time. After the afternoon recess, time dragged until school was out at 3:30. Occasional breaks would come when a black Plymouth from Sylvan Lake used to roar by with horn tooting and dust flying from the gravelled highway. Max Simpson was at the wheel, which explained Miss Anderson's blush and the students' interest in watching her degree of redness. A few years later we lost her completely to him as they were married and lived in Sylvan Lake.

Millie Halstein, who played the piano

program. With this virtuoso came problems, at least for the boys, for the Christmas concert was to be in the form of an operetta. The whole school has to participate. Most boys would have sooner died than sing in public. Three of us boys were to be the witch's helpers and were to take the princess, Mona Buchanan, by the hand and sing a little ditty as we led her to the witch. Well, there was competition to hold her hand, but silence when it came time for the ditty. However Miss Halstein and Mildred Anderson decided on a psychological approach, and when one of us made a peep the praise received was too much for the rest of us to stand so we decided to outdo the other by singing even louder. From then on we had volume but I'm not sure about the notes. The pinnacle of courage was reached by one of the boys who had to sing solo to the tune of "My Grandfather's Clock". Listening to Miss Halstein play the piano was a delight until shattered by your turn to sing. The play was presented at Christmas but my memories of Christmas concerts were more than that, as we got a bag of candy and a present from the school board. Free Presents were given from a list which each student submitted. I wanted a knife one year but was turned down as it was too war-like. I received a gun instead.

With the building of the new two roomed school in Benalto, Melita was on borrowed time. Grades 1 to 6 were held in Melita while the senior grades were held in Benalto. When the Benalto School was completed all the students moved into it. Now Grade 9 was offered at Benalto, and my brother Arthur for one, was able to continue his schooling, going to Grade 9. Abandoning Melita also saw the end of wending your way to school through the snow in winter, with the lowest temperature I can remember being -60°F.

There were frozen noses that morning. Some could ride Johnson's sleigh for five cents. The rest of us walked. Gone too were the detours through Anderson's and Harry Hambly's woods in search of magpie eggs. One cent was paid for magpie eggs and two cents for crows' eggs. Five cents were paid for feet. Needless to say, we

ounty. Yellow lady's slippers and tiger lilies could be enjoyed along the railway right-of-way.

Our home in Bena to was the rented two room C.P.R. house. A wood heater, a few feet from the beds, provided warmth. The kitchen stove warmed the other room. The trees behind provided the fuel. Later when Herman Schmidek sold his store to Swan Anderson, my father operated the store for Swan. My uncle left to run a service station in Vancouver about 1935. After working in the store for about a year, my parents went to work for Frank Jenkins on his piggery. After about one year there, we shared a house with Harry Hambly. My brother and I were caretakers at the school receiving a total of $12 per month for our services. July and August were no pay months. Harry's rent was very reasonable and he allowed us a garden, pasture for a cow and a house for some chickens. With our annual $100 for essentials, we were able to get by with the meat, milk and vegetables we could provide. Hunting beer bottles at 10 cents per dozen, provided for any extras such as 22 shells at 25¢ for 50. These provided the odd fool's hen or rabbit. Baths were rather scarce but Saturday night steam baths at Swan Anderson's were a god-send. Besides, Mrs. Anderson always provided the best coffee and cake for lunch afterwards.

About 1937 my best friend, Arnold Anderson came down with diabetes. As we were in Grade 4 or 5 at the time, the disease didn't mean that much, except that Arnold had to take insulin, test his urine, and eat special candies. The candies may have been special but they still tasted good as he always shared a few with the rest of us.

In 1939 as we left the Baptist Church one morning someone said Canada was at war. All that meant to me was that my Dad, who had been in the first World War might be sent away and be shot. It worried me but that was all the war

During the fall of 1939 my mother, Agnes Longair, received a letter informing her that she had been appointed matron of the Wood's Christian Home at Bowness, just west of Calgary. We were to receive $75 per month plus free room and board. This was nearly the same as we had been receiving per year. It seemed unbelievable. This meant we would have to sell our belongings which we had moved from one place to another. What we lacked in quality, we made up for in quantity. We finally held an auction sale at Harry Hambly's and sold our possessions. The next morning we caught the train and left for Calgary. Harry Hambly very kindly volunteered to take our two dogs Buster and Trixie. Leaving them was the hardest part for me. The Baptist Church gave us an electric floor lamp and many friends gave us their best wishes.

My father worked at the Wood's Home for three years, then to the airport at De Winton for the remainder of the war. We moved to Calgary where we attended high school. My brother Arthur enlisted in the Signal Corps and then transferred to the Air Force. I finished school and went to work for Calgary Power.

Both my parents died in Calgary, my father in 1962 and my mother in 1970. My brother is teaching high school in Calgary and I am teaching high school in Lethbridge.

Some events that might be of interest nowadays was Pastor Gibbon's winter baptism service. Pastor Gibbon's six foot frame carried on a variety of tasks from cutting (thinning — the clippers pulled every second hair out by the roots) hair, preaching and filling horse troughs with water for "saving" his congregation from the fiery furnace. Anyway I didn't think I should chance the furnace so I decided to be baptized just in case. Well, Pastor Gibbons borrowed the horse trough from Sterling's hardware and filled it with water pumped by hand and heated on his stove. By Sunday evening the trough was ready and his volunteers had showed up in a variety of wettable get-ups. As the pump organ wheezed out a tune and the congregation sang, each one of us was dunked under, brought up again and hastily sent to the manse for dry clothes. He deserves honors for enthusiasm anyway. I noticed the next baptism was held in the Medicine River in June.

One other highlight was our trip with the school children from as far west as Rocky Mountain House to see the Queen in Edmonton. We were to see street cars for the first time and a real, live Queen. Well we found our seats along the parade route and soon the Queen came by. We were disappointingly tired but we didn't give up and rushed off to see her again at other points along the route. Altogether I saw her three times and to me she was as beautiful as queens should be. The train carried its load of tired kids home getting us home about 10 P.M. We weren't concerned about Canada's political problems; we had just seen our Queen with our very own eyes.

**THE HISTORY OF LOUGHEED'S GENERAL STORE — by Ralph and Mac Lougheed**

On Lots one and two, on Main Street in Benalto, a small building was erected, which was the home of the Imperial Bank. The late Stan Hooker was the first and last manager to run the bank. Stan always came back to the annual bonspiels held in Benalto, to renew acquaintances whenever he could get away.) After the bank closed down Emil Brodersons started a grocery store, which he operated for about three years. O. C. Hansen then had the store for the

next seven years. He enlarged the building and made the upstairs into living quarters.

In 1934 Jack Simpson purchased the building and his two boys made some more additions to it. Gordon and Jim were the storekeepers until 1937 when Jack Robinson purchased the store and carried on the grocery business. He in turn sold out in 1939 to Alf Foster. Alf and Thelma Foster, their children, Joyce, Dorothy and Jim (now Attorney General of Alberta) continued in the grocery business. They renovated the living quarters and also added the Cockshutt farm equipment agency to the business. Later Alf Foster was Comineo agent for fertilizer.

In 1945 Howard and Helen Mullen purchased the store, but carried on for only a year before selling out to Ralph and Arnold Lougheed. The Lougheeds came from a little town of Sibbald in eastern Alberta, having left with the family in "the dirty thirties" to settle in Caroline, and later in Condor. Arnold served overseas in the R.C.A.F. and when he came back he joined Ralph for a short stint in the grocery business which was now known as "Lougheed's General".

Arnold still felt the call of a military life, and after a year or so he rejoined the air force. He spent the rest of his career in the R.C.A.F. and since his retirement he has been working for the Douglas Printing Company in Edmonton.

Ralph and his wife Mae, the former Mae Larsen of Bentley, carried on the business for the next 30 years. The business prospered through the many years, several additions were made and in 1958 a complete renovation took place with a 14-foot extension being added to the building. It now had a complete new concept both in the store and upstairs. Modern new fixtures were put in and self-serve was introduced in the grocery section.

By this time the fertilizer business was expanding and Ralph introduced the custom spreading of fertilizer to his customers. This practice proved beneficial for both farmers and the business. It wasn't long before our business was among the top fertilizer sales outlets. One year we won the sales contest sponsored by Comineo Fertilizer.

In 1967 the nitrogen fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia, was introduced to our Benalto farmers and those of the west country. Our sales required five 45-foot applicators and two truck tankers to supply it to the farmers.

In 1971 a new venture started when the Rimbey-Rimbeyman Valley Propane Association awarded us the contract to deliver propane to their customers. This gave us a great opportunity, as we already had the tankers to use. In the spring we hauled ammonia, and during the rest of the year we hauled propane. Our sales territory reached from Caroline in the southwest to Innisfail on the east and as far as Ponoka in the north. This took in about 750 customers. We consider this one of the largest ventures we ever took on, and we give special credit to the capable help that Ralph Dowler gave in managing the fleet of seven trucks.

We were fortunate, as Comineo built us an elevator complete with a blender for our fertilizer. This made it possible for us to supply the proper blends of fertilizer which the farmers needed.

In 1967 we acquired the post office. Elenor Windrum had joined the staff as full-time bookkeeper, and assistant post-master. Barbara Nielsen who was on staff for 15 years, was a great credit to the store in her position as manager of the grocery department. At peak seasons there were as high as eight or nine people on staff.

In January 1974 the store and post office was sold to Jack and Pat Knowles, and in September 1976 Ralph Dowler bought the fertilizer and propane business, which he is presently continuing to operate.

Ralph and Mae built a new home in Benalto, where they are retired (or trying to be!).

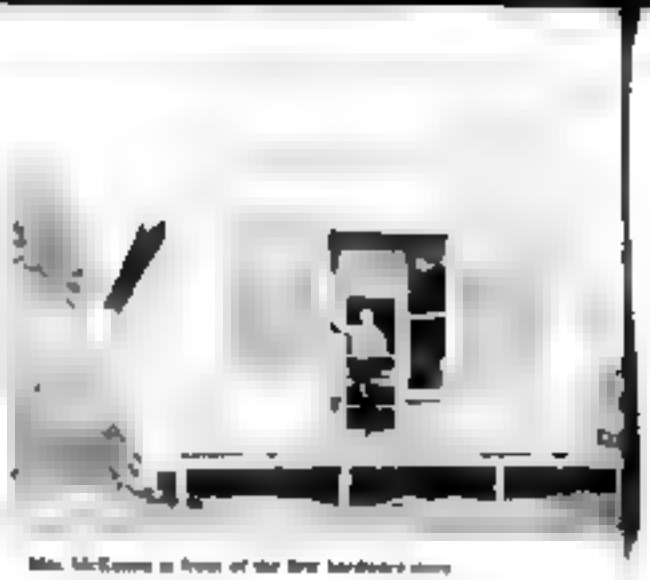
**ISAAC AND ANNA LUOMA — by Ken Laitila**

Isaac and Anna Luoma came from Wyoming U.S.A. around 1907 or 1908. They filed on a homestead on NE 12-39-3-W5. Later they sold this land and bought 40 acres on SE 14-39-3-W5, in 1913. They began building the house that same year but the completion of the house was delayed by Isaac's passing in November. They had no children.

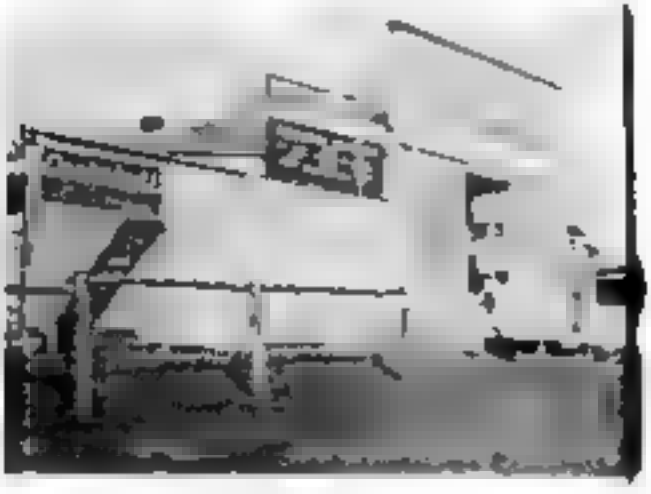
In 1915 their niece, Eva Sylvia Laituri, came to live with Anna. Eva had been born to John and Tekla Laituri in Almy, Wyoming, U.S.A. on May 13, 1907. She moved with her family to a homestead in the Oras area prior to moving to Eckville. She started her schooling at Melita school and finished in Eckville.

Anna Luoma passed away in January, 1936 leaving the place to Eva Sylvia Laituri.

Ashby and Irene Lyons



Mac McKenna in front of the first hardware store



Benalto Hardware Store with additions, 1924

**McKANNA, CARY AND McKENZIE, JACK FAMILIES – by Mac (Bennett) McKenzie and Lucille (McKanna) Perry**

In the spring of 1922 Jack McKenzie and "Mac" McKanna of Vulcan, Alberta, went to Benalto Alberta as partners in the first hardware store there. Jack left a position with the Bank of Hamilton in Vulcan and Mac had been farming in the same area. They were greatly assisted in their new venture by the Benalto Booster Club, of which Frank Jenkins was the president at that time. The store, plus living quarters at the rear, was soon erected by the two partners and many local volunteers. Even though it was not quite finished, they opened for business in about eight month a time. Their business was called the "McKenzie and McKanna Hardware

It so happened that at that time Jack and Mac were courting two sisters, Mac and Irene Bennett, also of Vulcan. I (Mac) was employed with the Canadian Bank of Commerce there and Irene was teaching school in the same area. Naturally our interest in the boys' success was keen and, had it been necessary, we would have been with them pounding nails. However everything seemed to fall into place and as a result Jack and I were married on October 25 1922 and Irene and Mac were married one month later.

We spent two very happy years in Benalto. Everyone was community-minded, and most anxious to see progress. The yearly mid-summer Stampede, the baseball games, dances and the weekly picture shows all helped to make life more enjoyable.

In 1924 Jack's mother, who owned and operated the Nanton Hotel in Nanton, needed help in managing the business, so we had to dissolve the partnership in the hardware store. We were sorry to have to leave Benalto, but we did return for visits in the years to follow.

Mac and Irene continued in the hardware business for another two years, then the Atlas Lumber Company bought them out. Mac then took on the agency of grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company and moved to Elspeth, in that capacity. He was transferred in 1926 to Spring Coulee, and then to Nobleford about 1936, where he continued to operate as a grain buyer until his retirement in 1954. They continued to live in Nobleford and Irene resumed her teaching career at Noble Central School as a teacher

of Grade I. After Mac's death on September 23, 1958 at the age of 77 years, Irene continued teaching there for another year before moving to Lethbridge. From Lethbridge she commuted to Sunnyside School, about seven miles out of Lethbridge. She was ill for about three years before her passing on December 19, 1964, at the age of 67 years. She is buried beside her husband in Archmount Memorial Gardens in Lethbridge.

The children of Mac and Irene were Lucille, Jean and Robert. Both Lucille and Jean were born in the family home in Benalto with Jean Barton in attendance as midwife. Robert was born in the Bassano Hospital while the family lived at Countess. Lucille started school in Countess and Jean Barton was her first grade teacher. Jean and Bob started school in Spring Coulee. Lucille (now Mrs. William Perry of Chinook, Alberta) became a school teacher and taught for 18 years. Her family consists of one daughter, Linda, who lives in Whitehorse, Y.T., and three sons, Kent, Donald and Cameron, all living in the Coaldale area. Jean married Bob Welsh of Noblefield, who was a farmer. Prior to her marriage she had attended Garbutt Business School in Calgary and had worked in Washington, D.C. in the United States, for the British Government during the war. She had two children, Barbara and Barry. She now lives in Calgary. Robert married Millicent Speaker of Lethbridge, where they still reside. Bob was a member of the Lethbridge City Police Force for a number of years, then was deputy warden at the Lethbridge Provincial Gaol. After a time he left this position to become assistant manager of Capital Furniture in Lethbridge. They had four children: Sandra, living in Calgary, (one girl who died in infancy); Kevin, a radio announcer in Winnipeg; and Cary, living at home.

To Jack and Mae McKenzie, only one child was born, a son, Gordon. He enlisted and served time in the Navy during the last war. He was married to Joyce Noble of Calgary in 1945, and they have three fine sons. Jack passed away in 1953. I have continued to live in Calgary since that time.

**MELITA SCHOOL — by Annie M. Simpson**

The North West Territories Gazette Vol. 2-3 records the date of the establishment of the Melita School District No. 1458, of the North West Territories, as February 10, 1906. In the Alberta Gazette, Vol. 2 — 15, it is recorded that permission to borrow $1000 for the purpose of fencing the site, building a school house, erecting a woodhouse and other outbuildings was given on July 26, 1906.

The school was located on one acre of land of the SW 6-39-2-W5, which had been donated for the purpose by the late Isaac Johnson, then living less than half of a mile north of the school site. This was a central location for the several families who had children of school age. In the records of the Department of Education the district was named Melita, after a girl named Melita, who became the first secretary-treasurer of the district. However, according to information received from the late Isaac Johnson's son, Lester Johnson, the name Melita was chosen from a list of names sent out by the government. This would seem more probable, as not one of the early settlers interviewed has heard of anyone in the surrounding area named Melita.

The Matchetts, who lived on the south side of Eckville, built the school. John Warwick hauled building material by team from Red Deer, and perhaps some of the lumber was also purchased from a sawmill which was in operation west of Evarts.

The first school board consisted of Messrs. William Wylie, Frederick Woodmancy and Isaac Johnson, with Mr. R. L. Abel as the secretary.

There are no written records of any kind available, but according to information gained from the early residents, the first pupils were Onni and Mary Koskinen, Robert Wylie (now in the U.S.), Orrin Wylie (now a farmer in the Benalto district), Viola Wylie (Mrs. Max Light, known now of Sylvan Lake), Ella Wylie (Mrs. Peter Carlyle of Happy Hills), Emma Wuobio, the late Mrs. E. Niemela, Benalto; Euphemia Hietala, the late Mrs. L. Kingsep, of Summerland, B.C.); Henry Hietala (a farmer in the Eckville district); David Falconer; Kate Abel; David, Phillmore and Lester Johnson; Harry, Gordon and Earl Trimmer (who resided with their grandparents, the Isaac Johnsons); Ida Aho (taught school in Finland afterwards); Lizzie Koski, the late Mrs. Kemila of Eckville; Elmer, Mamie, Charlie, Matt, Ada Kalaputas; Matt of Sylvan Lake, Elmer and Charlie deceased. Mamie now Mrs. Charles Holeka of Vancouver and Ada Proudler of Victoria, B.C.; Walfred Kujala (a farmer in the Kuusamo district until his death); Lillian and Mary Kujala (deceased); Emil Maltson (farmer in the Kuusamo district); George Maltson (deceased); Selma Ropsfelt (the late Mrs. R. Kangas of Hespero); Selma Pitkaaen, Luella, John and Kasper McCardle.

Some of these pupils were from the Kuusamo district and attended Melita School for only a short period of time. When the new Kuusamo School was built at a more central location they began attending school there instead of at Melita.

The first teacher at Melita School was Miss Annie McGregor (the late Mrs. Oswald Forhan, of Eckville) who taught there for two years. She received her teacher training at the Provincial Normal School at Truro, Nova Scotia in 1901 and 1902, and came to the West, to join her friend, the late Mrs. J. Killick, who was then teaching at Evarts.

An amusing incident occurred when Miss McGregor was teaching at Melita School. Mr.

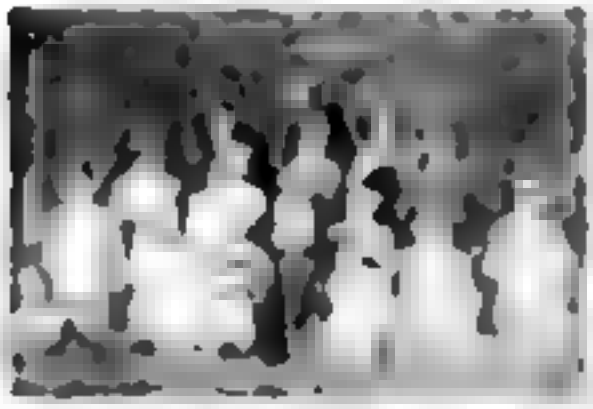
Wylie, a trustee, had the occasion to write Miss McGregor a letter inviting her to accompany the family on a picnic to Sylvan Lake. She answered the letter promptly but, by mistake, sent him the wrong letter — a love letter written to her by her fiance, Mr Forhan, regarding their forthcoming marriage. Great was her embarrassment when Mr Wylie returned the letter to her, in person.

Following Miss McGregor many teachers served the Melita school but one especially Mr

imprint on the memories of his pupils. He taught at Melita first in the summer months of 1912. In January of 1914 he enrolled in the Calgary Normal School but returned to Melita in June and continued teaching there until 1918. He initiated exchange softball games with Bluebell and Kinusamo Schools. The boys were taught how to make excellent bows and arrows from near-by birch trees. These would shoot true for 100 feet but their use on the school premises was not con

McDonald engaged in several side-line oc

surance and also did considerable "butchering". To the delight of his pupils, he would often dismiss school at 2:00 p.m. or on occasion, even at 11:00 a.m. to attend to these other duties. On occasion he dismissed school early because of a threatening storm and sent the children home. It was well he did, for the children while still within sight of the school, saw the lightning strike the brick chimney, shatter it and strew bricks all over the ground. The stove inside the school was also badly damaged.



With none of the old registers or secretary's minutes available, it is impossible to accurately list the teachers who have taught at the Melita School throughout the years. So often the schools were closed for the winter months with classes held only in the summer and sometimes several teachers would be hired to teach during one school term. Among those whom I have been able to determine taught at the Melita School for three or more years were: Mr J. McDonald, Mr William Code, Mr William C. Davidson, Mrs Alma Sterling, Mr Earle Farris, Mrs Barbara Goedicke, Mrs. Laura Holsworth, Mrs. Arnie Simpson, Mrs. Dorothy Periche and Mrs. Ardis Bramall. The Melita School District as such was terminated and the Alberta Gazette, Vol. 37, records the change of name to the Benalto School District, No. 1438, as of June 7, 1941. Many of these teachers, of course, served after this change was made.

The school building itself was not completed when school began in the fall of 1906. The pupils sat on planks placed on top of empty nail kegs, and their slates were used on planks serving as desks. Texts were few and included those in arithmetic, grammar, geography and the readers. The school was heated by a square box stove, which often proved to be inadequate in the winter time. The janitorial work was done by the teacher or pupils.

The students were of various grades and abilities. Some had attended school previously either at Kinusamo or in the United States, but most of them began in Grade 1. The school term was not the regular 10-month one as we have now, but depended on the weather and the available teacher supply. Pupils often attended school in July and August. The attendance itself was sporadic as the need for an education was by many, not considered of prime importance and the transportation of children to the school was often a problem, too. Walter Johnson stated that he had attended school for 220 days in five years — only 22 days in one of those years! The Wylies came across country two miles by horse and "stone-boat". Walfred Kurala related how they drove a mule and a home-made cutter to school and lodged the mule in the wood-shed during school hours. The mule often chewed through the tie-rope, then wandered home by himself leaving the children stranded, so they would have to walk the five miles home. Jennie Woodmancy had a novel method of getting to school: she rode in a sleigh pulled by a big black and white dog for her two and one half mile trip. Mr Hyvonen related how he, too, used a sled to transport his son, Olva, to school. It was attached by a lariat to the saddle of the horse which he himself rode to the school.

Discipline in those early days was more rigorous than it is now. Some of the pupils were bent on mischief and would "get the strap" almost every day. However, some of the teachers used slightly different methods of corporal punishment. Miss Coughlin taught several lively boys, among them Fred and Ted Heikkinen, Ted Johnson, and Olva Hyvonen. These boys she would send as a body, across the fence to the willow patches with the command

"Cut yourself a gad." They did, and on their return, she would forthwith administer the

Fighting among the boys was common. One loyal lad saved his brother from a forthcoming pen-knife wound by hurling a brick at the offending party, thereby rendering him unconscious. Live gophers and dead mice placed in the desk drawers of teachers, especially the female ones, added excitement to the day. On one occasion the two Timmer boys, aged 10 and 12 years, brought to school two real six-shooters, which they had brought with them from the United States. The firing pins often jammed as they would shoot live bullets at targets as well as at each other — a type of Russian roulette, which, miraculously had no tragic results!

Recreation was not forgotten. During the winters skating was enjoyed on a nearby pond. Ball games were common during the warm weather, as well as various other outdoor games. Sometimes the ball teams of one school would compete with those of another school. After a few years the well at the Melita school became infested with gophers, and the pupils eagerly vied for turns to make the noon-hour trip to the nearby farm of the late Swan Anderson for their daily pail of water. Dances in the early years were held at the school, not to mention the traditional Christmas concerts, a highlight of the year.

The Melita School District had several men and women who devoted many years of their time to being secretaries or trustees of the school. Among the secretaries were Messrs. R. Abel, Mr. J. W. Slack (who for many years served simultaneously as secretary-treasurer of the Melita, Kousamo, and Evarts schools. He collected the school taxes which were about $10 to $20 a year per quarter section of land.), V. Buchanan, J. Simpson and Mrs. F. Barhan. Among the trustees were: I. Johnson, W. Wylie, F. Woodmancy, A. Hubtala, I. Hyvonen, J. Warwick, P. Niskanen, J. Heikkinen and S. Anderson. At the time the Melita School District was transferred into the Rocky Mountain School Division, No. 15, on October 16, 1937, the school board consisted of Mrs. Emma Kinna, Everett Nielsen, and Guy Barhan, with A. Norton as secretary. Subsequently with its transfer to the Red Deer School Division No. 35, on December 30, 1954, and to the Red Deer County No. 23, on January 1, 1963. Mr. George Sterling has served as official trustee.

The district of Benalto, whose name the school later acquired, was named, about 1911, by a CPR surveyor during the time the rail line was built through to Rocky Mountain House. "Ben Nevis" is Scotch for "hill", and "Alto" is Latin for "high"; hence the name, as Benalto is situated on a hill overlooking the CPR tracks.

The new Benalto school itself was built by Waterman and Waterbury, contractors from Regina. The school was a frame building covered with insul-brick siding with the materials supplied mostly by the Atlas Lumber Company, of Benalto. The first teachers to serve in the new school were Lainie Maki and A. Franklin Van Horne. It was during that year 1938-1939, that the teachers and their classes planted the Russian poplars, which are now such effective shade trees, on the east side of the school.

In 1952 the Kousamo School was centralized at Benalto, which required the building of two more rooms. Mrs. Laura Holsworth and Mrs. Barbara Goedicke were added to the teaching staff. In 1954, with the additional centralization of Diamond Valley school, a room in the basement was converted to a classroom and Mrs. Annie Simpson joined the staff. Old Hola, New Centreville, New Hill, and Happy Hill were centralized in 1957 and Evarts School in 1959 and Mrs. Dorothy Periche was added to the staff then.

In 1961, with the addition of Mr. Ivan Jenkins plus Mrs. Anna Sterling, who had commenced teaching in Benalto in 1940, and Mr. Earle Farris, who had begun in 1944, the staff was enlarged to six members with instruction in Grades 1 to 10. In the intervening years between 1939-1961 Grades 1 to 10 or 11 had been taught. During this time the students in Grades 11 or 12 had completed their education, for the most part, at the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer, and in the period 1958 to 1963 had been supplied transportation there by a county bus. In 1962 the Grade 9 and the high school students provided with a bus for this purpose. At this time the Benalto School reverted again to teaching only Grades 1 to 8 and to four classrooms. By 1969, with decreasing enrolments, only three rooms were in operation. With the retirement of Mrs. Anna Sterling in 1971 the school reverted to two rooms, in which Grades 1 to 6 are now being taught. The present staff consists of Mrs. Annie Simpson and Mrs. Ardis Bramall.

The Superintendents who have served the district are: Mr. Boyce, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Gibson, Mr. McLean, Mr. L. Thurber, Mr. H. R. Ross, Mr. F. Barnes, Mr. A. F. Doverall, Mr. E. Read, Mr. S. A. Lindstedt, Mr. R. V. McCullough, and Mr. H. Hall.

Many former students of the school have achieved recognition in their various walks of life. The "little red school-house" has done its work well.

## THE EVERETT NIELSEN FAMILY OF BENALTO

Everett Theodore Nielsen, son of Ole and Elizabeth Nielsen, was born in Wall City, Iowa, U.S.A. in 1899. He came with his family to Saskatchewan in 1901. In 1919, the family moved to the Evarts district and farmed where Elmer Loyeks now farms.

In 1926, he married the former Lillian Nielsen, daughter of John and Anne Marie

Nielsen. She was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1900. Her family moved to the Olds district in 1902. They moved to the Milner district in 1904, then moved to Bellingham Washington. U.S.A in 1912. In 1914, they moved back to Alberta and made their home in the Benalto district. The lumber for their home in this district came from the old Evarts Hotel.

After their marriage Everett and Lillian moved to New Westminster B.C. where their son, Lorne Melville, was born. They came back to the Benalto district the following year residing on the Frank Jenkins place now owned by Will Richmond. Later they lived on the Charlie Jenkins place, now owned by J. McBride, where Everett rented the land.

[illegible]

In 1932, they moved to the town of Benalto, purchasing the property of Mr. McKenna. Here Everett went into the general trucking business and had the bulk service for British American Oil, later Gulf of Canada.

Everett liked playing ball and was the catcher for the Benalto team. He enjoyed curling, being one of the first curlers in Benalto. For several years he owned a threshing machine and with his crew threshed for farmers in the district. He played in the Markerville Band.

Everett's son Lorne is better known as "Tunnie", getting this nickname from the former Frank Jenkins, after Gene Tunney, the boxer. Lorne attended school at Metita until the Benalto School was built. He went to High school in Dickson and Red Deer. He worked with his father in the trucking and gas business until his father retired in 1971. In 1947 they built a garage and for some years had a general garage service. From 1957 the late Arthur Bowman was mechanic until his passing in 1965. In 1961 they purchased the farm from Carrie Nielsen, wife of Dewey Nielsen, this being the farm of John Nielsen. From 1947 to 1949 Everett, Lorne, Laurel Nielsen and Earl Farris had an orchestra and played for dances in the district.

In 1950 Lorne married the former Lucy Vick, daughter of Edgar and Marie Vick of the New Hill district. Lucy attended school at Hazel Dell and New Hill No. 2 schools, and high school at St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer. Prior to her marriage she worked at the Imperial Bank of Canada in Eckville. They built their home on the property of the late Mr. Buchanan. They have 10 children, six sons, Larry, Terry, Leslie, Ralph, Glen and Jeff and four daughters, Wendy, Brenda, Lorna and Dianne. Brenda was married to Peter Dawley in 1975 and is living in Prince George, B.C.

[illegible]

In 1966, a daughter, Lorraine, came to live with Everett and Lillian. Lorraine took all her schooling in Benalto, then went to work in the Imperial Bank of Canada in Red Deer. In 1965 she married Norman McKenzie of Red Deer. Norm is a chartered accountant and has his own business in Red Deer. In 1973, Norm was president of the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce and is now a Red Deer Alderman. They have two daughters, Debra and Sandra. Debbie was married in October 1977 to Jim McCutcheon son of Doug McCutcheon of Sylvan Lake.

**NIELSEN, THE HAP FAMILY—by Betty Nielsen**

I, Betty Nielsen, have lived in Benalto most of my life. I was born in Red Deer on February 12, 1934. (See W. A. Holsworth history). I lived on a

farm three miles from Benalto for the first two years of my life. After a three-year stay at Tees (my parents operated a store there), we moved back to Benalto to a farm on the east edge of town when I was five years old.

My earliest memories of Benalto are the station, where my grandparents (Nortons) lived, and a wonderful hand pump on the kitchen cupboard, the train with all its steam, noise and bustle, and the horses at the station hauling the freight. I also remember the board sidewalks and losing pennies and once a quarter, down the cracks.

At school, we felt very smug, as our school was the only one for miles around with indoor plumbing. I went to the Benalto School from Grade 1 to 11 and then to the Red Deer Composite High School for Grade 12. My teachers were Mrs. Sterling, from Grades 1 to 6 and Mr. Farris for Grades 7 to 11. I spent many happy hours playing ball and rehearsing plays.

After completing Grade 12 I took nurses training for three years at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. I then nursed for two years at the Blood Indian Hospital at Cardston, Alberta.

On December 27, 1957 I married Hap Nielsen from Glenwood. After living in Calgary for a short time then in Three Hills for several years we returned to Benalto. I nursed at the Eckville Hospital for one year. We then built a house on a wooded acreage on my parents' quarter and near their home. Hap did all construction work for about six years and then he went into business for himself—"Hap's Construction".

We have five children. Arthur 19, Ann 15, Elizabeth 13, Mary 11, and Christine 10 years old. Quite often the younger ones ask where they will live when they are grown up. For them it is hard to imagine any place better than Benalto. To be honest, I can't imagine any place better, either!

**NIELSEN, LAUREL AND MARY**

In 1919 the Nielsen family moved from Dundurn, Saskatchewan to the family ranch south of Evarts, Alberta. The family was made up of Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, May, Everett, Orlie, twin brothers, Murle and Myron, Laurel and Roy. Later, the family moved to Benalto where they have resided ever since. Laurel and Roy were engaged in a farming partnership for some [illegible].

On July 24, 1948 Laurel and Mary Palm were married in Red Deer. Mary was the youngest daughter of John and Eva Palm of Sylvan Lake. Laurel became involved in construction work.

One son, Gary, was born in 1949. He took his education in Benalto and Sylvan Lake. Gary works in the sheet metal trade and is employed at Pincher Creek. Gary and his wife, Karen have two children, Lori Ann and Darren James.

Laurel has been active in all sports including hockey, baseball and curling. He is a member of the Elks Lodge No. 404, a member of the Benalto Agriculture Society and a member of the Benalto Curling Club. For several years, Laurel has been the caretaker of the local curling rink.

Mary is a member of the Royal Purple and the Benalto Ladies Aid. Her interests centre around her home and family, plants, her yard and craftwork. For two years, Mary worked in the Eckville Post Office. Next, she was employed for one year by Don Wilkes in his general store in Benalto. Mary worked for seven years for G. R. Lougheed in his Benalto store.

Laurel and Mary celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 24, 1973. Their family and friends put on a program and dance in the Benalto Community Hall. Laurel and Mary are looking forward to enjoying their retirement years in Benalto.

[illegible]

**NIELSEN, MYRON** by Barbara Nielsen

Myron Nielsen was born in Dundurn, Saskatchewan. In 1919 he moved to the Evarts district with his folks. They bought the SE 4-38-2 W5, called the Island Ranch. This farm consisted of nine quarters of grain and hay land. They brought a large herd of good quality Hereford cattle, horses, machinery, a model T Ford and a Maxwell car.

Myron finished his schooling at Evarts. In the spring of 1933 he bought and moved to the John Woods place, SE 20-38-2-W5. He worked on the railroad at Benalto for a few years, also on road work and bridge work. In 1937 Myron married Barbara Murphy of the Diamond Valley district. We have four children, Virginia, a registered nurse, trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She nursed at the Edmonton and Red Deer hospitals. She married Marvin Prier of New Sarepta, and they have two children, Gail and Ross. They farm at New Sarepta.

Wayne was a cowboy and followed the rodeos for a few years. He then managed a garage in Ontario, then took to trucking, going through the States. Wayne is married and has one daughter, Cindy.

Mervyn worked in a garage at Sylvan Lake for a few years. He is now a field supervisor for an oil company. In 1968, he married Penny Gar on and they have a son, Randy. They live on an acreage east of Red Deer.

Raymond lives at home and attends school at Sylvan Lake. In 1962, we sold the farm and bought a house in Benalto. Myron worked out on construction jobs at Red Deer and out west. I worked for Mr. Ralph Lougheed, at the Benalto store for 15 years and later for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knowles. Our children took all their earlier schooling at Benalto.

**AARNE RAYMOND NIEMELA**

Ray Niemela was born in Red Deer on July 19, 1919, the son Eino and Emma (Wuoblo) Niemela. He took his elementary education at the Metcalfe School near Benalto, and Grades 9 and 10 at Kinusamo. For one year he studied motor mechanics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary in 1935-1936.

scientific agriculture, which proved very fortunate as he lost his father when only 12 years old, and became the man of the farm from then on. But, his interests expanded to embrace community welfare as well as the business of making a living.

The depression years were happy times as he, along with Howard and Ted Johnson, took an interest in and managed the Young People's Hall group, under the sponsorship of the Loyal Finns.

maple hardwood dance floor, even with their 35 cent admission charges. There was fun galore — was welcome, and attendance was good. Very often the Roth family orchestra of Red Deer provided the music.

A highlight of the Young People's group was the operation of the STAR ball club, with Ray acting as manager. There was never a shortage of players, rules were strict and closely adhered to. One season 33 games were played and only one was lost. But in 1939 war broke out, men were called up, and a happy strong relationship came to an end.

In the winter Ray played hockey with the Palm Bay Hockey Club, on the ice of the Sylvan Lake North shore. He also played with the Benalto Hockey Club. These were the days when young fellows had to depend on their own resources and ingenuity to indulge in such sports. Government handouts were, as yet, unknown and the boys, with their own hands created the facilities which made their play

But, after all, work is the essence of a farmer's life. Ever at the forefront in adopting progressive methods, Ray very early, decided that the day of the horse was nearly gone; he bought his first tractor, a Twin City, 3-plow machine, in 1936, costing $850 new. It burned the old Turner Valley naptha, or "skunk gas" as people called it then. About the same time he purchased a new Chevrolet half-ton truck for $802. Obviously that was when a dollar was still

For a time, Ray raised registered Tamworth hogs, an operation he began in 1944. In 1943, he also began raising registered seed barley, an enterprise which became his prime interest, and he finally abandoned the hog project. His first seed project was with Olli barley and he produced select and foundation seed of this variety for 30 years. For many years he has grown registered seed of other varieties, as they were presented the Robertson Associate Award, the highest distinction available to members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. The award is presented to members who have fulfilled with conspicuous fidelity and success their obligations as members of the Association.

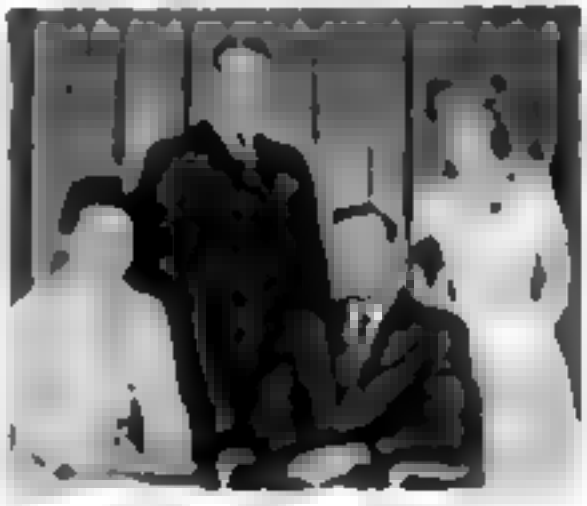
Ray began with the three-quarter sections of land that had been his parents, SE 12-39-3-W5, SW 7-39-2-W5 and NE 1-39-3-W5. Over the years he enlarged his holding with the purchase of the following properties. In 1961 from Mrs. George Gilpatrick the SE 1-39-3-W5. In 1964 from Ilma Hyvonen the SW 12-39-3-W5, in 1946 from Frank Jenkins the SW 8-39-2-W5 which is now farmed by his son Terry, in 1946 from Matt Talson estate, a 92 acre portion of SE 7-39-2-W5, now owned by Ray's sister, Helen Johnson.

In addition, he has leased the following parcels, from the Armstrong Bros. NW 1-39-3-W5 in 1941 now owned by Harley Stamm. In 1942 the SE 7-39-2-W5 from the Matt Talson estate; in 1944 the SW 6-39-1-W5 from Anna Huerliman, presently owned by her nieces Marie Pijeau and Josie McGrandle. In 1944 the SW 1-39-2-W5 from James

Millar, in 1944 the N½ 5-39-2-W5 from E. Nikkola. In 1971 the SE 31-38-2-W5 from Wm. [illegible]

From the time when he began to take an active part in farm work until his marriage, he worked together with his mother and sister. In 1946 he was married to Edith Helen Ignatius, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ignatius. From this time on, he took over as sole operator of the farm.

Edith was born on her father's farm home on July 29, 1926. She took her public school at Salma, and went to Red Deer for her high school graduating in 1945. Prior to her marriage, she was employed in the office of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool in Red Deer. To them were born two children, Dorinda Marlene, born March 24, 1947 and Terrance Raymond born July 12, 1949. Their daughter married Albert Bietala in 1968 and they have two children, Bonnie Marie and Trevor Lee. Their son Terry married Marilyn Kubik in 1973 and they have one daughter, Karri-Lynn Anne.



Since 1970, Terry has been an active partner with his father.

Over the years, the Niemela's have benefitted from the work of many capable hired men and [illegible] some of whom have become lifelong

Modern facilities have gradually changed the nature of farm life and work since the early years. The first telephones came the year of Ray's birth, 1919. Service was improved slowly, and in March 1967 the present day underground cable system was completed, eliminating the old party lines. Electricity was brought in by Calgary Power Ltd. in 1949. Natural gas service came to the farm in 1972. Now, the modern farm homes of the district enjoy all the amenities people used to associate only with city homes.

The farm dwelling, itself, has undergone a veritable transformation. Ray and Edith started their married life in the house which included the old Wuobio homestead, later enlarged and remodeled, and finally in 1969, they moved into their present fully-modern house, designed by themselves, and built by Four Star Construction of Red Deer.

The actual work also has been transformed thanks, in part to modern labor-saving improvements. When Ray began selling registered seed, for example, he had to bag by hand as much as 20,000 bushels in a season and sew the sacks the old slow way. Now their chore is quickly done by means of an electric hand sewing machine.

Formerly seed cleaning was done on a custom basis by Mr. Carl Selstrom, now it is done by their son's own modern mobile unit. Binning and weighing is now done in their own building with their own scales, capable of handling truckloads up to 40 tonnes.

Community affairs have always been of great interest to Ray and Edith and their family. Edith was Benalto 4-H Clothing and Garden Club's leader for several years, and has given 16 years service to the Girl Guides of Canada. Ray was chairman of the Building committee at the time of the erection of the Benalto Community Hall in 1962, and the curling rink in 1953. He has served as leader of the Benalto 4-H Grain Club for a number of years. He was also chairman of the finance committee for the building of the Sylvan Lake Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1976. From 1971-1977 he served as an advisory member on the Agricultural Service Board for the County of Lacombe. Thirty years he has been a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society, several of these as president. At present he is chairman of the local board of the Provincial Agricultural Development Committee, for the County of Lacombe. Since 1949 he has been a director of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association.

With all the busy activities of farm and community come many satisfactions and pleasures as well as aching backs and tired muscles. They always look upon seeding time and harvest as times of special contentment and reward. Lunch in the midst of the bounty of harvest satisfies the yearnings of the soul as well as the hunger of the body. So it is with all the many busy demands of life. Serving as Elder for the Church also satisfies the human desire to to something for one's fellow man. So does their continuing involvement in such organizations as Club Finlandia, which they like to keep up to maintain the connection with their ancestral roots, however much they love to think of themselves as Canadians. Life demands service and commitment, but it bestows satisfaction and contentment.

**A FARMER'S FAITH** — **Author Unknown**

I believe in farming as a way to live and make a [illegible]

I believe in the dignity of my work I want no man s patronage
Preaching or pity
I believe in my soil It will reward me in proportion to the thought
labour and love I give it
I believe in myself My success depends on me more than weather,
luck or laws
I believe in my neighbors. My community, like my soil returns to me
as I give to it
I believe in co-operation. In thinking for myself and acting with my
[illegible]
I believe that only a united agriculture can insure justice and prevent
[illegible]
I believe in education. The more I know the greater my ability to
seize opportunities to be happy
I insist that my children be enabled to learn to be useful, intelligent
[illegible]
I believe in conservation. I will leave a better farm than I took
I believe that living is the most important job in the world and I mean
to plan my work so that my family and myself will have the time
and means to enjoy life
I face the years ahead with confidence hope and [illegible]
I believe in myself, my fellow men and a Supreme Being
I believe in farming

**NIEMELA, ELNO**

Elno Severi Niemela was born in Westlahti Onkemaki, Finland, on October 21, 1891. He immigrated to Canada in 1912, making his home first in the Rocky Mountain House area, finding whatever work was available for willing hands and a clever mind. In 1914, he worked for a time at the coal mines in Nordegg.

He later worked in the United States for a short while finding employment in the mines at Anaconda, Montana. But, Canada lured him back, and he took up land in the Oras district settling on SW¼-34-39-6-W5. Elno possessed an extraordinary skill with axe and broadaxe. On his homestead he built two finely crafted substantial log buildings with wooden dowels, using no nails whatever. These buildings were made to last, both were later moved to his farm at Benalto, where one is still in regular use as a granary and is solid as ever. In it one can see the skillful fitting of the logs, an art which is practically unknown today.

By 1916, he had made the acquaintance of the Wuobio family north of Benalto. He worked for the Wuobios on the farm, and that year married their daughter Emma. She did not wish to move to his place at Oras, as she was the only child and

[illegible]

did not wish to leave her parents. Since she had come with her parents to settle on this place, and had been part of the local community, she was reluctant to leave. Elno sold his farm at Oras and purchased from Mr. W. E. Payne, the quarter south of his father-in-law's place. NE 1 [illegible] W

In 1919, together with Mr. Wuobio he purchased SW7-39-2-W5 from Mr. Max Bittner. The farming operation was beginning to expand and prosper. Meanwhile, he had been busy with his trusty axe, grub-hoe, and four-horse team soon had his own quarter entirely cleared, and under cultivation. The land proved fertile and productive, and he raised exceptionally good crops of wheat those early years.

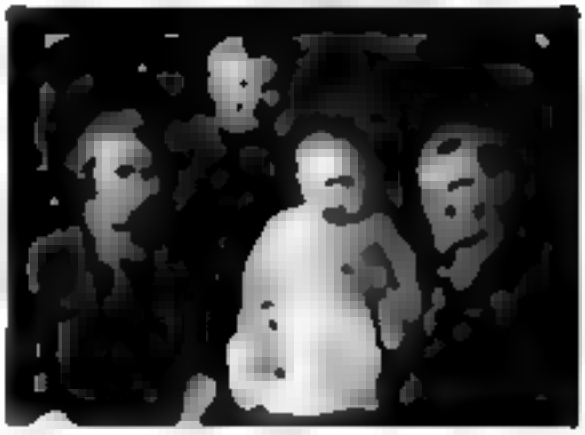
Also in 1919, their only son Ray was born. He still farms the same land and still finds it equally fertile and productive. The old settlers chose well.

In 1918, Elno's mother-in-law, Mrs. Wuobio died, a victim of the Spanish influenza. Mr. Wuobio passed on in 1922.

In 1922, a daughter Helen was born. She, too, has lived all her life in the same community, she is now Mrs. Howard Johnson, and lives on her own farm just one mile north of her childhood home.

The year 1925 was another milestone in the family's progress, they bought their first automobile, a Chevrolet touring car. The modern age had truly begun.

By 1930 the Niemela's were ready to enlarge the old family home, which had been built by Mr. Wuobio. To the original frame building, a four room addition was built, making a comfortable



roomy house. This addition was built on contract by Mr A Steinback of Rocky Mountain House for $1,600

The "Dirty Thirties" were a difficult period for the Niemelas, as they were for all farmers According to family records, here are some of the prices received for farm produce at that

15 dozen eggs brought 90¢ in 1933

47 spring chickens, total weight 236 pounds brought $11 90 an average price of 5¢ per pound

Other prices were comparably low These were hard years, but hard work and thrift saw the farmers through them. just as these qualities had stood them in good stead during those first years of settlement

Mr Elmo Niemela died on June 2, 1933, aged 41 years. He is remembered by all local people as a man of rather quiet disposition, one who minded his own business and did not interfere in the affairs of others. He left his wife Emma, a son of 13 and a daughter of 11 to operate the farm. Emma Niemela capably managed and operated the farm with the assistance of her children and hired help. Struggling through depression years, despite costly mistakes, she - able to keep the family farm in operation

The family grew in number when Helen married a neighbor's son, Howard Johnson, in 1945, and in the following year 1946. Ray also married a local girl Edith Ignatius

Emma, retiring off the farm in 1947, moved to Sylvan Lake She bought. Port Dover, on 4th Street East which she sold in 1947 A new home was built on 2nd Street South West where she resided until her passing, August 1964. She is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery

In her retirement years, she took a keen interest in her church activities and received much asure from her grandchildren Faye Johnson Dorinda and Terry Niemela

**NIEMELA, TERRANCE RAYMOND**

Terry was born in Eckville July 12, 1949 His public schooling was taken in Eckville, and for his high school, he attended the Red Deer Composite High School After graduation, Terry took a two year course in Agriculture. at the Olds Agricultural Vocational College, graduating in 969

After leaving college, Terry decided to farm with his dad Ray Niemela, in the growing and selling of registered seed grain. In 1970. Terry purchased one of Carl Selstrom's mobile grain cleaners with which he did custom grain cleaning in the community as well as cleaning for himself and his Dad

In 1971, Terry met his wife Marilyn nee Kubik) of RR No 4, Eckville. Marilyn attended the Condor and David Thompson High School. In 1972, she took a Certified Nursing Aide Course in Calgary, graduating in August 1973

Terry and Marilyn were married on September 1, 1973, in Red Deer They purchased a mobile home, which they moved on to the Niemela farm near Benalto. Terry is presently the fourth generation living on the original Wuobio homestead, which he now owns (SE 12 39-3-W5

On August 14, 1974, their first child was born a baby girl named Karri-Lynn Alane

In the winter of 1974-75, Terry designed and built a new mobile grain cleaner The new mill has a capacity to handle from 125 to 225 bushels of seed per hour depending on the type of seed it is required to clean. His old mill was sold to Marianne Farms (Staudinger Bros

In 1978, Terry and Marilyn hope to see their steel constructed building completed, that will house their grain cleaner which Terry hopes to use as a stationary seed processing plant

Terry and Marilyn are both community minded. Marilyn belongs to the Benalto Order of the Royal Purple, and Terry belongs to the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404. In 1976-77 Terry served in the capacity of Exalted Ruler of the Lodge

**NIKKOLA, ELI AND FRANK — by Sylvia Thorkman (As told to me by Helmi Erkkila)**

Eli and Frank Nikkola came to Canada in 1904 from their native land, Finland. They spent several years working in Eastern Canada before coming to Alberta in 1911. During that winter they filed on a homestead located in the Codner area northeast of Rocky Mountain House

After summer arrived they realized that most of their land was swamp and muskeg. which made clearing and breaking the land impossible Determined to get the title for the land they built buildings from logs, close by. and also bought a horse and a cow Homesteaders in those years

Eli and Frank were musicians so evenings on the homestead were often spent playing the accordian and organ. They were never lonely for neighbors gathered at their home to spend the evenings singing and dancing

After three years on the homestead and no

way to dry up the land, they decided to move on. Leaving their home in 1914, they moved to the Kuusamo district, where they rented land from Mrs. Ida Peterson, SE 4-39-2-W5, for four years. Mrs. Peterson passed away and the land was sold to the Burdick family from the United States. Another move had to be made.

In March 1918 Eli and Frank bought the NW 5-39-2-W5 from the C.P.R. This was new land, no buildings or improvements, so they decided to move their buildings off the Codner homestead to their new property.

Most of the winter was spent dismantling the log buildings, marking the logs, and loading them onto a C.N.R. flat car at Codner. They were then shipped to Elspeth, then hauled to the farm to be set up to make the brothers a place to live.

The following year they purchased the adjoining C.P.R. quarter, the NE 5-39-2-W5, to make the half section. In the years that followed they raised Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses, in which they took great pride.

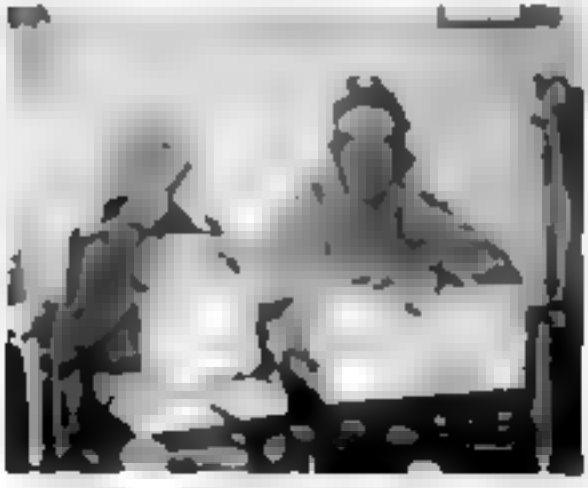
Eli and Helmi Saha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Saha, were married March 13, 1923. They have one daughter, Hazel, who was born April 11, 1924. She is married to Bob Cosman of New Westminster, B.C.

Eli and Helmi purchased Frank's share of the land. Frank made his home in a separate house in the yard until his passing in 1930. He is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Farming in those years was done with horses, so the days were long and strenuous. Eli still found time to help in community affairs. He was the first secretary-treasurer of the Mutual Telephone line east of Eckville. He was also on the board of directors on the Sambo Thresher Company, of which there were 14 shareholders.

Eli passed away in March, 1945 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Eli and Helmi raised two foster children, Irene and Leonard Euren. Irene is married and lives in Wetaskiwin. Leonard is married and lives in Calgary.



Helmi continued farming alone until October, 1955 when she married Bill Erikkila. The Erikkilas continued farming for several years before retiring and renting their land to Ray Niemala. They still live on the farm and are enjoying their retirement. In 1975 they made a trip to Finland, and have made several visits to various parts of Canada.

**THE PETER NISKANEN AND SWAN ANDERSON FAMILIES — by their Granddaughters, Annie Simpson and Mildred Niemi**

Peter John Niskanen and Albertina Tikkanen were born in Kuuraveden pitajassa, Kuopion laanissa, Finland, he on September 25, 1863 and she on August 20, 1871. Both families had immigrated to the United States and Peter and Albertina were married on February 16, 1891, later changing their name to Koski. A daughter, Anna Emma, was born to them in Red Lodge, Montana on July 1, 1897.

Albertina and Peter Niskanen and daughter Anna

They lived in various places in Montana and Idaho for a number of years, but their nomadic life was over when Peter came to Canada in 1909 and bought the NE 36-36-3-W5, which was to be their home for the remainder of their lives. At first Peter farmed with oxen, but later bought horses and raised their colts.

Although Anna was an only child, she was not lonely, for she had a pony named Tony, which she rode to visit neighboring girl friends, and her parents had a lot of company as well. Their home was used as an overnight stopping place for people travelling from further west to Red Deer. She attended Melita School to the end of Grade 8, and for a part of the time did the janitor work at the school. With this income she bought a large mirrored bureau, which is still in the family.

Peter continued his farming operations alone until 1917, when he rented the farm to his new son-in-law, Sven Anderson, selling the farm to him two years later. Although Peter and Albertina were separated in the later years, both continued to make their home on the farm, with Anna and Sven. Albertina spent some of her time in

Montana where most of her relatives lived Peter became a cattle dealer, and rode

hand to help out on the farm during the busy

By 1928 Albertina's health had become very poor as she suffered from both kidney and heart ailments. She was cared for at home by her daughter Anna until she passed away on December 2, 1928 Peter also passed away at home, on February 7, 1932 Both were buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery

The story of our parents follows

**THE SWAN AND HSON FAMILY**

Sven Adolph Anderson was born on May 2, 1881 in Polstorp, Sweden, the second youngest of a large family. In December, 1911, his brother Albin, who was already living in Big Horn, Montana, U.S.A., sent Sven $90 for his ticket to America and an extra $60 for spending money

After working on the railroad for two years in Montana and South Dakota for $1.35 to $1.50 a day, Sven accompanied a co-worker, Ole Rustad to Rootuk in April, 1914. Since Ole's brother was railroad section foreman in that area Dad began working on the railroad, helping to build the grade for the tracks to be laid west to Nordegg He soon became a section foreman, earning $2.90 a day

Dad lived in an "engineer's shack" which was located about one mile north of the Number 11 highway It was at this time that Dad met Mother when he would go to her home to buy milk, eggs, bread and butter from her parents In July 1914 the shack was moved to Benalto to serve as the station With 1915 being a very wet year the resulting high water moved the west end of the railroad bridge on the Saskatchewan River near Rocky Mountain House, and Dad was part of the crew sent out to repair the damage and clear away the debris floating down the river Dad continued to work on the railroad until December 1915, when he returned to the United States

As a result of Mother writing to Dad that Granddad wanted someone to take over the farm, Dad returned to Benalto and they were married on April 24, 1917 in Red Deer with Reverend Wolfard M. Ryan officiating. A charivari following their return from a two-day trip to Calgary and a wedding dance on May 1 at the Socialist Hall, completed the festivities, and then began the task of Dad learning to farm — something he had never done

They first rented Granddad's farm, but after two years they bought it. Those first few years were difficult ones paying $250. for a mare who died, along with the foal, when foaling; Mother getting the flu in 1918, when Dad was gone hunting (Mother would likely have died had it not been for the care and kindness given her by an old bachelor, Ben Kesterka, who happened to drop

erysipelas in 1921 Dad and we two daughters having scarlet fever in 1922 the complete loss of their 80 acres of crop destroyed by hail and the loss of a horse who had got into a granary of wheat

We girls, Annie and Mildred, were both born in the old house. Mrs. Isaac Johnson was the midwife who delivered both of us. Mother had a goitre, and after failing to have it removed by two trips to doctors in Montana, it was removed by Dr Thatham in Edmonton

Visiting was done on a leisurely basis in those days, and was often combined with going to have a steam bath After the chores were done our whole family would leave on a Saturday night for friends homes sometimes as far away as Pitcox (Hespero), with a team and democrat or a bobsled in the winter time After the baths the men would play Norwegian whist, the ladies would visit, and the children would sleep until the wee hours of the morning Social events of any kind were always family affairs

In 1924 Dad and Mother bought a "Tin Lizzie — a 1922 black, side-curtained touring car for $325 Although Mother learned to drive, her driving days ended abruptly when she stepped on the wrong pedal as she was approaching the closed gate at the end of the lane. Fortunately the gate wasn't much of a barricade, so no great damage was done, except that Mother never wanted to drive after that episode

In the early days the grain was stooked or stacked after being cut with the binder Prior to 1917 Mother's records tell of Langer's coming to thresh on the afternoon of October 23 and leaving to go to Huhtala's on the evening of October 26 They had threshed 3072 bushels in all. They charged three and one-half cents a bushel for

threshing oats and barley and five cents for wheat. The threshing bill came to $108.25 after deducting a discount of three and one-half per

It was in 1927 that Arnold was born. Mother and Dad were overjoyed to have a son, and we to have a baby brother. When he was about nine months old he developed severe convulsions, and was very ill for a time. This same year Mother and Dad purchased a brand new "glassed" or closed-in" blue Chevrolet coach car, costing $1015. It was one of the first in the area, but touring cars soon became a thing of the past, as people became accustomed to the greater comfort of the closed-in cars. The evening of the day we got our new 1927 Chevrolet we all went to Liberty Hall to see a play directed by Henry Jokinen, Saaristo Laiset". We had previously seen two shows at Benalto, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and Lighthouse Nan" in 1925 and 1926.

When we were babies we were left at home with Granddad while Mother and Dad went to dances, but as children we attended the dances at Elspeth Hall, and as young ladies we would attend the dances in Sylvan Lake. Picnics at Sylvan lake were regular Sunday occurrences, and the Christmas concert and school fairs were highlights of the years. Another highlight of our school days at Melita was the time we walked to Jack Simpsons at Benalto to listen to King George V speak on the radio. New Year's Eve was a gala celebration among neighbors. It was the Finnish custom to melt tin, lead or solder in a long handled dipper. It was held in the firebox of the stove, and then plunged into a tub of cold water. The resulting creation was then studied to attempt to predict what the New Year would bring. The Benalto Fair was another highlight in the community. To earn money for this occasion we children picked weeds from the garden, for which Dad gave us 25 cents, and Granddad always saw to it that we had extra spending money. When Grandmother was in the States she often sent us a new dress to wear, both for the fair and at Christmas time. If she didn't send one, Mother had one made for us. These were the days when we wore long underwear and dark home-knit stockings in winter. Mrs. John Kangas had a machine on which she would knit stockings and mitts to order for those who desired them.

Even the work sometimes became a social occasion for the men. Most farmers had an ice house, used to keep the milk, cream, and other food products cold. This was a pit filled with chunks of ice, insulated with sawdust. Neighbors would go together to cut blocks of ice from Sylvan Lake, load them onto bob-sleds and fill the ice house for each of the farmers. Firewood also had to be cut and hauled from tree lots, and again neighbors would work together, first hauling them and then cutting them into firewood. The resulting sawdust was used in the ice house.

The education of their children was of prime importance to Mother and Dad. All three of us started school in Melita. After Grade 8 Annie and Mildred took part of their high school in Kuusamo, and completed it in Red Deer. Times were hard when we went away to Red Deer. In 1930 and 1931 eggs sold at five cents a dozen, wheat was worth 22 cents a bushel, a five-gallon can of cream brought $1.70, a pig was worth $3 and a large cow would sell for $15. Still, by milking eight to 11 cows, and by personal sacrifice our parents managed to put away enough money to send us to school. Annie took a one-year secretarial course at Garbutt's Business College and then she and Mildred attended Calgary Normal School, and became teachers, which profession they have followed for many years.

Mother, Dad and Arnold took their first holiday in 1940 when they went to Vancouver to visit the Sundstroms and Wayne Heikkinen. Later they began making frequent trips to Montana to Saskatchewan, Wymoing, Washington, and British Columbia. Dad made a trip back to Sweden in 1957 — after an absence of 46 years — to visit his five sisters and two brothers. Everyone was very surprised that Dad spoke such good Swedish after having been gone for so long.

The years went by quickly. Dad purchased more land and in 1935 bought his first tractor from Jack Sunnell for a team of horses and $1000 in cash. This was a Model D John Deere. Arnold had joined Dad in the farming operations and lived at home, but we girls were both away teaching school. Throughout the years Dad maintained an interest in community affairs. He had been trustee of the Melita School Board for nine years, had worked arduously for the Benalto Agricultural Society, as Stampede Manager for several years, and was Honorary Life Member of the Benalto B.P.O.E. Dad was an original contract signer with the Alberta Wheat Pool and remained a member in good standing until his death. His farming efforts had been rewarded by his winning the reserve provincial championship award for malting barley in 1950 and in 1951 the provincial championship and the reserve championship in the interprovincial competitions.

Mother suffered from crippling arthritis for a number of years. In 1945 she gained some relief from a three-month stay at the hospital in Banff where she underwent "gold" treatments and had mineral baths.

Mother and Dad lived a full life, and Dad lightened his working burden somewhat during the last few years. Their grandchildren gave them special pleasure throughout the years with their regular visits.

50th wedding anniversary on April 24, 1967 with a community get-together at the Benalto Community Hall, with a supper served by the Ladies of the Royal Purple, followed by a dance. During

the last year of their lives together their 55th wedding anniversary was spent quietly at home with close friends and family. The power had been off for some days, but the house was kept warm with an auxiliary stove, the food had been prepared by the family and the house was lighted with a lamp and candles. It was a memorable evening, and deeply appreciated by Mother and Dad. The lights came on before the night was over so it was a nostalgic evening combining the past with present.

Dad passed away on December 30, 1972, in the Red Deer Hospital and on February 10, 1974 Mother passed away in the Eckville Hospital. Mother, Dad, and Arnold were each laid to rest in the family plot in the Red Deer Cemetery.

**THE NORTON FAMILY**

My father, Archibald Norton, was born near Huntsville, Ontario in 1860, the youngest of seven children. His parents had emigrated from England in the early 1850's and had settled on a rocky farm in the northern Ontario district where they endured many hardships.

Starting in a small way, the family delivered milk in the town of Huntsville for 26 years, only missing one day, that of the father's funeral. The milk was measured into containers supplied by the customer — some buying as little as a cupful at a time.

My father attended night school when possible, acquiring some additional knowledge, particularly in business techniques. He played a cornet in the local band at this time. During their teens my father and one of his brothers acquired timber limits nearby where they felled trees for lumber and also sold the bark to a large tannery operating on the shores of one of the Muskoka Lakes.

My mother, Mary Smith, was born in England in 1865 and moved to Huntsville at an early age, later marrying my father. They farmed near Woodstock, Ontario for a short time, where Laura was born. Then moved back to Huntsville where I was born.

Along with many others, my parents moved west in 1912 and settled in Bassano, Alberta where George was born. My father started working for the CPR as a freight clerk, learning telegraphy during this time. He then became a relief agent so for a few years we moved almost continuously until we finally took up residence in Benalto during 1921 when the station was opened for a permanent agent. My father came in February and remained until his retirement in 1946. We followed late in April, after a severe blizzard.

During this winter my father and Mr. Stan Hooker walked to Evarts occasionally on a Sunday to attend the church service and have dinner with the Madisons. We lived in the house on the Woodmancy farm (now owned by Max and Annie Simpson) where we spent two very happy summers, roaming around the farm and playing in and on the old buildings. We enjoyed living near Sylvan Lake and had numerous picnics on the beach, often spending all day Sunday, swimming or trolling for fish in a row boat. The Morrisroe and the Sestrap families were often the only other people in sight on the beach. We made many trips out west, also, picking berries, catching fish and picnicking. My Grandmother Norton visited us frequently until her passing in 1928.

In the winter we drove from the farm to the station in a homemade cutter pulled by horses borrowed from Eli Gislman. Then we walked to the Melita School, often down the railway track. The section men often stopped and gave us a ride on their "hand car" if they were going to work in that direction.

After a year and a half we spent a winter in a one-room cabin south of the tracks, which was then moved and became the kitchen when the new house was built. It is now the Bowman residence.

During the summer of 1923 or 1924 we had a severe hailstorm on a Saturday night. Trees were blown down around our house and the next day the fields appeared to be swept clean — the crops had disappeared. However, the farm people attended church as usual on Sunday morning. All around our property was unbroken land. We used a path through the trees leading to the elevator house where Warrens lived (now the Dick Austin residence).

I, Norma, graduated from the Calgary Normal School and taught at the Bluebell and Melita Schools, marrying Peter Stewart in 1932. Our history appears elsewhere in this book.

In the summer of 1925 or 1926 the Pocock and the United Grain Growers elevators were built. Where our house now stands, tents were set up for the men with a large cook tent for meals. I spent a happy summer helping the cook and running errands for her and some of the men. Laura and I were attending the Convent at this time, as there was no schooling offered here past Grade 8. Our teachers here had been Miss Coghlin, Miss

Stewart, from Ontario, and Miss Solomon George also had Miss Eileen Fera later Mrs Tommy Wilworth). Miss Barton and Miss Ruth Garries later Mrs. O. Lundberg) as teachers

We later moved to the new station and my parents lived in it for many years They caught rainwater in a cistern and the train men left barrels of water for them as a well was never drilled. They used kerosene lamps, Coleman lights and burnt briquets for fuel

My father was fond of gardening and also planted the blue spruce trees on the Bowman property He was commended by the CPR for his care of the grounds adjacent to the station

Through the years my mother and father attended the Presbyterian Church faithfully although they were members of the Anglican Church. In the early 1920's church was held at Benalto and Evarts on alternate Sundays, with most people attending both places. Church was held in the Booster Hall in Benalto and occasionally in the waiting room of the station My father lit the fire for many years, and attended to the other janitorial duties, which sometimes included cleaning up the hall following a dance

I remember one Sunday School picnic held at Sylvan Lake in 1921 We went early in the day with the Jack Simpson family in a wagon. The road wound in and out among the trees, probably utilizing the higher ground and avoiding a large slough west of the Kuusamo School. The picnic was held on the beach and the foot races were held on the sandy road in front of the present garage west of the hotel Another picnic was held near the Medicine River, probably on the McBride farm. I had hoped that all of the young people would have a swim. However much to my disappointment the young fellows slipped away by themselves, as they were not using bathing suits

Mr McKechnie, our blind minister always came by train and stayed with various families over the weekends One year he offered a prize at the Fair for learning and reciting a passage from the Bible (First Chapter of the Gospel according to St John, verses 1-14) Alice Durward (nee Cameron), Alice Sundstrom and myself competed with Mr McKechnie acting as the judge sitting up on the platform in the hall. Alice Cameron was declared the winner My Bible still bears witness to the time I spent learning those verses, apparently without the benefit of enough soap and water

Another interest shared by my mother and father was the Agricultural Society My father served as the secretary for many years and my mother was a director Various work bees were held, one when the barn was being built, another when the roof of the hall was raised others when the grandstand was enlarged The women did their share by supplying meals and lunches to the men

One humorous incident which I remember was moving all of the exhibits to the station so a dance could be held on the first night of the Stampede, as well as the one always held on the last night I believe on this occasion the cowboys were blamed for helping themselves to a pie Another time a dog belonging to the Henry Falson family was shut in the hall overnight by mistake. The food exhibits were all on display, but I believe that he left them alone

The cowboys were usually in attendance at the stampede dances, which were very popular throughout the country. The hall was always packed, so dancing was almost impossible and the floor either very dusty or muddy

Box socials were held in support of various projects

For many years, during the Fair and Stampede John Heikkinen had the job of patrolling the grounds in search of people who had gained admittance without paying This was possible as there were no gates or fences at the far side of the grounds

Both of my parents enjoyed curling. Before the rink was built in Benalto a few of the local men journeyed to Evarts, often in bitterly cold weather to take part in the curling there

During the wintertime people travelling to Red Deer drove their cars or travelled by sleighs across Sylvan Lake on the ice whenever possible to save a little distance Sometimes, when something urgent arose, my mother would travel to Red Deer by train and stay overnight in the Arlington Hotel. Although reluctant to do this she always felt better if Laura and I could stay with her, even though we were still children

My father and Laura were interested in Amateur Dramatics and sometimes took parts in plays which were presented in Markerville Alhambra and Caroline, as well as in Benalto My mother was a member of a Ladies' Community Club, the Ladies' Aid and a bridge club which was formed in the early 1930's In the early days my mother was often called out during the night to assist a new baby into the world, or if an illness had occurred. She also boarded teachers for a number of years

During World War II a committee comprised of John Watson (chairman), Tom Smith Sr George Sterling and my father (secretary) sold Victory Bonds throughout the country

My mother passed away in 1944 My Father moved shortly afterwards to Nanaimo, B.C where his two sisters were living He made frequent trips back to Benalto until his passing in 1963

My sister Laura attended high school at the Red Deer Convent and the Red Deer High School and graduated as a teacher from the Camrose Normal School. After teaching for three years — one at Happy Hill and two at Kuusamo, she was married to Bill Holsworth. (Their history is recorded elsewhere in this book)

My brother George took Grade 9 at the Melita School. He and Aili Huhtala Mrs. Clarence Anderson) were the first to take Grade 9 at

Melita. He took the rest of his high schooling in Red Deer, and then attended the U of A where he graduated in Medicine. He volunteered for service at the beginning of World War II and served overseas until 1944.

After his return George took post-graduate work in Radiology from McGill's and then moved to Vancouver where, until his recent retirement, he has been associated with a firm of radiologists. He was married before leaving for overseas to the former Lois Andrew of Alix, a graduate nurse. They have a family of three boys and two girls.

Peter, George's oldest son, after obtaining his Ph.D. in math and teaching in the University of Toronto, is now in his last year of medicine. He is married to the former Sally Bence and they have [illegible].

John, the second son, is a Nuclear Physicist and is employed by an oil firm in Calgary. He is married to the former Sheila Kelly and they have a son and a daughter.

George, the third son, attended the UBC in the faculty of Mathematics and is currently an assistant manager in the Treasury Branch in Red Deer. He will be moving to Mayerthorpe in 1978 to take up duties as manager in the Treasury Branch there. He and his wife, the former Chris Arnet, have a daughter and a son.

Susan, the elder daughter, married Nick Lane and they have a son and a daughter. They are living at Prince Rupert, B.C.

Mary, the younger daughter, is married to Phil Michaelides and they live in Vancouver.

**SAHA, SYLVESTER AND AMANDA**

Sylvester and Amanda Saha were married in Finland and immigrated to Canada in 1902 to the Benalto district, Sylvester arriving in the spring. Amanda and daughter, Helmi, in October of the same year.

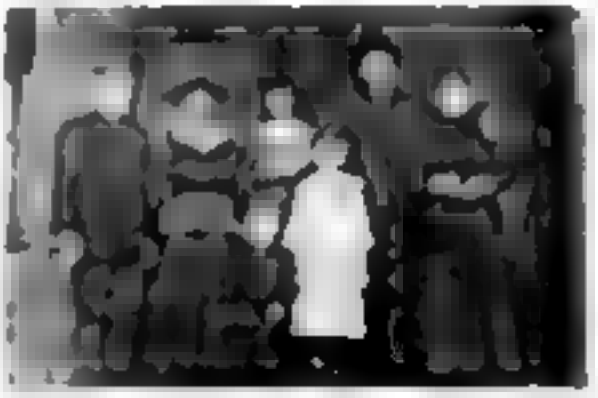
Sylvester's brother, Sam, had immigrated to Canada from Dakota earlier and homesteaded the SE 28-38-2-W5. He encouraged Sylvester and sent him the fare to come to Canada and settle here. Arriving, he found the land next to his brother was available. Sylvester homesteaded the SW 28-38-2-W5.

He spent a busy summer preparing a home for his family. It was late October when Amanda and Helmi arrived in Red Deer. No definite time was known for their arrival so there was no one to meet them. Inquiring for a ride to the homestead, she met August Halstein who could speak her language. He arranged a driver, team and democrat to take her to her destination for the fee of $5. The first winter was cold and snowy. Shortly after Amanda arrived, Sylvester became ill. With no doctor or medicine closer than Red Deer, Amanda applied her home remedies and soon Sylvester recovered. Money was scarce and with equipment to buy, so like several other homesteaders, Sylvester found employment in a coal mine in Frank, Alberta.

He farmed with three oxen purchased from the late Victor Pastobak for the price of $75 each. Oxen were difficult to handle during a hot day in fly season. The hours had to be arranged to early and late and a rest during the day. A pony was bought to team with the oxen. Later sold for the same price purchased and replaced by a team of horses.

On June 22, 1909, a daughter, Hilja, was born. Work in the field was a family affair. Mrs. Saha helped with stooking and haying which was heavy work. Neighbors were relied on for help in work and for supplies. One day Helmi and Mr. Saha were returning borrowed harrows and coal oil to the neighbors, the team bolted and they were upside down in the bush, with Helmi under the harrows. The first words Mr. Saha spoke after the runaway was to inquire if the coal oil was all there. Much to their relief, capable Helmi had held the container through it all, never spilling a drop.

Mr. and Mrs. Saha loved social life. They danced the old time dances like they were floating on a cloud. Onlookers gave them great applause after a dance. Neighbors were always made welcome with a friendly visit or a game of cards.



In 1933, they sold their farm to their son-in-law and daughter Hilja and purchased land two miles east of Sylvan Lake. They farmed there for nine years, then selling their land, retaining four acres on which they built a cottage and retired.

Mrs. Saha's sight was failing through the later years. She became totally blind the last few years but was able to do most of her house work and bake bread. Mrs. Saha passed away October, 1947 at the age of 71 years. Mr. Saha passed away November 1956 at the age of 82 years. They are buried in the Kansanen cemetery.

Helmi married Eli Nikkola March 12, 1923. They farmed the NW 5-39-2W5 north of Benalto. They have one daughter born April 11, 1924, and she is married to Bob Casman, New Westminster, B.C.

Hilja married Wilho Euren in 1938. She passed away suddenly at the age of 30 years leaving to mourn her loss a husband and five small children. The grandparents raised the two older boys, Albert and Harold, and Mr and Mrs Nikkola raised the two younger children, Irene and Leonard. Elvo remained with his father.

Eli Nikkola passed away in March, 1945, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. In 1955 Helmi married Bill Erikkila, they farmed for a number of years before retiring.

**GEORGE SALONEN AND FAMILY**

George (Yrjo) Salonen was born in Montreal on December 26, 1894. According to the Finnish Canadian Archives in Sudbury, Ontario, he was the first Finnish person born in Montreal and also thought to be the first Finn born in Canada.

His parents immigrated to Montreal from Merikarvia, Finland in 1888. They moved on to Belt, Montana in 1896 and then on to Red Deer, Alberta in 1900. Later they settled in the Kuusamo District. When George was old enough, he started farming one and one-half miles east of Benalto.

In August of 1922, he married Selma Tommola, who also came from Finland the same year. They were married in Red Deer. In 1923, their first daughter Hilja, was born. Slowly they built a log barn for their many horses and few cows. Selma started raising turkeys each spring, and did so for many years. In 1925, they built their first sauna, out of logs also.

In the fall of 1925, their second daughter Toini, was born, and in 1926 Ella was born but passed away in 1932.

Mr Salonen had 160 acres of his own, on part of which the land had to be broken. In 1928 he acquired another 160 acres as a homestead. He would get a clear title to this land, after 40 years of farming, with a crop share going to the [illegible].

In 1929, their fourth daughter, Ethel, was born. To clothe the four girls Selma was kept busy sewing and making over new clothes. She carried the babies along with her to the fields as she stooked the bundles of grain.

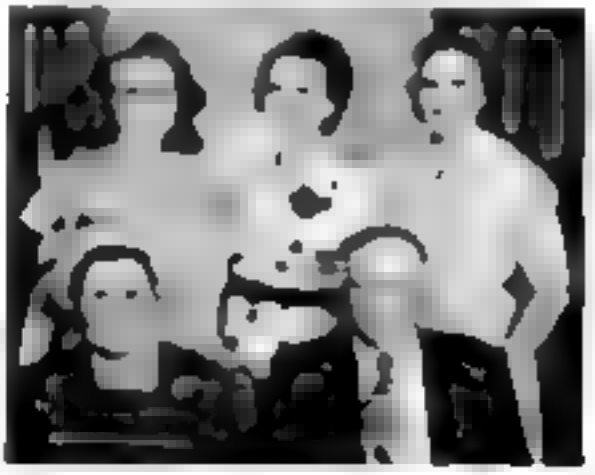
At one time they had as many as 23 horses which they used to do the work in the fields. In 1939, Mr Salonen bought a new Case tractor as only four of the horses were kept after that.

The girls travelled three miles to the Melba School. In summer by horse and two-wheeled cart and in the winter by horse and cutter with a bag of hot oats under their feet, which Mrs Salonen had heated up to keep them warm on their way to school. Toini still remembers when they took a 12-dozen crate of eggs on their way to school in the morning in the two-wheeled cart. These eggs were sold to the store in Benalto for $1.08. Out of this money Toini bought herself a pair of running shoes for 98 cents.

As the girls got older they helped with the feeding of a hundred pigs, discing the fields with the tractor, sitting on the binder during harvest time and making hay.

In 1938 the Benalto School was built, so it was now only a mile and a half to school.

The Salonen girls were married, Hilja in 1944, now living in Edmonton, Toini in 1945, now residing in Beausejour, Manitoba, and Ethel in 1950, and now living in Calgary.



Mr and Mrs Salonen continued to farm until 1967 when the farm was sold to Mr Ed Much in 1968. Mrs. Salonen passed away on August 6, 1968 after a lengthy illness. Mr Salonen moved to live with his daughter Hilja until his passing in August of 1971.

**SAMPO THRESHING MACHINE — written by Ivor Malstein (Published exactly as written by the contributor at his request.)**

This is the story of a co-operative threshing company that was in operation in the combined districts of Kuusamo, Benalto and on the border of Eckville from the year 1917 to 1924. There were 11 members whom I shall name here regardless of their possible mention elsewhere.

Starting at the most northerly point they were Emil Matison, Matt Kujala, Henry Lund, August Halstein, Sylvester Saha, Gust Kalaputas, John Koski, Jack Ropsfelt, Matt "Little Harju" Mad and Bill Wuori, Frank and Eli Nikkola.

This co-operative threshing outfit operated smoothly with no disputes, the man who got threshed first one year would be last next year. Those were the rules and no one disputed them.

In those days it was a steam outfit consisting of a Port Huron engine and a Gaar Scot separator and the farmers named it "Sampo" and the only Finn interpretation I can find is Giant.

When that outfit arrived it took stout-hearted cooks to meet them as a normal crew consisted of 20 men give or take a couple, but these pioneer women rose to the occasion.

They brought their own bunkhouse where evening games of whist sometimes brought consternation to those who got skunked

The engineers blew a get-up whistle at six in the morning, at noon, and at quitting time. If the water monkey was on the point of being late he was told to hurry with three long blasts of the whistle. Water is a must around a steamer. The grain haulers were given short blasts if they needed to be hurried up. The whistles on the various engines were a slightly different tone from each other and every one knew their own whistles. The engineers would say "Hello" to each other with their whistles from a distance of several miles on a still morning.

The engineers employed were Fred Isaacson of Eckville, Gust Maki of Benalto, Henry Wright of Rocky and Bill Staudinger of Sylvan Lake. John Koski, an Eckville blacksmith was separator man as was Felix Halstein of Sylvan Lake.

Eli Nikkola was secretary-treasurer to start. Later when Emil Marison returned from overseas in 1918 he held the position until dissolu-

Every year more land was cleared so by 1923 it took forty days to thresh the members so it dis-

had to give way to smaller gas outfits. Finally the separator was wrecked and steam engine 506 once resplendent with brass trim and gleaming injectors went to work heating a Red Deer garage.

Old timers of Eckville I salute you!

**SCHMIDEK'S HARDWARE STORE**

Two brothers-in-law, Cary McKenna and Jack McKenzie, had built and operated a hardware store in Benalto in 1922. They sold it to the Atlas Lumber Company in 1926 and the partnership was dissolved. Subsequently, McKenna built another store for heavy hardware and implements down the street next to the hotel. He operated it himself for a short time but, upon becoming a grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, sold it to Herman Schmidek in March, 1928. This business became known as Schmidek's Hardware Store.

Mr. Schmidek will be remembered for his adeptness with the steel hook which replaced a hand he had lost while dynamiting rocks at Medicine Hat. Upon taking over the business he expanded it by adding other sundry items, such as groceries and dry goods, to the stock. In 1933 Mr. Longair was hired to work in the store and continued doing so for about a year after Swan Anderson bought the business in 1937. Subsequently Uno Krimila, Herbert Swift and Mrs. Armitage leased the premises for short periods of time, after which it was used as living accommodations by several residents.

From 1947 to 1962 Simpson Electric was located in the building. It is now used solely as a residence.

**SIMPSON E. M. FAMILY — by Annie Simpson**

My entry into the world was in one of those Marchs' when it came in "like a lion". My grandfather Peter Niskanen, rode his pony through waist-high drifts to Ropsfelts to ask them to fetch the midwife, Mrs. Johnson. Fortunately she arrived in time to deliver me, Annie Mae Christina, the first child of Swan Anderson and Elma Niskanen Anderson.

I was a colicky baby, and Mother and Dad spent many sleepless hours rocking me in an attempt to stop me from crying. Finally a neighbor said to Mother, "You're starving the child. Put her on the bottle." This my mother did, and the results were gratifying.

The next year my sister Mildred was born and several years later my brother Arnold was born. We had a happy childhood on the farm, helping with chores, pulling weeds, herding the cows home from the pasture to be milked and even giving a hand with the milking. Picnics at Sylvan Lake were regular occurrences, where the children played in the shallow water while the men set about catching the fish for the fish mumigan" which was a part of every picnic. The fact that a few flies would invariably sample our "dish" did not deter us from enjoying it.

An attack of appendicitis gained for me my first trip to Red Deer, when I was 11 years old. I had been sick at home for several days, and Dr. Nix operated on me as soon as possible after I reached the hospital. He felt that any further delay would have resulted in a ruptured appendix, with likely fatal results.

After completing Grade 8 at Melita school I attended Kuusamo for two years, where Mr. Glen Paul was my teacher, then took Grades 11 and 12 in Red Deer High School. This was followed by a year of business college in Red Deer as I was still too young to attend Normal School.

The next fall I went to Edmonton to enroll in the Edmonton Normal School, but through a mix-up, I should have gone to Calgary. However

as we visited the Legislative Buildings and witnessed the swearing-in of the late Premier Aberhart who had just won his first election by an overwhelming majority.

The next day found us travelling down that winding dusty road to Calgary. That year must have been one of several dry ones. Seeing the parched grass and treeless "wasteland", I thought I knew now what was meant by the prairies.

The polio epidemic was especially widespread that year, and no sooner had classes started than we were sent home for a few weeks as a safety precaution. We were given assignments to be completed at home, and I "burned the midnight oil" but the thought of slacking up on any of them never entered my mind. My parents had worked hard and

sacrificed much to provide me with an education, and I just couldn't let them down.

As a beginning teacher, I found the first few months of teaching at Melita school especially difficult, and without the help of an experienced teacher, Mrs. Ena Kinna, to whom I appealed for guidance, I think those first few months would have finished my teaching career. Little did I anticipate then, the number of years that I would spend in the classroom! After two years spent at Melita I taught the next three years at Carriti school. My salary for each of these years was $840 a year.

It was while I was teaching at Melita school that I met Max Simpson. He was one of a family of six - five boys and one girl. His parents had come west from Peterborough, Ontario. His dad was a station agent and wireless operator at Airdrie, Canmore, Field, Penhold and Sylvan Lake. The youngest child, Max, was born while they lived at Penhold. He attended school at Penhold and Sylvan Lake. While he lived at Sylvan Lake he came to my first Christmas concert, and four and a half years later we were married.

Max was an avid curler. He was one of a four some of teenagers from Sylvan Lake who excelled in the sport and who won many prizes at local bonspiels. After we were married, he made curling history in the Benalto area by scoring an eight-ender against a friend, Don Wilkes. Don felt really let-down as he himself, had accidentally shoved the last rock in to give Max and his rink — my dad, Vester Niemi and Carl Seistrom — the final count.

After our marriage we lived at Sylvan Lake for a year before moving to Edmonton, where Max took training and worked as a sheet-metal mechanic at Aircraft Repair Ltd. It was while we were there that our first son, John Robert, was born.

When Max joined the Navy and was sent to the east coast, I came back to the farm to live with my parents until the end of the war. When Max came home again he took an electrical course in Calgary, then we moved to Benalto where he became very busy wiring homes, as the countryside was being equipped with power. By now our second son, William David, had been added to our family, and a few years later a third son, Kenneth Maxwell, was born.

It was when Ken was three years old that Earle Farris, the principal of the Benalto school, asked me to teach in a new room which had been opened to accommodate the pupils being bused in from the surrounding area. With two weeks before the opening of school, I was fortunate to be able to secure Jessie Ignatius, who lived across the street from us, to care for Ken. She did this until Ken started to school, and no one could ask for a more devoted companion for a child. She took him for walks, taught him the nursery rhymes, read to him, and defended him against his older brothers, even though he was often in the wrong!

Those were good years. The boys had their grandparents a mile away to visit, do odd jobs for to earn spending money, and also to gain a sympathetic ear when they felt that their parents were being too strict. Cub and Scout leaders, such as Don Wilkes, Ralph Lougheed, Jack Purdy and others, kept the boys busy with various outdoor activities and we parents worked behind the scenes to the best of our ability. Our son Jack earned numerous badges, and became a Queen's Scout. He was presented with his award in Edmonton by the Lieutenant-Governor.

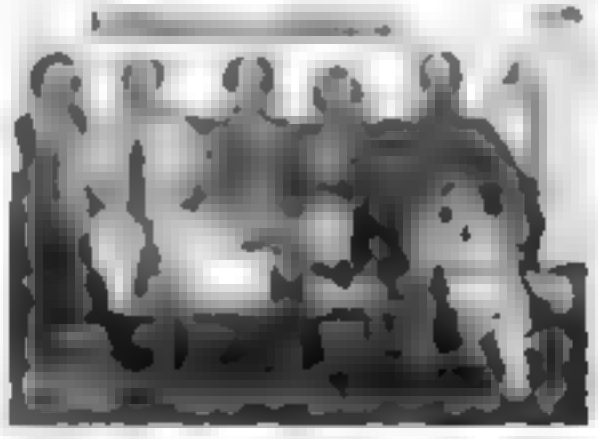
Sunday School, fishing expeditions, curling, camping trips, and school occupied our time. The regular "sauna" at Grandma's and Grandad's took care of what we would do on Saturday nights until the boys were well into their teens, so discipline was not the problem it is today.

During these years I continued teaching, as well as updating my education by evening credit courses in Red Deer and summer sessions in Edmonton and Calgary. I obtained my B.Ed. in 1966 and my Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction in 1972.

After my brother Arnold's death in 1967, it became increasingly difficult for my dad to farm alone, so Max quit his electrical work, rented some of Dad's and, and began farming — an occupation he carried on until 1974.

Our three sons are all married. Jack, who is Department Head of Science at M. E. Lazerte High School in Edmonton, married Jill Bennett of Edmonton, and has a son and a daughter. Bill, who is Head Draftsman for the Alberta Energy Company in Calgary, married Marjorie Peers of Acadia Valley, and has two daughters. Ken, who, after earning a degree in Geology and working for a short time in the Arctic, turned to teaching and now teaches science in the Junior High School in Okotoks. He is married to Peggy Grainger of Edmonton, has one son. Teaching seems to be a popular profession in our family, for of our three sons and their wives, four are teachers.

Max and I have continued living in Benalto.



The Simpson family reunion, 1979. Front: Annie, Max and Andrea, daughter of Bill.

We have been here over 30 years, so we are fas. approaching the time when we will become the old-timers" in the area. Like so many "old timers though, we find that time does not hang heavy on our hands. Max has served as secretary of the Elks Lodge for over 15 years and I am kept busy with my teaching activities

**THE HERMAN STETTNER'S — by Marj Stettner**

Herman is the third son of Carl Stettner and am the second daughter of Jack McDougall both of Carmangay a small town in southern Alberta Both our families farmed in adjoining districts east of Carmangay where we grew up and spent our early life

Herman and I were married in January 1940 in Lethbridge. For the next four or five years Herman worked in the coal mines in the winter and on the farm in the summer He worked in the mines in Shaughnessy and in Coleman

In July, 1946, he started as helper with the Alberta Wheat Pool in Carmangay In April of 1947 he was given the elevator in Namaka where we lived on 1 August, 1953, when he was transferred to Benalto

The elevator here was a more modern one than the one in Namaka, but it was still powered by a big gas engine. However when they built the new annex in 1954 they put in the electric powered motors which was a big improvement We thought they were being really good to us as in the summer of 1958 they built us a new house

Benalto being small but active It was not time until we were involved in every organization here. Around this time Herman's dad was a familiar figure here at Stampede and Bonspiel time He never missed any of these events for many years. One of his best friends was Swan Anderson. He doesn't come up anymore He is 92 years old and lives in the Golden Acres Lodge in Lethbridge. When we go down he never fails to ask about his friends up here

Herman and I both used to curl a lot but the last years the Elks, Royal Purple, Agricultural Society and Church activities have kept us busy I have sewed for the last seven or eight years, and have met many wonderful people. I feel really honored when I think back to the number of young girls who asked me to make their graduation dress and then later their wedding dress I was always so proud of them, and they helped me keep in touch with the younger generation since our own two girls were grown up

Donna our oldest daughter, took a Radiological Technician course and went to Yellowknife to work She married Fred Dornan, who is now vice president of Wardair Northern Operations. They live in Edmonton and have two children — a boy and a girl

Betty took a secretarial course and also went to Yellowknife to work She married Jerry Carter, an Aircraft Engineer with Mobile Oil They live in Sherwood Park

An elevator agent's days are usually quite routine. but one day a loaded box car had no brakes and it got away on Herman He rode it halfway to Eckville before it stopped. Four or five men with poles tried to stop it at Ray Walker's, but couldn't

Another time to remember was in 1971 After 25 years of service Herman was presented with a gold watch at a party at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary by the Alberta Wheat Pool. Al Kuntz was honoured at the same time

As I think back, recalling things that happened years ago, I can't believe that it has been 24 years since we came to Benalto

**STEWART THE PETER FAMILY — by Norma Stewart**

I was born as Norma Norton so my history prior to my marriage to Peter Stewart in 1932 is covered in the Norton history

Peter Stewart was born in Scotland in 1906 and came to Canada with his parents in 1912 After living for a short time in Prince Rupert B.C they lived on a farm in the Burnt Lake district In 1922 they settled in Evarts where they operated the store and post office for many years. We have remained closely associated with the Evarts people through the years

Peter was very fond of animals, particularly horses, and started farming at an early age He continued his farming even after moving to Benalto in 1944 where he operated the U.G.G elevator for 27 years until his retirement in 1971 He prized the warm and lasting friendships that he made with his customers while working in the elevator

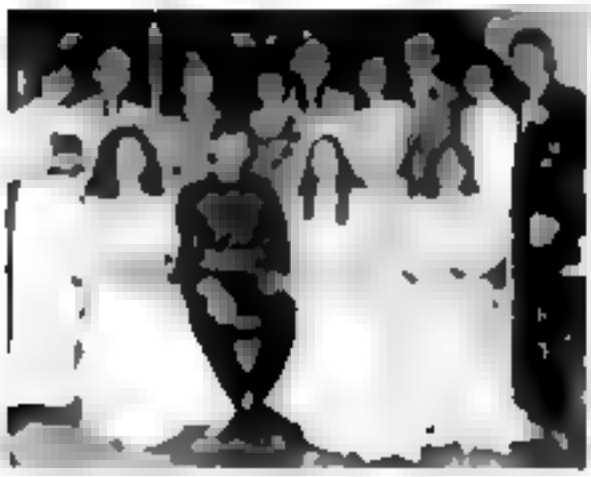
After living in the elevator house for 20 years we moved it to the farm We built our present home in Benalto During our years in Benalto we were active in various organizations, including the Presbyterian Church (Peter served on the board of managers the Agricultural Society (as directors and the Curling Club. We helped with the car bingos which were held in the early 1950's to help finance the building of the Agricultural Barn and the Curling Club. After our barn was built in 1949, two dances were held in the loft to assist the Baseball Club financially, and all of the parking space in Evarts was filled on both occasions. Peter was also associated with the Booster Club, especially in the earlier years, and the Boy Scouts' Parents group. Together we enjoyed many evenings of square dancing after the Club was formed in Benalto

I am a charter member of the Royal Purple, a member of the Ladies' Aid and I helped with the 4-H Sewing Club, the Brownies, and the Home and School Association. I enjoyed a group called the 'Knitters", as all the members had small children at the time, and it was often our only night out during the week Through the years usually accompanied by my sister Laura, and

her husband Bill Holsworth and their family, we enjoyed numerous picnics and berry-picking trips all through the West Country Berries were more plentiful in the 1920's and early 1930's sometimes covering the ground in a solid mat

In 1950, while we were away doing some Christmas shopping in Red Deer, a fire started in our basement Luckily the town people were able to get the fire out, even though the floor boards were partially burned through

About the time we were married, I believe the prices were at an all-time low. I remember oats selling for 6¢ a bushel, butter for 15¢ a pound, and milk cows for $15 each. We bought a side of pork for $2.00. We received $30 a month for carrying the mail to and from Evarts, a job Mr Simon and Peter's father had held for many years previously I resumed teaching in 1961, working as a teacher-librarian in Bentley David Thompson and Eckville, but retired in 1971 when Peter retired from the elevator



[illegible]

Our first child [illegible] we were living in [illegible] Evarts Benalto and Red Deer then went on to the University of Alberta where she obtained her B.Sc. in Pharmacy. She is married to Wes Johnston and they have operated a drug store in Edmonton for many years They have two sons Ralph is married to Joanne Olstad, and is a member of the Edmonton City Police Force Stewart, the younger son, is still at home

Mary, our second daughter also born at Evarts, graduated from business college in Red Deer and is employed in the accounting office of the Summit Hotel in Calgary She was married to Ray Horn of Edmonton, and has one daughter Leslie, who is attending high school

Isabel, our third daughter lives at Prince George, B.C and is now employed by Simpsons Sears. She has training in business education and comptometer work She was married to Murray Salsauler They had a son, Rodney, who passed away at an early age

Graham, Isabel's twin brother, graduated with a B.Sc. and a degree in Education from the University of Alberta He is teaching Art in a high school in Edmonton. His wife, the former Rynie Versendaal, is also a teacher but since the birth of their daughter, Laura, has remained at home

While growing up our children all studied music, took part in the Young Peoples Society the 4-H Clubs, and Graham was a Cub and a Boy [illegible]

**TALSON, MATT**

Matt Talson was born in Wyoming, U S A in 1891 and he passed away in 1930 His wife was the former Selma Kopsala. She was born in 1892, and also died in 1930

Matt first came to Alberta with his parents in 1902 When he grew old enough he went back to Wyoming to work in the mines. Later he and a friend, Elmer Hyvonen, both 17 years of age drove a covered wagon from Wyoming to Alberta. When their horses became worn out from the many days on the road, they traded with the Indians for a team of wild horses. With this team they were able to continue on to the Eckville area where his parents were living

Matt filed on a homestead about six miles to the north of his parents place. Later he sold this homestead and bought a quarter section on the [illegible]

Of their six children Bill and Oscar are now deceased Frank, John, Elmer and Ethel are all living in British Columbia. There are 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren

The Matt Talson children were raised by their uncle Mr Henry Talson, and his wife after the death of their parents in 1930

**THE MATHEW TALSON'S CHILDREN**

William was born in 1913 and died in 19[illegible]

Frank was born in 1915 and married Hilda Ebelhoff in 1946. Their six children were Raymond, Robert, Arthur, Gordon, Sylvia, and

[illegible]

orge They have two grandchildren. Frank works in a lumber mill and they reside in Coquitlam, B.C

Oscar was born in 1917 and died in 1958

John was born in 1920. He, also, was married in 1946 — to Mary Lardner They have seven children. Arlene (Mrs. A. Gaudet) Janis (Mrs E. Floileau), Eric Leonard, Arnold, Mike and Daryl. John has seven grandchildren. He is now retired and is living in Coquitlam, B.C

Elmer was born in 1925. His marriage to Lenora Fielding in 1946 made the third marriage in the family in that year They have three children, Victor, Donna (Mrs R. Flemming) and Deborah. There are four grandchildren Elmer now owns and operates a trailer court in Comox on Vancouver Island

Ethel was born in 1928 She married Mel Day in 1947 They have two children, Cameron and Brenda (Mrs W Hanson) and four grandchildren. They live on Douglas Island B.C., where they work for the forest industry

[illegible], B.A.M.

Isaac Wuoblo was born in Tornio, Turtous O.L. Finland, in 1866. At the age of 18, Isaac left his native land for Hancock, Michigan, where he worked in the mines. After a few years at Hancock, he travelled west to Butte and worked in the mines.

At Butte, Isaac Wuoblo and Olga Karkinen met and were married November 24, 1891 making their home at Red Lodge, Montana. Olga Maria Karkinen was born in 1870, at Karstula Vastinkin Kyla, W L. Finland. Olga left the land of her birth also at the age of 18 to go to Ironwood, Michigan, where she worked in a steam laundry After a short period of time, she moved to Butte, Montana

In the year 1895, while they were residing in Red Lodge, Montana their only child, a daughter Emma Pauline was born

When Emma was small, the Wuoblo family moved back to Butte, where Isaac was again employed in the mines, but underground work caused a crippling rheumatism and he was advised to find something else to do

In 1899, Mr Wuoblo bought the homestead rights of W Koski on a quarter section of land at Rolla, North Dakota, and moved his family there. Occasionally, he had to go back to the mines to earn enough money to run the farm

In the early spring of 1902, Isaac read in a Finnish newspaper that homesteads were plentiful near Red Deer in the North West Territories Canada

It was April when the farm was sold and a neighbor, Mr Toivanen, took them to Cartwright, North Dakota, with a team and wagon. By train they went from there to Winnipeg then to Red Deer

The first of June that year Mr Wuoblo squatted on a homestead with the Medicine River running through it. The town of Echville stands on the west side of that land

The season was rainy and mud was everywhere. Isaac was not satisfied. He could see no future in the country so he abandoned the land he had squatted on, took his family to Red Deer and bought tickets to Winnipeg. Hearing of good land to be had around York on Saskatchewan he took his family there

With three other men, they hired a livery team with a driver and went in search of land, but found that Saskatchewan had an abundance of rain, too. After fording two swollen rivers, the third one seemed too much for the livery team He asked the men for a $500 bond if his horses were to cross that one That was as far as they went They turned back

Mr Wuoblo was not satisfied with the land there It was prairie and much like what he had left in North Dakota. There was no bush, and the water had to be hauled for two miles

Going back to Yorkton, where Mrs. Wuoblo and Emma were staying in a hotel, he took them back to Winnipeg After staying there two weeks they decided to go back to Finland

Upon going to the station in Winnipeg, they met personal friends, en route for Alaska who advised them that they would not like Finland So, once more they returned to the west

When they arrived back in Calgary, heavy rains had washed out the C.P.R. tracks between here and Red Deer When the tracks were repaired, they resumed their journey to Red Deer where they bought a team of horses from Mr Peterson the father of Mrs. Reg. Whyte and a new wagon

They started back to the land they had abandoned, but found that in their absence it had been taken up by Mr Kaupp

Their new wagon loaded with trunks and other articles needed at the homestead the Wuoblos found travel very slow, and progressed only 12 miles the first day, due to muddy roads

The next day they got as far as the Salmonson home, now owned by the Andersons

Mr Wuobio finally succeeded in locating available land on the SE 12-39-3W5, two miles north of Benalto

Staying at the Salmonson home while getting settled, they made the acquaintance of three men — Mr Gust Hill, Mr Henry Lund and Mr Matt Harju who helped them build the homestead cabin. Red Deer 25 miles away, was the closest town where building material could be obtained. There they bought their first [illegible] cows and a heifer

While struggling through the construction of their homestead home, shelter for nights was made by turning the wagon box upside down [illegible] by

In July, they moved into the new cabin which had no floor, no door and no windows, and little Emma often cried because of mosquito bites. The mosquitoes were thick and vicious in those days

Later that summer, the Wuobios bought a haying outfit from Red Deer as well as a four week old pig from a settler in the Burnt Lake District. On their return, while the team of horses were feeding, they found the pig had made a hole in the bottom of the jute sack and disappeared into the woods. The chase proved unsuccessful. Later they learned that the pig had wandered to a settler's place, been taken home, raised and slaughtered making for a delicious Christmas dinner for the finders

The first winter the homesteaders cut logs and had them sawed at a new mill located two miles north of home on SW 13-39-2-W5

By now, other new settlers were coming in, and Mr Wuobio helped to locate them on homesteads and many times acted as interpreter at the land office

New people arriving always found room to sleep in the 16 x 16' Wuobio cabin. Hay was often spread on the floor for beds. The family made their home in this homestead cabin from 1902 to 1912

The following summer Mr Wuobio and Mr A Huhtala cut hay on the school land near by. Mr Huhtala had a horse and an ox, and Mr Wuobio had a team to pull the mower. Mrs. Wuobio raked the hay with a single horse rake. Mrs Huhtala helped stack it.

The children played by the wagons while the men and women made long stacks of hay for winter use and to sell to other homesteaders

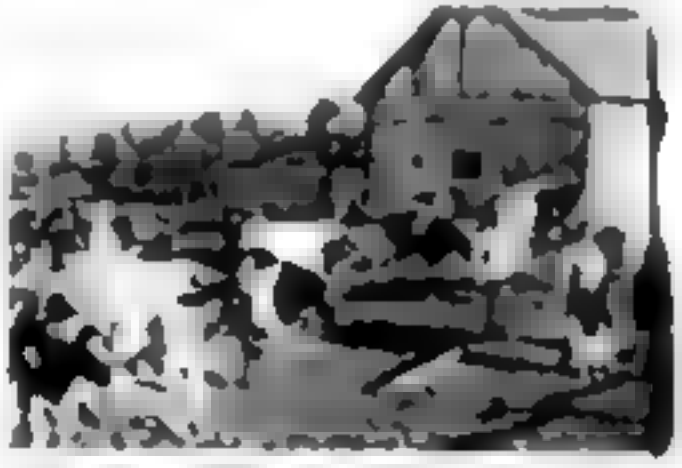
A walking plough was bought during the first [illegible] Clearing the land was a slow, back breaking business, for it was done by hand, there were no bulldozers or tractors then. Men's muscles and horsepower provided the energy for the job. Many tiring hours of labor were needed to clear a small field. The first grain crops were usually oats and barley. When the crop was ripe it was cut with a mower, tied by hand into sheaves, and threshed by hand with a home made flail.

A neighbor, Mrs. Olson, and her daughter walked three miles, helped thresh the grain, then carried some of it home for their chickens

By 1906, a horse-powered threshing outfit owned by Mr Kingsep of Eckville, threshed for the homesteaders. Later came steam-powered threshing machines, owned by the Langer brothers, A Kinnunen and I Hyvonen

By 1912, they had prospered to the extent that they could afford to build the comfortable frame house which the family lived in until re[illegible]

In 1916, Emma was married to Mr Eino Niemela, a young Finnish immigrant who had assisted the Wuobios with the spring and fall work several times. The wedding performed by



[illegible]

the Rev. Andrew Harju took place in the Young Peoples' Ha[illegible]

Further progress resulted from the years of conscientious work, and by 1919, Isaac Wuobio, together with his son-in-law were able to purchase more land, SW 7-39-2-W5 from Mr Buttner. These lands have been the centre of the family's farming operation ever since

Mrs Wuobio passed away Oct. 30, 1918, a victim of the influenza epidemic, and Mr Wuobio in 1922 at the age of 56 years. Both are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

**WUORI, MATT**

Matt and Bill Wuori came to the community from Massachusetts in 1914 after a few years of mining in the United States. While they established the homestead, Matt's wife, Alexandra, and two daughters, Hulja and Jean, returned to Wassa. Aly (as she was called) opened up a dry goods shop while she waited for Matt to get the homestead established. Then in 1915 she [illegible]

migrated to Canada. As this was during World War I they were accosted by a German ship. The captain of the passenger vessel quickly had all the women and children appear on the deck to show the Germans that they were not on a warship and at the very last moment the German ship turned around and left

After the initial shock of arriving in the middle of "nowhere" Mother soon adapted to the new way of life. She was very fond of animals and gave names to all the cows. One thing that bothered her were the hawks that attacked her chickens. Matt had told her to shoot at them but did not show her how to use a gun. However one day Mother picked up the 22 rifle, went outside, aimed into the sky (supposedly at the hawks), closed her eyes and pulled the trigger. Needless to say she never hit the hawk.

Six more children were born to the Wuori family. After Hilja and Jean came the first set of twins, Hans and Margaret. Then came Roland, Alma and last but not least another set of twins, Thelma and Violet. This kept Dad busy building sleighs and skis, as well as kicking sleighs. All the children attended Melita and Kunsarna [illegible]

Dr. Backus, who was the area doctor, called first to see Mother as he would have her accompany him on his visits to the sick. She also went on her own to help sick children and elderly people. Her medical knowledge was passed on to her by her mother who was a doctor in Wassa, Finland. Mother was a victim of the 1918-1919 flu. Their son, Roland, was born at that time and she barely recovered from the ordeal. She lost all her hair which was auburn in color and curly but when it eventually grew back it was grey.

Social activities took place in the Elspeth Community Hall where Mother contributed to some of the musical programs by singing operatic numbers. When dances were held the whole family attended. The younger members were usually put to sleep on the back stage while the parents and children kicked up their heels in polkas, the schottische and Scandinavian waltzes.

Picnics were held during the summer on the shores of Sylvan Lake with several families participating. Men folks did the fishing while the women prepared fish mulligan and other goodies. The youngsters enjoyed playing in the water and the boys usually climbed trees looking for crows' eggs.

The area had its share of hail and dust storms. One hail storm in particular had every member of the family holding feather pillows against the windows to keep them from breaking. Margaret and Alma got lost in a blizzard walking home from Benalto. Mother, Dad and neighbors set out with lanterns to look for them. Finally Dad came through the open field in two feet of snow and found Margaret carrying Alma piggy-back. Both suffered frostbite on their knees.

Five of Matt and Alexandra Wuori's family served in the Armed Services in World War II. Hans served in the Navy, Roland in the Army, Alma in the Air Force, and the twins Violet and Thelma in the Army. Also two grandchildren, George and Ronnie Staudinger, served in the Air Force and Navy respectively.

All the children married and had families of their own.

Matt Wuori passed away in 1956, his wife in 1959, their son, Roland, in 1957 and their daughter, Hilja, in 1960. The remaining members of the family are located as follows: Jean Rich and Margaret Downs in Calgary, Alberta, Hans in Rossland, British Columbia, Alma Strachan in Victoria, British Columbia, Thelma Fertich in Montrose, British Columbia and Violet Lund in Vancouver, British Columbia.

[illegible]

**WYLIE, WILLIAM LEMUEL — by Gwin and Iva Wylie**

William Lemuel Wylie was born in Williamsburg, Ontario in 1865, leaving for Post Falls, Idaho, in his early teens where he married Nettie Mae Hite. They lived for eight years at Hauser Lake, in the Spokane Area, where the first of their family was born.

In 1901 he came to Central Alberta and filed on a homestead in the Burnt Lake area, returning to Idaho for his family. They travelled by train to Red Deer, N.W.T., sending their belongings, plus four head of cattle, two head of horses and two wagons in a box car. Upon arriving in Red Deer, they lived in "Government House", in the present Windsor Hotel, a residence for early settlers. They lived there the summer of 1902 and later that fall moved by wagon to their homestead.

William Lemuel was noted for his athletic abilities. During their stay at Government House he proved his athletic ability by winning foot races, kicking contests (to see who could kick their leg the highest). He was about six feet two inches tall, and could kick four inches forwards and backwards above his head. He was an ardent hunter and marksman, winning a 12 gauge Winchester shot gun in a contest in the States.

On a trip west to look over the country, Mr. Wylie saw some land he liked better and so gave up the first homestead and filed on NE 26-38-3-W5 where he farmed till passing away on March, 1942. Before taking the NE ¼ of 26, Lemuel came out to inspect it and noticed that there were hay stacks under water, belonging to Slack & Younge. Despite this, it meant that hay was readily available for his stock so the homestead was taken.

Until the subdivision of the School Districts about 1905, this land was considered to be in the Evarts District, since Evarts was the closest post office and shopping area.

At the time of settling on his homestead none of the land was under cultivation, but there was about 25 acres of natural hay flats. The rest of

The first house built on the homestead was constructed from logs cleared off the farm. The roof was built from rough lumber purchased from Dan Clausen's sawmill which, at that time was located on the present farm of Chris Anderson. The roof itself consisted of two layers of lumber with tar paper between. There was no chimney and roof fires were frequent. The house itself contained a combined sitting-room and kitchen and a bedroom on the main floor, and two bedrooms on the second floor. The house was constructed by Will Wall, a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, in 1902.

Some of the earliest neighbors in the area were Slack and Young, who had a cattle ranch where Norman Wells now lives, and the Wall family who lived on some of Carl Jensen's present land.

During his early years Mr. Wylie saw log drives coming down the Medicine River, originating in the Leedale area and going to the sawmill in Red Deer. He remembered a water powered flour mill breaking loose and floating down the river until caught in the corral of the Smith Brothers Ranch, south of Evarts. As the water rose it took the side out of the corral, and the mill continued on as far as Red Deer. The mill belonged to Kinna Brothers, who lived on the riverbank on the land now owned by Les Kind.

In or around 1908 a dust storm unexpectedly blew up and some of the Wylie children were caught out in it. They sought refuge in a hog house but the wind was so strong that it lifted the roof off and scattered it in pieces over the field.

Mr. Wylie was believed to have had the first riding plow known as the "Flying Dutchman" which he brought with him from the States. Jack Worwick had the first Chev touring car in or around 1915 or 1916. Mr. Warren, an elevator agent at Benalto had the first radio. Mr. Warren invited Mr. Wylie and his brother over to listen to the radio one evening, but they had to return several times because the reception was so poor. They stated that they wouldn't believe it until they heard it. This happened around 1924. The first horse-drawn threshing machine was owned by Robert Wilson. This machine was powered by eleven horses. The crew consisted of five men. There was one man pitching bundles from the stack, one man feeding the machine, two men taking the straw away and piling it and one driver. The capacity of this machine was about three hundred bushels a day. Pederson from the Burnt Lake district, is believed to have had the first steam threshing machine, about 1906 or 1907. The crew consisted of seven men. There was one separator man, one water hauler, one steam engineer and four pitchers, pitching from the stack. A lot of time was spent lining up the machine when moving it from stack to stack. The machine was pulled from farm to farm by two teams of oxen. The first gramophone was owned by the Smith Brothers. They held a social in the Evarts School in the early 1900's so everyone could hear it, and the social was well attended. The first train from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was in 1914. Two days were required to make the round trip.

For entertainment the people would visit back and forth for card games. There were a number of socials of one kind or another to raise funds for Christmas parties for the youngsters of the community. Later on, the people had rodeos at their farms — usually on a Sunday — to test or prove their riding ability. Arthur Kinna was noted for his musical talent and supplied the music for all the social gatherings. He was entered in many violin contests across Canada. There was an annual picnic at Evarts, which included horse racing, sports, and novelty events. This was a real treat to look forward to each

On Christmas Eve, 1883, William Wylie was married to Nettie Mae Hite. She was born in 1868 in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A. As a young child she moved with her parents to Post Falls, Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Wylie had five children born in the United States before coming to Canada. Nettie Mae died on February 8, 1936. In all, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie had eleven children, two of whom, James and Elsie, are now deceased.

Mary Ellen married Monroe Peter Carlyle and had the following children: James, Jenny May, Harry and Steven. Pete Carlyle passed away in 1970, but Ella still lives on the farm in the Happy Hill district.

Margaret Viola married Max Lightbown and had the following children: Edward, Lillian, Elsie (now deceased), Robert, Bud, Darlene

David Viola and Max retired and resided in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, but after Max passed away in 1971 Margaret Viola moved to Abbotsford, B.C. where she is now living.

Robert Lemuel married Beulah Olmstead and had the following children: Sheila, Patrick, Florence, John and Carolyn. Robert and Beulah are retired and reside at Toulmine, California U.S.A.

William Orrin married Iva Christie and they had the following children: Harvey, Patricia, Robert deceased, Carolyn, Elaine and Arlene. Orrin and Iva reside on the William Lemuel homestead near Benalto, Alberta.

John Wesley married Mae Hunter and had the following children: Kenneth, Lucy Mae and Margaret. John and Mae reside at Iroquois, Ontario where John is retired.

Nancy Irene married Theodore Bardwell and their children are: Kenneth, Joyce and Alice. They resided at Benalto where Theodore was employed at a lumber yard until his death. Irene then married Rudy Rasmussen and had the following additional children: Ronald, Daniel, Shirley and Loyal. Irene and Rudy are retired and now reside at Abbotsford, B.C.

Hilda Lenora married Henry Monteith. Their children are: Florence, Marian, Donald, Diana, Robert, Orrin, Neil, Norma, Betty and Sharon. Hilda and Henry reside on their farm at High Prairie, Alberta.

Ida May married Stewart Meeres and had the following children: Murray and Lyle. Ida and Stewart live in Red Deer where Stewart is employed in real estate.

Ernest Oliver married Violet Cairns and had the following children: Lionel, David, Sandra and Pauline. They reside on their farm at

**WYLIE, WILLIAM ORRIN — by Orrin and Iva**

William Orrin, born March 19, 1900 in Post Falls, Idaho, came to Canada with his parents in 1902 to live on his father's homestead west of Benalto. In 1906 Orrin started school, walking three miles across country to Metlia School. His first teacher was the late Mrs. Oswald Forhan. On his first Christmas concert he remembers a neighbour coming to take the family with team and sleigh, driving right across fences, as the snow was so deep and hard. In the summer he remembers walking to Evarts to exchange eggs and butter for groceries and to collect their mail. It was necessary to use a boat to cross the river.

As Orrin grew older he and his sisters spent much of their winter hunting and trapping, often catching between two and three hundred muskrats and weasels. He remembers driving horses or a team of oxen to dances. He later raised a number of horses and cattle, and often on a Sunday the folks of the district would gather at the Wylie farm for a stampede, picking out the best buckers for the Benalto Stampede.

On February 2, 1940 William Orrin married Iva Christie. In 1942, after taking over the home farm following his father's death, Orrin was hailed out one hundred percent but managed to salvage green feed for the stock. In the spring of 1943 there was one of the worst floods in the country. The Wylies had to wade, in water one and a half feet deep, to the hog houses to rescue newly born pigs. On April 1, 1948, there was a bad blizzard, the temperature 30 degrees below zero, and the snow so deep and hard one could reach over the telephone lines on what is now the Number 11 highway. The highway was impassable for over a week, the only vehicles mobile being Skoodopote's "cats", removing snow. In the spring of 1948 there was another flood on the Medicine River. In 1945 Orrin changed from horse-drawn machinery to power machinery. The telephone was put in in 1946, and in 1956 electric power was installed. Iva (Catherine Christie) Wylie was born at Jenner, Alberta, where she went to school for two years. Her father was a veterinarian. Then the family left for Viking where Iva attended Ribstone Hill and Phillys, a school near Viking. Iva worked at various homes in Turner Valley, Stauffer, and Benalto before getting married.

Of the children of William Orrin and Iva, all were born in Eckville. Harvey attended school at Benalto and continued by taking a year at SAIT. He spent quite a few years driving "cats" on construction work. He married Sheila Kalaputas in 1962 and their two children are Becky and Stacy. They presently have a quarter of land three miles east of the Dovercourt Hall, where they raise Quarter and Appaloosa horses. Harvey works for the Alberta Gas Trunk Lines and Sheila works for the RCMP as a secretary.

Patricia Ella took her schooling at Benalto and afterwards worked at the Eckville Hospital and at the Eckville Co-op, as well as working at the Eckville Dairy Pool Creamery. In 1961 Patricia married Ronald Kind and they live in a trailer on the Norman Wells farm. Ron is a water well driller and works for Roy Forrester. Ron also, during his spare time, helps Norman Wells on his farm. Patricia and Ron have two girls, Cindy Patricia and Rhonda Gail.

Robert David lost his life in an accident in 1967.

Carolyn Mary Mae also took her schooling at Benalto. After leaving school she worked in the Eckville Co-op for about two years and then worked for some time at the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. Carolyn married Wayne Oberne and they are now living in Kamloops, B.C. where they manage the Trans-Canada Gulf Oil Station. They worked for some time in Eckville before leaving for British Columbia, Wayne working at the Revelstoke Lumber Yard. Carolyn and Wayne have two children — Tammy and Trevor.

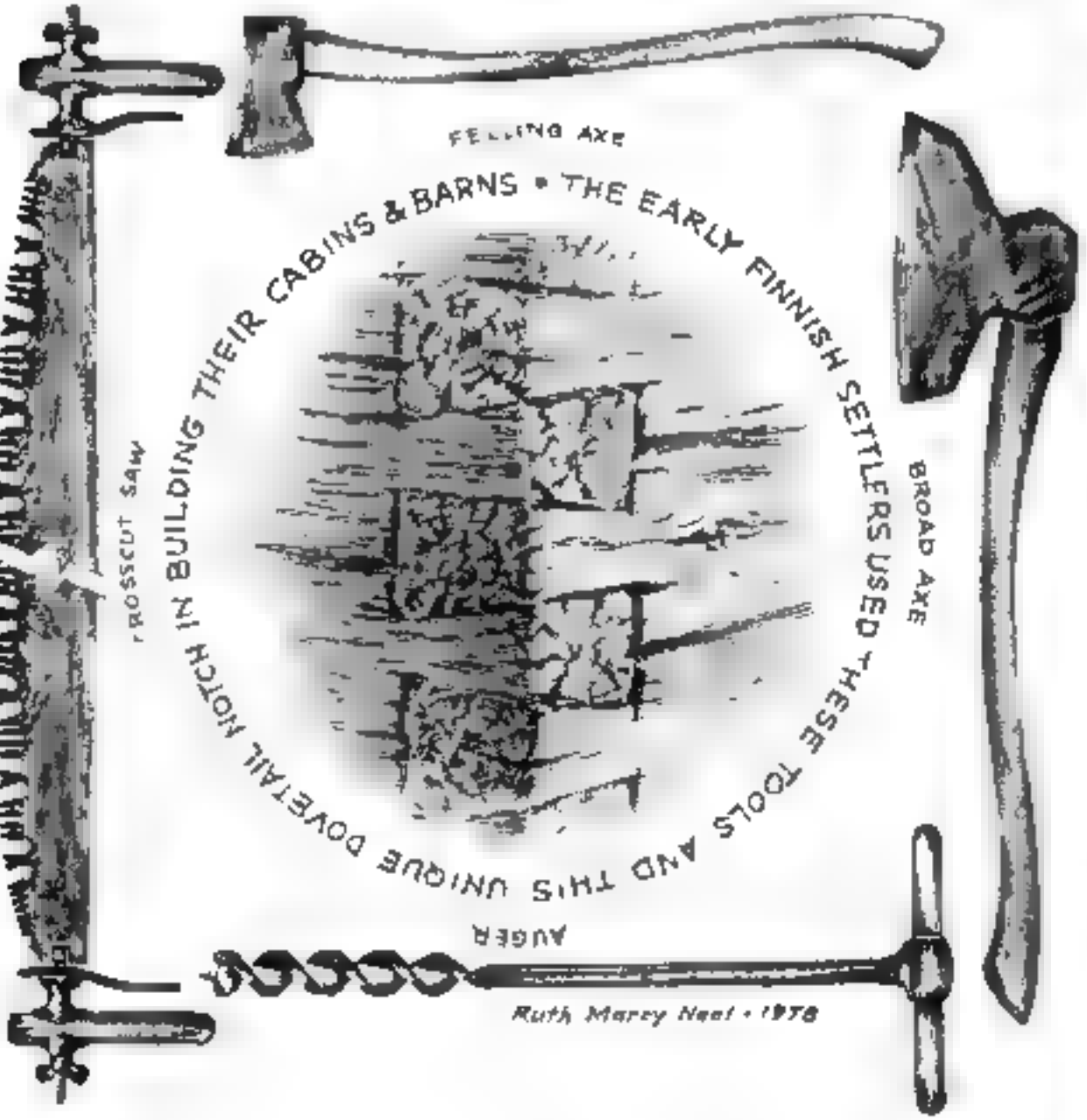
Elaine Ruth received her education in Benalto and Eckville then went to work in the Imperial Bank in Eckville. Later she was

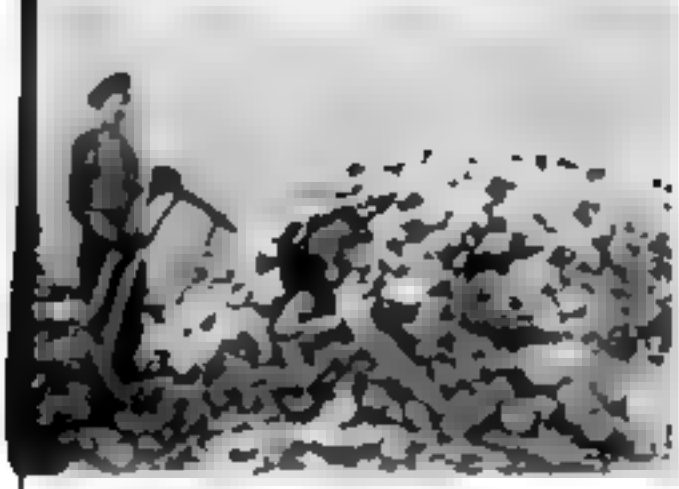
transferred to various branches of the bank in Alberta and British Columbia, and also worked as receptionist and pay roll clerk at St Francis Hospital in Nelson B.C for three years. At present she is bookkeeper for Shell Oil Company in Kamloops, B.C

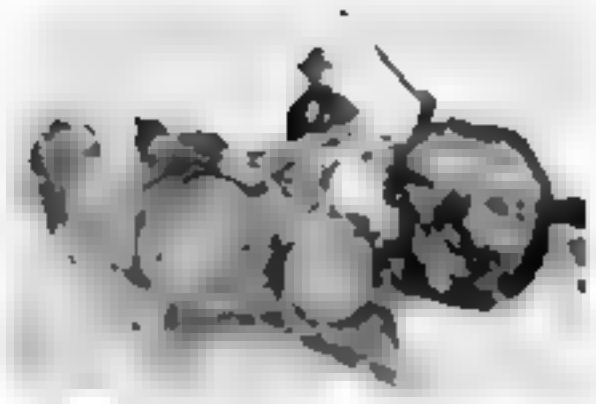
Arlene Joan attended school at Benalto, Sylvan Lake, and Kamloops, B C She also spent a brief time at Red Deer College After leaving school Arlene worked at various jobs but, being much younger than the rest of the family has not yet decided upon a career

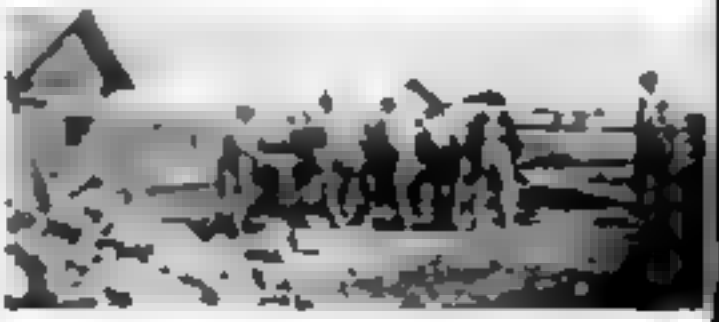
Edward Marberger Bread gun. Wood carver

## LOGGING AND WOODCUTTING

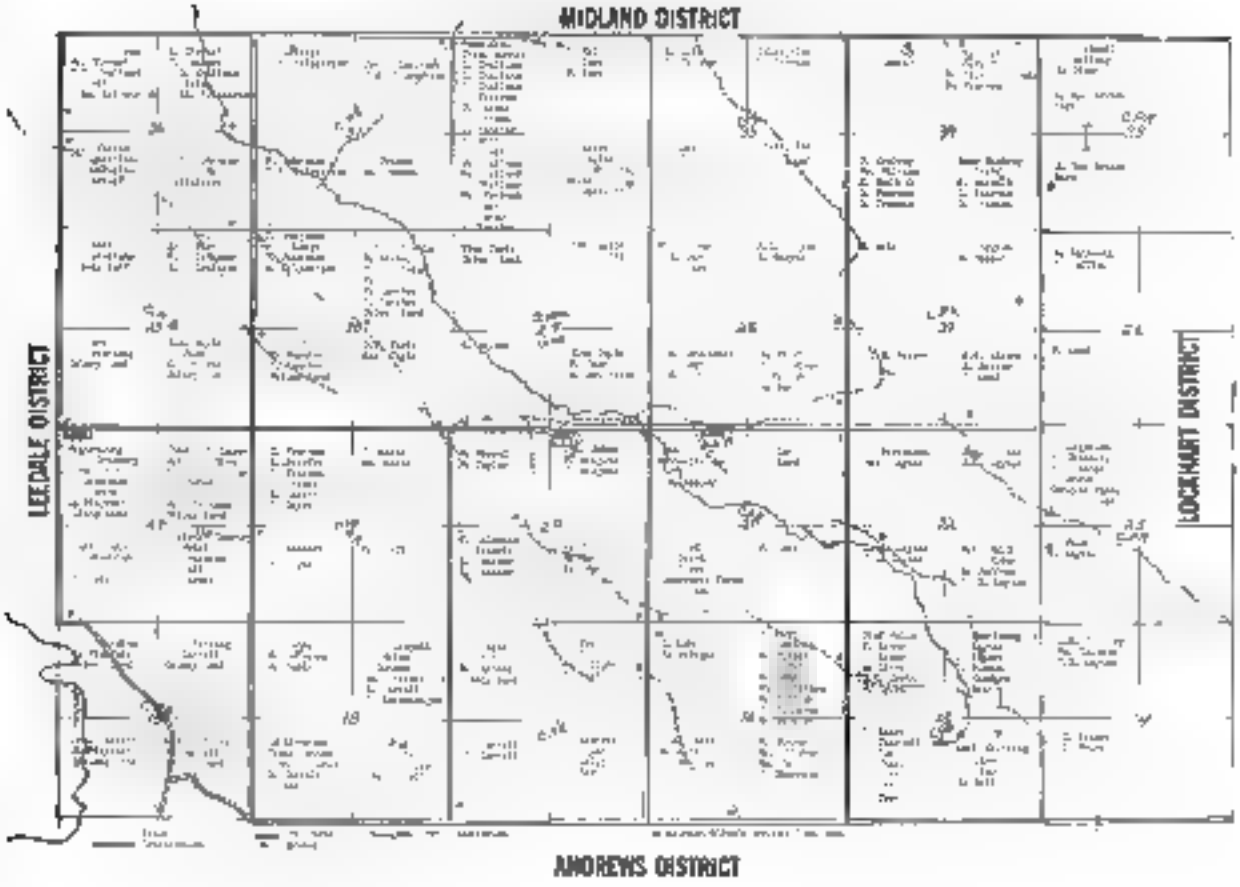

FELLING AXE
THE EARLY FINNISH SETTLERS USED THESE TOOLS AND THIS UNIQUE DOVETAIL NOTCH IN BUILDING THEIR CABINS & BARNS
BROAD AXE
CROSSCUT SAW
AUGER
Ruth Marcy Neal • 1978







# BENJAMIN DISTRICT MAP



# Benjamin

**AINSWORTH, KELSA WADDELL "BILL"**

Born September 18, 1907, Bill Ainsworth came to the Leedale area in April, 1933. He worked some time for O. B. Moore operating a breaking plow helping to break up many acres of land in the Leedale area. Bill was also handy with tools and did a lot of mechanic work in the area for the farmers. In the spring of 1941 he purchased the SW 27-41-3-W5, a raw C.P.R. quarter.

Ernest Morlock came out the spring of 1942 and worked with Bill until August. They both returned to the Big Valley district where Bill married Ernest's sister, Ruby, in August 1942.

Bill and Ruby lived at Benjamin part of two summers, 1943 and 1944. Stewart, their eldest, was born in the Rimbey Hospital.

In August of 1944 they moved to Byemoor. They were blessed with four more sons, Max, Allen, Marvin and Merlyn (twins). They raised their family on a farm, where Bill and Ruby retired, turning the work over to Max. Bill passed away July 6, 1975, and is buried at [illegible].

Ruby resides on the farm with Max. Stewart resides in Sangudo, Allen in Fort McMurray, Marvin in Calgary and Merlyn in Edmonton.

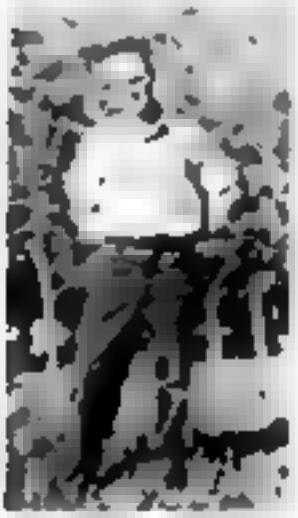
Bill was always kind and thoughtful, helping anyone any way he could.

For the smallest baby (two pounds and a few ounces) ever born there and having lived only because his father gave him brandy after the Doctor gave up, and later said he could never stand hard work, Bill did manage to live thru' a good many years of just that!

**THE BENJAMIN GET TOGETHER CLUB**

The club started in February 1945 with 16 members, which in the next few months became 30 members. The first meeting was held when Isobel Guest invited us to her home to start a social club. We had a membership fee of 25 cents and 10 cents for tea. We retained these fees until 1973, when we raised them a little.

The first officers were: Mrs. von Tettenborn as president, Mrs. J. Layton vice-president, Mrs. J. Wingate secretary and Mrs. C. Land as reporter to the Rimbey Record. At the fourth meeting we assumed responsibility for the annual picnic and the Christmas entertainment. From that time on we assumed more duties to assist the community. Three entertainment groups were chosen, these would provide entertainment for the month, also wood for the fire. Some very good entertainments were put on. Mrs. F. Vipond was especially good at writing li[illegible]



Mr. Ainsworth

Get Together Club. Back row left to right: Curtis Plaxe, Ida [illegible]

le plays and Mrs C. Pierson provided a lot of

The "Get-togethers" believed in getting together in spite of weather or roads. There are several stories of getting to those early meetings. Like the time Mr Bakke hitched a two wheeled wagon to an old tractor and headed for a meeting at Beryl Layton s, picking up club members and their children on the way, until they were hanging on at all angles There was the day it was muddy (and very little gravel) for a meeting at Molly Oborne s. Margaret Mogensen took her rubber tired wagon, a couple of horses and a lot of club members We got to the meeting in fine style but it must have rained during the afternoon, because on the way home we all took off our shoes and had a perfectly hilarious time helping to push the wagon up the hills. Such mud! Clydie Both used to pull her youngest up the long hill in a little wagon to get to some of the meetings and Clara and Beryl Layton remember going to a meeting at Alma von Tettenborn s with their young children in a Bennet Wagon and a team of horses and spending a couple of hours on the way home, because one of the horses just lay down in the road and refused to move Nels Mogensen came to the rescue that day with a team and pulled the balky one up The men co

by taking their wives to the meetings Quite often they would stay and visit with the man of the house for the afternoon

During the war we sent parcels to the boys of the community who were in the armed forces and at the end of the war we put on a banquet in their honor

When the schools were centralized and the children were bused to Eckvale the community decided to buy the school for a community hall The club was willing to take over the responsibility of running it, but the government wouldn't have it, they didn't think ladies clubs were noted for a very long life

For our 25th anniversary we had a pot luck dinner at the home of Mrs. H. Land with an anniversary cake decorated by Mrs. J Wingate We also celebrated with a party at the hall. We invited all the former members that we could and put on a program with skits and plays that we had used in the earlier years

In Canada s Centennial year we held a pot luck dinner and picnic We invited former pupils teachers and anyone who had lived in the community Approximately 120 people joined in the festivities and everyone reported a good time

There are only three members left of the original club Mrs. J Layton, Mrs. J. Wingate and Mrs. H. Land. Fourteen of the original members are now dead – Mrs. C Land, Mrs. F Wingate Mrs. E. B. Guest Mrs C Pierson, Mrs C Bakke Mrs. R Maddock. Mrs. F Vipond Mrs. W Scott Mrs. G. Misner Mrs R Naylor Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs. S. Kraft Mrs. J C. Hopper and Mrs P McTighe At present the membership is the smallest that it has ever been so many have left the district There are only twelve of us now but we still look forward to the

**BENJAMIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1605** by Mary Kilpatrick

When the first settlers came to this district it was a virgin land, trails were nonexistent. trees had to be felled by hand and cleared away to let the teams of oxen and horses pulling their heavy loads of possessions through and then only to be stopped by a swamp or muskeg In summer these trails usually followed the high land and when winter came then could the swamps be crossed when they became a vast, snowy frozen waste and. Our district has been blessed with many settlers who filed on their homesteads still remaining in the families up to five generations later There are the Lands, the Hoppers. the Taylors, the Wingates, the Layes the Porters (now Shorrocks the Laytons, the Frasers, the Boyers and Johnsmans (now the A Kilpatricks and Dave Kilpatricks) This district when it was first formed included sections 36. 25. 24 and 3 in 11-4-W5. Later on these sections were deleted and part went to Leedale and part to Gimlet districts

When these first settlers came into the district their closest railroad and town Lacombe which was 40 miles away to the east and our province was then known as the North West Territories

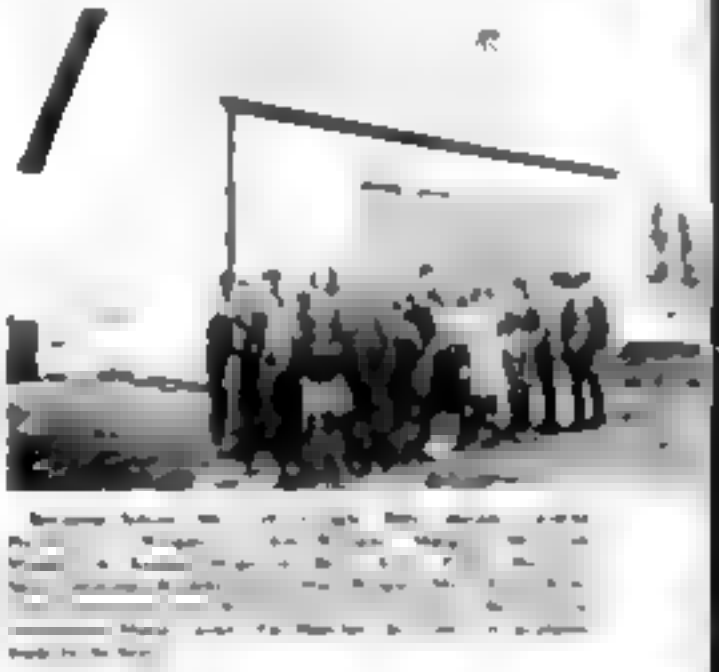
In 1906 a group of homesteaders got together to organize a school district and the first school board members were. Frank Benjamin, George Taylor and Duncan Layton. Frank Wingate donated land for the school site at the NW corner of 20-41-3-W5. Part of the building material was hauled from Lacombe by George Taylor and his team of mules The school was built in 1907 with Link Boyer and Frank Benjamin as carpenters

Hopper Laurie Layton Kneeling: Jim Wingate, Jessie Laye, Alice Land and Mary Johnsman

School opened in 1908 with Duncan Layton as the first teacher. Some of the first pupils were Ernie, Fred, Ralph, Gene and Eva Benjamin. Eva much preferred to be called Evangeline as she liked the name much better than Eva). Eth Hazel and Shelby Taylor. As Frank Benjamin had the most children going to school it was decided that the name of Benjamin be given to the district and school. In 1910 Frank Benjamin moved away leaving the school in a precarious position with not enough children to get a grant. This plagued the district for quite a number of years. During this period school was held only half time. School in the early days was held mostly in the summer months as cold and distance made it to risky to send children to school in the winter. As was customary in all the districts the school was not only a place of learning but also the hub of community life there were card parties, dances, church, picnics, political meetings and elections. There was the most important occasion of the year the Christmas Concert with its hours of preparation when the children got up on the stage and performed their recitations, songs and plays to the best of their ability. Each and every one of the teachers would put in many long hours getting costumes and props ready for that night. On this special night the school would be overflowing with parents, children and friends. One thing that amazed me was the huge amount of Christmas treats that were bagged up for all the children who came from within the district as well as those who came from other districts. Times were hard when these homesteaders were trying to get started farming and there was not much extra cash to be had but every child went home clutching their little bag of goodies.

It would not be fitting not to mention the wonderful teachers who put up with so many hardships in those days. They were a special breed of people who came out to these isolated frontiers to teach. There was no teacherage at the Benjamin School, so they either had to ride drive or walk to school every day from the home where they were boarding. Many of the teachers would take the children on nature walks through the woods, along the creek or up on top of "old Baldy". In 1935 when Mr Dowling was teaching one of the highlights of that era were our softball games. Every chance Mr Dowling got he would let the children out to practice ball. He entered our school in the Central Alberta Softball Tournament at Lacombe. The children from Benjamin put on a very good showing and their last game was against a town team. This team from town figured they had it in the bag when they saw the country bumpkins they had to play against. As it turned out the town kids found out that those bumpkins were no push over and we won the cup for Central Alberta. The cup was a coveted possession of the Benjamin school children for that year.

In the southeast corner of the Benjamin District is a large hill that is known as "Old Baldy". The road to Eckville used to wind around the east and south side of this hill. In winter it would become as icy and slippery as a skating rink and it was a challenge to either go up or down. The mud in the summer season was just as bad to have to contend with. Baldy in the early days was noted for its snakes and I'm sure that when fall came that every snake in the country for miles around went up on the hill to hibernate. Then in the month of May on a warm day if you should have gone up there the ground would be litterly crawling with the serpents. John Archer built a home on the hill in the early days but he never lived there too long. Why he left is not known, perhaps all those snakes were not to their liking as his home was situated close to the top of Baldy. When the trees were not as tall as now it was one of the most scenic areas in the district. When you looked across the valley to the southwest you could see the Medicine Valley with all its settlers' homes, fields of golden grain. The autumn colours the distant purple hills and in the far distance the majestic Rocky Mountains.



The years that Benjamin District was in the Rocky Division is not known but it was in when Mrs. Anna von Teitenborn was teaching the term of 1942 and 1943. Irene Wingate was doing janitor work at the school and they ran out of wood so they used up some old broken chairs or anything else they could get hold of that would burn and when this supply of wood ran out they went over to Wingates and finished the day of school there. The school districts were as hard up as the people, first there was the depression and then the war so there was little extra money

to be had. One day in 1945 a car drove into the school yard with horn blaring and a Union Jack flying from the radiator cap and a young man by the name of Jim Wingate was yelling "The war is over the war is over" That was a day Mrs Tettenborn recalls there was a holiday for all the pupils in the school

Later on the Lacombe Municipality took over the district and in 1948 they bought a school house from Blackfalds and moved it three quarters of a mile east on Sid Hopper's land. The old school was put up for bids and Alfred Kilpatrick bought it and moved it to the farm where it is still in use to this day. The property where the old school stood was bought back by Jim Wingate before it could be returned to the Wingate homestead

The following list of teachers has been compiled from the memories of some of our district s residents and former teachers. They may not be in the order they taught and it is with regret should any be missed. Mr D. M Layton, Mr Fawis, Mr Marsh, Miss Flo Johnston Miss Kingsep Mr Trenholme, Mr MacDonald Miss M. Craig Miss E Edmonds, Miss Tona Miss O Heffren Miss E Smith Mr Wm. Fraser Mr E Dowling, Miss B. Wallace Miss E Hyde. Miss M Ross. Mrs Alma von Tettenborn. Mr E Ingram Mr E Dahms. Miss S Peterson, Miss I Hunt Supervisors at about the year starting 1946 were Miss I. Johnson Miss N Bakke, Mrs. Dora Wingate, and Miss Jean Beddoes. The teachers who taught in the new school were Mrs Helen Newman, Mr W Saunders, and Miss D. Dobbs

About 20 years ago the Anglican Church held services in the school and at that time there also was an undenominational Sunday School held too. The school was closed in 1954 and the community bought it for a community centre and the children were bused to Eckville

In September of 1953 a small feeder bus was used to bus the children from the west and north end of the district to the big bus These two buses met at Herb Land's corner A. Hancher took on the job of driving the small bus but soon turned it over to his son Laverne Laverne drove this bus for several years. There was a break in between when Gene Lazzer took over busing the children to school. Then the county bought the buses and they hired Laverne to drive the feeder bus again The first year that the buses ran in the Benjamin District there was no such thing as roads There was no gravel on any side roads and in some places there were no roads. In 1956 our counselor Alfred Haarstad put in 13 miles of roads in three weeks What a wonderful change to not have to pull our cars out by tractor to a main road to get to town. Very little has been done to these roads since except for grading and gravelling. There is now a paved road that goes through the district from north to south and is in about the middle of the district. It is Secondary Highway No. 766

This is a list of the very first homesteaders in the Benjamin District on whom there has been no history available. All these people lived at one time within township 41-3-W5. Thanks must be given to the Provincial Archives of Alberta from whom this information was obtained. Please note that only the sections are mentioned not the quarter sections and that the year also is men

Section 14
John B. Muncke 1906 L. K Frichey 1905. Wm Malcolm 1906, Malcolm Fraser 1905, Andrew Duff 1907
Section 15
Hy Castleman 1906. Olaf Wahl 1906 Axel West ng 1906
Section 16
Andrew Duff 1906. John Cameron 1907 Scot Willet 1912. S. Lehn 1906. Harry Storer 1906 Mrs Richer 1911 E Teets 1906
Section 18
Alex J McDougall 1906, John McNab 1907 Phineas S. Dunham 1911 Clement V Chasson Henry O Neill 1907, Ed Elverson 1905. Frank
Section 20
Herman Hoppell 1906. Philip McLennan 1906
Section 22
J M Fraser 1905. M C Smith
Section 26
Ray W Shofer 1907
Section 28
William Ralph Palson 1907 Bernard Olson 1906 rge Allen Flack 1906. Mathias C Kessinger 1906, Wm Gottschalk 1
Section 30
L. A. Benjamin 1905, Edward Archer 1907, R Frank Benjamin 1905, O O. Archer
Section 32
Geo. J Coly 1906. High Gannon 1906, Tho Arthur Austin 1907
Robt E Boad 1906. Frank Hewitt 190

This summarizes all the history that has been obtainable of our district I hope that the readers will bear with me as I know there are perhaps m stakes as to events and dates It is very hard to put a history together when there are no records obtainable. Without the help of the many old timers who are still living this history would not have been compiled

**HUGO BOOS**

It is reported that Hugo Boos was born in Wisconsin. U.S.A in 1882 He filed on his homestead the SE 32-41 3-W5 in the Benjamin District and received his patent in 1910. He left his homestead to join the Canadian Army when World War I broke out. He returned to the homestead in 1919

Hugo Boos worked in sawmills west of the Gimlet Creek in the early days. He was a very humorous and kind man. All his neighbors had the highest regards for him. He was very fond of

animals and took great pride in his horses and stock.

In 1944 or 1945 Hugo Boos sold his farm, stock and machinery to Mrs. Winnifred Whiting and moved to B.C. He passed away in B.C. on July 7 1947 at the age of 65.

**IRVIN BOTH FAMILY**

Irvin Both and his cousin, Lee Both left Blackie, Alberta and moved into a log shack northeast of the Aurora school. They arrived on November 12, 1934. They lived in this shack for a month or two then moved in with Bill Gardner. The three of them cut posts about six miles west of Aurora, for which they got the big sum of three cents a post or three dollars a load of 100 posts. They traveled back and forth with horses, and delivered their loads anywhere in the country. A load of posts brought enough to buy tobacco, one hundred pounds of flour and a pair of overalls. They also shot squirrels for seven cents a hide and rabbits at three cents each. They got fifty cents a cord for firewood which they cut and

In the spring of 1935 Irvin went to work for Joe Fizer. He put the crop in on crop shares that year. Irvin's mother and sister (Gertrude, now Mrs. Gaylord Fizer) came out in 1935 from Vancouver Island. In the fall the family moved into a log shack belonging to Mrs. Everenden.

Irvin worked around the Eckville area in 1936 and 1937 and was married to Clydie Reidinger on November 12, 1937. Irvin worked many winters in the sawmills at McTighe's mill for one dollar a day. The Government took thirteen cents a day of this for a hospital plan. All through the forties he worked at a number of sawmills.

After our marriage we lived in various places until we settled on a quarter SW 10-41-3 W5, on May 24, 1939. We farmed with horses for many years. We farmed this place for exactly 36 years before moving to Eckville on May 24, 1975. We sold the farm to Ralph Krell.

We have five children. Lee was married to Erva Heringer in 1958. They farmed for Walter Hoglund for a number of years then moved to their own place in the Benjamin area. They had two children, Melanie and Kevin. Lee and Erva parted company after ten or twelve years and were divorced. Lee is now married to Mabel Fell and they are farming in the Benjamin area.

Jim was married to Sharon Jackson in 1964. They live in Red Deer area and have three girls, Sherrie-Ann, Rhonda and Jamie. Jim has done carpenter work all these years.

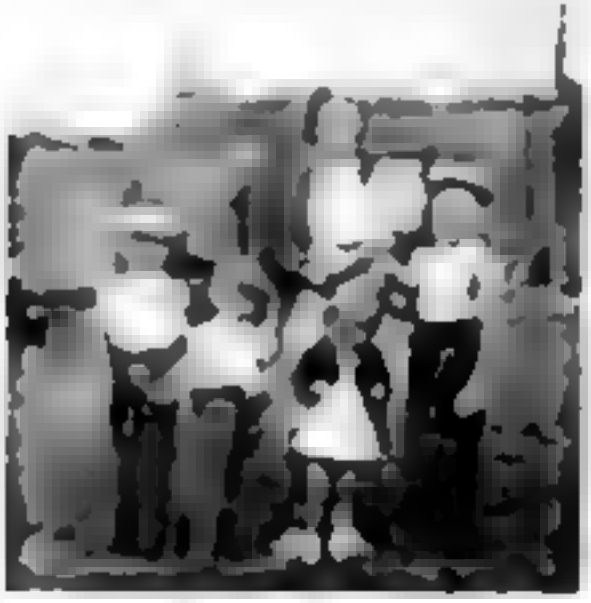
Charlie married Ann Hebert in 1965. They live in Calgary, where he is an electrician. Their two boys are Tim and John.

Doreen was married to John Noble in 1964. They farm northeast of Bluffton. They have two girls and a boy — Shelley, Tammie and John.

Gloria is still single and living in her own home in Red Deer. She is a Certified Nurse's Aid in the Dr. Richard Parsons Hospital.

**BOYER & LINCOLN BAUM KATHRYN AND JOHNSMAN HARRIET AND FRANK — by Mary Kilpatrick**

Mrs. Kathryn Baum, my grandmother was born in Butler Indiana, U.S.A. in August of 1842. She was married to Eli Boyer in 1866. To this union were born three boys, A. L. Link in 1868 on January 6. The other two infants died within a month of their births. In 1875 Eli Boyer passed away. Eighteen years later Grandmother married Jesse Baum from Valparaiso, Indiana and they had one child Harriet who became my



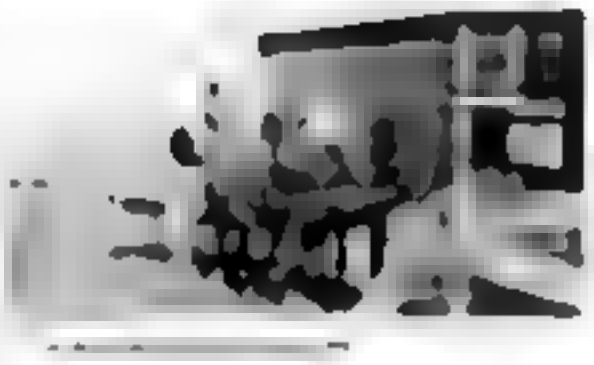
Uncle Link came to the Medicine Valley near Lonsdale in 1902 with Guy Farrow. These two men came from Hitchner, South Dakota where uncle had land near the ceded Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation. Uncle and Guy Farrow blazed the

rail from Fred Schrader's homestead southwest of Rimbey to the SE 36-41 4-W5. These two men were looking for range land to run a large herd of cattle and horses. The trails they blazed to what was to be their homesteads was in virgin land and they had many hardships as in places they were stopped by thick stands of bush, trees and impassable swamps. I remember Uncle telling of the time they got a pack horse down in a swamp and they worked for hours trying to get him out. The horse was one of the sulky kind and so their decision was not a happy one because they could not leave the animal stuck in the swamp to slowly die. When these two men saw the valley they thought it was a cattleman's paradise as the wild grass and vetch grew abundantly everywhere they looked. Uncle picked out the quarter he wanted for his homestead. He built his cabin upon a hill overlooking to the west the lovely Medicine Valley. Guy Farrow did not prove up on his land as he later went to British Columbia to live.

As soon as Uncle built his cabin he went back to the States. He returned the following year early in the spring and he made his homestead entry for the SE 36-41 4-W5 for $10 on March 23, 1903 and the on April 22 he bought the quarter directly south from the C P R for five dollars an acre. Settlers began to arrive in the valley soon after his return so Uncle Link gave up the idea of ranching and went to farming. His little cabin was home to many who came into the valley looking for farm land, and many stayed with him until they built their cabins. His cabin door was never locked whenever he was away as there was always the chance of someone needing shelter. He often came home and found Indians waiting at the cabin for him. They also were given food and shelter should they need it.

In the Medicine Lake area there were lumber camps and he went up there and worked part time until he acquired enough lumber to build a house and barn. Early in 1906 he built his barn and put up the frame work for his house. He had not planned on building so soon but due to unforeseen circumstances his plans were changed and he built a much smaller barn than he had anticipated. Five generations have lived in this house and it is now the home of our son, David Kilpatrick and his family. The house was remodeled in 1961.

In the fall of 1906 Uncle went to Washington State harvesting. He used to tell of driving 36 head of horses on a combine. The people he worked for had a pet mule which was a nuisance when they were combining. One day the boss told Uncle to hitch the mule up in the outfit. Apparently with the hitch they had on these horses they could hitch up the wildest horse and he could go only one direction and that was where the lead team was driven as this team controlled the whole outfit. It only took one day of this kind of treatment and the mule stayed clear of the combine from then on.



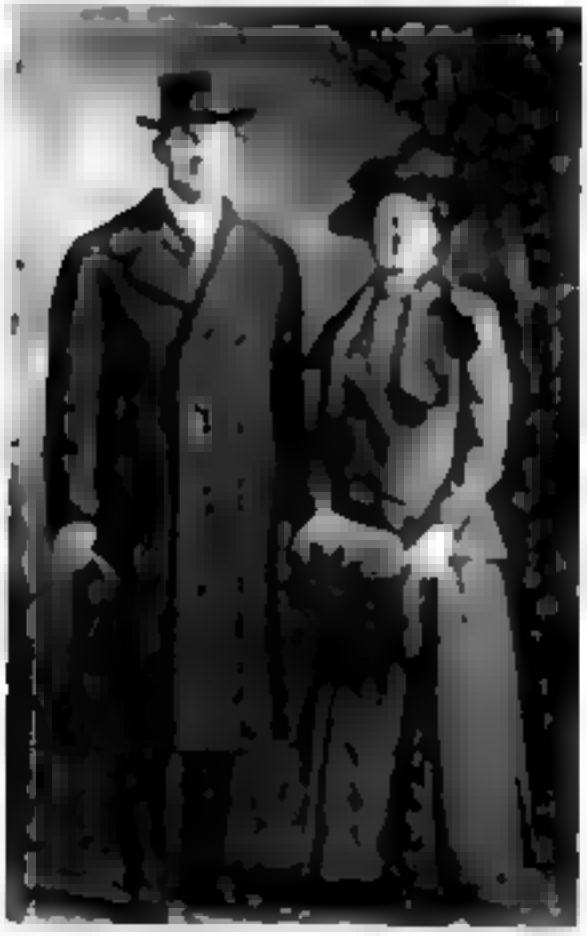
In the latter part of 1908 Uncle went back to the United States and Grandmother Baum returned with him to the homestead. They were driven from Lacombe by a Mr. Hamilton and in a postcard sent to my mother Grandmother told of how beautiful she thought this country was. She tells of quote "How straight, tall and thick the poplar trees are, so thick that a rabbit can hardly get through." Grandmother would take my brother and I for walks through the woods and she would tell us the names of all the plants and what ones had good medicinal value. She brought her dandelion seed with her when she came up to the homestead so she would have plenty of greens to eat. Little did she know how prolific they would become in this country. She used to make clabbered milk (yogart today) and with a little cinnamon and sugar it was a treat fit for a queen. Sassafras tea was another treat she used to make for us children.

In December 1908 a well was drilled, it was 96 feet deep. It must have been a blessing as Uncle hauled his water from the creek a half mile away. Winter was always the best time of the year to go to the nearest town to put in a supply of staples. The rivers were frozen over and Gull Lake could be crossed on the ice to their nearest shopping town of Lacombe. On one such trip Uncle Link went with Frank Benjamin who was driving his team of oxen. It was a cold 40 mile trip behind those slow plodding creatures.

Grandmother spent much of her time alone on the homestead as Uncle was away in the fall and winters working in lumber camps, as long as as she had close neighbors it was not so lonesome. Many people came into the valley in the early days and many found pioneering too full of hardships and so departed for other lands. When there were no neighbors close Grandmother usually had someone come and stay with her. Her long winter days were spent sewing, knitting and reading her bible. She could make the most beautiful quilts and every stitch was perfectly sewn. In the summer she raised huge gardens and she was well known for several miles around for her abundance of garden produce. In 1910 grandmother got a root cellar and she sold $10 worth of cabbage. How many pounds of cabbage this would have been is not

knows but imagine that it would amount to several hundreds of pounds

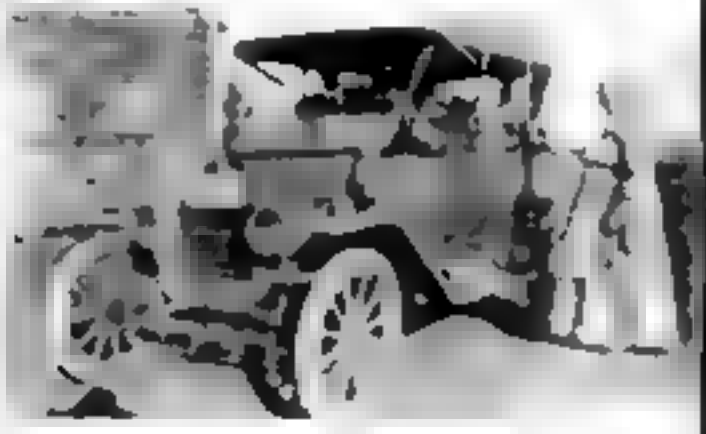
The following year Grandmother had a trip to Florida and when she returned to the homestead her daughter Harriet (my mother) came with her The lonely times were over for grandmother Mother was a trained nurse and she had completed her training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Mother's uncle. Dr John Firestone had wanted her to come to Denver where he was practicing and nurse there. The wages were $25 a week. Instead she decided to come to Canada to be with her brother and mother It was not long until Mother was called on to serve in the frontier districts in many an emergency The closest doctor was at Lacombe the first two or three years she was here Mother used to tell of the conditions she had to nurse under Pneumonia and appendicitis were the two most common and serious ailments She went winter summer, day or night over trails that were hub deep in mud in the spring and full of bog holes when she left her brothers little homestead shack on the hill Mother always praised the home made kitchen tables for operations as they were sturdily built She used to tell of one young lad she nursed through pneumonia only to have him come down with an appendicitis attack The doctor was sent for at Lacombe and when he and his assistant arrived the kitchen had already been transformed into an operating room by Mother and the operation was carried out by coal oil light The young lad after a long convalescence grew into a fine young man. In 1914 Dr Samuel Byers came to Rimbey and Mother nursed for him in this area until a hospital was built in Rimbey in 1932



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnsman's wedding picture

Grandmother and Uncle Link used to have a tall, dark and handsome young bachelor come over to visit them. This young man's name was Frank Johnsman he came from Celina Ohio in 1907 and owned a homestead NE 6-42-3 W5. This is how my Mother and Father met and they were married four years later in Calgary in November 1915. Dad and Uncle Link started farming together and farmed the rest of their lives together

On a winter's day Dad was out splitting wood when he accidentally chopped his thumb with the axe When he got to the house and Mother saw the injury she saw that he had severed the thumb close to the first joint and that the severed part was being held to the rest of the thumb by a small piece of skin on the inside of the thumb Mother had Dad bend his fingers and cradle the injured thumb into the best forefinger, then they went to Rimbey to the Dr's office. Dr Byers took a good look at the injured thumb and said he could not have done a better job of setting it himself and to keep it in the position until it healed. Dad was always proud of the excellent job Mother had done on his thumb as there was only a hairline [illegible] remained him all through the [illegible]



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Dad bought two more quarters before 1920 the SW 31-41-3-W5 from the C P R and the NW 30-41-3-W5. As Dad and Uncle Link cleared more land they bought more livestock and raised hogs They hauled eight wagon loads of hogs one time to Eckville with the help of several neighbors they left in the early morning hours in the

summer so that the heat of the day would not effect the hogs. They also bought a carload of work horses in Calgary about this time too. The one quarter Dad bought was heavily timbered and Dad girdled 120 acres of this land. To girdle a tree you would chop through the bark all the way around the tree trunk about two or three feet up from the ground. This would kill the tree and then after when a strong wind came up the trees were all felled. Dad broke a fire guard around this area and when conditions were just right he set fire to the fallen trees. Two or three burnings like this and the land was barren of all trees and brush and ready to break up.

My brother Frank was born July 6, 1918 and I Mary came along the cold winter of 1919 and 1920. It was about 1923 that Dad and Mother moved over to the NW 30-41 3-W5. They had John Liner build them a house and Dad built a log barn. It was from this farm that we children went to school at Benjamin. In 1925 I contracted polio and with all the Dr. bills and the depression Dad never finished our home the way he would have liked to do. Grandmother passed away on May 18, 1931 at her home and is buried at Rimbey in Mount Auburn cemetery. It was during this time that the depression hit everyone alike and emergencies. It was during this period that my brother Frank came down with an attack of appendicitis. It was on a September day in 1934 that he was operated on in the St. Paul's Hospital in Rimbey. While convalescing at home he got an embolism and passed away at home on November 18, 1934 and is buried at Rimbey in Mount Auburn Cemetery. I finished my schooling in the Leedale High School and also in Ed

In 1940 Uncle Link passed away in the Lacombe Hospital, on November 23, and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey.

It was on July 7 1941 that Alfred Kilpatrick and I were married. We have two children a boy David and a girl Frankie. We have four grandchildren. My husband and I are living on the farm across the road from the old homestead. In 1945 Mother and Dad moved into Rimbey and retired there. Dad passed away June 6, 1961 and Mother on October 18, 1968 and both are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey. Under the Dan Kilpatrick story more is written on our family.

I have written the story of my family after spending hours looking through old documents, postcards and letters. It spans a period of 76 years and starts when Alberta was then the North West Territories to the present time. I sit and ponder why did my parents come to this country was it the pioneer spirit in them or did they feel there was a freedom here that was not to be had in their country. If it was freedom we must all guard it very carefully and not let it be taken away from us slowly and silently by controls and regulations.

**BURKE, ED**

Mr. Burke came to the Benjamin District from Ontario. He homesteaded the NE 16-41-3 W5. He usually worked on his land for the summer months but often went to the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House for the winter.

The Luser children remember Mr. Burke as a good natured bachelor neighbor. They walked across his yard to and from school and they loved to stop and talk to Mr. Burke. He was always ready to visit with them or tell them a story.

Mr. J. M. McDonald stayed with Mr. Burke when he was teaching Benjamin School. He drove with his horse and buggy from there to the school.

Mr. Burke married a widow from Leedale in the fall of 1923. Shortly after that Mr. and Mrs. Burke sold the farm and moved to a place south east of Rimbey.

Mr. Burke passed away a few years later.

**CARROLL, CHARLES AND EDNA – by Edna Carrok**

Edna Shorrock married Charlie Carroll of Gleby, formerly of Drumheller, in September of 1941. They farmed south of the Medicine River for one year before Charlie received his call to the army. In April, 1942 he went to Camrose for Basic Training, leaving Edna at the home of her parents. Soon he was stationed at Victoria, B.C. in the Canadian Artillery, where Edna joined him in November 1942.

After five years, at the end of World War II they began farming again with Charles' father in 1947. They lived again on the farm south of the Medicine River on Section 36. By this time they had a three-year-old daughter, Beverly Jill, followed by a daughter Heather Anne, born in 1947 and a third daughter, Penny Jane born in 1950.

In August, 1951, they hired Art Lutz to move their three-room house to a new location five miles away on the quarter where they still live. They were blessed with three more children, daughter Nita Louise, born in 1953, and a son Charles Freeman Stuart, born in 1957. Kathleen Marie was their last child, born in 1959.

Beverly married Ronald Aldridge of Golden B.C. in 1964. They have two sons, Terry and Steven. Their home is in Williams Lake, B.C.

Heather married Robert Hebert of St. Albert in 1964. Their two daughters are Rochelle and Candace.

Penny Jane married Bill Rushton and lives at Blackfalds. They have two sons, Jay and Jimmy.

Nita Louise married Neil Harrison of Lacombe in September, 1972. They have one little son, Ryan Charles, and live at present in the Red Deer area.

Son Freeman passed away at the early age of 13 years, in 1971.

Daughter Kathleen still lives at home. She graduated from high school in Eckville in 1977.

## THE FAMILY OF HURLEY EMMETT CARROLL

As so many other families in the 1930's, the Carroll family moved here from southeastern Alberta's Drumheller area in 1931

Mr Hurley Carroll was born in Oregon, U.S.A., coming to the Cariboo area of British Columbia at the age of 18 years, after a short time spent in the American army He had been trained as a telegrapher and worked for the Railway at Vancouver and Prince George There he met Charles and William Gow also railroad employees. The Gow brothers and their sister Beattie had recently come west from Peterborough Ontario. Beattie worked in a florist's shop in Vancouver On their visits from Prince George her brothers brought along Hurley Carroll.

They soon were married and moved around the Cariboo district, where Mr. Carroll worked as a telegrapher and also as a packing-guide out of Quesnel for a while They were living at 150 Mile House when their first two children were born, Helen Margaret and Marjorie Jean As there was no town at 150 Mile House as yet Mrs Carroll was taken by stagecoach to relatives in Kamloops to await the birth of their child

Mrs. Carroll thought living in the Cariboo was a great adventure and had many interesting stories about their lives in interior British Columbia as this was an exciting time with the people coming in from all over Canada and the States. The stagecoach had many stopping houses which are still standing beside the present Cariboo Trail from Hope to Prince George

Soon, however the Carroll family moved to Drumheller, Alberta where Mr Carroll worked in the coal mines, farmed, and ran a dairy They had three sons also — Bill, Charlie and Gordon When drought became so bad that most people were forced to sell out, the family decided to come north

With all their household effects on five wagons, they started across country Their eldest daughter was by this time in Calgary attending Normal School so she missed this unusual trip They had five covered wagons, five teams, which were driven by Mrs. Carroll, Mr Carroll, Jean, Bill and one hired man. Charlie and Gordon drove the cattle on their Shetland ponies. They cooked in one wagon and slept in the wagons. It was very hard to sometimes have to keep going all night because they could find no water for the cattle Because of the drought some farmers would not allow them to stop and water their livestock. Although it was such a hard trip and uncertain, with no one place to be heading for Mrs. Carroll said it was a really exciting experience and gave her a feeling of adventure! The children were so impressed that they tell of their many trials with nostalgic voices, right up until today It doesn't impress their grandchildren much because it happened away back, but to a generation of quite sophisticated people many having come to Alberta from cities in the East and from Vancouver and the States, where people were already using every modern invention of the 1930's. It must have been just as much of a challenge as it would have been for the earliest pioneers

The Carroll family reached the Lesliedale area first, but, finding nowhere in that area to settle, they continued on to the Gilby area, at the advice of friends who had just recently arrived from the Drumheller area. They first settled down on the Keasey place and the children attended school at the Wolfe School and also the Estonian School The boys rode their Shetland ponies to school, which they felt was lots of fun

Later the Carrolls moved to a farm in the Benjamin district about five miles north of the Gilby Store and the children attended Benjamin school

Bill Carroll married the former Irene Luyckfassel of Nordegg, and now lives at Forshee on the shores of Gull Lake They have two children Colleen and Jim also three grandchildren

Charlie and family farm just one mile south of the home place. They have six children and seven grandchildren

Helen is Mrs Eugene Cook and lives in Calgary

Jean and her husband Glenn Bardenhagen live on the home place They have three children Ron, Bonnie and Rod — and seven

Gordon Carroll and his wife (the former Violet Huseby of Gilby) now live at Kitimat, B.C They have five children and six grandchildren

Mr Carroll passed away at the age of 78 years in the Rimbey Hospital and Mrs. Carroll passed away in 1977 at the age of 94 years. She had been living in Red Deer

## CHALLAND, GILBERT AND MARGARET WILLIE RALSTON

My dad Clarence Challand homesteaded in the Benjamin District in 1905 and married Florence Norris in 1909 and my sister Thelma was born in 1910 and I in 1912 but as our Mother passed away early in life my sister and I were raised and brought up in Leedale by my Uncle Perry and Aunt Lou Challand. All those years in the Leedale School would be another book but when I was old enough to quit school or almost I went up on the hill to help dad farm the half section of land the west half of Section 32-41-3-W5 except for the one year I attended the Benjamin School. I remember knocking out a tooth with my lunch pail of Herbie Sands. This was an accident but I don't think anyone believed me then. Dad and I ranched and farmed on the hill the last of the 1920's and early 1930's

Those were the good old days when we farmed with horses we got from Guy Smith west

of Leedale. Then we got 30 cents for No. 2 Garnet wheat and one and one half cents for hogs. I remember working for several years on the threshing machine each fall to pay our threshing bill and working on road work with the fresno to pay taxes

I think at that time we were the only ones with an old battery radio and Stan Laye used to come over every night and listen to the radio and the Joe Louis fights if we got the radio on before he knocked his opponent out

Dad being an old jockey and the love of horses we picked up a fine horse at the pound and we called him Fonda. Fonda turned out to be quite a race horse and I rode him at all the local fair day races and won many quarter mile races with

I think one of the most memorable times in my life was when I met my wife Billie Ralston at the opening dance of the new Imperial Lumber building in Rimbey. After going with her for about four years and riding in every week on little grey horse. I convinced the city gal to come to the homestead. That was 1938 we were married. After came an Edmonton honeymoon then we set up housekeeping in the little house on the hill. The years that followed were some of the happiest even though we had to live on skim milk and eggs, as we had to separate the cream and sell it each week for to buy food and a little gas for the old Ford. I had quite a time making a farmer out of Billie she never complained

I remember on one occasion coming in from the field late and while I did the milking and chores she said she would unharness the horses for me before going to bed so I said OK. The next morning when I went down to the barn to feed the horses the harnesses were all trampled under their feet not only under one horse but under all six. She just undid the hames and let the harness fall. It took me a week to clean all the manure out of all that harness. However we had many happy days picking chokecherries, high bush cranberries and lots of saskatoon berries on

apples but Mrs Ben Laye could really make pies out of those saskatoons. We also in the summer of 1939 took the old stoneboat and went down to the swamp and dug all those pine trees and planted them around the house. they are there to this day only full grown now

I'll never forget when Gail our daughter was born in April 1940 in Rimbey Hospital. That month the floods came and flooded all the roads and the highway to Rimbey. It was three days before I could get in to see them. When it came time to bring them home I took the old Ford and Stan Laye followed us all the way home with the team and wagon and pulled us through the mud holes. I don't know if it hadn't been for our good neighbors the Layes, Bakkes and Kilpatricks I don't think we would have raised our children especially Gail as neither of us knew much about babies and it was a real worry to Billie when Gail took sick. Mrs Bakke would come to the rescue. When our son Gilbert Jr came along in 1941 we knew a little more and made out OK with him but they were a handful and I learned to change diapers and Billie helped with the chores. We were a long way from being rich but they were wonderful years

months old we took the plunge and moved to Rimbey to work for the Imperial Lumber Co. and eventually selling the farm and moving to Clareshom in 1948 where we still reside.

My Dad spent his last years in the Senior Citizens Home in Clareshom and passed away on June 18, 1964 at the age of 89 years

**CHALLAND, TERRY AND LOUCINDA**

Terry George Challand was born in Rolfe Iowa February 3, 1873 and spent his childhood there. He was the eldest of a family of seven

In 1905 Terry and his three brothers, Clarence Claude and Merton came to Canada and found work in and around Lacombe

In 1907 Terry came back to the U.S. and returned with his bride Loucinda Archer. They came out to Wittenburg and homesteaded the NE

Mrs Challand or better known as Aunt Lou dedicated her nursing abilities to the sick whether they lived near or far. She also operated a little store in Leedale in approximately 1916-1918 where she sold the staple foods

They worked hard on the land, brushing and breaking to get it into production. They built a home and hip roof barn which still stands

They were active in the Church of Latter Day Saints, Terry being baptized on November 26 1907 and was ordained an Elder in 1908 by Elder Anderson. Uncle Terry and Aunt Lou's marriage was sealed in the Salt Lake Temple

In 1945 Aunt Lou passed away. Terry stayed on at the farm until 1950 when he sold the land and retired to Rimbey

In 1969 he moved into the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital and passed away there on November 21 1977 at the ripe old age of 104 years, and is buried at the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey

**CUMMINGS, J. E. JONTY**

Jonty Cummings came out from England to his uncle's, Mr J C Hopper in April 1926, and worked in and around the district until 1929. He was married to Rose, daughter of Mr and Mrs Chas Kemmis, who were among the first to set the east of Benjamin which became known as the Symonds district.

They then bought the homestead of George Mowbray who had also came from the same part of England in 1902) and have resided there until the present time. They have one daughter Sally who is married to Henry Rangen of the well known Rangen family of Eckville. They have a family of three daughters and live in Red Deer.

Jonty became secretary of the Benjamin school district in 1929 and served in that capacity for several years. The school tax at that time was six or seven mills, far from the present rates. Both Jonty and Rose were always involved in the community effort and still serve in various positions in Rimbey.

They also became well known for their Shorthorn cattle, winning prizes at all the shows and sales in the area. The herd was sold in 1970 after 40 years of selection to a breeder in the U.S., where they continued to do well.

Well remembered are the conditions of the early days, when roads were just wagon trails through the bush and it was hard work with horse powered fresnos, slips and plows to build something of a road. When the crawler tractor appeared with the graders and we had graded roads, with ditches, that seemed to be the ultimate in road building. A lot of people remember those roads after a rainstorm or in the spring of getting stuck or sliding in the ditch. Then came the gravelled roads and eventually the black top road which runs from Eckville to Rimbey.

Many were the happy hours spent in the schoolhouse in this manner. The ladies would take lunch and at Benjamin the music was usually provided by Mrs. Tot Hopper on the organ and George Taylor with the bones at which he was very adept. They would keep things going merrily along until the small hours of the morning when it was hitch the team to the buggy democrat, wagon or sleigh if there was snow), for the drive home where the horses had to be attended to unharnessed and fed a far cry from turning the key in the switch as we do now.

**JAMES C. FERGUSON FAMILY**

Jim and Ida were married in Rimbey in 1936. Prior to that Jim came from a farm between Rimbey and Ponoka. Ida Reidlinger came from west of Leedale where her parents and family took up a homestead in 1932. Ida worked around Rimbey, and Jim was visiting his grandparents when Jim and Ida met. They worked east of Rimbey and at sawmills for about three years.

A daughter Carol was born to Jim and Ida in 1939. In 1941 they moved to a farm in the Benjamin district, into a small log house. Carol was followed by four more children — Gordon, Clare, Kenneth and Jane. This made up their family for fourteen years, when they had an unexpected surprise another daughter, Marjorie.

By this time Carol had been married for seven years to Richard Mathews from the Forshee district, having been married in 1956. They had three children, Brenda, Valery and Micheal, by the time Marjorie came into the picture. Poor Marjie was born an Auntie and still gets teased. Fancy Brenda feeding Auntie Marjie her pablum and washing her hands and face.

When Marjie was nearly two years old the Fergusons sold out and moved into Eckville in 1965. Jim worked for the Co-op feed mill for a few years, until he retired.

In 1966 Clare married Yvonne Whiteside and they have three sons.

In 1967 Gordon married Loraine Anderson of Gull Lake. They had no family. Gordon's wife died of diabetes in 1973.

Ken still works around Eckville at pipe lines and oil well maintenance.

Jane is in Edmonton where she works as secretary data processing, and with computers.

Marjie is still in high school and enjoys sports and riding horses. She spends most of her holidays with Richard and Carol's family. They have a dairy farm and a few good horses.

By now Jim has reached pension age, and they have at least one long holiday each summer — a luxury they didn't have time or money for when they were on the farm busy raising a family.

**PIZER GAYLORD AND GERTIE, AND [illegible]**

Gaylord and Gertie were married in 1937. In 1937 we, with Irvin and Clydie Both moved to and built a house on the NE of 34-41 3 W5 east of Jonty Cummings' quarter. In the fall of 1938 we all moved to a farm of O. B. Moore's, north of Leedale, Irvin and my mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Both lived with us too. We all moved back in 1939. O. B. Moore sold Irvin the farm in the canyon and mother, Gaylord and I bought the one on which we lived until 1957 when we moved to Rimbey. Mother passed away in 1949. Her 80 acres returned to the county our 80 acres were sold back to O. B. Moore when we left.

We had four children, Wilfred born in 1939. He is still living at home and commutes to Sylvan Lake where he works as an electrician. Evelyn was born in 1941 and is married to Ray Young. They and their five children farm at Arran, Saskatchewan. Bob was born in 1943. He is married to Pat Sherburne and they have a general store at a little place called Scapa, Alberta. Bob also drives tanker and hauls oil for Gibsons Petroleum. They have two children. Art born in 1946 lives in Kamloops, B.C. He is married to Alberta Rowen and they have two

children Art has two children from a former marriage He is a carpenter like his dad

The children drove to Benjamin school with a horse and cart in the spring and fall and in a cutter in the winter When they attended the old school they had about four and a quarter miles to travel and after the present school was moved it was about three and three quarter miles. They faced an awful lot of cold, weather rain and storms over the years but enjoyed the ride in good weather When the school closed down they went to Eckville School until we moved to Rimbey

I remember one really bad hail storm I can t recall what year it was. We were returning home by democrat and team when it started. The children and I just made it into the house and Gaylord took off on the run for the barn with the team. He found an old dishpan which he held over his head to return to the house His fingers and knuckles were skinned and bruised by the hail where he held onto the pan. It was a terrible storm. I ve never experienced a worse one

**FOX FRANK AND FAMILY**

Frank Fox was born in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, U S A on February 28, 1881 In 1900 he married Rosella Conner and they had one son Bob. In 1911 they moved to Alberta and settled in the Blackie area. In 1918 they moved to the Byemoor area in the Hartshorn District Frank worked in the coal mines in Drumheller and it was at this time that their son Bob started his training as a boxer Later he became the Light Weight Champion of Western Canada He also taught boxing in Camrose when he enlisted during World War II

The Fox family left the Hartshorn District in 1923 and settled in the Benjamin area on the SE 30-41-3-W5. For their journey to this area they built a wire cage out of one of their hayracks their poultry was hauled in this. Their household effects were loaded on another wagon and some 70 head of cattle were trailed to this farm A few years later they moved again and bought a farm north of Leedale. Later on they bought another farm 10 miles east of Leedale and this is where Mr and Mrs. Fox spent most of the remaining years of their lives

Mrs. Fox passed away suddenly at her farm home on October 26, 1947 and Mr Fox passed away on March 22, 1954. They are buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey On September 13, 1959 Bob passed away Bob's wife Yvonne lives in Penticton

**FRASER, GEORGE**

George Fraser was born in Aberdeenshire Scotland on September 13, 1875. In 1903 he came to Canada and spent some time at Parry Sound, Ontario and also at Revelstoke, B.C In 1905 he came to Alberta and took up a homestead on SW 14-41-3-W5 in the Benjamin District

In 1907 he married the former Mary Ann Smith who had come from Aberdeenshire Scotland in September 1907

Mr Fraser was a blacksmith by trade and many a plow share was sharpened by him for the homesteaders in the early days He took a keen interest in community affairs and held many offices of trust, he was a trustee and secretary treasurer of the Benjamin District he was councillor of the Municipal District of Lorne for a number of years and he and his wife were members of the Lochart United Church He was elected elder of his church. His wife Mary was a member of the Lochart Ladies Club

Mary and George Fraser had four children two boys and two girls. James S is the oldest son and married Lois Beddoes. John E married Bertha Myers. John passed away 27 September

Skeels and Margaret married John Padzun

Following the death of her husband on February 19, 1951 Mary moved to Bentley and in 1954 she moved to Rimbey She became a patient in the Rimbey Three Way Convalescent Hospital and passed away there on July 27 1957

**GUTH, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS AND FAMILY**
**by Joe Guth**

My folks moved to Huxley, Alberta from Spokane, Washington in 1917, and I was born there December 15, 1918. Dad was foreman of a ranch at Crossfield Alberta for a while and then moved to the Benjamin-Leedale area in 1922

In 1925 my brother George was born and it was 90 degrees below zero that night Dad called Dr Sam Byers from Rimbey and he arrived by horse and sleigh after George arrived, but George was Okay

Along about 1925 we had a heck of a cold spell and I remember the temperature dropping to 68 degrees below zero. The snow was two feet deep. owls and birds froze. chickens feet froze on the

As for Eckville I don t remember much about it except that there was a flour mill in the town and dad would take a sleigh load of wheat to Eckville to get ground. Well it was a three day trip by sleigh from Leedale to Eckville one day to go, one day to get the grain ground and one day to get back home

There were lots of Indians in the country and sometimes there were quite a few clearing land for dad. I used to play with the Indian kids. We traded them vegetables as part payment for their work One time I had two buckets of vegetables which I was carrying to them on my horse, old Jimmy On my return home the buckets banged together, scared old Jimmy and he left me sitting in thin air All the Indians came out of their tents and laughed at me whereupon picked myself up from the ground and very embarrassed went on my way

There used to be buffalo heads lying around in the woods, and sometimes there were two or three scattered around in the yard. The dogs

arge I couldn't pack it all the way home so I left

but if it is the grass has probably covered it up or the ants have made a home in it

**THE GEORGE GUEST FAMILY — by Isabel**

Philip Porter was born at Glen Allen, Ontario after taking up a homestead at Abbey Saskatchewan. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1914 and while he was stationed in England he met and married Isabella Ellis. Two daughters were born to them there Isabel in 1916 and Phyllis in 1918. After the end of the war the family returned to the homestead in Saskatchewan where four more children were born. Mrs Porter passed away in 1926 when the youngest child was born. Philip Porter passed away in 1952

I, Isabel Porter, came to Eckville, Alberta in 1937 to the home of Mr and Mrs. James Teed, whom I had known since my childhood in Saskatchewan. Mrs. Teed had suffered a stroke and I had come to take care of her

In 1940 I married George Guest, and we farmed in the Benjamin area, SW 21-41-3-W5 There weren't very good roads in those days, and very often we were stuck in mudholes, there being a hill on the north road and another hill on the south road Many a time we couldn't make the hill, and would have to go home and get a team of horses to pull the car Finally, in 1955, the road past our farm was gravelled

The Benjamin school children were bussed into Eckville in 1954 and the children had to walk a mile to catch the bus the first year Sometimes it was so muddy that they could hardly pick their feet up out of the mud

We had our ups and downs through the years In 1945 on the last Sunday in July we were completely hailed out. The fields looked just like they had been summerfallowed — there wasn't a r left anywhere We had company that Sunday, Tom and Lilly Hunter, of Rimbey and the hailstones made such dents in their car roof that it left holes and the water ran inside the

In the summer of 1945 I had an afternoon tea

purpose was to get together and discuss the for

decided to call the new club the "Benjamin Get together Club", and this organization is still very active today, although more than 35 years have brought about quite a change in membership However, Dora Wingate, who was the first secretary, is still an active member. Anna von Tettenborn was the first president, but she has now retired to Red Deer

We owned a herd of Jersey cows and were in the dairy business for quite a few years. During the first few years a truck came from Bluffton to pick up the cream, and we fed the skim milk to pigs. Later, a truck from Bentley picked up the cream. Still later a truck route was established to pick up the whole milk and deliver it to Red Deer

In 1968 we sold our dairy herd and milking equipment and in September of that year we moved into the town of Eckville At first we rented out the farm but in 1971 we sold it to Lambourne Farms

We had two children. Doreen Carol was born in Eckville in 1942 She is married to Robert Smith, of Bluffton, and now lives in Red Deer Her two children are Brenda born in 1961 and Darrell, born in 1964 In May of 1954 Doreen and Doris Mogensen were riding horseback on a Sunday afternoon. A dog scared Doreen's horse causing it to rear up and throw Doreen off She landed on her leg, and the leg was broken She had to be taken to the Red Deer hospital, where the broken bone was set. She had to wear the cast on her leg for more than four months

Our son, Richard Gordon, was born in Eckville in October 1948. He is married to Sharon Smith, of Eckville, and lives in Pincher Creek at the present time He is employed by the Royal Bank, and is moved periodically They have two children. Shari was born in 1973 and Janice was born in 1975

In 1972 George became ill and wasn't able to work hard anymore. We then bought the Ecko Theatre in Eckville and operated it until George passed away, on October 24, 1975. I then sold the theatre in 1976, but have continued to live in my own home here in Eckville

**THE WILLIAM GUEST FAMILY — by Isabel Guest**

William Guest emigrated from England to Brandon Manitoba in 1903. Ellen Beatrice Rea also emigrated from England, in 1905. William filed on a homestead in the Benjamin district

Often the bachelor neighbors would gather at William's house in the evening to play cards, and would put their saddle horses in William's barn On one such occasion the group stayed all night When William went out the next morning to milk his cows he turned the horses loose His guests had to walk home, not knowing how their horses had got loose William never told them of the prank he had played on them

William and Ellen were married in January, 1907 They lived on their homestead in the Benjamin district until 1910, when they moved to a farm at Clive, for 13 years In 1923 they moved back to the homestead. SE 20-41-3-W5. Mrs Guest served as a midwife both in the Clive and Benjamin districts, for a number of years

Five children were born to William and Ellen The oldest William Rea, was born on October 13, 1907 He is now married and is living in Westlock He has been a welder a mechanic a movie projectionist, and is now retired. His four children were George, Walter Doris (Mrs. Manners) and

Dorothy Ruby was born on November 1, 1909. She married Frank Laye and they reside two miles north of the original Guest homestead. Her two children are Mrs. Ruby Sztym and Mrs. Margaret Scott.

Edith Jean was born May 13, 1911. She married Bill Withers and now lives in Lacombe. They have three children — Delbert, Mrs. Donna Schreiber and Mrs. Joan Hailing.

George Henry was born on April 29, 1913. He farmed in the Benjamin district across from the homestead, until 1968. At this time he and his wife moved to Eckville.

Albert John was born January 25, 1923. He served in the armed forces, enlisting in January 1945 and serving in the Royal Canadian Engineers for three years. After he returned from the army he farmed the homestead until 1971 and in 1972 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Klein. Albert then moved, first to Lacombe and later to Red Deer, where he still resides. He is presently employed on the maintenance staff of the Red Deer General Hospital.

In 1923 Edith, the youngest daughter, became very ill with spinal meningitis. Doctor Somerville from Eckville came to the farm with a Model T Ford equipped with skis so he could follow any sleigh tracks in the snow. Edith was then taken to Eckville where she was hospitalized in Doctor Somerville's house. She eventually made a complete recovery.

All of the Guest children attended the Benjamin School. Mr. J. M. McDonald was the teacher when they started, in 1923.

The first entertainment we remember was a chivaree for our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Burke, who were just newly married. A large group of their friends came to their home with cow bells, horns, dish pans, fry pans, and anything else with which they could make a noise, and used this means of expressing their congratulations to the young couple. We had never heard of this cute custom that was carried out in the pioneer settlements whenever a couple got married.

Mr. Guest purchased his first car, a Model T Ford, in 1928. In about 1929 George and Willie were driving it just west of the Benjamin school, and somehow they upset the car with Willie under it. George picked up the car and let him crawl out from under it, but the next day when the two of them tried to get the car back onto its wheels, they couldn't begin to do it. Several men were needed to set it upright again.

William Guest passed away in March of 1952 and Mrs. Guest in November of 1967. Both are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey. They had lived on their homestead ever since moving back to it in 1932.

**HANCHER, ALVA AND YOLA**

I, Alva Hancher was born April 23, 1908, on my mother and dad's homestead which was the NE 36-31-4-W5. In 1917, my parents hired Bob Buck to look after the homestead and we moved down to Utah for one year. In 1918 we returned to Alberta to resume farming.

In the spring of the year, the rivers and creeks ran very swift and deep from fast melting snow and were very dangerous. When I was fifteen years old, we had such a spring and an experience that I shall never forget.

James Layton, his brother and some of our friends decided to go down to Taylor's creek and swim for the first time this year. It was early May and the air was warm, I stood on the bank and noticed how clear and inviting the water looked. I dove in and swam up stream enjoying myself to the fullest. Suddenly shouts of alarm drifted across the creek and fear gripped at me as I swam quickly to shore and ran breathlessly back to the group of kids standing there screaming. They told me James Layton, a non swimmer, waded in and hit a soft spot which sucked him under. I looked down in the water and could see him face down on the murky bottom. I plunged in and swam out to him. I reached down and grabbed his hair and pulled him up. his weight lifted easily in the water. His face was dark blue. I thought he was dead. I pulled him to shore and rolled him up to the many eager hands grasping out to help drag him to dry ground and safety. We worked over him frantically looking for a sign of life and it was a long time before his chest began to move a little, he was breathing, thank God, he was alive.

I received my education at the Leedale and Benjamin schools by riding horseback. I stayed on the farm and helped Dad with the work.

In 1929 I married Yola M. Chaland in Lacombe and purchased the SW 19-41 3-5 in 1931 from C.P.R. A small house was moved from the Trenholm quarter, east of Mr. F. Hancher's and set up on our newly acquired farm. The house was very cold in the winter and the dipper that sat in the water bucket was frozen every morning and the children were always thirsty at this time.

In 1937 we bought a Waterloo separator and threshed as far west as Jim Smith's place.

Alva helped build the Leedale curling rink.

Yola was very active in community affairs. She was a member of the W.I. and the Benjamin Get Togethers. Yola was a talented piano player and played for numerous Christmas concerts and special occasions. "I never turned down anyone that asked me to play."

I would like to tell this little story on Alva. I was weeding in my garden, when Alva poked his head around the corner of the big poplar tree which had stood in the corner of our yard for many years. "Do you and the kids want to drive to town with me? I'm leaving right away."

We sure would, was my reply. The day was scorching hot and I could almost feel the cool breeze coming in the car window. When we arrived in town Alva met a few neighbours on the

corner of the street and someone suggested they go and have a few cool ones while the women finished their shopping. On the way home from town the inevitable happened. We felt thud, thud thud in the car. Alva looked out his window and impatiently stopped and said, "flat tire." I nodded my head in agreement as I also spotted it. He got the jack and wrenches out of the car and I felt it being hoisted up. I jumped out and stood looking at him in disbelief as sweat stood out on his brow from all the jacking. "I thought you said you only had a few cool ones with the boys." "That's all I had, why?" "Then why did you jack up the back of the car when the flat tire is on the front?"

I can only remember one year that the hail completely took all the crop. It was in 1945. Earlier than that date we sold a truck load of hogs and received three dollars a pig. The trucking charges were three dollars.

We had five children. Laverne who is still farming in the Benjamin district. A baby boy who died in infancy. Phyllis who married Meri Bjornson and lives in Edmonton. They have seven children, Carol, Susan, Merilyn, Christine, Sharon and Jackie and one son Gerrie. Patricia married Delbert Douglas. They make their home in Vernon and have a girl Darlene and a son Dwayne. Alvena married Murry Webster. They have a girl Gail and a son Douglas and live on a acreage in Ponoka.

Alva and I sold our farm in 1966 and retired in Vernon, British Columbia.

**HANCHER FRANK**

My mother Ida Anna Hancher was born in Iowa October 4, 1879. She passed away May 8 19

Mr. Frank Wesley Hancher was born in Pocahontas County, Rolfe, Iowa, U.S.A. Born October 9, 1876, passed away February 11, 1952. He met Miss Ida Archer and they were married on December 13, 1899. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hancher are buried in the Mount Auburn

Orson and Anna Archer and their daughter Ethel

Cemetery at Rimbey. From Iowa they moved to McHenery, North Dakota in 1904.

His wife's family, Mr. and Mrs. Orson Archer had moved to Alberta, Canada so they decided to come to Alberta also. They moved from McHenery, North Dakota to Alberta in 1905 to work for a farmer at Morningside, near Lacombe. They worked there for a year, then Mr. Hancher went to the Medicine Valley in search for homestead land for $10 which he found and built a log home and log buildings and proved up on the land which was required for a homesteader to live six months of each year for a number of years to prove it. He had to break and cultivate a number of acres each year.

Mrs. Ida Hancher taught school at what is now known as the Leedale school for a small salary.

Frank would work out on construction, such as railroad grade work to make money to buy things they needed to farm with. They lived here on the homestead until 1918 or 1919 when they sold out and moved back to McHenery, North Dakota. The auctioneer was C. F. Darroch of [illegible].

Their relatives arrived in the Leedale and Benjamin area for a number of years. One by [illegible] sions in the valley was Mr. T. G. Chalfand and Mr. Frank Hancher.

Mr. T. G. Chalfand one of the earliest settlers

Frank Hancher and his son Alva on his homestead in 1908
N.E. 4-36

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancher

...n the valley is still alive and is in fair health at Rimbey. His age is 104.

Mrs. Hancher pioneered the building of the Leedale Community Hall. A Leedale Hall Company was formed, shares were sold at $10. a share. A lot of work was donated and gravel was hauled from Eckville. The Hancher boys took part in this, their names being Alva and Roe. The trip took two days. The stop over was at Ole Bardenhagen's place.

There was at one time a creamery and butter plant one half mile east and two miles south of the Leedale store, comering the Eastbourne farm.

A party was held in the Leedale Hall December 13, 1949 to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancher. There were people from near and far, also many relatives there. It was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The feeling between the neighbours in the early days was very good and everyone was treated with respect. The people in the valley could not have survived if each one had not helped each other. Exchange work was the policy. There was very little money in the valley in those days. Seed grain was very scarce and at one time the valley was called "Green Feed Valley." Whoever was able to raise seed grain shared with his neighbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancher are laid away in the Rimbey Cemetery in a double plot. They were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

They had three children, all boys born on the homestead. The oldest son died in infancy, the other two, Alva was born on April 23, 1908, Roe was born March 12, 1912.

Before moving to North Dakota, they purchased the Orson Archer homestead, in case they wanted to come back.

They farmed at McHenery, North Dakota for three years but due to hail storms and rust, they returned to Leedale and Medicine Valley March, 1921, on the farm they had purchased before leaving Canada.

The land was heavy timber and bush and it took a lot of hard work to clear which was all done with a grub hoe and axe. Sod broken with horses and hand breaking plow. They lived here on this place until they retired. They bought a home in Rimbey where they lived until they passed away.

There are some highlights in their pioneer days in the Wittenberg district, now Leedale.

Mr. Paul Broderson had the first store at Wittenberg and handled a few provisions but the nearest place for the homesteaders, in the valley to get any supplies was Lacombe. Each neighbor would take turns to go with horses and wagon

and bring provisions as ordered by the others Mr Link Boyer would go on the trip. George [illegible] Clem Johnsman, Terry Challand and Frank Hancher would also take their turns. The mail and some provisions were hauled by covered wagon to Leedale by a man named John Kemna of Eckville or Gilby Leedale was the only place there was a phone. The settlers were able to call out through Eckville and Gilby when the line would work There was a telephone system between T G. Challand Frank Hancher and Orson Archer which operated on barbed wire fence line. This line was very dangerous during lightning storms

Mrs Terry Challand, Mrs P E. Teets, Mrs Jilly Duke Bert Archer John Archer and Orie Archer were Mrs Hancher's brothers and [illegible]

**HANCHER, LAVERNE ROBERTS**

On April 8, 1930, at the Trenholm quarter NE 30-41-3-W5, in the district of Benjamin a long dirt road winds through the land. To your left a team of horses are seeding wheat driven by Frank Hancher A little further on you stop at Yola and Alva Hancer's farm home. A familiar team of horses, with buggy behind stand outside and you could tell at a glance that this was Dr Byers team Inside the neat little house was Mrs. Lillie Challand, anxiously waiting the arrival of her first grandchild

Dr Byers and his assistant Mrs Sharp, were in the bedroom hovering over Yola. "The baby is about to be born said the doctor A sharp rap came at the door, and upon opening it, Mrs Harriet Johnsman came bustling in. She looked fresh and clean in her white uniform ready to administer the chloroform to her patient. A baby's cry was heard, and the doctor called from the half closed bedroom door "Alva, bring some snow quickly we need it to help revive your little [illegible]

Alva rushed outside, looking around, he could see no snow The weather was so warm for the last two weeks it had all thawed. He stood there a minute thinking, then ran to an old cellar sure enough a small corner held the precious snow He scooped it up in a small bucket he was carrying and rushed to the house and handed it to Mrs Johnsman with a smile The baby's cry soon became stronger, and it was a happy day in the Hancher household as their first son, Laverne Roberts, was born

Laverne received his education by riding horseback two miles to attend the Benjamin School On extremely cold days, with his feet numb and his fingers half frozen it felt good to open the school house door and feel the toasty warmth of the big black heater, which stood at the back of the room. A large blackboard hugged the east wall and the little school bell was resting on the teachers desk, ready to ring the start of another day at school

Miss Blanche Wallace was the first teacher Laverne had Following were Miss Ethel Hyde Miss Ross and last, but not least Miss Alma Von Tettenborn

After receiving his schooling he helped his dad on the farm and threshed for several neighbors in the district He found time to stook for Alex Sherba, Bill Lawton and Hurley Carroll just to name a few of so many

In the winter months he would go out west of Leedale and find employment at Earl Grey's mill He also helped his uncle, Glen Challand haul lumber from Johnny Jones mill into Rumbey

In 1950 Laverne moved to Edmonton to work for an oil company From there, he was employed by Gainers Meat Packing Plant

In March 1951 he enlisted in the Armed Forces, choosing the air force as his preference He took his training at St John's, Quebec and Camp Borden Ontario, specializing in air frame technician He was stationed in Ottawa, Ontario

In the spring of 1952, he was united in marriage to Kathleen McIlhinney of Ottawa and in August of the same year received an honorable discharge from the air force. He returned to Alberta and farmed the SW 30-41 3-W5 and NE 30-41 3-W5, owned by his grandmother Mrs Ida Hancher

Laverne was very interested in raising hogs They grew well for him and he had such breeds as the older type Belted hog, Landrace, York Berkshire and Tamworth. He always liked milk cows and was happy at that kind of work

[illegible]

When we arrived from the east, we had no transportation so Laverne purchased an old horse cutter from Alfred Kilpatrick and fixed it up as good as new We had a fine black horse, named Spike, to pull our snow cutter I anxiously awaited my first ride

One nice winter night Laverne told me everything was in readiness and we would try out our little cutter by going to Dora and Jim Wingates for the evening. I was all excited as I sat there and marvelled at the beauty of the winter. The fresh snowfall was shimmering in the moonlight as we glided along. The tree branches along the side of the road seemed to reach out to us with their arms so heavily laden with snow. The silence of the night was only broken by the snapping footsteps of the big horse in front of us. "Listen, what was that noise." I asked Laverne. The sound came again and I could feel my face flush as no answer was necessary. Someone must have fed Old Spike a plate of beans before we left as he tooted every step of the way to our neighbors. "Oh Well," I thought. "It isn't everyone that has music while travelling by horse and cutter — or do they?"

In 1953 the first school bus came to our district. Laverne took the job as bus driver. Lacombe county gave him a small yellow feeder bus to drive and his route consisted of 17 miles. The roads had no gravel, with the exception of the Leedale main line road. In the spring of the year, one and a half miles was impossible to travel that was from our farm to the Leedale road. Alfred Kilpatrick had a team of horses and was good enough to have them harnessed and waiting every morning for Laverne to drive them down to the gravel where the bus was left. The team was tied until the trip was made and Laverne drove the horses back. This had to be done most every school day all spring.

About three years later the county hired out the school buses to Gene Lazzer and Melvin Molander then drove a jeep around the same route Laverne had taken three years earlier. In the later 50s the county finding it too costly to hire out the buses, took them over and once more, Laverne had his bus back again.

The children that were picked up in those days, deserve a lot of credit, as they had pioneer hearts, braving the cold of winter or the mud in spring, because the feeder bus was broken down due to the miserable roads. The children I speak of were the Warneke children, Playfairs, Hayes, Simmons, Scotts, Challands, Taylors, Mogensons and von Tettenborns. Laverne drove the school bus for 10½ years.

We enjoyed farming and the land was good to us. We put in long hours of work every day but on Sunday friends and relations would drop by for a relaxing day. The women would visit and the men would play horseshoes all afternoon and we would end the day with as much homemade ice cream as you could eat.

One Sunday when the raspberries were ripe and plentiful, a small group of us decided to go and pick the fruit that day and asked the men to come and help. With much grumbling and their minds more on horseshoes that berry picking they consented.

It was very hot and not a trace of a breeze but we all worked hard to try and fill our buckets. Our pails were only a quarter full when Laverne appeared out of the bush, where he was picking and I was so pleased to see his bucket brimming over with beautiful berries. Since his pail was full, he sat down in the shade of a big tree and patiently waited for the rest of us to finish.

When we returned home I cleaned my berries with great care and then I reached for Laverne's bucket and poured them into mine. I was lost for words, when out came dirt, twigs, and grass. Only the two inches at the top of the pail was berries. "Oh that man," I stormed. "no wonder he got done so fast." He had stuffed anything he could find in the bucket and then just picked a few to cover the top. There was a small war at the Hancher farm that evening. One thing was for sure, I would never ask him to pick berries for me again.

In 1958, Laverne purchased the SW 26-41-3-W5 and NW 17-41-3-W5, the latter being the quarter owned by Lloyd and Molly Oborne. One quarter had 20 acres under cultivation so we bought a steel wheeled John Deere tractor and broke another 60 acres that summer. We purchased Walter Andrew's house as he was building a new one, and moved it on our home quarter. A few years later we erected a new steel rib barn and filled it with milk cows.

In 1971 we sold our farm and purchased the SE 2-42-4-W5, homesteaded by Mert Challand Laverne's great-uncle, and also the W½ 32-41-3-W5 which was homesteaded by another great uncle Clarence Challand.

Through our life together, we raised four children. Leonard is married to Terry Hamilton and is employed at the Lavington Mill. He makes his home in Vernon, B.C. and has a daughter

Rochelle and a son Ryan. Dallas is employed b the Federated Co-op and resides in Hanna Alberta Theresa is married to Kent Kinder and they have a li'le son, Jereme and make their home at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Kevin is still at home and attending school. He also helps Laverne with the farm work

At this time of writing, we are into the 1977 harvest season and with the continual rain which has plagued our crop and hay for the past two months, I wrote this li'le poem and I would like to share it with you

Sometimes, hell on earth as a farmer's life
Battling storms of rain, wind or ice
But calm yourselves, for beyond the blue
The Good Lord commands his angels too,
Unlock those gates and open them wide
Let all the farmers step inside

**HANCHER, ROE RAYMOND**

Roe Raymond Hancher was born March. 12 1912, on the homestead NE 36-41-4-5, the next quarter north of Link Boyer I went to school at the Leedale and Benjamin schools My teachers were: D Layton, Miss Kingsep, Peggy MacDonald and Miss Sestrap to Grade 7

I had trouble at Benjamin when Miss Sestrap was teaching so dad and mother sent me to Calgary where I stayed with an aunt and uncle for three years of school While going to school in Calgary, I studied music, learning to play the saxophone and clarinet. Then I returned home and was on the farm, farming and playing for dances until I was 21 years old. I then went to work in Edmonton wrecking automobiles. Th was in the depression times and wages were ver low. I worked from eight in the morning until six in the evening six days a week. My pay for the week was $10. I paid six dollars a week for room board and washing which left me four dollars for clothing and spending money

After one year in Edmonton I married a girl Dorothy Gladys Rutter We rented two rooms and lived there for a few years. My father took sick and went from the city to the farm for one season and a very cold winter My wife and I lived in the Jess Bowman house, one half mile south of the home place The winter was very cold and we had a baby girl Roeberta nine or 10 months old. It was so cold that winter the water pail would freeze solid sitting by the stove It was the coldest house I ever lived in

We had a crop failure that year and I was no able to put the crop in the next spring so I went back to the city I got a job with International Harvester Co. of Canada and was field expert and service man for them. I traveled all of Northern Alberta from Lacombe I was in the company for 18 years when I decided to stop traveling as our family was three children then Roeberta the oldest Wesley, a boy next Elo ne he youngest, and I was needed at home more han on the road

I moved to Westlock, Alberta where I worked for the I H C. dealer In Westlock we built our first home We lived there nine years The dealer there sold his place of business so I moved back to Edmonton and worked for I H.C. truck depart ment as a mechanic for one year I sold my place in Westlock and moved to Thorsby Alberta I bought a home here and have lived here for 22 years I was employed by the Chrysler dealer here in Thorsby where my children finished school

My oldest girl Roeberta, died in 1947 My son Wesley finished high school here in Thorsby and went to Olds Agriculture School for three years He then farmed my land for five years when he was taken sick and had an operation and was not able to farm He went back to Olds and took a course in landscaping. He now owns his own business and is doing good

My youngest daughter is married and lives on Vancouver Island, She has two children, both girls. Wesley has four children, one boy and three girls

My wife was agent for Alberta Government Telephones here in Thorsby until they changed the system to automatic She then was employed with Northern Alberta Dairy Pool as a bookkeeper for the Thorsby Cheese Factory until 1975 when she retired. I am also retired now in 1977 We are enjoying life and just returned from my daughter's place on the Island, where I did a lot of salmon fishing with an old neighbor, J Jones who also lived at Leedale

**HANSEN, BEN**

I was born in Hatting, Denmark in 1947 and moved to Canada with my parents in 1957 and we lived at Coronation, Ponoka, and Edmonton before moving to the Leedale district in May of

In 1966 I met and married Donna Glenday of Edmonton and in August of 1968 our son, Micheal was born. We left the place in May, 1969 after confirming a place with the Edmonton Fire Department, where I am presently employed Our daughter Tammy was born in May 1971, Ker y in July 1973 and Tiana in October 1974

In late June of 1968 it seemed that the whole country was on fire While working on dad s place a call came to get home and work up land at the south end of our place, as a bush fire had gotten away from our neighbors In the meantime half of the neighbors were fighting a fire on the Melvin Simmons farm

The really hard part about leaving was saying goodbye to all the friends we had made during the year spent on the farm even now when we sit and talk about that year we get homesick

**JOHN CHARLES HOPPER — by Jean Hopper**

John Charles Hopper was born in 1885 at Langley Moor near Durham, England. His parents were farmers and also owned a hotel in Langley Moor As a young man he worked on the farm, at the hotel, and also drove the local doctor

on his rounds The lure of a new and better life caused him to immigrate to Canada in 1905 Before homesteading in the Benjamin district in 1906 he worked on a farm in Manitoba as well as working in the logging camps in the wintertime at Coleman Alberta

After twice returning to England he wed Mildred Mary Gilliam in 1912 At that time she was the postmistress at Langley Moor When Charlie and Polly (as the couple were known) were married they returned to Canada accompanied by Mr and Mrs Gilliam Sr to live on a farm in the Symond district When their house was completed on the homestead in the Benjamin district they moved here

Charlie was for some time a trustee of the Benjamin school which was located about two and one half miles distant from the homestead The livestock that was sold from the farm had to be transported a long way to market in Lacombe by wagon or sleigh before the coming of the railway to Rimbey

In 1928 the Hoppers purchased their first automobile, a model T Ford car This was a great help in getting to town providing it didn't rain and make the roads impassable

Charlie and Polly had one son, Sidney Charles, who married Jean Beddoes of the Lockhart district in 1950 They have two children, Ron and Susan.

Charles' wife passed away in 1964 after a lengthy illness. Charlie continued to live in his home for several years before moving to the Senior Citizen s Lodge in Rimbey in 1973. Following a serious illness, he was transferred to the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1975, where he was still living in 1977

**JERPE J. P**

Mr Jerpe filed on his homestead the NW 16 41 3-W5 on March the 16, 1906. He received his patent on January 11 1912 He owned a butcher shop in Chicago and after the death of his fiance he came to Canada and settled in the Benjamin District

Mr Jerpe lived in the basement of his home and never finished the upper part of his home He farmed in a small way and was a very religious man friendly and lived a quiet life He served on the Benjamin School Board

[illegible] he was found dead in his home by Clarence Ferguson

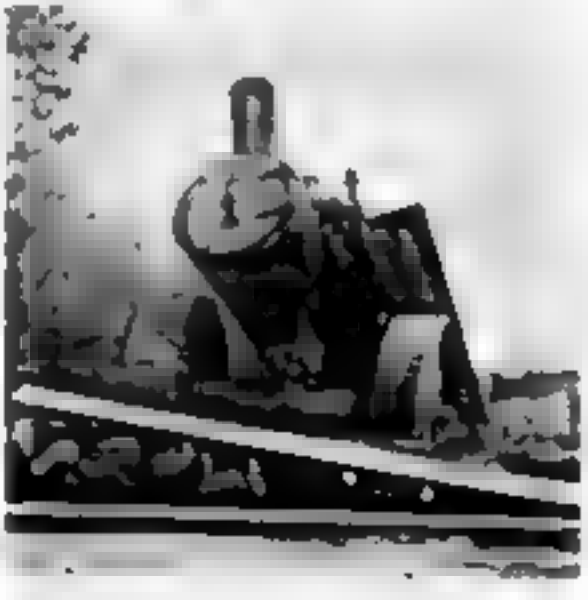
**JONES, JOHNNY**

Johnny Jones was born at Lacombe in 1909 He moved a sawmill to the Faraway area in 1935 and first became acquainted with the neighbors in the Leedale district then, although he resided in Rimbey at that time

He bought the quarter we lived on in 1945 as he had been in the airforce from 1943 to 1946

He married Louise Mohn in 1952 She had been teaching in Midland and later taught at Gimlet for two years

[illegible]



[illegible]

People in the Leedale area cut logs and made lumber at the Jones mill for the curling rink then they trucked the lumber to its present site where through community effort they all constructed it

We sold the farm in 1965 and have moved near the Oyster River on Vancouver Island

**KILPATRICK, DONALD (DAN) AND FAMILY — by Alfred Kilpatrick**

Donald Kilpatrick my father, was born April seventh 1883 in Huron County Ontario and he came west to Moose Jaw Saskatchewan in the spring of 1910. He was a carpenter and built several barns at Tuxford, Sask. Lillie May Moffat my mother was born October 30, 1885 near Hensil, Ontario. She came west in 1910 on a harvest excursion and used to tell of how hard the train seats were on that train ride to Regina Sask Dad and Mother were married in 1912 on March 12 at Moose Jaw They took out a homestead near Lake Johnston at Old Wives Sask Dad served on the council for the Municipality of Hillsborough and also on the Bayneland School Board

It was the early twenties in the spring when a storm started up, before long it turned into a howling blizzard. Cattle were driven by the storm into fence corners and died there The storm also drove cattle and sheep out onto Lake Johnston and they fell into large cracks that were in the ice and perished there

In 1918 when the flu hit the country quite a number of people in our area contacted it but I never remember of the folks dying of too many people dying from it. Dad came down with it but as children and mother escaped the flu

In our family four children were born Burns my oldest brother was born February 16, 1913 at Moose Jaw I Alfred was born on the homestead on April 21, 1915 Margaret my sister was born in Hensil, Ontario when mother and dad took a trip back to Ontario in the winter of 1920 and 1921 Bob the youngest was born on the homestead on April 18, 1922

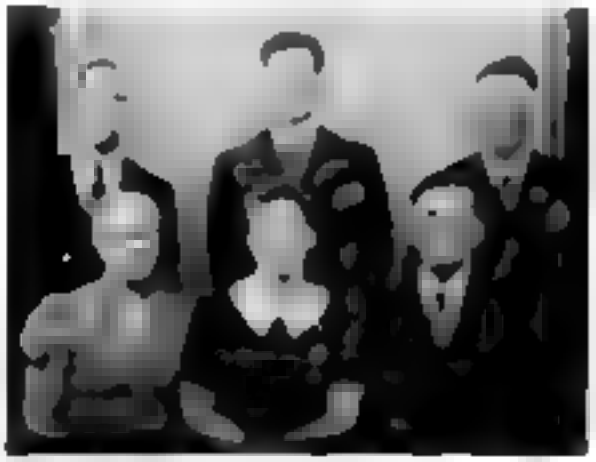
Drought and depression hit about 1929 on the prairies. Lake Johnston dried up to where old wells were found. These wells were dug and cribbed about the later part of the 1800's, so the old timers used to say. I can remember as a child going out to the pasture with my dad and brother to pick buffalo chips as they were called they were dried cow manure) to burn for fuel in the summer as there was no wood on the prairie During those years we always had a garden. Our house was up on a hill and about a quarter mile away there was a low area in which Mother always planted the garden and it produced plenty for our family

In 1933 Dad came up to Alberta and rented a farm north east of Rimbey When he returned to Saskatchewan he was unable to raise enough money to ship up to Rimbey so we were unable to make it for that year In the spring of 1934 I came to Alberta and worked east of Rimbey for the summer and in the fall I helped thresh around Leedale After 23 years on the prairie Mother and Dad could no longer take the dry years on the homestead so they pulled up stakes and moved to the Leedale area. They shipped up two rail cars of machinery, six horses, four cows chickens and household effects to Eckville It was right after Thanksgiving that they arrived and they then trailed up to a vacant house of Scotty Houston's and we lived there for the

Previously to coming to Alberta Dad went to Regina to get transportation to Alberta but was turned down on two occasions. A neighbor was going to Regina to get transportation to northern Sask. and dad asked him to try and get it for him to Alberta Our neighbor was successful and so we made it to Alberta I remember one homesick horse we brought up from the prairie with us his name was Dan. Twice he got away once I found him at Dixon and the other time at Benalto close to the river had he been used to water I'm sure he would have crossed the Medicine River and perhaps made his way back to the prairie before we could have caught him

In the spring of 1935 we rented the Frank Hancher farm and moved there for a year Then in the spring of 1936 we bought the Louis Guth quarter NE 31-41-3 W5. This was our home About a couple of years later the NW 31 was bought and Dad and us boys worked at grubbing and getting more land into production. It was a lot of hard work but we were always able to have plenty to eat and fodder for our livestock With the mills that were west of us Burns and I worked in the lumber camps in the winter and later on Bob also worked there too. It was some years after I was married that Dad bought another quarter of land from Frank Johnsman the SE 6 42-3-W5

I, Alfred married Mary Johnsman in 1941 and we have two children Frankie and David Frankie finished her high school at Eckville and then joined the Air Force. She married Robert Matkins who is Program Manager of the Montana Large Aperture Siesmac Array for Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation They live in Billings Montana and have two boys David and Roby. David our son took part of his High School in Eckville and finished in Red Deer



Dan Kilpatrick Family: Left to right

He also went to Olds and took Agriculture Mechanics. Barbara his wife is a R.N. and took her training in Saskatoon. They are now living in the area and farming our place in the Benjamin district. They have two girls, Shannon and Melanie.

Margaret married Gale Scott in 1945 and they have three girls. Audrey married Wm. McKay and they live in Fort St. John, B.C. They have two children. Janet married Paul Lange and they live at Sundre and have two girls. Francie works in Edmonton.

Bob married Vivian Broderson in 1969 and they live in Rocky Mountain House. They have three children. Lloyd is married and has a son and lives in Olds. Colleen works in Rocky Mountain House and Brenda is still at home.

Burns my brother lives on the home place and [illegible]

Dad passed away in April of 1955 and Mother in February of 1964, and they are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey.

**KRAFT GOTTFRIED FRED**

Fred Kraft was born at Saratov, Russia on May 26, 1893 and came to Canada in 1914. He served in the First World War in France with the 9th Battalion and on November 15, 1915 enlisted with the 39th Battalion in Calgary. He received

Fred and Sena Kraft

British War and Victory medals and decorations. Fred was discharged from the army on May 30, 1919 in Calgary, where he married Sena Bardenhagen on July 15 of the same year. Sena, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carson Bardenhagen Sr., of the Benjamin District, was born in Elk Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A. on December 17, 189[illegible]. Their sons, Ole, January 18, 1921; Victor, February 26, 1923, and Floyd, August 25, 1924, were born at Gilby, Alberta. Then they moved to Calgary, where Robert was born on July 15, 1926. In 1928 they moved to Lovalist, where Ben was born on July 23, 1932. In 1933 they moved back to the Gilby district.

After a lengthy illness, Fred passed away in 1942. Sena resided in the district for a number of years and then moved to Eckville where she purchased a house and lived there until the time of her passing on December 18, 1966. Both Fred and Sena are laid to rest in the Kaimo Gilby [illegible]

Ole Kraft married Maxine Rogers of Tofield in November 1949. He began work for the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1951 at Delburne and then moved to Wetaskiwin where their daughter Karen Lynn (now Mrs. Ronald Draper of Hillspring) was born April 11, 1953. Later that year they moved to Fleet. Their second daughter, Nita Louise, was born on June 9, 1955 at Castor. She is now Mrs. Norman Nelson and resides in Lethbridge. From Fleet, Ole and Maxine and family moved to Conrich and then to Hillspring in southern Alberta. In 1972 Ole was transferred to Welling, south of Lethbridge, where he is still employed. They make their home in Magrath, Alberta.

Victor Kraft served in the army from 1942 until 1946. He married the former Joy Berryman and they had four children, Judy, June, Steven and Pat. The family lived in Whitecourt for many years, where Victor owned and operated a trucking business. He died of injuries suffered in a chuckwagon accident at the Red Deer Fair on May 21, 1976.

Floyd Kraft served with the Medical Corp in the army from 1940 until 1946, and died as the result of drowning in 1948, at the age of 24 years.

Robert Kraft received his education at Eckville and served in the army from 1944 to 1946. He worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool at Sylvan Lake and Elspeth from 1951 until 1960. He married Betty Hansen in December, 1955. Betty, daughter of Albert and Hazel Hansen, was born and raised in the Bluebell district south of Eckville where she received nine years of her education and completed her high school in Eckville. After finishing Grade 12, she worked at the Eckville Hospital for several months and then spent one year working in the office at the Eckville Co-op. On June 1, 1954 Betty started work at the local Post Office and is still employed there.

In 1961 Robert attended "Molar System of Schools" in Calgary, where he received his certificate in barbering. In June 1962 he obtained

his provincial license after which he operated a Barber Shop in Eckville for the next ten years.

Robert and Betty are very interested in sports having both been active curlers for many years. Robert was instrumental in the construction of the local arena and has spent several years as a member of the "Arena Operating Committee". At present he is a member of the Eckville Town Council.

Ben Kraft and his wife the former Joan Wingrave of the Leedale district, reside at Sicamous, B.C. They have five children Ariel Bonnie, Brian, Lori and Marnie. Ben is employed by the Co-op Lumber Mill at Canoe, B.C.

**LAND, CHARLES**

Charlie and Kathleen Land came to Canada in 1913, and settled in the Benjamin District on the SE 28-41-3-W5. They homesteaded a bush quarter and started the painstaking job of clearing it by hand and having it broken by horses with a wooden beam breaking plow.

There were several other families in the district at that time, so the roads went from farm to farm across country, and to the school, which was the centre of community life. Here dances, box socials and social evenings were held and Charlie used to help with the entertainment by singing and whistling across the blade of a knife.

Since they lived eleven miles from town which was quite a long trip with horses and wagons, they and the neighbors used to take turns to fetch the groceries and the mail, that way each family would only have to make the tedious trip every three or four weeks and as there was no railway Charlie took his turn hauling freight from Lacombe to Leedale.

In 1917 the Land house burned down with all their possessions, and so for the next couple of years they lived at the Hiram Cutler farm near Rimbey. They returned to Benjamin after that time to rebuild their home.

When the road allowances were surveyed every farmer worked to make the graded roads. They used horses and a slip for the high land. This dug up the dirt and conveyed it to the proper place. When they had to go over low lying ground they corduroyed it, which meant cutting trees and laying them side by side over the swampy ground and covering them with dirt hauled with wagons with moveable floors.

As more land was cleared and crops grown they used to cut and stook the grain then stack it so that later on in the fall or winter it could be threshed when the threshing machine made its rounds to the different farmers.

The Land's bought their first car a Model T in 1927, but sleighs were still used in winter as the roads were not suitable for cars.

In 1942 Charlie had a very bad heart attack. He never actively farmed after that but became interested in gardening and his son Herb took over the farm. They retired to Bentley in 1950 where Charlie had a model garden and they both enjoyed their retirement.

Charlie and Kathleen had four children, one son and three daughters.

Herbert married Mrs. Joan Porter who had twins, a boy Keith and a girl Barbara. Keith is at Fox Creek. Barbara married Robert Barlow of Calgary and they have two daughters, Michele and Alison and they are now residing in Chilliwack, B.C. To Herbert and Joan a son Michael was born and he is at home on the farm with his parents.

Alice married Charles Arrowsmith of Rimbey. They have one son Douglas who married Lois Golder of Lacombe. Douglas and Lois have two children, a son Larry and a daughter Connie Alice. Charles and Douglas and family live in B.C. at Armstrong and Enderby.

Ada married James Haarstad of Bentley. They have two sons Denis and Dean. Denis married Pat Beranek and they have one son David and one daughter Brenda. Ada passed away in 1976.

Ruby married Edward Mottus of Eckville and they have two sons Ted and Steve and one daughter Kathleen. Ruby and family live in [illegible].

Kathleen passed away in 1965 and Charlie in 1973, and are buried at Bentley.

**LAYE, MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN [illegible] — by Mrs. Frank Laye**

In 1906 Mr and Mrs Benjamin Laye and their two children, Frank, age eight years and Marion, age five years left Abrum, England. They came to Brandon, Manitoba where he worked at Brandon Machine Shop for a year. In 1907 they came to Lacombe. Mr Laye worked on the brick school there which was being built that year. Mrs. Laye cooked for some of the workers. On Febraury 28, 1908 they left Lacombe to come to the homestead with team and democrat, crossing Gull Lake, Alberta in a blizzard — there was not much snow before that. Four other children were born in the years to follow, Stanley, Lorna, Jessie, and Ralph. Mrs Laye passed away in December 1940, age 66 years. Mr Laye passed away September 1958, age 85.

Frank married Dorothy Guest. They reside in the Benjamin District. They have one daughter, Margaret, who married Lenard Scott and farmed in the Lecory area. They have two children Murray and Heather.

Marion married Harry Robb of Carlos. They farmed in that area. They had three children Norma, Howard and Leonard. Harry passed away September, 1952. Marion passed away July, 1974, age 75 years. Norma married Harvey Stewart of Bluffton, they have a farm there. They have three children Leslie, Ronald and Marilyn. Leslie married Linda Jones of Sorrento, B.C. now living at Red Deer. Ronald and Marilyn are at home. Howard married James

Wilson of Bingley. The home farm at Carlos was left to him, where they reside. They have six children. Pamela, Angella, Becky, Sheldon, Monica and Sherman all at home. Leonard married Debra Wilson of Bingley. They are living near Rocky Mountain House. They have five children. Kevin, Calvin, Dean, Denise and Melanie all at home.

Stanley married Kathleen Neumeyer of Potter Creek. They took over his father's farm. They had one daughter Shirley. Stanley passed away October 1975 age 65 years. Shirley married Richard Eluik of Eckville. He works for John Deere Parts and Service of Olds. They have one son, Ryan.

Lorna married Hardin Chaffee of Rimbey. They lived at Willesden Green District until 1942 when Hardin went into the army. Lorna moved into Rimbey with the four oldest children until 1945 when Hardin returned from overseas, the latter part of May. In the fall of 1945 they moved to Wainwright where Hardin worked in the Quarter Masters Store. They stayed there a year until his discharge from the army. They moved back to Rimbey until 1956 when they moved to Edmonton. A year ago they moved to an acreage near Spruce Grove. They have eight children. Connie, Verlin, Navarro, Hardin Jr. Dale, Yvonne, Denis and Donna. Connie married Allan Maclean and lives near Alder Flats. He is a battery operator. They have five children, Heather, Randy, Douglas, David and Tim. Heather married Tony Marlenman and are living in Edmonton. They have one daughter Saylor. The others are not married. Verlin is married and lives in Edmonton. They have seven children. Navarro married Loretta Dimers. He operates a vacuum truck in the oil fields around Buck Lake. They have three children, Tina, Chad and Craig. Hardin Jr. and wife Judy lives on an acreage out of Spruce Grove. He is a carpenter for W. J. V. Bennet. They have three girls. Dale and wife lives in Edmonton. He is a machinist. They have two boys. Yvonne married Ed Schrieber. She is a supervisor for the Department of Finance in the Provincial Government. Denis is apprenticing electrician and is at present at Fort McMurray. Donna married Gordon Chachuk. She works for the Department of Health and Welfare.

Jessie married Fred Dentman of Rimbey. They took over the family farm east of Rimbey. They have one daughter Muriel. She married Leonard Ingram of Bentley. They are farming east of Rimbey. They have two boys, Randy and

Ralph passed away the winter of 1923 at the age of four years.

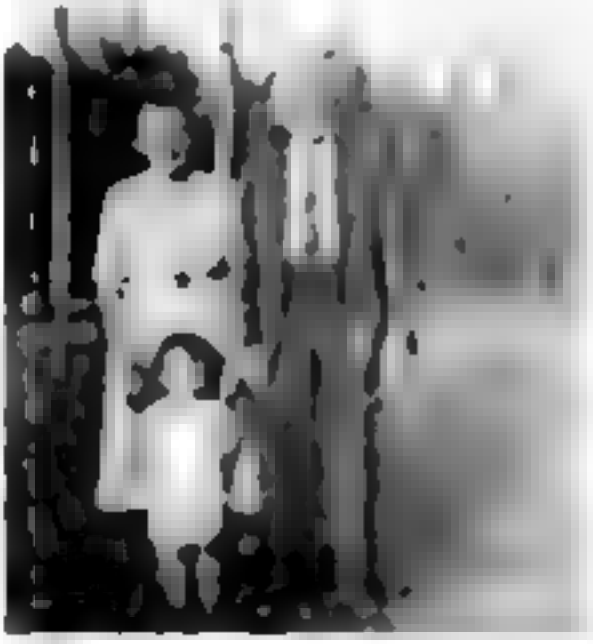
**DUNCAN AND ANNIE LAYTON — by Mary Binder**

One of the early families in the Benjamin district was that of Duncan and Annie Layton. Annie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Lockart, emigrated from Nebraska, U.S.A. to Alberta in 1903, and operated the first post office in the district then known as Lockhart.

In the fall of 1905, Duncan Layton, who had left his home in Truro, Nova Scotia three years earlier to find work in the sawmills of British Columbia, returned to Alberta to file claims on homesteads for himself and five companions. They were Frank Wingate, Wallace Stevenson, George Fraser, Marner Smith and Jack Mink. Frank, Wallace, George and Duncan remained to farm the lands they homesteaded. Early in the spring of 1906 Mr. Layton began teaching in the newly organized Calkins Valley School Division

for building a school in the Benjamin district. In 1907 the newly-formed Benjamin School District issued debentures and borrowed money to begin building. Link Boyer got the contract to build the school, assisted by Mr. Benjamin, a member of the school board. Mr. Layton taught from March until June of 1908. There was not enough money to continue longer. The first pupils consisted of three Taylor children and four of the Benjamin children. School was closed in May of 1910 when Mr. Benjamin, having "proved up", got title to his land, then packed up his belongings and moved with his family back to Montana. Without the Benjamin children there were not the required number of school children to operate the

Mr. and Mrs. Layton were married on October 26, 1906 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary before Mrs. Layton's death in 1973. Mr. Layton, now 94 years of age, lives at the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer. He still remembers vividly his early years in the area as a teacher and a farmer.



Of their six children, the two eldest reside in the Benjamin district. James married Beryl Beddoes and they have made their home on the original Layton farm since 1941. Their only daughter Sandra (Mrs. Colin Beard) lives in Petawawa, Ontario.

Bob married Clara Tilleman. Their family includes Donna (Mrs. Jim Pearson), Bob, Harvey, Allan, Heather (Mrs. Robert Guldam), Chris (Mrs. Andy Brown) and Tim and Tom.

Laurie married Lenore MacLean and they will be retiring to White Rock in 1977. They have one daughter, Linda (Mrs. Greg Berry) and a son, Keith.

Jessie (Mrs. Hal Beddoes) of Kamloops, B.C. has just retired from a nursing career. They have four sons, Michael, Sandy, Ken and Ian.

Mary (Mrs. F. H. Blake) retired from teaching and lives in Red Deer. She has two sons, John and Tony.

Layton L. married Reva Hyde, and lives in Vancouver, B.C. They have a son, Mark and a daughter, Tammy.

**LINER, JOHN AND FAMILY**

Early in the year 1910 John Liner left his home in Sweden and sailed for Canada. With him was his brother Olaf and later the same year another brother Per also came to Canada. They first came to Barons, Alberta where a sister and brother-in-law lived. The brothers were all carpenters and for several months they worked at carpenter work in Southern Alberta.

They then came north to Lacombe looking for homesteads. About 30 miles west of Lacombe there were three homesteads available in Sec. 15-41-3-W5. John filed on the SE quarter, Olaf filed on the SW quarter and Per on the NW quarter of this section. That winter the brothers built a log house on John's quarter. When spring came they went south again to do carpenter work for the summer.

In the fall of 1911 John's wife Edla and three children, Anders six, Anna five and Alice two sailed for Canada. Per's wife Mina and son Gunnar came at the same time. After the ocean voyage and long train ride across Canada they finally arrived at Lacombe. John and Per were there to meet them and the trip to the homesteads was made with a team of horses and a wagon. The first winter John's and Per's families and Olaf all lived in the log house that had been built the previous winter. Per and Olaf built houses on their homesteads that winter and moved to their own homes in the spring.

John built a log barn on his land. A few head of cattle were bought, also some pigs and chickens. A few acres of land were cleared. John purchased a team of oxen to break the land. He often had to leave his family and go out to work at his carpenter trade to get some much needed money. Income from the land was very meager the first years.

In April 1913 another daughter was born to the

family. She was named Albertina which was soon shortened to Alta. She grew to be a happy healthy little girl.

Anders started school at the Benjamin School in 1913. His first teacher was Miss Flo Johnson. Anna started school the following year. Mr. D. M. Layton was our teacher that year. We found school difficult at first because we did not know the English language. However we soon learned enough of the language so we could understand our teacher and our progress at school was quite

During the summer months wild berries were plentiful. We picked saskatoons, wild raspberries and blueberries which were preserved for winter.

In July 1916 tragedy struck our family. Edla our dear Mother, passed away a few hours after the birth of her daughter Gladys. John was heartbroken and did not know how he would manage to raise his family by himself. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Putland, who had no children of their own, offered to adopt Baby Gladys. John did not want to give up his little daughter but he felt that it would be best for his little girl. So the adoption papers were signed and Gladys became the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Putland. They were very good to her and she had a very happy childhood. For the next two years the other four children stayed with relatives in southern Alberta and John worked at his carpenter work.

In December 1918 John married Sofia Peterson, who had just recently come from Sweden. He then brought his family back to the homestead. We were all happy to be back and we were happy to have a new mother. Again we went to school at Benjamin. By this time Alice was school age also and two years later Anna started school. We had a long walk to school as our homestead was four miles from the Benjamin School but we had a path through the bush which shortened the distance a bit. In 1921 John

bought the quarter section which had been his brother Per's homestead and we moved there. We now had a better house and we were a mile closer to school. There also was more land under cultivation so it was not necessary to work out as much.

After finishing school Anders worked with his Dad on the farm for a number of years. He also worked in southern Alberta in the harvest fields for several years. In 1930 he filed on a homestead at Winfield. He built a log house there and it became his home for many years. Besides clearing land and developing his homestead he worked in lumber camps and for a time as a section man on the C.P.R. railway. In 1952 he sold his homestead and bought his father's farm in the Benjamin District. He farmed there until 1968, when he sold the farm and bought a home in Rumbey. In October of 1968 Anders married Eva Andrews and Andy and his wife still live in Rumbey.

Anna finished grade nine in the Benjamin School. Then she went to Calgary where she finished her high school and went to Normal School. She taught school for eight years in several school districts in Central Alberta. After the death of her step-mother in 1936 Anna came home to keep house for her father and help on the farm. In 1944 Anna and John left the farm and went to White Rock, B.C. where they lived until John passed away in March 1948. After her father's death Anna came back to Alberta and in 1949 she married Andrew Crawford, who farmed south of Eckville. Andy and Anna continued to farm in the Diamond Valley District until 1971 when they sold their farm and bought a home in Red Deer where they now reside.

After finishing school Alice worked in Calgary for a number of years. In 1939 she married Gust Svenson of the Winfield District. Gust had a farm west of town where he and Alice lived for many years. Their son Alfred was born in 1940. Alice passed away in 1964. Gust continued to live on the farm until his passing in 1975. Alfred is still farming on his parents farm.

Anna finished her high school in Calgary. Then she went to Normal School. She taught school for a few years, then she went to the Western Baptist Bible College and became a missionary. In 1943 she went to Nigeria, Africa under the Sudan Interior Mission. She served two four year terms in Africa. She came home on furlough in 1947 just before her father's passing. She went back for her second term in the fall of 1948. The climate in Africa was hard on her health, so she found she had to give up her work as a missionary. In 1956 she went to the Peace River District to teach school. There she met Edmond Roy and she and Edmond were married in 1957. Alta continued teaching for a few years after her marriage, Edmond was farming. Then they moved to Peace River town where they worked for a number of years. They are now retired and living in Kelowna, B.C.

Gladys was taken by her foster parents to Burnaby B.C. while she was still very young and they continued to live in the Vancouver Area for many years. Gladys became a teacher and taught school on Vancouver Island. She was about 25 years old when she was told that she had been adopted. She then came to Alberta to visit her father and brother and sisters. She stayed with her father and Anna for nearly a year. Then she went back to B.C. where she has lived most of her life.

**LINER, OLAF FAMILY**

In the fall of 1910 Olaf Liner filed on a homestead in the Benjamin District. It was the SW 15-41-3-W5. He built a house on his land in the winter of 1912. later he cleared land and built fences. He also worked at his carpenter trade much of the time.

In 1917 he went to Sweden and brought his wife Lydia and son Algot with him back to Canada. They came to the Barons District of southern Alberta where they rented an empty farm house and Olaf worked as a carpenter for about two years. Their son Algot attended the Garden Prairie School. In July 1918 their son Harry was born. In the spring of 1919 they rented a farm southwest of Barons, but this farming venture proved unsuccessful. They suffered three years of crop failure, due to drought, cutworms and grasshoppers. Another son Robert was born in March of 1921.

In the fall of 1921 Olaf moved his family to his homestead in the Benjamin District where they lived for about a year and a half and Argot attended school at Benjamin. In 1923 Olaf sold his homestead and the family lived in Calgary for about a year. Then in the fall of 1924 Olaf bought a C.P.R. quarter in the Lochart District, the SE 12-41-3-W5. Olaf worked hard on this farm. He cleared about 100 acres of land and broke it with horses. They also raised pigs, cattle and milked cows.

Their youngest son Carl was born in January 1927. Harry and Robert were now school age. They went to the Calkins Valley School. Later Carl also had his schooling at Calkins Valley.

Algot worked in southern Alberta and at various jobs in the Calgary area. He remained a bachelor all his life. He now is retired and living in Calgary.

Harry bought a truck and for about 15 years he operated a trucking business known as "Liner's Transport". Then he bought his father's farm, where he is still living and continuing to farm. In 1945 Harry married Marie Krossa, some years later they built a nice new home on the farm. Harry and Marie have three children, Susan, Annette and Gordon. They also have six

Robert bought land in the Lockhart District which he continued to farm for several years. He also helped Harry with the trucking business. In 1957 Robert married Alice Haarstad. They con

moved to live on the farm and built a lovely new home. In 1966 Bob and Alice decided to move to B.C. They had a sale and sold their farm equipment and livestock. They moved to Rutland, B.C. and for a time Bob worked as a carpenter. Then they bought a farm at Armstrong where they lived for several years. In 1972 Bob and Alice moved back to Alberta and they are now living on a farm in the Lockhart District.

Carl became an Auto Body Mechanic. He was married in 1957 and bought a home in Calgary. Carl and his wife Martha still live in Calgary and he is continuing to work at his trade.

Olaf and Lydia Liner moved to Calgary when they retired from farming and bought a home in the city. On December 3, 1958 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a family dinner at the home of their son Harry and in the afternoon they had open house at Robert's farm where many friends and neighbors gathered to wish them well. In 1966 Olaf suffered a stroke which left him partly paralyzed. Lydia continued to look after him and nurse him through his long illness. He passed away in December 1971. Lydia lived in her home in Calgary for sometime after her husband's death. Then she sold her home and is now living in the Senior Citizen's Lodge at Rimbey. At age 93 she still enjoys fairly good health and keeps busy crocheting and knitting.

**LINER, PER FAMILY**

In the fall of 1910 Per Liner filed on the NW 15 41 3-W5. During the winter of 1912 he built a house on his land and dug a well. In the spring he and his wife Mina and son Gunnar moved to the homestead. He was busy that summer clearing some land and getting a few acres broken. He built a log barn and a chicken house. He bought horses, some cattle and chickens. Like his brothers, Per often had to leave home to do carpenter work to supplement his income. Gunnar who was ten years old was a big help with the chores when his father was away. Gunnar started school at Benjamin soon after they were settled on the farm. He soon learned the English language and made good progress at school.

Per's health began to fail in the fall of 1916 and after an illness of several months he died in April 1917. Mina and Gunnar left the homestead for about a year and found work in Calgary, but they came back to the farm in 1918 and Gunnar bought livestock and equipment and began to farm his father's homestead. However after the extremely long cold winter of 1919 and 1920 they decided to move to a warmer climate. They had a sale in the summer of 1920 and moved to California. In 1920 John Liner bought their farm. Mina passed away a few years later. Gunnar continued to live in California and worked at various jobs. He is now retired and lives in Los Angeles.

**MEMORIES OF "OLD BALDY"**

Others know the hill as "Old Baldy or "Snake Hill" but to myself and my brothers it was just Grandpa's Hill. I do not know its history from 1919 when my grandparents came from Iowa to this valley. Some say there is an Indian grave beside the pathway which runs along the top. A pioneer once built a home right near the brow of this small mountain and indeed I did see this old basement or foundation on the trail when grandpa and grandma took us for a Sunday climb. As a little child I remember how lovely "the hill looked with it's blanket of shiny green [illegible].

When Grandpa came to Canada he had intended living near Leedale on a flat quarter section of land, but Grandma was so homesick for the "Old Country" that they settled here instead. The hill reminded them of Scotland. A fire cleared all trees from it and this is how it got it's name in the 1920's. It lies on the farthest northwest end of the Medicine Hills. In the 1920's and 1930's we walked right up the south west face of it over slippery leaves and jagged rocks grasping small trees and going in a winding direction so we wouldn't slip. Grandpa always warned us to be careful or "you'll roll right down

he hill. It took about one half hour to climb right up to the snake pit where we rested. Once Grandpa showed me the snakes writhing around in their sunny rock cavern. Grandma was always afraid to go there alone for once she had gone looking for berries around the back of the hill and become lost. She finally came to a wire fence and followed it to the fields near the house. Once too a grey wolf had chased their dogs, when they ventured too near the dark forest at the north end. So to us children "The Hill" was a very wonderful and mysterious place where we went for a climb on Sunday. Grandpa walking ahead with his William Walking Stick, then came we children followed by Taffy the old sheep dog and last came Grandma keeping watch over us. It was worth the effort when we reached the top. There we sat down on a soft carpet of moss and leaves to view the snowy mountains and the Medicine Valley below. Grandpa pointed out the neighbor's farms to the northwest and the Calkins Valley to the east. Best of all was seeing the roof of their log house right below nestled in the trees.

The hill smelled of Balm of Gilead trees and raspberries. It was covered with anthills which Grandpa stirred or poked with his stick so we could see the poor little creatures rebuilding their mounds. I really wondered if the whole hill might be one huge red anthill for I was terrified of them when they crawled into my shoes and bit fiercely. There were deer and other wild animals sheltering among the trees. Grandma became very upset when anyone hunted them. She thought of it as a natural sanctuary.

Over the years "Old Baldy" has been many things to many people. Other neighbors have had sleigh riding parties and hiking picnics along the old trail. Now the pavement runs right along the east side and the road crew built a look out on the south-east end. So our little mountain is not

**THE NELS MOGENSEN FAMILY — by Margaret Mogensen**

Nels emigrated to the Calgary area from Denmark in 1927 and I came from Denmark in 1929. We were married in Calgary in 1929.

We lived in Calgary for 10 years, but at that time there was no work in the city so we decided to go farming and came to the Benjamin district in the summer of 1939. Nels was never out of work after that! It was a raw quarter section with no roads. We lived in a tent for two months while Nels helped the Layton boys with the haying. Then they, in turn, helped him build a two room log house. At the time we moved to the farm we had the three older boys. Hugh was nine, Ken was seven, and Norman was three years old. Until we got a well drilled the following summer we hauled water from Layton's spring, a distance of one mile. While we were living in the tent we had a hail storm that almost killed our chickens and soaked everything in the tent. The mosquitoes were so bad that Norman was completely covered with bites.

The road allowances was cleared the first summer from Lands to the northwest corner of

In the fall Nels went harvesting at Balzac to earn some money for the winter. While he was gone Hugh and I laid part of the kitchen floor and I started to chink the logs inside the house.

Our two horses ran away that summer and we heard three months later that they were in the pound in Markerville. It cost $35 to get them back out again. In the meantime we had bought another horse from Charlie Land to use for hauling water.

An early snowstorm brought Nels home from Balzac, but after things dried up again he was able to go and help Harry Thomas thresh.

That first winter and spring Nels cleared 14 acres and had it broken in the spring. In the summer of 1940 we had a well drilled. We had to drill down 150 feet to get water, so it was really heavy to pump.

We brought chickens with us from Calgary and bought a milk cow from Charlie Land, so we always had fresh milk and eggs. Nels worked for different neighbors for the going wage of one dollar a day to help buy groceries. The boys found life quite different from the city, with two and three-quarter miles to go to school, either on foot or on horseback.

We were very fortunate that we were all healthy except for the fact that Norman was born with a club foot which required long and frequent treatment at the Red Cross Hospital Calgary. Transportation was so poor that it was a problem getting him back and forth and his hospital stays were sometimes prolonged.

Our life was generally untouched by the war except for communication with relatives in Denmark. Letters were sent from Denmark to a friend in the United States, who forwarded them to us and the same with our letters to them until the United States entered the war. Then all letters had to go through the Red Cross and we could send a message of only 25 words.

In 1941 Doris was born in Rimbey. We were worried about the availability of a doctor as the doctor who had been there had joined the army but another did come before she was born. Joyce was born in September of 1943.

In 1947 Hugh left home to take Grade 11 in Eckville. He worked on MacDonald's farm for his room and board with them. The next year he boarded at Wecker's near Bentley and took part of his Grade 12 there. Meanwhile Ken was boarding at Jim Jaffrey's and taking Grade 9 at Lockhart, as there was no teacher at Benjamin. Mr. McCullough, who was the school superintendent offered to let him come and board at his home in Red Deer and finish his high school there. Hugh was able to go there, too, and pick up

he Grade 12 subjects that weren't available to him in Bentley.

We remember lots of good times during those years. Things like community picnics, families getting together for Sunday dinners, Christmas concerts, whist drives, showers for all the young people of the community who got married, and the Benjamin Ladies Club. Isabel Guest had the first meeting of the Club and I had the second.

In December of 1950 our house was completely destroyed by fire. We had no insurance, so it was a terrible loss to us. Our neighbors were very good to us, they brought us bedding, household goods, and money. Laytons loaned us their old house and Herb Land pulled it in with his tractor. That winter we got out logs and sawed them and the following summer we started work on the new house. Rural electricity was being brought in at that time, so we had the house wired while we were building.

An incident happened about this time that we've always laughed about. We had some friends who drove up from Drumheller but when they got as far as Baldy they got stuck in the mud from the heavy shower we had had that afternoon. Mr. Aagaard walked up to our place and his wife stayed at Boths. After supper Nels and Norman hitched up the horses to the wagon and Norman went down to get her. On the way Norman thought he heard chickens and, sure enough, he found about half a dozen chickens riding along on the reach of the wagon. He stopped at Johnny Fraser's and put the chickens in their coal box and picked them up again on the way home. So Mrs. Aagaard arrived in fine style with a box of cackling chickens in the wagon with her. She had a good story to tell her city friends in Drumheller when she got back home.

When Norman went to Grade 9 it was no longer being taught at Benjamin, so he went to Peterson's in Bentley and boarded with them helping in their hatchery. The next year the school bus from Rumbey came to within two miles so he was able to come back home and take the bus to school to finish his high schooling. Then in the mid 50's Benjamin School was closed and all the students were bused to Eckville. Doris and Wayne were able to finish high school without leaving home.

In 1960 Linda and Beverly, our two eldest grandchildren, came to live with us and stayed for the next several years. Meantime, work on the farm was getting hard with Nels away a lot doing carpentry work, so in 1963 we sold the farm and moved to Eckville. There we built a new house where we lived for the next eight years. Nels built the Presbyterian Church in Eckville, as well as a number of houses in and around Eckville. I was the librarian at the town library from its opening until we left eight years later in 1972. We made lots of good friends during our stay there and enjoyed many card games with them.

After talking about moving to Vancouver Island for several years, we finally did so in 1972 where we enjoy good health and many new friends — fishermen, card players and bowlers in the Duncan area.

**Our children.**

After finishing high school, Hugh took one year of education at University of Alberta and practice-taught at Andrew School for two months. After teaching during the following year at Morningside, he decided that he didn't like teaching so he worked for a year and then went back to university and took geology. He married Helen Swainson of Burnt Lake in 1955. He has worked in the oil industry since finishing university and has always lived in Calgary except for three years in London, England. They have five daughters and one son. The two eldest daughters are in university, one in Calgary and one in Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario. The others are still at home and in school.

Ken married Norene Fiske of Markerville in 1953 and had two daughters. He was remarried in 1963 to Marilyn MacFarlane of North Battleford, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters and a son. Ken is part owner of Castle Appliance Service in Calgary, a thriving business with a large staff. His two older daughters are both married and living in Calgary. Linda has twin daughters and Beverly has a son.

Norman worked in the bank in Rumbey for a year after finishing school, then travelled around the world for two years. On his return he worked in Vancouver in the banking business for several years. He is now living in Victoria and working for the provincial government. In 1969 he married Joan Page of Cambridge, England. They have a son and a daughter who are both still at home and attending school.

Doris finished school in 1959 and went to Calgary where she worked for the Associate Clinic for four years. In 1962 she married Ron McKoen of Calgary. They have three children, two boys and a girl, who are all at home and attending school. They lived in Calgary for several years and now make their home in Port Alberni, B.C., where Ron works in industrial sales.

Wayne finished high school in 1961 and went to work for a Tunisian family near Calgary for a year. This was a great help to him in learning to speak French. From there he went to university in Edmonton for a year, then to the University of British Columbia for two years. He then returned to Edmonton to get his Master's degree in history two years later. He then went to Caen, France, as an exchange student, later getting his Ph.D. from Sorbonne in Paris. He married Muriel Colette in France in 1969. They moved back to Canada in 1970 and he is now teaching history at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. They have two small children, a boy and a girl.

**THE MOWBRAY FAMILY**

Mrs. Mowbray and her three sons, George Ralph and Tom, three daughters Violet Edith and Ethel came to the district in 1902 Another daughter Elizabeth had previously emigrated to Australia They came from Langley Moor in the County of Dunham, England, where they operated a butcher shop. They settled on a C P R quarter NE 3-42-3-W5 where they made their home This became a stopping place for travellers and the trail radiated through the bush in every direction from there At first they filed on homestead land to the northwest of Leedale but gave it up in favour of section 34-41 3-W5, of which Ralph had the northeast George the northwest since 1929 the home of Rose and Jon ny Cummings , Tom had the southwest and their mother the south east quarter George and his mother eventually moved to Rimbey to a small holding directly south of the present feed mill the house and barn are still in good condition and occupied George then started a butcher shop in Rimbey which he occupied for many years, until his death. The first shop was located on the site of the present Chapparel Restaurant and the second on the site of the present Roy's T V George Mowbray also bought a lot of furs in those days from trappers and homesteaders He was never married Ralph drove the mail from Lacombe to Rimbey for Alfred R Coverdale, who held the contract in those early days He then moved to a farm south of Bentley and later to Lacombe where he worked at the Experimental Farm until his passing, he was married and had two sons violet became Mrs. Chas. Braithwaite and lived on a farm just west of Lacombe in the Spruceville District There she lived all her life she had a family of four two sons and two daughters, the oldest son Charles is still farming on the old place. Edith married Ed Johnson who was a carpenter and managed the Imperial Lumber in Rimbey until he built and operated his own yard which he sold to Allan Needham They then moved to Calgary where they lived to their passing they had a family of two daughters Ethel married Hiram Cutler who was one of the very first to arrive in the Blindman Valley they had a large farm east of Rimbey which was later sold and they moved to B C where they lived the remainder of their lives. There was a family of two a son and a daughter Hiram had roamed over a lot of Alberta around the turn of the century, trapping and packing and living off the country almost entirely. He was an interesting story teller of the happenings of the real early days of this area

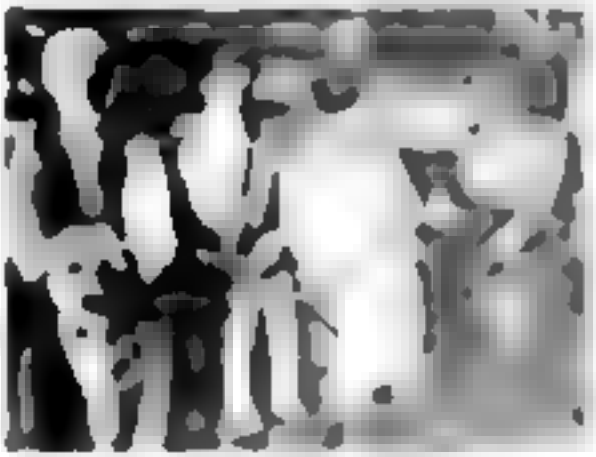
**THE WILLIAM LITTLE PORTER FAMILY — Benjamin District, 1913-1951 — By Edna Carroll a Granddaughter**

William Little Porter with his wife Alice Mary Dunn Porter and daughter Norah, 26 years of age came to Canada in 1913 from the farming area of Council Bluffs, Iowa, U.S.A

Originally from Castle Douglas, Scotland William Porter came to Portsmouth England to work for Archibald Dunn, who was in business as a Draper (men's suiting and Scottish woollens) After marrying Miss Alice Dunn, fourth daughter of his employer they decided to leave for America, where Mr Porter was hired as a herdsman on a ranch of Armour's Packing plant

After arriving at New York City, with Norah 12 years of age, in 1906, they proceeded to his work near Kansas City, Missouri. After working for 13 years in Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa they decided to take up land in Canada. They put a down payment on a piece of land near Leedale but it was bleak and low-lying and so they were fortunate in finding a quarter-section of beautiful hilly land in the Benjamin district Losing their first initial payment given for the land at Leedale was a blow which was softened by the lovely new log house and the high hill on the half section they settled on. At first they got their mail and groceries at the Gilby Store. The family attended church services at the Lockhart Church, where Norah sometimes played the organ. In this way they became acquainted with many Scottish settlers in the Lockhart district and gradually began trading in the town of

Mr and Mrs Porter worked hard by today's standards making cows and separating the milk raising poultry and seeding a few acres of the hilly soil to produce enough grain for the livestock. Mr Porter farmed with horses and a walking plow at first. Although they were both middle-aged by the time they came to Canada, he pumped water by hand every morning for the livestock and for household use They made their living as most other people did then, from the sale of their eggs and cream and some pigs or cattle. They also went by horse and bug Rimbey once a week to shop, a distance of about 14 miles However, even though they had been used to modern machinery and city living they



Mr. and Mrs. Porter, daughter Flo Shorrock [illegible]

never thought of themselves as pioneers, for the many neighbors around them had been here many years earlier

The daughter, Norah, married Mr Jim Shorrock of the Gilby district in 1923, and this union gave them three grandchildren. Mrs Porter remained happy and quite well until only a year before she passed away in 1945 at the age of 76 years. Mr [illegible] remained [illegible] at home, and in good health and mind for a few years before coming to live at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Shorrock. He passed away suddenly in December, 1950, at the age of 86. Mr and Mrs Porter are both buried at the Rimbey cemetery, leaving three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren as well as seven great great-grandchildren at the present time

**PRICES PAST AND PRESENT — by Mary Kipatrick**

This is a list of groceries and provisions Link Boyer and Guy Farrow bought in 1902 before they came to the Medicine Valley near Leedale. This list was found in an old note and account book dating back to 1897. The approximate today prices are listed in the right hand column

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 joints stovepipe and damper | $ 50 | $ 3.50 |
| [illegible] | 1 50 | 11 45 |
| with coal oil today $1.10 a gallon | | |
| [illegible] | 65 | [illegible] |
| 1 [illegible] | 25 | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 1/2 [illegible] | 1 [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 1 [illegible] | [illegible] | 1. [illegible] |
| 1 pr six inch strap hinges | 20 | 2 05 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| enamel stew pan | 55 | extinct |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 1 lb. gun powder | .60 | 12.00 |
| 5 lbs. shot No. 2 | 50 | 3.00 |
| 1 package wads | 25 | 2.35 |
| 3½ bu. sacks and sacks | .85 | 4.00 |
| 54 lbs. beef | 3.75 | 70 20 |
| 5 lbs suet | 50 | |
| team expenses | 2 25 | |
| 40 bu. potatoes | 5.00 | 22 70 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | |
| 50 lbs. flour | 1 25 | 6.22 |
| 100 lbs oatmeal | 5.50 | 65.00 |
| 1 sacks salt (per lb.) | 25 | .37 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 10 lbs nails | 50 | 6.90 |
| 10 lbs. spikes | 50 | 6.90 |
| 10 lbs butter | 1.50 | 14.00 |
| 10 lbs prunes | 1.00 | 11 90 |
| Baking powder | 1.25 | 3.97 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 2 lbs coffee | .50 | 7 78 |
| 1 spear | 1.40 | |
| shoes | 3.00 | 35.00 |
| shirts | 1 50 | 20.00 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| axe handle | 35 | 4.39 |

**REED, HOMER EUGENE AND ETTA — by D. McElroy**

Homer Eugene Reed was born on January 31, 1874 at Jamestown, Indiana

He married Etta Mae Pierson in 1901 who was born in Howell, Michigan on September 22 1873. She was a widow with two small sons Paul Lyle and Donald Samuel

On June 14, 1903 their daughter Eva Arlene was born

The family came to Canada from Washington in October 1915. They lived in the Benalmun district for a few years on a quarter later owned by George Guest the SW 21 41 3W5

Reed Homer finishing his [illegible] about 1916

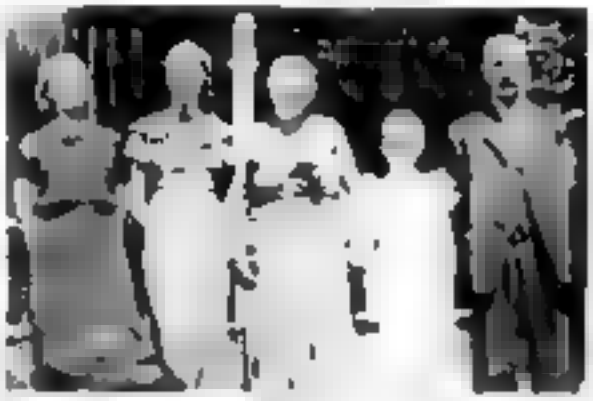
Then they bought a quarter of land in the Lockhart district and moved there. The Calkins Valley School was built on the south west corner of their land

They farmed there for several years. They were good neighbors highly respected and made [illegible]

In 1936 because of ill health they retired and moved to Bentley

Gene passed away there on July 7 1938 and Etta died on August 18, 1945. They are both buried in Bentley cemetery

Paul passed away at Leslieville on March 4 1961 and is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery Rimbey



Homer Reed and Etta Mae Reed with granddaughter Dora Donnelly and Ella Pierson [illegible] 1934

Don passed away at Bentley on November 2 1963 with interment in Bentley Cemetery

Eva and her husband Howard Lockhart live in Spokane, Washington, where they are retired.

**REIDLINGER, JOHN — by Clydie Both**

Mr John Reidlinger was married to Lydia Steinvandt in North Dakota, U.S.A in 1914 They were both born and raised in North Dakota They came to "Sunny" Alberta shortly after their marriage and farmed near Medicine Hat, until moving to the town of Medicine Hat in 1924 Here John worked whenever he could find employment. They had nine children while living in and around Medicine Hat

Mr and Mrs Joe Reidlinger

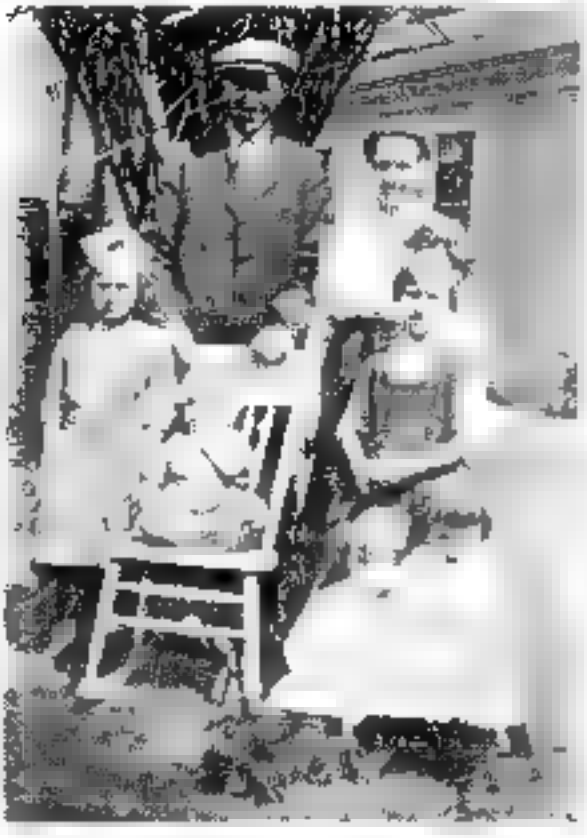
We left Medicine Hat in the "hungry thirties" and, along with five other families, moved west of Lerdale Our farm was about 11 miles west We came out on the "$800 Plan." This money had to buy everything - two horses, one cow, a wagon, machinery, and another $800 was what we have to live on. Some months we had $10 and I also remember sometimes it was only $5. From this amount we had to buy 200 pounds of flour per month, and whatever was left was spent for other necessities. We surely learned to live off of the land! Getting to school was not easy, either We had to walk four miles to the Aurora School while in Medicine Hat we had had to go only two blocks.

All six of the families moved into the Indian Cabins, which were two miles from the farm They all traveled back and forth every day

The Indian Cabins had sod roofs and dirt floors. When it rained we had pots and pans set out everywhere to catch the drip. Dad found a frame house closer to our farm, and we then lived in this until we got our log house finished enough to move into it. We still had dirt floors in part of the house when we moved in!

In later years, when most of the family had left home, Dad built another house, but Mother never lived to enjoy it She died of cancer in May 1951, at the age of 59 years. She was buried in the Rimbey Cemetery Dad never went back to the farm to live, and later sold it to Hugh Halliday

Dad lived in a granary on Percy Thomas's farm for a year or so, then built himself a little house on a corner of a quarter owned by his daughter, Clydie, and her husband, Irvin Both in the Andrew area north of Eckville He lived here for a number of years, but eventually went to the Senior Citizen's Lodge in Lacombe, in Rocky Mountain House, and in Sylvan Lake, where he would spend the winter, but come home to his own house in the summers. He always enjoyed a little farming if he could drive the John Deere tractor



Joe and Lydia Reidlinger and five children.

Dad passed away with a heart attack in the Sylvan Lake Lodge in March of 1969 at the age of 78 years. He is buried beside Mother in the Rimbey Cemetery

Mother and Dad had nine children. The first was Martha, who died when she was one and one half years old

Elizabeth was married to Jack Shubert, and they had five children. They have now retired and are living in Rimbey

Eddie passed away in an accident and also is buried in the Rimbey Cemetery

Ida married James Ferguson and they have six children, three of whom are married. They all live in Alberta. Jim and Ida have now retired to Eckville, after having farmed in the Benjamin area for many years

I (Clydie) married Irvin Both and we have five children. All except the youngest one are now married. Irvin and I farmed in the Andrew area for 38 years, but are now enjoying our retirement in Eckville

Alma was married to Milton Johnson. They have six children, all now married and living in various parts of Alberta. In later years Alma and Milton were divorced, and Alma is now married to Martin Sewchuk. They live in Red Deer and both of them are working there

Laurence married Anne Lippert. They have four children. One girl was married recently but the rest are still single and most of them live in Calgary. Laurence spent some time in active duty overseas in 1945. He was wounded and was forced to spend some time in the hospital there. Laurence and Anne still live in Calgary

Joe married Marie Focher. After living in Calgary for a time, they moved to British Columbia in 1951 and are living in Vernon, B.C. at the present time. Two of their children are married and the youngest is now working in Calgary. Joe was overseas in 1945, and spent about 13 months in active duty

Florence married John McGlynn and they lived in Pincher Creek until Florence passed away in 1965. They had three children, the oldest one now being married. The two younger children live in Prince George, B.C.

Alfred married Julie Kramer and they have one child, not yet married. They all are living in Calgary

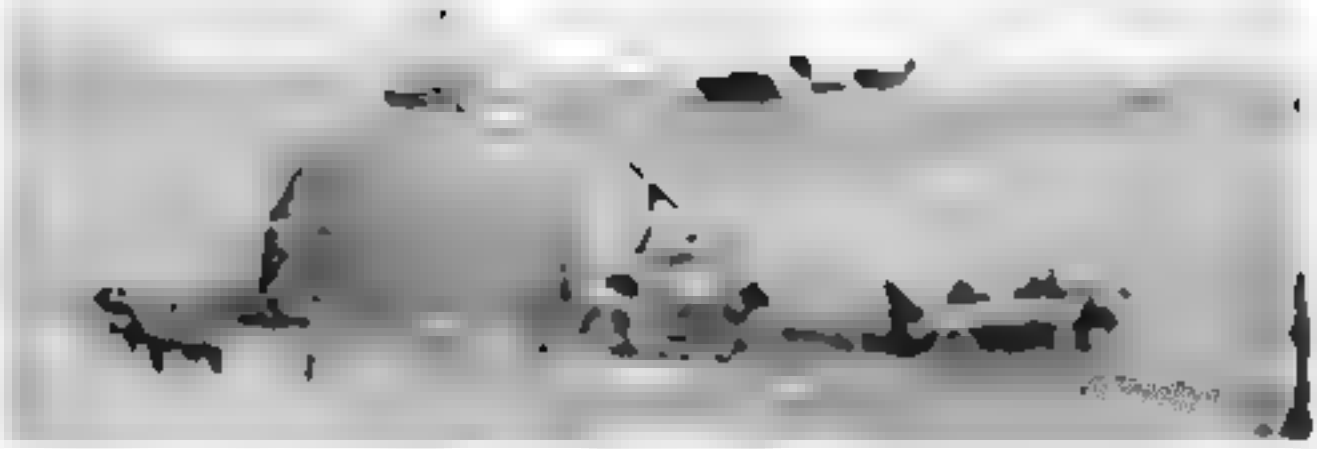
**TAYLOR, GEORGE NICHELUS AND ADA BELLE — by May Koski**

Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Taylor emigrated from the state of Iowa to Alberta in 1905 to Morningside, and when spring arrived they all, including baby boy Myron Robert, born at Morningside in February, moved to Link Boyer's place temporarily, while Mr. Taylor put up a sod roofed shack on his homestead, S.E. 30-41-3-W5, 16 miles north of Eckville, or four and one-half miles southeast of Leedale, at this time called Wittenburg, but was renamed Leedale at the end of World War I, 1918. Mr. Taylor's reason for the

move to Alberta was that they had a great deal of pioneer spirit, also to find a place with an abundance of wood, grass and sparkling water, needless to say they found all three.

When Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and family moved from Morningside to the Boyer place the first week of March 1906 the weather was very cold, around 42 degrees below zero. They were there three days, and on the evening of the third day upon retiring, the bitter cold was still around, however, at five a.m., when Mr. Taylor awakened it was so "hot" he thought the house was on fire, the snow was melting and there was water all around the place. An explanation of the heat wave was a welcome "Chinook" wind that had blown in, but who at that time as a new comer to Alberta had ever heard of such a thing.

Most all the land in that area was heavy timber and Mr. Taylor's was no exception. The trees had to be grubbed out by hand, with axe and grub hoe, then piled one by one with the help of a horse and logging cabin into piles, and later burned and after that the land was ready for breaking with a breaking plow, then with a disc, then harrows, and in turn could be seeded to wheat, oats, barley or a large garden which was a must. Mr. Taylor was one of the first ratepayers to hold a meeting for the forming of a school district and acted as a member of the first board of trustees, consisting of himself, Orsen



Archer and Frank Benjamin. Mr Taylor held office off and on for many years. The new school was built in 1908 and named Benjamin School District No. 1586. Mr Taylor with his mule team named Tim and Jack, which he brought from Iowa 1905, hauled the bricks for the school chimney from Lacombe over trails that hadn the slightest resemblance to a road. He also acted as Poll Clerk for the first election held in Medicine Valley, the Polling station being in the home of Ernest Dahl. Some of the teachers at Benjamin were D. M. Layton "Peggy" Macdonald, Mr Trenholm, Lydia Sestrap, Ola Kingsep, Miss Edmonds, Muriel Craig, Eva Toma, Olive Heffren, Edith Smith, William Fraser, Ed Dowling, Blanche Wallace, Ethel Hyde, Margaret Ross, Inez Johnson, Dora Wingate, Jean Beddoes and Miss Johnson in 1913 from Markerville.

Mr Taylor was exceptionally good with sickness and always willing during the pioneer days, when the nearest doctor was at Lacombe and the only means of travel was horse and buggy or sleigh. G.N. as he was better known often assisted at the bedside of a sick neighbor or his child and his services were helpful and very

Mr Taylor followed farming all his life but in 1910 he also took up auctioneering, and cried his first sale in the spring of that year, and had many successful sales in the years that followed his last sale was in 1939 for Mr John Johnson of the Eckville area. In the early days there were no bridges across rivers, so on each trip to Lacombe the rivers had to be forded (if they were not frozen). On one such trip Mr Taylor had a man passenger with him and when they the mule team, wagon, and supplies were in mids ream the passenger got so scared because of the rising water, that he grabbed the lines from Mr Taylor and in doing so pulled the mules heads too high and in turn their forelegs were striking the neck yoke and all were near drowning for a fearful minute. G.N hurriedly got the lines back from the passenger and gave the mules their heads, and all were pulled safely

Mrs Ada Taylor was always a willing worker and in summer when the wild fruit was plentiful, she picked and preserved literally hundreds of quarts, consisting of raspberries blueberries, and strawberries. In 1922 the Taylor family was milking five cows and shipping cream to the Rimbey creamery. The butter maker at that time used their cream to make butter to enter in the Canadian National Exhibition Toronto. His entry won first prize. He repeated the same type of entry another year though the date is uncertain and won first prize a second time. Taylor's sod roof shack was soon replaced with a two story log house and it was their home until 1928 when they built a three story frame house and it is still standing in good shape after nearly 50 years. The house is unoccupied at present. Their grandson Mac Taylor owns the home place. In the depression years 1929 to 1941 the younger generation in all walks of life had a hard time finding work or making a career for themselves. However three of the Taylor children were able to learn music and play several instruments, after which they started Taylor's orchestra and played for dances in the area, for many years to come. The instruments and who played them were: George on the piano and saxophone, May on the violin and trumpet, Glen on the drums and George dad on, as he always said the genuine buffalo bones for rhythm. After several years with the orchestra, Glen met Margaret Johnstone and they were married. Their family formed a band called Dad Taylor's Silver Notes. The Taylors' musical background seemed to be an inherited gift.

Some Sunday evenings in winter, the neighbor boys would come to visit and have supper with us, and if the hunters were lucky that afternoon wild prairie chicken was on the table but more often it would be roast pork and homemade sauerkraut. Mrs. Taylor was known to make the best 'kraut for miles around. On

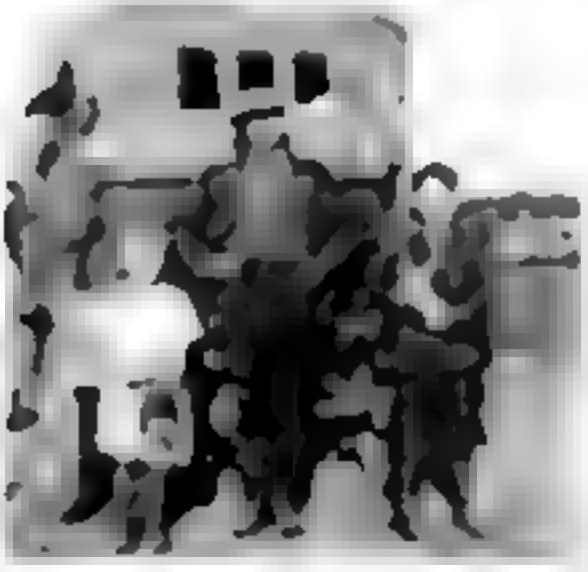
one memorable occasion Dustin Hamilton dropped by and as most would remember, he had a good sense of humor and in no time he had us all laughing He asked for the Eaton s catalogue then cut out two or three pictures of men and women modelling the underwear en pasted the models on slightly heavier paper and cut them out again, now they were like puppets, he would then manipulate them very ar fistically just in front of candlelight or low kerosene lamp He called it a Lantern Slide show It really was a rib tickler, amusing and free. Cards were a good pastime. rummy and whist made a winter evening pass quickly

Our family owned two model T Fords. The first one was a 1921 model On one occasion we started for the Benalto Stampede and Fair on a very hot day in July in 1922 Everything went very well until we were two miles from Benalto. hen suddenly the left front tire went flat The boys and Dad got it fixed in no time and off we went. After going only another half mile or so. the other front tire went flat Now once again the tire patching kit was hauled out and the "rut ng" over the hole on the inner tube the stickum and then the patch put very carefully over the hole, then the tube was put back in the tire and pumped up with a hand pump. The tire was bolted back on the car and away we went, but not ery far We had a third flat and this time we were only about a half mile from Benalto. Now the repair kit came out again, only this time the supply was much less However there was just enough to repair the last flat. It seemed to take a lot longer to fix the third flat as all I could think of was pretty balloons and ice cream. Litterly hundreds of fair going folks were passing us in all kinds of buggies, wagons, T Fords and bicycles, and even some on foot. At last we got here and it was a grand day at the fair We made it back home in the wee hours of the morning without another flat tire. Mr Johnny Armstrong was one of the Stampede directors in the 1920's His home place was south of Eckville

In 1925 the Taylor family purchased a Mogul one cylinder tractor It was a heavy type machine in those days. The flywheel itself was over four feet in diameter The engineer put his left foot on the bottom of it and hands at the top gripping and pulling, the body weight would pull it around until the engine started The Mogul rate of speed was under four miles an hour In 1926 they purchased a 28 inch Case threshing machine and did custom threshing in the Medicine Valley for many neighbors and in 1927 hey had 28 days straight of non-stop threshing weather. In 1928 they purchased a new John Deere tractor to replace the Mogul, however they put the Mogul as stationary power to run the grain grinder to make chop. The horses on the farm were brought from Iowa except one buckskin pony, named Buck that Mr Taylor bought from someone around Gilby in 1907 then sold him to Mr John Kenna at Eckville in 1912, but bought him back one year later When Mr Kenna owned him he put Buck with another pony on the mail haul between Eckville, Gilby and Whitenburg After Mr Taylor purchased Buck the second time he kept him until he died in 1934 at the age of 32 years. I might add that we had a dog named Tip for 18 years. Also I have fond memories growing up with Buck and Tip

The stock market was poor in the 1930's. I recall raising two pigs and when they were sold at proper weight one brought $5.00 and the other $3.00 I recall spending some of the money for silk material to make a dress Now for price comparison from then to now, 1977 Three pounds of pork roast costs more now than a whole pig sold for in 1930

Mr George Taylor was born near Laporte Iowa December 29, 1875. He died January, 1941 at his home He attended school at Jessup, Iowa and was reared in the Methodist faith. At age 24 he married Ada Belle Sankey July 24, 1899 of Littleton, Iowa She was born April 28, 1877 and died September 30, 1962 at Red Deer General Hospital. She also was raised in the Methodist faith. They raised seven children, and there are now 89 living descendants of George and Ada Belle Taylor



[redacted]

James and Martha Teed came to the Ben lamin district in 1934 from Abbey Saskatchewan. They lived on the quarter section of land now owned by Lee Both, and they owned the NE 10-41 31 W5. They later sold this land to Jim Ferguson, but it is presently owned by Gaylord Schofer Mr Teed farmed for a few years with horses, and then Mrs Teed suffered a stroke and passed away in 1936

Irvin Both met Mr Teed one day about the

middle of May in 1939. They got to talking and Irvin asked Mr Teed over for Sunday dinner That was the first time I met him When Mr Teed got an idea he worked on it in a hurry I really don't know how it came about but Dad Teed (as we soon called him) moved in with us before the next weekend

He was always busy doing something different One year he planted a bunch of turnips and chopped them up for cow feed. The cows surely liked them too! One day Gertie Fizer and I (Clydie) went out to pick berries. Gertie, having no overalls, wore a pair of Dad Teed's When we got home he had her dress on. We certainly had to have a picture of them!

Granddad Teed, as our children called him, made his home from 1939 until he entered the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital about 1965, with us near Irvin and Clydie Both and Gaylord and Gertie Fizer No related grandfather was ever loved and respected by his grandchildren more than he was, although childless himself, he was a wonderful man with children

During one of his stays with us (the Fizers) he constructed a block house. He piled hand sawn blocks the way you would stack stove wood and plastered it inside and out with a mud mixture like plaster This was in 1948, when he was 76 years of age While constructing this, one day he was cutting poplar logs not far from our house The weather was quite warm and as Dad Teed always wore woolen underwear it became too hot for him. We had all left home for the day, but had visiting us, saw that he was working in his underwear so she snapped a picture. Dad, who usually had a remarkable sense of humor, just didn't appreciate it one bit! He had the house almost completed when he decided to go back and live with Irvin and Clydie Both and family

Left to right: Ian Steele, Granddad Teed and Gaylord Fizer

Mr Teed was a gifted entertainer and played the violin for hours at a time until rheumatism affected his hands in his later years He was a wonderful spinner of tales and had a host of amusing monologues that kept both adults and children in stitches, no matter how often they had heard him perform them. I remember one little boy who laughed so hard that he fell off his chair

We moved into Rimbey from the country in 1957 and Dad Teed moved in with us to stay about 1963. He went into the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1965. His one great ambition in his later years was to return to the province of his birth Nova Scotia but he never realized it He passed away in 1967 at the grand old age of 95 years

## VIPOND HISTORY

In the summer of 1929, Fred and Florence Vipond of Nakusp, B.C. arrived for a visit at the Rene Steeves farm in the Lochart district Mr Steeves had worked for Fred in Fred's lumber camp in British Columbia previously and had told the Viponds a lot about this part of Alberta Fred helped Rene seed his crop. He and Florence liked the country and they wanted to settle somewhere where Marg had a school to attend They bought a half section from the C P R. in the Benjamin district — E 17-41-3-W5. It had 50 acres broke on the north quarter and 15 acres on the south Rene agreed to plow and summerfallow it that year and the Viponds returned to Nakusp Fred contracted to log a million board feet of white pine logs off his timber limit across the lake from Nakusp. The following spring they loaded a box car with their lumber and personal belongings and moved to Alberta. They spent the summer on the Steeves farm living in a newly built chicken coop. The men planted the two crops, then built a house and had a well drilled on the Vipond farm so that the family could move in. Fred arranged to store his box car of lumber at Rimbey and what he didn't need, he sold Some of it he delivered by team and wagon as far away as Eckville. One batch he traded for a milk

The nearest neighbors consisted of the Bill Guests and Wingates to the north Pryce Andrew and McTighes to the south. They were all good neighbors. The 1930 crop was a bumper wheat crop but the price fell from $1.20 a bu. to $.30 a bu. That was the start of the depression Fred remembers a time when the price of a hog wouldn't cover the freight charge Times were tough but they stuck it out and kept clearing land until 260 acres were cleared. Florence taught piano lessons to many young people in the

Marg took her schooling at Benjamin Jean and Ethel were born in the late thirties and also attended school there until Grade 8. They were among those who had the excitement of moving to the "new" school when it was moved in To have a school with a basement and furnace was really something after the drafty old school. Kids would bring jars of hot chocolate, soup or stew and heat them up in a tub of water on the wood stove in the basement High school was possible

attend when school buses started running to

Fred was a school trustee at various times They got hooked for various jobs besides hiring and firing the teachers Wood and coal had to be hauled to the school and boarding places for the teacher had to be found. So it was one day when Fred and another trustee were cleaning out the school barn, they noticed smoke to the east of the school. They quickly drove towards it to discover

ing. The neighbors got busy with tractors and put the old Layton home on skids and hauled it across the frozen fields to Mogen sons' farm. It provided them with a home until they could build a new one

Most of the social life was carried on at the school. Whist parties, dances, talent shows box socials, bridal showers, sports days and Christmas concerts were some of them The McTigh family had the only big skating rink around the neighborhood for a time. Skating parties and hockey were enjoyed. They put up a rink shack and sold hot dogs and chocolate bars. Florence was a member of the Benjamin Get-together Club. Marg joined C G.I T Jean and Ethel sometimes attended the Vacation Bible School that came to the school during the summer

Improvements were added to the community during the years. Electricity came to the farm in 1951 and gravelled roads and telephones

Marg married and left the farm in 1943 Jean and Ethel left about 1956 and took training in Edmonton Jean as an X-ray technician and Ethel as a teacher Marg has a family of five She is now a widow and works as a computer operator for Toronto Dominion Bank. Jean married Lawrence Takkinen, a diesel inspector for C P Rail. They live in Cranbrook. B.C with their two sons Ethel married Les Meyers and they live in Edmonton with their family of three

Fred and Florence retired from farming in 1963. They bought a home in Eckville and found it a friendly place to live The family lost their wife and mother in 1972 in a losing battle with cancer

Now — Dad's own words — I then lived alone in our home for three years. Then I got tired of batching and enrolled in the Old Age Manor Home and sold my house I find the life here with the other pensioners more agreeable than living alone and batching. This home is well run, we are well fed and looked after

**VON TETTENBORN FAMILY**

In May 1929, Bernard Carl Baron von Tettenborn arrived at the farm of Paul Broderson Leedale At 22 years of age he had left his native Germany to try to recoup the family fortune lost in the runaway inflation and depression following World War I. He worked for Paul Broderson. later for Bill Broderson to learn Canadian farming methods and save money towards buying a farm of his own He was just in time to share in the "dirty thirties", the depression which had become world wide. At Leedale he met his future wife Alma Eriksland, who was then teaching the Leedale School

In the spring of 1932, Bernard von Tettenborn bought the south half of 35-41-3-W5 in the extreme north east of the Benjamin District In fact the east quarter was in the Symonds District This was C P R land, completely raw and covered with trees. This seemed a bargain at six dollars an acre, but proved to be very expensive in time lost and human effort expended In October 13, 1933 Bernard and Alma were married.

Through hard work and thrift other lands were added. In 1944 a quarter one and one half miles north was bought from Charlie Arrowsmith. This was known as the Old Mowbray quarter one of the oldest homesteads in the district. In 1951 the NW 35 41-3-4-W5 was bought from Mr Bileski In June 1933 this was owned by a Mr Bucknall later farmed by Felix Matthews of Eckville, then owned by Elmer Olson, who sold it to Bileski

In 1940 a start was made in Red Poll cattle A considerable herd was built up but discontinued in 1960, as the work involved was too much for the owner's health. The struggle to get ahead in the years of low farm prices is too well known to enlarge on here. We were all in the same boat, but youth, good health and warm hearted neighbors made our life here a pleasant one

Five children were born to the von Tetten

borns on this farm. In December 1934 their first son Bernard Carl arrived. In February 1936 their daughter Iris Maria. In September 1946 Elizabeth Anne. In December 1950 Linda Irene and in January 1953 Mark Alexander. The son Bernard now farms at Round Hill. Iris married a Lutheran minister and now lives in Victoria B.C. Betty Anne now Angus lives in Toronto. She got her B.A. from Carlton University in 1968, now has completed her thesis for a master's degree in Psychology and at present is working toward her doctorate. Linda graduated from the University of Alberta in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Linda married Ron Prefontaine in 1975 and now lives in Moose Jaw where she is on the supervisory staff at one of the hospitals. Mark married Sandra Hill in 1975 has his journeyman's papers in machining and now lives and works at Hinton.

Alma von Tettenborn taught at various schools during the teacher shortage. The winter of 1942 and 1943 she taught the Benjamin School. This proved to be one of the coldest winters. A picture of the school and pupils of this time is being sent. Many of these children are now grandparents.

The fall of 1968 was one of those rainy snowy ones, difficult harvesting. On November 4, 1968 Bernard von Tettenborn senior died of a heart attack while struggling with the harvest. His wife Alma continued farming for a few years hiring the work done, until her youngest had graduated from High School and launched out on his own. Then she rented the land to the Hutterites. After living for a time in Rimbey she now resides in Red Deer.

**WETTSTEIN, EMIL AND FAMILY**

Emil was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1934. He came to Canada in 1955 first settling in Ontario. In May 1956 he moved to Alberta and worked on different ranches in the southern part of the province. In July 1967 he married Sheila Gambue Synak who moved to Calgary from her birthplace Brantford, Ontario, and together with her boys, Michael born 1961 and Christopher born 1962, they moved to Beiseker Alberta. In 1969 Katherine was born in Calgary and on July 1 of that same year the family moved to the Stewart Chappell place where they lived and Emil worked for Phil Fach on a share arrangement on the cattle with an agreement to purchase the farm. On December 6 the house they lived in at Chappell's was moved to the farm south of Glen Taylor's place. There was very little snow at that time in December. The family joined in the community affairs and took part in Christmas concerts, picnics and social affairs at the Benjamin School with Emil contributing his Swiss yodeling as entertainment at different times. In February 1970 Sheila joined the Benjamin Ladies Get Together Club taking part in their activities. In 1972 a group of ladies in the Benjamin District got together to form The West Country Art Club and Sheila was their first instructor teaching basics in drawing and oils. Living had seven years instruction in Ontario and also having won a scholarship from A. Y. Jackson of the Group of Seven who was the honorary president of the Art Club she belonged to in Ontario. In 1974 James was born which added one more to the Wettstein family. In 1975 they traded the quarter just east of the Oster camp quarter to the Hutterites for Glen Taylor's home quarter giving them the east half of Sec

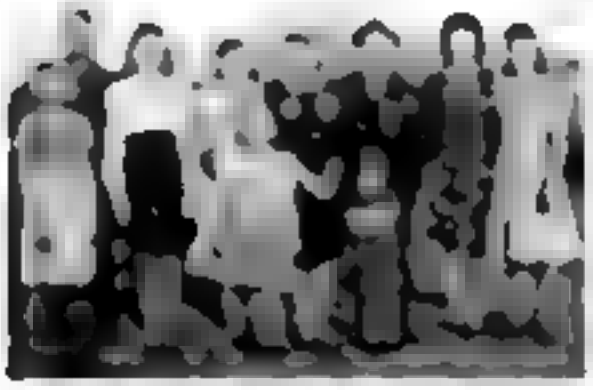
**WINGATE, FRANK AND FAMILY** -- submitted by Ada Brooks

Frank Wingate was born on April 23, 1881 in Worchestershire, England. At the age of 21 he came to Canada sailing on the same boat as Mr. Bill Guest and worked as a farm laborer in Manitoba in 1902. Then he went on to Vancouver and to Revelstoke, B.C. There he worked in the mines. He received many recommendations for his faithful service. He came east taking up a homestead in 1905 which later became known as the Benjamin District. Frank and Wallace Stevenson came together from Arrowhead B.C. after receiving a letter from Duncan Layton telling them of the homesteads that were available. George Fraser was also working in the mill at Arrowhead. Frank homesteaded the NE20-41-3 W5 and Wallace Stevenson the NW22-41-3-W5. They helped each other build cabins where they lived and batched together. At that time they had to clear land to put up buildings and blaze trails to travel on.

There were many wild animals lynx cougars, wolves and bears they had to watch out for. They mostly traveled on foot sometimes riding horseback. Their nearest post office was Lacombe. Many times they walked this distance for their mail and groceries. In places they had to walk under branches that spread out over the trails. After walking under a branch one day they noticed a lynx was sitting out on it. In 1906 George Taylor moved into the district so he helped blaze many of the old trails. He settled on a homestead north west of Frank's.

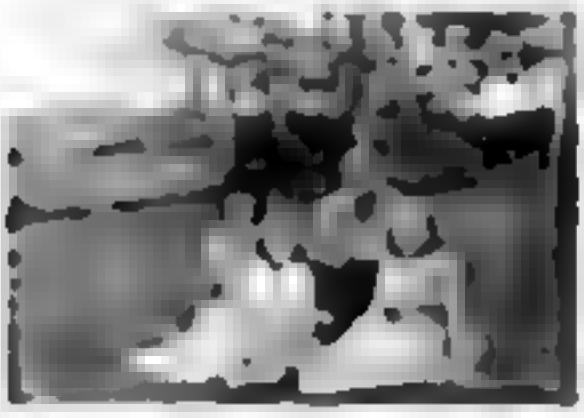
Frank Wingate enlisted when the first World War broke out in 1914 and served four years overseas in the 49th Battalion. After Armistice was signed, Frank was married to Ada Edridge of Norfolk, England on November 19, 1918. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1919 bringing his wife with him. They stayed at the home of Bill Guest's in Clive the rest of the year, coming out occasionally to make improvements on his homestead. The Bill Guests came out later and settled on the south east of section 20. During the years Frank was overseas a bush fire swept through and burnt his homesteading cabin and barn.

On Frank and Ada's move from Clive to the Reed place, the former George Guest, farm they made Lacombe the first day but their trek from



there took three days because of a detour they had to make by Bentley. The water in places came up to the wheel hubs. Frank had four horses pulling and one tied behind. They couldn't buy any hay as there was none to buy so had to feed them oats that he had bought in Clive. The Wingates lived on the Reed place until Frank was able to build another house on the homestead. Drinking water was a problem so Ada had to carry it for almost a mile from a spring on the south west of section 20. They were able to use water from ponds and rain barrels for washing purposes. Ada was fearful of Indians during her first few years as she had never seen one until she came to Canada.

Their only son James Francis was born on the 8th of November 1920 at the Ran Steves' home at Lockhart. James still lives and farms the original homestead in the Benjamin District. They also had eight daughters losing Jessie in April 1937 at the age of seven weeks from a whooping cough epidemic that year. The other girls are Ada Marion Brooks of Lesliеville, Irene Winnifred Conrad of Yakima, Washington, Elsie May Engen of Erkville, Ivy Beele Roe of Red Deer, Mary Louise Mantle of Sherwood Park



Edmonton, Joan Isobel Kraft of Sicamous, B.C. and Doris Mae Rowland of Olds.

In the summer of 1932 the Wingates were able to build a new house. The carpenter was Alex Ferguson. He walked to and fro from his home which was about three and one half miles one way. We were able to move into it the early part of that winter. This house is still in the same place. The old one is still being used for a

In the winter months of the earlier years Frank helped take out corduroy to make roads through swampy places. Many animals were lost in bog holes in the swamps and quick sand in the creek. Animals fed on the open range during the summer months and so many miles were walked through heavy bush land looking for cows especially if it were stormy weather. There were times they wouldn't be found until the next morning unless they came home on their own. Range pasturing ended when herd law came into existence so this meant the size of the herds had to be reduced. After threshing was done and the green feed hauled in from the fields the animals were then turned in to pasture. Farming was done by horses until the early fifties on the Wingate farm when Jim purchased his first tractor. The horses were then retired to easier work for awhile.

When growing up we had only the bare necessities. food was plain and often not much of that. At times we would be pretty hungry so it was very tempting to pick up a crust of bread or sandwich that had been thrown on the ground by some other boy or girl at school. Second hand clothes were a welcome sight. I was always a happy girl when Jessie and Mary Layton outgrew their dresses as they'd be passed on to me. Then of course when I outgrew them they'd be passed on down to my sisters as long as there was anything left of them. Mother used to make our underclothes and nightgowns out of flour and sugar bags. When I was 12 years old Mother shortened her wedding dress for me to wear to the Christmas Concert. Food was home grown, flour and porridge were ground from whe... Soap was made from the fat from the animals that were butchered. For a change Mom used to boil whole wheat it took two or three days of boiling before it was soft enough to eat but it sure tasted good with milk and sugar. They only bought things that couldn't be grown or made.

There were many years of hard times but everyone went through them together helping each other even in time of sickness. Doctors were only called when the illness was serious and before cars were available babies were delivered at home with the aid of a midwife. The first five Wingate children were born at home. I just thank God for the good neighbours and friends that we had who were always there when needed to help assist in anyway. Many are gone now but not forgotten. To those that are still living I thank you. May God bless you all.

Our dear Mother passed away December 11 1960 after a lengthy illness. Before her death she said she was glad she had experienced hard times and had no regrets as they made her appreciate the easier years more

Our Dad continued to live on the farm until the late 60's when he moved to Devon Lodge in Lacombe living there and batching for four or five years. He then moved to the Senior Citizens Home also in Lacombe where he only spent a short time as he had the misfortune to fall and break his hip which hospitalized him for much time in the Red Deer and Lacombe hospitals. He was then moved to the nursing home in Lacombe where he still lives and is confined to the wheel chair. Although he is hard of hearing and has poor eyesight he enjoys visits from his friends his family as well as his 27 grandchildren who are Connie Wingate Madsen, Rainbow Lake Lana Wingate Whatley, Leduc. Esther Brooks Thomas, Stettler Leanne Brooks Smith Lesserville Charles Brooks, Lesserville. Elaine Brooks Bamber, Edmonton. Carol, Judy and Colleen Brooks Lesserville. Carl Conrad Yakima, Washington, U.S.A. Fay Engen Ames Red Deer Edwin and Dennis Engen. Eckville Sherry Roe Krein New Westminister B.C Gary and Bruce Roe. Red Deer Ronalie Wendy and Jim Mantle Sherwood Park Edmonton. Ariel, Bonnie, Bryn Lori and Marni Kraft Sicamous B.C Kevin, Barton and Dwayne Rowland Olds There are 16 great-grandchildren, Karry Carmel and Marni Madsen, Rainbow Lake Wayne and Dallas Thomas, Stettler Melody and Marty Brooks, Lesserville Brian Whatley Leduc. Shane and Jamie Smith Lesserville Darrel, Darren and Darcy Ames, Red Deer Vanessa and Vashel Krien New Westminster B.C Candy Engen. Eckville

Dad turned 96 on his last birthday April 23 1977

**WITTENBERG CREAMERY — research by Mary Kilpatrick**

This is the story about a creamery that was located on the north west corner of the NW 23-41 4 W5. All the information that has been gathered on this business is what has been told by many old timers who remember it. Apparently the creamery was operating in 1907 and ran from that time until about 1914. The creamery was built by Elijah Bradshaw who formed a company. The name of the company was "Wittenberg Creamery". The building was situated east and west, perhaps about 60 or 70 feet long with a peaked roof and there was a lean to built on the south side which ran the full length of the building. This part held the steam boiler and punched well. Located in the middle of the main part of the building was the cooler room. This room had thick double walls which were packed with sawdust and ice was used as the cooling agent. After Bradshaw left and other people moved onto the farms nearby some continued to use the cool room. Ice most likely was gotten from the Medicine River and hauled and placed in this room with sawdust packed around it to keep it from melting.

In the early days many of the settlers did not own such a thing as a cream separator so after the milk was strained it was put in containers called vessels. These vessels were taken to a cool place, such as a root cellar and left there for a couple of days to let the cream rise. The cream by this time would be on top of the milk and it would be skimmed off with a skimmer. This was a flat scoop with tiny little holes in it. This would let the milk through and hold the cream. When the pioneers had enough cream to ship they would take it to a collecting place in their district where a sample of cream was put into a small bottle with their name on it. The cream was then weighed and recorded, then dumped into a large barrel which had two handles on each side of it and then two men would lift it up into a wagon and it was hauled to the creamery. The cream would be pretty well churned by the time it got to the creamery due to the roughness of the trails and the jolting of the wagon. There was only one grade and it did not matter if the cream was sweet or sour. This cream came from as far away as the Rimbey and Eckville districts.

A Mr. Light ran this creamery and it has also come to the writers attention that grain was also ground at the creamery.

After the creamery had closed down the building was used for many years as a granary and barn for livestock and in about 1947 John Playfair bought the quarter and the building was torn down by John Warneke about this time too

# Boyle

**ANDERSON, CHARLES ADOLPH — by Elsie Heikkinen**

Charles Anderson was born in Thompson Minnesota, U.S.A. on September 30, 1885. His parents had emigrated from Finland in the mid 1800's. He married Lillie (Elina) F. Bodie of Duluth, Minnesota in 1905. She was born there on May 9, 1889. They had two sons born to them Harold in 1906 and Clarence in 1909, with whom they journeyed to Canada in the year 1910, and settled in the prairie province of Alberta 50 miles south of Medicine Hat.

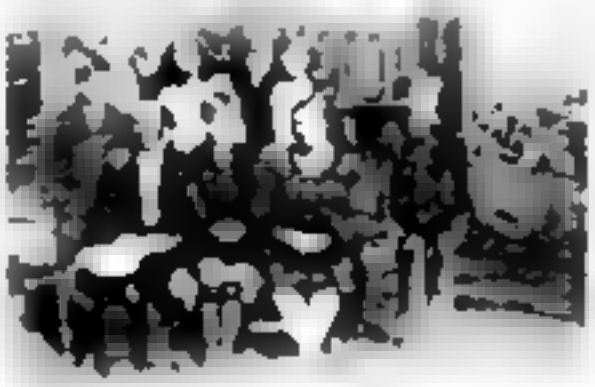
Frank Anderson (my grandfather) had immigrated to Alberta earlier to file on homesteads. Lillie Anderson's parents, Mike and Anna Bodie were already settled near the town of Manyberries, Alberta (named for the variety of wild berries growing there) and which also turned out to be the Anderson's post office as they settled nine miles north east of this town.

They were industrious and happy people with a wonderful community spirit and their toils were rewarded with fields of golden wheat, number one quality. The fields, however turned to dust when the drought hit in the early 1920's. After many crop failures, Mr. Anderson was forced to abandon the land and took advantage of the "free rail transportation" given by the government to prairie farmers.

In the early spring of 1925 they loaded livestock, machinery and household effects into box cars, and travelled by train to the town of Eckville, Alberta, where former neighbors, the Jack Macky's, had already settled and were in readiness for them.

In the meantime, Mr. Anderson found a shack and some pasture land to rent along the railroad track, a few miles west of Eckville, for the first stop-over. Later he found the Cloninger farm then for rent in the Hespero area, directly across from the Shady Lane school (which has since been moved). Those attending school there were Elsie, Wilburt, Hazel and Melvin. The teachers during those years were Miss M[illegible]ar, Miss Foss, Miss Burnett and Miss Hazel Johnson. The highlight of the year was a hilarious Christmas Concert, with an over-capacity crowd in attendance.

In 1928 Mr. Cloninger passed away and the farm was sold. As a move again was inevitable, a house for rent was found a mile north of Eckville, belonging to Mr. Forhan Sr., druggist at Eckville. A lovely year was spent there; the neighbors and people as a whole were very hospitable.



[illegible]

Mr. Anderson again was fortunate in getting Jack Simpson's farm near Benalto, for rent and moved there in the spring of 1929. At that time many families travelled to Russia, and Mr. Anderson got the urge, too, thinking of bettering their life and in May of 1933 left with his wife Lillie, and four youngest sons, Wilburt, Melvin, Richard and Raymond. The first part of their [illegible] via Minnesota, U.S.A. to visit relatives then on to Montreal, where they boarded the ship for Russia. They found the ocean trip very exciting but upon reaching their destination they were to find it to be a lot different than what they had anticipated.

They returned to Alberta in the Christmas season of 1936, and great was the rejoicing to be together with their family again. Their only

regret was that Wilbur and Melvin had to remain. However, Melvin traveled back home to Alberta in 1938. That same year Mr. Anderson leased, with option to buy, some Hudson Bay land in the Sunset Hills area. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson then settled down to farming in earnest, with their three sons.

Richard (Dick) eventually took a job with Mr. G. Sterling in the Revelstoke Lumber and Hardware business in Benalto, Alberta, and enlisted in the Air Force as a ground crew mechanic in 1939. He was stationed in several places before being transferred overseas, where he only served a short time due to the war ending on June 6, 1945.

Mr. Anderson got a sudden impulse to build a sauna (steam bath) at Sylvan Lake, which took shape in the summer of 1947, built by his son-in-laws with help from himself and his sons. It proved to be a very successful enterprise and he operated it with the help of his wife until 1954 when he passed away with a heart ailment on November 17 at the age of 69 years. This was his first time ever to have been hospitalized.

In spite of arthritis, Mrs. Lillie Anderson is still in fairly good health and has enjoyed living at the Eckville Manor House for the past year. She was one of the first residents when the lodge was opened in March, 1976. She celebrated her 88th birthday this year. Her radiant smile conceals her age, however, so that one would never

The children of Charles and Lillie Anderson are as follows:

Harold married Edith Andla of Hespero in 1929 and remained home to help farm that year. They then moved to Oras, Alberta, where their son was born. In 1934 a daughter was born, but died in infancy. They moved to Calgary in 1942 where Harold was engaged in carpentry work until he retired in 1971. He then built a large new home at Oliver, B.C., but didn't have much time to enjoy it as he passed away with cancer in 1975. They have one grandchild.

Clarence married Anne Huhtala of Benalto, Alberta, in 1933 and settled on their farm directly across from the Benalto highway entrance. Farming was his life, but in the instance of his mother's being widowed, and not keen on operating the steam bath by herself, he decided to sell the farm to Mr. Alfred Wohler in 1955. He and his wife took over the Steam Bath and set Mother up in a little house of her own close by. In the fall Clarence would hire out at harvest time, his beloved work, and his wife would operate the steam bath, which they did successfully until 1963, when he sold out to his brother Dick. They retired to a home in Rocky Mountain House. They have one son and one daughter and seven grandchildren. Clarence passed away with a heart condition in the fall of 1972, still in the process of helping others do their harvesting.

Elsie worked for Mrs. Minnie Buchanan in 1932 when highway number 11 was graveled, and the crew lodged with Mrs. Buchanan. This was a busy time for the Benalto Hotel. Elsie eventually went to work for Mrs. Emma Kinna, in the Red and White Store and Post Office next door for several years. Wanting a taste of city life, she took housework later with an early pioneer family of Edmonton, the Richard Secords. He had been one of the first teachers of Strathcona, South Edmonton. In Edmonton in 1936 Elsie was married to Ted Hiekkinen of Benalto. Ted was then buying grain in Gadsby, Alberta, for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company and was transferred to Benalto, where we settled to live. One funny incident stands out from our courtship days. When Ted was in Benalto and I was in Edmonton, he had phoned me to come out on the bus, but I was reluctant, as his sister was sick and I wanted to stay and help her, which he wasn't too pleased about, and likely told me to "Stay there then." His sister decided that I had better go in the morning, so I took the bus and got as far as Leduc, when, surprisingly, I was paged and a message from Ted instructed me to go back to Edmonton, as he had arrived here on the early train. Ted gave up grain buying in 1939 when we moved onto our farm at Oras, Alberta. We remained there until 1941 when we moved to Calgary, as Ted was engaged in carpentry work. In the meantime we sold our Oras farm and bought a quarter at the west end of Sylvan Lake. We came back to Benalto in 1946 to live, and are still here, retired now. We are blessed with three sons, three daughters, and 13 grandchildren.

has one son and a new grandson in the past year. He has made two visits here, one in 1968 for a stay of eight months, and again spent a year with his family here in 1976. He is retired now and they live in an apartment. Their climate is similar to that of British Columbia.

Hazel married Sivert Lien in the year 1934. He was a grain buyer for the Midland Company in Benalto. They continued to live here until he had a move to Hines Creek, Alberta. From there they moved to Sherwood Park where both were engaged in janitorial service at the school until 1964, when they moved to Campbell River, B.C. They have since retired to Westbank, B.C. They have three sons and two daughters and nine

Melvin married Helen Lund of Sylvan Lake, Alberta. They reside in Calgary where he is foreman of a carpenter crew. He has built a modern cottage at Sylvan Lake in 1975, and they spend most of their weekends there. They have a son and three daughters and three

Richard took work with the Revelstoke Lumber Company, after the war, in Brooks, Alberta. In 1949 he married Jeanne Benoit in Brooks. They moved to Drumheller temporarily and then to Dawson Creek, and in 1963 retired from that job and took over the Sylvan Lake steam bath from his brother Clarence. He

operated this very successfully until 1975, when he sold out and bought a home in Salt Spring Island B.C They have a son at home and three daughters in Edmonton, Alberta, and three [redacted].

Raymond married Maila Korhonen of Eckville, Alberta in 1955. They farmed for several years on the home place, until it was sold in 1963. They then looked over property in Oliver B.C and bought a fruit orchard with a fruit stand, which they operated for some time He built a new home, and due to ill health, found the orchard work too strenuous so sold out in 1974 and built another new home in the town of Oliver B.C and is engaged in maintenance work for the area schools. They have two sons and four daughters. One of the daughters is married

**BELLIKKA, ARTHUR — by Viola Bellikka**

Arthur Johannes Bellikka was born on September 20, 1909 at New Ipswitch, New Hampshire, U.S.A., the son of Antti and Sara Bellikka. In 1916 he emigrated with his parents from Brandon, Minnesota to Saskatchewan later in 1916 coming to Sylvan Lake. They lived there until 1925, when they moved to Eckville Art received his schooling at Kuusamo and Marianne Schools. He learned the carpentry trade by working with his father from the time he was a young lad Art was very interested in sports all of his life He was a member of the SISU Club at Eckville His transportation during the winter was a pair of skis and in summer it was his Model T Ford

I was born on May 30, 1917 at the home of Mrs George Johnson in Sylvan Lake, who was my mother's mid wife. My parents, John and Maggie Byttymen, lived on a homestead on the north end of Sylvan Lake, our post office being Palm Bay The years of my childhood were happy years, even though we were very poor financially, which meant that I was denied my ambition to become a teacher There was just no money for tuition, or even for books I loved the outdoors and the beauties of nature I enjoyed picking wild berries, and looked forward to threshing time and to the Christmas programs at our school I received my schooling at Boyle School and at Eckville High School, then worked for various farm families for $6 to $10 a month wages. "Hired girls" were expected to do a great deal, including cooking, cleaning taking care of children feeding hogs, milking cows and doing many other things. On one of the farms the oldest son taught me to drive the tractor and when I brought his lunch to the field I was expected to continue with the plowing while he ate his lunch It was a challenge

On January 5, 1937 I married Arthur Bellikka. The first home we rented was across the road from the Eckville Cemetery. I still remember the old black flat top stove we got. It had an oven door on both sides, but it baked lovely bread. Today, it would be a valuable antique Art's father and mother gave us a milking cow for a wedding gift. She was a beautiful cow and kept us in milk cream and butter while we lived there My mother and grandmother each gave us two setting hens, so I was busy that summer with little chicks, and had very good luck with them My biggest problem was keeping the chickens out of my garden, which was my pride and joy This was a good year and by fall we had vegetables galore – even pumpkins, squash and corn

In the meantime the chickens had grown to full size, and my sister came to help me can them for winter's meat Early the next morning when we got ready for our task the aroma of skunk was overwhelming when I opened the door of the chicken house I have never forgotten the sight that met my eyes, when they became adjusted to the dark interior of the building – dead and mutilated chickens lay all over the interior! My pet Henny Penny, was still alive, so I went to pick her up, but she was so mutilated I had to put her out of her misery. This experience was the end of my chicken raising. That night I concealed a trap by the hole that had been dug the night before and the next morning I found the biggest four-legged skunk I've ever seen I've never liked shooting any animals, but this is one time I did not hesitate to get the 22 rifle. I had only one shell, so my aim had to be good – and it was My husband would not believe it, but I had left the skunk in the trap for him to take on, when he came home

Art worked on carpentry throughout the community wherever a job could be found. Wages were 20 to 25 cents an hour and there were times when he did not get paid at all. During the summer we made a covered trailer with the help of my brothers, Elmer Kuula, and Art's nephew, Ray Koskinen, who came from East Coulee to stay with us until his parents relocated in Rouyn Quebec

In the fall of 1938 we packed up the trailer and moved to the folks' place. That winter we lived at Aunt Sarah's and Uncle Charlie's place with my sister and her husband. This was a terrible

winter there was no work to be had, and some days we had very little to eat. In the early spring Art and Elmer Kujala, my sister's husband, decided to get to Edmonton to see if they could get work. They had to pawn practically everything they had to keep going, but thanks to wonderful people like Jack and Mary Luoma they were able to have a room at the Fairview Hotel. One day, in desperation and determination, Art jumped over the wall around the area where the Hudson's Bay store was being built. He confronted the foreman with "Where do you want me to start?" He got put to work, so we moved our trailer to Edmonton to the South Side Trailer Court. My brother Aldo, and our dog Rover, came with us. The job lasted for a few months, then again we moved back to my folks.

The trailer was too cold to live in for the winter, so we built a two-room cottage by the lake on my father's place. To me this was a haven. We had happy times there, as our home was a meeting place for the young people of the community who came to skate and play hockey. The Palm Bay Sports Club was organized that [illegible] ry 13, 1939 the first executive [illegible] Art as president.

Wester Ivan Russell. From: Mervin Vig, Dick Bystrom, Tony Bystrom.

[illegible] the cup in the district hockey tournament that spring. That summer men's and ladies' softball teams were organized. We had moved temporarily to south of Bentley where Art built a barn. We slept in a tent and I cooked the meals in a granary for a crew of four men. I baked all our bread, as we had our own stove with us. After supper we would jump into the old Model T and speed out to play ball. It was great to be young!

Then things changed — on September 10, 1939 Canada declared war. I shall never forget my mother's face when she heard the news, (even though she was expecting it). She knew what it was all about, as she had already lived through one world war. My brothers all enlisted for ac[illegible]

That fall we moved our little cottage to Art's parents' place and sold it the next summer to John Vara of Eckville. We then moved to Sylvan Lake, where we lived until January, 1942. On June 27, 1940 we became the parent of a baby girl. We named her Patricia Viola — a name chosen by my great-uncle, Percy Kent, of Red Deer.

My husband had been working with Bennett & White Construction Co., building the Holsum Airport, which job was finished in August, 1942. I then returned to Sylvan Lake and on August 12, 1942 our son, James Arthur, was born in the Red Deer Hospital. My husband's work took him from Medicine Hat to Suffield, but I remained at Sylvan Lake, where we had rented a cottage from F. Bloom. Thanks to Mr. Bloom, I got my first washing machine that winter.

The winter of 1942-1943 was one of the coldest winters I can remember. I tried to get water from the town pump, but it was impossible. The snow was very deep and the temperatures dropped to 45° F. Thanks to my good friends and neighbors, the Coutts and the Balogs, I got water and fuel.

Art's work shifted to Edmonton, so in January, 1944 we moved to Edmonton, where we finally managed to purchase a lot and build a home. Art eventually left Bennett & White and went into a contracting and building company with Elmer and Dick, my brother. During the post war years materials were hard to obtain and consequently the business suffered and finally went bankrupt. It took a number of years to pay the debts, but we were used to hard times.

Art obtained a job as an appraiser for the City of Edmonton and was with the Assessor's Department until the time of his death, on June 24, 1959. The spring he died he was attending [illegible]versity, taking extension courses in real estate appraisal.

Art and I led a busy life, as we were always involved in the work and activities of our community and our church. Art served on various Boards and Councils in the City, and his interest in sports led him to coaching or managing boys' hockey teams. Remembering how he had had to repair hockey sticks for the Palm Bay Red Wings, he continually worked to get better playing conditions and equipment for the boys. I was a Cub and Scout mother, a Guide mother, an executive of the Home and School, and helped on Talent Shows for ACT. My almost 25 years of teaching Sunday School has been the greatest [illegible] most rewarding experience of my life. In [illegible] we had moved to a larger home in the Highland district, in order to be closer to junior and senior high schools. Patricia and James both graduated from Eastglen Composite High School.

Patricia returned this summer (1977) from Glendale, California, where she has made her home for the past 12 years. In 1975 she married Mario Bonilla of El Salvador, Central America.

he is continuing his schooling for a career of clothing design in Los Angeles. Pat is presently working for a law firm in Edmonton, but plans to return to university to continue her studies for her B.A. degree in Linguistics.

James married his high school sweetheart Joan O'Dell and they have three sons. Jerry age 17, Jason age 12, and Jeffrey, age 6 years. They live in Winnipeg, Manitoba where Jim is a field manager for Snap-On Tools. The boys like their father and grandfather before them are great sports enthusiast hockey being their favorite game, also.

What greater rewards could one ask of this life than to have loving children and grandchildren. My children were very fond of their grandparents, and always enjoyed visiting or staying with them, as well as having them come to live with us. Pat and Jim remember how they used to sit on Grandpa Bellikka's knee — how he used to tease them with his goatee, and he always had a bag of peppermint candies in his vest pocket. They said Grandma made the greatest flat bread riiska in the bottom of her

Having a sauna at Grandpa Bellikka's, making home-made ice cream at my parents' home and, still, getting together with the family by the bonfire at the lake — family life is still the greatest institution in the world, for it is in the home that the foundations are laid for the kind of world in which we live.

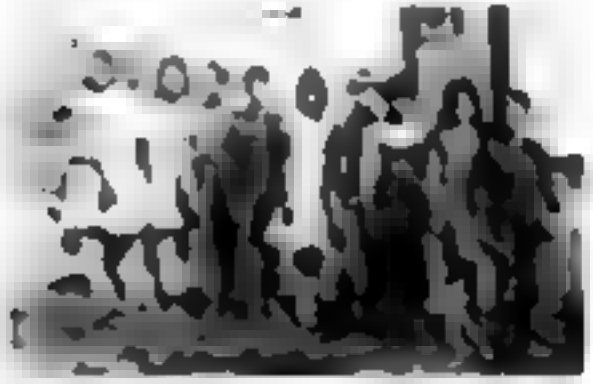
Happy the home when God is there
And love fills every breast;
Where one their wish and one
their prayer,
And one their heavenly rest.

In 1963 I married Leo Cosby, formerly of Smithville, Ontario. We still live in the Highland district in Edmonton.

**BOYLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Notes from the records of the Boyle School District 2910 from January 1920 to April 1953.

The school children were bussed to Bentley in 1949.



Boyle School. L. to R. Sylvia Bergman, Anna Tolonen, Viola

The first year school was open 72 days, with two teachers during the term. 16 children enrolled, average daily attendance four.

The secretary was appointed from the district lowest paid for duties was $25 per year — highest was [illegible].

Interesting to note in 1933, 33 applications were received for the teaching position — Mr. Harry Laycock was hired for $750 for the year — he had a family of five to support.

The highest salary paid in that time was $1100 and the lowest was $740.

**BRATTBERG AUDREY AND ELMER**

Audrey Kathleen is the third child of Knut and Alma Sunde. A keen scholar, she enjoyed her school years at Athambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson High School. She participated in school athletic programs and was also a member of the Rocky Mountain 4-H Beef Club. Upon completion of Grade 12 she attended the University of Alberta, Edmonton where she received a B. Ed. The next three years were spent teaching mathematics at the David Thompson High school. Audrey then returned to the University of Alberta, Edmonton and obtained a M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction.

made trips across Canada through the United States, to Hawaii and three times to Europe. Her first trip to Norway was in 1957 with the whole Sunde family. Ten weeks, one summer were spent travelling about Europe with sister Carol Lois and Miriam Farrington and Maureen Killick. The last trip to Europe was more extensive lasting six months, and included visits to Greece, Turkey and Tunisia. Most memorable of all was Christmas with relatives in Norway.

Audrey is presently teaching at Stratford Junior High school in Edmonton, and is also a curriculum co-ordinator in junior high mathematics with the Edmonton Public School Board.

Audrey is married to Elmer Harold Brattberg, son of Harold and Elsie Brattberg. Elmer was raised on a farm in the Bentley district and attended school in Bentley. He has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alberta, Edmonton and is presently employed as a Senior Engineer with A.G.T. in Edmonton. Elmer was very active in high school athletics and also became an avid skier. He has skied most ski areas in the Rocky Mountains and also made a trip to Europe to ski in the Alps.

Audrey and Elmer have a mixed farm in the Bentley area near the north shore of Sylvan Lake. Many enjoyable days of hard work and relaxation have been spent here on week-ends and holidays. During the spring, summer and fall months they commute from the farm to their jobs in Edmonton with their Cessna 182 airplane. Both Audrey and Elmer have their private pilot's licenses and have encountered many interesting experiences while flying their plane.

**GRATTENBG, HAROLD**

Born in Uddevalla Sweden — came to Eckville in 1928 — worked five years in Eckville district — bought the land the Boyle School was situated on — NW 35-39-2-W5 — in 1930

Married Elsie Vig in 1936 — there are four children

**Robert** married Marlene Smith of Glenwood — they have three children

Ellen married William Palm they have three children

Ethel has one daughter

—er married Audrey Sunde — they are living on the farm home place

**BYTTYNEN, ARALDO (DICK**

I was born on October 12, 1920 and spent my childhood days on my father's farm on the north shore of Sylvan Lake

In 1940 I left for the war and served with the Calgary Highlanders until 1946. Shortly after my return I married Florence Mattson of the Kuusamo district, and we took up residence in Edmonton. We have two daughters, Colleen and Jane. The girls have grown up and married. Colleen married Brian Dukanigan and has a daughter, Kathleen. Jane married Brian Kirkwood and has a son Jeffrey.

**BYTTYNEN, JOHN L. by Viola S. Cosby**

My father, John L. Byttynen, immigrated to Canada from Minnesota, U.S.A. in the early 1900's. He was born in Cokato, Minnesota in 1885. He had three brothers, Abraham, Albinus and Anthony, and four sisters, Aurora, Sarah, Aina and Susanna. His parents emigrated from Finland to the United States in the 1880's, their ancestry being of Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish descent.

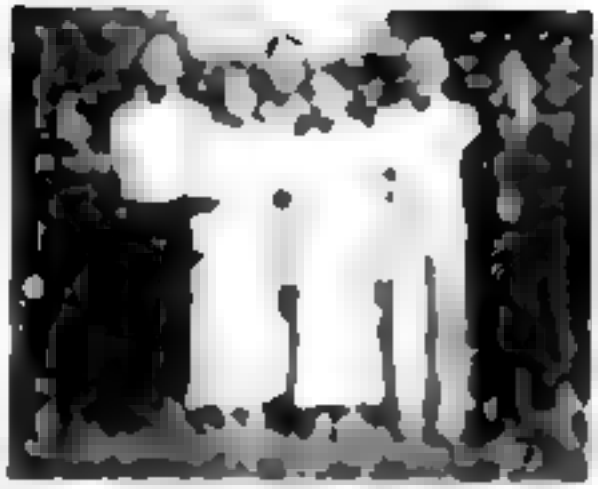
He homesteaded on the north end of Sylvan Lake in the year 1912. On November 17 1913 he married Maggie E. McKee, daughter of James and Nancy Mahala McKee.

My mother was born in Frankfurt Ontario in 1893. Her ancestors emigrated from Scotland and Ireland in 1763. Her father and mother were married on June 8, 1887 at Belleville Ontario. Her parents and two brothers, John and Allen and two sisters, Alice and Minnie, moved westward by wagon and oxen to Manitoba. They were in Brandon, Manitoba, at the time of the terrible blizzard in 1901 1902. The storm lasted for 72 hours. They were snowbound for days.

That following spring they moved further west to Alberta where they homesteaded in the Boyle School District in 1904. The two youngest members of the family attended the school after it opened in 1912.

Grandfather McKee died February 7 1916. Some years later, Grandmother married John Ebeling of Bentley. She died in June, 1939, one year after Grandpa Ebeling died.

There were six children in our family. Sylvia L. — 1915 Viola S. — 1917; John A. — 1919



Araldo R. — 1920; A. Anthony — 1921 and James A. 1923 (deceased 1923. We were all born at home. My grandmother was usually the midwife. Anthony was two and one-half pounds at birth and she took care of him, carrying him on a pillow and keeping him warm with heated bricks. I still remember receiving a spoonful of my grandmother's remedy for tummyache. It was a special recipe of hers and we never did learn how to make it.

My parents worked hard to make a living for the family. Land had to be cleared and ground broken for planting — trees cut and sawed for firewood were the only source of heat.

they were happy years. We had all the wonderful gifts of nature around us and the added opportunity of living beside a lake. I remember with nostalgia all the wild flowers and wildlife. There were not only birds of every description but so many varieties of waterfowl. I still love to hear the call of the coot, commonly known as the mud hen, especially in the springtime when they are mating. Yes, and even the eerie cry of the loon before a summer storm.

There were wild animals galore. The deer came down to the water for drink even the fawns got used to us. My parents forbade the killing of beaver and muskrat and the creek on our meadow became not only their home but also a sanctuary for the wild geese and swans every spring and fall. We awaited their arrival every year with joy and anticipation. It is hard to believe that all this now is so changed. In place of a beautiful solitude of God's creation there is the creation of man — screeching power boats and ugly pollution.

My father worked at the coal mines in Alexo and Nordegg in the 1920's, coming home maybe once or twice a month. It wasn't an easy life for mother to look after the farm and animals. We raised a big garden of vegetables every year and

picked lots of wild berries to can. Sometimes the cold, cold winters froze our storage of fruit and vegetables and it was grim indeed

It was a very difficult and trying time for my mother to take care of all the outside chores when we were all so young. The only baby-sitter she ever had was an old Norwegian fisherman Ole Olson Hum, known as "Old Ola" to us all. We enjoyed him when he came as he used to tell us stories He made whistles for us out of wood and sometimes he carved little animals for us out of wood pieces We didn't see him very often but we sure looked forward to his visits (He died many years ago.

My father was injured in the mine and from that time on he could not do heavy labor He worked off and on as a carpenter He also did blacksmith work at home — more or less a jack-of-all-trades. He had wanted to be a veterinarian and had done some studying in books, and with the practical experience did his best to help when being called on by neighbours to take care of sick

One of the exciting times of our childhood was when the Indian caravans stopped at our place on their way to Rocky Mountain House and then in the fall on their way back to the reservation at Hobbema. We looked forward to seeing them especially Chief Yellow Eye and his wife and son Tom Dad repaired their wagons and took care of their horses' hooves. In return, they brought us moccasins, a pair for each of us and usually a beaded pair for my mother One year they brought dad a beautiful buckskin coat He wore it for many years. It burnt with the house when my parent's home burned in 1949. This was the new home that was built after we grew up

Dad also lost the black robe which was made from the hide of his favorite horse "Prince" Old Prince was a part of our family from 1915 to 1943 He served us faithfully all those years, on the field, on the road as part of a team, or as a single with the buggy or cutter, stone-boat or garden cultivator He was also used for riding and if we got lost in the woods searching for cattle, we didn't need to worry as old Prince always took us safely home

We attended Boyle School one and one-half miles from home Our school was a one-roomed schoolhouse. Grandpa McKee helped in building the original building in 1912 and my father helped put the addition on some years later

The years we spent in school were happy years in spite of the hardships of the cold winters when the old wood stove didn't give adequate heat to keep our fingers warm enough to write The teachers were marvelous people who knew how to give us warm-up drills or parade around the schoolroom desks. The battle of the elements was not always easy I remember particularly the year I wrote Grade 8 Departmental Exams It rained so much the road was a sea of mud. The teacher, Miss Hilman, and I trudged to the school each day so I could write my exams which were sealed in big brown envelopes to be sent away It was worth it as I received my diploma and the honor of being the first pupil from Boyle School District to have obtained a diploma! We were both so thankful on the last morning when Mr Frank Johnson, chairman of the school board, came to pick us up with his horses and buggy to drive us home. He was responsible for seeing that those big brown envelopes were properly submitted to Edmonton

During these early years, Palm Bay was our Post Office. The Post Office was at the home of the John Palms. They owned the property adjacent to my parents. Mr Palm drove with horse and buggy or cutter to Eckville to pick up the mail for the community. On request of neighbors, he also brought groceries. This was a whole day's journey! We owe much to these old

Sometimes in the winter the lake was used for transportation when the ice was deeply frozen There was always the danger of going on it too soon This unfortunately happened to the Laycock family on December 7 1937 Mr Laycock was the teacher at Boyle School at that time. It was a nice clear Saturday morning My mother came back from feeding the chickens and called out. "Those folks are driving too far out on that ice!" We all ran out to have a look and the next thing we heard was a loud boom, like when ice cracks, and we saw the car go into the break in the ice about one and a half miles from our place. My brother, Johnny put his skates on and away he flew across the ice I ran to tell my father who was hauling some barrels of water for the pigs. He quickly unhooked the team jumped on the back of one of the horses and started along the shore, as the ice on the lake was like glass I started running but by the time I got there everyone was out except Mr Laycock. His son Gilbert and my brother were pulling him up out of the water It was truly a miracle that they all got out as Mrs. Laycock and their five-year old son were in the front seat with Mr Laycock while Gilbert and two other brothers were in the back seat The car was completely submerged

Mr Laycock was unconscious. They worked on him on the ice but he didn't respond, so my father with the help of the boys, put him over the back of the horse and quickly got him to the Hill's home about a mile away Mrs Laycock and I took turns carrying Ross, and believe me, it seemed much more than a mile. When we got there a message was sent to phone the doctor It took a long time for him to come from Eckville

My father kept working on Mr Laycock on the kitchen floor, applying artificial respiration until he was exhausted and asked me to take over We were sure happy when we heard him make a noise and he started to bring up water and slime I have never forgotten it! It was truly by the grace of God this man lived

We who lived or grew up beside the lake knew the dangers of the environment and we were

taught as we grew, but I am sure my mother must have had plenty of anxieties when we were small. We were fortunate that we had so few serious accidents throughout our childhood.

What could have been a major tragedy was the morning Tony had his two fingers on his right hand cut off. It was a December morning 1927 — the day of our school's Christmas programme. With the anticipation of an exciting programme, the boys had forgotten to cut kindling the night before, so father sent them out that morning to bring in kindling to start the kitchen stove. Tony grabbed a piece of wood off the cutting block just as Johnnie brought down the axe. Mom and Dad drove him to Eckville with the horses and cutter. Those 11 miles must have seemed like an eternity. Thanks to Dr. Sommerville, Tony's fingers were saved.

Our community should remember with gratitude the great doctors of these early years. Dr. Sommerville of Eckville and Dr. Henry of Bentley) who dedicated their lives to their calling. Even when the roads were impassable, they found a way. I remember the time in 1940 when Dr. Coppock of Eckville answered an emergency call by using a speeder on the railroad tracks to come and take a patient to hospital.

My parent's land was used for many different kinds of recreation. In the 20's there was an open air dance platform where dances were held occasionally. People came from miles around to dance in the moonlight. There was also a concession booth where candies, gum and chocolate

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Another highlight was the picnics by the 'Sisu Club'. This was an athletic club under the direction and training of Henry Jokkinen of Eckville. There was fun and games for everyone. Many families came to fish and spent the night. There was a plentiful supply of perch, pickerel, pike and jack-fish. During the depression years, fish was our main source of food.

In the late 30's, a group of young people formed the Palm Bay Sports Club. The first executive elected January 13, 1939 consisted of: President — Art Bellikka. Vice-President — Howard Johnson. Recording Secretary — Viola Bellikka, Treasurer — Laurie Layton, Secretary — Doris Vig. Program Convenor — Ray Niemala. Ice Convenors — Aldo Byttynen, Johnnie Byttynen, L. R. Layton, Wood Boss — Howard Vig, Marvin Wester, Ragnar Johanson. Lunch Convenors — Walter Johnson, Annie Anderson, Mary Balog; and Official Bouncers — Andrew Anderson, Ted Johnson and Chester Vig. The Palm Bay Red Wings played in the District Hockey Tournament (arranged under the auspices of the Red Deer Board of Trade) March, 1939 and took first prize.

The rink was also for pleasure skating. A concession booth was put up where coffee and hot dogs, etc., were served. The biggest handicap was the heavy snowfall, but there were usually willing people to clear the rink. A most willing and regular helper was the young school teacher of Boyle School, Laurie Layton.

The club put on dance programs at Young People's Hall to raise funds to buy hockey and other sports equipment. The hockey sticks alone would have been a major expense but for Art. He always managed to fix the broken sticks by splicing them together.

Two fastball teams were formed for summer. The ladies' team was managed and coached by Art Bellikka and the men's team was coached by Ted Johnson.

These were very exciting and enjoyable times and I am sure that it was one of the happiest times of our lives, especially for my parents, as they enjoyed the activities of the young people. My mother always had a cup of cocoa or coffee to

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These happy times came to an end, as young men left to fight for their country. My parents like so many others, saw their sons go off to war. They all enlisted for active service — Johnnie in the Royal Canadian Engineers, Araldo, Dick with the Edmonton Fusiliers, later transferring to the Calgary Highlanders when he went overseas in 1941, and Tony with the Royal Canadian Artillery. The first to leave from the Palm Bay Club was Ivan Russell. He was like one of the family.) He was with the Edmonton

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Johnnie was stationed at Chilliwack, B.C. for the major part of his service with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Dick served three years on active duty. He was wounded in France in August, 1944, returned to the Front in Holland and ended up in Odenburg, Germany, at the close of the war. He returned to Canada in December 1945. Tony was with the 78th Battery 13th Canadian Field Battery, 3rd Division, Royal Canadian Artillery. He was injured in England during a blackout. After several months in hospital, they were convinced he would be happier back in Canada.

Sylvia married Elmer Kujala November 1937. They have a family of six children and seven grandchildren. Elmer died in November of 1962. Viola married Arthur Bellikka January 1937. They had two children and have three grandchildren. Arthur died in June of 1959. Viola married Leo Cosby in May of 1963. Johnny married Lorraine Graham in May of 1943 and they have six children and six grandchildren. Araldo married Florence Matson in June of 1946 and they have two children and two grandchildren. Tony married Gloria Hergert and they have five children.

My father is now 92 years of age. He has been a patient in a nursing home for the past four years. My mother died on December 5, 1950.

Palm Bay still remains, a little corner of Sylvan Lake, but only we who have the memories of what it used to be, can appreciate what we once had.

We are all indebted to the pioneers in every age and every generation. We owe much to those who came before us! They all want to remain great in their own worth and strong in their convictions — no matter what — they are our heritage

**CARLSON, HANS AND IDA — by Ida Carlson**

Hans and Ida Carlson came to live on the NE ¼-35-2-W5 in the fall of 1939. At that time we had only clay roads, and travel was often made difficult because of the mud. The Boyle school was located across the road from us. We were serviced with mail route and telephone lines. Our building site was located on the corner of the land where there was a cross road. The mail route and telephone line did not go any further west than our place. We had only a few acres in cropland. We did have a water well, a good one, which never failed and is still in regular use, although now the water is brought up from it with a pressure system

The trees were in abundance, and supplied our cooking and heating fuel. When clearing land we found pouches of dried pemmican and a rock with arrowheads expertly chiseled out. We also have a rock that has been analyzed as a part of a falling meteorite

We cleared the land bit by bit. It did take the most of 30 years to clear the land of trees, but we were recompensed each time with more fields and a better view of the mountains and Sylvan Lake nearby. Our two children, Peter and Marion, enjoyed the lake to the utmost

During our time on the farm we changed from one thing to another. Many years were spent with a dairy herd, but later on we went to beef cattle. Hans was a very good cattleman and hog producer, so we had some of each. Our grain crops were mostly barley, although we at other times had oats and wheat, and clover seed and rape more recently. We rotated our grain fields with hay crops as this keeps the soil in good condition and also helps to prevent erosion. At one time we had a herd of goats and for a number of years had the usual flock of laying hens and chickens for meat purposes, too. Many beautiful birds made their homes on our farmstead. We grew vegetables in abundance, and had some good results with growing berries

The passing years brought many changes in our way of life. Eventually our road became a hard-top. We were able to have a comfortable home with many modern conveniences. The telephone lines had gone underground and to the dial system, and also had been extended several miles west, although still remaining on the Bentley exchange. In 1941 we started paying our hospital tax. We were included in the Eckville hospital district and this system was kept that way for many years. In the late 1940's we, along with other farmers, helped put the rural electrification in our district and this line went west as far as the present Allan Russel farm. For many years now the school children of the Boyle district have been bused into Bentley

For a few days now, in 1977 on our farmstead an oil well drilling rig has been busy day and night drilling for oil.

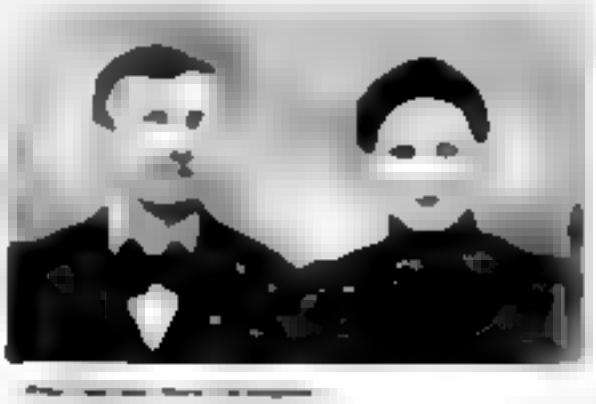
So many things have been left unsaid. I am grateful to my son Peter and daughter Marion and their spouses and all my grandchildren, my relatives and good neighbors of a good community. Indeed it was a privilege to have been allowed so many years on this location. May the time we were allotted still prove rewarding

Hans passed away in December of 1975, and I am now making my home in the Eckville Manor House in Eckville

**[illegible]EN, PETER AND MARIE — by Ida Carlson**

Pete Christiansen spent the last seven years of his life with his wife and younger members of the family in the Boyle district at mixed farming. Pete and Marie, with three very young children, came to homestead in the Scandinavian settlement, west of Bentley in the Stephenson school district. They arrived in the spring of 1901 and lived there until 1928 when they moved south to Turin, Alberta. This move caused the family much hardship with the terrible droughts on the prairies at that time and the depression years. Still owning land in the Boyle district and after five years of the prairie experience, they returned to this land to make their home. Pete died in 1941, age 71, and Marie, after some years moved to Abbotsford, B.C. She lived there until 1964 when she moved to Calgary. In 1966 she was hospitalized at Claresholm, Alberta, and died there in June of 1967 at the age of 87 years. Pete and Marie were charter members of Grace Lutheran Church, west of Bentley and both are buried in the Vig Lutheran cemetery. Grace Lutheran Church is still active after more than 70 years since its beginning

When Pete and Marie arrived at their homestead from Sissiton South Dakota their address was Alberta district, N.W.T. When they needed supplies they went all the way to Lacombe as there were no bridges over the Blindman River for sometime. Pete came as a



youth to the United States from Denmark. Marie was a girl of 10 years when she came to the United States with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Solberg, from Norway. About 1906 they moved into the same Scandinavian settlement west of Bentley but their farmland was in the Boyle district and, no doubt, their history will appear in "Homesteads and Happiness". Eleven of Pete and Marie's 14 children were born on this original homestead. The first child born to them in Canada was a son "Albert". If the child had been a daughter, the name would have been "Alberta". Albert was the first one of the children to die at the age of 49. There are still 10 children of this pioneer family living. When Pete and Marie arrived on their homestead the other settlers there were Martin Johnsons, Hans Skjonsbergs, Vigs and Haarstads came almost at

I am grateful to Helen Beranek of Bentley for the book called "The Hansens". This book is written by Harry Hansen of Bentley and published in 1969. This interesting book covers several generations of the Hansens up to 1969. Many friends and neighbors of the family are included too. Harry has some nice comments about "Pete and Marie" written here too. The Hansens were and are such well motivated people that who could help but be their friends. Many interesting pictures are included in this book. Eric, Ole and Carson Bardenhagen of Eckville are named as being on one picture of a group at a picnic at Gull Lake.

P.S. I cannot close without telling you that I had a grandmother who was truly a great lady and she was none other than the late "Martha Solberg".

**EKLUND, CLARENCE AND PHOEBE — by Phoebe Eklund**

I, Clarence, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ardor Eklund of Bentley do take thee, Phoebe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Brewer of Lacombe to be my lawful wedded wife for better or WORSE? Date November 14, 1939. First home — a wee c age on Gull Lake shore. Landlord Bob Woolgar who charged three whole dollars per month, a sum not always easy to raise. As the next day was warm and balmy the new Groom helped his dad thresh their grain, and the new Bride, no coat or sweater, merrily tripped to the field with lunch. Our closest neighbours were the Butchers and the Huttons. My reminiscing is written in this fashion because 38 years later 1977, everything is so different. Weather — 40 to 60 below zero, and I mean Fahrenheit! With me

the word, 'threshing' and they would be sure mean, $300 for rent. I'm sure Clarence feels i has been all for the 'better' and not 'worse'. He's a real 'wheeler dealer' but all our friends main tain I am the only possession he hasn't traded. I wonder why — oh yes, the wheels and gears in my head rusted too fast and they never rotated at a quick enough pace.

In 1942 we moved to Bentley to manage the Purity 99 Service Station previously operated by Ronald Kirk. Between the Holmes Grocery Store and the Garries Hardware Store was a Tie Yard for tying horses. Good old days! Many a summersault did I as a child, turn on the Tie Yard in Lacombe. Clarence did general trucking, as did his friends, Elton Poling and Alex Wilson. In those days Clarence hauled fuel from Turner Valley (no pavement then), and in the evenings delivered fuel to the farmers. I kept busy serving gas, keeping records, AND keeping

puppy. One time Mr. Hergott, the Station Agent phoned that Connie, whom he luckily recognized, was on a train headed for Rimbey and Hoadley. The Depot was only a hop and a skip from our place. I very diligently set about becoming acquainted with all the good people in the Blindman Valley. Did you ever try sorting out all the Skjonsbergs, Vigs, Solbergs, Petersons and Andersons when you don't know a soul? I pertinently asked Buz Farrell how many children he had and of course he was still an eligible bachelor! Three of our first and faithful customers were George Cabeuka, Albert Hansen and Mr. Elgood. Another was Alfred Haarstad who was loved by everyone, and to my knowledge never had an enemy. Four single boys who used to buy fuel were Abe Giesbrecht, Charlie and Harry Larsen, and Marvin Wester. I also remember the Wianckos from Rimbey stopping sometimes. In those days people had time to

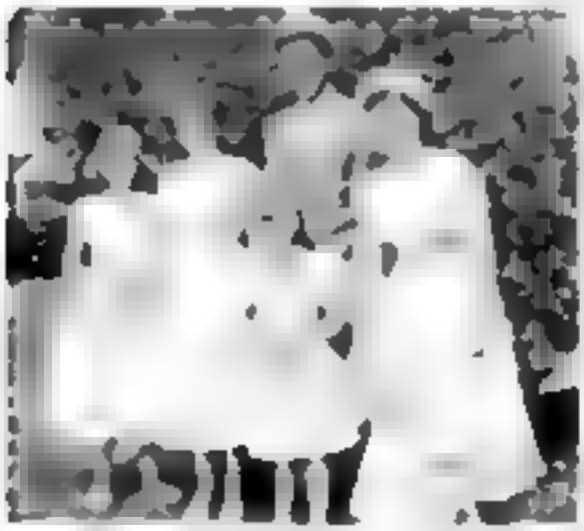
he gas rationing coupons and sugar coupons? It

day being when Connie turned the tap on a 45 gallon drum of oil.

In 1944 we moved to the good old Boyle District (the best in the west), where we lived for almost 30 years. Most of these were on the quarter purchased from John Balog (S.E. 35-39 2-W5), but we later bought the S.W. and N.E. quarters in this section and built a house on the N.E. one. In July of 1944 baby Gloria joined three old Connie. Life was good in those days as enjoyed simple life. A trip for the girls on a hand sleigh pulled by mom to the mailbox and up the hill to Aunt Allie and Uncle Ole Solberg's wonderful big log house was a treat far superior to a motor trip to the big cities now. Allie and Ole were substitute 'mom and dad' for many young people, including teachers or ministers who boarded with them. Nobody could ever count the lunches (including fresh cinamon rolls) and meals they served to hundreds of people. Uncle Johnny Solberg was our mailman for — in the days when being a mailman may include delivering groceries, picking up cream, selling stamps, walking and shovelling lots of snow. If we hadn't been fortunate enough to have an expert road maintainer, Frank Wine (another

Best in the West" I'm sure there would have been impassable roads many times for the mailman and all of us. Our third girl, Donna Lee born in 1950, shed tears when Johnny retired, and printed a "Hi mailman!" inside the mailbox door which cherry greeting still remains.

In 1957 a fourth girl Heather Marie, was born and truly brought much pleasure to her three sisters and middle aged parents.



Clarence and Phoebe Eklund and daughter [illegible]

Connie started to Boyle Country School and was privileged to have Mrs. Edith Russell as her first teacher. Dear Ida Carlson entertained the whole neighbourhood that year as Peter was also a beginner and generously invited everyone in school to his Birthday Party. Of course parents also came to pick up their children. Next year our country schools started to disappear and the buses took over.

Connie, a medical secretary, married Doctor Clifford Herzer, son of Mrs. Sandy Strachan of Rimbey, and they have lived in Los Angeles, California for 16 years. His three year Dermatology Course will be finished in May and they plan to move to their acreage near the Red Forest Arcadia. They have three children, Cindy, Clifford and Cheryl.

Gloria married Leo Ganson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ganson of Lacombe. For six years they lived in Newfound and where Leo taught school, then two years at Peoria, two years at Botha, and at present he is principal and teacher of a new Seventh Day Adventist Church School near Sylvan Lake. They have one boy, Gerald and three girls, Janice, Julie and Glenda.

Donna was a dental assistant, working in Calgary where she met her husband, Lance Holly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rob Holly of Calgary. Lance, after working as Orderly in the Stettler Hospital, has been taking a Paramedical Course for the past two years in Calgary. He has accepted a call to work in the Grande Prairie Hospital, so plans to move there in May. They have two boys, Glen and Brian.

Heather married Jack Bartko, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bartko of Rimbey, and so far live closest to home much to grandma and grandpa's delight. They lived near Rimbey, but presently are on an acreage 10 miles from Bentley. They both love the farm and animals and are hoping to live in the country. Jack shares his mother's musical and artistic talents. Their little girl, Laurie Lee, is the youngest of our 10 [illegible]

In August, 1973, we moved to our present home 15 miles west of Rimbey, S.E. 26-42-5-W5, situated in the Leedale area. At the time, my roots were so deep in Bentley area that I didn't share my husband's enthusiasm in moving to a new land. However, even though I will never forget all our dear Bentleyites, I found the people in this area to be wonderful, kind, and helpful too. Rimbey is a friendly town, and I enjoy shopping there. For the past five years we have sold Vermeer Round Balers to supplement our farm income. I like to think we are pioneers as Clarence has cleared many acres of land. Life has been good. There have been a few clouds amidst all the sunshine, but thanks to God, loved ones, and friends, the stars and the rainbow are as bright as ever. Happy memories everyone!

**JOHANSON, ERICK**

Anna Katherine and Erick Johanson with their four children emigrated from Finland to Michigan, U.S.A. around the turn of the century, then to Canada in 1911, settling in the Wetaskiwin area. In 1914 they took out a homestead in the Sunset Hills area north of Sylvan Lake in the Boyle district.

Of the children living — Hilda Wester lives at Sylvan Lake, Arthur lives in Bentley, Irene Palm lives in Condor, Esther Lind in Prince George, B.C., Sam in Edmonton and Hazel Nelson in Ed[illegible]

Erick enjoyed carving wood. He is known for the wooden horses he carved and sold for $4. Some of these are displayed in various homes in the district.

**JOHANSON, VICTOR FAMILY — by Mrs. Signe (Victor) Johanson**

In 1923 we decided to leave Sweden and move to Canada. Victor's uncle, Mr. Ed Lofgren at Blackfalds sent back glowing reports of Canada to relatives in Sweden. He said you could make money in Canada, and we found out later this meant many hardships and much hard work. The opportunities were not so easy for a green Swedish family. Blackfalds was to be our destination. We left Bastutrsk, Sweden, July 1923, with our two children, Ragnar, two years old and Victoria, four months old. We arrived over six weeks later at Blackfalds as there were many delays along the way. We spent ten days in

London England, while the boat was being repaired. Our children were vaccinated for smallpox while we were there. The journey had its drawbacks but the people along the way were friendly and helpful. We arrived at the uncle's place in late August, and stayed with them for one month. They had a large family of their own and four more made it a bit overcrowded. W hen went to work for a bachelor Mr J Hilstaad, who wanted some help on his farm in the Bentley district, and we stayed there for two years. While living there, Victor started looking for a farm of his own and found one that was covered with very heavy poplar trees. However we built a log house from the logs that were cut to make a place to a build a house.

We were situated on NE 3-40-2-W5, one half mile north of Boyle School and two miles from Mr Hilstaad's farm, so Victor would help him over a time until we got more established. It was fortunate there were deer and rabbits to be had to supplement our diet and also fish from Sylvan Lake that was one and one-half miles south.

When we were grubbing trees, we used to take the children's shoes off. That way they wouldn go very far away and we would know where they were at all times. They didn't seem to mind as they played contentedly.

Victor was learning to speak English a little better each year as he met and worked with others, and he learned also to read and write in English, and read a great deal in the years to come. However it was a Norwegian settlement so they could speak and understand each other without the use of English.

After our house was built we needed some good water, so he got a water well drill and drilled us a well. Over the years he drilled many water wells. He was still drilling water wells long enough to drill a well for our oldest daughter and her husband at Lesiteville in 1951.

Victor and a neighbor made one half mile of corduroy road through a swamp one mile north of our place to make a better trail to town. There were jackfish jumping in the deep water and grass where they worked. In the years to come he always had a team of horses and a man or himself to help build more roads. They worked off their taxes this way.

He also invented a brush cutter to be used on a tractor, as we had one by that time, hoping to clear land a little faster. He contracted a large area of trees to be cleared. The invention worked fairly good but the cost of hiring men to pile and burn the brush and the cost of gas for the tractor plus repairing his machine proved costly and at the end of the contract he had made no money. However he used it on our own farm for a while.

After we had been in Canada five years we became Canadian citizens.

Ragnar started school when he was six years old and didn't know any English, as at home we spoke Swedish. However Boyle School was for tunate to have a teacher that year who could speak both English and Norwegian so she was able to teach and help Ragnar through the firs year. Her name was Miss Magda Wold, now Mrs Magda Anderson of the Eckville district. As Ragnar learned English so did Victoria and I we were learning together and when Victoria started school she knew as much English as Ragnar. As the children progressed in English so did I until I could also read and write in English.

With a lot of hardships and hard work our farm began to take shape. We got more land cleared and broken every year and we had some livestock mostly milk cows, as the milk butter and cream were necessary foods and income. It took the better part of the day to take the cream to town with a team of horses and buggy. We also had some chickens and pigs. We cleared more and every year to provide more feed for the animals, making it possible to increase the livestock. All the farming was done with horses in the early years, which were also our transpor ation until we got a model T Ford. I learned to drive it too, which created tension among the onlookers. I learned all the contrary ways of the car and could handle it as well as the next per son and drove it constantly, until it was van dalized. Then it was back to the horse and buggy for a while until we got another car.

In 1935 an addition was built on the house and another daughter Elizabeth, was born that year. In the winter time Victor would run a sawmill sawing lumber so he could get lumber to build a new barn. After the barn was built there were a few barn dances held, one or two for the war ef fort, and the orchestra at one of them was the well known Ma Trainers Orchestra from Calgary. They took a few minutes before the dance to go to the neighbors and play a few musical numbers for an aged pioneer lady Mrs Eric Solberg. There were some dances held for the benefit of the Palm Bay Hockey Club, and also a wedding dances.

In 1939 Victor purchased a 32 vo t windcharger to supply us with electricity. I got a washing machine that was run by a 32 volt power and it was a big help as we had hired men and I used to board school teachers.

I also looked after an aged widower, Mr t-pland, who lived across the road from our place. He was our closest neighbor. We used the windcharger until we were able to get Calgary Power. When there was first talk of rural elec trification, Victor was out canvassing the neighbors for prospective farmers that would like to get a line put in. I believe it was one of the first rural lines put in. Then he took a course in farm electrification, wrote and passed the exam and wired many farmsteads in the years to

His main interest was farming and he learned all he could to make the land produce good crops. Farming always came first and every new facil y that came out to improve and make easier and bet er farming he was ready to try. We got a

threshing machine as by this time we had [illegible] siderable cultivated land on our half section, so fall he went with his threshing machine and a crew of men to thresh for the neighbors and ourselves. Many of the crew were neighbors [illegible] worked off their threshing dues this way and sometimes we had Indians hired too. Then a few years after the war we purchased a combine and did only our own as by this time we had the half section all cleared and cultivated.

He was also very interested in politics, believing in the C.C.F. party and one year [illegible] didate for the Liberal party in the Rocky Mountain House constituency in one election but [illegible] defeated.

Our first telephone line that Victor helped organize was strung on various types of poles that were replaced later with more substantial [illegible]

The Bentley community had a strip cleared [illegible] one of the Sunset Hills and made [illegible] into a ski hill now known as the Medicine Hat Ski Hill. In 1950 they decided to have a log lodge built and they asked Victor if he would supervise and help build the lodge, which he did. It was the only building there for many years until later another building was built.

He was elected councillor for the Lacombe County and served on the council for many [illegible] until his passing in 1964 at the age of 68 years.

After the Second World War we took a trip to Sweden, the first time since settling in Canada, and then we went again in 1963. When we returned from our first trip to Sweden we brought back ten pounds of Vega barley, that he wanted to try here. It was passed through customs and he seeded this small amount in a separate and well prepared piece of ground. It grew and showed great promise, was harvested with great care, yielding several bushels. This grain was seeded until he had enough seed to seed his complete farm. It was a productive barley with a fairly short growing season and he used it from then on.

When Ragnar and Vicky were going to school they did the janitor work at Boyle after they got old enough. The pay would be up to $3.50 a month which was almost enough to pay for a pair of skis, which they bought! When they were through school, Ragnar stayed at home to help farm and Vicky went on to High School in Red Deer.

When Ragnar got married, a house was built on the farm and they lived there and went into partnership with us, finally buying the home place and the farm across the road from our place, farming this for a few years finally selling and moving to Salmon Arm, B.C. in 1973.

Ragnar married Bettie Britton of the Marianna district in 1948. They have four children, Anne, Bernard, Cindy and Valerie.

Anne graduated from the Bentley High School and took a nurses aid course in Calgary and worked at the Rocky View Hospital until she married Wayne Malone of Calgary. They have two girls, Rene and Teresa, and they live at Hin[illegible]

Bernard finished high school at Bentley and vocational school at Lacombe, is now employed at C.C.I.L. at Wetaskiwin, and has taken a heavy duty mechanic course at Edmonton.

Cindy took some high school at Salmon Arm, B.C. and is now employed at Hinton.

Valerie took some high school at Salmon Arm and is presently taking vocational school at Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Victoria was married in 1942 to Albert Moitus of Withrow, and has three sons, Barry, Brian and Ken. They live at Withrow until Albert enlisted in the army in 1944. After his discharge from the Army he purchased a farm at Lestieville, where they reside and are still farming.

Barry graduated from the David Thompson High School and took a Merchandising Administration course at S.A.I.T. in Calgary, and is now a manager of Totem Lumber Co. Store in Calgary. He married Helene Cote of St. Paul, Alberta and has two sons, Cameron and Spencer and they reside at Bragg Creek.

Brian graduated from David Thompson High School and took two weather courses, one at Ottawa and one at Toronto. He was upper air technician at several locations in N.W.T. for seven years. He then took another course at Ottawa to become a Pilot Briefer, working for three years at Yellowknife Airport. He married Gwen MacLeod of Saskatoon in 1973, and had one son Kevin and a daughter, Rea Anne. They live at Airdrie and he works at Calgary Airport as Weather Forecastor.

Ken is still at home to graduate from the David Thompson High School in June, 1978.

Elizabeth took her schooling at Bentley High School and a secretary course at Calgary. She married in 1957 to Carl Wood of New Brunswick and has three children, Deborah, Judy and Kevin. They live at Calgary.

Debby married Herb Fitch of Sylvan Lake and has one daughter Trudy. They live in Red [illegible]

Judy is going to University in Calgary, and Kevin is still in High School.

I stayed on the farm for a while after I became a widow, then moved to Bentley, where I lived for a time, then moved to Sylvan Lake and now reside in the Sylvan Manor at Sylvan Lake.

I look back on the years past and wouldn't mind doing it all over again. We had hardships and hard work but there were also the social times. There were the Sunday dinners, community gatherings, and school picnics held on the shores of Sylvan Lake and all the neighbors were there. Then there were the Christmas concerts, and the parents would try to help the teachers as much as possible to make it easier for them, like filling candy sacks, making popcorn balls and sewing costumes, the men would

get the Christmas tree and set it up, and set up the stage and repair it if necessary, also keeping the gas lamps burning. It was the highligh. of the year. The ladies would serve lunch at the close of the concert and everyone went home happy knowing it was a job well done on the part of the teacher, students, and parents.

**OSCAR KARJALA FAMILY**

Oscar Karjala took his homestead, the NW 5-40-2-W5 about 1910. His brother Robert came to join him about 1916, as the brothers had planned to farm together, which they did for about a year.

Robert, his wife Ann and their only child Emil, born in Butte, Montana, in July 1916

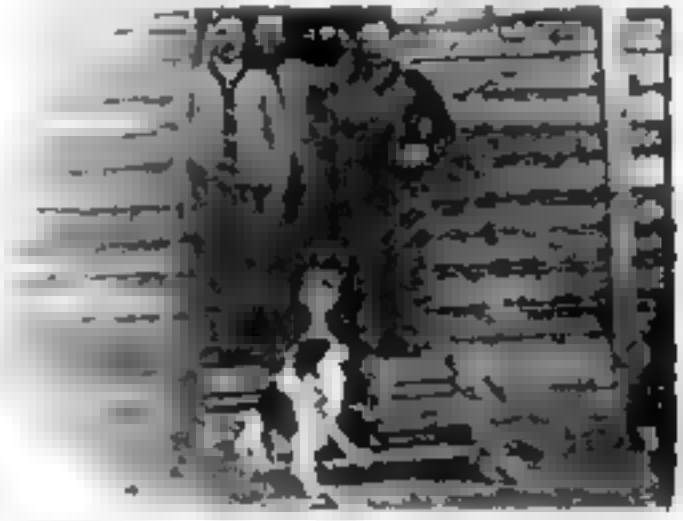
Sarah and Robert Karjala

Emil Karjala

continued to live around here like Robert worked at ditch digging to drain swamp land to make it viable farm land.

Shortly after this Robert returned to Butte Montana to work in the mines. During this year Mrs. Karjala and Emil made their home with the John Palm family at Palm Bay. The mines closed and Robert returned to his family. Robert then purchased the SW 4-40-2-W5 which was the Pete Holappa homestead. He began to clear his land and also did custom work. The long winter of 1919 was one of hardship. Many cattle in the area were starving. Robert sold hides in Eckville in order to buy food for his animals.

Robert is remembered for his jolly nature. About 1929 Robert was stricken with a kidney ailment. The doctor gave him about six months to live. But, being a determined man, he took care of himself, allowed himself no salt in his diet and carried a special water supply from the John Koski farm, by so doing he lived another seven years. Robert died December 26, 1936. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.



L to R: [illegible] Gabriel Takkunen, Pete Holappa, Roger and William Palm. Taken circa 1911 at the homestead here the Emil Karjala farm.

Ann Karjala married Homak in 1940. They moved to the coast where they made their home. She died in 1965 and is buried at Cloverdale, B.C.

Emil started school at Boyle. After his school years he worked for many farmers in the Bentley-Eckville district. He inherited a great sense of humor. He was known for his love of animals as well. Emil sold the family farm to Alan Russell in 1973.

Emil died October 8, 1977 and is buried in Kuusamo Cemetery.

**KUJALA, SYLVIA LUCRETIA ETHEL (SYTTYNEN)**

Born March 24, 1915, at Palm Bay on North Sylvan Lake, I attended Boyle School and did the janitor work before and after school hours when

taking the latter grades. Making that old heater get going and give us some comfort was a real challenge. Many students of that time must remember our marching around singing and clapping our hands for a long time before we could settle down to our books and when recess and noon came around we would flock around and above the old jacket heater, everyone making a mad dash to get the warmest spots. Water was another big chore. It had to be carried by pail from Mr. Turner's place near by or if his pump failed, I had to get it from Andrew and Huida Anderson's place which was then west of the school. It was certainly rugged going when the snow drifted and got deep.

The summer after finishing Grade 9, I went to work for Petro's Dairy at Sylvan Lake. They delivered milk to the campers and cottages just during the summer months. In the winters, I went to work in Calgary, Red Deer or in the town of Sylvan Lake, and back to help at the dairy for the summer again.

I met Elmer the winter of 1935 at a dance at Eckville Hall. He was on a break from hauling railroad ties at Rocky Mountain House, driving a truck for Fred Moos.

Elmer (Jalmar) Sylvester Kujala was born May 1, 1906. He grew up in the Kuusamo District. He had six sisters and four brothers. Only Ivy Kasper of Vancouver, B.C. and Amy Slaughter of Santa Monica, California, are still living. Elmer attened Kuusamo School, taking his Grade nine. He enjoyed sports of all kinds and helped manage softball and hockey teams for the Elspeth Club. They were real winners, I have been told.

He loved music and when some of the young men formed a local orchestra, called the Cocoanuts, he played trumpet, which he had learned to play. He played the violin and accordion as well. They played for many dances at Elspeth, Benalto and other places and at picnics, which were great community get togethers in those da

Elmer and I were married November 20, 1937 at the home of Rev. R.S. Stevens, then minister of the Presbyterian Church in Sylvan Lake. My sister, Viola, and her husband, Art Bellika were our witnesses. Our only guests were our parents. After the wedding ceremony, Elmer's father treated us all to coffee at the Sylvan Lake Cafe where we jokingly called the soda crackers our wedding cake.

Our first home was a cabin rented from Arvie Niemela. It was a small two room place right by the lake, near my folks. That summer, Elmer built a motor boat in his spare time, between carpenter jobs, and I had lots of fun helping build it and trying it out.

Elmer's mother wished to visit her relatives in Montana, and asked if we would stay at the Kujala home to help out while she was away.

In the spring, Elmer's father gave us a little log house and two acres by the lake which he had bought back from Mr. John Eskie, who wanted to move to town. He said it was our wedding present and it sure was a wonderful and much appreciated gift. It had only two small rooms, but was comfortable enough after we got it cleaned and fixed up. We moved into it that spring of 1939.

Our first son, Ronald Mathew was born December 15, 1939, in the old Eckville Hospital. He came home just in time to spend Christmas with us.

Kenneth Elmer Kujala was born August 17, 1942, in Eckville with Dr. Coppock being our doctor both times.

Elmer worked on a lot of buildings around Benalto and Eckville district. But work was very scarce so he decided to go to Edmonton where he and Art Bellika formed a construction company. My brother, Dick, joined them too, after returning from overseas.

Within the year the boys and I joined Elmer, making our home with my sister Viola until we rented a tiny house nearby.

Byron Anthony Kujala was born that winter on December 8, 1946, in the old Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.

By that summer the house we were building was far enough advanced to move in. We put up with sub-flooring and plyboard over some windows for a while, but gradually got it finished. It was in a new district and the two older boys had a few months extra holidays that summer until the new Delton School that was being built, was finished.

Elmer worked for the city of Edmonton as a tax assessor for a few years then back to carpenter work again.

Carolyn Sylvia Kujala was born July 21, 1949, at the University Hospital, Edmonton.

Loretta Margret Kujala was born August 28, 1952, also at the University Hospital. Dr. Margret Hutton was our doctor both times.

The summer of 1952, we decided to go farming so we sold our house and bought a farm by Clyde, Alberta. We had some very rough times those years trying to made do in an old drafty house until we were able to build a new house which we did eight years later.

David John Kujala was born October 27, 1955, in the Westlock Hospital.

Elmer worked on many buildings in and around Westlock and Clyde district, helped on the Athabaska School and built annexes on the grain elevators in many parts of Alberta. He last worked on the Auxiliary Hospital at Westlock.

On November 10, 1982, neighbors from around our area gathered at a neighbor's home and gave a surprise party for us on our 25th wedding anniversary. Everyone had a wonderful time. Music was supplied by a few neighbors, Elmer helping out, calling all the square dances he could remember and the Spanish Waltz too. We received many lovely gifts from neighbors and family.

er died on November 27 1982. of a heart attack We laid him to rest in Dunngan Cemetery situtated between Clyde and Westlock

We farmed for a few years more, the two older boys coming home to put in and take crops off I rented the farm out for a while, then sold it to buy a house in West Jasper where we live today. I have worked at the New Misericordia Hospital for a few years and I have been an Avon representative for 10 years now

Ronald attended U of A, getting his Bachelor of Science and graduated with his Masters of Social Work from the U of B.C He is now working for the B.C government. working out of Van

Ken is a sheet metal worker For a few years he owned Sea Coast Sheet Metal Company with a friend at Sea Sechelt. B.C He has worked in many places in Alberta and British Columbia and has just moved to Calgary. where he lives with his wife, Pauline French), and their three little daughters. Charlene was born September 20, 1969, Rachelle was born June 22, 1973. and Pamella was born September 2, 1977 He also has a son Lance Kujala born March 11. 1965. by a former marriage

Byron with his wife Leona (Madison live on an acreage near Millet They have two sons, Vincent Anthony, born July 12, 1966 and Dean Russel Leo, born December 8, 1967 and one daughter Cheryl Anne Vivian, born on February 11, 1969 Byron graduated from NAIT as a master electrician and has his own company, Lane Electric doing work in Wetaskiwin Leduc and Edmonton

Carolyn attended U of A, graduating with a Bachelor of Science. then attended Veterinary College at Saskatoon graduating with her Dr of Veterinary Medicine in 1974. She married Don Thompkins of Regina on August 3, 1972, who is an engineer They have lived in Toronto and Calgary where Carolyn worked as a veterinarian. They have now moved to Regina with their son Joe Brian who was born on April 14 1977

Loretta married Dale Cannard, August 18 1972 Both attended NAIT, Loretta graduating in Drafting and now working for Imperial Oil and Dale graduating in Chemical Technology and now working with the Alberta Research Council They have just moved into their new home on Christmas Day which they built on an acreage near Vimy, Alberta

David has attended U of A and worked with sheet metal shops on his holidays. This summer he has tried his hand at carpentry work He enjoys the outdoors, spending as much time as he can camping. back-packing, and canoeing. He enjoys both cross-country and down-hill skiing

David has been instrumental in getting us all interested in skiing. hiking and camping So most of our get togethers end up with us getting out and enjoying an outing both summer and winter, everyone from grandma to the wee ones

We all feel very blessed to live in a country as free and beautiful as Canada May we all work to keep as much of it as naturally beautiful as possible for our future generations

**WALDEMAR MOTTUS AND FAMILY — by Esther M Mottus**

Waldemar (Wally) Mottus was born in Varu, Estonia, December 8, 1908, the youngest of the eight sons of Mr and Mrs. Johan Mottus

After an eventful journey to Canada (as described in the story of Lena and Johan Mottus elsewhere in this book Wally arrived in the Gilby district north of Eckville on May 24 1916. at the age of eight years. Johan Mottus died in 1918 and it became necessary for his sons to earn their own living as soon as possible At the age of fourteen Wally got his first job. harrowing land with horses for Fritz Kinoa He walked behind the harrows in bare feet, not for lack of shoes but because he preferred it that way. In those days most children went barefoot all summer

From that time on, Wally was on his own. At age fifteen he went to Southern Alberta where he worked for farmers from spring to freeze-up He came home to Wood Lake for the winters. For several years his life followed the same pattern southern Alberta in summer and Wood Lake in winter While working for Harry Snell in Barons he operated the first corn binder to be used in Alberta

By being thrifty, Wally managed to save $300. With this wealth in his pocket he went to Edmonton in 1927 and enrolled in Hemphill Trade School where he took a course in Automotives and Tractor Mechanics In 1931 he got a job working for John Kemila Sr ) in his garage, doing repair work at seventy-five cents an hour

Wally had a great love for the outdoors, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. During the winter months of 1934 and 1935 he and two other young men established a trap line about thirty-five miles south-west of Rocky Mountain House Fur bearing animals were fairly plentiful and the catch was quite good of squirrels. weasels and lynx When summer came he went ot southern Alberta as usual

In 1936 he rented space in John Kemila's garage, and started his own business, doing welding machinery and general repair work He 'batched' in a small one-room shack near the garage At one time a friend, Jack was visiting him Wally went to work in the morning leaving Jack still asleep When Jack awoke he prepared to light a fire in the wood burning stove, using kerosene. There was one big "bang The kerosene can exploded and the whole shack was enveloped in flames. Jack got a few burns which were. fortunately. not very serious and Wally lost all his clothes and possessions. The shack was completely destroyed. After that episode he

moved into the Kemila home where he got his room and board

In 1937 Wally married Esther Nelsson, a teacher from south of Eckville. This is where I Esther, come into the story

My parents were farming in the Diamond Valley district They desperately needed help on the farm, so Wally gave up his shop in Eckville and moved to the farm. My parents bought a house in Sylvan Lake where they retired Wally did not give up his shop work He set up a shop in a machine shed on the farm where he did his own repair work, as well as some work for neighbors He spared no effort in making machinery run smoothly and efficiently

Farming continued to be his main occupation. In 1942 Wally bought the first combine in the district — a small John Deere. For three years he straight combined successfully, to the intense surprise of those neighbors who didn't believe it could be done

My mother died in 1938, and my father came back to the farm to live with us In 1939 our first child, Lucille Dorothy, was born. Two years later along came a son, Leonard Waldemar

There were no gravelled roads in the rural area at that time, and no snowplows in winter When Lucille reached school age a problem loomed large How was she to go to school? The nearest school was four miles away There were no school busses We didn't relish the prospect of driving her to school every day over roads which were often impassable and it was too far for a small child to walk so we decided to move In 1944 we bought a house and a shop in Rocky Mountain House Later in 1944 we had a farm auction. Father moved with us to "Rocky" in time for Lucille to enter school there. Wally made extensive renovations to the shop he had bought There was no water or sewage services in Rocky Mountain House in 1944, but we modernized and renovated the house anyway putting in our own water pressure system and septic tank

Father died in 1945. We didn't like to leave the house he had built in the Diamond Valley empty Empty houses are ruined by neglect, so we had the house moved to Eckville in 1952 It was a large house and it was difficult to move but the task was successfully accomplished. We had the house modernized and re-decorated That house still stands in Eckville, and it is presently rented by James Keegstra. It stands as a memorial to the pioneer who built it my father Nels John Nelsson

Wally established a thriving business in Rocky Mountain House He had all he work he could handle and more. He was an agent for Homelite chain saws, which fitted nicely into his machinery and welding business. But life wasn't all work and no play Wally loved to curl and curled regularly in the local curling club. He went to bonspiels in most central Alberta towns and also took part in the summer bonspiel in Nelson, B.C one summer We took up bridge and spent many pleasant evenings playing bridge with friends. We all enjoyed camping and loved our numerous trips into the beautiful west country In 1948 our third child, Linda Claire was born

Our life in Rocky Mountain House was full and happy Wally was active in the 1% Club. He was elected to town council twice, and was on council when the new arena was built He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge. I was a member of the L.O B.A Lodge the I.O.D E., and I taught Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church. I was also a substitute teacher at the Rocky Mountain House School

Lucille finished high school in Rocky then took a business course in Edmonton after which she worked in Port Radium N.W T., Ottawa, and Calgary as a stenographer Leonard also finished high school in Rocky then attended Montana State University where he took his B.S degree He took his M Sc degree at U. of A. in Zoology and finally his Ph.D degree at U of A in 1972 He is now vice-president of a consulting firm in Vancouver Linda took grades one through nine in Rocky

In 1962 we bought some land on the N.W shore of Sylvan Lake and built a modern home there in preparation for retirement In 1963 Wally sold his shop in Rocky and we moved to Sylvan Lake. Linda entered high school in Bentley After graduating from high school Linda took her nurses training in Foothills Hospital in Calgary, getting her R.N degree in 1969 She has since worked in Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary and Stanford University Hospital California

Our children are all married. Lucille and Alex Sahados have three children, and Linda and Fred Taylor have one child, while Leonard and Sharon Mottus have three children. Wally and are enjoying our retirement very much. We like the peace and quiet of country life and enjoy the visits of friends and relatives We can finally say, in all sincerity, Life is Beautiful!"

**NETSEL, JOHN — by Viola S. Cooley**

John Netsel homesteaded the quarter next to my father's place NW 33-39-2-W5 on the lake in the early 1900's. He emigrated from Norway when he was a young sailor He loved the great outdoors, and especially the water He built row boats and also made a cabin boat He used to take people, including my mom and dad, for lovely moonlight trips on Sylvan Lake in his cabin boat He ran his own sawmill for several years, using a steam engine for power

On Christmas Day 1918, he married Aurora, my father's sister Uncle John spent a lot of his time in the north in the winters. He had a cabin there, and tended to his trapline while Aunt Aurora stayed on he homestead. She spent a lot of her time visiting neighbors. Her fingers were always busy knitting socks and mittens Her

pastime was reading cards and telling fortunes from tea cups She had a deep interest in the lives of people, and always was the organizer for family get-togethers and parties

In her lifetime she had many careers, even having worked as a detective for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City in the U S A She was a professional cook, and had worked in a number of famous hotels in Minneapolis She immigrated to Saskatchewan and then to Alberta

I remember when she was the cook at the Eckville Hotel in 1931 1932 That was when I was attending the Eckville High School My room mate and I dropped in to see her often and usually got a piece of cake or pie. Being teenagers, we surely appreciated her good cooking

When we were children she entertained us often with tales of her adventures We enjoyed especially the stories of her fishing with her father in the fjords along the coast of Norway She spoke several languages

There was grief too, in their lives Their home by the lake burned to the ground in the late 1920's In 1955 Uncle John died in his 90th year Aunt Aurora continued to live in the little home by the road, but it, too, burned to the ground in 962, leaving her heartbroken, as she lost everything including her pet dogs and cats. The Psikla family took her in and cared for until the summer of 1963, when she moved to her sister Sarah's home where she died on November 29 1963, in her 98th year

**ARVI NIEMELA FAMILY**

Arvi Niemela came from Haapajarvi Finland in 1928 to Vancouver, B.C. where he worked at various logging camps until he moved to the Eckville district where he practised his trade as a carpenter and is well known for the numerous houses and barns he built.

He married Hilja Talsma in 1936 and they have two daughters, Mabel and Eleanor Mabel Eastwood) is a lawyer in Vancouver and has three daughters, Claire, Judy and Susan Eleanor (Mrs. Leo Popow lives in Lacombe and has three children, Kelly, Greg and Lisa

The Niemelas are retired and have lived in Bentley for a number of years

**PALM, JOHN — HISTORY OF A HOME STEADER**

John John Fredrik Palm was born on July 15, 1861 in Pyhajarvi, Finland. Exactly why or when he came to North America is unknown Perhaps, like many other Scandinavian immigrants, he had heard of a "better life" and the opportunity to own land here He worked at several jobs in North America Probably around 1902 or 1903, John Palm met Eva Johanna Ostlin, also a Finnish emigrant. She had been born at Uusikaupunki, Finland, on September 14, 1870 After coming to North America, she lived for a while in Montreal, working in a private home The couple were married in Calumet, Michigan in 1903, and moved shortly afterward to Butte Montana, where Mr Palm worked in a mine

It was also in Butte that John Palm saw a map of land available for homesteading in Alberta (then part of the Northwest Territories), and he chose a quarter section on the north bank of Sylvan Lake then known as Snake Lake. He filed his claim by telegraph, paid the required $10 fee and went back to work in the mine to build up his savings

Members of the Palm family first arrived in Alberta in January 1905, when Mrs. Palm made the journey by rail to Red Deer With her were 17 year old Frank, Mr Palm's son by previous marriage in Finland, her six-year old daughter Aille, and the couple's year-old son Willie. Mr Palm meanwhile remained in Butte Mrs. Palm and the children stayed in Red Deer for several days until Mr Koski of Eckville happened to make the trip and gave them a lift to the district During the next few months, the new arrivals stayed with the Herman Johnson family, who lived about five miles from the Palm homestead

Over the winter Frank crossed the frozen lake to the property and with the help of neighbors, built a log shack. In September 1905 his father arrived and the family moved into their new home

Although John had selected his land sight unseen, he must at least have been pleased with the natural beauty of the surroundings. His home and farm buildings were situated on a hill overlooking a bay of Sylvan Lake. Throughout

ea were stands of spruce, poplar and birch
n all, a setting which must have reminded
him of Finland

To obtain title to a homestead a settler had to acquire 15 head of cattle and clear a specified amount of land — conditions that were not always easy for new homesteaders to meet. But the settlers were accustomed to using their wits n difficult situations and meeting the government's conditions was no exception. For example, it was said that cattle belonging to a Mr Upland were borrowed time and time again by various neighbors wishing to show government inspector the required number of cattle. As well, it wasn t unusual for homesteaders to show an inspector a cleared piece of land, lead the official through thick timber to another clearing and then perhaps on to a third. After several such expeditions, the inspector could say that he had seen in total the correct amount of clearing when in fact he might have seen one patch of aring from several different directions. But government inspectors overlooked such

In the early part of this century, self-reliance was a necessity and the homesteaders became skilled at all kinds of work, although not always with good results. Such was the case when Mr Palm invented a harrow made out of spruce. He left the boughs on the tree, each branch about a oot long. He sawed the trunks in half with the flat side up. Using willow he lashed on cross pieces and finally, added shafts for the implement to be pulled by horse. Came the day to hitch up the horse. Mr Palm had a standard harness which included side blinds. But he was a kind man perhaps a bit too kind on this occasion — and it occurred to him that the horse too, should have the right to see. So he cut off the side blinds. The horse took one startled look at the contraption behind him, and took off. John lost hold of the reins, the horse got away and both animal and harrow went over the lake bank, the horse landing on its back. Mr Palm lost no time in cutting the lugs and freeing the horse. But the harrow stayed in its watery resting place for years — and it's a good bet that family and friends didn't mention the harrow episode too often in John s presence.

The Palm s food supply was heavily dependent upon the family cow and a small garden spot. But the surroundings also offered many sources of food. With home-made nets and sinkers made out of birch bark and stones fish were netted and hooked, supplying the family winter and summer with fish. Rabbits were snared in winter, and in the fall ducks, geese and partridges supplemented the family's meals. Raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries were canned for winter use. Some homesteaders ate deer and bear meat. It was said that Mrs. Palm always kept a kettle of soup simmering on the stove and that all visitors were fed even though she may have had to add a little water to the pot. Staples such as flour were carried by Frank Palm from Evarts store, a stop on the old freight trail between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House 13 miles from the Palm homestead.

Cool, clear drinking water was provided by natural flowing springs in summer, and from holes dug in the ice during winter. Lake water however had to be strained to remove small bugs. In 1917 or 1918 John dug his own well. In the district wells ranged between 15 and 50 feet in depth.

In 1910 the Palm family returned to Butte Montana, to the mines, but they were back on the homestead the following year.

Clearing of land was the biggest job facing the settlers. In those days you were making headway if you cleared an acre of land each year as well as keeping up the farm work. Grass in both the slough and treed areas was cut with a scythe and stacked for winter animal feed. One method of clearing timber was burning it repeatedly for two or three summers. Some of the timber on the Palm place was so thick that it was almost impossible to burn. In 1911 Mr. Palm began logging and hired a man to saw the poplar timber with a steam engine. The sawing was done on shares with the sawyer getting half of the lumber and Mr. Palm used some of the rough

teen dollars per thousand.

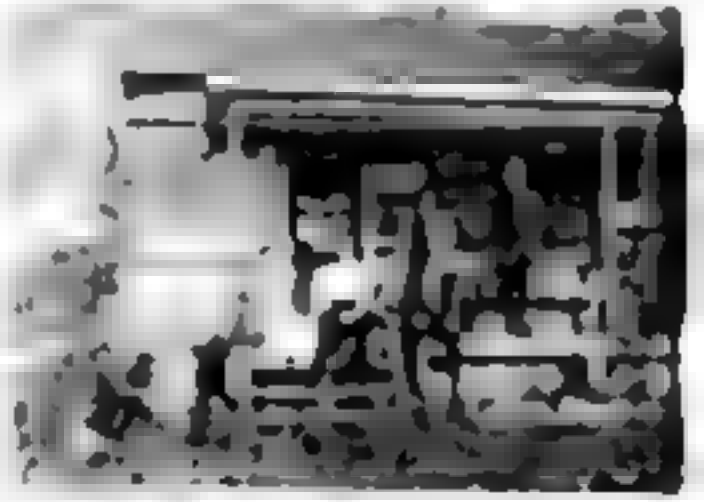
An important agricultural milestone in the community occurred when Henry Talson bought a hand-fed type of threshing machine. Called a Stanley Jones thresher it had a stationary motor and a straw carrier onto which the men forked piled straw. In 1918 John and three neighbors, Oscar Karjala, Henry Johnson, and a Mr. Leukuma, formed a company and bought their own threshing machine for two thousand dollars. They paid for it by doing custom work for other neighbors.

John had a second sideline, a leather tannery, run in co-operation with Pete Holappa. The operation consisted of a log building housing two wooden tanks about seven feet in diameter and five feet deep. Cow or horse hides were first soaked in the lake to soften them. Willow bark cut and gathered in summer was cut into two inch lengths and added to one of the tanks. The animal hair was removed in the lime barrel. After thorough cleaning, the hides were placed in the tannery for six weeks. They were stirred, hammered, and worked until they were pliable and ready to use. Mr. Palm made footwear for his family and neighbours, as well as horse harness and similar items.

Danger and health problems were a way of life for the early homesteaders. The food supply was at times uncertain and a shortage of good food contributed to illness and death. Infant mortality was high. Three of the Palm children died in infancy due to prolonged sickness, no doctor or medicine. Mary (Nielsen) was born in 1914. There was little money for anything beyond life's necessities, and of course, hard work and new problems always faced the settlers.

Black bears were often bothersome. A nearby homesteading minister had been troubled by a bear robbing his supplies. One evening the minister saw movement at the window, so grabbed his gun and shot the offender. The following evening he again saw movement at the window. Thinking that the bear had had a friend, the minister again took his gun and shot – only to discover he had killed his one and only cow.

The settlers around the north end of Sylvan Lake gradually developed a community spirit. In 1916 they met and decided to request a post office. Mr. Palm was delegated to send in the application, which was granted. It then became his duty to make a weekly trip to Eckville to pick up the mail. For this service Mr. Palm was paid fifteen dollars per month, a welcome addition to the family income. The post office continued until May 2, 1922, when Mr. Carritt began delivering mail on a route from Bentley. Probably because of the mail service the area became known as Palm Bay and that name was used on birth certificates and other official documents for years.



Saturday night was, of course, sauna night. Saunas in the settlement were the old type consisting of an open fire in the center of a steam room with a pipe to let the smoke out. Every Saturday evening perhaps six or eight visitors would arrive at the Palm home, for their mail and a bath. First the women and girls would visit the sauna, then the men and boys. A refreshing dip in the lake usually accompanied the bath. The rest of the evening was spent in conversation, ending with coffee and lunch. Sunday was a day of rest, with people completing only necessary work. Papers were read and neighbors visited.

Boating, swimming, and the annual Finnish mid-summer holiday in June were the main summer activities. Around 1920 the Elsperh and Young People's Halls were built, and the quickly became centres for dances, box socials and Christmas concerts, adding greatly to the community life.

John Palm continued to farm until about 1937 when he retired to Sylvan Lake. He died on September 2, 1939 and Mrs. Palm died April 22, 1945. Both are buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

It is interesting to try to imagine what Mr. and Mrs. Palm would think of what has become of their property today. Nothing remains of their buildings. Most of the quarter has been cleared, and the land belongs to a developer who will soon likely chop the property into what the real estate trade might call "prime lakeside lots", which will sell at prices far beyond John Palm's wildest dreams. We can do nothing but accept the situation, and perhaps occasionally reflect upon the homesteaders who first settled on the land.

**RUSSELL, DOUGLAS H.**

Douglas H. Russell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to Canada in 1907. He and his brother, Len, worked for farmers in southern Alberta prior to buying adjoining land three miles west of Trochu, Alberta. Douglas married Edith M. Smith in 1928. Douglas and Edith have resided in Victoria for the past several years, but have come back to Alberta every summer to spend time at their cottage at Pigeon Lake.

While Douglas and Edith lived at Trochu two sons were born: Ian and Alan. Dry years during the 1930's made it necessary for Edith to return to the teaching profession, and she secured a teaching position at the Diamond Valley school. In 1939 Douglas purchased the E 4-40-2-W5, one mile west of Boyle School, where Edith was teaching at that time.

In 1940 the family moved from Trochu to the new farm. They had been raising Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle, and these were moved to the new farm. Their first dwelling was a granary borrowed from Victor Johanson, then a temporary house was built during the summer of 1940, in addition to a 15 by 16 foot straw-roofed barn and a storage shed, the shed still being used.

Less than 30 acres were cultivated when the farm was purchased, but through the years from 1940 to 1949 the more easily cleared portions of the land was cleared by the family, but after this custom clearing was done. Douglas sold his Clydesdale horses in 1944 and bought his first tractor, a 1928 Wallis. The next tractor acquired was a 1948 John Deere "D" purchased in 1950. This tractor is still used on the farm during haying season.

In 1952 Douglas discontinued active farming, but Edith continued teaching at Boyle, Saima, Evarts, Condor, and various other schools until her retirement in 1969.

Ian Russell began his electrical apprenticeship in 1950 and has been working at that trade since then, his work mainly being in Edmonton. In 1963 he married Doris Upton, from Rumsey, and they have a son, Kevin. In spite of hearing problems that eventually led to total deafness, Ian has continued to work at his trade.

In 1955 Alan married June Johnson from Clandonald, and they have two sons, Brian and Gary. For about 10 years Alan was employed by oil companies. In 1963 Alan and June bought the home farm and have resided there since 1964. Their holdings were increased by the purchase of the Albert Westphal quarter in 1971 and the Emil Karl quarter in 1972. These two quarters adjoin the home farm.

**THE ERIC SOLBERG STORY**

Eric and Mattea Solberg were married in Romedal, Norway, on June 6, 1879. After a few years they decided to make a move to America, so Eric left to find a place for his family. A year later, Mrs. Solberg set out with four young children, Marie, Ole, John and Anna, to join her husband. Boat travel in those days was not as luxurious or comfortable as we know it today. She liked to tell the story of how they had purchased a good, strong length of material for straw to use as a mattress for the journey across the ocean. The intention was to have the material for use in their new home. The day came when they would be leaving the ship and she decided that now was the time to empty out the straw, so she dragged the mattress over to the rail and was attempting to shake out the straw. The captain of the ship saw her struggling with it and, thinking that it was her intention to dispose of it, he came to her assistance. To her great dismay with a mighty push he shoved the entire mattress overboard. Her precious piece of material was gone!

They journeyed to Sisseton, South Dakota U.S.A. where they put up a sod house. The first winter was a hard one, with blizzards sweeping over the wide-open prairie, snow so deep as to cover the windows and block the doorway. They

lived many miles from a town where supplies could be purchased, so it meant a journey of several days with a team and wagon to go to town and back for the necessary groceries and sundry other items needed for the home. Needless to say, these trips weren't frequent.

The Solberg home was situated next to an Indian reservation, so it was not uncommon to have frequent visits from the Indians. The Indians at this time were still somewhat savage, but the Solbergs, while a bit apprehensive, never really feared for their lives. Mrs. Solberg was called on occasionally to act as mid-wife by the Indians. She was well liked by them and they eventually referred to her as their "White Mother".

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Solberg once again decided to make a move, so they came north to Canada to settle in the district west of Bentley. Here they settled and farmed on NE 9-40-2-W5. The land was covered with heavy bush and had to be cleared by hand, but Mr. Solberg was a strong man and it wasn't long before he had a few acres opened in which to plant a crop. Their two eldest sons, Ole and John, had come to the area a few years earlier.

Grandma and Grandpa Solberg. Mom (Eklund's) mother and [illegible]

Their experiences in this new country however were not to be without its share of anxiety and tragedy. The first night in this district was spent at the home of their son Ole, approximately one-half mile north of where the Boyle school was to stand in future years. On the following morning their youngest son, eight year-old Gilbert, had gone outdoors with the intention of inspecting and exploring the surroundings. Having come from the bald prairie of South Dakota, he was, no doubt, intrigued by the abundance of tall trees. He spied a squirrel and started to follow its antics in the tree tops. Of course he soon became lost and couldn't find his way back to the house. There were no roads or fence lines to follow. He walked all day and towards evening he came upon a house. Even at this young age he wouldn't admit that he was lost or hungry. However, he went to the door, knocked, and asked the bachelor there for a drink of water. The bachelor, a Mr. Schrader, realized that the child was lost so he took him in, fed him, and kept him there for the night, or until such time as someone came searching for him. A search party had been organized by this time, with the pre-arranged signals of rifle shots to signify when he was found—one shot if dead, or two shots if alive. Mr. Schrader's home was about one mile south of where in later years Salma School was to be situated. So Gilbert had wandered a considerable distance through the woods from the house in the Boyle district. It is with certainty that there was a joyous reunion. A few years later tragedy struck when their 16 year-old son, Edwin, died as the result of a hunting accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Solberg were active in the community and were among the early members of the congregation of the Vig Lutheran Church. Mrs. Solberg was one of the founding members of the Church Ladies Aid. Their door was always open to whomever should pass their way and they made everyone welcome. It was the site of many community picnics and dances, too. Mrs. Solberg, having been a dairy-maid during her youth in the old country, was especially adept at making many varieties of cheeses. Perhaps I should explain here that being a dairy-maid meant that the young girls would take the dairy cows up on the mountainsides to summer pasture. Here their duties were not only to herd the cows, but to care for the milk and cream by making butter and cheese.

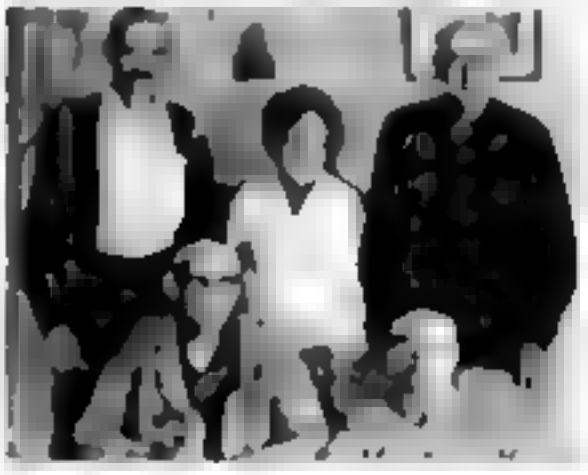
Mrs. Solberg would spend long hours carding and spinning great amounts of homespun yarn which she would knit into warm socks, mittens and other garments for her family. One member of her family recalled how often he would waken in the morning to the familiar whir-r-r- of the spinning wheel, roll over for a few more minutes of peaceful sleep, secure in the feeling of well being. To Mrs. Solberg, the time spent at her spinning wheel was truly relaxation. Mr. Solberg, too, had his hobby, which was the gathering of soft willow shoots. These he would soak in water for a time to make them supple and these he would fashion into baskets of various sizes. Some of these baskets were even used as a bed for a young baby. Loving children as he did, there were many of his grandchildren and great grandchildren who were the recipients of his hand-woven willow rattle. Mrs. Solberg was

always willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed and many a time she was called on to act as mid-wife. She helped to bring many a baby into the world, as the nearest doctor at that time was in Lacombe.

Mr. and Mrs. Solberg farmed until the mid twenties when they sold their farm equipment and retired. For a short time they lived in a house owned by their son-in-law E. G. Erickson. This house was on the old "Kidd" place. From there they moved into a house owned by their son Ole while a new house was being constructed for them on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. (This is now part of The Breakers subdivision.) This was a log house built by the late Victor Johanson. Eventually they moved into this house where they were to spend their remaining years. As in the years on the farm, this home, too, proved to be a gathering place for many a family picnic and get-togethers for the community. Eric loved to go out in his rowboat and catch a fish or two for dinner. Matthea continued with her spinning and knitting throughout the years. Summer days would find her out searching for the wild raspberries that grew so abundantly in the bush along the lakeshore. She had always had a cow or more to care for and these she refused to part with until a very few years before her death. Eric was very proud of his garden, especially the fact that he was able to grow a plum tree from seed that eventually bore fruit. At that time there were very few fruit-producing trees in the area, if any.

They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June, 1939. At that time there were 54 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren. Eric passed away in November, 1941 and Matthea followed in February, 1945. They are buried in the cemetery of the Vig Lutheran Church, now known as Grace Lutheran Church.

There were eight children. Marie became Mrs. J. P. (Pete) Christiansen. Marie and Pete had 14 children before Marie passed away in



June, 1967. Ole married Allie Palm and they had two sons. Ole died in January, 1978. John, who married Sophia Vig, had 16 children. For many years John was the mail carrier between Bentley and Rimbey. He lived in his own home in Bentley until November, 1977 when, at the age of 92 years, he became a resident of the Eckville Manor in Eckville. Besides being well known for the Norwegian rocking chairs which he makes, his ability to handle the fiddle and the bow has won him many trophies in old-time fiddling contests in Red Deer, Stettler and Rimbey. Mr. Solberg and his fiddle have kept company for the past 73 years—since he bought it second-hand to play his first square dance in 1904. He recently picked up his golden violin to play for his son Edwin's golden wedding anniversary party in [illegible].

Anna married Aidor Eklund. To them eight children were born. Anna died in Sidney, B.C. in February, 1971.

Sever married Bertha Benson and to them were born nine children. He passed away in February, 1977.

Edwin died at the age of 16 years as a result of a hunting accident.

Minnie married E. G. (Fred) Erickson. They had four children. Fred passed away in 1937. In 1948 Minnie married J. E. (Jack) Sunnell. She now lives in her home in Sylvan Lake.

Gilbert married Olga Johanson. There were three sons born to them. Gilbert passed away in

**SOLBERG, OLE AND ALLIE**

Ole and Allie Solberg were married October 19, 1919 by Pastor Hjorlos at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Allie was the former Allie Palm. Ole came from North Dakota in 1906 to file his homestead in the Boyle district. Allie grew up in the same district at her home at Palm Bay.

Ole had a good sense of humor and enjoyed the many little pranks he played. He cared deep

Allie and Ole Solberg and their sons Melvin and Fred.

ly for his horses. In the early days, Ole's hobby was auction sales. Ole eventually bought the John Paum farm, Allie's home

Allie was known for her gardening and plants She enjoyed carding and spinning wool which she used to knit many pairs of socks and mitts as well as heavy sweaters.

Many teachers of the Boyle School boarded at he Solberg home

Ole and Allie had two sons, Melvin and Fred. Melvin married Hilda Melding of Abbotsford, B.C. They have five children Beverly, James, Barry Raymond and Sharon. They reside in Abbotsford, B.C. Fred lives in Montreal, Quebec

Allie and Ole celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1969, shortly after retiring to their home in Benalto. Ole passed away on January 12, 1976 at the age of 82. He is buried in the Vig Cemetery west of Bentley Since then, Allie has resided in Red Deer

**VIG, CARL**

Came from North Dakota in 1900 · lived with his parents and other members of the family — filed on a homestead — SE 9-40-2-W5 in the Boyle district before he was 20. In 1916 he married Alice Petry who came from Colorado when she was 11 years old to live with her father Henry Petry on his homestead in the Sunset Hills They moved to their own place in 1916 — lived here till 1927 with four members of their family — moved to SW 15-40-2 W5 where five younger children were raised

**Elsie** married Harold Brattberg – has four children

**Chester** married Rubyrose Benson — has five children

**Howard** married Joyce Atherton — was married in England during the war — they had five children Howard and one daughter died in an accident in 1958. Chester and Howard served in the Second World War returning home in 1944

**Doris** married Ole Skjonsberg — has five children

**Carl** married Bernice Johnson — has nine children.

**Bernice** has six children.

**Delbert** — deceased July 3, 1976.

**Doreen** has four children.

**Donna** has four children.

# Carlos

**AMBURY GEORGE — by Florence Bobier**

George Ambury, his wife and family Alma Daisy, George Jr Charlie, Justin, Lucy and Allen came to live in the south west part of the Carlos district George filed on the SW 10-41 5 in January 1914 and was soon active in the organization of a school district. In fact he was chairman of the first meeting called. All the children attended the Washington Heights school, and Anna went into the teaching profession.

The family were all avid readers, and Mrs Ambury was an excellent seamstress and did a lot of knitting. It is recalled that she would often knit mitts and socks and read aloud to the family at the same time Their log house has stood for many years. While at the homestead the family always hauled their water from the spring about a mile or so south

**BERGMAN, A.**

I, Gloria Katherine (Block) Bergman was born on my father's (Rasmus Christian Block) farm SW 34-41-5-5, with Mrs. Bert Moore and Mrs. William Lees in attendance

I attended Aurora school for nine years, with Mrs. Gladys Beckett as my teacher I took correspondence for one year and attended Lesliedine high school for one year On July 20, 1963, I married Arthur Bergman of Blackfalds Alta. and we moved into our own home in Blackfalds

My husband Arthur was born in Winnipeg Manitoba on November 23, 1932. His family moved to Vernon, B.C when he was three years old. He lived there until he was 16 years old, then the family moved to Edmonton where Art learned the plumbing and plastering trade Then Art's family moved to Blackfalds, where he was in the stuccoing trade throughout central Alberta until 1971

**BLOCK, RASMUS CHRISTIAN — by Bob Campbell**

Rasmus Christian Block was born in Denmark on March 12, 1886. About 1906 he came to Illinois in the United States where he worked for a Danish farmer Later he worked in Lincoln Nebraska at a railway roundhouse for 17¢ an hour An apple pie cost 15c. For several years he worked on a steam engine powered threshing machine in North and South Dakota

In the spring of 1915 Mr Block and Mr Board came to Bentley Alberta, with two Waterloo Boy tractors, made by John Deere They used these tractors to break land in the area. Mr Board stayed a few years then sold his tractor and returned to the United States

Around 1918 Mr Block bought Hudson's Bay and which he later sold to Clarence Damron. He then moved to Rimbey where he showed silent movies. He also hauled mail from Rimbey to Bentley for a few years He sold his movie outfit and bought the SW 34-41-5 in the Carlos district

[illegible]

from Jack Brebber in the fall of 1920, moving here in the spring of 1921

He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool For about nine years he was secretary for the Aurora School district Mr Block passed away on May 24 1968

**PIONEER DAYS OF MR. AND MRS. S CAIRNS — by Hilda Cairns**

They called it "back to the land" but I call it "back to the bush", which was a big change for us prairie folks There were six families who shipped cattle, horses, and household articles from Medicine Hat to Rimbey, Alberta, the railway station nearest to our destination. We came by train, and some of the men folks came with the equipment on the train. After unloading and reloading from the stock cars, we started on our way, which was about 25 miles west to the Aurora District at that time. The roads were nearly impassable as it was one of those wet springs in 1933. After a long tiresome trip we arrived at the deserted "Indian Cabins" It was like a small village, as there were six families and about 22 young folks, most of them of school age What an experience! Some of the folks had never been away from city lights

Mr Cairns (always known as "Stub") and myself, Hilda, had three boys at that time. Elton the oldest, was 13 years old. Raymond was 10 years old and Gordon was eight years old. They all attended the Aurora School, where they received a Grade 8 education. We did not stay on the original land, but farmed with Mr H Freitag on a share basis

Later we had a new addition to our family — a little girl, Yvonne, born on November 12, 1936. As the boys grew up, they left the district Raymond returned to Medicine Hat for a visit, as he had several uncles and aunts there on his father's side He got work in the ammunition factory and later Gordon joined him there Elton joined the army in 1941. Soon after this Raymond also joined, and Gordon joined the navy

About 1941 we left the district as we were too far from transportation when the boys had left home. We went to work for J Sunell in the Blackfalds District for a time Later, as Yvonne became of school age we moved to Sylvan Lake Mr Cairns had a dray business for several years but when the gas was piped in, he gave up his horses and went to work for an oil company for several years. We bought our home here in Sylvan Lake in 1942, and have lived here ever since We celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in 1970. Mr Cairns (Stub) passed away very suddenly in 1972. In 1973, I sold the home and now I live in the Sylvan Manor

A little more about my family

Elton married Edna Snell in 1945 They have one son, Garry who lives in Edmonton

Raymond married Muriel Chapman in 1943, and they have two girls. Raymond took up residence in Medicine Hat before going overseas, and still lives there Muriel passed away in 1976

Gordon married Evylin Ross in 1951 They had two boys. Doug was killed in a pipeline accident in 1973. Don is a professional hockey player Gord and Ev adopted a little boy Martin, in 1965 They live in Calgary

Yvonne married George Ross in 1957 They had two boys, Darcy and Dwight, and a girl Crystal They all made their home in Sylvan Lake where they all went to school

There are many things left out of our years since then, but space won't permit telling of all our experiences. I have made many new friends but still miss the old pioneer friends

**CAMPBELL, GLADYS AND FAMILY**

Gladys Andrews was born January 3, 1905 to George and Lena Andrews in Ruck, Oklahoma She came to Lacombe in the spring of 1905. They moved to a homestead at Buffalo Lake in the fall of 1906. In 1922 Gladys married Bill Campbell

On August 17, 1923, a son, Robert Campbell was born. On August 1, 1924 Clifford was born and Charlie arrived on November 11, 1926. He

passed away in February 1927 at the age of three months.

In 1928 the Campbells separated and on January 12, 1930 Gladys Campbell came to keep house for R. C. Block in the Aurora district. In April 1930 Gladys went back to Bashaw, Alberta to bring her sons, Bob and Clifford, back with her.

**J. B. CORNFORTH — by Lavina Robinson**

The Joe Cornforth family arrived in the Leedale District from Bellseker, where Joe was a barber and also at Joffrey and Rimbey. Finally they settled on the SE 24-41-5-W5, right next door to the Aurora School, which was kept well supplied with Cornforth children for the next 16 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornforth had a large family and all were born at home except the last one, number 13. He was born in the Rimbey Hospital. Occasionally Dr. Byers would make a call at the farm, but it was always hours after a baby was born. Each new baby was cause for great excitement for all members of the family, and oh, how we loved those little bundles!

Starting in 1918 with Ruby, the eldest there followed Jean, Clara, Sidney, Joe, Ivan, Lavina, Elaine, Lorraine, Ben, David, Katherine and Delbert, the youngest, in 1940. On February 17, 1943 Sidney passed away in the Rimbey Hospital and in March, 1959 Joe Jr. was killed in a truck accident at Lodgepole. By 1976 the Cornforth clan numbered 11 living children, 54 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Cornforth was an ardent trader and dealer. He also cut a lot of posts and wood, and sold these to provide for the needs of his growing family. Ruby soon went out to work in the Bellseker area, and Jean and Clara, when about 14 years of age, went to work in the Bentley area. They started their jobs at $5. per month, and gradually increased to $15. a month. Out of this wage they managed to send home a few dollars each month to help support the younger members of the family.

There was a small lean-to addition on the north side of our house, where for many years we boarded a succession of school teachers for extra income. For some years previous to 1945, the mom of this large household of children made weekly cream pick-ups in the district and delivered the cans to Myers' Store in Leedale.

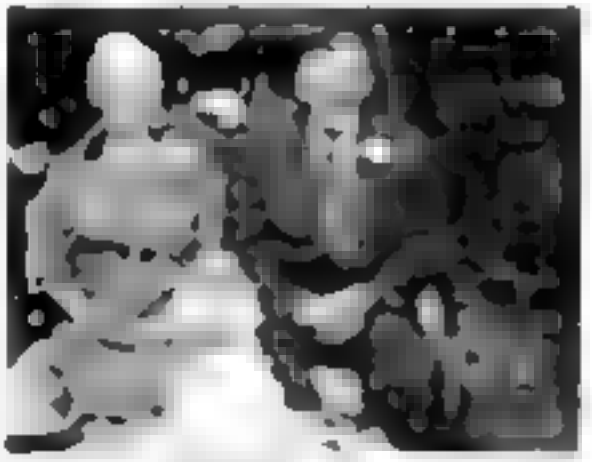
Mr. Cornforth served as trustee and as secretary on the Aurora School Board for many years. He was the jolly old Santa Claus for many years at Aurora's Christmas concerts. When he moved to Ontario he carried on the Christmas Santa tradition in Eaton's store in Lindsay, Ontario for many years. The last two years even Santa got modernized, and he landed at the store by helicopter.

Mrs. Cornforth was a member of, and a hard worker for, the Ladies Sewing Club as long as she lived in the district. At a farewell party the club presented her with a cushion with all the members' signatures hand embroidered on it. She and all her children attended the Aurora Church and Sunday School.

In the early spring of 1946 Dad Cornforth and Elaine left for Ontario to find a new place for the rest of the family to move on. Many relatives already lived down east.

On April 5, 1946, Russel Cole, of Rimbey, a young, but promising auctioneer held his very first auction on the farm of the Cornforths. Several days later Ivan and Joe took mom, along with five brothers and sisters, by team and wagon to the Leslieville railway station. There Mrs. Cornforth bade farewell to Alberta, and headed for a new life in rural Ontario. The Cornforths took six of their children to Ontario and left six grown-up ones in Alberta.

Joe and Mrs. Cornforth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 14, 1966. Mr. Cornforth passed away on January 14, 1967, and Mrs. Cornforth on April 14, 1967 in Lindsay, On-



**ELLIOT ELMER — by Jack Elliot**

Early in the spring of 1934 Dad loaded up all the machinery on a hay rack and grain tank for a move to a farm in the Aurora district west of Leedale. Accompanying him on the trip was his brother-in-law, Lou Hicks. Both men drove four horse outfits and trailed another team on the grain boxes. They cooked and slept outside but had binder canvasses to make shelter if rain did

Dad and Mother decided to leave the farm they had bought in 1925, eight miles east of High River. Drought and grasshoppers, along with the depression made them think that a move to a homestead would be no worse choice.

Dad, Charles Elmer Layfayette Elliott, was born in 1890 at Burford, Ontario, and Mother, Ruby Pearl Hicks, was born in 1892 near Sarnia, Ontario. Dad came with his folks to settle west of High River in 1906, and Mother's folks settled just south of High River in 1906. Mother and Dad were married at High River in 1916. There were three children born there by 1922. Charlie, Jack and Gordon. Shortly after Gordon was born the folks moved to Sarnia, Ontario where Dad worked for Imperial Oil in the surrounding oil fields. In 1925 they moved back to High River and the farm they bought. While in Ontario, a fourth boy was born to the family, Walter.

Immediately after school was out in 1934, Mother along with two boys started the trip of trailing 15 head of cattle, accompanied by a team, Bennett wagon, and all the camping gear on the same 200 mile route that Dad had taken earlier that spring. As far as Calgary Jack and Gordon were with their mother, but from Calgary to Leedale, Gordon and Walter had the trailing chore. Most of the trip was blessed with good weather. Every day there was the constant problem of cattle along, or on, the road getting mixed with our herd. On two occasions the horses broke loose and tried to go home. The trip took 12 days. From Calgary north the pasture on the road sides was quite good, but on the whole trip it took a lot of foot work to keep the cattle moving along.

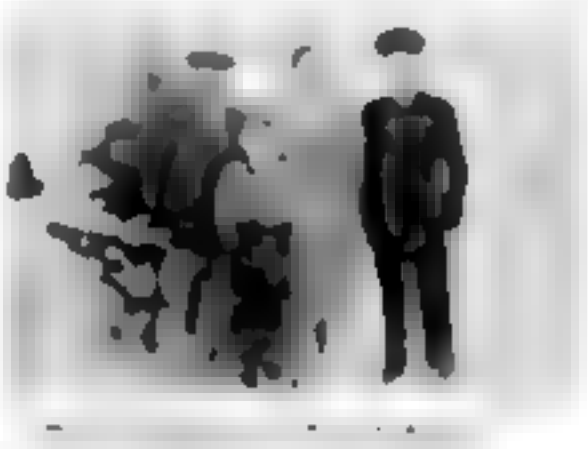
The summer of 1934 was abnormally dry at our new home. Dad had the Wallace farm rented for that year. The hay crop that year was very poor or none existent. Part of the cattle herd was sold for what little could be realized in the hopes of being able to winter the cows and calves. The change from the prairie to bush for the cattle and horses took its toll and many did not live to see the grass next spring. There was shortage of good feed along with shortage of money, that was the lot of homesteading in the mid thirties.

Gordon and Walter went to Aurora school that first year. There was a very large enrollment for one teacher to handle. Most every quarter was occupied by a homesteader in 1933-34. Many of the homesteads were heavy bush land. With few livestock and no crop land most of the homesteaders got jobs in saw mills or working for neighbors. The highest wage was about $1 a day. Most of the jobs were at the rate of $5 to $15 per month with board. With the long hours spent working outside and much of it in the cold, it made a person appreciate the end of a long day. The crackling log fire, a satisfying if not fancy meal, family, friends and companionship were the essence of living and hope for the future.

Jobs in the summer often entailed leaving the district for the prairie to get a little better pay and steadier work. Some of these trips were probably partly wonderlust from being teen agers. Most years we came back in time for harvest. During the 30's I hauled bundles for Tom Cummings, Harry Thomas, Feilx and Elmer Mathews, Jervel Maddox and Artie and Stanley Hollingsworth. Those threshing excursions, aside from the 11 hour days did give us a chance to meet many farmers, and get better acquainted with the district. It's surprising, but most of the farmers kept their daughters pretty busy while the threshers were around. The hard work didn't stop the hilarity of finding a barley bundle for a bed partner or a greased outhouse seat for after dark use. (I did hear rumors that the gentleman of the house had made the first trip to the outhouse and not the daughter though.

In the winter of 1934-35 a shining star started over the horizon that gave most everybody a little more hope. A Social Credit group was formed at Aurora that held meetings every two weeks followed by a dance. The school was crowded for every event. There was lots of discussion at every meeting along with lots of expectation. About the time the meeting was over the refreshments would arrive. It helped get the dance off to a good start as well as kept it going to the late hours of the morning. The dollar paid for the bottle seemed a small price to pay. The music was supplied by Ival and Earl Johnston, Teddy Evernden, the Lyons' family, as well as other musicians who happened to come through the district.

In the summer of 1935 our youngest brother, Ronald, was born. We were in the process of building a house on dad's homestead where good



building logs were easy to come by. The lumber came from logs taken to Lawton's mill where they were sawed on a share or cash basis. We moved to the homestead in the spring of 1936 after living the previous winter in the hip roofed Johnson house that was owned then by Wilson Cox. NW 35

January of 1936 will be remembered as one of the coldest experienced. The thermometer hovered at or below -40 F. about —30 C) for three weeks. It barely got to 30 or 40 degrees below minus 40 C) in the day time. It took most of the time to just haul wood and buck it up for stove lengths. Trips out to haul feed and get groceries meant really dressing warmly and doing a lot of

was none existent in the winter. The narrow gauge sleigh tracks over the snow drifts were not for tires to follow. Anti freeze and vehicle heaters were unheard of.

CHARLIE went back to High River and stayed with his grandparents the Hicks. At Christmas 1935 he came in to see us but left immediately to attend the Texas Boys Parliament at the University in Edmonton. Charlie worked in Penticton and High River until he went into the Air Force in 1941 where he trained as a radar technician. He was married to Jean Arton of Calgary in 1942. On the way to go overseas he contacted pneumonia while in Halifax, so he never got overseas. Jean joined him a little later and he spent the rest of the war years on the

Charlie went to U.B.C. after the war and completed his electrical engineering. He has worked with Westinghouse at Hamilton since 1949, and is due to retire in July 1978. Charlie and Jean have two daughters, Caroline, who married Randy Kowalski and lives in Hamilton, and Sharon married Joe Codispodi and lives in Calgary.

I Jack am the writer of this story and the rest of my history follows in a separate article.

GORDON. In June of 1939 tragedy struck our family, when our brother Gordon, along with his friend Edgar Robinson, were both killed in an accident near Penticton B.C.

WALTER was the only one of our family attending school at Aurora after 1936. In the 1938-39 term Walter worked at Trenholms' (a mile south of Leedale), and went to high school at Leedale. He rode a small white mule to school and out home on weekends. That mule's head was only on the right end occasionally. The next year Walter stayed home and rode a bike, or horse, as conditions dictated. That year he had Oliver Misner, Steve Johnson and Doreen Mason to share the long trip. It was a ride of 9 miles daily plus several gates to open. One morning he left home at 4 a.m. and pedal biked to Calgary where he worked until he joined the Navy in 1942. He saw a lot of duty on the high seas. Most of his time was spent on convoy duty in the Atlantic but he was taken off that long enough to take part in the Allied landing in North Africa, Sicily and the D Day landing in Normandy. After the war he settled in Calgary and married Mary Lehto of Barons.

For years Walter did cost and payroll accounting for Conforce in Calgary. Then he changed jobs in about 1970 and is now with Dome Petroleum. Walter and Mary have two daughters, Wendy, a school teacher and Judy who is in Junior High.

The folks stayed on the farm until 1950 at which time Ronald had most of his public schooling at Aurora. The farm was sold to Richard Harriman and the folks and Ronald moved to Red Deer.

RONALD finished his schooling in Red Deer and worked for the city for a couple of years. He joined the Air Force in 1959 and has completed training as a navigator, radar controller, and pilot. He spent the last six months of 1965 on a tour of duty in Egypt as a staff pilot on the Canadian Peace Keeping force. He has had numerous moves and is now stationed in Winnipeg as a staff pilot. Ron married an Ottawa girl in 1962. He and Pat have two sons and a daughter.

After the folks moved to Red Deer, mother worked as a seamstress at the P.T.S. for seven years and dad did janitor work at their church. Upon retiring in 1958 they moved to the Twilight Cottages. Dad passed away in 1961. Mother moved again in 1967 to the Centennial Court. Mother passed away in 1974. They are both buried at the Red Deer cemetery.

While living at the Kinsmen Twilight Cottages and Centennial Court, the folks really enjoyed their many new friends and old acquaintances.

**ELMER JACK**

The beginnings of my history are in the previous Elmer Elliot story, now I shall continue with the next 40 years of my story. 1937-1977.

In the summer of 1937 I worked out and bought a team of horses. That winter I stayed home and cut posts and wood for sale. I was also able to cut and sell telephone poles for the Leedale to Rumbey telephone line, and I donated 20 poles to the group as a sort of line share. From 1939 on it meant going to the saw mills as the tamarack was all gone on section 37.

In the fall of '38 Bill Gardner and myself rode the freight to Penticton B.C. I stayed and worked at a bush camp that winter. Bill, along with my brother Gordon, and Sidney Cornforth who were both out there too, came back to Leedale just before Christmas. Early in June of 1939, Paul Heringer, Edgar Robinson, and my brother Gordon were on their way to Penticton in an accident between Summerland and Penticton, Gordon and Edgar were killed. I came back home with Paul immediately.

That fall war broke out in Europe. The war for the time being seemed far removed. Gradually the war became more real as the men started to join the services. National registration was held in the summer of 1940. The continuing news

of a worsening Allied situation gradually drew our lives more into the war effort

. worked at Lawton's mill bush camp in the winters of 39-40 and 40-41 Their mill had been in the Aurora district on Cox's land until about 1937 NE 26 Lawton's mill had operated one winter before I worked there at the new location, that was approximately four miles west of McTighe's. The two winters spent at Lawton s were not too rewarding, about a dollar a day I worked for Stanley Hollingsworth and Ted Pimm as they had the bush contract. The cross cut and swede saws were the order of the day, with all the skidding and hauling being done by horses

The bunkhouse banter and a
making the long cold days go f
was quite eager to go to the camps in the fall, but when the warmer days of spring beckoned it didn't take long to break camp. Many lifelong friendships were made at these camps, that along with the memories will not be forgotten

In the spring of 1941 I was working for Stanley Hollingsworth hauling logs from the McTighe bush to the mill when we weren't stuck However, the bush dried up fast and we were making good time until that fateful day of April 26. (Thinking of it now I believe Stanley and I would have been just as well playing in the bush with the squirrels, instead of hauling logs to be burned up at another spot). I will not dwell on the fire of that fateful day other than to repeat the words of Jack Collingson who stood with me in the McTighe s blacksmith shop and watched it burning on three sides. Jacks words were, "This is worse than sitting in a submarine at the bottom of the Dardanelles and having the Turks depth charging us during the first World War

I went over to Jones' mill and fought fire for two weeks after that The wages were 25¢ an hour less board of $1 a day In spite of that, I did make $5 a day a couple of times when conditions got a little hot. The Saturday night revellers that were conscripted and trucked to Jones' to fight fire were about the worst equipped army of fire fighters that were ever assembled. There were about 120 men at Jones that Sunday morning that missed church service. A couple of days later we were down to about 20 men. We heard rumours that there wasn't an able bodied man to be found in Rimbey the next Saturday night

About this time things were coming to a head pretty fast. I had lost all my clothes at McTighe's fire and conscription calls were coming fast They gave the offer of clothes supplied plus $1 30 a day When my call came in July, I willingly went and joined the air force. active on the second day. I was among the first at Edmonton Manning Depot From there I went to Lethbridge, a new station that was Number 3 B & G. in the Commonwealth Air Training plan. In the service I was an aero engine mechanic and the work was really enjoyable. Many lifelong and rewarding aquaintances were made while in camp I was trained at the time the big air force build up was being made overseas

With the hope of going overseas gone, Florence Richardson and I were married on May 3, 1943 at my folks' house on the homestead Rev Habermel conducted the service and Bruce Johnson and Florence's younger sister Edna stood up for us. We left immediately for Lethbridge as my furlough was running out Florence's history is in the Ed Richardson s story that she wrote

I was stationed at Lethbridge until January 1 1945, at which time the station was closed From there it was No. 3 S.F T S. at Calgary where I got my discharge later in 1945

We went up to Jones' mill in 1945 and I drove a cat there until we got a farm in the fall of 1949 The land, W½ 36-41 5 is still our home. We bought it from Ralph and Margaret Johnson who were retiring to British Columbia Johnsons had got their home quarter from Jim Monohan in 1937 and later bought the quarter across the road from Thomas s in 19

We have spent the last thirty years on the farm. We went into the dairy business, and now my second son Milton has joined me in partnership, also my two youngest, Johnny and Dixie. work with us

In the summer of 1976 we had the misfortune to have a disastrous fire which destroyed our barns and milking equipment We moved our cows to a farm east of Leedale and milked there twice a day until we could build new facilities again on our own farm. We have enlarged our set up and now milk on the average of 75 cows. The milk is trucked out every other day to Red Deer

Florence and I have raised a family of three sons and three daughters and we have six

GRANT was born at Eckville, May 29, 1945 He took most of his schooling at Aurora. On September 25, 1971 he married Lorraine Martin at Hespero. Grant works at the Gulf Gas Plant at Rocky They have three sons, Greg. Teddy and

MILTON was born at Eckville. October 18, 1946. He took a few years of schooling at Aurora then finished at Leslieville and David Thompson schools Milton got married on February 20, 1970 to Patricia Levinsky in Rocky. They are farming with us

TERRY was born at Eckville, November 12 1952, started school at Aurora and continued on at Leslieville and David Thompson Terry started doing hospital work at Deerborne in Red Deer after finishing school. Then she went to Pouce Coupe B.C. and worked in an auxiliary hospital for three years. On November 13, 1976 she married Frank Wolfinger of Toms Lake They have since moved to Prince George where Frank is attending university

BEVERLY was born at Rimbey, July 2, 1955. went to school at Leslieville, and graduated from David Thompson. Like her older sister, Bev also

started on ward work at Deerhome, and then worked in the sport and recreation department. She is now program co-ordinator at the Michener Sport Center in Red Deer.

JOHNNY was born in Rimbey, October 20, 1956, he took his schooling in Lesliеville and David Thompson High, and is living at home and working in the dairy business.

DIXIE our youngest daughter was born in Rimbey March 4, 1963. She went to Lesliеville school and is presently taking Grade 9 at David

Before Florence and I went on holidays to Hamilton Ontario in mid November 1977 she sat down and wrote the story of her family in this area, the Ed Richardsons. Unfortunately this was to be her last story. While having a wonderful time she took sick on December 4 at my brother's place in Hamilton and passed away on December 9, 1977 at St. Joseph's Hospital.

We had been married almost 35 years. She was really looking forward to the compiling of this book on the history of the district she knew and loved so well.

**ELLIOT, M**

I Milton Elliot am the second son of Jack and Florence Elliot. On February 20, 1970, I married Patricia Levinsky at Rocky Mountain House. We have three children, Trevor Allan, Shayne Edward, and Tracy Elaine.

After a few years working out on seismic rigs and soil testing outfits that took me all over the country I went as far north as to where I washed my hands in the Arctic Ocean. I was just like a gypsy and always away from home so I decided I was going to make a change.

As I liked the farm very much I decided to go into partnership with my father which I did. I am now living on the SW 36-41-5-W5, (the former Thomas quarter) across the road from my folk's place. We are in the dairy business and are known as J and M Dairy.

**THE ERSKINE FAMILY — by Robert Erskine**

Because of the drought and depression of the "Hungry Thirties", the Erskine family moved from Oyen, Alberta, to greener pastures in the Carlos district SW 13-41-5-W5 north of Lesliеville in May 1934.

The father Samuel Erskine, born of Scottish parents on the Island of Antigua, died in 1937. The mother born in northern Scotland, (nee Hannah MacKay) died in 1953.

Jessie, their eldest child, was born in 1912 in Calgary. She married Russel Pendergast and they have two sons, Duane and Bruce. Jessie taught school for many years at Lone Deer and Rocky Mountain House. The Pendergasts are now retired, living at Lanzville, B.C. on Vancouver Island. Bruce Pendergast's son is the first great-grandchild born in the family.

Robert (Bob) was born in 1914, also in Calgary. He is the only one of the family remaining in the Carlos area. He has worked for some 25 years at developing varieties of plants for cold areas. Selections have been made of apple, crabapple, sandcherry, black, white and American currants, gooseberries, chokecherry, raspberry, and strawberry plants. Numerous rose and lily varieties have been selected, and a few potatoes, as well as a number of other plants.

Hannah was born at Oyen in 1916. Jessie and Hannah were both awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Bronze Medal on graduating from Grade VIII at Oyen. Hannah became a registered nurse and served overseas in the Armed Forces. After the war she received her M.A. degree from the University of British Columbia and a Ph. D. from the University of Illinois, U.S.A. She now lives in Washington D.C., U.S.A.

William (Bill) was born in 1918 at Oyen. During the Second World War he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and trained as a pilot and navigator. He served as navigator with the same crew and plane on 33 bombing missions over Germany. He married Doris Gildes. They live at Toronto and have three daughters, Denise, Lynne and Cathy.

Rosina (Rose) is the youngest of five, born in 1923 at Oyen. She married Richard (Dick) Brookes. Their two children are Robert (Bob) and Linda. Linda is a registered nurse, working at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House. She is married to Barry Balch, a partner in the Link Hardware at Rocky Mountain House. Rose has taught school for many years at Rocky Mountain House.

**GARDNER, WM. — by Eunice Gardner**

William Riley Gardner, better known as "Bill" was born April 6 1913, at Wittenburg (Leedale) to the late Bill and Sara Gardner. His father died on July 4, 1921, when Bill was eight years old. His mother was in failing health and went to Washington U.S.A., where she was told she could be treated. She took Bill with her. They were there for two years, returning to Leedale in 1924. She passed away December 29, 1926. Shortly after, Bill went to live with his uncle, Tom Gardner where he stayed until he bought his own land in 1949. This was a quarter of C.P.R. land, the SW 31-41-4-W5. He still worked with his uncle during the spring seeding, summer haying and fall harvesting, until his uncle passed away in December 1950 at the age of 90 years.

Bill broke up much of his own land using an axe and horses. I believe it's safe to say he used horses longer than anyone for miles around. He broke many horses in his day both to ride and to harness. He also did a lot of castrating, of his own stock and the neighbors, right from tom cats to stallions, without charge.

During the hungry '30's, while most people were eating rabbits, he was eating deer and moose meat. The first wild game he shot was a big deer with a 22 short, at the age of 14 years.

The big game is getting pretty scarce due to good oil roads and road runners

On May 4, 1955, after putting in many miles and burning a lot of gas, he married the former Eunice Odland, youngest daughter of Jake and Lena Odland, of Bingley-Sleepy Valley district and they started raising a family. He wanted a son to name after his uncle Tom. On March 2, 1956 the first "Tom" was born, but it turned out to be a girl. They named her Helen Brenda, after Helen Gardner, Bill's youngest sister. On April 6, 1957, (on Bill's birthday) another "Tom" was born. They named this one Wilma Ellen. Wilma after William and Ellen being his mother's middle name. Finally, on August 2nd 1959, Thomas William did put in his appearance, therefore, they decided to leave well enough alone.

The three children took their schooling at the Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High School. As soon as they left school they went out to work. Helen got a job at the Grand Hotel in Rimbey. Tom's first job was driving a road packer on road construction, and Wilma well she got married — to Michel Fortin, formerly of Ontario. They went to work on a dairy farm in the Lacombe area.

**GRAY, ARNOLD — by Wanda Gray**

Arnold Wade is the second oldest son of Gordon and Anna Gray. He was born on August 3, 1954 at Rocky Mountain House, Alta. He lived with his parents on their farm which was previously owned by his grandfather, (William

Arnold took his elementary schooling at Leslieville and his junior high at David Thompson. Everyday he had at least an hours bus ride to and from school. One day, however he didn't feel like going to school and his mother had to chase him down the lane with a stick! Arnold grew up like any other typical country boy, always into mischief.

Arnold's dad drove the government grader many years, for the community. One day, Gordon left the grader running and Arnold decided to play on it. Well, to his suprise he accidentally hit the gear shift and it started moving! He got so scared that he jumped off and ran to the out house to hide. In the mean time, Gordon looked out the window and saw both the grader going down the road and Arnold just a running. All of Arnolds efforts were unnecessary for shortly after, his dad showed him how to run it.

Arnold moved to Eckville to attend high school, where he lived with his aunt Viola Johnston. He worked at various jobs until he moved to Red Deer.

While Arnold was in Red Deer he worked for his brother in-law hauling house trailers. He had the job of driving the pilot car. Shortly after, Arnold met his bride-to-be Wanda Arlene Bunch.

Wanda is the daughter of Walter and Vivian Bunch. She was born on August 19, 1954 at Edmonton, Alta. Wanda grew up in the Eckville district where she attended elementary school. She lived with her parents on their farm until they moved to Red Deer in 1964. There she took her junior and senior high school. In 1970 her parents moved to the Athambra area and now reside in the Lesieville district. Wanda remained in Red Deer working at a variety of jobs before she met Arnold Gray.

Arnold and Wanda were married on August 26, 1972 at Rocky Mountain House. They bought a house trailer and lived at Arnold's dads farm for a few months. During the time they were there, Arnold worked for the neighbor farming. That same year they moved to Red Deer where they lived in Mayberry's Trailer Court for nearly two

In the spring of 1974, they returned to his father's farm. There they lived in their trailer while Arnold was employed with Kidd Construc

On June 23, 1974 Gordon Gray passed away at the age of 62. They remember him with love, and the respect he deserved as a kind hearted father.

Arnold's mother, Anna Gray moved to Eckville and sold the farm to Arnold and Wanda. They then sold their trailer and moved into the house where they are now residing.

Arnold and Wanda now have a daughter Shonastee Lynette. She was born on April 2, 1977, in Calgary, Alta. Shonastee is both a joy and a delight to her parents.

Arnold is still employed by Kidd Construction as a heavy equipment operator. They are renting out their farmland to their neighbor

**GRAY CLARENCE**

Clarence, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gray, was a small child when his parents moved to the Carlos area in 1912. He attended school at Washington Heights.

In 1937 he married Lois Pendergast, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pendergast.

They built a log house on a homestead, in what later became the Lone Deer School district. The land was the N.W. 30-41-5-W5, and is now owned by Bill Whitely. The summers were spent on the homestead and the winters at various logging camps or saw mill.

In 1956 they moved to the Garth district west of Rocky Mountain House and a few years later to the Ferrier district. Clarence worked for Alberta Forest Service on road construction and maintenance in the Clearwater Forest Reserve for approximately 20 years.

Clarence and Lois (Bon) have two sons — Ronald and William. In 1960 RONALD married Patricia Lindsay of the Aurora district. They have one daughter Sandra, and one son Allen.

WILLIAM married Kay Martin of Eckville in 1970. They have one son, Kevin, and one daughter Wendy.

Ron and Bill and their families live in the Ferrier district, west of Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence and Bon continue to live in the Ferrier

**GRAY, WILLIAM HENRY — as told by Viola Gray Johnston**

In Ozark, Michigan William and Eleanor had fastened a canvas over the wagon box, and set out for Alberta Canada. We were living on an acreage at the time and my dad had worked as a river boat pilot and a sawyer My mother was a French Canadian, having been born in Quebec

In 1911, my father and mother packed up their belongings and their family of six children, and we boarded a train headed out to western Canada We arrived at Red Deer and the first year lived in the Poplar Ridge district, where one more son was born to the family

In 1912 another move was made this time to the Carlos district, where my parents would spend the rest of their lives. While at Carlos three more sons were born but two of these died in infancy, and are buried on the home farm

William Gray filed on the NE 17 41-5 W5. The land has now been in the Gray family for 65 years. My brother Gordon took over the farming from my dad and now Gordon's son, Arnold lives on the land

I remember that we moved from Red Deer to Carlos on a March day that was bitterly cold. We had a team and sleigh and drove, I believe, the whole distance in one long day's travel Our dad had fastened a canvass over the wagon box, and we had wrapped hot stones and placed these on the bottom of the sleigh box to give off warmth for the journey and we had a coal oil lantern that gave off a bit of warmth too

I remember the first night we arrived in the Carlos district I was a child of about five years of age. We spent that first night at the Jhalmar Ostrem home. Ostrems had a large family but somehow made room to shelter our big family too The next day we moved into the Nils Sat erlund house where we lived until we moved over to the McPherson's mill site, which was right near where our cabin would be built My dad worked at the mill and when it shut down for the summer my folks got to stay there

The most embarrassing moment of my whole life happened whilst we were living at the mill site that summer There was a little foot bridge across the creek and a lot of the older folks were crossing it. I ran along trying to follow my dad and I fell into the creek. Being at a mill site the water was covered with saw dust, and as I fell in I had my mouth open maybe ready to scream Anyway, I took in gobs of sawdust My brother in-law, John, quickly fished me out of the creek and I remember the folks laughing and laughing at me and I was so embarrassed. I suppose I did look silly all drenched and covered with sawdust I wonder if I reminded the folks of a doll all stuffed with sawdust as many of them were in those days

Our first garden was ploughed using a saddle horse and a cow we borrowed from a neighbor Fred Street At first my dad used to walk to Leslieville, about 11 or 12 miles one way and then carry home the groceries and other supplies in packs on his back For our size of family it certainly wasn't a small pack. Later he drove a team of oxen to town

I never remember being hungry In fact we always had a good variety of different kinds of food except for one time For three days once we were down to potatoes and cranberries, but us kids made a real joke of it at the time. Though perhaps our mother may have worried about it As the bowls went around the table we'd say "Do you want potatoes with your cranberries or will you have cranberries with the potatoes this time?"

I remember my mother used to cut the tops off vinegar bottles to make them into jars to preserve fruit and jam in. She would take a piece of cardboard to fit the top, cover it with cloth dipped in flour and water paste then wax the whole thing so it was airtight Worked quite well

Nelson, Earl Gordon, Clarence Florence and myself all went to school at Washington Heights When Miss Lees was the teacher in 1920 she felt we should have a hot drink at noon. Each family brought a nickel to school and we bought cocoa We took it in turns bringing milk to use in it Each kid took a turn making the cocoa and some

were definitely not destined to be cooks. We eventually began to loathe the thought of another pot of some of the dish watery stuff that was served up. When Miss Cline was the teacher we had some hot lunches, too. Often the boys would catch rabbits in the schoolyard. We girls would bring vegetables from home, and presto, we'd cook up a pot of rabbit stew or bunny soup!

I remember the "lard pail" lunch buckets, the pride and joy of every school kid. You scratched your initials on the pail to be sure you got the right lunch. Charlie Ambury was going to school at the time, and his pail had the initials "C A" on so one of the kids scratched a "T" making it read "CAT". Then unbeknown to Charlie, the kids caught a mouse and put it in one of his sandwiches for a joke. A great idea!, except Charlie didn't eat all of his lunch that day, he took it home. In those days nothing was wasted and the lunch you didn't eat at school was served on the table at night. Still not too much of a problem, except, the Ambury's happened to have company at the supper table. Can you feature the embarrassment, and the anger at finding a mouse sandwich on the table? Mr. Ambury was so furious he made a real case out of it which involved the teacher, the kids and the school board. What a bomb shell that simple act of the letter "T" had created!

Mr. and Mrs. Gray's oldest three sons, Otto, Walter and Floyd, each took up homesteads in the Carlos area, but eventually they returned to the States to live. The next two, Nelson and Roy, went to live in Montana. Nelson married Nora Case of Lesliеville. Nora's parents were the first couple ever married in Lesliеville. Nelson and Nora moved to Missoula, Montana, and so did Roy and Floyd. The youngest three sons, Earl, Gordon and Clarence, all took up homesteads in the Carlos district, married and raised their families here.

There were three daughter, Irene, Florence and Viola. Irene married John Lewis, and they came to homestead in the Carlos area, but eventually moved to Ohio to live. She is now retired and living in California. Florence married Bill Gawden, a miner who worked at Nordegg. They went to live at Rosedale, near the mines in the Drumheller area. I. Viola, married a neighbor boy, Ival Johnston, and lived in the Carlos district until we retired to the town of Eckville in 1965.

My mother passed away after a lengthy illness in 1937. My dad died as the result of a highway traffic accident in 1943, as he was on his way to visit with his sons in Montana. He was then 73 years of age, had lived a long and rewarding life, and watched each of his 11 children start out on life's journey. He had also had time to enjoy the company of many of his

**HEMBERY GEORGE — as told by Bill G——**

George Hembery lived on the SE 36-41-5 (Lee Hollingsworth's land). He was a rough Montana fellow who carried and used a black leather snake whip. He was first to be on hand if a neighbor was in need. He was a butcher by trade and sold meat. He had a very young wife who died while they were living here, then George moved to Peace River.

**HICKS, L. — by Mrs. L. A. Hicks**

In the spring of 1934 Lewis Allen Hicks and his wife moved to a homestead in Carlos country way back to no-man's land, or almost no one lived near us.

We came up from High River. Previously Lew had worked in the oil fields at Turner Valley.

My brother, Elmer Elliot and his family had come up to live in the Aurora district also. We settled on the S.W. 7-42-5, the quarter directly north of George Grey, and there we had some memorable experiences.

We lived in a big tent that first summer while our log house was being built. One day there was a very sudden rain storm. The rain came down so fast (before the tent could be really wet) with the result that the rain came right through. We quickly rolled up our mattress and covered it. Then I got out an umbrella under which we sheltered. When the rain stopped there was a dishpan full of water on top of the cupboard (it held our candle). The only dry places were in the oven, under the table and inside the cupboard.

We got into our log house before winter but lived on a dirt floor with only furniture to act as partitions. The roof was covered with tar paper. One spring day I smelled a funny smell. It was the tar paper burning around the roof chimney jack. I had some cans lined up intending to get some seeds planted. These I took outside with two pails of water, dipped them into the water then threw up on the roof. Enough water splashed around the fire to deaden it a bit. Then I climbed the ladder which was at the back of the house, and finished extinguishing the fire.

Another time as I started out to bring in our few head of cattle from the open pasture we had no fences. I noticed a big cloud in the west which suggested I needed to hurry. There were some other cattle pasturing on the other side of a creek near us and that day they had come across to our area. So when I tried to round up ours (I was on foot) they stuck up their tails and off they went with ours following them. After some fruitless attempts to get our cattle headed for home, I decided to give up and go home. But — where was home? It was all open country — no houses — no roads. Then I remembered the cloud. So I tried to keep it in the rear and thought if I could find the creek I could get home. After some time I finally came on a trail and decided to follow it. It turned out to be the trail between our place and our neighbor to the north — and I got home just as the rain started. My husband, at that time had a trucking job picking up cream to take to a

creamery at Bluffton. He would go one day and return the next. Well, he was on one of those trips when I was out after the cattle, so had I not gotten home, he wouldn't have known where to look for me.

The ground out in our area didn't seem to be very productive, at least, not the part we planted so we decided to leave the homesteading business for others and we moved to a home which we rented from Vancel Misner and lived there for awhile until we finally moved in to Bluffton in the spring of 1937. And so ends our experience in Carlos country.

In 1943 we moved up to Pouce Coupe, B.C. where I am still residing. Lou passed away on January 10, 1967 as the result of an accident. We have one son Stewart, who married Marg Price and has three children.

**HOLLINGSWORTH, L. — by D. and L. Hollingsworth**

Lee was born in the Gimlet district on the former Perry place, (which is now Bill Houston's). Lee went to several schools, Aurora, Gimlet, Faraway, Eckville and Sylvan Lake. The winters were spent out at the saw mills.

In 1953 Lee went to Nanton and spent the summer haying. In 1955 he rode horseback from Aurora to Coleman via Nordegg and Kootenay Plains. He stayed in the cabin on the White Rabbit creek on the Plains then continued on down to Coleman, then north to the Twin City cabin where Old Barb Wire Johnny once lived. Four summers he was in the south haying on the A 7 Ruey and Streeter ranches. While at Streeters he helped train Brahma bulls in to the Calgary Stampede. These were the years Ivan, Joe and Ben Cornforth, Art Hopp, Don Bryanton, Bruce Johnson, Lawrence Richardson and Bud Robinson all used to head south for summer work on the ranches.

For several summers Lee hauled gravel around Rimbey, Eckville, Red Deer and Hanna.

In 1956 Lee and Doreen Oliver were married at the Gimlet Missionary Church. Doreen was born in Innisfail, Alberta and went to school at Pine View (west of Bowden). In 1948 the Oliver family moved to Lesliеville.

Lee and Doreen have four children, Monty, Darcy, Angela and Rodney. All the children have attended Leslieville and David Thompson schools, and Monty and Darcy also went to school in Rimbey. The family are living on their farm in the Aurora district.

The Hollingsworths have always been interested in rodeo. In 1967 and the following two years Lee donated rodeo stock for the Gimlet stampede. Darcy has ridden in rodeos from White Court to Innisfail, and Rodney is now starting the circuit. Monty has driven chariots in races from points as far north as Vermilion south to Medicine Hat. Lee and Doreen have served as time keepers at various rodeos and Lee has judged pony chuck wagon races for four years.

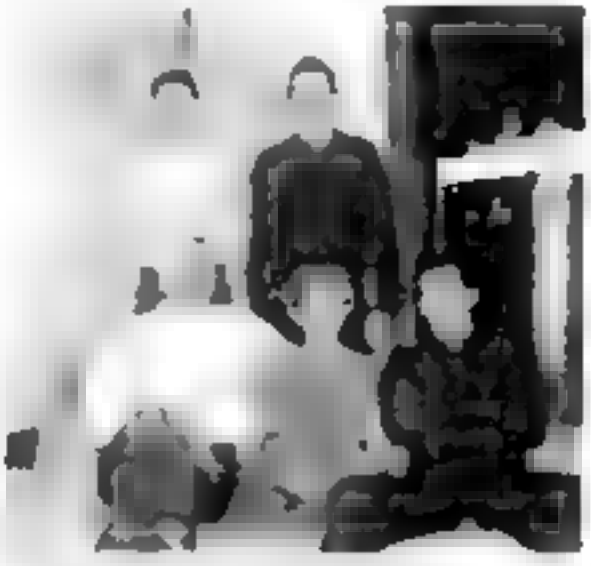
**HOLLINGSWORTH, S. — by B. Hollingsworth**

Stanley Hollingsworth was born in Stettler in 1911. He moved with his family to the Leedale area in 1919. He married Adaline Misner. Adaline was always known as "Babe" and she had come to the Leedale area with her family from Alliance, Alberta.

Stan and Babe's home place was the SE 36-41-5. Stanley worked on a gravel crusher for many summers and worked in the mills during the winter. In 1945-46 they helped to run a restaurant in Sylvan Lake.

Stan and Babe had three sons and one daughter, also 12 grandchildren. GILBERT married Lorraine Oliver, lives near Leedale and has a family of five. EARL married Anna Gra[illegible]

Four Generations of Hollingsworths, Stanley, Dick, Lee, and [illegible]



[illegible]

lives near Rocky Mountain House and has three children. LEE married Doreen Oliver lives on the farm in the Aurora area and has four children. FAYE passed away in 1962 at the age of 43 years.

Stanley died in 1966 and Adaline in 1969.

**HUHN FAMILIES — Information from Mrs. Campbell**

August Huhn, his wife and son Harry and grandson Raymond, originally came from East Germany. They purchased the Jim Pendergast quarter SE 22-41-5. They were good gardeners interested in improving their surroundings. They had apparently had a very productive farm in Germany but had been forced to leave everything behind. They came to this farm in the early 1950s then sold, and lived in Leslieville for awhile. Mrs. Huhn passed away in Rimbey and August eventually moved to Stettler.

Eric Huhn, brother of August, and his wife and family, Dieder, Peter, Laura, Irene, and three more younger children lived on the NE 22 and also the SW 2. Another daughter Mary had stayed in Germany. Soon after leaving the district the family returned to Germany for a visit but came back to Canada and are living at

**JOHNSTON, IVAL — by Viola Johnston**

Ival Johnston was born in Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A., the eldest son of Mrs. Lillian Fizer. The family moved from Washington to the Stettler district, and then arrived in the Carlos country in 1912. Ival and his brother Earl have many interesting tales to tell of their school days at the Aurora School — including the big pots of oatmeal porridge Miss Lees cooked up for the morning lunch for her pupils.

Eventually Ival took up a homestead, SE 5-42-5-W5, and he, with his wife, the former Viola Gray, youngest daughter of the William Grays, lived on this land in the Aurora district for 36

Ival and Earl were avid hunters and excellent fishermen. We often went up to Medicine Lake to camp and fish for several days. The fish would be salted or smoked and would provide a tasty addition to the meals for months to come. We preserved moose, elk, and deer meat in sealers, and always had a good supply of canned wild berries for winter use as well as an abundance of them fresh during the berry-picking season. Cranberries and gooseberries were plentiful in the nearby swamp, and the surrounding hillsides produced buckets full of saskatoons, choke cherries and pincherries, as well as blueberries. One winter Ival and I shot rabbits to sell to a fox farm, and every other day we would have a sleigh box full to sell.

In 1941 a big fire occurred at McTighe's saw mill. Ival had been working there, but had come home prior to the fire in order to work on the farm. Reports were broadcast on the radio about the fire and we could see the reflection of flames in the sky. Joe Cornforth Sr. and I took two saddle horses and rode about 15 miles up into the area but finally the smoke became so thick that we had to turn back. My brother-in-law, Earl Johnston, and two other men eventually walked out, but Earl was badly burned, especially his hands. He was unable to work most of that summer until his burns healed. He lost all his clothing and the bedding that he and Ival had used at the mill, but he felt very lucky to have come out alive himself. My brother, Earl Gray and his family were all at the mill at this time, too, so you can imagine how worried all of us at home were.

When the first oil well was drilled in the Carlos area west of us Ival had the job of transporting the men the last five miles into the rig site since the roads were so muddy that cars and trucks could not travel. Ival used the tractor and a wagon or stoneboat for the job.

Ival had a threshing machine and did a lot of custom threshing for the neighbors around the district until about 1963. During the winters he often did custom sawing, and often took his mill out west of Rocky Mountain House to saw logs.

We left the farm in 1965 and moved to Eckville, where, the following day, my husband Ival, passed away. I keep busy with my handicrafts, as I enjoy doing creative projects. I also enjoy travel, my gospel work, and the companionship of my many friends in the Eckville

Ival and I have seven children, 26 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Our son Lester married Mary Connors of the Carlos district. They farm in the Leedale area and have a family of five children. Dorothy married Erwin Heringer. They farmed a half section west of our farm at Aurora for nearly 20 years, but now live in Eckville where Erwin is employed by the school division. They have a family of three children. Leroy is married to Marjie Brown of Leedale. He owns construction equipment, lives in the Rocky Mountain House area, and has a family of six. Lenore is married to Gene Steele lives in Calgary, and has three children. Eleanor married Don Evernden of Rimbey and also lives in Calgary. She has twin daughters and a son. Glen married Gail Casey, lives in the Gimlet district, and has a family of three. (Three other children died in a car accident in 1965. Lyal married Sheila Kendrew of Eckville. lives in Rimbey, and has three children.

**LINDOAT, CHARLIE AND PEARL**

Charlie and Pearl homesteaded the NE 6-41-5 in October 1929, selling to Lewis (Chief) Alberta in 1941. They had four children, Irene, Orville, Verna, Hazel. They went to Drumheller after leaving the district.

**LOWE, P — by Ramona Stewart**

The Percy Lowe family purchased section 35-41-5 W5, six miles west of Leedale, and moved

there in November 1951 from Blackfalds, Alber

The family consisted of Percy, Verona Melvin 16, Ramona 11, Kenneth 7, and David 4

The roads weren't too good and most people travelled by team and wagon, although we had an old three ton truck that was pretty cold in the winter time. When we required our mail we walked two and one half miles to the Carlos post office for it in the winter or in the summer we rode the horse "Spud". We borrowed the old pony from Jack Elliott in the summer of 1952 and had the use of her for three years. Ramona and Spud were inseparable and had many good times together. During the years spent on the farm in the Carlos area the children went to school at Aurora where Mrs. Beckett and Mrs. Emily Ames were the two teachers. The year of 1956-57 Ramona went to David Thompson school for Grade 10. That was the year the school was built.

Percy Lowe farmed the section of land he owned, and he also had a sawmill where he sawed lumber for several years. He had a caterpillar and cleared land for himself and some of the neighbors.

Verona milked cows, and when necessary worked on the sawmill, picked berries, and had a big garden. She was a member of the Ladies Sewing Circle and she was often busy with community picnics, bazaars, pie socials, Christmas concerts and so forth.

We had skating parties in the winter time, on the beaver dams, over by Art Robinsons, and Carl Skorstengaards. We often walked the three or four miles to go for the evenings fun, and perhaps a weiner roast. One night in particular that is recalled, Melvin and Ramona walked over to Freitags about three miles in the winter and helped Albert, Robert, Ruth and Irene to wall paper the living room. We had a real ball before the evening was over. I often wonder how Mrs. Freitag ever put up with us, in those days but we certainly had fun.

In 1956 MELVIN purchased land north of the Aurora School where he resided until just recently when he sold it and bought an acreage west of Rimbey.

RAMONA, went to work in the Eckville Drug Store in July 1957. In 1959 she married Lawrence Stewart and moved south west of Rocky Mountain House where they farm in the Strachan district. They have two daughters, Laurie age 16 and Carrie 12 years.

KENNETH married Annie Nothoff of Eckville in December, 1962 and they now reside in Fort St. John, B.C., where Ken is a cat operator. They have four children, Debby 14, Robert 13, Sandra 12, and Tammy 10.

DAVID married Beverly Casey on July 27 1968 and they reside in Calgary with two children Tracy 6 and Troy 4. David has his own trucking and winch work business.

VIRGINIA ARLENE was born in March, 1955 when the family lived at Aurora. She died in July 1955. Percy Lowe passed away in July 1966.

Verona has resided in Lacombe since 1958, where she worked in the hospital for many years. She then worked in the Senior Citizens Lodge for two years and also in the nursing home where she was head housekeeper. Verona resigned in December 1972 when she married Eugene Lindsay, and they still live in Lacombe. Eugene works for Mels Paving Ltd. of Red Deer.

**S. A. LYONS FAMILY — by Fern Wolney**

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Lyons came to the Leedale District in the early 1920's. Mrs. Lyons came from South Dakota and Mr. Lyons from Iowa both in the United States. They purchased the NW 31-41-4 W5 from the Canadian Pacific Railway for the sum of $1,013.15. According to the contract, payments were to start in four years time, and run for ten years. The last payment was to be made in 1936. Interest for this entire contract over a fourteen year period amounted to only $310.

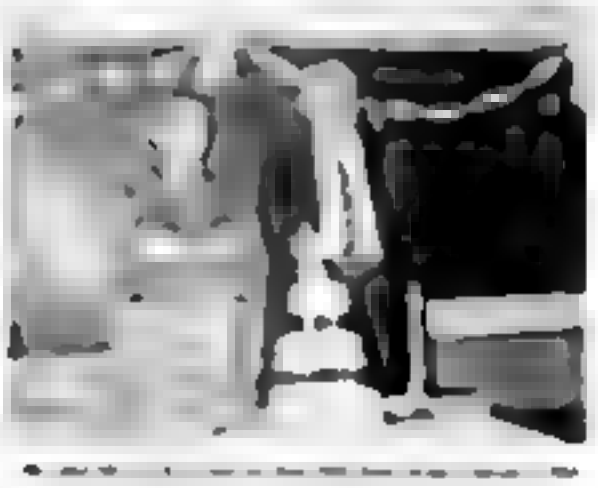
Mr. and Mrs. Lyons had a family of three sons and three daughters, all born in British Columbia except for Mary, who was born in Cantmore Alberta. Edith is now deceased.

Mr. Lyons, called "Lon" or "S. A." for short had the cream route west of Leedale from 1945 to 1964. He owned a 1928 Chevrolet truck which he used very often to take sick people to the hospital. Sometimes when he didn't have any gas he would go to a good neighbor and borrow enough to get the sick person to a hospital. Once he took Mrs. Heringer to hospital when there was no doctor to deliver her baby. He put a mattress and quilts into the back of the old truck, made her comfortable and got her there on time. He also had the experience of delivering a couple of babies where there was no doctor available. He took Charlie Elliot and Mrs. William Lees to hospital for appendix operations, Eileen Corn forth when she was very ill, and many others. He would also help take the school children to different school activities at Rocky Mountain House and at Leslieville.

The Lyons family were musical, and often played at dances at Aurora and at Faraway. During the winters Mr. Lyons often worked at Varty's and McTighe's sawmills. He was too proud to go on relief, but seemed to do a fair job of providing for his family during the hungry thirties. During the earlier years he drove the school van at Pine Lake. The van was a buggy pulled by horses.

Mrs. Lyons was a hard-working person and took care of the farm while he was away working. She enjoyed creating handmade quilts, and always had boxes of washed and carded wool ready for another quilt.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Aurora Hall in January, 1964. Mrs. Jack Elliott baked a wedding cake for the occasion. Mom and Dad en



.oyed visiting all the friends that came, and the singing, musical selections and the short dance which contributed to their pleasure on this special anniversary. They lived on their farm until 1966 and then had an auction sale and retired to Kamloops, B.C. Mr. Lyons passed away in 1970 and Mrs. Lyons in 1972.

**MANNIX, WILLIAM JOSEPH AND VERA MERLE**

William Joseph, son of William Henry and Elizabeth Jane Mannix was born at Okotoks, Northwest Territories, February 26, 1903, and moved with his folks to the Bingley district in 1906. He took part of his schooling at the Beaver Flats school.

Joe's first job was working for Frank Pet ford at the Valley Mill in 1916. He earned $2.50 for a 10 hour day and had to pay $1 per day room and board and $.03 towards compensation. He took the last board that came through the mill when it closed in 1956.

After the mill closed he worked for various farmers in the district until the fall of 1921 when he went to the United States to work in the wheat fields and picked apples before returning home. Joe worked for many lumber companies through the years. Jim McKechnie, Varty's, Phoenix Northwest Tie and Timber, and McTighe.

Joe recalls his first trip through the Medicine River Valley in 1923. He was hired by Tom Skully for $7 a day to drive him, with team and cutter, to Leedale, then on to Gilby to pick up hides. They picked up at Louis Robinson's near Leedale, then spent the night at Hugh Lindsay's, who rented rooms for 35¢ a night, going on the next day to Frank Tarrabains at Gilby, then on to ship the hides by train from Eckville to Simpson and Lee, Fur Buyers in Calgary. Tom died during a fire which burned the McTighe Mill about 25 miles west of Leedale in April 1941. He had holed up in a creek while the fire went over but died of exposure.

The fall of 1925 five teams with bundle racks left Lesliеville to follow the stooking and threshing run on the Prairies. Four men, Joe, Ray Richardson, Percy Black and his hired man took five racks down as Norris Joe's brother was already there. Percy's two outfits stopped at Trochu and Joe, Ray and Norris worked for Bill Abel at Three Hills. They threshed with a steam engine fired with straw. There were bumper wheat crops that fall and it took them from September 3 to October 30 to thresh an area from eight miles north to six miles south of Three Hills. On October 31 Ray, Norris and Joe started for home camping two or three miles south of Pine Lake. It got so cold that night, 30 below F., that they had to take turns keeping the fire burning so they didn't freeze. It proved to be the coldest day that winter of 1925-'26.

The spring of 1925 Joe bought a team of three year olds, (Percheron and Morgan breeding) at Dave Congar's Sale, northwest of Hespero for $19.50 a piece. He broke them the next spring and Maggie and Jiggs made the trip to the Prairies on bundle wagons in the fall of 1926, '27 and '28.

In 1929 Joe took his first eight hour day job which was with Royalite in the Oil Fields of Turner Valley. He and his brother Norris, were plant employees and worked riveting tanks together. They got $5 for eight hours of work. They finished work at five o'clock so took jobs stooking grain for farmers in the area after hours.

In 1930 Joe decided to try his hand at farming for himself so he rented the George Joy's farm in the Condor district where he lived until the spring of 1933 when he purchased the Wilson Cox farm S.E. 2-42-5-W5 in the Carlos district. He then homesteaded the S.W. 1-42-5-W5. There he met and married Vera Merle Pendergast on June 2, 1934.

Vera Merle, daughter of Samuel Thomas and Sarah Woods Pendergast was born in her grandparents' log house, 16 miles south-east of Innisfail at Horse Shoe Lake, Alberta, October 20, 1908. She took her schooling at Horse Shoe Lake and moved with her family to the Carlos district May 14, 1931. She, being the eldest, helped her folks on the farm and was on call for any friend, neighbor or relative who needed help, sometimes receiving pay, sometimes not.

June 2, 1934 she and Joe went by team and democrat to Lesliеville, then by train to Red Deer to be married.

"Then the little mistakes started.

Betty Merle was born March 10, 1935; William Dale was born June 22, 1936. Russel Lee was born September 6, 1937, Shirley Joan was born June 27, 1939. All were born in the St. Joseph's Hospital in Rimbey. Hospital bills were paid not only in cash but with produce. The hospital canned their own fruits and vegetables, so would take most anything as payment.

They recall one trip to Lacombe in 1940 with Mrs. Nugent. They went with Mrs. Nugent and Mrs. Lindsay to a Field Day at the Experimental

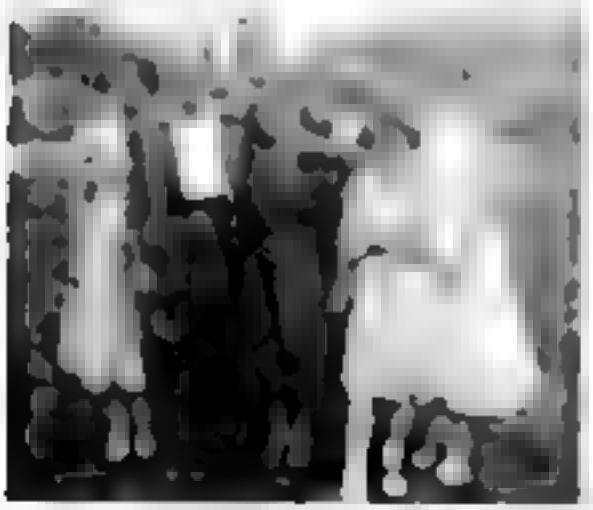
Station and upon returning they ran into rain at Rimbey about eight o clock in the evening The road was so slippery they had to tie ropes on the car and hold it from slipping into the ditch. They caught up to Mr Skoreiko about three miles east of Leedale stuck in the middle of the road. By pushing his car with Mrs. Nugent's they both managed to get to Leedale where Mr Skoreiko turned north and they continued west, arriving home at 3 a.m taking seven hours to go 20 miles

In 1941 Joe hired the Wolney Brothers to break and disc down three acres of land After brush harrowing it (cut willows, tied together and pulled with horses to smooth the land he had Vera drive the team while he hand seeded this land from the back of a wagon with the first Altaswede Clover seeded in the Aurora district He then rented the land to Ralph Johnston, except the hay land and nothing was done with the clover In the spring of 1943 it was such a mass they burned it off The clover came back so thick they had a terrible time haying it

May 16, 1942 Joe, Vera and family moved to Sylvan Lake where Joe, with the help of Maggie and Jiggs, delivered ice, milk and wood. In 1944 Jiggs became a celebrity when he led the Orangeman's Parade in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer In 1945 they built a new home in Sylvan Lake which is now owned by Bob and Shirley Pickering

On February 26, 1946 one more little Mannix was added to the family with the arrival of Carol Anne

About 1943 Joe went to work for Forest Plowman delivering Imperial oil and gas and did odd jobs of carpentry until 1953 when he returned to the farm at Carlos. Vera and Carol spent summers on the farm but did not move there until 1959. Carol receiving her schooling at Sylvan Lake. Aurora, Leslieville and David Thompson Over the years Joe served on the Aurora School Board many times



Betty married Charles Albert June 2, 1953 They had three girls and two boys, Wendy Peggy, Brian, Duane and Cindy. Cindy was taken from them in an accident September 12 1975. They reside at Sylvan Lake

Dale married Shirley Popilchuk September 25, 1958. They have two girls and one boy, Shari Connie and Randy They reside at Sylvan Lake

Shirley married Robert Pickering November 22, 1957 They have two sons, Daryl and Darren and reside at Sylvan Lake

Lee married Carrol Belt May 18, 1962 They have two girls and two boys, Vernita, DaLas Wade and Carrie, and reside at Leedale

Carol Anne is still single living in Red Deer

In February 1962, Joe and Vera sold their farm to Lawrence May and after living a short time in Leslieville retired to Sylvan Lake where they still reside

**MAY LAWRENCE**

In the fall of 1961, I, Lawrence May moved from Mantario, Saskatchewan to my new farm in the Aurora District It was the former farm of Mr Joe Mannix and my new home quarter number was S.E 2-42-5-W 5

Coming from the prairie, where I was bothered with hay fever it was a nice surprise to find it disappearing in the Alberta air Another welcome change was the amount of rain fall we received that first year but sometimes, to my dismay, it never seemed to know when to stop

In August of 1962 I married the the former Joan Stevenson of Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan and we moved a trailer onto our farm. After being used to power water and telephone it seemed we were homesteading, without these conveniences Out came the flat irons, coal oil lamps and yesteryear's appliances

The next couple years were busy ones. Joan was teaching school at Leslieville and I was busy building a barn, fences, etc and trying to milk a herd of Holstein cows, no mean feat for a young man who didn't know one end of a cow from the other Those winters were bad ones and it was a common occurrence for Jack or Milton Elliot to take Joan to the school bus in their democrat as our road invariably was blocked with snow

Our first son, James Darren, was born June 13, 1964 at Eckville Hospital and Joan became a full time wife and mother

In the winter of 1965 we bought a Pembina Pipe line house and had it moved down from Buck Creek

Then, was no different from 'now' and there was always lots of work to be done on the farm

On September 21, 1966 we had a baby girl Debbie Ann, to add to our family

About this time I decided making cows was not my cup of tea and slowly started a range cow herd. The next few winters were spent working on rigs up north. Believe it or not, the highlight of my wife's social life those years was the 'fence line phone' installed between our place and Jack

Elliot's. It was there in case Joan needed help but the jingle of the phone could be heard morning noon or night

On September 12 1969 we had another baby Lisa Dawn, and that winter I stopped working away from home

The years have a way of blending one into another and us remembering them by what has happened. In 1970, Darren started school at Leslieville, riding the bus to and fro each day

Nineteen seventy-one and 1972 were years spent fencing, picking roots, burning brush piles and all the other jobs to be found on the farm Tearing land is a never-ending job on a new place and you just get finished to start again

I purchased the Robb Ervin quarter, S.W 2 42-5-W 5. in 1972 to add to our place. This gave me tough ground plus a year around spring, which I needed

It was now Debbie's turn to start school at Leslieville and Lisa followed in 1975

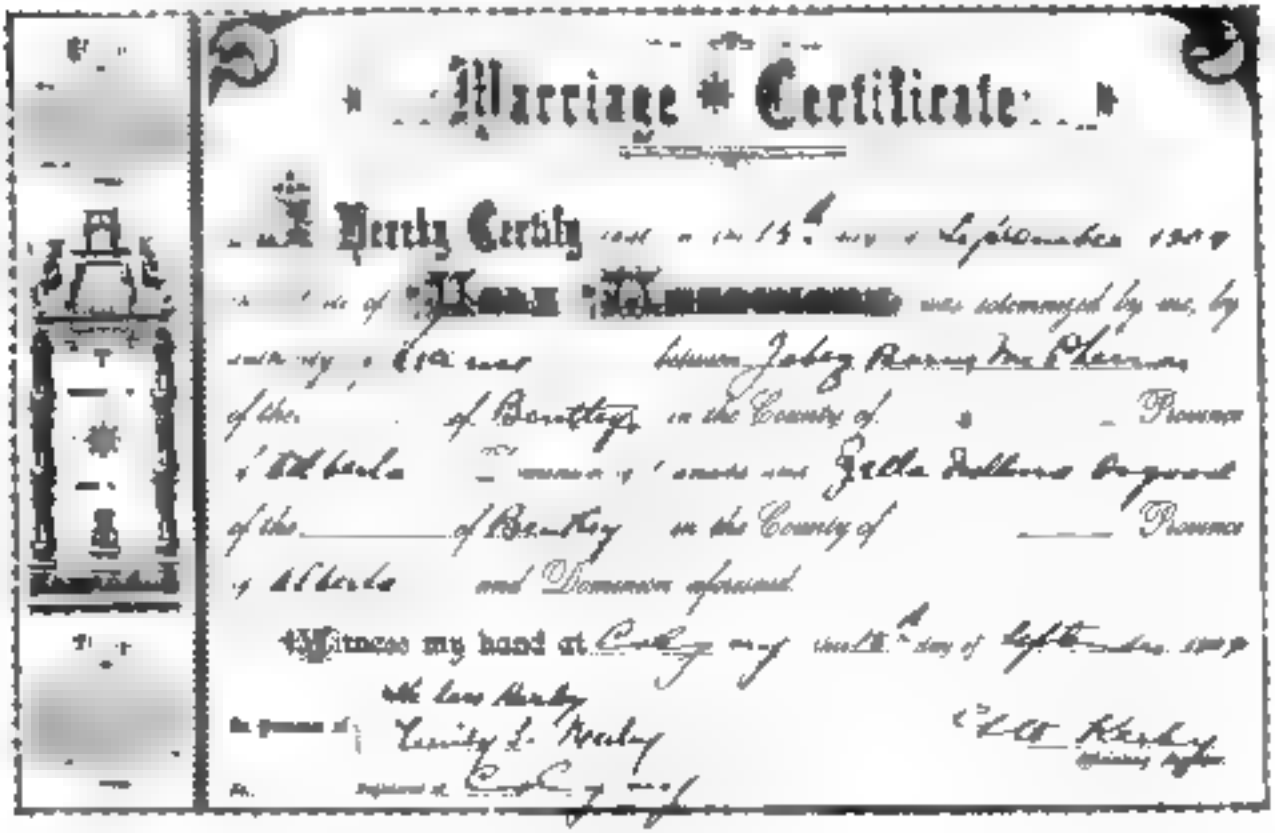
The past few years Joan has been teaching at Condor the children have become involved in after-school activities and my leisure hours are spent coaching a minor hockey team at Eckville during the winter and taking part in other community affairs the rest of the year

It's funny when one looks backward how the hardships of yesterday can bring back a feeling of nostalgia today

**[redacted] JABEZ AND ZELLA — as told to John Little**

Jabez was born in 1879 He came from Clark County Wisconsin U.S.A. He came to Canada in 1900. Zella Melissa Osgood was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1891. She came to Canada on the last day of January 1902 They were united in marriage on September 15, 1909 They made their home around the Bentley district

In 1913 it is believed they started up the first sawmill in township 41-5 located by the spring on the NW 17 41-5 to mill the pine and spruce on the quarter. It was, as most mills, driven by a steam engine, which was run by Dick Sambrooke Jabez was the sawyer, also an edger was used John Whitesell ran the planer It was believed to have turned out about 10,000 feet of planed lumber a day which was hauled to Bentley and Eckville Most of the freighting was done by Charlie Whitesell and Wilbur Charlie hauled the lumber with his horses to Gilby and Wilbur took over the load with his horses and finished hauling the load to Bentley where most of the lumber was sold. However some of the lumber was hauled to Eckville Charlie Whitesell was also one of the first homesteaders in the township, taking up the SE 4-41 5-W5 in July 1906. A brother of Charlie's Delbert who worked at the mill, homesteaded the NW 4-41-5-W5 in May 1907



Marriage Certificate

I Hereby Certify that on the 15th day of September 1909

at the [redacted] was solemnized by me, by

authority of Ordinance between Jabez Benjamin Parker

of the [redacted] of Bentley in the County of [redacted] Province

of Alberta [redacted] and Zella Melissa Osgood

of the [redacted] of Bentley in the County of [redacted] Province

of Alberta and Dominion aforesaid.

Witness my hand at Calgary this 15th day of September 1909

In presence of Trinity L. Healy

Registered at Calgary

There was a second mill site started around 1920 on the NE 20-41-5-W5. Very little is known except that Jabez had to buy equipment as he had sold his machinery after the milling was finished on the first site as there was no intention of his sawing again. He had been on a picnic and seeing the stand of timber he could not resist the urge to go sawmilling again. So he went to Carstairs to the forestry office and obtained a permit to mill.

The logging was contracted to Robert E Hayward who employed other local homesteaders to cut the trees

Mrs Zella McPherson cooked for the crew with the help of Mrs. (Dick) Vivian Sambrooke She remembers canning 500 quarts of fruit one summer which was taken out in the wagon box of oats, which was for the horses. Not one jar of fruit was broken

Some of the crew was made up of Charlie Andrews, Frank Andrews, William Gray, William McPherson. The others are unknown

**MORE NOTES on the fire. Information from Jack Elliot**

Jack recalls that there were about 10,000 logs that had been cut skidded and decked, that burned down to heaps of ashes. Can you imagine the man hours of work that had gone into getting those logs on the roll ways only to see them burn up"

As mentioned in the previous story, Mr Montgomery rushed to the creek for safety What made his ordeal so harrowing was the fact that nearby was a pile of between 2,000 to 3,000 logs that burned. Quite some "camp fire", eh??

It was only a miracle that saved the families who were escaping. If the fire had been but 10 minutes ahead of them they would never have made it Had only one large tree fallen across their path it would have cut off their exit After the fire it took thousands of cuts to clean all the fallen trees and debris from the trail to make it usable again

Jack led Maurice McTighe from the mill to Clarence Roberts. His eyes were practically swollen shut from the exposure to smoke. Roberts fed them and bedded them down, and the Mounties brought them out home the following day

**PENDERGAST SAMUEL THOMAS AND SARAH WOODS — by Sam Pendergast — 1983**

Sam Pendergast came from Ontario to homestead in the Horse Shoe Lake district in 1900. On July 24th. 1907 he married Sarah Woods Jardine Born to them were 11 children nine surviving namely Vera Merle, born October 20 1908; Thelma Olive born February 16, 1910; Harmon Russell, born November 10, 1912, James Willard Donald born February 16, 1915. Alma Ruth, born May 5, 1917 Lois Anna, born August 13, 1919; Phyllis, born April 1, 1924 Kenneth Hugh, born May 14, 1926 and Margaret Marie born September 23, 1930

In 1931 they moved to the Carlos district to homestead the N E. 31-41-5 W 5, but lived on the Hanna place, N E 6-42-5-W 5, while proving up the homestead. Sam logged the first winter they were here and built a log house the next spring

Alma and Lois attended the Aurora school a short time then took correspondence as it was more convenient. Phil, Hugh and Marg attended the Lone Deer school. Sam helped build the addition onto the Aurora school

They farmed at Carlos until 1940 when they moved to Innisfail where Sam worked as a carpenter until he retired. He worked at the Bowden Air Port in 1943-1944

Vera married Joe Mannix, June 2, 1934. They reside at Sylvan Lake

Olive married William Harrison October 14, 1933. They reside at Bowden

Russ married Jess Erskine in December 1935. They reside at Lantzville, B.C

Jim married Jean Reid December 10, 1937 They reside at Prince George, British Columbia

Alma (Toots married Gordon Gray June 8, 1937 They farmed in the Carlos district until Gordon's passing in 1974. Alma now resides in [illegible]

Lois (Bon married Clarence Gray, July 29 1937 They reside in Rocky Mountain House

Phyllis married F Stewart Quartly November 6, 1946. Stewart died January 5, 1968 at Innisfail, Phyllis now resides in Red Deer

Hugh married Lanka Garnack, March 25, 1950. They reside in Rumbey

Margaret resides in Innisfail

Sam spent his retired years visiting friends and relatives, traveling in his little Anglia car It is said that he found a new relative every trip. He was like a newspaper, for each stop he gathered information to carry on and left the news he had of previous stops He slept away at Innisfail on September 8, 1965

Sarah being ill and losing her eyesight, didn't travel but remained at Innisfail and later in the Red Deer Nursing Home until her passing April [illegible]

In his later years, Sam turned his hand to writing poems, one being

**This is Alberta**
While winter's grip is holding
We look forward to the spring,
When the ice and snow have vanished
And the birds begin to sing

We look for the leaves and flowers
To brighten up the land
It's the wonderful plan of nature.
Just the touch of the Master's hand

When busy hands have planted
The good seed in the soil
Farmers wait with hope and patience
'Till rewarded for their toil

When with the rain and sunshine
There is grain o'er all the land,
Then the farmers reap the harvest
From the touch of the Master's hand

Then comes along the Autumn
When the leaves have turned to gold
As the sun is setting in the West
What a beautiful sight to behold

Time comes for the summer to take a rest
The ground to be covered with snow,
For the Northern Lights to brighten the sky
With their white and golden glow

The wonderful beauty of nature.
When there's peace o'er all the land
Let us stop and think it's all been done
By a touch of the Master's hand

**RANDALL, W A. — by Florence Randall**

Arne William Randall, my husband for over 31 years passed away August 6, 1977 He was a man proud of his four children and two grandchildren, and a man proud of his Finnish heritage. He was a man who appreciated life and lived it to the fullest a man who loved three things above all: his home his work and the sea. This handsome, dignified man of high morals bore a graciousness few men have

Our married life was as complete and beautiful as any married life could have been We had ups and downs. But from every down we learned to cope better with the next down as well as to appreciate our many ups. We lived more in our married life than many couples in their combined lifetimes Everything we desired or endeavored to accomplish we did. There are no regrets. And nothing unfinished

Arne consoled much more than he sought to be consoled which was evidenced by the thousands of students who sought his counsel As one student wrote to him "You have been willing to be whatever person we needed at the time sometimes a father sometimes a friend always a teacher and advisor

Where there was hatred he endeavored to sow love Where there was injury, he pardoned Where there was doubt he encouraged faith and where sadness he gave joy Wherever there was despair he provided hope His blind student, Harry Cordellis, wrote, "You opened the door for me to a beautiful world

As a leading educator he created an environment where learning had to take place because he cared about people. As a student wrote, "I am sure you do not remember every student whose life you have entered and effected, but you must be aware that a spark of you lives within each of us"

Arne was not a religious man, as such but he lived the Ten Commandments. Our family's philosophy has become our religion We believe in a higher power, but we also believe in a consciousness which enables man to realize the oneness of the Universe, to sense the presence in it and throughout it and to comprehend that love is the rule and basis of the Cosmos — or a cosmic [illegible]

We believe in reincarnation Arne and I and the other members of our family have been together many times and will be together again Death is merely a short separation. Arne has shed his bodily clothing and walked from one room into another far more beautiful.

Two weeks before Arne passed on he experienced a few moments of supreme illumination This experience or revelation as he expressed it, no doubt clarified his thinking about life and death and a higher power Perhaps this is why the night before passing away he asked for a priest Mass was said for Arne in California the following morning as well as in Poison

Walt Whitman asked himself, "Is it lucky to be born?" He answered his own question. It is just as lucky to die." We can only feel that Arne was lucky too — after a seven-month bout with [illegible]

The rest of our family will carry on until we meet again

**RICHARDSON, ED. — by Florence Elliot**

Born in Saratoga, Minnesota, Ed Richardson came to Canada as a young man and worked for a few years in the Alliance and Daysland district of Alberta

On February 22, 1908 he married May M[illegible]

at Daysland. To this union were born 10 children Hazel, George, Ella, Charlie, Aileen, Marjorie Lawrence and Florence, twins Edna, Harvey Ella passed away at the age of seven and Charlie as a baby and they were both buried at Forestburg where the folks were living at the time Harvey was born after they came to Leedale and was a baby of two or three weeks when he passed away and is buried in Leedale Cemetery

Many dry years and hard times forced the Richardsons to make a change and hope things would be better In the spring of 1929 they moved to the Aurora district five miles west of Leedale where they settled on the SE 36-41-5 and made their home there for several years. At that time there was only a trail from Leedale west and many springs the high waters from the Gimlet Creek or Medicine River made it almost impossible to get to the store at Leedale

Hazel and George were finished school when we arrived in the district so Aileen, Marjorie Lawrence and myself, Florence) attended school at Aurora Edna was too young, but joined later We rode horseback to school and Aurora being built at the top of a hill, it meant one thing — the kid on the back end of the horse always slid off. that was me) and I don't ever recall riding to the top — I walked

In the winter we were driven to school The district neighbors took turns taking us and the teacher I recall one time when we were upset right in front of the school, teacher, kids, books lunch buckets and blankets, a real show We kids and the driver thought it was real funny, but the teacher thought it was done on purpose and was quite upset about it all

Later on we moved farther south and went to Washington Heights School We were older then and we walked to school two and a half miles The school children used to take turns and did the janitor work for which we were paid $5 a month. In the winter we had to be there an hour before the rest of the children to get the fire going and hope to have the school warm before the others got there Those were the days!

HAZEL, married Ordell Murphy and they lived in the Bingley district. They had seven children Del passed away, and Hazel and the family moved to Rocky After her family were all married and on their own Hazel married a widower Earl Gray Hazel passed away in June 1972

GEORGE never married He went overseas in 1943 and was wounded while in service. When he came back he settled in the Bingley district also. He passed away April 2, 1972

AILEEN married Eugene Lindsay and lived in the Aurora district where she raised a family of five children. She passed away October 6, 1971

MARJORIE married Richard (Dick) Owens lives at Cloverdale, B.C and has raised a family of eight children

LAWRENCE never married but he makes his home in the Leedale district He has a house and a lot there

FLORENCE (that is myself), married Jack Elliot May 3, 1943 and we have six children and live in the Aurora district (Special Note Florence passed away on December 9, 1977

EDNA married Victor Misner, they live in the Last West district and have six children

Dad Richardson passed away in 1946 and mother passed away in 1952

**ARTHUR ROBB FAMILY — by Florence**

Arthur Robb was the eldest son of William and Bertha Robb. He came with the family from Langley Prairie, B.C in 1914

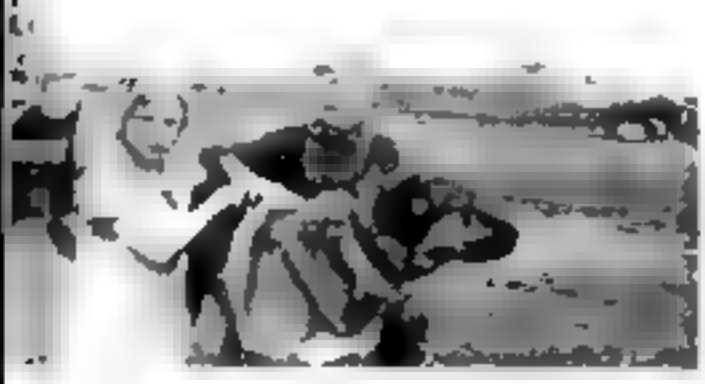
In 1923 Arthur filed on the SE 30-41-5-W5 (This is the quarter more recently owned by his nephew, Leonard). This land had been part of the J B. McPherson's timber berth. When it was opened for homesteading, Arthur filed on it immediately He didn't live on it, although the boys built a log building on it which was convenient

Arthur's father had bought the Soltiz quarter SW 27-41-5-W5. from Archie McKinnon (a loaned money, too). This transaction was around 1924 or thereabouts After father's death in 1929 Arthur got the Soltiz quarter and about four years later he abandoned his homestead so that his brother Harry could have that quarter

Arthur was married June 9, 1927 His wife Beth, had been born in London, England, had worked in Toronto, and then came to Red Deer to nurse at the Provincial Training School. I was working there, also, for a time, and while there I met Beth, and eventually introduced her to my brother Because our father would not hear tell of Arthur living away from home, he and Beth went to Red Deer, got married and Arthur got work there. They didn't come back to Carlos as if father's funeral in October 1929

Beth and Arthur had two children, Clarence and Margaret. Beth belonged to the Ladies' Club and Arthur was active on the school board Arthur built the four-roomed, two-storey log

Arthur and Beth Robb and children Margaret and Clarence 1938



Clarence and Margaret Robb with their dog Ginger 1939

house with the verandah that still stands on that land, although no longer occupied

Arthur farmed until 1941 when he had a farm auction sale and moved to Sylvan Lake. About this time he joined the army. After his discharge the family moved to the coast, where Margaret married Bruno Wieler. They have two daughters and a son. Clarence also married, and has four sons. He is a postman in Kamloops, B.C.

Later on, Arthur and Beth moved to Rutland in the Okanagan Valley. Then in about 1958 or so they moved back to the coast to White Rock.

Arthur passed away July 5, 1969, and his wife Beth died the following spring.

**ROBB, HARRY — by Janet Robb**

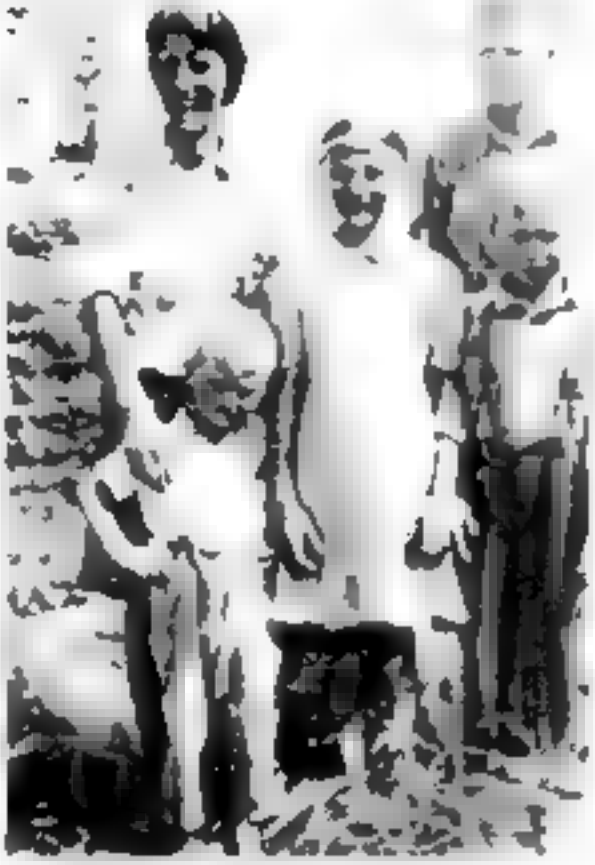
Henry Joseph Robb (Harry) was the youngest son of William Robb. He was born September 5, 1896 at Langley, B.C., one of twins. His twin brother Howard Stephen died in February 1901 at the age of 4½ years.

Harry came to Alberta with his parents, brother Arthur and sister Florence in June 1914. He was drafted into the army during the first World War. While training at Petawawa Camp in Ontario in early 1918 he became sick with pneumonia. Had it not been for his friend Bert Baxter finding him so ill, he would likely have died. When he was well enough to travel he was discharged and sent home, but was a long time recovering.

He would work in the bush at McPherson's lumber mill in the winter. He also worked with farmers during the summer months. He liked horses and usually sported a good saddle horse.

When Arthur Robb returned from Toronto to take over the family farm, he abandoned his homestead in Harry's favour. When the Tom Skorstengaard family arrived in the district they rented Harry's farm until they had a house built to live in on their own land.

Harry was united in marriage to Marion



Marion and Harry Robb (Leonard, Norma and Howard)

Anna Laye in 1934. Marion was born April 23 1901 near Wiggins Lancashire England. She was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. Benjamin Laye, who settled in the area between Leedale and Rimbey. Marion came to Canada by boat when she was five years old.

Harry and Marion lived for many years on Harry's homestead farm. Later they moved a half mile farther north to NW 21 which was purchased from Herb and Walt Dale, the land where their son Howard and family still live.

They worked hard through the years and built up their farm. They purchased one of the first tractors to be used for farming in the district a new John Deere model AR.

Harry and Marion have three children – Norma Howard and Leonard and fourteen

NORMA married Harvey Stewart and now lives on a farm at Bluffton. They have three children — Jessie, who is married and Ronnie and Marilyn.

HOWARD married Janet Wilson. They have six children.

LEONARD married Debra Wilson and they have five children.

Harry passed away in Red Deer hospital September 18, 1952. For many years Marion lived on the farm with her sons. She eventually retired to the Rimbey nursing home where she resided until her passing on July 23, 1974.

**ROBB, HOWARD**

Howard Stanley Robb was born May 28, 1936 the oldest son of Harry and Marion Robb. He took his schooling mostly at Washington Heights, but also attended Aurora for a short time.

At the age of 14 years, after the death of his father in 1952 he and his ten year old brother Leonard undertook to carry on the farming operation. They would go to school through the day and as soon as they got home, they would head for the fields sometimes working till after midnight to get the land seeded in the spring and harvested in the fall. They cared for a herd of cattle and put up the hay for their winter feeding.

A few years after their father passed away their mother, Marion, was stricken with a paralytic stroke, and invalided. So for many years the boys cared for their mother as well.

For several years the Robb brothers, Freitag brothers and Carl Skorstengaard jointly owned a threshing machine and all worked together at harvest time.

In 1965 Howard and Leonard purchased a cat" and entered into the construction business. Since then Howard has worked throughout the north central Alberta region on road construction and oil field work.

On December 20 1963, Howard married Janet Wilson eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson of Bingley. Howard and Janet have six children, and now live on the farm his parents once lived on. Their children are Pamela, Angela, Becky, Sheldon, Monica and Sherman.

**ROBB, LEONARD**

Leonard Franklin Robb was born April 30 1942, the second son of Harry and Marion Robb. He took all his schooling at Washington Heights.

Leonard's childhood was cut short by the death of his father when he was only 10 years old.

Leonard started in at the age of 10 and along with his brother Howard, they farmed their father's land.

Eventually Leonard owned the quarter section his father had first owned, the SE 20-41-5.

Leonard was united in marriage to Debra Wilson on January 8, 1966. Debra is the third daughter of Mr and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson of Bingley. Leonard and Debra have five children Kevin, Calvin, Dean, Denise and Melanie.

For several years Leonard and his family lived in a mobile home on the home place. In October 1968, an oil heater fire completely destroyed their home and contents. For the next six years the family rented the William Lees buildings. Leonard's mother lived with the family for several of these years before retiring to Rimbey.

Leonard has sold his quarter of land to the Bill McIlwraith family and now resides on an acreage near Oras. In 1965 he went into the road and oil field construction business with his brother. He now works independently, and owns

heavy equipment machines. He also owns a few head of horses. Horses were something his father was always interested in too.

**WILLIAM ROBB AND ED ROBBIE FAMILIES — by Florence (Robb) Bobier**

William Robb was born in Fergus, Ontario, and his wife, Bertha, was born in Belleville Ontario. They married and lived at Langley Prairie B.C. In May 1914 William Robb came to Alberta to look for land in the Peace River country. When he went to the land office in Calgary he was directed to the country north of Lesliеville.

He chose the SE 22-41-5-W5, then went back to Calgary and filed on it. This land had been abandoned by Carlos Sleeper an earlier homesteader from North Dakota, U.S.A. Mr. Sleeper had built a building 16' by 32' intending to have a store business. He tried, but with little success. He also tried to get a post office, but before that was completed he became discouraged and handed it all over to Jasmer Ostrem and his wife and returned to North Dakota.

In June 1941, the Robb family came, bag and baggage, to Alberta. My brothers, Arthur and Harry, and a friend of theirs, came in the boxcar with four horses and household goods and some farm implements, besides furniture of Mr. and Mrs. Hayward. The boxcar was shipped to Blackfalds, then had to be unloaded and the things freighted by wagon and teams from there to Carlos, a distance of about 50 miles.

My oldest sister, Bertha (Mrs. Harry Patterson) was left behind in Vancouver, B.C. My other sister, Ethel, was away to St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. visiting relatives when we moved. She later came to visit at home when she returned from St. Paul. A few years later she married Frank Bain at Hardisty, Alberta, and they made Edmonton their permanent home.

My mother and myself, Florence, then a young girl of 11 years, came by C.P.R. to Red Deer. We took a stagecoach from there to Burbank, where we caught the C.N.R. going west. We arrived in Lesliеville some time in the night, found our way to the Hopkins Hotel and after supper we went to bed. The next morning Mrs. Hayward and four children (our travelling companions) started off for Carlos in one vehicle and Mother and I in another. We had a spanking fine team of drivers and buggy all from the livery barn. We were the first passengers over that "rocky road to Dublin." It was a drive of some 10 miles over muskeg and rough roads. Arrangements were made for Mother and me to sleep at a neighbor's, Mrs. Ostrem's, home. Nils Satterland, another neighbor, gave up his home so we two families could use it until our houses were ready to use.

The second day after we arrived Mother and I decided, after breakfast at Mrs. Ostrem's, to walk the mile to our house. There it was, sitting on the top of a hill — no trees, and well exposed to the wind from all directions. We took a look around. The yard was strewn with tin cans, paper and garbage. Inside, the floor wasn't too dirty. There was a single board partition across the center of the house, but no ceiling and no windows. We saw a ladder-type stairway up the west end of the house and a hole in the floor was the way upstairs. Once we had climbed the "stairway", we found that one end had been used for a hay mow and chickens. We swept and did our best, but soap and hot water were badly needed.

The load containing our stove, beds, and some cooking utensils finally arrived and we moved into our house. To erect the stove was the first major job, as it required six feet of stovepipe for a chimney. The Hayward family occupied the east room downstairs, and we slept upstairs while the kitchen was shared by all 11 persons until the Haywards had erected a building to move into. In this new country we soon learned we had unwanted company at night. People who were no longer in the country had had bed bugs — and we packed them home in our clothes. The legs of the beds were set in cans of coal oil and the beds were searched regularly for these creatures. We could often find them in the desks.

That first winter Arthur and Harry got work at McPherson's mill nearby. Before they went to work at the mill, though, they went hunting somewhere west of Herman Freitag's homestead. They shot a deer, hung it in a tree and came home. Harry collapsed about one-half mile from home. Arthur came home and Father went back to help Harry home. Early next day Arthur and his father drove back and brought the deer home. This was a real treat added to the bread and flour gravy which had been our daily diet. For breakfast rolled oats and bread, dinner bread and gravy, supper the same. Occasionally we had a meal of boiled beans for a change of diet. We didn't even have potatoes that first summer. When Arthur had worked in the mill for awhile he got a sack of potatoes for wages. We learned that the potato water in which the potatoes had been cooked improved the flour gravy when added to it. Without even one bite to eat, Father drove over 25 miles in the spring of 1915 to find potatoes for seed. After that year we had plenty of potatoes. We ate a lot of rabbits in the first winter, but when they became diseased we stopped eating them. The next year we had a garden, turnips, carrots and parsnips made a welcome addition to our meals. It was two years before we had milk. Father bought a cow at a sale. She wasn't a good milker, but even that little was a big help. It also added butter to our menu. There was no trouble with water, although it had to be hauled in barrels from a nearby spring. A cold job on a winter day, but it was good, pure water.

In the summer of 1915 Father and Arthur went to Vulcan to work in the harvest with two teams and two racks. During their stay there, one of the horses got loose, and died from eating too much wheat from a bin. Shortly after this, the other horse died, and this was quite a severe loss. Father came home with the remaining team and rack, and Arthur stayed to earn more money.

Two years later Mother was offered the post mistress job, at a salary of $100 per year. The company and social side of the job meant considerable to her, as she couldn't get out among the people, and this job brought them to her. She kept this job for the next 19 years, and Father got the job of carrying the mail at the same time.

There was no school for me to attend that first

summer However by 1915 Nels Sa terland offered his house for a schoolroom and a teacher was hired. By 1917 our Washington Heights School had been built and I finished my grade schooling there In 1930 I went to Three Hills Bible College

Mother missed her church connections and felt that there should be some witness in the neighborhood. Both Mother and Father were raised Presbyterians in Ontario. They wrote to the Presbyterian Board in Red Deer and in 1920 William Wilson of McGill University was sent out for the summer months Sunday services were held fairly regularly for the next five years. In 1933 I held Sunday School in Washington Heights then in the afternoon I walked over to Aurora, four miles away for another service. I would eat a lunch along the roadside

In the spring of 1927 Arthur got married in Red Deer and worked there for the next two or three years In the fall of 1929 our father was admitted to the Red Deer Hospital. He was operated on for cancer of the stomach, but died October 11, 1931. He is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery

Mother and I stayed alone on the farm for the next year We hired Charlie Ambury to help with outside work. Arthur and his family arrived in the late fall of 1930 to take over the work on the farm, and they lived with Mother while I went to Bible College. A year later when I came home I found Mother was not too well, so I stayed home to care for her and Arthur and his family moved to the John Soltz farm We rented the land to an outsider, and with the post office my garden and the cream cheques we managed

I bought a cow and ten-day-old calf from Mr Entenap for $25. She was an excellent milker rich in cream In the fall of 1935 I bought another cow from Bill Erskine She didn't prove to be such a good milker, so I had her butchered. I canned one quarter of the meat, returned a quarter I owed to Arthur and sold one-half for $15, the price I had paid for the cow The next fall I sold the calf for $19

We couldn't continue to live in the old house on the hill so early in the spring of 1937 I took out a home-improvement loan. I contracted the job of tearing down the old house and building that little stucco house on the south road near the west corner of our quarter Ival and Earl Johnston built a barn and chicken house of logs for us. We moved into our new house on August 19 1937

The need of a store in the district became evident so I talked over the idea with my friend Will McKinnon, a merchant in Leslieville. He stocked me with some groceries, and I opened up the store in the kitchen along with the post office All was going quite well, but oh, the work! Shipping cream, caring for the cows pigs chickens and my garden, as well as the post office (my mother having retired in 1934 was all my responsibility With the added work of the store I decided I needed a helpmate, and this led to my decision to get married

My husband, Edmund Bobier was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, August 22, 1901. He had taken his teacher's training course, then decided to go homesteading in the Peace River country We were married May 12, 1939. When I married I was required, by the laws in force, to relinquish my position as postmistress

Now I had one job less, and some help, but not for long. World War II broke out and my husband joined the Airforce and my brother Arthur joined the army This left me with the store, the farm work, and my first son, who was a real comfort to me. The old adage "there is no rest for the wicked" certainly applied to me. My second son

orm, and ten and a half months later

Alfred's arrival caused a bit of excitement, as he was born two months prematurely My husband had been discharged from the Airforce by this time, so about nine o'clock in the evening of February 13, he got the team and cutter ready wrapped me in blankets in the sleigh, and we set off for the Eckville Hospital, 25 miles away At Leslieville we changed into Mr William McKinnon's car and he hurried me on to Eckville. In spite of icy roads we arrived safely, and just after midnight my Valentine was born. That was a race for life, and my three-pound baby lives today a man of six feet three inches tall

On April 1, 1945 we moved our family to Condor and purchased the Killick's store business Five years we carried on there, but in 1950 sold out and moved to the Peace River country The Government was offering returned servicemen land there. Due to the fact that we already owned a quarter there we moved onto it, and then looked over the Government land. We took a half section near Belloy and I started in homesteading again. We lived in two 12' by 14' granaries that we had built on the land. Later we did move the house from Edmund's first homestead onto this land. We farmed here until

965, when we sold out and moved to the city of Grande Prairie. In 1972 we were on the move once more. This time we bought a home in High River. It has proven to be a lovely place for retirement and with my son Alfred this is where I am living today.

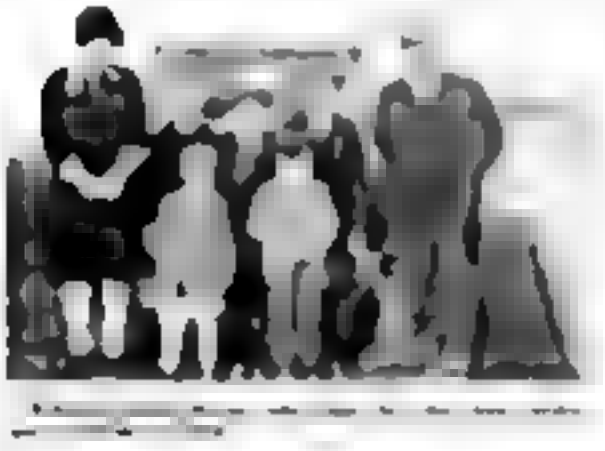
My mother, always a very tiny frail-looking person, moved with us to Condor, and then to the Peace River country. She went homesteading with us when she was 88 years of age. On December 19, 1960, Mother passed away at our home near Belloy, at the ripe old age of 96 years. She had given birth to seven children but never once in all her years was she in a hospital. Four of her children predeceased her. Harry's twin died at the age of five years, and my twin at the age of nine years, before we moved to the Carlos area. Harry died in Red Deer Hospital from cancer on September 18, 1952. Ethel died January 8, 1959, and Arthur died July 5, 1969. My husband, Edmund Bobier, passed away here at High River in October, 1974.

Although my family has grown smaller, my memories of them and the life we all had together remains as clear as ever. My two older sons are married and I have three grandchildren. I am active and busy with my garden and home here, and I love to travel.

**ED ROBINSON — by the Robinson Family**

Dad was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A. on August 1, 1895. He came to the Assiniboia area of Sask. with his parents in 1912, later moving to Rearville, in the Chinook area, where they had homesteads. Ed married Anna Beryl Clipsham on January 1917. She was born in Ontario May 19, 1899. They farmed in the Chinook area for a time.

In 1928 dad, my uncle, and some neighbors went to the Peace River country, looking for land and some of them found land to their liking in that area. However, later that fall, dad bought land in the Condor District. They moved in the spring of 1929, on account of the depression. They came by Model T Ford and their possessions came by train. The first stop was a farm south of Condor. Five children, Arthur, Jean, Edgar, Gordon, and Dora had been born while dad and mom were living in the Chinook area.



One episode that I remember was that my dad's sister, a school teacher, came to visit us. As the roads were far from good, one mile of which was rough corduroy, she decided that the side looked much better; she was lucky that her car didn't break through the muskeg! After finding out what muskeg was, she decided to keep to the roads in this country.

We later moved to a rented farm east of Condor. In these years we attended Rearville School on the prairie, Daisy Nook, and Shady Lane Schools in the Condor area. We had to ride horseback and later walked, as there was no bus in those days.

In March of 1932 dad moved the family to a farm in the Aurora District where we attended that school. This move was made by team and wagon — over poor roads. Alice, Donna and Roger (Bud) were born in the Aurora area.

My parents were active members of the district. Dad was on the school board and belonged to the original Social Credit Party which put on entertainment in the district. In 1932 there were a number of families who moved into the district so the little log school had to have an extension added to accommodate the 45 pupils.

There was a spring south of dad's called King Springs. This is where they held picnics and ball games every Saturday afternoon. People came on horseback, with teams and wagons, or walked. No one was too busy then to enjoy an afternoon of sports. We had a creek past our buildings which froze and flooded in the winter time. The young people of the district found this an ideal skating rink. There was also a big hill just west on Heringer's, which made a good bobsled hill.

Mother started the first ladies club in the district. It was called the Aurora Ladies' Sewing Circle. Its main purpose was to teach the young people how to sew and do different crafts.

In 1946, Robinsons had a sale. They had sold the farm to their son Art. With their three youngest children they moved to British Columbia where they lived until the fall of 1947. At this time they returned to Alberta and settled in Leedale. In 1950, Mother took over the post office, where she was postmistress for 17 years. Dad passed away at the end of May 1951. Mother was a member of the U.C.W. and was the Leedale news correspondent for several years. When she left Leedale she took a trip to Ontario, the place of her birth. Here, she attended the Exposition, as well as visited her aunt. Upon her return she settled in Red Deer where she was very active in many organizations until her passing in September of 1974, at the age of 75 years.

The Ed Robinson family included eight children. Art, the eldest, farmed the home quarter for 40 years.

Jean married Rob Ervin.

Edgar Robinson was born in Calgary on May 3, 1920. He helped at home and attended Rear ville Daisy Nook, Shady Lane, and Washington Heights Schools, and took Grades 11 and 12 in Lesliеville and Rocky Mountain House. We. Edgar and I Jean). walked the four and a half miles to Washington Heights, and we never missed a day of school In 1939. Edgar, along with two neighbor boys, went to British Columbia to pick fruit He met with an accident, and was killed in June 1939 at 19 years of age

Gordon was born at Youngstown, Alta. on August 31, 1922. He took his schooling at Shady Lane, Daisy Nook and Aurora Schools He helped at home, and worked out a lot His favorite pastime was riding his saddle horses. Along with his brothers, he cut posts and shot rabbits to make extra money during the winter time The rabbits were stacked like firewood in our yard that winter waiting for the trucks to haul them to the fox farm. He moved to Elnora and married Issie Mundorff They had three children, Carolyn, Gilbert, and Beryl Lee They then moved to Innisfail to an acreage, where another son, Douglas, was born. In 1969, they lost their eldest boy in a motorcycle accident. Gordon is a carpenter, and works around the Innisfail area

Dora was born in Hanna on February 17 1924, and came with the family to Condor at the age of four years. She received her education by attending several schools before completing high school at Rocky Mountain House She married James Wingate in 1944, and has resided on the farm in the Benjamin community since her marriage. Before marrying, she worked in Leedale and in the Co-op stores. They have two daughters Connie and Lana, and four grandchildren.

Alice was born in Rimbey on October 21, 1935. She took her schooling at Aurora and Leedale Schools, later boarding in Rimbey where she received her high school education. In 1953 she married Raymond Tschabold. They have two children, Frank and Yvonne. They reside on a farm north of Rimbey

Donna was born in Rimbey on April 1, 1937 She took her schooling in Aurora and Leedale, and later attended high school in Rimbey In 1956, she married Donald Rimbey They have three children, Barbara, Wayne, and Colleen also one grandchild. Both Alice and Donna remember riding a shetland pony to school at Aurora Bud also rode with them

Roger (Bud) was born in Rimbey on October 25, 1938. He took most of his schooling in Leedale after returning with his parents, Ed and Beryl from a year spent in British Columbia. Throughout the years he worked as a farm laborer, on pipe lines, road construction and oil rigs. He married Margaret Dyrland. They lived in a trailer, and moved as the work did Later they bought a farm west of Leedale, and lived here for a couple of years before they sold the farm and bought a house in Lesliеville. They lived in Lesliеville until Roger passed away in January 1975. They had six children Brenda, Shane, Amy Crystal, Lance and Amber His wife, Margaret, sold the house and moved her family to Enderby B.C She bought a trailer and is living at Mara Lake and working in Enderby

**YOUNG, G. — by E. Young**

Gordon and Elaine Young and daughters purchased the property NE 10-41-5 and SW 14-41 5 from Semeen Ahrameen in 1973. They moved on to the property in 1976

Gordon and daughters, Kathy and Gayle, were born and raised in Revelstoke B.C

Elaine (nee Sarauer) was raised at Annaheim Saskatchewan

## WHEN PA IS SICK

When Pa is sick, he s scared to death.
An Ma an us just hold our breath,
He crawls in bed an puffs and grunts.
And does all kinds of crazy stunts.
He wants Doc Brown in mighty quick.
For when Pa's ill, he. s awful sick
He gasps an moans an sorta sighs.
He talks so queer an rolls his eyes.
Ma jumps and runs an all of us.
An all the house. is in a fuss,
An peace an joy is mighty skeerce
When Pa is sick It s somethin fierce

## WHEN MA IS SICK

When Ma is sick she pegs away
She's quiet though not much to say
She goes right on adoin' things,
And sometimes laughs, or even sings.
She says she don't feel so extra well.
But then it's just a kinda spell
She L be alright tomorrow sure.
An good ole sleep will be the cure
An Pa, he snuffs and makes no kick.
For women folks is always sick
An Ma, she smiles, lets on she's glad,
When Ma is sick It ain t so bad

Woman was created from the rib of man
She was not made from his head — to top him
Nor out of his feet to be trampled upon
But out of his side, to be equal to him
Under his arm, to be protected:
And near his heart, to be loved.

# Diamond Valley, Bluebell

**ANDERSON, ALLAN AND CORA**

Allan Anderson was born in the Diamond Valley district. His folks originally came from Sweden. His dad Oscar Anderson lived in North Dakota for some time before coming to Alberta. His mother was Signe Hendrickson before she was married. She came directly to the Diamond Valley area with her folks when they came from Sweden.

Allan took his schooling at Diamond Valley School. He spent most of his life on the family farm, which his father homesteaded in 1903. He still farms and does carpenterwork besides.

In 1938 he married Cora Temple from Neudorf, Saskatchewan and ever since they have lived in the town of Eckville. Cora was born and raised in Neudorf, Saskatchewan area and took her schooling at Duck Point School. She worked in a dry goods store and bakery before coming to Eckville. After she came to Alberta she worked at various jobs, the longest time being with Sestrap and Co. Allan put in 17 winters in the lumber camp, running the "edger", and for the last four years Cora went along to be the cook's helper.

Allan was among the folk who helped get a church erected in the Diamond Valley district about 1935 and Allan and Cora have always been members of that congregation.

**ANDERSON — BROOKS FAMILIES — by Arvid Anderson**

The history of our family in central Alberta began with the coming of John Nelson, an uncle of my mother's, from Varmland, Sweden in about 1900 to homestead the NW 2-38-3W5 on October 27, 1902. This land later became the home of Adam (Scotty) McPherson family.

Mr Nelson spelled "Nilson" in Swedish was a minister of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church and after homesteading he continued to minister to the Scandinavian communities of the central Alberta area. He became widely known as "Preacher Nelson", travelling by team, and sometimes on foot covering an area from Coronation on the east through the Camrose and Wetaskiwin and Pigeon Lake settlements on the north and nearer home, from Alhambra to Burnt Lake and Red Deer. He was associated for many years with the Burnt Lake Mission-Covenant and Swedish Baptist churches, and I understand, was also a home missions worker for the Presbyterian Church of Canada from 1904 to 1908. The John Nelsons had two children. Joe Nelson was elevator agent at Hespero (originally Pitcox) for a time after leaving his farm, SW 14-38-3W5, west of Evarts. He went from there to Meeting Creek as elevator agent and finally to Bowden to own and operate a garage with his sons, Russell and Harold, until his death. His wife was the former Ingeborg Lund, a registered nurse, whose home prior to her marriage was the Horseguard district, south of Alhambra. She still makes her home in Bowden at this writing. Naomi, the daughter, became Mrs. "Jack" Torgerud of Red Deer, and was the mother of Raymond (Ray) Torgerud, who was among the first announcers with CKRD when it was established in Red Deer. Ray will be remembered especially for his reading of the daily newscasts.

Preacher Nelson was fascinated with the primitive beauty of his new homeland in the Parklands area of Alberta and immediately after his arrival from Sweden began to write back to the "Old Country", urging his relatives to follow him. This soon resulted in my maternal grandparents coming to the Red Deer area. "Grandpa" Eric Hendrickson, Norwegian by birth, and a 27 year veteran of the Swedish army was becoming tired of the regimentation and controls associated with life in Europe and was looking for the kind of freedom enjoyed by the people of the new world, so he was open to this persuasion. He arrived in Red Deer with his wife Karen and their youngest daughter Signe, who was then 14 years of age, in 1903. The rest of their family, Aaron, Fred and Carl Hjalmar Erickson followed within the next eight years, Aaron coming last in 1911. The older daughters, Mrs. Anna Nyberg and Mrs. Bertha (Oscar) Selstrom also came. Mrs. Nyberg to Red Deer and Mrs. Selstrom to a farm south of Burnt Lake.

Mr Hendrickson after his arrival in Red Deer worked for a time at carpentry prior to homesteading and coming west from Red Deer to what was then a part of the Evarts area, but

now Eckville. He homesteaded SW 28-37-3W5 where Jim Murray now lives. He was especially adept with the "broad-axe", an art he had learned in Norway, and at constructing log buildings with the "dove-tailed" corners and scribed lower edge channelled to fit together — a characteristic Scandinavian and Finnish type of construction. Some of the log houses he built in about 1904-05 have been lived in continuously since those pioneer times and with improvements to the finish and renovated to modernize them, are still in use today. Noteably that on his own homestead occupied by Jim Murray, the house on the Logan farm and also that on the Ed Derbyshire farm.

My father, Carl Oscar Anderson known locally as Oscar, arrived in Alberta from farming near Pleasant Lake, North Dakota in 1903. He worked with the late Dan Clausen, later a well known citizen of Eckville, helping to operate a sawmill on the NE 10-38-3-W5, presently owned by John and Neva Craig, and on which I am now building on an acreage. While so engaged, my father homesteaded the NW 10-38-3-W5. He married Signe (Eric's dottur) Hendrickson in 1907 and they made their home on his homestead, where a frame house and barn had been erected. They lived there until my father's death in March, 1918. Before his death, he had with the help of the late Oscar Oastrom and others cleared and broke about 100 acres of his homestead land.

Three children were born to them here: Astrid, Arvid and Allan. Astrid died at the age of 16 while still at school at Diamond Valley. Allan now lives in Eckville and still farms land homesteaded by our father. I, Arvid, was born on father's homestead and grew up in the Diamond Valley district and received my public school education and first year high school in the country school of that name. The original building has been renovated and now serves as a community center. My first teacher was Miss Pauline (Polly) Hutchinson. At the time of my birth the village of Evarts, three miles to the east of my parents' farm was still a thriving center, but the hope of being on the route of the Alberta Central Railway, which by-passed Evarts to the north through Benalto and "Kootuk" (later re-named South Eckville), by the C.P.R., was beginning to fade at that time. This turn of events dashed the hopes of Evarts becoming a metropolis, but it continued for many years to be the Post Office for that area, until the establishing of Eckville's Rural Route No. 3, at which time our postal address became Eckville. My earliest recollections of Eckville include the hitching-posts that used to stand along main street with a horizontal beam at about three foot height, to which saddle horses and teams were tied. Also there were tie-sheds behind the stores which fronted the west side of main street. Fred Isaacson's garage opened on the street near where the hotel now stands. Dr. P. L. Backus, who set a broken arm for me at age 11, occupied what is now the Roy Saari residence. There were then these long established Eckville businesses: Mike Sestrap's General Store, Forhan's Drug Store, the Co-op (in the building where the bakery and confectionery have been more recently), J. T. Marshall's hardware, Cowan's International Harvester agency, Dan Clausen's insurance and a restaurant operated by a smiling Chinaman known widely as "Happy". There was the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Isaacson's Garage, a hotel, Maclin's blacksmith shop, the Eckville Creamery, Moro's flour mill. A landmark as you entered the village from the south was Walter Herring's house on the corner opposite the C.N. crossing. The Eckville School of that day is now Leo Remmard's welding shop. There was a livery-barn between the present Co-op main store and Lilvam's Garage, which later became the Isaacson Garage and which afterward was destroyed by fire.

In the 1930's I began taking Bible College training with the object of entering the Christian ministry. Upon completing this training, I was ordained to the ministry under the Apostolic Church of Pentecost at Port Coquitlam, B.C. Shortly after ordination, I took a pastoral charge in Victoria, B.C. While pastor of this assembly I married Bertha Hurly, then residing in New Westminster and employed at Royal Columbian Hospital. We had met while attending the Fundamental Bible College in Coquitlam. Our daughter, May, now Mrs. Brian Van de Wark was born while we lived in Victoria. From Victoria we went to High River, Alberta to pastor a church there during the years that the town was a training center for the R.C.A.F. where young men were being trained for overseas service in World War II. It was here that our second daughter, Beverly was born.

After a number of years we moved to Lemberg, Saskatchewan to take charge of a church there. After five years as pastor of this church some health problems developed which were the cause of my requiring a change of occupation for a time. It was for this reason that we returned to the Central Alberta area, living for a few weeks in the Horace Meeres' house at Condor, then going to Benalto where we spent three years and finally moved to Eckville where I established the sash, door and cabinet business known as Anderson Woodworking. The first shop-building to house this business was erected in October of 1953 on the lot purchased from the village, and opened for business in November of that year. Many houses in the Eckville area built during the years 1953 to 1965 are fitted with windows, doors and kitchen cupboards manufactured in this plant.

In 1958 we moved the former Buchanan residence from Benalto to Eckville and after renovations it became our home for the next 23 years. In 1956 our son Bryan was born in the Eckville Hospital.

As the work increased the origina woodworking shop was enlarged, the shop area was doubled in 1961 and 1967 a two-storey front for office space with a basement for a heating plant was added.

In 1968 Dual-Craft Industries Ltd. was formed for the manufacture of the Chalet folding trailer and and truck canopies and campers. An assembly building 40 ft. by 120 ft. was erected for this purpose and the wooden parts manufactured in the former sash and cabinet plant were assembled in this building and shipped to customers as far away as Halifax, Nova Scotia and Waterloo, Iowa U.S.A.

During our years in Eckville, I was secretary for a time of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company. I spent some years on the Town Council and when Red McAndrew resigned to move to Red Deer, I succeeded him as Mayor continuing until business duties forced me to drop out of civic service.

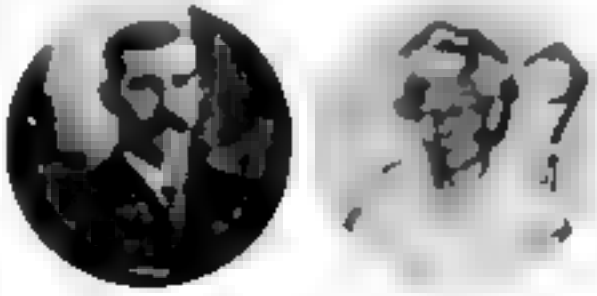
In the early part of this year (1977), the Dual Credit Industries and Anderson Woodworking properties were sold to Mr. Donald Macrae and his partners. As our Eckville residence formed a part of this property it meant a move for us. We are at the present moment engaged in building another home on an acreage on the same quarter section where, some 74 years ago, my father in company with Dan Clausen sawed the lumber for his homestead house and barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Anderson [illegible]

Our daughter May Van de Wark lives in Calgary where her husband Brian is a member of the Calgary City Police Force since 1962. Their family consists of two daughters, Cindy and Shannon. Our second daughter Beverly is Mrs. Neil Kuhn. Her husband was employed for [illegible] years with Dual-Craft as foreman during which time the Kuhns had a home built in Eckville. Upon leaving Eckville they went to Hope, British Columbia to a business of their own. They have three children, Shelly, Lorlie and Shane. Just recently the Kuhns have sold their business in Hope and now reside in Abbotsford where Neil is in the automotive parts [illegible].

May, Beverly and Bryan got most of their public school and high school education in Eckville schools. May spent her first year after leaving high school with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Our son Bryan lives with us and is at present with Donald and David Macrae in the Dual-Craft business.

In order to complete the history of our family I should add that after my father died in 1918, my mother rented the farm to a relative for two years and in 1920 married James Brooks who had homesteaded NW7-38-3W5, which he sold later to Frank Page and purchased instead the land now owned by Orla and Andrew Nielsen. His homestead was until recently the home of the Chucas family.



Photos of James Brooks when a Mounty and Mrs. Brooks

After my mother's marriage to "Jim" Brooks, they continued to make their home on my father's home place. Their children are Harry Brooks of Lesliieville who married Ada Wingate; Alford Brooks who spent more than 20 years with the Canadian Air Force and now lives with his wife, Beatrice, formerly of Halifax N.S. at Summerland, B.C. and Myrtle, Mrs. Arthur Bott of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. A more complete record of the Brooks' family history will be found under the names of Brooks and Bot[illegible].

**ANDERSON, CHRIS JR., — by Lillian Anderson**

Chris Anderson Sr. was born in Beirsted, Denmark, on June 26, 1883, coming to the Fort William, Ontario area, where he worked for the railway company laying track. He came on west to the Medicine Hat area of Alberta and filed on a homestead south of Seven Persons in 1908. Here he met his wife, the former Gonda Van Maarion who, with her parents and family had immigrated from Rotterdam, Holland to Canada in 1910. They farmed in the Seven Persons area un-

dl drought and crop failure for several years forced them to leave. The government offered to help such farmers by giving them two free railway cars for their belongings and family to relocate. The Andersons, with their family of eight children, moved to Cheddarville, south of Rocky Mountain House to S .2-37 7-W5 in 1925. Their land at Seven Persons was later sold at a tax sale.

In 1928 the family moved to the Daley farm N 31 37 3-W5, where they farmed until January of 1931, when they bought the E 15-38-3-W5 from a Mr. Hepworth, who was a creamery owner in Red Deer. They moved their belongings on wagons, as there was no snow that winter and no frost in the ground. This lack of frost enabled them to put up fences for their cattle, horses and pigs. In 1950 Chris sold the farm to Chris, Jr. He and Mrs. Anderson then retired to Calgary where Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1958 and Mr. Anderson in 1977.

In 1942 Chris Jr. married the former Lillian Aghbown of this district and they still farm the home place. They have two children. Margaret Newlands, who has been a stewardess for P.W.A. for 10 years, and her husband, Brian, who is project manager for Cascade Development Ltd. in Calgary, along with their daughter Kirsten, live at Bragg Creek. Son Richard, with his wife, the former Pat Snider, live at Sylvan Lake, where Pat is a teacher and Richard, after obtaining a B.Sc. Degree from the University of Alberta, is employed with the Alberta Hail Project of the Weather Modification Board at Penhold.

Mary Anderson married Elvin Ross and they live in Calgary. They have a son, Robert, who is with the armed forces in Ottawa.

Gonda Anderson's first husband passed away in Calgary around 1951. They had one daughter, Marlene, who lives in Calgary. Gonda married George Rumble and they now live at Crossfield.

John Anderson, who was serving in the Navy was lost at sea in the sinking of the "Spikenard" in the north Atlantic on February 10, 1942 at the age of 24 years.

Lillian Anderson married John Rowles in 1936 and they live in Calgary. They have a son, John Jr.

Charley Anderson also served in the Air Force for several years. He is now in the Real Estate business in Red Deer. He married the former Laureen Ralston in Red Deer in 1941 and they have one son, John, of Waterton Lakes, and two daughters, Joan of Calgary and Janice of Red Deer.

William Anderson (Charley's twin) was a fighter pilot and was shot down over Germany on March 24, 1945, and died at the age of 24 years. This was during the second world war.

Carl Anderson also served in the Air Force for quite some time. Upon returning, he farmed in this area before going to Calgary to work for the city. He retired from this job in February 1977. He married the former Helen Kulyk of Oyen in 1955 and they now live in Calgary.

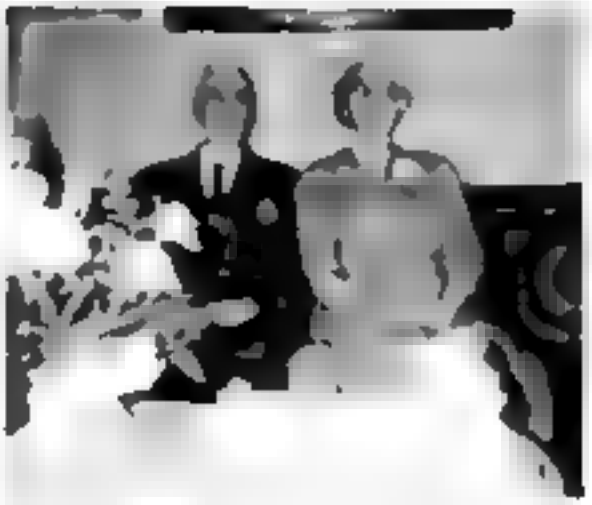
[redacted]

It seems that all the records of the Bluebell school have been lost. However, it was one of the early schools and should not be forgotten.

We know it was opened in 1905 with Miss Ada Brown as teacher. Miss Brown later married John Killick. Some of the teachers were: Miss Cochrane, J. M. MacDonald, Miss Coughlin, Miss Johanson, Mrs. Wannass, Miss Camron, A. Harrie, Miss Norton, Miss Stewart, William Morris, Mrs. Worma, Mildred Anderson, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Earl Hansen, Miss Golightly, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Macintosh, Miss McKee, Mr. Bowles and Mrs. Savoy.

The school was named by Mrs. Hansen whose favorite flower was the bluebell, and they grew in abundance around the school. The teachers in those days usually boarded with the farm families. A teacherage was built about 1949. The janitor work was done by one of the older pupils for which they were paid the large sum of $10 per year. All they had to do was to get to school early enough to have the school warm by nine o'clock, have the wood carried in and carry the water from across the road. In the holidays they washed the windows and scrubbed the floor.

Olaf Medin, a bachelor, lived across the road and quite often gave the janitor a helping hand by stoking up the fire in the morning. He also



planted a hedge of spruce trees around the school yard

Some of the first families to send children to school were Isaacsons, Bottons, Rasmussens, Hansens, Pedersens, and Bradshaws. The first school burned down in 1932 at Easter. The children were not allowed to enjoy a longer holiday however as half of the barn was new and it was turned into a classroom. The new school was built and ready in the fall.

The school house was used for many social activities, such as card parties, dances, business meetings, and the annual Christmas concert. The last day of school, picnics were always an enjoyable event. The school closed in 1955 and the children were bussed to Eckville. The school was sold to Art Moench who remodelled it for a family dwelling. It is now owned by Ezra Isaac [illegible].

Other teachers at Bluebell school were L. G. Dodson, Mr. Strerrett, Miss Huttin, T. J. Knoor and Mr. Gleeb.

**BOLLER, CHRISTIAN**

Christian Boller came to Alberta from Oslo Norway in 1905. After a period of time working for the railroad he started farming with his cousin Hans Olsen in 1909. Later they bought the quarter of land known as the Benson Place, SE 20-38-3-W5. They farmed together for a few years then Chris sold his share to Hans. Chris then bought a quarter of land from Jack Coughlin which is at present owned by Henry Nagel.

In 1924 he married Selma Botten who had come to Alberta with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Botten in 1902 from South Dakota, U.S.A. Prior to her marriage Selma worked in Red Deer for a few years.

For a few years during the 1940's they owned a quarter of land that they bought from August Christensen, at present owned by Cliff Hansen. Upon selling this they bought the Coughlin quarter directly east of their home place.

In 1947 they retired from farming to live in Sylvan Lake, later on moving to Red Deer, and in 1963, they moved to Calgary. In 1964, Chris and Selma celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Chris passed away in 1966 and Selma in 1971.

Chris and Selma had one daughter, Verna. She attended the Diamond Valley school. In 1949 Verna married Bruce Castleman from Sylvan Lake. They moved to Calgary where they still reside. They have four daughters, all of whom live in Calgary.

**THE BOTTEN FAMILY — by Iris Rasmussen**

One of the first families to move into the Evarts district was Halvor Knut Botten and his wife, Gunhild Ellingson, born July 21, 1862 and April 15, 1864 respectively in Fron Hadngar, Norway. They had a family of four daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Botten emigrated to the Evarts district on November 3, 1902 and along with them came Pete Pedersen, his wife, Sifred and their family. Mr. Pedersen was a brother of Mrs. Botten.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten settled on the SW 33-38-3 W5 and homesteaded the NE 28-38-3-W5. The land Bottens settled on was Canadian Pacific Railway land. It is now owned by Martin Gelle. Pete Pedersen settled on NW 28-38-3-W5. Pete and his family lived in this area until 1908 when he sold the land to Neils Rasmussen. This land is now owned by Mrs. Theresa Rasmussen and rented by Elmer Rasmussen.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten were interested in educating their daughters. Mr. Botten donated two acres of land on which to build a school, which became known as the Bluebell School. It was in operation from about 1904 until 1955. All the Botten girls attended this school.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten's oldest daughter was Thilda Hagrimsen, a daughter of Mrs. Botten by a previous marriage. She was born in Minnesota U.S.A. on January 23, 1892. As well as attending the Bluebell school, Thilda also attended Central School in Red Deer. She worked at the Evarts Hotel for a time before marrying Hans Olsen in

1911. There were five children born of this marriage Thilda Olsen passed away in 1932

The second daughter was Clara Oleda, born June 5, 1895, also in Minnesota. She worked at Lundberg's hotel and later clerked in Seatrap's store in Eckville Clara married Frank Andrews on July 25, 1921. Clara and Frank had five children Clara passed away in Red Deer on December 7 19?5

Selma Christina, the third daughter, was born March 3, 1898 in South Dakota, U.S.A. After securing her education at the Bluebell school Selma worked at various places doing household chores and caring for children. Her duties were performed for Thilda Olsen Mr and Mrs. Dodd Wright and Mr and Mrs. Bob Edgar Selma married Chris Boller on March 18, 1924. One daughter, Verna, was born to this marriage Chris and Selma farmed in the Diamond Valley district. They retired to Sylvan Lake. They later lived in Red Deer and Calgary until their passing Chris in February 1966 and Selma in December of 1971 Both are buried in Queen's Cemetery in Calgary

Thressa Botten was 10 months old when she came with her parents to the Evarts district having been born in South Dakota on January 8, 1902. Most of her years have been spent in this immediate area She recalls some of her teachers' names. Miss Brown, Mr Knor and Mr Ptolmey At the age of 12 years Thressa worked for Mrs. Bill Schuneman, an old timer of this area, now living in Red Deer

Thressa was the first telephone operator in Eckville She ran the switchboard in Lundberg's hotel. She worked and trained for a year at the switchboard in Red Deer then returned to Eckville to operate the switchboard there for seven years. Following her work at the switchboard, Thressa returned home to care for her folks until she married Orvel Rasmussen on August 31, 1932

Thressa and Orvel, along with hogs and cattle also raised chickens and turkeys for many years Just before Christmas was a busy time for turkey plurkers. Thressa and Orvel, along with Albert and Hazel Hansen and Gilbert and Jean McNeil, worked together in the short cold days of December at their respective homes to dress a great many turkeys. Orvel passed away April 26 1962

Thressa is interested in flowers. She learned to work with wool and made many quilts, and still enjoys knitting She resides in Red Deer

Gena Helena, the youngest daughter was born September 1, 1904 at her home in the Evarts area After completing her school days Gena remained at home with her parents until she married Rudy Rasmussen on February 14, 1923 Gena and Rudy lived on the NW 28-38-3-W5 for a few years and their first two children were born here Later they moved to the NE 29-38-3-W5 Four more children were born to this family Gena Rasmussen passed away shortly after the birth of Helena on February 13, 1933. She is buried in the Medicine Valley cemetery

Halvor and Gunhild Botten's home was situated geographically between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. In the early years people travelling this way with sleighs in winter and wagons in summer needed food and lodging for the night. Mrs. Botten was always able to find food to share. There was always a place for people to rest and get warm

During the early years Mr. Botten would transport people to Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Jim Grandohl, a young man from Rocky Mountain House brought people either by cutter or buggy as far as Bottens. Then Mr Botten took everyone the rest of the way to Red Deer, often travelling at night in very cold weather Mr Botten also hauled freight back and forth in the early years

Thressa Botten Rasmussen tells of different pioneering days When coffee was in short supply Mrs. Botten used wheat She would wash it well and put it in the oven. Over the wheat she poured a little molasses. Next it was roasted slowly until dry This roasted wheat was stored and ground the same as coffee. The taste was equally as good. Milk was nearly always in plentiful supply Mrs. Botten made different kinds of cheese, roma, grout and vesting, a dish made of thickened milk, served with sugar and cin-

Mrs. Botten passed away October 16, 1934 after a brief illness Mr Botten continued living on the farm until his passing a few years later Both Mr and Mrs. Botten are buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery

**BROWN JIM, JIM, AND NELLIE**

James Brown and Helen Dobie were both born and raised in Scotland. They were married at Dalkeith Mid-Lothian, Scotland on April 30 1915

After Dad's return from active service in World War I, he resumed his business as a coal merchant, but the urge to emigrate was upon him. The decision to be made was — Australia or Canada? With the toss of a coin they chose Canada and on May 11, 1929 Jim and Nellie and their four children, Jimmy, Mary, Alex and Jemima left Greenock, Scotland on the "S.S Metagamma" bound for Alberta, Canada through the Soldier Settlement Board Scheme

After seven days at sea, and I must say, not all pleasure, with seasickness, man overboard and icebergs, we landed at Quebec From there to Kootuk by train, where we were met by the late Alf Thubron, in place of Mr Goldfinch, who was supervisor for the Soldier Settlement Board After an overnight stay at the Erkville Hotel. Mr Goldfinch took us by car to Hespero, where we collected our baggage off the train and loaded it onto a hayrack and horses belonging to Donald

Hartley, who took us to the farm one mile east of Gaetz school. SW 6-38-3-W5

At first glance the buildings on the farm were a big disappointment but the decision had been made and the best had to be made of it. The land had been rented by a neighbor, Louis Hubl for the year so Dad worked for neighboring farmers to learn the Canadian ways of farming.

A barn was built and our first milk cow was purchased from L. Hubl. Bessie, our first animal on the farm became a real pet and we did have milk. Our first team of horses and harness were purchased from another neighbor John Mayles. Machinery and more horses were purchased as [illegible] and [illegible] ready to start farming.

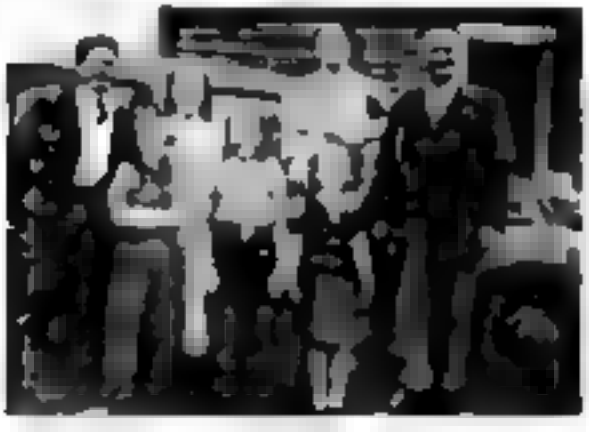
After coming from a town where Mother was used to the butcher and baker vans coming to the door this was quite a change. The stove was a big challenge and learning to make bread was another but with the help of kindly neighbors these problems were overcome. Mother knew how to make scones and many a time a scone and cup of tea was served and enjoyed in our home.

Our school was Gaetz only a mile away and the post office was at Hespero. Dad was a great walker and often walked for the mail and the few necessities, including coal oil for the lamps. Later on we could get coal oil at N. F. Eriksson's and our mail route was R. R. 3.

Our social life consisted of the school picnics in June and the Christmas concerts at the school. Many a Friday night saw the family walking to Hubls' our closest neighbor) to listen to the Old Timers from C. F. C.N. Calgary. To hear a few Scottish tunes did much for the morale. A few house parties at different homes were always enjoyed, and the children were always included.

In November 1930 a baby girl, Janet, arrived with Mrs. Charlie Wright attending as midwife. With the 1930's came the depression and all it brought with it, but with courage, pride and determination we came through.

Dad served on the school board and was secretary of the Farmers' Union for many years.



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Being a very military-minded man, he was instrumental in starting a Legion in Eckville, in which he is still active and holds a life membership. Through the Legion he started the "Burns Suppers". He is also an ardent member of the Friendship Club.

In 1939, when World War II broke out, Jimmy joined the Calgary Highlanders and went overseas in 1940. After his return he married Ruby Wayne of Calgary. They now reside in Camrose, where Jim is employed with the C. F. C. W. They have two girls, Barbara and Elizabeth and one granddaughter Rebecca.

Mary married Harry Medin in 1940 and they reside in the Diamond Valley district. They have two sons, Ronald of Hanna, Dennis of Rocky Mountain House, and a daughter Faye, (Mrs. Jim Pollard) of Eckville.

Alex joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1944 and in 1947 married Sylvia Mottus of Gilby. They now reside in Rocky Mountain House and have four sons. Duncan of Fort Murray, Robert of Vernon, B.C. and Grant and Gordon of Rocky Mountain House.

Pat married Jim Setters in 1947. They now have an acreage near Blackfalds. They have two sons, Byron of Red Deer and Wilson, at home and a daughter Janice. Mrs. Dick Gehrke of Rocky Mountain House.

Janet married Robert (Bud) Lightbown in 1962 and they have a family of two girls, Karen (Mrs. Jim Tubbs) and Myrna (Mrs. Peter McLellan of Rocky Mountain House, and three sons, Garry, Murray and Dean.

[illegible]

In 1965 Jim and Nellie retired from farming and moved into Eckville where they still reside. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in 1977. Mother celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary on March 1, 1977 and Dad his 86th birthday anniversary on July 31, 1977.

**ALASTAIR BROWNLEE FAMILY**

"Red" and Bernice Brownlee and family came to the district from Joffre, where "Red" was employed in the oil-field. They bought the NE 32-38-3-W5 and NE 33-38-3-W5 from S. E. Boettger in 1965. Their family consists of four children — three daughters and one son. Heather the eldest is employed in Red Deer. Karen who married Ron Andrew, lives north of Eckville, and has one daughter Gina, Sandra married Bob French and lives at Joffre. they have two daughters, Tracy and Michelle. Brian attends high school at Eckville.

**BURNS AND FREW — by W. T. Burns**

I was born in Quebec in 1897. At four years of age I moved to California with my parents, a few years later to Oregon. Then, in 1909 to Claresholm, Alberta and to the Ricinus district in 1913. In 1915, during World War One, I enlisted in the 22nd Battery in the Artillary and spent three years overseas. I returned home to help my parents and to work on my own land. My parents were old timers of the Ricinus district. My mother passed away in 1923 and was the first white woman to die west of the Clearwater River. My dad passed away in 1929.

In 1926 I moved to the Diamond Valley district and married Margaret Frew, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Frew, who came from Scotland in 1913 to the Evarts district and later moved to Ricinus. In 1947 they moved to Eckville and lived in Eckville for 12 years. Mr. Frew was well known for his accordion playing.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Frew

Mr. Frew's work in Scotland had been making and moulding iron in the Crown Ironworks. One day on the farm he found a piece of iron with the Crown stamp on it. "We thought he had found gold." He was so happy to have found a piece of iron with the Crown stamp on it, that he had made in Scotland.

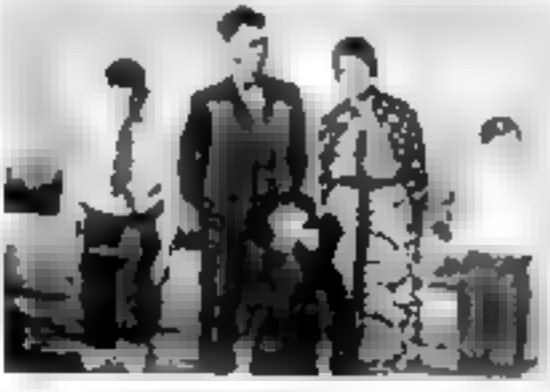
Mr. and Mrs. Frew both lived to be 80 years of age. She passed away in 1959 and he in 1960.

My wife and I lived in Diamond Valley for 44 years. We raised a family of three sons — Bruce, Stanley and Robert — who now live and farm in Diamond Valley and are well known.

We had many ups and downs in the early days, especially through the thirties, but many happy days, too. It was a good life.

Now, in our older years we enjoy living in Eckville and enjoy our many friends here. We moved here in 1971 and last year (1976) we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.

[illegible] Burns on [illegible] tractor — 1917. 1 cylinder. 1 wheel. Double Disc.



Wm. Burns and Family — 1919

**BURNS, ROBERT**

Robert spent his growing-up years in the Diamond Valley district with his parents, Wycliffe and Margaret Burns, and older brothers, Bruce and Stanley. After attending school at Diamond Valley and Gaetz, Robert went out to work on the

the majority of these years being spent working for the Duke Drilling Company. At the time he started drilling for them, he was told that he was one of the youngest drillers in Alberta.

With due consideration, a decision was made to make his life's work and home on the farm. He then went home to Diamond Valley and purchased the Lightbown home quarter, SE 5-38-3-W5.

In July of 1961 Robert married Deloyce Tolonen, daughter of Tolmi and Elsie Tolonen and sister to Rodney. Deloyce grew up north of Eckville and took her schooling in the Estonian and Eckville High School. After two years of teacher training she taught in Bentley for two years. Following her marriage, she taught in the David Thompson High School. In the term of 1962-1963 Deloyce returned to university to complete four years and graduated in 1963, receiving a Bachelor of Education degree. She taught only until the arrival of her family. Family additions were three - Brent, Drena and Lance. Since the Burns farm is on the edge of the Red Deer County, the children attend the Spruce View School.

In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Burns moved to Eckville, at which time Robert took over the farm, SW 5-38-3-W5, and in the meantime had purchased the Philip Larson quarter, SE 6-38-3-W5.

Bob is very interested in cattle. Along with a range cow herd, he is presently establishing a purebred Simmental herd. He and his brother Bruce operate a feed-lot.

Bob, Deloyce and family are active community members, plus being members of the Diamond Valley Church. Bob is a Church Board member and has served on the Eckville Co-op Board for seven years. The family is active in the Range Land 4-H Beef Club, of which Bob is presently the leader.

Farm life for the R. Burns family has been very busy but rewarding and happy as well.

**STANLEY BURNS FAMILY** – by Anne Burns

Stanley Roy Burns, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Wycliffe Burns, married Anne Dobia, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dobia of the Evergreen district. The wedding took place on November 3, 1950. They lived in the house which Stan had built prior to their marriage on his father's farm.

In the year 1953 Gayle was born on February 11 on her grandmother Burns' birthday. She, being their first grandchild, was named after her grandmother, Margaret Gayle.

That spring Stan and Anne purchased the N 5-38-3-W5 from Douglas Walker. In the fall of that year they moved their house onto this land. The families that had lived on this land prior were Bill Ballance, Jack Day and Douglas Walker.

During the years from 1953 to 1956 the rainfall was very heavy. Stan decided to go into hog farming with grain farming being their chief occupation.

On February 27, 1955 another daughter, Beverley Anne, was born. By this time Stan had had bad luck with his hogs and the crops were poor so he decided to do some bush work for the winter, west of Rocky Mountain House. By the fall of 1956 he began roughnecking on the drilling rigs and this he continued for ten winters.

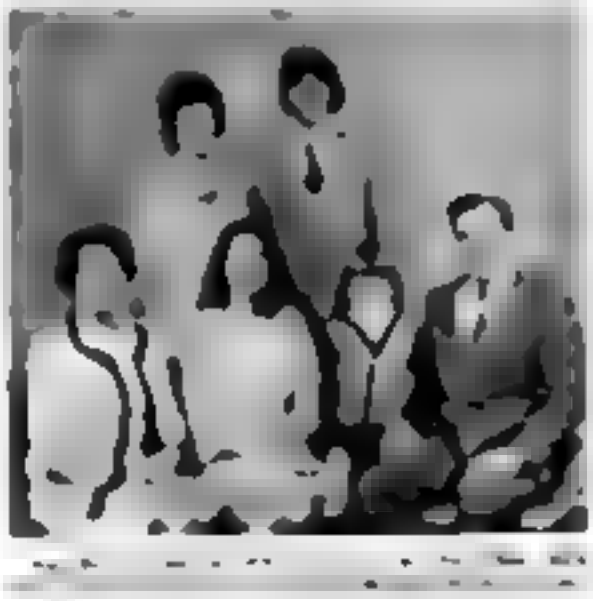
During these years and Stan's earlier years a lot of softball was played. The first team in the district was New Hill, which later changed to Gaetz and finally was called Central. This team consisted mainly of the same players and all those years Stanley played as pitcher. There were many teams taking part in different districts and they formed a league. Softball games were the chief sport in the surrounding communities for 20 years. The tournaments were plentiful, and enjoyed by all.

In 1963 Anne and Stan built a new house with Jack Friesen being hired as carpenter. Many homes in the community were built by Jack, as he was a very good carpenter and a fine fellow.

Beverley and Gayle attended school at Spruce View except for Gayle's first year at Benalto and last year in Red Deer, where she graduated. Gayle took training in Dental Assisting at NAIT. On July 20, 1974 she married Peter Stan and they are now residing in Calgary.

Beverley has completed four years of university towards a B.Ed. degree. In the fall of 1977 she began teaching at Sundre, Alberta.

Stan has served on the board of directors for the Eckville Rural Electrification Association for many years. He has held the position of



secretary for ten years and at present is the board chairman

Both Stan and Anne have served on the board of several worthwhile organizations in the community

A son, Sheldon William, was born on March 16, 1970 and at present is attending Spruce View school

During the past several years Stan has been growing rapeseed, barley and some hay. Animals on their farm have been scarce, except for chickens and pets

**CATON FAMILY - by May Caton**

Glen Caton born in Missouri, U.S.A. on October 7, 1882 was the son of Harrison F. Caton born in Ohio, and Helen (Whitlow), from North Carolina. The youngest of five children, his father died when Glen was four years old. After leaving school Glen went to Nebraska and then joined his brother, Charlie, in Montana before they came to Alberta in May of 1902

Glen and Charlie were the first to settle where the Diamond Valley swings west into township 30, across range four, west of the fifth meridian. As yet and west of the fourth was not yet surveyed. They squatted on the south half of section 12 and build a slab shack on the south-east quarter. In 1903 they were joined by their widowed mother, a brother Oscar (Doc) and two sisters, Sadie and Jessie. Charlie went on to Nome, Alaska in 1903 where he stayed a year and then returned to Washington in the United States. He died in 1938 at the age of 56 years

When range four was surveyed Glen filed on S.W. 20-30-4-W5th, which was CPR land. Doc retained his land and the girls sold theirs. All the family except Glen then moved to Washington in 1912

Doc returned to Alberta in 1917. Jessie married Alex Stewart and returned to Diamond Valley in 1936. She now lives in Red Deer. Sadie returned in 1960 and died in Red Deer in 19

Glen remained on his homestead for 55 years. He was married in 1910 to Catherine Stewart, daughter of Angus and Janet Stewart who came from Ontario in 1905, to join a son, Alex Stewart who had homesteaded in range three in 1901. Glen's family consisted of five sons and five daughters

Cecil, the eldest, entered the service of the Imperial Bank of Canada and has remained with them except for the years he spent with the Royal Canadian Artillery in the Second World War. He married Eleanor Robson Galbraith and they have two children, Alan and Janet

Claude resides on the land homesteaded by his Uncle Doc. He married May Medin and they [illegible]

Harold lives on the home place — he is the bachelor of the family. Russel and Gordon, who both served overseas in the Second World War, now operate a farm machinery and dairy supplies business in Red Deer. Russell married Margaret Morris and they have a son Gary, and a daughter, Lyn

Gordon married Myrtle Chamney. They have three sons and one daughter. They are Bill, Dale, Glen and Lou Anne

Edith Caton married Gordon Meyer. They live near Manning, Alberta. They have two sons, Lance and Ian. Ethel married Gordon Watson, they live at Kevisville. Lillian married Don Major; they live at New Westminster, B.C., and have five children — Roland, twins Lewis and Lana, and twins, Connie and Catherine. Dorothy married Robert Park. They have one son and three daughters — Layton, Patricia, Darline and Lori. They live on a farm near Rocky Mountain House. Marjorie, formerly a nurse at Eckville, married Elmer Haupt and they farm in the Markerville district. They have a son, Murray and daughters, Irene and Joan

Always interested in community affairs, Glen was secretary of the Local Improvement District, helped in the formation of the Municipal District of Raven No. 37, the formation of Gaetz School No. 1956 in 1909, was on the first committee of the Central Community Hall, was on the Eckville hospital board and the Eckville Co-op Board. As the district changed, he got his mail at Evarts, Evergreen, Hespero and Eckville. Many of these post offices have now been closed.

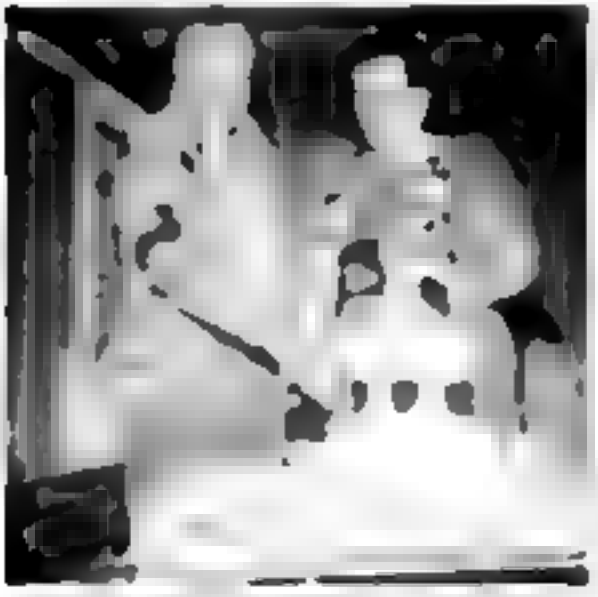
Glen passed away on March 17, 1957 and Mrs. Caton on January 3, 1969. Both are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

**GORDON, WILLIAM JAMES — by Violet Galvon**

William James (Bill) Gordon was born at Bonnemain, Donegal, Ireland on December 15, 1921. He came to Canada with his parents, John and Annie Gordon, to the Hespero district in August, 1923, where he attended the Daisy Nook school. After leaving school he worked with his parents on their farm.

He purchased his first truck in 1942 and went into the business of general trucking. During the following years he hauled cattle, grain, coal, gravel, lumber and moved people and their belongings into and out of the district.

Bill married the former Hazel Anderson in 1947 and they lived for a few years on the farm near his parents. During this time he continued trucking and eventually purchased two gravel trucks. They moved to Eckville in 1953, from where he hauled gravel in the summers and hauled lumber and ties from sawmills out west in the winters. In the fall of 1957 and spring of 1958 he hauled gravel on the new Trans-Canada Highway, which was being built west from Calgary. He purchased his first gravel loader in the spring of 1960 and his first gravel crusher in the spring of 1964. With his son Robert he now carries on the gravel business the entire year.



Hazel was born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta on February 22, 1926. She grew up and attended school in the Millet district. After leaving school she worked for a time in Edmonton, and from there joined the C.W.A.C. in 1944. She was trained as a driver and continued in this work until her discharge at the end of the war in 1945. She attended business school after returning from the Service and worked as a stenographer until she met and married William Gordon.

Bill served for three years on the Eckville Town Council and was a member of the Eckville Lion's Club for several years. Hazel is a member of the C.W.L. and the Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion. Both Bill and Hazel love the outdoors, and enjoy fishing in winter and [illegible].

Their children include Barry of North Vancouver B.C., Nora (Mrs. Florian Hiebert) of Red Deer, Noel of Calgary, and Robert, Sandra, and Kelly of Eckville.

**Robert James Gordon** was born at Eckville on July 6, 1959. He attended school at Eckville and Lacombe, and graduated from the Lacombe Composite High School in 1970. When he was 11 years old, he took over a paper route, and delivered the Red Deer Advocate for seven years, from 1961 to 1967. During this time he was a member of the Eckville Cubs and Scouts for two years. He was an enthusiastic skater and hockey player, and played hockey every season with the Eckville Pee-Wees, Bantams, and Juveniles through the years 1961 to 1967. He has always had an interest in antique cars and trucks, and has owned two Model A vintage cars. He has recently built and completely restored a 1954 G.M.C. pickup truck. Robert is presently employed with his father in the gravel business.

**Noel John Gordon** was born at Eckville on December 10, 1956. He attended school at Eckville and Lacombe. He was a member of the Eckville Cubs and Scouts and ran a paper route for a time. He was in Vancouver for a short time, where he was employed by a painting firm. However he returned to Alberta and worked at Deerhorne in Red Deer for a year. He is presently living in Calgary and is employed with Blossom Florists.

**Sandra Anne Gordon** was born at Eckville on December 15, 1960. She attends school at Eckville, from which she expects to be graduated in 1978. She is a former member of the Eckville Figure Skating Club. She is a C.O.C. leader and a member of C.G.I.T. She is active with the Yearbook staff of the Eckville High School, and is completing her seventh year of music study. She worked for the summer of 1976 as a playground supervisor for the Town of Eckville.

**Kelly David Gordon** was born at Eckville on May 6, 1962. He attends school at Eckville and was in Grade 10 in 1977. His hobby is drawing,

and he has won prizes at the Red Deer fair for his work. He attended art classes at Red Deer College in 1976, and with the Eckville Handicraft Guild in 1977.

**William Barry Cordon** was born in Eckville on December 27, 1940. He was raised by his grandparents, John and Annie Cordon, on the farm at Hespero. He attended the Daisy Nook, Blue Bell and Condor schools, as well as the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. He later attended the University of British Columbia. He was married in Edmonton on November 24, 1962, to Jeannine Carduner of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and lived for a time in Montreal and in Ottawa. He traveled extensively through Europe and Asia and the South Seas, finally settling in North Vancouver in 1969. Later he opened a restaurant there, which he named "Hespero Villa". It was decorated with antiques — dishes and oil lamps collected from his grandparents' farm and friends in the Hespero area. The Safron children designed the antiqued sign "Hespero Villa" which he proudly displayed in the restaurant. Barry is active playing the piano for an old-time orchestra, and is a frequent visitor to the Hespero and Eckville areas, and never fails to visit his grandmother Cordon at Sylvan Lake.

**Nora May Cordon** was born at Eckville on October 22, 1948. She attended school at Eckville and graduated in 1967. When she reached junior high school she became thoroughly involved in sports. She joined every team, but track and field was her favorite. After practice, she did babysitting. There were always lots of jobs to be had. During her high school years she participated in volleyball, softball, curling and track and field. In 1966 she represented Eckville in the discus throw at the Provincial Track and Field Meet in Calgary.

Nora was fortunate in being able to take a Recreation Leadership course, organized through the Department of Youth from Edmonton. This course, held at the Composite High School in Drumheller during July of 1965 and 1966, enabled her to organize a ladies' keep fit group, which had a successful season during the winter of 1966-1967. She also coached a Grade 6 boys' softball team, which proved to be quite an experience.

After graduation in 1967 she went to Red Deer and found employment at Deerhome (now Michener Centre, on the recreation staff. After a year there she left and took a secretarial course. She was later able to work as a posting machine operator at Northwest Motors during the three month leave of absence of the regular employee. This gave her some valuable experience, and she then found employment with the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Red Deer as a posting machine operator. She worked here until her marriage to Florian Hiebert of Red Deer, on April 11, 1970. They have two children, a boy, Laverne, aged six years, and a girl, Shannon, aged four years.

Nora is a member of the Order of Royal Purple No. 21, a member of St. Judes Circle, which is a branch of the Catholic Women's League, and is active in curling and bowling. She and her husband are both members of the Parkland Two Way Radio Club, and are involved in C.B. and ham radio work. They reside at 6133 Hamilton Drive, in Highland Green, Red Deer.

**CRAIG, JOHN — by Neva Craig**

John Craig, older son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Craig of the Happy Hill district, grew up on the family farm and learned responsibility early in life. He took a real interest in the operation of the farm and helped to clear and break a number of acres of land. In 1935 he bought a quarter section of land in Diamond Valley, N.E. 9-38-3-W5. He married Neva Crawford and this farm was their home until his retirement from active farming.

To this union were born Maureen, Murray and Brian. Maureen became a Nursing Aide and is married to Melvin Dyck. They live at Penhold, and have three children.

Murray married Darlene Gherke, and after their marriage lived for a time on the family farm. Later they moved to Carstairs where Murray was employed with Richardson's Trucking. After two years he moved to Mackin, Saskatchewan, where he was employed with an oil company.

Brian lives on the farm formerly owned by Andrew Crawford.

John's main interest has always been livestock. He became a promoter of Charolais cattle, and had a small herd for a few years. He and his wife retired from active farming in 1974 when Murray returned to take over the family farm. However they still live in the district, and have a small herd of cattle.

**CRAWFORD, ROBERT — by Neva Craig**

Mr. Robert Crawford came from Grande Forks, Minnesota, U.S.A. to Saskatchewan where he filed on a homestead. However he decided to come to Alberta and did not return to the homestead. He liked the country around Red Deer so the family joined him there in 1905. They spent one year there and then moved to the Happy Hill district. Charlie Hendrickson, a bachelor was their closest neighbor and the children were quite taken with his table. It sat in one corner of his house, and its base was a tree stump.

Mr. Crawford later rented the Liggot place in the Diamond Valley district and their five school-age children attended Gaetz School until the school at Diamond Valley was built. The family lived on several other rented farms before finally buying the S.W. 18-38-3-W5 in 1920. There were about 13 acres under cultivation when it was purchased. During the next 12 years Mr. Crawford and his son Andrew cleared by hand about 112 acres and broke it with horses.

Mr. Crawford passed away in 1940, but his

wife and son, Andrew, continued to live on the farm. Andrew was married in 1949 to Anna Luer of the Rimbey district

Mrs. Crawford passed away in 1951

The eldest daughter, Pearl, married Sid Satchwell. She passed away in 1919, leaving one son Walter who now resides at Golden, B.C.

Agnes married Dan High and lived most of her married life in Red Deer. They have one daughter who resides in Calgary

Louise married Bud Thomas some time after his return from overseas, in the First World War. They had one son, who resides in the Red Deer

Frances married James Bird, and they have one son and one daughter. Mr. Bird passed away in 1961.

Temple taught school for several years after which she married William Campbell who passed away in 1966. Their two daughters are both married

Neva was the only member of the family born in Canada, and still resides in the community. She is married to John Craig. They have one daughter and two sons

**AUGUST DAHLGREN FAMILY**

Gust Dahlgren came to Fargo, North Dakota U.S.A. from Halmstad, Sweden in 1896. In 1898 he sent for Ida Malmstrom and they were married in Fargo that year. In 1903 he came to Alberta to take up a homestead, which is now the Mick Logan place. He built a log house in 1905 and sent for his family, who had remained in Fargo. The family was able to watch the building of the school, and Gust actually named the Diamond Valley School. In the late spring and early summer the dew was heavy in the morning and when the sun came up the whole valley sparkled like diamonds. This gave him the idea for the name, "Diamond Valley

There was plenty of meat of all kinds, beef, pork, mutton, chickens; and prarie chickens were plentiful at that time. They took some of the grain—rye, oats and wheat— in bags to some place toward Rocky Mountain House and had it made into flour. There was no market for what they raised, but there was plenty of food

The freight was usually lumber going to Red Deer and supplies coming back as there was a store, saloon, and a livery stable in Evarts. There was also communication between Evarts and Red Deer by telephone

Gust and family sold out to Ed Wadson in 1913 and moved to Washougal, Washington, U.S.A. They had a family of eight children and as they grew up, each one took his place in the business world. Both Gust and his wife have passed on. Their family still live in the States

Henry, the eldest son, had a drug store and was a pharmacist in Portland, Oregon. He and his wife are retired on a little acreage close to Portland. They have been out to visit a few times since they left here

**DARLINGTON FAMILY HISTORY — by Bill Darlington**

Will and Mabel Darlington were married in Essex, England in 1913. Their three children Bill, Ken and Joan, were all born there at Springate Farm. Later the family moved to Kent to a larger farm. Here Will had a dairy herd and supplied milk to the city of London. However misfortune in the form of Bangs disease in the cattle, along with the post-war hard times made the Darlingtons decide to try their luck in the new world

In the autumn of 1926 they set sail for Canada and a new life on the western prairies. They travelled by train from the east coast to the Lougheed district of Alberta, where an uncle of Will's was already farming. Here they farmed for the next nine years while their family was growing up. However these were the dry 'Dusty Thirties' and grain farming in that area did not prove too profitable. As an alternative Will and his family became interested in raising registered Shorthorn cattle

In 1937, with two grown sons to help, Will and Mabel decided to make another move, this time to the Millet district. Here they continued to raise their excellent beef cattle as well as a dairy herd, as Millet had one of the best cheese factories in Canada at that time

In 1943, with son Ken and daughter Joan both in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Will and Mabel and son Bill purchased the Doug Snyder farm in the Hespero district, west of Eckville. At the end of World War II (1945) Ken and his wife Lorraine also came to Hespero, purchasing one of the quarter sections of land from his father. Meanwhile, Bill had married Mary Gathercole and settled in a small house in his parents' yard later taking over the big house when the senior Darlingtons built a new smaller home. Bill's three daughters, Sheila, Shirley and Marie, and son Bill Jr. were all born there

The Darlington families were all interested in cattle. Bill and his father continued to raise some of the best beef in the west, while Ken had a herd of registered Jerseys and also a large poultry flock. All of the Darlingtons took an active part in the district activities and were always exhibitors at the Benalto Fairs. Bill and family also took a keen interest in 4-H Club work, as the many trophies in their living room will show

In the fall of 1954 Will Darlington passed away, leaving his family to carry on the traditions of good farming that he had always practiced

In 1957 Ken and Lorraine and their two daughters moved to Edmonton where Ken had accepted a position on the poultry branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture

Granny Darlington, as she has been affectionately called by everyone for many years, lived on in her own home, bearing up in her true English style, after the death of her husband and then that of her only daughter in 1961. She kept

up her interest in all of the farm activities until her arthritis forced her to give up her home and retire to the Eckville Manor House. Here, at age 86 in 1977, she still keeps up her cheerful interest in all activities of the district. Few babies have ever been born here who did not wear a tiny outfit fashioned from the knitting needles of "Granny" Darlington.

**DIAMOND VALLEY CHURCH — by Neva Craig**

Prior to beginning this little history of the Diamond Valley Church, I would like to pay tribute to those who have ministered to us in the school house and in private homes, off and on through the many years before it came into being. As a little girl, I remember a Swedish pastor, Mr. John Nelson, from the Burnt Lake area, coming to speak in the different homes. There were quite a few Swedish people in the district at that time, but we all went, whether the Word was preached in Swedish or not. I think a few words were always said in English for our benefit. Then, there was a man by the name of W. G. McKechnie, who had lost his eyesight in his teen years, and, later becoming a Presbyterian minister who covered an area between Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House.

There were others later on, of various denominations, who came to Diamond Valley to hold services. Mr. W. Cross, from a Nazarene College, held services for at least one summer, also an elderly Presbyterian minister who lived in the Centreville District, by the name of W. Sheppard.

There was usually a goodly number of people present, and I feel that those who ministered the gospel to us in those early years may have laid some of the ground-work for the present church. William Deverill came in the late spring of 1934 at the invitation of the late Joe Hollander of the Gaetz district. There wasn't too much response in the few services held there, but the Max Lightbown family became interested. Later that summer, Max accompanied the Deverills to a camp meeting at Rossington, a district not too far from Westlock, Alberta. Following this, at the invitation of Max Lightbown, regular Sunday services were begun in the Diamond Valley School, with Mr. Deverill in charge. He lived in the Lightbown house on the SW 4-38-3-W5, and stayed for two or three months. Upon leaving, he placed Mrs. Nester, from Roundup, in charge of the services here. Mrs. Nester was a widow with three daughters, Eva, Lucy and Barbara. Eva, being the eldest, came here to stay with her mother for the first year, and attended school at Diamond Valley. The two younger girls stayed with Mrs. Nester's parents. Their only mode of transportation was walking, and Mrs. Nester walked a goodly number of miles in all kinds of weather. They, too, lived in the Lightbown house. Phillip Larsen, a neighbor, gave her a cow to milk in the summer months, and she sold butter to make a bit of extra money.

Through harvest time Mrs. Nester began announcing that there would be special Evangelistic services later on, and just before Christmas and into the new year Mr. and Mrs. G. Batke came. During this time a real revival took place, and a congregation of over 50 people was formed.

Camp meeting was held in Alex Stewart's barn loft the next summer, and on a clear evening the lusty singing could be heard a mile away. Following this camp meeting, Mrs. Nester was married to Mr. C. Upshall, and, together with the three girls, they continued the work here.

Services were held in the school for over two years, and people began to feel the need of building a church. Land was donated for the project by Charles Snyder, directly across the road west of the school.

The decision was made to build a log church large enough to seat about 100 people. Logs were taken out from a forest reserve about 10 miles west of Ricinus during the winter of 1936, by volunteer labour. There was a small cabin on the property nearby that was not in use, and the owner said the men could stay there while they were cutting the logs. The men remember waking up in the morning to the tune of bubbling porridge being prepared by Mr. Upshall. Logs were then hauled by team and sleigh from this area to the church site. The stopping point along the way was the home of Clyde Comstock, a bachelor. Construction of the little log church was begun in the spring of 1936 with Ed Bartburger in charge. He had learned the trade of building with logs in Germany. A number of the men from the congregation helped when and where they could. Lumber for the floor and roof was sawed at a mill on the west side of the Clearwater River at Ricinus, on the George McNutt land, with a steam-powered saw mill. A man by the name of Ralph Berry, from Dapp, was in charge of the foundation work, roof shingling, doors and windows, and the benches. Money was a scarce commodity during those years, but a sum of money was donated for nails, shingles and windows to the amount of about $100. Somehow it covered the necessary expenses, doors being donated from an old house on the W. T. Burns' farm.

The church was completed and dedicated for service in the late summer of 1936, being affiliated with the Apostolic Church of Pentecost. Mr. and Mrs. Upshall continued the work until the following summer, when Mrs. Upshall's mother became very ill, and they left to be with her for a time. They later started a church in E[illegible]

Following the departure of the Upshalls the work was taken over by Miss Rowse and Miss Sczebell. Miss Rowse was the preacher and Miss Sczebell the homemaker. They lived in two granaries that were put together, and Miss

Following the building of the church, camp meetings were held two different years in Charles Snyder's barn loft. Miss Rowse and Miss Szrebel lived in these granaries until a small two-room parsonage was erected in the late fall. Water was obained from the school pump across the road.

The John Falkner family came after these two young ladies left. Some Eckville people may remember Jack Falkner who lived for a time in Eckville and worked as a motor mechanic in Larry Knudsen's garage. Mrs. Falkner did most of the preaching, as Jack worked most of the time to supplement the family income.

Bert McPhail, a nephew of the Falkners followed them as pastor, when they moved to Cheddarville. The John Harty family arrived in August 1940 and stayed until early spring the following year. Ben Evert came in the spring of 1941 and was married that summer to Myrtle Downs, of Calgary. C. S. Fair filled in for a short time after the Everts left and then Ken and Anna Seargeant came as Pastor, and were here for eight years.

During this time a new four-room parsonage was built, and during their stay here their home was blessed with four sons.

Ray Young, who had been pastor at the Withrow Mission, moved to Diamond Valley and was pastor at the two churches. One pastor has served both churches since that time, with the odd exception. Arden and Maryse Ellis came to us from Vancouver Evangelistic Tabernacle, but due to ill health, were not able to stay very long. Louis and Shirley Peskett followed the Ellises, and both were good young peoples workers. During their stay in the area the Frontier Youth For Christ Camp was founded at Shunda Lake, west of Nordegg. It was while he was leader at one of the summer camps that Louis was seriously injured in a mountain climbing expedition with young people and passed away 10 days later in an Edmonton hospital. Prior to this time he and his wife and two sons had been living in Edmonton where he worked as a Youth for Christ Director. A mountain, near the David Thompson Highway between Nordegg and the Saskatchewan crossing is named "Mount Peskett" in his honor. Agnes Hall from Saskatchewan, came as an assistant pastor to Louis Peskett and served at Diamond Valley for some months.

Mel and Gretta Taylor arrived following Agnes Hall and were here for about a year. Bud and Doris McLean came to us from Kerrobe Saskatchewan, with their two boys. Cliff and Eva Baines, with their family of two children, came from Camp Creek, near Athabasca.

Mel and Muriel Hansen came from near Cold Lake, with one daughter and twin boys. Hugh Cruikshank came from Port Alberni, B.C., and was here for eight years. During this time the assembly increased in number and the need of Sunday School rooms became apparent. The parsonage was sold and the money was used to build Sunday School rooms, adjacent to the church. The parsonage was sold only because it was impossible to procure a well on the premises. Mr. Cruikshank felt the call to missionary and evangelistic work in the Far East, and as of 1978 is working in Indonesia.

Arthur Thomas, a local farmer and member of the congregation, had charge of the pastoral duties for about a two-year period. This brings us up to date on the history of the Diamond Valley Church. We are at present without a pastor, as we have been intermittently throughout the years, but contacts have been made. Like so many small country churches, our membership has fluctuated, sometimes in number near the sixties and sometimes as few as eight or ten. Through the years we have almost always had a Sunday School program at Christmas – usually

of the local ladies.

A number of weddings have also taken place, the first one being that of Ted and Lillian Von Hatten.

We have been very fortunate indeed to have had Arvid Anderson, one of the first converts in the district, for our Bible class teacher for a period of over 20 years. He has also filled in many times when we were without a pastor. We have appreciated all of our pastors, as well as each of our local people who have so willingly given of their time down through the years as Sunday School teachers or any other duties to be found in connection with the progress of a church. My apologies to any whose names may have been missed, or for any dates that may be

He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

**DIAMOND VALLEY GAS CO-OP**

On January 18, 1968, W. T. Burns, Charles Skocdopole and Robert Hubl were having coffee at a local lunch counter when the subject of natural gas arose.

A meeting of interested persons was held at the Gaetz Community Centre on February 26, 1968.

Charles Skocdopole was nominated president, W. T. Burns vice-president, Robert Hubl secretary-treasurer. Directors were: R. H. Lewis, Bruce Hagerman, Jack Sheppard, Dave Pearson, Vern Nelson, R. A. Stainforth, Jim Savage, Donald Hansen.

The boundaries were set as Highway 2 on the east, Red Deer River on the south, Clearwater River on the west, Highway 11 on the north. However, a two-mile buffer zone was established if need be.

The name "Diamond Valley Gas Co-op" was chosen, as this seemed to be the district with the

A meeting on August 26, 1968, saw the incorporation of the Co-op with the Corporation Branch of the Provincial Government, with Mr Herb Warner being the representative. A contract was signed between Apache Oil and the Co-op to purchase gas from a well on Robert Hubl's farm for 14.8¢ per MCF

Due to slow response of the local farmers, the boundaries had to be changed. Burnt Lake Gas Co-op was formed so the new boundaries were set Medicine River on East, Gilby road on north, Stauffer road on west Caroline highway on the south

The services of Bell and Fenske as consulting engineers were approved. An estimated cost of $ [illegible] per gas meter was set as a basis for the first 42 customers. Skocdopole Construction Ltd was hired to do the construction of the system Work started on October 27 1971 and was completed December 23, 1971

Gas turned on D V Gas Co-op Dec 21 1971 Glen Skocdopole and W T Burns

Donald Hansen and Robert Hubl donated their services to instal meters and other service work. Robert Hubl is the permanently paid service man at this date

In 1972, block B north of Eckville was installed, with 68 customers. A five-year contract with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas was signed at 21½¢ per MCF escalating ½¢ per year

The fall of 1972, block C was formed and built with the gas supply being the original Apache well for the south end and the trunk line north of Lesliеville to supply the north end

Members of the board in 1972 were W T Burns president, C. Skocdopole vice-president, Robert Hubl secretary-treasurer Directors, Donald Hansen, Glenn Skocdopole, Claude Caton, August Kasper, Wilbert Kubic Les Hake, Les Finkbeiner

In 1975, Wyc Burns retired and was replaced by Al Turner

In March, 1976, Mel Knopp and Arlen Von Hollen replaced Les Hake and Les Finkbeiner

1977 saw 138 urban and 136 rural customers to hook-up including Kountry Meadow Trailer Court at Benalto

Due to the bad fall in 1977 many farmers would not permit construction to proceed across their land, so construction was not started until very late However, most of the system was completed before the ground froze too hard. Twenty four customers did not receive gas because of this. These farms will be connected to gas as soon as weather permits in 1978.

Construction for Diamond Valley Gas 1977

**DIAMOND VALLEY LADIES CLUB — by Darlene Burns**

During war years, the ladies hereabouts
Gathered at various homes to hold Red Cross teas
They knitted, sewed, visited and together
Sent parcels to the boys who were overseas.
Then at the home of Azalea Phillips
In August, of nineteen forty-two
A club was formed and fifteen paid-up members
Carried on, "business-like" the work they'd set to do
Mrs. Gonda Anderson — since departed from us
With ready wit and steady hand, held the president's chair
The secretary-treasurer was Margaret Nielson
And these two, for 10 busy years, held the offices with care
Mrs. Mabel Tennant, Margaret Burns, Neva Craig
And Christina Murphy with the Club did stay,
While Selma Boller, Azalea Phillips, Eva Sonnie Alice Snyder,
Elizabeth Wright and Jesse Stewart later moved away

Margaret Murphy moved to Vancouver, Meta Erickson was a member too
Later Mrs. Mae Crawford passed away, but still the club had work to do
Then the war was over no more parcels to be sent
But Club work continues on, the helping hand is lent.
With fruit baskets for the ill, wreaths for the departed
Farm sale lunches, showers and gifts for homes newly started
In August of 1943 two new members joined the clan
[illegible] Anderson and [illegible] Olson helped the club to plan
In March of 1944 Jean McNeil and her mother Marion McLean were to stay
Along with Hazel Hansen, a good club member until she passed away
Donations towards the hospital,
Dances for a worthy cause.
Improvements on the old school house,
Club work continues on without even a pause
Lydia Bergstrom, Barbara Goedicke, Lily Wadson and Mrs. Helen McNeil
Joined with Sally Tennant and Teresa Rasmussen to be in on the deal
New neighbors were Ruth Logan and Gertrude McLean
With Audrey Olson and Mary Medin adding their names to the local clan
The roll call at the meetings proves interesting indeed
And the raffle is always an object that someone will need
The entertainment that each one presents is of a varied kind
From readings to puzzles and prizes and they're not always easy to find
Cancer collecting each year has been our concern
Then Beatrice Horner, Margaret Bouskill and Adeline Lemke
Became new members, we learn
In 1954 a tree was planted in memory of [illegible] support was lost
The birthday cakes, bean suppers and picnics proved to be fun
Anna Crawford, May Caton and Anne Burns all joined, too
A bread baking contest was held
And the District Home Economist told us what to do
The television appearance was a new experience for us all
Eileen Hansen paid her membership fee, Darline Burns added on in the fall
Donations to the ball club, to the orphanage and baby gifts were sent,
The "Jolly Seventeen" had to make more money
Because it was always easily spent
If the Community Centre needs a helping hand for repairs
They can count on the "Club" for an organization that cares.
Agnes Murdock and Marj Tullock then came along
Each meeting begins with a favorite hymn for our opening song
Deloyce Burns, Mary Storms and Vi Wells are added to the slate
With Evelyn McGeachy Zella David joining in,
Everyone tries not to be late
A happy 25th Anniversary celebration for all, brought memories galore
For the members of long standing, and new neighbors had good times in store
Mary Burdick, Marjorie Toker and Stephanie Hansen wished their way into pay
Leona Robin, a new member to help
But Sharon Engeri soon moved away
Catering to anniversaries, shut-ins receive Christmas baking,
Welcoming dinners even bibs to the handicapped taking
Sewing courses offered sometimes special guests
Invited to the monthly meeting
Helpful, thoughtful and busy, the years have a way of fleeting
Nineteen hundred and seventy-seven,
Thirty-five years of co-operation
We have Margaret Neilson, Neva Craig and Christina Murphy
Who were here in the start of our little nation
We congratulate the members, we wish them the very best
We remember those departed, and God Bless all the rest

**DIAMOND VALLEY SCHOOL HISTORY**

As a number of homesteaders were coming into the area in the early 1900's with their families, a school was definitely needed, but there had to be a certain number of children before a school could be built. In 1908, when the

Robert Crawford family with five school-age children, moved into the district. It was decided to take immediate action to get a school. In what was thought to be the central part of the district a two acre parcel of land was purchased from Smith Brothers section 9-36-3-W5 for a small fee. A school board was formed consisting of Alex Stewart, Gust Dahlgren and William Ballance. In September 1910 a debenture of $1 000 for building and furnishing a school was obtained from the Bank of Ottawa, Edmonton. Most of the lumber came from the Pettifler sawmill and Allen McKenzie of Red Deer was awarded the contract to build the school, receiving $542.50 for his work. Sam Smith broke one acre of the land for $4 and David Lightbown was paid $1 for fire guarding the school. The school taxes per quarter section of land in 1910 were $6.

The school site was registered in Edmonton in January 1911. On January 30, 1911 an advertisement for a teacher was placed in the "Family Herald and Weekly Star" — cost 53 cents. This was the beginning of Diamond Valley School No. 2 54.

Emil Sonnie was paid for six cords of wood on February 11 and school supplies such as erasers, chalk, broom, dust pan, scrub brush, pail and cup, wash basin, heater and stove pipes, were purchased. The first teacher was Kate Pendergast from Nova Scotia. She arrived about the middle of April 1911 and her salary was $60 per month. She boarded at the W. Ballance home. Her pupils were Roy Gingras, Helen Ballance, Gladys, Norman and Reg. Caskie, Edith Larson, Henry and Ella Dahlgren, Allen, Victor and Helen Sonnie, Agnes, Louise, Francis Temple and Andrew Crawford.

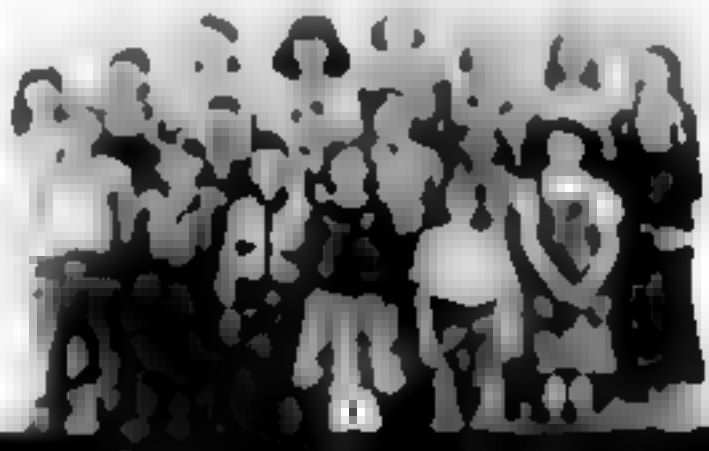
The children came to school cross-country and much of it being low-lying land, they were often wet. Many times they came to school barefoot, later donning shoes and stockings at school. Two of the teachers, Mr. Wilson and Miss Berthason boarded at the John Lightbown home, also Miss Shultz, who taught at Gaetz school. Other teachers boarded at the Robert Crawford and Orla Nielsen homes throughout the years. Jim Lightbown, Charles Tennant and Wve Burns all served as school secretary for several years.

In 1918 the district was changed from Local Improvement District to Municipal District of the Golden West. On October 15, 1937 the district was included with the Rocky Mountain School Division. On December 30, 1954 the school was transferred to the Red Deer School Division. September 1954 school busses began transporting the Diamond Valley children to the Benalto school. The original building still stands and with the addition of a new entry and kitchen, it serves as the community centre for many gatherings. The school board members at the time of the school closure were John Kangas, Harry Medin and John Craig.

The school inspectors during the years were J. F. Boyce, A. R. Gibson, and W. J. McLean. The school superintendents were Mr. Barnes and Mr. Devril. Teachers: Miss Kate Pendergast, Mr. John Acton, Miss Carrie McMann, Mrs. J. K. Sneddon, Mr. H. J. Wilson, Miss Charlotte Clark, Miss Dorothy Maxted, Mr. Maurice Rockwood, Miss Bessie Burdick, Miss Mary Hutchison, Miss Gertrude Kennedy, Miss Blanche Crawford, Mrs. A. Rasmussen, Mrs. C. McCanna, Miss Edith Smith, Miss Ena Paul, Mr. M. H. East, Mr. C. H. Pollock, Miss Anna Liner, Miss E. Walters, Mr. S. McCrimmon, Mrs. Edith Russell, Miss Christina Munro, Miss Darlene Nielsen, Miss Fay Tollifson, Mrs. Barbara Goedicke, and Mrs. Dorn.

An honour roll hangs in the community centre with the names and pictures of the young people who served in the armed forces during the Second World War. John and William Anderson, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Anderson, Senior, were killed in action. Others who served were Edna J. Phillips, Mike, John, Angus and Roderick McLean, Roy Wadson, John and Donald McNeil, Jim and Jerry Murphy, Charles and William Wright, Arthur Larratt, Alfred Brooks, Harold Tennant, Tom Horner, Ed Lightbown, Gordon Ballance, Charlie and Carl Anderson, Cecil Russell and Gordon Caton.

Diamond Valley School Pupils 1914



**ALEX AND FRANK ERICKSON**

Alex and Frank Erickson managed a meat market in Eckville about 1918-20. Frank married and had two sons. He passed away, and his widow and son live in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Alex Erickson worked in a top executive position for Pat Burns and Company until his retirement. He lived in Vancouver for many years. His first wife died while in Vancouver. After his second marriage Alex moved to California, where at 96 years of age in 1977 he still resides.

**THE ERICKSON FAMILIES — by E. J. [illegible]**

The history of the Erickson families goes back to 1903, when Erik Hendrickson immigrated with the younger members of the family to Red Deer. According to old Scandinavian custom, sons of the family took their father's Christian name, adding the suffix "son" thus the name of the descendants became Erick"son".

Erik Hendrickson, a retired Swedish army man, on a pension amounting to approximately twenty Canadian dollars annually, came to Canada to begin a new life at the age of 48 years.

Haying the W½ 21-37-3 summer 1952. L to R. Hjalmar's hired man with dump rake, A.E. Erickson, stacker, Harold Hjalmson, [illegible]

He homesteaded the SW 28-37-3-W5 and built a [illegible]

munications between the scattered settlers, and [illegible]

with rings respectively one, two and three longs. Later the barb wire phone service was extended to include several more, including W. H. Stringer who at that time was a member of the council of the Municipality of Golden West, which later became a part of the Municipality of Red Deer. A ring of five or six longs, or more made quite a count-down!

In 1917 the Happy Hill phone line was organized and members hauled dry tamarack from the west country during the winter. After construction in the summer of 1918 a telephone service with about 12 members and including the Happy Hill School became effective eastward from the Fred Erickson home. A line was also organized westward to Hespero, and by means of a simple switch on the wall of the Erickson home members of the Happy Hill line could be connected to the Hespero store. Later lines from Evergreen, Diamond Valley and New Hill were connected to the Erickson home. A switchboard was installed with the first operator being daughter Emily. This service was in operation for many years under the directory-listed name of "Erixon" until absorbed by the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company.

Fred Erickson was also the Esso dealer for many years, winning merit awards from the company for his business.

The elder son, John, continued farming the home place for a number of years. A gas plant was built on the north-east corner of he quarter. John is now retired and is living near Sundre.

The younger son, Frank, married Lela Hester and they moved to Mission City in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. Here he established a successful auto-dealership. They are now retired, and are living in Vancouver.

The youngest son of Erik Hendrickson, Hjalmar, homesteaded the NE 20-37-3-W5, selling this to G. W. Smith of Red Deer who later sold it to Aaron Erickson in 1916. The total price was $1600, with a small down payment and the balance payable over a 10-year period. Hjalmar spent his life at Blairmore, Alberta, where he worked as a carpenter. He and his wife had a family of four children who are now living in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

Aaron and Emma Erickson, with their two

[illegible]

just missing transportation on the "Titanic" the ill-fated ship that went down with a loss of almost all aboard. The family became farmers in the area and the parents retired to Haney British Columbia in 1941 when the younger son, Harry, took over the home farm.

Aaron took an active part in community affairs, holding offices in the Diamond Valley U.F.A. local, as a school trustee. He was active in canvassing for membership for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool when it was organized. He was a Dairy Pool delegate for the Eckville district for a number of years. He also took a part in getting the rural mail route No. three established. He was a member of the original Board of the Central Hall when it was planned and built by volunteer labor in 1930. The land for the hall was donated by Fred Erickson, who also

After the death of his wife in 1956, Aaron returned to Eckville and built a house in town where he lived for a time. However he spent the last couple of years before his death in 1966, with his daughter Lily in Edmonton.

Harry married Meta Payne from Rocky Mountain House. After being owned by the family for nearly 70 years the home farm was sold by them when they retired to Penticton, B.C. in 1976.

The eldest son, Maurice, is a chartered accountant. After his marriage he spent a term with the Sudan Interior Mission in Ethiopia. He and his wife are now living in Dawson Creek B.C. where he has established his own accounting business.

Robert entered a banking career. He is married and lives in Calgary, Alberta. The girls, Jeanette, June and Connie are all married and living in Alberta. June taught school for a number of years.

Elvie, the eldest daughter of Aaron Erickson married Lloyd Nelson and lives on a farm at New Norway, Alberta.

Lily taught school at Crimson Lake and Spruceview and later spent several years in Nigeria with the Sudan Interior Mission. After returning home from the mission field she taught school briefly at Eckville, then married Don Kennett and now lives in Edmonton.

The elder son of Aaron Erickson, Erik Ingvar won a scholarship at Young People's Week at the University of Alberta and took a two-year course at the Olds School of Agriculture. He then farmed in the Diamond Valley area until retiring to Osoyoos, B.C. in 1971. He married Emily Johnston of Lesliville in 1935 and they raised a family of three. Bernard, Lorraine and Phyllis.

Erick served at different times in various associations such as secretary of the Diamond Valley U.F.A., before its disbanding under the Social Credit avalanche in 1935. He served in later years in various associations and in various capacities in Unifarm, the Livestock Shipping Association, the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company and the Eckville Co-operative Association. He also served for a number of years as a deacon of the Benalto Baptist Church. Emily also took an active part in various women's groups.

Son Bernard graduated from Ryerson Institute in a course in business management in 1971 and has held various accounting positions in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Daughter Lorraine lives on a farm near Red Deer.

Younger daughter, Phyllis, after graduation from high school in Red Deer, worked for the Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary for a while. She later took a course at the Berian Bible College and after graduation served for some years with the Yukon Baptist Mission, until its amalgamation with the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. She now lives at Grimshaw.

All the girls are married and have their own families.

**GEFLE, CARL VICTOR**

Carl Victor Gefle, better known as Bud, was born June 19, 1928 in Calgary, Alberta. He is the eldest son of Martin and Lillie Gefle.

Bud took his schooling at the Bluebell School. Depending on the weather, he walked, rode horseback or drove horse and buggy and boarded the horse with Uncle Olaf Medin. Among his fondest school memories was to have had the present Mrs. Stephanie Woima as a teacher. Although there were many good teachers, she has left an everlasting memory.

On one occasion several students had to remain inside the school in the basement for misbehaving. This area of the school was used for storage, including your coats and lunch pails. Never at a loss for something to do, Bud included, a game of football was organized using

empty syrup pails. The game was vigorous and noisy and the students outside, hearing this, naturally wanted to join in, putting an end to it all.

Youth activities were organized on your own. If you wanted to skate you made your own rink, and challenged all comers (including your sisters) to a game of hockey. A neighbor, Mike Worsley, and Bud enjoyed nothing more than whipping Marion and Bernice at this game and only occasionally did they each take one of the girls for a partner to make it a bit more even.

Assisting with the farming as soon as you are old enough is a way of life, and during the war years all the youth had to do their share. At that time the Harvard plane was a common sight and sound for many years in the area. The pilots took advantage of the farmers working in the fields to practice their flying techniques by taking dives at them. It caused a few horses to run away and

unnerved many a farmer who was only aware of their presence just as they were overhead and pulling up again. Bud remembers the amused look this procedure always brought to his grandfather Victor Medin, when he helped him cu

The winter soon saw the young men leave school and pursue their talents in the logging camps in the west country. Saturday night, regardless of weather conditions, meant a trip to Nordegg to watch the local hockey team. If they came home for the weekend there could be a chinook at camp and a blizzard on as they neared home.

Bud put up a windcharger for his parents so they had electricity (25 watts per light) several years before the rural power lines came through.

He worked for several years with electricians from Sylvan Lake and Eckville. Their work took them to many areas locally, and as far east as Penhold, Alberta. Running water and sewage disposal were practically non-existent in all of the rural areas. One day as the men were preparing to have dinner, the waste pail, being full to the brim, was sitting out waiting to be emptied, when one gentleman had the misfortune to turn around and put his foot right into it. Embarrassing indeed!

This same community was planning a social evening and one mischievous youth made some very delicious chocolate using his own special ingredients, one of them being Ex-lax. The next day found some very busy people, depending on the extent of their sweet tooth.

Although Bud isn't actively engaged in electrical work now, he is a source of consultation for many folk.

On November 12, 1955 Bud married Trudie Gertrude Amelia McKellar.

Trudie was born September 4, 1935 in Calgary, Alberta, the eldest child of William D. and Beulah M. McKellar. She was raised in Turner Valley, and many points in southern Alberta, where the oilfield work took her parents. The prairie was hot and dry, and one summer we lived in a tent. I can still remember my mother, nearly every day, carefully burning the ticks off my brother and myself. In 1945 we moved to Condor, Alberta, where my parents still reside on the farm, and we attended the Northup School. The Christmas concert was the highlight of the year for most students and parents. It took hours of practice and much patience from the teacher, but our efforts were rewarded by our parents attendance and keen in

Atlas oil was still in Dad's blood and in 1946 we moved to Leduc where I finished my schooling. All the student functions were held in the school auditorium and the music was supplied by several talented students. We were fortunate to have a good skating rink only a block from home and I spent many hours there.

The Gefle's have four children, all born in Eckville. Michael Stephen born August 8, 1956. Timothy Gordon born January 6, 1958. Connie Nadine born November 14, 1959 and Donna Lynn born May 24, 1963. The children all attended the schools in Eckville. They have participated in school athletics, Minor Hockey, Cubs and Scouts, Explorers and Figure Skating.

In 1960 we bought the N.W. 29-36-3-W5, after renting it for a number of years. Bud built most of the buildings and did all the landscaping and tree planting.

In 1973 Bud entered a partnership with his brother Allen Gefle, when they bought the former Isaacson farm from Frank Thompson which is the N.W. 27-36-3-W5 and S.W. 34-36-3-W5.

Bud also operates several oil well and batteries for various oil companies. He is a charter member of the Benalto B.P.O.E. Number 494 Lodge and has held several offices including Exalted Ruler. He assisted with coaching minor hockey in Eckville in its formative years.

Trudie is a charter member of the Benalto O.O.R.P. Number 233 Lodge and has held several offices including Honoured Royal Lady and Secretary.

At present our son Michael is assisting his dad with the farming on a full time crop basis and works part time on the oil rigs.

Previously he worked for a contractor for Calgary Power in Central and North Central

Tim is operating a cat, plowing in the gas lines to the farms in central and eastern Alberta during the summer. He also helps with the farming when he is available and enjoys restoring cars to prime running condition. Tim and Mike have both operated the well for their dad.

Connie and Donna are both attending school in Eckville.

The closest we ever came to getting completely hailed out was in July 1959. That year we did combine some but the snow came and stayed before we finished. A lot of our neighbors were not so lucky, "but then there is always nex

**MARTIN GEFLE'S — by Bernice Nielsen**

Hi! I'm Bernice Nielsen and I'm going to do my best to write my parents' memories for the Eckville and District history book.

My dad's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gjefle, (nee Mary Lee) came with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Syver Gjefle and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lee, to America in about 1867 from Nordre Land, Norway.

My dad was born December 23, 1895 at Mound City, South Dakota, U.S.A. In 1911, the family decided to venture to Canada. They shipped their livestock, equipment, and personal belongings by train to Red Deer. They stopped overnight in North Dakota to say goodbye to dad's aunt and uncle, on whose land the Garrison Dam is built. There is controversy over this dam today

between the United States and Canada. Younger family members live there now, and their house is about forty rods from the Dam. From South Dakota to Red Deer, the trip took four days. My grandfather had to remain at the U.S. border for one extra day while the livestock was checked for disease.

He and his family then homesteaded NW 30-38-5-W5, in the Horseguard District. The house they built in 1911 is still standing there, a little worse for wear, but a pleasant memory to drive to and look at once in awhile.

My dad filed on a homestead SE 31 37 5-W5 in the Horseguard District on December 23, 1913, his 18th birthday. There wasn't any snow on the ground on that day. During the fall of 1915 he operated the water wagon for the threshing machine. Harvest was late. This particular crew that year worked 90 consecutive days threshing grain all the way from Alhambra to Evarts. In 1916 dad went to Red Deer, and got his steam engineer's certificate, and operated a steam engine in the saw mills during the winter.

Dad served in the Infantry in the First World War. He was stationed in England. The Armistice was signed the day before the troops he served with were to leave for France. He, along with many others, had a go-around with the 1918 flu. In the Army the cure for most anything that ailed a body was a shot in the arm (I think) of number nine and a few good big slugs of rum. What number nine consisted of no one seems to know. Maybe that is what we should be getting now instead of a swine flu vaccination! In 1919 dad returned to Canada and resumed farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Medin (nee Lydia Andersson) were both born in Sweden. My mother, Lillie Gjefle, is their oldest daughter. She was born June 24, 1905 at her parents' home in the Evarts District. In 1910 they moved to the Coronation District. Her parents also had a farm there.

The first school mom attended was Lucerne. It was built around 1914. Her means of transportation was horse and buggy. Her first teacher was Miss Gaetz and her second one was Miss Hood, in 1915. She boarded at Grandpa and Grandma Medins'. In 1919 grandpa moved his family to Medford, Oregon, U.S.A. Mom continued her education there attending Lincoln and Medford High School. During the summer holidays she worked in the orchards. In 1923, they returned to Coronation, and in 1924 back to their farm in the Evarts area, but their address was by now, changed to Hespero. Mom was employed at different places throughout the district, and was also her dad's right-hand man at home, milking cows and working in the fields.

In March 1928, my parents were married at Red Deer. They never have told me when or where they met, so I'll not pester them about that. It seems I've been asking them enough other questions lately. But my guess is they more than likely met at a dance somewhere between Evarts and Rocky Mountain House. After their marriage they lived in Calgary and dad worked for a rancher at High River. In the fall of 1928 they moved back to the Hespero area. Dad spent the winter hauling logs from the site eight miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House to the Rocky Mountain House Fort.

In the spring of 1929 they moved to Coronation and farmed there until 1933. These years, because of drought, they harvested three crops out of five. Mom tells me it was for sure the "dirty thirties"! By 1930-1931 things were really getting bad. All farm produce was getting cheaper. Eggs were from eight cents per dozen and down. Cream also was not worth much. Good cows could be bought for $10, if you had the $10. Pigs sold for $2 $5. Along with the depressing parts of the thirties, now and again, some little thing would turn up and lift your spirits. Mom recalls one instance when she was trying to find just five pennies around the house so they could buy the Chicago Herald. When, lo and behold, in the back porch hung a pair of pants since the previous spring. She looked in the pockets and found $2. They hitched up the horses, headed to town and, besides the Chicago Herald, they loaded up a good supply of groceries! Lady Luck smiled on dad, too, when he was on his way to Castor for a load of coal. The weather was cold so he walked alongside his wagon to keep warm. He found a nice length of chain and 35¢ on the road. He had a lunch with him, but went to the cafe and treated himself to hot coffee and pie for 10¢. His double wagon box full of coal cost 75¢.

In 1929 wheat was $1.55 per bushel, oats five (p)seven cents per bushel. The yield in 1929 was about 11 bushels per acre. In 1933 wheat was 28¢ per bushel. That same year dad seeded 400 bushels of wheat and harvested 200 bushels. The grasshoppers and wind took the oat crop completely. A few other prices mom and dad remember from the thirties: the best coffee 25¢ per pound, a good house dress $1.00; prairie wool, $8.00 per ton (later it went up to $12 per ton) and snuff was 10¢ per tin.

In 1933 my Grandpa Gjefle passed away. Dad and mom moved to his farm in the Horseguard District. Grandma Gjefle lived with them from 1935 until 1937 when dad and mom moved to the Alfred Rasmussen farm just a short distance from Grandpa and Grandma Medin's. By this time, of course mom and dad had Carl ('Bud'), Marion and me (Bernice) around to keep them alert. I was pretty young so I don't remember a great deal, but I guess we were still in the era of the "dirty thirties". I sure do remember when the army worms came around and cleaned up the garden!

Christmas was always spent at Grandma and Grandpa Medin's and there were, always, so many good things to eat. The only hardship of the day was that we could never open our presents until the dishes had been washed. The Christmas

tree was very pretty, especially after dark, when grandma lit the candles on it

New Year's Day was celebrated at our house Grandma Giefle would be with us that day having returned from spending Christmas in Spokane, Washington, or in Montana. New Year's Day was her birthday Come summer we spent a lot of time at my Grandma Giefle's, puting up hay Dad would haul it home in the winter with four head of horses The distance was 15 miles and the trip took about 14 hours, which included loading the hay rack

In 1940 dad and mom rented a quarter of land from Mr Botten, SW 33-38-3-W5, in the Bluebell District The Bluebell School is located on the northwest corner of this quarter Ezra Isaacson now lives in it Mr Botton was a widower, and since the house was quite large, he lived in the front room. This was the first time we had a telephone, and was it ever great to be able to phone grandma One of the first catastrophes that Bud Marion and I got ourselves into was the pantry It was large, with nice shelves on three sides, so we went in, shut the door, and looked to see if the people who had moved out had left anything behind. There was no door knob on the inside, just a latch on the outside so there we were hollering for the folks to get us out

During World War II gas, sugar and butter among other things were rationed. We made our own butter with a dasher that you pulled up and down in an earthern churn. We didn't get many cakes, but mom had a recipe for gingerbread that you sweetened with syrup or honey so we had lots of that with whipped cream. Rhubarb was our canned fruit

In 1941 my dad was quite sick he spent the winter getting over a bad case of high blood pressure. The neighbors were kind in helping us out with the chores. Many thanks to them

Local entertainment was visiting family and neighbors. After harvest was finished, we would have card parties and dances at the school on Saturday nights to raise money for the Christmas concert Music was supplied by Norman Anderson, Margaret and Walter Boettger, and Bob Matthews

In 1943 we received a pleasant surprise when our brother Allan was born. There was some dispute between Bud, Marion, and me over who the new fellow would sleep with

In 1944, dad and mom purchased the farm from Mr Botton. In 1944 or 1945 we had a hail storm that broke most all the windows on the north side of the house. The veranda saved the windows to the west The crop and garden were lost, but we gathered hailstones in a hurry and made ice cream! Along about 1945 Bud sent away for a wind charger that he erected on top of the house, wired the kitchen and we had 25 watts worth of powerful light when the wind blew

[illegible]54, our country schools were closed — [illegible]on had taken over! The students from the Bluebell District went by bus to Eckville Allan was the only one from our family who got in on that

In 1955-56, the oil drilling rage started in our area. In 1956, Calgary Power came to us. The countryside that used to be pretty dark is now lit up with oil flares and yard lights. There are pipe lines going underground in most all directions That's progress!

Time surely passes very quickly Here it is 1977 Mom and dad are both doing just fine and taking a great interest in farming activities

As for their offspring Bud married Trudie McKeller of Condor They farm a mile west of our folks on the former Ga hercole place They have four children Michael, Timmy Connie and Donna

Marion married Russell Stauffer They make their homes between Calgary and Medicine Hat Russ drives a bus for Greyhound and they also operate Barr[illegible] Aviation at Medicine Hat. They have two children, Judy (Mrs. Vern Payne) and Terry

Allan married Ruth Halstien of Estevan, Saskatchewan, and farms the former Isaacson place. Allan also works for Robert Pollit Oilfield Construction. Ruth operated a beauty salon at Eckville for some time They have two children, Travis and Vivian

As for me, I'm Elmer Nielsen's roommate We farm in the Happy Hill district and I operate a Giftware and Beauty Shop at Spruce View

I may have a wrong date here or there, or an error in my little story If so, they were definately unintentional.

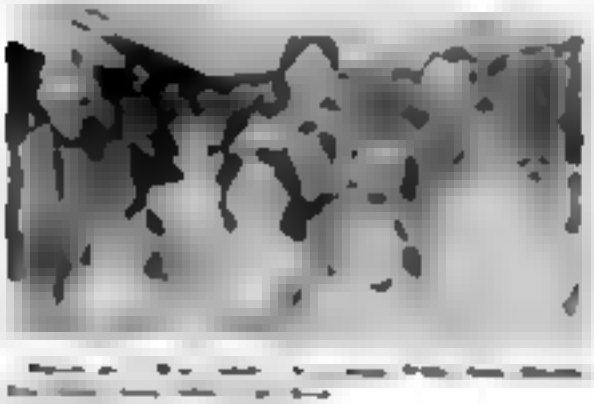
In closing, may I congratulate our parents, grandparents and all senior citizens for a job well done I doubt if we youngsters have their determination or guts

**HANSEN — O'[illegible]NEN**

Hans Peter Hansen born October 5, 1865, in Denmark Christina Neilsen, born March 16 1868 in Denmark Married in Omaha, Nebraska [illegible]

In the summer of 1902 Hans Peter Hansen visited various parts of Alberta, looking for a suitable piece of land on which to make a home

He selected the SE 26-36-3-W5, which became the Hansen home in Alberta. The family of six children, born in Nebraska, consisted of Grace Marie, born February 10, 1894; Hans Chris, born May 16, 1895; George William, born February 8, 1897; Carl Ingvar, born December 3, 1898; Alma Patricia, born January 9, 1900; Albert Nels, born August 6, 1901. The family arrived, along with more settlers, in Red Deer on April 27, 1903. On July 18, 1903, Rosa Julia was born.



The Evans farm, about five miles north of Red Deer, was rented for a year; during the summer some land was cleared and broken on the homestead and a slab shack was built. The family moved to the homestead in the spring of 1904. Evarts was the post office. Meanwhile, Peter Hansen worked away from home in the irrigation ditches around Lethbridge. The purpose was to get necessary cash that they needed, since they had had nine crop failures in Nebraska.

More buildings were constructed in 1904, among them the original house, which still stands. This was the year Elia was born on September 21, 1904. It is recalled that an umbrella was put over the bed to protect the mother and the new baby from heavy rains.

The year 1905 saw real tragedy strike the family with the murder and robbing of Peter Hansen, while transporting a binder from the Evans place to their home. A man was charged with the crime and tried in the first criminal case in judicial courts in Alberta.

Mrs. Hansen received $1,000 from a life insurance policy. She used this money to buy milk cows so the family would have a continuing means of support. Mrs. Hansen had received in her native land the equivalent of a home economics course, which would include medical aid, home nursing, sewing and all home-making arts.

In 1906 or 1907 Mrs. Hansen filed on a homestead with widow's rights, which was about six miles west of the home place, and proved up on it with the help of her children. To help out the family income, Chris, the oldest son, freighted from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, mak

Hansen home was the stopping place for many travellers from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House.

Meanwhile the school division had been formed and Mrs. Hansen had the honor of naming the school, which was "Bluebell" No. 1196, this name being used until the school closed in 1964. Her children, Chris and Grace, attended school at Crossroads (neither one could speak English) and then attended Bluebell school along with the rest of the family. Later some of the grandchildren also attended this school.

In 1908 Mrs. Hansen married Andrew J. O'Brien, and three girls were born to them. Mayme was born on December 3, 1908, Alice on February 7, 1910 (died in 1974), and Helen born on October 16, 1911 (died in 1928).

In 1922 Mrs. O'Brien had a very severe heart attack and was unable to work any longer.

From 1904 up to 1928, when she moved to Red Deer, Mrs. O'Brien was one of the busiest and most helpful women in the West Country. She was always at the call of her neighbors for nursing service, and in any other need that arose in those pioneer days. During her time she was present at the birth of 187 children, and in many cases rendered assistance which saved lives. Her home was always open to friends and visitors and her hospitality became famous over a large territory. She was active in the work of the Women's Institute and other local organizations. She moved to Red Deer in 1928, where she ran a boarding house. Mrs. O'Brien passed away in 1932, and is resting in the Red Deer Cemetery.

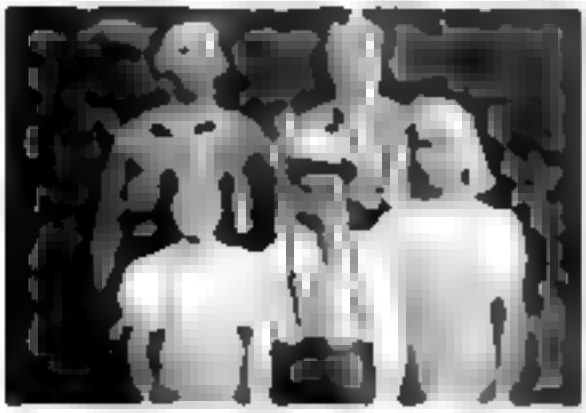
**ALBERT HANSEN FAMILY**

Albert Hansen was born in Sterling, Nebraska, U.S.A. on August 6, 1901. He came to Alberta with other members of his family in 1903. He received his education at Bluebell school.

Albert lived on the family farm with his mother and, as a teenager, worked at many jobs in the surrounding district, one of which was winter employment for the Knight Brothers, the family of the famous bronc rider Pete Knight, in the Crossfield area. His job there was hauling wheat about 17 miles to the elevator, and he made a trip each day.

In 1928 Albert purchased the family farm S 26-36-3-W5, from his mother and settled down to clearing land as time and finances permitted. On April 14, 1931 he married Hazel Lutz of Eckville. Their son Donald was born at the Lutz farm on the outskirts of Eckville on February 20, 1932. Their daughters, Myrtle, on September 28, 1933 and Betty on October 5, 1934, were both born at Mrs. Porter's nursing home near Condor, exactly one year and one week apart.

For extra income a large herd of purebred registered Ayrshire cows were milked, and the cream and milk was sold. In later years the milk



was picked up by a truck at the driveway and taken to the Alpha plant in Red Deer

Albert and Hazel were very active in all community work. Albert was a trustee for the Bluebell School District for many years. He was also instrumental in the grading and gravelling of the Diamond Valley road which was strictly a community project as the Municipal District had no funds available for the work at that time. In later years he was a director on the Eckville Co op Board, the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association, the Eckville Credit Union and the Co-op Livestock Marketing Association

Hazel was a long-time member of the Diamond Valley Ladies Club, in which she was a very active worker in their many community projects

Albert and Hazel were secretaries for the Eckville Rural Electrification Association Albert was one of the founding members of the Board of Directors, which led to many endless hours of hard work and bookkeeping for himself and his wife. As well, they provided board and room for several crew members when surveying and construction of the rural power lines got underway

We, the younger generation, recall the doors of our home being locked for the first time in our lives after well over $50,000 was collected one day from farmers in the surrounding area as a deposit on the installation of Calgary Power The Hansens were also Secretary Treasurer for the Union of Rural Electrification Associations for Alberta for approximately ten years

Hazel passed away on November 24, 1964. after a lengthy illness

In October 1965 Albert married Helen Haarstad They resided on the f[illegible] spring of 1969. when they retired [illegible] Vernon. B.C Albert passed away on July 6. 1970 Albert and Hazel are both laid to rest in the Red Deer cemetery

**HANSEN DONALD AND STEPHANIE**

Donald son of Albert and Hazel Hansen. was born at Eckville in 1932 He attended school at Bluebell. the Red Deer Composite High School and S.A.I T in Calgary

In 1954 he purchased the S 29-38-3-W5 from Mrs. Leo Zaleski. which had been formerly owned by Charles and William Schuneman. This land was across the road from land owned by his parents, S 28-38-3-W5, and with whom he farmed in partnership for several years

During the winter he worked for about 12 years as a sawyer and millwright for the Atlas Lumber Company in sawmills in the Nordegg area. Other winter employment included working on oil rigs, pipelines and operating Cats on various construction jobs

In 1956 Donald married Stephanie, the fourth daughter of Frank and Ann Dobia of the Evergreen district. Stephanie attended school at Hazel Dell and after leaving there attended S.A I T in Calgary She graduated from there a nurse's aide. She worked for several years at various hospitals throughout Alberta

To his union three sons were born Dale in 1959. Gordon in 1961 and Gerald in 1965. At the present time the boys are busy with their education and farming with their dad

Dale and Gordon each rent a quarter of land and are two of the few "fourth generation in this area involved in farming and homesteaded by their great-grandparents

**THE HYNDMANS — by M. F Maclean**

My first recollection of hearing anything about Canada was in the early winter of 1921 when I went to a meeting with my father showing pictures glorifying Canada put on by the C P R They were trying to get immigrants to go to Canada, where they would get their own farms from the Soldier Settlement Board. and reduced fares on the boat and train from the C P R

The picture of Canada I must say were very impressive. They showed people picking apples off the trees, children skating skiing, picking apples and grapes and eating them, which impressed me very much. Apparently my father also. as he did not go back to sea for the rest of the winter but prepared to leave for Canada

In March of 1922, about 30 men, over half of them with families left the Island of Barra Barra is the farthest west island of the Outer Hebrides. is 14 miles around with about 12 hundred people there at that time. It is about 30 miles northwest of the Scottish mainland

We stopped for a few days in Glasgow where we were joined by a number of other settlers from other Islands from the Outer Hebrides

We sailed from Glasgow on the last day of March on the H.M.S. Metagama and after a very rough crossing and being delayed by icebergs we landed in Quebec, April 14 instead of Montreal, as the ice was not yet out of the St Lawrence River

We took the train from Quebec City and the idea was that families would drop off throughout southern Ontario and spend a year learning to

farm before proceeding west to get their own farms as these men were all sea-faring men and had never touched a horse before, let alone put a bridle on one. Some dropped off at Dalhousie Toronto, Chatham and Windsor. Our family was dropped off at Chatham where my father got a job on a mixed farm with a lot of milk cows.

The following spring in April we again boarded the train, destination Red Deer wherever that place may be. We could not find out from anyone in Ontario but they all knew that it was in Indian country and there were no road maps at this time. We were joined in Toronto by two families and two single men. The rest of the settlers had decided they had come far enough and stayed where they were.

Before I go any further, I must tell you how little was known about Red Deer at that time by the people of Ontario. The last week before we left, there were people in our house every night begging my dad not to go there on account of the Indians. They told us so many stories and begged him for the sake of the family not to go but dad was determined. He wanted his own farm and by going west was one sure way of getting it. Finally the night before we left, the storekeeper in Chatham brought Dad his own shot gun and shells to protect us from the Indians. Also, they talked him into shipping our own stove, as they knew we could not get one where we were going. Dad was always mad about that for when we got to Red Deer we found the same stove. It cost $22 and it had cost dad $64 to ship it from Ontario.

When we got to Red Deer we looked for Indians, but sorry to say we did not see any. We were greeted by three Scots in kilts and one playing the bag pipes which brought back a lot of memories. The three were Scotty McPherson, Andy Stewart of Evarts and Chief MacDonald of Condor.

We were loaded into cars and driven four miles west to the Indian School where we were put into separate homes. The car that I rode in was driven by Charlie Chuck of the Club Cafe and needless to say as children we were very disappointed at not seeing any Indians, even Charlie Chuck disappointed us in that he wasn't wearing pigtails.

We were to get the buildings ready for occupancy for about 200 families who were expected to arrive sometime in May from all the Islands in the Outer Hebrides. The first five families that came to Red Deer were from the Island of Barra and were joined a short time later by the family of Alex McNeil. Those same six were the ones that settled in the Diamond Valley district.

The Indian School at that time was quite an impressive sight. There were two large brick and stone buildings, three stories high. Kitchen facilities to handle at least five hundred people with dormitories to handle the same, seven separate family homes, barns, corrals, etc. After the new immigrants arrived, each man was driven around to pick out farms that were for sale at that time and if they liked them and the price was right, the Soldier Settlement Board bought for them. Some settled around Vermilion, Camrose, Westlock, Condor and many other parts of Alberta. As these settlers had no farming experience, they were lined up at the barns and someone there would demonstrate how to bridle a horse, harness him and hook him up to a wagon. They would drive him around and also learn to hook up a team and four horses.

A lot more settlers arrived later but I am not going to dwell on them as this history is only of the six families that settled in the Diamond Valley district.

McNeil. Alex McNeil settled on the NE 34-37-3W5, known then as the Dick Wright place, now partly owned by the oldest son Angus, and John Murdock. There were five boys and two girls in their family. Angus living at Sylvan Lake. Mary (Mrs. Bossier) in Edmonton, Donald in Vancouver. Angus John died July 2, 1969, John living at Sylvan Lake, Murdock in Red Deer and Lathan (Mrs. Johnson) in Red Deer. Their children went to both Diamond Valley and Happy Hill schools. Angus hauled cream to the Eckville Creamery for a couple of years, in about 1925-26.

Galbraith. Rod Galbraith settled on the SW 2-38-3W5 known then as the Billy Woof farm, now owned by Lawrence Murphy. They had three boys. James, Angus and Neil, all living at the coast and all went to the Evarts School.

McLean. Rod McLean settled on the NW 35-37-3W5 also owned at that time by Billy Woof and now owned by Scott Murphy.

McNeil. John McNeil (bachelor) settled on the SE 34-37-3W5, later known the Gibson place, later as Ingvar Erickson farm and now owned by Gary Stewart.

McCormick. Jim McCormick (bachelor) settled on the SE 4-37-3W5, known then as the Belke farm, now owned by John Murdock.

Neil Maclean's family history is found elsewhere in this book.

It only took about three years for the bachelors to find out that the way of life was not for them and both left for the sea and Vancouver and finally found their way back to the Island of Barra. About three years later, Rod Galbraith left for Vancouver and Rod McLean left for Vermilion and later found his way to the coast.

Alex McNeil and my father stuck it out and acquired more land as the years went by. Alex died on the farm at the age of 80, March 19, 1949. His wife died at 84 in June of 1964.

In about 1929, a few more settlers came to the Diamond Valley area from the outer Hebrides. James McNeil settled on the NE 9-38-3W5 known as the Larry Telning homestead and is now the home of Murray Craig. They stayed about seven years, then went back to the Island of Barra. Rod Gillis settled on the SE 16-38-3W5 known then as the Gosney farm, later as the Charlie Wright place. He stayed about six years, then moved to

Vancouver where he died in 1976 at the age of 93 The Wilsons came into the area about 1929 and worked for John Watson for a number of years before moving to Chandonald, Alberta

All of these people loved music and especially dancing Whenever three or four couples got together, the dance was on If only three couples were available, then the children were taken into the act to make a foursome. Having no music did not bother them, for someone would just hum the tune. I learned to dance so young that I can't even remember when About 1925 when C F C N started broadcasting their old time music on the radio, they would all go to McPhersons who had a radio at this time and dance till midnight every Friday night Then they started having surprise house parties every two weeks which lasted for years with the whole community getting in on them. The Cunningham boys of Eckville supplied some of the music

They were happy people and all spoke the Gaelic language and as I remember, very clannish. If you were from the outer Hebrides, you were automatically one of the gang

[redacted]

I dedicate this history to the memory of my parents, Joseph and Antonia Hollander, who, through hardships and perseverance, helped blaze the pathways where highways never ran, and left a heritage and legacy that their children and grandchildren can justly be proud of

My parents were born in Bohemia, Czechoslovakia father in 1878 and mother in 889. Father had taken his three years of compulsory training in the army, and following his discharge he travelled extensively through most of Europe He was a great scholar, and was able to speak seven languages quite fluently We, as children, were always amazed whenever people came to visit us, for he was able to carry on a conversation with them in their mother tongue

Mother and father were married in 1905 and about six months later they sailed for New York There was a song which the folks of Bohemia used to sing. Translated into the English language this would read as follows: "North America is like Paradise—only the voyage there is high priced, Beautiful America—beyond the sea, beautiful America." Mother always said that it was that song that made up their minds and lured them to the United States and later to Canada

During their 18 days at sea (Mother was sea sick the whole time) father met a man who claimed to own a farm and he asked father to come and work for him. The man was very friendly and promptly borrowed what was then a large sum of money from my father giving his word of honor he would return it whenever father wanted it Needless to say father never saw the money again!

In 1906 my parents bought a team of horses, a cow and a few household effects and, armed with enthusiasm and hope, they went to Bismarck, North Dakota, where they filed on a homestead and built a 12 by 16 foot sod shack It had one window a door, but no floor This, then, was their first home

Mother was very young and about to have her first child and because she was born of well-to-do parents, life in this new land was very bewildering to her The Indians would canoe down the river not far from their hut, and at night would dance around their fires within their sight. The settlers were few and far between and what with the language barrier and being afraid of the Indians (although they were always friendly) and with very little money life was very hard for them. Sister Mary was born in this hut and to these conditions on January 28, 1907 with only a kind stranger to take care of mother and child

I remember father telling us of his experience during a severe blizzard while they were in Bismarck. On this particular day he went to town—this was a three-day affair because they lived 29 miles from town. It took one day to get there, one day to get the supplies and rest the horses, and the final day to return home. A blizzard blew up on the way home and father lost his way. The roads were only trails that crossed and recrossed each other in various intervals. He was unbearably cold and thought that he would surely freeze to death. He was about to give up when he came upon a ranch house. He had to be helped off the sleigh and after a hot meal and a rest he was escorted a few miles until he got his bearings

My parents moved to Canada and to Winnipeg in 1907 later they moved to Fernie, B.C. where father worked at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Mines. Mother was a very good seamstress and it didn't take long before she had all the sewing that she could handle. She had bought a Singer sewing machine while they were still in Winnipeg and it was still in use and in very good condition when she passed away in 1951

While my parents were in Fernie they rented a house belonging to Mr Isidor Rowter In 1908 the town of Fernie was threatened by fire—people were evacuated to neighboring towns. Mr Rowter and father refused to leave and let the house burn down. With water from a well beside the house they fought off the fire but it was a losing battle, and finally to save themselves, they had to go down into the well. They both suffered smoke inhalation, and father suffered partial blindness for several days; strangely enough the house they fought to save did not burn down

After father recovered, a friend of his, whose name was Frank Brzak, persuaded him to come with him to the Gaetz district, where Mr Brzak had a homestead Father Mother and Mary stayed with Mr Brzak and father filed on his homestead, NE 25-37-4-W5, and commenced working on a log house. Brother Joe was born in

the Brzak home on April 15, 1909 with just a neighbor lady in attendance

The cellar was dug by hand and hand-hewn logs were used for the ceiling later to be used as the floor of the house) The house (cellar) was now ready for occupancy while the rest of the house was being completed or at least made livable.

Father bought three oxen, two cows and a few chickens from John Jones of the Happy Hill district and started the business of farming in earnest their roots had taken and were set

Those were hard times for the pioneers, and many were the experiences they endured. One can never give the early settlers too much credit for braving the hardships and for the tremendous amount of work involved in this new land and establishing a foundation for the future generations. My parents were only one of the many and it amazes me that they did so well with so little to do with

Before their home was completed father received word that a railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was in the process of being started—men were needed, and father got a job. He helped build the bridge that spans the North Saskatchewan at Rocky Mountain House The wages were low and the working crew slept in tents—the winter was very cold, but they were thankful to be working. Father would send his wages via the rail crew to Mr Robinson, a storekeeper in Evarts. Neighbors who went for food and staple would pick up the mail plus anything else that the women of the homesteads needed. Sometimes this would be only once a

While father was away mother kept busy She dug up clay and mixed it with water and filled the cracks between the logs of the house. Wood was plentiful, but she had to chop down the trees and split the wood by hand to supply the wood for her cookstove and the heater She melted snow in the winter time for the stock and the household

Every evening after the two children were in bed she would cover the windows with blankets so the lights wouldn't show from the outside she was afraid of strangers. She would then take her Czechoslovakian and English translation book and learn the English language. One night there was a knock on the door but she kept quiet hoping whoever was there would go away A man's voice said "Don't be afraid Mrs. Hollander I know you are there" She let the man in. It was Mr Faik who at that time was postmaster at the New Hill post office. He was concerned because all the neighbors with whom he had been in contact said that they had not seen mother for several weeks

Father continued to work on the homestead but in the winter months he worked in the coal mines at Nordegg. During the fall he would work harvesting south of Calgary

The oxen were eventually replaced by three horses, more land was broken and life became easier The Evergreen post office came into being, and a general store was built eight miles north of our place, known as Pitcox, and later replaced by the Hespero General Store. The Gaetz school was two miles north of our place Four more children were born Helen in 1911 Milan, Annie and Josephine following her All the children attended Gaetz school.

Our social life consisted of the annual school picnic, the box social and Christmas concerts Dances were held in the schools and also in private homes. To pass away the winter nights, father would read us stories or tell us Bible stories, while the rest of the family would strip feathers to make into pillows and feather bed covers. We always enjoyed visiting the John Mottl family they boasted a large gramophone and had many many lovely records. Mrs. Mottl was a dear, cheerful person and was always very kind to mother, and we loved her dearly

Father bought another quarter of land, NE 37-4-W5, which my brother Milan now owns and farms. The old house was remodelled and many friends gathered there to dance in the large living room. The house burned down in 1935 and a new one was built in the same location

The children grew up and started their own homes. Mary married Ernest Lipka, a local man, and they had two children, Helen and Albert. Mary passed away in 1943. Joe married Mary Murphy and they lived in Port Arthur Joe passed away in 1950. Helen married Maurice Cave of the New Hill area, and they had one son Ronald. Maurice died in 1936. Helen later married Anton Beranek of Daysland. They had three daughters—Shirley, Audrey and Arlene Anton passed away in 1974. Helen lives in the town of Ponoka. Milan lives on his farm a mile north of the old homestead Milan loves trees and his farmsite is proof of this. His many beautiful spruce and pines as shelter belts are a pleasure to behold. Annie married John Frid of the Hespero district their two children are Kenneth and Frances Josephine married Bill Savage of the Raven area. They had four children—Robert, Marlene, Brian and Joanne Josephine passed away in 1964

Father and mother retired to Creston, B.C in 1947 Mother passed away in 1951 Father came back to Alberta after her death, making his home with Josephine until his passing in 1954 Both are buried in the Evergreen cemetery

Kristian Holmsen, a bachelor uncle "Chris" of the Hans Olsen children came from Norway in 1905. He made his home with his stepbrother Hans Olsen, and family He did a lot of road work and ditching in his day. Consequently, he was away working most of the summers, but would come home to spend the winters with the Olsen family

He was a quie hard-working pioneer He passed away in 1949 at the age of 78 years. and is buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery

**JOHNSON, JONAS — by Trudie Gelle**

Jonas Johnson was born at Gamlebult Sweden on December 14, 1867 to Anna and Johann Johnson He took some schooling there but learned English after he immigrated to the U.S.A He had a fondness for learning and did a great amount of reading on his own

Uncle Jonas did some farming in the U.S.A before he came to Canada with his brother, Victor Medin. They shipped some horses and machinery up by train. Together, he and Victor got their buildings up and crops in. Uncle Jonas homestead was the N W 20-38-3-W5 and is now owned and farmed by Wan Medin. His original home is still standing in the same spot in fairly good condition

After the Victor Medin family left the area for a few years, Uncle Jonas looked after their farm His Uncle Nels Johnson helped him with the farming until he moved to the U.S.A. in 1920

ery usually passed by the homestead and were always welcome to stop and rest their horses, and there was always enough food prepared for anyone extra. Uncle Jonas had a reputation for being a good cook, so no doubt many looked forward to sharing a meal with him. He raised his own beef and pork, butchering it and doing the curing himself He also made his own bread and butter If the trip was a long one, lodging was also available for the night

There was a well known saddle horse named Nisse, that belonged to Uncle Jonas. When someone needed a one way ride they would borrow Nisse and upon reaching their destination, if the reins were tied up securely he would return right home on his own for a deserved water and feed. While returning home on one occasion the reins came loose and Nisse started grazing along the trail. Nearly everyone knew the horse by sight and experienced seeing him on homeward journeys. On this occasion thinking the animal had got away from its rider, a farmer along the way caught him and put him up until Jonas, realizing he was long overdue, came looking for him

Uncle Jonas never forgot the time he was returning from Red Deer, and had to find a way across the Medicine River The circumstances are not clear, but Jonas being a heavy man, and Nisse not a large horse. he could not safely swim across with his passenger Jonas tied the horse's tail securely around his hands and let him swim across with him safely in tow

Uncle Jonas suffered very badly from arthritis and had to use crutches to get around He took a keen interest in community affairs and was Municipal Councillor for many years. In 1926 he retired from active farming and spent the rest of his life with his brother, Olaf until his passing at the age of 78, a bachelor

While living with Olaf he liked to cook a boiler of coffee for the social evenings at the Bluebell School The crippling arthritis sometimes made it impossible for him to attend these functions. but some of the young people would go over for a game of cards or checkers, or just a visit Several young lads also would spend the noon hours from school with him and he really enjoyed having them around as often as they could

**LIGHTBOWN HISTORY — by Lillian Anderson**

John James Lightbown was born in Manchester, England in 1853 and his wife, Edwina Mary Greenhalgh, was also born in England. Her parents moved to Spain, where she lived for the first 10 years, moving back to England where she and her husband were later married. Their family of three boys and one girl were born in England where Mr Lightbown was organist in the biggest church in Manchester for several years

They came to Canada in 1901 on the advice of their doctor because of the ill health of their son, James. They lived for two years in Brandon, Manitoba before coming on to Alberta to settle in the Diamond Valley district in 1903. Here he homesteaded the SE 18-38-3-W5 and later bought the SW 5-38-3-W5 from Mr Leggett where he farmed for several years. He passed away in 1930. Mrs. Lightbown had passed away several years before. at Golden, B.C

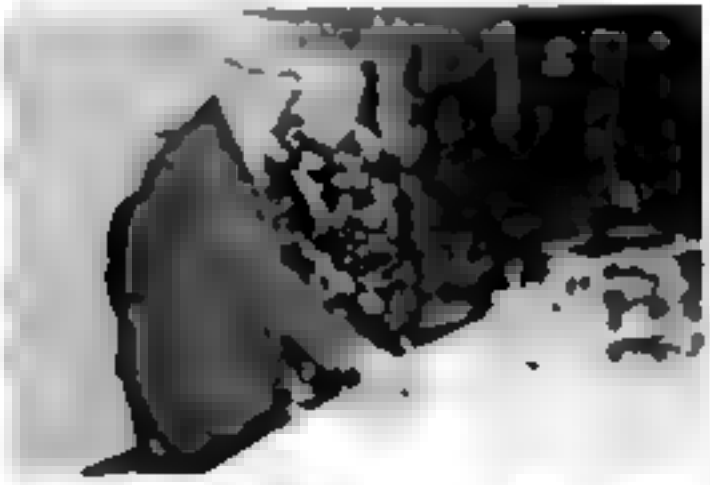
The eldest son, David homesteaded SW 16-38 3-W5. He married Mercelene Morigeau in 1913 They lived in this area for a few years, then went to work on the railway. living in several places in British Columbia, where they are still very active at ages of 90 and 83 years. They had four sons and two daughters

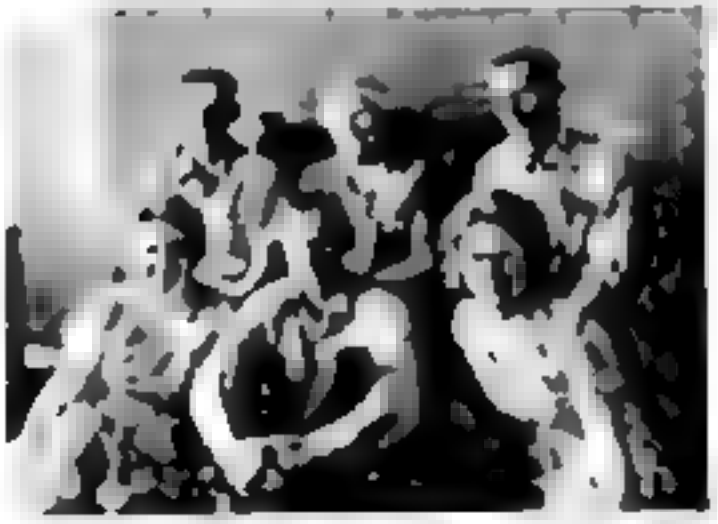
Jim homesteaded NW 4-38-3-W5. He married Josephine Morigeau in 1920. After farming for a while he also went to work for the railway, living in several British Columbia towns before retiring to Langley, British Columbia He passed away here in August, 1971. They had five daughters

Molly married Ben Early in 1967 They went to Columbus, North Dakota, U.S.A. where they farmed. They had one son David, who still lives

in that area. Ben passed away in 1964 and Molly lives at Crosby, North Dakota

Max homesteaded NW-5-38-4-W5, where the Condor School now stands. He later traded this for SE-5-38-3-W5, where he farmed until 1948 when they moved to Matsqui, B.C. They lived there for 10 years, moving back to Sylvan Lake where he passed away in March, 1971. Max married Margaret Viola Wylie in 1916, and they had three sons and two daughters. Margaret now lives at Abbotsford B.C. Their family includes Ed who married Katherine Biswanger They live at Sylvan Lake and have three sons and four daughters. Lillian married Chris Anderson and still lives in the Diamond Valley district. They have one daughter and one son. Robert (Bud) married Janet Brown. They live in Eckville and have two daughters and three sons Darlene married Roy Klatt and lives at Devon, Alberta They have three sons and two daughters. David married Pat Forsell and they live in Eckville They have two sons and two daughters





Lightowns Family 1973 Robert (Bud), Mrs. Lightowns, Ed Darlene, David and Lillian.

You can well imagine the hardships of a family coming from a big city to the wilderness of this country at that time. They came with team and wagon from Red Deer across the country where there were no roads. They lived the first winter in a tent. The three boys all being musical provided entertainment at many a social gathering in homes and school houses. Jim was secretary of the school for several years

**THE BILL LOGAN FAMILY**

Bill Logan left Nova Scotia in 1925 on a harvest excursion and to visit his sisters at Michichi a small town east of Drumheller. Bill liked the west so much he didn't return to his native province until 1961 when he and his wife took a six week trip to the Maritimes

Ruth Hill came on the scene in 1932 as the local school teacher At the Christmas concert that year, Bill was asked to be Santa and this started a romance which resulted in marriage Three sons were born, Deane in March 1936 David in October 1938 and Michael in January 1940

The Logan family moved to Withrow in 1943 and to the Gerry Macdonnell farm at Hespero in 1944. It was in this year that a daughter, Darlene, was born. In 1946, they bought the Ed Wadson farm in the Diamond Valley district During the war time, many schools were closed for lack of teachers so the Logan boys attended school at Shady Lane, Daisy Nook, Bluebell, and finally Diamond Valley When centralization came in all the children attended the Benalto School finishing their high school days at the Composite High School in Red Deer

Ruth went back to teaching in the fall of 1955, her first school being Old Knowledge She and Darlene stayed in the teacherage through the [illegible] year, the Old Knowledge pupils were bussed to Condor where Ruth taught Grades 1 and 2 Bill rented the farm to Deane for six years and worked on construction jobs, part of the time for Skodopole Construction Company During this time, the family lived at Hespero. Every summer Ruth attended university in order to further her education until she graduated in 1963 During the Christmas vacation that year, the family moved back to the farm in Diamond Valley

In 1964 Deane bought land at Haynes where he met and in 1966 married Myrtle Soderberg He later sold this farm and bought a larger farm near Caroline where they now live with their two sons and two daughters

David married Helen Bonek of Evergreen in 1961 He bought a "Cat" and went into the construction business, working mainly on oil roads and leases in the north They live at Slave Lake with their two girls. Mick went into the oil fields and in 1962 went to Australia for three years and later to Spitsbergen for a few months He married Colleen McCune on Armistice Day

1967 and now resides on the "home" farm with his wife and two daughters

Darlene enrolled in the four year psychiatric Registered Nurses program at Alberta Hospital Ponoka. After graduation she nursed at the following places: Slave Lake, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Fort Churchill. Nanaimo and Victoria, B.C. where she presently resides

Mick and Colleen moved to the farm in 1969 and Ruth retired from teaching that same year In the fall 1975. Bill and Ruth decided to retire from the farm and bought a home in Red Deer where they are enjoying the lazy life

**McCANN, WILLIAM AND GERTRUDE — by Gertrude McCann**

Bill McCann was born in Hague Saskatchewan, September 2, 1911. He was the youngest son of Joseph and Mary McCann natives of Bruce County, Ontario They homesteaded at Dewberry, Alberta, then moved to Gleichen where Joe teamed lumber to Arrowwood. Later he bought a farm one-half mile north of Arrowwood, where Bill grew up and received his education. He drove a horse van daily while attending school After finishing school Bill joined his father in farming He was a great horseman and loved all animals. His horses were always in demand for parades and floats. June 3 was a school holiday if you participated in sports. This is how he met his future wife. Gertrude. He was an avid curler, ball player and skater In his early teens he was the team goalie He attended the United Church

Dry years and dust storms made him discontented so he and his mother journeyed to the Gilby area to take over a farm his grandfather Barr had owned. Here he learned ways were different fuel had to be chopped and sawed to keep you warm. Roads were poor, and faithful "Dobbin" was appreciated. About this time he took a bride. Gertrude Roebuck, a school teacher She was the youngest child of Alfred and May Roebuck, who emigrated from England to New York, and later homesteaded near Champion, Alberta, where Gertrude was born on March 1, 1912

Gertrude was a sickly child in her early years. She remembers her dad, during the flu epidemic of 1918-1919, nursing neighbors and doing their chores, making the rounds on horseback through huge drifts and bitter cold She was educated at Auburn School, Kirkcaldy and at Vulcan High School She later trained at Calgary Normal School to become a teacher Schools were hard to get, and unless you had "pull" you often remained without a job. Boarding houses were few and far between, so most of the time Gertrude rode horseback on her former school pony, "Pete" Riding six miles were no chore, but on one spring day, April 21 clouds came in the sky She had shepherded her pupils home and then decided to try to get home herself By the time she got there she was covered with two inches of frozen sleet Her arms were frozen from the shoulders down. The next day she had to go to school — no sick pay those days Telephone poles had been snapped off by the gale and the weather was freezing cold. They were without telephones for six months

Concerts, social evenings, pie socials, box socials and picnics were the main entertainments and school houses were used for these purposes. Neighbors had skating ponds and young people gathered on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons to skate. Later they adjourned to one of the young people's homes for supper Gertrude taught kindergarten in Edmonton for five years before she came to Eckville on July 23, 1940 as a bride

Bill and Gertie had three daughters They were Margaret Mary Mrs. Harold Burdick) of Eckville, who gave them four grandchildren, Leslie, Scott, Shelly and Melanie Betty Ann Mrs. Charles Greenslade) of Calgary, with grandson Bradley Barbara (Mrs Lyle McFadden, of Pincher Creek with granddaughter Dana

One of the most trying times of her marriage was in the fall of 1942 Gertrude was asked to help out at Medicine Valley School for three months because the former teacher had been thrown from a horse. It was from 40 to 55 degrees below zero most of the winter Her horse played out, and Alec Lawton was kind enough to let her have a horse for two weeks

They moved to the Botter farm south of town then right next door to the Razzolini farm, where Bill lived until his death on May 19, 1963

Gertrude went back teaching in 1953 and planned to retire on December 31, 1962, but 1964 found her back in the Eckville Elementary school where she taught until retiring in 1975

Gertrude had quite an active musical class since 1948. She is a member of Benalto Baptist Church. She was organist, pianist and Sunday School teacher when needed. She is quite active in the Eckville Craft Guild, mainly in the knitting, crocheting and needlework sections. She is a flower lover and gardener She moved to Eckville in December, 1966, where she still resides

**MACLEAN, NEIL AND THE FAMILY — by M. [illegible]**

The Neil Maclean family came to the Diamond Valley District early in July of 1923 after emigrating from the Island of Barra, which is the most western island in the outer Hebrides on the west coast of Scotland

My father was a sea captain and knew nothing about farming or handling of horses, but being of a very determined mind, he wanted to farm

We settled on the NE 4-36-3-W5 known then as the Gingras farm, now owned by Murray Craig It had 20 acres broke on it and the rest was heavy willows and small poplars

There were five boys and three girls in the family and all went to the Diamond Valley school. Mrs. Kay (the oldest) McNabb now lives in Shaunavon Saskatchewan. Michael lives in Hemet, California and Sylvan Lake. Mary (Mrs Topping) lives in Penticton, British Columbia. John lives in Edmonton. Angus was killed by an oil derrick in August of 1964. Rod lives in Port Moody British Columbia and Murdock recently bought a house in Eckville where he intends to move from Calgary. Jean (Mrs Gilbert McNiel) lives in Surrey, British Columbia.

My father died at Sylvan Lake in February 1961. My mother also died at Sylvan Lake in May. 1974 at the age of 95.

Our first three of four years on the farm were very hard. The first year we were eaten alive by bedbugs and we did not know what was causing all the welts on our bodies until some kind neighbor told us. Oh how well I remember how those bedbugs liked that foreign blood. After that we got some relief as mother had every bed post and chair leg sitting in a can of coal oil. Although it did help, somehow they had a way of dive bombing us from the ceiling on to the bed. Finally in desperation, we moved out of the house in the summer of 1924, cook stove and all and had the house fumigated two weeks apart. Mom and Dad slept in a granary with some of the younger children, three or four slept in the wagon box with a binder canvas over it and I slept under it. I think it rained the whole two weeks and I can see my mother to this day trying desperately to cook a meal for us on that stove outside in the rain. That was the end of the bed bugs in our house and we never had them again.

The neighbors were very helpful and showed Dad how to do a lot of things. Dad started to break some land with four horses abreast which meant that one horse was always walking on the furrows which made it hard for him, and he was always crowding the one that was in the furrow. One of our neighbors showed Dad how to get away from that by using five horses, three behind and two in front which meant, of course four lines to handle instead of two. My father was a sea captain although I had never seen him dock a two or three hundred foot long boat but five horses and four lines were just beyond his comprehension. When he would get to the end and had to turn around, my dad would have two horses going east and three going west and he would be hollering bloody murder for me to come and help but usually by the time I got there another pole would be broken out of that sulkey plough. My job at that time was to walk on the furrow that was being plowed and try to prevent it from falling back in its original position but with extra work done on that plough a longer landside and extension of the moldboard, we did get a few acres broke that fall.

Driving five horses became easy for me as at 14 years old, Dad eventually gave up his seat on that plough and went to the lowly job of seeing that the furrow did not fall back.

Being the oldest boy I was the official rabbit catcher which was our main diet the first two or three years on the farm. After school I would make the rounds and take the rabbits out of the snares, and reset them. I also devised ways to catch prairie chickens which were plentiful in the area at that time. The second year I graduated to a 22 rifle single shot but was only allowed five shells each night so I still set snares and saved my shells to shoot jacks. Then one day one of our neighbors came in and told us that it wasn't safe to eat the rabbits as they were covered with water blisters that winter. Oh! how I loved that man, as I was getting sick and tired of snaring rabbits but my mother had a different idea. She said "It doesn't matter how many blisters they have you catch them." She would cut the blisters off and boil them for so long and always told me the first one of us that died from eating blistered rabbits, I could quit catching them. When any one of us got sick I hoped she would blame it on the rabbits, but none of us died and I had to continue hunting rabbits.

Another incident that comes to my mind my dad asked me to go to Eckville with a team and wagon and two ladies went with me. As I had not been to Eckville before he told me to go one mile north, one mile west, four north to the correction line, one east and three north. I followed directions on the way to Eckville but on the way back when I got to Larry's corner, I could see what looked like a fairly good road ahead and it looked to me as though it would shorten the trip by two miles. After two and a half miles the road petered out but it looked open ahead so I went on. I ran into water on top of what was supposed to be the road. I decided to go on anyway, but did not get very far when both horses went down. also the wagon to the axles. I couldn't get the horses up so I unhitched them from the wagon. Finally I got one horse up and with a lot of coaxing got him on dry land. The other horse would not come out so I decided to leave him and go home for help. First I gathered a lot of sticks and put under his chin so he wouldn't drown. a water by this time was over his back. The women had already walked on so I got on the other horse and started for home. After about a quarter of a mile I looked back and saw that the other horse was standing so I went back. He was afraid to move but Lnally with a lot of effort, he made it to dry land.

I don't have to tell you what was said to me when I got home. With four log chains and a roll of barbed wire and another team we went back and got the wagon out.

That was my first experience with what people called a "muskeg". I can assure you that living in the Diamond Valley area at that time, it wasn't my last.

**HUGH McNEIL — by Granddaughter Phyllis Andrew**

Quebec was the birthplace of my maternal grandparents. Grandfather was born in 1867 and grandmother (Martha Kelley) in 1870. The McNeil and Kelley families were among the few English-speaking settlers in a French community, coming to Canada in the latter part of the 19th century. My grandparents were married in 1891 and for 12 years lived at Points aux Chene, Quebec. While in Quebec, a son, Philip, died in

As the land in Quebec was very rocky, the family of five children then moved to Riverside (later named Elbow) Saskatchewan, and filed on a homestead. The closest railroad was Davidson which was 35 miles away. By 1911 many railroad lines were built throughout the province. The homesteads were taken and the price of land had soared. There were now five boys in the family so grandfather set out to buy more land where it was not so costly. In January, 1913, he bought a quarter section, NW 22-38-3-W5, five miles south of Eckville. The land was bought from Dr. Evans, a doctor practicing in Eckville at that time. Grandpa bought adjoining land as it became available, until he had a section.

A nearly finished two-storey house was on the land when it was purchased. The house must have been a grand one in those days, as it had a furnace. It was fascinating to me to be able to pull and lower chains in order to control the heat from the registers. The basement could be entered by two ways: a heavy trap door in the pantry, or by steps on the outside at the bottom of which was a door. Large pipes branched off from the furnace, which was in the centre of the basement, to the many rooms. Close by was a large supply of logs which were needed for fuel. There was an ice-house on the farm, and homemade ice cream was a must for the picnics.

Grandpa used to enjoy teasing his grandchildren by talking to them in French. He attended to the farm business, and for a number of years was secretary-treasurer of the Bluebell School District. Grandma was more inclined to stay at home, but she did have her friends. One day when grandpa and I were coming from Eckville, by team, we stopped at Charles Schuneman's (presently Frank Zaleski's) with a birthday gift for grandma's friend, Mrs. Schuneman, so the women in that day must have associated with their neighbors. She had a very friendly disposition and enjoyed corresponding with relatives and friends.

Love of music could be considered a trait of the McNeil family. They sang, what seemed to me to be, continuously. Some of the instruments they played were violin, accordion, and mouth organ. A piano, bought in Quebec, in 1904, for my mother, was brought west and is still in her family. Uncle Everett played the drums in Mrs. Bill MacDonald's orchestra. What a favorable impression he made on me when he came riding into town on his spirited horse, sporting attractive chaps.

My grandparents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 1941. They continued to live on the farm until February 1943, when they bought a house in Eckville. They were in the house only a week when grandma passed away. Grandpa then made his home with his youngest son, Gilbert, who had taken over the home farm. Grandpa passed away in June, 1950. Both he and grandma are buried in the Eckville cemetery. Of their family of nine children three are surviving: Mrs. Margaret McDonald and Wesley McNeil, of Eckville and Mrs. Mae Fletcher of Surrey, B.C.

The eldest son, David, married Ada Reeves of Penhold. They farmed near Evarts, retiring to Red Deer in 1956. They had three children: Lloyd on the home place; Beatrice (Mrs. Willard Phillips, R.R. 4, Eckville; and Ethel Thornton of Calgary. There are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. David passed away in February, 1977.

Herbert (deceased in 1967) lived in Great Falls, Montana, U.S.A. working in the smelter there, before retiring to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. He was predeceased by his first wife Phene, in 1939. His second wife, Henrietta passed away in 1974.

Leonard (deceased 1967) married Jean Fraser of Abbotsford, B.C., in 1930. They farmed the NE 21-38-3-W5. In 1935 they moved to British Columbia with their three girls: Evelyn, Marion and Leona. The girls are now married and have families.

Everett married Muriel Elson (deceased) of Eckville. They had three children, Gordon, Bertha, and Clarence (deceased). They lived on the Calvin Fletcher farm for a few years before moving to British Columbia. Everett passed away in 1975. His second wife, Hazel, resides in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Gilbert married Jean McLean of the Diamond Valley district, in 1941. They had a family of

three — a boy and two girls. Marvin and wife Joanne, live in Stettler. They have a son, Ryan. Sharon and husband, Richard, live at Surrey B.C.. They have four children. The youngest daughter, Lois, is working in Calgary. Gilbert and Jean retired to British Columbia in 1971. He passed away in February, 1972 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Jean lives at Surrey, B.C.

**McNEIL, WESLEY — by Helen McNeil**

Wesley married Helen Hainsworth, of Lesliеville, in February, 1929. They lived near Withrow for 12 years where they rented the Calvin Fletcher farm. They then moved to the NE 29-38-3-W5 with their three children, where they farmed until retiring to Eckville in 1964.

Son, Jim, married Betty Whillier, of the Gilby area, and is employed as a mechanic in Wetaskiwin. They have three children. Kathy has completed her first year at university. Mitchell and Colleen are at home. Isabel and husband Ken Martin, live in Richmond, B.C. They have two boys — Kevin and Kirby. Avril is married to Glenn Rangen. They farm north of Eckville and have two boys, Randy and Eldon.

**MEDIN, CARL EDVIN**

Ed Medin was born in Smolin, Sweden in 1888.

After completing his schooling, he left for Canada where he had four uncles, Jonas John son, Olaf, Victor and Robert Medin.

He arrived in Red Deer on May 5, 1907. After finding someone who could speak Swedish and tell him where to go, he found his way to the home of his uncles, and this became his home off and on for a few years.

His first homestead was the NW 36-38-4-W5 which was in the Wood Lake area. He built a shack and dug a well there but spent most of his time working out.

In 1913, he moved to SE 23-38-3-W5 in the Evarts district, this was to be his home for many years. During this time, he bought the NW 23-38-3-W5 and the SW 24-38-3-W5 and started raising Hereford cattle.

He took an active part in the community. He did a great deal of carpenter work in the district. He worked at building the Evarts curling rink and later enjoyed curling in it.

He had many good friends in the district, two very good ones being Simon Lund and Frank [illegible].

In 1933, Ed and his Uncle Victor went to the Worlds Fair in Chicago, U.S.A. They drove down in Victor's car and enjoyed the trip very much.

Ed. lived at Evarts until the late 1950's when he sold his land and moved on to SE 31-38-3-W5 which had been his Uncle Olaf's homestead quarter in the Bluebell district. He lived there until 1972 when he sold his land and bought a house in Sylvan Lake, living there until moving to the Eckville Manor House.

He passed away January 1, 1977, in the Eckville Hospital and was laid to rest in Diamond Valley Cemetery.

**MEDIN, HARRY AND MARY**

Harry Axel, son of Victor and Lydia Medin was born in September 1909 at the family homestead. Except for a few years spent at Coronation, and Medford, Oregon, U.S.A. he has spent his life in the Diamond Valley district.

Living and working with his parents, Harry also did custom work breaking land, grinding grain and threshing. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge in Eckville until it disbanded.

In 1940 Harry purchased the NW 17-38-4-W5 from Alex Stewart. In 1950 he built a house on this quarter and married Mary Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brown of the Gaetz district. We have spent our life since, engaged in mixed farming.

We raised a family of three children, Ronald, Faye and Dennis, who took their schooling at Diamond Valley, Benalto, Spruceview and Red Deer. They were all members of the Benalto 4-H Beef Club.

In 1962 Ronald married Elva Lorraine, daughter of Alfred and Ruby Anderson of Revisville. They reside in Hanna, Alberta, where Ron is manager of the United Farmers of Alberta farm supply. Their three children are Gregory, Kevin and Christine.

In 1963 Faye was married to James Pollitt, son of Mac and Donna Pollitt of Leslieville. They purchased a farm in the Gilby district where they now reside. They have a family of three children, Dallas, Sandra and Shane.

In 1971 Dennis married Penny, the daughter of Gordon and Joyce Primrose. They have two children, Holly and Jacqueline, and reside in Rocky Mountain House.

**MEDIN, OLAF — by Trudy Gelb**

Olaf Johnson was born around 1872 at Gamlehult, Sweden, to Anna and Johann John

son. He took some schooling in Sweden before he immigrated to the U.S.A. where he had to learn English. There was a lot of confusion with mail, due to the many Johnson families here. To get away from this he changed his name to Medin which is similar to a place in Sweden near the family home. He worked in a factory in Chicago and played baseball for a Chicago ball team as a pitcher. Later Olaf moved to Eckville and homesteaded S.E. 32-36-3-W5. He also bought and farmed S.E. 19-36-3-W5 which he later sold to his nephew Harry Medin.

Olaf raised several teams of horses for his own use and for sale. Some were sold as dray teams as far away as Red Deer, Alberta. He also worked for some time in the brickyard in Red Deer. He did a lot of carpentry work and helped many homesteaders get their homes and barns up, as well as the old Blue Bell School.

Olaf moved to Coronation, Alberta in 1912 where he obtained land and farmed for a couple of years. During his absence his house was used to accommodate the teacher at the Blue Bell School which was just across the road.

Although Olaf never married he took a deep interest in the young people and community affairs. On very cold mornings it was common to find him stoking the school fires. He also became the local barber, a trade he picked up and at which he was very good. Of course he always enjoyed having someone stop by for a good game of cribbage. It was also common to find many different saddle horses stabled in the barn while their riders were attending school and quite often supplied a boiler of coffee for them.

Around 1946 Olaf retired from farming and sold his land to his nephew Edwin Medin, now owned by Bernard Lahti. He remained living on the farm in his original home, travelling to Minnesota for part of the winters and staying with his nephew and wife, Bill and Esther Berg.

Olaf Medin passed away quietly at his home on August 8, 1957.

**MEDIN, ROBERT**

Robert Johnson was born at Gamlekult Sweden around 1878, to Anne and Johann Johnson. He immigrated to the U.S.A. as a young man, settling first around Minnesota and Illinois where his brothers and two sisters were living. This area was populated by several Johnson families and it was difficult to keep the mail from going to the wrong family, so like his brothers he took the name Medin, which is similar to a place near the family home in Sweden.

He purchased land near Rugby, North Dakota and farmed it for several years before coming to Canada. Here he purchased his homestead, SE 34-38-3-W5, now owned by Willard Phillips. Robert first went into mixed farming, later milking cows and taking the cream to the creamery in Eckville.

About 1915 he married Olivia Lund. They had one child, a son, who died in infancy. Shortly after this Olivia went to Rockford, Illinois for a visit. When she returned she brought Stanley who was just a young boy, home with her. Olivia and Robert adopted him. Shortly after this Olivia passed away leaving Robert and young Stanley.

Robert's sister Annie Nelson, was a widow herself at this time so she came from her home in the U.S.A. and stayed for a number of years, keeping house for Robert and Stanley. In 1929 sister Annie returned to her home in the U.S.A.

Robert travelled to Sweden in 1928 to visit his family. He was accompanied by his niece, Hilda Johnson when he returned to Canada and she stayed with him to look after the housekeeping until she married and moved away.

Robert continued farming until his passing in 1948 at the age of 69 years. He is survived by Stanley of Rocky Mountain House, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**VICTOR MEDIN FAMILY — by Lillie Gothe**

Victor Medin, my father, was born in Sweden in 1874. There he grew up and got his education on a small farm in the Southern part of the country. In 1893 at the age of 19 years he immigrated to the United States. There he worked at various jobs in several different states, from training horses in Indiana, doing farm work in Illinois and Minnesota,, to farming for himself in North Dakota.

In 1903 Father moved to Alberta then still in the Northwest Territories, to the Evarts area. He shipped his horses and some equipment by train to Red Deer and drove the horses west to Evarts. There he acquired a homestead, SW 20-38-3 W5.

Lydia Anderson (my mother) was born in Sweden in 1881, also on a small farm here it would be called an acreage. She was educated in Sweden and after finishing school she was employed in a nearby town until about 1901 when she moved to the United States. There she joined her brother, Oscar Anderson, on a farm in North Dakota. She worked at house work and learned to speak English. In 1903 Mother and her brother came to Alberta. Mother obtained work in Red Deer at the Alexandra Hotel. Later she worked for a farm family near Evarts. Her brother, Oscar, took a homestead west of Evarts. In the winter of 1905 Victor and Lydia were married, I believe, in North Dakota.

Mom and Dad settled on the homestead and began the job of building a home for themselves and their future family. Times were tough for the pioneers — money was almost non-existent. Dad hauled lumber to Red Deer from the sawmills further west and worked at them some of the time. When he took a load of lumber to Red Deer he would usually bring back supplies for the camps and also to the store at Evarts, as that was their town and post office. This was a means of a bit of income, which was always hard to obtain.

[illegible]

All but one or two of dad's horses died of swamp fever, as did a number of horses brought into the country from south of the United States border. My dad's brother, Jonas Johnson, came from North Dakota at the same time and homesteaded the adjoining quarter section NE 20-38-3 W5. He also lost some horses. However, quite a few wild horses were brought into the district. By helping to break and train them dad acquired some horses for himself. By this time dad and Uncle Jonas had some cattle. One year they lost most of the calves with blackleg, something they had not heard of before. All land had to be cleared the hard way with an axe and a grubhoe and horses for power.

Mother always had a good garden, so we had plenty of vegetables. Wild berries were plentiful — raspberries, blueberries and wild strawberries. There were also cranberries. These did not have to be sealed, but could be kept in an earthenware crock with a good lid. All the pioneer women canned or dried all berries and vegetables that could not be kept in the cellar. Beef and pork were home grown and home cured. Fish could be caught in the lakes and rivers, and these provided fresh meat for a change. In later years mom raised a lot of turkeys and chickens. With cows for milk and butter there was always something to eat, even for any hungry traveller who might come along. Bread was all homemade; no ready sliced bakery bread was ever seen. Pioneer life meant a lot of work for the women. There were no washing machines and no dishwashers unless the children did them! The main equipment was the wash tub and scrub board and the old dish pan. Light at night was provided by coal oil [illegible] By the last Christmas in 1918 the Aladdin mantle lamps came along. They were a wonderful improvement!

The Medin children came along in due time. First I (Lillie) was born at home at Evarts in 1905. I married Martin Geffe of Alhambra in 1928. We have four children. Carl, Marian, Bernice and Allen.

Harry, was also born at home at Evarts, in 1909. He married Mary Brown in 1940. Their children are Ronald, Fay, and Dennis.

Walter was born at Coronation in 1916. He is still single, and farms the home place.

May was born in Medford, Oregon, U.S.A. in 1921. She married [illegible] in 1948. They have one son, Stuart.

Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Wedding, Miss Dora Olsen and [illegible]

We all live within six miles of dad's homestead.

As schools were built they became the centres for social life as well as education. Bluebell, built about 1905, is where Harry, Walter and May received a good deal of the three R.s. After being closed when centralization came into effect Bluebell was sold and remodelled. It is now the home of Ezra Isaacson.

Mom and dad spoke only Swedish when they came to the United States, so employment was a bit difficult to find. However, they soon learned to speak English. Canada appeared to hold a promising future, and it was to become their home. They had no desire to return to Sweden.

Recreation and entertainment were all provided by the people who took part. These were all local people, both young and old. Dances, box socials and even shadow socials were popular. The music was mainly accordian, violin and harmonica, and everybody would sing. Building bees and quilting parties also had their place. Refreshments were usually coffee, sandwiches and cake or cookies. Believe it or not, everyone could have a good time without booze!

In 1908 dad went east to look for land that was easier to clear and break. He located a quarter section about five miles southwest of Haneyville, a small store and post office some 20 miles east of Castor. In 1910 Medins moved out to the new place that was all prairie with no trees, but lots of stones. They drove out with horses and wagons, taking lumber for a shack and a few necessary bits of equipment. Benches, tables and bunk beds were all home-made, and prairie hay was used to sleep on. Later the railroad came through and Coronation became our town. With another quarter purchased, the farm grew to a half section, raising wheat, oats, and some flax. Dad also raised cattle and horses for work and pleasure. He had a team of good driving horses at all times. A very special pair were Prince and Frank – both black.

In 1914 Lucerne school opened. There my brother Harry and I attended school until the fall of 1919. By 1915 our house was enlarged and the teacher boarded with us. Her name was May Hood. She came from Edmonton. We drove a horse and buggy to school. The country school was the place for all gatherings, such as church, concerts, dances and socials.

In the fall of 1919 we moved to Medford, Oregon, a beautiful valley in the southern part of the state, where much fruit was grown. Those were pleasant years. One joyous event that took place in Medford was the arrival of sister May in April, 1920. Dad worked in an orchard, as did Harry and I during our school vacations in the summer, the vacation there being three months in length.

In 1923 we returned to Coronation for two years. In 1924 the crops were very poor, very weedy, hard to bind. In the fall of 1924 we returned to our original homestead. Then the post office was Hespero, located in the general store. It also had the telephone exchange. When the Hespero store burned the postal service was moved to Eckville. Now Hespero is only a ghost town.

In 1924 mom and dad bought a radio — that was really something! The only stations we could get were CFCN Calgary and CJCA Edmonton in Alberta, but we could get several stations in the United States. In 1925 dad bought his first car, a Chevrolet coach. That made it easier to go west of Rocky Mountain House to pick blueberries.

Mom and dad are gone now and we still miss them very much. Dad passed away in 1956 and mom in 1968. They are both buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

So this brings to an end my little contribution. God bless the pioneers — they were a brave and wonderful people.

**MURPHY, HUGH — by Barbara Neilsen**

Mr. Murphy was born in Kent County, Ontario, in 1870 and went to Vancouver in 1910, where he met Margaret Gavin, who was born in Aberdeen-Shire, Scotland in 1885. They married in 1915, and left for Regina, Saskatchewan. Later they moved to a farm at Hespero, now owned by Jim Gowans.

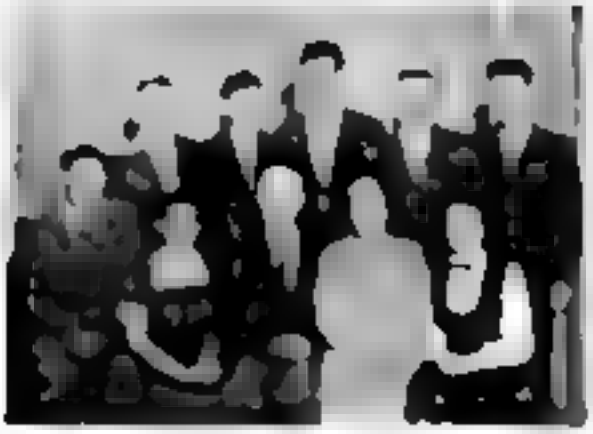
Mr. and Mrs. Murphy moved into the Evarts district in the spring of 1919. Moving in those days was quite different from modern methods. There was little packing done. Everything was loaded into the hayrack helter skelter and sorted out at the new home. The cattle and extra horses were herded along behind the wagon, usually tended by the older children. In those days the "correction line" was a very rough road with lots of corduroy, so all the household goods got well shaken up en route.

Five of the 10 children were born in the Evarts district. They were Merritt, Jerry, James, Mae and Keith. It was while there that Mr. Murphy took over the auctioneering business of George Welsh, who was leaving the district. I believe Mr. Murphy's first sale was on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Black as they were leaving to live in Calgary. This was the beginning of a very successful auctioneering career that lasted over 20 years in the area from Rocky Mountain House to Red Deer.

The year 1924 was a tragic year for the family, as two children, Merritt and Mae passed away in the same week in October. That same year saw record lows of temperatures: on December 17 the temperature fell to 68 degrees F. below at Evarts. The temperature did not raise above 45 degrees below F. for three weeks. The school was closed because of cold weather and snow.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and their family moved to the Shady Lane district in 1925, buying the SW 15-39-4-W5 from Mr. George Lee.

While living here, two ladies came to the school to hold church services. They came to our home and invited us, dad promised to go, but I don't think he intended to go but each night he went. On hearing the gospel he was converted. This meant giving up the old life with the drinking, smoking and other things that didn't go with Christian living. This meant a much happier dad and a much happier home life.



Hugh Murphy Family. Sitting L. to R: Scott, Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Elsie. Standing L. to R: Jim, Robert, Keith, Jerry and Jack Gavin

The older children took most of their schooling at the Shady Lane school. Scott and I did the janitor work for awhile. Elsie and Robert were born here.

In 1930 Mr. Murphy sold out and bought a farm in the Diamond Valley district. Using his carpentry skills which he acquired when he was employed at Vancouver as a carpenter, he built a house and a barn. In 1944 the farm was sold. Mr. Murphy always had the desire to go back to Ontario to visit his relatives. While there he bought a farm at Thamesville and tried his hand at a different kind of farming, that of growing corn and beans. Mrs. Murphy and three youngest of the family joined him there. After two years of farming in Ontario they moved back to Vancouver where they had a happy retirement. Mr. Murphy passed away in 1958 at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Murphy still lives in Vancouver. She is 92 years old.

Jack went to the west coast where he worked in the fishing business, later working in the Powell River pulp and paper mill. He married Alice Johnson, they have four children. Peter, Rosemary, Fraser and Patricia. They still live in Powell River, British Columbia.

Scott married Christina Munro, and to this marriage four sons were born. Lawrence and Allen, two sons passed away in infancy and are laid to rest in the Diamond Valley Cemetery. They farm in the Diamond Valley district.

Barbara married Myron Nielsen. They had seven children. Virginia, Wayne, Mervyn and Raymond, twins and a baby girl passed away in infancy and were laid to rest in the Benalto Cemetery. They live at Benalto.

Jerry joined the armed forces in World War II, leaving in 1941 and coming back in 1946. He married Helen Hiller and to this marriage were born four children. Judy, Conrad, Jim and Loree. They live in Edmonton.

James also served in the armed forces in World War II. In 1941, while still in England, he met and married Joan Wonham and they have five children. Bonnie, Terry, Patricia, Fraser and David. They live in Surrey, B.C.

Keith and his wife Dorothy have four children. Jo-Ann, John, Scott and Cathy. Keith passed away in July of 1976. Dorothy passed away in September, 1977. They lived in Burnaby, B.C.

Elsie married Albert Harris and to this marriage was born three boys, Murray, Ronald and Danny. Albert passed away in 1961 and about two years ago Elsie married Peter Johansson. They live in Vancouver, B.C.

Robert and his wife Helen have four children, Robert, Mike, Dale and Susan. They live in Surrey, B.C.

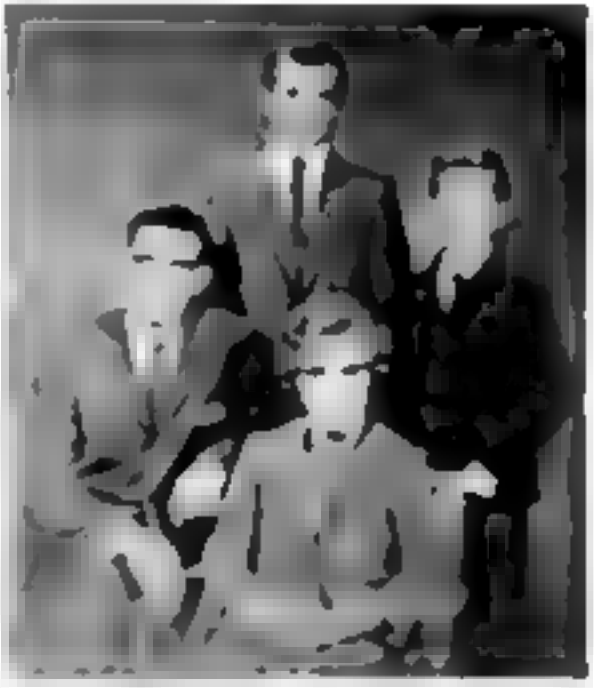
**SCOTT D. MURPHY FAMILY (SW 33-37 3-W5**

In the spring of 1940 Scott Murphy left his homestead in the Bungley district to farm the SW 33-37-3 W5 in the Diamond Valley district. As only 70 acres of the quarter were under cultivation, clearing and breaking of the heavy bush was undertaken.

There were no buildings, so in the winter of 1941 spruce logs were cut from his father's quarter and hauled to Tony Cesoma's sawmill, to be made into lumber for a house.

At the Diamond Valley church on April 5 1942, Scott Murphy was united in marriage to Christina Munro of the Evarts district. Christina was teacher of the Diamond Valley school.

Throughout his years in the valley Scott has been interested in mixed farming. Their two sons, Laurence and Allen, have the same interests as their father, for they both farm



**NAGEL, HENRY AND EMMA**

Henry and Emma Nagel bought Bill and Ger te McCann's farm in 1953 They have two children Don and Louise Louise married Jack Corless from Sundre. They have three children Ricky Adrian and Marianne. They are now liv ng at Fort McMurray, Alberta, where Jack is principal and Louise teaches Grade 4

Don married Mavis Bowhay from Bingley They have three girls Cathy. Lorrie and Karen They are living at Rocky Mountain House where Don works for Texaco

**THE GUS NELSON FAMILY — by Mrs. Fred Nelson**

Gustof Nelson was born in Sweden on February 25, 1871 Along with his brother Axel, he came to Canada in 1892 In 1899 he arrived in he Red Deer area and took up a homestead in he Burnt Lake district Here he met and married Margaret Bergstrom in about 1902 or 1903 who had come with her family from Sweden in 1902

The Nelsons lived in the Burnt Lake district only until they had proved on their homestead. then moved to Golden, British Columbia. The next few years saw the family making many moves from Golden back to the Burnt Lake homestead to Oregon, U.S.A., back to Burnt Lake, and finally selling the homestead and moving to the John Bergstrom farm in Evarts three miles from the Diamond Valley School During the time they lived here Mr Nelson built a house on the farm he had purchased in the Gaetz district They moved to their new home in Gaetz in 1915

The family lived on this farm for a few years then Mr Nelson sold it to the Woodfords and bought another farm in the north-west corner of the Diamond Valley district, where Mr Nelson built another home for his family in 1919. It was a mile and a half from the school where the children received their education

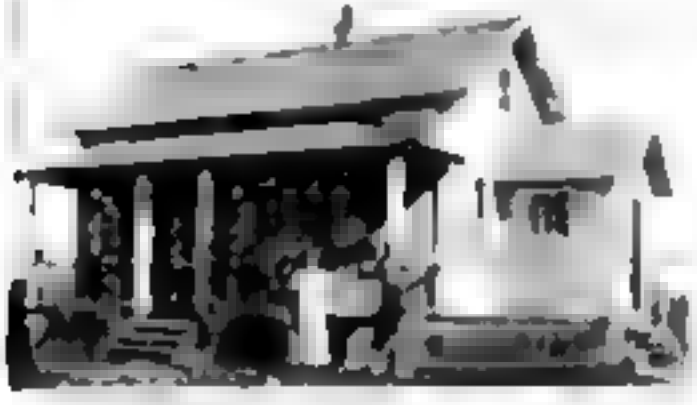
In 1926 still another move took them to Courtney British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, where Gus worked for a construction

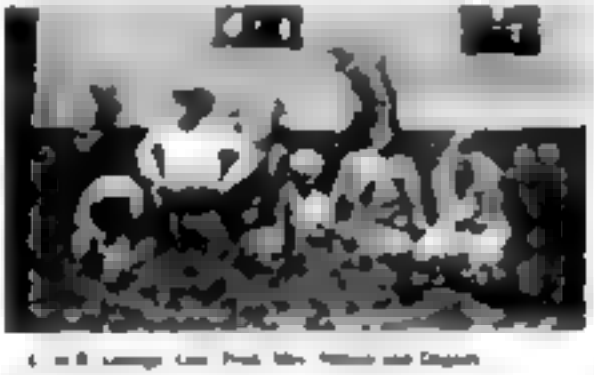
company until 1932, and then it was back to the Diamond Valley farm for them. While they were living in Courtney their home in Diamond Valley had burned. It was necessary for Mr Nelson to build another home on the farm. which is still standing

Mr Nelson in the early years in Diamond Valley area was a road foreman, and also did a lot of building within the district. He had a blacksmith shop, and also employed his skill at building caskets during the influenza epidemic of 1918

Mrs Nelson passed away in 1940. Then their son George took over the farm for a few years Mr Nelson went to live with his eldest daughter Anna, in Royalties, near Turner Valley for seven years before passing away. Both Mr and Mrs Nelson are buried in the Diamond Valley ceme tery

There were nine children born to Mr and Mrs Nelson. The children now reside in Alberta and British Columbia





Anna married Ed Marple and they reside in Creston, British Columbia. Their three children are Harold, Audrey and Doreen

Gregor married the late Bessie Bromling of Eckville They had five children — Margarita Nona Jack Dorcas and David

Gerda married the late Fred Hodgkins and now resides in Black Diamond

Ida married George Taylor of Cochrane where they now reside Their children are Joyce and Lyle

Signie married the late Dr Greenaway She is now living in Olds Her daughter is Sadie

George married Mary Talson of Eckville They have seven children Sonja, Steve, Stuart, Sharon, Susan Shelley and Sandy They live in Campbell River British Columbia

Dagney married the late Matt Talson of Eckville and they had one daughter, Lynda Dagney now lives at Harrison Hot Springs

Gus and Frances Bussinger of Eckville were married and had three children, Gale, Joan and Randy They now reside in Brooks, Alberta

Fred married Elsie Sutherland of Rocky Mountain House. They have two children, Wanda and Wayne, and now live at Bowden

Gus and Fred both served overseas during World War II. Fred joined the army in 1941 at the age of 18. During his four years in the army he served in England, North Africa, Sicily, Italy France and Germany He was with the Calgary Tank Regiment Gus also was with the Calgary Tank Regiment He was captured at Dieppe by the Germans but escaped from the prison camp in Germany Upon his return to Britain he was awarded the Military Medal

Gus Bussinger with pet moose

**NELSSON, NELS JOHN — written by his daughter, Esther Meitus**

Born In Varmland, Sweden February 9, 1876 to Mr and Mrs. Nels Nelsson, twins — Britta Maria and Nels John

The twins lived in their farm home and grew to maturity there Then they both got the urge to go to "Amerika" the name commonly used to designate any country on the North American continent. Nels John went to U.S.A. in 1903 Britta Maria married Nels Fredrick Erickson and moved to Canada a few years later

Nels John, my father worked at his chosen trade, carpentry, and became very proficient There was always plenty of work for a good carpenter in a growing country and he helped build many houses and commercial buildings mostly in Two Harbors, and Duluth, Minnesota

Father didn't stay too long in the U.S.A. He was nostalgic for his old home, so he returned to Sweden intending to remain there. However the call of the west was in his blood, and again he crossed the Atlantic, this time coming to Canada. Again he took up carpentry and helped build dozens of houses in the Crow's Nest Pass area and in Edmonton. There was no bridge across the Saskatchewan River there and he used to cross the river by boat

Like hundreds of young men of the day, father got the urge to own some land of his own As he didn't have much money he couldn't buy property so he decided to file on a homestead in Central Alberta. Most homesteads near Red Deer were already taken, so he proceeded to go about forty miles to the west He chose a quarter, SE 13-37-4 W5, in the New Hill area in 1907

A settler could get a homestead for a small fee, but a requirement was that he make certain improvements within a specified time. There were so many necessities to buy and so much work to do to establish a home and a farm out of wilderness area! He spent his summers working on his homestead, then when fall came, he went back to building houses to earn more money, which he then applied to his homestead the following summer

Father built himself a two-roomed house and a barn for his horses on his land. Then he dug a well by hand, lined it with wooden cribbing, and put a windlass with a rope and bucket over the well to facilitate lifting water to the surface. The

bush and had to be cleared. This was done with axe and grub hoe, and horse power was used to pull out stumps. It was a back-breaking task, but, like most pioneers, he was not afraid of hard work. Bit by bit he wrested good farming land out of the virgin bush. His first crop, oats, was seeded by hand broadcasting. When the grain matured, he cut it with a scythe.

On the quarter directly south of Father's land lived a Swedish family, Emil and Linda Ostergren, and their two children, Ernest and Ellen. They had come to New Hill a year earlier in 1906, and were fairly well established. Father spent many a pleasant evening in their company playing cards or enjoying the music they provided for themselves with violin and guitar. Father had a very good singing voice and could play the violin quite well. It was nice for him to get a good home-cooked meal once in a while, and good fresh milk and eggs from them to eke out his modest diet.

In 1910 tragedy struck the Ostergren family. Emil died of pneumonia, leaving his young family alone in a still strange land. Father helped them with heavier work but it was difficult for them to manage alone in spite of neighbor's help. However, romance came along, and father married the widow Ostergren in 1911. Since the Ostergren home was all set up for family living, much better than his bachelor "shack", Father moved into the Ostergren home with his newly acquired family. Henceforth, he no longer worked out in winter. The Nelssons decided, for better or worse, to make their living solely off the land. In 1912 along I came — another mouth to feed.

Mother had one of the best gardens in the country and raised enough vegetables to last all winter. Wild berries were abundant and these were picked and canned. For meat, father would butcher a beef or a pig in winter when we could

because we couldn't keep it from spoiling

wild grouse. For a special treat we would have

Mother was a good seamstress, and she sewed all the clothes for her family, even coats. Well washed flour sacks were used extensively for clothes, towels, sheets and pillow cases. She knit socks, mitts, and sweaters for all of us. She also made her own lye soap.

Cows were the backbone of the settlers economy, providing meat, milk and butter for a growing family. Mother used to make butter which they exchanged at the store for necessities. They also kept chickens, geese, and hogs.

We kept our milk and cream in large syrup pails which we hung into the well, our only cooler." It was a hazard, getting water from the well with a bucket. Those milk and cream pails dangling near the water were always in the

The roads in those days were really something! The settlers cut trails through the bush, following paths of least resistance, around sloughs and along hill tops. In wet terrain, corduroys were made by cutting poplar poles and laying them crosswise over the swampy spots. These corduroys made travel rough when your only vehicle was a lumber wagon with no springs. Drainage was poor, and these makeshift roads were often almost impossible to travel over. Father told of shopping trips to Markerville or Evarts. He tied the wagon box securely down on the wagon so it wouldn't float away when he had to cross bridge-less streams. As he urged the horses into deep water he put his flour and his sugar on the wagon seat beside him so they would not get wet.

Taxes were inevitable even in pioneer days. Money was scarce, so settlers were given the opportunity of "working off" a part of the taxes by doing road work. Neighbors would work together, laying corduroys and covering them with dirt hauled there with horses and slips. It was slow and tedious.

In 1912 the New Hill school was built. Mr. Elwell was the first teacher. Finding a boarding place for the teacher was a problem, but Father's homestead house was empty, so that was rented out as a teacherage. There were many teachers who lived in that teacherage. One of them was Miss Eva MacIntyre who later married the New Hill postmaster, Bill Stringer.

The day father bought a new democrat was a day of rejoicing. How I admired the shiny leather seats! It was such an improvement over the heavy lumber wagon, and it had springs to absorb many hard bumps as we drove over our primitive roads.

Mother and Father liked cattle, and they gradually acquired a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus. There was no fenced land for pasture so the cattle roamed on open range. We lost many a young calf to marauding wild animals and some larger cattle got bogged down in muskeg lakes, where they drowned.

In 1919 my parents bought the Charlie Miller place NW 20-37-3-W5 in the Diamond Valley district. This was a good quarter, almost completely cleared of bush. In 1927 my parents and I moved to our new location, leaving my 27-year old brother Ernest to farm the old place. Father built a fine new frame house and the required outbuildings and Mother and I painted them. Father's twin sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Erickson, were now our neighbors, living only one and one half miles north of us.

My parents were both interested in having a new community hall in our area, so a meeting of neighbors was called at our house, and plans were made for building Central Community Hall. This hall was located on the Erickson farm and was built by volunteer labor.

Father was a member of the U. F. A. local. I went away to continue my education in 1928.

Meanwhile my parents carried on with their (farming and I helped them during holidays only

In 1937 I married Waldemar (Wally Mortus, a welding shop operator in Eckville. Because of my parents' failing health, it seemed expedient that we take over the farm work. Mother and Father bought a house in Sylvan Lake and retired there. Their retirement together was destined to be short. Mother died in 1938 and was buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. Father moved back to the farm with us. While we lived on the farm Wally and I had two children, Lucille and Leonard, who brought much pleasure to their grandfather.

In 1944 we all moved to Rocky Mountain House where Wally opened a machine and welding shop. The farm was rented out. Father's health continued to fail and in 1945 he died, and was laid to rest beside Mother in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

[redacted]

Hans was 17 years old when he came to Alberta from Norway with his father and mother Daniel and Karen Olsen, in 1903. They settled on a homestead, N.E. 20-28-2-W5. This area was later called the Bluebell School district. Evarts was their nearest post office and store. Daniel met with an accident and died in 1905. He was the first person to be buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery. Karen Olsen passed away in 1909.

After his parents' death Hans took over the farm, but left shortly afterward to run a butcher shop in Bawlf. His stepbrother, Kristian Holmson and a cousin, Chris Boller were left to look after the farm in his absence. He came back to the farm in 1911 and married Thilda Halgrimsen.

Thilda had come with her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Botten, to Evarts from South Dakota, U.S.A. in 1902 when she was ten years of age. She had started school in South Dakota, and continued her education at the Bluebell school as soon as it was built. After finishing school she worked at Evarts until she got married.

Hans and Thilda also had a quarter of land at Coronation, but they didn't live out there very long before they sold it and came back to settle on the home place to make their permanent home. They did a lot of cutting brush and clearing land. Hans and his cousin Chris bought the quarter to the south of the home place, S.E. 20-38-3-W5, called the Benson place, and farmed it together for a few years. Then our dad bought Chris out as he had got a quarter of land of his

Their family consisted of four boys, Harry, Walter, Donald and a baby boy who died at birth, and two daughters, Margaret and Mildred. We all attended the Bluebell School at one time four of us rode on one horse to get to school. With a load like that you would think the poor horse would be bogged down, but, no, it didn't stop her from wanting to race when the other kids on horseback were with us. Harry was up front and I was on the tail end, with Walter and Donald being in the middle. When she got a break-away Harry couldn't hold her so we had some fast and furious rides until our dad put another bit in her bridle. However, we never fell off the horse.

I can remember that when we were kids we used to help pile brush and pick roots in the summertime, along with our parents, so we know a little of the pioneer days and of the work it involved. The boys used to help with the stooking but the most tedious job of all, was haying. It seemed to take all summer because it was slow and tiresome work in all that heat.

We always had quite a few horses. Our dad used to break them in during the wintertime. He would hitch up a bronco with an older work horse to a bobsleigh and box, jump in and away they would go. He would let them run until the horses tired and calmed down. By the time spring came he had an extra horse or two to use for spring work. When the bronco was quieted down pretty good he would let us kids go along, and we thought this was great fun.

There weren't any household conveniences away back then. The first one I remember was a washing machine with a round wooden tub. It had a big wheel that a handle fit into and you pulled it back and forth. That made the agitator work. This wheel was fastened inside the lid. We took our turns at keeping it going until the washing was done — but it beat scrubbing the clothes on a washboard. No wonder washday was called Blue Monday.

Our mother passed away in 1932 at the age of 60 years and our dad passed away in June, 1942, at the age of 56 years. They were both buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

Gradually the family grew up and left home. Harry was married to Audrey Cunningham in 1935 and moved to S.W. 27-38-3-W5, about one mile east of the home place, formerly owned by J. T. Marshall of Eckville. They have two daughters, Johanna and Faye. Johanna is married to Bill Budvarson of the Craig district. They have two sons, Jim and Perry, and live in Eckville. Faye married Melvin Molander of Eckville and they have two children, Cheryl and Corey. They live in Didsbury.

Margaret married Claude Cunningham in 1936 and they live two and one-half miles south of Eckville. They have three children, Lloyd, Dale and Judy. Lloyd married Linda Lutz of Olds and they have two children, Dawn and Neal. They live in Eckville. Dale married Mary Watts Storms. They live on the Sr. Cunningham farm south of Eckville and have one son, Ronnie. Judy is single, and works in Calgary.

Walter married Laura Langer of Eckville in 1944 and they live on the home place. Their two children are Barbara and Barry. Barbara works in Calgary, and is single. Barry married Dixie Blow of Cochrane and they have two sons, Kerry

and Robbie Barry is presently living in Scotland

Donald was in the army from June 1941 until December 1945. He returned from the Service and farmed his quarter of land which joins the home place, S.E 20-38-3-W5. He and Walter farmed together for a few years, then he took employment in Calgary and now resides there He is still single

Mildred married Russel Fraser of Ontario in 1961 and they have one daughter Debbie. They live in Calgary

Most of our children attended Bluebell School until 1955, when it became centralized and the children were bussed into Eckville

**THE EGNES PALKOT FAMILY — by Dora**

Egnes Palkot was born in Lithuania on July 31, 1885. He came to Pennsylvania U.S.A and worked in a butchering establishment for two years. In 1911 he came to Calgary, Alberta and worked as a brick layer's helper He left there when work became scarce and went to work on a farm at Claresholm. In 1914 he rode a freight train to Innisfail and then proceeded west on foot to the Stauffer district where his sister Mrs Bredick, was living. He was equipped with a swede saw, axe and pack sack He often spoke of the time he stopped at Mrs. Linneberg's hen house and took a few eggs to suck and Mrs. Linneberg came out to gather eggs and found him there

Egnes homesteaded on SW 17-37-4-W5. He built a small log shack and began clearing land He returned to Claresholm for several years in the fall to work and in the winters worked in the mines at Nordegg, returning to the homestead each spring to continue clearing land. In 1915 he borrowed a horse, an axe and a plow and broke three acres. The next year he bought a team of horses. He broadcast his crop and that fall he cut the crop with a scythe dried it, then threshed it with a flail and stored it in bags. His diet on the homestead consisted mainly of berries, rabbits and wild birds. If it hadn't been for these, many homesteaders would have starved or given up and moved away On one occasion when Egnes came home from the mines, he found that his home had been occupied by some other settlers who had come too late to build a house before winter set in. They then moved on to locate on land of their own

Each year more land was cleared and broken, and in 1918 Egnes received the title to his homestead. Egnes cut tamarack posts and hauled them to Alhambra to earn extra money This, along with his other income, made it possi

matched grey horses, a fancy driving harness for them, a black cutter for winter and a fancy black buggy With such outstanding travel equipment he started courting and soon won the hand of Antonia Sperosk

Antonia had come from Lithuania in 1923 and made her home with her brother, Frank Speroski, who lived in the Gilby District Antonia tells a story about one time while out driving they had stopped the team. When Egnes went to embrace her, he knocked her large hat off, which frightened the horses and they had a run-aw Antonia and Egnes were married in 1924

By this time the threshing was done by John Dietz, who had a hand-fed thresher driven by a 10-horse power pump engine. This was quite a job, as the stacked bundles had to be cut and fed into the machine and, as there was no blower on the machine, men had to fork the straw away into piles. In 1925 the Ebis bought a Case thresher and tractor This was a real machine and it cut the strings as well as having a blower and grain augor

On September 15, 1925 their first and only son Edward, was born. On this same day their entire crop was completely hailed out By this time there was approximately 80 acres in crop Luckily, Egnes had put hail insurance on the crop and this was the last day that the insurance was valid. It was the one and only time he had ever carried insurance and he was hailed out only once after that in 1946

Their first daughter, Frances, was born October 2, 1927 During that year they also purchased a used Chevrolet touring car which came with snap-on curtains. In 1929 he traded his car for a new Plymouth

In 1932 Egnes purchased an old 10-20 Titan steel wheeled tractor, which he used only for grading, because he was now established in the pig raising business. Egnes had an old binder which a farmer in Claresholm had discarded His line of machinery had now increased to include a wooden box and wooden wheel seed drill, a two-bottom horse plow, a six foot single disc a horse-drawn mower and a dump hay rake

During these years the necessity to get their crops off made these early homesteaders into unpublished inventors. The fall of 1927 was very wet In order to cut his crop Mr Dobia mounted a motorcycle engine on his binder to run the sickle canvas reel and knotter The bull wheel drive was disconnected and set in a two-horse dirt slip The horses were hitched to this and they pulled the binder through the soggy fields. Mr Dobia took the crop off for Egnes that year It took eight horses to pull this, while in an ordinary year four horses could easily pull the binder

By this time the homestead shack was getting too small and an additional room was added This addition made it possible to have bedrooms upstairs. This was a necessity because on July 16, 1933, twin daughters, Ileen and Ireen, were born.

In 1933 the SW 18-37-4-W5 was purchased from John Junaitis. There were 30 or 40 acres broken on this land and it was fenced with two rows of barbed wire. Egnes ran cattle on this land, as well as on a half section of Hudson Bay land

which he leased. The sloughs, which were dry enough, were mowed and stacked for hay for winter feed. Indians were hired to cut brush and grub and limb the big trees. In winter these trees were cut into firewood. The Indians would contract the work for three to four dollars per acre. At times there would be as many as 30 tents at the work site. The first part of this land was broken by Ed Clay, with 12 horses on a wooden beam plow. The other parts were broken by Mervin Howe, using Pete Lecerf's 23-36 International tractor with steel wheels and a steel beam plow. In all, 150 acres were cleared. The remaining patches were broken by Sandy Morigeau and Frank Dobia in later years.

During the hungry thirties, relief men were available to farmers for winter work. The government paid the men five dollars a month and the farmer five dollars for his room and board. Most of these men were very good workers. The farmers would usually give the worker the five dollars which had been intended for payment for board and room. The men usually did the chores and cut wood.

In 1936 a Massey Harris Pacemaker tractor was purchased. It had rubber tires and was the first one thus equipped in the district. It caused much speculation as to the desirability of rubber tires, in regard to punctures and traction, but it proved to be reliable. A six-foot tiller and a three bottom plow, 14-inch, were also purchased at this time. Egnes decided these pieces of equipment would be used for preparing the land only, and the seeding and binding would be done with horses. Within two years tractor hitches were put on all pieces of equipment. The horses were soon sold, except for two teams, which were kept for hauling bundles. Wheat, oats and barley were grown by this time, and summerfallow was part of the crop rotation.

In 1941 Edward finished his schooling and joined his father in the farming business. They purchased a Massey Harris 101 with rubber tires. Ed used this tractor and a rubber-tired wagon to haul fattened hogs to market at Hespero.

During these years many of the farmers paid their taxes by helping to build roads. This proved quite a job, as poles had to be cut and laid side by side in the muskegs. This was called corduroy and on this, dirt was hauled and laid over the logs, so the traveller could have a smoother ride. In other places ditches were dug and the dirt pued on the road and levelled off. This was done mainly with slips and fresnoes, pulled by horses. The farmers of the district took turns maintaining these roads.

In 1942 a number 15 eight-foot pull type Massey Harris combine was purchased. In 1943 a quarter of land was bought from Frank Trezka. There was about 80 acres of cultivated land, and the remainder of this land was broken by 1946. The building site on this quarter was broken, and during this procedure three gallons of powerful moonshine were unearthed. The men on that year's threshing crew will not forget the party they had with the help of this moonshine!

In 1949 Egnes and Antonia left the farm and bought one and a half acres at Sylvan Lake. They built a house and established the Suns Paradise Camping Grounds. They remained at Sylvan Lake until 1971, when they sold the camp grounds and purchased a home in Innisfail. Egnes passed away in Calgary on September 2, 1974. Antonia still resides in their home in Innisfail.

Ed married Fersa McNeil of Evergreen on November 29, 1947. In 1955 they sold the Stauffer farm and bought a farm at Innisfail. They have two daughters. Linda is married to Raymond Smith and has two children, Kelly and Carmen. They live and work on the home farm.

Marilyn is married to Bill Howard of Winfourne.

Frances is married to Jack Curtis and they reside in Delta, B.C. They have three children, Ronnie, Elaine and Cathy. Ronnie and Elaine are both married and Elaine has two children, Steven and Darren.

Aileen married John Glambeck in 1953 and they have three children, Bruce, Allan and Bonnie. They live in Red Deer.

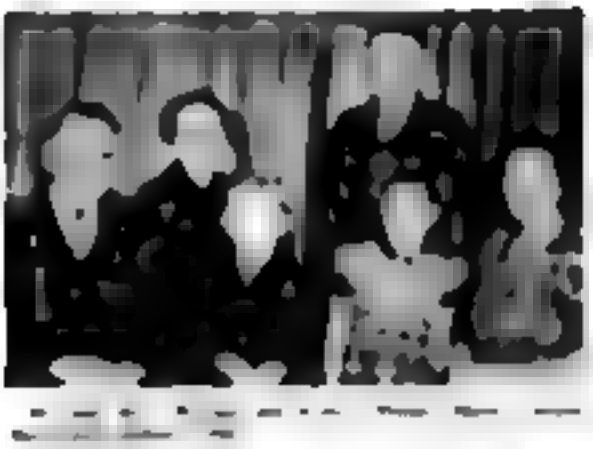
Irene married Tom Burke. They live in Calgary with their three children, Kevin, Shelley and Phyllis.

**PHELPS, WILLIAM MAXWELL**

Bill was born in Dowagiac, Michigan, U.S.A. April 13, 1907. He came to Alberta in 1927 to his half brother (Fred Dalton) and family at Olds, Alberta. He worked on different farms as hired help. In 1930, he came to the Diamond Valley district to a friend that had Sec. 29-37 3-W5 rented. Bill helped him farm as he was a school teacher. Bill and I, Evelyn Martinson, were married October 1, 1932. The school teacher, Wendell Phillips, had left Bill the land by this time which Bill rented. We were there and farmed it until the spring of 1934. Then we rented SE 30-37 3-W5 owned by A. J. Hoven. We farmed with horses. Bill took horses to break from the Armstrong Brothers of Eckville for several years. In the spring of 1936, my mother had a sale and left the farm. We rented the land SE and NW 11-38-4-5 from her and moved there with our family of two, Marie born March, 1934 and Lenard born July, 1935. We bought this half section in 1938. We farmed with horses until after 1940. We had saddle horses and a driving team until 1942 when we bought our first truck.

My two brothers, Floyd and Melvin Martinson and two sisters Virginia and Ruth Martinson were with us from 1936-1952. They took their schooling at Gaetz school. By 1952, they married and made homes of their own.

Bill and I had lots of help as the years went by. Bill loved his farming horses and livestock.



He did a lot of community work in di[illegible] organizations

In 1942, we had a daughter, Muriel and in 1944 a son Delbert. In 1948, we bought our first car after spring seeding and took our family and went on a two month trip back to Bill's home state of Michigan, U.S.A. Also through Iowa and South Dakota to my folks relatives. In 1949, we bought the SW and NW quarters of Sec 11-36-4 W5. These quarters were bush land. We cleared the NW quarter in a few years and had it into crop. We always milked 10 to 20 cows by hand and had a lot of hogs. In 1950, we built a chicken house and brooder and I spent a few years raising chickens and turkeys. The profits weren't large but we had spending money. The spring of 1949, the power came in which was a big help to the district.

The spring of 1956, Bill had a heart attack after he had finished seeding the crop that day. He was in the hospital for six weeks. He recovered and was able to do ordinary work until the spring of 1961 when he had another heart attack and passed away. Son Delbert was 16 years old at the time. He and I carried on farming with hired help. We threshed until 1965, then bought a combine and swather. Delbert lives on and farms the home place. He married Lila Wyzkoski and they have four girls, Cindy, Charlene, Candice and Crystal.

Muriel married Max Bott and lives and farms near Withrow, Alberta. They have one son, three children, Clayton, Constance and Lorna. Connie was married in June 1977 to John Macleod of Edmonton. Lenard has been an oilman for over 20 years. He has worked in Alberta and the U.S.A. At present he is living in Texas and is president of Thomson Drilling Co.

Marie married Edward Bott and lives and farms near Withrow, Alberta. They have four children, Russell, Gene, Carolyn and Joanne.

I have a suite in the Jem Apartments in Eckville, Alberta and am manager and caretaker there.

**PHILLIPS, WILLARD AND BEATRICE — by Beatrice Phillips**

Eckville has always been a part of my life as my family did much of their business there. I was born at Evarts, Alberta, the daughter of David and Ada McNeil. We had a mixed farming operation and milked a few cows. The cream was taken to Eckville usually twice a week, and the needed purchases made. One time I remember Dad taking some wheat to be ground into flour at the mill there. Mother had a great deal of difficulty making good bread with it, but I know nothing was wasted, as she always found a way to make use of everything. It was the secret of success in the hard times, and we, as a family did very well, thanks to our careful parents.

In the fall of 1942 I, along with my sister Ethel and Doreen Stauffer, took up residence in one room above the home of my aunt and uncle the J. M. McDonalds. Here we ate, slept, and studied, but spent very few weekends there. It was a very disturbing sight on the Monday morning in January when we drove up in front of our school and, peering through the frosty windows of the truck, saw the smoldering ruins of the school with only the chimney standing. School resumed a week later in the Hall. We did lose credits in our chemistry course because we did not have a laboratory but, thanks to our much loved teacher, Mrs. Westergard, school continued. We did have concerts and bazaars to raise money to help replace some of the lost equipment.

February was a sad month, too, for we lost our grandmother, Mrs. Hugh McNeil. March saw more and more snow and winds that made many roads impassible. One Friday night my sister and I had to walk the last half mile home in the dark, falling over four-foot drifts. Spring came, with the rivers all flooding their banks and causing the loss of two lives — Mr. Leithead at Evarts and Bill MacDonald, the father of our good friend, Kay. It was a time that will be hard to forget.

After finishing school in Eckville I went to work at the Evarts store and then to the bank in Sylvan Lake. Doreen went on to finish her schooling at Red Deer and Dickson, after which she did some supervisor-teaching. She married Clifford Hillman and they still reside on their farm at Evarts. They have three children. Ethel went on to graduate from the Eckville School and later graduated as a nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital. In 1949, She worked in Stettler before her marriage to Frank Morrison Thornton in 1951. They now live in Calgary and have two children. Ethel still does part time nursing at the Foothills Hospital.

In January of 1947 Willard Phillips and I were married. We went to live in the Evarts district and worked for Peter Stewart on his farm for five years. We then purchased a quarter of our own, and moved into our new home in the spring of 1952. Robert Medin was the previous owner of

the quarter we bought. In 1980 we bought the land we now live on from Ken Darlington. He had built up the place after his return from the war. It had originally been owned by D. Snyder.

Willard was born in the Arbutus district near Rocky Mountain House. His father, J. Arthur, came west after graduating from MacDonald Agricultural College. He had been born in Westmount, Quebec, and had lived in the city environment, so he knew little about farm life in the rugged west. He took a homestead, and married Laura Gardiner, who, with her parents, had moved from North Dakota, U.S.A. They also were on a homestead. They raised five boys and one girl, Willard being the second oldest. He attended school in Arbutus, then went to work in the bush. His first job on a threshing crew in 1935, was in this same area. He also worked in the Evarts area in succeeding years and from there he joined the army and went overseas in January, 1943. He took part in the "D Day" invasion in France, returning home in December of 1945.

We have two sons, David and Keith, who both took all their schooling in Eckville. After their graduation they went to work mainly in the oil industry. David married Wendy Primrose of Rocky Mountain House. They have two daughters, Carrie and Angela. David is presently employed as a driller with Loffland Bros. Drilling. Keith married Judith Szoke and is presently employed as a welder at the Syncrude plant near Fort McMurray.

**RASMUSSEN FAMILIES — by Iris Rasmussen**

In the spring Neils Rasmussen, his wife and family moved into the Bluebell area. They located on the NW 29-38-3-W5, which they purchased from Pete Pedersen and which is now owned by Theresa Rasmussen.

Neils Rasmussen, born September, 1862, in Denmark, emigrated to California, U.S.A. There he met Jensina (born September 13, 1862 in Denmark) and they were married on October 14, 1885 in California. They soon moved, and took up a homestead in Lakin, Kansas, U.S.A.

Neils and Jensina Rasmussen had eight children born in Kansas. A daughter Ethel, born April 17, 1909, passed away on May 15, 1909.

Upon coming to Canada they brought with them settlers effects, ambition and a desire to expand in a new country. In 1923 they purchased NW 32-38-4-W5, in the Condor area. This land was later rented by their sons. They resided on their Condor farm until their passing, Neils in February, 1932 and Jensina in February, 1933. They are buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery, which is located on SE 16-38-3-W5, and is more commonly referred to as the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

Descendents of Neils and Jensina Rasmussen were: Clara Anna, born February 5, 1887. She married Charles Dickerson Steinbeck, known as Carl. They came with her parents to this country and homesteaded the SE 19-38-2-W5, which is now owned by Harry Medin. They lived in a log cabin on this land for about eight years. This cabin is still standing. Clara and Carl Steinbeck had seven children: Herbert Franklin, Edwin, Fred, William, Hilda, Joseph and Marie, all born in and around this area. Frank, with his wife and family from North Carolina have visited this area four different times. Joseph and his wife have also been here. Clara passed away after a sudden illness on January 15, 1918. She is buried in the Medicine Valley cemetery. Carl moved back to the States with his family on April 6, 1919.

Alfred Thomas, the oldest son of Neils and Jensina, was born September 22, 1891. Alfred homesteaded the NE 19-38-3-W5. He met Lilly May Ellis, a local school teacher in his area, and they were married in 1921. Alfred and May have five children, Freda, Elsie, James, Lee and Nesley, all living in the Fairview, Alberta area. Alfred and May moved to the Clive area in 1927 where they farmed. In 1955 they moved to Whitelaw to be near their children. Alfred and May have both passed away. They are buried in the Whitelaw cemetery.

Martinus Henry, known as Enos, married Agnes French, a Condor girl. They lived until 1925 in the area, then moved to Yakim, Washington, U.S.A. Enos was accidently killed in May, 1926. Their three children were Henry, Earl and Dorothy. Agnes now lives in Oregon, U.S.A.

Rudolph Andrew, known as Rudy, was born December 2, 1894. He lived at home until joining the Army in May, 1918. He served in the 31st Battalion in Bramshot, England until the war ended. In 1923 Rudy married Gena Botten. They farmed the NE 29-38-3-W5, purchased through the Soldier Settlement Board. Rudy and Gena had six children: Ruth, Herman, Elmer, Oliver, Enos and Helena. Helena passed away six weeks after her birth.

Next came a sad time for Rudy and his family, as Gena passed away on February 13, 1933 of pneumonia. The shock of this news caused Rudy's mother to pass away the next day. There was a sad, double funeral and both were buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery. Rudy carried on with his family of small children with help from relatives and neighbors. In the spring Irene Bardwell (nee Wylie - a widow with three small children, Kenneth, Joyce and Alice, came as his housekeeper. This proved to be a satisfactory arrangement, as Rudy and Irene were married June 21, 1934. Shortly after their marriage the community held a charivari, as was the custom in those days. Rudy and Irene managed to get outside without the crowd seeing them. They joined in the racket and revelry. After a while, when no one appeared, several men lifted Orrin Wylie in the window. No one was there! There was a great deal of laughter when Rudy and Irene were discovered in the crowd.

To this marriage was born Ronald, Daniel,

Shirley and Loyal. This large family was active in functions at the Bluebell School and throughout the area. Rudy and Irene were interested in raising their family in a Christian way. They attended the Diamond Valley Church regularly.

In the fall of 1947 Rudy sold his land, and early in 1948 they moved with their younger children to Abbotsford, B.C., where they still live.

Orvel Nesley was born May 24, 1897. Like his brother Rudy he joined the Army in 1916. Orvel was in the 51st Battalion in Bramshot, England. After his discharge he rented land from his parents, eventually buying the original farm NW 29-38-3-W5. Orvel married Thressa Botten on August 31, 1932. On the day of their wedding Ernest, Orvel's brother, drove them to Red Deer. While Orvel was away his other brothers and other ambitious fellows in the area got into the house and prepared it for the returning newly-married couple. They moved the new bedroom suite upstairs and brought the old one down, which they set up with great care. They filled the oven of the cook stove with rubbers and boots. To make things more interesting they placed a pump engine in the middle of the kitchen floor. Orvel and Thressa must have had mixed feelings when they returned home!

Orvel farmed in this area until his passing on April 26, 1962. He is buried in the Red Deer

Clarence Raymon, the fifth son of Nels and Jansina Rasmussen, was born April 1, 1900. Ray married Anole Bjornson of the Markerville district in May, 1922. They lived in this area before moving to Flatbush in 1934. Ray and Annie have seven children. Bjorn, Richard, Clara, Clifford, Jean, Margaret and Ann. Ray passed away July 4, 1973, one week after attending a Rasmussen family reunion.

Ernest Richard, known to many as Johnny, was born March 31, 1903 in Lakin, Kansas. Ernest farmed the Condor land for his parents for many years. On April 11, 1934 he married Gladys Jayes. In 1945 they moved to Fawcett, Alberta, where they operated a cafe and service station for many years. This service centre had a motto "Eat with Ma, gas with Pa" and that is what many people used to enjoy, as Gladys was an excellent cook and Ernest's service was equally as good. Gladys and Ernest retired to a small farm in the Nestow area. They had three children, Gerald, Stanley and Bonnie Jean. Ernest passed away suddenly in January, 1975.

Hilda Ida, born July 26, 1905, came with her parents to this area. She attended the Bluebell and Prairie Rose schools. While on a trip to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Hilda met and married Floyd McCormick on December 1, 1924. They made Spokane their home, where they had two sons, Floyd and Wayne. Floyd passed away in January, 1960. Hilda then married Lawrence Gugler in May, 1965. Lawrence passed away July 16, 1972. Hilda lives alone in Spokane, Washington.

Two grandsons of Nels and Jensina, sons of Rudolph Rasmussen, live in this area. Elmer Stanley was born March 16, 1927 at his home in the Bluebell area. Elmer with his brothers Herman and Oliver, moved to the Fawcett area where they took up homesteads. Elmer stayed with his Uncle Ray and Aunt Annie for some time. On April 11, 1950 he married Iris Helen Wilson, a local school teacher. They lived on the homestead for three years before moving to Barrhead, Alberta. Here he started working for Farm Electric Services, and worked at this job for eight years. In May of 1962 Elmer rented and from Mrs. Thressa Rasmussen, where he now resides.

Elmer and Iris have four children, Wayne Elmer, born July 7, 1954, attended school in Eckville and on August 10, 1974 he married Sandra Nielson. Wayne works in Red Deer but intends to make Eckville his home.

Lois Anne was born December 5, 1957 in Mayerthorpe, Alberta. She took her schooling in Eckville, graduating from high school in 1975

different types of cooking.

David Terrance, born November 18, 1962 and Clark Robert, born December 7, 1964, both attend Eckville school and reside at home.

**ENOS AND IRENE RASMUSSEN — by Irene Rasmussen**

Enos Gilbert was born July 22, 1936 at home in the Eckville area. He helped his dad on the farm until Mr. Rasmussen sold his land to Walter Boettger. Enos then helped his dad move to Abbotsford, B.C., but he returned to stay with Orvel and Thressa Rasmussen. He belonged to the Genalto Agriculture Society for a few years. He showed sheep at the Edmonton Stock Fair on several occasions. For 13 years Enos rented land from Mrs. Tennant. He met Irene Bozak of the Gaetz district and they were married in April of 1957 in Red Deer.

Enos and Irene lived in various places, until moving to the New Hill district. They later bought land there. They have five children, Therese, Brenda, Dorothy, Charles and Gale. Therese graduated from the Spruce View school in 1977 and is working in Red Deer. The other children are still at home.

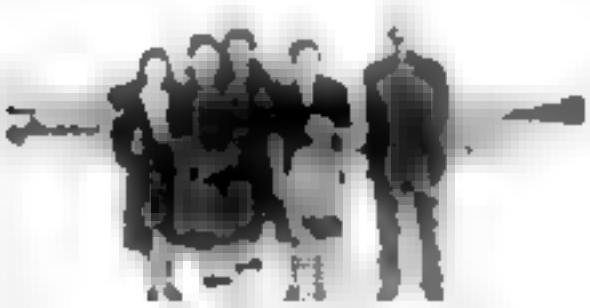
**THE RAZZOLINI FAMILY**

Giovanni Razzolini came to Canada to Vancouver from Montrumo, Italy, in 1913. From Vancouver he moved to Rockyford, Alberta to work on a farm. In 1922 he came to Eckville and bought the W 21 39-3-W5, from the C.P.R. This land was in the Blue Bell School district. The land was all bush and he had to clear it by hand and with horses.

In 1924 he married Marina Zanesco of Castelcucco, Italy in Calgary. After their

marriage they returned to the farm, and to a brand new home, something that most people did not have. This house had been built by a brother-in-law that had lost his wife. Mr. Razzolini's sister) and they were to raise three of his children in exchange for the house. In the meantime the brother-in-law remarried, and the raising of his three children by Giovanni and Marina never came to pass.

For income many cattle and pigs were raised. Four children were born to them: Amelia Maria, Luigina and Gino. Due to ill health Mr. Razzolini sold the farm in 1958, at which time the family moved to Lacombe. Mr. Razzolini passed away on September 3, 1963. He is buried at Alto Reste Memorial Gardens in Red Deer. Mrs. Razzolini now resides in the Eckville Manor.



Amy was born in April, 1925. She married Ron Davidge of Edson in May, 1946. They have two sons and one daughter, Dennis, Terry and Janice. Dennis married Mary Nickel of Vancouver and they have one daughter, Michelle. Terry married Linda Pointer of Calgary and they have one son, Kyle. Janice married Laurence Tisch of Calgary and they are now living in Winnipeg.

Luigina was born on November 10, 1929. She married Clem Croome of Edmonton on January 11, 1953. They had two sons, Murray and Dale. Clem passed away on August 20, 1960. Luigina married Jim Wright of Diamond Valley in November, 1967, and they have one daughter, Rina.

Murray married Sally Esary of Vancouver. They have one son, Adam, and one daughter, Becky. They are living in Coquitlam, B.C.

Dale and Rina are living in Calgary.

**THE HARRY MAXIM SATRON FAMILY — by Violet Satron**

Harry Max Satron worked for Trident Drilling, later purchased by Peter Bawden Drilling. Harry was employed on the Trident rig, which drilled the hole where the Gilby Gas Plant is now located. While working in this area Harry met his wife-to-be, Violet Cordon. They were married on August 1, 1957 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Sylvan Lake.

In 1960 Harry decided to go farming and purchased the E 25-38-4-W5 and the SE 30-38-3-W5 from his father-in-law, John Cordon. On August 21, 1963 the original barn burned down, so Harry applied for a timber lease from the Forestry Department. He cut the trees, hauled and sawed the logs, planed the lumber and, being handy with a hammer and talented with a saw, he built a new barn in 1964. He continued logging and in 1971 began building the new house, following plans which he and Violet had drawn up. The family built the house themselves, with the exception of pouring of the basement, floor and footings, and the building of the fireplace.

In 1972 Harry and Violet tried out a new venture — a Holiday Farm. In 1973 they accepted 52 young people from the ages of 16 to 23 years, for five weeks, supplying them with room, board and farming experiences.

During the winter of 1976-1977 Harry was hired by the Eckville Agricultural Society as "spear-header" for the inside construction of the new Multi-purpose Building in Eckville. His job was to order material, solve construction problems and to organize the work for the many volunteer workers.

Harry is a member of the Benalto Elks Club, the Eckville Curling Club and the Hespero Hall [illegible] and children's activities, even to teaching the school children to curl. He never misses a hunting or fishing trip out west, usually accompanied by his boys and often by the whole family. In 1977 Harry received a five-year Leadership Award from the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs.

Violet, having been a horse-lover all her life, has taken part in many horse shows and gymkhanas over the years. In 1976 she was president of the Eckville Catholic Women's League and vice-president of the Eckville Curling Club, in addition to taking an active part in the Eckville Curling Club and the Hespero Community Club. In 1977 she was presented with a Ten-Year Leadership Award from the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs.

Harry and Violet have three sons and a daughter — Daniel, Dennis, Terry and Brenda. Daniel and Dennis both have graduated from Eckville High School. Terry and Brenda still attend school in Eckville.

**SMITH, WILLIAM AND JEAN**

Bill Smith was born at Irvine, Alberta, the second youngest son of Tom and Elizabeth Smith and came with his parents to the Kuusamo district in 1926. He attended school at Evarts, Kuusamo, Eckville and Red Deer.

After leaving school he worked one summer for Glen Eisenhauer, near Sylvan Lake, where one of his jobs was to plough for 37 days with a six-horse team. The pay was $25 a month with every second Sunday off. After this he worked for Stewart Brothers Equipment of Red Deer for

a few months — salary $45 per month — before going back to the farm to stay

He farmed with his brothers in the Eckville district until 1941 when he and his brother Tom enlisted in the army. Before going overseas he and Tom bought S 20-39-3-W5 from Luther Finlay. During the next four and a half years he served in England, Italy, Northwest Europe and with the Army of Occupation in Germany before returning home in 1946.

In 1948 he married Jean Staniforth, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Staniforth from the Evarts district. She was born in Red Deer and educated at Evarts and Red Deer.

In the spring of 1948 they moved to NE 6-39-3 W5, which they had bought from Ernie Barlund, and they have lived and farmed there ever since. They started without central heating, electricity, plumbing, telephone or gravelled road, but these all came as time went on. They farmed at first with a combination of horses and tractor and stooked and threshed the crop. In 1957 they bought Tom Cunningham's farm, SW 5-39-3-W5 when he quit farming to go to work for an oil

Jean taught Sunday school at Hespero Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Ladies' Aid until it was disbanded when the church closed. Both Jean and Bill were members of the Hespero Church Board. Bill was on the Eckville Co-op Association board of directors for 17 years and on the Eckville Co-op Livestock Association Board for many years, having the jobs of chairman and secretary on each of these boards. He has also had a turn as secretary of the Eckville Legion. Jean was on the executive of the Eckville figure-skating club and sang in the

Bill and Jean have four daughters. Elizabeth Jean (Beth) married Ole Bendixen and they have two daughters and live in Calgary.

Sharon Margaret married Richard Guest of Eckville. They have three daughters and live in Pincher Creek.

Mary Louise married Rod Bardenhagen. They have one daughter and one son and live near Rocky Mountain House.

Beverly Ann married Don Bardenhagen. They have one son and live in Eckville.

**SONNIE, JOHN**

John Sonnie emigrated to Pennsylvania U.S.A. in 1880 from Sweden. In 1884 he sent for the girl who was to be his wife, Matilda Olson. They settled in Galutzen, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the coal mines.

In 1905 they came to Diamond Valley, where he homesteaded NE 32-37-3-W5. This farm is now owned by John Murdock. They had seven children.

Hattie, the oldest, married Tom Varty of In

Emil married Dasarene Keighley. He worked in large sawmills in British Columbia most of his life. He now resides in Vancouver.

Gus and his wife, Ruth, were farmers and now live in Finnigan.

Alma married Harry Ballance of Diamond Valley in 1913. They had four children, Gladys, Mary, Gordon and Hazel. Harry passed away in 1923.

Anna married George Elder of Innisfail in 1933. They moved to Vancouver in 1941. George died in 1942. Anna now resides in British Columbia.

Alan was a member of the police force and died while yet a young man.

Helen married Thory Johnson of the Markerville district. They reside in Calgary.

Victor and his wife, Eva, remained on the home farm until they moved to Calgary a few years before Vic died.

Of the Sonnie sons Gus has one son, Bud, who has a son now. He is the only boy to carry on the Sonnie name.

**ALEXANDER MALCOLM STEWART**

The blood of three branches of the Stewart clan, traceable back through the centuries, fused in the veins of Alexander Malcolm Stewart. He was the second man to cross the Medicine River at Evarts and locate a homestead in what was later to become the Diamond Valley district.

He was born at Port Huron, Ontario, August 24, 1876, the son of Angus D. and Jane (Stewart) Stewart, and he attended school there. After working on a farm in Ontario, he came west from Wyoming, Ontario to Manitoba in 1899 and in 1901 he came to the Red Deer district and worked on farms in the area. On August 13, 1901, he first crossed the Medicine River by boat where Evarts was subsequently located, to work at a saw mill three miles west of the river. Range three, although it was being surveyed that year, was not open for homesteading. However any man 18 years of age or older who was a British subject or who was willing to take out naturalization papers, could choose a quarter section and build a small house on it and then have the first chance to file on it, as soon as that could be actually be done.

Alex Stewart filed on SW 4-38-3 W5 in 1902 and his first shack was built of slabs and poles. This was subsequently replaced by a home on a location farther to the south. Roads were non

when a post office was opened at Evarts, mail had to be brought out from Red Deer. The country was wet and most of the horses brought in died of swamp fever. For several years Alex used a team of oxen to break the land that he so arduously cleared by hand. He had one ox that he sometimes rode and when, as sometimes happened, he did not take the pasture bell off him, it announced his arrival at his destination.

In 1905 his parents and his sister, Catherine came west from Ontario to join him on the

homestead. His father, Angus D. Stewart, the son of Alex D Stewart, was born at East Williams, Ontario in 1843. He was married May 29, 1872, to Jane Stewart, the youngest daughter of Archibald E. Stewart, and they lived in Caradoc township for some time prior to moving near Wyoming Ontario, from whence they later journeyed westward. A Presbyterian in religion and a Liberal in politics, Angus Stewart was a kind, generous and honest type of man. He homesteaded on the NW 17 38-3 W5, which originally had been C P R land, but which had been traded back to the federal government and opened up for homesteading in 1906. He died on January 30, 1910, at the age of 67 years. Mrs Stewart continued to live with her son until the early 1920's, when she went to live with a daughter Mrs. Duncan Macartney, in Manitoba where she died in 1925. Both Mr and Mrs. Angus Stewart are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. Their daughter, Catherine, married Glen Caton, one of Alex Stewart's nearest neighbors, in 1910

Alex Stewart was married to Pearl Coughlan in 1918, and following her death in 1930 he married Jessie Caton in 1936. Throughout the years he took an active part in practically every phase of the development of the district, being a member of the first council when the first four township local improvement districts were formed, and when the district school was built in 1910 he was appointed secretary-treasurer of the district at a salary of $35. per year He never turned to power farming, using horses continuously after the era of the ox team had passed For a number of years four black horses provided his favorite source of operational power He also took great pride in his herd of Shorthorn cattle In 1950, at 74 years of age, he received a Save the Soil scroll from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. The year 1956 marked the 54th successive year that he had put up hay in the Diamond Valley district

He had a remarkable memory for names and dates and a keen sense of humor that is remembered by all those who knew him. His door was opened to everyone and he took part in every local activity Throughout his life he enjoyed wonderful health. He had been having some of his field work done on a hired basis for two years, but he continued to keep his cattle and horses, until 1960, when he suffered a heart attack. He then sold his cattle and horses and rented the farm on which, however he continued to live. As late as the fall of 1963 he helped to shovel grain. He died January 28, 1964, at the age of 87 years and is buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery His widow resides in Valley Park Manor in Red Deer

**THE CHARLIE VANHORN FAMILY (GAETZ — by Bora Carlyle**

Charlie Vanhorn came to Gaetz district with his parents and brother William and sisters Eva Reta and Winnie. They settled on a homestead one mile west and a quarter mile south of the present location of Gaetz school. He began working as an elevator agent and worked in many locations. While working in Monitor he married Charlotte Boles of the Gaetz district, who was also one of the first class in Gaetz school

Charlottie had come from Oregon, U.S.A with her parents in 1910 and lived on their homestead one mile west of Gaetz school. During their stay at Monitor their first child, Gladys, was born in 1918. They spent three years at Kootuk the C P R siding south of Eckville, later moving to a home one mile west of Gaetz school Here two more daughters were born Jessie on December 26, 1924 and Laurine on December 27, [illegible]

Their home burned and they decided to start farming on their own, buying a quarter section from Ressers, a half mile father west. Here they broke more land, farming with horses. They built a new barn in 1937 and raised hogs cattle chickens, and shipped cream for many years

Their daughter Gladys passed away in June of 1933 and is buried in the Gaetz cemetery On August 11, 1942 a son, Howard, was born. All of their children attended Gaetz school

Charlie was a school trustee for Gaetz school for many years and was also a member of the Evergreen Hall Board. When orchestras were brought in for special dances, the members of the band would board with the Vanhorns Charlottie was an excellent cook and they enjoyed their stay with the Vanhorns

In 1953 they sold their farm and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon buying a house on Ogalvie Street. Charlie worked as night watchman for United Keno Hill Mines for several years, also in the federal buildings and the old Edgewater Hotel

Charlottie died in January of 1963 and Charlie in December of 1963. Jessie was married to Joe Andre in 1943. Joe was in the air force and when he returned at the end of World War II they bought the old Moldet place. Here they had two sons, Leonard and David. They sold their farm and moved to Whitehorse in 1953. Here they had two daughters, Hope and Faith. They were later divorced and Jessie and the girls moved to British Columbia. David moved down a short while later and is married and lives in Chilliwack Leonard still lives in Whitehorse Jessie married John Edgar in 1974 and lives on the King George Highway in Surrey, B.C

Laurine married Alfred (Bud) McNeil in November They farmed Bud's father's farm until 1951, then sold out and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon

**VICK, EDGAR AND MARIE**

Robert Edgar Vick was born June 3, 1881 in Uley, Gloucester, England. At the age of seven he moved with his family to South Wales where his father was Head Carpenter for Lord Llangat

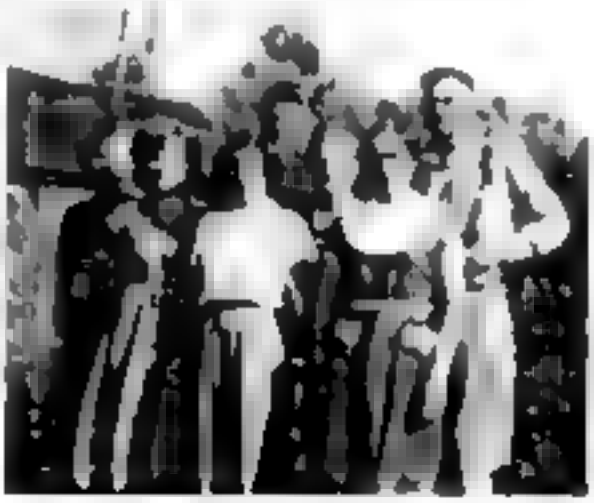
tock on the Hendric estate. Here Edgar appren ticed to the carpentry trade, later being ap pointed house carpenter. He worked as a carpenter for C. S. Rolls and Company. Charles Rolls was the son of Lord Llangattock. He also did a large amount of body work for modern cars the Rolls-Royce. During the years between 1904 and 1910 he worked at sea as ships' carpenter.

In April of 1910 he sailed for Canada, working for a short period in Manitoba. Homesteads were available in Alberta at $10 per quarter section, providing the homesteader would clear a certain amount of land, raise so much stock and stay at least six months of each year for three years on his claim. He could then receive title to the quarter. He took up a homestead on S.W. 9-37-4 W5, ten and one-half miles south of the W throw corner. He also worked for four years for Calgary Power on the Seebe Dam as a carpenter.

In 1915 he went to England and joined the British army, serving in France, Iran and Arabia as Royal Engineer. In February 1919 he returned to his homestead and took up a second homestead on S.E. 9-37-4-W5. Morley Beaver Chief Walking Eagle was a life long friend, having prospected for oil in the west. This chief was the Indian who forecast our winter weather pattern so well until his death.

The Vick children going to school in the winter of 1918-19 [illegible] Hendric Estate.

In January 1925 Edgar married Marie Louise Lecerf. She was born October 23, 1894 to Jules and Louise Lecerf in Lille, France. In 1902 the family arrived in Canada and lived in Lille, Bank and Blairmore, Alberta. Just after they arrived the tragic Frank slide took place. The family were at Lille and could hear it plainly. They went back to France in 1904, but returned to Alberta in 1906 and homesteaded the S.W. 24-36-4 W5 in the Raven district, travelling from Innisfail by ox team. Marie Vick was a seamstress before her marriage. She was a member of the New Hill Ladies' Club until she moved in 1956 to make her home in Sylvan Lake. She is a member of the Catholic Women's League and a member of the Auxiliaries. Edgar Vick passed away August 12, 1952.



The Vick family, 1952.

Edgar and Marie had a family of five children. Charlotte worked in Eckville for Sestrup and Company, in the Cafe and at the post office before her marriage in 1950 to Ross Davis of Buffie, Alberta. They have four children Brian, Wesley, Denise and Vickie. They live in Calgary where Ross is employed by Gulf Oil.

Robert, who married Audrey Wells of Red Deer in 1956, lives on the family farm. He built a home on the Southwest quarter and now owns all of section nine. They have seven children, Michael, Jolene, Pat, Gwen, David, Ken and Danny.

Lucy worked in the Imperial Bank of Canada in Eckville prior to her marriage to Lorne Nielsen in 1950. They have made their home in Benalto. Their children are Wendy, Brenda (Mrs. Peter Dawley, Prince George), Larry, Terry, Leslie, Lorna, Dianne, Ralph, Glen and Jeff.

Agnes graduated as a registered nurse. She worked in the Eckville Hospital and still works there part time. She married Johnny Murdoch in 1955 and lives in the Diamond Valley district. They have seven children Leanne, Barbara, Douglas, Gordon, Kevin, Heather and Robbie.

Marie served in the Air Force for four years. While in France, in 1955, she was married to Robert Burns of Toronto. They have a family of six. Clifford, a member of the R.C.M.P.; Bernice, Linda, Arlene, Norman and Karen. They are presently living in Mynarski Park where Bob is with the Canadian Forces in Namao.

**WOOF, WILLIAM**

William Woof was born at Gill Ferbank, Yorkshire on February 24, 1874, one of nine

children born to Richard and Alice Nelson Woof. Richard's great grandfather had come from Norway and settled in England. William Woof's mother, Alice, was Scandinavian, too.

In 1900 he came to the United States to Iowa but the lure of homestead and to the Canadian west brought him to Calgary in the spring of 1907. He walked to Red Deer and stayed overnight at the old immigration hall where he found a way to go with a land locator in a party that included Jack and Andy Murdock and Alex Stewart of whom you will read elsewhere in this book. They were to inspect land across the Medicine River in the present Diamond Valley district. It was not yet surveyed so homesteads couldn't be recorded but assurance was given that if a house or shack were built on the land selected it would be their homestead as soon as the survey was completed. Bill Woof selected SW 2-29-3 W5 and walked back into Red Deer to get a job to pay for lumber for his shack. He also worked at breaking land with oxen, first on the George W. Smith farm southwest of town.

Back at the homestead Louis Olson, who had homesteaded on section 10, usually went by team and wagon to get their mail at the Markerville post office and utilized these trips to obtain their meat supply in the form of prairie chicken. Being a crack shot Bill Woof was usually commissioned to do the shooting for the party.

In 1905 he went to British Columbia and spent a lot of time working there but had to get back to Alberta to claim his homestead. His first crop of 15 acres yielded 25 bushels to the acre. Lacking horses or oxen he made a deal with Oswald Forhan to have the use of his team of oxen in consideration of one day's work for Mr. Forhan for every day the oxen were used. Later he traded Gus Dahlgren a wagon for a team of oxen and he bought two other oxen at a sale east of Evarts. Breaking and discing with them became his main source of income, breaking as much as three acres a day. His was one of five ox teams breaking land on section 31 for Donald Smith – but he sold his oxen after that.

Then he got another contract to clear and break 40 acres for Sam Smith on land adjoining the Diamond Valley school. For this he bought three huge oxen, a plow and a wagon for $325 from Alex Thompson of Lesliеville — Alex Thompson and George Bailey were Lesliеville's earliest settlers (1903). After completing the contract he broke 12 acres for Sam Bralon on section 9 and the amount of the purchase price was fully recovered when he sold the oxen to a cattle buyer.

In 1912 he was married at Evarts to Mary Eva Foster who was born at Seberem, Cumberland, England in 1887 and came to Lacombe district in 1911. In 1913 Bill Woof did more breaking at Ferrier west of Rocky Mountain House with three oxen and a Cockshutt sulky plow he bought from Ed Mannerfeldt. With these he had to cross the Saskatchewan river west of Rocky Mountain House by ferry. At this job, he worked three three-hour shifts with an hours rest in between as the weather was hot and sultry. The current rate for breaking at that time was $10 per acre.

By now they had a family of two sons Richard born in August 1913 and Robert Foster born in 1918. They decided to leave the homestead and in 1921 they moved to Kelowna B.C. A daughter Rooney Alice was born to them in September 1922.

After varied experiences in British Columbia they returned to Alberta and purchased a farm in the Poplar Ridge district, five miles west of Red Deer, together with machinery and cattle onto which he moved in 1923. Later he purchased some school land and when his sons were able to farm on their own they obtained land on section 17.

The year 1951 was one of tragedy. On April 8 Mrs. Woof, who had been an active community worker and took a keen interest in local affairs died at the age of 63. On December 25 death claimed the younger son Robert at the age of 33. The elder son Richard moved to Ohaton, Alberta and Bill took over his son's land. So much land required a tractor and although all his experience had been with oxen and horses, he gamely went ahead at 80 years of age to master the knack of operating a tractor, and he kept on at farming over a span of almost 10 years.

In 1963 he retired, eventually selling his land to Bob Edgar. In 1967 he moved in to Red Deer where he enjoyed keeping house for himself and, having an active mind, took an interest in public and political affairs and regularly attended meetings of the Central Alberta Old Timers' Association.

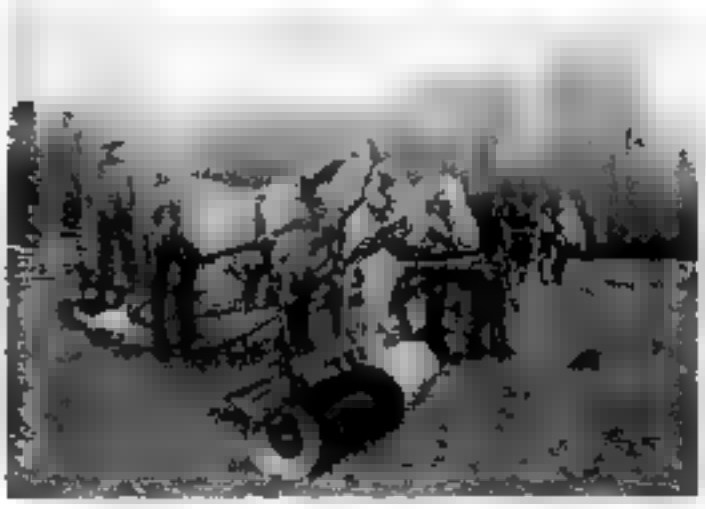
His son Richard and his wife Pauline are farming at Ohaton. They have two sons. Billy who is married to Betty Benz of Caroline. Bill works for Kipp Scott in Red Deer. Their second son, Eddie is married to Simone Correveau and they live at Stoney Plain.

Rooney Alice was married to George Christian who was engaged in the electronics business in Vancouver, B.C. and they had four daughters; Jean (Mrs. Jerry Keeley) of Edmonton, Shirley (Mrs. Lloyd Hamilton), Marie (Mrs. Joe Langevin) and Jerry Ann (Mrs. N. Hansen) all of Red Deer. Rooney passed away June 20, 1973.

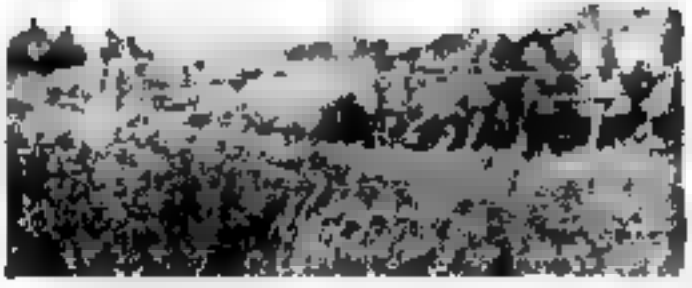
Mrs. William Woof and her son Robert Foster are both buried in the Red Deer cemetery. Bill Woof passed away in September, 1969.

The original homestead in the Diamond valley district was owned by John Craig and was recently purchased by Laurence Murphy.

Harry Medin and August Christianson.



Jim Wingate ready for the field in the 1907's.

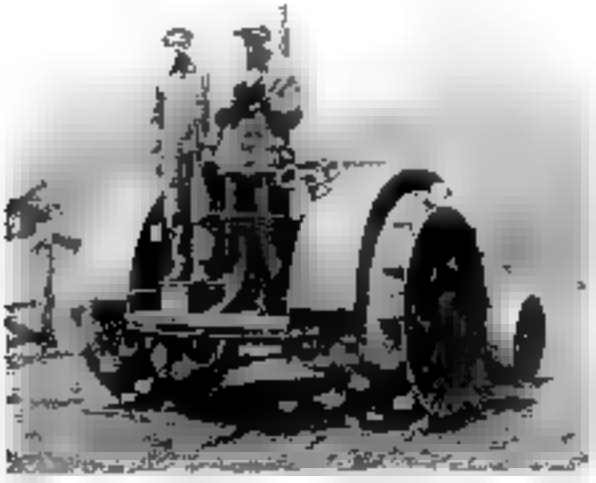


Frank Johansson and Lauk Royer road-building pass their farms in 1915

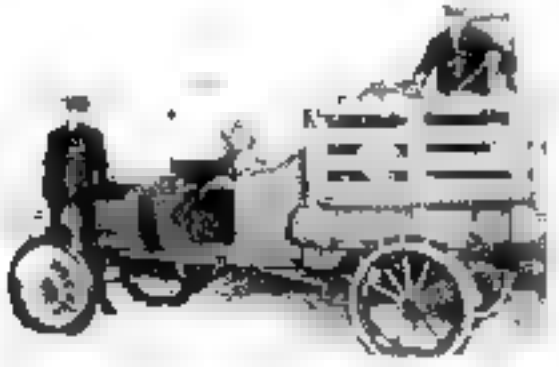
Charlie Gunnarson and John Lundberg breaking sod in 1910.

Well drilling outfit

Modern haying equipment

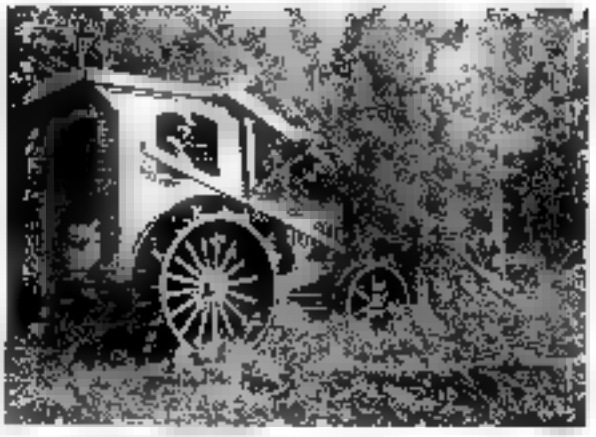


George Lutz and Billy Armstrong on McCormick tractor



Harold and Harry Thomas with pigs bound for town

Advance Ramley Estate and Rose Hotel



Brush Hog built by Charles Skocilopolis.

Fred and Alfred Motsinger with Wallis tractor 1934

Front view of Brush Hog

# Estonian

**BARDENHAGEN, CARSON AND GUNHILD**

Before coming to Lacombe, Carson and Gunhild Bardenhagen farmed in Michigan, near the Great Lakes, with their family of nine children, namely Carson, Lena, Jack, Eric Sena, Henry (Hank), Ole, Fred and Anna.

When they decided to come to Canada, Carson, Frank Prause (a close friend) and Carson Jr. came first to find a place to live. They bought a boarding house in Lacombe, then sent for the rest of the family.

[illegible] seen a gopher so, of course, it was quite a novelty when the train stopped on the prairie to get out and chase after gophers. Eric almost got too far before he realized the train was moving on and he really had to run just managing to catch the last car as it went by.

In 1907, they sold the boarding house and filed on a homestead, site unseen, in the Gilby area. This was the NW 18-40-R-W5. When they drove their team and buggy out to have a look at their new farm they found most of it under water. They built a small log cabin in which they lived while they were building the big frame house with a rock foundation.

The oldest boy, Carson, worked at various jobs, eventually married Anna Maddox and with their only child, a daughter, Evelyn, finally settled in the Gilby area where they farmed for many years before retiring to Eckville where they lived until their passing.

Daughter, Lena, married Ben Hicks and made Bentley her home.

Jack was an accomplished pool player and won many tournaments. He became a barber and made his home in North Dakota, where he married a school teacher Bertha Bjorke.

Henry, his wife Annie, and their children Elva, Elmer and Francis (Pommie) lived in Eckville for a few years. Hank worked in the Eckville Hotel as a bartender.

Sena married Fred Kraft and Eric married Linda Matteus. Ole married Helen Johnson.

Fred started his education in a country school near Lacombe and continued it in the Medicine Valley school when his folks moved to the homestead. While still in Lacombe, his dad invested a brush cutter, pulled by a team of oxen and later by horses and went around cutting brush for the settlers. Fred and Ole followed the cutter throwing the brush into long windrows which later were burned.

Working with oxen was very slow. The only time the oxen got any speed on was during fly time when they would throw up their tails and take off at full speed for the nearest shelter, with whatever they happened to be hitched to.

Fred left the farm when still in his teens and went to work as a cowboy on the Anchor P (P) [illegible]ch in Southern Alberta. There he learned to handle horses so when he came back home he broke many horses for the neighbors, some to harness and some to ride. He also worked on a farm in Cayley for a Mr. Keller. When his father passed away in 1923, Fred came home and took over the farm. He was always interested in sports and played in the Gilby baseball team as well as Eckville. In foot racing he was seldom beaten. Singing was another of Fred's favorite pastimes and he always helped out with the entertainment at all the social functions. He was [illegible] riding to them on his favorite pony Diamon[illegible].

In 1933, he married Mary Raabis and two years later their son, Arthur, was born. Maxine came along nearly two years after that.

Work was hard, as they had no modern conveniences and money was scarce but it was fun working together whether out in the field cutting grain and stooking or at home feeding pigs and chickens and milking cows. The first year the laundry was done in a tub of water on a scrub board, with home-made soap. The white clothes were then boiled and, believe me, they were white when done. We needed no bleaches.

When Fred presented his wife with her first manually operated washing machine. Mary was really happy. No more back-ache from bending long hours over the scrub-board and no more raw fingers. And it even had a hand wringer on it. A few years later this was replaced with a machine which was operated by a gas motor and washing clothes was a breeze from then on.

In 1945 the second son, Dennis, was born and a year and half later a daughter, Gail. When Gail

was about six years old. Fred and Mary sold the farm to their new neighbors, Roy and Bernice Leach, and moved into Eckville where Fred went to work as janitor and maintenance man in the Eckville Hotel then under the management of Bill and Bertha Marsh. Mary was offered the job of cooking in the Co-op lunch counter and remained there for fifteen years before retiring. Fred worked in the hotel for about ten years when, due to his health, he was forced to give it up. Fred passed away suddenly in November 1975, and was buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Mary then went to work in the Manor House in Eckville which opened for business in February 1976, but retired about a year and a half later.

Their son, Arthur, went to the Estonian school until it was closed when all the children were bussed to Eckville. When he graduated, he went to work in the Eckville creamery as bookkeeper but eventually ended up as manager of the butcher shop in the Co-op store. He married Shirley Gant and to this union four children were born: Conley, Jody and the twins, Tracey and Troy. At present, Arthur is a meat cutter at

Maxine married Paul Stephenson and had five children: Charlene, Ricky, Randy deceased, Teresa and Michael. They are at present living in Red Deer.

Dennis is living in Veteran.

Gail married Ron Bruns and lived for a time in Fort St. John, then Smithers and finally moved back to Eckville, though Ron is still flying in Northern B.C.

**JIM AND JOHANNAH BLADES AT THE GILBY STORE—by Jim and Johannah Blades**

We bought the store in June, 1965 and as we became acquainted with the people of the community we enjoyed meeting them and doing business with them. We lived there for nine years, selling out in June 1974. We regretted leaving the community, but had to get, because of Mr. Blades' health.

**DEKKER, JOHN AND SUSANNA**

Mr. and Mrs. John Dekker came to the Estonian district in 1905 from their home near the line between North and South Dakota.

Mr. Dekker and four sons arrived in mid summer looking for land. Mr. Dekker, to the best of my knowledge, filed on 14-40-3-W5. Two of his sons, Henry and Edward, found land to their liking in the Lesheville district and Christian filed on a quarter section five miles west of where Gilby store is today.

Father and sons then returned to the Dakotas and brought back their cattle, chickens and various farm implements and tools needed to bring their land into production.

Mrs. Dekker and their two daughters, Susanna and Annie, arrived in Lacombe in December of the same year. One son, John, stayed in the United States to finish his education.

Soon after their arrival, they suffered the loss of their son, Christian. He died of pneumonia. There was very little medical help available and very few drugs around to combat that ailment in those days. Christian was buried in the Bentley Cemetery, with Mr. Layton officiating, on Christmas Day 1905.

The winter of 1905 - 1906 was certainly a long cold and difficult one for the Dekker family. They certainly appreciated and never forgot the kindness of the other pioneers living around them.

Mr. Dekker and son, Edward, helped build the Estonian School and to the best of Susanna's memory a Mr. George Martin was the first teacher. Both Susanna and Annie attended this school.

The Dekker family left the Estonian district in 1915 and moved to Christian's homestead in the Medicine Valley district. They stayed only a short while and then, with the exception of Susanna, moved back to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Dekker and Annie left first, in 1916, and the sons left soon after.

Susanna Dekker married Marlee Gant, a widower with one child, in 1916. They lived on the Gant homestead which was four and one half miles west of the Gilby store. While on this farm, one daughter was born and a few months later their house and barn went up in flames. They escaped the flames and saved only a few clothes and a small lamp. People smiled at them for carrying a lamp into the flame lit night, but Susanna has often said "That little lamp was the only light in the darkness for them for quite awhile". The loss of warm buildings was a dreadful hardship in those early years.

Susanna, her husband, and the two small girls

hen moved on to the Christian Dekker homestead which they had purchased when the Dekker family left in 1918. Four sons and two more daughters were born on this farm. Susanna and Marlee lived on this place until 1947. They bought a rooming house in Red Deer and lived there for fourteen years after which time they retired to a home in Blackfalds for eleven years. They both entered Valley Park Manor in Red Deer in 1972. One son, Jessie John, passed away in 1923.

Susanna and Marlee celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on May 12, 1976, at Valley Park Manor with many of their family and friends around them. It was a very happy occa-

Marlee Gant passed away in July, 1976, at the age of 96 years. Susanna still resides in the Manor where she has made many friends. She still loves to reminisce about the hardships and happiness of homestead days.

**ESTONIAN DISTRICT SEWING CIRCLES — by Audrey Poote**

It was in the winter of 1937 that Aune Parkkari made the suggestion to a few neighbor ladies gathered at a "wood sawing" that we meet at one of our homes every two weeks. The idea appealed to us as times were hard and there was very little in the way of entertainment in the community. Since we were mostly busy mothers with small children, we took patching, knitting etc. along so we would not feel our time was be-

The first meeting was at Irene Palm's with about half a dozen ladies present. We decided at that time to have two rules: one was that we use first names and the other — no gossiping. Perhaps it is because of the latter rule that we have all got on so well!

I believe that the second meeting was at Hulda Westers. A group of us drove up there with a team and sleigh, quite unaware that Mary Psika was walking a short distance behind us. She arrived about an hour later, having walked the whole distance of about five miles. Those were the days when men were men — or rather when women were women! I suspect that most of us would rather miss a meeting than to walk five miles to attend, but it goes to show what fellowship meant to us in those days.

Ethel Mathews was a member of our group. She was a great walker. She walked to most of the meetings during those first years and was later joined by Lila Kingsep. Ethel had a great appetite, but no figure problems — perhaps because of the vast amount of exercise that she got. No more circles were held that year.

Since then we have had sewing circles every year with the exception of one when, for some reason, we never got them started. During the winter of 1976-1977 there were no meetings either. It seemed as though the ladies were becoming involved in so many activities — curl-ing, and the very successful Handicraft Guild in Eckville to mention only two — that there was no time available for the sewing circle.

During the forty years there have been many changes in the community. Estonian school, where our children got most of their education, is gone. We have bade farewell to old neighbors and have welcomed new ones. Our homes have been touched by births, deaths, and marriages. We have shared laughter and tears, and still the

Sewing Circle met, and we are closer friends because of our association through the Circle

We have had contests, exchanged recipes and during one winter we took a first aid course under the able guidance of Edith Brooker We also have spent time cutting mat rags, making baby quilts, and carding wool

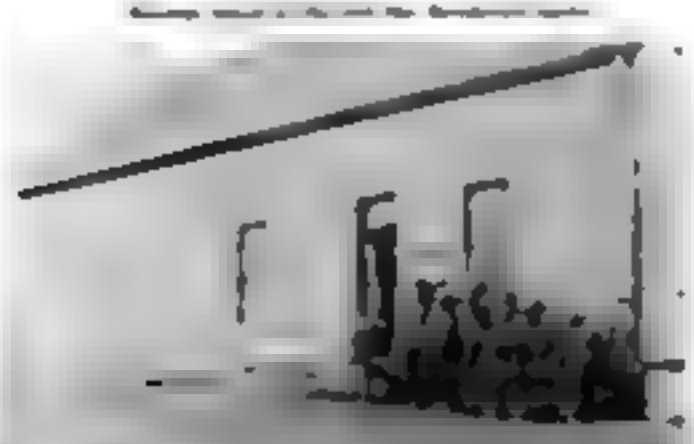
Because we always took our sewing along, we just started calling our meetings the "Sewing Circle" but the sight of Aune's little truck with cab and back filled to capacity and all of us talking and laughing started some of our more imaginative husands referring to our meetings as "hen parties."

There must have been a strong bond of friendship formed, as we have travelled to Rimbey Condor, and Sylvan Lake to meet at the homes of members who have moved away from our district Looking back, I can count close to fifty ladies who attended these meetings throughout the years, and those who have moved away are scattered from Fort Saskatchewan to Nebraska, U S.A

**ESTONIAN SCHOOL NO. 1788**

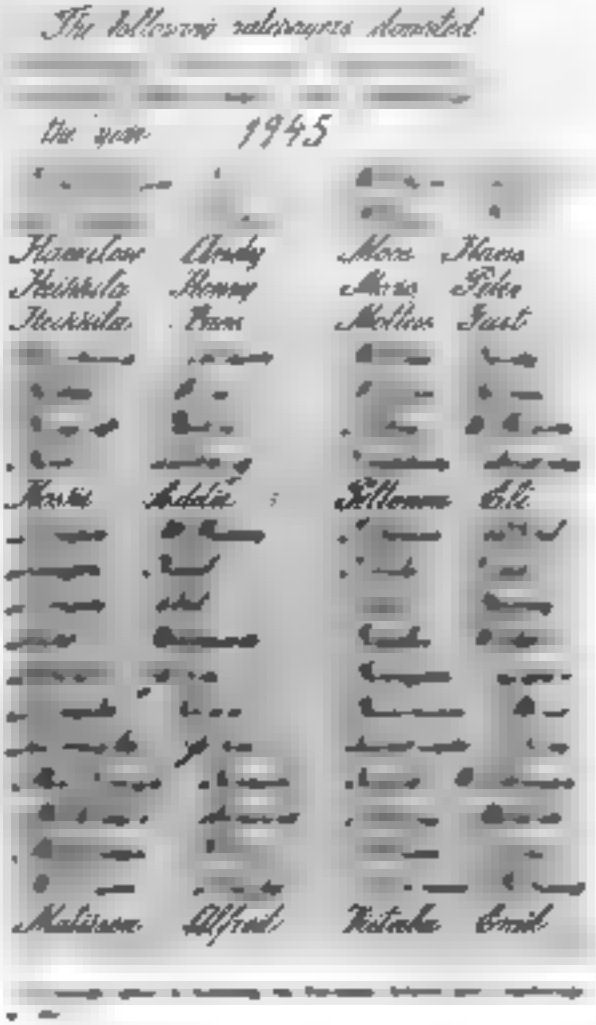
At the turn of the century immigrants from Europe poured into Canada. Many made the decision to locate north of Eckville in Medicine Valley as it is now called Estonians primarily a few Finnish, and a couple of Scandinavians settled in what became in the next decade, the Estonian School District Only a few of these immigrants spoke a bit of English and to these, the non-English speaking turned for interpretation of Canadian laws. Realizing the necessity of learning the national tongue of Canada they realized that it was necessary to build schools, halls etc and to this end community spirit in the fullest was displayed

In their urgency to progress, a suitable site for a school was selected, as centrally located as possible. Rough boundaries were drafted and the Estonian School District emerged in 1910. The board members were local farmers who set a minimum mill rate, collected taxes, hired the teacher and kept a supply of wood at the school The Estonian School site was located on an acreage in the north-east corner of 10-40-3-W Carl Langer's property



In an account written by Mrs Anna Tipman an early teacher at the Estonian School, the school, built in 1910 from lumber hauled by local pioneers from mills many miles away, is described in detail. This building served the hundreds of pupils exceedingly well for the next 35 years at which time progressive-minded farmers considered it appropriate to provide a modern facility

By 1945 school affairs were administered by the Rocky Mountain School Division. Our council representative, John Hillman of Evarts, was approached and his cooperation was readily obtained to proceed with the construction of a new school building. The Division would provide materials, a chief carpenter (Karl Soderlund, assisted by Mike Rauman), but volunteer help from farmers would be necessary to assist in the building project


The following ratepayers donated
the year 1945

There was no modern gymnasium in those days. Exercise so vital to good health, was obtained by walking or riding great distances to school Even extremely harsh winters did not

deter excellent attendance. There was no indoor washroom, but two toilets in far corners of the schoolyard served the purpose adequately. There were no organized games, discipline was strictly enforced, although many of the students were much bigger and taller than the teacher. The language barrier among children was quickly negated, although the accent of their national language remained. Education was of primary importance to everyone attending the rural

Of great interest, one teacher, Mr. Duncan Layton, age 94, a resident of Valley Park Manor in Red Deer, when visited, recounted his memories of the year 1914-1915 when he was a teacher at the Estonian School. He had a class of 52 children, grades I to VIII. He lived in a small shack a mile north of the school on the Gary Pederson land, presently the Paul Langer farm.

In conversation with Mrs. Ena Kinna of Sylvan Lake she revealed her husband, Ernest, acquired his first "tailored" suit of clothes in his nine years of life — this being tailored by Mrs. Layton's capable hands — the suit in red, a Santa Claus suit, for the Christmas program. The Andrew School teacher, Mr. Layton's sister-in-law, joined her school with the Estonian for the summer picnic. Of great pride to Mr. Layton was the fact that six of his early students became professionals, one even became a doctor. The six he mentioned were Ole (Agnes) Kingsep, August Matthews, Anna Posti (Tipman), Otto Kingsep, Salme Raabis and Leyda Sestrap.

Olga Posti (Mrs. Alex Mottus) served as janitor for a time. Salary? Twenty-five cents per day — when she could collect. The trustees considered "women were to work for nothing." When a lady teacher was at the school the boys obliged, whenever possible, in starting the fire.

Early students were the Postis, Langers, Matthews, Moros, Raabis', Piboojas, Moos, Deckers, Stenvigs, Langfords, Woorls, Heikkilas.

The intellectuals of the community in the early years were the teachers. They were respected, treated with courtesy and admiration. Fortunately a full slate of teachers was made available for this narrative. I shall try to name them in the order of the earliest to the latest, with the comment that, due to the rigors of homestead life, males predominated in the list. The list follows: Messers. Layton, Smith, Logan, Egen, J. M. McDonald, Priestly, Hughes, August Matthews, Lowry, Irwin, Little. Lady teachers were: Minnie Kinna, Helen Christie, Anna Posti, Miss Gudmanson, Miss Benedictson.

In the 1930's to 1940's Messrs. Edward Tipman, George Findlay and Ansley taught. Then lady teachers followed — Barbara Athey, Miss Rogers, Miss Aarsby, Barker, Jean Kenworthy, Ruth Wright, Isabel Lesher, Mrs. Lucy Nelson, Elma Jackson and Mrs. Hanson.

Parents recognized the lack of musical appreciation in the school, so volunteers scoured the district with raffle tickets to raise money for the gramophone and a piano. The Gilbertson family owned a lovely piano. They agreed to sell it to the Estonian School for one hundred dollars with the provision that it remain for the sole use of the Estonian community forever. Unfortunately, upon dismantling the contents of the new school before transporting it to Eckville, the piano disappeared. This was a great loss to the community, as it was a remembrance of the Gilbertson family, a pioneer family who remained with us for a long time.

The Rocky Mountain School Division, at a crucial point in attendance (55 pupils and one teacher in charge) transferred grades seven and eight to Eckville, providing transportation for them by bus. In promoting centralization as the new approach to modernizing education, involving bussing, a teacher per grade, indoor physical education, etc., the Estonian School — the ultimate community project — was hauled to Eckville where it serves to this day as a Home Economics room. Mr. Hillman took careful charge of all records, turning them over to the County of Lacombe.

In 1961 Lacombe became County No. 14 and assumed the direction of education and municipal affairs within the confi[illegible] enlarged boundary and the new title "Lacombe No. 14." In the transfer all records of the early history of the Estonian School District were destroyed. Only memories of the few remaining senior citizens can supply details of those early years.

The original site of the Estonian School reverted to the Langer Brothers property. Of particular interest and pride, the original Estonian School District has produced a great number of professionals among the pupils of the 1940's and 1950's. A total of 68 years of University plus technical graduates, is presumed to be a record for a rural Alberta district.

Information of pranks at school, even in those early years is gradually leaking out. Playing hookey was not unusual — boys not especially academic took a day off now and then, returning home at the usual time in the evening. Two lads even built a raft, stored eggs from the henhouse and other obtainable food aboard and shoved off down Medicine River for points south, only to get fouled up in a fish net strung across the river, upset, and lost all of their supplies — adventure.

The girls in summer often took their lunch to eat outside the schoolyard to a creek bank in the shade of trees. One day the boys found a snake, cut it into pieces, and chased the girls at maximum speed, while yelling and screaming, toward the school.

Another episode netted a young scholar a strapping. The girls made a ball of rag strips with which to play Anti-I-Over. This little boy caught the ball and ran, victorious, to the base-

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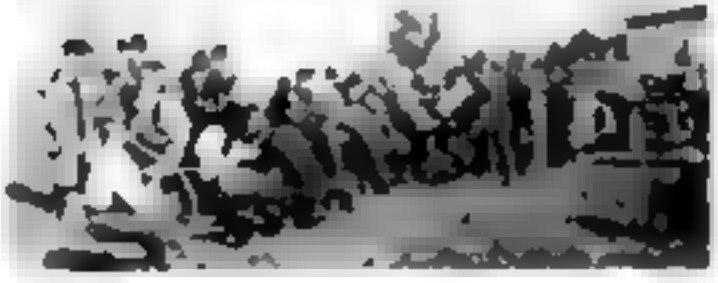

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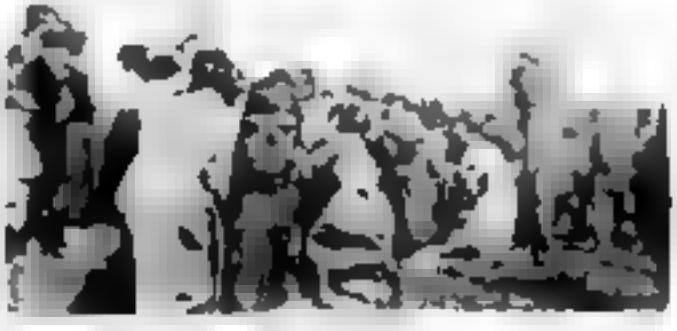

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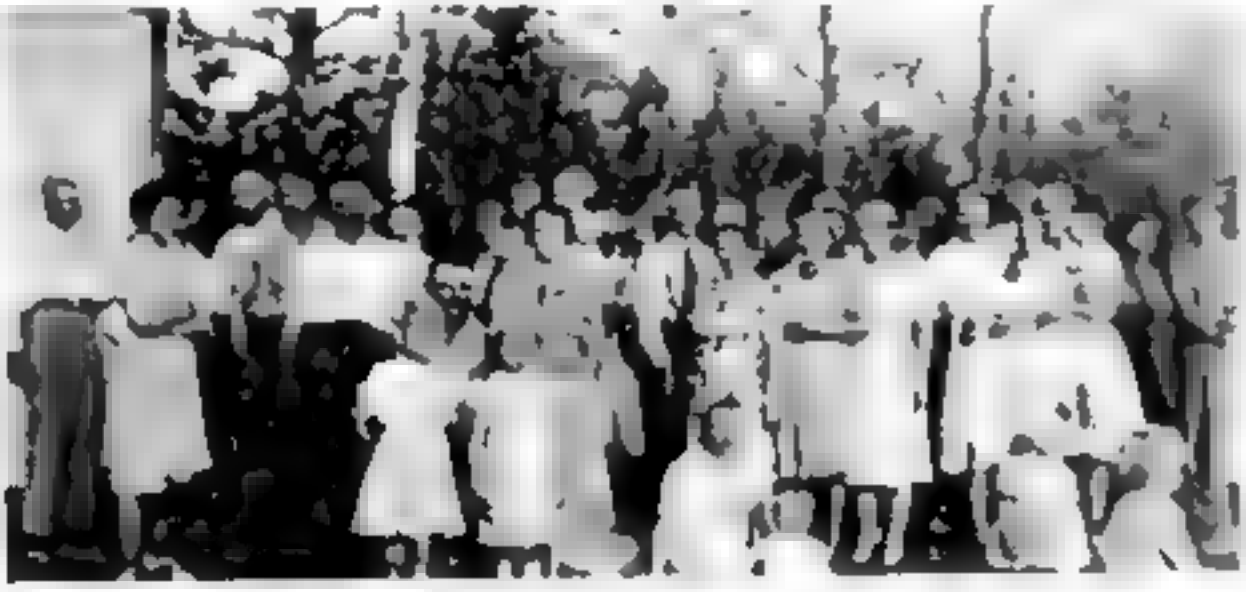


[illegible]

ball diamond. The girls tattled and the teacher ordered he boy inside. Not understanding English, he answered Yes and No" in turn He says he must have said "yes" at the wrong time, as he got a sound strapping

**THE GILBERTSONS**

Mr Martin Nathan Gilbertson entered the United States from Norway with his parents, as a very young child. They settled in Minot, North Dakota, where he received his early education He later entered a college where he studied architecture and accounting To help finance his education he taught English to new immigrants in the same school in which he took his training and many stories were told of his experiences He used different poems to teach the "TH sound, poems in which, in later years, are recalled as having been an amusement to his then young family. On behalf of Martin and for the benefit of the new immigrants of today, I enter one particular poem which remains with me still. It will be added as a footnote to this history

Martin later moved to Duluth, Minnesota, where he operated a building contracting business. In 1901 he met and married Bertha White, who was born in Northwood, Iowa and who, for some time, operated a dress-making business with one of her three sisters

In 1903 they came to Canada and Martin his young wife Bertha and infant daughter named Myrtle arrived in Alberta They settled in Red Deer where they planned to start a butcher shop or some form of a merchandising business, but after inquiring about and they decided to buy a half section seven miles north of Erkville

The first dwelling was built in the large grove at the north end of the homestead, where they lived about two years During that time a second daughter, Cora, was born to them

About that time Martin's father and brother Olaf arrived from Minnesota and filed on a homestead joining Martin's to the north, which is now owned by Mr and Mrs. Paul Langer Martin and Olaf's father (his first name I cannot recall) lived there until his death and his remains were buried in the Sunset cemetery

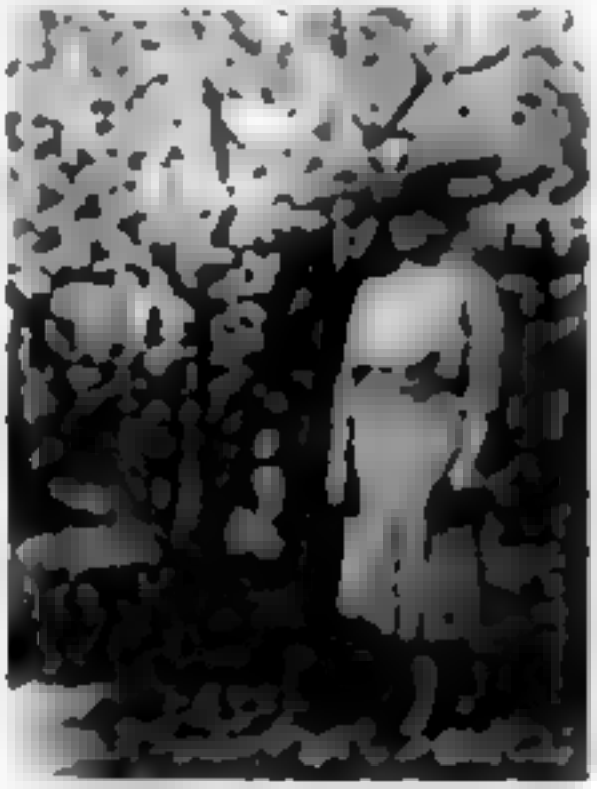
Martin and Olaf built the Gilby store and Olaf operated it as a grocery store for a few years Thus the Gilby store and district is named after the Gilbertson family

When the homestead was cleared enough to make the claim valid Mr and Mrs. Gilbertson moved to Everett, Washington, U.S.A. where Mr Gilbertson again engaged in the contracting business and also worked as a bookkeeper for the Hyde Wholesale Company In 1910 they moved to Pitt Lake where they started a general store which they operated well into the First Great War period. Mr Gilbertson was given a choice between leaving his wife and family which, by now, included twin daughters, Pearl and Ruby to join the army or return to Canada to the homestead.

Since Mrs Gilbertson was suffering from asthma in a very severe way and the coast climate was unsuitable for her, they decided to return to Alberta to resume the improving of the homestead

They returned to Alberta in the latter part of 1917 They lived with Olaf Gilbertson until a small frame house was built across the road from the Estonian hall They later built a more permanent home where they lived for about 15 years. Martin worked hard to organize the farmers in plans of co-operation to protect farmers, as a whole, and improve the market price of farm produce He organized the hog pool, and helped to establish the wheat pool. He valued the help of fine people such as Alf Thubron and Alfred Haarstad

Mr and Mrs. Gilbertson sold the farm in the year of 1942, to Mr and Mrs. Arnold Madisen and retired at Salmon Arm, B.C. They bought a comfortable home looking over Shuswap Lake where they enjoyed growing different varieties of fruit and berries



Martin Gilbertson passed away in Kamloops in 1946, at the age of 74 years. His body was returned to Salmon Arm for burial.

Mrs. Gilbertson lived with her daughter Myrtle McClurg at Salmon Arm, B.C., and later moved to Vernon, where she passed away in 1971

at the age of 95 years. Her body was returned to Salmon Arm and placed to rest in the Mount Ida Cemetery beside that of her beloved husband Footnote

A lasting tribute could be allowed Mr Martin Gilbertson for his tireless efforts to assist new immigrants in the mastering of the English language, for the poem which follows is one of which he used 55 years ago, and which may be of benefit to new immigrants of today

To the composer "because I do not know his name I apologize

Theofulus, the unsuccessful thistle sifter
Who sifted a sieve full of unsifted thistles
Thrust three thousand thistles
Through the thick of the thumb
See then that thou when thou sift a sieve
Full of unsifted thistles
Thrust not three thousand thistles
Through the thick of thy thumb

## GILBY CEMETERY

In 1903 many pioneers homesteaded north of Eckville Along with hardships of daily toil there occurred the death of a neighbor or relative. In a new country a cemetery was often a distance away—and it became apparent a site for a cemetery was a necessity in the vicinity One such was located on the Chas. Rankin farm NE 17-40-3-W5 and was named the Gilby Cemetery and registered in 1903

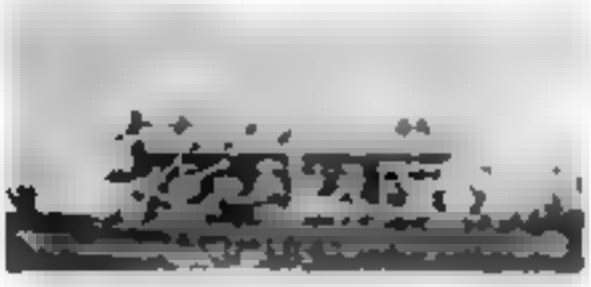
The first burial was Christopher Kingsep (father of Henry Kingsep Only some seven eight burials took place there. The cemetery has fallen into disrepair Then the Gilby Kalmia cemetery originated and was used exclusively

## GILBY HALL

The Gilby U F A who had been meeting in the hall above the store owned by Shorrock Bros decided to build a community hall The first committee consisted of Frank Lawton president Oscar Thubron vice-president and possibly Hugo Mo'lus as chairman

Land was donated by Oscar Thubron. A fee of one dollar was paid to make it legal. Work started in the spring of 1921 with volunteer labour By July it was finished in time for the pic nic and dance

The only wedding ceremony and first wedding dance was for Henry Pano and Salme [illegible]



A piano was bought from Mrs. Hobson of Leedale Mr and Mrs. Crane donated a colt to be raffled She also played the piano in 1921

The hall was heated by two wood-burning heaters that usually smoked. The Thubrons were very faithful all through the years to start fires

Music was supplied by Carl Koots' violin and Mrs. Thubron on the piano. They got $5 each later. Mrs Gordon Jacobs, whose family had taken over the store, also played. At one time the Burr Bros. played Hawaiian guitars

About 1923, Matthew Bros. showed silent films

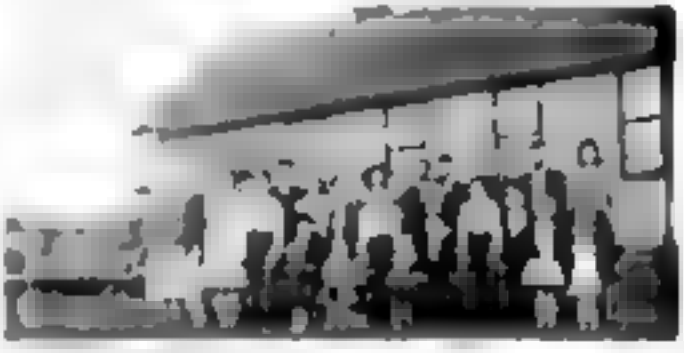
In 1927 a kitchen and ladies' coat room was built, a nice help for the ladies

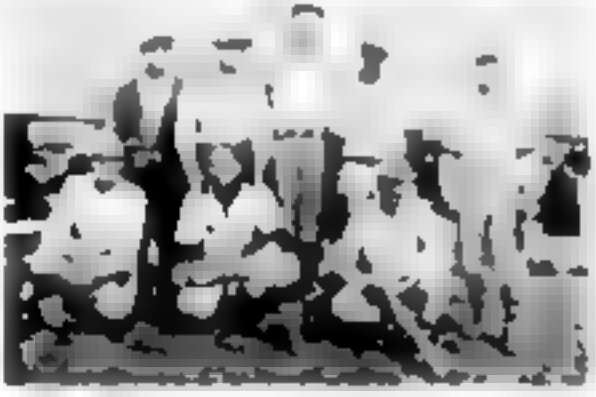
The men paid 50 cent admission. Ladies were free but were expected to bring lunch which was free until later years. A box or weight social was held to raise funds

The hall has been used for Sunday School and church services, funerals, 4-H gatherings political meetings anniversaries bridal showers, wedding dances and farewell parties

Power was put in in 1951, a new floor the same year

It had been Mrs Laura (Westergard) Whidden's wish that the hall be reshingled and painted in 1971 After she passed away, Mr Whidden arranged to have it done. He also supplied paint for the inside and had the ceiling





painted. The propane furnace was installed in 1972, replaced by gas overhead heaters in 1976. Then the present board worked very hard improving the inside, putting carpet on the benches, making moveable small round tables so handy for any occasion.

Cabarets are held twice a year and a Christmas program and treats each year.

## GILBY (KALMU) CEMETERY

Pioneers at the turn of the century had many problems to contend with. Not only did they enter a new country to find a new locality in which to settle, to build a home and provide a living, but they had to provide a resting place for those who did not survive. In the Gilby district, pioneers of Estonian origin met on June 13, 1914 and organized the Kalmu Cemetery Company with John Turner as president, correspondent Fritz Kinna, and Mike Sestrap as treasurer.

Those present at the organization were John Henry and John Kinna, Paul and Karl Langer, Mike Sestrap, P. Perler, A. Puhoja and Fritz Kinna.

John Turner donated the present acreage from his land for the cemetery. For finances, the meeting agreed to sell 60 shares at $8 per share for a plot. If anyone was unable to pay for the desired plot a note for 30 days was to be accepted. Stipulations were that all graves were to be mounded, a cross erected and the plot to be kept in a tidy condition.

Oscar Mottus agreed to build and erect a huge cross, 10 feet high, painted black, to be placed centrally. This cross survived for many years. Mr. Mottus received $3.50 for his efforts.

Mart Sestrap was asked to build and erect a tool box, six by three by two, painted, with hinged lid and provided with a lock. For this he received $2. He also was asked to provide 100 tamarack stakes for markers.

Dan Clausen succeeded Mike Sestrap as treasurer for a salary of $5 per year plus 50 cents for each plot issued.

The salary in 1930 was increased to $10 plus $1 for each plot. At present this has increased to $25 plus $10 for each plot issued. Volunteers for the past years have held a clean-up day every year with good results, but markers on all graves could enhance the appearance. A few years ago a pump was installed and with good fortune the Alberta Government gave us a grant towards improvements. Again with volunteer effort, a new fence was erected, white posts with green wire, two new gates and finally, a large sign — Gilby (Kalmu) Cemetery. At a meeting it was decided that the cemetery be named "Gilby (Kalmu)" to retain the original name. Incidentally, Kalmu is a grave, a "resting place" in Estonian, so it was decided to retain this in the sign, as Estonians organized the cemetery (mara).

By the end of 1977, 231 bodies have been interred in the Gilby (Kalmu) Cemetery. Mrs. Perler was the first pioneer to be buried there.

The present secretary is Walter Andrew.

## GILBY LADIES' CLUB

The first meeting of what was to become the Gilby Ladies' Club was held at the home of Mrs. Frank (Ava) McTighe-Saunders during the winter months of 1938 (may have been 1939). At this time it was a get-together for a few hands of cards and a social afternoon, ending with a simple lunch and coffee. Ladies present were the hostess, Mrs. McTighe, Mrs. Tim (Ethel) Sambrook, Mrs. Bill (Alice) Andrew, Mrs. Oscar (Agnes) Thubron, Mrs. Frank (Clara) Andrew, Mrs. Clarence (Kathy) Ferguson, Mrs. H. (Bea) Carroll and Mrs. Sid Jeffrey. Meetings were held in the homes of the ladies with lunch provided by the hostess.

As no records were kept, it is impossible to state exactly when the Club was formed, but it is believed to have been 1940. It was felt that more could be accomplished as a Club.

Over the years, the majority of the ladies in the district became members, each contributing in her own way to the success of the Club. Most held office in some capacity or served on committees. Meetings were held alphabetically from homes and most brought their pre-school children which resulted in a very lively afternoon, as there were from 18 to 20 members. As no snowplowing was done in the winter, many of the men drove their wives using sleighs and horses, especially when roads were drifted or blocked. This changed as time went on.

After the business meeting, card tables were set up and the remainder of the afternoon was spent playing whist and visiting. Lunch was served by the hostess to end a pleasant afternoon.

Many worthwhile causes were supported over the years. Funds were raised by various means — holding dances, serving lunches at farm sales and field days, catering to wedding receptions, bazaars, raffles, amateur nights and dances, members teas, etc.

Some of the causes that were aided annually were: The Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Easter Seals Fund, T.B. Christmas Seals, Heart Fund, Crippled Children's Fund, Canadian March of Dimes (Polio Fund). Contributions were also sent to Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, Springhill Disaster Fund and European Flood Fund.

Benefits were sometimes held for unfortunate ones in the area, including a Benefit Dance for the Eckville Arena Fund.

In 1945, funds were raised to furnish a ward in the new local hospital. Contributions were continued over the years and hospital sewing was done from time to time.

When children were being bussed to Eckville resulting in the closing of the Andrews' School, the Club organized and financed the Annual Christmas Party held in the Gilby Hall.

Gilby Ladies Club about 1954

In September 1954 the Charter Members of the Club were honored at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. John (Connie Huseby Each of the eight ladies received a corsage and an honorary membership. Business was dispensed with and everyone enjoyed a social afternoon

In 1955 a Jubilee float was entered in Eckville s first parade

Many enjoyable events were held by the Club and their families. Perhaps, the most enjoyed was the Annual Picnic in July usually held at Gull Lake, but also at Crimson Lake and one year at Gilby's picnic area

Occasionally a turkey supper was held at a member's home Whist tournaments were organized for some years with the play-offs held in Gilby Hall.

Members and families were remembered with a gift when ill or in hospital, for special anniversaries, at housewarmings, farewells, etc Flowers were also sent to a bereaved family of the Club

The last meeting was held November 13, 1969 at the home of Mrs. Pryce (Jessie) Andrew with eight members present At this time, it was decided to disband as a Club. Members were becoming so involved with their children's activities in town, they found it difficult to attend meetings and participate in Club projects

The remaining funds were contributed to the Eckville Arena Fund

And so it ended, again with eight ladies, a mile north from where it began, twenty-five years later A quarter century of pleasant association with ladies of the district

**GILBY STORE**

Mike Seatrap homesteaded the SW 6-41-3 W5 While he was away working his shack burnt He was known to have remarked later that the fire was the best thing that ever happened to him as that was when he decided to build a store at Gilby in 1910. The store was 80' long, had a hall above and a full basement below The hall was used as a social centre and meeting place for the people of the surrounding area

All bare necessities were to be had at the store, including yard goods. Mike was a tailor by trade and made overalls to sell. Butter and eggs were often taken in trade for supplies

Gus and Mike Seatrap

Before long, Mike's brother, Gus, who had homesteaded the NE 6-41-3-W5 came to help him at the store

About 1912, the post office which had been "Medicine Valley" operated by E. T Withers on SW 2-40-3-W5 was changed to "Gilby" and was situated in the store. The post office provided many services, one of them being the registering of births John Kemlla mail carrier hauled the mail by covered wagon from Eckville. Folks would come to Gilby to visit and chat for hours

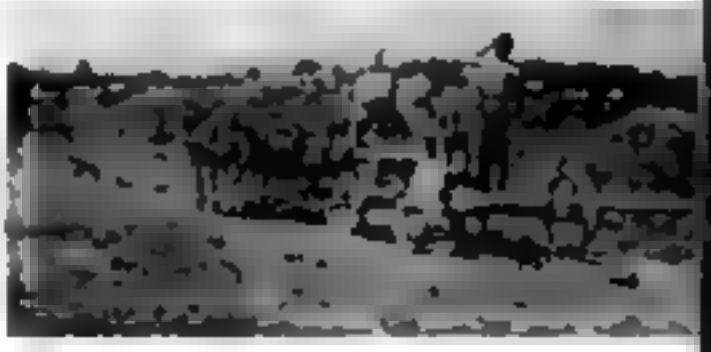
Gilby - 1916

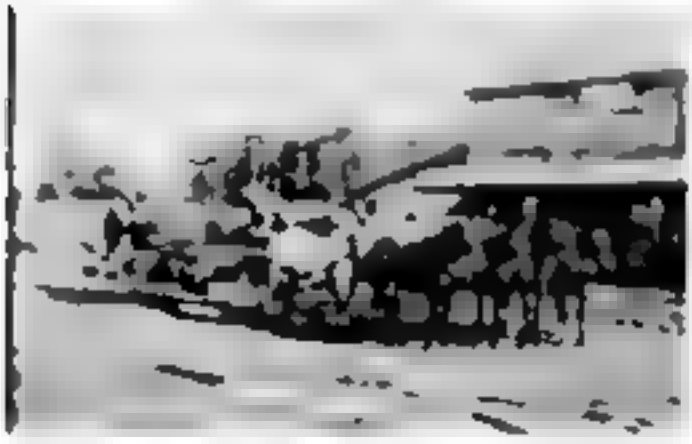
while waiting for the mail to come and be sorted

In 1915, Mike Seatrap sold to Shorrock Bros who sold to Henry Jacobs in 1922. Henry Jacobs sold to Frank Tarrabain about 1929. The old store burnt in December, 1930. Among valuables destroyed were the Gilby-Kalmia cemetery records. The store was rebuilt, about 1937, by Hamilton and Hauptman.

Histories of the different owners of the store are found in this book.

Through the years Gilby store has been a very valuable asset to the community. The present owners are Leo and Kathryn Robins. Their children are Jackie age five, Heather age three and one-half and Cindy age six months.





**GILBY SUNDAY SCHOOL – by Phyllis Andrew**

Years ago a group of devoted people from Bentley saw the need for a Sunday School in this area. Gilby Hall was chosen as the centre and on October 4, 1953 Mr. Grant Sanders, Freda Gheseger (husband, Lon, deceased) (Spycher) Dorreen Carruthers (since married), and Esther McKilligan began classes. There were only six adults and children present on the opening Sunday, but the four stalwarts were not to be discouraged and made visitations in the district. Contacting the homes brought results, as 27 were in attendance the following Sunday, and services continued for 12 years.

To begin with, fires in the hall were built by the late Alfred Thubron and wood was supplied by the parents. Rent for the hall was free unless we used the hall at night, for which there was a three dollar charge.

Esther McKilligan was the superintendent and Mrs. J. Maddox was secretary-treasurer until February 10, 1956, when Mrs. Hazel Sambrooke was elected secretary-treasurer. Esther McKilligan left Bentley, so there was a shortage of teachers. The Sunday School Mission helped us out by sending us two young ladies — Misses E. Creighton and K. Hudson. Through the kindness of Mr. J. Maddox these girls were able to stay in a vacant house formerly owned by Tom Quinn on the S.W. 6-41-3-W5th. The girls were only able to assist until the end of the summer.

It was always difficult getting teachers however, Ed Morsch and Norman Blish then came to our aid. Bill and Bob Ward, of Three Hills, gave a great deal of time and effort helping the Vacation Bible School and Sunday Services — at which time they would often show films. The services of many others, particularly those of the local girls who helped so faithfully through the years, were greatly appreciated.

Besides going to University of Alberta where she was taking Pharmacy, Dorreen was able to give us valuable assistance as she was a very capable, efficient girl. For the summer months of 1957 she went to Hay River Mission Field under the name of Gilby Sunday School. A lovely "Friendship" quilt was presented to Dorreen when she left. The quilt blocks were autographed with embroidery thread by those attending Sunday School, sewn together and quilted by the mothers, at the A. Mathisen home. We tried to help with Dorreen's venture by sending money, a religious picture which was given to the Hay River Hospital, and by forwarding any left-over Sunday School papers.

V.B.S. (Vacation Bible School) was held for a week every summer at Gilby Hall, and later at Estonian Hall. Children from far and near attended and had a rewarding time studying the Bible and doing handicraft. All those attending V.B.S. had fun participating in the sports and games. At the end of the busy week there would be a program or picnic and awards were given. Mr. J. Brunner (Missionary from the West Indies) who assisted at V.B.S. in 1956 returned to help with the summer session in 1957. He was an adept woodworker so that made Vacation School more interesting.

When building fires at Gilby Hall presented a problem, Sunday School was held in the homes. This proved successful as all parents were co-operative and some mothers even passed around treats such as home-made candy or cookies at the close of classes. It was the opinion of many that the Estonian Hall would be easier to heat and, fortunately, we had a janitor handy. This was Mr. A. Mathisen, who was very dependable and always had the hall tidy and warm. Although we changed our location, we were still known as the Gilby Sunday School.

Mr. Sanders had a bus which he drove around to pick up those children not having a ride. This generous act meant a lot to many boys and girls. Mr. Frank Wine was always willing to [illegible] the district for funds, whenever needed. He did a very capable job, so there was some money to operate the bus, plus a small amount to help defray other expenses.

For quite a time there was a fairly extensive library in connection with the weekly Sunday School. There were suppers, skating and toboggan parties and bridal showers for Dorreen and Freda, only to mention a few of the extra activities which helped to provide fellowship and lasting friendships.

[illegible] without our able secretary-treasurer. Hazel worked hard to keep things going and was responsible for many duties, particularly at Christmas time when the Sunday School always had an excellent program. Phyllis Andrew, took her position in 1963.

Meanwhile, our superintendent, a diligent and conscientious worker, had moved to Calgary. He continued to assist us but the long trip was "out of the question". We were sorry to hear of his wife's passing shortly after they left Bentley. He has since remarried.

Freda, with her pleasing ways, helped us so much but now had her own family concerns.

Regretfully, the Sunday School was unable to continue after 1965. I'm sure all of you associated with the "School" (there were over 200 names on the roll call) will recall, with nostalgia, the good

times shared and fondly remember the many choruses sung, with great vivacity such as Heavenly Sunshine

**HARVILOW, ANDREW**

Andy was born in (Redvesa) Ukraine August 19, 1896, older of two children born to Alexander and Alexandra Havrilov (Harvilow) As a young boy he worked along with his mother for landlords, making 15 kopeks (cents) a day Having an urge for better prospects Andy at the age of 16, with a friend from the same village, set out for Canada, a land unknown to him

Boarding a passenger liner at an Austrian and Hungarian port, in Trieste, Andy bade farewell to his homeland Sailing over the blue waters of the Atlantic took him 21 days at a cost of 150 rubles ($75: The approaching shores of Canada (Quebec City) opened up a wide new world for the courageous young lad, Canada, the land that he has called home for 65 years

July, 1913, Andy set foot on Canadian soil, his destination being Hosmer, B.C He took the C.P R train from Quebec City to Hosmer, a coal mining town

As his pocket money was at a premium, work had to be obtained but due to a language barrier, communicating was difficult Close friends of Andy s taught him five words in English thus Mister give me a job.

With determination in his heart, Andy was fortunate to get a job at a logging camp, drawing wages of $25 a month After holding his job for nine months, the company went bankrupt, and Andy faced his first disappointment only receiving $50 for all his labors

During the war years. 1914-1915, all places of employment logging and mining) ground to a halt. That winter Andy again boarded the train this time from Hosmer to Sylvan Lake Alberta Fending for survival during these poverty stricken years. laborers willingly accepted available offers from employers.

From the spring of 1915 to the fall of that year Andy accepted jobs on farms near Bentley, working for Mr Polling for room and board, and, for Henry Stone, earning $25 a month. The winter of 1915 saw a slight increase in wages, Andy was working for Garries. cutting and hauling fire wood for one dollar a day

Moving to Oyen, Alberta in 1916, Andy worked for Jack Norton a farmer, for two years Then in 1918, from spring to fall, he worked at Rosebud, for a farmer by the name of Comstock There he was the ploughman for eight breaking ploughs

In the year of 1920, Andy purchased the N W 18-30-2-W5 from Mart Talson, working for him for three years. This quarter was covered with bush except for five acres which he rented to Moro. To pay for the farm he worked at several logging camps, namely, Brierley, Varty, Rowan, Mc Dougall, August Moro and the Phoenix Camps As transportation was not available from these camps to Rocky Mountain House, their only mode of travel was their two feet. Andy often is heard reminiscing about the time he was walking alone in the early morning dawn carrying an accordion and suitcase Suddenly stopping in his tracks, he saw a dark object ahead of him. Taking it to be a bear, he decided to serenade the unidentified object with his accordion He thought "If I make a loud noise, it will nicely walk away" Approaching it closer his object proved to be a large burnt stump

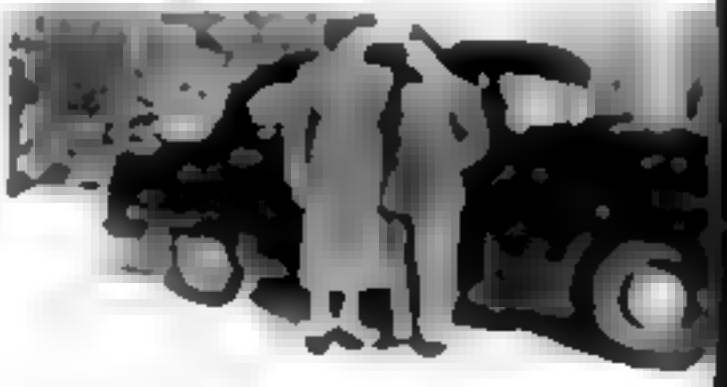
The days of hard work proved very strenuous but Andy had time for enjoyment He is musically talented, playing the button accordion even to this day (age 81) His accordion had helped him bear many burdens, as he is able to play his troubles away Andy played for several sm country dances as well as entertaining for various organizations

The depression years of the dirty thirties when money was only heard of. Andy. whole heartedly. supplied a home for two orphans. Pete and Fred Bobye, whom he met in Calgary This formed a close relationship as if they were brothers

From 1940-42 he worked at logging camps on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Returning to his farm. he spent his summers clearing his land by hand, and then farming it a few years, also giving a helping hand to threshing outfits

In 1952-53. Andy rented a pool room in Fort Saskatchewan, where he made several friends

Miracles do happen, the love bug bit. It was in 1955, Andy married Olga Ignatius, gaining two stepdaughters, Hazel Ignatius and Edith Niemela Andy remembers quite well the time during the courtship when Olga graciously gave him coffee with doughnuts dunked in salt instead of sugar



After farming together till 1963, they both sold their farms, Andy to Tolmi Tolonen, the closest neighbor and Olga to Ted Sailor of Blackfalds, and then retired to Sylvan Lake

Andy, during the years, had purchased a cabin, Andy's Cottage, on Lakeshore Drive which served as their home during the construction of their new home

At the present time, Andy is residing in this new home, 5224-47A Avenue, in Sylvan Lake, where he is enjoying good health.

During the retirement years he has enjoyed curling, lead, fishing, camping and playing his accordion. Andy has three great-grandchildren, Bonnie and Trevor Hietala and Kerri-Lynn Niemela.

The highlight of his life was a trip made in 1967 back to his homeland, the Ukraine, visiting his brother Peter and his family. While there he became a godfather to his niece's little boy [illegible]er. For entertainment, Andy belongs to the Sylvan Lake Curling Club, Friendship Club, and the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association.

Andy has certainly appreciated and enjoyed being a part of the Eckville Community.

**JOHN NESTOR AND SUSANNA HEIKKILA FAMILY — by Jean Hietala**

Father was born in Kuortaea, Vaasa Finland and grew up there. In those days there was a movement of people wanting to come to America, as they called it. Father also wanted to come, so he came with a number of friends in October 1891. After sailing for two to three weeks they landed in New York, U.S.A. It was good to touch land once again. Their first problem was to find employment and they worked their way to Montana, and some went to Wyoming. Father worked in the coal mines in Wyoming, but a little farm is what he wanted to get started. He found one in Stockett, Montana and started working on it when he was not working in the mines.

Mother was also born and raised in Finland close to the border of Sweden. Because of this, she was able to speak both Finnish and Swedish. She came with her two aunts who were going to America. They also chose Montana as their location. They worked in Great Falls — mother joining the staff at a boarding house, waiting on tables. This is where she met this miner and farmer coming in for meals.

Dad and mother were married in Stockett, Montana in March 1906. They made their home on the farm, not too far from Great Falls. The first child of this family was sister Hilda. She arrived a week before Christmas Day. They were happily settled in their own place, but this was not to continue for long. Agencies were telling of free land, lots of grass, good soil, but did not mention the nine months of winter or any other disadvantages.

Father was persuaded to go and see for himself this fabulous country. He chose the NE 34-38-3-W5. The other three quarters had already been taken. Father worked on the homestead for three months in the summer, and built a two roomed log house with the help of other settlers. In April of 1906 the family moved here. Mother and Hilda came by train and stayed in the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer until Mr. I. Hyvonen came to pick them up. Father came with the family belongings which they brought to the homestead.

In the fall Hilda had a little brother, Elmer being the new addition to the family. Over the years the family grew to include nine children. We were a happy family, sometimes we would fight over things but not often, for willow switches were so handy on the farm, and we respected them.

We are all grown up now, father and mother have passed away, along with four of our brothers. Father passed away in 1927, mother in 1939, Henry in 1956, George in 1965, Elmer in 1974 and Edward in 1969.

Hilda (Hawkins) lives in Ottawa.

Elsie (Rasmussen) lives in Perdue, Saskatchewan.

Ted and Bill live on the old homestead in the original house.

I, Jean, live on the farm with my husband, Henry Hietala.

**THE HOGLUNDS**

Aaron and Mary Hoglund with their three children, Edith, Walter and Myla, moved from their homestead at Rocky Mountain House in January 1919, to a farm 6½ miles northeast of Eckville. They had come to their homestead from Berkley, California, but unfortunately had to relocate because of the lack of school facilities for the children in the Frisco district. The move was a two-day trip, with the family and belongings securely bundled into a horse-drawn sleigh. One night was spent with some friends at the half way mark, and the journey continued the next day. The weather was cold and there was plenty of snow, so the trip was quite an undertaking, with the horses and the driver probably taking the brunt of the discomforts.

[illegible]

Ours was a small mixed-farming operation [illegible] pigs, turkeys and chickens, grain and hay fields. The work was all manual, with horses being used

working of the land started in the spring with preparation of the land for seeding, and carried on throughout haying and on into the fall when the grain was harvested by binder, and the stooks stood in the fields waiting for the threshing crew to arrive. The prairie chickens took advantage of the delay by perching on the stooks and feeding from the grain in the heads. Even though one couldn't see the birds their presence was evident because they communicated with each other by a distinctive whistling sound.

The Langer Brothers, Paul and Carl, had a threshing outfit and they would do the threshing for the other farmers around the country when their own threshing was finished. The crew consisted of the engine man - he kept the tractor going, which in turn kept the separator in motion), the separator man, grain haulers, and the bundle rack drivers. The sound of the tractor alerted all of the neighbors that the threshing crew was approaching and it was a most delightful sound. The neighbors all came to help, the men wherever needed and the women to help with the food preparation and serving. Of course this help would all be returned when the threshing outfit reached the neighbors' farms.

One might think that with the threshing completed the work would be all done, but not so. Even though the grain was in the granary and the straw was in the stack, ready to provide food and shelter for the cattle during the winter until the heavy snowfall the horses and cattle were happy foraging in the fields, picking up what the harvesting operations had left behind). There was still work to be done. The next big project was bringing in the supply of firewood for the following year. The trees were felled and logged in the wintertime. The logs were sawed into chunks in the springtime after which came the work of splitting the chunks into stove-size pieces which in turn had to be arranged in neat piles. One always planned to get enough wood to last for the next year.

We children attended the Estonian School where the teacher taught grade one through grade eight. Our first teacher was Miss Linnan Olive Benedictson - later Mrs. Lewis True.

A trip to town for us, didn't come very often but one can well remember the a
There you saw large barrels containing apples, coffee beans, dried beans and mixed hard candy. The purchases were wrapped in brown paper and tied with strong string. A five-cent bag of hard candy out of the barrel was always included with the order. That store string was saved by winding it onto the ball already started. Mother used the backs of Dad's discarded leather mitts to make covers for these balls of string thus providing us with baseballs. All we then had to do was find a stick that most resembled a bat, and the game was on!

What the general store could not provide was ordered from Eaton's catalogue. Although Mother made most of our clothes we did get a new outfit ordered from the catalogue in the spring, and usually another one in the fall. Three weeks was a long time to wait for these new

was exciting when the large parcel did arrive! The dresses usually fit without too many alterations, but the dress-up shoes were worn regardless of how they pinched or how long it took to break them in. The arrival of the new catalogue never lost its ability to promote wishful thinking.

Dad followed his trade as a painter and interior decorator and he was kept busy in all of his spare time around the neighborhood beautifying homes and farm buildings. He was the councillor for the municipality for two terms. Mother and Dad participated in community efforts toward fund raising for charitable and many other worth-while projects by putting on plays and concerts at the various community halls. Mother often gave a helping hand to the teachers of country schools with their Christmas concerts. These concerts were the highligh: of the Christmas season at each school, with all the children participating. Mother played the piano and assisted with the singing and dancing. In later years she played organ on Sundays at the Sunshine Gospel Mission Church and, before the Estonian School was moved away and the children bused to Eckville for classes, mother, Kate McKenzie and Faye Hoglund conducted a Sunday School class at the school.

Our first car was a Model T Ford without side curtains - they came later. To wonder and

amazement of the passengers, they could ride in comfort, protected from the strong breeze created by the car in motion, as well as natural weather elements. During the colder weather two men were needed to start this Model T. One man would jack up a rear wheel to give it freedom to revolve while the other man was positioned at the front to do the cranking. If, or when, the motor started, the warming-up process consisted of a few rounds around the barnyard with the chickens squawking and flying in every direction, losing feathers galore as they made their escape from this motorized monster. The Model T had a running board and by stepping on it one could get in and out of the vehicle quite gracefully. The horse and buggy days were now of a past era!

The coal-oil lamp sat in the middle of the kitchen table, so long winter evenings were spent with the family gathered around, reading, doing homework, or playing cards. We children frequently quarreled over these card games and quite often Mother would get so exasperated with us that she would gather up the cards, lift a lid from the kitchen stove, and throw the cards into the fire. How we acquired a new deck of cards does not come to mind, but it must have been Walter who purchased them, as he had some spending money obtained by selling his muskrat and weasel skins. When he was old enough he would accompany Dad on his painting and paper-hanging jobs in the summertime and this also helped to increase his spending money.

The food we ate was almost all home grown or homemade and the aroma of that homebaked bread as you approached the house was beyond description. You quickly opened the kitchen door and there they were — six or more loaves along with a quick flat-bread baked and ready for immediate consumption with homemade butter. Food tasted so good that it is not suprising that the idea still persists that girls nowadays can't cook or bake and have the food taste "like Mother used to make".

Life was hard. The depression dampened many spirits — the plans and goals that so many had were either delayed or put aside forever. But one always remembers the close community feeling and the neighborliness. People helped one another, and the joys and sorrows of one were shared by all. In spite of the hardships, it was a good life.

Walter Hoglund is married to Faye Meyers. After many years of living in the Eckville area they have recently moved to Summerland, B.C. Edith (Mrs. Albert Brooker) lives in Calgary. She had two sons, Bill and Ronald, who are both married. Bill lives in Edmonton and Ronald lives in Sherwood Park. Myla (Mrs. Swanky) lives in Calgary. She has one son, Allan.

**HOGLUND, WALTER AND FAYE — by Faye Hoglund**

Walt and I were married December 11, 1941 in the Lutheran Pastor's home in Red Deer. This was followed by a reception for 32 friends and relatives in the Club Cafe banquet room in Red Deer and an open dance at the Gaiety Hall on December 12.

Faye and Walter Hoglund

Walt, the only son of Aaron and Mary Hoglund, was asked to come and farm the home quarter. Farming was all done with horses and horse machinery. There were some acres of open grain land and the rest was in hay. Since this was the time of the beginning of the war, there were no available men to be hired, so this was my start of outdoor work. I learned to drive horses and, as the years went by, got promoted to the

The next year Walt got Ray Meyers and Arvie Maki to help him and his Dad in clearing a quarter of school land across the road, which we had leased from the Government. (Later we were able to buy this quarter.) The clearing was done by hand and axe, then George Ignatius came with a breaking plow. Then came the time

to pick the roots before the land could be worked up for planting. The grain was cut with a binder then had to be stooked and left until it came our turn to thresh. Bill Palm, our neighbor, had a machine.

Threshing time was quite a hassle, but fun, too, cooking for a gang of 15 to 20 men, finding places and beds for some to sleep (although the neighbors would go to their homes), and providing food and water for the horses. Neighbors would all help one another at this busy time. Some would go to help with the evening chores, then back again to the gang for a nice big supper and piles of dishes to keep the women busy.

Later Mr. Jack Hill, long-time friend of the family, gave us the opportunity to rent his two quarters of open land, and we could buy his machinery in the bargain. This was a great boost for us, as Nature was good to us and we reaped a fair crop. Much of the income went back into farming expenses. Roy Saari came with his Cat and brush cutter and did some clearing on the school quarter, and George Ingatius turned the sod. This work with the machinery made our farming much easier, but we were kept busier with the additional land to farm. We then bought a few more cows to add to our herd, and bought more hogs, as raising hogs was Walt's Dad's specialty. Prices were good by this time, which made it even more encouraging.

While I worked outdoors, with the garden, milking cows and raising chickens and turkeys, Granny, as she was known to all in the community, kept busy indoors with cooking and dishes. We'd milk our four cows and separate the milk, then take the cream to the local creamery. The milk was mixed with grain into a mash and fed to the chickens and little piglets. The income from our cream would help to fill our pantry with

Saturday usually meant a gathering of neighbors at our home. We would start up the sauna, steam bath, and after having a good hot bath the neighbors would enjoy visiting and the coffee, fresh cinnamon buns, and cake that Granny had made.

Walt played the drums in a band of five. Fred Moos played the guitar, Lorraine Havens the banjo, John Vitana the violin, and Bob Matthews the piano. They played at the local halls, and in the winter months the dancing usually didn't end until the wee hours in the morning. In the summertime many times we would just change our clothes and go straight to work in the fields.

When an opening came in our local Co-op Store I applied for the job and worked as clerk for $35 a month for three years. When the war ended many of the boys were home again, picking up their jobs, and I then returned to the farm.

From Mike Rauman we bought a small unfinished house which we moved to the school land quarter - the realization of our big dream of a home of our own. I made cupboards of apple boxes stacked together, and curtains from the flour and sugar bags, trimmed with rick-rack. We had no floor covering, but I kept my floors nice and white by scrubbing them with a scrub brush and lye water. Art Dahl did a few of the necessary

To be prepared for the cold winter weather we would haul logs from the bush and then call the neighbours in again to saw the wood into blocks which would fit into our cook stove and larger ones to use in our air-tight heater. Sometimes we would saw the wood with the big buzz saw, and then the crew would go on to the next neighbor's job.

Walt enjoyed hunting, so would welcome the winter when he would take his gear along with some of the neighbors, and go west of Rocky Mountain House to hunt big game. These trips always resulted in a moose or elk, which helped out our food supply, and we enjoyed the meat. We often went to Buck Lake fishing, to give us a change in diet. I liked the outdoors, also, and would often go tagging along behind.

Walt's community activities included several years membership on the local Co-op board, the Credit Union board, helping to organize the Farmers Union and serving as president for a time, and helping with the Curling Rink. We both enjoyed curling and spent two or three nights a week in the local rink as well as taking part in the bonspiels. Walt became part of another band called the "Harmony Five", which became very popular in the community and was kept quite busy. This band was made up to Walt, John and Ludwig Koots, Waldo Raabis and Bob Matthews.

Under the leadership of Mr. John Lundberg, telephone service was made possible for the community. It was great to be able to communicate without having to hike to the neighbors to pass our messages along. Since this was a party line it sometimes took time and patience before we could get onto the line for a turn at talking. Once a week we would pick up our mail from Andrew Parkkari's mail box. We had many precious visits with Barb and Jack Luoma - we would often trudge through the snow to spend a full day there, and they would come to visit us in return. The Sewing Circle provided some social life for the ladies of the community. Once a month we would go to one of the homes, each taking her turn. We'd spend a very full afternoon, just relaxing, doing hand work, or sometimes the necessary darning, mending or other jobs, and then enjoy a bountiful lunch before returning home.

We later bought a quarter of land from Art Koski and another quarter from the Koski estate near to town. Ernie Dorchester farmed these two quarters for 17 years, and after he retired to Eckville Glen Rangen is now farming these two quarters. David and Bill Mackenzie are farming the school land quarter. The home quarter estate

was sold to two of Marv and Aaron Hoglund's grandsons, Billy and Ronald Brooke.

had always been interested in hairdressing so we decided that I should take the training in the Marvel School in Edmonton. I started a hairdressing business in Eckville town in 1955, and was kept very busy and happy at my job until the time we thought we would like to make a change. As of 1978 we have a four-acre orchard and a home in Summerland, B.C.

Many former Eckville people live here and we have enjoyed visiting with them again.

**HOW I BEGAN FARMING DURING THE DEPRESSION — by Herman Lapp**

I arrived in the Eckville District in the winter of 1931, at the peak of depression. The first year I found some work around Eckville. The next year, with $25 down payment, I bought a hilly bush quarter on Section 13, northeast of Eckville from the Canadian Pacific Railway. That was the time when established farmers had hard times to make ends meet, but there were not many choices for me.

So, with $125 of capital and lots of optimism I started serious farming with an axe (swinging my axe from dawn to dusk). With help from Fritz Kinna's brush cutter and his breaking plow, broke about 70 acres of lighter patches of br... land. I paid for gas, and the rest of the work w... on time payments. We finished breaking land late in the summer, so there was no time to pick any stones or stumps, for I had to catch the harvest work to make some money, as I had none left. Harvest wages were from $1.50 to $2.50 for an 11-hour day. After harvest I put up a 12 by 16 foot frame cabin of lumber from sawmills. The lumber cost from $10 $12 per 1,000 board feet.

During the winter, I was scouting for cheap machinery (to do the job and fit my pocket-book) from public sales to farmers' yards. I was able to buy one seven-foot Massey Harris single disc drill, in working condition, for $10; one six-foot single disc harrow which needed some repairs for $8; two ponies and collars for $50 on time payment from the Thubron family at Gilby. Also I bought for $5 other second-hand harness from here and there. I got wheat seed from F. Kinna on time. I rented a team of horses from neighbors, and then I was ready for the big job ahead — putting in my first crops. The spring was late, so I had no time to pick any stones or stumps, and I had to do my best by rolling some of them aside. Many times, though, I found my disc or drill one or two feet off the ground.

Living was cheap those days: eggs, five cents a dozen; live pigs one to two cents a pound, choice steers two and a half to three cents a pound. No farmers I knew charged anything for vegetables, they were so cheap. I also did some fishing.

That summer I cleared some more land and broke it. In the fall I bought a six-foot second-hand binder to take off my crop, but found all the troubles of the world were hidden in that binder. Somehow, I got my crop off and threshed 1600 bushels of Garnet wheat out of it, with the price being 30c a bushel. Did I feel rich!

You hear many young men say, "It was easy to get started farming in those days." How many young men are willing to go through what you just read?

**ALEXANDER JOHNSON —by Annie Lavoie**

Alexander Johnson was born in Alavudelle Finland, in 1878. In Finland, he name was Hal ju, which was changed to Johnson upon arriving in the United States.

Alec came to the United States as a small child and spent some time there before moving to Canada. He spent 44 years in Canada. While living in the United States Alec had married a widow with children, but his wife and stepchildren all died of tuberculosis.

Alec farmed and resided on N.E. 12-40-3-W5 until his passing in 1950. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

**JOHNSON CARL (CHARLIE) AND SARAH—by Sylvia Kujala**

Sarah was born in Brainerd, Minnesota U.S.A. as Serafina Cristine Byttynen on August 3 1883 and Charlie (Carl) Johnson was born in Dawson, Minnesota in 1926.

Having come to visit Sarah's brother, John Byttynen, and her sister, Aurora Netsel, a few times over the previous years, Charlie and Sarah Johnson came to live in Canada July 19, 1929.

[illegible]

They had been farming in North Dakota and before that had worked in Minneapolis and St Paul, Minnesota. Her sister Susan, and their Uncle Eli Joseph came with them. They stayed with her brother, John Bytynen, until they could find a farm they wanted. They bought a quarter section previously owned by the Angle family, now owned by Rudolph Saari, in a partnership deal. When the partnership broke up, Charlie and Sarah looked for a farm on their own. In the time they lived on the Wells farm for a few years (now owned by the Psikla family.)

They bought a CPR quarter SW 1-40-3-W5, in 1934 and moved on to it when they had built a little house, a sauna and other farm buildings. They must have worked very hard as this farm was of virgin land. They managed to clear bits of land here and there for fields and hay meadows. They raised mostly cattle and a few pigs and chickens. They seemed to enjoy life there, and always seemed very happy even though the money earned from a small farm then, as now was very little. Sometimes Charlie had to go to work during the winter months at a sawmill in the Gilby district, and Sarah went along to cook for the crew. I remember the winter of 1937 when we, my husband Elmer and I, together with my sister and her husband, Viola and Art Bellikka, stayed on their farm to take care of it until spring.

Charlie and Sarah were both very warm, generous people, and made their place a home for many a man, young and old, who needed help in those depression years. It worked both ways, as the men sometimes helped out with the work around the farm.

Charlie had one son by a previous marriage still living in the United States. This was Bill Johnson, who with his wife, Ivy, still live in Havre, Montana. Sarah had been a pioneer of the district years before, having become the young bride of Oscar Karjala. After their marriage broke up, she went back to her relatives in Minneapolis, where she met Charlie some years later.

Charlie's health began to fail, so they moved to Eckville, renting a house for a while, then got their savings together to buy a little house and rented out their farm. Charlie died in the Lacombe hospital after a lengthy illness and was laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

Sarah, in spite of her arthritis and diabetic condition and failing eyesight, determined to live on in the little house. This would not have been possible if it had not been for her kind neighbors and friends. Mrs. Agnes Bardenhagen being a nurse, helped out very much in spite of her busy life. In the fall of 1975 Aunt Sarah did not feel well, so stayed with her sister, Susan, in her trailer for a few weeks, then went into the Lacombe hospital. She died January 17, 1978 at the age of 92 years and six months. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Eckville cemetery.

**KIND, ALFRED WILLIAM**

Alfred William Kind was born in Nottinghamshire, England on November 27 1905. He came from England with his family in 1912, and was raised on a farm in the Red Deer district. He later farmed with his father John Alfred, in this

Alfred joined the Army in 1941 and served with the Calgary Tanks, Light Horse Artillery Signal Corps. He saw action in Italy, Belgium and Holland, with the rank of Gunner.

After his return to Canada in 1945, Alfred bought a farm, NW 5-41-3-W5, north of Gilby, in 1947. Here he built a home for himself and his father John Alfred. William was noted for his beautiful flower gardens and for his love of fishing.

Alfred's father John, passed away in 1951, at the age of 86 years. Alfred William passed away in May 1971 at the Eckville hospital. His land is now owned by Bill Maddox.

**THE JOHN CHARLES KIND FAMILY**

John Charles Kind was born in Nottinghamshire, England, on October 12, 1900. He came with his parents from England to the Red Deer district in 1912, where they settled on a farm. In this area John received his education. He married Celeste Stringer of Red Deer in 1927 and they lived on his homestead in the Red Deer area until he joined the Canadian Army in 1941 as a member of the 14th Army Tank Battalion. He served in the United Kingdom and continental Europe. He was taken prisoner-of-war at the Dieppe raid in 1942.

Following his return home from the Service in 1945 he purchased the Kinna farm, S 20-40-3-W5 on the Medicine River in the Gilby district in 1946. Here John and Celeste raised six boys and three girls.

Ellen took her schooling in the Red Deer district. She married Roy Forrester of Red Deer and they are now residing in Red Deer. Their three children are Lawrence, who married Barbara Hadden of Calgary and who now, with son David, resides in the Red Deer district, and Lorraine and Marlene, who both are now residing in Edmonton.

Leslie also took his schooling in the Red Deer district. He remained a bachelor and now owns the farm, S 20-40-3-W5.

Ken took part of his schooling in the Red Deer district and later attended the Andrew school and the Eckville school. He married Linda Carr of Red Deer. They along with their sons James Douglas and Toni, and daughter Patricia are now residing in Calgary.

Cecil was born in 1932 and passed away in 1967. He married Vera Robinson of Red Deer and they had one son, Robert, who lives in Red Deer.

Stanley received his education in the Red Deer district and in the Andrew Estonian and Eckville schools. He married Deanna Davis of

Red Deer. Along with their daughter Pamela, they now reside in Sylvan Lake.

Vera also attended school in Red Deer, Andrew, Estonian and Eckville schools. She married Graham Rennie of Red Deer. After living in Eckville from 1957 until 1967, they moved to Fort McMurray, where they lived for about five years. They moved back to Eckville in 1972, where they are now residing. They had four children. Carol and Loren are living in Eckville. Donna married Darcey Lutz of Eckville and they are now residing in Rocky Mountain House. Lyle married Charlotte Molander of Eckville. They with their son, Alan, are residing in Red Deer.

Ronald took his schooling in Red Deer, Andrew, Estonian and Eckville schools. He married Patricia Wylie of Eckville. They and their two daughters, Cindy and Rhonda, reside in the Eckville district.

Irene received her education in the Estonian and Eckville schools. She married Reg Wickens of Red Deer. Now, with their two children, John and Colleen, they are living in Rocky Mountain House.

Evan took his schooling in Eckville, and later married Linda Thomas of Eckville. They, with their son Steven, reside in the Gilby district.

John Kind passed away on February 22, 1975 at the Eckville Hospital. His wife, Celeste, now resides on the farm with their eldest son, Leslie.

**KINGSEP, HENRY — by Mrs. Selma Palm (His daughter)**

Henry Kingsep was born in 1870 on Horma Estate in Worn, Estonia, a big farm or estate where they employed about 13 workers, both men and women. Henry was educated to be a school teacher. The study of languages in the higher forms of education was compulsory, as a result, my father spoke German and Russian fluently. I was told of when my father was teaching school in the town of Nuustak that he met my mother, Emilie Saar, daughter of a shoemaker there. They fell in love and were married when he was 24 and my mother was 17 years old. They lived in the top storey of a big but very plain school house where Dad and his assistant were teaching. There were also some pupils boarding there who only went home on weekends. I was born in that schoolhouse in 1898 and was 11 months old when my parents sailed to Canada in 1899.

My father had heard and read about this new, big country of North America where there was freedom and a lot of unoccupied land for him and his fellow countrymen to live and raise their families. Also, his older brother, Christian, who was a sailor had visited Canada and was favorably impressed with the wide open spaces compared to the crowded conditions in the little Baltic countries.

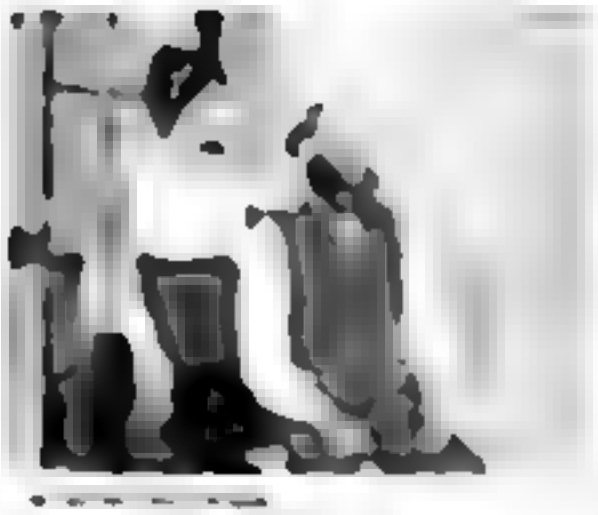
Another thing that attracted the early settlers was the fact that land was available in Canada for the payment of only $10 under a homestead plan. The homesteader got title to the land, 160 acres, after living on it for three years, and making certain improvements. Father began to study the English language in preparation for a new life across the Atlantic. The family travelled for three weeks on the ship before reaching New York, U.S.A.

As their destination was Canada, they continued their journey by railroad. As the railway was already laid as far as Red Deer, Alberta, they stopped there and made their first dwelling in a crude little shack about two miles east of Sylvan Lake, then known as Snake Lake, in the Northwest Territories. Soon my Uncle Christian and his family of five children took up land next to ours. In about three years time all the land around us was taken, leaving no room for Dad's countrymen who were to follow him soon. Because of this, Father moved further west and took up land, NE 9-40-3-W5, on the banks of the Medicine River, where there would be lots of water for people and livestock and a lot of unoccupied land to extend into a settlement.

That was the beginning of the Medicine Valley community north of Eckville in 1903, but of course Eckville was not there at this time.

During the early years Father had to make the trip to Red Deer to get provisions and mail for ourselves and the neighbors. It took about three or four days to travel that distance with a team made up of one horse and one ox. Since there were no roads whatsoever, he had to go through swamps and brush, often cutting down brush before he got through. To make travelling even more difficult it rained a lot more in those days than it does now. Father often took shelter under the wagon box when it rained and also during the nights on those trips. The mosquitoes were very numerous and created misery for both people and livestock. Father would often build a bonfire in the pasture and the smoke would drive away these insects, especially at milking time. For food he would snare rabbits and catch fish in the Medicine River from a boat of his own construction.

Finally a little store was opened about one mile north of where Eckville now stands. My sister and I had to carry our homemade butter and our eggs over four miles to the store to exchange for other groceries. We would carry that bundle tied to the middle of a stick with us girls each taking hold of one end. We were allowed about 25 cents for two pounds of butter and the eggs were about the same price. When the school was first built close to the store, we had to walk the four and one-half miles every morning and evening for many months before our own community was able to build a school only one and a half miles away. My older sister and I were almost of high school age before we could attend school regularly. Three of my older brothers and sisters and I all started to school together along with the children from about 30 other families of Dad's countrymen who had come out west and



had settled around us. Going to school in those days seemed like a picnic to us in comparison to the heavy work at home, milking cows and doing all kinds of chores on the farm, helping both Mother indoors and Father outdoors

My father was a hard-working man, and he built practically everything that we had in our home in Medicine Valley — tables, chairs, beds with hay as mattresses, and even a stove out of rock and stone, where Mother could even bake bread, potatoes and turnips. Dad also made a wagon. He soaked the boards in some sort of solution to make them soft and then bent them into wheels. The house was made of logs, with a sod roof and an earthen floor. Grass soon grew on the roof. Moss was stuffed in the cracks between the logs. It had just one small window. Later on, Dad added another room, which had a floor of boards.

It was at this humble place that Dad's father came to visit us from the Old Country. How well I remember the apples that he brought! They were the first apples that we children had ever tasted, and they were so delicious! Unfortunately Grandpa soon got sick and Dad had to go to Red Deer to get a doctor. It was in the bitter cold of winter, so Dad fixed a tent on the sleigh so that he and the doctor would not freeze to death on the two-day trip. The doctor examined Grandpa and left some medicine for him, but he died before Dad was able to return from the trip taking the doctor back to Red Deer.

Dad made a coffin himself and Grandpa was buried on a hill by the Medicine River. There was not a cemetery, a minister, or a church anywhere near in those days. The few neighbors we had came together and sang hymns, and some spoke. The ladies covered the grave with wreaths of spruce bows and paper flowers.

In that same log shack two of my brothers, Henry and Otto, were born, also my sister Emma, now Mrs. Herman Lapp, my sister Agnes, now Mrs. Stabel, was born while we were still at Sylvan Lake. All the children were born without the benefit of a doctor and with no phone available to call for help, and no roads to enable anyone to travel quickly. As the family grew larger, Dad started planning for a bigger house. Our land was almost all covered with trees, both poplar and spruce, so he had to cut them down to clear the land. He built a saw mill to cut the trees into boards. The pile of lumber got bigger and bigger as the years passed by until there was enough for a comparatively large house and a new barn. Our first barn was a sort of dug-out with a big pile of straw or dry grass on top. It was a great day for us children to move into a big house with a lot of room to run around in. My two younger brothers, Nick and Robert, were born in that new house. We enjoyed the new barn too, when it was finished, a year or so after the completion of the house. It is really sad, almost tragic, when I think about all the hard work that went into building that house and barn under those difficult circumstances and then have them both burn down — the barn a few years before Dad passed away and the house about six years after his death. The loss was not covered by fire insurance in those days! On the spot where the barn once stood an oil well now produces the "black gold".

Before many years of farming Dad started concentrating on the building of a threshing machine. There was no outfit in our community until many years later, and "necessity is the mother of invention". We grew oats and barley and a little winter rye. Wheat didn't seem to be suitable for the cool, wet summers we had then. With the help of us older children and that of a few neighbors Dad threshed the little grain that we had, and then went on to thresh the neighbors' grain.

It amazes me now when I think of how much Dad was able to accomplish, yet he never seemed to be too busy to help his neighbors or to give advice when consulted. He helped to build the new neighbors' dwelling places and his team of horse and an ox was often put to work to plow an acre or so for them to use for planting potatoes and a garden. In order to buy the necessary farm machinery and livestock the men of the family often had to go out to earn money by working on building railroads and bridges. While the men were gone Dad assumed the responsibility of getting the provisions and the mail from Red Deer for many of the neighbors. Since Dad could speak four languages, he was able to help many with their language problems, being able to interpret for those in difficulty with speaking or writing. He learned the Finnish language from the Finns living to the south of us. Dad took no pay for his help, but counted it a privilege to be able to help those less fortunate than he.

Taxes were paid mostly by working on the building of roads. The community halls and the schools were built largely by free labor

everyone giving of his time and energy for a community project. Dad was very interested in anything which he thought would help to improve and advance our community and took the lead in promoting many undertakings of a community nature. He helped to organize the local Co-op Store, was a stout supporter of the U.F.A. movement and a member of the Gilby local. He had the gift of expressing his views very clearly and logically, and was often the spokesman for [illegible].

In spite of so many other activities and interests Dad found time for music, too. He played the violin very well and his experience in the old country as a choir master encouraged him to organize and direct a choir which he kept up almost until the end of his life. He helped his own children and other young people to get a start playing the violin. He purchased two violins from a second-hand store for only three dollars. One was for him to use and the other for us children to practice with. Later, when my sister and I were in high school, Dad bought a second-hand organ. He and some of the children enjoyed playing on it, too.

My childhood recollections are that my father governed his children with a firm but gentle hand. He believed in equal opportunities for all. We looked up to him as a man of wisdom and fair judgement. We have certainly missed his wise council since he passed away on December 7, 1929 at the age of 59 years. He was buried in the Gilby Cemetery on a cold, bitter, blizzard day with three feet of snow on the ground. Despite the extreme cold about 300 neighbors and friends gathered to pay their last respects to one of our first pioneers in the Medicine Valley.

The history of the children (and their families) born to Henry and Emilie Kingsep follows:

Linda Kingsep Mottus was one of the first ones to attend the Estonian School when it was built in 1910. She married Gust Mottus, a farmer. They farmed north of Eckville and also raised berries. They were members of the Farmer's Union and the Co-op Store. They later moved to the town of Eckville, where Linda was a cook in the hospital for five years without missing one day.

Gust and Linda raised one son and twin daughters. Their son, Rudy, took over his father's farm. He and his wife, Myrtle, raised five children. Their son Arnold lives close to Red Deer with his wife and two children. Their daughter Jean (a nurse) married Joe Maki and they live close to Eckville with two children. Their daughter Helen married Les Davenport. They live in Calgary with two daughters, Cherryl and Angela.

Linda and Gust's daughter Emma married Archie Huhtala, who was an electrician in Eckville. They operated an electric appliance store and repair shop owned by Fritz Kinna. Archie served on the town council of Eckville. They now live in Edmonton where Archie is supervisor of electrical construction at Athabaska Tarsands Plant. Their daughter Lynn is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Edmonton and works in the archives in Calgary.

Emma's twin sister Elsie went to business school in Calgary, then married Vernon Brewer, an accountant in Toronto. They have three [illegible].

Linda passed away in 1967 at the age of 71 years. Her son Rudy predeceased her. Gust passed away in July, 1977.

Selma Pallo (Kingsep) went to high school in Red Deer. Selma took a business course in Edmonton, where she later worked as a stenographer. She married Henry Pallo of Red Deer in 1922. They have two children. Daisy is married to Leon de Launay, an electrical engineer with Bell Telephones in Montreal. They have three children. Jack works at Red Deer City Hall. For many years he was assistant city treasurer and now is internal auditor. Selma passed away in 1976 at the age of 78 years. Her husband, Henry, predeceased her.

Agnes Stabel (Kingsep) was a teacher and taught at Benjamin and Andrew schools. She has lived with her family in southern Alberta, but she and her husband Nells are now retired and live in Red Deer. She had five children, all of whom attended Bible School for two years, except for the youngest. Her daughter Violet passed away in 1962. All four sons became teachers although only Franklin is teaching now. Robert and Raymond are now building contractors and Arnold is a minister. Agnes and Nels have 15 [illegible].

Henry Kingsep Jr. was a bachelor, and farmed north of Eckville, next to his parents' farm where we grew up. He took an agricultural mechanics course in Calgary for one year. He was a trapper of muskrat and beaver — mostly in the Medicine River. Henry passed away in 1969, and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Emma Lapp (Kingsep) was born at Eckville and went to Estonian School. She took her high school in Red Deer and Edmonton (where she

also took some nurse's training. She worked in Calgary and Vancouver for a few years before she married Herman Lapp, a farmer north of Eckville. They lived on the NW 13-40-3-W5 for nearly 40 years and carved a modern farm and home out of the wilderness. They raised registered seed grain and purebred cattle. Later on they rented out part of their land, and turned to commercial cattle feeding in a modern way. They were also busy with community activities. Herman was a charter and provincial board member of Eckville and District Credit Union for 40 years he was a member of the Eckville Co-op Association, he was board chairman when the new store and feed mill were built. He served as a member of the Hospital Board when the nurses residence was finished. He was chairman of the Gilby rural electrification association provisional board when it was organized and took part in many farm organizations. Emma was active as a member of the Home and School executive, a member of the Hospital Auxiliary and of Church and Estonian Ladies Aid. She also participated in musical and other types of programs at the Estonian and Gilby Halls. In 1972 Herman and Emma retired in a more moderate climate in their home in Penticton, B.C., and are taking an active part in the new Retirement Centre, such as square dancing, entertainment and executive duties. Herman and Emma raised two daughters and one son.

Gloria and June attended high school in Eckville and they both have their names on the Eckford Trophy for being the best all-around student of their class. They both had training in piano, and also teacher training. Gloria taught school in Edmonton for a few years, then married Dr. John Lange. They moved to Pennsylvania, U.S.A. They have three children.

June got her Bachelor of Education Degree and taught school in Lacombe. She went on a world tour and settled down in Australia, where she married Anthony Acton. They live in the city of Melbourne and they own and operate their own graphic art and print shop.

Roy also took his high school at Eckville, and played trumpet in the Eckville and Bentley bands. He took a three-year course at NAIT in Edmonton. He married Frances Frid of Eckville, daughter of John and Anne Frid. They work for the city of Edmonton and live in their own home in Sherwood Park. He is an executive in telecommunications office and Frances works in a city office as intergovernmental assistant.

Otto Kingsep was 19 years old when he left the farm to attend SAIT in Calgary. He became a journeyman electrician, machinist and welder. After some years as superintendent of a manufacturing plant, he went into technical education and worked as a teacher department head, and, for the last 20 years as shop director and school planning official. For several years he worked in underdeveloped countries setting up technical training programs and schools. His daughter Karen lives in Edmonton. Son David passed away in 1975. Otto and his wife Vina are now retired in Penticton, B.C. He is a member of the Penticton "Tune Agers", a group of retired musicians. He teaches and calls square and round dances.

Nick Kingsep was active in Estonian Society and in other clubs for many years while on the farm at Eckville. After he left the farm he worked as an electrician in Calgary and later owned and operated a lunch counter in Ponoka. He married a nurse at the Ponoka Hospital, and then he and Rita moved to Calgary. He enrolled in war emergency classes and became a machinist. He advanced to foreman, production manager, and finally owned and operated his own manufacturing plant. Some of the items he manufactured were covered by his own patents. His latest venture was a farm machinery manufacturing plant in Lacombe. Nick and Rita are now retired and living in Calgary. They have one son, Gary, a mechanical engineer in Calgary, and two grandchildren.

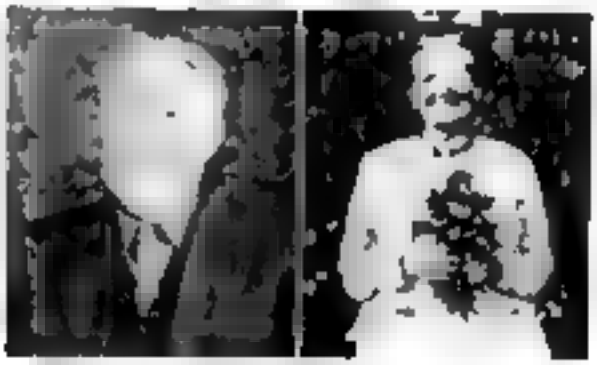
Robert Kingsep married Lila Wester and they took over the home farm. He designed and built two water well drilling rigs and was in the water well drilling business for many years, mainly for oil companies.

Their two children grew up on the farm and went to Eckville School. They both played in the school band. Robert Jr. worked with his dad for several years before he moved to Edmonton where he worked for an auto supply company. He later trained as a computer technician and programmer. He now works as a programming pharmacist, live in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Lyann who married Art Gagne, a school teacher. They live in Vermilion, where Art teaches science in high school.

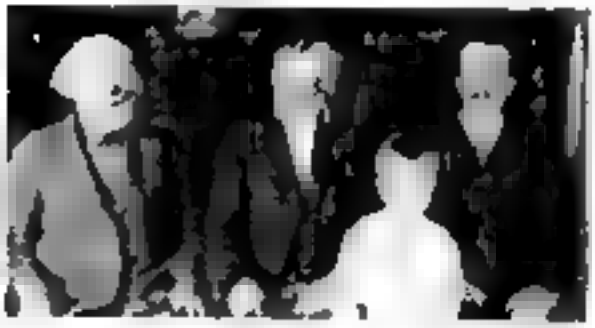
Robert passed away in 1971, having been predeceased by his wife, Lila.

**THE ROBERT KINNA FAMILY** – by Robert Kinna

Robert spent his boyhood working on his father's and grandfather's farm. He eventually purchased his grandfather's John Kinna #1 homestead. In 1939 Robert married Julia Solberg, from Bentley, and they moved to a small house on the farm. There a daughter Edna Marilyn, was born. Times being hard on the gave and went to Calgary to take a government-sponsored machinist's course. When it was completed he moved with his family to Edmonton to work in the aircraft plant. When that plant closed he got employment in the Canadian National Railway machine shop. While working there, his daughter Judith Marie and son Ronald John were born. In 1960, being bored with turning out wheels for freight trains, he went to Montreal and Toronto and took a course as a diesel technician on the Canadian National microwave



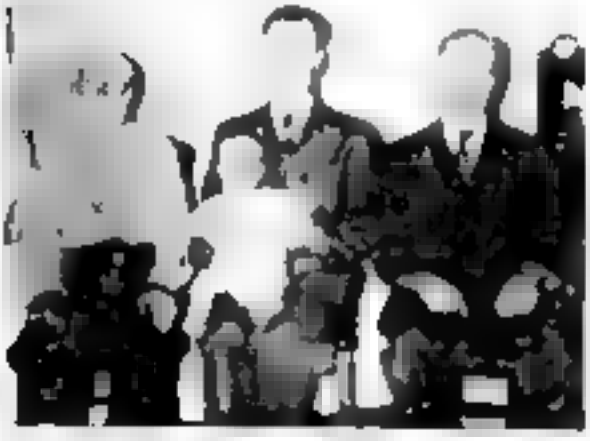
John Kinna Maria Kinna



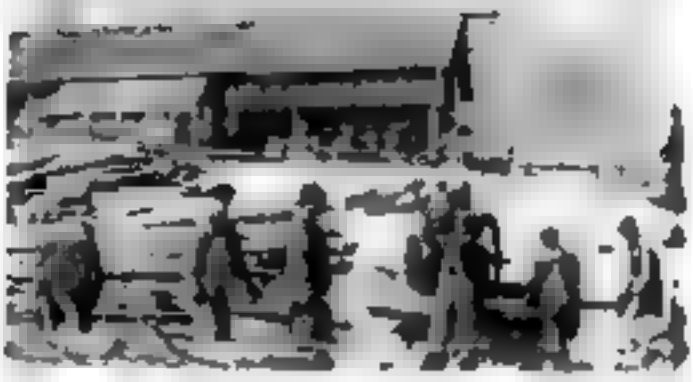
From Centennial Kinna 1911 Jack Kinna John Kinna, Robert and Fritz Kinna

system. When that was completed he got employment at Trutch, on the Alaska Highway as manager of the Canadian National Repeater Station. While there the Kinna's adopted a son Kevin Daniel. When that office closed, taken over by remote control, he moved to Dawson Creek and on to the Little Smokey Repeater Stations. The opportunity arose, and he transferred to Lloydminster as a diesel technician in charge of seven microwave sites from North Battleford to Vegreville

In 1975 Robert reached retirement age and



From Centennial Kinna John Kinna, Robert Kinna reading Baby Andrew and Fritz Kinna



Wood sawing bee at Henry Kinna

retired to Edmonton, but he spends a good deal of his time at the home on the farm four miles north of Eckville. That has been the site of his holidays for many years, with an annual beef barbecue

Daughter Marilyn married Arvon Stacey They have two daughters, Jillane and Kathryn. Marilyn teaches school at Larmont and Arvon is a salesman for Douglas Rentals

Judy married Robert Worden. They have one son, Casey Judy works as a key punch operator in an uptown Edmonton office and Robert has a livestock trucking business

Ron married Inge Grunert and he works as an electrical engineer for Alberta Government Telephones. Inge is a pharmacist They have one son Steven

Kevin Kinna is presently at home, attending Ross Sheppard High School

The Kinna family roots began at Eckville, and that seems to be where they will remain

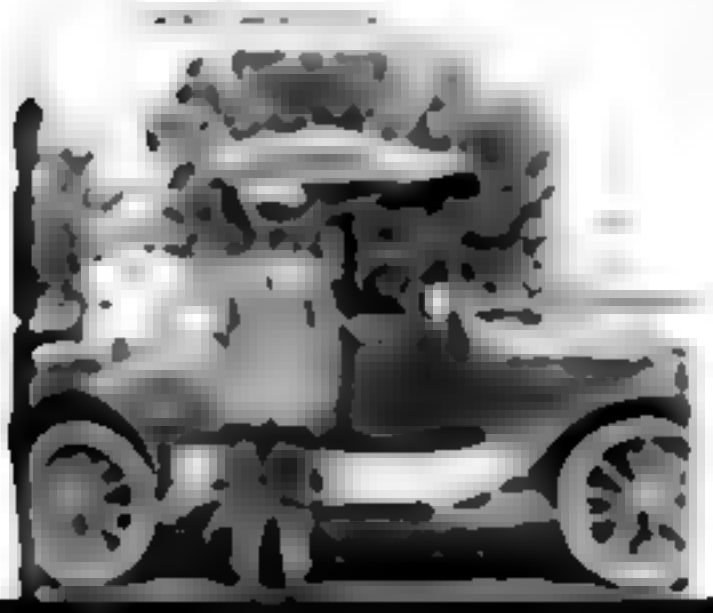
## THE KOOTS FAMILY HISTORY

Paul Koots came to Canada with his brother Peter, in March of 1903 from Estonia. Paul was married with three small boys, and Peter was single They heard of the opportunities in the west and wanted to take advantage of them Because Paul did not have the money for a fare to Canada and since his brother did not want to go alone, Peter lent him the money They landed in Halifax and traveled to Red Deer by train and were able to get transportation to the present Eckville area, where they knew some Estonian families. Peter obtained SE 16-40-3-W5 and Paul SW 10-40-3-W5 as homesteads The two brothers built a small two-room log cabin on Peter's homestead. They then got work on the railroad laying ties and tracks and pouring cement for the bridges They worked west of Calgary into the mountains. Their biggest problem was that of language. Of the group of Estonians working for the railroad one spoke a little English and acted as interpreter Peter had some acres broken with seeding and harvest both done by hand With Paul sending some money to his family in the old country and paying Peter back, there was little left to save from his wages. This was very

discouraging and he began to think of returning to Estonia.

In the meantime the family of Jaan Teener had heard of Alide Koots not being able to join her husband in Canada and loaned her the money realizing Paul would pay him when he could. Alide wrote her husband of her good fortune and with her three sons, Ferdinand, Carl and Woldemar, sailed for Canada. Paul had paid back the loan from his brother and saved enough for a fare back to his family. He went to Red Deer and gave up his homestead then went to pick up the last of his mail before buying the ticket back to the old country. In the mail was the letter from his wife telling that the family were on their way to Canada. Their boat docked in Halifax after a journey on which Alide had been very sick. Jaan Teener and daughter Anna watched over the boys during the trip. Alide gave the Teeners her blessings and was forever grateful for all they had done for her. They all arrived in Red Deer in the spring of 1905. Paul made transportation arrangements for them to his brother's homestead and the family settled into Peter's cabin. Paul had taken another homestead, NE 16-40-3-W5, and on this land the brothers built another house, twice as big as Peter's. This was the Koots family's first home since Paul was married. After a while there was an addition to the family. Twin boys were born, John and Ludwig. The bigger boys were conscripted as babysitters when their mother had to work outside. Once when neighbor ladies came to see the twins, the babysitters had disappeared. Their mother did not find out about this until sometime after. Later a daughter, Adele was born and she remained the only girl in the family. The family's last child was another boy, Ernest, born on the day of Alide and Paul's silver anniversary.

A few acres of land were cleared each year by hand, and eventually Peter and Paul each bought a horse. This made a team which both of them used for work. Paul bought a democrat which was used for family outings for years.



Later each bought another horse and had a team of his own. A log barn and later a granary were built on the homestead. There were several Estonian families in the district now and mixed in with these were Finnish, Norwegians, Swedish and some Germans. A schoolhouse was built for the children of the settlers, some of them being more than 10 years of age. All of them had to learn to speak English first, then to read and write the language. Most of those who attended the school were able to complete the eighth [illegible].

There was very little in the way of medical facilities in this district. Alide Koots' services as a midwife were often called upon, since all babies were born at home.

When Ferdinand was old enough he went to work at the Red Deer saw mill. Carl went to work in the first co-op store in Eckville when he was 16 and had completed his Grade 8. He boarded in town with a family and bought a bicycle to come home with on Saturday afternoons after the store had closed. Paul bought a second-hand violin since he was able to play a few tunes on it. Carl also became interested in music and began taking violin lessons from Arthur Kinna. John's interest in the violin was also aroused, that being the only musical instrument in the house. He organized a group of young people to form an orchestra. In this group Ludwig played the flute and Walley the cello. There were many socials and Christmas concerts where these local young people performed. Later he established dance orchestras where he played the saxophone and Ludwig the tuba. John studied the violin in the Alberta College in Edmonton.

The Estonian Hall was built in 1918 on two acres of Koots' and Paul and Ferdinand took active part in the building of the hall, with the rest of the Estonian Society members.

In 1919 the family bought their first car — a 1917 model Maxwell. In 1919 they also bought a steam engine and separator for threshing. This outfit did a lot of custom work in the area. Carl worked with Ferdinand as engineer and separator man. When Ferdinand died in November of 1921 of pneumonia, Carl had to learn to be a steam engineer and apply for a permit to operate it. Walley later went to the Institute of Technology and Art, after working for a farmer in Barons, Alberta, and took a steam engineering course. He completed this and went to work in the Turner Valley Gas Plant.

The family lived in the log house until 1933 when the boys built a new house. When tractors came into existence the steam engine and separator were sold. Carl bought a general store in Sylvan Lake with Ike Kaila and later bought Ike's share, as the effects of the depression were felt. Later, Walley came into the business as a partner. Carl married Thelma Wright from Innisfail and had two daughters, Dorinne and Bonita. Paul Koots died in 1935 from a heart attack. Carl died in 1947 after complications set in.

after an operation. A few years later Thelma married Walley and had one son, Rodney.

After public school Adele went to Olds College and completed the Home Economics course. She later enrolled at the Calgary Institute of Technology and Art in the Fine Arts course. She began clerking at her brother's store in Sylvan Lake during the depression and in 1941 met Ernest Dorchester.

Harold Dorchester, his wife and two sons, William and Ernest, came to Alberta from Coderre, Saskatchewan in 1937 and settled north of Leslieville. In 1942 Ernest and Adele were married. In 1946 Harold and his wife went to B.C. with son William following the next spring. Ernest Dorchester bought the Fritz Kinna farm three miles north of Eckville. After 29 years of farming they sold it and moved into Eckville where Ernest is now self employed as a carpenter. In his free time he golfs and curls.

Ernest Koots was able to complete his high school education. When the war broke out he joined the Air Force. He met Jeanette MacDonald from P.E.I. while in the service and married her in 1946. They have two children, Janet-Anne and Donald. Ernest bought a store in Hespero which subsequently burned down. He then moved to Nordegg where he managed a grocery store for the Big Horne Trading Co. Later he moved to Edmonton where he worked for a short time in Woodwards. For more than the last 20 years he has been a salesman for Burns Foods. After graduating from high school in 1967 Janet-Anne received her degree in Honors Chemistry from the University of Alberta and her Masters in Madison, Wisconsin. Donald also graduated from high school in Edmonton and got his degree in Education from the University of Alberta.

Ludwig married Leida Kirves in 1951. Leida's parents, Thomas and Minna, came to Canada in 1950. Her mother died three months later. Thomas and her brother Herbert, moved to Vancouver but Thomas came back to Eckville where he died in 1952. Herbert stayed in Vancouver where he married Erna Muld and had three sons, Thomas, Madis and Andres. Leida and Ludwig have two sons, Ronald and Clarence. They both received their grade schooling in Eckville and went on to the University of Alberta, Ronald graduating with a degree in Agriculture and Clarence a degree in Education. They are very sports-minded and have taken part in local sports throughout school and after. Ludwig was also involved in sports in his younger days. Ludwig stayed with the farm and is mechanically inclined as well as being handy with carpentry tools. He farmed with his brother John. John never married but with his love of music and hobby of making violins he lived in contentment. He died of a heart attack in 1974. His mother Aide, had died in November of 1959. Ludwig is still living on his father's second homestead where he grew up.

Peter Koots met his wife, Marie, through a Estonian newspaper from New York. They had three daughters, Selma, Amanda and Ella. As he grew older, a friend convinced him to return to Russia while the friend, of course, did not follow. Peter felt with no boys to take over his farm he would have a very hard life in his old age. Although Paul tried, he could not change his brother's mind. In 1921 he sold his farm to his nephew, Carl, and left for Russia with his family. He died a couple of years before Paul did while Marie died in the spring of 1964.

**LANGER Carl and Anna**

Carl Gustav Langer and his brother Paul came to the Eckville district about 1902 from Estonia. They filed on homesteads about 1903, five and one half miles north of Eckville on the east side of the road. Carl homesteaded the NW 10-40-3-W5. and Paul on the SW 10-40-3-W.

Anna Teener arrived, also from Estonia, a while later. Anna was a relative of the Kinna family. Her sister Emma Tomingas and John Tomingas family homesteaded a short distance west across the Medicine River, later known as the Eric Bardenhagen place. Carl Langer and Anna were married about the year 1909.

Up until this time Carl Langer worked to clear a little bit of land by hand and ax to try to get a start. This was done a little at a time, in between other jobs that he could get to have some income, as there was none from the farm.

Some of the neighbors and he worked on the railroad off and on. A lot of the time at Banff and Kanaskis, where the railroad was being built at the time. Travelling by hand car from Banff where they were staying, to their work on building the railroad, and in the winter shoveling snow by hand to clear tracks that were drifted. Besides all this there were buildings of sorts started on the farm, all out of logs cut from the homestead. Farming started with two or three cows, chickens and maybe a pig and eventually horses, by which all the work was done.

Horses were the most popular mode of work and travel. Once in a while a trip to town was done by democrat along a dusty winding road around every slough and pot hole on the way and fording streams. Before the democrat and horse many trips to town had to be on foot. The

get together with neighbors or berry picking.

Around the year 1908 Carl Langer and his brother Paul Langer purchased a steam engine and a threshing machine, by mortgaging their homesteads and everything else they owned, as there was very little cash available. This was the only machine for threshing in the area, and the farmers who had a crop had to cut it into bundles and put it in stacks in the fall. The threshing outfit went around to each farm and threshed the grain from the stacked bundles.

The first few years of the Langer Brothers operation they threshed crops for the farmers all

winter long, all the way from Sylvan Lake to the Leedale area, moving the separator with the steam engine. When the snow got deep they had four or six horses hitched to the front of the steam engine to help move it from farm to farm

would go along and pitch bundles, haul grain and haul water and firewood for the steam engine. They kept on threshing till everybody's crops were threshed. The threshing from the bundle stacks required about eight men and when they threshed the bundles stooked in the fields it required about six to twelve teams of horses with bundle racks, two field bundle pitchers and two spike pitchers at the machine. The steam engineer was Paul Langer, who had to have a government qualified boiler engineer's certificate, the water hauling man, who usually handled the wood for fuel for the boiler and a separator man, Carl Langer, to set and adjust the threshing machine, a total of about eighteen to twenty men. Usually the outfit worked short handed as help wasn't always available for a full crew.

The separator was a new Case 36 inch machine, about $1200. The steam engine may have been a Sawyer Massey used steam tractor about $500. Horses were worth about $100, cattle about $30. Threshing wages were about one dollar a day and a dollar a day for a team of horses. As there was very little money to be had most of the work was done and paid by exchange by doing a days work for a days work in return, or payment in grain or feed. A very neighborly feeling persisted and everybody pitched in and helped wherever it was needed. When the work was done they didn't ask for pay, because there wasn't any. Usually a thank you was all they got and usually were very happy and rewarded from the visit and the company of other people.

A three furrow breaking plow was also purchased and some plowing was done with the steam engine but this was not too successful as it required a lot of help to operate and the land

too small for this type of operation. The steam engine threshing went on till about the year 1929 when Carl purchased a new Wallis gas tractor with extension wheels and steel lugs for $1240, which was used for threshing and other work. The steam engine was sold to Bill Dirsten for his lumber mill at the north end of Sylvan Lake.

Horses were the most popular mode of work and travel up until then. Carl Langer, Fritz Kinna and Charlie Raabis built a brush cutter that was drawn by about six horses. This made land clearing a little easier. The men had to build everything for this machine, even the cutter blade. They had to cut a saw-tooth edge on the cutter blade with chisels and hammers.

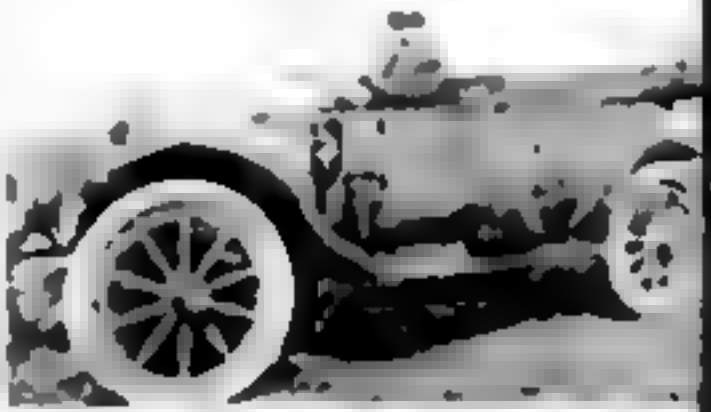
These three men along with their neighbors were instrumental in building the first roads in their area with two horse slips and four horse slips or fresnos for moving the earth. Spade and shovel and ax cut trees from alongside the road for corduroy base in soft places in the road and for culverts. Roads usually had to be built around sloughs - the easiest route. There were also a few teams of oxen used in the road work and seen traveling on the trail. One homesteader in the area had one horse and one oxen and he worked with this odd team for many

In about 1920 a small Cletrac track tractor was purchased for farm work, but many a morning when the old Cletrac gas engine wouldn't start the horses were still there and more reliable at that stage of mechanical machinery.

In about the year 1917 an Everet touring car with water proof removable or folding roof removable curtains with celluloid windows, car

vacuum tank for keeping a steady flow of gas was purchased. This may have been the first car in the district.

The Langers were active in getting the Estelaan school built and operating, for many years



an institute of learning. It was located on the north east corner of the Langer land. Here the children of the district received their first learning. They were also actively involved in the building and operation of the Estonian Hall as a community center.

The Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Co. Ltd. was registered as a company with limited liability and a capital of $10,000 on September 17, 1912. The first Provisional Board of directors and the first seven share holders were. President — E. M. Matchett — farmer. Vice Pres. — Fritz Kinna — farmer. Sec. Treas. — Arthur E. F. Eckford — farmer. Director — Carl Langer — farmer. Director — R. Stopeen — farmer. Director — A. Rangen — farmer. Director — C. Kasper — farmer. Witnessed by Archibald Lutt, Eckville, Alberta, who was the first manager.

Carl and Anna Langer had a family of six sons and one daughter.

Paul Leonhard — farming in the district, was married to Velma Gyori on November 24, 1938. They had a family of two sons and two daughters. Beverly Mrs. K. J. McKenzie, is a teacher for the Calgary Board of Education. Paula works for the Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary. Kenneth farms in the district. Leslie passed away in 1964 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Arthur — operated a hardware business in Eckville for 28 years and installed and operated a coin laundry and car wash in the town. He is now retired.

Robert — married Weema in 1938, had two sons and one daughter. Robert in British Columbia, married with two children. Myrna in British Columbia, married with one daughter. Gregory in Edmonton. Robert was in store business and real estate in British Columbia, now retired.

William Richard — farming in the district with his brother on the original Langer homestead.

Arvey — farming in the district on the original homestead.

Laura — Mrs. Walter Olsen, living five miles south of Eckville. They have a daughter, Barbara, who works in a Doctor's office in Calgary and a son, Barry, who is working overseas in the oil industry, and is presently in Scotland.

Elmer — passed away in 1918.

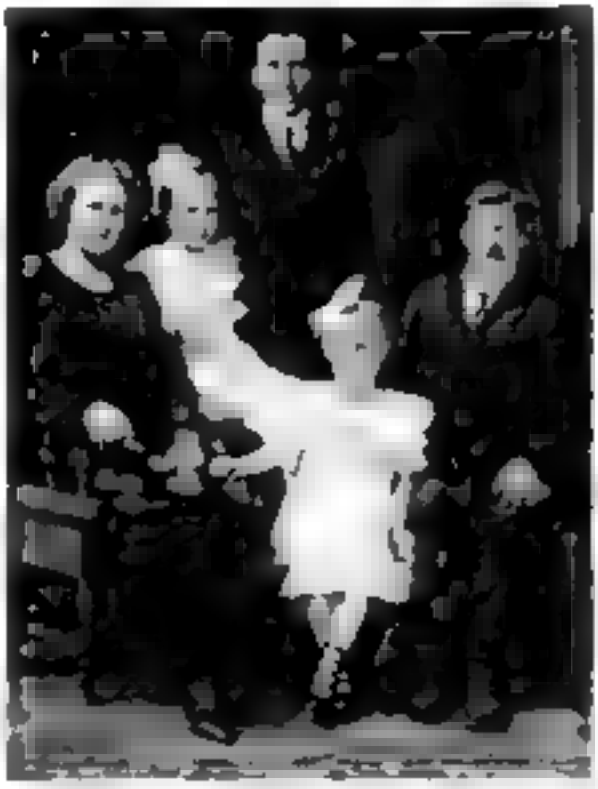
Carl, Anna and Elmer are buried in the Gilby Cemetery, which they also helped to locate and to start and maintain, along with their pioneer friends and neighbors.

John Teener, Anna Langer's father homesteaded the land now belonging to the Thubron family. John Teener reached the age of 70 years in the 1920's and sold his land and retired, receiving a Government pension at the age of 70, which was at that time the grand sum of $8 per month. He was taken in by the Langer family and lived the rest of his life with them. He immigrated to this area from Estonia and was buried in the Gilby cemetery.

**LANGER, PAUL**

Paul Langer arrived in Canada as an immigrant around 1905, coming from Samerpalu Voru, Estonia, Europe. He bought the SW 10-40-3 W5 from Mr. Paul Koot, who had acquired it as a homestead, but had decided to return to his native homeland to rejoin his family. His plans were changed in a hurry when he got to Red Deer and received a letter in the mail stating that his family was already on their way to Canada. Paul Langer also bought the adjoining SE 10-40-3 W5 from the Armstrong brothers. About 1912 or 1913 he built a comfortable home on the first quarter of land he had bought.

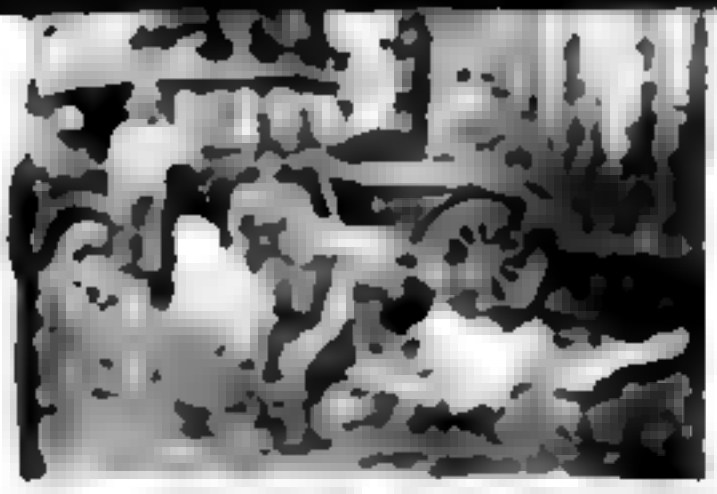
Paul married Lydia Perler and they had a family of three girls: Erna, Alfina and Hazel. A son Felix died as an infant. (Lydia's history and that of their children is written under the heading of Peter Perler and Family.)

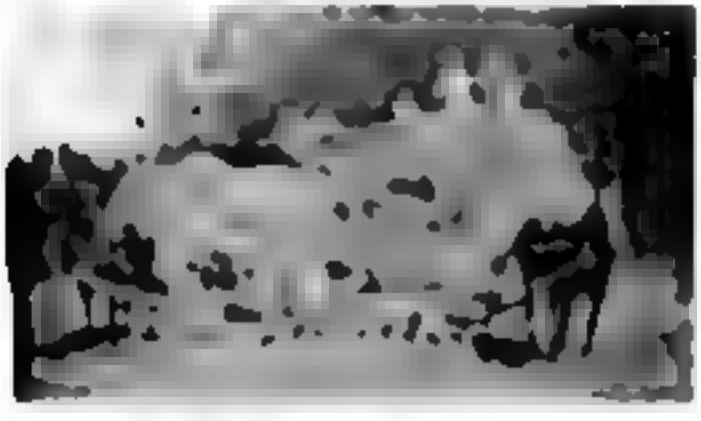


Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langer. Erna, Alfina, Peter Perler, Hazel Langer + Evelyn.

Paul was very active in community affairs being one of the founding members of the Eckville Co-operative Association, a member of the U.F.A., and helped with acquiring the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. He was also active with the Estonian school affairs, this school being located on his brother Carl's land. In any community project he was always a willing helper.

Paul and his brother Carl, who owned and lived on the N 10-40-3-W5, together owned and





operated a steam grain threshing outfit Paul operated the steam engine and his brother was separator man. This was one of the first steam threshing outfits west of Red Deer at the time and they threshed grain for farmers as far east as Sylvan Lake and many miles north west and south of Eckville. They threshed, starting in the fall and continuing almost until spring, as farmers had smaller fields those days and had their grain cut into sheaves and stacked so that winter threshing was possible. Both Paul and Carl were very mechanically inclined and Carl was also a very good blacksmith. He had a good shop on his farm for their own use, which still exists to some extent and is used by his sons. Minor repairs were no problem for Paul and Carl — they didn't have to make the time-consuming trip to Red Deer for repairs All farming was done by horses in the early years and Paul raised and trained all his own horses

Paul liked fishing and he and his fishing partner, Mr Harry Thomas of the Gilby district would take off with a team of horses and a sleigh with grain tank, also feed for horses and self to ice fish with nets at Buck Lake about seventy five or eighty miles to the north, returning about 10 days later with several hundred pounds of jumbo white fish — not the small ones as are caught today The fish were frozen and packed in snow to keep, as there were no deep freezers in those days

Paul died in 1938 in the prime of life, just as many big changes were to take place in our country and which would have interested him very much

**Lydia Langer's Daughters:**

Erna, the oldest married Leonard Soerd and they have been farming south of Eckville in the Benalto-Evarts district since 1936. During the years 1946 to 1952 they lived in Eckville, where for those years Erna was in charge of the Eckville telephone office as chief operator For the last year and a half Erna served as secretary-treasurer for the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. When she decided to return to the farm she trained Mrs Kit Armstrong, who replaced her Besides being a farm wife Erna was a school bus driver for the County of Lacombe for 10 years, from 1967 to 1977 Erna and Leo have three daughters, Doreen, Jeannie and Debby A son, Johnny died in 1947 at the age of five and an infant son died in 1952

Their daughter, Doreen is living in Calgary After receiving her education at Eckville and the Red Deer Composite High School she received her secretarial diploma from Mount Royal College in Calgary and is presently secretary for the Alberta Federation of Labor in Calgary. She married George Heath of Eckville in 1958 and they have two children, Valerie and Leonard, who presently are attending high school

Jeannie received her earlier education at Eckville, Benalto and Red Deer Composite After receiving her B.Sc. degree in Medical Laboratory Science from the U. of A she was employed in the Provincial Laboratory and also the U of A. Hospital in Edmonton She married William A. Brown of Ontario in 1963 and they are now farming in the Benalto district and have built up a very nice herd of Charolais cattle

Debra received her education at Eckville and the Red Deer Composite and graduated with a degree of "Bachelor of Social Work" from the University of Calgary. She is presently employed by the city of Edmonton in the Social Services department. She married James Murray of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1975 and they are making their home in Edmonton

Alfina (Alfeen), Lydia's second daughter took up hairdressing and operated her own beauty shops in Edmonton, Sylvan Lake and Eckville She married Norman Forhan of Eckville and together they owned and operated Forhan's Ready to Wear in Eckville for many years Alfina passed away in December of 1975

Hazel, the third daughter, graduated as a nurse and after nursing for a few years married Harry Lindskog of Lacombe. They are now living in Red Deer where Harry operates his own business. They have two sons, Thomas and Douglas, and one daughter, Joan. Both boys have done very well in hockey, having received

hockey scholarships of four years, attendance at Ann Arbor University in Michigan, U.S.A. While there they also played hockey in the college hockey league, which took them to all parts of the U.S.A. Tom graduated with a B.Sc. degree in biochemistry and is presently employed in Calgary by an oil company consultants firm. Doug, after having played hockey in Europe, decided to finish his education and is presently in his final year working for his Bachelor's degree in Commerce at the University of Calgary.

Their daughter, Joan, after finishing high school, attends Red Deer College and is presently employed in the business department of A.G.T. in Red Deer. She is a great lover of horses and has done very well in the equestrian classes, taking a number of prizes in the riding events.

**THE MATT LIIKALA FAMILY**

Matt and Matilda Liikala came over from Vaasa, Finland in 1909 and settled in Manyberries, Alberta on a half-section of homestead land. They had six children when they came from Finland — Femmi, Ivar, Hilda, Ike, Bill and Emil. While they lived at Manyberries Toivo was born in 1912 and Ed in 1915, as well as two other boys who died as infants.

Matt Liikala had a small blacksmith shop on his property and did work for everyone around Manyberries. His equipment was an old fanning mill case for a blower and a piece of railroad iron for an anvil. The other tools were all hand made.

In 1924 Matt and Matilda moved to Frontier, Saskatchewan, taking Ike, Ivar, Emil, Toivo and Ed with them. They rented land there and Matt had a blacksmith shop. Toivo and Bill started to learn the trade there at quite an early age. Bill and Toivo also tanned hides and made saddles, bridles, chaps and lariats. There was a family in Leedale, Alberta who had one of these saddles a few years ago. Times were rough during those years, and everyone pitched in and did what he could.

Matt Liikala passed away in 1926 in Saskatchewan, and Emil passed away in 1929. He died of a ruptured appendix, as it wasn't easy to get to a doctor in those days.

In 1934 Matilda Liikala, Bill, Toivo and Ed moved to Sylvan Lake. They lived there for only a few months before buying NE 35-39-3-W5 from the CPR. This land was seven miles north-east of Eckville and they moved there to make their home. Toivo and Bill had a small shop on the farm and did welding and blacksmith work as well as some farming. They also had a sawmill and did custom work for people. They also built at least 15 sawmills for other people.

In 1939 Bill went to work in a shop in town and worked here until 1944. He went into the sawmill business with Charlie Johnson on Reg Whaler's place west of Gilby for a while. Ed and Toivo were on the farm with their mother while Bill was away. Toivo did shop work and Ed did mechanical work.

There was just an old house on the farm when they bought it, so in 1941 they built a new house. Toivo did most of the building himself. In 1949 Toivo and Bill started building a new shop on the farm — a building 32 feet by 62 feet. After it was finished they had a better place to work. The shop wasn't finished until after Bill had gone, so Toivo did most of this building, too.

In 1949 Ed married Violet Johnson and they moved across the road from the home place, and still are living there. They had four sons — Leslie, Richard, Leroy and Russel. None of the boys are married yet, and all are out working.

In 1950 Toivo married Mary MacDonald, who had three children from a previous marriage. The children were Norman, David and Judy, and in 1954 Toivo and Mary had a daughter, Barbara. Norman is married to Jean Paoni and they have four children and reside in Oliver, B.C. David is married to Donna Blair and they have five children and live in Rocky Mountain House. Judy married Maurice Charron and they live in Devon, Alberta. They have two children. Barbara married Raymond Ponto and they live at Worsley, Alberta and have two children.

Bill also was married in 1950 to Hilja Huhtala who had five children from a previous marriage. They had a daughter, Millie, who is married to James Postl and they are now living in Red Deer. The next youngest daughter, Helen, is married to Allan Postl and they live in Eckville. The other three live in Saskatchewan. Another girl, Elaine, lives at the coast. After his marriage Bill moved to Eckville in 1950 and worked for Chester Kasha for about four years. They then moved to Rocky Mountain House where Bill worked for Wally Mollus for a few years, and then they moved to the coast. They came back to Eckville in 1965 and Bill worked in a shop again. He passed away in November of 1975. Hilja now lives in Vancouver.

Toivo and Mary sold the farm in 1961 and bought an acreage at Eckville. Toivo went into partnership with Albert Ojala on a shop and they built up a good business. In 1966 Toivo sold his share of the shop to Albert. He and Mary then sold their property and moved to Oliver, B.C. where they bought an acreage. Toivo worked in a shop in Oliver for a year but then built his own shop on his own property, two miles north of Oliver and is still working in the shop five days a week and still enjoys it.

Femmi Liikala married Henry Kakkinen in Manyberries. Their two children were Toivo and Vivian. Henry Kakkinen passed away and a few years later Femmi and her son Toivo Kakkinen moved to the area northeast of Eckville. Femmi passed away in 1965 and Toivo passed away in 1975. Vivian married Emil Stober and they had three children. They still live in Manyberries.

Hilda married Arthur Bodle and moved to Minnesota, U.S.A. They had four children —

Wilbert, Fred, Vivian and Russel. Both Hilda and Arthur have passed away.

Ivar Lukala married Aino Lahtinen in Frontier, Saskatchewan and they lived there until moving to Port Kells, B.C. Ivar passed away in the early 1940's. They had two daughters, Wilma an Edna, who are both married and live at the coast. Their mother, Aino, is still living there.

Ike married Celia Jutha in 1929 in Medicine Hat, then moved to Minnesota, U.S.A. and from there to Laurel, Montana where they still reside. Ike was a railroad engineer for 26 years. They have a daughter, Malda, who is married and lives in Dickinson, North Dakota, U.S.A., and a daughter, Lillian, who is married and lives in Libby, Montana, U.S.A.

Mrs. Matilda Lukala was a midwife while living in the Manyberries area, and helped to bring many babies into the world. She passed away at Eckville in the mid-1950's.

**LUKALA, WILLIAM AND HILJA**

Bill was born on September 4, 1904. Hilja was born on April 29, 1910 at Manyberries. In 1935 Bill, his mother and two brothers, Toivo and Ed moved to the Eckville district, purchasing the NE 1-40-3-W5. This quarter was formerly owned by the Harold Flanky family.

Bill was a blacksmith by trade, a very good one I'm told), so he opened a shop on the farm. The neighborhood farmers could always rely on Bill to repair their machinery.

In 1950, Bill and Hilja (Michelson) Mustala were married. They were blessed with three daughters, Elaine, Helen and Millie. The girls took their schooling in Vancouver, Rocky Mountain House, and Eckville. This is where Bill worked in a blacksmith shop.

Elaine is Mrs. Tadosuuk of Red Deer, Alberta. Helen is now Mrs. Allen Postl. She owns Helen's Beauty Shop in Eckville. Millie, Mrs. Jim Postl, is also a hairdresser.

Bill passed away in 1975 at the age of 71 years, and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. Hilja resides in Vancouver, B.C.

**LUOMALA HISTORY — By Anne Parkkari**

John Emil Luomala, was born in Teuva, Vaasanlavi, Suomi (Finland) in 1880. At the age of 21 years he was converted to Christ in a Salvation Army meeting and came to North America in 1901. He settled in Quincy, Massachusetts, U.S.A. from where his brother also came.

First he worked in a granite rock-cutting and polishing firm. In 1905 he entered Lay College in Quincy, Massachusetts for three years to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. His first pastorate was in Thomaston, Maine, U.S.A., with preaching points also in Longcove, Maine and Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1910 he made a preaching tour that took him across the country to Winlock, Washington State, U.S.A. In 1911 he came back by Toronto, Ont. and remained to Pastor the Finnish congregation. He was ordained in the Knox Presbyterian College in 1914.

Alma Konni was born in Kearle, Suomi in 1875 and in the turn of the century came to Canada along with many relatives. They were nearly all tailors by occupation. A cousin, Adiel Saaremaki, was Finnish Consul for many years. Alma attended the Finnish College in Hancock, Michigan, U.S.A. for about one term in 1909. About 14 years later we learned that our neighbor, Mrs. Mary Hoglund, had also attended the same college a year or so earlier and her picture was in the College history book. She was then Mary Anderson. Alma went back to Finland to start a match factory, which failed, so she returned to Toronto in 1912, just missing passage on the Titanic.

John Luomala and Alma Konni met and were married in July, 1912. A daughter was born in September, 1913, Anne Elizabeth. Another daughter, Ina Johanna, was born on March 13, 19

In 1917 we moved to Troy, New Hampshire, U.S.A. where Father pastored the Congregational Church among the Finnish people. Milford was also included and it was there that son, John Rufus, was born on May 4, 1917.

On July 19, 1919 we came to Alberta, Canada to Eckville, where Father accepted the pastoral duties among the Finnish Presbyterians in Kuusamo, Brightview and Manyberries. Young Peoples Hall, three miles east of Eckville, was the building used for services. We first arrived at Reikki's home for a few days. Many were the happy visits that we had there, along with some thrilling rides we had in Esther's car. This was an open car so some rides were cold. We also enjoyed listening to Sadie playing the piano. One piece, particularly, which was 'In the Sweet Bye and Bye' with variations.

Afterwards we were at Toivonen's and for some reason, Mother and we children walked the half-mile to the parsonage that was located two miles east of Eckville. It seemed like a long, long country half-mile for us, this first view of our new home. We often went to Toivonens for sauna and we had so much fun. Mrs. Lempi Toivonen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Maki, and the Viitalas were friends we visited often. In fact the first birthday present of a box of chocolates I remember getting was from Mrs. Maki and she rode horseback four and one-half miles to buy it. It was my seventh birthday.

In 1921 Father bought 13 lots in Sylvan Lake thinking to build and move closer to a school for the girls. But we lived with August Staudinger's that winter and were close to school as it was almost behind the school. However, when spring holidays came, we moved back to the parsonage and were taken the three miles to Salma school and then later drove a single horse and cutter. At this time the piano was sold to Martha Isaacson. Mother had taught me the notes when I was seven. My sister and I had also learned to read and write Finnish before we learned any English at school. We used to enjoy our visits to the Nick

Isaacsons, too, for there were children our age particularly Helen Mary and Isaac They had a wooden horse swing we enjoyed, as well as the lake They were a hard-working family, hauling wood for fire wood and selling it in Sylvan Lake They also raised acres of potatoes for sale I remember that tragic night when Mrs Isaacson the mother, was taken by ambulance to the hospital where she died, leaving Mary and Isaac the youngest children, only four and two years old. Then Martha came from Finland a fine looking lady and married Nick and mothered the family of four that were still home

In 1923 Father bought a quarter section of very hilly and muskeg-covered land from a Moro family who went to Russia So in the spring, at a very muddy time, we moved. Father drove one team with a load and I drove another team and load behind him along a trail that wound around trees and steep hills and muskegs It was an unforgettable and frightful experience for me to see the horses claw and struggle so desperately to pull the load up such muddy and steep hills Also, the road tilted so steeply that it seemed as though we would be dumped, but we never were This move to the farm was an unforgettable experience for all of us. The home was a one-room log cabin which was old Garter snakes were everywhere one even curling around a flower pot on the windowsill and falling down the wall between the logs and the beaver board that was our kitchen corner The following year we had pigs running loose and that is when the snakes disappeared, with only occasionally one seen in the raspberry patches we earnestly picked every summer We also picked wild strawberries, high bush cranberries and blueberries some years Sometimes some of us got a ride to pick low-bush cranberries west of Rocky Mountain House. My sister and I always got the cows home going with bare feet all summer From a section of C P R land with heavy bush and a section of school land. Also we all were hard at work at haying time, making hay out of the slough

That first summer we moved onto the farm Father was sorely tried. At a very rainy time Father was flat on his back with lumbago. During the heaviest rain all our five horses ran away. My sister and I tried to look for them, but the forests were too strange and fearful for us to venture very far Father started looking for them when he was still not well, but we never found them. He still tried to preach but the farm took much time and energy, so this part of his life became a now-and-then thing for the rest of his life

After struggling with steep hills he thought he'd like a farm that was level and nearly open and so he purchased the quarter section that Saima school was on. So we were again going to Saima school after two years at Estonian school At this time we boarded the school teacher Miss Atsinger for one term We girls were the janitors then. Miss Atsinger went to school early and usually made the fire. Very nice! In the meantime Mr and Mrs. Ensign were renting and living on our hilly farm and their nephew Ray helped father clear some brush. However after two years Father gave up this farm and we moved back to the hills So we were going to Estonian school again

This time we didn't go into the log house, as Father bought and moved a newer log house from Mr Kandelen. This was moved from across the road from Saimi school onto the same knoll on which we used to live. Father made an upstairs on it and soon moved a bathhouse on the north side for a kitchen, and still later a log addition to the west side, for another bedroom. So as the family was growing so was the house and eventually we had a lot of room

It was about this time that radios were coming into the homes so Father bought a two-piece Westinghouse radio so we could listen to William Aberhart every Sunday afternoon. Mr and Mrs Nelson and Eunice Wells came often to hear him our place In 1929 Father sent Anne to the Bible Institute, which was now two years old, for one term. Ernest Manning was one of the teachers. Ina took grade ten in Eckville first riding horseback and then she boarded at Mr and Mrs Hopkins' She finished high school in Dickson

The winter of 1930 and 1931 was an open, mild and snowless winter Then in March it was hot and sultry The sky was red with clouds and smoke from forest fires west of Rocky Mountain House, so the sunshine was like a full eclipse At five o clock one afternoon a very fierce wind suddenly came up so you couldn't see any distance for dust and straw flying It turned into snow and snow fell for many days, making the month of March a real winter month. The following summer there was no wild fruit to pick

In 1933 Anne and Andrew Parkkari were married and living west of Innisfail in the Gordon school district. Then in 1935 they moved onto Mr and Mrs. Peter Nelson's quarter section

which they had purchased a year earlier. The farm location is SE 12-40-3-W5. Their son, Andrew Douglas, was born in October, 1937. In January 1945, their daughter, Nancy Ann was born.

In the fall of 1945 Mr. Lachlan Maclean began services in the neighborhood and the following year the church known as Sunshine Gospel Mission was built. In the spring of 1949 we attended church at Eckville in Covlin's home by the Church of the Nazarene, and a year later helped build that church in Eckville. The first pastor there was Russell Quantz, and two other brothers have also pastored there. We attended church there for 20 years.

Around this time brother Jack and friends Charlie and Art Bott and Gloria Lapp were heard on CKRD radio, singing western songs and hymns once a week for a year.

In 1939 there was a young minister, Alex Koski who came now and then to hold church services among the Finnish people and about this time also was a young lady, Jenny Ecola, who held services. There were other ministers for shorter periods of time.

Alex at first walked, then he got places with a bicycle and then by horseback. Eventually he graduated to an open car of antique vintage. Jenny Ecola graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College in 1940.

In October of 1956 Father was hospitalized and was there for two weeks before passing away on November 9. Four years later, in March, Mother passed away in 1961. Three years later Andrew passed away very suddenly on October 9, 1964. Anne sold the farm in 1972 moving to Sylvan Lake in May of 1973.

Ina and her husband, Art Lochrem, live at Eagle Hill, 18 miles west of Olds, and Jack and his wife, Barbara, live at Trout Creek Summerland, B.C.

**MacKENZIE, EDDON AND KATE — by [illegible]**

We were farming in the East Coulee district during the very dry years and our crops were very poor, so we decided to move to the Eckville district. On May 10, 1936 Simon, myself and our two small sons crossed on the ferry at East Coulee (we had waited two weeks for the ice to go). We loaded all our belongings in a big truck and started on our journey. There were only dirt trails at that time and it was very dark when we reached the Estonian School. The road was very wet from the spring runoff and we got stuck. We had to walk the rest of the way, carrying what bedding we needed and the two boys between us and the truck driver. It was quite a shock the next morning to see the sun shining through every crack in the walls of the shack that was to be our home. With the aid of our good friend, Joe [illegible] we got tar paper and lining for the inside and by fall we were very snug and ready for winter.

For the first while, it was very lonesome for me. I had never lived in the bush and had never been very far from home. One afternoon a knock came at the door and there stood two little girls. They greeted us and told us their names were Phyllis Palm (now Erickson) and Sylvia Mickelson. They said they just dropped in on their way home from school to welcome us to their district. It made us feel very welcome indeed. In a short while we got to know our closer neighbors and came to enjoy their wonderful [illegible] baths. It seemed everyone had one, as there was no plumbing in those days. At that time our neighbors were: the Lappe, Tolonens, Stenvigs, Newmans, Jack Wuori, Hoglunds, Luomalas, Parkkaris, Langers, Moos, Pontos, Palms, John Lepisto, Scowens, Andy Harvilow and August Piuso, s.

We were very busy as there were only 25 [illegible] cleared on our quarter. Simon, with the help of the boys and myself, cleared a lot by hand. He would grub the roots and fell the trees, cut the branches, which we would pile and then burn. These were good years, and we eventually added a girl and a boy to our family. The children all went to the Estonian School and after Grade 8, they were bused to Eckville. Simon was a blacksmith by trade and was able to make an [illegible] sharpening plow shares and axes. Money was [illegible] came the war and Simon was gone for five long years. I stayed on the farm and with the help of our good neighbors, and with the sewing circle to

[illegible]

help pass the time, we managed. We rented out the farm land but continued to milk cows and raise pigs. After the war things continued to be tough, but we were able to get a better house and more land, and raised our family until they were ready to be on their own

Duncan married Shirley Emmett and they have three children. They are now living in Calgary

Margie married Noel Stevenson. They have a boy and a girl, and are living just outside Red Deer

Bill and Dave took over the home place, and we are semi-retired, enjoying camping and fishing out west every chance we get We really have seen changes from 1936 to 1977 We now have paved roads, plumbing in all the houses, phones, two stores to buy groceries in Eckville, a hardware, drug store and the hope of a new hospital with there already being a lovely lodge for the senior citizens. All in all, Eckville has been a good place to live and raise a family

**MACKIE, GABRIEL**

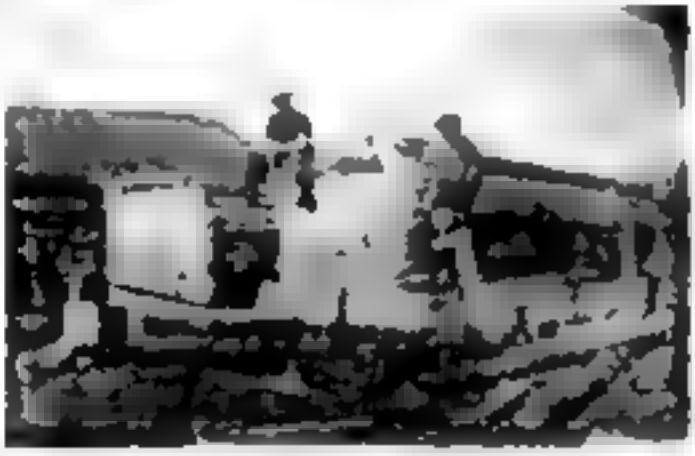
In 1905, Mr Gabriel Mackie arrived in Eckville from Butte Montana and after building a log cabin sent for his wife, daughter Katherine Lempi (who later married Pete Tolvanen) and infant son Bill They homesteaded on a farm four and one half miles northeast of Eckville in an area that was quite hilly, with lots of trees, and some sloughs Therefore, grain farming was limited and the main source of income came from dairy livestock, poultry and eggs. There was a good crop of hay from the marshlands bordering the sloughs and the wooded area made excellent pastures

Building of roads in this area was quite a problem especially near the sloughs, and the only way to keep vehicles from sinking out of sight was to build a road bed and then lay small logs across this and cover it with a shallow layer of soil This type of road was called corduroy

Bill was a proud owner of a new Model T Ford in the mid 1920's, Driving in that area was limited to dry weather only, because if it rained, it was impossible to get up the numerous hills and through the marshland areas

Bill also built his own radio set which was battery operated and had a loud speaker and was one of the very few residents to have one Consequently, Saturday evening was a good opportunity for the neighbors and friends to come over for a sauna, visit, and partake of coffee and goodies and listen to the unbelievable wonder of the radio. To the amusement of all it was able to bring in stations as far away as Salt Lake City (KSL) Denver (KOM) and Mexico on occasions

Gabriel Mackie Family Daughter Lempi Katherine Mackie Tolvanen Father Mackie and small daughter



Reino and Bill Mackie hauling one of logs

Another son Reino was born on the homestead in 1907 Both Mr and Mrs. Gabriel Mackie passed away in 1927 and Bill and Reino continued the farming operation Bill later decided to work as a carpenter until the early 1940's when he moved to Vancouver Island B.C. He later moved to Vancouver where he retired and still resides

Reino continued farming until the 1940's when he made the decision to sell the farm to Mr and Mrs. Mike Raaman and then moved to Vancouver While there, he married Flo Mitzner and they later retired to Vancouver where Reino passed away in 1973. Flo still resides in Vancouver

Arvie Mackie with Dorothy and Joey Taivassalo

**MADSEN, BOB AND HAZEL — by Hazel [illegible]**

We bought the Gilby Store in June 1974 and sold in September 1977 to go farming northeast of Rimbey

After Bob had worked 18 years for the city of Calgary, 11 as foreman we acquired a quarter section north of Leslieville in 1966 and farmed for five years

We have three girls which includes a set of twins. They are Pauline married to Neil Godlonton, who is with Calgary Power at Rimbey Their children are Travis, Troy and Karen. Charlotte is married to Lyle Attwood. They and their children, Brent and Trisha, live in Calgary Louise Schultheas also lives in Calgary

Standing alone on a country road was the Gilby Store. From this stemmed the friendly helpful and appreciated attitude of those who shopped there. Something only found in a rural

The most pleasing thing that comes to mind are the visits from people coming to the store They didn't rush in, buy something and rush out but would take a few minutes to chat with us Then there were the times there would be a meeting at Gilby Hall. Some early arrivals would gather, in the store, to wait for the hall to open. Winter would find them standing over the floor register to get warm. Often, when folks had visitors they would take time to bring them to the store and introduce them to us. Tourists, who stopped to shop, would always come to see us when in the vicinity There wasn't a day passed but the store was filled with laughter caused by someone's amusing anecdotes and experiences

[illegible] thought the world of We saw them as babies and by the time we left most of them were tall enough to show their beaming faces over the counter I've lost count of the number of babies I've had the pleasure of weighing on the scales. We were always pleased to give each new baby born a box of Pampers which was a delight to the mothers

Gilby Store was a gas station selling gas, bulk oil and propane. It was also a general store selling groceries, drugs, hardware and miscellaneous clothing We introduced novelties and T-shirts with 'GILBY' and a picture of an oil pump printed on them. These proved popular and we were told of a T-shirt being seen in Japan

The joy and pleasure we experienced the short while we ran Gilby Store, no words can explain

**MATHISEN, ALFRED**

Alfred Mathisen arrived in Canada in June of 1929. He worked for three years on the farms in central and southern Alberta He arrived in Eckville in the fall of 1932 Here he worked on the farm of John Moro

In 1933 Alfred married Amanda Moro, and they bought their first farm, S 21 40-3-W5 in 1934 from Edward Moro. To this they added later the NW 27 39-3-W5 and the NW 33-39-3-W5. They farmed until 1970, when they rented their farm and retired to Summerland, B.C. There they spend the summer months. The winter is spent in their home in Hawaii

**MATHISEN, ARNOLD AND SALME**

Arnold and Salme Mathisen immigrated to Canada from their native Estonia in the summer of 1937 After a brief stay in Mundare, Alberta, they came to the Eckville district in 1940. They bought a half section in the Lockhart district where they farmed for three years

In 1943, they came back to Eckville to their present farm the SW 22-40-3-W5 and NW 15-40-3-W5 purchased from Martin Gilbertson

Their two children, Tina and Rein grew up on this farm and both attended Eckville School and the U of A in Edmonton. Tina received her BA degree in History and later received a master of library science degree from McGill University, Montreal. She is presently employed as the head of Readers' Services with the National Museums [illegible] in Ottawa

[illegible] two high school years at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer and attended the U of A in Edmonton. He received his B.Sc and M.Sc degrees in civil engineering He is married and lives in Edmon[illegible]

Although retired from active farming, the [illegible]s still make their home on the farm

**MATTEUS, ADAM AND ANNA — by Erna Doig, a Daughter**

Adam and Anna Matteus were early pioneers of the Eckville district. Their lives began in Estonia, a small country on the Baltic Sea. The closest city was Tartu

Anna's father, a government forest warden was clubbed and robbed while delivering a

payroll. His team of horses turned the shay around on their own, and brought him home. He recovered consciousness, but never recovered from the blow. This left Maria Sonnotar a widow with five daughters and a son. Although she received a small government grant she was not able to raise all the children at home, and Anna was raised by foster parents. Because of her heritage she was entitled to four winters of schooling, and thus learned to read and write. That was a status that very few women hoped to attain in those times.

Adam was the oldest son of a land owner and was in line to inherit the land. He also was able to read and write. He had met Anna and decided she was to be his wife, so lost no time in courting and winning her hand. At 17 years of age Anna was married to Adam and began her married life in his crowded family home, a home that sheltered five other families. The land, about 12 acres, had every inch under cultivation to keep food on the table. Anna found it hard to adjust to this crowded life. She was a tiny woman, only four feet ten inches tall, but she was very courageous and determined not to let anything in life put her down.

At the turn of the century, on December 26, 1900, their first son was born. He was named August and two years later, on September 23, his brother Elmer was born. Adam had to leave his bride to finish two years of military service in Russia. This training was compulsory and there was no way to avoid it. Rumors of Russia preparing for war were the deciding factor in Adam's decision to immigrate to Canada. His military training would certainly require him to fight for Russia, and, as a peaceful farmer, he chose to take his family to the new land of plenty that his friend, Henry Kingsep, had chosen. Mr. Kingsep's glowing letters assured him that in Canada he could acquire a quarter section of free land from the government and that by making the improvements required would, in time, gain full title to the land with no cash payment involved.

In 1905 Adam, his wife and family, along with his sister Leene and her husband, August Piboo ,a, and their daughter Hilda made the ocean crossing. The sea was rough, there was sea sickness, poor food, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, and numerous quarrels and much bickering amongst the many nationals aboard. Still, the ocean voyage was something to live forever in their memories. Above all, land was the most welcome sight.

Setting foot on Canadian soil was a boost to their spirits and their hopes ran high as they crossed the vast continent by train to Red Deer. That was the terminal, the end of the steel. They were fascinated by the vast tracts of empty land, so different from Estonia, where a small plot was like a pot of gold.

The last 45 miles to Henry Kingsep's homestead was traveled in a hired ox cart. The new immigrants wondered how the driver could find his way, but he wound around forests of cottonwood and aspen, where here and there a wheel track showed. There were no roads.

Their first winter in Canada was spent with their friend. In the spring Adam found what he believed to be a suitable homestead. It turned out to be northeast of Gilby, but there was no Gilby there at that time. After making a makeshift shelter they spaded up enough land to have an ample garden. In that fresh, rich soil their garden responded well. By always working together they managed to dig a cellar where the vegetables could be stored for the winter.

On part of the homestead there were spruce and tamaracks and they cut down enough of the bigger timbers to build themselves a one-room cabin before winter set in again. The cabin had a sod roof and earthen floor and the logs were caulked with moss and clay. A stove was made of rocks, which were plastered with clay. This was used for cooking, heating and baking. A heavy table and a few benches were shaped from logs. Also the beds were shaped from logs and the pieces were held together with wooden dowels. The mattress bags were filled and stuffed plump with dried, fresh hay. To Adam and Anna this was luxury — a home of their own! It had taken work from the first gray streaks of dawn to the last sliver of light in the evening to accomplish the task, but they felt like a king and a queen.

In one corner sat a big barrel of sauerkraut, in the cellar enough root vegetables to put them through perhaps until the new potatoes came in next summer, some dried wild berries, and plenty of wild meat. Rabbits were so numerous they were easily snared along their runways. Grouse roosted in trees around the cabin and just after twilight, with a long pole, they could be knocked down and killed. Their meat was even more delicious than that of the domesticated chicken. Prairie chickens were even plumper and nicer eating but they were difficult to get, as they were more flighty, although they all had very little fear of man.

The most annoying creatures were the coyotes. There were so many of them it seemed like the forests around the cabin were filled with them. When they started howling at night they were weird and frightening. These slinky creatures stole one of Anna's three chickens from right under her nose. These three chickens and one rooster she was guarding almost with her life. She outwitted the coyotes by keeping the chickens within the rising walls of the cabin while it was being built. Even when the family moved in, the chickens had one corner of the cabin until they finished the coop, a dugout in a bluff shored with logs and made warm and coyote-proof. This was finished the first summer. For her efforts, Anna had twenty new chickens, which meant eggs on the table and some left over to sell.

That summer Adam made three trips on foot

to Red Deer, each time bringing back a 100 pound bag of flour, dried prunes, and leaf tobacco on his back. Anna was annoyed that he wasted packing space with his leaf tobacco, but there was man from Estonia and, since Adam enjoyed his smoking, she forgave him

That winter, even in the deep snow, they cleared an acre of land. In the spring they dug it up with spades and sowed it to rye. After the garden was sown Adam went to Banff to work on a canal. Anna, with the two boys, gathered in a wood pile large enough to do for the coming winter, tended the garden, and raised more chickens.

Anna was afraid of the roving bands of Indians. Her contact with them came much later when she had a cow and was milking. Three little brown faces were watching her from behind a bush. She gave them a bucket of milk, and they vanished like comets. Next time they came back with a bucket of berries in exchange for milk. The Indians never harmed her.

In the fall Anna harvested the rye, cutting it down with a hand scythe and binding it with straw into small sheaves. When the sheaves were dry and cured, she pounded the kernels out. She removed the chaff by holding a basket of grain high over her head and shaking it out in small amounts. The wind blew away the chaff and the clean kernels fell on a bed sheet, then gathered up to use. The yield was good, but the work was horrendous!

Adam returned from work in Banff with a team of oxen and a two-wheeled cart, also a metal plow share. Now instead of just hand tools and human muscle, there was oxen power, a promise for a faster move forward on the farm.

As the number of animals increased, so did the family, with the following additions. Linda, born November 7, 1907, Felix, born in November, 1909. Erna, born in April 1911. Arnold, born July 22, 1912, Herbert, born on June 13, 1916, and on April 22, 1922 a son, Robert. All these births took place without a doctor.

With more mouths to feed and the need for hay for the livestock, in 1910 Adam purchased a quarter section of land with the Medicine River flowing and winding through it. Another house was built — this time a three-room log dwelling with two rooms for living and the third for storage and a pantry. A slab-board floor and shingle roof — this provided a house that did the family until after World War I.

It was an early and accepted custom that anyone could claim a hay meadow on unoccupied land by cutting the first swath of hay around it. Henry Kinna, living just down the river from Adam, had cut a swath around every meadow. Cutting was done by hand with a scythe and Henry couldn't cut all the hay he had claimed. This made Adam angry, so he bought the land even though it meant two places to work and the farms were two miles apart as the crow flies.

For Anna this division was a strain that sapped her health. Carting the little ones back and forth between the two properties and leaving the older children to fend for themselves throughout the day meant both hardship and heartache. There were still no roads, no real bridges, just the raw wilderness and the rich soil waiting to be broken and cultivated.

The Estonian immigrants settled mainly along the banks of the Medicine River Valley. It was a very close-knit, co-operative settlement, and, working hand in hand, their accomplishments were many. Despite the struggle to survive, education was a top priority. Carl Langer donated the land for the first school from his centrally located farmland. With collective efforts the schoolhouse was built — a large classroom complete with cloak rooms and a teacher's room. Homemade desks and a wood and coal heater were installed and a water fountain that had to be filled each day from the hand pump in the schoolyard. So intense was the interest in education that a pact was made that each family should try to educate one child as a teacher. Their efforts in this commitment were outstanding. Six of the founding families did produce a teaching member, among them August, the first born son of Adam and Anna.

The next co-operative effort was the pioneer Estonian Hall. This was to become the centre for social events.

At Christmas time an ale was brewed from dried bread crumbs, sugar, raisins, and other ingredients. Every family brought something, baking of all sorts, and a must was the glazed braided bread and huge rings of boiled blood sausages. Some small gifts and apples were passed out by Santa to all the children. These were all great luxuries.

At Easter egg boxing was the custom. The person with the hardest-shelled egg who broke the most eggs was the winner. This was done with beautifully decorated eggs.

After August became a teacher he changed the Bible name of Matteus from the Estonian spelling to Matthews, the English spelling. After that the growing family became known as the Matthews family.

Besides teaching, August tuned pianos and taught singing to the school children. Among his activities he had two prize-winning stories accepted by "True Story", a MacFadden

Elmer was inventive. He made a water wheel on the river with a long drive shaft that turned his mother's washing machine. He built a phonograph that earned him the nickname of Mr. Edison". He also made his own radio when radios first came into the country. His biggest community service was the barbed wire phone system he installed.

All of the Matthews family were ill in the epidemic of 1918, but there were no deaths in the family.

In 1920 August and Elmer went to Nordegg to

work in a lumber camp. Pooling their earnings from this along with their father's, the new and permanent home was built. A full basement two storey structure was finished in time for Robert to be born in. In 1922. He was the last child in the family of eight children, and this home served all of the family until they left home.

Anna's mother still in Estonia lived to the ripe old age of 96 years, outliving all of her family with the exception of Anna. Anna had hoped to bring her to Canada, but there was never the money to spare. Anna, worn out with work, was laid to rest at the age of 56 years, in the Gilby cemetery.

Adam remained a widower and sold the home farm to his son Arnold. He lived out his remaining years with his youngest son, Robert, and his family in Eckville. At the age of 78 years Adam was laid to rest beside his wife in the Gilby cemetery where so many of the brave and courageous pioneers rest.

**MATTHEWS, HERBERT WILFRED**

Herbert Wilfred Matthews was born at Gilby, Alberta in June 1918 where he grew up on the family farm.

In August 1941, he was united in marriage to Estelle May Mason who was born at Hespero, Alberta, in September 1924. To this union were born six children. Shirley Yvonne May was born in August 1942, married Leonard Joseph Dinning in August 1964. Leonard was born in Drumheller in March 1924. They have three children, Barrie Adam, Leonard James and Paul Joseph. They reside in Edmonton.

Bobbie Wilfred was born at Dawson Creek B.C. in November 1943. He married Johanna Wilhemina Vanderpolder in April 1972. They were divorced in 1972 and Bobbie married Debra Reber in Edmonton, in June, 1973. They have two children Tina Louise and Tanya Ann. They reside at Busby, Alberta.

Barrie Chester Adam was born at Rocky Mountain House in September 1945 and deceased in December 1945.

Sharon Janet was born at Red Deer, Alberta, in September 1947. She married Gerald Arthur Kochli in Edmonton in August 1975. Gerald was born at Daysland, Alberta, in August 1941. They have one daughter Corinne Sharon and reside at Nisku, Alberta.

Brian Garry was born at Red Deer in December 1948 and is engaged to Darlene Marion Waldren. He resides at Lacombe. Gail Eileen was born at Lacombe in December 1958. She married Gary Robert White in September 1977. Gary was born at Hardisty, Alberta. They presently reside at Mulhurst, Alberta.

Herbert Wilfred worked on road construction for the County of Lacombe for several years and passed away in March 1974. Estelle resides in Lacombe, Alberta.

**MEMORIES OF THE PIONEER ESTONIAN SCHOOL — by Mrs. John M. Tipman**

The Estonian School, in the Municipal District of Lacombe, came into existence because of the need of the children of the majority of the Estonian-speaking pioneers who had settled by the Medicine River. Their older children were already nearing their teens and had had no schooling whatever, as there had been no school close by. So, in order to have their children educated and learn the language of Canada, that is English, a school had to be built. A suitable spot was selected in the middle of the community and a school was built in 1910. It was an oblong frame building of lumber, painted blue-gray on the inside and the outside. The school room area was on the east side lengthwise, and the three anterooms, and entrance door were on the west side of the building. The outside door led into the central anteroom and the girls' cloakroom was on the left of this and the boys' cloakroom on the right. But, alas! The boys' cloakroom became the bed-sitting room of the teachers for the first few years. The pioneer homes were too small to provide a "room" suitable for the teacher. He slept and lived at the school and had his meals at the home of a nearby farmer, Mr. Stenvig.

Maybe it is not amiss, at this point, to mention that an additional room was added to the north end of the building in 1920 to form a two-roomed school. Here grades seven to ten were taught for a few years. Later these higher-grade children were taken by school van to Eckville High.

The school room was furnished by wooden homemade double desks, the desk tops were painted black and the seats yellow. The desk tops contained two inkwells — one for each pupil — and below it was a compartment for books. The first heater was a long barrel-like affair, lengthwise on the floor and capable of burning three-foot-long spruce logs. Later on an upright school furnace, with a round metal shield was provided for the school. A one-pail water fountain, with a push-button tap, provided drinking water. This was a delight to us children. Everyone, whether thirsty or not, wanted to push the button and drink the spurting water. The blackboards were just that — boards painted black, with a trough for chalk.

The majority of the children who started their schooling here were children of the Estonian pioneers — hence the name, "Estonian School". Those attending were the Koots, the Kinnas, the Kingseps, the Langers, the Matteus, (later spelled Matthews), the Moros, the Moos', the Postis, the Pihoojas, and Raabis' — all of Estonian lineage. There were two families of Norwegians, the Stenvigs and the Gilbertsons, one family of English, the Dekkers; and also one family of Finns, the Hills.

The first couple of years there was school only during the four summer months, due to the scar-

city of qualified teachers. Only University students were available as teachers during the summer months. Later some of the University

time passed on, the full ten-month school year was established

The first children who arrived at the Estonian School were bare-foot boys and girls, fresh for their new adventure in life. It was a wonderful adventure as new friendships were formed where no companions had been available before. It did not matter that they couldn't speak with each other, they could hold hands and run and point to a flower, grass or tree, and each would say it in their own language, then each would repeat the other's word and laugh. What a wonderful feeling, just to have someone of another language to share his feelings with you.

It was said that teachers were hard to find for a pioneer school where the children did not know a word of English. Who would like to grapple with the extra problem of the language barrier in teaching? But the first teachers we did get to teach the Estonian school were wonderful. They were resourceful, patient, and had a sense of humour and were very understanding of us.

For our first day of our school we carried only our "lard pail" lunch bucket, a slate, and a slate pencil. The teacher was a tall young man wearing a "suit" and the whitest of white shirts, topped with a red colored tie. His hair was parted on one side and neatly combed. His outward appearance had an electrifying effect on every boy because from that day forward they became conscious that they, too, had hair. Strenuous efforts were made by them to comb their unruly locks into place just like the teacher's, and to be clean like him. To us girls he was from a different world and we wondered if we would ever be part of this outside world.

School days, school days, the golden rule days, taught to the tune of a hickory stick." It seemed that this rule did not apply in this early Estonian school. There was only one rule: Learn English during school hours and on the play ground. We left the room quietly without asking permission, if nature requested, but hurried back so as to miss nothing. Thirst was quenched at the fountain. We lacked the words for asking permission. None of the children ever

its appearance except as a "pointer" for words or numbers. The days for us were "Golden".

Now to the actual teaching and learning. Believe it or not, our very first text book was the Eaton Catalogue, and a very good text book it was for that purpose. It had words and pictures of people, clothes, rooms with furniture, curtains, dishes, clocks, horses, harness, sleighs and wagons, houses, barns, and paints. All words and pictures were eagerly absorbed by our receptive minds and repetition etched it permanently there. The whole school repeated each word in unison and then singly. Finally back to our seats to draw on our slates the object and to write the correctly spelled word beside it. The slates were perfect for such work as errors could easily be corrected. Our vocabulary grew by leaps and bounds — it was thrilling to know how many words we learned in a day.

The sentence-building came later and this was more difficult. Our teacher made us act out [illegible]. For example, the child would go and sit on a chair and say "I am sitting on a chair." This acting out each sentence was fun. If some of the children didn't understand the English word, for example "open", the teacher asked for the Estonian word for it. He repeated the word "lahti" after the pupil. His accent often made us laugh and he laughed with us, too. Thus a kinship of understanding and mutual respect grew between teacher and pupil. After sentence building we progressed to the Alexander Readers and then we were on our way.

To further expand our vocabulary the early teachers took the whole school on excursions to the woods, meadows and lakesides. Here we learned to recognize the different types of trees and learn their names. The meadows provided a profusion of wild flowers of every shape, size and color and each with a pretty name. By the lakeside the wild birds were bountiful. We found

woodpeckers, red winged blackbirds, robins, snipes, and hawks. The school room possessed a chart, in beautiful colors, of the common wild birds of Alberta. This chart was scrutinized thoroughly after each field trip and the book of wild flowers was examined with care. These

we saw, but also a deep respect for plant and animal life.

During the first years our teachers were young men. Then we had a "Lady Teacher". This was a surprise and honor to us. We girls admired her to no end. We aspired to owning

with pleats, that opened so beautifully as she

When she taught us girls "hair care" and presented each one of us with a length of red ribbon for our hair we felt we had risen in self respect. Last but not least, we aspired to have a knowledge like hers. But the boys went one step further than us girls, and this irked us because we hadn't thought of it before. They washed their bare feet at the pump before coming into class. We asked the boys why they did this. The reply was, "No one goes before a lady with dusty feet." Believe it or not, we girls were not to be outdone by the boys. We asked the boys to pump water so we too, could wash our faces and bare feet before we entered the school room. There were no towels in the school in those days, so all of us boys and girls dried our wet feet by standing on a poplar log like birds in a row, and let the wind do the work. Cold water and wind caused chapping

of the hands and feet but this condition was easily remedied by applying "sweet sour cream" sparingly on our sores every evening. This treatment stung, but who cared? Fresh unsalted butter rubbed on our hands also kept them soft.

The winter months brought the added problem of something hot for lunch. The teacher solved the problem of hot drink by providing hot water and the children were to bring their "tea". Bought tea was hard to get but the teacher was surprised to learn how many different native teas we had. There was camomile and caraway tea made from dried wild seeds of these plants, mint tea, made from dried wild mint leaves and raspberry tea made from the wild raspberry plant. All of these teas were very tasty, but caraway tea became the favorite.

One of the teachers taught us to play checkers during the cold weather, as blackboard games used up too much chalk. Soon the schoolroom boasted of handmade checkerboards of stiff brown building paper, marked by the right colored squares -- the checkermen were colored stiff paper squares, or buttons. This game was really enjoyed by older and younger children alike. After a sitting game like this there followed a fast game of "Pussy Wants A Corner", with the school-room windows open. Or if there was untrodden snow outside, a fast game of "Fox and Geese" was played.

The teachers not only followed the school curriculum but aroused our interest in other fields, such as love of classical literature during our story hours, interest in travel, by telling about their travels or stories about countries they read about. They taught us patriotic, Christmas, Easter and Folk songs to foster our love of singing. We learned how the debate system was used in Parliament, and we often debated on topics familiar to us. Group games in which all participated taught us the importance of fair play, and honor was the aim.

Thus, in six years these Estonian school children had learned to speak English, had covered their eight years of schooling, and were ready to write grade VIII examinations in Red Deer. Some left school without obtaining a diploma, but from this first crop of pioneer children emerged teachers, storekeepers, and flour and lumber millers. Even a baker and a lady doctor had received a partial year's training in the Estonian School.

**MICKELSON, AUGUST**

August Mickelson was born in Madan, North Dakota, U.S.A. of Finnish parents. At an early age he moved to Manyberries, Alberta with his parents, Matt and Katrina and family in 1910.

In 1920, August was united in marriage to Lempi Luopa, for a short time living in the Manyberries District.

August and Lempi moved to the Eckville District in 1926, buying the John Ness homestead, NE 7-40-2-W5. Their family consisted of Frances, Albert, Ella, John, Sylvia, George, Marvin (deceased), Alan and Nita.

Lempi passed away in the spring of 1947 and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. August lives on his home in Eckville, and is enjoying his retirement.

**CASSIMER MOOS FAMILY**

Cassimer Moos emigrated from Switzerland to Montana U.S.A. in 1893. In 1906 he made the trip to Canada with horse and wagon, settling on NW¼ 13-38-2-W5 northeast of Eckville.

Mrs. Lily Molkov emigrated from Estonia as a widow with her two-year-old son, Fred, to live with her sister Mrs. Perler in 1908. Mrs. Perler lived north of Eckville. The following year Cassimer and Lily were married, and in 1910 a son, Hans, was born to them.

They later purchased and moved to NE 4-40-3-W5, which remained their home for many years. Cassimer worked very hard clearing land by hand and working on the railroad with his team of horses. In 1912, when the first Co-operative was formed, he was one of the first directors.

Life gradually became easier. The coming of the telephones in 1917 made life in the country more pleasant. By 1920 they were able to buy their first car -- a 490 Chevrolet touring car. About 1923 Cassimer bought his first tractor. This was a Fordson, which he obtained from a farmer living on the McCreight place. Three years later a gas-powered Rumley threshing machine was purchased in Calgary. These machines helped to make farming easier, so, in 1918 SE-3-40-3-W5 was added to the farm. A few years later the E½ of 33-39-3-W5 was bought.

from the C P R. In 1918 a new house was built and this home is still being used.

Raising sheep was a way of life for the Moos family and there was the wool to card and knitting and quilting to be done. In those days settlers had to go to Red Deer and Lacombe to a doctor or dentist and for the necessary shopping. Since Cassimer had a team of horses, he was able to make the trip in one day. He often gave a lift to neighbors who needed to go, or did some shopping for them.

The boys attended school at Estonian School and as their mother boarded several of the teachers, their attendance was usually very good. Some of these teachers were Miss Benedictson, Mrs. Priestly, Mr. Smith, Mr. Li[illegible]e and Mr. J. M. McDonald. In 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Moos chose a sister for the boys. Her name was Elsie.

[illegible]

These were the years when everyone was a hunter, and Lily tells of the boys using a shotgun on a mouse which they saw crossing the kitchen floor. Entertainment was of the kind that people could make for themselves. Drama clubs were organized, and their productions were shown at various schools and halls. The annual Christmas concert was the highlight of the year in each community, and everyone, from baby to Grandma attended or took part in it. Mrs. Moos often sang "I Love a Little Cottage" and "Smiling Through" to the accompaniment of Miss Benedictson. Elsie took piano lessons from this teacher and Freddie took violin lessons from a Mr. Warbeton. Estonian gatherings, which sometimes lasted as long as a week, were held in the early summer. Each summer they visited a different district, such as Gilby, Stettler, Barons, Peace River, etc. Even the Saturday night steam baths were an occasion for visiting.

In 1930 Fred married Mary Beliecka and moved to his farm one-half mile south of the home place. They had two sons, Donald and Leonard, and a daughter, Jennine. Fred later moved to Eckville for retirement, and passed away there on April 13, 1973.

Elsie married Toimi Tolonen on April 19, 1937

Cassimer Moos with daughter-in-law Mary and his horses

and they lived on his farm three miles east. They have a son, Rodney, and a daughter, Deloyce.

Hans carried on with the family farm, adding another quarter in 1929. In 1933 he and Nora Takkinen were married, and they have two sons, Clarence and Edward, and a daughter, Dianna. Hans was able to buy a larger threshing machine, with an Allis Chalmers powering it. For several years he did custom threshing, and the season sometimes lasted as long as forty days. He had purchased a new Ford V-8 car to take his bride on their honeymoon.

A rubber tired tractor was soon added to the farming equipment, and in 1936 he bought a haystacker, which helped to make the job of putting up hay a little easier. It was in this year too that the new barn was built. It was hard to hire men to work on the farms during the war years, so often girls were hired to do the housework in order that the wives could help with the outside farm work. Grain combines first appeared in the district in 1939, a Case pull-type machine for Hans and Masseys for Pete Moro and Harry Thomas.

When the electricity came to Eckville in 1942 Hans bought a 32-volt Delco power plant from Oswald Umarl. This made life on the farm much brighter", and the installation of running water and indoor plumbing a year or so later further helped to make life more pleasant and con[illegible]

Highlights over these busy years were the arrival of Hans and Nora's three children, Clarence in 1934, Edward in 1935, and Dianna in 1938. "All work and no play" was not the rule in the Moos household. Hans and Nora both took part in curling, square dancing, drama clubs, hunting, and blue-berry picking. Hans spent 15 years, from 1959 until 1974, as councillor, first for the M.D. and then for the County of Lacombe. As the family grew up, more land was bought (N½

7-40-W2) and in 1955, when Clarence married Maira Korhonen, the young couple made their home at this location, since Clarence had decided to follow in his father's footsteps and be a farmer. However, they lived with the folks for almost two years, before they were able to build their own house. They have a son, Jerry, and a daughter, Lorraine.

Eddie married Shirley Raabis in 1958 although at the time, he was working on oil rigs. He later came home and started farming in partnership with his dad. A trailer was moved into the yard for their living accommodations. They have five children — Lane, Derek, Sandra, Brenda, and Wesley. The boys are now old enough to help their father a great deal on the farm.

Dianna was married to Keith Misner in 1959 and they moved to Keith's farm located in the Bingley, Alberta area. Their three children are Darrell, Delores, and Donald. Keith lost his life in an accident in 1967. Dianna and the children then moved back home to live with her parents.

In 1963 Hans and Nora built a new house on the farm. They enjoyed living in it until 1971, at which time they bought a house in Eckville and retired there. Retirement for Nora has meant work in her yard and garden, and the curling season keeps her especially busy. The Friendship Club, TOPS, and Hospital Auxiliary activities all get a share of her time. She is a regular visitor at the Eckville Manor House. Hans spends a lot of time at the farm, and sometimes gets in some fishing and hunting. He and Nora usually make at least one trip each summer to B.C. to get fruit while it is in season there. And thus they spend their "retirement".

**MOOS, FREDRICK JOHN (MALKOV) — by Rose Henrickson**

Fred came to Canada as a small boy with his widowed mother in 1909 at two years of age. They lived with an aunt, Mrs. Perler, until the time his mother married Cassimer Moos. After her marriage they moved to the N.E. ¼ 4-40-3-W5. He grew up on the farm with a brother, Hans, and a sister, Elsie, and farmed with his parents until his marriage to Mary Betukka in 1930. He then moved to farm the E ½ 33-39-3-W5.

In 1933 Fred and Mary had a son, Donald, and in 1935 another son, Leonard, was born, followed by a daughter, Jennine, in 1937.

While farming Fred also operated a trucking business, hauling grain, fuel from Turner Valley, railroad ties to Rocky Mountain House during the winter months, and many other things. Later he moved to Eckville where he held the position of agent for the Searle Elevator for a number of years. After leaving the elevator he took over well drilling from Kerch Bros. and drilled wells in Eckville and the surrounding district. In 1946 he returned to the farm, with his two sons and a housekeeper, Rose Henrickson, and her sma nephew, Perry. While farming he opened and operated the United Farmers of Alberta Service station, along with the Case farm machinery dealership. He worked part-time for Eckville Mutua. Telephones then became a steam engineer at the Bowden Institution until 1969. At his time he had a heart attack, and was unable to work after that.

The farm was rented out for some years. He moved to Eckville in May 1970 to Grannie Moos former home, which Rose Henrickson still occupies. The farm was sold in 197.

Fred passed away on April 3, 1973, leaving to mourn his loss sons, Don of Edmonton and Leonard of Red Deer, his daughter, Jennine, and nephew, Perry of Red Deer, and Rose of Eckville.

Don married Evelyn Hohnstein and their children are Kelvin, Donna and Janice. Leonard married Freda Nelson, who have four children — two daughters, Arlene and Joyce, and two sons, Ralph and Donald. Jennine married Bud Armstrong. They have three daughters — Debra, Danet, and Dalleen. Later she married George Johanson and they have one son, Bret.

**MORO, JOHN — by Edward Moro**

My parents, John and Anna Moro were part of the first pioneers in the Eckville district.

My father, mother and three children, Peter, eight, Amanda, six, and Edward, four, arrived in Canada from Estonia in 1905. We came to Red Deer by train. From there we traveled by horse and wagon along trails as there were no roads. We settled on a homestead about five miles northwest from the present location of the Eckville village.

We were fortunate that my uncle — Karl Moro — had come to Canada two years ahead of us so we were able to stay with him and his family until our father got our one room loghouse built. To start with living was very primitive. We had a dirt floor, sod for a roof which was not rain-proof. Since there was no source of income, father went to work for the C.P.R. west of Calgary. In the meantime, we had to do with what was available. There was an abundance of fish in the river, also rabbits and prairie chickens in the bush. The only groceries we used to get from the store were — sugar, salt, flour and soap. We also had a cow and a garden plot.

When father returned he was able to buy oxen and other equipment to clear the land. The clearing of the land was hard work and we all had to pitch in. When a few acres were cleared, the breaking was done with the oxen. Also any traveling and hauling was done with the oxen. It took several days to make a trip to Red Deer and back.

In 1912 we were able to build our first three bedroom house. In 1914 when the 1st World War began times were still hard. However, by 1918 farmers had horses and cattle, more land was cleared and we were able to grow more grain. Grain prices had improved. Milking cows was

also a good source of income. Milk was hauled to the local cheese factory. By that time many farmers were able to buy their first automobiles. As far as schools were concerned, most of the pioneers' children had to walk many miles to a country school in any kind of weather.

Our social life was quite lively. We used to get together at Sam and Henry Kiesa's farm. An Estonian society was started by the group. We also had a library.

At present, my wife and I are retired and live in Summerland, British Columbia.

Peter bought the N 27-40-3-W5 from his Uncle Karl and the NW 26-40-3-W5, Hudson Bay Land. The Peter Moro family lived on the NW 26 until their retirement to Eckville.

**MOTTUS, GUSTAV (1888-1977)**

One of the early pioneers of the Eckville-Gilby area, Gustav Mottus in 1910 came by boat to New York City at the age of 21 years from Semerpallo, near Verro, Estonia. He left behind in Estonia his mother Mav Sark Mottus, (his father, Peter Mottus had passed away), sister Katherine and brothers John, Jacob and Paul.

Gustav, or Gust or Gus, as he was known to his friends, said that the ship was an old wooden one, and very crowded, and how he and another immigrant, Hugo Mottus (no relation) would spend the nights capturing the rats and throwing them overboard.

After working in New York State for a few months, he, along with Hugo, the friend he met on the boat, came to Canada to work on an Estonian farm west of Gilby. They wanted to get off at Lacombe but it was not until the train had already reached south Edmonton that they realized they had gone too far! Nothing to do but walk back the 75 miles! They followed the railway tracks, and slept in the ditches at night.

After working on the farm west of Gilby, Gus worked for the town of Red Deer digging ditches for the sewer lines. He thought nothing of walking along rough trails out from Red Deer to Eckville to visit friends, mainly a young lady named Linda Saar Kingsep, and back to Red Deer, a distance of 45 miles, each way.

Gus's brothers, Jacob and Paul, and sister Katherine came from Estonia to join him and together they homesteaded in Risula, about six miles west of Gilby. They cleared the land by hand, because the land was very hilly; they raised wheat where possible on the flat plateaus. There was a beautiful brook at the back of the house with watercress and lady's slipper growing on the banks. A sauna was built beside the brook to take advantage of the fresh, clear, running water.

Gus was never to see his mother and his brother again.

In 1917 Gust married the young lady he had been visiting in the Eckville area. Linda was also from the Estonian community in the area. Their

son Edward Rudolph (Rudy) was born there in Risula the following year.

Around that time Gust purchased from the C.P.R. a quarter section of land NW 23-40-3-5 at the other end of the Medicine Valley, about eight miles to the east. He built a log house (which was added to in stages), and in 1923 twin daughters Emma and Elsie, were born there. Grandmother Kingsep was the midwife and the three pound babies were placed in the oven of the wood stove to keep warm.

Gus's brother Paul and sister Katherine (Katy) remained on the Risula homestead. His brother Jacob, was killed on the homestead by a grinding wheel which flew loose while he was sharpening his ax.

On the C.P.R. quarter section Gust now made his home. He cleared the land by hand and with horses. It was gently rolling land and Gust raised wheat, getting something like 32c a bushel. He had five horses to pull the plough, disc, harrow, binder, etc., and the horses were taken care of by Gust with great devotion.

Linda would milk cows and sell thick cream at a little over $2 a big can, and raise and sell strawberries and raspberries.

Preparing the land for the seed grain in the spring would require walking behind the 10 foot wide, horse pulled, harrow — dusty, tiring work in the cold March winds, when there were about 200 acres to criss-cross by foot.

As with other pioneers, Gust had to be very inventive in his farm repair work. He had a blacksmith shop, which was used often for all sorts of ingenious repairs to the farm machinery.

Travelling in summer would be by Model T, a very stylish one with curtains, over dirt roads, which caused much aggravation by becoming muddy when it rained.

In the winter travel was by a team of horses hitched to a big sleigh. Gus would heat a nice big rock in the oven for an hour or two, then wrap it in blankets and put it in the sleigh to keep feet warm. There would be a cushion of straw covered with blankets to sit on. Coming home from a late visit or dance in the Estonian or Gilby Community halls, the stars and the Northern Lights would be very bright and you could hear the crunch of crisp snow under the runners of the sleigh.

Social Credit was the big new political party with Premier Aberhart and then Premier Manning. The party was to remain in power for 35 years, so there was a young generation of Albertans who had known no other political party in power.

In the 1950's Gus and Linda left the farm and lived in the town of Eckville, leaving their son, Rudy, to take care of the farm.

When Linda passed away in 1967, Gus lived in a Senior Citizen's Home in Rocky Mountain House and then moved to one in Red Deer. He was very happy in these homes and lived in great comfort until he passed away in 1977.

**MOTTUS, RUDY EDWARD — by Myrtle Patapoff**

On March 11, 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Mottus had a baby son — Rudy. They were living on a farm north of Withrow at that time. Later on when Rudy was six years old they moved to the NW 23-40-3W5 in the Gilby district. Rudy along with his twin sisters Elsie and Emma took all his schooling at the Estonian School. He stayed on the family farm and helped his dad farm. Rudy trained in the Army at Red Deer in November and December of 1936. He did not go into service overseas as his dad was in poor health and he was needed at home.

February 16, 1939, Rudy was married to Myrtle Solberg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Solberg of Bentley. They lived on the farm with his parents until Mr. and Mrs. Mottus retired to live in Eckville.

Rudy worked at the Eckville Hospital from 1956 to 1964 as their maintenance man. He also was on the supervisory committee for the Eckville District Credit Union for three years. He served on the Estonian school board in the late 1940s.

Five children were born — Arnold now married to Vera Kind and living in Red Deer, has a son Robert and a daughter Kathy; Jean is married to Joe Maki and they live at Hespero. They have two children, a son Stephen and a daughter Lori. Helen is married to Les Davenport. They live in Calgary and have two children, a son Ryan and a daughter Joanne. Cheryl and Angela at home.

Rudy passed away very suddenly on October 2, 1965.

On July 3, 1966 I married Bill Patapoff — born April 17, 1925 at Coaldale, Alberta. He served overseas in the army for four years. He is a head operator at the Gilby Texaco Gas Plant. Bill had five children. Valerie is married to Norman Anderson. They live at Bentley and have two children, Brant and Troy. Debbie at home. Susan is married to Richard Merrifield. They live at Fox Creek and have two children, Jason and Sherri. Nancy deceased October 19, 1976. Douglas lives at Sangudo, Alberta.

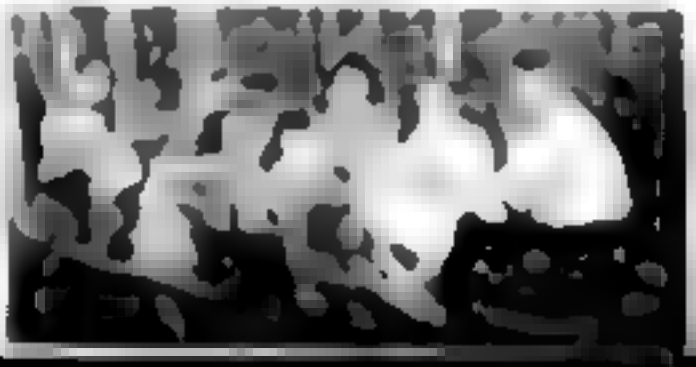
**JAMES AND MARGARET NELSON — by Leona Tisk, (A Daughter)**

The depression, years of dryness, and hail for three successive years forced many families to leave home, farm, and friends for more promising areas. Such were the reasons for Jim, Margaret and their four children, Donald, Douglas, Dean and Leona, coming from Stettler to the Gilby area in the fall of 1938. Jim worked for a few years for his brother-in-law, Carl Westergard, at the Gilby store. He also worked in logging camps during winter months to supplement the family income. Margaret taught at the Medicine Valley School from 1939 to 1942.

About this time they purchased the Kiuna Neuman quarter-section (SE 23-40-3-W5), which has been "home" ever since. Mom taught at

the years of quilting bees, making packages for soldiers and so on. I don't remember the work — just the fun of visiting and having friends come to see us. Because there was no church near on Friday afternoons, Mrs. Mackenzie, Granny Hoglund, Faye Hoglund and mom had Sunday School in the Estonian School.

In September of 1946, mom took over the Grade five to eight class at Dickson. Don and Doug were now in high school and Dickson offered grades one to 12, and a teacherage. By this time David and I had helped to round out our family to a happy half-dozen. Each weekend, holiday and summer found us back at Eckville helping dad on our farm and taking a part in the community we called "home." One of the most important areas of our involvement was the Sunshine Gospel Mission, just one and a half miles south of our home, where Mr. L. Macleas met with people of the community in a service each Sunday afternoon. The Christmas concerts and summer picnics were truly memorable events, involving much planning and organizing.



I'm sure. I remember how nicely everyone was dressed, how excited and happy they were, and, of course, the scrumptious food, candy bags and

Home was always a place for friends- baseball games followed by corn feasts, or skiing or tobogganing parties in the winter. Chiefly, however, our neighbours made our area a good one to put our roots down. Our beloved mom passed away on April 14, 1956 and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Dad remains on the home quarter. He has retired from farming and hunting, but keeps busy tending his house and yard, fishing and visiting. Don is a member of the RCMP. He married Eunice Petersen of Dickson. They have three children Brian, Brenda and Bruce and are presently stationed at Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Doug is an aeronautic engineer. He married Bernice Thorkman, daughter of Charles and Sylvia Thorkman of Eckville, and has three children Phillip, Timothy and Kelly. They live in Calgary, Alberta.

Dean is a Major in the Canadian Armed Forces. He married Joyce Sherwood from Unity, Saskatchewan. They have three children Darlene, James and Deanna and are now stationed at Ottawa, Ontario.

Leorna is a registered nurse. She married Dale Cave, originally from the Stauffer area. They have four children Carl, Lorna, Wesley, Grant and live at Eckville.

Lorna received her B.Ed. from the University of Alberta and teaches in Eckville. She married Verral Tink, originally from Lesliеville. They have two children Garry and Gregory and live at Gilby.

David works for Bell Telephones and lives in Hanover, Ontario. He married Nancy Groh of Barrie, Ontario and has two children Daniel and [redacted].

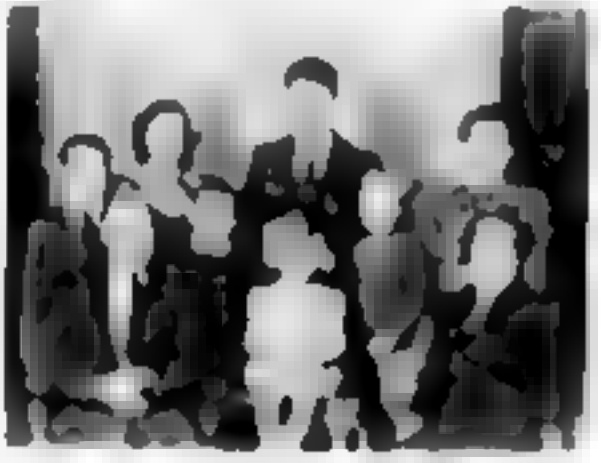
**BILL PALM SR. FAMILY**

William and Irene Palm were married September 2, 1924 in Red Deer, Alberta. Irene was the former Irene Johanson, the fourth daughter of Eric and Anna Johanson of Bentley. They set up their first home on the Leukonia farm, which was sold to Gust Juuti in a short time. That fall they moved to Palm Bay, on the north end of Sylvan Lake. This was their home for the next one and a half years. Their first son Harold, was born here in 1925.

In 1926 the family moved to the C.P.R. land known later as the Brattberg home, in the Boyle district. During the next three years the family increased to include Leo, born in 1926; Phyllis born in 1927; and Thelma, born in 1929. At this time, Bill started a small sawmill, using a stationary engine. Then, by borrowing $50 from Fred Erickson with an agreement to repay this by doing grinding in return, Bill acquired a Moline tractor from Hans Rangen. This had a five-horse-power Fairbanks Morse upright engine. Bill now operated a larger scale sawmill. Rough spruce and poplar lumber sold for $10 a thousand.

The spring of 1930 was the next move to the present Rodney Tolonen farm, SE 18-40-2-W5. Over the next few years Bill cleared and broke all the acres of land on these three quarters. The family helped by picking roots. While Bill and Irene lived at Palm Bay they had Everitt Makela build them a log house, marked each log, moved these to their new location and then reconstructed their house in its original way. The house was of open construction, with no partitions. The ceiling and floor were made of green lumber purchased from Carl Hilstad. This shrunk, and they eventually were five boards short. An owl even found its way in but couldn't find its way out. The floor was the first ship-lap floor around the neighborhood. The roofing was of birch bark. This curled, then leaked. roof had to be shingled by Elmer K[redacted] Belaka. The steambath or sauna, was built by Ilo Maki. Saturday nights were traditional gatherings of family and friends for a bath, visiting and coffee. Everyone made their own entertainment. The log home of the Palms was the centre for several dances with music supplied by John Luoma on the accordion and Arvied Thorkman on the violin. The Palm family had now increased by two more members. Jack was born in 1931 and Ron was born in 1933. Harold died on March 23, 1937 a victim of pneumonia.

In 1937 Bill again got into the sawmill business. Prices were cheaper. Second grade lumber sold for $6 a thousand, top grade for $10 a thousand, and slabs for one cent apiece. It was not unusual to saw slabs into wood for three days straight. These would resemble a big straw pile. A one-ton truck load of slabs sold for $10. The Eckville Co-op and Eckville Creamery were two of the Palms' best customers. Bill Jr. born in 1937 and Betty, born in 1939, now completed the family of Bill and Irene Palm.



The William Palm Family L. to R. Back: Jack, Thelma, Leo Phyllis. Front: William Jr., Ron, Mary Bill, Irene

In 1941 a new barn was built on the Palm farm by Arvi Niemela. This was celebrated by holding a barn dance, which also was a wedding dance for Art and Betty Johanson. To pay Arvi for his services of building the barn, Bill traded him a 1928 Chrysler car, and in the bargain Bill got a Model T Ford to boot. The Model T was traded to Walter Hoglund and Ray Meyers in order to get the barn painted.

In 1947 the new house was built by Nestor Lindquist and Larry Saari, from lumber sawed by Bill. Bill Liikala planed some of the lumber. The old house was sold to Emil Wester Frizzell s, of Red Deer, moved it to Sylvan Lake where it now stands. A housewarming was held by the neighbors and the family was presented with a purse of money.

During these years, the Palm family was engaged in mixed farming. One sideline was the use of the Hart Parr for grading the municipal roads. The outfit included Bill Palm on the Hart Parr pulling the grader operated by Fred Ponto.

Bill's lifetime and interests centred around machinery and trading. Back in 1918, a company was formed. Its members included Leukoma, Henry Johnson, Oscar Karjala and John Palm. Together they purchased a Stanley Jones thresher. Later, when this company broke up, John Palm took the separator, Leukoma the engine, Johnson the truck and Karjala received cash. Bill bought this unit from his dad. This machine, the first in the district, was hand-fed, [illegible] it was pulled around by horses [illegible] carrier on it. The stationary [illegible] was a nine-horse power.

e next improvement was a wooden separator purchased for the price of $30 from Ulick of Bendey. Arvi Niemela and Bill Palm sawed birch lumber and rebuilt the frame of this machine. This was used for many years to thresh the crop as well as threshing for the neighbors. This separator was later sold to Liikala Brothers. During this time, farmers paid for the service of threshing by the number of bushels threshed. Charges were three cents a bushel for oats, four cents a bushel for barley and six cents a bushel for wheat. Wages paid were $4 a day for a man and team. The farmer was expected to feed all the men and horses while the outfit threshed at his place. The ladies competed to see who could put on the best meals.

In 1947 Bill acquired a steel separator. His men at threshing time included neighbors Tolonen, Lapp, McKenzie, Hoglund, Parkkari, J. Wuori, Art Johanson, Frank Johnson, Mac McDougall, Luopa, Liikala, G. Erickson and Yacooshth. Threshing was not all work. Often the evenings turned into a whist game at Lapps. Later this separator was sold to Leo Palm of Rimbey, after being used on the Condor farm.

The combine was purchased in 1952 from Chester Kasha. Later it was sold to Richard Korger. The combine brought a new easier w[illegible] of harvesting, but also did away with threshing, which had been an exciting, eventful part of each [illegible].

Bill and Irene Palm were surprised by a gathering of their family and friends on their 25th wedding anniversary in 1948. They were presented with a set of silverware and a purse of [illegible].

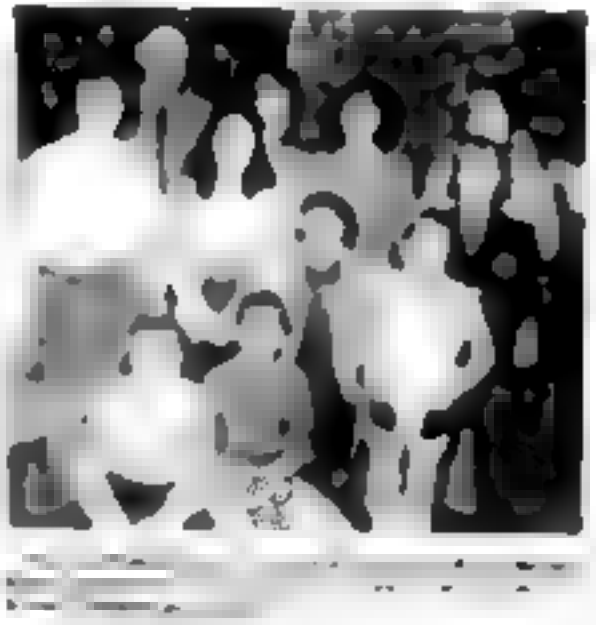
Bill served a term as secretary on the school board of the Estonian School. This schoo. provided the early education of most of the Palm children.

Irene was a busy wife and mother during the years of farming. She helped with root picking, making, as well as gardening and fixing up a beautiful yard. Irene was one of the faithfu. members of the sewing circle, which was o[illegible] ganized in the fall of 1936. Anna Parkkari and Hulda Wester organized the neighborhood ladies into a social afternoon of visiting. This group continued to meet until about 1976.

In the spring of 1954 the family farm was sold to Richard Korger, of Nebraska, U.S.A. The family moved to their new farm three miles west of Condor, adjacent to No. 11 highway. This was the E 3-39-5-W5. Again 200 acres of this half sec tion had to be broken. An auction sale was held in 1971, the farm sold, and Bill and Irene moved to an acreage at Condor corner.

Bill and Irene's 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1974. A family dinner was held at Phyllis and Gordon Erickson's home. A program and dance followed at the Eckville Lions Hall. Music was supplied by their neighbors, the Psikias.

Bill's 70th birthday anniversary was honored by a family party at the home of Marv and Laurel Nielsen. Bill received a leather armchair. Another party was held at the Nielsen home for Irene's 70th birthday. She received a purse of [illegible].



Bill and Irene's children are all married. They have 34 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. They are presently enjoying their retirement at Condor where their activities include gardening, keeping up their yard, visiting and playing bingo.

**PALM, LEO AND RUTH**

Leo Palm and Ruth Wright were married in January, 1950 and lived on the Alex Johnson place in the Estonian District. Leo was the son of Irene and Bill Palm. Ruth came from Lacombe to teach the Estonian School for the year 1949-[illegible].

Their daughter, Jocelyn, was born October 28, 1950. A second daughter, Barbara, was born four years later, on September 13, 1954.

While living in the district, Ruth taught piano lessons in her home and in Eckville.

In May, 1955, the family moved to a farm in the Forshee area, southeast of Rimbey, where they still live.

**PELTONEN, ELI – by Kate MacKenzie**

Eli Peltonen came to the Manyberries district from Kurikka, Finland in 1925. He worked for the C.P.R. in Medicine Hat. In 1929 he bought a farm at Manyberries. He sent for his wife and two small sons, Levi and Wayne and they farmed with horses and milked cows. The depression years were on and it was very hard to make a living, so in the early forties Eli moved his family to the original Palm home at the north end of Sylvan Lake. In 1944 he purchased the Jack Wour farm, seven and one-half miles northeast of Eckville. Levi and Wayne worked in the bush during the winter and during the summer they worked for different farmers, also putting in a crop on their own land.

Levi married Francis Sweet (Michelson). They lived in Eckville and both worked at the hospital, he as caretaker and she as cook. Wayne remained on the farm with his mother and father. They were good neighbors and were always willing to lend a helping hand. Mr. Peltonen was a very well educated man and wrote many articles for the church papers in Finland. He was a very religious man and attended the Sunshine Gospel Mission until his passing. Mrs. Peltonen, Levi and Wayne have also passed away. They were good neighbors and are sadly missed by the whole district.

Mr. Peltonen

**PERLER, PETER AND FAMILY**

Peter Perler and his wife, Elizabeth, with their six year old daughter, Lydia, immigrated to Canada in 1903 from the city of Tartu, Estonia, Europe. They settled in the Medicine Valley district north of Eckville, later known as the Estonian district. At this time there were no roads and only about two or three families isolated in the dense bush in the area.

Mr. Perler took a homestead deed on NE 6-40-3-W5, built a crude shack, having a dirt floor to start. Then he left his wife and daughter and went out seeking work. He worked on the railroad construction at Kananaskis, pushing a cement wheel barrow, which was not easy for a man from the city who had been a school teacher and owned a hotel and a small knitting business. Due to great stories of free land and freedom, Mr. Perler had succumbed to the urge to come to [illegible].

Once here with his family he had no money left, nor could he earn enough to go back to his homeland. His wife tore all her nice city clothes to shreds in the bramble bushes. She was naturally very unhappy but had to make the best of it. They did not have much to eat in those days—a sack of flour, very few staples and what wild game, such as wild birds and rabbits, that were around. Many a time they had Indians come to the door begging for flour or something to eat, which scared Mrs. Perler and her daughter very much, especially when they were left alone. At one time Mrs. Perler had shot a rabbit and had it cooked, ready to eat, when an Indian came to the door and pointed at the rabbit. She gladly and hurriedly let him have it.

Lydia grew up very much alone, playing with colored stones in nearby creeks. A few years later a school was built a few miles north west of the present site of Eckville, so she was able to attend by walking about four miles through the brush and timber. She later married Paul Langer, who also had immigrated to Canada from Estonia and settled on the SW 10-40-3-W5. Peter Perler then sold his land to his brother-in-law, Cassimer Moog, which land is still owned and farmed by the Moog family. He and his wife then went to live with their daughter and her husband, Paul, who by now had built a comfortable home. Mrs. Perler passed away in 1918 and Mr. Perler in 1945.

Later, as the community grew, both Paul and Lydia Langer were active in community affairs. Lydia belonged to the U.F.W.A. and also was a member of the Estonian Ladies Club. She and

her very good friend, Mrs Aaron Hoglund, sang duets at local functions. One of their very popular duets was "Whispering Hope"

Lydia and Paul had three daughters, Erna, Alma Alfeen) Hazel, and a son Felix, who died very young Paul passed away in 1926. Lydia after having raised her family, sold the farm—the SE 16-40-3-W5 to William McKenzie and the home quarter SW 10-40-3-W5, to Volley Soerd, who farmed it for a few years and then sold it to Paul Langer's grand nephew Kenneth Langer Lydia then moved to the town of Eckville where she built a new home and lived until her health gave out and after being hospitalized for about two years died in June. 1975

**PIHOOJA FAMILY**

Mr and Mrs. August Pihooja and their eight-month-old daughter Hilda, arrived in Canada from Estonia in January, 1905. After reaching Eckville they stayed a year with Henry Kingsep and family, whom they knew, and who had come to Canada a few years before they did

When Mr Pihooja got his homestead he and his wife built a one-room log house with a sod roof In those days rain sometimes fell for many days, and they had to catch the drips in pails The only thing they had to buy was a window and lumber for the door and floor The cracks in the wall were filled with clay and all was whitewashed with lime. They lived in this house for two years then built a big five-roomed log house

In 1907 Lilly was born and Albert was born in 1909. There was no hospital or doctor close, so a midwife was called

Mr Pihooja worked on the railroad where he made $1 a day and 50 cents was taken off it for room and board. When spring came he bought a team of horses and a sulky plow and got some land ploughed and seeded. As years passed more and more land was cleared and bigger implements were bought. Then they bought another quarter of land from Mr Dekker, who moved to the States. In 1914, with Mr Soderlund as the carpenter, they built a big house from British

A few dances were held in that house and the money that was raised from that was to buy lumber to build the Estonian Hall. The hall was all built by volunteer work

en they bought a third and a fourth quarter In the fall when their crop was threshed Mr Pihooja would be out with the threshing crew and Mrs. Pihooja would do the fall ploughing

As years passed they bought their own tractor and threshing machine. Hilda went to college in Edmonton and worked in Edmonton and was married to Goldsmith Baisley. They went to Spirit River and farmed there for many years before moving to Edmonton

Lilly moved to Red Deer and Albert sold the farm and they moved to Calgary

**PONTO, AUBREY AND FRED — by Aubrey Ponto**

It was in 1932 that we moved to a farm north east of Eckville, a young married couple with two small children. The roads were terrible – to the east a muskeg and beyond, steep hills with a wagon road winding along the side of them

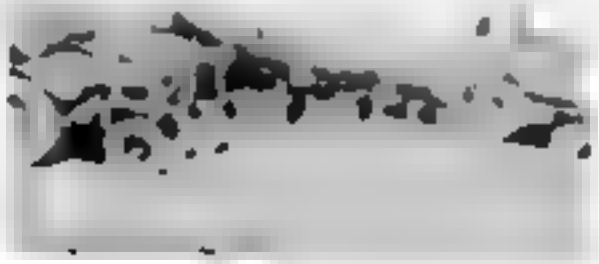
In those first years our neighbors were the Hoglunds, Luomala, Wuoris, Mickelsons, Johnsons, Johansons, Palms and Westers. Then our bachelor neighbors were Andy Harvelow, Alex Johnson, and Nels Aarstad

Because there were no fences at that time both Fred and I walked for miles, hunting for horses and cows I made a little wooden fence with which to confine our three-year-old boy and the baby was left in her crib

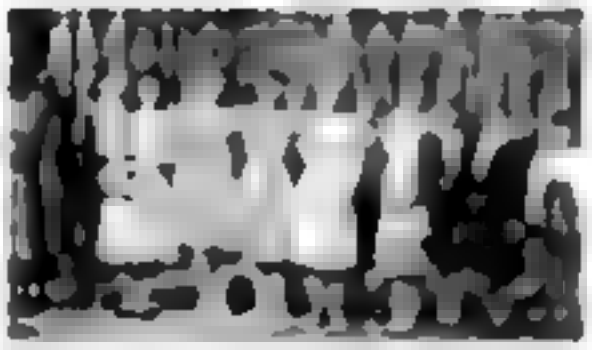
During the first two summers and one winter we lived in a one-roomed shack on what is now the Clarence Moos farm. I'm sure it was the coldest place in the country, having been built years before from green lumber It had apparently harbored many bed bugs at one time but, fortunately, the cold had got the best of them

Fred cut logs and had lumber made and dry piled. In the summer of 1934 we built a house with two rooms and pantry It was a happy day for us when we moved onto our own land and into our new clean little house

We milked six to eight cows, but cream was worth so little that we quit separating and fed the



Neighbors gathered together to put in Fred Ponto's crop



milk to the pigs. When the pigs were ready for market they were only worth three of four dollars. Later when the prices improved, we started to sell cream again. This brought us enough to buy groceries, with sometimes a little left over to spend for clothes.

The years passed and five more children arrived to bless our home. Fred and I worked very hard, but, while we had little of material wealth, we never went hungry. This was due in part to my husband's hunting and trapping through the winter months. Gradually land was broken and fences were built. We had what you might call a "mixed farm", trying at different times to raise horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese. At one time we even had a family of coyote pups which were pelted in the fall.

In 1971 we sold out and moved to Sylvan Lake where we are now living and keeping busy and happy. The little boy I spoke of is now almost forty-eight years old. He is a deaf mute, but helped us in many ways on the farm and now works in Calgary. Many Eckville people will remember Ralph Ponto.

**THE AUGUST POSTI FAMILY — by Mrs. Anna Tipman**

Mr August Posti, his wife Emillie Milli and their two small children, Hugo and Anna, came to Canada in 1902. They had been living in Estonia on his father's farm who owned his small holding.' This tract of land was too small to be divided among his sons, so August Posti not wanting to work and live on a Baltic Baron Estate decided to come to Canada where free [illegible] to be had.

[illegible]d in Estonia was mostly owned by [illegible]e German Baltic Barons. The Estonian people were either vassals or slaves who worked and lived on these estates, producing wealth for the barons and getting a bare living in return. They had no freedom to move from estate to estate, or even to go to a village unless permission was granted by the lord of the manor.

In 1863 passport freedom was given to the common people of Estonia, now they could move from place to place. This freedom did not help them economically, as the land still belonged to the barons. But in 1865 land reform came into existence. The land was divided into small unit holdings and the Estonian people could either rent or buy these "unit holdings". Those who were fortunate enough to be able to buy this land felt free and independent, although land taxes were quite high. They worked their land according to best cultivation procedures known at the time. By the time August Posti was of the age to farm "land holdings" had become scarce, so he decided to look for farm land elsewhere. The newspapers advertised that in Canada 160 acres of land was available for $10. for "immigrant settlers", subject to three years spent making such improvements as building a house, clearing and cultivating 15 acres of land and fencing the homestead. August Posti and his wife decided to face the hardships of pioneering and come to Canada with their family.

The Postis went first to Finland and from there by small ship to Liverpool, England. From here, with other immigrants, they crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a "cattle ship", which had been cleaned and white-washed to transport human cargo. They took the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to Red Deer and from there they went to Sylvan Lake, Alberta. At Sylvan Lake they were met by Kingsepa, Walters and Kasks, who had arrived earlier.

August Posti started to look for free homestead land. He chose the SW 16-40-3 W5 because it had the Medicine River running through it, abounding in fish — pike and suckers. There were spruce trees growing on it, providing logs for his house, and the pea-vine grew three feet high in the river valley, providing rich nutritious hay for his stock. They had brought with them sturdy home-made cloth, garden seeds, such as cabbages, turnips, carrots, beets and potatoes, which provided their first food when planted in virgin garden soil. They also brought flax and hemp seed. These plants provided the fibre from which Mr Posti made rope.

Money was a scarce commodity, much needed for buying machinery, cows, oxen or horses. August Posti worked helping to build the Canadian Pacific Railroad from Calgary west during the winter months. Milli Posti kept the home fires burning, spending her time looking after the cows, pigs and hens. She carded and spun wool to knit mitts, stockings and vests for the family. She churned and salted butter, money from butter sales was used to buy sugar, salt, white flour and fresh and dried fruit or even as payments for machinery. The cows were milked three times a day, as cattle food was so plentiful that the cows would arrive home in the middle of the day and "bawl" to be milked.

After proving up on the homestead, August cleared and cultivated more land. He sowed by hand broadcasting the rye, barley, oats and flax. These were harvested by means of a sickle

sheaved by hand and threshed by a flail. The whole family joined in the harvesting operation later more up-to-date machinery was used

The August Posti family increased to four boys and two girls, namely, Hugo, Anna, Olga, Karl, Henry and Rudolph. Of the original family of eight only three are living as of May 1977 Mrs. John M. Tipman (Anna) of Stettler, Mrs Alex B. Mottus Olga of Eckville and Mr Karl Posti of Gilby. All these are living on farms

August and Milli Posti were very conscientious parents and were kind to their children They believed in the equality of sexes: both boys and girls had to know how to do outside farm tasks or inside household duties. The girls were taught to milk, feed cattle, clean barns, rake hay stook grain drive oxen or horses, chop fire wood and, of course, do all the myriad household duties. The boys had to know how to sew on buttons, mend a tear in work clothes, sew on a patch, or even iron a shirt. They had to know how to clean fish rabbits or wild game for cooking and even how to cook it We, as children, found these chores challenging, and felt the pride of accomplishment We joined with our parents in planting gardens, weeding, and later, harvesting Every task on the farm was shared

Money to buy "boughten" toys was scarce but who cared! We made our own toys: cows horses, pigs, hens and other things were cut out of double layers of birch bark, which provided four legs to enable the animals to stand. Often a whole farm of animals was produced. The home was marked out on the dirt, into as many rooms as the heart desired. Barns were produced the same way, and stocked. Our imagination did the rest! But our greatest interest was in the great outdoors. We had to know and observe the wonders of nature such as. How and where all the birds built their nests, raised and fed their young; the "courting dances" of the prairie chickens and wood partridges the life cycles of frogs, bugs, and mosquitoes in the ponds, how the small fish grew in the river Ant hills had to be supervised for "war parties" between different tribes. Of the animals, the muskrats and beavers provided the most interest Many hours were spent watching them build their homes and filling their pantries. Our parents taught us not to harm, molest or destroy any wild bird, beast flower or vegetation — all were sacred and had a useful purpose in life

August Posti was a great believer in community work He realized that enterprises done co-operatively took the least output from each individual and produced the greatest good individually to the greatest number of people The first project with which he helped was the building of the Estonian School, where a great deal of volunteer work was done by him and others He wanted all the children to be educated, realizing the value of education due to the meagre education he himself had acquired

The building of the Estonian Hall was another community project The first neighborhood meetings had been held in the Posti's living room. Here agriculture problems were discussed, such as grain varieties, methods of tilling, marketing of crops and, of course, politics Community singing was enjoyed. Physical training was provided by a "trapeze" hanging from ceiling beams. People came to realize that a building bigger than the homes was needed for all these community activities Plans were made to build a hall with a stage and a library August was one of the key men in planning and erecting the Estonian Hall. He also was the first librarian

The threshing of grain was a big problem to these early pioneers. Twenty-six farmers banded together and bought a threshing machine run by a steam engine. This portable outfit was moved by horses from farm to farm. Thus a grain-threshing society was formed. August was a member and almost in the centre of the threshing run. His son Hugo later acquired steam engineer's papers to run the outfit A wheat pool for marketing grain was formed; a co-operative store was organized; a municipal hospital was built, with August Posti being a firm supporter of all of these projects

August passed away in 1943 and his wife Milli in 1945. Both were buried in the Gilby cemetery

**RAABIS, CHARLIE**

Charlie Raabis came to Canada from Estonia in the early 1900's with his wife, Leena, their infant daughter Helen and Leena's mother, Marie Poder, and settled on a homestead by Medicine River in the Gilby district

A few years later Leena was struck by lightning during a severe thunderstorm while walking home from the hay field carrying a grass

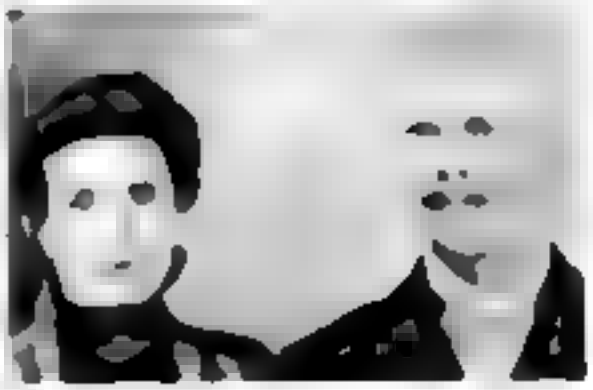
Olga Kinna came to Canada as a young girl in 1903, from Woru, Estonia with her parents John and Marie Kinna, her brothers Fritz, Arthur and Ernest and a sister Minnie. They, too, settled on a homestead on the banks of the Medicine River and five miles north of the present site of Eckville

The nearest town was Red Deer Roads were mere trails so it took about three days to make a trip on foot to Red Deer for groceries Money was scarce so Olga went to work for Robert Gaetz in Red Deer for $6 a month. She didn't know a word of English but the Gaetz were wonderful people and they got along very well with sign language

In 1906, she married Charlie Raabis and took over the care of little Helen

Charlie worked for several years as carpenter on the C.P.R. while Olga looked after the farm and the children. When they were able to buy a team of oxen, Charlie quit the railroad work and started clearing land to make a few small fields of oats and barley and a garden

Around 1910, the Estonian School was built and in 1918 the Estonian Hall. Charlie was the carpenter for both these community projects. He



also helped John Kinna built the first flour mill in the community

As the community grew a cemetery became necessary, so Charlie and Olga donated a few acres of their homestead to serve as cemetery About a dozen people lie buried there

Eventually horses replaced oxen for field work and fields became bigger as more land was cleared and broke The important day of the year was when the threshing crew came to thresh the little bit of grain each farmer had stacked near the log barn so that the straw would serve as both food and shelter for the stock during the cold winters

Charlie also helped Grandpa Kinna build the first brush cutter in the community This was pulled by six horses and enabled land to be cleared much faster than could be done with an axe In time the horses were replaced by a trac

Charlie was a very community minded person and he and Olga both sang in the Estonian choir Charlie also served many years as trustee and secretary-treasurer on the school board and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Eckville Co-op Association

When Charlie passed away in 1944, after a lenghty illness, Olga moved to Eckville to take care of her mother and father After they were gone, she stayed in Eckville and spent most of her spare time in oil painting. This hobby kept her happily occupied for many years. She managed to paint a picture for each one of her seven children as well as for most of her grandchildren before her passing in the later summer of 1976

Besides Helen, who passed away at the age of 10, Charlie and Olga had seven children, the first one being a daughter, Saime. Many a time Mother had to leave the baby alone while she walked for miles through the bush looking for the cows at milking time One cow always had a bell hung around her neck so when they were feeding the bell could be heard for quite a distance and thus make finding them a lot easier

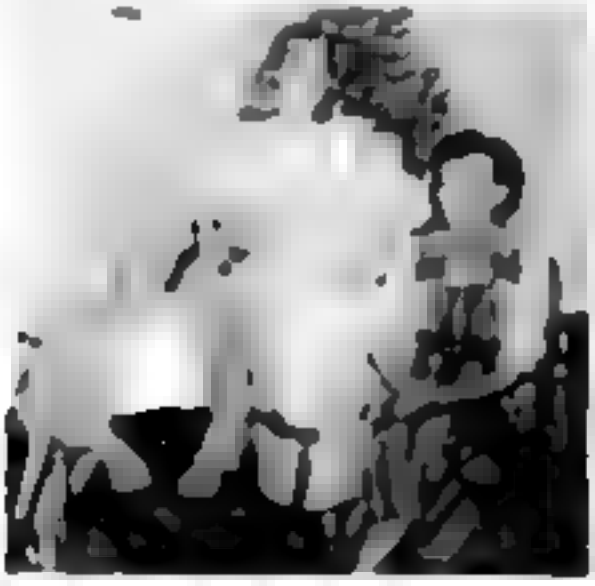
Saime got most of her education at the Estonian school which was a two-mile walk morning and night. Her first teacher was Mr Egon. Later she walked seven miles morning and night to finish her education in the Eckville high school where Mr Ludwig was a very capable teacher She attended normal school in Camrose and started her teaching career at the Outlet school a few miles north of Bentley where she taught grades one to eight She married a farmer by the name of Art Molhus and raised two children Charlie and Donna

The second daughter Hilja, also received her education at the Estonian school. When she quit school dad put her in charge of the cow milking usually having as many as eight to 12 cows to milk by hand morning and night. This had to be done exactly the same time every day. Of course, we had to have some fun too, so we would squirt milk at the little pigs that were rooting around among the cows until they learned to lap it up as fast as it came at them. Whoever said pigs were stupid did not know what they were talking about because one little pig waited until he found a cow lying down and then helped himself to all the milk he could suck

After milking, the milk was strained and run through a cream separator with the cream coming out of one spout and the skim milk out of the other The skim milk was fed to the calves, pigs and chickens and a part of it was always made into cottage cheese The cream was soured and churned into butter and the rest saved in a can until there was enough to take to the creamery in Eckville and sold

Hilja married Nick Kalev, who was well known for his musical talents. He was an accomplished trumpet player, directed the choir and was a member of a dance orchestra. He passed away suddenly in 1951 and left his wife and two children, Walter 15 and Edna 13, to farm the quarter section on the Medicine Hill

Carl also went to the Estonian school but quit when he was of age and stayed home to help with the farming. Later he worked for the Moro brothers in their flour mill in Eckville. He then married Ethel Peterson and went farming in the



Bentley district. They had five children: Norman, Carol, Alfred (Alfy), Patricia and James.

Mary too, started her education in the Estonian school and attended high school in Eckville walking there with her sister, Salme. She meant to complete her high school in Red Deer but a distraction came in the form of a happy-go-lucky cowboy farmer by the name of Fred Bardenhagen, and school no longer seemed important. Mary and Fred were married on July 13, 1933 and, like in the fairy stories, lived happily ever after.

Arthur went to work as a clerk in the Co-op store in Eckville under the management of Oswald Ulmari, at the age of 16. At that time, the Co-op store was located in the building we now know as the bakery. Arthur learned to play the violin at an early age as did his younger brother Waldo, and together they entertained the rest of the family with violin duets.

Some years later Arthur took up saxophone playing and also piano, while Waldo chose the trumpet and guitar. They provided the music for dances for many years, Arthur's wife, Myrtle playing the piano for them. Arthur's favorite sport was baseball and he, as well as his older brother Carl pitched many a game. Arthur and Myrtle raised a family of three children: Kaye, Marion and David.

They operated a small general store in Withrow for a time but gave it up to manage the Co-op store in Stettler. Art finally decided to go into business for himself and bought the Rainbow Cabins and Trailer Court at Sylvan Lake and, together with Myrtle, developed it into a very thriving operation. They eventually sold out and retired to Calgary.

Waldo married Myrtle Greenman and settled on the home place when Dad was no longer able to manage it due to illness.

Waldo and Myrtle were both very musical so naturally raised a musical family of four. Their daughter, Shirley, is married to Eddie Moos and though she sews and cares for their family of five children, Lane, Derek, Brenda, Sandra and Wesley, she takes time to sing at various socials.

[illegible] instruments, but the saxophone seemed to be his favorite. He went to Red Deer to work and become manager of the body shop for Festival Ford. He married Susan Whittaker and they have three daughters, Leslie and Lana (twins) and Pamela.

Wendy is married to Sid Scheifele and they live in Medicine Hat with their infant son, Tyler.

Debbie is married to Gordon Brown of Fairview and they have two children, Jody and Janis. They recently moved to Hines Creek where Gordon runs an oil dealership for the I.F.A.

Waldo and Myrtle sold their farmland NW 16-40-3-W5 to Walter Andrew, keeping eight acres including the buildings and in 1964 moved to Fair

view where. In partnership with Dorothy Forsell, they bought the "Pinky" coin wash which they operated very successfully for ten years, then sold it and moved back to their home in the Gilby area.

Bill Sibelin, an old family friend, also lives in a trailer in Waldo's yard.

For the last three years, Waldo and Myrtle have been working as custodians at the Eckville High School.

Clara, nicknamed Bill, when very young and still known by that name, went to Vancouver when in her teens, took a hairdressing course and went to work on a luxury liner, the Prince George, as a hairdresser, barber and beautician. There she met and married the chief steward, Vic Bremner. Their family consisted of two children, Judy and Allan.

**RANGEN MR. AND MRS. ALBERT T — by John Rangen and Mrs. Trygve Rangen**

Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Rangen, along with their sons Trygve and Hans, moved from Maddock, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1905, and settled in the Gilby area. Dad filed on a homestead, NE 28-40-3-W5, and bought a quarter of C.P.R. land for seven dollars an acre. A year or two later he paid $11 per acre for another C.P.R. quarter, so he then owned S. 27-41-3-W5, as well as his homestead.

Dad and Mother shipped a carload of settlers effects and a team of horses to the end of the railroad at Lacombe. (The railroad did not get as far as Bonnyville until 1918 or 1919.) Their belongings had to be moved from Lacombe to the homestead by horses and wagons. The family stayed with a neighbor, Pete Pederson, until our own house was built.

There was a scarcity of horses throughout the country at that time, so Dad started raising horses to sell. His horse herd at one time numbered between 50 and 60 head. He became well-known for his horses, and during the first World War people came from far and near to buy them. As there were very few fences in those days, we often had to ride many miles, for days at a time, to locate the horse herd and bring them home to the corral.

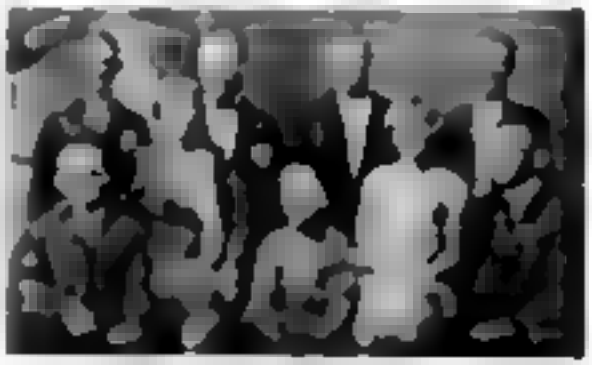
Dad also raised cattle and had some pigs. The first water well we had was dug by hand, and we got the water from the well by the "rope and bucket" method.

Due to his extensive experience with caring for livestock, Dad became known as the veterinarian of the district, and was often called upon by neighbors who needed help with sick cattle or horses. Dad also had a feed grinder which was powered by a horse walking around in a circle, thus causing the mill to grind the grain. He did a lot of feed grinding for the neighbors.

Dad was a good blacksmith, and spent many hours over the years shoeing horses and sharpening plow shares for himself and his neighbors. In 1912, when the local Co-operative Association was formed, Albert was active in its organization and became one of the first direc-

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rangen. Trygve and Hans were born in the United States, then four more boys and two girls were born while the family lived at Gilby. Carl was born in 1906 and John (whose original name was Ingvald) was born in 1908. In 1909 Mother and the four boys went on a trip to Stangvanger, Norway, to visit her parents, and Karsten was born while they were there. They traveled to and from Norway by boat, and it took about two weeks to go one way. Trygve said he remembers when they came back they were all sea-sick most of the time. Mother's cousin, Nils Aarstad, came back with them, so she had some help with the children.

Carol (who was originally named Caroline) was born in 1912. Ansen (originally named Julie) was born in 1913 and Alfred (originally named Sakarias) was born in 1915.



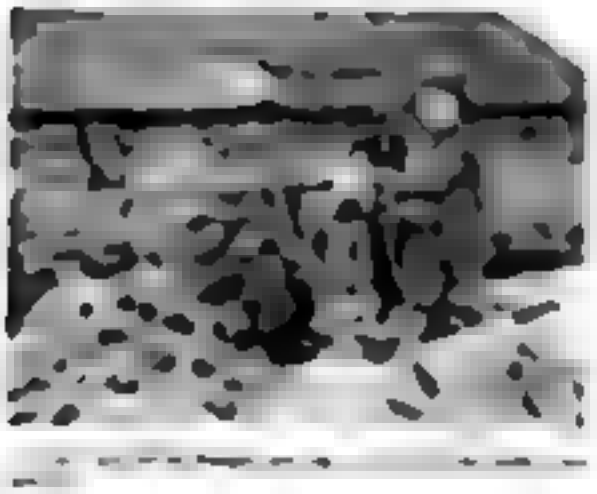
Rangen Family. Back: Karsten, Carl, John, Hans. Front: Mr. Rangen, Caroline, Alfred, Nelle, Trygve.

The children first attended the Estonian School and later went to the Andrew School, as Dad owned land in that district. On one warm sunny morning the children went barefoot to school, but had to come home in the snow!

Doctors and hospitals were far away in those days, but we were fortunate in having a nice neighbor with a Model T Ford who took Mother to the hospital in Lacombe when she was ill. Mother passed away in 1918 and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

After Mother's death Dad did a wonderful job of looking after eight children. The oldest one 15 years and the youngest only three years old! He got help from some of the neighbor women, but he would bake bread, churn butter, and do the laundry for the family. We children all had our own saddle horses, so we eight rode horseback or drove a horse on a two-wheeled cart to school. Dad's cooking kept us well and happy, so we never stayed home from school on account of being sick.

In a book (a diary) that Dad used to write in, we find this notation: "In 1910 he started spring



work on the 14th of March and on the 2nd of June a foot of snow covered the ground. On June 22 there was a bad hailstorm and frost and again on the 24th of July. ' That must not have been a very good year'

Dad built a house and barn in 1913. The barn was finished in 1914, and that barn is still standing in good shape today. Only half of the house was built. There was a big kitchen, a bedroom and a pantry downstairs, and an upstairs, with a veranda along the north side of the house. The rest of the house was supposed to be on the south side, but his other half was never built. Dad hauled all the lumber from McPherson's mill which was northwest past Leedale some place. Since it would take two days to make a trip, Dad used four horses so he could haul bigger loads. Karl Soderland, who lived someplace north of Sylvan Lake, was the carpenter who built it. He would stay the week and then walk home for the weekends. The rooms were finished with grooved lumber, which was varnished.

In 1912 when the local Co-operative Association was formed, Albert was active in its organization and became one of the first directors. After the death of Mrs. Rangen in 1918, about 1922 or 1924, Albert had an auction sale and went to the United States for a year or so, taking Alfred with him. Carol and Alisen went to stay with Alfred Haarstad at Bentley. He came back about 1925 and bought land at Leafland, north of the Leslievile district. Karsten, Alfred and the girls lived there with him. Dad was mailman for a few years, hauling the mail from Leslievile to Carlos. In 1942 he bought a house in New Westminster, B.C. where he lived for a few years before coming back to live with Alfred. Albert passed away in the Eckville hospital in 1945.

Hans married Margaret Belt, and they had five children.

Carl (deceased) married Audrey Evernden and they had three children.

John married Clara Reirson, and they had two children. They are now living in Eckville.

Karsten is unmarried, and lives at Sylvan Lake.

Carol deceased married Floyd Fitzgerald, and they had four children.

Alisen married Leagh Vayle. They had three children.

Alfred is single, and lives in Summerland, B.C.

Trygve married Mable Solberg of Bentley. They had five children. Trygvie passed away in 1974 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery.

**RANGEN, TRYGVE — by Mabel Rangen**

In 1919 Trygve went down to Loverna to work for Chris Torgesen on a farm and in 1920 on his return home riding Old Bess, he had an unfortunate experience. On the first day of the trip he stopped to stay overnight at a farmhouse near Stettler. Being very tired, he slept so soundly that he did not hear the man of the house when he came into the room and took all the money that Trygve had in his purse, leaving just a bit of change that was in his pocket. In the morning Trygve was going to pay for his lodging, but the man said that it was free. He obviously did not want Trygve to look in his purse! After riding on for a considerable distance Trygve stopped to have some dinner and upon looking into his purse, found what had happened. Of course it was too far for him to ride back to the farmhouse and he wouldn't have been able to prove that his money had been stolen even if he had gone back.

This experience did not discourage him from going back to Loverna and in 1921 he worked for another man there. This time he had enough money to buy a yellow car (a "bug"), and his trip home in the car was uneventful.

After that he worked for Alfred Haarstad at Bentley for a while. Then in 1923 and 1924 he attended the Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary. He took a mechanical and special tractor course at Hemphill Trade School in Calgary. The course cost one hundred dollars for which he paid sixty dollars in cash and worked the rest out for fifty cents an hour. He stayed at a boarding house as there were no dorms in those days. After finishing his course he was not able to get a job anywhere so in 1925 Trygve, Carl and John bought their dad's farm. The three brothers operated the farm together for a while then Trygve bought out the shares of the others.

Trygve and I, Mabel Solberg) were married on September 8, 1927 in Sylvan Lake. Trygve and Hans came down to our place in Trygve's truck, a Model T with the top and side curtains taken off. After getting to our place Trygve took my dad's car, which did have the top and side curtains! Hans was our best man and Ethel Andrew was bridesmaid. There had been many days of rain all that fall and our wedding day was no exception. There were no gravelled roads at that time and the roads were so muddy that we had a hard time getting back to Dad's. We were so late that the guests had enjoyed the reception without

us. Even though we got home all wet and muddy we joined in the festivities and danced until morning

After my marriage I came to my new home in Medicine Valley to start a new life which was quite different for me. I was the oldest girl in my family and at home I had been used to cooking baking, and washing for my parents and my nine sisters and five brothers. Trygve had two of his brothers staying with him but it was quite a change indeed to be cooking for four people instead of seventeen!

Trygve did all of his farming with horses. He was a horse-lover like his dad and had learned to ride and work with horses when he was quite young. He used to ride for many miles looking for the horses on the ranch. He said one could always tell which way the horses had gone by the direction that the wind was blowing. There were no fences in those days, so the horses could go where they pleased. He said he remembered one time he was out looking for the horses and they had wandered so far that it took him a long time. Coming home he met his mother out looking for him as she thought he had become lost.

Trygve had two cows and I had brought two cows when I came, having got one from my grandmother and one from my dad. These were the beginning of our herd of cattle.

Quite a lot of land had been broke on the farm so we soon had to start harvest. Pete Moro had a threshing rig so he was the first one to thresh after I came to the farm.

In 1930 we were hailed out so there was very little grain to sell. We milked a few cows and sold cream and eggs. Butterfat was ten cents a pound and eggs ten cents a dozen, so you see we didn't have very much money. Trygve would butcher a steer and take it to Sestrap's Store in Eckville so we could buy what groceries we had to have — we never bought bread or butter!

Trygve got his first tractor in about 1933. It was a Fordson, with steel wheels and lugs on the back wheels. In 1934 or 1935 he had Robert and Alfred Klinna come to brush and break up a swamp which was on part of the farm. After we got it worked down we seeded it into hay for pasture. We had quite a few horses and cattle by then, so needed extra pasture. Trygve continued the family tradition of raising horses which he would sell at the Lacombe horse sale. This sale was always held in March and one year there had been a bad snow storm at just the time of the sale. The road east of our place was all drifted in but Trygve got the horses over to Fred Moos'. Fred had a big truck to haul horses but when he was turning onto highway 11 the truck upset. Of course the horses all got out but none of them were hurt by the mishap. By the time they got the horses loaded again and got to Lacombe the sale was over so Trygve had to take just what the buyers offered for them. He lost money on that load.

After a time Carl moved to his own farm and Hans went to Calgary to take a barber course. When Hans finished his course he got married and Trygve and I were alone with our family.

In 1930 we had had our first son, Melvin followed by Allen, who was born in 1932. In the spring of 1946 we decided to build a new house as Roy had been born in 1937, Glenn in 1940 and Joyce in 1942. We had already built a garage so we used it for our kitchen and we slept in the granaries. We tore down the old house so the new one could be built on the same spot. George Cummings and three of his brothers were the carpenters. Fred Moos was there with four men clearing and brushing 70 acres of timber, and they worked in shifts. There were many men to cook for and I found this to be quite a chore, living in the garage, with everything being so unhandy.

We had a pressure system put in the new house, — being one of the first farmers in the area to do this. We had a 32-volt lighting plant because Calgary Power had not yet come to the district. We had installed the phone in 1930, and Calgary Power did come in September, 1951. Trygve, Pete Moro and Albert Hansen were some of the ones who worked to get Calgary Power in, and they worked on the building of the lines.

After a time Trygve bought a bigger tractor and he and my dad bought a threshing machine. In the fall they would go out threshing in the Bentley and Lockhart districts for about six weeks each fall. In addition Trygve did custom breaking and wood-sawing and would grind feed for neighbors. Like his dad, Trygve was a good blacksmith which encouraged neighbors to come to him to get their plow s[illegible]. Whenever a neighbor had a sic[illegible] come to Trygve for assistance as he was almost like a veterinarian. In fact he was handy at most everything — the neighbors even came for hair [illegible].

In 1948 Trygve bought his first combine and then in 1950 he got a Massey self-propelled machine, one of the first of these machines in the district. He and the boys were expanding their farming operations and felt that they needed the most modern machinery. At one time they were farming 12 quarters.

Gradually our family grew up and, except for Glenn, left home. Melvin got married in 1954 to Lyla Leahy. They have four children: Laurence, Monica, Darcey and Elaine. They live in Edmonton. Allen was married in 1956. He and his wife have three children — Debbie, Dale and Jody. They live in Red Deer. Roy married Janet Tipman in 1964 and their two children are Charlene and Russel. They live in Calgary. Glenn was married to Avril McNiel in 1961 and his children are Randy and Eldon. They live on the Rangen farm — being the third generation of Rangens to live there! Glen bought a little house from Lenoard Beddoes and moved it onto the home farm. He and his family lived in this house until

1967. Glenn had bought the Robert Kingsep farm, so we traded our farm for that place. Trygve and I moved onto that place in 1967 and Glenn bought our east quarter.

Joyce lives on a farm near Kimberley.

In 1970 Trygve and I went on a month-long trip to Norway. It was a nice enjoyable trip. Trygve saw the place where they had stayed when they were there on a visit. He had many cousins there and one uncle still living. The cousins were surprised that he remembered their places. He even remembered the names of the horses.

Between 1970 and 1974 we went to British Columbia every summer and had many other enjoyable trips together. In 1974 we again went to Norway for a visit. We had been there for only three days when Trygve passed away with a heart attack. Our trip was a tour which was to require a month's time, so I had a lot of trouble to get back home and to get Trygve's body home again. He was buried in the Gilby cemetery.

I am now living alone on our farm, which is located on N.E. 9-40-3-W5.

**MIKAEL AND AILI RAUMAN**

Mikael Rauman was born February 15, 1903 in Senajoki, Finland. Aili Ylinen was born January 26, 1904 in Illmajoki, Finland. Mike and Aili were married in 1923 in their native Finland.

Being a carpenter by trade, Mike, searching for greener pastures, decided that Canada sounded like a wonderful place. Leaving Aili, Jussi, and Kaisu behind, he left for Canada in 1925. He made his home with his uncle, Gabriel Maki, and his family northeast of Eckville, Alberta. Good carpenters were in great demand in the early years, just as they are today. Mike helped build homes and other buildings wherever needed, and even made a coffin or two, which were almost always homemade at that time.

In 1926, Aili and family arrived in Canada to join Mike. They farmed for a short period of time, and during the winter Mike worked in the logging camps. The family discontinued farming in 1935, and bought a house in Eckville from Oswald Umarl. This is where their son Arne was born on August 1, 1936. Money being scarce, Mike did carpenter work for Dr. Palmer for services rendered at the birth of their son, Arne.

Dr. Palmer informed Mike that his fee would be a bit higher than he had quoted, since he had had to use instruments. Quick-witted Mike, though, wasn't going to be born swoggled out of his wages, and made it quite clear that his job required instruments, too. Needless to say, they decided to compromise and split the difference.

When the Finnish-Russian War broke out, Mike was ready to help protect his "mother land", so, in 1939, he sailed for Finland. He spent seven months in service, returning home when peace was declared.

After arriving home Mike decided to buy the SW 2-40-3-W5 from William and Raino Maki who had moved to Vancouver, B.C. For 26 years Mike and Aili lived here and farmed, but then sold their farm to Ray and Phyllis Myers, and bought a home in Eckville where both are enjoying their

Son, Jussi (John) is married to Marjorie Lingren (Post), and they reside in Vancouver B.C.

Kaisu (Katie) is married to Rudolph Saari youngest son of John and Aina Saari. They have three children. Alice (Mrs. Jim Stearns), Irene (Mrs. Bruce Broad) of Red Deer, and Kenneth, who resides at home and helps his father farm.

Arne is presently employed in Red Deer.

**SAMBROOKE, ALLAN AND DAISY — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Allan was educated at the Estonian School and helped his father (Dick) mix mortar and did many odd jobs. After a short term with the R.C.A.F. he was medically discharged and returned to the transportation business, where he became a long-haul trucker, hauling pre-fab and mobile homes to all parts of Canada and the United States.

In July 1956 Allan married Daisy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holland and the widow of Henry Heikkila. They first made their home in Bentley, later moving to Sylvan Lake and then to Calgary.

Lenard, Larry and Sandra are now married and Daisy is the proud grandmother of three. Their son Brian is attending SAIT. After a severe heart attack Allan passed away. He was buried in Queens Park Cemetery, Calgary, on March 12, 1974.

**SAMBROOKE, ARNOLD (DICK) AND VIVIAN — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Have times changed? Arnold Sambrooke was an adventuresome lad, like many a boy of today. Arnold was born in 1883 and grew up in Staffordshire England. He attended an English boys School and can well remember many a caning the head master gave for misdemeanors. Before he was 16 years of age he bid his father and mother, Samuel and Emma Sambrooke farewell and lied about his age to enlist in the Calvary Company of the Boer War Forces who were ready to sail for South Africa. 1899-1902.

Many a tale could be related about his time in Africa, but hungry, flea-bitten and in rags, he returned to London, England, only to see a brochure of Canada. This haunted him for weeks until he had persuaded a friend to join him and then they were off to Canada in 1902. They worked in Eastern Canada, returning to England in the fall, only to return to Canada with his brother Samuel (Tim) in the spring of 1903.

[redacted] as everyone called him, was [redacted] rumbling down on the town site of Frank. The

men of the neighboring town came to help rescue any survivors and free the trapped miners, who later walked to safety on their own, above where the men were digging for them. Dick by now had learned the plastering and stucco trade, and did many of the buildings in this area. He had started to stucco in Fernie, B.C. in 1908 when a fire broke out fanned by a high wind that leveled the town. All this didn't discourage him, and he moved on to Central Alberta. He worked from Red Deer until he became interested in a Bentley alden

Dick and Tim settled on homesteads northeast of Gilby NW 2-41 3-W5 in 1909. This area was then called "Green Feed Valley" because everything froze there before it could be harvested. Many a Saturday night was spent playing cards with St John and William O'Neil, two brothers who were noted for their hospitality fun and gaiety. Clarence Dameron was the auctioneer for their community "box socials". When anyone needed help, George and Leonard Beddoes were always there.

Dick had another brother William, who came to Canada and settled in the Bassano area. William later built a monoplane – in 1926. Dick's sister Minnie (Mrs. J. Jones) settled in Van

In 1915 Dick married Vivian May Osgoode who was born in 1893, the daughter of Elijah and Lenora Osgoode of Bentley, and then relocated on another farm two miles south, SW26-40-3-W5. Here he was able to purchase more land from the C.P.R. adjoining his land, at the foot of Medicine Hill. Dick worked in the lumber camp during the winter and improved his farm during the summer months. Vivian was an excellent cook and helped cook for the lumber jacks at the Jabez McPherson mill in the Carlos area northeast of Rocky Mountain House. She was a truly fine homemaker and their hospitality was well known throughout the area. Dick and Vivian spent many a happy evening with John and Mary Kurzman, Carl and Mavel Thomas, George and Leonard Beddoes and their wives, as well as the O'Neil brothers, just to mention a few.

Dick served on the Estonian School Board from 1926-1935 and was in charge of the roads in the district under councillor George Fraser and secretary Harold Hopkins, at Bentley before they moved the offices to Lacombe. The farmers in the area were allowed to work out their taxes by doing road work.

One hotly contested issue was the centralization of the small schools, another was, before teachers' wages could be raised $50, six dollars was given to purchase sports equipment, two bats and two balls.

Two sons were born to Dick and Vivian — Arnold Elijah in 1917 and Allan Jabez in 1922. Dick continued his trade in Central Alberta, selling their farm machinery and retiring in 1945. The land was rented to Rudy and Myrtle Mottus. In 1953 Arnold Elijah purchased the home quarter from his father. Vivian passed away after a lengthy illness, on October 4, 1958. Sometime later Dick married Alice Redmond (nee McPherson), but this marriage soon broke up and he came to live with his son Arnold at Eckville.

Dick was buried on July 17, 1967 in Bentley, with full military honours. He was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

**SLADE, ARCHIE AND ETHEL**

In the spring of 1950 Archie and Ethel Slade with one-year-old son, Bruce, moved from Na ton onto the Rosenbaum place, the NE 17-40-3 W5, which was purchased from Robert Smith

or a new years.

We found a few variants from the prairie living to which we had been accustomed. There was heavier snow fall, and lack of chinooks. Later springs, much more rainfall, heavy morning dew and less wind; the absence of crocuses (which were greatly missed) but the pleasure of finding wild strawberries and raspberries; solving the "caving cellar" mystery (moles) thanks to Cliff Matthews, "If you want beavers to leave your fence posts alone, use spruce, not poplar," (Cliff Matthews). The hospitality of neighbors sharing steam baths, the land clearing and wood-sawing bees, absence of potato bugs, grasshoppers and rocks, not a gopher in sight, quite a contrast to the great number now.

When Bruce and Connie started school crossing the Medicine River to catch the school bus was a problem during high water. Shirley Rasbis rowed them across the river at such times.

In 1956 we bought the "Keesie" quarter, SE 18-40-3-W5, from Victor Kraft after he moved to Whitecourt. We built on this location in 1960.

In 1966 when Ralph, Peggy Pihooja, Betty, John and Helen moved to British Columbia he sold us his half section across the road, N 7-40-36 -

Bruce attended school at Eckville and SAIT and now, with his wife, Linda, lives in Red Deer where he is a welder.

Connie, having received her education in Eckville, Lacombe and Red Deer, is living in Red Deer, where she is a secretary at Michener Centre.

Jim graduated from the Eckville high school in 1976 after having spent a year and a half at Lacombe Vocational in welding.

In 1977-1978 Nigel is attending Grade 11 in Lacombe, where he is enrolled in the

**STENVIG, MARTIN AND OLGA**

In 1938 the old Stenvig farm SE 14-40-3-W5 became the home of Martin and Olga Stenvig. August Stenvig and his wife, Jette, remained there until 1944, when they moved to Bethany Home in Bawlf.

There were five children in the Martin Sten

vig family These included Marlene (Mrs J N Sorensen) of Calgary, Edward, of Red Deer Donna Mrs. A. Bagdan of Edmonton,, Sharon Mrs. Bruce Alexander) of Edmonton. Judy Mrs. Ed Lauterbach) of Ontario

Marlene, with a master of education degree is at present a librarian and teacher in the Calgary schools. Her children are Dana, Trudy and Laura

Edward and Fay live in Red Deer Edward is a sheet metal specialist employed at Hayhoe s Their ch.drea are Sheldon. Wendell and Kimberley

Donna received her bachelor of interior design in Winnipeg. Manitoba Her children are Damian, Galen and Brennan

Sharon is a legal secretary in Edmonton, and has one son, Dylan

Judy is also a legal secretary in Ontario. Her children are Carrie and Aaron

All the Stenvig children were encouraged to participate in everything. Three of the girls received piano lessons for many years. Their participation in the beef and garden 4-H Clubs taught them invaluable lessons in participation for the sake of knowledge

Martin s memories are those of threshing days

Olga s memories include a happy home picnics on the farm — baseball games on Nels Isaacson s land with crowds from all over central Alberta musical nights at home — basket ball games at Gilby — participation in three hour plays produced by local talent — riding horseback — first radio in 1930 — a pressure water system in 1921 — community service it was possible to render to neighbors

Happy memories, all

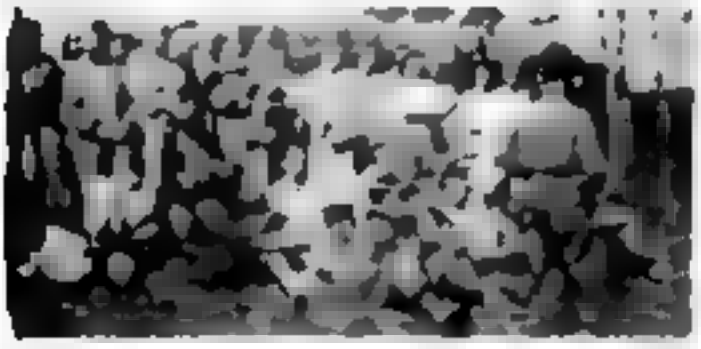
**SUNSHINE GOSPEL MISSION — by Mrs. Kate Mac[illegible]**

Mr Maclean of Red Deer, a lay preacher held two or three services in the "Young Peoples Hall," in 1943. Since most of the people came from the north, it was decided to hold services in the Andrew Parkkari home. since that would be closer Some time later they were held in the Simon Mackenzie home. A large Sunday School was held with Aune Parkkari the Sunday School teacher, while Margaret Nelson. with helpers Audrey Ponto, Kate MacKenzie and Barbara Luomala, looked after the choruses. The adult attendance for the service which followed made it necessary to have a larger building

In 1946. Mr Maclean bought three acres of Government land (NE 1-W5. as well as all the material needed for the building. A nice little church was erected by the volunteer help of the interested men in the district. What a joyous time that was! Men hammering and sawing and the women keeping them supplied with food and coffee! Fifty four chairs, an organ, pulpit, oil furnace hymn books and book cases were all installed in the church. Mr Hoglund added the finishing touches by painting the inside and varnishing the floor How proud we were to have our first service in the new building. Mr Maclean conducted the service and Mrs Maclean asked the blessing on the new church

[illegible]

A board of nine trustees was elected, Mr Maclean being the president A Ladies Aid was formed in 1950 Their duties were to look after the church. Baby quilts were made and given to the new arrivals. fruit baskets were made for hospital patients and aid was also given when needed for flood or fire relief The mission Ladies' Aid also sponsored a dear missionary Ruth Ebbers, for many years in Africa They also conducted Vocational Bible School in the mission during the summer Mr Brunner of Red Deer held Vocational Bible School in 1966 in the mission. On July 1. 1950 the Sunshine Gospel Mission was dedicated by Rev D J Firth, Knox



Presbyterian Church, Red Deer. Nearly 100 people were present for the service and the social which followed. The following Sunday, Mrs. Audrey Ponto was elected to be responsible for the Sunday School and Mrs. Mary Hoglund and Emil Viitala for the music - she on the organ and he with his violin. (Mary Hoglund passed away in June 23, 1953.) Mrs. Lyrnie Schultz took over as organist and later Beverly Langer filled in. Mr. E. Viitala passed away November 7, 1968. They were both sadly missed as they were faithful church members. Mr. Maclean, along with his dear wife, faithfully served the mission for 18 years. They came, rain or shine. Mr. Walter Quantz, of Gimlet, filled in for two years when Mr. Maclean had surgery. Mr. Maclean came back and with an exchange program once a month with Rev. Broadway of Lockhart, he was able to serve two more years. In 1965, due to ill health, he asked to be relieved. Mr. Walter Kokot of Leslieville filled in as pastor of the mission. In 1967 Mr. William Hutton served for two years, followed by Mr. Don Friesen, who served until we closed temporarily.

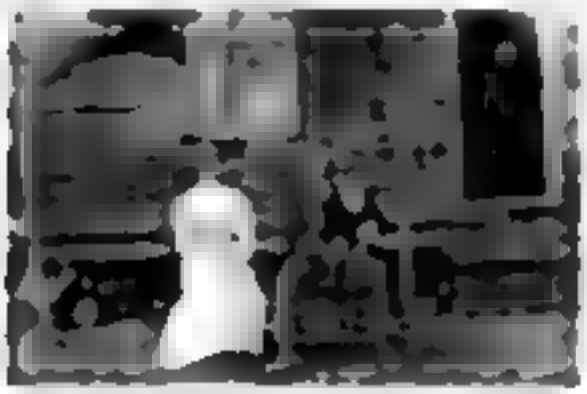
Many happy events took place over the years. Great picnics were held every spring with all the ice cream and pop the children could eat, again supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Maclean. The Christmas concerts were put on in the mission by the church members and, at times, the building couldn't hold all who came. The Three Hills Bible Camp, which the children from the mission attended, went on for many years. Each year Mr. Maclean would have them meet at the church, he would take his truck, drive them to the camp at Gull Lake and take them home when it was over. A very happy event took place when Margie MacKenzie and Noel Stevenson were married in the mission, May 30, 1958. This was the only marriage solemnized in the mission. Mr. Maclean was master of ceremonies and proposed the toast to the bride.

One remembers the lovely prayers by Mrs. Maclean every Sunday and the beautiful Finnish prayers by Mr. Peltonen. One also remembers Mr. Maclean and his Bible, which was so much a part of him, everywhere he went - even when he was working. He and his wife did a great deal of good in the district and encouraged the young people to live according to the Bible teachings. I am sure when they were called home, Mrs. Maclean in 1958 and Mr. Maclean in 1968, the Lord said, "Well done, my good and faithful ser[illegible]."

**THE THURBRON FAMILY - by Mrs. Clara Thurbron**

Our Dad, Oscar Thubron, was born in the County of Durham, England. His parents lived in a mining town where they owned a hotel. Dad came to Canada in 1902 and settled on a homestead 17 miles north east of Calgary adjoining land owned by his sister Elizabeth Greig and her husband John.

Mom, formerly Agnes Bullivant, was born in Ripon, Yorkshire, England. Her father was the schoolmaster there and Mom taught school under him for several years. When he retired they came to Canada in 1902 and also took up land north east of Calgary. That was where she met and married Dad.



Dad's brother Alf, came out to Canada in 1909 and went into partnership with Dad, working on the farm and raising pure-bred Red Poll cattle which they took on the show circuit every year taking in all the fairs. After being hailed out and dried out numerous times, they decided it was time to move, and in 1918 they moved to a farm at Gilby where Uncle Alf and my brother Percy lived together until Alf passed away in 1977 at the age of 92 years. Percy continues to live on the

We have many happy memories of growing up at Gilby. This was a little country store built on what was once part of our land and at that time was owned by Mr. Walter and Jim Shorrock. It was a wonderful little store, stocked with everything you could want. The mail used to come three times a week, delivered by team from Eckville. This was quite an event and most of the people would come to the store to get the mail and groceries, but most of all just to visit.

Dad gave the community enough land to build a Hall, so in 1921 the Gilby Hall was built by community effort and is still serving a very useful purpose for all in the district.

Mom was a very active person, always willing to give a helping hand in any way she could. After getting her piano she gave music lessons to several of the young people, and loved to play while everyone sang. She passed away in 1968 after living a full and eventful life.

Uncle Alf and Mr. Gilbertson were instrumental in getting the Medicine Valley Livestock Pool started and Uncle Alf served as manager and secretary for about eight years. He always thought he was one of the last ones to drive down Calgary's eighth avenue with a load of hay for after delivering his hay at the market and starting back, he was stopped and told he couldn't go that way any more as the street was now closed for teams and wagons.

There were just the three of us children — George, Percy, and I. Pat. George was married to Katherine Moe of Langdon. They lived in Red Deer for several years but now reside in Calgary. They have three boys, Bill, Jack and Gary, and six grandchildren. Bill married Honora Brown from Calgary and they have three children, Cheryl, Douglas and Laura. Jack married Elinor Hole from Twin Buttes, Alberta. Their two children are Judy and Brian. Gary married Diana Gilby from Smith Falls, Ontario and they have one boy, Jackie.

Percy stayed and worked the farm when Dad died in 1936. He continues to live there alone since the death of Uncle Alf.

In 1941 I was married to Clare Thomas, who had come to the Benjamin District with his parents in 1934. We continued the farming operations on the Thomas farm until 1957, at which time we moved to Eckville. For the next 18 years Clare was employed, first by Bill Elliott and later by Bob Matthews, until forced into semi-retirement for health reasons in June of

We have three children — Sharon, Ted, and Linda, and four grandchildren — Kathleen, Michael, Jason and Steven. Ted married Claudia White of Ottawa and Linda married Evan Kind of Eckville. All of the children are living in the Eckville area.

**TOLONEN, MR. JACOB — by Margaret Jack, his daughter**

Jacob Tolonen was born in Pamamo, Finland, in 1887. He emigrated to the United States to Hancock, Michigan in 1907 where he worked in a mine for a year. He then came to Alberta in November of 1908 to settle on a homestead near Enchant. Dad was joined by his brother Edward, in 1910 and they farmed together for two years. In the summer of 1912 dad took a trip to Portland, Oregon, where he met Annie Lethonen. They were married in Taber on September 28, 1912.

Children born to them in Enchant were Toivo, Mary, Hilja, Walfred (Slim), Ann, Jake and Margaret.

In November of 1925 they left Enchant and came to Olds, where they lived on Reed Ranch eleven miles east of Olds for one year, moving to Trochu in November of 1926. Mother died in March, 1927 after giving birth to twin girls Thelma and Doris. The twins were adopted by two local families.

The problems without a mother proved to be many but one incident turned out to be fruitful when Mary, age 12, and just learning to bake bread, made one recipe and ended up with 25 loaves of bread.

The family moved to Eckville in 1932, settling on CPR land, section S.E. 13-40-3-W5, purchased by Toivo.

One type of recreation which Mr Tolonen enjoyed was cross-country skiing, and he won many prizes in skiing competitions. Prizes at that time were gratefully received, for they were groceries or sacks of flour

Jake and Margaret attended Estonian School And spent her school years at Boyle School while living with Mr and Mrs. Victor Matson. Mary, Hilja and Slim worked away from home in their late teens. Toimi worked for one and a half years at the flour mill in Eckville, but after his marriage to Elsie Moos he commenced farming full time and has remained on the same farm near Eckville until the present time. They have two children, Rodney and Deloyce. Mary married Lester Lundberg (deceased) and now lives at Fort Saskatchewan. Her children are Jack and Stanley

Hilja (deceased) married Fred Takkinen who resides in Eckville. They had three children Alice, Lawrence, and Karen

Walfred (Slim) married Fern Greenman They are living at Fort Saskatchewan. Their children are Paula Elaine and Linda

Ann married Percy Thomas, and they are living at Sicamous, British Columbia Their six children are Percy, Philip, Tom, Doug, Harry and Michael

Jake married Agnes Allen and they live at Lacombe. Allen, Robin, Norma and Nancy are their children

Margaret married Robert (Scotty) Jack (deceased). She lives at Lethbridge and her children are Jim, Ken and Lori

Mr Tolonen retired to the town of Eckville about 1950, later moving to the Sylvan Lake Lodge He is now residing in a Nursing Home in Red Deer. He has been blessed with 23 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren

**TOIMI TOLONEN — by Elsie Tolonen**

Toimi came to Eckville in 1932 and purchased the SE 13-40-3-W5. He worked in the Olds and Didsbury areas until 1934, then came back to Eckville to stay and purchased the NE quarter of 13-40-3-W5

In the summer of 1935, he started to work in the Eckville flour mill and continued with that job until late fall of 1936. In 1937 he married Elsie Moos and settled on the farm. There was land to be cleared the first few years and this was all done by hand. Our farming the first few years was done with horses

In 1956, Mr and Mrs. Tolonen bought the NW 18-40-2-W5 from Andy Harvilow We had a few head of cattle, pigs and chickens. Everybody had big gardens. People did a lot of canning of vegetables and also meat, as we had no freezers in those days. People also picked and canned a lot of berries for fruit We went west of Rocky Mountain House, coming home with tubs full of blueberries and cranberries picked with pickers. It was fun as three or four families would go together and of course a picnic lunch was packed to enjoy at noon

We did not own a car the first few years, so usually got a ride with someone who did have a car On one occasion there was a dance at one of the halls, so we went by horse and buggy to my brother's place. Hans Moos, and then went with them in their car to the dance Jake, Toimi's brother was along, too. Then in the wee hours of the morning, coming home with the horses, something came loose on the harness and scared the horses. Immediately we were having a runaway! Jake jumped off, tearing his suit, and found in our ravine the next morning, tangled up in the trees. Toimi and Jake were not hurt but I had my knee in a cast for a few weeks

About a year and a half later a daughter, whom we named Deloyce, was born to us in the Bentley Hospital. The Eckville Hospital did not open until four days later This hospital was in the house that the Roy Saari's live in now Two and a half years later Rodney was born We were so happy that the hard work, even washing clothes by hand, did not bother us

Margaret, Toimi's younger sister was staying with us and going to school. Whenever Toimi's dad and brothers, Slim and Jake, would be out of work they would stay and help us until they found work again

When Slim and Fern were married they stayed with us until they got a place of their own They lived on the Fred Moos farm for one year then bought the NE 5-40-2-W5. I enjoyed Fern's help and the company After a meal we would rush through the dishes, sit down and listen to the soap operas on the radio. We were busy those days, but once in a while we would take the afternoon off and visit neighbors. We usually walked, taking the kiddies in a sleigh in the winter and in a wagon or push cart in the summer One spring we were walking by a slough and heard the frogs really croaking. Rodney was just old enough to talk and he asked, "Mummie, do frogs talk

Finn?" He thought this because when Grandpa talked Finn he could not understand him, either.

We had our sewing circle meeting every two weeks, each member taking her turn in having it at her house. We would walk, if close, or get a ride with one of the ladies who had a car. Children were taken to the meetings, too. We still had our meetings until the winter of 1976-77. That year we just never got started.

When Margaret was through school, she found a job. Deloyce, just a little girl about four years old, loved her auntie and hated to see her go. She told her auntie she would let her let the water out of the sink if she would stay home.

Jake was overseas at war where he met Agnes Allen of Edinburgh, Scotland. They were married in Scotland just before the war ended. Jake came home five months ahead of Agnes. They stayed with us for a while until they bought the Lundberg place.

As time went on things got a little easier, as tractors replaced horses and better machinery was bought.

Winters were hard for us in the late 1940's, as Toimi was so sick with asthma that he had to spend most of the winters in bed. Many times I had to call Dr. Coppock out in the middle of the night to attend Toimi. I was lucky to have Toimi's dad here sometimes to help with the chores. As the children grew older we had a lot of help.

After their school days Deloyce took up education, and taught for a few years before she married Robert Burns of the Diamond Valley area.

Rod stayed at home and helped on the farm. He later became interested in cattle and did blood testing in these areas for two and a half years under Doctor Speirs. He married Nancy Morgan of Rocky Mountain House. They lived on what used to be the Bill Palm place. They farm and raise cattle, some of which are purebred Simmentals. They have one daughter, Kathy, who was born in 1969.

**VIITALA, JOHN ADULF**

John Adulf, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Viitala, married Myrtle Gibson of Weyburn, Saskatchewan in December, 1942.

They farmed the NW 2-40-3-W5, northeast of Eckville for a number of years. This is where their son, Wilfred, was born in 1943.

After farming for a few years John and Myrtle decided this wasn't the life for them, so the family moved to Edmonton.

Myrtle passed away on June 8, 1955 and John on July 1, 1960. Both are buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery in south Edmonton.

Son Wilfred is a member of the Edmonton City Police. Wilfred is married to Wanda Haddwitz of Edmonton and they have three daughters.

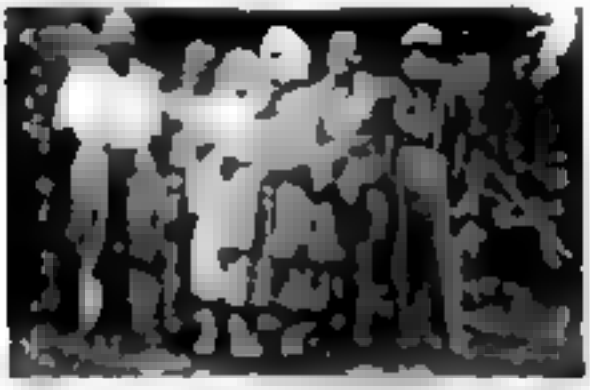
**VIITALA, MR. AND MRS. JOHN G. — by Ernest [illegible]**

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Viitala and sons, John, aged 14 and Emil, aged 12, moved from Worcester, Massachusetts, U.S.A. to Alberta. They settled four and a half miles northeast of Eckville on NW 2-40-3-W5. John and his family stayed at the home of his sister, Mrs. J. Maki, while building their own log house.

[illegible]

After his home was completed John went out to work to get his first cow. Later his boys began sawing wood and grinding grain around the country. The wood saw, grinder and gas engine were set on a frame on the sleigh or wagon pulled by a team of horses. That's how they paid for part of their farm implements.

Emil was in threshing crews with Koski's, Thorkman's and Langer's in steam engine days. He also played in the band in the 1920's and 30's. In 1929 Emil married Saima Asunma (nee Rauman), who had come to Alberta from Finland in 1927 with her son Elmer, aged four years. Emil and Ernest, born in 1933. The children took their schooling in the Estonian School.



[illegible]

Mrs. John (Maria) Viitala died in 1934 at the age of 54 years. John Sr. died in 1951 at the age of 61 years.

[illegible] served on the Estonian School Board for several years. He also played the violin at Sunshine Gospel Mission from 1950 until his passing away in 1967 at the age of 65 years. He is buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Elmer is residing in Innisfail, and works for Ready Mix.

Ellen and John Kardelis are residing in Kamloops, B.C. They have three boys and a girl.

John, while working at Inuvik, N.W.T., died suddenly on August 21, 1977 at the age of 46 years.

Ernest married Juanita Lee on July 20, 1974 in Eckville, where they now reside. Ernie's mother Sauna makes her home with them.

[illegible]

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**WERNICK JOHN AND EMMA — by Henry Wenick**

In the fall of 1904, Jean Warnick and Emma Jasmin were married and immigrated to Canada in March, 1905. Jean came from a family of three boys and one girl. He carried on the same trade as his father carpentering. After finishing his apprenticeship in Russia, he then formed a partnership with his father. But his desire was to become a farmer which was impossible to do in Estonia on account of such a population. On hearing it was easier in Canada to get started decided to venture, arriving by rail at Red Deer and then by wagon to Gilby staying for the first month with the Carl Langers. At this time he filed on a homestead, now owned by Shorrock Bros.

To make ends meet financially he got a summer job in Calgary as a carpenter on the C.P.R. who were building a bridge over the Bow River. During this time, Emma stayed with the John Rabbis'. In the fall Jean came home to Gilby and built a one-roomed house to do until such time as he could afford better which he did in 1909. In 1910 he received the deed to his homestead and to his surprise found they had changed his name to John Wernick. Rather than go through a lot of red tape to correct it left it that way. A carpenter with tools was really in demand. Some of his extra work was in making coffins and he made many in those early days. He also built the Maasepp's turbine wheel and housing which was the local grist mill at that time.

Carpentering and farming were more than a one man job so decided to do something else. He then put an ad in the Winnipeg Free Press and was soon contacted by Mr. Gates of

[illegible]

Summerland, B.C. and a deal was made. His homestead and stock were traded for a ten acre orchard with a house plus implements and a horse named Jerry who also went with the place when sold, later.

On May 24, 1916, John, Emma and a family of four children left Gilby for B.C. going by train to Okanagan Landing and the rest of the way by boat (S.S. Sicamous which is now a museum on the lake shore at Penticton) to Summerland. Here they stayed for four years during which time he built up the orchard and remodelled the house which still stands in Summerland.

In 1920 they decided to return to Estonia, now with five children. John's parents were still in the same house as when he left in 1905. As John was now a Canadian citizen he was not entitled to own land in Estonia. To fill in time he had a machine agency until he could get started on a farm for himself. The three eldest returned to Canada, namely Henry in 1926, Anna in 1927 and Eddie in 1929 leaving two brothers and one sister and their parents in Estonia. John passed away in 1948 at the age of 74 and Emma in 1962 at the age of 80.

On coming to Canada Henry attended Technical School in Calgary taking up Industrial Electrical Engineering. This was during the Depression and not many jobs available of our choosing, so was offered and accepted a motor mechanic's job and stayed at it for over thirty years, over 29 years with Edmonton Motors, until retiring in 1971. During this time he married and raised two boys and one girl and presently has five grandchildren. Henry and his wife are in Edmonton and previous to that lived in the Peace River country.

Anna married soon after arriving in Canada and raised three boys and six girls and now has 22 grandchildren. Anna was widowed some years ago.

Eddie did farming and carpentering in B.C. Here he married and raised two boys and three girls and now has five grandchildren.

# Gimlet

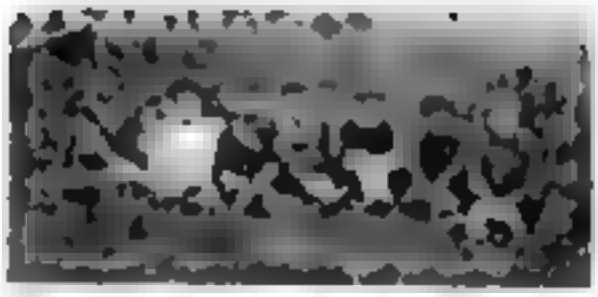
THE GIMLET SCHOOL

When families with children of school age set tle in an area it soon becomes apparent that a school house is needed. A few students from Gimlet had to go all the way to the Leedale school so in 1908, George Meredith as head carpenter with a volunteer crew got timber out and had lumber sawed and they built the Gimlet school on N W 15-41-4-W5. The hardware (nails hinges etc.) was brought from Lacombe and the total cost of the school was $800.00

Original Gimlet School building, built in 1908

The first school board consisted of three members who were Ironsdorf, Mottet and Becker and the first teacher assigned to Gimlet was Mrs Clay Aldridge who started at a salary of $4.00 a day or $840.00 per year Thirteen children started school that first term either walking or riding horseback for miles

Following is a list of teachers that taught at the Gimlet school between the years 1908 and 1954. Mrs. Clay Aldridge, Mr Tennant, Mr Fallis, Mr McLeod, Miss Lillian Sharpe. Mr Trenholm Mrs. Luela Anderson, Miss Milne, Miss Morton Mr E A. Chappell, Mrs Lewis, Miss Hattie Dobbs later Mrs Harry Stears) Miss Geneva Clayton (later Mrs. Jim Baird), Miss Selma Rabbis, Miss Elsie Peterson. Mr Russel Hall Miss Thelma Olson Miss Ruth Hall. Mrs Kathleene Johnson, Mrs. Marsh, Miss Bessie Snyder, Mr Allan Embrey, Mr Eddie Dahms Miss Ruth Holland. Mr Alex Mercer Mr



Vesney, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Stearns, Mrs Mamie Luton. Mrs Louise Jones and Miss Barr

Memorable events for students, teachers, and parents alike were the annual June picnics and the annual Christmas concerts held at the school Everyone in the district brought a picnic lunch and it was all put together and everyone ate together Then they had ball games, races and the local ladies had a concession booth. The wind-up of the big day that everyone looked forward to was the dance. Everyone joined in at these dances, bedding sleeping children in the sand table, on desks or in the corner and usually the last group of people were seen leaving as the dawn was breaking

Then the Christmas concerts were highly an ticipated by the children as the teachers had them memorizing and practising poems, drills, plays and songs from about the first of November for the concert which was held between December 17 to 22. The concert started the evening and kept everyone well entertained for one and a half to two hours, the highlights be ing saved to the very last when the children all lined up and sang "Here Comes Santa Claus and you'd hear the "tinkle tinkle" of his bells and in would come the jolly old fellow and take his place by the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and hand out candy bags and gifts to all the eager children. To end this night of fun, a dance followed with music supplied by a local orchestra

Track meets were a hectic day for teachers and enjoyed immensely by all the students participating, but just as much by those who weren because it was a holiday. For divisional, trackmeets, everyone was loaded in the back of a truck and transported to a central rendezvous.

Then in 1954 came the centralization of several country schools and Gimlet had to close her doors to learning and "bus" the children to Lestevi le. However the school was not lost. The school building was bought by the community in the late 1950's for $400.00 and is now known as the Gimlet Community Center and is still controlled by a very efficient crew of board members. The building is used for numerous community functions and the men of the district have built a fabulous set of rodeo grounds there, which sees a very active ti le rodeo annually on the third Sunday of June.

**THE GIMLET SOCIALITE LADIES CLUB — by Ruth Casey**

In 1945 we held an organization meeting in the Gimlet school with the purpose of organizing a ladies club in the district. Thus the Gimlet Social Ladies Club was formed, the name being submitted by Miss Vessy, the sister of our school teacher at that time.

Mrs. Gladys Bell was our first president and Violet Brown the secretary. Among the first members of our club were: Laura Chappell, Rosie Wallis, Jean Evernden, Lenora Jodoin, Sally Evernden, Pauline Keim, Selma Dvrland, Fee Mason, Annie Parker, Hattie Pimm, Anne Tkachk, Violet Belt, Dorothy Dalum, Mabel Erwin, Miss Vessey, and Ruth Casey. Our aim was to meet once a month and bring some social activity into the community.

Among our first activities was a play. All of the participants will remember Stuart Chappell's delicious pancakes and Mrs. Browns' apple pie. These were the sort of midnight snacks we demanded while rehearsing' — and I think it's time we put on another play.

Down through the years we have held card parties, bridal showers and our annual fall pot luck suppers. Then there has almost always been a pancake supper in February, the one event when the gents don an apron and "flip the flap jacks."

In 1956 the question arose, what will we do with our old school? So the Community Club was formed, and we bought it to be used as a Community Centre. Ever since then, the people of Gimlet, Leedale, and Medicine Valley have kept it going and it is now used as a Rodeo grounds as well, with an annual rodeo held on the third Sunday in June.

The Gimlet Socialites are still an active ladies club, and the membership to date is as follows: Gail Johnston, Bea Clough, Ruth Neal, Mrs. Margaret Houston, Violet Brown, Trudy Houston, Rose May, Eileen Feddersen, Florence Feddersen, Myrtle Jackson, Hannah Oldford, Marjorie Staudinger, and Ruth Casey.

**GIMLET UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH**

When the district was first being settled and for many years thereafter, church services were conducted out of the Gimlet schoolhouse by Christian workers from Didsbury or Christian school teachers and other people who wished to assist.

Then in 1933 a young couple originally from South Dakota, who had just graduated from Mountain View Bible College in Didsbury, were commissioned to full-time service in the Gimlet [illegible]

[illegible] and his wife at the United Missionary Church Mr. and Mrs. Merle Baker

Upon arriving at their mission, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Baker stayed at the John Olson farm while finding and fixing a place to live. They decided on a house owned by Robert Flack which he said they could live in if they thought it livable. So they bought a roll of building paper and proceeded to cover the logs. Interrupted by a loud noise from under the building, they pulled up a floor board to find a family of skunks had first occupancy at that location. But sensing the newcomers intent to stay, Mama skunk packed up her babies and moved on.

The Baker's finished repairing the house and furnished it with orange boxes and other locally

acquired chattel. And here they lived for the next four years while making their thirty mile trip each Sunday to their individual appointments of Gimlet Aurora and Washington Heights. This they did by team and buggy. One of the team had a wee colt and being too small to make the trip on his own, they had to let it ride in the wagon for the first few weeks.

Mr. Kenneth Chadbourne gave a corner of land on which a new parsonage could be built and in 1937 the Bakers regretfully moved into the nice new three room house that Mr. Baker had built. After four years the old log shack was still home to them.

Church services, Sunday school and Daily Vacational Bible School were still being held in the Gimlet school. Tent meetings were also held just across from the school. Mr. and Mrs. Baker served Gimlet and their other districts for six years before moving to another field. When Mr. Baker came to Gimlet there were no members of the United Missionary Church but at the termination of their ministry here in 1938 the journal reports a membership of sixteen people.

Rev. and Mrs. Habermehl (Albert and Beulah) succeeded the Bakers at Gimlet and served here from 1939 to 1944. They too had smelly experiences with the little black and white cats that roamed quietly about the neighborhood. One night when Mr. Habermehl was away and Gladys Beckett was staying with Mrs. Habermehl, an uninvited guest caused bedlam in the barn where the chickens stayed. The ladies, neither of which were experienced with a shotgun, proceeded with gun and lantern up the ladder of the barn, and pointing the gun down the feed chute, Gladys pulled the trigger. She was nearly unseated from her perch but there was no Mr. Skunk, only his odor remained to haunt them for months.

Replacing the Habermehls in 1944 and serving until 1946 were Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Neufeld (Ernie and Myna).

During these years spring break-up and summer rains made it very difficult to cross the Gimlet creek to get to the school for church services. So when Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Quantz (Les and Evelyne) took over the ministry here in 1946 it was decided it was a time for a change. Mr. and Mrs. James Houston donated seven acres of land one mile south of the Gimlet school (S.W. 15-11-4-W5) and the parsonage was moved, enlarged and remodelled.

Rev. Quantz and the people of the district then proceeded to erect a church on the site. Les's brother Walter succeeded him in 1950 and it was on Oct. 8 of that year that the Gimlet and Aurora congregations met with Mr. Frey, the District Superintendent and former pastors for the dedication service of the new church.

Mrs. Leinonen, a lovely little lady who lived a mile and a half from the church, very generously donated the big bell that is in the church in hopes she may hear it toll all the way to her place.

Rev. Jim Maconochie pastored at Gimlet from 1951 to 1955. During this period, Jim took time off to go to British Columbia and bring back a bride who was the former Jean Burgess. Jim and Jean were highly respected and the district regretted their leaving when they were called to another field in 1955.

But they were glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Walter Quantz. Walter and Elsie) to minister to them until 1959.

Next a big, humerous, slow speaking, wonderful man was appointed to Gimlet in the form of Rev. Earl Archer and he and Mrs. Archer (Katherine) were with us until 1962. During their ministry the parsonage and church were wired for electricity.

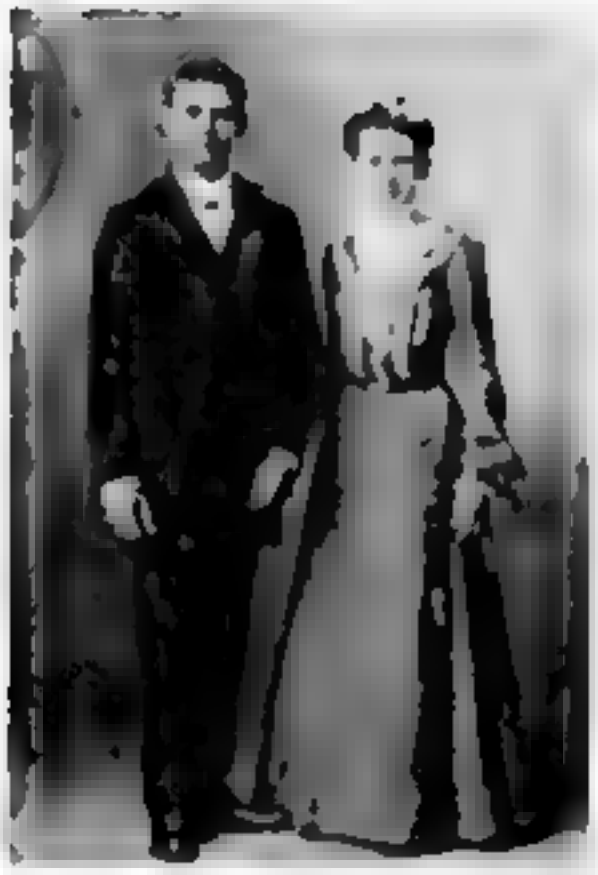
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Umbach came to Gimlet in 1962 for a two year term followed by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Snyder (Wayne and Vicky) who ministered here for a year.

In 1965 Colin Meikle served Gimlet faithfully while finishing his bible school training. He also took time to acquire a wife (Shirley) while he was here and in 1967 left us in the care of his brother Allan and his wife Gaie.

Gimlet then had Mr. and Mrs. Don Bacon (Don and Grace) minister to them for just one year, and in 1972 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wilcox came to take over this field. Their pastorship was enjoyed until he was replaced by Mr. Randy Arliss and his wife, Lynn, in 1975, and they are still working this field to date 1978.

**MR. AND MRS. H. BURLEY BELT AND FAMILY — by Gladys Belt**

Burley Belt and Charlotte Sterling were married in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1900 and moved to the Haynes area in 1907. In 1908 they moved to their homestead northwest of Wittenberg, now known as Leedale. While living there Burley served as councillor for a number of years. About 1912 he purchased one of the first outfits for wood-saw



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ing and he also had one of the first threshing machines in the area

In 1916 the family moved to the Gimlet district where they farmed for a number of years When their eldest son, Roy took over the farm hey moved to James River Bridge in 1946. After heir retirement they lived for a time at Didsbury and later lived in Red Deer

Burley passed away in 1961 and Charlotte in 1969 Of their eight children, Rosa, Pauline, and Margaret reside at Huntingdon, B.C.. Ruth lives in Red Deer and Donald lives in Sundre

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**THE ROY BELT FAMILY — by Gladys Belt**

Roy Belt was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs H Burley Belt. He grew up in the Gimlet area He served overseas from 1940 to 1945 in World War II. Upon leaving the forces he took over his parents' farm and in August 1946 he married Gladys Gahagan of Alsask, Saskatchewan

Due to Roy's poor health they were forced to leave the farm and then moved around a bit until they settled in Lesliteville, in August, 1959. They had four children Ellen Gusek and Lorraine McNutt of Rocky Mountain House, Evelyn of Ottawa, Ontario and Harley of Lesliteville

Harley is presently enrolled in a two-year police science course at Mount Royal College in Calgary. After completion of this course he plans to take his R.C.M.P. training

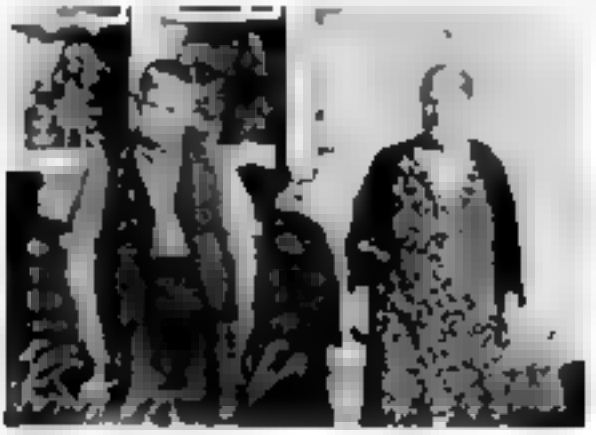
Roy was postmaster at Lesueville for ten years before his death in July, 1967 Gladys continued on as postmistress until her retirement in June 1976. She still resides in Leslievlle

**BERRY FAMILIES JOHN AND MAGGIE HARRY AND BESSIE BERRY, JACK AND MARGARET (nee BERRY WALLS — by Margaret Walls**

My dad and my brother, Harry came from Lancashire, England in 1911 to file on NW and SW 10-41-4-W5 My brother was never robust he had been to River Falls, Massachusetts, U.S.A two years before, and had taken ill. The doctor advised him to either go west or return to England. He returned to England, but was determined to go back to America. He and his chum Jack Mullarkey arranged to go with another couple to Imperial Valley, California but by saving time the parents would not give their consent. Then Harry persuaded his dad to get the address of Frank Lawton who had come to Canada from the same village in England. After exchanging a few letters, Dad and Harry came to Lacombe Alberta chose the land, then went back to Lacombe to file on it and get work on the C.P.R line east of Lacombe Dad was used to hard work, but Harry was not In the fall they came back to the land to put in the required time and start improvements

First, all with hand labor they made a dugout in the hillside and covered it with trees and sod The dugout was kept warm with a small cook

Jack Berry's log cabin home, 1911. Jack Berry and daughter Irene



Jack and Maggie Berry

stove, and became too warm to stay in on baking day. They made a bed of hogwire stretched over two by fours, with a mattress of sheets sewed together and stuffed with dried grass. Mother had sent a good supply of wool blankets. They survived the winter, more determined than ever to "prove up" and get the title. Some neighbors from Central Europe had a farming background and looked with disgust on the green Englishmen. In order to learn, Dad and Harry would offer to help others build a barn or dig a well.

The next spring they built a one-roomed shack on Harry's place and dug a well on Dad's quarter. As money was getting scarce, they went to Calgary, where work was plentiful. That winter Dad returned to England to bring Mother and me to Canada the next May. By this time the boom in Calgary was over. Mother had no intention of going to the farm, but the men did go. Mother got work at the Hudson's Bay Store for $10 a week and felt like a millionaire. My first job was baby-sitting for $7 a week. Every cent we could spare went to the homestead.

During the summer, while the men were away working, we got a message that some kid had shot out the windows, lamps and even a can with some money in it. Mother's wool blankets were gone, but found later after the mice had eaten holes in them.

In 1915 my brother married Bessie Curson of Calgary and settled down on the farm. In 1916, because Harry's wife was expecting a baby, Mother came up and persuaded Bessie to go to Calgary to await the arrival. I was not happy at Calgary as Mother was so strict, so Bessie told me to come and stay with Dad and Harry. I came, and soon I was working for Dan Clausen who was running the Gilby store owned by Mike Sestrap. I got $15 a month, but had little to spend as groceries for the homestead came out of it. Mr. and Mrs. Clausen treated me very well, and I went visiting and to parties with them. Mother later gave up her job and came to the farm until spring, when I went back to Calgary with her. We roomed with Mr. and Mrs. Easter who later farmed SW 14-41-4-W5.

Harry and Bessie Berry

Jack and Madge Wells 1918

I met a young soldier, Jack Wails, and we were married in November 1917. Jack was born on December 23 at Darlington County Durham England, and was one of 15 children in the famil

In 1918 Harry and Bessie were farming alone. They had another girl born in September with Mother Mrs. Lawton and Mrs. Dyrland in attendance.

My folks were working in Calgary. In late October when Dad and I came up for a few days, we were surprised to see the train crew wearing masks, as we hadn't heard of the flu. There were six of us staying in the two-roomed shack. Harry and the children came down with the flu, then I got it. We drifted in and out of delirium for several days. Bessie walked over to Norems, a mile and a half away, to send a message to Calgary and get medicine. Mr. Norem met her some distance from the buildings and told her to stop. He threw her a pencil and pad to write her message on. When she threw it back, he read it and put it in a pail of coal oil to kill any germs. Jack came out with medicine and a bottle of liquor, walking most of the way from Eckville. Meanwhile, Dad had got fires started in his house, although it wasn't yet finished, and moved me there.

When Jack saw how ill I was, in addition to being pregnant with my first baby, he arranged for Harry Lowe, who ran the Eckville Hotel, to come for us in his Model T Ford and we went back to Calgary. We would have taken Harry, too, but he was too ill to be moved. Mother, who had come up, got Jack Mullarkey to go for our friend, Mrs. Spencer of Carlos, who was a nurse. Dr. Henry came out from Bentley and said Harry had double pneumonia. On November 23, when Mrs. Spencer had gone home for the day, he passed away after three weeks' illness, at the age of 28 years. Mr. Sjodahl laid him out and Mr. Lawton made the casket that Mother lined with her best crocheted table cloth. He was buried in the Gilby cemetery with Reverend Yeutus of Sylvan Lake as minister.

Jack Mullarkey took over running the farm and Bessie and the children went to Calgary. They had no money, only what clothes they wore. Bessie got a job at Dr. McKid's house. The children were put in a shelter, where Helen, the oldest, later contracted scarlet fever. We took Beatrice, six months old, to our place, where my folks were also living. On January 22 I lost my premature baby girl.

In April 1919 my folks again decided to go to the farm. They gave Jack and me a partnership in return for our paying the mortgage and interest. Jack and I were both working, making about $99 a month. We bought a sorrel team (Topsy and George), a light wagon and harness and some chickens. Dad drove up, while Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Easter and the children came on the train. We sent about $30 a month up to the folks. bought repairs, cows and calves. I often look at young people today and wonder how many would do as we did.

In the fall of 1920 we came to the farm for the harvest. Several bridges were being built, and my husband and Jack Mullarkey got the job of hauling the timbers from Bentley. After several trips they were staying with Jack Farr in the Medicine Hills for the night, when a small colt they had with them kicked Jack, cutting his right eye so it hung on his cheek. Jack Mullarkey borrowed a buggy and, instead of taking him to a doctor, brought him home. I dressed the wound with him screaming with pain, then saddled a horse and rode to Mr. Sjodahls. He took us to Eckville in his Model T Ford. I think we saw a doctor, but nothing could be done, as the tear duct was cut, so I went home. Some boys were

[illegible] back with them. The doctors there put the eye

had to wear glasses. We were thankful that he could keep the eye.

Mother was constantly mourning my brother, and the children got on her nerves, so we moved into Harry's old shack. Jack was able to ride over to Balances (now Ivan Houston's) to help bale hay for $1 a day and board. I had lots of mice for company, a tom cat and a weasel would come out of the cellar and sit under the stove. I was afraid on a windy day as we had only a tin pipe where the tamarack wood would spark and ignite the creosote that formed, sending flames high into the air. Our roof was only tar paper and could easily have caught fire.

Four years later Bessie remarried, taking the children to Vancouver.

In spite of all the hardships, there were good times, too. At Christmas our friends Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, her brother, Bill Collins, and a young Englishman, Maurice Spires, came from their place, eight miles away, bringing lots of goodies. After chores, the Lawtons came and we were invited to the Chadbourne's, who lived [illegible] the road. They had five children — Anna, Hattie, Ken, Melvin and Eugene. Dad stayed home with the little girls. They had a gramophone with a large horn and Mr. Chadbourne played the violin. I don't think my mother ever enjoyed herself as much, as everyone danced and sang. The Lawtons drove home, but the others stayed. We had a bin of oats in one of our bedrooms, so we made a bed for the men there. Many a party we had at the Easter's. They had a piano that Mabel played and Jack Mullarkey, who had a splendid voice, would sing all the old songs.

In the spring we went back to Calgary where Jack got a job with Crystal Dairies, living in half of a bungalow that his Dad owned. We had to save money before "Little Johnny" came. A week before he was born prematurely, we got the word that Mr. Lawton had died suddenly. I felt as bad as if he had been one of my own family. Granny Lawton and I wrote often after that. While he was living we had spent many evenings

dancing around the stove in the middle of the room. Granny would have refreshments ready

Philip John was born May 6, 1921, a sickly baby until fall when we went to the farm for the [illegible] just one ply of board covered with tar paper a four-holed stove and an air-tight heater a divan, crib and table. a block of wood with a cushion covering it for company I spent a lot of time with the Lawtons when Jack would be away, going to dances with Kathy and Joan. Granny Lawton took over the care of Phil and he soon gained weight. Jack was working for Harding Brothers, hauling grain to Eckville for $250 a month which they couldn't pay For his wages he only got a few groceries. an old rifle and a wooden barrel

After Jack got his engineer's papers we spent 11 years working for the provincial government at Fort Saskatchewan. Our daughter Betty was born there in 1931 We cleared the mortgage on the other land, also bought the SE 10-41-4-W5 and the SW 14-41-4-W5. We returned to the farm and farmed until 1957

Our son Phil, who had married Rosie Szoretko and had three children, had moved to Calgary Our daughter Betty who had married Art Mottus, was living at Midnapore with their four children Art was a welder for Shaw Construction

We sold out to Alvin Snow and went to Calgary Jack passed away from a heart attack on November 16, 1962 Our son Phil passed away on January 17, 1968, of a cerebral hemorhage

I make my home on the farm of Art and Betty Mottus

My dad died in 1945 at the age of 78 years Mother died in 1948 at 81 years of age

**BROWN, STANLEY AND VIOLET**

Stanley Brown was born in Blythe, England in June 1906. His uncle, Joe Brown, immigrated to Canada in 1905 to the Gimlet district and homesteaded the S.W 22-41-4-W5 now owned by Bill Houston

Stanley and his parents came to Halifax Canada, by boat in 1912 and then came west to Lacombe, Alberta, by train. They purchased a team and wagon and continued their journey to Wittenberg (now Leedale) and from there southwest crossing the river twice to reach their destination. At one point they mired down in the muskeg as a lot of the country was wet at that time. After unloading all of their worldly possessions and carrying them to higher ground they finally freed the team and wagon, reloaded and proceeded on to Joe Brown's homestead

They lived in Joe's little log shack until Tom Brown homesteaded the N W 9-41-4-W5. They built the usual luxurious two room log house on this place but hauling all of their water from a spring, nearly a mile from home, was no luxury

In May 1914 a little girl was born into the Brown family and she was named Mabel. Mrs Brown was very sick after the baby was born and passed away in August of the same year with Bright's disease

Tom took Stanley and Mabel and went to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to visit his wife's brothers, Tom and Jack Kindred. They stayed there the entire winter and while there, met some friends that were going back to England so Tom sent baby Mabel back to his sister to raise which she did. Mabel married and had one daughter and remained there until her passing in 1975

Stanley and his Dad returned to the farm in the spring of 1915 and bought a team of oxen from Clarence Dameron at Bentley to break the land While his Dad plowed, Stanley had to walk behind in the furrow and tramp the sod that wanted to fall back into the furrow

Stanley attended school at Gimlet where he walked nearly two miles until they could afford a horse for him to ride

In 1921 Joe Brown bought NW 21-41-4-W5 and Tom Brown bought S.E 21-41-4-W5 which were both C.P R quarters

Joe and Tom Brown on Joe Brown's plow (NW 21) in the 1920's

[illegible]

Stanley and his Dad hauled lumber from McPherson's mill about six miles west of their place, which they bought at $10.00 per thousand feet, planed, to build a cottage style house in 92.

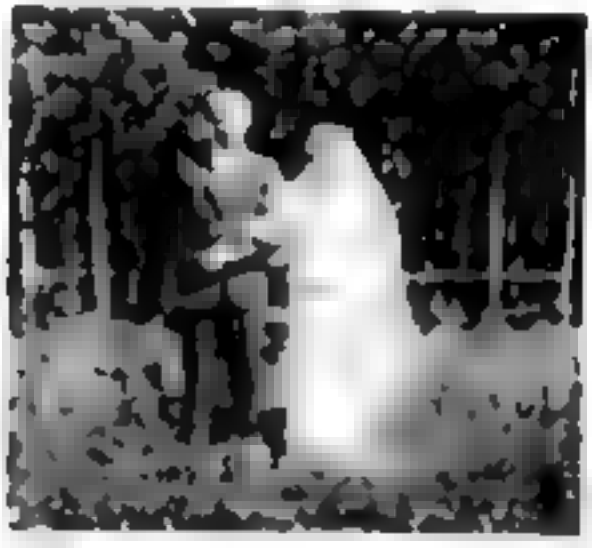
This farm was where Stanley spent the next 50 years of his life. He recalled many incidents in the next ten years after moving to section 21 too numerous to mention in this brief history.

One time he and Jack Mullarkey were going to a dance in Lesueville and the snow was drifted so deep in places, they had to unhook the team, lead them over the drifts and push the cutter over by hand. Then going down a long hill, the team spooked and began to run. In order to stop them, Jack pulled them off the road into the deep snow, but in doing so they broke the tongue out of the cutter. They had to go to a farm and borrow a brace and bit, two bolts and an axe and put the tongue back in the cutter. Is that so different from borrowing a jack and a wheel wrench and changing a tire nowadays?

Another time Artie Hollingsworth and Stanley Brown were coming home from a dance at Willesdengreen, both went to sleep and woke up to find the team going 'round and 'round Benson's race track. That's better than going to sleep at the wheel of a car, it would just promptly take you straight into the ditch.

Stanley purchased the N.E. 15-41-4-W5 in 1930 and one afternoon while plowing with six head of horses on a gang plow, Ted Pimm called him over for coffee. A few minutes later Doreen Mason came home from school on a full gallop and when she turned the corner, the clatter of her horses' hooves spooked his team and they took off but luckily he had left the plow in the ground and caught them quickly before they plowed too long a furrow.

In 1938, after courting Violet Hollingsworth for seven years, Stanley and she were united in marriage at the Gimlet parsonage. The first



residing minister of the Gimlet United Missionary Church, Rev. Merle Baker performed the marriage and then took the happy couple for a wild Bennett wagon ride behind Harold Misner's Model A Ford, through the hamlet of Leedale and on to the Hollingsworth ranch. Thus started their thirty-one and a half years of married life.

In August 1941, their only child was born in Eckville, Alberta, a daughter which they named Patricia Louise (Patty Lou).

Tom Brown went back to England to visit in 1937 and returned to Canada in 1944. He lived with his family until his passing in 1945.

Joe Brown bought the S.W. 28-41-4-W5 to go with his section 18 quarter where he farmed for many years. Then he had the misfortune of losing his two storey frame home in a fire. He remained on the farm though until he purchased a house in Leedale and lived there until he

In 1963, Stanley and Violet's daughter Patty married Richard Lee Fedirchuck. Over a period of seven years, three daughters were born to them: Bonnita Louise (born in Rocky Mountain House), Pamela Gay (born in Eckville) and Lisa Marie (born in Leduc).

In 1966, Browns built a new three bedroom home on their farm with the average conveniences and this home was an absolute luxury.

Unfortunately a fatal heart attack allowed Stanley to enjoy their new home only until December of 1970. But Violet remained on the farm and in 1974 her daughter and her family moved home to help her farm. They had purchased the S.E. 21-41-4-W5 in 1973 so are farming as well. Patty and Rick's girls attend school at Lesueville and David Thompson High School and so goes the story of the life of Stanley and Violet Brown and their offspring.

[illegible] by
Ruth Casey

Howard "Bud" Casey and myself, Ruth Alice Parsons, were united in marriage in August 1941, at the Presbyterian Church in Red Deer.

Bud was born at Carstairs, Alberta, in November 1919, and moved to the Leaftand area with his parents in 1930. I was born in Youngstown, Alberta March 1924, and moved to the Bingley-Carlos area with my family in 1932.

For the first two years we rented the "Leaf and place" E-1-41-5-W5 as Bud's father was away doing carpenter work. However being anxious to start on our own, we built a small house on Bud's C.P.R. - NE-7-41-4-W5. In the spring of 1943 we moved there and settled down to farm and raise a family. Our house was of lumber that was sawed at Lawton's mill. It wasn't very fancy, and of course had no inside plumbing, but was very warm and cosy.

There were no roads. Just a trail through the woods with numerous "bog holes" when it rained, and the snow got very deep in the winter. So our mode of travel was, of course, by horseback, sleigh, or buggy and lumber wagon. Our nearest neighbor on the next quarter south was Lyle Engen, a bachelor.

For a livelihood, we milked a few cows and raised pigs. Bud hauled our cream to Rierson's where the Bluffton cream truck picked it up. Montalberti Brothers owned the store at Bluffton and ran the cream trucks. We could send for anything from pins to kitchen chairs, and they very faithfully filled our orders and brought them out on the next truck.

Our first child, Wade Howard, was born on February 24, 1944, in the small hospital in Eckville — now a residence owned by Mr. and Mrs. Saari. The hospital was so crowded, that another lady and myself stayed at the hotel for almost a week waiting for that stork — Doctor Coppock would take no chances of babies being born out in a snowstorm somewhere along the road.

The morning Wade arrived, there were nine babies in that tiny hospital, and one was bedded down in a dresser drawer.

In January 1945 we bought the SE-20-41-4-W5 from Mrs. Hilda Trenholm, where we still reside. There was a two roomed "shanty" on it, an old straw shed that served as a barn, and approximately 30 acres broken. We moved over the hill into the Gimlet district in the spring of 1945 and began building again.

Our second child, Gail Esther, was born on September 28, 1945. Dr. Coppock had his new hospital by then so they didn't have to put the babies into dresser drawers. During my stay in the hospital there was a heavy snowfall, and as the trees still had most of their leaves, the weight of the snow bent them to the ground.

We were very busy in those years, clearing land and building. Ted Pimm, our good neighbor to the west did our first piece of breaking with his steel wheeled John Deere tractor and breaking plow. Ted always owned a John Deere, and when we heard that "Popping Johnny" start up in the spring, we knew it was soon planting time.

The roads weren't very good in those days - we didn't know what gravel or snowploughs were, so when it was muddy we travelled by tractor and wagon, and a sleigh in the winter when the snow drifted in the roads. The week before Christmas in 1946, Omar Jodoin was on his way to the Leedale store (six and one half miles) with his team and bob-sleigh, so I went along with him to do my Christmas shopping. There were no bright lights nor mobs of people, and Mr. Myers had a very well stocked store, so it was quite a simple task to purchase my gifts and groceries.

The following June we went to the Leedale picnic via tractor and wagon. There was always a very bad mudhole in the road by the Gimlet creek, so we had to travel through the Ken Chadbourne quarter, (now owned by Wade) thru the bush coming out at Clevenger's corner. We picked up some of the neighbors on the way, so we had a wagon load by the time we got to [illegible].

In the spring of 1948 we had enough of tractor travel, so we went to Red Deer and traded our car in on a shiny new jeep. Thus was our mode of travel for awhile, and it was also used as a farm tractor. As long as he lived, John Dyrland probably never forgot the ride he had on the binder behind that jeep.

On July 4, 1949, we were blessed with a new daughter, Beverly Marie. Her paternal grandmother said "at least we have one Yankee in the family" — as July 4th is the United States national hol[illegible].

In the spring of 1953 Bud decided he would like to try something besides farming, so he applied for an assistant district rangers job with the Alberta Forest Service. He was accepted and we sold our machinery, rented the farm to Bud's father and mother, and moved to Cadomin, a ghost mining town 70 miles south of Edson.

Our fourth child, Darryl Roy was born on the 8 of March 1954 in the Mercoal hospital, 20 miles north of Cadomin. There is no town there now as the last time we went through on a fishing trip, the hospital was being taken down - the last of the buildings to be removed — so Darryl's birth place is no longer on the map.

In the spring of 1954 we moved to McLennan in the Peace River area, where Bud served as District Ranger for two years.

In May 1956, he handed in his resignation as a forest officer, and went to work for Northern Alberta Railways for the summer. In August we moved back to our farm, where we have lived [illegible].

A few changes had been made in the district. Gimlet School was now closed and children were being bused to Lesliеville and roads were being upgraded to accomodate the bus routes.

In 1958 we installed Calgary Power but we didn't have the convenience of the telephone un

Our fifth child and the baby of the family Shauna Diane, was born on July 2, 1964. She is now attending Junior High at David Thompson Shauna likes her horses and cats, and our Dalmation dog Bimbo, and seems to be a farmer

In April 1970 Bud again went to work for the Forestry as foreman of the cleanup crew at the Brazeau Dam and Wade looked after the farm This job lasted for two summers, and we came back to farming again. We are now talking of retiring but that time is yet to come

Wade married Bonnie Jean Bardenhagen and now lives a half mile east of us on the NW 16-41-4 W5. He has cattle and horses and farms on a small scale, working part time in the oil patch At present he is employed as tool push in the north. Wade and Bonnie have three boys, Rodger, Roland, and last but not least, Clinton Merle. They are all cowboys

Gail married Glen Johnston. She lives with her family on the southwest corner of our land They have three children Shari, Shannon and Darcy Gail and Glen had the very sad misfortune of losing three children in a car accident in 1968, their oldest daughter Maxine, and two month old twins, Tammy and Timmy. Glen works on construction and is at present working for Rocky Concrete

Beverly married David Lowe, and they live in Calgary, with their two children, daughter Tracy and son Troy, who would like to move their house out to Grampa's farm. Dave owns a winchbed truck and is at present running a crane for a construction company in Calgary

Darryl is still single and works as a derrick hand on the oil rigs. The only thing Darryl really liked about the farm was his pet duck Donna and his border collie "Billy", (given to him by Bill Houston when he was quite small)

**[illegible] by Ruth Casey**

Merle Casey was born in Dewitt Iowa U.S.A in 1894 and came to the Crossfield area with his parents in 1906. He helped on the farm there until 1912, when he started farming on his own

Harriet Belle Pierson was born in Gillman Iowa, coming to Canada with her parents in 1910 They settled in the Carstairs district

On June 10, 1916 Merle and Hattie were united in marriage at Crossfield, Alberta. They farmed in the Crossfield, Acme and Carstairs districts until 1931 when they moved to the Leafland district with their three teenaged children — Lyla Agnes and Howard "Bud"

Merle bought the east half of section 1 41 4 W5, and moved the building site to the north side of the south quarter closer to the spring where water was plentiful.

The Leafland school was situated on the south [illegible] corner of this land

In the summer of 1932, Ralph English came up from Crossfield to spend his summer holidays and there he remained to become a foster brother to Bud

Merle raised a few foxes, and Bud and Ralph can well remember spending their summers catching gophers to feed them (in the winter it was rabbits) I believe Lawton's fields were the most popular trapping grounds, as Bud recalls the time when Alec whittled them each a pipe from a willow branch and another incident when they went swimming in the creek with Dick, and someone hid their clothes!

Merle also did custom threshing in the fall. He owned a Red River Special threshing machine and a Rumley oil-pull tractor Then came the war, and in 1940 Merle decided to go to High River to work on the airport as a carpenter From there, he went to Vulcan, working with the Western Air Command's Engineering staff as inspector for the airport being built there, and Hattie moved with him. From Vulcan they moved to Port Hardy, on the far end of Vancouver Island, where he again worked as carpenter at the airport Their living quarters were small, and they were very much away from the world, but Hattie enjoyed the seashore and dug for clams, etc We still have the large snail, abalone and clam shells she brought back with her

From Port Hardy they moved back to Vancouver with the Boeing Aircraft Co. and finally back to their farm in 1944

In 1966 Merle and Hattie again left the farm and moved to Airdrie where he helped build the elementary school. Their next move was to the E P" Ranch at Aiderside, which was owned by the Prince of Wales. Here Merle was employed as a carpenter and bu.. several buildings during the two years he was there. Hattie was happier here as she was able to take her horses with her and could ride "Chubby" over the range whenever she liked.

The next 15 years were spent at Acme where they bought an acreage. They kept several horses, and were active members of the Acme Riding Club until the early 1970's.

In 1974 they sold their acreage and house and moved to the Rockyview Lodge in Crossfield and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary there in 1976. Now, at ages 82 and 83 years young they are living with their eldest daughter Lyla Allen in Calgary. Merle is still able to do a little fishing and can drive around the city which is quite a feat nowadays.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Young on their Diamond wedding anniversary in 1976

**CHADBOURNE WILLIAM BILL AND DORA**
**by Alta Chadbourne Brown**

William Edward Chadbourne was born January 10, 1882 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Chadbourne. My grandparents farmed in that area. When my dad was 14 years old grandma died and they were alone for a period of time until my grandad remarried at which time Dad and his brother Fred, left home to shift for themselves.

When Dad was 20, he married Dora Hundley. Mother was born in McHugh, Minnesota on October 10, 1883. My parents then moved to Harrison, Idaho where Dad went into the lumber business with his brother Fred.

was born September 19, 1905; Kenneth was born February 8, 1908; Hattie was born March 9, 1909; Melvin was born December 27, 1911 and Eugene was born March 29, 1914.

The Chadbourne Family - Alta, Ken, Hattie, Melvin and Eugene

When Eugene was about one year old, my grandad, who had moved to Alberta, wrote my dad to come to Alberta. So Dad and Uncle Fred dissolved partnership and we moved to Alberta in 19 5.

We lived near Bentley for a year but Dad couldn't get a clear title to a quarter of land that he wanted so we came north-west and took up a homestead at Gimlet. We lived there until some time in 1918. There was a log shack on the place which we lived in for several years. It was about 16 x 20 feet and every fall Dad had to plaster the cracks shut. A friend of ours had a similar place

and they said if all the cracks had been on one side of the house, there would have been only three walls.

My grandad and stepgrandmother lived in a little 10 x 12 foot shack on Dad's farm. After they left and went back to the U.S.A. in 1917, Dad moved it over to our log house and used it for a bedroom.

My dad nearly always worked away from home. He was very handy and was able to do a variety of jobs fairly well. In 1918, he bought a blacksmith shop and tools and we moved to Gadsby where he did blacksmith work for about a year. During that time, the flu struck. My mother and three brothers were all in the hospital at one time and just before they were ready to come home, Dad and we two girls got the flu. However, we all survived.

In the spring of 1919, my dad and brother Ken came back to the homestead and did some breaking, then we all came back.

Dad used to get up and start breaking land around 3 a.m. and break until 10 or 10:30 a.m. then he would turn the horses loose to graze as they had no feed, also the flies were so bad. He would start breaking again around 3 p.m. and work late.

One winter Dad drove out north-west and filed saws for a sawmill. Then another winter he shot rabbits and squirrels and sold the hides to make a living. We had a few cows and one horse to start with on the homestead. We had no fences so our cows and horses had free range. When Mother went to Gilby for groceries, it would take nearly all day since she had to run down the horse first. She had to drive all the way around "Robin Hood's Barn" to get there with no roads to speak of and so many gates to open on the way. She wouldn't usually get back until late.

My dad was a violinist and occasionally played for dances.

In 1919, we had a lot of snow and in the spring of 1920 there was a lot of water. North of our place about a mile, the creek flat was one big lake.

In about 1923 or 24, Dad got out logs and had them sawed into lumber and built us a frame

house with two rooms upstairs and two rooms on the main floor — a bedroom and a room which served as kitchen and living room. I helped Dad shingle the roof. Later Dad built on a lean-to for a kitchen. He put tar paper on the roof to start with and after it got a bit weather beaten, the rain would come through so it was almost as wet inside as out. Dad used to say when it was raining he couldn't fix it and when it wasn't raining it didn't need it. However he did eventually fix it with some roofing.

We children nearly always walked to school. When we did ride, it kept Dad busy repairing our outfit so we could ride as it wasn't new.

I did janitor work at the Gimlet School and got $25. for the year. I gave my sister $5. for helping me, bought my dad a felt hat and my mother a white blouse and still had some left for myself.

Dad became a Christian in about 1934 and Mother was previous to that. They were both baptized and joined the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church.

In November 1927, my sister, Hattie, was married to Ted Pimm. They had three girls and one boy.

On December 28, 1938 my brother, Melvin was married to Thelma Jackman. They had two girls. Mel was a trucker most of his life. He now lives in Edmonton.

Ken never married and farmed together with Dad until he died, then on his own. Ken is now retired and living in Eckville.

Eugene also never married. He is retired as well, and lives north of Condor.

Dad died on August 18, 1950 and Mother on August 4, 1953.

I, Anna, married Isaac Brown of Buck Creek on April 5, 1940. He was a minister there. We made our home on our homestead at Buck Creek for May and June then moved to my folks for a few months.

When we first went to Buck Creek, we rode about seven miles out from Breton with a friend then walked the other 13 miles. We had only one horse and walked pretty well everywhere we

When we left Buck Creek, we loaded our Bennett wagon with our things and had our calf in the back. Our cow walked behind and I walked also to herd the cow. One of our wheels broke down, so we spent the night at a logging camp and spent nearly the whole next day fixing our outfit and getting ready to go again.

My husband worked at the sawmill out at McDougals for the winter and in April we moved to Berrymoore where Ike preached for two years. We moved several times after that — first to Lindbrook, then in 1945 to Sunnyslope where my husband had grown up. From 1949 to 1953 we lived in Redwater which was then an oil boom town and Ike worked in the oil industry. In 1954 we moved to Linden.

We have four children. Albert was born August 7, 1932, Joyce was born June 11, 1941, Paul was born August 25, 1944, and Jacob was born November 29, 1946.

Albert is married to Kathleen Depage. They have one girl and two boys. Their daughter Verda is married and also has a little girl, making them grandparents and as great-grandparents. Albert and Kay now live in Edmonton where he is employed in the oil industry.

Joyce is married to Dennis Penner. They have a girl and a boy and live in Linden where Dennis is in the agricultural real estate business.

Paul is married to Jaqueline Paquette. They have a girl and a boy and live in Calgary where Paul is a pressure welder.

Jake is unmarried and is presently living in Sydney, Australia where he is teaching Psychology in a university there.

We are retired and living in Linden. Ike keeps busy doing the odd bit of Carpenter work and I do some sewing and other hobbies. We do quite a bit of travelling also and are enjoying our retire-

**CHAPPELL, EDGAR ALBERT — Written by: Stuart Chappell**

Mr. Chappell was born in Ontario of Scottish descent. He came west with his family to Saskatchewan, and at age 16 years came to Calgary. Immediately he took a job teaching

school at Gleichen and later at Morley. He then came to Red Deer to work in the Land Titles Office. It was there he met and married Miss Grace McInroy. They raised a family of seven children, four boys and three girls.

Ada — Mrs. Donald McKenzie, Toledo, Ohio. Norman a veteran of World War I and II, Albert of Pot'atch, Idaho. Margaret — Mrs. Otto Skaley, Stettler, Alberta. Richard of Abbotsford, B.C. veteran of World War II, Stuart of Eckville and Ida — Mrs. Earl St. Thomas, Slocan, B.C.

**CHAPPELL, STUART**

I came to the Gimlet district with my parents in 1925 at the age of 12 years. I attended Gimlet school where my father taught, then moved to the Centerview district north and west of Bentley, where my father also taught. My mother died in 1926 and Pa her died in 1932.

I remained in the Gimlet and Leedale area where I married Miss Laura Alice Withers in 1939, and we took up farming. We lived on the farm until 1979, then we sold it to Ivan Houston and moved to Eckville where we still reside. We have two children, Caroline Grace now Mrs. Thomas Maddox, Eckville, and Clifford Neil who married the former Fay Cummings, now residing in Calgary.

We have four grandchildren, Deborah Laura Jody Edmond, and Anna Marie Maddox, and Crystal Laurene Chappell.

**CLEVENGER, FRANK — SW 8-42-4-W5**

Mr. Frank Clevenger came to the Gimlet district and homesteaded on the Gimlet Creek in about 1906. He worked in sawmills and Nordegg mines in winter, returning to the homestead in summer. He returned to Detroit and worked in the Ford plant for a number of years. In 1927 he married and brought his bride to the homestead in a new Oldsmobile touring car. They sold their farm in the early 1970's and retired to Lacombe. Frank died in 1973. His wife, Polly lives in the Senior Citizens Lodge, Lacombe, hale and hearty with a great sense of humor at nearly 92 years of age.

**[illegible]**

Jesse was born in Revelstoke on November 14, 1927. I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, January 19, 1929, and went to Revelstoke from Brooksby, Saskatchewan in 1947.

Jesse and I were married September 24, 1948. We had three children — David Jesse, Judy Beatrice, and Dwayne George.

In 1972 we bought the NW 28-41-4-W5 and the west half of 29-41-4-W5 from Bert and Selma Dyrland, and moved from Revelstoke in October.

David, our oldest son returned to Revelstoke to work for Parks Canada. In 1974 he married Denise Rintaul from Vernon, B.C. They now have one son, Luke Jesse, born August 20, 1975.

Judy is employed as secretary at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer, and Dwayne is attending Red Deer [illegible]

**CLOUGH, WILFORD AND VICTORIA — by Wilford Clough**

My father and mother, George and Florence Clough, my brother Irvin and myself Wilford) migrated with several families from South Dakota, U. S.A. to Ponoka, Alberta in 1901 I was 11 months old. In 1903 we moved to Revelstoke. B.C

In 1925 I met my wife, Victoria Hollingsworth from Cochrane, Ontario. We had two sons — Jesse and George. George was killed in a logging accident in July 1982

In 1972 we moved to the Gimlet Community with Jesse and his family

**DURAND, RENE AND REINE**

Rene Prosper Durand was born in Epinal, France August 30. 1890. He came to Canada to homestead north west of Wittenberg in 1911 After serving with the Medical Corps in W W 1 he settled on the SE 33-41-4-W5. In 1925 he married Reine VanHumbeck

Reine Caroline VanHumbeck was born in Wolverthlem. Belgium and moved with her family to the Rimbey district in 1913. In 1925 she became Mrs. Rene Durand

Rene was always active in Church and community affairs. He served as altar boy with the Catholic Church for 40 years. He also served on the Leedale School Board and the Leedale Hall Board for a number of years. He was a member of the L.G.G. and served as returning officer at the poll for many elections

They had eight children. Joe; Mrs. G. (Betty) Schrett, Mrs. R. (Marie) Nelson Mrs. S Celine Baransky Mrs. G. (Constance) Anderson, Raymond; Mrs. D. Louise) O'Brien and Charles

Rene passed away November 28, 1966

Mrs. Durand moved to Calgary in 1967 She passed away in Calgary March 17, 1975 at the age of 82 years

The farm was rented out until it was sold to Howard Gibson in about 1971 It is now owned by the Hutterites, who have taken down all the buildings and cleared out all the trees

**EVERNDEN TED AND JEAN**

Ted and Jean began farming in the Gimlet area in 1946

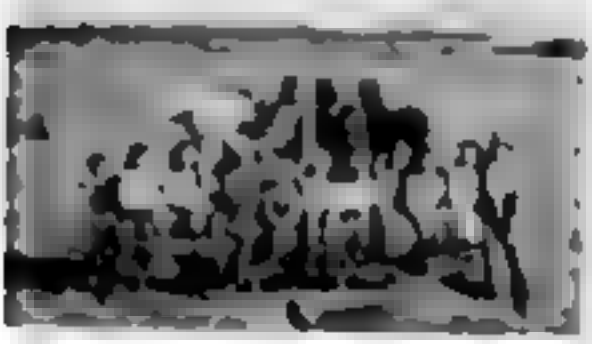
Jean was the daughter of Cecil and Mabel Jackman of Blackie, Alberta. She had three sisters. Myrtle (Hooper), Thelma (Chadbourne and Bernice Humphrey). They moved to the area when the girls were very young. Jean met and married Ted Evernden in a double ceremony performed by Rev Merle Baker at the Gimlet school. The other participating couple was Jean's sister, Thelma Jackman and Melvin Chadbourne. Ted spent many years in the army while the family remained at home at Gimlet

Jean nearly bled to death one time when she had a tooth pulled. She took a sedative and went to sleep and the blood ran through the pillow and through the mattress and made a pool of blood on the floor When she awoke she was very weak from the vast loss of blood

Ted and Jean have eight children, Vernon, [illegible] Howard Grace, Jean Arnold, Yvonne, and Gay Vernon and Eva attended the Gimlet school. In 1952 the family moved to the west coast and Ted rejoined the armed forces. Jean then took a C.N.A. course and worked for many years in the hospital in Victoria

**EVERNDEN, TOM AND SARAH (SALLY)**

Tom Evernden was born on August 30, 1910. in Bridge. Oregon. As a boy he lived in the Bentley district. Tom married Sarah Preston. known as Sally in 1932. Sally was born in Rimbey on December 6, 1911 Tom and Sally had six children, Shirley, Donald, Mirl, James John and Ted. The children all attended school at Gimlet Tom and Sally lived in the Gimlet district on



different farms for many years. They lived on the "Carl Baird place (S.W 33-41-4-w5 on the Roy Whitley" place S.E 28-41-4-w5 and they lived west of Roy Whitleys and they also lived on the "Johnny Jones" place S W 25-41-4-w5) and then Tom bought the S.W 27-41-4-w5 and they moved the house they had built while living west of there Tom worked with Ted Pimm on a threshing machine for a few years and farmed for many years at Gimlet

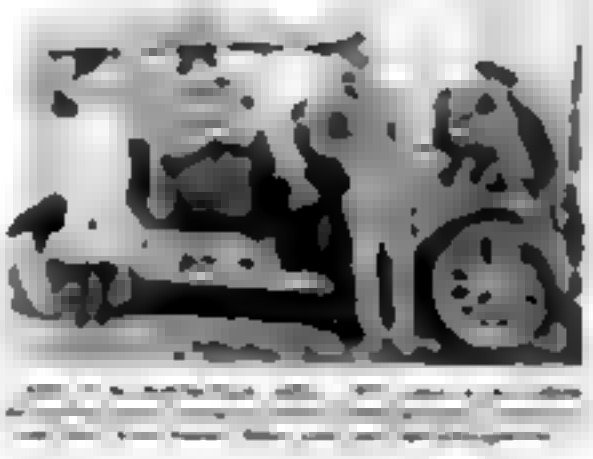
It was a great loss to everyone when Sally passed away as she was a good friend and neighbor to everyone. Sally passed away January 19, 1953. Tom and the family then moved to the Rimbey area in 1956. Tom later passed away on December 30. 1964

**ROLLINGSWORTH ROBERT LEE AND ANNINA ANTOINETTA**

Robert Lee Hollingwsworth (Dick) was born in Escondido, California, May 22, 1869. He also had a half brother, Jim and a half sister Goldie His mother married again and had two more girls and three boys

In 1896 or 1897 Dick came to Hecla and Glendale, Montana, where he bought a team of horses He hauled cord wood for coke to feed the smelter furnaces at Glendale. When Dick came to Hecla he owned a real fancy team and buggy and to be sure the buggy whip wasn't stolen he kept the whip in the shed that belonged to Antonio Quilici, this is how he met Miss Annina Antoinetta Quilici (Nina She was born in New York City, New York, November 14, 1881 Dick and Nina were married on January 22, 1902 at Dillon Montana. Nina had two sisters, Celesta and Harriet and two brothers. Tony and Gilbert Harriet is still living in Sherridan, Montana

Dick and Nina made their home in Glendale Montana, and had seven children True Evered was born at Rochester, Montana January 10 1903. True married Elizabeth Betty) Smith and had two children, Geneva and David. Ellis Anthony was born at Glendale, Montana. on December 27 1905. Ellis married Jane Rhody in 1928. they had three children, Richard, Beverly and Robert Ellis and Jane now live in Portland, Oregon. Stanley Gilbert was born at Stettler, Alberta on December 28, 1911 Stanley married Adaline Useral Misner and they had four children, Gilbert Earl, Lee and Fay Arthur Lee was born at Stettler Alberta. Febrauary 7, 1914 Artie never married and he now lives in the Stingley district. Violet Celesta was born at Stettler Alberta, February 18, 1916. Violet married Thomas Stanley Brown on July 11, 1936 They had one daughter Patricia Louise (Patty Lou) Violet still lives in the Gimlet district Evelyn Sylvia was born at Buffalo Lake, Alberta on February 11, 1919 She had double pneumonia when she was two weeks old and they very nearly lost her but she lived to marry Alva Oren Humphrey February 21, 1940. They had one daughter Marilyn Ann. Evy now lives in Rocky



Mtn. House Annina Harriet (Babe) was born July 27 1924. at home on SE 20-41-4-W5 in the Gimlet district, during one of the worst electrical storms ever There was a houseful of people that stayed overnight after a two day rodeo that Dick and the boys put on. No one knew about the new baby girl until the midwives, Mrs. Sheffield and Mrs Annie Boomer told them all at breakfast the next morning. Babe married Frank George Murray and they had five children, Linda, Dale Randy, Marty and Melodie

Dick and a partner named Donlap took their teams and came to Lethbridge. in 1905. Nina stayed in Hecla, Montana, for awhile until Dick got living accommodations for her and the first two boys

Dick contracted excavating for the deep piers in the construction of the high level bridge at Lethbridge He also supplied the sand and gravel for concrete to build the piers

Dick bought 96 teams of horses from the Dick Earch Ranch near Pincher Creek He also bought wagons, slip scrapers, bull slips, plows. wheel scrapers, tents to house the horses and cook tents Nina did all the cooking for these

Dick also managed the shearing corrals at Sterling, Alberta Here again Nina did the cooking for the men, churning butter and baking bread every day as well

Then Dick worked building railroad grade from Lethbridge to north of Calgary, near Vulcan. This grade was laid through Three Hills Drumheller Hankirk Gadsby and Stettler

In 1909 he bought land three or four miles north of Stettler He plowed and worked this land with horses. He had 150 brood sows at this time Then Dick bought a steam engine to do contract work It rained all summer and the steam engine couldn't pull the plow He also had land on the north end of Buffalo Lake at Bar Harbor

Dick moved his men and horses to Edmonton and worked on the Low Level Bridge until it was completed

In 1918, Dick traded the land at Stettler (Section 23) to Oscar Olson for over 200 head of cattle and trailed them to the Battleford Indian Reservation near Hobbema for winter feeding. In May of 1919 they moved the cattle to Hoadley and that fall on to Leedale to the present Belt and Mannix place, for winter feeding. The winter of 1919 was very hard on cattle because of the deep snow and the severe cold and cattle feed was very scarce. In May of 1919 Nina and the family moved to Hoadley. The grocery store was called Nugent at that time and later they moved to the Potter Creek district.

In 1920 or 1921 Dick bought land in Gimlet district (SE 20-41-4-W5). Dick, True and Ellis cut logs north of Jimmy Smith's in the Lampman Valley to build a four room house. This was the home place for many years and many memories still exist of experiences there. Every Sunday there was a rodeo and people came from all over to watch the young riders perform and to enjoy the day. Friends came and would spend the week-end visiting at Hollingsworth's. Berry picking was a great pastime and a lot of the women and children spent the afternoon looking for berries while the men took in the rodeo and the day often wound up with a dance. Fiddles, guitars, banjos and mouth harps were plentiful at that time.

In 1921 Dick and Ellis took two, four horse teams to Nordegg to haul logs and mine props for the coal mine there. In 1925 Nina took the three girls to Anaconda, Montana as her mother, Mrs. Quillet was very sick and passed away. They came back in the spring of 1927 to what was called the Jacobs place, one and a half miles west of Leedale. In the fall of 1927 they moved to Lacombe and Dick worked for Abe Parker and Mrs. Graham and the children attended the Canyon school. Then in February 1928 they moved to the Labell place, one half mile west of Leedale where Gilbert Hollingworth now lives. In April of 1928 they moved to the Sam Easter place one mile east of the Gimlet school. The following fall they moved to Sylvan Lake where Dick had a Jersey dairy. Then in 1929 they moved back to Gimlet to the Roy Whitley place one mile north of the Gimlet school. That fall they moved back to the old home place, SE 20-41-4-W5.

In 1931, Dick bought land in the Aurora district. This was the north half of 31-41-4-W5. The family moved there in the spring of 1933. Dick ran sheep and cattle there for many years with his boys Stanley and Artie. Ellis and True had gone back to the United States to work and live. Dick and the boys also held rodeos at this place. Evy and Babe finished their schooling at Aurora.

Dick finally sold this land, the Moosehorn ranch, to Lee May from Saskatchewan in the fall of 1956 and then made his home with his daughter Violet Brown until he passed away in October 1964. His son True had predeceased him in February 1947. His loving wife Nina passed away in July 1952, a granddaughter Fay in February 1953. His son Stanley on November 1 1966, and his wife Adaline (Babe) passed away in September 1969. A son-in-law (Thomas) Stanley Brown passed away in December 1970. Dick and Nina's youngest daughter Babe passed away in September 1978.

So ends an era in the lives of two wonderful people and their family.

**HOUSTON, JAMES**

James Houston, a Scottish blacksmith, came to Alberta in 1925. He worked in several towns until he acquired a shop of his own in Bentley.

James, however, wanted to farm. In 1926, he bought the E 15-41-W5, the NE-10-41-W5 and the SW 15-41-W5. This land is located in the Gimlet district.

He worked at blacksmithing for several years, while the land was rented. During this time, James worked at his shop in Bentley.

A younger brother, Dan, from Scotland arrived to help with getting the farm project started.

This land is still in the family and has been added to as time and money allowed.

In 1929, James and Margaret Stevenson from Scotland were married. They continued farming for 38 years. Six children came to bless this marriage. Two of the sons are farming, William on land we later acquired and Ivan on the home place.

Newton married Margaret Ostberg. They have four children, Douglas, Linda, Keith and [illegible].

Pamela married Jack Wild. They have three children, Jackie, Reginald and Roderick.

William married Lorraine Biswanger. They have four children, Susan, Shelley, Sherry and Scott.

Thomas married Ruby-Lee Madden. They have two boys, Timothy and Brett. Ivan married

Trudy Maki and have three children, Krister Tyler and Pamela

Morris lost his life in May 1971

ames and Margaret moved to Eckville in 968. James passed away in June 1970. Margaret continues to live in their home in Eckville

**HOUSTON, WILLIAM (BILL) AND LORRAINE**

Since history has to start somewhere, lets go back to January 1956. Lorraine Biswanger, the oldest daughter of Lawrence and Marie was attending school at Lesliieville from her parents home at W chrow. Bill Houston was farming with his Dad, "Scotty" Houston. Bill is the third son of Mr and Mrs James Houston. He was born at home on the farm (SE-15-41-4-w5) and obtained his schooling at Gimlet, Eckville and Red Deer

Fate or a "skating party" brought these two together and thus began a five and a half year period of going together which resulted in the inevitable marriage

But during that time, in 1957 Bill started a mini-milk route in which he picked up cans in the Gimlet area and hauled them to Withrow where they were put on the bigger truck of Roy Tubbs who then delivered them to C A D P Condenserv in Red Deer

In 1956, after graduating from the David Thompson High School, Lorraine entered Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing

By 1960 Bill s milk route had expanded and he had purchased a larger truck of his own to haul to C A D P Condenserv in Red Deer As the unloading time was 9 30 a.m. he still had most of the day for farming

Then 1961 was a very eventful year April 15 Bill broke his leg as the result of a riding accident. Dodge Lawton said, "Bill was doing fine until he broke his leg, then Lorraine caught him On July 3, 1961 they were married at the Withrow Gospel Mission by Rev. Louis Peskett

In September Lorraine completed her nursing education, in those days known as "training", and after three years with one day off a week, one month holidays per year, and a monthly allowance of $10, one became "trained in many ways. It certainly was a happy day when the news arrived that Lorraine had passed the R N exams

In 1962 Bill sold the milk truck and route to Ivan (Bill s brother and bought the rest of section 22 from Bill's dad. He already owned the southeast quarter and started dairy farming on his own These newly acquired quarters were known for their previous owners as the north east quarter was the Mottet place the southeast quarter was the Chappell place the west half was the Perry place

The Thyssen quarter SE-27-41-4-w5) was added to complete the present farm in 1970. Nineteen sixty-two also saw the start of their family when on August 20 Susan Lorraine arrived. Then on February 8, 1967, Shelley Grace made her arrival in the world followed by Sherry Lynn on

August 27, 1968 and finally on September 3 970. Scott William, a boy at last

In 1960 they sold their dairy herd and went "beef" where their real interests were, besides this being a less demanding form of making a liv

Their hobby has always been horses and in earlier years they competed in the Rocky Light Horse Association

When the rodeo arena was built at Gimlet in 1967 Bill helped with the stock until 1969 when Rodney Tolonen, Dan Dyriand and Houstons bought the rodeo stock and started the Gimlet Rodeo Co. That hobby has grown into a much larger business with amateur rodeos through out Central A berta from Bowden to Whitecourt

Being horse lovers, everyone in the family had to have a horse and of course the kids had a pony which was bought for Susan and was handed down the line as each child outgrew her Their kids pony (Honey) had two colts that turned out to be the right size for pony chuck wagon horses, so in 1973 they bought two more to drive on the pole and used the two pets for the lead team and they were in the chuckwagon business

The highlight of the racing was in 1976 when they sent the lead team to Gilbert Hollingsworth to take to Medicine Hat and run on a chariot. In four days of racing against 66 other teams from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia they finished in top place and brought home a beautiful trophy

In the fall of 1975, they started to build their dream home" and although at the time of writing they are not completely finished it is very nearly done

**JACKSON, WILLIAM (BILL) AND MYRTLE**

William John (Bill) Jackson was born in Bromly, Kent, England on March 28, 1911. His father was killed in World War I and Bill with his mother came to Canada in the early 1920's. They eventually lived on a homestead west of Rocky Mountain House. Later they moved into Rocky where Bill carried on a dray business. He later drove for Greyhound, then had its own trucking business.

Myrtle Wynder Jackson was born in Cardston, Alberta on September 15, 1920. She spent her early years in Beazer and Hillspring, Alberta. She attended Normal School at Calgary in 1939-1940.

Bill and Myrtle farmed in the Hillspring area for several years, then in 1964 they bought the land that they now own in the Gimlet area. The Bar Anchor Seven, W½ 10-41-4-W5, and SE 10-41-4-W5. This land was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Berry then by Jack Walls and later by Alvin Snow. The first three homes ever built on this place still stand.

Myrtle taught Grade 5 in Rimbey from January through June of 1967. Then she transferred to the Lesueville School where she taught for a number of years.

By a former marriage Bill had five children, William, Lillian, Arthur, Robert and James. One son Bob married Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brown, former residents of this area.

Bill and Myrtle have as children Shelley and Perry. Shelley graduated from David Thompson School and has since worked for Parkland Savings and Credit Union. Shelley along with a loan manager opened the new Credit Union in Rimbey August 1976. Bill had his leg broken severly in two places when blowing up a split rim tire in 1972, so they have both retired, still maintaining their farming interests and doing some travelling.

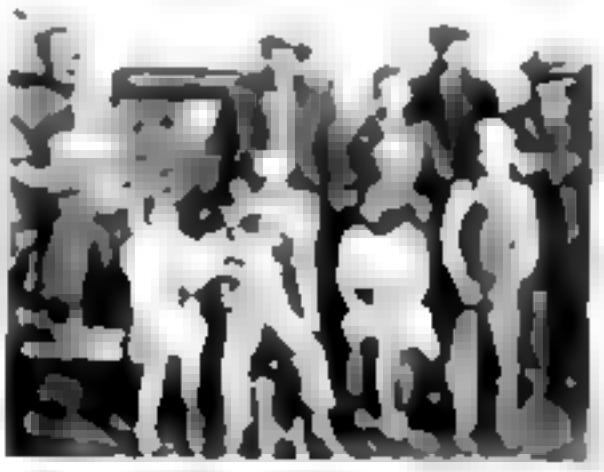
**KELM, ROBERT (BOB) AND PAULINE**

Along with many other oldtimers from this area, Bob and Pauline Kelm were both born in the United States and immigrated to Canada.

Bob was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota on July 25, 1886. After working in Minneapolis from the age of 14, Bob came to Alsask, Saskatchewan with a syndicate known as "The Big Four Company" in 1914. He then took up a homestead in Loverna about 1918, where he farmed until he came to Rimbey in 1926.

Pauline Belt was born in Iowa on April 23, 1906, and came to Lacombe with her family in 1907. They moved to their homestead west of Leedale (Wittenberg) in 1910. In 1916, the Belts bought a farm and moved to the Gimlet district where Pauline took her schooling. In 1929, Pauline opened her own hairdressing shop in Peabody's Boarding House (Agar's in Rimbey). Her hairstyles were so becoming that she attracted the attention of Bob Kelm, who also boarded there. They were married in 1930, and after living in Rimbey for one year, they moved to the Anton homestead in Leedale.

The Kelms had five children. Raymond married Erma Rauhala and lives in Rimbey. Myrtle married Ed Schwartz and lives in Abbotsford, B.C. as does Art, who married Lana Melenchuk. Doreen and her husband, Wayne McBean, live in Calgary. Doris and her husband, Adrian Rieff, reside in the Lavesta district.



Ray Kelm.

During their first years of farming, Pauline recalls paying $50 per head for cattle, and a year later, they traded a cow for a $15 grinder. The pigs they bought for $4 were sold for $4.50 in the fall.

Because of the poor roads and heavy snow falls, the old Model A was often parked from December until April, and horse and sleigh rides became popular. The spring floods allowed rafting to become an innovative means of transportation.

A joyful reunion took place in 1951, when after 40 years, Bob's brother and sisters and their families from the States visited the Kelms.

The Kelms retired to British Columbia in 1952. Their farm is now owned by their oldest son, Ray. Robert passed away in March, 1969.

Pauline is very interested in handicrafts. She enjoys seeing all her old friends on visits to Alberta.

**LANGE, WM. ARTHUR AND FAMILY**

Wm. Arthur Lange was born 1857 in Iowa. His wife Lucy was born 1866 in Iowa. Fred Arthur their son was born 1892.

Wm. Lange bought the homestead of Frank Benjamins the NW 30-41-3 W5 in 1910. A post card dated 1910 of Kate Baum's mentions Mr. Lange helping her son Link Boyer dig a root cellar and another card later on tells of Mr. Lange helping

Link shingle an addition he was building onto the home. It is not known how long the Langes lived on this farm but in 1918 Frank Johnsman bought the farm and Wm and Lucy were living back in Iowa then. Fred Lange married Nora Withers in 1913 and they had two children Ruth born in 1914 and Wm. in 1916. Fred and Nora returned to Decorah Iowa about 1918

Wm. Arthur Lange passed away in 1945 and Lucy in 1944. Fred passed away in 1961 and Nora is in a "Care Centre" in Independance Iowa and is 83 years of age

Much of this information was received from Ruth Lange Wallac

The Bed Bug's Laugh
The June bug lives the last of June,
The Lightening bug in May,
But the Bed bug takes his bonnet off
And says I've come to stay

**LEINONEN JOHN AND HILJA**
**WALIMAKI, ISAAC, DONALD, ALLI**

Mrs Hilja Leinonen came from Butte, Montana, to the Gimlet district in April of 1930, with her husband John and two of her three children from her first marriage Donald was age 15 and Alli age 12 and they also brought with them John's son Alfred, from his first marriage Hilja's oldest son Isaac, was at this time, working as a carpenter in California Alfred drove all the way to Alberta in a 1928 Chrysler which was later traded for some breaking they had done on some of their land

They came to live on a C.P.R. quarter of land the NE 21-41-4-W5, which John Leinonen had homesteaded in 1915 He broke 65 acres and only farmed it for one year, as his first crop was hailed out 100% He then moved back to Butte hoping to save enough money for a new start While in Butte, his first wife passed away and he later met and married Hilja Walima

When they first came here they lived with Mr Mottet for a month or so, while preparing a place to live. A temporary home was made from two granaries, which were attached to

For the Finnish people, the "Sauna", or steam bath, is a very essential part of living, so as soon as the home was completed, a sauna was built At first the neighbors were a little dubious about the customs of the sauna but it later on became a Saturday night ritual for the neighbors to come for a bath, and visit over a cup of coffee

The move to the farm proved to be a real hardship for Mrs. Leinonen as she could not speak, read nor write the English language She was very lonely as there were no Finnish speaking people for miles around. She began learning English by speaking Finn to the children and they replied in English. In fact a neighbor made the remark that it was a funny family that had moved in. The mother speaks Finn but the children speak English. Also her only friend Mrs Clara Lalone coached her and many happy hours were spent together

However this new found friendship was very short lived as Mrs. Lalone passed away suddenly As the years progressed, she did learn to speak and read the English language, and is now a very avid reader She now subscribes to a Calgary daily newspaper, and particularly enjoys reading anything pertaining to politics

John Leinonen passed away exactly one year to the day he arrived. He died from Miners Consumption. Alfred went back to Butte, soon after his father passed away

Again Mrs. Leinonen was faced with a real hardship as she tried to run the farm with the help of her two children. They cleaned the land by hand, her and Donald chopping the trees and brush and Alli helping to pile what she could Hilja's main worry was how she would ever get the crop in that spring. To her surprise one morning a group of neighbors bringing their own machinery and horses, prepared the land and put in the crop It was at that time that she realized what wonderful neighbors she had, and that she was really among friends

In 1932 she wrote to her son Isaac asking him to come and help on the farm and he came that fall. Things were then a little easier with Isaac sharing the load. But these were the depression years and Hilja and her family, along with everyone else at that time, faced very difficult times Besides working long hard hours for very little money, they suffered from hail, frost and very long cold winters. These were the years when a horse rake could be bought for $35, a binder for $135, coffee was three pounds for 90¢ and butter was 25¢ a pound

Donald and Alli went to the Gimlet school and their first teacher was Miss Hattie Dobbs, now Mrs. Stears She was a soft hearted, kind teacher and many of her pupils still cherish the memories of their schooldays with Miss Dobbs as their teacher

Their second teacher was Miss Clayton, now Mrs Baird She also had a soft spot in her heart for her students Knowing that some of them

wanted to further their education but could not afford to go anywhere for schooling, she taught grades 10 and 11, though grade 9 was all that was required of her

Ash left the farm to go to work and finally settled in Calgary There she met and married Roy Danilowich and they have one daughter Sharon She married Jim Donnelly from Calgary and they have three daughters. Trol is 16. Corinne is 15 and Shauna is 13 and their family now lives in Victoria, B.C

Donald and Isaac never married and they still live on the farm with their mother

As times got better their first tractor was purchased in 1947 Some years later Isaac bought a quarter of land from "Dad" Elliot. (SW 21-41-4 W5) Then the boys bought a half section from John Dyrland. SW 21-41-4-W5) and the NW 28-41 4-W5. They also bought a 1931 Model A Ford for $135. This little Ford with the rumble seat found a soft spot in the hearts of Mrs. Leinonen and the boys. Not only because it brought happier times with fishing trips, berry picking and picnics but [illegible] lives so many times For instance, one time when accompanied by a group of neighbors, in their vehicles, they went on a fishing trip to Buck Lake. With Isaac driving and Peter Danilowich as his passenger they led the procession in the "little Ford" They came up over a hill to discover a creek at the bottom [illegible] minus the bridge. There were only two skids across the deep ravine. Peter, bracing himself grabbed for the brake handle, only to have Isaac inform him.

"here is no brake!" Isaac steered on to the skids and reached the other side safely to find the little Ford had crossed with one set of wheels on the skid and just the hubs on the other side had rode across on that skid. The only color in Peter's face was two dark spots that were his eyes. He looked like he had seen a ghost

On another occasion, again accompanied by a group in vehicles, they went on a berry picking trip to the Open Creek area. It was raining hard on the way home and all the cars kept getting stuck. Finally it was getting late and so dark they decided to park their vehicles and sleep in their cars for the night. The next morning when Isaac and Donald walked around, they discovered the little Ford had saved their lives again The two wheels on one side were on the very edge of a steep hill, and any slight push would have sent it rolling down! In fact Isaac was mighty nervous about getting in to start it up to slowly ease it onto the road

On one more occasion on another berry picking trip in the Faraway area, they came to a very sharp bend, and immediately approached a bridge where planks had been piled on one side to keep cows from crossing. Having no chance to stop, and likely having no brakes, they hit the pile of planks and the little Ford just neatly slid the planks across the bridge in front of it and crossed to safety

The little Ford was retired after years of faithful service. For many years, antique car dealers came offering to buy it but Mrs. Leinonen refused to part with it. Finally, as she had no where to keep the car under cover, and it was getting weather beaten, she finally sold it for $125

When first moving to the Gimlet district, Mrs Leinonen busied herself with a hobby of growing flowers. This hobby has only flourished over the years. Now at the age of 94, she still works diligently in her beautiful flower gardens. Her well kept yard of flowers, shrubs, and fruit trees attract the eye of many passers by with its color and beauty

At the age of 79, she hosted a birthday party for all her friends and neighbors and continued to have a party every fifth year as she says a party every year would only make her grow too old too fast. In 1978 she will be celebrating her 95th birthday and with God willing she will be hosting another party for her family and all her many friends.

To add to the meagre income of the farm the Waumaki brothers were fortunate to have a producing oilwell drilled on their home quarter in 1962 and another well drilled on SE 30-41-4-W5 in 1977.

**McELROY — OWEN LELAND AND BUELAH BLANCHE, NW 26-41-4W5 — written by D[illegible]**

Owen McElroy Sr. was born in Kankakee Illinois on May 6, 1893. His wife Buelah was born in Shelbyville, Illinois on June 3, 1893. They were married on December 25, 1913 and moved to Canada with their two sons Warren and Owen Jr. from Hillsborough, North Dakota in the spring of 1927. They settled on a farm east of Red Deer and while they lived there Elwin, Robert and Richard [illegible]

In the spring of 1938 they moved to the Leedale district and rented the land where Mr. and Mrs. White had lived for three years. Henry Phatchuk is now living on this place. In March 1942 they moved to the SW 26-41-4W5 which they purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nugent were living there at the time. Both parcels of land are now owned by the Leedale Hutterite Brethern.

That summer was a busy one with crop, fencing, and moving, the fall came quickly and things had to be organized for winter. They milked cows, shipped cream, kept quite a few pigs and a small flock of sheep. Mother raised a lot of chickens, geese and turkeys and grew a [illegible] garden. She did a lot of canning, was a wonderful cook and was always busy in her spare time with her knitting, crocheting and needle work.

The children attended Benjamin School and then Gimlet School after they moved.

Dad had a threshing machine and did threshing in the district every fall. He was a well experienced operator as he had helped thresh in his early years when they used steam engines to run the threshing machine. He enjoyed reminiscing about the work, the men and the old [illegible]

Dad enjoyed big game hunting and fishing and took a lot of pride in his many guns and marksmanship. He was deeply interested in livestock as he had grown up on his fathers' farm where they kept registered cattle and horses. He learned at an early age, how to select the best animals and how to groom them for the show rings as they entered many of them in the Chicago World Fair where they received many prizes and ribbons.

During World War II their eldest son Warren joined the United States Army. He saw action in Attu and Kiska in the Japanese Theatre of war and also in Germany during the battle of the bulge. Owen Jr. joined the R.C.A.F. and spent two and one half years in the service. He volunteered for active duty in the Pacific but peace was declared before his departure.

As the younger members of the family finished school they found jobs and so were away from home.

The McElroy Family in the fall of 1946. Warren (U.S. Army) Elwin, Mrs. Buelah McElroy, Owen Jr. (R.C.A.F.), Mr. Owen McElroy and Richard and Robert in front.

Mr. and Mrs. McElroy were well respected in the community. Mother was a member of the Leedale W.I. and also the Gimlet Ladies' Club. She enjoyed her home and family and was a devoted wife and mother. She was raised in a Christian home and became an active member in the United Church that she and Dad belonged to in Leedale. In 1952 her health began to fail. The family held a reunion in May 1955 and she passed away in September, 1955 after a lengthy illness.

Dad McElroy lived by himself after her death, doing his own farming and chores until ill health forced him to sell the land. He was 88 years old when he bought a little house and retired to Rimbey in 1969. He had a cheery disposition and was well liked by every one that knew him. He kept active and passed away suddenly on January 30, 1973 at the age of 94 [illegible]

The family is living in various places. Warren and his wife Betty have now retired and live on an acreage in Missouri. They have a son Bill and a daughter Donna and four grandchildren

Owen Junior and wife Doris live on their farm north of Leedale. They have two sons John and Gary and two daughters Helen and Barbara. The girls are married and there are four grandchildren

Ellen and Jack live in California. They both worked for Airlines for years but now have other employment. They have no family

Robert and wife Marie live at Valleyview where they have a farm and she is teaching school. Bob worked for Imperial Oil for several years before he bought the farm. They have one

Richard and his wife Patricia live in Lacombe. He works at the Shell Station and she teaches school. They have a son Gregory and a daughter Susan

Every day that passes becomes history. The years go quickly and with the passing of time our pioneers who worked hard to open up the country, becomes history also

Mr. and Mrs. McElroy were laid to rest in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey.

The family holds many happy memories of these two special pioneers.

**MOTTET, CHARLES EDWARD AND OLINE [illegible]**
**N.E. 36-41-4-W.5**

Charles Edward Mottet and Oline Irma Liengne were married in Orvin, Switzerland and in April 1882 sailed for America. They crossed the ocean on a new ship, it's first voyage. There were three days of stormy weather at the start. Something broke on the vessel, and they were taken out of their way. Some of the passengers received bruises and broken bones during the storm. For five days all of the sailors were busy on deck, on the fifth day some cleaned the cabins. The ship ran out of drinking water, they tried to distill ocean water but it tasted salty. It took 21 days to cross, when they reached New

Upon arrival they stayed with the Villard family, also from Orvin, in Kansas for two years. Irma did housework and sewing for her board and also did washing for neighbors until they saved enough money to rent a farm of their own. Hopes of raising hogs for market ended when six sows were killed by lightning, so after two years went west and homesteaded in Scott County, Kansas. After losing three crops to drought, they left for Missouri. They rented three different farms during their 17 years in Missouri and did very well.

**THE LIFE OF THE MOTTET FAMILY AS I REMEMBER IT — by Lucy (Mottet, (Moore Gregson, May, 1977**

My parents left Missouri in 1905 because my Dad was fed up with working all day in the heat and could not sleep nights as they were too hot.

They travelled by train to Alberta, to me, a five year old girl going to the rest room on the train was really something out of this world, as that time outdoor privies were all people had. Their first year was spent at Bentley, Alberta, where they rented what is now Lord and Lady Gordon's farm. Adele and Ada were married so did not go along. Emma died of Typhoid fever in 1904 at the age of 16. All the others came to Alberta, oldest to youngest were, Rosa, Julia, Charles, Frank, Eva, Esther, Lucy, George and Willis. Willis died at Bentley at the age of six months in April 1906. Rosa told me I screamed when his coffin was lowered in the grave and had to be taken away. This I do not remember as an extremely high fever a while later blanked out my memory, later George and I were playing and he

he would die as blood ran out of his mouth and down his front, after a week on liquids he was O.K. Apparently that year Dad scouted around and found a place he homesteaded on south of Wittenberg, now Leedale. Charles helped build a log granary and a log shed for our stock, then we moved into the granary where we lived until a frame house was built, at this time Julia and Charles returned to Missouri where both were married soon after.

After we Mottets arrived there were enough kids for a school, that's when the Gimlet school was built. When it was completed I started school. I am sure I was seven years old by then and Esther and George also went to school. Esther had most of her schooling in Missouri. No matter how often Dad dragged two logs to make a trail for us kids to school, it would soon snow and blow it full. If I remember correctly we did not have school part of the winters at first. There was no high school near so none of us went as the folks didn't have extra money for us to rent a room elsewhere, in fact we did well to enough to eat while clearing land of brush for fields, we kids all had to help with that plus chores too.

On January 23, 1908 Albert was born on the homestead south of Wittenberg. How I loved that baby, he was such a happy child and grew fast. He also took his schooling at Gimlet, beginning at the age of five, and recalls one day during noon hour the children heard something howl off in the bush. The older ones decided to investigate and all went into the bush to find the "coyote". It kept howling and they kept following until they heard the school bell ringing. All the bigger kids ran for the school leaving Albert behind. Suddenly the howl came again and as his hair raised up on end, he realized he was being followed. At that moment Jeanette Heisdorf appeared, grabbed his hand and they both flew back to the school yard. It was not class time but the teacher, Russel Hall, had also heard the animal, a wolf, and

realizing what the children were up to had called them back

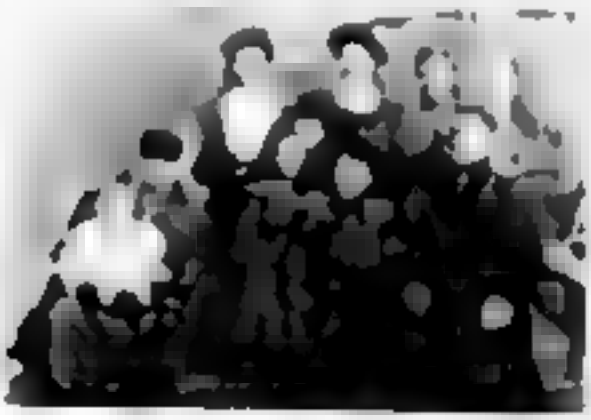
How the coyotes did howl at night in a circle around our buildings! Poor Spot, our dog, sat at the door and barked all night. They would have killed her had she left the house. they were so large as there were many snow shoe rabbits to feed on. Once they were so plentiful we kids killed six rabbits one night with clubs, giving us good meat for a few meals

By 1908 the folks had cows, horses and chickens and bad luck too. They lost two horses and later some cattle which ate wild parsnip also many chickens were lost to the coyotes. Mother made butter which was traded for groceries in [illegible]

Dad's first oat field was so tall one could barely see the horses ears above it when he was cutting it with the binder

Dad often said July was the only month he had never seen any snow flakes so our garden was hardy stuff and how it did grow and such good flavor, rutabagas so sweet and big. Mother made moo-apple butter which fooled many

The homestead was 160 acres and later Dad bought another 160 east of it which was good land [illegible]



Charles Edward Mottet family [illegible]

ROSA born April 8th, 1885, married Arthur Willis April 8th, 1913 and lived on Arthurs homestead (NW 4-42-3-W5) three and one-half miles east of Wittenberg until the "mid twenties" when they moved to Washington. They had six children, May, Earl and Ruby born in [illegible]ada, Harold, Frank and Donald born in Everett, Washington where they made their home. Arthur is gone but Rosa resides in a nursing home in Everett

FRANK, born October 29th, 1892, married Alice Willis December 24th, 1913. He sold his homestead SE 18 41 3 W5 and moved to Youngstown, Alberta. They had three children Mildred, Ray and Loyd. Frank died of appendicitis December 8th, 1921. Alice, 84, is living in the Rimoka Lodge at Ponoka, Alberta

EVA, born November 11th 1885, married R J Russell Hall on June 5th, 1913. He was teaching school at Gimlet at the time. In January 1920 they moved to California. LeRoy and George were born on their homestead west of Gimlet two and one-half miles NW 20-41-4-W5 Aileen and Evelyn in California. Eva died May 14th 1953 of a cerebral hemorrhage and Russell died in Ontario in the late 1960's

ESTHER, born January 13th, 1887, married Harley Belt on June 24th, 1915. Their life and family are mentioned elsewhere

LUCY born July 29th, 1901, married Claude Moore July 2nd, 1917 at Lacombe, Alberta, and made their home on the Jaggard quarter (SE 34 41-4-W5) southwest of Wittenberg for two years before moving to Oregon. Their greatest problem while here was getting water from the spring on the Medicine River for it was down a hill from the house. When the path was dry it wasn't too bad but when wet or icy it took great skill to get a full pail of water to it's destination. A son Orville was born to them June 13th, 1919 and a daughter Osa was born in the U.S.A. Claude died in July 1957 at Moorehead, Minn., Lucy remarried and is widowed. She resides in Lebannon, Oregon

GEORGE, born February 3rd, 1903, took his schooling at Gimlet. He is a bachelor and owns a farm east of High River, Alberta

ALBERT, born January 23rd, 1908, on the homestead south of Wittenberg took his schooling at Gimlet. He is a bachelor and after ranching several years at Bottrel, Alberta has now retired to Mirror. His greatest interest being antiques, he has a beautiful collection of lamps and guns

C Edward Mottet died August 12th, 1944 after a short illness

O Irma Mottet died April 26th 1945 after a lengthy illness

**MULLARKY, JOHN AND MARGARET**

Jack was raised in Lancashire, England, coming out in 1912 to work in the cotton mills at Falls River Mass U.S.A. He made his way west working in the mines and later in Calgary

Jack Mackenzie

In 1914 he filed on NE 16-41-4 W5. He usually worked on the prairies in summer and lumber camps in winter, only spending the required time on the homestead which he was slowly improving.

He enjoyed company, never turning down a chance of a dinner and a day of visiting. Being interested in young people enjoying themselves Jack often took a sleigh load of them to dances.

One night a group from Medicine Valley had gone to a dance at Leslieville. At midnight it was announced that the orchestra would play an hour longer than usual as the Medicine Valley folks were late arriving. Jack having a splendid baritone voice had entertained during the supper hour.

In 1925 he began corresponding with Mary Kerr in Ireland, who was a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Graydon, recent arrivals from there. When they decided to get married and he had sent her the fare but she was unable to come. Her mother was ill and being a nurse was needed there. Her sister, Margaret, came instead and they were married that summer. Mary later came to Canada and spent some time in the area.

Margaret was a hard working woman. Together they built a new house on the NW 15-41-4-W5, which he had bought. The house burned down one night while they were doing chores. Later they sold to Omar Jodoin and bought land south of Eckville where they lived until he died in 1948. Margaret and Mary lived in Eckville until they returned to Ireland a year later.

**NUGENT FRANK AND MINNIE — written by Norma I. Ruberg**

My father Frank A. Nugent, was born in Buffalo Minnesota in 1892. His father owned a farm near town and was the sheriff of Buffalo County. He provided the building to house the courthouse and first jail, a building which is still in use today. Dad often told us interesting stories of his youth, like the time a notorious outlaw, Cole Younger, of the Jesse James Gang, was being held prisoner and dad shook hands with him.

When my father left school he went to work, as a cowhand, on a ranch near Cathmere, North Dakota. He later filed on a homestead in the same district.

In 1896 my mother Minnie M. McAllister was born in Becher, Ontario (near Wallaceburg), and was raised on a farm with her five brothers and one sister. She also relates childhood incidents usually about some mischief she had been up to.

When mom was 16 years old, she travelled west to Cathmere, North Dakota to spend some time on a ranch owned by her aunt and it was here she met a tall, dark cowboy who was first attracted by her long ringlets and love of good horses. My mom and dad were married in Fairview, Montana on May 17, 1916.

Frank and Minnie Nugent

They lived on the homestead until July of 1918 when they shipped, by immigrant car, to Lacombe, then transferred their belongings to a wagon and trailed the livestock to their destination at Gilby.

After eight years in this district they moved to a Hudson's Bay quarter in the Leedale Valley two miles south of Leedale on the Medicine River formerly known as the Middlekoop place.

It was here where they raised their family, a place of which we all have many fond memories. We recall both good and bad years on the farm, but the work and hard times are forgotten when we reminisce about pleasant events. Many lasting friendships were made during those years when life progressed at a slower pace. Times when listening to Major Bowes, playing 78's on the old gramophone or playing cards with friends and neighbors was first rate entertainment.

On mail day there was the Family Herald Western Producer and Free Press Weekly to keep us posted on farm prices and affairs, recipes, poems and fiction. Reading was done in

the evening from pages lighted by a coal oil lamp

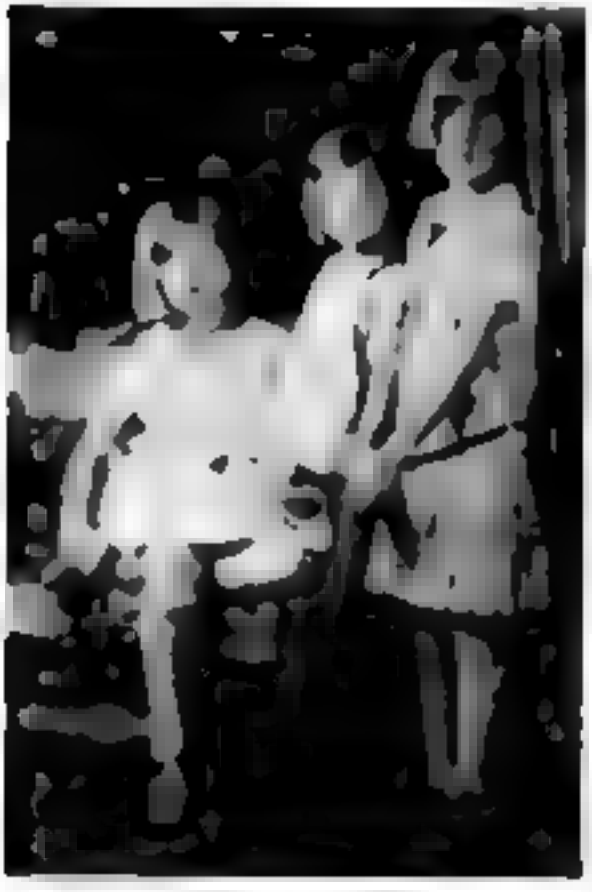
The Medicine River provided us with a swimming hole. It looks a little shallow and muddy now but when we were kids it was as inviting as any swimming pool. In the winter it was a skating rink, sometimes after much shovelling, but the skating parties and wiener roasts were lots of fun

Our house was a bit chilly in winter but there was always a supply of good tamarack wood which was hauled from the Aurora area. With the help of Harley Belt who owned the sawing outfit, and a crew of neighbors a large wood pile was put up in preparation for cold days ahead

Winter was a time to fill the ice house with cooling cream and making ice cream. I can mighty tasty treat. Cranking the freezer handle a tedious task, and I remember waiting eagerly for that first sample from the ladle

We always looked forward to the periodic visits from the Rawleigh and Watkin's salesmen who replenished our supply of extracts, spices medicines, etc. and often to spend the night

It took faith, courage and ingenuity to carry on in the 1930's. Conveniences were few but fortunately, we never suffered for the essentials



Farmers, it seemed, had a definite advantage with things such as freshly churned butter for our home made bread, milk, eggs and vegetables from the garden. Salt pork from the brine barrel was an old standby, other substitutes were prairie chicken, jackfish speared through the ice and even the odd jack rabbit

My parents butchered animals and delivered meat from farm to farm in the summer time. This service was appreciated especially during threshing. The hamburger sold for 10¢ a pound. The job of opening gates sometimes fell on me - a chore which I was never too thrilled with

Dad served the community as a self made veterinarian. He had a few instruments and a love for animals and was often called upon to help treat a sick cow or float a horses teeth. The standard charge was one dollar, regardless of time spent, and when he was paid he'd hand the money to Mom and say "here's another sack of sugar"

Our family hauled fuel from Eckville, by wagon, to the first gas pump in Leedale, owned and operated by my aunt and uncle, Loretta and Hugh Lindsay. They also had a store and post of

Dad also hauled lumber to Eckville by team and sleigh from the Varty sawmill at Faraway

Lucille's first driving experience was when she decided to take our McLaughlin Buick for a spin. She drove out the lane negotiated the turn without stopping but mowed down six fence posts on the return trip

Loretta enjoyed racing her pony. On one occasion she looked back to see how the other contestants were doing, fell off her horse and lost the

Mom was quite a cowgirl herself. One day the green-broke horse which she was riding decided to lie down in a slough. The horse won that round, but what he didn't know was that his stubbornness was no match for mom's determination and that she would persevere until it was clear that she was the boss

We attended the Gimlet public school and later Leedale High. Say what they like, country schools were okay in my opinion. The teachers were nice — Hattie Dobbs, Geneva Clayton Elsie Petersen, Selma Raabis, Thelma Olsen and Isabel Hood to mention a few. They tried hard to cope with 30 kids ranging in age from six to 16, in Grades 1 to 8

Christmas programs and picnics were always special events and the dances after these affairs were a place where young and old were welcome. The school house also doubled as a Sunday School and church on Sundays

About Halloween, can anyone reading this article recall how Scotty Houston's horses mysteriously got into the pound keeper's corral at Stanley Brown's one crisp moonlight night of

Dad had been in the U.S. Marines in the First World War and in 1941 he enlisted in the

R.C.A.F. so we left the farm to live in Calgary while dad was in the armed forces.

O. L. McElroy bought the old farm, and it is presently owned by the Leedale Hutterite.

In 1946, after the war, mom and dad returned to the Gilby area where they farmed and raised registered Appaloosa horses. With them came Johnnie and Ronnie Graham, two lovable young fellows who made their home with us for several years. Ronnie was killed in a construction accident in Calgary at the age of 18 years. Johnnie lives at the West Coast and comes back to visit from time to time.

Virginia, affectionately known as Bridget, won the Rocky Stampede Queen Contest in 1957. She represented Eckville and was sponsored by the High School Student's Union.

Mom managed the Gilby Store from 1956 to 1962. Then in 1963 our parents purchased land near Rocky Mountain House and the following year retired to town where Mother still lives. Dad passed away in April of 1972.

They had five daughters. Vera, the eldest, died at the age of two years.

Lucille, Mrs. Harold Lemieux, lives on a farm west of Rimbey. They have six daughters — Joyce, Fay, Carol, Wendy, Cindy and Gale.

Loretta married Eddy Aske. They had two sons — Wayne and Garry, (Garry deceased in 1961). They live on a farm east of Rocky Mountain House and Loretta is the Accountant at the Hospital.

Ileene, Mrs. Ingmar Hulberg lives on a farm too. We have one son, Wendell, and two daughters Lynda and Lynn. I am a health record analyst at the Rocky Hospital.

Virginia, Mrs. Roger Teiz lives in Ottawa with her family of two daughters and one son — JoAnn, Brenda and Edward. Virginia is an insurance underwriter.

Mom enjoys her 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Her hobbies bring her much happiness, and many of her hand made articles beautify her comfortable home and the homes of her family and friends. She enjoys plants and flowers and takes special pride in raising gorgeous roses.

The "welcome mat" is still out at the Nugent home, and mom is always pleased when old friends come to call.

## OUELETTE, PETE AND LELAH JOHNSON AND FAMILY

Peter Ouelette was born in St. Albert, Alberta on March 31, 1896, the son of Peter George Ouelette (originally from Quebec) and Eugenie (La Pierre) Ouelette, of St. Albert.

The first year of his parent's marriage in 1890 and 1891 his father was on a "river drive" from northwest of Edmonton down to "Walter's sawmill" on the Edmonton river-flats. That year he made $3,000. Later he worked at his trade of carpentry, on some of the first buildings at St. Albert.

In 1896 his father left for the Yukon gold fields. He soon returned with news that he thought he'd found a "strike". Next year, in 1898 he returned to Dawson City, where he contracted typhoid-fever and died. A priest was sent down to break the news to Pete's mother. He handed her over her husband's watch and clothes, regretfully saying there was no money because they had used it to give him a "good burial". Pete's mother was left with four small children.

When Pete was four years old his mother met and married Alphonse Jenette, and they moved to his home at Hay Lakes, east of Leduc, Alberta. Two sets of twins and three other children were born here, making a family of 11. Of these Pete has still living two half-sisters, Alice of Edmonton and Almena Angel of Beaverlodge, also a brother Joe Ouelette of Edmonton.

On October 23, 1917 at Leduc, Alberta, Pete married Miss Lelah Johnson of Hay Lakes, daughter of a pioneer American family.

Lelah's grandparents on both sides of her family were pioneers of U.S.A. Her mother, Amelia Ostenburg was born and raised in Wisconsin, where her family had lived for generations. Lelah's grandfather, Frederick Ostenburg fought in the Boer War. Instead of being issued a name tag, soldiers were tattoed on the arm. Lelah's father, Orrin Johnson, was born in Missouri, the son of a British immigrant family who arrived on the Mayflower. Lelahs grandfather Isaac Johnson was a Deacon of their Presbyterian Church. The family farmed and raised sheep, until an epidemic wiped them out. After this misfortune Isaac Johnson drove by wagon to Johnstown, North Dakota where he and his wife and oldest daughter, a school teacher, filed on three homesteads. The boys worked the

land while their parents built a log home. It was a very hard year with no ready cash but the first crop was good and from then on they were

Isaac Johnson had six children Orrin George, Charlie, Emily Hattie, and Nettie Orrin took his own farm and in 1888 married a neighbor girl, Amelia Ostenburg. They moved to Inkster North Dakota. They had 10 children Lelah and her twin sister Lilah were born in Inkster on February 1897

In 1899 her parents Orrin and Amelia Johnson moved to Bow Bells, North Dakota where they had opened a store It was spring and a measle epidemic was at its worst. The doctor thought it was scarlet fever and by the time Mr Johnson found another doctor from a neighboring town all the children were ill. They buried three of their little girls in one week. Lelah's twin sister Lilah two years. Bessie six years and Ina seven years Mrs Ouelette was only two but can still remember the doctor coming and saving the life of her brother Ray when he was nearly gone The measles also claimed the life of a young neighbor girl who had been helping Mrs Johnson. Lelah's parents later aquired a good farm, but Orrin gambled by buying wheat options (shares) on the stock market and lost much money

In the fall of 1906 Orrin and Amelia Johnson, with their family of six. Homer, Fred, Roy, Addie, Lelah and Eva, left Bow Bells, N.D and came to Alberta. In the first year they built a hotel at Hardisty It was a very bad winter and a heater had to be kept going all night to dry the plaster The hotel was finished in 1907 and they held an "Opening Dance" complete with liquor license. It was 30 degrees farenheit people came from 30 miles away by open sleigh Lelah was eight or nine years old and remembers that she was allowed to stay up to watch the dancing Her father was an expert violinist and he and friends played till daylight

In 1918 Johnsons sold the hotel and moved to Wetaskiwin where they opened a store on the east side of main street Here the children attended school Lelah had been in the second reader in N.D but had to begin again in the first reader In 1914 Johnsons moved to Edson Alberta to open another grocery store. Lelah attended Alberta Business College in Edmonton and returned to keep books for her father The Grand Trunk Railway went through town and Mrs Johnson had a good business. Settlers from Grande Prairie. 160 miles off, came for their yearly supplies. They travelled together with one covered sleigh carrying a stove and one team consisting of a horse and a cow so they were supplied with milk Grande Prairie settlers raised big wheat crops in those days but there was no railroad and water was at 1400 feet with no available well drilling machinery When the Grand Trunk Railway left town Mr Johnson closed his business. The family moved onto their homestead at Roseavar while Orrin and son Fred went seeking a new home in the Hay Lakes area In 1914 the Johnson Bros bought a homestead there

In 1918 a year after Lelah's marriage to Pete Ouelette, he joined the Canadian Army In 1919 he returned from England and resumed farming. After this the Johnson family moved again to their farm on the S 18-41-3-W5 in the Medicine Valley. They aquired a large farm and also raised sheep on section seven They also owned

In 1926 Lelah and Pete decided to come to the Medicine Valley Lelah and their two baby girls, Marjorie, two years, and Florence, an infant, came by train from Leduc. Pete followed by wagon with their boushold effects, taking three weeks They settled in the Scroggy place W 12-41 4-W5 near the Medicine River a short distance from the Johnson Bros. Here they raised their family of six children Marjorie, Florence, Lawrence, Chester Donald and Eileen. They attended the Medicine Valley School. In 1933 their house burned to the ground. luckily it was not winter. They all escaped but only managed to save the table. the cream separator which Pete tore from the floor and the telephone, which they yanked off the wall. Also saved from burning was a lit le blue trunk which contained their family documents. All summer they lived in a crowded bunkhouse but by fall of the same year they had built a new two storey frame house. The house had not been finished yet but was cosy and large enough for a big jolly family

Pete was a good violin player having taught himself to play as a 13 year old boy His first violin was a Premium which his sister acquired through selling garden seeds. He remembers that he broke a lot of strings learning but by 15 years of age he could play quite well. All Pete's life he has been a popular musician at house parties and country dances. Mrs. Ouelette crocheted beautiful lace gifts for her family and friends. In 1942 and 1943 Pete and Lelah moved to a farm just a mile north of their home. SE 14-41-4-W5 The Jones Place). Eileen, Chester and Donald finished their schooling at the Gimlet School

In 1963 and 1964 they built a lovely new modern home Five years later they sold their land to the Hutterite Brethern of the Leedale Colony and moved their house to Rocky Mountain House where they now reside. In October of 1977 the children and the community gathered at the Gimlet Community Center to honor Pete and Lelah on their 59th Wedding Anniversary There followed a real old wedding dance with local musicians and Pete playing his old time fiddle

Lelah's father, Orrin Johnson passed away in 1934 and his mother 10 years later in 1944 Homer and Roy Johnson sold their farm retiring in B.C Fred Johnson remained in the Eckville area. He passed away quite suddenly in 1972 Roy died in 1977 Homer still lives at Burnaby, B.C. near his sister Mrs. Eva Jewell, Addie

(Mrs Burt) passed away in the 1970's and was buried at the Gimby Cemetery In 1972 Pete and Lelah lost their second son, Chester, quite suddenly when he passed away at home at the age of 43 years He left many friends

Of their remaining five children, Marjorie [illegible]s in B.C She trained as a hair dresser Florence married Rex Payne from Lethbridge They live in Calgary and have one son Peter 13 years of age Lawrence married Annette Laurie of Mensig. They live at High River where Lawrence is employed at a gas plant They have five sons Eileen married Harry Skoreiko of Leedale They live in Calgary and have three daughters Donald is at home with his parents

Pete and Lelah are in quite good health and make welcome their many friends who drop in to visit

There are at this time six grandsons and three granddaughters, also they are the proud great great-grandparents of four children

**PIMM, THEODORE AND HATTIE**

Ted and Hattie Pimm moved to the Gimli district to a C P R. quarter (S.E. 19-41-4-W5 In the summer of 1932

To make an extra dollar Ted cut tamarack posts and firewood,. He delivered the wood to Rimbey for $2 50 a cord, all ricked up. He also put his mules to work and did custom breaking for three years. His lead mule kept him on his toes as he would haul off and kick the driver if he wasn t the first one unhitched. Hattie used to ride one of the mules to the neighbors for eggs and on several occasions the old mule would put his head down and off over the front would go Hattie and the eggs and then the mule would trot off home, leaving Hattie to walk

In the spring of 1927, Ted and some other men helped Mr Wiltse move the Daniel Lalone house from S.W 25-41-4-w5 to northwest of Leedale The house had been built on a small knoll surrounded by muskeg It was large for those days, being 24' x 36' of lath and plaster construction so it was decided to cut it in half using a cross cut saw Then eight head of mules and eight head of horses were used to skid the house the 12 miles or more. It was a slow process as they had to cut a trail as they went along

Ted also purchased the N W 17-41-4-w5 originally homesteaded by Buchanan. He broke 20 acres of land here for a total cash cost of 10c He used a five horse team on a 16 breaking plow and it cost him 10¢ for a can of grease to keep the trucks from squeaking

Ted recalled the big fire of 1931, which burned south and west of them. It had been an open winter with hardly any snow. That particular day Ted had hauled a load of wheat to Rimbey and there was a terrific high wind Joe Brown, an uncle of Stanley Brown was cutting wood in the bush and got caught in the line of fire His wagon was burned up and his horses were singed but the fire burned around him and went on

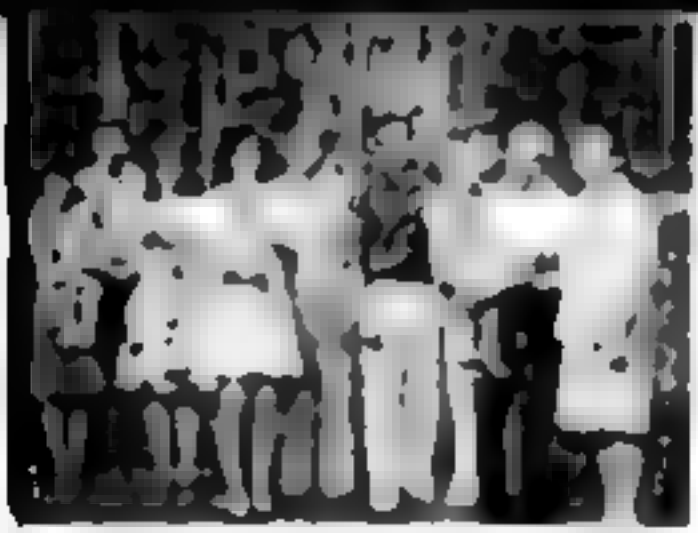
Ted and Hattie sold their land to Cliff Staudinger and moved to Rimbey in the spring of 1973. Their family of three daughters live in Rimbey Blackfalds and Calgary and their son Art lives in Swan Hills

Ted is an avid golfer and curler according to the season and spends a lot of time visiting old friends at the local auction mart Hattie still has a steady hand for the fancy work that she enjoys doing So they are thoroughly enjoying their retirement from the farm but they harbour many fond memories of the Gimlet area and their life there

**STAUDINGER, HELGE AND MARJORIE — by Marjorie Staudinger**
**S.W 19-41-4-5**

It was a balmy day in May, 1962, when I picked up the mail at the end of the driveway and took it along to the old homestead for Helge to read while he ate the dinner I had packed. He always read the classified ads first "I wonder what kind of land this would be he queried showing me an ad for three quarters of land north of Lesliеville. Examining the ad I conduced, 'It's pasture we need. It would surely grow grass, if nothing else." Little did we dream that acquiring this land would produce much more than grass in the following yea[illegible] troduced us to a whole new community [illegible] we'd never even heard of Gimlet before a scarce 40 miles away We gained a host of new friends. Neighbors made us feel at home and helped us in so many ways when we were constantly finding ourselves in need of something we either couldn't or didn't bring with us They gave us permission to use the phone or pick up milk even if they were ou

It was in May 1969 when fire swept through It started somewhere southwest of us. We were not here that Tuesday morning when a hot dry wind picked up the smouldering embers of an old brush fire, raced across Stanley Brown s and into Clifford's "Waramaki Quarter". Ted Pimm phoned us at Marianne to tell us that the fire was moving fast and our tractors were in danger No one present had operated diesel motors and they couldn't get them started. Not being familiar with forest fires, we wondered how a fire could burn on freshly cleared land but we believed his report and came as fast as we could. If it hadn t been for Dave Lowe coming along much before we got here our tractors would have burned. He moved them to safety in the nick of time Then came the long, grueling afternoon as a number of men fought the fire along the road that runs kitycorner through Cliff's. If it couldn't be stopped there, there was no telling how far west it could go. It did jump the road into our southwest quarter, crossing only the corner and within a few hours had burned itself out nearly 20 miles to the northwest We were lucky to have neighbors who literally knocked themselves out in a situa-



tion where we'd have been quite helpless to even know what to do

The land was virtually wild when we got it Only a small piece had once been cleared or had gone back to trees. Fire had gone through a couple of times before but that was also treed over again. For the first years it was a new and exciting place to roam, throughout the wooded hills and dales, and to picnic with family and friends from far and near

Then came the blueberry years. Hattie Pimm had told us that if we got more rain the blueberries would literally cover the ground. It was hard to believe in the first years when it was quite dry but when the wet years came we knew what she meant For several years this trend continued. I asked everyone I could to come and pick and we had hordes of friends crawling all over the place and I picked all I could myself We still left millions of them for the birds

Progress must take its toll and as Helge cleared a little more land each year blueberry patches became fields and pasture Then came years of less rainfall again and lastly, more cattle to trample what was left so now even we must find blueberries further afield

We had no thoughts of living here when we bought the land but it wasn't long after that we walked from the road into the trees where our house now stands It was so lovely and especially the birch were beautiful. As I stood transfix Helge asked, "are you thinking the same thing that I am?" and I answered, "That this would be a beautiful place to build a home First we built the little cottage which was much more comfy than the granary Helge had batched in for several summers, whenever he came out here to work I didn't have much time to spend here but enjoyed a few days off and on. It was the summer of 1969 when we started building our house and we moved into it in January 1970

We turned the home place at Marianne over to three unmarried sons. That first summer their youngest sister kept house for them but after her marriage in November they were on their own Mom and Dad had "flown the coop." Richard has since married. Russell and Harvey still bach

In 1967 Cliff bought the N.W 18-41-4-5 from Ike and Don Walimaki. In 1973 he bought Ted Pimm's place, the S.E. of 19 and N.W of 17 At the time, he was working in Calgary with Melchin. Now, dividing his time between this and his brother's at Marianne. he farms his land

As I write It's just eight years since we came here to live and it seems our sojourn at Gimlet is almost over Our youngest son George and his wife Beth with their two little girls, Rebecca and Rachel arrived in March 1977 and whenever we can sufficiently ready a new home on the old homestead west of Sylvan Lake, they will take over the farming here Our ties with Gimlet will remain fast and we are happy that some of the family will continue to live and farm in the dis

## [illegible]

by Nada Trenholme

Nathaniel is of English and Scottish descent. His father and mother first came to Prince Edward Island lived there for a number of years and then moved to Watertown, South Dakota

Nate, as his friends alway called him and his twin sister Mabel were born there. When the twins were ready to start school a married brother was moving to Canada and since their mother had recently died the family moved with [illegible]

With several wagons joined in a wagon train they left South Dakota late in 1907 and arrived in Carstairs in 1908. The twins started school there Later Nate went to live with his sister Mae and husband. They lived on a homestead at Sunnyslope. He went to school at Burnside School

During the First World War Mae and her husband moved to Victoria where there was work in the ship yards building the ships used in the war Nate, too, worked in the ship yards until after the war The family then moved to Omak, Washington where he worked making boxes for packing fruit during the day and cleaned the flumes in the orchard at night. He decided to return to Sunnyslope and landed in Didsbury which was as far as he could go by train The hotel was full and he was not allowed to sit in the lobby all night so he decided to walk. Since the walk was 20 miles he thought he'd spend the time learning to smoke. He bought himself a pipe and some tobacco and set out A few miles out he became so ill it was difficult for him to continue the journey. This cured him of smoking for the rest of his life

When he arrived he found his brother and family about to move to Sprucefield in Northern Alberta as homesteads were available and his sons were old enough to have a homestead Nate

joined them taking out a homestead and they all worked together

I was born and raised in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. When Nate was on a visit to see a friend in Saskatchewan, we met and in 1926 were married. We were married in Warspite and had our wedding dance in Sprucefield

We lived on a rented farm until the birth of our first daughter Eva, when we bought a quarter of land near Edmonton. It was fairly expensive land for that time and what with sawflies 25 cent per bushel grain and being hailed out it was difficult to meet the payments and we were forced to sell it again. We then moved to Manyberries. There was a policy by which we could rent government land for three cents per acre The country was so dry the grain would only grow four to six inches tall. After a terrible dust storm and the wind blowing rolls of tumble weed all over it there was nothing left for winter feed Russian thistle was cut for feed and our belts were pulled in to the last notch. The following year we followed the harvest working our way north. I had to have an operation and Eva was hospitalized with whooping cough. By the time our doctor and hospital bills were paid our summer wages were nearly gone We got a job operating a dray line in Northern Alberta but the town was so small there wasn't enough business to make a living. After the birth of our second daughter Lillian, we returned to Sunnyslope Shortly after we arrived Nate became ill and he too had to have his appendix removed Again there were the doctor bills and hospital bills Through the years all of our children as well as ourselves had our appendix removed

In the meantime we found a place to live on a farm with a widow and her two sons. We could help on the farm and keep our cattle there. I milked four cows and fed out a few yearlings When Nate was well enough he took a team and a sleigh and went to a lake 350 miles to the north bought a sleigh box full of fish and sold them all the way home This took until spring We pooled the money we had made and found we had enough to make a payment of a farm

In 1936 Nate went to a real estate agent and found a quarter at Leedale This was the N W 26-41-4-W 5. The agent said this quarter had a good house and a nice barn. 50 acres broken and the rest in light brush. We had to take his word for this, and hope that he was an honest man because we didn't have extra money to see it

We packed all our possessions in a covered wagon, tied the bull to the wagon and driving the cattle we started out When we were in the Wainborne area a terrible storm came up and our cattle became difficult to manage so we asked a farmer by the name of Taylor if we could put our cattle in a pen They not only took in our cattle but us too and we stayed in their house for three days. They knew nothing about us and still were willing to take us in and wouldn't take any payment for their kindness

Our two girls didn't seem to mind the trip and took the whole thing in their stride, running behind, riding on the wagon or riding on the tamest of the cows. There was also an element of excitement as Nate loved bull fights and everytime a farmers bull would break through the fence ours would be turned loose and they were allowed to fight until he could break them up and tie ours up so we could be on our way

When we arrived at the farm we found there was no access road and the only way to get to it was through Mr Nugent's pasture There was less than 30 acres broken. the house was built out of four by six laid one on top of the other and the walls and roof were covered with tar paper held in place with slabs. The only dry place when it rained was under the kitchen table because there was an oilcloth on the table. The walls would shift every so often and I would pound them back in place with an axe The good barn was a straw shed, the well was dry and the only good thing was a river running through the farm where we got water for washing and the cattle. We hauled our house water from Sherman's. Eva had to go through two gates and Nugent's pasture to get to Gimlet School which was three and one half miles away. Nate built little ladders at the gates so she could climb on her old horse. We were only here three days when the river flooded its banks and we saw a nice horse floating down the river with a saddle on his back. We never heard anything of the rider What a sick feeling I had knowing the children had a choice of two gates and a pasture with a bull in or fording the river to get to school

You can well imagine our bitter disappoint

ment but there was nothing we could do but make the best of it as we had very little money and had to live through the winter until we could sell cream.

We were in need of seed in the spring but couldn't afford it. Mr Tarrbano, who owned the Leedale store told us that Claude Challand had seed so Nate went to him, explaining his financial situation and Claude gave him the seed without even asking him when he could pay for it. Neighbors like this are never forgotten. Other neighbors we had on this farm were Nugents, Betts, Wilkes, Shermans and Thysons. They too tried to help smooth our way.

Our first real meeting with the people of Gimlet was at a good old fashioned picnic. You know the kind, lots of home cooking, home made ice cream and prizes for all the children whether they won or not.

Our eldest son Glen was born on this farm.

In 1939 we bought the N.W. 27-41-4-W 5 from the Canadian Pacific Railway. Jim Baird had lived on it before. It was closer to school, a good road went by the farm, the well was very good and the house was quite good for those years. We were really pleased with this farm. Nate worked in the sawmills every winter and I stayed on the farm taking care of the animals and the children.

During these lonely winters we loved to read but there was a real scarcity of books. I heard that canceled books could be obtained from the Edmonton public library for a small sum of money so I sent for some. For two dollars I received a large box so I ordered more and loaned them out to others who, like myself, didn't have too much entertainment. I joined the Women's Institute and got books for them which were kept in Leedale at Edna Varly's to be loaned out. Later they were kept by Mrs. B. Robinson in the post office. I also served on the Gimlet school board, also a member of the Gimlet sewing circle and was president of the Leedale Catholic Ladies club at the time the church was built in Leedale. This was accomplished by the labours of many hard

What with Nate working in the mills and me on the farm we were able to buy another quarter of land west of the Gimlet school. We purchased it from the 'Sunset Home' at Bawlf. It had belonged to Charlie Augustine who died in this home. Ted Pimm moved on the farm further west and each person along the fence line gave one rod from each side so a road could be made so their children could go to the Gimlet School. This was not a road allowance so the road was built by the men themselves.

We later sold this quarter to Bud Casey and bought the N.E. 27-41-4-W 5 which was directly east of our home quarter and owned by Mrs. Lindsay, the postmistress in Leedale. This quarter had the river running through it also so I kept quite a few geese. Occasionally an overanxious hunter had goose for dinner.

Nate loved to trade horses and bought wild ones from the Indians at Nordegg for trading horses. When I think of some of the horses we've had I wonder who got the worst deal, he or his victim. At least he always kept a good team which were trained for skid horses and worked with him in the mill.

During the summer he drove to Rimbey with the team to sell the pigs. He would come home fairly late, singing to pass the time and the children would wait for the sound of his voice to run out to meet him. He also had a weakness for the lonely of the world and often when he came home from the mill he would bring some lonely bachelor who had no where to go and he would stay with us until he found some summer work.

Our youngest son Allen was born in 1946 and went to Gimlet School as did all the children. He took his high school at David Thompson School.

A calamity befell our family when Nat lost his eye in a ploughing accident and again our neighbors came in to lend a helping hand and to check on the family while I stayed in Edmonton with him.

We later sold the farm and moved to Vernon British Columbia. We later took the farm back but I stayed in B.C. as Glen was in High School and would have had to board away from home. I returned to the farm after he graduated and we stayed there until Nate had a hunting accident which resulted in the loss of part of his foot. We then sold the farm and bought a house in Rimbey where we still live. Many of our old neighbors are also retired in Rimbey so we see many familiar faces.

Our four children are married. Eva and her husband, Gus Makofka have two children and live at Bluffton. Lillian and her husband, Gus LeDuc have five children and live at Aldersyde. Glen and his wife, Lois have two children and live in Edmonton, and Allen and his wife, Terry have two children and live in Italy.

**WARNEKE, JOHN AND ESTHER — written by Esther Warneke**

John and I (nee Esther Sundby) were married at Athabaska on July 13, 1941. We have two children, a son, Lorne born at Athabaska on November 18, 1942, and a daughter, Diane, born at Eckville, February 27, 1949.

John was with the R.C.C. [redacted] World War II serving for five and one half years. Three and one half of those years were spent overseas. During that time we lived at various places — Brandon and Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Kingston, Ontario. During John's absence, Lorne and I lived at Medicine Hat, Alta. When John returned from overseas, after the war was over, we moved to Calgary. It was while there we decided to go farming. After looking at various places, we chose to live at Leedale acquiring the quarter known as the old Bradshaw place. It was situated one half mile east and two miles south of the Hamlet of Leedale. It was at the crossroads,

and the corner was soon called "Johnnie's Corner" for three Johnnies lived across from one another all veterans of the war

We arrived there from Calgary in April of 1947 in time for the spring thaw. We soon discovered what the roads were like Having only a car, — for we hadn't yet bought any farm machinery or horses, — we couldn't drive out again for at least two weeks All four roads were impassable. John had to hike to the Leedale store, with pack on his back, to get groceries several times.

There was an old creamery situated on John Playfair's, across the road from us John bought it, and from the salvages, we built new granaries and a pump house. We still have the pump house, which we moved to our present home site, in the Eckville area near Condor

One of the worse blizzards that I can recall occurred the night before our daughter was born It left all the roads blocked from fence post to fence post With the aid of Doc Coppock, good neighbors, our horses, jeep, tractors and trucks and an all day session, we arrived in Eckville [illegible] and turned around after despite the experiences

The curling rink at Leedale was built by the community effort. We are proud that John assisted in that We enjoyed many years of curling there

[illegible] in the foreground of the early 1900's on the John Wiltse place at Leedale

We lived in the old house that was on the farm, supposedly to have been built around 1905, until 1959. Then we built our new home We also bought two more quarters of land, one previously owned by Ted Everaden, and the other by Wilbert Burgoyne

Lorne and Diane started their school years at Gimlet, attending there until the schools were consolidated in 1956. They were then bused to Eckville, where they graduated. Lorne went on to the University of Edmonton receiving his M D degree, and F.R.C.P degree. He now has his practice in Edmonton. Diane has been doing accounting and secretarial work in Edmonton and at the time of writing is attending Grant MacEwan College to become a social worker

In 1970, our neighbors sold their farms to the Hutterites. The following year, after a tough decision, we finally did the same. We greatly enjoyed our years at Leedale

**WILTSE, C LYNN AND HOOPER FAMILIES**

In the year 1906, C Lynn Wiltse after several weeks travel, due to the large influx of immigrants into Alberta arrived by immigrant car at Stettler from DesMoines, Iowa. From there he went southeast of Gadsby where he located a homestead, later known as the Hill Top the buildings were located on a knoll

Lynn was followed by his father and mother Charles L. and Anna Wiltse and several other members of the Wiltse family In 1906 Charles L Wiltse located a homestead one mile south of the Hill Top He then moved to Stettler where he was in the cattle business for several years before returning to the U S.A

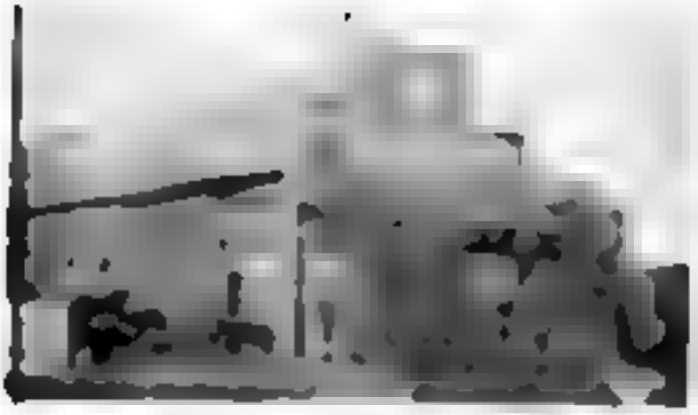
[illegible]

Harrison Wiltse located a homestead in the same area. He married Mabel Bobidoux at Halkirk, where he ran a butcher shop He was also in the cattle business at Halkirk and [illegible]

In 1908 Lynn Wiltse and Daisy Hoopfer, a daughter of another pioneer family Albert L and Alice J Hoopfer, were married

In 1910 Lynn Wiltse and his brother, Fred Wiltse moved east to the new town of Consort Here they engaged in the freight business, and also built and operated a large livery stable and Studebaker buggy and wagon agency Their freight wagons moved two lumber yards from Castor to Consort along with many other supplies for the new town. They also drove many new settlers out in their buggies to locate homesteads in the Consort and Monitor area

With the advent of the automobile Lynn and Fred sold their livery business and put teams to work building the new railroad into the area Later Fred Wiltse who had married Daisy Watson acquired the Ford car agency also a mer



cantile store in Consort, which are still operated by his sons', Harold and Arthur Wiltse

Lynn Wiltse took up a purchase homestead in the Monitor area which he farmed before selling and moving back to the Gadsby area in 1917 During the time he farmed in the Gadsby area he served on the school board, also as a deputy sheriff

In 1921 Lynn Wiltse moved to the Leedale area, west of Lacombe, with six children, Edwin, Charles, Lyle Marion, Evelyn and Clare Another son, Harrison (Hal), remained in the Gadsby area with his uncle, Harrison. Hal Wiltse aught at the Big Knife School in school years 1940-41 and 41-42. The Lynn Wiltse family moved to a farm known as the Balance place, where they lived in the original log homestead house until 1924. At that time Lynn moved a two story frame house that had been built by Garner Wiltse on a half section west of the home site. This house was moved with horses and wagons Another son, Fred, was born that year

In 1921 Garner Wiltse who had been farming

in the Gadsby area moved to the Leedale area with his wife Elsie Lesinger Wiltse. They moved onto the west half of the Balance place where they farmed until the following year, at that time they traded farms with Jack Anker for a place north west of Leedale. He farmed this place until 1925 when he passed away leaving his wife and five children, Ruth, Marie, Helen, Loretta and Pearl

Jack Anker bought the place north west of Leedale in 1921 He had moved west from Monitor where he had homesteaded. He also drove livery teams for Lynn Wiltse when the town of Consort was being built

Also in 1921 Jim Anderson moved to the Leedale area from the Monitor area where he had homesteaded. He bought a place in the section east of the Balance place Jim brought with him his wife Mina and three of his four children Florence, Lela and Helen. A fourth daughter Gail, remained at Consort where she married Art Redel Lela Anderson taught at the Gimlet School in 1922 and 23 school year

During the time Lynn Wiltse farmed the Balance land he hired an Indian tribe to clear land for him. They moved the whole tribe with their teepees and horses onto the place and the squaws and children slashed and piled the brush while the bucks sat in the shade and watched There were many acres cleared in this way in those days. Many of these Indians could speak no English. If they happened to come by at meal time they would come in unannounced, sit down at the table and wait until food was set before them, most of them used their fingers for eating they would then leave with no more than a grunt In the fall of the year they received a large steer as part of their pay They took the steer down to the river bank where a large band of neighboring Indians had gathered They then stoned the steer to death and cooked it They feasted all night until all the meat was gone

In 1926 Lynn Wiltse moved his family to the Garner Wiltse farm northwest of Leedale In the fall of 1926 Lynn Wiltse, Charles Wiltse, Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons and Tom Simmons went hunting west of Leedale and returned with four moose They were brought in whole with the hide on and in the cold weather were frozen solid Lynn moved his moose into the house beside the air tight heater where it lay for several days, being turned occasionally, before it thawed out enough to skin and cut up

In the spring of 1927 Lynn Wiltse moved a house, 24 x 36 and one and one half stories, from six miles southwest of his place. The house was first sawed in two by Charles Wiltse and Grover Simpkins, and then loaded on a front bob sled and timber, one half at a time. A right of way was slashed across country, and the snow had to be tramped by the men across a swamp so it would freeze enough to carry the horses and house There were 12 head of horses and four head of mules used to pull the house. Those help

ing on the moving besides Lynn Wiltse, were Edwin Wiltse, Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons, Charles Wiltse and Grover Simpkins. That spring a basement was dug and a foundation poured with gravel dug from the bottom of the Medicine River, by horses and slip. The house was moved onto the new foundation that summer. One of the features of the new house was running water. The house was so positioned with the well below one corner of the kitchen [illegible] tea kettle from a pitcher pump and run set it on [illegible] below weather to thaw the pump to get a drink. Lynn also started construction on a large log barn at this time. While in the Leedale area Lynn Wiltse served on the school board as well as serving on the Municipal Council as a [illegible].

In 1928 Lynn Wiltse traded for a farm in Oregon U.S.A. with a Mr. Polyzik, and moved to it in the fall, thus ending 22 years of pioneering in Alberta.

Albert L. and Alice J. Hoopfer and children William, Daisy, Marion and Dewey, moved to the Gadsby area from Bismark, North Dakota in 1906. Albert and William (Bill) Hoopfer took up adjoining homesteads in the area southeast of Gadsby.

The Hoopfer Family when in [illegible] Back: Marion, Daisy, Bill and Dewey. Front: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hoopfer.

In 1911 William Hoopfer took up a purchase homestead south of Monitor. In 1921 Bill married Florence Leister. He farmed in the Monitor district until 1937 when he moved his wife and three children, Jean, Doreen and Hallie to a farm he purchased west of Red Deer.

Marion Hoopfer married Ross Currie in 1917. They farmed in the Gadsby area until 1921 when they moved to a farm at Monitor. In 1936 the Currie's moved to a farm at Red Deer. They had seven children, Jack, Bob, Alice, Ross, Lorne, Glenn and Francis.

Dewey Hoopfer took over William and Albert Hoopfer's homesteads at Gadsby. In 1921 Dewey Hoopfer married Jessie Ellis. In 1925 and 1926 Dewey farmed in the Leedale area with his father, Albert Hoopfer. He then went back to the Gadsby farm. Dewey and Jessie Hoopfer had six children, William, Laurie, Alice, Verna, Jim and [illegible].

In 1921 Albert and Alice Hoopfer moved to a farm three miles south east of Leedale where they farmed until 1930, when they moved back to Gadsby.

**WITHERS, HARRY AND JENNY – written by Laura Withers Chappell**

My father, Harry Withers came to Alberta from Nova Scotia in 1906 with his parents, two brothers, William and Charlie, and two sisters, Nellie (Hoeppelsheuser) and Nora (Lange).

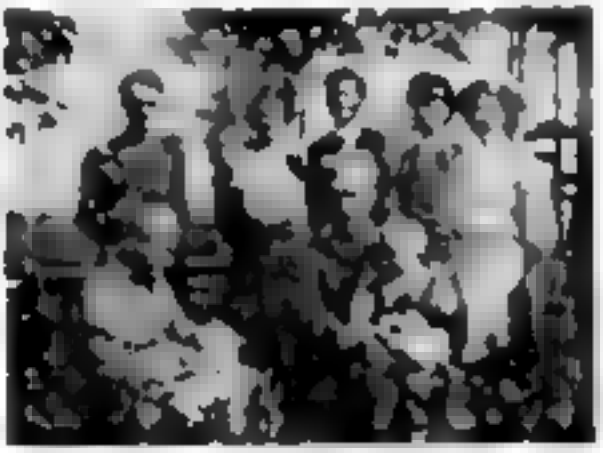
My grandfather, Ephraim Withers homesteaded the SW 2-41-4-W5. This was also the first Medicine Valley Post Office and my father hauled the mail from Lacombe twice a week.

My uncle William homesteaded the SE 2 and Uncle Charlie the NE 4-41-4-W5.

My father, Harry homesteaded the SE 3-41-4-W5. This land now belongs to Charlie Dyrland, Harriet Stears and Mark Smale.

My mother came to Wittenberg (Leedale) with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobs from Hamilton, Ontario. She had one brother, Gordon and a sister, Myrtle. They bought the Leedale Store and post office. A few years later they sold out and moved to Gilby, where they bought the store and post office.

My parents, Harry and Jenny (Jacobs) Withers were married in 1917. They raised four children, Laura Alice (Chappell) of Eckville, Myrtle Glenville (Sweet) of Acme, Lorne Clifford of North Surrey, B.C. and Elva Jean of Didsbury, Alberta.



[illegible] Withers (mother), Mr. R.J. Withers (father), Mrs. and Ruth Lange (nee [illegible]).

# Hespero, Condor, Shady Lane

**ALBERTA — by Louis DeMontmorency, Condor, Alberta**

I've travelled all over the country
And scarcely owned more than my coat
For years I've worked in the timber
But still I was always broke
Proceeding that hundreds grow poor
I made up my mind to try farming.
The only proceeds that are sure
So packing my trinkets together
It gave me quite a thrill
I boarded a train for Alberta
For a town that's called Eckville
Arriving flat broke in midwinter
The ground was all covered with snow
And if I'm not badly mistaken, it
Must have been forty below
As I looked on my prospects so gleaming
The tears trickled down o'er my face
And I felt that all of my travels
Had brought me to the jumping off place
I bought a quarter section of prairie
And I settled down to hard toil
For years I worked and I labored
With the rocks and the tough prairie soil
And I tried to get out of the country
But poverty forced me to stay,
Until I became an old settler
Then nothing could drive me away
And since I am used to the climate
Also those cold winds that blow
To find a place more happy
I don't know where I would go
And if you should long for excitement
The wild world to explore
You can get a free passage to Europe
That's where the great cannons do roar
We have the Jap and the Dago
Also the Russian Bear
And if you don't like their company
You can go see old Nasser

[redacted]

I remember when they broke these
acres broad and bare
Seagulls soaring behind the plough
in the air
The day they sowed the sky was
sunny and bright
The first green blades turned
toward the light
I remember the many stooks upon
Alberta's history
When the threshers came to thresh
the ripened grain
Farmers returned to the fields
fall work complete
Alberta is the land of forests
minerals and wheat
I remember pioneers, built roads
bridges, airports and factories
Pioneers made Alberta what
it is today
Through change and adversity shaped
its destiny
Alberta's gift is in the land
Sunned and watered by an unseen Hand.

Written by R. A. Jennings in 1955

**ANDERSON, ANTON OSCAR**

Anton Anderson was born at Woodville Wisconsin, U.S.A. on November 6, 1885. He came to Canada with his parents, one brother and three sisters, in the spring of 1910, and settled on a farm in the Millet district. He married the former Ethel Blize in 1925.

Ethel Blize was born at Dixie, Washington, U.S.A. on December 27 1902, and came to Canada in July, 1908 with her parents and younger brother, also settling in the Millet district.

After their marriage they farmed the Anderson home place following the retirement of his parents. During the following years, five children were born to them.

In 1946, they purchased the Reino Sipplia farm, NE 14-38-4-W5, three miles south of Hespero, and moved there in April of that year. In 1953 they purchased the adjacent SE 14-38-4-W5 from Pat Hoven.

Anton was a friendly, kindly man and was a friend to all his neighbors. He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and kept bees for a time. Ethel was a member of the Hespero Community Club, and the Diamond Valley Mission. Tragedy

occurred in the family in July, 1961, when Anton passed away after being trampled by a bull on the farm. Ethel now makes her home in Sylvan ..

Hazel, their first child, was born on February 22, 1926. She married William Cordon, and they live at Eckville. Edith was born on September 2, 1927 and married Arthur Thomas. They live in the Hespero district. Jean, born November 15, 1929, married Raymond McCrady, and lives in Brooks. Clarence was born on June 27, 1931. He married the former Florence Campbell, and lives at Sylvan Lake. Owen (Bud) was born October 21, 1932. He married the former Eva Hope and lives at Kamloops, B.C.

**ELI ANDERSON FAMILY — by Magda Anderson**

Eli Anderson came to Red Deer from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1906. He worked in the sawmill and quarry while sizing up homesteads. After looking at land near Wainwright and Lochearn, he chose the northeast quarter of section 9-38-4-W5, which is six and one-half miles west of Eckville. Mrs. Anderson and the four children, Lena, Archie, Arla and Norman came in October, 1907. They spent the year 1908 in Red Deer and moved out to the homestead in 1909. Mr. Anderson freighted supplies out from Red Deer before the Alberta Central Railway was built in 1912. Members of the Anderson family got their mail at Lesieville, Pilcox, Hespero, Condor, Withrow and now Rural Route 4 out of Eckville, and we've resided at the same location all this time.

Mrs. Anderson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Rasmus, homesteaded the SW9 — and her brother the NE quarter of section 9. Her sister married George Jayes, who had homesteaded the SE of section 9.

Lena Anderson married Jacob Odland and resided in the Bingley area. Their children were ... rence, Luke, Nellie, Beulah and Eunice. Mrs. Odlund died in 1964, and by 1977 the three eldest children have passed away. Eunice (Mrs. William Gardner) lives in the Rimbey area. Their children are Wilma, Helen and Thomas. Beulah (Mrs. Charles Phillips) lives in Drumheller. She and her husband have nine

Archie remained a bachelor and farmed the home place until he passed away in 1974. Arla Anderson married George Lee and lives southeast of Evarts. Their children are Charles, Nina and Gertie.

Norman Anderson married Magda Wold and farmed near the home place. Their children are Glenda (Mrs. Robert Wacher), who has three children, Cathy, Steven and Vicki; Norman Jr. who passed away in infancy, and Marjorie (Mrs. Vern Harbourne), who has two sons, Kevin and Shane. Norman passed away in January, 1973. Eli Anderson farmed a section of land with good buildings, at the time of his death in 1938. He was a member of the Shady Lane School Board for many years. Mrs. Anderson was very hard of hearing and read everything for amusement. She was an excellent cook — her home-made bread was a specialty. She passed away in 1939. In less than two years, we lost three Andersons from our corner.

**ARNOLD, CHARLIE**

My father, sister and I came out from Wiltshire, England in 1913. My mother was unable to immigrate as she had TB and remained behind in a sanatorium for treatment. My sister Winnie stayed at Pilot Mound with relatives and Dad and I came out to Lesieville. I stayed with my cousins, Harry Arnold. Dad went on to British Columbia. I worked for my cousins and stayed on their farm for one and a half years. I then went out to Huxley to work at various jobs for about two years.

Later, I came back to Lesieville as Dad had come back to Alberta and bought a farm. Dad and I farmed together for about three years. Then, I decided to work out again, working around Rocky Mountain House in mills hauling logs.

Then in 1923, I lived in Condor, working at various jobs, mills, and threshing. I always

worked on threshing outfits and did so for about 50 years. Last threshing I helped with was in 1976 for Cliff Morrison.

In 1923, Condor was very small, just a few families lived there — Clarence Fitch, the Eastmans, Scott Hastie were some of them. Later, there were Wardens, Meeres, Clements.

In 1931, I took a lease on the quarter NE 35-38-5-W5 and built a small house where I continued to farm and work out a bit. I recall the times when you would get stuck on No. 11 Highway with a wagon and four horses hauling hay from the Bill Cruickshank place. I worked on the road from Leslieville to Highway 11 in 1932.

Local young people, Martin Resetz, Norman Eastman, Earl Doyle, Myers, Maxwells, and others would go by team and sleigh to dances. The music was supplied by local talent. Lunch supplied by ladies.

We held card parties in local homes. Some were John Simons, Bices, Bartons, Blairs, Mitchells, Hewitts. These were held during the winter, also dances in the homes which often lasted until daylight.

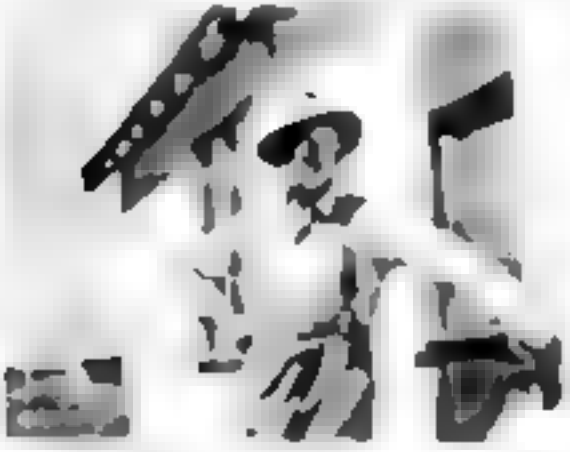
The young people visited a local moonshiner to pick up their supply to add a little cheer to their evening.

My mother passed away in England in 1918. My father passed away in July, 1947 in Cranbrook, B.C.

I still reside on the NE 35-38-5-W5.

**AVERY, ALBERT**

Albert Edward (Bert) Avery, born March 17, 1887, at North Nibley, Gloucestershire, England, came to Ontario in 1906 and to the Condor district in 1910. He homesteaded in the Northup area. During World War I he enlisted in the army in the 89th Battalion and served overseas in England and France. While in England, he married Eleanor (Nellie) Bullock and then returned to his farm at Condor. It was two years before Nellie was able to join him here. Their son, David, was born in 1921. Bert's brother, Walter, lived and worked with them at that time.



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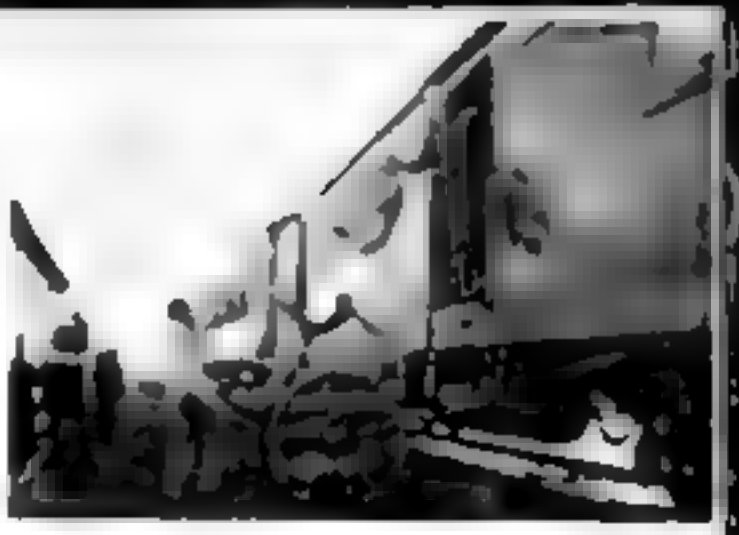


[illegible]

Bert was a member of the Red Deer Salvation Army, a school board trustee for 18 years, the returning officer for the M.D. of Raven for 20 years and was one of the first trustees for the Eckville hospital.

Tragedy struck the Avery home, when Nellie died in 1922 and David died in 1930. The little Avery log cabin still stands to this day and can be seen from the Stauffer road.

Bert (known to many as Uncle Bert) moved to Condor as post master from 1938 to 1962. He was well-known throughout the district as clerk for Clyde Stauffer's auction sales. He served in the Second World War in the Reserve Army. He had a life membership in the B.P.O. Elks. At most Christmas concerts in the district schools, Uncle Bert was a familiar figure dressed in red with a white beard. He was a friend to all and many parties were held in the back of the post office. After retiring from the post office, Bert lived with his "adopted daughter" Mary and her husband, Tom Raubis, in Red Deer. He later resided in the Red Deer Nursing Home and spent his [illegible] and aspiration to all.

**BICE, HARRY VEALE [illegible]**

Harry was born in Cornwall, England and came to Canada as a young adult. When the war broke out in 1914 he joined the army and spent four years in England and Europe. After discharge at the end of the war, he returned to Canada and took up farming in the Condor district [illegible].

In March 1920 he married Annie Rutherford. They had four children, two boys and two girls. Francis contracted rheumatic fever and passed away in 1932 at the age of 11 years. Victor only lived a few days after birth in 1922. The two girls both live in Salmon Arm, B.C. Jean married Gerald Layden of Lacombe in 1948. They have four children, Garnett, Larry, Donna, and Dianne. June married Joe Buresh of Evergreen district in 1944. They have three children, Shannon, Beverly and Gordon.

Annie Bice is well and enjoys life in Rutland,

B.C. where they moved in 1953. Harry passed away in March 1962 in Vancouver's Shaughnessy Hospital. He was a good farmer, always enjoyed working on the land and with his animals. When he was so ill he said 'If I can't work, I really don't want to live.

**BIRCE, ALLAN AND PEARL**

Pearl and Allan Birce came west from Essex County, Ontario about 1906. The settled first in Southern Alberta near Retlaw. After several extremely dry years on their homestead there, they decided to move to Condor. The move took place in early November, 1933. Mr. Birce brought the cattle, horses and machinery to Condor by C.P.R. Mrs. Birce and the six children — Edna, Ethel, Mildred, Verna, Jean and Walter — came by train later. The train trip north took three days, with nights spent at Blackie and Calgary. Mr. Birce bought the SE 20-38-4-W5. The land was purchased from Fred Nachtmann and now became the home of the Birces. The family couldn't move into the house until spring so spent the winter with Mr. Birce's mother and brother Bill. Early in the spring the Birce family moved into the log house on the farm. Mr. Nachtmann had built a little shack on the farm for himself.

The farm was nearly all bush so the family started clearing land in the spring. A few acres were cleared and broke each year. The clearing was done by axe, with horses used to skid the trees off the land. The first machine clearing was done by Ed Skocdopole with a D 8 cat. The trees which were cleared from the land were used for firewood. Once the land was cleared, it had to be broke with horses and a breaking plow. Later on machines were hired to break the land too. The firewood in the early days was cut with a cross cut saw. The Birce family cut logs to provide lumber for a barn and later a house. The Blacks had a portable mill and came to the Birce farm during the winter and following spring to mill the logs into lumber.

The Birce family soon became engaged in mixed farming on their farm. They grew grain as well as milked cows, raised chickens, pigs and, of course, horses. Mr. Birce and the girls walked many miles picking wild fruit such as strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries. Most of the other neighborhood folk also took advantage of nature's harvest to add to the larder.

The children attended school at Daisy Nook. Each day the children had to walk two and a half miles each way to school. Their first teacher was Miss Betty Baldwin. Grades one to 12 were taught in the one room school. The school students and their families took turns doing the janitor work for one month periods. The janitor work included starting the fire each day, hauling the firewood and water, sweeping the floor and, once a month, scrubbing. The salary for all this work was $5 a month. The janitor had to go to school early enough to start the fires and thaw out everything in the winter time. Since there was no coal to bank the fire at night, it took quite a while to get the school warm in the morning. Later teachers at Daisy Nook included Mr. Inkster, Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Hilda Anderson. The highlight of each school year was the annual Christmas concert. Every student took part in the concert which ended with a visit from Santa Claus and candy bags for everyone. The concert provided a grand opportunity to catch up on visiting with the neighbors. In the summer, the school students enjoyed ball games. As well, the girls spent many sunny noon hours playing pen knife, skipping and playing hopscotch. In the winter, the ice rink provided hours of enjoyment.

The Birce family enjoyed the friendship of their early neighbors. Some of these were the Douchnoskis, Krests, Martin Resetz and his mother, Barteskos and many others. On Sunday afternoons, it was a common sight to see their yard full of young people playing games, especially ball games.

The early farm families in the Condor district had to be very self-sufficient. They had big gardens, their own farm-grown meat, milk and eggs. They picked wild fruit for jam and [illegible] and porridge. Groceries were bought from the [illegible] store-keepers. Mail came into Condor three times a week by train. Cattle were driven to the railway station. Pigs were hauled to town by wagon or sleigh. All the children have fond memories of Bert Avery (Uncle Bert) who was [illegible].

The roads in the Condor area were terrible in the spring during break up. Since there was no gravel on the roads, each spring the roads became a sea of mud. The snow was not plowed from the roads during the winter, which made the problem worse each spring when the snow melted. In the spring of 1940, when the roads were at their worst, Ethel Birce took very ill. One of the family members walked three and a half miles to the nearest phone so that the doctor at Eckville could be phoned. However, the doctor hesitated to come to the farm as the roads were certainly near impassible. After phoning Doctor Greenaway at Rocky Mountain House however the family received good news. He would come. Miraculously, the doctor arrived at the farm by [illegible]. Ethel was taken to the hospital at Rocky Mountain House. She had pneumonia and, since there was no drugs or antibiotics, she passed away at the age of 20 years.

The years went by and the girls left home for [illegible] jobs. Walter continued to farm with his dad. Mr. Birce took sick a few years later and passed away in May 1951. A few years later Mrs. Birce and Walter left the farm, first going to a ferry job and later to Calgary. Mrs. Birce passed away in 1966, following a lengthy illness.

The following is a history of the six Birce children. Ethel died in 1940; Edna married Bill Brodie and lives in Ponoka. They have two daughters, Janice (Mrs. Stewart) who lives in Calgary and has two children, Keith and Marcia and Shannon (Mrs. Tom Foster) who lives at Rocky Mountain House and has one daughter, Robbie. Mildred married Bud Taylor. She now lives at Viking. Mr. Taylor died in 1972. The Taylors have one son, Phillip, who resides in Edmonton with his wife, Rose. Verna married Charlie Bradshaw and they live at Condor. They have four children, Shirley (Mrs. Dennis Frisky) lives at Rocky Mountain House. Sharon (Mrs. Fred Blair) lives at Condor. Ken married Fern Biswanger. They have one daughter, Diane. Ken and family reside at Condor. Leslie lives at Condor and farms with his dad. Jean is married to Tom Campbell and lives in Calgary. Walter married Irene Pelley and lives in Calgary with their four children, Allan, John, Robert and Debbie.

Looking back over the years, it becomes evident that the early days were definately difficult, but happy days. People were certainly friendly then and seemed to have more time to be neighborly.

[redacted]

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Blair Sr. accompanied by some of their children and Homer Stockwell and family travelled from Guelph, Ontario to settle in the Condor district. Homer's wife was the former Jenny Blair.

Allen Blair Sr. took up a homestead on SE 36-38-5-W5. His family consisted of 12 children. They were: Dave, Jim, William, Bob, Allen Jr., Lillian, Jenny, Anna, Mae, Kate, Eva and Ethel.

In 1910 Allen K. Blair, Jr. came from Guelph, Ontario to join his family in Alberta. He was accompanied by his wife (the former Gertrude Dale) and his children, Mae and Dale. They settled on homestead NE 25-38-5-W5 where another son, Earl was born. A son George was born in Ontario when the family moved back there for a short time. The children attended the old Prairie Rose School and later Northup. The first teacher at Northup was a gentleman named Mr. Leonard [redacted].

Mae Blair was a teacher and married Charles Fay from Rocky Mountain House. She taught in several schools in Rocky school division. They had one daughter, June. Dale Blair married Edna Christie, whose family also settled in Condor area in 1929. They resided in the Condor area for several years where their children all attended school. They had four daughters and one son. Joy (married Brian Dunn), Daleen (married Doug Cleaver), Donna (married David MacDonald), Terrie (married Dale Speight) and their son was Rocky Dale. Dale was a school bus driver in Condor district for 17 years, and he and his wife operated the Condor post office for 19 years. Dale and Edna retired to an acreage near Rocky Mountain House.

George Blair married Delphine Fitch from Alhambra district). In 1941 George and Dale joined the Calgary Tanks Regiment and served overseas. George was captured and held prisoner for four years. On his return George and wife moved to Ladysmith, B.C. where they later had two children, Gordon and Brenda. George [redacted] in 1973 passed away at an early age from appendicitis.

Dave Blair married Esther Mast (a former school teacher) and they resided in the Condor area for several years. Dave was a veteran of the 1st World War and known all over the district as a horse buyer.

William Blair married Mary Lisk (an early Condor resident) and they had two children, Wallace and Winnifred. They later moved to Vancouver where William was a butcher.

Lillian Blair married Charles Smith and they resided in the Alhambra district. They had one daughter, Lillian.

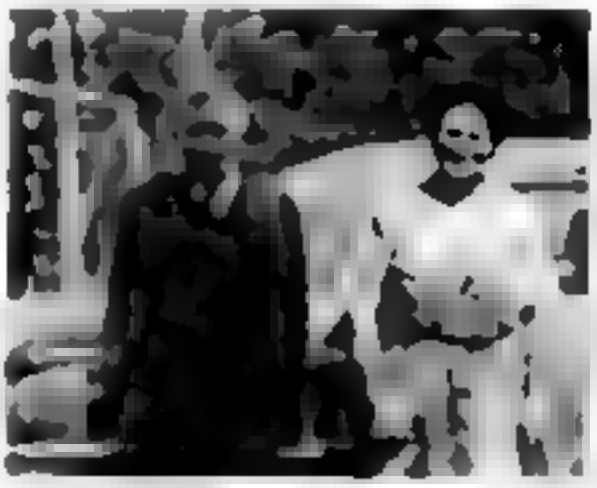
Allen Blair Sr. was very well known for his skill with an axe, and he taught several local men in the proper use of the axe.

Allen Blair, Jr. was known for his physical fitness and a hike to Red Deer in one day was not unusual for him. On the return trip he would be laden with supplies and if he needed a rest, Evarts was the usual resting stop.

**BONK, MARTIN — Freda Elson**

Martin and Susan Bonk immigrated to Calgary from Luxemburg in 1907 with their daughter, Elizabeth, who was four years old. Martin was a blacksmith by trade so worked in Calgary, Exshaw, and Golden, B.C. until 1909.

Mrs. Bonk had a hard time with the language so in 1913 they got a homestead in the Evergreen area. They lived there a few years, then sold their place and moved to a farm at Hespero where their daughter went to the Shady Lane



[redacted]

School. In 1914 they moved to Leslieville where Martin had a blacksmith shop. The farmers from all around brought their horses to be shod Elizabeth went to Calgary and stayed with her aunt and uncle, Mr and Mrs Edward Dams, and continued her schooling

Then, on July 1, 1919, she married Oscar Oastrom of Hespero, and they lived on his homestead. The Bonks sold their blacksmith shop in Leslieville, and bought one in Hespero so moved there and resumed blacksmithing for a year In 1928, they had an auction sale and sold their property and moved to Calgary where they bought a rooming house They resided there until Mr Bonk passed away on Nov 6, 1955, at the age of 88 years Mrs. Bonk sold the big house and lived in a small home until her passing in Sept 15, 1964, age 84 years. They both are buried in St Mary's Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta

**BRADSHAW, ALFRED AND REBECCA**

Mr and Mrs. Alfred Bradshaw emigrated from Liverpool, England, to Canada in March of 1911 After landing in Halifax, they travelled by train to Edmonton. In April of 1911, they went to Bassano, Alberta. Mr and Mrs Bradshaw brought with them their three children Alfred aged four, Percy aged two and Ethel aged 11 months. Florence was born in March 1912. In 1913, the family moved to a homestead near Pandora While at the homestead, two sons were born, Charles in 1916 and Bill in 1918. The Bradshaws lived in this area until the dust bowl of the 1930's. In 1937, they decided to sell their farm and moved to the Condor area. Mr and Mrs. Bradshaw and their sons Charlie and Bill purchased a farm south of Condor. This land, the

Since the half section of land was almost entirely bush, the first winter was spent clearing the land by hand. Some brush cutting was also done by Ed Skoodopole The cut trees were often sold to residents of Condor to use as firewood The first crops on the new land were oats. As well, the Bradshaws raised pigs The whole family participated in this venture, with Mrs. Bradshaw taking over as nurse maid whenever a sow could not care for all of her piglets. She would feed the little pigs with a baby bottle

Mr Bradshaw and sons used a Hart Parr tractor to do their farming. They brought this tractor with them from the prairie. In the winter many days were spent doing custom grinding of grain for the neighbors. While the men were busy on the land Mrs Bradshaw was involved in work around her home and in community work For many years, she belonged to the Condor Mission Circle. She was never too busy to help anyone in distress. In her home, the kettle was always on in readiness for a cup of tea and friendly chat Mrs Bradshaw always raised a wonderful garden. As well, she was very interested in her flower garden and her houseplants

When the harvest was completed each fall the young men of the district would go hunting in the west country. This was not just a holiday but an opportunity to provide meat for the winter The men would drive from Condor to Moose Basin with horses and wagons. They would live in tents. On one hunting trip, Charlie recalls how a black bear frightened one of the horses to death. Myron Lawrence had to walk to Condor for another horse In 1941 Charlie, Bill, Percy, Alf and some friends were hunting antelope near Brooks. While hunting Bill was accidently shot to death. After Bill's death, Percy moved from the prairie to farm in the Condor District

In 1945, Charlie Bradshaw married Verna Birce. They continued to live on the farm. In 1950, Mr and Mrs. Bradshaw Senior moved into Condor to retire Mr Bradshaw's health began to fail and in December of 1956, he passed away Mrs. Bradshaw continued to live in Condor until 1986 when she sold her home and went to live with her daughter Florence, in Calgary In 1970, she moved into Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House and lived there until her death in 1975 She was 92 years old at the time of her passing Until her passing, she continued to enjoy visiting her friends and raising houseplants and crocheting

Early neighbors of the Bradshaws were the W Syrens, the A B Lawrences, the J Rasmussens, the J. Neuberts, the Lahtis, the Marcineks, the P Lagores, the Hornbys, the J Pollands, the J Jennings, the R Lindsays, the Resetz, the E. Grahams and the A Pirces

When the Bradshaws came to the district, the post office was run by Mr Meeres. Late Bert Avery ran the post office Mr Crouch ran the bank in Condor The Clements operated the general store. Walt Sheppard ran a machine shop. Mr Meyers ran the grain elevator

The following is a history of Bradshaw children and grandchildren

The eldest son, Alfred married Lila Knight and lives in Okotoks. They have no children

Percy married Evelyn Houghton and they live at Condor Percy passed away in 1975. They have four children. Bud married Edna Leah and they have five children - Theresa, Kathy Johnny Gordon and Raymond. They live at Condor May married Bert Mason and they have four children — Kelly Anne, Donna, Dwayne and Gary They live in Wetaskiwin. Barbara married Rod Crawford, they have one son, Blake Charlotte lives in Red Deer

Ethel married Clayton Gafarneau They live in Bassano and have three children. Ronald married Wilma Kuehle and live in Gem. They have two boys, Randal and Russell. Gordon married Eleanor Furnas and they live in Lac La Biche They have two children — Norman and Jacqueline Kathleen married Robert Dunn and lives in Calgary They have two children, Lana and Cody

Florence married David Jeffrey and they live in Calgary They have three children. Beth lives

in Lethbridge. Wayne married Jean Gobel and they live in Surrey, B.C. They have two sons, Scott and Neil. Douglas married Laurie Rumsey and lives in Rutland, B.C. They have three sons — Ryan, Brett and Shane

Charles married Verna Birce. They live at Condor. They have four children. Shirley married Dennis Frisky and they live at Rocky Mountain House. Sharon married Fred Blair and they live at Condor. Kenneth married Fern Biswanger, they live at Withrow and have one daughter, Diane. Leslie lives at Condor.

**BRADSHAW, PERCY AND EVELYN — by Barbara Crawford**

Dad was born in England in 1906 and came to Canada with his parents in 1911. His younger life was spent in the Hulton and Pandora area in southeastern Alberta which at that time was very well settled with homesteaders on nearly every quarter.

As a young man, dad worked for farmers and ranchers in the area. He also participated in boxing, trapping, breaking horses and hunting.

In 1932 he married Evelyn Houghton. She was born in 1914 in Bassano, Alberta and spent 10 years of her early life moving to different parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan as her father was a railroad man. They returned to the Hulton area in 1925 where she met my father.

They farmed through the drought years of the 30's and dad supplemented their income by working out and trapping. In 1934 their son Brad was born followed by a daughter May in 1938.

In 1942 after the tragic death of dad's brother Billy, they moved to Condor where my grandparents were farming. They purchased the S½ 30-38-4-W5 from my grandparents. For 10 years they lived in a log house. Times were hard at first but they made ends meet by milking cows. Extra income was made by selling loads of cord wood. Work was hard but there were good times as well. Ball games, picnics, visiting with neighbors, card parties and berry picking. Undoubtedly dad will be remembered for his square dance calling, auctioning pies and boxes at the socials, and his recitations.

A third child Barbara, was born in 1951 followed by a sister Charlotte in 1954.

During the early 50's dad worked on oil rigs throughout Alberta. In the later 50's he started driving school bus and continued to do so until his death in 1975.

My mother still continues to make her home on the original farm quarter. She keeps very busy with her gardening and outside work and enjoys travelling.

Bud worked as an oilfield welder for 10 years before taking up farming on the SE 19-38-4-W5. He married Edna Leahy and they have five children — Theresa, Kathy, John, Gordon and [illegible].

[illegible] is a registered nurse. She completed her training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. She married Bert Mason and they are presently living in Wetaskiwin. They have four children — Kelly, Donna, Dwayne and Gary.

Barbara worked as a secretary and dental assistant. She married Rod Crawford and they presently live at Condor. They have one son — Blake.

Charlotte attended Olds Agricultural College, enrolled in a business course. She is presently residing and working in Red Deer.

**CHILD OF THE THIRTIES**

Child of the Thirties
Hard work and play
Cut that wood
For a winter day
Haul that water
From a neighbors well
A stoneboat and horse
And we kids as well
Sit on the Plough
By your father's side
Your faithful horses
Give you a ride
Run in the furrow
Bare foot and free
Cool black earth
And a mouse or three
Walk in the grain
So very tall
Swim in the river
No clothes at all
Down to the creek
In the spring time flood
Set sail your cargo
With your feet in the mud
Child of the thirties
Happy and free
I can hardly believe
It really was me

Shirley Warden Reaman

My husband [illegible] the coal oil lamp
Smiling softly
As if remembering other days
As the flame surged into life
I was totally unprepared
For the sudden wave of nostalgia
That swept away my adulthood
Leaving me vulnerable to a memory
A prairie shack
[illegible]
An old cook stove
An air tight heater
A coal-oil lamp
And a gentle mother to light our childhood

Shirley (Warden) Reaman

**CIRCLE OF LOVE**

Love is a fine thing
Speaketh it loud or soft
Much of joy does it bring love
Bright as a diamond ring
Clear as a lovely song

Waiting for one to sing
Only life can it bring
As a Branch from a dove
Circling offering love
To the parents of my parents
And their parents too
To my Father and my Mother
The childhood that I knew
To my children and their children
The future and the past
Love has drawn this circle
That will last and last and last

Dedicated to my parents Roy and Rosie Warden

Shirley (Warden) Remman

**W. E. COLE FAMILY — by Mr. Elmer Cole**

My parents, William Cole and Mary Cole (nee Bell) were born in Ontario. They were married in 1901 and later moved to Manitoba. They lived at Rapid City where my sister, Hazel, was born in 1906, then they moved to Rivers, where I, Elmer, was born in 1908.

In 1911 my parents came West to the Loma district north of Vulcan. My brother Bert, was born here in 1912. My father worked on the farm for John Kerr and also for Alec Mitchell. In 1914 we moved to the Clarence Davis farm, eight miles west and one mile south of Champion where dad worked until 1917, when he rented a farm across the road and farmed there until 1928, when he sold out and moved into Champion. My brother Arnold was born on the farm in 1919. All the family received their schooling at Harper, Hiawatha, Fireguard and Champion High School.

My parents were having a struggle to get along so I left school and went to work for farmers in the area. It did not cost much to live in those days, but money was scarce, as wages were poor and it was almost impossible to find work for the winter. After harvest was completed around Champion in 1932, dad and I went north to Olds and got a job threshing for ten days. From here we went on to Eckville to visit my sister Hazel who was married to Robert Jarvis, and operating an elevator at Eckville. While here I found a job on a farm for the winter, and I never went back to Champion for 23 years. My folks moved to Eckville in December 1932.

Houses were not plentiful, but our neighbor John Cordon, let us live in a vacant house on his farm at Hespero. I worked the following summer for Dewey Nielson, at Benalto. The wages were twenty-five dollars per month.

In January 1934 I purchased a quarter section of land from the CPR. This was on a sort of homestead deal, but not quite so good. I was to improve the bush quarter but after four years I also had to pay for it on a long-term agreement. Here we lived for the next 37 years. My wife, Ina (nee Currie), and I were married in those depression years and raised a family of five healthy children. They are: Yvonne, now Mrs. Ken Deal, of Medicine Hat. They have four children - Fred, Doug, Janet and Rhonda. Bernice, now Mrs. Glen Stamp, has three children, Richard, Violet and Coleen. Violet, our third oldest child, was killed accidentally in 1945, at the age of nine years. Moira, now Mrs. Eric Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake, has five children, David, Joyce, Ina, Jimmie and Wade. Our only son Ian, married to Phyllis Beach, has two boys, Timothy and Benjamin. He lives on the original quarter that I purchased from the CPR.

In 1952 I commenced buying grain for the Searle Grain Co. at Muntaw, Alberta and later was transferred to Alhambra, where I operated the elevator for 16 years until it was closed on September 1, 1970. Three years later I was eligible to receive my pension.

When I look back upon these depression years, it makes me wonder how we ever made it. We never had much money, but never once thought of going on welfare. We made the best of what we had, and never went hungry. We enjoyed many good times at dances, ball games and celebrations of various kinds. We also attended church regularly at Hespero. I guess work, perseverance, and keeping out of debt

My father passed away in November, 1942, and my mother in 1955. Both my parents are buried in Hespero cemetery. Brother Bert also passed away at Vegreville in 1967.

[redacted]

And my toddlers hanging [redacted]

I never questioned prices,

[redacted]

And home-made buns to munch
We shared many laughs together,
And the children played and ate,
While the baby drank his bottle,
Content to coo, and wait
I so enjoyed my shopping
In the days that used to be

In the Condor General Stor
Where there's always time for tea
Shirley Warden Reaman

**CONDOR LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION — by Violet Safron**

The Club was organized in 1952 and originally was called the Rocky Mountain Light Horse Association. The president and organizer was Allen R. Paisen of Condor, who, with his family lived one mile west of the Condor corner and owned a saddle shop along No. 11 Highway. He rebuilt saddles and other leather articles and had many of his hand-tooled leather articles for sale along with other horsemen's supplies. Violet (Cordon) Safron was elected the Secretary Treasurer.

Later the Club was renamed the Condor Light Horse Association. Abe Littau became the president, Max Bott the vice-president, and Violet Safron the secretary-treasurer.

Abe Littau and Violet Safron trained the group to do a musical ride, for which the Benalto Agricultural Society paid $50 per year to the club to perform the ceremony in front of the grand stand, as part of the entertainment at the Benalto Stampede. The club held gymkhanas and musical ride practice on property which Carl Kendze fenced off and donated to them. Annie Cordon often supplied a hot lunch to the hard riding group.

Plans for a log cabin were drawn up by the John Kasparsons family. Members of the club cut and peeled the logs to build a club house, but over the years interest in the club died, so the logs were later sold. The land was returned to Carl Kendze, with many thanks for its use. The money remaining in the club treasury was donated to the Crippled Children's Fund.

**CONDOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE — by Magda [illegible]**

On April 21, 1921, 27 women met at the home of Mrs. George Gledhill to organize the Hespero Condor Branch of the Women's Institute. Mrs. Gledhill chaired the meeting and Mrs. Crummy recorded the notes for the election of officers. Mrs. E. MacDonnell became the first president, Mrs. E. Crummy Jr. the first vice-president and Mrs. Gledhill was elected as the first secretary-treasurer. Directors were Mrs. A. K. Blair, Mrs. W. J. Clement and Mrs. Joe Nelson.

Mrs. Rogers, Alberta Women's Institute secretary, visited this new branch at their third meeting. Mrs. Joe Nelson was the first member to attend an Alberta W. I. Convention.

The 27 charter members lived in an area extending from north of Hespero to the Lesliieville Highway. In the horse-and-buggy days it was too far to travel to meetings, and at the annual meeting on December 21, 1921 they decided to form two institute branches.

Mrs. R. McFaul was the first president of the Condor Women's Institute. At one meeting in 1921 a member told about pioneer times in our area for entertainment.

Their motto "For Home and Country" was kept in mind throughout their many endeavours. In war time the ladies prepared dirty bags, contributed milk for Britain, did knitting for the Red Cross, had some clothing drives, entertained in honor of war brides and welcomed new citizens.

In the community they helped pay for the hall piano, financed the building of the first kitchen, bought cups, chairs, stage curtains and gas lamps for the hall. More recently they contributed towards getting new cupboards in the new kitchen. They've also made donations to the local hospital.

To raise money they had dances, box socials, shadow socials, put on plays, catered at farm sales, held raffles and had bazaars and suppers. They are very grateful to the community for their support in all their efforts. In recent years this support is reflected in the success of the [illegible] collections in our area under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles Bradshaw.

On one occasion the W. I. supplied the lumber for the picnic booth on the playgrounds. Bob Hewitt received two cans of tobacco and a hammer handle for doing the carpenter work. Something for the local schools has always been included in W. I. work. Drinking urns, first aid kits, school ground equipment, magazines [illegible] and sugar for lunches, motor and pump for the skating rink are some of the things provided. More recently, achievement trophies to the Con[illegible] School, contest prizes and bingo prizes have been provided.

The ladies have not forgotten themselves. The regular monthly meetings, handicraft teas, [illegible]ferences and conventions are times of learning and fellowship.

Some amusing incidents I found in the minutes are. The ladies were going to entertain their husbands by taking them out to supper on a trial basis. Some lunches at meetings were "satisfying", others were "adequate", many were "lovely".

When Bert Avery retired as postmaster at [illegible] building and lot. They sold it, some years later to Ken and Judy Leer.

The 1977 executive are: president, Mrs. Tom Wyzykoski, vice president, Mrs. Roy Tubbs, secretary, Mrs. Charles Bradshaw, treasurer, Mrs. Dan Eidt. Other members are: Anna MacDonald, Hughena Ellis, Pearl van der Meer, Anna Nelson, Mrs. John Meek, Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Wendell Frazier, and Magda Anderson.

The Condor Womens' Institute has carried on through the years without a break, for 56 years. That must be something of a record.

**CROUCH, WALTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crouch and family came to the Condor district from Essex, England in 1930. They lived on "Jolly Farm" in the

Evergreen area. They later moved to the town of Condor where Mr. Crouch was assistant post master and the agent for the Provincial Treasury Branch.

Walter Crouch was born in Wadworth England, in 1881. Before coming to Canada, he worked as a chartered accountant in London.

Clara Crouch was born in 1885, near London, England. She served in World War I in the women's army corps.

The Crouch family were very musical and entertained many people with their talent both vocally and instrumentally.

Mr. Crouch had his own orchestra and played at many dances in the Condor and Eckville districts. While on the farm, the Crouch girls Daisy, Grace and Ivy dressed in men's bib work overalls could be seen driving a team of horses to town.

After moving to Condor, the Crouches continued to be active in community affairs. Mrs. Crouch served the Condor United Mission Church as organist for 25 years. She also taught Sunday School, was secretary-treasurer of the church board and led a Young Peoples group for many years. Mrs. Crouch was active in the Red Cross. She boarded many school teachers and at one time operated a restaurant in Condor.

The district was saddened by the passing of Mr. Crouch in 1960 and Mrs. Crouch after a lengthy illness in 1964.

The family of Walter Crouch:

Dorothy returned to England with her husband, Stanley Grant. They have three children Iris, Ivy and Malcolm and seven grandchildren.

Grace also returned to England where she married Harold Harvey. She lives there now with her daughter Christine.

Daisy and her husband, Walter Avery, left Condor in 1946 and now live in Parksville, Vancouver Island, B.C. They have two children, Pat and Terry and eight grandchildren.

Ivy and her husband, Frank Bartesko and their four children Don, June, Janis and Kenny, left Condor for Victoria in 1951. They have six grandchildren. Don and his wife, Helen and son Wayne, live near Rimbey and June and her husband, Tony Szoke and family live near Mary and her husband, Tom Raabis (formerly of Eckville) and their three children, live in Red Deer.

John and his wife, Mary, live in Victoria, B.C. He served overseas with the Calgary Highlanders in World War II.

**CLARKE**

The quarter NE 36-32-4-W5 was originally the homestead of Horace Meeres. After he left it, it passed through many hands, to finally a Mr. Cosgrove (brother of Dick Cosgrove). In 1942, we bought the farm from him and lived there until 1970. In 1974, our son, Neil, bought the farm from us and kept it in the family. On it we raised our three children, Allan now of Montreal, Sheila of Lestieville and Neil of Condor.

**GEORGE CURRIE FAMILY**

George Currie and his two daughters, Janet and Georgina, and son, Coupland, came to Canada from Scotland in June, 1929. Mrs. Currie had passed away a few years before they immigrated to Canada.

They came to Hespero district and settled on a farm where Mr. Currie lived until he passed away in 1948. Janet worked for Jerry MacDonnell's, at Hespero, for several years and then moved to Armstrong, B.C. where she still resides. Georgina married Elmer Cole, and lived at Hespero and Eckville. Coupland joined the air

Boyd and Derek. They now live in Edmonton. George Currie was instrumental in the building of the Presbyterian Church in Hespero. He canvassed people in the district for funds to erect the church building.

**KUCHNOWSKI AND LAGORE**

Mr. Carl Kuchnowski and Auguste came to Condor, Alberta, in 1925 from Germany. They had two children, Helen Alma and Charlie Otto. They were in Condor until 1960, 45 years. Helen married Peter Lagore in 1929.

Peter and Helen lived in Condor for 22 years. Then moved to 11610-84 Street in Edmonton. All their children (five boys) went through bible school to prepare for their future lives. They are all in the ministry. Arthur Lagore being the oldest son has spent 22 fruitful years as a missionary in South Africa. Arthur married Gladys Miller a year after he was a missionary. They had three boys born to them in Africa. Steven, now 20 years old, is in Edmonton going to bible school. Dwight is 17 years old and is in High Prairie finishing his high school. Allan, 13 years

George Lagore now pastoring in High Prairie married Gwen Melnyk in 1955. They have two boys and one girl. The oldest boy, Gordon, is 20 years old. He has gone to bible school and is in the ministry. Then, Douglas is 19 years old. Patricia is 18 years old. Cheryl Ranoe is

William Charles has been pastoring, also, and now assisting his youngest brother in the church in Edmonton. William (Bill) married Bertha Motz in 1954. They have four children. The youngest being a chosen girl. Daniel Robert, the oldest, is 21 years old. Donna Helen is 19 years old and is in the ministry of music. Dwayne Peter is 18 years old and is in bible school preparing for his life ahead. Also desiring to be a preacher of the Gospel. Dolene Linda is 12 years old, our chosen girl.

Dave Peter Lagore is now pastoring a church in Calgary. He married Eileen Bugiuski. They have two boys and one girl. Robert is 16 years

old, Debbie is 14 years old and Kenneth is 12 years old

Stanley Edward, the youngest son of Peter Lagore is pastoring a church in Edmonton. He married Sharon Israelson in 1970. They have two girls, Shirley Renae, four years old and Sandra Lynn, three years old

The five boys Arthur, George, William, David and Stanley have in the past been pastoring in different areas of Alberta. Arthur in Africa for 22

**EASTMAN S**

Henry John Eastman came to Condor district in 1910. Married in Manchester England, to Elizabeth Ashworth, they came to Canada in 1905 with two of their three children, Helena 14 years old and Norman aged 10, leaving a daughter Betty to come later Mr Eastman homesteaded on the NW 25-38-3-W5. Helena died in 1909 Leaving Mrs. Eastman in Calgary where she was working as a nurse. Henry Eastman and son Norman came first to Red Deer having an introduction letter to Horace Meeres then the Fire Chief of the city Later Mr Eastman and Norman in 1910, left Red Deer for Condor catching a ride with Mr Foster a mailman as far as Eckville They then came to Pitcox, later to be called Hespero and were met by Charlie Stroud who took them by ox team to Condor corner where Ed French, who ran a store at Condor and Bob Hewitt were putting in the first culvert. The road being only a trail went through the lands of Homer Stockwell and Allan K Blair Sr They stayed at the home of a neighbor Mr Jack Shaw until a small house was built for them by Mr George Simmons, Sr buying the lumber from Bill Blair

In the fall of 1910, Mr Eastman worked at clearing land for the right of way for the Alberta

Central Railway, later to become the C.P R Norman also worked as water boy The railway gang camp was set up on Dave Blair s homestead. Mr Eastman stayed with A. I McDonald and Norman also did chores for Allan K Blair Jr while he and brother Dave Blair worked in a lumber camp

Mrs Eastman came to the farm in 1911 She nursed over a large area even being taken to Rocky Mountain House by speeder in 20 below weather in the middle of the night to help a women who was having a difficult child birth She set bones and sewed up axe cuts and helped the sick, being made district nurse for the municipality of Raven. Betty Eastman came from England and also nursed in the district

The Eastmans cleared land and were helped in breaking it by Tom Peel who had some oxen and a hand plow Mr and Mrs. Eastman were able to buy a team of horses later and being helped by another neighbor Jim Craig. who also had a team of horses. broke more land and in 1913, planted spring wheat, the first of its kind in the district. The threshing was done by a horse drawn thresher owned by George Simmons, Tom Peel and Mr Black. Norman Eastman. Tom Peel and Jim Craig cut the first furrow to start building a road south to Caroline

In 1916. Norman Eastman, Ed Hart, Willy Stockwell and other district boys joined the 187 Battalion. After training at Sarcee Camp, they went over-seas with the Famous Fighting Tenth Norman and Ed Hart were both wounded at Hill 70 n France

Norman married Milly Meeres in 1921 Took up the Simmons homestead on the same section as his father They sold out and moved to Calgary in 1925 Mr and Mrs. Henry Eastman were burned out and moved with daughter Betty to Vancouver in 1929. Mr Eastman died at 87 and his wife at 93 years

In the second world war, Norman was on head quarters of Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp later joined Canada Pension Commission

Norman and Millie Eastman live at Jaques

Milly and Mervin Harrington Golden Wedding Anniversary

Lodge in Calgary. Their two children Elsie Harington lives in Calgary and John lives in Ft [illegible]

**THE HISTORY OF THE EDGAR FAMILY**

The first we know of the Edgar family two soldiers, Edgar and McKee, who fought with William, Prince of Orange, in Ireland in 1690, were given grants of land in Northern Ireland Here they lived for many years and their families intermarried many different time.

Samuel Edgar, who married Miss Margaret McKee, immigrated to America in 1860 with his children, Margaret, who married Stephen Scott and Mary who married Alphonso Kilbourn, and Robert McKee, who married Miss Isabella Rebecca Bullied

Samuel Edgar with his family arrived in Peterboro, Ontario after spending two months on the voyage in a sailboat W R. Edgar still has their grub box that they packed their food in on the ship. Samuel Edgar and his family went north of Peterboro to a little village called Apsley and took up homesteads there. It was a wild country and covered with heavy bush and of course Robert McKee, being young, soon became efficient with an axe, as lumbering was the major industry at that time. He was also a great hunter and found plenty of game in this new country He was hired by the government to supply the road-builders with deer meat. They were building a new road that was called the Monk Road and ran north of Peterboro

In 1870 during the first Riel Rebellion Edgar volunteered to go with Colonel Wolseley, who came with 500 British Troops to quell the uprising. He was one of the Voyageurs who manned the boats up the Great Lakes to Fort Garry where Winnipeg stands today R. M. Edgar knew the late George Bealty very well, as he was also in the first Riel Rebellion. Upon returning home he continued on his homestead until his family of four boys and three girls were grown up. He then decided there were more opportunities for his family in the new country on the Prairies. He moved with his family to Manitoba in 1896 and they farmed there until 1903, but he still wished to take his family further west

One day a young man, Joe Forster, called at our home and told us he was making his way out to his mother father, and family west of Red Deer My father R. M. Edgar, asked him if he would write and let us know what it was like around Snake Lake, which is now Sylvan Lake He later wrote to my father and described the country and said that there were still lots of homesteads to be had

Father and mother decided they would move again, so in March, 1903 R. M. Edgar and his family moved to Red Deer He rented a house near the Old Immigration Hall and not far from the Great West Hotel while he and R. H. Edgar his son, would go out through the west country looking for homesteads They went west of the Medicine River and chose homesteads near where Hespero is today As the land was not thrown open for homesteading they had to squat on this land. This meant putting up shacks to show that it was occupied. The land they chose was the E-36-38-4-W5. They had to make the first road as they were the farthest west settlers at that time. There was plenty of hard work getting our logs for a house, barn and other buildings, plus clearing and breaking the new land for crops and gardens. When the rest of the family arrived at the homesteads around the first of May, a prairie or brush fire had started northwest of the homesteads and was raging down towards our buildings, hay and feed. My father R. M. Edgar, and myself, W R. Edgar were fighting fire and were nearly exhausted when the rest of the family arrived. We all fought fire until well into the night, to save our buildings and some pasture land for our cows and horses

That summer, and for the next few years, there was a great influx of settlers, coming to the Condor, Leslieville and Alhambra districts. Pitcox was our first post office. It was opened up in 1905 by Macdonnell brothers and Frank Pearce It was located near where Hespero is today and was, I believe, the first post office west of the Medicine River Our nearest post office before Pitcox was opened, was Evarts Post Office which was about 12 miles away

R. M. Edgar, R. H. and W R., along with their teams, worked in a lumber camp during the winter of 1903-1904. It was south of where Condor

# GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHEN REPLYING
DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING ABOVE THIS LINE OR ANYTHING IN ANY LETTER.
ADDRESS YOUR ENQUIRY AS TO THE FILE NUMBER.
Address your enquiry to The Deputy Minister of Public Works, Edmonton.

REFER TO FILE 4201.

im. EDMONTON, 15th June, 1910.

Registered.

Sir,-

Enclosed herewith you will find cheque in favor of yourself and men for work done in the month of May, 1910. Kindly see that these cheques are handed to the proper parties as soon as possible.

No. 14565, R.M.Edgar.....$38.50. Paid
No. 14566, R.H.Edgar.....24.00. Paid
No. 14568, A.J.Fred.....16.00. Paid
No. 14569, Eric Gullens..... 3.20.
No. 14573, S.Fred.....24.00. Paid
No. 14574, Jack Colts.....10.00. Paid
No. 14575, Edward Ago.....18.00. Paid
No. 14577, John Soggs.....22.00. Paid
No. 14578, W.H.Edgar.....24.00. Paid
No. 14580, John A.Edgar.....46.00. Paid

Your obedient servant,

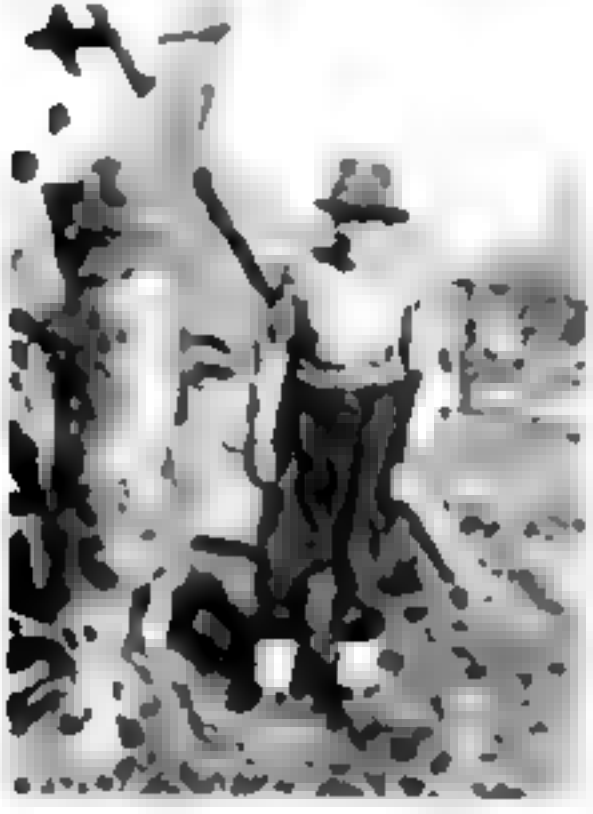
CHIEF CLERK.

R.M.Edgar, Esq.,
Road Foreman,
Pitou. Alta.

is today and was known as the Red Deer Lumber Company W E Payne, R. C Brumpton, and others formed the Company Jim McCackney was the walking boss. Charles Bremmer was he foreman, and Rube Gee and Dad Weatherby freighted in our provisions. The wages there were a dollar per day and board, and a dollar per day for team and feed. A good many of the settlers took advantage of this work. The company took out over 2,000,000 feet of lumber The logs had to be driven down the Horseguard Into the Medicine River then into the Red Deer River and to their saw mill at Red Deer It took a good part of the summer of 1904 to move the logs to the mill at Red Deer This company operated for only one year, as it was too expensive to bring the logs so far

R H. Edgar and W R. worked on a survey the summer of 1904 out where Rocky Mountain House is today There were no settlers out that far at that time It was a wilderness. We found that it was necessary to take any work that was offered us to keep the pot boiling and clothes to wear R. H. worked on a road survey in 1905 and W R worked on the same survey in 1906. Many boys from around Red Deer worked on these sur

years and in 1910 R M. Edgar was appointed forest ranger in the Clearwater Forest Reserve I believe he was the first man to hold this position. By this time the Alberta Central Railway had received a franchise to build a railroad from



Nordegg The farmers and settlers were given the opportunity to work with their teams and equipment on this railroad. This was one of the first booms that Red Deer and the west country had seen

The declaration of war with Germany and her

ture. A good many of the boys, who had been raised and lived then on the homesteads volunteered to go and fight for their country and the Motherland. In 1916 W R. Edgar enlisted in the 187th Battalion and was transferred to the 50th Battalion in France. He was seriously wounded on August 19, 1918, near Amiens S. M Edgar enlisted in the 7th Battalion and was also seriously wounded, having his left hand taken off

R M. Edgar was married in 1915 to Miss Veda Beeson. They had three boys, W H . L. M. and R. M. and one daughter, Velda, who is now Mrs Ronald Scott and lives in Red Deer R. H. and his boys had built a good farm in the Hespero district, but R. H. and his wife decided they would rather live near Red Deer In 1927 they bought the Woodsworth farm and have extended their holdings to about 3,000 acres. L. M. is on the Sam Blakley farm, R. M. on the Latam farm and W H. on the Christian farm. He also farms the George Roth farm and the old home place

Robert McKee Edgar died on April 24, 1931 at the age of 82 years. Mrs. R M. Edgar died January 9, 1919 at the age of 58 years

W R Edgar was married to Miss Ruby Lougheed on the 17th of June, 1924 and they have one daughter, June, now Mrs N. R Henderson who lives in British Columbia. In 1939 they moved to the Waskasoo district of Red Deer Mrs. Edgar died on April 25, 1966

When the Second World War broke out L. M Edgar and R. M. Edgar, sons of R. H. Edgar both enlisted, Les in the Army and Bob in the Navy Both of them spent several years overseas during the war

Robert H. Edgar was president of the Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timer's Association for several years and was active in building the Pioneer Lodge in 1958. He was also Reeve of the M D. of Red Deer for several years and took a great interest in the welfare of the Red Deer district and Red Deer City. He served as an alderman of the city of Red Deer at one time. He passed away on the 4th of July 1958, at the age of

J A. Edgar the youngest son of R. M. Edgar has a summer home in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, U.S.A and spends the winters in Florida, U S.A

Edith, the youngest daughter (Mrs. Scott Easson) lives in Detroit, Michigan, U S.A S. M Edgar the oldest son of R. M Edgar married Miss Minnie Craudlemire in 1913 and both have passed away They lived at Salmon Arm, B.C Isabella Jane (Mrs. Kerr), the oldest daughter of

R M. Edgar, passed away in 1935. She lived in Detroit, Michigan. Margaret Edgar, the second eldest daughter who never married, lived in Calgary where she passed away in 1946. Mrs R H Edgar continues to live in Red Deer.

**FLETCHER, CALVIN**

Cal Fletcher, born in Kansas, U.S.A. on May 25, 1893, came to Alberta in 1914 from Seattle Washington. He worked throught the threshing at Castor Alberta. Following the threshing season he came to Eckville by C.P.R. where he was met by J. Kemila, the village mail-hauler. He spent some time visiting the Lewis Weeks family then, when he was about to go back to the States, he was offered a job in the Co-op Store by Mr Rogers, the manager of the store. He accepted this offer and worked in the store until spring. By this time he had decided to join the service, but as he had not seen his mother for five years, he thought he owed it to her to go back home to enlist since Canada and the United States were fighting on the same side.

After serving in the Navy and Naval Aviation he came back to Canada in the fall of 1919 with the intention of going into partnership with Mr Rogers. They were unable to make a satisfactory deal, so he was "jack of all trades" around town helping in all the stores and businesses except the blacksmith shop, which was then owned by Mr McHattie.

Finally Cal went to work for Mike Sestrap where he was employed for five years. He was married during that time to Mae McNeil. Mae was one of eight children, six boys and two girls. The family resided in the Bluebell district. Her father Hugh McNeil was secretary-treasurer of the school for a number of years. Four of the McNeil boys are now deceased—Herbert and Leonard in 1967, Gilbert in 1972 and Everett in 1975.

The Fletchers were active in the affairs of the village. Cal took time off from Sestraps to "work for the Lord", as it was called. He helped move the village. Everyone in town had a hand in the moving. Eckville was a lively place those days, and Mr Fletcher was in on most of the sports. A dance or boxing match could be gotten up on very short notice. Music for the dances was played by Mrs. Clausen and Carl Koots and wood and lights for the hall were donated.

In 1924 the Fletchers left Eckville and Cal went to work for Jerry McDonell, in the store at Hespero, where he worked for 21 years. He then moved to British Columbia, where he bought a store and retired after he and Mae had operated it for 10 years. They are now living in Surrey, B.C.

The Fletchers had three children. Marjorie married John Sutela and is now living with her youngest daughter, Susanna, on the farm south of Hespero. Her eldest son, Calvin, lives at Ivan Lake and has two children—Tracy and Cory. Shirley lives in Lacombe and has two sons, Kelly and Michael Kendell. Byron is married and living in Red Deer.

Kenneth lives in Aldergrove, B.C. and is a dairy inspector for Safeway milk shippers. He and Anne have a son, Robert.

Hazel lives in Burnaby B.C. and is married to Maurice Illerbrun. They have three children—Barbara, Marilyn and Cheryl. Maurice works in the logging industry.

**FOOTHILLS 4-H PONY CLUB — by Violet Safron**

The Foothills 4-H Pony Club was organized in 1964, being one of the first 4-H Pony Clubs in Alberta. Gordon Ross was District Agriculturist in Rocky Mountain House, and he helped to get the Club off the ground as no one had any idea of what it would entail. The first practice and meeting was held at Stan Marcineks, at Condor. The following officers were elected: Violet Safron, Leader, Douglas Ball of Benalto, Assistant Leader, and the Senior Committee Members were Mrs. George Boles, Rocky Mountain House; Stan Marcinek, Condor; Norman and Marie Guenther, Alhambra, Roy Tubbs and Bill McKellar, Condor; and Harry Safron, Don Ross, Ewart McDonald and Mary Cunningham (nee Storms), Eckvile.

Violet Safron and Doug Ball attended a 4-H Leader's Conference in Edmonton in which all change ideas and to draw up a guide for 4-H Pony Clubs.

For the first few years the club members would take a trail ride into the mountains. Don Ross, Ewart McDonald and Roy Tubbs were trail guides, Marie Guenther and Bill McKellar were chief cooks, Harry Safron, Norman Guenther and Lloyd David were camp attendants, Zina Huss was dishwasher and Polly Ross was the "Tea Bag Lady" the name she received because she was the only one who had brought tea bags — only four. She managed to save the bags by putting them on the clothes line to dry for re-use. Mrs. McKellar got to stay home and milk the cows. Jeanette Pruden Dyrland, James and Rodger Kinders, Johnny Brutinsmas and Wayne McTighe were evaluators.

Willis and Doris McGonigal, Searle grain elevator agent at Hespero and later at Eckville helped organize many of the youth activities in the area.

Ball and a lot of support from the parents, trained 16 riders to do the musical ride which was performed at the Benalto Fair and at the Eckville Rodeo.

In 1969 the first 4-H Inter-Club Competitions were held in the Eckvile Arena, with the Gluby Club and Foothills Club competing. Businessmen from Eckville donated travelling trophies and also a small trophy for the winner to keep. Later

!lub competitions

In 1969 the Lloyd David, Robert Robin, Mary (Storms) Cunningham and Harry Safron families all competed in the 4-H Rally at Lazy A Stables at Penhold. Each competitor from the club displayed a collection of ribbons at the end of a very successful day

In 1970 the club members attended the 4-H rally at Olds, again making a good representation in the winners' circle. On the way to the show, Lloyd David managed to tip the unpinned box off the three-ton truck, dumping four show horses into the ditch. They phoned ahead to Olds to delay the horse show, re-organized the truck hauled one horse to the vets and continued on to Olds to compete in the show, winning several ribbons. Nell Bott's horse needed a few stitches so he stayed behind, while Karen and Geraid David and Yvonne Robin's horses continued on, a bit shook-up, but competed successfully

Also in 1970, the Club members, assisted by several parents, painted the tool sheds, posts, signs and whatever needed painting, plus a few members' faces and hands, which didn't need painting, at the Hespero, Eckville and Evergreen Cemeteries. The paint was donated by the United Grain Growers.

In 1971 a Five-Year Leadership Certificate was received by Violet Safron

The first 4-H Jamboree in the West Central Region was held at Wetaskiwin, July 25 and 26 1975. This fun-oriented wind-up activity for clubs and indivtduals involved in 4-H was hosted by the Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce, and was attended by the Cunningham, Glen Kleeberger Jack Saari, Harry Safron and Jim Smith families. A similar affair was attended by the Club in 1976 in Camrose and 1977 will see the Jamboree in Rimbey

In 1976, the Club members and their families toured the well-known Spruce Meadows, in Calgary, and enjoyed a two-day Trail Ride along the Cline River

Several members attended the Public Speaking Workshops at Ponoka and Condor

In 1977 Five-Year Leadership Certificates were received by Mary Cunningham, Selma Saari, Elsie Smith and Jim Smith. Ten-Year Leadership Certificates were received by Violet Safron and Harry Safron.

On May 7 1977 the Club members and several parents eagerly participated in the Highway Clean-Up, sponsored by the Alberta government and cleaned 10 miles of Highway 11 from the Benalto Corner on west

To wind up the 1977 year the Achievement Day took place on July 13 at the Eckville Arena, with Inter-Club following on July 15. The Awards Night concluded another successful year

**MR. AND MRS. ED FRENCH — Information given by their daughter, Hazel Barrett**

Mr. and Mrs. Ed French and three daughters, along with Mr. and Mrs. Kirk and son arrived in Red Deer from Colorado, U.S.A. in 1902. This is the story as told by the second oldest daughter Hazel

Father homesteaded at what is now Condor in 1904, and moved the family to the homestead Our first post office was in father's home, until he built a store. Mr. Emberley a neighbor, and father gave land for a railroad siding. This was a very important railway for the settlers in this new country — the Alberta Central Railway. I remember the men working on the grade, and also when the first train came through

It seems that it was 1906 when Prairie Rose School was built. It was a one-room school where nine grades were taught. Our first teacher, Mr. Dodson, was a kind man and was well liked. Miss Forsythe came next. Some others were Miss Phillips, Miss Kellaway Miss Patterson Mrs. A. Holt), Miss Meston (Mrs. Frank Patterson), Gertrude Reilly Mrs. Robert Shaw), Ray McDougal and Earl Sully. These are some of the teachers that I remember — doubtless there were others

Some of the old-timers that come to mind are Emberly's Stockwell's, Stroud's, Blair's, McDonnell's, Raudebaugh's, Patterson's, Eastman's, Hewitt's, Rutherford's, Reilly's, Barton's, Leask's, Simon's, Hart's, Wright's and Harry Bice

Father was a kind person and was always ready to help his neighbors. Mother was always busy and efficient. We were by now a large family and all very happy and busy. Father sold the store and farm in 1920, and we moved to Washington State, U.S.A.

Father and mother are both gone now, but it is wonderful that eight of us are still living and can get together quite often. Mother predeceased father by a few years, and Bertha, Effie and Ernest have also passed on

**THE ELWOOD FRENCH FAMILY**
**By Alys A. French**

Elwood was born in Grandview Manitoba where he lived until moving to Drumheller in 1929. In the fall of 1931 he came to the Shady Lane district with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George French, and three sisters, Alice, Merle and Joy. His father had purchased a half section of raw land from the C.P.R. This was about a mile north and across the road from the school

The first winter they lived in a house across the road from their property which belonged to Oscar Oastrom. Elwood and his father cut logs in the bush near Bingley and had them made into lumber at Ralph Evans' sawmill. The following spring they used this lumber to build a house

In 1935 Elwood and I were married. I was the former Alys Maurer daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Maurer of Clive. I had taught the Shady Lane school for the three previous years during which time I boarded with Mrs. Alice Campbell. We moved north of the Horseguard River. There

be and his father farmed together until his parents moved to Didsbury in 1942 and he took over the farm

Elwood spent long hours working on the land and doing chores but found time to play softball and do some fishing. These being part of the depression years, most recreation and entertainment was in the district or close to it. While we were here three daughter, Doreen, Carole, and Audrey were born. I was also during this time that I spent three more years teaching, one and a half years at Wolfe school and the same amount at Shady Lane

Having decided to discontinue farming, we left this district in October 1948, and moved to Didsbury. Elwood started doing carpenter work and after erecting one house there, went to work in the Drumheller district. The girls and I remained in Didsbury until the summer of 1949 when we joined Elwood. In the summer of 1951 we bought our present home in Drumheller

Elwood has recently retired after having worked for Holmen Construction Company for over 25 years. Both of us enjoy gardening, working with flowers and in the yard in general. I spent nine years doing substitute teaching here in the Drumheller Valley and during the last five or six years have devoted a great deal of time to various crafts — bead work, chenille and feather crafts, ceramics, needlework and other things

As Verlayne was born in Drumheller we now have four daughters. Doreen is Mrs. Donald Ross, has three children — Kim, Lori and Susan and the five live in Lethbridge. Carole is married to Robert Anderson and they are living in Michigan, U.S.A. with their son Perry and adopted Korean daughter, Tanya. Audrey lives in Calgary and Verlayne, her husband, Arvin Hoperaft, and son Shane have recently left Whitecourt to take up residence in Calgary

We have many fond memories of our years spent in the Shady Lane district. On occasion we are privileged to be in that vicinity. We enjoy visiting with friends and former neighbors, hearing about and seeing the progress of the people and just relaxing in that part of Alberta which provides such beauty of nature

**THE GEORGE FRID FAMILY**

At the turn of the century, western Canada and particularly Alberta was a beehive of activity. People from Europe, Asia, the British Isles and the United States swarmed here to take up homesteads. In Hamilton, Ontario, Alfred Frid too, had heard of the $10 homesteads that one could file for so full of hope and enthusiasm, he and his two teen-aged sons, George and Ernest took the train to Central Alberta

On March 15, 1905 they arrived in Red Deer. The following day they bought three teams of horses and three sleighs and set off for the Diamond Valley area. It was here they rented a small shack on SE 17 38-3-W5, the quarter that the Diamond Valley cemetery is now located on. Three days later Alfred, George and Ernest Frid were hauling lumber from the Petteffer Lumber Mills, west of Evergreen, in to Red Deer. It is interesting to note that in 1906 they hauled the last load of lumber by sleigh on the 15th of May

During the summer months George took many different jobs. He worked for MacIntyre Ranches at High River, helped put in the basement for the new Hudson's Bay store in Calgary, worked on the Alberta Central Railroad west of Alhambra, and at a sawmill in Fernie, B.C. Gradually he put aside a little bit of money and in 1908 he filed on a homestead two miles north of Condor

In 1908 Alfred Frid filed on NW 19-38-3-W5, which is presently owned by Alfred's grandson and George's son, John Frid. In 1912 Alfred Frid who wasn't cut out to be a farmer decided to take his family back to Hamilton. George and Stanley decided that they would stay on the farm and give it another try. George and his father traded homesteads, and George moved to NE 19-38-3-W5, which was adjoining his brother Stanley's quarter. Alfred later sold the land he traded with George to Sam Barton. After he had sold the land, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Frid, Ernest, Norman and Beatrice returned to Hamilton

On October 29, 1912 George married his childhood sweetheart Elizabeth Clutton, from Hamilton, and they started farming in earnest. The 12 acres of land which was mainly plowed by a walking plow was gradually increased. With Stan and George sharing their machinery costs and expenses, it wasn't too long before they were able to buy a P & O Sulky plow and a hay mower. They always used Bill Whittle's hayrake — there was a lot of machinery swapping in those days

Credit must be given to the young bride who soon learned to bake bread, milk cows, raise chickens and turkeys, and can wild fruit. Blueberries and saskatoons were abundant. She also looked after her beautiful flower garden, a hobby she pursued throughout the years. The years were lean, and at times George shot partridge and rabbits, which were plentiful, and these made a tasty addition to the meals. George often said if it hadn't been for the wild fruit, partridge and hope, they would have given up farming. Mrs. Frid was exceptionally capable. She always had her housework done so when George needed her for piling brush or burning it, shocking, stacking bundles or hay, or later on to run the binder, or just doing the chores, she was always there

Their son John was born in August, 1913 and Lila was born in 1915

Nineteen sixteen was a great year for the Frids, for now they were able to communicate with their friends and relatives via the telephone. The exchange was at Ericksons. There were many happy occasions, church services held in private homes, community picnics, berry picking, ball games, swimming, horseshoe

George Frid plowing the virgin soil

pitching or friendly visits with neighbors and relatives. They of course had no TV's in that era but they bought their first radio in 1925

In 1922 George bought his first car, a second hand Model T Ford, for the sum of $125. This was a source of great pleasure for the family for they would now be able to get to Red Deer in less than two and a half hours — a distance of 30 miles

In October 1924 George joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge in Eckville and held a continuous membership until he passed away in 1975

In 1929 George bought a brand new tractor a John Deere — for $1,040. He now had three quarters of land, and John was more than willing to run the new tractor

George Frid was president of the Mutual Telephone Association of Eckville for several

trophies in the "Save the Soil Campaign" in 1949 Through the years he had seen many changes, especially in home improvements and farming methods from the coal-oil lamp and the scrub board to electric lights and automatic washers and driers, and from the horse-operated threshing machines to our present day com

Mrs. Frid passed away in February 1965: their daughter Ella married James Tullock and they lived in the Diamond Valley district. They had three daughters — Evangeline, Jean Hammond) and Susan (Krest). Ella passed away in 1943. George passed away in 1975. They are buried in the Hespero cemetery

We salute Mr and Mrs. Frid and the people of the "Pioneer Era", we respect the many hardships they endured and we thank them for the pathways they paved for future generations Truly these pioneers left us a legacy and a heritage of which we can well be proud

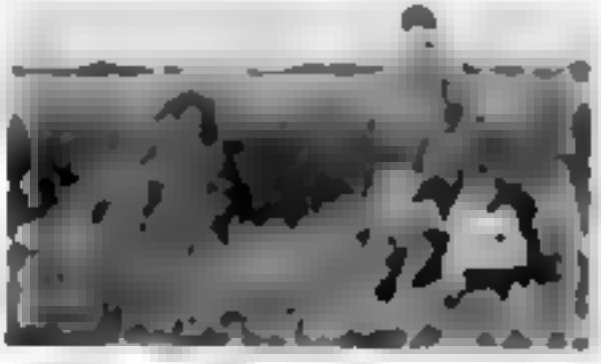
**JOHN ALFRED FRID FAMILY — by John Frid**

I was born on my parents' farm, NW 19-36-3-W5, on August 28, 1913; the first child of George and Elizabeth Frid. Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Whittle were with mother when I arrived: my father had gone to Innisfail (to the nearest doctor) to get the doctor, but by the time they arrived home I was already in the picture and trying out my lungs. My sister Ella was born April 5, 1915, with the same two ladies in attendance

We children had the usual good times and problems of the small children. I started school in 1920 after the Easter holidays. The three and

seemed such a long way from home. My first teacher was Miss Imus, she later married Alf Rasmussen, a neighbor of ours. My second teacher, Miss Uchecta, was the younger sister of the first Japanese girl born in Canada. My sister started school in 1922, and we rode double on an old sway-backed mare named Jess. Now old Jess had a very bad habit of shying at everything that moved, consequently we kids were always looking for fallen trees, stumps or fences to be able to get on her again. I think she really enjoyed dismounting us because she seemed to have that certain glint in her eyes whenever she unloaded

I earned my first money in the fall of 1923. I [illegible] to get the sum of 10 cents a night to bring in the neighbour's cows from the pasture and put them in the corral. Here I was, only 10 years old, and I was rich! I earned the huge sum of $6.10. I forget what I spent my money on, but I do remember buying a pair of spring skates, the kind that clamp on a pair of heavy boots



[illegible]

I continued school until 1928, when I passed my Grade Eight exams. I had hopes of going to Olds Agricultural College in 1930. However the Depression and hail storms dashed those plans, so I stayed on the farm with my dad. I would go out with the threshing crew each fall, and in this way I made enough money to carry me through until the next harvest. Dad and I would also go out to do custom breaking for the neighbours, using our tractor. We got $4. per acre and on a good day barring break-downs, we could break six acres

In the winter of 1936-1938 we decided we would log out our west timber stand, as we needed lumber to do some building. We bought a sawmill and set it up. That spring we sawed about 60,000

feet of lumber I was going with Annie Hollander and we were making plans to be married in the fall of 1941 The lumber would come in handy for building a house and other buildings we would need

Dad and I did not have much experience in carpentry but "where there's a will, there's a way" and in the spring we started building my house. By fault and error we went along, learning as we progressed, and by fall we had the house partially finished. Through the years we replaced every building on the farm, with Dad and me doing the carpentry work. We feel justifiably proud to think that we have one of the finer farmsteads in the district

Annie and I got married on November 19 [illegible]

Annie writes I was born Annie Antonette Hollander on May 13, 1917 daughter of Joseph and Antonette Hollander, who immigrated from Bohemia Czechoslovakia to the U.S.A. in 1905 and came from Fernie, B.C. to their homestead two miles south of Gaetz school in 1909 I was their fifth child, sister Mary was the eldest, then Joseph, Helen, Millan, me and Josephine We all attended Gaetz school I started school after Easter in 1924 with Mr August Matthews as my first teacher I finished Grade 10 in 1933 with Mrs. Jonas Anderson as my teacher

In the fall of 1934 I went to work as a clerk for Von's Store in Alhambra. I worked for Mr von Hollen until the fall of 1939. When I started working I got the wonderful wage of $10. plus room and board per month. Through the months my wages increased until I was earning $22.50. In the fall of 1939 I was offered a position with Lawrence Ltd. in Red Deer for $10 a week and I took it. Unfortunately I had not taken into consideration my room and board, which was $17 50 per month so this was not much of a promotion!

When John and I were married we started our life together with very little money, and, although the house was new it was far from being finished on the inside We had a few pots and pans, no furniture to speak of, and a big wood pile outside the door We had to haul or carry water from across the road for three years, until we could afford to have a well drilled I remember how lonesome I was the first year and how happy I was when John would come in from the field. I'd run out to meet him — with two water pails. It seemed as though the water can was always empty

Our house had been built in a grain field grass around the house just plowed ground and a sea of mud when it rained. We summer fallowed our future house yard in 1942. In the spring of 1943 we started to plant trees and seeded some grass. Every evening after the chores were done John would dig a half dozen or eight holes for the trees: then we would go across the road for a barrel or two of water for the trees The next day I would take a spade and the wheelbarrow and go over to the Moyles farm which was just across the road and south of our place. The Moyles family had left several years prior to this and there was no one living there, but they surely had lovely little spruce trees back in the bush. I planted over 60 spruce trees that year We hauled water whenever it was dry and had to replace only one tree Looking back today, we are glad we did this, and, although we have added several hundred more trees in the years that came we still think that those little spruce trees were the loveliest

John's sister Ella died in 1943, leaving behind three little girls. Susan was only four months old and she came to live with us. Now we had a baby in our home In June, 1944 our son Kenneth arrived on the scene, and in July, 1948 our daughter Frances joined us In the fall of 1948 Susan's father who by then had remained, took Susan home with him. She had to start school and become one of the family Susan returned in 1957 and stayed with us until 1961 when she married Robert Krest. They live in Blackfalds and have two children, Brian and Annette

Kenneth is married and has a family of three boys They live across the road from us. Frances married Roy Lapp in 1967 and they live in Sherwood Park, east of Edmonton

John continues with his story I joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge in May, 1933. In 1949 I had the honor of being elected to a chair in the Grand Lodge of Alberta, and in 1957 was elected as Grand Chancellor of Alberta. In 1966 I represented Alberta at Supreme Sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, and again in 1968 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania I am a present member of Success Lodge No. 33 Innisfail Annie joined the Pythian Sisters Peace Temple No. 8 Innisfail in 1965. She is a Past Chief and also a member of Grand Temple

We have both been involved in all community activities such as Fish and Game Association, Unifarm, Hall and Cemetery Boards, Ladies Aid, and our Baptist Church We both love fishing, camping and the great outdoors

We have had a very good life here on the farm, especially now that we only grain farm We hope to continue farming as long as our health will permit us to do so, then someone else can take over We are thankful that we have been given the privilege to live in a country where freedom still reigns, and hope that we have been an asset to our community and our country

**HESPERO-ECKVILLE AIRPORT — NE 36-36-5-W5**

The Hespero-Eckville Airport came into existence in 1945. The dirt work was done with a 60 Caterpillar and a pull-type grader

The first aircraft stationed there was a Fairchild 24 C F -AZT on November 13, 1953

In 1959 the air strip was upgraded to meet government standards for registration. It was registered under Waskasoo Aviation Ltd. for

several years. Due to the fact the Penhold Air Base was military, only this air strip was used as the Red Deer air strip for training students

Mr. Pat Johnson, of Red Deer, was the instructor The planes used for training students were an Ercope. Aronka, Tri-pacer

Runway lights were installed in the fall of 1976 and completed in the spring of 1977

**HESPERO COMMUNITY HALL**

Among the first halls in the Eckville district to be built was the Hespero Community Hall. A number of young men returned from the war with an incentive to build a place for social gatherings and community get-togethers, such as were found in the British and European communities.

On December 15, 1922 the Hespero Industrial Society was formed in order to comply with the government regulations before a license could be issued for a public community hall. The first five trustees of the Society were Robert H Edgar, John W Lawson, George A. Frid, Joseph Nelson and Douglas Snider, and the secretary treasurer was Gerry MacDonnell The original hall ,which burned down in 1937 was built just north of the present one

Several men started construction. and planned a box social for the grand opening night in the first part of 1924 However. when the day arrived the flr flooring material had not yet arrived, but as luck would have it. the train arrived at 4 00 p.m. with the much-needed material. With the help of 30 men, the floor was laid and the box social and dance was in full swing by 9 00 p.m. the same night It is understood that some of the highest priced boxes sold for $50 — almost like spending $100 today. There must have been some hungry men, pretty girls or too much moonshine! The orchestra was Harold Bone's of Red Deer and Pat Murphy was the auctioneer

Each year an annual dance was held to commemorate the hall. Before the hall was built the people of the community would gather in the back of the Hespero store, but with no heat there the need for a new building was urgent The hall was used for many functions, and in 1937 as it was being heated for a church service it became overheated and was destroyed by fire

A meeting was held at the Hespero store on December 11, 1937 to consider rebuilding Another meeting was held in the first part of 19 and the final go-ahead was given by the members to construct another hall. A piece of land was donated by Gerry Macdonnell and construction began with Elno Lind the contractor A noted feature in the hall is a moosehead hanging on the north wall, which was donated by Carl Barhan. The Society bought a piano from one of the Macdonnell girls. also card tables were purchased. It is known that as many as 36 tables were filled when card parties were held. Where are our card players today?

In the early records of the hall it is shown that they had enough interested people to maintain ladies' and mens' entertainment committees lunch committees, an auditor was elected. as well as the usual slate of officers

Annual dances are still being held, as well as wedding dances, showers, turkeys suppers, card parties and Christmas and Halloween parties For those people who knew what it was like to go to the outdoor "johns" in those days, these are being replaced by indoor facilities. These renovations were carried out in 1977

The names of some of those who served on the hall board and as members include the Macdonnell family, Mr and Mrs A Threadgold, Mr and Mrs. C. J Fletcher, the Hartley family Mr Curtis Grant Mr O. J Miller, Mrs. A. Cordon, Miss B Baldwin. Mr A. Spearing. Mr and Mrs Jim Tulloch the Elmer Coles', the Stan McCreights', George Currie, Mrs. Nora McCuish, Jack and Nelmi Torsti, and more recent members include Kults. Peltikanens. Maki Kelms Dares, Pat,as Gordons. Kangas', Syrens. Strems, Lahti and Lind, and many more too numerous to mention. This is an example of many people supporting their community hall We hope the spirit continues today'

Mr Sedric Peltikanen served for a great number of years as janitor, something like 22 years. also Ronnie Kult as hall manager in the more recent years of operation. Their dedication is most appreciated. We also are grateful to those who carried on before us to keep a place for our children to use when they grew up

**HESPERO LADIES' AID**

The first recorded minutes of the Hespero Ladies' Aid are dated December 9. 1937 The membership at that date included, Mrs. J. C Hartley Mrs. G. H. Macdonnell, Mrs. C. Gant Mrs. J Spence. Mrs. D Snider Mrs. C. Fletcher Mrs W Edgar Mrs. W Whittle, and Mrs. C Schumeman. Funds were raised by various entertainments The first annual supper was held in the fall of 1938 which amounted to $27 25 and was

parcels were mailed to the men and women. in the forces during 1939 to 1946 Donations were also given to help built the Hespero Church and to the upkeep of the church and the manse at Eckville The 'Aid' was always ready to give to

any needy project in the community and their annual suppers were an event supported and enjoyed to the present date. The Hespero Church was closed in 1874 and sold to the town of Innisfail. The congregations amalgamated with St. Pauls Presbyterian Church in Eckville. Thus the Hespero Ladies Aid came to an end after many years of friendship, meetings and assistance with many worth while cause. The last recorded minutes are dated May 7, 1875.

**HESPERO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In 1937 Rev. Campbell, who was stationed at Eckville, conducted church services, which were held in the Hespero Community Hall. The hall was destroyed by fire and services were discontinued.

In 1938, plans were laid for the erection of a church building and a very successful, every person visitation was made to solicit funds. The late Elmo Lind, a local carpenter with the aid of volunteers erected the building on the property donated by G. H. Macdonnell. The board of managers consisted of William Edgar, Reginald Tisdale and Robin Hartley. Mrs. G. H. Macdonnell was the organist and she was assisted by Mrs. Douglas Snider.

A congregational meeting was held February 1940, and a board of managers elected, consisting of: Mr. James Spence, Mr. Douglas Snider, Mr. Elmer Cole and Reginald Tisdale.

The ministers during the years were: Mr. Fraser, Miss Ruby Walker, Rev. McGregor, Rev. D. L. Crocker, Rev. Coles, Rev. A. F. Howich, Rev. Kingsley King, Rev. Glen Marsh, Rev. A. L. Sutherland, Mr. Ken Grant, Rev. Peter Walter, Rev. Sheldon McKenzie, Miss Iris Ford, Rev. B. S. Hartley, Rev. K. G. Knight, Rev. Bob Burton and Rev. Sidney Chang.

In 1945 a church manse was purchased for $6000. Mrs. Ruth Logan organized a choir which was an asset to the church. The first wedding performed in the church was between Miss Mary Brown and Mr. Harry Medin, which was performed by Rev. R. A. Sinclair. On Sunday, November 24, 1968 the 20th anniversary was celebrated.

In 1972-73 many members had moved away and the attendance became so small that the Church congregation amalgamated with Eckville. The building was sold and moved to [illegible].

**THE HEWITT STORY**

Mr. R. G. Hewitt came to Canada in 1904 to Manna, Saskatchewan, later coming to Condor in 1908, where he homesteaded. Mrs. Hewitt came to Canada in 1912. She was to come over on the Titanic, but changed berths with a girl friend, so, came on the Empress of Ireland which she nursed on. She came to Red Deer and met Mr. Hewitt and they were married in the Gaetz Church. She nursed at Condor for a number of years, all through the flu epidemic. My sister Vera was born in 1915, while my father was overseas. He went over with the 50th Battalion in 1915. He returned home in 1918. I, George Hewitt was born at Condor in 1919. My mother nursed with Dr. Backus for several years. Our first school was Prairie Rose, north and west of Condor.

We moved from Condor to Red Deer in 1928 where my mother had a nursing home and my father worked at the Red Deer Hospital. In 1932, we went to Calgary where Mother ran a nursing home at 1904 West Mount Boulevard. Then, the depression hit, so we moved back to Condor in 1936.

In 1940, I, George, married Caroline Walsh. In 1941, I went into the Army. My father went to Penhold to the Airbase. In 1943, sister, Vera joined the navy. After the war, Dad retired to Red Deer and sold his farm at Condor. In 1945, I rented the farm, also worked for Frank Barton. Later, I moved to my own farm at Butte, Alta.

In 1954, Mother went to Rose Haven, Camrose, where she stayed until she passed away in 1964 aged 81. My father went to live with

Vera in B.C in 1955, where he passed away in June 1956. He was brought back to Red Deer where Mother and Father rest in peace

My sister Vera, Mrs T MacDonald and husband live in Vancouver. B.C. (no family)

Caroline and I have seven children Robert Carol, Danny Gary, Charlotte, Larry and Sheila. We now have sixteen grandchildren

This is the life story of my folks as well as I [illegible]

P S. Some of our early neighbors were Nelgards, Clements Alberta, Jennings. Waldos and Wardens

**THE HICKS STORY**

Grant Hicks with his parents Mr and Mrs Hicks homesteaded E-15-38-4-W5. They built a frame house They donated the land for Shady Lane school. They boarded the teacher for a while. They stayed only a few years and their land was sold to Macdonnells in Hespero. Then they moved away The house was moved to Hespero and was in use for many years

**HORNBY WILLIAM AND ROSELLA**

William and Rosella Hornby came to Canada from England in about 1910 and settled in the Naleby area with their two daughters Miriam aged eight and Una aged five. Their son Jack was born three years later

After many years of hardships and drought on the prairie, Mr Hornby and family moved to the Condor district in approximately 1933 about one mile west of Condor corner and one and a half miles south. By this time their daughter Miriam had married Robert Lindsay and they were on their own

The Hornbys moved into a log cabin in the middle of their quarter Being close to a road was no major concern the roads were only muddy trails

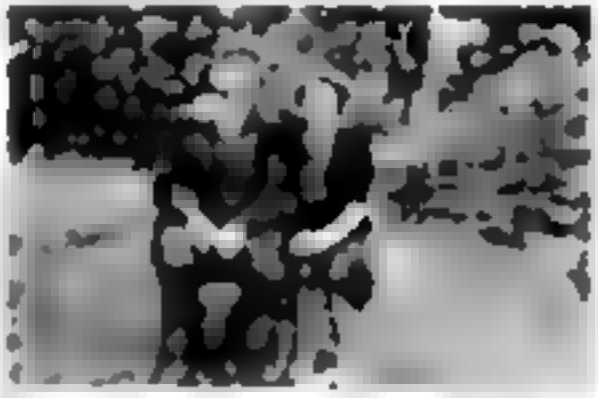
The cabin was one large room and the bedrooms were in the attic They made their living there as most others did they had a few pigs and milked cows

However they didn't stay long in the old log cabin, infested with mice and the cracks filled with old rags to try to keep out the cold winds Spring came in March that year and the crops were put in early with horses. By May a big snowstorm arrived, dumping large amounts of wet snow on everything. Their next house, a bungalow was built at the edge of their quarter by Mr Hornby and his son-in-law Robert Lindsay. Next came a large high barn and upon its completion Bob danced the Highland Fling on the top of the roof much to the consternation of the womenfolk

Mr Hornby was a gardener at heart and upon his retirement in 1942, when he sold his farm to his son-in-law he gardened to his heart's content on a small acreage on the same farm About this time their daughter Una, went out to work, first at Hespero, then on to Red Deer where she has kept house for various people since

After a few years on the acreage, Mr and Mrs Hornby moved their house to an acreage in the town of Condor Here Mrs. Hornby was very active in their church Mission Circle Group Over the years she had taught Sunday School at Northup School and again when they moved to town. Mr Hornby was very crippled with arthritis and this was their main reason for moving to the Twilight Cottages in Red Deer where they resided until their passing, William in 1957 and Rosella in 1967

Their son Jack Hornby married Elizabeth Betty) Munro and lived on the present Herb von Hollen farm during their early married life Jack was in the Army during the war but never made it overseas because of a hand injury sustained earlier Their son, Howard was born while they lived in the Condor area



Jack and Una Hornby, 1918

Following discharge from the Army, Jack had a blacksmith shop in Condor and also spent a number of years in Nordegg working with the mining company It was here their daughter Betty June, was born. Later Jack and his family moved to Condor where he spent a number of years as a Grain Elevator Agent Betty was active in the Home and School Association and also in local church work at Condor Mission. They finally took up residence in Edmonton where Jack worked as a maintenance man at the Charles Camsell Hospital

Their son Howard is married with a family of four and is living in Bowden, Alberta where he is in the construction business. Their daughter Betty June married Raymond Hillman (formerly of Eckville They have a family of four and are presently living in Michigan where they are in the ministry

**GEORGE JAYES FAMILY**

My Father, George Jayes was born in Powassan, Ontario. After spending some time in California as a cook in lumber camps, he came to Alberta in 1908 and took up a homestead in the Pitcox district (later known as Hespero

In 1912 my Mother Mrs. Rachel Tweed who was a widow with two children, a daughter Keitha who later became Mrs. Fred Bott and a son Leland, came from Iowa to spend the winter with her parents, Mr and Mrs George Rasmus, her brother Ben and sister Mr and Mrs EL Anderson. Here she met my Father who was a bachelor She returned to Iowa in 1913 and sold her home there and came back to Alberta, bringing a carload of furniture and a nearly new top buggy which hadn't sold at her farm sale. She rented a log house and Keitha and Leland attended Shady Lane school which had been built that year

In the spring of 1914 Mother and Dad drove to Red Deer and were married and the next year I was born. In the fall of 1915 we moved to a farm at Castor We drove, taking the chickens, two pigs, calves and camping equipment on a hayrack Leland and Fred Bott were on horseback chasing the cattle. Weather was good and the trip took eight days — a distance of about 150 miles. In 1917 my brother Elmer (Bud) was born

The first good crop was hailed out and after they had a few dry years, in 1921 Dad decided to move back to his homestead in the Hespero district By now Condor had a post office and a store. In the spring of 1922 I had to start school and walked the mile and a half to Shady Lane — Dad was on the school board for a few years

In the summer of 1922 my sister Nellie was born In winters Dad worked in sawmills to supplement the farm income

Mother passed away in January 1929 and the same year in May Dad passed away. They are both buried in the Leslieville cemetery Bud, Nellie and I went to live with our brother Leland Tweed who had recently married Grace O'Neal from Iowa, and was living on a farm near Condor We then attended Prairie Rose School

In 1934 I married Ernest Johnnie) Rasmussen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Nels Rasmussen, pioneers of the Condor and Bluebell districts. We farmed his home place for a number of years and in 1945 we moved to the Fawcett district north of Edmonton where we built and operated a service station and cafe for a few years, on Highway 44, later selling it and buying a farm north of Clyde in the Nestow area.

We had three children, the oldest, Gerald, is a shop foreman for Finning Tractor in Nanaimo, B.C. He married Ann Galleberg from Big Valley and they have three children, Daryl, Lisa and Darcy Stanley, the second boy is a truck driver and is presently working for the Government Our daughter Bonnie married Curtis Wright from Vancouver a heavy duty mechanic they have one son Jeffery and live in the Nestow dis

Bud served overseas in the Second World War and on his return in 1945 started driving a bus, a position he still holds, driving from Red Deer to Consort He bought the home place and still farms it He married Blanche Mossett a nurse from Alix and they make their home in Red Deer They have two daughters, Patricia, a nurse at the Red Deer General Hospital and married to Dave Siebold, and Shela who is in her third year of University in Edmonton

Nellie took a hairdressing course in Calgary, and in 1946 married Richard Rasmussen, son of Mr and Mrs. Ray Rasmussen of the Flatbush district Nellie and Richard farmed in that area for several years before moving to Westlock where Nellie works at Pembina Lodge a Senior Citizens Home, and Richard works in Clyde for Leigers, a farm equipment dealer for White and Hesston. They have one son, Lee, who is apprenticing in Westlock at Doherty's garage. He married Penny Greig and they have one son Greg. Their daughter Janene lives at home and is cashier at a Red Rooster store in Westlock. A foster daughter Virginia is married to Ray Day and lives in Matsqui, B.C. They have two

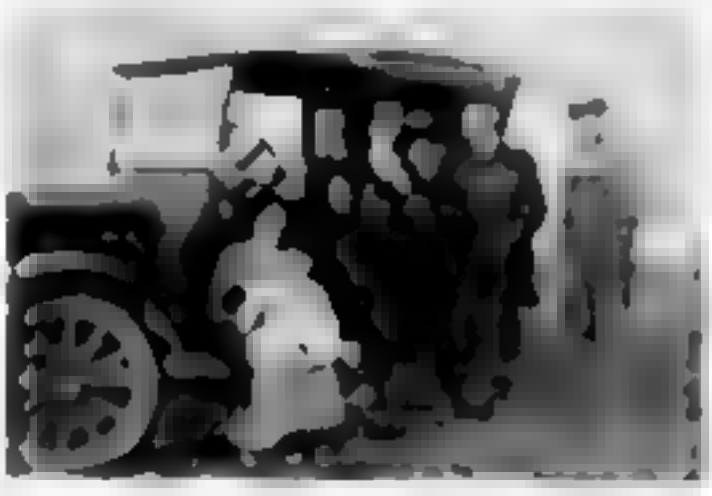
My husband Ernest passed away in 1975 and is buried in the Nestow cemetery

**JENNINGS, JOSEPH (JOE)**

Joseph, (Joe), Jennings was born in 1892 in CamGloster-Glastershire England. Educated in England until 14. Had his training as a sailor on the ship Warspite Transferred to the Merchant Service on the Warwick and was petty officer He came to Canada in 1910 to Carnduff Saskatchewan living with his sister and brother in-law, Beatrice and Sidney Hopkins. They lived in a mud house. Just two boys immigrated to Canada in 1911 and 1912, Horace and Frank

The three boys homesteaded at High P[illegible] Saskatchewan. Joe joined the First Canadian Division in Regina when the First War broke out Honorably discharged in Calgary. March 1919

In 1919, through the Soldiers Settlement Board, Joe bough a quarter section at Condor



Mrs. Jennings with daughter Joyce on her knee [illegible] England in center Joe Jennings on right

He married Rosa A. Bridges September 15, 1928, in St. Lukes Anglican Church, Red Deer.

Mrs. Jennings was born in Finchley, London, England, July 7, 1901.

They found times very hard and money very scarce. Joe sold his homestead in Saskatchewan for $300. Mrs. Jennings found a good friend in Emily Meeres who showed her how to clean her first chicken, and bake her first loaf of bread.

Joe was on the Condor school board in the 1930's and was secretary for U.F.A. He was also on the executive of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Jennings:

Joyce — born June 16, 1921.

Jack — born March 18, 1923 — Mrs. Jennings almost died having this baby. The doctor was late and Mrs. Eastman, the midwife, helped mother and baby until the doctor arrived. Roads were terrible. Dr. Grant of Sylvan Lake had chains on all wheels.

Yvonne — born September 14, 1924 — named "Yvonne Grant" in tribute to Dr. Grant who saved the life of her and her son Jack previously.

Elizabeth Emily — born February 26, 1927 — taught school for a number of years.

Frank Henry — born March 16, 1934 — drowned in Sylvan Lake, 1942.

Richard Joseph — born June 14, 1936 — Jack and Richard (Dick) both still farm at Condor.

Both Joyce and Yvonne served in the war with the C.W.A.C.

Jack never passed the medical so was not allowed to go. Joe, the father served on the homeguard. Mrs. Jennings was an ardent worker in the Red Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings left the farm in 1940-40 and moved to Red Deer. They moved back in 1950 to the original Barton home in the town of Condor. However returned to Red Deer in 1956.

Mr. Jennings passed away November 26, 1976. Mrs. Jennings resides in Red Deer Nursing Home. She suffered a stroke seven years ago and is confined to wheel chair. However is still alert and has contributed much as has her husband to our country and especially to Condor district. She is a talented painter and writer but hasn't been able to do either very well since her stroke.

**KAIKKONEN, PAUL**

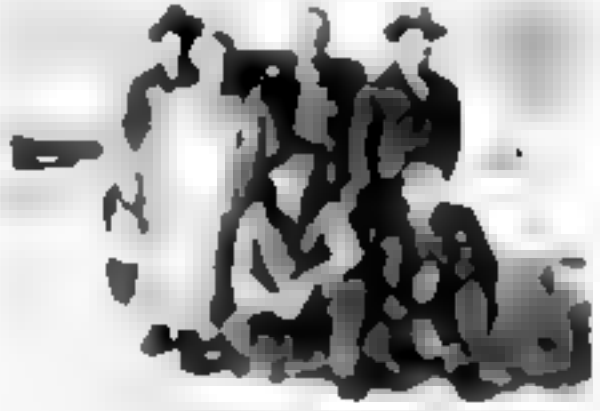
Paul Kaikkonen Sr. of Hespero, Alberta, N.1 30-4-W5, was born in Finland on June 21, 1883. He immigrated to the United States of America in the early 1900's, where he obtained employment in a coal mine at Sand Coulee, Montana. He made a trip back to his homeland in the year 1905. He spent a year there, then returned to Sand Coulee where he worked in the coal mines until he got hurt in 1907. Upon recovering from his injuries he met and married Anna Katia Waisanen, who also had immigrated to Sand Coulee from Finland. She operated a boarding house with her sister, Lia Holm. A daughter, Lydia, was born on December 3, 1911, and one son, Charlie, on February 11, 1913, while they were living in Sand Coulee.

In the meantime Paul Sr. had read about homestead land being sold in Alberta, Canada 160 acres for $10. In 1912, he and his brother-in-law Everet Saarela came to Red Deer, Alberta looking for land. The land office in Red Deer sent them out west to Condor and Leslieville to look over some homesteads that were available. Paul Kaikkonen filed on a homestead one-half mile west of the Condor Post Office and store that was operated by a family by the name of A. French. Everet Saarela filed on a homestead eight and one-half miles north of Condor, on top of a hill past the Blueberry Valley School. Paul Kaikkonen's other brother-in-law, Matt Uitto and wife, were already settled at Blueberry Valley School District at the time, so they stayed with them while looking for land.

In July of 1913, Paul Kaikkonen and family, Everet Saarela and family, along with Frank Holm and family, loaded their goods into a railroad boxcar and shipped them to Red Deer as the Canadian Pacific Railroad was not completed yet. The three families drove out from Red Deer to their homesteads by horse and wagon which they had brought along with them.

The railroad was completed to Condor and on to Rocky Mountain House in the fall of 1913. The C.N.R. was already in at the time, past Eckville and Leslieville and to Nordegg.

Later on, after building a house and barn at Condor (which are still standing), Paul Kaikkonen and Everet Saarela went working at the coal mines at Saunders Creek and Alexo, Alberta. Four more children were born at Condor — Lily on September 11, 1914, Paul Jr. on January 1, 1916, Willie on March 26, 1917, and Eddie on August 28, 1918. Then Nielo was born on October 15, 1926 at Hespero, Alberta.



In 1919 Paul Kaikkonen Sr. bought land at Hespero and moved his family there in the spring of 1921, where they have farmed ever since.

In 1932 Lydia married Abet Jarvis of Sylvan

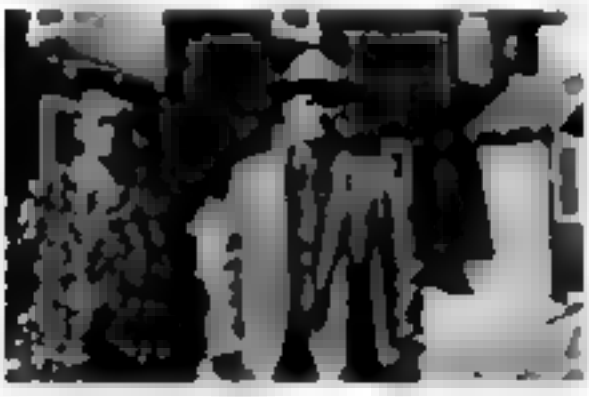
Lake. His parents, Andrew and Sandra Jarvin, had also emigrated from Finland to Almy now known as Evanston, Wyoming, U.S.A. They later filed on a homestead in the Bingley District, north of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta in 1913, and later moved to Sylvan Lake. Abel worked as a mechanic and welder for Joe Untinen in the Lakeview Garage in Sylvan Lake for 21 years before moving to the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1957 to work as a welder. From here he moved to Vancouver Island. Lydia and Abel are now retired in Port Alberni, B.C. They have one son George, and a daughter, Eileen.

George has a son, Andrew, and a daughter Anne Maria, and they live in Vancouver, B.C. Eileen married Roy Darling in 1953, and they have a son, Robert Norman, and a daughter Gale. Eileen and Roy are owner and operator of the Sylvan Lake Steam Bath which was built by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson in 1967. Charles Anderson has since passed away.

Charlie Kaikkonen has operated his own Service Station on Highway 11, on the Hespero Corner known as "Charlie's Service" since 1960 and on February 14, 1977 he married Donna Rowbotham of Sylvan Lake.

Lily married Bruno Kuli in 1935. They had one daughter, Anna, who married Jerry Cumming. They have three sons and one daughter. Jerry died in 1971. Anna and family are living in Port Alberni, B.C.

Paul married Grace Hall in 1946, and took over the family farm. Four sons were born to them before Paul passed away of a heart condition in 1959. The sons are Elmo, James, Albert and John. Grace still lives on the farm with her boys.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kaikkonen

Willie married Mary Simpson. They have a family of one daughter, Linda, and two sons, Dale and Glen. Willie is a welder by trade, and they all live in Port Alberni, B.C.

Eddie remained single and lives on his own farm two miles from Hespero.

Niels lives in Windsor, Ontario and works in a wheel factory there. He has one son, Nicky. His wife passed away in 1964.

Mrs. Anna Kaikkonen passed away in June, 1960 at the age of 75 years. Paul Kaikkonen Sr. passed away June 16, 1975 and was buried on his birthday, June 21, at the age of 90 years.

**THE KANGAS FAMILY** – by Wayne Kangas

After arriving from Kauhavalla, Finland, Matt and Amelia Kangas and their family lived in Eveleth, Minnesota, U.S.A. where Matt worked in the open pit iron ore mines. Approximately five years later, about 1908 or 1910, they came to Canada, and settled in the Hespero district which was called Pilcox until the railroad was built through there in about 1913. Arriving also at about the same time from Eveleth were Henry Pietikainen, John Suteia, Walter Maki, John Pykalainen, Ore and Henry Makela, and Jack Tuhkanen and families.

Matt, (who passed away in 1918), and Amelia, (who passed away in 1938), had five children. Ida married Howard O'Brien, and lives in Santa Rosa, California, with her only daughter Mildred, and her husband, Roy.

Richard passed away in 1961.

Gust married Irja and lived in Sparta, Minnesota, U.S.A. Their four children were Donald, Mildred, Robert, and Dennis. Gust passed away in 1968.

Annie was born in 1901 and passed away in 1974. She had married Jim Krest, and they had three sons, Albert, George and Robert. They farmed in the Hespero district.

Hilja married Dean Reeser and they live in Petaluma, California.

Richard Kangas married Selma Ropafelt in about 1913. A wedding dance was planned for the evening to celebrate the marriage, when a fire

Richard and Selma Kangas

gedy occurred. In the afternoon, Salma's father was going to get provisions for a lunch for the dance, when the team of horses he was driving ran away and the wagon in which he was riding overturned. When the wreck was found, Mr Ropsfelt was dead.

Richard and Salma bought Wilf Horner's homestead. (In 1977 Mr Horner is still living in the Senior Citizens' Home in Lacombe.) Richard and Salma had four children — John, Hilja, Wayne and Elsie.

John, who passed away in 1970, had married Vieno Salo. He served in Canada and overseas with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers in World War II. They had two sons, John Lorne and Robert Wayne. Lorne has his Bachelor of Commerce degree and lives in Leduc with his wife, Glenda, and their four children, Shelley, Vincent, Jeina and Nathan. Robert also has his Bachelor of Commerce degree and lives in Calgary with his wife, Ann, and their two daughters.

Hilja married Ike Raappana, and lives in Sonora, California. They have three daughters, Lillian, Diane and Ellen. Lillian lives and works in Modesto, California. Diane has her Bachelor of Arts degree and lives in Sonora, California with her husband, Terry Hunt, and their two sons, Forrest and Derek. Ellen has twin boys, Gary and Jerry, and lives in northern California with her husband, Carl Kruger.

Wayne married Ann Docken and they live in Red Deer. He served in the army for one year in Canada with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, Victoria, B.C.) He obtained a Coal Miners leave in 1943, and he and Ann moved to Alexo, Alberta, where they lived for 12 years until the mines closed down. The family moved to Red Deer in 1955, where Wayne was a steam engineer, and later was Chief Engineer with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool until his retirement in 1976. Wayne and Ann have two children, Wayne John and Sharon Ann. Wayne Jr. has his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering degrees, and is a Design Engineer with Texaco Canada Ltd. He lives in Edmonton with his wife, Lynn, and daughter Margaret. Sharon has her Bachelor of Education degree, and lives with her husband, Alan Cooper, and their daughter Shara in Red Deer.

Elsie married Wilfred Koski and lives in Eckville. She is the cook at the Senior Citizens' Home in Eckville.

Richard and Salma's four children attended Daisy Nook School and Wayne remembers the teachers that he had. Mrs. Larsen, Miss Duffy, Miss Uchida, Mr Stuart Meeres, Miss Lougheed, Mr Pawly, Mr Lougheed, Mr Jones, Miss Hilda Lawrence (who married and the next year was Mrs. Anderson), Miss Herman and Miss Baldwin. Mr Gibson was inspector of schools. Since many of the children in this district spoke only Finnish at home, and knew little English when they started to school, the teachers must have had a more difficult time than usual with their beginners.

Roads were almost non-existent, even though the road allowances were there. Some of the holes never did dry up from one year to the next. The children walked to school on nice days, and rode horseback when the weather was poor. There were eight grades in Daisy Nook, and with 35 to 40 students each year, the seats were always full.

The Christmas concerts and the annual school picnics at the end of June were the highlights of the year. Mr. G. Frid was always a very able chairman, as was Mr. W. Edgar as Santa Claus. There seemed to be much more community life throughout the hard times and before than there is now. There were always get-togethers for skating parties, ball games, dances and other activities. Dances were very popular, with one in either Hespero, Evergreen or Condor every week. Often 10 to 20 people would get into a sleigh box pulled by horses, and go to a dance. Some of the immediate neighbors were: to the south — Maidits, Sieberts, Martinsons, and Cernys, to the west — Wyzikoskis, Kubics, Linds, J. Maki's, J. Krests and W. White; to the east — Greenwalts, Ole Andersons, J. Laitinens and A. Bottons.

Wayne says "... the hard times were not as bad as some people make out. It took very little money to live, and everyone was equal because no one had much money. Wartime rationing didn't affect anyone, for most of our food was raised at home. It was easy to get meat from farmers if one didn't raise their own, and purple gas wasn't rationed. There was plenty of tea, but maybe not enough coffee for the Scandinavians that had settled in this area!"

There was no question of money exchanging hands in payment for work. There was a reciprocal work code: one farmer would help another and he would return the work.

Richard Kangas farmed in the Hespero district until his retirement to Ladysmith on Vancouver Island in 1948. Part of the district was covered with bush timber, spruce, pine, poplar and some big tamarack, as was all of the west country. No district history would be complete without mention of the bigger sawmills that moved in about the same time as the first settlers. They were known by the names of their owners: F. Petterpher, Tibadow, Kerch and Bromling, Ebis, Stockwell, Evans Brothers, as well as numerous smaller mills. Some sawdust and slab piles can still be seen at the old settings. Many original roads were opened by them, and the homesteaders, (nearly all of them), worked for the sawmill outfits in the off-season, as ready cash was hard to come by from any other source.

Long gone is the steam whistle, the saw and carriage whine, along with the dust of the grain threshing machines.

As this account is written according to the memories of people still living, any small dis-

crepancies in names and items will have to be

**JACK KELM FAMILY — by Mrs. Kelm**

Jack Kelm's parents, the John Kelms emigrated to Canada from Karlsruh, Russia in 1906 and took up a homestead at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan in 1907. In 1911 the Kelms moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where they bought a dairy farm on Dunmore Hill. After receiving his schooling at Elizabeth School in Medicine Hat Jack worked at the candy factory and at a brick factory. In 1919 the family moved back to Saskatchewan and located at Rosthern. Jack was gifted with the ability to "witch" for water so he was of considerable help to his father in the well-digging business which they established at Rosthern. In 1923 they moved to Empress, which is on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border and here they bought and operated a livery stable until moving to Calgary in 1927. In Calgary Jack worked in Spiller's Flour Mill.

Mable Gabriel's parents came to Canada from Karlsruh, Russia and farmed in the Saltberfeld district, near Waldheim Saskatchewan. Mabel's mother was a victim of the flu in 1918 and her father passed away as a result of the dreaded epidemic in 1919 leaving seven children Mable being the eldest of them. Mrs. Gabriel was only 27 years old when she died, and Mr. Gabriel was 37 years old when he died.

After a time Mable went to Calgary, where she found work at the Holy Cross Hospital. While she was working there she married Jack Kelm, whom she had known at Rosthern. Jack added to his income by playing his button accordion at dances. From an uncle, Jack, learned to play many pieces that the uncle had learned from hearing the gypsies play in Russia. (Many of these pieces I have never heard anyone else play.) Jack had only to hear a tune played once or twice and he was able to play it perfectly by

In 1934 we purchased a piece of land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad, for eight hundred dollars, which turned out to be a high price, as it turned out to be a rough, rocky, slough-covered farm. This was in the Willow Dale district southeast of Red Deer. Jack left Calgary with a team of horses pulling a wagon with a rack in April in order to build a small shack before taking the family to our new home. This took many days, as he had to first find out where his land was located. Then he had to cut a road through two miles of timber since he was the first to settle in this particular area.

In May 15 Jack came back to Calgary to get me and our three small children. What a trip that was, to our new home! Our youngest child, Phyllis, who was one year old at the time, was in a cast because of a broken hip resulting from a fall from her high chair. Our possessions were loaded onto the rack and covered over with an old tent in such a way that the family was able to ride and sleep on top of the household goods. We left Calgary on May 18 for our five-day trip to the farm. At one point we missed Phyllis, who, we thought, had been sleeping at the back of the rack. However it turned out that she had fallen out of the wagon and was nowhere in sight. It was impossible to turn the rack around on the road so I had to walk back, about three-fourths of a mile, until I found her sitting on the road, crying loudly but unhurt. It was quite a task for me to carry her back to the wagon, as well as causing a delay in our travels.

On the third day of our trip we stopped at a farm with the hope of being able to water our horses there. However, the farmer wasn't able to give us any water because he was having to haul water for his own livestock. He told Jack that he had been unable to find water on his farm even though at one time there had been a running spring on the land. Jack said, "Do you mind if I try to find water for you?" The man was delighted with this idea, and immediately took Jack in his car to a place where they could get a willow branch. This must have been some distance away, because they were gone at least half an hour. After their return Jack did find a slight indication of water near their house but he thought that a well there would not yield sufficient water for their needs. Jack followed the vein of water for some distance until he found a real strong indication of water — he was hardly able to hold the willow in his hands! (This location turned out to be the spring that had formerly been used on the farm.) The farmer was so grateful that he gave us some oat bundles for the horses and a big box of food for ourselves. This somewhat lessened my annoyance at being left with the children, sitting on the wagon for so long, and not even knowing at the time what was causing the delay. We never did find out the man's name although he learned that our name was Kelm and that we were moving from Calgary. Quite a while after this we heard that he had phoned Jack's father in Calgary, wanting to know where we had moved, as he wanted to give Jack some money for his help in getting the water on the farm. However, we never did see him again.

At about 5:30 in the evening of the last day of our trip to the farm we stopped at a farm which was about eight miles from our new location. This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Towers (parents of Gordon Towers, who, at that time, was just a boy). Jack asked to buy some grain for the horses. Mr. Towers had no grain but he gave us a quantity of oat bundles for the horses. In reply to his question as to how we were fixed for food ourselves I replied, "I've got some flour — I'll make some pancakes for us." After hearing this, Mr. Towers went into the house and came out with a large box containing bread, butter, bacon, eggs, potatoes and a gallon of fresh milk. Another example of how kind people were in those days!

We started our venture in farming with one cow, 25 chicks, a wagon with rack, two horses and a plow. Those were tough years, and if it had not been for Jack's accordion we would not have made it. Jack played for dances, birthday anniversary celebrations, amateur programs, and whatever else required a musician. He would often walk nine to ten miles with his accordion. Sometimes he would get only seventy-five cents for his evening's work, but other times it would be as much as three dollars, which was good money in those days. He also worked for various farmers in the community in return for feed and seed.

In April of 1941 Jack joined the Calgary 14th Army Tanks and in June he left for overseas. The children and I stayed on the farm until 194 when Jack got his honorable discharge because of health reasons. We remained on the farm after his return until 1945. In September of that year Jack had got a farm one mile east of Hespero, Alberta, through the Veteran's Land Act. It was the Norman Bunch farm located on the N W ¼ 6-36-3-W5th. Jack attended the Bunch sale in November and agreed at that time that Norman and his mother could remain on the farm for the winter. However, we got a call saying that Norman had found a place in Red Deer, and were moving right away.

Since we wished to move as soon as possible Jack went at once to see the Ted Pixley Trucking Company about moving us to Hespero. He was informed that the trucks would be busy for a week or two, so we thought that there would be plenty of time for packing. However, on December 2 we got word that the trucks would be here the next day to move us. We spent all night packing. Yeast had been set for bread, and that had to be baked. The girls were set to churning the accumulation of cream into butter while Jack and Lyle gathered up the cows and calves and penned up the pigs and crated the chickens. When the trucks arrived at nine o'clock in the morning the stove was still hot from baking and I had also made a dish called Grandma's Dumplings. This was Potatoes covered with bread dough dumplings.

In the flurry of getting everything loaded no one ever thought about getting me and the children to Red Deer to take the train to Hespero, so we were all divided among the trucks. We left for Hespero with the trucks at about three o'clock in the afternoon, arriving there about six thirty. It was a lovely warm evening, with the water running off the roof and a soft wind blowing to welcome us to our new home. The men put up the stove first, while the children found some old boards to burn. We got the boxes of food from the truck and I soon had a meal ready, including the potatoes and dumplings that we had not had time to eat that morning! Of course everyone was ravenously hungry as well as tired, and it was not until the next day that we started to get some order out of cha-.

In 1946 we decided to tear down what had been a chicken coop. When we tore the floor up we discovered a small cellar under it. There were two eight-gallon cream cans and some other cans, along with basins and sealers, jam cans, and a lot of tubing or pipes. We wondered what it was, at first, Jack thought it looked like a still for making liquor. We didn't keep it, as we thought we might be blamed for having used it, but we often wondered who had lived there and operated the still, and when "moonshine" business had been carried on.

Jack and I had a family of six children. When the oldest, Delores, was old enough to start school we lived five miles from the Willow Dale School, so I helped her through the grade one course at home by means of the material sent out by the Correspondence School of the Department of Education in Edmonton. As the other children became old enough for school they all attended the Willow Dale school until we came to Hespero and then they went to the Blue Bell School. After the rural schools were discontinued they were bused for one year to Condor and then finished their schooling in Eckville after the bus routes were changed.

Delores married Clarence Torsti and they have two children, Lorrie Ann and Douglas John. They live at Fort St. John, British Columbia.

Lyle joined the Navy in 1953 and is still with the Navy. He is now a 1st Officer. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia, and has never married.

Phyllis married Nick Sherba. They had three children — Debbie, Lynda and Nick Jr. Nick

passed away in July of 1967. Phyllis now is married to Steven Tomak and they live in Calgary.

Joan married Dick Feys of Rocky Mountain House. They have one daughter, Rhonda, and live in Blackfalds, Alberta.

Darlene married Chuck Moore and has one son, Carter James. She lives at Calgary.

Dorothy married David Ewing of Big Valley. Their two children are Calmont and Christene. They live at Irricana, Alberta.

In 1970 Jack and I sold our farm to Bert Ojala and moved to a home which we had bought in Eckville. We were enjoying our retirement here when, on March 6, 1974 Jack passed away suddenly as a result of a heart attack. I have continued to live in my home in Eckville and keep busy with the many activities of the Eckville and District Friendship Club, of which I have been an officer, and with the Eckville Hospital Auxiliary. I have done some travelling including a trip to Hawaii and one to the southern United States and into Mexico. In the summer time I enjoy spending my spare time working in my garden.

**KENDZE, CARL**

Carl Kendze was born in Stuttgart, Germany and came to Canada at the age of 11 with his parents, Julius and Olga. They settled near Margo, Saskatchewan, where they purchased a farm. Carl continued his education in a small country school (May School). There were only seven children enrolled at this time, one of the girls later became his wife.

After finishing school, Carl helped with the farming at home, as well as working out for the neighbors. In the fall he joined the local threshing crews to save money for a down payment on a half-section of bush land which he purchased in 1937.

In 1936 he married Adela Eiola. Adela was born on the homestead of her parents, Rudolf and Wanda, eight miles north of Margo, Sask. After the wedding Carl and Adela (Dell) moved into their newly built log cabin and began clearing land to raise grain and pasture some dairy cattle. They lived here from 1938-1947. During that time they had three children, Deanna Margaret, Kenneth Ronald and Marlene Alvera. Deanna and Kenneth started their education at Robertson School which was situated on their land.

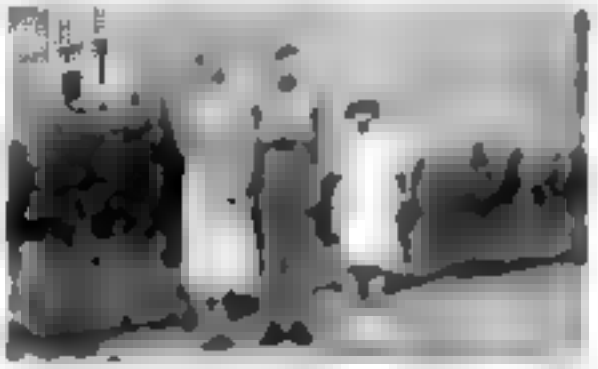
In 1947 they decided to go West — a yearning Carl had always had as a boy. They sold their farm and cattle, shipped their machinery and belongings by freight (under the settlers effect program) packed their one-ton truck, and set out for Alberta. Arriving at Condor, Alberta, October 27, 1947 they purchased the former Harry Bice farm, Sec. 4-39-4-W5 and moved into their home March 15, 1948. The old house saw many good times, and in 1963 a new bungalow went up beside it, and the old house went down the road.

Since Ken returned to take over the farming operations, Carl and Dell purchased a trailer and are living on NW 33-38-4-W5 where the old Halfway House once stood. This building was run by Mr. and Mrs. Bell and supplied overnight lodging for freighters, on the Red Deer to Rocky route and shelter for their horses.

The children attended Prairie Rose School in Condor (this school was later replaced by Condor Elementary School) and completed their Grade 12 education at the David Thompson High School built on Highway 11.

Deanna, after completing a year semester at the Red Deer Composite High School, enrolled at the University of Alberta School Hospital and received her R.N. degree in September, 1961. She worked for a year at the University Hospital after graduation then went to St. Mary's Hospital in New Westminster, B.C., there she met Ralph Bergman, and they were married in 1963. Ralph is presently a school principal. They're settled in Delta, B.C., and they have two children, Christine (age 12) and Grant (age 10).

Marlene, after completing a semester at Red Deer Composite High School, enrolled at the Key Secretarial School of Business Education, and graduated in 1963. She worked in Edmonton for Trader's Finance Company and was later sent to Dawson Creek as branch accountant. On her return to Edmonton, Marlene met Gerald Beattie and they were married in December, 1975. Gerry is the President and owner of Beattie Contractors Ltd., working on road and oilfield construction in the Arctic, Alberta, and B.C. They now make their home in Edmonton after living one year in Inuvik, N.W.T.



Carl and Dell still help their son with the farming operations when the busy seasons roll around, but they enjoy semi-retirement now that they have time to enjoy camping, travelling, playing cards, and dancing. Carl also frequents the auction markets — one of his favorite pastimes. Carl passed away February of 1978.

**KENDZE, KENNETH RONALD**

Ken, only son of Carl and Adela Kendze, was born in Wadena, Saskatchewan, March 22, 1941.

Throughout his schooling he enjoyed and participated in most sports. After completing high school, he enrolled at the Southern Alberta School of Technology in Calgary and graduated in Design Drafting in 1962.

Drafting took him to designing pulp mills in Vancouver, B.C. fertilizer plants in Trail, B.C. and industrial piping in Edmonton. While living with three buddies in a high-rise apartment in Edmonton, he and his friends persuaded the caretaker to rent the apartment next to them to some girl tenants! He did just that and that's where he met Joanne McAdam, whom he later married in April, 1968.

Joanne is a graduate nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and had never even visited a farm until she met Ken. She enjoys country life, and loves to continually shock her city friends with all her new found knowledge.

When Ken and his Dad first formed their partnership — Diamond K Farms was chosen as the farm name. Ken purchased three quarters of land of his own, and he and his family now live on the home quarter.

Ken and Joanne have three girls — Pamela Anne (December, 1970), Heather June, 1973, and Brenda Marie (May 1975. They're kept busy with the children's activities, their various club and board meetings, curling, swimming and traveling.

**KULT HENRY**

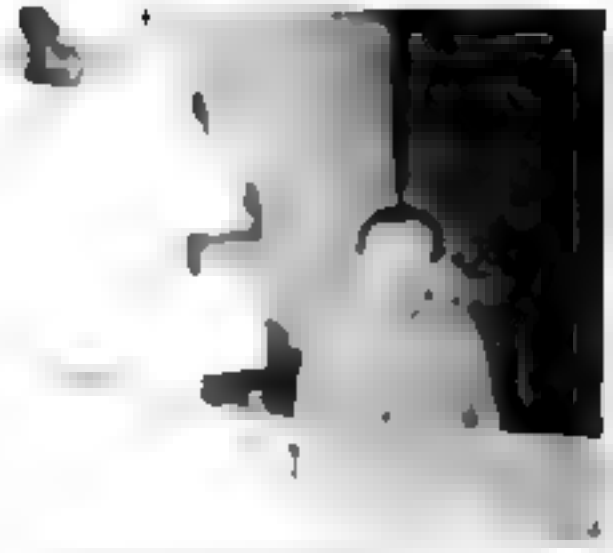
At the age of 26 years, Henry Kultala immigrated to the U.S.A. from Oululanni, Finland. During the spring of 1904, he left the U.S.A. and came to Alberta, where he filed for a homestead on May 26 of the same year. It was during this time that he changed the name to Kult, dropping the Finnish "ala". The original homestead was the N.W. 20-38-3-W5, which is presently owned by Mr. William McDonell, northwest of Eckville.

It was his desire to return to the United States where he became a citizen on September 19, 1904. He worked in the copper mines at Butte, Montana, and a few years later returned to his homestead.

On January 10, 1910 at Red Deer he married Caroline Wetelainen and settled on the homestead. Caroline was born in Savo, British County, South Dakota on November 17, 1890, and came to the Kuusamo district in the first part of 1900 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wetelainen. The Wetelainens had to remain in Red Deer until spring as the Red Deer river was too high to cross.

As many pioneers from Rocky Mountain House and Leslieville areas had to travel to Red Deer for supplies, the Kult's became well known for a resting place where the horses were fed and watered as well as the drivers. Caroline was an ardent cook and always had lots of homemade bread and goodies for anyone who stopped.

Three boys and two girls were born on the homestead, Bruno, Emil, Arthur, Lily and Edna.



Henry was very fond of horses and always had a great number of them which was a very successful venture for him. While Henry was away horse trading, Caroline kept the home fires burning, milking cows as well as doing the other necessary outdoor duties. She also made clothes for the family needs — not using any patterns. It did not take her very long to create a new frock for one of the girls.

During these years a lot of sickness and epidemics took some lives of this family. Arthur who was born in 1914 died in 1918 at a very tender age, and Lily who was born in 1916, died the following year.

In 1918 they sold the homestead, had an auction sale and moved on the outskirts of Eckville. Although jobs were not plentiful, Henry kept busy doing handy-man jobs, and they always had roomers or boarders at their house. The boys were not interested in continuing school so it was the decision of Henry to return to farming. A friend of Henry's had left a quarter of land two miles north of Hespero for him, so in the spring of 1926 the family moved to the farm. Additions to the family while in Eckville were a set of twins, Albert and Walter in 1919, the latter dying one year later. Elvie was born in 1921, William in 1923 and Elsie in 1926.

Mary and Hannah were born after they moved to the farm at Hespero. The Kults bought three more quarters of land, built a new house and a barn. Although Henry had acquired Miner's Consumption Disease which caused poor health, he always had great ambitions. Their first car was a 1925 Chevrolet and he also became partners, with a nearby neighbor purchasing an engine and threshing machine. A Wallis tractor was purchased to replace some of the work horses.

Henry died on May 10, 1931 at the age of 51 and left a wife and nine children ranging in age from

a baby to the oldest who was 20. Caroline remained on the farm with her family continuing with her excellent home life, and saw all her children marry and leave home to make their own livelihoods. Bruno continued to carry on the farming along with the capable assistance of his mother and his sister Hannah, as well as other members of the family coming over to lend a hand. Caroline died on May 17 1969 at the age of 78 years. Henry and Caroline are buried in the Hespero Cemetery.

The home farm was sold to Gerald Roy of Prince George, B.C. by Bruno on October 14 1970.

Most of the Kult families today live around the Hespero district. Bill at Leslieville, Bruno retired to Ruth, B.C., Mary still at Comox Vancouver Island however her husband has been transferred to Winnipeg for two years so she may be there at press time. Edna is in Edmonton and Hannah, at time of writing is in Edmonton. The only grandchildren living out of the province of Alberta are Albert's eldest son Leslie who lives at Maple Ridge, B.C. his daughter Linda lives at Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan. Bruno's daughter Anna and her family live at Port Alberni, B.C., and Mary's eldest daughter is living in Victoria, B.C.

**LAURENCE, A. B.**

In the year of 1931, the Laurence family moved to Condor from Carndiff, Saskatchewan living on the SE 31-38-4-W5. Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Laurence had two sons and one daughter Wesley, Myron and Ruth.

Wes lives in Edmonton with his wife Fern. They have one son, Virgil, who lives in Edmonton with his wife and four children. Ruth, lives in Summerland, B.C. with her husband, Gordon and two sons. Ruth is Mrs. Gordon McDermott.

Mr. A. B. Laurence had a saw mill in the early years. He also did a lot of big game hunting. In the year of 1934, A. B., sons and daughter went out west big game hunting where they were stranded for five weeks. Since then, there are two creeks north of Jack Fish Lake that are named Ruth Creek and Laurence Creek.

The youngest son, Myron, and his father continued farming. The mother had passed away in 1936 at the age of 56 years. One of the many jobs Myron enjoyed was threshing. The crew consisted of friends and neighbors. Dudley Frith owned the threshing machine and some of the fellows working on it were the Marcenik Bros. Bradshaw Bros. Pete Lagore, Sam Clement and others. The men often threshed for 20 to 30 days.

Mr. Laurence sold the farm, later moving to Ontario, where he enjoyed fairly good health until 1974 when he passed away.

In 1946, Myron married Margaret Knorr. Along with farming, he did various jobs, trucking, hauling milk, grain and lumber. In 1952, they left the Condor district and moved to Dovercourt where they lived for about three years, later moving to Sylvan Lake where they still reside. Myron and Margaret have a family of four, three sons and one daughter. Leonard lives in Sylvan Lake with his wife, Margaret and two sons and two daughters. Raymond and his wife Lynn have two sons and two daughters, Ron and his wife Pat have three children. Lois lives in Edmonton with her husband Hugh McPherson. no family. Myron still has a great love for horses so manages to keep some on his acreage at Sylvan Lake. Hockey and ball are very favorite sports. The three sons are also hockey fans and are al...

**THE GEORGE LEE STORY**

George Lee was born in Yorkshire, England September 3, 1882. He left England March 26 1906 and sailed to Canada, coming to Bolton, Ontario, where he worked for two years before travelling out to Innisfail, Alberta.

In 1906 George went to Pitcox (Hespero) and took up a homestead, the N.W. 15-29-W5 three and one-half miles north west of Pitcox, where Alfred Oastrom's home is now. The name Pitcox was later changed to Hespero.

George went to Rochester, Minnesota and worked on the farm Dr. Charles Mayo of the famous Mayo Clinic for two years. He then returned to his homestead at Hespero and farmed there for several years.

George remembers well the times when the pioneers had to go to Red Deer for their supplies using a team of horses and a sleigh or wagon. The trip took three days — one day to travel from Hespero to Red Deer — one day to rest the horses and the third day to return home. In summer the prairie trails were difficult to travel on as there were many sloughs and swamps to cross.

On September 6, 1924 George married Arla Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Anderson of Hespero. Arla was born in LeGrand, Iowa U.S.A. and came to Red Deer with her family in October 1907 and to Hespero in the spring of 1909.

In 1925 George traded his homestead for a quarter section in the Evarts district. George and Arla went to Nordegg to work for the winter.

of 1925 and moved to Evarts in the spring of 1926 where they still reside

They had a family of three, Gertrude, the oldest is employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Calgary Juanita, Mrs. Ernest Vitana is a Certified Nursing Aide, living in Eckville: Charles farms in the Evarts district

**LIND, OSCAR AND MARIA JOSEPHINE**

Oscar Lind was born July 25, 1885 in Hollola Finland. He immigrated to New York in 1904 There he met Maria Josephine Sund who was born December 26, 1894, in Helsinki Finland She immigrated to New York arriving in November 1909 They were united in marriage in New York on February 21, 1910

Close friends had left New York and homesteaded in the Evergreen district Their letters persuaded Oscar and Fiina to visit Canada

It was June 23, 1913, when Linds arrived at Evergreen to visit Mr and Mrs. John Laine Their homestead, W-16-38-4-W5, is now owned by Frank Dobia That summer the two families lived in a one roomed shack. Later in 1913 Mr and Mrs. Lind took a homestead in the Hespero district. It was an open winter and very warm on December 26, 1913, when they moved to live in a small shack someone previously built on this land

Mrs Lind worked in a hospital while in New York Soon she was very busy acting as midwife Many babies in this district were born with Mrs Lind's assistance Day and night and in all kinds of weather she travelled whenever her help was needed She vividly remembers running through the woods in the dark to deliver a baby Sometimes in the winter she would ride horseback, behind the father, through deep snow and drifts

In New York on December 26, 1911, their only child died at birth

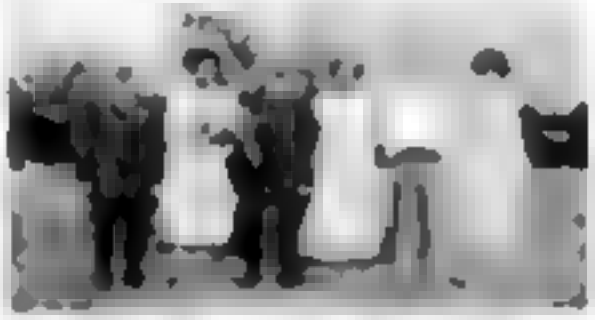
Mr and Mrs. Lind adopted Elno in 1917 Oscar Lind passed away on February 13, 1960 He is buried in the Hespero Cemetery. Mrs Fiina Lind still lives on the farm in the Hespero district

**LINDSAY, ROBERT AND MIRIAM**

Robert Lindsay came to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland at the age of 21. He married Miriam Hornby in 1927 and they resided in the Nateby-Gem, Alberta area until 1932 when they moved to the Evergreen area the former Jack Wicks farm Their son Robert was one year old at the time. A short time later they moved to the Condor area settling on a Hudson's Bay quarter directly west of the Herb von Hollen home, with their son Robert and a daughter Rosella

How well I (Rosella) remember the old farm buildings with their corduroy floors and straw roofs that leaked with every rain and the discouraging years when the hailstorms hit Mom's concern was always how she would have enough money to buy underwear for us children for school. Mom would ride horseback to town for groceries or Dad would hitch up the team and take the cream and eggs

Threshing time was a big event in those days Dad would go as spike pitcher for the Dudley Frith rig He worked for him for a few years and later with the Herb von Hollen rig The appetites and amount of food prepared and consumed when it was our turn was something again



Northup was our school district and the old one room school with a large round stove at one end stood on a piece of J Poland Senior's farm – approximately one half mile east of the Stauffer road, and two miles south of number 11 highway A new school was built about 1938 or 1940 The teachers during those years were as follows — Miss Nicholichuk Mrs. G. M Proud Erickson Miss Marion Tolefson, Mrs Anderson (von Hollen) and Mr Bill Kirsch. Dad always took an active part in our year end picnics. This was an exciting time of homemade ice cream and our first taste of watermelon. There was something for everyone at these picnics like the hog calling contest won by Jim Poland Senior and the husband calling contest won by Mom

Christmas concerts were another highlight during those years. Days and many hours were spent in preparation for the big night As the parents would bundle their children in cutters and sleds and head for the school. Bert Avery the Condor post master, was Santa Claus for many years. Sunday School and church were held regularly in the school with Mrs Munro and Mrs. Hornby as two of the regular teachers Mr Gygor and Mr Glover were two of the ministers who came regularly during those years

In 1942 Dad took over the farm from William Hornby and we moved the two and one-half miles east and north to his farm the present G. Adrian farm). There was no moving van — just the horsedrawn wagon heaped full of furniture and belongings Even the cat jumped on the last load, afraid he would be left behind

On this farm Dad and Mom worked hard milking cows by hand, raising pigs and sheep.

and lumbering. By this time the old barn Dad had helped Grandad Hornby build was starting to lean, so he, with the help of our neighbors Terry Mulrooney, spent a couple of winters logging our bush. He also spent a couple of winters in Nordegg working for the mining company in the sawmill area to raise enough money to finish paying for the farm.

Dad never did own a car and if he had he wouldn't have been able to drive it very often on the muddy roads in the spring or the high snow drifts in the winter, that even horses had to fight to get through. The low areas of the road were corduroyed with wood but often came near washing out in the wet years. Winters were long and cold but Dad always kept a year's supply of wood ahead for the stove and heater. The good old oven was the place to toast your feet on a cold

PLUMBING — unheard of. Outdoor biffies cold and draughty but well supplied with last season's catalogue.

WATER SUPPLY — At first drawn from a well by bucket by means of rope and pulley, later by pump from a drilled well.

LIGHT — Coal oil lamps gradually replaced with an Aladdin lamp placed in the middle of the table.

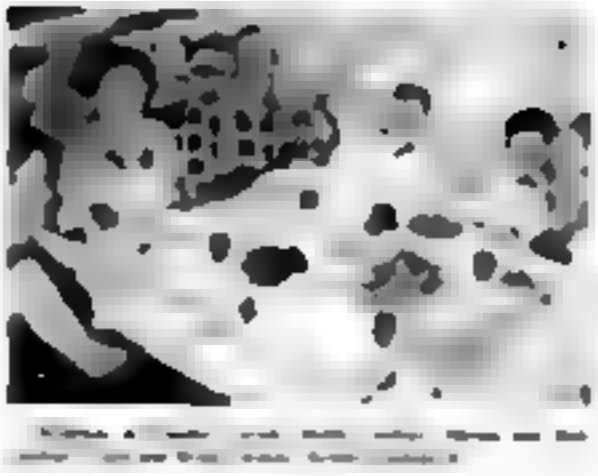
LAUNDRY — Washing Machine — first a scrub board and a tub replaced by a hand pushed washing machine. Dryer — the clothes line — one out and one in. Iron — Sad-iron — heated on the stove and did a surprisingly good job.

HEATING — A large cook stove in the kitchen heated by wood only complete with warming closet on top (a wonderful place for drying eggshells for re-cycling back to the hens) and a large reservoir at the side of the fire box for heating water.

An airtight heater that gobbled wood, kept one end of the front room warm. It was nothing to have ice on the water pail on the wash stand on a cold morning.

About 1948 a new Massey 22 tractor replaced the horses for farm work. It also served as the family car complete with trailer behind. In 1958 Dad sold the farm to Fred Adrian and moved to the Condor corner directly across from the store. Here he kept busy with his garden and helping the neighbors at haying and harvest time. He passed away in July, 1965 at the age of 78. Following his death mother sold the property and moved to Red Deer, later to Jasper and back to Red Deer, housekeeping for various people. In January of 1977 she retired and resided in the Eckville Manor House until August of the same year, when she moved to the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer, where she presently resides.

Robert Lindsay Junior took his schooling at the Northup School and following Grade nine he spent a few winters in the bush camp west of Rocky Mountain House. Following this, he left home to work at Scott Fruit in Red Deer for several years. He now operates concessions in



Red Deer. He married Helen Grove in 1954. They have two sons — Clare and Brian, both working in Red Deer.

Rosella Lindsay took her early schooling at Northup and High School at Condor. She boarded in Condor with her Aunt and Uncle — the J. Hornby's — the first year and by 1950 the school bus ran for the first time in this area. It took a wide area — Northup, Stauffer, Evergreen, Gaetz and Daisy Nook. The driver was Dean McCarrol. Following High School she attended the Composite High in Red Deer and after working for awhile at the Bank of Montreal went to Berean Bible College in Calgary then on to Nurses Training at the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary.

She came to nurse at the Eckville Hospital in 1961 and has been there full or part time ever since with the exception of two years spent in Jasper. She married Albert Ojala formerly of Rocky Mountain House, in 1965. For the past seven years they have resided on their farm (the former J. Kelm's) one mile east and one-half mile north of Hespero corner, where Albert is in the farming and welding business. They have one son, Ken, now 11, and attending the Eckville School.

**LIPKA, THE PIONEER FAMILY — by William Lipka**

Our dad and mother, August and Auguste Lipka, came to Canada from Germany on November 28, 1906, with their four children, Ernest, Emily, Caroline, and William, and settled in the Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. I, William, was two years old when I crossed the ocean. We lived at Bellevue, where Dad worked in the coal mines until 1910, when Dad decided to go farming.

He took up a homestead on the SE 33-37-4-W5 in the Evergreen district. There were no roads, only trails through heavy bush when the family moved to the homestead. We lived in a two-room log house that Dad built. The floor was only one-ply lumber, and the knots would fall out of the boards. There were numerous garter snakes in those days, and often snakes would go underneath the floor into the cellar. They would sometimes stick their heads through the knot holes in the floor and we would see them looking at us.

Times were very hard, and often wild rabbits and prairie chickens were our main food. Dad still had to work in the mines for a few years, and from the homestead he would walk along the railroad track to Nordegg. This kept the family living and also provided some money so we could buy a couple of cows and other things to get started farming. Dad bought two oxen and a mower machine. The mower wouldn't work when he tried to cut hay with the oxen, but when he later bought two horses to use, he found out that the trouble had been that the oxen were too slow in pulling the machine.

Through the years four more children were born — Minnie, Adolph, Henry and Annie. We took our schooling in Knowledge and Gaetz schools, although we older ones received very little education because of helping at home, difficulty of getting to school and the hard times to get teachers.

As we boys grew up, Dad bought more land nearby. In the summer we were busy clearing land and breaking horses. In winter making logs and sawing lumber. We operated our own saw mill, starting with a twelve-horsepower stationary engine and later buying a tractor which we also used with the threshing machine we bought to do our own threshing as well as some custom threshing.

Now the family starts leaving home. Ernest married Mary Hollander and they lived in Evergreen on the SE 31-37-4-W5. The Knowledge School was on their place. Their two children were Helen and Albert. Ernest's first wife passed away in 1943. In 1947 he married Mary

Lipka home

William and Ernest Lipka on horses

Ernest, August and William Lipka

August Lipka Family. Adolph, Henry, William, Ernest and Annie. Front: Emily, Caroline, Minnie, August and Augusta.

Mogilenka from Fernie B.C. and had two girls Judith and Linda Ann. Due to ill health he sold the farm and they moved to Eckville, where Ernest died in 1974. In 1969 Judith married Malcolm Thomson of Gilbert Plains, Manitoba where they now live with their two boys, Chad and Travis. Linda Ann married Harland Lutz son of Art Lutz, in 1976, thus uniting two old-time families. They now reside outside of Eckville

Emily married Tom Howard in Vancouver and they are now living in Chilliwack, B.C. They have one son, Jim

Caroline married Otto Edl son of an Evergreen pioneer) and had two children — Louise and George She now lives in Calgary

Minnie married Steve Hunford from Markerville They lived on the SW 3-36-4-W5 and had two children Isabel and Jonas. Minnie died in 1936 leaving Steve alone to bring up the two children

Adolph married Charlotte Marzinzik, and heir three children were Eric Richard and Leslie. They lived on the SE 34-37-4-W5 which they sold in 1946 when they moved to Kelowna B.C to live

Annie married Henry Benecke and they had two girls — Elaine and Brenda They lived on the SE 2-36-4-W5, but sold their farm in 1972 and retired to Red Deer

In the year 1928, I, William, bought a half section of school land E½-11-37-W5, in the New Hill District and started farming on my own In 1930 I bought a new 22-inch breaking plow from Jerry MacDonnell He owned a store at Hespero and also was a machinery dealer I started breaking land for him with a 30 x 35 Rumely tractor turning under brush and trees fifteen to twenty feet high, at $5 per acre

I built a home in 1933 and the following year I married Mary Szymanek I borrowed money to get married this was during depression years and there was no such thing as going on a honeymoon. During that time I found it very difficult to meet the payments on my land. We sold two year-old steers for $17 per head, market pigs around $3 per head, and five-gallon cans of cream for $1.50. I sold a carload of wheat at 20 cents a bushel. It was hard to make ends meet

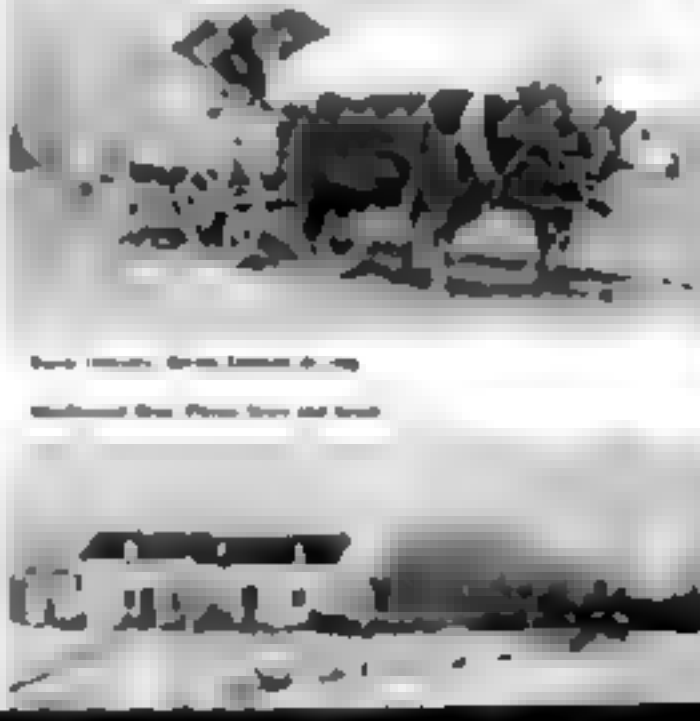
We had one son, Rudolph, born in 1938. We sold our land at New Hill in 1947 and bought the E ½ 34-37-4-W5 in the Evergreen district from Frank Popeck, where we are now living

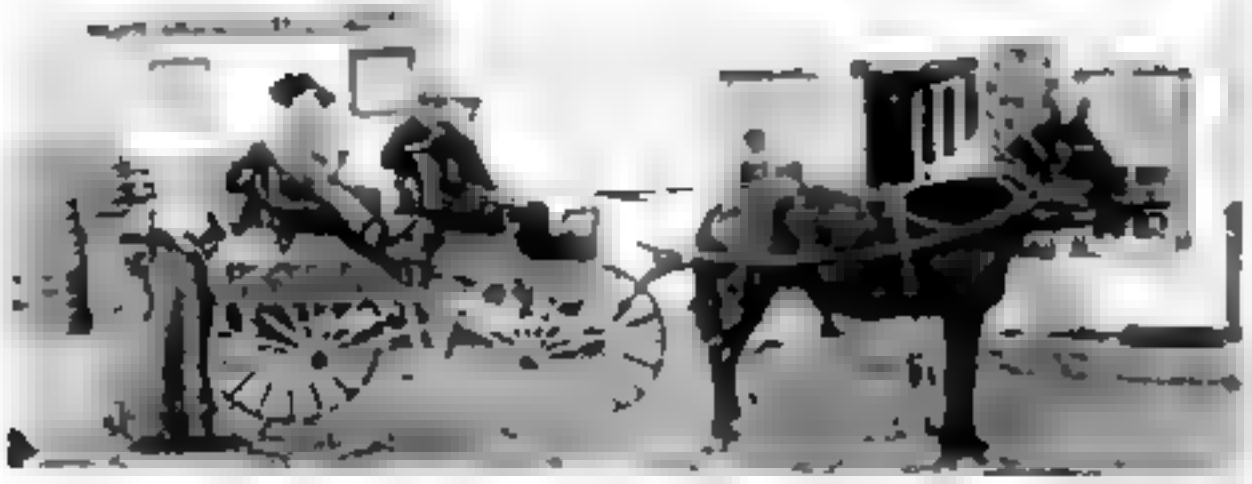
In 1965 Rudolph married Elaine Felti. They have two boys – Allan and Kerry. I am at the age of retiring, my son Rudolph plans to continue farming

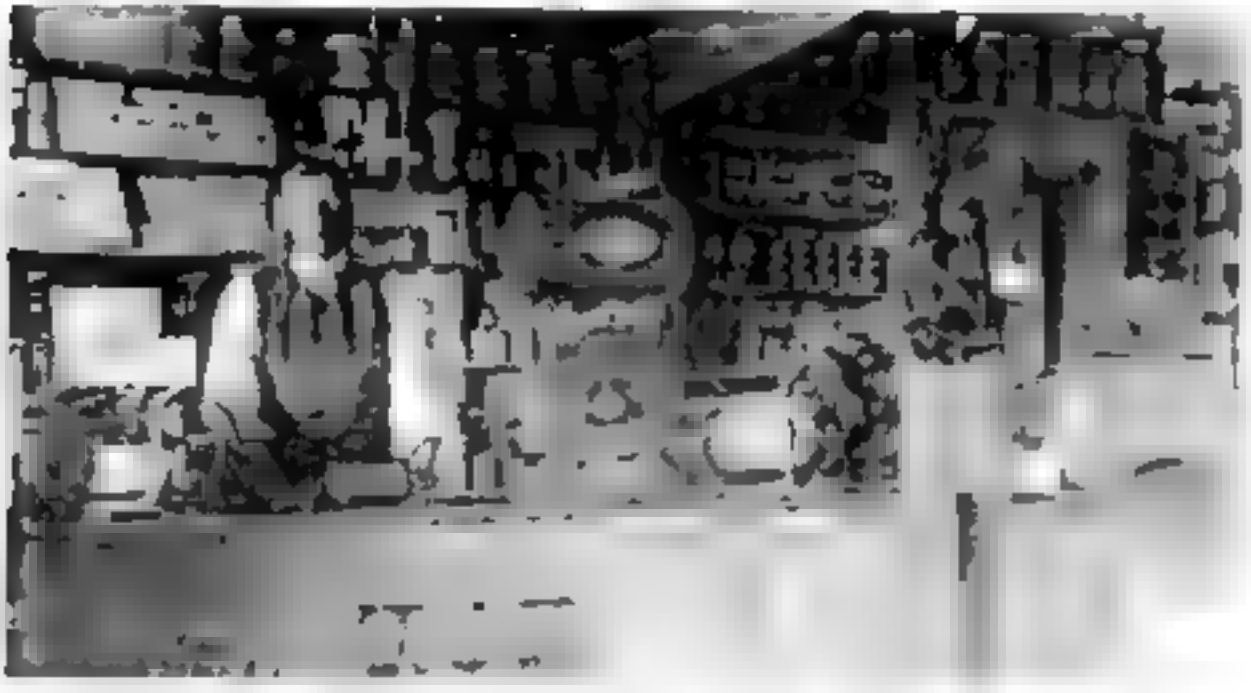
**THE MACDONNELL FAMILY AND HESPERO**

George Henry (Gerry) Macdonnell was born in 1881 at "Pitcox" Dunbar Scotland. Later, the family moved to London, England, where Gerry finished his education at Dulwich College. After serving in the South African War and spending some time on the London Stock Exchange, he came out to this country with his brother James [illegible] homesteaded west of what is now Hespero. A few years later the brothers and the late Frank Pearce opened a general store on Jock's homestead and named it "Pitcox" after their old home in Scotland Mr Pearce withdrew from the firm a few years later

Pitcox Post Office opened, in the store, on April 15, 1909, with G. H. Macdonnell as postmaster, receiving the mail on a semi-weekly basis via Mr A. C. Foster who had the contract to haul the mail from Red Deer At this time everything for the store was "freighted" by wagon from Red Deer by way of the Burnt Lake Trail.

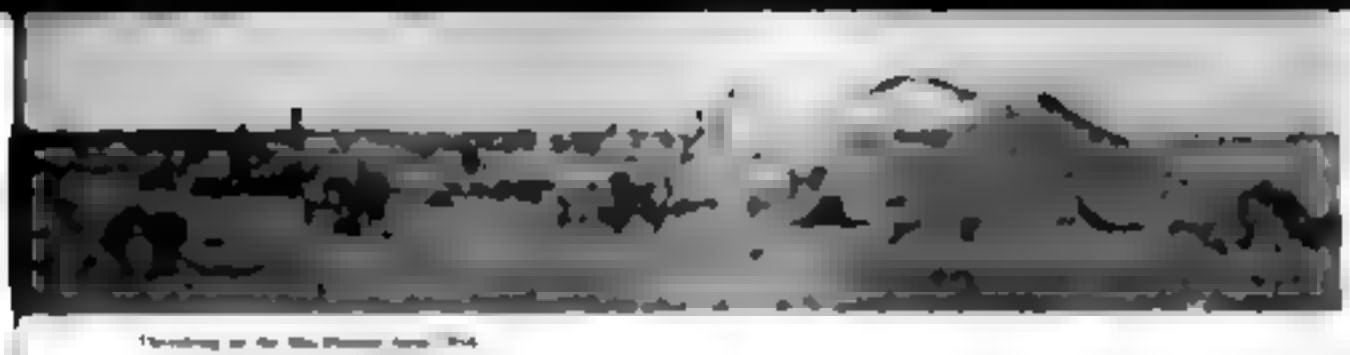






With the coming of the Alberta Central Railway in the spring of 1914, the Macdonnell brothers decided to build closer to the railroad. Business was carried on at Pitcox until the new store was completed. The store opened in 1916 with a dance in the warehouse to which people came from miles around in buggies, democrats and wagons. Instead of Pitcox, the railway named the new hamlet "Hespero". Jock Macdonnell and his wife lived above the store and Jock ran the store until his death in 1918, when the flu epidemic was at its height.

Now the freight came out on the train and it was just a short haul from the station to the store. After Jock's death, Gerry and his wife moved to the store and Gerry ran it successfully until he retired in 1946 due to ill health. He was postmaster, Justice of the Peace, Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. He was one of the earliest agents of both the Cockshutt Plow Company and Imperial Oil Limited in Central Alberta. He also farmed several quarters and in the earlier years ran a considerable number of stock. During the World War II he worked hard on the Victory Loan Drives. He gave generously to any enterprise for the good of the community.



the Hespero Church and the Hespero Hall were erected largely due to his efforts. For more than 20 years, Gerry took an active part in the work of the Masonic Order in Red Deer. Gerry died at Hespero on December 29, 1947, at the age of 66.

**Family**

Mrs. Emily Macdonnell, the boys' mother, came out from London, England, to be with her sons, and lived in the Pitcox house adjoining the store. She was well known in Red Deer. She belonged to the I.O.D.E. and took a great interest in world affairs. Her hobby on the farm was raising baby chicks and she usually had chicks earlier than most people. Her cook, Emma Evans, came from London with her and cooked for the men on the farm. Emma later married Mr. Dave Cloninger and they lived at Pitcox.

George Henry (Gerry) Macdonnell married Lily Walker in 1913. Lily was the youngest daughter of Mrs. A. B. Walker who had come out from Edinburgh, Scotland, with her three daughters to join her four sons and settle in the Evarts district in 1906. Gerry and Lily made their home on the farm at Pitcox. They had three daughters, Bunty, Marjorie and Geraldine. Bunty and Marjorie were born at Pitcox and Geraldine (Dean) at Hespero. On this latter occasion, Dr. Richard Parsons came the 30 miles

from Red Deer on a blizzard night in October. In those days it was not uncommon for Dr. Parsons to come out in all kinds of weather whenever he was needed. The Macdonnell girls took their schooling at St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer. They got home once a month by train and on these journeys Laura and Norma Norton looked after them as far as Benalto. As roads improved and school restrictions relaxed, they got home more frequently by car or Sorensen's Bus.

Bunty Macdonnell married Ralph Nelson at Hespero, Alberta, October 14, 1940. They made their home in Banff where Ralph owned and operated the Magnet Meat Market. Ralph was active in the Masonic Lodge, the Kinsmen's Club, curling and worked untiringly for the erection of the Banff Recreational Centre. He died March 24, 1968, at Banff. Bunty still lives at Banff.

Marjorie Macdonnell, after three years service in the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. married Rev. Earl F. Smith at Halifax, N.S. August 21, 1945. They have resided in different Presbyterian Presbyteries in Eastern Canada and now Earl is minister at Park Lawn Presbyterian Church, Islington, Ontario. They have two children. Michael Dean Macdonnell Smith born 1948, married Eleanor Ford in 1971 at Whitby, Ontario. Dean now has a teaching position in British Columbia. Marjorie Lou (Louee) Smith, born 1950, married Michael Barati at Brockville, Ontario and lives in Mississauga, Ontario. They have two children. Mark Jonathon Barati, born 1971, and Michele Anne Barati born 1974.

Dean Macdonnell married Norman S. Toseland at Banff October 11, 1952. They lived in Calgary and have two daughters. Evelyn Dorothy (Lynn) Toseland born 1955, married Bob C. Hartog in 1975 at Calgary where they reside. Geraldine Susan (Gerry) Toseland born 1959 in Regina, Sask., living at home in Calgary.

Mrs. Lily Macdonnell married John Watson of Evarts, November 7, 1952. Mr. Watson passed away April 23, 1975. Lily now resides at Banff.

James A. W. (Jock) Macdonnell married Hattie I. Walker in 1909 at Evarts, Alta. Hattie had come out from Edinburgh, Scotland with her mother, Mrs. A. B. Walker and the family to the Evarts district in 1906. Hattie was the eldest sister of Lily (Walker) Macdonnell. Jock and Hattie lived at the Pitcox store until 1916 when they moved to Hespero and lived above the store. They had two daughters, Freida Bell and Grace Emily both born at Pitcox. Jock died in the flu epidemic of 1918 at the age of 36. He was well liked in the store and will be remembered for his kindness and gentility. He played the mandolin and in the early days played the violin at dances. Hattie and her daughters lived in Red Deer until moving to Liverpool, England. In 1939, she returned to Canada living in Victoria, B.C. and later at Red Deer, Alta. Hattie died in Red Deer at the home of her sister Mrs. Annie Wright on May 24, 1959 at the age of 73.

Freida Bell Macdonnell married Bert Sangster in London, England in 1938 and lives at Carshalton Beeches, Surrey England. They have two children, Andrew and Margaret. Andrew is married and has three children. Margaret teaches school in the south of England.

[redacted] Knott of Edgerton, Alberta. They have two children, Sheila and David. Sheila married Fred Calvert of Wainwright, Alberta. They have two children. David, who's interest is in cattle, lives on the family farm.

**Events**

During the First World War the Red Deer Red Cross Society sent out sewing to be done, pyjamas, hospital gowns, etc. Lily Macdonnell and other ladies in the district would gather at each others homes for an afternoon of sewing, each travelling by buggy and taking her own hand sewing machine along.

In the spring of 1921, there was an epidemic of measles. Mrs. Joe Nelson, Miss Sophie Lund, Miss Florence Sininger, Bunty and Marjorie were all ill. They were taken to the Macdonnell's former home on the farm where Mrs. Hanson and Lily Macdonnell nursed them. After everyone was better the whole house was completely fumigated. To give Lily a rest, Mrs. Emily (Granny) Macdonnell took Bunty and Marjorie to the Pitcox house, where she had continued to live. They had only been there a couple of days when a soot-filled chimney started a fire. Over at Hespero the Macdonnells were alerted by a man yelling "fire". Gerry searched the store, then finally looked out the window and saw the old Pitcox house and store in flames. He immediately saddled a horse and rode the half mile to Pitcox and was thankful to find his mother and girls safe. He tried to help Mr. McDougall, the hired man, control the blaze but this was hopeless and the frame building burned to the ground in no time. Meanwhile, Lily and Laura Giselman ran over from the store, (wading through the swollen creek) to find Granny Macdonnell and girls sitting on a sofa outside the hen house, bundled in winter coats over their night attire. This sofa and one drawer of linen were the only things saved. Granny Macdonnell lost everything, she moved into Gerry's house on the farm but she never really recovered from the shock and loss. She died in March 1922 at the age of 72.

It was many years before church services were held regularly at Hespero. At one time, services were held in the Macdonnell dining room above the store. Rev. Alexander of the Anglican Church came in a buggy from Rocky Mountain House to hold these services. At another period church services were held in a small building used to collect cream cans ready for shipment on the train. At this time wooden planks resting on nail kegs acted as pews for the congregation. Fortunately, this arrangement was temporary.

and eventually services were held in the Hespero hall. For many years, student ministers served the community. On September 29, 1936, a small Presbyterian Church was dedicated. It had been built by residents of the area. Mr. Campbell was the Presbyterian Minister at that time, living at Erkville, Alta. For years there was quite an active congregation but times have changed and people have moved and now the church has been moved to the Innisfail Historical Museum.

The Hespero Hall was built in the 1920's and was the hub of community activity, being used for dances, church services, political meetings, picture shows, sewing classes, weddings and funerals.

Picture shows were looked forward to with great anticipation. Mr. Jake Heintz would come with his silent movies. Unfortunately, his equipment frequently broke down and the audience was left in suspense, in the dark, while he went outside to start up his generator again. At times like these the backless wooden benches became almost unbearable. "Felix the Cat" was the comic strip, surely the whispers of "Mummy what does it say?" must have driven the adults wild. The first "talkie" was a real event.

Two of the many outstanding events held in the hall were the Annual Dance held in November and a Masquerade dance held on St. Patrick's Day. On both these occasions people came from all the surrounding communities and for the masquerade most came in costume. It was also the era of the Box Social and the Three-Act Play, with very good local talent, was always looked forward to. Music for the bigger dances was supplied by Ernest Kinna's Orchestra or Harold Bones' Orchestra from Red Deer. May 12, 1937, was the coronation of King George VI. This great occasion was celebrated at Hespero with a big fireworks display and dance. The Hespero Hall was filled to capacity and a great time was had by all. The hall burned down in the spring of 1938 and was immediately replaced, the men of the community doing the construction.

Macdonnell Bros. General Store was sold to Lorne Gordon in 1946 and eventually burned down in 1953. Through the years many people worked in the store and the house, names slip the memory but a few we can remember, 1918 Maggie Robertson worked in the house during the flu epidemic, Lottie Lund who died of the flu in 1918; Joe Nelson, Sophie Lund, Laura Wiseliman, Florence Sininger, Helja Wuori, Bert Spearing, Fred ?? Coupland Currie. We will always remember Hilma Sutela beating her delicious chocolate cakes and the many years Jennie Currie spent with us. Mr. Cal Fletcher will be well remembered for more than 20 years serving in the store.

In the Pitcox days dry goods travellers came from Winnipeg with trunks of samples. They drove to country points in a democrat and stayed overnight, usually with the store-keeper's family. They came every spring and fall with samples of the next season's goods.

**MARTINSON, HANS PETER**

My dad was born April 21, 1886, in Milford Iowa, U.S.A. only son of Andrew J. Martinson and has four sisters. The year of 1912, he decided to come to Alberta, Canada, and get a homestead. His father got home prepared to start out for a new adventure with machinery and household supplies, four mules and two horses. He had two boxcar loads. His youngest sister, Alma, age 16, decided at the last moment that she was coming too. They arrived in Medicine Hat and homesteaded 15 miles from Suffield, Alberta. A four-room house, barn, chicken house and granaries were built. In 1913, he sent for his childhood girl friend, Geneva Alice Shilling. She arrived with her belongings in

Medicine Hat, September 16. They were married the same day. Dad had driven to Medicine Hat 30 miles away, to meet mother and to their new home they went. Their first hardship was to get water. Dad dug many wells, nearly 100 feet deep, but at last got one that was good, one and a half miles from home, in a low spot. This meant hauling water, which they did. They always had a few milk cows, chickens and pigs. Though Dad farmed many acres, there was never enough moisture to have good crops. There was always feed. Every fall he took his team and rack to Saskatchewan for the harvest season. The best crop was received in 1916. Dad and Uncle Jason worked at any job they could find.

His sister stayed with them for several years before going to work in Medicine Hat. She married a young man from Brooks.

In August, 1914, their first daughter, Evelyn arrived.

Grandad Martinson came to visit his son in the spring of 1915. He liked the country but thought the family should look for a better farm. As new neighbors were moving in all the time, Dad decided to stay. Drier years resulted in less crop and poorer gardens.

Another daughter, Merybe, arrived in July 1917.

By 1920, there was scarcely enough feed for the increased number of livestock. Dad found work, though it meant he was away from home.

In 1921 another daughter, Alice, was born.

Dad journeyed to Red Deer to try to find land with a better water supply. Here, he was told there was land for sale 35 miles west. He arrived in Hespero and borrowed a saddle horse to look around. At the Hespero store he learned of land for sale five miles south. Phil Laybourne and John Wyzkoski owned the E 11-36-4-W5 and wished to sell it. After checking it over, Dad found the NE quarter was mostly brush with about 20 acres bare. The SE quarter had some good timber with the rest mostly brush. A short distance from the road, which was only a cut line, was a flowing spot of water. He decided this had to be his new home. He made a down payment and returned home.

He wrote his dad that he had found a half section of land with lots of timber for lumber, good soil and water. Grandad sent the balance of the money and we owned the land by January, 1922.

That spring, Dad put his prairie crop in. He loaded his horses and machinery and headed northwest. He broke a piece of land, built a four room log shed and dug a well, only 26 feet deep with lots of water. In the fall he returned south to take off the crop. We salvaged all the lumber from barn, granaries, shed and house. We even took the fences. We arrived at Hespero on April 6, 1923, accompanied by a young neighbour fellow.

Phil Laybourne and several others met us with sleighs and horses, to move my mother, two sisters and the household effects. Dad, Henry and I rode our saddle horses to drive the cattle and horses to our new home.

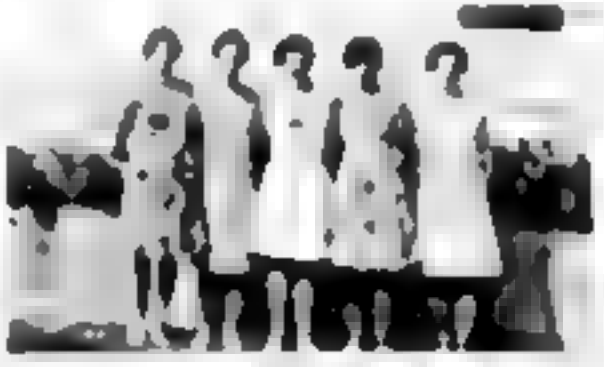
It was no different from the prairie. It was all closed in with bush. There was no place to have a horse race. We could not see our neighbor's buildings but we had lots of water and fire wood. It was only two miles to Gaetz school.

Dad started clearing and breaking land. He cut lumber during the winter. There was a good sawmill, owned by August Lipka and Sons, only seven miles from home.

That summer we had a good garden, grain and lots of wild fruit such as raspberries, saskatoons, cranberries and choke cherries for jelly. We had good neighbors to visit and everyone helped each other. The years seemed to fly by with a good living. Dad did custom work with his grinder and sawing outfits. Farmers worked with horses and slips, building roads to help pay taxes.

Another daughter, Virginia, arrived in November, 1924. The NW of 11 was leased for pasture in 1925. He pastured cattle for his neighbors and was able to milk some of them. The fall of 1926 was very wet, with nearly 100 acres of grain to be harvested. A stationery engine was installed on the binder to run the canvas, and skids were placed under the bull wheel. Eight horses were needed for each four-hour shift. Thus, Dad's grain and some of the neighbor's was harvested. The motor remained on the binder for several years when heavy crops prove[illegible]

In November, 1926, another sister, Ruth, arrived.



We had visits from former neighbors from the prairie. Dry weather and no crops forced some to leave. However, many of them thought it was too wet here and went farther south. Others bought land nearby.

We had a well drilled 46 feet deep, which proved to be a flowing well.

On returning from school in March 1928, our dad proudly announced the arrival of a son, Floyd George Andrew, named for his grandfathers.

Dad bought a stationery hay baler. He did custom work, and his winters were spent away from home baling hay. A Model A Ford car and two-wheel trailer was purchased. It now became my job to supply Dad with baler wire, gas and oil.

Our new barn was completed in 1930. Grandad Martinson visited and enjoyed our new home. He saw us breaking land with 12 horses. Dad raised horses and broke young ones for his neighbors. He never owned a tractor.

Another son, Melvin, was born in April 1931.

Melvin and Floyd Martinson

Dad received a Government order to bale hay, straw and greenfeed for the dried-out areas of Saskatchewan. He was away from home from February till May. I seeded 120 acres of crop with four horses on the seed drill, followed by four horses on the packer.

Dad returned to Milford, Iowa, for a visit, his first since leaving in 1912. A lover of rodeos and horse racing, we had a farm rodeo, complete with ball games, at our farm each summer.

In the fall of 1933, we lost our home by fire. A new home was started in the spring. We had just moved into it at harvest time, when we lost our crop by hail. Fields were under water and buildings were damaged.

On September 4, 1934, Dad passed away at 44 years of age, leaving Mother with seven children. Evelyn was then married to William Phelps and had one daughter, Marie.

In 1939 Mother had a sale and sold the farm. She moved to Saskatchewan where she married Andrew Holm. They had one daughter, Ruby, now Mrs. Peter Chernawsky, she has eight [illegible].

Mother passed away April 8, 1975, at 82 years. Stepdad, Andrew Holm, passed away July 22, 1975, at 80 years of age.

Merle Martinson passed away from cancer in 1971.

Alice, Mrs. Fred Birdsell of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, has five sons.

Virginia, Mrs. Tom Hudson, of Summerland, B.C., has four children.

Ruth, Mrs. John Bourne of Penhold has five children.

Floyd married Yvonne Greenwood and they have four children.

Melvin (deceased in 1979) married Marion Sands and had three children.

[illegible]

Matt Mattson came from Finland in 1926. He travelled the country from coast to coast for a few years and then settled in the Eckville area.

In 1929, Aino Nisulla came from Finland and they were married the following year, living at Antti Bell[illegible]kka's for a year. After that moved to Mr. Ahola's homestead which they rented for nine years. In that time, fall of 1934, we had moved to Richard Kangas' place for one year. Then we moved back to Mr. Ahola's place.

Oscar and Helen started school in the Evergreen District. The name of the school was Knowlege. We had four and a half miles to school. It was closer to cut across the swamp and bush where Matt marked the trees, so we wouldn't get lost and it was about two miles [illegible].

Matt liked horses and would trade them for a better or worse one. And maybe there was a dollar or two in it. And besides that, he farmed and had a few head of cattle.

We had a lot of good neighbors. There was always a helping hand when necessary. Matt and Aino had six children who were born here.

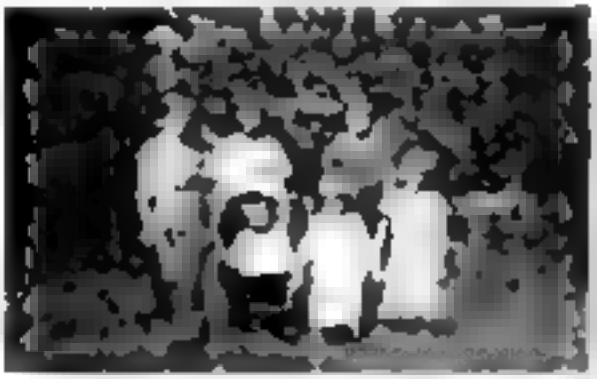
In 1940 we moved to Brightview District and made their home on the NE 22-45-26W5. Larry Lahti had moved us there. Elsie was born here.

Oscar is single, residing on the farm.

Helen married Viaho Havanka, and they live at Falun. They have three children.

Violet married Ken Kaiser and they live west of Wetaskiwin on a farm. They have two children.

Paul married Maryann Scholze and live in Edmonton. They have three children.



Three tall girls are Margot's. Oscar, Paul, Violet and Helen Mattson

Lily was born in Eckville in 1937, deceased in 1938

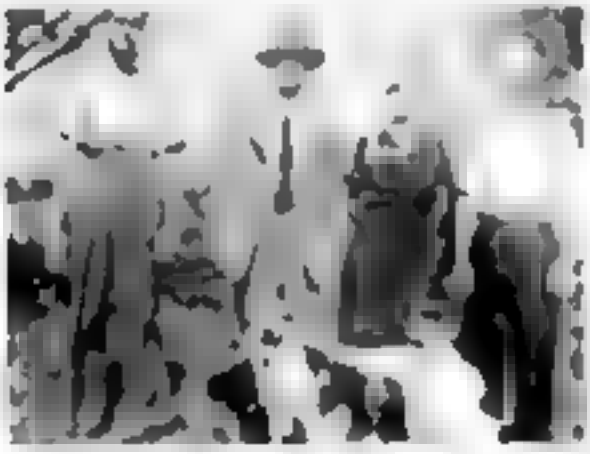
Edna married Melvin Havanka. They have four children. Edna deceased in 1963. The children live in Edmonton

Elsie married Gus Stephan. They live on a farm west and south of Wetaskiwin and have two children

Matt Mattson passed away in 1961 at the age of 56. Mrs. Mattson lives on the farm with Oscar

**THE McCULSH AND McCREIGHT FAMILY**

Mrs. Minnie McCulsh was born and grew up in northern Ireland. Her family consisted of a son by her first marriage, Stanley McCreight born in Manitoba, and a daughter and son by her second marriage, Nora and Bill McCulsh, both born at Hanna, Alberta. Mrs. McCulsh lost her first husband at Hanna in a drowning accident. Her second husband also died at Hanna four years before she came to Eckville. The family moved from the Hanna area to Eckville during the winter of 1937-1938, to the farm previously owned by R. H. Edgar of Red Deer. This farm is located one mile east of Hespero on the south side and adjoining No. 11 Highway



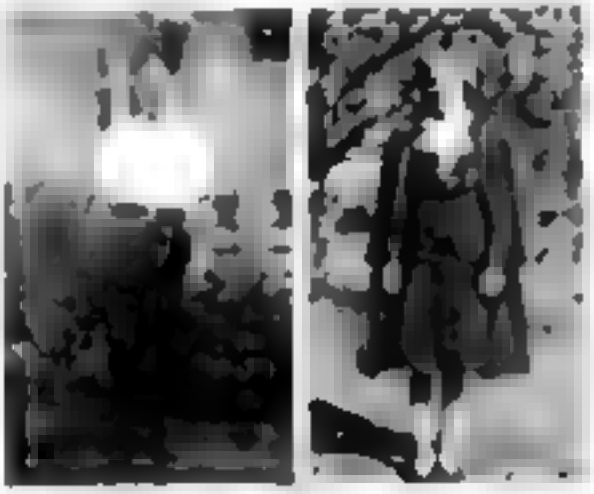
Bill McCulsh, Andy Murdoch, Mrs. McCulsh, Stan McCreight and Murray Trim.

Only about half the land was under cultivation, so the first few years were devoted to clearing the land and breaking it on the balance of the farm. Besides growing grain they raised cattle and hogs and milked quite a few cows. When farm labor became scarce after the war, they discontinued milking, and a few years later sold their livestock and went into grain farming exclusively. About this time, also, they made the switch from the older way of harvesting to the modern method which did not require the extra help necessary with the threshing machine. In 1957 they began harvesting with a combine, as did many others about the same time.

The immediate neighbors living on adjoining farms in those early years and who have since passed on were: Mr. and Mrs. Doug Snider, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spence, Alex Ross, Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, O. J. Miller, John Cordon, George Currie, Carl Barhan and Jock Morton (who lived together at that time) and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Saarela, who had the Hespero Service Station.

Many changes took place during the time that the McCulsh and McCreight family lived at Eckville, some of the most noticeable being the amount of land that was cleared and brought under cultivation. The roads were greatly improved: nearly all were gravelled and some of the most important ones were paved. The rural schools were phased out during the middle 50's in favor of centralization, and the children were taken by bus to a consolidated school in a central location. The municipalities were also phased out in favor of the County System about this

[illegible] was possibly the most important event. Rural electrification in that district was completed and put into service by the spring of 1949. The arrival of the direct dialing telephone system with the buried cable in March, 1967, was a great improvement over the old style. The organization of a gas co-op was the next thing to benefit the district. The work on the pipeline was started in the fall of 1971, and early in the new year many farms were using natural gas.



In 1946, Nora McCulsh married Jim Hartley, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hartley of Hespero. Jim served overseas with the Canadian Artillery during the war, and returned home in 1946. They had one son, Jamie. The family lived at Hespero until 1958 when they moved to Calgary, where Jim died 10 years later. Nora Hartley and her son still reside in Calgary.

Mrs. Minnie McCulsh, who lived to a good old age, passed away in the spring of 1967, and was buried in Red Deer.

Stan McCreight married Betty DeLong

formerly of Lacombe, in 1966, and they have two children Joan and Bob

Bill McCuish and Stan McCreight operated their farms as a partnership under the name of McCuish and McCreight during their entire time at Eckville Stan McCreight sold his farm to Dr R. L Hay of Rocky Mountain House in the fall of 1972, and moved with his wife and family to Calgary where they still reside. Bill McCuish sold his farm the same fall to Ralph Bruinsma and also moved to Calgary where he resides with his sister Mrs. Nora Hartley and her son

**McKELLAR, WILLIAM D. AND BEULAH**

William (Bill) Duncan McKellar was born at Glencoe, Ontario, December 29, 1910, the second son of Neil J and Gertrude McKellar (Little) He came west to Jenner, Alberta with his parents in 1917 where they farmed until 1925 when they moved to Turner Valley and bought a section of land south-west of town. His mother died in 1925 and is buried in Jenner His sister Flora married Elmer Musgrove in 1925 and stayed in Jenner She is at present living in Brooks, Alberta His brother Andrew, returned to Glencoe and in 1935 was killed while riding a bicycle. His younger brother Alex, married Edna Steen in 1933 and they live at Drayton Valley, Alberta. In September, 1934, Bill married Beulah Mae Steen, second daughter of Carl and Florence Steen of Turner Valley They lived at Turner Valley until 1937 when their house burned and they lost everything they owned

Royalties in south Turner Valley was just starting as a town then and they built a new house there. Bill worked for Brown, Moyer, and Brown. In 1940 he went to work for Dominion Drilling on their rigs and worked under Ralph Bintnings until 1943, at which time they moved back to Royalties. At this time they were getting tired of moving every few months — they had lived at Patricia, New Brigden, Chinook, Taber and Cardston sometimes moving twice to some of these towns, to be nearer to where the rig worked In 1943 having saved enough to make a payment on a farm, they picked Condor, as the soil looked good even though it was raining hard that day and the road to the farm was impassable. They bought the S.E. 36-38-5-W5 which was Bob Blair's homestead. The road from the west country to Red Deer had at one time gone right through the quarter and could still be seen at that time

They continued to live at Royalties until 1946 when they moved to the farm which had been rented to Clayton Galarneau. Mrs. Galarneau is the former Ethel Bradshaw. However as there were only 72 acres cleared since they were farming with horses when the Leduc Oil Field started Bill went back to Oil Work in the fall of 1947 The family moved there in January of 1948. Bill got a job with Cody Spencer and worked for General Petroleums as Lease Crew Supervisor sometimes involving over 150 men. He was also in charge of crews trying to bring the Wild Well Atlantic No. 3 under control

All this time they were getting more land cleared on the farm and had bought some machinery including a tractor The power had also come to the district and in April, 1952, they moved back to the farm. They bought seven head of Registered Ayrshire cows and a bred of Yorkshire sow Over the years these increased until they were milking 35 cows. They also sold hatching eggs to Red Deer

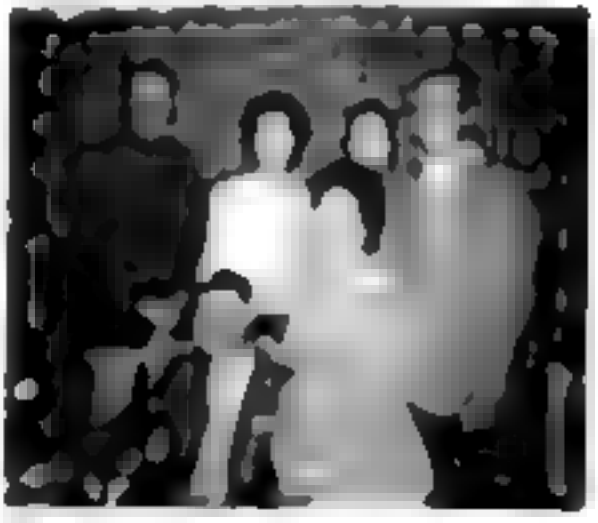
In 1972 they sold the milk cows and bought more beef cattle Then in 1976 they sold most of these and now only have eight head of cattle and three horses left. The farm is rented and they are taking life easier

While in the oilfields Bill worked at various jobs, including fresno work working on the pipe ing them down, splicing cables and doing all the jobs drilling an oil well involves

Since coming to the farm, he has been active with the 4H groups and was leader of the Condor Grain Club and the Evergreen Dairy Club He is active in the Elks Club and has held several offices, including Exalted Ruler He is also active in the Presbyterian Church. His hobbies now are learning to play the electric organ and barbecuing when the occasion arises

Beulah has had a busy life raising their family and helping Bill in all phases of farming. She is also active in the Royal Purple Lodge and has held several offices including Honored Royal Lady and District Deputy Her hobbies are knitting and crocheting and they both love gardening and raising flowers and have a big yard to look after

They have raised four children — Gertrude (Trudie) who was born in Calgary, September 4 1935. She married Carl (Bud) Gefle of Eckville 1955. They have four children — Michael, Tim



Connie and Donna. They live at their farm near [redacted]

Dale was born in Calgary, June 5, 1937. He married Carol Ann Westaway of Turner Valley in 1955. They have three children — Cherie, Donald and Wendy. Dale is a Staff Sargeant in the Calgary City Police.

Robert was born in Cardston, November 21, 1942. He married Sharon O'Handley of Eckville in 1962. They had two sons, Robbie and Mark. He is divorced and remarried. He and Carrolle have a little girl, Johanna Jean, or J J as she is usually called. They live at Abbotsford and Bob works for the Co-op Feed Company as a salesman.

Barbara was born in Edmonton, May 2, 1950. She married Fred Fedorick in 1974. They live at Kamloops, B.C. and have a little girl, Tara Lynn, born May 7, 1976.

## MR. AND MRS. HORACE AND EMILY, AND [redacted]

Mr. Horace Meeres was born January 3, 1870 in England, the son of a prominent physician, Dr. Edward Meeres of Melksham, Wiltshire County. He was educated in a private school at Plymouth and at age 14 years apprenticed on sailing ships. On one voyage, after sailing around the Cape of Good Hope to India and the China coast, his ship was captured by pirates. He made his way to Canada in 1887 and after spending some time employed on railroad construction in Saskatchewan he came to Alberta and helped construct the Calgary Edmonton railway in 1890.

While working in Calgary for the city water system he married Emily Hornett on January 31, 1894. Emily was the eldest daughter of Sarah and Leonard Hornett of Kingsley, Oxfordshire, England, who had brought their three children to Canada in September, 1890. They later homesteaded in the Hill End district east of Penhold, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Meeres also left Calgary and homesteaded in the same area.

In order to make progress, like so many pioneers, the Meeres's had to seek employment to supplement the income from the homestead. Mr. Meeres was qualified as a steam engineer and was employed in that capacity on a steam boat on the Kootenay Lakes, and in the summer of 1897 in a lumber camp on the Little Red Deer River, where Mrs. Meeres also was employed, as a cook.

By 1904 schooling had become a necessity for their six children, so they sold the homestead and moved to Red Deer where Mr. Meeres was employed as an engineer at the Red Deer Brick Company and later with Bawtinheimer and Sons lumber mill. Also in 1904 Mr. Meeres was elected to take charge of the first Volunteer Fire Brigade in Red Deer. During his tenure as fire chief he rigged up a contrivance whereby the horses could be harnessed very quickly. This helped to increase the efficiency of the fire department so that they gained the distinction of keeping the fire losses in Red Deer the lowest of any place in Western Canada. The brigade's football team won provincial championships from 1908 to 1915. Their brass band was in much demand, as it was the nearest thing to culture in Central Alberta. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meeres had played in the Salvation Army Band in Calgary and after moving to Red Deer Mr. Meeres instructed the brass section of the newly-formed Cadet Drum and Bugle Band in 1914. Mrs. Meeres raised a large vegetable garden, and her flower garden produced many prize-winning exhibits.

Canada went to war in 1914, and Ray, the eldest son, enlisted with "C" Squadron and went overseas in January 1915 with the 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was wounded twice — once at the capture of Vimy Ridge and later in the Battle of the Somme. After a long hospitalization he was discharged and sent home. Taking leave from the fire brigade, Horace Meeres went to officer's training school in Calgary and in 1916 resigned as fire chief and went to England as a captain in the 187th in charge of "D" Company. Horace also was wounded at the capture of Vimy Ridge. After a leave, he was sent back to France and was promoted to the rank of Major before returning home. In 1919 he was appointed Inspector of the Soldier Settlement Board. The second son, Edwin (Ted) enlisted and went to France with the 50th Battalion in 1916.

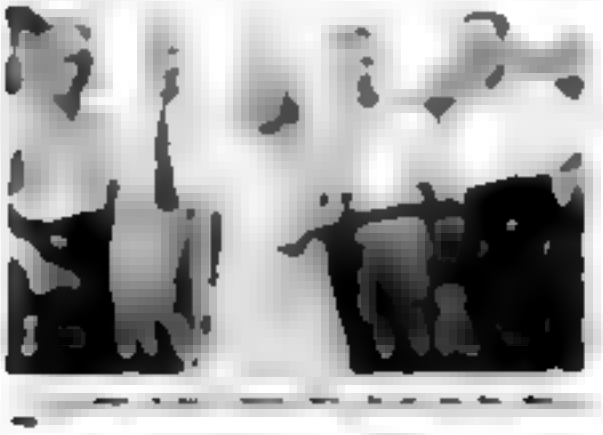
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Meeres moved to the Condor district in October, 1919, bringing with them six of their children. Stewart, Milly, Rosie, May, Dorothy and Alberta. Wilfred and Ethel had died in infancy in Red Deer. The winter of 1919-1920 was a long, hard winter. Feed was scarce in the Condor area, and many farmers were paying $10 a sleigh load for straw to keep their livestock until spring. Mr. Meeres hauled straw from Bill Cruikshank's farm west of Condor village, but, in spite of all they could do, 24 of his cattle died before spring. Another trial of that winter was having no well. Drinking water had to be hauled from a neighbor's well and Mrs. Meeres had to melt snow for washing clothes. One night the upstairs part of the house caught fire, and Mr. and Mrs. Meeres, along with a neighbor, Mr. Bell, fought the fire with snow and melted snow, while the children huddled outside wrapped in blankets, trying to keep from freezing. They managed to get the fire out, but the house was badly damaged.

In 1927 Mr. Meeres sold the farm and moved to the village of Condor where he built a store in 1929, and in the same year was appointed a justice of the peace. The family lived over the store until 1936, when they purchased the Pratley house. Mrs. Meeres was elected president of the Condor W.I. in 1927 and again in 1928. Mr. Meeres was elected president of the Condor Social Credit group, politics coming naturally to him since in the 18th century there were 17 Meeres in the British House of Commons. Mr. Meeres brought the Atlas Lumber Company to Condor in 1938, it being then known as the Condor Cash and Carry

Hardwareteria. In November of 1938 he was elected president of the Red Deer Social Credit organization and was also president of the Eckville Hospital Board. Mrs. Meeres was also interested in politics, and travelled with her husband to meetings in various towns of the area. They both took an active part in the Condor community for many years, and both were members of the Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers Association having a life membership. Mrs. Meeres was a life-time member of the Women's Institute and took a great interest in its affairs.

Mrs. Meeres died in January 1952 and Mr. Meeres in September of the same year. Mrs. Meeres was 75 years of age, and her husband was 82 years old. Their funeral services were conducted by the Reverend J. C. Gardiner in Gaetz Memorial United Church and they are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Stewart Meeres, the third oldest son, helped clear and get under cultivation much of the farm. He obtained his first class teacher's certificate at the normal college at Camrose and in 1927-1928 he taught and was principal at the two-roomed Leslieville school. One morning while driving to school after a heavy rain his car slipped on the muddy roads and went over the bank at the top of a hill where the road wound down to the Horseguard river. Stewart managed to put a coat over his head as the car rolled over and over and managed to escape serious injury. He walked on to Leslieville and carried on with his duties. He had earlier taught at Shady Lane, Prairie Rose and Daisy Nook schools. While teaching at Daisy Nook he organized a hockey team, and while cutting curved willows to use as hockey sticks he suffered a bad axe cut to his foot. This required attention by the district nurse, Mrs. Eastman. In 1929 Stewart taught school at Nordegg and continued teaching in various other places throughout Alberta. The second World War interrupted his teaching career as he served with the R C A F. In eastern Canada, becoming a flight lieutenant. In 1929 he was married to Ida Wylie of Benalto. They have two sons and several grandchildren. They are presently living in Red Deer.



Ray Meeres joined the family on the farm in 1920. Tractors were being brought into the area at that time and he was much in demand to help neighbors get their machines running. In the fall of 1920 he ran the tractor for Mr. Bob Blair's threshing machine while Mr. Bob Prendergast ran the thresher. Ray tells of scouring the district for chains strong enough for the tractor to pull the thresher across ditches and through muddy fields as they went from farm to farm to thresh the grain. Ray married Hilda Carlson of the Delburne district in 1925. He then moved back to Red Deer where he was employed with Gifford Electric and was later a partner in Meeres Hall Electric. Mr. and Mrs. Meeres continue to live in Red Deer. They have five children, a number of grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Theresa Meeres, the oldest of the girls, stayed at the farm at Condor for only a short period of time. She was appointed secretary of the Women's Canadian Club and served as secretary for Gates Manufacturing Company and for a time was on the staff of the Northern Crown Bank in Red Deer. She spent some time with the Salvation Army in Winnipeg and attained the rank of Captain. In 1927 she moved to Edmonton and was employed as a bookkeeper for the Legislature. In September 1936 she married Don Thomson, private secretary to James Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. The couple moved to Ottawa when Mr. Thomson became secretary for Mr. Prudham, M P, and Theresa became secretary for Canadian Author's Association and also was secretary for two authors, Duncan Campbell Scott and Mrs. Madge McBeth. In 1967 Theresa and Don went to England to give a joint recital of their books of poetry at the British Poetry Society in London. Theresa helped Don with the research for his books "Men and Meridians", the history of pioneer map making in Canada, which was published in 1969, and a book on the story of early aviation in Canada. Theresa has had much of her own writing published in Canadian magazines while she also served as President for the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Authors' Association. The Ryerson Press used some of the Thomson's poetry in the book on the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway called "The Royal Tour" published in Toronto in 1939. Theresa and her husband had a joint book of poetry published in 1974, the same year she died at the age of 80 years. They had no children.

The second son, Ted, spent only some of his vacation periods helping on the farm at Condor. As an employee of the Imperial Bank of Canada, he was moved to several points in Alberta and Saskatchewan, working his way up until he became a manager, first in Saskatchewan and later in Red Deer. He married Miss Marjory Ramsey of Edmonton in 1934. They enjoyed winter sports and photographing wild life. One day near Jasper while getting a picture of a bear just leaving its winter den, the bear, hungry and

cross, took after Ted. Ted made good use of his legs and got away, even hanging onto his camera. Ted retired in 1963 and has since worked in the Red Deer and district archives. He won the Citizen of the Year award for his work in 1975. He was one of the members of the Silver Blades who was presented with a plaque for finishing the distance in the Kinsmen Skatathon in 1976. In his 80th year Ted still skates once a week. His book "The Homesteads that Nurtured a City", will be published in 1978. Mrs. Meeres died in 1969, after having been a faithful worker with the Canadian Red Cross and with their church, for most of her lifetime. Ted continues to live in his home in Red Deer, still writing, gardening, and fishing.

eldest daughter married Norman Eastman, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eastman, who came to the Condor district in 1910. Norman was a veteran of the first World War. Milly and Norman farmed in the Northup district south-west of Condor until 1925, when they sold out and moved to Calgary. Milly then became a hairdresser. They have two children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live at Jaques Lodge, in Calgary.

Rosie Meeres helped on the farm and attended school at Daisy Nook and Prairie Rose. She later helped her father in the store and post office. In 1931 she married Roy Warden of Condor. They farmed for some years before moving to the village of Condor. Rosie was a member of the Condor Women's Mission Circle. She died in the Red Deer Hospital on February 21, 1955. She and Roy had seven children.

May Meeres worked in the Condor post office for several years. She married Max Gray, a grain buyer at Condor in 1936, and they moved to Viking in 1938. There May ran a flower shop and Max worked for Viking Gas Company until he joined the armed forces in 1940 and went overseas. They later sold their house in Viking and moved to Calgary in 1963. Later they operated a flower business for several years in Camrose, and May also worked in the craft centre. She took many prizes throughout the years at fairs and exhibitions for her work with leather craft, ceramics, fancy work, flower making and weaving. In 1971 she won a silver trophy for the most outstanding rug in Design for Living exhibition during Klondike Days in Edmonton. Several of her wall hangings are on the walls of the Parliament building in Edmonton. May at present teaches weaving in the Camrose area. Max Gray died March 14, 1977. They had three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Dorothy Meeres, the second to the youngest daughter, took her high school and musical training in Edmonton, where she stayed with her sister Theresa. She married Herb Stockwell in 1934. He and his father were operating a sawmill at Arbutus and other points in that area. They moved to the coast of British Columbia in 1935 where they continued in the lumbering business living in various places before settling in Sechelt, B.C. Dorothy put her musical training to good use, working with Girl Guides and senior citizens. After leaving the logging industry Herb drove a bus on the Vancouver run. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Alberta, the youngest Meeres girl, married Cecil Prendergast of Condor in 1934. Cecil worked as a sawyer in the lumber mills west of Rocky Mountain House. After farming for a while at Condor they ran a dairy at Sylvan Lake in 1938-1939 and lived for a while at Sechelt, B.C. before Cecil joined the army in 1942. In 1952 they moved to Calgary where they built a house and here Cecil worked in the building trade and for the Carpenter's Union. Upon his retirement in 1975 they moved to Sylvan Lake and built a house in Norglenwold Village, where they live at present. They have five children and eight

**MILLER, OSAL JAMES**

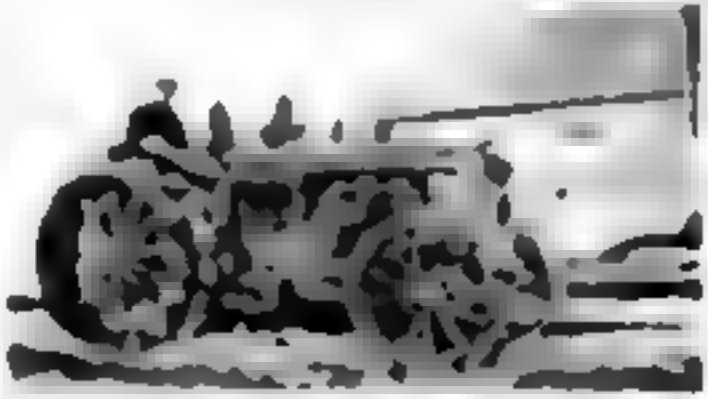
O. J. Miller was born in Island Brook, Quebec on March 8, 1889.

He was a member of the City of Calgary Police Force for four years before, and about three years following the first Great War in which he served with the First Canadian Pioneers. He won the Military Medal and held the rank of R.Q.M.S. when he was demobilized.

Following his retirement from the Calgary Police Force he came to Hespero in 1920 and purchased the SE 30-38-3-W5 through the Soldier Settlement Board and in 1926 he purchased the SE 25-36-4-W5, a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter. He broke both of these quarters with a breaking plow and a team of eight horses, hand grubbing the trees and pulling the stumps with horses. He also did land breaking for the

O. J. was a very community-minded person. In 1923 he was one of the instigators of the building of the Hespero Hall.

O. J. Miller passed away on December 11, 1945 at his home at Hespero, nursed to the end by John and Annie Cordon and family. His inter



ment was in the Hespero Cemetery, with A F - owlck officiating. Percy Duffield sang Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." Pallbearers were Harry Bice and George Burton of Condor Neil Maclean of Evarts, William (Bill) Ross Stanley McCreight, Gerald H. MacDonell, and Archie Anderson of Hespero. Members of the Calgary Tank Regiment and other veterans formed a guard of honor for the ceremony.

His sister, Mrs. Edith D. Hare of Edmonton, still visits the farm at Hespero. One of his brothers, Dr. C. A. Miller, lives at Sundre.

**MITCHELL, ARCHIE**

Archie and Elizabeth Mitchell, with their son, Andrew, nine, and daughter, May, two and one half, arrived at Condor, in April, 1929. They emigrated from Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

We arrived by train and were welcomed to the area by Chief McDonald. We were then taken by a neighbor by team and wagon to our future farm home, about a mile east and a mile south of the Condor corner.

Our first neighbors were the Rogers, Crowthers, Drivers, Murphys and Jim Tobin. Several years later Mrs. Murphy was taken ill but would not enter hospital, the only place she would go was to our place so Mom could look after her. She died in our home and the funeral was held in our front room, with her friends standing in the kitchen and some outside as they could not all get in the house.

A few months later another daughter, Etta was born, and then in 1935, daughter, Joan, was born.

As children, we attended Prairie Rose School and our first teacher was Miss Johannson, who still lives in the Red Deer area. Our mother along with the other ladies of the district, used to put on plays, dances and box socials to raise money for Christmas treats that were given to all the children at our Christmas concert. We used to practice for about two weeks to get ready for these concerts, and that night Santa arrived and handed out the goodies to all the young.

We lived on this farm until about 1942, the farm was rented and Mom and the girls moved into Condor. Andrew and Dad ,oined the Calgary Tank Corps in 1941. Dad was later discharged due to his health, but Andrew went overseas with his regiment. Dad took a job at the Penhold Air Base, and we moved to Red Deer around 1943. Dad held this job until the war ended. The farm was then sold and we moved to our home on 54 street. Dad then worked for Mr. Bettenson of Bettenson Cartage until his retirement.

On Andrew's return from the army, he worked in Red Deer and married in 1948. He had a family of five, twin daughters, a son and two other daughters. All his family but one daughter are married and have children of their own. Andrew was a captain with the Red Deer Fire Department for many years before his sudden death in 1975. His widow still lives in Red Deer.

May worked in Eaton's store for many years before her marriage to Archie Allan in 1958. They have three boys and all live in Red Deer.

Etta worked at Gaetz-Cornett before her marriage to Albin Anderson, they have one daughter and three sons and make their home at Ferintosh about 70 miles north of here.

Mom passed away in 1955, just after planning a holiday to her family in Scotland.

Joan, the youngest, worked in Eaton's and in 1970 married Sandy Wilson. They have one son and farm in the area.

Dad still lives in the family home on 54 street and keeps in fairly good health. He is in his 79 year and enjoys planting his flowers and looking after his yard in the summer.

**[illegible], CLIFFORD**

I was born in Simcoe County, Ontario. As a baby I was taken to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I had my schooling there and when I was 15 my mother and step-father moved to Alberta. They settled on a rental farm in the Condor area in [illegible].

When we first arrived in the Condor area there was only dirt roads, not too many people went to Red Deer. Where the springs are along the highway between Eckville corner and Benalto, we had to drive on planks to get through. In 1929, Walter Syren and I worked on a road crew hauling brush and dirt to make, what is now, the highway passable for the few cars to go to Red Deer.

In 1944, I was married to Lola Ray of the Leduc area. We lived in North Vancouver where our oldest daughter, Betty, was born. We came back to the Condor area and rented land where Carl Kendze now lives. From there, we also rented the farm Jim Bolt has now before buying land and settling where we live now. Our other children were all born in this area and had their schooling here. Some of them have left the area such as Betty and Henry Housen and three children at Alix, Tom and Judy Morrison and five children on the farm with us. Mary and Ron Ames and four children at Rocky Mountain House and Nola Massey at Freeport, Texas.

I can sure see a lot of changes since first arriving in the Condor area.

**OSTROM, OSCAR**

Oscar Ostrom was born in Lekvattnet, state of Varmland, Sweden, on April 11, 1887. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 19 years, in May, 1906. He landed in Red Deer and stayed with a cousin who had come from Sweden to Canada a few years earlier. It was through the encouragement of his cousin that Oscar came to Canada. After coming to Red Deer, he and Eli Anderson worked at the Red Deer quarry for a time. In 1907 he came to the W throw area and took up a homestead, SW 22-39-4-W5. He lived

Grant Main, Sonnt McPeat and Oscar Ostrom

here for a while then, finding it hard to make ends meet decided to go to the lumber camps at Fernie, B.C. for the winter, to make a grub stake In the summertime he came back to his homestead and built himself a shack and began to clear his land. After settling here he started hauling freight for the MacdonnelI Bros., from Red Deer to Pitrox, now Hespero. In 1917 he bought another quarter just west of his homestead land

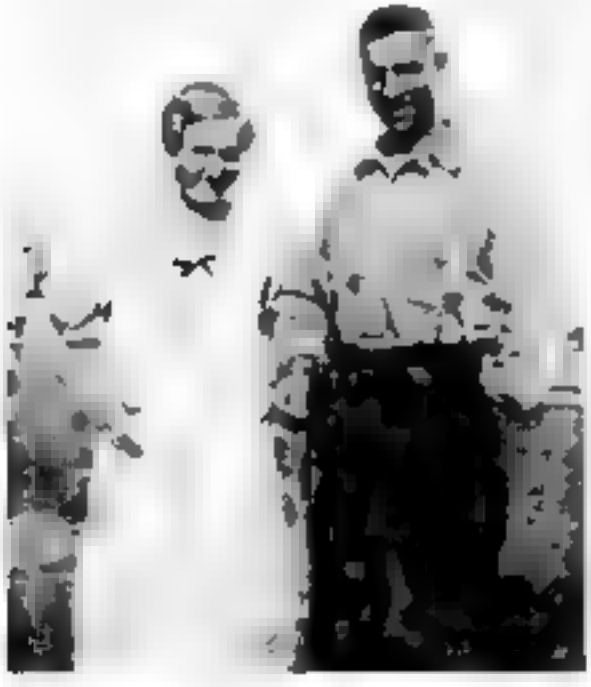
Finding it lonesome, he found himself a wife, being married to Alice Bonk on July 1, 1919 She lived in Leslieville, so they went by wagon from Leslieville to Pitrox and from there took the train to Red Deer. After their marriage they came back to the homestead and Oscar resumed farming

On October 11, 1919 they lost all their year s crop through a fire caused by a spark from a steam engine. The engine was being run by Earl and Ralph Evans who were threshing the crop. A large new granary which had been built by Hugh Murphy was also lost in the fire. Having lost their crop and feed for the livestock, they had to get feed from somewhere. Henry Molander, of Eckville and good friends and neighbors of the Wood Lake area gave them enough straw to carry them over the winter

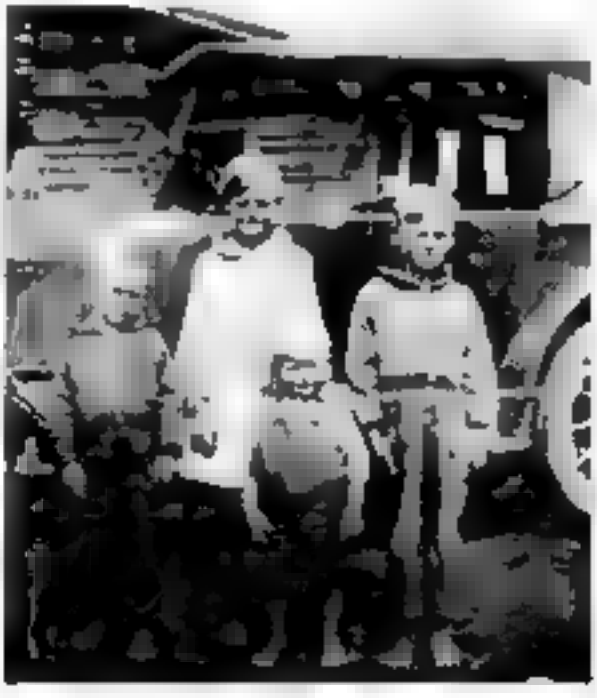
The following spring, they decided to ren. out their land, and had an auction sale on March 11 1920 They then went to Kandahar Saskatchewan, where Oscar and his brother-in law Andrew Pearson, farmed two sections of wheat land. At tha. time the country was very dry, and the crops were very poor, yielding seven bushels to the acre. The dust storms and some tornadoes were terrible. While they were there, their oldest child, a daughter was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan They named the baby. Freda

Finally Oscar and Andrew decided that it was no use staying on this farm any longer, and gave up the land. Oscar and his family came to Wetaskiwin and Andrew Pearson and his family returned to Sweden.

While Oscar and Alice were living in Wetaskiwin, their oldest son, Ernest was born



Alice and Oscar Ostrom



Freda, Ernie, Alfred and Donald Ostrom

However, they soon decided to move back to their homestead where they resumed farming. In 1929 they bought the NW 11 38-4-W5 from Dave Cloniger in the Hespero area. They began farming on a larger scale, raising hogs and cattle as well as grain, so required more land. As time went on, Oscar kept on farming and buying more land. His two sons were still on the farm and were helping him with the farming.

Oscar served for some time as a school trustee on the Shady Lane School Board — from 1929 to 1938. The Shady Lane School had been built in 1912 by Mr. Stockwell of Condor, Alberta. There were only four pupils attending at that time — Lucy Lowblaw, Norman Anderson, Arla Anderson, and Alice Bonk. The land that this school was built on was donated by Mr. Grant Hicks, now owned by Stanley Kauppi.

Oscar and Alice had seven children, four daughters and three sons. Mrs. Freda Elson lives in Calgary, Mrs. Joan Kaprich in Lethbridge, Mrs. Lillian James in Calgary, and Huda is at home. Ernest and Alfred work on the home farm and Donald of Edmonton, works for the Department of Highways.

After his retirement in 1955 Oscar made a trip to his homeland, Sweden, for a visit. On January 10, 1957 at the age of 68 years, he passed away of a heart attack. He is buried in the Hespero [illegible].

The Gastrom brothers, Ernest and Alfred, have continued with the farming, accumulating more land and more cattle. In their earlier days they had done a lot of brush-cutting and breaking land for people around the country. Now Alfred is doing road construction work during the summer months with their Caterpillar tractor.

They are also very handy at carpenter work and both have built their own homes as well as a number of other buildings on the farm.

Ernest is married and lives on the former Bill Buckle place. Alfred is married and lives on the former George Lee farm.

Mrs. Gastrom continues to make her home on the farm.

**PICKERING, GARY AND NELLIE**

Gary Lee Pickering was born May 6, 1945, second son of William and Louise Pickering of the Durham district, eight miles south of Bentley, Alberta. Gary had all his education at Bentley schools. Later he worked in the nickel mines at Thompson, Manitoba for two years. There he met Nellie Rose Chastelaine and they were married on July 2, 1966.

Nellie was born in Favorable, Ontario on October 4, 1947 and moved to northern Manitoba with her parents, Mark and Annie, at an early age. A son Keith Warren was born March 30, 1967. A year following their marriage Gary and Nellie returned to Alberta. They first made their home in Sylvan Lake and Gary worked for Western Stockyards in Red Deer. Lou Anne Mabel was born October 7, 1971 and Nadine Cheryl was born December 12, 1972.

In 1973 Western Stockyards bought the Angus McFadden farm in the Daisy Nook district and Gary moved there with his family to operate the cattle farm for four years. When the farm was sold, they bought a mobile home and settled in Withrow. Gary works for Mike Shippelt Trucking. The children attend the Leslieville school. Gary has always been active in sports, hockey, football, fastball and now the pony chuckwagons. Nellie found life here very different from Thompson but has adjusted and now enjoys living in this [illegible].

**PIONEER LADY** —Dedicated to my parents Roy and Rosie Warden— by Shirley (Warden) Beaman

On Thursday, January 5, 1978, my sister Treena and I visited Mrs. Annie Clement at the Pines Lodge in Red Deer. A first meeting for all of us. She gave us a poem our Grandmother Emily Meeres, had written in honor of Mrs. Clements parents, Mr. and Mrs. Barton. It was on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

To keep in family tradition, I wrote this poem in honor of Mrs. Clement and to all pioneer ladies mentioned in this book who have given us so much. We of this generation say "thank you."

**PIONEER LADY**

I met you for the first time
In the autumn of your life
And you have known fulfillment
As a mother, friend and wife
For even as we chatted
And you talked of joy and strife
I felt a certain magnitude
A quality of life
And its not found in tangibles
But in sacrificial giving
Faithful to the daily tasks
The joy of really living
Your life it wasn't easy
But nothing worthwhile is
But its only when we're tested
That one really learns to live
Over sixty years of marriage
Is what was granted you
A "gift of time" together
That is granted very few
You have bathed a tiny infant
And kissed away a tear
Cleaned and sewed and sighed and laughed
For those you love so dear
I don't know about tomorrow
Or why some things have been
But this I know for certain
Today I met a queen

Shirley (Warden) Beaman

**PRAIRIE ROSE (CONDOR) SCHOOL No. 1978**

The Prairie Rose School District was formed June 25, 1907. The lands included were N31 and

32, T38, R4 W5, N35 and 36 in T38-5-W[illegible] 8-8 17 20 and S29 and 30-38-4-W5, also sections 1 [illegible] 11-14 23 and 24, S½ 25 and 26 in T39-5-W5

On September 6, 1907, the board of trustees of which E N French of Evarts was a sen[illegible] member and treasurer borrowed $1,000 to build and furnish the school to erect outbuildings, and to dig a well. This was the first school serving the homesteaders of the area

On June 20, 1938 the name of the school district was changed from Prairie Rose to Condor

**PRENDERGAST, JACK AND AMY**

Amy Mary Elizabeth Hart, the second daughter of Sarah and Fred Hart of Lesliеville was born September 18, 1913, in a log house one and-one-half miles south of Lesliеville Mrs Harvey Bennett was the mid-wife Mr and Mrs Bennett were also the Godparents

Amy attended Prairie Rose School Number 1570. The three girls walked or in cold weather drove a horse to school two miles Later a school was built at Lesliеville where Amy finished school.

Amy worked on farms at Ridgewood also east of Innisfail. Amy was a good curler and was one of the gang to curl in the old straw rink at

Amy married John C Prendergast of Condor on November 28, 1935 and lived on a farm one half mile south of Condor On August 2, 1938 a girl was born, Amy Marie. On December 22, 1940 a son was born Frederick Robert In 1940 the family moved to Penhold, where the husband was employed as a power engineer Then in 1943, the family moved to Red Deer

In 1944 Amy joined the Highland Dancing

In 1957 the family moved north of Red Deer In 1959 Marie married William H Kerr of the R.C.M.P and now reside in Scarborough, Ontario. In 1976, Frederick was married to Alexis Prystupa and they live in Calgary

**PRENDERGAST, ROBERT HERMAN**

Robert Herman Prendergast was born at Campbells Bay, Quebec in 1865. On March 21 1893, he was married at Renfrew Ontario, to Maria Jane Cote who was born at Shanville, Quebec on July 26, 1863. They first lived near Arnprior Ontario and moved to Warren Ontario, where over a period of 20 or so years they operated a livery stable, logged and farmed They moved west in 1919 arriving in Calgary on the first day of April, 1919 and after a stay of nine months, they moved to Condor and rented the Homer Stockwell farm and lived in what was later known as the Scot Hastie House in the hamlet of Condor Mrs. Prendergast served meals to the odd traveller including the telephone gang when the first telephone line in the district was built. After subsequently twice renting farms on the prairie near Milo and also south of Richdale, Mr Prendergast bought a C P R quarter on Highway 11, one half mile south of Condor where they lived until retirement in 1933 when they built a house near the highway on their farm at what was known as the Condor Corner Known to many as Mother Prendergast and Uncle Bob, their home became a rendezvous for many of the young people of the district who would gather there to dance, box, wrestle and play cards

Mr Prendergast loved hunting and for many years hunted with his son, Cecil, and Sam Barton and his sons, Frank and George Driving with teams and wagons to a favorite spot northwest of Horburg, sometimes having to ford the North Saskatchewan River as the ferry was always hauled out of the river when the slushy ice started to run before the river froze for the

Mrs Prendergast died on April 10, 1945, at the age of 82 years, and Mr Prendergast died in 1963 at the age of 98 years and 11 months. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters Cyprian, Robert (Wink), John C. (Jack). F Cecil, Mrs. A Riddell and Mona Warden

Mable Armarel was born at Campbells Bay Quebec, on May 12, 1894, and was married to A Riddell in eastern Canada and subsequently moved with her husband to Port Hammond B.C She is now in Vancouver

Mona Merle was born on April 6, 1901, at Rugel near Warren, Ontario and came west with the family and moved with them to Condor She worked for some time in Ed Fresche's General Store and was married to Roy Warden on [illegible]ovember 11 1920. She was a member of the Condor W I. and an active member of the basketball club. She passed away on February 22 1924 They had two sons, William of Comox, B.C., and Richard who was a bomber pilot in the R.C.A.F during the second world war He was killed in action while posted to the R.A.F in the middle east in March, 1944

Cyprian Lee Prendergast was born at Sandy Hook near Arnprior, Ontario on October 9, 1896

He enlisted with the 179th during World War I and served with the transport section overseas and returned just in time to move west with the family. Leaving them at Calgary to work for a time in Vancouver and rejoining them at Condor. He taught school at what was known as the Emberly house. This school was organized by the community for one term, as the winter was so cold and there was so much snow that the children could not travel the three miles or more to the Prairie Rose School, which was located one and a half miles north and one mile west of the hamlet of Condor. He was married to Anna Stockwell in Calgary on February 14, 1921 and worked for some time with his father-in-law Homer Stockwell, in lumber mills at Rocky Mountain House. They subsequently moved to Vancouver and he died in Vancouver in January, 1929, after being involved in a serious accident in a saw mill the previous year. His wife is now living in Vancouver.

Robert Wellington (Wink) Prendergast was born on February 21, 1899, at Manai County at Renfrew, Ontario, and grew up in Warren, Ontario, where the family farmed, engaged in logging and operated a livery stable. He came west with the family in 1919 and was employed at E. Frenche's General Store in Condor in 1920. In 1921, he farmed the Bill Stockwell place at Condor and in 1922-23-24 he farmed in Saskatchewan. Returning to Condor in the fall of 1924, he was employed at Scot Hastlies' General Store from that time to the spring of 1929. On July 6, 1928, he was married to Hazel Dorothy Johnston who was born in Calgary. Her father owned Johnston Cartage Co. and who had been teaching at Shady Lane School. In March 1929, they moved to Red Deer where he was again employed by Scott Hastie in the operation of the John Deere and Regal Oil Bulk Agency. In 1932, he took over the Regal Agency and in 1936, he moved to West Park to take over the sales of retail and wholesale products of the Great West Distributors Ltd. With the re-routing of Highway Two south from Gaetz Avenue in 1939 he built a service station and bulk oil plant on the south hill and took over the Minneapolis Moline Machine Agency.

After disposing of his business interests in 1942, he took over contracts for rural mail delivery, routes number two and four which he continued to operate until he retired in 1970. The Prendergast have one son, Victor Douglas, now living in Brantford, Ontario, and two granddaughters and two grandsons.

John Curry (Jack) Prendergast was born at Hugel, Ontario, on June 18, 1905. He moved to Condor with his parents, and worked in saw mills as a steam engineer and was at one time in partnership with Homer Stockwell in lumbering operations. He was married to Mary Elizabeth (Amy) Hart, a daughter of Fred Hart, a pioneer Leslieville settler on November 28, 1935. They farmed the old home place at Condor until 1949, when they moved to Red Deer where Jack was employed as a steam engineer at the Alberta Dairy Pool Plant until retirement. They had one son Fred, and one daughter Mrs. Marie Kerr of Toronto. They still live on Highway 2A several miles north of Red Deer.

F. Cecil Prendergast was born on April 5, 1910, at Warren, Ontario and came west with his parents in 1919. He attended Haultain School in Calgary for nine months and completed his schooling at Condor. He spent his early years working in logging camps and as a sawyer in lumber mills in winter and on local farms in summer. He played soft ball with local teams and football with Red Deer in the Central Alberta League in 1930. He married Alberta Meeres on April 28, 1934, and they lived on a farm one half mile west of Condor for some years before moving to Sylvan Lake where they operated the Sylvan Lake Dairy until the beginning of 1940. After spending a year on the west coast, Cecil enlisted with Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942 and attained the rank of sergeant. During his five years of military service Alberta remained in Condor with their three small children. In 1952, they moved to Calgary where they lived for 23 years, Cecil being employed as a carpenter, foreman and building superintendent during that time until retiring in 1975. They now live in Norglenwold, Sylvan Lake.

Their eldest son, Herbert lives at Half Moon Bay, Sylvan Lake, on an acreage and is a construction worker. He has four children, two boys and two girls. Their second son, Clark, lives in Red Deer and teaches at the Red Deer College and has two sons. Their eldest daughter Mrs. June Smithson lives on a farm north of Rimbey and has one son and one daughter. Their second daughter, Mrs. Kathy Bergan, is attending University in California and their adopted daughter, Shelly lives in Red Deer and works at Michener Centre.

**PYKALAINEN, JOHN AND FAMILY**

John (Juhani) was born in 1862 in Kurkijoki Karjala, Finland to Pekka and Katrina Pykalainen. They owned a small farm and a few domestic animals. This part of Finland was later to become Russian territory after the war of 1939-40

John immigrated to the United States at the turn of the century, later he returned to Finland where he was united in marriage to Serafiina Tirkkonen. In 1909 John and Serafiina left their homeland for America, making their home in Biwabik, Minnesota, U.S.A. Here their daughter Alma was born on New Year's Eve, 1910

Interested in the free land offered in Alberta, he joined a number of his friends and filed on a homestead in the Alhambra-Condor area. In this group were the Oscar Hillman family, the John Suteins, Matt Kangas and the Jacob Tuhkanens. A daughter, Selma, arrived on a cold stormy March 26, 1913 in a little two roomed cabin on the homestead: a baby sister for Alma.

In 1946 retiring was a must as John and Serafiina faced failing health so they held an auction sale and retired to Sylvan Lake. Serafiina passed away in 1960 and John passed away in 1970 at the age of 96 years.

Alma married James Young and they lived in Vancouver, Wakeman Sound and Soimona, British Columbia.

Selma married Andy Murray of the Diamond Valley district and they reside in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

**SAARI, JACK**

Jack Saari, youngest son of Joseph and Elvira Saari was born December 1936 on the family farm SW 33-38-4-W5 which he purchased from his parents. In October 1959 he married Selma Murto. They have four children. Brenda born July 26, 1960 is in Grade 12; Carol, born July 11, 1962 is in Grade 10; Donald, born November 18, 1964 is in Grade 8 and Gerald, born September 12, 1967 is in Grade 5. All the children attend school at Eckville. The family have been active in 4-H work.

**SAARI, JOSEPH**

Joseph Saari, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Saari, was born March 19, 1888 near Humpila, Finland. He left his father's farm to immigrate to America in 1906, after his brother John sent him the fare. He joined his brother Walter's farming operation near Butte, Montana, and spent a few years farming, mining and lumbering. This was followed by three years' employment in building the Hudson's Bay railway. In 1915, after the railway work was completed, he travelled west to secure a homestead beside that of his brother John, in the Bingley district. He met Elvira Torsti that summer, just prior to her assumption of housekeeping duties in Edmonton.

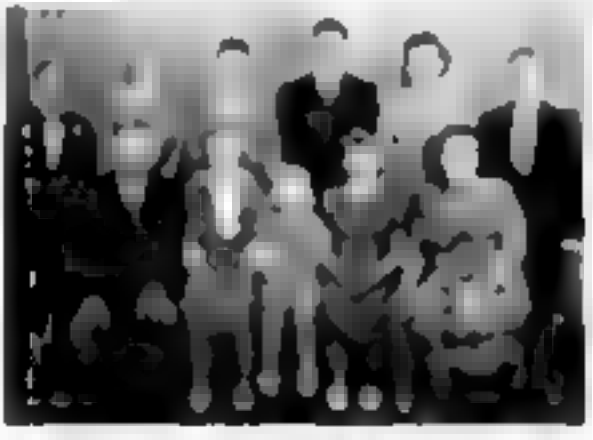
Elvira's parents had homesteaded near Bingley in 1910 and had sent fare to the 15-year old Elvira and her sister Hilda, enabling them to travel to Canada in July 1912. Elvira then went to work for the John Saari family as a mother's helper in 1913, while attending school at Golden Heights under Mr. McDonald, but soon left by way of the newly completed railway to work for a lawyer in Red Deer for $12 a month. Her subsequent employment in Edmonton was interrupted by marriage to Joseph Saari, and then terminated by the birth of their first baby, Juanita in 1917. Mother and daughter joined father in Drumheller where he continued as a miner for another year while Elvira ran a mine laundry.

They built their first home on their homestead in plenty of time for the arrival of daughter Elvi in April of 1919. This was followed by the purchase of three quarters of C.P.R. land north of Hespero in 1920, the beginning of the farming operation assumed by son Jack and his family when Elvira and Joe retired in 1959.

As pioneers on the farm overlooking the Horsegaard River they built a log barn, a house, which was later added to many times, and other buildings, while hand-clearing for cereal crops and dairy cattle.

In common with other pioneers of the time the Saari family grew their own vegetables, made their own cloth and clothing, grew and manufactured much of their own food while maintaining an active part in the community. Joe was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, a community road foreman, and Elvira was a charter member of the Hespero Ladies' Aid.

Another daughter, Aivi, was born in 1921 followed by a son, Eugene, in December 1923. Both the amount of land free of trees and the size of the family increased over the years. Edna was born in 1926, Jack in 1930, Miriam in 1932, Sylvia in 1934 and Violet in 1939. All the children learned to speak English after starting school and hold dear many memories of the teachers and classmates of Shady Lane School. Some of these classmates might be interested to know that



Juanita married Alex Linden and raised two sons and one daughter and lived in Edmonton prior to moving to Half Moon Bay near Sylvan Lake in 1977. Elvi now lives in Barons, her daughter Diana married to Frank Gwozdz, lives near Eckville and her son Benjamin lives in Calgary. Aivi became Mrs. Henry Nuumi in 1946 and lived on a farm near Picture Butte until they retired in 1976, still in the process of raising a family of five. Three girls, Maryanne, Ivy Marlene and two boys, Hal and Boyd. Eugene now residing in Prince George, has a son Matt. Edna now Mrs. Alexandropoulos, has five children and four grandchildren. Jack, married to Selma Murto, is raising his two boys and two girls on the farm near Hespero. Miriam, now Mrs. Elno Portin lives near Sylvan Lake, and has raised two sons, Wesley and Gary. Sylvia now resides in Red Deer and has two children and one grandchild. Violet, now Mrs. John Lilvam, has two daughters, Lilsa and Melanie.

Joe and Elvira celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1966 and continued to live in their own home in Sylvan Lake until Joe passed away in March 1972 at the age of 84 years. In 1974 Elvira moved to Sherwood Park, where she currently resides with her daughter Violet and family.

**SCHOFER, HENRY CONRAD AND ANNA — by Marian Schofer**

Henry (Hank) C. Schofer was born in Moline Illinois U.S.A. the eldest of three sons and a daughter of Joseph and Katarina Schofer. He married Anna Mary Schaefer in Kansas City Missouri U.S.A. in 1913. During the early years of their marriage they moved many times — to Florida, to Canada, and then back to Kansas City, Missouri. Henry worked at such jobs as baker, street car operator, bricklayer, and as a fireman on the railroad.

In 1921 Henry and Anna moved to Canada for the second time and took up farming in the Margo area of Saskatchewan. The spring of 1949 found them moving again, to the Condor district of Alberta. Here they purchased the Walter and Bert Avery farm, where they continued to live until they retired from active farming in 1956.

They have two children. Dorothy Anna was born in Wauchula, Florida and married Albert Eric Hornfelt of Margo, Saskatchewan. Their son Harold was born in Kansas City, Missouri and came to Condor with his parents. He continues to farm the same land.

In 1960 Hank and Anna moved to Creston, B.C. for their retirement. Anna passed away on March 28, 1965, and Henry died on April 6, 1968. Both are buried in the cemetery at Creston, B.C.

**SCHOFER, HAROLD JOSEPH — by Marian Schofer**

Harold was born in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. He came to Canada with his parents in 1921. They settled in Margo, Saskatchewan, where Harold attended school and later started farming with his father. He moved to the Condor district at the same time his parents did, and purchased an adjoining quarter section of land.

Harold Schofer and Marian Elizabeth Charles of Lesheville were married in 1955. Their four children are Dennis, who is presently working in Red Deer, Gary, Sharon and Vern, who attend school in Condor or at the David Thompson High School.

Harold is musically inclined and has been known to "make the rafters ring" on a rainy day or snowy winter's night with his accordion, sometimes being joined by son Gary on the banjo.

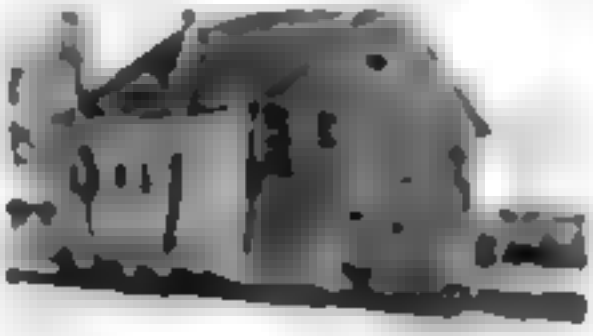
Marian worked for five years at the Lesheville Mercantile after attending school in Lesheville, and has been employed at the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union for the past 11 years. They live in the Condor district, where Harold carries on his farming operations.

**SHADY LANE SCHOOL No. 3005 — by Magda Anderson**

At a meeting of the newly formed board of the Shady Lane School District No. 2905, held on September 13, 1912, it was moved by Jacob Kult and seconded by Archie Douglas that they borrow $800 to build and equip a school. This sum was later raised to $1000. The south-east corner of section 15-39-4-W5 was donated by Gram Hicks, a homesteader, to be the school grounds.

The first board meeting held in the building was dated December 1913. School opened in September, 1913 and Miss Flocelia Johnston (Mrs. Barban) was the first teacher. The following were the first students: Leland and Keitha Tweed (Mrs. Fred Bott), Archie, Norman and Arla Anderson (Mrs. George Lee), Daniel Bott, Art and Lucy Lawson (Mrs. Ted Loblaw). It is said that Mrs. Lawson named the school "Shady Lane" because of the trees surrounding the school and the trail going by the school. Shady Lane was closed for a while in 1917. The pupils went to the country location of Prairie Rose. In the 30's, enrolment was up to 40 or more pupils.

The Shady Lane School building was moved to the Condor Elementary school grounds in 1954, where it was used as a classroom for a short



time. It is now a storehouse. Mrs. Florence Bodmer was the last teacher who taught in the building. Magda Anderson was the last teacher at the country location.

The usual improvements were made to the school and grounds. A barn, well, teacherage, new fence, chimney replacement, cement foun-

Throughout the years the school was the centre of the social life of the area. Christmas concerts, dances, picnics, church services and political meetings were held there. It was also used as a polling station.

Years ago Shady Lane won a contest in school ground beautification. Some spruce trees planted then are all that is left to mark the site of the school.

Some of the teachers who taught at Shady Lane School were: Miss Flocelia Johnston, Mrs. Barhan, Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Brown, Miss Jones, Miss Tucker, Miss Ena Paul, Miss Mason, Miss Foss, Miss Cairns, Miss Anna Liner (Mrs. Andy Crawford), Mr. Tipman, Miss Cameron, Miss Rose Nielson, Miss Gertrude Hagerman (Mrs. Ewart MacDonald), Miss Nellie Saville, Miss Bretzka, Stewart Meeres, Miss Maggie Dams (Mrs. Briggs), Miss Hazel Johnston (Mrs. W. Prendergast), Miss Alys Maurer (Mrs. Elwood French), Miss Nettie Jean Phillips, Miss Magda Wold (Mrs. Norman Anderson), Mr. Kirsch. Apologies are extended to any who may have been missed.

The pupils in the last class at the country location were: Stanley Marian, Elmo and Eileen Kauppi, Marjorie Anderson, Donna Bott, Leslie Kult, Frank Kult, Fred Smith, Peter and Edward Duncan. It is not known for sure whether or not Gordon Shea was one of the pupils in the last class.

[illegible]

Charles Henry Skocdopole, the eldest child of John and Marie Skocodopole, was born at Osceola, Oklahoma, U.S.A. on June 15, 1904. His parents were Czechoslovakian immigrants, his father having come to the U.S.A. as a child and his mother as a young woman. Marie was unhappy with the Oklahoma climate, so they decided to immigrate once again, this time to Canada, when Charles was nine months old.

They arrived by train at Blackfalds and lived for a short time at Bullocksville, a hamlet between Haynes and Adx. From there they moved to Botha where John filed on a homestead NE 16-38-18-W4, which is still in the Skocdopole family, now belonging to Charles' youngest brother, Emil.

Charles attended school near the farm for six years but was more interested in the building of machines to help with the farming than he was in school. When he was 16 years old the automobile was just coming into its own and he decided to attend the Sweeney Automobile School in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. When he returned he worked for a time as a mechanic in Ernie Snyder's garage in Botha and also ran the projector in the local movie theatre.

Land-clearing being one of the tougher jobs of the homesteaders, he decided there was a mechanical way to do it, and the "Brush Hog" was created. The Brush Hog was built by Charles and his dad in their own shop. It was a V type brush cutter mounted on a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor. It proved a very successful machine, clearing much of their own land as well as their neighbors' land. In 1928 a 60 Caterpillar was purchased with a V brush cutter manufactured in Calgary mounted on it. From then on a commerical operation was set up by Charles and his brother Ed and the brush clearing moved west. In the fall of 1929 they were on the north side of Sylvan Lake straight in line with the main-

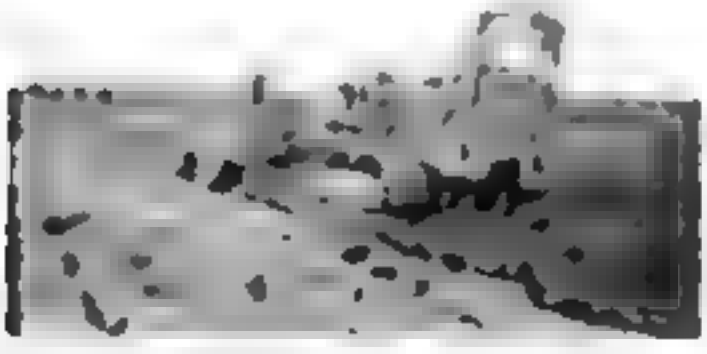
That November Charles, his two brothers and several others went moose hunting at Goose Lake, northwest of Barrhead. While they were there the Athabasca River ferry crossing froze over and everyone except Charles and Bill McChesney crossed the river in a basket to return home. Charles stayed to take the truck home when the river froze hard enough to cross, and Bill didn't want to go in the basket.

While they were waiting they went to work at the Pink Abernathy Mill where Mildred Strand, his future wife, was working as a cook's helper. They were married the following March 3, 1938 and then went to Botha for about a year. These being depression years, they decided to return to the north to the sawmills for work, working in the Abernathy and Tom Wolfinger mills. Charles mostly hauled lumber to Westlock and Edmonton. Roads were almost non-existent and he often had to load and unload his lumber several times per trip when the truck became stuck. While in this area their four children were born, one dying in infancy.

There were no schools near the sawmills, so when Ronald, their eldest son, was ready for school they had to return to Botha and Charles went back to land clearing, which had been carried on by his brother Edward.

On November 15, 1941 the family moved to their present location, NE 26-38-4-W5, having purchased the farm from Phillip Lloyd Cole and his son Ogden. It was fortunate it was a mild winter that year as the house was very poor. It consisted of a kitchen and living room on the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs, these being heated by a hole in the ceiling above a heater in the living room. It was one of the first wooden frame houses built in the area and one could see through the walls in many places. Every size of board had been used. Some had been hewed by an axe, and the building was lined with Norwegian newspapers of 1904 vintage, that is, where the mice hadn't chewed them up. Everything was crawling with bedbugs, but

Mildred did away with them by papering the whole house and then calcimining everything green. The green color came from the Paris Green poison added to the calcimine. The house was repaired so as to become liveable and a bedroom and porch were added. The family lived in that house until 1954, when they built their present home. Charles soon added a repair shop to the building site and continued clearing land, repair work and farming



When Ronald finished school he went to work for Charles on the brush cutters during the summer months. The local oil boom was in full swing and Ron decided to make a year-round operation with the Cats, and went to work clearing for seismic lines in the winter of 1953. In 1954 Charles purchased another Cat - a D-6, and the year-round seismic clearing operation began. When Glenn finished school a partnership was set up between the four family members and a few years later the business was incorporated to become Skocdopole Construction Ltd. Charles was never actively involved with the oil operations, but looked after the business at home and the machine shop. The company has expanded the machine shop to become fully equipped and many a neighbor knows he can get emergency repair work done at any time when Charles is home.

In 1973 Charles gave up his share of the company to his two sons and son-in-law and semi retired. He and Mildred spend their winters in Victoria, B.C. where they enjoy ocean fishing.

Charles has always been interested in the progress of his community and was an early advocate for rural electrification and rural gas. He was a director on the R E A. from its beginning in 1947 and the gas Co-op from its beginning. When the Raven Municipality became a Local Improvement District in 1957 Charles was elected to the first advisory board for the L.I.D., and has remained on the board as the local representative to the present time.

Charles and Mildred have three children. Ronald Charles married the former Carol Kangas, daughter of Urho and Letty Kangas of Evergreen. They have three children, Clifford, Pamela and Patricia.

Gayle Elsie is married to Ralph English, son of Melvin and Ivy English of Calgary. They have three children — Rodney in Edmonton, Dale in Eckville and Dianne, wife of Bradley Forsythe of Rocky Mountain House.

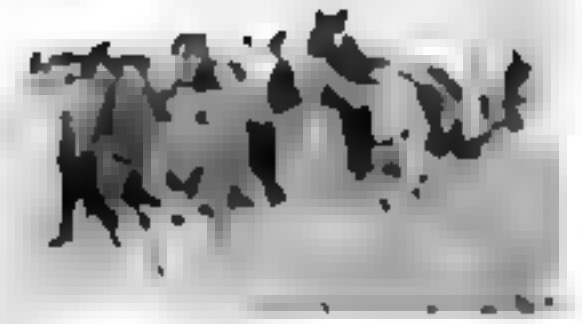
Glenn Lyle is married to Fern Catherine Thorkman, youngest daughter of Charles and Sylvia Thorkman of Eckville. They have four children — Steven, Susan, Carla Jean and Gerald.

**SMITH, JAMES — by James Smith**

James Smith was born in 1915 at Irvine, Alberta. At the age of six years the family moved to the Alex Staudinger farm at Benalto, where we lived for three years. Like most farm people our parents had very little money, so when any of the family could, they would get a job. In 1927 at the age of nine years, I was lucky enough to work for Mr. Tom Britton, milking cows and putting up hay, at a wage of $5 per month. That summer was one of the happiest that I remember as Mr. Britton sang or joked every day. Sometimes on weekends we put some cattle or horses in the corral and had our own small rodeo.

In 1927 our family moved two miles east of Benalto where we stayed until 1938. I remember it was every boy's ambition to get out with the threshing crew. At the age of 14 years I went for 28 days. Threshing was a hard job, but a lot of fun, too.

A quarter section of land was bought in 1938 north of Eckville where my brother John and I



spent the summer, living in a granary. While staying there we summer fallowed the land. In the evenings Olva Elson, Charlie Kasper, and Frank Zaleski came down to swim in the river or play cards. Saturday evening was steam bath night at our good neighbours' the Elsons or the

In the following years the six boys in the family bought a half section of land from George and John Crisdle two miles west of Eckville. Here we farmed until 1946, and were known as "The Smith Brothers". The house on this farm was close to the railroad and on the days when the trains went by we often counted the men riding the box cars looking for work. One day I counted 34 fellows on the cars. While farming there I remember two winters spent hauling cordwood with horses to the Eckville creamery to keep the boilers going. In 1943 we took on the job of hauling gravel for the foundation of the Eckville Hospital. John Makl and Curtis Broesling also had teams working on this job.

During the fall of 1947 the Smith Brothers partnership was dissolved, so I moved to the NW 12-39-4-W5, north of Hespero, where my family and I still farm.

Elsie Gerbatch was born in Brawlaw, Germany, in the eastern zone of what is now a part of Poland. This area was occupied by the Russians after the war. After some hazardous attempts Elsie escaped to the west in 1950. Her brother-in-law, who had immigrated to Calgary in May 1950, arranged for Elsie to come along with his wife and family to Calgary. After she had worked out for three years I was fortunate enough to meet Elsie and on May 1, 1953 we were married. In 1965 my uncle, James Smith, retired from the Bank of Montreal to come west from Toronto and live on our farm. He stayed with us until his passing.

Elsie and I have four sons and one daughter Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Linda and Gordon. Fred moved to Calgary, after graduating from the Calgary School of Technology, to work for Atco Industries. On May 3, 1969 Fred married Lynne Carlson, and they have two boys, Colin James and Mark Andrew.

Stephen farms in the Eckville area in partnership with his brother Ralph. He married Mary Ann Waisanen on August 9, 1975. Ralph married Joan Staniforth July 24, 1976. They have a son Gerald William.

Linda is in her second year at the University of Calgary. She hopes to become a teacher. Gordon, our youngest son, attends the Eckville High

**SYREN, WAINO WILHELM**

Seven generations

1. Matt. Mathew's son, Pietila. Born in Konihabti, Finland. Died 1742. His wife, Britta Andrea's daughter born in Kovemake 1674. Died 1751.

2. John, Matt's son, Pietila, born December 18, 1705. Died March 16, 1781. His wife, Mary, Andrea's daughter born in Sakyla 1705. Died July 26, 1765.

3. George, John's son, Ketola) in Junkka born March 24, 1744. Died November 27, 1809. His wife, Stiina, Thomas' daughter, born in Auvoinen, October 8, 1758. Died March 1, 1821.

4. John, George's son, Ketola, born April 4, 1780. Died February 17, 1853. His wife, Regina John's daughter, Junkala, born February 12, 1787.

5. Gustav, John's son, Syren, born November 23, 1815. Died April 29, 1885. His wife, Leea John's daughter, Antila, born January 3, 1817. Died July 21, 1875.

6. Wilhelm, Gustav's son, Syren, born in Auvoinen, August 1, 1851. Died March 17, 1931. His wife, Johanna, Branat, born in Bortom (Pitkyla) in June 1856. Died February 10, 1941.

7. Waino Wilhelm, Wilhelm's son, Syren, born at Honkilhti, Touru Laane, Finland, January 22, 1890. His wife, Alma Lousa, born September 26, 1891, at Ahtari, Wassan Laane, Finland. Her father, Heiki Lousa, Finland. Her mother, Agatha Lousa (Jakuho).

After emigrating from Finland, Waino and Alma met and married in San Francisco on August 12, 1913, then homesteaded at Condor in January, 1914. Their children were born at Condor, Alberta. Walter Wilhelm born June 26, 1914. His wife, Alice (Taylor). They reside at Condor. Anna Alma born September 1, 1916. Her husband is William von Hollen and they reside at Alhambra, Alberta. Ivan Elmer born August 18, 1918. He served in World War II overseas and returned home when the war ended. accidental death June 20, 1950. Agnes Johanna born September 13, 1920, resides at North Surrey, B.C. her husband Cliff Gibson, deceased November, 1977. Jennie Helen born October 16, 1925, and her husband Verner Elson, reside at Eckville, Alberta. Olga Matilda born September 9, 1927, and her husband, Clarence Needham, reside at Alhambra, Alberta. Larry Levi born November 6, 1929, deceased November 20, 1929. Hilja Elizabeth born March 3, 1931 and her husband, Jerry

Jones reside at Calgary, Alberta. Alli Margaret is born January 16, 1934, and her husband George Datema, reside at Royston, B.C

The first year on their homestead they had one cow and a team of oxen. On one trip that Waino made to Sylvan Lake with his team of oxen to get seed grain, he fell asleep coming home by Benalto in the afternoon. When he woke up he was at Pitcox now Hemperol in the night the moon was shining, one ox was standing up and the other one was lying down chewing his cud. He arrived home the next morning, travel was somewhat slower then

What would you think of walking to Red Deer? Well, Waino did, to file on his homestead! He recalls walking many trips with a bundle of bedding and clothing on his back to brush camps looking for work west of Rocky Mountain House. One winter he snared rabbits to bring in a few cents. One hundred rabbits were sold to Adams Store at Alhambra for two and a half cents [illegible]

Waino and his wife, Alma, reside on their farm, N E 19-38 4-W5, at Condor. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on August 12, 1973. In 1978 they will be celebrating 65 years of living together

**TAYLOR, LEROY**

I was born in Bowden in the year of 1925, April 9. My father moved to Condor in October, 1934 where he lived until 1964, farming all the time. Mr. Baker lived to the north of us, Mr. Black to the west, Mr. Warden to the south, Mr. Melnyk to the east. I went to school at Condor and Prairie Rose.

It was very cold in the winters. In those days the kettle on the stove would freeze at night. We had a few foxes and mink for a while, then just milk cows after that.

My mother passed away on May 5, 1953 while on the farm. My dad passed away on December 25, 1976. He was living in Sylvan Lake at the time and was 87 years old.

There were four of us in the family, three sisters and I was the only boy. One sister passed away in June, 1967.

**THE TWEED FAMILY — by Lenard Tweed**

My father, Knud Tweed, with his brothers, sisters and their mother came from Norway and settled near Montour, Iowa. His father died in Norway and is buried there. Little is known of their background.

My mother, Rachel Rasmus, came from Norway with her parents, George and Caroline Rasmus, sister Nellie and brother Benedict in about 1867. They settled in LeGrand, Iowa, and the children attended school there. Grandpa worked in a stone quarry about a mile away. My mother married Knud Tweed and went to live on the farm about three miles from LeGrand. My mother was left a widow in 1908. We stayed on the farm for three years and then had a farm sale, buying a home in LeGrand in 1912. Shortly after we moved, her son Clifford died and, since Mother's family — parents, brother and sister Nellie, and Ell Anderson — had all come to Alberta to homestead, she was left the only one of her family in Iowa. Her parents wanted her to come to Alberta to stay for the winter, which we did. That winter she met and became engaged to George Jayes, which meant we would be coming to Alberta to make our home. We went back to Iowa in February 1913 and then made plans to return to Alberta that fall. We sold our home and shipped our household belongings by box-car. It [illegible] several neighbors went to Red Deer by wagon to bring us our belongings. We settled in a house nearby and my sister Keitha and I went to Shady Lane School that had been built that summer. That swelled the enrollment to eight. The same school housed 45 pupils many years later when Alys Maurer taught all eight grades.

Early in the spring of 1914, my mother and George Jayes drove to Red Deer and were married. A short time later we moved to the cosy little home he made for us. It was not finished but it had three nice windows, a shingled roof, one large room and bedrooms upstairs.

George enjoyed working with an axe — either cutting fire-wood or hewing logs. He served on Shady Lane school board. This quarter section was on the same section where all Mother's relatives lived, and she enjoyed being near her family, but only for a short time, as we moved to Castor on an open half section in the fall of 1915. I attended Arthurdal School north of Fleet until 1918 when my schooling was terminated because of the flu epidemic, the schools being closed for a time. Later, because of the dry years on the prairie, we moved back to the homestead here. My mother always enjoyed looking after chickens. They built a hen house for 100 hens. Dick Schouten lived across the road on the Frank Buckle homestead and bought produce to send to the coal mines in Nordegg. He gave them an extra two-and-a-half cents a dozen as he knew he could guarantee fresh eggs to his special customers living there. So when a 12 dozen crate was filled, George carried it to Dick and received cash every time.

In 1926 I went back to Iowa and worked on a farm there. While there I met my future wife Grace O'Neal. I returned to Alberta, rented a farm in the Marianne district and two years later went back to Iowa and was married (1929). We came to Alberta to farm in the Condor district. While I was away Mother passed away of

pneumonia. Having cooked in a lumber camp in California, George was quite capable of looking after their three children. Gladys, the eldest, was 14 and Elmer Bud and Nellie younger all going to Shady Lane School. Four months after mother's passing, George, too, passed away. He took sick and died quite suddenly of pneumonia. The three young folks then made their home with Grace and me. They lived with us until they were old enough to go out on their own. Gladys married Johnnie Rasmussen and Nellie married Richard Rasmussen. Johnnie's nephew Elmer served in World War II.

We had three sons — Myron, born 1930, and twins, Vernon and Virgil, born 1934. Our home is the former Otto Neigard land that they bought from the Hudson's Bay Co. and is a half mile north of Condor, where the boys went to school.

Grace passed away in 1942 from a heart condition brought on by rheumatic fever. She lived for her family, her home, and her church. She is buried in Leslieville cemetery where my mother and step-father are also buried.

Myron took Grade 11 and 12 at Didsbury there being no high school in Condor. After graduation he went to Bible School there and also studied music. Later he went to Cascade College in Portland Oregon, where he met Pauline Pethcord, who was also studying music. They were married in Portland. Myron has made music his profession and after studying in several places received his Doctor's Degree in California. He teaches music in Point Loma College in San Diego, California. He is also minister of music at the Rancho Bernardo Community Church in Rancho Bernardo. They have two sons and two daughters. Randy finished high school and is studying music. Robin has finished high school this past year. Greg and Heather are both in school. The family gave a concert at Condor last September.

Vernon and Virgil took their schooling in Condor and attended Bible School in Didsbury. Vernon married Jean Vincent of the Red Deer Pine Lake area. He worked in Woodward's down-town store in Edmonton, then went to the new store in North Edmonton. He was later transferred to Calgary where he was in charge of sporting goods and toys. While in Calgary he was sent to eastern Canada and New York to buy toys for the store. Later while in the Vancouver store he was sent to foreign countries to buy toys for Woodward's. He is now back at Edmonton's downtown store, where he is merchandise manager for hard goods. They have three children, Karen, Dale and Roger.

Virgil married Joy Paul from Red Deer Hill area in Saskatchewan. He worked for the Government of Alberta in Edmonton and was later transferred to Calgary where he is with the personnel Dept. of the provincial government. They have two children, Jill and Darrell.

**VERN EDLEN, TED**

We came to the Condor area in 1945 at which time hog raising was our main hobby. At this time, we were handling around 250 hogs and as time went on we got up to 425. Well, nearly everything got to smell and look like hogs, so after some of our debts were paid the hog situation got smaller and smaller until we had a quantity that we were able to handle properly. At two different stages, we nearly lost our new barn plus our piggery dive-up, so at this point we quit the idea of having sows coming in in the winter months and this, naturally, cut the work problem in half. As time went on, the pigs were all disposed of, and we went into cattle. This was a kind of easing off somewhat in logging as age was beginning to tell, plus the fact that by now our seven children were all on their own, five married and two working out (six boys and one girl was our family).

The scrap hobby resulted in much popularity for the boss, as he made a 'tractor' fence with 100 units in a line-up across the middle of the field and everyone who went by made a practice of stopping into see this fence. News of the fence reached to many parts of Alberta, as well as right across Canada. We even had a writer stop in from New York who said he was going to publish a book with Ted's name and hobby mentioned. We never did see the book but some friends of ours told us they read an article about the tractor fence in a book he read from a library which drew a lot of people looking for car parts and this is still in existence today in 1977.

Lillian, his wife, has a hobby all her own and that is looking after and running a bottle depot on this farm. She got to know a lot of new people in this manner and is widely known as well. I also raise a large garden to help out some of my children who live in the city where garden space is very limited. For an extra help to my fellow friends, I also raise bedding plants, which seem to gain popularity as time goes on. I made my own greenhouse, starting on a small scale for my own use but within three short years I found it necessary to build another greenhouse larger, in size to accommodate my many new-made friends' needs. I still have another hobby which takes care of the long winter months and that is skinning coyotes for those who can't master this art. Even this adds to the pleasure it gives you to see the surprised look on the faces of the coyote hunters when they "can't believe that a coyote so badly shot and mangled up" can look so good when the job on it is all completed.

Well, all in all, if I have any spare time left, I like to read my Bible, for it is from there that I get my strength and inspiration to keep going. Now don't get the idea wrong, that I don't have any time left over, for that is not so. I have already worn out my first Bible and found it necessary to buy a larger print book as my eyes

are getting a little bit old for the smaller print especially for evening reading

Well, this is about all of my interests, except that we have a wonderful bunch of very good neighbors and friends, always there when you need them

**WARDEN, ROBERT**

Robert William (Roy) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, December 3, 1899. He was the youngest of three boys. The two older children, Jim and Dick, died at a young age, leaving Roy as an only child

In 1906 his parents, Robert William and Anna Warden left Scotland. Roy would be seven at the time. They sailed to New Zealand and finally to Vancouver where the family lived until 1914. The Wardens then moved east, settling in Carmangay, Alberta. In 1919, along with Mr. Warden's brother Archie, they purchased a quarter section of land a half mile north and one mile west of Condor.

Mr. Warden was very well thought of by his neighbors and friends. He spoke with a fine Scottish burr. He rolled his R's and when he spoke his son's name, it came out "Rie". He never smoked cigarettes and never swore.

Mr. and Mrs. Warden were original homesteaders. Both had very fine qualities and high standards. They both attended the small church in Condor regularly. Mrs. Warden played the organ for many years.

Mr. Warden died in 1923, just before Christmas. Mrs. Warden was very musical and sang many Scottish songs which her son Roy passed on to his children and we sang them many times. Mrs. Warden was an active member of the W.I. and the Mission Circle.

In August of 1934, Mrs. Warden married Jack Shaw. It is noted in the minutes of the W.I. of October 11, 1934 that M. Best and Mrs. Barton had bought them a chair. They lived first in the house next to the Condor hall until Jack Shaw built their own home across the road. Mr. Shaw with Bert Avery also built and operated a store which they later sold to Mr. Wallace Clement. Mr. Shaw died in 1946 and Mrs. Shaw (Warden) in 1948.

Roy Warden married Mona Prendergast November 11, 1920. They had two sons William Robert (Bill) and Richard Wellington (Dick). Mona died on February 2, 1924 and their two sons were raised by their two respective grandmothers, Mrs. Predergast taking Dick and Mrs. Warden raising Bill. Both boys went to war. Dick in the air force and Bill in the army. Dick became an instructor pilot and was killed while on a training mission over Cairo, Egypt, in 1944.

Bill married an English war bride, Mary Geale. Mary died in 1968 with cancer. They had two sons Bob and Barry. Bill lives on the island in Comox, B. C. In 1931, Roy married Rosie Meeres. They had seven children: Horace, Shirley, Elsie, Bruce, Ted, Treena and Shelley.

Our parents, Roy and Rosie, lived on the original homestead until 1947 when they sold it to Bill Lougheed. The short while we lived on the farm was filled with many, many events. Some good, some bad, but all having their place in the building of our lives.

Mom and Dad were very unique people. Dad loved sports and was a fine athelete. His ball playing ability was well known throughout the west country. Both Mom and Dad were very musical. Dad played by ear and struck many a merry tune on the violin. Mom played the guitar and piano. They both enjoyed reading and telling us stories of their youth. Dad was especially fond of talking about Vancouver and Scotland.

Perhaps it can be best summed up by the following poem which Dad often repeated and wrote in Treena's diary.

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself has said
This is my own, my native land

Robt. Burns

and Mom wrote "Shirley's"

Be good sweet maid
And let these who will be clever
Do noble deeds
Not dream them all day long
And you will find
Your life will be
One grand sweet song

Mom died February 19, 1955. Dad died June 6 [illegible].

One outstanding event was when our brother Horace, drank some lye. He was in the hospital and nursing homes for over five years. I remember Mom telling me that at least three times they were (she and Dad) asked to go to Edmonton to say good-bye to him that he survived each time and is still going strong today. He was either two or three years old at the time.

The fall of 1925 was very wet. A small creek on Dad's land had flooded its banks. Frank and George Barton were coming to thresh. Dad never got anyone else. It took four teams of horses to pull the grain separator across the creek. The water was up to the horses bellies.

In 1936, Condor won the Alberta Fastball Championship. Dad was the pitcher and his son, Bill, was also on the team. He was also a pitcher. They never used gloves except for the catcher and first baseman. Dad's son, Bruce, was and still is an outstanding ball player and has batted many a home-run for his team. He, Bruce, also liked to play pranks and was a ring leader of such things as turning off the main switch at the school when they (the Condor people) were watching a National Film Board presentation. He and his buddies would then run and hide from the wrath of their elders. Our Dad told us many adventures about pranks the young men played at Halloween. One was when they dismantled a wagon and carried it piece by piece up into a hay [illegible] and put it all together again, to the amazement of the farmer.

Our brother. Ted, inherited the love of sports from his father He was and still is a good hockey player I can remember him writing into the radio station in Red Deer and telling them he wanted to be a goalie like Turk Broda, who was the star for the Toronto Maple Leafs He never attained this status, however that is what dreams are made of

S. Rearman and Treena Mielke

**ROY AND ROSIE WARDEN FAMILY TREE**

1 HORACE LENARD — Born Jan 17 1933.

2. SHIRLEY ROSE — Born Nov 13, 1934
   — married Al Reaman
   — live in Red Deer
   a) Kerry
   b) Randy
   c Kathy
   married Dave Brzak
   d) Michael
   e) Danny — 1963-1967
   f) Colleen

3. ELSIE MAE · Born Sept 18, 1936
   · married Bill Harrington
   live in Calgary
   a) Dawn
   married Jerry Paulion
   i) Crystal
   b) Bobby
   c Lor·
   d Cindy

4. RONALD BRUCE — Born Dec. 25, 1937
   — married Sabine Warden
   — live in Sylvan Lake
   a) Michelle
   b) Timothy

5. EDWIN ROY Born July 2, 1939
   — married Gail Warden
   — live in Benalto
   a) Tammie
   b) Jason
   c) Trevor

6. TREENA EMILY Born Feb. 15, 1949
   — married Peter Mielke
   — live in Eckville
   a Devin
   b) Darcie
   c Jill

7 SHELLEY ROSE — Born Feb. 19, 1955.

Warden family, 1951. Ted, Roy holding his daughter Treena, Rosie, Shirley and Bruce.

**E. T WOLD FAMILY — by Magda Anderson**

My parents, Mr and Mrs. E T Wold, came to Condor in the spring of 1924 Thelma, Elvin, Roy and Erling arrived with them and I came after school closed at Leduc for the holidays. We rented land in this area for a few years. Then they went to dad's homestead near Breton, Alberta. The boys attended school at Prairie Rose and Shady Lane. Erling took Grade Eight at Daisy Nook. Mother passed away in 1956 and dad in 1958.

Thelma worked in Calgary, married Ed Long and raised five children Laurence, Edwin, Thelma, Donna and Gordon Edwin was killed in a shooting accident when he was 16 years old.

Elvin married Anna Hansen of Breton. They have three sons, Arman Victor and Raymond Elvin and Anna live in Leduc, after selling their farm south of Warburg. For a number of years they had the Battle Lake Store. Erling and Roy are farming south of Warburg.

I, Magda, married Norman Anderson and have lived west of Eckville ever since Our daughter Glenda married Robert Wacker, and they live on the Anderson place. They have three children Cathy, Steven and Vicki.

Our son, Norman Jr lived only 17 months

Marjorie married Vern Harbourne and they have two sons, Kevin and Shane. They live at Abbotsford, B.C

Norman died in 1973 He was interested in hunting and fishing and was a good shot He shot a bear in their farmyard in 1922. Friends will remember Norman for his old-time violin music I taught school in this area for over 14 years.

# Last West

**BARWICK, JOHN NE 32-42-4-W5**

John (Jack) Barwick first came to the Mount View district in 1909, and homesteaded what is now the Youb farm. He had immigrated to Canada with his boyhood friend Jerry Bell from their home near Sandringham, Norfolk England. They had worked their way west from Winnipeg and Mr Bell settled on the quarter adjoining the one Dad had chosen. Dad built a small cabin on the farm and cleared some land then later went to Southern Alberta where he obtained work in a stone quarry near Nobleford. It was there he met our mother, Mary Sybil Nicolson from Stornoway Scotland who had come over to visit her sister. They were married at Lethbridge in 1911, then moved to Believue, in the Crows Nest Pass, where Dad worked as a miner and their eldest daughter Babs was born.

Dad joined the army in 1914 when the first World War began, and served overseas for four years mainly in France and Belgium. After his return, they moved back up to the farm in 1919. They had shipped their livestock and household goods by railroad to Lacombe which was the end of the line at that time.

From there, Dad drove a wagon hitched to four half-broken broncs and loaded with the furniture, chickens and one sow, while Mother walked behind herding the cattle. The trip took three days and she often told us the story of being so tired she could not walk another step on the last night of the trip, so they camped at what was later known as the Malone place, although they were only about a mile and a half from what was to be their home for the next 25 years.

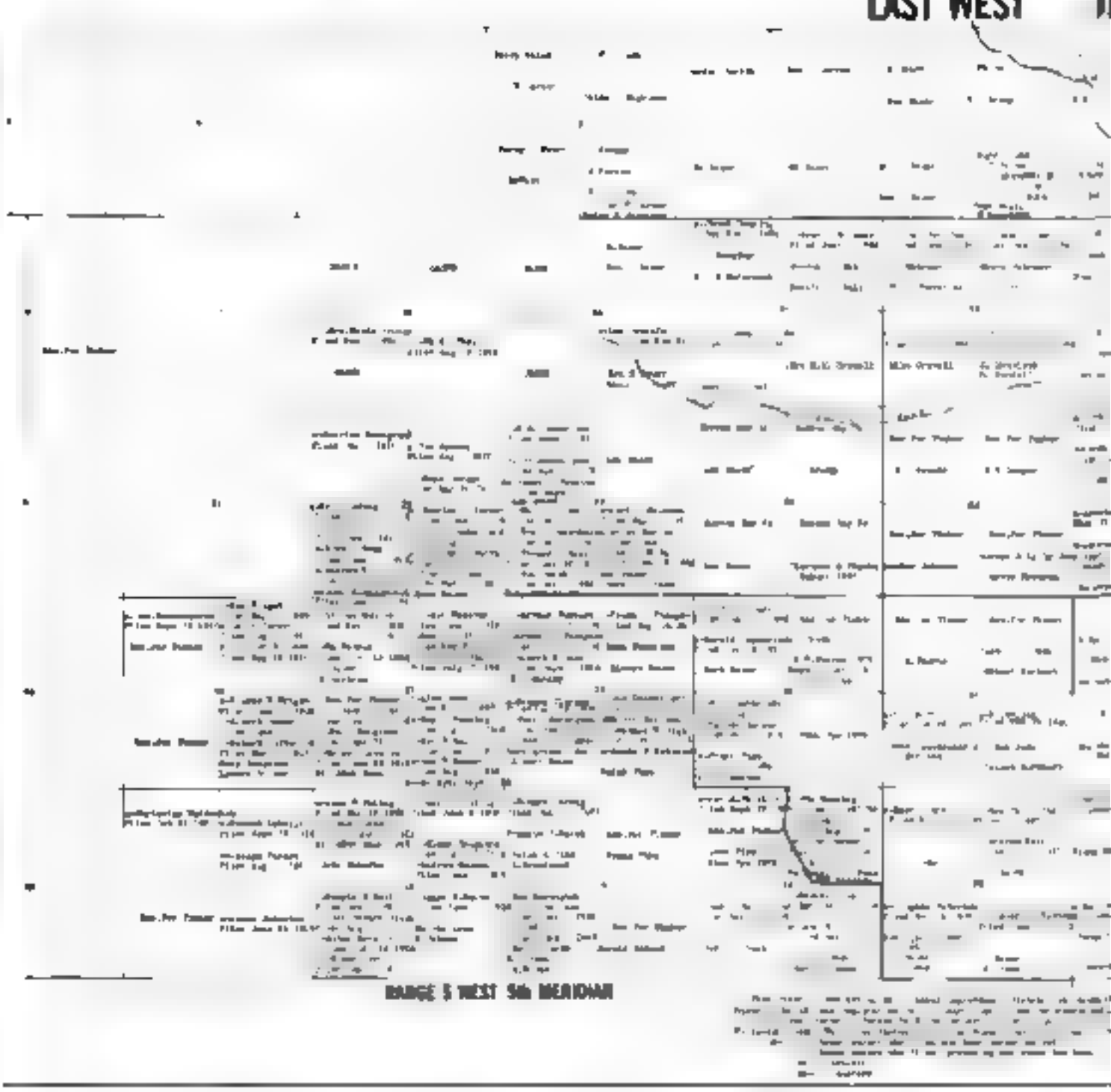
It was so cold during that first winter that new born calves had to be brought into the cabin so that they wouldn't freeze to death and Dad said he went to Rimbey with the sleighs on May 24, 1920, as there was still so much snow.

Dad was very active in community affairs and worked very hard to get a school established at Mount View as the nearest ones at that time were Wiesden Green and Leedale. We did not have a very large school population at any time during the early years but we were certainly very proud of ourselves the years we won the award for physical training at the Spring Festival in Rimbey about 1932 or 33 when our total student body numbered nine. Mr Vic Winter was teaching at that time.

Some of those who were going to school during the early 30's will never forget having to get up at five o'clock in the morning to ride horseback to Rimbey (about 14 miles) to be in our seats at the Rimbey High School by nine so that we could write our high school departmental exams. We were not allowed to write them in our own school at that time, and as the road to Rimbey was usually a sea of mud during the June rains, it was impassable for anything ex

My sisters, Kathleen (Mrs. Earl Heyland) of Claresholm, Babs (Mrs. I. Anderson) of Monarch and myself Jessie (Mrs. J. Caddy) of Red Deer, all attended Mount View, Babs for only a couple of years, I for all my school life, and Kate for several years although she was attending Meadow Vale also, for a year or so after it was built.

Dad was a justice of the peace for the district




for many years and court was sometimes held in our home. During those times, my sisters and I were sent to the bedroom, with stern instructions to be quiet and not to disturb the proceedings although we usually managed to peek out occasionally.

Mother will always be remembered for her quiet kindness to her neighbors and for her generosity in lending her beloved books to anyone who shared her love of reading. She was also very fond of animals and almost every four legged creature on the farm had a name and would come to her whenever she called. Some of them were real characters!

Mr. and Mrs. Barwick sold the farm in 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Moore and moved to North Red Deer. Dad spent his retirement years at his favorite hobby of gardening and his flowers were

admired by all who knew him and won some gardening awards. He was active until his death in 1970 at the age of 89. Mother passed away in 1972.

**BAUER EMANUEL**

The Emanuel Bauer's moved to the Meadow Vale district in March 1935 with a family of 10 children. Emanuel worked in sawmills, then he built his own sawmill and sawed fire wood and lumber. He sawed some of the lumber for the Meadow Vale school. Five children of Emanuel and Maria Bauer went to the Meadow Vale school, Len, Gilbert, Herb, Albert and Norma. Emanuel helped built on the school. Emanuel and some of the neighbors went together and sawed lumber to built on the school. He also helped built on the roads and bridges with his

team of horses. The roads and bridges would wash out.

He would use his horses to pull stumps out. Emanuel also cleared land by hand and with his team. Now easy with a brand new D 8 Cat. He also helped with threshing and haying in the area, and did some carpenter work. He also made shingles and people would come and buy them. He did a lot of blacksmith work and was kind of a vet for he would go and file the horses' teeth in the area.

When Emanuel and Maria moved in 1935 they stayed in Lesleville for a month while Emanuel was building their home. Mr. Denning, Ed Bauer and Emanuel went to Dave Adams for lumber to build their homes.

Emanuel did some farming with their retirement in 1969. Then they lived at the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer until 1966 when Emanuel passed away. Maria now lives with her son Art.

**THE BEIERBACH FAMILY**

Herb and Kay Beierbach bought a quarter of land from Ragnvold Caspersen in September of 1943 and moved on it in June of 44. As Herb was in the forces, Kay lived there alone until after the war, looking after the farm and teaching Mount View School. They bought the Ernest Jacobson place through the V.L.A. in February of 1947. In December of 1946 they were joined by baby Glen and in June of 1948 by baby Leslie.

Since then Kay taught at Bluffton and at Rimbey as Home Economics Instructor. Herb drove the mail route for the west for three years and worked occasionally in garages in Rimbey.

Presently, Glen owns the Caspersen place but lives with his parents. Leslie with his wife and Kyle three years, and Lana, two years, live in a house on an acreage at home and is employed as autobody mechanic in Rimbey. Herb and Kay plan retirement on their farm, Herb enjoying fishing.

**BELL, J. J.**

Mr. J. J. Bell came from Norfolk, England, along with Jack Barwick in 1906 or 1907, he took a homestead in the district now known as Meadow Vale. Mr. Bell worked out quite a bit, worked on railroads, also in a stone quarry.

He married Annie Ethel Wager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wager in 1915 and settled down to farming, and in a year or so gave up the homestead and moved to a farm south east, the NW 32-42-4-W5 where they farmed for many years and raised their family. This farm was later sold to his grandson, Douglas Ecker. Mr. and Mrs. Bell moved to the Wimbledon Green district where they lived their remaining years.

Mr. Bell served on the municipal council for a time and took an interest in the affairs of the district. He loved the outdoors along with hunting and fishing, and was a game warden for many years.

Mr. Bell passed away in September 1964 at the age of 84 years and Mrs. Bell joined him in November 1965 at 70 years of age.

There are five children in the family, Jessie (Mrs. William C. Thompson) of Rimbey, Violet (Mrs. Herman Ecker) of Bluffton, Lillian (Mrs. Ron Maser) of Bluffton. Donald married Bernice Simmons and they reside at Rimbey, and Gordon married Ruby Mann and they reside at Bluffton.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Beierbach and son ... and Lana ... 1969

Back row, L. to R. Donald and Lawrence Bell, Mrs. Allen and Jessie Thompson. Bernice Bell, Mr. Ted Mann, Ruby Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barwick, Jessie Thompson, Mrs. Gordon Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bell and Gordon Bell.

**BENSON, LEO — by Norman Benson**

In 1906, Leo Benson came from Glenwood, Minnesota and homesteaded the NW 16-42-4-W5, being five miles north west of Leedale, which at that time was known as Wittenburg. There were very few settlers in the valley at that time and supplies were brought in from Lacombe generally twice a year, in the spring and fall. One of the main items was a gallon of alcohol which was used for medicine. Very little was ever used for social events.

Leo Benson 1906 ready to wrestle

A friend came up from Glenwood the following year and homesteaded the SE-16-42-4-W5. His name was Frank Hallett. The two were trained wrestlers and they travelled to different towns in Alberta taking on all comers. The Grand Trunk Railroad was being built in northern Alberta at that time and they found plenty of stiff competition among the railroad workers.

Frank Hallett sold his homestead to Josephine (Grandma Simmons and went back to Minneapolis where he joined the City Police Force. While trying to apprehend some men who had just robbed a bank, he was shot and killed.

In 1907 Norman and Harold Chinneck, with their sister, Geraldine, came from Detroit, Michigan and took homesteads in what is now called the Midland district. Norman homesteaded the farm now owned by Harold Lemieux. Harold took the place now owned by Floris Looy. The new Wittenburg school was built that year and Geraldine Chinneck was one of the pupils. The teacher was a Mr. Craig. In 1908, she was married to Leo Benson in Lacombe and after a honeymoon in Banff and Calgary, returned to the homestead.

Life was always a challenge in those early days, being no doctor closer than Lacombe. Gramma Simmons was a practical nurse and was always there when the need arose. Many families owed a great deal to this wonderful person.

The Bensons raised a large family, there being eleven children, Lloyd, the first born, then Gilman, Claude, Verna, Elmo, Melvin, Cora, Norman, Jesse, Stella and Gordon. Only Verna, Melvin, Norman, Jesse and Stella are left, the rest of the family have been taken by illness and accidents. Leo Benson passed away in 1947, his widow in 1974.

The Benson Children - L. to R. Melvin, Verna, Gilman, Lloyd, Claude with Elmo in front and Mr. Benson in back at the fence

Mrs. Geraldine Benson with her son, Norman

There were many happy events that took place on the Benson farm, and many sad ones too. One of the happy times would have to be the Benson Stampede. It was the usual bronc riding steer riding, etc., but the highlight would have to be the ladies democrat race. The team of horses had to be harnessed then hooked to the democrat and then make the half mile track in as fast a time as possible. Mrs. Frank Nugent could win this race with no trouble. It was said she could put a lot of men to shame getting that team harnessed and on the track. There was always a big bowery dance at night. If anyone doesn't know what a bowery dance is, it's a platform only, with the sky for a roof. Bing's orchestra supplied the music. That being Bing Engebretson. This all took place on the land later owned by Jim Lukoes, just across the road from Benson's farm.

It was hard to keep horses in the early days as there was so much wet land around. They would get swamp fever and that was the end of them. The best team that was ever on the Benson farm was a team of matched sorrels bought in Lacombe for $600, and they only lasted two months before getting the disease and dying. That was a hard knock as $600 was a lot of money in those days. There were a lot of horses that came and went on the Benson farm. Two of the toughest had to be Nancy and Fly. Nancy, a roan and Fly, a jet black, traded from an Indian by the name of Yellowface. They were the toughest cayuses you ever saw. Both branded — on right hip. They carried nearly all the kids to school in Leedale. There used to be quite an encampment of Indians living across the road. Some of the young people used to come over every day. One girl about 14 or 15 used to come over and run up and down the stairs in our house. My how she could laugh. I guess it was quite a novelty in those days for them to see stairs. Her name was Annie Strawberry, daughter of John Strawberry.

In 1929, Benson's started sawmilling in the Medicine Lake area. The mill was a mile north of Medicine Lake where you turn to go down to the lake. The mill sat there in that same location until 1943. To see the country around there now you would never believe the beautiful timber that was there, back during the 30's. A terrible fire in 1941 all but wiped it out. Nearly all the early settlers are gone now. It's too bad we couldn't have gotten their first hand impressions of the early days. It would have made a most interesting and enjoyable reading to have it all on paper.

**BOLL, HERMAN**

Herman Boll came from Germany, then to the U.S.A. in the early 1900's, then to Alberta in 1907 and homesteaded the SE 34-42-4-W5. He farmed with oxen, then with horses.

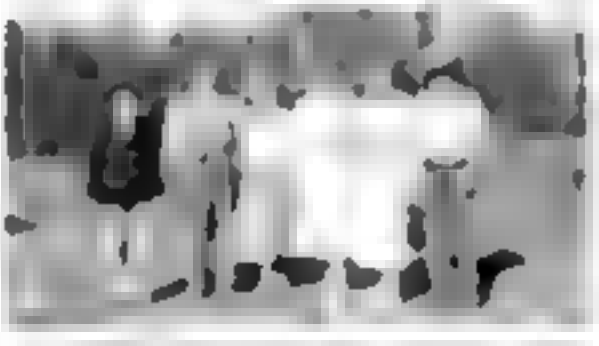
**BOWELL, HAROLD AND OLIVE**

We arrived in Canada from England in 1929 and worked for a farmer in Condor for three years, and in the spring of 1932 we moved out to the Mount View district and we settled on a quarter section NW 27-42-4-W5 across the road from the Mount View School. Bing Engebretson who was married to my wife's sister Vera and who lived in that district advised us that it would be a good start for us. We bought the land from the C.P.R. it was a raw quarter so we had lots of work to do to get established. My wife's brother Reg Tisdale came to the district and bought a quarter section so we worked together which was better for us and him also.

We traded a cow for a house and the neighbors came with a team each and hauled it two miles to our place. Bill Thompson, Ed Hobeck, Bing and Reg did the team work, it was hard work. We soon realized what fine and friendly neighbors we had, always willing to help in any way they could. We now had a house and other buildings and our two boys, Bert and Len were now going to school, which was across the road and felt we were well established. In 1934 our third son, Ken, was born in April and we had to take my wife Olive, to the hospital in Rimbey, eleven miles away and the roads were terrible, never thought we could make it but through the efforts of Bill Thompson we finally made it also to Mr. H. Lindsay of Leedale and to Mrs. V. Winter the school teacher's wife who went along for my wife's sake.

By now, in 1934, we had our first crop, grain stock we had, the first ten hogs we shipped we got $34 for them so we didn't have too much to spend on things. The kids used to hunt for crow and magpie eggs to get a few cents, also gopher tails, they could make two tails out of one but Mr. A. Bird, the Municipal secretary finally caught up with them, good detective work on his part.

Many good times they had in Mount View School. They had dances, basket socials and always a good Christmas concert. It didn't cost much, the ladies always took cakes and sandwiches, a small collection was made for the coffee and music, Bing, Ed Brown and Claude Brown, Ross McKinnon and others usually



supplied the music. They played as long as you wanted to dance.

was on the school board with Sandy Thompson and Jerry Boll for several years, I was also the secretary for this. I got $25 a year. I remember the time when Social Credit got into power, Mr. W. S. Thompson was the returning officer for the district west of Rimbey and I was the poll clerk. Mr. Thompson was a very strong Conservative and when the ballots were counted, except for a few, every one had voted S.C. Mr. Thompson was not too happy about it and I was very glad to get back home. We have many happy memories of the Mount View district and friends out there. In 1945 we moved to Red Deer. Olive, my wife, was very close to her parents and as they were getting on in years she felt she would like to be with them in Red Deer. We go out west occasionally but there are not many old timers left.

Olive and I are not young any more and it is nice that we can look back and recall all the happy times we had during the time we spent out west of Rimbey. There were times when sorrow struck the district either by accident or natural causes and it seemed like a member of the family had departed as everyone in the district and neighborhood paid their last respects.

**BROWN, EDWIN**

Edwin Brown was born at Buffalo, New York, U.S.A. on January 30, 1898. He came west with his parents, Kervin and Teany Brown, also three brothers and two sisters in 1908. They settled near Red Deer, Alberta, where his father had a dairy farm for a few years, then they moved to Burdett, in Southern Alberta.

My parents, Abraham and Annie Huff with two small sons, travelled from Utah, U.S.A. by covered wagon to Spring Coulee, then in the North West Territories. This was in the fall of 1901. The trip took six weeks.

My sister, Eva, was born at Spring Coulee on October 26, 1903. Later they moved to Magrath, Alta., where I was born on November 28, 1905, soon after the province of Alberta was formed. In the fall of 1907 we moved to a homestead at Burdett. My brothers both married and moved to the U.S.A. They have both passed on.

Ed served overseas during World War I as did his brother, Claude. A younger brother, Eugene Hank, served overseas in World War II.

My sister, Eva, and Claude Brown were married October 26, 1920. His brother, Ed and I were married September 30, 1924. We lived in Calgary from January 1925 until September 1931. Two sons were born there — Leroy on July 20, 1925 and Norman on July 26, 1929.

At this time there were many unemployed men. Ed was working for the city, hauling gravel with a team of horses and a dump wagon. He was to have two weeks' work, then two weeks off which quite often turned into six weeks off work.

Ed and Annie Brown - 1924

It was then he decided to take a homestead. Land for homesteading was closed in many places. At this time the nearest available was west of Rimbey. He made a trip with Gordon Koenig and Walter Waddilelow to look at homestead land. He filed on the NE-1-43-5-W5 in July 1931. Later, land south of us was opened for homesteading and many new settlers moved in.

In September 1931, we shipped by railway four horses, bundles for feed, furniture, a dog and cat from Calgary to Rimbey. Ed travelled with the car. The boys and I left two or three days later. Ed had only got as far as Lacombe, so he met us there. We came on the same train to Rimbey. A passenger car was hooked onto the end of the freight train.

We were able to get an old log cabin to live in, on Jim Strachan's land. No one had lived in it for years so we had to do a lot of work to make it warm enough for winter. With lots of good wood, a cook-stove and air-tight heater we were quite comfortable.

It was lonely at first, but new people were moving in rapidly. Many house parties were held and we attended many entertainments at Willesden Green and Mount View Schools.

My parents, along with Claude and Eva Brown and five children, shipped from Taber to Rimbey the fall of 1931. They lived northeast of Rimbey for awhile. In March of 1932 my parents came to live with us. During the winter the men built a log cabin on our land, which we moved into in June 1932. Our third son, Lloyd, was born at Rimbey hospital on September 26, 1932.

We moved into our two-story log house in 1933. My parents lived in the little cabin until the death of her husband when she came to live with us. She made her home with us until her passing on September 5, 1951.

A Rabbit Hunt. L. to R: Two Calgary men, Ed Brown and Andy Leraand. About 1931.

There was no school near. Children received lessons by correspondence. There were quite a number of school-age children. In 1935 meetings were held to organize a school district. Ed had filed on the SE-1-43-5-W5 in July 1933, a Soldier's grant quarter. He offered land for a school site. The site was chosen for a school on the southeast corner of this land. A number of names were suggested for the name of the school. The one chosen by the Department of Education was Meadow Vale. Incidentally this was the name suggested by Ed. He donated the land for the school, also for a Cemetery on this quarter.

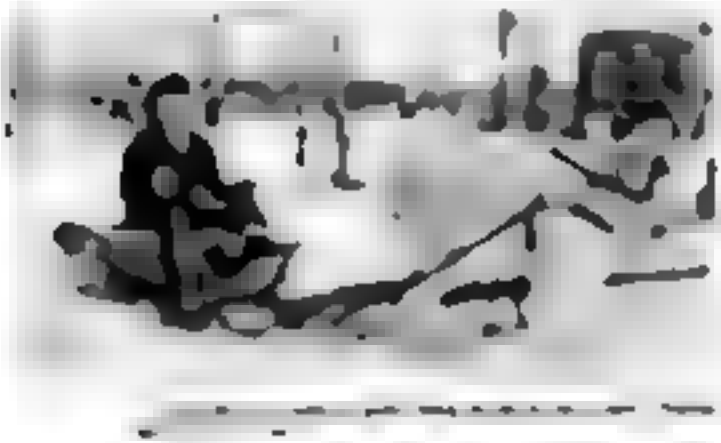
Many men from the district took a team of horses, sleigh, food and bedding and went to Adam's Mill, where they donated their time to cut logs, help saw them into lumber and haul it to the school site. Mr. Adams received a share of the lumber.

The school was built mostly by donation work. Andy Leraand was the head carpenter. He also built the school desks. Later Andy married one of our local school teachers, Miss Veiletta Hackett.

Ladies of the district organized the Meadow Vale Ladies' Club. We raised money in various ways to help with the building of the school. Many dances were held at the Ed Bohlender home. After the Second World War started in 1939 our club was disbanded and a Red Cross Group was organized with Mrs. W. J. McKinnon president. The ladies did a lot of knitting and also made quilts for the Red Cross. After the war the Meadow Vale Ladies' Club was re-organized.

The school opened in October 1936. Mrs. Alex Huberdeau was the teacher. There were 25 pupils. Many good times were held there. Picnics, dances and of course the annual Christmas concert, in which every child took part. This was followed by a visit from Santa and a dance later. People attended from miles around. For a few years we held a social evening at the school house, once a month. These consisted of a program followed by lunch and dancing. Ed and Claude played music, at many places, sometimes with others. In later years Ed and son's played quite often.

Ed cut rails and posts to bring in a little money. He also sold rabbits, when they were much in demand by the fox-farmers for feed. He worked for the Municipality for a couple of seasons with Alton Snyder and Stewart McDonald. Doing road work, he was also the



The Willesden Green Post Office was moved from Dorsey Clayton's to our place in March 1943. It was 1947 before it was closed when the main route was extended.

About 1934 or 35 Claude and Eva Brown and children Hilda, Grace, Viola, Rex, Wayne and Neva moved near Meadow Vale school. Another son, Jay, was born there in October 1936. In April of 1937 several of the children were stricken with Scarlet Fever and little Neva died on May 4, 1937. She was almost five years old.

In July of 1937 the family moved to the Peace River country, where another son, Allen was born. At the time of this writing Claude and Eva are living at Edmonton. Some of their family are nearby. They have 23 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

The years passed quickly. Our sons were growing up and going out to work. Leroy came home, one time, with a pair of buck goats, for his younger brother, Lloyd. Harness was made for them and they were hitched to a small bob-sleigh. Sometimes they were used for hauling wood or just for fun with friends. They didn't like to leave home. Lloyd would lead them down the road about a quarter of a mile, turn them around and jump in the sleigh. They would head for home at a great speed.

Leroy and Evelyn Robinson were married April 10, 1947. They lived on the SE-1-43-5-W5 for a short time, then moved to various places where Leroy was employed. Their home is near Barrhead. Leroy has been employed by Home Oil Company for many years. He works at Swan Hills. Their family consisted of five girls and one boy. Lois (Mrs. Kenneth Erickson) Edmonton, Barbara (Mrs. Bob Jackson) Duncan, B.C., Opal (died an infant in 1952), Lorraine (Mrs. Jack Johannson) Edmonton, Melody (Mrs. Danny Fraser) Swan Hills, Leland of Swan Hills and Thelma, at home.

Norman and Mary Kneeland were married October 5, 1950. They have two daughters and three sons. Vivian, Elaine, Steve, Gordon and Barry, also five granddaughters.

Lloyd and Dorothy Pritchard were married in

[illegible]

April 1953. (Divorced) They have one son and two daughters, Edwin, Edith and Myrna, also two grandsons and a daughter

Norman and Mary live in Red Deer. Lloyd lives at Les Trauer Park near Red Deer.

In July 1955, Ed and I moved to a farm near Nampa, Alta. He passed away suddenly on February 18, 1956. After his death I lived with Norman's most of the time until July 1962 when I returned to Nampa. In September 1972 I moved to Red Deer, where I am at the present time. I have 15 grandchildren and 17 great [illegible]

**THE BRYANTONS — by Fred and Doreen Bryanton**

The Bryanton family came west of Rimbey in 1927. After growing up at home, the oldest boy Fred, married Doreen McDonald, from the Midland district, in 1953. In 1945, Fred, Doreen and baby Faye moved to Mount View district on a farm formerly owned by Harold Bowell. (NW 27-42-4-W5)

To this family five more children were born.

In 1957 they moved back to the Potter Creek district.

**COOPER, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cooper came to this area from Monta Vista District in 1945 and bought the NE 36-42-5-W5.

Mr. Cooper was a veteran of the Spanish American War. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper in their earlier years, were very active in many things especially the Rimbey fairs and rodeos.

They had four children. Joe lives in California, a daughter in U.S.A., another daughter, Toots, in Ontario, and Franklin (Tag) in Leduc.

Mr. Cooper was killed in an accident in 1964 and Mrs. Cooper passed away in a nursing home in 1965.

**DYER VIOLET**

I took all my schooling at Wilbenden Green and Mount View schools. We rode horseback or [illegible]

I was married in 1937 to Herman Ecker. We moved onto his quarter of land SW 32-42-4-W5, which he had bought in 1934. At that time there was no road in there, so we built log and rail bridges across the rivers and went out across other peoples' land.

In November 1939, my son Douglas was born. In about 1945 we bought NE 31-42-4-W5 from Mr. W. McKinnon so we could be closer to Meadow Vale School and near a road.

Doug is married now, has two children, and now lives on the land my dad, Jerry Bell, owned, NW 32-42-W5.

In July 1946, my daughter, Patricia was born. She is married to Roy Stout. They have three children and live at Breton where Roy is vice principal of the school.

In June 1951, my daughter Wendy, was born. She is married to Les Olson, they have two children and live at Fort McMurray where Les is a surveyor for the government.

My husband passed away suddenly November 1, 1969 as the result of a heart attack.

**ENGEBRETSON, ARNOLD J**

Mr. A. Engebretson, better known as "Bing" came from Glenwood, Minnesota in the early 1920's. He had different land locations, the last was SE 17-42-4-W5, where he farmed with horses. In 1930 he married Vera Tisdale, an English girl from Stafford, England. They had two children. Carol married, lives at Nanaimo, B.C. and Dennis, married, lives at Quesnel, B.C.

Bing was a great violin player. He played in several orchestras, one consisted of Rudy Platt, Edith Byers and Bing. I seen him ride horseback many times on cold winter nights carrying his violin to Leedale to play with Mrs. Jenny Withers or Mrs. H. Lindsay.

He could turn his hand to many things, he had steam engineer papers and run the Lockhart Steam Thresher, a community machine, for [illegible]

Vera Engebretson passed away in the early 1960's, in Red Deer. Bing later married Selma Freeman. Bing passed away in 1967 in Bentley.

[illegible]

**FOX, FRANK, ZELLA, AND AUBREY (BOB) — by Mrs. Bob Fox**

They came from the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1914. They settled in Drumheller Frank worked in the coal mine and Mrs Fox raised chickens and Bob went to school

They moved to Byemoor in 1918 on a farm but the dry seasons came along so they were very happy to move to Leedale (NE 30-41-3-W5) in 1923. There they got lots of rain and feed for the stock Mrs Fox used to take the cream to Leedale in the democrat, it would be pouring rain and she would tell Bill Lee, the Storekeeper, what a nice rain. Guess he got a bit fed up, for he told her "you know Mrs Fox, one can get too much They sure did

Bob was not home very much, as he was travelling (boxing) He was in the States for a couple of years

I met Bob in Stettler on July 1, 1924 but he was away quite a bit and we got married in 1927 Then we moved to Leedale and were there for about a year We bought a farm at Willesden Green one half mile east of the post office Mr Wager was postmaster a fine gentleman

Then the war came, so Bob enlisted in 1942 and he was stationed in Camrose for the duration of the war

When the war was over we moved to Bluffton in 1948 and bought the Blue Bird Cafe and we had it for ten years

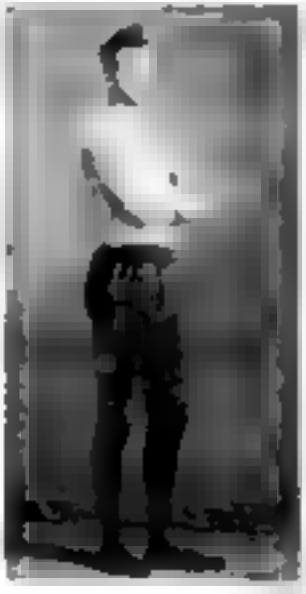
Bob died in 1956 and I kept the cafe for a while but it was too much for me Then I moved to Victoria, then bought a house in Port Moody and now I am retired in Penticton

We still have the restaurant in Burnaby but they don't want me to work mind you, I get rather bored but guess I'll get used to it

**HALLET, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Mr and Mrs Frank Hallet settled on the SE 18-42-4-W5, known as the Simmons quarter Mr Hallet was a wrestler and taught Bert Archer to wrestle so he had someone to spar with

Mr and Mrs. Hallet returned to the United States of America before 1912 where he joined the police force and was shot and killed



Frank Hallet 1906 Ready to wrestle

**HAMILTON ORVAL AND BESSIE, NE 31-42-4-W5 — by Bessie Hamilton**

Orval was born in 1917 on a farm in Southern Saskatchewan At the age of seven he moved with his parents to Vancouver, where he took all of his education. In 1932 they moved to Hinton Trail, which is in the Peace River country

Bessie was born in Scotland in 1918. Two years later Bessie, her mother and uncle joined her father at Elmworth, which is also in the Peace River area

On November 6, 1941, Orval and Bessie were married at Timmins, Ontario. In August, 1942 their first son, Kenneth Alvin, was born In November 1942 Orval went into the armed forces. Bessie returned to Elmworth until the end of the war Orval Jr (Joe) was born in March 1944 at Beaverlodge

Mr and Mrs. Orval Hamilton and Kenneth 1942

Orval having returned from the service late in 1945, moved the family to Red Deer in the spring of 1946. One year later they moved to a farm four miles from Eckville

In December 1950, Roy Miller was born and in February 1952, Marjorie was born. They lived at Eckville for seven years and left many friends there

In March of 1954 they moved to a farm west of Rumbey, located in the Leedale Valley The boys

really enjoyed living here as they had a river to fish in

They are mixed farmers like many others in the district. The two older boys took their schooling at Bluebell and Mount View and completed it in Rimbey

In August 1957 their second daughter Susan was born. One year later on Ken's 16th birthday, Heather was born

Orval and Bessie are still farming. Ken helps his father with the farming and works on the oil rigs

Orval Jr. (Joe) is a driller on the oil rig and lives at Eckville. Roy is also a driller and lives in Calgary

Marjorie is married to Orman Savage and lives in Rimbey. He is in real estate. They have two children, Orman Jr. and Laurie

Susan is at home and Heather in Red Deer

**JENSON, MR. TED**

I was born in Denmark in 1887 and at the age of ten moved with my folks to Lincoln, County Minnesota

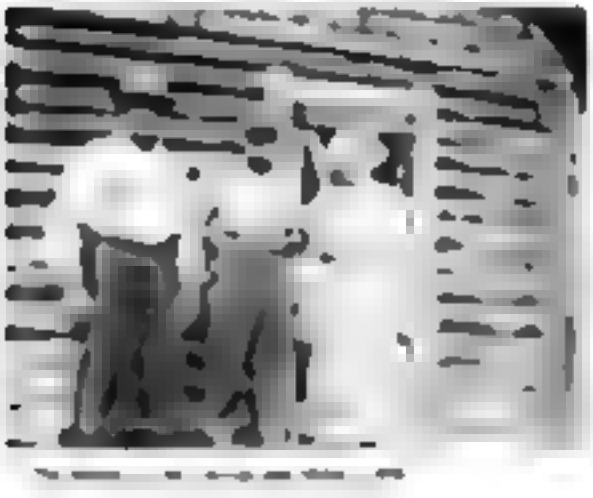
When I was nineteen I came to the Rimbey district and took a homestead in 1906. I worked in the saw mills in Alberta and British Columbia and on railroad construction

I was married in 1917 to Milly E. Wager and had one son, George

I worked out until 1921 then moved back to the homestead. We mixed farmed for a living

My son and grandsons still own the farm. There are also great-grandchildren. We retired and moved to Rimbey in the late 1960's

Mrs. Jenson's folks, Mr. and Mrs. George Wager came from England in 1910. He was the first postmaster in the Willesden Green area



**LAST WEST M.D. 431, S.E. 32-40-4-W5 — by Mrs. [illegible]**

The municipal district of Last West, No. 431 has not existed as such for years, but in the 30's and 40's it covered a large territory, and my husband, Alf Bird, as secretary-treasurer looked after the books, taxes and such business, and his office was a busy place. Sometimes into the small hours of morning, by the light of a coal oil lamp. He took great pride in his sets of books and they were models of neatness and accuracy

The office was a tiny log building, which has been built on his homestead and moved, and one wall still had the magazine covers, calendar scenes, cartoons and poems pasted to those curling logs during long evening "on the homestead."

There was no office so far from a telephone or a bank. It was seven miles to the former and a good sixteen to Rimbey and the bank. Often the roads made getting there impossible for days. Those were times when the black tin box that held tax money was secreted in the house attic and I remember how uneasy we felt about it. Uneasy? I was scared to death! Eventually the roads were dug out or dried up to where getting through became possible again.

There were two mail days per week, which meant a trip to the line of mailboxes by the road to wait for hours sometimes while the mailman fought the roads. Sometimes bonfires were lit for warmth and cheer, and since almost everyone got their mail at that spot, it could become the social event of the week, and occasionally old arguments waxed hotter than the poor little fire. And, of course, someone always came to the office during those mail waiting times. Many were entertained and coffeed by the old kitchen stove sometimes with their feet in the oven, while I stepped over them.

There was a lot of mail, some of it addressed to Lost West and Last Post and even Last Gasp. Some of it was very entertaining, as that of one writer who felt aggrieved and who advised the entire council to "tie a rope around your neck, and put a rock on it and jump-it in the river."

Anything could happen and usually did. One time a strange old fellow who kept strictly to himself appeared at the office with a pig on a rope. His next-to-no English made it hard for him to get across his plan for applying the pig toward his taxes. When he was finally convinced it wouldn't be good business he and the pig trotted back down the trail. Later, Alf learned he had meant to impound the animal but a neighbour had given him a better idea.

There were also the little extras, like settling up for bounty gopher tails and magpie eggs. many a youngster made his spending money from them. Sometimes it would be a tobacco or jam tin full of the lot, mixed, broken eggs and all, and each was supposed to be accounted for and destroyed. This bounty lasted for only a certain time each year, but while it lasted it seemed almost everyone got in on it and there were dire reports of some who split gopher tails, or even removed them and then let the animals go. The get-rich-quicks are always among us!

Municipal council meetings, once a month meant a long day often slushing by team

through mud or snowdrifts the 12 miles to Lavesta schoolhouse, and business always went hours beyond the expected time. People went here for miles, with real and imagined grievances, and some for entertainment, hard to come by in those times. Alf was often hard put to keep order throughout. Council meeting days sometimes found me in charge of the gopher tail and magpie egg detail. The less said the better!

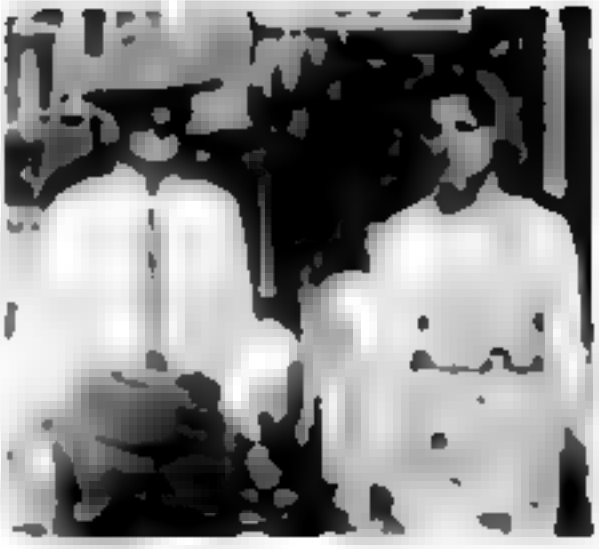
I remember a little circle of kids and myself sorting out" by the woodpile being approached by a "Mountie" who had come to see Alf about something. The office was usually where one started a quest. He observed this strange country game for a bit before we saw him, then politely asked, "Is your daddy home?" I was mortified.

Once Alf walked in from the mailboxes and said "Here's a present for you — A couple dollars worth of gopher tails I just bought." Bounty time had ended, which I reminded him but these kids were at the gate, and they were so young, and so crushed to think they had lost out, so Alf bought them on his own, and in those days two dollars amounted to something. I think all who knew him would say this was typical of Alf Bird.

Without Alf here to set me right I cannot tell you the proper location of the Last West office then, but I'm sure someone can add a footnote with that information. After we left in late 1943 the office was moved and later still the old municipal district of Last West became part of the county of Ponoka, I believe.

The little log office building later burned.

Alfred Bird was one of the many who came to Canada from Britain. In his case from Yorkshire, England. He used to tell of his first job after he left Montreal. It was on a small farm in Quebec where he was promised eight dollars per month. After a gruelling month of 18 to 20 hours a day — and Alf was never a farmer - he decided to quit. The boss was not able to pay him so much cash, so he had to settle for two dollars and fifty cents in currency, an ancient swallow-tailed coat and a gold watch-chain! Certainly something to write home about when he got back to Montreal.



He enlisted in the army first World War, in Winnipeg. It was after his return from overseas that he took up a homestead west of Rimbey where he spent winters and the time he had free from his job as gatekeeper at Banff National Park, during the tourist seasons. He left that job to become secretary-treasurer of Last West M.D. In 1943 he took on the job of secretary-treasurer of the Lacombe Municipal Hospital, retiring to Edmonton 20 years later where he died in September, 1975.

We have three children. Marvin married and has two boys, Neva married and has a boy and a girl, and Alfred, married and has three girls.

note — The Last West Office was located on SE 32-42-4-W5

**LAST WEST HALL**

In the spring of 1940, three districts decided they would work together and build a hall, the districts being Willesden Green, Meadowvale and Mount View. The board being two men from

Last West Hall beginning. Harold Chaffe [illegible] Reinhart Yetsch. Faithful Helper.

each district. R Bohlender, G. Tyndal, R Vetsch, W Thompson, Lloyd Sundberg and G Jenson. Mrs. Mildred Reynolds was secretary Hardin Chaffee was the main carpenter Most of the work was donation. The Ladies' clubs put on different activities to raise money

**LAWSON, MAX AND VERA**

Max and Vera Lawson and son, Mervyn, purchased the Jerry Bell homestead (NW 6-42-4 W5 October 1, 1931. Coming from Assiniboia Saskatchewan this homestead, 18 miles from [illegible] proved [illegible] from home. However the Meadowvale people were overly friendly and made Max and Vera feel right at home. In 1941 they purchased the S½ 7-42-4 W5 from Slim Moorehead where they made their home until retirement

Max and Vera [illegible] Tabor [illegible]

In 1942 Max had running water and power which was operated by a 12 volt lighting plant

One of the first cars of the district belonged to Max, when in 1939 he purchased a Model "A

Times were hard but every one of his family of ten will always remember the numerous times of fun they had while working like beavers Leaving home Mervyn married Joan Stout and is settled in Bluffton with a family of five. Jim married Phyllis Whately and is living in Drayton Valley with a family of four Myrtle married Ernie Repas and are living in the Leedale district with a family of five. Mary May married Herb Bauer and are living in the Rimbey district with a family of five Velma married Buddy Farnham and are living in the Forshee district with a family of four Lyle married Gayle Hunt and are living in Tabor with a family of three Arther and Charolette are living in Penoka. John with a family of three is living in Edmonton Ava married Marty Raadik and are Living in Grimshaw with a family of two. Nora is living in Red Deer

August 31 1963 Max and Vera retired to an acreage in the Ponoka district Later on August 15, 1975 they moved to Casa Al Sereno Mobile Home Park where you'll often hear them remaisicing their enjoyable yet unforgettable years at Meadowvale

**LUKOCS, JAMES**
**NW 13-42-4 W5**

James Lukocs left his homeland of Sayta Maria Romania, as a young man of 24 in 1928 leaving his mother, father two brothers and a sister to come to Canada. James arrived at St Johns, by boat then travelled by train to Calgary Here he worked his way to Olds cutting brush with an axe by hand to earn some money then on to Taber to the sugarbeet fields Here he met Giezella Kish, a nice Rumanian girl, they were married and decided farming was the life for them

This brings Giezela and James Lukocs to their farm, a (C P R ) quarter the NE 13 42 4 W5 in 1932 at Leedale The land was all timber There were about four acres that Leo Benson had cleared where the people of the district had put on rodeos for their own pleasure

James set on, to build a little log house, barn, and granary He cleared the land of trees by hand, digging around the roots of the trees, taking away the soil, leaving them for the wind to blow over, then proceeded to clear and break this land with his team of horses

For living money James cut fire wood. He could be seen going to Rimbey or Lockhart on

Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Penoka [illegible]

any day warm or cold. In the winter, walking with his team and load to sell this fire wood for $2 a wagon load. Times were happy for them then.

Three children were born to James and Giezella, two girls, Teresa and Mary, and a boy James Jr.

The year 1938 came and brought sadness to James. Illness and death came to Giezella. She passed away in the Rimbey hospital in November. James lived on at the farm with his three small children to care for.

In the year 1943, James purchased the quarter, SW 15-42-4-W5, from Mr. Frank Fox who had homesteaded this land. James moved his family from the little log house to the newer two story frame home on the Fox farm. The children attended the Leedale school.

Teresa Lukocs married Lester Robinson of Leedale and farms there now, they have a family of Linda, nursing in Calgary; Janet, attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton; Beverley also attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton, James, at home; Glenda Bonnie, Joyce, attending Rimbey school and Holly at home.

Mary Lukocs married Elwood Pederson of Bentley having a family of Brian, at home; Dean and Brenda, attending Rocky Mountain House school. They reside at Rocky Mountain House where Elwood has an Auto-wrecking business.

Jim Lukocs Jr. married Donna Misner from Leedale and have a family of Allen, who is attending Red River Community College in Winnipeg; also Denice, Elaine, Judy and Brent, who are attending Rimbey school.

Jim Jr. and Donna stayed to farm together with his father James until he retired. Then in 1964 Jim and Donna built a new home beside his father's house on the Fox farm, and are continuing to farm there.

James is still residing in his own little house and still enjoys the farm life.

**LUPFER, JOSEF AND HITZ**

Josef Lupfer and myself immigrated from Austria in 1925 and arrived in Pincher Creek April 1925. My brother, Joe Krieglstein, also came with us and we farmed at Pincher for two years when crop failures made us decide to leave that part. We were too close to the foothills where snow arrived early.

In 1930 we moved to Willesden Green where we farmed the Northcot place for one year then moved from there to the farm 11 miles west of Rimbey (NE 30-42-4-W5).

In 1936 my husband was taken ill, suffering a mental breakdown, due to his war injuries and spent 28 years in the Provincial Hospital where he died in 1964.

My brother Joe and myself stayed on at the farm until 1945, when we made the move to Calgary.

**MANOWICH, HARRY**

Mr. Manowich was born in the Ukraine in Nov. 1892, came to Canada and moved to Northern Saskatchewan while still a young bo

He later farmed in Saskatchewan for a while and also worked in the sawmills.

In 1948 he came to the Rimbey district and bought the SE 26-42-4-W5 nine miles west of town where he lived until his death at the Rimbey Municipal Hospital on May 14, 1951.

He was not married.

**MEADOW VALE — by Edna Brown**

Meadow Vale School Number 4704. The first term of school was in October 1936. Mrs. Alex Hubardeau was the teacher. The pupils were Gordon Cadman, Shirley Cadman, Rex Brown, Maxine Cooper, Leroy Brown, Willie Bauer, Lea Bauer, Betty Gwin, Willie Grundy, Margery Cadman, Grace Brown, Wayne Brown, Claire Shuler, Norman Brown, Albert Bauer, Isa Waddelow, Vera Gwin, Marjam Cadman, Viola Brown, Archie Cooper, Irma Shuler, Mervyn Lawson, Herb Bauer, Bud Reynolds, Tom Grundy.

Meadow Vale school teachers were Mrs. Alex Hubardeau, Berryl Merrill, Laura Stout, Nora Visger, Pearl Brewster, June Reid.

William Ferguson Vellettia Hackett Edith Christenson, Ellen Hayward

The above names are the teachers I remember from the opening of the school in October, 1936, until we left the district in July 1955 I am sorry if I have missed any of the teachers

**MEADOW VALE CEMETERY**

Burials at Meadow Vale Cemetery Abraham Huff February 14, 1936 Baby boy — son of Mr and Mrs. Carl Ruff Date unknown, Two baby daughters of Albert Babcocks. Date unknown Neva Brown May 6, 1937; Annie Huff - September 10, 1951, Opal Brown — baby daughter of Leroy Brown's January 1952

**MEMORIES OF CAROLE BUTLIN**

My father and mother, Mr Joseph and Catherine Stanton, and my uncle and aunt, John and Elizabeth Wilmer came from England to Canada in June 1906

My father settled on a homestead north west of Wittenburg, now called Leedale His land was the NW 32-42-4-W5

[redacted] post office at that time. We lived eight miles from the store by the roads in those days. 1906-07 was a terrible winter we had calves frozen to death in the barn. My father had no idea of farming he was a soldier for 25 years, most of his time spent in India

My uncle settled on the adjoining homestead so we were close together

In November, just after our log home was finished, one morning it was 40 below and our home was burned to the ground. We lost most of our things and my mother and brother and myself walked and ran three quarters of a mile in deep snow to my uncle's in our nighties and stocking feet We blamed our big tom cat for scratching the hay that was on the sod roof close to the stove pipe chimney as he had climbed on the roof Then the next month my uncle's log shack burned down but most of their things were saved

The neighbors were all young men who had also filed on homesteads. They helped my father build another shack. One large room of logs and we divided it off after we moved in. Mr Jerry Bell, Mr Andy Swanson, Mr Jack Barwick and Mr Jenson, my mother baked bread for these boys every week There was only one lady close to us besides my auntie, that was Mrs. Bert Crandon. Her husband used to work away in the mines in the winter time. Lots of young men would come out and file on homesteads, but would only stay a year or so, they couldn't make [redacted]

My father had three pensions from England or we could have never stayed either

I remember Mr Barwick was cutting bush on a road allowance when the axe slipped and cut through his boot and toes He crawled two miles to our home for help. My father and Mr Swanson travelled all night to get him into Lacombe Hospital. They put a mattress on the floor of the wagon box for him to lie on and changed teams at Bentley Mr Williams had a boarding house and livery barn at Bentley so he lent my father a team of horses so he could go on without delay The roads at that time were bad and it was 40 miles to Lacombe by wagon trail.

In 1910 my father passed away and in 1911 my auntie passed away In 1912 my mother remarried and we moved to Medicine Valley 15 miles south of Leedale. My step-father was the rural mail carrier from Medicine Valley to Bentley twice a week

[redacted] and it was only a mile from our home

There was a creamery two miles from us run by Mr and Mrs Bradshaw

I have one step-brother living in Calgary 68 years old, and my brother Jack Stanton, retired R.C.M.P Detective. In Vancouver, 76 years old and myself left of our family

We had lots of happy days on that homestead and lots of sad ones

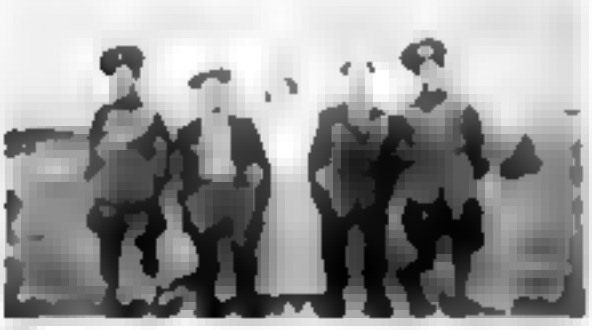
[redacted]

William J (Bill) McKinnon purchased a half section of land two miles north and sixteen miles west of Rimbey in 1933, at which time he was the Canadian Pacific Railway Station Agent at Barons, Alberta He later moved to the C.P.R. Station at Kooluk, one mile south of Eckville, with his wife, Edna, and twin sons, Walter and Jim. His brother, Alfred McKinnon, and the eldest son, Ross, travelled by team and wagon from Barons to the farm in 1933, living in a tent on the wagon en route They bought one team and a saddle horse, and purchased one more horse near Calgary. On arrival at the farm, they had to detour through a neighbor's farm to cross his bridge over the Medicine River as the road had not yet been constructed west of the river They lived in a bunkhouse purchased in Rimbey

until a log cabin was constructed before winter

The family commuted from the farm to Barons, and later to Eckville until Bill McKinnon's retirement from the C.P.R. in 1939. Ross lived on the farm through these early years, but his uncle, Alfred, took a homestead four miles north of the McKinnon farm. Walter and Jim went to school in Eckville for several years, then moved to the farm and established a mink ranch and also raised silver fox, on the northeast corner of the farm.

In 1938, Walter and Jim enlisted in the 78th Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery at Red Deer, trained in Edmonton, and were with the first Canadian contingent of forces which went overseas in December 1939. They returned in the spring of 1945, after five and one half years of active duty in the Second World War. Jim had married Irma Shuler six weeks before leaving, and Walter married Claire Shuler on the day he returned from overseas. The twin brothers had been together all of the time they were on duty, except for a short period of Jim's illness, and were fortunate in being able to return home on leave at the same time, by unusual coincidence.



Walter's name had been drawn for leave, but Jim's had not. The ship was twelve hours out to sea on the homeward trip before Walter learned that at the last possible moment, Jim had been rushed onto the ship, taking the place of another soldier who had been too ill to make the journey. So they completed the five and a half years together, and peace was declared before they were required to go back into action. Jim and Irma moved to Red Deer soon after his return. Walter stayed on the farm for one year, during which time he built up the mink farm again. Then he and Claire also moved to Red Deer.

Ross worked with his father on the farm, where they raised Black Angus cattle, and some sheep. In the early years he played violin for many of the neighborhood dances and house parties, playing at times with various members of the Brown family, Carl Ruff, and others of the community who provided entertainment. For several years his orchestra, the "Swamp Angels", consisting of Ross, Jim, Walter, David Shuler and Mary Alice Shuler, played in the area. In 1939 he married Mary Alice Shuler and built a house on the quarter of land lying directly east of the Shuler farm. They remained in the area until February 1947, when they moved to Red Deer where Ross was employed by the Central Alberta Dairy Pool in the Condensery department.

Bill and Edna McKinnon owned the farm for sixteen years, and were active community members while they were in the area. With the assistance of their sons, his brother Alfred, several men who worked for them, and Edna's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Saunders, they built it up into a prosperous farm. Edna was active in the local branch of the Red Cross during the war years, and assisted in other community ventures, as well as carrying on her farm duties, and keeping a few of the mink from her son's fur farm during the years they were overseas. The McKinnons sold out and moved to an acreage west of Red Deer in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Edna McKinnon's parents, bought a quarter section of land two miles east and one half mile south of the McKinnon farm, after having helped on the McKinnon farm for several years. They built a house and lived there until his death in 1941. Mrs. Saunders returned to Manitoba for a time, then retired to Red Deer with Bill and Edna McKinnon.

**CLYDE AND ANNIE MISNER**

In early 1914 Clyde Misner along with a number of others, left Fosston, Minnesota to arrive in Harlem, Montana. After reaching Harlem, they crossed the Canadian border and homesteaded the south half of 22-1-20 in the Frontier Sask. district where they built a shack.

In the last week of July 1914 he and his companions decided to work their way back to their families in Fosston, Minnesota. With team and rack they hayed and harvested along the [illegible] arriving in Fosston approximately three months

In 1915 they again left Fenston to arrive on the prairies where they decided to settle. His wife Annie, and two children, Ernest and Lester came to join Clyde. Four more children, Chester Mildred, Glen and Victor were later born in this a

Because of the long droughts in 1934, Clyde and Lester travelled to Rimbey where they bought their farm NW 33-42-4-W5) In the spring of 1936 Clyde returned to Frontier to move his family They journeyed by Model T and after two days travelling, arrived at their new home. Their cattle, machinery and personal belongings arrived by Canadian Pacific Rail

Later this same year Annie Misner passed away Twelve later in 1948 Clyde Misner passed away. Ernest died in Calgary in 1955. Later, in 1972, Lester passed away in Burnaby, B.C

Chester and Glen Misner are presently living in Calgary Mildred is living east of Rimbey and Victor is still farming the home quarter west of Rimbey

**MISNER, VICTOR AND EDNA**

In the spring of 1948 the marriage of Victor Misner to Edna Richardson marked the beginning of a new family and its own personal history

Following their marriage, the Misners moved to Rimbey where they stayed with relatives and built their first home, which consisted of only two rooms. After the birth of their first son, Marvin, they left their home and went to live at the J. Jones' mill where Victor worked for approximately three years. During this time their second son, Calvin, was born

In the spring of 1951 they returned to their home, but as a result of a hail storm that destroyed all their crops, they were forced to move again — this time to Innisfail, where Victor was employed as a labourer on the Bowden Institute. About a year later they returned, with their two sons, to their home and moved their house to their own farm which Victor's father had purchased in 1934 By this time, two more sons had joined the family — Bob and Ron

The family also lived in the Drayton Valley district where work was found in the oil fields

Returning to their farm near Rimbey, they resumed farming until 1966. The addition of two more children another son David, and a daughter, Elaine, completed the Misner family

In July of 1966, an auction sale was held all livestock, machinery, and some personal possessions were sold and the family moved west to Surrey B.C A year later they returned to the farm, this time to stay

In 1975 a family crisis arose On a routine medical examination, doctors found abnormalities in Calvin's kidney function. Extensive tests and time showed the need for a kidney transplant The family underwent tests in hopes that one of them would prove to be a suitable donor Test results indicated that Ron was the best choice The transplant was successfully performed in July of 1975 and both donor and recipient are now, two years later, able to lead relatively normal lives

At the time of this writing only two of the Misner children are married — Marvin, living near Rimbey, has two children, and Ron, living near Eckville with one child

**MOUNTVIEW**

The following is a list of names of people who were homesteaders, owners and renters over the

NE 4-43-4 W5. W Field. 1916. Mr and Mrs Bill Cooper and family came to this area in 1932. they had a family of two girls and two boys Janette (Mrs. Cecil Brooks) Harrison Hot Springs, B.C Catherine Mrs. Ray Farnham Campbell River, B.C George and Evan are twins George married, lives at Burnaby B.C Evan lives in Red Deer Both Mr and Mrs Cooper have passed on

SE 4-43-4 W5. Mr and Mrs. Whitledge and daughter homesteaded this land in 1908, lived here for three or four years, then left for the States. This land is now owned by Ted Jenson

NW 4 43 4 W5 Andrew Swanson homesteaded, 1907; Frank Cooper 1942, Herman Janzen R Schultz, R Geisbrecht Donnie Nykoriuk

SW 4-43-4-W5, Ted Jenson homesteaded 1907 now owned by a grandson, Walter Jenson

NE 5-43-4-W5, Jeff Sawyer 1913, Jack White; M Skow, Philip Skow; Richard Youb

SE 5-43-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Roy Patton homesteaded this land in the early 1920's. Roy's parents lived on the same farm, but in their own house Mr and Mrs. Roy Patton had a family of

five Ethel (Mrs. Tom Simmons) now deceased Bernice (Mrs. Bill Somers) of Sundre Alton Tommy and Clifford all married and live in the area of Worsley Mr and Mrs. Roy Patton and family left by covered wagon in about 1929 for Blue Sky M. Skow 1931 Phillip Skow Richard Youb

NW 5-43-4-W5, Harvey Skow Cleo Price Larry Vetsch

SW 5-43-4-W5. Frank Ecker Ross McKinnon Cleo Price Larry Vetsch

NE 6-43-4-W5, Mr and Mrs Roy Bowers lived here in about 1925. Mrs. Bowers was the former Jane Hunt daughter of Hudson Hunt Roy Bowers used to take the farmers cream to Rimbey and bring groceries back They left this area after a few years and went to Jaffray B.C where he ran a mail route. After he passed on Mrs. Bowers moved to Wardner to be near her family where they have a ranch on the Bull River A. J Engebretson Pat Walsh, Stan Nickle R Lucas

SE 6-43-4 W5. Mr and Mrs. Gilbert Crandon and daughter bought this land in 1909 They came from Ontario, he farmed with oxen and they left in the 1920's

NW 6-43-4-W5, J Bell homesteaded in 1907 M Lawson R Lucas

SW 6-43-4-W5. Strong, 1918, Bill Robinson, Howard Tyndal Jim Stout

NE 1-43-5-W5, Jack White. 1930's. E. Brown

SE 1-43-5-W5. E Brown Lerov Brown Meadow Vale School on this property

NW 1-43-5-W5. Ken Gabott. 1930; R Gee and family R Bauer

SW 1-43-5-W5. Donald Bauer

N½ 2-43-4-W5. Ken Carson

S½ 2-43-4-W5. Ed Bauer 1933 — have a family of four Ronnie, Donald and Muriel at home and Donna (Mrs. Ed Krueger), Bluffton, Donna and Donald are twins

SE 3-43-4 W5. Mr and Mrs. Sam Cadman and family came here in the early 1930's They had a family of two boys and six girls. They farmed and milked cows and after a few years moved to British Columbia

Chenwin John Carson and family came in 1941 from Montgreenan district They had a family of five. Ken is married lives in Rimbey Helen (Mrs. Magnuson) lives in Calgary, Gordon married, Calgary Ralph married, Vancouver Ronnie married, Bluffton. Mr and Mrs Carson lived here for about three years then moved to Vancouver where he worked for Dominion Bridge. Mr Carson passed away in 1945. In 1951 Ina Carson married Volney Kidwell and returned to the farm. They lived there until Mr Kidwells death 1966. Mrs. Kidwell passed away in Calgary 1968. The Carson family were a musical family Ken, Gordon and Ralph were a part of a dance band Blue Boys" a popular central Alberta dance band They had many records made

NE 34-42-4-W5. Ed Hoheck, 1918, Fred Pimm. K Lenglet Pickering A. Beaudebough Bruce Leonard Joe Oulette

SE 34-42-4-W5, Herman Boh. 1907 homestead A. Gregg, Gerald Brodersen, Ken Hamilton

NW 34-42-4-W5. Anthony Jacobson came from Minnesota in 1907 and homesteaded. He had two sons, Charlie and Ernest and a daughter Mrs John Olson of Leedale Mr Jacobson was noted for his singing and was a good yodeller he spent his remaining days with Mrs. Josephine Simmons R. Patton Herb Beierbach

SW 34-42-4-W5, Charlie Jacobson settled on this farm in about 1916 or there abouts. Charlie farmed, he also liked to trap and hunt. he moved to the North Pine near Fort St. John in the 1930's and after a few years passed away

George Larsen bought the farm. George Larsen came from Rosebud in about 1931 He has farmed for many years but is now retired. He has a son George Jr

SE 33-42-4-W5, Fred Pimm Gerda

NW 33-42-4-W5, Clyde Misner Victor Misner

SW 33-42-4-W5. William Saunders. W C Thompson, Jerry Thompson Last West Hall on this property

NE 32-42-4-W5, J A. Barwick 1907 Sterling Moore, Don Kultgen Keith Beebe Richard Youb

SE 32-42-4 W5. Feeney and Cameron, 1920's A Bird — was secretary of Municipality; W C Thompson, Jerry Thompson

NW 32-42-4-W5. Jack Stanton 1908 J Bell Doug Ecker

SW 32-42-4-W5 John Wilmer 1908: Herman Ecker Violet Ecker

NE 31-42-4-W5 Ross McKinnon Violet Ecker

SE 31-42-4 W5, Joe Kriegelstein came in the early 1930's, and worked back and forth with his sister and brother-in-law Josef Lupfer After a few years he moved to Calgary where he worked in the Ogden Shops, and later passed on. A. C Cooper

NW 31-42-4-W5. Mr and Mrs Bill McKinnon and three sons came in the early 1930's from Nemaku. Mr McKinnon worked with the C P R in telegraphy and worked at Eckville for a time then retired, but remained on the farm for a few years, then moved to Red Deer Their three sons were. Ross married Mary Alice Schuller Jim and Walter are twins and both served in second War overseas They married sisters, Jim married Irma Schuller and Walter married Claire Schuller Walter has passed on — result of a plane accident. Stan Nickle, Ron Dyck

SW 31-42-4-W5. Mr and Mrs A. C. Cooper and family came from Saskatchewan in 1931 They came by covered wagon. They brought with them quite a few horses. Mr and Mrs. Cooper have both passed on. Their son, Archie lives on the farm and their daughter Maxine (Mrs. Mike Crowell) lives at Whitecourt

NE 36-42-5-W5, Mr and Mrs. Frank Cooper Andy Lerrand. Henry McAreavy bought this

farm in 1948. Henry was a lover of music and liked to play the violin. They had three children Charlotte lives in Calgary, Vernon married and lives in Bendley June lives at home. Henry sold his farm and moved to Morningside. Mathew Coninx

SE 36-42-5-W5. Carl Ruff and family came in early 1930's. They had a family of six children They lived here a few years, then moved a mile east of Rimbey then later moved on. Jim Mos leth B Randall Maxine Crowell

NW 36-42-5-W5. Mathew Foss Lawrence McAreavy

SW 36-42-5-W5. Maxine Crowell

NE 35-42-5-W5. Mr and Mrs. Ed Bohlender and son came from Hanna in 1930's, after a few years the farm was taken over by their son Rudy Rudy married Ethel Robinson. They have five girls and one boy Gloria Mrs. Carl Jevne lives at Slave Lake: Phyllis Mrs. Dallas Bennett) lives in Calgary, Geraldine (Mrs Jerry Thompson) Rimbey Wanita (Mrs. Victor Schwinger Blackfalds Darlene lives in Ponoka and Darrel works out After a few years Mrs. and Mrs. Rudy Bohlender left the farm and went and worked on oil rigs, then later moved into Rimbey where he works at the gas plant Donald Bell

SE 35-42-5-W5, Maxine Crowell

NW 35-42-4-W5. Frank Retzler; R. Denning C Monteth P Rhine Stan McCormack

SW 35-42-5-W5. E Bohlender R Bohlender Donald Bell

E½ 27 42 4-W5. A J Engebretson P Sorensen Earl Derricot Abe Giesbrecht W Wheale

NW 27-42-4-W5, Harold Bowell Fred Bryenton Bill Whea

SW 27-42-4-W5, P Sorensen Earl Derricot Abe Giesbrecht W Wheale

NE 28-42-4-W5. Wilson 1914 went to W W I and never returned W C Thompson

SE 28-42-4-W5, Basil McLean 1913 G Walmsley, 1922 W C Thompson

NW 28-42-4-W5, Fred McLean, 1913; Switzer W C Thompson, 1918

SW 26-42-4-W5, Robert Grovenor came in 1914. originally from England, he was a bachelor He lived here a few years then moved to Calgary and worked for C P R as a freight porter He fell heir to a large inheritance from England, but he refused the money as well as a title. He passed away in 1962 at the age of 90 years A. Ferguson W C Thompson Jessie B. Thompson

Section 29-42-4-W5. Section 29 was school section for many years and rented as pasture. Then the lands division put it up for sale for agricultural purposes

N½ 29-42-4-W5, Stanley Sherman

S½ 29-42-4-W5, George Larsen Jr

NE 30-42-4-W5, A. Fox, 1918, Josef Lupfer Leo McAreavy — Leo McAreavy and family came from Vegreville in 1940's. They had a family of two girls, Sylvia and Jacqueline After a few years they sold their farm and moved to Calgary Leo was caretaker at S.A.I.T for several years. Bruce Johnson

Lester Johnson — Mr and Mrs. Lester Johnson came from the Aurora district They have a family of five Roy married Lyla Taylor, they live at Lesheville Charlene. Mrs. Ted Jenson, lives in the district. Calvin Lois and Delores live

SE 30-42-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Ralph Brown and son came from Calgary in 1918. W S. Thompson. 1918. Dave Thompson

NW 30-42-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Chris Sorensen and family came from Drumheller in 1933. They had a family of four Jim Erland, a son — name unknown and a daughter Oda They lived here for a few years then went back to Drumheller A Cooper

SE 26-42-5-W5 Clarence Ecklund

NW 26-42-5-W [redacted]

SW 26-42-5-W5, Shelby Tayler 1924 Leo Bauer

SW 27-42-5-W5, Guy Smith — early 1920's he was a bachelor and had many horses, as well as a lot of goats. He hauled lumber from the mills He passed away at his farm. Herb Bauer

NE 22-42-4-W5, Tom Plumb; Bob Plumb A Giesbrecht.

SE 22-42-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Fred Perkins and son Tom Plumb; Young Abe Giesbrecht

NW 22-42-4-W5, Wilson lived on this land — 1914 enlisted in W W I — went overseas and never returned here. Alex Beatty. 1934 K Washkevich Peter Washkevich

SW 22-42-4-W5. Rabottom. 1910, Jess Headlee. [redacted]

E½ 21-42-4-W5, M. Zaetz, O. Hallin, O. W Hamilton

NW 21-42-4-W5, Alfred Straarup Frank Zurwell Donald Bell bought this farm in about 1950. They have three daughters. Jocelyna Mrs Gilles Lapierre, lives in Germany, Carlynn in Red Deer and Audrey at home

SW 21 42-4-W5. Leo Benson. G Benson K Beebe

NE 20-42-4-W5. Ernest Jacobson. 1918. Ernest Bean. A. and E. Thompson Charles Repas

SE 20-42-4-W5. Little, 1918 Leo Benson G Benson. K Beebe

N½ 19-42-4-W5. Eugene Tyndal K Kanthak Don Bryanton

NW 20-42-4 W5 W S. Thompson Dave Thompson

NW 23-42-4-W5. Herb Bauer

SW 23-42-4-W5, Frank Pike; Dave Johnson

SE 22-42-5-W5, L. P Robinson, 1911, Ralph Pike

SW 22-42-5-W5, Mr and Mrs. Archer 1920: A Bauer

NE 22-42-5-W5, Mrs. E. Thompson, 1911 Albert Bauer

NW 22-42-5-W5, Mr and Mrs Luse 1913. E. J Motzk

SW 21 42-5-W5. Maurice Beaugrand, 1918: Ward Makofka

NW 21-42-5-W5, B. Pigeh, 1911, Emanuel Bauer Ron Nystrom

SE 20-42-5-W5, Mr and Mrs Bob Patterson 1918, had a family of three girls. Jessie married Russell McClean. He is now deceased and she lives in Calgary Elizabeth and Tiny Cody Bengston. Laverne Spicer

NE 15-42-4-W5, L. A. Eaton, 1922. Mr and Mrs. Brian Ed Solberg

SE 15-42-4-W5, Russel Stewart, Cleo Price Clarence Woods

SW 15-42-4-W5. Frank Fox, Jim Lukocs

NW 15-42-4-W5, Bob Fox, K Washkevich. P Washkevich

NE 16-42-4-W5. Bert Archer 1907 Jess Headlee. 1918: Wendelbow, Norman Benson Tony Kriz Keith Beebe

NW 16-42-4-W5. Leo Benson, 1905, Gordon Benson. Keith Beebe

SE 16-42-4-W5. Frank Hallett, 1907 Josephine Simmons. 1909; Harley Belt, John Benson Dewy Simmons Ted Plmm Tom Simmons

SW 16-42-4-W5, Mark Lampman, 1907 Harvard Nelson. Ed Hobeck John Walters

NE 17 42-4-W5, Jim Lukocs, 1930

SE 17 42-4-W5, Ernest Bean. 1928 A. J Engebretson, Herman Lowe; Vidor Repas Karl Hendricksen Dave Morgan

W½ 17-42-4-W5, Mike Tirpak, Ed Jestin. Cliff Luft

SE 18-42-4-W5, M Repas

SW 18-42-4-W5. Ben Terlotti, Percy Sirous

SE 13-42-5-W5. Fred Rattone: Len Bauer

SE 14 42-5-W5, Henry Chabot 1918, Bill W chera Jerry Albach

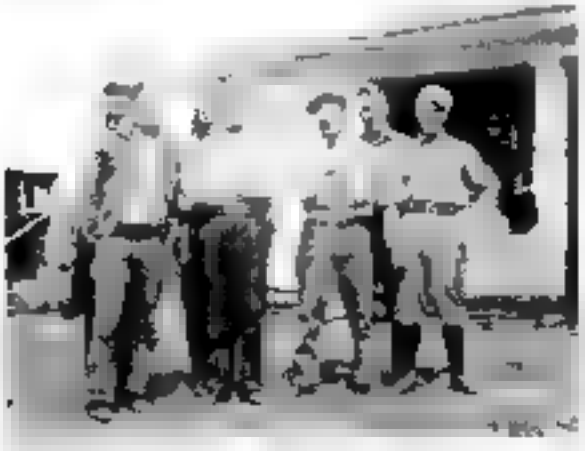
NE 15-42-5-W5. Frank Pike. 1920

NE 15-42-5-W5, A. Munson .911, John Makofka

SE 16-42-5-W5. J m Smith, 1912

NW 16-42-5-W5, Bob and Bill Mann. 1925 John Makofka

SW 16-42-5-W5. E. York 1918: Melvin Lowe H Gibson



Mount View Ball team. 1944 Chester Hobeck Dick Northcott. Kingsley Northcott. Gilman Benson Willie Thompson. Darcy Clayton. Claude Benson there were two Cooper boys Ernest and George.

**MOUNT VIEW SCHOOL**

This school was built in 1921 and opened in about 1924. The following are most of the teachers that taught in the school Their names are not necessarily in proper order. Cecil Gowland, Ruth Walker, Cecil Brandvold. Barbara Tona, Stan McGee, Arthur Cumberland Edna Hall. Kay Beierbach, Bernice Simmons Joan Lawson. T Sheridan Mrs. Freckelton. Arthur Gabriel, Duncan Layton Victor Wenters. Jean Moore. Pearl Kroening Viola Edgerton Ruth Wright. Chester Dahms, Mrs. Ewart Brown.

Mount View Allan Thompson, Brian Repas, Evelyn Brvanton. Joe Hamilton Annie Tirpak Shirley Repas Faye Brvanton. Ann Hamilton. Marlene Brvanton. Sandra Thompson. Julie Leslie Brvanton Betty Tirpak on horse at right Isabella Thompson on horse T Sheridan, teacher

Mount View School June 1914 Back row. Mr r Violet Bell. Catherine Cooper Melvin Benson. George Jestin. Bill Perkins. Jessie Barwick Second row Kathleen Barwick Cecil Pimm Phillip Shaw David Thompson. Archie Pimm. Lillian Bell Front row Janet Benson. Albert Bowell Norman Benson. Gordon Bell. Mary Zaour. Donald Bell not shown was teacher Victor Wenters.

**NICKLE, STAN AND FAMILY — by Mary Saunders**

On April 1, 1939 Stan Nickle accompanied by a former trapping partner, Charlie Perry moved Stan's worldly belongings in two 1929 Chevrolet cars to the former Bing Engebretson homestead NW 6-43-4 W5. They proceeded to make the one room log house liveable for Stan's wife, Mary and their one year old daughter Betty to arrive two weeks later.

While on NW 6, Stan worked for the County running cat building roads. Actually, it was the Municipal District of East West at that time. He also went trapping on his registered trap line bordering on the Banff Park boundary. Because he was this type of rustler, his increasing family was well provided for and he soon had title to this quarter of land.

By the summer of 1946 the family consisted of five children — Betty, Gail, Jim, Doris, and Ken. In August of that year we moved to NW 31-42-4 W5 which my dad, Ray Newton, had bought from Bill McKinnon. We rented it from him until buying it in the fall of 1956. Stan no longer worked out but devoted full time to mixed farming raising grain, cattle and pigs.

The family was completed in May 1953 when Norma was born.

Betty married Eric Gray of Leedale. Eric works as heavy equipment operator and welder for Revelstoke. They also farm in the Carlos district. They had four children — Linda, Darlene, David and Tina. They lost Darlene at the age of fourteen and a half in a car accident.

Gail married Murray Rathwell of the Willesden Green District. Murray has worked for Calgary Power and heavy equipment operator for the county. He is presently working for Amerada and farms in the Meadowvale district. Gail has taught for several years in Rimbey. They have two daughters — Sheila and [illegible].

Jim is a heavy duty mechanic. He is employed by R. Angus of Lethbridge. He married Sharon Hoag of Rimbey. They live at Coaldale, Alberta. They have two children — Leanne and Stanley.

Doris married Jim Booth, a plumber from Rimbey. Jim has worked several years for the government at Nordegg and Camrose. They live at New Norway. They have three daughters — Barbara, Carolyn, and Catherine.

Ken is a pressure welder. He married Donna Ervin of the Aurora district. They live at Fort Saskatchewan and he commutes to Edmonton where he is employed. They have two sons — Rodney and Randy.

Both boys worked as heavy equipment operators building roads in the far north.

Norma married Rodney Hamula, an electrician from Calmar. They live at Rocky Mountain House where Rod is employed by Sparrow Electric. They have two children, Michael and Mar[illegible].

In November 1971 Stan lost his life in a tragic hunting accident.

In the spring of 1972, Mary rented the farm and had an auction sale of the machinery. Later the farm was sold to Ronald and Shirley Dyck.

Mary moved to Rimbey and worked at the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital for five years. She bought a home there and still resides there.

In November 1975 Mary married Bill Saunders of Rimbey, formerly of the Willesden Green District.

The family all inherited their dad's grit and are all determined to make good homes for their [illegible].

**THE PIKE FAMILY**

Frank Pike was born on the family farm in the Lockart district where the old home still stands. His parents Frank and Josephine Pike were from Nebraska, U.S.A., having moved there in 1901. They raised a family of seven children, Frank being the tallest of the lot.

Marjorie Withers was born in the Medicine Valley district just a few minutes before brother Bill arrived. There were two other sisters and one more brother to complete the household. Her parents William A. and Harriet Withers had moved from Kings County, Nova Scotia in 1906. Later moving to the Beaconsfield district in about 1930 or 31 to what is now known as the Aibach farm.

Frank and Marjorie, as years went by, met and decided to tie the knot in 1930. In 1931, they homesteaded on the SW 23-42-5-W5, and built their home there. Those were lean years and Frank brought home the bacon by cutting posts and selling them, trapping in southern Alberta, stooking and hauling grain and anything that would bring in a few dollars. Much of his time was spent working in the sawmills also. He bought Henry Bishops' mill in 1946 and they moved "lock, stock and barrel" to the Faraway district where they sawmilled for a couple of years, then in 1948 or 49, sold the mill to Hulberg [illegible].

Frank was a licensed steam engineer and worked as boilerman in mills and later on in the oilfields. At one time they lived in Rimbey and Frank worked for Davis Bros. Garage and Marjorie worked in The Downe Inn as cook.

They raised a family of seven children, most of whom still reside in Central Alberta. They moved away several times but always came back to the "Homestead". Most of the moves were made to get schooling for the family as the Beaconsfield School which had been located on their place, had been closed down some years [illegible].

Their home on the farm was a popular stopping place for the people travelling to and from the Faraway district, as there was always an extra plate or two for the table and a place to feed the horses. Later on when motor vehicles became the mode of transportation, if that broke

down. Frank soon had it fixed up for you and you went happily on your way.

Marjorie could make up a mean batch of biscuits, and a meal in a hurry and then they would proceed to whip the pants off their visitors at whist or euchre.

In 1973, they sold the farm and retired to Rocky Mountain House. Frank still does a little carpentry but just as a hobby now to pass the time, and Marjorie has taken up bowling. They enjoy travelling short distances, but two or three times a year they drive up to the Peace River area where two of the girls and their families live.

The boys learned a wealth of information from "PA" in mechanics and sawmilling.

That wasn't all they learned either, they were full of pranks. Once when the folks were away to Red Deer for a day everyone got their heads together and decided to pull a few tricks on them. They came up with what they thought was a good idea. They got a lot of string and a cowbell and set up an intricate system controlled from an upstairs window. There was a string attached to a piece of wood to resemble a knock on the door, another to slam the yard gate and one to ring the cow bell. The folks got home and retired for the night, so then the strings started to work, out of bed came Frank but there was no one at the door so he went back to bed. Knock, knock, again no one, so after a few more gate slammings and cow bell ringings he lost his cool and grabbed the shotgun. Thinking of the tractor facing the house, the kids decided to "fess" up while the tractor still had a radiator.

Then there was the time they stuffed a suit of Stanfields and hung them in the outer biffy but decided to tell Ma so she wouldn't get too scared but stood peering out the window when Pa made a bee-line down the path and opened the door and pulled back his arm to punch the "character" occupying the "one-holer".

**PERKINS — WILFRED AND FLORENCE**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perkins came to Canada from England after World War I. Mr. Perkins was a war veteran and they settled on the SE 22-42-4-W5 where they farmed for several years.

He was the first secretary of the Mount View school. His salary was three to five dollars a year and most of his writing paper was the backs of old calenders.

They had one son, William.

In 1935 they sold out and moved to Victoria, B.C. where they have lived until passing.

Mrs. Perkins who was born in Birmingham, England, died in 1950.

William lives in Esquimalt, B.C.

**RAMBLINGS — by Amelia Thompson, Ben (Urbano) Teriotti**

On May 6, 1906, Ben (Urbano) Teriotti and Nina Caterina Ratsone were united in marriage in Valduggia, Italy. After the birth of a stillborn child, Mrs. Teriotti was in very poor health.

One year later Ben came to the United States with some cousins. He worked in the coal mines in Burke, Idaho and Coeur d'Alene, first as a miner, then as a machinist. Later he was joined by his wife and in 1910 moved to the Leedale district then known as Wittenburg, store and post office, operated by Mr. Paul Brodersen and his family.

The Teriotti's homesteaded on the NW 12-42-5 W5, but bought a quarter of South African Scrip which proved to be muskeg and part of Lake 18 with no dry land to build a house on. Then the SW 18-42-4-W5 was purchased and here a log cabin [illegible] house was built with a tar paper roof. A terrific hailstorm came along and turned said roof into a sieve-like apparatus and shingles were purchased and quickly nailed on between showers. Later a frame house was built and is now occupied by Percy Sirois and family.

A daughter, Amelia, was born in 1911 and a son in 1918 passed away at birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Teriotti with daughter Amelia

The nearest railway station at the time was Lacombe and the only transportation was [illegible] team and wagon. The trip took at least two days and sometimes three days.

In 1949 Ben suffered a stroke and he was no longer able to farm. In the early 1950's he and his wife moved into a small house east of the creamery in Rumbey. Allan Gregg now owns the house.

Mrs. Teriotti passed away Nov. 6, 1964. Mr. Teriotti then lived with his daughter and son-in-law Sandy and Amelia Thompson, where Amelia still lives, until his passing July 8, 1969, just 12 days before his 90th birthday. They were a very friendly couple and very well liked by all.

**BEACONSFIELD**

While the Terlotti's still lived on the farm a school district Beaconsfield School District number 3828) was formed by school inspector F G. Buchanan. Ben became secretary-treasurer of the district School opened on May 16th, 1920 with eight pupils — seven girls and one boy A permit teacher (grade nine student was in charge of the class. The school was held in a little log shack where a young newly married couple named Walter Barker had lived for a short time SW 23-42-5-W5 The floor had lovely wide cracks in it where our pencils (often helped by a toe. When teacher wasn't looking' easily slipped down into the cellar just a hole). When no more pencils were available the cellar door was opened and the pencils retrieved. and the "fun' started all over again. It was such a good excuse not to work because no one could work without a [illegible]

School ran for four months and I don't know whether the district ran out of money or the teacher. Mark Mann, had to return to classes but the school closed. It was reopened the following spring with another permit teacher Dudley F Pegreen in charge. School remained open for five months this time, then as most of the pupils moved away it was closed permanently

The pupils came from varying distances one fifteen years old girl rode a pony On the first day of school, May 16th, 1920 the snow was up to the horse's belly when it was tied up in front of the school. This was the year of the long hard winter when snow came on the 1st of October 1919 and remained until the following spring of 1920

Many cattle died that year and many calves died with goitre Feed was terribly scarce, a high price had to be paid for it and it had to be hauled from long distances with a team and rack. The crops in 1920 were very heavy and good which made up for the terrible winter

The Patterson girls also came to Beaconsfield school and lived near where John Makofka now lives. Jessie Patterson later became Mrs. Russel MacLean — sister-in-law to Mrs. Jack Beatty and had three sons — Clifford, Eddie and Don Jessie's two sisters were Christina (Tina) and Elizabeth 'Lizzie) A baby boy died at about one year of age and is buried at Leedale cemetery Their dad's name was Robert but was known as Bob. These people were Scottish

Two of Henry and Laura Chabolt's daughters Erneatine and Annette also attended Beaconsfield school. Ernestine married Joe O'Hara and had five girls. She passed away twenty-two or more years ago and Joe passed away in 1968. Annette married Albert Kemmis and had a family of four boys and four girls. Her husband died in 1973, and she resides in Rumbey

Roy attended the school in 1920 and Howard attended in 1921. They were the sons of Ephraim Everts whose wife was Hazel Lampman. The valley over the hills to the west of Leedale is called Lampman's Valley in her dad's honour

**REYNOLDS — MILDRED AND THOMAS**

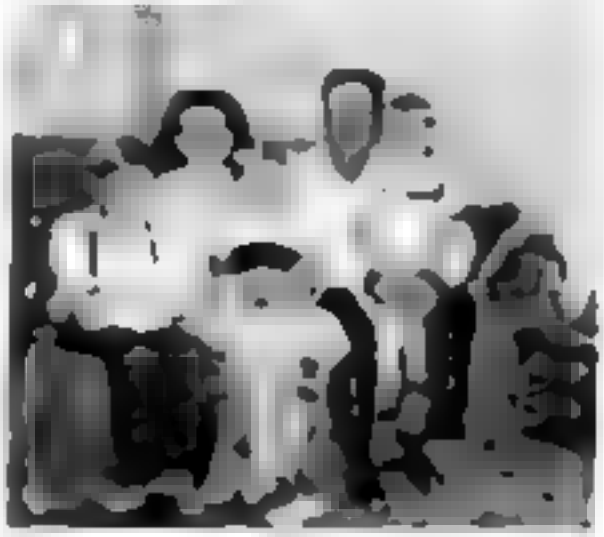
Thomas Reynolds was born in England in 1912 and came to Winnipeg, Manitoba as an infant Shortly thereafter, the family moved to the area south of Calgary, where they resided in several [illegible]

In 1931 the family moved from Carbley to the Meadow Vale District

Thomas met Mildred Misner at a box social at the Mount View school. Mildred was born at Frontier, Saskatchewan in 1917 and had come to the Mount View District in 1936 with her father Clyde, mother Annie and brother Victor. in an old Model A

[illegible]red recalls having to stop at every river creek and mud puddle to refill the leaky radiator Mildred's brothers Lester and Imar drove up with a team of horses and they all joined Ernest and Chester who had already settled in the Meadow Vale area

Thomas and Mildred bought the NE 33-42-4 W5 just a mile north of the Mount View school



Mildred and Tommy Reynolds with their children, Ron Raymond and Agnes

During the next few years they were blessed with four children Herbert, Agnes, Raymond and Dorothy

Thomas died of polio in March of 1951 Mildred stayed on the farm with her four children until 1956 then the family moved to Cross Lake for four years but returned to the farm in 1960

In 1961 Mildred married Henry Matson a local farmer, skilled carpenter and cabinet maker They live five miles south east of Rimbey

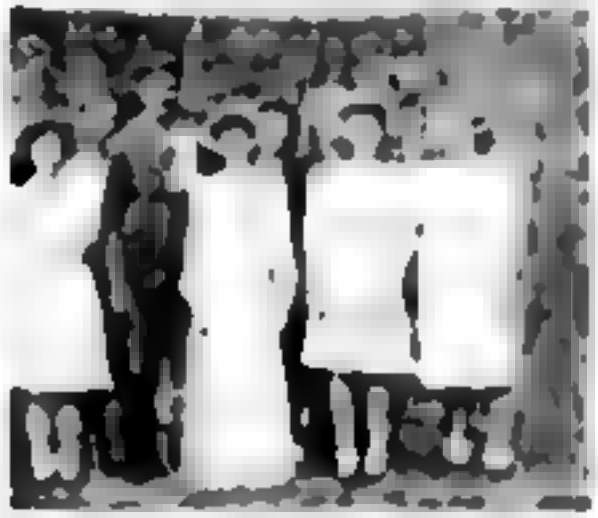
Mildred still owns the farm she and Thomas bought in 1936. It is now rented out, but when she has the occasion to visit it she remembers fondly, incidents of the early years. For example the time she saw Tom who was breaking land with an old John Deere, get off the tractor so mad at being stuck again, that he took off his hat threw it on the ground and tramped on it Or the time Raymond gathered the eggs, as he did everyday put them in his breeche's pockets and then decided to jump on old Charlie, their faithful horse to take him back to the house when he arrived the egg yolks were dripping down to his [illegible]

There was no well for the first three years, so all of the water used for washing and drinking was carried by pail all the way from the creek One day Mildred was packing water for the bull and had just got to the corral when she slipped and fell spilling the water and there stood Tommy laughing his head off

Herbert the oldest son was killed in a car accident in March 1970. Agnes Hiltgen the oldest daughter lives in Edmonton, Raymond the third child lives in Leduc and Dorothy Kulper the youngest lives near Redwater

**ROBINSON, MR. LOUIS**

Louis Robinson, better known as L. P came



to Alberta in 1911 and homesteaded the SE 22-42 5-W5 his mother owned the NE 22

L. P farmed in a small way but his main business was trading for furs from the Indians such Indians as Josie Strawberry, Bremner Brothers, John O'Chese and Yellow Face, to name a few early ones

In later years L. P was engaged in the bottle and scrap-iron business in Eckville, Rimbey Rocky and you-name-it

He sold his business, which was located in Rimbey, to Keith Bland of Rimbey in 1975.

Louis married Lucy Gardner They have five children. Archie of Airdrie Ethel Bohlender of Rimbey Viola Jenson of Meadow Vale: Evy Brown of Valleyview Lester of Leedale

L P is now retired and lives in Rimbey

**THE SHULER AND STEWART FAMILY — by Mrs E. Roberta Stewart**

During the depression or 'Dirty Thirties' many people from the prairies moved to the north country and the bush, where they could grow a garden and raise feed for their animals It rained there. Joe Stewart was one of these For three years he had been engaged to Roberta the oldest Shuler girl and never any money to get married. In 1933 he went looking for land. He found the Crandle place which had been standing idle for a number of years. According to the old timers the Crandles had a fight while building the new log house and she took the two kids and went back to Ontario. Where he went I don't know He had turned the place over to her One winter some folks by the name of Broadbent lived there But now it was empty Joe bought it On New Year's Eve he and Roberta were married and the next spring, May 24, 1934, they moved to the place. Her father Robert Shuler went with them to help

In order to get free freight from the government they had to ship to Eckville and trek everything from there. Mr Shuler went with the cars to look after the animals and Roberta (Bert) and Joe took a load in a truck

Kenneth, the youngest Shuler boy came out in August to help make hay. In October Mr. Shuler went back and got the rest of his things and to bring Mrs. Shuler and the three girls Mary Alice, Claire, and Irma. The older boys stayed to work in the salt mine at Alsask.

Those early days were hard but we were happy and enjoyed it all. The neighbors were wonderful and helpful too. There was free wood for the cutting out in the swamps, rails and fence posts. Rain to grow a garden and hay and wild fruit in the bush. Joe went out to work in harvest and to the saw mill in winter. Joe took a homestead north and a bit west of the Cadman place. Then he turned the Crandle place over to Mr. Shuler, who paid out on it.

Larry was born December 1935 and in 1936 his father was killed as a result of an accident at Adam's mill. Bertie and Larry stayed with her folks on the farm until they sold it in 1949. That winter she spent in Alix and the next June moved to Red Deer with her folks where they had bought a little place to retire.

Kenneth died January 23, 1936.

Mr. Shuler passed on in 1959 just three months short of 80 years old. Mrs. Shuler passed on in 1965, just nine and one-half months over 81 years.

Roberts Stewart still lives on the Red Deer place. Larry married and has bought a farm one mile north of the Aurora school.

While in retirement many of the old neighbors from Meadow Vale came to call on them. One afternoon after some of them had called and gone, Mr. Shuler went into the living room to read his paper. Pretty soon Mrs. finished washing her cups and saucers and she too went in there to sit in her rocking chair. The sun was shining in through her plants in the west window making shadowy pictures on her arm and then reaching over to the foot stool where Mr. had his feet propped up, while he read his paper. She sat in silence for a while then said, "You know those people back there at the farm were a pretty good bunch, don't you know."

"Yes, you'd have to go a long way to find any better, that's for sure," he answered.

"It reminds me of the song that was so popular about the time we moved down here."

"What song?"

"Oh, you know, 'Those Dear Hearts and Gentle People, That Live And Love in my Home Town.' I don't know who wrote it, but it sure describes it and it has such a haunting melody."

"...hat's right. It does. Say isn't that what ... the radio right now?"

They listened for a while then Mr. Shuler picked up his paper to read and Mrs. Shuler began thinking of all the neighborhoods they had lived in, but in particular the one they had recently left, Meadow Vale.

Their home was situated on the west branch of the Medicine River. They called it a river even though you could step across it where it came out of the Medicine Lake. Down by their house it was wider and as crooked as it could be, winding back and forth. Some of the loops almost touching before it turned back again. The school kids had lots of fun there and occasionally caught a small jack fish in it. It wasn't a very big river to be sure but in the spring run off or a heavy rain fall it would go on the rampage, causing a bit of excitement and also spread out all over. It was like that when the men wanted to build Meadow Vale school. They had gone to the bush in the winter time, cut the logs, hauled them to the mill to be sawed for half. The women at home did their share too. They held bazaars and so forth to raise the money for the hardware, windows and doors. Now they didn't know how to get it across to where the school was to be built, and the lumber was already piled, ready waiting.

Mr. Shuler being the chairman suggested they bring it to his place and float it across. So that is what was done. They made a raft of the shingles and doors, piled the other stuff on that, tied ropes to it and then pushed it out as far as they could wade. They then threw the ropes to the ones on the other side in the water. Thus they guided it across the river and didn't end up down river with the bridge that went out. So the school was built. Its purpose, a community centre, as well as a school.

Through her reverie she heard the strains, "They read the Good Book from Fri till Monday." That's how the weekend goes.

At first there were no church services. Then one spring during the break-up, Carl Ruff's baby took very sick. He was a beautiful, blue-eyed blonde and eight months old. They had to take him 19 miles to town to the doctor. The roads were terrible. They went part way in a bobsleigh. Then at Bell's they borrowed a wagon to go the rest of the way.

The baby died on the way in. In fact, as they crossed our meadow we saw the father get down under the blankets with the mother and baby. We knew that it was all over. They had to go the rest of the way to town to get the death certificate from the doctor. They brought him back and buried him in a little cemetery just west of the school. The casket was made by a neighbor. The minister came out from town. The flowers were all hand made but just as beautiful as any you could buy.

That started the people thinking so they asked the minister if he would hold services in the school. There was no real road past the Shuler's place, only a trail past, and across the swamp. If the weather was dry he could go all the way in the car but if not, he came to the Shuler's and Mr. Shuler took him over with the team and wagon. Later the men got together and laid logs for a corduroy road on the road allowance. Later on, they sanded the road into Rumbey, so in wet weather they could get in with out so much trouble.

If the minister couldn't come him- ...

would send some one else. One Sunday as usual when he couldn't come he sent a man who happened to be the shoemaker in town. He was a Scotchman and one of the finest men you'd want to meet. This particular Sunday was a hot day in August, in the afternoon. Someone had left the window open the night before and the school was full of those big, green headed horse flies. This man had his mouth opened wide as it would go, being a small one to begin with, and in popped one of those horse flies while he was singing. There sure was some sputtering and spitting for a few minutes. The younger girls nearly died laughing and trying not to. They didn't want him to see them laughing at him, or to laugh in church.

From time to time there were different ministers from different denominations who came to hold services in the school. Denomination doesn't count as long as they preach and live what the Bible says. Only one ever lived right in the neighborhood and even he had to leave after a while as he didn't get enough support to live and keep his family. People forget that the preacher has to be paid if he is going to serve them.

For a long time we didn't have any service until Cyril Brewer came up from Leedale. He was from the Free Methodist Church. He was a big man, with a greeting for all he met. He came rain or shine. If he couldn't get through with the car he came on horseback like the circuit riders of

I got a dream I'll build there one day, with picket fence and rambling rose."

I will remember the day that I and the younger girls arrived there. Lloyd, our second son, drove us across country in a car from the dried out prairies. Rob, Bertie and Joe had gone in the spring and we came in the fall. They had done some fixing but it was still a very desolate looking place. The next summer Bertie and I had vines growing over the house and gardens full of flowers, many of them given by neighbors, which made them more valuable. Rob and Bertie had planted spruce trees in the yard and Joe made a fence and went to the bush and got a tree in a spiral shape to grace the top of the turnstyle gate out front.

December 1, 1935, my first grandson was born, the snow was already three feet deep. On January 23, Kenneth, our youngest son died. He had gone out west and north with his friend, Wally Reynolds, to trap for the winter. He took appendicitis. Wally ran seven miles to get a team to take him to Adam's mill to get a car to take him in to Rimbey, another 50 miles. It was an old open model car and by the time they got him to the hospital he was so cold they put him in a bath tub of warm water for five hours before they operated. The appendix had burst. He lived three days and was gone.

David, our third son, came to stay with us that winter. Later he went away to work and when the war started he joined the navy, as did Lloyd.

Leroy, the oldest son, only came to visit but never live there. He was too old for the army so he joined the reserve police force.

Bertie's husband, Joe, was killed at the mill in 1936, she then stayed on with us and raised sheep.

"I feel so welcome each time that I return that my happy heart keeps laughing like a clown."

Many of the neighbors were new comers too. It wasn't long till everyone knew everyone else and we had lots of enjoyment visiting and hearing the tales from the old timers.

Then we had a social get-together every month and chose up sides, with a chairman, to put on a program. Each side taking turns. Some of those programs were better than what we get now from professionals on TV. There were the Brown's with their music, Mrs. Brown and Willie Thompson with singing, Jerry Bell with his step dance or jig as we used to call it. The others all did their share too, in plays, songs recitations, or what have you. If they didn't they had to pay a

...any are the scenes that passed before her eyes as she sat in her rocking chair with the setting sun shining through on her arm.

When sorrow struck the neighbors were all there to help, maybe only a smile or a hand shake or the offer of a scone. But it all meant so much.

Ethel and Rob (Bobbie and Bobbe) Shuler cutting Golden Wedding cake

When we left there to retire, many are the letters we got from them wishing we were back here and on our golden wedding anniversay so many of them came all the way down here to wish us well.

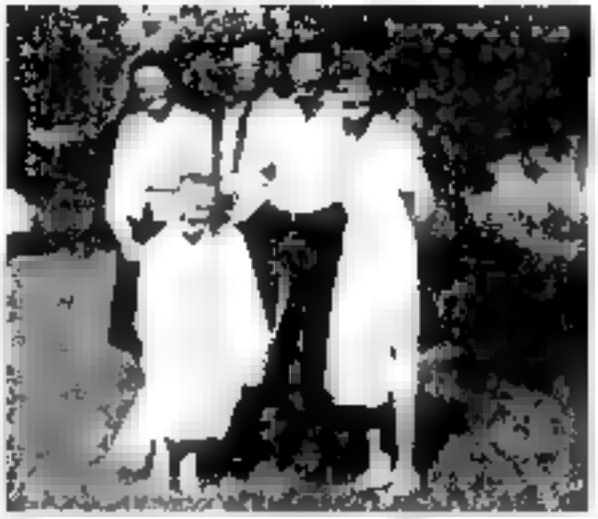
Is it any wonder that we forget the bad and remember the good in — "Those dear hearts and gentle people that live and love in my home town

The strains of the music had long since died away and something more modern was on the radio, but Mrs Shuler didn't hear it Her mind was still back with her friends of yesteryear The sun had set now and only the rosy glow of the sun set enveloped them as she sat in her rocking chair and he read his paper

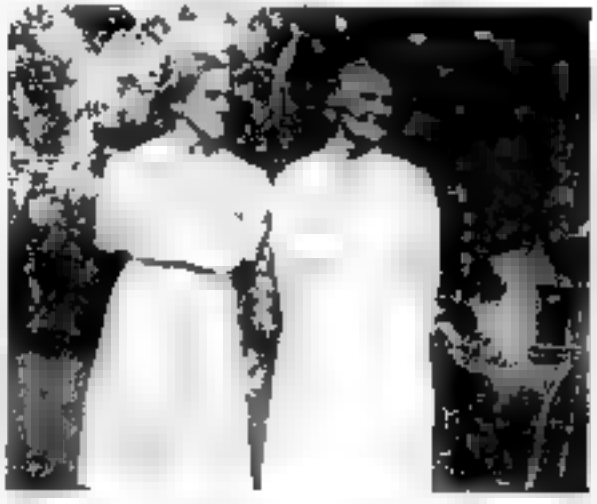
**SIMMONS, JOSEPHINE**

Mr and Mrs. Joe Simmons and family moved to Seba Beach in the early 1900's from Minnesota U.S.A. Joe Simmons worked on building railroad bed west around Seba Beach. Mr Simmons and one daughter, Myrtle passed away there. Josephine Simmons and family moved to Viking for a time, then came to a farm at Wittenburg, the SE 16-42-4-W5, which she bought from Frank Hallet in 1909 They came from Lacombe in a lumber wagon with all their possessions. Her children were Carl, Jud, Ed, Agnes, Clara, Dewey and Tommy

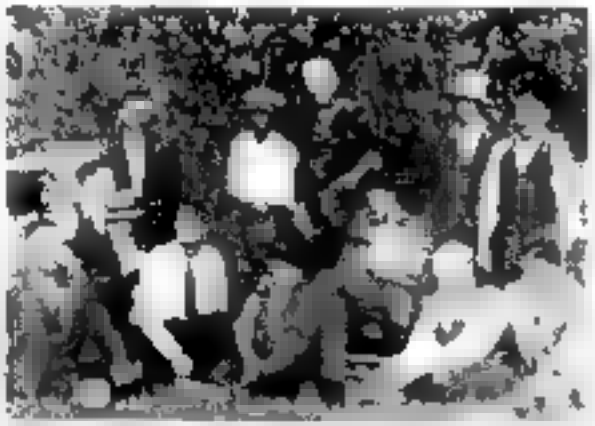
Carl was in World War I and was killed at Passchendaele



Mrs Josephine Simmons and family Clara, Ed, Tommy, Agnes, and Grandma Simmons.



Mrs. Benson (on left) and Grandma Simmons.



Birthday party at Simmon's Back row Frank Fox, Mag Engstrom, Frank Johnsman, J.A. Barwick Mike Tirpak Sitting front A.E. Hammond, Willie Thompson Herman Lowe, Pete Fraser Fred Baptiste, Geo Hamilton, Leo Benson, Burt Wragg, taken mid 1940's

Jud married Elva Frizzell. He passed away at Seba Beach about 1915.

Ed owned a farm, SW 18-42-4-W5, he was noted for his hunting and horsemanship and was good on the violin. He had one son, Clarence. Ed passed away in June 1971 at the age of 88.

Agnes, Mrs. George Cummings, had three children, Charles, Myrtle and Georgia. Agnes passed away in February 1973.

Clara, Mrs. A. Haarstad, had one daughter Jean. Clara presently dves in Lacombe.

Dewey married Beatrice Pimm. They had four children, Alice, Lola, Bob and Alfred. They dved at Three Hills for three years then moved to Fort St. John. Dewey passed away in 1936.

Tommy married Ethel Patton. They had three children, Bernice, Carl and Jody. They dved in the Peace River area for a time then on his mother's farm for a few years, then moved to Lardeau, B.C. Tommy passed away in 1962 at the age of 60.

Mrs. Josephine Grandma Simmons was a kind woman and willingly helped many neighbors where there was sickness. She also helped Dr. S. J. N. Byers in many cases and was also midwife to many women on the arrival of their babies.

**SIMPSON, MR. AND MRS. FOSTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Simpson were our first rural route mail drivers west of Rimbey in the 1930's. Matt Kennedy drove for them.

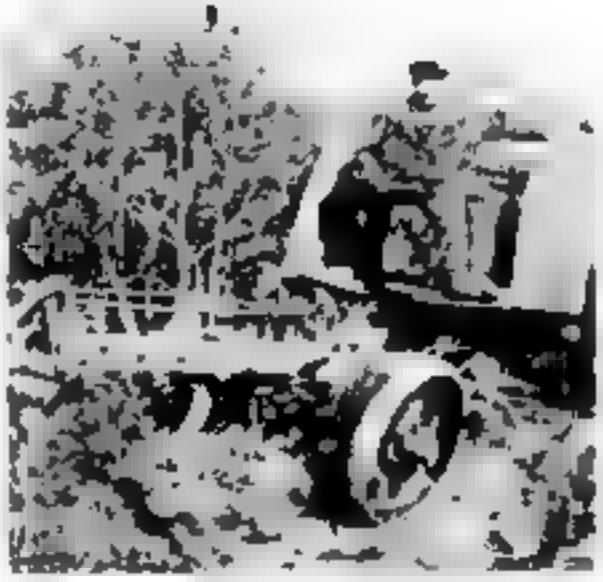
The route was 12 miles west of Rimbey, southeast to Leedale, past Benjamin School and back to Rimbey, a distance of over 40 miles by team and buggy.

Mail Route in 2 mile corner [illegible] to 9 [illegible] W5. Thompson, Jessie Barwick, Violet Bell, Kathleen Barwick, Jim Barwick, Cheri Shuler, Alf Bird and Archie Cooper.

**SKOW, MR. AND MRS. MODS**

Mr. and Mrs. Skow came to this district in the spring of 1929 from Rosebud and settled on the SE 5-43-4-W5, where they farmed for several years. They had a threshing machine and did custom threshing for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Skow had a family of four boys and one girl. Harvey dves at Stettler, Karen in Calgary, Mognes in Denmark, Peder in Edmonton and Philip at Brownfield.



Peter Skow - 1910

Mr. and Mrs. Skow and son, Harvey

Mrs. Skow passed away in 1952 and Mr. Skow in 1953. The farm was later sold to Mr. and Mrs. R. Youb.

**STRAARUP, MARY AND ALFRED — by Mary Straarup**

In 1928, Alfred came from Denmark along with my brother, Pete Hougard to the Camrose district. They both worked on farms in the area. In 1929, I joined Alfred, who was working on a farm in the Killam district. I also stayed there a few months.

In 1930 we were married at Athabasca and along with Pete, we purchased a half section at Ellscott. Tom was born at Athabasca. Pete kept this land and in 1931, we moved to the Leedale district to what was known as the Mullback

place, now owned by the Armstrong's. Two of our daughters were born here, Anna and Ellen

In 1934, we bought a C.P.R. quarter in the Last West district. This place is now owned by Donald Bell. Our youngest daughter, Agnes was born there

Times were hard and I thought it was the end of the world, so we decided to sell out and go back to Denmark. In the fall of 1938 we had a sale and headed for home. We had only been in Denmark a short while when we started longing for Canada and the wide open spaces

In the meantime, Agnes had become ill and was unable to travel. By the time she was well again, war had broken out and no one was allowed to travel out of the country. Ken, our youngest son, was born in Denmark

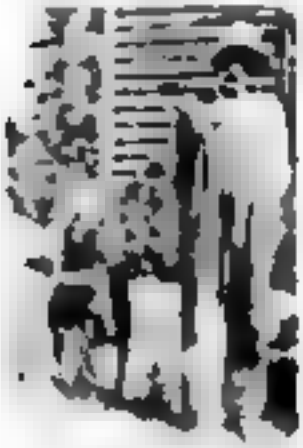
Our dream was to return to Canada and in 1946, as soon as the war ended, we set out. We were the first family from Denmark to land at New York

We came to Rimbey in the fall of 1946, to the place owned by Mr. O. B. Moore, one mile west of Rimbey. We were very happy to be back and to see all our old neighbors again. We lived on this place till 1950. We then bought a half section, three and one-half miles south of Bluffton. We farmed there till 1964, when we retired to Rimbey

We have five children, all living in Alberta. Tom works at Black Diamond but makes his home in Rimbey, Anna (Mrs. H. Perry) at Ponoka, Ellen (Mrs. R. McManus) at Edmonton. Agnes (Mrs. C. Lundstrom) at Hoadley and Ken married the former Lucille Brown of Drayton Valley and lives at Camrose. We have 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

**SWANSON, ANDREW**

Andrew Swanson was born in Sweden, he came to this country from North Dakota in 1903 settled first in the Bentley district, and a year later moved to a homestead west of Rimbey NW 4-43-4-W5, where he farmed and milked cows. He passed away in 1941 at the age of 71



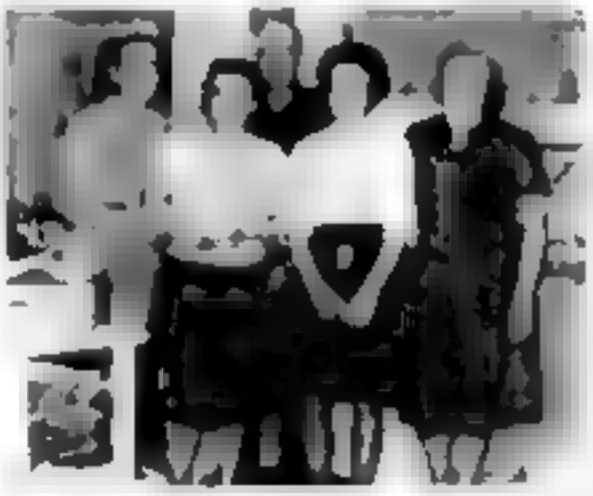
Andrew Swanson 1903

**THOMPSON, ALEXANDER MIDDLETON (SANDY)**

Sixteen year old Alexander and his father came to Canada from Scotland when Mr. Thompson returned from World War One. Sandy's mother had died some eight years before, leaving himself, one sister and two brothers motherless.

Sandy and Amelia Thompson on their Wedding day

In 1933 Sandy and Amelia Teriotti were married. Amelia had also attended Beaconsfield school and Leedale school. They farmed the NE 30-42-3-W5 where his brother David and family now live. Sandy and Amelia had four daughters Betty, Freda, Isabella and Sandra. Betty married Robert A. Smith, a carpenter from



The Sandy Thompson family. Sandy and Amelia with daughters Betty, Freda, and Sandra

Dapp Alberta They live at number two Sherwood Crescent Red Deer and have a family of four, three daughters and one son. Freda married Robert (Bob) Mayner and they lived on his father's Henry Mayner farm. Bob worked at the Rimbey Gas Plant. In 1969 they moved to Valleyview and later to Fox Creek where Bob works for the Bay Gas Plant. Their family consists of three girls and two boys. Isabella trained at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. In 1965 she married Paul Blair Nestransky from Saskatchewan. He is now teaching in Red Deer and they have two children, a boy and girl. Sandra married Ernest Huss from east and south of Rimbey near Gull Lake. They lived in Rimbey, several years in Calgary and now reside in Sylvan Lake. Ernie works mostly in Red Deer with Adal Excavating. They have two daughters.

Sandy worked for the Prairie Farm Assistance for many years. In 1953 he became Secretary of the Rimbey General Hospital where he remained for eleven years. He then became involved with the Prairie Farm Assistance again until his passing in September 1971. Sandy and Amelia moved to Rimbey in 1962 and she still resides at 5133-51st Avenue, Rimbey.

**THOMPSON, WILLIAM C. STORY**

My parents and I came to Calgary, Alberta in 1912 from Bowness on Windermere, England. I was two years old.

Mother ran a rooming house and dad worked on ranches and mines.

In 1918 and 1919 my father homesteaded the NW 28-42-4-W5, where I still live with my son Jerry, making third generation on this farm.

When my parents came, they shipped their belongings to Kootuk (Eckville) by rail. From then on by way on trail only — by Gilby and Leedale.

I received most of my schooling at Leedale five and one-half miles horseback. My first teacher was Mrs. C. D. Aldridge and my last was Mr. Jones. One day in the spring he said to the class, 'Let us do something we may be remembered by!' His idea was to plant two rows of trees, spruce and pine, and with the aid of Mr. R. R. Hayward and Mr. Rene Durand, they were brought and planted. Each of the bigger children had two trees he or she had to water each day until they were well started. Mr. E. Solberg has made the old school into a nice home and the trees are quite tall and much cherished by the old pupils.

There are a few memos I would like to mention — The first threshing machine I ever saw was on our farm. It belonged to William Perodgo of Lavesta, it was mounted on two wagons, the separator was all wood, and it was fed part of a bundle at a time. It was run by a 12 horse stationary engine. It took all day to thresh 100 bushels.

In the 30's I took 12 fat pigs to Rimbey on two sleighs. — trailed one sleigh, — and I received $36 for the lot. They were $1.50 per hundredweight at that time.

The Thompson William C. Florence, and William C. Jr. in their Alberta, prior to England 1911.

Willy Thompson, on his saddle pony, crossing the narrows of Medicine Lake.

My father had a share of ups and downs when he started to homestead. He bought three cows and a big team of Clyde horses. In the spring of 1920 two cows drowned in a beaver dam — and one horse rolled in the barn and couldn't get up, so he died too.

In the early days the Indians held sun-dances in our area, one was about a mile from home — we could hear the drums away into the night. They usually built a shelter of trees and branches. They would gather from many tribes for a week before the dance and the dance would last about a week. They had many horses with them as that was the only way of travel — they

usually had many dogs too I understand they did a lot of horse trading as well.

My dad passed away in 1948 and Mother in 1952

I married Jessie Bell in 1938 We have three sons and one daughter

Bill is married and lives in Toronto

erry is married and lives on the home farm

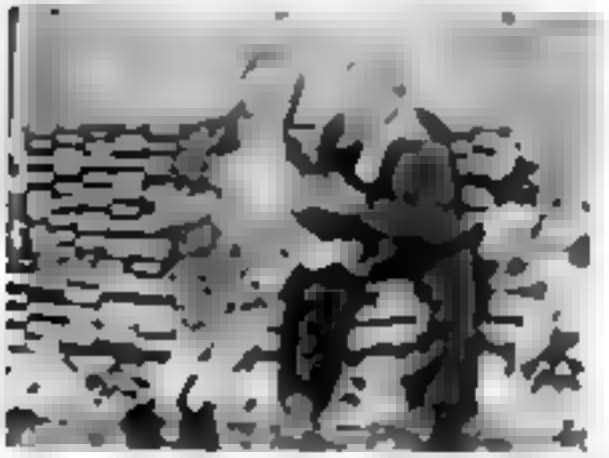
Allan lives in Edmonton and Dianne works in Fort Nelson

**THOMPSON, W S. AND M E**

William S. and Mary E. Thompson came to Canada in the early 1900's from Scotland and England. Were married in Lethbridge in 1913. W S. had a grocery store there until he joined the army to fight in the First World War After the war they moved to Calgary with son. Alex (Sandy) where they worked until 1920

In 1920 they bought a farm twelve and one half miles west of Rimbey At the time there were no roads and very few bridges. A trip to town was a two day project

W S. was secretary treasurer of the East West Municipal District for a few years in the 1920's



Son, David, was born in Rimbey in 1923. Sandy married Amelia Terlotti in 1953. They had four daughters. He died in 1971 David joined the army in 1942 and went through the Second World War He married Jean Monts in 1956. there are three children Donna Barbra and Jack

W S. passed away in 1960 at the age of eighty

Mary E. passed away in 1969 at the age of eighty-three

David still farms the land his father settled on

**TRIPAK, MR. MIKE:**

I came to Canada in 1927 from a small town in Hungary. For six years I travelled and worked in various places in Alberta. First job was clearing land for 18 cents a day I bought W½17-42-4 W5 in 1933, 14 miles west of Rimbey Down payment [illegible] pay for it I cleared some land and built myself a log cabin. With a team of horses I hauled tamarack posts to town to sell to the early settlers, or trade for seed grain or meat Things were going well so I sent for my girl friend, Annie Spisak in Hungary. I sent her fare and passport and she arrived here in December 1938. We were married December 27, 1936. Though we spoke little English we made good friends and neighbors. We built a larger house and raised our five children. Mary Mrs. Rodger Thomas Camrose, Betty, Mrs. Terry Freeman, High Level, Annie. Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Edmonton Frank, married lives in Red Deer and Danny at home We have eight grandchildren We sold our farm in 1972 and are now retiring in Rimbey

**TYNDALL, EUGENE AND CARRIE — by Howard Tyndall**

Mother and Dad were both born at Fosston Minnesota, United States of America. Dad's people moved to Cudworth, Saskatchewan in 1903. In 1917 they bought land and moved to Chotoka, Alberta

Mother's folks (Fred and Hattie Park) came up to the Nanton area in 1904 and homesteaded in the foothill west of town. They later traded for land at Stavely. Grandma and Grandpa Park lived the rest of their lives on this section of land

Mom and Dad were married at Calgary on December 15th 1920. I was born in the Cow-town on November 27th, 1924 and later finished my grade nine at Beaver Valley school at Stavely Grade ten by correspondence and my school days were over

We arrived in Rimbey in a wet spring snow storm on March 11th, 1942 and settled in the Mount View district, seven miles northwest of Leedale on the North half of 19-42-4 W5

We came from Stavely (70 miles south of Calgary) in a beat-up Model A Ford with a little two-wheeled trailer with household effects

behind. A cattle car and a settler's effects car came in on the Peanut behind an old steam locomotive. Our cattle looked pretty sad in the snow in the stock yards. Later Dad and I took them up Rimbey's main street out to strawpiles at Tarrabain's farm just north of town. (The snow was gone when we left the Porcupine Hills)

That first summer at Mount View was a busy one for the Tyndalls. A house was started some land was cleared and sheds were put up

We stacked over one hundred ton of hay for Jack Barwick for one-quarter share to get feed for the stock for the winter Dad and I then went up to Fred Wager's farm and hayed till it snowed in October I was so sick of haying I wished we were back on the prairies.

We left the Mount View district in 1958 and bought a farm at Homeglen northeast of Rimbey. Dad died in 1966 and Mom passed away in 1967 after a long illness

While we lived at Mount View I built a water well drilling rig to drill a well at the barn. Thirty three years later I am still drilling wells in the Leedale - Rimbey area. Tyndall drilling is now the oldest drilling business in this area. A modern cable-tool rig had been added and there had been many changes in this trade.

My wife, Carole, and I were married in Lacombe in 1959 and still live on the old farm at Homeglen. Carole is the daughter of George Doe† and Cora Allison of Rimbey We were blessed with three girls Dallas married Russell Adams and has one son Darrell† Lila and Dixie are still at home

I have many memories and many good friends from the early years out west, there was a community spirit then that is missing now. I wish we had it back.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Owen at Edgars

Mr Hopkins with his trotter.

Mrs. F Wingate riding side saddle on one of the first horses they owned 1919

Aille and Ole Solberg Courting days, 919

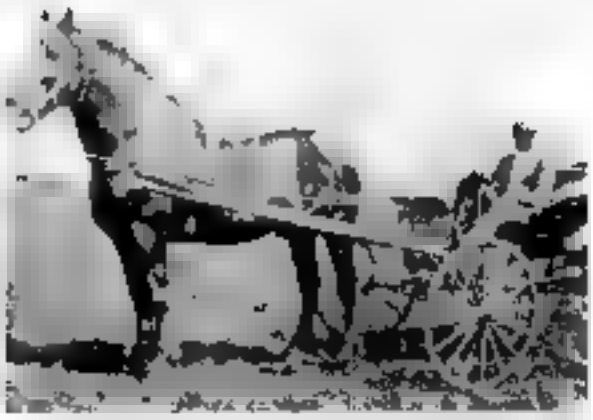
[illegible]'s First Bridge over [illegible] about 1910

Canal old days

Mary Johnston's trick pony

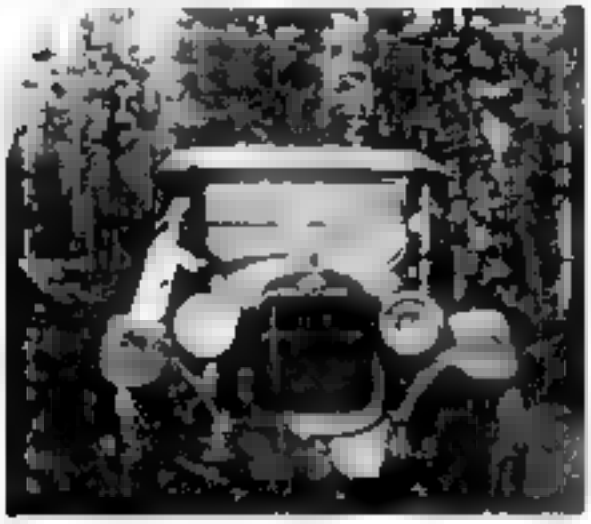
Drivelle's main street - showing Co-op store and drug store

Harvey Bates Johnston



Dick Throlson with Percheron Stallion, Reg. no. 23933 (name unknown) 1914

Orson, Bert, Orie, and Ethyl Archer 1916

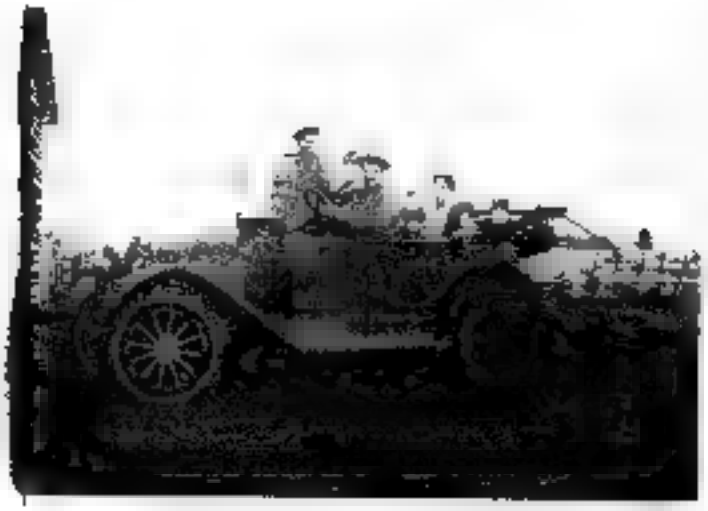


Bertha Melander Baby Grand Chev. 1921

Two-wheeled cart often used for transportation to school

Alf Kilpatrick children and their dog, Chief

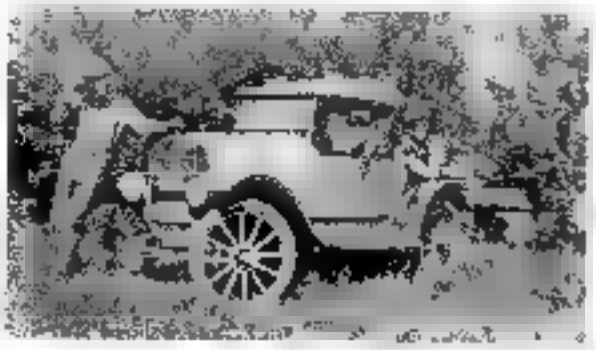
Carriage to cross Medicine River on Hartley Bale farm in Lonsdale



First car owned by A.S. Koski Eddy, Annie, Father. Elide, Mother Lempi and William.

Alfred Kilpatrick and his team hauling two ton of timothy seed 1943

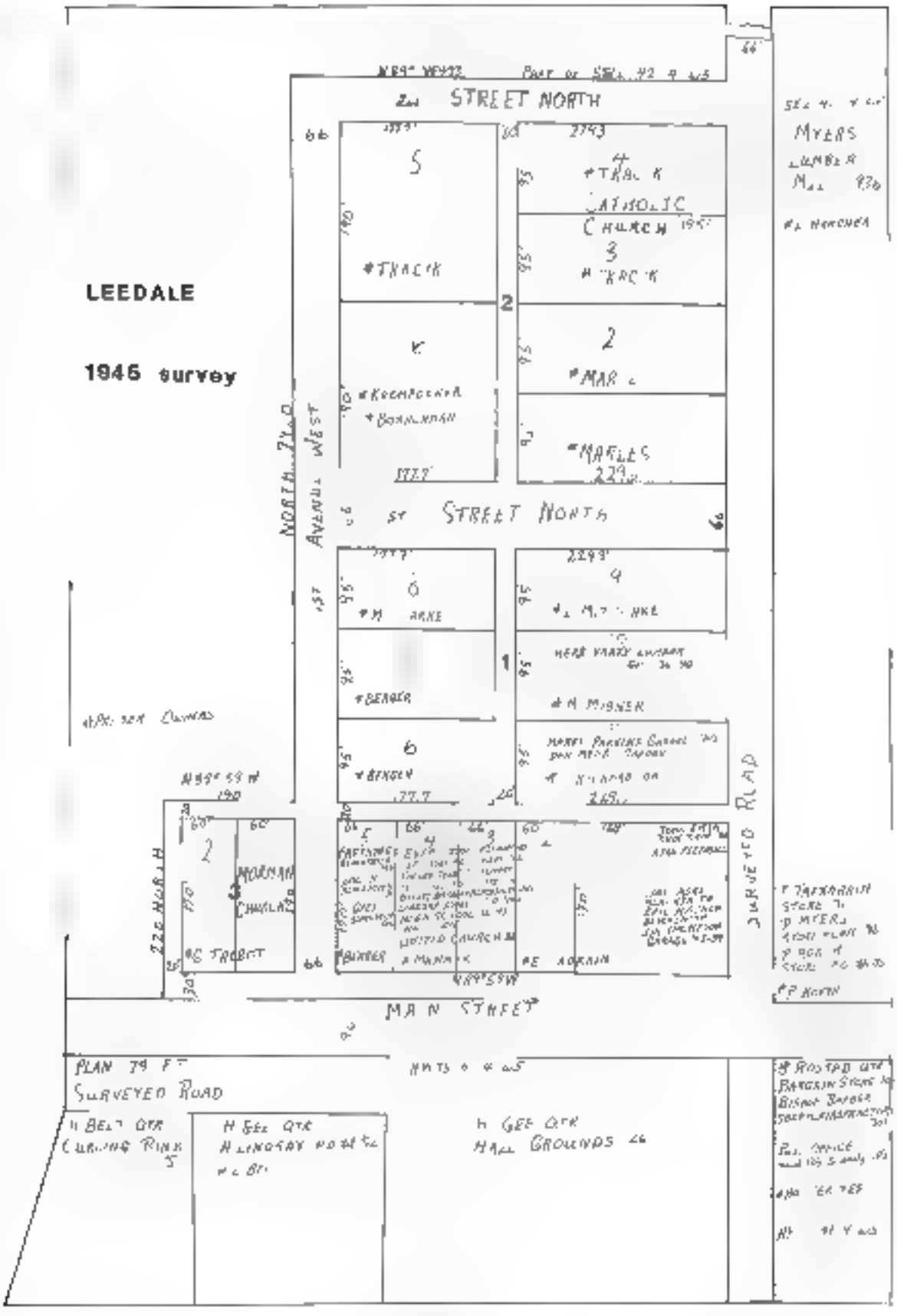
The first snow car in the district. Driver Bert Archer with Mrs. Frank Hancher and two boys.



Model A Ford 1926. Arvied Thorkmon and Charles Thorkmon.

Bill MacDonald's snowmobile used to deliver mail and for Dr Coppock's calls

Ernest Vittala modern school transportation


LEEDALE
1945 survey
2nd STREET NORTH
STREET NORTH
MAIN STREET
NORTH 2nd AVENUE WEST
SURVEYED ROAD
MYERS
CATHOLIC
CHURCH
MARLES
PLAN 79 FT
SURVEYED ROAD

# Leedale

**WITTENBURG — LEEDALE — research by Carrol Mannix**

In 1902, ABRAHAM LINCOLN (LINK) BOYER from Valparaiso, Indiana and GERRY GUY FARROW from Mitchell, South Dakota came to the Medicine River Valley. They cut a trail from the Fred Schrader homestead south of Rumbey, to the Boyer homestead SE 36-41-4-W5, one and one half miles east, one mile south of Leedale. They thought they had found wonderful cattle and horse range — but — the valley soon settled with homesteaders.

DOMINION LANDS—SUB-AGENT'S RECEIPT

84280

Received from A. L. Boyer

Twenty four Cents

for Timber Permit on S.E. 36-41-4-W5

A. L. Boyer

In April 1903, MR. AND MRS. PAUL BRODERSEN came from Jennings, Kansas, and in 1907 started the first post office and store. Mr. Brodersen named the business, Wittenburg,

Mrs. Brodersen and Anna in front of building which was home, Post office, store and dance hall. Wittenburg.

A.L. (Link) Boyer — one of the first to settle at Leedale (Wittenburg) 1902.

No. 2 May 2. 1907

Received from Link Boyer of Rumbey

the sum of Two Dollars on account,

being for Road Fee on S.E.¼ 36

N.E.¼ 25' 4W 4 W 5 M

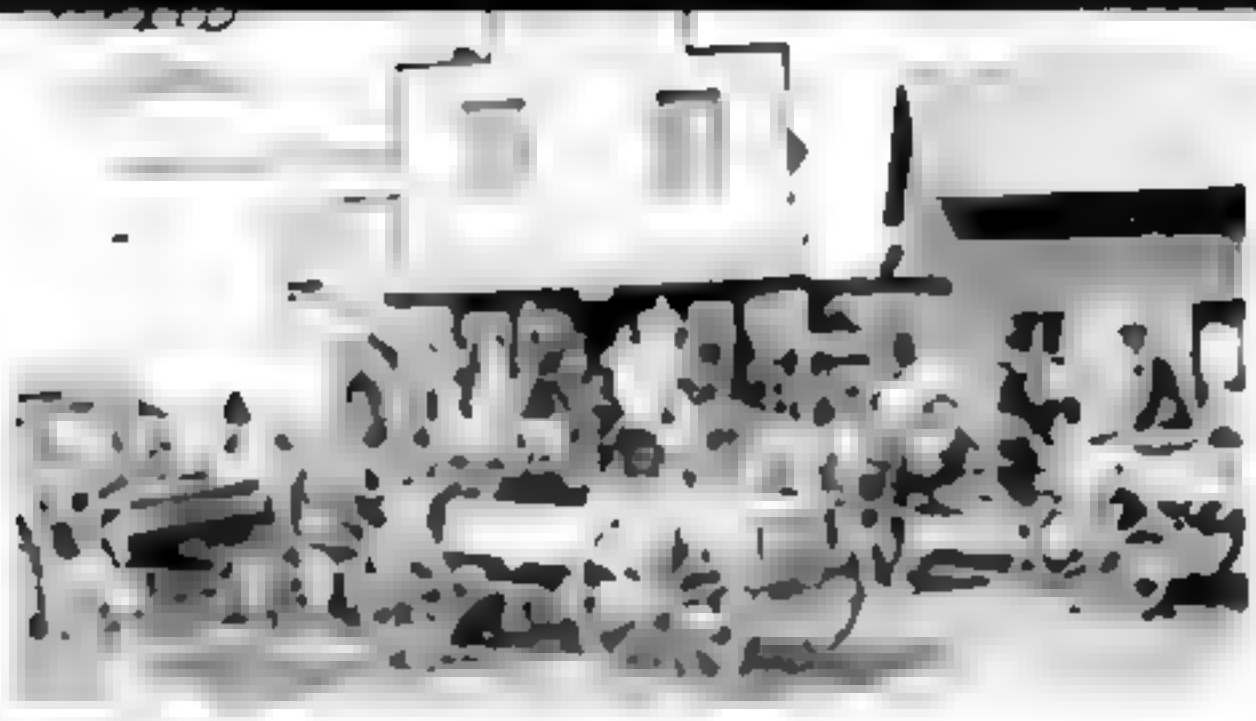
E. F. Dahl.

$2.00

after his ancestral home in Denmark. He ran the post office and store until the end of the first World War.

In 1904, WILLIAM THOMAS AND CHARLES GARDNER homesteaded west of the Medicine River, W½ and NE 4-42-4-W5, and were the first to do so in this area. Tom and Bill lived there all their lives.

Wittenburg postal stamp



JAMES EVERT started a store in 1906 with his son, EPHRAIM EVERT'S home, and later built a large store one half mile south, on the town line, SW 2-42-4-W5. This he ran until 1912 when he sold to MRS. JOHN LEE and sons FRANCIS AND WILLIAM. Mr and Mrs. Evert then moved to Washington. William (Bill) Lee ran the store and a livery stable until 1916 when he went to W W 1. MR. AND MRS. MARQUIS LAFE FRIZZELL ran the business awhile during the war years then MR. AND MRS. HENRY JACOBS ran it until Bill took it over again after the war. MR. FEENEY was a clerk and butcher for Bill after the war. About this time Brodersens closed his store and the post office was moved to Lee's store. About 1925 the store was operated by MR. BEATTY of Rimbey and managed by RUSSELL MAC LEAN (Russell married Jessie Patterson.) PETER EMIL WEGREEN ran the livery barn and eating place.

Mail and groceries were brought to Wittenburg from Lacombe, with some mail from Rimbey, unless you resided in Township 41, then your mail may have come from Eckville by team and wagon driven by JOHN KEMILA, until May 1, 1923 when it was all changed to Rimbey. RALPH JACOBS held the contract from May 1, 1923 to May 31, 1927.

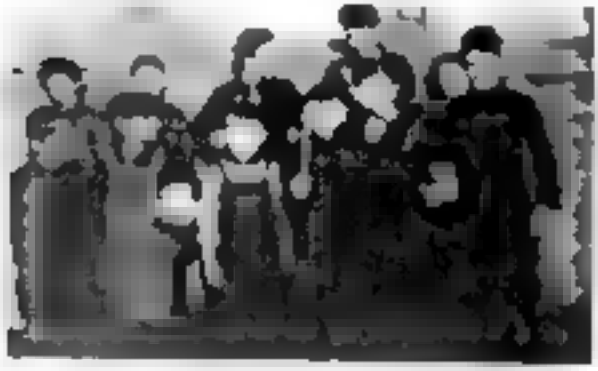
In late 1920's Mr Lee sold his business to MR AND MRS. HUGH LINDSAY. They ran both the store and post office until they closed the store and moved the post office across the street. They continued to run the post office until 1952 when they retired to Calgary.

In 1907, the Wittenburg School was built and that saw the first Christmas entertainment in the valley. Mr Craig was the first teacher. The students were: GERALDINE CHINNECK (Mrs Leo Beeson), ANNE SHOUPE (Mrs. Dave Evert), PHENA SHOUPE (Mrs. Mert Chailand) AMANDA BRODERSEN (Mrs Robert McKenzie) BILL BRODERSEN ERNIE AND DAVID EVERT OLA MEREDITH (Mrs. Chas. Andrew) JOE AND RUSSELL MEREDITH MR WASHBURN'S children and one child of MR BECKER'S walked six miles from the Gimlet district to attend school. School taxes were $10 per quarter and paid directly to the school board. A teacher's salary in 1915 was $525 plus room and board, which was supplied by anyone who could put them up for a month or two or a whole term. The teachers at Wittenburg (Leedale) were:

Mr A. B. Craig 1907-08 Mr Fahs, 1909: Mr Nicholson, 1913, Mr F. R. Riley, 1914, Miss Marie Rush, 1916: Miss Lockhart, 1917 Miss Rosa Carvelzel, 1917 Mrs. Nettie Aldridge, 1920 Miss Irene Hanahan, 1920: Mrs. L. A. Eaton 1921 Miss I. L. Wilkinson, 1922 Mr H. B. Jones, 1923-24 Anna Brodersen, 1925: W. J. Watson.

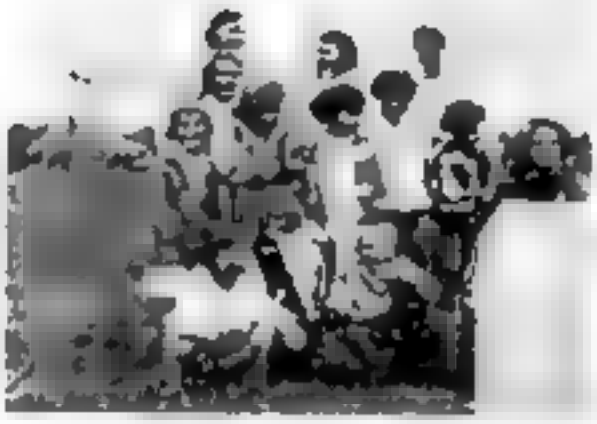
Lonsdale School House and Barn 1925

Lonsdale School 1926 The girls from left to right Tina Perreaux, Amelia Pollock, Debra Chalifoux, Jan Chalifoux, Maudie [illegible] Lena Perreaux Barrie unknown, Irene Brown, Eva Mahusch, Ernestine Chalifoux, Front Myrna Wagman, Antonia Chalifoux, Elsie Thyssen



Lonsdale School 1926 The boys back left to right Walter Hayward, Frank Stewart, Clarence Brown, Bob Hayward, Albert Chalifoux, Front unknown girl, Jean Brown, Myrna Babcock, Eldon Brown, Ronald Wagman

1926, Mr Kennedy 1927 Anna B Ericksland 1928 33, Miss Viola Ellis 1934-35 John Hembry, 1936 Art Cumberland, 1937; Miss Phyllis Binyon 1938, Ruth Berdine 1939 Miss Viola Edgelngton, 1940; Miss Elsie Merchell, 1941 Mrs [illegible] Marsh 1942-45 Mrs Florence Stewart 1945-46 Raymond Saunders 1946-49 Mr [illegible] 49 Mrs Muddle 1950 Mr [illegible] 1951-52 Miss Florence [illegible] 1952-53 Mrs Kathleen McDonald 1953-54, Miss Margie

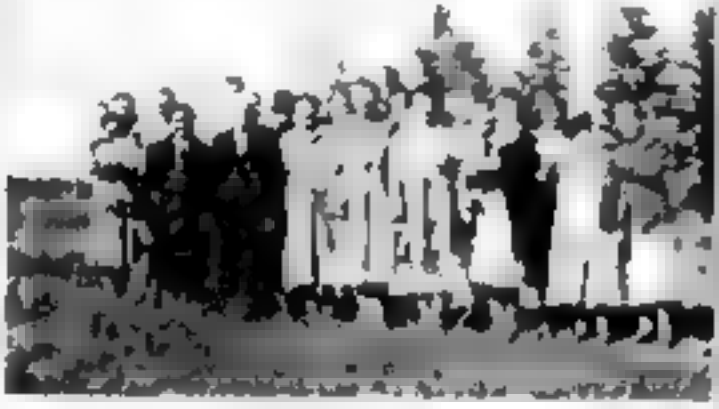


Last Students of Lonsdale School. From left to right Dwayne Brown [illegible] Bob Hayward [illegible] Earl and Darrel Wade and Jerry Harris Barbara Dakers and Peter Jones Dakers Ron Vaughn Wasylenchuk Carl Jones Orva Olson teacher

Steeves Supervisor 1954-55, Miss Orva Olson 1955-56; Mrs. Willow McLeod, 1956-57 Mrs. Orva Tkactk 1957 58

The school was closed and the children bused to Rimbey in 1958. Prior to the closing of the school there were many meetings to try and get a centralized school here. No agreement could be made between the three school districts involved the County of Ponoka the County of Lacombe and the Local Improvement District so the idea was soon dropped and our children sent off in different directions to school. The school and property was sold to MR AND MRS ELWIN SOLDERS who have turned it into a lovely home

After the building of the school house in 1907 RICHARD SHOUPE began holding Free Methodist Church services and Sunday School in the building Later a church was built across the road, northwest of the school



Free Methodist Church Picnic 1910 Back left to right Minnie Chalifoux holding Marvin Olsen Holland [illegible] and Anna Brewer Oscar Brown Minnie Wagner [illegible] Alice Jones [illegible] Mason Front left to right Mrs Rutledge Mrs [illegible] with Ernie Rutledge Nichols, Doris Marquis, Vesta Bob standing Luella, Zarsky Viggo Bertha Brown

Also in 1907 a company was formed, headed by MR BRADSHAW, which built and opened the Wittenburg Creamery It was located on Mr Bradshaw's, one half mile east and two miles south of Wittenburg. This business, managed by MR LIGHT produced butter and cheese until it closed in 1914

Doctors were very difficult to get in the early years, for DR. HYNES had to come from Lacombe (40 miles by team, and later DR BYERS SR by horse and cart from Rimbey (15 miles) There was a lot of pneumonia those early days

Amusement and recreation were provided by picnics, dancing, ball games, horse racing and lots of visiting. If anyone wanted to visit outside the district and did not have their own transportation they often caught a ride to town with the mail carrier then went by stagecoach or if from Lacombe, by train

In 1917 the people changed the name of the hamlet from Wittenburg to Leedale in honour of Bill Lee

In 1920's, MR. BEELEY a J P operated a Barber Shop, was a clerk for Bill Lee and also ran the first blacksmith shop in Leedale

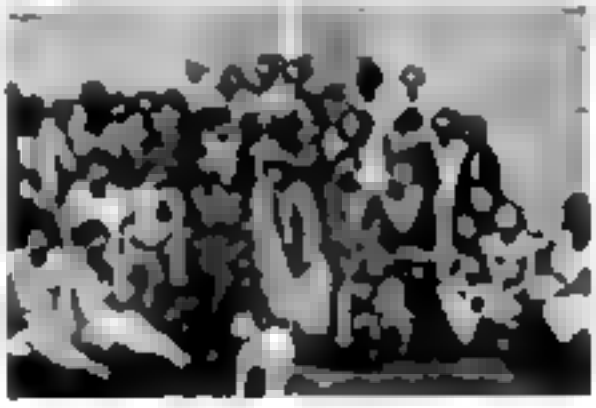
MR BISHOP had a barber shop and was also a Chiropractor in the 1930's

A blacksmith shop was opened by HARRY FARTHING in the late 1920's. It was later ran by JACK BOOTH and CARL ASKE bought it in 1937 ALBERT ADAMS ran the business for Mr Aske about 1944-45, then ERIC MASUCH had it until the early 50's. EARL GRAY operated a blacksmith from his private garage from the mid 50's to the early 60's

There was a cemetery staked out in the hamlet in the early 1900's but the land was too low and wet so was abandoned. When the road was rebuilt about 1961 it was discovered that one person had been buried there. A skeleton was lifted out with the dirt by an earth moving machine, being operated by Gilbert Hollingsworth. At first it was believed it was an Indian grave but after an investigation by the R C M P it was discovered a cemetery had been started there

In 1921 the Bradshaw Cemetery Association was formed, with A. L. BOYER, Chairman and W H LEE, Sec.-treas. The cemetery was then registered with the Government of Alberta. It had been used prior to this time and records show the first buried there was Howard Bernard Belt, child of Mr and Mrs. H. B. Belt, age one year eight months, November 5, 1915

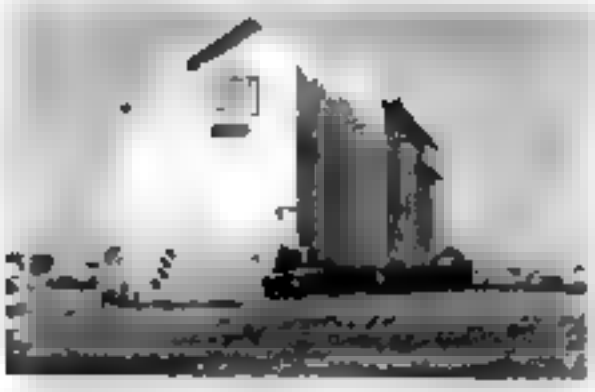
In 1921 the Women's Institute was organized with MRS MARGARET (LOUIS) EATON as president There were 30 members. It continued until about 1945



FATHER HARRISON started the Catholic Church in the late 1920's and held service in the hall The Church was built by FATHER MURPHY in 1951 and services were held there until about 1967 The Catholic Ladies Club was formed about 1946 with MRS. TRENHOLM president, ERNISTINE O'HARA sec.-treas MRS. PHIL MC TIGHE vice-pres with 16 members It continued until the closing of the Church

The Mormon Church was started by the ARCHER and HANCHER families and services were held in the community until the mid 1940's

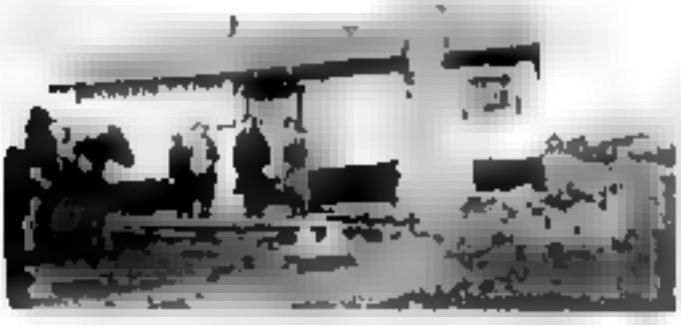
GEORGE YOUNG held the first United Church service December 12 1934 at the JOHNSMAN home. He also started a Sunday School and Young Peoples Services over the years were held in the hall, the old store building the Mormon Church and in 1962 the Free Methodist Church was purchased and moved to Leedale A Women's Auxiliary to the United Church ran for several years but was discon



Old Free Methodist Church after it was purchased and moved by the Leedale Church

tinued in September 1967 as the Church was closed in August of that year. The Church has been sold and moved, and is presently Lee Hollingsworth's garage.

"AUNT" LOU CHALLAND operated a cafe and confectionary shop called the "Bargain Store" out of a building on the Rostad place in the mid 1920's. MRS. HASS ran a cafe from part of the old Lee store in the late 1930's. MRS. MYERS served dinners and ran a coffee counter in the back of their store in the late 30's and 40's.



The "Bargain Store" which was run by Lou Challand

In 1926-27, the Leedale Hall was built. Shares were sold at $10 a piece. MR. LOUIS GUTH was contracted to do the building. Lumber was hauled in from VARTY'S MILL, rock was hauled from the land being cleared in the district to be cemented in for the foundation and in 1927 it was ready for use. Whole families came for the opening — the music (it is believed) was supplied by BING ENGEBRETSON and JENNIE WITHERS — there was still a debt to be paid off so the men were charged one dollar for the evening but the women and children were admitted free. The ladies supplied the lunch.

ROE HANCHER, MAY TAYLOR and CECIL SLIM PEARSON also had orchestras which supplied music for many dances those early years. ALMA ERITSLAND held the first Christmas concert in the hall in 1928 and put on the next five. There is still a concert held in the hall every Christmas, marking 50 years in 1978. Silent Movies were shown in the hall for a few years when it was first opened and movies were shown there again by JOE STEEN, in the early 1950's for a short time. A new hardwood floor was put down in the 1960's when the GLEN TAYLOR FAMILY orchestra was making good use of the hall.

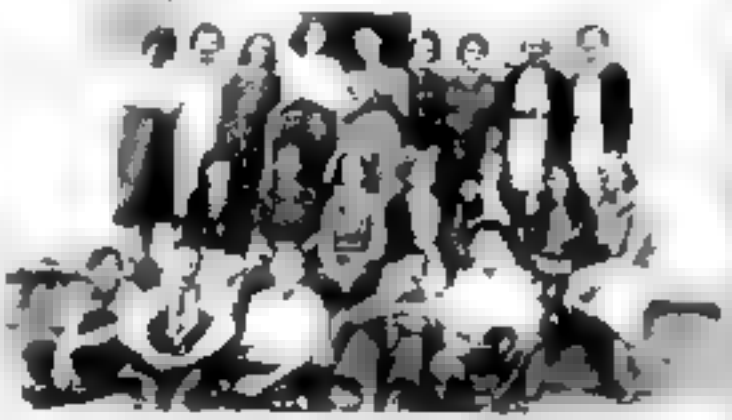
About 1931, FRANK TARRABAIN built a new store, east of the old one, which he ran until selling to DAN MYERS in 1936. DAN MYERS JR. sold to PAUL BORTH in 1966 and it was closed and renovated into a house in 1975.

HERBERT VARTY operated a lumber yard and gas business which was open from 1936 to 1940.

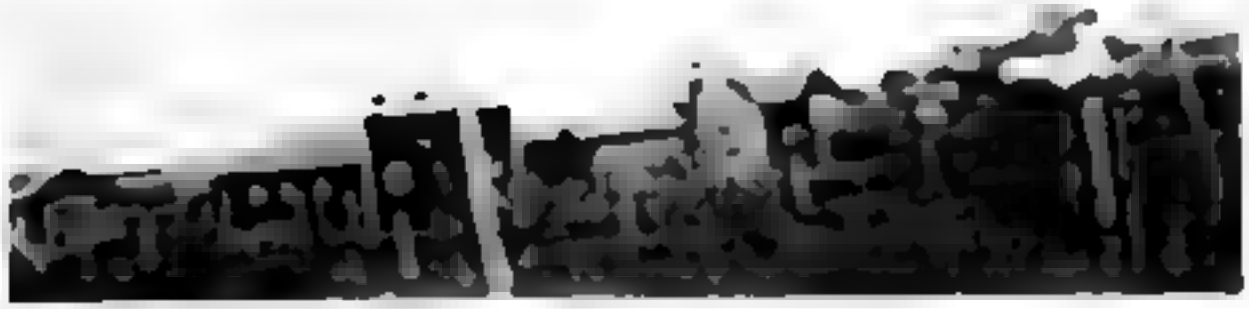
Shortly after DAN MYERS came in 1936 to operate the store, he started a lumber mill. IVAN ADAMS ran this for him for several years.

HARRY PARKINS started a garage business

Old Store building - converted to the Leedale High School



Leedale High School - 1938 - Front row, left to right: Art Baldridge, Orrin Challand, Layton Larson, Orrie Miner, Gordon Carroll. Second row: Allen Upton, Gladys Beckett, Elva Vogel, Beatrice Brown, Katherine Gillespie, Vera Carmichael, Doris Pierson, Back: Jean Jackson, Bess Lindsey, Donna Belt, Ellen Hayward, Edna Iverson. Teacher: Miss McMorris. Alberta Vogel, Roy Brown and Elsie Johnson.



in the mid 1930's. Harry sold to MYERS and it was ran by ED BELT in the late 1930's

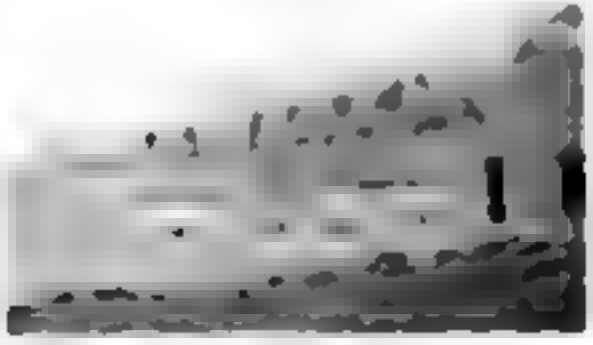
The High School opened in the old Lee store building in 1936 and closed in 1943. The teachers were. Miss Helen Armstrong. Miss Isabel Hood Mr. James Demanchuck, Miss Kay McNevin Mrs. Earl Stollings

JOHN EMIN a shoemaker, had a shoe shop east of Mr Aske s blacksmith shop in the 1940's Being German, his family found it very hard dur ing the war years. Later Mr Aske bought the business and made it into a feed

In 1948 JIM THOMSON tore down the old feed mill and built a garage He operated his business until 1954

When MR AND MRS LINDSAY retired from the post office in 1952, LEONA ADAMS ran it for a short time from a building set beside her father, Mr Myers's store This building was moved across the road. south, when MRS BERYL ED ROBINSON took it over Mrs Robinson ran the post office until her retirement in 1967 when it was moved into the store once more. and ran by MRS. PAUL (BETTY) BORTH. The post office was closed about 1970 and Leedale patrons became R.R 4, Rimbey

Plans to build a curling rink began with the forming of the Booster Club and in 1951 with HAROLD MASON, president and BUD PARKS. secretary, building began. Ice was put in the rink in 1952 and the young people of the community had much fun skating. The first curling game was played in it in 1953



Today 1978, all that remains of this once busy hamlet is the curling rink hall and four families

If, when reading the Leedale histories. you do not find the one you are looking for, please try Aurora, Benjamin, Gimlet, Midland or Mount View These six areas are very closely tied as people who lived in these surrounding areas

Note Much of the above information taken from 'Pas-Ka Poo" Our thanks to Fred Schutz for allowing us to use it

**FOLKING OF WITTENBURG (LATER KNOWN AS LEEDALE) — a newspaper clipping submitted by Lacy Gardner Robinson**

Wittenburg School District was organized in July 1906. by Paul Broderson. The board at that time consisted of Paul Broderson, chairman, William Gardner Treasurer L. M Washburn, C. D Aldridge. secretary The rate payers were Leo Benson. Albert Archer Frank Hallett, C D Aldridge, S.W and H W Eastburn, P Broder son. C.W M.. and T Chaland Mr Wilson, C H Hickman E. Dahl, D Finch, A L. Boyer, C Johnsman. F Hancher, C Fox, J and L. M Washburn. J Beck. Jno Ferguson, Jas Ellis, S D. Clifford. J Olson, N Craft. Thos, Wm., and H E. Gardner and Mark Lampman

The building material was drawn the follow ing winter from William Cumming's sawmill, ten miles west of here Messrs. L. Slater Thos Gardner, Mark Lampman, Paul Broderson, F Hallet, and H. G. Washburn donating their teams, and their time for the work The founda tion of the new school was laid in 1907 by J McIn nis and the frame work was built by Jos Zeluf J Jennson built the stable. The furniture was placed in the building on December 14, 1907 The first sermon was preached in the building by Rev Wright of Rimbey on December 15. The first term of school commenced on December 17 1907 A B. Craig, a well known and well educated Scotsman was in charge, and the salary at that time for a teacher was $50. per month

The scholars who attended the first term were Amanda and William Broderson, Deana Clara and Adaline Dahl. Ernest, David, Mabel. Leon Lilly and Myrtle Everts, Mabel and James

Jackson. Joseph and Ola Merideth, and Hazel Hallett. Mrs. Paul Broderson gave the school its [illegible]

**[illegible] SONG**

These are the words to a song which Myrtle Jacobs sang at nearly all of the community gatherings in the Leedale area in the early 1900's. It is not known who wrote it

Away up north in Alberta
Where the coyotes howl and sing
Where it rains and hails all summer
And you can not raise a thing

I took up a homestead in Alberta
Forty miles from the C.P.R.
You couldn't raise nothing but Jack Pines
On the mountains so steep and high
In the valleys there's nothing but muskegs
That never never go dry

**LEEDALE W.I. (WOMEN'S INSTITUTE)**
**The Spinsters Convention**

The past efforts of the Leedale W.I. have met with unqualified success, and the "Spinsters Convention" held on April 6 was no exception. The hall was crowded when the curtain rose and from start to finish the interest of the audience never flagged. Mrs. F. W. Hancher led the community singing, following which she gave a short talk ending with the story of the painting of the Madonna.

The opening of the "convention" was a signal for hilarity for there gathered fussy old maids garbed in garments fashioned in days gone by with their cats, dogs, and birds. During the meeting the ladies discussed their chances of matrimony, sang plaintive songs of love, recited poems of despair and listened to the debate on dress reform. Among other items one spinster explained the rules of the Cottage Hotel, Pimbey and we feel sure that the managemnet will be keenly interested in these rules.

Just at the close of the meeting, hopes were revived in the hearts of the forlorn spinsters by the arrival of a "dandy" professor and his assistant. The professor declared he could rejuvenate his clients and give them their heart's desire. Needless to say, the ladies were intrigued, and the "remodeler" was set up for skinny old maids with cracked voices appeared as dainty little vocalists, fat old maids were changed into little elocutionists, fairies and even butterflies. One spinster desired to become a man, but was informed that it would take two ordinary females to make a man, so another spinster joined her and lo! there emerged a man.

Once or twice things went wrong, for one spinster would not be separated from her dog, whereas the Professor washed his hands of the consequences and the poor dog emerges as a string of weiners. Another old maid, who counted the years as "Just twenty," was the despair of the professor, but eventually she entered the remodeler only to emerge in pieces. The most ancient spinster desired to become an angel, but the machine wasn't built to meet her years, and no change was made in her appearance, to her great disgust.

Despite these accidents the professor and his machine were very popular, and "hope sprang eternal in the old maids' breasts."

The show was followed by a dance to Rudy's music, and a cake, donated by Mrs. Hancher was raffled and won by Mrs. Oliver Salmon.

Leedale W.I. 1934. The Spinster's Convention Play [illegible]

Mrs. Pearson, Helen Gillespie, Vera Chalkand, holding Alvina, [illegible]

Over one hundred dollars was realized by the effort, and the director and the cast are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the enterprise

The monthly meeting of the Leedale W I was held Thursday afternoon April 12, 1934 in the Leedale Hall. A vote of thanks was given to Mrs F Hancher for giving so generously her time and effort in directing the rehearsals of the recent play A vote of thanks was also given to William Lee and William Broderson in assisting that night by collecting door admissions The net proceeds from the play amounted to $75.35

As soon as the usual business was finished the members donned their "spinster" costumes and went in H. Varty's truck to the home of Mrs. C Pearson Mrs. Pearson had been one of the cast but owing to ill health was obliged to drop out

A very pleasant afternoon was spent and Mr Pearson added to the pleasure of the guests by giving several beautiful instrumental selections

Mesdames Baird and Baldridge served a [illegible]

## LEEDALE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE GOOD 1936

The members of the Leedale Women's Institute sponsored an amateur contest and program in the Leedale Community Hall on November 19 that was well attended and a success in every way

The contestants were catered in three divisions from 1 to 10, 10 to 16 and from 16 to 90 years of age. Winners of the first division were Edith Lee first, recitation, Caroline Eaglesfield second, a song, and Marie Baldridge third with a reading In the 10 to 16 class Mary Ralston of Rimbey was awarded first with a tap dance number Floyd Kraft with a vocal solo and Victor Kraft with a vocal solo. In the adult division the honors were so equally divided that the judges were unable to make an award, but special mention was made of Mrs. C Baldridge and Bill Lee in their artistic rendering of "School Days" The lady as the "Queen in Calico", did the vocalizing while Bill hove down hard on his harmonica. This number brought rounds of applause, as did two short skits done by members of the Institute. The first of these was a scene laid in the waiting room of Dr Kill-em-off's office where Mrs Dupres as "Nurse", was very attractive in a regulation uniform and where Mesdames Broderson, F Lee, K Wiltse, C. Pearson, M Pierson and C Baldridge swapped recitals of their aches and pains, until the arrival of a smartly dressed (Mildred Hobson), diverted their attention from their numerous symptoms to the current sale of hats and gowns at the Myers store at Leedale

In the second skit, Mrs Frank Hancher well known to all Leedale theatre goers as an actress of outstanding ability was undoubtedly the hit of the evening in her role of dancing master Mesdames Trendholm, T Chalkand and C Baldridge -- three pupils seeking instructions in the terpsichorean art, proved comedians of the highest order Miss Mary Ralston, in a brief but charming dance number completely captivated the hearts of her audience as well as that of the dapper young dancing master

Cecil Pearson in the capacity of 'Major

Bowes was all that could be desired and wielded the gong with such diplomacy that the victims actually liked it.

Members of the Leedale Women's Institute, of which Mrs. Wm. Broderson is president, and Mrs. Kenneth Wiltse secretary, served midnight supper and furthered the entertainment of the assembly by providing a dance orchestra under the leadership of Bert Archer of Edmonton, and dancing continued until the hours of early morning.

Miss Blanche Wallace, teacher at Benjamin school, J. Hembury of the Rimbey High School staff, and Mrs. A. E. MacDonald of Rimbey acted as judges in the amateur contest.

Rasmus Murray, employed at Leo Benson's sawmill, was winner of the beautiful woollen quilt in a draw that was made during the supper hour. The quilt was made by the Leedale W.I. and the funds derived from its sale go into the treasury.

**LEEDALE, JUNE 1941**

For many years the Indians in this central area had a Rain Dance in the spring. For a week before the ceremonial dance the Indians passed through Leedale in great numbers. Their destination was a pretty, secluded valley 10 miles west of Leedale.

John Strawberry — an Indian who died at [illegible] years.

Most of them drove a team and wagon and many were leading horses. There were always two or three dogs and sometimes more with each wagon. The squaws and the children sat on the floor of the wagon box. Many stopped at the store to get a few supplies which usually included tobacco, baking powder, flour, matches and a yard of brightly colored material. They would hang the cloth on the limbs of the trees which surrounded the encampment and dancing area.

If the dance was meant to bring rain it certainly accomplished its purpose, as it usually rained the whole week of the dance.

**BUSH FIRES**

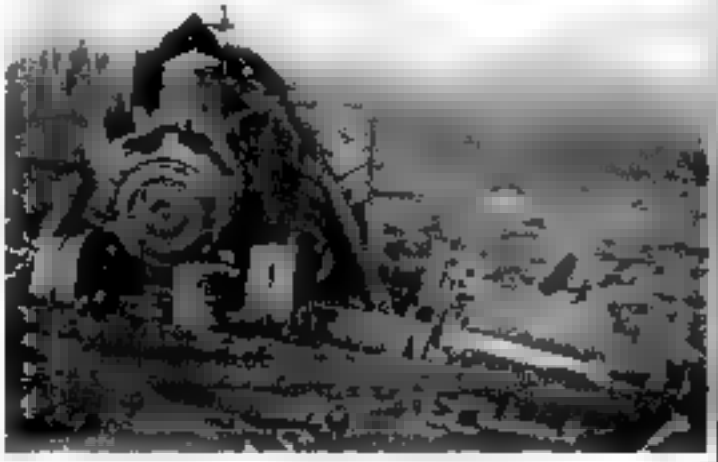
Every spring we live in fear of bush and grass fires. Years ago there was very little equipment that was very effective in controlling the dreaded fires.

Many settlers lost their homes and belongings in the raging fires which were fanned by strong winds in the tinder dry bush.

In 1937 Mrs. Lapeare saved her home from the flames although the barn, chicken house and wood pile burned.

In April 1941 Dick Hollingsworth, and S. A. Lyons narrowly escaped losing their buildings and fire fighters were out for several nights trying to protect homes and granaries.

Eight foot high log pile at McTighe Mill burned to ground — April 1941.



McTighe Saw Mill — April 1941 — Note: Wheels matted down to act flat on bottom.

That same month a raging bush fire swept into the McTighe Saw Mill 25 miles west of Leedale and burned the mill and log pile. Several families were living at the sight and they lost all their

belongings. Mr Earl Johnson was badly burned Hundreds of men were ordered out by the Government to fight the fire

On April 29, Mr Skully's body was found where he had burned to death when he tried to escape the fire

Rain came on May 2, and everyone heaved a sigh of relief but on May 23, the fire again raged through the timber and claimed H. Varty's Mill and Mr. Beaman's buildings. Rain came again on the 25th

In 1968 there were many fire losses. The whole country was a glow at night and many farm buildings were burned. Mr and Mrs. M Simmons lost their barn from sparks which came from burning spruce a half-mile away

**FIRST CURLING MEETING**
**April 12, 1949**

A meeting was held at the Jim Thomson home April 12, 1949 for the purpose of discussing building a curling rink and skating rink

Dan Kilpatrick made a motion that Harold Mason be chairman, seconded by Jim Thomson [illegible] carried

Bud Parks was nominated as secretary by Dan Kilpatrick seconded by Johnny Tkacik - carried

Moved by Johnny Tkacik that we build a curling rink seconded by Ed Belt

Val Tkacik Bob Kilpatrick, and Ed Belt were appointed as a committee to see about timber to obtain logs and inspect some carried

Moved by Bob Kilpatrick seconded Vernon Belt that the meeting be adjourned

**FIRST YEAR CURLING**

Harold Mason moved that the club members join together into rinks, in a way to make it convenient to let each other know of games and get transportation to them seconded by Harley Belt

Skips were then appointed as follows
Harold Mason
Tuscin Jevne
Val Tkacik
Henry Trachuk
Dan Kilpatrick
Johnny Jones
Harley Belt
Vernon Belt
Lavern Hancher

It was moved by Johnny Jones and seconded by Burns Kilpatrick that curling fees be $6 for men and $3 for women and school kids.

**"UNEXPLAINED — by Iris Coulter, Craven, Saskatchewan (from the Western Weekly Supplement — January 2, 1968**

This story is unexplained and something we never got to the bottom of, as it happened about fifty-five years ago, when I was only a small child, but I still remember it

It was the year 1907, and my father had homesteaded near Wittenburg, now known as Leedale. We were living in a two-roomed log shack. Our family consisted of my parents brother and myself

It was in early June, and it had rained for several days. My brother and I were sitting by the window looking out, when we saw a man emerge from the tall timber nearby and pass within a rod of the window He was tall and wearing a black felt hat We called our mother and the three of us watched him as he walked down the pathway leading to the half open door of the hen house and disappeared into the building

We kept on watching to see him come out, as in those days homesteads were lonely places [illegible] more, my mother called to dad who was dozing on the bed, and told him that a man had gone into the hen house. The small dog had seen him, as it began to bark

Dad got up and walked to the hen house, but no one was in there. There was only one door to the hen house and if the man had come out we would have seen him. He then looked to see if there were any tracks in the mud but there were none We all went out and looked for tracks, but couldn't see any Dad accused the three of us with having too much imagination

A month later, in the early evening of a hot July day mother and I were standing at the door when our attention was drawn by our small dog letting out a couple of loud barks. We looked and there coming through the tall timber was this same man, who again walked within a rod of us and disappeared into the hen house as before

We were frightened as Dad was away and my young brother had gone down to the end of the field to bring the cow home. The dog kept up a steady barking. We watched to see if the man came out, but there was no sign of him. Mother was worried as my brother had to pass by the side of the hen house on his way back with the [illegible]

Shortly I saw my brother coming chasing the cow ahead of him, and he raced into the hen [illegible] cow's watering pail was kept in the hen house He came out again quite unconcerned, and when we questioned him, he was surprised, as he had [illegible]

Several weeks later a far-away neighbor was visiting us during the afternoon when the same thing happened again. The dog barked and we were all amazed to see the strange man appear then vanish into the hen house So we all put on a brave front and walked down to the hen house immediately and glanced in every corner of the small structure, but there wasn't a sign of anyone This has always remained a mystery

If it had been only one person who had seen it we could have put it down to hallucination, but the first time there were three of us, the second time two of us, and the third time four of us one being an outsider

This remains to this day unexplained Mother

had told the story to different people later on, after we had left the homestead, and settled in Saskatchewan but each had a different theory

One elderly lady who had lived near that part of the country at the turn of the century told us later that she had heard several men had been murdered there in the early days Bones had been found on the Edward Dirkson farm four miles away in 1904, but were identified as Indian bones

The above story is true but unexplained

**RECOLLECTIONS by Elva Visger Rice**

was born in the winter of 1925 in what is now the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital. At the time, my folks (Lyle and Zerola Visger) lived on the Rostad place nine miles west of Rimbey, in a log house which is still on the property as far as I know

It was in the depth of a hard winter and my Father rode horseback in to see my Mother and , with the snow up to the horse s belly Our hired girl at that time was Evelyn Wegreen, who looked after my sister Alberta and brother Robert at home

Later we moved to the Manley Cumberland place near Leedale where Nora was born. Next to the Coverdale place in the Simon district, and then to the Aldridge place a half mile west of Pierson s

Dale Joan and Bonnie were born while we lived there. One winter while we lived there, it was so mild on my birthday on January 19, that we sat in the shade and made ice cream. I remember we used to pump the horse trough full with a sort of tread mill with a horse going in a wide circle Sometimes the cows tails would get caught in the turning pipe and of course they would come to a slow stop. The last move was made to the old home place which was two miles east of Brown's corner My folks lived there for nearly 30 years. I well remember that move, as I was nine years old Alberta and Robert went ahead on horseback with the cattle and horses The rest of us came in the wagon, driving the mules. Si and Jim. Bonnie was six months old in the crib at the back of the wagon. As we drove past Brown s I remember Mrs. Brown came out to wish us well

The old log house we moved into holds many a memory. As Ellen Hayward used to say, "If those logs could talk" When the walls got dingy we just pasted a new edition of the 'Family Herald" over it. There seemed to be a lot of young people around in those days. No phones, but word seemed to get around quickly about an upcoming tobogganing party. My sister Nora and Harvey Simmons, even went so far as to get married. There were lots of other short time

I took Grades 1 to 8 at Leedale plus three years at Leedale High School in the old Lee store I kept those two barrel stoves going and split those huge blocks of wood, but I loved it Alberta and I lived in a borrowed thresher's bunk house on the school yard Other girls did likewise The third year I lived with Beatrice Brown and Mildred Walker in a warm granary that Mr Brown made

In the winter those trips home for the weekend were something else, but Robert with a team and sleigh was our trusty chauffeur until Bill Lee s hired man, Charles Moore, caught Alberta s eye Then we would come back with him on Sunday night, as the Moore's lived neighbor to us

It was fun living next to such a big family with kids our ages. Everybody was in the same boat in those days. The name of the boat was "Poverty" I'm still in one of the lifeboats but who cares? We don't have everything we want but we have everything we need

Remember when?

1. Miss Erlisland took us for a hike and warned "don't go in the river" but of course the Grade II girls had to try it
2. We spent our noon hours drowning out gophers to make a few cents from the tails
3. When Norman Benson's horse reared up and fell over backwards but Norman crawled out okay
4. We met the Benson boys on the way to school and were happy to announce to them that our baby sister Bonnie had arrived during the night but they surprised us with the same announcement that their baby brother Gordon had arrived
5. Miss Erlisland came to school with the firm decision, "No more talking in school, or you'll get the strap," I was second in line and bawled at noon hour
6. When Beatrice and I sat in a double desk at the back of the row Gordon Baldridge went to the water fountain, collected a hand full of flies off the window sill and put them down Beatrice s neck

7. Miss Evans tried to teach us to chew each mouthful 32 times and when noon hour was over we were still eating
8. Our skinny old horse Charlie, part Clyde, could beat any horse in the school
9. When an airplane lit beside the hall on sports day
10. When the Visger's drove their topless Model T with the kids behind in the meat house
11. We had measles and we had to bake the valentines before sending them to school
12. When every child at school had a nickname, everything from wall eyes, goose eggs, cave donkey chin and egg nose

I was married to John Rure in May 1949 and we farmed about 16 miles east of Red Deer near the school I supervised. Our four children Fay Eddy, Wendy and Danny were born while we lived there. We moved to Armstrong, B.C. in 1965 where we live now. In 1967 we acquired three foster children Darlene, Glen, and Grace Felex from a nearby reserve, so now we have a family of seven. We also have two granddaughters. John works in the logging business.

**ADAMS, DOREEN AND ALBERT**

Doreen and Albert Adams and three sons, Vernon, Leonard and Kenny moved into Leedale in about 1944 from the Faraway district where they had farmed and Albert had worked in the sawmills during the winter months. He worked for a time in Carl Aske's blacksmith shop but left that in about a year to go to work in road construction in the summer.

While there they added a daughter, Betty Anne, to their family. Doreen and family remained in Leedale for a time but when Albert returned to the mills for winter work they moved back to the Faraway district. While there, over the years three more sons, Lee, Neil and Albert Duane, were born.

Albert continued to work in construction in summer and mills in the winter until the fall of 1950, when he started firing boilers on oil rigs. He passed away while on the job at Coronation in November of 1950. Doreen and family continued on living in the Faraway district.

In 1957, she and Gordon Pike were united in matrimony in Red Deer. To them two more daughters, Holly and Janet, were born. They reside in the district and continue to farm and Gordon has been employed by Amerada Minerals Corporation of Canada Ltd. for the past [illegible].

Most of the family still reside in points in Alberta with the exception of the oldest son who lives at McBride, B.C.

[illegible]

Clay Aldridge came to Alberta from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1906 and settled on a farm about three miles north of Leedale. In the fall of 1909 he returned to the U.S. and in November married Nettie Galey, who at that time was teaching school there. They returned to the farm early in 1910 shortly after their arrival Mrs. Aldridge was asked to teach at the Gimlet School.

Their first child was born in November 1910.

Mrs. Aldridge was called to fill in at various times whenever a full time teacher was unavailable.

A second child Walter was born in September 1914. The family moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1928.

Clay passed away in 1968. Mrs. Aldridge is still living and will celebrate her 96th birthday in July 197[illegible].

The sons married in Edmonton where Charlie still resides. Walter was killed in a car accident in 1952.

**ARDPOD, FRANK**

Mr. Ardpod, with 11 other young men, left Santa Maurla, Romania for Canada in 1928 leaving his wife and family behind he was in search of the wealth offered in the New World (or so the ads said). James Lukocs was one of his fellow travelers as far as Canada. They did not meet again until about 1935 when Mr. Ardpod purchased the NW 6-42-4-W5, about one and one half miles west of Mr. Lukocs. This was a C.P.R. quarter and had been farmed by Lyn Wiese and his hired man, Ted Pimm and later owned by Mr. Polynik prior to Mr. Ardpod so had about 50 acres broke on it. It is believed someone had lived on the quarter earlier, for there was a dug [illegible] here, but no definite information could be found. Alfred Straarup also farmed the land.

Mr. Ardpod was a section man for the C.P.R. so did not farm the land himself. He did build a log house and planned to bring his family over but his wife died in Hungary so he did no more with the farm. The Depew (or Depue) family rented the buildings for a short time after Mr. Ardpod left.

He sold the farm to Charlie Repas, moved to Calgary, where he remarried and lived the rest of his life.

[illegible]

Early in the year of 1937 Carl H. Aske and son Clarence, came to Leedale from Madel and purchased the blacksmith shop from Harry Farthing. They lived in the back of the shop until Mrs. Aske and the younger children joined them in the spring.

[illegible]

They soon bought a house that is still in Leedale. Many folks will remember, in the Aske home, the coffee pot was always on the stove and everyone was always welcome.

After many years of hard blacksmith work Carl Aske retired in 1951 and they moved to Rumbey.

Mrs. Aske passed away February, 1953 and Mr. Aske in November of 1955.

Their family is as follows:

Hilda Moonen lives in Kamloops, B.C.

Clarence and wife, Rosie, live in Flatbush, Alberta where he is retired.

Johnny Aske passed away at Nojack, Alberta in July 1962.

Mabel Ervin resides at Clairmont, Alberta.

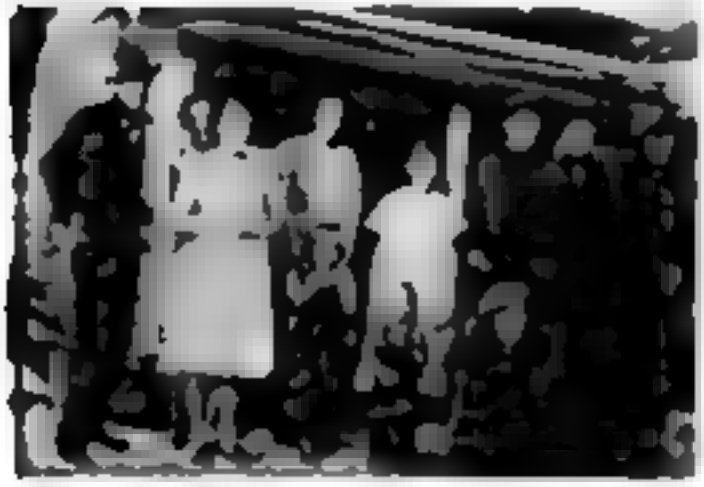
Melvin Aske passed away in Edmonton, October 1972.

Eddy Aske and wife, Loretta, live in Rocky Mountain House.

Josephine Royan resides in Rimbey.

Hazel and Jimmy Varty live 29 miles west of Rimbey at Faraway.

Violet and Gordon Belt reside in Red Deer.



[illegible]

**MR. AND MRS. MAURICE BEAUGRAND**

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Beaugrand came to the Leedale district in about 1910, homesteading on Open Creek. They later bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter one and one-half miles west of Leedale where they resided until 1946 when they sold to Edward Belt. Mrs. Beaugrand is buried in Rimbey. Maurice retired to Whiterock, B.C. where he lived until his passing.

They had one son, John, who received his schooling at Leedale and now resides in British Columbia.

**JOHN BECK**

John Beck was born in Kendellville, Indiana on August 2nd, 1870, and as a young man he worked in North Dakota and Washington. He came to Canada in 1905 and took a homestead which was the NW 14-42-4-W 5.

He was a hard working man, a good neighbor and friend. He sold the farm to O. McElroy in 1947. He bought C. H. Aske's house in Leedale and moved in 1948.

He spent the last year with old friends and neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Brown and passed away January 12th, 1952.

**BELT GORDON LESLIE — [illegible] Lumber Boom-hardier**

Son of Esther and Harley Belt, born April 13, 1920. Education at Gimlet and Leedale Schools 1926-1934. Worked on the family farm 'til joining the Canadian Army in October 1941 serving with the 112 Battery sixth Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment R.C.A. second Canadian Armed Corps, under the command of Lieutenant-general Guy Simmons in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany returning to Canada to be discharged in Calgary in November 1945.

He purchased the N ½ 36-41-4-W5th. (former Terry Chatland farm) through the Veterans Land Act in April, 1946, farming there until May, 1966 when we sold and moved to Kelowna, British Columbia. In June 1975 we returned to Alberta and now reside at 26 Piper Drive, Red Deer.

I married Violet Aske December 24, 1941, we have four children, Delores Hatala, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories; Leslie of Red Deer; Marlin of Rumbey, and Lydia Ann Cooper of Red Deer.

**BELT, HARLEY J.**

I left New Hartford, Iowa, where I was born August 14, 1892, travelling through St. Paul Minneapolis to Winnipeg, then on to Lacombe by train, arriving near the end of July, 1912. This route was travelled by many early settlers, for the sooner they reached Canada, the cheaper it was for them to travel. Homestead rates for travelling by train in Canada was one cent per mile. Upon reaching Lacombe, I was met by my older brother, Verne, who lived there at the time, and he drove me by team and buggy, to our eldest brother, Burley's homestead which was west of Wittenburg near the Gimlet Creek. Leaving Lacombe early in the morning, we travelled by road and trail, stopping at Willits, four miles east of Wittenburg for dinner. This was where I first met the Willits. Like all pioneer homes their house was always open for tired, hungry travelers. The road east from Wittenburg was new at this time.

We visited a few days with Burley and his family, then returned to Lacombe where I worked for the town that summer putting in streets and sidewalks.

That fall, having earned enough money to buy a team and wagon, I went to my father's homestead on the Red Deer River at Haynes. There I finished breaking the land that my father, Isaac Ruphas Belt, had started to break.

when proving up his homestead in 1901. He never completed what he started, for he was murdered 4 November 1902 by Ernest Cashell, one of the 'most wanted' men at that time. Verne had thought he would take over father's homestead but decided against it, and sold it the spring of '13. I worked on a threshing outfit at Haynes that fall, then returned to Wittenburg to spend the winter with Burley.

Burley purchased the first threshing rig to be owned in the valley the fall of 1912. Upon returning from Hayes I ran this for him threshing throughout the country. Bundles were put up in stacks and threshing went on into winter then. The machine itself had a 40 horse engine, was hand fed with a straw carrier. Many a morning it balked at the idea of starting, especially when it was 40 below. Besides threshing, this engine was used to saw wood, and grind feed for many a neighbor. I recall threshing one winter as far north as Bargins, north of Willesden Green, west through Freitags, south to Salmons and Lawtons as well as several in the valley; Mottet's, Hancher's, Challand's and Brown's. I returned to Lacombe the spring of '13 and worked there until haying season began. Burley and I rented the Everts' quarter and taking the hay from it was the first farming I did in the area for myself.

Sundays were a day of rest and relaxation. Ball games and pony races were enjoyed by all spectators and participants alike. There were no churches so all Christian teachings were taught at home by the parents. Neighbors often called for a visit on Sunday. Picnics were also enjoyable. They were held at various places. The ones that come to mind were at Bradshaw's, Sherman's, and on the school section. Even, if at no other time of year, there was always a picnic on July 1. We played ball, usually inviting a team out from Rumbey, had horse races and other races for the kids, men and "fat" women. A collection was taken up and given out as prizes for the kids' races. Everyone took lunch, salads, sandwiches, etc. and some brought their homemade wines and moonshine. After the hall was built in 1927 most of the community gatherings were held there or at the school.

One evening, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sherman, Manda Brodersen and I were on our way to a dance at Laroses and stopped on the way at Russ and Eva Hall's (west of the Gimlet school two and one-half miles). Eva's sister, Esther Mottet was there that evening so we took her along to the dance, "being the beginning of the end". I took her to the next dance at Brodersen's and from then on there has been no one else. We were married June 24, 1915, at Esther's parents home south of Wittenburg. Rev. C. D. McDonald came from the Leaf Land area to perform the ceremony. Our witnesses were R. J. Russell Hall and H. B. Belt. Guests at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Damron, Arthur and Ned, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. R. Hall, Mrs. E. Withers, Mr. H. B. G. Withers, C. L. Withers, Fred and Nora

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mottet
request the pleasure
of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Esther Pearl
to
Harley J. Belt
Thursday evening June 24th 1915
at eight o'clock
at their home

Lange, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Johnson, Vera and Everett, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Belt, Pauline and Florence, E. T. Bertha and Basil Bradshaw, G. R. Mabel and

Herbert Easter Helen Lockhart Mrs Ida Clifford. Miss Anna. Miss L. Beatrice and Bertha Thompson, Mr and Mrs. R. E. Best Mrs S Cole, D R. Finch. Mr and Mrs Ray VanLoan, John L Mathieson. J M Fallis Marie. Mearle and Nellie. Mr and Mrs. John Olsen. Mrs. G Olsen, Mrs. E. G Gerlinger and Sadie. Rev C D McDonald and Mr and Mrs. E Moffet. Lucy George, and Albert

After a two week honeymoon to Pleasant Valley we settled on Burley's south quarter where I broke 30 acres with four horses and a 16 inch breaking plow That fall Esther stayed with my sister and her family, Lena and George Johnston in the Aurora District while I was threshing We lived in many different places over the first 15 years of marriage but always in the Wittenburg (Leedale, after 1918) area. The Hank Nelson place in 1916, and Simmon's 1917-20 three miles north-west, the C.P.R. quarter one and one-half west in '20 and the section one and one-half miles north in 29 and 30. In the spring of 1931 we bought the NE 34-41-4 W5 and the NW 35 41-4-W5, known as the Clifford or Gee place, and lived there until retiring to the Lodge in Rimbey in 1972

Esther and I watched a small village grow in those early 1900's. The post office and store were there when Esther came in 1906, but after came the creamery, school, livery stable, blacksmith shop. barber shop, the new store, lumber yard hall. high school and much later the curling rink Business flourished during the 30's and 40's, not only due to the many farmers in the area but to the lumber mills in the west Then during the 50's and 60's, with faster transportation and better roads another great change hit the country. The cry was for improvement by centralizing The Calgary Power came into the country, the cry for gas and oil was heard, telephones were installed, and small country schools were closed and the children bussed to town. By mid 1975 the hamlet of Wittenburg) Leedale was a ghost town, with only the hall and curling rink remaining of what once was a very busy little place

Like most farmers in the area we learned early that to make a "go of it" in this area one had to run a mixed farm and work hard at it By raising hogs and cattle for market or trade and our own use, mixed grains and hay for feed chickens for eggs and meat and raising a large garden to feed the family, we came through the early years, the hungry thirties and the war years of rationing perhaps better than most, for we were never hungry or cold. Heat was provided by wood burning stoves Much land was cleared of trees which were sawed, then split for cook stoves or left in blocks for the furnace Meat was canned or home cured. Vegetables and wild fruits were home canned The wild raspberries strawberries and saskatoons were delicious by themselves or mixed with rhubarb Blueberries were plentiful, choke cherries made wonderful pancake syrup and cranberries made the chicken and turkey a little better We built an ice house. which was filled with blocks of ice from the Medicine River every spring. This kept the milk and cream cool. and was used as the refrigerator is today Butter was made from the cream, and cottage cheese from the milk

By 1936 we managed to save enough money to build a new home. A two-storey with full basement for less than $2,000. The older boys logged, and Varty's sawed the lumber for the house Clem Baldridge was the carpenter Some prices were: 675 bricks $18.90; cement 90 cents per bag, ten test $55.00 per 1,000; 25 lbs. 2½" coated nails $1.75; doors. 2'6 x 6'6", $3.25 windows 12" x 24" $1 75 each. We had running water by pumping water into a tank situated in the attic. The sewer was put in when the house was built Water was heated in a tank beside the cook stove by pipes running into the lining of the fire box We also had a 32 volt light plant which supplied us with light The bathroom was put in in 1943 making it one of the first modern homes in the Leedale Valley

The war years were anxious times for many Edward, Dallas, and Gordon, our three older sons, were all in the service, only Edward and Gordon returning. F/O Belt D. E. J23877 570 Sqdrn. R.A.F R.C.A.F Overseas was reported missing in action on July 29, 1944. this being confirmed July 31, 1946. He is buried, with the members of his crew in Orleans, France

We had eleven children, namely:

Edward Harley — born April 1. 1916, took his schooling at the Gimlet and Leedale schools He married Alma Chaland and lived in the Leedale area until 1966 when they moved to Red Deer

Dallas Eugene — born December 7, 1918 — died July 29, 1944, took his schooling at Leedale and remained in the area until joining the R.A.F in 1941

Gordon Leslie — born April 18, 1920. received his schooling at Leedale, joined the Army in 1941,

Harley and Esther Belt 60th anniversary 1975

and later married Violet Anke. After the war they farmed the Terry Challand farm until 1966 when they moved to Kelowna B.C

Floyd Chester — born September 30, 1922 — died November 17 1922

Donna Pearl, Mrs. John Robert Unger was born November 22, 1923. They reside in Edmon

Francis Boyd — born July 27, 1925 — died January 28, 1936 of spinal meningitis

Doris Louise, Mrs. Edward Owen Marcum was born March 18, 1927 They reside at Langley B.C

Vernon Charles — born August 25, 1928, received his schooling at Leedale and has farmed there all his life

Esther Fern — born January 3, 1930 — died January 7 1930. She had no opening from her stomach to her intestine

Gladys Valentine, Mrs. Russell Cole, was born February 14, 1931. After living several years in the Lockhart area they now reside near Rocky Mountain House

Carrol Maxine, Mrs. R. Lee Mannix, was born December 24, 1938. They and Vernon, make their home on the home place

In 1965 we retired, building a small house on the farm, and when the Parkland Manor was opened in Rimbey in October 1972, we moved there I still keep active in the drop-in-center and with carpenter work

**BENGSTON, HANNAH AND ART — By T Bon-**

Hannah and Art Bengston came to the Leedale district as the "Hungry Thirties" They arrived by Model T truck from Frontier, Sask in the late fall of 1934

They settled on the SW 23-42-4 W5, which was two and one-half miles north of Leedale

At that time they had three boys and five girls. Another girl was born in Alberta

Norma married Bill Bunch of Rimbey, Thelma married Alex Murray of Marwayne, Virginia married Ernie Scanlon of Dawson Creek B.C., Freddie married Kay Griener of Rimbey, Ruby married Lee Farrel of Rimbey, Stanley married Edith Jensen of Taber Cody married Kay Brown of Rimbey Eleanor married John Komenoski and Sylvia married Ron Stewart of Red Deer

Mr Bengston sold the farm to Allan Sieling and the family moved into Rimbey

Art passed away in 1966 and his wife, Hannah still lives in Rimbey

**BINYON, PAUL**

Mr Paul Binyon and his daughter Phyllis boarded with the Robert Gillespies in about 1936 Mr Binyon was a carpenter, who helped Harley Belt some with the building of his house and Phyllis was the school teacher that year

**[illegible]**

Mr Bishop came to Leedale in the 1930's. He operated a barber shop and was also a Chiropractor He later moved his family to the NW 32-41-4 W5, presently owned by Zoley Garnick. While living here he operated a saw mill in the Faraway district

There were five children, Hazel, Ivy Lawrence, Henry and Virginia. From here they moved to British Columbia where Henry was killed in a saw mill accident

Harold Heringer bought the farm from Mr Bishop and John Jones pastured cattle on it for several years. Zoley Garnick purchased it from Harold Heringer about 1979

**[illegible] NICK**

In January of 1930 I came to Leedale and stayed with my sister and brother-in-law Peter and Lillian Chibri In the spring I went to work for Alex Skoreiko for two months. I then went to fight fires in the Sundre area, where I was when the war broke out. After that I moved back to the Leedale area and worked for Henry Chabot for $15 a month hauling wood and tamarack poets to the school

In the summer of 1940 I went to work for Herb Varty at the mill. Fire broke out and Bill Varty myself and a few others were the last ones to drive away as fire engulfed the mill site

That winter I worked for Henry Chabot again, filling the school wood contract

The next fall I worked for Scotty Houston stooking and threshing for eight cents a pound of twine (approximately $3.84 a day) I made $152 that fall When the fall work was over I went to Edmonton, joined the Air Force and went [illegible]

After the war I farmed in the Lavesta area for a number of years and am presently living in Edmonton.

**BREWER, REV CYRIL AND ANNA**

Cyril Brewer was born March 8, 1907 His parents Guy and Myrta Brewer lived in the Elkorn district on Grandpa Brewer's farm at that time

Cyril married the former Anna Gusek, who was the daughter of Micheal and Regine Gusek She was born in Baucham, Germany and came to Canada at the age of seven years. Her father came to Canada in 1907 her two sisters Mary, and Augusta (Sumtak) in August 1910. Her mother Regine, and the other children arrived in November 1910. They were Anna (Brewer), Emma (Krossa , Bertha Jones) and a son William. Carl and Gus were born in Round Hill

In September 1931 Cyril and Anna came to the Leedale district to serve as minister at the Free Methodist Church, the services being held in the Leedale school. Rev. Richard Shoupe Rev Andrew Sharp and Rev J. J Walker had held the position previously In July 1932 Cyril was ordained and later that year their oldest son Arnold was born

In 1934 Evart was born and in 1935 the family moved to Bashaw where their daughter Regine was born in 1936. Cyril was a very good carpenter so besides his ministerial work he was busy carpentering or helping someone with their farming

In the years that followed Rev Louis Freitag Rev. Wm Carmichael, Rev J J. Walker Rev Konrad Kaiser and Rev Clarence Lyons served the church as ministers. Then in 1946 Rev and Anna Brewer and family returned to Leedale. In 1950, after a second four year ministerial term the family moved to Oregon and Rev Bert Larwill replaced Rev Brewer He was the last minister to serve the Free Methodist Church at Leedale

The children took their schooling in Oregon and following graduation from high school Arnold and Evart returned to Canada and shortly afterward in 1954. Rev. and Mrs. Brewer and Regine returned to Lacombe but due to Mrs Brewer's ill health they moved back to Port Angeles, Washington in 1965, where they still reside

Arnold accepted a job with Edmonton City Telephone Co. on his return to Canada and has worked there ever since He and his wife Deloris have four children Darci Ann who is married to John Lee of the city, Ronald, Dale and Corrine at home

Evart and his wife Doreen also have four children Gregory who graduated from high school this year, Brian, Linda, and Elaine at home Evart worked for Halliburton Oil Co. for 26 years, then worked for an off shore drilling company in Nova Scotia for a time On his return, he accepted a teaching position at Edmonton in a government school where he teaches heavy duty

Regine married Fillmore Smith, a farmer at Eyebrow, Sask They have three boys. Richard Kelly and Darren. Although Phil still works at the farm part time, they now live in Eyebrow where they recently built a new home

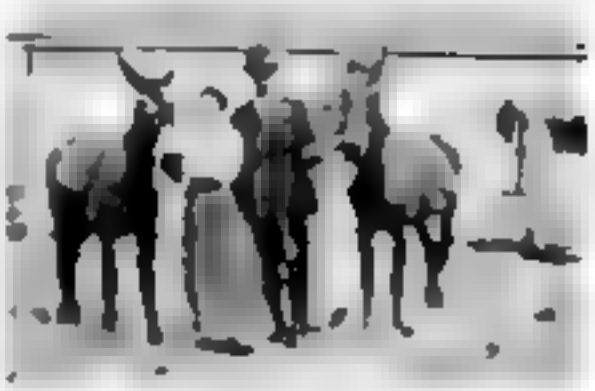
**PAUL BRODERSEN — by Mrs. Bruce (Anna) Thirsk**

Paul Broderson came to Canada from the United States. He was the sort of man who could turn his hand to many things farmer, storekeeper, blacksmith, carpenter and he had learned the printing business. He and his wife Bertha were married in Lincoln, Nebraska where he had his printing shop. Times grew bad so they took up a farm out in Kansas and lived there for eight years. Paul was a pioneer and decided Canada was a new country so he would go north

In 1904 he homesteaded 42 miles northwest of Lacombe, beside the Medicine River where he named his home Wittenburg after his childhood home in north Germany just 30 miles south of the Danish border near the small town of Bredestedt in the province of Schleswig Holstein

Two children, Wilbarn and Amanda were born in Nebraska, a third child Anna was born in Lacombe, the first baby to be delivered by young Dr Hynes

A large dining and living room were built onto the existing early three-room home with a bedroom and dance hall above. The dining room became a store and post office His wife, Bertha, was postmistress for eight years



Paul drove to Bentley, 25 miles, twice a week to deliver mail and bring mail back along with groceries, hardware, etc. Saturday night was a big night, people of the community came to get their mail and buy groceries. Small Anna left to her own devices, liked looking at the funnies, fell asleep on the mail bags.

The hall above was used for community dances, usually Saturday nights. Oleg Englebrit son played the violin.

Later Bill Brodersen drove the wagon or sleigh to Bentley for the mail and groceries. Many times it was necessary to go to Lacombe for things needed. It was very cold in winter. Foot warmers were a necessity on those long trips.

Paul was a good blacksmith, horses had to be shod, runners made for sleighs, etc. etc. He and son Bill, ran a herd of cattle and later built up a registered herd of Herefords.

Bertha Brodersen and daughter Amanda cooked many meals for people who came out looking for land and who often stayed overnight. Paul drove them around the country looking for land to file claims on. He also served as a commissioner and signed documents for people.

**PAUL BRODERSEN — by Amanda S MacKenzie-Fuddison nee Brodersen**

My father Paul Brodersen, was born in Denmark and my mother, Bertha Klement, was born in Austria, Hungary. They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A., April 27, 1893 and from this union three children were born. My brother William (Bill) and I were born in Lincoln, Nebraska and my sister, Anna Christine, was born in Lacombe, Alberta.

My father was a printer and Clerk of the Court in Lincoln. From there the four of us moved to Jennings, Kansas, where father farmed and mother set type for sale bills and wedding invitations on their printing press. From Kansas the four of us came to Lacombe in 1903. Father came by rail with settlers' effects and mother, brother Bill and I came by train later. We lived on a rented farm near Lacombe for one year while we children attended the Milton School. My father helped Mr. Butterfield and Mr. Skinner to set up The Lacombe Globe which is an interesting newspaper today. From Lacombe we moved to Medicine Valley where father took up a homestead, NW 2-42-4-W5, and also purchased the following C.P.R. land, NW 1-42-4-W5 and NE 3-42-4-W5. Father built our home near the Medicine Valley River on NW 2 where he farmed and raised Purebred Hereford cattle. He also started the first post office and store in 1907, mother was his assistant postmistress and clerk, and named the farm, post office and store "Wittenburg" after father's ancestral home in Denmark. In 1918 the name Wittenburg was changed to Leedale. However down through the years I still visit my old home, the house is still standing as well as some of the other buildings. All the above land has been sold to the Tkacik Brothers. And the name "Wittenburg" (in prominent letters) is on a signpost as you enter their yard. There is always a friendly welcome when my sister and I visit the Tkacik's.

My father passed away June 19, 1929 and mother on December 1, 1959. My brother, Bill, farmed and raised purebred Hereford cattle on the NE 25-41-3-W5. Bill sold the farm and moved to Rimbey in 1957. He passed away February 23, 1970 at the age of 76 years. His wife Florence lives in a convalescent home in Wetaskiwin, Alta. My sister Mrs. Bruce (Anna) Thirsk of Surrey, B.C. and myself are the only survivors left.

**BROWN, OSCAR AND BERTHA, SE 14-42-4-W5**

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Brown moved to the Leedale community in April, 1933. They bought the SE 14-42-4-W5 from Jimmy Jackson.

Oscar Brown was in the Rimbey area for the first time when he was 12 years old. He came with his father Andrew J. Brown from North Dakota in the summer of 1900 and lived near the Forshee area. His father left him alone there and went back to North Dakota to bring the rest of the family. Oscar was alone for two months, having his dog for company, baking his own bread, catching fish, snaring partridges and rabbits to eat in his father's absence. He recalled having a horse rancher, Mr. Reed, for a neighbor. Mr. Reed rode over to visit him about twice a week, perhaps to keep an eye on him. When the family came, they stayed about two months and then all returned to North Dakota because Mrs. Brown Sr. didn't like the bush country.

Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Brown had three daughters. Floy (Mrs. Glenn Challand) of Rimbey, Beatrice (Mrs. Orris Challand) of Rocky Mountain House, and Marjorie (Mrs. Leroy Johnston) also of Rocky Mountain House.

Their belongings were shipped by train to Rimbey and moved out to the farm with four head of horses on a wagon. Mrs. Brown and Floy herded the three milk cows on foot.

Mr. Brown broke 30 acres of land the first year with horses. The first three years they lived at Leedale they were either hailed out or got froze out. This made for a real hardship on top of just moving to the new community.

Oscar returned to Pincher Creek area each year for the first few years to thresh. Mrs. Brown and the girls ran the farm while he was away.

The money he made there would help with the operating expenses for the following year.

Mrs. Brown's hobbies for the years were milking cows, raising foxes and turkeys.

The Brown's were active in the Free Methodist Church. Mrs. Brown was the Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years. Many of the former children who attended Sunday school still recall the great times they had at the Easter parties Mrs. Brown would have for them.

In 1948-1950 they built a new house and in 1963 they sold the farm to Mr and Mrs. Art Frayn and moved to Rocky Mountain House During this time Mr Brown became involved with the great sport of curling and curled in many bonspiels in Leedale and Rocky Mountain House

Mr and Mrs. Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February 1969

HONORED ON 60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

In October of 1972 they moved to the Parkland Manor in Rimbey where they lived until their passing. Mr Brown passed away in October 1973 and Mrs Brown in December 1975

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN B. BRUN, NE 15-42-4-W5 — by T Hanna**

My parents came to Canada from Christiania now Oslo Norway in the later 1880's. My dad came first to Minnesota and later my mother and five children came across by sailing ship. They left Minnesota and settled about 50 miles north of Regina at Govan, Saskatchewan where the last four children were born. When I was five years old (in 1915) we moved to southern Saskatchewan just one-half mile from the Montana border a nice but barren land covered with

L. to R. Tillie Krogstad, Vivian Stewart, Helen Lageson, Hannah Bengson, Sitting, Mr and Mrs. John Brun and dog "Spot

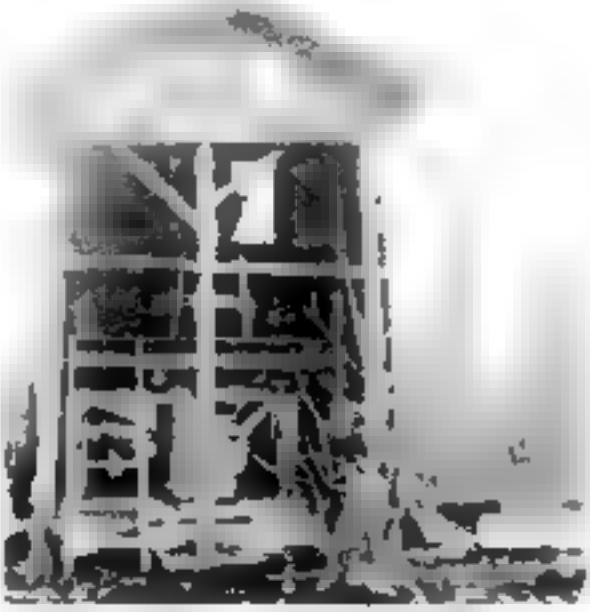
bleached buffalo bones, lots of antelope and luscious green grass, no drought then)

During the "hungry thirties" my parents, Mr and Mrs Brun my brother Floyd and niece Virginia Bengston came to the Mount View district from Frontier, Saskatchewan. They came in a Model A Ford to this beautiful country which seemed like a paradise after leaving the "dust dunes" in Saskatchewan

They got an acreage 13 miles west of Rimbey by the bridge crossing the Medicine River

Dad built a log house and blacksmith shop there but they lived there for one year They then purchased the Lou Eaton place (NE 15-42-4-W5) which was two and one-half miles north of Leedale

They moved the log buildings and settled



Mr John Brun's flour mill. He brought the grinding rocks, one from Montana and the other from Saskatchewan.

down to farm in 1935. He did blacksmith work for the surrounding district for a number of years

While he lived there he had a flour mill which he made out of two huge rocks. One rock he got in Montana and the other one on the Saskatchewan side. The rocks were about three feet across and one and a half feet thick, with a six inch hole in the centre. I always held the chisel for dad while he was carving them out. It was a long tedious and vibrating job I must say

One rock was put on top of the other. The mill was powered by a Model T Ford engine and as the top rock spun around the wheat was ground into flour, fine or coarse, whichever one desired

When my parents came to Alberta they had to leave the rocks in Saskatchewan, but Russel Stewart and my brother Floyd went back with a half ton truck to bring them up. It was such an immense weight for the narrow tires, that the tires kept popping like popcorn, so they unloaded one rock on the other side of Calgary and made the rest of the way O.K. Later Russel and Verona went down and brought the other rock home. The mill is now in Stan Reynolds' Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

Dad made his own roof shakes by hand. He was also a great woodsman and fisherman and slashed out many roads (still used) in British Columbia in the 1920's. Dad died in 1941, age 78 years, with many of his hobbies unfinished. My parents were very hospitable people and always had a house full of company.

My mother and brother sold the farm to Cleland Price and moved into Rimbey. My mother died in 1956 at the age of 86 years, still humorous and contented.

We miss them both very much.

**BUCKNELL, TOM**

Tom Bucknell moved onto the "Lee" place coming from Lockhart about 1934. That winter his house burned and he died from burns received in that fire. Pete Fraser noticed the house was burning and went to investigate. He carried Tom the one-half mile to his home. The weather and bad roads prevented Pete from taking him to the hospital for about a week. Lucy Robinson cared for Tom as best she could during that time, but the burns were so bad he lived only about another week after reaching hospital.

**BURNS, WADE AND SUE**

Mr. and Mrs. Burns bought the SE 23-42-4-W5 from Cody Bengston and moved to the district with their son Eddie and daughter Shannon in December 1974 from Louis Creek, B.C.

Besides his farming duties Wade works at Parkland Motors, Chev Olds dealer in Rimbey as parts man and mechanic. He is interested in all sports and enjoys the position of pitcher in the Rimbey baseball team.

Sue works at the Rimbey Livestock auction on sale days and is a licensed AI Technican and bonded Livestock Dealer.

Eddie and Shannon attend the Rimbey school. Eddie plays hockey and is very interested in hunting and trapping. Shannon is enjoying skating lessons this year.

[illegible]

The Chaland brothers, Terry, Clarence, Merton and Claude, came from Iowa to Canada in 1905.

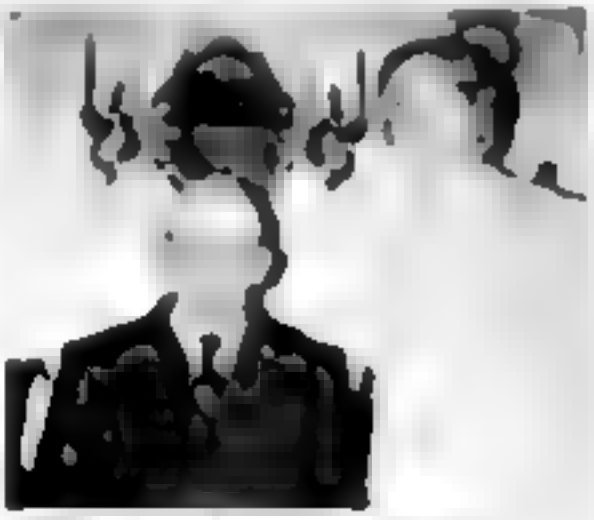
They arrived at Lacombe and remained in that area for two years before venturing to the Leedale area, known then as Wittenburg. They all took homesteads.

Terry, who was married to the former Lou Archer in Iowa, homesteaded the NE 36-41-4-W5 in 1907. They had no children of their own, but later helped raise Thelma and Gilbert, children of Clarence Chaland. Aunt Lou died in 1945. Terry sold them, and moved to Rimbey.

Clarence homesteaded the NW ¼ 32-41-3-W5 in 1907. He built a log house there in 1906, and later married Florence Norris of Baltimore, Maryland in 1909. Clarence lived there for 46 years when his son, Gilbert, took over the farm. It was later sold to Orris Chaland in 1948.

Merton Chaland homesteaded the SE 2-42-4 W5th in 1907, the quarter on which the Leedale store was later located. He lived there about three years before moving to Bentley.

Claude Chaland homesteaded the NE 2-42-4 W5 also in 1907. In 1908 he married Lillie Shoupe. To this union were born five children, Yola, Lela, Orris, Glenn, and Alma. Yola married Alva Hancher, farmed for several years south east of Leedale and now resides at Vernon, B.C. Lela married John Scott of Calgary. Orris married Beatrice Brown of Leedale, and farmed a few years east of the store before moving to Rocky Mountain House. Glenn married Beatrice's sister, Floy, and they farmed south and west of Leedale before moving to a farm south of



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# Old timer dies at 104

**Terry Challand** - Terry Challand passed away on November 21, 1977, at the age of 104 years. A popular long-time resident of the Rimbey town and district Mr Challand enjoyed life to the full.

He was born in Iowa, the oldest of a family of seven, on February 3, 1873 and came to Canada in 1905, to the Lacombe district. He returned to the USA in 1907 and returned with his bride Louisinda Archer. They proved up a homestead in the Leedale area, southwest of Rimbey where he farmed until 1950 when he moved to Rimbey. He kept an interest in farming and even helped with some of the work on the farm in his 95th year.

He entered the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1969 where he resided until his death. Funeral services were held on Thursday November 24.

Rimbey. Alma married Edward Belt also of Leedale. They also farmed west of the store before moving to Red Deer.

Claude and Lillie drove by team and wagon for three summers to Bassano-Brooks area from 1910 to 1913 to work at road building with horses and scrapers. They hauled building material from Lacombe by team and wagon to build their first good house in 1918. They recall many hard times, doing roadwork to help pay land taxes etc , raising hogs and horses, and milking cows to make a living. They farmed, adding land to their original until 1965 when they sold the farm to Russel Stewart and moved to Rimbey where they still reside.

**CHIBRI, PETER AND LILLIAN**

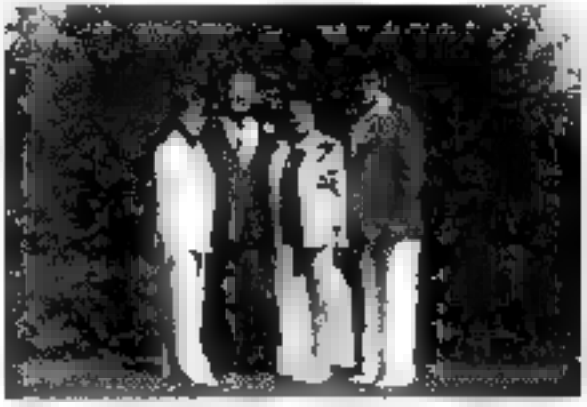
We moved to Leedale from Neilburg Saskatchewan on October 17, 1938. We arrived by freight train bringing two cows, two calves four horses and some machinery. We purchased a farm from Mr. Cuttler, which was known as the old La Belle place. Before we could move into our house. Ernest Lee had to first remove the grain that was stored there. Therefore, for two weeks we stayed with Pete's sister and brother in-law Alex and Mary Skorelko.

That fall we started digging our water well by hand. The last 10 feet we hit solid sandstone rock and used dynamite, hammer and chisel and finally struck water at 35 feet. Our crop the next year froze and we threshed with sleighs. Being from Saskatchewan we brought Thatcher seed wheat, but that was the first and last time, as we found out Leedale didn't compare with

Saskatchewan. Our first baby Edward, was born on March 22 1940 at the Rimbey Hospital which is, now, a Nursing Home

That same year Pete's brother-in-law and sister Nick and Helen Sulak from Edson, purchased Patahnuik place. In the fall of 1941 we had a sale to raise enough funds to make a down payment on the land we purchased northeast of Rimbey We rented Sulak place for a year then moved to our new home on April Fool's Day of 1943. There was so much snow that there were deep banks on each side of the road. As we turned the corner to make the last half-mile home, the horses and sleigh kept on going and the rack with our belongings was left hanging on the snowbank

On February 22, 1944 our second baby, Deanna, was born.



Chiltz family Deanna, Peter, Lillian and Edward

We are semi-retired living on the same farm north-east of Rimbey Edward married Mildred Jonsen, have two children and is Bank Manager of the Treasury Branch in Castor Alberta. Deanna married to Charles Montalbetti have two children and are living in Edmonton.

**CHINU**

Mr Chinu, a bachelor came from France, first to the Aurora district, then bought a raw Canadian Pacific Railway quarter, NE 33-41-4-W5, about 1919 He sold to A. E Westlake about 1921 and returned to France

**HAROLD CUMBERLAND, NW 23-42-5-W5**

Harold Cumberland was born in 1890, in the Wallace Township, Perth County near Listowel Ontario to Wellington and Hester Cumberland He moved to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba in 1907

He convinced his parents to sell and move west in 1911, and he moved on to Saskatchewan in 1911

He married Mae Greer in 1913, in Moose Jaw then brought his bride west to the homestead his father had filed on for him, NW 23-42-5-W5.

However, because of its remoteness and his love for the prairies, Harold and Mae stayed only until 1916, and returned to the Tunford farm.

He kept up the taxes on the homestead until the "dirty thirties

They raised nine children. Harold died in Rimbey in 1972. He was predeceased by his wife in 1967

L to R Manley, Florence and Harold Cumberland

**JAMES D. CUMBERLAND — by Mildred (Cumberland) Parker**

My father, James D Cumberland, came west from Listowel Ontario in March, 1912 He had bought the S.W 36-41-4-W.5 from a Mr Dahl, in the Medicine Valley Post Office, "Wittenburg" store and dance hall operated by Mr Brodersen.

Dad and my elder half brother, Elwyn (Casey) had moved out in February, 1912 with furniture and some farm implements. Mother and we three younger children, Mildred, Nelson and Arthur came a month later Dad met us in Lacombe with a wagon, spent the night at Bentley at a Stopping House and spent the next day getting to Wittenburg. Turned west at about the present hamlet of Forshee. There was really no road — moved trees out of our trail and forded creeks

Dad had moved west for health reasons. He had been plagued with boils while in the east His doctor advised him that a change in climate might be beneficial. It did! Then there were the dreams one being that the railroad had surveyed through the valley

A sister was added with the birth of Alberta

There was the Wittenburg school where I rode my Indian saddle pony to in the summer months Sometimes there would not be a teacher and I would attend Gimlet or Benjamin Schools

Dad's first quarter was very good soil and not as low as surrounding ones. Recall him throwing his hat out in the grain fields if it came to rest on top of the oats - good crop

Grain and cattle were moved to Kootuk. It was a great day for me when dad or my half brother would take me along. Then I had a chance to feast my eyes on goodies in Sestrap's store in Eckville. Cattle were driven in a herd by cowboys to be loaded on cars at Kootuk

In 1919 dad enlarged his land holdings and also bought the first car in the valley, a new Model T We had a car that would last the rest of our lives! Corduroy roads were being laid otherwise the Model T could not get very far Many a time horses, wagon, and saddle -- horses would sink into the mire almost out of sight

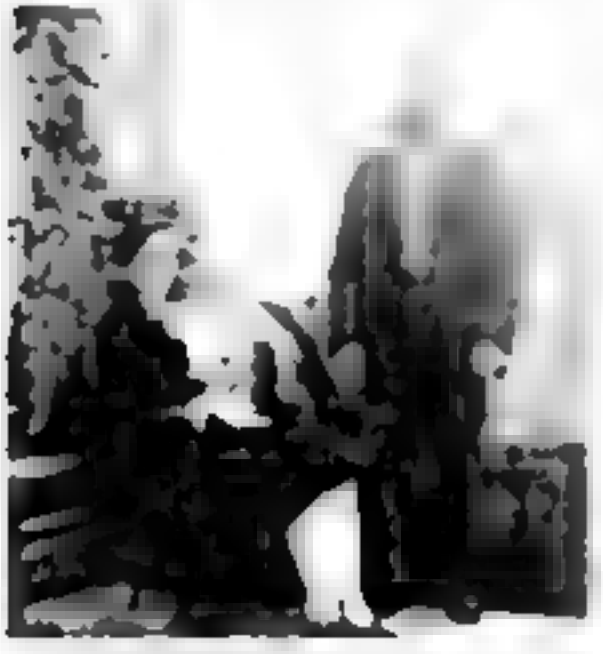
My parents lived at Leedale until dad's passing August 24, 1938. Mother then sold the farm to John Archer in 1939. She passed away November 12th 1969

My parents were buried in Bradshaw cemetery but when the Hutterites took over the valley the family had the bodies moved to Red Deer

Surviving are three children, Hildred Parker Nelson Cumberland, and Alberta Baird.

**MANLEY AND NITA CUMBERLAND SW 13-42-4-W5**

Manley was born in 1891, near Listowel, Ontario and moved west with his family, the Welly Cumberlands in 191.



In 1928, he married the former Nita Nicholson, who was born in Dobbington, Ontario in 1896 and came west with her parents Reverend and Mrs. Sam Nicholson. They homesteaded in the Spruceville area in 1901 Nita went to the Camrose Normal School and taught school at Morningside, Spruceville, Chapel and Athabaska. She was clerking at the Nu-Way store in Rimbey when she met Manley

Manley and his father operated the dray in Rimbey for many years, but the coming of the "Ford" truck made draying an unprofitable business, so Manley, Nita and small son Harley moved back to the family farm in 1934. These were the hungry thirties and things were tough The land which had been rented before that to the Vagers was the SW 24-42-4-W5 and the SW 12

Nita played the piano at church and was one of the very few women who could drive a car Her neighbor Mrs. Brown could also drive and they quite often drove into Rimbey to shop in the summer The roads were nothing like they are now but were two black tracks, a pair of ruts, and lots of mudholes. In winter they were almost impassable, as the roads were seldom ploughed free of snow in those days

Olaf Norem did threshing in the valley. and other neighbors were Mr and Mrs. Kruger, who lived on the quarter north Cyril Brewer, Oliver Jacobs, Harry Robb, Jack Brandon and Lester [illegible]

After 16 years on the farm the land was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frowd, and in 1944, Manley Nita and Harley moved to a farm one mile west of Gull Lake, where Harley still resides. Manley passed away on March 16, 1964 and Nita on May [illegible]

**WELLINGTON AND [illegible] CUMBERLAND, SW 24-42-4-W5, 1911 — by Muriel Stevens**

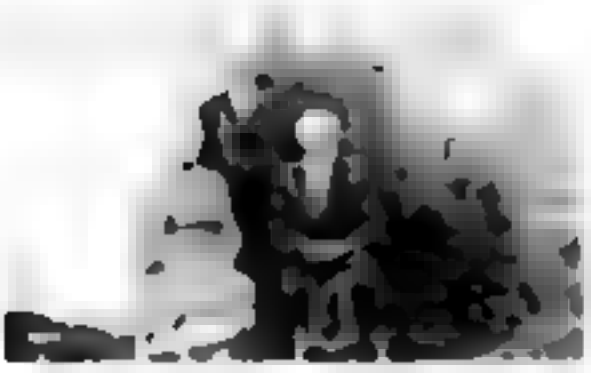
Wellington Harris Cumberland was born in Listowel Ontario, March 18, 1863 and died in Rimbey, Alberta in 1954 at the age of 91 years His father, Joseph Cumberland had arrived in Listowel from Tyrowne County Ireland, in 1864 when he was eight years of age It was here that his mother Rebecca Chamney was born in 1839

Wellington married Hester Anne Grothier of Listowel in 1887 They had three children. Harold, Manley and Florence

In 1911, Welly Cumberland and his family left their 12 room red brick house on the town line in Listowel to make the trek west, because their son Harold had decided the west was the only place to be

Wellington took the advice of an old friend, Mr Fallis, to buy land on the rail line which was to run near his homestead the SW 24-42-4-W5 and through his farm which was the SW 12-42-4-W5

In 1910, the surveyor stakes were in evidence to prove its certainty The land was flat and clear as a fire had swept through this area some years previously However, the rail line did not materialize



Wellington and Hester Cumberland and Mrs. Lush

Snow and frost plagued the Wittenburg valley and crops were very poor. In 1914, when the war broke out, Florence, their daughter remembered canning wild fruit without sugar, of shooting partridge and prairie chicken with her pearl handled 22 pistols, in order to supply meat for the table.

It was not uncommon to ride the range in search of their cattle. She also recounted how, at a dance at the Paul Broderson farm, a bullet sped up from the room below, luckily hitting no one.

Their two-roomed log house seemed a far cry from the lovely big home in the east. However this home was the scene of many good times. It was here the ministers often stayed when they drove out from Rimbey to conduct services as Welly and Hester were very active in church work.

In 1930, Florence married Robert Watts of Rimbey, where she resided until her death in [illegible].

In 1923, Welly, Hester and son Manley moved to Rimbey where the menfolk operated the dray between the station and the town. In those days they used to use horses and always prided themselves on the shining harness, the big Scotch collars and the sleek, groomed teams.

In 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland celebrated their 50th anniversary with a host of friends and relatives.

**DAHL, LINDIS**

Lindis Dahl, son of Ernest F. Dahl of the Gimlet district, served in W.W. I, then purchased the SW 11-42-4-W5, the quarter the Leedale Public School was located on.

He married Lenore Baird of the Gimlet district and they had one son. The boy was about 12 years old when he and his mother moved to United States.

Lindis stayed and later married Evelin Wegreen. They sold and moved to British Columbia in the late 1920's.

Lindis had two sisters. Delia and Mrs. Ora Archer.

After Lindis died Evelin married Cliff Anderson and presently lives at Canby, Oregon.

**DEFILLIPPI, DOMINIQUE**

Mr. and Mrs. Defillippi was the original owners of the SE 23-42-4-W5. They also bought the NE 23-42-3-W5 and the NE of 14 formerly owned by C. D. Aldridge in about 1930.

Having lived in Edmonton, the farm did not appeal to Mrs. Defillippi so she never moved to the farm but did come occassional for weekends with their two sons Philip and Raymond.

The boys usually spent the summer holidays on the farm with their dad, when there was much work to be done. Dominique did a lot of breaking and brushing while he was there and always kept a hired man to work and do the cooking.

Alec Jarbeau, Tommy Fuyarchuk, and Charlie Sorenson were some who worked for him.

In 1941 he sold the land to Harold and Grace Mason who also came from Edmonton and Defillippi went to the city.

After farming for many years Masons moved into Rimbey and the land was rented to Soren Hansen, Cliff Budd, and Dale Hatala and then sold to Cody Bengston who in turn sold it to Wade Burns the present owner.

**DYAR, MR. AND MRS.**

Mr. and Mrs. Dyar homesteaded the NW 24-42-4-W5, one half mile east, four miles north of Wittenburg in about 1908. It is believed his name was John ('Jack').

Mrs. Dyar had an article published in Rod and Gun in Canada in April, 1910.

It is not known how many children they had but their son Edward Thomas 'Bunny' was very ill one fall (about 1914) with pneumonia and before over it, had an appendicitis attack. He was under the care of Drs. from Lacombe and was nursed by Mrs. Harriet Baum Johnsma several weeks before regaining his health. It is believed Esther Mottet (Belt) worked for Mr. and Mrs. Dyar at this same time.

The Dyars moved from the district about [illegible].

**EASTBURN**

Sanford Walker Eastburn came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Eastburn, from Creston, Iowa, to homestead the north half of 10-42-4-W5 in 1905. He was councillor for Local Improvement District number 431 in 1914 and Reeve in 1915. Walker married a Lampman girl and they had two or three girls and a son when they sold to Peter Mulbeck and O. B. Moore in about 1919.

This land is now owned by Ralph Armstrong.

**FAREWELL FOR MR. AND MRS. L. A. EATON – N.E. 11-42-4-W.5 — taken from Pioneer scrap book**

Mr. and Mrs. Lou A. Eaton and son, who have been residents of the Leedale district for a number of years, left today (Thursday) for Muskegon, Michigan where they intend to make their home. Mr. Eaton's auction sale on Monday

was a great success and he was well satisfied with the result. Mr Eaton will go on raising [illegible] purpose. He specialized in onions before coming to Alberta and thinks there is real money in the business and his friends here hope his expectations will be realized.

Note: Mrs. L. Margaret) Eaton was one of the early teachers at the Leedale School, 1921. She was also the first president of the Leedale Women's Institute.

**ERVIN, SAMUEL AND MABEL**

In March 1933, just married a few months over a year, we got a hayrack, all enclosed for a living caboose, on a set of sleighs. With all our worldly possessions, including two canary birds, two cats, and a little dog, we left Leduc, travelling south and west to our destination, Leedale. By making it to the country school yards for night camping, we were provided with shelter in the school barns for our horses and were able to get water for our use.

It was cold and the snow was deep, different times we would have to jump out and hang onto one side of our caboose to keep it from tipping over to get over the deep snow drifts. With a small air tight heater and little cook stove, we were warm and snug inside. Our last night we camped in Leedale Hall yard, next day ending our trek west and two miles south, on the farm later known as Tom Mason's farm.

With the help of my dad, Grandpa Aske, and Sam's brothers, we shovelled off the snow and started our mansion, which consisted of one room, serving as kitchen, dining room, bedroom etc. Inside was finished by hanging newspapers, and white washed with a white powder substance from out west in the muskeg. By mixing this powder with water or milk and adding a bit of dye it made a beautiful finish. Our house was ready to move into, and just to think this was our first home and our very own. How happy we were! By this time it was time for a few acres of crop and garden. We were then joined by a very good friend of ours, no other than Seth Weiss. Needless to say he was a very welcome guest spending time with us off and on until his pass[illegible]

In February the stork spotted our happy little abode and dropped off a 1934 model baby girl, featuring free squealing, economical feeding, streamlined body, water cooled exhaust and changeable seat covers. By this time we were sort of growing out of our wee house, so we moved a bit further west to help an old gent, Mr Cox. We also bettered our housing and had out buildings too. This place is now owned by Dot Carroll.

What with farming, milking cows, raising [illegible] posts of tamarack from the swamps, leaving just before daylight in the winter time and getting back long after dark, with only a frozen sandwich for lunch.

In August we received another stork visit, a 1936 model, a little boy, much to our pleasure, and again in November 1938, the same make as the first one. By this time we decided, being as there was no trade in on the older models, we would have to move so Mr Stork couldn't find us. We moved out to Mr McTighe's lumber mill in the fall of 1940. In the spring of 1941, we lost all our belongings including our milk cow, dog, cat, etc., in a forest fire, so we moved back into the Leedale district to try farming again. In September 1941 our lives were saddened by God calling our little Kenneth home.

[illegible]

We finally ended up buying the farm one mile east of Leedale, which was known as the Baldridge farm. The winters once again found us in the lumber camps owned by John Jones and run by our good friend, Henry Thachuk. I cooked in the cook house and Sam hauled logs with his team of blacks. We always moved back to the farm in the spring.

In March 1950, we had a little helper arrive, Dwayne, bed roll and all, a very welcome addition to our little circle.

Later we stayed on the farm. In 1967 Sam went to join wee Kenneth. Thus closes our chapter as things didn't seem to have much meaning after [illegible]

Looking back at so many happy memories and our sad ones, our many wonderful relatives, friends, and neighbors, I still have many things to thank God for and Leedale will always be home.

**EVERT, JAMES AND LAVINE**

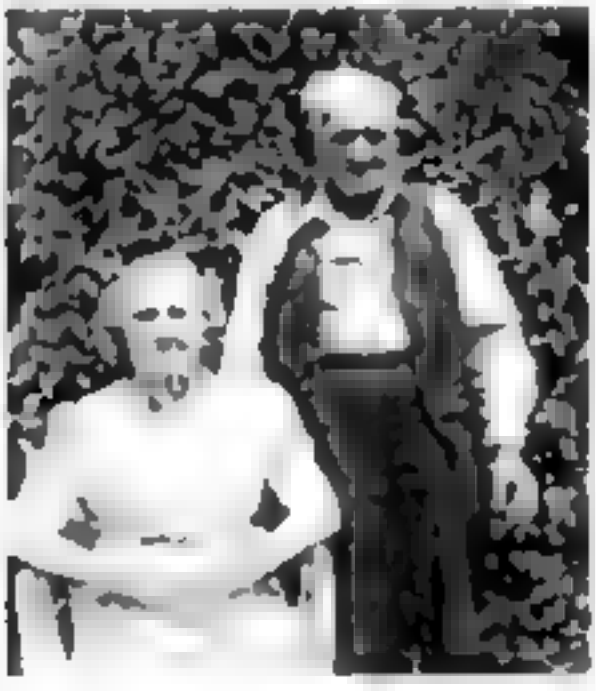
James Evert was born in Ontario in 1861, his wife Lavine Jarbo was also born in Ontario in 1867. They were married in the year 1884, and shortly after they moved to Forest River, North Dakota, where they farmed for some years. At this location here were five children born to this family, namely, Earnest Effie, Mabel, David and Myrtle.

In 1903, they were on the move again, this time for Alberta. They worked their way along settling on a farm seven miles west and one and one-half miles south of Rimbey which they later traded for a threshing outfit and moved west to Wittenburg (Leedale). Here the children got their chance to go to school for the first time [illegible] today living there until 1913. While here three more children were born, Leo, Lillian, and William.

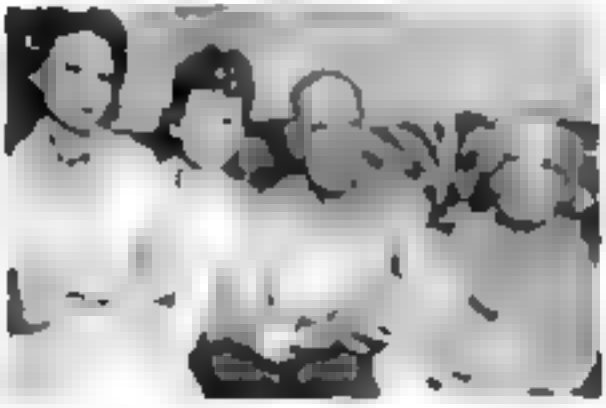
In the summer of 1913, they loaded their wagons again and were on the move once more. Working along the way, at the Strathmore dam and around Taber, ending up in the timber around Rockford, Washington. Here they lived to a good old age.

Four of the children still live at Spokane Washington. Earnest, Leo, Lillian and William.

Mrs. Evert lived until 96 years of age, Mr. Evert lived to age 87 years.



Mr. and Mrs. James Evert



Five Generations

[illegible]

**FAIRFIELD, CHARLIE**

Charlie came to the Leedale district, either from the Eastern States or Eastern Canada in the 1930's. He worked in the mills west of Leedale and also spent some time with Link Boyer. Mary Kilpatrick recalls that he always received a newspaper from Chicago which had lots of comics the children always enjoyed. Charlie helped Mr. Boyer with the farming and Mary recalls how he would always carry a pocket novel with him. He would plow a half mile, then stop to rest the horses, reading a chapter in his book while resting, then go another half mile and repeat. Surprising to all, he did get an awful lot of work done. After he retired, Charlie made his home with the Griffin and Ervin families. He left Ervins in 1950's to stay with his sister at Maxville Ontario.

**FARTHING, HARRY**

Harry Farthing, a W. W. 1 veteran, came from Calgary, in the early 1920's and stayed with the W. C. Thompson family. He was a boiler maker by trade and had worked for some time at the Odgen Shops in Calgary. He started a blacksmith shop in Leedale in the late 1920's. It was later run by Jack Booth, and was sold to Carl Aske in 1937.

Harry had a companion, a little Fox Terrier dog, named "Ninety." When asked why he called her Ninety, he would explain "when her tail is up

Harry Farthing and [illegible]

it makes a nine and any damn fool can see the zero

The children of the village liked to visit Mr Farthing for though many homes didn't. Mr Farthing always had a little jam to put on the bread he offered them for lunch

**FOX, CHARLES**

Mr C. Fox homesteaded the SW 10-42-4-W5, taking out an application for homestead May 18, 1905 He left the valley before 1912

We are sorry no further information could be found of this person

**PETER FRASER - S.E. 9-42-4-W5**

Mr Fraser was born in Ireland on December 4th, 1888 During World War I he served in the British Navy He came to Canada to Brooks Alberta in 1918 and in 1928 he moved to the Leedale Valley where he bought and farmed the S.E. 9-42-4-W5

During the 36 years he lived at Leedale. Mr Fraser served on the council of the Municipality of Last West for a number of years and also when the various municipal districts amalgamated into the enlarged municipality Later when it became the County of Ponoka he acted as councillor for the Electoral Division No. 7

Peter Fraser

He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool the Blindman Valley Livestock Co-op. the Rimbey Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and also the Kitchener Lodge No. 95 AF and AM at Rimbey

He was a kind and friendly man, a hard worker, a good neighbor and well liked by everyone

Mr Fraser passed away in the Red Deer Hospital on July 19th, 1964

**MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR FRAYN, SE 14-42-4-W5**

Art and Judy Frayn purchased the Oscar Brown farm in 1964. They moved out from Rimbey with five children, ranging from an infant to 12 years old. Sharron, the eldest now lives at Bentley, is married to Leroy Juuti and has two children. Tom and his wife, Elaine live at Pigeon Lake where he works for Texaco at the Gas Plant in Bonny Glen. Lana will graduate from the University of Alberta in nursing in November She recently married Howard Curle and will live in Rocky Mountain House. Murray graduated from Rimbey High this year and is presently taking a business course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton Randy is attending Junior High in Rimbey and says he is going to be a farmer

Besides farming, Art is employed by Hudson's Bay Gas and Oil

**FRIZZELL, MARQUIS (LAFE**

Mr and Mrs. Lafe Frizzell lived on the SE 10-42-4-W5 a few years about 1916. Mrs. Frizzell ran the store for Bill Lee in 1916. when Bill went overseas in World War One The store was later run by Mr and Mrs. Henry Jacobs

Mr and Mrs. Frizzell moved to Rimbey in 1918 and owned Frizzell's Hardware Company

They had one girl, Elva. Elva married Jud Simmons in 1914. Jud died that same winter 1915 of appendicitis

Mrs. Elva Simmons and Mr Jack Hinrichsen purchased the Rimbey Advance in 1921 and Elva was publisher until 1923, when both her father's hardware store and the newspaper office, which were side by side, burned down. Elva then, being an excellent horsewoman took her trick horse Mustang to Hollywood, where she appeared in numerous pictures

**FROWD, ELVIN AND DOLINA**

Elvin Bertram Frowd was born in Blairmore England in September 1885 and came to Russell, Manitoba in 1904

His wife, Dolina was the daughter of Katherine and Murdock Thompson. She was born in Habust, Scotland in July 1884 and came to Canada in 1901 at the age of 18 years

She worked at Russell, Manitoba where she met and married Elvin Frowd

They farmed there for many years and then in 1923 decided to go to Boggabri, New South Wales, Australia

On their return in 1929 they lived at Acme Alberta and farmed there until 1941 when they moved to the Leedale district and purchased the W½ 12-42-4-W5

Mrs. Frowd was fond of needlecraft and gardening Mr Frowd was a good neighbor and they were both highly respected

Miss Anne Burgoyne worked for them for several years

They farmed here until they retired and moved to Lacombe in 1964

In April 1965 Mr Frowd passed away at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Frowd then moved to Rimbey and was a resident of the Auxiliary Hospital for 10 years. She passed away in May 1976 at the age of 92 years

Their daughter Dorothy and her husband Bill Brown, who also farmed here, now live in Rimbey where Bill is employed

Their three sons Bob, Glenn, and Lindsay are now married

A son Jack Frewd and his family live at Clinton B.C

**GARDNER, WILLIAM AND SARAH — by Lucy Gardner Robinson**

Three brothers. William, Thomas and Charles Gardner came to Alberta from Minot, North Dakota in the year of 1905 to homestead, break up land for fields and gardens, do some fencing and build log houses. In 1906 the whole family came by train as far as Lacombe, then by covered wagon, hauling machinery on wagons and flat beds, driving the livestock the 40 miles to the N 4-42-4 W5, one and one-half miles west, one half mile north of Wittenburg. They were the first to homestead west of the Medicine River

William and Sarah remained there all their lives. William died in July, 1920 and Sarah January 2, 1925. Tom also remained in the district all his life. Charles returned east to work building railroads

To William and Sarah there were five children born

Margaret born March 24, 1903 in North Dakota
Lucy born October 7, 1905 in North Dakota. Mary born December 14, 1907 in Alberta. Helen born January 6, 1910 in Alberta, William Jr. born April 6, 1913 in Alberta

We all attended Wittenburg — Leedale School, walking the mile plus every morning and evening. In my memories, we all had a happy childhood making our own fun and laughter in work and play

The fall of 1912 we lost our home and personal belongings to fire. A new home was built in late winter. The lumber was bought and hauled by team and sleigh. This proved very difficult for the winter was cold and the snow was deep

In 1918, when the first World War broke out, I remember going to our little post office for the mail and hearing the people talk about the war. It sure was a scary thought for us children

With no radio or T.V. we all looked forward to getting the few newspapers that came. The Family Herald, Weekly Star and Free Press, and a catalogue or two. We sure looked forward to Christmas, New Year's and also the picnics

Margaret married Grover Simpkins April 26, 1920, they have five children.

Mary married Murphy Webb August 26, 1927, they have one boy and one girl

Helen remained single

William Jr. married Eunice Odland June 8, 1952, they have two girls and one boy

Lucy married Lewis Robinson December 4 1922 we have five children [illegible] the Leedale area, namely,

Archie, born November 4, 1923, married Frances Lee in 1950. They have two children a boy and a girl and presently reside at Airdrie

Ethel, born January 25, 1925, married R. Bohlender in 1947. They have five girls and one boy and reside in Rimbey

Viola, born April 3, 1926, married George Jenson in 1948. They have three boys and reside on a farm north of Leedale

Evelyn, born May 1, 1927, married LeRoy Brown in 1946. They have six girls and one boy and live at Barrhead

Lester born January 26 1929 married Teresa Lukocs in 1951. They have seven girls and one boy and reside on his great-uncle Charles Gardner's homestead, two and one-half miles west and one-half mile north of Leedale

To date, I have 26 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. After living most of my life in the Leedale area, I now reside in Bentley filling my time babysitting

**GARNICK, PAUL AND JULIA — SE 13-42-4-W5**

Paul Garnick was born in Hungary in Oct. 1899

He married the former Julia Csaki in 1924 and came to Canada in 1930. They came to the Leedale district in 1936 lived on the SW 13-42-4 W5 for a few years and then bought land one mile south of Leedale

They had three sons, John, Zoley and Chester and two daughters Lynka and Margaret

Paul passed away in October, 1984 and Mrs Garnick now lives in Rimbey

**GENGE, FRED**

Mr. Genge, an Englishman, came from British Columbia to the NW 13-42-5-W5 in the early 1920's. He had been a sailor during W.W.1 and bore a scar on his forehead, claiming to have had a bullet go through his head. He was retired and lived on his pension

Fred loved to play the banjo and sing. He spent many Christmas' with the Terlotti family

He spent one winter about 1945, with the Westlakes and it is believed he died that spring. He used to mention a family in British Columbia but they never came out here

**GESSRECHT, ABE AND MAE — by M. [illegible]**

Abe was born at Rosthern, Saskatchewan and J. Mae Fitch at Condor Alberta

We were married in 1944 and moved to our present location NW 24-4-42-W5, the former Shipley place, in the spring of 1955. We arrived here from Bowden with five daughters, a dozen saddle ponies and an empty wallet

This district has been good to us as we have managed to keep the first five daughters fed and have raised two more daughters and three sons

We took the contract of Mail Carrier for RR 4 Rimbey west in the spring of 1957 and are still doing it. It has been extended over the years from 36 miles of rough, sometimes boggy clay

mud roads to 30 miles of pretty good gravel travel. It "we think" helps to supplement or subsidize the farm and dairy enterprise we are engaged in

The older five daughters all traded their horses for husbands

Dianna was married in 1965, lives on a farm at Hondley and has two sons and a daughter

Joanne married Dwight Fraser of the Lockhart district in 1967. They are farming the old Fraser family farm and also have dairy cows. They have three sons

Donna married Ron Hansen in 1968. They live on the Hansen family farm west of Bentley and have a daughter and two sons

Pat married Mel Matson in 1975 and they have a home in Leduc. He works as an Oil Well Testing Technician

Linda married Garry Peterson at Bentley in 1970. They have the family farm and hog enterprize there. They have two sons and one daughter

Larry is endeavoring to farm in our local district, and is supplementing his income with a Seismograph Drilling enterprise

Martie is at home completing his high school education. His aim in life, quote "Anything but farming."

Kelly is going to high school and milking cows at home. He is intersested in playing football.

Darcy is in Junior High. She is interested in music and baby sitting

Tracy is in the last year of Elementary school. She is interested in gardening and growing strawberries as big as eggs.

**GILLESPIE, ROBERT A**

The R. A. Bob) Gillespie's from New Brigden, Alberta, rented the Brodersen farm now owned by Tkacik Bros. in the spring of 1938

The family consisted of Bob and Lucy and their eight children, Helen, Kay, Chuck, Alex, Andy Bill, Dick and Mary

Kay attended high school in Leedale and the five boys attended public school north of town. Helen had finished school and Mary had not yet started

What became an annual event every August, was a birthday party which alternated between Gillespie's and Belt's to celebrate the birthdays of Chuck and Dick Gillespie and Vernon Belt. All three fell within a few days of each other

While residing at Leedale, Bob was a regular contributor to the three day Lacombe Horse Sale held every year in March. He had brought a fairly large herd of horses with him from New Brigden and continued to do a lot of farming with horses for several years

In 1941 Bob purchased land seven miles north west of Rimbey where two of his son's, Alex and Bill still farm

**GOODRIDGE, WILLIAM HENRY — by D. McElroy**

William Henry Goodridge was born in England and was a veteran of the First World War 1914-1918. He came to Canada and sometime during the 1940's he bought the NE-26-42-4-W5

He didn't have much crop land on his farm but farmed it all with horses. In May 1947 his shack burned down and he lost all of his belongings. He also lost some seed grain, chop, and a wagon in the fire

He wasn't without a home long, for his neighbors came in and helped him build another little house and in less than a week he moved into his new house

William Henry Goodridge

In May 1952 his badly mutilated body was found in his barn by a neighbor. It was evident that he had been kicked many times by the team he was putting in the stable. He had made himself comfortable in the spare stall, removed his shoes and passed away

He used to come to our place often for a friendly visit or a Sunday meal. He was a kind and friendly man, very humorous at times and a good neighbor

**GRAY GEORGE**

Mr. and Mrs. George Gray retired to Leedale from west of Aurora, in 1952. They purchased the Hugh Lindsay acre and resided there until their death. Mr. Gray passed away Feb. 28, 1956 and Mrs. Gray in 1967. George was janitor of the hall for a short time before his passing

**HASS, ELMER AND VIOLET**

Elmer Hass and his wife the former Violet Becker moved to the Leedale district from Marwayne, Alberta and farmed the NE 15-42-4-W5 for a few years

They had four children, Marlene, Betty, Donna and Doug

When they left this district they moved to Eckshaw where Elmer was employed

Violet became disabled with Multiple Sclerosis and during the 20 years she was afflicted she spent eight years in the Richard

Parsons Auxiliary Hospital in Red Deer. She passed away in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Calgary, in July 1975 at the age of 52 years.

The family is all married and lives in central Alberta. Elmer is now retired.

**HICKMAN, C. H.**

Mr. C. H. Hickman homesteaded the SE 10-42 4-W5, taking out an application for homestead April 22, 1903. He left the valley before 1912.

We are sorry no further information could be found on this person.

**HOLLINGSWORTH, GILBERT AND LORRAIN**

Gilbert Neal Hollingsworth was born on April 14, 1934, the oldest son of Stanley and Adaline Babe Hollingsworth. He attended school at Aurora, Faraway and various other schools.

In 1954 Gilbert married Lorrain Oliver Frieholt, oldest daughter of Elvin and Edith Oliver of Lesneville.

Gilbert and Lorrain have five children. Maurice, the oldest son was born July 7, 1955. Marlene, the first daughter was born May 6, 1957, Merlin was born March 17, 1959, Maureen was born November 27, 1962 and Merletta was born December 2, 1963.

In 1959 Gilbert and Lorrain moved to the old house on Stanley Hollingsworth's place at Aurora. In 1963 they moved north of Aurora where they built a new home on the NE 3-42-5 W5. In 1967 they moved to the Leedale district one half mile west of the store, on the Ed Bell place, where they still live.

**HOUGAARD, PETER**

I was born in Denmark January 30, 1905 and came to Canada in 1928 to Kelsey, Alberta where I worked on a farm for one year. I came to Ellscott in 1930, working in the sawmill for one dollar a day. 'Lots of work, not much to eat.

In the spring of 1931, eight of us took up homesteads, only two of us staying. We broke up 30 acres for me and the same for my neighbor. I had a fairly big tractor, a Twin City, at that time. This homestead was located four and one-half miles from the town of Ellscott. I never did farm the place, rented it out for 16 years. In 1947 my wife, Ruby and I started to settle down on the homestead. We had a bunch of cattle, 80 pigs, but no water so we sold to Paul Lebanky.

When we arrived at Leedale and saw the river we bought that quarter of land. We were there four years then bought a quarter section three miles north of Rimbey. We have also lived four miles south of Ponoka and on an acreage south of Rimbey, which is now owned by Alfred Young. We presently live in Ponoka.

We have two children. Gordon and his wife, Linda (nee Walters), live at Irricana, and Judy, Mrs. Merle Sebry, of Ponoka.

Hougaard family - Peter, Ruby, Gordon and Judy

**JACKMAN, CECIL AND MARY** - written by Myrtle Hooper

It was in the summer of 1934 that Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jackman and family of four girls Thelma, Myrtle, Jean and Bernice arrived in the Leedale district.

After a great deal of thought Dad gave up the land he was renting at Blackie and filed on a homestead north of the Aurora school. They loaded all their belongings on wagons and along with three other families said "Good Bye" to the prairies.

It was a long weary trip but everyone seemed to stand it quite well. For the kids it was lots of fun and excitement, but I'm sure it was quite different for the folks. Dad never did prove up on the homestead but instead moved over north of Leedale so we girls could start school that fall.

Dad worked on Tom Cumming's threshing outfit that fall and Mother cooked for the threshers. I remember our good neighbors giving us vegetables from their gardens. That winter Dad cut posts and hauled them to [illegible].

We attended church at the Leedale School. Rev. Brewer was the pastor.

The next summer we moved to Olaf Norem's place and went to Benjamin School. That fall Thelma was stricken with polio and spent nine months in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

In 1937 Dad started working for Scotty Houston in the Gimlet district. We then went to the Gimlet School and also attended church there. Rev. Baker was the pastor.

In 1939 Thelma married Melvin Chadbourne. They have lived in Edmonton for a number of years. They have two daughters and seven [illegible].

That same year Jean married Ted Evernden. They have lived in Victoria for several years. They have four sons, four daughters, and nine [illegible].

Myrtle married Stuart Hooper of Didsbury in 1943. They have lived on a farm there ever since. They have two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren.

Bernice married Ellis Humphrey in 1951. To them were born three sons and one daughter.

They were living in Courtenay, B.C. when Ellis passed away in 1976. Bernice now has two grandchildren.

In 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Jackman moved to the Bingley District and from there bought a home in Rocky Mountain House. They sold their home in 1970 and moved to Didsbury where they have been ever since.

Mrs. Jackman is now 82 and still has a keen mind and a good sense of humor. She suffered a stroke six years ago and has been confined to the Auxiliary Hospital since then. She enjoys the occasional outing with her family.

Mr. Jackman is now 86 and lives by himself in a suite. He has his meals at the hospital with Mother. He still drives his own car around town. He enjoys the odd game of pool and spends much of his time visiting with old timers.

They expect to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on May 1, 1978.

**JACKSON, JAMES AND BESSIE**

James Jackson Sr. was born in Toronto, Ontario in the year 1865. His wife, the former Bessie Gardiner was born not far from London, Ontario in the year 1878.

Shortly after their marriage they moved to Fosston, Minnesota, where their daughter Margaret was born on November 28, 1898 and a son, James Jr. on May 30, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson filed for homestead the SE 14-42-4-W5 two miles north of Wittenberg, now Leedale, in 1906 and came to Canada from the United States on April 6, 1907.

They lived on the homestead for many years where they built a log house and other buildings. They experienced many hard times as pioneers did.

Following Mr. Jackson's death the farm was sold to Oscar and Bertha Brown in 1933. Jimmy, Maggie and Mrs. Jackson then moved to his land which was the NE 13-42-3-W5. He also owned the NE of 12.

Maggie married Tom Kelly and lived in Lacombe. She still resides there in the Park Motel.

Jimmy and his wife Zelma, formerly of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, sold the land to Jack Cruickshank in 1940, after his mother passed away.

This land is now owned by Mrs. Lamberton and the old homestead is owned by Mr. and Mrs. [illegible].

**JACOBS, MR. AND MRS. R. J. — by Mrs. Emily Prowse**

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Jacobs bought the Leedale Store either in 1916 or 1915 from a Mr. Bill Lee for whom Leedale was named. This store was what they called "Half Way House." They were built for travellers who needed a place to stay. There was a large store warehouse, large kitchen, dining room and living quarters on the main floor. The travellers could always get a meal there — whether it be breakfast, lunch, supper or midnight snack. My grandmother was always ready to prepare food. Remember it was not like now. There was no refrigerator, deep freeze or propane stove. Ice was cut every winter and put in an ice house to store meat. Upstairs there was a large dance floor, over the store with several bedrooms on the side. There the weary travelers could get a good night's rest.

There was a large barn or livery stable for the traveller's buggy or wagon and his horse or horses. Feed for the horses was always ready in the barn and many nights there would be five to ten teams spending the night.

**JACOBS, RALPH M.**

I came to Alberta, Lacombe, 26th October 1903 when I was 12 years old.

My wife, Sarah Sophia, came to the Stettler district in 1906, and in 1915 we were married.

I moved my family to Leedale in May 1921, to the Burley Belt homestead, on the Gimlet Creek, living there while I broke 30 acres on the NW 33 4. 4-W5. I worked for McPherson Timber Lease, about 10 miles south-west of Leedale, the winters of 192[illegible] to 1922.

In 1922, I built a log house on NW 33. My neighbors were Chinu one-half mile east. He had a sale in June 1921 and returned to France, R. Durand had the SE ¼ and Harley Belt the SW ¼.

[illegible]

Mail came from Eckville until May 1, 1923 when it was changed to Rimbey. I took the contract from May 1, 1923 'till May 1, 1927, "Get web-footed getting over them roads."

We left the Leedale — Rimbey area the fall of 1927 moving to Carbon. "Was glad to get my feet out of the mud and get back to a cow country."

From Carbon, we went to Rowley in 1929, then on to Rumsey, Scotfield, finally retiring to Red Deer in 1967.

We have four sons. Verl of Edmonton, Melvin of Joffre, Frank of Edmonton, Larry of Red Deer, three daughters Myrtle of Rumsey Doris of Huxley and Melva of Blackfalds, 17 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren

Sarah Sophia Jacobs passed away September 27 1975 at Red Deer at the age of 76 years I was 86 years old February 13, 1977

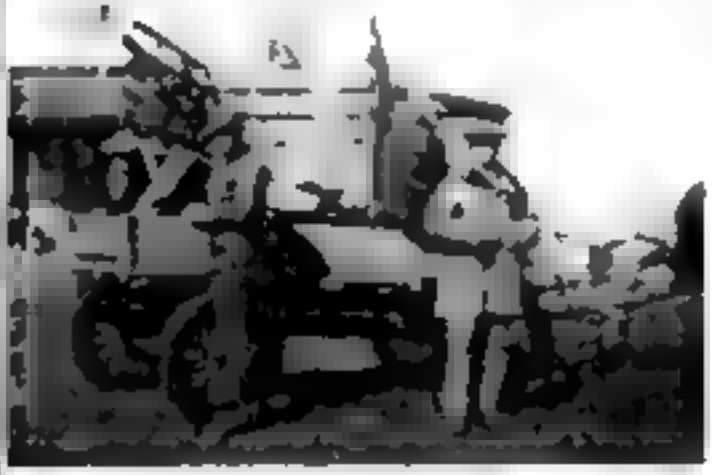
**JAGGARD, GEORGE**

George Jaggard homesteaded the SW 34-41-4 W5 in the early 1900's He was a bachelor who had been [illegible] ng spent 20 years with the army he had many [illegible] mules and a horse. He served in W W I. after which he moved to British Columbia

**JOHNSON ROBERT (BOBBY)**

Bobby Johnson had the contract to deliver the mail to Leedale from Rumbey from 1930 to 1942

The mail came three days a week Tuesday and Saturday he drove the route which was 56 miles long and on Thursday he drove directly to Leedale a 13½ mile trip



Leedale Mail Carrier 1930-42. Bobby Johnson standing right side of picture. Scotty Kilkenny standing on left. Pat Walsh on the mail. George Henderson and Burns Kilpatrick standing behind the transit wagon.

He got 21¢ a mile He wanted 25¢ a mile when his contract expired but was underbid. Mrs L N. Lindsay was post mistress at the time

He also hauled grocery orders and bread to the Leedale Store besides making the odd delivery on the route. He picked up radio batteries and took them to Rumbey to be recharged He had a little box built just the right size to hold the batteries so they wouldn't tip over

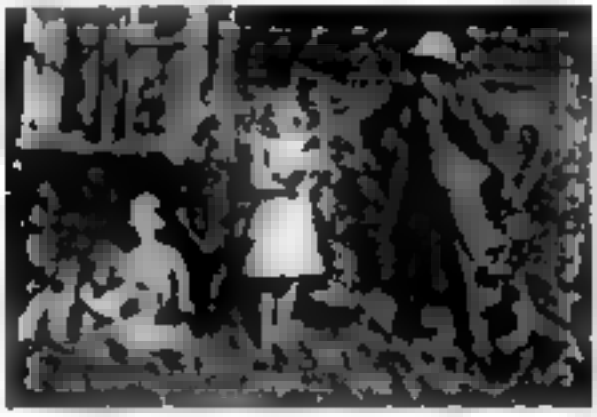
He also had many passengers either coming or going as the picture indicates During the 12 years Bobby hauled the mail he had many different ways to travel This particular team was named Pasty and Mona and made the trip many times. He had an old 1927 Model T in 1932, a 1928 Chev one ton and at the last he made the route with a Minneapolis Moline tractor His team swam the river on more than one occasion There was only once that he failed to deliver the mail to Leedale He was bringing the mail out on a Thursday and the river was flooding south of Rumbey at Macleans and rising He swam the team across the river and then decided he should go back. so he left his outfit at Maclean s and took one horse. the locked bag, and swam back across the river He took many chances during the spring floods in spring and the howling blizzards in winter, but the mail always came through

In 1942 Bob joined the Royal Canadian Air force but due to health reasons he worked in the post office in Calgary Since the contract had not yet expired his brother, Herb , delivered the mail to finish up the year

Bob was well liked by everyone, was really jolly and accommodating He passed away in 1953 after a lengthy illness

**WILLIAM HENRY JORDAN**

William Henry Jordan lived on the S.E. 35-42-4-W.5. on the Nels Cumberland homestead. He was born in Ontario and for years worked in the log booms. He had been hurt many times. He came to Swallwell, Alberta in 1918 and lived in the Leedale area from about 1928 to 1932 He then returned to Swallwell suffered a stroke while chopping wood and passed away at the age of 74 years



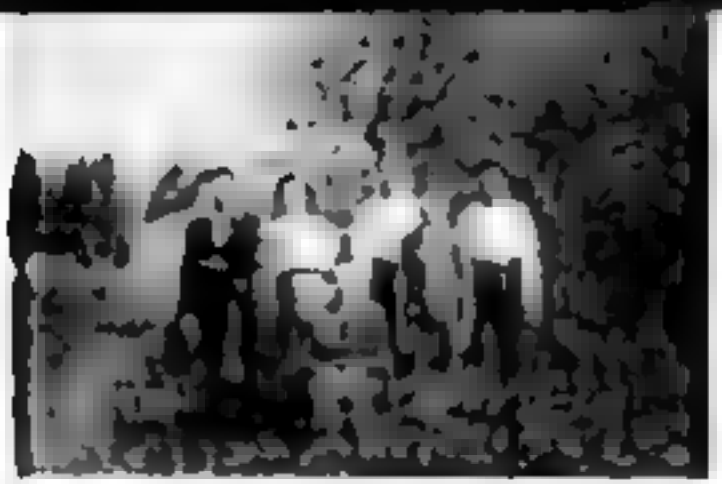
Dora and Lila Pierson with William Henry Jordan 1942

**KLEPADLO MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH**

Mr and Mrs Joe Klepadlo and their family of six children came to the district, living first on the NW 15-42-4 W5 and then moving to NE 10-42-4 W5 in 1934

The children attended the Leedale School and although the family only lived there for three or four years they made many friends, were good neighbors and were very hard workers

There were five boys and one girl in the family Stanley and his wife Helen were married Oc-



Klepadlo Family 1941 Standing: Stanley Johnny Phyllis [illegible]

[illegible]

tober 28, 1945 and with the exception of spending a two year period in Toronto and Windsor, Ontario they have lived in Edmonton. They have no family

When World War II broke out, Harry joined the army and left to serve his King and country He was wounded in action and as a result lost his leg. On his return to active life he worked for the Coro Jewelry Factory in Toronto. He married there and he and his wife Joan had two children Their son Wayne and wife Bonnie Jean have a daughter and he works for Toronto Hydro Company Their daughter Lynn is working as a model. Harry passed away in a tragic car accident four years ago. Joan still lives in Toronto

Phyllis, now Mrs Petric also lives in Toronto They have five children. She also has three children from a previous marriage all of whom are married and live in Edmonton with families of their own

Ted and his wife Marion live in Rosebud Michigan. They had five boys and one girl They lost a boy in an Industrial accident Larry the oldest of the family is married and has one child

Ed and his wife Ina live in Jasper Place. They have two boys and two girls Ed has his own business known as Crown Welding and has a new shop north of the Winterburn corner

Johnny the youngest of the family also lives in Toronto with his wife Iris They have a boy and a girl

Mrs Klepadlo passed away in 1944. Mr Klepadlo (Joe) who is hale and hearty at the age of 82 years lives in Edmonton at 9720-95st. and still drives his own car

**LA BELLE, ERNEST**

Mr and Mrs. Ernest LaBelle homesteaded the SE 18-42-5-W5, presently owned by John Makotka, in the early 1900's. They then moved to a raw C.P.R. quarter, SE 3-42-4-W5, one mile west of Leedale in 1918. Ernest had lost an arm while working on the railroad at Lethbridge prior to coming to this country They had one child, Ernistine. They moved from the district in the late 1920's

**ERNIE AND HELEN LAPEARE**

Mr and Mrs Lapeare came to Rimbey from Frontier, Saskatchewan in the 1930's. They were driving a Model T and got stuck in the muddy road by Forshee, Alberta. 'Happy day!' It was the first muddy road they had seen for several years.

They settled on the NW 23-42-4-W5th where they lived for several years. They had three children Babe who married Harold Ross in Nova Scotia Richard who married Sally DeMarco of Toronto, Ontario, they have three children), Dwight and wife Donna also live in Toronto, Ontario and have one child, Harry married Barbara Dahms of Rimbey and have two children

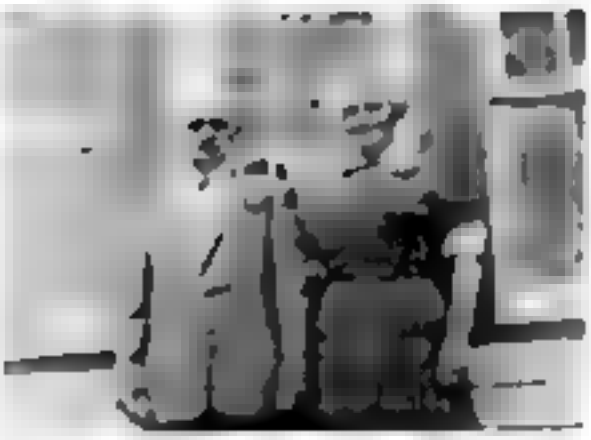
Helen and Ernie sold their farm and left for Creston, B.C and later to Ontario but moved back to Alberta in the early 1970's

Ernie was a perfectionist in all things He was a [illegible] and miscellaneous repairer, mechanic, carpenter violinist, wood cutter and splitter, farmer and grinder of feed — all this to earn their living – a remarkable man! Ernie died in 1977 in Ponoka, where Helen still lives

**LEE, FRANK**

Frank Lee was born in Shropshire, England, May 24, 1882 his wife, Mabel (Everts Lee was born in Grand Forks, South Dakota, November 20, 1894. They both immigrated to Alberta with their parents around 1900. Frank to the Gilby district, and Mabel to the Leedale district, which was called Wittenburg at that time. Mabel's parents ran a store at Wittenburg until 1910 when they sold it to Frank and his mother Later Frank's brother, Bill, ran it. At that time Wittenburg was changed to Leedale

Frank and Mabel were married May 27, 1911, at Bentley, Alta. They left in 1912 to go to the United States and lived there for a few years



They then moved to the Drumheller district until 1936 when they returned to Leedale and bought the William Gardner homestead. In 1951 they sold out and moved to Rimbey, residing there until their passing. Frank passed away in September 1958, and Mabel passed away in March 1966.

There were seven children born to this marriage. Earnest of Pendryl, John, Lavina and Florence, of Wetaskiwin, Rosetta, of Buck Lake, and Frances, of Airdrie. Lillian died at birth and is buried in the Leedale Cemetery.

**HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM HENRY LEE FAMILY — by his daughter, Edith M. Price**

Mr. William Lee with his mother, Mrs. John Lee and brother Frank arrived in Wittenburg in 1912, and purchased the local store, which was previously owned by James Everts. The store was enlarged and Mrs. Lee took in boarders and served meals — the top floor of the store served as the local dance hall.

After the First World War broke out William Lee joined the 50th Battalion, Artillery Division in Calgary in 1915. In 1917 he went overseas, and was wounded in France. He returned to Wittenburg in 1918, and continued to run the store. Then the name of Wittenburg was changed to Leedale in his honour. Bill Lee ran the Post Office until around 1925, selling out to Hugh Lindsay.

Around 1926 Bill Lee bought a farm just north of Leedale, and on January 25th, 1928 married Margaret McNab. A daughter, Edith May was born in the farm house on September 24th, 1929, and the delivery was attended by Dr. Byers, who came out from Rimbey and Mrs. Sarah Lush acted as nurse.

They continued farming through the 1930's raising sheep, cattle and poultry. product prices were so low in those days — can remember them taking a twelve dozen crate of eggs to Rimbey — got $.60 for them, which bought a child's straw hat at Rolston's store.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee were active in community and church affairs. Mr. Lee helped build the Leedale Hall in 1927 and was secretary of the hall board for several years. He was also the notary public in the community, and looked after the business of the Leedale cemetery, besides helping with elections, etc. Margaret Lee was a member of the Leedale Women's Institute for many years, and also the Ladies Aid, which was connected with the United Church.

William and Margaret Lee and daughter Edith ... taken at home ...

Their daughter Edith started school at Leedale Public School in 1935. Mr. Art Hembray was the teacher at that time. After grade seven she went to the high school, which was held in Bill Lee's old store building in the village of Leedale.

In July of 1943 Bill and Margaret Lee held an auction on their farm, and moved to Victoria, B.C. They bought a home at 3951 Blenkinsop Road in Victoria. On March 11th, 1946 Bill Lee died suddenly of a heart attack. Margaret Lee and her daughter, Edith continued to live at the home and Mrs. Lee resided there until her death on September 19, 19..

Her daughter married John Price of Salt Spring Island on February 14, 1953. They have three daughters, Patricia born in 1957 who now resides in Calgary, Teresa born in 1960 and Irene born in 1961, who are still living at home located at 1660 North Dairy Road, Victoria, British ...

**LINDSAY HUGH**

Hugh Lindsay was born May 11, 1892 at Tayvallich, County of Argyle, Scotland. Came to

Enderby B.C. in 1910 then to Leedale in the spring of 1914. He enlisted in the army in 1915, went overseas in 1917 and returned to Leedale in June 1919.

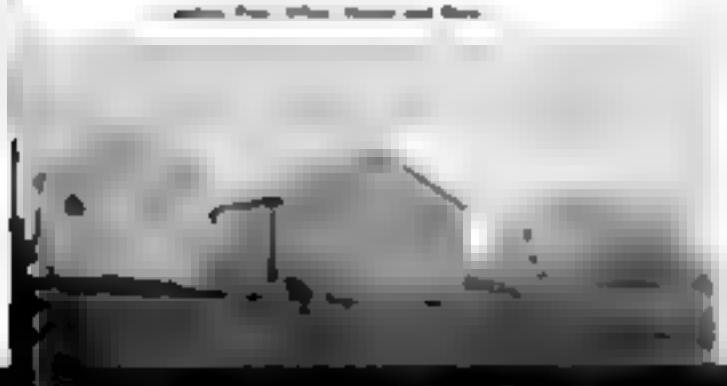
He and Loretta Nugent were married on February 8, 1923. They lived on the farm until 27 when they bought the Leedale store from Russell McClain.

They had two children Elizabeth Ann Bess born December 13, 1923 and John Charles born July 20, 1927. John passing away in February 1931.

Hugh joined the army in the Second World War July 12, 1941 and was discharged September 1946.

He was postmaster at Leedale from April 11 1927 to July 1941. Loretta was in charge of the [illegible] m 1941 until she and Hugh moved to [illegible] February 1952.

Bess attended Garbutts Business College in Calgary in September 1942, then was engaged as a Telephone Operator with Alberta Government Telephones in April 1945 and will be retiring in April 1978 with 33 years service. The last six years have been spent in the Telephone Office in Red Deer having transferred here as the Chief Operator in October 1971. She was married to Edward Skjonsberg July 21, 1975 and they make their home in Red Deer.



**LUSH, MR. AND MRS. HUBERT**

Mrs. Lush was born October 8, 1872 and came to Canada from Des Moines, Iowa. In 1912 Mr and Mrs. Lush were married and moved to the SW 22-42-5-W5. Later they moved to the SW 11-42 4 W5, one mile north of Leedale living there several years. Mr Lush passed away in 1948, Mrs. Lush passed away in the Auxiliary Hospital Rimbey, May 8, 1951.

**MANNIX, RUSSEL LEE AND CARROL MAXINE**

I, (Lee) was born September 6, 1937 in Rimbey and lived in the Aurora district on the SE 2-42-5-W5, until the spring of 1942 when I moved with my parents, Mr and Mrs. Joe Mannix, to Sylvan Lake. We moved to Sylvan Lake so us kids wouldn't have so far to walk to school. I took all my schooling in Sylvan.

In 1951 my dad, brother Dale, and myself came back to the farm at Aurora. After I finished school in 1953, I helped Dad with the farm and worked with several Seismograph drilling com[illegible]es, covering most of Alberta and part of the Northwest Territories.

We did our haying with horses, cutting raking and stacking. We used a bucking pole to stack at first, then got modern and used an overshot stacker and sweep.

In 1961 Dad and I sold the farm to Lawrence May and I went to work for Dr. Spiers, blood testing cows. Rodney Tolonen and I tested cows from Eckville south to Caroline, north to Rimbey and as far west as there were cattle to be done.

On May 18, 1962 I married Carrol Belt of the Leedale district.

Carrol Maxine, "after thought" of Mr and Mrs. Harley Belt, was born in Rimbey on December 24, 1939 and has lived most of her life in the Leedale area. She took her schooling at Leedale, Gimlet and Rimbey, attending Gimlet in 1950-51 and Rimbey in 1954-55. Getting to and from school was difficult at times. Most springs it was a real ordeal for those living west of the Medicine River. The river would flood over the road and at one place the river was so close to the Dingle Creek they would run together, causing fast water, making it difficult for a saddle pony to stay on its feet. Many times during the flood time the children had to go west then north over the bridge at Pete Fraser's, then east and south to get to school, making it four or five miles further. Winters were bad also, for the roads were seldom snow plowed until the drifts were so deep the horses couldn't get through. One winter about 1950, the snow was so deep that when the road was cleared with crawler tractors the children riding horses back tried to see over the snow banks by standing up on their horses and couldn't, it was so high.

The big event of the day was after school, to race to Mr. Myer's store for a five cent chocolate bar or if one was very rich that day a 12 cent bottle of pop. The horses became so well trained you

ended up at the store even on days when you didn't intend to

After completing her schooling, Carrol worked for Algar Agencies in Rimbey until marrying in 1962

We took up farming on the Sherman or Griffin quarter, raising cows, pigs, horses and "kids" In 1965 we formed a partnership, Belt-Mannix with Vernon Belt and moved to the Belt farm Leedale Valley Ranch. We farm the land by modern technique, with a bit of "days gone by" come winter when the cattle are fed their hay and straw from a sleigh pulled by a team of horses. An annual event occurs Christmas night when the Mannix and Tkacik Bros families get together for an old fashioned hay ride and carol festival.

We have four children Vernita, attending Red Deer College Dallas in High School Wade in Junior High and Carrie in Elementary at Rimbey

The Mannix Family Left, Carrie, Dallas, Wade, Vernon and Carrol

**HAROLD AND GRACE MASON, SE 23-42-4-W5**

We came to the Leedale district in June of 1941 from Edmonton, Alberta

We bought the Deslippi place

There was a lot of brushing to be done and Buster Adams came in with his big "Cat" to do some for us

One spring when Dan Myers Jr was hauling cream, the roads were so bad past our place that he used four head of horses and a tractor to pull a hay rack to carry the cream into Rimbey

Don Kilpatrick built our house the first summer we were there

Harold and Oscar Brown thought it would be a good idea to have a curling rink in Leedale, so they talked to the neighbors and helped to organize a work crew to build it

Harley Belt donated the land to put it on and the following winter they were curling

We had lots of fun. I remember one time when a bonspiel was on, it was 40 below zero but everyone still turned out

Irma, our eldest daughter, went to school at Midland. The first winter it was so cold and so much snow that we boarded her at Alice and Joe Lester's. She married Ed Cross and they live in Edmonton. They have three daughters, all married and seven grandchildren

Helen also went to Midland, later to Leedale and finally to Rimbey after the bus took the kids to Rimbey. She is married to Raymond Durand from Leedale They have five children and own the Esso Service Station in Rimbey

Judy was born in Rimbey and attended school in Midland, Leedale and Rimbey too. She married Ron Rolfsen from Lesliеville They now live in Oyama, B.C. and have four children

Harold and I moved into Rimbey in 1967 Harold passed away January 7 1977

**OWEN JOHN AND DORIS BELLE McELROY — written by D. McElroy**

**N½, 13-42-4-W5 & N W 14-42-4-W 5 & S.E. 23-42-4-W 5**

We may not need an introduction to most of you but just for these records I will give a few introductory facts

I was born four miles south of Rimbey on my Grandfather Coverdale's farm and came to the Leedale district with my parents Paul and Marie Pierson, at the age of four years. My two sisters were Dorotha, nine, and Lila two years It was the spring of 1927

My husband, Owen, or better known to everyone as Junior was born in Hillsborough North Dakota in 1921 and came to Canada with his parents, Owen and Beulah McElroy and brother Warren in 1927 They farmed east of Red Deer a few years before they moved to Leedale in the spring of 1936. Ellen, Robert and Richard had then arrived to complete the family

Junior helped his dad with the farming and threshing outfit in the fall. He also worked at Benson's mill, drove truck for Vernon Archer, and hauled lumber from Varly's and Jones' mills. In 1941 he worked for Dan Myers, driving the cream route, and hauling groceries for the store

One fall he drove a team and wagon in threshing time, pitching bundles all day for $1.00 a day He has always enjoyed hunting and has rarely missed going Big Game hunting in the fall

I (Doris) received all my education at the Leedale school and attended Leedale High School in 1936-39 We rode to school unless it was too cold and then the parents took turns driving us in a sleigh or cutter In November 1938 I went to work at the Leedale General Store where Mr and Mrs. Myers had a thriving business. I received $10.00 a month, board and room to start

and after I had worked a year I got a raise to $.30 a day. I was hired to clerk but also helped Mrs. Myers in the restaurant and done the chores if the men were busy. They handled a lot of lumber in exchange for groceries for the many sawmills which were operating west of Faraway. There were no store hours so the trucks would stop anytime of the day or night.

After Junior joined the Royal Canadian Air force, we were married and in the two and one half years he was in the service he was stationed at Pearce, Alberta, Fort St. John, B.C. Greenwood, Nova Scotia and Penfield Ridge, New Brunswick. Our eldest daughter, Helen Alberta, was born in the spring of 1944 and it was in that same year that we purchased the S.W. 13 — from Jim Thomson and we have lived here ever since.

Junior was honorably discharged in January 1946. Our first home was a two room log house. The floors were bare and I used a wood and coal cook stove. We had no running water, indoor plumbing or electricity. We carried the wood and water in and the ashes out. The coal oil lamps after they were trimmed and filled, served us well. The house was no mansion, but it was cozy and warm and held many happy memories.

We both worked hard to clear the land and get it into production, and with Junior's ability to do his own mechanical work, the welding and repairs, it saved a lot of time and money.

We had a lot of rain in the spring of '46. Roads which had no gravel were seas of mud, deep holes and ruts. On June 16th, misfortune struck when Junior was pulling a neighbor out of a mud hole with his 15-30 tractor. It reared up over backwards, pinning him underneath and breaking his leg. After a six week stay in the Bentley Hospital, he was able to come home.

It happened to be the day that the neighbors had organized a bee to put up our sixty acres of hay. Altogether 17 men were responsible for operating the nine mowers, three rakes and several tractors, sweeps and stackers. We were so happy with a job well done, and it proved a real spirit of neighborliness.

The leg was still giving problems so Junior went to Edmonton in January 1947 for therapy and an operation. After a five month stay he was able to come home in May. Our dads put the crop in that spring.

Times were hard but when looking back through our records we were amused at the prices. You could buy coffee for 49¢ a pound, eggs 30¢ a dozen, bread 10¢ a loaf, lard 16¢ a pound; coal oil 30¢ a gallon, five pounds macaroni 45¢, corn 18¢ a can, butter 43¢ a pound, 25 pounds chick starter $1.15, 49 pounds flour $1.45; Gas was $9.50 for a 45 gallon drum.

We sold bundles for 7¢ each, straw for $1.00 a load, Barley was 85¢ per bushel, Oats 63½¢ per bushel, we paid $90.00 for a good milk cow, our drivers license was $1.00 and radio license $2.00.

In 1946 we bought the N.W. 14 — from John Beck for $3,000.00. By this time we had a few milk cows, pigs and chickens so we were pretty well self-supporting.

Our second daughter, Barbara Elaine, was born in August 1948. With Junior working on the threshing rig it was quite an interesting fall trying to do chores with a wee baby.

In 1950 Junior bought a three ton truck and did

Mr. Elmer Hartley Bell, born Mr. Aug. 1949, having an ground at Mel-o-lawn, the cooridge, Harold Mason, Walt, at [illegible] Parsons, Art Eastland, Gardened, assist on, Harold Littlefield, Cyril Vogel, Vernon Bell, Gary Brown, Pete Parsons, Ed Bell, Harley Bell. Back row left to right: Robert Vogel, Owen Mr. Elmer W. Bell, Mr. Elmer, Fred Yarmouth back of Pat Bell, on hands are knee, Pete on ground, Tom Phelps, Lorne and Claude Chalkland.

custom hauling, cattle coal, grain lumber etc That winter he worked awhile at Farnham's mill and got enough lumber to build a new house With Mr Lovek as carpenter we got it started he next summer and was able to move into it in February before our son, John Robert was born in March 1952

The McElroy family had a reunion in May 1955 and mother McElroy passed away in September after a lengthy illness

In 1956 we bought the S W 23 — from Al Sieling and the S.E. 13 from Cliff Parkins in 1958

Our second son Gary Owen arrived in May 1958

We took our first holiday in the summer 1960 We made a trip to California to visit Junior's sister Ellen

In March 1961 my father, Paul Pierson, suffered a stroke and passed away My mother, in her 84th year and very well, lives in Rimbey

I worked for Macleods Store in Rimbey for about five years both in the Hardware and Furniture store

Helen attended the Midland and Leedale schools before they were closed and the children bussed to Rimbey Barbara John and Gary took all Grades 1 to 12 in Rimbey and the children all graduated. Helen took a secretarial course at McTavish Business College in Edmonton and then worked at the Rimbey Gas Plant In 1965 she married Gerald Adams and they have a wee daughter Alisa Dawn, one and one-half years old and a new son Aaron Scot born in Aug. Barbara also took a secretarial course at Key in Red Deer and worked in Bank of Montreal, Edmon

She married Edward Munday in 1980 and have a five year old son, Todd Edward and two and one-half year old daughter, Tania Elaine They live in Red Deer where Ed is a partner in an instrument and electrical service company Barbara works part time in a lawyers office John took a two year Instrumentation Course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and is working at Fort St John, British Columbia Gary is presently working for Siesform Drilling in Ontario and plans to go to College in the fall

Junior's father Owen L. McElroy passed away in January 1973 at the age of 84 years

Last spring we sold a half section to Dolman Bros. and we are now planning to take it a bit ...

Time has passed quickly and progress has brought many changes. We have been richly blessed with a healthy family and very fortunate to have so many fine friends and neighbors

McElroy Family — left to right: Barbara, John, Helen ... Seated: Doris and Owen (Junior) 1973

**PETER MULLBACK**

Peter Mullback came from Sweden to Boston Mass. U.S.A when a young lad he met and married Hilma Hylen who had also emigrated from Sweden shortly after Two children, a son Richard and a daughter Martha, were born to them while residing there. In 1912 they stopped in Edmonton on their way to a homestead at Buck Lake where another daughter, Fern, was born After making the required improvements on the homestead, they moved to Rimbey and then Bentley, where their last child, Chester was born. In 1919 they moved to a farm located two and a half miles north west of Leedale, where they engaged in mixed farming

Due to the lack of a conveniently located high school the Mullbacks moved to a dairy farm just three miles south of Edmonton in 1928

Peter passed away in 1936 after a lengthy bout with pneumonia which culminated in a blood clot Hilma passed away in 1975, in her 93rd year

The sons and daughters all married and are living in the Edmonton area. Martha was widowed in 1966

**DANIEL JOHN MYERS FAMILY**

Mr Dan John Myers was born July 11, 1880 Mrs. Mary Dolly) Myers was born November 9, 1887 Both were born in Kansas, U.S.A

They were married October 12, 1907, and lived in the State of Kansas for several years, where their first three girls, Stella, Margaret, and Beatrice, were born Then they moved to Saskatchewan while the girls were very young They lived or homesteaded on a farm about three miles from the Montana Border and 13 miles from a small town called Frontier While there they had a son, Daniel John Myers Jr and two girls, Leona and Bertha

Mr Myers farmed and raised horses. The 1930's were hard years, and in 1936 the weather was so hot there wasn't going to be any crops and the grass was burned to a crisp, so there was no feed for all the horses we had, which was around 75 head Many farmers were beginning to give up and move to Alberta. Mr and Mrs. Myers headed out to look for a place to buy where we could move. Within about four days they were in the Leedale area looking for friends who had left Saskatchewan, they stopped at the little country

store to ask if they knew where they lived. Frank Tarrabain was the owner and said he wanted to sell the store and the quarter of land it was on. After talking awhile, he asked if Mr. Myers would be interested in trading his horses for the

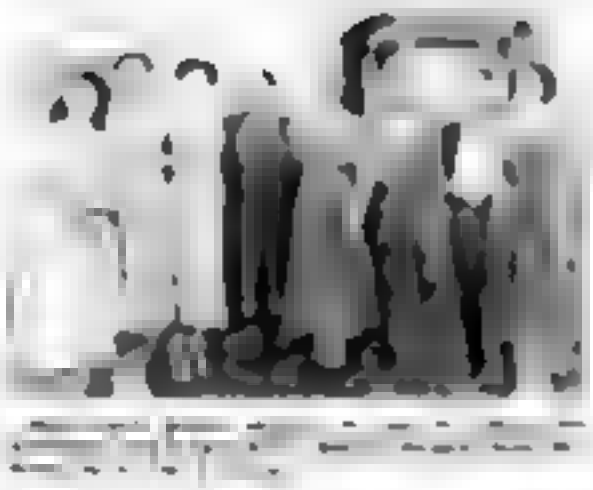
Dad said, "Well, it had always been his dream to go into business."

Mr. Tarrabain came back to Saskatchewan with them and they made the deal, so everything except some furniture and personal things was sold and the horses were shipped to Lacombe, Alta., to be sold. The three oldest girls were married, so there was just Dan 18, Leona 16, and Bertha 14. Leona and I (Bertha) rode in the back of the truck all the way to Leedale. When we arrived at Leedale, there was only the Post Office run by Hugh Lindsay and the store and Community Hall. This was August 14, 1936. When we arrived, we were going to sleep upstairs above the store. It was a mess, as there were hides of animals there, anyway we straightened a bit and made the beds. We did not get much sleep that night as the bed bugs decided to have a feed. Early the next morning the mattresses had to be burned. Cleaning was the order of the day. Mr. Myers was downstairs while mother handed Leona and me a pail of lye water and scrub brush. We were down on our knees scrubbing the floor when all of a sudden Leona upset the lye water and it ran through the ceiling of the store.

My dad yelled out, "What the heck is going on up there."

We looked around the corner of the stairs, and there stood a bald-headed man rubbing his head and groaning. Needless to say, we girls thought it was a big joke. But my dad was very angry at us and embarrassed as it was his first customer and not a very happy one. His name was Mr. Hayward.

Dad's business began to grow, and people brought butter, cattle, pigs, eggs, fence posts and lumber to trade and buy groceries. We also had a large trade with the Indians for a few years. They brought in animal skins and leather beaded jackets, moccasins, gloves and mitts of all sizes, which we bought and sold mainly to the men who worked at the mills which were 25 miles from us. Not many people had cars at that time so they were glad to have a country General Store. Mother had decided to start a restaurant at the back of the store and we sold meals for 25 cents, and had beds over in the house and charged 35 cents a night. Dad started a cream route, and we had kept two or three horses, so I used to hitch up the buggy and go out and gather up the cream from all the close in customers while dad took the truck and went out to the Aurora area. We took orders for groceries and their cream, and then delivered the empty cans and groceries the next day. The first winter it was so cold, the thermometer broke at 80 below. We all worked very hard and had a good business and many friends. The store was open seven



days a week for many years. Mr. Myers was road councillor for several years, and had the store until he became too ill to run it. It was sold to his son, Dan Myers Jr. in 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary at the Leedale hall in 1957.

Dan Myers married Valeria Buck, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Chatland of Leedale. Bertha Myers married John Fraser of Lockhart Dec. 3, 1939, and Leona married Ivan Adams of Rimbey. Leona died in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers moved to Bentley and bought a home in March 1964. Mr. D. J. Myers Sr. died May 24, 1965 and Mrs. D. J. Myers died July 11, 1965.

Bertha's husband died Sept. 27, 1967. Beatrice Myers) Skogen died May 9, 1967.

Those surviving are: Margaret of California, [redacted] Dan of Edmonton, Bertha of Haney, B.C., many grandchildren and great [redacted]

(Written by Mrs. Bertha Kern, youngest of the Myers' Family.)

**MYERS, DANIEL JR. — Information from Tributaries of the Blindman**

Dan, born in Frontier, Saskatchewan, came to Leedale with his parents in 1936 to help them operate the store business they had purchased from Frank Tarrabain.

Myers's Store not only served the farmers of the area but supplied groceries for the sawmills several miles west of them. These orders were usually filled at night after regular hours taking several hours to fill. Dan hauled groceries from Edmonton until 194[illegible] when he joined the Army. He returned to Leedale in 1944 to join his wife the former Valera Buck.

In 1949 they purchased the Dreitza place in the Lavesta district where they lived for three years. They then moved to Wainwright where Valera died in 1954. Dan worked several years in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. He returned

to Leedale and ran the store for about one and one half years prior to selling to Paul Borth in '96.

They had four children, Lorraine, Dianne Faye and Douglas

**NE 9-42-4-W5 — by John and Sylvia Walters**

The NE 9 was homesteaded in 1907 by Mark Lampman. In 1910 Hank Nelson bought this farm and his brother, Arvid, farmed the SW 16. Hank left for California about 1918. In 1921 Jack Anchor had the farm.

[illegible]

Garner Wiltse bought the farm in 1923. In 1925 Lyn Wiltse purchased the quarter from his brother, Garner. In 1926 Lyn traded an old Model T Ford for the house owned by Mrs. LaLone. The house was a lath and plaster house, and was a very fine house indeed. In early spring February or March, the house was moved. Grover Simpkins and Charles Wiltse sawed the house in two pieces and raised it up. Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons, Lyn Wiltse and his two young boys, Ed and Charles, helped with the moving. It was put on skids with one skid on a sleigh. They used four mules and 12 horses to move the house. It took two days to move one-half of the house the six mile cross country route. They crossed the swamp and Gimlet Creek. When they stopped to rest the horses and mules, the skids would freeze in the snow. Ed and Charles would have to loosen the skids so that the horses could advance once more. Finally the house reached its final destination. The following summer the house was put on a cement foundation. Charles and Ed Wiltse also hauled gravel out of the Medicine River for the cement.

To celebrate the moving of such a fine house a dance was held. This was just the first of many happy occasions the house was to know.

Lyn Wiltse also began the log barn that was here for many years. His sons, Charles and Ed cut and skidded the logs from Medicine Lake. The lumber for the joists came from Lake Eigh

Lyle and Ed Wiltse and Ted Pimm on NE 9-42-4-W5

teen. The carpenter who built the barn was an expert. The logs were dove-tailed and it was a well built barn. The next owner, Polynik, completed the building of the barn. This barn was used until 1964, when it was accidentally burned to the ground.

In the fall of 1928 Lyn Wiltse once again decided to move. He was a bit of a horse trader. He traded farms with Polynik from Shedd, Oregon. They traded land, stock, and household effects sight unseen. Mrs. Wiltse often regretted leaving some of her dishes.

Nineteen twenty-nine was the beginning of hard times. Dried out crops would be lucky to yield 10 bushels to the acre. Polynik rented the farm out to Manowich. Later he sold it to William Sulak. Peter Chibri also rented the farm for one year.

[illegible]

Tustan and Alice Jevne bought the farm from William Sulak on March 8, 1946. When they first came to look at the farm, they had to walk through the snow to get to the buildings. A fellow who was hauling feed told them it would not be a good place to purchase, as the only thing that could be grown was greenfeed. However Tustan and Alice did not take his advice and found that although there were lean times, it was a good place to raise their family. In 1947 the Jevne's planted the shelterbelt that now beautifies the [illegible].

In 1952 the Medicine River flooded. In order to cross it, Tustan piled lumber in the wagon. From this precarious perch Alice held onto her babies and watched the logs and debris float by.

The roads were noted for being impassable. One instance was the occasion of John and Marie Tkachik's wedding. As Judy was the flower girl it was imperative that they be on time. The Jevne family left at seven in the morning and arrived in Leedale at noon in time for the wedding. As the five miles to Leedale were impassable, they had to travel all the way to Rimbey and then back on the Leedale road. Often the truck had to be left on the main road and the family would either ride the tractor or walk home. However poor roads didn't keep neighbors from visiting in those days. The Jevne's were always noted for their wonderful hospitality.

[illegible]

Henry Walters purchased the farm in 1965. After being home to Butch and Sandra Walters in 1965 and Tom and Elaine Walters in 1966 it became our first home in July of 1967. Once again the old house rang with cheery voices. The walls whispered their secrets. A house with atmosphere, it had known sad and happy times. We enjoyed sharing our humble home with friends and relatives who came often.

Now the old house stands vacant once again. With the help of our wonderful neighbors we erected a new home. Although Leedale, known as the "Greenfeed Valley" may often be short of

good crops, the people are its main asset. There is always a helping hand to be found. Good neighbors and genuine friendships prevail. We plan on raising our family here and hope that once they leave to discover the world, they will always cherish the memories of growing up in the Leedale Valley.

**NE 34-41-4-W5**
**S. D. Clifford**

S. D. Clifford homesteaded the NE 34 — building a log house and a frame barn about 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford had one girl, Mrs. Ed Gerlinger. They remained here until about 1918.

**Robert Lee (Dick or Grampy) Hollingsworth**

Dick Hollingsworth came to the valley to the Clifford place, now owned by Vernon Belt, in the fall of 1919, bringing with him a large herd of cattle expecting to let them rustle for their feed as they had on the prairies from which they came. The winter of 1919-1920 proved to be one of the longest and hardest of this country's history with the snow coming early and deep, and staying long after spring should have come.

Despite the efforts of Mr. Hollingsworth to get feed for his animals, he lost nearly all of his cattle. He hauled hay from east of Lacombe, a 40-plus mile trip one way, and south of Red Deer, a 30 mile trip one way, in his attempt to feed his starving animals. The bones of the animals remain yet today, piled in a draw on the Belt farm, just a reminder of some of the problems the early settlers had in this area.

Dick wasn't the only one to loose cattle that winter. There were very few, if any, that were able to bring their stock through. Many who thought they "had it made" when spring finally did arrive lost their animals when they went onto grass, for they had been starved so long they couldn't stand the feed.

A more complete story of the Hollingsworth can be found elsewhere in this book.

**W. H. Wills**

W. H. Wills lived on the Clifford place the winter of 1920-1921. He moved from here to Rimbey in the spring of 1921 to open a photography shop.

**Harold Gee**

Harold Gee purchased the NE 34 from S. D. Clifford about 1921. He had been a bank clerk in Calgary prior to moving here. He married Mrs. Tyson, a widow, and she had a daughter, Elsie. They had a son who died in infancy. They moved to Calgary about 1929.

**OLSEN, JOHN G. AND B. OLI**

John and Oli Olsen came to Wittenburg from Blaine, Wash. in 1905 to homestead the W 34-41-4-W5. Their mother came with them and stayed until John married, then returned to Washington. Oli passed away about 1910.

John, born December 5, 1884, at Racine, Wash. married Hulda Jacobson of Wittenburg, in 1914. They made their home on the farm, raising their two daughters Ellen and Thelma. In 1942 they sold their farm to Glen Challand and moved to Edmonton. In 1946 they moved to Vancouver, B.C. where Ellen and Thelma still reside.

This scripture, which was read at Mr. Olsen's funeral describes him very well.

A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always." (Acts 10:2)

**LEEDALE NEWS ITEM April 30th, 1942**

It takes Bert Parker to bring home the big ones. last Saturday he caught an eleven pound fish measuring thirty five inches. in the Medicine River at Leedale.

Mr. Parker was born in Omar, Michigan on August 27, 1875. He came to Canada to Vulcan, in 1923. He worked in the mines and lumber camps much of his life. He and his wife Annie and three children, Donald, Harold and Charlotte lived in Leedale. He retired to Medicine Lake in about

1953 and went to live with Charlotte in Calgary in 1968. He passed away on November 21, 1973 at the age of 95 years.

**PAUL LYLE AND CLARA MARIE PIERSON (1927 1948, N.W. 13-23-4-W 5) — by Clara M. Pierson**

My husband and I were both born in the United States.

Paul was born in Lake Gage, Indiana, January 28, 1893 and came to Canada with his mother and step-father Homer and Etta Reed in 1915. They settled in the Lockhart Valley.

I was born in Stark, Kansas on November 14, 1893 and came to Canada with my parents, Alfred and Rosetta Belle Coverdale in 1903. Dad filed on a homestead north of town but we never lived on it. We lived in a shack on the D. H. Pinco place. Dad then bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter four miles south of Rimbey or Kansas Ridge at that time. We moved there when the house was built.

Paul and I were married in July, 1918. We farmed north of town for a while and it was there that our eldest daughter, Dorothea Mae, was born in May, 1919. We later moved to the old Coverdale home place where Doris Belle was born in April, 1923 and Lila Marie in April, 1925.

We farmed there until the spring of 1927 when

we moved to the Leedale District We bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter for $10 an acre with ten years to pay Paul had built a little shack and covered it with tar paper to live in for the summer so we had to store most of our furniture and other belongings in a neighbor's barn until our house was built A few days later the barn burned to the ground so we lost all our things. It was heartbreaking but couldn't be helped. I'll never forget how bad the mosquitoes were that summer and how cramped we were in the little shack

We managed to get some breaking done that year but we were anxious to get our house started Paul hauled the lumber from Lacombe and I helped with the carpentering. I could pound nails pretty good in those days. In fact I won a nail pounding contest when I was a girl, against T A Iddings in Rimbey We didn't get the house finished that fall but moved into it before winter

We lived as many other pioneer families did with no modern conveniences or power machinery We had a few milk cows, pigs and chickens, so we had our milk, eggs and butter which meant a lot

Paul spent many a hot, sultry day driving the horses on the breaking plow, fighting horse flys and mosquitoes We both worked hard, grubbing and pulling the big trees and plowing down the small ones. The brush was all piled by hand and then burned as it was readied for the plow Paul walked many miles behind the harrows trying to level it before the crop was seeded and finally made a harrow cart so he could ride

I remember well the wash days, long and tiresome. We hauled water from the neighbors or carried it from the rain barrel. It was heated on the cookstove in wash boilers. I had an old hand operated washing machine but did a lot of the wash in the tub with the wash board. After they were rinsed in bluing, starched and hung out to dry, they were gathered in, sprinkled and ironed with the old sad irons

I did most of my little girls' sewing, baked bread, milked cows and grew a big garden. I canned a lot of vegetables and the rest were stored in the root cellar When the wild berries were ready, we would pack a picnic lunch and drive with team and wagon to a good berry patch and pick all day When we got home and the chores were done, we would sit by the dimly lit kerosene lamp and clean berries so they could be canned come morning

Paul liked to hunt and fish. Every fall he went Big Game hunting and usually came home with the winter a supply of wild game. I canned some in jars and the rest hung outside where it stayed frozen. There were quite a few grouse, prairie chicken, squirrel and rabbit at that time and when the meat supply dwindled they made a fine meal

Times were really hard during the depression years. Little was accomplished, as everyone knows who experienced the hungry thirties Everything was cheap in comparison to what it is today but there was no money to buy with

Most of our groceries were got in exchange for fresh farm produce. I churned butter and got 15¢ a pound and eggs were 12¢ per dozen, but it all helped to buy the essentials

Paul finally traded for a 1928 Chev car We couldn't afford to run it very often, but we did use it for special occasions

In 1932 Paul was hauling lumber from Varty's mill with a four horse team and wagon The wagon overturned due to a wash in the road and he broke his arm He was laid up for quite a while with that

Dorothea scalded her leg when she was about 14 years old. We finally got a $10 a month assistance from the Municipality to buy the medication she needed as the Doctor said she could stay at home Paul worked the next summer with his team and fresno, moving dirt and building road, until the debt was paid up

Every spring I did papering and house cleaning. I did sewing and knit many pairs of socks and mitts with the knitting machine in the

I could operate most of the farm machinery and in the fall I drove the horses on the binder and cut the crop while Paul did the stooking I always helped him stack the hay and greenfeed bundles. He worked on the threshing rig in the fall, sometimes with the team and rack and other years he helped run the separator

In 1940 we filed on a homestead 20 miles west in the Faraway District It cost us $10 and we had to prove up on it. That is, break ten acres a year and spend two months a year on it. Every spring we would load up enough supplies to do month and with a four horse team and wagon head for the homestead. We broke 25 acres built a shack and small barn and in 1943 sold it for

Our big outing for the year was the Leedale Celebration. The whole community gathered at the hall grounds to play ball, horse shoe, run foot races etc They had a booth and sold hot dogs,

coffee, pop, ice cream, etc. We would spend the day, go home and do chores and then go back to the dance at night.

We really enjoyed the Christmas concerts too. Several families would get together and with team and sleigh drive for miles to see the children perform. The drive in the cold crisp air with sleigh bells jingling and the horse's feet squeaking in the cold will never be forgotten.

We hired a man for the winter through the Government plan where the government paid $5 a month and we paid $5 a month board and room. They helped get firewood up, cut posts, cut ice for the ice house and helped with chores.

Paul was a kind and friendly man, well liked by everyone. He was a hall board member and a school trustee. He acted as Game Guardian and was a license vendor for years.

I was a member of the Leedale Women's Institute and took part in many money-making plays.

Dorothea attended the Symonds school before we moved and then the girls rode horseback two and one-half miles to Leedale school.

Paul and Mary Plumb's 40th Anniversary. Seated: daughters Lila, Doris and Dorothea, about 1948.

In 1957 we sold the farm to R. Stuart and bought an acreage at Lesliеville. We kind of semi-retired and took it a bit easier. In March 1961 Paul suffered a stroke and passed away in Rocky Mountain House Hospital. I rented the land for a while and then sold the acreage in 1972 and moved back to Rimbey.

The girls are all living quite close. Dorothea and Charles live at Lesliеville. Doris and Junior on a farm that joins the old farmstead, and Lila and Steve live in Edmonton. I have 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. I will be 84 years old this fall, do my own housework and enjoy many social functions. I keep myself busy with crocheting and knitting.

We worked hard the years we lived at Leedale, but we were young and healthy. I have many happy memories with family and friends while we were there.

**JOHN AND MARY PLUMB — E. ½ 23-42-4-W5**

My husband, Jack, was born at Blackfalds and I, Mary Jane Graves, was born at Lacombe. We lived at the coast where our five children were born near Victoria, British Columbia. They are Bob, Pam, Beverly, Billy and Audrey and all married now.

We moved to the farm west of Rimbey after Jack's brother, Tom passed away in 1959. We spent the summers there and in the fall went back to Victoria. The days we spent on the farm were the happiest days of our lives.

John Plumb on tractor, spring 1960.

Being born in the city the children were used to all the conveniences but on our Leedale farm we had no electricity, no radio, a small cabin with coal oil lamps and outhouse.

The neighbor's children from Victoria came to visit and thought pumping water by hand was the greatest. Wanted their dad to get a pump and take it home.

A couple of teenagers who came to Leedale to visit thought it was great until we had a big hail-storm. In Victoria thunder and lightning is so rare most people don't know what it is. The boys thought for sure the end had come and went back to Victoria the next day.

In June 1962 we sold the farm to Elwood and Dorothy Young and my husband, Jack, passed away that same year.

I believe the greatest inspiration came from the people. The way the farmers got together to help each other. Everyone seemed to know everyone and had a genuine concern for each other and their families. We found our neighbors were so friendly and helpful. We felt welcome and wanted from the start.

We learned first hand that an abundance of material things do not make happiness, but freedom and good people do.

**THOMAS HENRY PLUMB**

Thomas Henry Plumb was born at Blackfalds on May 24th, 1902. He lived in that area until he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army in 1940, and served during the war years.

Tom Plumb and his dog, Teddy

In 1946 he purchased the SE 22-42-4-W 5, and farmed there until he passed away in February 1958

Tom was a good neighbor and was always willing to lend a helping hand

**PRICE, CLELAND**

Cleland Price was born in Vermilion, Alta in March of 1913, and moved with his parents to the United States when he was an infant. In 1919, they moved to Golden, B.C., where they lived un til moving to Alberta in 1925

Cleland worked in the mines at Nordegg for many years and came to the Leedale district in 1946. He worked for Leo Benson in the saw mill for a time, and then decided to go farming. He bought the SW 14-42-4-W5 from Mrs. Hanna the SW 15 from Russell Stewart and the NE 15 from Floyd Brun. He raised a lot of cattle and worked hard on the farm. He later sold the farm and rented Mrs Matson's land until his death in 1976

He had three sisters, Mrs. Ann Costyk, Mrs Jean Fabreau, and Mrs. May Reistad, all of Calgary

Cle was a good neighbor and always willing to lend a helping hand

Mr Price

**RANGEN, AUDREY EVERNDEN**

Audrey daughter of Mr and Mrs. Howard Evernden, was born Sept 15, 1916

My father, who decided far away pastures looked greener went to California in 1924 where he [illegible]

In January, 1925 my mother and four of us children moved seven miles west of Leedale where my mother kept house for Mr Wilson Cox

Mr Cox was a well-to-do man at that time he had several quarters of land at Leedale and also in the Bentley district, and he had a good-sized herd of cattle My sister Strousie, enjoyed riding horseback so a pony was bought for her She lost this pony when it was kicked by another horse and had to be destroyed, so another was bought so Strousie could round up the cattle once in a while to see how many had been lost to coyotes, wolves or rustlers Those days the cattle roamed all the land that wasn't needed to grain or hay

There used to be just a trail called Varty Mill Road west from Leedale so in 1930-31 the farmers got together with horses and scrapers and built a road as far west as Aurora. In 1950 the oil wells began to come in so the road was built on west to join the Bingley road. The road south to Lesliteville had been widened and graveled

In 1928 my father returned for Strousie, Lois and me. He took me to Edmonton, then sent me on to Gajahad, Lois stayed with our grandparents in Lacombe and Strousie returned to California with father where she still resides

I returned to the Leedale area in 1929 with my sister and brother-in-law. Velma and Harold Misner, where I lived until 1938, except for four winters 1935-38 when I went to Didsbury Bible School

In 1941 I married Mr Carl Rangen and we lived on his farm, eight miles north of Eckville until 1971. We have three sons; Irving, Ross and Albert and a foster daughter Cheryl

After Carl passed away Oct 19, 1971, I moved to Vancouver B.C. where I still reside

**JOSEPH CLEMENT RAUDEBAUGH**

Joseph Raudebaugh was born in the United States in 1893. He came to Canada in 1911 and was a veteran of the First World War 1914-1918

He came to the Rimbey district in 1921 and lived in Leedale with his wife and family from about 1940 on. They had eight children, Leo Elmer, Alvin, Robert, Irene, Edna, Pearl and Edith

He passed away in 1961 at the age of 78 years

**[illegible]**

In 1924, Mr Abel Repas left his home in Matronovak, Hungary, coming to the coal mining town of Taber, Alberta. He worked for three years there, then moved to Hillcrest, where his wife, Mary and three eldest children, Helen, Vidor and Charlie joined him from the old country Two more sons were born here, Joe and Ernie

Helen was married in 1932 to Joe Berze, who also worked in the mines. They have two sons, Joe Jr and Zoltan, and live in the Forshee district.

In 1933 they left the coal mines to begin farming at Leedale, purchasing the SW-9-42-4-W5. He brought with him the newest car to the district, a 1930 Essex Super Six. With few roads and money scarce it was not driven much and was eventually sold. Travel was done with horses for many years before he acquired another motor vehicle a farm truck.

There was lots of work to be done. The first winter was spent cleaning the seed grain by hand, the children helping when they got home from school. It was slow, tedious work and took [illegible].

The language spoken at home was their native Hungarian, though the children soon learned English and spoke this between themselves. Mrs. Repas spoke little English, though was able to communicate to others who came to visit. There were other Hungarian families in the district with whom she often visited. She was known as a kind warm hearted person by those who remember her. She passed away July 9, 1963 at the age of 61 years.

Their young son, Joe died in 1941 at the age of 16. Their second daughter Violet, was born after coming to the farm. She was the only one of the family to gain a high school education and went on to train as a Certified Nursing Aide.

The Repas children attended the one room Leedale School, walking a distance of three and one-half miles, morning and afternoon. If the river was low enough they could wade it and go across country, cutting one and one-half miles from their walk.

The family milked a few Shorthorn cows until the mid 40's shipping cream to Bluffton via Monalbetti's cream truck. The truck also brought needed groceries on the return route. Trips to the town of Rimbey, some 15 miles away were seldom made. Mail came to the post office at Leedale and the general store there provided the necessities as well as machinery repairs.

As the years went on Mr. Repas acquired more land, four quarters in all. He owned a threshing machine to harvest his crops which were, barley, wheat, oats and some rye.

Neighbors helped with the harvesting, hauling bundles and had their own crops threshed in return. Few wages were paid or received at that time. Mrs. Repas' old country cooking was much appreciated at meal time. The harvesting lasting nearly two weeks at times.

Berries were usually plentiful, and many were picked and canned for winter. Blueberries, saskatoons and chokeberries from which they also made wines.

Vidor left home to join the army as the Second World War raged across Europe. He served with the Princess Patricia, driving a truck with supplies. Upon his return from the war he married Dorothy Golley and settled down to farm the SE-17-42-4-W5, which was the former Herman Lowe place. They have four children and farmed until 1973 when they sold the land and moved to an acreage near Red Deer.

Charlie left home at the age of 15, working at various jobs in Alberta and British Columbia before returning to farming. He married Marion Owen from the Willesden Green district and bought the SW-8-42-4-W5 from Tom Lloyd. They have four children.

Ernie farmed with his dad for a few years, then he married Myrtle Lawson, from the Meadow Vale district. He purchased the NE-7-42-4-W5, one of the quarters his dad owned, and they make their home there. They have five children. In 1974 when the home place was sold, Ernie purchased two more quarters, thus keeping the land in the Repas name.

Violet married Elmer Solberg, also of the Leedale district. They are living in St. Albert and have five children.

Mr. Repas, at the age of 82, is presently residing in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital, his health and memory are both quite good for his age.

**ROSTAD, [illegible]**

Mr. Rostad settled first on what now is the Giesbrecht place, then moved to the NE 35-41-4-W5, building a house on the west side of the quarter across the fence, east from where the Leedale Hall now sets. Being a very wet quarter it was not broke up until about 1940, by Dan Myers, shortly before he sold it to Edgar Robin[illegible].

Mr. Rostad also built the barns for Terry Chalsand and Munbacks.

The Rostad children attended the Leedale School in 1916 or 1917.

Mrs. Terry Lou, Chalsand ran a "Bargain Store" which was located on this land while Mr. Rostad owned it.

**ROYAN**

In December of 1937, George and Josephine Royan moved to Leedale where Edwin, Gena and Carl were born.

On returning home after the war, George went into partnership in the blacksmith with his father-in-law, Carl Aske, until November, 1950 when the Royans moved into Rimbey.

That same month Bob was born and two and one-half years later Annamae was born.

George worked for the town of Rimbey until he was forced to resign due to poor health.

He passed away December 1968.

Josephine Royan still resides in Rimbey.

**RUTLEDGE, MR. AND MRS. FRED**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rutledge moved to Leedale in the 1940's. Mrs. Rutledge, Evelyn Ann, was born in England in 1896 and came with her parents to Manitoba. In 1926, she married

Fred and moved to Alberta living at Turner Valley and Leedale

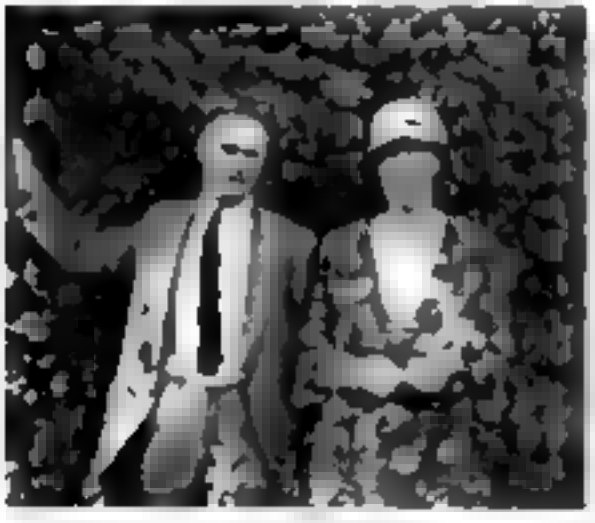
Mr Rutledge had lost an arm and had a hook which he could use as well as most men did their hands

They had seven children Alfred, Robert Fredrick, Clifford, Eliza, Clara and Evelyn

Mr Rutledge died in November 1950 and Mrs Rutledge at Turner Valley May 27 1954

**SHIPLEY, ARTHUR W CHAPMAN AND GLADYS M. Written by Gladys M. Shipley**

Arthur Chapman was born in England. He came to Canada and then returned to England to serve his country in the first World War He was gassed while on duty there



He returned after the war to Calgary Alberta and worked on a job where I, Gladys Shipley also worked

We decided to leave the city and buy a farm so purchased the NE 24-42-4-W5 in 1936. It was nine miles west of Rumbey

In the years that followed we built a barn and paid for the farm

I played the organ at the Mount View school be vear that Rev Parr held church there. Then Rev Don Littlejohns and family picked me up to play the organ at Mount View and also Leedale United Church. whenever the organist was not able to be there

We spent 17 years on the farm and in 1953 sold out and moved back to Calgary, and then to Victoria B.C. Mr and Mrs Abe Giesbrecht now own the farm

Arthur bought a small house on N Pender Island and lived there for several years near his sister and husband. He passed away in the vet's hospital in November 1976

I have been quite well, but recently had surgery I was 84 on July 2, 1977 and live in an apartment in Victoria, B.C

I visited Rumbey with Rev and Mrs Littlejohns this fall and enjoyed visiting with old friends

**SEELING, ALLAN S.W 23-42-4-W5**

Allan was born in Walkerton, Ontario and came west with his parents in 1918 when he was a very young boy

In 1939 he came from his home in Assank. Saskatchewan to the Rumbey district. He worked on the farm for such people as Jack Beatty, Wilfred Marchildon, and Bill Mickey In 1944 he went to the Leedale district and worked for farmers, such as Harold Mason. Oscar Brown Glenn Chaland, and J McElroy

He later acquired some land of his own in the Leedale district and farmed there until 1955 While there he had bachelor neighbors that he

churned with. Their names were Tom Plumb and Clo Price, so people used to say "Here comes Ceiling Price on Plumbs

Allan was a very hard working man and a great lover of horses. They were always given the best of care and he was very proud and kind to them.

In 1956 Allan had enough of farming and sold his farm to O. J McElroy He went back to his home town of Alsask where he got a job at the [illegible] proximately 10,000 trees of all kinds, as well as keeping the grounds at the Air Base like a show place. His labors did not go unrecognized [illegible] the Air Base A large party was given in his [illegible] plaque signed by Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

[illegible] all he owned on his back. He made his home [illegible]

**SIMPKINS, MRS. GROVER (MARGARET) — by Margaret Simpkins**

I came to Canada in 1906, as a child, with my parents, Mrs and Mrs. Bill Gardiner My father and uncle, Tom Gardiner came the year before and built a little sod roof shack and plowed up a small garden patch. We came up by train, known as a settler's car, which was filled with cattle horses and machinery We got to the town of Lacombe on June 6, 1906. It rained all that summer and our little shack leaked every time it rained. The next year my father broke 40 acres of land which we put into wheat It froze in the bloosom so father cut it for feed. Those early years it froze every month of the year, but we lived good. We had all the wild meat we needed and all the rivers and lakes were full of fish Father was a good hunter and trapper Every little pond was full of rats, they were a good price On our way to school one morning we saw several lynx up a tree which my father came and shot. As the years went by the country changed for the better

It was in 1920 when I met my husband, Grover He also heard of the free land up in Canada and he came from Helena, Montana in 1919. We lived at Leedale until 1933, when again we heard of the Peace River country, the land of milk and honey, which proved to be so true. We liked the country and the people

When we lived at Leedale I remember hauling oats to Eckville for four cents a bushel in 1926.

We had four children when we set out for the Peace country and we wished we had come 20 years before. The worst draw-back to this country then was no one had water wells and it was a long haul from the Smoky River I remember melting snow for 25 head of cattle

Then World War II came which took many of our boys and the country was left short handed It also claimed the lives of our two boys, Riley and Michel but that is the way life is, some good, some bad

My husband passed away in 1958 after a short illness. I now make my home with my two boys, Willard and Ben. Our daughter lives in Edmonton and son, Alvin and family live in Red Deer We have had a good life in this Peace country, I have had my good health. What more could one wish for?

**SORENSON PETER AND ELIZABETH**

Andrew Peter Sorenson was born in Raarsen, Denmark in 1877 and came to Nebraska U.S.A. in 1896. His wife Elizabeth was born in Essex, England in 1886 and came to Calgary, Alberta at the age of 19 years. They were married in 1911 and lived in the United States until 1925 when they moved to Saskatoon

In 1934 they came to the Rimbey district and bought the SE 27-42-4-W5 from Bing Engebretson in the Mount View district. Bing had bought the quarter because of the Mount View school site

The school had been moved to a new location one mile west and a half mile north

Mr and Mrs. Sorenson had one daughter Eileen Marie and a son Fredrich Don Pannel by former marriage) who lived in Seattle Washington

Mr Sorenson kept busy with the farm work His wife was an ardent gardener and homemaker

In 1947 they sold the farm and retired After a short stay in Rimbey they went to British Columbia and then back to Calgary Mr Sorenson passed away on January 19, 1958 at the age of 81 years

After her husband's death Mrs. Sorenson moved back to Rimbey to make her home and passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital on August 7 1961, at the age of 75 years

**STEWART RUSSEL AND VERONA — by T Beems**

They came by covered wagon from Bracken, Saskatchewan to Alix, Alberta in the 1930's where they farmed for a short time. They had

Russel and Verona Stewart - Valerie and Gordon Stewart

two children then, Valerie and Gordon (Bunky)

They then moved to the Leedale district SE 15-42-4-W5, sold there and purchased the NW of 13 and later the NE of 2 before moving to Red Deer

Their family then was three girls and two boys. Valerie married Bob Boos of Gleichen they had a girl and a boy Valerie passed away a few years ago. Gordon married Gelaine Olsen of Bentley and they have three boys Caroline (born at Alix) married Joe Larson of Prince George B.C. They have three boys and one girl. Dennis Danny) married Pat Dann of Eckville and they have one boy. Terry married Skip Peterson of Lacombe. They have two girls and a boy

Besides farming Russel was a truck driver After living at Red Deer for some years they sold out and bought an acreage at Rocky Mountain House.

Russel passed away in 1972 - results of a truck accident Verona now lives on an acreage at Alhambra

**SW 35-41-4 W5**

DEE FINCH, a bachelor settled on a raw Canadian Pacific Railway quarter SW 35 — before 1910. He sold and moved to Bentley about 1919 He married Mrs Fallis at Bentley

MR. AND MRS. JACK SHERMAN purchased the SW 35 — about 1919 and lived there until they moved to British Columbia about 1938. They had no children. Mr. Sherman was a veteran of World War I. Mrs. Emma Sherman a sister of Bill Lee's, was very active in community work While here Bill Lee built the barn, which is still standing for them

Jack and Emma Sherman - 1938

Harley Belt rented the land until it was sold to MR. AND MRS. OLIVER GRIFFIN in about 1942. Oliver and Pearl had one son Richard, who resides in Edmonton Mr and Mrs Griffin were active in community affairs. Pearl played the piano for many Christmas concerts and other functions held at the hall. Oliver loved to curl at the local rink. Many will remember him slapping his knee, saying, "I get a bang out of that

Many winter evenings were spent playing cards, games, having a sing song or just visiting in their old and later, new house

Oliver passed away in Ontario July 12, 1963 and Pearl in British Columbia in September 1970

In 1962 the land was purchased by MR. AND MRS. LEE MANNIX, who resided there until 1965 and still own the land

**THOMSON, MR. AND MRS. JAMES S.**

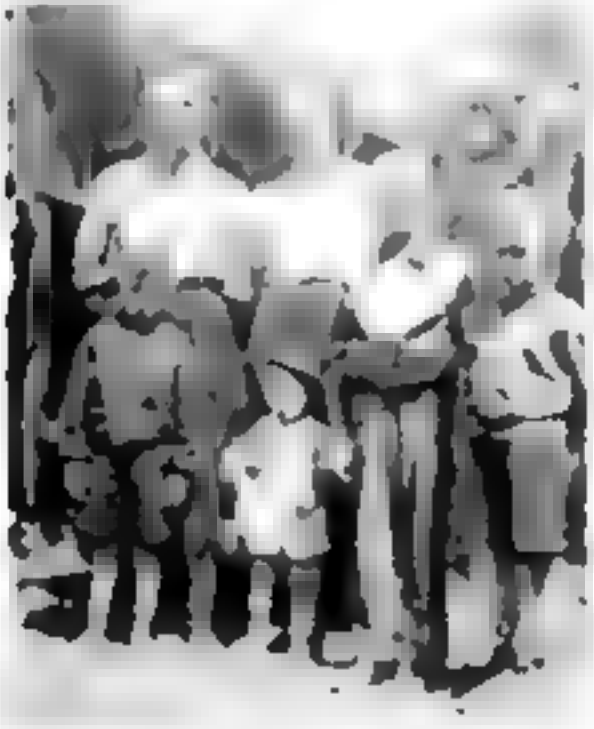
Jim Thomson was born in Scotland and came to Canada with his brother William in 1935. He worked at Didsbury and other places before he bought a C P R quarter at Leedale It was the [illegible]

In 1936 he married Dorothea Pierson and in October 1939 Lyle James was born. In February 1941 he had a chance to go to Pincher Creek to run a garage so they sold their stock and machinery to O. S. Moore and moved, but in

December 1941 they returned to the farm. In February 1942 a second son, John Leslie, was born. A year passed and they moved to Leslieville to operate a garage there

They sold the farm to O. McElroy in May 1944 and it was in March that year that Allan Wayne arrived. In October 1947 William Paul was born

In 1948 they decided to move to Leedale where they built a new home and a garage. Here Jim sold gas and did all kinds of mechanical work and welding



Mr. and Mrs. James S. Thomson with sons, Lyle, John, Allan and Bill

In 1952 the garage was sold to E. Masoch and Jim went to work on an oil rig

Lyle lives in Calgary, and has two boys and two girls.

John lives in Edmonton and has two boys

Allan has accepted a job in Libya and has three boys.

Bill lives in Red Deer and has two boys

**JOHNNY AND VALENT TKACIK**

Johnny and Valent and their families are living on the old Bill Broderson place N W 2-42-4 W5 at Leedale, which they purchased in 1947. The house, built in 1903 was once the Wittenburg store, post office and dance hall. It is still standing and has become a landmark for many of the early settlers who come back to visit. We have spent many enjoyable afternoons reliving the history of Wittenburg with them. In 1969 we imported our first simmental heifer from Switzerland and we named our place Wittenburg Simmental Ranch

Before settling in Leedale, Johnny and Valent worked for many different farmers during the summer. In the winters they worked in the saw mills. Lawton Brothers, McTighes, Johnny Jones, Clarence Eadie and Earl Gray were some mills they worked at

Valent was in the armed forces from 1944 1946. Johnny hauled cream for D. J. Myers for a number of years. He also made many trips to Calgary with cattle and brought groceries back for the store

Johnny and Marie Ervin were married in 1955. They have four children. Beverley — working in Edmonton after completing an executive secretarial course at N.A.I.T. Patty, Mavis and Gary at home

Valent married Orva Olson in 1957 and they have four children. Valerie — taking ladies hairstyling at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton, Gwen, Bradley, and Kristine at home

**JOSEPH AND ELIZABETH TKACIK**

In 1928 Joseph Tkacik immigrated to Canada from Senglar Czechoslovakia. He worked around Eckville with the Johnson Bros. and Leo Valeski. He started working for Mr. Bill Broderson in 1930 at the home place and at Lockhart for $15 a month plus room and board. At this time 15 people lived there. Joe often told of the time he was hauling hay from Lockhart to Leedale and upset the load 12 times due to the deep snow and drifts

Another story that was told about Joe was his last driving experience. Joe drove Elizabeth and Mrs. Withers to a picnic at Gimlet. The trip was uneventful on the way down. On the way home the two ladies did a bit of back seat driving which upset Joe. Consequently he drove through the gate without opening it. To my knowledge this was the last time Joe drove a car

Mrs. Tkacik, Elizabeth, Agnes and Valent arrived at the home place at Leedale in March of 1933. Valent's second day in Canada proved disastrous when he became enthused about the horses and had his thumb smashed between the end of the wagon tongue and a post. Mrs. Johnsman stitched the thumb up for him. It was difficult for Mrs. Tkacik as she did not understand English, but being a very good cook and seamstress managed very well

Mr. O. B. Moore hired Joe in 1937 and until 1940 the family lived in Benjamin, Andrews and Mountain View districts. The highlight of this five year period was July 20, 1938 when Frank and Johnny arrived from Czechoslovakia. The family was once again united. Their joy was dimmed a little the second day when a terrible hailstorm struck the district

In 1940 they bought a place south of Gimlet and settled in to their own home on the quarter NW 3-41-4-W5. Valent, Liz, and Agnes attended the Gimlet school. The Broderson place NW 2-42

4 W5. was rented by Joe in 1935, Vasent and John ay bought it in 1947

Joe and Elizabeth lived on this place until 1956 when hey retired to Red Deer The welcome mat was always out and many people enjoyed their hospitality They were both avid gardeners and had beau iful flowers. Two of Elizabeth's brothers visited Canada, John in 1965 and Carl in 1968

The last mass celebrated in the Catholic Church at Leedale was Joe and Elizabeth's Golden Wedding Anniversary where they renewed their wedding vows. This was held September 2nd, 1968

The Thacik Family. Vincent, Johnny, Frank, Agnes, Sophie and Mary. Joe and Elizabeth sitting. (Elizabeth is missing)

Joe and Elizabeth Thacik had 7 children Frank living at Leedale Johnny living at Leedale Vasent living at Leedale, Mrs Elizabeth Williams at Taber; Mrs. Agnes Samik at St Paul, Minnesota, Mrs. Sophie Jenson at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Mrs. Mary Naslund at Edmonton, 28 grandchildren and 2 great g

Elizabeth passed away January 14, 1972, Joe passed away June 10, 1973

The hospitality extended by Joe and Elizabeth and the regard they had for their friends and neighbours will never be fo

**VARTY'S**

Herb and Bill Varty (brothers) moved from Kitscoty, Alta. to the Faraway district and started up their sawmill in 1921

Herb's wife Edna and three children Jimmie Alice and Bert joined them in 1922. as did another brother, James and wife. Mae

In 1928, Herb. Edna and family moved to Leedale where Herb ran a lumber yard. The umber was sawed at Faraway then hauled, by truck, to Leedale to be sold. They also hauled cattle, grain, and other farm produce for the farmers in the area. Their business included sel ing gas from their pump at the lumber yard

In 1935 they did custom sawing for different people Hayward's, Hohn's, Becker's. Draper's Laye s, White's and in the spring of 1936 sawed for many on the Medicine River Later that year the mill was moved back to Faraway

Herb and Edna returned to Faraway, closing the umber yard in 1940. remaining there a their lives Herb passed away in 1951, Edna, October

They had 11 children, namely Jimmie, of Faraway, Alice, of Chauvin, Bert, of Winlaw B.C., Dorothy, of Hussar, Ava, of Calgary Bill of Rocky Mountain House, Earl and Bob, of Faraway Shirley, of Leslieville Don, of Vaux hall and Jeanaine, of Elkwater

**WASHBURN, M. L. AND JOHN H**

M L. Washburn homesteaded the SW 12-42-4-W5 taking out an appucation for homestead July 15, 1905

John H Washburn took out an application for homestead on the NW 12 on April 30, 1906. Both these are now referred to as the Frowd or Cumberland places

Washburn children attended the Leedale School in 1907 Both families left the valley before 1912

We are sorry no other information is available on these families

**WASHKEVICH, KONON AND ELIZABETH**

Mr Konon Washkevich came to Canada in 1928 from the province of Grodno which was under Polish rule then. His family lived in the municipality of Kobrin and the nearest village was Laskowo. The nationality of the people was called Byelorussian. After working at various laboring jobs for several years, Mr Washkevich came to Rimbey by way of C.P R. freight train in the early spring of 1934. A friend, Sam Zaichuck lived on the SE 15-42-4-W5 (The land was later owned by Russel Stewart and then by a miner from Nordegg.) Later until about 1964, the land was owned by Cleland Price. When Mr Zaichuck tried to sell this land in 1936, he was not able to obtain $50 for the quarter section

Mr Washkevich and a friend, Steve Zaetz, started walking to the Zaichuck place. They were going by way of the 'Midland Road' and when they came by Mr Lyle Yager's place he was in the process of building a log barn. At the time Yagers lived one-half mile east and three miles north of Leedale. They followed that road straight west across the swamp to where Zaichuck's lived. Mr Washkevich lived at Sam s for three weeks while making arrangements to purchase the NW-15-42-4-W5, which is one mile west and one mile north of Sam's. This land was first owned by Bob Fox, then Joe Miklas and then Joe Klepadlo from whom Mr Washkevich bought it. The road came from the south, turned west past Sam's place. the same route it still

takes), and ended at the place Mr Washkevich chose From there to the north the road was only a trail. There was no bridge over the small creek that crossed the trail, so in order to be able to get to the road, which now runs straight west of Rimbey Mr Washkevich built the first bridge that crossed the creek in the summer of 1934. In order to build the bridge, he obtained two heavy beams that were left over from a bridge that was built over the Medicine River west of where Jim Cukoos now lives. (At that time Frank Fox

[illegible]

mr Washkevich then laid poplar logs and this was the 'bridge'

As soon as Mr Washkevich obtained the property, he started building on it. All the buildings were of logs, the house was a kitchen, bedroom and pantry, had a roof of slabs and each time it rained, it was little drier inside than it had been outside! There was also a small log barn and a chicken house There was a hand dug well on the property which Mr Washkevich later dug deeper to a depth of 40 feet. He changed the water-drawing mechanism to a crank and pail on the end of a rope which served until a pump was installed about 12 years later

The first spring Mr. Washkevich purchased two horses from Mr Bowman who lived on the present George Patterson place, and one from Earl Rimbey, who lived where the Rimbey Transport is now located. He purchased a sulky plow from Joe Klepadlo, who then lived on the present Armstrong place. That spring Mr Washkevich attended a farm sale near Gilby and bought a cow and calf for $22 50; a horse for $40 and a set of harrows. A 16 run disc drill was bought later To seed the first crop a drill was borrowed from William Polanuk, who then lived where John Walters now lives. After Polanuks left there, the land was owned for a short time by

[illegible]namod Sullak (a brother-in-law of Mr Skorieko's). The Skorieko family owned the present Armstrong land for many years. After Polanuk sold his land, it was bought by Mr Tustan Jevne and family and then the Walters family

Mr Washkevich planted wheat, oats and barley on the 40 acres that was then cultivated land. The crops grew very well, but frosts came early and often, and many times the crops ended up as just cattle feed. A binder was borrowed from Mr Polanuk to cut the first crop and from Mr Mike Zaetz the second year There was a family named Guth, who lived where Burns Kilpatrick now lives, and a binder was bought from them for $50

When the men arrived at Sam s place, Steve Zaetz stayed only a couple days, then returned to Bowden and came back within a short time with Steve's brother Mike, his wife Sylvia (who was Mrs. Washkevich's sister) and their two daughters, Mary and Annie. They all moved into the house with Mr Washkevich and then worked on their house on the present Hamilton place moving there about a month later That summer the men all spent many hours clearing bush and breaking land with horses

In October of 1934, Mrs. Washkevich and son, Michael arrived at their new home in Canada. At the time Mike was nine years old. When she was shown all the land that made up a quarter section of land, it was very hard for Mrs. Washkevich to believe that they could possibly own all that property Back in the homeland the parcels of land had been divided up into very small lots

Each winter Mr Washkevich spent any spare minutes brushing land by hand. The first land breaking he did with horses and a one furrow plow He did about ten acres this way. The next piece of breaking was done by some of the Benson family at a cost of four dollars per acre, then in later years by Mr Bill Ainsworth who lived with the Harley Belt family and used a tractor that was owned by Mr O. B. Moore Mr Moore was well known throughout the area for helping many people obtain credit, land, machinery, stock or any other transactions necessary

The Mount View school was located to the north of the Washkevich farm about three miles and also a school was located near Leedale on the acreage presently owned by Mr and Mrs. Edwin Solberg Mike attended school at Leedale and his first teacher was Mr John Hambry To get to school, most of the children walked, but a few rode horses or had a buggy to ride in and drove a horse (if one could be found that would

In September, 1935 a daughter, Mary, was born. Mrs. Washkevich s sister Mrs. Zaetz attended as mid-wife but Dr John Byers, a well known practitioner in the Rimbey and Ponoka areas, who was then practising in Rimbey, had to be called At that time telephones were not common, so Mr Washkevich went to Polanuk s place and he had an old cat with which he drove Mr Washkevich to Leedale where Mrs. Lindsay, who then ran the post office, had a telephone. Dr Byers then came by car He practised in Rimbey until going into the services in World War II

Future births, Nena, in November 1937 and Peter in January 1940, were attended by Mrs Zaetz only Nadia was born in the hospital in Rimbey (presently auxiliary hospital) with the doctor in charge then being Dr Beugas. For quite a good many years there was no dentist in

[illegible]

The first land payment was to be cash (including all back taxes) Payment of $150 went to Joe Mikias to cover payment owed by Joe Klepadlo and a $40. commission to Klepadlo The first payment to the C.P R. was $150. (one

[illegible]

one-third of the crop as payments, taking about eight or ten years to pay for the land. During these years and on into the Depression years there was not money to pay taxes with, so the men worked for the municipality (which was the form of government then) at road building and

brushing of road allowances. The councillor at the time was Mr Hayward, father of Bob Hayward

In about 1936 or 37, five cows were obtained from Mr Jack Beatty, who was a hardware store owner in Rimbey Mr Beatty was very good about giving much needed credit to help the people and there were many people who obtained cattle to start a herd in this way. The method of repayment was that for each cow received, you had to raise a steer up to the age of two and one-half years and fatten it for him. There was no definite time period set for this, just an agreement that this would be as soon as possible

During the depression years many products were in short supply so rationing was put into practise. Major items involved were gas, coffee, tea, sugar and nylons which were rationed

A team and wagon was the only mode of travel for many years There was a hall, store and post office in Leedale and there were occasional dances held there and at the school house. School concerts were a very popular form of community entertainment and were eagerly

season's entertainment Spring picnics, usually held at the end of the school term were a popular annual get-together each year also, and everyone from near and far attended, regardless of whether or not their children attended the school or even if they had no children at all. Visits between friends were fairly often as the hardy folk travelled a good many miles for the pleasure of a visit. Such visits always produced an abundance of good home cooked foods — meats, coffee and especially the white breads (Occasionally there were also the products of a homemade 'still.') To ones who had come from a country where meals were hardly ever used and white breads were not known (their breads were usually made of home ground wheat,) these foods were considered a grand feast The Washkevich family and their friends were of the Orthodox faith and the only church of this faith in this area is still located in the Springdale community northeast of Rimbey, and although this was a great distance to travel in those days, the families did attend occasionally and especially for any religious occasions within their faith, or weddings or christenings

Mr Washkevich purchased the first family auto about 1943, from Gilman Benson. It was a used Hudson Terraplane and the price was $700 cash. The first tractor was purchased in February 1945 a Massey Harris on steel wheels It had taken many months of negotiating as due to the wartime steel shortage a permit was needed to be able to get a tractor The cost of that first tractor was $1,400 In order to qualify for a permit a farmer was required to have about 200 acres of cultivated land, so extra acreage was rented from some other people

The Zaetz family left for Winnipeg in 1941

who paid Mr Zaetz the sum of $600. to cover the cost of improvements and then took over the remaining C.P.R. lease Mr and Mrs. Hallin and daughter Karin lived there until about 1953

The family friend. Mr Steve Zaetz, was married in about 1939 in the church at Springdale presently St Mary's Convent). A wedding party followed at the Mike Zaetz farm where a record player was used for dancing music. From there the party then travelled to the bride's home at Alhambra, hiring Mr Louis Robinson with his truck to drive them as no one had a car yet Mr Robinson was in the business of buying furs seneca root also copper, bronze, etc He also did small hauling jobs for people for many years

Mike finished his Grade 9 schooling in Leedale (which was then a High School but that part was closed after only two years in existence Mary and Nena took their public school up to Grade 9) at Mount View, then Mary went to Red Deer to take Grade 10 and 11 Nena took up to Grade 11 in Rimbey, then she went to Red Deer Composite High for her Grade 12. Pete completed his schooling with Grade 9 at Mount View and Nadia, her high school in Red Deer

The family are all married now Mary (Mrs. Gordon Leblanc) has two children and lives in Montreal. Nena (Mrs. John Rowat) has five children and lives at Forest, Ontario, near Sarnia. Nadia (Mrs. John Papp) has four children and lives in Vancouver Pete married Sandra Cummings, they have three children and are presently living on the site where Mr Washkevich first began his farming operation Mike married Nettie Osatiuk, they have four children and until October, 1978 they farmed the land on which the old Leedale school was situated, moving from there to Red Deer that fall.

Mr Washkevich farmed the property for

many years, later acquiring two more quarters of land, sold the property to son Pete in 1969 and retired to the town of Rimbey where they still live

**WASHKEVICH, MICHAEL**

I came to Canada with my mother in 1936 to the farm my father had purchased north of Leedale. At the time I was nine years old. I do not remember too many details of the early years there as I was too young. From the time I was about 12 or 13 years old, I helped my father with the farm work, helping with the land clear ng by hand. When the cattle herd had increased we used to let them pasture along the road sides and on property that was not yet fenced. This was called "open range." As soon as I got home from school, it was my job to go and get the cows sometimes walking many miles to find them

I took my Grade 9 at the Leedale High School which was closed the following year. Then stayed home to help my father with the farm work. I bought my farm, one mile north of Leedale, in 1946 from Mr. Frank Fox. Before him the proper ty was owned by Mr. Claude Challand who farmed the land and lived on the quarter section to the southeast of it. This is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harrison. The small house on the property was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lush.

My first crop on the farm was seeded the spring of 1947. I lived at home until 1953, getting the use of my father's machinery to farm mine while helping with his farming. For many years our crops were threshed on a custom basis or ex change help basis by Mr. McElroy Sr. or Mr. Oscar Brown and later the Zkacik Bros.

Even though many of the roads were much improved by this time, the road between my farm and my father's farm was impassable every spring. There was many a time an un suspecting traveler had to be pulled from the mud holes with horses or a tractor.

The one-roomed school, which was located on the corner of my farm, was closed about 1960, and it was not until then that the road was graded up and gravelled for the school buses.

There was mail route service for many years even before I bought my place. The route wa driven by various people, a Mr. Thompson who lived near Rimbey, then Herb Beierbach and after I moved to my farm, Cleland Price, and ater the Giesbrecht family. Because of the poor roads in the early years this job involved many hours of hard travel and struggle with mud, crossing by way of fields and backtracking many extra miles.

In 1955 I married Nettie Osatiuk and we settled on my farm. Our children Irene, born in 1956, Ann, born in 1957, Olga, born in 1958, and Debbie, born in 1970 were all born in Rimbey and the older girls attended school in Rimbey travelling by bus until they completed their high school years. Debbie began her schooling in Rimbey also, but only went there two months until we moved to Red Deer at the end of October 1976.

**WAYENS, DAVE**

Dave Wayens homesteaded the NE 12-42-5-W5 in the early 1900's. He operated a steam engine at George Cumming's mill in winter and worked his homestead the rest of the year.

[redacted]

Peter (Emil) and Anna Wegreen, with four children, Walter, Evelin, Beatrice, and Mattie came from Montana to Red Deer, Alta. the fall of 1923, moving to the Leedale district the spring of 24. They lived on the Dahl homestead in 1924 and moved to the LaBelle place in 1925, later moving to the Leedale store to run the livery barn and eating place. Mr. Wegreen also hauled mail, groceries, etc. In 1927 they left the district, moving to Portland, Oregon.

Walter returned to Alberta about 1931. After serving three and one-half years in the army he moved to Red Deer where he still resides. Walter married Dora Parsons from Westlock. They have two children. Vivian Cameron, presently a nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary and a son living in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Evelin married Lindis Dahl and after his death married Cliff Andersen and lives at Canby, Oregon.

Beatrice married Bernie Stanfill and lives at Portland, Oregon.

Mattie married John Beck and lives at Sutherlin, Oregon.

**WELLS, SETH**

Seth Wells, born and schooled at Blackfalds moved with his parents and eight children, four girls and four boys, to the north end of Sylvan Lake in the early 1930's.

Seth had often travelled the Medicine River Valley in the 1920's, stopping to visit with the Mullback family when passing by. From 1933 to 1950 he travelled the Valley with his team of Shetlands, Bun and Bud, sharpening scissors and

[redacted]

knives, taking orders for sharpening discs which was done by his partner Clarence Aske He did not start his team in the usual manner but with a get out of town As well as his little team he also had a big grey team but didn't use them very often

Seth was well read and could discuss any subject

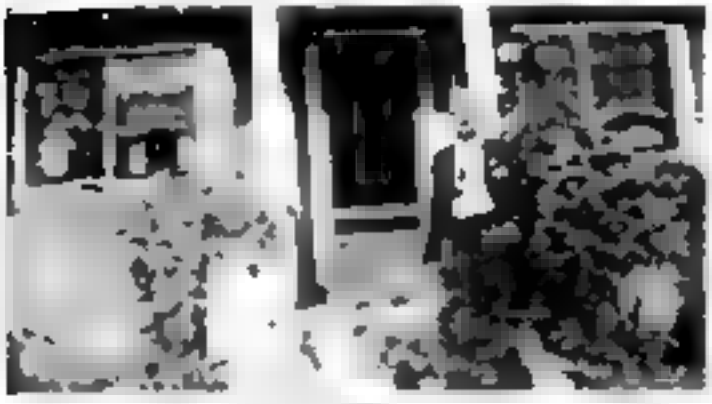
In 1950 he retired to Millet, making his home with Mr and Mrs. Pinyon until going into a nursing home. He is buried at Wetaskiwin

**WESTLAKE, MR. AND MRS. A. E. (BERT)**

Mr and Mrs. Bert Westlake purchased the NW 33-41-4-W5 after World War I and lived there until their only son, Ronald, took it over after World War II. Mr and Mrs Westlake then moved to British Columbia

Mrs. Elizabeth Westlake was a sister of Bill Lee, Mrs. Jack (Emma) Sherman and Mrs William (Alice) Andrew

Ronald married Liza Rutledge and they had three girls, Ginger, Ruth and Glenda when they moved to British Columbia in about 1950



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Westlake

**FIFTY-FOUR YEARS OF RODEO**

In 1966, at the age of 89 years, Frank Whitford of Leedale was looking forward to attending the Calgary Stampede for the 54th time. Though he has ridden in the parade since, he actually did ride in competition in the saddle bronc event in the first stampede held in 1912. It was his last time in that competition for he broke his hip, and it bothered him too much to ride broncs after that. His love for horses and riding never left him for he was still riding occasionally in his 90th year.

The son of a French half-breed mother and a Scots half-breed father, Frank followed his father and became a first-rate ranch hand. He came to Alberta with his father, Philip Whitford, who was active in the Riel Rebellion and assisted the Royal Northwest Mounted Police in their duties.

Frank worked on ranches around Morley for some time, receiving $35 per month. He knew

Mr. and Mrs. Whitford at home in Leedale, 1961

Rev. John McDougall, for he was the minister and also taught at Morley at that time

Frank first came to Leedale in the fall of 1930. The next spring he rented the Miles' farm, put in a small crop and was hailed out. This happened two years in a row so he left but returned in 1938 to homestead 13 miles west of Leedale

In 1951 he bought Mr Aske's house in Leedale and lived there until he was admitted to the Auxiliary Hospital in Rimbey in 1968

Frank Whitford was born December 2, 1876 and passed away November 12, 1970 at the age of 93 years, 11 months and 10 days

**NORRIS AND MATTIE WILLITS**

Norris and Mattie Willits with their five children, Arthur, Alice, Scott, Mildred and Nell, came to Alberta from Wessington, South Dakota in the spring of 1907. Mr Willits took up a homestead three and one-half miles east of what was called Wittenburg P.O., later it was named Leedale

Mr. and Mrs. Willits on their 25th Anniversary

In the spring and summer of 1908, Mr Willits and his son's Arthur and Scott, built a large log house and the family moved into it right away They had been living in what was called the Schrader house during the winter Mr and Mrs Willits lived in that house as long as they lived she passed away in 1949 and he in 1952

Arthur married Rosa Mottet, in 1913 they lived on his homestead for a few years finally moving to Everett, Washington with their three children Later on three more children joined the family circle. Arthur passed away in 1974, Rosa is still living in Everett

Alice married Frank Mottet in 1913; they had three children Frank passed away in 1921 Mildred the oldest of the children, married Lloyd Lyons, they live east of Ponoka. Ray married Pearl Hensley; they now live in Calgary and Lloyd married while in the Army and he and his family live in Burlington. Ontario

Scott never married

Mildred, married Fred Uhlig they had two children

Neil married Vivian Miller; they moved to Everett, Washington where they still reside They have one son

After Mildred's husband passed away, she lived with Scott on the old home place for seven years Then Scott sold the farm and had an auction sale with Russell C Cole as auctioneer They moved to Kelowna, B.C where they still reside

**THOMAS M. WILSON**

Thomas M Wilson lived on the NW 24-42-4-W5 now owned by Mr Abe Giesbrecht in 1931-32

He was born on June 15, 1874 at Timble Great [illegible] county in England. He was the son of an Imperial Army officer and served with the First Canadian Labor Battalion in the Great War where he was badly gassed and honorably discharged

Tom came to Canada in 1921 and lived in this area for some time before he filed on a homestead in 1932 and moved 20 miles west of Leedale and to the frontier district of Squaw Hills

He built a cabin in the true pioneer manner and also managed to break a few acres of land

Leedale was his closest town and he thought nothing of setting out on foot to get his supply of groceries and the mail

Early in 1935 Mr Wilson received word that he had inherited $11,500 from a relative in England and decided to return to the Old Country So it was, that on March 6, 1935 he and his faithful little dog, which was his constant companion, walked the long trail into Leedale for supplies

It was a cold and snowy day and on his return trip he stopped and had supper with a friend six miles west of Leedale After a brief stay he undertook to walk the remaining 16 miles

Apparently he was seized with a sudden heart attack and his frozen body was found the next day about one-and-one-half miles from his home with his faithful little dog standing on guard

Dr Byers, Coroner, and C P Fordham R.C.M.P. investigated and declared no inquest necessary

Mr Wilson's body, wrapped in a blanket, was

taken to Rimbey on the top of a truck load of lumber driven by Mr Varty The little dog icicles frozen to her mouth, was still by her master's side

A family who read the tragic story in the paper in eastern Canada wanted the little dog and it was shipped to them

And so ended the life of still another true pioneer who worked hard for so little

Mr Wilson's only relative in Canada was a brother, Bramley Wilson in Extension, B.C

Thomas Wilson, who was 61 years old was said to rest in the soldier's plot in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey on Sunday March 17 1935

Funeral services were arranged by the Rimbey Branch of the Canadian Legion

**MR AND MRS. WILTSE — CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

The Leedale Community united on Tuesday evening October 27, 1936 to honor Mr and Mrs Mortimer Wiltse who were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary

The affair took place in the Leedale Community Hall and a large gathering was present to mark the happy occasion

Mr Wiltse is 70 years and Mrs Wiltse 72 years of age, and they are both very active They were born in Athens, Ontario and were married at the same place. They moved to Moose Jaw Saskatchewan and in the year 1933 they decided to come to the Leedale district. The family is made up of two sons, Kenneth, living on the home place and Asa, at Penticton, British Columbia Another son passed away in Saskatchewan There are 13 grandchildren and nine great g[illegible]

The evening was enjoyably spent in games and dancing, after which the Leedale Women's Institute presented the guests of honor with a silver tray. Individual gifts were also received and a purse of money was made up of those pres ns

The whole evening was a complete surprise for Mr and Mrs. Wiltse, as they had been entertained at the home of Mr and Mrs. Terry Challand's for supper and were induced to pay the hall a visit afterwards

The best of wishes were extended to Mr and Mrs. Wiltse for many more years of happiness [illegible]

Mr and Mrs. Wiltse lived on the land now owned by the Leedale Colony and occupied by Mr Henry Tkachuk

**WILTSE'S FAREWELL.**

On Monday March 14, 1938 a surprise farewell for Mr and Mrs. Wiltse Sr and Mr and Mrs Wiltse Jr was given in the hall by the W I. A different form of amusement was displayed in a pick-up program and a sing song, followed by games and an hour of dancing. Mrs. F W Hancher W I. president, presented Mrs Wiltse Sr with a book, "Harbor Lights Home", and Mrs Wiltse Jr with a set of salad forks, and expressed the deep regret of the community on the departure of friends and neighbors

**ELWOOD AND DOROTHY YOUNG E. ½ 21-42-4-W.5 — written by Elwood Young**

I was born and raised in Alberta near Delia

My wife Dorothy was born near Donovan Saskatchewan

In June 1962 we bought the E ½ 21-42-4 W 5 from John and Mary Plumb and moved from Edmonton with our three children. We lived on the farm until November 1965 and then we moved back to Edmonton where I worked as a heavy duty mechanic until 1974. We then moved to Kelowna, B.C., to operate "Glenwood 66" on Highway 97 at Richter Street

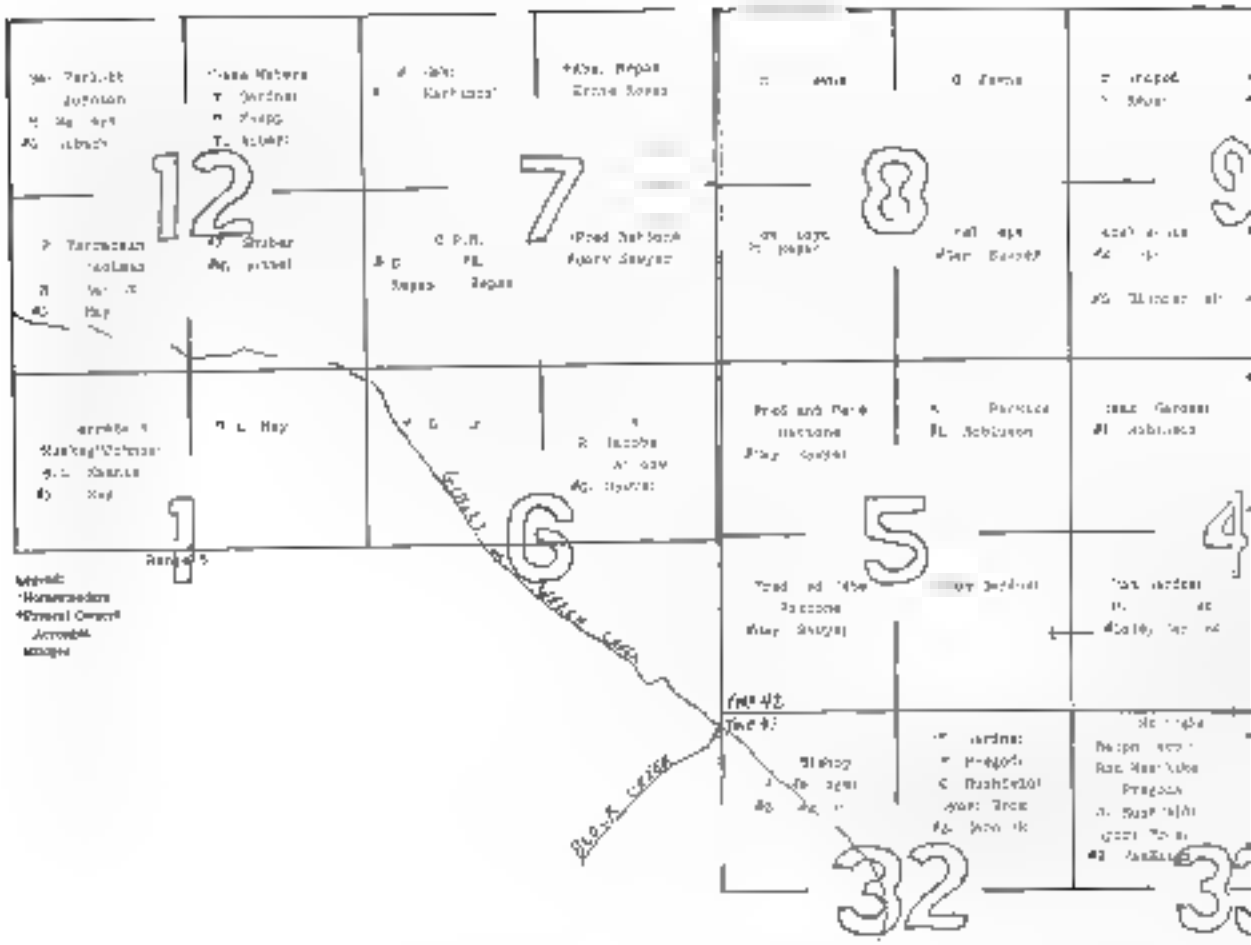
The farm was rented to Clarence Eklund and then Junior McElroy until we sold it to Larry and Abe Giesbrecht in the Spring of 1973

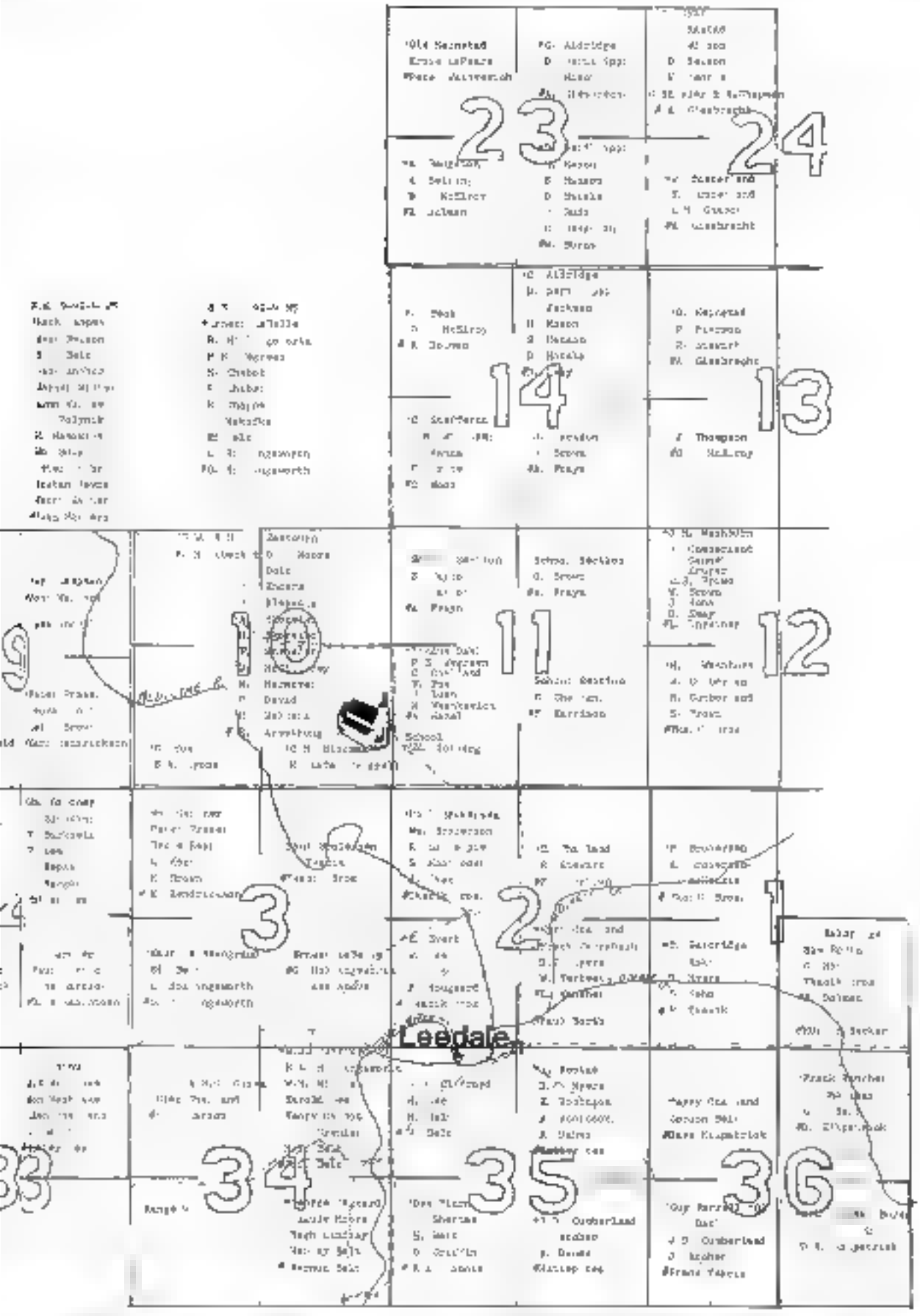
Our children, Kevin, Kim and Kathy are still at home. Kevin graduated from high school this year Kathy goes to senior high next year and Kim is working at the service station

# WITTENBURG-

# LEEDALE

# DISTRICT

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## JUDGE NOT

Pray don't find fault with the man that ..mps,
Or stumbles along the road,
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load.
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,
Though hidden away from view
Or the burden he bears, placed on your back
Might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today
Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall, or felt his shame
That only the fallen know
You may be strong, but still the blows,
That were his, if dealt to you
In the selfsame way, at the selfsame time
Might cause you to stagger too

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins
Or pelt him with words or stones,
Unless you are sure—yea, double sure,
That you have no sins of your own.
For you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice
Should whisper as soft to you
As it did to him when he went astray
Would cause you to falter, too.

# Leslieville

**BEAVER FLAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1914**

The Beaver Flat School District was established December 24, 1906 comprising of the following lands: Sections 19, 20, and 29-32 in 39, 5; Sections 23-26, 35 and 36 in 39-6. Sections 5-8 in 40-5; and Sections 1,2,11 and 12 in 40-6-W5. Mr Wm H. Cornell of Leslieville was Senior Trustee.

Authorization was given February 10, 1908 to borrow the sum of $350 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and furnishing a school house. The treasurer was Mr Theo. J Frodeen of Leslieville.

First Beaver Flat School built in 1908. Bell among logs by door in the background. Picture taken in 1924 by A. Joslin, teacher.

The sum of $350 was borrowed on March 31, 1909 upon the security of the Beaver Flat School District for the purpose of procuring a school site, erecting and equipping a school house. The treasurer was Mr Theo J Frodeen of Leslieville.

On August 5, 1925 the sum of $1600 was borrowed for the purpose of the erection of a new school building and equipment. The Treasurer was Mr S. Wilson of Rocky Mountain House.

The first Beaver Flat School was built on the portion of land donated by David Malcolm, it was built with logs cut on Leonard Malcolm's quarter. Miss Lizzie Martin was the first teacher and she boarded with the W F Malcolms. Leonard Malcolm was killed in action overseas during World War I and W F Malcolm donated a bell in memory of his seventh son - this bell was installed upon the roof of the new school built only a short distance from the log school house which later burnt to the ground in the late 1920s.

The new Beaver Flat School was built in 1925. Note the log hall on the roof. Picture taken in 1929 by J. H. Grant.

The next teacher after Miss Martin was Miss Goodmanson, then Mr Oliver, Mrs. Mitchell ? A. Meston) Patterson, Hope McKee, Miss Edmundson, Miss I. Strong, Miss V Leather, Miss A. Joslin, Mrs. C N. Beebe, Miss N Wade, Mr J Grant, Miss L. Lytle, Mrs. McDonald, Mr Wm McRoberts, Mr T Bowhay, Mrs M Stratton Rose (Erskine Brookes, June Hainer Crawford, M (Sande) Billings — supervising correspondence lessons, R. (McQuaig) Lynn.

The sale of the school site and buildings located on the SW 31-39-5-W5 was approved September 9, 1960.

**BELL, JOHN**

John Edward (Jack) Bell and his wife Hannah Jane (Jennie) and six children, Harry, Bill, Jack, Joyce, Elsie and Ina arrived in Leslieville March 26, 1926, from Carlisle, Cumberland, England, through the Soldiers' Settlement Board, and settled on a farm on the outskirts of Leslieville, NE-26-39-5 W5.

Mr Bell farmed all his life, and specialized in

purebred Shorthorn cattle; he also delivered milk to the hamlet, and one day a week bought hogs at the local stockyards.

The Bell family liked to curl and took part in many sports.

Harry married Bertha Reighley, and they have one daughter, Cheryl.

Bill married Lina Brock, and they have three children, Joyce, Gail and Bill.

Jack married Drexa Reighley, and they have one daughter Bonnie.

Joyce married Pat Cummerford, and they have three children Mary Ann, Jean and Jack.

Elsie married Alf Westwood, and they have one daughter, Fay, and they live in New Zealand.

Ina married Roy E. (Pat) Bourke, and they have three sons, Bob, Bill and Blake.

Jack Bell, Jr. died April 8, 1951.

Mrs. Bell died June 9, 1957.

Mr. Bell, Sr. died January 19, 1967.

**BINGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2565**

The Brock School District No. 2565 later known as the Bingley School District No. 2565 was established September 25, 1911, comprising the following lands: S17-20 and 29-32 in T40-5, S13, 14, 23-26 and 35-36 in T40-6-W5. Mr. S. A. Laragard of Bingley, Alberta was Senior Trustee.

The school district name was altered from Brock to Bingley December 11, 1911.

Authorization was given January 25, 1912 to borrow the sum of $500 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and equipping a school house. The treasurer was Mr. J. W. Christian of Bingley.

Approval was given on February 14, 1912 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Bingley School District situated at or near a point 60 rods west of the NE corner 24-40-6-W5.

Approval was given June 21, 1912 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustee of the Bingley School District, situated at or near the middle of the eastern boundary of S23-40-6-W5.

On June 10, 1913, the sum of $300 was borrowed for the purpose of completing and furnishing the school house. The treasurer was Mr. J. W. Christian of Bingley.

Teachers at the Bingley school were Elizabeth (Meston) Patterson, Miss Holmes, Miss Moseley, Miss Thompson, Mr. Harding, Mr. Birch, Mary Alberts, Mr. Carnett, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rushcall, Miss Marie Lund, Betty (Baldwin) Hartley, Mr. Holditch, Mr. Bruce Simpson, Mr. Holeton, Mr. R. McRoberts, Mr. Wm. Morris, Miss L. Dicken, Miss Ruth Hill, P. McQuaig, Lynn, Mr. T. Bowhay, M. Anderson, Schoderns, Mr. Pravalt, Margaret Reade, Mr. H. Rodgers, Divine, Mrs. Loewen, Mrs. R. Brookes.

The sale of the school site and buildings located on the SE 23-40-6-W5 was approved July 17, 1961.

After the Bingley School District was included in the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15, Mrs. M. L. Green of Bingley, Alberta was appointed Official Trustee on January 3, 1944. Mr. Frank Wilson of Bingley, Alberta was Official Trustee on July 12, 1945. Mr. J. A. Spears of Bingley, was appointed Official Trustee on April 14, 1947.

**ARTHUR BOTT FAMILY**

Arthur Bott married Myrtle Brooks of the Diamond Valley District on April 21, 1946. That fall they took up residence in Eckville where Art worked in the Alberta Wheat Pool with Joe Alcock. In the summer of 1947 they moved to Oras, where Art was elevator agent until it closed in the fall of 1948. They then moved to the Condor area and in the spring of 1949 Art went to work with Harry Lloyd of Leslieville, as a painter. In 1950 they moved to Leslieville. While in Leslieville Art and Myrtle were janitors at the school and Art joined the Elks and Myrtle, the O.O.R.P., both as charter members.

In the summer of 1954, they moved to Rocky Mountain House, as most of Art's work was there. Shortly after the move, Art joined the Rocky Volunteer Fire Department, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kinsmen Club. He was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for one year and president for one year. In 1965 he was elected to Rocky Mountain House Town Council on which he sat for three years. In 1969, when the Central Alberta Chamber gave up sponsoring the David Thompson Highway Cavalcade and turned it over to the Rocky Chamber, Art was appointed chairman of the committee, which post he held until the official opening of the highway in 1977 when the Cavalcade was discontinued. Art was appointed Deputy Fire Chief in 1965 and 1976. Upon the retirement of Fire Chief Bert McGrath, Art was appointed the new Chief, a position he still holds.

Art and Myrtle have five children: Eva, Ray, Sharon, Fred and Keith. The eldest daughter Eva, was married to David Glover in 1965. Dave is employed with Alberta Gas Trunk Line as a Senior Controls Technician. Dave and Eva live on an acreage eight miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House. They have one daughter, Tracy and one son, Randy. Art and Myrtle's oldest son, Ray, married Audrey von Hollen in 1971 and they live eight miles south of Rocky Mountain House. Ray is a Telecommunications Technician with Alberta Government Telephones. Ray and Audrey have one son John and one daughter Susan. Art and Myrtle's youngest daughter Sharon, is employed as an Accounting Clerk for the City of Red Deer and their two youngest sons, Fred and Keith, are still at home. Fred is presently employed with the Recreation Department of the town of Rocky Mountain House and Keith is in Grade 9 at School.

**BROOKS, HARRY AND ADA**

Harry and I Ada Wingate met in Eckville in 1944 I was employed at the bake shop working for the late Ernest Jackson who owned and operated it

Harry was one of the many truck drivers at that time at Eckville and one who took his coffee breaks at the Co-op lunch counter where most everyone else took theirs

It was there I was introduced to Harry and noticed he was a real tease and flirt with the girls that worked at the counter There were many young single girls working in Eckville at that time so I didn't expect I would ever have a chance to be dated by him even though I hoped

One evening Harry was asked if he could take a team of young people to Elspeth to play ball. To my surprise Harry asked if I'd like to go too. and I accepted

Harry was a busy truck driver along with the other truckers. He hauled everything from machines to people and I was employed at the store working for Mike Sestrap. One afternoon early that summer Harry came in and asked me for our second date Before that I figured he wasn't too interested. After that dates were more

Harry had Bruce Burns hired to help him. It was a rule that close deliveries were made in the evening then they could each take a girl with them One evening Harry asked me if I'd like to go with him. They were hauling a piece of machinery for a farmer at Sylvan Lake so I accepted. That night Bruce started to laug when asked what was so funny he let the cat ou [illegible] n order to decide which girls they [illegible] e they'd flip a coin and that night he was to take another girl and then he asked me. I think that ended the flipping of coins! Anyhow the dates became more regular and we were married in November of 1945

After our marriage we rented Harry and Mary Medin's house and lived there for five years. It was there our three eldest children were born and Harry got started in the saw mill business

He bought his first portable mill setting it up on the home place of his mother's, Mrs. Signe Brooks, doing sawing for some of the neighbors who came out and helped him. He also set his mill on the Charlie Snyder's farm and sawed there

In 1950 we bought a home in Lesliieville from John and Ruth Buckta. We moved October 20 that same year

While living at Diamond Valley Harry had rented the farm of his mother and dad. Harry's father passed away in December, 1947 at the age of 89

Harry farmed for about eight years along with bush work in the winter

Harry traded his small mill in on a bigger one and sawed for two months north of Wolf Creek for Knut Sunde

He worked two winters for August Moro at Jack Fish In the spring of 1952 when Harry and his brother Allan were moving out, the lights on the truck went out and they ended upside down in the ditch The tractor which they were hauling rolled back up on its wheels. The only tragedy was that the battery acid had eaten the seat of their pants! That fall of 1952 several men formed the Albert Creek Lumber Company They were Walt Hoglund, Ray Meyers, Art Johanson, Bill Palm (Sr.) and Harry Brooks. They hired Josie Kanis her husband Louie and daughter Marguerite to cook and bull cook

In the early part of 1954 Harry went up to Lac La Biche to help work in a mill. His stay there was very short In fact he beat a letter home that he wrote me by a week as the mill started to fly apart in all directions

In 1955 Harry bought Cliff Brierly a saw mill and camp. He sawed two years west of Sunchild then two years at Sylvester Lake and Doctor Lake south and west of the Sunchild. Jean Burdenhagen was then hired as cook as Josie's health failed her

Harry sawed two years north of the Nordegg up the Sunchild four years on the Wa Wa [illegible] ears at Rapid Creek, one year in Rocky Mountain House and two years at Rough Creek

He had hired many of the farmers from different areas, Rimbey, Bentley Sylvan Lake [illegible] House, Alhambra, Leslieville and other points including Indians from North Battleford Saskatchewan

We have seven children who have all attended the Elementary school in Leslieville and six who have graduated from David Thompson High Our three oldest daughters, Esther Leanne and Elaine have also graduated from Berean Bible College in Calgary Our next two daughters Carol and Judy are now attending Berean Coleen our youngest is taking Grade 11 at David Thompson High

Most of our daughters went to camp as campers under Youth for Christ, the older ones also were workers as well as counsellors at Frontier Lodge at Nordegg. Esther's and Leanne's husbands also worked there before they were married

Esther worked for awhile at Youth for Christ office in Red Deer. also worked for Social Development at Westfield in Edmonton

Esther and Leanne spent two months one summer working at Circle C Ranch in Delevan New York under Wes Aarum

Esther (Mrs Dave Thomas lives at Stettler Dave is the principal at Gadsby Elementary and Junior High School. They have two sons, Wa [illegible] and Dallas

Leanne (Mrs. Lyell Smith) lives at Leslieville they have a son Shane and a

daughter Jamie. At the present time Lyell is employed at the Revelstoke sawmill for the winter months and then trucks in the summer which is a new project for him. They have settled on a farm having bought the old Lauttamus

Charlie and his wife Juliann (Enslen) live north of Lesliеville having bought an acreage on his father's farm and built a new home there. Charlie is a truck driver hauls gravel and sand in the summer months and usually hauled lumber in the winter months for his dad and also helped with other jobs at the mill when short handed. Charlie is an active member in the Church. He belonged to the Boy Scouts when he was in school as well as the Cub Pack. Charlie and Julie have a girl and a boy, Melody and Marty.

Elaine worked at Reitmans in Red Deer from the time of her graduation from Berean Bible College until her marriage to Warren Bumber of Edmonton. She is employed for Aitrans of Canada and Warren is at present selling air planes. He took his pilot's training and instructing course at the Flying Club in Edmonton.

After residing in Lesliеville for 25 years, we bought a mobile home and moved out to the farm, formerly that of the late George Cummerford, a mile north of Lesliеville and have resided here for the past two years.

N.B. Ada Brooks has written the family story, and we conclude it with a poem she wrote. Ada is well known for her many poems, composed to commemorate birthdays, wedding anniversaries and farewells, and recited at the celebration of these events.

[illegible]

A tiny seed from the very beginning
Was created by God, and not to go sinning
Watered and nourished by his love
Tenderly watched by the Father above

While this seed grew to a tender stage
In crept the weeds with the enemies rage
Choking the growth of this tender plant
Interrupting the progress for which it was

Straying away from the straight narrow road
Being enticed from the Father's Abode,
Drifting on and heeding no warning
Of what lies ahead for another new morning

This plant became all twisted and bent
Unable to feed from God's nourishment
The vines of weeds entangled its life
Only crushing, crippling and causing it strife

Left all alone, blinded and low
Unable to care and unable to go —
Struggling along in a miserable state
Searching for help but almost too late

Then alas came a stranger loving and kind,
To assist this sick creature so out of its mind
And opened the sin blinded eyes to see
All hope is in Jesus, He sets us free

This is for All dear sisters and brothers
Take refuge in Jesus and telling all others
Flee from the powers of darkness today,
Cling only to Jesus while still you may

While the day of grace is still at hand
Hearken Ye, all to the Lord's Command
Only one life twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last"

Matthew 11 28-30 and John 3 16-17

**BROOKS, JAMES**

James Brooks of Irish and English origin was born in Tilsonburry, Ontario March 25, 1906. He went to Moosomin, Saskatchewan where he lived with relatives. He worked and operated the steam plant in the Robin Hood Flour Mills at Moose Jaw. James also lived at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, with relatives. It was there when working on a threshing machine that he got a barley beard in his right eye and lost the sight in it.

In 1911 he moved to the Diamond Valley district and took a homestead the NW 7-26-3-W5 which was too rocky for farming, although he did do some breaking on it, and built a log house there. He sold it to Frank Page who later sold it

James Brooks was known as a good neighbor always willing to help in time of need. He always enjoyed cutting the neighbor's children's hair and had always cut the Caton boys' hair. After Claude Caton got older he started cutting hair. To return a good deed he was giving Mr. Brooks a shave and a hair cut. Mr. Brooks always had a moustache but Claude didn't give any consideration to that and ended up cutting half of it off. Well, a decision had to be made either wear half of one or none at all."

James bought another quarter section from John Simons the NE 6-26-3-W5 where he lived and farmed.

It was there he met Oscar Anderson whom he worked with for sometime and then farmed the place for Mrs. Anderson after the death of her husband Oscar.

In 1920 he married Oscar Anderson's widow Signe Elizabeth (Eriksdattur) Anderson and they lived on the Anderson place the NW 10-26-3-W5. By her former marriage Mrs. Anderson had three children, Astrid, Arvid and Allan.

Mr. and Mrs. James Brooks then had three children of their own, James Harry born May 2, 1921, Alford Harold born September 1, 1923 and Eva Myrtle born November 21, 1925.

Their son Harry has seven children, six daughters and one son, and six grandchildren.

Myrtle (Mrs. Art) Bott of Rocky Mountain House, has three sons and two daughters and four grandchildren.

On finishing school Alford enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. He was stationed at Kingston, Ontario and then Dartmouth, Nova Scotia — then at Halifax where he met and married Beatrice Kir

by Alford took leading Aircraftsmen training then on to flight engineer

He was transferred to Comox, Vancouver where they lived a few years before being sent to Germany for three years. On their return Alford was stationed at Cold Lake until his retirement in September of 1973 after being in the R.C.A F over 30 years

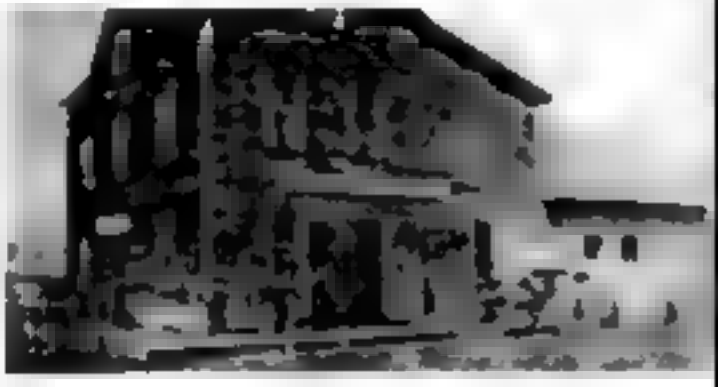
They now live at Summerland, B.C. Alford was employed for awhile as a mechanic for a trucking company at Penticton He is now selling P A. systems and installing them They have one daughter Joan Mrs. Lee Irwin) living in Calgary and one granddaughter Krista Lee

James Brooks passed away December 15 1947 at the age of 82 and his widow stayed on at the farm with her son Allan until 1957 when she moved into a small home in Eckville In 1961 she moved to West View Lodge in Rocky Mountain House where she resided for 10 years The James Brooks farm was sold to Andrew Nielsen in August of 1967

Mrs Brooks spent a year with her children spending some time in each home She then went to the Lodge at Sylvan Lake where she resided until her passing on September 3, 1973 at 94 years of age

**BUREAU, MR. AND MRS. EDMOND AND FAMILY — (by Mattie Martin**

Many times the name of Mr Bureau has been mentioned but nothing about his family. Mr Bureau was born in France but moved to the United States as a young man and studied to become a civil engineer His profession took him to different countries and he spent some time in China as well as France and the States before he came to Canada. He was a good natured man and was liked by everyone. In France he was married to Madeline Brunner who had formerly been married to Count Brunner and she had one little daughter named Isabel who was with them when they came to Leslieville Then another daughter was born in this country named Odette and before they left our district a son was born named Pierre — all nice children. Mr Bureau spoke perfect English but the others had to learn it, so when they first came to Red Deer Mrs Archie McKinnon undertook the job of teaching them English and they remained good friends ever after Mr Bureau saw the necessity for a store to help the new settlers so hired a friend of his, a Mr Galot (Galow), to come and start building. Also helping with the building was a young man from Sylvan Lake named Jules Armeneau. Soon, a fairly large building was erected the front part being used as a store and the rest for the family dwelling. A few years were spent there and then they sold to Messers Campbell and McKinnon and went back to France Mr Bureau, although being a Roman Catholic donated the land on the corner of his place for the log church to be built, where services were held for many years. In 1907 he applied for a post office and thus the Leslieville post office came into being



The first store in Leslieville built by Mr. Edmond Bureau — later bought by McKinnons.

**THE CARD FAMILY**

The Cards originated in Ontario. At one time, James Card owned a lot of property in Leslieville They had a 10 room hotel, more on the line of a boarding house, because of so many men needing lodging. The men worked at several sawmills around the country They also ran the general store, livery stable, sawmill, and feed grinder The boys were very talented, for they held steam engineer's tickets, and were very good with machinery

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Card very early settlers at Lesliеville

The sawmill and planer were located where the hotel is now

Mrs. Card lived to the age of 70 years Ironically she got her first pension cheque, but never did get a chance to cash it

Percy and Mabel Card 1966

Jim Card and sons had a saw and planer mill at Ferrier Ferg had a feed mill and sawmill on the creek bank Bill the oldest had no children Caleb (Kep had three children. Ferg. had one child. Herb had four children. Bertha (Card McCauley had one child. Roy had three children Lou and Floyd were never married.

**CLAUSS, PETER — by Dianna Clauss**

Peter Clauss immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1956. His first work was in the Brooks district where he worked on a farm for $25 a month plus room and board. When he had learned enough English to get by he moved to Medicine Hat and started work at the brick yards until they burned down

He met Dianna Reidlinger from Medicine Hat and they were married in 1962. Peter worked for Good Year Tire for the next few years

The couple were looking around for land and in 1966 they found a quarter north of Lesliеville They bought the SW 1 41-5 from Henry Stelfox but they didn't move out to the farm until the spring of 1971

That year was a wet year and there was just a trail of clay for a road so they usually ended up parking the truck at Centerview Hall and walking the mile home, carting groceries, and little Dennis Karl 8 years old at the time walked to Centerview Hall to catch the school bus and home again in evening. By next school year a new road was built and the bus came to the gate During this time both worked out part time and s[illegible]de

n 1973 Peter and Dianna bought the E½ 2-41-5 from Semeen Ahrameen. In 1977 they have started to build a new house on the NE quarter of his land and have had the electricity and gas put in. In the summer of 1977 a new gravelled road was put into the quarter where the new building site is. The family hope to be moved into their new home in early 1978 They have sold the original home quarter now, but plan to keep the Ahrameen quarters for living and farming

Peter and Dianna have two sons KARL, aged 14 years has attended Lesliеville school and is now at David Thompson He is very active in sports. DENNIS, aged nine is a Lesliеville school Both boys belong to the Lesliеville Cub and Scout Troup

**THE CRAWFORDS, (JAKE AND BOB)**

John Mowbray Crawford (Jake) was born in 1872 in the shire of Peebles in Scotland. He was looking for a land of opportunity in 1904 when he left Peebles where he had been employed in the gas-works, and crossed the ocean to Canada His wife, Margaret had died leaving him with two small children Robert who was six years of age and Grace, two years younger They were left in Scotland with their grandparents while their father journeyed to Brookdale Manitoba, where he found employment on a farm

Jake remarried and a second daughter, Jean

had been born in Canada, when he returned to Scotland two years later to take his two older children to Canada also. After his return to Brookdale he moved his family a few miles away to Moore Park, where he had been offered an increase in wages to manage another farm. His income was now $75 a month for eight months of the year and $40 a month for the four winter

His second wife died in childbirth when their tiny third daughter Ellen was born, weighing only one and one-half pounds. Her bassinet was a shoe box lined with cotton-batting and somehow miraculously she survived. Jake advertised for a housekeeper and Miss Henderson arrived from Toronto to care for the family, remaining with them until 1912.

A hired man who had worked with Jake on the farm, moved to Alberta and sent word back, urging him to also take advantage of the opportunity to own his own land through the Homestead Act which would allow him to occupy and improve a quarter section. If he met his obligations within the prescribed time limit, he would receive the title to that quarter and he could acquire another quarter nearby, by paying $3 an acre to purchase it. This was called a pre-emption. The Crawford family moved to Manyberries, laid claim to a homestead and eventually acquired a pre-emption as well.

After Bob completed his education, he assisted his father on the farm during the summer months and hauled coal from the mines to Lethbridge in the winter. He served in the army during World War I and remembers having to carry dead bodies out of the tents when the 'flu was rampant in 1918.

Bob met his future wife, Hilda Adams, at a Valentine Dance in Lethbridge, in 1919, after his discharge from the army. Her parents, Annie Elizabeth and William Albert Adams, had left Yorkshire, England, in 1911. William, born in 1879, was the eldest of 12 children and had

started working in the coal mines at the tender age of 10 years to help support the large family. After he was married, he worked to obtain the papers which allowed him to become a pit boss in the mines. He became very ill and they debated whether to emigrate to Australia or Canada. A younger brother Tom had moved to Canada and made his home in Lethbridge, Alberta, so they decided to follow him and crossed the ocean with their four children, Hilda, eight years of age and her three younger brothers, Bryan, Billie, and Stephen. There had been a suspected case of smallpox on board the ship so they were quarantined on St. Croix Island for 18 days before being allowed to enter Canada and to continue on their journey by train to Lethbridge.

Hilda's father first obtained employment with the John Deere Company for a wage of twenty five cents an hour. Later he moved his family to Diamond City where he received better wages as a pit boss in the coal mine. He augmented his income by transporting travellers on their way to and from Lethbridge, across the Belly River in a rowboat, charging 25 cents per person. He bought a farm in 1917 and then two cows for which he paid $125. Prices had risen during World War I. Hilda's mother became noted for her butter which she sculpted into delicate flower petals for her customers. Later they moved into Coalhurst where William received an increase in wages as a haulage boss in the coal mine. Hilda's youngest brother Bobby, was born in 1918. She remembers well the "flu" epidemic of 1918-1919 when she assisted in nursing the many victims and then came very close to death herself.

Bob and Hilda were married on May 24, 1921

Manyberries. Her parents bought a farm near Bluffton and moved north to it in the same year. Bob and Hilda's first son, Bryan, was born in 1922 and his brother Larry in 1924.

The crops in the area had been very poor, year after year, because of drought and the government offered the farmers free transportation if they wished to move off their homesteads to a new location. One day in 1924, the Watkins salesman told Bob that he also would be a good salesman and urged him to apply for a territory which was available, bounded by Innisfail on the south, Lacombe on the north and as far west as he wanted to go. He submitted his application and was accepted. The last thing that he did before moving out was to pay his taxes in order that he would be allowed to move his buildings and equipment.

He drove his ponies pulling the medicine wagon from Manyberries to Bluffton a distance of 350 miles. Hilda followed by train with Bryan two years of age, and Larry, a baby only two weeks old.

They had considered living in Eckville but the McTavish family who had been neighbours in Coalhurst, had purchased land northeast of

Leslieville so the Crawfords rented a house in Leslieville from Bill Barron until the house was built which stood where John's Park and Oil and Gas Ltd. is now located. They sold this house to Joe Mannix and bought the Pool Hall with living quarters, which was situated between the Post Office and the old Butcher Shop on Main Street. Bob continued selling Watkins products until 1932, at first depending upon his ponies to draw the medicine wagon, then horses, which were later replaced by a Model T Ford. He depended upon the hospitality of his customers for lodging while travelling through his large territory. He was told "There's no use going west of Rocky Mountain House. Bob. There's no money out there!" He found this also to be true when he collected taxes for the Municipal Districts of Golden West, Lochearn and Raven during those difficult [illegible]

Bob's father, Jake, decided to relocate also and moved from Manyberries to Leslieville in 1925. He bought the N.W. 13-5-W5 from Clarence Fitch and farmed it until 1942 when he died at the age of 70 years. Miss Henderson moved into a small house which Bob owned in Leslieville and lived there until her death in 1945.

One day in 1932 Bob was offered a dealership [illegible] reminisces, "That was the turning point — it was [illegible]

His business expanded. He was also selling B.A. Oil and Gas, fertilizer, Dodge, Plymouth, Chrysler cars and trucks so the Pool Hall became an office and an addition was built to accommodate the equipment.

The family had also grown and now included two daughters, Margaret, who had been born in 1927 and Patricia in 1935.

Children and adults alike were [illegible] resourceful in those years providing much of their own entertainment. A curling rink was constructed — of straw! There were four hundred guests in attendance at a Farmer's Ball in 1926. Chautauquas were held in the Community Hall. Movies were shown occasionally and the children would adapt some of the incidents to stage a "Great Trek" of their own, assembling all the "kids" baby buggies, carts, bicycles, wagons, etc. — even going so far as to lord the creek or to burn one of their number at the stake! Allan McMeekin was tied to a clothes-line pole, the fire was lit, but everyone became frightened and ran away when the rubber soles on his running shoes began to melt. Luckily his mother saw what was happening and rescued him just in time. One Hallowe'en the C.N.R. train stopped in Leslieville for water. McCallums' outhouse was loaded on a flatcar and transported to Nordegg. A buggy was taken apart, carried over a high board fence, piece by piece, and reassembled in Sam Gormley's backyard which had no gate! A great deal of work was accomplished by threshing crews, wood sawyers, barn raisings, quilting bees but there was always time for relaxation and entertainment after the work was done.

With the advent of World War II, Bryan enlisted in the army and Larry in the air force. Margaret married Bob Manning in 1945 and they have two sons, Stanley and Larry, and one daughter Patricia. Bryan married June Hafner in 1946 and they have one son, Rod, and two daughters, Julie and Vicki. Patricia married Les Ferguson in 1951 and they have three sons, Don, Grant and Dwayne and two daughters, Gwen and Barbara. Larry married Norma Bateman in 1964 and lives in Stettler. Margaret lives at Hartell, Patricia lives in Red Deer and Bryan lives on Grandpa Jake's farm south of Leslieville. Rod Crawford married Barbara Bradshaw in 1971. They have a son, Blake, and live at Condor Corner. Vicki married Garry Bertagnolli in 1971 and they live at Alhambra. Julie married Laurie Bertagnolli in 1972. They have a daughter, Kelli, and a son, Terryl, and live in the Dovercourt District. Bob and Hilda now have 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 56th anniversary in 1977.

Bob became secretary-treasurer of the Rocky Mountain School Division in 1956 and they moved to Rocky Mountain House after living in Leslieville for thirty-three years. Ill health forced him to retire in 1963. He is a charter member of the Leslieville Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and served as secretary for 14 years.

They continue to live in Rocky Mountain House where Hilda is actively involved in the Memorial Presbyterian Church Choir and Women of the Church Group, the Hospital Auxiliary, the Women's Institute and the Pioneer Centre Senior Citizens Group.

**CUMMERFORD FAMILY**

Patrick (Doc) Cummerford was born in Ireland, and came to North Dakota, later moving to Potlatch, Idaho. From there he came to Leslieville in 1919, accompanied by his wife and two sons, George and Charles. He took land just north of the present village, which came to be known as the Cummerford Ranch. In Idaho he had practised the profession of veterinary science, and continued this work when he came to Canada. He died in United States in 1926. His wife, known affectionately by everyone as "Grandma Cummerford" continued to live in Leslieville until she passed away.

Besides taking up land, he and his two sons also purchased one of the local stores, the Leslieville Mercantile, which remained in the family until 1968. Charles and his wife Harriet also lived in Leslieville for five years, until his health forced their return to the States. The original store was located one block west of the present site.

Mrs. Effie Cummerford and her son Pat, aged four years, came to Leslieville in 1921, after the death of her husband, Jack, in the United States.

She later married George, who, along with her son Pat, operated the store for many years

Pat Cummerford married Joyce Bell, and they lived in Lesheville until 1963, when the family moved to Red Deer. Along with his partner Mr A. Payne, Pat operated Central Alberta Music Systems until 1976

Pat and Joyce have three children, Mary Ann Mrs A. Machan , Betty Jean (Mrs. A. Ward), and Jack, who is married to Marilyn Cave. all of whom live in the Red Deer area

Pat died in 1977 His wife still makes her home in Red Deer

**DEVEREUX, CYRIL (BID) AND KAY — by Bid**

We left Veteran, Alberta in October 1943 After a series of very dry years with dust storms and grasshoppers to put up with, we were looking for greener pastures

We bought the NW 3-40-4-W5 and SE 3-40-4-W5 from Vance McCarthy two and one half miles northwest of Lesslieville. We had an auction sale down there and shipped a mixed car of livestock up here, we left a neighbor lad to accompany the stock and we came here in time to attend the McCarthy sale to pick up some items we would need

Neighbors here were very good to us. the Schiebs, Hainsworths and Barretts had us stay overnights at their places until we got our house in order, the boys were small then, Francis nine and Wayne five, so they were not able to help much

About the time of McCarthy's sale we had heavy wet snow and it turned quite cold, but it soon cleared up and the snow all left and we had very little the rest of the winter Francis started going to school at Campbell just one quarter mile away Mrs. Norman was teaching at the time

For a while Kay and I were very homesick and missed our old friends and neighbors and also the wide open prairie. Our half section here seemed very small., while we had only one quarter of seeded land down there, we had quite a lot of grazing lease, I believe at 2½c per acre and for crop lease we gave one sixth to the "Special Areas" Also in the fall when the crops were in, we had what they call Free Range and could let our stock run out if we wished

As time went on we made new friends and felt more at home here. On the prairie we had only one neighbor less than a mile away, here we had four so didn't feel nearly so isolated

Our first crop here in 1944 was very good. the oats ran over 100 bushels per acre, which helped a lot We were milking seven or eight cows and started raising pigs and keeping some range cows, so we made out not too badly

Francis took Grade 11 and 12 in Red Deer and then took up Air Craft Engineering at Calgary Technical Institute After finishing the three years' course there he worked for AVRO Aircraft in Toronto. He worked on the ill-fated AVRO Arrow and when the Government cancelled the go ahead on it he was offered a job in Quebec City for Defence Reaschevich Establishment where he still works. He is now married and his wife works at the same place

Wayne went through high school in Lesslieville After graduation he took a job with a surveying outfill for a while. then took a heavy equipment operators course in Idaho, U.S.A After graduating there he did cat skinning also had a gravel truck for a while. now he is in the back hoe business and has also taken our farm over He married Jackie Livingston in August

1980. They have three children, Greg 15, Pam 14, and Brad eight years. Jackie is presently employed at David Thompson High School as Librarian.

Kay and I are semi-retired and living on the acreage that Wayne and Jackie had previously on NW 1 10-4-W5.

**DOUPE, TOM**

The Tom Doupe family rented the Carl Holmes quarter in the Bingley district from 1932 to 1935, then from 1935 to 1944 they lived in the Carlos area.

In 1944 they moved to the Fred Street farm at Leslieville for four years. Then they rented the farm of Ernest Johnson (brother-in-law of Bert Doupe) for another four years before moving to

For family story, see the Carlos district

**DURBEN, HENRY AND BRICKLE, CHARLES — (by Mattie Martin**

Another couple of "old bachelors" who came in the early years were Henry Durbin and Charles Brickle. They also lived up back of the hill north of town and had brought some settler's effects with them along with a yoke of oxen. They were supposed to work together but like most people who try that, they found out it didn't work so they split up and Brickle was the first to leave. Henry's mother came to stay with him for a while but she too went back to the States. Henry Durbin was a very curious person, always asking questions. In a few minutes of conversation with him he would nearly learn a person's life history. He too got tired of farm life and left the country never to be heard of again.

**ENNIS, WILLIAM—Information from Earl Beaven and Florry Bobier**

One of the very early pioneers of Township 41 Bill Ennis. filed a homestead claim on June 12 1909, and lived the rest of his life in the north Leslieville area. He homesteaded the S.E. 3-41-5 W 5, the quarter now owned by Dave Trevelyn across the road west of Centerview Hall.

Bill was born near Port Carling, Ontario in 883. He moved west to Manitoba as a young boy. Later he came to Alberta and worked in the Lacombe and Blackfalds area. He got a job at the livery stable in Lacombe. He freighted goods and took people out to look for homesteads. One time he even drove a Mountie out to pick up a law breaker. He joined the army in the first World War, but only got as far as Ireland.

Bill was "quite a ladies man", but remained a bachelor all his life. In the old days he owned a spanking team of drivers, and a nice buggy and cutter and no school teacher ever lacked for a way to get to a dance. He was always there to lend a hand in organizing a picnic or a dance, and he took an active part in school affairs. He called the quadrilles at all the dances for many years. He was a neighbor highly respected and well liked by a

Sometime about 1964 Bill retired to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House after spending 55 years on his land. In the fall of 1966 he passed away, and a former Washington Heights teacher and friend, Ivy (Greentree) Houchen arranged the funeral, and burial, in a Field of Honour in a Calgary cemetery.

**ENSIGN THEODORE (TED) AND MARSHALL — by Mattie Martin**

It was possibly about 1907 or 1908 when Ted Ensign came to our district and settled on the land at the foot of the Butte Hill which had been vacated by Mr. Johnny Campbell. With him came a young man named Leigh (Lee) McMillan who also took a quarter near there. They were quite a pair of bachelors, especially Ted, who was noted for his pancakes. Whenever there was a picnic or a party Ted would always offer to make the pancakes and they were good too. He wasn't much of a farmer and used to boast about how he had gone to "Ohio State University". Someone jokingly remarked one time that he had gone in one door and out the other. Be that as it may, Ted was a very likable kind of person and came from a very fine family as we found out after his parents had visited here one summer. They were nice people, the father being a Methodist minister. Ted was a very good tenor singer and was a member of our choir at the little log church for many years, and was always will

Marshall, his younger brother, came out later and lived with Ted on the farm but he did not take too kindly to farm work so didn't stay too long and went back to the States. Ted, however, stayed on, helping to clerk at McKinnon's store for a long time and finally married Miss Julia McKinnon. She passed away not too long after and is buried in the Leslieville cemetery. Several years after, about 1950, Ted was married to Mrs. Jim McCarrol and they lived at Condor and

Niska until his passing a few years ago. Before his marriage he lived for some time with his friends at Withrow — long enough to be jokingly referred to as "Mayor of Withrow" Ted, as he was called was well informed, community spirited and well liked

**LARS ERITSLAND FAMILY — LESLIEVILLE**
**by Marie Guenther**

Lars Eritsland came to Alberta in the spring of 1916 and worked for Mr Eggen at Blackfalds for a few months to earn enough money to move the rest of the family and belongings up here

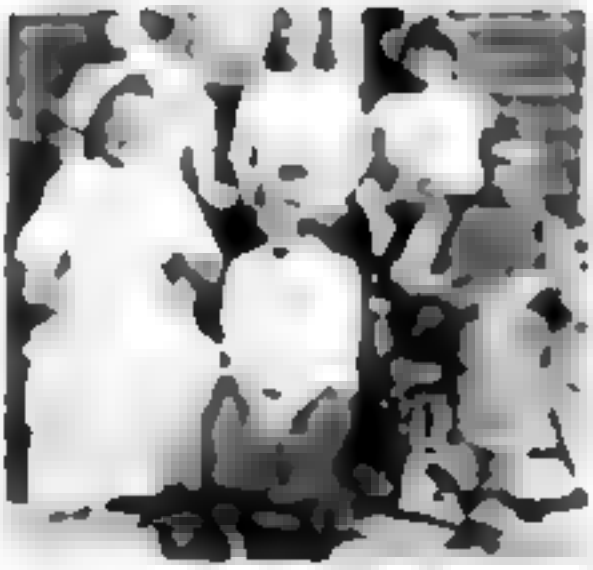
In Oregon they had owned two houses and a 100 acre farm at Eugene. These were traded straight across for two quarters in Alberta, sight unseen. One of these quarters was the one west of Leslieville where the Eritslands eventually built a big house which is still there, now owned by Martin Vandenberg This quarter had been homesteaded by Mr E Pryor The other quarter was two and one-half miles north of Alhambra Agnes and her husband later bought and lived on this quarter It had been homesteaded by Mr Woods. The remains of his log cabin can still be seen along the creek bank

In July, 1916, the younger members of the Eritsland family and their mother, Anna Marie arrived at Leslieville The children were Paul 16), Ida (13), Agnes (11), Anna (nine), and Esther (seven

The first year that the Eritslands were here Lars had planted potatoes at Blackfalds where he was working In the fall, his good wife Anna Marie, went and dug them. She had them hauled to the railway tracks, intending to flag down the train and get them moved home to Leslieville For some reason the train didn't stop, so she stayed overnight with friends. After making arrangements to have her potatoes put on the next train, she set out to walk home down the tracks and walked all but 11 miles when she was given a ride on a speeder

In May 1917, Emma 15 and Hilda (23) came up from Oregon Hilda taught school at Bingley till the fall of 1917 when she returned to Oregon to marry Victor Stratton. In 1931 they moved to Alberta to homestead at Condor Hilda taught in several schools in the area over the years and after they moved to Red Deer she taught children at the Provincial Training School for many years. She now lives in Mission, B.C They have seven children Julia (Mrs, N von Hollen of Hatzic. B C , Victor of England, Lillian (deceased , David and Lucille of Oregon, U S.A and Douglas and Daniel in the U.S.A

Emma got a job teaching in Prairie Rose School in 1917; at that time it was between Lesueville and Condor In 1918 Emma taught at Talma where she was the first teacher in the district She lived upstairs in the old log house that was used as a school room She married Andrew Hjortaas, a minister They lived at Sylvan Lake and held services in many areas between



Back row Ida, Anna and Agnes Eritsland Front row: Mrs.

Rimbey, Leslieville, Alhambra and Sylvan Lake From there they moved to Macrorie Saskatchewan, where they lived for 30 years Then they moved to Calgary where Andrew died Emma now lives in Camrose They had one adopted daughter, Freida, who lives in Camrose

In 1922, Oscar 26 moved to Leslieville after the death of his wife in a fire in Chicago, bringing with him his two year old daughter, Esther He later married Mildred Magrath and moved to Calgary then later to Lethbridge where his wife still lives. Oscar died in 1971. They have six children besides Esther who is at Woodstock Illinois. They are Bernard in U S.A ), Dorothy, Marie Lawrence, Rosalind, and Carol in Van

Lydia, the oldest daughter married Jappe Dahle in Minnesota and remained there on a farm to raise nine boys and one girl and as far as is known they live in the United States. She died in 1960

Of the family who came to Alberta in 1916, Lars died in 1930 of a stroke Anna Marie, the mother remained on the farm with Paul for many years, eventually moving to Alhambra to live near Agnes She lived to be 96 years and lived alone looking after herself until she was 94 At the age of 91, Anna Marie was discovered upon her porch roof one day reshingling it. She was very active till she broke her hip at 94, in a fall in the house

Paul remained on the farm until 1970 when he retired to Red Deer with his wife the former Cecil Hogberg whom he married in 1946. He died of cancer in 1977

Ida married Rudy Lowe of Blackfalds and lived on a farm there till her death in 1965 of cancer They had twelve children two of whom died in their teens. Peter lives in Australia, Lor-

na in Red Deer Lawrence in Calgary Marjorie in Rimbey Ralph in Alberta Betty in Red Deer, Donald in Calgary Dorothy in Mirror Norman in Warburg, and Thelma in Lacombe

Agnes taught school at Hay Lake for one year at Harmonian for two years and at Leedale and Hoadley

Esther taught at Fuller and Midland Schools Esther and Agnes married brothers, Earl and Victor Stollings and farmed at Rimbey for several years. In 1936 Agnes and Victor moved to Alhambra where they farmed for a few years Agnes taught school at Alhambra for many years. They raised one boy and three girls Robert is married and has two children. The family lives in Red Deer Marie (Mrs. N Guenther) lives in Alhambra district and has five sons and two daughters. Myrtle (Mrs. J von Hollen lives in Haney, B.C. and has three children Helen (Mrs. C. Andrews) lives in Blackfalds and has three children. Agnes died in 1964 of cancer

Esther and Earl and their two boys moved to Saunders where Earl worked for the forestry While there they had two girls, Cecil and Lars married and live in Edmonton. Shirley (Mrs Chalmers) lives in Caroline. They have two children. Mavis (Mrs. W Weber) lives in Calgary. They are expecting their first child this year They eventually retired to Jasper Esther died of cancer in 1971

Alma taught at Leedale for five years. She farmed at Rimbey till the death of her husband Alma then moved to Rimbey and then to Red Deer where she now lives at the Centennial Courts. They have two sons and three daughters Bernard, Iris, Linda, Mark and Betty-Ann. Bernard and Gladys with their family live at Round Hills. Iris Mrs. Nasti lives in Victoria and has eight children. Linda is married, has a family and lives in Edmonton. Mark is married and resides in Edmonton. Betty-Ann is married and they have one child, they live in Eastern Canada

**FENG, R.**

R. Raymond Feng, was born January 1885 at Zagrow near Pozun, Mecklenberg, East Germany I understood from my father that the name Fenning was an alteration from Fennigan as my parents were supposed to have come from Ireland

My father was a building contractor and also for awhile Mayor and also in charge of the fire brigade of Zagrow I remember well, a very large church my father had built where I used to sing as a choir boy It had a very large organ and a beautiful picture hanging over the altar which I have heard the Russians took after they occupied East Germany. I attended school in

In May 1912 I immigrated to the U.S.A. to live with my aunts at Scranton, New York Between 1912-1914 I used to go west to work on farms, particularly at harvest time In 1915. I bought a quarter of land near Hertzfield, Wells County in North Dakota. My first crop was mostly flax with some wheat. The same year I volunteered for the army but was turned down on physical grounds

In 1917 I enlisted in the army but was discharged later in the year I then went west to Seattle and found a job riveting in Skinner's Shipyard, until I was laid off due to the slump in ship building after the end of the first war

From Seattle I went to Aberdeen, Washington to work in a logging camp. this was in 1919. I worked on the steam engines. One of these was rated at 3,000 H.P and was built by Washington Iron Works They built six of these engines and then stopped as they were too heavy to move Oliver Salmon and Harry Goldin worked at the same mill.

I owned a small acreage just outside of Aberdeen and built a house on it I had become acquainted with a Mr William Turner who owned a quarter just south of the present Cross Roads Store. (His land is now owned by Russ Parr) Mr Turner told me about Alberta

In 1926 I sold my property and moved to Alberta coming up through Kingsgate. I brought a few pieces of furniture with me, which came by ra

I remember a terrific hail storm that wiped out everything around Leslieville just after I arrived, however, just a mile north there was no

I bought the quarter Jack Leslie now owns. the SW 28-40-5. I plowed 42 acres and broke seven acres the first year, and dug a 40 foot well, just south of the house where Jack lives now This was really good water, but unfortunately, where I dug was on the road allowance and the well was filled in when the road was surveyed

In 1934 I sold the SW 28-40-5 to Paul Hansinger for four very small heifer calves and 400 board feet of 2 x 4 lumber I moved to the W ½ 16-40-5, known as the Moser place. (Henry Moser worked at freighting and building in Billings, Montana) I rented this Moser land for about 10 years, and I also farmed the NW 30-40-5, known as the Carl Holmes place and also the NE 8-40-5 at the same

Around 1943 I bought the SW 22-40-5 and I later bought the NW 22 to make a half section This later quarter was homesteaded by Gordon Tink's father I bought a D 2 "cat" in 1948, it was the first in the district

In 1964 I sold this land to Dennis Anderson although I continued to live there for awhile. In 1967 I bought the land farmed by Gilbert Maitland E ½ 34-41-6. In 1972 I sold this land and

In 1973, I got tired of being retired and bought the NE 4-41-6 where I am farming now I have cleared nearly all of the quarter since I came here

I am now 58 years of age, and keeping quite active, busy and enjoying life

**FOURNIER, GEORGE — (by Minnie Martin.**

George Fournier was a quiet, nice young man who came from eastern Canada about 1907 or 1908 and took up land on the Blueberry hill. He was just a very young fellow and trying to farm without too much money and machinery was a task he couldn't cope with so he didn't stay too long in the district. He used to come to church and to any picnics or other affairs that were held and we all thought a lot of him but he left after a short stay and went back to his former home

**FREYLINGER, PETER AND HELENA FAMILY — by Mrs. Walter McMeekin**

Peter Freylinger was born in Esch sur Azette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on June 8, 1891 the son of Nicolas Freylinger and Katherine Schmidt

Helena Sassel was born in Esch sur Azette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg August 3, 1890 the daughter of Michel Sassel and Suzanne Reuter

My parents grew up in Luxembourg where the official languages are French and German while the national language is Luxembourgeois They received their education there

In 1911 Dad immigrated to Canada, at first being employed in Nova Scotia, and a year later came west to Coalhurst, Alberta, where he worked in the coal mines. Mother joined him there a year or so later

In his quest for a farm Dad came to Central Alberta and the Hespero — Evergreen area. In 1919 they bought the former Lawrence Fritch farm SW 18-36-4 W5) and moved there

Dad wanted a bush farm lots of bush the prairies were so barren of trees and windy He got it and spent many years clearing the land and breaking it, to make it suitable for mixed farming The work was done by horses The tractor being used much much later in farming operations

There was an abundance of wild berries, flowers and wildlife right on the farm. Prairie chickens and rabbits were very plentiful This put meat on some pioneers' tables when not much else was available

Roads were built with horses scrapers and lots of "man-power" They were dirt, and in marshy places corduroy with dirt. In the spring some of these became boggy and inundated and the dirt was washed away or the logs sank into the bog, so had to be repaired. In the winter the snow drifts were very high across the roads in places and travel was almost impossible

Travel was by horses, sleighs and cutters in the winter and wagon, democrat or buggy in the summer. Cars were very rare. We rode horseback walked, (some had horses and buggy or sleigh to get to our one room school We lived three miles from Daisy Nook the school we attended Grades 1 to 8 were taught there in the early years and later in the 30's high school One teacher taught all these grades — including the high school

The teachers I remember are Mr Stewart Meeres, my Grade 1 teacher and following him Mr Glenworth Jones, Mr Norman Lougheed Miss Hilda Lawrence (now Mrs. Jonas Anderson), Miss Aileen Hallman and Betty Baldwin (now Mrs Robin Hartley), the last of which I must pay tribute to for helping us all so diligently in our quest for senior matriculation

Box socials and dances nearly always raised funds for our annual Christmas concert and a community picnic always ended the school year

The nearest doctor if there was a resident was Eckville, Rocky Mountain House or Red Deer

Telephones were few, our closest being at Frank Cerny's one and a half miles distant Radios were rare until the 30's when they became more common. The hand wound gramophone was one source of music, a few had these. Coal oil or gas lamps were used for lighting and wood for heating

Holidays such as Christmas and Easter were spent and shared with neighbors, few had relatives near. Neighbors visited each other often and an evening of entertainment was sometimes playing cards, the accordian or other musical instrument the gramophone and [illegible] versing and the serving of lunch and coffee

Most social events were held in the one room school, such as dances, concerts, an occasional silent movie and church services. All partook in these occasions, young and old intermingled They were truly family get-togethers

A community hall was an urgent need. Both [illegible] parents were active in community affairs and participated in every way they could to help in the building and management of the Evergreen Hall

Dad served as a school trustee on the Daisy Nook School Board for many years and was also [illegible] (when road building and repairing took place) at [illegible] time.

Dad was of a serious nature, was an avid reader with a deep passion for learning. He was an interesting conversationalist and loved to recall events of the past. I'm sure his friends and neighbors will recall hearing the tale of the obstinate horse he once owned on the prairies that nothing on earth could move — once it had decided to stop, no matter where, and also of the time when he came to this area in search of and in June, upon looking out of the window in the morning, there was snow on the ground— not much encouragement to a would-be-farmer

Mom was of a jolly, fun loving nature and enjoyed both young and old. Her family home and farm were her life

Both Mom and Dad spoke several languages fluently, but in all the years met only two people with whom they could converse in Luxem

bourgeois — Mrs. Bonk, whose husband had the blacksmith shop at Hespero and Mr Matt Hoven, a farmer of the Gaetz district

Burials often took place on the home farm in the early years and so the body of Mr Buchta Sr father of Albert and son-in-law of Mr Frisch, rests on the hills of the farm

During the ensuing years my parents received their citizenship papers and became British subjects. They were proud to be a part of their adopted land

They had three children

a son Michael John of Mission, B.C., born in Esch sur Alzette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on September 8, 1910. He is now retired from the logging industry in which he was employed. He married Cora Belle Wright of Keremeos, B.C and they have a family of four, Theodore 'Ted Darlene, Sheila and Chery'

— a daughter Catherine Helena born at Coalhurst, Alberta, January 11 1915 She married Gudbiorn Thorlakson of Markerville, Alberta They lived in Markerville, Evergreen, Benalto and Red Deer He was a cream hauler mechanic, trucker, farmer and school janitor The had three children, Kenneth Peter of Calgary born on November 15, 1940, Donald Clare of Toronto, Ontario, born on March 1, 1947 and Myrna Lois born August 29, 1943, whose untimely passing on December 19, 1952 brought deep sorrow to their lives. Catherine passed away on February 22, 1970. Gudbjorn presently resides in Red Deer

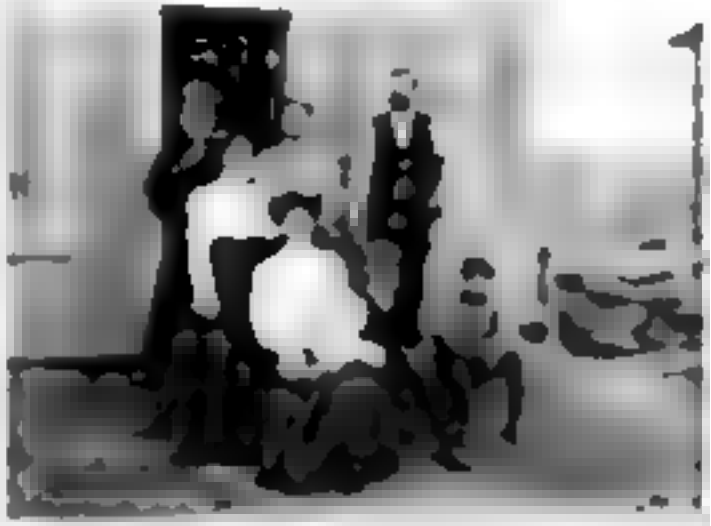
— a daughter (myself) Cecilia Anna (Mrs Walter McGregor McMeekin of Lesliieville born at Coalhurst, Alberta on June 14, 1917 Walter and I lived in Calgary while he served in the Royal Canadian Airforce and after his discharge, moved to Lesliieville where he managed Lesliieville Motors until it changed ownership in 1975 He remains there presently as head mechanic. We are blessed with three sons and three daughters, as recorded in the Walter McMeekin history

Mother passed away on October 14, 1955. A year later Dad sold the farm to Wenzel Kubik (Jim) and moved to the town of Rumbey where he resided until his passing on October 14, 1967

[illegible]

The NW 24-38-5-W5 had been homesteaded by Leslie Reilly in 1906 but as he had received an appointment at the Merchant's Bank in Red Deer he gave up the land and Mr Galot applied for it and got it. As he did not have enough money to build a big house he made a dugout in the side of the hill, cribbed it up nicely inside, and sent for his family

They came and were frustrated when they saw where they had to live but made the best of the situation and soon settled down. There was Mdme. Galot, Jeanne, Angelle and a nice little boy Maurice. Jeanne found employment at Mrs Bureau's, Angelle went to work at Innisfail where she married and Maurice in later years went to Maple Creek and still farms there. This land, after the Galot's left, became the home of the Tom Davenport family



[illegible]

**GIBSON THE GORDON FAMILY**

Gordon was born in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. He received his early education in Congress, Saskatchewan. Most of his high school subjects were through correspondence courses. He attended the Fundamental Bible School at Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, and came to this area in 1940 to pastor at the Withrow Gospel Mission. In 1942 he married Freda Bott oldest daughter of Mrs. Keitha and the late Fred Bott of the Withrow area. Freda grew up on the family farm along with her seven brothers and two sisters. She attended the Shady Lane school and also the Fundamental Bible School at Port Coquitlam, B.C. It was during their stay at Withrow on October 4, 1943, that their first daughter, Joy, was born. Together the three of them travelled around in their old 26 Chevrolet even taking their goat along whenever they planned to be away for several days. On one of their trips out west of Rocky Mountain House to pick blueberries, the goat was sitting on the back seat of the car when they boarded the ferry to cross the river. It was the ferryman's job to count each passenger and keep a record of it Well, he even counted the goat as one of the family She was a pet as well as a good source of milk but was also a nuisance at times. While on this trip they slept in a bathhouse on a straw tick There was a window with no glass in it but a slab nailed over it In the early hours of the morning a bear came and looked in the window at them. It was lucky there was a slab over the window As they were leaving for home, it had just rained. They went in the ditch. We pushed the car out but it went in the ditch on the other side This time it

had to be jacked out. In spite of all the inconveniences, they took home a lot of blueberries which made the trip worth it.

One experience the Gibson's had while they lived at Withrow will never be forgotten. Freda's brother Dave had taken them to Withrow in a wagon to do some work around the church. At the time the Horseguard River would flood in the spring and flow over both approaches to the bridges. While they were at Withrow the banks of the river had flooded over the road. They started across the water and the wagon box began to float off the wheels and carriage of the wagon and by the time they reached the bridge it was just hanging on by a peg. Rather than taking any chances on crossing over the opposite approach, they decided to leave the wagon along with horses, harness on the bridge and ride the horses back to Withrow as the other approach was deeper and swifter than the one they had just crossed. Dave had to stay with Gordon and Freda until the river went down.

The Gibson's pastored at Withrow and Diamond Valley for a number of years and then moved to New Raven to pastor the Gospel Mission there. It was while they were at New Raven that Gordon decided to teach school. He took his Grade Twelve at Dickson School. It was also at this time on January 19, 1947, that their son, Danny was born. In the fall of that year Gordon attended the University of Alberta to prepare for his teaching. In the spring of 1948 he began teaching at the Medicine Valley school. Their first trip to Medicine Valley was when their brother, Eddie, took them and their belongings in a lumber wagon. Again the Horseguard river was flooded and the water was running over the road but they made it across without any trouble.

In September 1948 they moved to the Wolfe school and lived in the teacherage. During their first winter at Wolfe their means of transportation was a horse named Fanny, loaned to them by the late Garnet McLean and a cutter. Many times they walked to Withrow for the mail or to attend church. Sometimes the snow was very deep and drifts were high. As soon as they could afford it they bought a Model A Ford. They ate lots of prairie chickens and got another friendly goat to supply them with milk and to follow the school children around.

It was in January 1951 that they moved back to the Medicine Valley School. As the school had a very large enrolment his wife helped with his teaching by supervising the lower grades. The highlights of the school year were the ball games, picnics and the Christmas concerts which usually lasted at least two hours. They included dialogues, recitations, drills, songs by the whole school as well as solos and duets. The school was always jampacked for these events.

After leaving Medicine Valley the Gibsons moved to Evarts where Gordon taught for one year. On May 4, 1954, their second daughter Maxine was born. Soon after this happy event took place they moved to Leslieville where they have made their home since.

On May 15, 1958, their third daughter, Carol was born and two years later on February 17, 1961, their second son, Dale was born. Carol graduated from David Thompson High School in June, 1977. She lives in Rocky Mountain House and is a stenographer for the Department of Social Services. Dale is living at home and is attending David Thompson High School. Their daughter, Joy married Allan Brososky of Eckville. Allan was employed with Molander Brothers for about ten years before he and his family moved to Fort McMurray where he is now employed with Great Canadian Oil Sands. They have four children, Debra attending High School, Howard in Junior High, Blain in Elementary School, and a foster child, Eldon at home.

The Gibson's son, Danny, lives on a farm near Innisfail with his wife, Judy and their three daughters, Susan and Jenny attend elementary school in Innisfail. Their new baby daughter, Charlotte Anne, was born November 6, 1977. Danny is country sales manager for the Ad-Viser Publications in Red Deer.

The [illegible] Gibson Family. Left to right: Dale, Maxine [illegible]

Their daughter, Maxine is married to Paul Depner and they live at Rocky Mountain House. They have a two year old son, Clay. Paul is employed in oil field work. Maxine is a stenographer for the Department of Agriculture.

After twenty-six years of teaching school Gordon retired in 1976. He enjoys curling, playing horseshoe and gardening. He also does some substitute teaching.

**THE GLASSPOOLE FAMILY — submitted by Mrs. Frances Lyons and Mrs. Margaret Ess**

William Wallace Glasspoole, born in March, 1869 and Hannah Kate Dodge, born April 9, 1899 in Webster Rooks County, Kansas, U.S.A., were married on November 26, 1914. Their eldest daughter Frances Ellen, was born October 15 1915 and Evelyn Jane was born April 15, 1917 Both were born in Coeur D Alene, Idaho, U.S.A.

In 1917 the family moved to Canada, and lived in quite a few different areas. They lived for awhile at Carlos, Alberta, and this is where James Henry was born on September 10, 1918 The family then moved from Carlos to Lesheville, and then to Horberg, Alberta where Mr Glasspoole worked as a pumpman for the C.N.R. It was here that William Rex was born on April 1, 1921, Andrew Martin on October 7 1923, and Margaret Emma on February 25, 1925.

In 1925 the family moved back to their homestead at Leslieville but didn't stay there for very long The next move was to Ted Ensign's farm, where Berry Arlene was born on June 29 1927 Here, also, Frances, Evelyn and James all started to school. They attended the Campbell School (or Butte, as it was sometimes called

The next move was to Aux in 1928 where Mr Glasspoole had a pumpman's job for the C.N.R Here two more children were born. Dorothy Annette on September 1, 1928 and Ever Wallace on December 13, 1934.

Mr Glasspoole passed away on February 15, 1948 at the age of 77 years. Mrs. Glasspoole lives in Red Deer, and on April 9, 1977 she was 79 years of age

**GOBLE, JOHNNY — (by Mable Martin)**

Johnny was a small boy in stature but with a heart of gold inside him. He was sent out from England, as a lot of others were, to be a helper on a farm so he lived with the McLeans near Lake Megantic and came west with them. Living across from the Hopkins place he became well acquainted with them and later married the oldest daughter, Ethel. He built a little house in Leslieville (which is now the W. I. Hall) and they lived happily there for some time till one day someone whom Ethel liked better came along and she went away with him and left little Johnny. He was very upset so the McKinnon's took him under their wing and he was their faithful friend forever. He joined the army during the first World War and was a bugler. Later he was a drummer in the orchestra that we had in those days but finally he took sick and passed away at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House and is buried in the Leslieville cemetery

**HAINSWORTH, THE JOSEPH FAMILY — by Art Hainsworth**

Joesph Hainsworth came to Canada from England with his parents when he was seven ars old, in the year 1862. Mary Hogg came from Scotland with her parents in the year 1880 when she was six years old. Both families settled in Manitoba not far from Winnipeg. In those days it took three weeks to cross from Britain to Canada. Most of that time was spent in lower deck as the seas were too rough to allow passengers on upper deck with the type of ships used in those days

They met and were married in Winnipeg on May 1, 1902, spending the next 16 years in Los Angeles U.S.A., where their family increased by two sons and four daughters. In 1918 they returned to Canada, living one year at Red Deer Alberta where Dad worked for Hewson Draying Co. They then rented a farm near Evarts, a small town along the Burnt Lake Trail. This is where I was born in August 1919. The farm they rented was sold and in May, 1920 they moved to a half section farm, SW 10-40-4-W5, SE 9-40-4-W5 five miles north and west of Leslieville which they purchased from Mr. J. M. MacDonald of Eckville. It was formerly homesteaded by Mr. Ted Ensign, an early settler in the district

In the winter my father and oldest brother John took teams and worked in the lumber camps of Fishers and Phoenix while my older brother and sisters cared for the livestock on the farm. In 1921 another son was born, and in 1926 the family was completed by the birth of another daughter

Among my earliest memories of the farm was dad seeding grain by hand from tubs in the back of a wagon and harrowing the grain into the soil with a drag-harrow. This proved to produce very abundant crops. Although in those days with the slow ripening varieties of grain it turned out to be greenfeed more often than grain

In the late 20's a horse powered hay baler was obtained and many carloads of hay were baled throughout the district by my dad and two older

brothers. Most of the hay was loaded in boxcars and shipped west to the logging camps or the mines at Nordegg and Arexo

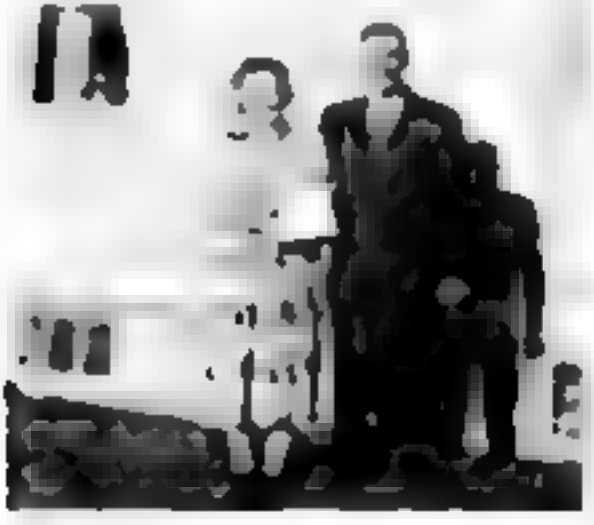
The first threshing I remember was done by a small hand fed separator and a straw carrier instead of a blower This straw had to be forked away from the end of the carrier by hand to prevent it piling up and plugging

Later most of the threshing was done by Mr Card's steam powered separator and a large crew It seemed to me more time was spent moving from one small field to another than it took to thresh them. On occasions the big steam engine would bog down in the many soft mud holes in the district at that time It wasn't long before our close neighbor got a high elevator wooden separator and a Rumely tractor As there were no augers at that time, the grain was elevated to about 16 feet then run down a pipe into the grain bin or wagon

My oldest brother and sister were through school when we moved to the Lesheville district The rest of the family obtained their schooling at the Campbell School which was situated at the foot of the big hill on the present Albert Mottus farm As I remember there was always a Hainsworth to do the janitor work at the school I put in three years at it for the much appreciated salary of $5 a month. Many were the mornings I left before daylight and walked, (or ran the one and one half miles across country to light the fire only to have the teacher come and send the two or three of us who got there home, when the temperature was -40 or -50 Fahrenheit

Dad and Mother celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the farm in 1952 They also celebrated their 60th anniversary in the Lesteville community hall in 1962 Mother passed away in October of that year at the age of 90 years

In January 1963 I married Verna Doupe of Victoria, B.C Dad lived with us on the farm until



Mr and Mrs. Joe Hainsworth on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1952.

his passing in the West Park Nursing Home in April, 1972 at the age of 96

Verna and I spent 14 years on the farm, then sold it to my nephew Steven Hainsworth and wife. Priscilla nee Robinson of Aurora who are presently on the farm with their three children

Eight of the nine children born to Mr and Mrs Joe Hainsworth are still living in Alberta

John, a widower retired from farming lives in Rocky Mountain House Miss Daisy Hainsworth passed away in 1968. Helen, (Mrs Wesley McNeil) retired from farming, lives in Eckville Charlie retired from working for the C.P.R and lives at Sylvan Lake Florence, (Mrs George Barret , retired from the farm to live in Delburne. Ruth, (Mrs. Donald MacDonald lives in Fort Saskatchewan Verna and I Arthur) live on an acreage close to Leslieville My brother and his wife, David and Betty farm at Lesteville and Dave also works for Homestead Oil. They have five boys, Gordon Steven Barry, Brent, and Lyle

**Gordon** married Doreen Thompson and they farm on the original Jim Thompson farm and also work on oil rigs. They have two boys Matthew and Kevin

**Steven** and Priscilla, on the Hainsworth [redacted]

**Barry** married Beverley Yarbrough and they live on the Dave Hainsworth farm and he works on oil drilling rigs. They have one daughter [redacted]

**Brent** and **Lyle** are still at home and attending David Thompson High School

**HALL, REG AND GLADYS**

Reg and Gladys Hall came to Lesteville from Rocky Mountain House in the spring of 1937 Reg worked as a mechanic for Percy Black who had the Massey-Harris dealership. He later worked for Carl and Claude Davenport in their garage Reg also did the original electrical wiring in the town of Lesteville when electricity was first available. Gladys was an active member of the Women's Institute

Reg joined the Air Force in 1940 and subsequently moved his family to Red Deer Alberta After the War Reg settled in Sudbury, Ontario He is now retired. Gladys has remarried and still lives in Red Deer where she works as a bookkeeper at Red Deer Motors

Reg and Gladys have five children. Alberta Dean Keith Mona, and Douglas. Alberta Bobbie attended Grades 1, 2 and 3 at the Lesteville School before moving to Red Deer Her Grade 1 teacher was Cecely Baker In 1949 she married Jim Dickson of Ahambra Alberta. They now farm south of Lesteville. Jim and Bobbie have eight children whose histories are recorded in the "Dickson, Samuel and Alma" history

Dean was Area Manager for Texas OIL in

Estevan, Saskatchewan. He died in an accident at the age of 22 years

Keith trained as a Stationary Engineer in Vancouver British Columbia. He married Marjorie Webb of Montreal Quebec in 1960. They have two sons, Christopher and Steven. Both are still attending school. They live in Prince George, B.C where Keith works at the Pulp and Paper Plant

Mona worked in a bank in Vancouver B.C She married Walter Giesbrecht in 1961 and they have two children Dean and Kathy still in school. Mona and Wally live in Kamloops where Mona is employed as a secretary and Wally is employed as a meat cutter for Swifts

Douglas, after leaving school, went to work for the Red Deer Post Office where he is still employed. He married Meredith Cameron in 1961. They have one daughter Kimberley who is attending Red Deer Composite High School

Gladys's younger brother, Dale, and her sister LaVerne came to live with the Halls in 1938 when their mother died They went to school in Lesliedale

Dale is a Stationary Engineer in Prince George. Dale and Isabelle were married in 1951 They have one son, Peter

LaVerne married Thomas LaPointe in 1957 They have four children, Thomas (Kippy) Leanne, Cheryl and Rhonda. LaVerne and Tommy live in Surrey B.C. where Tommy is warehouse manager for Safeway

**HAMBLETON, WILLIAM AND KATHLEEN HENRY AND JOANNE HAMBLETON, HARRY**

William Hambleton known to his friends as "Bill" was born in Leek, Staffordshire England in 1878. He arrived in Canada by boat in 1903. He continued his journey by train until he arrived in Winnipeg Here he joined his brother, Harry who was working as a cabinet maker During the winter months Bill worked at his trade as a bricklayer

In the spring of 1904 the brothers headed west to take up homesteading. Upon arrival in the Alhambra district they settled on the SW 24-39-6-W5. They started out with a team consisting of one ox and one horse. They broke the land with the 'team' and a walking plow The 'team' was also used to fetch supplies from Red Deer each spring, summer and fall. They lived in a one room log house with a sod roof, furnished with a stove, a wooden table, chairs, and beds. The brothers farmed this quarter from 1904 until 914. During this time they suffered through hardships, enjoyed good times and survived through culinary failures and unexpected

Bill and Harry managed to be fair cooks, but at times the cold winters frustrated their best efforts. One winter evening Bill mixed up a batch of bread dough and in order to keep it warm so that it would rise, he proceeded to take it to bed for the night. Upon waking in the morning he discovered that the dough had not risen at all. As the brothers headed out to fetch a load of wood Bill threw the dough out by a fence post, disgusted with his failure. The brothers returned in the afternoon with a sleigh load of wood. when all of a sudden the team took flight. Harry hung on to the frightened team with all his might Bill jumped off prepared to do battle with the critter

yard, past the gate, past the lean-to shelter. he stopped all of a sudden and looked -- The varmint wasn't any four-legged critter at all. Lo and behold the bread dough had risen up beside the fence post into a huge ball! Bill swiftly grabbed the dough, stoked up the fire in the cookstove, and sliced the dough into loaves and proceeded to bake the bread for supper

In 1914 with the call of World War I the brothers joined the Canadian Army Bill served for five years and 10 months. During this time he fought in France at Vimy Ridge, in Germany and did duty time in England. While in England, he met and courted Kathleen Swain. They were married in 1919, and a son, William Henry Swain was born on July 26, 1920 Bill was honorably discharged from the army in 1920 and returned to the Alhambra district in December, 1920 with his wife, son and four year old step-daughter

After Bill returned from the War with his family he found he had lost his original homestead as it was reclaimed to meet tax payments. So he rented the NE 12-39-6-W5 where R Olson lives now Here he lived with his family until he could purchase the SW 30-39-5-W5. Then the family lived there in a two-room house which they expanded to a two storey house over the years. They had seven head of Shorthorn cattle but only one cow survived calving after the first

In 1920 Bill started to work for the C P R. on the track from Alhambra west to 56. He worked on this job for four and one half years with Jack Poldit as the section foreman. Other men who worked on the same job were George Farrington and Harry Crabtree George bought the NW 7-39-5-W5. Harry Crabtree was from Yorkshire, England and had three sons, Horace, Arnold and Ervin. Harry farmed the SW 7-39-5-W5 which he later sold to G. Antrim and bought the quarter Clarence Needham now lives on from Bill Phillips. (See Farrington and Watters histories

Henry, Bill's son, attended the Beaver Flat School from 1927 to 1934 The youngsters of the area got a great deal of joy in skating on the creek in winter time but their real favorite sport was heading for the swimming hole after school or on a Sunday afternoon in the summer

In the late 1930's, Henry and Arnold and Ervin Crabtree worked in mills in the bush camps. Arnold made skis with no poles and the boys amused themselves skiing downhill in the moonlight when the day's work was done. Arnold also made snowshoes, tanned hides, and was a

taxidermist Ervin took a mail order course in city and radio repairing. Arnold and Ervin in British Columbia. Horace was a fire ranger in the 1930's

Bill broke the land with a team of horses until he acquired a 1936 Allis Chalmers tractor. He raised cattle and purebred Leghorns which he had shipped in from Ontario. However, in 1943 Bill lost 250 chickens when the chicken house caught on fire and burned to the ground. The family's first car was a 1929 Model A Ford bought by Henry in 1937. Lloyd Courtright had shown him how to drive before he bought the car. Henry helped his father farm as well as apprentice as a butcher under Frank Scott from 1946-1947. In 1945 Bill's sister Susan, emigrated from England after retiring from a nursing career during which time she nursed through both World Wars.

In 1947 Henry met Jeanne Heatley, daughter of William Calib and Anne Heatley of Leduc. Jeanne attended Rocky Mountain House School from 1945-1948. She then worked in Spoor's Meat Market. Henry and Jeanne went out together during 1947-1951. During this time they attended shows, and dances at which Henry was the "Caller" for the square dances. On July 20, 1951 Henry and Jeanne were married. They took up residence on his father's farm. In 1956 their first daughter, Tennis was born and their second daughter, Nola arrived in 1960.

**THE HANSINGER FAMILY** — by Kate (Hansinger) Bystrom

Paul Hansinger and family arrived in Canada in the spring of 1928. Their first home was in Millet, Alberta where he farmed and operated a barbershop and pool hall.

Father was born in a little village in Austria, he married the former Mary Lochmuller in 1919. He served in the First World War and was in the military ranks till coming to Canada.

He had heard of the great country called Canada, and the large amounts of land available. Being eager to seek new adventures and to have some of this new land, he convinced my mother that Canada should be their new home.

On April 1, 1930, the family arrived in the Leslieville district to take up residence on the SW 22-40-5-W5. The move was made by team and wagon, stopping overnight to feed and rest the animals. We stayed with kind and friendly farmers along the way. It was an endurance test as the weather was frequently bad and stormy.

In 1933, the land formerly owned by Mr. DePerrier was purchased and became the family's home. We children took our schooling at the Golden Heights school, which was also the centre of all community activities. The Christmas concerts and annual picnics were the big events of the year.

The hungry thirties were a challenge for survival. Many a load of railroad ties were hewn by hand with the broadaxe by my father. They were then hauled to Rocky Mountain House by team and sleigh in severe winter weather, to get money to buy food and clothing.

Summers were spent by clearing more land, most of it being done by hand. As time went on more land was purchased, one of the quarters being the former Tommy Rolls farm, where my parents live, and have retired. Their present home is a comfortable modern house, built [illegible] the old house and all their belongings. Thus, they turned misfortune to advantage, as they expect to continue living on the farm. Like many old timers, they prefer the country life.

One of the big events in our lives was when father bought a threshing machine. With the help of his sons, many years of fall threshing was done for neighbors. It was always exciting to see the threshing crew move in, and get the grain in the bins, and see the big straw stacks in the fields.

There were four children in the family. Paul Hansinger, Jr. married Beverly Turner of Winnipeg. They live in Vancouver having a family of three children, Greg, Kim, and Pattie.

Peter Hansinger married Marjorie Feyes of Rocky Mountain House. They farm the original home place in the Leslieville district and have a family of two, Cindy and Darlene.

William Hansinger married Feye Moore of Ridgewood. They farm in the Rocky Mountain House area and have one son, Rick.

Catherine Hansinger married Langton Wells of Benalto, having two children, Bruce Wells and Judy Wells. I was widowed and remarried to Edward Bystrom, who is also deceased, and I now make my home in Red Deer.

**HART FRED**

Fred Hart and his wife, Sarah Ann, and three sons of Thomas Hart immigrated to Canada in 1906, and homesteaded in the Leslieville district the same year.

In 1911 and 1912 he worked as a cook for the crew on the A.C.R. bridge out of Red Deer. He later went to Fairmont Hot Springs and cooked for the C.P.R. returning to Leslieville in 1914.

He was a school trustee for many years at Prairie Rose and Lesllieville Schools. He belonged to the Alberta Wheat Pool for many years

In the early 1920's he helped McKinnon Brothers by providing a democrat or sleigh for a hearse.

In 1924 he built a "turkey fence" eight feet high of pickets and twisted wire. Part of this fence still stands

In 1932, he provided the straw and helped bale it for the first curling rink in Lesllieville. Curling took place in this rink for one year He was an ardent curler for many years

Mrs. Hart belonged to the Condor Women's Institute, driving the many miles with horse and buggy

Mr. and Mrs Hart left Lesllieville to live in Red Deer in 1942. They have three daughters Mrs. Norman L. Beno (May), Rocky Mountain House, Mrs. J. C. Prendergast (Amy), Red Deer and Mrs. Oswald Moore Nellie

**HART, THOMAS — as told by Edgar Hart**

Thomas Hart my father came from Somerset near Bury, Lancashire in England He lost his wife, my mother, at the age of about 28 or 29 when my youngest brother was born. Within a few months he gave up his good position as Assistant Superintendent of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in Bury, Lancashire England and came to Canada to start a new life My older brother and my younger and I went to live with his brother Fred and his wife, who had no children at that time That was 1905. The following year they brought us out to Canada in the early spring Dad had ridden a horse from Wapella (Manitoba-Saskatchewan border) across the prairie and finally settled near what was later Lesllieville. He was able to get a quarter section for his brother Fred cornering our quarter

Our first house was a log shack without flooring 12' x 14' This later became half of our chicken house In the summer of 1906 my Uncle Fred and Dad built a house on his quarter which had an upstairs. In 1907 they built a house on Dad's place, then a log barn which turned out to be too small so another log barn was built attached but it had only a flat slab roof covered with straw

We started with a team of oxen with long horns with which we used to go to Red Deer for groceries twice a year a four day trip). The road was considered to be 46 miles at that time

Dad used to go out with a bridge gang as a cook and for a time he went coal mining along the Red Deer River

Having been a widower for several years, Tom Hart married again in 1913 and took the boys home to live with him. He married Cora Donovan of Delburne who was working in Red Deer at that time. From this marriage there were two children, George and Frances

Tom was a fire guardian along the Clearwater and Big Horn west of Rocky Mountain House. He was a game guardian, fish guardian, justice of the peace, official auditor for school district and municipalities. Our house was frequently used as a court house for preliminary trials of a serious nature and game infractions and the like. Dad passed away in 1934 due to ruptured appendix

We had some very cold winters in those days The kind that would take your breath away if you didn't have your mouth covered. In 1906 or 1908 we had a very wet year. In late spring it started raining and continued every day for more than 30 days This along with melting snow flooded the Horseguard Creek to our south and the Lobstick to our north. These creeks joined on our east so we were trapped. We ran short of food. My dad shot a deer with a shotgun after a lot of patient trying. This saved the day for us, but we all got scurvy After some weeks we were able to get 10 pounds of flour as the creeks went down and someone had got some supplies across the Medicine River after losing a couple of teams trying to swim across.

Now follows news of Tom Hart's family — by George Hart

Harold, the eldest son, spent most of his life on ranches before retiring to his home in

Cochrane. He served his country in World War I and was in France. Harold had one daughter Beatrice and one son, Harold. Harold passed away in 197?

Edgar also served in World War I and was also in France. After the war he had his own store in Calgary. He later sold it and worked in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary from which he retired. Edgar had one son, Thomas Fred who is in his own insurance business in Calgary.

Clifford was versatile and worked at many different types of jobs. He retired from the oil fields and makes his home in Leduc. He has one son, Garry.

George went to school first at Lesliеville, then took ministerial training and attended the Northwest Bap ist Theological College. He married a classmate, Olive Tisdell, of Calgary. In 1942 George served in the forces overseas for three years and eight months. Upon returning from overseas he entered the ministry under the Christian Missionary Alliance and then transferred to the Baptist Union of Western Canada and under them he took further studies at McMaster University. Later he transferred to the United Church taking correspondence to further his arts courses from Queen's University and in his ministry with the United Church he took summer courses to gain another year of Theology.

At school George liked sports, especially basketball and running. He also enjoyed curling, softball and hockey. His wife Olive grows beautiful plants and is artistic and enjoys painting. George and Olive have three children, two boys and one girl, Douglas, David and Lois (Barnes) and six grandchildren, all living in Calgary.

Frances married Bert Lea, a farmer of Three Hills. They farmed there until Bert moved with his family into Calgary in the early 1950's. They had three children, two girls and one son, Joyce, Lois and Raymond. They have 10 grandchildren. Frances was widowed in 1966 and Bert was buried in Calgary.

**HEIKKINEN MATT (Leslieville)**

Matt Heikkinen, born January 27 1898 and his wife Ida, born March 20, 1900, in Sotkamo, Finland, were married January 25, 1921.

Matt left his wife Ida and two and one half year old son Tauno, to go exploring, not really knowing what was in store for him. He came to Canada from Sotkamo, by ship to the east coast and then by train across Canada to Leslieville. In May 1924 he arrived at Al Spears' farm (which is now Gus Sigles place) and worked for Spears that summer.

That same year in September, his wife Ida and son Tauno came out. They spent the first winter of 1924 and 1925 at the home of Alex Schroderus of Bingley, and Matt worked in lumber camps in the area.

In the spring of 1925 they moved to the coal mining town of Saunders and for about a year they worked for Louis DeMarchis' dairy farm which supplied milk for the town of Saunders. While there another son Alfred (Fred) was born in 1925.

In 1926 they moved back to the Bingley district where they purchased a farm which is now the Jack Shaw farm. They farmed with horses and in the early thirties bought their first car, an old Star.

A daughter Irene was born in 1927 and another son Roy in 1929.

They resided in the Bingley district until 1938 when they moved to the Leafland district to stay. There they built a new home in 1938. In 1944 another daughter Elsa was born. Their location was right on the road extending west from Lacombe (Highway 51) and here Matt opened up a country store and Esso Service Station in 1954 which was very handy for the neighbors around him, and for some it saved a long drive to Leslieville, when roads were not as good as they are now.

Matt Heikkinen was an ardent hunter — got his big game every fall, and also helped get some for his neighbors. The family enjoyed music and Matt played the button accordion. Matt Heikkinen was known for his custom threshing for many years all around the country.

Tauno Heikkinen was married to Thelma McMillan in 1945 and they farmed from 1945 to 1955 on the Eric Randall farm SW 25-40-5-W5. Then Tauno and his younger brother Roy bought Harry Lloyd's Red Head Service Station in Leslieville, and so they were located there for ten years, after which they went back to their farm and built a beautiful new home.

Tauno and Thelma had three girls and one boy. Viola, Sheila, Marie and Wayne.

Viola married Allan Rolfsen and they have two girls, Charlotte and Lori Ann. They live in Leslieville. Viola is a N.A. at the Eckville hospital.

Sheila married Robert Menzies. They have a girl and a boy, Shauna and Robert. They have a farm nearby where they make their home and Bob works in Rocky Mountain House as well.

Marie married Tom Judd and they have three boys, Michael, Bobby and Chad and reside in Langley, B.C. where Marie is a part time nurse.

Wayne is still at home and attending David Thompson High.

As well as operating the Service Station at [illegible] several years.

Tauno passed away tragically on the farm in 1972.

Alfred (Fred), Matt and Ida Heikkinen's second son married Vivian Sorvisto in 1948. Fred purchased SW-36-40-5-W5 and they farmed until 1957 when they took over the store and service station, which they had for 17 years until 1974.

Fred and Vivian had three boys, James, Jerry and Randy.

James (Jim) married Janie Helmer, and they reside west of Rocky Mountain House and have two boys, David and Donald. Jim works as an operator at the Amoco gas plant at Ricinus.

Jerry married Wava Lee Minks and have no children and seem to be the wandering kind, lived at White Court for awhile and are now in Atlin, B.C.

Randy is still at home and going to school.

Irene Heikkinen married Ralph Baker in 1947, they now reside in Winfield, and have three girls and three boys. Margaret, Janet, Betty Anne, Robert, Darrell and Wesley.

Margaret married Laverne Muyres and they have four children. Michael, Shane, Cody and Candace. They later divorced, and Margaret is now married to Gus Vaalstar and they live in the Buster Creek area north of Rocky Mountain House.

Janet married Raymond Becker and they have three girls, Nadine, Carla and Jo-Ann. they live south of Buck Lake and are in the process of building a new home.

Betty Ann married Arnold Engblom and they have two children, Shay Ann and Tyler Jason.

Robert and Darryl are not married and are employed in Red Deer.

Wesley being a few years younger is still at home and going to school. Irene and Ralph were in the dairy business for quite a few years.

Next in Matt Heikkinen's family comes Roy and he is the bachelor of the family.

Ella, the youngest married Curtiss Morton in 1974 and they have two boys, Ryan and Myles. they are living at Codette, Saskatchewan where they farm.

Matt and Ida Heikkinen went back to Finland in 1947 by ship for a visit. Matt Heikkinen was a well-known and highly respected man, and was greatly missed when he passed away in 1961.

Ida lived close by Fred and Vivian for 15 years. She loved to go berry picking when berries used to be plentiful and in no time at all she would have a pail full. She was known all over the country for the beautiful rugs she made on her homemade loom which was built by her brother Eric Korhonen of Eckville. She made hundreds of rugs from discarded clothing cut in strips for friends and neighbors, and they surely missed this service when she could no longer do it.

She moved to the Eckville Manor House in 1976.

## HENDRY, CHARLES AND WILLIAM, TAYLOR, DAVID AND STANLEY, ROGER, [illegible]

Known to all as Charlie and Will, the Hendry brothers came west from Newfoundland to Red Deer in the spring of 1909. Their parents had come from Greenock, Scotland in the 1870's and farmed, fished and market gardened in Newfoundland. Charlie and Will got work at the Valley Lumber Company Mill in Red Deer. There they met Dave Taylor who had come from Campbellton, New Brunswick and also worked for the Valley Lumber Company northwest of Leslieville as a millwright.

Dave homesteaded in the Leslieville area in 1907 and so told Charlie and Will of available land near him to homestead. They travelled by team and wagon west from Red Deer and filed on the NW-4-40-4-W5 for Charlie and the NE-5-40-4-W5 for Will.

They continued to work in Red Deer but came out to Dave's homestead and worked from there on their own places to get some land cleared and a log house built on Charlie's land for their mother Isabella Hendry and her two daughters Jessie and Jean, who came from Newfoundland in May of 1911. Mrs. Hendry had been a widow since 1898. They had ten children some of whom were born in Scotland. Jessie was the eldest and Jean the youngest of the family.

During the summer of 1911 all the Hendrys lived with Dave Taylor and his wife on their homestead till their own house was livable. Jean went back to Red Deer and again stayed with Dave and Lizzie in their house which they used when his work was in Red Deer. Jean got a job cooking at the hospital. Margaret Godkin and Cora Hart, who were of the Leslieville area were boarding at Taylor's also. Margaret was going to high school and Cora was helping at the hospital.

Jessie Hendry stayed on the homestead and with her brothers raised some very fine horses. They also had a blacksmith shop and a sawmill. They were a repair depot for folks for miles around and logs were hauled home to build many homesteaders' buildings. The nails and windows

t took two days to make the trip

Jean Hendry went to Edmonton in the fall of 1911 and married John Edward (Ted) Ridges, on November 23. He had come west from Newfoundland with them that spring and was working in Edmonton at electrical wiring

He was born in Calcutta, India where his father was a coach builder and moved to Wolverhampton, England when he was a small boy. There he had grown up and taken a trade of electric wiring, so applied and got his first job on Belle Isle just off the Newfoundland coast. He met Jean Hendry at the Belle Isle Congregational Church where Jean and Jessie both sang in the choir. The Ridges were from a long line of Quakers which was reflected in his way of living. Ted and Jean lived in Edmonton until 1913 when they came back to Lesllieville and took an abandoned homestead, NE5-40-4-W5. It had first been filled on by Tom Hazlett and the log house which he had built on it still stands in fair shape. It was the first home for Ted and Jean. It had a dirt floor. After they got enough land cleared to prove up and own the homestead they cut logs and built a small frame house. As her brothers owned the sawmill across the road, they helped them

Jessie Hendry farmed with her brothers and mother till October 2, 1915 when she married Carl Bransell who also had a homestead located across the road from Dave Taylor, the NW32-40-4 W5. Carl too had come to Canada from Michigan, U.S.A. where his family were. He also worked at the Valley Lumber Company in Red Deer and Dave Taylor also told him of land to homestead. He got his homestead about 1908 and built a log house. Jessie and Carl lived in that house as long as they farmed. They sold in 1948. Their west quarter (Cattle Homestead) was sold to Daniel Taylor in 1946. Their homestead was sold to Allan McMeekin about 1950. Victor Smith now owns it

They had no family. Carl passed away in 1951 and Jessie in 1952. Both are buried in the Lesllieville Cemetery

In 1916 Charlie and Will decided to go back to Newfoundland so Mrs. Hendry went too and stayed with a daughter, Isabelle, there while they looked for work. They jobbed around for two years, lastly working in Askwith, Saskatchewan before returning to the homestead to do sawmill and blacksmith work again

In 1915 Dave Taylor had a brother Stanley with his wife Anna come from Oregon, where he had been engineer on a railroad, wanting a farm. They purchased land from Hopkins SW31-39-4 W5. It had also been Hopkins' homestead

Stanley and Anna lived with Dave and Lizzie for the first year. They brought furniture with them from Oregon and stored it on the old cattle farm across the road west of Carl Bransell, the NE31 39-4-W5. They built a small shack and started the shell of the original house which is still the main house today. Stanley had homesteaded in the Pine Lake area about 1906 and after all these years sold it after he started to farm at Lesllieville. For his price he got his first tractor, an old 22-36 Hart Parr, as a straight across trade of farm for tractor

Dave Taylor joined the services in 1916 and later sold his land to Tom Shaw and his son-in-law Phillip Smith. Neal Smith, a son of theirs still owns and farms the land

Mrs. Hendry passed away in January 1927 and is buried in the Lesllieville Cemetery

Charlie and Will had another sale in 1928 and moved to the Peace River country and got a half section of level land near Whitelaw. At last their dreams came true and they could farm properly, as they said Newfoundland was full of rocks and their land at Lesllieville was full of hills. Each time they came down to visit they would say "Those hills here are still growing!"

Will passed away in 1945 and Charlie in 1956. Both are buried in Berwyn Cemetery

Ted and Jean Ridges remained on the homestead. Four children were born but three passed away as infants. One daughter grew up and took schooling at Blueberry Valley School. In 1946 she married Daniel Taylor, son of Stanley and nephew of Dave Taylor

Ted and Jean have told of walking to church at Lesllieville on Sundays. Jean enjoyed singing and helped out at many school and church functions. Ted enjoyed working with books and held many executive positions on the Blueberry school board

Jean continued her love of gardening which she inherited from her father as he was a trained old country gardener and loved it. She gave much pleasure to her many friends with flowers for weddings, hospitals and funerals over the years. She grew and gave away many trees and plants for neighbors to grow and also many vegetables for needy people to eat. She is now a resident at the Valley Park Manor Nursing Home in Red Deer which is built almost on the location where she lived with Dave and Lizzie Taylor while she worked in the hospital in Red Deer

Their daughter Isabella and husband Daniel Taylor took over the homestead in 1963, cleared the land and now pasture it. The house they built in 1935 still stands and the trees Jean grew from seed are like a forest around her garden spot

Ted passed away in 1967 and is buried in the Lesllieville Cemetery

Stanley and Anna Taylor had two children Daniel who farms the original land and Kathleen who lives in Calgary (Mrs. Douglas McLaughlin). Stanley homesteaded and proved up with cattle the SW7-4-4-W5 and used this land for pasture. He bought the NW6-4-4 W5 from a Mr. Card and the NW31-40-4-W5 from another Hopkins

They took active parts in community affairs curling, Womens Christian Temperance Union

and Alberta Wheat Pool. They retired to Calgary in 1946 when they sold to their son Daniel. They were active there also — gardening, carpentry and had boarders. Stanley passed away in 1963 and Anna in 1967. Both are buried in Queen Cemetery in Calgary.

Their daughter has two children. Doug and Letha. Their son has four children: Janette, Sandra, Stanley and David.

The original Dave Taylor when he returned from the services stayed in New Richmond Quebec. He lost his wife fairly soon after, but he lived till 1964. He and his wife are both buried there.

**HILBERT, HERBERT WILLIAM AND MARY**

In 1906 Bert Hilbert came to the Lesieville area. He homesteaded in 1909 on the NE-35-39-6 W5. He stayed on the homestead in the winter and returned to the prairies in the summer to break saddle horses and ride in roundups.

Bert worked on the C.N.R. grade east of Codner, driving a team of oxen in 1910. Others working with him were Pete Peterson, John Riach and Ted Frodeen. He built a log house on his homestead, shuddling the logs with his saddle horse.

In 1913 Bert met Mary Green who had come over from England in March of that year with her son Barnard, to join her other son, Alec, who was working near Calgary. Bert and Mary married in Calgary in August 1914, and moved to the homestead at Beaver Flat. Their son Ronald was born in October with Mrs. (Gafney) Wilson attending.

Several teachers boarded at their place over the years, including Elizabeth Meston, Enid and Hope McKee. Enid taught at Orus and Hope at Beaver Flat), Victoria McKenzie, Edith Moseley, Marie Lund and Betty Baldwin.

The Hilbert family purchased the SW 13-40-6 W5 from Alf Harvey in 1919 and moved up to "The Ridge". Here they were in the Bingley School District. Bert was chairman of the school board in the early '20s and Tom Ogden was the secretary.

In 1930 the NW-12-40-6 W5 was purchased from the Bennion Estate and is now owned by Ronald's son, Roy, who has built a home there.

Mary Hilbert passed away in February, 1938. Bert continued to live on the farm until the late 1950's, then moved into a house in Rocky Mountain House for a few years. After a heart attack, he moved into Westview Lodge. He spent almost a year in the Red Deer Auxiliary Hospital and died in November 1965.

**HILBERT, RONALD AND MILDRED**

Ronald Hubert married Mildred McColman from the Crimson Lake district in 1941. They lived on the farm for six years during which time they had a daughter and two sons. In 1947 Ronald began working on highway construction and over the next twenty years the family lived in many places in Alberta including Nordegg, Sylvan Lake, Alder Flats, Father Sangudo, Whitecourt, Cold Lake, Spedden, Killam, Westlock, Innisfail, and Saskatchewan River Crossing. The children attended school in most of these places, but sometimes they were too far from the school so started the term with correspondence lessons returning to Rocky Mountain House in November usually and attending school there for the balance of the term.

In 1960, after graduating from high school in Rocky Mountain House, Maxine left to begin training as a Medical Laboratory Technician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She graduated from there in 1962 and worked at the University Hospital for a year. Her next job was at the Charles Camsell Hospital and from there the Medical Sciences Building in Edmonton until 1974. Maxine married Joe Coombes in 1967 in Edmonton. They moved to an acreage near Balfour, B.C. three years ago and have since bought a house nearer Nelson where Maxine works at the hospital.

Robert Hilbert began work with the Alberta Forest Service soon after leaving school in 1964. He married Mavis Huhtala in 1967. Mavis was a stenographer at the Town Office in Rocky Mountain House for several years. In 1974 their son Kelly was born at Eckville Hospital. In February, 1976, Robert transferred to Fort McKay Forest area. Their second son, Clay was born in Fort McMurray in December of that year. In June, 1977 Robert bid on the position of Forest Officer at Hines Creek, Alberta. The family moved there in July, 1977.

Left to right: Mrs. Anna Hilbert (Bert's mother), Herbert (Bert) Hilbert holding Ronald, Mrs. Mary Hilbert (Bert's wife), unknown

**HILBERT, ROY AND ELAINE**

Roy Hilbert left school in 1960 to work on highway construction at Spedden. He spent several years on oil rigs mostly in northern Alberta

In August 1966 he married Elaine Shultz Elaine a hairdresser owned the Style Shop in Rocky Mountain House for several years. In 1970 they began building a home on the NW 12-40-6 W5

In February, 1972 their daughter Allene, was born in the Red Deer General Hospital. They have a second daughter, Coral, born in Red Deer General Hospital in July 1973. Their third daughter Leah, was born in October 1976

Roy and Elaine live in their home in the Beaver Flat School District Roy works with his tree-farmer for Rocky Wood Preservers

**HOGBERG, AXEL, — by Mary Arnold**

Axel Hogberg my dad, was born in Karlstadt Vermiland Sweden in 1893 He came to Canada about 1910 where he worked at various things among which were gold and coal mining in British Columbia His older brother Andrew lived near the coast and another brother Charlie lived in the Nelson area

About 1915 Dad came to Alberta and homesteaded the SW 9-40-5-W5. He also bought the NW 4-40-5-W5 from Albert Turton. He then worked in the Nordegg coal mine

In 1923 he married Cecil Elizabeth Rodgers daughter of Mr and Mrs. James Rodgers. They were married at her father's farm in the Beaver Flat district after which they farmed at Leslieville until Dad's death

In 1931 Dad suffered a stroke at home after fighting fire in the Bingley area on a very hot day. This left him in poor health and one hand partially paralyzed. Nevertheless he carried on farming and was a hard worker, harnessing, bridling and hooking up the horses. The snaps and buckles were very hard for him to do up so the family all helped. Mom also worked so very hard and did a lot of outdoor work — milked cows, fed pigs, stacked hay stooked grain, split wood, churned, printed and took butter to town for sale to buy groceries, wool for knitting sweaters and mitts and material to make clothes We always had a big garden which we all helped to weed

Dad had a threshing machine and in the fall he had a crew of men and threshed for the neighbors. He enjoyed going hunting with friends. He was very interested in church work and helped to build the Leslieville church opened about 1939 which later burned down

When we were young I remember us bundled up in the sleigh in winter, wagon or buggy in the summer going to neighbors for church services or people coming to our home. Several families took turns having services in their homes. Being a large family we really had and still have a lot of good times together We, like others, had very few toys. When very young on rainy days we spent a good many hours playing store, taking turns being store keeper and customers. When a few friends came over we had a ball team and played ball. We enjoyed picnics or just paddling in the creek that ran through the homestead quarter

Our family went to the Campbell School. We also enjoyed the Joseph Club held in the different homes. McCarthys, Lister Kayes, Skagens, and ours were some that attended and we were led by Rev and Mrs. Robert Young in the 30s

Dad passed away December 27 1947

The story of the family of three sons and three daughters follows

**Mary** married Clifford Arnold. They farm at Leslieville and have one son and one daughter Allen married Jean Cumming of Red Deer and they live in Red Deer Karen married Wesley Gardner of Edmonton. They have one daughter Rhonda Karen lives at Leslieville

**Ivy** married Robert Marsden of Leslieville They live in Red Deer and have one son and one daughter Greg married Brenda Johnson They have one daughter and live in Calgary Irene married Joe Looker They live in Red Deer and have one son, Chris

**Bill** married Elizabeth Wiebe of Saskatoon They farm the Hogberg home farm at Leslieville They have one daughter Edna and three sons Ronald, Kenneth and Larry all at home

**Cecilia** married Malcolm Jessop of Leslieville and they farm at Beiseker They have two sons and two daughters — Bernice, Glenda Barry and Axel. Bernice married Len Renkema and lives at Armstrong, B.C They have one daughter and two sons. Barry married Penny Grant of Calgary and make their home in Swift Current Saskatchewan with their two sons Glenda married Don Osudar They have one son and live at Beiseker Axel lives at home

**Henry** married Lois Adrian. He drives a truck in Red Deer They have two daughters and three sons. Anita married Robert Duncan and they live in Edmonton. Judy Phillips lives at Rocky Mountain House Andrew married Yvonne Vos and they live in Red Deer Bruce and Kevin live at home

**Walter** married Sheila Kring and they live on the former Jens Skagen farm, next to the Hogberg home farm at Leslieville They have three daughters and two sons. Linda married Bruce Slade of Eckville and they live in Red Deer Debbie is presently in her third year of Bible school at Briercrest Bible Institute in Saskatchewan Eddy works in a garage at Nordegg Calvin works at the I.G.A. store in Rocky Mountain House upon his completion of his schooling at David Thompson High Margo is attending school at David Thompson High

Mom remarried in 1949 on November 2nd. She married Paul Ericsland of Leslieville They farmed there a good number of years before

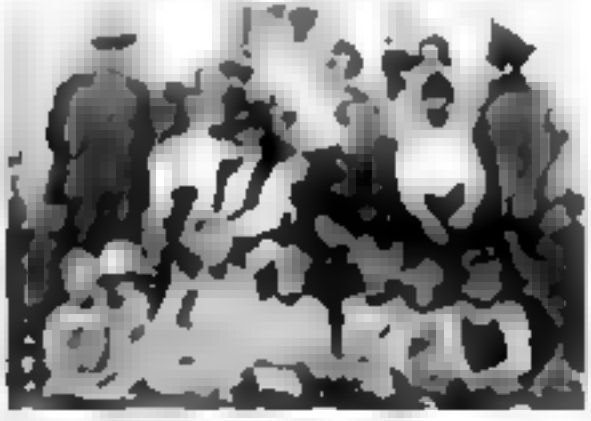
retiring to the Twilight Cottages in Red Deer in 1971. Paul passed away in April 1977 after a long illness.

Mom now lives at the senior citizen home in Red Deer where she has many friends and keeps very active in church work.

**JOHNSON, CARL**

Carl Johnson was born in the Gilby district on November 28 1908. With their father and mother Johann and Annette, Carl has one brother, and three sisters grew up on the family farm, NE 14 40-4-5. His father was born in Sweden and his mother's birthplace was Norway. They were married in Norway in 1902 before coming to Canada.

Carl attended Medicine Valley School. During hard winters the school was closed from Christmas until March and for these years the school stayed open for the summer months. Some of these summers he remembers having to miss school to work on the home farm or for neighbors. They lived mainly on rabbits, Wood Lake fish, prairie chicken, bush partridge, blueberries and saskatoons. For a few years he spent most of his time working at home and around the neighborhood. His mother passed away in 1922 and his father passed away in 1926.



In the spring of 1928 Carl worked near Coronation doing spring work. That fall he drove a team of horses with a hay rack to help with threshing at Delia, Hanna and Three Hills. During the winter of 1928 and 29 he worked in the bush for Tex Small and Frank Davis hauling mining props. He then hauled lumber from mills at Far Away and Wolf Creek, to be used in building the Leedale Hall. He worked at many different jobs on farms west of Bentley and wherever employment was available, until 1934 when he bought his farm east of Gilby, NW 25-40-3-5. For eight years he rented his farm out and worked for Wm.

In the early 40s Carl began farming his own land and also built a saw-mill. He sawed lumber for neighbors as well as for himself. He remembers selling clear 2 x 6 spruce lumber 16 feet long for $50 per 1000. During the 40s and 50s he did much repair work on many kinds of machinery around the neighborhood. He also did

at the age of ten from his father. He sharpened many plow shares and shod many horses. He was always a horse dealer, enjoying buying, selling or trading horses.

In 1962 Carl sold his farm to Charlie Walker. In 1963 he rented the A. V. Higgins acreage south of Lesliеville. Here he continued doing his blacksmith work and raised sheep. In 1968 he moved to Les Finkbeiner's farm north of Lesliеville, where he still resides. He keeps busy with chores and blacksmith work and enjoys fishing in his spare time.

**JOHNSON, ERNEST B.**

Ernie Johnson moved to the Blueberry Valley area from Wetaskiwin.

Anna, Ernie's mother, was well known for her baking and knitting, and helped make many quilts for the needy, mostly working by hand.

Ernie married Gertie Devenny, a teacher at the Blueberry Valley school.

In the early days, Elmer Salmon and Ernie worked together at clearing land with horses.

One discouraging incident occurred when Ernie had a truck load of steers to go to market. The load was too much for the old Blueberry Creek bridge, and the truck broke through, dumping cattle all over the road and into the water. After getting them to the railroad in Lesliеville, he shipped them, only to get a bill for $6. The price received for the steers did not cover the

The Johnsons had one son, Donald.

Ernie sold the farm and moved to Red Deer. He bought a farm in the Penhold area, which he farmed for several years, though living in Red

Donald Johnson has two sons, and lives in Red Deer.

**FRED KIRKMAN FAMILY**

Fred Kirkman was born in February 1885, in Cleethorpe, England. He and Jim Hall left England at the same time. They became acquainted whilst crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the steamship. Their plans were to look for land to take up as homesteads. They came to Lesliеville in 1907 to locate land suitable for homesteads, then returned to Ontario where they worked on farms for Mr. Kennedy in Cooksington, Ontario. Fred returned to England by working off his passage fare on a cattle boat. His purpose was to borrow money under his father's will in order to go homesteading out West. Jim came west to the homesteads to look after things until Fred returned. Fred proved up and registered his homestead in 1909. They lived in a tent until they could build a cabin. Jim built a log cabin on

his homestead in 1919. Fred purchased a team of oxen in May 1918 and a walking plow to break up his land

Fred's sister Mrs. Annie Smith and her daughters, Ethel and Madge, arrived from England on May 25th, 1913, at Red Deer Fred met them and they travelled to Leslieville over almost impassable roads with a four-horse team and wagon

In August, 1914, Fred enlisted in the army at Leslieville as a cook He served in army camps in England and France, cooking in the Officer' Mess Hall While overseas he married Florence Mabel Hampton on May 2, 1918. Florence was born in Cornwall in July 1893 He returned with his wife to his homestead in March of 1919. After returning he bought Jack Allen's homestead in 1920 through the Soldiers' Settlement Board this gave him a half-section Florence was very interested in gardening and had some very good gardens

Fred and Florence's first baby, a girl, born in 1920 was stillborn and was buried on the farm near where the first cabin was built Their second child, a son, Herbert William was born in 1922

In 1921, Fred's sister Annie Smith and her daughters, Ethel and Madge, returned to England In 1932 Ethel returned to Canada to the Leslieville area where she married Donald Malcolm on the 26th of December, 1932. They now live in Richmond, B.C

Herbert got his education at Beaver Flat School from about 1928-1937 He walked three miles to school every day, some days in 40° F below zero through drifts two to three feet deep Some of his teachers were, Mrs. MacDonald, Mr Wm. (Scottie McRoberts and Mr Thomas Bowbay

Fred's first car a Pontiac — a rumble seat was purchased in 1931

This musical family helped to make many entertainments very enjoyable. Fred played the mouth organ a one-string Japanese fiddle and the piano. Florence plays the piano and Herbert plays accordian, piano, guitar and other instruments Florence played for concerts in the Beaver Flat School, walking the three miles to and from every practice. She played for Bible studies and various entertainments such as house parties Fred, Herbert, and Mrs Mattie Martin played for entertainments in the Beaver Flat School on many occasions

Fred farmed on the same land he homesteaded until 1942 when he re-enlisted in the second World War as a Veteran Guard, guarding German prisoners in Kananaskis, Vernon, Ioco and Medicine Hat, returning to the farm in 1946, where he carried on his farming operations

His son enlisted with the R.C.A.F in 1942 and served in various stations in Canada such as Prince Rupert, Trenton, Vancouver Edmonton and Calgary, returning to the farm in January, 1946. Ten years later he married Frances Richardson. He worked for Killico Stores from 1948 to 1954 and for William Hunchak from 1955 to 1963, then for the Alberta Government with the Highway Department to the present date

Fred passed away in September, 1975 Florence is still living on the original homestead by herself and is kept very active

**KNOPP MELVIN AND MAUREEN**

The family of Melvin and Maureen Knopp moved to the Leslieville district in August of 1967 The family consisted of five children Gerald 15 years old Linda 14, Rita 11, Lyle nine and Joann five. Another son, Ronald was born in Canada in 1972

We moved onto a new building site on the former John Reid place north of Leslieville. SE 22-40-5 W5. We enjoy the view of the mountains and a continuing change of scenery during the whole year

We were both raised in the state of Washington of mainly German parents, and moved from a farm near Marlin, Washington in the middle of the state We had a diversified farm, raising mainly hay with some wheat and oats and kept cattle and hogs for stock. It was an irrigated ranch so we were glad to move to Central Alberta where most years we get ample rainfall for the crops

We acquired the former Irvin Albert quarter NW 15-40-5-W5, then farmed by John McLeod in 1970 and have enjoyed using the apples grown in the orchard that the Alberts planted many years ago

In June of 1977, our daughter, Rita, was married to Gregory Masson of Red Deer, formerly of Lethbridge. They both work and live in Red Deer

We enjoy the many fresh vegetables grown in the family garden and also the tame and wild berries that grow well in this area

The family enjoys living in Canada and helping on the cattle ranch here

**KRING — MACDOUGAL**

Florence Bishop was born in Heatherset, Norfolk England on December 25, 1894 and came to Canada in 1920. She was married to Clarence MacDougal in the same year at the Knox United Church, Calgary They moved to Bingley and took up a homestead, the SE 36-40-5-W5

They had one son and one daughter John is living in Calgary He took up carpentry work as his trade. He has one daughter Cheryl. Mary (Mrs. Everett Bowerman) lives in Red Deer and has two children, Dixie of Calgary and Lorne of Red Deer

In 1925 Florence was left a widow as Clarence died of a heart attack in March. Florence then bought a house and moved to Leslieville

In September, 1927 she married Charles Kring who was born on December 28, 1894 at Pluna, Ontario. While at Leslieville Charles was employed with the C.N.R

Charles and Florence had four children Robert was born November 1928 He took his schooling in Leslieville and Red Deer In 1952 he married Lillian Cosmybear from Black Diamond. They had four children. While working in Bassano Bob died as the result of a car accident in August, 1962 His wife and children live in Kamloops

Wesley was born October 1931 and took his schooling in Leslieville and later joined the R.C.A.F In 1954 he married Violet Kopeck They live in Leduc and Wes is employed with Ward Air They have three boys, all at home

Sheila was born in August, 1933 and took her schooling in Leslieville. She married Walter Hogberg in August 1954. They have three girls and two boys. (Refer to Hogberg History for their children's story.

Charlie and Florence Kring holding Derry and Sterling [illegible] in George Bott's home. 1957.

Florence was born September, 1937 and took her schooling in Leslieville. In October 1953 she was married to George Bott in Leslieville Church. That winter George went to work in the bush for Art Fisher and in the spring of 1956 he started working year round with the Department of Highways and has continued working with them ever since. They had seven children Derry was born in March, 1954 He graduated from David Thompson High and went to S.A.I.T to take up cooking His first job of cooking was at Waterton. He now is cooking at the Single Men's Hostel in Edmonton Derry married Hazel Fox of Devon in July, 1976. They bought a house and make their home in Edmonton. Sterling was born in June, 1956, graduated from David Thompson High and is apprenticing at cooking at the Single Men s Hostel in Edmonton. Sterling is an excellent swimmer and also likes hiking and camping — a good sportsman. Brenda was born in July. 1958. After graduating from David Thompson High she went to Edmonton to cook at Fullers and later to the Single Men's Hostel. In June. 1976 Brenda and James Kult were married in Leslieville They bought a trailer and are living on Albert Kult's farm. Jim has taken up dry walling. Steven was born April. 1960. In 1961 he developed encephalitis. He spent most of his life in the Provincial Training School and Eric Cormac Center Steven died on August 1977 Shelly born November 1962 and Robert born October 1963 are both attending David Thompson High and Kimberley born in November, 1971 attends the Leslieville school

In July 1971 Dad Kring (Charles) died in the Rocky Mountain House hospital. He had been in [illegible] House for several years

## KUEHNE, LOYD AND LUCILLE

Loyd, Lucile and two and one half year old Rachel became landed immigrants on November 9. 1967 Loyd and Lucille had both been raised on a farm and Loyd wanted to get the few head of his registered cattle onto some land of his own Lucille s father, Lowell Terry, let Loyd know that three quarters of land were available for lease So the Kuehne's left the city of Great Falls, picked up their cattle that a friend had been "running on shares," loaded up everything they had and "headed north" to Canada Loyd had said many times that we might as well move to Canada and save time on the road coming to visit my families

The land leased was two miles west of Centerview and two miles east of the Terry property. It belonged to a Calgary man George Clark

The first two winters Loyd worked for Canadian Wells and Keno Construction companies

In April 1969 the Kuehnes bought the farm belonging to Lucille's parents Loyd continued to farm Clarke's land until 1972

Lucille began teaching in Leslieville in the fall of 1968 She had taught four years in Mon[illegible]

Rachel was left for one year with Mrs. Allan Rolfson as babysitter. Being an only child Rachel enjoyed the company of the Rolfson girls For two years Mrs. Austin Ames took care of Rachel while Lucile taught Rachel began school at Leslieville in 1971

Lucille became a Canadian citizen in 1972

## LESLIE, JOHN

John and Jessie Leslie were born in Scotland They were married in Aberdeen on May 31, 1912 They sailed for Canada June 1, 1912, accompanying Jessie's family the Robert Smiths of Athambra. They settled in the Athambra district and took up a homestead there

John enlisted in the army in 1915 and served overseas in the First World War He returned home in 1919 bringing scarlet fever with him. He was dreadfully ill but anxious to get home so did not report his illness. Consequently, all the family contracted it. In 1930, they purchased the family farm two and a half miles west of Leslieville and spent their remaining years

there. Their first home was a small log house with natural fertilizer chinking the logs. The children attended the old Campbell school and high school in Leslieville. The Leslies had five children

John who married the late Lily Von Hollen and resides in Onoka. They had one son Gerrie who is a Dr of Microbiology in Portland, Oregon.

Edward is an oil driller and married June Dingman. They have four children and live in Edmonton

One daughter Flora, a nurse, married Elmer Tomalty of Red Deer They live on their home farm there They had three children

William, a mechanic in Calgary married Carol Marcinek. They have four children

Leonard still lives on and operates the home farm. He married Jenny Kanuels of Condor They have five children

John was deceased March 1962 and Jessie passed away December 1973. Many humorous and hardship stories have been related of the early years. During the homestead days, John walked from Alhambra to Leslieville to work on the railroad or to the west country to work in the sawmills. Sections of the road were corduroyed with logs across the muskegs and sloughs. In the wet spells, he would walk the fence to get across the worst mire

John and a neighbor made many trips to Red Deer by team and wagon or sleigh to bring in supplies for themselves and the neighbors. They forded the rivers in many instances. The trip took about four days

Wheat was taken to a flour mill in Eckville to be ground into flour or cracked wheat If you were fortunate enough to have aged flour on hand it made good bread but the fresh flour made pretty heavy dough. The neighbors all helped one another and had very little source of revenue They truly lived off the land

**LIIVER, HERMAN AND ALICE**

Herman and Alice Liiver were both born in Estonia. Herman had a small acreage and bought and sold cattle in the near-by town Alice worked in a creamery both before and after their marriage in 1928

Following the occupation of their homeland by the Russians, the Liivers took refuge in Sweden, where they spent five and one-half years. In 1949 they came to Canada, first to Saskatchewan, where they didn't like the dust and later for a short while to Calgary. They found employment with the Lawton Brothers after coming to the Eckville area, and Herman soon found a farm nine and one-half miles north of Leslieville Alice remained with the Lawtons for a time continuing her work as a housekeeper

Mr and Mrs. Liiver continued farming until retiring to Eckville in 1968, where they had constructed a new home. Herman passed away in November of 1972 Alice continues to live in Eckville Her friends marvel at her beautiful handwork and gaily patterned knitting. She is a member of the Friendship Club and the Handicraft Guild in Eckville

**LLOYD, HARRY NEWTON**

Harry Newton Lloyd (born August 26, 1895 at Eldro Springs, Mass.) and Hattie Augusta Kautz (born January 3, 1901 at Toledo, Ohio) were united in marriage on December 15, 1928 at Chinook, Alberta They lived at Chinook, where Harry's son Paul and Hattie's son John took some of their schooling. Then they lived west of Rocky Mountain House for awhile before coming to Leslieville to farm in 1931 Their home was on the SE 12-40-5-W5. From here Paul and John continued their education at the Blueberry Valley school

Paul went in to the Marines later on and John farmed with his dad in the early years and worked at lumber mills and various jobs

Harry Lloyd was a painter and decorator by trade and supplemented his income doing this He thus became extremely well known and liked in the district — not only at Leslieville, as he painted in schools, hospitals, public buildings as well as in private homes

Around 1959 they bought the Red Head Service Station presently known as John's Parkland Oil and Gas They were in business on it August, 1955 when they sold their business to Tauno and Roy Heikkinen

Hattie and Harry retired to the house presently owned by Mr Bert Wiens, while they were waiting for the completion of their new home in 1967 Here they lived for many years, both being active members in the community Harry con

Mattie and Harry Lloyd. Fred, Marysville, Kay and Paula (held by Harry), Helen and John Lloyd

tinued in the painting business as long as his health allowed

In June of 1965 they decided to sell their property due to ill health and move to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. Harry had a stroke the day of their sale and passed away the following day, June 20, 1965 in the Rocky Mountain House hospital. Hattie bravely continued with their plans and moved alone to the Westview Lodge. She was fighting cancer, and spent a lot of time in hospital, but she resided in the Lodge, when not ill, until her passing on February 18, 1970.

Their son Paul of Las Vegas, is still in the Marines.

Their son John married Helen McMillan in Lacombe in 1943. They lived on a couple of farms in the area, farming part time and working out and they moved out to the coast for a couple of years. They bought the home farm in 1952 and they continued farming there until 1965, when they moved into Leslieville and rented out the farm. John then had been employed by Arnette and Burgess Pipeline Co. so now worked full time. He was killed in an industrial accident at Edmonton, July 29, 1971. John is survived by his wife Helen of Leslieville, a son Walter and daughter Darlene.

Walter is at Grande Prairie, where he is presently the accountant for the Treasury [illegible].

Darlene and her husband Don Jackson live in Leslieville and have three children. Randy and Dawna McGregor whose father Richard died tragically in an industrial accident on September 16, 1974 – and Rhonda Jackson.

Harry and Hattie Lloyd will always be remembered for their friendliness and good humour — who could forget Harry's hearty laugh? It was so infectious. On the farm they were wonderful neighbours and in business they were great to deal with. Hattie's courage and true Christian spirit through years of illness, left a tremendous example to all of us.

**LOWEN, JACK AND MARY — LESLIEVILLE PIONEERS — by Ralph Lowen**

Dad, Edgar Thomas Lowen, known to his friends as just E.T. or "Jack", was born in Devonshire, England in 1885, one of a family of five.

While a boy in his homeland, his dreams were to come to Canada to the "Wild West" to be a cowboy. This inspiration came from watching the many Buffalo Bill shows in England. In May of 1906 he landed in Canada alone. His first job was as a farm laborer in Ontario. In 1907 he arrived in Calgary and hired on with the Pat Burns Ranches as a "cowpoke".

Only the summers were spent with Burns — the winters took him north to trapping on his homestead filed near Edmonton. Later, he filed on his second homestead near Leslieville. In order to file his claim on this land, he took a train from Calgary to Red Deer. This took him by way of Snake Lake, known now as Sylvan Lake. It was then surrounded by swampy, marshy land. He had to hang on to the willows and shrubs to make his way around without sinking in the swamp. This same area is now a booming resort.

Jack and May Lowen in Calgary before leaving for homestead in Beaver Flat, 1914.

In Calgary in 1914, he married May Lyons Tarbuck, also from England, and left for the homestead near Leslieville. Their move was made by two boxcars on the railway. They bought a wagon, a team and equipment, three Shorthorn cows, a pig, some furniture and necessary housekeeping and homesteading supplies. While en route, the pig they had bought had piglets, the sow died, but they somehow saved the little pigs. When they arrived at the last stop near Rocky Mountain House, the train man opened the boxcar door and to his surprise saw Mother sitting rocking in her rocking chair which she had bought at the auction before leaving Calgary. From the end of the railway line they went the remainder by team and wagon caravan style. On approaching muskegs, the load was taken across piece by piece, reloaded and continued on to the next muskeg. The determination of our pioneers!

They arrived at the new home, a one room log house which Dad had built previously on a treeless, grassy slope. It was Mother's job to keep the logs chinked with mud. This simple little home was located in the Beaver Flat District No. 1914 on SE-12-40-6-W5. Another log building had to be built to serve as a barn. This was great hay country; the frosts came too late in the spring and too early in the fall for grain.

Their first son was born while they were on the homestead, but he died very young with whooping cough and pneumonia.

In 1917 they sold out and moved to the Horseshoe Canyon area, just west of Drumheller. Mother's sister and husband were already settled here. Dad bought some land here and went into farming and ranching. They raised five sons and three daughters after moving here.

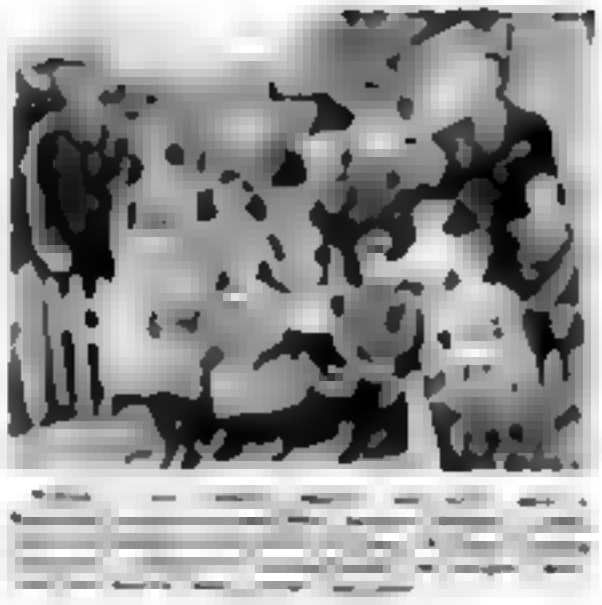
Ken, Ralph, Tom, Jack, Chris, Barbara Gwen, and Betty.

Dad passed away in 1960 and Mother in 1971. Although their stay on the homestead was relatively short, it was a very memorable part of their lives. One neighbor I can remember Dad speaking of was the "Hilbert's" only a few miles away. About 10 years ago we drove to Leslieville and looked up the Hilbert place, now operated by a son. He took us to Dad's homestead and we have kept in touch ever since.

[redacted]

The turn of the Century for Western Canada saw an influx of adventurous people looking for a new way of life. Word spread across Canada that land was available for "homesteading" in Alberta, thus - in 1906 Frank Tyndal and James Malcolm, both employed as ploughmen in Prince Edward Island relayed the message home to [redacted]

William Fairweather Malcolm W F tired of being involved in the Coal Cartage business, made a sudden decision to leave for Canada with his fifth son, David. A story passed through the



family relating how Dave, in a hurry to pack his belongings, arose early next morning and picked the newest pair of socks in the house, which belonged to his brother Andrew, hoping that he would not miss them.

W F had 13 children, eight sons and five daughters and two step-sons. His wife Catherine and an infant daughter Bell had passed away early 1900, eventually all but two sons made their way to Canada. John remained in Scotland and Alexander a stone mason had gone to New York city to work building the "skyscrapers".

When David and W F arrived in Edmonton they found it was still a settlement of tents. They went south to the Red Deer area to look for work and started at the Murdock MacDonald place and also worked for the Martins in the Ridgewood area.

W F went west looking for land and early 1905 he took section 31 in township 30 Range 5-5. This was to be the homesteads of three of his sons David, Leonard and James. W F took the N E quarter with the Horseguard Creek running through it. James arrived from the East and he and David went to work at Martins' Mill to the north and got enough material to build a house and barn on the bank of the creek near the beaver dams.

In 1909, Granny (Agnes, W F 's second wife) her son James Lindsay, together with Leonard, Anne and Donald left Glasgow on the Steamship Athenia." Agnes's older son had left before and settled in Montreal.

Granny and the four children stayed at Ridgewood with the MacDonalds until the house was ready to move into. When that day came the story has been related that someone miscalculated the number of stovepipe lengths needed to hook up the kitchen range to the chimney and as it was impossible to get more

pipe right away the stove had to be put up on blocks and Granny, being a petite woman, had to stand on packing cases to do the cooking

The first Beaver Flat school was built on the portion of land donated from David's southwest quarter, it was built with logs cut from the northwest quarter which was Len's. Miss Lizzie Martin was the first teacher and she boarded with the Sr Malcolms. Some of the families attending that first school were the Ed Sims, Geo Turtons, Rodgers, Marshall s, Ralvio's, Antilla's and the Smith sisters. Mrs Smith and her two daughters came from England to live with her brother Fred Kirkman and they went back to England in the early 1920's. During the war years 1914-1918 Len, David and James served in the Canadian Army. Andrew served in the Navy Leonard was killed overseas in action and W F donated a bell in memory of his seventh son this bell was installed upon the roof of the new school built only a short distance from the log one which later burnt to the ground in the late 1920's

Most of the family had learned trades in Scotland David was a house painter and paper hanger from time to time he would do some painting etc for neighbors and did the school whenever it needed a new coat of paint, also when Mr G. Meston Sr opened a general store at Oras he painted a sign for it Andrew was a baker and when the survey crew one of whom was Geo. Pearkes) were surveying for the railway to Nordegg. Andrew was a cook for them, about 1912. After the war Andrew and his wife settled in Calgary where they had their own bakery, later in the 40's he worked for Picardy's

Susan, the oldest daughter had a boarding house in Calgary, the other girls helped her She married Adam Gorrie a shoemaker and had a store near Andrew's bakery Catherine married Frank Roy and raised three sons, Bruce Leonard, Frank killed in war 1944). Susan and Andrew had no children. Em became Mrs Stephens during the war. her husband was killed overseas and she took up residence in Calgary too. she had three children Catherine, John and Jean. Bill was a saddler and he and his wife Mary and daughter Margaret also made their home in Calgary. James married in Scotland during the war years and finally took his family to farm near Hanna, they had two daughters Violet and Isabell and one son James. Ann the youngest daughter married a railway engineer Herbert Lundy. they had one son, Raymond, and had a farm at Coronation. Ray and his wife Adeline and some of their children live there

When David returned from overseas in 1919 he built a log house on the southeast quarter, In May 1920 Isabella Leonard came out from Scotland and they were married in Calgary They had met in 1915 when she was nursing the wife of James, (David was visiting on leave). Isabella had trained in Edinburgh and Glasgow and nursed in England and Scotland during the war years. Her training was of great value in the years to come on the homestead. She was called upon quite often to deliver the babies of the settlers during the 1920's and 30's. She would often stay 10 days or more with a family taking her own baby with her), and as well as assisting at the delivery she often had to cook meals and do washing and baking for the family while the mother recovered to cope on her own. There was little money and she often received seed grain or potatoes as payment The nearest hospital was at Red Deer, she worked with Dr Somerville from Eckville and later Dr Hill and Dr Greenaway from Rocky Mountain House When the Women s Institute started in the district she gave lectures on Home Nursing and First Aid

W F s youngest son Donald married Ethel Smith niece of Fred Kirkman in 1932. They lived on the Taylor place across the creek. Donald had a new house built his brother Alex came out from New York to lay the foundation and build the chimney. Donald raised purebred Shorthorn cattle and traveled around the country with a purebred horse, he also had a beautiful saddle horse called Spider They had three children Margaret, William and Mary In the late 50's they moved to Red Deer where Donald worked for the school board and in the late 60's they moved to British Columbia. Margaret married Jack Armstrong and they have two children, Patrick and Colleen William lives with Donald and Ethel close by

W F passed away in November 1935 and Agnes in 1940. David and Isabella moved to Red Deer in 1948 and both passed away there. Their only surviving child Aileen lives with her husband Thomas Haime in Victoria. They have three children. David, Arlene and Lorne

W F 's surviving children are Donald Catherine and Anne

Some of the hardships of those years were due to the lack of communications (no phones, radios and no mail delivery) and distances between neighbors would often be half a mile or more, so often one relied on sound and chimney smoke to be sure all was okay with them. The winters were long and bitterly cold (no central heating we often heated bricks in the oven or on top of the coal and wood stove and wrapped them in flannel to heat the beds Often Father or Mother would stay up or take turns keeping the fires stoked up all night There were real cold clear nights when one could hear the trees crackling and see the northern lights dancing across the sky and hear the great horned owl going "to-whit-to-whoo

Some of the tragedies were severe illness and death due to lack of medical help and the time lapse when word did get through to help There were moments of despair when a field of grain would be set back by a late frost or when nearly ready to harvest it would be battered by hail and wind. There were times when all a family's hopes and belongings would be destroyed by fire

or a prize animal would die for lack of t -ined help and medicine

There were happy times too, such as wonder ful Christmas concerts with everyone wearing their very best and pretty clothes, eagerly look ing forward to Santa Claus arriving with a gift, a bag of candy and an orange for some it was the only candy or oranges they would get all year The tree would be big and reached to the ceiling the decora ions were mostly made by the teacher and the children and there were wax

ment and never a mishap

Fun times like chicken and bean suppers and dances were held in the school with the desks pushed back to the wall The whole family would come (no baby sitters) and the little ones would be put to sleep on the desk tops The orchestra often consisted of Mrs. Angus Martin at the piano, Johnny Gore on the drums, Frank Scott and Sam Dickson with violins

There were competitive times such as the an nual School Fair at Lesliеville with everyone do ing their finest sewing, baking, and school work such as writing compositions. There was garden produce grown from the free seeds we received in the spring There were sports days and school picnics (the ice cream was delicious)

There was the magic of our first battery radio only to be used on very special occasions such as Texaco News, the funeral of King George V, hockey games and concerts

That momentous occasion when we went to Edmonton by special train to see the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the first train ride for most of us

Sunday dinners, Christmases and New Years with friends, such as Mesions and Maconochies, were also special occasions

Harvest time with threshing crews to prepare meals for, the aroma of fresh baked bread, apple pies and roast beef and fresh garden vegetables was a special occasion. The welcome sight of ripe grain and fresh straw and a good yield meant bills would be paid and money enough to carry the family through another year

Some of the teachers who boarded at Dave Malcolm's home were Miss Wade about 1927-28 Miss MacDonald about 1930 and Mr W C McRoberts about 1935-36-37

**MARTIN ANGUS AND MATTIE FAMILY TREE**

Angus McColl Martin was born at Buxton near Chatham, Ontario. April 12, 1881 He came to Alberta with his family to farm, known as Glentromie, being he NE 14-37-1W5 which had been homesteaded by his father in 1889 When he was 18 years old he took up his own homestead which was NW 12-37 1W5, which he farmed for many years. In 1907 in company with his brother Lachie and W.C MacDougall of High River he went into the lumber business which kept him busy during the winter while farming in the summer In 1938 a disastrous fire put an end to the lumbering and he and his family settled on the farm

On December 27 1911 he was married to Miss Mat tie Reilly eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Reilly, who was born in Toronto, Ontario, June 13, 1886 and came to Alberta in 1903. Angus and Mattie had a family of six sons and two

Marion Elizabeth, now living in Calgary born September 22, 1912, married to Herbert E Miller, August 24, 1934 They have two sons Kenneth Robert, born May 26, 1935 married to Miss Gerda Graig and they have four children — Katherine Marion, born January 10, 1964 Stuart Angus, born November 1, 1965 Kristan Lee, born June 2, 1969 and John Lachlan, born June 27, 1971 Verne Ronald born October 18, 1938 married to Miss Constance Alexande December 27, 1965 and have one daughter Sharon born October 19, 1966

Angus Leslie (Bud), born December 29, 1913, now living at Alhambra, married to Miss Svanhild Sande August 7, 1947 and have one daughter Joyce Ann born July 12, 1950

John Cameron, born March 23, 1917 now living at Richmond, British Columbia married to Miss Margaret Dodds September 24, 1941 They have two daughters. Marlene Emily born April 21 1945 and married to Lloyd McLeod, November 4, 1968; they have two children — Dayna Kim born June 1, 1972 and Terrie Dawn born July 7 1977 Shirley Anne, born March 25 1951, married Douglas Kinnear January 5, 1974 and have one son — Thomas James, born October 20, 1977

Gordon Victor, born November 18, 1918 passed away October 30, 1953

Douglas Murray, born June 17 1920, now liv ing in Red Deer, married to Miss Alice Christine Jahraus, November 17 1949. They have two daughers. Eleanor Louise, born February 20, 1951 and Diane Janine born October 6, 1952

Margaret Adelaide, born November 9, 1922 residing at Rocky Mountain House, was not married but was Senior Night Supervisor at the Alberta School Hospital for over 30 years. She lives with her mother

Kenneth Alexander, born May 23, 1925, now living at Alhambra, married to Miss Irene Mushka, November 19, 1948. They have two daughters Jean Marion, born May 2, 1951 and Marilyn Gayle born January 20, 1965

William McKenzie, born August 17, 1927 liv ing at Rocky Mountain House, married to Miss Ida Krenbrink, June 18, 1947 They have two sons Wayne William, born August 7, 1948 married to Miss Eleanor Galenza February 28, 1970 and they have two sons Robert William born September 19, 1970 and Wayne Scott Franklin born July 27 1975. Bruce Allen, born September 30, 1949 married to Miss Sheila Kolodziejak in 1971 and have three daughters Kimberley Ann, born September 25, 1969, Tara

Lee, born July 1, 1971 and Tammy Roxanne Millan born June 25 1974

After several bad heart attacks Angus McColl Martin passed away in the Eckville Hospital on February 24, 1964 and is buried in the family plot in the Red Deer Cemetery

**MASON, WILLIAM J.**

I, William Jennings Mason, was born in 1898 at Kokomo, Indiana. My parents were Thomas Jefferson Mason and Martha Mason. I was the oldest of their family of five boys. My brothers were Chester Noel, Alonzo and Tommy.

About 1900 we moved to the Woods county area in eastern Oklahoma. In 1901 we moved to the western part of Oklahoma when it was opened up for homesteading. We went by covered wagon, trailing some cattle and horses We staved there until 1912 then moved to Montana

A rhyme that comes to mind might explain why we left "Hurray for Oklahoma, the land of the free, the home of the grasshopper, the bed bug and flea

A neighbor asked my father Thomas, why he was going so far north. Didn't he know that water would freeze in wells 40 feet deep? Thomas answered, "Hell, I've seen it boil in wells that deep in Oklahoma, so which is worse?"

My father farmed in Montana for a year and a half before deciding to move to Alberta My father mother and my four brothers and I came by train as settlers, at a special rate. We crossed at Portal North Dakota and came to Rocky Mountain House in 1914. The first winter was spent southwest of Crimson Lake. Then we moved to the Leslieville district about 1915, to the NE 19-40-5, land known as the Pete Moser pl Later we moved to the John Young quarter NW 21-40-5 and stayed about five years

During the first War I went to Calgary to join the army but was not called up until the war was almost over, and then my call was cancelled

In 1919 Helen Albertine Seeland and I were married and we moved to where Jack Leslie now farms. (this land was known earlier as the Elliot place). In early 1921 I homesteaded the SE 31-40 5 and moved there shortly afterwards. We raised our family here and are continuing to live on this land having been here now for 56 years. We had seven children. Norman, Vera, Elmer, William Alfred, Andrew, and Mildred

My father brothers and I, played music for dances all around the district, as far east as Condor and west to Rocky Mountain House

I remember working at the McDougal mill for $6 a day The pay was to be taken out in lumber at the end of the winter Some of the men would play poker, betting 2 x 4's and 2 x 6's. The planed lumber was delivered to Rocky Mountain House for $7 a thousand feet

My father lived for a little while on the John [illegible] the SW 24-41-6-W5 around 1922. My father died in August 1924, and my mother passed away 25 years later in 1949

I have a very good orchard which I started about 1935. I raise Battleford, Heyer No. 12 Rescue and Osman apples and crabapples enough for myself and family, and the neighbors around the district. My yard and garden is a very beautiful spot in the spring when all the trees are in blossom. I've only lost one crop due to frost in all the years I've grown fruit in this spot in Alber

**McCALLUM, MR AND MRS ROBERT DUNCAN — by Mattie Martin**

Robert McCallum was born in Scotland, January 2, 1886 living there until after his father's death, his family moved to Yorkshire where he resided until coming to Canada about 1910. At that time he was a young student minister and was stationed in southern Alberta at Gletchen and Pincher Creek He was sent to Nordegg in 1912 and came to Leslieville in 1915 In his youth he had started to study medicine but ill health prevented him from following that profession but after a while in this west country his health improved. What he had learned at medical school was kept in his head and many a person was helped by him in times of sickness He preached for many years at Leslieville and surrounding district and conducted over 200 funerals during his time He was the postmaster for nearly 40 years and also filled the position as secretary for the municipality for a long time until ill health overtook him and he had to resign from his labors

On April 16, 1916 he was married to Bertha Alice Reilly in Red Deer and they settled down to their married life in a little shack but later built a large house in Leslieville which was used as the

post office and their dwelling place until their retirement. They sold their property about 1962 and went to live at the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. After a stay in hospital in Rocky Mr. McCallum passed away January 27, 1964. Funeral services were held from the Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mountain House, with burial in the Leslieville Cemetery, January

Bertha was a helpmate to Bob in the Post Office all the years that they were employed there and took a great interest in the works of the community, especially the Women's Institute, of which she was a charter member, and the Royal Purple, of which she was a life member. She took great pleasure in curling and knitting and in her younger days was a very fine singer. She remained in Rocky Mountain House for two years after her husband's death, then moved to Red Deer, remaining there until her passing on October 7, 1977. A memorial service was held in Red Deer on the morning of October 12, with a special service by the Elks Lodge and the ladies Purple officiating in the afternoon Elks hall in Leslieville. Burial was in the Leslieville Cemetery.

To this couple was born a daughter, Betty Jean Isabel, who was raised at Leslieville until she married Mr. R. T. Gregson and went to live in Toronto. To them were born four daughters and one son, Marilyn, Sandra, Lynn, and the twins, Robert and Donna. They all live in or close to their parents at Port Bolster, near Lake Simcoe, Ontario. There are six grandchildren.

**[illegible]**

One could write pages about this person but time will not permit so I will stick to a few details. He was born and brought up in Ontario around London, I think, and whatever possessed him to pick on Leslieville as a homing place never was found out. Early in 1912 he arrived and from that time on he remained here. That particular winter was very cold after the New Year there being no snow until after Christmas and then it turned bitterly cold, something that Percy was not used to.

A man by the name of Oliver Wright (commonly called Ollie) lived down on the road east of Bailey's with his wife and family and his father. He was a man of tremendous proportions but like all fat people liked to be jolly and have fun and we did have many good laughs with him. Well, he took a contract to do some bushwork out near Nordegg that cold winter and hired a bunch of the young fellows around to go out and work for him. Among the lot were Percy McGill, Ted Ensign, Tom Butler, Leaman Patterson and Victor Reilly and maybe others, and Fatty Wright himself. On the way out they stopped for lunch and of course Ted Ensign offered to make the coffee. No water being handy, he scooped up some nice clean snow. Also in that year there were lots of rabbits which had been scampering around and you can imagine what happened to poor Ted when the boys drained their cups. The best part was hearing McGill tell it. It was not too long before he and some of the rest arrived back at Leslieville and there he stayed until his passing. For a long time he was a clerk in McKinnon's store. He had a butcher shop of his own and did well with that. In nearly all the plays we used to put on he had a leading part for he was a good actor. He also was a good poker player as many could testify and was wonderful with figures and had a remarkable memory. He belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, and although he seldom attended a service, was buried from the Catholic Church in Sylvan Lake, Father McDonald conducting. Percy had had pneumonia more than once, finally having a fatal attack.

**McLEAN MR. ANDREW — (by Hattie Hastie,**

Andrew McLean came from Quebec, near Lake Megantic, to Alberta about 1907, coming out to the Leslieville district and settling on the land about two miles east of there, directly east of the quarter that the Hopkins family lived on said land later being taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Inglis. With Andrew were his mother, a sister, Barbara (who later became Mrs. George Thompson) and a young lad by the name of John Gore.

There was another sister, Lily, who was married to Mr. Norman McDonald and they lived east of that, not too far from Harry Arnold's place. Andy was not a strong man but was a good farmer, having brought with him horses, cattle and machinery. His mother was a very nice person and died a few years later. After Barbara was married he left and not too much was heard of him.

The Norman McDonald's lived for several years on the farm where their children were born, at least some of them. Ronald was the oldest, then Hector (who afterwards married Mona Ball) and Flora, and I think there was a younger girl. There were also two brothers of Norman's who had land farther north but they did not stay too long. Norman worked at Nordegg in the winter. They finally moved to Red Deer where they lived for several years. Mrs. McDonald (Lily) was a fine singer and also did recitations and readings at many gatherings. But I think the McDonalds are all gone now.

**McLEOD, ALLAN — submitted by John McLeod**

Allan McLeod was born in Prince Edward Island in 1854. His wife Emmine Keennon was born in Makaska County, Askalooca, Idaho, in 1864. They were married in 1890.

They came from Gaston, Oregon, to Alberta in 1906, settling northwest of Leslieville on the SE 34-39-5-5. The family consisted of eight sons, one daughter and Allan's father, Grandpa John McLeod, who was born in 1829, in Scotland. He

died in 1936 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery. Allan's eldest daughter Minnie remained in Oregon. Allan and Emaline McLeod operated a stopping house for the stage coach, freighters, and for other settlers seeking land, and although there are none of these buildings there now, the row of spruce trees planted by Emaline McLeod still stands, stately and tall marking the spot where our Grandparents carved out a home and a new way of life in Alberta and these trees still hold a meaning for us and somehow these trees were spared when the house burned down a few years ago.

Grandpa and Grandma Allan McLeod's family were – Minnie stayed in Oregon), Dan, John, Albert, Henry, Kate, Frank, Sterling, Leto and Leslie. Of these, Dan, John, Albert and Henry each homesteaded a quarter of 28-30-5-5, Kate having married Alex Sim, homesteaded the SW 4-30-5-5, now owned by William Dirsten). They also bought the NE 7-40-4-5 and in 1943 sold it to Oliver Salmon.

[illegible]

Grandma and Grandpa Allan McLeod raised the family of James McLeod, (more is told of this in the James McLeod history).

There were no telephones, no radios, no television and no electricity! There was however lots of bucksawing of wood to keep the house warm, hauling of feed for the stock, lots of barn cleaning, lots of water carrying and lots of walking if you wished to go somewhere.

Before long someone brought in a wood sawing machine and people gathered at each other's places to exchange work and get the wood pile sawed. Sometimes the crew consisted of nearly as many men as the threshing crews.

Clearing the land by hand with an ax and using a team of horses to pull the stumps, usually used up the summer months, and sometimes was a real struggle before a field of any size was ob[illegible]

Roads were not always passable even to the horse-drawn vehicles. Most of them were winding trails that kept to the higher land regardless of where the road allowances were. Most creeks were without bridges so were just forded, if the water wasn't too deep. Recreation came in the form of sleighing and skating parties, house parties and dances in the local school houses. On one such occasion it was decided to have a masquerade ball, with all the costumes. Leto, being a bit of a clown thought it might be interesting to go as a young lady, and so in long dress, ringleted wig and make-up he arrived at the dance. One young man was badly smitten with the new girl, and lost no time showing his affections, and claiming every possible dance with "her" and finally as his supper partner at which time everyone unmasked to show their identity. The young man was quite shocked to find he had fallen so hard for Leto McLeod, whom he knew quite well.

Grandma and Grandpa McLeod returned to Oregon about 1918, taking Mary, Wallace, Angeline and Isobel with them. Margaret remained in Red Deer, where she was employed. Dan, Albert, Leto and Leslie also returned to Oregon then, as did Kate and Alex Sim, just a short time later.

Frank became a railroad steam engineer and for several years was employed with the C.N.R. on the train that travelled through Leslieville. He transferred to Jasper, where it was discovered he had colour blindness, and he worked in the roundhouse there until his retirement in 1959. He was married and he and his wife, Mildred, operated a rooming house in Jasper until her passing in 1968, and a short time later he sold out and moved to Edson. He also had the misfortune of having his right leg amputated below the knee. In 1972 he married Mrs. Rose Whidden and they continued to make their home in Edson until his passing in August 1975.

Sterling served with the Armed Forces during World War I. He returned to Leslieville and later married Maude Richardson and they lived at Leslieville for a few years before moving to Oregon where he lived until his passing in October 1977.

Henry had learned the blacksmith trade from Mr. Ed Good and was employed in his shop in Rocky Mountain House. He also did blacksmith work at the sawmills in the winter. In 1916 he married Margaret McLeod, the eldest member of the James McLeod family, (mentioned earlier in this writing) and they remained at Leslieville until 1952.

Kate now 90 years of age still lives in Oregon. Leto lives in Oregon and Leslie in California.

**McMEEKIN, ROBERT AND ISABELLA**

Originally the name was McMeeking [illegible] the ensuing years, for reason unknown, [illegible] was deleted and the name became McMeekin for the following generations.)

Mr. Robert McMeekin was born in Glasgow

Scotland March 20, 1882, the son of John McMeeking and Mary Lynch

Isabella McGregor was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on August 11, 1881, the daughter of James McGregor and Margaret Munn

Robert and Isabella grew up and spent their early youth in Scotland. They were married there in the early 1900's. After a number of years they and their young family immigrated to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. In 1915 Mr McMeekin enlisted and served with the 77th Battalion Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in World War I. Upon his discharge in 1918, they lived for a time in Ottawa, later moving west to Calgary Alberta. There Mr McMeekin owned a draying business and taught carpentry at the Indian School. He was also employed with the railway at Gadsby Alberta for a time. In the early 20s they moved their belongings by horses and wagon from Calgary to their homestead, the farm now owned by Tom Holland in the area north of Lesliеville SW 20-40-4-W5. Mrs McMeekin and younger children came by train

Mrs. McMeekin assisted Dr Sommerville of Eckville at many of the births in the district when most births still occurred in the homes

She was of a humorous nature and enjoyed a bit of adventure. She was among those who availed themselves of the first chance Lesliеville people had of flying over their village for 10 minutes, when a Mr Joe Patton in his 85 H P Gypsy Moth visited the town in February 16, 1931. The old Cap Card field, just northeast of town proved an ideal landing and taking off place. She sometimes sang and played a bit of piano at some of the social events

Mr McMeekin was a quiet man with an appreciation for art. His main interests were his home

They had seven children, two daughters Mary and Margaret and five sons, Alexander Robert, James Walter and Allan

All their sons were in the services during World War II. Alexander in the Royal Canadian Navy. Robert and Walter in the Royal Canadian Airforce, and Allan in 10 Field Company R C E C.A.S F Canadian Army active) He served in Canada the United Kingdom, the Central Mediterranean area and Continental Europe

Alexander Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow Scotland on Nov 1, 1901. He passed away September 18, 1964. During his life he travelled about a lot and had varying occupations such as hotel waiter, stevedore, longshoreman, bodyman, pipefitter and farmer

He was married three times. First, to Marie Chevallier of Alhambra. Their two sons are, Robert Leslie born July 17, 1929, and Maurice Victor Louis born July 12, 1934. Second, to Ruth Peabody of Forest Grove, Oregon, U S.A. Their daughter is Virginia Helen born April 20, 1938. Third, to Helen Johnston of Oregon U S.A. Their son is Alexander born August 18, 1951 and a daughter Valerie Jean born April 7 1959. His widow Helen now resides in Oregon

Mary Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland, November 3, 1907. She passed away there in infancy

Margaret M McMeekin was born in Glasgow Scotland, July 30, 1906. She passed away in the late 1950's. She was married twice. Her first husband was Ralph Marwood of Calgary. They had one son, Ralph Frederick. Her second husband was W Lou Myers of Portland, Oregon, U S.A. They lived in Portland and Florence, Oregon and Redwood City, California. Lou passed away in early 1950

Robert Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 9, 1910. He married Joyce Payne of Calgary, where they resided for many years. He worked for the Government as a paymaster for the Department of National Defence, and in the Department of Indian Affairs there. They retired to Royston B.C. where he passed away in January, 1972. They have one daughter, Janet Isabel, born August 31 1968

James Munn McMeekin, born May 30, 1913 passed away in a drowning accident at Lesliеville on July 22, 1928

Walter McGregor McMeekin born at Corona ton, Alberta on October 7 1917 married Cecilia Anna Freylinger of Evergreen. They lived in Calgary during the years he served in the Air Force and upon his discharge took up residence in Lesliеville, where they still reside. He managed Lesliеville Motors for many years until it changed ownership in 1975. He remains there as the head mechanic. They have six children

Maureen Helene Isabella Mrs. Tom Coulter of Fruitvale, B.C.) born January 16, 1941 at Eckville. She was a head teller with the Bank of Montreal until her marriage. She is talented in art. Her husband Tom, is a manager with S. S Kresge Company, so they are transferred quite frequently so far they have been in Red Deer Alberta, North Battleford and Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Toronto, Ontario Prince George and Fruitvale B.C. They have three children Thomas Gerald, Sandra Maureen and Dawn Michelle

Carole Roberta (Mrs. Charles W Biawchuk of Edmonton) born February 4, 1943 at Calgary She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta in 1972, and is presently employed as a social worker with Alberta Social Services and Community Health. Her husband Charles, is employed with City of Edmonton Telephones. They have two children, Lesley Dawn, and Todd Alan

Peter Walter McMeekin of Condor, Alberta born December 28, 1946 at Eckville, Alberta. He married Deborah Pamela Grace Bates of Condor. He works in construction, is an operating engineer and also a mechanic. They have two daughters, Susan Katherine, and Sherrie Marie

Cecile Margaret (Mrs. Paul Viala of Red

Deer, born March 5, 1946 at Eckville. She was a switchboard operator and receptionist at Red Deer College until she retired on December 14, 1977 to await the arrival of their first born in January 1978. Her husband, Paul, is a foreman at Federal Pioneer Electric in Red Deer.

Bruce Alan McMeekin of Alhambra, born on March 14, 1951 at Eckville. He married Gwen Gayle McMillan of Alhambra. He works in construction and is also an operating engineer. They are also awaiting the arrival of their first born in January 1978.

Robert James McGregor McMeekin of Leslieville, born on August 23, 1954, at Eckville. He is employed at Rocky Wood Preservers, is a licensed grader and scaler and works at all aspects of the lumber business, as well. He is a member of the Leslieville Elks Fastball team. They won the 1977 Foothills Fastball Championship and he is also a member of the "Hillbillies" hockey team (Rocky Commercial Hockey League). They won the 1976-1977 championship. He is single and lives at home. All the children attended Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High School.

Allan Smith McMeekin, was born at Calgary on August 22, 1920. He married Dorothy Jean Galloway of Calgary, who passed away in 1947. Allan worked at Shepherd, Alberta, and Calgary for a time, later farmed and was employed with the railway at Leslieville. He now resides in Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Robert McMeekin passed away in 1926 and Mrs. Isabella McMeekin and the family of the younger children moved into the town of Leslieville in 1927. Through the years they lived in various places throughout the province — Huxley, Calgary, and Evergreen included, but returned to reside in Leslieville where Mrs. McMeekin passed away on March 27, 1964.

**McMILLAN HUNTLEY AND LEIGH (LEE) — by Mattie Martin**

Leigh (Lee) McMillan was a real nice young man who lived up behind the Butte not too far from Ted Ensign. He and Ted always remained good friends but Leigh did not stay too long in the country and went back to Edmonton. However his brother, Huntley McMillan, came and lived on the farm and did well. He married one of the Conn girls (whose parents came to live on the place where Mr. and Mrs. McNeil lived and where the Laurence Olivers now reside). Then Huntley's parents came to live on the farm and were good residents for a number of years.

**McTAVISH, WILLIAM AND EFFIE**

William and Effie McTavish came from the Lethbridge district and proved up on Henry Decker's homestead SE 13-40-5-W5. They had one daughter and two sons, Muriel, Douglas and Gordon.

They were a happy, warm hearted family and contributed much to the social life of the community. The ladies were members of the W.I.

Muriel married Frank Averill and they had two daughters and one son, Audrey (Mrs. Starn), Drenadine (Mrs. Ammons) and Billy. They all live in the U.S.A.

Frank was a gifted artist and they lived for a time on SE-11-40-5-W5. Frank died quite awhile ago. Muriel used to come to the farm a lot to help Doug out, but she passed away not long ago.

Douglas has not married and lives on the homestead, farms a half section and has a lot of good beef cattle.

Gordon became ill and passed away while still a young man.

**MENZIES, THE ARCHIE L. HISTORY**

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Menzies arrived at Sarnia, Ontario, from Scotland in 1905, where they resided for the next two years. Archie came west on a harvest excursion in the fall of 1906 to Innisfail. After the harvest he set out on foot to locate a brother Bob, who had earlier located somewhere near Oras. This was all virgin territory so as a result the ponds he could not wade through, he swam, to get there. Bob and Archie then went on a land scouting spree for a homestead. Archie filed on NW 10-40-5-W5, in September 1907. Bob filed on NE-9-40-5-W5. Archie then proceeded to erect a small log cabin before freeze-up.

The following spring he brought his wife and two young children out to the new home.

Many the disappointments and setbacks they encountered in ensuing years as frost, swamp fever in horses, and shortage of money plagued them as well as all early settlers. All supplies, food, building materials, and other necessities were freighted from Red Deer by oxen and later by horses, a journey of 40 odd miles, a journey through, around, and across muskeg, rivers, and bush trails. However, with typical "Scotch" determination they persisted and finally overcame their adversities. In the ensuing years five more children were born and raised.

In 1911 the first school was voluntarily built but only remained open during the fall and spring months for a couple of years until more settlers and pupils became available.

Archie spent part of the first few winters working at a sawmill fifteen miles from home.

Mary Ann. Archie's wife, stayed home and looked after the family and the few livestock during his absence. He received the princely sum of $15.00 per month for his labour, but it helped to keep the family fed and clothed

He built a new barn and house in 1916 on higher land in hopes of combating the dread of the early settlers — swamp fever which took many a homesteader's horses, leaving him with no farming power for a time

The C N R. railroad constructed a line through to Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg in 1912. Lesliеville then became the hamlet as known to-day Mail service which had previously been brought by stage once a week to the store was now transported by train The settlers really thought everything was going well now. Coal mines opened at Nordegg and settlers earned extra cash working on the railroad and also obtained a market for their surplus hay and oats as feed for the mine ponies

The first phone line of eight miles was constructed by volunteer labour about 1916 and used extensively up until the time the existing lines were taken over by A.G.T

The fruits of the land were wild berries as saskatoons, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, also wild game like deer, rabbit, moose, prairie chicken and partridge also an abundance of wood for fuel

A log church was put up in Leslieville by interested volunteers in the early years in which Archie participated and the building was used for about twenty-five to thirty years afterwards

Extra money was earned by helping at this

People had various forms of entertainment such as dances, Christmas Tree programmes, also the famed chautauqua made its appearance in the early 1920's or before. Later on the School Fairs and summer picnics held a place in the social life of the community

It seemed like a miracle that seemed to stay healthy as doctors and modes of travel were far away in time of need Midwives were a blessing to many a newborn under those conditions. Home made remedies and cures all seemed to work wonders

During these early days mechanized power was unheard of so brushing, clearing, piling burning, were done by hand. Many laborious hours were spent in these tasks by Archie, Mary Ann and their family until enough land was put in production to meet the demands of a growing family To-day very little of the homestead is not broken

Archie and Mary Ann purchased their first a new 1926 Chevrolet. Prior to this buggies democrats and wagons, as well as horse-back were the modes of travel

Archie and Mary Ann have gone to their just reward. Archie passed away in 1948 at the age of 70. Mary Ann passed away in 1970 at the age of 98 years But the original homestead is still lived in and farmed by some of the sons. Following are the names of their sons and daughters. Archie Margaret Mary Robert, Agnes, Alexander and Donald. All but Margaret still live in the immediate district Margaret lives at Delburne

Archie Jr homesteaded the NE 10-40-5W5 in 1922 and later purchased the NE 9-40-5W5 of his Uncle Bob's estate Archie still farms this land

Robert bought the NE 16-40-5W5 of his Uncle Bob's and later became an Alberta Wheat Pool agent He is retired from the Wheat Pool and at present residing in Leslieville with his wife Evelyn, owning a grocery business — the Leslieville Mercantile They have five children all married and living in the surrounding area

Margaret and her husband Harry Gongaware are retired from farming and live on the family farm at Delburne. Prior to her marriage. Margaret taught school. They have two sons both married and they carry on the business of farming

Mary and her husband, Ed Smith are actively farming east of Leslieville at present They have two daughters — both married and live in the area quite close to them

Agnes and her husband Laurence Oliver reside on a farm a few miles from town Laurence works full time as parts-man at a machine shop in Eckville. They have one son who is a draftsman in the city

Alex and his wife, Margaret and his brother Don reside on the original Menzies farm and continue with the farming operations

These are the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Archie and Mary Ann Menzies

Lorraine and Phyllis are the children of Ed and Mary Smith Lorraine is married to John Schroderus and reside in Eckville. They have four children, Karen, Lorne, Julie and Loralie Karen is married to Robin Tolonen and lives in Red Deer Phyllis is married to Ensio Schroderus and has two children, Ken and Audrey They reside in the Leslieville district

Philip and Keith are the children of Harry and Margaret Gongaware and reside on their farms in Delburne district. Philip is married to Lois Hoerle and has three children, Neil, Greg and Lori. Keith is married to Maureen Perry and has two children Allan and Sheila

Connie, Carol, Bob, Marlene and Wendy are the children of Bob and Evie Menzies Connie is married to Jerry Litz and has three children, April, Dana and Bradley They live in Red Deer Carol Bryant resides in Calgary and has four children, Garry Curtis, Sherri and Rodney Bob is married to Sheila Hotkkinen and has two children, Shauna and Robert. They live in Leslieville area Marlene is married to Chester Ketchum and lives in Leslieville. They have two children, Christopher and Jennifer. Wendy is married to Bob Bryant and resides in Caroline

They have two children, Angela and Kimberley

Don is the son of Laurence and Agnes Oliver and resides in Red Deer

**THE MESTON FAMILY**

Mr and Mrs. Robert Meston and three daughters left Aberdeen, Scotland, May, 1911 Mary and Bessie, (Elizabeth) came out to Alberta by themselves, to be followed, a few weeks later, by their parents and the eldest sister. Ella The brothers, George and Bob were already here having taken up land in the Bingley district. George met the family at Red Deer Railway Station. The trip to George's homestead was made by wagon and team, and took two days. It wasn't what you would call a comfortable drive. but George was very proud of his team, "Nancy and Fred" – partly bronco. Looking back, my parents, who were not young, had a great deal of courage and were not afraid of work. Eventually, my father filed on a homestead and Joe Frost, a good neighbor built a comfortable home, on that land. A nearby neighbor of theirs was Billy Barnes. Other neighbors were Fred and Harry Richardson, and Mr and Mrs. J Nielson, who had one son of school age

It was an entirely new life for all. My mother was the happiest of women when she mastered the art of bread-making and she enjoyed looking after the young stock, and the chickens. Father kept a neat farm-yard and knew his cattle Ella had house work to keep her busy The other two sisters followed what they had studied in Aberdeen. Mary became a nurse in the General Hospital, Calgary, and Bessie took up teaching In those days, mail was eagerly looked forward to, and we'd take the afternoon off to visit Bingley P.O. J W Christian handled the mail. then followed by Mr and Mrs Tom Ogden. The Ogdens came from the Bingley district in Yorkshire, England Mrs. Elizabeth Ogden was an enthusiastic gardener and it was usual for her to carry off most of the gardening prizes at Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Fair Her flower garden was always attractive

Father died at home at the age of 74 years Dr Backus of Eckville had visited him from time to time. Mother came with Ella to stay in a neat little house on our farm at Alhambra When our mother had her last illness, Mary came out from Red Deer to nurse her She had reached the age of 84. Both parents are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House

**MOORE, OSWALD AND NELLIE – by Nellie Moore**

I am the third daughter of Fred and Sara-Ann Hart and was born on the farm at Leslieville. I took my schooling at Prairie Rose and Leslieville Schools. I played on the softball team and learned to curl from an old Scotch gentleman. T O Stephenson, in the old straw rink Later I went out to work and met Oswald Moore of the Ridgewood district Times were hard and not much money so we went together for four years He bought a farm, so then we were married in 1937, and are now semi-retired on the same farm We had a celebration at our daughter and son-in-law's home for our 40th anniversary This was held in the same yard in which we held our wedding reception. I have been a member of the Ridgewood W I for 37 years

We have three daughters and two sons Mrs Neal Buckley (Dorothy), who lives on Oswald's Dad's farm. They have three children, Brian, Chris and Arlene They farm six quarters in the district Mrs. Erle Morphy (Audrey), they live in Langley, B.C. They own Birkland Kennels and raise and train German Shepherds which they import from Germany. They have no children Mrs. Mike Cavierier (Gladys) resides in Red Deer They manage the West Park Automotive Garage with Shell products Mike is the coach of the West Park Ladies Softball team His wife Gladys and their two daughters play on the team They also have two younger ones Pamela – eight years old and Glen five years old Edward (Ted married Patsy Johnson and have two children, Allan seven years old and Sherri four years old. They farm his father-in-law's four quarters and his Dad's five quarters along with two that he owns, one quarter is pasture land so he has range cattle and feeds out many in the winter Patrick is quite a lot younger than the rest of our children, graduated from Grade 12 this year and took up auto body work. He works and lives at home Ted and Patrick play on the Ridgewood Ball Team. Ted also coaches and has a team of young boys from 15 to 19 years of age He also has four older men from Innisfail to help him.

**MOTTUS, ELMER**

Elmer (Scotty) Mottus joined the armed services in 1941 and served for a time overseas too After his discharge from the services in 1946 he was on the home farm for a while. Then he purchased the former Mr W Barret's farm at Leslieville in 1951, where he and his family still farm.

He married Miss Mae McGowan of Markerville in 1952 and has three children Sandra born in 1955. Allan born in 1956. and Murray born in 1958. They took their High School at the David Thompson High School. They are now employed at various jobs

**OJA, JOHN AND TECKLA**

John Ulas Oja was born at Vaasa, Finland September 23, 1886. He came to Canada in 1909 and worked in Montreal Then he came west and worked on the C N R. between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg and he also worked in bush camps He homesteaded the NW 17-40-5-W5 in 1909

He went to the United States and while there he met Teckla Hatula Teckla was born in

Lakota, North Dakota October 1, 1890. They were married in Butte, Montana where they lived for a while. Later they moved to the Rocky Mountain House area with their three young daughters Mabel, Agnes and Violet. Then they lived on the homestead in the Golden Heights district. The next move was to a farm in the Bingley area and then to the farm in the Beaver Flat district the

John and Teckla had 11 children, Mabel, Agnes and Violet born in the United States, Sadie and Iva born in the Golden Heights district, Wilbert, Howard, Melvin and Herbert born in the Beaver Flat district. Two children, Wesley and Esther, passed away at an early age.

John farmed his quarter section well with heavy draft horses and he had fine cattle. Besides farming he operated a lumber mill and tie camp for a number of years. He was an expert with a broad axe and many of his log buildings are still standing, some on his home farm and some on his son, Wilbert's farm. Also he was a familiar sight at threshing time hauling bundles and grain with his fine team.

John and Teckla always had a large garden in which they grew all their needs from bushels and bushels of potatoes to the "hard-to-grow" vegetables such as corn, cucumbers and

John was an ardent hunter and fisherman. Many times he went hunting with Sigurd Sande, Mart Latuva and Leif Skagen. He went on many fishing trips to Buck Lake and Sylvan Lake with old friends like Sam Sande and Alex Schroderus.

Teckla was always very busy caring for her large family, plus preserving, pickling, canning and salting the meat and fish that John got on his hunting and fishing trips.

One very nice change was when the family moved out of the old log house into their new home which John and his sons built with the help of Ed Stenback. This was in 1947.

As the years passed the sons and daughters married and moved away and had families of their own. But usually every Sunday there would be a houseful at John and Teckla's home where many cups of coffee were enjoyed and always there were treats for the grandchildren.

John and Teckla's five daughters and four

Mabel married Archie Richardson and they have three children. (See Archie Richardson history.)

Agnes married Aubrey Laycraft and they have four children: Warren, Marilyn and Sharon and a stepdaughter, Gloria. Warren married Lorna Hurl and they have three children.

Marilyn married Warren Burnett and they have two sons, Ashley and Kevin.

Sharon married A. Johnson and they have two children, Kyle and Shelley.

Violet married Louis Niedermoser and they have four children, Dale, Darlene, Dennis and David. Dale married Fidelis Ludwig and they have one daughter, Annette. Darlene married Joe Hagen and they have three children, Debra, Calvin and Patricia. Dennis married Florence Irwin and they have two daughters, Brenda and Tara. David married Fern Turner and they have two daughters, Jo-Ellen and Jan.

Sadie married Bob Hayes and they have five children, Kathy, Connie, Carol, Robert and Allson. Kathy married Ken Yamchuk and they have three children, Jamie and twins, Jerry and Lisa. Connie married Jim Martin and they have one son, Shayne.

Iva married Olva Alanen and they have two children, Don and Lois. Don married Pamela McIntyre. Lois married Pat Whiteside and they have two daughters, Sheri and Lana.

Wilbert

Howard married Louise Mitchell and they have four children, Warren, Bryne, Cheryl and Darrel. Warren married Jennifer and they have one daughter, Juliana.

Melvin married Anna Sande and they have two sons, Dwayne and Randy.

Herbert married Iona Mathews and they have four children. (See Felix Mathews history.)

John passed away January 7, 1976 in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital at the age of 89 years. He was laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery. Teckla is still residing on the home farm with her son, Wilbert. She enjoys fair health, cooks the meals and cleans the house, and always has the coffee pot on when visitors come. Teckla will be 88 in October 1978.

**OLIVER, ARTHUR H.**

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Oliver arrived in Leslieville, Alberta in the spring of 1934 from the drought area of southern Saskatchewan. He had

made a land scouting trip the previous summer and purchased the NW 20-38-4-W5 from Mr. A. Dobson in Ontario, who had homesteaded the land some years beforehand.

They drove up in a model T Ford car with their two daughters, Joy and Mary. Their son Laurence came up with a car load of settlers effects, and a few head of horses and cows. They farmed here until 1941 when they moved into Leslieville, their son taking over the farm, upon his marriage to Agnes Menzies of the district.

Mr. Oliver clerked in the local hardware store run by Mr. Clarence Finkbeiner. He also had a barber shop set up in the same location for several years.

Arthur and Fanny Oliver

Mrs. Oliver was noted for her quilt making. She made many that were on display in various places.

Mr. Oliver enjoyed singing, reciting, and dancing and was always in the fore at social functions and gatherings. They had a family of one son, Laurence and three daughters — Aileen, Joy and Mary and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Oliver died in 1956 at the age of 75 years and Mrs. Oliver died in 1966 at the age of 79 years.

**PEEVER, C. — by Jenny (Peever) Skoven)**

In 1925, my dad Charles Peever came to the North Leslieville district from the dried-out area of Cavendish, west of Empress, Alberta. My mother had died in 1923, so I was the only one to accompany my dad.

I, Jenny, was born near Cobden, Ontario, on the family farm where my father was also born.

For the first year that we were in the Carlos district we lived in a house on the SE 12, until we located the land to buy, the former Ambury homestead, SW 10-41-5-W5.

For many years the school teachers of Washington Heights found a hearty welcome and many meals at our home. Some of the teachers that boarded with us were: Margaret Whiteside (now Mrs. Jim Nelson) Washington Heights was her first job in the teaching profession. Florence Everett, who later went to Africa as a missionary and married Leslie Crawford. Mrs. Lizzie Welton from Clive. Mr. Bover, Miss Klengersky, Lyla Fretwell, Isabelle Simpson (from Innisfail) Hattie Dobbs, Salme Raabis, Roy Wadson and Doug Sterling were others who stayed with us. The last teacher was Miss Adelle Hallman who married and is still teaching out in Victoria. My dad was a trustee for several years. He also built a cement foundation for the school in 1929. Mr. Paul Fizer and Ival Johnston helped with this project.

My dad passed away in December 1940. In 1941 I married a farmer who lived nearby, Earl Skoven. We were married in Rocky, and have continued to live on the farm here ever since.

**PEPPER, EDWARD L.**

Fate has decreed that I, Jimmie Pepper, be the one responsible for writing an account of the Pepper family, one of the early homesteaders in the Leslieville community. Obviously at this late date there are many gaps in my memory concerning the events that took place and the order in which they occurred. What follows is my best recollection of the lives of our family.

My mother and father met in San Blas, Argentina, South America. Both of them were employed by an English family who had a large ranch and other holdings in that area. My mother was a governess in the family and my father was one of the overseers.

Theresa and Edward Pepper on their wedding Day, 1900, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

My mother and father were married in Buenos Aires, Argentina, circa 1900, and shortly after went into ranching on their own. Anita, Eileen and I were all born in San Blas but lived at the headquarters of our ranch at Punta Rouvia, about 20 miles from San Blas. A severe and extended drought forced the family to sell out in 1910 and seek a more favorable place in which to make a living.

We took off by steamship in the spring of 1910 I am sure of this date, as it was the year the ar of Halley's Comet was closest to the earth and we saw it on May 19 as we approached the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. We sailed from Buenos Aires to Liverpool, England, which, by the way was my father's birthplace. From Liverpool we went to Ireland where Mother was born and raised. After a short visit Dad took off for Canada "the land of milk and honey" according to the pamphlets which the government -

I believe that somewhere on the long journey between Liverpool and Calgary my dad became friends with Fred Snell and they proceeded together to Leslieville Why they decided on Leslieville I do not know but, be that as it may they both filed on homesteads — dad on the NE 18-40-4-W5 and Fred Snell just across the road to

Mother, Anita, Eileen and yours truly remained in Ireland until sometime in 1911 It was during this period that Maureen was born Following this event "Nummie," Mother's Maureen and I took off for Leslieville, leaving Anita and Eileen in a convent school in Sligo where two of our aunts, Mother's sisters, were

We sailed from Liverpool in the steamship Corsica and landed in Montreal. We proceeded by train from there to Red Deer and then by stagecoach to Leslieville. I distinctly remember the trip from Red Deer It took us two days and it rained almost the entire distance Between the mud and the mosquitoes who could ever forget that trip?

Leslieville, as I remember it, consisted then of a store and a post office run by Mr Campbell and his son-in-law Archie McKinnon. There was also a small log church built by the Reillys (who were among the earliest homesteaders of the community) and by many other settlers in a cooperative effort. The old store was on the north side of the present railroad tracks. During that first summer I remember watching the railroad grading crew working on the flats east of the store. It must have been the following summer that the first train went through

After landing in Leslieville, one of the neighbors took us and our few belongings out to the old Ed Denham place which was located between the Percy Leathers' and Henry Collins homesteads. Since money was a very scarce item in those days, Dad soon left us there and went job hunting. "Nummie", as she was now known to practically everyone, Maureen and I lived as best we could, like all homesteaders of that time, on what few groceries we could afford plus some wild rabbits and an occasional partridge which I managed to get with my 22 rifle Game laws were almost nonexistent in those days, although we were all aware that Tom Hart who lived south of Leslieville, was a game warden and was not averse to doing his duty. We always knew when he was on the prowl though, and confined our meal to rabbits until the signal went up that the coast was clear at which time partridges could be on the menu again

Dad came home that first winter after working on the bridge crew that constructed the railroad bridge over the Athabasca River in the Yellowhead Pass near Jasper We then all moved down into Ed Dekker's old shack which was just across the line from where we built our first log house on the homestead. Dad and I worked on the house all winter in spite of cold snow and blizzards. When spring came we moved into the house such as it was. Dad again took off to work and I began clearing some land on the homestead. The next year dad acquired a team of horses which helped to clear the land and break up some sod. Sometime during the first summer we acquired a pony which I was able to ride the five miles to Leslieville for the mail and groceries and to haul Maureen around when we went places

We spent the years of 1912 and 1913 on the homestead. Talk about the cold! No words could ever describe what it was like those two years Only the old-timers would believe me anyway Our nearest neighbors who lived there all the year around were the Leathers and the Delaneys. The Snells, the Dekkers Harry Longstaff and some others whose names I cannot recall lived on their homesteads during the summer months and went to work in various parts of the country during the winters

In the summer of 1914 just before war broke out Anita and Eileen joined us on the homestead bringing the whole Pepper family together for the first time. It was about this time that Dad and Nummie became active in helping to set up a school district After much legwork carrying around the petitions and many meetings, the Blueberry Valley School District was finally formed It was named for the creek of that name but who named the creek I do not know The school first opened in 1915, I believe Nummie served as secretary-treasurer of the school district for many years, a job she thoroughly enjoyed

The first teacher was a kindly old gentleman who had one peg leg — hence the nickname Peg Leg McDonald was soon adopted and used everywhere except within his hearing. Other teachers we had were Mrs. Ludwig, Mr Ludwig and Violet Godkin. Some of the first students were Dooney and Verna Lampi, Timy, Koski and Chellis Carpenter, Milton Birsten Sylvia Orchard, Ingrid and Martin Delaney and the four of us. While it was a simple country school, as I look back on it I feel that it offered a remarkable education for the times

In our own family we all liked books although we had very few of them. Nummie was constantly reciting poetry so we learned many exciting and interesting poems. Even now I can

remember many of them but not in their entire

In spite of the hard times, the lack of decent transportation and the awful roads, we all managed to get around and maintain contact with each other within the community. Picnics, dances, box socials, berry-picking safaris, etc were all part of the community life of those days. Nobody had any money to spare but we all managed to have fun without it.

Dances were the most popular. Ludwig Huseby from up Rimbey way played his fiddle for most of them. On occasion George Thompson would supply the fiddling and his brother Charlie chorded on an old organ belonging to the school. These dances often lasted until dawn.

Following World War I baseball became quite the pastime. George Cummerford and Percy McGill were considered the stars of the game. The first game I remember seeing was pitched by Harry Cummerford.

Speaking of the Cummerfords, our earliest medical needs were taken care of by a veterinarian, Doc Cummerford as he was known by everyone. Between administering to those with severe frostbites, colds, whooping cough, measles, or other ailments and taking care of a severe outbreak of swamp fever among horses, he had little time left to run his farm.

In 1915 a young student of medicine and theology from Scotland by the name of Bob McCallum arrived in Lesliеville. For many years — in fact until Dr. Backus came to Eckville — our beloved Bob took care of all our medical and spiritual needs. Since he was an avid reader as well as a homespun philosopher he was also the intellectual leader of our community. I count him among the top scholars I have known.

In addition to these two men there were numerous characters in the Lesliеville community who contributed much to the enrichment of our lives, each in his own way. Chief among these were George Cummerford, who was not only the world's authority on baseball but on any other subject you might wish to discuss, and Percy McGill, a great mimic. His favorite targets were the older ladies in the community who had lost their teeth or those who were attending a W.C.T.U. meeting.

Sam Gormley, the "wild Irishman," was another character. He loved to recite poetry and would do so at the drop of the hat, his favorite poem being "The Battle of Killiecrankie."

Johnny Gore with his love-life problems, Mac Tavish with his amusing anecdotes and sayings and little Al Spears with his tremendous voice with which he could harangue the entire Lesliеville population without benefit of any sound system all added spice to life in Lesliеville. Three younger generation girls, Margaret McKinnon, Eileen and Maureen, were not far behind the above characters in dramatizing the humorous personalities in the community. There was no dearth of mimics in

About 1920 we bought Harold Snell's old place three and a half miles north of Lesliеville. We built a log house on it, moved in and the job of clearing land and breaking up sod started all over again.

Shortly after this we bought an old 1914 Model T Ford. Between working on the engine which burned two quarts of oil with every gallon of gas, adjusting the clutch and brake bands, replacing the differential which was forever stripping gears, and patching blowouts I spent more time working on it than I did riding in it. No words can express the grief that went with all this. Maureen did a good job of driving it except on occasion when she had trouble stopping it to open a gate. The result was simple. She just took the gate right along with her.

Shortly after this last move of ours a new combined grade and high school was built in Lesliеville. Eileen and Maureen finished their schooling there. One of the first teachers in the new school was Ray Salt. That added much spice to the community.

Now for a final brief account of what happened to the members of the Pepper family thereafter. Dad worked on a bridge crew on the CNR for many years, returning to the farm in 1928. He passed away in 1931 and is buried in the Lesliеville Cemetery.

Nummie and Maureen continued to live on the farm for a number of years, after which they moved into a small house just east of the Community Hall in Lesliеville. Nummie spent the last years of her life in a rest home. She died in 1956 and is buried in the Lesliеville Cemetery beside my dad.

Anita stayed with us on the homestead until 1917 or 1918. She then went to New York City where she received her R.N. diploma from one of the city hospitals. She continued her nursing career for several years before marrying Arthur Ross who was employed in the head office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. They had two children, Jimmie and Dick. The latter is deceased. Anita is now widowed and lives near Clearwater, Florida.

Her son Jimmie received his B.Sc. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, his M.Sc. degree from Montana State University, and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He is married to the former Lucille Viet of New York City and they have seven children. Presently they are living in Naperville, a suburb of Chicago, where he is employed by a large chemical company.

After completing high school, Eileen joined Anita in New York City and received her R.N. diploma from the same hospital as did Anita. She too continued her career for several years before she married Gus Runge, an Engineer graduate of the University of Alberta. They lived in several mining communities in Ontario before

Gus accepted a teaching assignment at a college in Kitchener Ontario. After he passed away in the early 1960's Eileen accepted a position as supervisor of nurses in a Kitchener hospital. She retired from that position about three years ago and has been spending her time between Florida and Kitchener. The Runges had two sons, Ted and Lorne, both of whom live in the United States.

Ted received his B.C. degree from McGill University and his M.B.A. from Toronto University. He married the former Eleanor O'Mara of St. Catherine's, Ontario. They live in Rochester New York with their three children. Ted is employed by Xerox Corporation.

Lorne received his B.Sc. and M.D. degrees from McGill University. He is married to the former Ellen Fitzpatrick of Boston. They live in Syracuse, New York, with their four children where Lorne is assistant professor at Upstate Medical College.

Maureen worked part of the time for Bob McCallum in the Leslieville Post Office, a job she held for several years, and she was the last of the three Pepper girls to leave Leslieville. Maureen spent much of the World War II years working in Prince Rupert, B.C. Then she joined the Department of External Affairs of the Canadian Government. In the years following she was posted in such places as The Hague, Holland, Beirut, Lebanon, Moscow, U.S.S.R. and Pretoria, South Africa. She made many friends while in the Foreign Service and travelled extensively. She has now retired and is living with a widow friend in South Afri

Now for myself. After graduating from South Calgary High School, I attended the University of Alberta, receiving my B.Sc. degree in 1931. The next year I attended Montana State University, receiving my M.Sc. degree from there. Upon graduation I joined the faculty of Zoology and Entomology Department. In the next few years by taking occasional leave to attend the University of Minnesota, I completed work for my doctorate degree and was granted my Ph.D. degree in 1942. In 1947 I was appointed head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Montana State University in Bozeman and State Entomologist.

My wife, the former Ruth Staples whom I married in 1934, and I have a son Jimmie and a daughter Jill.

Since I retired in 1973, Ruth and I continue to make our home here in Bozeman.

Jimmie received his B.Sc. degree in Architecture from Montana State University and his Master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of California at Berkeley. He now lives in Santa Cruz, California, where he is associate professor at the University.

Jill received her B.Sc. from Montana State University. She is married to Major Philip W. Nuber of Bozeman. They have two children and are now stationed in Tucson Arizona, where he is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

[redacted]

In April, 1947 we and our family of three moved from the farming community of Hemaruka, Alberta, to the former A. D. Richardson farm which was situated directly east of the hamlet of Leslieville.

That fall our eldest daughter, Elaine, started school in the hamlet. At that time the twins, Maxine and Mervyn were two and one-half years old. The following year, 1948, Beverley was born. Dale, Wayne and Brian were later additions to our family.

Presently Elaine Rudyk and family live in Edmonton where she is employed in a bank. Maxine McColman is a school secretary in Spruce Grove, while her twin brother Mervyn has a trucking business in Rocky Mountain House. Beverley is now in London, England after having spent five and one-half years in Australia, one-half year in New Zealand and two years in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dale is engaged in the construction business at Medicine Hat, while Wayne is doing apprenticeship training in the auto body field. Brian now 16 is in grade eleven at David Thompson High School.

**REID FAMILY**

In 1906 the Reid brothers came to the Golden Heights area. Two sisters and their mother arrived in March 1907.

GEORGE P. REID homesteaded SW 22-40-5 W5. He later lived at Joffre.

M. L. REID, Amus, homesteaded NW 23-40-5 W5 after it was cancelled by Tinkham, also homesteaded the John McLeod quarter. Amus later lived at Edmonton.

W. H. REID, (Willy) homesteaded NW 22-40-5 W5. He was killed at Vimy Ridge.

JOHN REID homesteaded NE 22-40-5-W5 and SW 15-40-5-W5.

MRS. ANN REID — mother of the Reid boys and widowed, was the first woman to file on land in the Leslieville district in 1907. She proved up in 1911, but owing to ill health had to leave in 1912 for a lower altitude. Mrs. Reid's home was a favorite stopping place for the early settlers and half way house to the lumber camps. She loved Leslieville and up to her death never lost interest in her "farm".

Her two daughters were, Edith and Annie, Edith went to live in Scotland. Annie married Fred Kirsch, who homesteaded nearby and eventually retired to Red Deer. Annie's son, Bill, taught school at Leaflard, Golden Heights and Rocky Mountain House.

**REIGHLEY BENEDICT JOSEPH**

Ben Reighley moved to his farm at Leslieville in 1929, having previously lived at Happy Hill. He first bought NW 25-39-5-W5 from Mr. Cap Card, and later purchased the adjoining quarter to the

east. Until 1931 he lived alone, keeping up both his Lesliеville farm and the original family home. In that year Mrs. Reighley also moved to Lesliеville. Two daughter, Babe and Drexel moved with her at that time.

was the usual mixed farming operation with cattle and grain, that he carried on. Like every farmer of the time he had his favorite team, Nigger and Queen, of which he was very fond

Mr. Wm. Reighley with team, Nigger and Queen

In 1933 his son Stephen was married and came to live on NW 26-39-5-W5. At first father and son worked together

In 1946 he sold his farm and moved to Red Deer where he lived until his death in 1946

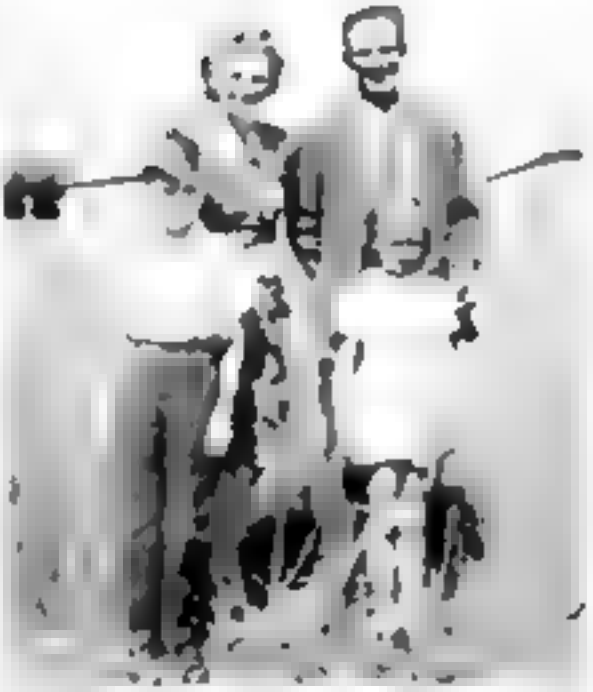
Mr and Mrs. Reighley raised a family of seven daughters and one son, Stephen. Of the daughters, only Babe and Drexel ever lived in Lesliеville. None of the family remains in the district at present

**REIGHLEY STEPHEN**

Stephen Reighley was born in Farber Missouri. At the age of one year, he came to Canada with his parents, settling in the Happy Hill district

He farmed with his father till 1929, and then rented the home place from his father till March, 1933 at which time he moved to a farm at Lesliеville. In 1933, he married Ella Budvarson who had worked as a hairdresser in Calgary In 1945, he purchased the original home farm at Happy Hill

In 1962, he sold the farm to Donald Campbell, and moved to Red Deer, where they have since made their home He is now employed by the Alberta Hail Board



Stephen and Ella Reighley with son, Ronald and daughter Joanne

They have two children. Ronald completed a three-year course in psychiatric nursing, received his R.N. in Calgary and later attended McGill University, where he was awarded a Bachelor's degree, and later his Master's degree in nursing. At present he is co-ordinator of the Department of Psychiatry at the Calgary General Hospital

Jo-Anne took a secretarial course and worked at the Parsons Clinic She married Arthur Jarvis, and they have three children, Trena Darcy and Trudy

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN REILLY FAMILY — by Mattie L. Martin**

It was in the spring of 1903 that Mr Reilly was approached about coming to Alberta, which, at that time was known as the North West [illegible]

After giving the matter much thought it was decided to come to the Indian Industrial school at Red Deer where a position as carpenter instructor was waiting for him. So, on August 27, 1903 the parents with six of their children boarded the train at Toronto for the trip west

It was not much pleasure sitting on those hard, wooden seats for nearly five days but quite an experience for the younger ones who had never been on a train

It had rained most of the summer in the west and another experience was to climb on to a democrat drawn by a team of big horses through mud up to their knees over the three miles from

the town of Red Deer to the school. However, we arrived safely and settled down there for two years. By this time we were getting used to the climate and the ways of the people of this country.

Then a notion to go farming was formed as Mr. Reilly and his son Leslie started out to look for suitable land. After driving east in the Content, Buffalo Lake and Red Willow country they did not find anything that suited them so they headed west of Red Deer where they found something more to their liking which was in the township 39, west of the 5th meridian. At that time only Mr. Johnny Campbell lived west till you came to the Clearwater where two bachelors by the name of Fletcher were living. In March 1905 our two men went out and built a little shack on the place. Going back to Red Deer in a few days they had to walk nearly all the way as the snow had nearly all gone and it was all the horses could do to pull the empty cutter. In the meantime, horses and wagon and cows, etc. had been purchased so on March 11, the family and some of their effects were loaded into the wagon and started out for their new home. We arrived later that day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Thompson where we stayed for the night, continuing on down one mile farther in the morning to our new home. We didn't think much of it at that time, but as time went on we were happy in our work, clearing the land, milking the cows, hauling wood, etc., we learned to love the farm.

May I digress here for a moment to pay tribute to those good neighbours the Thompsons and George Baileys, who were the only neighbours we had for over a year and who were always good friends. We had nice times together.

In 1906, we squatted on the land for one year. The land west of us was thrown open for homesteading and soon there were lots of neighbours, mostly bachelors, but soon several families came too and the country was full of people. There were no schools so the younger ones had to be taught at home for two years. In 1906 Mr. Reilly got the contract to build the first school at Old Eckville, then in 1907 to build the Prairie Rose school to which our young folks went. The first teacher was Mr. Fred Dobson, a nephew of Mrs. John McNeil, the next was a young lady from Ontario; Miss Dora Forsyth then Miss Annie Patterson who later became Mrs. Frank Holt, who is still living in Red Deer after teaching there for many years. At this time she is living at Valley Park Manor at the age of nine-two years.

In 1906 Mr. Edmond Bureau came and built a big house — part of which was used as a store and Post Office, the mail being hauled from Eckville by Mr. August Koski. A suitable name had to be found for the post office and several names were suggested, but it was Mr. Bureau who finally settled this. He wanted a name with a "ville" in it so sent in the name Leslieville and it was then accepted by the government.

For a few years church services were held in Reilly's house and people from near and far came to the services that were conducted by students from different denominations. The first one was R. E. Harkness, a Baptist who rode all the way from Burnt Lake on horseback followed by Donald Kennedy, then Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and even the Priest, each taking their turn until in 1908 the log church was built on the corner of Mr. Bureau's land which he gave as a site for it. Mrs. John Reilly was the Superintendent of the Sunday School for over twenty years and always a great worker in the church. Mrs. Reilly was also always interested in the work of the church and was also a life member of the W.C.T.U.

John Reilly was born at Morin Plain (now called Morin Heights) about sixty miles north of Montreal, April 27, 1857 — and passed away December 26, 1928 at Leslieville.

Martha Jane (Cameron) Reilly was born December 2, 1857 and passed away May 14, 1926. They are both buried in the Leslieville Cemetery which is on the corner of their land.

Their family were all born in Toronto, Ontario, where they lived when they were first married.

John Archibald Clark, born September 10, 1881, passed away in 1954 at Victoria, British Columbia.

Leslie Howard, born December 27, 1886 passed away at Edmonton, on July 12, 1965.

Martha Lillian (Mattie) born on June 13, 1891 and still resides in Red Deer, Alberta.

Mabel Adelaide, born May 3, 1891, passed away May 10, 1940.

Bertha Alice, born April 9, 1895, passed away October 7, 1977

Victor Leonard, born May 24, 1897 residing at Kelowna, B.C

Gertrude Elizabeth, born July 25, 1899 residing at Penticton, B.C

Clark became a Methodist minister preaching in Montreal and later in Ottawa where he and his wife lived for many years. They had one son who was medical doctor, he died very suddenly a few years ago in Victoria, B.C

Leslie Howard married Miss Irene Hardisty in Edmonton. They had one son and one daughter

Mattie was married to Angus Martin they were the parents of eight children — seven are [illegible]

Mabel was married to Robert Atkins and had no family

Bertha was married to Robert McCallum and had one daughter

Victor was married to Myrtle Weaver in Jasper and they have two sons

Gertie is married to Robert Shaw, residing now at Penticton, B.C no children

Much more could be said about this family their work, their talents, their responsibilities through the years. Even though in our later years we all went our separate ways, we remember with pleasure and kindness the days we spent on the farm with our parents at Lesueville, Alberta

**RAY AND OLIVE RICHARDSON — by Olive [illegible]**

Ray Richardson lived in the Lesueville area then, in 1940, he brought his wife Olive, and his family of nine children to live on the former Panrucker quarter NE 7-42-5-W5. Here we raised black Angus cattle for three years before renting the Arthur Robb quarter and moving there where we lived for two more years

Ray was always interested in horses, cattle and rodeos. He had a palomino pony and the children had two part shetlands, which they rode to the Aurora school. We always had an assortment of other ponies for riding, too. Ray accompanied his friend, Ray McBride on a cattle drive from this area to Cochrane in 1944. He was active in organizing and working at the local rodeos here

Between 1934 and 1944 we had a family of 11 children. Henry, Hilda, Mark, Pearl, Bill, Laura, Evelyn, Vera, Percy, Marie and Merle. Henry joined the army in 1940 or 1941. He now lives with his family in Vancouver. Laura married Grant Paynter and lives in Vancouver [illegible]

Hilda married Paul Beringer and lives in Kamloops. Mark is single, and Marie is married, and both of them make their homes in Kamloops. [illegible]

Vera is married and lives in Toronto. Percy and Merle both live in Ottawa

Pearl and Bill both died in separate car accidents. Both were married and had families. Evie, also married, passed away in Edmonton. We have 23 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

In 1945 we had a farm sale at Carlos, and we moved our family to Falkland, B.C., where Ray continued working on ranches until he retired. We then came to live in Kamloops, B.C.

On September 19, 1972 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Ray passed away June 5, 1974. I am continuing to live in Kamloops.

**RICHARDSON ROY FAMILY**

Wallace Roy Richardson was born in Leslieville on May 3, 1934, the only son of Archie and Mabel Richardson, on their farm home which is now the farm of Peter Pidhirney.

He went to school in Leslieville and following his school years he went to work as a catskinner where he was employed all over Alberta in the road and oil construction fields. He owned his own cats for many years and was employed by the Government of Alberta.

In April, 1960, he was married to Barbara Lydia Jones also of Leslieville, the only daughter of Paul and Lillian Jones. On April 3, 1961, their only son Archie was born in Rocky Mountain House and on March 12, 1964, their chosen daughter Paula Lydia was born.

Following their marriage Roy was employed in the Peace River area for several months in road construction. Following the birth of their son Archie, they took up permanent residence in Leslieville, where they resided in their trailer on the farm of Roy's parents north of town.

In 1969 Roy sold his machinery and was then employed with the McMeekin Construction Company as foreman until 1974. In April 1971, they purchased a home in Leslieville which originally had been the Bill Davidson home.

Roy was an active member of the Lochearn Masonic Lodge in Rocky Mountain House, a member of the Leslieville Elks, the Leslieville Curling Club, the Community Hall Board and the Leslieville Fire Department.

Barbara was a member of the Leslieville Order of the Royal Purple, the Curling Club, and the Group Committee for Cubs and Scouts of which she was the chairman for two years.

Roy was killed in a motor vehicle accident on December 19, 1974, and was laid to rest in the Leslieville Cemetery.

Barbara was born in Lethbridge, Alberta spending her early years in Wrentham and later moving to Calgary where she took all of her schooling. Following high school she went to business college and has been employed in the secretarial field for many years. She moved to Leslieville in 1954 and resided there until moving to Portland, Oregon, for two years.

In 1967 she went back to work as the school secretary at David Thompson High School and was employed there until June 1976, when she

became the secretary for the Superintendent of Schools in Rocky Mountain House

At the present time their son Archie is attending David Thompson High School and is completing Grade 11. Archie is a member of the Senior Boys' Basketball team, and is very interested in all sports and in restoring antique engines with his maternal grandfather Paul Jones. Paula is also attending David Thompson High School and is completing her Grade 9. She is very interested in all sports and is very musical.

**THE WILLIAM AND LAURA RICHARDSON FAMILY — by Vivian Kohl**

William Wallace Richardson came to Leslieville in 1915, being transferred from Jotfre. He was a pumpman for the C.N.R. Archie, the youngest son, then 13 years old, came with him. They bought S½ 25-39-5-W5, this being raw land which they had to clear and break.

Mrs. Richardson and the rest of the family came in 1918. They lived in the village of Leslieville until 1926, at which time they moved to the farm. This was their home until Mrs. Richardson passed away in 1932 and Mr. Richardson in 1940. There were eight children in their family.

Wallace was the oldest child. He worked on a survey crew in 1900 in the Eckville area. He later was married, and he and his wife, Ida, left Canada and went to Washington in the U.S.A. in 1922. They had no children, and both have since passed away.

Gertrude married Joe Raven of Lacombe. They had four children. Frank lives in Blackfalds, Bertha Peterson lives in Fort Saskatchewan, Gordon lives in Victoria and Charles is deceased.

Dora married Jake Morden of Prentice. Dora and Gertrude had a double wedding in 1902. Dora and Jake had four children, three of whom are deceased. Jack lives in Calgary.

Bertha married Arthur White of Montana. They later moved to Washington, in the U.S.A. Both are now deceased. They had five children, two of whom are deceased. Elsie, Irene and Vera all live in Washington.

Mary married Roy Barton from British Columbia. He and their oldest daughter died of influenza, and one son, Lloyd, died at Leslieville. Two daughters, Amy Bardwell and Vivian Miller, live in Calgary. Mary married Fred McNeil of Leslieville and both are now deceased.

Raye married Olive Hopkins of Leslieville. They had 11 children, three of whom are deceased. Raye passed away in 1973 in Kamloops, where Olive still lives. Vera lives in Edmonton and Henry, Hilda, Mark, Percy, Laura, Merle and Maude are all in British Columbia.

Maude married Sterling McLeod in 1930. They lived here for four years then went to Oregon, U.S.A., where they still reside. They have five children, all residing in Oregon.

Archie married Mabel Oja in 1928. They lived on the original homestead until 1946, when Archie sold the homestead and bought the Godkin homestead S½ 1-40-5-W5, which he had been farming for two years. In 1948 Archie sold his land to his son-in-law William Kuhl, and built the hotel in Leslieville. The hotel was opened in 1949 and he and Mabel owned and operated it until 1962 when he sold it to Shirley James, from Ontario.

Archie then bought the Dr. Patrick Cummerford homestead where Archie and Mabel retired and still live.

Archie and Mabel had three children, two of whom were born on the farm — Vivian in 1928 and Roy in 1934. Joy was born at the home of a mid-wife, Mrs. Henderson, in the area in 1935.

All three children received their education at the Leslieville school until they reached grade ten. Vivian then went to Calgary for grades 11 and 12. She also worked for T. Eaton's of Canada there for a time. She returned in May 1947 to the farm and married William Kuhl of Hespero on December 1 of that year. They resided with William's mother, Mrs. Caroline Kuhl, for two years before moving to their farm at Leslieville, where they still live. Vivian's school teacher was Miss Cecily Baker who began teaching the year Vivian began in grade one and left teaching as Mrs. Chandler, the year that Vivian went from grade six to seven. This required a change of rooms in the school. Mr. William Kirch was a teacher for two years and the rest of her time in Leslieville she was taught by Mr. Edgar Nelson, whose wife was teaching in the junior room.

William and Vivian have four children. Marlene Malcolm, of Markerville, was born in Eckville in October, 1948. Myrna Ross was born in Eckville in September 1950, and now lives in Whitecourt, Alberta.

Douglas was born in Eckville on January 16, 1953 and he resides at home.

Marie Cannaday was born on January 28, 1954, with Dr. Gibson in charge. The other children were all born with Dr. Coppock in attendance. Marie resides on the home farm with her husband and two daughters, Marlene and Myrna, both of whom have a son and a daughter.

The four children of William and Vivian all received their junior and senior education at Leslieville and David Thompson schools.

Roy received all his education in Leslieville, both junior and senior. He married Barbara Jones in 1960. They resided in several places, but finally bought an acreage on the original Richardson homestead. Their two children are Archie, born in 1961 and Paula, born in 1963. They are both in school at David Thompson High School.

Roy was killed in a traffic accident in

December of 1974. Barbara lives on the home place with the children

Joy married Lester Fontana in 1957 and also they have an acreage on the original homestead They have two children. Debra was born in Red Deer She attended school at Leslieville and David Thompson schools

John was born in Rocky Mountain House in 1966. He is attending school in Leslieville

The mode of travel in the area when the Richardson family came was horse and buggy or saddle horse Archie bought his first car in 1923 He brought the first gas powered tractor into the district in 1920. He and Raye hauled ties at Nordegg on the ice road until 1928, when trucks moved in. They hauled with men from Eckville, Sylvan Lake, Benalto, Lacombe and many more places. Archie and Raye grew up breaking range broncs for friends and neighbors Archie also ran a custom threshing crew until the year 1946. He is now 74 years old, and is at present breaking a saddle pony for himself. He used to raise purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle until 1946, but is now raising Murrey-Grey cattle

**RODGERS, JAMES R. - by Harry Rodgers**
**Farewell to Derbyshire**

James R Rodgers ventured to Canada through the influence of a letter from his nephew William Rodgers, who had homesteaded on NW ¼ 35-39-6-W5, advising his uncle Jim to come to Canada and take a homestead on SE ¼ 35-39-6-W5

So Jim left Derbyshire, England, in the spring

He landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia and travelled by train to Penhold, Alberta, where he arrived with only $17 He did farm work in that district as well as build his shack on the homestead. In the spring of 1912 he was joined by his wife, Louisa Jane and two daughters, Cecilia age nine and May, one and one half years. They made their home on the homestead one part of the year and went with him to Penhold the other part of the year where he worked. The next few years they acquired some livestock which Mrs Rodgers and family took care of while Jim worked out in the winter in both Cap Card's Sawmill and Daniel McGrandle's Sawmill Later he worked as a teamster in the winter for several years at the Brazeau Collieries now called Nordegg. He walked from his homestead to Penhold numerous times

Then in 1914 a son, Harry, and in 1916 a daughter Ida, were additions to the family

They recall making numerous trips between the homestead and Penhold with team and wagon, fording the Medicine and Horseguard Rivers and going as far as Evarts, for seed grain. As the years went by and the livestock increased he cleared the land with axe and broke it with horses. For years there were not any markets in the country If you had any hogs or beef you dressed them and sold them to cafes and hotels. The feed was sold to people who had a cow and a team of horses in Rocky Mountain House. This took place all through the 1920's. Son Harry recalls hauling with two outfits at temperatures of fifty below zero

Mr Rodgers purchased most of his machinery from Stewart Brothers of Penhold and in 1924 he purchased a new Deering Binder

mower at the age of nine. In one case he hit a stump and the team broke the eveners and neck yoke and he went at least thirty feet before he got the horses stopped. Then two years later he took to running the binder and has never missed a year of haying since

The family all attended the Beaver Flat School, which had been built in 1909 of hewed logs later a new school was built in 1925. We often speak of the furnace being capable of freezing out rats. The cold air was vented outside maybe to warm up Alberta. The family walked to school in the early days and later rode horseback. The district had hundreds of sharp tailed grouse

In 1923 Cecil was united in marriage to Axel Hogberg who farmed in the Leslieville district They made their home there until his passing

In 1924 Mr Rodgers quit working out and devoted his full time to the farm, which included milking cows and raising hogs We used to meet the train at Codner to ship the cream to the Alix creamery Harry recalls, around 1925, the Leslieville School Fair to which he took a calf and won first prize which was $3

In 1928 they replaced the old homestead shack with a new home He also purchased a quarter of and NE 27 39-6-W5 from Stanley Wilson who was well known as secretary of the Beaver Flat School for many years. He purchased his first car "The Biskow", but there were no roads to run it on. In 1929 he had the Mason boys namely Chet and Noel, clear and break thirty-five acres That year was very dry with poor hay and grain crops and not enough snow to sleigh all winter

Then came the thirties and the Rodgers' livestock was increasing So they purchased NE 35-39-6-W5 from the Soldiers' Settlement Board for son Harry, this quarter being Bert Hilbert's homestead. In those days if you proved up your first homestead before 1925 you were entitled to a second homestead so he took the opportunity and filed on the NE 26-39-6-W5

Harry recalls breaking up on NE 35-39-6-W5 sixty acres with four horses and sulky breaking plow in 1930. In the winter they cut logs and hauled them to a sawmill to have them sawed into lumber for use on the farm We also cut and sold mine props to bring in a few dollars. Mrs Rodgers filed on a homestead SE 3-40-6-W5 in 931

In the spring of 1932 at an auction sale of John Kemila's at Eckville, Alberta they bought a team of Belgian mares for $50 and got five per cent discount for paying cash. In 1935 they

bought a Model A Ford, and in 1936 purchased he first tractor and machinery which he used to break up land. This increased the feed supply

In 1935, daughter May decided to try her hand a working out She worked in Calgary Edmonton, and in Red Deer until 1941 when she was united in marriage to Charlie Brown who purchased a welding and blacksmith shop at Markerville where they made their home this time

In 1943 son Harry purchased NE 34-39-6-W5 By this time the Rodgers livestock had increased, their farming had increased and in 1946 they purchased their threshing machine and that's when son Harry decided to go into registered cattle. In 1948, Harry purchased SW 35-39-6-W5 and his first rubber tired tractor

Mr Rodgers took great pleasure in looking after the garden and after seeding spent a lot of his time with the vegetables and flowers. Mrs Rodgers and daughter Ida through the years were active in taking care of the house, picking berries, cooking raising chickens and turkeys and made many trips to town with team and democrat to deliver the cream and bring home groceries and mail. Sadness came in December of 1948 when Mrs. Rodgers lost her life in an accident on Highway 11 near Benalto, at the age of 1

In the spring of 1949 Mr Rodgers decided to retire from the farm and built a home in Rocky Mountain House, where he later married Mrs Mary Hulda Teske. Through his years of retirement Mr Rodgers enjoyed gardening of both vegetables and flowers until his passing in July 1960 at the age of 81 Mrs. Rodgers enjoyed needlework She stayed in their home as long as her health allowed, then went to live in Westview Lodge for awhile — then lived with Ray and Ida for a couple of years and later in nursing homes until October, 1975, when she passed

In 1949 daughter Ida was united in marriage to Raymond Teskey and took up farming on NW 26-39-6-W5 until his passing in February of 1974

**RODGERS, HARRY FAMILY — by Harry Rodgers**

The continuation of the farmstead and the LHR Herefords

In the spring of 1948 Harry Rodgers was united in marriage to Louisa Attfield. They purchased the home place SE-35-39-6-W5 and NE-26-39-6-W5 from Mr James Rodgers and continued the farming operation. In December of 1950 they purchased a new truck

In 1951, we became the proud parents of our first child, a daughter, Louisa May March 17 1951 was the date of the worst blizzard on record in the country The railroad between Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer was snow blocked for a week Harry drove in the blizzard from Red Deer to get home as there was nobody home to do chores. The first combine was purchased in 1952

In 1953, son Harry James was born into the family. By this time a lot of the old buildings had to be replaced, and we lost our grain crop by hail. In 1954 we purchased NW-35-39-6-W5. In 1956 we lost another grain crop by hail. In 1957, Harry decided to raise registered polled Hereford cattle. Harry is a life member of the Hereford Association and the letters LHR Herefords are spread for miles around. He purchased NW-34-39-6-W5 in 1957 In 1958 we had one of the best grain crops that we have known

In 1959, another daughter, Beverley Irene was born and the same year we purchased our first self-propelled combine. In 1962, we purchased the first diesel powered tractor and the diesel fuel was eighteen cents per gallon This same year we quit milking cows and continued with beef cattle and raising hogs

In 1964 we replaced the old home with a new one with modern facilities In 1967 we purchased SW 34-39-6-W5 which we cleared and broke up, so the farm has one thousand cultivated acres

Daughter Louisa May completed her education at the Rocky Mountain House School in 1970, and has been a bookkeeper at Rocky Concrete and Construction Limited in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, for the last six years. Son Harry James completed his education at the same school in 1971, and has been occupied farming with his father up to date. Daughter Beverley received her education at Rocky Mountain, Alberta, and has been active helping her parents

Harry recalls hunting and fishing trips back for forty years, bringing out moose horns with a spread of fifty-seven and one-half inches. Back in the days when they used the ferry over the North Saskatchewan River, Harry, upon returning from a hunting trip with an old friend, Carl Linder found the ferry out, so they had to carry three deer and a moose over the railroad trestle one evening, returning a few days later to bring the car home

Son Harry James enjoys the same sports and we both hope to continue farming as long as health permits

**THE SAARELA FAMILY — by Elma Shaw**

Evert Saarela was married to Elvie Lissa Kaikkonen in 1912 at Great Falls, Montana. Both of them had come originally from Finland to Michigan, U.S.A., and after their marriage they moved to Helena, and then to Butte, Montana where Evert worked in the mines

Hearing about homestead openings for settlers in Alberta, Evert came in 1913, as far as Red Deer by train there was no railroad west of Red Deer at that time From Red Deer he continued on to the Blueberry Hills, to file on his homestead N W 17-40-4-W5

Number 11 highway was only a trail, and sloughs had to be dodged around, even on foot Blueberry Hills got the name from the

blueberries on the hills. They were so abundant that the hills were just blue with the berries

He returned to Montana in 1914 where he worked in the mines during the winter months and then brought his wife and small son, Elmo to the homestead in Alberta. During some winters he worked in the mines at Nordegg while Mother stayed on the homestead, doing the chores, taking care of the children, and exchanging home made butter and eggs for groceries at Lesliеville, seven miles away. Elvie was a good horsewoman in her day as she had learned while a young girl in Finland, to drive reindeer. The three youngest children were born on the homestead with only a neighbor midwife, Mrs Lampi, delivering the babies.

Every summer for years, the early settlers held an annual picnic, some people coming for miles with team and wagon, each lady bringing some food to add to the picnic dinner. The kindly settlers arranged working bees in the neighborhood when anyone wanted some building done. The ladies had their quilting bees, exchanging ideas, and perhaps some gossip. The pioneer theory was that when the new spuds were big enough to eat the partridge made good fryers, and rabbits good roasts or stews.

The Saarela family had no health problems then, even the 1918 flu epidemic was missed.

Elmo started school at Blueberry Valley, at the time not knowing a word of English. There were only six children in the school then, about 1918 and I do not know the teacher's name. Mrs Saarela boarded Leyda Sestrap while she was attending the Blueberry School. Years later Leyda became a doctor of medicine. Mrs Graham was one of the Blueberry Valley teachers. She would carry her young daughter Barbara the one and one-half miles to the Saarela home to be cared for every school day.

In 1922 the Saarelas moved 3½ miles north of Leslieville, S.W. 14-40-5-W5, where Eli and his son Wes, are still farming. The children went to Golden Heights school, walking, riding or driving. The school was the community centre. Sunday school, church services or dances were held there at various times. Bill Ennis did the calling for the dances, often arriving just as the children were let out of school, to be sure he would not be late.

In the depression years Saarela took some wheat to Eckville to be ground into flour for home use. Money was scarce, but no one went hungry. The farmers paid part of their taxes by working for the Municipality, doing road work. Rabbits were so thick that the green-feed stacks were eaten through at the bottom. The buyers wanted rabbits for mink meat so the second generation boys were quick to round up 22 rifles in order to make a few dollars. Rabbits were killed by the thousands and hauled to railways stations. Often the family watched the prairie chickens doing their chicken dance — a never-to-be-forgotten spectacle.

At harvest time the farmers helped one another to get the crops in — only the threshing machine operator had to be paid cash. They were sometimes hailed out and suffered some wet years but had no real drought problem. The second generation played baseball on some hayfield in summer and in winter time a lot of young people and some of the parents tried out their skis on what is known as the Leafland Hills.

The first family car was a 1925 Chev touring, bought in 1926.

Eino, the oldest son, was stricken with spinal meningitis on March 1, 1929 and died in the Eckville Hospital on March 28, 1929 at the age of 16 years.

Before his death on December 26, 1963, from a heart attack at the age of 75, Evert Saarela had made two trips to Finland, in 1947 by ocean liner and in 1952 by air, to attend the World Olympics at Helsinki. Elvie Saarela also made two trips to Finland by air, the first in 1960 and the other one in 1974, at the age of 86 years.

Mr and Mrs Saarela celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 23, 1962. In 1966 Mrs. Saarela moved to Eckville to live and passed away there on December 18, 1976 at the age of 88 years. She had suffered a severe stroke on December 10, 1976.

The children of Evert and Elsie Saarela were: Eino Evert, born December 19, 1912, and died March 21, 1929; Edward Elmer Saarela born August 25, 1914, and died January 31, 1973, Elma Elsie Shaw born March 4, 1918, and Eli Ensio Saarela, born on April 29, 1918.

Edward married Nellie Raivio in July, 1936, and they have three boys and two girls. Joyce married Jerry Verhaegh and they have three boys and two girls. Melvin married Elsie Nygaard and they have one boy and two girls. Hazel lives in Anchorage, Alaska. Vera and Lois live in Rocky Mountain House.

Elma married Lauri Heita in December 1934. Their children were Elsie, who married Eugene Scott and has two boys, Elvie, who married Robert Labonte and has one boy and one girl. Lauri died of a heart attack in 1953 and in 1965 Elma married John Shaw.

Eli married Violet Hiltala in September of 1947, and they have four children. Eileen married Terry Fedderson, and they have two girls. Beverly married Brian Adams, and they have one boy and three girls. Wesley married Karen David and they have three daughters. Judy married Harley Peterson, and they have one daughter.

**THE SALMON FAMILY**

Arthur Luther and Sarah Salmon lived along the Wishka River near Aberdeen, Washington, where sons Norman, Oliver and Elmer, and daughter Gertie were born. After Arthur had suffered a stroke and was advised to seek a drier climate he decided to move to Canada. In April,

1912, he arrived by stagecoach at Lestieville along with his son Norman. In May the rest of the family joined him there. En route, Norman's skill in horsemanship stood him in good stead, as he was driving a team of half-wild broncos, but was even able to help pull out freight wagons that were bogged down in the muskeg near Sylvan Lake.

After living on several rented places, they homesteaded six and one-half miles north of Leslieville. The youngest son, Harry, was born there, on May 7, 1914. In August of that year, Arthur suffered another stroke and died, aged only 52 years.

The older children worked out to help the family get established. Gertie found employment in Red Deer. Norman worked for the Valley Lumber Company, hauling lumber, but also helped out by bringing home wild meat, even training his dog to tree foot hens, which he could then catch in snares. The Salmons were fortunate in having a spring of ice-cold water which kept the meat fresh for long periods.

Gertie married Herb Card in 1915 and lived in Leslieville.

Norman married Mabel Turner.

Oliver Salmon married Edna Stears.

After returning to the United States for two years, Sarah came back with her family to the homestead, and raised her two grandchildren, Jim and May, there.

Elmer was married to Alice Johnson; they moved for a time, and later moved to live in Rocky Mountain House.

After the grandchildren grew up, Sarah sold the farm and moved to Leslieville, then to Rocky Mountain House, where she passed away in 1963.

[illegible] and Louise Salmon, Mrs. Warren Jan and Clarence Salmon

[illegible] and Louise Salmon with her [illegible]

**SALMON ELMER**

Elmer Salmon married Alice Johnson in 1926 and they lived at first near Wayne, Alberta, where their first daughter, Lorraine was born.

The family returned to Leslieville, to the place across from the Blueberry Valley School, where two more daughters, Gertie and Shirley were born.

Elmer has always been a very sociable and sports minded person, and entered enthusiastically into sleigh-riding parties and all other sports. January 1 is his birthday and he made it a gay occasion, serving up pancakes to feed all merrymakers who came by to join in their winter fun.

In 1940 the family moved to Rocky Mountain House, where Elmer operated a sawmill near Buster Creek, and also worked at trucking lumber. Later he worked on the Brazeau dam. While they were in Rocky Mountain House, another daughter, Carol, was born, in 1945.

Alice died in 1946.

Their eldest daughter, Lorraine, married John Winchester, and they had five children. Alice, now Mrs. Dan Hewitt, lives in Rocky Mountain House, and has three children, Diana, Danny John, and Keri. Cynthia, now Mrs. Paul Roberge, lives in Beaumont, Alberta, and has two children, Monique and Denis. John married Lannie Hanson, and they now live in Spain; they have one son, Leland. Glen married Laurel Dean Dickson, and lives in Leslieville, where his wife is now postmistress; they have a daughter, Janet. Nancy, now Mrs. Carney Kolza, lives in Nordegg, and has one child, Shyla.

Lorraine was later divorced and remarried to Glen Carlson. They have a daughter, Kristyne.

Gertie Salmon, now Mrs. Galvin, has two

children. Patricia and Darcy, and lives at Drayton Valley. She lost a son, Daniel, who died on January 17, 1978.

Shirley (Mrs. Rodtka, has four children, Connie (Mrs. John Berkeley who has a son, Joshua), Shelley, and twins, Rhonda and [illegible].

Carol (Mrs. Larry Bergen) had two children, Pamela and Ed. Carol was killed in a tragic highway accident in 1977. She was living in Alder Flats at the time.

**SALMON, GERTIE (Mrs. Herb Card)**

Gertie Salmon married Herb Card in 1915. They farmed near Leslieville, and also operated a sawmill. They had four children, Howard, Jervold, Roy and Jeanie.

After selling their farm, they moved to Joffre where they operated a lumber yard and a gas station. Later they moved to a farm on the eastern outskirts of Red Deer which is now the Eastview subdivision. Herb died in 1975, after a lengthy illness.

Howard now lives in Vancouver and has two children, Raymond and Judy (Mrs. Williams) now of Courtenay, British Columbia.

Jervold married Dorothy Costello. They have six children, Donna, Gail (Mrs. Slosher), Linda Susan (Mrs. Leduc), Brian and Randy.

Jervold now runs a trucking business in Red Deer.

Gertie Card now lives in Red Deer with her daughter Jeanie.

**SALMON, HARRY**

Harry worked on the farm, helping his mother until Jim was big enough to take over. Harry was a musician for country dances. He and Eli Saarela would make fine music, usually getting to the dances on horseback.

Harry worked on many different jobs, from construction on the Alaska Highway to equipment operator on the Pacific coast. He had a welding shop in Taber before coming back to Rocky Mountain House. In 1943 he married Irene Auch. He started in the trucking business, hauling lumber from saw mills to Rocky Mountain House. He and his son Art are still in the trucking business after 35 years, hauling mostly big machines.

Harry and Irene have seven children.

Anetha married Bob Glover, they have four children. Arthur is not married. Ken married Colleen Fisher, and they have two children, Lloyd married Janet Dyer and they have one child. Judy married Melvin Lougheed, they have two children. Terry and Tena are both at home.

**SALMON, NORMAN**

After leaving home, Norman married Mable Turner, and they had two children, Jim and May. Jim was born while the family lived at Sun [illegible].

Norman then obtained employment at Nakusp, British Columbia, and May was born there. Mable died when May was only two months old, and the children were taken to be raised by their grandmother at Leslieville.

Norman returned to Aberdeen, Washington, where he became a surveyor and engineer for the city, and designed several bridges over the Chehalis River, as well as engineering the water system for the city. He married Dorothy Turner, the sister of his first wife, and they have three children, Miriam, Bob, and Tom.

Jim Salmon married Hilda Schwel, and they have five children. They live in Fruitvale, B.C.

May married Percy Nelson, and they have two children. She died in 1975.

Miriam married Lewis Stevens, and has three [illegible].

Bob married Mary Wald, they have three children.

All the family now live near Aberdeen, Olympia, and Seattle.

**SALMON, OLIVER**

Oliver Salmon married Edna Stears in 1924. He worked on the railroad near Lethbridge where their children, Lenard, Marion, and Clarence were born.

Oliver was a qualified steam engineer, and worked at lumber mills, and on the old-time threshing outfits. He later worked in the mines at Nordegg, and when they closed, he farmed near the Blueberry Valley School, on the land previously belonging to his brother Elmer. When the one-room schools were phased out, he bought the Blueberry Valley School, which he converted into his farmhouse.

Edna died in December, 1976, and Oliver in May, 1977.

Lenard married Cleo Kiser, and now lives in Harrowgate, British Columbia.

Marion married Jack Sterling, and they have seven children, all living at Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence married Doreen Mason, and they have two children. They also live in Rocky Mountain House.

**SANDE, SAMUEL (SAM) AND ADA**

Samuel Olai Johansen Sande was born at Bergen, Norway, October 18, 1888. He came to Alberta in 1910 and homesteaded the SE 25-40-6-W5, in the Bingley district. He enlisted in World War I in the Canadian Forestry Corps and was overseas for four years. After he returned from overseas he bought the W 8-40-5-W5 in the Beaver Flat district from his sister Olga Grosseth and her husband, Louis.

While in England he met Ada Cartwright Thompson. Ada was born in Hetton-le-hole, Durham, England on March 22, 1897. She worked in the munitions factory during World War I.

She came to Canada in 1926 with her husband Jim Thompson and two small children, Ada and

Jim later another son John was born Divorce followed and Ada worked at Claresholm Gleichen and for the Bower family in Red Deer She received a beautiful black mare of which she was very proud, from the Bower family

Sam and Ada were married on December 8, 1930 in Red Deer and lived on their farm at Beaver Flat They have three children: Norman born October 24, 1931, married Beth Woodward and they have four children, Janet, David, Brian and Karen Irene born July 16, 1933 married Brian Marshall and they have three children Kathy, Micheal and James. Alma born February 8, 1936 married Melvin Oja and they have two sons, Dwayne and Randolph. Step daughter Ada married Leon Deaslone and they have three children, Carole Ann, Audrey Mae and Gary stepson Jim married Teresa Faulkner and they have five children Barbara married George Lloyd who was killed in an accident and she is remarried to Mark Ririe Wallereena married Ken Terry and they have two children, Jim and Marie: Derek married Barbara Comeau, Doreen married Gordon Hainsworth and they have two children Mat and Kevin, Jean married Mickey Turney and they have one son, Chris, stepson John married Margaret Bremner and she has one son. Lloyd married Linda and they have three children Roger Ricky and Lance — Lloyd is remarried to Judy and they have one daughter, Celia

It was a hard life clearing the land and farming in the summer, and working in the bush and lumbering in the winter but a happy life

Sam liked to hunt and fish He often went hun

[illegible] his half brother Sigurd, and his friend Leif Skagen. He also had many happy and successful fishing trips with his good friend, John Oja Ada is very fond of singing and music enjoys knitting and her vegetable garden and beautiful flower garden They owned a Plymouth car and many good horses. Sam was a Masonic member of Lochearn Lodge No. 151

Sam's and Ada's marriage was very happy but was cut short by his untimely passing away in April, 1940 at 51 years of age He was buried in the Leslieville Cemetery It was a very sad day for his beloved wife and family, and his many many good friends, as Sam was a very quiet kind and well liked man by all who knew him

**THE SIGURD AND ANTHON SANDE FAMILY**

Sigurd Olai Sande was born in Sande, Indre Holmedals, Sunnfjord, Norway, May 11, 1883 After completing his education, he clerked for two years in each of these stores in Sande. first at Lyder Sivertsen and then at M. Johannessen They both gave him a high character rating Leaving his fiancee behind, he emigrated to Wisconsin U.S.A in 1903 and worked in the U.S.A for three years before leaving Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1906 to go homesteading in Alberta. Carrying a few belongings he walked west from Red Deer and spent one night in the shelter of a wall of the old fort at Rocky Mountain House, where today only the "Chimneys" remain

He homesteaded on the NW 18-40-5-W5 in the Bingley district, approximately 50 miles northwest of Red Deer He walked to Red Deer for supplies and mail and later he walked to Evarts for them. Andrew Sande, who homesteaded at the same time, filed on the quarter section adjoining Sigurd's land on the south. These ingenious Vikings built one large sod-roofed log barn, half of it on each quarter section, which meant a saving of two walls In the summer months Sigurd broke the land with oxen and in the winter he worked in the lumber camps operated by Martin and McDougal

In 1909-1910 Sigurd returned to Sande, Sunnfjord, Norway to visit his fiancee, Astrid I

Sande and his relatives. While he was away Andrew looked after his place and did the chores.

Astrid L. Sande was born in Bergen, Norway on June 17, 1882. At the early age of two she moved with her parents to Sande, Sunnfjord. She took all her education there. She was a member of the Lutheran Church Choir in Sande for many years. In June, 1911, Astrid and Olga, a sister of Sigurd, arrived in Red Deer where Sigurd met them with horses and buggy. Astrid and Sigurd were married in the St. Luke's Church in Red Deer on June 19, 1911. Sigurd brought his bride and his sister to the two-storey log house he had built on the homestead. They were blessed with three sons and three daughters.

Svanhild — born May 17, 1912, married to Angus Leslie Martin August 7, 1947. They have one daughter.

Anna Louise — born October 15, 1913, married to Knut Olav Sunde December 27, 1940. They have one son, three daughters and seven [illegible].

John David — born April 26, 1915, married to Janet Stelfox July 2, 1939. They have two sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. Janet died April 30, 1973.

Magda Leonora — born May 27, 1917, married to Leonard LeRoy Billings November 30, 1946. They have two daughters and two grandsons.

Leonard Sigurd — born March 8, 1920, married to Audrey Kathleen Colbeck July 20, 1946. They have two sons and two grandsons.

Clifford Martin — born April 4, 1922, married Mildred Patricia Yarkow February 27, 1954. They have three sons, one daughter and two grandchildren. Clifford died February 7, 1965.

Sigurd and Astrid's first child, Svanhild, was born on a very special day as May 17 is Norway's National Day. For many years, their cozy log house on the homestead was the scene of many happy gatherings of Norwegians in the district. The Sande hospitality was known far and wide to the early pioneers and travellers of many nationalities. Many social evenings were enjoyed by neighbors. Those who played musical instruments brought them and played for the [illegible] and singing. They also enjoyed listening to the new Thomas Edison phonograph that [illegible] evident in the meals she prepared for her [illegible] say "No" to a slice of her homemade bread and butter and a cup of freshly brewed [illegible].

Sigurd and Astrid, like their pioneer neighbors, had their own language, religion [illegible] and lifestyle. How was the language barrier overcome? Timothy Eaton's Catalogue

[illegible]

and the Almanac played an important part As small children living on the homestead Alma remembers that when the Almanac had come her sister Svanhild, asked their mother, "Is there a Svanhildnac?"

In the opening up of this area, these pioneers knew hardships, isolation and loneliness, but as the language barriers were overcome the common problems called for co-operation so a process of acculturation was achieved by close personal friendships and mutual respect. Sigurd and Astrid were keenly interested in the progress of the country Sigurd helped to establish the Bingley School District No. 2565 in 1911 and in 1912 he cut logs for the first school house which was completed in 1913 The treasurer was Mr J W Christian, and the trustees were Mr Sam Larsgard, George Diggins and Sigurd who was chairman of the board. After moving to the Beaver Flat School District No. 1914 in 1918, Sigurd served as school trustee for that district for many years. In 1925 the school taxes on his quarter section of land in Bingley were $17 69

The little log schoolhouse became the community center and truly united all nationalities Regardless of rain or sunshine, families for many miles around came by team and wagon or on horseback to participate in the picnic The first picnic that Sigurd and Astrid and Olga enjoyed was at Beaver Flat and Olga still laughs when she tells how she shocked everyone when she hoisted her long skirt above her knees at the beginning of the ladies' race that she won

Other entertainment included the Chautauqua held in the Leslieville community in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Sigurd and his brother Sam were two of the guarantors. Also there were the silent movies, e.g. "Ben Hur" The annual Farmers Ball in the Leslieville Hall in the 1920's drew a good crowd of adults, and children as well, as the spelling bee was held at the same time. This was a popular event in which many schools participated and entered only their b spellers. The school Christmas concert was an annual event and enjoyed by everyone in the packed schoolhouse

Astrid often mentioned how she enjoyed her first Christmas here when Sigurd took her to the Leslieville Church Christmas program, and although she did not understand the language the church atmosphere, the choir singing carols and Mr J Reilly giving the Christmas message meant so much to her Christmas Eve on the homestead was very special. The tree, decorated with homemade streamers, balls, and paper hearts woven in two colors, was put in the centre of the living room Astrid, Sigurd and their little children joined hands and walked around the tree and sang "Silent Night" and other carols in Norwegian Astrid's beautiful singing is a joy to remember

Before 1920, Sigurd and Astrid helped to organize the first Lutheran Congregation at Leslieville and they were members during the years it existed. Services were held in the members' homes Sigurd was secretary treasurer from 1923 until 1930 The pastors at this time were Rev B. Guldseth, Rev Oluf Asper and Rev. Elle Astrid and Sigurd were faithful contributors of donations to the mission field throughout their lives

Sigurd's brother Samuel Olai Sande, another community-minded man, homesteaded SE 25-40-6-W5 in the Bingley district in 1910. He enlisted in World War One and after returning from the war he bought W½ 8-40-5-W5. He and Sigurd worked together for several years to harvest their crops One fall was exceptionally wet and Sam, who had his own blacksmith shop, helped design and build a large wheel that carried the horse-drawn binder over wet fields so they managed to harvest their crops

Not only were schools and churches needed but roads were badly needed. There were road allowances, but many of these were not fenced, not even a snake-rail fence Herds of horses freed from the lumber mills that operated only during the winter months, roamed the country until more settlers homesteaded the land. Sigurd was a road councillor for twenty-five years and a reeve for twelve years of the Municipal District of Lochearn No. 401, Leslieville, Alberta During his early years as a councillor he travelled on horseback and helped many a family in the flu epidemic of 1918-1919 His district covered the area north from his homestead to the North Saskatchewan River, west and north of Rocky Mountain House After he bought one of the first cars, a model T Ford, his work took him in many directions to help people get to the doctor Since Sigurd was on the end of the telephone line in that area the family had to relay the message to neighbors for many miles regardless of weather and road conditions. Most of the road work had to be done by hand in the early days which meant digging ditches with a shovel Low lying area roads were corduroyed to make them passable in the rainy season. This meant covering the road with small 10-15 foot logs and then covering the logs with dirt using a wheelbarrow and shovel. Later, came the horse-drawn machinery, such as the slip for two horses, and the fresno where four horses were used then the two-wheeler-like slip that needed two or four

and many a mile has been built using horse power from six to twelve horses, depending on the size of the grader Then followed the mechanized road building machinery The Municipal District was divided into six divisions for many years until it became Local Improvement District No. 10. Shortly after that, the local schools were organized into the Rocky Mountain School Division No 15. Part of the Lochearn Municipal District is now in the Lacombe School Division Sigurd spent many long hours attending council and school meetings, and most of

them without a stipend mainly because there was no money anyway Astrid's kind consideration for others and willingness to help all was her first thought This greatly assisted her husband to carry out his duties as councillor reeve, and

The Sande children attended the Beaver Flat School No. 1914 that was established in 1908 and opened in 1909. For several years the school opened in May and continued throughout the summer until Christmas. Most of the time the children walked the two and one half miles, but what a pleasure it was when they had three saddle horses to ride to school. During the years that the six Sande children attended Beaver Flat school the teachers were: Miss Edmundson Miss I. Strong Miss V Leather Miss A Joslin Mrs. C N. Beebe Miss N Wade Mr J Grant Miss L Lytle. Mrs McDonald Mr Wm McRoberts and Mr T Bowbay

Being farmers, Sigurd and Astrid were keenly interested in growing high quality produce This was evinced in the prizes they won at the fair sponsored by the Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society in the years 1927-28-29 Top awards for wheat, barley, oats, corn and many vegetables were received. Astrid enjoyed sewing and knitting and won several prizes at the fair for her needlecraft. In the 1930's Sigurd won prizes for his grains at the provincial seed fairs and at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, Ontario In 1936, Svanhild won first prize for beans at the Toronto Royal and the following year at the same fair John and Leonard won first and second respectively for oats All three Sande boys were members of the Leslieville Grain Club and won prizes for their grain plots and also for the threshed grain at the seed fair John was leader of the Club for a few years. This shows that the family farm has its merits

Sigurd and Astrid were active members of the Leslieville School Fair Board. Their six children won scholarships and a trip to the Olds School of Agriculture for highest number of points. In recognition of their high quality produce, the Olds School of Agriculture presented them with a variety of shrubs and fruit trees to plant on the farmstead. Their beautiful garden attracted many visitors

Also, they raised cattle and had some registered Shorthorns and Herefords. From this fine herd of Hereford cattle, 4-H Beef Club members purchased animals that won the grand championships several times

In 1935, Astrid went to Norway on a well deserved holiday to visit her father sisters, and a brother whom she had not seen since she left in 1911 When she returned in February 1936, a terrible blizzard was raging in this area. The bus driver Gordon Sorenson drove his bus off his regular route to Rocky Mountain House to her farm home, 10 miles north of Alhambra, to make sure she got home safely This brings to mind the many hazards of winter encountered when travelling. The mailman, Thomas Ogden of the Bingley post office in the early years, fought drifts and cold winds for several miles and this meant weary horses and driver by the time they got to the Sigurd Sande farm Here he came in to thaw out and have a spot of tea. Sigurd was ready with his team and sleigh to take Tom the rest of the way to Leslieville and back to the farm Now Tom could hitch up his rested horses and resume his tough journey with renewed

Sigurd enjoyed hunting moose, elk and deer in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. He had many sets of large horns. As an avid fisherman he enjoyed catching trout in the west country

The Depression came and it left its mark even on the hardiest of pioneers who had already had a rough time Sigurd was shipping a carload of cattle to Calgary, but before the train personnel would load the cattle, freight charges had to be prepaid. Upon receipt of the cheque for this carload of cattle, he realized less than he had paid for the freight! Many cases of hardship never to be forgotten, were prevalent but these hardy pioneers never gave up. Food was not scarce nor expensive, neither was clothing nor shoes, but they had no cash to purchase them Eggs were selling for three cents per dozen Flour sacks were not only used for underwear but also for shirts, blouses and dresses. Astrid didn't need a pattern to make these garments, she designed them herself, and made many pretty clothes from snow-white flour sacks and from printed flour sacks. These thrifty, frugal, honest hard-working people persevered through the Dirty 30's", and also through World War Two when rationing came into effect for the following gasoline, sugar, jam jelly, coffee, tea canned milk butter and meat

When the Women's Institute was organized in the Beaver Flat district Astrid was one of its active members

After the Rocky Mountain School Division No 15 was established Sigurd was Divisional School trustee for several years He served as a school trustee for over forty-five years, both on the local school boards and on the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 Board. A crowd of more than 750 people gathered on February 11, 1958, for the opening ceremonies at the David Thompson High School, which Sigurd was instrumental in having located on the site near Condor Sigurd Sande was honored that evening for his long years of service when the Hon. A. J Hooke presented him with a gold wristwatch engraved with these words "40 YEARS SCHOOL TRUSTEE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 15" Later in 1960, a set of encyclopedia was presented to the David Thompson High School in Sigurd Sande's name In the November 1, 1974 issue of "Red Deer County News" Mr Dave Pearson, a trustee of the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 at the

same time as Sigurd, has high praise for the many trustees he has worked with. He singled out the high-minded conduct of men like Sigurd Sande

Astrid and Sigurd resided on their farm all their lives and kept very active. Astrid died on December 1, 1960

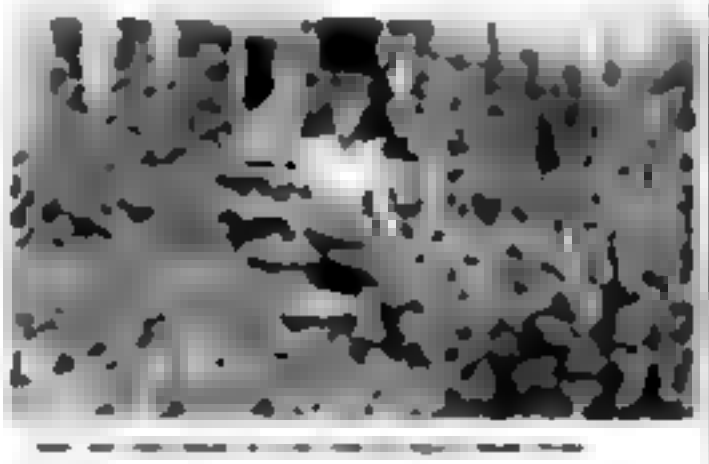
Sigurd continued to be active in his farming and cow-calf operations. He was active in community affairs and keenly interested in world affairs. He died on October 21, 1963

**SANDE, THE JOHN D. AND SANDY FAMILY — (By John D. Sande**

I completed my schooling at the Beaver Flat school in 1930 where my family lived. Through the years before I married Henry Stelfox's second daughter Janet, I helped with the work on the farm. Dad had just bought a 22-36 International tractor disc, and a breaking plow then a year later, a Waterloo threshing machine so we had to go to work at whatever we could get to keep up the payments on all of this equipment through the thirties when prices on farm products dropped to an all-time low. In the summer months we cleared and broke land on Dad's homestead and did custom breaking around the neighborhood. In the fall it was the same we went out threshing, so besides the home farming we had lots of work to do. This continued after I got married to Janet on July 2 1939. I was building my own house on the family farm and this is how I got my lumber. Through the winter months we took out logs on the Wolf Creek that was eighteen miles to the north-west of us. We travelled by team and sleigh when there was snow and by wagon when the roads permitted it. Dad and my brothers put in many a cold trip to bring out the lumber, slabs, and some firewood. This lumber was sawed by Ralph Evans and his crew from east of Lesneville when he had his mill on the Wolf Creek. The forest fire became quite a thing in the spring before the new grass got tall enough. We still had some logs and some lumber that we were unable to get out in the winter months which got burned. The price of lumber at the mill in those years was $7 for rough and $10 for planed per thousand. After our second winter in the timber we took a permit to supply a dairy farmer east of Red Deer with all the material he needed for a small barn at $18 a thousand, delivered

In the spring of 1939 I undertook a different type of work — to build a house to live in after we were married. I built it on Dad's home place out of the best lumber from our winters' work. But the time came to be married and I still had some of the house to finish so we lived with my folks the first year.

July 1, 1939, was a nice bright morning after many a rainy day so Dad and I went to see how many mud holes we had to fix between home and Rocky Mountain House so we could get to the first wedding of our family by car. We got the mud holes repaired with logs and dirt so they really looked good. But by mid-afternoon we had a different outlook on the whole bright day earlier. Black clouds came up and the wind blew stronger. One of the worst hailstorms hit that area, such destruction had never been seen before. Our early morning work went down the road so Dad and I spent from early evening until early the next morning getting back home with the car. So to the pasture I went for the horses so we could get to my wedding in time with team and wagon and the 12 miles to go. But the bright sun and the blue sky really made me forget the night before till I looked at the bare fields that had been all green with grain, and the trees that were stripped of their leaves. Uncle Sam, Dad's brother, and his wife, Aunt Ada came to the wedding in their democrat and team of nice sorrels. They brought my wife Janet, and me back home instead of us going back in the big heavy lumber wagon.



Our first son, David, arrived on May 30, 1946, during the early part of World War II. It was a time of great uncertainty but we carried on the best we could. We continued farming and growing everything that was in demand. In 1941 we moved into our own home. The next year, on April 20, our first daughter, Agnes, was born. The uncertainty caused by the war continued. I got my notice to stay close to my home. Our second son, Harold, arrived on January 18, 1945, a cold day.

Towards the end of the war we decided we should try to get a farm of our own. The family would soon be of school age and we hoped to get and closer to the school than I had been so that they would not have the long distance to go that I had travelled. We got the farm known as the Washburn place. (he N E-1 40-6-W5 which was one mile south of Dad's. It had a nice set of buildings except for quite a small old house compared to the one we had built on the family farm. That fall our son, David, started school at Beaver Flat. Next summer our second daughter Helen, arrived on August 25, 1947. As the children

reached school age they continued their educa ion at Beaver Flat until it was closed and then hey were bused to school at Rocky Mountain House

In 1951 I moved the new house we had built on the home place down to our farm to replace the old one because we were all looking forward to getting electricity on the farm. Our farming operations got bigger as the family was able to help. The last few years that we were on the farm we had 20 milk cows, around 75 pigs of all ages as well as beef cattle and a nice flock of sheep. We got our start in sheep from the University of Alberta Experimental Farm, Edmonton.

In 1956 we left the farm. Our younger daughter needed extra teaching and training so in the fall term, after a big decision, we went to the city of Edmonton to live and start new work. This meant the family had to take a close look at what each one wanted to get started in. Janet and I got work at the new School for the Deaf that was to open in the fall. David was in his last year of high school. Agnes was in her last year of junior high, Harold was in his last year of elementary, and Helen went by bus to her school for the handicapped for special training. The farm life was missed by all of us. The last few years at the School for the Deaf, Janet was a house mother with 15 little deaf boys, ages five to eight years. She really enjoyed the chance to help them get started in life.

In 1973 Janet took ill and spent a few months in the hospital. She passed away on April 30, 1973 and was greatly missed by her family and many others for her cheerful smile at all times. A year later I had completed eighteen years at the school and I moved back to the country to live west of Millet in the Pipestone community.

As David and Agnes have compiled their own histories, I will write only about Harold and Helen.

Harold completed his senior high school and then attended the Olds Agricultural College for two years. After graduating he worked on different jobs. When he worked in Red Deer at Corbett Auto Electric Shop, he met Barbara Jean Storey, the youngest daughter of Carl and Gladys Storey of Red Deer. They were united in marriage on September 3, 1966. They have one son, Darryl, and one daughter, Nicole. They bought the Pipestone General Store which they operate at the present time.

Helen took different types of training to help her as she is handicapped. She attended the school at Edmonton Centre and the Alberta School Hospital, now known as Michener Centre, Red Deer. At present she is at Wetaskiwin in a Group Home and goes to the Horizon Unlimited Work Shop.

**SANDE, THE DAVID, BARBARA, NEIL AND CRAIG FAMILY**

John and Janet Sande's first child was born May 30, 1960 in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital and was named David Joseph. David was the eldest grandchild on both parents sides (Sande and Stelfox) and reaped the early benefits of attention from grandparents, aunts and uncles.

On July 13, 1963 David married Barbara Jean Woywitka whom he had met in 1958 on a scaffold, while decorating the U of A gymnasium for a dance and had dated through their University days. On March 14, 1969 their first child Neil David was born. Two years later their second son Craig Martin was born on April 26, the same birthdate as his grandfather John Sande.

David was very fortunate to have had the opportunity of varied educational experiences. From 1946-1953 he attended Beaver Flat School a one-room country school with grades one to eight. In 1954 and 1955 he was bussed to the much larger Rocky Mountain House School. Following his family's move to Edmonton in the early fall of 1956 David attended Strathcona Composite High School for two years and graduated in the spring of 1958.

In September of 1958 he enrolled at the U of A in the first year of the Bachelor of Physical Education degree program from which he graduated in 1961. In 1966 David returned to the University of Alberta and in 1968 completed his M.A. in Administration. Following two years of study at the University of Oregon in Eugene David graduated in 1975 with a Ph.D. in Education.

David's formal work experiences include assisting on the family farm until they moved to Edmonton in 1956. Summer work between high school or University terms were as follows:

1957 — Work as a carpenter's helper building the David Stelfox house at Ellerslie.

1958-'59 — A labourer and truck driver at Gunnar Uranium Mines on Lake Athabasca.

1960-'62 — Roller operator on asphalt paving crews in the Edmonton vicinity.

In September of 1962 David began work as a high school teacher of physical education, biology and chemistry at Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton where he worked until June of 1965. Following the completion of his masters degree course work in 1967 David was hired by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation of the U of A where he has continued to work, and is now an Associate Professor.

Since his youth David has maintained an interest in physical education and sports and has continued to participate as an athlete, coach or sports administrator. As an undergraduate David was a student manager with the Golden Bear Hockey team and active in Block "A" activities. For a period of 10 years from 1964 to 1[illegible] David was the Director of a High School Recreation Leadership Training Program at O'Leary Composite High School. As a high school teacher he coached football, basketball, wrestling, volleyball and track and field and was active on

CAHPER executive — President 1967. While at the U of A he served as an assistant football coach with the Golden Bears during the late 60's and early 70's.

In 1977 David was chairman of the Canadian Gymnastic Championships in Edmonton. He also served as Deputy Chairman of the 1978 Commonwealth Games Sports Division. As his children grew and showed an interest in sport he acted as a community soccer and hockey coach.

David's childhood days were filled with the excitement of active farm life punctuated by play with brother Harold and sisters Agnes and Helen and the ever present pets (dogs, cats and rabbits). Earliest recollections are of racing downhill to Grandma Sande's, a distance of about 30 yards to greet her and share some cold oatmeal cereal and sugar. Further memories highlight trips to visit Grandma and Grandpa Stelfox in Rocky Mountain House to watch Grandma Stelfox's canary or to sit in a huge stuffed chair with his brother and sisters to hear Grandpa Stelfox spin tales. Christmas, birthdays and other special occasions always meant visits with aunts, uncles and cousins and were very exciting occasions.

As a youth David had major interests in school, sports and livestock. Though never top of the class, David found school a real challenge and never faced any major difficulties. Hunting and Fishing with Grandpa Sande were always exciting. In the fall of 1954 while hunting with Grandpa Sande David shot his first moose. Often after fishing trips, while driving home from Chambers Creek or one of the tributaries of Prairie Creek, David would have to reach to the car's accelerator and pull Grandpa Sande's foot off when a cramp in the thigh would cause him to cramp the accelerator to the floor sending the car lunging through narrow logging roads or the ever present frost boils of Highway 11.

School and community sports days and baseball teams were always important activities for David. During one busy spring he played on two different school teams, a bantam team and a community team.

David's interest in livestock was carefully tutored by his father and led to a deep love of all livestock. This interest was further generated into active participation in the Rocky Mountain House 4H Beef Club and special interest in the records of the farm dairy herd, sheep and hogs. It was also during this period, with many successive years of severe hail damage to crops, that David became aware of the significant gamble involved in farming.

There is absolutely no question that the most significant event of David's adult live was his marriage to Barbara, and their many years of shared joys and sorrows. Their honeymoon was his first significant extended trip and due primarily to Barbara's great love of travel they journeyed to Europe in the summer of 1965, to Expo in Montreal in 1967 and then after Neil and Craig were born they made many camping trips with major journeys in 1974 down the Pacific Coast of the U.S.A. and in 1976 to Montreal for the Olympics. In January of 1977 David and Barbara with Dave's brother Harold and his wife Barbara purchased a quarter section of land in the Pipestone district just east of Pigeon Lake. The purchase came as a result of being forced to sell land in the Cow Lake area of the Rocky Mountain House District when taxes were raised substantially as a result of the land being declared recreational. This sale saw a severance of David's physical relationship with the Rocky Mountain House area but has led to increased pleasure for Barb and Dave in teaching their sons Neil and Craig to ride horses and to share the beauty of the country and the efforts of farm activities while visiting their new farm.

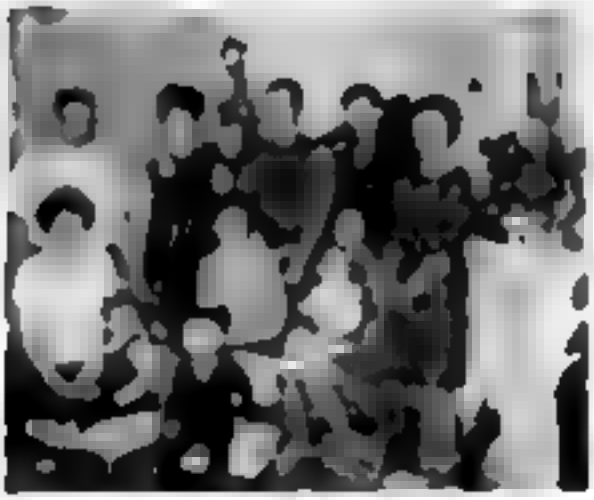
Following her marriage to David, Barbara continued to teach physical education and mathematics at Jasper Place Composite High School until Christmas of 1968 — three months before Neil was born. Barbara has always been very active in church and community activities. She has served Southminster United Church as a choir member, a Sunday School teacher and as an active committee member. Her community activities have included curling, squash, yoga and very active membership on the Parents' Advisory Committee for Greenfield Elementary School's Bilingual program as well as Vice Chairperson of the Alberta branch of the Parents For French Organization. The demands of homemaking have been further challenged by the needs of two very active boys and Barbara has spent hours in support of their activities.

Neil and Craig are typical of most elementary school aged children. They are both in the French Bilingual Program and along with an enthusiasm for school they share their parent's interest in athletics with their own involvement in swimming, skating, hockey, soccer and music activities. Often the backyard is filled with neighborhood children engaged in some boisterous play endeavors. Both boys have taken an active interest in the Boy Scout program. Neil in Cubs and Craig in Beavers.

It is with continued pride and pleasure that Barbara and David watch their children grow and mature in their understanding of man and his world.

**CRITCHLEY, THE IAN AND AGNES FAMILY**

Agnes Kathleen, first daughter of John and Janet Sande, was born in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital on April 20, 1942. She attended school at Beaver Flat, Rocky Mountain House and Edmonton where she graduated. After completing her high school she worked for several years at the Edmonton Centre for the handicapped. While working there she met Walter Ian Critchley who was driving the bus for the handicapped to the Centre. In 1964 Ian joined the army and was transferred to Kingston, Ontario.



the following year. In 1965 Agnes and Ian were married and lived at Kingston where Ian was a Captain in the Canadian Army. They returned to Edmonton in August, 1969. Ian attended University in the faculty of Education and graduated in 1973.

They have three sons. Peter Ian born July 1968, Charles Richard born August, 1972, and Michael David born September, 1977.

When Agnes thinks back to times spent with her grandparents, she thinks of Grandma Sande's homemade butter and cleaning out the wooden butter bowl, of being old enough to be allowed to pick raspberries in Grandpa Sande's prized raspberry patch after he was assured that she knew how to pick without damaging the plants. She remembers being allowed to play their phonograph with its cylindrical records.

**BILLINGS, THE FAMILY OF LEONARD AND MAGDA**

Magda Leonora the third daughter of Sigurd and Astrid Sande was born on the homestead on May 27, 1917. She got her schooling at Beaver Flat and Alhambra. During these years she won many awards for outstanding achievements in sports. At the Provincial Meet held in Red Deer she placed first for the 100 yard dash, the 440 yard and the 880 yard.

On November 30, 1946, she was united in marriage to Sgt. Leonard LeRoy Billings of Spokane, Washington.

They are blessed with two daughters Beverley Lee, born September 8, 1948 and Eleanor Sigrid, born April 9, 1955. Beverley and Eleanor attended school at Penhold, Innisfail, and Red Deer, receiving their high school diplomas at the Lindsay Thurber High School. After graduation Bev worked as an operator for AGT in Red Deer and Calgary. In 1967 Bev was united in marriage to E. Dwayne Tester and they are blessed with two sons, Edwin Grant and Gregory Scott. Dwayne has his Master's degree as an electrician and operates his own shop at Bowden.

Eleanor furthered her education by attending Humber College in Toronto, graduating with honors in public relations, general arts and science. In Toronto she was very active in Big Brothers. Four years later she returned to Red Deer and at present she is on the board of directors for Big Brothers, and she has enrolled at

Magda and Leonard reside in Penhold, and Magda is cooking at Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail.

**SANDE, THE LEONORD AND AUDREY FAMILY**

Leonord S. Sande the fifth child of Sigurd and Astrid Sande, was born on March 9, 1920, and grew up in the Lesliteville district. He received his education in the Beaver Flat school district. He enjoyed competing in track and field events in Central Alberta, receiving many ribbons and two trophy cups for his efforts.

After the Second World War was declared Leonord joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and served for four and a half years. During his years of service, he attained the rank of Flight Sergeant. Following the War, he returned to the Lesliteville district and purchased a farm, after marrying Audrey Kathleen Colbeck in Vancouver, B.C. Prior to their marriage, Audrey was employed as a dressmaker. Leonord and Audrey have two sons, Chris and Melvyn.

Audrey was born in North Bay, Ontario, on October 7, 1923. She travelled to the west coast as a small child with her parents, James and Ethel Colbeck. Ethel is a Canadian of Irish descent and James was born in Yorkshire, England coming to Canada with his parents in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Colbeck are in good health, and presently reside in Burnaby, B.C.

**SANDE, THE CHRIS J. AND DIANA FAMILY**

Chris J. Sande was born December 8, 1947. He grew up on his parents' farm in the Bingley district. At school age he walked a mile and a half to attend the Bingley School where his elementary education was achieved. Teachers at that time were, Mr. H. Rodgers, Mrs. Loewen, and Mrs. P. Brookes. Grades 1 to 6 were taught in this single classroom school. The remainder of Chris' education was received in Rocky Mountain House where he graduated in 1965. The following fall Chris enrolled in a two year Agriculture Mechanics Course at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary and graduated with a diploma in 1967. He then returned to the farm where he has worked with his father in a cow-calf operation.

Chris was subsequently married to Diana

Lynn Study of Kathyrn, Alberta. Before marriage she worked in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary as a Certified Nurses' Aide. They have two sons: Jeffery Allan, born March 29, 1968, and Kevin James, born August 29, 1970. The family resides on the Sigurd Sande home quarter NW 7-40-5-W5. Jeff and Kevin attend Rocky Elementary School in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

**SANDE, THE CLIFFORD MARTIN AND MILDRED FAMILY — by Andy Sande**

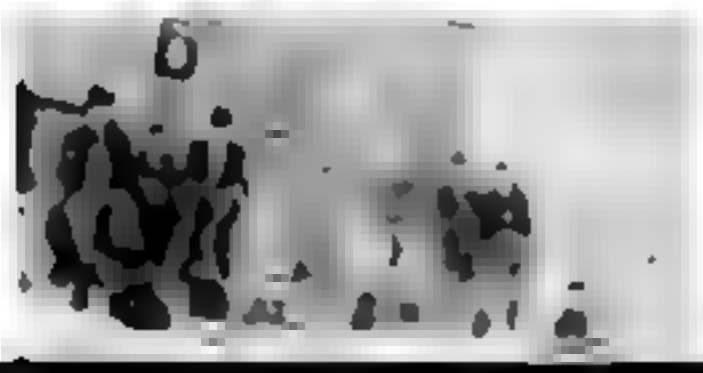
Clifford Martin Sande, the youngest son of Sigurd and Astrid Sande, was born at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, on April 4, 1922. He attended Beaver Flat School for part of his education. In Red Deer, he received his high school education and graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in 1941. As he was awarded for his excellence of mind, the same is true for his physical ability. He excelled in track and field events where the sportsman that he truly was became very evident. At the age of 15 he won 5 provincial track and field championships, not to mention the trophies for his athletic ability in school.

His many experiences in life could fill a small book and make wonderful stories when he reminisced. One such experience involved luck as well as bravery. He was a boy of 14 at the time.

> On November 2, 1936, while wandering in some woods he came upon a young golden eagle in pursuit of a rabbit. In the minutes that followed he brought down the bird with a big stick, knocking it unconscious and killing it. It was a beautiful bird about two years old with a wing span of seven feet. Weighing approximately eleven pounds and over two feet tall, it had talons that could kill as well as carry most any prey. Arnold Crabtree, a local taxidermist, stuffed and mounted the bird for Clifford.

He worked for the Canadian National Railway as a tie loader and then became a tie inspector at several points in Alberta and Ontario. He was also an employee of the Texaco Oil Company for many years. He began as a roustabout and later, a battery reader.

In 1953 on February 21, he married Mildred Patricia Yurkiw of Radway, Alberta. Before her marriage, Mildred had worked in Edmonton. Later they moved to his farm the SW 25-40-6-W5 approximately 15 miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House. He had purchased this property earlier from Frank Larsgard.



Janet Sande's house in the background

**SANDE, THE ANDREW BENNIE FAMILY**
**Autobiography by Andy Sande**

I am the oldest of Clifford's and Mildred's children. I was born September 11, 1954 in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. I was six weeks old when my father, who worked for the C.N.R. in Ontario, moved my mother and me back to Alberta to live on a farm. My parents had three more children born to them: Donald Brian on March 13, 1957, Linda Anne on May 28, 1960, and Stephen Martin on February 2, 1965.

I was attending Rocky Elementary when my father died on February 7, 1965. Mother decided to raise us in the city and so she moved her young family to Edmonton, where the family still resides. She bought a modern home in the city and worked hard caring for her family and growing a big garden. It is not easy to be a single parent and raise a young family, but Mother deserves a lot of credit for helping us to get where we are today.

I attended McArthur Elementary School for three years, then went to Wellington Jr. High School also for three years. It was there that I participated in sports to any degree. I was taught by my parents and close relatives that sportsmanship was far more important than winning or losing. Although I was never pushed by those around me I was near or at the top of most athletic endeavors.

In 1973 I graduated from Queen Elizabeth Composite High School. While attending school I did not make it to the provincials in "Track and Field" as my father did (and won 5 medals) but I came close, and received many ribbons for my efforts. I also took on a part-time job in grade eleven, working at Canada Safeway. Later I made it my career. I had many fields of education open to me and probably could have had any one of a dozen careers, but it was not practical at the time and therefore I went another way in life.

On September 8, 1975, I married Susan Mary Keeler and now reside in Edmonton. We have two children. Beatrice Ann Keeler, by Susan's first marriage, who will be 10 years old May 17, 1978. We also have one of our own, Richele Jane, born to us on December 29 of 1976.

I am now part of the department management of Canada Safeway. I am very happy with my new family and job, and enjoy both respectively. My one dream in life is to have a dairy farm and to have my family grow up and experience life the way my father wished his farm.

Donald Brian Sande was born on March 13, 1957 in Rocky Mountain House. He attended

Rocky Elementary, McArthur Elementary, Wellington Jr High School, and Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton. Don was prominant in sports both in school and in the community. He has received many ribbons medals and trophies for both himself and his teams' efforts. Don also has a Hunter Training Conservation certificate from the community. Don now has most of the training from N.A.I.T needed to be a motor mechanic. He is employed at one of Texaco's Service Stations in Edmonton and is engaged to be married in the near future.

Linda Anne Sande, the only daughter of Cliff and Mildred, was born on May 28, 1960. She attended McArthur Elementary, Wellington Jr High School, and Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton. She was a Brownie and a Guide with the 58th Pack in the Church of the Good Shepherd. She participated in school and community sports. She also has her Hunter Training Conservation certificate from the community. She too is to be married in the near future.

Stephen Martin, the youngest son of Clifford and Mildred Sande was born February 2, 1965, in Eckville. He attended McArthur Elementary, and is now attending Wellington Jr High School. He was active in Cubs and Scouts in the 112th Pack. Steve is also active in school and community sports. His favorite sport is soccer and he has been on several city championship teams. He has taken over as the man of the house now that his sister and brothers have left to start on their own. He has several small jobs around the community one of which is delivering the city "Journal". Although his future did not look too good at first having lost his father when he was only five days old, he is accepting life and its experiences very well and his family is very proud of him.

**GEORGE SCHIEB AND FAMILY**

The pioneer days had passed and the country was well settled when the George Schieb family arrived at Lesieville in 1928. They bought and settled on the farm of the late Amos Norem, four and one-half miles north of town.

George, of German parents, was born in Defiance, Ohio, on October 7, 1886, later moving to North Dakota. In March, 1909, he came to Alberta and took a homestead at Winnifred where he farmed for ten years and took part in many community activities.

He was united in marriage to Evalena LaMarsh on October 17, 1919. Evalena, a cousin of the well known Judy LaMarsh) came west from Wheatley, Ontario, with her family in 1910 to settle on a homestead at Winnifred, Alberta.

The Schiebs after their marriage farmed for a while then spent some time at Empress, Alberta. After spending a few years in the lumber industry in British Columbia and Idaho, they settled in Lesieville.

There were two children, Lucille and Garth who received their education in rural schools.

Lucille married Neil Smith in 1938 and they still farm in the community. They raised a family of seven children, four girls and three boys, most of whom still reside in the area or close by.

Garth took high school in Red Deer and later graduated from SAIT as an aeronautical engineer. He spent twelve years with Canadair in Montreal where he married Louise Doyle. They have two sons and now reside in Calgary.

Soon after the Schiebs arrived in Lesieville the depression set in, but the mixed farm proved to be a good place to ride it out — never a lack of food, supplemented by wild fruit, which was plentiful in those days.

The friendly, helpful, spirit of the many wonderful neighbours helped each other through the trying times. Everyone was always ready with a helpful hand and an encouraging word where needed.

[illegible]

In 1937, the family moved to a rented farm owned by George Cummerford, one mile west and one and one-half miles north of Lesieville, across the road from Campbell School. A few years later they bought a farm two and one-half miles south of town, from Charlie Frost where they continued in mixed farming until retirement in 1962 to the village of Lesieville. In November, 1965, they moved to the Twilight Village in Red Deer where they resided comfortably and happily among many former friends and lots of new ones.

George passed away recently — June 5, 1977 in his ninety-first year. Evalena resides in The Pines Lodge, Red Deer and continues to enjoy [illegible]

**THE EDWARD LEWIS SIMS FAMILY — (by Maude L. Green)**

The Sims family was one of the first settlers in the Beaver Flat district. Mr. Edward Lewis Sims and his wife Rosa May with six children

homesteaded in 1906. Claude Hilton was the oldest Sims child, then came Mabel Loraine, Mildred Elizabeth, Emmanuel Edward, Muriel Verna and Mamie Letitia, the baby, three months old. In 1906 they moved back to Red Deer for the winter where Mary Alexandra was born on December 8. Mr. Ed Sims worked for the city of Red Deer that winter hauling coal up the Red Deer River and the thermometer dropped to 70° below zero. Mr. Sims had built a one-room log house and a barn in 1906 and they moved back from Red Deer in the spring, 1909. He helped to build the Beaver Flat log school house where he was one of the first trustees on the school board along with Dave Marshall and Ted Frodeen who lived south of the school. Mr. Sims had a team of bay horses named Dick and Jack and he broke 10 acres for himself and several other settlers who had moved in so they could prove up on their homesteads. He broke land for Bill Law, a bachelor west of him, Mr. Cornell, Bill Deering, Bob Maconachie, Will Hambrook and Hansen who joined Mr. Sims on the north and many others.

They lost one child before birth in 1910 when Mr. Sims was away working. A grass fire swept across from the west and Mrs. Sims lifted a calf through the fence to save it and she became very ill. The neighbor women, Mrs. Risch and Mrs. Wilson, came in to help with the rest of the family. There was no doctor at that time closer than Red Deer.

In March, 1914, their ninth child, Ruth Isabelle, was born. They had lost a two-year old girl, Nellie, from scarlet fever in Troy, Idaho U.S.A. before they moved to Alberta.

The first teacher in Beaver Flat was Miss Martin, sister of Angus Martin. The next one was Miss Goodmanson, then Mr. Oliver, then Mrs. Mitchell. That year the C.N.R. railroad went to Nordegg, and Mr. Sims worked on the railroad south of the school. Then Bessie Meston who is now Mrs. Frank Patterson, living in Rocky Mountain House, taught Beaver Flat three terms. She was teaching the year the war broke out in August 1914. These teachers taught 30 to 34 pupils, Grade 1 to Grade 8 without any help. The Inspector visited the school once a year.

Claude Sims, a returned soldier, married Annie Pitrainen from the Tiamn district and they had nine children.

Mabel Sims married Archibald Dewbury from Calgary and they had four children.

Mildred Sims married Mathew Ramage who was a Sergeant in the 187th Battalion in Red Deer and they had five children.

Mannie Sims, a returned soldier, married Mary Lotteri from Orms district and they had six children.

Muriel Sims married Ted Sullivan from Calgary and they had only one child.

Mamie Sims married Alec Green, a returned prisoner of war, and son of Mrs. Bert Hilbert and they had three children.

Mary Sims married Baxter Will of Calgary and they had three children.

Ruth Sims married Angus MacLean of Red Deer and they had two children.

The early settlers who came after Mr. Sims were: Bill Law, Bert Hilbert — a cowboy, Bob Maconochie, Will Hambrook, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Cornell, Jack Lowen — a cowboy, and Mrs. Jack Lowen, Mr. and Mrs. Washburn, The Malcolms — the father and mother and their three sons: Dave, Donald and Leonard, Three Frodeen Brothers, Joe Scott, Mr. and Mrs. McFaul, Billy Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. James Rodgers, Three Turton Brothers, The Delaneys, Hansen, Bill Hambleton, Ben Kistler, The Rischs, Stanley Wilson who was Beaver Flat school secretary treasurer for years, Thorkmans, Harvey McCallum and his father Mr. McCallum, Fred Kirkman, Ben and Art Chinery, Art Harvey, Ed Poet, and Frank Flescher who homesteaded the John Oja place and made all the desks for the Beaver [illegible] school.

[illegible]

With an eye to the future
And faith in their God
With horses and oxen
They broke up the sod

When flies and mosquitoes
Pester cattle and folks
They built a smudge
And all smelled like smoke

Ducks and geese from the ponds
Fresh fish from the rivers
Green herbs from the sod
These meant health to the liver

The log cabins were sturdy
With dirt for the floor
But the children were healthy
What wished they for more

Of times in the evening
When neighbors dropped in
Before saying "Good-night!"
They sang parting hymns

Let us honor the pioneers
Both husband and wife
Our heritage from them
Is a much richer life

Mabel L. Dewbury
Dedicated to my parents
Lewis Edward & Rose May Sims
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

**BE OUR GUEST**

Here's an invite to Alberta,
Richest country of the West
Whatever you are looking for
We ready have the best
Bustling towns and roaring cities
Quiet camps, good eating places
Where aeroplanes and helicopters
Ride the upper airlead spaces

Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest'
Here the fishing is the grandest
In our lakes and streams so clear
Come with car and tent and boat
But don't forget your fishing gear
You can fly along our highways
In your auto old or new
From our roads as smooth as ribbons
You will get the grandest view
Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest'
Elevators, granaries, bursting
With the fruit of richest soil.
And a thousand cattle grazing
In the country rich in oil.
Come, climb our highest mountains.
Descend the deepest shaft
You may even see a red deer
With her new-born speckled calf
Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest'
See the prehistoric monsters
That once roamed our boundless plains.
It's no flight of foolish fancy
For their skeletons still remain
In the Badlands of Drumheller
Where these fossils may be found
The remains of these dread creatures
Near the Hoodoos, they abound
Come to the West
We have the best
Be our Guest

Mabel L. Denbury
1986

**SKOVEN, E. — by Earl Skoven**

I, Earl Skoven, was born in Billum, West Jutland, Denmark. I came to Hurley, South Dakota in 1923 and to Canada in 1927. I worked in Saskatchewan, and in a lumber camp in Ontario and then in Southern Alberta for a year or two. Finally I came to the north Lesserville area in 1930, in the fall. My brother, Svend Skoven, and I bought the former Ben Austin homestead, the SW 3-41-5-W5. A few years later Svend bought my share of this land and I bought another quarter north west, the former Billy Barton quarter NE 4-41-5-W5, where I have continued to live.

On July 12 1941 I married Jenny Peever. We have a family of three daughters, and eight grandchildren. On October 22 1943 we were blessed with twin daughters. EVELYN she is married to Herman Bolze and lives in Rocky Mountain House. Their children are David, Trevor and Shannon.

ESTHER, married Leonard Mulholland and lives west of Mundare. Their children are Bobby, Carol, and Dianne.

EARLENE married Allen Field and lives at St. Albert, with children Kevin and Monica.

Since retirement my wife and I moved to an apartment in Rocky Mountain House for one winter, but we like the country living, so we purchased a modern mobile home and are continuing to enjoy a quiet life out on the land I bought over 40 years ago.

**SKOVEN, S**

Svend Slim Skoven Kristenson was born in 1904 in Billum, Denmark. He immigrated to the United States with his brother Earl in 1923. He came to Canada in 1928 and went to work on a farm in Mair, Saskatchewan. During his years in the States and Canada, he spent time working in lumber camps, on rail road work, and several farm jobs.

In 1930 Svend came to Lesserville and bought land nine miles north west of Lesserville. It was the former Ben Austin quarter SW 3-41-5. After buying the farm he went out to work part time at Daimead, where he met his future wife, Christina Walters. She was working in the area also. They were married about 1932 and moved back to the farm.

The rest of their years were spent farming and logging. Two children were born, Marie and Walter. The children went to school at Washington Heights.

In 1950 Christina passed away. Svend passed away July 11, 1976 at the age of 72 years. MARIE left for Calgary in 1952 to work at the Sanatorium. Later she married and moved to British Columbia where her three children were born. In 1977 she returned to the Lesserville area to live on the NE 3-41-5 W5 one of the quarters formerly owned by her dad. WALTER worked for Standard Gravel for some years. In 1968 he met and married Aldonna Luyckfassel of the Bingley district and they started farming the home place and the NW 3. Walter and Aldonna have one daughter Colleen, born in 1975.

**SMITH, P. A. — by Ed Smith**

Ed Smith, eldest son, is writing this history of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Smith, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Shaw, and Uncle Mr. G. Shaw.

In 1911 my father, grandfather and uncle came from Barrie, Ontario, and took up homesteading and built a house to live in. I came out in 1912 with my mother, little sister Kit and grandmother. I was four years old, and the only thing I remember was sitting in the wagon while they loaded on a barrel churn in front of a big brick building in Red Deer; this was the building where Dr. Long, the dentist, had his office, but is now torn down. However, we did not come from Red Deer with oxen. I think the men drove the oxen and the women and children came with the mailman. (His name was Foster) who had a team of roan horses on a democrat. I remember [illegible] had being knocked off [illegible] under some bushes.

Our grandfather had a house built but he had built it on the wrong quarter so he had to move it. Logs, which had been hewed out to build a barn with, were strung out on which to move the house to the right quarter of land. A stump puller and an ox were used to move it.

P. A. Smith homestead N.E. 9-40-4-5; T. W. Shaw homestead, S.E. 9-40-4-5; G. J. Shaw homestead, N.W. 9-40-4-5; Fred Bott, Sr. homestead S.W. 9-40-4-5.

These neighbours had homes near by. Vic Green on the south and Fred Bott on the west of Shaw's. Kirkmen lived on the east of the Smith homestead. Carpenter lived on the north of G. J. Shaw's and Robert Eckford cornered the G. J. Shaw quarter.

Robert Eckford was the brother of the G. E. T. Eckford, for whom Eckville was named. He homesteaded just north of Eckville and the land is now owned by Ernest S. Barlund.

There was no school when we first came to the homestead. I was 10 years old and my sister Kit was six before we started school. We walked two-and-one-half miles through solid bush on a cow path, but school lasted for only two or three months in the summer. I remember one teacher named Ludwig. He was real stern, he came from Germany. This was during the first World War. One morning he had a bag of cookies and passed them around to the children. When he came to Maureen Pepper, she asked him if they were poison, because he was from Germany and the war was still on.

In 1918 our brother Neil came along and in 1919 our grandmother passed away. In 1920 the family moved from the homestead to a farm they bought from Dave Taylor. This farm was nearer to town and also to the Blueberry School. The homestead was about eight miles from Lesliеville. There was no road in those days.

Many times we could not get home from school because of bush fires. Sometimes we stayed with people that lived near the school. One time there was a hail storm which came up as we were going home. We were just by Robert Eckford's place, so we stayed there until it was over. Mr. Eckford now owned the team of horses that Foster the mailman, had used to bring the mail from Red Deer. There was no railroad at that time; it was just being built in 1912.

In 1922 our sister Rhoda arrived. In 1930 our grandfather passed away.

Our mother was secretary for Blueberry School for many years. I had the janitor job at $36 a month, but do not remember for how long.

In those days we threshed our own crops with a threshing machine and tractor and a crew of men. The farmers would help each other until all the neighbor's crops were threshed.

To keep warm in winter we gathered a huge pile of trees then quite a few neighbours would help each other saw up the wood, making a sawing crew of about six men. The womenfolk were kept busy cooking, providing everyone with plenty of good home-cooked food to eat.

There were lots of deer and some bears on the homestead. Deer would stand on the path on the way to school and we had to walk around them.

One time Harold Arnold and I went to Wood Lake, found a boat, paddled out to the middle and jumped in and had a swim, then continued on to the other side. We left the boat and walked back. The owner of the boat, Mr. Henry Lundgren, was waiting and made us bring it [illegible]

We also had a black dog named Sam. He would run around and scare grouse into trees and then bark. All we had to do was pick them out of the trees with a .22 rifle. I still have this gun. The grouse were then stuffed with dressing and roasted and tasted real good.

In 1933 our sister Doris was born. She used to love riding a horse. One day in 1952, her horse stumbled and she was hurt so badly that she passed away.

In 1939 our mother passed away and in 1956 our father passed away.

We, the Ed Smith family, live on the west half of 19-39-4-W5. We own three quarters and have lived and farmed for 44 years. The land originally was the homestead of Herb Card and Anderson and Reilly. Leslieville was named after Leslie Reilly, the son of John Reilly.

I remember seeing my first threshing outfit. I was working on the Kirkman homestead. The engine was a one cylinder upright Stickney and a hand fed wooden separator. This was owned by Molander and Stridsberg of Eckville. Later, I owned a threshing outfit and did threshing around the country for about 20 years. Mr. George Johnston, our neighbour, used to haul bundles for us and then he would get his threshing done. While we were threshing on his farm, George would always be driving around in his buggy bringing out lunch and what not. One day the boys took all the nuts out of his buggy wheels. He did not know this, and even though he drove around all day the wheels did not come off. I guess the joke was on us! At this time, threshing was done by the hour. One of the men went to get a drink of water and George said to me, "There goes some of my money." Another time someone put a dead cat under George's pillow in the bunk house where the threshing crew slept. He slept on it for a week before he found it.

There were lots of hard times in the thirties for everyone especially when you were just starting to farm on rented land, even though we grew most of our own food.

In the year 1933 I was married to Mary Menzies. Our first child was Iris Lorraine. The second child is Phyllis Mary. Our girls went to school in Leslieville School, since we lived in the Leslieville district. The girls are both married to John and Ensio Schroderus, and have given us six grandchildren.

Lorraine and John Schroderus' children a

names are Karen, Lorne, Julie and Loralie. They live in Eckville, except for Karen, who lives in Red Deer where she is employed.

Phyllis and Ensio Schroderus' children's names are Kenneth and Audrey. They live in the Leslieville district. Kenneth now works in Red Deer.

Karen, our oldest granddaughter, is married to Robin Tolonen. They live in Red Deer.

In the year 1936, my sister Kit was married to Louis Henderson, of Penhold. Their two children are Peggy and Betty, and now have seven grandchildren. They own a garage and gravel trucks. Louis passed away 21 years ago.

The girls went to school at Penhold. Peggy married Lou Boudreau, and Betty married Raymond Strickland.

Peggy and Lou Boudreau's children's names are Annette, Michael and Cheryl. They reside in Trenton, Ontario.

Betty and Raymond Strickland's children's names are Mark, Lorie, Shannon and Leanne. They live in the Penhold district.

In 1936 Neil was married to Lucille Scheib, both of Leslieville and reside on the farm where all the Smith children were raised. Their children are Sharon, Leslie, Linda, Victor, Peter, Rhoda and Pamela. The children went to school at Blueberry, Leslieville and David Thompson. Five of Neil and Lucille's children are married, and have given Neil and Lucille nine grandchildren.

Sharon and Marvin's children's names are Dean and Heather. They have recently moved to an acreage north of Leslieville.

Leslie and Sandra Smith's children's names are Shauna, Kelvin and Kent. They live in [illegible].

Linda and Don Mockford's children's names are Sherry and Loralie. They live in the [illegible].

Victor and Bonnie Smith's children's names are Todd and Lee. They live in the Leslieville district.

Rhoda and Jim Swinston were married recently and lived in Red Deer.

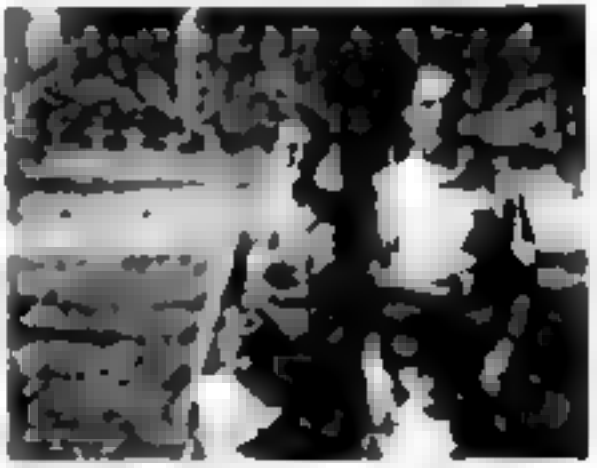
In the year 1942 Rhoda was married to Bill Oldford of Penhold. They now live in Penticton, B.C.

**TESKEY, RAYMOND AND IDA** - (By Ida Teskey)

Mrs. Mary Teskey and her sons, Raymond, Elmer and Leonard came from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan in 1942 to settle in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. They bought the property where Walter Good had his greenhouse. Raymond and Leonard worked for some time for John Gibson. Then they took out props in the area north of Rocky Mountain House and sold them in town. They also worked for their uncle Fred Adrain, at the sawmill at Ricinus. Later James Rodgers of the Beaver Flat district employed them.

In 1946, Raymond bought the SW 26-39-6-W5 and in 1947 he bought the NW-26-39-6-W5 from Harry and Jim Gault. Raymond cut logs and sawed lumber, then built a house on the NW 26 39-6-W5. He sold the SW-26-39-6-W5 to Henry Steffox. In 1949, he purchased the NE 27-39-6-W5 from James Rodgers. This quarter was homesteaded by Louis Karlson.

On July 2, 1949, Raymond David Teskey was united in marriage to Florence Ida Rodgers then living on the farm. In 1958 they adopted two children, a daughter Joyce Ida and a son, Brian David.



[illegible]

Raymond and Ida farmed a half section of land and Ida enjoyed working in her big garden and raising chickens and turkeys, while Raymond enjoyed his horses and his dog, Buster. Raymond enjoyed fishing and hunting. Ida also enjoyed fishing.

In 1973, Joyce Ida was united in marriage to Vernon Grosso. They have a son, Nicky. Brian works at the Aquitaine Gas Plant located southwest of Rocky Mountain House.

In 1974, Raymond passed away with a heart attack at the age of fifty-nine. In April of that same year Ida had a farm auction sale and sold everything. The farm was sold to Kory Idland. Ida bought a house in Rocky Mountain House where she resides.

**TURTON, HAROLD FAMILY**

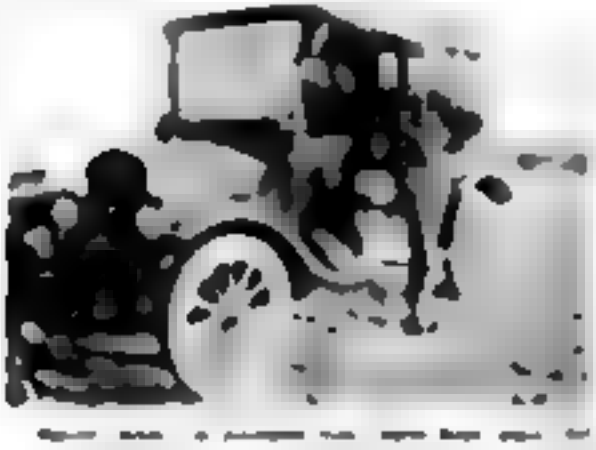
Harold Turton was born July 3, 1884 in Carlton, Yoshire, England. At the age of 21 years, sailed for America aboard the ship Lucania, landing in New York on October 27, 1905. After two years at Jacksonville he left on the 13th of August, 1907, for Nanaimo, B.C., arriving on August 9. He worked at the Western Fuel Co. Mine for $2.85 a day. In those days one could purchase six pairs of slacks for 50¢, a hat for 20¢ and a pair of boots for $2.50.

On January 25, 1908, he homesteaded the N½ 4-40-5-W5.

Being fifty miles to the nearest town they walked to Red Deer and packed their groceries back, taking up to two days. One could buy a side of bacon for $1.70 or two pounds of steak for 50c. In 1913 he bought an ox from Jim Hall by the name of "Spot" for $85. Along with his brother George Turton who had the breaking plow they were able to break a few acres for neighbours.

Later he worked on the concrete piers of the present North Saskatchewan railway trestle firing the steamer.

In the early 1920's Harold married Winnifred Lawrence who had two children, Frieda and Harry. They had a daughter born on January 16 1925 whom they named Kathleen. Both mother and daughter Kathleen died about one-and-one half years later with tuberculosis.



He then raised Frieda (Mrs. Henry Courtright now residing in Rocky Mountain House and Harry Lawrence now of Calgary.

In February of 1939 Florence Kathleen Marborrow and Harold Turton were united in marriage. Florence came to Canada from England at the age of five years with her parents' mother, Mrs. William Hambleton and stepfather, William Hambleton.

Harold and Florence had three daughters Hilda born in 1939. (Mrs. Clayton Grosso Trudy born in 1943 Mrs. Clifford Hall), both residing near Rocky Mountain House and Kathleen Mrs. Frank Klein of Calgary.

The girls attended school at Beaver Flat a distance of two miles away. The School teacher then was Miss Rose Erskine and later Mrs. Roberta Lynn.

Florence was a member of the Beaver Flat W.I. and Harold a member of the "Knights of Columbus" Lodge in Leslieville.

Being a very avid gardener he took pride in his many flower gardens, fruit trees and shrubs. Also worth mentioning, along the driveway at the farm and still standing are the spruce trees and the northwest poplar shelter belt and many other trees he planted well over 50 years ago.

In April of 1957 they had a farm sale, but remained on the farm until November 1958. At this time they retired to Rocky Mountain House. They remained active in church functions. Harold was honorary member of the Anglican.

Harold Turton passed away December 29 1973 at the age of 80 years.

**ZANDER, CARL FAMILY (THE)**

Carl Zander came to Canada in 1912 and worked in southern Ontario for a number of years before coming to western Canada. He first worked as a hired man for a grain farmer in southern Saskatchewan and then travelled to Edmonton where he learned a trade as a barber. During the 1st World War, he worked in the C.P.R. yard in Red Deer. A few years later he came to the Leslieville area and bought a quarter of land — NW 32-39-5-W5.

Mr. Zander married in 1923 and Carl and his wife, Anna, worked hard clearing land and eventually expanding their farming by

W5 from the Hudson Bay Co. in 1928 and an other — SE 5-40-5W5 in 1936 from Mr. E. Erlandsen.

Mr. and Mrs. Zander raised two sons — Max who now resides at Rutland, B.C. and Paul who lives on the family farm.

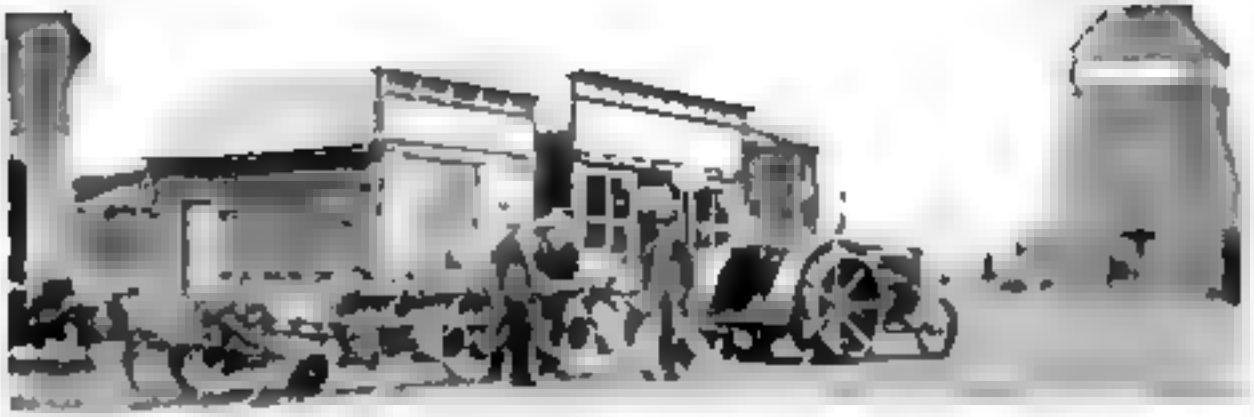
Max and Paul both got their schooling at Campbell School, that taught through Grade 8. When Max started school he didn't know a word of English but Paul, being four years younger, learned from his brother so found it easier. They walked two miles to school each day unless the weather was too severe. While attending school, they also got the chance to learn to swim in the creek nearby during their noon hours, and had many happy hours of fun on the Butte hill nearby. During the summer months, they also attended Sunday School in the school house which Rev. Bob Young conducted.

After Max and Paul finished school, they started logging, having lumber sawed and erected new buildings on the farm. All the buildings on the farm today have been built from their own lumber with the exception of their home.

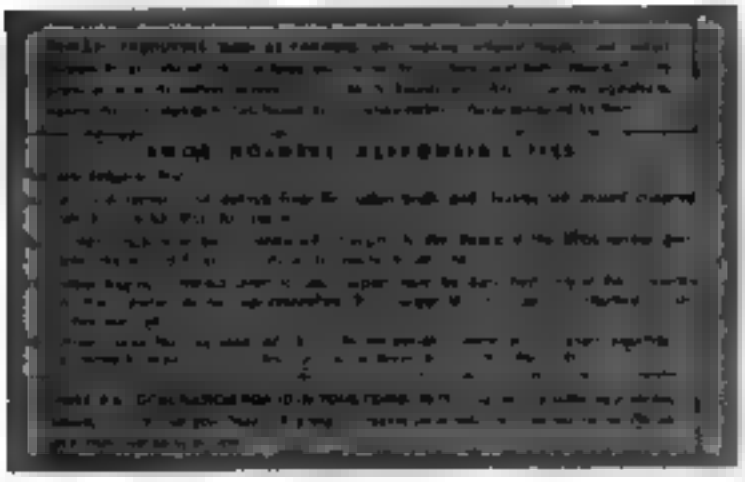
Max, a journeyman welder, left the farm in 1962 and moved to Rocky Mountain House. He married in 1970 and in 1974, he and his wife, Ann moved to Rutland, where they now reside.

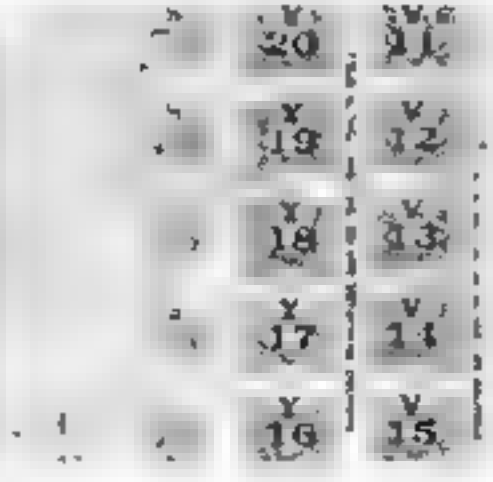
Paul married the former Helen Stelfox of Rocky Mountain House in 1953 and they raised two children — Pat and Don. Both children received their education at the Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High Schools. Pat married Don Dirsten of Leslieville in 1974. Don moved to Red Deer in 1974 where he is employed.

Carl Zander passed away in 1961 after a lengthy illness at the age of 73 years. Anna Zander passed away in 1969 at the age of 86 years.



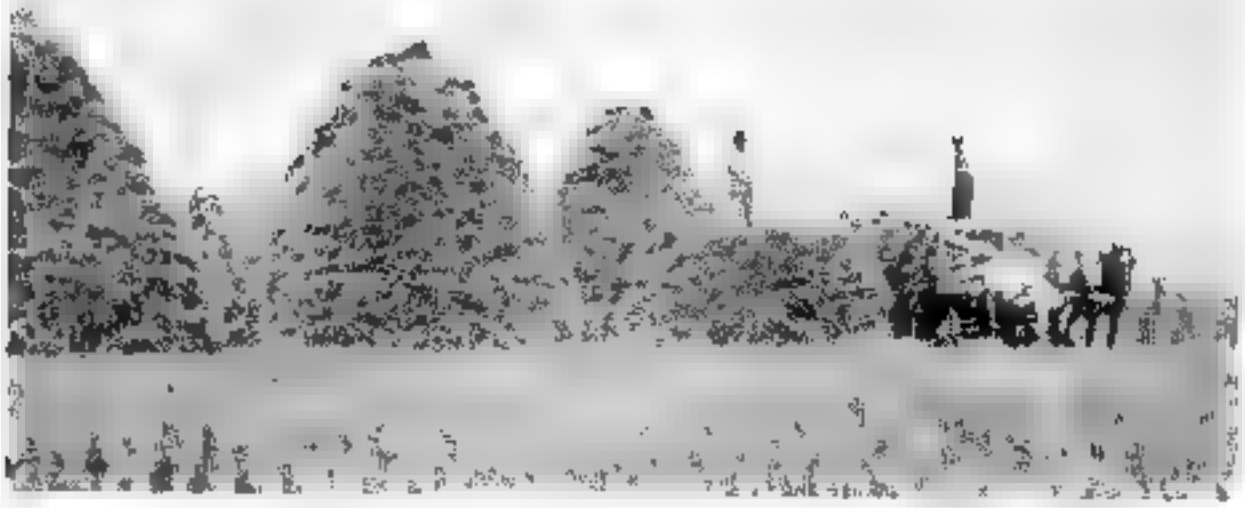
Carl Zander and son Max with Mr. Crawford. Carl's first love of machinery about 1910. Taken on main street of Louisville





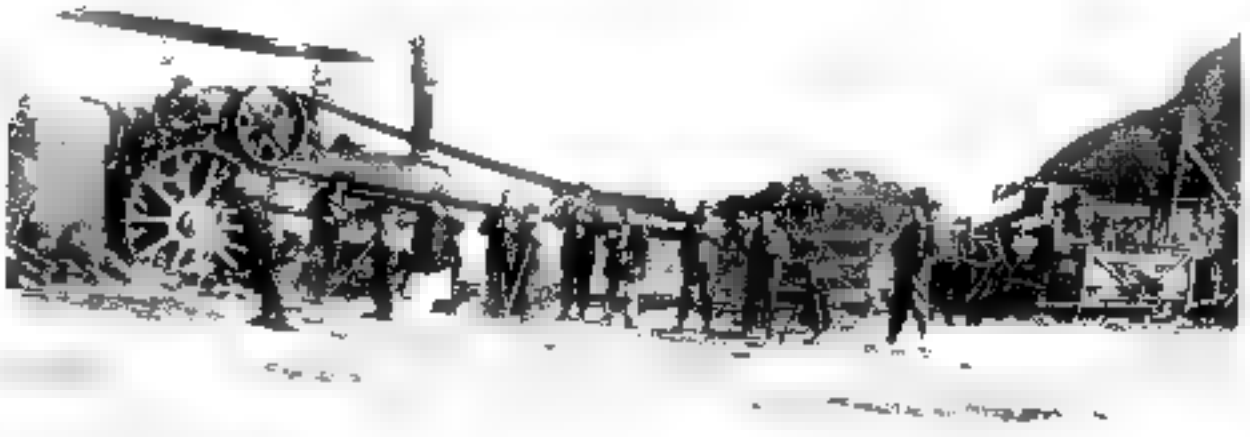

Inside cover and coupons of a Ration Book 4 issued by the Ration Administration - Wartime Prices and Trade Board

Louisville scenes seen after the railway came to Louisville



Putting the grain bundles in stacks which will be threshed later in the fall or by the beginning of the next year. On the Link Boyer homestead

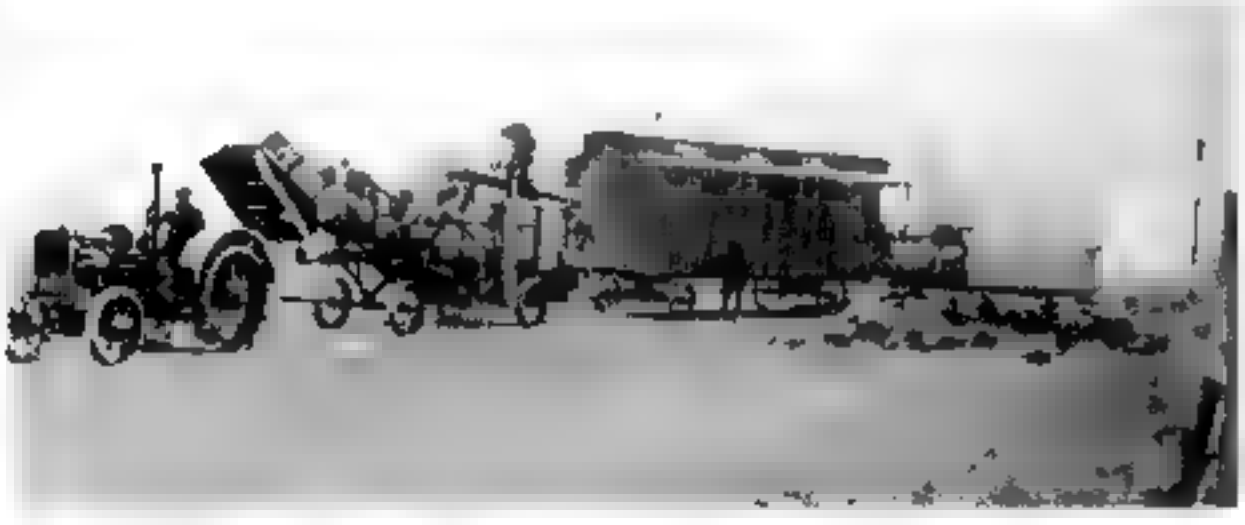
Stack threshing.



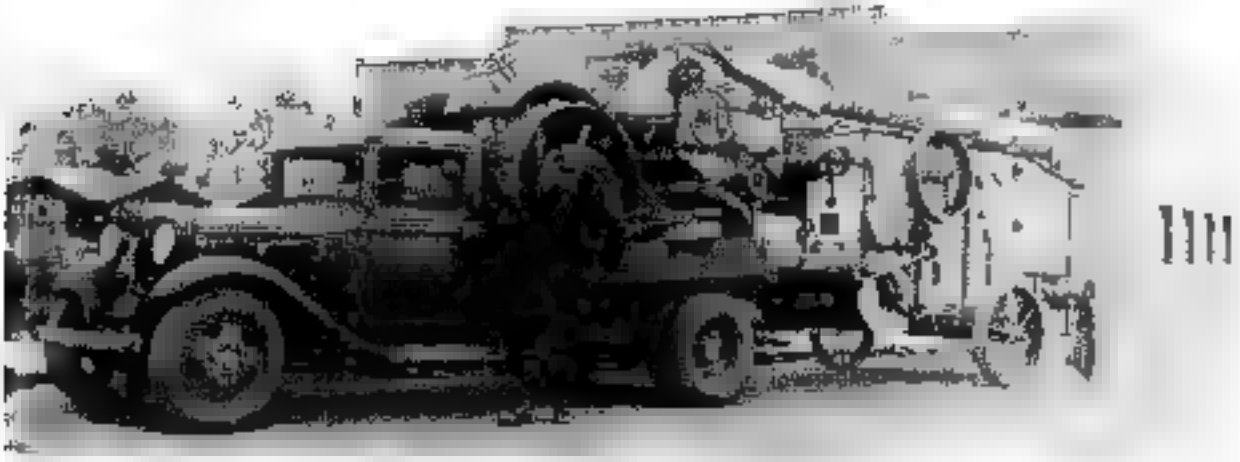
Threshing separator and steam engine.

Bundle wagon used for threshing.

Charles and William Thurtenen loading stooks, 1942



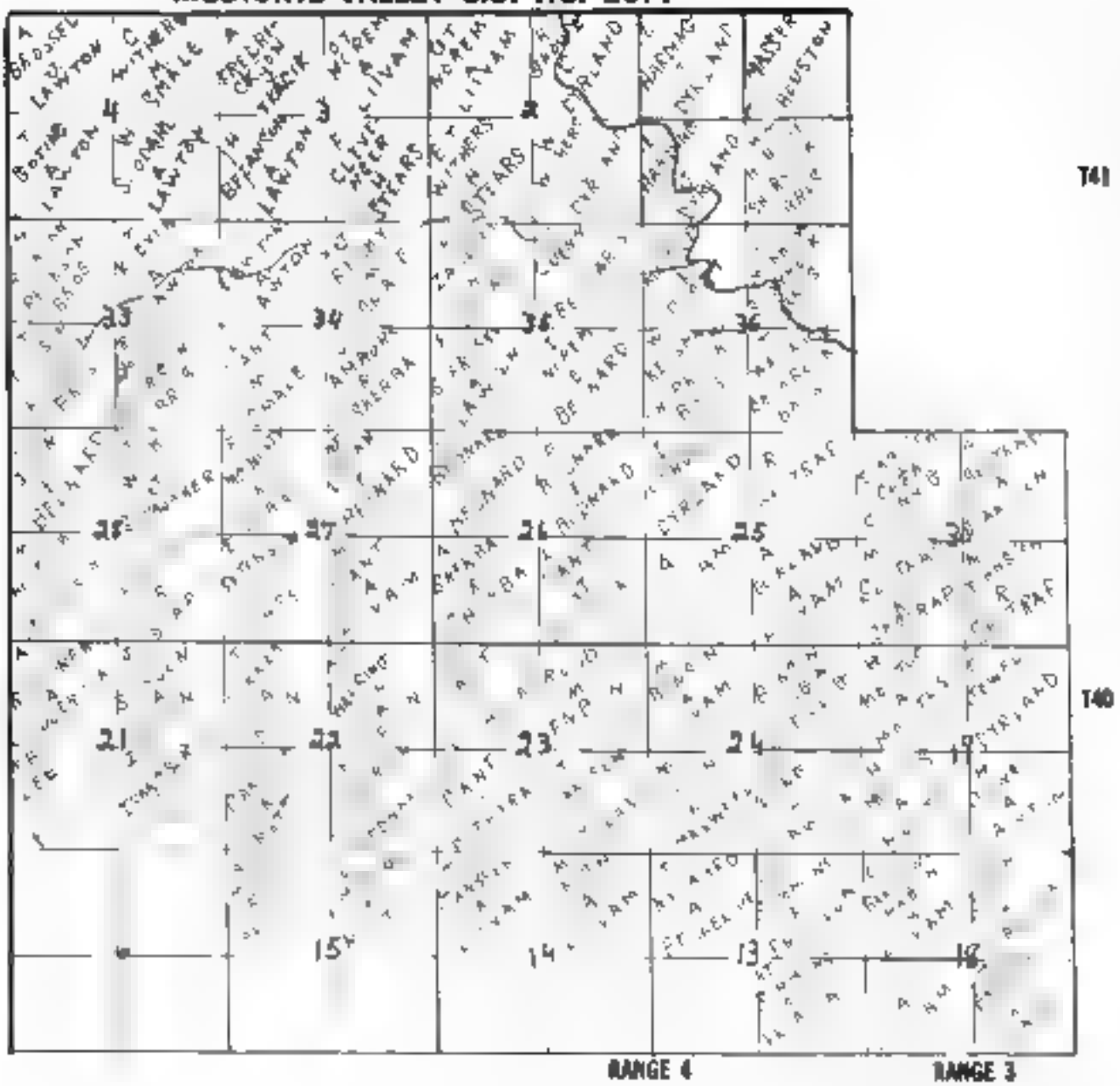
Moving a threshing outfit



Albert Molander Trucking. This truck took three gallons of gas to come from Calgary.

Three wheel Emerson tractor owned by the Heald family

# MEDICINE VALLEY S.D. NO. 2577



# Medicine Valley

**AMBURS, JAKE AND KATE**

Jake and Kate Amburs with children Chloe Walter, Lester and Jimmy came from Kansas U.S.A. in 1907 to homestead the S.E. 34-40-4-W5. They brought horses, cows, and a few household effects and a wagon. As most pioneers did they likely came to Lacombe by rail and drove out to the valley. They built a one-roomed log house and barn also a large root cellar in the hillside possibly fearing the cyclones of Kansas.

Thelma was born in 1911. Mrs. Amburs took time to cut up yards of American cotton print and pieced quilts by hand. They were hard working people raising horses, cattle, pigs and chickens. They also had a very good garden.

Both were very good neighbors, and like all the pioneers were very happy even though times were hard.

Chloe, Walter and Lester attended Medicine Valley School when it opened in 1913.

In 1916 they sold the farm and rented the S.E. 6-41-3-W5 for several years. Later they moved to Montana where they had a sheep ranch. Another boy, Jake, was born there. He was killed when in training in the U.S. Army in Alaska about 1944.

Chloe married and lived in Montana as did Walter and Lester. Jimmy never married. Thelma married and lived in Washington. Lester died in 1956 and Mr. Amburs passed away in 1958. Mrs. Amburs had died several years before.

**ANDERSON, JOHN**

John Anderson came from Fargo, North Dakota in 1910 a well-dressed mannerly young man who homesteaded SE 6-41-4-W5. Clearing the land with axe and grubhoe as others did.

He was a well-known horse trader who always had to have a few dollars to boot on a deal.

He farmed with horses and when they became too old to work, he would butcher them for meat. It amused him to serve it when someone stopped in for a meal and tell them later that it was horse meat.

Reg and Mina Mason and family moved there to take care of him. He signed the farm over to them.

On Christmas day 1953, he was burned when his small house burnt down, dying in hospital at age 80 years.

Reg sold to John Pickering who later sold to Pierson Brothers.

**ANDERSON BROTHERS**

Oscar Anderson came out from Sweden in 1909 to homestead the N.E. 5-41-4-W5. He put up some buildings, started clearing land and got some livestock.

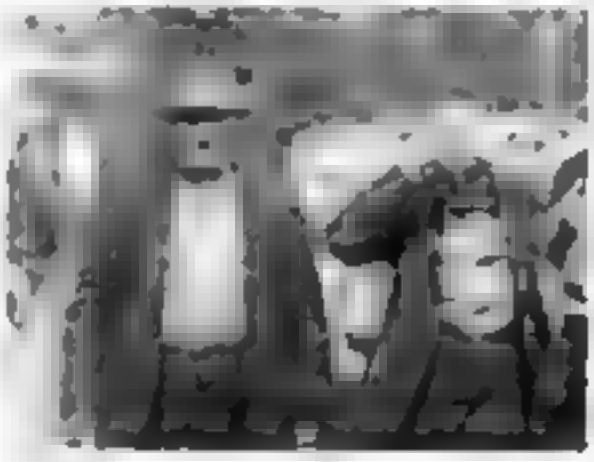
In 1913 his brother Andrew came and filed on [illegible].

He and Oscar always lived together and never married. They were wonderful neighbors and liked by all who knew them.

They raised good cattle. As the farm was very isolated they were very unruly when strangers came. In 1929 they sold two seven year old Hereford steers by getting them in a small corral. They were able to get them loaded in a truck chaining each as they weighed 1900 pounds each with a tremendous spread of horns. The Kootus stock yards were busy controlling them until they could be shipped.

They also owned a jackass that could be heard across the valley.

Andrew passed away in 1941. Soon after Oscar made his home with Gus and Emma Nygard until he passed away in 1947. He left his



Oscar and Andrew Anderson

farm to Gus and Andrews to Lyle Engen who had always been loyal friends to them. Jim Lawton now owns Andrew's farm

**BARDENHAGEN, CARSON AND ALMA — by Joan Maddox**

Carson came from Minnesota, U.S.A. to Lacombe about 1906. He worked at various jobs in Alberta. Later making his home with his parents at Gilby.

In 1918 he married Alma Maddox of Gilby. They worked near Calgary and later Vernon British Columbia, where their only daughter Evelyn was born.

In 1921 they rented the SE 34-40-4-W5. Carson worked on local road construction that summer. They had bought horses and a few cattle.

In 1922 they moved to Winfield, Alberta to a homestead which they sold in 1929, returning to Gilby to rent land until 1930 when they bought the W½ 13-40-4-W5 from J. Simmons.

Evelyn rode four miles to the Medicine Valley school, having had very little schooling before.

They put up a set of buildings and improved the farm land.

In 1953 they rented the land and bought a house in Eckville. They sold the farm to Fred Pregoda in 1956. Carson spent a year in the Rimbey Three Way Home passing away in 1963. Alma's health was failing, she spent some time in the hospital, later going to the Red Deer Nursing Home. She passed away in December 1971. They had three grandchildren.

**BARNES, EDGIL RENSHEL**

I have been told I was two years old when I went North, so I don't remember anything about the trip. I was four years old when we moved to the Amburs place, about one-half mile from the school. We didn't stay there very long; we soon moved back home. It seemed my folks always had to be on the move — I never knew why.

I don't remember my first teacher because World War I was going strong and teachers didn't stay long. We had cattle thieves and cowboys. One teacher I have never forgotten was Mr. Frame. He ruled by the stick! My last teacher was Miss Dobbs. That was in 1923.

Once I went out to rope a cow and the rope stuck to the saddle horn. My horse fell with me. I don't know how long I was unconscious, but I was rough at 12 years of age. I would ride anything, but I haven't roped anything since that episode. On April 15, 1919, while at school we could hear a bad storm coming. My brother and I had four miles to walk to get home from school. We made it home all right, but we got very cold on the four mile trip. We stayed on the north side of a fence so we wouldn't get lost.

We made one more move — to the Kates place for the winter. This was a bad winter with lots of snow and ice. I attended school for a short time that year before we moved back home again. We had lots of fun skating and going places. I can still see the dirt barn and granary and the grove of trees in front of the house. I remember pumping water by hand. We had a big water tank to keep full. We always had plenty to do. My mother taught me to milk cows when I was seven years old. I remember the flu, as I fell ill with it. I knew if I had a cup of cream I would get well, but no one had a cow milking then. So I didn't get any cream, but I'm still here!

I would surely like to go back and see the old place, but I know it would be different now! We used to drive old Queen to Eckville with George once a week to take butter and cream to sell. That was a distance of 12 miles. The roads weren't very good — usually either dusty or muddy. I remember when my father moved the house away from the barn. It took four horses to pull it. I attended school at Medicine Valley School, and I remember the names of the boys and girls we went to school with throughout the years. Gilby was the post office and store. We used to have a lot of fun there at dances and parties. We eventually moved away from that area because my mother wanted to come back to Oregon, and I am still living in Oregon.

I remember getting ice from Wood Lake, so we could have ice to use all summer. That was a cold job! It was frozen about three feet deep, and had to be sawed by hand. We used to trap muskrats and weasels at Wood Lake, also. Usually we didn't make much money trapping because it was so cold, and often the snow was too deep.

I was married in 1936. My wife, Ruth, and I have two girls and one boy — Pat, Bill and Myr

dle. They are gone from home now, and just the two of us are here. We have three grand daughters and two grandsons. We have now been married for over 40 years. My wife is from Wyoming, U.S.A. I had been working in Oregon but left there and went to work in a mine in Wyoming, in 1936. After I was married I came back to Oregon and went to work falling timber. I stayed with that job until after World War II and then I shipped out to Guam for one year. After that I came back to Wyoming to work on construction work, building bridges, dams, schools, roads and paper mills, doing carpenter's work and form-setting. My wife raised the children as I was gone most of the time on a job. All I did was work hard, but I never got rich. However I'm happy the way things are now.

One year we made a trip to Texas. We stopped at Hereford and I worked on a school and a grain elevator. Then we came back to Wyoming. I tried farming for one year in Wyoming while I worked on a dam and power house, but soon gave that up and went back to Salem, Oregon. Here I worked at harvesting prunes and working in the woods again. I never seem to stay on a job very long, as I like a change.

Now I have retired and am living in Saint Helens, Oregon, until I can move to a better place. There is lots of good fishing here, but I do not go fishing. I like to hunt, but am not able to shoot a gun any more because of doctor's orders. We are just living and enjoying our retirement.

**BARNES, JOHN AND WIFE, PAMELIA — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

John William Barnes was born in Erie, Kansas, U.S.A. on October 5, 1870. He crossed the plains with his parents by ox cart in 1876 and the family settled in Union County, Oregon. Mother was born on June 28, near Joplin, Missouri, and crossed the plains by covered wagon train in 1866. Her folks settled at Eugene, Oregon.

My folks were married on July 3, 1893. Dad took a timber claim near Mohawk, Oregon. They had two children while living there, and had lost a small child. Clarence, our older brother, was born while they were visiting father's folks at Mohawk.

During the time the folks lived on the timber claims the Cleveland panic was on. There was no work, money or food, and the settlers and their families nearly starved. Their only food was what they could raise in their gardens and the wild game that they were able to get. In 1899 dad decided to go to eastern Oregon, near Prineville and homestead. He sold his rights to the timber claim, bought a team and wagon, loaded everything they owned on it, trailed a cow, had a pig in a crate, and started across the Cascade Mountains.

Dad filed on his homestead, built a 12 by 16 foot shack, and moved the family in. He then went back to work. Mother was a small, young mother afraid of everything, so life was rough for her. Her folks lived up the valley about five miles away.

I was born on the homestead — the fifth child born to my parents within a period of six and a half years. The country was hot and dry; the best crops raised were sand toads and children. The midwife who helped at my birth charged the folks a 50 pound sack of flour.

We spent our school days in Eugene, Oregon. In 1913 the folks decided to immigrate to Canada where there was free range. The pioneer blood was flowing in dad — he just had to go deeper into the new land. On July 4 we had spent our last celebration in the States for a long time. The next day our wagon was loaded and we were on our way across the mountains again, to eastern Oregon, to stay with mother's mother while dad went into Canada to locate a new place.

On July 27, 1913 our dad took a few belongings and started walking across country to Madras, Oregon, where he would catch a train which would take him to the north land, across the border, into Canada. He arrived at Lacombe, in a few days. There he met an old fellow named Bill Long, who was tired of the loneliness and wanted out. Dad had found the thing he was looking for! He had never seen Mr. Long's place, but fell in love with the country around Lacombe. So they traded places, without dad even seeing the land or buildings.

Dad sent for us to come. Mother and six of us children arrived in Lacombe on September 27. Nellie was married by this time, so she stayed behind, at Eugene. The next day we, along with everything we owned, were again loaded onto a wagon and at day-break we started for the farm. For us, it was a trip into the unknown! We traveled around big lakes, over corduroy roads, and reached the farm in time to look it over before night set in. We thought it was beautiful! The buildings were good (the house was joined to the barn on the north). The fences were good, and we had one of the best wells in the country.

We older children went to school on the next day after we arrived at the farm, on Friday, in order to find out the supplies we needed. In those days your parents furnished all your supplies. We had a man teacher who didn't like the neighbors across the border, so we got off to a bad start. However, he wasn't hired to teach there the next year.

Father had to go to work the next day, leaving mother and we six children, ranging from two years to 14 years in age, alone in a strange land. There was no lock on the door — only a wooden button. We were all sitting around by lamp light

when something drew our attention. There, against the window, was a man's face. Mother blew out the light, hurried to put a chair under the door knob, and to this day we have no idea who it was. Needless to say, we didn't sleep any that night. Dad worked until winter set in. When he came home he brought a supply of flour, coffee, sugar and lard, and a lot of other small articles of food. Believe me, it was a good thing he did, for the winter was long and cold. As for meat, there was rabbits, prairie chickens and partridge. You could fish through the ice. We trapped the birds in order to save the ammunition.

Our neighbors were a mile each way. Engens on the west and Simmons' on the south. Bardenhagens were southeast, Jewels to the east, and Sentraps to the northeast. The Engens had three children, two boys and one girl, who were near our ages. Mrs. Engen had another child in the spring, but something went wrong and she passed away, leaving her family and her new baby girl. My mother felt very bad about this, and tried to help all she could. Our two families were always very close.

We grew, as all young people do. We walked three miles to school and in the winters our lunches often froze, and we along with them. However, the country was beautiful. There were dances, school programs, box socials, and each year, on the 24th of May, Eckville always had a celebration which we never missed. We made our own fun, and sometimes took such chances that we wondered sometimes, how we made it. As the saying goes, it was "survival of the fittest", yet we all stayed well.

Then came World War I. We all worked a little harder while the men folks went off to war. Bessie, Clarence and I all worked out, when there was no school. I worked east of Lacombe for eight dollars a month. I got up at five a.m. and went to bed at 10 p.m. I stayed there 10 months. It had been agreed that I was to go to

school, too, but the lady of the house managed it so I never went for even one day. I was only 50 miles from home, but it took four days to get there.

Mother and dad lived on the old home place until 1925. Mother wanted to go back to the States to be near her mother. So the folks had a sale and moved back to Salem, Oregon. Dad passed away on August 3, 1943 and mother in July 1962.

There are many, many things to tell about. Some were a little rough, but most were good. I'll write a short story about the young people of the Barnes family.

**THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND PAMELA BARNES — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

Bessie Barnes was 14 years old when her folks moved to Canada from Oregon, U.S.A. She worked hard on the ranch, and also worked out a lot. She never really liked the valley, yet she spoke kindly about her early years later in life. In 1918 she married Johnny Adamson, who was a rancher near Rumbey. They later lived in Rumbey. John had three children — a daughter and two sons — who are all lovely people and seem just like our own. Bessie and Johnny later had a daughter, who was a blessing to all of us. After some years they moved to Salem, Oregon, in order to be near Grace. Bessie spent her last days there, passing away in the early 1970's.

Clarence left the farm in Canada to make his way in the world. He spent some time journeying around, later working in the forests in Idaho U.S.A. He also supervised crews of Civilian Conservation Corps boys. This was a project set up by the U.S. Government to provide work for young men during the depression years. Clarence met and married a girl from Idaho. They have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren. Clarence lives at Lebanon,

Oregon, where he is retired. His health is not too good, but he is happy

As for myself, Mabel, I've been back and forth, so haven't lost contact with Canada. I have two sons and one daughter. James has three sons and one daughter. Bill is single. Janice lives in Oregon and has two sons and a daughter. There is more of my history in Simmons' story.

Johnny was a hard worker, a happy-go-lucky sort of a guy. Although he worked hard it seemed as though life wasn't good to him. However, he had two lovely sons and they have a nice family. Johnny passed away with a heart ailment in September, 1955. He was young, but this is life. It seemed to me as though I had lost my best

Cecil married a girl from Salem, Oregon. They had two sons and one daughter. Cecil's work took him away from home so much, and things went wrong in the little family. He moved to California and started life anew. He married again and worked for some time as a heavy-duty machinist. One of his sons is making a career in the navy. He also has grandchildren. He and his wife are now retired.

Edgil lives at St. Helens. He has two daughters and one son, and several grandchildren. His story appears in a separate

Nellie was never so well known at Gilby. She never made outside friends, like we younger ones did. She married and had seven children. She passed away in 1975 and her husband died just three months later.

Needless to say, the years we spent in Canada were dear to all of us, and will never be forgotten.

**THE BEDNARD FAMILY — As related by Eugene Bednard**

Dad and Mother, Prokop and Helen Bednard, their sons, Walter and myself, landed in Halifax on January 1, 1926, from Poland. Knowing the meagre living we were able to eke out on our few acres back home, Mother's sister, by now living in the United States, provided the money for our passage and had made arrangements to have a Saskatchewan farmer sponsor us. At Halifax an immigration officer directed us to the train, and we were on our way to Kamsack.

Our first Canadian dwelling was a one-room shack which was provided by the sponsoring farmer, a Doukhobor. Dad and Mother worked there a little over a year. The wages were $25 a month, and we were on our own for all the expenses.

We came to the Eckville area due to arrangements having been made by means of letters, that we live with the Yacooshins, my uncle and his family. In the spring of 1927, Mother's sister, Eva, and her husband, Peter Yacooshin, acquired their farm east of Eckville. As Peter was a factory worker in the Ford Motor Company in the United States, he knew nothing about farming. He was afraid that he couldn't manage the farm himself, so he had a crop-sharing agreement for dad's help.

In 1927 dad filed on a homestead NE 27-40-4 W5. The same year he also bought the Hudson Bay quarter NW 26-40-4-W5, across the road, and broke a few acres on it. He paid $25 down and then made yearly payments on it. The only reason he homesteaded the first quarter, as it was practically under water and useless, was that he wanted to build a house that he knew he would not lose. If he were unable to pay for the Hudson Bay quarter, he could go out and work and he'd still have a home to come back to.

In their spare time, during the summer that mother and dad lived at Yacooshins, they went to the homestead to build a one-roomed cabin of logs which they cut themselves. The barn was a dug-out in the hillside, and was supposedly lived in by an American convict some years previous. When his picture came out in the papers showing that he was wanted by the U.S. authorities, he disappeared.

In November, 1927, we finally moved to our homestead, in deep snow and forty below zero weather. Our transportation was a sleigh and rack piled high with straw and pulled by a horse and a half — one horse was crippled — with a cow tied on behind. When we arrived we weren't allowed off the load just yet. It was pitch dark and we had to wait while mother went in and lit the fire and dad put the horses and cow in the barn. When the house was warm we were finally allowed inside. As we sat around the airtight heater somebody commented that "It's nice to be in your own house."

We spent this winter on the homestead. In the spring, dad rented the quarter north of us from C. C. Nedderly, an American, and we moved onto this piece of land. This quarter is now owned by Roger Sherba, my nephew. This property had more suitable accommodations and out buildings, and was our home for the next five years.

In the meantime we acquired a few more farm animals, and during the winter dad cut logs and took them to Lawton's mill. Out of this he got enough lumber to build a barn on the homestead in 1933 and to add two bedrooms to the house. Later that year we moved back to the homestead. During the 1930's dad bought the Pedersen quarter NE 1 26-4-W5, and the Alfred Norem quarter.

In the first years they were in Alberta, the folks were school janitors and were paid $2.50 a month. From about the third grade on, Walter and I dusted the desks, swept the floors, hauled the wood into the school entrance on week ends and lit the fires every morning to warm the school for the arriving children. Dad and Mother saved the money for us, and at the end of the school year bought Walter and I a bicycle for $25.

We went to school at Medicine Valley. My first teacher was Sophie Tipman, and, by coin

cidence, my last teacher was Ado Tipman, her brother.

The first vehicle that we owned was a 1935 International half-ton that we bought in 1936. The first tractor was a new Model 25 Massey that we got in 1937.

During the summers, six or eight families would get together every Sunday at pre-arranged homes. The kids played, the parents visited, and when the weather permitted we had a picnic. Yearly school picnics and Christmas concerts were a must for everyone. Walter and I went to dances at the Gilby and the Estonian Halls. We walked once, but other times we used the family conveyance.

Walter married Hedvig Cech in 1942. They spent a year on the farm, part of that time in a little house on the Norem place. From there they moved to Rumbey where they lived for three years. They then moved to Summerland, B.C., where they still reside. They have four daughters, all married. Mary Ann lives in Summerland, Joyce in Winnipeg, Patsy in Red Deer, and Susan in Edmonton.

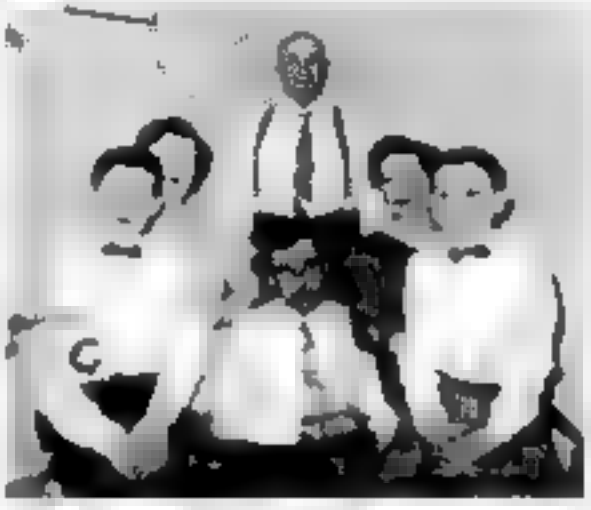
Walter Bednard Family: Hedvig, Patsy, Walter, Front: Mary Ann and Joyce.

In 1942 I married Helen Dejnaka of Condo, Saskatchewan. She had come from Poland at the age of four years with her mother, Zina. Her dad, Lawrence, had come to Canada two years earlier.

I had met Helen when my parents decided to go to Saskatchewan for a trip. A couple dozen letters and a few trips later, we had a Ukrainian wedding at Condo. We stayed on the farm for two years with mother and dad, at which time they sold it to us and moved to Summerland, B.C.

Dad passed away in 1957 and mother in 1964. They are both buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Helen and I have two boys, Gene and Dwayne. They both started school in Medicine Valley and then, when bussing came, went to Eckville. They completed their high school at the Red Deer Composite.



Back: Lawrence Dejnaka, Centre: Helen and Eugene Bednard. Zina Dejnaka, Front: Jean and Dwayne Bednard.

Gene and Barb (Niemi) and their two little girls, Traci and Kari, are living in Grande Prairie where Gene is with the Farm Credit Corporation. Dwayne is a mechanic with Red Deer Motors. He and Susan (Shaw) have one son, Kevin.

We built a new house on the farm in 1961 and continued farming there until we moved to Red Deer. Our home here is made of the original Piper's brick and is one of the few landmarks left.

For a few years we both worked at Deerhome (now Michener Centre) and for a couple of years, after the boys were married, they took up farming. Now I'm doing the farming, grain only, and commuting from Red Deer. As of 1977 the farm has been in the family for 50 years.

**THE DOBBS FAMILY — by Harriet Dobbs Sears**

My father, Frank Dobbs, came to Lacombe in 1900 and filed on a homestead 15 miles from Lacombe (SE 18-42-27 W4). In 1901 Dad, Mother, George, seven years, and I, two and one-half years, left Boyd, Iowa and reached Lacombe April 12. Lester was born March 5, 1902. George, Lester and I attended school at Iowalta (we walked three miles). I passed Grade 8 so we moved to Lacombe for high school in 1914-15-16. I attended Camrose Normal in 1916 and taught Meadowbrooke, Elkhorn, Morningside and Sun-

ny Crest having five years experience before I came to Medicine Valley

In July 1921, Dad bought Ephriam Withers homestead in Medicine Valley and on July 4 we moved from Lacombe with four teams and wagons There was no gravel on the roads It had rained and was raining Cecil Petry, Pat Withers, Seth Wells and Dad drove the teams The horses were tired so we stayed overnight at Bentley We managed to get Seth's wagon with the piano into a garage The rest of our possessions were soaked for it rained all night We hired an extra team divided the loads and struggled through Sunset and Medicine Hills We reached the new home about 4.30 July 5 Mother's birthday

There was a big six room L shaped house and a large barn built of lumber made from logs that grew on the quarter also other buildings. The old house was the Medicine Valley post office There were two small gardens with radishes, lettuce and potatoes in blossom. Next morning, July 6 the potatoes were frozen almost to the ground but they recovered

Everyone was very busy The cream cheques were the steady source of income so each family milked from six to 12 cows by hand, usually outside in a corral. The skim milk was fed to pigs and calves. We took turns hauling the cream to Eckville creamery

Lester and I went to the Leafland picnic with Charles, Pat, Jennie, Laura age three), and Myrtle. one and one-half). Withers, via lumber wagon, on spring seat and two boards. The road ended about one and one-half miles west The rolls past the Reirson farm had been corduroyed that summer The logs were covered with willows and a thin layer of dirt We went slowly and crossed safely Then we climbed a very steep hill, passed the Prouse house (belonging to Lawtons) and soon reached Leafland School about 18' by 24') They had built a bowery covered with leafy branches. Mrs Stears brought her organ and Ludwig Huseby and Bob Larson played violins. Pat put Laura and Myrtle to bed in the wagon Carson Bardenhagen did the same for Evelyn The dance began about 8.30 About 12 it began to rain. We left the bowery and fled for the school. Pat and Carson brought the sleepy children in blankets and laid them on desks against the wall. The dance lasted till daylight for no one cared to try kids and corduroy in the dark Perhaps one memory lasted longer than the rest -- a man in a light grey suit. He was young but he did not dance. He stood among his bachelor friends. Bill Tilley and John Izon. He looked lonely He was Harry Stears the man I married 23 years ater The Withers men were good horsemen and we reached home safe

The other social event the opening of the Gilby Hall, July 1921. There was a large crowd Many happy social events were held there Harry was there. too

Nineteen twenty-two, three and four I taught Medicine Valley School. 1925 Grimshaw 1926 Onion Lake Sask (school in Alberta 1927 Wolfville. 1928 Onion Lake, 1929-1930 till June 1931

Gimlet, 1931 1937 depression — home One year I applied for 60 schools and didn t get one In 1937 1938 I taught Washington Heights and 1938-1939 Gimlet

In 1926 Lester married Ruth Dyrland. He bought the quarter across the road, built and moved there in 1937 Later he bought a quarter from Frank Clevenger, west of the home place

Mother got pneumonia in 1937 and wasted away. I stayed with her six years till she died, December 21 1943

Nineteen forty-four was a busy year I had 18 cows, 45 hogs, chickens, two well loved saddle horses and a dog to take care of I had never cooked, baked or stayed alone. I had about three hours each afternoon and spent them trying to bake cakes, pies and cookies. I had milk cream eggs and butter but sugar, syrup, jam, tea coffee and butter were rationed and one person had very few coupons each month. I saw a recipe to make angel food cake using half sugar and half syrup I beat the mixture and baked it The oven had no thermometer When the hour was nearly up I took a peep. It had risen beautifully but when I took it out of the oven it resembled an overgrown doughnut. I tasted it It was bitter from cream of tartar I offered a taste to Bowser He said, "Thanks, but I won't have any either " I put it in the pig trough. They rooted it around two days. It disappeared and the pigs weren't sick so I think it ended trampled in the mire

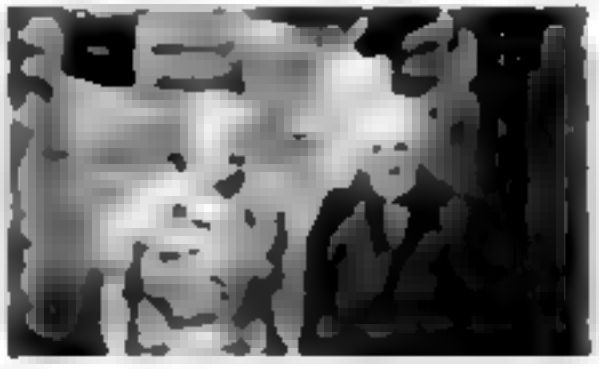
That fall teachers were scarce so Gimlet School District offered me the position and sent Nellie Thyssen to do my chores. I thought of Harry Stears. He came to Canada in 1912 with his parents, sister Ora, Albert and Edna from Jamesville Iowa. They rented a farm a mile west of Leedale for a year then bought a farm near Leafland school His father was sick so Harry became the wage earner at 15 years of age

He served in World War I and was in the front line trenches three months and six months in Germany with the occupational forces. When he got home his old routine began. (1 Preparing and seeding 50 acres with horse drawn implements (2) Working off the road tax. Each farmer was permitted to work to pay his road tax He could work single handed or with a team or more horses. He could work longer and pay off his school tax, too. There were no power saws The men cut trees with axes Swede and cross cut saws to corduroy swamps and mud holes (3) Cutting the year's supply of firewood, hauling it home and exchanging labor with the neighbors to get help to saw it with a buzz saw. (4 Haying. (5) Harvesting and stacking hay and bundles for the five milk cows and horses. (6) Joining the die Wagon Brigade Seven or eight farmers took their teams and bundle racks and drove south of Calgary to go threshing till Christmas They slept under wagons Bill Chadbourne, Jack Mullarkey Bill Gardner Leonard Slater Ralph Easter were some that went. (7) When he got home he went to the lumber camps and sawed lumber or was the engineer the rest of the winter He worked for Lawtons, McTighes, Varleys Atlas and Brierleys. He was as unsettled as I had been I thought if we joined forces we could make a permanent home. His brother Albert was killed in a sawmill accident while Harry was overseas. Ora died young 41 His mother received her pension. She was 76 and couldn't stay alone so Harry moved a small house to Edna's yard for her

I wrote the first letter It brought results. He came to talk it over and the next Saturday we went to Red Deer November 4, 1944 and were married. I taught Gimlet that winter, with Nellie's help and he sawed lumber Next winter he sawed lumber then he came home to stay

In 1947 his mother died

In 1947 we traded farms with Lester and had nearly 300 acres to farm. That meant power machinery and a hired man part of the year His nephew Harry Cummings, always came to help



We got hailed 100 per cent twice so I taught 1948, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 By that time consolidation did away with the one-roomed schools and "Pussy was left without a corner " I had served 19½ years of the 20 year pension term I was determined to teach the last half year if I had to sit on the North Pole to do it I got an Edmonton Journal and applied for schools for the last time. Fort Vermilion accepted my application. I was amazed when I received my first cheque. The isolation bonus made it almost double the amount I used to receive. The amount of the pension was based on the five highest paid years Harry could manage at home with help from young Harry and Roy Anderson so I stayed five years. I started my sixth year Harry wrote "I'm sick. I can't winter alone Come home." I took the letter to Mr Ted Gross the inspector He said, "Go home for two weeks and see how conditions are at home On the way stop at Edmonton. I think your pension term is served. Get Miss Catherine Berry to check your length of service and put your name on the pension list " In less than half an hour all the days I

had taught 28 years in 11 schools were totaled and my name put on the list

Harry met me at Lacombe. He said his strength was gone. We sold half of the cattle and rented two quarters to Don Dyrland. We lived on the home quarter and kept 30 head of cattle and three horses for six years. Harry's health failed so we sold the cattle, most of the machinery and rented the home place to Don except the house and garden and retired.

In 1970 young Harry died in Rocky Mountain House Hospital after three months of cancer and in 1971 brother George died in Bentley Hospital after three painful, hopeless months. Cancer again.

Harry Stears died in Red Deer Hospital February 9, 1972 after six months of steady pain and ill

Our marriage lasted 27 years. There were a few happy days. The first was in 1950. The two Harrys drove a new red International truck to Sylvan Lake to get license plates.

The second, when Harry drove the new Super W9 tractor home. He loved machinery and was very proud of his two red "pets."

The third was rural electrification in 1951. I didn't believe it was possible even after the buildings were wired. I tried the house lights and left the outside one for Harry to initiate. The next was TV, the new drilled well and pressure system and later another truck.

We enjoyed the Calgary Stampede, fairs and the best movies. We went to Invermere four times and in 1957 the two Harrys and Cora drove the red truck to Ft. Vermilion the last of June to bring me home via Athabaska.

I think that covers my history. I still live in the house we came to July 5, 1921. I belong to the Eckville Friendship Club, enjoy card games, bingo and Senior Citizen trips. My hobbies are music, books, knitting, embroidery and gardening. There is also Shadow. I think someone unloaded a small border collie pup at my gate about eight months ago. There haven't been many dull moments since.

I have enjoyed good health except for two sessions of pneumonia in Eckville Hospital in 1974 and 1975. I owe a debt of gratitude to Drs. David and Ann Ward, the nurses and hospital staff for their care and kindness.

Harry has two nephews, Leonard and Clarence Salmon, one niece Marion Sterling. I have four nieces: Mrs. Dick German (Betty), Mrs. Al Chiswell (Doris), Mrs. Harold Leasure (Lee Anne) Herber and Miss Clara Dobbs, R.N.

**RUTH DYRLAND DOBBS — by Ruth Dobbs**

Ruth married Lester Dobbs in 1926 and lived on the Dobbs' homestead until they moved across the road to their own place. They moved to Sylvan Lake in 1947, and back to a farm north of Eckville in 1948. They farmed here until Lester passed away in August, 1954. Ruth then moved to Eckville with the two youngest girls

Ruth, Lee and Betty Dobbs

and worked at the Eckville Hospital until she retired in 1970. They had five children.

Frank died as an infant.

Betty married Dick German and they live on a farm at Sylvan Lake. They have three daughters. Wanda married Calvin Metcalf of Calgary and they have three children, Jason, Tara and Sean. Wendy is with the Canadian Armed Forces and is stationed at Edmonton. Shirley is at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Doris married Al Chiswell, and they live on a farm at Lacombe. They have two daughters. Alison also is at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and Coreen is attending high school at Lacombe.

Lee Anne married Harold Herber, and they and their two sons, David and Darren, presently live in Saudi Arabia, where Harold works for Halliburton Oil Company.

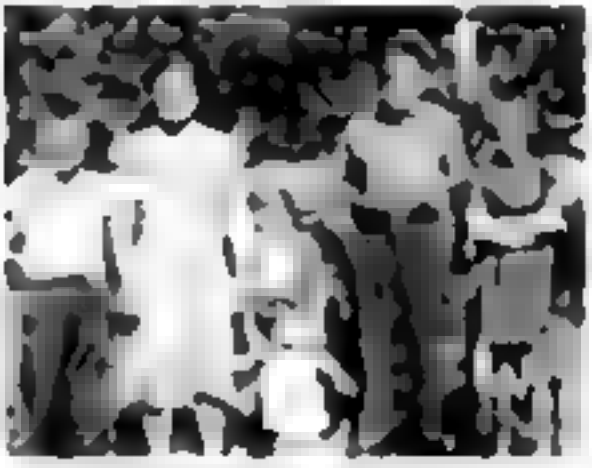
Clara is a registered nurse and works in the operating room at Red Deer General Hospital.

**DYRLAND, MR. AND MRS. BERT — by Mrs. Bert Dyrland**

In 1928 I, Selma Gaut of the Gilby area, was married to Bert Dyrland, who had come to the district with his parents in 1913 from Thiefriver Falls, Minnesota, U.S.A. We lived beside the

Medicine River for two years and rented Mr James Shorrock's land. On June 27 1929 our first child Irene, was born, followed by our son Allan in September of 1930

In the spring of 1932 we moved onto our own quarter section of land which we had bought Inez was born in September of that year and our son Vernon arrived in 1939 These four children all attended the Medicine Valley School where, years before, I had received my education under the guidance of my teachers, Mrs. J D Lawrence, Mr Frame, Miss Dobbs, Mrs Graham, as well as others who were there for



Dale was born in 1942 and Earl in 1944 With our growing family we felt the need of a bigger house, so we built one However we sold our farm in 1947 to Raymond Peterson and we then moved to the Leedale district, living in a house owned by Johnny Jones, located up by the old creamery Mr Jones owned and operated a big saw mill and Bert worked for him while we were living there. In 1949 we moved to the Thacik place, south of the Gimlet school. Here we lived for one year before moving onto our own place three miles northwest of the Gimlet school Three of our boys attended this school

We continued living on this place until 1972, when we sold our home to the present owners, Jesse and Bea Clough, who came from Revelstoke, B.C We bought a new home in Eckville and enjoyed a few years of our retirement there until December 10, 1976, when Bert passed away from cancer I continue to live in my home in Eckville

Irene Dyrland was married to Jack Bennett on May 25, 1959. They live in Calgary She is a secretary and Jack is an accountant They have no children

Allan Bertie Dyrland was married in 1956 to Ruth Norles in Brandon Manitoba Allan served for 25 years in the armed forces as a parachute jumper They have no children

Inez Dyrland was married to Edward Knowels in 1964 at Rimbey Alberta She lives in Red Deer and has two children

Vernon Dyrland married Lena Olah in 1962 He took his schooling at the Gimlet school. Leslieville school and high school at David Thompson school He worked for Macleods in Red Deer, then in Olds Rosetown Saskatchewan, Lloydminster and now they are living in Vermilion, Alberta. Both Vernon and Lena drive a school bus They have two daughters, Delphine and Lisa

Dale Dyrland married Leanne Ferraro in 1965. He took his schooling at the Gimlet school and then on to Leslieville school, followed by high school at David Thompson He was a soldier and served in Germany for three years. Their daughter Heidi was born in Germany When they came back to Canada he was stationed at Chilliwack, B. C While in the army he took heavy duty mechanics, so when he was discharged, or got out of the army he went to work for Finnie Tractor for three years in Kamloops and Dawson Creek, B.C. They are now living in Red Deer Their son Jason was born at Chilliwack B.C

Earl Dyrland married Jacqueline Rhodes in 1965. He also received his education at the Gimlet, Leslieville and David Thompson schools Earl started working on the oil rigs when he was very young and he had several bad accidents. He finally quit this work and went with Cains Power Tongs and Tools, oil well servicing. For the last two years he has had his own trucks and works for Great West Feeds of Red Deer Earl and Jacqueline had two children. Shelley and Bartley Shelley passed away very suddenly on February 20, 1977 at the age of 11 years. Jack and Earl and their son Bartley live in Red Deer

**CHARLES DYRLAND — by Julia Dyrland**

Charles married Julia Szoke in December of 1939 and lives on the home place. They had six children Pearl, Margaret, Sylvia, Philip, Brian and Kenneth

Pearl married Allan Beetiger of Eckville in 1960. Their five children are Coreen, Dwayne, Sharon, Keith and Dean. They are in the trucking business and live in Bentley

Margaret married Bud Robinson of Leedale in January, 1962 and they lived for a while on a farm west of Leedale, and later in Leslieville She became a widow in 1975, with six children She now lives in Enderby, B.C. with Brenda, Shane, Amy, Crystle, Lance, and Amber

Sylvia married Robert Clayton in May 1967 He works with Kidd Construction and they live in the Leslieville area. They have one son, Dale, and two of Robert's three children, Terry and Jim, live with them

Philip married Bernie Chapin of Caroline in 1969 He has worked for construction companies for several years as cat and buggie driver The last two years he has spent with Lyle Warner, but

now is going to try dairying in Stauffer. Their two children are Quinton and Holly.

Brian married Jamie Brown of Bentley in 1974. They live on the home farm, helping his dad with the farming. They have two boys, James Lee and Craig Charles.

Kenneth Dyrland married Shelly French of Eckville in 1976. He worked with Hunt Construction and now is working with the new owners. They have two little girls, Jody Lynn and Melony Jane. They live in Eckville.

**ELIAS DYRLAND — by Johanna Dyrland**

Elias married Johanna Ophus in June, 1935. They moved to the NE 19-40-3 W5, known as the Jewel place, and have lived there ever since. They had nine children.

Don is farming his own and rented land, and lives at home.

Roy married Joyce Greenman in 1957. They are living at McKenzie, B.C. They have five children. Lonnie, Ronnie, Twiala, Darryl and Jason, all at home.

Bernice married Ken Huseby in 1957 and they are living on his mother's farm. They have six children and two grandchildren, all living at home. The children are Marilyn, John, Brian, Karen, Kevin, and Travis and the grandchildren are Bradley and Christina.

Ellen married Hank Klassen in 1960, and they are living at Soda Creek, B.C. They have three children, Vicky, Pam, and Randy.

Pat has been working in Eckville. She lives at home with her daughter Debbie.

Dick married Marlene Harden in 1968. They have a son Darren, and five months after Dick passed away in 1972 their daughter, Lorrie Lee was born.

Nancy is living and working in Red Deer. She was married in July 1977 to Dave Watt of Red Deer.

Bill was still at home until he passed away in 1973.

Gordon is working the farm with his dad, and is living at home.

**THE DYRLAND FAMILY**

The history of the Dyrland family began in Shelly Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1897 when Samuel Dyrland and Ellen Kreamme (both of Norway) were married. They farmed at Shelly for a number of years before moving to Thief River Falls Minnesota.

In April, 1915, the family immigrated to Eckville, Alberta by train. Mrs. Dyrland and Clara, Bert, Ell, Ruth, Joe and Charles made the trip by train in about four days. Mr. Dyrland and son John left a week earlier, travelling on the immigration train to look after the two carloads of livestock and machinery.

Alfred Norem met the family at Kootuk with a democrat pulled by a team of small mules and drove them to the Norem farm. They stayed there for several days, until the men moved them on to their farm SE 2-41-4 W5. Ruth, Joe and Charles started school at Medicine Valley and the older boys farmed with their father until he passed away in July of 1936.

Dyrland gathering

In 1936 Mrs. Thyssen passed away suddenly leaving a family of three small girls. The youngest, Vera, came to live with the Dyrlands as one of the family.

Through the early years Mrs. Dyrland nursed many sick people and acted as midwife for many mothers in the district. In later years she kept busy with her quilts, houseplants and garden until she passed away in September 1958.

**JOE DYRLAND AND FAMILY — by Helen Dyrland**

In August of 1936 my mother, Clara Lalone, died and I went to the States for a few months to stay with an uncle of mine. Joe Dyrland came to Minnesota in December of 1936 and we were married on the 11th of February, 1937 in Ada Minnesota. We returned to the Eckville District to make our home.

We had six children — three boys and three girls, who were Joyce, Daniel, Myrna, Sammy, Larry, and ten years later, Trudy. They are all married now and live near home. Myrna married George Scott from Rocky Mountain House and they lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba for six years. They have now moved back to Calgary where they make their home.

Joyce married Bill Maddox and lives on the farm near home. They have two girls and two boys.

Sammy married Judy Dahl and lives in Lacombe. They have two boys and two girls.

Danny married Jeanette Pruden and lives on the old Tom Mason place west of Gimlet School. They have two girls.

Trudy just married lives at Stauffer in a trailer.

We have 17 grandchildren and all are well and healthy.

**JOHN DYRLAND — by Ruth Dahle**

John lived at home until 1921 when he went to farm in the Provost district. He moved back to the Medicine Valley in 1930 and settled on a farm

west of Gimlet School. He lived there until 1930. Then sold his farm to Ike Wakemaki. He worked as caretaker at Atlas Lumber Camp 15 northwest of Rocky Mountain House. In 1965 he came to Eckville and built a new home and lived there until his death in December 1972.

**ENGEN, MARTIN**

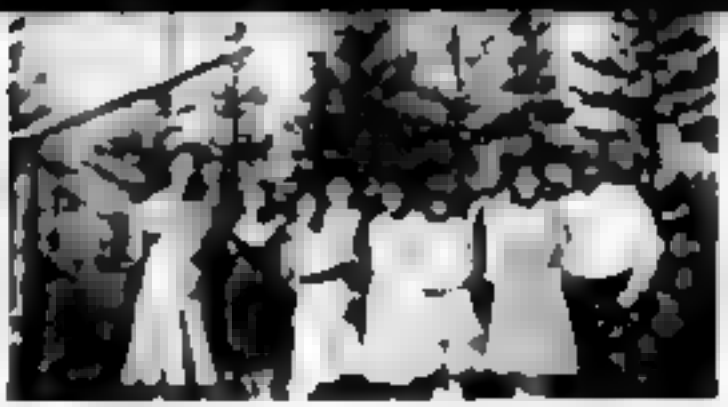
Martin Engen was born in Valdres, Norway on October 20, 1874. He immigrated to the U.S.A. with his parents at the age of four years. When he grew up he took a homestead near Leeds, North Dakota. On August 2, 1902 he was united in marriage to Mathilda Syverson of Starbuck Minnesota. Three children were born to them at Leeds, North Dakota.

Mr. Engen and his family moved to the Gilby district on November 9, 1909. He brought some horses with him although at that time many of the neighbors here were still driving oxen. In 1910, Mr. Engen's father came to live with them. Grandpa Engen took a homestead here, but he passed away in 1912.

In 1914, another baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Engen. Seven days later Mrs. Engen passed away at the age of [illegible]. She was one of the first people to be buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Mr. Engen and Mathilda [illegible]

On May 8, 1916 Mr. Engen married Paula Nygaard. There were five children from this marriage, who, along with the four from his previous marriage, included the following: Lyle Sterling, born in 1903 and passed away in 1966. Cassius Elwood, born in 1904, and living in Bentley. Marian Verna, born in 1906 and now living in Bentley. Mathilda Mildred, born in 1914 and living in Prince Rupert, B.C. Earl Gilfred, born in 1917 and now living in Eckville; Martin Elmer, born in 1918 and living on a farm in the Eckville area. Roy Edward, born in 1921 and living near Eckville. Floyd William, born in 1923 and now living in Eckville. Gladys Eileen, born in 1929 and living at Killam.



Gathering in Engen

Mr. Engen helped start the Medicine Valley school district and was on the school board for several years. He even served as mid-wife to the new-comers in a few cases.

Mr. Engen passed away in August, 1948. Paula Engen is in Valley Park Manor in Red Deer at present. She was 79 years old in 1977.

[illegible]

Cassius married Mabel Nygaard. They have two children, Glen and Marie.

[illegible] They had two sons, Vernon and Merlyn. Vernon passed away in 1974.

Tillie married Roy Garrien. They have one daughter, Susan.

Earl married Marie Mitchell. They have two sons, Rupert and Murray.

Martin married Muriel Huseby. They have four daughters, Dorothy, Norma, Kelly and Holly.

Roy married Thelma Huseby. They have two children, LeAnne and Leonard. Thelma passed away in 1969, and was buried in the Gilby cemetery. Roy later married Leitha Ambury.

Floyd married Elsie Wingate. They have two sons and one daughter, Faye. Edwin and Dennis.

Gladys married Lloyd Sand. They have two daughters, Marian and Janet.

**THE FEDDERSON FAMILY**

We, Arvin and Florence Fedderson, with our children, Tom, Terry and Fern, moved to Eckville in August, 1961, coming from Calgary.

We had lived here for three years when we lost Tom due to an accident in the Medicine River. He died on June 20, 1964. This is when we found out what truly wonderful neighbors we had.

Terry finished his schooling in Eckville and Fern took all of her elementary and high school work in the Eckville Schools. She graduated from high school in 1974.

Terry married Eileen Saaret of Leatherville in June, 1968. Six years later we had our first grandchild, Beverly, born on June 16, 1972. On May 6, 1974 Terry and Eileen had their second daughter, Elenore. They live in the Gimlet area north west of Eckville.

In 1976 Fern married Larry Hulgard, of Condor. Since finishing high school she has worked as a secretary or as a receptionist.

**FREDRICKSON, ANDREW — by Jean Madden**

Andrew (Shorty) Fredrickson came from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. in 1910 to file on NW 5-41-4-W5. With axe and grub hoe he cleared the big trees, building a house and barn, farming with horses.

He was an honest neighbor, always willing to help anyone but quite capable of holding his own in any disagreement.

One that came in for discussion in days of measuring, was as to whether the surveyors stake was correct. This was important as a good spring was near the line, but Shorty kept it.

In 1928 he bought NW 3-41-4-W5 owned by the C.P.R. Again he cleared, broke the land and put up buildings.

He always said that when he died he wouldn't leave a wood pile for the neighbors to quarrel over. He passed away suddenly in 1939. There were only a few chips by his chopping block. Mr. Tkacik now owns the land.

**GANT, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS — by Selma Dyrland, their daughter**

On the 10th of August, 1911, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gant, and I, Selma, age seven months, arrived in the Medicine Valley district. Father acquired a homestead right away and being an experienced woodsman, he quickly put up a log house and barn and other buildings. He was able to get a team of oxen in payment for working for a neighbor, Jake Ambura. A couple of years later he got a team of horses — a big black and a bay — as well as a cow in payment for work he did, so he got rid of the team of oxen. He kept the cow tied to a big log so that she could not run away. Father used to walk to Lacombe to work, so he could not get home very often.

In 1913 my brother Clarence was born and in 1915 Eunice was born. That was the year that Mary Gant, my mother, rode on a wagon load of hogs to Lacombe to get her teeth out.

In the spring of 1917 my parents held an auction sale and moved to Carmangay, Alberta. Father drove down with six horses and a new Baine wagon, as he planned to work on the road.

Louis and Mary Gant Family

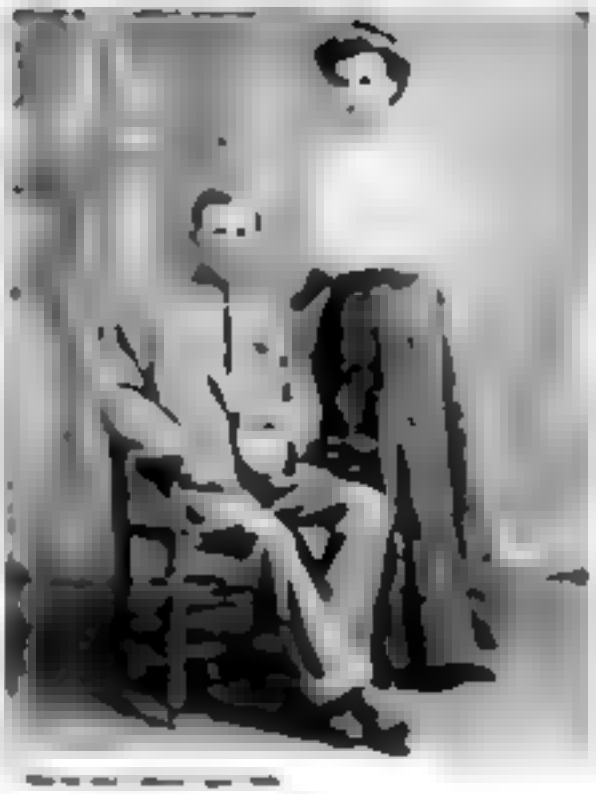
Selma and Grandma Gant

Mother and we children went by train. That fall on September 13, my brother, John was born. However, by November of 1917 the family had moved back to the homestead. We lived there until 1921, when father bought a Hudson Bay quarter three miles west of Gilby. We all lived there until father passed away on May 5, 1938 at the age of 63 years.

After Father died Mother sold the farm to my brothers, Clarence and John, and she moved to Rimbey, where she lived until 1958. In the meantime I had been married and mother lived with me and my family in 1959, before going to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. She left the Lodge and after a year, in 1964, she passed away in Edmonton at the age of 79 years. Both she and father are buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Clarence Gant married Mary Wolney in 1939. She was from an early pioneer family also. They had two children, Shirley and Lawrence. Shirley is married to Arthur Bardenhagen and lives in Edmonton. She has four children, three boys and a girl. Lawrence is a pilot for the firefighters and he and his wife live in Duncan, B.C. Clarence passed away in 1957 from cancer at the age of 44 years.

Eunice Gant married Bruce Jordan of Rimbey in 1945. They have six children. Patricia is a teacher and is married to Mervin Layden



and hey are farming at Innisfail. They have three children. Dennis is married and lives at Rimbey with his wife Gwynne and three children. Jimmy also farms at Rimbey with his wife Reta and two boys and a girl. Gerald married Bev Unger and they and little Heidi live in Rimbey. Wesley married a Swiss girl Elisabeth, and hey are farming west of Rimbey. Virginia and her husband, Reg Olson, are living in Innisfail. Dennis and Gerald work full time at Jordon's Equipment in Rimbey. Eunice and Bruce still farm northeast of Rimbey.

John Gant married Helen Skoreiko on April 19, 1941. They have four children. They lived west of Gilby after they were married, then they sold their farm to Clarence and moved to Stauffer later selling out there and moving to Markerville. In time they sold out there and moved to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Now they have moved back to Canada, in 1974, and live northwest of Athambra. The three older children live in Rocky Mountain House. Elaine married Bill Speight of Speight's Construction on August 12, 1961 and they have four sons.

Eldon married Paty Winchester on November 20, 1970 and they have one son, Jason. Eldon is a cat skinner in heavy construction work. Dermer is a driller in the oil fields. Debbie is still at home and is attending school.

**THE GANT AND WHELLER STORY — by Mary E. (Gant) Whelller**

My father Marlee Gant, was the first of the family to arrive in the Medicine Valley. He came early in the spring of 1910. Lacombe was the nearest railroad. He got a ride as far as Bentley and walked the rest of the way. The old Gilby store was under construction at the time, and he spent the night there sleeping on a carpenter's table. Mike Sestrap was the owner.

Father filed on the S.E. 27-40-4 W5. Then returned to Deer Park, Washington, to sell his property and bring my mother (Celeste) to the new land. They arrived in the early summer and stayed in Lacombe with Mrs. Dobbs, while they bought a team and wagon to bring their goods out to the homestead. The rest of the summer they lived in a shack which belonged to Julius Severson. Mr. Severson was away working. During this time they were building a house of their own.

In 1911 my uncle, L. C. Gant, with his wife Mary, and my cousin Selma came to the area. He homesteaded on the S.W. 34-40-4-W5. The Smale family now own this land. In 1914 another uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lee, and their children, Alma, Mrs. C. Bardenhagen) and Jerval Maddox came to Alberta. They spent the summer with us while they were building their house on S.W. 21-40-4-W5.

Most of these first houses were pretty crude but served the purpose until something better could be built. This was about the time the Lacombe road was being built and surveyed (Highway 51). There was either a family or a bachelor living on nearly every quarter.

Father had to go out to work quite a bit and leave Mother and later me alone. The Lumby girls used to stay with us, to help mother and also to be company for us. Mother was not too well at this time, and in March of 1913 she passed away. The neighbors were very kind and took me off Father's hands for most of the first year. When Father brought me home I had learned to talk but in Finnish, so he had to start all over and teach me to speak in English.

My first memory is of the Lumby and Carlson homes. The Carlsons were a large family and lived on S.W. 22, now owned by Richard Mottus.

One of my early memories is of the Christmas of 1914. Father and I, with the Lees, had gone to the Medicine Valley School Christmas Concert. Mr. John Barnes was the Santa, complete with mask and fur coat. I was terrified, and took quite an amount of calming down.

In 1916 Father married Susan Dekker, and we were a family once again. The following winter the Dekkers left for California, and we bought their land N.W. 30-40-4-W5. In August of 1917 my sister Gertrude was born.

That winter we suffered the tragedy of a fire which took our home, barn and some stock. The old log house was still standing. It had been used in later years as a place for anyone coming along to sleep, so had a bed, stove and table in it. We lived there until spring then moved to the Dekker place.

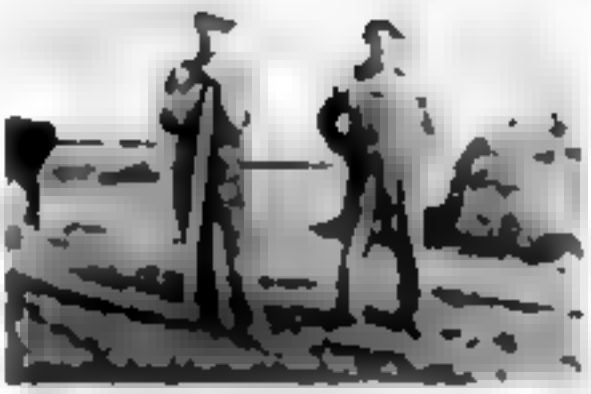
[illegible]

My first brother Martin, was born in the spring of 1919. Later that year Father sold the homestead to a man from Penhold named Jefferies, and the home, or Dekker place, to Mr. and Mrs. Comfort and their son Lewis. We moved our belongings to the John Vick place for the winter. Shortly after Christmas Mother and we three children joined her people in California. Father cared for the stock until the spring of 1920, then had an auction sale and came to join us in California. However, we returned to the old place in the spring of 1921, as the land sale had fallen through. There the rest of the family were born. The children were Mary (Mrs. Reg Whalley), Gertrude (Mrs. Arnold Moore), Martin (presumed to be dead), Jessie (deceased), Lorena (Mrs. Doug Drummond), Ella (living in Santa Fe, New Mexico), Eugene and Glen (both in Red Deer).

In 1946 the folks sold out to the V.L.A. and moved to Red Deer. They are presently residing in the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

**GARBUTT, ARTHUR AND PEARL**

Mr. and Mrs. Garbutt came from Millet in 1930, buying the SE 36-40-4-W5. They were very friendly people having several community picnics at their place. Although they had no family, they enjoyed having children visit and were aunt and uncle to many.



Art Garbutt and Burt Dyrland

They had lived in Texas and never tired of telling stories of the years spent there.

He had an old Ford truck with a leaking radiator. He tied a cream can of water with a pump and hose on it on the running board. Every few miles, he would reach out and pump some water into the radiator.

In 1945, they sold the farm to Dick Lawton who later sold to Sven Osberg.

They built a house in Eckville. Art worked as caretaker at the hospital. Pearl worked in the kitchen until she became ill and passed away in 1954.

Art remarried before he suddenly passed away when he was meeting his old friend from Texas in 1957.

**GOTENG, JOHN**

John Goteng was a step-brother to Oscar and Andrew Anderson. He came from Sweden in 1914 and filed on S.W. 4-41-4-W5. He became ill in 1924 and passed away.

**THE HAPPY VALLEY CLUB**

The Happy Valley Club was organized November 24, 1943. Mrs. Annie Parker was president and Mrs. Violet Brown was secretary-treasurer. We held our first meeting at Mabel Ervins. Those present at the meeting were Mrs. Lydia Thoen, Mrs. Griffen, Mrs. Wallmaki, Mrs. Pauline Kelm, Mrs. Dorothy Dahms, Mrs. Mabel Ervin, Mrs. Annie Parker and Mrs. Violet Brown.

To find a name for our club, we all put a name on a piece of paper and then drew a name. Mrs. Lydia Thoens paper was drawn and that is how the Happy Valley Club got its name. Our club now has 15 members.

Our Club has helped many families who have had fires or accidents of any kind in their homes. The Crippled Children's Organization and many others were supported by our club.

The Happy Valley Club has catered for many wedding receptions, put on showers for young couples and put on lunches for dances and also for some auction sales.

Our club will soon be celebrating their 25th Anniversary Many many quilts have been hand-quilted by this club and a lot of fun was had at the same time. We enjoy our meetings very much. The Gimlet Socialite Club and the Happy Valley Club entered a float in the Eckville Parade in 1966 and won first prize. The float depicted an Old Fashioned quilting party

**HUTCHISON, GEORGE — by [illegible]**

My father and stepmother came from Calgary to the Medicine Valley in 1933. They settled on a farm about two miles north of the Medicine Valley School. My mother had passed away in 1923 and dad was left with four very young children, two boys and two girls, Bob, Floyd, myself Jean) and Dorothy

Dad eventually married again. Our step mother had a daughter, Frances, whom dad adopted. A son, Bill, was born to them and several years later a daughter Eileen. When the folks came to the farm I was sent to my aunt and uncle's at Trochu to attend school there The younger children, Dorothy, Frances and Bill, attended the Medicine Valley school. In November of 1937 I married Carl Raabis. We have three sons, George, Tom and Terry

Dorothy, my sister married Elmer Linder in October of 1936. They had three children Larry Verlie and Ross. Dorothy and Elmer were divorced when their children were quite young Several years later Elmer passed away Dorothy is now married again and lives in Washington U.S.A

Verlie and Ross are married, but Larry has never married. They all live in British Columbia

Bob, my eldest brother married Evelyn Bardenhagen in 1939. They have three daughters, Cora Lyn, Alma Lee and Norma Jean. They are all married now and have families of their own. Floyd passed away in September of 1941 He was never married Frances, the adopted sister, is married and has three children. She lives in British Columbia. Bill also lives in British Columbia, but has never married. He and Frances both served in the Forces during the war Eileen is married and lives in British Columbia. Dad left the farm in 1940 and returned to Calgary He enlisted in the Ordnance Corp in the Army for a couple of years during the war, and later moved to the coast to live. He passed away in March of 1974. Our step mother is still alive and lives in Nanaimo. B.C

**ISAACSON, ISAAC — by Hilja Sjoblom**

Mr Isaac Isaacson came from Butte, Montana about 1909, and filed on a homestead four and one-half miles west of Gilby, on SE 21-40-4 W5. He worked on his land during the summers but made several trips back to Butte to work in the mines where he had been employed. He met a Mrs. Sophie Jewelberg who had also been a homesteader's wife near Rocky Mountain House. Her husband had passed away and she had returned to Butte to work. They were married in Butte in the early '20s, and came back to live on the homestead.

Mr and Mrs. Isaacson worked hard and kept the place nice. Their house was always open to passers-by as in those days everyone travelled with horses It was nice to be able to give the horses a rest and to get a lunch or a meal if it was close to a meal time. The Isaacson home was always such a friendly place

Mr Isaacson took ill and passed away about 1936, and was buried in the Gilby cemetery Mrs Isaacson lived on the place for a few more years, renting the fields but taking care of her stock

In 1940 Mrs. Isaacson sold her place to William Sjoblom, of Vancouver After she sold the farm she had a small house built in Rocky Mountain House where she resided as long as she was able to take care of herself She had to be taken to a nursing home in Edmonton, where she passed away in 1943

The Sjoblems owned this place for 36 years, then sold it to James Pollitt, who resides on it at present with his family

**I THINK I SAW THE WHO TODAY — by Bob [illegible]**

**NOSTALGIC RETURN**

You have probably experienced it We all have. Rekindling old memories has a bitter sweet effect which disturbs our beings as we hover between anticipation and regret We anticipate seeing things as they were, and then we regret that they have changed so much

I took my trip into the past recently by visiting the deserted farmstead of my childhood It was not the first return visit I have been back half a dozen times, but still I am almost overwhelmed by the flood of nostalgic [illegible]

Only the house remains now. The rest of the buildings have been torn down or moved. It is here that I stop first The once stately spruces surrounding the house have become straggly and broken while the tired old building stands forlornly with its open porch slumping wearily almost to the ground

Inside I see the remains of the old wringer washing machine. Immediately the smells and sounds of Wash Day return. I hear the put-put put of the gasoline motor and the swish-chug of the plungers. The smell of exhaust from the pipe sticking out through the half-open window is heavy in the air vying for recognition with the wet smell of the white garments being boiled on the wood stove

I shake my reverie and move on to other rooms Decay has set in. The floors have [illegible] been torn off in spots and the gaping holes reveal the log walls with moss still chinked between each timber

Upstairs I find my iron bed and spring still in act. The open window and the non-insulated walls bring forth more memories. I can see my brothers and I thumping the wall and gleefully diving under the covers as our cousins, who were staying over, stared aghast at the horde of angry yellow-jackets buzzing through the open window And I can smell the burning sulphur we used to try to smoke the wasps out of that wall

I leave the house, to wander through the woods. It was here in this parkland setting that I developed my love for nature. I search for and find, though much fainter now, the path I had followed for years Twice a day up to grade nine I had trod this winding trail for two miles to attend the one-room Medicine Valley School. Grass and underbrush has moved in on it but it still remains an easy route to follow and it still leads to the favorite spots that I knew so well. Strawberries still are growing in the little meadow, red currants hang over the bank of the meandering creek and under the grove of spruce trees I see the large rotten log where a ruffed grouse still bumps out his challenge and love call

It is in the sloughs and muskegs that I see the most change. I remember them as large bogs so water-logged that a horse was unable to walk through at times. You could stand in one spot and shake the land for a hundred feet around Now, oil-company roads criss-cross these areas and many are completely dry

I see a change in the river, too. The Medicine River seems to flow much slower now The brown grass-stained water is sluggish, allowing weeds and algae to multiply readily How well I remember swimming and skating that river Because it is slow moving, a cold snowless fall provided miles of glass-smooth skating and sopping wet feet when we didn't quite jump the beaver dams. After being used to the sparkling Highwood River the thought of swimming in this grimy water is revolting

Our life is made up of memories, good and bad, and although I know one shouldn't dwell upon the past, I'm glad that I can take the occasional trip back in time to taste some of those bitter-sweet memories

**[illegible], [illegible]**

John Iron was born in London, England. His parents were in the steel mill business

He was in the American Army at the time of the Spanish-American war Seeing little active service at this time because he was in hospital with typhoid fever

He homesteaded the N W 26-40-4 W5. Many were the amusing stories that he would tell about his team of huge holstein-hereford oxen, Turk and Bide, as he spent his evenings with the neighbors or at the Medicine Valley post office This was a gathering place for the Saturday mail delivery. He lived alone and was found by his neighbors several days after he had died in 1946

**JANSSON, MR. AND MRS. JOHAN — by Daughter, Mrs. Emma Nygaard**

Mr and Mrs. Jansson with a daughter age two years and a son age nine months, came from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. to the Gilby district in July of 1908 They filed on a homestead, NW 4-14 40-W5. Soon after their arrival they built a two roomed log cabin on their land

In November 1909 another son, Carl, was born, followed by a daughter, Emma, in 1912 The last child, Marie was born in 1914. These three children were born in the small home with a neighbor serving as midwife. Doctors were not readily available, as the nearest towns were Lacombe and Red Deer

Until the year 1910 dad would walk to Lacombe for supplies, as there was no other means of travel. In 1910 the Gilby Store was built, and this also served as our post office. At this time no roads had been built — any travel done was over the trails, winding around over the high ground

The first school in the district was built in 1913. This building was located on NW 26-40-4-W5, and was known as the "Medicine Valley School" The affairs of the school were administered by a board of three local men, the first board being Frank Lawton, Bill Withers, and Martin Engen These men collected the taxes hired and fired the teachers, and paid the teachers' salaries The first teacher was Mr Fallis, who served in 1913-1914. From the years 1913 to 1918 there were nine teachers. During this time the teachers had to find board and room in the community with some of the farm families. In 1919 a teacherage was built, which solved the problem of teacher accommodations. In 1919 Mr William Frame, a returned soldier was hired as the teacher and he served in this capacity for three years. The school was not well heated and our fingers would get so cold that we could hardly hold our pencils By noontime our lunches would be frozen. For this reason school holidays were scheduled for the winter months. In spite of these handicaps our beloved country school remained in constant use for us and our children until 1955. At this time the children started being bussed to the Eckville school, and later our old school building was sold and moved away to another location

Father, in his homeland of Sweden, was a blacksmith by trade To help increase the family income after settling in the Gilby district he started doing blacksmith work at his farm. This enterprise filled a real need in the community and he became known as "Blacksmith Jansson" There was not much income from this source in those early days because most of the people were as poor as we were Since Father never turned anyone away, a lot of the work was done "on [illegible] and the customers would pay him when they could. Nevertheless, by 1919 Dad was able to buy a quarter of C P R. land comering our homestead, and began to break and to build on this land

In the spring of 1922 Mother became very ill and passed away in May of that year. This was a great shock to dad, and he was left with the responsibility of raising five children ranging from eight to 16 years of age. Nevertheless, dad carried on, and in 1923 he finished the house which he had begun to build in the fall of 1921 and we moved into it. Dad was still doing a lot of blacksmith work but was beginning to be bothered by rheumatism. Then his heart started to give him trouble and in the spring of 1936 he was taken to the Lacombe hospital. Dad passed away in June of that year, and was buried beside mother in the Gilby cemetery. Now the two older children were left to try to keep us all together and to run the farm. We had no relatives in Canada, so other than the kindness shown by neighbors we were by ourselves. Since then life has been quite good to us.

In 1927 my oldest sister, Elida, married Edwin Solberg and moved to a farm in the Bentley district. They had three children. At present they have retired and are living in the Leedale area.

My oldest brother, William, never married. He lived on our home place and farmed in that district until his death, from a heart attack, in 1971.

My other brother, Carl, also a bachelor, had a farm east of Gilby. He later sold the farm and, following in dad's footsteps, took up blacksmithing. He is now living in the Leslieville district and still enjoys farming and blacksmithing.

I, Emma, am the fourth child. In 1929 I married Gus Nygaard. We had two children. We farmed in the Eckville district close to my first home for 31 years. We are now retired and are living in Eckville.

My youngest sister, Marie, was married in 1934 to Dave Hietala. They farmed in the Benalto area until they sold their farm in 1973 and retired to Red Deer to live. They have four children.

**KLEVEN, THEODORE — by Joan Madden**

Theodore Kleven filed on the N.E. 33-40-4-W5 about 1910 when he arrived from Minnesota U.S.A.

He was a bachelor who liked to visit, but he stuttered badly and would be annoyed if you tried to help him with what he wanted to say. He was often seen starting the trip to the Gilby Store with his bay team, Jennie and Boxer, about four o'clock in the afternoon. He would be late returning, met along the way.

He served on the Medicine Valley school board for some time. In 1928 ill health forced him to sell out. He entered a Camrose nursing home and died there several years later.

**KOSKI FAMILY HISTORY — Frank, Ellina and [illegible]**

Frank Koski, born December 8, 1873 in Hultisissa, Finland, and Ellina Feura, born January 28, 1874 in Vaasanlaani, Finland, were married on March 6, 1904 at Muchalla, Finland. Mr. Frank Koski came to Canada from Finland by ship in 1912 and homesteaded a quarter section about seven miles north-east of Leslieville, Alberta. In 1913 his wife Ellina, and daughter, Taimi, age six and son Arthur, age three, joined him on the homestead. On December 19, 1914 a son, Ernie was born, and Frank Jr. was born in Eckvlue, Alberta on October 7, 1918.

The Koski quarter-section was heavy timber and to get the land ready for seeding the trees had to be grubbed out by hand with an axe and a grub hoe. By means of much hard work, though, by 1934 over half of the quarter was in farm land. Like so many of the pioneer farmers, Mr. Koski worked at many jobs to help get the farm started and to buy a cow and work horses. During the years 1912 and 1913 the Canadian Pacific Railroad was building a line between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and Mr. Koski was employed on this job. The line was later extended to Nordegg, where a coal mine, known as Brazeau Collieries, was being developed.

Mr. Koski packed flour and other necessary household supplies on his back from Red Deer to the homestead. It was a three-day trip if the weather was good, but longer if it was stormy.

Art Koski, who was born in 1910, remembers his dad broadcasting (planting) the wheat by hand. He does not recall how it was covered, but supposed this was done by a harrow being dragged over the field. Haying was done by a scythe and a three-foot hand rake, then put to cure on wooden cross stakes stuck in the ground. When it came time to cut the wheat the neighbors came with sickles. Men and women worked side by side and tied the bundles with straw and then stooked them. After they became dry the bundles were stacked. Later in the winter, after the other farm work was finished, the bundles were threshed with a "flail" and on windy days they threw the mixture into the air so the chaff would blow away from the wheat. As the age of improvements crept in, the wheat was cut with a scythe with some sort of rack on it to catch the wheat until there was enough for a bundle and then dumped off and tied by hand.

In 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Koski sold their farm and retired to the town of Sylvan Lake into a new home which their son-in-law, Mr. Carl Soderland, had built for them. Their daughter Taimi had married Carl Soderland in 1932. They are now living in Vancouver, British Columbia and they have a daughter, Margaret, who is married to Tom Keys. Margaret and Tom have six children. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Koski have both passed away, and are both buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

**FRANK KOSKI JR.**

Frank Koski Jr. married Edith Cumming of Leslieville area in 1941. They made their home

first close to the Blueberry school, then moved to the Rocky Nordegg area and finally to Invermere, British Columbia. They have four girls — Elaine, Donna, Frankie, Debbie and have one son, Gerald. Frank and Edith have had saw mill and lumber businesses both in Alberta and in British Columbia.

**ERNIE KOSKI**

Ernie Koski, son of Frank and Elina, was born in the homestead house on December 18, 1914, and grew up in the Leslieville and Blueberry district. In 1935 he met May Taylor and they were married on October 28, 1939. Ernie and May bought the Koski homestead and lived there for a year before moving to Nordegg in 1941. At Nordegg Ernie worked for the Brazeau Coal Company for almost 15 years, until the mine closed down. They then moved to the Millet Edmonton area in 1954 where they lived until moving to Red Deer in late 1955, where they have lived since that time.

Ernie and May have two daughters, Lois and Linda. Lois was born in Bentley, Alberta on September 11, 1939. She married Gary K. Allison on May 16, 1959, and they have two children. They live in Red Deer. Linda was born in the town of Nordegg on February 7, 1954. She grew up in Red Deer, but later moved to Calgary. She married Frank Marasco Jr. in Calgary in June 1977.

Ernie's occupation in Red Deer has been with Flint Engineering and Construction. On May 28, 1977 at the Capri Motor Inn he received a 20-year pin award. May was interested in music throughout her life, and played several instruments, including the violin and drums. In 1977 she was still with an entertaining group and dance band called the "Outcasts".

**[illegible]**

Art Koski was born October 15, 1916. He remembers that, while he was growing up, he plowed many a furrow by the use of a walking plow. In 1931 he helped build highway 11, working with a team and fresno (a dirt slip). He also helped built the number 12 highway, between Bentley and Rimbey, Alberta.

Art married Edna Jackson of Rocky Mountain House in 1934. They have two children — Shirley and Marvin. Shirley married Dave Callen of Rocky Mountain House and they, with their four children, now live in Rapid View, Saskatchewan. Marvin married Heather Darch of Big Valley, Alberta. They and their two children live in Calgary.

The children attended the Blueberry School and Art remembers some winters when the snow was so deep that the school had to be closed for weeks at a time, and in the spring the crust was so hard that they could walk cross-country to [illegible].

Art is retired now and lives in Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. Art and Edna farmed a few miles north-east of Rocky Mountain House for many years.

**LAKEVOLD, MR. AND MRS. OLE — by Alice Lakevold Borsch**

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lakevold moved to Gilby with their four children, Olga, Cora, Roy and Alice about 1919. We settled close by the Medicine River on NE 36-40-3-W5.

I attended the Medicine Valley school and rode my horse to school. We did enjoy our six years at Gilby with our good neighbors and friends. We remember many good times we had there. We would fish in the river, and we had a good patch of raspberries on our place. Many people came to pick them.

[illegible]

My sister Olga married Alex Ferguson of Gilby and they lived across the river from us. Dad built a foot-bridge across the river for us to use in getting to my sister's home, and it was very helpful to us.

From Gilby mother and dad moved back to Provost, Alberta, where dad had homesteaded. They continued to live there until they passed away.

Cora has passed away. Olga lives in Kelowna, B.C., and Roy lives at Kingston, Washington, U.S.A. My husband and I live in Spokane, Washington, U.S.A. We have a son and he and his family live in Spokane, also.

**THE LARSEN FAMILY — by Martha Reinen**

It was in the year 1910 that we, my mother, four brothers and myself, left Norway the third of May, to be exact. On the fourth we landed at Newcastle, England about noon, and arrived at Liverpool in the evening. We stayed there for two days. In the late afternoon on Friday we were put on the boat for Canada. On the 13th of May we landed in Quebec. We boarded the train that same day and for four days and nights we sat on those hard wooden seats, until we reached Calgary on the 17th. Here we changed trains for Lacombe, Alberta, this time riding on [illegible].

There was no room in the hotel in Lacombe, but an old man took us to a rooming house where we stayed until the morning of the 19th. A man

with a team and light wagon started off for Gilby with us and our baggage. This transportation had been arranged by Ole Boody, as we did not know anyone there, and brother Bob was not there to meet us. We arrived at Gilby in the evening. Gus and Mike Sestrap had the store at that time. We all had supper and stayed overnight with them. Gus brought in a big armful of hay and spread it on the floor, put some blankets over it and we slept just fine, all in one big bed. Next morning Gus said that Bob would be here by 10 or 11 o'clock. We wondered how he knew that, but Mr. Vidmark had come and my two brothers, John and Halvar, went along to get brother Bob to tell him we were at Gilby. In about one hour the three of them came back and had dinner and shortly after that Jake Ambuhr came with a team and wagon and took us all up to Bob's house. We stopped at Ambuhr's place to meet the family, his wife and four children. The men were gathering up axes and saws to clear away bush and trees on the trail.

When we had been at our new home for about three days Bob said that he would take me to show me where to get milk and butter. So we met the Lawton family. Mrs. Lawton was home with her children while Mr. Lawton was away working. There we got our milk and butter that summer and learned our first English from Bill, Kathy and Mrs. Lawton, who was very kind to the children. Twice a week we got one pail of fresh milk, which we paid for, one of skim milk, which she gave us.

Bob and John went out to work on the road. Mr. Hunt was the boss and had his whole family with him. They started work over by Leedale, or Wittenburg, as it was called in those days. They worked on the road until late fall. Before they left Bob told us what he wanted us to do. Halvar, or Hal, as we called him, was to cut logs for the barn - enough for the walls. Hal cut them down and we kids cut the branches and took the bark off so they could dry. The bark came off easily as the sap was still running.

Later Halvar cut hay using a scythe. It was hard work for a 16-year-old boy. He had made us some hand rakes, and we raked it and stacked it. When the oats were ripe, Hal cut them, also, with the scythe. We made bundles and set them up. The next year Hal dug a root house in the hill for our potatoes and other garden stuff. It was there for many years. He also made a wheelbarrow to haul away the dirt. Halvar and John each filed on a quarter of land. Hal went of Bob's and John on the north side. They farmed together for some years.

In 1918, they started to build a new house — a big one — and had it finished in March, 1920. There was lots of snow that winter, and it laid on the ground for a long time. Our mother, Anna Larsen, died in 1918, so she did not get to live in the new house.

John came back from the coast late in the fall of 1918. He had been fishing and working at other jobs there. There was lots of flu that winter. Some of our neighbors were very sick, and one died, but we escaped the flu that time. When a person went to an auction sale he was to wear a mask, or to wear a handkerchief over his nose and mouth.

Halvar left home in 1922, first going to British Columbia, then on to Alaska, where he died in April, 1923, from being gassed in a mine. John left home some years later, and has not been back. Arnt left for the United States in the middle of the twenties and was back to visit in 1969. He died later that fall. Lute left Bob's place in 1929, first going to the prairies to work in the harvest and then over to British Columbia. He now lives in Prince George, B.C. He is married and has two children.

Bob lived on his farm until he got sick. He died in January, 1963 at 78 years of age. In the years he was farming he used only horses. He had an auction sale in 1931 and rented the farm after that.

**THE FRANK LAWTON FAMILY — by Joan Madden**

In 1895 Frank Lawton, a qualified carpenter and also a player on the "Bottom Wanderer's Rugby Team", was married to Clara Gilbert who was parlor maid to Adkin and Sons, the millionaire tobacco people.

On March 7, 1906 they set sail for Canada with William, age five, Kathleen, age three and Joan aged 11 months. Their only possessions were contained in two metal trunks and a few cases. It was a rough, two-week journey travelling steerage. All were very sea-sick.

They spent one month on a farm at Woodstock, Ontario, later travelling by train to Lacombe, Alberta, arriving with 75 cents. They rented a single room over the harness makers' shop. Frank got work at once in the sash and door factory. That summer he came to the Medicine Valley and filed on the NW 34-40-4-W5. During that year they bought a milk cow, a team of buckskin ponies and a light wagon which, by

the spring of 1907 had been made into a covered wagon to hold all of their belongings. Leading the cow behind, they started the week-long trip west the latter part being only trails winding along the highest ground. The river had to be forded. They made a tent of the wagon cover to live in while the one-room sod-roofed house was built from logs. When it rained, as it seemed to do all summer, the water would pour through the roof. The canvas again was stretched to keep the beds dry. The children would sit on the trunks with rain capes and sail paper boats on the water as it was being swept to the gap where the floor met the walls. Old Shep would come from under the table and shake himself. Frank would be away most of the summer building for farmers around Lacombe. By fall they were able to buy two more heifers.

In January, 1908, Alick was born, in 40-below zero weather, with only a small cook stove for heating. Frank was doctor, nurse and housekeeper.

In 1910 a 14 by 14 feet lumber shack with shingle roof was bought for $25 from Bill Kurshaw, who had homesteaded NW 36-40-4-W5 but was leaving his homestead. Roger was born in this house on October 7, 1910. Frank again managing alone.

The meat which the family ate consisted of wild chickens, partridge, and rabbits. Wild berries provided a plentiful supply of fruit for the family table. They were now raising the steer calves for oxen to do the field work, as some land had been cleared. Mail and supplies were got once a month from Lockhart where the most needed groceries were sold. It was a long day's trip for two men and a team and wagon. They would carry a chain and spade to get the wagon out when it became stuck in the numerous swamps. Letters from England and the Eaton's catalogue were very welcome portions of the mail.

In 1910 the Medicine Valley Post Office was opened on Mr. E. T. Wither's place. Mike Sestrap built a store at Gilby, just five miles away. Life was indeed improving. Milk was strained into a tall can with a tap at the bottom. After it stood all night the milk was drained out and from the cream butter was churned to be traded for groceries at the Gilby Store. There was only one pony left by this time, so the Jersey steer was driven with him on these trips. There were almost seven years between the trips Mrs. Lawton made. Visits to neighbors were often only once a year. She enjoyed good reading, and kept up a regular correspondence with relatives and friends in England.

Mrs. Lawton, coming from a family of dress makers, was very capable at making over the clothing that people had given to her. At first by hand, and later with the use of an old sewing machine, she kept the family clothed. In 1916 the old machine was replaced by a Singer treadle machine that is still in use. Mrs. Lawton also sewed and made hats for friends, enjoying their visit at the same time. They always welcomed whoever came that way with a meal or even a bed on the floor if needed. Mrs. Lawton acted as mid-wife at several births.

Early in 1911, as there were 12 children in the area between the ages of eight and 13 years, it was decided to apply for a school. There was some opposition from bachelors and those without school-age children, although not so severe as in the Leafland district to the west where at the beginning of the meeting all knives and guns were ordered to be put on the table.

There was now a larger log house being built with an upstairs. The first floor was the usual rough lumber, but later a hand-planed, with tongue and groove, one was put down. This work was done in the house in winter so it was a happy day when the work bench, shavings, and sawdust all were cleared out.

On March 3, 1913 Derrick was born, again Frank was in charge of the birth. Other than colds, the family suffered no sickness through the years.

In the spring of 1913 the school that had been built on the NW 24-40-4-W5 was opened with Mr. Fallis as teacher. It was quite an event for children who had scarcely been out of their own yards. The path to the school led through swamps, and in summer shoes were carried to be put on at school. The school board members were F. Lawton, B. Withers and M. Engen. The students that year were Chloe, Walter, Lester and Jim Ambura, Bertha Backus, Fred and Annie Bardenhagen, Lyle and Cassius Engen, William, Kathleen and Joan Lawton. The rate of assessment was eight cents per acre. The secretary-treasurer got $30 per year. The teacher's salary was $40 per month and he did the janitor work. Mr. Fallis taught the 1914 term also.

The oxen had now been sold, a team of mares bought, and colts were being raised, so farming went a little faster.

On July 25, 1915 a premature baby girl was born, but lived only one day. Mrs. Best, a trained

nurse and the only medical help for many miles came on horseback to help

More settlers were coming, bridges were being built, and roads improved, as everyone could work on them to pay the taxes. Some men worked by hand and others used a team, putting down logs to corduroy the low places. School concerts were held at Christmas, and occasionally there would be a church service in the school. The only other religious training was taught in the home.

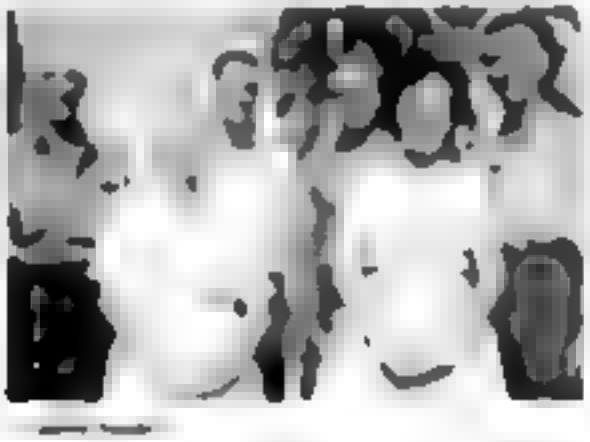
In 1919 the Lawtons bought the NE-32-40-4-W5 for $2000. They moved there for the summer to break more land. There was now a nice herd of Shorthorn cattle. Wheat and a large garden was put in, as on the higher land, they were away from the frost. Hail came when the lovely crop was almost ripe, cutting the yield very low. They always looked on the bright side, so planned for another year. William had now homesteaded NE 6-44-4-W5. Clearing and breaking was also done there in 1920.

On April 25, 1921 tragedy struck the family, as Frank died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage. The neighbors made the casket and he was buried in the Gilby cemetery. Billy, not yet 21 years old, with his sisters, managed the farm. The work was hard, as the heavy wheat bundles had to be stooked, then stacked to await the threshing crew which would come later in the fall.

A few years later Billy traded his land for a steam threshing outfit. Now stook threshing was done. Clara, although still saddened by her loss, kept cheerful as she watched her family growing up and taking an interest in their friends and social activi

The log house was enlarged with a living room and bedroom above it. The first radio was bought, and in due time a model T Ford car.

In 1926 Kathleen married Clarence Ferguson, who had bought land in the area. In 1928 Joan married Jervel Maddox and they moved to Wainfield, Alberta. In 1937 Billy married Ann McLeod, and they moved onto the NE 32-40-4-W5, which he had bought. In 1940 Derrick moved onto the SE 24-40-4-W5 that had been bought from



Bardenhagens, farming there until moving to Eckville. He was married to Dorothy Rauhala and they have three daughters.

Clara now had only Alick and Roger at home. She kept very active and interested in the grandchildren. She was also enjoying a new six roomed house, a better car and nice clothes, that she had never forgotten how to choose and wear. She would never be seen out without her hat and gloves.

Clara's health was failing, and after a short illness she passed away on May 3, 1947.

Alick and family and Roger, still live on "The Covered Wagon Homestead", where hospitality is just as great as it was in 1906. Alick is married to the former Eileen McNabb.

**LAWTON, WILLIAM AND ANN**

Bill Lawton was born in Kent, England, in 1900. He came to Canada with his parents and sisters in 1906, spending the first year in Lacombe where he went to school. In the spring of 1907, they travelled by covered wagon to the homestead, the trip taking seven days.

Bill, then seven, helped his mother with the chores, as his father was a carpenter and spent some of the summer months away. The stove wood had to be cut with a buck saw and water carried from the creek nearby.

Grain for seed and feed was beaten with a flail on a canvas, put through an old bed spring, then poured from a pail in the wind to clean the chaff out.

When the Medicine Valley School was built in 1913, he attended for three years before leaving school to help with the farm work. In 1918, he homesteaded NE 6-41-4-W5.

He and the family worked hard clearing and breaking the land to get thirty-five acres so he could get the title. His father passed away suddenly in 1921 leaving him responsible to run the farm with the help of his sisters and younger brothers.

Bill's early dream of owning a steam engine came true in 1925 when he traded his land for a threshing outfit. The whistle could be heard across the Valley.

In the early thirties, he started a saw mill together with his brothers, which sawed lumber for many of the buildings between Leedale and

In 1937 he married Ann McLeod of Calgary who was teaching in the district.

That year, the saw mill was moved to a timber limit 20 miles north of Rocky Mountain House where it was operated until 1944. It was quite an experience for Ann to spend the winter in a logging camp.

In the spring of 1949, forest fires covered the area and were out of control. They removed the roof from the mill buildings to save heat on the machinery. When the fire died down, they went back expecting ruins but very little had been burnt.

During the winter, they had hauled the lumber to higher land. The fire had got to the lumber piles, but the wind had changed so none was lost. The McTighe mill nearby was a complete loss

They returned to farming near the old home and later owned NW 7-41 3-W5 and SW 5-41-3-W5. It was told that they moved so often that when he put the chicken crate in the yard the hens would go into it

In 1949, a son, Graham, was born, who married Judy Sears. They have two sons

In November, 1950 their daughter Lynn arrived. She married Ken Wilton, a lab. technician and lives in Vancouver, B.C

Bill took an active interest in community affairs and could always take time to recall the early days in the Valley with his many friends although arthritis and failing health had kept him nearer home the last few years. He passed away January 15, 1974

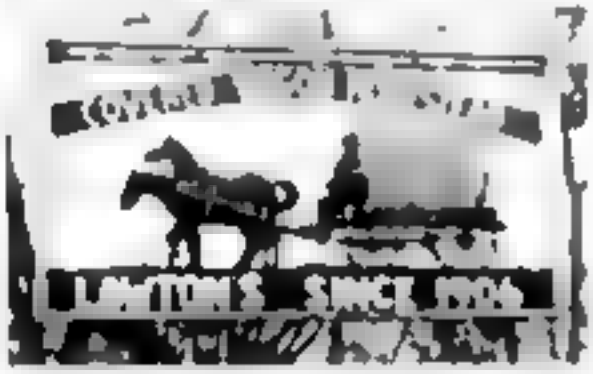
Ann now lives in Rocky Mountain House

**LAWTON ALICK AND ROGER**

Alick and Roger (Dodge) Lawton were born and raised on the old farm which their parents homesteaded in 1906 and where they still live. They attended the Medicine Valley school and later farmed with their brothers Bill and Dick and their mother. Their father had passed away in 1921. Their two sisters, Kathy and Joan, were married about this time. The farm then consisted of a half section of land

Until about 1929, the farming was done with horses. They both worked on the steam threshing outfit that Bill had bought in 1926. In 1930, Alick bought a threshing outfit and ran it with a 22-36 McCormick Deering tractor which still runs good. About this time, they sold most of the cattle which were shorthorn milk stock and received about $1.00 for 36 head. They then began to build up a herd of Hereford cattle with a yearling bull bought from Wm. Broderson at Leedale for $50

In 1932, they started in the sawmill business with a mill that had formerly been owned by Jabez McPherson, Julius Johnson and the Northcott Bros. The mill was driven by Bill's Nichols and Shephard steam engine. This was traded on a 80 H.P. case formerly owned by Hugo Mottus. About 1935, Bill puchased a 110 H.P. Case to drive the mill and farmers from as far as Rumbey hauled logs to be sawn. In 1937 a timber limit was bought 20 miles north of Rocky and the four brothers operated it together until 1940. Alick and Dodge then sold out to Bill and Dick. Their mother had passed away in 1947. They then continued to increase their cattle herd under the name of Lawton Bros. Covered Wagon Homestead and now run about 1,000 head during the summer of mostly Herefords and also keep about 50 horses of many quarter horse breeding. Their farm and pasture land has been increased to about 20 quarter sections with additional leased pasture



For several years, they trucked cattle to the Elk Creek Flats to pasture and then had a trail drive to bring them home in the fall which took about four days. Many interesting experiences were encountered hauling over Corkscrew Mountain on the trunk road west of Caroline and also on the fall trail drive home

In 1957 Alick was married to Eileen McTighe who had grown up on the east side of the valley north of Gilby. They have one daughter Lorraine, who is taking nursing in Red Deer and one son, Jim, attending Eckville High School. Eileen had previously been married to the late Robt. Alexander at Duncan, B.C. and has three adopted children John, Pat and Nan

The Lawton Bros. home has always been a meeting place for friends and neighbors from far and near and many summer evenings and weekend trail rides begin there and travel into the hill country to the northwest. Dodge has always been interested in horses and still enjoys leading the Eckville parade and the grand entry at the Eckville Rodeo. Many interesting experiences are told of the early years. Some old timers recall seeing what they called a ghost light that floated around at night. It was first reported being seen about 1915 by Jack Mullarky

Allick and Eileen Lawton

Derrick and Dorothy Lawton

who was then living on what is now the Mark Smaye farm. Late one night, he walked to a spring for a pail of water some distance from the house when suddenly, he was startled by a strange light above him. As he returned to the house it followed above him and then circled the house several times before disappearing. Apparently, it was the size of a football and was seen quite often for a few years around that district. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given as to what it was.

Allick and Dodge Lawton have always had a great deal of satisfaction in accomplishing what many would not attempt and their roots have grown very deeply into the old Covered Wagon Homestead.

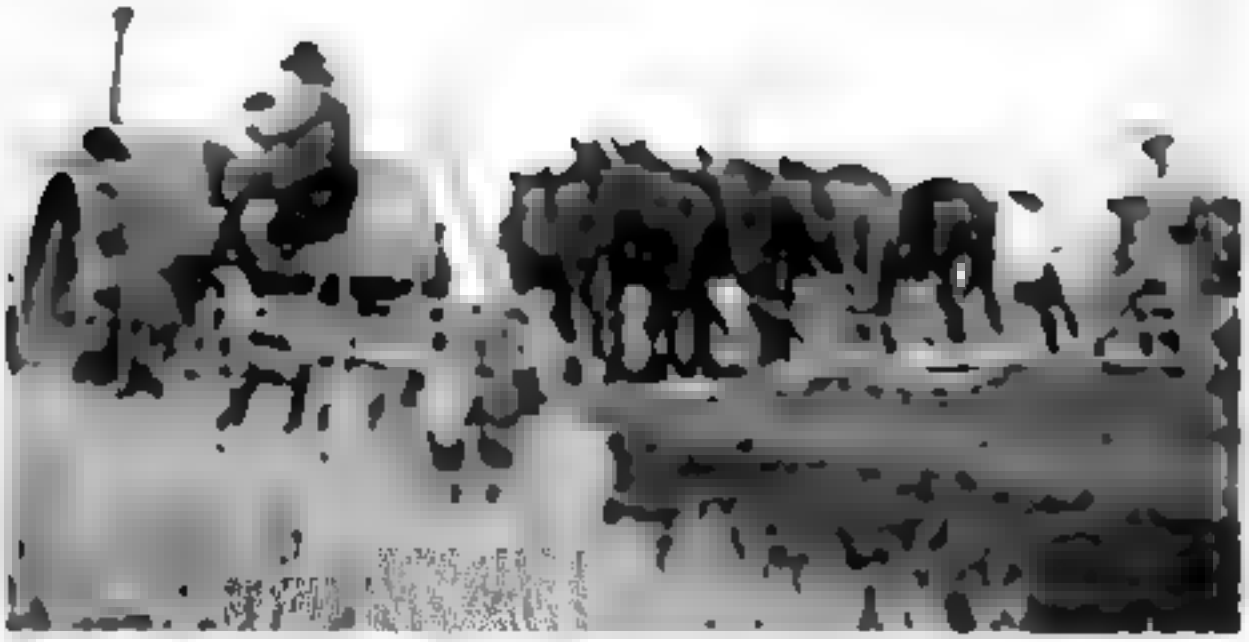
Dodge passed away February 13, 1978 with interment in the Gilby cemetery.

**LAWTON DICK AND DOROTHY**

Derrick Dick Lawton and Dorothy Rauhala were married in Rimbey on June 29, 1957. Prior to their marriage, Dorothy had taught school in Rimbey and Bluffton. She was born west of Ponoka, where she took her early schooling and later attended Concordia College and U of A in Edmonton.

Dick was born in the Gilby District northwest of Eckville and attended the Medicine Valley school. He later farmed with his brothers Bill, Allick and Roger. Their father had passed away in 1921. They also ran a sawmill near home and later moved the mill 30 miles north of Rocky Mountain House.

In the spring of 1940 a big fire went through that area, burning out the McTighe and McDougal Mills but missed the Lawtons' camp. A large amount of logs and lumber was lost at the McTighe Mill but about 200,000 feet of Lawton Bros. lumber which had been hauled there to be on a summer road, fortunately was saved. The McTighe family and their crew were trapped at the mill and, in the confusion, were separated. However most of them escaped by a bush trail past McDougal's Mill. Philip and Maurice McTighe and a few others had almost given up hope of getting out, but managed to get east through the fire to safety. Allick and Dick Lawton got there about 10 o'clock at night and found the whole country on fire, but managed to get into the mill yard and bring out a man suffering burns and exposure. He had climbed into a large barrel of cold water until the fire passed. Later that night the fire cut off the road out, burning the two bridges over the Wolf Creek, so they had to stay at the burnt-out mill until they rebuilt the bridges. Two milk cows and many chickens were found burnt to death where the fire caught them.



The next day, Constable McMullen from Rocky Mountain House and Constable Christopher of Rimbey arrived with a search party to look for an older man named Tom Scully that was reported to have been caught in the fire His body was found the next day and he had died from burns and exposure from lying in the cold creek while the fire went over He was buried where he was found but a few days later was moved to the Leslieville cemetery A book could be written of the hardships and the humour of the sawmill days between the Wolf and Beaver Creeks

After their marriage Dick and Dorothy Lawton purchased the late Dr Coppock home in Eckville and Dick took over the Eckville Bakery with his nephew, Lawrence Ferguson. This was operated for nearly a year and then sold out to Eugene and Helen Bednard

During the first few years, Dorothy went back to summer school at U of A and obtained her B.Ed. She continued to teach English and drama in the Eckville High School until weakened health which began with an almost fatal attack of pneumonia and pleurisy in 1965 forced her to retire from active teaching during the last few

In 1964, they built a new home on their acreage by the Medicine River adjoining the northeast corner of Eckville and moved there with their three daughters, Linda, Jane and Gwen where they operated a feed lot for several years

In 1975, Dick rented out the farm land and has since worked at the Eckville Co-op Hardware

[illegible]

In the early years there were many families in the Leafland school district. About 1911 many people came into the area and took up homesteads. John Iversen, with a family of three little girls, settled across the road from Bob Larsen's place. Mr and Mrs. John Vosberg and Mr and Mrs. John Wick came to the district, but they did not stay very long Iversens and Wicks left for British Columbia to start fishing for halibut and cod Mrs. Vosberg died in 1916, so John Vosberg took his little daughter, Jean and went to the U.S.A. to Mrs. Vosberg's folks The baby died shortly after her mother's death

Others who lived in the Leafland district for some years but who have now moved away include the Joe Wolneys, Kingerskis, O. E. Salmons, Reins, Rolfsens, Tom Cummings (all of whom are now dead), Lautamus, to mention a few Mr and Mrs. Farrant have both passed away, their daughter now lives in Eckville All of the Larsen family are gone, and Lulu lives in Prince George, B.C

Albert Rangen came to the district about 1925 Mr Rangen passed away many years ago and

original old-timers the Heikkinen family are still there. Some of the Reirsen family are still living on the same old place but others of the family have moved away Mr Hans Reirsen passed away in 1974

The Caseys and the Allens came in the early

1936's but the Allen family has now moved away and the Leshes live on the Allen's place

We had lots of bachelor neighbors. John Izon came in 1906. In 1910 Hans Reirsen found John Anderson on the railroad and got him to take a homestead. Oscar Anderson came in 1908, and his brother Andrew came from Sweden in 1913. They were real good neighbors. T. P. Kleven came in 1911 and stayed until he got sick and had to be taken away. Then Bill Tilley got a homestead west of this place. Frank Prasse got sick and sold his place. Charlie Wardell had a homestead across from Leafland school, but all those bachelors passed away many years ago.

During the era of the Leafland School the teachers had to board out. Farrants boarded teachers during the earlier years, but it was quite a distance to walk to school. Later teachers were able to board at the Cummings home. Caseys and Allens also boarded teachers some of the years. Some districts were able to provide a teacherage for the teachers, which was much better for them.

A Rev. McDonald lived close to the school and he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the school district for many years. Hans Reirsen and Mr. Madsen served on the school board at the time. When Mr. McDonald became sickly and had to leave, Mr. Stears became the Secretary. Other trustees who served on the board were John Lautamus, Oscar Anderson and Mr. Rangen. After some years Hans Reirsen declined to be on any school board. Soon the schoolhouse and the barn were sold. The children in the district are now bussed to town - thus, the end of the country school.

In 1922 Gustav and Clara Reirsen started to school at Leafland. Their father took them to school the first day, just to see that they got there all right. The teacher's name was Mr. Earl Halpin, of Lacombe. He taught for only a short time before going back to University to study to become a dentist. He later settled in Rimbey and had his practice there.

In 1913 four and three-quarter sections of land in the south-east corner of T. 41-5-W5 were included in the newly formed district of Leafland. The school was built on the south-east corner of SE 1-41-5 in 1915 and opened just two months after the Washington Heights school to the [illegible].

The Kiengersky, Zaleski, Burns and Wolsey children were some of the ones who attended the school from this township. Ed Ostrem served as trustee, A. Lewis as chairman and Albert Rangen as secretary of Leafland School.

Robert M. Erskine a prominent plant breeder in the Carlos district, has named his gardens on the SW 18, about two miles north of the school, the Leafland Nurseries. He gave the name Leafland Beauty, to a hardy shrub rose developed from his cross breeding program, and also gave the name to a hardy variety of apple he [illegible].

Others who taught at the Leafland school included Miss Teresa Miller, Miss McKinnon, Lila Anderson, Miss Herman (from Sylvan Lake), Miss Tafteland, Miss Albert, Mr. William Bradshaw (1927-1928), Mr. Cliff Arvcock (three terms), Mr. William Kirch (four terms), Mrs. Anne Lawton, Ruth Hill, Mary Layton, and Ida Bergstrom. Later there were just supervisors, or sitters. The children got the lessons from Edmonton. Soon the Leafland school was closed and sold, as were so many other schools in the nearby [illegible].

There used to be a picnic at the school each year, at the end of June, when school was out and this was a great day for the adults as well as for the children. They played b[illegible] and often there were other com[illegible] various kinds.

The Christmas concert was always another highlight of the school year. The teachers and the children worked very hard at it so they could present a successful performance. Everybody enjoyed their singing, plays and recitations.

But those days are gone forever. The schools and even the buildings are gone from most districts. If it is for the best, or not, I do not know.

**LEE, THOMAS AND MINNIE — by Joan Maddox**

Mr. and Mrs. Lee with her daughter, Alma age 18 years and son, Jervel Maddox, 14 years old, came in the spring of 1914 to homestead S.W. [illegible].

They were hard-working thrifty people always willing to share their lovely garden vegetables. He, and later, Jervel, would leave to find work for as little as one dollar a day. They always had to carry their own blankets. Mrs. Lee and Alma stayed home to take care of the animals.

When Jervel was 15½ years old he worked on

[illegible]

a farm near Eckville for fifteen dollars a month. He would do the chores, then take a four horse team and drive to Alhambra. There he would cut a load of tamarac posts to bring back in the evening. The cold lunch provided for him would be thawed over a fire which he built at noon.

One day it was 40 degrees below zero by evening. The sleigh runners would stick to the road. He had to leave the load as the horses were exhausted. For several days he spent his time doing chores and also split a large pile of firewood.

In 1919 he was in Idaho U.S.A. Work there was scarce, so he joined the United States Marines and had an opportunity to see some of the world during the next two years. By 1922 Jervel had returned to Canada and took up a homestead near Winfield, Alberta.

Mr. Lee rented his farm in 1919, sold the cattle and moved to Vernon, British Columbia for one year. Then they returned to the farm and continued farming until 1943, when they retired to Eckville. A few years later they entered the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. Mr. Lee passed away on November 28, 1957 and Mrs. Lee on January 25, 1960.

**LESLIE, ROY AND OLIVE**

In 1951 Roy and Olive Leslie bought the land previously owned by Warren Allen, NW 31-40-4 W5 and NW and SW 6-41-4 W5. They also bought the NW and SW 33-40-5 W5 from John Koshkin in 1965. They left Mossleigh, Alberta in the spring of 1965 and built a home on NW 31-40-4 W5. Although intending to retire they soon became enthusiastically involved in clearing land, planting crops and raising cattle.

Olive and Roy have four children and 12 grandchildren. Their son Jack and his wife Carolyn, farm in partnership with their parents. Jack has been in the district since 1962 and owns NE 31-40-4 W5, S 28-40-5 W5 and E 1-41-5 W5 where they live. They have three boys.

Their daughter Elsie and husband Bob Montgomery have the SE 28-7-40-4 W5 and SW 17-40-4 W5 which was formerly owned by Gordon Ames. Bob works for an industrial firm, coordinating the construction of plants in various parts of the country. They have just returned a year's stay in Alaska where Bob coordinated the construction of a fertilizer plant addition. They have one son and Elsie has a son and daughter by a former marriage.

Their daughter Janet and husband Lyle Nash live in High River where Lyle is involved in the oil industry. They have three sons.

Their son Tom and wife Phyllis live in Edmonton and have three children. Tom has just started a trucking business.

The Leslies are kept very busy with their farming operation and enjoy a host of friends here, and the many friends and relatives who come from the south country to enjoy the beauties of their new homeland — where they came to retire a decade ago.

**LIIVAM, AUGUST AND ALMA**

Alma, second daughter of Mart and Emma Sestrap, grew up following her father's footsteps and consequently she was familiar with every phase of work involved in operating an eight hundred acre farm. In the 1910's and 1920's all the farm work was done with horses, and an 80 cow herd was a lot of cattle.

The experience she gained came in useful after her father died suddenly in 1927 leaving Alma the burden of operating the farm at the age of seventeen. An older sister was attending the University of Alberta, a younger one was still in high school, and a six-year-old brother was attending the Medicine Valley School.

Alma was capable of caring for livestock and had had considerable experience in training and driving eight-horse outfits while plowing, clearing and breaking new land, and on road-building equipment. All this she did with a minimum of hired help and that mostly inexperienced. Sowing and harvesting the crops was routine work and during the winter she would haul the grain to the elevator in Eckville using a grain tank mounted on a sleigh and pulled by a four-horse team. This meant tending the horses and keeping them shod as well as loading the grain from the bin into the grain tank by means of a scoop shovel.

In May of 1932 Alma was married to August Liivam who emigrated from Tallinn Estonia in 1926. He was a city boy with only a limited knowledge of English. He had apprenticed in farming in the Stettler area in the days when wages were fifteen dollars and board per month. He had worked for a time in British Columbia lumber camps in the late twenties before homesteading a quarter section of land west of Dawson Creek. He also hauled water for a time to the town of Pouce Coupe. Finding it too difficult to start farming with no money and with his limited knowledge of the English language, he came to the Medicine Valley area to try his luck there.

When they were married they pitched a tent on the SW¼ 25-40-4 W5th, and started building a home. By 1934 they had managed to build a log barn and a log house in which they raised a family of six sons and one daughter. Their family included John, married to Violet Saari, whose children are Lisa and Melanie. August married Valerie Doney and their children are Mark and Theodore. Helen married Stanley Johannson, their children are Terry, Wesley, Wendy and Darren. George married Miriam Linden, their children are Mitchel and Kelly. Harold and his wife, JoAnn, have a son, Jason. Larry and Kenneth are not married.

From 1932 to 1977 August took an active part in many community affairs. He served on the Medicine Valley School Board, the Mutual Telephone Company board of directors, and the Eckville Co-op Store board of directors for twenty-five years. He was an Alberta Wheat Pool

delegate for many years, and also served as a Uniform delegate

In 1956 the Lavam Farm won the plaque donated by the Imperial Bank of Canada and Eckville Board of Trade in the 'Save the Soil" competition In 1956 they were awarded second place in a National Barley Contest with a carload of malting barley of Olli variety and in 1957 won first place in the same competition with another carload of barley

In 1969 August purchased the Eckville Motors business, which he is now operating with his son George. August and Alma still are living in the house on the farm which they built just after their marriage

**MASSEP JOHN**

John Massep homesteaded the N W 36-40-4 W5 about 1908. He and his neighbors dug a canal about 20 rods long, eight feet deep, and 12 feet wide in the head of the river. They put hewn logs to make a dam. When the gate was opened the water would turn the large boxed-in wheel giving him power to run the first sawmill and grain grinder in the district. This was very slow and tedious, but now the pioneers could have lumber for their floors in the log houses

Several years later, he was sawing lumber about three miles away A steam engine had come to supply the power He was met one morning slowly walking and when told he should hurry as they had the steam up he replied "there is lots of time in Canada" He was a very big man, slow in movement and speech

He sold his farm to Karl Posti and returned to Russia about 1923

**McNULTY MR. PATRICK — by Mary Whittier**

Mr Patrick McNulty filed on the N W 27-40-4 W5 in 1908 or 1910. He worked out most of the time. For some reason he never 'proved up' his homestead. As far as I know he never owned any livestock except a cat There was a hole under his shack and another in the floor When he was away the cat could go in and out. His shack was built of rough sawn tamarack boards

He did clear a few acres of land. No one seems to know where Mr McNulty came from or where he went Some think he joined up in World War I and never came back.

While he made his home amongst us, he worked out as a cook in logging camps and railroad construction camps

He loved to cook and would bake huge pies blueberry, rhubarb, evaporated apples or peaches. When he came to visit, he always brought a pie or two

The Sears family now live on this land

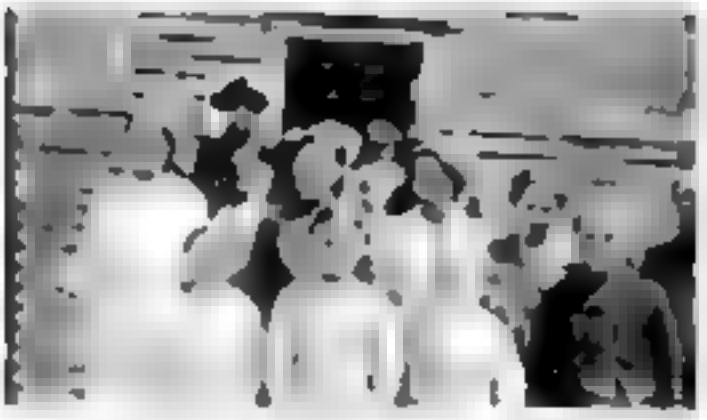
**MEDICINE VALLEY SCHOOL HISTORY — by Joan Madden**

The Medicine Valley School District No. 2577 was organized in 1911 It was decided to erect the building on NW 36-40-4-W5. A school board consisting of three local men administered, collected taxes, hired and fired the teachers, paid their salaries, and in general took care of all the business of the school The first board members were F Lawton, E. Withers and M Eagen

Eight hundred dollars was raised through debentures for the purpose of erecting a frame [illegible] repayable to bearer in ten equal consecutive annual instalments with interest at six per cent

The school was constructed two acres fenced and plowed, and classes evidently were started in 1913, with Mr Fallis as the first teacher In 1921 a barn was erected for housing eight horses that students used to ride to school

Drinking water for school use in early years was hauled in by parents who drove children to school, over what were then, nothing more than mere trails through brush, timber and sloughs Even in later years drinking water was always a problem. The quality of water from the wells drilled on the school grounds was by far superior



Top Picture Front row L. to R: Mary and Helen Gant, Olga and

waler for the down-hill slide in winter than for the purpose for which it was intended

The school carried on under this administration until it was, in 1937 absorbed into the Local Improvement District, with business administered by the Lacombe Municipal District With the centralized school it became necessary to establish a bus route to convey the pupils to and from school. This at first proved to be a difficult task, but with improved roads and snow removal equipment, it has become an accepted fact that early settlers could not even have dreamed of. The only hardship has been the steady increase in taxes to cover the cost of bigger and better buildings and the cost of better teaching staff and supplies

In 1956 the old school house was auctioned off and purchased by Dr Speers and moved to a site southeast of Eckville and is at present being used as a residence

In reading the old minutes one notes an odd coincidence Frank Lawton's name is the first in the minutes of 1911 and the final meeting of the school board was adjourned by his son, Derrick Lawton, in April 1948

Teachers who taught through the years at the Medicine Valley School include. Mr Fa.ds. 1913-1914, Miss Helen Lockart Mrs. Urich Miss Effie Story 1916, Miss Bessie Buchan, 1917 Mr Egan, Mrs. Taylor, Mr McDonald, Mrs Lawrence, Mr Wm. Frame, 1919; Miss Olga Lakevold, Mr Wm. Frame, 1921, Mr Coffee Miss Hattie Dobbs, 1922-1924 Mrs. Levore Graham, 1924-1927 Miss Sophia Tipman, 1927 1929. Miss McFarlane, 1929-1930; Mrs Raymond Lewis, 1930-1932, Miss Tipman, 1932-1934 Edward Tipman (Sub.), Miss Selma Pykalainen, 1934-1936; Mr Ado Tipman, 1936-1937 Mr. Al White, 1937 1940; Mrs. M Nelson. 1940-1942 Mrs. Anne Lawton, 1942, Mrs. G. McCann, 1942 1943 Mr Billy Nill, summer of 1943; Mrs Watson, 1943-1944. Mrs. Edna Anderson. 1944 1945; Mr W Kitch, 1945-1947; Miss Gladys Johnson (supervisor) 1947-1948 Mr Gordon Gibson, 1948; Mrs Edna Von Holland, 1948 1950: Mrs Don Ross, 1950 Mr E. Lowe, 1950 1951, Mr and Mrs. G. Gibson 1951 1953 and Mrs Mary Siebia, 1953-1955

**MEDICINE VALLEY, N.E. 28-40-4-W5 — by Mary E. Whittier**

This land was homesteaded by John Wick, in the 1910-1913 era. The family put up a very well built log house and barn. The latter is still in use The Wick family did not stay many years in the district

In 1914, the M. Gant family spent the winter in these buildings before leaving for the U.S.A

In 1920 Mr and Mrs. Frank Nugent bought the farm, where they lived until 1925, then moved to the Leedale district

In 1926 Mr Matt Jackson and daughter Ilma moved in. They had formerly lived south of Wood Lake (Gabriel Lake), where Mrs. Jackson had passed away

In 1929 Mr Jackson became very ill. He passed away in January of 1930. Ilma sold the cattle and goods and went out to work. She married Ben Piestead and moved to Calgary

In March of the same year Mr and Mrs. R. J Whittier moved on to this place, where their first son was born. That fall the land was sold to Mr

Frank Anderson. Mr Anderson had worked at railroad construction in the U.S.A in the earlier days. He had returned to his native Sweden married and raised a family Then with his son Evart he came to this district. In 1935 Evart took over the farm and Mr Anderson returned to Sweden to live out his remaining years. In 1937 Evart sold to Mr William Rourke of Calgary and moved to Red Deer He worked and made his home there for many years He retired in 1977 and now resides in Bentley

Mr Rourke never lived on this land, but rented it out During the winter of 1937 38 Charlie Johnson and William Lilkala rented the buildings while they carried on a logging and sawmill operation on the Whitmer land

In 1945 Mr and Mrs Nugent bought the farm again, where they lived until they sold to the Jan Szpajcher family who are the present owners

**THE VALLEY — by Mary Whittier**

We stopped our car beside the road and got out. We were on top of the Medicine Hill on Highway 51. The view before us was beautiful - a wide, fertile and prosperous valley It was ten miles before the road vanished over the Blue Berry Hill to the west and as far as the eye could see north and south.

Industry was mixed with the wonderful farm and as numerous farms and gas plants dotted the landscape Good black-top and gravel roads made a net work between the well kept farms

setting sun turning the jagged peaks of the distant Rockies to the south west to gold and crimson. As the light faded the lights of Eckville started to come on Then lights at the gas plants As we looked over the valley the mercury lights came on in a mystical of farm yards It was a wonderful sight the Valley of Home

In 1910. my father stood in this self-same spot and looked west. The terrain was the same But he stood on a narrow rutted trail, which wound down the hill searching for the easiest grade Then across the valley, following the highest ground to avoid pot holes and swamps. It vanished over the western hills as only a cut line

The land in between was a mixture of spruce poplar and willows with a few open prairie areas and the hard earned small fields of homesteaders showing up like patches on a multi-colored quilt He started slowly down the hill toward his "Homestead and Happiness" and hardships

**EARLY SPORTS**

Baseball and making and learning to walk on stilts were some of the summer recreations

In winter they made skis by sawing them from a bent tamarack tree They were kept soaking in the range reservoir, then attached to the open beam in the low ceiling to get a perfect bend. A strap was tacked on. This had to be redone quite often It was a relief to the household when the snow melted

Staves from wooden barrels with the end pointed served very well, too. It was quite usual to go over the hills for a long moonlight bike

Tamarack also was used for very well built hand sleighs. Heavy tin or steel on the runners a braided binder twine for a rope

Ice was cleared on the Medicine River The young people gathered on Sunday afternoon or evening in the moonlight to enjoy themselves around a big fire

**MEMORIES OF THE MEDICINE PIPE VALLEY — by Virginia Miller Krispin**

We, my mother, two sisters, my brother and myself. arrived in the valley in July 1922, at Lesliеville. We were totally unprepared for the ruggedness of the territory, as my two brothers who had gone north in the spring failed to give us any details

Our future home turned out to be a rustic log cabin set some distance back from the road and surrounded by huge trees. It had been poorly kept and there was much work to be done It was very inadequate for seven people, but we set out to make it do

We pitched a tent by the house and by placing the springs over two large logs and the mattresses on the springs we had a lovely outside bedroom for the summer I am sure that the rest of the family did not share my enthusiasm, but to me it was a great adventure. One great change was learning to bake and heat, using wood instead of coal. Our cooking survived as we learned to use dry wood for the first layer in the stove to get the fire going, with green wood on top to hold the fire. It took about two weeks for my brother and I, using an axe and cross-cut saw to cut down a year's supply of fire-wood. This was done during the winter as the logs were loaded on sleigh runners, then secured with logging chains to be hauled home

Ours was a community of mixed farming, and after a devastating hail storm, when you stood and watched the summer's work being washed down gullies, it was good to have something else on which to fall back. We took cream to the creamery in Eckville every week and this served as our grocery money

The people were very friendly and easy to know Our nearest neighbors were the Lawton family and we became good friends

Pastime for the young people was going to dances, both near and far away Transportation in the area was by horses and buggy. People drove for miles to attend dances which were held in school houses or dance halls in the vicinity Music for these events was furnished by anyone who could play, and they would take turns playing so that everyone had a chance to enjoy dancing On Sunday afternoons a group of the men would get together and play baseball, and we enjoyed watching the games

My favorite pastime was riding horseback It was wonderful to have miles of open land and be

able to roam free. I enjoyed riding through small clearings which were filled with wild roses and I am glad that the wild rose is emblematic of Alberta

Wild raspberries and strawberries were plentiful and in the fall there were blueberries to pick

Our first post office address was Leafland, which was only a house in the area to which the mail was delivered and you picked it up there Then we moved to a farm near Gilby adjoining the Bardenhagen homestead. Gilby was a very small place consisting of a general store and post office combined, and two small buildings. Our next move was to Eckville and after spending about a year there I left to go to Toledo, Ohio, U S.A

My memories of Medicine River Valley are mostly pleasant and happy ones, so much so that the unpleasant ones have faded with the passing years

**MOTTUS, DR. EDWARD H**

From a news item released by the public relations department of Monsanto, and datelined St Louis, Missouri December 6, 1971 comes the following information

Dr Edward H. Mottus, a science fellow with the corporate research department, Monsanto Company, has been appointed to the position of senior science fellow in recognition of his significant contributions in polymerization catalysis

Monsanto developed the titles of science fellow senior science fellow and distinguished science fellow to recognize superior contributions made by its scientific personnel. This advancement plan for key scientific personnel makes it possible for individuals to advance in the organization through their scientific or technological work rather than through increased administrative responsibilities

This is Dr Mottus's second step in the scientific advancement plan. "Since his appointment to the position of science fellow in 1967, Dr Mottus has continued to demonstrate exceptional

A native of Eckville, Alberta, Canada Dr Mottus received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Alberta in 1949 and a Ph.D degree in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1952. He also served as a postdoctoral Fellow with the National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa from 1952 to 1953

Dr Mottus joined Monsanto in 1953 as a chemist with the former central research department in Dayton, Ohio. In 1961 he transferred to the former research and engineering division in St. Louis From 1962 to 1965, Dr Mottus served as a research specialist with that department and in 1965 he was appointed a senior research specialist in corporate research Recent work by Dr. Mottus has led to new catalyst systems for polyethylene which are the subject of several issued and pending patents His latest work, involving copolymers designed for outstanding barrier properties for food and beverage packaging, has been innovative productive and of direct use to Monsanto

Dr Mottus lives with his wife, the former Ruby Land, and his three children

**NOREM, MR. AND MRS. O. T. — by Thelma Lee —**

Mr and Mrs. O T Norem came to Medicine Valley from Wyndamere, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1913, bringing with them their large family They settled on and farmed NE 3-41-4 W5 where the old home still stands. This land is now owned by John Llivam. They shipped in their possessions which included the first herd of registered Polled Hereford cattle to be brought to this part of the country

Mr Norem will be best remembered for bringing many new settlers to Medicine Valley and the surrounding area by selling real estate He also served as secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Valley school district for some years

Mr and Mrs. Norem sold out and moved to the Calgary area in 1921. They and their sons. Roy Amos, Ingvald, Alfred and Olaf have all passed away Sons Howard and Morris live in Calgary and daughters, Ellen (Mrs. E. Brandt) lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U S.A Anne, (Mrs. H. Leinweber) lives in Calgary Thelma (Mrs A. Lucas lives in Drayton Valley and Ruth lives in Red Deer

**CLARA DYRLAND NOREM — by Ruth Dobbs**

Clara married Amos Norem in September, 1918 at the Dyrland home They then resided at

Provost and moved to Medicine Valley in 1921. Here they lived on the Harding place for eight years. They moved to Rimbey in the fall of 1937 where they purchased a farm two miles east and two miles north of Rimbey. On this farm they built a new house. They had two children. Their daughter Elaine was born in 1939 and son Stanley was born in 1946. Elaine married Thomas Barker of Sylvan Lake in 1959. Their three children are Deanna, born in 1961, Travis, born in 1963 and Cheryl, born in 1977. They all reside at Sylvan Lake. Stanley lives in Red Deer.

Amos and Clara Norem sold their farm at Rimbey and retired to Red Deer in 1956. Amos passed away in May, 1976 and Clara still resides in Red Deer.

**GUSTAV NYGAARD — by Emma (Jansson)**

Gust emigrated to Canada from Drammen, Norway, in April, 1912 at the age of eight years with his mother, two brothers and four sisters. They came to Ponoka, Alberta and settled in the Asker district for awhile. They then moved out of the Eckville district in 1915. In 1918 the family lived in Calgary for a short time.

At the age of 14, Gust went out to the prairies around Sibbald and Loverna to work for farmers. Farm wages weren't much at that time — only $20. a month. He worked for four years. Then he came back to the Eckville district and worked for different farmers.

In 1928 Gust purchased a quarter of Canadian Pacific Railway land, NE 23-40-4-W5, three miles west of Gilby, and started to farm.

In December 1929, Gust and Emma Jansson were married in Lacombe, Alberta, and settled down to farming. It was quite a hard time to make a living on the farm in the thirties. Farm produce was not worth much. In the spring of 1932, weaner pigs brought $1.50 each and that same fall, 210-pound pigs brought $3.00 each. Wheat and oats were very cheap, too. Good Garnet wheat was 22¢ a bushel and oats around 9¢ a bushel. Eggs would bring 10¢ a dozen. A five gallon can of cream sold for $1.50. We had to do a lot of work for very little return. The cost of farming was not as high, as we farmed with horses for the first 12 years. This was Gust's main hobby, as he just loved horses. He always liked to buy, trade and break horses for harness and riding. We bought our first tractor in 1942.

In 1936 our son, Ernest, was born. He married Darlene Goforth in 1960. They have four children, two boys and two girls. They live at Sedgwick, Alberta. There Ernest is employed by Atlantic Richfield in oil work.

In 1940 our daughter, Elsie, was born. She became Mrs. Melvin Saarela in 1958. They have three children, two girls and one boy. They live nine miles north of Rocky Mountain House. Melvin works on construction, and Elsie works at the Credit Union in Rocky Mountain House.

Both of our children had most of their school ing at the Medicine Valley School. Elsie had three years schooling in Eckville, as the Medicine Valley School was closed and in June, 1955 the children were bussed to Eckville.

In 1941 we sold the Canadian Pacific Railway land to Martin Engen and we moved to our other quarter three miles west, NW 21-40-4 W5. There we farmed until 1961. We then sold our farm to Alvin Fedderson, and moved to Eckville. Gust worked for a machinery dealer, Chester Kasha, for eight years until he retired in the fall of 1970.

**SIVEN AND SIGRID OKREG AND FAMILY — by Sylvia Le Blanc**

Dad came from Sweden in 1910, and worked in British Columbia as a logger until 1924, when he came to Alberta. He and Gust Peterson started farming together in the Newlands District. After he married Sigrid Skretting they moved to a farm a half mile east of Pearsons. There dad worked very hard on his irrigated farm until the late 40's, then because of mother's health, they moved north to Eckville in 1949. They lived here for several years. Things were not always easy when they lived in the Newlands area, as mother had asthma. They raised 10 children, but mother still found time to be a very active member of the Newlands Ladies' Club.

I, Sylvia, was the oldest child. I married Ed Babier, and we have two sons. Gary married Irene Slodkowski, and they live in Picture Butte, Alberta. Brian married Belinda Gunderson, they live on a farm east of Picture Butte. I am now Mrs. Leo Le Blanc.

Arthur married Dorothy Parsneau of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and they now live on a farm at Amy. Their seven children are Janice, Joanne, David, Susan, Sonja, Terry and Barbara.

Florence married Wallace Fritz. They lived for a time in the Newlands District, but are now living in Lethbridge. They have five children — Darryl, Derrick, Wendy, Darcy and Darren.

Laurence married Ethel Andrews. They live in Okotoks while he works in Calgary, commuting to his job. They have four sons, Dennis, Grant, Donald, and Gregory.

Margaret married Newton Houston of Eckville and they have four children, Douglas, Linda, Keith, and Sandra. They all live in Calgary.

Ray married Elma Egeland of Vauxhall. They live in Picture Butte with their two daughters, Luanne and Wanda.

Ray's twin sister, Fay married Bill Moore. He was a barber. He passed away in 1974, after a long illness. Fay works at the General Hospital in Calgary. They had three children, Sherry, Dale and Kim.

Robert married Diane Else of Calgary. He attended university and got a degree and is now teaching at Okotoks. Their home is in High River. They have four children, Bradley, Scott, Kris, and Tracy.

Gary married Lorna Park, he is an electri

clan and very interested in hockey and basket ball. Their six children are Dianne, Perry, Brian Kevin Leanne and Cindy

Donna, the youngest of the family of 10 children, married Donald Erdmann of Calgary Donna works in a bank and Don is a chartered accountant They have a daughter, Brenda

We think our parents raised a great family. though both have now passed away dad in 1957 and mom in 1960

**PARTIES DANCE TUNES AND FASHIONS [illegible]**

In the 1930's I was too young to go to public dances but I remember hearing about house parties from my classmates. It was with a feeling of loneliness that I listened to my school friends talking and laughing about what fun they had had at a Saturday night house party Little did I realize until I was much older that the party probably at the home of one of their numerous relatives — for I was the child of a late marriage and had no young relatives. Out in the cloak room on rainy noon-hours my school friends taught me to dance the schottische to the humming of the other girls. Popular tunes seemed to be "Down by the Canebrake, Close by the Mill", and waltz tunes like 'Red River Valley" and 'Springtime in the Rockies " I would listen to the little girls telling who was courting who, and where there would be a bridal shower How deliciously romantic it was to my childish mind!

Every summer, it seemed to me, the Art Garbutts had a day-long picnic out in their hayfield beside the Medicine River Mr Garbutt had built a foot-bridge high across the river to get from his tree-shaded house to his mailbox about one-fourth mile away That foot-bridge was a real work of art, or "Art" and imagination (of which Mr Garbutt was not lacking) Made of thin, supple poplar boughs, it rested on wooden supports and hung swaying in the [illegible] ding and bubbling of little rapids over slippery flat rocks reached our ears as we cautiously made our way over the bridge

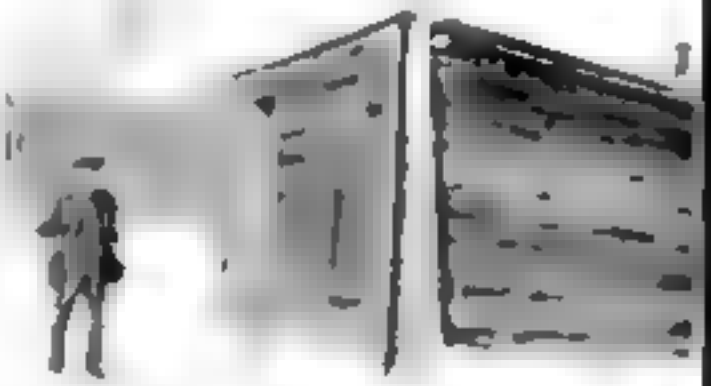
After a day of ball games and races we all went home for "chores." Then, somehow Mamma and Daddy decided that I could come back with Daddy to my first grown-up party, which was to be held at the Garbutt home that night. So, wearing my beautiful organdy (from Eatons dress, we left Mamma behind with my little brothers and walked back the one-half mile dusty road, through evening shadows, carrying our trusty coal-oil lanters. Fireflies danced and the river murmured softly as we climbed the river bank. Yellow lighted windows and jolly voices mixed with oldtime fiddle and mouth organ music reached us The rooms were full of people of all ages Some young men had brought girls by team and buggy from the district west of us. I watched from the bedroom door as the pretty young flappers" giggled and smoothed down their sleek bobs" or heated the curling iron to touch up a windblown "spit-curl" One dark and attractive girl always glows in my memory She wore a scarlet crepe formal, ruffled around her ankles and with a sash tied in the back Our 1978 fashions are very similar

Some couples played whist while others [illegible] Somehow, one of my girl friends persuaded her older brother to ask me for a dance I was twelve years old at the time and this was the first time I had ever danced at a house party I could hardly believe it as I shyly stumbled around! What a patient and polite boy he was How was I to know what fun we'd all have in four or five years dancing at our local Gilby Hall

**PETERSON, ED — by Mary Whillier**

Mr Edward Peterson came to the Medicine Valley from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, sometime prior to 1910. He settled on the S.W 27 4-4-W5

His house was a one-room, one-slope-roof shack He had found six trees, in two parallel lines, and had built a house around these with a tree for each corner and one in the center of each long wall. This was fine until there was a real heavy wind, which nearly shook the place down then the tree tops were cut off well above the roof



Mr. Peterson's shack at Gaetz Junction

He never married, but was a good friend and neighbor One of the most pleasant memories of him, was his sugar lumps. No child ever came to his place without being treated to sugar lumps

In 1929 after a lengthy illness he passed away in the Red Deer Hospital. M Gant bought the land. In 1933 he sold it to Reg. Whillier, who cleared it all but ten acres left for a wind-break

In 1974 it was sold to Gene and Lorrie Sears

**PRAUSE, FRANK**

Frank Prause came from Minnesota, U.S.A. to Lacombe, where he worked for some time. In 1910, he filed on the NW 32-40-4-W5.

He was a thrifty, hard working man of German descent and farmed with oxen.

In 1919, he became ill with cancer and held an auction sale. Frank Lawton bought the farm for $2000. He returned to Minnesota, taking treatments in Rochester, passing away years later.

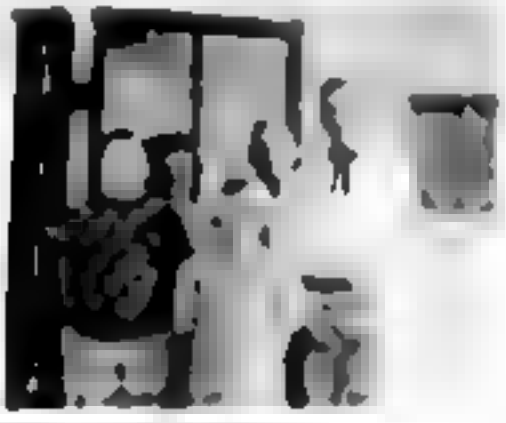
Lawton Brothers now own the land.

**THE PREGODA FAMILY — E 10-40-4-W5**

I. Fred Pregoda was born in Edmonton, December 13, 1915 and at the age of three moved to the Lavesta district (Rimbey) where I spent most of my growing up years and got my education.

In the fall of 1946 I bought one quarter of land from the late Thomas Gardner for the sum of $2080. $1040 cash and $1040 spread over 10 years. Two years later I bought another quarter from the late Bert Westlake for the sum of $1500 cash. There were no buildings, no wells and only some wires hanging on the brush for fences. There were about 30 acres broken on the half-section and in the time we were there we cleared and broke 100 acres.

In 1952, I married Joan Phillips of Sleepy Valley area and from this marriage there were born three children, two boys and one girl. When the oldest boy was about school age we decided to move some place closer to school, as we were on the outside boundary from the nearest schools. In the fall of 1958 we sold our land in Leedale to the late Ole Rushfeldt for $8080 cash and through our good friend, the late Chester Kasha, found the holdings we now have, which originally belonged to Mr. James Simmons.



This summer of 1977 we had a visit from Mrs. Simmons. She wanted to see the old place and take some pictures. She informed us that one of her babies was buried in our yard. She lives in Hardin, Montana and is 75 years old. The Simmons left in the early 30's and the land was purchased by the late Carson Bardenhagens from whom we acquired it. We have cleared and put under cultivation another 100 acres since we came here and made other improvements as well.

The wife and I are now retired and our youngest son, Keith, has the land. Our eldest son, Daniel, has the original Herman Lapp land which is five miles east of us. We can see him working in the field from our living-room window with binoculars, on a clear day.

Dan is married to Carol Solberg of Bentley district and they have two children, Eldon and Cory. They lost an infant son.

Our daughter Shirley is in her first year of College, taking nursing.

We have enjoyed reasonably good health and the land has been good to us. We hope to have a few more years to enjoy our retirement on the farm, where we have reserved the residence and garden spot.

**BECHY, JOHN — by Joan Hadden**

Mr. John Bechy came from Lacombe about 1905 and filed on the N.E. ¼ 34-40-4-W5. He cleared and farmed the land with oxen. He was a bachelor and a wonderful friend to all the settlers. He had built a very small lumber shack, the tar paper siding being held on with laths. It was just large enough for a single bunk, a table and a cook stove.

One day he asked Mrs. Lawton how she liked homesteading and as there was no going back to a different life, she said it was wonderful. John replied that it must have been a terrible place where she came from!

About 1912 he sold to Mr. Burton and returned to Lacombe. Mr. Randler was the next owner who came from Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A. with his wife and son, Howard. They brought cattle and horses with them. He had a lovely team of driving horses, a cutter, a whip in the socket and a heavy lap robe lined with red.

The first car in the area was seen at their place. After a few years they returned to Washington, selling out to Mr. Gerlinger of Leedale. About the time the Randlers left, a ball of light was seen. It appeared to be on the large gate post. Other times it was seen in the swamp or along the creek that ran through the farm. It was named "Randler's Ghost" and continued to be seen for many years.

a number of times. Mr. Gerlinger had the land farmed by Harry Berry. The Berry's first daughter was born there, and the birth was attended by Mrs. Lawton.

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lawrence bought the land from Gerlinger. Mrs. Lawrence taught the Medicine Valley school for two terms. In 1928 their daughter Hazel was born, and in that same year they sold out to Leo Zaleski, who in 1928 sold it to Hank Bezanson.

Edgar Smale bought the farm from Mr Bezanson in 1934 and farmed it until his death in 1973. His son Mark now farms and lives on the land

**THE HANS REIRSON FAMILY — by Martha Reirson**

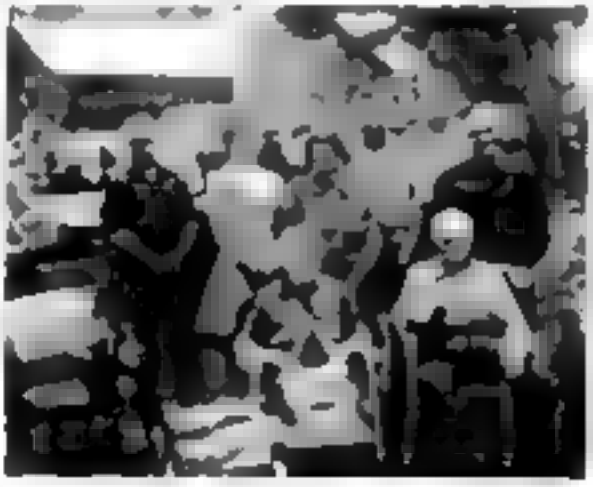
Hans Reirson left Norway for North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1906. In the fall of 1908 he came to Lacombe, Alberta and took a homestead. He worked for an elderly couple that winter and the next spring he came out to the homestead to cut logs and build a shack. Bob and John Larson came out at the same time, as they had filed on land, too. It was necessary to clear land and to get some land broken as well as build the necessary buildings. The breaking of the first acres had to hired, as the homesteaders did not have enough money to buy horses, as horses were high priced in those days. Jack Amburs broke the first few acres

In 1912 Hans bought a team of horses from Roy Holsey and one from Bill Shoup and started to break up land for neighbors at three dollars an acre. Hans proved up on his land at this time, got his citizenship papers, and took a loan to finish his new house that he had started the year before. In 1913 he married me (Martha Larson and the next year we had our first-born, Gustaf

In 1915 a daughter Clara, was born. Louis was born in 1917 and died in 1936, being nearly nine years of age Reidar was born in the fall of 1918 John in 1921 and Herman in 1923. Harry was born in 1925 and died in 1929, at four years of age Allan was born in 1926. Robert in 1931. Judith in 1933. Lloyd in 1934, and Joyce in 1936. Joyce passed away in 1944 at the age of eight years

The 1930's brought hard times for us, as for everybody else. We got eight cents for butterfat in shipping cream, and eggs were four cents a dozen. However we did not sell eggs at that price — we just fed them to the calves. Hans and the boys were farming with horses for many years In the 1930's a disease came and afflicted the horses. Good horses got sick and lingered on for awhile and then died. We lost quite a few and our neighbors did, too

In 1923 we had a set-back. We had a very nice wheat crop on the south quarter There were six big stacks of it, but one night they burned to the ground Hans felt very badly about it — even thought about selling everything and leaving, but finally decided to stay. In 1964 or 1965 we had another fire. Lightning struck the pig-brooder house and killed the sow and young pigs. It happended in the evening while some friends were visiting. Everybody went out to fight the fire and got soaking wet from the rain. Other neighbors saw the fire and came to help, too, but they could not do much with the burning brooder house. However they did save the building close to it where the feed and hammermill were stored. They carried water and splashed it on the walls and roof



In the earlier years, before we started to use coal, they hauled a big pile of wood to be sawed up for the cookstove and heater, and it kept us warm. It did not cost much except for the work The man who sawed it got some pay, but for the rest of the crew you just changed work with your neighbors and helped them back They cut the logs for wood in the fall after harvest and hauled it home when the snow came

In those days when someone died the neighbors went together and dug the grave and after the burial they all took a hand and covered the grave again. Funerals were held at the home Even some of the coffins were home-made, and were very nice, too. The Larson brothers made some, with the help of Ed Pederson and Charlie Wardell Times have changed, and this is not done any more

**THE ROLFSEN FAMILY -by Family Members**

Rolf Rolfsen came from Norway to Canada in 1908, locating in Calgary Two years later he was

joined by his wife, Marie, and three children Emil, Connie, and Edward. The family remained about two months in Calgary, and then came to the area northwest of Gilby, where Mr Rolfsen acquired a homestead. The family lived with John Anderson while Mr Rolfsen, aided by the neighbors, built a house on his homestead

In the spring of 1913 the settlers in the community felt the need of better mail service, with the result that a post office was established in the Rolfsen home. Because this was in a wooded area, and the leaves were so numerous and so beautiful, Mrs. Rolfsen named the post office "Leafland." Victor Mattson had the contract to bring the mail from Gilby to the Leafland post office. This mail service was continued until the Rolfsen family moved to a location just a mile and a half east of Gilby. This location is still referred to as "The Rolfsen Corner

During the time spent on the homestead Ralph, Norman and Martin were born. Edward, at the age of 15 years, was killed in an accident caused by a run-away team. In 1929 Mr and Mrs Rolfsen, with the three younger children, moved to a farm near Bluffton, Alberta, where they lived until 1940, when they moved to Rimbey for their retirement. Mr Rolfsen passed away in June, 1947 and in 1948 Mrs Rolfsen and Martin moved to Vancouver Island, B.C. Mrs. Rolfsen lived in Nanaimo until her death in February, 1959. Both she and Mr Rolfsen were buried in the Gilby cemetery

In 1922 Emil went to British Columbia where he worked for a year in the mines before going to the United States. Here he spent about 10 years working in the woods in Oregon and Colorado, and four years in California. He was married in 1940 to Velma Wilson, of Rawleigh, California. Following their marriage, Emil and Velma spent six years at Anchorage, Alaska where Emil was foreman for the city of Anchorage for five years. They returned to Alberta in 1946 and spent the next two years on a farm near Rimbey before Emil again heeded the call of the west, and they located in Westminster, B.C. Here he spent 24 years as the owner and operator of a coffee shop and pool hall. In 1972 Emil returned to Eckville for retirement. His wife, Velma, had passed away in March, 1968 and was buried in California

Norman married Elsie Lenglet, of Bluffton, and they have made their home in Nanaimo B.C. Martin also lives in Nanaimo; he has never married.

Ralph Rolfsen and Lilly Sjostrom, of Bluffton were married in 1938 and went to British Columbia to make their home. Ralph was employed in the woods there until 1956, when they returned to Alberta. They lived at various locations in the Gilby and Eckville area until they bought a home in Leslieville in 1968. Ralph was very interested in hunting and pitching horseshoes. He participated in many horseshoe pitching tournaments, and the many trophies that he had won over the years are proof of his skill in the game

January 21, 1977. His wife, Lilly, continues to make her home in Leslieville

Six children were born to Ralph and Lilly Rolfsen. Ronald was born in Wainwright, B.C. on May 26, 1939. He married Judy Mason, and they are now living in Oyama, B.C. where Ronald has a business of digging basements and pipe lines. They have four children: Gloria, Darcy Malcome and Harold

Allan married Viola Heikkinen and they live in Leslieville. He was born in Rimbey on July 28 1940. Their two children are Charlotte and Lori Ann. Allan has worked with the oil industry for many years. Viola works at the Eckville Hospital

Betty was born in Rimbey on May 26, 1941. She married Ron Severson, and has three children—Dawn, Pam and Todd. Betty works as an aide in a hospital in Edmonton

Marion was born on February 5, 1945, in Rimbey. She married Dick Bangle. They have two children, Teresa and Daryl. Marion is a housewife and Dick is a diamond driller

Clarence was born February 13, 1951 at Duncan, B.C. He married Cathy Bangle, and they

Clarence is employed by Murphy Oil. Cathy was working as a janitor's helper until she was in a car accident in 1976, which resulted in a broken leg. The original set of the broken bones was not a success, so in July of 1977 she had it reset, and is now much better. Their two children are Clinton and Christopher

Lynn married Rick Tomiuk and they live in Edmonton. Lynn works with Edmonton Telephones and Rick is a tobacco salesman. Lynn was born on March 24, 1956

In 1921 Connie Rolfsen was married to John Huseby, and lived with her husband on a farm east of Gilby. During 1930 and 1931 they lived at Prince Rupert, B.C., but returned to their farm and lived there until 1938. During the next 10 year period they rented and lived on the Thorpe farm north of their own farm. The remainder of John's life was then spent on his own farm where he passed away in 1961. He is buried in the Gilby cemetery. After his death Connie spent some time in British Columbia working for her brother Emil, and also spent some time on her farm which was being operated by her son, Kenneth. In 1973 Connie moved to Eckville, where she has since made her home

Connie and John Huseby had four daughters and two sons, all except the two youngest being born at the farm home near Gilby. Harvey, who was born on March 26, 1921, married Josephine Lawrence, a teacher from Aden, who taught at the Andrew and Lockhart schools. They now live at Surrey, B.C., where Jo is still teaching and Harvey is employed in construction work. Their two daughters are Melody and Cheryl

Muriel was born August 19,1923. She married

Martin Engen of Eckville and they live on a farm west of Gilby. They have four daughters—Dorothy, Norma, Kelly and Holly.

Thelma was born August 23, 1925 and married Roy Engen. They lived on the old Engen farm, west of Gilby. Their children were Leanne and Leonard. Thelma died in 1969, in October. She is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Violet was born October 18, 1927 and married Gordon Carroll of Gilby. They now live in Kitimat, B.C., where Gordon works in the Al-Can aluminum plant. Their children are Maureen, Gary, Sherry (who passed away at the age of 11 months), Jack and Shirley.

Ruby was born in Bentley on May 19, 1932. She married George McTighe of Gilby in January, 1951. They live in Eckville and George has been employed in the oilfield business. Their children are Susan and Robert.

Kenneth was born on October 9, 1934 in Bentley. He married Bernice Dyrland of Gilby and they live on the Huseby farm in the Gilby area. Their children are Marilyn, John, Brian, Karen, Kevin and Travis.

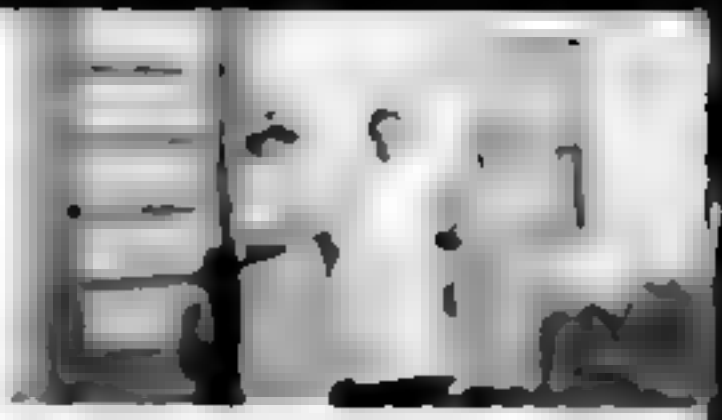
**MARTIN SESTRAP FAMILY**

Martin Sestrap and Emmeline Peebo both were born in Estonia. At an early age, they migrated to Russia and secured employment with Russian Prince and Princess Walkonsky. While thus employed Emma travelled all over Europe with her mistress, learning to speak six languages fluently. After her arrival in Canada her services were much in demand for translating and for explaining business transactions to those who were not familiar with the English language spoken in Canada.

In the early 20th century Canada became a pot-pourri of ethnic peoples. Among those migrating from Estonia were the Sestraps — Martin, Mike and Gustav. Mike arrived on January 21, 1905, and filed on a homestead on N.E. 30-40-3-W5. Martin soon answered the call to the new land, and arrived on April 20, 1905, settling on S.W. 30-40-3-W5. Two years later Gustav (Gust) followed his brothers to Canada and homesteaded on S.E. 30-40-3-W5, later moving to S.W. 6-41-3-W5. Gust married Jenny Kemila, but in 1919 they, with their three children, moved to Moorcroft, Wyoming, U.S.A. Martin's wife, Emma, did not emigrate to Canada until 1967, when she came to join her husband.

Like all pioneer women Emma worked alongside her husband, clearing land, harvesting, feeding livestock and raising a huge garden. Along with all of this, she raised a family of four children: Leyda, Alma, Olga, and Robert. Nevertheless, she always found time to lend a helping hand to neighbors in need.

By hard work and good management Martin was able, though the years, to build up the biggest farm enterprise in the area west of Lacombe. He acquired a fine herd of Hereford cattle along with hundreds of acres of land which had, over a period of twenty years, been cleared of trees and bush and much swamp land drained and made suitable for cultivation. Martin was also a carpenter, blacksmith and farrier of repute. Farmers brought unmanageable horses to him to be shod. He made the shoes in his shop and thus a perfect fit resulted for every horse.



Martin's energies were not spent entirely on his own affairs. He was a community-minded pioneer who believed in enrichment education and young people were his pride and joy. For many years baseball games, which drew spectators and players from great distances, were played on the Sestrap farm. For several years community picnics also were held here. Later under Martin's leadership, the Gilby Hall was built by the men of the community, and this then became the center of community activities.

Another of his community projects was a rural telephone line. The Sestrap family owned one of the first telephones north of Eckville, and Martin assembled his neighbors who were in need of phone service and had little money to finance it, and organized twenty or more people who developed a barb-wire telephone system. Martin installed a switch in his house, which enabled his family to transfer calls for neighbors over the barb-wire system. This the family gladly did without remuneration, as a public service. Many times in the dark of the night and in the fiercest winter weather the Sestraps were asked

neighbors without phone service. Every request

In the early days the Sestrap farm was a stopping place between Lacombe, Leslieville, and Rocky Mountain House for travel-weary pioneers with their horses or oxen. All were sheltered without question and later sent on their way. The ranch was named by the family "Mersioa Farm". The name was made up of the initials of all members of the family.

In 1927 Martin lost his life through a farm accident. This left his widow, Emma, to carry on the successful operation of the farm, along with the assistance of her children, until her retirement. She passed away in 1955.

Leyda, the eldest daughter of Martin and Emma, graduated from the U. of A. in 1934 with a degree in medicine. She later served in the Army

Medical Corps for four years. Following advanced study with Menninger Clinic, she became a Doctor of Psychiatry which she practiced until her death in 1973.

Alma married August Lilyam in 1932, and they raised a family of six sons and one daughter while farming in the Gilby area

Olga married Martin Stenvig in 1938 and they had four girls and one boy They also continued to live in the Gilby area

Robert an orchardist and contractor owns his own extensive cherry and apple orchard. He has his own cherry cannery and produces quantities of commercial apple cider He operates an airstrip on the farm. He married Elizabeth Betsy) Wax and they live on Vaslon Island. They have two girls and one boy

**THE FAMILY OF JAMES WILLIAM SHORROCK — by Edna Carrok**

Jim Shorrock originally came to Canada in 1899 from Manchester, England. His father William Shorrock. and mother, Alice (Taylor) Shorrock. were in the jewellery business. Jim was an accountant and worked for Boddington's Brewery in their office. He was also in the Cadets

Jim came to the Jones Ranch at Lacombe as [illegible]red immigrant to work as a "bronc and all-round hired man. There was no Bentley town at that time As the Jones family were London music-hall entertainers, they really had no idea of farming methods and. to hear Jim tell about it. it was a hilarious time. When money ran low they would go to Edmonton where they hired out as entertainers, as they were talented in music and comedy. Thus, Jim did not learn much from them about farming Soon he left to take up a homestead at the west side of Gull Lake, on what is now the Gideon farm. To add to his income he took a job at Cummings sawmill which later became the farm of Alice Shirtcliffe

At 14 years of age his brother. Walter arrived in Lacombe accompanied by two older sisters When the sisters returned to England they left Walter with Jim. After trying homesteading for awhile the two boys went to Hardisty In about 1906 or 1907 There Jim became a partner with a Mr Small and another man in the storekeeping business. Jim was also the postmaster there. The Johnson Brothers, who, with their father later moved to the Gilby area, were also in Hardisty running a hotel. That was the year there was a severe blizzard which stopped the trains from

In 1910 Jim and Walter went to Calgary where Jim worked in the Hub Cigar Store. Walter worked on a surveying crew out of Calgary While living in Calgary Jim joined the "Calgary Rifles" for five years. He also worked near the present town of Banff, at Bankhead Mines. as a carpenter's helper under a very fine man by the name of Peyto. For a time he was also night desk-clerk at the new Banff-Springs Hotel)

After returning to Calgary the Shorrock brothers met and married two lovely Irish sisters from the McIlveen family Jim married Meg in November, 1911. Walter married Fanny about two years later Jim and Meg had one little daughter named Alice Nancy For a short time they lived on Jim's homestead at Gull Lake, then Jim enlisted for overseas service in the Calgary Infantry as a Drill-Sergeant Before leaving for overseas he sold his farm and effects, with the young Clarence Damron as auctioneer This sale was was in March. 1916

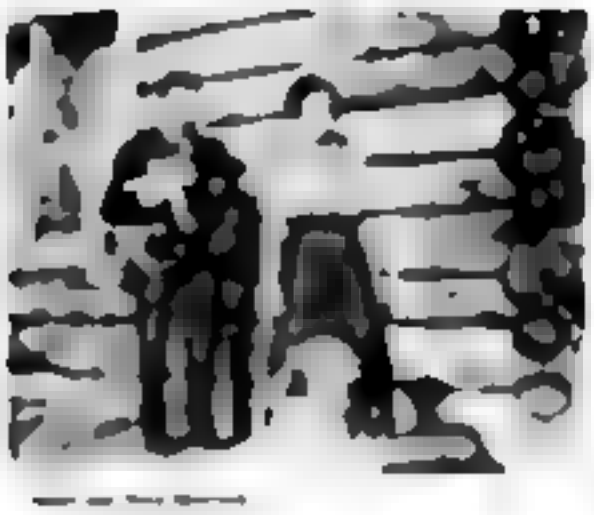
Im left Calgary with the 103rd Regiment, as a Bayonet Instructor and Lightweight Boxing Instructor He was wounded in action twice on October 25 and on October 27 1917 and spent seven months in an English Hospital, as a result Then he was sent back to a convalescent hospital in Victoria. B.C., where his wife and baby daughter joined him for a time. Returning to Calgary after 18 months in hospital with the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major, and a Military Medal. he found that his marriage had ended His daughter Alice was with relatives, so Jim's sister Florence came from England to care for Alice. Florence later returned to England, taking Alice with her to live with her grandparents in Manchester Alice began her schooling there

In 1920 Jim joined his brother Walter and wife Fanny at Gilby where they ran the store and post office. They formed a partnership under the name of Shorrock Bros. Jim also was a notary public and justice of the peace At that time there was also a blacksmith shop at Gilby across from the store. run by Mr Bill Chadbourne

Many people dealt at the Gilby Store from all around the country, and came to get their mail and to chat There were many bachelors in the Leafland area just west of Gilby, who never married but lived in the area for many years

One of the young ladies who came for the mail was Miss Norah Porter from the Benjamin district, recently arrived with her parents from Council Bluffs, Iowa, U.S.A. Norah rode her horse about three miles across the unfenced Medicine Valley to the store. There she met the Postmaster Jim Shorrock, and on August 23 1923 they were married at the home of her parents. It was a lovely summer day and the ceremony was on the lawn, with a few close neighbors, making it a very happy occasion Some of the guests at the wedding were the Lands and the Laves from nearby Jim's sister Eveline from the States. bought Norah s wedding dress It was a lovely silk in an apple-green, complimenting Norah s auburn hair

By this time the Shorrock Brothers had dissolved their partnership. with Walter and Fanny getting the store and Jim taking over the farm which they had acquired, about four miles northwest of the store of S.E 1-41-4-W5. So Jim and Norah, along with his sister Flo and ten year-old Alice went to live on the farm. After Alice had attended school at Medicine Valley for



about a year her Aunt Flo accompanied her to the home of their sister Evelyne Mildmore, in the States. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Mildmore then raised Alice as their foster-child. It was an unhappy parting for Jim and his child. However they kept up a steady correspondence and remained in touch by occasional visits between Portland, Maine, and Gilby.

Jim and Norah Shorrock had three children. Edna was born in May, 1924. Alan was born in February of 1928, and Clifton was born in May of 1932. All three children were born at home, with Mrs. Sam Dyrland as midwife.

Irene Edna attended school at Medicine Valley with her first teacher being Mrs. Lewis. After finishing Grade 8, she went to the Eckville High School, boarding at the home of Mr. Robert Gish, of the Atlas Lumber store, but finishing out the year at the Andrew School. The next year she boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mann, Imperial Bank manager. Her Grade 10 teacher was Mr. Jack Lewis (no relation to her grade one teacher). Her years at school were happy ones, due in part to her excellent teachers. Edna married Charlie Carroll in September, 1941.

Alan and Clifton Shorrock both attended the Medicine Valley and Andrew's Schools. Later Alan enrolled in Olds Agricultural College for one term. They both took over the farming at a young age due to their father's war wounds, making it hard for him to handle heavy equipment and modern ways of farming.

In later life Mrs. Shorrock was an invalid brought on by diabetes, and the brothers took care of the home from then on. Mrs. Shorrock passed away in May, 1971 at the Calgary Foothills Hospital. She was buried beside her parents at the Rimbey Cemetery.

James William Shorrock passed away at the Calgary Belcher Veteran's Hospital in October, 1959. He was carried to rest by an Honor Guard of Veteran's from the Red Deer Legion of which he was a longtime member. Burial was in the Military Plot on Michener Hill, overlooking Red Deer city.

Both of them remained in good and cheerful spirits through long illnesses, and were an inspiration and a help to their children and grandchildren. They leave four children and nine grandchildren. Also two great-grandchildren from the family of Jim's first daughter.

The second generation of Shorrock Bros. continue to farm the homeplace near the Medicine River. They raise Hereford cattle. The cattle breed has been registered in their name since 1900.

After graduating as a nurse in Portland, Maine, the daughter, Alice Mildmore Shorrock married Mr. Hugh Wainwright, a draftsman, and they lived at Marblehead, Mass., where their son Stephen was born. In short time Hugh Wainwright passed away and later Alice was remarried to Mr. Russel Copithorne. They have one son also, named Dick, who is about 20 years old and living at home in Topsfield, Mass., — Alice began an unusual craft shop between her marriages and was very successful. She manufactures creatively formed wooden dolls from a hardwood, dressing them in authentic old-time costumes.

Her shop is under the name of "Polly Shorrock." Alice has two grandchildren, named Beth-Anne and Parmeen, of her son Stephen Wainwright.

**THE WALTER SHORROCK FAMILY — by Mrs. Walter (Fannie) Shorrock Age 87**

Jim Shorrock homesteaded three miles from Gull Lake in 1899. Three years later his younger [illegible] Walter came out at the age of 15 years. [illegible]er left to go to Banff to work for Brewster's. Jim left the farm and came to Calgary where he met and married my sister, Meg. I later came to visit them and met Walter. Two years later in December 1913, we were married, and in May, 1915, Walter and I and our baby six months old, came to Eckville to work in Mike Sestrap's store.

At that time Mr. McIntosh was the manager of the bank. At first there was no house for us and we stayed with Mrs. Matchett, until Dan Clausen, who worked for Mike, left to manage the Gilby Store. There was a Co-op Store at Eckville at that time. The Clausen's had been living in part of the house owned by Mike Sestrap and the McIntosh family lived in the other half. Although I had been in Canada since 1905 all this was new to me and the place was strange to me.

Walter and I moved to the Gilby Store. The first World War was on, and I remember on many days the customers would discuss the news. At that time a schoolmaster named John Robinson taught school somewhere between Gilby and Eckville. Also at Eckville the Eckfords lived, giving their name to the village. The Gilbertson family lived near Gilby, and Gilby was named

after them. Lots of the other folks I remember whose appearance I can still visualize but whose names I do not remember

In Eckville there was a big man who ran a livery barn. He was highly thought of and respected. His name was Charlie Gustavson. Our neighbors at Gilby were the Thubrons, Oscar and Alf (Alf recently passed away). No one ever had better neighbors! Most of the people around were Scandinavian, Finnish or Estonian. Some soldiers took up homesteads after the War and brought out wives from England. The life on a farm and the loneliness was not easy for these wives.

There were very few cars in those days and in front of the old Gilby Store there was a long hitching post. I used to amuse myself guessing the weight of the horses. The mail man was a huge man named John Kemila. Another thing I remember was a woman from London who was very deaf. She and her husband and two little girls lived 13 miles north of the Gilby Store. She made the little girls' hats with crown and brims beautifully crocheted and trimmed with coloured crocheted flowers. She starched the brims. So the girls were well dressed in spite of very little money. About that time a woman whose husband had died in the house shot a man who tried to get in. He was looking through the keyhole at the time.

Another woman, an Icelander, a school teacher, I think, gave a wonderful picnic. She sent out fancy invitation cards "Picnic in the Month of Roses". Remember this was 60 years ago, but I remember the whole neighborhood sitting on an easy hillside and having a lovely time. Also, I remember a wedding where the married men were ranged on one side and the unmarried ones on the opposite side. The bachelors tossed

[redacted]

lines, singing and stomping their feet. Also they served a wonderful pink punch with froth on it. I never could get the recipe for it.

While I was there we had a few church services. There was a Mrs. Graham teaching at Medicine Valley school at that time.

First we had two heavy grey horses, Nancy and Maud, to haul freight from Eckville then we had a Chevrolet, an open car. I think the Station Agent at Eckville had the first one.

The winter of 1919 and 1920 was a long and severe one. It froze hard on the 19th of October and it stayed frozen. That must have been when the influenza killed so many people. It must have been May 20 when there was a bad snow storm. It was a long time ago, but I was in my early thirties at the time.

The different nationalities of people interested me. Sometimes in the store we had political meetings. Also, upstairs we had a room where people could stay if they were travelling

[redacted]

built, dances were held there. The store was 80 feet long and so the hall upstairs was big enough but I remember people saying that the floor swayed with the dancers and if you didn't sway with it you lost the rhythm. The Estonians could sing perfectly in tune without any instruments. One little girl I think of so often because she sang "Annie Laurie" most beautifully. I often wonder if anything was done with that voice. For a time after the Gilby Hall was built moving-pictures were shown there, and I enjoyed them.

We, as I said, came to Eckville in 1916 and there were practically no jobs. As Walter's brothers were in the war, their father thought one of the family should keep out of it. At about this time the Thubrons were breeding red polled cattle and showing them at fairs.

The Kinna brothers lived south of the store. They loved music and had a good record player with wonderful records. One of them had had an accident to his back but was good at caring for cattle and horses. There was a full basement under the store and another one under that, where we kept vegetables and fruit. The gasoline was kept on a stand at the side of the store door. The barrels were on a stand and were kept locked. One Sunday afternoon Walter and I went for a walk with the children, Billy and Freddie. When we came home the locks on the gasoline barrels were broken and the gas spilled over the veranda floor. It had seeped into the basement. Fortunately, Walter knew not to strike a match, for if he had the store would have burned.

As you know, the Medicine River is right by the store and one afternoon I was down by the river with the children and little Pat Thubron. The wife of a travelling salesman began amusing herself by shooting a 22 rifle over the river. I had Fred in my arms and a bullet just missed me. I shouted but she didn't stop until I ran up the bank.

Another thing I remember was that a young man died from west of us. He had been in the Red Deer Hospital and his body was brought home to Gilby. We were asked to keep the body in the store overnight. We had a store-room and it was left there. At the time one of my sisters was staying with us. In the evening we were sitting in the kitchen when we heard an awful racket. I suppose we were a little unnerved anyway, so Walter went into the store-room but found everything as it should be. We were still worried when he noticed that all the Christmas decorations had been knocked down by the cat.

Gilby was a different place then. No oil wells, few cars. Fred Bardenhagen used to ride with chaps. The quarter east of the store was not fenced and we drove across it to reach the road.

In May of 1918 or 1919 we had a terrible blizzard. John Kemila, the mailman, had to walk ahead of his horses first to make it possible for the horses to travel. He caught a bad cold and got rheumatism, and I don't think he ever fully recovered. It must have been about that time (because we left in 1922) that a lot of people drove their animals to the northern part of Alber

ta because of poor crops in our area. We sold the store and moved to the farm which we had bought four miles northwest of Gilby. The store was sold to Mr. Jacobs.

The Walter Shorrock family moved to British Columbia with their little sons, Billy and Freddie. Mrs. Shorrock, at the time this was written, was 92 years of age, and was living at Parksville, B.C.

**SIMMONS, JAMES S. — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

James S. Simmons and his wife, Grace, were both born in Cisne, Illinois, U.S.A. and attended school there. They were married in the early 1900's, farmed for a while, and then moved to Missouri where he worked on a dredge boat. The swamps were being dredged to make way for more farms. Later they moved to Duluth, Minnesota, where he spent several years working for the government. Later they became homesteaders in Nebraska, some 30 miles north of Ainsworth. Here they lived in a sod house and burned cow "chips" for fuel.

In 1913 Sim, as he was called, heard about how beautiful northern Alberta was. He took a hurried-up trip north to look the country over with the result that he returned home, sold his homestead, shipped stock and other belongings by immigrant train, and settled on a piece of CPR land a mile south of the Barnes homestead. Here they built a nice place, with nice buildings.

Sim and Grace had no children but they both liked young people. Each evening the young people in the neighborhood would gather at their place to play cards, dance and sing. We had many good times there. Grace passed away on August 15, 1917 and then Mr. and Mrs. Van Loon came to the Simmons farm. She cooked and he helped with the farm work, and crops were good.

After Grace's death a strong friendship developed between Sim and me, yet we were afraid to tell my folks. World War I was going full blast and finally Sim got his call to service. We decided not to marry until his return from service. Then came the Armistice in November of 1918, his orders were revoked, and we were married on November 27, 1918.

For three years we continued to farm then moved to Washington, U.S.A. and rented the farm in Canada. While in Washington we were blessed with a son, James, born in July, 1924. In 1925 the renters decided not to continue farming our place in Canada, so we returned to Canada. Through the years we had many experiences, both good and bad. From 1925 to 1927 we lost two infant girls and lost a farm building by fire. We talked things over and Sim said, "When the jinks get after you, it's time to move". This seemed the right thing to do, so we got busy and sold everything once more.

On February 18, 1927 we left the farm, with plans to return after a few years. We returned to the United States and settled at Hardin, Montana. Here, in September, a son, William, was born to us. The depression was beginning also. Montana had a drought, then a scourge of grasshoppers and crickets; and the country was the hottest place I ever lived in. So we just worked, and lived, sitting out the depression.

The boys grew, schools were good, the grade school and the high school being only three blocks away. After 11 years Janice, our only daughter, was born.

World War II ruined everyone's plans. James served overseas, came home, went back to college. As a chemical engineer he works at NASA near New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. He is married and has three sons and a daughter. Bill finished his education as a musician and is a teacher at Eastern Montana College. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He has never married. Janice and her husband are missionaries. They spent three years in Liberia, West Africa, with the Basca Tribe. They now live in Springfield, Oregon. They have three children — two boys and one girl.

Sim passed away on March 21, 1956. I am living at the family home, 730 W. Third Street, Hardin, Montana. I operate a small nursing home.

There are so many things one could write about. Memories of the past are great. We had a good life.

**SJODAHL, HUGO — by Joan Hudden**

Hugo and Julia Sjodahl filed on S.E. 4-41-4-W5 about 1910. They came from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. where he had been a plasterer. He con-

tinued that work here. They had no children, but a little white pekinese dog named Nellie gave them great pleasure. When she grew too old to enjoy living Hugo got some chloroform from the drug store and put her to sleep.

They raised a large flock of turkeys each year. The neighbors would gather to help kill and dress them. This was always a sad day for Julia as she made pets of them all.

Hugo and Julia had only one place but were hard workers and had a nice herd of shorthorn cattle when they sold out in 1922.

Hugo was councillor for the road building and also secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Valley school district for many years. They were both very kind people, always willing to help with any troubles.

They returned to Portland, Oregon and the Lawton Brothers now own the land.

**EDGAR SMALE FAMILY**

In 1933 Edgar Smale and Martha McCleary

dime, but this young couple were lucky — they had jobs. He was a baggageman with the CPR and she was a ward maid at Baker Tuberculosis Sanitorium. More lay-offs on the railroad occurred in 1934, including Edgar. With Edgar's experience working on a dairy and fox farms west of Calgary, and Martha's girlhood experience on a farm in Ireland, they decided to become farmers and purchased the NE 34-40-4 W5 in the Gilby district from a well-known district cattle dealer, Leo Zaleski. Their worldly possessions included one team of horses, seven head of female cattle of various sizes and colors, sundry farm equipment, tools and household furnishings and a 1928 Chevrolet car, which was later bartered for a second team of horses.

These were unloaded at the CPR siding at Kootuk, and they walked the 17 miles to their new home. They often looked back to an incident on the road that day. During a noon stop-over at the Sestrap farm a cow gave birth to their first calf. It was a heifer, and proved to be a good

The family soon became actively involved in community affairs. Edgar became secretary of the Medicine Valley School board in 1938 and remained on the board until the school was closed in favor of centralization in 1953. He was also secretary of the Eckville north local of Farmer's Union for several years. The family took an active part in 4-H Club work, belonging to the Benalto 4-H Beef Club, and the Grain Club. In 1951 Edgar helped organize the Medicine Valley 4-H Dairy Club and was leader for 11 years. Martha was a member of the Happy Valley Ladies' Club and could always be relied upon to lend a helping hand at showers, weddings, and serving lunches at the various community

They raised six children. Evelyn Onofryszyn of Eckville, Jack of Leduc, Doreen Pegg of Dawson Creek, Helen Nielsen of Spruce Grove, William, who was killed in an auto accident at the age of 20 years, and Mark, who resides with his wife, the former Beth Lecerf, on the family farm.

Although there were many disappointments and heartaches, lots of hard work and sacrifice they never regretted their decision to leave the city and go farming. All who knew Edgar were saddened at his untimely death in February of 1973. Martha retired to Eckville in 1976.

**SPIRES, MAURICE — by Tom Spires**

My father, Maurice Spires, was born in the Lancashire town of Salford, in 1889. His father was a Superintendent with the Post Office, and they apparently had a good home. My father was educated at Grecian Street School in Salford and his early working life was as an office boy in the cotton industry. Upon leaving, his reference consisted of three words — "smart but cheeky".

I do not know exactly when he left for Canada but I think it must have been about 1909. His elder brother, Leonard ("Len"), also went to Canada, and this necessitated the long sea voyage across the Atlantic followed by the trans-continental journey on the Canadian Pacific Railway. They arrived in Calgary, and I believe that one of my father's first jobs was at the Canadian Pacific Railway's works there. Apparently there was a queue outside the works each morning and the number of men required were selected. My father thought this was not such a good idea and so he caught the works train next morning. He presented himself at the office and was given a job on the grounds of his initiative. He also spoke of working on railroad construction with gangs of men and teams of horses, and I think this may have been the line through Eckville to Rocky Mountain House. Another job around this time was working as a gardener at the Banff Springs Hotel.

When the Great War started in 1914 Len joined the Medical Corps and was drafted to England. He got married in uniform and later served with the Canadian Forces in France. After the war he settled down in England and never returned to Canada. My father did not pass his medical examination and so did not serve in the Armed Forces.

Eventually my father decided to homestead, and joined two friends, Tom Spencer and Bill Collins in the area of Carlos, near Lesliesville. They each had a quarter section and my father obtained the title deeds in 1921. I still have these deeds, but the land was sold for taxes after the Second World War. The homesteaders managed to clear enough land to grow wheat and also kept some cattle. They built a substantial barn and had a good house to live in. But things did not go well for them, perhaps due partly to inexperience and partly to the economic conditions of the time. They decided to leave the homestead and my father and Tom Spencer got a job with

McDonald's Nurseries in Lacombe, while Bill Collins went to the Experimental Station there.

In 1924, my father received a telegram to say that his father had died suddenly and he returned to England immediately. It was always his intention to go back to Canada in due course, and he still paid the taxes on his quarter of land. He knew my mother before going to Canada, and wrote to her regularly, trying to encourage her to join him there. She was reluctant to do so, but if she had, perhaps I would have been born in Alberta.

My father spent most of his working life in England as a gardener, but he also undertook furniture repairing and French polishing. He was always a very handy sort of man and could undertake most of the repair work around the home and garden. My mother died in 1952 after a long illness and my father died in 1960.

I was brought up on Canadian names and I was as familiar with towns like Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lacombe and Medicine Hat as any Albertan. He always talked about Alberta and never gave up hope of going back, although that was not to be. He had a fund of stories, including the one about Old Mr. Ostrem, who wore bear skins and was almost shot one day in the snow. He used to tell the story of the Indian trick by which it was possible to pull out dry sand from a basinful of water. I still don't know how it's done.

One of the highlights of my life was the visit I paid to Alberta with my wife and son in 1975. We met Mrs. McDonald in Lacombe and saw the Nurseries where my father worked. Other members of the family we met were Mr. and Mrs. David McDonald in Calgary. Mr. McDonald remembered my father singing English music hall songs to him and his brother.

We stayed at Eckville with Mrs. Joan Maddox, who, as one of the Lawtons, was a neighbor of my father on the homestead. We also met the brothers of Mrs. Maddox who are still farming in the same place. We visited my father's quarter but found it was forest once again, with the exception of swaths cut for two pipe lines. The only disappointment I had was that there were no buildings left on the quarter, as I had been looking forward to seeing them. Of course, they had been built of timber and probably disappeared many years ago, either by fire or through neglect. We were able to have a picnic nearby and I was glad to see the wild rose growing there.

We also met Mrs. Madge Walls, who remembered my father and Uncle Len in Calgary. She recalled the time when my father and Tom Spencer left for the homestead with a horse-drawn wagon. As it was approaching Christmas time, Mrs. Spencer packed up the seasonal fare for them, including plum pudding. The weather deteriorated and they exchanged the wagon for a sleigh, but, unfortunately, it overturned just before they reached the homestead. When the snow melted in the spring they were able to find plum puddings in the ditch!

We were able to see the Eckville Rodeo and this was quite a thrill. My father used to talk about the Calgary Stampede which was in its early days then. We were welcomed everywhere with Albertan hospitality and it was grand to see all the places which had been only names before.

**JOHN AND ARIA THYSSEN**

John Thyssen was born in Denhuider, Holland. He grew up learning how to handle horses by driving his father's surrey, taking folks around like a taxi. While a young man he went to sea to be a sailor. After a period of time spent as a sailor he emigrated to America, to the state of Iowa. Here he met Aria Koole, but it was not until some years later that they were married, in MacLeod, Alberta, where the rest of Aria's family lived.

After their marriage John and Aria returned to Holland where their daughter Nellie was born. In 1917 they came back to Canada and settled on a farm near Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1920 a daughter, Bessie, was born.

They had so many poor years of farming that they moved to central Alberta to a place close to Gilby, known as the Robert Kelm place. Vera was born in 1923. In 1924 they moved over to homestead belonging to Louis Gant where Aria passed away in February, 1926. She was laid to rest in the Gilby Cemetery. After her death John and the two older girls left the homestead for a farm near the Gimlet school, where he lived until [illegible].

John was a very good father and neighbour, and an excellent farmer. His animals were among the best in the country, and his crops and garden also grew and produced very well. He had such an abundance of everything that he shared it with his neighbors who did not have enough. When he went out driving in his buggy or cutter it was a thrill to see those beautiful horses prancing down the road.

Bessie and Nelly grew up and went to the Gimlet School. Vera became a foster child of a wonderful lady by the name of Mrs. Sam Dyrland.

When he left the farm in 1964 John went to live in the Lodge in Rocky Mountain House, later living in Lacombe, Three Hills and Sylvan Lake. While at Sylvan Lake he broke a bone in his leg and was sent to the Lacombe nursing home. He also stayed for a while in the Rimbey Three-way Hospital and then back to Lacombe.

John enjoyed drawing and painting pictures with water colours. He gave most of the pictures away to his friends and relatives. Just a month before his 90th birthday he suffered a stroke and passed away six weeks later in the Lacombe Nursing Home. He was laid to rest beside his wife Aria in April of 1973.

Bessie married Carl Nelson in 1940 and they have seven children and several grandchildren.

Nellie lives in Red Deer

Vera married Harold Molander in December, 1944. They live in the Eckville area. They have eight children and two grandchildren

**VERA THYSSON CHILDHOOD TO MARRIAGE — by Vera Molander**

When Vera Thysson came to the home of Sam and Ellen Dyrland she was only two and a half years old and was a very sick child. They didn't think she would recover from whooping cough and scarlet fever. These were very serious diseases in those days and children weren't inoculated against them. Vera's hair was one solid mat of gum and Mrs. Dyrland and her daughter, Ruth, had quite a job cutting it all out and making it very short. She had to learn to walk all over again and also to talk, as no one was able to understand what she said. Her mother, Aria Thysson, had only spoken Dutch to her and she had to learn to speak English. She also learned to speak Norwegian while growing up in a Norwegian home. There were seven children in the Dyrland family, but they accepted Vera as a part of their family.

The school days are remembered best as she had Mrs. Lewis as one of her teachers. She had two miles to go to school through all sorts of weather. One thing Vera enjoyed doing was picking up a nice walking stick which belonged to Sam Dyrland, and off to school she would ride pretending the stick was a real horse. Most of the time she wasn't late for school, either. In winter she would be so bundled up with warm coat, shawl, mitts, and, of course, buckled overshoes. Girls didn't go to school in slacks in those days. Vera wasn't a very good student in certain subjects such as mathematics, which really riled the teachers. One teacher got so angry he broke the ruler and chalk. What does Vera do but shed tears into her book until it was wet with tears. Another funny thing which happened was that her skirt came unbuttoned and dropped to the floor while she was doing mathematics on the blackboard. The children laughed to see her standing in her green broadcloth slip. The teacher looked to see what the youngsters were laughing at and said, "Vera, pull up that skirt and fasten it." Vera had a very close friend with whom she walked to school, Mary Ophus. They had lots of fun in little play houses in the woods and when summer holidays came Vera walked the three-quarters of a mile to Mary's house to play. Lots of mud bread loaves, pies and cakes were made and decorated with dandelion leaves and flowers.

When Vera was a little girl she wore clothes which Mary's mother sewed. Mrs. Ophus was a wonderful seamstress and the clothes looked just like they had come from Eaton's Catalog.

Vera went as far as Grade 8 in school at Medicine Valley. The last two years of school in Medicine Valley were spent riding on a real horse. Grade 9 was spent in the Andrew school, going horseback from spring to the end of the term. The next five years were spent at home growing up and learning to sew and embroidering linens for her hope chest.

When Vera was staying at the John Pederson home and going to school she met her future husband. At that time no one knew that six years later they would be married in the home where Vera grew up.

Vera and Harold Molander were married the 22nd of December, 1944. They went to live in a small house built by Harold Molander with the help of his brother. He cut logs for the building in the woods that now belong to Maurice Clark. Harold sawed the logs for the house at Haapala's sawmill.

**[illegible]**

William Tilley came from Iowa about 1910 to homestead the SW 5-41-4 W5. He built a neat set of buildings near a big spring, farmed with horses and raised a small herd of good cattle. In his garden were a few rows of corn, the large ears a treat for his pigs.

On Saturday evening, he would meet with neighbors to talk over the clearing and breaking at the Rollson home who had the Leafland post office.

He was a hard working man and a good friend to all who knew him.

In 1946, he sold to Gus Osterland and moved to Red Deer where he lived until his death.

**VOSBERG, JOHN AND HILDA**

John and Hilda Vosberg both came from St. Paul, Minnesota in 1911. They were married in Edmonton. He filed on SE 5-41-4-W5 that year.

Being a carpenter by trade, he built a neat two story log house and a barn. He also built the

When their second child was born, December 25, 1915, she had developed TB. Mrs. Best, a nurse, who lived on the Houston place rode through the swamps horseback to see her several times. She passed away in March 1916. Mrs. Best took the baby but it only lived a short time. The older child, Jean, about three years old, was taken back to St. Paul to Hilda's parents.

John sold the farm to Hugo Sjodahl. He returned to St. Paul late in 1916. Dick Lawton bought the farm from Hugo Sjodahl for five hundred dollars.

**WELLS, SETH — written by Linda Gilland, Hilda Gottschlich and Harriet Stears**

Seth Wells will live on as a legend in the Meadowbrooke district in the memories of all who chanced to meet this tremendous personality. Seth was born a dwarf and lived first in the area west of Blackfalds. In size he would be approximately 36 or 38 inches tall (I think 30 inches was nearer) but what he lacked in size he more than gained in personality. His philosophy of life could never be surpassed.

Always he earned his livelihood selling spices and fruits, and boiling wagon wheels in linseed oil to preserve them. Also he sharpened discs.

In the spring of 1924 he helped put in W. J. Riley's crop following Mr. Riley's illness. He drove four horses on the disc. He sat in an apple box for a seat. He stayed around the Riley home and took Mr. Riley for rides to entertain him. At this time he had one Shetland hitched to a cart. He loved taking the girls for rides in his cart and took any girl that would go with him. He also spent some time at Elmer Gillunds.

His first means of locomotion — two bull calves he himself broke and drove to school. Gradually he promoted himself to a team of mules. Many in the Bindman district will remember his many episodes with these. Finally he purchased the famous team Dixie and Floss, his team of horses, a gray and a buckskin. They drove him around for many years in Central Alberta as he went about his work. He sang constantly — a regular Johnny Appleseed. He had two voices — a man's and a lady's.

Finally in later years he came down to driving Shetlands. Age made it most difficult to board a buggy and a wagon. It must be remembered this wee man harnessed his own mules and horses by the use of his crutches (known as T-sticks). Buzz and Bun were his ever faithful Shetland team that he drove in a cart or cutter. With ever increasing traffic and his age, he finally had to give up his driving. He made his home at Schmuland's in Millet, Alta. until his passing in his 70's. He was buried in the Ponoka cemetery by his midget sister.

I will add a few lines to their account as I knew Seth almost 40 years. Once he drove to Lacombe with a small team of mules hitched to a small red cutter. He put them in Fortune's Livery Barn and said he wanted them in three hours. When the time was up Seth hopped across the street from the barn and leaned on his crutches to see the fun. The livery man led them up to the cutter. They promptly turned and faced it. While the man turned one mule the other straddled the tongue or kept his rear end against the neck yoke. After a few minutes the man went for help. Two men could not get them faced in the right direction. Soon four men struggled. Seth hopped over and said "It took me just 10 minutes to hitch them up this morning." The men said "Let's see you do it." Seth gave each mule about three prods with his crutches and spoke in his deep voice. The little mules couldn't get into position fast enough.

Seth had grown up with mules in Missouri. He said nearly every mule had to have one lesson, tied to a post, whipped with a rawhide about half an hour and left with several cuts. If that mule lived to be 40 he would never disobey that man.

He could harness Dixie and Floss. I said I liked to see him do it. Dixie and Floss each weighed about 1100 pounds and stood at least five feet four inches. Dad had hung the harness on pegs six feet above the floor. I put each harness in front of Seth. He took Dixie's harness to an empty stall and pushed it into the manger with his crutches. Then he led Dixie in and crawled up in the manger. She swung sidways as close to Seth as she could get. He put her collar on and pushed the harness up and fastened the hame strap. Then Dixie put her head on his hands and he put the bridle on. He went in the other stall and Floss did the same.

Seth didn't like to be helped. Once I lifted him into the democrat. He weighed about 90 pounds. I could see that he was hurt.

He loved to play croquet and was an excellent player and coach. He also played cards and read.

He enjoyed playing tricks. I was planting flower seed. Seth got my mother to give him a pocketful of garden peas. He planted them behind me. Twenty-seven came up. I let them grow and they were blooming when he came to visit next time. He asked how the flowers grew. I said that he had a little job of weeding and I grabbed him by the collar and dragged him out the back door. I didn't get much farther. He whacked my shins so hard (with the T-sticks) that I had to drop him. I let the peas ripen and he shared them later on.

As I was coming home from Fort Vermilion a lady got on the bus at Millet. She told me they had taken Seth to the hospital and he was very sick. He did not recover. He certainly made the best of the life God willed he should live.

## THE WHILLIER FAMILY

The Whillier family came to the Medicine Valley in October of 1918, from Forest Lawn east of Calgary. They settled on the N.W. 27-40-4 W5, on the old Pat McNulty place. The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Whillier, Bert, Bob, and Reg. Three daughters were married and never came with the family. An older son had been killed overseas the previous year in World War I.

Mr. Whillier was a bricklayer by trade, and built many of the first brick chimneys in the valley as well as the odd fireplace. He built the first chimney in the Gilby Hall.

In 1920 they bought the J. Huseby homestead S.E. 28-40-4-W5. Reg went to the Medicine Valley School for one term. The other boys had left

school and spent most of their time working out when their help was not needed at home

In 1927 Reg rented land owned by Frank Clevenger, now owned by Mrs. Stears. He farmed this land for three years, as well as farming his parent's land and the J. Severson land for several years. In October of 1929 Reg was married to Mary Gant, and they lived on the old place until 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Whillier left the Valley for Vancouver in 1932. They lived there for many years. Mr. Whillier passed away in November of 1940 and Mrs. Whillier died in April of 1955.

Back row: Dave, Dorothy, Shirley, Don. Front row: Betty, Tom, Mary and Reg Whillier. 1954

Reg and Mary's family consisted of Don of Slave Lake, David of Edmonton, Dorothy (Mrs. R. Tyler) of Calgary, Shirley (Mrs. E. Kruetzfeli) of Saskatoon, Betty (Mrs. J. McNeil) of Wetaskewin, and Tom of Valleyview.

In 1969 Reg and Mary sold their farm to Bob and Marge Sears and retired to Lacombe, where they are living at this time.

**WITHERS, MR. AND MRS. E. T.**

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Withers of Nova Scotia with their three sons, William, Charles and Harry and daughter, Nora, all came west and lived on a homestead, SW 3-41-4-W5, in Medicine Valley in the spring of 1907.

Harriet Mullins and Nellie Withers came from the Boston area in the spring of 1908, and Harriet and William Withers were married that same spring by Reverend Richard Shoup. Nellie Withers and Otto Huppelsheuser were married in 1909. They settled in Blind Man's Valley.

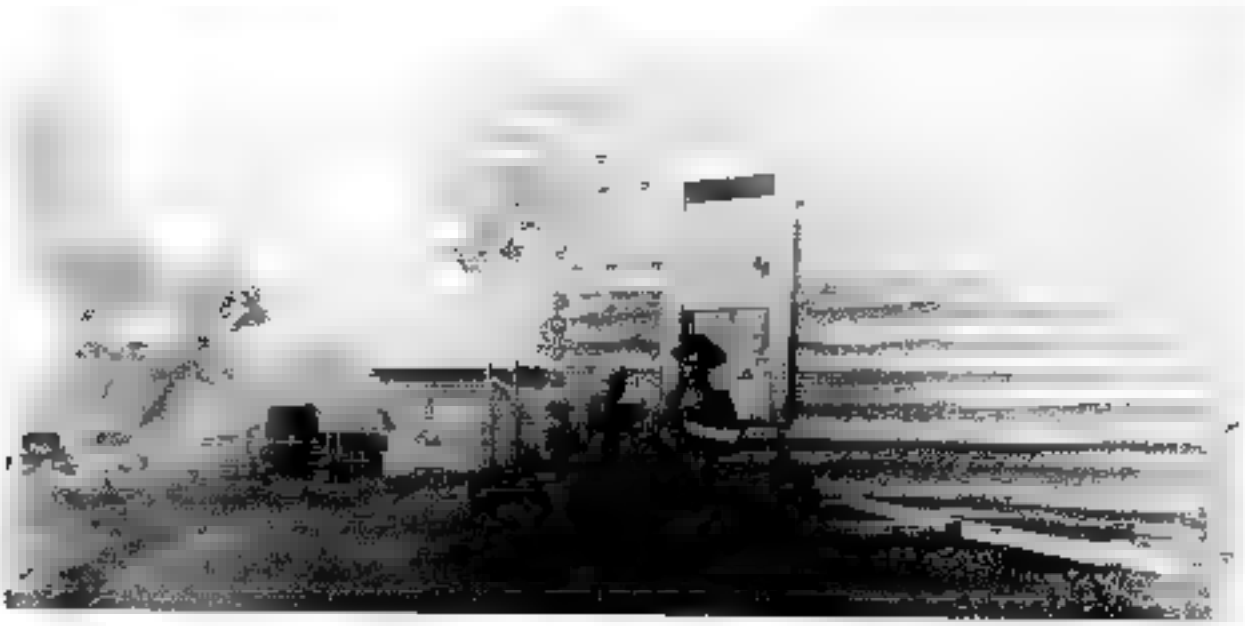
About 1910 Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Withers had the first post office in Medicine Valley. It was called Medicine Valley. Later when Medicine Valley post office was closed down there was a post office at Gilby and also at Wittenburg. (All in Medicine Valley.) Mr. and Mrs. Broderson had the Wittenburg post office, now known as Leedale. We got our mail at Lockhart until we got the Medicine Valley post office. At first the mail was brought from Lacombe on Saturdays. There would be a gathering of many people of the

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Withers 50th Anniversary

area who would stay for hours, and talk over their land-clearing tea, about their oxen or their machinery, and many other topics, of interest to all, were discussed.

Later, when Nora's parents had bought an organ, she would play for groups who would have a sing-song. The closest entertainment was at Bentley. The Withers young folks would drive

Fred and Nora Langer '01



Mr and Mrs E.T. Withers: Medicine Valley P.O.

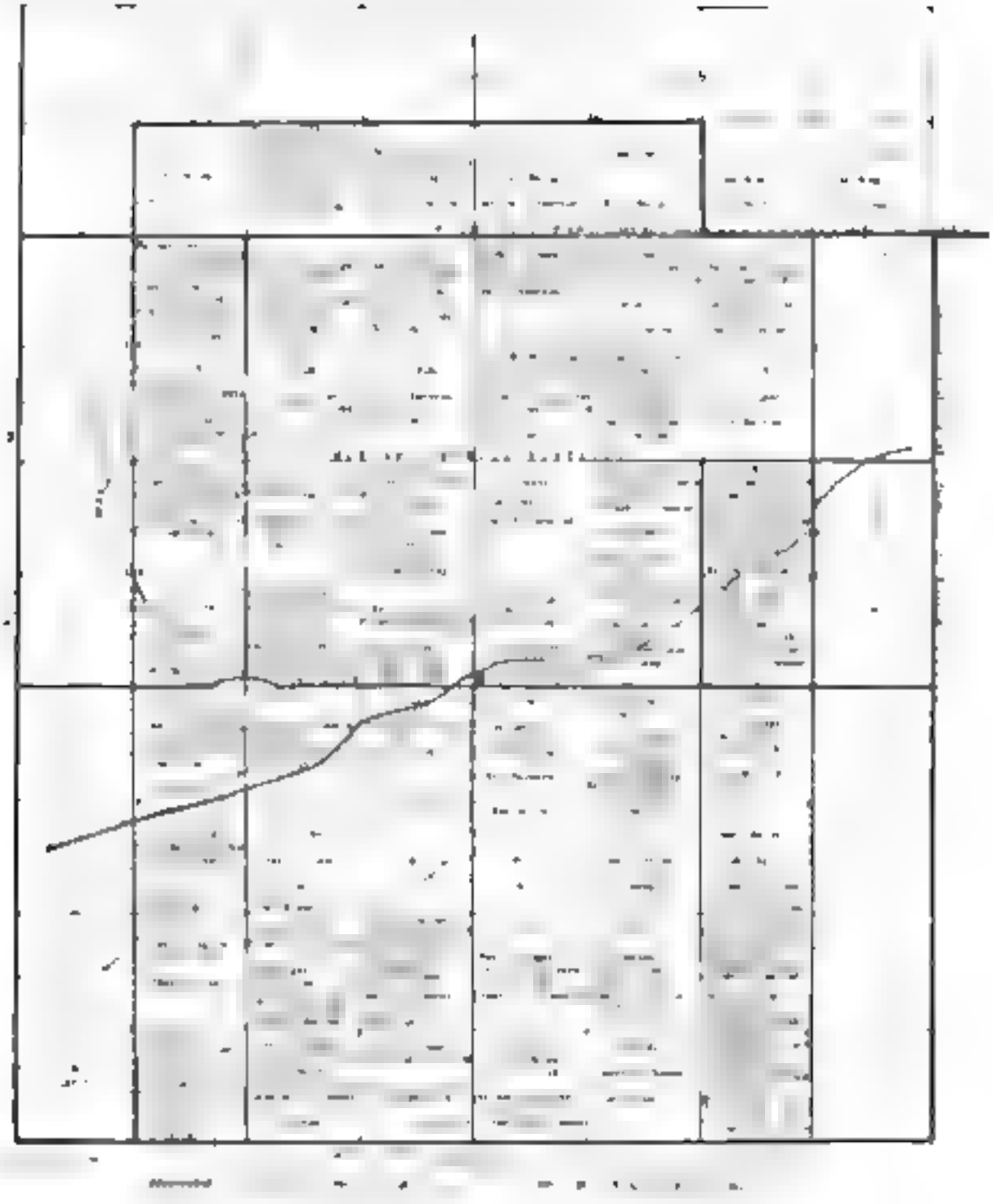
there to attend the dances. Mrs. Best was the only trained nurse and the closest doctor was in Lacombe. Mrs. Best would ride horseback through the swamps to assist at births and other illnesses.

Fred Lange, of Iowa, U.S.A. filed on a homestead in Medicine Valley in 1910 and he and Nora Withers were married in the spring of 1913. They lived on their homestead until 1917, when they and their two children moved to Iowa, U.S.A.

Mrs. Best (the trained nurse) started a girls' basketball team. From a previous marriage she had three girls and one boy by the name of Thompson. The girls on the original team were Anna Bardenhagen, Mabel Easter, Helen Lockhart, Louella Thompson (Mrs. Best's daughter), and Nora Withers Lange.

Mr. Ames was the first mail carrier out of the Valley. The first bridge across the Medicine River in our area was built in 1911.

Mrs. Withers passed away in Calgary in 1929, and Mr. Withers passed on a few years later.



# Midland

**THE MIDLAND COMMUNITY AND ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

On the west slope of land between the valleys of the Medicine and Blindman rivers, lies the Midland community. Its borders are allied with the school division boundaries which were established on July 5, 1938. Prior to this the Midland School District No. 4856 was a part of Municipal District of Last West No. 431. On Jan 1, 1952 the County of Ponoka No. 3 was incorporated by Ministerial order so the area now lies within the County boundaries.

Before being settled the land was covered with balm and poplar trees, with scattered birch on the higher ground. The lower ground was covered with willow, spruce and varying amounts of tamarack and pine. There were many springs which fed the streams and swamp areas. The streams that drain this low land are not large. The terrain is rolling with a general slope from northeast to southwest but no hills are too steep to cultivate. The climate is comparable to the Red Deer area, with its late and early frosts. It is possible to have snow storms in 11 of the 12 months. Heavy rains and severe hail storms have been experienced in many areas over the years.

The soil in the central and northeastern parts are generally clay mixed with gravel. The southwest, which is on the level with the Medicine River is black loam. There are many large sloughs and swamp areas which cannot be cultivated but with drainage now, some can be used for pasture.

Owing to the combination of soil and climate conditions the area is entirely devoted to mixed farming. Barley is the main crop grown, with rape and oats becoming more common. Some wheat is grown but is not popular because of the short growing season. Many areas of tame hay is grown and oats cut early for greenfeed is used for cattle feed which is the majority of the live stock raised. There are some pigs, sheep and horses however.

The community is not an old one in light of some of the other settlements in Alberta, for the first settlers did not arrive until the turn of the century.

These pioneers came from two main points, England and the United States. They built their homes of log along the winding trails that joined Wittenburg (Leedale) and Kansas Ridge (Rimbey). Many of the homesteaders spent the rest of their lives in the district.

Two brothers who came from Ohio were Clem and Frank Johnsman. Clem homesteaded the SE 6-42-3-W5 in 1906. Frank came in 1907 and homesteaded the NE quarter in the same sec[illegible].

Jack Rotherham, a friendly English bachelor from Coventry, England, homesteaded the NW 18 in 1907. He was noted because he had a [illegible].

In 1906 Bertram, Richard, and William Williams came from Bristol, England to homestead NW 16, SW 20 and NW 21. They were followed by a cousin Ernest Prosser and his cousin Tom Cooke in 1911. They settled on the E half of 30. Francis Marshall homesteaded the SW 16 about the same time and George Williams who came in 1916 took over this quarter.

Norman, Harold and Ronald Chlumeck came from Detroit, Mich. in 1907. Norman and Harold homesteaded the S half of 16 but Ronald went on to southern Alberta.

Frank Laye came from England and homesteaded the NE 18 in 1908. He sold it to Guy Graham from Chicago in 1929, then moved to the Benjamin district.

Jim Willets came from Minnesota in 1908. He took up the NW 4 and lived there until his death in 1952.

Other early settlers were Leon Henry Chabot who came in 1911 to the NE of 1, D. Finch in 1906 and N. G. Might who lived on the same section. Others were Wm. Murby, the Bodicoat family, Angus MacDonald, Frank Peters, Bert Horne, G. Harris, Lou Eaton, Jim Jackson, Dick Jones, Jack Brandon, Chris Bakke, Howard Bowman and probably others. In the early 1920's Theo Laye came to the SW 30, the Ernest Hayward family to the E half of 7 and Lyle Yinger to SW 16.

In 1910 a railway was surveyed across the community. The stakes and cutline were in

evidence for many years, but it was abandoned when World War II broke out

When the depression years came on there were several families who came in on a government scheme, but very few of them stayed for more than a couple of years. Relief was available through the Municipality but there wasn't very many who took advantage of it Unless sickness or disability was a factor, the pioneer pride was always in command and people got along with what they had, depriving themselves of good food, clothing and comfort in many cases Any relief obtained was paid back by road work or supplying wood for the schools

The rest of the land was quickly occupied by the influx of many settlers seeking land in Alberta, from the dust bowls of Saskatchewan. This period remembered as the Dirty Thirties were very trying years. Some of the families who came then were Ole Hulberg, Sam Wilson, Jack, Floyd, Adam and John Booth. Carl and John Iverson, S. Macdonald, Sam Sprecker Henry, Gilbert, and John Krogstad and Carl Brun. Because of this great influx of settlers with school age children the demand for a school became evident. In August 1939 a contract was given to Clem Baldridge to build the Midland School and in January 1940 classes commenced It served the community until 1955 when it was closed and the children bussed into Rimbey It was then sold and moved to Faraway where it served as a school and community centre

Because of the new mode of travel the roads had to be improved. The trails which were rutty and rough were no longer good enough, so they were graded and gravelled

The roads, which were impassable for much of the winter, had to be plowed free of snow so the school bus could travel

Most of the farmers did their grocery shopping in the Leedale General Store where they also got their mail.

The community had no newspaper of its own so the local news is published in the Rimbey Record

A Ladies' Club was formed in 1940 and still provides social gatherings, pot luck suppers and picnics for the members.

In the relatively short period of fifty years this community, which was a network of wagon trails had progressed to accommodate the automobile

In the last 25 years progress has changed the country scene immensely The horse which our very livelihood depended on has been replaced by the tractor and is used now only for pleasure The horse-drawn machinery, the wagon, binder and threshing machine has now been replaced by the swather baler and combine. The discovery of gas resulted in this revolutionary change to machines

Fine new homes now stand where the little log houses once accommodated many large families

Electricity has brought a tremendous change to the lives of those in the community It has brought in many labor saving devices and modern appliances. The change to power and lighting was a major step. There are very few homes that do not have indoor plumbing and running water now In looking back to the early years we must thank those early pioneers who braved the unknown, with wife and family, to settle this area We look to them with gratitude and admiration for they are a generation who experienced many things that the generations now and in the future will never experience

I would like to thank Dale Yeager for much of this information

Doris McElroy
District Representative

**WHAT PRICE SCROLL**

If you know the taste of hannock and you've lived on beans and bacon
If you've squatted on the prairie when the land is for the taken
If you've grubbed for roots and carried rocks and rode till you've been shaken,
Boy, you've had it, you're an A One **Pioneer**

If the social life was hearty and the plumbing out of doors.
If the water froze in pails, and frost came creeping through the floors,
If your hundred sixty acres was as sure as shootin yours
Don't worry friend, you've been a **Pioneer**

If you've yearned for filet mignon when the menu boasted prunes
If you've dressed in flour sacking and you've sung the cowboy tunes.
If you've choked in dust, from threshing under melon harvest moon
You can say for sure, you've been a **Pioneer**

If you've hummed in tune with fiddles while the caller called Quadrille,
If you've seen a prairie sunset through the haze upon the hills
If you've heard the coyote serenade with all its pipes and thrill
You've been through it — you can say you've **Pioneered**

If you've slept beneath tarpaulins when the rain came through the cracks.
If you've known the hospitality of always open shacks
You Don't Need a Scroll You've Been A **Pioneer**

**BAILLIE, WILLIAM AND ANITA — NW 9-40-5 W5**

My husband and I, Anita Baillie, came to the Midland district in the fall of 1972. We bought the quarter of land formerly owned by Otto Leskosek and moved here from Salmon Arm B.C.

Bill worked with his father in the real estate business for 12 years before the war. His father was the mayor of Hampstead, a suburb of Montreal.

Bill served in the Royal Canadian Airforce as Flight Sergeant for seven years. After the war he worked as an accident investigator and assessor with steamships Canada along the sea coast and St. Lawrence River.

I was born at Pincher Creek. Anita Fournier.

My parents came from New Brunswick in the early 1900's and were the first pioneers in that area.

My mother is living in the senior citizens lodge in Sylvan Lake and is still enjoying life at the age of 88 years.

I have been teaching school for 34 years with the exception of a two year period I spent in the armed forces.

We have one son, Mel. He married the former Beth Miller from Fort Saskatchewan in 1969. We are now boasting two grandchildren. Morrie — six and a half years and Danna — three months. Mel and Beth are both graduates of the University of Alberta with Bachelor of Education degrees.

During the 1975-1976 school term they were on an exchange program and went to Australia to teach. Mel taught in the Brisbane College and Beth also taught school nearby.

[illegible] Bailie and grandchildren Morrie and Danna Bailie [illegible] Australia, March 1976.

The men all teach school in shorts and knee socks. I took a holiday and made a trip to Australia to visit in the summer of 1976. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it immensely.

The Mel Baillies on returning from Australia have accepted a position with Northern Intercom of Canada in Telecommunications. They have been awarded a district managership in Winnipeg and are enjoying their new home there.

I am presently teaching school at Bluffton and looking forward to retiring. We have a few cattle and Bill keeps busy with farm work.

**BAKKE, CHRISTIAN AND ELIZABETH—by M. Faryna**

Christian Bakke was born on June 4, 1882 in Stravanga, Norway. In 1904 he came out to Montana U.S.A. to farm with his brother Elias who was born in Sanda, Norway in 1886.

In 1910 Chris went to Nome, Alaska to try his luck at prospecting and mining but returned to Washington where he farmed for a few years before coming to Canada in 1919. He homesteaded the SW 5-42-3-W5 just east of Leedale and was living there when he met Elizabeth Bolger who became his wife on March 6, 1922. They were married in the United Church in Rimbey. David Simpson was the minister at the time.

Chris and Eliza lived on the farm and raised a family of five children.

Carl Andrew was born December 25, 1922. Norine Viola arrived on March 14, 1926, Fern Hilma on December 18, 1930, Mildred Joyce on June 24, 1933 and Gladys Ingeborg on October 25, 1936.

[illegible] Bakke [illegible] Fern, Mildred on a [illegible] Palace in Nome.

All the children went to Benjamin School at least for most of their schooling. Norine did attend the Leedale High School for some of her grades. When the Midland School opened Fern went there to take Grade 7, 8 and 9.

Norine was supervising classes at Benjamin School the first year Fern went to Midland but Mildred went to Benjamin as she had been doing. Norine was moved to a school out by Rocky Mountain House to supervise there as soon as a teacher out of University took her place.

On July 5, 1924 Christian Bakke took out his naturalization papers. His brother, Elias spent a part of each year with the family on the farm up until the 1930's. He was living in Edmonton at the time of his death on Dec. 28, 1954.

Carl worked in the logging camps and for the neighbors until he enlisted in the army in 1942. After one year of training at Calgary and Camrose he went overseas to Britain and on to North Africa in March 1943. After three years of active and occupational service he was discharged and came back to Rimbey in 1946. Carl left in 1948 and has worked and lived in several different places. He has a very nice family of eight children and he and his wife Leona now live in Mirror, Alberta. They have five [illegible]

Norine married Elmer Teskey on Dec 23 1946. He had been in the army and served overseas as well. They lived in Rocky Mountain House for a number of years and then Elmer started working for the Government. They made many moves before the children started school and then they settled in Grande Prairie, Alberta where they lived until moving to Edmonton. Elmer has just recently retired and they now live on an acreage near Waburnum, Alberta. They have five children and four grandchildren.

Fern married Lloyd Zutter in July 1949, who had served four years in the army. He joined up in 1942, took part in the invasion of France and was discharged in 1946. They lived in Red Water for a short time, then moved to Edmonton for a number of years before moving to Grande Prairie, where they still reside. They have a family of three. The oldest son is married and lives in Grande Prairie. The second son is living in Edmonton. The youngest a girl is living at home and going to school.

Mildred married Elmer Adrian in June 1951 and they lived on a farm south west of Rocky Mountain House. They had four children. Mildred lived at Rocky Mountain House until 1968 when she moved to Grande Prairie to live. She worked in the hospital there and then hired on as a cook's helper on the oil rig. A year later she moved to Edmonton and worked in a nursing home, but left there to cook in a cafe for a year. When it was sold she went back to work at the nursing home. In 1972 Mildred married Mike Faryna and in 1973 they moved to Alder Flats where they bought a small grocery store. In 1976 they were forced to sell the business due to illness and since March, 1977 they have been living in the small town of Breton, Alberta.

Gladys Bakke joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1956, and served for seven years, until 1963. She took her basic training in St. Johns, Quebec, clerk typist training at Alymer, Ontario and was posted to Comox, B.C. for nine months. She was then transferred to Air Division Nato Headquarters in Metz, France where she served for three years. In 1960 she received a promotion to Corporal. On her return to Canada she served at the Training Base in Clinton, Ontario for two years before her release. Gladys worked in Edmonton then, until January 1970 and went to Sydney, Australia in February 1970 where she lived until May 1973. On her return to Canada she chose to live in Vancouver and is presently living in an eastern suburb at Port Coquitlam, B.C.

In 1947 Chris and Eliza sold the farm and moved into Rimbey. He worked in a planing mill for a time and then in 1949 when the Rimbey Municipal Hospital opened he became the caretaker there. He was a good natured man, in [illegible] friends. He passed away suddenly at work on [illegible]

Eliza Bakke stayed on in Rimbey for a time but went to live with her daughter at Grande Prairie when she became ill. She passed away in the University Hospital in April 1964 after a lengthy illness.

**[illegible] by M. Taylor**

Mr. and Mrs. Baldridge moved to the Leedale district from Leduc in 1931. They bought the SE 1 42-3-W5 and lived there for 13 years.

They had three children Gordon, Arthur and Marie. Clem was a good carpenter and did a lot of carpenter work besides his farming. He built the Midland school in 1939.

Mrs. Baldridge was a member of the Leedale WI. and was one of many who had a leading part in the Old Maids Convention and the Amateur program. She always had a smile and was willing to lend a helping hand wherever she was needed.

The children attended the Leedale public school and High school. In 1944 the family moved

[illegible]

to Dawson Creek where Clem worked as a carpenter. A chosen daughter Joan joined the family that same year.

Clem Baldridge passed away in 1962 and Gordon who was living in California died in 1972.

Arthur had a trucking business in Grimshaw for many years but now lives in Surrey, B.C.

Marie married Don Taylor. They have four children. Bryan and James are married. Sherri Lee and Robert are still at home.

Joan is living at Kelowna, B.C.

Helen Baldridge is now living at Port Moody B.C. She is 78 years of age.

**BLACKBOURNE—JACK**

Jack Blackbourne came to this district on April 22, 1965, from Wembley, Alberta. He bought the SW 10-42-3-W5 from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olds.

During the seven years he farmed here he cleared 35 acres of land and worked at Sylver Service in Rimbey in the winter.

He made many friends, was a good neighbor, and was always ready to lend a helping hand.

He sold the farm to Reg Wright in 1972 and left in June of that year for Sundre where he worked on a farm. In 1975 he went to Olds to a farm job.

He is planning to retire west of Olds in the spring of 1978.

**BODICOAT FROM MRS. PEARSON'S SCRAP BOOK — NW 36-40-3-W5 — 1915 — Father and Son Die in Well**

A very sad accident occurred in the valley on Tuesday of last week when Mr. Bodicoat and his son Willie lost their lives. It appears that Willie went down into the well to get a bucket which had fallen in, and had only gone down a short ways when his little sister who was standing near the top heard him call for help and then fall into the [illegible].

She immediately called for her father who was milking in the yard. The father ran to the well and advised Mrs. Bodicoat to go for help. When help arrived it was only to find father and son dead. The well, which was about 60 feet deep was filled with gas. Besides the wife and sister a little girl is left to mourn their loss.

**BOOTH, JACK AND EDITH — by D. Jennings**

Jack Booth along with his wife Edith moved from their home in Minnesota to Penhold, Alberta in 1900. His father-in-law, a brother-in-law and their families came also. They had all their machinery, cattle, horses and household goods shipped by train.

After the first winter there they decided to move back to Minnesota. They had their own [illegible] dances and parties in the area and in Red Deer.

In 1934 after living in southern Saskatchewan for four years they moved to the Leedale area. They came by covered wagons and trailed their cattle. The green pastures and trees were a love[illegible]y sight after the few years spent on the dry [illegible].

At this time their family consisted of their oldest son, Floyd, his wife the former Anda Iverson, three single sons, John, Allan, and Murle. Two daughters, Alice and her husband Joe Lester and the youngest daughter, Violet.

The Booth Family. Left to right: Jack, Floyd (behind) Murle [illegible]. Front row: Opal, Delores, Jim, Rod, and Joyce.

Jack and Floyd were both good blacksmiths and did a lot of work for neighbors. Jack bought the NE 6-42-3-W5 and Floyd the SW 12-42-4 W5.

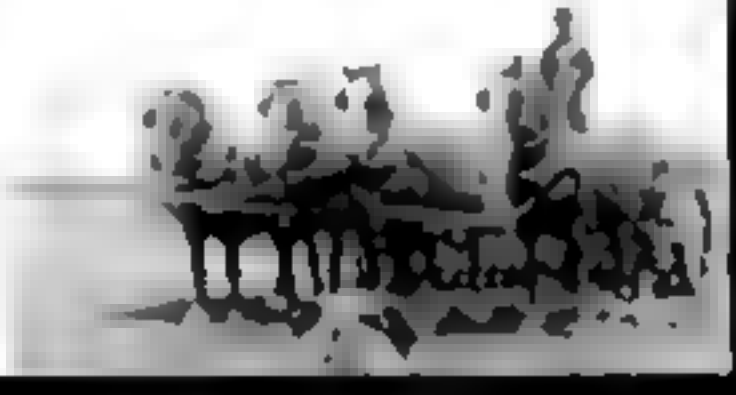
Allan and Murle returned to the United States at the beginning of the second World War and spent four years in the U.S. Army. After the war they returned to Minnesota, married and still live there.

John lived in the Midland district for several years on the NE 17-42-3-W5. He married Julia Heinsen from Spruceview. They had one daughter Marlene, who is now Mrs. Tom Sakaluk, and live in Rimbey with their three children. Alice and Joe Lester lived in the Midland area for 23 years, then sold their farm, NE 8-42-3-W5 and moved to Rolling Hills.

The oldest Booth daughter was married and remained in Minnesota.

Floyd, Alida and their family of eight children lived on the farm for 21 years and then moved to Rimbey. Floyd worked for O. B. Moore's Furniture Store and Anda worked in the hospital.

[illegible]



Their children Dolores, Bud, Opal, Joyce, [illegible] and Bernard all attended school at Midland

Floyd passed away in 1970 in Kelowna, B.C and Alida now lives in Red Deer

**BOWMAN, MR. AND MRS. HOWARD**

Mr and Mrs. Howard Bowman came to the NW 20-42-3-W5 before 1918 from the Southern United States

Mr Bowman was known as an excellent horseman and broke many acres of virgin land for the settlers with his team of draft horses and a walking breaking plow

Mrs. Bowman (Maude was an excellent cook and at harvest time went to Southern Alberta to take charge of the cook house on the large threshing crews as they moved from ranch to [illegible]

They were very hospitable people, and the younger members of the community loved to go there and partake of the refreshments which she always seemed to have on hand. In later years they sold their farm, which is now (1977) owned by the Patersons and moved to Lacombe building a small new home in the north-west part of the town where they remained until their passing

There were no children

**BRANDON, JACK**

Jack Brandon was born at Sault Ste Marie in 1871 and grew up in Ontario. In 1902 he homesteaded the land now owned by Mr Dolman. He lived in this area for many years and passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital June 1, 1959 at the age of 79 years

[illegible]

**BROAD—MRS. MINERVA—by Joan Freeman**

Mrs. Minnie Broad was housekeeper, for a time, for Bertram Williams who lived on the NW [illegible]

Her father was Captain of the Royal Yacht in the time of Queen Victoria and held that position until he was retired by the Queen

His daughter Minnie met and married William Walpole, who was a barrister After eight years of marriage he died very suddenly of tuberculosis There were no children.

After eight years and being an accomplished pianist she met Percy Broad, who was first violinist in a symphony orchestra

They were married in 1905 and had one child Joan, now Mrs. Nigel Dodge of Hemet, California

Mrs. Broad left her husband and came to Canada about 1912 assuming the name of Mrs Brooks for a time. The William s brothers had attended school with Percy Broad and when she arrived in Rimbey, she soon took her rightful [illegible]

In 1922, after keeping house for Bert Williams, she moved to Rimbey and taught music From there she moved to Lacombe and about 1925 went back to England. After a short stay she returned to Canada and lived in or near Vancouver with her daughter now Mrs. Donald McKay Joan had two children Diana and Donald

Donald had three children and Diana had four children

Mrs Broad died in Vancouver She was over 90 years of age and was called by the workers on the Granville street bridge, "The Grand old Lady of Granville Street"

**BRZOSTOWSKI, MR. AND MRS. B. — NE 8-39-6 W5**

Benedict and Theresa Brzostowski bought a quarter of land from Otto Leukosek and moved from Armstrong, B.C to the Midland district in June 1971. They farmed here for five years and had a few cattle. Ben built a sawmill and sawed lumber They sold the land to Mr and Mrs. Max Keesar and moved to Fort MacLeod in June 1976

Mr and Mrs. Brzostowski have three children, Rudy is at Kelowna, Ludwig and his wife and daughter in Armstrong, B.C and Rosa and her husband and wee son live in Calgary

**THE ART CARPENTER FAMILY**

I Art Carpenter was born in Consul Saskatchewan and came with my parents to the Trochu district in Alberta, at an early age My folks farmed east of Trochu until 1929, when they sold the farm and moved to Winborne district west of Trochu

In 1937 I married Dorothy Bigelow. We moved around for a few years, spending one year in the North West Territories at Fort Smith

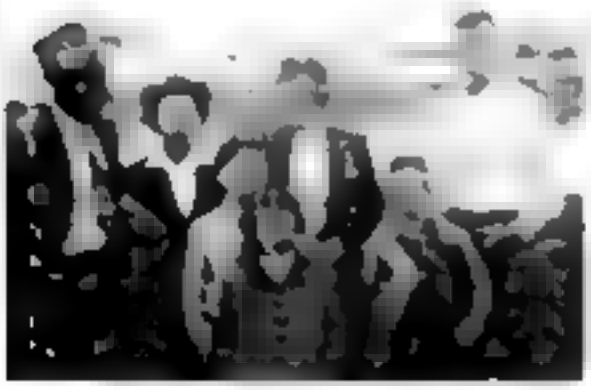
Our oldest boy Myron Walter was born in Edmonto May 4, 1938. The second boy Ivan Edwin was born in Trochu, November 7, 1940

In 1941 we moved to Sundre in the James River district where our four other children were born in the Olds hospital. Wayne Arthur born February 22, 1946, Ormand Emerson born, October 17 1947, Sandra Beatrice born, September 3, 1949 and Stella Dorothy born June 29, 1951

We farmed in the James River area for 16 years. The children rode two and one half miles to James River School. They found it rather chilly in winter and really appreciated the ride on the school bus when we moved to Rumbey in 1950.

We purchased a farm eight miles west of Rimbey from Fred Schroeder and still farm the [illegible].

My wife, being a registered nurse went to work at the Rumbey Auxiliary Hospital the fall of 1958 where she continued working until she retired in February 1975.



[illegible]

Left to right: Stella, Sandra, Ivan and Wayne Carpenter with team of colts the boys were breaking in 1956.

In 1961 my father Frank Carpenter and two brothers, Hobe and Bill moved onto the Bill Becker farm. My brother Bill passed away in 1961 and Hobe in 1964.

Our two oldest sons, Myron and Ivan, took over their farm for the next two years, then Myron passed away suddenly as a result of a car accident in March 1965. We then farmed the place until 1972 when it was sold to Elwood Becker.

The boys and I farmed together for a few years. In 1972 Ivan married Donna Goodall of Winfield, Alberta. They lived here until the spring of 1976 when Ivan sold his land and they moved to Hoey, Saskatchewan. Donna worked at the CO-OP store in Rimbey while they lived here. she still works part time in the CO-OP in Prince Albert. Ivan is employed by Shell Oil.

Wayne married Sharon Newman of Calgary in 1969. They have three children, Brett, Paula and Travis. They lived here until this spring (1977) when Wayne accepted a job as Assistant Manager with Douglas Lake Cattle Co., near Merrit, B.C.

Orman married Sharon McMann of Eckville in 1969. They have two children, Darcy and Rhonda. They live in Drayton Valley where he is employed by Norcrie Oil.

Sandra married Charles Brockway of Nanton in 1967 where they farmed until Charles died following a tragic accident when he was thrown from a horse. He died nine days later in November 7, 1968 in the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. They had one daughter, Shannon born November 24, 1969. Sandra later married Fred Neelby of Winfield, where they purchased his father's farm. They have a boy, Myron.

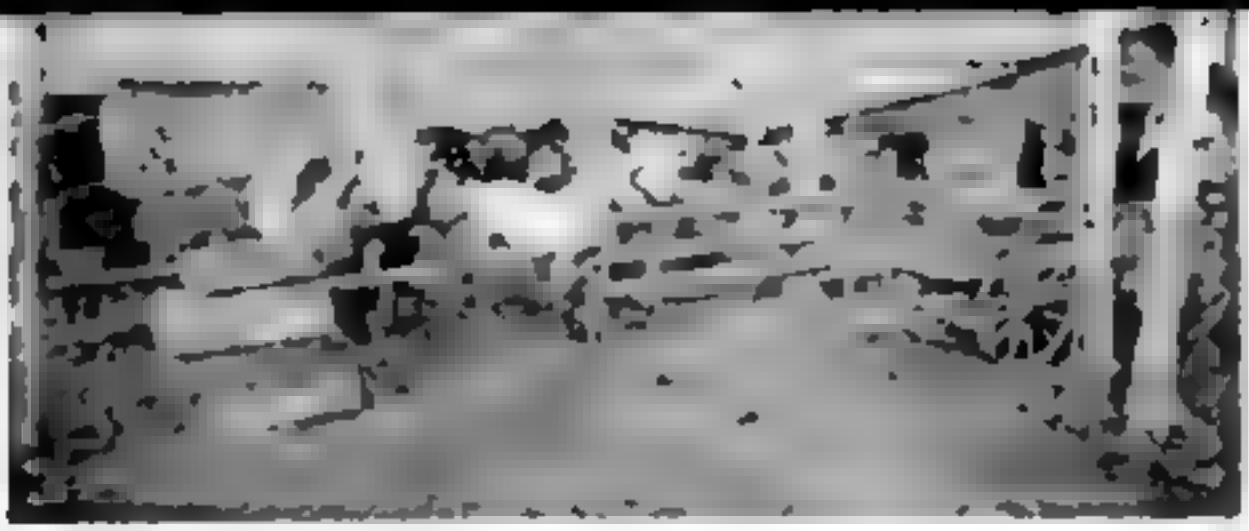
Fred and his dad have a six horse hitch of Black Percheron, which they have in parades. They won many trophies at pulling matches.

Stella married Ted Zielke of Edmonton. They have two children, Christina and Charity. They bought an acreage and trailer and live in our yard. They are in the chuckwagon business and were sponsored last year by John Deere of Canada.

**CHABOT, HENRY AND LAURA, NE 1-43-4-W5**

Leon Henry Chabot was born in St. Cesaire, Quebec on July 24, 1888. His wife, the former Laura St. Pierre, was born on May 17, 1887 in St. Pie, County of Bagot, Quebec. They were married in 1908 and came west to Lethbridge in [illegible].

Laura and Henry Chabot with baby daughter Antonina. Taken in 1910.



The Chabot homestead. Mrs. Chabot by the tent. Taken in 1915

A daughter Ernestine Honorine was born on July 2, that same year

They came to Wittenberg, now Leedale in 1911 and homesteaded the SE 14-42-5-W5. where they built a log house and barn. In August 1914 their second daughter Annette Marie was born with the help of midwives, Mrs. Terriotti and Mrs Barker, close neighbors of the homestead

Twins in the homestead in 1915. Annette in the buggy, Ernestine [illegible]

Ernestine and Annette attended the Beaconsfield school until they moved to the SE of 34 at Wittenberg which is now owned by Lee Mannix

Mr and Mrs Bill Withers and family lived for several years on the old homestead Mr and Mrs. Gerry Albach and family are the present [illegible]

Mr and Mrs. Chabot then purchased the NE 1-42-4-W5 in 1920. They built their home near the creek on the east side of the quarter because of the road allowance but a passable road was never built so access to the land was made through the McKenzie quarter from the west The girls then attended the Leedale school

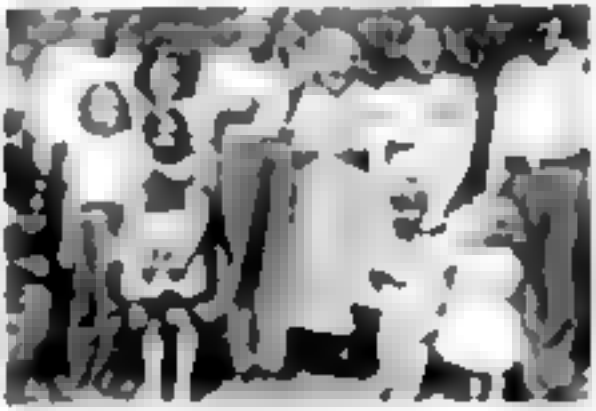
Mr Chabot was a member of the school board, and worked as a farm assessor besides the farming

On March 29, 1928 a son Oliver Henry was born. Aunt Lou Cha and and Mrs. Johnsman were on hand for this happy event

Mrs. Laura Chabot. who was a dedicated mother and a hard working woman, passed away on March 15, 1948 after a lengthy illness Ernestine married John Joseph O'Hara and had five daughters. Bernice Mason of Rocky Mountain House Laura Ann (Current) and Shiela Wilson) of Edmonton, Fay (Chalwood) and Myrna (Johnson of Lesheville

Ernestine passed away July 29. 1957 and her husband Joe on August 31. 1968. They lived in the Leedale area all their lives

Annette married Albert Kemmis in 1936 and farmed south west of Rimbey until 1970 when ill health forced him to retire. They had eight children. George died in infancy in 1938. Sgt Eddie Kemmis who joined the Signal Corps R C



The Chabot family in 1942. Left to right. Joe and Ernestine [illegible]

Reg in 1956 and is now stationed at Petawawa

Theresa (Taylor) lives at Onoway Elaine (Cameron), in Ponoka, Clifford of Lesmeville Lenard who passed away suddenly as the result of a car accident in 1968, his twin sister Lenora (Carslence) of Calgary and Edith (Newman) of Rimbey

Albert passed away June 6, 1973 and Annette also lives in Rimbey

Oliver joined the army in 1946. He served with the Medical Corp at Camp Borden Ontario during the second World War He now lives in Richmond, Virginia where he works as an X ray technician. He has three sons Dean Richard, and Sherwood

**THE CHINNECK BROTHERS — 1907**

Harold, Norman, and Ronald Chinneck accompanied by their sister Geraldine, came to the Wittenberg district from Detroit, Michigan

In 1907 Harold homesteaded the SE 18-42-3-W5, now owned by Floris Looy In 1914, he joined His Majesties forces and served overseas until war was over in 1918. He no longer had a desire to farm, so went to Calgary and worked in the Wales Hotel for several years before moving to Regina where he was married

Norman also took a homestead in 1907 It joined Harold's quarter on the west and is now owned by Harold Lemieux He was a stone mason and an expert in the trade He worked on the Parliament Buildings in Edmonton

Ronald did not take up land, but worked in the area for awhile before going to Fort Macleod. He worked on the railroad and later died there

Geraldine, better known to her many friends as Gerry, married Leo Benson who homesteaded the NW 16-42-4 W5 in 1906. They raised a big family and lived all their lives in the Rimbey area. Leo passed away in 1947 and Gerry in 1974.

**CRUICKSHANK, JACK AND LIL**

Jack and Lil, one son Wayne, and a daughter Celia moved to Rimbey from Calgary in 1940 buying the Jim Jackson half section. Having been raised in the city they also took on the task of logging out a great deal of lumber off the home

Threshing Bee for Jack Cruickshank who was kicked by a horse and broke his leg. Standing left to right Ernie Downum, Harold

quarter It took two years with Buster and Albert Adams moving their sawmills in for the summer months

Two more children were born here, Jacquelin and James. Sold the farm October of 1972 to Ray Lambertus. Jack is employed with Shell Canada Resources Ltd. We have never quit the farming operation. We have a piece of land three miles north of Olds, Alberta. Our son, Jim, and us have fullblood and purebred Charolais cattle We were the first to bring these cattle in this area in 1963

Celia is married to Wayne Dieke of Halkirk and have two children. They live in Calgary

Jacquelin is married to Gary Latimer of Remittal Cattle Co. They have two children and live three miles south of Olds.

Wayne married Jill Richards of Olds. They have one child and live in Calgary

**GILLILAND, BOB**

Bob Gilliland was born in Ontario and came to Bowden when a young boy to farm with his brother

In 1930 he came to the Midland district where he bought the NW 4-42-3-W5 from Mr Krogstad

After 13 years of farming Bob sold the land to Ron Anderson and retired

He went to Sylvan Lake for awhile and then came to stay with Mr and Mrs. Joe Bohn near Leedale. Irene is his niece

When they moved into Rimbey he lived in a suite in their basement

He is 80 years of age, still active and keeps quite well. He is now a resident of the Parkland Manor

**[illegible]**

We were recently informed by a young woman that years ago when her mother was a bride, her grandmother gave her the following "receet" for washing clothes. It appears below just as it was written. 1. Bild a fire in back yard to heet kettle of rain water 2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert. 3. Shave one hole cake lie soap in bilin water 4. Sort things, make three piles 1 pile white, 1 pile cullored, 1

pile work britches and rags. 5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth then thin down with blue water. 6. Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, then blue. Rub collord but don't blue, — just rench and starch. 7. Take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle then rench, blew and starch. 8. Spred tee towels on grass. 9. Hang old rags on fence. 10. Pore reach water in flower bed. 11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. 12. Turn tubs upside down. 13. Go put on cleen dress, smooth hair with side combs — brew up cup of tee, set and rest and rock a spell and count blessings.

**THE HAYWARD FAMILY Robert Ernest and Minnie Hayward — E½ 7-42-3-W5 NW 7-42-3-W5 by Irene Hayward Veilleux**

We left the Jabez McPherson farm, one mile east of Bentley one sunny morning in October 1921. Dad and George Calkins each had a load of furniture. Mother and we children went by car. Mr. Harold Veefkind was the driver who knew where to go. We got to the John Olsen farm west of Leedale about seven o'clock in the evening and found a threshing crew there.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Challand had the farm rented and were just finishing up. We were given supper, which was much enjoyed, then found places to sleep. We were weary and tired.

When we moved to Leedale there were five children. Francis, Irene, Bob, Walter, and Ellen who was born that spring. Bertha our youngest sister arrived on August 2, 1934.

Minnie and E. Ernest Hayward.

I went to school with two neighbor girls, Ernestine and Annette Chabot. We three girls all rode together on the same horse. Mr. Olsen's horses were all at Mrs. Olsen's brothers place Ernest Jacobson, and Charlie. When the horses were brought home to the Olsen farm we got to ride our own ponies. Two of we children rode the one horse. We were all attending the Leedale school by Christmas 1921.

Dad went to work in the winter months for Varty's Lumber Company. I will say three winters but I could be wrong. Then farmed in the summer months.

There were summer picnics held at Jack Shermans' farm, a little over half mile from the farm we were on. To walk over we had to cross Hugh Lindsay's farm.

In 1922 or 1923 Dad took over the payments on the NW 3-42-4-W5 which was a quarter that belonged to William Gardener Sr. then Ed Quinn took over from dad, from there Pete Fraser bought it.

Dad bought land north east of Leedale E half 7-42-3-W5, later to become Midland district.

We children all went to Leedale school and Bertha also went to Midland school when it was built. in 1940. Ellen also attended the Leedale High school went on to the University of Alberta and received her Bachelor of Education degree. She taught school at Meadowvale, Horneglen, Rose, Sylvan Heights and Rimbey. Ellen was well liked by young and old. She always looked on the lighter side and took things with a smile. She passed away in April 1967 after a lengthy illness. Dad passed away in December 1948, Mother and Francis in 1960 and a baby brother Charlie in 1927.

Francis and I lived just a short time in Midland district, although I have kept in contact for several years.

Bob still lives in Midland district. Walter and wife, Mary, at Clinton, B.C. Bertha at Midnapore and I live west of Red Deer.

This is a short story of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hayward and family.

**HAYWARD, WALTER AND MARY**

Walter was born at Langley, B.C. and moved to Carlos, Alberta with his parents while still a baby.

They moved to Bentley where Walter started school and then to Leedale in 1921 where he went to school until completion. He then lived in Crossfield a few years before joining the army in 1942.

He met Mary Baggot in Edmonton at that time. She was also in the Army but never went overseas.

Mary was born in Linarea, Alberta and took her schooling there in a log school with 40 students and one teacher in one room.

When Walter returned from overseas in 1945 he and Mary were married and moved on the former Harold Thomas farm SE 5-42-3-W5) in February 1946.

They have two daughters who are both married. Mary Ellen lives in B.C. and Cheryl in Saskatchewan. There are two grandchildren.

They left the farm and moved to Edmonton in

1953 where Walter was employed at Namao Air Base in the freight depot until his retirement

They moved to Clinton, B.C. in 1974 and are enjoying their retirement

**HULBERG, OLE AND DORTHEA NW 19-42-3 W5 — by Ingmar Hulberg**

Ole Hulberg was born in Ringsaker, Norway (near Oslo) and in 1892 moved to Benson, Minnesota where he worked on farms until 1905 when he homesteaded at Tioga, North Dakota. He farmed there until 1912 when he took up another homestead at Frontier, Saskatchewan. In 1911 he made a trip back to Norway and in 1913 married Dorthea Hagen from his home town in [illegible]

During the homestead years in Saskatchewan there were six children born to Ole and Dorthea without benefit of hospital or doctor. Neighbor women served as mid-wives and luckily everyone was healthy and survived. They were Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo, Clara, Clifford and Edna.

In the 1920's crops and prices were good and some progress was made and we were able to buy a new car which seemed quite an achievement for those days.

Then came the 1930's with the depression. On the prairies there was drought, as well, with terrible dust storms. 1936 and 1937 were the worst years and the reason for many people leaving Saskatchewan.

In 1936 Oscar moved to the Midland district, eight miles west of Rimbey, where he purchased a C.P.R. quarter of land, the SW 19-42-3-W5.

On July 1, 1938, Ole, Dorthea and family arrived in Rimbey and later purchased the north west quarter of the same section.

Now homestead days were to start all over again for the third time. It was nice here. There was rain, lots of good water and firewood, wild blueberries, raspberries and saskatoons were plentiful. The woods were full of chickens, so it seemed like a paradise compared to the dried out prairies.

Jack Rotherham who lived just to the south offered potatoes from his garden and told us to help ourselves to his eggs as they were worth only five cents a dozen. We took advantage of this neighborly gesture and we will always think kindly of the late Mr. Rotherham for his helpfulness.

I would like to relate an incident here which really amused us at the time. When Clifford was approximately 14 years old he liked to go out hunting prairie chicken and on one occasion he stopped at Rotherham's empty handed and was kidded about being a poor shot. Mr. Rotherham said "I'll bet you couldn't even hit that big black rooster standing over there". Cliff promptly took advantage of this opportunity to prove his marksmanship and killed the old black rooster much to Jack's surprise. He told Cliff "now that you shot him you might as well take him home" so the following evening Mr. Rotherham was invited for a tasty meal of chicken and dumplings.

The Brun, Bengston, LaPeare, Iverson, Wilson, Krogstad, Thompson, Cooper and Myers families from Frontier had already settled in this area so it seemed like home among so many old friends and all the new neighbors were friendly and easy to get acquainted with.

Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo and Clifford all worked for several winters at Varty's sawmill and the J.H. Jones sawmill on the Wolf Creek.

In 1948 we operated a sawmill at Nordegg and because the timber was in the Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House area, we relocated and still operate a sawmill in winter and do a bit of farming.

Ole and Dorthea Hulberg lived on the farm until their retirement to Rimbey in 1953.

Ole and Dorthea Hulberg. Standing left to right: Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo, Clifford. Seated: Clara, Edna, Ole and Dorthea Hulberg.

Ole Hulberg passed away in 1962 and Dorthea is in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital. She was 88 years old in March 1977.

Oscar married Pauline Broderson, they have four sons: Allan, Wesley, Brian and Robbie.

Ingmar married Deene Nugent, they have one son and twin daughters: Wendall, Lynda and [illegible].

Ardo married Alice Varty, they have three daughters, Ann, Lee and Trudy.

Clara married Jim Demanchuck, they have two daughters and one son: Diane, Gloria and Donald.

Cliff married Mary Harrison. They have one daughter: Bobbi.

Edna married Max Vliet, they have two sons and one daughter: Wayne, Larry and Evonne.

Today both Ingmar and Oscar live on farms near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Ardo has rented his farm out and they live in Chauvin, Alberta. Clara lives at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. Cliff is at Widewater on the south shore.

of Slave Lake. He is employed by the Department of Lands and Forests. Edna lives in Victoria B.C. where she sells real estate.

We no longer own the old farm, it was sold to Eric Masuch but we recall with pleasant memories the good years spent in the Midland district.

**IVERSON JOHNNY AND MARION SE 8-42-3-W5 — by Johnny Iverson**

My father Carl Iverson, bought the SW 8-42-3-W5 and I bought the SE 8-42-3-W5 in 1936.

We both came from Frontier, Saskatchewan. We built a house and cleared some land.

Dad went back to Saskatchewan and brought my mother one brother and four sisters back in 1938. One sister, Alida Booth, had moved to the Leedale district in 1934. Brother Selmer, lives in British Columbia. Sisters: Myrtle Taylor lives in Olds, Anna Thomas lives in British Columbia. Edna Wetzel lives in Red Deer, Fern Hayward lives in the United States. She was the only one who went to the Midland school.

In 1939 I worked with Mr. Clem Baldridge to build the Midland school.

I was in the army during World War II. After the war I came back to the farm and bought my fathers' quarter and the folks moved to British Columbia.

In 1948 I married the former Marion Jaffray. We have two children: Ian and Penny. We lived in Rimbey until 1960, then we moved to Edmonton where we still reside.

Penny is married and has two children, a boy and a girl. Our son, Ian, and I both work for the Alberta Government.

My father passed away in 1954, my mother in 1963.

**JOHNSMAN CLEM — by Mary Kilpatrick**

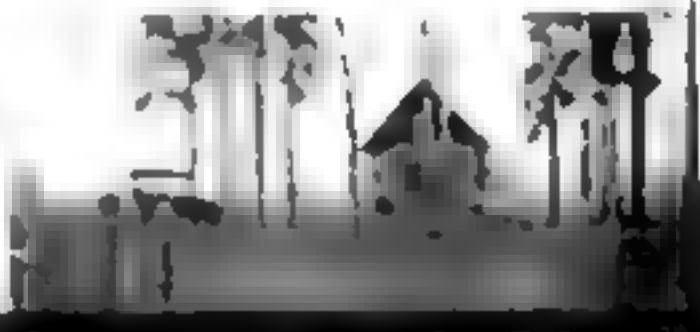
Clem Johnsman, my uncle was born in Mercer County Ohio, U.S.A. On July 27 1878. He came to Canada in 1906 and settled in the Midland district near Leedale. He homesteaded on the SE 6-42-3-W5. Before coming to the Midland area he was in the U.S. Cavalry stationed in Oregon, U.S.A. This homestead was

his home for the rest of his life and he remained a bachelor all his life.

The first winter in this country was very lonesome for Uncle Clem, the weather was extremely cold and being a stranger in a new land he was not acquainted too well with what few neithers there were. His only reading that first winter was Dr. Chases' Almanac and by spring the pages were well worn.

The following year Uncle Clem's brother Frank came up from Ohio and filed on the NE of the same section. Money was scarce in those early days and their winters were spent in the lumber camps of B.C. and Oregon. Summers were also a busy time for them as they had grubbing, brushing and breaking to do. There was always a plentiful supply of wild game and they would take the bush partridge or the prairie chicken, dress them and then put them in a jam tin with salt, pepper and seasoning or onion then fire was stoked up and the dampers shut off and away they would go out to the fields where they were brushing or breaking the land. When lunch or dinner time came their dinner was always ready and the chicken was done to perfection.

The military training uncle had was always evident in his home and around the homestead as everything had a place and no woman could keep house any better than he did. It was always such a pleasure to go to town with him. He had a fast driving team, fed and with bells ringing and the sleigh runners sliding and squeaking in the snow it was a thrill that our young children of today do not know. Later on as he acquired more capital he bought himself a Model T and the horses were used when the roads were impassable.



The last years of Uncle Clem's life was not spent in the best of health. He went back to his home in Ohio two or three times and also travelled to Radium Hot Springs for his health. He went to many doctors and finally the last one told him he did not have long to live. His last days were spent at his brother's home with his sister-in-law nursing him. He passed away on October 8, 1939 at his brother Frank's home

Frank Johnsman taken about 1907

**JOHNSMAN, FRANK**

Frank came from Ohio in 1907 and homesteaded east of Wittenburg and resided there until 1915 when he moved to the Benjamin district. The complete history will appear there

No. 235035

# DOMINION LANDS

## INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 16436

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE Aug 23 1907 Agency. 190

I Certify that I have received from Frank Johnsman

Kinsella

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for NE

Quarter of Section 6 Township 42 Range 3

West of 3rd Meridian, and that the said F. Johnsman

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights

E.M. Costigan Local Agent.

NOTE.—All minerals except coal and petroleum are reserved to His Majesty.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

**JONES, MR AND MRS. R. D. (DICK)**

R. D. (Dick) and Eva Jones came with their sons Leslie (Frank) and Elmo to the Potter Creek District about 1921 and lived on the SE 2-42-3-W5 for a few years and then moved to the Manley Cumberland farm north east of Leedale. From there they moved to the Broderson farm, and finally to the place now being farmed 1977 by Harold Lemieux SW 18-42-3-W5, where they farmed until 1934. They held an auction sale and returned to Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Mr. Jones had been a cowboy in his younger days and learned the blacksmith trade, while his wife was a cook of some merit for the large threshing crews. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Galland of Spokane, Washington and later Nanton, Alberta.

Old timers will remember R. D.'s four horse drawn outfits with which he and his sons used to haul lumber from Varty's sawmill at Wolf Creek (now Rose Creek) to Rimbey. Open Creek was always a stop-over place for watering the horses as the creek stayed open all winter.

Mrs. Jones still lives in Spokane where Mr. Jones died about 1961, and where Leslie had married and lived until his death in 1976. Elmo married Nina Smith of Nanton, served time in the American army during the second World War and now lives with his wife in Bakersfield, California. There were no grandchildren.

Photo: Eva and Dick (R. D.) Jones

Leslie and Lee Jones

**KEESAR, MR. AND MRS. MAX NE 4-42-3 W5**

My name is Alfriede Keesar. I live with my husband Max and our four children on the farm in the Midland district. We came from Merville, B.C. in April 1976. We have three boys and one girl. My oldest son, Ron, is 18 years old, Harold is 13, Roy is 12 and Karin is nine years old.

My husband is farming and I am working in the Grand Hotel in Rimbey.

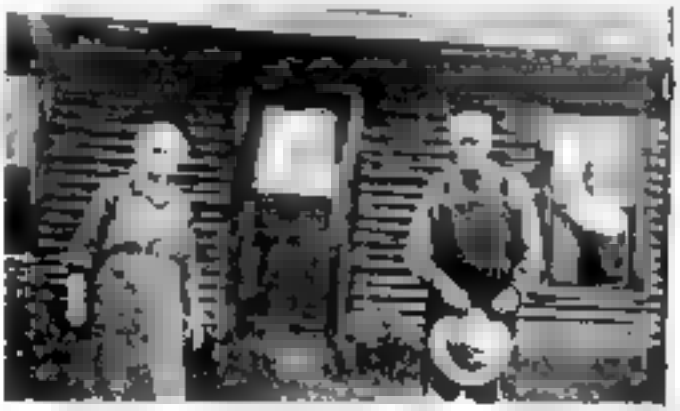
We like it here very much. The people are very nice and helpful.

**HENRY, TILLIE, RAMONA AND GILBERT KROGSTAD ERLAND AND TILLIE HANNA — by T. Hanna**

We came to the Leedale district in 1936 by Model T coupe from Shaunavon, Saskatchewan where we had a lignite coal mine.

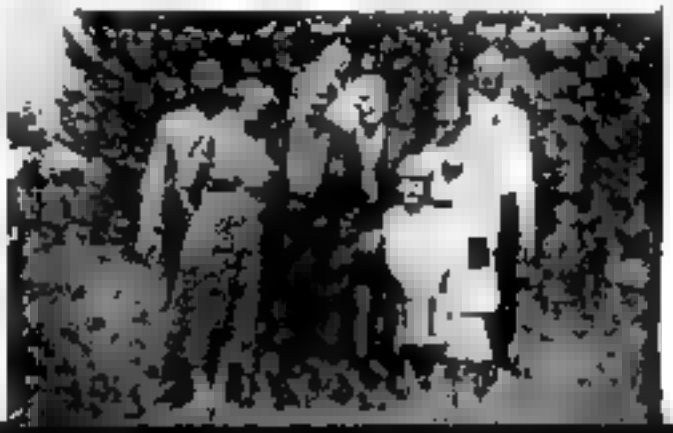
Henry's brother, Gilbert, bought the Lumber 'us' place, NW 4-42-3-W5 where we lived for a year. His parents also came up from Frontier, Saskatchewan and lived there with us.

When Henry died in 1938, Ramona and I moved to my parents' place (Mr. and Mrs. John



Mr. and Mrs. Krogstad at the Lumberus Place at Leedale 1937. They came from Norway to Minnesota, then to Saskatchewan and some Leedale, Alberta. They had six children.

The Krogstad family. Back row left to right: Gilbert, Henry and Johnny. Front: Mrs. Ellen (Mrs. Krogstad sister), Mrs. and Mr. Krogstad, Ramona and Tillie (Krogstad) Henry.



Henry Krogstad and Ramona in 1951

Brun. Ramona was six years old. I then bought the SW 14-42-4-W5, two miles north of Leedale.

I later married Pte. Erland Hanna and we had a girl and two boys. Sharon, Wayne and Edward (Buster).

I sold the land to Cleland Price and moved to Erland's land the 29-42-3-W5 six miles west of Rimbey. Later we sold the land and at this time live in Rimbey.

Ramona married Elwood Becker of the Fuller district. They have four girls and two boys, the older ones are married. Toni married Lyle Davies of Rimbey and have two girls. Debra married Ron Stevens of Rimbey and have two boys. Laurel married Dave Donovan of Bluffton and have one son. Doris Kimberley and Philip are still at home.

Sharon married Aurele Dube of Prince George, B.C. They have three boys and one girl.

Wayne married Daryla Riggs of Prince George, B.C. He has one daughter and three step children.

Edward (Buster) is single.

**LAMBERTUS, MARY**

Mary Lambertus came to the Rimbey district in 1930. She worked for a year and then in 1931 she bought the NE 4-42-3-W5 which later was in the Midland district.

Her son Linus came with horses and machinery in the fall.

He made a living farming and trading. He also sold fish in the winter for the big price of three for a quarter.

Her daughter Margaret stayed with her and taught school at Potter Creek. It was a four and one half mile ride night and mornings on horseback. She taught there for three years. In 1933 her wages for the term was $400.00, in 1934 $500.00, and in 1935 $600.00. Another daughter Agatha worked in Calgary and visited the farm occasionally. Sons Lawrence and Raymond also came. Raymond bought land and made his home in the district.

In 1937 Mrs. Lambertus had a farm sale and went to Ottawa where she resided until her death in 1940. Linus sold the farm for $700.00 and he and Lawrence joined their mother in Ottawa.

Margaret went the following year and still resides there with her husband Tom Bones and their three children.

Linus, Lawrence and Raymond have since passed away. Agatha is living in Calgary.

**LAMBERTUS, RAYMOND AND SARAH — by S. Lambertus**

Raymond Joseph Lambertus was born in Olympia, Washington, and came with his parents to Throne, Alberta.

He came to this district in 1935 which was a municipal district then but became the Midland district in 1939. He worked as a farm labourer.

He married the former Sarah Elizabeth Adams in 1939, who was born to a pioneer couple, Frank and Addie Adams of the Rose district.

They rented a farm until 1942 when they

Taken in 1941. George Lambertus and John McElroy

bought the NE 18-42-3-W5 from Jack Rotherham II has been the Lambertus home ever since

During the years from 1936 to 1941 Raymond had a threshing machine, employed Paul Pierson as separator man and did threshing for district farmers

He also did custom breaking and plowing some years doing 100 to 150 acres in addition to farming his own land. This meant long hours and hard work, but he always did a good job

Raymond enjoyed playing the violin and during the early years he and Earl Stollings who played the mandolin, furnished the music for many an enjoyable evening. Many happy memories and events can be recalled from the dances and the house parties

Raymond and Sarah had two children. Henry was born in 1939 and George in 1953. Henry attended the Midland district school which was two miles away. George travelled by school bus to attend the Rimbey school

Henry married the former Linda Carlstrom worked in Edmonton and then moved to Zama Lake. He passed away in 1970 following a tragic fire which destroyed their mobile home Although Linda was in serious condition at the time, she recovered. They have a daughter April Dawn

George is a great outdoors man. Enjoys his snowmobile and motorcycle. He was employed by the town of Rimbey for three years as town police He is presently working at Rocky Mountain House with wireline services

The original farm was expanded to a three quarter section with the purchase of Jack Cruickshank s farm in 1962. Raymond continued to farm this land until he passed away in August 1969 and Sarah continues to make her home there although she has rented the land

**LAYE, FRANK**

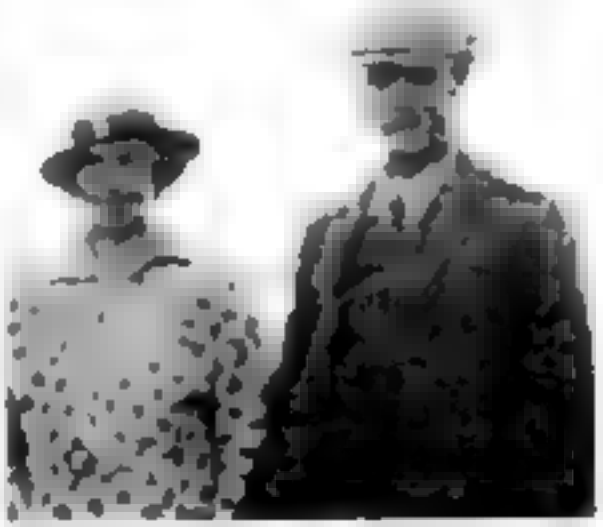
Frank came to Canada from England in 1906 and worked at Brandon, Manitoba for two years

Then he homesteaded the NE 18-42-3-W5 and came out to this area on February 29, 1908. They left Lacombe with team, democrat and belongings and as Frank recalled the winter had been very mild. They drove across Gull Lake on the ice to save time and miles. A real blizzard blew in and they could not see anything However he arrived at the homestead safe and sound and set to work to build a log house He also built two log barns but they were both destroyed by fire Mr Laye sold the homestead to Guy Graham in 1929 and moved to the Benjamin district where he and his wife still reside

**LAYE — THEOPHILIUS AND KATHRYN**

Mr and Mrs. Theophilius H. Laye were married in Liverpool, England on April 9, 1899

Mr Laye was born in England, his wife Kathryn in Ireland on August 23, 1876 and his



Mr. and Mrs. Theophilius H. Laye

stepdaughter Elizabeth Bolger in Dublin Ireland on February 17 1896

Mr and Mrs. Laye and Eliza came to Canada in March 1921 and settled in the Benjamin district on the land presently owned by Frank and Dorothy Laye Eliza met Christian Bakke while they lived there and they were married in March 1922.

In 1923 Theo and Kathryn bought the NE 30-42 3-W5, nine miles west of Rimbey where they lived for 30 years They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home on April 9 1948 with 48 guests calling in to congratulate hem

Their five grandchildren used to look forward to going over and spending a Sunday with their grandparents

They were well liked and highly respected by all who knew them

Theophilius Laye passed away in 1953. Shortly after his death the farm was sold and his wife Kathryn moved to Rimbey She passed away in the Rimbey Threeway Hospital on April 19. 1964 at the age of 87 years

**LEMIEUX — HAROLD AND LUCILLE**

In the winter of 1934 my father ventured to the Leedale district to visit Mort Whitse, and stayed on to work for Johnie Olsen He then worked for Walt Stevens at Rimbey, and later for Gordon Wright

Dad married my mother, Lucille Nugent, July 2, 1936. Mom was born and raised in the Gimlet-Gilby area They went back to Saskatchewan to take up farming at Old Wives The drought forced them to move to Swan River, Manitoba, where dad worked as a carpenter In 1937 they moved back to the Gimlet area, renting the Whitley and Mottet land

In 1941 they purchased SW 18-42-3-W5 from Smith Kellogg Liquidating Co. and started to carve out a farm. Their live-stock consisted of six horses two of these were broke to use) and three cows. The first crop sown was late and frozen. The barley harvested weighed 28 pounds per bushel Raymond Lambertus' tractor and Floyd Brun's machine operated by Oscar Hulberg, were used to thresh that first crop. The following year they planted wheat and oats mixed which was mowed under and never [illegible]

My parents had to be resourceful to squeeze out a living for their family Mom was a real help-mate, helping with milking cows, feeding cattle and working the land. A sample of her cinnamon buns will testify to her culinary abilities Dad broke horses for Todd Hopper, Henry Chabot and Charlie Tocher in return for the use of the animals to get his crop in

Dad worked for Gordon Wright at the Rimbey stockyard every Monday for 30 years. This weekly trip to town gave him the opportunity to haul cream, deliver mail and purchase supplies for neighbors. This service was particularly valuable as roads were not gravelled and transportation was difficult

Dad owned a little team of greys that could make the trip in record time. I have pleasant recollections of many outings using this same team. The opportunity of being bundled up in a horse-drawn cutter with foot warmer and the sound of sleigh bells ringing on a frosty night is an experience everyone should have

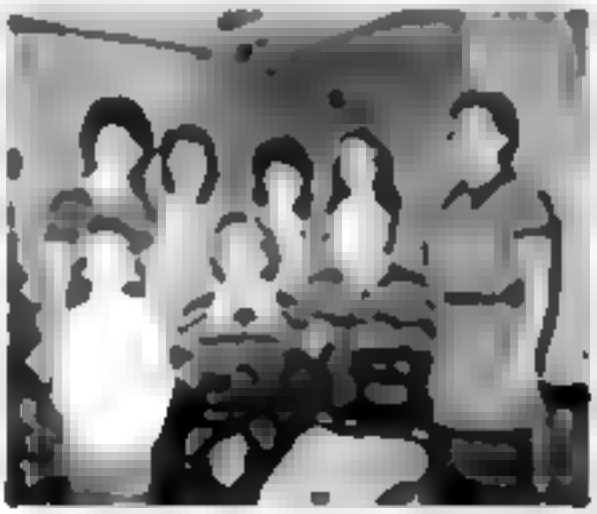
Dad served on the Midland School Board for several years prior to its closing. This position included chores such as pumping out the basement when it filled with water, putting up firewood for four dollars and seventy-five cents a cord split and piled), helping raise funds for the annual Christmas concert and picnic and other tasks necessary to keep the school operating

When Midland closed, dad drove, pushed and pulled the first school bus for the area. The road conditions made this an almost impossible chore, however, youngsters in the area did get to school

During school hours dad worked for Virgil Stevens in the tire shop and garage. He continued to drive the school bus until 1962 and has many pleasant memories of his charges

One wet spring a work horse became stuck in the muskeg north of the house Raymond Lambertus brought his tractor in on Visger's place. They used all the rope and cable available to reach the animal The preparations took so long that darkness set in, so dad took Raymond's lighted cigar to signal when to start and stop This land is now a productive hayfield

Another interesting incident several will remember was the trip to vote for councillor in 1950. The weather was most severe and roads impassable. Sam Ervin's four-horse outfit was changed at Cliff Parkin's and again at Lemieux's Passengers included Dan Myers, Mrs Rutledge, Sam and Mabel Ervin, Lavina Nichols, Cliff Parkins and Harold and Lucille



Lemieux. On the return trip the outfit tipped over, spilling people into the snow. Mrs. Rutledge all but smothered before someone pulled her out of a head-stand position. The laughing bunch took a well deserved coffee break at Lemieux's before going home.

After experiencing farming in Saskatchewan dad was always appreciative of the ample feed, water and fuel in the area.

My parents have put down real roots on their farm. Their pioneering activities were difficult but interesting and good. Their attitude is evident in two bits of advice often heard in our home; 'there is no such word as can't' and 'what your head doesn't do your feet will have to make up for'.

There are six Lemieux daughters. It must have often taxed dad's patience with only females to help, but to our knowledge he never offered a trade. Joyce married Bob Stuart and lives in the Gimlet area. They have three daughters: Penni, Dallas and Carmyn. Fay married Dewey Smith and lives in Whitecourt, Alberta. They have three children, Lorie, Mitchel and Dean. Carol married Keith Quaife and lives in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Sheri and Shelley. Wendy married Glen Graf, they live in Edmonton and have one son, Travis. Cindy married Curt Skjonsberg and live in Bentley with one daughter, Jodi. Gale is at home. A nephew, Ernie Downton, made his home with the Lemieuxs for several years. Ernie and his wife, June, live in Red Deer, Alberta. They have four children, Robin, Colleen, Bonnie and Rocky.

**LESKOSEK, OTTO AND BETTY — by [illegible]**

Otto Leskosek was born at Maple Leaf, a mining town in southern Alberta. He was working for Calgary Power in 1957 when he and his wife Betty bought the half section from Stewart MacDonald in the Midland district. We moved with our five children Francis, Leslie Ann, Rudy, Carol and Frank that same year.

Otto continued to work with the Power Company and also did the farming.

In the years that followed our family grew until we had a family of 12 healthy children. The older ones attended Rimbey school and went by school bus.

In 1967 the company transferred us to Rocky Mountain House so we sold the Rimbey farm and bought land just east of Rocky Mountain House.

Francis married Glen Owen of Blue Sky, Alberta. They now live west of Rocky Mountain House and have three children, Thresa, Dena and Dale.

Leslie Ann married Vern Rigler of Grand Prairie where they reside. They have one child, Tina.

Rudy married Lois Smith of Lacombe. They have one child Liza and live at Lethbridge.

Carol married Arnold Crum of Red Deer. They have two children, Colin and Kimberley and live in Rocky Mountain House.

Mary, Roxy, Otto Jr., Kathleen, Peter and Joe are still at home attending school.

Otto has now been working with Calgary Power for 25 years. We are still farming and now raise purebred shorthorn cattle on what is known as Kluane Shorthorn Farm.

**LESTER — JOE AND ALICE — NE 8-42-3-W5**

Joe and Alice Lester came to the Midland district in 1934. Joe was a carpenter and did a lot of this type of work around the area and in Rimbey.

They had three children, Eugene, Darryl and Sharron. They sold their farm to Ellen Hayward in 1957 and moved to Rolling Hills.

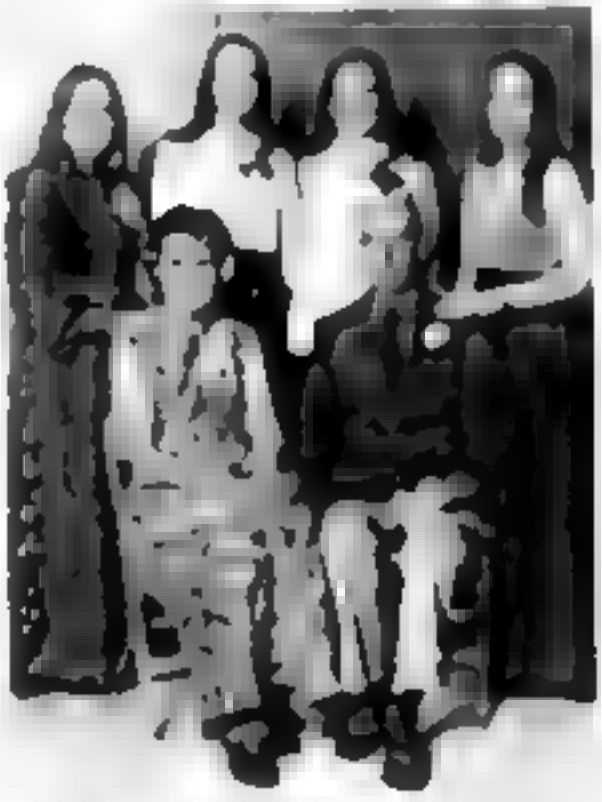
They still are living on the farm with their two [illegible].

Eugene married the former Betty Tennant from Leedale. They have four boys, LaVern, Bradley, Colin and Dennis.

Sharron is a school teacher. She is married and living in Calgary.

**LOOY, FLORIS AND ROSE NW 10-42-3-W5 — Written by Rose Looy**

Floris and Rose Looy moved to their home here in the Midland district in 1961, coming from Coronation in 1957, living in Rimbey and surrounding area till coming here in November.



[illegible]

1961. We bought this farm from Mr and Mrs Lyle Visger

Our oldest daughters, twins Valerie and Carolyn, were ten years old. Flora was eight years old, Bonnie was seven and our son Daryl was one year old

The old log house which was our home still stands and we lived in it until we built a new home in 1967

Carolyn married Charles Rallison and they farm 12 miles north-west of us. Valerie married Ken Clement, a mechanic, they live on an acreage on the home quarter Flora is home with us and Bonnie married Wayne Szczerba and lives in Calgary Son Daryl passed away at nine years of age in the spring of 1970

There was no one living on our back quarter when we came, but at one time Deacon's and Sprecker's did. We rent the quarter east of us, and Flora has the next one to it. She bought it from Gordon Ferguson. We have had a good life here with no major catastrophes

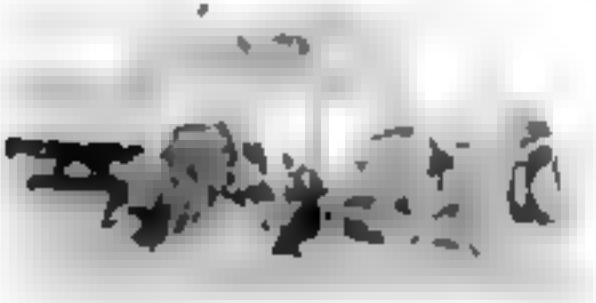
An old log chicken house burnt down, about the year 1964. Lost a few chickens but didn't lose any other buildings

**McDONALD, STEWART AND MABEL**

Stewart McDonald was born in Grand Valley Ontario. He married Mabel Anderson of Benson Minnesota, U.S.A. in the year of 1919

They lived at Bracken, Sask and four children were born, Doreen, Harvey Shirley and [illegible]

We left Saskatchewan for Alberta in 1934 in the "Hungry Thirties We were dried out there many years

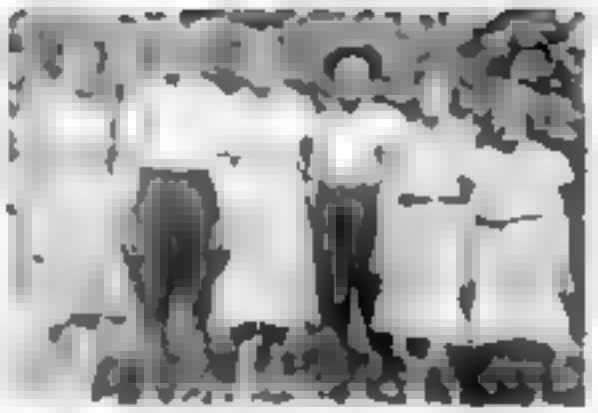


[illegible]

We travelled here by caravan and wagon load of household effects pulled by four horses. We chased about 27 head of cattle. We were six weeks on the road to get to Art Dupras' where Bill Marles now lives.

The McDonalds settled on NE 8-42-3-W5 at Rimbey where Max Keesar now lives, Midland district formed later in the year of 1939 but before that we walked three miles to Potter [illegible]

Stewart's mother and sister, Ethel, moved up



Stewart McDonald's Family Left to right: Shirley, Harvey Mabel Stewart, Doreen and Donna

from Sask in the year of 1930 In 1945 Stewart's mother, Mrs. Annie McDonald passed away In 1953 Stewart passed away and 1964 Harvey passed away

Doreen Bryanton lives at Rimbey Shirley Proskurniak at Kamloops, B.C and Donna Gunderson at Edmonton

Mabel is now living in a nursing home in Ed[illegible]

**MEUKSCH, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Frank and Gina Meuksch (pronounced Mix lived on the NE 16-42-3-W5 in the years prior to 1918 with their daughter Nellie and sons Henry and Isaac Mrs. Meuksch was a sister of Sanford Allison. Their daughter Nellie married a bachelor named Walter Young who lived on the south east quarter of the same section. Their children were born there and after a time Walter Young left and soon after the whole family moved to Armstrong B.C. Nellie later remarried but is now deceased as are her parents. Henry was married and is now a widower and lives in Surrey, B.C. He had one son. Isaac is married and lives with his family near Rutland, B.C

Sanford Allison's daughter Myrtle, with her husband, Joe Lamb, and four children lived on the farm from about 1918 to 1922 Mr Lamb was a trader and also had a beautiful purebred racing stallion which the oldest boy, Jimmie, (about seven or eight) had to exercise every day regardless of the weather. Both Mr and Mrs Lamb have since died having lived in various parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. One of their daughters, Mrs. Enid Hawking, lives in Lacombe and another lives at Morningside. Mrs. Margaret MacAravey

They were followed by Mr and Mrs. Otto German. Rosa German was a sister of Sanford Allison. She had one son, Clarence Hart, by a former marriage and two grandchildren, Betty and Wesley Buddy During this time the big yellow house burned down and a new one was bu[illegible]

Many others lived on this quarter including Arthur Nalder and his wife, Hilda, and two daughters Mr and Mrs. Quast and family, Mr and Mrs. Bert Williams, Mr and Mrs. Gilbert Cummings and family until it was sold to Mr Merle Tarrabain, the present owner

**THE MIDLAND LADIES CLUB — by Doris McElroy**

The club was organized in 1949 by Mrs Layton, wife of Mr Duncan Layton who taught school at Midland from 1946 to 1949

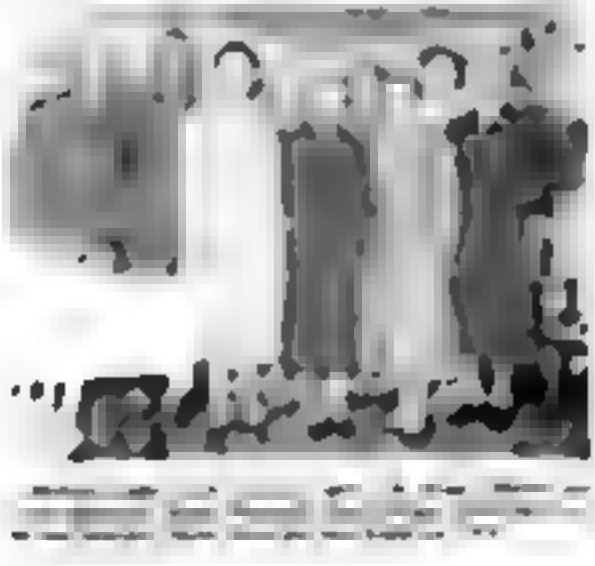
The first officers were Mrs. Floyd (Alida Booth, president and Mrs. Raymond (Miriam Saunders, secretary The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs John (Marian Iverson

The club is now in its 28th year We have quite a few working members so the club is not as active as it was in the beginning

In the early years the members made many quilts which were raffled to make money Old woolens were gathered and sent away to make wool blankets. The ladies served at weddings and auction sales, had a couple bake sales a year and usually a rummage sale The proceeds were used for many community projects. Donations to fire victims, the Salvation Army needy families, fruit baskets for the sick, and memorials for our loved ones were some of the projects We still carry on in much the same manner and make the donations when they are needed We also buy Christmas treats for the club and district youngsters

In the summer members and their families enjoy a club picnic and in the fall a pot luck supper

I joined the club in March 1954 The members at that time were Mable Ervin, Mrs. Hayward, Marian Iverson, Grace Mason, Katie Laye, Miriam Saunders, Letha Simmons, Lillian Shaw, Zerota Vleger Elida Solberg, and Mrs Kilpatrick Other early members were Mrs S McDonald, Alice Lester and Mary Hayward



On one occasion about 25 years ago the Ladies were to meet at Mrs. Shaw's home It had rained for days and the roads were very muddy as we had no gravel then. A car load of ladies drove within a mile and a half of Shaw's place and decided not to try the mudhole south of Sam Wilson's gate

With rain still falling the ladies took off their shoes and stockings and proceeded barefoot

One of the members carried her small son and the ladies tied his diapers over their heads to help shed the rain. We were quite a sight arriving at the Shaw home but the meeting was held as

The last couple of years the members have an evening out" They arrange to have supper and then attend a show after that

There are nine members in the club at the present time. Despite their age difference, their nationalities or religion we have yet to have any

**MIDLAND SCHOOL NO. [illegible]—BY D. McElroy**

A great influx of settlers came to this area in the 1930's from the dust bowl of Saskatchewan

Parents with school age children were soon concerned because of the distance between existing schools

A delegation of interested parents consulted with the municipal councillor and then the Department of Education, to plan a school in the immediate area. They finally succeeded in proving the need for a school, which resulted in the establishment of the Midland School District No 4826 on July 5, 1939. Prior to that, the district was a part of the East West subdivision No. 431 and was now included in Subdivision 5 of the Ponoka School Division No. 34

The school district which lies in Township 42 and partly in Range 3 and 4 W5, comprised of the following land namely Sections 6,7,8 and 17, 18, 19, 20, west halves of 4, 9, 16, and 21 north half and south east quarter of 5, south west quarter of Section 29, south half of 30 in Township 42 R3 east halves of Section 1, 12, 13, 24 south east quarter of Section 25 in Township 42 R4 W5. Later the south west of 5 and south east of 29 in R3 was also taken into the school district. It was bordered on the north by the Fuller district, on the west by Leedale and Mount View districts, on the south by the Benjamin district, and on the east by Potter Creek district. Consequently the name Midland was chosen because, it was in the middle, so to speak

A local school board was elected with Joe Lester elected secretary-treasurer and Ernest Hayward as chairman. Mr John Scoffield was appointed official trustee at the provincial level and Percy Fordham the offical trustee for the subdivision of which Midland School was a part

There were two school sites chosen and at the first school board meeting, held on August 14 1939, Ernest Hayward made a motion that arrangements be made to brush and clean up the

school site as soon as its location was established. Sam Wilson made a motion to make a full size basement and Joe Lester made a motion that preference be given to unmarried teachers.

On August 15, 1939 a three acre site situated on the south west corner of section 17-42-3-W5 was approved. The other site suggested was one half mile south of this.

Clem Baldridge was given the contract to build the school and received 35¢an hour. He boarded at Haywards while he was building it. The lumber was purchased from Varty's mill. John Iverson helped with carpenter work receiving a small wage. Many district residents volunteered their help and the school soon took shape.

On October 30, 1939 tenders for 12 cords of dry wood were called for, and at the November meeting Norton William's tender for $2.40 a cord was accepted if approved by the divisional [illegible].

The December meeting was held in the new school house. The need for a barn was discussed and Mr. Hayward made a motion that Sam Wilson contact Johnny Jones and have him deliver the lumber for the barn.

Sam Wilson made a motion that Bertha Hayward and Ruby Sprecker be appointed to do the janitor work for the first month at 50¢ a week. The Grade 7, 8 and 9 students took turns after that doing the janitor work. Joe Lester later became janitor and received five dollars a month.

The school opened for the first time on January 3, 1940 with James Demanchuk teaching until the term end June 30, 1940. There were 26 pupils enrolled. He received a salary of $640.00, which was the minimum salary set by the Department of Education. He boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kutyiks for part of the term and paid $25.00 a month for board and [illegible].

There was no well for the first while so Lawrence and Harvey Simmons hauled drinking water from Hayward's in five gallon cream cans. They got five cents for each can of water delivered. The well was then drilled by Gus Starozik.

From date of opening the Midland school was administered by the Ponoka School Division. Mr. L.S. Walker was school inspector at the time.

Mr. Percy Fordham, the Divisional trustee had almost complete control of the operation of schools in his division. The local board members were responsible for minor matters and made recommendations for any improvements to the divisional board.

The annual meeting was held on February 26, 1940. Two tenders for posts to fence the school yard were rendered with Mr. Visger's bid being accepted at five cents a post over L.H. Chabot's seven cents. A motion by Harold Thomas that the posts be set 12 feet apart, with two smooth wires and two barbed wire on top, was seconded by Sam Sprecker and carried.

Water became a problem in the basement which resulted in many hours of work by members who volunteered their time.

The school subjects during the first school term were very much textbook oriented, as there

Midland School - September to June 1941-1942. From rear left to right: Gladys Bakke, Walter Sprecker, Eugene Lester, Cecil [illegible]

was very limited supplementary material or equipment

Sports activities were also of a very limited nature Softball was the main sport in the spring Each school received a bat and a softball and this was the yearly allotment of sports equipment by the divisional board. Practicing for the track meet was started early in the spring. This resulted in the biggest event of the year when the contestants from each local school travelled in the back of a big truck to Ponoka to participate in the divisional tract meet in the early part of June Midland school always brought many of the ribbons home

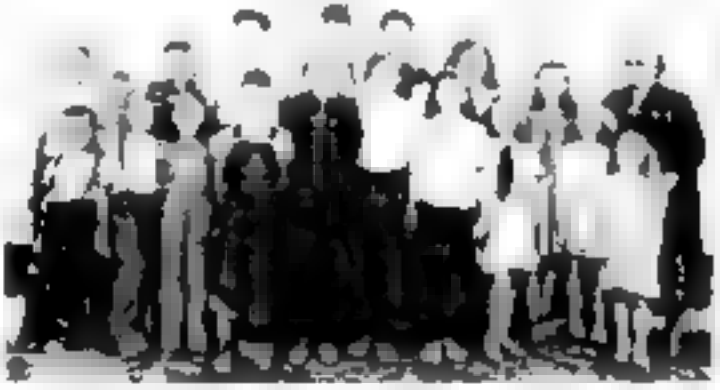
Mrs Esther Stownge in front of Midland School She taught 1940-41 and 1941-1942

When the 1940 fall term opened Mrs. Esther Stownge accepted the teaching position which she held for two years. In 1944 the board felt a teacherage was necessary so the teacherage was built

I am not sure in what order the teachers came for the next few years but Ruth Stevens Frankl Miss Ingram, Miss Storeshanko, Doreen Mason sub, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Viola Benson taught until 1946

Then Mr Duncan Layton came in September 1946 and taught until June 1949 Dale Vinger taught the 1949—1950 term, Mrs. C.I. Simon 1950—1951. Mrs. John Jones 1951—1952, Miss Janet Wiley 1952—1953. John Morrison 1953—1954 and Miss Marie Burnett the 1954—1955 term, the last term the school was open

On February 18, 1947 the Ponoka School Division No. 34 was included in subdivision 4



Midland School 1950 Mrs C I Simon Teacher From row left to right Norma Shaw Bernard Booth Bill Parkins Bob Shaw Henry Armbruster Darrel Linton Ray unreadable Kathleen Fode Hazel Mc[illegible] Ruby Parkins Back row Wayne Fode Earl Booth Pam Mac[illegible] Bill Saunders Pam Booth Joyce Lemieux Gloria Booth and Mrs Simon teacher

Then on December 22, 1951 all the Municipal Districts of Ponoka No 98 and parts of Improvement Districts No. 65, No. 68 and No. 75 were incorporated by Ministerial Order so on January 1, 1952 the County of Ponoka No. 3 was established Thus the Midland School District No 4856 was included within the County boundaries and still is

In a small community such as this, most interested parents were involved with school matters at one time or another Besides those previously mentioned there was Stewart McDonald, Slim Moore. Sam Sprecker, J R Booth Mr and Mrs Harold Thomas. Carl Iverson. Melvin Simmons. Mrs. Lambertus, Mr and Mrs. Lemieux Fred Shaw Santa) and the ever faithful Mrs. Vinger who played the organ at the Christmas concert Also Mrs Floyd Booth who scrubbed and cleaned the school from top to bottom including the basement for a mere seven dollars Gus Fode was secretary and Harold Lemieux chairman of the board when the school closed

During the 15 years the school was open there were many community picnics. Christmas concerts, ball games, and church services held at the school Then, with the introduction of school centralization, the Midland school along with many other country schools, was closed and the children bussed to Rimbey

Harold Lemieux was the first school bus driver He was a very capable, efficient driver and was very conscientious of the safety and comfort of his passengers. The ride on the bus was quite a change from the rainy trip in summer and the freezing ride in winter but due to the

very trying experiences especially for the driver Despite the near impassable roads the bus usually made it through one way or another Harold drove the bus from 1955 to 1967 a total of 12 years

The Midland school was sold to Frank Nugent and then he sold it to the Faraway district where it served as a school until it closed It is now serving as a community centre at Faraway

Fred Shaw bought the barn for $75.00, jacked it up and then sold it to Melvin Simmons for the

The teacherage was moved to Mount View school where it was then sold to Mr Ted Jenson They lived in it for awhile and it still remains on the Jenson farm

mation for this article.

**MIDLAND REMINISCENCES — written by Joan (Visger) Ferguson**

In looking back to the eight years I spent at Midland school, I'd like to pay tribute to all the teachers However I owe a special thanks to one who taught two years there — Mrs. Earl

She was able to get us to strive for neatness even though some of us never arrived by offering prizes for the three divisions. Bonnie Visger got first in Division 1, a lovely laced green a burn, which she still treasures today

Mrs. Stollings always read to us while we ate our lunch. It was during this time we learned to love the carrot haired Anne from Green Gables to Ingleside

Many will remember Cecil Stollings had trouble with the bones in his legs and had to be in casts and go on crutches. Someone would hold his crutches for him in a ready position while he batted, and then away he'd go in long hops

It will also bring back memories to many to mention Mrs Stollings letting us all go on the Moore quarter and choose an evergreen to plant around the perimeter of the school ground (mine never survived I'm sure many of us chose poorly, but she made us all feel we had done well

It wouldn't be right to not mention the FINE times we spent sleighriding on Hayward's hill playing steal sticks at school, which included running all over Moore's and Lester's quarters Our Christmas concerts were always a joy too when the little one room school house was transformed into a grand theatre with decorations, a lovely tree the boys always brought in, and everything smelling of spruce Of course we can not forget Fred Shaw as Santa Claus. In the springtime, as soon as a tiny bit of dry ground appeared, we spent weeks preparing for our annual trackmeets

During the war we had Red Cross programs Friday afternoons where we all took part. By the way, does anyone know what became of our War Bonds we bought?

**MOORE, MR. AND MRS. ALFRED (ELSIE) SW 17-42-3-W5 — by Nettie (Mrs. Don Selby)**

In the summer of 1933 my dad and mother and seven of my brothers and sisters moved to the Midland district Dad built a log house on the north west corner of the quarter next to the creek. The Midland School was built on the southeast corner of our land in 1939. The children who went to the school were Charles, Bill, Mae, George, Iris, Florence and Bert

In the eight years we lived there, Arvilla Etta, Alfred, Nettie (me) and Alice were born. We moved to Leedale in 1941 and Harvey was born in 1942. In 1943 we moved to Faraway By this time Charles, Mae, Bill, Iris, George and Florence were away from home The boys joined the army and the girls married

We farmed in the Faraway district which is about 36 miles west of Rimbey and daddy also worked in the sawmill there

We moved to Edberg in 1954 where mom died of cancer in the Camrose hospital. In 1956 we moved to Edmonton where daddy worked as a guard for an oil refinery In 1961 daddy died of a heart attack

Charles married while he was in the army, they have four children and six grandchildren and live in Grimshaw where he works as a guard of the jail. Bill and his wife have one child and he is a salesman in Vancouver Mae married and they have three children and 11 grandchildren They are living on an acreage at Mara, B.C where they farm and her husband works in the mill Florence and her husband have one child and lives in Florida. They are both geologist Bert and his wife have seven children and four grandchildren. They live near Armstrong, B.C on a farm. Arvilla (Kingston) has two children and two grandchildren. She works in the liquor store in Radium Hot Springs. Etta (Helsler) has five children and one grandchild. They live on a farm at Tees, Alberta and her husband works for the Department of Highways. Alfred and his wife have three children and one grandchild. They live in the States. Nettie Selby) has five children and live on an acreage at Charlie Lake, B.C My husband is an Engineer Technician and works for the Government. Alice (Lenny) has three children and lives in Winfield, B.C. on a small fruit farm. Her husband works for the town Harvey and his wife have three children and lives on a ranch at Enderby B.C. When daddy died in 1961 he had 34 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Had he lived, there are 48 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren now

**PARKER, MARTIN AND HILDRED NE 24-42-4-W5 — written by Martin A. Parker**

Harry Wm. Parker and his wife Della Jane Parker came to Rimbey in October 1919 from Harbine, Nebraska

It was a trip to visit Mrs. Parker's sister and to see this grand country as so described by Lydia Shamp. It was so wonderful that weeds didn't grow in the gardens and such stories about wild fruit' Anyone from Nebraska knows how the weeds can grow down there and that explains the weed story

Bert J Shamp's had arrived the year previous and was working for E. A. Connelly at the time so they were the hosts of Dad and Mother Parker They fell in love with the country and decided to buy a farm. Herb Connelly took them with team and cutter to look at various farms on October 12, 1919. Yes, a team and cutter as many will recall that the snow came early on October 8, and if I recall correctly it was a mean long winter Six feet of snow on the level at Rimbey but the farmers were getting on the land by May 21, 1920. Talks about floods, we sure had them that spring

It was on October 12, 1919 that they purchased the Bodlcoat homestead, eight miles west of town. NE 24-42-4-W5 was the location. There is a sad story about this place being for sale. Dyar had the adjoining quarter to the west Bodlcoat built his house and buildings by a large spring that he thought was on his land. Dyar claimed the spring and buildings were on his land and quite an argument was started. Mr Bodlcoat decided to build again so moved to the centre of his land Dug a well by hand some 40 feet deep His young son went to get a pail of water and dropped the pail to the bottom. He started down to get it but as soon as his head was below the surface he fell. His sister, being there too, screamed and his dad came running from the barn where he was working. Without thinking of gas he also started down to get his son. The same thing then happened to him. A grapple hook had to be used to bring them out, Jack Rotherham and Manley Cumberland both tried to go down but had to be brought up immediately Father and son are buried on the hill in the Leedale Cemetery Hildred Cumberland was the organist at their funeral which was in 1915

Mother and we four children arrived in Rimbey, March 9, 1920. The railway had just been completed that winter It took two days to come from Lacombe as the train stopped in Bentley over nigh.

Irma, the oldest married Gilbert Lloyd, farmed the old Lloyd place for a long period and now reside at 272 2nd Ave. Chula Vista, Califor nia.

Bert married and now retired at 54 2 Horton Mission Kansas

Martin married Hildred Cumberland both retired at 10535 87 Ave. Edmonton

Celia, recently widowed, married Warren K

Hatz. and lives at 5779 Calvin Way, San Diego. California

Dad and we two boys were born in Illinois Both girls were born in Nebraska and mother was an "I-oway" born gal.

When we first arrived we rented three rooms in the old Jim Rimbey house. Mother made hats and had a millinery in the front room In the last of March Jones and Cork built the green house that is directly across the street south of the

We moved out to the farm in April 1923 and I as a young punk batched out there much of the

Wild? I'll say it was! At first it took over 12 miles of trail to get there. The graded road ended at the top of the river hill which was some hill in those days Some trail. Darby was on the hill and we went around that and angled across to the two mile corner The first house out of town was I A Iddings and after the two mile corner was Earl Jackson's place We trailed for one half mile in side his land and on west to the top of Joe Hohn Sr hill. At this five mile corner it was south for three quarters of a mile and angled across com ing out at the Joe Lamb's. Then as the trail took us in and out and around sloughs we entered Prosser's land. across there into Bowman along his south line out onto a C P R quarter then angling until we travelled a short ways on the Davidson place (later T Laye's) Around a few more pot holes and we entered our place near the east The trail went along on the south of our buildings and out at out north west corner I liked it many a time It was horse and buggy in those days and very few cars

Mother and I farmed the home place together for three years. Lived in the old log house until we built a new one in 1925. We had hardly moved into it when we made another move to the Broderson place at Leedale. We farmed that place along with our own the year of 1926. We decided we had enough so we had a farm sale in March 1927 and moved back to Kansas and spent the year down there. Dad had never moved to Canada with us as he was a station agent on the Rock Island Railway Bert didn't stay to live in

Rimbey either as he was also a telegrapher and agent working for the same railway. Dad used to have me doing most of the office work when I wasn't working at something else so I became a ham operator.

Canada was in my blood so I came back in April 1925. Mother and Celia stayed down with Dad and came up that fall. Dad was also pensioned off that fall and came up in August. He didn't enjoy his pension very long as he passed away December 2.

I still had farming in my mind so bought some horses and broken down machinery and moved back to the farm, as we hadn't sold it when we had the sale. Hildred Cumberland and I were married November 7, 1930 and maybe that is what started the "Hungry Thirties". Celia married Warren K. Hatz of Chula Vista, California in April, 1931 and mother went down there to live with them. She passed away on August 22, 1932.

I said I farmed the old place, farmed, if you could call it that. It sure was hard times and Hildred and I worked our heads off, and did our best. We ate but many times wondered where the next sack of sugar or flour was coming from. The garden was a godsend those days. Raised hogs to sell at three dollars each, milked cows and a five gallon can of cream delivered to town would [illegible] ate chicken until we were sick of it. Sold some [illegible] Hauled wood and fence posts to town. Just think tamarack posts at two and one half cents each. No use telling you old timers these things as you have all been through it. Took out logs to get a few dollars by selling bridge plank and lumber. Had a shingle mill so sawed shingles, yes, my fingers too. Played for dances for three and four dollars a night. Often having to drive a team and cutter when old man weather would have it down to 49 or 50 degrees below zero (Farenheit). Go to celebrations and hope to win some of the prize money. Call all that farming? Hard times? I thought so.

After 10 years of married life and hard times we had two children. We decided Hildred could help out by teaching again. Schools were hard to get but she managed to get one at Moose Portage and that was 12 miles out of Smith, Alberta, across the river and down it to the west and north side.

The helping out failed as the ratepayers were all broke and had no money to pay a teacher. The scheme was for the teacher to board at each [illegible]ce until the amount of board had paid up their back taxes. I stopped that in a hurry by taking the two kids up there and letting her hire a girl instead of me hiring one. After I did that I had to send up money for them to live on. She did get paid after a long wait.

Hildred and I had three children. James McPherson Parker was born January 8, 1934. He is the University Architect at the University of Alberta here in Edmonton and also a Professor there. He married June Hielman of Everest. They have two boys and two girls and live at St. Albert.

Shirley June Parker was born June 8, 1936 and married Serge Andreff a section foreman on the C.N. out of Red Deer. She teaches music and piano lessons in Sylvan Lake where they reside. They have one boy and three girls.

Max Robert Parker born November 18, 1937 didn't stay with us very long as he died of septic pneumonia March 23, 1940. Dad is buried in the Rimbey cemetery (as he died on the farm after retiring) and by his side is our little Max. So they each have company. Grandpa and grandson. Mother is buried near the Little Church of Roses at Chula Vista, California.

[illegible]re was no school near the farm, Fuller was our district but built too far away. Leedale was our next closest but still four miles away. It was decided we would build another and we did. It was called Mountain View. It caused some high taxes and after we had paid them the neighbors to the west that wouldn't join the district at first, changed their minds and had the district enlarged. Also managed to have the school moved a mile west and one half mile north. As I have heard it is called Mount View now, they must have changed the name at that time also.

When coming to Rimbey, Sam Rimbey and other old timers told me that the Blindman river was named that because it wandered around like a blind man. Anyone that has skated on it as we did in the old days could sure see, that was a fact.

I joined the army in 1941, went overseas to active duty and was discharged in October 1945.

When we came to the farm in 1920 our neighbors were Howard and Maude Bowman on NE 30. Paul Carlson who was married to

Draper's daughter on SE 30, the Davidson family on SW 30. They had a boy and a girl. He owned four buckskin horses of the old wild type with a black line down their backs. When he sold the place to Theo Laye in 1923 or 23 the horses went with the land.

To the north of us were the Draper family. A small lake known as Draper Lake was the south boundary of Harry Draper's homestead and it pretty well covered the east side of his land. A son Harry Jr. died there, and because it was possible to get a permit to bury on your land he was buried directly across from the homestead in the curve of the lake. Gil and Lloyd Draper left in 1925. The Rogers family lived near Drapers and Geo Webb who married Margaret Rogers lived with them. Ed Hobeck, Herman Bowell, Charlie Jacobson and Patton lived on north. Others to the south west were Fred Perkins, John Beck, Clay Aldridge and Jim Jackson. Directly south was Bill Murby and Jack Rotherham.

I've written too much, so will sign off by dating this November 15, 1977.

**PARKINS, CLIFFORD AND ANNIE** by A. Parkins

Cliff was born at Heward, Saskatchewan and his wife the former Annie Corbett in Moose Jaw.

We were married in 1938 and came to the Leedale district that fall from Climax, Saskatchewan. We bought a C.P.R. quarter west of Leedale, where we lived for 10 years.

Those years were hard years as it took a lot of work and money to establish a home, get the necessary equipment to farm with and still make a living, as money was short.

In the winter Cliff cut tamarack posts, hauled them home with team and sleigh and then cut them in post lengths by hand with a Swede saw. He then hauled them into Leedale where an old friend, Dan Myers, from the prairies, owned the store. He was paying three cents a post so a load of 100 posts was worth three dollars. This certainly helped to buy the groceries.

We were blessed with two children, Bill and Ruby while we lived there.

In 1948 we bought the SE 13-42-3-W5 from Scott Willets which was in the Midland district. Bill had started school at Leedale and then he and Ruby attended the Midland school.

Our youngest son Eddy was born here to complete our family.

In 1954 we sold the quarter west of Leedale to Lester Robinson and bought the SW 30-42-3-W5 from Theo Laye. This quarter was on the main road west of Rimbey. It was closer to town and also on the school bus route into Rimbey. However our stay there was short as we decided to move into town in October 1956. We later sold one quarter of land to Art and Phyllis Green and the other to Owen and Doris McElroy.

Cliff worked for different ones for awhile and then took the job of milk delivery for the town in 1963. We also kept quite a few pigs so it kept us busy.

Bill worked part time at the Rimbey Creamery and upon completion of High School he accepted steady employment there with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. He is now sales supervisor of Alpha Milk.

Bill and his wife, the former Vivian Torwal of Lannigan, Saskatchewan live in Red Deer. They have two girls Michelle and Kimberley.

When Ruby completed school she took a course and became a Certified Nursing Aid. She worked for six years at the Rimbey General Hospital before she met and married Cyril Newsham. They live on a farm at Innisfail and have two children Rodney and Connie.

Eddy also worked at the Rimbey Creamery but took over the milk delivery from his parents and has been the Alpha Distibutor for the past 10 years. He married Audrey Berg of High Prairie and they have a little girl Tasha.

They have built a nice new house in Rimbey where they reside.

**PURDY JACK AND THELMA**

In August 1972 Jack and Thelma Purdy purchased a quarter of land from Jim and Martha Crowell and moved out from Calgary with their three sons, Dana, David and Dean.

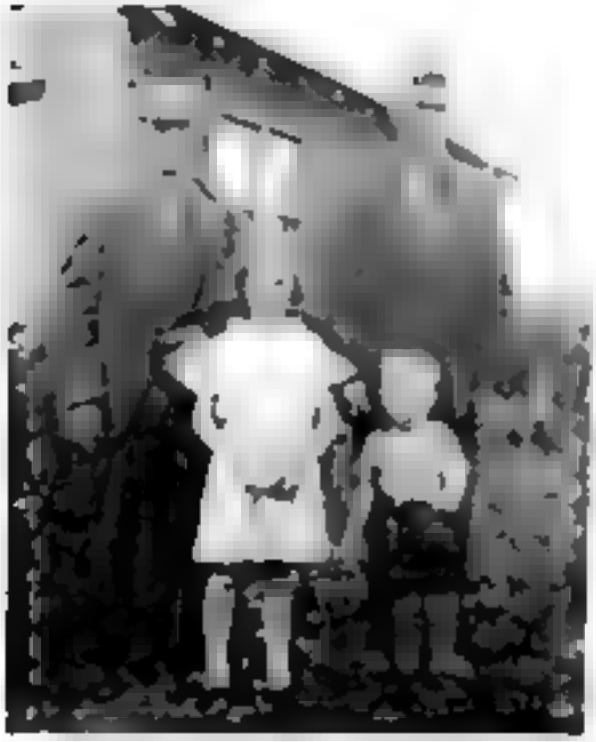
My husband, Jack, was born at Lestock Saskatchewan and finished his schooling at the Lutheran College in Regina.

I Thelma (French) was born at Grandview Manitoba and my family moved to Alberta in 1946.

Jack and I first met in Calgary in 1952. Jack was employed with the C.P.R. for 17 years and was working at the Aquitaine Gas Plant at Ram River before coming to this area to farm.

**JOHN GOULD ROTHERHAM — NW 30-42-3-W5**

John was born in Coventry, England on May 12, 1879. He came to Canada in 1902 and worked around Winnipeg for a few years and settled in the Leedale district in 1907.



[illegible] Ann Sutherland, Edith Lee and Jean Hastings. Taken in May 1916

He had the first radio in the district and neighbors would come for miles around in the winter to listen to the Old Timers from Calgary on Thursday evenings. Gang Busters was another favorite program. The women would bring lunch and all would spend an enjoyable evening. He sold the farm to Ray Lambertus in 1941 and moved to Rimbey. He was almost blind when he passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital on July 17 1968. He was 68

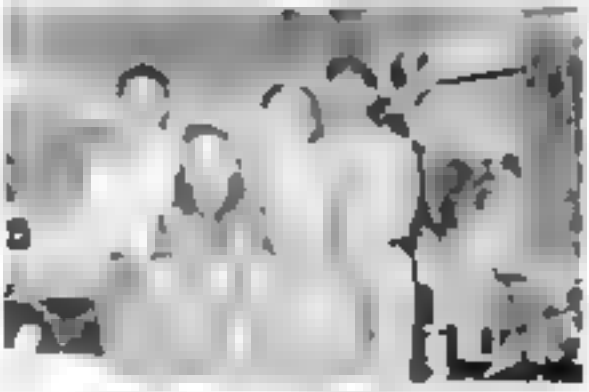
**SAUNDERS, RAYMOND AND MIRIAM—NW 5-42-3-W5**

Raymond Saunders, along with his wife Miriam and his nine-year-old son, Bill, moved to the Midland district in 1946, following Raymond's discharge from the airforce as a World War II veteran. They had farmed at Cactus Lake, Saskatchewan, until Raymond and a daughter, Polly joined the airforce. At that time, Miriam and Bill moved to Lacombe for the duration of the war.

They bought the former Percy Thomas place situated at NW 5-42-3-W5. At the time, they had to drive through the quarter to the east of them where the Walter Hayward family lived. They later built a bridge over the creek in their land, so access was gained from the road to the west of their quarter.

In 1948 Raymond and Miriam adopted a young boy, Simon. The following spring they adopted 10 months old Joanne.

Raymond Saunders



Taken in October 1967. Left to right: Simon, Joanne Saunders and Bill Saunders

Besides farming, Raymond taught school first at Leedale and later at Benjamin. He was well known for his sense of humor and his creative story-telling. In August, 1954, he died suddenly of a heart attack and was buried in Rimbey. He would have taught at the Midland school that term had he lived.

Miriam was the first secretary of the Midland Ladies Club. She enjoyed gardening and sewing. As well, Miriam had a beautiful contralto voice.

Following Raymond's death, Miriam and the children moved to Lacombe and then back again to the Midland district. Bill joined the Canadian Armed Forces and lives in Calgary with his family.

Miriam and the other two children went first to Georgia, U.S.A. in April 1968, and then to Florida, U.S.A. where Simon and Joanne both live with their families. Miriam died in 1974.

**SIMMONS, MELVIN AND LEITHA — given by Nora Simmons**

Melvin Simmons was born in Michigan in 1899 and with his parents later moved to Scottsguard, Saskatchewan. In 1924 he married Leitha Downs of Havre, Montana, who was born in 1905 in the state of Michigan also.

May 22, 1934 dawned bright and early for Melvin and Leitha, their two boys Lawrence, age nine, and Harvey, age seven, and small daughter Bernice, age two years. They were leaving the Saskatchewan dust bowl behind heading west by covered wagon to Alberta. Melvin had made his own covered wagon eight by 14 feet on a 'Bennett Wagon' made from the rear ends of two Model T Fords.

They had one wagon with two cows in it. Another wagon had machinery and the covered wagon was tied behind this one. A four horse team pulled this outfit. They also had one saddle pony. Their main supplies included two 100 pound bags of flour and some groceries and $40

They stopped at Dixon, Alberta about three weeks and rested. Melvin helped clear land there.

July 15, 1934 Melvin and his family arrived at Leedale where they camped on the Mighe place, perhaps better known to some as the Art Dupras place. Difficult times, moves and sickness followed. Later they returned to the Dupras place and bought it.

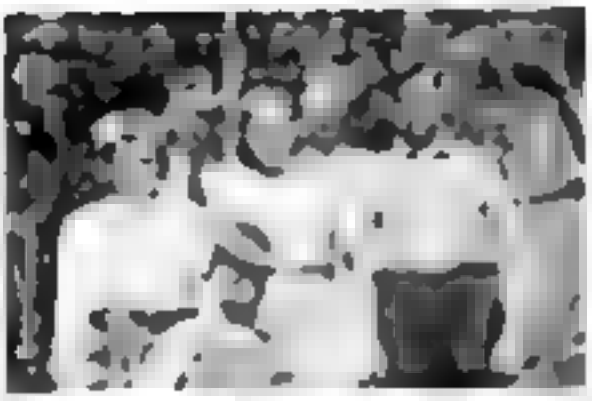
In 1936 a new baby boy, Jack Albert, arrived to bless their home.

Their children now four, received their education at Mount View, the two Leedale schools, and Midland school.

Melvin and the boys helped build a number of roads in the community using horses and fresnos. He was kept busy farming and caring for his family but he always had time to help anyone who needed help.

Community wood sawing days to ensure a good supply of fuel for the winter were memorable times. Fall harvest and threshing with threshing machines, hayracks, teams, and bundles was a time everyone looked forward to. Harvey did some brush cutting with Ernie Drader, using a caterpillar tractor. He also had a sawmill on his dad's place.

Recreation was healthful but simple and loads of fun. The whole neighborhood would gather together for ball games in the summer. Winter found most of the children sleigh riding or skating on some slough or home rink.



Wages weren't that great. Students who did janitor work at the Midland school received $2.00 a month and in winter time $2.50 a month, because the wood fires had to be kept going night and day to keep the school warm enough.

War broke out. In 1943 their eldest son Lawrence took his place among the boys who fought to defend loved ones and country. When he returned he took up farming on the Chris Bakke homestead. In 1949 he married Ivy Hewes of Athabasca. They have seven children, Gail (Mrs. Clarence Hall), Dwayne, Ricky, Darlene, Terry, Margaret and Tammy. They still reside on the farm and are contributing their part to the community.

July 1950 Harvey married Nora Visger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Visger of Leedale. It rained every day for 17 days before the wedding but July 18 was sunny and bright. They made their home at Vulcan, Alberta. They have four girls, Judy (Mrs. John Wren of Belt, Montana, Diane (Mrs. Robert Crawford) of Calgary, Karen living in Calgary and Wanda at home with her folks. Harvey is a contractor and owns the Vulcan S and S Concrete plant at Vulcan.

Bernice married William Perreault of St. Albert, Alberta. They have five children, Marilyn, Jean (Mrs. Howard Thompson) of Devon, Brian, Bradley, and Debbie all of Rimbey. Bill served for some years as a town foreman for Rimbey where they still live. Jack married Darlene Schauermann of Champion, Alberta. Jack liked trucking and owned his own truck. They lived at Vulcan for some time and later moved to Rimbey. They had one girl Sharon. Jack passed away in 1967.

In 1971 Melvin and Leitha retired from farming and moved into town (Rimbey) where they now reside. They feel life has been good to them and greatly enjoy and appreciate visits from old time neighbors.

**SHAW, FRED AND LILLIAN SE 17-40-3-W5 by Fred Shaw**

I was born in Blackburn, England on May 11.

1906. My mother died when I was five years old In May 1914 my father two brothers and I came to Canada on the Empress of Ireland. The war had just started and on the next trip abroad she was rammed by a Swedish boat and she sank We came to Calahad Alberta for awhile and then dad went back to England in the first World War for two and a half years. During this time my brothers and I stayed with an uncle

When dad returned we moved to Big Valley Alberta where we farmed from May 1919 to April 1935.

We were dried out year after year so I decided to move. I had been out to Rimbey in 1934 and made a payment on the SE 17-42-3-W5. We travelled to Rimbey by train and I had three head of cattle We arrived in the Midland district in May 1935

was a raw quarter of land, no fence, no buildings and all bush except 15 acres. I had only 90¢ left when I arrived at the farm My first house was built out of C P.R doors. It was seven by 11 feet

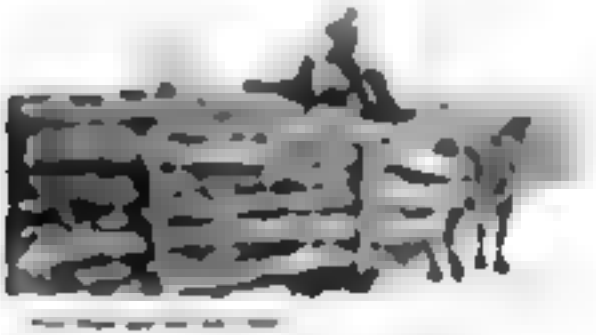
Lillian Shaw (nee Bryanton) came from Olds, Alberta with her mom and dad Mr and Mrs Herb Bryanton and sisters and brothers. They arrived on April 1 1927 in Rimbey They came by train

They rode on a stone boat with sacks of grain and pulled by a team of horses from Rimbey out to the farm. There were stumps all over the road and lots of water We settled in the Potter Creek district which was east of the Midland district which came later Lillian had all her schooling at Potter Creek On December 16, 1937 Lillian married Fred Shaw They built a new house after they were married. It was 12 feet by 20 feet originally and then we built on to it after the children arrived

We had 10 children. Seven boys and three girls. Eight are still alive. Two boys passed [illegible]

We used to milk cows and sell cream and eggs. Fred sold wood to help make ends meet Sometimes he would sell three loads of wood a week and hauled it into Rimbey That was eight miles one way 16 miles round trip

Jim the oldest boy took all his schooling at Midland. He now lives around Rimbey



Kenneth the second boy went to Midland to Grade 9, then took his high school in Rimbey He and his wife and two children live in Singapore Wayne started school at Midland and then the bus came Wayne passed away in 1969. Allan and his wife live in Spruce Grove. Terry lives on the farm at Rimbey

Linda Marchildon Shaw has two children and lives at Rocky Mountain House. Freda and Franklin were twins Freda Steele (Shaw) has two children and lives at Wetaskiwin Franklin works at the gas plant at Rimbey Baby Dean passed away in 1961 and Karen our youngest will graduate in September this year 1977

We enjoyed our lives at Midland. Everyone was friendly and we visited a lot We had a Midland Ladies Club. We met once a month at different houses. Midland was very active in sports. The country schools always had track meets. We had a ball team. Jim Booth, Jack Simmons, Wayne Fode. Alec Szoke, Jim Shaw, Bill Saunders Stanford Wilson and Earl Booth was on the team I can not remember the rest Stanford Wilson could really hit the ball. He was a big fellow and usually when Stanford came up to bat bases were loaded He would knock a home run and would bring them all home

We also had a good hockey team. We made a rink at our place with high board fence and lights. Jack Cruickshank. Eugene and Darryl Lester and the Shaws made up a hockey team

We had a new 1948 Ford Ton Truck We used to take all the team to the games Sometimes we would have spectators ride along

Mr Layton (the School teacher) would bring along a heavy rope. Different times we got stuck and the kids would pull us out with the rope

Clare Thomas, George McTighe and Fred Shaw, were a high scoring hockey line for Rimbey in the 1940's

We lived in the Midland district until 1957 then we moved two miles south of Rimbey where we lived for three years. Then in 1960 we bought a farm six miles north west of Rimbey and we lived there until 1973. We are now retired in Rimbey We will be married 40 years on December 16, 1977

**SCHROEDER, FREDERICK AND LUCY — by Fred Schroeder Jr.**

Frederick Albert Leopold Schroeder Sr was born October 13, 1895. His wife the former Lucy Bicke was born January 18, 1901 They were both born in the city of Quedlinburg, Province of Saxony in Germany They were married in 1919

Their son Frederick Albert Leo was born May 15, 1921 also in Quedlinburg

My parents chose to immigrate to Canada in the year 1929, coming directly to the southern prairie region of Alberta They settled in the Vulcan district in 1932, working for a wheat

mer by the name of Jim Robson northwest of Vulcan

I had stayed behind with my grandparents, so

in May 1933, four years later they sent for me. I celebrated my 12th birthday on the C P R Liner ship Montrose the day it entered the Gulf of [illegible]

My parents then undertook to farm on their own in the Snake Creek district in 1935-1936. I attended Snake Creek school for four years

We were forced to abandon farming at Snake Creek and farmed another year at Vulcan in 1937, renting a half section from William Becker

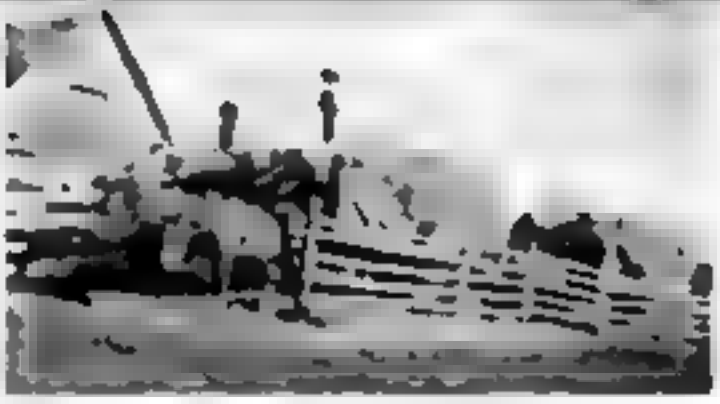
We moved to the Rimbey district in the spring of 1938, purchasing what was then known as the Nels Cumberland homestead

In the year 1941 we purchased the home quarter known as the Parker place (NW 24-42-3 W5) from one Martin Parker, where Ar Carpenter's are now adding the quarter south of this, next to and in between us and the Jackson place, purchased from D. Defilippi in the year 1943. We sold the Nels Cumberland homestead to one William Goodrich in the year 1941. Bill perished on this place two years later, having been found dead by a neighbor, in his barn between his stabled team of horses

I bought the SW 36-42-4-W5 known as the Draper homestead from the Municipality at a Tax Sale in the year 1942

[illegible]

I was promptly informed by a close neighbor, Gib Tricker that the former owner (Draper was still residing there in everlasting peace and did not wish to be disturbed. I sold this place to a gentleman speculator from Forest Lawn Calgary in the year 1963



Playing Time - Fred Sr. and Freddie Schroeder on the log, Arthur Chapman on fence.

We sold the Parker place in 1956 to Ar Carpenter and moved to the Iola district

I married the former Myrtle Mary Morris in November 1948 and we had a family of four children all born at Rimbey

Albert Leonard Schroeder was born December 14, 1951. He married Lynn Lisisky of Clareshom in June 1973

Josephine Marie Schroeder was born December 17 1952. She married Peter Calvert of Rocky Mountain House in July 1971. They have two daughters Tannis born January 1, 1974 and Jackie born January 24, 1975

Brenda Marlene Schroeder was born August 16, 1954. She married James Weber of Rocky Mountain House in June 1975. They live in Edmonton and have a daughter January born August 30, 1976

Harold Edward Schroeder was born August 31, 1956. He married Barbara Toth of High River and live in Rocky Mountain House. They have a son Jeremiah born on March 15, 1974 and a daughter Karla on March 18, 1976

I married a second time and my wife and I both work at the Michener Centre formerly known as the Deerhome Institute

My father Frederick Albert Leopold Schroeder passed away March 2, 1982 at Bluffton with internment in the Rimbey Cemetery

My mother Lucy Schroeder lives in Rimbey and is keeping very well

**SPRECKER, SAM AND MARIE, NE 18-40-3-W5 - by Marie Sprecker**

Sam Sprecker was born in Garson, Russia August 13, 1900. He lived there until the age of five years when he with his family moved to Tripp, North Dakota, U S.A

When he was 14 years old the family moved again to live in Halton, Saskatchewan. He was united in marriage to Marie Laux, February 10, 1924. She came with her family to Lehr North Dakota in 1909 from Roumania. Marie Laux was born April 15, 1903

In 1918 the family moved to Hatton, Saskatchewan. That is where all my mother's family was living in 1924

On September 21, Sam and I moved to Alliance, Alberta with two wagons, one covered

to live in, the other with a hay rack on, with all our belongings. Three of our milk cows we gave to my parents. The rest of our stock we sold for what we could get and that was very little. A ready for market pig we got five dollars, for a cow we got $25. You were lucky to get that as there were no crops, as 1924 was the first year that the drought hit Saskatchewan.

Sam's brother Jack was living in Alliance so that is why we moved there. The crops were fairly good so there was work to be had. We got to Alliance October 4, 1924, and fixed up a 12 by 15 foot granary to live in. We lived in it until 1925 when we finally got a farm to rent. Sam's 14 year old brother had come with us to Alliance as he drove the four horse team on the hayrack when we moved there. The three of us got work on a threshing outfit. The men with wagon and team got seven dollars a day and I cooked for 21 men and got five dollars a day, worked 30 days and the snow came. We went back to our shack and got it ready for winter. Our baby daughter, Ruby, was born December 1, in that home. Sam went to work whenever he could get work. Times were good for us in 1926. It was our first year of farming. I boarded a teacher from 1926 to 1929. Our son, Robert, was born November 16, 1928 and a son, John, came along August 10, 1931. In 1932 we bought a farm seven miles south east of Alliance.

1933 is what was called the great depression or the "Dirty Thirties" or "Hungry Thirties".

Sam and Maria Sprecher and four children Ruby, Robert, John, Walter and Richard. Taken in front of the shack where they moved on to Midland district in 1939.

We never went hungry as we always had meat, milk, cream, butter and eggs. Our garden was down over a hill in a low spot so we always had potatoes and other garden produce. We always got enough feed for our stock. A lot of work. The things we sold we did not get much for them, but there was always enough money for tea, coffee, sugar and other little things we needed. I again boarded a teacher for sometime.

In 1934 our son, Walter, was born January 26, and son, Dick (Richard,, was born December 1 1935.

The drought and dust storms were not getting any better and we got tired of the dust blowing in our faces every day. We rented our farm to Sam's brother, made a sale, packed our truck this time and we started out for somewhere there was no dust blowing. Our plans we made were to go to British Columbia, however we never got there. We started out April 15, 1939.

Sam wanted to see his brother Fred at Rimbey. We got there the same day Sam's brother-in-law and family had got back from B.C. He said things were bad. He said there was no way you could make a living for a family so we stayed at Rimbey. It was hard finding a farm that time of year. Finally we bought a farm in the Midland district and moved there May 27 1939.

[illegible] and our first home in Midland in 1939.

There was no school as yet in the Midland district, but one was built that year. Our children missed school from April 1939 to January 1940. Everyone in the neighborhood helped build the [illegible].

When we moved to our farm, there was only an old 12 by 24 foot log house with no doors or windows in it.

We just nicely got moved and it rained for two weeks. We could not get out with our truck to get lumber for a door or windows for the house. We had a canvas cover for our truck. We cut that up and nailed it on the windows and door until we could get to town.

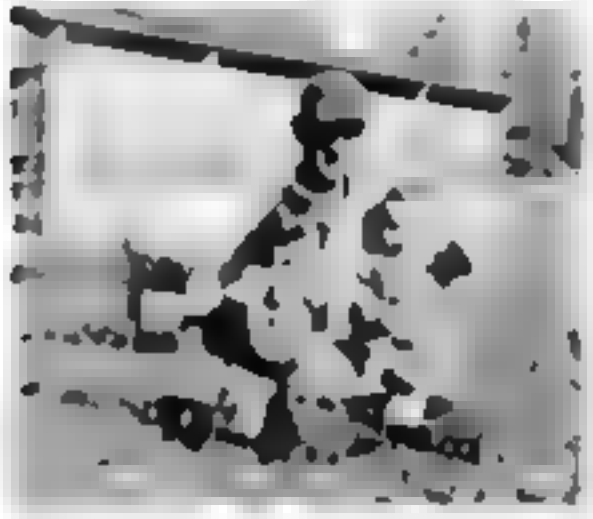
We got a bunk house from Fred Sprecher so we had a place to sleep in. We mixed mud to fill

between the logs, got lumber to build a bedroom and kitchen in the log house, also done a lot of other building and broke more land

It was a busy summer and fall for us. In the winter Sam went to work in a saw mill. We moved into a good neighborhood. They were always ready to give a helping hand when we needed help

Our closest neighbors were Lesters and Visgers. Later the Johnny Booths lived right across the road from us. One of our first neighbors we met was Alice Lester. She and her two boys: we met them at the corner where we turned to go to our place. She was coming back from Visgers

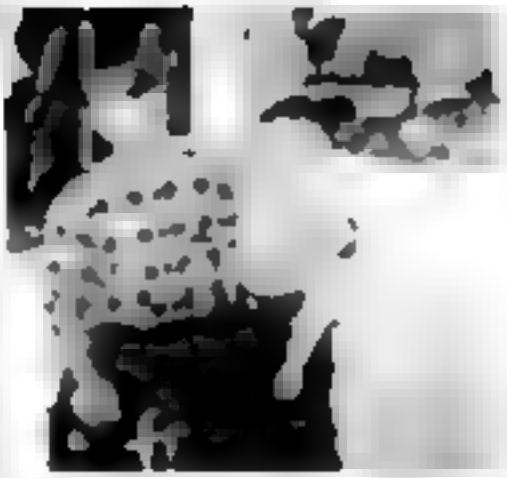
After we got settled on our farm we got 150 young chickens, four milk cows and some pigs and four horses. Besides the farm Sam worked wherever he could get work.



Sam Sprecker and his month old twins Phyllis and Fay

In 1941 we were blessed with twin girls, Phyllis and Fay. We were getting along real good, were making a good living for our family, then in 1945 Sam took very sick and was hospitalized till 1948. That was a sad time for us I thanked God often for the good neighbors we had. There were many times I do not know what I would have done without my neighbors, They were always there to lend a helping hand. Also my dear sister Emelia Foote and family had moved there in 1945. Also my brother Rienhold, and his family had moved to the Rimbey district that year which was a blessing as they always were there when I needed someone to turn to. In 1950 we sold our farm and moved back to the farm at Alliance due too Sam's health as we lived too close to the swamp and it was too damp Some of the boys were old enough to farm by that time

In 1951 we had another son. Lorne was born January 29 Sam Sprecker passed away after a lengthy illness on August 26. 1960 and I, Marie



Sprecker, now reside in Strome, Alberta. The Hutterites farm the land now

our eight chidren

Ruby Sprecker is now Mrs. Milton Cole. They live in Rimbey They have four daughters. Karen, Janet, Wendy and Laurie

Robert (Bob Sprecker married Anna Coutlerier of Alliance, Alberta. They have four daughters. Darlene, Shirley, Connie and Lynette. Robert farms 12 miles from Alliance

John Sprecker married Lorrie Backmeier of Estevan, Sask They have three children Dawn Darryl and Brent They live at Brooks, Alberta where they are going into the Dairy Queen business in a shopping mall

Phyllis Sprecker married James Yarham of Alliance, Alberta. They have three children Gelin, Ricky and Shanna. They farm 12 miles north west of Strome, Alberta

Fay Sprecker married Ed Dembeckl. They have two daughters, Debbie and Beverly Ed works for the C.N R. They live at Kamloops. B.C

Lorne Sprecker the youngest, lives in Prince George, B.C. He has one small daughter, Patricia. He works with a painting company

**STEVENS, WALTER J. NE 16-42-3-W5**

Walter was born near Harmony, Minnesota in 1882. He visited the Rimbey area in 1902, where his brothers Bill and Louis were farming

In 1914, he returned to Rimbey with his bride the former Nettie Laurene Sauer also of Harmony Minnesota and lived one mile south of town from 1914 to 1977

He also owned and farmed two farms in the Leedale area The NW 24 and NE 23-41-4 W5 was south of Leedale and he farmed this land until he retired

In 1931 he bought the NE 16-42-4-W5 from a family named Graham These folk had come from Chicago and knew little of western farming Because of adverse weather and the depression, Graham decided to pull out

He approached Walt with the proposition that $1,000.00 would buy his quarter of land, his livestock, harness, machinery, furniture, and even the cooking utensils. Walt took him up on his proposition and Graham left with a suitcase of personal effects.

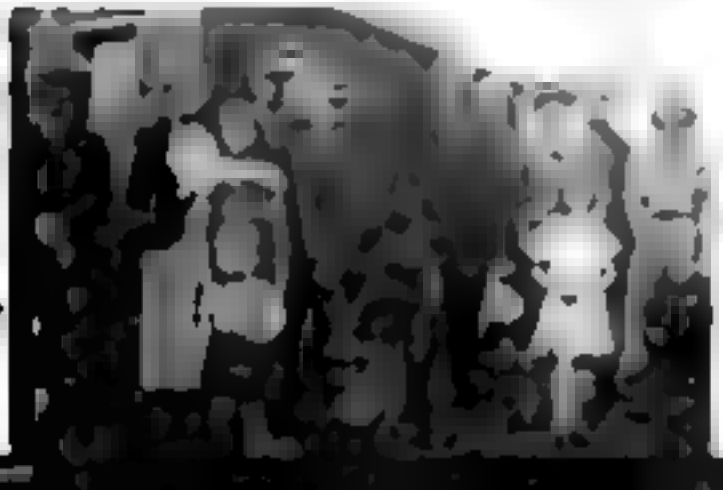
Walt and Nettie had four children, Donald, Violet, Virgil and Kieth.

**STOLLINGS, EARL AND ESTHER NE 19-42-3 W5**

Earl Stollings was born to Cleophus and Biddie Stollings in Lacombe, Alberta on September 27, 1907. Earl was united in marriage to Esther Eritsland on July 9, 1932. Agnes and Esther Eritsland married the two Stollings brothers in a double wedding ceremony at the Eritsland farm home.

Earl and Esther homesteaded the NE 19-42-3-W5 west of Rimbey in the early years of their married life. Two sons were born to them in Rimbey. Earl joined the Forestry Service in the summer of 1943 and they moved to Saunders, Alberta. Their two daughters were born while they were living in this area. Earl served the Forestry in Foothills, moving there in 1947, Brule

Stollings: Edith Lee, Larry Stollings



west and north of Hinton and Rock Lake which is close to Jasper. Esther taught school in Jasper until her death in December 1971. After retiring from the Forestry in 1961, Earl was involved in maintenance at the Jasper Park Lodge. Following that he was head caretaker for the Jasper Park Schools until his retirement in 1973. Earl remarried in 1974 to Irene Classens. They moved to Kelowna, B.C. in January 1976. Earl passed away there on October 25, 1976.

Esther and Earl had four children. Cecil Herman, born on November 16, 1933, in Rimbey, married Joan Woodring from Haltonford, Alberta. Cecil and Joan are living in Edmonton and have four children. Karen Marie, born September 17, 1960, Sandra Grace, born December 15, 1961, Linda Shirley, born July 26, 1963, and Susan Bernice born November 28, 1969. All are living at home.

Lars Samuel, born in Rimbey on April 25, 1935, married Eileen Cochrane from Edmonton. Lars and Eileen have two children and are presently living in Edmonton. Darren Lee, born June 18, 1964, and Gary Dale born January 2, 1966. Darren and Gary live at home.

Shirley Eileen, born in Rocky Mountain House on January 10, 1946, married Chalmers Whitelaw from Edmonton. Shirley and Chalmers have two children and are currently living in Caroline, Alberta. James Earl, born August 5, 1965, and Laurel Joan, born June 18, 1966, are both at home.

Mavis Mary, born May 9, 1947 in Nordegg, is married to Warren Webber from Vulcan, Alberta. Mavis and Warren live in Calgary and have no family.

**STOLLINGS, VICTOR AND AGNES—NW 19-42-3 W5**

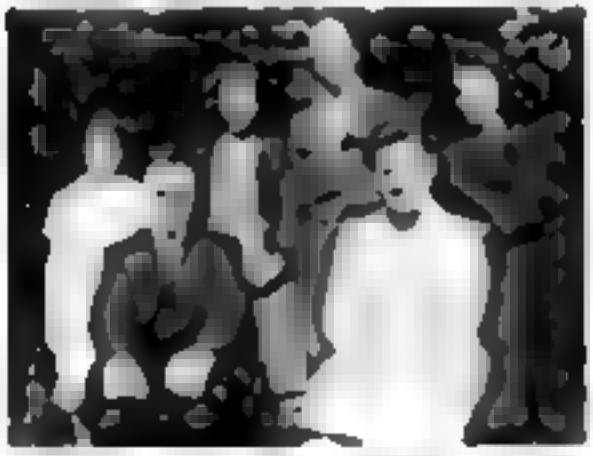
Cleophus Samuel Stollings was united in marriage to Biddie Webb in Boon County, West Virginia, in 1904. They moved to the Rimbey area soon after. He and his wife farmed in the district west of Rimbey, moving there in approximately 1905 or 1906.

Victor Hugo was born to them in Virginia on July 3, 1905. Earl, their second son was born in Lacombe on September 27, 1907. Cleophus and Biddie were divorced. Biddie moved to Calgary where she lived for a few years and then to Vernon, B.C. where she lived until her death from an automobile accident in July of 1969. Cleophus Stollings moved to Dawson Creek, B.C. where he hauled water to the town residents by horse and wagon and later by truck as there was no water available in town. He passed away there in 1972.

Victor Stollings was united in marriage to Agnes Elsie Eritsland at the Eritsland farm home west of Lesheville on July 9, 1932. They lived on a farm west of Rimbey (NW 19-42-3-W5). Three children were born to them while they lived in this area. Robert Everett, born April 10, 1933, Anna Marie born May 30, 1934, and Myrtle Eleanor on December 31, 1935. In 1936, they

moved to the Eritsland farm at Lesueville for a short time while their home was being prepared on their land they purchased two and one half miles north of Alhambra. Their fourth and last child, Helen Irene, was born in the Eritsland home on January 2 1930

Victor and Agnes spent about 11 years on this land and had many interesting tales and events to tell from the old fishing hole in the Horseguard creek to driving horses over drifts of snow to get to school in Alhambra. The pike were so plentiful in the creek at that time that one day Agnes laid on the bank and scooped out fish with her bare hands of course one had to be fast and perhaps the fish were a little slow! The mode of transportation to school or anywhere at that time was horses. In the winter there was the glorious cutter" which was our "school bus as we stopped and picked up the Bradshaws and anyone else who was on the route. There was some doubt as to which end was up sometimes as the cutter had a great reputation for tipping over on the numerous snow banks



Victor enlisted in the army in 1941 and served until 1945. Agnes went back teaching in 1944 in Alhambra and did so until her death from cancer in 1964

Victor married Edna von Hollen in the fall of 1965 in Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. They went from there to Pugwash, Nova Scotia where Victor passed away in 1974 and Edna in 1976

Robert Stollings married Doris Payne from Lousana, Alberta on June 8, 1956. They live in Red Deer where Bob is employed as City Clerk and Doris works in a lawyer's office. They have two children. Bruce born on July 11, 1958, completed his schooling in Red Deer and is currently employed there. Lynn Patricia, born November 11, 1960, is attending Grade 12 in the Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer

Anna) Marie Stollings married Norman Guenther who came to the Alhambra district from Maple Creek, Saskatchewan in 1949. They are farming south of Alhambra. Marie and Norman have five sons and two daughters. Wayne Guenther born May 5, 1953, lives at Alhambra and is employed on oil rigs in the Condor area. Brian born September 20, 1955 works at the Aquitaine Gas Plant. Brian married Laureen Holman of Cow Lake in 1974. They have two girls, Raechel two and one half years, and Lindsay one year. Randy born March 13, 1957 married Tammie Courtright of Cow Lake in 1976. They live at Rainbow Lake where Randy works for the Aquitaine Gas Plant. Ricky born November 7, 1959, and Gary born April 11, 1961 both live at home. Joanne, (adopted at six months) born June 1, 1962, lives at home and attends school in Condor. Terry, adopted at one and one half years born February 12, 1967 lives at home and also attends school in Condor

Myrtle Stollings married James von Hollen of the Alhambra district on August 21, 1954. Myrtle and Jim have three children. Sharon Lynn born June 30, 1955, in Winnipeg, Manitoba where Jim was stationed with the RCAF. Sharon has attended University in Vancouver and is now working in the Vancouver area. James Everett born February 9, 1958, took his schooling in central Alberta and Hanley B.C. and is now employed in Red Deer. Jeffrey Ray born March 5, 1959, also took his schooling in Central Alberta and Hanley and is now stationed in Petawawa Ontario with the Armed Forces

Helen Stollings married Cecil Andrew from the Gilby area and they live in Blackfalds where Cec runs a Sand and Gravel business and Helen operates a Beauty Salon. Cec and Helen have three children. Diane Laura, born on October 18, 1957, took her schooling in Blackfalds and Lacombe. She then completed a year at the Red Deer College and is now employed in Edmonton. Darryl Raymond born on March 26 1959. Darryl also went to school in Blackfalds and Lacombe. He is now employed with the family gravel business in Blackfalds. Shelley Lavonne was born on February 3, 1961. She is currently attending Grade 11 in Lacombe Composite High School

**THE HAROLD THOMAS FAMILY -- by Mrs Harold Thomas**

Harold Thomas, eldest son of Harry E Thomas, with his father and younger brother Boyd, came to the Ostrem home in 1929, seeking information about homesteads. I, Mabel was only 15 years old at the time, but for us it was love at first sight. They obtained homesteads right near ours, and the next year, on October 25, 1930, we were married at the Anglican Church in Fairview, Alberta. We left immediately for a wedding trip to Gilby. Our wedding dance, at the Gilby Hall, was attended by a record crowd, as I still had many friends in the area, as Harold had. A glorious, happy memory! The threshing gang chivareed us another evening, also, and brought us a carving set, which we still cherish. We also

received lovely gifts at the wedding dance, as well as good wishes and a decorated wedding cake. We returned then, to spend the winter on the homestead. We were almost caught by the train, crossing on the trestle at Smith, Alberta, as the river had frozen over and the ferry had been taken out while we were south but the old Ford made it.

The next spring, 1931, Harold's dad had a bad attack of rheumatism, and wrote asking us to come back and help run the farm. The depression struck with full force that year and it was not until 1934 that we again had a home of our own. The happiest event of those years was the birth of our little son, Sammy, in April, 1932, in the old Catholic Hospital at Rimbey. Dr. Sam Byers was so proud that his name was the same as his own that he carried the baby around on his rounds. Bright spots, also, were the house parties held in the neighborhood, with the Tim Sam brook home being the most frequent gathering place. The Kurzmans, Forsells, and Thomases had their turns, too! The families would get together to play whist, sing, play instruments and dance, and forget, for a while, that pile of dirty eggs to wash and sell for a nickel a dozen. The warmth and the sharing helped so much.

We paid $25 down on a CPR quarter of land three miles east of Leedale, in the fall of 1933, and moved into our new log home in July, 1934. Harold still helped his dad with the farm work and ran the threshing machine every year for several years after that. Our first daughter, Judy, was born in April, 1936. With the river in flood, no doctor could get through, so she was a real "log cabin baby". A neighbor woman, Mary Lamburius, assisted in looking after us.

Ronald was born in the Rimbey hospital in November of 1937, and Lita was born in the Eckville hospital in June, 1941. We had to wait until John Huseby had his appendix removed before Dr. Coppock could see to her. Genevieve, our youngest daughter, born a few minutes before midnight, October 29, 1949, brought Dr. George Boorman from his warm bed.

Harold, meantime, had discontinued active farming, leaving that to the children and I, as he began working on the County of Ponoka Road Building Crew. In 1950 he became foreman of his crew, and worked at that job until 1962. We moved to the Joe Burchnall place in 1946, selling our CPR quarter to Walter and Mary Hayward after he had returned from overseas. We lived on our farm, three miles west and a mile south of Rimbey until moving to Red Deer in 1962. Harold, again changing careers, worked as a male attendant at Deerhome Institute until his retirement in 1973. In the following year we sold our home east of Red Deer and bought a lovely acre and a mobile home near Shuswap Lake, at Scotch Creek, B.C.

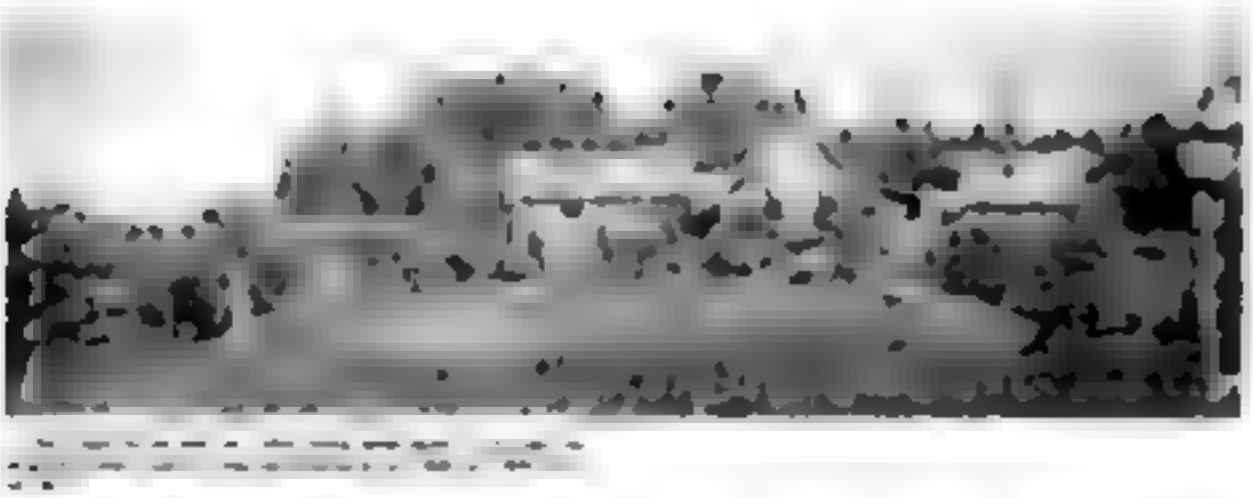
Our son Sam and his wife, Joan, are psychiatric nurses at the general hospital in Calgary. Their eldest daughter, Karen, is married to D. D. Ferguson while Carol still lives at home and attends high school. Judy (Mrs. J. A. Vandenbrink), is manager of the Kamloops Zoo and Wildlife Park. Her husband is a security guard at the Provincial Jail. Ron is traveling in eastern Canada. Judy's three children, Dan, Tom and Debby are grown, and out on their own now. Lita and her husband, Don Ostapovich, an electrician, live eight miles from Chase. They have two sons, Allen and Harold, both at home.

Genevieve and her husband, Dan Bratton, have just completed university, have their teaching credentials, and hope to come west soon, to make their dreams come true, as we have. "Somewhere in the West".

**THE VIEGER FAMILY — SW 10-40-5-W5 — Written by Mrs. L. Vieger**

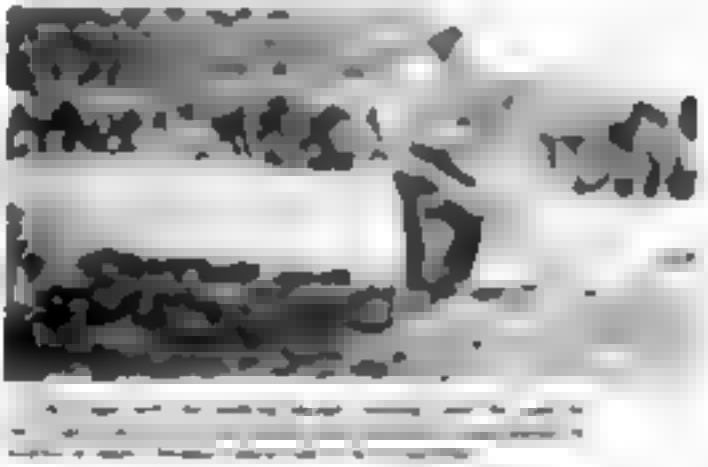
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Vieger first settled in the Leedale district, working on the Pete Mulback farm in the spring of 1922. Lyle Vieger was born in Baldwinsville, New York State, and had come to Canada as a young man, working in the Lacombe area. It was there that he met and married Zerola Wagner, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Wagner had come from Nova Scotia to Alberta in 1910, with three children, James, now of Kelowna, B.C., Zerola, and Zerelia, now Mrs. Jack Thompson of Lacombe — to homestead in the Willesden Green district.

After Mr. and Mrs. Vieger's marriage in 1917, they worked in the Calgary and Rosebud area — then planned to homestead in the Willesden



Green district. There they built a log cabin, but that spring of 1922, they with their small daughter, Alberta, moved to the farm of Pete Mulback of Leedale, where they remained for two years. Their first son, Robert, was born soon after moving to the Leedale district. Then they rented several farms: the Rostad place, the Cumberland place, the Coverdale place (four miles south-west of Rimbey) and back to the Leedale area on the Aldridge place for five years. During these years five more children were born: Elva, Nora, Dale, Joan and Bonnie.

The Visgers decided it was time to have a farm of their own and bought the Harold Chinneck place (SE 18-42-3-W5). Henry Vellieux helped clear the land and Minx Brothers did the breaking. The old log house had long been vacant



es for the range horses. As a very temporary house, until they had time to build, the old log house was repaired, replacing some of the logs, and making a new floor, windows, etc. and the house was ready for the family to move in. With many renovations and additions through the years, the old house made a good 'home' for another 28 years, when the Visgers sold the farm and retired in Bentley village in 1962.

Like so many families during the depression, when prices for produce were almost nil, the Visgers had to be resourceful to feed and clothe a growing family. They found it a challenge to invent recipes which would produce good meals from what could be grown, leaving the cream cheque for such things as shoes, coal oil, sugar, matches, flour and salt. Flour sacks were used to make sheets, pillow slips, dish-towels and many garments.

Lyle had a meat route and every week he would butcher a veal or beef in the evening and deliver it the next day. Mrs. Visger set up a large vats and presses to make cheese which was sold on the route. There wasn't much money in it but an extra dollar or two helped a lot in those hard times. In winter Lyle and Robert took a four horse team and drove west to make dry tamarack fence-posts, which took three days, then several more days sometimes to deliver them as far away as Stettler. Lyle served as weed inspector, and travelled a stallion for Teddi Hopper and also worked for O. M. Moore.

Most children rode horseback up to four miles to the Leedale School, except the younger ones who went to the Midland School when it was opened in 1940. The horses must have appreciated the new Midland school as much as

Leedale school had an enrollment of as high as 50 at one time. We remember Miss Eriksland, Mrs. Von Tettenborn doing a super job of teaching the three R's and still managing to read to the children, teach them to love and memorize poetry, and put on most excellent Christmas Concerts in the Leedale Hall, which took weeks of rehearsing. Her concerts were attended by people from many other districts as well as from Leedale. She cheerfully stayed after regular school hours to help Grade 9 and 10 and didn't slight any of her duties because she had too much to do.

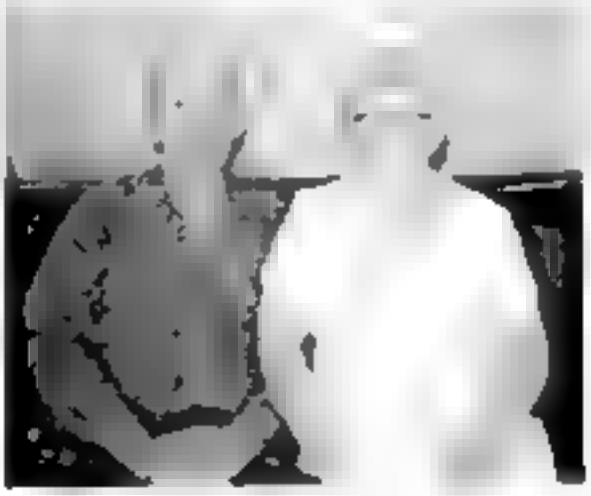
The Visger Family. Picture taken at the wedding of Alberta and [illegible]

In 1937 Leedale took a big step forward when Leedale High school was opened in the old Leedale Store which had been run by Mr and Mrs. Hugh Lindsay It was formerly the Bill Lee Store and before that called Wittenburg Post Office and Store. The teacher had an apartment in the back of the building Several threshing bunk houses were moved into Leedale behind Tarrabain's store and used for bachelor apartments by a number of girls, some of them were the Jackman girls (Myrtle and Jeanie) Ruth Belt, Elsie Johnson, Alberta and Elva Visger, Floy and Beatrice Brown, Mildred Walker and Fern Carmuchael.

Elva, Nora, Dale, Joan and Bonnie received most of their High Schooling at Canadian Union College at Lacombe Among Mrs. Visger's projects to help the young folks to finance their college expenses was raising turkeys, which roosted in the trees at night Mrs. Visger took some visitors out in the evening and shining a flashlight on the turkeys high in the branches, said 'Who said, 'Money doesn't grow on trees'?'

In the early days frost was more prevalent and it was hard to grow grain that could be cut before frost. Late frosts in the spring sometimes cut down potatoes and corn in June and often in the end of August frost would finish the growth of potatoes before they finished growing. In 1951, on May 26, at the time of Joan's marriage to Calvin Ferguson, the snow was so deep that a tractor was needed to pull cars which had gotten stuck on their way to the wedding in the Free Methodist Church near the Leedale school

In the years that the Visger children were teenagers, they did not lack entertainment, although there was no car no gravelled roads, no T V . or telephone They made their own fun, having the neighbors in and playing games and tricks In the winter they often had sleighriding parties with the Spreckers, Moores, Haywards and Simmons. Even when it was 40 degrees below Fahrenheit, they did not seem to know it was cold



Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Visger taken in 1958

Barbara Visger with her nephew Cheryl Visger in 1973

In March of 1962 Robert suddenly passed away and that spring Mr and Mrs Visger had an auction sale and sold the farm to Mr Floris Looy and moved to Bentley. Mr Visger died in 1966

In 1973, Mrs. Visger moved to British Columbia where she lives in a trailer by the home of her daughter Alberta and her husband Floyd Smith near Armstrong. They have one son and five daughters. Also living nearby are daughter Elva and her husband John Rice who have two boys and two girls plus three foster children, and her daughter Joan and her husband Calvin Ferguson who have three boys Dale, with his wife and two sons spent a four year term teaching at Bangalore, India. At present (in 1977) he is studying for his doctorate in Vocational Education at Oregon State University and will be teaching

at Walla Walla College in Washington. Nora married Harvey Simmons and they have since lived in Vulcan Alberta with their four daughters. Bonnie is married to Vernon Triebwasser and they live in Calgary with their three sons and one daughter

**WEITZ, ADAM AND MARY—by Ray Weitz**

Mr and Mrs. Adam Weitz traded their home in Calgary for one half section of land there in the Potter Creek District now in the Midland district in the winter of 1932-1933. They moved their family of six children Florence, Mary, Raymond, and Jacob twins , Lorraine and Barbara in April of 1933. Ivan was born in 1935

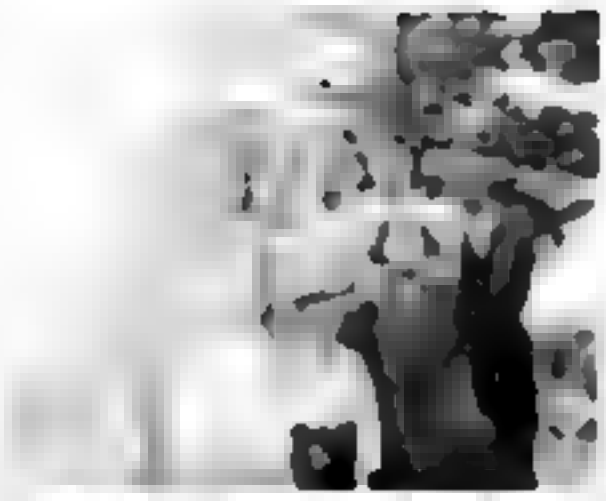
The furniture was moved in April and a week later we bought eight head of milk cows. The truck got as far as Forshee and got stuck so we unloaded the cows and started for the farm. The next morning it was still raining. The road from Forshee to Rimbey had no gravel so we arrived home late that night wet, tired and hungry. This was beautiful country trees of many kinds, small bushes and beautiful flowers of all kinds (no pollution No road, just a trail for the last three miles

Jacob, Raymond, Lorraine and Barbara started school in Potter Creek school. Jacob in Grade five, Raymond in Grade 8, Lorraine in Grade 1 and Barbara in Grade 3. Raymond wrote his Grade 8 Departmental exams four subjects in Leedale school, 10 miles round trip on horse back, until Miss Margaret Lambertus got the remaining four subjects from the Department of

We made many friends in the neighborhood and other school districts which were sparsley settled. We started to clear land by hand because we had no money for brush cutting It was really hard work. That first summer the only recreation we had was to play soft ball and get acquainted with the neighborhood which was sparsely settled. Then later on in the summer we got acquainted with other districts and organized the first softball team which was called the 'Potter Creek Blue Devils' until the outbreak of World War II. We had many entertaining Sunday ball games, tournaments and get-togethers with Midland. Potter Creek and Fuller school dis

In the spring of 1934 Sander Thompson, the Shaw family, the McDonald family, the Sam Wilson family, the Joe Lester family and the Melvin Simmons family along with the old timers got together with Councillor and the Government and got the O.K to build a school Where they got the name of Midland district I do not know Someone who helped build the school or the councillor would know We were then transferred to the Midland district. Lorraine Barbara and Ivan attended school there and remember Ruth Stevens Mr Demaschuk and Mrs. Benson who were teachers

The winters were long and very cold. We cut



Adam, and Mary Weitz (parents), Ray, Mary, and Jake

many cords of wood for the stove and heater to keep us warm during the winter As far as I can remember there were a few blizzards that blocked the roads for a few days, if you were in good with the Councillor he saw that your roads were plowed out Many times while hauling hay or staw for feed the sleigh would upset a couple of times which made it a long hard day I remember one spring after a lot of snow the winter before, the Blindman River overflowed its banks, I started for town on foot, got a ride from Henry Frenchy) Vellelux When we got to the foot of the Darby hill on the east side. the water was about two feet high and we hesitated for awhile whether to continue or turn back Henry said the old team was pretty reliable so we continued. Everything went O.K. till we rounded the bend. The water there was up to the horses bellies and we couldn't turn around so we went on. The current got swifter the closer we got to the bridge. The horses started to go with the stream and finally the horse on the right slipped down the embankment and took the democrat with him. I had no choice but to jump When I hit bottom the water was up to my neck and I scrambled for my life and finally made it back to the road bed. The water was above my waist Luckily the horses didn't panic We got them unhitched turned around and headed homeward. When we got to the Beatty corner I got off and walked four miles north to the water tank then two miles east and four miles south to town. I finally ended up in town about supper time soaking wet. "It was quite an experience "

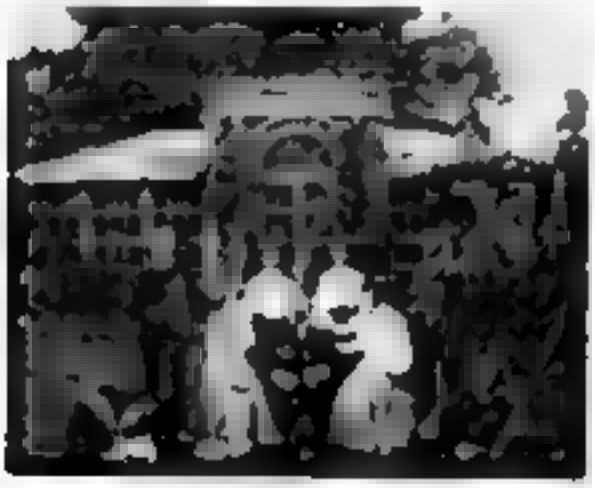
There were several Christain families which helped the Community stay together

I (Ray) was married in March 1945 to Fern Knight of Willisden Green school district We left the Midland school district in 1945 for Calgary and have been back several times since I still refer to Rimbey as my home town

**THE WILLIAMS FAMILIES — by Jean Williams Freeman**

Richard — SW 20-42-3-W5 1908
Bertram — NW 16-42-3-W5 1908
William — NW 21-42-3-W5 1908
Ernest Prosser — SE 20-42-3-W5 1911
Tom Cooke — NE 20-42-3-W5 1911
George (Harry) Williams — SW 16-42-3-W5 1910

In the early 1900's three sons of George Williams of Bristol, England the same place as John Cabot had sailed from sailed to Canada and worked in Manitoba for a year and then came to Rumbey area in 1908.



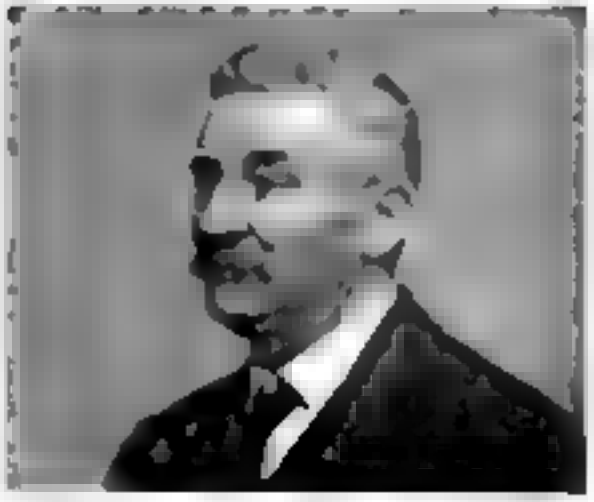
The George Williams Family in Strathcona, Ont. Left to right [illegible] is William (Billy) right is Richard (Dick

These sons were William, Bertram, and Richard, better known as Billy Bert and Dick They were followed in 1911 by a cousin, Ernest Prosser and his wife Cashie Ernest's cousin Tom Cooke with his family Ada Browne family and Tom Cooke a son William and wife and the younger son Charlie

All of these except Harold Browne settled in what was then known as the Potter Creek area and later a part became the Midland area

A sister Winifred Williams also came out to housekeep for the brothers and later married Leonard Taylor Dick Williams, Ernest Prosser and Tom Cooke took up land on one section Dick's was the SW 20-42-3-W5, Ernest Prosser the SE of 20 and Tom Cooke the NE of 20. Bert and Billy lived on the NW 21 42-3-W5 with their sister The place then became known as the Taylor place. Bert Williams finally settled on the NW 16 [illegible]

Mrs. Prosser had taught school in Bristol, England, and believed in discipline. Two young boys untied her horse one day and chased it down the road, while she was arranging for an entertainment at the Potter Creek school She lost no time finding a switch and taking them over her knee, warmed them soundly



[illegible]

Mrs. Prosser was chosen one of the teachers to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria, which was quite an honor

In 1915 Billy and Dick Williams and Leonard Taylor all joined the army Due to a serious illness suffered in the Boer War in 1899 George Harry was not allowed to join His Majesty's forces so he also came to Canada in 1916 and took [illegible] Francis Marshalls homestead on SW 16-42-[illegible] His wife and four children came in September 1919

Billy married the widow of Nick Nicholson Mabel Violet who had three children. The eldest of Mabel Violet's married Billy's brother. Bert Isabella married Hugh Maclean of Rumbey and Jack moved to British Columbia soon after Billy had one son, Douglas, of Rumbey who had no children

Dick did not return to Rumbey but went to Viking and married Winifred Brown. There were three sons, Keith, George, and Bernard and two daughters Dorthy and June, all but Keith living in Alberta

Bert and Mabel had four children. Eric of

[illegible]

Nanaimo with three children, Daphne in Portland, Oregon with two children, Muriel of Powell River with two children and Ethel of Nanaimo with four children. Bert moved to Nanaimo several years ago and passed away in 1966. His daughters, Daphne and Muriel attended the Midland school.

Winnifred (Williams) and Leonard Gower Taylor who was at one time owner of the Peace in Rock Mountain House before 1914 and also Superintendent of Hobbema Indian Reserve in 1920

Winnifred (Williams) Taylor had two girls and a boy. The youngest daughter, Audrey was the first white baby to be born at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

She married Sander Thompson of the Midland district and lived on the NE 17-42-3-W5 for some years before moving to Creston, B.C.

**GEORGE HENRY EDWARD (HARRY AND MABEL WILLIAMS — SW 16-42-3-W5**

Harry Williams was a veteran of the 1899 Boer War and because of a tropical fever he contracted during this war he was unable to join His Majesty's forces in the first World War.

Three of his brothers had gone to Canada early in the 1900's and in 1916 he followed them.

He took over the Francis Marshall homestead on SW 16-42-3-W5 which joined his brothers land.

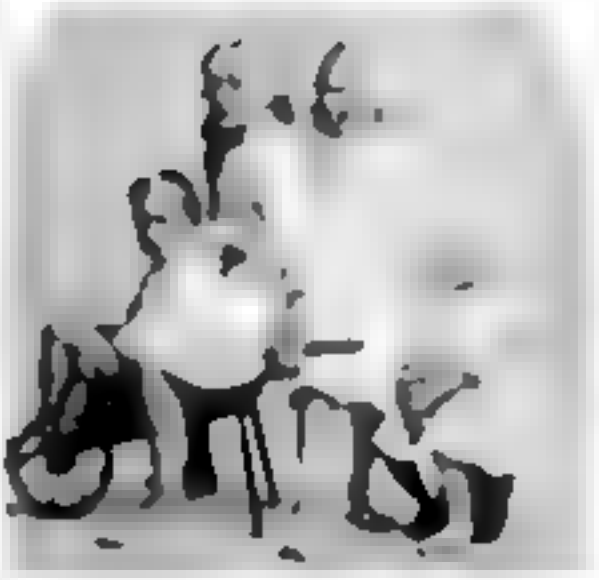
He freighted goods from Lacombe to Rimbey in 1918-1919 with his team Prince and Bess bought from Mel Sheppard of Rimbey.

In September 1919 he was joined by his wife Mabel and four children, Barbara, Joan, Norton and Helen. They farmed there until Harry died in 1936. The farm was then taken over by his son Norton till he joined the army in 1943 in World War II. He returned in 1945, bought another quarter and continued farming until he passed away in February 1976. The family farm and

Taken in 1918. The small shack on the east is Francis Marshall's original home still standing. Harry and Mabel Williams's home and their pride and joy, the garden they took many prizes at the Rimbey Fair.

Mabel (Watmore) Williams wife of Harry. She had an excellent Musical education and was also a painter in oils and water colors.

George Henry Edward (Harry) Williams



orton's are now owned by a nephew Terence Freeman

Harry Williams' daughter, Barbara became Mrs. Gus Nelson of Edgerton. She taught at the Fuller school a short time. Also at Ricinus before going to Wainwright. She has four children and nine grandchildren

Joan taught at the Iola school for four years and married one of the pioneers of that area, Samuel Freeman. They have seven children and 18 grandchildren, one of which is deceased

Helen married a fox farmer from Prince Edward Island. They moved to British Columbia and are now in Crescent Beach B.C. There are three chidren and seven grandchildren

Joan's husband, Sam, died in 1963 and Joan lives on the farm with her unmarried son Philip

Of the others, Ralph is in Texas Patricia at Wilberoe, Terence at High Level, (Mayor' Gladys a Doctor in Peace River, Beatrice married a surveyor in B.C., Sandra is in Calgary, her husband is now an electrician and spent many years in the army

Deaths. Harold Browne. 1929; Tom Cooke (father-in-law of Harold) 1929; Mrs. Billy Williams (Mabel Violet), 1944 Mr George (Harry) Williams, 1936 Mr Ernest Prosser and Mrs Prosser, 1946, Mrs. Harry (Mabel) Williams, 1952; Billy Williams and twin sister Lillian, 1965; Winnifred (Williams) Taylor, 1968 Sam Freeman husband of Joan Williams) 1963 Norton Williams. 1976 Mrs. Bert (Mabel Grace) Williams. 1977

**GEORGE HENRY NORTON WILLIAMS — [illegible]**

George Henry Norton Williams was born in Bristol, England and came to Canada in September 1913 with his mother Mabel Williams and sisters, Barbara, Joan and Helen. His father George Harry) Williams had come over in 1910 wher he settled on the SW 16-42-3-W5 where they resided until 1936 when his father passed away

Norton then took over the farm until 1940 when he joined the army in the World War II.

He served all through the Italian campaign His job was to service the tanks and bring them to the front lines and of course was a prime target for the enemy He also served in Belgium. Holland and France until the end of the war

He had seven medals for different campaigns He returned to the home farm in 1945 and bought the Mike Szoke farm formerly owned by Bert Horne which was the NW 9-42-3-W5 with two years in between, working on gas lines in central [illegible]

Norton died in February 1976 due to a fire that destroyed the log home The medals that he so bravely earned were also destroyed in the fire and though retrieved were unidentifiable

The farm and the family farm are now owned by a nephew. Terence Freeman of High Level

**WILSON, SAM AND SOPHIE**

Sam Wilson was born in Fosston, Minnesota September 5, 1891. He married the former Sophie Krogstad. They moved to Canada in 1916 and homesteaded at Frontier Saskatchewan

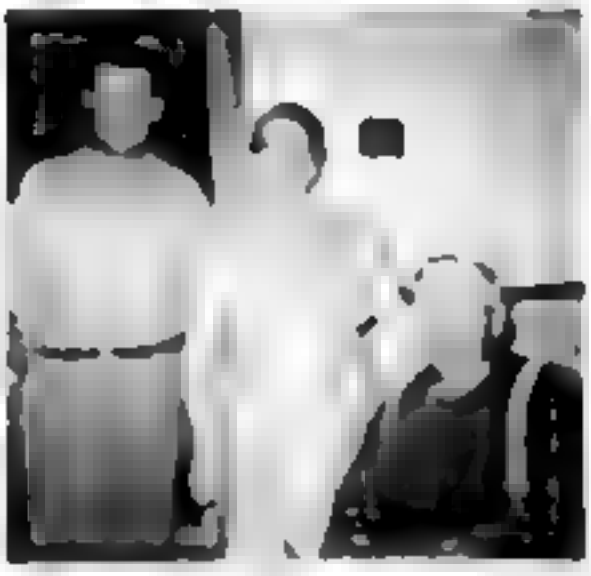
Then in 1938, when so many from the dust bowls in Saskatchewan came to this area Sam Sophie and son Stanford made the move in a 1930 Model T truck They also had a car

They bought the NE 5-42-3-W5 but stayed with Sophie's brother and wife Henry and Tillie Krogstad) for three weeks until they got settled

Stanford attended the Midland School that opened in 1940

Sam farmed until 1966 and then he and Sophie retired to Rimbey Stanford then took over the farm

They celebrated their 48th anniversary in November 1968. Sam passed away in July 1969 at the age of 77 years



Stanford with parents Sophie and Sam Wilson, October 1939

Stanford married the former Kathleen Spetz of Wetaskiwin. She had been employed at the Senior Citizens Lodge there for 18 years. They lived on the farm until 1975, when they had a sale and moved to Erickson B.C., taking Sophie with her.

Stanford and Kathleen were blessed with a son Marlin Stanford in 1956.

They still own the farm but have it rented out.

**MIDLAND'S SANDS OF TIME**

Since the turn of the 19th century many pioneers have come and gone. The sands of time has now covered or changed the mark they made in this area and this is called progress.

With much difficulty we have searched to recover this history of many of our early pioneers. Others are still with us to relate their own interesting story which at best, was a hard life. It took the true pioneers with strong hearts, the courage and determination to surge on and exist in an unknown land. There were many draw backs but the settlers worked together to achieve the mere necessities and carry on despite storms and crop failures, disease and death. In times of trouble the settlers were concerned for one another and the warmth of true friendship was evident at all times.

With the passing of time there are some of these early settlers that we can no longer regain contact. Although we have no history or information available they undoubtly deserve honorable mention.

Of those who came early to this area and not previously mentioned in Township 42 Range 4 West of the 5th were J. W. Ferguson who filed on the SE of 12 on March 9, 1906 and H. Mason on the northeast quarter, no date or history found. Wm. Murby who lived on the SE 24 around 1917. Bodicoat on the NE 24 about the same time. James Brown on the SE 25, no further information and A. Vanigan who lived on the SE of 1 in the 1930's. Mr. and Mrs. T. Upton also lived on the land for a few years. They had a daughter Aileen who attended Leedale High School in 1938. They had a sale and left shortly after.

Then in Range 3 West of 5, which is the bigger portion of the district: David Finch filed on the SW of 6 on June 1, 1906 and Richard Wilson filed on the NW quarter in the same section on August 27, 1907. P. G. Might also lived on this land but no dates or history was found.

During the 1930's Mr. and Mrs. Art Dupras and family lived there. They had a family of three children. Mrs. Dupras now lives in Brantford, Ontario but Art passed away some years back.

Angus McDonald another old timer farmed the E of 17 with a Frank Peters about 1915. Francis Marshall homesteaded the SW 16 but it was taken over by Harry Williams in 1916.

A man by the name of Phipps lived on the NW of 9 and Bert Horne had the SW quarter. Then C. Murphy owned the SW 9 and SE of 8. C. Harris lived on the NE of 8.

Arthur and Norris Willets homesteaded the E ½ of 4 in 1907 and 1908. Their histories will appear in the Leedale section, as well as Harold Thomas who lived on the SE of 5. Percy Thomas who lived on the NW of 5 and their history will be in the Andrew's history.

Then there are a few who spent some time in the district that we received no histories from but they did own land here and contributed to the history. Steven Kemp lived on the SE of 30 for several years. He was a bachelor but took a lot of pride in his little shack. The board floors were scrubbed clean and white and the wood cook stove was polished until your reflection could be seen in it. Mr. Kemp was a very ambitious, hard working man. During the winter months he would haul the big straw piles, piled high by the old threshing machine, out to the field with his team and stone boat where he spread it back on the land. Next fall the crop was evidence that his work was not in vain. On his retirement the land was sold to Art and Phyllis Green who came from Calgary and bought the adjoining quarter to the west. They have three boys: Wayne and his wife Gail live in Rimbey. Lawrence and his wife Gloria have a wee son and live in Calgary and Mark is still at home. They are now living in Rimbey.

Then across the road Art and Eileen nee Sorenson Emertson lived on the NE of 19. They had two girls and two boys: Myrna, Dale, Grant and Linda. They later moved their house into Rimbey. The family is now all married. Ralph and Lily Rolfsen and family also lived there and the place is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brown and family of Calgary.

Sylvanus and Ethel Kieth and family, two

sons Jim and Rod, and a daughter Jerry lived on the NW 20 for awhile but moved into Rimbey where Syl was a partner in a garage and Ethel did hairdressing. They now live in Fort McMurray. George and Isabel Paterson now own this land, also another half section. They have three sons. Isabel works as matron at the Rimbey General Hospital.

Charlie Brown owned the E of 20 and NW of 21. He comes from jolly old England and is an asset to the teaching staff at the Rimbey Junior High School. He sold the SE of 20 to Dale and Linda Hatam who also owns the SW 21 formerly owned by R. M. McLeod. They have three children, Tracy, Shawn and Tammy and live three miles west of Rimbey.

Mr. and Mrs. Bordenik once lived on the SE of 20. Their house burned down there and they moved into the Fred Shaw house until spring and then they left the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Kisk and Bill and Lorraine Glesbrecht and family lived on the NE 16. This quarter is now owned by Herman and Alice Odenbach. They have a son Ron and a daughter Marlaine who are both married.

Mr. and Mrs. Sander Thompson once lived on the NE 17. They sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowell and moved to British Columbia. The Crowells then sold to J. J. Purdy and now live in Leslieville.

Guy Graham, an american, bought the NE 18 from Frank Laye, but after a year of farming sold out and went back to the states. W. Stevens bought the land and then sold it to Sam Sprecker then Mr. and Mrs. Art Deacon and family bought it. When they moved away Robert Yinger purchased it and the present owner is Floris Looy.

The Lazzari family lived on the NE of 8 for a short time. They returned to Bowden where they came from.

Bill and Marlis Marles lives on the NW of 5. They came here from British Columbia. There family is all married. They have a son Les and two daughters Peggy and Linda.

Lawrence and Ivy Simmons own the W of 5. They have a family of seven children. Gail, Dwayne, Darlene and Rick are away from home. Terry, Margaret and Tammy are still at home.

Bud and Jodi Northup and two children Terry and Tonya have an acreage on the SW of 6. They came here from the States about five years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Becker and family live on the acreage on the NW 1. The rest of the quarter is owned by Dolman Brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Del Brown and family bought the W½ of 12 in Range 4 and the SW 7 in Range 3. They live in the U.S.A. but come up to the farm in the summer.

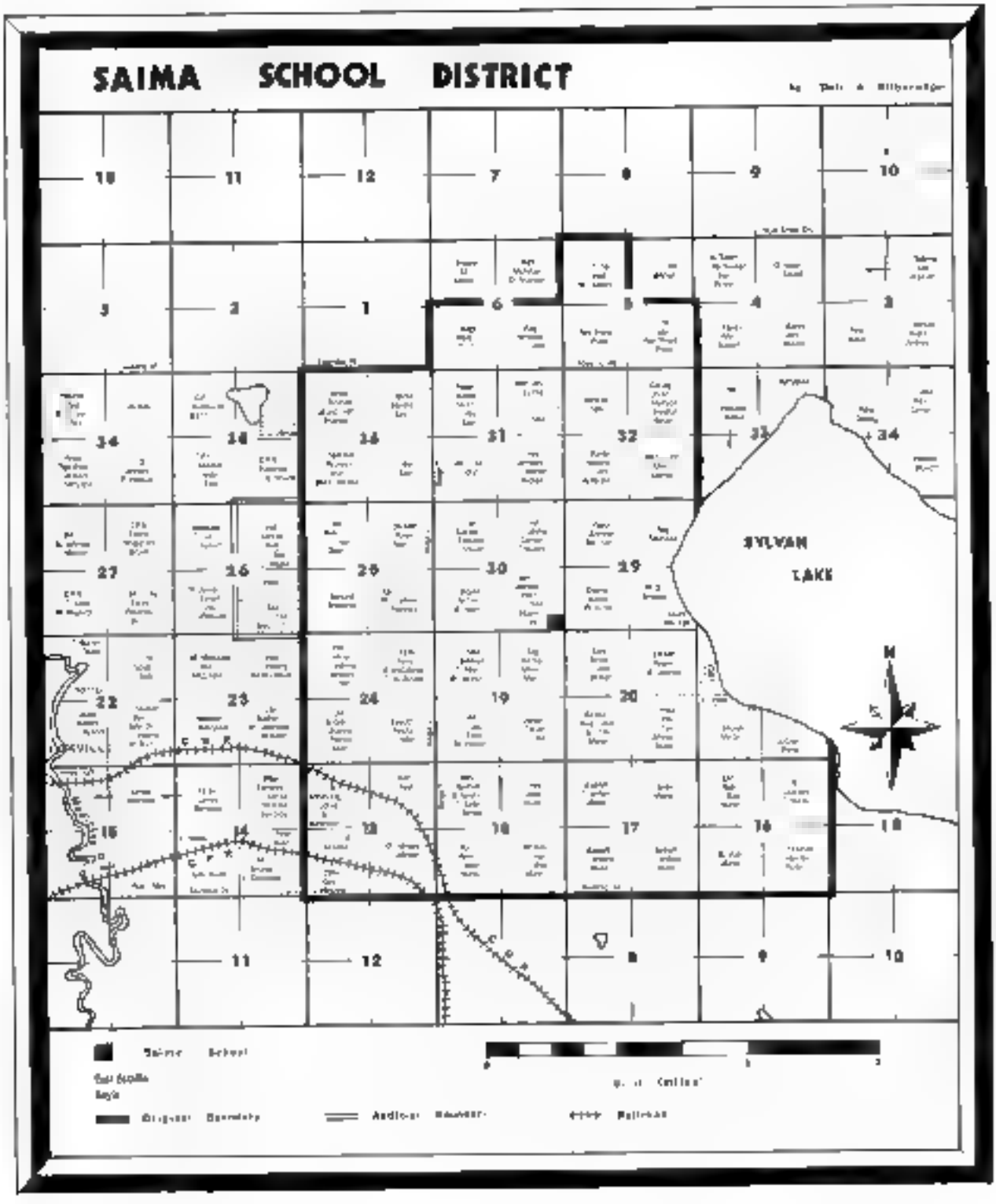
Bob and Vivan Kilpatrick and the three children lived on the east 80 acres of SE 6. They now live in Rocky Mountain House.

There are quite a few who owned land, or now own land in the area but do not reside here. Of these are Scott Willets, W. I. Clevenger, K. M. Vig, Eric Masuch, Gordon Ferguson, R. F. Klassen, Don Smith, Terence Freeman, John Grutterink, John and Frank Tkalck, J. C. May, Burns Kilpatrick, Clarence Anderson and Dale Hazen.

We have a few newcomers, namely Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wells on SE 8, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Jordan and wee daughter live on the NE of 5, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johnson and family and Mr. and Mrs. W. Hough and family each have 80 acres on the NE 6.

I sincerely hope that none have been forgotten but hope you will bear with me if such is the case. Each one has played a part in the history of the district and as the next century approaches and the sand glass empties, many of us will also become history and the generations to follow will carry the knowledge forward into the unknown as did our pioneers.

This book will hold the records and evidence that we did indeed, live during this century.


SAIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT
SYLVAN LAKE
N

# Saima

**MATT ANDERSON – by Sylvia Thorkman**

Matt Anderson was born in Harma Finland. Matt was a bachelor who lived in a shanty on the Leukumia farm. He had a peg leg losing his leg in a mining accident but this didn't hold him back for he made his living repairing shoes and making harness

He passed away in the Bentley hospital and is buried in the Bentley cemetery

**ANGLE, CHARLES AND MARY — by Agnes Hardenhagen**

Charles and Mary Angle and family came from Butte Montana in 1910 Their homestead was northeast of Eckville and is now the Psikla Farm. Mr Angle had come ahead of his family to clear some land and build a home He built a large log cabin, one room, which would house the family of seven. Mary Angle came up by train in the summer with her three children. Henry Helen and Esther Johnson, from her marriage to Matt Johnson. Her two eldest daughters. Ida and Lydia remained in Butte Ida was married to John Fordyce and Lydia later married his brother, and lived in Deer Lodge. Montana. Mrs Angle also brought with her two stepchildren Annie and Henry Angle. Mr Angle's other son Jack had died from diphtheria at an early age in Butte

Times were very hard and Esther recalls that the family had only one horse and one ox, which they hitched together as a team to do the farm

Charles and Mary Angle

Johnson Children taken in Butte, 1906. Left to right: Henry Helen, Lydia, Esther and Ida

work. Esther attended the Salma School but Helen, having had some schooling in Butte, had to help at home and also go out to work for

Charles Angle died in 1919. Mary remained on the homestead with Henry and Esther for a while. Helen married Ole Bardenhagen in 1918 and they started farming in the Gilby district. The Angle farm was sold to the Wells family and later to Louis Psikla. Mary Angle then made her home with Helen and Ole on their farm at Gilby. Henry and Annie Angle left Eckville and lived in Saskatchewan.

Henry Johnson married Leah Wells and they traveled a good deal. They lived in Calgary and in Vulcan, Alberta. They also lived for several years in Fairbanks, Alaska, and finally settled in Missoula, Montana where they are now retired.

Esther Johnson worked as a telephone operator in Drumheller where she met and married Sid Paston. They moved back to Eckville and Sid operated a garage which is now known as Eckville Motors. Their marriage ended in divorce and Esther then took charge of the Eckville telephone office, which she managed for ten years. Her mother lived with her during this time. In January 1946, Esther married Bill Oliver and moved to a farm at Warner, Alberta, where they farmed until their retirement in 1966. They then lived for one year in Victoria, B.C. and then moved back to Red Deer. Mr. Oliver died in 1974 and Esther now lives in the Eckville Manor House. After Esther's second marriage Mary Angle lived with Ole and Helen Bardenhagen until her death in 1951.

Ida Fordyce passed away in Butte, Montana. Lydia Fordyce had one son, Emil, who passed away in a Veteran's Hospital in Helena, Montana. Lydia had a stroke and is presently in the Deer Lodge Nursing Home, in Deer Lodge, Mon

Henry and Leah Johnson had one daughter, Roberta, and a grandson, Chad, who resides in Idaho. Roberta is now Mrs. Larry Nisle.

Helen and Ole Bardenhagen farmed for several years in the Gilby district, then moved into Eckville in 1935 where Ole went into the livestock business and Helen ran a boarding house. Ole passed away in 1959 and Helen in 1969.

Ole and Helen had one son, Jack, who still resides in Eckville. He married Agnes Sveinson in 1950. Agnes had come to nurse at the Eckville Hospital in 1948. She resumed her nursing career after having her family, and is presently Director of Nursing at the Eckville Hospital. Their three children were Bill, who is still living at home, Beverly, who resides in Yellowknife N.W.T. and Donald, who married Beverly Smith in 1975. They have a son, Alan Donald, and they live in Eckville.

**THE ANTTI (ANDREW) BELLIKKA FAMILY — By Mary Moen**

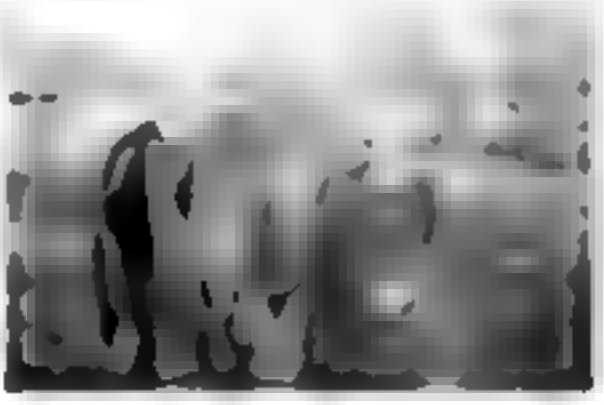
Antti Bellikka, with his wife, Sears, and children immigrated to the U.S.A. from Hango, Finland on the vessel Pennsylvania, arriving in New York on the 16th of June, 1904. The family lived in the U.S.A. until 1916 when they emigrated from Minneso a to Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. In 1918 they moved to Sylvan Lake, Alberta, and moved to the Eckville district.

They lived north of Eckville about three miles for several years on a rented farm owned by the Hill sisters. They worked hard on the land, farming with horses. They raised hogs and chickens and milked cows and sold cream. Whoever has hatched chicks in an incubator knows what it's like to be a foster mother to a flock of chicks! Mary found out what a racket they made. You couldn't build a fence high enough to keep them away from under your feet when they heard you.

The years passed until the folks got too old and tired to work a farm. They bought a small place about three miles east of Eckville. Mr. Bellikka was a Lutheran Minister and used to travel with horse and buggy throughout the countryside to hold church services in the homes where the people came to listen and heard the word of God. In the earlier years Mrs. Bellikka served as a mid-wife in the neighborhood.

Mr. Bellikka learned the trade of making shoes (shoe-pacs) and skis in the old country. He sewed together many a pair of shoe-pacs for the family and others. The children wore shoe-pacs to school in the wintertime and they were teased by the other children as the pacs had a turn on the toe. The toe curled up somewhat, but your feet never froze in them. He made many a pair of skis also, and there are still two pair of them in Arthur's family.

During the hungry thirties, when they lived east of Eckville, the railroad ran just past their place. It was a common sight to see the so-called hobos riding on the top of box cars. They rode the rails from town to town looking for work. Many a man would jump off the car when the train slowed down at the crossing to go to the house to ask for something to eat as they were hungry. (No work, no food.) It wasn't easy. Mrs. Bellikka



fed them. Some asked to work for their meal and some just accepted the hand-out and went on their way to the next place. Yes, those were hard times, and yet the children remember the good times. There was always food on the table. We [redacted] saskatoons, and always enjoyed the picking times.

The work was hard but the children had to work and learn to help Mom and Dad as there was no money to hire help. These were hard times, and, all in all, they were pretty good times. Children learned what life was really all about, "give and take", the good with the bad". It taught the children responsibility and to make the best of what one had.

Mother Bellikka passed away in 1950 and Father Bellikka later was married to Mrs. Hilda Heikkinen from Sylvan Lake. Mr. Bellikka sold his little place and bought a house in Sylvan Lake and moved there with his second wife. Mr. and Mrs. Bellikka are buried in the Eckville [redacted].

Yes, years have passed and left us with memories, some cherished, some sad, with all the trials and tribulations of growing up.

Antti Andrew) Bellikka was born in 1871 in Pitpola, Oulu, Finland and died in 1954.

Saara Bellikka was born in 1865 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland, died in 1950. Ten children were born to Antti and Saara, but four of them died when they were very young.

Walter Joseph was born in 1888 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland. He stayed and settled in Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. He married there and his children are Walter Jr. and Viola.

Hilda Rita was born in 1897 in Tyrnava Oulu Finland, and died in 1969. She married Oscar Koskinen in 1918 and had five children. Helen and Arthur are deceased and the others are Loreen, Raymond and Dorothy.

Ventla Sara was born in 1903 in Tyrnava Oulu Finland and died in 1976. She married Harold Dale in Red Deer in 1924. Harold also has passed away. Their children are Robyn (Donna) and Bayard.

Arthur Johannes was born in New Ipswich New Hampshire, U.S.A. in 1909 and died in 1959. He married Viola Byttynen in 1937 in Sylvan Lake. Their two children are Patricia and James.

Bob) Andrew Wayne was born in 1906 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland and died in 1975. He married Vicki Phillips in Vancouver in 1943. They had no [redacted].

Mary Anna was born in 1907 in Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. She married Fred Moos (now deceased) in 1930. Their children are Donald, Leonard and Jeanine. Mary now lives in the Sylvan Manor at Sylvan Lake.

**The Grandchildren**

Walter's children — Viola Benikka Schier had one girl and one boy.

Hilda Koskinen's children — Helen and Bill Lindsey, Meaford, Ontario, no children.

Arthur deceased in Sudbury, Ontario, had two boys.

Loreen (Gladys Larkin, Toronto, Ontario, had two boys.

Ray Koskinen and Ellen (nee Repadelt) have one girl and one boy, both adopted.

Dorothy and Roy Fraser now live in U.S.A. and have nine children, all living in Ontario.

Ventla and Harold Dale have one girl, Robyn Donna, and Ken Thurston who have one boy.

Bayard and wife Ann have no children although Ann has a daughter from a previous marriage.

(Bob) Andrew and Vicki had no children.

Mary's son, Donald, and his wife, Evelyn, have two girls and one boy.

Mary's son Leonard and wife Freda, have four children from Freda's first marriage.

Mary's daughter, Jeanine, (Armstrong Johannson has three girls and a boy — Debi, Dannel and Dalleen Armstrong and Brett [redacted].

**BERNARD BROTHERS — JIM, ERNIE AND TOM — by Sylvia Thorkinson**

The Bernard Bros. were born and raised in Nova Scotia. Jim, Ernie and Tom all purchased C.P.R. land east of Eckville in 1906.

Jim purchased the NE 25-39-3-W5 which he farmed for a number of years. An honest, kind and true neighborly spirited young man, Jim was a very able cook having cooked on ships before coming west.

Jim married a district girl by the name of Ivy Badrofl. Ivy was born in Montana and came west with her parents in a covered wagon. After Jim and Ivy's marriage, her parents moved to Roseberg, Oregon so the Bernards sold their farm to the Harper's and followed her parents to Roseberg. The district felt a great loss when Jim and Ivy held their auction sale and bid farewell in 1913.

Tom Bernard purchased the NE 25-39-3-W5. His interest in farming was more for specula tion. He sold his property to the Harper family. Tom was a creamery manager and he and his family lived in Claresholm for a number years.

Ernie Bernard purchased the SW 25-39-3-W5. He worked as a cheese maker at the cheese fac tory in old Eckville for T. B. Miller. After the cheese factory closed, Ernie worked at sawmills and later returned to Nova Scotia. He sold his farm to the Thorkman Bros.

**DOCKEN E. FAMILY**

The Docken family bought the NE 36-40-2W5 formally owned by Ouberg.

They sold the farm to Annala Family and moved to Breton, Alberta in the 1920's where there were homesteads available, the boys being old enough to file on a homestead.

Mr Docken died in the 1940's and Mrs Docken died in 1976 in an Edmonton nursing home at the age of 95 years

**ECKROSS, VICTOR AND HILMA AND FAMILY**

Victor and Hilma Eckross immigrated to Canada in 1903 and homesteaded NW 30-39-2 W5 There were three children born in Canada Leonard in June 1904, Annie in September, 1905 and Jennie in March, 1907 In 1911 a diptheria epidemic swept the area Five-year old Harold and four-year old Jennie died My brother George and I were spared

We were very poor in Canada and my father went to work in the coal mines at Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. during the winters We lived a very simple life, and didn't get around too much in those days

My uncle, Rudolph Stoppen, took me to Sunday School, and I learned to read and write Finnish. My father saw no future for us on the homestead so we held an auction sale in 1913 and sold the few things we had. We then moved to Berkshire, New York, U.S.A

My brother George died in a farm accident at the age of 14 years. Both my parents have now passed away, as well as Annie and Leonard. I am presently living in New Port Florida

**ERICKSON ERIC AND PHYLLIS**

On June 24, 1967 Eric Gordon Erickson married Phyllis Irene Palm. They have resided on Gordon's family farm ever since. During the years they had seven daughters who were born in Eckville

Irene Gail was born February 8, 1969 On June 7, 1969 she married Douglas Frank Wine. They have two children, Gordon Douglas, born December 7, 1969 and Marcey Irene, born August 2, 1975. They live in Calgary where Douglas is employed as a geologist and Gail as a teacher

Deborah Karen was born May 19, 1951 She married Philip Robert Gyori on October 14, 1972 Deborah gave birth to a girl, Carley Jill, on January 5, 1974. Philip is a farmer in the Bentley area

Joanne Orlene was born April 29, 1952. She was married to Kenneth Alfred Haarstad on April 10, 1971 They have two boys, Phillip Jan born May 28, 1971 and Toby Lane born May 3, 1974. Joanne and boys live in Edmonton

Norma Jean was born September 30, 1953 Jean married a Scottish lad, John George Robertson on April 7, 1973. They have one daughter, Dalna Marie, born July 24, 1975. John is general manager for N.W.T Airways and Jean works in a local bank in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Donna Marie Minnie was born March 30, 1955 Gwen Christine was born December 24, 1956 They both live in Edmonton and are working in banks

Pamela Phyllis was born October 17, 1961 She is still at home completing her education

**ERICKSON FRED**

Erick Gottfrid "Fred" Erickson was born in Lanna, Sweden, September 27, 1883. He immigrated to the United States when he was 18 years of age, and made his home in Chicago for about two years. His sister Hanna, lived there He later left Chicago to enter the lumbering industry in and around Spokane, Washington, where he was employed for several years. His next move was to British Columbia where he again worked in the lumber industry in the Arrow Lakes area

Fred came to Alberta in 1912 and took up a homestead in the Eckville area on NW¼-7-40-2 W5. He built a log house on this land, and cleared some land before returning to British Columbia to again work in the lumbering industry for another two years. When he returned to Alberta he bought a quarter of land from the Eckross family, which was to become his home This was NW ¼-30-39-2-W5

On February 16, 1915, he was married to Minnie Solberg, the youngest daughter of Mr and

Mr. and Mrs. E.G. (Fred) Erickson married February, 1915

Mrs. Eric Solberg, a pioneer family of the Bentley district. They were married by Reverend A. H. Jorlaas, in the Vig Church, west of Bentley, now known as Grace Lutheran Church. Of this marriage four children were born — two daughters, Hazel (Mrs. Peter Bobyn) and Myrtle (Mrs. Arthur Raabis), the boys were Gordon and Grant.

[illegible] Solberg, Hazel, Myrtle, Gordon and Grant

There were many years of hard work. The land was heavily wooded and had to be all cleared by hand before fields could be made. Neighbors at this time were the Rudolf Stopsen family to the south (now the Vester Niemi place), Ray Harper family to the west (later the John Saari home), George Kidd family to the north and the J. Heikkinen family to the east. Among the others of the close neighbors were the Thorkmans, Matt Johnsons, Niemis, Ludwig Stopsens, John Lundberg's, Eric Luomas, Henry Johnsons, and Frank Holm. Eventually the George Kidd family moved to Smithers, B.C. and Mr. Erickson bought their quarter of land and also the one belonging to Heikkinens.

In time the land was all cleared of the heavy timber and became productive farm land. There were good years and bad years, then, as now, with the usual risks of hail, frost, etc., for some of the years. Wild berries grew in abundance and with them the winter preserves were made. Grain had to be hauled by four-horse teams to Kootuk. This was a big job, and was mainly done during the winter months.

In December 1917 the home was destroyed by fire. The Erickson family with two small children, escaped with only the clothing they were wearing. It was bitterly cold — 30 degrees below zero, and the fire was caused by an overheated stovepipe. Fortunately there were close neighbors — the Rudolf Stopsens, where the family was able to take shelter from the cold. Eventually a log cabin was hauled in and the family lived in it until a new house was built the following summer. This house was built by the Kopsala brothers, and is the home still occupied by the eldest son, Gordon, and his family.

Phyllis and Gordon Erickson. Past Grad. Jean Ormsby, Junior Hockey

Mr. Erickson was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and was one of the earliest people to grow Garnet wheat in the area. Mrs. Erickson served several years as trustee on the Salma school board. She was also a member of the U.F.W.A. Sakato Local. This was a very active ladies' group, holding chicken suppers, handicraft activities, quilting, etc. Entertainment those days consisted of card parties, box socials, and other local activities held at halls and schools, or in neighborhood homes. There was no TV or radio, so get-togethers were the order of the day.

Fire again took its toll. During haying season in the early 1930's the barn was struck by lightning. The barn was completely destroyed, as well as the year's supply of hay which had been stacked adjacent to the barn. The following year

a new barn was built by Henry Johnson, and this building st.. stands today

Mr Erickson raised many cattle and built up a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus. He also raised a fine bunch of Percheron horses. The raising of hogs was another of his specialties. He was a hard worker, but found enjoyment in his work He continued actively farming until his death on May 17 1937

**THE JAMES W GRANT FAMILY — by Jessie Grant**

James Walter Grant and his wife, Nellie May a son, Stanley James, and a daughter Charlene Margaret, moved to the Eckville district in the summer of 1967, settling on the SW 24-39-3-W5 which they had purchased from John Potvar in the fall of 1960. They moved here from Calgary Alberta. Jim was born at Drumheller. Alberta on April 29, 1929 to Henry and Margaret nee Littlechilds Grant He was educated at Drumheller, Alberta and lived there until 1944 He then travelled and worked as far east as Port Arthur Ontario, then moved to Calgary, Alberta. He lived there from 1951 to 1967

Nellie was born at Evarts, Alberta, July 22, 1932 to Joseph and Charlotte (nee Dennis Brzak She took her education at Gaetz School and lived in the Evergreen district until 1951, then moved to Calgary and remained there until 1967

The NW 24-39-3-W5 was purchased from John and Leah Ambury in the spring of 1967 and 12 acres adjoining and belonging to NW 24-39-3-W5 was purchased from Uno Lindquist's widow in the spring of 1970 by the Grants

Sheila Mae, born December 16, 1969 at Edmonton joined the family on September 14, 1971

Jennifer Maureen was born at Eckville and joined the family on April 11, 1973

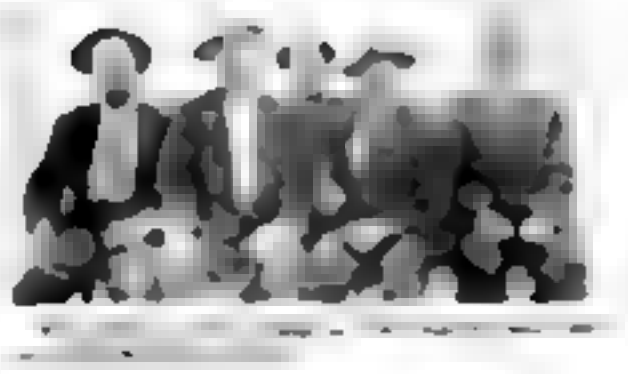
Stanley graduated from the Eckville High School in 1972 He married Suzanne Marie Betterive on November 29, 1975, and they took up residence in Calgary, Alberta

Charlene is attending the Eckville High School, taking grade 10 in 1977 and Sheila is attending Eckville Elementary School, taking grade two

**HALSTEIN, FELIX**

I was born in Red Canon, Wyoming February 28, 1896. My parents were August and Matilda Halstein. They were born in Ahejarvi, Finland and immigrated to the U.S. as young people They were married in Almy Wyoming in September 1892 and later moved to Red Canon and then to Belt, Montana All I remember of my years in the States is that I fell into the creek in Belt and almost drowned. On our way to Canada all children had to be vaccinated for small pox at the border I heard kids crying and decided to skip the treatment I went and stood outside on the train steps. However, I was found and given my shot

On arriving in Red Deer we hired a democrat and team to bring us to the homestead. The democrat had a hole in the bottom and my brother Bill fell out He wasn't missed at first but by backtracking he was found



After living on the bald prairie, 160 acres of trees were a real challenge. One such tree leaning at an angle made an aerial path between the house and well and resulted in lots of torn

One day father came home with a walking plow in the wagon It had just been sharpened the wagon was a cowbell I climbed into agon and was jumping and ringing the cowbell when I ran into the plow share My leg was badly cut and the tendon severed. Father had had some training in suturing. He sewed up the leg but the tendon wasn't connected All my life I have had a lame foot

All three years of my formal education were at Kingsgate. All but two of the families attending were Finnish and that is what we spoke until the teacher made a ruling that only English was to be spoken on the school grounds. Already then there was a bilingual issue. One very shy boy headed for home every recess and the rest of us had to run him down and bring him back

At the end of grade three I became a full time farmer Among other things father broke other peoples oxen for them. A log was fastened to the oxen The driver sat on the log and drove, hoping to be out of line of fire when the oxen coughed If the heel flies were bad you were liable to find yourself in the middle of a waterhole

One winter Ed Valli and I went to the States to look for work. We got a job in the round house at Great Falls doing everything necessary to get the engines on the road. I lost that job so we went to work on a ranch. Ed looked after the sheep, a six days a week job. I fed cattle, a seven days a week job, hauling hay into the foothills with a wagon. There were steep slopes to navigate and coming down hill the only way to prevent a runaway was to run into a snowbank

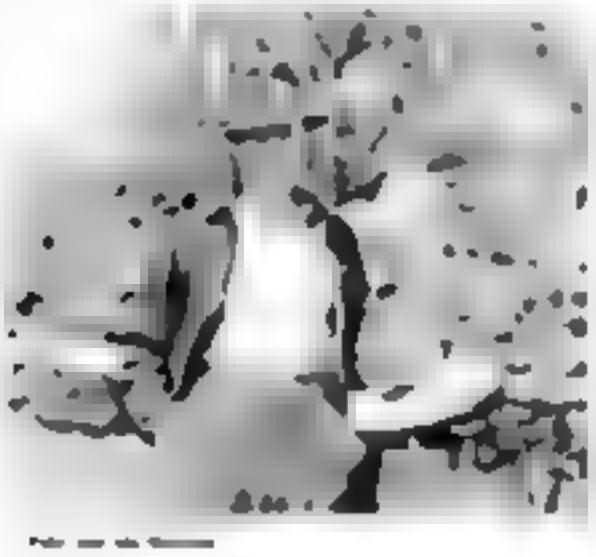
My wife, Ida May Harju, was born in Grand Marais, Michigan, August 29, 1900. Her parents were Matt and Sophia Harju who also emmigrated from Finland to various parts of the

U.S.A. Then in 1910 to Canada. We were married January 12, 1913 and moved to our farm in the Salma district SE 16-39-2-W5, that same year. Except for one year when we worked at Grenfell, Saskatchewan we spent all our married life here.

The farm had had several previous owners. It had a livable house and some out buildings. Some of the land was under cultivation and some in bush which was gradually cleared by the elbow grease method. Those first years on the farm were hard ones. There was little to sell and cash for such things as clothes and shoes were hard to come by. Food was no problem. Ida was a real farmer. Her cows always showed her loving care. She raised chickens, too and there were always a few pigs. She had a good garden. I remember making Millie some moccasins from deer hide.

I had some violin lessons from Rev. Harju and enjoyed playing for dances. After my stint in Great Falls, I decided to try for my Steam Engineers license. With some coaching and my experience, I had no trouble getting my license. In those days when steam was the important power a license was a real asset.

I have always enjoyed hunting and went out every fall and generally got some game. I still have all my hunting licenses from the time a hunter got a button, then a license which cost 25¢ 'till a few years ago when my foot was so bad I could no longer hunt.



Ida died suddenly on August 25, 1957. I stayed on the farm till 1960 when I sold out to Judge Porter. Our house which we had bought in 1950 and moved in, was sold and moved to Eckville. The other buildings were demolished. Today a landing strip occupies part of the farm. I retired to Sylvan Lake and built a new home.

Our family consisted of Mildred (Leeson) born November 1920. She attended Kalusama school then worked in the Oliver Mental Institution and Deerhome where she received a back injury which meant early retirement. She and Roy retired from Red Deer Hospital in 1977 have a motor home and plan on travelling.

Raymond born in 1922, died in 1925.

Bette born January, 1941, attended school at Sylvan Lake and Eckville. She is also a graduate of the Reeves Business College and is now Junior Accountant in the bank in Sylvan Lake. She married Walter Gathercole who is maintenance man at the Sylvan Lake School. They have two children, Susan a 1976 graduate at Sylvan and now employed by an insurance firm in Edmonton. Rodney, who is attending school at Sylvan Lake.

**HARPER, JOHN — by Helen Harper Jewell**

John Harper had the spirit of adventure in his soul. He wanted to raise cattle, and perhaps grain. Thus it was that we left our home in Roseburg, Oregon, U.S.A. In the early spring of 1916 John Harper and his son, Raymond age 20 landed at the 12' x 12' depot of Kootuk with three box cars of livestock and household goods. The land which my father had obtained, but had not yet seen, was the N.W. 25-39-3-W5. The livestock were driven to this land but the household goods were not unloaded until later, when my mother, my sister Della age 7, and myself, age 16, arrived.

The frost was just melting from the rich earth when we arrived and the mud was unbelievable! As we walked behind the load of furniture to lessen the pull for the team, our shoes became very heavy with the sticky mud and we found it hard to travel. The farm was about five miles northeast of Eckville.

The farm had not been misrepresented, but it was a sad sight compared to the home which we had left in Roseburg, Oregon. The house consisted of three bedrooms, a living-room, a lean-to for a kitchen, pantry, and back porch. It was built of logs stuffed with mud and straw and banked with horse manure just beginning to smell.

Life was hard for Mother and Dad with long hours of hard work and cold weather for long periods of time. We all survived the flu epidemic of 1918-1919: with no doctor in the community. Those who became ill either got well or died, on their own. The nearest doctor was in Red Deer and in those days it would be a two-day trip to get a doctor.

The train stopped at Kootuk three times a week, and its coming always meant "mail day" at the little post office which was a part of the drug store at that time. Social life consisted of visits to neighbors' homes, dances held about once a month at different halls in the communities, and a would-be rodeo once in a while. There were no church services of any kind available in the area. We did have a piano though, and this provided much pleasure for us

The schoolhouse of one room was centrally located for all families. The children, and even the teacher, either walked or rode a horse to get to the school. The teacher taught grades from one to eight, in addition to being the janitor. He (or she) was required to arrive at the school early and make sure that the room was warm before the pupils arrived. A large wood heater was used for heating purposes. At the close of the school day the teacher had to clean up the room in readiness for the next school day. At that time a girl could teach school after graduating from high school. My sister attended school for a while.

Our pioneer life on a Canadian farm was a short one. I left in 1913 for Tacoma, Washington to marry Henry Jewell. Because of illness my mother came the next year, and soon after that my father had an auction sale and he and Della came to Tacoma. Raymond was the last to leave, but he didn't stay long after the rest of the family had returned to Washington. Father sold the farm to the John Saari family.

My life in Canada as a young girl was an exciting adventure with lots of experiences new to me.

**JOHN HEIKKINEN FAMILY — by Ted [illegible]**

My father, John Henry Heikkinen, was born on October 27, 1873 in Oulainen, Finland. At the age of 12 years he left home and travelled to Sweden, where he worked in the mines, and then later he went on to Russia. When he was 15 years old he journeyed to the United States, settling at Butte, Montana, where he was employed in the mines. It was there that he married Selina Lydia Kangas of Butte, Montana, in 1902.

An injury to his arm in the mine caused him to give up mining the next year. He then journeyed to Alberta and filed on a homestead two miles east of Eckville in 1903. This was NW 24-38-3 W5. He then went back to Butte and moved his wife and son Jalmer to the homestead in 1904. He was able to build a log house and buy one cow. Being short of funds, the next three winters he went back to Butte to work in the mines.

Four more children were born on the homestead, and all attended Salma school. It was during the fall of 1917 that Dad sold his farm (or homestead) to John Lundberg. He then travelled through Washington, Oregon and Idaho, in the United States, seeking a place to

farm, and finally came back to Canada, settling for a time in Manyberries, Alberta. The drought hit there and once again he pulled up stakes and came to Benalto in 1918, where he bought land next to Benalto. He farmed here until he retired in 1936. He then leased the land to his boys. Due to ill health, he and his wife spent the winters with their daughter in Vancouver, B.C. until his passing in Benalto, Alta. on December 14, 1940.

My mother, Selina Kangas, was born on August 2, 1880 in Finland. She immigrated to the United States in her early teens, and worked in Massachusetts for a time, living at her brother's home. Next she went to Butte, Montana, where she settled to work and where she met John Heikkinen. They were married in 1902. She came to Alberta with her husband and after his death she lived on the Benalto farm with her sons. Later she married Rudolph Stopsen — in 1943 — and continued to live on the farm until 1946, when she sold it to Mr. Carl Jenson. They then had a house built in Benalto where they resided. Mr. Stopsen took ill and passed away in 1947 but she continued living in Benalto until her passing in March, 1950. There were five children in the [illegible].

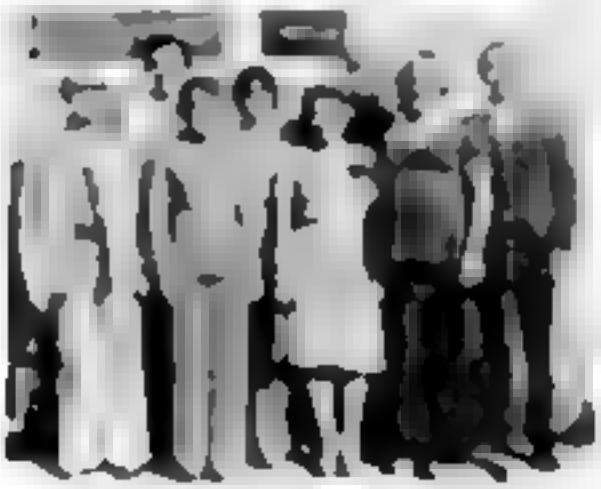
Jalmer Heikkinen was born in Butte, Montana in March, 1904. Most of his life was spent in that area, although he later lived and worked in Edmonton. He now resides in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Edmonton, Alberta.

Ina Mrs. Einerd Sundstrom was born in

Eckville in 1966. She was married in Benalto in 1925, later moving to Edmonton where her husband was employed. They had two daughters and a son born to them there, and upon moving to Vancouver B.C. in the year of 1936 another daughter was born. Ina passed away in March of 1963. Her husband and children all reside in Vancouver B.C.

Ted Heikkinen (myself) was born in Eckville on December 18, 1907. I have lived most of my life in this area. In June 1936, I married Elsie Anderson, the eldest daughter of Charles A. Anderson of Manyberries, Alberta. The Anderson family, who were close neighbors of ours while in Manyberries, again became neighbors when they settled in Benalto next to our farm.

At the time of our marriage I was a grain buyer at Benalto and in 1939 we moved to my farm at Codnor, called Oras then, and farmed until 1941 when I took carpentry work in Calgary. We again moved back to Benalto in 1946 where we still reside. We were blessed with three boys and three girls. Robert was born in 1936 and married Rose Whitford of Calgary in 1966. They still live in Calgary and have a son and a daughter. Russell was born in 1941 and married Elaine Brown of Calgary in 1971. They have a son and they live in Calgary. Donna (Mrs. John Walters) was born in 1940 and married in 1956. She has a son and four daughters and they live in Joffre, Alberta.



The Heikkinen Family. Left to right: Bob [illegible] Walters, Linda, Elsie, Ted, Denise Hubl and Dick.

Richard, who was born in 1944, married Gloria Baraniuk of Calgary in 1968. They live in Whitecourt, Alberta and have three daughters.

Linda was born in 1947 but has not married, having chosen a career instead. She is a Registered Nurse in Kelowna Hospital in B.C. However, she will be spending the year of 1977 in Australia.

Denise was born in 1951. She is now Mrs. Allan Hubl of Eckville. She and Allan were married in 1971 and now have a daughter and a son.

Fred Heikkinen was married in 1936 to Effie Louis of Sylvan Lake. They had four sons and two daughters. Fred farmed and drilled wells in this area for a time then moved to Drumheller to work in the mines. He passed away in 1972. His wife still resides at Drumheller.

Wayne Heikkinen married Dorothy Berch of Edmonton in 1942 and had a family of two sons and a daughter. Wayne farmed for a time then operated his own service station in Benalto. He sold out this business and moved to Edmonton in the 1950's. He was employed as a welder until his passing in February of 1975. His wife still lives and works in Edmonton.

The threshing days were fun in the early days. Dad would stack the grain bundles as you couldn't get it threshed in the stooks. The Langer steam thresher would arrive at night and we children were allowed to stay up late to watch it come. What a thrill it was to see the old steam engine throw sparks way up in the sky.

The housewives were supremely busy at that time, serving the best of meals for the hungry crew, and they would exchange visits with each other as they exchanged help in the kitchen. We had coffee, which was traditionally a real treat for the children.

My mother purchased a fancy set of dishes when she worked out in Butte, Montana, and she was very proud to use them upon request, at the Baptismal ceremony of her son Fred and Laina

Hill and others, held jointly at the home of Mr and Mrs. Jack Hill. In those days there were no churches, and a travelling minister Pastor F E Uhde, of the Evangelical Lutheran denomination, performed the Baptisms.

After that function, on our way home in a wagon and two newly broken horses we proceeded toward a small bridge across a creek at Dad's and Charlie Thorkman's corner (built up since) and Dad, being a green driver the horses bolted into a runaway and missed the bridge at the bottom. The wagon upset and all of

depressing thing of the homestead days, as there wasn't any money to replace them.

One Christmas we were looking forward to attending our school concert at Salma School, as pupils. Since we were taking part in the concert we were all dressed and ready to go when Mother took sick. She was expecting. So it was out of the question for us to go as Dad had to get help for her. We were very disappointed, of course, as we had looked forward to it all year.

A mid-wife by the name of Melita Johnson was summoned from Sylvan Lake. She and her husband had homesteaded one-half mile north of Benalto along highway no. 11, on the spot where later Melita school stood. Mr. Johnson donated the land for the school yard, and the school was named for his wife.

Mrs. Johnson determined that there wasn't much she could do for Mother, and that a doctor was needed. Dad phoned our neighbor Jack Hill, to come and fetch the horse and cutter and go and get a doctor from Bentley, which he did. However the Bentley doctor was out in the country on an emergency call. Dad then phoned Dr. Richard Parsons in Red Deer. He promised to leave at once, but in the meantime a blizzard came up. In spite of the w[illegible] arrived in the early morning, [illegible] mother's life. How many doctors these days would be that courageous, with a car, let alone a team of horses, in an open cutter and in a blizzard. We have never ceased thanking Dr. Parsons for this kind and humane act.

One incident comes to my mind. When a covered wagon got stuck in front of our homestead house. The oxen just wouldn't move. The driver beat them cruelly with a bull whip, but to no avail. Finally he unhitched them and asked us for some hay and water for them. The next morning they walked away with the wagon, as much to say "Rest and fodder brings results."

We attended school at Salma until the spring of 1918 when we left the district and I remember only that the teacher we had then was Miss Quigley.

Mother was the official coffee-maker at social functions in those days of copper boiler "coffee pots". Fish muskegan picnics were favorite outings at Palm's shore, or Palm Bay as it was called, enjoyed by relatives and neighbors alike.

Blueberries were plentiful in these areas in the early days, but disappeared when land was being cultivated and it became necessary to travel further west, past Rocky Mountain House over the Saskatchewan River on the ferry, for the blueberries and cranberries that grew wild all over that area. In berry-picking season the hillsides would just be covered with crowds of people of all ages, and picnic lunches were the order of the day.

Late fall and winter was, and still is, an exciting time for the men folk. They were busy preparing for their hunting expeditions to the West Country, such as Saunders and Nordegg. Most hunters would come home with loads of moose and deer meat, decorated with horns and antlers of all sizes.

Ted passed away Aug. 9, 1977 at the age of 89 years and is buried in the Kinsano cemetery.

**HEINO, EMIL — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Emil Heino came from Butte Montana where he worked in the copper mines. He came to Canada and homesteaded the NW 36-39-3W5, later selling this homestead and buying the NW 6-40-2W5 jointly with Ludwig Stopsen.

Emil, was a bachelor, who instructed a gym group at the Young People's Hall for a number of years.

Selling his land to Ed Lilkala he went to live with his sister in Ontario, where he passed away.

**HILL, MR. AND MRS. ELMER**

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer H[illegible]lda Talson resided on S.W. 20-39-2-W5. Their two daughters attended Salma School. Helen passed away in 1956 and Elvie is now living in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

**HILL, EMIL FAMILY**

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hill, having both left their birthplace, Finland, in their early youth, lived in Coleman for about 25 years, where Mr. Hill was injured in a coal-mining accident. This left him crippled for life, and being unable to work, he was awarded a meager monthly disability pen[illegible]

Emil had a brother Jack, who, with his family lived on a farm near Eckville, and they had visited them on a few occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Hill decided to move into the Eckville district with their two youngest sons, Onnie and Bill, and their little granddaughter Vivien. They purchased a small acreage about 1931, on the west shore of Sylvan Lake, from Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. Their eldest son, Tom, remained in Coleman, where he and his family still reside, and their daughters, Mamie and Elma, were by now on their own. Mamie Mrs. Walter Johnson later moved on the farm near her parents.

Their son Onnie, died in 1937 at the age of 22 years, after a long illness. Bill finished his public school education at Salma school and later joined the Irish Fusiliers during the war. After

living for some time in Vancouver and Toronto he settled in Calgary, where he has resided with his family for over 25 years

Vivien also attended Salma School and recalls a scare the pupils had when it became known that a bear had been seen in the wooded area bordering the road to school. Hence it was a relief to pupils and parents alike when it was shot by Charlie Vianen while it was raiding Charlie's ice house where he kept his cream. This incident created a great deal of excitement in the district. Vivien moved to Red Deer, and later to Calgary where she attended Normal School. She then taught at near-by schools until she went to Costa Rica to teach in an American Banana Company owned community. Here she met and married Robert Bliss and has lived with her husband and two daughters in Dearborn, Michigan, U.S.A. for the past 25 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill sold their lakeside property to the Y.W.C.A. and bought a house in Eckville, about 1950. Their grandson, Kevin Mullen, had stayed with them from time to time in his early years while his mother worked as a nurse in the Eckville Hospital and later in an Edmonton hospital. Then he stayed with them again in town while attending high school and while he worked in Jenkins' Store in Eckville, and always remained an especially welcome guest at his grandparents' home after he moved to Calgary.

Mr. Hill passed away in 1962 and Mrs. Hill moved into an apartment adjoining that of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hill shortly after. Then, when Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens' Lodge opened in 1967, she and her sister-in-law became two of the first residents there. Mrs. Hill enjoyed life at the Lodge very much, declaring that every day seemed like Sunday. She had a bubbling sense of humor, which her tribulations, illness and the death of her husband and two children did not diminish. Unfortunately she did not have much time to enjoy her life at the Lodge, as she passed away in August, 1968 after about six months in hospital in Eckville and Red Deer. Her eldest daughter, Mamie (Mrs. Walter Johnson) predeceased her in July, 1966, and Elma (Mrs. Roy Moore) passed away in Calgary in August, 1974.

**HOLMEN, MELVIN — by Eileen Holmen**

Melvin Clarence, third son of Morris and Clara (Vig) Holmen was born in Bentley, Alberta, April 8, 1928. Melvin attended school at the Sunset school. After his schooling he helped his father on the family farm in the Sunset district west of Bentley. Later he went to work in the Lochart district for Ernest Hawkins. This is where he met Eileen Lucas McFadden, the eldest daughter of Angus and Lillian (Holland) McFadden of Hespero, Alberta.

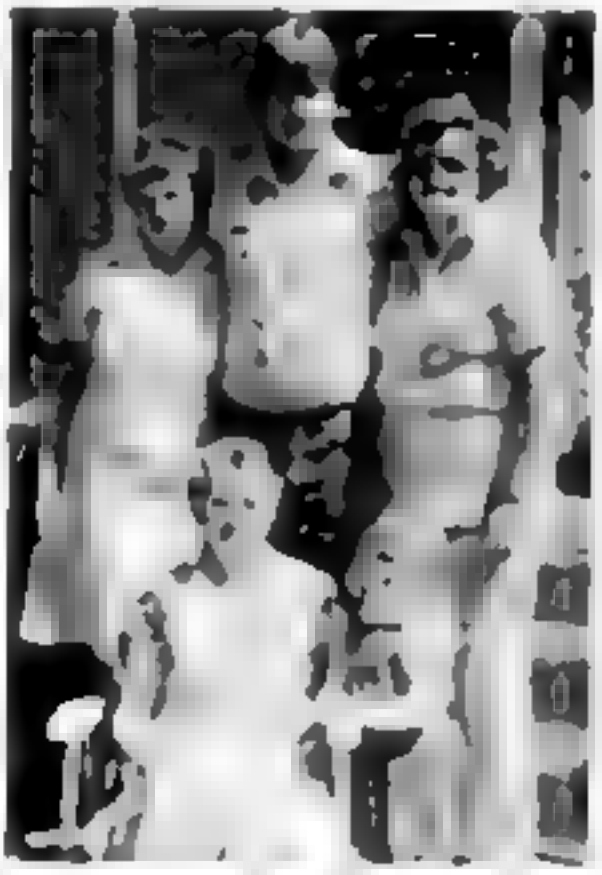
Eileen was born in Red Deer, September 12, 1935. She attended school at Daisy Nook, Red Deer and Condor. On September 17, 1954 Melvin and Eileen were married in the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Eckville.

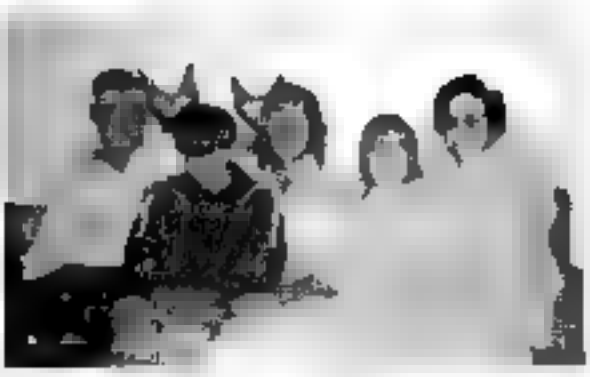
After their marriage Melvin and Eileen moved back to the Lockhart district later moving to the A. B. Haarsted farm in the Stevenson district where Melvin worked as a farm hand. This is where their first child, Clarke Morris, was born on August 12, 1955. At this time Melvin was working at a saw mill west of Rocky Mountain House, where he was injured. Due to his injuries the family moved to Edmonton so that Melvin could take therapy. The family lived in Edmonton for four years. When Melvin had recovered from his injuries he went to work for Wester-Williams at their feed lot in North Edmonton. While home for the Christmas holiday their second son, Glen Melvin, was born in the Bentley hospital on December 22, 1957.

The family decided to move back to Eckville where Melvin and his cousin, Gordon V. started the "Vig and Holmen Painting and Decorating" business, which was in operation for four years — until Gordon and his family moved to British Columbia.

On October 30, 1961 Melvin and Eileen were blessed with a baby girl, Diane Lillian.

Soon the family moved one mile north, three





Melvin, Glen, Clark, Donna, Eileen Holmen.

miles east and one mile north of Eckville, to the ate Wayne Stopsen property, which they rented for five years. Later they purchased an acreage one-half mile south, the NE 24-39-3-W5. At this time Melvin was working for Art Lutz, clearing right-of ways for Calgary Power. Upon the death of Art Lutz, Melvin purchased the business, which is now known as Holmen and Son Construction Ltd.

Clarke married Donna Delbridge of Bentley on August 24, 1973 and they have a daughter Toni Marie. They reside in the Eckville Trailer Court.

Glen resides in Red Deer, Alberta, and Diane is still at home and is attending high school in Eckville.

**IGNATIUS, George and Olga**

George Edward Ignatius was born August 20, 1896, at Antracite, a small mining town, five miles east of Banff, where his father worked in a coal mine. The family left Antracite for Butte, Montana, U.S.A. where his mother operated a boarding house. After the death of his father, his mother thought it wise to leave the big city with the children, and return to Canada in hopes of finding a homestead where she could raise the family.

George arrived at the homestead site, SW 18-39-2-W5, at the tender age of nine years, with his mother, two brothers and two sisters, in the year 1905.

Even though the children were very young, it was necessary for them to help in one way or another. George chose to help his mother fence the quarter.

At the age of ten, George went to work for a farmer, Charles Urich, west of Bentley. There he worked on the threshing crew, cutting the twine from the bundles as they were fed into the threshing machine.

Supplementing the farm income, George worked at the coal mines in Nordegg and assisted in clearing more land on the home place.

At the age of 28, in the early 1920's, just prior to his marriage George purchased the adjoining quarter, SW 19-39-2-W5, from Henry Talson.

Money was difficult to borrow from banks, and George did not have sufficient funds to get married. Rudolph Stopsen kindly lent him $350 to defray the expenses. He was united in marriage to Olga Mary Huhtala, aged 21, July 13, 1925, in the United Church in Red Deer by the Rev. Churchill. She was the eldest daughter of Abram and Mary Huhtala, born February 10, 1904 at her home, one mile west of Benalto. Olga took her schooling at Melita. Education was difficult for her as she had to assist on the farm during the spring to fall months, leaving only the winter months for school attendance.

Olga and George Ignatius, 1925

One of her summer daily duties consisted of rounding up the cattle on horseback. Due to the lack of fences, there were miles and miles of open land for the cattle to graze on. Very often some would stray away from the herd, causing many tiring days of searching. Many times Olga reminisces about an incident happening while in search of cattle.

Daisy, her horse, being a highly spirited one sensed a car following on highway 11 and wished to stay in the lead. This it did for approximately three quarters of a mile, when Olga decided to leave the highway and turn off on a side road. The car also came to a halt and informed her thus, "Young lady you are now in the movies." The men in the car had been taking movies of their faultless performance.

Hurdle jumping was known in those days, for

many a time she and the neighbor children jumped the fences with their horses. Olga being of a determined nature, kept in step, working alongside any man

She was interested in dramatics, devoting her spare time to acting and taking a role in Finnish plays which were performed at the local halls Elspeth, Liberty, Codnor (Oras, and Eckville

During the winters of 1922, 23, 24, she was employed at the Sylvan Lake Hotel, owned by Mr Hazelwood. It was situated on the north west corner of Main Street and also, she worked at a cafe situated where the Mayfair Store now stands She received wages of $15 a mon

George brought his bride to his mother's home where they lived for two years. A daughter, Edith Helen, was born to them in 1926 Christmas Eve. 1927 they moved into their new home which was a frame building with four rooms, approximately 20 feet by 24 feet. This was a pleasant Christmas gift, which brought them much enjoyment Slowly the farmstead became a reality barns, shop, chicken coop, and the Finnish Sauna were erected, hewn from logs and cut off their own land

Those were the days when a dollar was a dollar When Olga and George erected their first house, in 1927 the following budget was kept showing the cost of building a four room bungalow Cement — $10.00 Nails $17 35 Lumber $217 25 Doors and windows $41 .0 lightning rods — $35.00 storm windows $42.00 locks and hinges — $ 9 45 shingles — $30.00 plaster brick and lime $62.25 finishing lumber — $69.45 window stops $1.00 paint and varnish — $47 00 labor — $172.00 casings — $5.35 screens — 95.00 storm doors — $6.00 flooring and building paper — $17 25 miscellaneous $44.40. The total was $832.05

Hazel Eileen Ignatius was born April 16, 1928, at her home, taking her elementary grades at the Salma School going to Red Deer High for Grade 10, then upon the opening of the Composite High 1947-48) she attended there for Grade 11. In October 1951 she was employed at the Provincial Training School, Red Deer until May 1953, when she resigned, due to the death of her father Helping her mother on the farm for two years, she assisted in skidding logs, which were later hewn to make approximately 50,000 board feet of lumber. Early in 1956 she found employment in the poultry division — Alpha Plant in Red Deer December first, 1957, a new institution opened, by the name of Deerhome Hazel has worked there for the last 20 years. She was one of the first on the payroll and has held her position up to the present time 1957 77) She makes her home mainly with her mother and step-father at Sylvan Lake. In 1976 she accompanied her mother to her Grandmother's homeland Finland. While overseas, she visited the USSR and Estonia. She enjoys travelling, fishing and leisure camp outs

Existence was a struggle during the thirties Livestock especially hogs, were valueless, hardly worth hauling to market into Benalto. All were slaughtered, rendered into lard for soap making and the meat was fed to the chickens. Bacon was made at home, and stored in grain bins which kept the moisture away

Grain was worthless as well. Oats, even when there was a market, brought a price of three to four cents a bushel Wheat priced at 18 cents and barley at four cents a bushel, so they obtained their own flour from the wheat ground at the Lacombe Flour Mills

Olga was a keen gardener, having a large garden, raising all their own vegetables including tomatoes and cucumbers. Fresh fruit was not obtained from the stores, but grown in the garden, namely raspberries and strawberries. Going to pick cranberries, huckleberries and blueberries was the main outing of the season, and as one might say "The holiday of the Year" She also created a natural technique for baking bread, always baking her own even to this day at the age of 73. All clothes were home made, stockings and mittens were knit for the family

George was sports minded. listening to hockey and baseball over the battery radio. also an ardent hunter and fisherman, bringing in an abundance of fish and wild game to supplement the food supply which was either smoked or canned

George also served as councillor for the Municipal District of Lorne in the years 1936 1941

Winter too, had its labors to be done Firewood had to be cut, sawed into blocks, split and stored Wood was the only source of fuel used in the cook stove, and heating the home. One can remember slaving over the stove, heating water in the copper boiler with four sad irons strewn around heating for ironing to be done, and a few cluttered cooking utensils, room always seemed to be at a premium

Water in those days came, not from the tap but had to be hand pumped, carried in pails for household consumption. Springs were an asset to any family This made the watering of livestock easier, otherwise water had to be pumped by hand

Their Model T Ford car obtained in 1927, was certainly a luxury shortening the time required to get from one point to another even though enjoyment was experienced from the horse and buggy days

Roads were no super race tracks in marshy places corduroy roads were made by laying poles side by side and covering them with dirt Construction had to be done carefully, laying the poles close to one another, for if a horse would sink through, broken bones would result. Improvements came later High grading was done past their place in 1952

One did not flick a switch for light, but had to depend on the natural source of the sun, resulting

in the long working day from dawn to dusk. The kerosene lamp and lanterns were the only source of light until 1943 when they purchased their own Delco Plant, this supplied their electricity for light, washing clothes and ironing. In the year 1949 Calgary Power came to the rescue, stringing their lines for the needed energy. This was the beginning of the Push Button Age.

The telephone added to the luxury of living, each farmer supplied his own poles. A number of hours were spent visiting over the party lines with each other, drawing neighbors closer together.

Those were the times of the tall narrow "Creamer Can". This had a tap on the bottom which allowed the skim milk to flow out and the cream remained in the can. The hand turned separator was mostly used, separating the cream from the milk. This was brought to the Eckville Creamery for sale, later replaced by the "Milk Delivery" driven by Vince Bell to the Alpha Plant in Red Deer. Eight gallon milk cans carried the fluid supply.

building up. George bought his caterpillar tractor in 1936. During the summer months he did custom work, breaking the virgin soil for neighbors.

With the onset of fall, came the time for harvest, which meant cutting the grain with the binder drawn by horses, or the "Cat", operated by two men, one on the binder, and one on the tractor. Stooking usually was done by Olga and George, seldom a hired hand was obtained for this.

Harvest was a very enjoyable time of the year as one saw the threshing machine followed by eight teams, one then knew his yearly produce would soon be safely stored. Threshing of the crop was done by Olva and Bill Huhtala, in later years by Clarence Anderson, and Olva Huhtala, also Martin Delaney of Lesliеville. The crews usually consisted of 12 men.

Preparation for food for the crew meant several days work for the woman folk, including baking bread, cookies, cakes, biscuits, and pies.

Trucking of the grain to the Wheat Pool Elevators in Benalto was done by Henry Johnson and Albert Johnson, both of Benalto.

The family lived in their small house till 1942 when they built an addition, thus increasing the size to 44 x28'.

In the year 1946, their daughter Edith married Ray Niemala, thus the couple gained a son. A year later they became the proud grandparents of Dorinda Marlene Niemela, born March 23, 1947, followed two years later by a grandson Terrance Raymond (Terry) Niemela born July 12, 1949.

The advancement of the machinery age eased the burden, as the swather and combine replaced the binder and threshing machines. Harvest time saw custom work done by Ray Niemela, Clarence Anderson and later by the Pelkie Brothers.

Tragedy struck the family when George passed away May 17, 1953 at the age of 57 years. He is buried in the Knusamo Cemetery.

Farming had to go on, and with the aid of her daughter, Hazel, and hired help, Olga capably managed the farm to the year 1955.

December 22, 1955, Olga married Andy Harrylow. They farmed together until selling their farms, Olga sold to Ted Sailor in 1963, retaining the oil rights on SW 19-39-2-W5, Andy to Toimi Tolonen. They then retired to Sylvan Lake. They resided in Andy's cottage on Lakeshore Drive during the construction of their home on 47A Avenue, moving into their new home for Christmas 1963.

Olga nursed her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raunio in her home for a number of years, until their deaths in 1971 and 1974; her mother Mrs. Raunio is buried in the Knusamo Cemetery, her step-father in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House, beside his former wife.

The year 1972 was eventful as a great-granddaughter, Bonnie Marie Huetala, was born March 14, followed by a great-grandson, Trevor Lee Huetala, born June 18, 1973. Later arrived another great-granddaughter Karri-Lynn Alane Niemala, on August 14, 1974.

In the year 1976, Olga, accompanied by her daughter Hazel, visited her Mother's birthplace in Finland, also visiting a sister-in-law and three nieces in the USSR and Estonia.

Olga has gained numerous friends through the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association and the Friendship Club. Gardening and Leisure camping are still her most enjoyable pastimes.

## THE KNAVIUS FAMILY

Mrs. Anna Ignatius Knuttila came to settle in the Eckville district in March, 1905, choosing N.W. 15-39-2-W5 as her homestead. It had been filed on previously but not proved up, and had reverted to the crown. That was one case in which the government had won, in the sardonic old joke of the time that the government bets ten dollars to 160 acres that you can't make a living there for three years. The place, therefore, already boasted a leaky log shack and a six-acre field. But, to its new aspirant, its greatest asset and lure was a beautiful spring of clear, ice-cold water that came bubbling out of the side of a hill near the middle of the quarter. Here was the ideal place for their first house and farmyard; water, she had been told, was sometimes a problem in this country, and the existence of this fine stream was the clincher in deciding where

She was left a widow while living in Butte Montana, and decided that a rough mining town was no place to bring up her family of five. Better to move to a homestead where the boys would be busy clearing land, plowing, haying,

and harvesting, rather than chasing around with the gangs of toughs in a mining town. And this decision she was never to regret, despite all the hardships, poverty and deprivation involved in the slow, back-breaking job of carving a farm out of the wilderness.

The family ranged in age from Mary, the eldest, who was 15, to George, aged five years. Between were Jessie, 12, Martin, ten, Waino, eight, and George, the youngest, five. The mother had first come from Finland to the United States in 1894, to Ishpeming, Michigan, then moving to the state of Washington, and later to Anthracite, near Banff, where the youngest son, George, was born, the only Canadian-born member of the family. Later, they all moved back to the States, to Butte, Montana, from where the final move to the homestead was made.

Every member of the family remained to become permanent residents of the area. Mary was married to Mr. G. K. Delaney, and had one daughter, Ingrid, (Mrs. Olva Huhtala), and a son, Mr. Martin Delaney, formerly of Lesliеville, now of Red Deer. Mary later married Mr. Otto Hill, and had two daughters — Irene (Mrs. H. Stovra of Victoria, B.C.), and Ruth, now living in Red Deer.

Jessie Ignatius, the second daughter, lived all her life around Benalto and Sylvan Lake. She died in 1971.

The oldest son, Martin, died in 1917, at the age of 24 years.

Waino Ignatius farmed for many years at Eckville. He married Matilda Talson, a member of another well-known pioneer family, and they had one son, Martin, and one daughter, Esther. Martin lived all his life on the family farm until his death in 1974. Their daughter, Esther (Mrs. Glen Marshall) now lives in Bentley. Waino now makes his home in the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Lacombe.

George, the youngest son, took over his mother's original homestead and continued to farm it until his death in 1953. He married the former Olga Huhtala, and their two daughters, Edith (Mrs. Ray Niemela) and Hazel, now of Sylvan Lake, are life-long residents of the community.

Life on the homestead in the early years of the century demanded courage, hard work, and resourcefulness. Survival was not guaranteed by the welfare provisions of a benevolent government in those days. "Trust in God, and keep your bowels open" was one old-timer's recipe for survival. Under primitive conditions, how do a widow and her five children cope? Well, she spends the last of her precious dollars to buy a few milk cows. Then she can make butter and exchange it for what few groceries she cannot produce on her own land — sugar, coffee, salt and such essentials — and have plenty of milk and meat. Vegetables she could grow for herself. But, to get ahead, some way must be found to earn a bit of money if the farm is to progress. "Cash flow" was an unheard-of thing in those days. Mary, the oldest, though only 15 years old, found employment at the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer. That helped a little. And soon Jessie and the boys went to work for a farmer at Raley Creek, a Mr. Ulbrich, for the summer.

During the winter, Waino remembers getting employment as a freighter's helper, hauling supplies from Red Deer to Kilick's store at old Eckville, a mile north of the present townsite, well before the railroad was built west of Red Deer. He recalls one particular trip when he was driving his team of oxen with a load of supplies following his employer who was in the lead. "He warned me to watch carefully when we were crossing the muskegs, not to get my wagon stuck." But travel by ox-team is slow and boring for a young lad, and he dozed off.

"When I woke up, I realized we were stopped, stuck fast in the middle of a mud-hole. When my boss realized I was no longer following, he guessed what had happened, and it meant coming back, unhitching his team, pulling the wagon out onto hard ground, thus losing a lot of time. What he called me was not very flattering, and not expressed in the most polite language.

Oxen, however, were not widely used by the homesteaders of the area. Horses provided the settlers' motive power. To be a good horseman was a matter of pride, and every family had its favorite horse or team. For the Ignatius family it was Prince, a beautiful light gelding, too blood to

he called a sorrel with white mane and tail. He was the one most frequently used for trips to town and for neighborhood visiting. Prince and the buggy " was an equipage familiar to everyone in the community for many years. He was foaled by the first mare the family obtained to establish the herd of horses required on the farm.

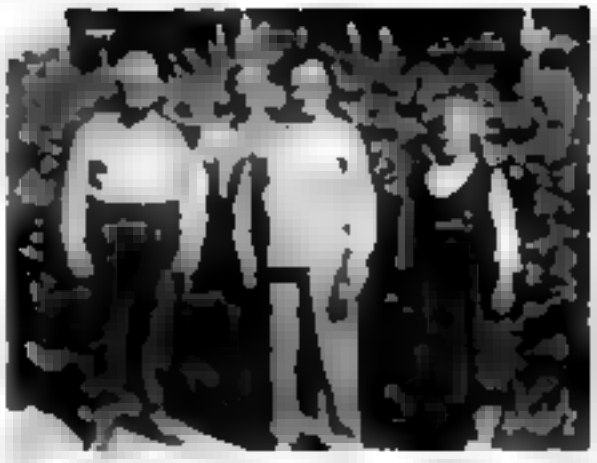
Neighbors and the spirit of neighborly dependence helped pioneer families in many ways, not just in exchanging work and helping out in emergencies, but in the simple matter of friendly socializing so necessary to create a feeling of community. The family still recalls the names of close neighbors who shared their problems and their triumphs — in those early days. Among those who lived nearest were the families of John Pesola where the Frank Holm family later lived , A. Hyvonen, R. Stopsen, T. Thorkman, Jacob Hill, and Peter Toivonen. With the exception of the Pesola family all remained to become permanent residents.

**IGNATIUS, WAINO**

Waino Ignatius was born in Ispeming, Michigan in 1895 and came to Eckville district from Butte, Montana in 1905, with his mother (Mrs. Anna Maria Ignatius) and two brothers, Martin and George, and two sisters, Mary and Jessie.

In 1925 he married Machilda Talsom and they farmed on N.W. 19-39-2-W5 for a number of years. Mrs. Machilda Ignatius passed away in 1954. They had two children, Martin Carl, who passed away in January 1974, at the age of 49 and Esther Ethel who is living in Bentley, Alberta, and is married to Glenn Marshall formerly of Rimbey and Tees.

Mr. Ignatius also has three grandsons, Jack Gerald and James McCrindle, also of Bentley. At the present time he is residing at the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Lacombe, Alberta.



**JAHELKA FAMILY**

Annie (Wine) Jahelka moved to Nordegg, Alberta in 1925 with her family and attended school there. On September 10, 1927 she married Charles Jahelka at Red Deer and Charles worked at the mines. A son, Norman Charles, was born. Later they moved to Bentley district and worked on various farms. They lived in a little house on the Louis Pelkla farm and Norman attended Salma School. Later Norman stayed with the John Saari family while his parents worked at the Saari saw mill near Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Jahelka passed away in 1945.

In 1950 Norman married Verna Poff of Red Deer and they have two daughters, Judy and Jill. He has worked for the City of Red Deer since 1947 in the electrical department.

Annie now lives in Bentley and her brother Joe Maister is living with her.

**JARVI, JOHN — as told to Sylvia Thorkmon**

John Jarvi was born in Finland, and had no known kin at the time of his death. He owned the NW 30-39-2-W5. He was a bachelor and lived with his cats. A small swinging door had been made purposely on the wall of his house to allow the cats to travel in and out at will. When a stranger approached the house cats scattered in through the opening right into the cellar. The cellar door, always ajar, answered two purposes — for the cats to travel down, and when John aimed with his tobacco juice he could hit the target every time.

John was a very likeable fellow and able story-teller. His small log shack was a favorite place for neighboring teen-agers on week ends. He was always prepared to relate his humorous stories, but before he was able to get on with the story he took out his snuff box, some of the snuff was poured on the lid, then he flipped the brown spicy snuff into his mouth. This was a special art and amused the visitors. He was a veteran of the Turkish War and always carried a gun on his travels, so was nicknamed Seta Ussi.

John spent his final years in a small house on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. He passed in 1930 and is buried in the Bentley Cemetery

**JOHNSON, JOHN FAMILY** - by Annie Luoma

John and Margaret Johnson were both born and raised in Finland. They raised a family of four sons, Alex, Matt, Pavo, Fred and one daughter, Ottilia. The Johnsons and their young family immigrated to Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A., and later to the Salma district where they homesteaded SE 30-39-2-W5. The family name in Finland was Harju which was changed [illegible] when they arrived in America

Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson

Ottilia married Erick Luoma who homesteaded one and one half miles north of her parents' farm. They raised a family of 12 children

Alex farmed NE 12-39-3-W5. Prior to farming in the area Alex's wife and family died as a result of a disease

Fred died in a shipwreck while serving in the Finnish Merchant Navy

Pavo died in a mine disaster in Diamondville Wyoming, U.S.A

John was an avid fisherman. He always fished on the same shore on Sylvan Lake. He cleared a path to and from the lake, where he could often be seen bringing home his bountiful catch. This shore soon became known as Johnson's Shore. It is located just north of the late Charles Donaldson property

Margaret was always busy spinning wool and [illegible]

In 1907 the Salma School was built on the southeast corner of the Johnson homestead

The homestead was later given to their son Matt, who had it for a short time. The farm is now owned by Mildred and Vester Niemi and the school site is owned by Dale and Valerie Smith

Matt homesteaded the SE 34-39-3-W5, and later bought the NW 15-39-3-W5, which is presently owned by the Wayne Ignatius family

In 1906 Matt married Hulda Talson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Talson, who also had immigrated to Canada from Rock Springs, Wyoming U.S.A. Matt and Hulda farmed extensively, renting additional land, and he employed several men throughout the years. He had one of the first gas tractors, owned and [illegible] a few winters he operated a sawmill in the Rocky Mountain House area

Matt was the district "handy-man". He pulled teeth whenever someone had a tooth ache and wished an extraction. He did surgical work on horses, and was skilled in blacksmith and carpenter work. He could ride broncs and break horses, and was good to the animals

After Matt bought the NW 27-39-3-W5 the children attended the Eckville School. He and Hulda raised a family of 14 children

**WALTER JOHNSON FAMILY HISTORY**—by Lowell

Walter Olof Johnson was born May 12, 1903, in Calumet, Michigan. Early in his childhood, the family moved to Butte, Montana, where his father had obtained employment as a miner. Walt was enrolled in Harrison School in Butte and completed Grades 1 to 4

In early 1912, the family came to the Eckville area. Walt attended school along with rabbit shooting and threshing. He was described by his classmates as an extremely good student. Unfortunately for him, one room country schools in the Benalto area did not go beyond Grade 8, which he completed in 1918

Walt left home at an early age to seek fortune and adventure in the west coast lumber camps. Even in his later years he spun tales of the exciting times he had as a young lumberjack in Portland, Oregon

Gradually Walt developed roots and began to farm. He built a house on NE 20-39-2W5 of Sylvan Lake where he met his future wife, Mamie Hill. They were married August 15, 1944, and later had two children, Carolyn and Lowell. After a lengthy illness, Mamie passed away in 1966

A few years later, the travelling bug got to Walt again and he spent much of his spare time in Europe and Asia. These trips provided Walt with tales to share with the Eckville Co-op coffee shop crowd where he and his friends shared a morning cup

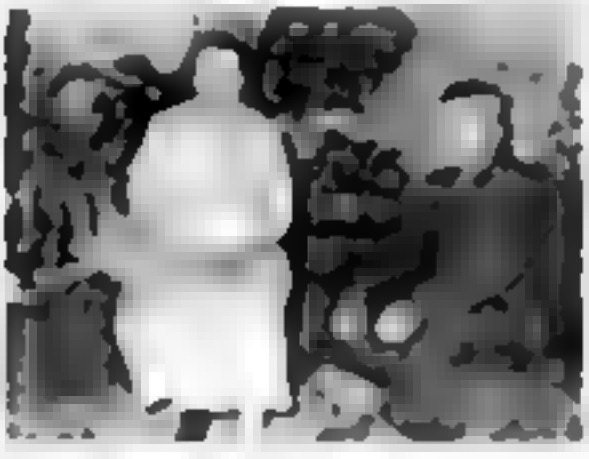
Farming continued to be a part of Walt's life until he passed away in 1977. Ironically, he was buried on his birthday. Walter and Mamie are buried in the Eckville cemetery

**KAKKINEN, MRS. FEMMIE**

Mrs. Femmie Kakkinen and her son Toivo moved to the Eckville area in 1949 from

Manyberries, Alberta. They bought the former Henry Johnston farm, 31-39-2-W5. Mrs. Kakkinen was the former Fermie Lilkala. She was born at Kauhajoella, Finland, in 1894. In 1910 she came to Canada with her mother, one sister and four brothers, and they settled in the Manyberries area in southern Alberta, where their dad, Matt Lilkala, had come before them and had proved on a homestead.

Fermie married Henry Kakkinen in 1911 in Medicine Hat, and they homesteaded just a few miles north west of her home place. I remember her telling me how the ranchers' animals used to scare her. The animals, which appeared quite wild, roamed at large for there were no fences. The coyotes, too, frightened her, as they were large and roamed in packs. One day she had walked to the home of her neighbors, Robert Tenhuenens, and upon returning home in the evening she didn't dare descend the hill to her home as the coyotes were howling, so she returned to Tenhuenens and stayed the night with them.



Fermie and Henry had two sons and two daughters. Toivo Henry was born in 1912, and remained a bachelor. Olga Elma was born in 1914, but died in 1915 as a baby of three months from whooping cough. I, Vivian Ardella (chosen daughter) came along in 1926. I married Emil Stober and we farm and ranch here in the Manyberries area. We have four children — Shirley, Stanley, Barrey and Westley.

Edwin Olavi was born in 1937 and died at birth.

Dad passed away in 1947 and Toivo and Mother continued farming in the Manyberries area for another two years. However, due to dry conditions, they decided to move to a wetter country to farm.

Mother passed away in 1965. Toivo continued farming until the spring of 1975, when he sold the place to Thomas E. Wickins. He continued to live on the farm until September, 1975, when he was found dead in the sauna by his uncle, Ed Lilkala.

**KAMJSEN (OUTAKYLA, GUST) — by Sylvia Therkuson**

Gust Outakyla had travelled extensively before coming to Canada. He fought in the Boer War during which he was taken prisoner and sent to serve life imprisonment at Devil's Island. While there he accomplished the greatest feat known to man. After much planning, Gust and his friend decided to swim the shark infested waters to the mainland. They had all plans made and one dark rainy night they made their escape. They swam most of the night. His pal was not a strong swimmer and begged Gust to go on without him. He never made it to land. Gust made it to freedom and he was later pardoned because no man had ever been able to survive in those waters.

Gust worked in the copper mines in Butte.

He came to the Saima district in 1902 and homesteaded in NE 30-30-2W5. He was very active in community affairs and was instrumental in forming the Saima School District and the building of the school.

While working in the copper mines in Butte he contacted a lung infection of which he died and is buried in the old Gilby Cemetery.

**KOPSALA, ANDREW**

Andrew Kopsala was born in Finland in 1856 and died in 1937. His wife, Eva, was also born in Finland in 1859 and died in 1929.

Andrew entered the U.S.A. in 1886, settling in Wyoming, where he lived for about 15 years. In 1903 he move to Red Lodge, Montana, and continued north to Alberta, in 1911.

As more homesteaders came into the Eckville area there became a need for people skilled in various trades. Andrew Kopsala filled the need for skilled carpenters. He settled in Eckville and built many fine houses, some of which are still standing and being used today. He was a fine finishing carpenter, and could design and build very intricate banisters and pilars. Whenever there was a death in the community he was called upon to build the coffin.

In addition to his carpentry skills, Andrew used to tan hides and make the leather into shoes or harness. In his later years he took great delight in his grandchildren, and spent much time making skis for them so that they could enjoy the winter snows.

Of their seven children Ida and John remained in the U.S.A. when the parents came to Alberta. Pete and Charlie later returned to the States and made their homes in Washington. Helga and Selma married the Talson brothers, and, along with Dick, they have made their homes in Alberta.

**KOSKI, JOHN ALEXANDER JR.**

John Koski Jr. was born in Oulu, Finland on March 22, 1898 and he was nine years of age when he came with his mother and sister Elizabeth to

1897 to join his father John Sr in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. who had emigrated to the United States before them.

The family lived in Rock Springs for six years where John Sr worked in the mines. Three more children were born to them during those years Ellen and a set of twins who died in infancy.

John Sr heard much talk of the Red Deer district in Alberta Canada and of the homesteads available there. He decided to see for himself what it was like and try his hand at farming. He sent his wife and daughters back to their former home in Finland and shortly after their arrival there, another daughter, Senia, was born.

Mr Koski arrived in Red Deer in the Spring of 1903 and filed homestead rights on a quarter section of land six miles west and a half mile south of Sylvan Lake now owned by E. Muth. John Jr arrived a few weeks later and filed on the homestead adjoining his Father's land a few years later. They stayed with Mr and Mrs Matt Harju until they built a one room log house. Mr Koski brought a sewing machine from the United States but the rest of the furniture was homemade. That Fall, Mrs. Koski and three daughters arrived from Finland. Two acres of land had been cleared and broken that first summer and some potatoes had been planted at Harju's but a hail storm ruined the crop and very few potatoes were harvested. During the winter months Mr Koski and son John worked at the Crow's Nest Pass mines laying mine railways. John Jr also helped build the Grand Trunk Railway in Jasper. A team of horses were bought for the farm but one died as did many horses that year from an unknown disease. As horses were expensive and money scarce, Mr Koski improvised a one horse sleigh by putting a box on the front runners of a bob-sleigh and attaching double shafts. Two cows were bought and butter was made and traded for groceries in Red Deer. When the I.B. Millar cheese factory was built the milk was sold there. Grief came to the family when their little daughter Senia died after a few days illness.

John Jr worked many summers at Red Deer clearing land and doing construction work. He would walk the 23 miles home every two weeks, stay overnight and walk back again. In 1912 Mr and Mrs. Koski's second home, a three room log house burned down. They lost nearly all their household effects and there was no insurance. After the fire, a storey and a half house was built of lumber.

Elizabeth Koski married John Kemila of Gilby, they had a family of five children. Only one member of that family survives, Selma (Mrs. George Lahti) of Edmonton. Ellen Koski married William Bond of Nebraska.

Mrs. Koski died after a brief illness in 1914. John Sr married Mrs. Elmina Mollanen of Butte, Montana in 1919, who had three daughters by a former marriage. The only child of Mr Koski's second marriage Hazel, lives in British Columbia. Mr Koski Sr passed away during the summer of 1931.

John Jr farmed with his Father until 1919, when he married Miss Hilda Tormala who came to the district from Fitchburg Massachusetts. Soon after they left to make their home in Portland Oregon, they lived there for two years and during that time their daughter Ellen was born. They returned to Alberta and the Eckville district in 1921. Land was bought one mile north of the former Saima School. SW 32-39-2 W5.

John Koski Jr was always in demand during long threshing periods when separators and steam engines were used. In each outfit of 12 men or more, he was always the separator man. Besides clearing the heavily wooded land during the summers he worked as foreman on road maintenance crews.

In the fall of 1931 Mr and Mrs. Koski their children, Ellen and Wilfred went to Europe spending over two years in Russia and Finland. Following their return with the Depression at its height it wasn't easy to make a new beginning. However, Mr Koski managed to open a blacksmith shop in Eckville to work at his former trade. He operated the shop for 15 years and worked later at the Co-op Lumber yard while his son Wilfred did trucking.

Ellen Koski married Walter Woima of Sylvan Lake in 1937 and they lived on the Woima homestead until 1957 when they moved to Calgary. Walter Woima passed away in 1960 and his widow is now Mrs. Bruno Olszewski of Calgary. Wilfred Koski married Miss Elsie Kangas of Edmonton in 1955 and they live in Eckville. Both Mr and Mrs. John Koski will be remembered as neighborly, peaceloving people who had a kindly word for all. John Koski died at the Eckville Municipal Hospital December 2,

1964, aged 76. Mrs. Hilda Koski passed away in the Eckville Hospital July 9, 1968 at the age of 83 years. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Besides their children there are two grandchildren, Mrs. Doreen Kelly of Red Deer and Gordon Wolma of Calgary, also five great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

**JOHN F. KOSKI — by Arnie Koski**

Mr. John Koskie came from Harma, Finland, and his wife came from Karvia Turun-Laani, Finland, where she had been born on August 24, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Koski were married at Frank, Alberta in 1906. He was a miner at Frank, and escaped death in the Frank Slide because he was away on the business of filing on a homestead on the west side of Sylvan Lake.

Their oldest daughter, Lempi Marie, was born on the homestead. In 1911 they sold the homestead and bought a farm in the Salma district, where the other children, Arnie, Eileen and Effie were born. All of the children were born at home and they all received their schooling at Salma school.

Mr. and Mrs. John Koski and Lempi Marie Taken in Red Deer 1911

Horses were valuable property in those days, for travelling was done by horse and buggy or sleighs in the wintertime. Farming was all done with the benefit of horse power too. The family raised most of their food by having a big garden every year, by milking cows, raising chickens for meat and eggs, and raising hogs.

In those days neighbors and friends helped each other especially at threshing time, and also when the roads needed maintenance. Our recreation was mainly having friends and neighbors drop in or going visiting on Sundays as well as picnics, ball games, school concerts, plays and dances at the local halls, and swimming in the lake during the summer.

The family bought a farm in the Boyle district in 1930. This was on the north end of the lake. They lived there until the time of their deaths and their son Arnie farmed it until the early 1970's.

Lempi Marie married Raymond Wesley Kirk in Calgary. They have two daughters and a son. Marie passed away in Calgary on September 3, 1971.

Arnie married Lempi Valley in 1949. Lempi passed away in 1970. On December 21, 1974, Arnie married again. This time he married Lucy Noures and they are now living in Bentley.

Eileen married Wilfred Portin in September of 1939. They moved to Vancouver and lived there for a period of time, later returning to the Sylvan Lake district. Wilfred passed away in March, 1969.

Effie married Spencer Wilson in 1942. At that time Spencer was in the services and was stationed in Red Deer. He served overseas from April, 1942 until 1945. They lived in Calgary until being transferred to Edmonton in 1971. They have a daughter.

**KUGE, FRANK — by Sylvia Thorimson**

Frank Kuge, of German descent, came from Kansas to the Eckville district in the early 1900's and homesteaded the SE 5-40-2W5. The land is now owned by the Pelkie's.

He was a very ambitious man. He cleared his land and built buildings which at the present time are still standing.

He died accidently when he was hitching his horses on the binder. The horses bolted and he was run over with the binder. Nothing is known regarding his relatives.

**KUSISTO, MIKE — by Mrs. Roland Lewis**

My folks, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kusisto, moved to the S.E. 24-39-3-W5 in 1903 and moved away again in 1904. Dad never did sell the place - he just left it, thinking he would go back but never made it. The county or state later took it for taxes.

When the folks came out of Canada they settled in Spokane, Washington. They lived there for several years. Dad worked in wheat while in that area. Two brothers and myself were born in Spokane and a brother was born in Idaho and another one in Oregon.

Mother often talked about the place they started to homestead in Canada and how Dad built the log cabin they lived in. She liked it

there. They had a daughter born in the cabin there, but she didn't live. At that time there was no town of Eckville. Red Deer was the nearest town. My mother never did get back to Canada after they left in 1904.

**LAHTI, KONSTA AND FANNIE**

Konsta Lahti was born May 4, 1878, in Wirrat Finland. His wife Fannie Uljas was born February 1, 1882.

Leaving his wife and family behind, Konsta came to Canada in 1912. The family followed the next year. They had four children, Lydia was born April 3, 1902, Lauri born August 9, 1904, Olga born March 20, 1907 and Elmo born April 14, 1911.

The family lived on the Victor Viamen farm in the Salma District for a time, later taking a homestead south of Condor. This property is owned by Kaspersons, who are still living in the homestead home built by Mr. Lahti.

Mrs. Lahti passed away in 1914 and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Mr. Lahti passed away in 1943 and is buried in the Hespero Cemetery.

Lydia married Mr. Siemko in Nordegg and they have three daughters, Fannie Bishop of Calgary, Jessie Hamilton of Hay River N.W.T. Judy Bortnik living at Cross Lake, Manitoba. Judy and her husband both teach school there.

Lauri married Naimi Sutela and they have two sons Barry and Bernie. Barry is married to Grace Greenwood and they have four children — Kevin, Karen, Keltie and Karla. Barry, Grace and family live at Oliver, B.C. Bernie is married to Rosemary Martin and they have two daughters — Angela and Jody. Bernie and Rosemary reside on a farm SE 32-38-3-W5 south of Eckville.

Olga married Lloyd Harvey and they live in Roseburg, Oregon. They have five children.

Elmo married Eva Taskila and made their home on the Oscar Lind farm, SW 15-38-4 W5 in the Hespero District. Elmo, beside helping Oscar on the farm, was a carpenter who built many homes and cupboards in the district.

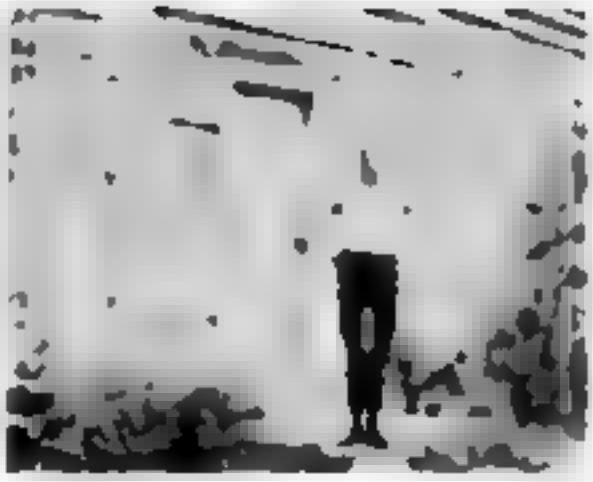
Elmo passed away November, 1961 and is buried in the Hespero Cemetery.

**LEPISTO, HENRY AND JOHN — written by Sylvia Thorkman**

Henry and John Lepisto were born in the Finland on an island close to Oulu. They immigrated to the United States of America. Henry worked in the coal mines in Wyoming until coming to Canada to homestead the NW 36-39-2-W5 in 1902.

He was a hard worker and a good neighbour. An ardent fisherman, he knew the exact time when fishing was at its best and usually came back from a fishing trip with plenty of fish for himself and the neighbors along the way.

In 1911, his health deteriorated and he passed away. He was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.



After Henry's passing his brother John arrived from Butte, Montana, and stayed to farm Henry's land.

John was an athletic man and a long-distance runner. His travelling method was to walk wherever he went. His favorite pastime was reading, and he was also a capable speaker.

In the 1930's he sold the farm to Susie Bytynen and bought CPR land, the SW 1-40-3-W5, where he raised cattle and large flocks of turkeys. During his years on the farm he was our neighbourhood veterinarian, and was always willing to help whenever called upon. John sold his farm in 1963 to Lorne McMann, and retired to the town of Eckville where he had purchased a small house. He passed away in 1970, at the age of 78 years and was buried in the Eckville

**LOUKKOLA, MR. AND MRS. DAVID**

Mr. and Mrs. David Loukkola immigrated to Boston, Mass. in the 1900's. They arrived in the Salma district in 1905 homesteading the SE 7-40-2W5. They had one daughter Selma, who married Chris Odberg of the Sunset district. Selma and her daughter returned to the United States in 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Loukkola sold their farm, retired to Eckville, where they passed away in the 1940's.

**[illegible] AND OTHER MEN — by Mrs. [illegible]**

One of the pioneer families to homestead in the Salma district was Erick and Otheelia Luoma. Erick and Otheelia and their two sons John and Roy, arrived in the district in 1907, emigrating from Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A. They were both born in Ava, Finland. Immigrating to the United States as children. The Luoma's in Finland went by the name "Muurisula". Mrs. Luoma's maiden name in Finland was Harju, which was changed to Johnson when they arrived in the United States.

When they arrived in the Salma district they homesteaded the NE 31-39-2-5W. This quarter was covered by dense bush. The first task was to build a log house. Erick had to borrow an axe with which to cut the logs. This homestead house was standing until approximately 1972, when it was demolished. After lots of hard work clearing the land Erick began breaking the sod, using his first team — an ox and a small red pony. During the winter months he was employed in coal mines at Nordegg.

The Luomas had a family of 12 children — eight sons and four daughters. The eldest son John, will be remembered by many people for his great love of music. John could be heard playing his violin at many dances and parties. He would either walk or drive a team to the hall. He lived on the farm all his life, helping his father with the farming. He also owned and farmed his own quarter, SE 32-39-2-W5. This was located on the shore of Sylvan Lake. On October 28, 1954 John passed away at the age of 52, death being caused by cancer.

Ray is married and farms at Wetaskiwin where he has been for several years. He has a stepson and a daughter. Uno and Goldie Eidel is married and retired at Alberta Beach after farming for several years in that district. He enlisted in the army during the World War II. While in the service he was in a train wreck which severely injured his back. He still suffers as a result of the injury.

Sylvia was married to Elmer Lund from the Kousamo district, where they farmed, and where Sylvia resided until her passing in January of 1957 at the age of 45 years.

Their family of five sons and two daughters is as follows. Arne (Matt) lives in Teasdale Saskatchewan, where he is employed as a jail guard. He farmed for several years in the Hisdale area. Matt also served in the army.

Uno is retired, and lives in Rocky Mountain House. He worked for several years in the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House and in the Crimson Lake Park.

Ernest and his two sons reside in Los Angeles. Ernest is a machinist in a small factory. His wife passed away in 1969 from a liver ailment. Ernest also worked in Montreal and Buffalo, New York U.S.A.

Marie is married to Frank Gabara. They live at Alberta Beach where Frank works. They have three sons.

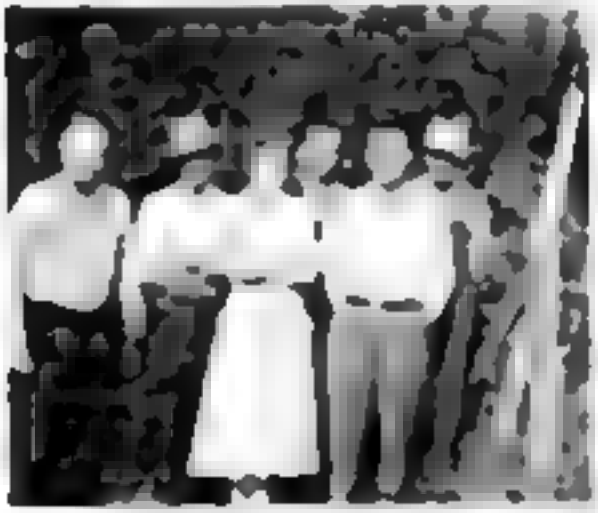
Eugene now owns and operates the Luoma homestead. He also served in the army during World War II until he was discharged because of rheumatic fever.

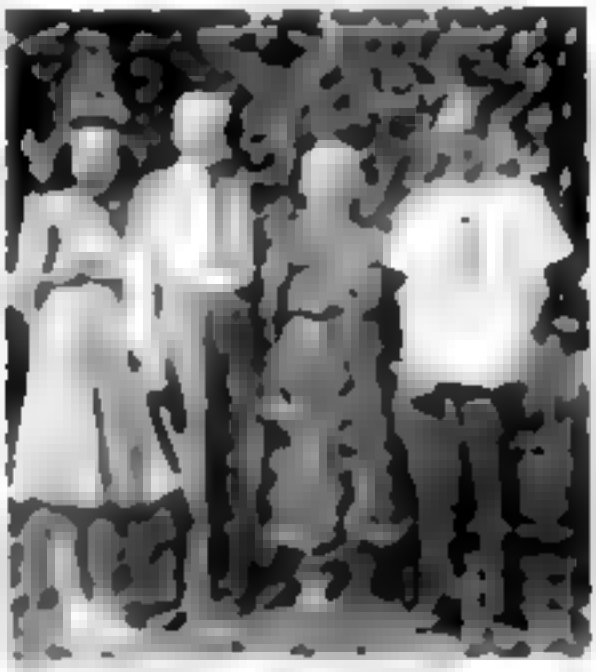
Mariam is married to Ernest Swartz who works at Fort McMurray on the Syncrude project. They have two sons and one daughter.

Elvira is married to Clifford Lawrence, who farms at Pine Lake. Cliff and Elvira have three daughters and two sons. Elmer is married to Anne Lund nee Lauritsen and lives and farms in the Kousamo district. He has a step-daughter, step-son, and a son. Elmer also owns and farms the lakeshore quarter which John owned. Prior to his marriage he worked on the D.E.W. Line as a heavy-duty mechanic.

Erick and Othealia returned to Eckville in 1951 where they built a new home. Mrs. Luoma's health began to fail and she spent a great deal of time in hospital. She passed away January 7, 1958. Mr. Luoma passed away only five weeks following his wife's death, February 16, 1958.

Othealia contracted the flu during the epidemic of 1918 and lay in bed for months. However, the doctors came to the farm, giving medical aid. Soon after recovering from the flu Marie was born.





The frame house in which Eugene still resides was built in 1917. Ernest was the first child born in the present house. The sauna was built in 1935 and was used every Saturday night until about 1972. Many friends and relatives would gather on Saturday nights for the very popular Finnish bath.

The first tractor purchased was a John Deere 1527 Model D. A three bottom plow was bought along with the tractor and the price was $900, in 1935. The first car was a Model T Ford, which was traded for a buzz saw motor. John would go about the neighborhood, sawing huge woodpiles to last the long cold winter, since no coal was burned.

The family managed quite well during the time of ration books because, with a large family, there were lots of stamps. They lived mainly off the land, hunting, fishing, and raising a big garden. This, combined with the milk and eggs produced on the farm, left little to buy.

One memory which stands out in most pioneer families is the large threshing gangs which moved from farm to farm. The threshing began in October and would last for two weeks or more until everyone's grain was in the bin. The aroma of the fine cooking coming from the country kitchens would make your mouth water.

The children were all born at home with a midwife in attendance. All the children took their schooling at Saima. The children took turns doing janitor work, such as sweeping floors, packing in wood and water, cleaning blackboards and building fires. These chores were done on a monthly basis at the rate of $5.00 per month.

Ray and John were some of the first students to go to the Saima School, which was built in 1907. I have heard it told that the man teacher would go across the road from the school during class to smoke a pipe and eat blueberries, which were very plentiful in the area at that time.

**MAKI, BILL AND MORGAN — by Mrs. Bill Maki**

In the spring of 1942 we left the dried-out prairie of Manyberries and moved to the Eckville area in search of greener pastures, and greener they were. We loved the lush green growth of grass, shrubs and trees. It was beautiful to us after being used to the bare brown prairie. It was also a great deal wetter. That summer was unusually rainy. The sun would be shining brightly and the next minute it would pour with hardly a cloud in sight.

We rented the Fritz Kinna farm north of Eckville for that year. The road into town was not gravelled, and many was the time that we were stuck in one of the many mud holes, sometimes even having to leave the old car and walk home. The farm buildings were located in the bend of the river, with the fields on the other side. That meant fording the river to get the machinery to the fields. There was a narrow foot bridge constructed of poles driven into the river bed and two planks to walk on. I had to cross on this bridge to take lunch to the men in the fields. Our boys, Stanley and Howard, were two and four years of age at the time and I was always so afraid that they would follow me and fall in the river. Old Grandpa Kinna stayed on the farm with us and kept an eye on the boys while I was gone but it was still quite a worry. The boys followed Grandpa Kinna wherever he went. He would talk to them in Estonian, which, naturally they did not understand and they would run to tell me that "Grandpa is swearing at us again."

In 1943 we worked for Eli Murto on his farm in the Kuusamo district. It was a busy summer and we enjoyed our stay there. The boys liked to follow Eli around the farm, helping to fix the tractors by putting a few sticks and twigs into the gas tank, and learned a few choice words in the Finnish language in the process.

In 1944 we purchased the Adolph Talson farm in the Saima district. We lived here until 1954 when we moved into Eckville. I went to work at Forhan's Pharmacy and Bill drove the school bus and continued farming operations until 1963, when we sold the farm to Fred Murto.

Our third son, Kenneth, was born in 1945. The older boys attended Saima school until it was closed and they began bussing the children into Eckville. Kenneth started school in Eckville when the Saima school was closed.

Bill worked for the county full time after selling the farm, until 1971, when he went to work at the Eckville Hospital where he was employed until the fall of 1973. Then he obtained employment at the Alberta School Hospital in Red Deer in transportation. I continued to work at Forhan's Pharmacy until 1973. In May 1974, we sold our property in Eckville and moved to Red Deer where we still reside.

Stanley married Helen Covlin in 1962. They have two sons, Camron and Wendel. They live in Rocky Mountain House, where Stan is manager of the Credit Union.

Howard married Helen McGowan of Red Deer in 1960, and they have a daughter, Shannon, and two sons, Brent and Todd. Howard is personnel administrator at the Michener Centre in Red Deer.

Kenneth married Peggy Welsh of Calgary in 1971. They live in Cranbrook, British Columbia. Ken is a manager with a firm of chartered accountants and Peggy is a registered nurse at the Cranbrook hospital.

In 1947 Bill's parents, Grandma and Granpa Maki, sold their farm in Manyberries and moved to the Eckville area. They built a house on our farm, which was later moved to Eckville. Grandpa Maki passed away in July of 1966, at the age of 91. In 1977 Grandma Maki is still in good health at the age of 92. She makes her home at the Eckville Manor House, but still maintains her own home in Eckville.

**MAKI, ERIK** by Mrs. Helen Doray

Erik Maki was born at Y.i-Harma, Vaasa Finland in 1858. He married at the age of 23 and immigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 25 years His son, Gust, was one year old when his father moved to the U.S.A

Erik worked on the railroad in Montana for two years. He then moved to Wyoming where he worked in the coal mines. He brought his wife and son, Gust to Wyoming in 1886. A daughter Mary was born to them in 1886, at Carbon Wyoming. Erik's wife died at Rock Springs in 1892, after a long illness In 1894 he married Sanna-Maria Kirkkomaki, a recent widow They had a son, Oiva (Jack) in 1895. In January, 1903 Erik and his family immigrated to the Saima district of Red Deer North West Territories, where he and his son, Gust, filed on homesteads. They built a home on Erik's land and proved up their quarters, NW 18-39-2 W5 and SW 16-39-2 W5. Gust worked in the coal fields of the Crow's Nest Pass during the winter months

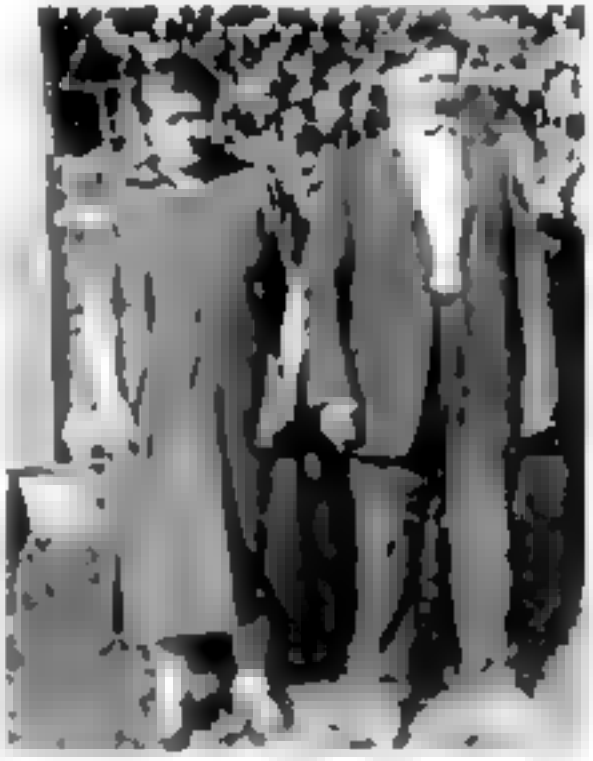
Erik and Sanna Maria had three more children during this period Helmi (Helen) in 1903, Ina in 1906, and Eino in 1911 Sanna-Maria died a few days after giving life to Eino

Erik Maki was authorized by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church to baptize and to officiate at funerals. He performed these functions for the Finnish communities of the immediate area as long as his health permitted. He died on July 5, 1929, and he lies beside his wife Sanna-Maria, in the Kuusamo cemetery

Gust continued to work in the coal mines during the winter and at clearing land during the summertime until 1914, when World War I was declared. Gust joined up early in 1915 and served overseas until April, 1919. He then resumed farming his father's homestead

Gust became a councillor for the Municipality of Lorne, and secretary for the Saima School District He later became a secretary for the enlarged school district of Rocky Mountain House Gust also acted as advisor and interpreter for the Finns of this district During these years Gust continued to farm his father's original homestead jointly with his sister, Mary, and her husband, John Maki, who owned the adjoining quarter This quarter had been Gust's old homestead. When John Maki died in 1963 Gust and Mary sold out and moved to Sylvan Lake, where they retired. Gust died in 1965 and Mary died in 1969. They, and John Maki are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery

Mary Maki married John Maki (no relation), a homesteader from the Rocky Mountain House district, in 1910. They had two children — Laimie, born in 1912, and Walfrid, born in 1918



Sanna and Mary Maki

Oiva (Jack) Maki, lives at Houston B.C

Helmi, (Mrs. Helen Doray) has a son, Raymond, living at Vancouver two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren

Ina (Mrs. F E. Stunden) lives in Sierra Madre, California and has two daughters and two grandchildren

Eino Maki lives in Edmonton. He has three sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren

Laimie Maki, daughter of John and Mary Maki, taught school for 10 years in the Greater Rocky School Division and then worked for 30 years in the External Affairs Department of the federal government at Ottawa. She is now retired and lives in her home at Sylvan Lake

Walfrid Maki, son of John and Mary Maki, lives in Red Deer

Erik Maki

**JOHN AND NONI MARSHALL OF EDMONTON**

We stumbled upon our lakefront property by accident In 1957 while our daughters were at Ne Y Camp, we learned from Mr Charlie Donaldson that a piece of land was for sale on the east side of the lake. We stopped to ask directions from a farmer who was repairing his tractor The farmer was Walter Johnson and the next morning we purchased our present property from him

In 1958 we built a log cabin which we sold in 1962 to Mr and Mrs. Fred Pitt of Calgary and immediately started building the cottage which we now occupy It has been our pleasure to be part of this friendly community for the past 20 years

**MICKELSON, MATT**

Matt Mickelson came to Mandan, North Dakota, U.S.A with his father from Yliveska, Oulujarvi, Finland in 1882 at the age of ten years

Ten years later in 1892, he was joined by his mother sister Fredricka and brother Augus

Matt Mickelson married Katrina Marija Kangas in North Dakota after her arrival from Haapajarvi Ranta, Oulujarvi, Finland in 1892 Matt and Katrina had 10 children, all born in North Dakota These included Amanda, August Anna, Jennie (deceased Frank (deceased) Matt, Hilda, Fannie, twins Eddie and Lillian Jennie and Frank are buried in North Dakota

On April 28, 1910, the family moved to Seven Persons, Alberta Later they moved to Manyberries, Alberta. This is where three of their children were born: Hilja on April 29, 1910, the day after their arrival Hilma in 1912 and Hattie

For 15 years the family lived on the homestead at Manyberries. In 1928, they moved to the Eckville district on NE 7-40-2-W5. Two of their children Matt Jr and Lillian, passed away at Manyberries

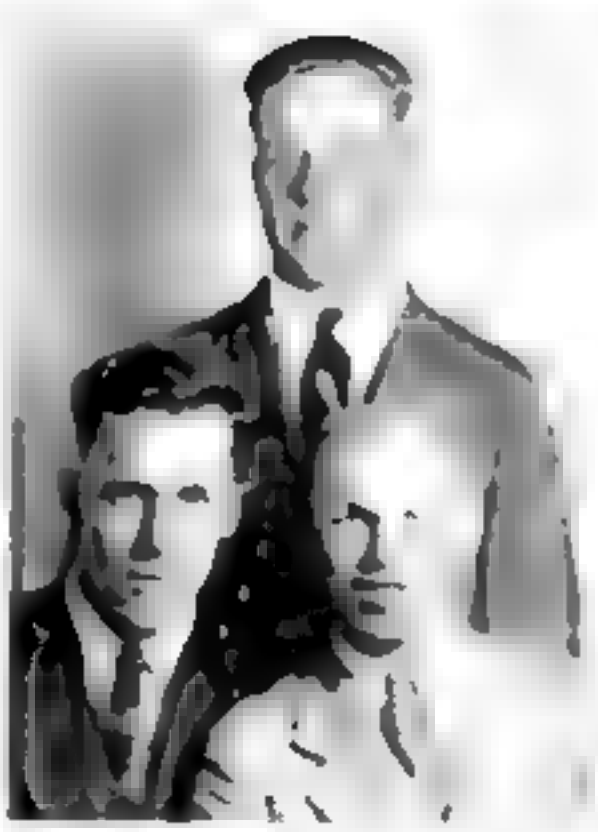
Matt was a very active and capable man who could operate any machine. He was a First World War veteran In 1930, Matt passed away at the age of 65 years

Katrina passed away in 1950 at the age of 87 years Both are buried in the Eckville Cemetery Of their children, August, Hilda, Fannie, Annie, Hilja, Hilma and Hattie survive

**THE HERMAN MURTO FAMILY**

Herman and Johanna Murto were among the early settlers of the Saima District

Herman, who was born in Finland on October 26 1872 and his wife Johanna born December 4 1874 emigrated to Iron River, Michigan, a mining town, in 1905. A son, Paul, was born to them there After working in the copper mines for a few months, they left to live at Seaside, Oregon Two sons, Alexander and Eli were born there, in April 1907 and March 1909, respectively. After cutting and sawing tall trees in Oregon for five years, Herman with his wife and their three



small sons travelled to Canada to the Manyberries district in Southern Alberta in 1910, where they took up farming On October 16, 1913 a daughter Lilia was born. On October 25 1923 Lilia passed away at the age of 10 years

In the fall of 1924, Herman, his wife and three sons came by train to the Hespero district renting a quarter of land from Jerry Macdonell — SE 2-39-4-W5. They brought with them their animals that they had in Manyberries. After one and a half years in the spring of 1926 they moved to the Saima district to Sec 17 39-2-W5 which they had purchased from Frank Jenkins Again, sadness hit the family in February, 1928 when Paul passed away at Keith Sanitorium in Calgary at the age of 23 years

On April 10, 1934 Alex married Selja Tuukka of the Evergreen district They have six children Selma, born in November 1935 married to Jack Saari of the Hespero district They have four children. Eileen, born June, 1940, presently living in Calgary Walter, born in October 1943. Fred, born in July 1946 and William, born in January, 1952. All live and farm with their parents on the family farm. Alice, born in August 1956, presently going to school in Calgary Ellen, born November 11, 1936 passed away in 1939 and is buried in the family plot of the Kuusamo Cemetery The three older children attended school at Saima until 1950 when they

attended school at Benalto for one year. In the fall of 1951, bus service transported them to Eckville where all have graduated.

In 1948, Herman and Johanna purchased the NE 10-38-2 W5 from O. Umari and moved there to live.

Eli, the youngest of the Herman Murto family, farmed with his parents and brother Alex until 1936 when he purchased his own land in the Kuusamo district (NW 27-38-2 W5) and went on his own. In 1946 he moved in to live with his parents onto the quarter bought from O. Umari, which now is his present home.

Herman passed away in March, 1955 at the age of 82 years and Johanna passed away in May, 1969 at the age of 85 years.

**NELSON, EDWIN AND TERRY — SW 10-39-2-W5**

Edwin B. Nelson was born in Edmonton on May 18, 1930. He was raised and educated in Jarvie, Alberta, where, on August 20, 1953 he married Therese Allarie from the same hamlet who was born February 13, 1933. Their first home was in Devon, Alberta where their first three children were born: Richard, November 18, 1955; Elaine, December 11, 1956 and Darryl, April 1, 1958. In the spring of 1959 Edwin left Imperial Oil and became employed in Cessford, Alberta by Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. One month later he was transferred to the pipeline division and moved to Olds, where they remained until December of the same year. They then moved to Red Deer, where their youngest daughter, Shirley, was born on June 1, 1962. In October of 1966 the opportunity arose for Edwin to fulfill a lifelong dream to own and operate a farm, when his job took him to the Eckville area.

I suppose the most intriguing part of this farm was having our very own steam bath house. After having lived in towns and cities all of their lives the children were fascinated by all the space there was on a farm, and thought it would take months to explore it all. It took all of us a while to adjust to the new life on a farm, but we find it most worthwhile.

Elaine married Sid Anderson from the Pigeon Lake area on October 13, 1973. They are now living in Eckville and have two daughters, Tammy, age three years and Jodie, age nine months.

Rick married Charlene Berze from the Bentley District on September 27, 1975, and they are presently residing in Blackfalds, Alberta. They have one daughter, Vickie, who was born on August 15, 1976.

**NESS, JOHN — by Sylvia Thorhaug**

John Ness was born in Sweden. He came to British Columbia where he worked as a logger before coming to the Eckville district to homestead SW 7-40-2W5.

John was a happy-go-lucky type, who played his accordion, and enjoyed dancing the Scandinavian polka. He often spoke of his desire to move back to British Columbia. This is exactly what he did. Selling his land in 1924 to Fred Erickson, he returned to Boswell, B.C. He operated a ferry across Kootenay Lake for a number of years. He passed away at Boswell.

**NIEMI, ISAAC (JR.) AND JEAN**

Isaac Niemi Jr. (Ike) was born in Eckville in 1908 and married Jean Judd in 1934. The first of their three children, Betty, was born in the Bentley hospital April 14, 1935. Jean was taken to the hospital on April 13, the day of the worst blizzard of the year with George Ignatius' car. You never saw two more nervous men than Ike and George when they got stuck in the snow three times. Ike got a ride with Fred Moon to the hospital the day Betty was born, but had to walk back 18 miles.

Ike's first car was a 1928, 400 Chevrolet. It cost him only $18, but all his wages went into gas. This car gave all the young folks great enjoyment. Ike drove all summer without a license for the car, and sometimes, when the gates were open, he would drive right through them.

When Betty was three months old the family moved to a sawmill southwest of Rocky Mountain House, run by August Moro. Otto Moro drove them there through mud and pouring rain, to a shack with no doors or windows. They first set up the baby's crib, put her to sleep, and then set up the stove and started putting in doors and windows. The rainfall continued for a week, so it was hard to dry out anything.

Jean's first refrigerator was made by Ike. It was a square wooden frame with burlap sacks all around it with a water pan on top. The ends of the burlap sacks were in the water and acted as wicks to keep the sides cool.

The first years of their marriage during the depression saw many hard times. Wages were $1 a day, if one could find work. The joke was "let's flavour the onions with potatoes for supper instead of the potatoes with onions for a change."

Many a prairie chicken, partridge and rabbit were shot for the table

They moved from the sawmill to Eckville where their second child Janet, was born at home in 1936. They moved around the area because of the scarcity of work for a number of years, then moved to the coast of British Columbia in 1941 where their son Douglas was born in 1943.

Ike and Jean have made many trips back to the Eckville area to see old friends and the old homestead. The original house and barn still stand

They are now retired and living in Aldergrove, B.C. on an acreage owned by their daughter Betty and her husband David Torsky. Dave and Betty have three children and one grandson. Janet is married to Ronald Dinsdale. They live in Kamloops, B.C. and have two children. Douglas is married to Diana Cheney. They live in Port Moody, B.C. and have one child

**NIEMI-ISAAC AND JUUTI-GUST FAMILIES — as related by the Family**

Dad, Isaac Niemi, was born in Kuusamo Finland in 1877. His family was one of the more successful reindeer keepers there, having more than 1,000 head. He immigrated to the United States in 1895 where he worked in a copper mine in Butte, Montana. While there he married Emma Erickson in 1901. She was born in 1884 in [illegible]

In 1904 Dad came to Alberta to apply for a homestead, leaving his wife and young son Oscar in Butte, Montana. He bought a team of horses and a wagon in Great Falls for the seven day trip to bring their household goods to their new home. On the way he had to lighten the burden for his horses, so he threw out some of the heavier belongings, including a stove (which he had to replace by carrying one home on his back from Eckville, a distance of four miles.

When Mother and Oscar arrived later by train Dad met them in Red Deer and took them to the two-roomed log house which he had built on the homestead. In order to earn more money Dad returned to Montana to work in the copper mines until his homestead would provide them with a living. In 1908 his application for the homestead, NE 24-30-3-W5, was approved. After coming to Alberta Mother and Dad had eight more children — John, Isaac, Jessie, Violet (who died at the age of 13 months), Vester, Charlie, Lawrence and Henry. Our maternal grandmother lived with us until her passing.

Dad used a team of horses and a yoke of oxen for breaking the land. The oxen were very slow but on one occasion when Oscar was driving them they were pestered so badly by flies that they took off with considerable speed for the bush. Poor Oscar couldn't do a thing about it!

Dad bought a stallion which once got him down in the corral and started to chew on his hair. However Dad yelled so loudly that he frightened the horse, and managed to escape. This animal also had the habit of taking a piece of railing or tree in his mouth and galloping

along with it. Later a company was formed to purchase a stallion — a Suffolk punch. Being a member of the company, Dad cared for the stallion and travelled with it. Once, while Dad had this stallion in the corral, his infant son Vester crawled inside the corral and under the stud's feet. The stud merely sniffed the small intruder — but he would take a young pig by the skin of the back and contentedly stand and hold him and let the pig squeal. Therefore, Jessie afraid her brother would get the same treatment, ran in and rescued him.

Dad took an active part in community affairs. He was a councillor in the Municipal District of Lorne. He worked on the telephone lines, putting in the poles, when the old crank wall telephone came to the Eckville area about 1918. His interest in farming led him to experiment with grains and animals to discover which were the most productive and suitable for this area.

Some winters, when Sylvan Lake was frozen before the snow appeared, Dad would go fishing when the ice was just thick enough to hold him. He first hit the fish, which he could see swimming just below the clear ice, to stun them, then he speared them. Often the John Heikkinen family, who lived on the quarter west of us, would come with horses and a wagon, and the two families would go together to Sylvan Lake. The men fished in a boat with nets while the women made a bonfire and prepared the potatoes in anticipation of adding the fish for fish mulligan "moikakaa". The nets had denim pockets filled with stones for weights and they used birch bark

Dad had mid-leg length shoe-packs made for the children by Mr. Heikka. They were made of cowhide and featured the curled toe similar to the ones made in northern Finland. Since Mother was an expert seamstress, the children's clothes were home-made. Dyed sugar sacks furnished material for some of our clothing. After the sheep were sheared the raw wool was carded then spun into yarn and washed. From this yarn Mother knit toques, socks, sweaters, and mittens, wove blankets from the yarn and made rugs from rags on a loom. Raw wool was taken to Magrath woolen mills to be made into blankets in later years. Mother was known as a good, but thrifty, cook. Although we always had a huge garden, she also made use of what Nature provided, such as dandelion greens, wild berries, mushrooms, wild rabbit, and Labrador tea made from a shrub that grew in the swamp. Another thrift food was prepared by putting a lump of flour into boiling salted water and letting it remain there while the water bubbled through it until it was cooked. This was called "mutkia" a kind of quick bread. Dad called it "vihelialsen

After farming for some time, Dad bought two more quarters of land — the NW 30-39-2-W5 and the SE 30-39-2-W5. One Sunday shortly after Dad had acquired this land the whole family took a picnic lunch and went with him to burn brush. He first burned the hay around a building, which he planned to take down and move, and then burned some of the other brush further away. When we went back the next morning to start taking the building down, we found it burned to the ground. Dad vowed that he would never work on a Sun

[illegible]r boys helped Dad haul logs from the west end of Sylvan Lake to enlarge the house with as the family increased in size. We also helped fence the land by crossing felled trees. We grew a great many potatoes, so bought a potato digger and sold potatoes to the Co-op Store by the wagonload. As well, we dug and picked potatoes for the neighbors. At first, scythes were used to cut all the hay, but after we got a mower they were used only around the bushes. In the early years when the waterwheel was running the Kinna Flour Mill. Dad and some of us boys used to haul wheat there to be ground into flour or left coarse-ground to be used for morning porridge. We older boys tore down the original Eckville store building and hauled the lumber two miles north to the Hiltunen quarter.

John drove a team of horses pulling a democrat for John Kemila in bad weather, but he also had the opportunity to drive Kemila's Model T delivery truck in Eckville, and sometimes used the excuse that he couldn't catch the horses, so that he would be allowed to drive the truck. He also delivered mail on Kemila's mail route. After Dad became unable to work, John had to come home to do the farm work.

Mother served the women of the community as a midwife, and was called upon for many other health problems suffered by her neighbors. She believed in the sulphur-and-molasses cure for "what ails you" in the springtime. Mother would, on occasion, prepare the deceased for burial. Mr. Kopsalla Sr. and August Koski would make the coffins and Mother would line them. She would also make a dress, if required, and crepe paper flowers.

One day as Dad was doing chores in the barnyard, and, though he knew Grandma was paralysed so she couldn't walk, he saw a form of her walking toward the steam bath with her familiar shawl over her shoulders. Then he saw her no more. His comment to Mother regarding this supernatural experience was that Grandma would leave us soon. She passed away soon after.

Each fall after threshing was finished, everyone got a new mattress — the old straw was emptied out and the ticking filled with new straw. Sometimes they were filled so full that you had to jump on the centre to flatten it so you wouldn't roll out of bed onto the floor. One year, due to a hard winter and a late spring, straw went up to $10 and hay to $100. This was in the late 1920's.

One evening when John had been sent to bring in the cows, he decided to go for a swim, along with Walter Stopsen. The cows waited patiently

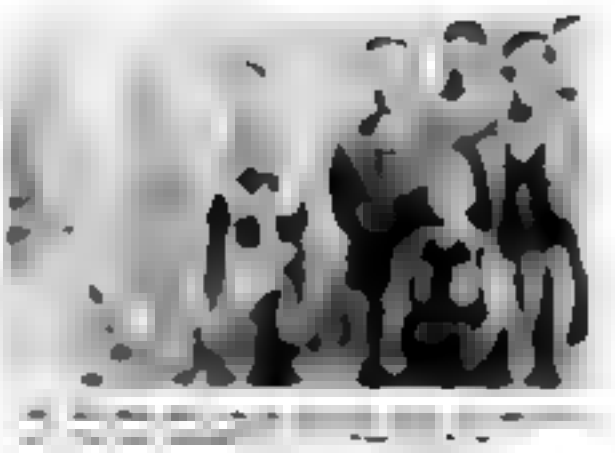
for him, and Dad was rather angry when they finally did get home. Knowing he was in trouble John went and sat in the buggy and waited. When Dad came to apply the strap our faithful old dog "Muggins", grabbed Dad's leg and hindered the punishment. John "took off" and went to bed without any supper, thankful to have escaped the spanking. For three summers in a row it was Ike's job to take his lunch and drive the cattle two and a half miles north of the homestead every morning, herd them all day (there were no fences then), and then drive them home again in the evening. He found these summers very long.

We all attended Sarnia school a mile and a half away. Sometimes there were as many as 45 children attending the school. We took many a lunch of only bread and pancakes without butter. A boiled egg and a jam or peanutbutter sandwich was a real treat for us! During the wintertime the lunch as well as our feet, would nearly freeze, and had to be warmed up around the pot-bellied stove at school. In summer our bare feet became so chapped they were often red and cracked. Because this was a Finnish community, two Scottish children who attended school learned to speak Finnish, much to the dislike of their teacher and their parents. One year Delia Harper was ashamed of the donkey which she rode to school, and tied it up to a fence post on the roadside before reaching the school. Her classmates soon learned about this, and each student then waited eagerly for a turn to ride the donkey. Every Christmas a colourful and very real" Santa Claus, in the person of John Lundberg, presented the gifts to the children. The annual Christmas concert always drew a packed audience of parents and neighbours.

Church services were held in the Young People's Hall, and we attended the Presbyterian services, conducted by Johanson, Korhonen, Harju or Luomala. Mr. Harju formed a small orchestra among the young people, some of the members being Oscar Niemi, Ed Koski, Arvie Thorkman, John Vutala, Louis Mitzner, Fred Talson, Okey Lundberg, Eino Kasper and Henry Talson. Oscar could make music from almost anything – even an old hand saw. His specialty was the fiddle. Most of the Niemi children were gifted musically, and many of their children have inherited this natural talent.

Dad had never insured his crops, but a little over a year after his death Mother was talked into buying crop insurance, which proved to be a very fortunate investment. During that same year 1924, the crops were hailed out completely.

Gust Juuti, born in Aajarvi Finland in 1881 immigrated to the United States in 1904 with his first wife and a year-old daughter. Late in the fall of 1924, as a widower of seven years, he came from Minnesota U.S.A. and bought a farm north-east of Eckville. With him he brought six of his eight children. Mother married Gust Juuti in 1925 and from this union were born two



children, Ken and Doris. When asked how many children he had, Dad Juuti would say, "I have 10 children, my wife has 10 children and altogether we have 18 children."

Dad Juuti filed on a homestead north of the first place he bought. This land was well known for its spring, and for the birch trees growing on it. It is now owned by the Bentley Ski Club. The family lived by turns on both the Niemi and Juuti places during the summer, when the cattle were pastured on the Juuti farm, but in the fall they were taken back to the Niemi farm and everybody lived together again.

During the wintertime fun for the family included skating at the north end of Sylvan Lake or on nearby ponds formed by springs. We also went sleigh riding down Ignatius's or Holmes's hill on homemade sleds. Ike built the most durable bobsled we ever had. It would hold ten riders. Sometimes the evening ended with a wiener roast. The whole school went on an afternoon sleigh riding party each winter, while in the summer there were picnics on the north shore of Sylvan Lake, which always included home made ice cream and fish muligan. Holidays were family campouts, and berrypicking expeditions in the west country occurred.

Most of us boys owned skis made by Toivo Pajala. Vester, Charlie and Lawrence won prizes at ski track meets in Eckville. Many of us belonged to a young folks' athletic club called "Sisu", which was instructed by Henry Jokinen. We thought nothing of walking eight miles to Eckville where the club met, and then home again after the meeting. Groups of young folks used to travel miles to dances and Christmas concerts by hitching up our team, Lady and Baby, to the sleigh full of hay and covered with blankets. After the dance we could all sleep, and depend on the team getting us home in time for morning chores.

We boys made some money by snaring gophers and selling the tails at two to five cents. We also sold the eggs and legs of magpies and crows, and the hides of the rabbits we snared.

The family's reading material was the Family Herald the Free Press Prairie Farmer and the Eaton s Catalog

The first car in the family was a 490 Chevrolet When we got the Model T Ford we sometimes had to back up a hill because the gas wouldn't run into the motor when going up a hill if the tank wasn t nearly full of gasoline We bought the first tractor, a Twin City Minneapolis Moline, in the 1930's We paid for the tractor and a plow partly in cash and partly with cows Mother's first washing machine was a wooden barrel that had a hand crank to work the agitator The next one was a more modern round-bottomed one that had a hand crank which rocked the whole tub. Churning was done in an upright crock churn with a hand plunger and the surplus butter was sold to the store. Cream was sold to the creamery in Eckville, having been kept cold in cans lowered by rope down into the well

From the Hill girls Dad Juuti bought a team of horses which included a roan named Lilac and from Mr Salo he was able with much persuasion, to buy a perfect match for Lilac, which was named Buck Dad Juuti was extremely proud of this team of roans, which people would often stop to admire. One day when the team was being shod, Buck stepped on a bag of horseshoe nails, blood poisoning resulted, and Buck had to be shot. Dad Juuti s comment was Pride goeth before a fall

During World War II, four of us boys were in the forces Charlie with the Engineers, Vester in Artillery, Lawrence the Army Service Corps in the army, and Henry in maintenance in the Air Force

Mother and Dad Juuti were active members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church. Services were held in the Unity Hall in the Marianne district Most of the family were confirmed there or at the Young People's Hall. Dad Juuti was considered to be the mainstay of the church and many of the young people looked to him for guidance

Of the six Juuti children who came to Eckville with their dad, only Jean Carl and Toivo stayed The others returned to the United States married, and raised families. Carl married Martha Skjonsberg of Bentley They have six children. Toivo married Gertrude Krushel of Innisfail. They are both deceased. Terry, their son, works in Calgary for the airlines. Jean and Isaac have three children

Lawrence bought the original Niemi homestead through the V.L.A. Mother and Dad Juuti moved to New Westminster B.C. in 1943 where Dad Juuti worked as a night watchman in a sawmill until his death in 1950. Mother died in 1952. Both are buried in the Ocean View Cemetery in New Westminster

The "your and mine" family, Ken and Doris are living on Pender Island, B.C Ken is a

Henry and Flora (Johnson) have two sons After his discharge from the Air Force Henry worked at a sawmill in Port Radium N W T then as a foreman for elevator builders. His death occured in 1965 and he is buried in Alto Reste Gardens in Red Deer His family resides in Calgary

Lawrence and Rhona (Rempel) are Red Deer residents. Lawrence sold the homestead, after five years, to Mr McColeman, who in turn sold it to Donald McDonald. After selling the farm Lawrence and Rhona moved to Lethbridge where Lawrence drove an auto-carrier They later moved to Red Deer where he is now employed as a carpenter They have three children

Charlie and Dorothy Johnson) moved to the interior of British Columbia in 1950 They have eight children. After his discharge from the services he worked in and around Eckville but in British Columbia he was employed at sawmills as loader operator, scaler, and qualified first aider At the time of his death in 1976 Charlie was operating a Turbo Gas Service Station which Dorothy and son Tim continue to operate Charlie and their youngest son, Danny are buried in Salmon Arm. B.C

Vester and Mildren Anderson) are presently living in Red Deer They have three children

Jessie and Earl Hibak have made their home in Burnaby B.C and are now retired there. Earl had worked as a commercial fisherman. They have five children

The "step-brother — step-sister couple, Ike and Jean, now are retired in Aldergrove, B.C where Ike had been employed as millwright in New Westminster They have three children

John married Martha Flinkman of the Falun district. John fished, trucked, and worked in a peat plant in B.C. They are now retired in Burnaby

Oscar married Minnie Hibak of the Usona district west of Wetaskiwin. Of the seven children born of this union, five survived — Irene, Delmar, George, Arnold, and Doris. Oscar and Millie farmed Dad's land, SE 30-39-2-W5, for a short while then moved to the Usona district and later to British Columbia before returning to the homestead. Oscar died of a stroke in 1932. Millie remarried, but she is now deceased, as is her son, Arnold. The family has spent most of their lives in Oregon U.S.A.

Violet died as an infant She Dad Oscar and grandma are buried in the Kausamo Cemetery

## NIEMI, VESTER AND MILDRED AND [illegible]

Vester was the sixth of nine children born to Emma and Isaac Niemi on the homestead in the Salma district He, therefore lacked neither playmates nor baby-sitters, from the very start

At an early age Vester's mechanical ability became evident. Helping John plan and construct a buzz-saw pulley system was of more interest to him than playing. To have an older

brother listen to and act upon your suggestions would be an unforgettable experience for any young lad. In their youth the boys, Ike, Charlie, Henry Lawrence and Vester along with many other young people joined the athletic club "Sisu" with Henry Jokinen as instructor. They participated in gymnastics, track meets, and cross-country skiing. Charlie, Lawrence and Vester were among the winners in the youth's ski races. Mr. H. S. Mann was always on hand to act as timekeeper for the races.

The boys were also active in playing softball as members of "Sisu". This later developed into the Young Peoples' All Stars, with Ray Niemela as manager, and continued until many of the boys left to join the armed forces.

In his younger years, in the 1930's, Vester worked for neighboring farmers. For his first job he was paid 50¢ a day and board. His experience at a sawmill started a year or two after leaving school. Piling lumber at Henry Hietala's mill at the north end of Sylvan Lake was the beginning of his lengthy connection with sawmills.

In 1937 Vester paid $1 for a license, rented a boat and a gill-net from his brother-in-law Earl Hibak, and became a commercial fisherman on the Fraser River. This proved to be a profitable four-year cycle for salmon. Before returning home Vester bought a Rolls-Royce motor for $60. Using this motor for power for their MacLeod grinder, the boys ground grain for themselves and for the neighbors. Vester was also able to complete the payments on his first car, a 1928 Grahame-Paige costing about $250.

Vester's trucking years spanned the 1940's, from the time he drove a lumber truck from John [illegible]'s mill to Rocky Mountain House until the time he sold his own truck which he had used for general trucking.

It was about this time that Vester and I became better acquainted. I was the second daughter born to Swan and Elma Anderson at home on the farm near Benalto.

As Annie and I were just over a year apart, we got into our share of mischief. As youngsters, we started a fire in a toy stove in the upstairs of the old house, the one we were born in. This could have been serious, as only a platform porch separated our present home from the older one. Another episode that could have had serious consequences occurred when, on one of the rare occasions when Mother and Dad were not there when I arrived home from school, I went down to stoke up the furnace. As the fire seemed to be out, I threw in the wood and some kerosene. The ashes were hot. An explosive flame of fire shot out! Needless to say, my hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes were singed, as was the front of my new red woolen dress.

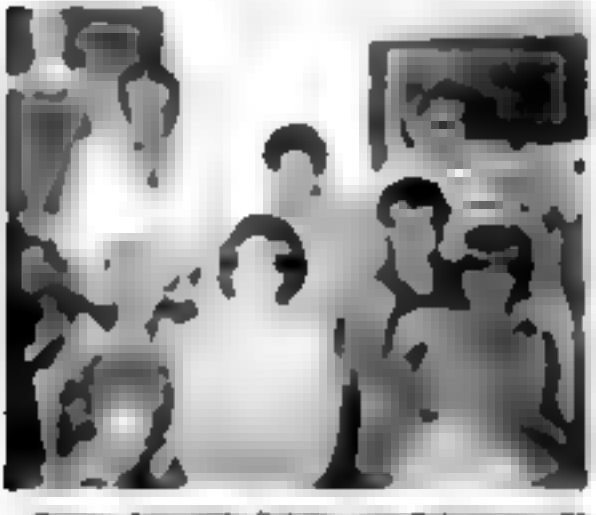
One August morning we were called to Mother's bedside. There, beside her, lay our baby brother Arnold. What a surprise to me, but not so to my more observant sister. Now our family was complete.

Before Arnold was old enough to help Dad, we had certain outdoor tasks, one of which was to lead our large steady workhorse, Wirma, to either pull the potato cultivator while Dad walked behind keeping the plow share in the ground, or to lift the loaded hayfork up into the barnloft while Dad manipulated the fork and rope on the hay load.

While Annie had studied her lessons at home, I had memorized them. Had it not been for diligent Miss Barton, who made a brand new book for me, I would have floundered right from the start. After completing Grade 8 at Melita, to attend high school at Kuusamo four miles away we either rode our pony-workhorse, Nellie, or she pulled us in a two-wheeled cart, or a cutter. Sometimes we walked. What a luxury it was to complete our high school years in Red Deer where we were close to school again. Except for 25¢ a week which we were given to buy bread or other necessities (money was not plentiful) we brought our food from home. When Mother and Dad drove us to or from our place of residence each week, they didn't even stop in the city for a cup of coffee.

After staying home for a year after graduation from high school I attended Calgary Normal School, as there seemed to be no other promising occupation. That was a year of hard work, loneliness, new friends and fun! Although teaching opportunities were not plentiful, my first position was with the Rocky Mountain School Division at a salary of $700 per year. My board cost me $25 a month.

To help me get started in my new career at New Raven School, Annie came, as her school started later than mine did. Little did I realize that this was to be my life's work for over 30 years — a very satisfying but also a demanding profession. This was the year of the highs



and the lows — a new career a trip to Victoria for Annie and me $16.95 each, return) and the bitter realization that Arnold was diabetic

After transferring to Sarina to teach, it so happened that Vester offered to drive part of our ball team to Benalto for a game. That's how it all

Vester served as a signaller in heavy artillery in the 25th R C A from 1942 until 1946 While he was thus "touring Canada coast-to-coast, I continued teaching at Bluebell Crossroads, Tilley and then at Eckville for three years where I taught Grades 7 and 8

After Vester's discharge from the army we were married in a quiet ceremony at my home Our honeymoon was spent visiting Vester's family in British Columbia. We hadn't really planned that my teaching career end in June, but in due time Ron arrived and Barbara followed two years and two weeks later At the time Barb arrived Vester was "relaxing" in the Rocky Mountain House hospital, having broken his leg while unloading logs at a sawmill at Horburg We were then living in a small house on Dad and Mother's farm. Vester helped Dad and Arnold with the farming in summer and worked in sawmills in winter As Mother's health was not the best, due to arthritis, she appreciated my help

In the fall of 1950 we moved to the Kettle Valley area of British Columbia where Vester worked as sawyer and millwright for Dewey Nielsen. After living there and further up the river for three years, we returned to Alberta. It was while we were in British Columbia that our second son was born, but he died shortly after birth

Dad bought Walter Stopsen's farm, S 30-39-2 W5, and Vester, in turn bought the southeast quarter from Dad hrough the V L A We moved there in the spring of 1954 Dale was born less than a month later

The spring was late and the frost was early in the fall. Our only alternative was back to the sawmill for Vester and back to teaching for me Fortunately for us, I was temporarily employed to replace Marge Lazzer, as she had a two months' leave-of-absence while awaiting Barry's arrival. Dame Fortune intervened again. The attendance was larger than had been expected so I was retained to teach Grade 4, and remained at Eckville for a very memorable and gratifying 12

In the intervening years Vester did various jobs besides farming such as carpentering at the Eckville High School and Red Deer Composite, operating a lath mill at Camp 15, and eventually operating the sawmill there also Finally he rented the farm to Art Lutz and began operating his front-end loader full time loading gravel working at oil sites, digging basements fencing and other custom work including donation work to the Benalto and Eckville communities

Except for the usual childhood diseases, our children were a healthy trio, and we seemed to be able to get ladies who had the children's welfare in mind, to care for them. Their grandparents, often serving as babysitters, supplied them with extra clothes, toys and spending money to help make a child's life more pleasant They could always depend on the grandprarents to give them chores to do so they could earn some spending money As grandparents, may we fulfil our role as wisely and as well.'

Ron Barb and Dale were active in extra curricular activities, particularly sports, band Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and music lessons Like other farm families, in order to make these available for the children, we did a lot of chauffeuring. It was during these years that Summer School and Evening Credit courses occupied most of my spare time until I finally attained my Bachelor of Education

Ron Barb and Dale attended both Eckville and Red Deer Composite High Schools. Ron attended S.A.I.T before going to work at Stelco He married Esther Booth of Red Deer Esther attended the Baptist Bible School College and Red Deer College They have two children — Angela, attending Benalto school, and Todd a pre-schooler Ron is now apprenticing as sheet metal worker with Hayhoe's in Red Deer, and Esther is employed in the office of Alpha Milk Company They are presently living on the farm formerly owned by Ron's grandparents

Barb attended O A V C where she took Business Education She was employed by Chevron in Calgary and Edmonton, and at the Red Deer College and Drayton Valley Elementary School Libraries She married Gene Bednard Gene was employed by the Royal Bank in Red Deer Foremost, Edmonton and Drayton Valley, then he decided to go farming on his parent's farm in the Medicine Valley district for two years. Since then he had been employed by the Farm Credit Corporation in Vegreville and now is in Grande Prairie Along with their two daughters, Traci and Karin, they are settled in their new home in this progressive community

Dale had travel on his mind. To make this possible he worked on the railroad until he had

trip to Europe. Upon his return he was employed by Moduline Industries, and is now with Midwest Mobile Homes, Red Deer He married Sandra Meinwieber Sandra has a course in Beauty Culture and is one of the instructors at Parkdale Beauty School Along with their two sons Patrick and Sean they live in their mobile home at Sylvan Lake

We have spent holidays travelling in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and from Oregon to Wyoming, U.S.A. In 1976 Annie, Max and I visited Dad's home and all our relatives in Sweden a fulfillment of a dream' In the not-too distant future we hope to continue our travels to where we've left off

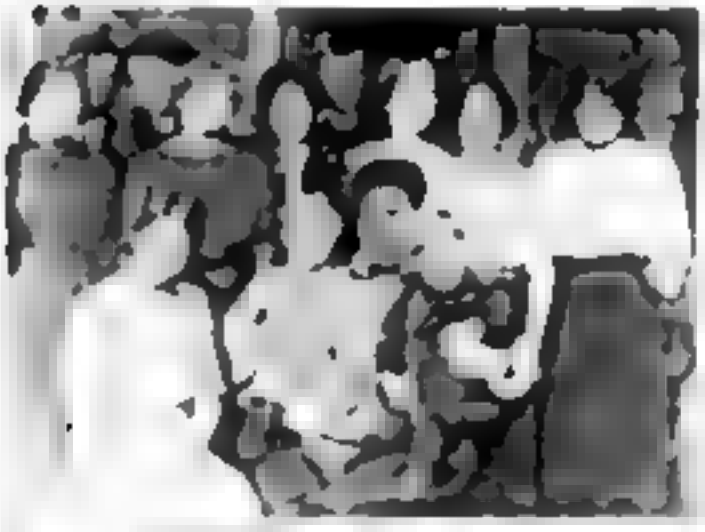
**NUORISO SEURA (YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION) — translated from Finnish Minutes**

A meeting was held at the home of John Hyvonen Sr on July 6, 1906. Samuel Saha was nominated chairman of the meeting

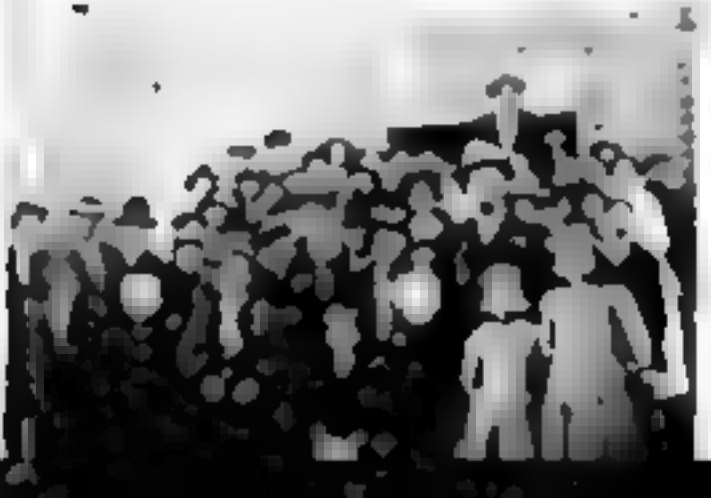
The first item on the agenda was to find a name for the newly-formed group. "Young People's" was chosen as the official name, from several names suggested. Officers for the group were as follows President Henry Abo Treasurer Matti Johnson, Secretary, Elmer Hyvonen Membership fee was set at Gents – 50 cents, Ladies 25 cents and a quarterly fee of 25 cents per member At this meeting 24 members joined

Meetings were held in various homes, with a committee selected each time to provide entertainment such as recitations, music and songs By August of 1906, the group membership had risen to 38. This was too large a group to gather in people's homes, so they gathered at different [illegible]

That year the Christmas Concert was held in Melita School Christmas donations were made by the members amounting to $26.05 for treats



Young People's Picnic confirmation



The group decided to buy a pail of candy, coffee, and cookies, sandwiches would be donated by the members for the first Christmas party

In 1907 a mid-summer day picnic Juhannus or St. John's Day, a Scandinavian celebration, was held at the John Hyvonen farm. During the summer fish mulligan picnics were held on the shore of Snake Lake Sylvan Lake The 1907 Christmas party was held in the Salma School, which had just recently been built

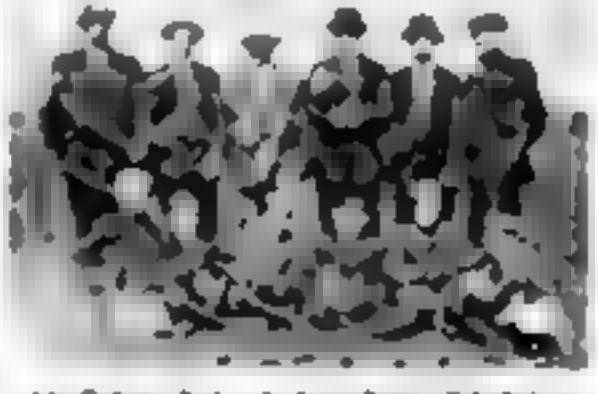
In March of 1906, a meeting was held at the home of John Hyvonen which was the most central point All meetings ended with a sing-song and a real good laugh. At this meeting Elmer Hyvonen was nominated as President, Peter Tolvonen as Secretary and Matt Talson as [illegible]

A great need for a hall was very evident, and money was put away for this purpose. John Hyvonen Sr offered a corner of his land, the SW 18-39-2-W5, for $10 an acre, which was accepted The first steps were taken to erect the Young Peoples Hall when a building committee was formed. This was made up of Peter Tolvonen John Kinnunen, Jack Ropsfelt Andy Hyvonen Matt Talson, Richard Thorkmann, and Elmer Hyvonen

The group decided the dimensions of the hall would be 24 feet by 36 feet. Matt Harju would enquire about lumber, 100 pounds of three-inch nails, 30 pounds of six-inch nails, 30 pounds of four-inch nails, all of which were to be purchased. There was no record of the amount of lumber bough.

By the time for the Midsummers' Celebration in 1908, the hall was advanced enough for their first (Juhannus) picnic, program and dance

A special committee was elected to make the mid-summer day program and picnic as humorous and enjoyable as possible. The committee was made up of Peter Tolvonen, Andrew Hyvonen, Matt Talson, Jack Ropsfelt, John Kinnunen, Salma Ropsfelt, Sandra Halstein, Mary Ignatius, Stainer Johnson, and Alma Talson



[illegible]

Waitresses would be Mary Ignatius, Lydia Joytsijarui Olsen, and Ida Hyvonen Dishwashers were Mary and Aina Talson. Sandra Halstein, and Salma Ropsfelt Andrew Hyvonen and Matt Talson were in charge of sports. Peter Toivonen and Matt Hyvonen were in charge of the prizes. The program committee would be Jacob Ropsfelt, John Kinnunen, and Matt Johnson

Supplies ordered for the picnic were 10 dozen lemons, five pounds of coffee, $2 worth of nuts two boxes of oranges, two bags of sugar and candles for light.

The highlight of one of the midsummer's picnics was when Mr Goey Pederson arrived with his horse-drawn Merry-Go-Round. The children will all remember the long rides they received for 10 cents

With the completion of the Young People's Hall, picnics, wedding dances, church services, funerals, confirmations all aspects of social life of the district – were held here. The Salma School concerts were held regularly at the hall. It was very important to them to have the books audited regularly The financial statement for the previous year would be read at the annual mid-summer celebration

Sports were generally baseball, softball, and gymnastics during the winter, with boxing and wrestling being very popular through the years The "Star Baseball Team" was one of the best in Central Alberta for a time, winning several awards. Most of the players were local boys, including John Johnson, Dave Hietala, Walter Stopsen, John Kalaputas, Ted Johnson, Charles Thorkman Alex Hietala, Bud Hardcock, Aino Kasper Oscar Moro, and George Ignatius

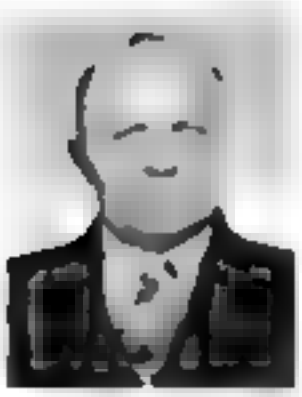
The Junior U F A. also held their meetings in the hall, and in 1928 presented a dialogue "Nancy Ann Brown s Folks" which was played in several places west and as far east as Sylvan Lake

The 16-mile trip to Sylvan Lake was driven with horses and sleigh. The cast of 12 players and equipment for the play was enough to fill a sleigh box The cast would arrive home just before daybreak! What a happy sound it was to hear the sleigh bells ringing and people singing. This could be heard for miles on the cold winter nights

In later years the hall was seldom used and the piano was donated to the Benalto Hall, the coal oil lamps disappeared. windows were broken, and the building was otherwise vandalized. As a result the hall was sold to Bernard Molleken who later sold it to Mr and Mrs. Paul Eckes. Mr and Mrs Eckes built a new home on the location, and all that is left of the Young Peoples' Hall are fond memories'

**OJA, MATT**

Matt Oja came to Canada from Finland in 1931. Arriving in this district in 1932, Matt made his home the first winter at the John Palm home at Palm Bay As with many Finnish men, Matt



spent his evenings carving wood-chains and windmills Matt helped many settlers of this district to clear their land — entirely done by hand in those days. He also worked at logging

For a few years, Matt returned to the East On his return to Eckville he rented Sarah Johnson's farm yard where he raised pigs

He enjoyed his sauna Now in his retirement years. Matt makes his own home and continues to enjoy fishing and visiting his friends

**JOHN OLLI — by Mrs. Bill Maki**

John Olli, uncle of Bill Maki, arrived in the Eckville district in the 1940's. For a number of years he made his home with his nephew Bill and wife Miriam. Later he moved into a little house on the west shore of Sylvan Lake which was formerly owned by John Esk. He lived there for many years before moving to the town of Eckville, where he rented a home

Around 1967 John returned to Finland to live He passed away there in 1976 at the age of 86 or 88 years.

**OLSEN, CARL — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Carl Olsen was born in Norway and came to

Canada from North Dakota, U.S.A. Arriving in Canada he homesteaded the NE 7-40-2W5. He was a bachelor farmer, raised cattle and hogs [illegible] at picnics and gatherings. He also enjoyed serenading the ladies.

He died in a runaway in 1931 when his horses bolted and the team and wagon ran over him. He had no known relatives.

**THE RON PALM HISTORY — by Margaurette Palm**

Ronald and Margaurette Palm were married in Lacombe on September 1 [illegible] marked Alberta's official Golden Jubilee Celebration. Ron was the sixth child of Bill and Irene Palm of Eckville. Marg was the oldest daughter of Stan and Eileen Walker of Bentley. Marg's early life was spent on the family farms near Vegreville, Alberta and later the farm north of Bentley, Alberta.

[illegible] places around Eckville, always preferring the country. Ron worked on construction jobs, in service stations and in fire shops. Marg taught primary Grades, 1 or 2, in Eckville school. Children born to this marriage were: Ronald Dale, born in 1956; Anne Marie, born in 1957; Allan Robert, born in 1959; Stanley William, born in 1961, and Sharon Daleen, born in 1962. The children all attended school in Eckville. Marie graduated in 1975.

In 1962, the Palms acquired their own home (the acreage PT SW 29-39-2-W5, which was purchased from Eli Murto. This was the former Charlie Vlasen home. The same year Ron bought a steam bath from Alex Murto off the former Henry Talson farm. The Finnish tradition of having a sauna every Saturday night has continued throughout the years. Ron started his own construction business which included a Cat grader and gravel truck. With this machinery he did oil lease maintenance and farm jobs. Dale joined his dad in this endeavour.

Dale died on October 22, 1972 at the age of 16 years as the result of injuries following a truck [illegible].

Marg took university courses offered through Red Deer College. She received her Bachelor of Education Degree in 1975. Marg was appointed vice-principal of the Eckville Elementary School in 1974.

[illegible] in 1974. It was the former Shady Nook School. It had served as a classroom and music room in Eckville for many years.

Family ties have important meaning to Ron and Marg. Each summer the family attended the Palm family picnic which was organized by Ole and Alile Solberg and held at Palm Bay, the north end of Sylvan Lake. The Johanson picnic, Ron's mother's family, was held at Emil and Hulda Wester's home at Sylvan Lake. In 1976 Ron and Marg organized the Palm-Johanson family picnic at their home. Eighty-five members attended. The second annual picnic was held in 1977. These will likely continue.

The family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Ron's parents in 1974. The same year, a 40th wedding anniversary party was held at Ron and Marg's home for the family and friends of Marg's parents, Stan and Eileen Walker.

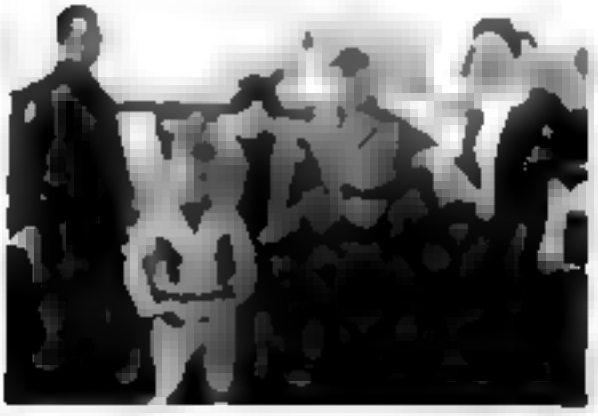
Ron and Marg's interests have centered around their home and children. Ron enjoys building planters for the flowers, planting trees and working in his shop. Marg enjoys her flowers and her yard.

**PELTOKANGAS, LAURI (Larry Kangas)**

Larry Kangas was born February 20, 1902, in Finland. He came to the Eckville District about 1932.

Larry and Elmo Paasi spent two winters trapping — one was spent west of Rocky Mountain House and the second one was spent at Medicine Lake trapping squirrels. In each case, they built their cabin to live in and went out with only the bare essentials, living off the land.

Larry was a carpenter by trade. His name is



Ron Palm Family. Left to right: Rod, Allan, Stan, Marie, Rob [illegible]

[illegible]

remembered in many homes for additions he built on to houses, cupboards or other renovations

Larry had a real sense of humor as well as a great love of nature. The chickadees knew and trusted him. The deer had no fear of him and walked up to his doorstep. Every spring he would put out as many as one thousand strings for the orioles building their nests around his yard

Larry enjoyed his sauna and always made a supply of hazelnut switches for himself and his [illegible]

His hobbies included fishing, gardening and carving. Larry died December 9, 1976, and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery

**THE PESOLA FAMILY — by Vivian Pesola**

Mr and Mrs. Pesola were married in Butte Montana in 1905. A daughter Vivian was born to them there. Soon after that they went to the Eckville area in Canada Mr Pesola homesteaded the S.E 24-38-3 W5. In this desolate land a son, Wilfred, was born on February 14 1906. A daughter Lillian, was born on June 30, 1914

Our lives were lonely and humble. There were many struggles in those isolated, vast areas There was very little opportunity for communication with other Finnish families in like [illegible]

The family returned to the U.S.A during World War I perhaps 1915 or 1916 I am now the lone survivor of the Pesola family and I am 76 years old

**POTIVAR, JOHN**

John Potivar came to the Eckville District from Russia. He bought the quarter SW 24-38-3 W5 from Rudolph Stopsen He engaged in mixed farming. John Potivar knew the secret of cleaning up quack grass By keeping his land black for two summers the roots rotted away and the land was free of this weed. He sold his land to Jim Grant and now makes his home in Calgary [illegible]

**PSIKLA, JOE AND JENNIE**

Joe Psikla was born on March 19, 1921 in Coleman, Alberta and came to the Saima School District 1434 with his parents in the fall of 1930 Upon arrival in the district he started school taking Grade 5 with Miss Laimi Hill as teacher The following year and up till Grade 8 Miss Laimi Makl was his teacher He took his Grade 9 at Boyle School with Harry Laycock as teacher returned to Saimi and took his Grade 10 under the supervision of Miss Makl. In 1937 he completed his Grade 11 at the Eckville School. After leaving school he started farming with his parents

His hobby was music and he learned to play the violin at the age of 16. A few years later he with his brother and Andy Harvilow, started to play for house parties and barn dances. When the war came along Joe received a postponement from the armed forces to continue farming In the early 1940's Joe joined the "Benalto Hill Billies" Gordon Steadman had the drums Laurel Neilson on the piano. Ted Johnson on the accordian and Joe with the violin

On July 14, 1949 Joe married Jennie Trautman who was born in Strongfield Saskatchewan on August 6, 1928. She then came to the Eckville district with her sister and brother-in-law who came to work for Ray Neimala Jennie worked for John and Ida Lundberg and later for the Eckville Bakery, then operated by Mr Ernest Jackson. In the spring of 1949 she worked for Jiffy Lunch operated by Mrs. Alex Thompson

In August 1949 Joe and Jennie along with Peter and Jossie Liska started a dance orchestra and called themselves the "Polka Dots" Joe's brother Louis joined the group

On September 6, 1950 a severe hailstorm harvested a very good crop the first storm for over 25 years in the district The following year 1951 was marred by hailstorms and early winter

On September 12, 1951 Ronald was born in Eckville Hospital He was educated in the Eckville School and graduated in 1969. He worked for Whately Trucking, later for Skocdopole Construction and then for A.G.T In 1972 he moved to Prince George, B.C and worked for B.C Telephones until 1974 when he returned to Eckville where he is presently working for Robert Pathole operating a "rat hole" drilling rig

It was a great day on September 12, 1951 when the Calgary Power was turned on in our area

On June 21, 1953 Father's Day) twins, Gerald and Joan were born to Joe and Jennie in the Eckville Hospital. They went to school in Eckville and graduated in 1971 Gerald worked for Whately Trucking and later on for Canada Packers. In 1972 he moved to Prince George, B.C and was employed by Inland Natural Gas Company In 1972 he returned to Eckville and in 1975 worked for Larrett's Trucking Company which he later purchased in the spring of 1977 and at present is operating his own trucking business known as Jaquar Trucking Limited

Joan after she graduated, worked for the Bank of Montreal in Red Deer at the Eastview Shopping Centre and later was transferred to a Calgary Branch. On October 12, 1974 she married John Carroll (known as Jack) who was born in Eckville on July 14, 1949. At the age of 16 Jack moved to Kitimat B.C. with his parents where he finished high school and completed three years of commerce at the University of Victoria On June 5, 1976 a daughter Jocelyn was born to them in Calgary In the early spring they moved to Fox Creek where Jack is employed in the Hudson Bay Gas Plant

In the mid 50's Joe with his uncle Peter and brother Louis joined with Waldo Raabis and Roy Leach in a dance band and called themselves The Rhythm Boys" and played steady for almost five years

On August 1, 1956 Robert was born in the Eckville Hospital. Robert received his education at the Eckville school and completed Grade 10. He took Grade 11 in Carmine J. LaRouge school in Red Deer. He went to Edmonton and worked for Kenyan Industries and later worked for Air Vac in Red Deer. At present he is working with his brother for Robert Rathole Limited.

In 1959 Joe, Jennie and family, after living with Joe's parents, moved into a two room house which was remodelled into a four room bungalow.

On April 26, 1965 Loretta was born in the Eckville Hospital to complete their family of three boys, and two girls. Loretta attends Eckville School and is taking her Grade 7.

In the spring of 1971 Joe's parents retired from the farm. Joe along with his brother, Louis continued farming. Joe and his family moved into the main house and at present still make their home there.

In 1975 the last of the heavy bush was bulldozed on the farm by Herb Oja, leaving only shelter belts.

Jennie at present is a member of the Catholic Women's League. Joe is a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge 404 and takes active part in Patrol Team work. Joe and Jennie along with Peter and Josie Liska still are in the dance orchestra business and call themselves "The Family Four".

**PSIKLA, LOUIS JR.**

Louis Psikla Junior was born on September 9, 1925 in Coleman, Alberta and came with his parents to Saima School district 1934 at the age of five years. He took his schooling at Saima School with Laimi Maki as teacher until Grade 4. From then on his teachers were Miss Martha Holms, Miss Mildred Anderson and Mrs. Watson.

After completing a Grade 9 education he took up farming with his parents and brother Joe.

played with his brother Joe and Andy Harvilow for house parties and barn dances. Later on he joined a dance band with brother Joe and sister-in-law, Jennie, and his Uncle Peter and Aunt Josie and they called themselves the "Polka Dots". In the mid 50's he played with the "Rhythm Boys" orchestra as drummer for a period of five years. After his parents retired in the spring of 1971 he continued to farm with his brother Joe.

In December 1975 Quasar Oil Company drilled an oil well on his property. The drilling rig that contracted the job was Cactus Rig 10 operated by his brother-in-law John Safronovich.

Louis is a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge 404 and takes an active part in Patrol Team work. He is also on several committees in various organizations.

**PSIKLA, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS SR. — by**

Mr. Louis Psikla Sr. was born in Podhael Czechoslovakia on September 2, 1895. At the age of 17 years he landed in the United States of America and came to Coleman, Alberta from the States.

He married Mary Liska, who was born in Coleman on December 18, 1904. The marriage took place on May 3, 1920 in Coleman. Their first born, Joseph, was born on March 19, 1921 next was Mary, born March 2, 1922. Mary died of sunstroke on June 19, 1925. Helen was born on October 14, 1923 and died four months later of diphtheria. The girls both died slowly at home, as there were no hospitals at that time, but a doctor came to the house. Louis Jr. was born on September 9, 1925.

Mr. Psikla was a coal miner in Coleman. Since the gas in the mine started causing him health problems, he started working in the bush, cutting and hauling props for the mine. He decided that he would like to go farming so he bought 40 acres at Cranbrook, B.C. After thinking about making a living out of that, he knew it was impossible, so the search for land began. He travelled through Michigan and Washington. He finally came to Eckville, when a man by the name of Charles Nocilas, who owned a drygoods store in Coleman, said "Go to the Red Deer area. There is really nice farmland there."

On October 1, 1930 he made the deal on his home quarter, which was NW 32-39-2-W5. He paid $650 to Mr. Mitchell, from Calgary who had bought the place but had never lived on it. This was 160 acres of solid timber! No house, no well, and no place even to build a house! When he went back to the Pass, he told his wife of the beautiful place he had bought. "Oh, Mary, you should see it, there are even hazel nuts growing there!" Well, Mary, being a town girl, had been quite happy living where she was, so when they came out on November 2, 1930, with two little boys, she came to the conclusion that the only nut she could see was her husband!

Arrangements were made with Mr. Wells, through Ray Wright, that the family should live at the Wells farm, as he was a widower, with a fair-sized house for those days. By this time Joe was nine years old and attending Saima school and Louis was four years old. The family stayed with Mr. Wells for the first winter.

Louis had great plans for the future, with four horses, a wagon and sleigh, acquired from his bush work, and four cows which were exchanged for the 40 acres in Cranbrook. Now, we must get some money. He went to the bank manager, Mr. Mann, to borrow some money so that he could hire a crew to clear the land. To his dismay, the government would not lend him anything, as he was not yet well-enough established. The requirement for getting a loan was 50 acres of cleared land.

During this first winter Mr. Psikla was a very busy man. He cleared a spot for a cabin and about one acre for a garden, and built a log

cabin. He also worked with Ray Wright and together they logged. Mr. Henry Heitala sawed the lumber. In return for half of the lumber sawed. For the winter's work Louis' share was 50,000 feet of lumber. He traded this for grain and hay and rent on machinery, which he later borrowed from neighbors at ten cents per acre. During this time Mrs. Psikla kept house and looked after Mr. Well's daughter, Unis, who was a midget, in return for their winter's keep.

Mr. Luoma and his boys helped drill a well, which was done by gin pole, drilling by hand. Mr. Luoma and Mr. Frank Wise were neighbors who helped the family on several occasions at the beginning, and were also of great help in the future, when Louis had to go back to the Pass and work.

In the spring of 1931 they moved to their new home, which was a log cabin 18 feet by 22 feet. Although the winter was beautiful, the cabin was not exactly warm. The potatoes froze behind the

Louis' brother and Mary's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Psikla, and their family, Joan, four months and Alex, five years old, arrived from Cranbrook in August of 1932. Annie was very sick with rheumatic fever. It was the time of the depression, and there was nowhere to go, so they moved in with Mary, Louis and family in their one-roomed cabin for the summer. Joe Psikla worked for different farmers around, which included Gubertsons and Ericksons. His wages were one dollar per day or twenty-five dollars per month. Hours were from sunrise to sunset with no days off.

Winter was coming on and the place was pretty crowded, so Mary, Louis and family moved to Rapina's, as Louis rented the Rapina and Wells farms. The Rapina farm is now Walter Johnson's farm. The family wintered 1932 there and cropped it in 1933. During the winter they were also building another cabin for Joe and Annie, on the original place.

In the spring of 1932 they returned to their cabin and Joe and Annie moved into their own cabin. Everyone stayed until 1936, when Joe left in the spring for Coleman, where he became employed as a coal miner. Annie and their children followed two months later.

By this time the situation looked pretty tough. Louis hadn't paid taxes since he moved there, and the land was going to be sold for taxes. The taxes amounted to five hundred dollars, so Louis quit renting land, left his family and went to Coleman to work in the bush. This took the summer months of 1936 and 1937 to get the debt paid. During this time Mary looked towards the mountains with tears in her eyes and an aching heart, wondering what she was ever doing here in this bush, longing for her husband and parents who were also at Coleman at that time, and the small town life that she had been used to.

In 1938 Mr. Wells rented his land again to Louis. This included the buildings also, so the family moved for the final time. This is the Psikla farm, SW 6-40-2-W5, as it is known today. Mr. Wells built himself a two-room house on the same property.

A daughter, Virginia, was born to Louis and Mary on October 25, 1939. She attended Saima school, as her brothers had before her, until grade four, when the school bus started. She then completed her schooling in Eckville.

In 1942 the Mitzner property was purchased. It was fall, and Louis was shoveling grain from the threshing machine to the granary. Emma

belief that a transaction must be done in the light of the moon in order to have any good fortune. It turned out that Mary shoveled grain while Louis made the deal."

In 1945 the Wells property was purchased by means of a loan made by Leopold Zaleski. By this time Joe and Louis were interested in the farm and it became a family operation.

Also life was getting to be a little easier. Mary belonged to the sewing circle. It was great fun. One day, Mary was a little late to catch Mrs. Parkhart, who was driving a horse and sleigh, with a load of ladies. Mary, carrying Virignia, was running through the snow, hollering and waving, never losing sight of the sleigh. The ladies in the sleigh, though, were a pretty happy bunch, talking and never looking back. About five minutes after they all sat down at Irene Palm's who should arrive but Mary, all puffed

On October 28, 1946 Mr. Psikla transferred their original place, including the two log cabins which stand in the open field, to his son Louis. By 1973 this place was finally cleared of all the bush and you can actually see the north end of Sylvan Lake, which was unknown to them when they came to the land in 1930.

In 1948, 1050 square feet were built on to the house. Joe married Jennie Trautman on July 14 1950.

Virginia was married to John Safronovich of Buck Creek on July 23, 1960, after having

graduated from school and being employed as bookkeeper in the Eckville Co-Op store

In 1970 Mr and Mrs Psikla celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary They retired to their own home in Red Deer in March, 1972

These are some of the events in their life I hope you enjoy them, and if you are ever in Red Deer, I am sure they can tell you a lot of other interesting stories

**JOHN AND AINA SAARI — by Elma Jackson**

John Victor Saari was born in Finland in 1885 and in 1905, at the age of 20 years immigrated to the United States. He spent three years working in Duluth, Minnesota, and in Minneapolis Minnesota prior to moving to Butte, Montana to work in the copper mines

[illegible] Aina Matilda Strom. She was born in Republic, Michigan, U.S.A., and, after being employed for two years in Minneapolis, she moved to Butte. Their first child, Rexford John, was born there

In 1912 the family moved to their homestead in the Golden Heights district north of Leslieville. It was here that Elma, Roy and Rudolph were born. Each winter John returned to Butte to work in the mine in order to make the required improvements on the homestead. After approximately seven years he decided to leave this farm because of the unproductiveness of the land.

For a few years they rented land in the Leslieville and Eckville areas, and in 1925 they purchased the home farm N 25-39-3-W5. In addition to farming, between 1937 and 1941 John operated a sawmill, south-west of Rocky Mountain House on Prairie Creek

John was always very actively involved in community affairs He was a councillor for the municipality of Lochearn (Leslieville) and served as a school board member in Golden Heights, Salma and Eckville school districts. He was on the hospital board for many years, having been one of the original members who were responsible for the opening of the first hospital in [illegible]

John was a very active supporter of the Eckville Co-op Association Throughout his years in the community he served as a co-op director for most of that time. He was one of the founding members of the Eckville Credit Union and remained active in this organization throughout his life

He was a member of the telephone association and was also very instrumental in bringing about the electrification program into the rural area

Throughout these endeavors John received full support from Aina, who was also very pleased to see progress taking place in the community and was always willing to have committee meetings in their home

John and Aina left the farm in 1950 to live in Eckville They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in January, 1961, with open house at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Roy and Marg Saari.

[illegible]

John passed away on July 12, 1963 Aina continued to live in Eckville until six months prior to her passing when, due to her arthritic condition she was forced to take residence in Valley Park Manor Red Deer She passed away on February 17, 1971 They were predeceased by their son Rex, in 1953. Elma and Jake Jackson are now residing in Calgary Roy and Marg are in Eckville and Rudolph and Katie live on the home farm

**SALMA MEMORIES — kindly submitted by Vera Thorlaasen Skoodapole**

In memory of some of the early pioneers of the Salma district. Without them the community would have been rather small and insignificant

I would like to mention two wonderful ladies, who were like grandmothers to me, Mrs. Ida Lundberg and Mrs. Hilda Salo

At the Lundberg's I remember the afternoon tea parties we had how lovely they were. Also the many times I stayed with her when Mr Lundberg was away at conventions. When I think of it now, how frightening it is! She was a diabetic and could not be left alone and I was a youngster of only seven or eight years Whenever help was needed by a neighbor she was the first to come and help. Many a dolly and tiger lily I have to remember her by

Mrs. Hilda Salo's is where I was always

Alfred Alexander and Rudolph Saari

seated at the table with a cup of coffee, cream and "a lot" of sugar - like little children love. One day I shall always remember was when Mrs. Salo put little spoons on the table. (Little did I know then, they were coffee spoons.) I guess she could see the admiration in my big brown eyes when I looked at the little spoons, for this kindly lady gave me one of them. Now quickly I rushed home with the spoon in my hot little fist. Thirty years have passed. I have the spoon in my silver chest and twice yearly take it out, polish it and tuck it away once more.

Then there were times when tickets, cards or other articles had to be sold for school. The first place we would head for was to Wayne and Tillie Ignatius. They would make us so welcome. Tillie always had the best Finnish coffee bread! Whatever we were selling, they would buy. I'm sure some of the articles were of little use to them. We always came away happy, with change in our pockets. Wayne now resides in the Lacombe Senior Citizens Lodge. We see him now and then, enjoy a wonderful visit, which really brings back memories of when he lived in our community. Tillie passed away many years ago.

Charles and Emma Donaldson, from Brockville, Ontario, owned Birch Crest on the west end of Sylvan Lake. This is where we spent many a Sunday. During the summer Mr. Donaldson would take us for boat rides around the lake. We know where every sand bar and deep spot was located. After our boat ride, we would have a relaxing visit over lemonade and sugar cookies, in the summer house which Mr. Donaldson had built on the bank overlooking the lake. Sometimes we would work on puzzles, or have a game of scrabble, but the scrabble game usually ended quite soon, for one person in particular would invent words to fit any situation he encountered. There were a few arguments, dictionaries were brought out, and soon the game was scrapped for that day.

Emma Donaldson was a dear little lady, who played the piano for all the school concerts and other community activities. She even taught some of us music — or tried to, that is. Mrs. Donaldson played the piano in Ontario and later in Youngstown for the silent movies. When she would show us how she would play during different scenes, we were absolutely spell-bound.

The Donaldsons were relatives of Barbara Ann Scott, the world-famous figure skater. On one occasion when Barbara-Ann was to pass through Red Deer Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson had arranged to board the train at a station up the line. It was with great pride that they witnessed the outstanding ovation given to Barbara-Ann upon her appearance at the railway station in Red Deer.

The Donaldsons have passed away and are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. Those of us who had the opportunity of knowing them will remember that beautiful old car with curtains, which they drove, as well as their wonderful sense of humor.

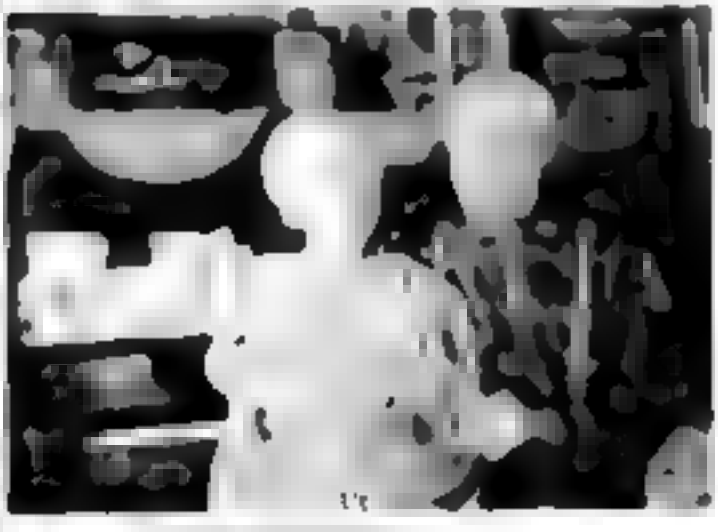
Hallowe'en was another period of time when we remember certain people. When we arrived at Walter and Mamie Johnson's, all decked out in our regalia, Walter always came up with a little something to improve our costumes. Once it was a corn cob pipe. There was always a humorous story or two, a nice treat and a wish for a very enjoyable evening. Last words were "See you next year!" Mamie passed away in July 1966. Sad to say, Walter passed away on May 8, 1977 so never had the opportunity of seeing our book published. He would have enjoyed it so very much.

There were other people who were great fun at Hallowe'en, including Gordon and Phyllis Erickson. One time I recall Phyllis forgetting to buy treats, so we all enjoyed bacon and eggs. I'm sure Dad and my uncles were happy to see us grow up, because we must have been awfully hard on their clothing, especially the underwear when assembling our costumes. Come to think of it, maybe they weren't the only ones to be happy to see us grow up.

Walter Slopsen SE 30-39 2W5, was a bachelor, but he enjoyed the company of children very much. One day the Salma School class went over to see Walter to discuss purchasing his farm. This was a social studies project, so the students had to go alone. Anyway Walter told us to "go look at the machinery, stock and buildings." He stayed in the house to make lunch, so we could do our dealing over coffee.

Walter suggested we should have a lawyer on hand, but we assured him that we were very trustworthy and a lawyer would not be needed, and would just be an added expense. I can't recall the price we arrived at, but it was probably small. How nice it was for him to take the time to bother with us!

Mr. Antti Belikka was another person I shall remember fondly. He had the most beautiful dancing blue eyes, and a snow-white beard. I



always thought he'd make one "Super Santa Claus." It just happened that he would be going by our gate every morning when we were on our way to school. In summer it was with horse and buggy, in winter with horse and cutter. He would tuck the covers around us and off we would go. When school was over who was on the road but Mr. Bellikka. He told us he was going for milk, but I'm sure he never made so many trips for milk. As I remember, he had a nanny goat that stood on the little shed east of his house.

Mr. Bellikka loved to ski, but before starting out he would light his pipe. Every time he would push with his poles a puff of smoke would come out of his pipe. We found this most amusing, and thought that it would make one wonder how the effort was powered.

Mrs. Minnie Lundequist, SE 23-38-3W5, was a neighbor lady who always served maple sticks to us children. Now, they are referred to as "long johns." How times have changed. Before, when someone referred to "long johns" they meant someone's winter woolies. Must be the generation gap.

Dad had a hired man be the name of John Vaara. We children called him "Little John" because he wasn't very big, but he really knew how to work. Somehow we found out when it was John's birthday, so we asked Mother to bake a cake and put candles on it. After supper that evening we brought the cake out, lit the candles and proceeded to sing "Happy Birthday." Tears came to John's eyes. We didn't know if it was our singing, or what. Apparently he had never had a birthday cake before, and was very touched. He said, "No one had ever done anything so nice for me before." Some people liked to make fun of John, but I guess they never took the time to get to know him or they would have felt differently.

Many a lovely visit we enjoyed with Wayne and Sadie Stopsen, SE 36-39-3W5. Sadie could whip up a delicious cake faster than anyone I know when unexpected company arrived.

One humorous incident that comes to mind. When out in the fields at meal time, the men were summoned to the meal by Sadie swinging a white cloth. One day she decided to fry chicken for dinner and had trouble wringing the leghorn chicken's neck. Wayne noticed the movement in the air, and immediately started home. A bit early for the meal! Many a laugh we had over this.

The lovely people mentioned are all gone now with the exception of Gordon and Phyllis Erickson, who still are our neighbors.

My only regret is that this history book wasn't written 10 years sooner, so some of these wonderful people could have had the pleasure of reading it. I've very much enjoyed working with the group to compile the book. I have also had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people through this work.

**SAMMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1687**

A meeting to form a school district was called on December 27, 1906 at the home of John Schnoor (NW 20-39-2-W5). John Schnoor was elected the chairman with Edward Mitzner as the secretary. The other board members were Nels Waisanen, Herman Talson, Thomas Thorkman, and Charles Reinhold.

At the first board meeting held in 1907 on February 19, Edward Mitzner was appointed secretary-treasurer. He was to be bonded for the sum of $2,000, salary to be $30 for the year with the district to furnish the necessary postage stamps, paper, books, etc. Taxes were levied at seven and one-quarter percent per acre for 1907. At this meeting it was decided to build a frame schoolhouse 26 feet wide, 36 feet long and 14 feet high, suitable to accommodate 40 pupils). The school house was to be built on the SE corner 30-39-2-W5 on two acres of ground purchased from J. Johnson for $8 an acre.

A loan of $1,500 was obtained from Canadian National Loan Co. Ltd. Tenders were opened for building the schoolhouse with C. M. Dylla submitting the lowest bid of $1.5. August Mitzner to post bond for work done. The contract for building the school was to include a woodshed and two outhouses. The sill for the school building to consist of two by eight's spiked together to form an eight by eight. The supports to be deeper than 18" for which the contractor would be paid extra.

Thomas Thorkman was paid for delivering 6042 feet of lumber at $5 per thousand and $2.50 for getting prices on lumber making a total of $32.75. Isaac Niemi was paid for drawing 2671 feet of lumber at $5 per thousand total $13.35. At the May 15, 1907 meeting the board of trustees decided the woodshed should be 10 feet by 12 feet seven feet high with a slant roof. The school ground to be as follows: 208 feet eight inches running from east to west and 417 feet four inches running from south to north. The school site would be cleared of brush and fenced, the fence would be made of popular rails with posts driven in the ground and the fire guard 16 feet wide. The chimney for the school to be 16 inches square or

built six bricks to the round. John Johnson to furnish bricks, lime and sand and to put the chimney up for $20. There were 20 double seats ordered for pupils of the school — six large size eight medium size, and six small size, also teacher's desk number five, teacher's chairs two of number two. Also to be purchased were a globe, 100 feet of hyloplate blackboard with moldings, 75¢ school hand bell, number one desk bell also clock number one, three boxes alpha dustless crayons, five Christie's dustless noiseless erasers, numeral frame, one Christies rubber-tip pointer Imperial unabridged dictionary, 20 cards of reading tablets and 12 dozen school report cards

It was resolved that a second class lady teacher was to be hired. (wonder why a first class lady wouldn't do)

When the school opened in 1907, the first teacher was Miss Nicly During the first years the school was open from June to December, a six month period. The teachers salary was $50 per month. The children of the following parents attended classes in 1907 Eckross, Nick Isaacson George Kidd Rudolf Stopsen Thoma Thorkman, Mrs. Ignatius, Batdorf, Herman Tulson, Knutila and Eric Maki

Business discussion at the second annual meeting of the ratepayers held on Jan. 11, 1908 beginning at 10 a.m., was the well. It was 106 feet deep and cost $141 with interest per annum of eight percent until paid. A great concern was the large bills being allowed by the board and that the government should be approached to see if something could be done about such bills. No delegates were sent to the Second Annual Convention of the Association of School Trustees to be held in Calgary, January 22-23, 1908 due to lack of funds. J H Batdorf proposed that the ratepayers should get together and fence the school grounds without the expense of hiring it done. This would save all the expenses except the nails. John Schnoor offered to donate all poles required. Fence to be an "A" fence. A motion was made by H. Schroeder and seconded by James Bernard that the ratepayers turn out on February 3, 1908 to put up the fence Thomas Thorkman was appointed foreman. August Matzner asked the board to release him from his bond as an assurance for building of Salma School by C M. Dyba. This was accepted by the board. All future work was to be done by contract A special meeting held March 6, 1908 at 3:30 p.m. at the home of John Schnoor was called to levy the school taxes The taxes were set at seven and one-half cents per acre for 1908. It was noted that not enough ratepayers turned out to build the fence. Some who came objected to having a pole fence built so nothing was done at this me

At the third annual meeting ratepayers decided to build a log stable to accommodate about six horses. Secretary-treasurer was instructed to write to Ottawa for a permit to cut enough logs from the school section for said purposes If they would have gone to section 37 they could have had all the logs they wanted free

The school taxes in 1910 were levied at six and one-half cents per acre. The fence was finally built in 1910 after tenders were let out with Henry Lepisto being awarded with the contract with a bid of $18. In 1910 Mr Robinson was hired to teach for a salary of $60 per month for a period of six months Taxes levied in 1911 were six and one-quarter cents per acre or $10 per quarter section. Taxes in 1912 were levied at seven and one-quarter cents per acre and a discount of 10 percent was allowed on all taxes paid by May In 1914 Mr E Hoglund offered to paint the outside of the schoolhouse with two coats of paint for $50 He was to supply all the paint necessary and also to paint the two outhouses at the rate of 25¢ per square yard

Taxes for the years 1915 to 1918 were set at 11¢ with the same discount as previous years In 1918 the janitors salary was raised to four dollars per month, as well as the teachers salary raised to $70 per month In 1919 the taxes went down to 10¢ the discount was five percent but the teachers salary went up to $80 per month. Taxes went up to 12¢ per acre in 1920, discount staying at five percent but in 1921 the taxes stayed at 12 cents but the discount was set at 10 percent. The teacher's salary was $1200 per year Mr A Hoglund painted the inside of the school for $65 In 1922 the taxes went up to 15¢ an acre, discount of eight percent taxes were paid 30 days from the day the taxes were due The teachers salary was reduced to $1000 Taxes were 11 mills in 1923 with 10 percent discount on all current taxes up to March 1 and five percent up to May with the teachers salary at $1200. In 1924 the taxes were levied at 11½ mills with a discount of 10 percent if paid by April 1. Teachers salary was again reduced to $1000. The tax discount and teachers salary remained the same in 1925 In 1926 the mill rate went up to 20 mills discount of 10 per cent if paid before June 15. Teachers salary was $1,00

"The above was taken from the first minute book kept of the trustees and ratepayers

Bachelors living in the district at this time and later were Gust Carlson, John Jarvi, Henry Lepisto, Victor Vianen, James Bernard, Emil Helmo. They played an important part in our community and we would be amiss if we didn't mention their names

Through the years the school was used for other purposes such as church services and social evenings and in later years card parties and Bingos

The winters were cold. The mode of travel was walking or with a horse if you were fortunate enough to have a horse. The school was very cold. Clothing was very important. Felt shoes, woolen stockings and long underwear were a must. The children would all until noon around the pot belly furnace to keep warm

Lutheran ministers resided in the area a manse was built in 1910 in the SW corner of the SW 24-39-3-W5. Ministers in the district through the years were Rev. Jelfi, Rev. and Mrs. Korhonen, Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Harju and Rev. John Luomala. Two laymen who performed baptismal and burial services when a minister was unavailable were Eric Makl and Andrew Belukka. The manse was moved to Sylvan Lake in 1924 to be used as the Presbyterian manse

In 1946 the school was renovated and a full basement was built. The shortages of teachers in 1950 forced the board to close the school. The children were bused to Eckville. The school was moved to Eckville the following year where it was used as the Home Economics room. The last elected board for the Salma School from 1944 - 1950 was Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Sylvia Thorkman, Trustees — Walter Johnson, Alex Murto and Vilho Maki.

Teachers at Salma School were

1907 — Miss Nisly 1908 — Mr. C. Tascock 1909 — Miss Drima Robertson, 1910 — Mr

Thomas E. Robinson, 1911 — Mr. Campbell Innes, 1912 Mr. S. A. Wilkinson, 1913 — Miss Alberta MacLaughlin, 1914 Miss M. E. Stewarts 1915 — Miss Florella Johnston (Barhan) 1916 — Miss Rodgers, 1917 — Miss Isea Grimson, 1918 — Mrs. A. R. Quigley, 1919 — Miss Lillian Gudmundson, 1920 — Miss Lenori Mollie Graham, 1921 — Miss Adini M. Farr, 1922 — Mrs. Florella Barhan, 1923 — Miss Raymond, Mrs. Martin Rowell 1924-25 Miss Winifred Arlendseon, 1926 — Miss Ruth Garries (Lundberg) 1927 — Miss Atzinger, 1928 — Miss Agnes Anderson, 1929-31 Miss Lymie Hill, Shultz, 1932-36 Miss Lairnie Marian Mackie, 1937-38 Miss Martha Helm, Feldl) 1939-40 Miss Mildred Anderson (Niemi) 1941 — Mrs. Nancy Nolan, 1942 — Mrs. Dorothy Watson, 1945 — Mrs. Edith Russell, 1943 — Mrs. Elma Jackson, 1944 — Mrs. Dorothy Watson, 1946

Mrs. Annie Martin, 1947 — Mrs. Carrie Nelson, 1948 — Miss Mary Gamble, 1949 — Mrs. Marion McCarroll, 1950 — Miss Wilma Wyatt Sieves

**OSMAN AUGUST SALMINEN FAMILY — by Audrey Jensen**

Ossian August Salminen was born February 22, 1901 in Tampere, Finland and came to the Eckville area in 1924. He was employed by Henry Barland as a carpenter, and they built many buildings in and around Eckville, the most notable of which was the Eckville creamery in 1925. He also worked with Henry Jokkinen and constructed private homes, some of which are still occupied today, including Takkinen's house which was moved to 5024-54 Avenue in Eckville, and Zelt's house on the farm

The Finnish people in the Eckville district had a live theatre group, and August played the male lead roles while he was in the area in 1927 - 1928, and 1929. During his stay in Eckville he also participated in the cross-country ski races, which he helped organize

In 1936 August returned to Medicine Hat, where he had lived upon his arrival from Finland in 1922. He was employed as a hired hand for Matt Haapala on his farm near Manyberries. He [illegible] as being employed in the maintenance department by the city of Medicine Hat

Esther Haapala, eldest child of Matt and Anna Haapala, was employed at the Medicine Hat hospital when she and August Salminen were married. They had four daughters Marlene, Audrey, Lenore, and Jeanette, all born at Medicine Hat

August moved his wife and daughters to Benalto in 1942 when he enlisted in the Canadian air force and went overseas to fight for his adopted land. Their only son, Norman, was born in the Eckville hospital in 1942 and was three years old before Gus saw him

After the war in 1946, Gus bought a farm from Rodolf Stopsen the NW 26-39-2-W5 in the Salma district, and farmed for seven years until he ran out of money

Salmanens moved into Eckville in 1953 and Esther worked at the hospital for two years while Gus was up north building micro-wave towers They left Eckville again in 1955 and resided at Stettler, Edmonton, Jasper Place and Seba Beach before returning in 1965 to their old house on 54th Avenue in Eckville. They resided here until their passing — Gus on May 1, 1975, followed by Esther on September 24, 1975

Marlene McLean has three sons: Lauren Darren and Wade, and lives in Edmonton

Audrey Jenson has two daughters, Debra and Sandra and lives in the Eckville district

Lenore Gawryluk has two daughters and one son and they live in Edmonton. The children are Marcy, Kimberly and Kendell

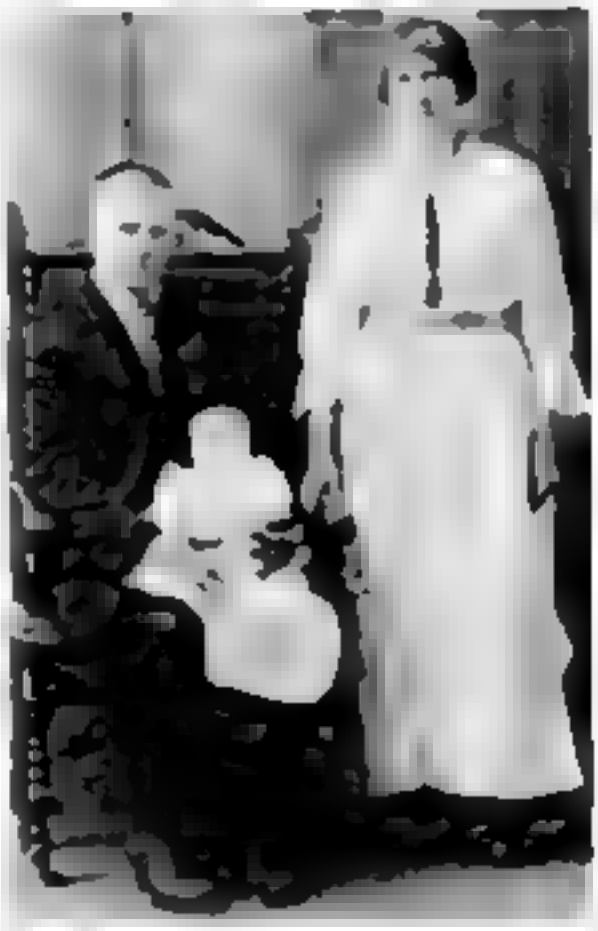
Jeanette Stanley and her family live in St Albert. She has two sons, Rodger and Tyler, and a daughter Mary-Dale

Norman and Judy live in Edmonton. Judy is the former Judith Moses of Grand Prairie

**OSCAR AND HILDA SALO FAMILY**

Oscar Herman Bjorn emigrated from Suomusalmi, Finland, to Halifax in 1895, and worked at the shipyards for a time before moving on into the United States. Here he worked in various coal mines and in different states for 16 years, and spent one year working in a copper mine in Butte, Montana. Apparently Oscar had lost one or more of his pay cheques due to the misspelling of his name He therefore vowed that he would change his name from "Bjorn" to "Salo", and this change prevented the loss of any more cheques

Hilda M Vaisanen came into Sand Coulee Montana, U.S.A in 1912 from Oululani, Finland to stay with her sisters, Eliza, and Annie, Mrs Paul Kaikkonen Soon after this Eliza was married to Frank Holm and the couple left for Eckville, Alberta, to seek a career in farming



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Salo and eldest daughter, Viena, 1917

Hilda then took over the boarding house which Eliza had been operating

Hilda and Oscar were married in Sand Coulee, Montana, on July 16, and in 1918 they too, immigrated to Alberta and settled at Nordegg, where Oscar obtained employment in the coal mines. They, with their daughter Viena, lived in Nordegg for about a year However, the idea of farming appealed to them and they bought the SE 26-39-3-W5 in the Eckville area Here they built a house and the other necessary buildings and established their home. However, before the house was completed another daughter, Gertrude, was born at the home of Hilda's sister, Mrs. Frank Holm, east of Eckville Oscar would go back to work at Nordegg after the home was built and the family then lived by themselves while he was away

Oscar and Hilda had a family of seven children, losing one son Arthur, when he was three years old in an accident. This occurred at threshing time in 1933. The lad had climbed onto a wagon which was temporarily idle, and then he was climbing down again over the wheel when the driver returned and started up the team, not knowing that the boy was there. Arthur was run

over and death resulted. The remaining children are Viena, Gertrude, Laila, Sally, Edwin, and Wilfred.

Oscar and Hilda farmed their quarter at Eckville until 1945, having also bought a C.P.R. quarter north of the home place during the

At one time during this period Oscar had bought a Ford car. After a time the roof began to leak and on one occasion he had placed a tin can in the car to catch the dripping water. He had forgotten about this can being in the car and one day as he was driving down the road he heard this can rattling. He looked into the back of the car to see what was causing the noise, and while he was doing this the car took the liberty of running off the road into a deep ditch. The result was that he had to have the car pulled out by some nearby neighbors, and Oscar had to endure a lot of joshing about this incident for quite some time.

Hilda passed away on March 28, 1945, at 53 years of age. This same year Oscar sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Thorkman, nearby neighbors, and bought a home in Sylvan Lake, as his health did not permit him to continue farming. He continued to live in Sylvan Lake until his death in April, 1949 at the age of 75 years. Both Hilda and Oscar are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

The children are all in Alberta except for Wilfred (better known as Bill) who married Laura Sissons. Bill and Laura have lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, since their marriage, and have a family of five boys and one girl. Bill finished his grade 12 in the Sylvan Lake school, and by continued self-education he became a supervisor of the City Gas Supply in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Edwin, even at a young age, was interested in electricity and "what made it work." Billy, the younger brother, was pressed into service as Edwin's assistant, or "guinea pig" in numerous experiments. Fortunately Billy survived all of these experiences and Edwin went on to make electricity his life's work. He worked as a supervisor for a number of years and now has his own electrical business called Edcan Electrical Supplies in Calgary. Edwin married Oda Nielson of Huxzar, Alberta, and they have a family of four daughters and one son.

Sally married Tiny Wallebeck from Claresholm, Alberta, and they have two adopted children, David and Nancy, who are still of school age. Tiny worked for the Geophysical Services International for some years, and is now in the G.S.I. office in Calgary, where they have lived for some time.

Laila married Albert Kult and they are Hespero farmers and have a family of three boys and a girl. Leslie lives in British Columbia, and has a family of two. Linda lives in Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan, and has a boy and a girl. Jim is attending University, preparing for a career in teaching. He was married on June 26, 1976, to Brenda Bott, of Lesheville. Walter is thirteen in 1976 and is still at home.

Gertrude, the second oldest Salo girl, married Louis Johnson of Sylvan Lake after World War II. Both Gertrude and Louis had been in the service during the war. After his return to civilian life Louis worked as a mechanic for quite a few years in the Joe Untinen Garage and later on worked for the G.S.I. as a mechanic in the Rainbow Lake area. Louis passed away at Rainbow Lake in 1967 at the age of 51 years. Gertrude is living in Eckville at the present time. Their only son, Jim, suffered from a crippling disease and became confined to a wheelchair before he was sixteen. Jim now lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In 1939 Viena, the oldest daughter of Oscar and Hilda, married John Kangas, the son of Richard Kangas of Hespero. They have two sons, Lorne and Robert. While John was serving in the army Viena lived in Sylvan Lake and after his return they bought a farm in the Diamond Valley area. John later worked in elevators at Hespero and at Eckville but found that the dust was affecting his health so, in 1962, they moved to Sylvan Lake. John then worked at the water well drilling business until his death in 1970, at the age of 56. Viena still lives in Sylvan Lake. Lorne, their older son, married Glenda Anderson of Bentley, Alberta, and they have a family of two boys and two girls. Lorne and his family live at Leduc and Lorne works as a chartered accountant and has his office in Edmonton. Robert married Ann Nylen of Edmonton and they live in Calgary with their family of two girls. Robert also is a chartered accountant and is employed by the oil industry.

As of April, 1976, the grandchildren of Oscar and Hilda number twenty and the great grandchildren number ten.

## SKOCDOPOLE, GLENN AND FERN

Glenn Lyle, youngest son of Charles and Mildred (Strand) Skocdopole, was born June 3, 1935, at Barrhead, Alberta.

At an early age, Glenn moved with his family to a farm in the Hespero district. He received his education at Daisy Nook, Condor and Lindsay Thurber Composite High Schools in Red Deer.

Glenn and Fern Catherine, youngest daughter of Charles and Sylvia (Kalaputas) Thorkman of Eckville, were married in Red Deer, April 3, 1959.

Fern attended school at Saima, Eckville and Edmonton. During her school years, Fern was active in the Glee Club and Drama group as well as all sports. After their marriage they lived in a mobile home on the Skocdopole farm at Hespero. While on the farm they had three children, twins, Steven Charles and Susan Catherine born April 7, 1960 and Carla Jean, born November 21, 1963. Steven and Susan started Grade 1 at Condor school but due to illness, the family moved to the town of Eckville in July 1967. The family rented a home for a few years and Steven steadily im-

proved. A fourth child Gerald Edward was born April 20, 1970, in the Red Deer General Hospital.

In 1971, Glenn and Fern purchased SE 26-38-3 W5 from Fern's parents and built a new home. This property was formerly owned by Oscar and Hilda Salo. Glenn is presently installing rural gas systems throughout the province. He is an avid pilot, a member of C.O.P.A. and enjoys fishing and hunting when he finds the time. Fern was a Brownie leader and belonged to the Hespero Presbyterian Ladies' Aid while at Hespero. In Eckville she taught Sunday School, is a member of the Country Ladies Aid and is presently secretary of the Eckville and District Historical Society. The children attend school in Eckville.

**THE SOCIALIST HALL**

The Socialist Hall was built around 1908. It was located on the south side of 17-38-2-W5 just west of a small lake which has dried up through the years.

Johannas picnics were held there as well as other functions: basket socials; shadow socials; dancing and a large Christmas program and social evening.

In 1919, the hall was moved onto a new site next to No. 11 Highway on SW 12-38-2-W5. The new location was more central and there were better roads.

The hall was named Elspeth Hall, after a C.N.R. side track close by.

A two acre parcel of land was purchased on the west shore of Sylvan Lake in 1929 on NW 21-38-2-W5 which was the summer camp for teenagers and young adults.

In the late 1950's the Elspeth Hall was moved again, this time onto the acreage on the shore of Sylvan Lake called Tim Buck shore.

Two years later the hall and property was sold to the Ukranian Association of Edmonton.

**STOPSEN, LUDWIG**

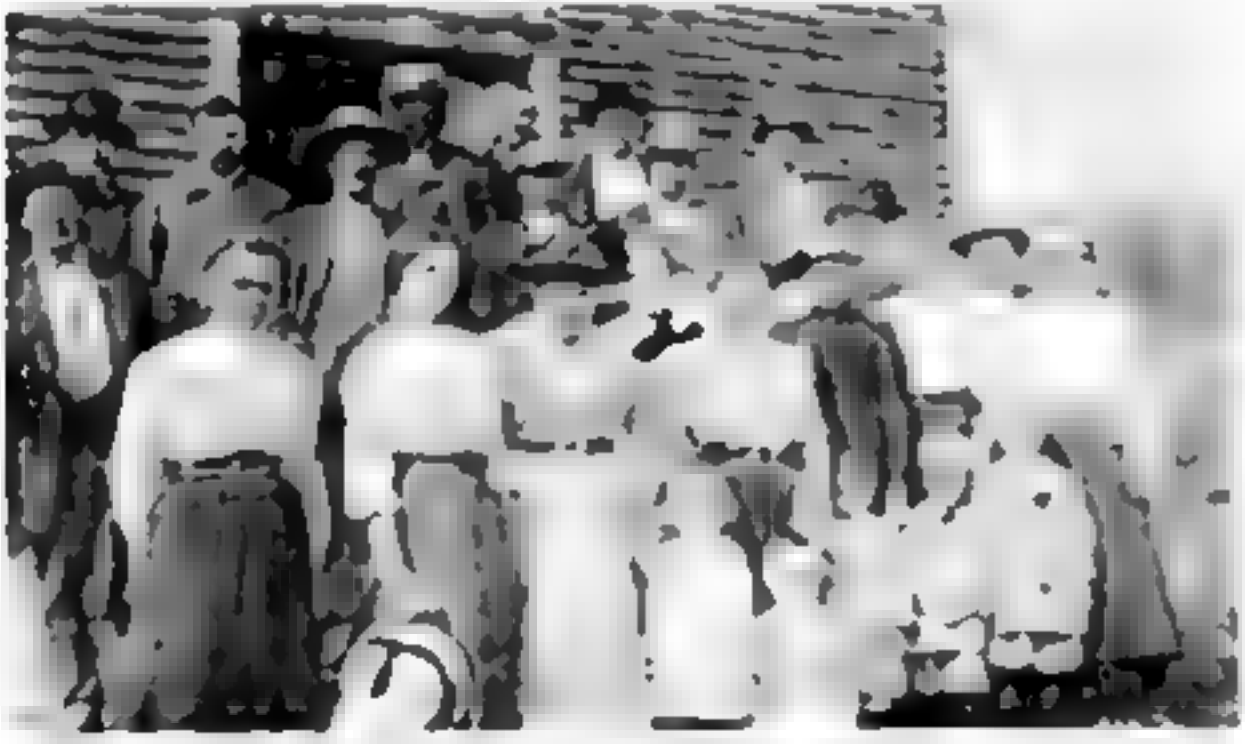
Ludwig Stopsen was born in Urjala, Finland in 1873. His future wife, Hilda Makiofa was born in Tempere, Finland in October 1882.

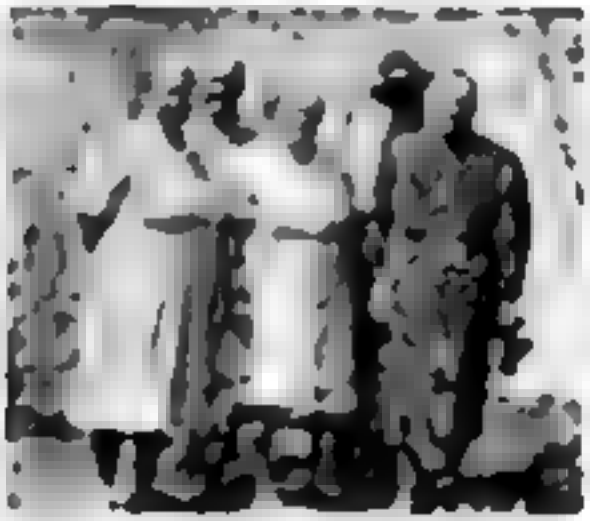
Ludwig emigrated to Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1899, and Hilda to New York in 1911 where she was employed as a maid.

While working in the mines in the United States, word was spreading that there was homestead land available in an unsettled area west of Red Deer in the NWT. As a result Ludwig arrived at the land titles office in Red Deer to file on the NE 36-38-3-W5.

Since the land was heavily timbered the first thing on the agenda was to build a log cabin next to the creek that flowed through the property. Land had to be cleared to enable one to raise grain to make a living.

After having corresponded for a number of years, in 1915 Hilda arrived in Red Deer, Alberta where she and Ludwig were married. Hilda was a very hard-working lady who must have found it very difficult living on the homestead, after being used to city living. The neighbors all





Mary Adam, [illegible], Mrs. L. Stopsen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Stopsen.

remember what a tender and kindly person she was.

One cold day in January 1916, when the temperature dipped to 30 degrees below zero, help was needed at the Stopsens. Hilda, who was expecting went into labor and the help of a mid wife was needed.

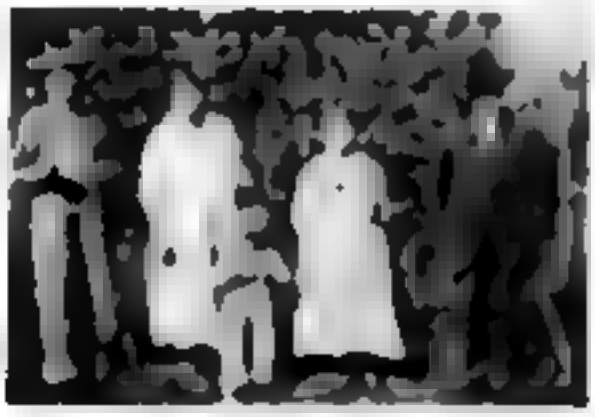
Ludwig, knowing his good friends, the Thomas Thorkmans, had fast horses, skied across the field and asked if someone would go get the closest mid-wife, Mrs. Wetelainen, who lived in the Kuusamo district. William Thorkman, with horses and cutter quickly set out to bring her to the Stopsen home. When the mid-wife arrived, she knew this case was out of her hands, and a doctor was needed. Off Bill went, this time to get Dr. Richard Parsons from Red Deer. Upon arriving at Hewson's Livery barn in Red Deer one look convinced the proprietor that the horses would never make the 30-mile trip back. Bill was given a fresh team, and with Dr. Parsons, off they sped west.

Dr. Parsons saved Hilda, but the baby boy Leonard, died and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Since there wasn't anything more for the doctor to do, Bill and Dr. Parsons set off for the return to Red Deer, making a total of 120 miles for a one-night trip—and this with horses! This goes to show that neighbors relied on one another very much. The old saying really came true. "What are neighbors for if your can't use them when you need them?"

Ludwig and Hilda didn't give up after this experience, for on February 17, 1918, Edward was born. He was followed by Wayne, born on June 21, 1920, with Mrs. Angle as the mid-wife.

Ed and Wayne attended school in Sunnyslope, Eckville and Red Deer.

Hilda passed away October 15, 1938 and Ludwig died May 25, 1940. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.



[illegible], Mrs. Palm, Harold Palm, Mrs. [illegible] Stopsen, taken in 1926.

In 1940 Ed enlisted in the British Merchant Navy and Wayne enlisted in the R.C.N.V.R. in 1942. Ed served on all seven seas, having his ships torpedoed in the North Sea in September 1941 and in the North Atlantic in April, 1943. Ed took his discharge in May, 1946.

Wayne married Sadie Hannah, eldest daughter of Oberl and Gunda Anderson of Bentley in June, 1943. They have two children. Patricia Marlene married Mr. Leslie Anderson and they have three children, Dwayne, Lavonne and Shelley. Merle Wayne lives in Saskatoon.

Wayne passed away February 26, 1956 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Sadie passed away June 19, 1977, and is buried in Vic

Ed married Jean Macrae, only daughter of Donald and May Macrae in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England in 1945. After serving overseas from 1940 to 1946, Ed returned to Canada with his new bride. I guess there's no place like home, for Ed and Jean have made their home in Eckville.

Ed was an accountant for the Co-op for some time, until he resigned in May 1950 to accept the position as manager of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union. He also started his own agencies at this time.

Ed and Jean's son Donald was born in June, 1947 but passed away in infancy. He is buried in the Eckville cemetery. The following June, Jennifer was born and in May, 1953, Beverly arrived in the world.

Jennifer and Bev took their schooling in Eckville. Jennifer going on to further her education in social work, during the summers working at Michener Centre. She is married to Michael Breen, and lives in Oshawa, Ontario. They have one daughter Jesica.

Beverly took her nurse's training at the Red Deer College and is presently working at the Calgary General Hospital.

[illegible] community, mainly the Legion, Lions Club and the Presbyterian Church, and wherever help is needed.

**TALSON, ADOLF — by Esther Marshall**

My uncle, Adolf (Happy) Talson was the eldest and only son of the family of Mr and Mrs Mike Talson. He will be always remembered for his love of old-time dancing. He called many a square dance at Young People's Hall. He also was a great one for playing practical jokes on the younger children. One instance I recall is a bright wintry day when we were playing outside during the noon hour at Selma School. We could hear "Happy's" sleighbells on his favorite team Molly and Prince. As usual, we broke the rules and went to meet him and all piled into the sleigh box for our ride back to the school. Instead of stopping to let us off at the school he made the horses gallop, so about a mile later he stopped. Needless to say, we were very late for school by the time we had walked back. We all spent considerable time after school, as our teacher Miss Lalime Mackie, didn't appreciate the class going A.W.O.L.

**TALSON, HENRY**

Henry Talson was born in Vaasa, Finland, in 1879. His wife, the former Helga Kopsala was born in Tohelampi, Finland in 1885. Henry came to the U.S.A. in 1892, and went to work in the coal mines of Wyoming at the age of 14 years. In 1903 he and his friend, Jack Knuttila, decided to look for a new location, and tossed a coin to decide whether to come to Alberta or to take the Oregon Trail to Oregon. Alberta won, and he came and filed on a homestead as did almost all others coming to the country at that time. In 1905 he brought his family to Canada, but returned to Wyoming each winter to work in the mines there. Some cash money was needed to enable him to prove up on the homestead. The wife and young child were left on the homestead during these winters. The homestead was located on NE¼ 13-30-2-W5 in the municipal district of Lorne No. 490.

After this the family was able to remain together and they settled down on the homestead where they remained for the next 40 years and raised their family. During that time Henry Talson did a lot to help this part of Canada grow in stature. First he bought a team of oxen so that they had transportation to enable them to go to Red Deer for supplies. In those days there were no roads — just a wagon trail, and it would take about three days to make a round trip. Eventually a man by the name of Eckford started the first general store on the bank of the Medicine River about a mile and a half north of where Eckville is today. This relieved the settlers of the necessity of making the long trip to Red Deer.

Henry Talson was very active in community undertakings. He was a member of the municipal council for about twenty years and also served on the school board for many years. He was one of the original members of the local Co-op store and was a member of the board of directors and chairman for many years. The organization of local telephone association in 1919 saw Mr. Talson an active worker and he served on its board for many terms. He not only took an interest in public life at Eckville but served on the board of directors of the Benalto Fair in which he took a great interest.

Henry and his brother Matt were one of the first settlers to introduce Registered Percheron Horses and Shorthorn cattle into the district. When, in 1930, his brother Matt and wife Selma both died Henry adopted their six children and raised them with his own. During the first World War six of the boys joined the armed forces and saw service overseas. Fortunately they all arrived home safely. In 1944 Henry sold his farm and moved to British Columbia to spend his

Of the nine Talson children only Irene remains in Alberta today. She is married, and has children and grandchildren also in Alberta. Fred and Matt are deceased, and the rest are all living in British Columbia. At last count Henry and Helga have 21 grandchildren and 32 great

**MR AND MRS HENRY TALSON'S CHILDREN**

Fred was born in 1903 and died in 1973. He had married Susanna Byttynen in 1935, and they had one son, Richard, now deceased. Susan lives in Bentley at the present time.

Ida was born in 1906. She married Phil Laybourne of Eckville in 1940. Several years after Phil's death she married Frank Burnett of British Columbia. They are now retired and living in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.

Ina, born in 1906, married Harvey Kalla of Sylvan Lake in 1931. Their three children are Kenneth, Marlene (Mrs. J. Hahn) and Sheila (Mrs. Ross Jewell), and they have five grandchildren. They are now semi-retired, and are living in Langley, B.C.

Mathew was born in 1910 and died in 1971. He married Dagney Nelson in 1943. They had one daughter, Linda, (Mrs. Don Reimer), and two grandchildren. Dagney now makes her home at Harrison Lake, B.C.

Walter was born in 1913. He married Irene Piper, in England, in 1944. They have one son, Larry, and one granddaughter. Walter is now in British Columbia, working in the logging industry and resides in Coquitlam.

Irene, born in 1915, married Barry Armstrong in 1936. Their four children are Buddy, Barbara (Mrs. W. Partica), Betty Lou (Mrs. T. Hannin) and Benny. There are five grandchildren. Irene is now Mrs. Clarence Lutz, Barry having died in 1949. Irene and Clarence are now retired and living in Sylvan Lake.

Mary was born in 1918 and married George Nelson in 1943. Their seven children are Sonie (Mr. G. Graham), Steve, Stewart, Sharon (Mrs. M. Fahay), Susan, Sandy and Shelley. She now has eight grandchildren. George works in the logging industry and they live at Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

Peter works in the logging industry and resides in British Columbia.

Hazel was born in 1922. She and Ray Burnett were married in 1943. They have five children who are Gary, Brian, Jackie (now deceased), Carol (Mrs. B. Clark) and Ricky. They have ten grandchildren. They are now retired and living in Mission.

**HERMAN TALSON**

Herman Talson was born in Lahtis, Finland, in 1854 and died in 1930. His wife, Seraphia, was born in Lahtis, Finland in 1855 and died in 1923. Herman entered the U.S.A. in 1882 and went to Wyoming to work in the coal mines there. In 1902 he came to Alberta and homesteaded on SE ¼ 18-39-2-W5 in the municipal district of Lacombe No. 400.

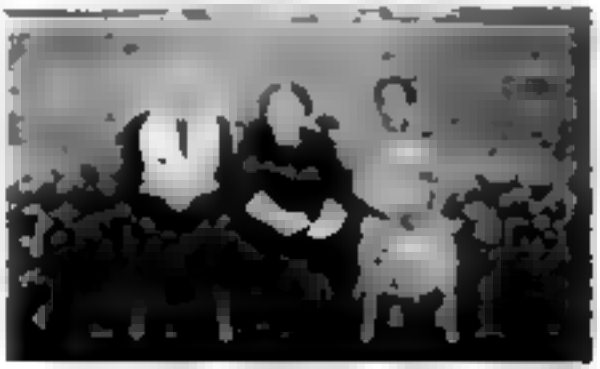
The children of Herman and Seraphia were Henry, Hulda, Ann, Matt, Marie, and Charlie. Henry, Hulda and Matt married and stayed in Alberta. Ann, Marie and Charlie eventually

Mrs. Herman Talson

moved back to Great Falls, Montana, where they have since made their home.

**TALSON, MARIA AND MIKKO**

Maria and Mikko Talson came from Army, Wyoming, U.S.A. in 1911 to farm on S.W. 20-38-2-W5. Mr. Talson passed away in 1916, leaving his wife with a family of seven children. Adolf, who passed away in 1956, Mathilda (Mrs. Waino Ignatius) died in 1954, Ida (Mrs. Elmer Hill) died in 1973, Laina (Mrs. Pete Rezunyk) of Kamloops, British Columbia, Laura (Mrs. Cedric Pietikanen) died in 1960, and the twins, Hulda (Mrs. Paul Klengersky) of Hope, British Columbia and Hilja (Mrs. Arvi Niemela) of Bentley, Alberta were the children. Mrs. Talson passed away in 1957 at the age of 86 years.



Mrs. Hulda Klengersky, Mrs. Hilja Talson, and Mrs. Laina Rezuk

**THORKMAN, ARTHUR MICHAEL — by Vera Macdonald**

Arthur Michael, the third son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born January 19, 1896 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. He attended school in Rock Springs until he immigrated to Red Deer, N.W.T. in April of 1903, with his parents. Arthur attended school at Sakatoe (old Eckville) until Saima School was completed. Later he attended Garbutts College in Calgary

where he took up a course in Barbering. His week-ends at home would be spent cutting his neighbors' hair, free of charge, as barbers were few and far between

In 1915 Arthur enrolled at the North West College in Calgary to study drafting. In 1916 he enlisted in the army and was stationed at Sarcee (Calgary). He spent his army years at Sarcee as an instructor until the war ended. He held the rank of Staff Sergeant

Arthur's greatest desire in his younger days was to study law. He was a good marksman, who could shoot a sparrow in flight— a feat that people never would have believed if they hadn't seen it for themselves. He was also noted for his very quick wit and his love of books and poetry.

After the war Arthur was engaged in carpentry in Calgary and different parts of Alberta. He was one of the finishing carpenters who worked on the interior of the Watnwright Hotel, which is now a museum at Heritage Park in Calgary Alberta. Arthur's army uniform is also in the archives at Glenbow Foundation in Calgary.

When the Second World War broke out Arthur was a carpenter for army engineers working in construction of a prisoner-of-war camp at Seebe west of Calgary, where he was injured in a fall. For a year he was hospitalized, and due to his severe injuries he was never able to work again.

Arthur passed away suddenly on June 5, 1944 in Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 48 years. He is buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**THORKMAN, ARVIED WILTON — by his niece Mrs. Fern Skoglopole**

Arvied Wilton, the fifth son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born March 2, 1901 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. At the age of two years Arvied made the long journey to Red Deer N.W.T., with his parents in the spring of 1903.

He received his schooling at Saima School. Arvied was the son, with a great gift for music. There wasn't a musical instrument he couldn't play. For years he played at wedding dances, community affairs and wherever there was music there was Arvied. He and his friend, John Luoma would travel to Wetaskiwin to the north and Trochu to the east to play for dances.

Arvied worked in the coal mines at Nordegg for a number of years. During the war he worked at the Namao Airport.

In March of 1944 he returned home to the family farm.

Arvied, retired from farming in 1965, sold his farms to his niece and her husband, Bernice and Doug Nelson, of Calgary. At this time he made his home with his younger brother, Charles.

In his later years Arvied's hobbies were repairing old violins and other instruments. His greatest desire was to have his grand-nephews and grand-nieces study music, if only for their own pleasure.

Arvied passed away on November 8, 1975 at the age of 74 years. He is buried in the Eckville

**THORKMAN, CHARLES AND SYLVIA, S 35-39-2-W5**

Charles Leonard Thorkman, youngest son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman was born December 26, 1906, on the homestead. The nearest post office was in Red Deer N.W.T. Charles relates his past:

My childhood memories are fond ones of the tall trees, water aplenty, frogs, birds and

Some days my dog and I would follow paths through the bush at great lengths, always finding the right path home. Each day I was warned not to venture far because of the bears and other wild animals. Before going on these jaunts, I filled my pockets with rocks, which I used for target throwing as we were exploring, looking into coyote and badger holes. My dog was just as anxious to go as I. But, this came to a sudden end when one day we decided to walk to Evarts to see the bar the men spoke of. We were on a trail, south and had walked about two and a half miles, when I heard a big voice call. It was a big Finn by the name of Erickson. He asked where I was going and I answered "to Evarts to see the bar which I have heard so much about." Mr. Erickson said "don't you think we should leave it for another day as it was kind of late. Perhaps tomorrow we could start in the morning, if everything goes well between now and then. Mr. Erickson lifted me onto his back and took me home. Needless to say, my pants and back-side had the dusting of the year.

This ended our pleasure jaunts. I decided to have a less venturesome life, so gathered eggs and helped mother with the chores around the house.

School days and the long walk to Saima School was looked forward to. Also meeting my friends along the trail. My route to school went to Jim Bernards then to Eckroos's where I was

joined by Bill and Flora Kidd. Anna and Leonard Eckross. Further along we found Ted and Jalmer Heikkinen and Oscar and John Niemi waiting to join us

Homesteaders did not have their land fenced. had to be gathered home each evening A large fence was built for horses and a corral for the milk cows to keep them home for the night. Hay A pole fence was built around to keep cattle out This hay was hauled home when the snow arrived

There was work a plenty but we always found time for sports, baseball practice at Young Peoples Hall and games, besides skating in winter wrestling and boxing with Emil Heino as instructor

Eckville in the early 20's had one elevator owned by Parrish & Heimbecker I helped haul grain to the elevator with team and wagon. I would drive the team onto the scale, unhook the tugs and wait for the operator to come weigh the load. The man always arrived with a soggy cigar hanging on his lip. To weigh the load he would place the cigar on the beam weight then set the scale to balance. Smart thinking on his part Didn't take me long to figure that one out either!

On March 20, 1928, I married Sylvia Katherine Kalaputas, the daughter of Gust and Elmina Kalaputas of the Benalto district After we were married, we leased land, farming with brothers William and Arvied. Later we farmed my parents' farm, when they retired

The first winter I worked on the C.N.R. construction, then at McDougal's lumber mill operating the steam engine While working at McDougals, Ted Heikkinen and I decided to go to Rocky Mountain House and find a ride home We arrived in town late Saturday evening so there were no rides going east We walked most of the night and close to Hespero, we saw a hay stack near the road. We dug ourselves into the stack and slept there till morning. We arrived home in time for lunch, none the worse after a 30 mile walk and no snacks in between

Farming was done with horse-power but with fields getting larger, we bought an Allis Chalmers tractor and an International thresher in the fall of 1930 We paid $800. for the tractor and $1700. for the thresher, F.O.B. Calgary We had a bumper crop that year. Threshed 60 bushels of wheat per acre, selling it for 25 cents per bushel. We also did custom threshing and threshed 30 days straight. It was the driest and most beautiful harvest for many years to follow In later years, we were snowed under till spring several times

Depression was evident, prices of produce were going down In 1933, we sold steers at three cents a pound, eggs at five cents a dozen, five gallons of cream at $1.90

Men, who were dismissed from their work in the cities, came to the farms. Some stayed and worked, others were just transients and went on their way Some came back, year after year, to work during the summer and through harvest In those years, grain was cut with a binder The sheaves were stooked, so men were in demand at harvest time. One morning when we were cutting grain, we saw a man across the field stooking We never stopped to investigate, he seemed to know what he was doing. At lunch time he walked to the truck to go for lunch. He was none other than Andy Kojala. He always knew when an extra hand was needed. Art Stone from Leedale was another loyal fellow who always arrived the day before we would start threshing He worked for us several years

We bought a three-ton truck and did commercial trucking, hauling grain for the farmers Grain was loaded by shovelling the grain into the box Gas was hauled by the barrel, 21 barrels just fit into the truck box. A trip to Turner Valley for gas was a 12-hour drive over gravel roads. A rack was built on top of the stock racks to hold the empty gas barrels. Unloading the cattle or hogs in Calgary, we drove on to Turner Valley and filled up with gas

Food on the farm was plentiful. We raised our own beef pork and chickens. We cured the bacon and hams, wrapped them in several layers of paper and buried them in the grain bin They kept very well.

The Moro brothers operated the flour mill in Eckville The best bread was baked from the flour milled by them. The mill was a busy place in the winter. Farmers had to wait their turn, so stood around visiting. One farmer was heard telling another he was very disgusted the way his wife had tied the bags of wheat. He had to stop and retie the bags five times

The war was on and food was rationed Coffee, sugar, butter and meat were rationed but this had little effect on us

Farming was getting more mechanized and we decided the horses must go. We trimmed and cuffed a truck load of horses to be sold at the Lacombe horse sale. All went well until a beautiful roan kicked the stalls out in the sales barn. Needless to say, he was sold for a very meagre price. Now that the horses were gone, we bought a used stook loader in Saskatchewan. It was horse drawn so we converted it all around and pulled it with a tractor The loader saved many hours of hard labour and six men managed our threshing until we purchased the combine

Through the years, we had time to be active in community affairs, and working for the betterment of the community

In the late 30's we raised money to pay for gravel on the roads adjoining us. Each farmer paid $35 per 160 acres owned and this was the beginning of better roads. This, of course, had some bad effects too. Our taxes went up the following year due to the fact we lived along a gravel road

Through the years our family had grown to

NATIONAL REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 1940

seven we were blessed with five girls. Betty, Margaret, Bernice, Jean and Fern

We served on the Salma School board. Sylvia was secretary-treasurer for a number of years, until the school was consolidated and moved to Eckville. The school is presently the Home Economics room. We have helped get the Calgary Power and Natural Gas into the community. Charles belongs to the Alberta Wheat Pool, Hog Pool, Credit Union and U.F.A.

Sylvia is a member of the Country Ladies Aid and has been for 36 years. She is president of the club and also holds an office on the Sunshine Gospel Mission Ladies Aid. She is president of the Eckville New Horizon Committee.

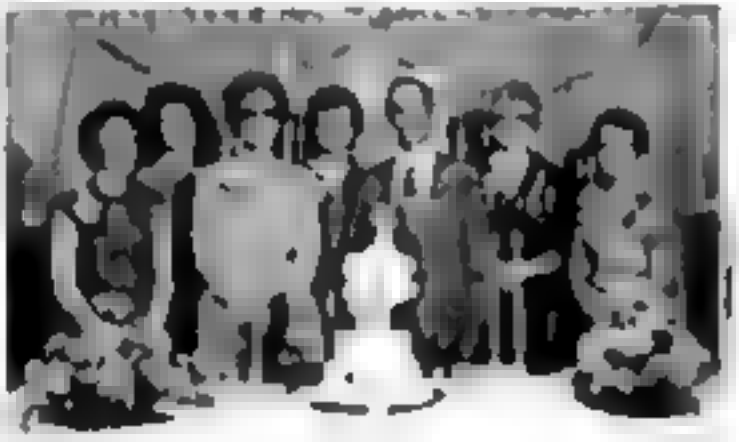
Betty Marie, born February 15, 1930, attended school at Salma, Red Deer and took her R.N. at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Betty is married to Mathias Leo Silberangel and they reside in Calgary. The Silberangel's have three sons—Peter, Jerry and Dale. Peter is married to Evelyn Poettcher of Pincher Creek and they have two children, Laura and Charles. Jerry is farming with his uncle at Water Valley. Dale is attending University of Calgary. Leo is employed with Gulf Oil of Canada.

Margaret Eileen, born July 3, 1932, attended Salma, Benalto, and Red Deer schools and went on to U of A in Edmonton to get her B.Ed. She is married to Morley Cuthbert Grose of Clive and they have two sons, Warren and David. Morley is a steam engineer at the Ponoka Mental Institute. Warren, resides in Rocky Mountain House and he is a steam engineer at the Strachan Gas Plant. David is attending school in Lacombe.

June Bernice, born June 3, 1934, attended school in Salma, Eckville and Red Deer. Bernice went to the U of A in Edmonton where she received her B.Sc. in Home Economics and her [illegible] Nelson and they live in Calgary. Doug is an aircraft maintenance engineer with Home Oil. Bernice and Doug have three children, Phillip, Tim and Kelly. Phillip works at S.A.L.T. Tim is attending U of C and Kelly is in Grade 9.

Jean Edith Elida, born January 16, 1937 attended school at Salma and Eckville. Jean is married to David Lewellyn Williams and they reside in Kitimat, B.C. Dave is employed with Alcan and Jean is loans manager with the Royal Bank. They have four children. Gregory, Katherine, Robert and Patrick. Gregory passed away in May 1977. Katherine, Robert and Patrick are all attending school.

Fern Catherine, born May 2, 1938, attended school in Salma, Eckville and Edmonton. Fern is



Charles Thorlakson Family. Left to right: Jean, Fern, Sylvia (Mother), Bernice, Charles (Dad), Betty and Margaret.

Sylvia and Charles Thorlakson's golden wedding anniversary March 21, 1976.

married to Glenn Skocdopole and they have four [redacted]. The children attend school in Eckville.

Charles retired from farming in 1976 and rented the farm. Charles and Sylvia enjoy travelling and have toured Europe and the U.S.A. on several occasions. Charles and Sylvia will celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary March 20, 1978.

All the original Thorkman land is owned by family members, some with fourth generation.

We certainly should be thankful to the early pioneers, who paved the way for us.

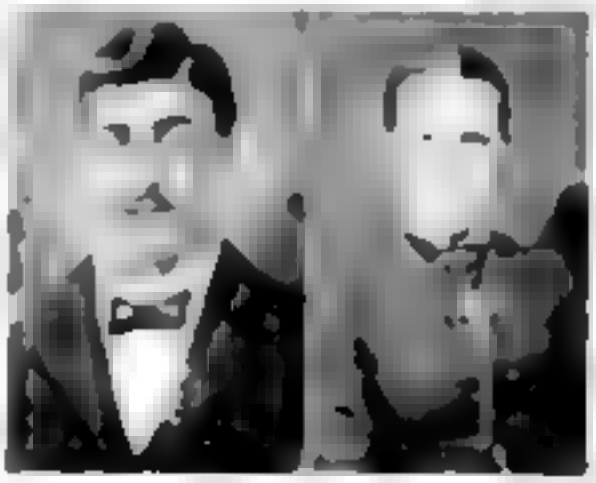
**THOMAS THORKMAN — by Vera Skocdopole His Granddaughter**

Thomas Thorkmas was born December 12 1864 in Vaasa, Finland. He received his schooling in Vaasa where he apprenticed as a tinsmith. He also helped his father and three brothers farm. Finland at that time was under Russian rule.

When the Russian army conscripted men Thomas had to go — much to his dislike. On one of his furloughs, Thomas borrowed money from a cousin and secretly left with skates and skis as his only possessions. The winter weather had been severe so the Gulf of Bothnia had frozen over and Thomas, a speed skating medalist, set off for Sweden and freedom. Once on Swedish land, he put on his skis and skied to Stockholm, where he boarded a ship, hoping to arrive in America some day. Oh, what a happy sight it was for Thomas that day in 1886 when the ship docked in New York harbor. He had made it to the land of opportunity and the land of his dreams.

For a short period of time Thomas worked at the docks in New York. After that he worked for the Grande Central Railway at Ashtabula Harbour, Ohio, and as a ranch hand in Omaha, Nebraska. In Nebraska he purchased a horse and saddle and set off for Cumberland, Wyoming. On the way he came upon some Indians who were trying their hand at ranching. This particular day the Indians had purchased a mower [redacted] worked. Thomas, being a very friendly fellow decided to stop and render assistance. By means of sign language, Thomas got the message across on how the mower worked, and consequently got the job of mowing the hay. The Indians must have thought, 'pretty smart paleface good fellow to have around," for they insisted that he stay awhile. This was quite an experience and the only thing Thomas found unpleasant was the lack of salt in their food. He tried to suggest that the use of salt would improve the flavor of the food, but the Chief would just shake his head, scratch his tongue and point to the sugar. Apparently he was trying to get the point across that sugar had a better flavor. His mission accomplished, off Thomas went on his way to Cumberland, where he was hired as a driver in the coal mine.

One day Thomas had the pleasure of meeting Maria Tunney from Harma, Finland, who was visiting her sister Mrs. Gust Siltamaki, at near by Carbon, Wyoming. It must have been love at first sight, for on June 10, 1889, they were married in Hanna, Wyoming.



[redacted]

After their marriage they moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where they bought a boarding house, livery stable, and part ownership in a saloon. Thomas worked in the coal mine and Maria ran the boarding house which had accommodations for 30 or more miners. Their boarders were young men from the Scandinavian countries. This is where five of their children were born. Richard Jacob was born February 7, 1891. William Thomas on April 10, 1892, Arthur Michael on January 17, 1896, Allard Rudolph on September 12, 1898 and Arvied Wilton on March [redacted].

In 1902 word and promise came that there were 160 acres of land in the Northwest Territories for $10. This seemed like a real investment so Thomas saved his money and soon was on his way. The destination was Red Deer N.W.T. to the land titles office to file on a homestead. With John Johnson and Henry Lepisto, he travelled 30 miles west of Red Deer to where land was still available. Due to the wet spring and the amount of water, they were unable to find the surveyors' corner stakes. Regardless, they decided which parcel they would take for their own and proceeded to erect a tent on higher ground. The legal description of the land was SW 36-38-3-W5. With timber plentiful, mosquitoes, too) and not far to move logs each decided to build a log cabin.

One day while looking for select logs, Thomas realized that his closest neighbor was a big black bear who had filed just over the hill. Neither bothered the other and life went on peacefully, until one day Thomas and Henry had gone away for the day. Upon their return, Henry found all

his belongings and his salted fish gone his cooking utensils scattered everywhere and his tent in shreds. From then on Thomas and Henry lived together and built their cabins Upon completion of the cabin, Thomas returned to Wyoming in the fall of 1902. That winter he worked again in the mines, played a few pranks (being a real prankster) and concentrated on gathering together articles he thought he would need on the homestead. One of the articles Thomas had a blacksmith friend make for him was an anvil out of railroad steel with the year engraved on it This is still being used on his youngest son's farm. He also brought this prized possession a hand-made saddle with a brass saddle horn which he had bought in Nebraska

Maria who had no idea of what pioneer life would be like, brought crystal chandeliers, velour tablecloths, curtains and bedspreads, sheets and pillowcases with crocheted borders, and their finest silver Being an expert seamstress, she made fancy clothes for the trip and her life in her new home. Of course, these garments were not practical for a pioneer wife Her most treasured possessions were her family Bible, several photo albums of pictures of her family and dear friends she had left behind

In April 1903, the family left Rock Springs for Red Deer by train with a boxcar load of household goods and personal effects, a team of horses and two cows. This part of the journey took two weeks

A wagon was bought in Red Deer and the trek to the homestead 30 miles to the west began Going was difficult at times. The twisting trails crossed stretches of muskeg and overflowing creeks. Other settlers often had to come to their

On May 1, 1903, the third day of traveling, the family arrived at the homestead. The first task for the family was potato planting to ensure potatoes for the winter Other chores included preserving wild fruit, which was plentiful putting up wild hay for the livestock as well as building them a shelter The following year was spent in clearing the land

An Indian trail from the Medicine River encampment to Snake Lake crossed the land, and the Thorkman family had many an unexpected visit from Indians Knocking on doors was not an Indian habit, and family members, unaccustomed to Indians, got quite a fright to find an Indian standing patiently at the door waiting for

On December 26, 1904, the family was blessed with another baby boy, Charles Leonard Now the Thorkman family consisted of six sons. A daughter, Fannie, was born in 1906, but developed pneumonia and passed away at the age of 18 months

Fences were nonexistent in those days and cattle roamed the open range. Most of the time the boys would have to travel three or four miles to find the milk cows In dense brush this was

Creameries were unheard of in those days The cream was churned into butter and traded at the Evarts or Sakatoe (old Eckville) trading post for necessities. Eventually a cheese factory was built at Sakatoe by T B. Miller, of Snake Lake (Sylvan Lake with Ernie Bernard as cheese maker Every morning the family delivered the whole milk in 30-gallon cans to the cheese factory The milk had to be in the vats by nine o clock in the morning for cheese making, so this meant that milk had to be ready to deliver early

Thomas and his sons continued clearing land to sow rye, used to make flour for the family and to grow oats for the stock Picking the plentiful rocks was a family task As more land was cleared, machinery to farm it was the next consideration The machinery purchased was a Massey Harris 14-inch plow for $28 in 1904, and a six-foot Deering binder for $150, which was meant to be drawn by three horses. Not having three horses, Thomas used two horses and an ox

The community grew and prospered and in 1908 the first local improvement district was formed. The taxes amounted to the grand sum of $6 per quarter The next priority was a school for the community In 1906, for a salary of $5 Thomas hauled lumber from a saw mill on the shore of Snake Lake to the SE 30-39-2-W5, where the school was to be erected. The boys rode horseback to school at Sakotoe when Salma School was completed

Thomas took an active part in community affairs. He was a trustee on the Salma School board, the first member of the Eckville-Gilby Co operative Store, member of the Alberta Wheat Pool when it was organized and also a member of the Young Peoples Hall board. If anyone ever needed help, Thomas was always ready to lend a helping hand.

With wild game being plentiful, there were laws one had to abide by Arthur Eckford, who was Justice of the Peace, appointed Thomas as Game Warden, a position he held for several years

The railroad had not been built west of Red Deer so Thomas hauled groceries from Red Deer to Killick Forhan Store in Sakotoe with four head of horses hitched to a sled or wagon, depending on the time of year The trip usually took two days, sometimes longer In winter he would drive across the ice of Snake Lake, shortening the trip by several miles

By 1911, when the railroad came through, Thomas had land cleared and was raising grain However the only hay the farmers had was wild, which they cut with a scythe, stacked and fenced, wherever it was found. It was hauled home in the winter when the wet lands could be crossed safely

In 1918 the Thorkmans purchased a 40 Rumley separator and a 110 Case steam engine The threshing crew that fall and every other fall

# PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

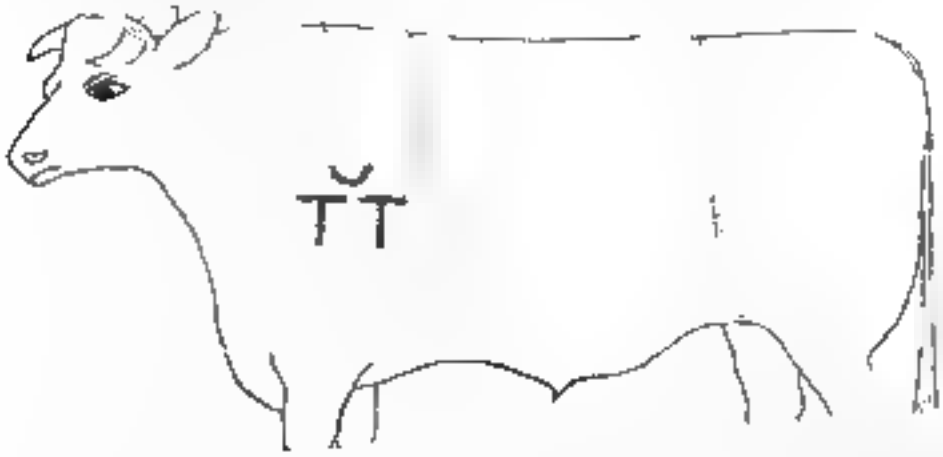
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

F No 577

*Extracts from Record of Brands,* L K F 367 *No.* 6202

CATTLE BRAND




POSITION LEFT Shoulder,

RECORDED VENT IF ANY

NAME OF OWNER Thomas Thorkman,

POST OFFICE ADDRESS Eckville, Alberta.

DATE OF RECORD 25th, May, 1916.

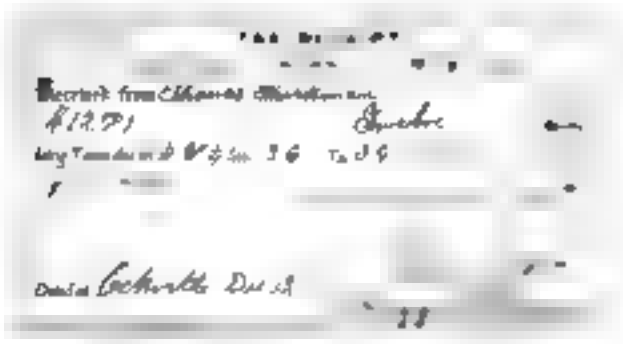
DATE OF CANCELLATION 31st. December, 1920

KEEP THIS OFFICE INFORMED IF ANY CHANGE OF YOUR ADDRESS

*I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of the Brand Act of the Province of Alberta and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the* Twenty fifth, *day of* May, *A.D. 1916*

*Medicine Hat, Alta.,* 25th, May, *1916.*

*Recorder of Brands.*



was made up of neighboring farmers. A crew of 22 to 25 men was required to keep the operation going. Thomas took care of the duties at home while the sons, Bill, Arvied and Charles were away threshing. The crew consisted of Charles Mitzner as steam engineer, Arvied as fireman, Bill as separator man, a waterman, 14 bundle haulers, three or four grain haulers and two spikers. The youngest son, Charles, took over the position of steam engineer from C. Mitzner when he was old enough.

The fireman started to fire the boilers at four or five o'clock in the morning to have enough steam pressure to operate the separator by seven o'clock. Each farmer was responsible for the wood to fire the boilers. The steam engineer sat on the engine and monitored the gauges and the threshing operation. He had to be a qualified steam engineer. He was also responsible for alerting the crew if there was trouble. The separator man was responsible for the efficient operation of the separator. When he was satisfied that all was ready, he gave the signal to set the operation in motion. The spikers helped the separator man.

A water man hauled water for the engine from a stream or other source. The water wagon was pulled by four horses and sometimes the haul was quite a distance. The bundle haulers and grain haulers did just that — hauled bundles and grain.

Cooks and cooks' helpers were an important part of the crew. Each farmer being threshed was responsible for meals for the entire crew, as well as for feed for the horses. This was a busy time for the farmers' wives and their helpers. Preparations started days in advance. With little refrigeration and storage space, this was not a simple task, but no one complained because getting the grain into the bin was of prime impor-

The whistle of the steam engine was a means of communication. One short blast signalled trouble — shut down the separator, two short blasts meant start the separator, several short blasts meant a grain hauler was needed, the water wagon was summoned by three long blasts, two long and two short blasts meant the outfit was going on the road to the next job. In the fall one could have got along without a clock as the steam engine whistle was blown at six a.m., 12 noon and seven p.m., and could be heard for miles. Only seconds separated the time signals of the whistles from different steam engines around the community. The time spent away from home threshing was usually a month. The weather wasn't always on the side of the threshers, and the last of the threshing was sometimes done in the snow.

After several years of faithful service, the steam engine was sold to Martin Brothers, who had a lumber camp west of Rocky Mountain House. Years later the Rumley separator was sold for scrap to Likala Brothers, as it was too large to be run by an ordinary tractor.

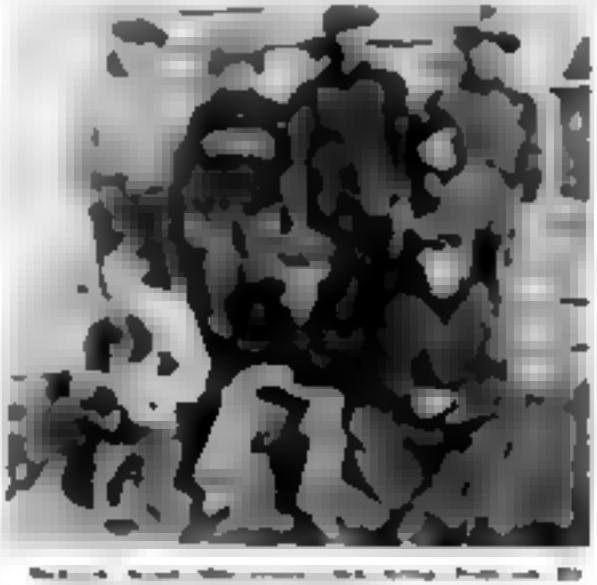
During the years Thomas farmed he acquired 800 acres of land, a herd of purebred cattle (Shorthorn), Percheron horses and light draft horses used for driving and riding. When he reached the age of 60 years Thomas turned the farming over to his sons, but kept active taking care of his stock and continued horseback riding.

Maria, by this time was very badly handicapped by arthritis, and was confined to a wheel chair. She passed away in April 1938, at the age of 70 years. She is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. Thomas led an active life almost until the time of his death on March 20, 1946, at the age of 84 years. He is buried in the Eckville

**THORKMAN, WILLIAM THOMAS — by his niece, Mrs. Fern Stackpole**

William Thomas, the second son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. on April 10, 1892. Bill attended school in Rock Springs until coming to Red Deer, N.W.T. with his parents at the age of 12 in April, 1903.

When the railway was being built Bill worked



John Kalapaica (brother-in-law), Charlie

on the construction, and also worked at bridge building

In 1910, Bill filed on a homestead in the Beaver Flats district northeast of Rocky Mountain House. This was the N.E ¼ 34-39-6-W5. During his years on the homestead, he worked out during the winter. In 1911 he rode the railroad work train to Saunders Creek and walked the remainder of the way to Nordegg, where he worked on the construction of the town. Other years he worked at William McDougall's saw mill, operating the edger.

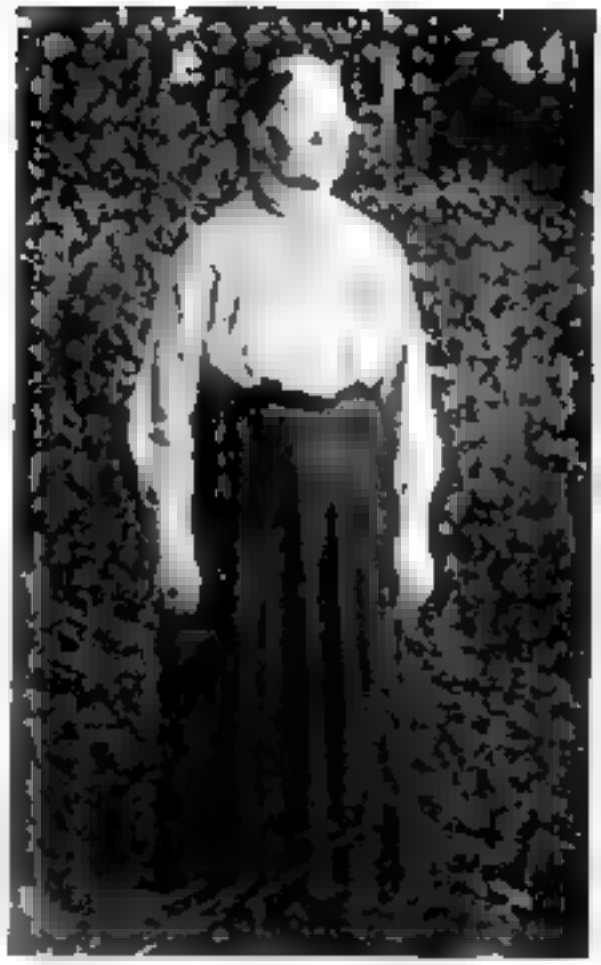
In 1923 he sold his farm to Charles Serrell of Nordegg and returned to the Eckville district. Here he worked as a carpenter, and built numerous homes and farm buildings in the area many of which are still standing and being used. Bill and Charlie Mitzner built Jake and Dan Clausen's houses in new Eckville. These were among the first houses built there. A few years ago these houses were demolished and replaced by the new telephone building.

At summer horse races it was always Bill riding Henry Mitzner's horse, Jimmy or Cougar who won all the top awards.

Bill soon decided to go back to the family farm where he made his home with his brother Charles. Bill and Charles went into partnership, in commercial trucking, custom threshing and later, combining. Bill was known for his sense of humor, quick wit and always having a ready answer.

In 1960 Bill retired, selling his land to his brother Charles.

Bill passed away August 16, 1966 at the age of 74 years and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery.



Mrs. Edla Vianen Passport photo, 1923

**VIANEN**

Charlie Vianen was born in 1899 in Finland. As a young boy he came to the Eckville district. For two years he worked for Alex Johnson for the salary of $100 per year. Next he worked for Albert Piboojs father and then made his home with the Leukma family. In 1923, a parcel of school land was offered for sale and Charlie bought SW 29-39-2-W5. That year, his mother Mrs. Edla Vianen, emigrated from Finland and upon arrival in the district, temporarily made her home with the Wayne Ignatius family.

Charlie was a hard-working man. He began clearing his land by hand. He built his house about 1924, when his mother came to live with him. In the early 1920's Charlie bought a Model T Ford. He was always willing to chauffeur people around for the price of the gas. Many people paid for their rides by working a few hours or days for him. Charlie put up loads of wood which he sold for two dollars per wagonload. He hauled these to customers in Eckville or Sylvan Lake.

In the early 1930's Charlie shot a black bear beside his house. The bear having discovered a make-shift food cooler on the north side of the house, was robbing the family of butter and other food. Someone surmised the bear would return

Charlie Vianen and the bear that raided his cupboard

within three days and Charlie was waiting with his 38-55 gun

Mrs. Vlanen died in 1943 at the age of 79. She is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Charlie's brother Victor homesteaded NW 31 39-2-W5. He sold this land to Henry Johnson and moved to the United States where he became a fire-fighter. Charlie's sisters, Mary and Anna, made their homes in the United States. Charlie died in 1958 and was buried in the Eckville cemetery. His land was sold to Ell Murto and the building site is presently owned by Ron Palm.

**MR. AND MRS. NELS WAISANEN**

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Waisanen immigrated from Finland in the year 1900. They settled in the United States for a while and then came to Canada to the Sylvan Lake area. Mr. Waisanen had acquired a homestead on the north-west end of Sylvan Lake, which, in the early days, was known as Snake Lake. This homestead land is now owned by Judge Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Waisanen had five children. Emma (Mrs. Fuller) lived in California, U.S.A. before her death in 1967.

Jennie (Mrs. Harry Bloom) lived in Calgary. She had one daughter, Hazel, who married Reg Sinclair, a hockey player, and is now living in Georgia, U.S.A. Jennie died in 1931.

Lilly is now Mrs. August Moro, and lives with her husband in Eckville.

Charlie is living in Condor.

Nels passed away in 1939, at the age of 76 years.

Nels Waisanen used to go to work in the copper mines in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the U.S.A. Once when he was away working a prairie fire was burning towards the buildings and Mrs. Waisanen was trying to fight it all alone! Luckily, a neighbor came along and set another fire which burned towards the prairie fire. In this way the fire was put out, and the buildings were saved.

Nels Waisanen died suddenly of a heart attack in 1912. In 1914 Hilma Waisanen married Henry Johnson and they had a family of four daughters.

Sonja was married to Ed Mickelson. They had a son, Bill, who died at the age of five months. Their daughter, Lillian, was married to Bill Lapp. They had four sons, Eldon, Daryl, Linden, and Jason. Ed Michelson passed away in 1942, and Sonja was remarried in 1954 to Lloyd Medwid. Sonja died of cancer in 1973 in Calgary.

Flora married Henry Niemi. He predeceased her. She has two sons, Bobby and Barry, and they live in Calgary.

Hilja (Mrs. Anderson) lives in British Columbia and has a son, Roger.

Dorothy married Robert Ashby. They and their two children, Donnie and Jackie, live in Oregon, U.S.A. Bob is a Greyhound Bus driver.

Henry Johnson died in 1969 at the age of 90 years.

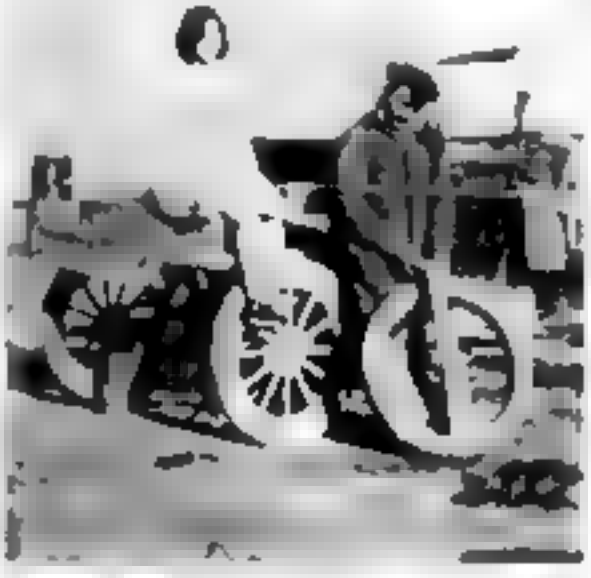
Hilma Johnson died in 1949 at the age of 68 years.

**WALNER, SEB**

Seb came to the Eckville District in 1930. He left here in 1970 to return to Germany to spend his retirement years. Seb farmed the quarter NW 8-39-2-5. He cleared most of this land. His farming involved raising pigs as well as grain. He enjoyed fishing.

Summer Buggy of the Thirty Thirties

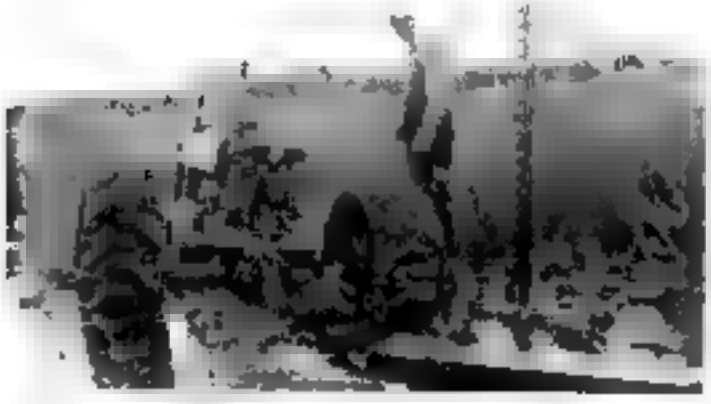
Elsie Farrell and Jimmy Smith crossing high water north of N.E. the water Medicine River out and that over the road May 5, 1948.



Canoeing Days, Allie and Helen Runyon.

Zero caravan

Agnes Parkhurst and Kate MacKenzie plowing up potatoes during the War



Walter Hoagland - the wet years

Dale Vlagos with a pair of oxen. Jimmy and Jenny that were family pets. They were never kept in stalls, but were so tame that they would go with the children to pick strawberries and go the cows to pinch on him. Vlagos shoulder as she hoed in the garden

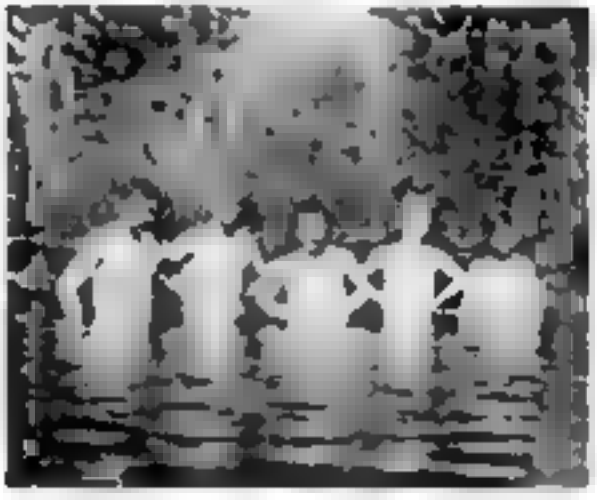
Accidents happened then, too

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mahn, Silver Wedding Anniversary

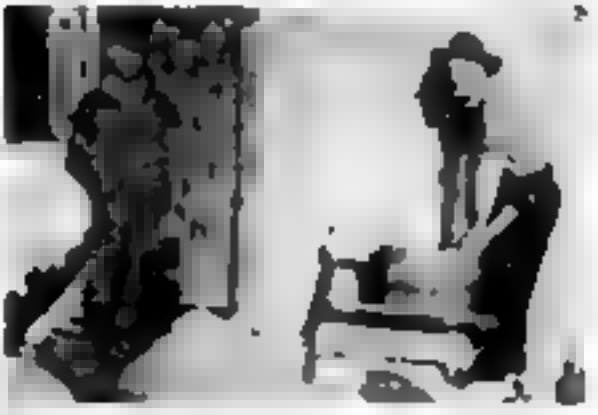
Paul Thomas and Jan Thomas making sausages

Jean Evans and her daughter after a chicken lunch, 1994

Working a mule



Maxine Clopping



Steve Hastings with quail in snap

# Withrow, Wolfe

**ABRAMSON MR. AND MRS**

Mr and Mrs. Abramson came to the Eckville area about 1904 from the United States. Mr Abramson, a native of Ireland was a sailor He had sailed most of the oceans before deciding to farm. He homesteaded the SE 6-40-3-W5. Little is known of the Abramsons, as they left the area in 1910

However, their neighbors recall this story Bears were plentiful near their home. They were terrified, having no gun to protect themselves. A neighbor, Jack Hiitola, loaned them a gun just in case one got too friendly. The next evening they heard the bear scratching around the door Mrs Abramson opened the door a crack while her husband emptied the gun in the general direction he thought the bear had taken. Not being convinced that his shooting had been successful Mr and Mrs. Abramson quickly fled up the ladder to the attic of their one-room house, and to be doubly sure, they kicked the ladder down

The next day Jack Hiitala came to see how they fared and found them still upstairs, unable to get down without the ladder

**AHO, EDWARD AND ANNA LYDIA — by** [illegible]

Edward Aho left his home in Alajarvie Halla Aho Finland when a young lad to find adventure in a new world with his brother, William in 1902 He worked in coal mines at Frank and in the Crowsnest Pass, later moving to the Eckville district Homesteads were available, so he filed on the NW 30-39-3-W5, west of Eckville

He married Anna Lydia Olson in 1906. She was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. James Olson, also of Eckville James Olson had hewed the logs for their new home, which was finished when Anna and Edward were married. A year later 1909, a daughter, Lillian was born and in 1911 another daughter, Florence, arrived. During the years Anna's health was failing and she passed away in November, 1914

Edward left the children in care of the grandparents, Mr and Mrs Olson, to find employment He worked in the copper mines in Butte Montana, U.S.A. for a while

After he returned to the farm his daughter Lillian came to live with her father Florence was raised by the Olsons

Edward was a very capable man He was a tailor by trade. He sewed suits for the men in the area and also made dresses and coats whenever the need arose He was a watch maker and there were always numerous watches, clocks, and even guns that needed repair in his home. He sold Rawleigh products for a number of years He always enjoyed the great outdoors and loved hunting big game. However, he had an unfortunate experience in 1934 when he was lost in the bush for three nights and two days. It was cold at the time, but he survived the incident although his toes on one foot had to be amputated. He continued farming until his passing in 1943. Edward and Anna are laid to rest in the Kuusamo Cemetery

Lillian married William Huhtala of Benalto and they had three daughters. They later moved to Russia Florence married M P Doyle and they have one daughter They reside in Parksville, B.C

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN SOLOMON ALBERT — by Marie Schlahs**

In 1912 Mr and Mrs. John Solomon Albert came to Alberta by train with a few head of horses and cattle and a small amount of household possessions. They came from Plevna, Ontario. With their family of seven children, five boys and two girls, they settled two miles north and one-half mile west of Condor

Their children are twins, Ralph of Wankam Alberta, and Raymond of Sylvan Lake, Alfred "Tom" of Bingley, Alberta, Miss Grace Albert of Sylvan Lake, and Mrs. Evelyn Biswanger of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Lewis, better known as "Chief" of Camrose and Charles of Lesliieville have both passed away

In the 1950's John sold his farm and moved into Condor where he lived until his passing in 1964 at the age of 91 years. He was predeceased by his first wife in 1943

His eldest son, Charles Wesley Albert, took up homesteading in 1927, nine miles northwest of Lesliieville. In 1930 he married Violet Price of Bingley Together they farmed there, and raised

10 children, listed oldest to youngest here Harvey of Wanham Alberta, Ervin of Wanham, Alberta, Mable Schlahs of Calgary, Alberta Marie Schlahs of Sylvan Lake, Alberta Margaret Cunningham of Edmonton, Alberta and Louie of Red Deer Alberta. To date there are 21 grandchildren

In 1966, they sold the farm and retired to Sylvan Lake where he resided until his passing in 1971 at the age of 73 years. He was predeceased by his eldest daughter, Marion, in 1963. His wife. Violet, still lives in Sylvan Lake. The farm at Leslieville is now the residence of the Leonard Blackhurst family

**THE BANTON STORY**

The Banton family originated in Ireland going to England as political refugees. Harry Banton was born in Leicester, England, April 16 1850 His father operated a successful farrier business there. As a young man he belonged to a volunteer cavalry unit. In Feb of 1881 he married Elizabeth Anne Wesley, (originally Wellesley from the McGregor Clan in Scotland. born 1858 Shortly afterward they decided to emigrate to Canada Harry coming first with his brother Ted (later. editor of the Toronto Star) and her cousin Tom, (a dentist) to be followed in the spring of 1882 by his wife and baby daughter, Florence Ruth, who was born in Nov 1881. They settled first in Winnipeg and while there Mr Banton, an accomplished violinist played lead violin in the Winnipeg Opera House where Mr Banton assisted his cousin in a butcher business. It was while there they got a taste of real pioneer life when their child, now two years old, was kidnapped by the Indians and taken off to their camp. Fortunately, she was successfully recovered

When the Riel Rebellion took place 1884-85 Harry and Tom fought with the Canadian Militia during the campaign Meanwhile, Mrs. Banton went to live in Toronto with Tom's family While there a second child, Charles, was fatally injured in an accident and died of brain damage. This coupled with the absence of her husband brought on a nervous condition and her doctor recommended a sea voyage as a remedy so on the conclusion of the war they returned to Leicester At this time Mr Banton's father died suddenly of a heart attack and Harry suddenly found himself in charge of the farrier business Regretfully they dropped their plans to return to Canada, and settled into the job of shoeing horses. His deafness in later life was attributed to his having worked all day at an anvil between two other men also pounding anvils

Three more children were born in England Herbert (Bert) in 1889 Dorothy (Dolly) in 1894. and Frank. April 3, 1901 Also during this period Mr Banton served in the capacity of Sgt. Major with the British Yeomanry in Africa fighting in the Boer War

In the spring of 1907 Bert, now in his 'teens and enchanted by his folk's stories of the West came out to Alberta Later in the same year his family followed, with the exception of Florence (nick-named Lolly) who was teaching school and had to wait t.. the following year This time they took up some homestead land 30 miles east of Stettler, Alberta, taking residence in an abandoned sod shack This was somewhat of a culture shock for comfortably fixed English folk but they were in for another shock when a prairie fire came by and very nearly wiped them all out This spurred them to move to a more settled area, so they came to the Poplar Ridge district N.W of Red Deer and bought a farm from a man named Perie. But again misfortune dogged them and in January of 1908 their home and barn were destroyed by fire and they lost everything but the precious violin, the piano, and the clothes they wore (Harry even lost his false teeth)

Now severely pressed for funds, the Bantons headed West again and took up a homestead on the Blueberry Creek in the Withrow District, Harry on NW 33-40-4-W5 and son Bert on NE 33-40-4-W5 (now part of the Pattison farms) For once, luck was with him — he was just 20 minutes ahead of the next applicant for that land Bill Hazlett ! This was to be the end of his travels. Harry supplemented his farm income by doing occasional blacksmith work for his neighbors and by giving violin lessons In the struggle to make ends meet Mrs. Banton also did her share. working in turn as a house-keeper for Col Marriett at Aux for two months in 1910. then as Matron of the Pelgan Indian School at Brocket for a year and as a cook for the C.P R mess-house at Hosmer B.C In 1912 and 1913 She returned to the homestead in 1914 and lived there till she retired

The older daughter. Lolly had married Ed Wigmore in June. 1910 and remained in the Blackfalds area near Poplar Ridge. They had three children, Arthur, Margaret Dorothy, and Frank. Arthur married Ruth Miller and they raised Dorothy, Dave and Ken. Margaret Dorothy married Cyril Ironsides they had two children Lillian and Edmund but Margaret passed away while still quite young Frank died as a child. The mother Lolly died October, 1965 and her husband in January, 1966

Dolly made her own way as a pianist and stenographer till she married George Muddiman and left the area. Mr Muddiman. a business man, was employed by the Hudson Bay Company in Vancouver and then in Winnipeg, where Dolly passed away Then he went back to England and working for Bird's Eye Frozen Foods — became manager of the entire operation in England before he passed away there. The Muddimans raised two girls and a boy Shirley, Phyllis and Robert. The girls did not marry, but Robert married and has four children

Bert (Herbert), the Banton's older son married Bertha Glover, a sister of Mrs. Ethel

Barkby in Red Deer in 1912. They lived on the homestead where Pattisons are now until 1916. Then they went to Calgary till 1921 and also spent a year in Vancouver, B.C. where their daughter Verna was born. They also lived in the town of Drumheller and worked in the mines between 1923 and 1928 coming back to the homestead between times. Bert was very versatile and became a minister of the Gospel, preaching in Calgary and singing on radio programs over CFCN. Meanwhile his wife had died when Verna was very little. Bert married Etta Dowler in 1930 while he was in the ministry a couple of years later, moving out to his father's farm, having sold the homestead to Pattisons, and they were there till about 1936, soon after which they moved to Montreal and lived there until Bert's death shortly after which Etta moved to Vancouver where she still makes her home.

In reminiscing in an old letter from Bert in 1956 not long before he died, he wrote: "It certainly takes my memories back to the good old days, when there was hardly a fence west of the Sylvan Lake Store and Post Office and Hespero was non-existent but was a house on a farm used as a store called Pitcox. They were strenuous but very happy days."

Bert and Bertha's children were Irene, Neville and Verna. Bert and Etta's were Frank and Beryl.

**Irene** (born in 1913) married Milton Dirsten and they have four boys and four girls. Milton died recently. Irene lives in Eckville while three of her sons live in the Eckville area.

**Neville** married Gertie Albert from the Eckville district and they moved to the coast where they raised three sons, Fred, John and Max. their father passed away recently and Gertie continues to live at the coast with six grandchildren to enjoy.

**Verna** married Ole Krossenger and they live in Vancouver too. They have two girls and one boy, Donna, Bonny, and Terry and four grandchildren.

**Frank** and his wife have one boy and one girl.

**Beryl** and her husband have two boys and two girls.

Frank, the Harry Banton's younger son, remained on the homestead to help his father but supplementing his income by playing the violin for dances in surrounding community halls. However times were hard and he finally had to look for a better opportunity, so after Christmas in 1924, he went out to British Columbia. Frank is now the only living member of the Harry Banton family. He and his wife Helen live in Trail and have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Going back to the original family disaster struck again in February, 1925 when fire took their home on the farm and Mr. and Mrs. Banton were hard pressed to get by, having lost their possessions. However they finally overcame their difficulties.

Harry Banton, being a gifted violinist and his wife an excellent pianist they were a real asset to the social life of the community, which was very important in those days. Mr. Banton used to teach the violin to the neighbour's children. Then, around 1929, Mr. Banton had an accident with a runaway team, striking his head on the bridge over the Blueberry, which laid him up for quite awhile and he lived with his daughter Lottie for a couple of years, before coming back to the farm. He died at Leslieville in 1935 at 85 years of age and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery. Mrs. Banton had retired to live with her son Frank in Trail, B.C. She died in February, 1937, but is buried in the Aspeland Cemetery west of Blackfalds.

It is estimated that there are at least 85 descendents of Harry and Elizabeth Banton.

**BODIN BOY – by Eva Gustavson**

Roy Bodin, his sister Annie, and parents, Fred and Albertina Bodin, lived at Stony Plain. After the death of his father, he and his mother moved to Provost. His sister, now Mrs. Mielke, and family farmed in this area. He farmed here, too, for a number of years.

In 1947, his mother married Charlie Gustavson of Eckville. Roy worked at different jobs in this locality, making his home with the Gilbert Gustavson family. Winter months were spent in sawmills in the Nordegg district. As soon as he was able to, he acquired his own land, the NW 24-39-4-W5, and later the NW 35-39-4-W5.

Roy was an enthusiastic hunter, always bringing home his share of game. Poor health sent him to the Sanatorium in Calgary for a time. A few years later he fell ill with cancer and passed away on July 24, 1966, at the early age of 42 years.

**RUDOLF DAHL**

Rudolf Dahl was born in Princeton, Michigan U.S.A. in 1906. He came to Manyberries with his parents, brother Arthur and sister Lily to homestead.

In the fall of 1925 Rudolf came to the Eckville [redacted] is hand at everything possible.

In 1928 he joined a musical group of lads and they soon formed "The Dixie Land Minstrels" travelling around entertaining at every occasion possible. What a sight they were — in their black suits, white gloves, tall hats and large polka-dot red ties to show off their black faces! He soon won the heart of Meta Mottus, and in the hungry [redacted]

Rudolf and Meta moved to Barons, Alberta to farm but returned to Eckville the following year and bought a farm in the Withrow district NW 26-39-4-W5. There was only an old house on the quarter but they made kitchen cupboards from orange crates and a dresser from apple boxes and strung curtains over them.

Four children blessed this union. Jean Elizabeth was born in 1934. She married Alvin Burrows and they live in North Vancouver B.C. They have two daughters, Nancy Lynn and Lori Lee.

Glen Rudolf, born in 1937, married Karen Warren and they have two daughters, Kelly Ann and Colleen. Glen remarried in 1965, to Lillian Woorrom, and they had a son, Brian Glen. They live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Melvin Robert was born in 1941. Marilee Salsauler became his wife, and they have two children, Michelle Marie and Michael Robert. They now reside in North Vancouver, B.C.

Judy Pauline was born in 1946. She married Samuel Dyrland. They have four children, Ricky Steven, Darcy, and twin daughters, Glenda Joanne and Linda Charlene. They reside in Lacombe, Alberta.

Rudolf and Meta sold their farm and moved to Eckville, where they were employed as caretakers of the Eckville school until their retirement. Meta retired in 1971 and Rudolf retired in June, 1973. They have continued living in their home in Eckville and have been very active members of the Eckville & District Friendship Club, and take part in other local activities.

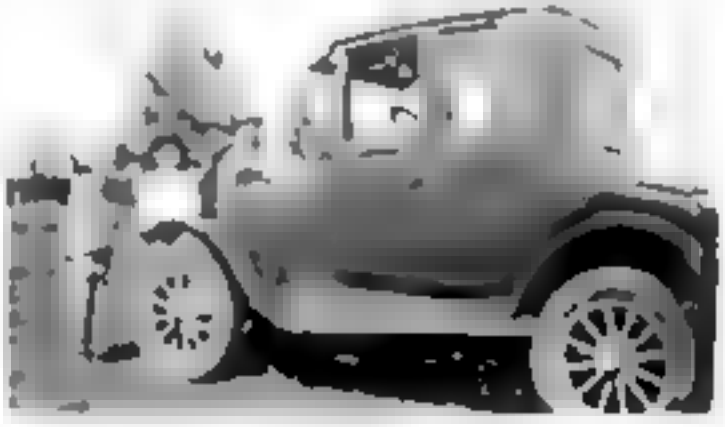
**DUNCAN GEORGE AND HELEN**

George Duncan was born in Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland in 1892. In 1911, due to difficult conditions in Scotland, his father booked passage for his three sons on the ship "Athena" and sent them to Canada where he hoped they would find a more prosperous way of life. George came to the West Park area of Red Deer where he broke horses and then began hauling freight (mostly staple grocery items) from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House with his excellent four horse team. The summer was very wet and the muddy roads nearly impassable. Many times during heavy rains George and his team took shelter in barns of abandoned homesteads along the route. During the winter temperatures sometimes plummeted to -40 degrees F., adding to the discomfort of both men and horses. In 1912 George moved to a homestead in the Rocky Mountain House area, but continued to haul freight westward during the winter months until 1917 when he sold his team to Nordegg mines.

Abandoning his homestead, he moved back to Red Deer, where he was employed on district farms, on threshing crews on the prairies, and finally on a bridge-building crew for the CPR in 1922. In the spring of 1923 George married and settled once more in the West Park area until 1927 when he moved with his wife and two small daughters to a farm in the Evarts district. His wife passed away shortly after this move, leaving George with the almost impossible task of running the farm and raising two very small girls all by himself. In 1929 he married Helen Gowans.

Helen Hutcheson Gowans was born at Woods Land, Baillieston, Scotland in 1905. In June, 1926, the Gowans family immigrated to Canada on the ship "Montcalm" and landed at Montreal as Empire Settlers. Immediately they boarded an immigrant train which began a tiring one week journey westward to the station at Bentley, Alta.

The family settled on a district farm and Helen, as one of the older children in the family, gained employment at several busy neighborhood homes, travelling on horseback to and from her work. She met George and his



small daughters during this time, and in March 929, they were married

In 1935, George and Helen, with their family of five children loaded their possessions on a wagon and moved to a farm west of Eckville where they still reside. During the next 11 years, three more sons were born to them. They faced the many hardships of farm life that the other district farmers did during the depression years, as well as the added hazard of raising their eight children beside a river and a busy railroad. Hobos drifting in from the trains were not an common. A few caused concern to Helen, who was alone with children during the fall and winter when George had to be away working on threshing crews or in lumber camps. Helen milked the many cows, raised poultry, tended a large garden and handled the many chores of the farm. She recalls a trip by bus to Red Deer to pick up her chickens in the spring and coming home across the flooded Horseguard River with the water up over her feet as she rode in a horse drawn wagon on the last part of the journey.

Cream and eggs were taken to town by horse and wagon and sold to the creamery there. Barrels of gasoline were often part of the return cargo in the summer after a tractor had been acquired for doing the field work. The older children helped with the field work as well as attending classes at the Shady Lane school nearly three miles away. Roads were drifted in and impassable for many weeks during the winter months, and in the spring George and Helen faced the additional worry of sending their children to school across the flood-swollen river.

The Duncans' eight children are Hazel (Hamilton and Gladys (Miller) now both of Rocky Mountain House, George Jr. of Eckville, Jean (Milne) of Red Deer, and Jim, Robert, Peter and Edward all of Eckville.

With the arrival of better roads, cars, and a new home many of the early hardships vanished. But by reminiscing through the pages of Helen's many photo albums and listening to George recount the stories of their early years, the past becomes almost real to the many children and grandchildren who stop by to visit. One of the recent highlights of their busy life was a trip to Scotland in 1972 when George was reunited with his sister whom he hadn't seen since leaving for Canada 61 years before.

**ESKELIN, PETER AND HILDA**

In 1904 Peter and Hilda Eskelin came to the Eckville district from the United States. They homesteaded two and one-half miles west of town on the SE 18-39-3-W5. They had five children—Hilda, Peter, Ellen, Albert and Adam.

Mr. Eskelin worked out in winter and cared for the farm in the summer time. In 1910 he had an attack of appendicitis, but by the time the doctor from Red Deer could reach him it was too late.

Mrs. Eskelin, with the help of her children carried on the farming. She was thankful for the helping hands of her neighbors. Sometime later she married Matt Peterson, who had come to work for them. He homesteaded the SW 8-40-3-W5, and the family moved there. Three more children were born: Arthur, Elizabeth and Elsie Peterson. This farm was five and one-half miles north of Eckville, so the children had a long way to go to attend the Old Eckville school.

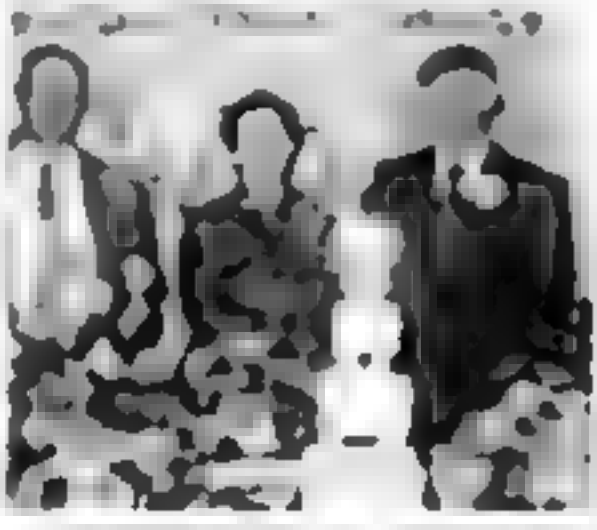
Later they moved to the Lesliеville area and the children attended Blueberry Valley school. Mrs. Eskelin Peterson passed away in 1920 when her youngest was a small child.

The older girls worked in Nordegg, where they later married.

Most of the family has passed away. Peter, as a teen-ager in 1917. Albert in 1930, Adam in 1933, Hilda in Vancouver in 1970 and Ellen also in Vancouver in 1976.

**EVANS, EARLE AND JESSIE – by Vincent**

Earle Evans was born at Rock Valley, Iowa, U.S.A. December 26, 1887. The family moved to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. where he completed his schooling. They moved to Bentley, Alberta, in 1906. In 1907 he homesteaded SE 4-40-4-W5 in the Withrow district.



April 3, 1916, he married Jessie Bott, only daughter of Jerome and Laura Bott. Jessie was born February 1, 1895, in Napanee, Ontario. On February 21, 1917 a son, Vincent was born.

A few years later they purchased S 28-39-4 W5. Earle owned a number of steam engines doing breaking, threshing and lumber planing. He operated a caterpillar for the M.D. of Lochern for eight seasons. Jessie was active in gardening, home, and church. They lived there and farmed for about 50 years. I attended scho Lesllieville, Alberta, and helped with the farm for a number of years. I worked for the forestry in Calgary as a mechanic for eight years.

In April, 1966, Earle and Jessie celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Earle Evans passed away at the farm November 27, 1966, at the age of 78 years. Jessie lives in Maple Ridge, B.C. I, Vincent Evans, make my home at the farm, and with my mother (Jessie) in Maple Ridge, B.C.

**EVANS, MATTHEW SIMPSON AND MARY — submitted by Ralph Evans**

Matthew Simpson Evans was born in Ohio U.S.A. about 1860. The family moved to Pana Illinois, where Matthew's mother died just before his eighteenth birthday. She had bought a Bible for his birthday. He carried his Bible with him for many years.

Soon after his mother died, he left home and settled in Rocky Valley, Iowa where he married Mary Ernisee. Three sons were born to them at Rock Valley, Earle, Raye and Ralph. Matthew was in the dray and livery barn business for a number of years. He then farmed in Minnesota and South Dakota. A daughter Florence was born near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1900. In 1904 the family moved to Seattle, Washington where Matthew did street grading with horses and hauled gravel.

In the fall of 1906 Matt and two sons Earle and Raye came to Backfalds, Alberta, to homestead. Mr. Nels Nelson of Rainy Creek located them in the Lesueville district. Raye filed on NE 32-39-4 W5. Earle on SE 4-40-4-W5. Matt on SW 4-40-4-W5 which Matt relinquished, and John Meinzinger then homesteaded.

In the spring of 1907 they shipped a carload of machinery and household effects to Blackfalds and rented land near Bentley, where Ralph graduated from school in 1909. In 1911 Earle Raye and Ralph bought their father's steam threshing machine and did custom threshing around the Bentley, Eckville and Lesieville districts for many years.

In 1916 Ralph and Dannie Bott went to Detroit U.S.A. Shortly after Dannie was drowned in Rouge River. Ralph was in the U.S. Army stationed at Waco, Texas for World War I during 1918 until peace was signed. He returned to Detroit, Michigan, and on March 26, 1919 married Ruth Meinzinger sister of John Meinzinger, mentioned above, whom he met in Alber

In August 1919 Ralph and Ruth moved to Alberta to help Earle and Raye with threshing. They bought land and started farming.

Through the early years and the Depression Ralph, although farming, also ran sawmills during winters and was in the trucking business. Ralph thus became well known all over the country in the lumber business, having had sawmills in many places, including one at Jack Reid's — at Bingley and Wolfe Creek, later on at Longview and High River in the '50's.

In 1944 Evans had a sale and moved to Calgary and bought a home there while still in the trucking business. They spent three years in the sawmill business between Portland, Oregon and Dayton, Washington, coming back to Calgary in 1950. Calvin and Carole both got a lot of their education in Calgary.

They raised four children — Marie, born May 11, 1920, Bob on August 12, 1921, Calvin on July 3, 1935 and Carole on July 18, 1940.

They are all married and have families. Marie and her husband Lawrence Biswanger still farm the Earle Evans homestead and have raised four children, Lorraine, Mrs. W. Houston of Eckville, Larry at Fort McMurray, Fern Mrs. Kenneth C. Bradshaw of Eckville, and Muriel at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Bob is in partnership with his dad in land clearing and construction business at Breton, Alberta. Bob married Isabelle Mortimer of Rocky Mountain House and they have five children, Darrell of Calgary, Darlene, Mrs. Bruce Burton, Calgary, Judy, Mrs. Robert Finney, Calgary, Cindy, Mrs. K. Hanson of Terrace British Columbia. Sharon lives with her mother in Calgary. Bob and Isabelle separated. Bob married again. He and Ruth have four children, Crystal, Curtis, Dannie and Debbie — all in school.

Calvin has been with Imperial Oil Limited since he graduated from Oxford University England. At present he is head of the Exploration Department of Imperial Oil Limited. Calvin married Doris Mohr of Edmonton. They have three children, Tom in university, Sandra and Darren in school in Calgary.

Carole taught school for several years in Calgary and Rimbey and married Zoley Garnick of Leedale. They farm and raise cattle. They have one son Zane, attending Lesllieville school.

Ruth Evans passed on in 1975 at age of 75 years. Her body is at rest in Lesllieville Cemetery but as inscribed on her head stone, she is "Absent from the body present with the Lord".

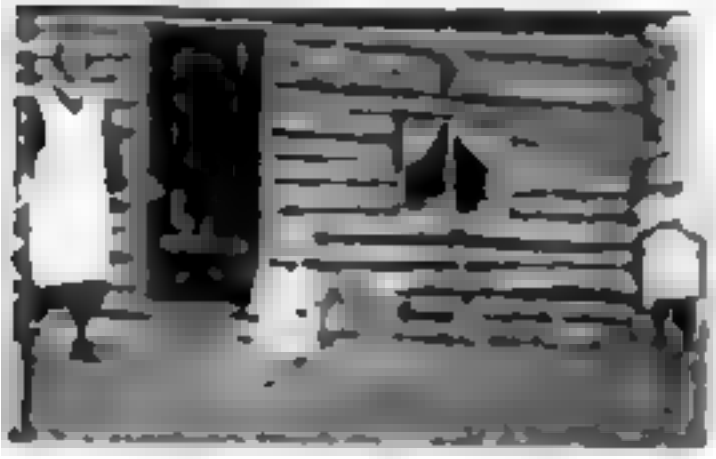
Florence Evans married Jack McFayden in 1925 and lived in the Lesllieville area till about 1940 when they moved to Kamloops, B.C. where Florence and her family still reside.

A few years later mother and brother Raye moved to Kamloops, B.C. Ralph's mother passed away at 92 years of age. Raye has also passed on. Earle was laid to rest in the Lesl evi le Cemetery, November, 1966.

**THE GREENMAN FAMILY — by Mrs. Alvin Greenman**

The Everett Greenman family moved from Tracy, Minnesota, U.S.A. in the spring of 1907 to Granum Alberta. In 1909 the father took a homestead about 60 miles northeast of Lethbridge where they farmed for many years. Alvin Everett, the second son, took a homestead in the area and farmed for several years. On February 6, 1918, he married Elnora Belle Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones.

We, Alvin and Belle Greenman, farmed at Travers and in the Granum districts for about 25 years. Times were hard and the prairies were very dry. In 1933 we decided to look for a more prosperous place to live, where we could have pasture for stock and could realize some income from our work. The Eckville district was the location we decided on. We bought a quarter section of land from the C.P.R. with a down payment of $25. The C.P.R. shipped us with all our belongings, consisting of four head of horses, one colt, five cows, a sow, ten pigs, and some chickens.



We, along with our family of eight girls, lived in a tent and a small shack until we could get a small log shack built. Our eldest son, Gordon, was born that fall and three older girls went to work that fall to help make ends meet. Our neighbors were very good to us and helped with feed, all the straw we needed for the stock, and vegetables and milk for ourselves. There were a lot of partridges and wild fruit, and the nice long fall helped us so much. December and January were very cold and hard on the stock. The change in climate was too much for them and when spring came most of them died.

We spent the winter in the little log hut. When spring came neighbors got together and put up for us a little two-roomed log house on our own place. The first two years we had no floor. Finally we got some boards and dug a little cellar under the house. Here we lived for the next ten years.

Dad and I cut logs from our place and had them sawed into lumber from which we built our house in 1946. A house 24 by 20 feet seemed pretty big after having lived in the two rooms for so long. By this time the older girls were all married to local boys. We were all quite happy.

On December 3, 1946 the first break came in our family. Ethelyn Saari, our eldest daughter died of virus pneumonia, leaving two little girls and a baby boy. They were lovingly cared for by their Aunt Elma and Grandpa and Grandma Saari.

In 1954 we went to work for the winter at Camp Fifteen, west of Rocky Mountain House for the Atlas Lumber Company. In the spring of 1956 we moved in to Eckville and did the catering and the janitor work for the Lions Club. Several years later, in 1960 we moved our house from the farm, had a well dug and put in water works. What a relief! For the first time in our lives we had electricity and an indoor toilet of our very own.

We took in boarders for seven or eight years. Now in 1977 we both have a pension and are very comfortable and happy.

Our boys, Gordon and Glenn, are married and live in Lillooet B.C. They both work for the British Columbia Railroad, and have been there for over 20 years. Ruth is in Lillooet B.C. with her family. She married Jim Goforth and they have seven children. Gordon married Marjorie Robinson, and they have three children. Glenn married Velma Pietkanen and they have four children.

Myrtle married Waldo Raabis and they have four children. Lucille married Ogden Cole, now deceased, and she then married Rolly Hankinson. She has three children. Vera married Wanford Tolonen and has three children. Dora married Ralph Needham, from whom she was

divorced. She is now Mrs Doug Hunter There are six children. Phyllis married Ray Meyers and they have three children. Audrey married Charlie Bolton and has seven children. Joyce married Roy Dyrland and they have five children. They live in Mackenzie, B.C.

We have 46 grandchildren and over 30 great grandchildren. In 1978 we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary, if our Heavenly Father is willing. Every year we try to have a family reunion. Fortunately our children and their families try to make this possible.

**HAYBALL, ERNEST ALFRED — by Gordon**

Mr. E. A. Hayball was born in England in 1862. He left his home and relatives at the early age of 19 years, to find a new life and adventure in Canada. He homesteaded in Manitoba and Saskatchewan for a few years before returning to England. While in England he married Mary Jane Fishlock, and they returned to Canada to the homestead in Saskatchewan.

Dad served in World War I, enlisting at [illegible]

In the spring of 1919 they moved from Calgary to a farm at Withrow. It seemed they had to be able to live off the land to keep from starving. Three of us children went to school at the Wolfe school. These were Frank, Irene and myself (Gordon). Desmond was born at Hespero. We moved to Lesliieville, in 1927.

Father passed away at the age of 84 years at Didsbury in 1966 and Mother passed away at Calgary at 90 years of age in 1973. They were predeceased by their son Frank and their daughter Irene. Two sons are still living in Calgary.

Gordon, the oldest, and his wife have a [illegible] and a daughter and two grandsons. Gordon is a caretaker with the Calgary Public School Board.

Bud (Desmond) and his wife have four daughters and one son, and five grandchildren. Bud is a Foreman for Pool Construction.

Mother used to tell about the hard times they had at Withrow, and how she had to hold up the horse while Mr. Hayball or Frank drove the horse on the plough. [illegible]

She always laughed about how she and son Frank often walked to dances. She loved to dance. Father was an ardent gardener.

**HENRIKSON JONAS ROBERT**

Jonas was one of a family of nine born in Stockholm, Sweden on the 24 of May, 1866. He was the only one of this family to immigrate to Canada. He came as a young man to Saskatchewan in 1904 where he acquired a job with the C.N.R. working in many localities as a section worker, bridge gang and later pump man at Burbank, Alberta, which was a siding where the locomotives stopped to fill with water. In 1908, he became a Canadian Citizen and took up land north east of Edmonton, close to the Saskatchewan Border. Around 1920, he came with the C.N.R. to the Sylvan Lake area where he met Esther Lindholm from the Burnt Lake district who was also a native of Sweden being born in Varmland on September 12, 1893, and came as a small girl with her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Lindholm, three brothers — Linus, Charlie, Frank, two sisters — Charlotte, Mrs. Axel Lindman, Ellen, Mrs. Sandy Smith in 1895 to settle in the Burnt Lake area amongst a group of Scandinavians. Here they all grew up and received their education at the Burnt Lake School. Jonas and Esther were married in 1921 and purchased the SE 16-40-5W5 which was north of Withrow, Alberta and known as the Twin Lakes Fur Farm where they made their home and raised mink. Here two daughters were born. Lily, February 24, 1923, and Rose, February 24, 1927.

Around 1930, the family moved to Sylvan Lake when Dad again returned to work on the C.N.R. We received all our education at Sylvan Lake. We always looked forward to the Scandinavian Mid Summer Celebration which was held at Grandad Lindholm's farm. Dad was an ardent hunter, trapper, and skier, making his own skis. Mother was always at home carding wool and spinning yarn, knitting for our family as well as for others. She enjoyed all types of hand work. Mother passed away on March 23, 1946, after a lengthy illness. Dad was active and healthy until his last year which he spent in the Rimbey Three Way Hospital where he passed away on Nov. 11, 1956. Both are laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

Lily is Mrs. Johnson and resides in Red Deer. She has two boys. Rose still resides in Eckville. See Fred Moon History.

**THE THOMAS HOLLAND FAMILY**

Mr. Thomas Holland was born at Jarrow, England, where he was employed in the steel works, and later drove a dray team. He was married there in 1913, and in 1923 he immigrated to Canada, first finding work on a farm in the Provost district.

In June, 1924, his wife Mary joined him, along with their children, Mary, aged 10 years, Lillian, nine, Elizabeth, six, Daisy two, and Thomas,

seven months. Another son, Kenneth, was born in 1936, the only Canadian-born member of the family.

The family later moved to Alhambra where Mr. Holland worked for Mr. Roy Addy. These were hard days, as they were trying to get established in an unfamiliar land, learning new ways to cope with the Canadian climate. Like many pioneers, they lived largely on rabbits and prairie chickens that first winter.

In April, 1925, they moved to Condor, where he worked for Mr. Dave Blair and Dick Schouten, among others.

In 1931 they acquired their own farm, one and one-half miles north of the Blueberry Valley School. With little money to spend on machinery Mr. Holland made do with what he had. His first plowing was done with one horse and a walking plow.

The oldest daughter, Mary, married Dick Thorkman, and they have five children.

Lillian married Angus McFadden, and also has a family of five.

Elizabeth married Roy Kendrew and they have two children. Daisy married Henry Heikkila, and they had three children. After her husband passed away, she married Allan Sambrooke and has another son.

Kenneth married Vivian Hunter. They have two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Holland celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1963. Mr. Holland passed away later that same year.

Thomas Jr. remains on the original farm where his mother likes to visit him whenever possible. She now lives in the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Rimbey.

**JACKSON, MATT**

Matt Jackson from Butte, Montana came to claim the SE 12-40-4-W5 in 1903. When Victor Lindgren came to look for his homestead in 1905, in the Wood Lake district, the only building he found was Jackson's big log barn. Matt Jackson had returned to Butte, where his wife was working. They later returned to the homestead, bringing with them a team of horses. A one-room log cabin was built which was home for many years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were hard workers. They raised both horses and cattle. Mrs. Jackson would make butter which was exchanged for groceries at the store.

Victor Lindgren broke land for the Jacksons with a team of oxen. In return for his work, he was given a young mare. Jacksons farmed with horses.

A daughter, Ilma, the pride and joy of her happy parents, was born.

The busy years passed. Mrs. Jackson became ill and passed away. She was buried in Elspeth cemetery. Ilma attended Wolfe school. The homestead was sold so Matt and daughter Ilma moved a few miles farther north. They remained here until Matt passed away. His burial was in Gilby cemetery.

After some time with friends, Ilma went to work for Petersons in the Gilby district. Some years later, she married Ben Plested. They made their home in High River where three children were born and raised. After a lengthy illness, Ilma passed away in Calgary.

**KIVINEN, KARL** – by Hilja Sjoblom

Mr. Karl Kivinen came to the Eckville district from the United States. He had worked in various states and at various jobs, but when he heard of the good land in Canada and the possibility of getting a homestead—a 160 acre piece of land—for $10, he was all for it! He had worked in Toronto, and in 1909 he came west and filed on a homestead SE 10-40-4-W5.

After Karl got a small house built, he sent for his bride from Toronto. His wife, Lena, found things quite different from the city but stuck to it for over ten years. They had one son, Arthur, but finally she left and went back to Toronto with the boy.

Mr. Kivinen continued to live on the home place, raised cattle and horses, and always seemed to have a little money. He was a very sociable man and took part in all the social events of the district. He was known to be a very clean bachelor.

When he grew older and the time came for him to quit farming he sold out and moved to live in Eckville, where he had bought a small house. Here he lived for a number of years before moving to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. He really enjoyed living there, and had said he should have gone there earlier. When he became ill and was no longer able to stay at the lodge he was taken to a nursing home in Olds, where he passed away about 1980.

Mrs. Lena Kivinen stayed in Toronto, came out a few times to visit the west country with her son Arthur. Arthur married in Toronto and has a family there, but his mother passed away also in the early 1960's.

**[illegible]**

In 1944 Herman Koppel with his wife Maria and daughter Tiiu, left Estonia to make their home in Sweden. There they worked at a dairy farm and a factory until they saved enough money to come to Canada. They arrived in May, 1948, and Dome Creek, B.C. was their first location. There they looked after a farm and helped at a sawmill, however they did not feel at home among the high mountains. Friends wrote to them about a job obtainable at a farm at Eckville and they decided to come. They arrived in September of the same year. They worked on several farms until 1951 when they had enough money to start farming on their own. They bought the NW-4-40-3-W5 and in 1953 added another quarter NE-1-40-3-W5 to their farm. Due to health problems they had to sell their farm in

1973 and settled in Eckville where they bought a home and also an apartment house

Their daughter Tilu s first year of school was spent at Medicine Valley and at the Estonian school, from there she went to Wolfe School until it closed down. Then she continued her education at Eckville Following this she went to Calgary where she graduated as a Certified Nurses' Aid She worked at nursing in Red Deer for a while Then came back to Eckville where she has worked for many years in the local hospital, until the raising of her family took all of her time She was married in 1964 to a local farmer Walter Kalev and they have a son Brian, nine years old, and two daughters, Lori seven and Myrna, four years old

**KULIKOWSKY, DAN AND STELLA**

Dan and Stella Kulikowsky lived in South Eckville (Kootuk) He worked on the C P R. section gang in 1920. Shortly after, C.P R land was selling, so. Dan and Stella bought a farm. the N 3-40-5-W5. Here they farmed with horses and raised cattle and pigs

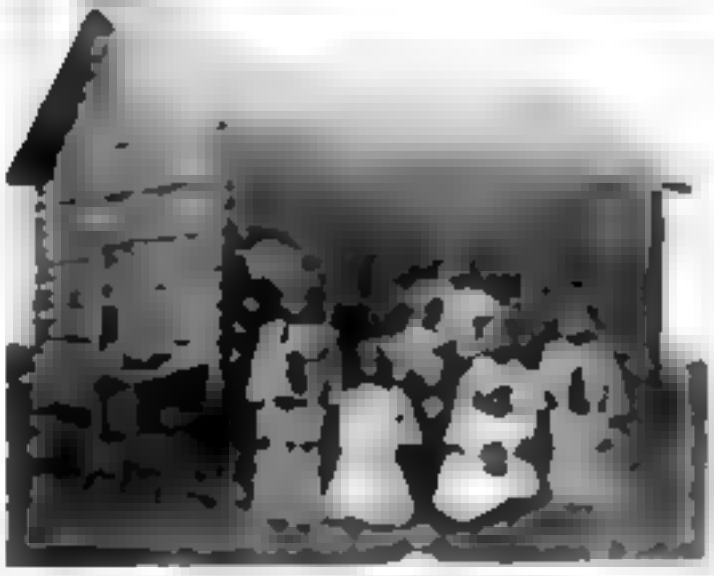
In 1942 farmers from the dried out prairies came to buy farms, as the rain was plentiful here. Matt Haapala bought our farm

After holding an auction sale, they moved to Winnipeg. Dan didn't regain his health following a car accident and passed away in 1973. Mrs Kulikowsky still lives in Winnipeg

**VICTOR LINGREN FAMILY**

Victor Lingren came from Montana, U S.A. to Eckville, Alberta, in 1905 Here he filed on a homestead by Gabriel Lake later named Wood Lake This land was the NW 6-40-3-W5. After locating and living on his homestead Victor journeyed back to Montana to bring his family to Alberta. He had a wife and two children, Henry, aged four years, and Hilda, aged one and one half years

The family travelled from Red Deer on a mail coach to Evarts and from Evarts the mailman



brought them to Kasper's farm where they got shelter for a short time. After a while they moved to Ericksons home, which was close to their homestead. They stayed with Ericksons until the house was built on the Wood Lake farm Mr Kasper had a team of horses at that time so he went to Red Deer to bring lumber and windows for the Lingrens and logs were used from the farm for the house and also to build a log barn and a chicken coop. They spaded up a small area for a garden and planted potatoes the first year

Victor Lingren was a woodsman so he helped many other settlers build log houses and barns At this time an older son. Frank, was working for Mr Cronquist at Red Deer and in 1907 helped haul rocks to build the Cronquist house which in 1976 was moved and restored in Red Deer to be

Mr Lingren was soon able to acquire a team of oxen to work with He even used them to drive to Lacombe for supplies On one occasion the oxen ran away with the wagon and didn't stop until they got tangled up in the trees

Mr Lingren was a skilled craftsman and used some of his skill to build boats and make fish nets to be used on Wood Lake Fish were plentiful in those days and settlers would come from miles away to put nets in the lake Although people did not have much in the pioneer days, visitors, were always welcome to stay for coffee or for a meal.

When Henry became old enough to attend school he went to board at Kulp's place from which he had a mile and a half walk to the old Eckville School Two years later Hilda went to board at Kasper's place so that she could go to school. Board in those days was cheap only one dollar a week Hilda later was able to milk cows at Kaspers night and morning and by this means she earned her board. After Henry became older he would walk from home to the old Eckville school about five miles distant

When Henry grew up and married Ida Olsen he took over the home farm and looked after the parents, as they were pensioners and unable to work hard any longer. Hilda married Aiho Stopsen and they settled on a farm nearby.

Victor Lingren passed away at home on his homestead in December of 1936 and Mrs. Lingren died in the fall of 1937. Both were buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**LINQUIST, NESTER — by I.G.**

A native of Finland, Nester Linquist, could tell some heart rending stories of the war between Finland and Russia. He spent a long time as a prisoner of war in Russia. The horrors of the war and the inhuman treatment of him as a prisoner affected his health and shattered his [illegible].

After his release he came first to Toronto and later, about 1930, to Eckville. He settled on the NE-26-39-W5. Having no buildings, he fashioned a dug-out type shelter in a hillside until a more permanent home could be built. Being an excellent carpenter, especially at hewing logs, he helped build a number of farm homes in the district. He carried on farming as well.

He sold his farm about 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. A. Demoulin, who farmed it till 1960, when they sold it to Charlie Mottus. The Demoulins continued to live there till moving to Lacombe to the Senior Citizens Lodge in 1964.

After selling his farm Nester bought a lot in Eckville, and built the house now occupied by Meta and Rudolf Dahl. Early in 1950 he sold the property to Ike Kaila and left to join his friends in Toronto. He passed away a few years later.

**WAINO MATTILA AND FAMILY**

Waino Mattila was born in Finland in 1883. Hilma Kaipo was born in 1878, also in Finland. They were married in their native land in 1906 and immigrated to the U.S.A. the same year, settling in Michigan. Their two daughters were born in Michigan, Olga in 1906 and Lempi in 1909.

In 1910 or 1911 the family moved to Canada. Waino had a brother, John, living north and west of Eckville on the land which has since become known as the Carl (Phooja) farm. The Waino Mattila family made their way to Alberta, hoping to find land near his brother John. They travelled to Lacombe by train, where John met them with a horse-drawn vehicle. He took them to his home, where they remained while looking for a place of their own.

While the Mattilas were living at the John Mattila home they were expecting their third child. In those days, when there was to be a child birth, a capable neighbor woman would usually act as midwife, and usually nature took its course and all would go well. In Hilma's case this was not destined to be a natural childbirth. It was winter time. The nearest doctor was in Lacombe, 37 miles away. There were no cars and the roads were primitive. John hitched h[illegible] horses to a cutter and drove through the snow to Lacombe, in great haste, for the doctor. When the doctor arrived John's wife had everything in readiness for Hilma's confinement, and had water boiling on the wood stove. Upon examination, the doctor determined that the birth would be a very difficult one, and told Waino that he would probably not be able to save both the [illegible]nd the child. 'Save the mother! Save [illegible] was Waino's request. The child was delivered, but it died at birth. Hilma lived and had a complete recovery. John then had to make the long trip back to Lacombe to return the doctor to his home and practice.

West of John Mattila's there was a quarter section of land open for homesteading. This was the land which extended to the top of the high hill directly north of Withrow. Here Waino built a small log house, dug a well and built a barn, then brought his family to their new home. They were established settlers.

Waino was a jolly, friendly man. He was a good neighbor, always ready to help when help was needed, and he soon had a host of friends. Hilma was quieter by nature than her husband, but was kind, hard-working and pleasant. The family liked company, and their neighbors were always assured of a warm welcome and a friendly cup of coffee whenever they came to visit.

The next problem to be faced was what to do about their girls' education. There was no school in the area, none nearer than Eckville, nine miles away, and Olga had reached school age. They arranged for little Olga to stay with the Henry Kuit family in Eckville, and from their home she attended school during the week. Waino would go to Eckville with horses on Fri[illegible]

[illegible]

1922 Wolfe School was built, not too far from the Mattila home, so the girls finished their schooling there. All seemed to be going well for them.

As time went on, Waino began to have health problems. He found that he was always extreme[illegible]

[illegible]

Neighbors laughingly told him "You must have been eating too much salty fish, Waino, you're always so thirsty!" Eventually Waino hitched up his horses and drove to Lacombe to see the doctor, as he knew that something was wrong. The doctor told him he had diabetes, and showed him how to give himself insulin shots.

Olga Mattila was married to Art Mottus in 1927. They lived first at the John Mottus home, where Grandma Mottus, Art's mother, was still living. In August 1928 their daughter, Gladys, was born. There was no doctor assisting at the birth, but Grandma Mottus performed the duties of a midwife very capably.

After Gladys' arrival, Art, Olga and the baby moved to Olga's childhood home and lived with the Mattilas. Money was scarce, and it became necessary for Olga and Art to go out working. They went to Barons, Alberta where Art worked as harvest help and Olga cooked for the

harvesting crew. They left baby Gladys with her

[redacted]

dias were! They adored their little grand daughter.

Waino was very fond of hunting and fishing. Not only did he enjoy the sport, but the game and fish he brought home were an important part of his family's diet. In summer he would fish for pike in Wood Lake. In the fall, when the big game season opened, he would head out into the west country in search of moose or deer.

In November 1932, Waino, along with Ed Aho, Alho Stopsen, Henry Lugren, Adam Eskelin and Art Mottus, went on a big game hunting trip. They loaded two horse-drawn sleighs with enough provisions and horse feed to last for many days. They drove to their favorite hunting area, about 35 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House a gruelling 60 miles from home. The hunting area, known locally as Camp Three, was densely wooded and quite isolated, but game was abundant, and a good hunter was usually certain of having a successful hunt.

The hunters reached the Camp Three area and pitched their tent, and made all necessary preparations for a lengthy stay. The next morning they were ready for the hunt! There had been a light snowfall — very conducive to good hunting. Waino and Ed Aho preferred hunting alone, so they started off first in different directions. The remaining four hunters went off in pairs in other directions. The plan was for all to return to camp before nightfall.

The day was fairly warm for November, and some of the snow was melting under the bright sunshine. The hunters were having a good day. In the evening they returned to camp — all but one. Waino Mattila didn't come back! Darkness was beginning to fall, and the hunters realized that something had gone wrong. They shouted, listened, then shouted again and again. Not a sound broke the stillness of the forest's winter evening in reply. They then fired signal shots from their rifles. As the echoes of their shots died away they listened anxiously for answering shots, but not a sound did they hear. Again and again they fired signal shots, right up until midnight, but to no avail. It was very dark, and nothing more could be done until daylight. What an anxious night for the five friends, huddled around their camp fire. How well they knew the difficulties of surviving in the cold wintry night with no shelter. Where could Waino be? There was very little sleep in the camp that night!

Next morning, as soon as it was light, Art and Alho began the job of following Waino's tracks. Enough snow had melted that they soon lost the tracks, and they had to search without that advantage. All that day they searched through the forest, finding nothing! The following day Art Mottus went to Rocky Mountain House to notify the R.C.M.P. that Waino was missing. The constable advised the men to stay in their camp another week and keep looking. For seven days they stayed and hunted. The moose were forgotten. They were hunting for a man, their missing friend. At the end of a week they sadly and reluctantly abandoned the search.

In March of 1933, another group, Art Mottus, Rudolph Dahl and Alho Stopsen drove out to Camp Three to resume their search, but the snow was too deep to accomplish anything, so they returned to their homes. After the winter's snow had melted Alho Stopsen, Wally Mottus, Art Mottus and Hugo Mottus went once again to search for any trace of their missing friend, but once again the search was fruitless.

In the fall of 1933, after the leaves had fallen from the trees, a search party was organized among friends and neighbors. Two trucks that took the searchers and supplies out belonged to the Talson and Thorkman families. The drivers were Matt Talson and Bill Thorkman. To get through the men had to practically carry the trucks — the roads were literally impassable in places. About 30 people were involved, three of them were women — Olga Mottus, Lempi Hill and Mrs. Johnson. They were the cooks. The searchers walked in a line through the area where they suspected Waino might be, and systematically combed the countryside. It was a trying ordeal. Two of the searchers sat down on a windfall for a short rest and a smoke. Suddenly one of the men spotted a rifle leaning against the windfall — Waino's rifle. And there on the ground were strewn human bones. Waino's remains had been found.

Two of the search party went back to Rocky Mountain House to notify the police of their find. Dr. Greenaway and a police constable came back with them, to the scene. All the bones they could find were placed in a box and taken back, to be buried in the Gilby cemetery.

More misfortune was to befall the family. In 1937 Olga Mottus died of cancer in the University Hospital in Edmonton. Little Gladys was a victim of cerebral palsy and could not walk without help, so her father, Art Mottus, took her to the Junior Red Cross Hospital in Calgary where she lived for many years, receiving her education and medical attention there.

Mrs. Mattila and Lempi stayed on the homestead a few years after Olga's death. Then they sold their home and moved to Eckville where they lived for about a year. Mrs. Hilma Mattila suffered a stroke, and passed away. Lempi married John Vaara, and they lived in the Mattila house in Eckville. Lempi was not in good health — she had not been well for many years — and she, too, passed away in or about 1972.

Today the only near relative of the Mattila family still living is Gladys. Mrs. John Stalle, and she is a widow with two children and a grandchild. They all live in Moose Jaw.

**MEYERS, CONNIE.**

I, Connie Robert, second son of John and

Rosie Meyers was born and raised on the NW 7-39-4-W5 adjoining Withrow townsite on the east. I started school in September 1936 at Wolfe school My older sister Isabelle (Mrs. Dave Bolt) rode horseback the two and one half miles to school Dad bought our first pony, a little brown blaze face mare, from some native people who were passing by After some horse dickering the price agreed on was $10. She ably did her job most of the winter until she became sick Dad being a horseman and somewhat of a self taugh veterinarian, could see no reason for her failing health However he knew when he bought her that something was wrong with one hip. Then one day Jack Ross, a young fellow from the Bluebell district, was at our place and saw the little mare He recognized the problem as similar to a neighbor's horse who had been shot with a 22 rifle Soon after she died an autopsy found a small slug lodged in the hip which had caused her death. Several horses followed with two eventually being used when my two younger brothers were both in school. I often wonder how we escaped serious injury as we only knew one speed — as fast as the horse could run Ice and mud made no difference. Spills were part of going to

Christine Munro who later married Scot Murphy of the Diamond Valley district was my first teacher staying at Wolfe school for three years. I think she should have been a drama teacher because she surely worked hard to put on a Christmas concert We always had a packed house She somehow raised enough money to buy each girl and boy a 25¢ to 50¢ gift and a bag of candy and nuts, when money was a scarce commodity in our district

I guess every boy including myself learned the game of grab at Wolfe The older boys put their goodies such as jack knives, marbles and so on in a pile. The victim was blindfolded and told anything he could grab was his. We were all eager but somehow all the goodies disappeared and all you ever got hold of was some fresh horse

I finished Grade 9 at Wolfe in June 1944 and started riding horseback five miles to Leslieville to take Grade 10 Soon after school started threshing started paying $8 a day for a man and team hauling bundles which looked pretty good So ended my school days. The next few years I helped on the farm in the summer I guess the high ghlight of those summers was playing softball with the Withrow "Hep Cats" in the Lochearn League. We never won the cup but we sure had some good times

We always spent a couple of weeks big game hunting out around Jackfish Coulee and then the rest of the winters we worked in the lumber camps around Rocky Mountain House

In the fall of 1945 when I was 15 years old, my future brother-in-law Gordon Gibson, (who was pastoring Withrow Gospel Mission) and I started contract stooking. We charged $1 per acre We worked hard and stooked 500 or 600 acres. One day we got into a 40 acre field of Olli barley It was a good crop but nice stooking By 6 p.m. we were finished. The lady of the house where we worked that day sure didn't think it was right for me to make $20 in one day and still be on the Family Allowance Plan

The summer of 1949 Joyce, Gordon's sister arrived in the Withrow district. Joyce, the fourth daughter of Donald and Dorothy Gibson was born on a farm in Saskatchewan. The family moved to Moose Jaw where her mother passed away in 1937 Work was scarce in Moose Jaw so Mr Gibson went to Vancouver B.C to work in the shipyards in 1941 As soon as housing could be found the rest of the family followed

Joyce came to Alberta intending to attend Bible school not realizing the nearest Bible college was 40 miles from where her brother and family lived. Without funds, it was not possible

I am not sure if she was first attracted to me or my little red Model A Ford truck Anyway we started a courtship through the hardest winter 1949-50, that I've seen. It was 60° below zero in Leslieville quite a few mornings and 40° below for days on end. With one person on the crank and one on the starter that old Ford would always start

Joyce and I were married July 6th 1950 and soon after, started pioneering on the N½ 11-40-4 W5, the west end of Wood Lake. We had the down payment on 320 acres of poplar trees, an Allis Chalmer 20-35 tractor, a good young team of horses from dad and about 20 head of beef cattle We cut a trail about 200 feet and started building a house. We had cut and sawed 16,000 feet of lumber down by Wood Lake in the spring before we were married so the framing and sheeting we had. We went to the Atlas Lumber Co. in Eckville for the rest I can still see the look on Ted Hanson's face (manager) when Joyce and I told him we were building a house I guess he could see sales of $1,000. However the total bill for the 20 x 24 house was under $600. This included cement for a surface foundation, cedar shingles, 200 lbs of nails, plus shingle nails and finishing nails, tar paper building paper, two doors, one with a window eight double windows, door jams, window casings and even a new hammer We moved in just before Christmas, 1950

Our only source of income that first winter was selling firewood delivered to Eckville. We received $5 or $6 for a wagon box of dry spruce wood. Mr Jackson of the Eckville Bakery was our best customer, with the hospital a close second. I recall taking a load one cold snowy day and as quite a few people sold wood, the bakery and hospital were filled up I drove around town till about 4:30 p.m. and was afraid I'd have to take it back home Someone told me to try Mr Gust Mottus which I did. He said he didn't really need the wood but when I told him he could have it for $4 he said "okay" I could unload and he would see about some coffee When I had

finished we tied up the team to have coffee. Mrs Mottus had garlic sausage, pickled herring cheese and rolls, all luxuries to Joyce and me Then he gave me a cheque for $4 plus two $1 bills for the wood because he said he always paid $6 for wood, a real gentleman

Our farming career was short as we soon found we just couldn't raise enough money to clear land and live, especially with the depressed cattle price of the fifties, and borrowing money wasn't as easy then as now After cutting logs the winter of 1951-52 on Chambers Creek for William Brierley (we lived in a log cabin with a sod roof that winter), Joyce and I and our first child Robert moved to Ma-Me-O-Beach where I was a green roughneck on Commonwealth Rig 2 Five weeks later I was a green derrickman, a position I held for the next three and one half years, working in various parts of Alberta. It seemed we were always moving and as we were renting we travelled pretty light

In March, 1955 we racked Rig 2, west of Grand Prairie and most of the crew moved to Sundre to rig up Commonwealth No. 26, a brand new rig. We stayed there for two and a half years, working for Home Oil Co I was set up to driller in the spring of 1956 and we bought a 8' x 28' new two-bedroom trailer. We really thought we had it made

Robert Bobby as we call him) started school in Sundre then just as he started Grade 2 in 1957 we moved to Pincher Creek for nearly two years Then back west of Calgary to Bragg Creek Rigs are not a bad life but are hard for school age children. As our second son Rodney was about to start school we started thinking of our farm again

In the fall of 1959 Joyce and our family of two boys and two girls moved here to the farm and stayed on at Bragg Creek till the following spring, when we purchased Dad and Mom's home quarter section

We started into a mixed farming operation based on dairy and beef As any farming operation takes a lot of money to get started the first three or four winters, I still worked on the rigs and the farm chores pretty well fell on Joyce's shoulders with our two boys helping outside and Darlene doing her share of housework and babysitting

As we were dairying, our children were anxious to be involved in the Medicine Valley 4-H Dairy Club, under the leadership of Mr Abe Schofer After the first Achievement day at Omar Jodoin's farm our family including Mom and Dad, had learned quite a lot about showing cattle The lower end of most classes had a Meyers. Janice, who was three or four years old just had to have a calf to show in the Pee Wee class. As we were fresh out of heifer calves, her brothers helped her train a little Guernsey bull The judge lined up the calves starting with the lowest so Janice, having a bull in a heifer calf competition was naturally the first one called in line Each child received a white ribbon with first, second and third receiving red, blue and green ribbons as well as $1. Being first called in line, getting a ribbon and a dollar, she was sure that she had won

Mrs. Ruth Pattison led the club for several years during which time the membership changed from the Medicine Valley area to the Leslieville Withrow and Condor area The club was renamed the Leslieville 4-H Dairy Club. Our children have many trophies they won with our cattle as well as 4-H public speaking, showmanship, grooming and training. Several animals were shown at the provincial 4-H show at the Red Deer Fair but none ever made the 'top ten'

After 27 years we now have most of the original half section as well as the SW quarter of the same section under cultivation. Oastrom Bros. have done most of the brushing, starting in 1951 with a D4 cat and cutter at $7 50 per hour We did a lot of our own breaking, first with the old Allis Chalmers and later with a model D John Deere. We even piled 30 acres with that old D The last few years Dave Airey has disked our new land. Our family still think they should pick roots on the 24th of May long weekend. We presently farm one section of land. We raise hay and grain with a strict crop rotation, run 60 cows and feed out our calves

Our Family Meyers

Robert Donald was born November 1950 Bob, along with his wife Laurene (a Vulcan girl and their 19 month old daughter Chantel live in Calgary. Bob is a third year apprentice heavy duty mechanic for the city Bob and Laurene are active in Ambassdor Baptist Church having both graduated from Berean Bible College

Rodney John was born in April 1953. Rodney having an enquiring mind, enjoyed school and achieved good marks. He won the Governor General Award for highest marks in the Rocky School Division in Grade 9. He graduated with honors from David Thompson High School winning the Wm. Lougheed Memorial Award for highest marks in math. Rod spent one year at Red Deer College studying bio-chemistry but preferred to return to the farm Rod and Elva Reiman, a Condor girl he met in high school were married in August, 1972 With their two children David John and Dawn Marie they live in a mobile home on our home farm. They bought our dairy operation and Rod works in the grocery department of the Eckville Co-op

Darlene Joyce was born October 1954 Darlene is single and lives in Calgary She attended Berean Bible College one year and has been employed with the Royal Bank for the past three years. Darlene does ceramics and sewing for hobbies — won't miss a football game, and she down-hill skis in the winter

Janice Faye was born in Calgary in 1958 Janice graduated from David Thompson High last June She lives at home and is employed at

the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Janice doesn't have any specific hobby. She enjoys babysitting her nephew and niece.

Wendy Lynn was born September 1963. She is our only child born after we moved back to the farm. She attends school at David Thompson where she is in Grade 9. Wendy enjoys most sports and is involved with Pioneer Girls and Young People's groups at the Lesliеville church.

**MEYERS, CONNIE FAMILY (Containing part of the Withrow Story) — by Johnnie Stewart and Faye Hoglund**

In 1935 the Connie Meyers family and Connie's brother Slim and his family arrived in the Withrow district from Manyberries, Alberta. Connie's family consisted of Connie, his wife Christina, daughters Johnnie 11 and Faye 13 and sons Ray, nine, and Leslie, two. Slim's family included Slim, his wife Lil, son Wallace 11 and daughter Dorothy, nine. They all arrived in two cars except for Connie who came by train on a Railcar with the livestock and machinery. Each family had only about $250 with which they planned to locate in the Eckville district. On arriving, Connie's family went to John Meyers home, and Slim's went to Meta and Rudolph Dahl's. Later the two families moved to the Bill Dirsten house where they lived until the spring of 1936. Times were tough. The women and older children would trap rabbits to earn extra money for groceries. They would load the rabbits on the front bobs of a sleigh. The women would climb on top and drive to Eckville to sell the rabbits to Leavesly's Mink Farm. Bush rabbits brought 3¢ each, jack rabbits brought 5¢. Lil says, "We had a competition that first winter between the men and the women, when it came to shooting rabbits the women proved the better hunters but we were all generally pleased with the extra money it gave us and we managed through that winter even though there was a lot of snow."

In the fall of 1935 the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator. The brothers were encouraged by the neighbors to start a town. Connie, having past experience in blacksmith and garage businesses, Lil says, they decided to see Ray Evans about some land, as Withrow siding and C.N.R. station was on his land. In the spring of 1936 hammers could be heard starting the building of the town. Oscar Moltus and Art Dahl were chief carpenters. To get lumber for the buildings, they traded most of the cattle and sold the horses they had to buy the materials they needed. A granary was moved from Rudolph Dahl's farm to use as a cookhouse. Lil would go there in the morning to cook for the men as they continued building. Christie would stay home and get the five school age children off to Blueberry Valley School returned home. The first building to go up was Slim's home, then followed by the Meyers Brothers' Blacksmith Shop and Garage. Lil and Connie had applied for the Post Office, and as work began on Connie's house, the application was approved so work began on the Post Office too. Lil became Postmistress. When the train whistle blew, Connie could be seen racing from the blacksmith shop down to cross the tracks before the train arrived to pick up the mail bags off the landing on the other side of the tracks. When the shells of the houses were completed the families moved in. The cookhouse — granary became the store run by Meta and Rudolph Dahl. They built living quarters on to the back of the

The first elevator agent was Stewart Dodsworth. Because Withrow was a single man's point, Stewart was later transferred to Lesliеville when he married Marnie in the spring. Then Jack Bell of Lesliеville became the new agent and took his meals at Connie and Christie's home.

Interest was added to the town with the coming of the revival meetings held by Rev. Heiffelinger of the United States and soon a church was planned.

More homes and businesses were added in the next few years — a sawmill by Bill Dirsten, the Withrow Mission and manse. Walter Hoglund and Alf Clark bought the store from the Dahls who went back to their farm. In the summer of 1938 Jack Bell married and left the elevator and Elmer Stewart became the new agent. Elmer boarded at Connie's home.

All year round the community had some social life going on. In winter skating parties were held on the Horseguard River and a lot of time was spent sledding on homemade sleds behind Elmer's Model A. In the summer time games and picnics were held. The ball team was known as the "Withrow Hep Cats". They wore black sweaters with orange letters. A rifle club was organized. It was affiliated with the Canadian Rifle Association and even had two lady members — Faye Meyers and Ruth Pattison. That club led to turkey shoots and chocolate box shoots. Sometimes several carloads of people would start out at dawn on the dirt roads to Nordegg for a day of picnicking. It was usually dark by the time they returned! The annual picnic usually included a dance. The dance was held in various places such as Alex Moltus' barn, Gilby Hall and Fred Takkinen's barn. House parties were held in various homes.

Lil tells of the group of women called the "Busy Bees Club". They held monthly meetings at the different homes of the ladies, they planned picnics, had quilting bees and raffled off their homemade quilts. Members were Lil Meyers (president), Johnnie Stewart (secretary), Salme Moltus, (treasurer), Meta Dahl, Hilda Reid, Ella Dahl, Olga Moltus, Emma Tomingas, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. B. French, Mrs. Bill Lowry, Hilja Sjoblom, Marie Meyers, Myrtle Raabis, Hilda Stopsen and others but memory fails.

Next, Art and Myrtle Raabis arrived to take

over the store They moved into a house built by Bert Cooper A sauna bath was built and was enjoyed by everyone, usually on a Saturday night Next to the sauna was an ice house which was a necessity to the store for refrigeration purposes Much time was spent in the winter time sawing blocks of ice from the river and hauling them by sled to the ice house They were stored in saw dust so they would have a supply for the summer months

The time period of 1936-1941 saw Withrow with its peak population. Ted Ensign built a small house there and was appointed as "Mayor of Withrow" He brought the population up to 21 people

The C N R put in livestock pens and the Meyers brothers and Elmer Stewart were all buyers at one time or another Charlie Bott trucked the livestock to Withrow for the farmers He also built a bulk service station south of the blacksmith shop. On one trucking trip when he had Les. who was about four years old with him. Charlie rolled his truck over Charlie and Les got out unhurt but the truck burned

Time brought changes. Faye married Walter Hoglund on December 11, 1941 and they moved to his farm near Eckville Johnnie married Elmer Stewart on July 3, 1942 Elmer was transferred to Lesljeville elevator In September he was called into the army and enlisted into active service — Reg No. M38469-Gnr Stewart E A ). He went overseas in November of 1942 and returned in January of 1944. Johnnie stayed with her folks and when Elmer returned in January they took over the store from Art Raabis. They built themselves a home on their acreage Their son Jerry was born in 1945. Eventually the Post Office was moved into the store

Connie enlisted in the army and because he was stationed at Red Deer, Christie and Les moved to Red Deer for a time too. For health reasons Connie received a medical discharge and they returned to Withrow Then Connie became grain buyer as well as doing blacksmith work Misfortune struck when Chris he died in October of 1946 at the age of 43

farm north of Withrow, which he later sold. He married Phyllis Greenman in November, 1946 Their son Stanley was born in 1947 and they left Withrow to start farming north of Eckville

About a year after Christie's death Slim and Lil moved to Alhambra where Slim became the elevator agent or grain buyer

Elmer was concerned as others in the area were about the distance the children walked to school besides, his little son Jerry was almost school age! Elmer assisted by other parents went through the necessary procedures to get a school district formed at Withrow in 1950. Elmer and Ruth Pattison went to see Sigurd Sande, the Divisional Trustee, and he told them if they could find a teacher they seemed to be scarce at the time) he would arrange to have the old Campbell School moved to Withrow and he was true to his word! They had contacted Wendell Phillips, a returned missionary from China and he became the first teacher Elmer very generously donated the land on which to put the school and also built and donated the necessary outhouses for it The Department listed the school as "Blueberry Valley No. 2" but it was called Withrow School and served the purpose well until the schools were consolidated and the children were bussed into Lesheville

Johnnie and Elmer moved to Wetaskiwin in 1952 where Elmer worked as accountant for the Co-op, their house at Withrow was sold and moved to Condor The Stewarts still live in Wetaskiwin

Connie continued to be grain buyer, and when Stewarts left, he became store manager and Postmaster as well he had married Mrs Marie McMeekin in January 1949 and she was able to help him with the business

Connie was an active member of the Masonic Lodge at Rocky Mountain House. He passed away suddenly while working at the Post Office on June 3rd, 1953. His passing left Withrow almost a ghost town

Ray and Phyllis still live at Eckville and their children are Stanley Lavonne and Dale

Les lived at Eckville first with Roy and Phyllis, then with Faye and Walt Later he took up the auto body mechanic trade at Wetaskiwin He married Ethel Vipond in 1958. He operated the Eckville Auto Body Shop from 1962 till 1965 They now live in Edmonton with their three children, Darcy Kathy and Christine.

Faye and Walter now live at Summerland B C

**EDWARD JOHN MEYERS FAMILY — by Mrs. Meyers**

Edward John Meyers, son of Mr and Mrs John Meyers, was born at Manyberries Alberta In 1925, at the age of six years, he came to the Withrow district with his parents, and here he attended the Wolfe School

In 1943 Edward was married to Marie Lingren, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Frank Lingren of the Eckville area They farmed on N E. 4-40-4-W5 for thirty years In 1973 they sold their farm to Earl Loyeck of Rimbey and moved to a home which they bought in Eckville. Ed is now doing carpenter work. Marie has been employed at the Eckville Hospital in the housekeeping department. They have two children, Richard and Patricia, both of whom attended school at the Lesbeville and David Thompson Schools

Richard, better known as "Dick", married Patricia Frid in 1975. They have one son Dwayne. They make their home on a farm east of Benalto. Besides carrying on the farming work Dick does carpenter work Patricia is employed at the Imperial Bank of Commerce in

Patricia Marie married Frank Harriman in 1. They make their home in Calgary. Their two children are a boy, Terence, and a girl, Cheryl. Frank is an electrician by trade.

**JOHN C. MEYERS FAMILY** — by Edward Meyers

John C. Meyers was born in 1885 at Pelrz, Minnesota, U.S.A. In 1911 he moved to Alberta to homestead in the Manyberries district.

Rose Seefried came with her mother and family from Leava, South Russia, in 1911 to Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1918 John and Rose were married.

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. John Meyers and the two eldest children moved to the Withrow district and bought the N.W. 27-39-4-W5, where he farmed until 1963. Three more children were born after they moved to the Withrow district.

In 1963 Mr. and Mrs. Meyers sold their farm to their second eldest son. They then built another home on the farm where Rose still resides.

John Meyers passed away in 1966. He was a friend to all, never too busy to talk to people or help others in need. Five children were born to John and Rose.

Edward, the eldest, married Marie Lingren. They farmed in the Withrow district for thirty years. In 1973 they sold their farm and moved to Eckville where Edward is doing carpenter work. They have two children, Richard and Patricia.

Isabelle married Dave Bott, and they live on an acreage north of Lacombe. Their four children are Terry, Linda, Dwayne, and Dixie.

Connie married Joyce Gibson. They have five children and live on the farm. The children are Robert, Rodney, Darlene, Janice, and Wendy.

Harry is married to Betty Dirsten and they live at Valley View. Harry works as a mechanic maintenance man in a gas plant there. Their four children are Barry, Dale, Keith and Timothy.

John Jr. (Jack) was married to Debbie Niswanger and they have two children, Charlene and Lorrel. Jack worked for the Youth for Christ organization and was well liked by the young people whom he served. He passed away in March of 1973.

**MOTTUS, ALBERT**

Albert Mottus remained on the farm, keeping up a home for his brothers and sisters. Then in December 1942 he married Miss Victoria Johanson from the Boyle district east of Eckville and they farmed for another year. A son Barry was born in December 1943. Albert enlisted in the army in 1944 and served 19 months. After his discharge from the army, the time had come to build a new life for the future. In 1946 after much land searching he purchased the Ted Ensign farm at Lesliеville, where he and his family are still farming. In 1948 son, Brian, was born in October and in April 1960 another son, Kenneth was born.

Albert was chairman of the Agriculture Service Board for I.D. 10 for nine years before resigning. He was hog buyer at Lesliеville for the Eckville Livestock Co-op for 17 years until the Lesliеville hog station closed, and is now hog assembler in Eckvide for the Eckville Livestock Co-op. He also drove the school bus for 11 years and was captain of the Brucellosis calf program in Lesliеville district for many years.

Barry graduated from David Thompson High School and also from S.A.I.T. in Calgary and is now a manager of a Totem Lumber Company in Calgary. He married Miss Helene Cote of St. Paul in 1970. They reside at Bragg Creek and have two sons, Cameron and Spencer.

Brian graduated from David Thompson High School, and took two weather courses, one at Ottawa and one at Toronto. He was upper air technician at several locations in the N.W.T. for seven years. Then he took another course at Ottawa to become a Pilot Briefer working three years at YellowKnife airport. He married Miss Gwen MacLeod of Saskatoon in 1973. They have one son, Kevin, and a daughter, Reanne. They

port as a weather forcaster.

Ken is still at home and will graduate from David Thompson High School in 1978.

**MOTTUS, CHARLES HENRY** — by Salme Mottus

Charles Henry Mottus was born in 1942 to Arthur and Salme Mottus. He took his public schooling at the Wolfe School and his high school work at the Eckville High School. Following this education, he took a course at the Technical School in Calgary.

After completing his education Charles started farming in partnership with his father. When Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Demoulin moved off their farm, which was the former Nestor Lindquist homestead, Charlie bought their farm.

In 1964 he married Madeline Werner. They have three children, Russell, Randy and Rhonda.

**MOTTUS, OSCAR** — by Elsie Dahl

Oscar Mottus came form Vurro, Estonia with his wife Juul, and two daughters, Meta and Ella. They arrived at his brother Hugo's homestead near Gilby on May 14, 1914. Two days later a third child was born, another girl, which they named Adele.

In 1916 Oscar filed on his own homestead, NW 2-2-41-W5. He worked hard, clearing the land by hand, with his wife at his side. Along with the land clearing he constructed log buildings, and thus proved up on his homestead.

Five more children were born on the homestead—Albert, Hilda, Elmer, Louise and Robert.

In partnership with his two brothers, Oscar purchased a threshing outfit and travelled around the country at threshing time threshing

the grain for many of his neighbors. Together with his brother Arthur he built the Wolfe School, finishing it in November, 1922. Sixteen pupils were enrolled in Grades 1 to 5, in one room. The first teacher was Mrs. Wigmore.

Oscar lost his wife June in 1925 through child [illegible]h. Meta, then only 15 years old, took over the job of raising a family of eight children. This was not easy as the baby was just born and another child was only 18 months old. Water had to be carried and the clothes washed daily on a washboard. All the cooking including the baking of bread, was done on a wood stove. Board floors were scrubbed white with a stiff brush and lye soap. With the father away from home for days at a time, everyone had to pitch in and share the [illegible].

In 1935 Oscar married Annie Dahl and they moved to Eckville where they lived until her passing in 1965. He retired to Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House and later to the Rimbey nursing home where he passed away in 1974 at the age of 88 years.

[illegible]

Adele Mottus married William Herbert from Vancouver, B.C. They have four children—Beverly, Marlene, Marvin and Doris. The children are all married and are living in Nanaimo, B.C.

Louise Elizabeth Mottus married John Swanson of Mission, B.C. Their three sons are Robert, Daniel and David, all married and all living in Mission, B.C. Louise passed away in 1954 at the age of 36 years.

**MOTTUS, MR. AND MRS. JOHAN — (Written by Esther M. Mottus)**

Johan Mottus was born in 1861 in Vurre, Estonia. His wife Lena was born in 1865. After their marriage, they set up housekeeping and raised eight sons. Their occupation was farming. Three of their sons emigrated to Canada. Hugo in 1910, Alexander in 1912, and Oscar with family in 1914. They all settled around Gabriel Lake (Wood Lake as it is commonly known), in the Gilby district north of Eckville.

War broke out in Europe in 1914 and brought anxious times to Estonia. It appeared that all of Europe was destined to become embroiled in the conflict. Mr. and Mrs. Mottus determined to get out of that hot spot that was Europe, and go across the ocean to Canada to join their sons Hugo, Alexander and Oscar. There were many arrangements to be made. Johan believed it would be better to have gold and silver money rather than paper, so he exchanged most of his paper money for gold and silver. They hired a tailor and a shoemaker to come to their home to make warm clothes for the entire family — heavy overcoats, fur caps and heavy leather shoes. They had heard from their older sons that Canada was a cold place — down to 60 degrees below zero! It never got that cold in Estonia.

In March 1916 they were ready to leave. There was no passenger service for travelers in those war years, and they knew facilities on their journey would be very limited, so they decided to bring food with them. They had pails of honey and butter, and they packed rye bread and home cured pork for the trip. Each person carried a pail or a package of food.

Their son, August, decided to stay in Estonia, but the parents and their sons Ludwig (20), John (16), Arthur (10) and Waldemar (8) left on March 26. At that time, they could hear cannon fire from the battle front, the ground shook, and at night the sky was lit up with artillery flashes. The war was too close to their home for comfort!

They did not take the customary route to Canada, across the Atlantic Ocean. That was much too dangerous — even impossible. The Atlantic was mined, frequented by battleships and submarines. They decided to take the only other route open to them, across Russia, Siberia, Japan and the Pacific Ocean.

They were able to board a troop train carrying wounded soldiers home from the battle front. The reason they could take that train was that the father bribed the conductor with a few gold pieces. Others who tried to board that train without the benefit of gold pieces were ruthlessly booted off.

That train trip was far from comfortable and it was down right unsanitary for the train was crowded and the stops were few. Whenever there was a short stop, someone would get off and buy some hot water for tea. In Manchuria they bought horse milk. It was good! They were lucky to have had the foresight to bring food or they would have been very hungry. It took two weeks by train to reach Vladivostok, — then on to Japan by boat. They waited five days in

Yokohama for a Japanese freighter which was to carry them across the Pacific

The Japanese freighter, the Ava Mara, was far from luxurious. The passengers were crowded into a large room where they stayed for the entire voyage. The room had a double row of bunks along all four walls. The only bedding provided was one grass mat for each bunk. There was a dining-room which had two long tables — one for the Orientals and one for the whites. Several Jews shared the table with other white people. Whenever pork was served the Jews wouldn't eat any of it, so there was that much more for the others. Happy day! It wasn't often they had all they wanted to eat.

The ocean voyage took sixteen days. When the passengers disembarked in Seattle, they were interned for two days to clear immigration. The men and boys were all taken to one confined area, and the mother, Lena, was taken to the women's quarters. She was terrified. Separated from her family, not understanding a word that was spoken, and not knowing what was happening was the worst experience she endured on the entire journey.

After two long days of anguish the family were reunited and boarded a ship bound for Vancouver. That ship was beautiful — sheer luxury after their recent experiences. Somewhere along the way the whole family got infested with lice and there was nothing they could do about it but scratch. From Vancouver to Red Deer they travelled by train. As they passed through the Rockies, and saw snow everywhere, they would have turned back if it had been possible. Their dismay at seeing snow in May was short lived. When they reached the prairies they found it was really spring. Their heavy clothes were much too

Alexander Mottus was working in Red Deer in a saw mill, and when his parents and brothers arrived there, they had a happy reunion. From Red Deer the Mottus family went on to Eckville by train. John Kemila, Sr. had a horse-drawn covered democrat, and he drove them to Gilby to the home of an uncle, John Teener. It was May 24, 1916. The grain fields were nice and green. The ordeal of two months of travel were finally

The first thing Lena Mottus requested at the home of Uncle John Teener was "Please heat up the sauna bath — we're lousy!" A good hot steam bath and a change of clothes put an end to the "cooties" and good riddance!

Johan and Lena Mottus bought a quarter of land, the same land later occupied by the Alho Stopson family, on the south shore of Wood Lake. The cost of the land was $1250.00. Neighbors were kind to the newcomers. Mart Sestrap gave them a sack of barley and some rye flour. The Matthews family gave them some chickens, and Uncle Teener gave them a horse and a pregnant sow. From there on, they were on their own.

Their first crop, oats, yielded 200 bushels. In 1918 tragedy struck. Johan Mottus died, and the family had to carry on by themselves. Lena, the mother, lived until 1930, when she too, passed away. Johan and Lena were both laid to rest in the Gilby cemetery.

**NEAL, CHAS.**

Charles and Ruth Neal and their four children moved to the Eckville area from Lake Lillian, Minnesota in the summer of 1972, after purchasing three quarters of land (SE 10-40-4-W5, home site, and NE 10-40-4-W5, and SE 15-40-4-W5).

The Neals had previously lived in various parts of the United States. Charles was born in Martinsville, Indiana and has two sisters. He spent four years in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II, attended Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin where he and Ruth Marcy met and were married in 1953.

Ruth, the youngest of eight children, was born in Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts, attended the Massachusetts School of Art, taught art two years in Concord, New Hampshire, worked as a commercial artist and in mechanical drafting and reproduction lettering. Prior to this, she worked as a chocolate dipper for a small candy store chain and later in her sister's candy

The Neal's first child, Janice, was born in 1954 in Madison, Wisconsin. Jan is now attending the University of Calgary majoring in Elementary Education.

Radford was born in 1956 in Camden, New Jersey where Charles was working for the Campbell Soup Co. Rad is now taking graduate work at the University of Calgary, majoring in Computer Science.

A son, Hubert, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1958 where Charles worked for The Pillsbury Co., but, sadly due to a heart defect, Hubert died in 1960.

Wesley was born also in Minneapolis in 1963. Douglas was born in Willmar, Minnesota in 1964 after the Neals had moved to their farm near Lake Lillian, Minnesota.

The Lake Lillian farm was located on the prairie of western Minnesota. Corn and soybeans were the main crops for this area, along with cattle and hogs. Because of the Neal's interest in a different type of farming, a dissatisfaction with the increasing cost of land taxes, a desire for a more scenic farmstead, coupled with a spirit of adventure, they made the decision in 1971 to move to Alberta. Also, the strong winds, threats of tornados, blizzards, hail, heavy rains and humid 100 degree F. temperatures of Lake Lillian made them decide it wasn't the climate for them.

Being half Canadian, herself, made it easy for Ruth to be receptive to the idea of moving to Canada. Ruth's mother was born in 1890 in the small lumbering settlement of Hastings, New Brunswick, near the Bay of Fundy. This home site is now a part of Fundy National Park.

Since moving, Ruth has not been troubled with the hay fever asthma and bursitis that had bothered her both in Minnesota and Massachusetts Living in the Eckville area has been all the Neals had hoped it would be and more. The gorgeous scenery, the mountains, the clean clear air, long summer days, wildlife. native fruits, friendly people and a less vigorous climate are some of the reasons the Neals are happy with their move

**ELVIN OLIVER FAMILY — by Mrs. Edith Oliver**

After spending the summer of 1928 with my parents in Washington. I Edith Lockard Oliver accepted the position as teacher of the Wolfe School I was informed by the secretary of the Wolfe S. D., Mr Buckby that I could reach my destination by going to Red Deer then taking the train from there to Withrow On being unable to locate Withrow on a map. I naturally expected that it was a small tow

I traveled by train to Red Deer where I boarded the train going west. As it was a mixed train it didn't travel very fast After being on the train for what seemed like hours, I finally asked the conductor if we were near Withrow yet but he informed me we weren't nearly there yet as we had gone through Sylvan Lake only a short time before Thinking that the conductor had forgotten to tell me when we reached W throw, I inquired several times

Finally, by evening the train came to a stop and I was informed that we were at Withrow. At that time there was only a platform My luggage was unloaded. What a sensation when the train pulled out and I was left there in a strange country, surrounded by trees! I had lived all my life on the prairie, which was quite different

Finally I got a glimpse of a team and democrat coming down a winding road. What a relief to see someone This was Mrs. Buckby the secretary's wife, who had come to meet me. We loaded my luggage into the democrat and wound our way up the hill. Finally we came to a creek which we had to ford. Before we reached the other side one of my suitcases fell off into the water We rescued it and continued on our way I boarded with Mr and Mrs. Wallace Buckby Their family consisted of two children, Roy and Dorothy

The Wolfe school was about two and a half miles from Buckby's. Roy, Dorothy and I rode horseback to school. We had many experiences with the horses One had a colt and as we had two or three gates to open on our way, the colt would stay behind. We often had to go back and chase it through the gate before we could continue. These were the trials we had in getting to a country school. There were about 12 children attending the Wolfe school at this time in grades one to nine. Many of the children walked to school through the bush of which there was much at that time. The school was also used on Sunday for church services I often rode horseback to Leslievine for the mail a distance of about five miles

In July of 1931 I married Elvin Oliver who originally came out west from Ontario and settled in the Pine View district. I was born at Cardston and moved to Fort Macleod at an early age where I remained until I went to teach the Rich Hill school, the year before going to Withrow I then returned to Fort Macleod where I taught for three years before our marriage Our family consists of Lorraine, Tim and Doreen

In the fall of 1947 we moved to Leslievine after spending 16 years on the farm, the last six years of which I taught school at Pine View

The first year I taught in Leslieville I had 42 pupils with grades one to six. It was a two-room school Mr Hugh Horn taught grades seven to nine Later a small room was built for grade one Miss Nelson being the first teacher Finally a new six-room school was built and grade 12 was included. When the David Thompson school was built grades seven to 12 were bussed to it and grades one to six remained in Leslieville. Each teacher had but one grade I taught grade four

Elvin worked for a construction company in northern Alberta for a few years. Later he managed the Imperial Oil bulk station in Leslieville He was also caretaker of the David Thompson and Leslieville schools

Our family were all married while we lived at Leslievine Lorraine married Gilbert Hollingsworth of Leedale in 1954 and they now live in the Rimbey district Gilbert has been engaged in trucking and has hauled cattle and horses to many parts of the States, as far south as Texas They have five children Maurice. Marlene Merlin Maureen and Merletta

Doreen married Lee Hollingsworth in 1956, on her parents' 25th wedding anniversary Lee works for an oil company They have four children — Monty Darcy, Angela and Rodney They now live in the Leslievale district

Tim married Louise Shatford of Claresholm in 1963. He is engaged in ranching She taught school before and after her marriage They have three children — Dale, Darlene and Darren They live in the Caroline district

We lived in Leslievine for 20 years, moving from there to Bentley where we later retired

**PETERSON, MATT — by Elsie Anderson**

This is of necessity a very brief sketch of Matt Peterson's history My dad was born in Finland at Ilsalmi Outiland on November 15, 1881 He landed in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. in 1902 I don't know the exact year that he and my mother were married. She was the widow of Peter Esketin. She was born in Finland on March 25, 1875, and passed away on August 30, 1918

Mother had five children by Peter Eskelin Hilda the eldest was born in April 1902 and died on September 4, 1971 Ellen was born in May.

1965, and died on November 11, 1976. Albert was born about 1906 and died about 1929, and Adam was born about 1910 and died about 1933. Peter was another of the sons, but I don't know where he fits in, age wise.

I don't know too much about the early years of the Petersons, but Elizabeth was born October 9, 1912. She now lives in Sacramento, California, U.S.A. In 1930, she married a young Norwegian, Hans Stange, and they have two daughters, one of whom lives in Seattle, Washington, and the other in San Mateo, California, both in the United States.

Arthur was born August 31, 1914. He married in England and passed away in April, 1963.

I, Elsie, was born April 15, 1916. I was the youngest living as there was a baby when mother passed away. The baby was a boy, August by name. I do not recall much of the early years in Eckville. When I was five years old I went to live in the Bingley District with the Alex Schroderus family. Arthur came there a year later. When I was 10 years old we all three went to live with dad.

Of my dad. I can say he was the hardest working and strongest little man! His prowess at bush camps was legion. He was a heavy drinker, and a man's man. He was as gentle as he was harsh, generous to a fault. However, I know our lives would have been very different if our mother had lived. My dad went to Korjala, or Kareha, in Northern Finland or Russia in 1934. He borrowed $250 for his ticket from Elizabeth, and she became sole beneficiary of his farm and chattels.

Looking back from where I "stand now", the bitter-sweet of a fragmented childhood becomes a treasured memory. The sun, moon and stars still set over my dad.

I have been married to Toivo Anderson of the Trochu District since October 3, 1939. We have one daughter, Iona, who is married to Phil Noble, from England. She has taught school and continues to do so since 1964. She and Phil have one daughter, who started school in 1977.

Here it might be well to pay tribute to Mrs. Aino Stopsen's mother, Mrs. Victor Lingren. She was a tiny, wiry little lady who performed the duties of midwife, and delivered all of us Peterson's. She was indeed the "Lady with the Lamp."

For all those brave folk who settled that area, I'd like to say, "To be remembered is to live."

**REMEMBERING WOLFE SCHOOL DAYS — by Shirley Bohlsteln**

What really wonderful, carefree days those were when we traveled anywhere from one to three miles per day to the Wolfe School. Children from Grades 1 to 9 came by every mode of transportation, on foot, bicycles, horseback, skis in winter and some even drove a horse and buggy at times. Those faithful school ponies were very much loved by children fortunate enough to have one. Many carried up to three children at a time to school each day. They did have their fun with us as well. More than once upon leaving school my Shetland decided that it was my turn to walk and a couple of bucks later that's exactly what I did with my pony jogging home just out of reach in front of me.

Harsh weather conditions kept very few children home from school. They would arrive soaking wet in a summer rain or white with frost in the winter. Cold winter mornings were spent sitting around the large coal and wood furnace at the back of the room until the school warmed up. On very cold days we would crowd into the living room of the teacherage to do our school work. With no school buses at the gate I can remember father coming to meet us in the winter with a team and sleigh and being too cold to ride, my brother and I would hang on to the side of the sleigh box and run along to keep warm.

In milder weather was the excitement of noon hour skating parties at the nearest slough. The older boys would shovel the snow off and we'd have a bon-fire for warm ups and skate till it was time to return to school. If we talked the teacher into allowing an extra half hour of skating we really were thrilled.

The Christmas Concerts were an exciting event that made budding actors of everyone. What excitement it was to practice our lines for the big night. The teachers also put in many extra hours of work in planning for the concerts. There would always be the odd case of stage fright with complete loss of memory of those well learned lines but each moment was enjoyed by students and audience. Santa Claus always found his way to that little country school house too.

Like children of all times and ages we got into our share of mischief as well. In the spring the odd frog would find its way under the teachers bell. To jump out frantically when the bell was picked up to ring classes in. Other furry and slithery creatures could sometimes unexplicably appear in a desk drawer. At times the rule about no running in the school would be forgotten in the noon hour when teacher was having lunch. I can remember the "consequences" of one running accidence where the large bump on my head and a classmate's Blackeye were sure signs of Guilt after meeting head on at a blind corner! That stopped the running for awhile anyway.

Spring brought lots of wet feet as everyone had to try and find the deepest pond to wade in. Some of the more adventurous ones would fashion some sort of a raft in order to become sailors for a day, the odd one ending up with more than wet feet. Summer games were prisoners' base, pump-pump pull away, tag, kick-the-can and baseball. Annual sports days at nearby towns where we went to play ball were a real thrill. Then the annual picnic at the end of the school year was a big highlite. Homemade ice cream was one of the treats along with races and ballgames and a scrumptious lunch prepared by the mothers.

With all these good times, who needed anything more while growing up. They really were the "good old days."

**MEMORIES OF LIFE FROM AN EARLIER ERA IN ECKVILLE AND DISTRICT — by Thomas Renne**

**RENNE, CONSTANTINE AND JULIE**

The Renne family consisting of Constantine Renne, his wife Julie, and their two sons, Adolf and Thomas, emigrated from Estonia and arrived in the Eckville district in 1936. Following a short stay with the Sestrap family (Mr. Sestrap was a local farmer and town merchant) they moved onto a C.P.R. quarter. This move of the family with their two trunks, was facilitated by means of a hayrack borrowed from Mr. Sestrap.

After moving onto the farm, a settling-in process began. The wide cracks in the two-room log house had to be filled with plaster. Further insulation, consisting of cardboard from card board boxes, was nailed on the interior walls. With this protection, many winters were braved while the temperature dipped at times, to minus 60 F. Inside the house, a kitchen stove and a stone fireplace (built by the Bradley family), were the sources of heat.

A means of making a living had to be found. As was the case with many families in the immediate area, the farmland consisted entirely of trees. Only about an acre had been cleared on which a garden could be grown. The days mainly spent in "grubbing" trees to clear land. The trees were at first sawn by hand into firewood. This was split, allowed to dry, and then in winter Mr. Renne, with a team of horses and a sleigh, would make the 12 mile round trip to Eckville, delivering firewood which the people in town used for heat. These trips occured three to four times a week during winter months when there was snow on the road. The whole family was involved in some phase of this enterprise. After a few years, Mr. Henry Lingren mounted a circular saw and a Model A motor onto a sleigh. This allowed neighbours to band together in forming a "sawing crew". This custom continued for many years.

The source of power for work in the early days was the human muscle teamed often with the horse. Mechanical power arrived at the Renne farmstead around 1944, with the purchase of a Model D John Deere tractor.

The area had its share of hailstorms. 1946 was such a year; yet, despite an early severe hailstorm, the remainder of the season was ideal so that a "bumper crop" of around 700 bushels of wheat was produced. Most of this was sold, the proceeds going to the C.P.R. in order to pay off the land. In 1948, an adjoining quarter section was purchased from Mr. Tom Rossos. This served as pasture for cattle.

Except for pet dogs, of the farm animals, Mrs. Julie Renne loved her cows the most. These she milked for many years so that the cream could be taken to town and sold at the local creamery. This provided a most important supplementary source of income for the family.

The social life of the Renne family as well as that of others in the immediate neighbourhood, included visiting back and forth, birthday and Christmas parties, socials at Wolfe School, and gatherings held at Estonian Hall. At these events the men folk would frequently gather and play cards. The ladies meanwhile would gather into their circle to prepare food and some handiwork such as embroidery, knitting, crocheting and so forth.

those people who had a "sauna". One such place was the farm of Mr. and Mrs. John Sibelin. Mr. and Mrs. Renne and sons often visited there. Another place where frequent visiting occured was the home of Mr. Clint Bromling, his daughter Hattie and son Curtis.

Travel of any distance, such as to Eckville was with a horse and buggy or sleigh in winter. Shorter distances were very often covered on foot. A few Model A's graced the roads. To the drivers of these cars, the horses were a boon, as frequently they were mired in the pot holes along the dirt roads following a rain. Some road repairs were done by the local people, in consideration of which there was a lowering of municipal taxes to the County of Rocky Mountain House.

The roads were upgraded in the late 40's and early 50's, being both widened and gravelled. This made it somewhat difficult to use horses, especially with a sleigh. In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Renne purchased a Studebaker one half ton truck which Mr. Renne used until his death. This truck is presently being stored in Calgary by Thomas.

Primarily, the family was blessed with good health. However Adolf suffered a lengthy bout with pleurisy as a very young man. Following his recovery he left the farm at the age of 21 to work in the Baker Memorial Sanatorium in Calgary. In 1948, Thomas also left for Calgary and found employment there grinding lenses for eye glasses. The parents continued active farming until Mr. Renne attained the age of 70 years and received the old age pension. Following this, the fields were rented out to various neighbours. The couple continued living on the farm until Mr. Renne's death in 1956 at the age of 77. Mrs. Renne died in Calgary in 1970 at the age of 68.

Currently, Adolf is an accountant employed in Edmonton by the Alberta Government, and Thomas instructs mathematics and physics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

The above is an account of farm life in those years. It centered around the home and family and the community. Extensive travel, television, and such other aspects of modern life, were nonexistent. Even radios were not very prevalent in the immediate community. Life was

simpler, the effort to survive basic. Friendships were enduring, people tended to be more settled, the spirit of co-operation and good fellowship was continually in evidence and of vital importance to all.

**STATE, GLADYS**

My parents, Arthur Mottus and Olga Matila were married on February 14, 1927. I was born on August 8, 1928, at the home of my uncle, John Mottus, who lived near Wood Lake — My Grandmother Mottus was my mother's mid-wife.

In September my mother and dad moved in with Grandpa and Grandma Matila so that my grandmother could take care of me during the time my folks worked at Barons, Alberta throughout the grain harvesting season. After my parents returned from Barons we lived with Grandpa and Grandma Mottus.

My mother had been in poor health for some time, and in January of 1937 she entered the University Hospital in Edmonton for treatment for cancer, but she passed away in March, 1937. My father married Salme Raabis after my mother's death.

In April of 1940 I was placed in the Junior Red Cross Hospital in Calgary because of my physical handicap. Here they gave the patients treatments for their physical disabilities, and also treated us very well otherwise, even though we may not have thought so at the ti[illegible] pleted grade ten of my education wh[illegible] the hospital.

For further education I attended Western Canada High School where I took grade eleven. Mrs. McClure was my guardian and I boarded and roomed with her during this time. She taught me everyday housework while I was living in her home, and I have found this to be very useful.

In 1949 I came to Eckville for a visit with Mrs. McLean and also with Mrs. Buckby Jr., and Mrs. Buckby Sr. I spent a happy Christmas that [illegible] in Rocky Mountain House at the home of Wally and Esther Mottus.

On January 31, 1950 I left Rocky Mountain House to come to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Here, on February 2, 1950, I started to work at the Disabled Civilians' Workshop. My work included sewing dresses, nurses' uniforms, doctors' coats, aprons, smocks, and many other kinds of sewing. I worked there for about five [illegible] I met my late husband there, and we were married in December of 1955.

Our children were Marie Emily, born on September 23, 1956 and John Arthur, born on November 6, 1958.

My husband, John, had been afflicted with tuberculosis and in 1960 the ailment flared up again. He returned to the T.B. sanitarium at Fort qu'Appelle, where he had to spend the next eleven months. His return home at the end of that period was a very happy time for us. However, our joy was not to last, for John passed away just eleven months after his return home.

On October 19, 1973 Marie Emily was married to Myles Endicott. On June 22, 1974, Bobbi Dawn Bridget was born to them, and on August 8, 1978 Denise Marie was born, thus giving me two grandchildren.

My son, John Arthur, graduated from high school on June 18, 1976, and now is employed by the Allied Lumber Company in Moose Jaw.

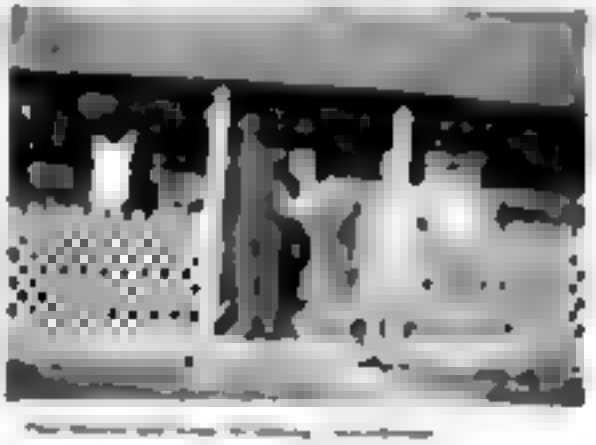
I keep busy doing housework and caring for children. I babysit for a family having three children, ages four to 11 years, and I enjoy this very much. I am presently living in my own home in Moose Jaw, and my son John lives with [illegible].

By Gladys State

**STRIDSBERG, JONAS PETER ERICKSON (1877-1948) — by Vera Molander**

Jonas Erickson was born and grew up in Sweden. He was a brother of Anna Molander and had come to Canada on the same ship as Uncle John Molander. They worked together in the trenches in Ontario. When he heard there was land in western Canada, he journeyed by train to Alberta. He homesteaded the NE 2-40-4-W5 seven miles northwest of Eckville. He cleared the land and planted crops and garden and built granaries and a barn out of logs. Some of the old buildings are still standing today.

When Jonas Erickson settled here he changed his last name to Stridsberg, because there were so many people named Erickson in the country. First he farmed with oxen and then with horses. He never drove tractors or cars. He milked cows and had a few pigs and chickens. Every week he took cream to the creamery in [illegible].



Jonas was a very strong, hard-working man. He carried a can filled with milk on his back all the way to Lacombe, over 35 miles, and brought flour home in the can. The milk was for the cheese factory and, since he was there, he picked up his flour and groceries with the money from the milk. Anna and Henry Molander allowed Harold to help Jonas when he asked for his help.

Harold and his Uncle Jonas had a large split wood pile. Harold hauled the wood from his quarter, which is now owned by Maurice and Harriet Clark. They used a buzz circular saw and a Wallis tractor to saw the wood. They had sawing bees in which all the neighbors helped each other, going from farm to farm.

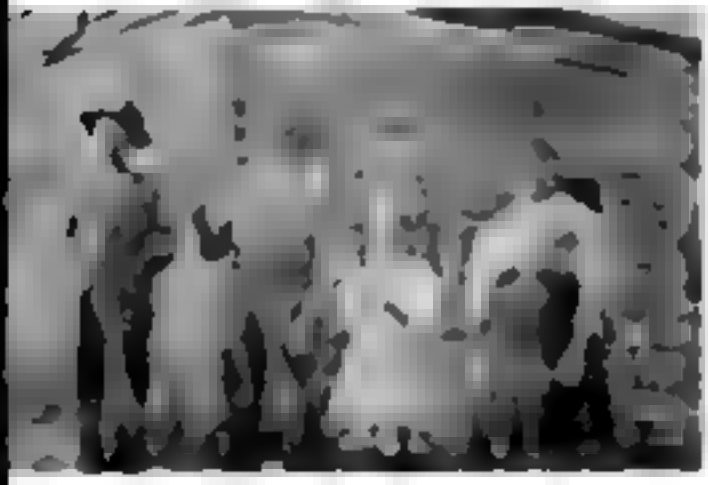
In July 1945 Harold went to help Raine Haapala, his neighbor, saw lumber. Harold cut his hand badly and lost one finger. Dr. Coppock managed to save the others.

Jonas had the first threshing machine with a Stickney engine, and did custom threshing with Henry Molander. The Stickney engine was later used for grinding feed for pigs and cattle. Alfred and Harold threshed together for many years until 1950, when Alfred bought a combine. Harold worked for Jonas Stridsberg from 1932 until Jonas passed away in 1948. Harold and Vera now own and live on the land that Jonas [illegible]

**AHO AND HILDA STOPSEN**

Aho Stopsen was born in Finland, Europe on August 4, 1904. He received his army training in peacetime there, and then immigrated to Eckville, Alberta in 1926. Upon his arrival at Eckville, he was given employment on the farm of his uncle, Rudolf Stopsen.

Hilda Lingren was born at Granite, Montana U.S.A. in September of 1904, and came to Eckville in 1905 with her parents. In 1931 Aho and Hilda were married in Red Deer, Alberta. There was no honeymoon in those days — just back to work.

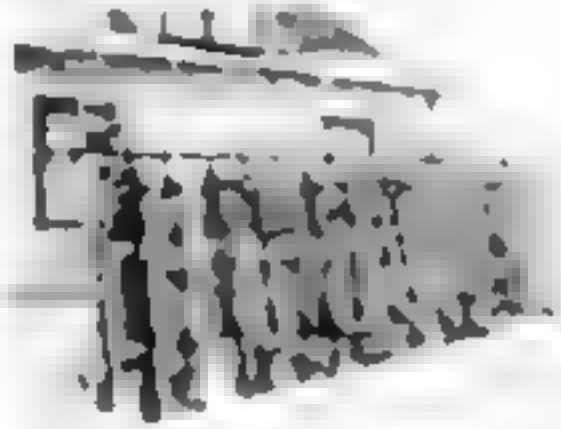


[illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. Stopsen bought Ed Medin's homestead, NW 36-40-4-W5. They lived and farmed here until 1942. A son, Oliver was born in March, 1933. They worked hard on the farm clearing land by hand and milking cows.

In 1937 Shirley Mae was born, thus increasing the family to four members. Oliver turned five and began school at Wolfe School which was one-fourth mile distant. The school teacher secured room and board at the Stopsen home at that time.

In 1942 the family moved to the Wood Lake farm, SW 12-40-4-W5. Here they lived until their retirement. Aho trapped muskrats and coyotes during the wintertime and fished in the lake during both summer and winter.



[illegible]

Oliver and Shirley completed Grade Nine at Wolfe School and then continued their education at the Composite High School in Red Deer, where Oliver graduated. Shirley took one year there but completed her schooling at the Eckville High School. Oliver was involved with his music and played in many bands. Shirley, however, was a horse lover and spent her spare time riding and showing horses. Many happy times were spent at Wood Lake with skating parties in the wintertime and boating during the summer.

Oliver married Faith Charles and they have two children — Faron and Cheryl. They are now living at Summerland, B.C. Shirley Mae married Fred Doberstein, from Lacombe, and they are presently living in the Lacombe area. They have two boys, Douglas and Jason.

Aho and Hilda continued to farm after their son and daughter were married and on their own. In 1972, though, they decided to sell the farm and retire to the town of Eckville to enjoy their leisure hours with friends.

**WOLFE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3080**

The Wolfe School District was established January 31, 1921, comprising the following lands: S 34-35, N½S 25-27 T39-R4, S-5 and 8, SE 18, and those portions of 88, 16, and 17 lying south and west of the Medicine River in T40, R3, S 1-3, 10-12, T40-R4-W5. Mr. E. Aho of Eckville, Alberta was Senior Trustee. The treasurer was Mr. W. C. Buckby of Warrow, Alberta.

School opened in 1922.

The first teacher was Mrs. Lollie Wigmore. Among others who taught at the Wolfe School were: Miss French, Miss Farnell, Mr. Lowe.

Gordon Gibson, Blanche Arndt, Artina Weller, Victor Brown, Bill Prunkl, Mr. Ambury, Mrs. Salme Mottus.

The school was closed in 1954, sold in 1956, and moved to a farm SE-11-40-4-W5 remodelled for a home.

The Charles Neal family live in it now.

**MR. YRTIMAA**

Mr. Yrtimaa was born in Finland, arrived on the homestead in 1909. NE 12-40-4 W5. He lived with the Lingren family until his log cabin was bu

Horses were his next necessity. He bought a team of mares and raised many fine horses from them. His horses were well fed and always kept well groomed. He was once seen riding a shiny black horse to town, where he bought a hundred pound bag of flour. This he carried, while leading the horse home.

He had cattle, milked some cows and separated the milk with a hand separator taking the cream to the creamery in Eckville. He was skilled at tanning hides, from which he made harness, sewing colored buttons on the bridles for decoration. Some thought that his idea was to make an impression on the girls.

He lived on the shore of Wood Lake, so spent a lot of time fishing, as well as always growing a beautiful garden. When his health began to fail, he asked Shubroskis to care for him. In return he would will his Wood Lake farm to them. The Shubroskis did his for him until his death.

**VOWS FOR THE RESOLUTION-LESS**

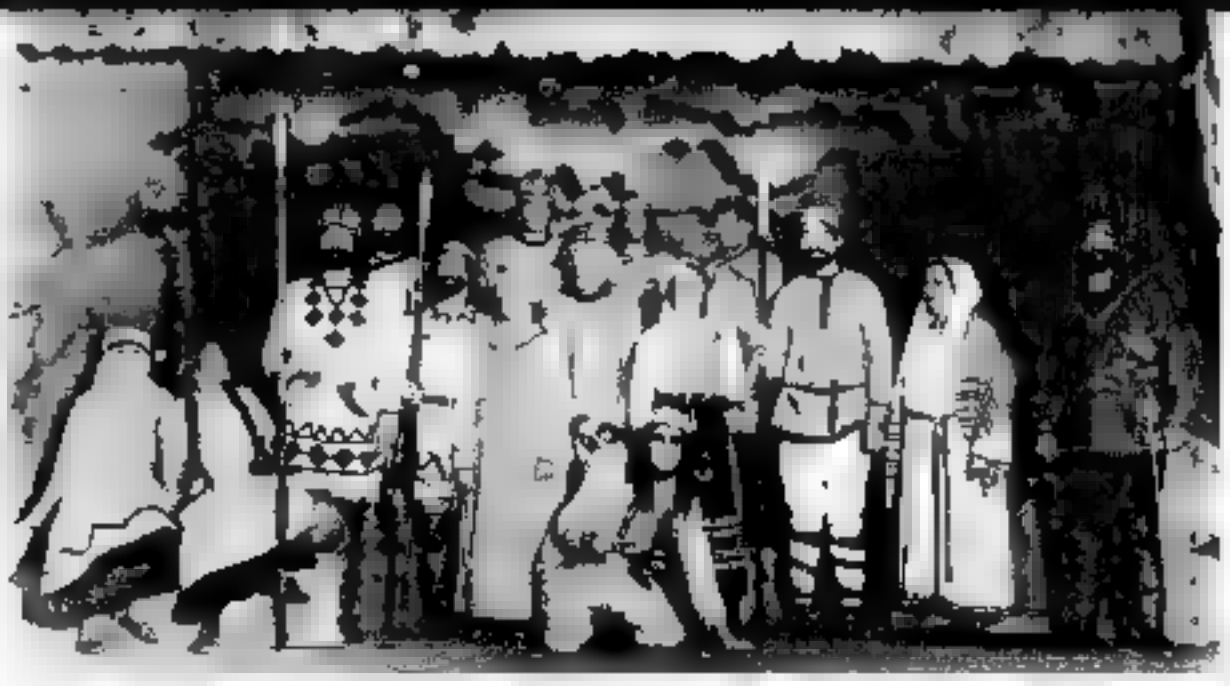
1. Keep me from thinking I must have something to say on every subject on every occasion.
2. Keep me from trying to straighten out everybody's problems while ignoring my own.
3. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy.
4. Keep my lips free from the recital of endless and tedious details.
5. Seal my lips from reciting aches and pains. I don't feel better afterwards and those who listen feel worse.
6. I ask not for the grace to enjoy the tales of others, but only for the patience to hear them with equanimity.
7. Teach me the marvelous lesson of knowing that occasionally I may be mistaken.
8. And let me learn to see things in unlikely places and unexpected talents in good people, and give me the grace to say so.

adapted from Forethought

**MY DAILY PRAYER**

Lord help me to keep my ears and eyes
wide open
But my mouth shut and my nose out of
everyone else's business.

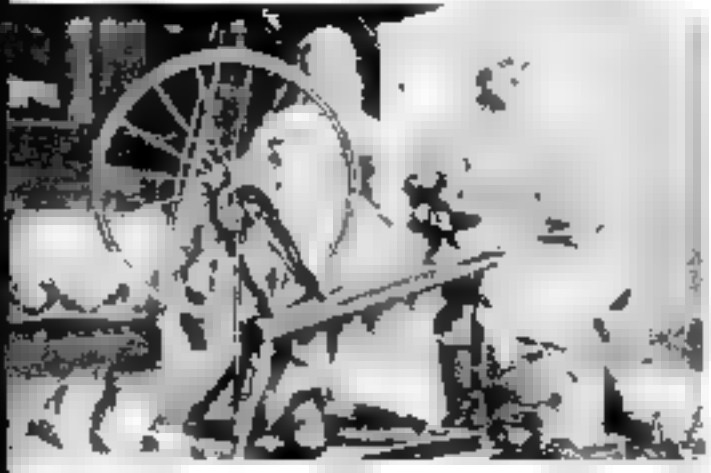
Church gathering at Tigerville. Rev. Hintz, Lutheran minister.



Cast in a Finnish Play at the opening of the Belville Hall

Masquerade in the early days.

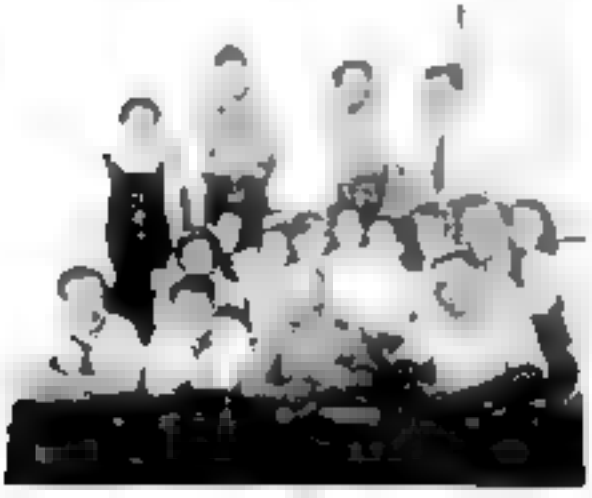
John Pinham's band before the first World War



Canada at Work L. to R. Mrs. Vanson at spinning and Mrs. (Isaacson) Stewart is carding

Sears Bellhita braiding rugs for a past time

At Sawyer's Sawmill on the flats of the Mattole River 1908



Co-op Store staff 1942

Harmon Beane visits us evening 1908

Helen and Charles Kinsey

Mrs. F. Wiggins on the left with her sister Marion

On Active Service

[redacted] EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

15th June-1918

HEADQUARTERS
Wesleyan Army & Navy Board,
Central Buildings.

Nov 29th 1916

No. 99606 Coy. C Batt. 196th Regt.

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well.

I have been admitted into hospital
sick
and am going on well.
wounded
and hope to be discharged soon.

I am being well done to for here.

I have received your telegram dated
letter
parcel

Letter follows at first opportunity.

I have explained by letter from me

Signature only J.E. Lees

Date April 16th 1917

(Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.)

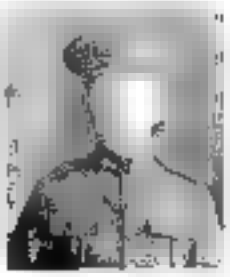
[redacted]

Well, there has been half-a-dozen of the 191st men "napt good" already but I think I'll be safe enough, alright We take our turn in the line again [redacted] They are feeding us very good just now

LETTERS LIKE THE ONE ABOVE WERE SEVERELY CENSORED DURING THE FIERCE BATTLES IN FRANCE IN 1917. FINALLY LETTERS WERE NOT ALLOWED AT ALL, ONLY THE ABOVE TYPE OF CARD.

# Roll of Honour

Eckville Veterans



Francis W. Andrew

Fred Bennett

W T Buttel

Anthony A.H. Bytynas

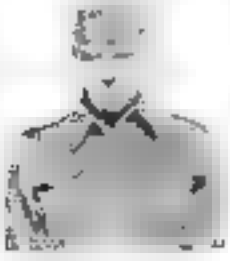
Arnold R. Bytynas

John A. Byrnes

John James Cordon

Thomas B. Cunningham

Walter J. Cunningham



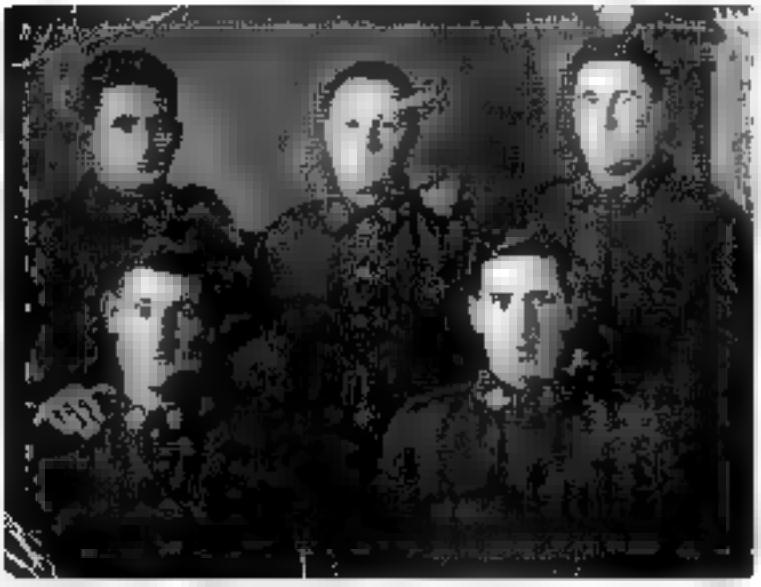
Harold Dale

Norman Eastman

W.E. Frame

L.A. Hagland

Edwin Herbert



Standing: Bill Currie, Martin Ojeffe, and Marion Gentry. Seated: Rudy Rasmussen and Dan McGarury

Wayne Hilgale

George Ignatius

Wayne Ignatius

Gertie Johnson

John Eric Kalaputar

August Kasper

Jack Kelly

Alfred William Kind

John Charles Kind

Floyd Kraft

Fred Kraft

Robert Kraft

Albert Lutz

Clarence Lutz

George Lutz

Simon MacKenzie

Onni Maki

John Maki

Reino Maki

William Adkins

Marie McDonell

James B. Merriman

Jim B. Merriman

Connie Meyers

Donald Stanley Mesmer

Rudy Mestas

Charlie Nieml

Henry Nieml

Salvador Nieto

Victor Nieto

Donald Olsen

R.M. Simpson

William and Thomas Smith

George Standinger

Ronnie Standinger

Edward Stopera

Wayne Stopera

Frank Talson

Oscar Talson

Irvin Thomas

Arthur M. Thorkman

Peter Ernest Tolvanen

Ray Tolvanen

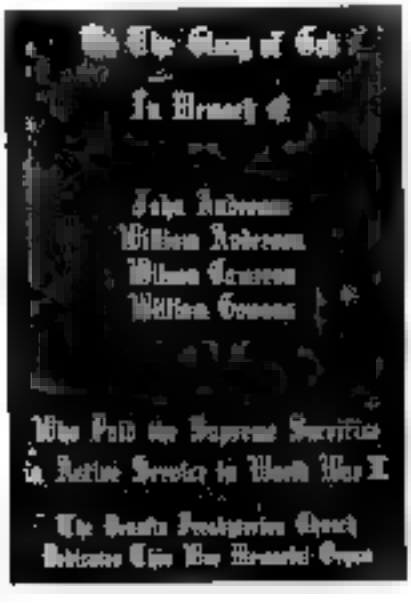
Alma Woori

Roland Woori

Mr and Mrs Hans Woori

Thelma and Violet Woori

Bekville Honor Roll




Bengtto Church Scroll

Benjamin
Veterans

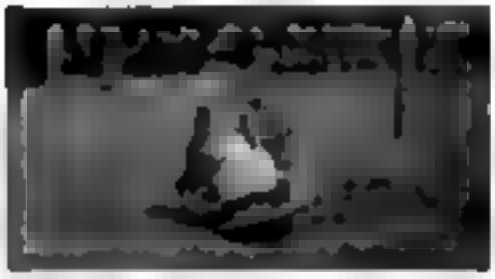
Charles Carroll

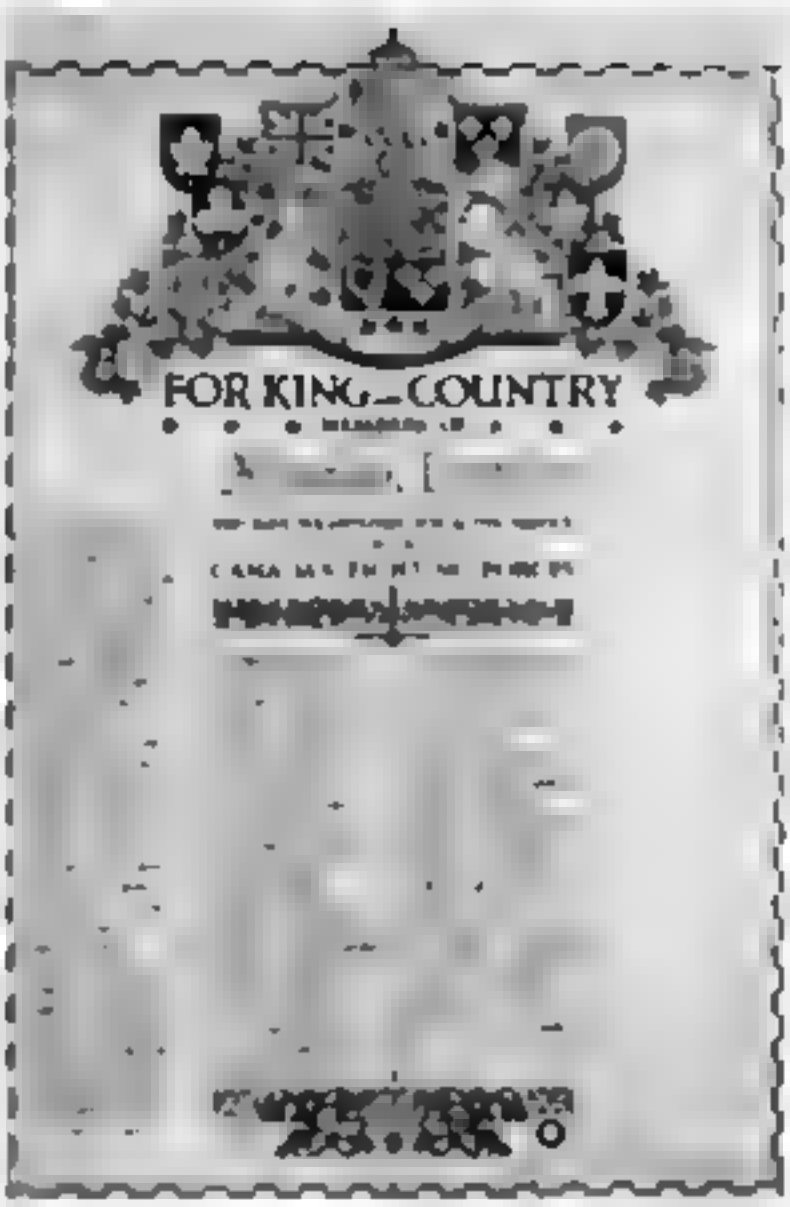
Albert Gunst

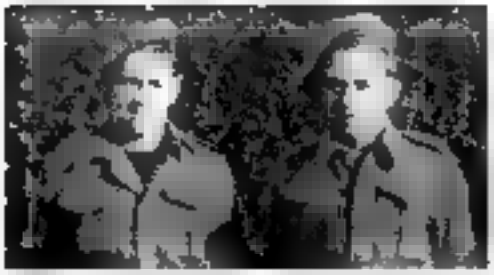
Rudy Heyn

Johnnie Jones

Frankie Kilpatrick




FOR KING & COUNTRY



Joe and Lawrence Endlinger

ondor
Veteran

Bud Jones

Gimbel
Veterans

Sgt. Warren L. McElroy and L.A.C. Owen J. McElroy

L.A.C. Nugent, Frank A.

Jack Wells 1918

## Last West Veterans

Herbert Beierbach

Norman Benson

Private Edwin Brown M.M.

Bob and Yvonne Fox

Orval Hamilton

George Jensen

Ross and Walter McKinnon

Chester Misner

Lester Misner

William Perkins

David and Lloyd Shuler

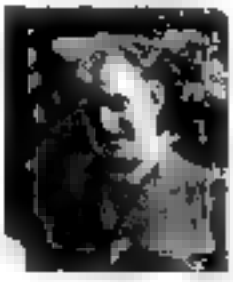
Dave Thompson

W.S. Thompson

## Leedale Veterans

Cpl. Melvin Aske M61612

F/O Dallas E. Bell



Edward Bell

Gordon Leslie Bell

Roy Bell

Spr. Arthur W. Chapman

Pte. Harry Klopotic

Hugh Lindsay

O.V. Little Cpl.

Edwin Teddy Plumb and John Plumb

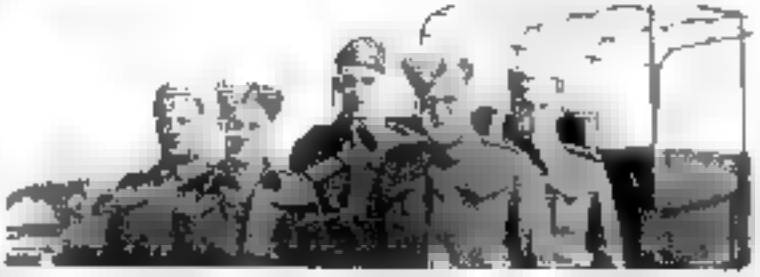
John Plumb M35563

Pte Thomas Henry Plumb

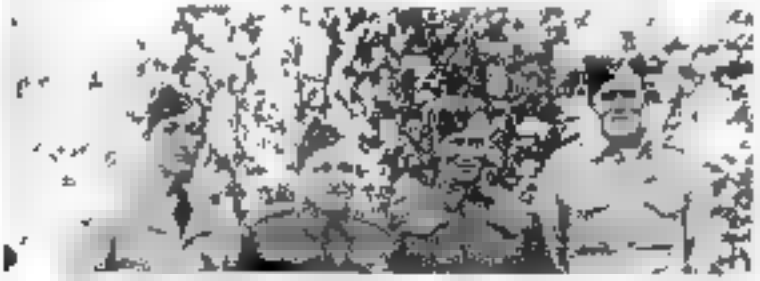
Joseph C Rawdenaugh

George Royan

Valeur Tkacik



Roy Belt. Ronald Wenlake. Ben Vasy Dick Chappell and Melvin Ashe



Gordon Baldridge. George Royan. Art Baldridge and Charles Carroll

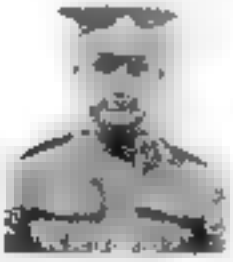
Leslieville Veterans

Ethel Johnston, C W A.C

Gabriel Lebihan

Eric Mace

Cliff McBeth



Percy McGill

Harold Purcell

Samuel Sands

Jim Thompson

John Thompson

Medicine Valley Veterans

Jewel Maddox

# Midland Veterans

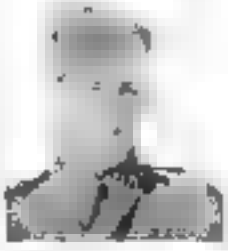
Arthur Whillier Jr.

Arthur Whillier Sr.

George E. Williams

Harold Chinnock

L.A.W. Gladys Bakke



Sgt. Carl Bakke

Pte. Oliver Chabot

Flight Sgt. Wm. Baillie

C.W.A.C. Anita Baillie

Pte. Erland A. Hanna

Pte. Mary Jane Hayward

Walter Ernest Hayward

Cfn. E. Ardo Hulberg

L.A.C. Clifford Hulberg

L.A.C. Ingmar Hulberg

Cpl. John Iverson

Trooper Marvin A. Parker

Pte. Lawrence Simmons

Pte. Victor Stollings

George H.N. Williams

# Roll of Honour

Adrian, Robert
Anderson
Anderson, J.
Anderson, W
Ayers, B
Ballange, G.
Bardenhagen, Elmer
Barnell, Bill
Barnell, Jack
Barnes, Ted
Billings, Leonard
Blair, D
Booth, Allan
Booth, Merle
Brackin, E.
Brackin, A. H.
Brandling, Chris
Brownlow, John
Byrnes, T.
Caron, Cecil
Caron, E. R.
Chevalier, Frank
Chevalier, Joseph
Chisholm, Edgar
Chisholm, Richard
Cochrane, Wm. W.
Cochrane, J. W.
Cole, Ralph
Conroy, Jack
Conroy, Ray
Coulis, Donald
Cowan, Robert
Crabtree, Horace
Cross, Harvey
Cross, Morris
Cunningham, Ronald
Cunningham
Davies, James
Davies, William
Denbury, Douglas
Dennett, Muriel
Dickson, James
Dickson, John L.
Diggins, Al
Diggins, Fred
Diggins, George
Dodgin, Ted
Dugg, D.
Farrington, George
Fletcher, Kenneth
Forbes, Alex
Fox, Gus
Fox, Theone
Fredlan, Adolph
Fredlie, Arthur
Fredlie, Henry
Frith, Lionel
Frith, Stanley
Frazer, Colgan
Frederick, Paul
Gallagher, Donald
Gill, Charles
Goldfinch, Jack
Gordon, John
Gore, Timothy
Gould, A.
Gould, W. C.
Graham, Elmo
Green, Alex
Green, Bernard
Green, Ken
Hall, Tug
Hambleton, Harry
Hambleton, Wm.
Hamerton
Hart, E.
Hicks, Alfred T.
Hicks, Henry
Hicks, Hiram P.
Hilton, Herbert
Hill, Frank
Hopkins, J.
Howen, T.
Hurnik, James
Jones, Elmer
Jones, Howard
Jones, Norman
Jones, Richard
Kingsley, Ralph
Kitchman, Fred
Klinkhill, Herbert
Kirkpatrick, Eric
Knee, Kramer
Kujala, Roy
Lachmund, Carl
Lachmund, James
Larsen, A. A.
Larson, John W.
Latham, Felix
Latour, Frank
Lawson, Ray
Layton, Robert
Leslie, John
Lightbown, J. E.
Litchfield, Denis Jr.
Little, W. J.
Lunn, Alfred
Lund, Theodore
Lund, Otto
Lychacheff, Adolph
Lychacheff, P.
Lynn, Barry
Lynn, William
MacDonald, Angus
MacDonald, Donald
MacDonald, J.
MacDonald, John

CANADIAN ACTIVE SERVICE

# Roll of Honour

MacDonald R.
Macomber R.
MacNeil D.
MacNeil
Magee Harvey
Mahl, Allan
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CANADIAN ACTIVE SERVICE

The organizational meeting of the Eckville and District Historical Society was held January 31, 1977 at the home of Mrs. Helen Terry

What an enthusiastic group they were Eckville and District was going to compile a book of their heritage

Oh! We thought this would be a real challenge, everyone seemed like mature intelligent individuals who would enjoy working together

We were soon to find that we had problems. Due to these delays some of our pioneers are not with us to see our book in print

Our book will no doubt have errors and omissions Please accept our apologies If it had not been for sheer determination on the part of some members this book would not have materialized.

God willing, in the near future Eckville will compile a follow-up book and hopefully things will go more smoothly

The Book Committee

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# Echville 1921. As Remembered By: – Mr. J. T. Marshall

C.N.R

Livery Barn

A. E. T. Eckford Real Estate

Co-op Store

H. W. Wilson House

House

Sports Ground

Lumber Co. | H. W. Wilson | Ehrhardtler House | Gen. Store | Mike Sestrap | Echville Improv. Hall | Rodgers Gen. Store | Vacant | Vacant | Drug Store L. Cyosby

Hardware | J. T. Marshall

Dr. Barkes House

Main Street

Ed. Watson | Hotel | Jack Coughlin | Smith & Isaacson Garage | Charlie Mason Cafe | Hotel | Mitchell | Vacant | Cowans Hardware

Canadian Bank of Commerce | Vacant | Vacant | J. M. McDonald

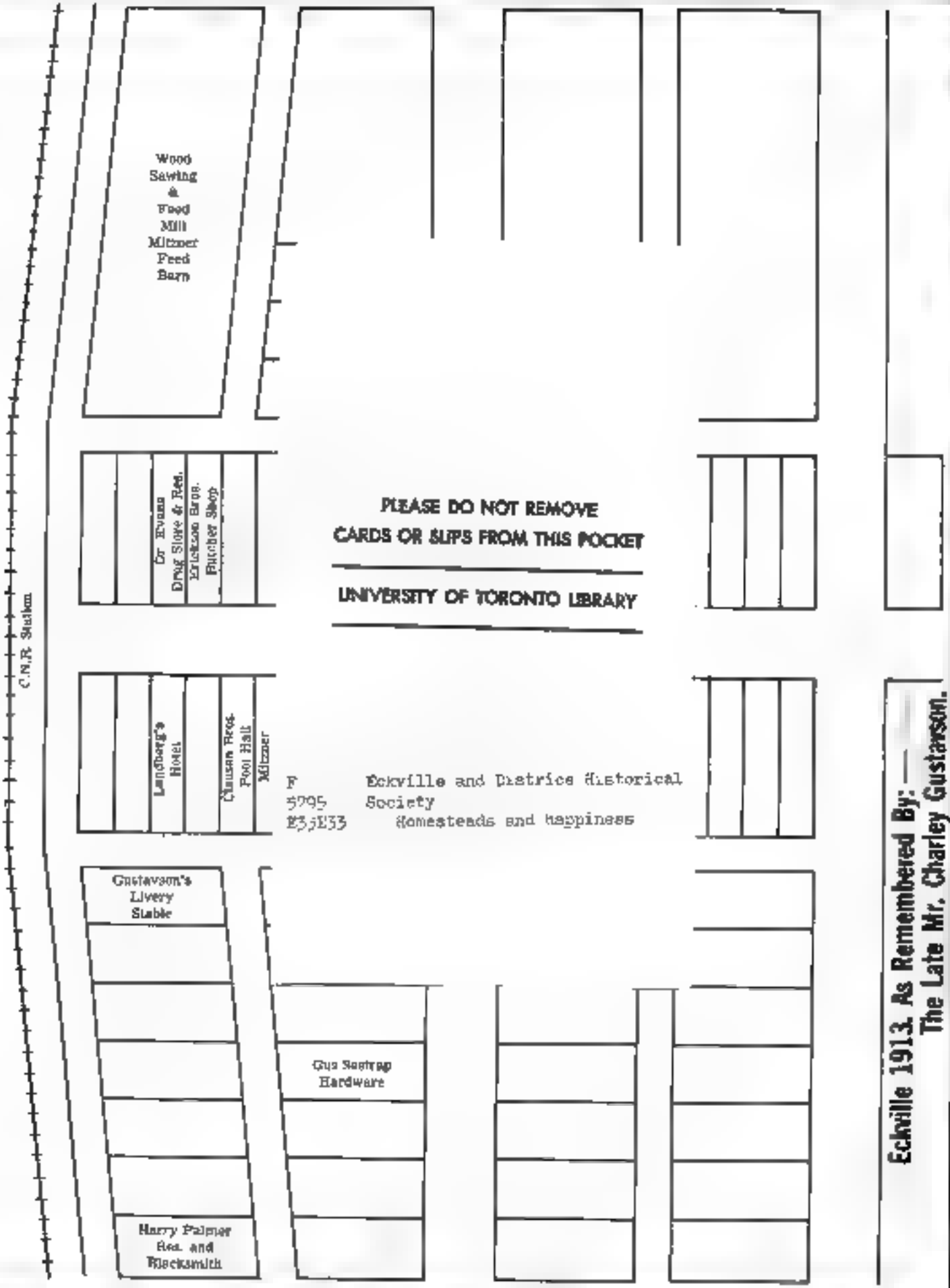
C. Gustavson Livery Stable

W. McHattie Blacksmith

Vacant | Dan Clemens House | Isaacson House | Vacant | Mike Sestrap House | Perlar House | Vacant

J. M. McDonald House | House | House M. Sestrap

Pres. Church

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# HOMESTEADS AND HAPPINESS

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank You for the many examples of courage, devotion, and dedication to life which we find written on each and every page of this book.

When times were hard and difficult, we thank You for making Your presence known to our ancestors and all who have gone before; those brave pioneers, both men and women, who have guided us and prepared for us a better way of life.

To them and to You we dedicate this book and we pray that, as it is read by succeeding generations, all may find inspiration and enjoyment in its contents, thus enabling them to continue in that great pioneering spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray,

Amen.

Rev. L. George Macdonald

It is hard for us to imagine how this beautiful Central Alberta countryside looked to those first white explorers who resolutely ventured westward more than two centuries ago. Highways, scattered towns and land developments have altered the landscape some, but the overall beauty of this area remains relatively unchanged, and it is still possible to show, in imagination, their thrill of excitement and challenge.

To those first pioneers and their families who came, struggled and endured and to their descendents this land has been good. But lest we think that the settlers who came from other parts of Canada, or other parts of the world, enjoyed the advantages we have today we must pause briefly and look back over the years. I think it is tremendously important to take time to record the intimate local history that is part of the rich, background tapestry of the Eckville area; record the names, the pictures, and the events which are in fact an integral part of our heritage - and legacy.

The history of a nation is conveyed with broad brushstrokes which record major events affecting the future of the country. The history of a people is a finely etched recording of day to day personal events- the recalling of names and times and places: the reliving of joys and griefs closely shared with loved ones, friends and neighbours.

I am sure this book will provide an invaluable link between our treasured past and our exciting future.

W. Helen Hunley

W. Helen Hunley
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Rocky Mountain House Constituency

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Eckville and District Historical Society acknowledges with gratitude the many sources of help received in compiling this book.

We thank those who researched old records and the devoted people who wrote numerous letters, travelled many miles encouraging people to write their family stories. If not for themselves for their children and grandchildren. We also wish to thank our devoted typists and proof readers who worked so diligently

Deserving special mention are those long time residents of the area who made available their personal knowledge, recorded memoirs and photographs.

And for a different kind of help, much patience, and great understanding over the past year, a heartfelt thank you to our families. We know roast beef would have tasted better than hot dogs.

No doubt, you will find many errors and omissions, but none of us has ever written a book, we have tried to be accurate in all aspects and if we have missed some information please accept our apologies.

This has been truly a fascinating experience, there have been many ups and downs, as with everything else.

We hope you will enjoy reading this history book as much as we have enjoyed compiling it

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Helping Hand —
George Macdonald

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Dedication - - -

# Indian Tales

**THE BUFFALO POUND — by Bob Campbell**

There is a buffalo pound on our home place. This pound was used by the Indians. They would watch for the buffalo as they came down to the lick, then they would chase the animals up the valley to the pound and kill them. The Indians had dug a ditch to lower the water in a slough, so they could build a catching pen.

There was a cram and curing pit. In the summer time after the animal was butchered the meat would be cut in pieces, wrapped with grass, then rolled in the mud at the mud hole. This was their way of cooling, or getting the animal heat out of the meat, in the shortest possible time to avoid spoiling. After that, the meat would be smoked.

There is another pound up near Lampman Valley. There is a big swamp near Squaw Hill, west of Open Creek Dam, where there are wallow holes and a buffalo lick. Indians would chase the buffalo over the east end of Squaw hill. They had a cram and curing pit there too.

**THE INDIANS AND THE COW — a story by Bob Campbell**

Mr. R. C. Block was always having fun with the Indians. One day in March, 1930, three Indians came through here on the Hudson Bay trail. Our cow had just had a calf. Mr. Block asked the Indians to come and look at the new calf. The cow took one look and gave chase. One Indian went along side of the barn and held on to some rails that were there. Another Indian went over the manure pile and the third jumped the fence. My brother Clifford, was there and popped through the fence. The cow hit the fence right behind him.

About two weeks later the same Indians came by.

Mr. Block said, "How would you boys like to see a new calf?"

The said "NO, no, your crazy cows do not like Indians, they give chase."

When I see one of the Indians in Rocky Mountain House, he often asks me if we still have those crazy cows that chase the Indians.

**INDIAN ARTIFACTS — by Bob Campbell**

Mr. Block came in the spring of 1921, just west of where Aurora school now stands. I came in the spring of 1930. Before I came Mr. Block had found some arrow heads. I have found some every year since.

There are some arrow heads that date back to 6500 to 7000 B.C. I have a spear hear 7000 years old and several clam shells which are 12 million years old. I have had archealogists from Glenbow Foundation and the Archives of Alberta confirm the ages of these finds.

Bob Campbell showing a portion of his arrow head collection

Indian Artifacts from Bob Campbell's Farm. Bottom Row L. to R. Pemmican, Tanning Tool, Fishing Line Sinker, Arrow Shank Straightner, Tomahawk, Axe and Digger. Second Row Whetstone, Burin Roller, Corn Roller, Battle Club. Third Row Petrified Wood, Corn Pounder, Hide Scraper - 2 sizes. Top row Two Pemmican Hammers, Two Battle Axes

In my collection are hide skinners, battle axes, corn pounders, a corn roller, stone hoe, whet stone, tomahawk, pemmican hammers, hide scraper, tanning tools, petrified raw lava, burned lava and petrified wood. These have all been found on the SW 41-5-5.

We started a guest book on October 5, 1975 recording the names of people who came to see the artifacts. It has signatures from Norway, Denmark, Holland, Australia, Albuquerque, New Mexico and all parts of Alberta and British Columbia. So far, 195 people have signed the book.

Some old Indians tell that Rev. Gaetz from Red Deer did fur trading and missionary work in this area around 1885.

Jack Bunk an archaeologist from the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton came to see my artifacts and look at the buffalo pound. They will be doing some digging in the spring and summer of 1978 and will give us a record of what they find.

**PIONEER TALES OF THE INDIANS IN THE CARLOS AREA — by Bob Campbell**

Jonah Strawberry tells of how he and another Indian named Joshua, shot a young grizzly bear in about 1896, up on Kinnikinic hill between sections 9 and 4 42-5, east of Ivar Johnston's buildings. The old Indians say that they never heard of a grizzly bear coming this far out from the mountains before.

The old timers tell me that all the Indian families had dog teams, and big dogs that they used for packing. They tell me a big dog can pack 35 to 40 pounds on their back. Josie Strawberry had a pack dog in the 1940's. Two brothers, Len and Rudy Kruger, who lived on the SW 5-41-5 (Glen Bradshaw's place) had a dog team.

Jim Yellow Face had around 75 head of horses in the old days. They were branded YF. Yellow Face kept his horses in the Lampman Valley. He camped for years on the S½ 17-42-4 near a slough that is between two hills that run north west.

Other Indians camped on the SE 8-42-5 and in Lampman Valley. They trapped for furs in winter and dug seneca root in spring and summer. They sold these things to Louis Robinson, a fur buyer who lived at Leedale. They also cleared land for farmers, and in fall they stooked grain and helped with threshing.

Old timers also tell me of the existence of two totem poles up by Gimlet creek.

The Indians had sundances up in the area around SE 8-42-5. They travelled through our home place and we have seen as many as 156 teams and wagons go up for one sundance. The least we ever saw in any year was 68 wagons. Some of the Indians that came here were from Montana, North Dakota, White Court, Hobbema and Gleichen. Ival Johnston bought the SE 8 in about 1944 and the Indians moved their sundance grounds farther north.

There are some Indian graves on the corner of NW 9-42-5. Old timers tell of seeing guns, blankets, and footwear left on the graves. There are also two graves on the east of Kinnakinic Hill, NW 34-41-5.

I've heard tell of a Stoney Indian who lived on the E½ 23-41-5 by a small lake in the centre of the land. He had a cabin and a small dug out that he used for a cooler. He was buried near the lake somewhere, on the land later owned by Fred Valouch and Harold Allen.

Some of the Indian families who lived in this area in the early days were named Strawberry, Brenner, Red Bear, Little Bear, O'Chiese, White Calf, Beaver Bone, Iron Bow, Lagrell, Big Child, Daychief, Yellow Eyes, Yellow Face, Sunchild, Crookedlegs, Little John, Goodrunner, Joshua, Red Calf, Whitford, Todd, Frencheater, Joseph Tail, John and Bill Swan.

**STRAWBERRY, J. — by Bob Campbell**

Josie Strawberry, son of Jonah Strawberry lived on the SW 15-42-5, by a spring. He built a log cabin. Josie bought some cattle from Jack Davies and Jimmy Smith around 1940 or so. He put up hay for Bill Gardner on shares for several years around 1945.

In 1946 Josie and Bill Swan cleared land in the district for Rob Ervin.

In around 1950 Josie moved his family and livestock out to the Sunchild-O'Chiese Reserve.

JOHN STRAWBERRY
Given Blanket In 111th Year

# Indian Given Blanket

# For 111th Birthday

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE — Kenneth Retallack, manager of the Hudson's Bay Company store here and his assistant, [illegible] the Sunchild Indian reserve in this district and presented John Strawberry with a Hudson's Bay blanket.

Mr. Strawberry celebrated his [illegible] February and is the only living person who traded at the Hudson's Bay Company Trading post at Rocky Mountain House [illegible] ago. The Bay returned to [illegible] Kiddie department store.

Though blind and deaf Strawberry understood who his visitors were when his daughter, Susie, explained to him and he was very surprised and gratified that such a big company would honor the last of the trappers who took his furs to them [illegible].

He thanked Mr Retallack and said the blanket will keep his old bones warm. His daughter translated and said her father mentioned the years when he [illegible] try all winter, then in the spring took his furs down to the fort for the annual spring trading session, when Indians and traders [illegible] and smoked the pipe of peace, [illegible] price of furs, traps and guns.

He said after the trading post closed they took their furs to Calgary and often went on to Fort Benton in Montana.

He can recall the influx of homesteaders to the Rocky district [illegible] century the frantic surveying and railroad building, the coal discovery at Nordegg, though he says the Indians knew where the coal was long before that, [illegible]

[illegible] young Indian boys work on road brushing and grading, in the oil and lumber camps and "make big money," but in his day, no self respecting Indian would consider working for the white man. In those days, hunting and trapping kept them busy and their squaws and [illegible] were [illegible] the pots.

Mr Eckford after whom Eckville was named.

# Eckville

**HISTORY OF ECKVILLE**

Mr. Arthur Eckford came to this district in 1902. He was the original owner of NW 22-38-3-W5. This was later subdivided and became known as Eckville or as we call it today Old Eckville. Jarvis Onofryszyn now owns the land where Old Eckville was situated and would be about a mile and a half north east of our present townsite. The actual subdivision map is dated April 2, 1906. Mr. Eckford donated the land for the first store and post office, and Eckville was named after him. Their first son, Thomas, was born on the farm on October 20, 1915, second son, Edward was born in Red Deer, May 14, 1917 and number three son, Arthur, was born in North Vancouver on May 13, 1920. To our knowledge, Mrs. Eckford still lives in Vancouver. Mr. J. H. Killick built the store and was the first post master in 1905, having the two combined in the one building. A. B. Koski (August) hauled the mail from the Evarts post office to Old Eckville for five and a half years. His pay was $1.70 for the round trip. His contract with the government was dated December 1, 1905. The mail was hauled by team with a rig that Mr. Koski made himself. Fritz Kinna then took over this mail haul from Mr. Koski. It was in 1904 that the bridge north of Eckville was built over the Medicine River. Mr. Killick sold his business to a Mr. Rene Bruyseraed and moved to the town of Rocky Mountain House. In 1910, Dan Clausen and Oswald Forhan bought out this store and post office. Then, Mrs. Snell and her sons came out from Red Deer and built a hotel and feed barn. T. B. Millar started a cheese factory; Mr. Foreman from Lesileville built a blacksmith shop — Eckville was booming — streets were named Main Street, Dominion Street, Willow Street and Prince Street. There were probably a lot more buildings out there but we cannot find a record of them now.

In 1906, it was decided that there were enough children to go to school so a school should be built. On March 29, 1906, the first school board held a meeting with board members Charley Kasper as chairman, J. H. Killick as secretary-treasurer and W. W. Gasgarth the member. That same spring they sold debentures in the amount of $800 and the school was built. Nothing slow about our forefathers, once they made up their mind to do something. Mr. E. E. Randall owned the land west of the river and this is where the school was built. Later this land became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lenny Kingsep. Miss A. Fenerty was the first teacher with a salary of $50 a month.

Around 1910, word spread that the C.N.R. was looking for land and would build a railroad. Much speculation took place on where this would be built and people from Eckville were watching very closely. Finally, the C.N.R. purchased the NW 16-38-3-W5. Ralph Wesley Matchett owned this land, having taken title to it on April 2, 1907. Thus the C.N.R. started construction and was completed in about 1912. The Alberta Central Railway, later known as the C.P.R. came into Kootuk or South Eckville in 1914. Now with the building of the railroads, the folks from out at Old Eckville started moving or building their shops and homes in New Eckville, our location today. Oswald Forhan and Dan Clausen started their store and post office on the site where the present drug store now stands. The first building to be erected in the new townsite was the kitchen part of the Dan Clausen residence (now the site of the Alberta Government Liquor Store). Many a man had their meals in this kitchen with the Clausens while they were building their own places. Mr. Forhan built his house across from the store and this was later Dr. Crosby's drug store and residence, and then again in later years, the Forhan Drug Store. Clausen Brothers had a mill, and logs and lumber were purchased for many of the buildings in the town from them. Clausen Bros. put up a pool hall on the east side of Main Street and Jack Clausen built his house. Dr. W. G. Evans, moved in — his residence and drug store were on the west side of main street and beside it was the Erickson Bros. butcher shop. Harry Palmer had a blacksmith shop located where Revelstoke Building Materials have their lumber storage today. His residence was there as well. Emanuel Olson opened up a restaurant on the east side of main street and a few months later sold out to John E. Lundberg who in a couple of years with additions

and alterations made it into a hotel. August Mitzner also built a hotel on the east side of main street beside the Clausen pool hall. Charlie Gustavson opened up a livery stable which was sold to John Kemila and later to Fred Isaacson who remodelled it for a garage, and today Eckville Motor uses this lot for storage. Mr Gustavson owned the first automobile in Eckville. The co-op store was built where now stands the J & K Food Store (the old Bakery) and some of its first managers were Archie Litt, Dan Clausen, Bill Rogers, and Oswald Umarl along with many others along the line. After leaving the Co-op, Mr. Rogers had Charley Kasper build him a store of his own. Mr. Eckford had his real estate office on the south side of the Co-op store. Gus Sestrap had a hardware store to the east of the Clausen residence. August Mitzner's feed barn and wood sawing was along railway avenue to the west and a feed mill beside it. Mr. Storey owned the feed mill. In 1912 Forhan and Clausen picked out a site for a dance hall or as they called it a "Town Hall". So once again with the same spirit that the original town was built, a meeting was held — this was on May 12, 1912, the first sports meeting. The floor was laid to be used as a dance pavilion. In 1913, the Eckville Improvement Company was formed and incorporated shares sold with which to build a hall on the same floor. It seems that they must have had an outdoor dance hall for awhile. This building was used as such until it was sold for a restaurant some years later. Now, Art's Jewellery and Gift Shop is located in this old town hall. The C.N.R. station is still in the same place as it was originally. We presume that the elevators were built during this time, as well as other buildings throughout the years. J. M. McDonald built his house in 1918, Mike Sestrap built his house and today there is a modern four-plex dwelling going up on this lot, with the old house being demolished a short time ago. The George Lutz House and the Fred Isaacson homes were built in 1919 and 1920. Many old timers will never forget the year 1918, the year of the flu. Anybody who was able was called out to do nursing duties and to help out in any way possible during this siege. Mr. Bill Brown opened up a creamery or receiving station across from the McDonald residence now the modern A.G.T. building is located on the land. The cream was tested and the farmers received their cheques from the Browns. We presume the cream was shipped to Alix.

In 1918, the Canadian Bank of Commerce opened up their bank on the lot where they have now their beautiful new building. The old original bank was donated to the town in 1976, and this in turn was turned over to the Eckville and District Friendship Club for their use as a drop-in centre. Mr J. W. McIntosh was the first bank manager. Mr. Matt Perry was an early accountant who was, a few years ago, living in Calgary. We are not sure if it was the Imperial Bank or the Bank of Commerce for whom he

East side of main street in 1920

worked. In January, 1920, Dan Clausen raised a petition requesting the hamlet of Eckville to be incorporated into a village. The first man to sign the petition on January 25, 1920, was Mike Sestrap. Other signers were Bill McHattie (a blacksmith), Archie Litt (manager of the co-op store), J. M. McDonald, J. F. Heimbecker, Harry Lowe, E. Wickstrom, R. Bertram, Dan Clausen, and J. Johnson. At this time there were 30 buildings in the hamlet — nine dwellings, eleven business premises also occupied as dwellings, and ten business premises with no dwelling space. There was an elevator, hotel, restaurant hardware store, lumber yard, meat market, two real estate offices, a bakery (presumably in the restaurant) a feed and livery barn, two general stores, a public hall, blacksmith shop, creamery, Bank of Commerce, dry goods store, garage, one implement store, and one Imperial Oil station. I believe the Imperial Oil station was run by Mr Von Holtum. The petition was given to John A. Gaetz, MLA for Red Deer constituency, who in turn handed it to Mr. J. H. Lamb, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. An inspector from the government, Bill Robertson came out, inspected the hamlet and said "no". It included too much farm land and there were not sufficient dwellings to meet the requirements of a village. Dr. P. L. Backus had his residence and office and a few spare beds for emergencies in what is now the Roy Saari residence, but this was not in the hamlet. In 1921, a committee of Bill McHattie, Dan Clausen, Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Garries with Joe Marshall as chairman formed to work on incorporation again. On February 18, 1921, Mr. A. H. Garries wrote to Edmonton to say that he had been appointed to a committee to look after the incorporation. Another petition dated May 30, 1921, was signed by Mike Sestrap, general store manager, Dr. P. L. Backus, Jack Coughlin, hotel keeper, J. F. Heimbecker, Walter Herring, John Kemila, Mrs. Augusta Clausen, Joe Marshall, W. McHattie, and J. M. McDonald. This time the inspector that came out was Mr. Alex Souter. He found that there was now a school in the hamlet, this being moved in, and that folks were most anxious to incorporate to enable themselves to make some provisions towards proper fire

protection. Finally on Sept. 15, 1921, in the early morning, Mr. Art Garries, an implement dealer and an auctioneer posted notices which had been signed by the Hon. R. G. Reid, Minister of Municipal Affairs which were notices of intention to incorporate. One was posted in the hotel, one in the post office and one on the town hall. Some acreage owners in the area but not included within the hamlet were John Platham, C. H. Von Holtum, Mrs. M. Johnson, Henry Kult, and Charley Kasper. On November 3, 1921, Mr. Reid signed an order that the hamlet of Eckville was now the village of Eckville, effective that date. Now the village had to have a village council. Dan Clausen, then a hardware employee, was named returning officer for an election for councillors. Nominations were received at 8 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 1921, in the town hall. There was no election required. Bill McHattie, Clarence Crosby and Joseph T. Marshall were elected by acclamation. Thus was Eckville's first council. The first meeting was held on January 3, 1922, and Clarence Crosby was appointed as reeve or mayor with Dan Clausen as secretary-treasurer. The surrounding area was then known as the Municipal District of Lorne No. 400 (now the County of Lacombe No. 14). Messrs. Crosby and Colpitts of Red Deer and Eckville were the solicitors for the village. Mr. J. M. McDonald was the agent for the Home Insurance Co. of New York.

February 16, 1922, saw the first by-laws of the village passed. No. 1 being the adoption of the common seal, No. 2 — set out the proceedings of council, No. 3 — appointed Dan Clausen as secretary-treasurer at a salary of $125 per year and appointed Dr. P. L. Backus as Medical Health Officer for the village. A number of very active people in town who deserve a lot of credit for the time and effort they put in in helping make Eckville a thriving village were Jack Clausen who with Brother Dan had a construction company and sold most of the logs or lumber that was used in the building program, Gus Sestrap in his hardware store, Ralph Brown, James Olsen, the Isaacson families, Armstrong Bros., O. M. Forhan, Mrs. Frank Andrew and Mrs. Orval Rasmussen (the Botten girls), J. F. Knorr, Fritz Kinna, Glen Caton and family, the Thorkman families, Dr. Somerville, Dr. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Herring, Dr. Claxton and many many more that we do not hear about or have their names. Cal Fletcher, came here from Kansas City in 1919 and stayed till 1925 and then went to Hespero until 1946 when he moved to British Columbia. He was a man of all trades and worked in every store and business in Eckville except the blacksmith shop. He stayed with the Louis Weeks' on the present Tom Smith farm. The Presbyterian Church was moved in 1921. It was the school at Old Eckville and the first minister, we understand, was Rev. Mitchell.

Through the effort of many local residents in 1915, it was decided to build rural phone lines so in 1917 some rural lines were built to Gilby, then to Hugo Moitus's. Mrs. Frank Andrew worked for the Lundbergs in the hotel. The phone lines were operated from there, so she was the first telephone operator. Five lines ran from the hotel, four in the country and one in town. At this time no long distance calls could be made. The town and rural lines, known as the Eckville and Gilby Telephone Company were then incorporated and changed to the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. This was being operated from the Clausen front room with Theresa Botten (Mrs. Orval Rasmussen) as the operator. She worked there for six years. Fifty years later in 1967 came the dial system to Eckville and in 1969 the direct distance dialing. We had many operators during this time and names cannot be found of all of them but we know there was Esther Johnson (Mrs. Bill Oliver), Mrs. Morrie Cross, Sylvia Wuorl, Mrs. Kit Armstrong, Mrs. Louise Delaney, who for many years was a faithful worker at the switchboard along with Kathy Ferguson as night operator; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford McNeil and Mrs. Erna Soerd also gave faithful service. The Forhan family left here around 1921, and were at the coast for a number of years — came back around 1925.

Dan Clausen went to work on the railroad in 1923, came home around 1926. The Sinclairs left in 1925. That same year saw Fritz Kinna going to Tech in Calgary to take an electrical course. When he came home, he wired buildings in town and the power was supplied by the More Bros. from their flour mill on the east side of the village.

In 1926, Feb. 3, Walter Herring was appointed as secretary-treasurer and O. M. Forhan as reeve. On Dec. 13, 1926, there were six candidates nominated — for council — Joe Marshall, W. H. Cowen, Mike Sestrap, J. F. Heimbecker, Oswald Umarl, and O. M. Forhan. Mr. Forhan withdrew before the election. There were 33 votes cast with Messrs. Marshall, Umarl, and Sestrap elected. Mr. Marshall was mayor and Mr. Herring secretary-treasurer. In 1924 saw Harry Lowe as reeve with O. M. Forhan as secretary-treasurer. From 1928 to 1930 Bernie Dennett was reeve with Don Clausen as secretary-treasurer, a position Mr. Clausen held until 1935. During those years Joe Marshall, Bernie Dennett and Mike Sestrap were named as reeves. From 1936 to 1942 Bernie Dennett was mayor with Robert G. Gish as secretary-treasurer. Some of these men as they went off as reeve were still on the council. William MacDonald and Fred Isaacson are names listed as councillors.

March 31, 1924, saw the Bank of Commerce close. Jack Bromling opened his meat market in the bank building. He closed this in the fall of 1930. The Imperial Bank opened a sub branch from Sylvan Lake in November 1927. This was on a three times a week basis, and was operated

from a small office next to what was then the Atlas Lumber and now Carritt & Sons Hardware Fred Appleton or Harold S. Mann, with one assistant would make the trip. If the roads were passable they came by car, when not, which was about half the time, they came with a very good driving team. In this bank's supply of stationery and equipment, were two very good buffalo robes, probably the only bank that had this added equipment. At times, they came by train Have any of you ever travelled on a mixed train in the olden days? Cecil Caton at that time was the janitor at the bank. He had to be around early to get the fires going and have the ink wells thawed out before the others got there. This building was later used as the office of the Medicine Valley Livestock Co-op under the able managership of Alf Thubron, Phil Laybourne, John Reid and Tom Smith, Sr. In December 1930, the Imperial Bank became a full-time branch and the old Commerce building was purchased from Jack Bromling, and with some alterations and the addition of a vault, the bank moved in. Harold Mann and Cecil Caton were the staff. Now the Imperial Bank and the Bank of Commerce have amalgamated and just a short year ago the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce moved into their spacious and beautiful new bank. The old one was donated to the town who in turn turned it over to the Eckville and District Friendship Club for their drop-in centre.

Mrs. Porter (Mrs. Laura Marshall's mother), a registered nurse, came to Eckville from Condor in 1929, and opened up a nursing home in the house now owned by Janet Handford. This was operated until 1932 and without this service and the willing hands that served, some of our folks would not be here today No one was ever turned away She looked after many patients brought to her by the local doctors, Dr. Somerville and later Dr. Claxton

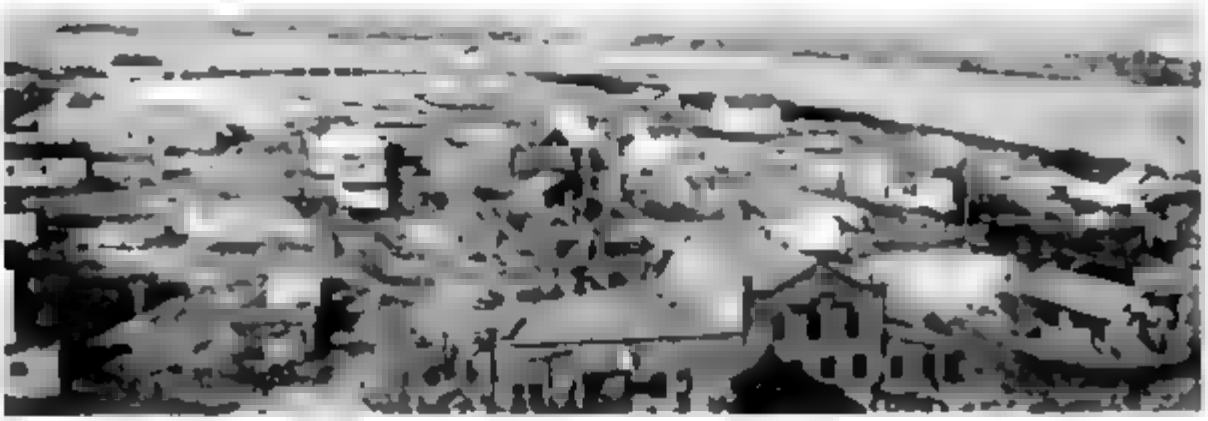
We cannot forget the creamery built in 1921 on the southeast corner of town, built by Pete Paulesin with Harry Woods as manager It burnt down in 1928 and a Mr Patchett rebuilt it and Henry Hansen was manager followed by Bill Morris, who managed it for a good number of years — several others following until it was finally closed down.

Eckville in 1928 after the fire

On April 19, 1924, around 4 p.m., Mike Sestrap's store on the west side of main street burnt down. First thing taken out when the fire started was the cash register, set out in the middle of the street Fire again struck in 1928 when the whole business section on the east side of main street was lost. They were soon replaced, folks had a lot of faith in the growth of Eckville.

In 1937, residents of Eckville voted for Calgary Power to supply them with power This vote passed with a big mojority and thus Calgary Power came to Eckville and still serves us today with much higher rates of course.

The annual meeting held in January of 1938 showed the town was really active. The report showed that in 1937, 26 ½ yards of gravel had been purchased, with some of the previous years stock pile being used as well, 1490 feet of lumber



Eckville in 1931 Winter without snow

Eckville's main street in 1936

had been bought and used to build and repair wooden sidewalks. The tax arrears list shows $581.42 unpaid taxes at the end of 1937. This was $67.81 higher than the previous year. Still they ended the year with a bank balance of $427.43. They had also signed a new lease with the Eckville Curling Club. This was a three year lease at $150 a year. The rink was built by volunteer help in 1936.

1938 — The Medicine Valley Community Hospital, operating from the Dr. Backus original home, was in financial difficulties and asked the village for help. They were given $50. Nineteen thirty-eight saw the mill rate go up by 10 mills. Money was needed to help with the added expenses of the garbage grounds and street lights. The school board approached council on using the club room of the curling rink for a class room until the new school was built. The board would pay for part of the cost of a new floor in the building. By the fall of 1938, the curling club was in financial trouble - they could not pay their rent — some members had not paid their dues for a couple of years. Times were tough.

In March 1939, the council decided to try to have the garbage hauled out on a contract basis. Prior to this, folks hauled out their own. The by-law enforcing garbage regulations was put into effect. Garbage cans sold at $3 and the pay for picking up the garbage was set at $2.50 per week. No garbage was hauled out during the winter months. Pay to the contractor was stopped in October.

April, 1939, saw the purchase of a fire siren. Then in 1939, the village was able to put the mill rate down nine mills. The curling club were able to pay their rent of $150. The estimated expenses for the village that year were set out in their budget as $886.

Lance Rowatt opened a pool hall in September 1939. By this time the Co-op had moved to their new location, from what we now know as J & K Food Store to the premises where the Co-op main store now is situated. James Needham, presently retired and living in Eckville, opened up a bakery in the old Co-op building around 1937 or 38. He later sold to Ernest Jackson who in turn turned it over to his sisters, Alice Snyder and Frances Cooper, and her husband. They in turn sold to the Coppen's family who operated it for several years before selling to Jim and Karen Tubbs. It is no longer a bakery.

November, 1939, a Mr. Harvey Thompson was appointed as night watchman for the village. The following year, 1940, a tree trimmer had to be appointed, this was Dan Clausen and his pay was 50 cents a year. For a couple of years the mill rate stayed at 10 mills plus three for a social service tax. However, the village did have to borrow $400 this year in order to do some gravelling on the streets. The M.D. of Lorne had a gravel crusher in the district and since it would be moving out, the council had to get the gravel right away and pay cash for it.

In 1943, a proper hospital district was formed and work started on the construction of a hospital, one that is still being used today. In 1944 the mill rate went up to 15 mills. It was in 1944 that Calgary Power requested that the village permit them to bill customers every two months instead of monthly. Their reason, a shortage of paper as well as staff.

The Knights of Phythias Lodge trustees approached council on taking over the cemetery. They would donate the land and a trust fund of $115.68 that was held by them for cemetery purposes. The land was all ready in use for this purpose. Thus, it became the Eckville Municipal Cemetery. Around 1946, the Eckville Cemetery Association was formed and taken over by them. Mr. J. Hopkins had cut most of the brush on the

cemetery land and spent a great deal of time and work on this project with gratifying results.

1945 saw cement crosswalks, more wooden sidewalks, and sidewalk repairs done. In the five blocks of the village, there were nine street lights. The hospital was not in the village limits at this time. This was the year that saw a fire fighting pump purchased at a cost of $19.58. Four fire fighting ladders had been built at a cost of $2.50 each. Residents felt quite safe with this fire fighting equipment. In 1944, the matter of building a tie shed for the farmers to tie their horses to when coming to town was discussed and by 1945 it was completed. Mr. R. L. Tuck completed the job.

In 1946, the village had to start collecting the school taxes. Before this time, the school board had to do it. Thus the secretary's salary was boosted to $240 a year.

The theatre was built in 1946. Previous to this, shows had been held in the hall. As years went on, the village grew, improvements were made. In 1953, garbage was hauled all year around.

Five, five-gallon tanks for fire fighting were purchased and placed on power poles around the village. Each fall, these had to be checked to see that the right solution was in them so they would not freeze up. In 1947, a more up to date fire siren was purchased. This was three quarter of a mile vertical non corroding fire siren which was installed on the telephone office. When a fire call was rung in, the telephone operators would ring the siren.

In October, 1949, after many months of working on annexation, 12 more blocks were added to the village. This was officially declared annexed on January 1, 1950. We were now 17 blocks large. Prior to the annexation of the 12 blocks, a road grader was purchased.

Now to go back to 1942 and list some of the councillors and officials of the town. They were Fred Isaacson, Jake Busslinger, Dan Clausen, Mike Sestrap. In 1942, Bernie Dennett left town so resigned his position and Phil Laybourne took the office. Tom Forhan took over as secretary-treasurer. Clarence Ferguson was acting secretary-treasurer in 1944 for a month or so, and then Bob Gish went back on until 1947 when Larry Forgues took over the position. He left in March 1949 and Mrs. Lea Zeh from Calgary took the position. She had to leave and go back to Calgary so on April 4, 1949, Margaret Schofer was appointed as secretary-treasurer, a position she still holds today. Other active and civic minded men that took on the job as councillors were Russell Eastman, Tom Forhan, Tom Smith, Sr., Red McAndrews, Dr. Gordon Gibson, Larry Knudsen, Albert Schofer, Stanley Nunn, Chester Kasha, Archie Huhtala, George Armeneau, Olva Elson, Alfred Miller, Julian Sambrook, Gordon McNeil, Bill Maki, Arvid Anderson, Rex Baker, Ken Krintila, Adrian Vandevelde, Bob Matthews, Bill Eliuk, Don Macrae, Hans Coppens, Bill Gordon, Leo Remillard, Arthur L. Carritt, Lyall French, James Keegstra, Ed. Olsen, Harold Leach, Dennis Guenther, Doug Rhodes, Clarence Phol, and at this date, November 1977, our present councillors are: Jim D'Amico, Jim Lecerf, Jim Keegstra, Bob Kraft, Peter Mielke, Randy Forhan and Harold Leach as mayor.

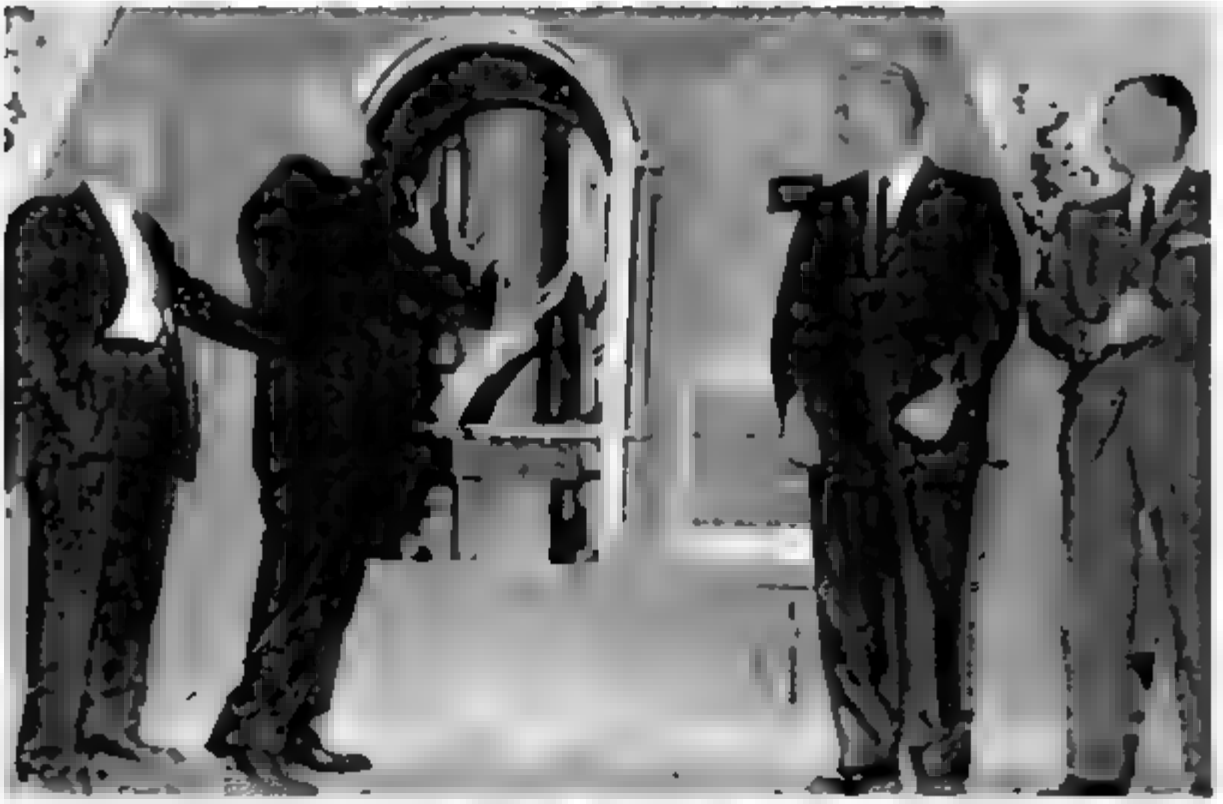
The early years were hard years for the council members, there was not much money, not too much borrowing power and not enough people to pay for the things that we needed and that we have finally acquired. Way back in 1946, water and sewer installation for the village were discussed. This is as far as it got until 1953 when it was possible to borrow money. Thus, a debenture was issued for $52,500 and the sewer was installed in 1953-54.

In 1954, a modern up to date fire engine was purchased and brought home from the factory in June by Helen Kasha and the late Chester Kasha. A fire hall was built in the same year which also housed the town office. In 1956, the town had a well drilled at the fire hall and a pump installed. Thus ended the hauling of water to the reservoir under the fire hall. Now, we have a very modern three bay fire hall built in 1975 and 76. This houses our own fire truck plus a county of Lacombe fire truck that our local volunteer fire department looks after. Part of the building is used for storage of town equipment. Our fire department is well looked after, with about 22 volunteer men. We cannot give these boys enough credit as they are ready to go any time, whether they have to leave their jobs or leave their nice warm beds. Doug Rhodes was fire chief for many years and the instigator of getting the fire hall. Corny Hughes is now our fire chief after Doug resigned, feeling that he had put in enough years of this, and it was now time for someone else to take over.

A covered arena was the next step towards modernizing the town and get the recreation program going. Thus in 1964, through donations of money and hard work, our present arena was under construction. There were no debentures issued to pay for this. It was all donated. Through the years some equipment had to be purchased and a new front end put on the arena. For this purpose money was borrowed from the government and with the very active Eckville Arena Operating Committee, sponsoring rodeos, ice carnivals and other activities, this money has been paid back. Now, in 1977, the big project is for artificial ice in the arena. It is hoped that this will be completed in 1978.

Another big project, and, we feel a big step forward, was in the installation of the water system with the water tower located in the Memorial Park Grounds. The official opening of this was held on August 5, 1965 with the Major Dr. Gordon Gibson turning the valve.

Natural gas, installed by Northwestern Utilities was another step towards progress. This was done in 1961 and the late Mr. Dan Clausen



## Ribbon is Cut

was elected to light the flare which signalled natural gas in Eckville and a lot of fuel oil barrels and propane tanks soon disappeared from yards

The new town office was built in 1963 and 1964. It was opened in March 1964 and was quite a change from the old buildings. It had been moved several times since the fire hall origin but now we have a permanent spot and all ready we have outgrown it. Hopefully, an extension will be built in the next year or two. On one side of the office is the library. This was originally the council chambers and council meetings are still held there, and many other organizations use this as a meeting room

In 1965, we annexed about 10 acres to the town and again in 1974 the property east of the secondary highway No. 766 was annexed to town. We are presently in the process of annexing another 155 acres, more or less. This land, if it is approved, will be to the north of town, taking in some of the Bill Eliuk and Bill McDonnell land and also south of the railroad tracks. This is, at this time, almost sure to go through but there is still a lot of government red tape.

The Centennial project was the building of the Childrens' Playground. This was done with government help and equipped through donations of merchants and various organizations in town and country

In 1966 Eckville's population was 708, and at this time to become a town, we required a population of 700 people. Thus, on July 1, 1966, Eckville became a town instead of a village. This order was signed by Ernest C. Manning In 1968 house numbers, street names and number signs were erected. Also, in 1968 and 1969 some of the streets were paved and since then a few more have been done

When we finally paid off our original sewer installation debenture, our Provincial Government came along and said the septic tank system was out dated and we had to build a sewage lagoon Again we were forced into debt. We borrowed $271,900 and installed two pumping stations and the lagoon.

The Eckville and District Agricultural Society was formed April 25, 1973, and this was done for the purpose of getting grant money to build a multi-purpose building, which houses the new curling rink. Construction started in the spring of 1975, and the curling rink part of the building was officially opened in January 1977. A draw was made to see who would throw the first rock and

Pat Baker was the winner, and a very suitable one at that, as she had spent many hours as secretary of the society to get things going. The upper hall of the building was completed in November 1977, and the lower room in October and is now occupied by the Mother Goose Playhouse. The curling area has a cement floor and is used in summer for larger events, rodeo dances, auctions, firemen's barbecue and many other functions. The old curling rink, some 50 years old, was demolished by Bud Lightbown and Bob Kraft during the summer of 1977

This is the story of the growth of Eckville, a small community, but one we are very proud of Our population as of June 1977 is 797. We are growing. Our gratitude for what we have today goes to the many, many folks who came to this land in the early years and with perseverance and fore-sight helped make Eckville what it is today. Through the years, many new things have come into being to make our life one of comparative ease and pleasure If only some of the original settlers could see what their work and time brought us. We should all pause in our daily routine and give thanks to those folks who worked so hard for Eckville

**ELECTION RETURNS FOR ECKVILLE**

1908 (Federa.) Michael Clark (Liberal) 29, George F. Root (Conservative) 16, Mr Clark won the constituency with 3481 votes to Mr. Root's 3321

1909 (Provincial) J T Moore (Liberal) 15, E Michener (Independent Conservative) 15 D. McClure (Socialist) 21. Mr. Michener won the constituency as a whole with 647 votes to Moore's 496 and McClure's 128

1911 Federal) Michael Clark (Liberal) 47, Alexander McGillivray (Conservative) 33. Mr Clark won with 6711 votes to Mr McGillivray's 3882.

1913 (Provincial) E. Michener (Conservative) 16, R. B Welliver (Liberal) 22, George Paton (Socialist) 23. Mr Michener won with 862 votes to Mr Welliver's 781 and Mr Paton s 130

1917 (Federa.) Michael Clark (Liberal Unionist) 13, William Puffer (Laurier Liberal) 16, Joseph Knight, 28. Mr Clark won with 6213 votes to Mr Puffer's 3800 and Mr. Knight's 701.

1917 (Provincial) E. Michener (Conservative) 24, R. B. Welliver (Liberal) 26, George Paton (Socialist) 30. Mr Michener won with 1289 votes to Mr. Welliver's 1258 and Mr Paton s 180

1918 (Provincial By-election) F. W Galbraith (Unionist) 13, J J Gaetz (Liberal) 65. Mr Gaetz won with 1746 votes to Mr Galbraith's 867

1921 (Federal) Alfred Speakman (Progressive-V F A ) 84, John Day (Conservative) 36, William McInnes (Liberal) 3. Mr Speakman won with 10,849 votes to Mr Day's 2644 and Mr. McInnes's 2207

1921 (Provincial) J J Gaetz (Liberal) 32, G. W Smith (United Farmers of Alberta) 94. Mr Smith won with 2150 votes to Mr. Gaetz's 1146

**Eckville Population**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1922 - 125 | 1951 — 230 |
| 1924 — 125 | 1956 — 456 |
| 1926 — 178 | 1961 — 580 |
| 1931 — 169 | 1966 — 716 |
| 1936 — 159 | 1971 — 687 |
| 1941 — 135 | 1976 - 773 |
| 1946 — 195 | 1977 — 797 |

**ECKVILLE IN THE EARLY DAYS — by A. V Denton**

Back in 1925 after my second year in theology at Knox College I was appointed as student missionary for the summer to the Eckville pastoral charge in Alberta. Dr James Edison was home missions secretary in Toronto and the Reverend Walter Brown, a big man in every way, was Red Deer Presbytery's home missions convener. He liked to come to the college to interview students

Over the space of 50 years time one's recollections diminish, but I remember being welcomed by the McDonald family at Eckville and having my first meal with them. Mr McDonald had an artificial leg and so was known locally as "Peggy", which he didn't seem to mind. He was one of the kingpins of the church but no "mealy mouthed Christian" I do not remember where I stayed at first, but eventually I moved in with Doctor Sommerville, where I was housekeeper, cook, laundress and also anaesthetist for minor operations. His sister, who had been keeping house for him, left to go East to be married

The church was a hall near McDonald's house. We had a small congregation and a Sunday school. We also had a boys' group, either Tuxis or Trail Rangers. During the summer we camped at Sylvan Lake where I built a field oven and baked pies and Yorkshire pudding Some summer evenings we swam in the Horseguard River and on one of these occasions we were fooling around when I realized that one of the Sestrap boys was drowning. I carried him out of the river and he soon recovered. I don't think anyone knew about this incident

I can't remember whether we had any Finnish families in our congregations but we did have some of their sons in our boys' groups The Sestrap family had the general store and Leyda Sestrap went to Calgary Normal School at the same time as the young lady who later became my wife. After teaching she went into the army having in the meantime studied medicine. I met Leyda many years later at the Menninger Foundation in Kansas, U.S.A. where I was also studying. She took up practice in Victoria under her married name of Lythgoe.

The manager of the lumber yard was a Scot named Sinclair and he and his wife were in

terested in the church. The local druggist was an Anglican who used to pull teeth. He sold out to a family named Hayes who attended our church. Dr. Sommerville, fresh from medical school in Manitoba, bought his practice from Dr Backus, who had built a house which was really too large for us, but we used it sometimes as a hospital Backus eventually became a psychiatrist of some note in London, England. Dr Sommerville's mother was the widow of a Methodist minister and she visited us from Manitoba.

There was a preaching point west of Eckville at Condor and I usually got a ride to it though sometimes I rode horseback The Scott-Hastie Family had a store at Condor and were particular friends and church supporters. Mrs Hastie, who was English and Anglican, was a great reader and hungry for good conversation. I held an occasional service at Leslieville, which was further west. Further west still, at Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg, Harry Lennox served one summer He used to tell about one of the male members of his congregation turning up somewhat inebriated and having a difficult time finding the hymn number In a stage whisper he asked, "where the hell is it?"

Once I was asked to conduct the funeral of a bachelor at a cemetery about three miles out in the country. It was "Peggy" McDonald who drove me there in his open Gray Dort touring car. The roads were almost impassable due to rain and it took over an hour of slipping and sliding in the sticky clay to arrive at the cemetery. Before we left the car outside the cemetery fence "Peggy" asked me if I would like a bottle of beer. I told him that if I drank one, there might be a repetition of Hamlet's grave scene with me in the grave beside the corpse. When we stood at the graveside the rain pelted down and ran out of the bottom of my trouser legs. I don't think I have ever been more glad than I was that day to get back to Eckville still in one piece but soaked to the skin.

The summer of 1925 was a rather pleasant one for me since Dr. Sommerville and I got along well together. We remained friends throughout his lifetime. He became the Deputy Minister of Health for Alberta and was responsible for many of the good health measures in the province.

**THE ALBERTA CENTRAL RAILWAY**

The Alberta Central Railway got its start in May 1901 when the Dominion Government granted a charter to G. W. Smith, W. A. Moore, and George W Greene of Red Deer, D. J Munn of New Westminster, and John T Moore, John Flett and Roger C Clute of Toronto. Initially, the line was to run from Coal Banks (a point near the Content Bridge) to Red Deer, and then on to a point in Township 39, Range 7, West of the 5th (near present-day Rocky Mountain House). Over the years, the planned route was expanded west to the Fraser Valley via the Yellowhead Pass and east to Moose Jaw with a further extension to Saskatoon and on to Fort Churchill on the Hudson's Bay. In short, eventually it was planned that the A C R become a "transcontinental", extending across the whole breadth of the prairies and on to the Pacific Coast

For many years, very little happened with the A.C.R. Time extensions to the charter were granted by the Dominion Government in 1903, 1905, and 1907, but no surveys were made and no agreements were made with other railroads to buy or lease the charter and construct a railline. This is not to say that the A.C.R. was forgotten. J T. Moore, who had become president of the company, had political ambitions and in the 1905 provincial election, he made a successful attempt to become Red Deer's first M L.A. He also made an unsuccessful attempt to secure the Liberal nomination in the 1908 federal election. In both these campaigns Mr. Moore played up his role in the A.C R. to garner votes, particularly in the Pine Lake, Burnt Lake, Evarts, Eckville and Leslieville areas. It was proposed that the A.C.R. would run through these districts, and a railroad would provide a much needed boost in growth and development

By the end of 1908 there was a growing cynicism about the continued promises of construction of the A.C.R. made by Mr Moore, and a growing anger over the lack of any meaningful action. During the 1908 election campaign Mr Moore sent an un-named surveyor to the area west of Red Deer, but this action did nothing to reduce the angry feelings because it appeared that this mysterious person was only putting survey stakes in politically sensitive areas in readily noticeable locations.

By December 1908 criticism of Mr Moore and the A.C.R. became very loud and widespread [illegible] leader of the Medicine Valley [illegible] organized a protest meeting at Evarts, where demands were made that either the A.C R. begin construction immediately or sell its charter to another railroad, such as the C.P R. or the Canadian Northern. A petition was circulated and signed by over 250 persons The Red Deer Board of Trade held a special meeting on the A.C.R., and a motion was put forward asking the A.C.R. to give an option on its charter to any bona fide purchaser for the expenses of the charter up to a maximum of $10,000.

All this came at a critical time for the A.C.R and Mr. Moore. The two-year extension to the charter that had been granted by the Dominion Government in 1907 was running out, thereby necessitating an application for another extension, and Mr. Moore was in the midst of a bid for reelection to the provincial legislature. Moore attempted to counter the criticism by claiming that the A.C R had discussed with the C.P R. the possibility of an arrangement whereby construction of the line could be started in the near future He also claimed that unnamed parties had offered to purchase the A.C.R.'s charter, but had been turned down because they would not

DEPUTY GOVERNOR.

# CANADA.

**Edward the Seventh** by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland KING, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c. &c.

To all to whom these Presents shall come GREETING

**Whereas** the lands hereinafter described as part of the lands known as Dominion Lands, and mentioned in the Dominion Lands Act,

**And Whereas** the Canadian Pacific Railway Company (hereinafter called "the Company") have applied to Us for a grant of the said lands,

**And Whereas** under the Provisions of the Act of the Parliament of Canada, passed in the Forty-fourth year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, Chaptered 25, and intituled An Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, and by the Terms and Conditions of the Contract and Agreement mentioned in the said Act, and of the several Acts in amendment thereof, the Company are entitled to a grant of the said Lands as part of the said grant,

**And Whereas** on the Fifteenth day of December in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, the Company, under the provisions of Section eleven of the said Act, sold to William Dalton and certain others as Trustees for the said Canadian Pacific Railway Company, by Indenture of Mortgage bearing date on that day, certain Railway and other property, and the said Trustees, by the direction of the Company, by Indenture bearing date the fourth day of January, A.D. 1882, conveyed the said property to the Honourable George Stephen, the Honourable Donald A. Smith and Duncan McIntyre, Esquire, as Trustees for the Company, upon the trusts and for the purposes mentioned in the said Indenture of Mortgage, and by the said Indenture of Conveyance it was declared that the said Lands should be conveyed to the Company, or to such person or persons as the Company should direct, free from the charge created as aforesaid, but that the said Trustees should retain the said Lands, and should receive the rents, issues and profits thereof, and pay the taxes, charges and assessments thereon, until the Company should become entitled to a grant thereof, or should direct a conveyance thereof to be made to some other person or persons, and that upon the Company becoming entitled to such grant, or upon the receipt by the said Trustees of such direction, the said Trustees should, at the cost of the Company, convey the said Lands to the Company, or to such person or persons as the Company should direct, free from the charge created as aforesaid, and should cease to receive the rents, issues and profits thereof, and to pay the taxes, charges and assessments thereon, and the said Trustees should thereupon be discharged from the trusts in the said Indenture of Conveyance declared, and the said Lands should thereafter be held by the Company, or by such person or persons as the Company should direct, discharged from the said trusts, and from the said charge created as aforesaid, and the Company have requested Us to issue Letters Patent for the said Lands in the manner hereinafter appearing,

**Now Know Ye,** that in consideration of the premises, and in pursuance of the power vested in Us by the said Act, We by these presents do grant, convey and confirm unto the Company, their successors and assigns forever, all the said Parcel or tract of land, situate, lying and being in the Thirty ninth Township in the Third Range West of the Fifth Meridian in the Provisional District of Alberta in the North West Territories, in the Dominion of Canada, and being composed of

The Whole of section One (1) the South West quarter of section Three (3) the Whole of section Five (5), Seven (7) Nine (9) and Thirteen (13), the East half of section Fifteen (15), the Whole of sections Seventeen (17) and Nineteen (19), the West half and the South East quarter of section Twenty one (21), the Whole of sections Twenty Three (23) and Twenty five (25), the East half and the North West quarter of section Twenty seven (27) the Whole of section Thirty one (31) and the West half and the South East quarter of section Thirty five (35) all of the said township, as shown upon a map or plan of survey of the said Territory, approved at Ottawa on the 3rd day of December 1902, by Edouard Deville, Surveyor General of the Dominion Lands and of record in the Department of the Interior,

containing by admeasurement together Eight thousand three hundred and forty two and eighty eight hundredths (8342.88) acres more or less

**To have and to hold** the said Parcel or tract of land and premises hereby granted unto the Company, their successors and assigns forever, subject to the said trusts, and charges created as aforesaid by the said Deed of Mortgage to the said Trustees, and to the said Indenture of Conveyance, the same Us, Our Heirs and Successors, do covenant, grant and agree to and with the Company, their successors and assigns, by these presents, that We, Our Heirs and Successors, will warrant and forever defend all and singular the said premises hereby granted unto the Company, their successors and assigns, against Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and against all persons claiming or to claim by, through or under Us, Our Heirs or Successors, subject as aforesaid.

**GIVEN** under the Great Seal of Canada. **Witness:** Our Trusty and Right Well Beloved Counsellor John Joseph Caldwell McGee Esquire Deputy of Our Right Trusty and Right Well Beloved Cousin and Councillor Albert Henry George Earl of Minto, Baron Minto of Minto, in the County of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of Great Britain, Baronet of Nova Scotia, Knight of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor General of Canada.

At Ottawa, the Twelfth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and three, and in the Third year of Our Reign.

By Command,

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.

Recorded in the Department of the Interior, this 2nd day of February, 1903.

Entered for Patent 2nd Feb 1903

73 21

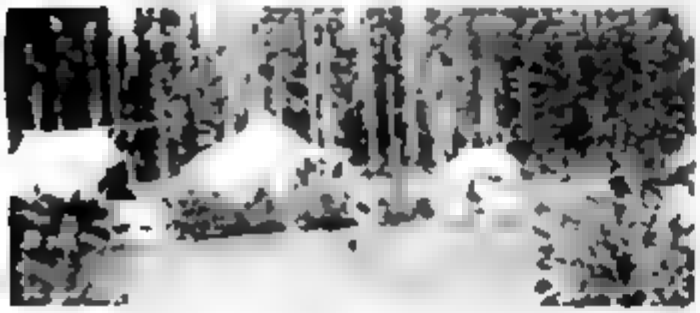
D136

22

guarantee that they would take steps to immediately start construction.

Eventually, Moore managed to persuade many of his critics to support the A.C.R. in its bid for one more extension to its charter, although Moore himself lost in his bid for reelection to Edward Michener (the father of the former Governor-General, Roland Michener). In April 1909 the Dominion Government granted a two-year extension to the A.C.R. charter and also agreed to offer a subsidy of $6400 per mile to a railway constructed between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House.

Greatly aided by this offer of a subsidy, the A.C.R. now managed to find enough capital, primarily in Great Britain, to make it feasible for the company to start making concrete plans for construction. In the fall of 1909 and continuing in the spring of 1910, surveys were made in the area between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and by March 1910 the A.C.R. was able to file a route map with railway authorities in Ottawa. In May, a construction department of the company was formed and work began in the area west of the town of Red Deer and east of the Red Deer River.

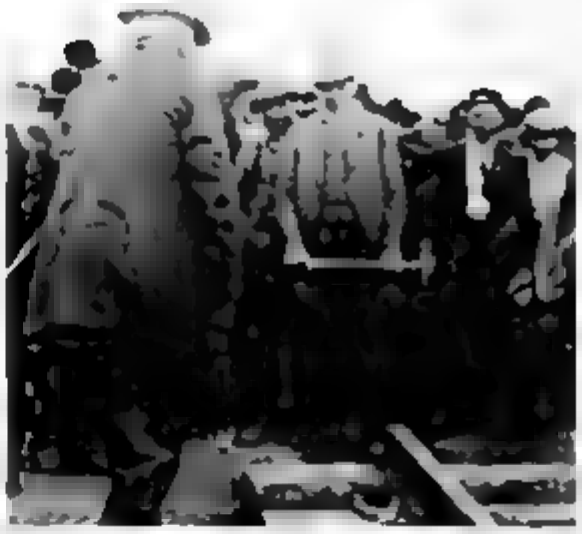


Surveyors camp near Eckville, 1910

In August of 1910, the Canadian Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, arrived in Red Deer, together with G. P. Graham, Federal Minister of Railroads, and A. L. Sifton, the Premier of Alberta, to drive the first spike of the A.C.R. The ceremony took place at the proposed station grounds near the present-day location of Mountview School and was cut short by the sudden appearance of a summer rainstorm.

Work on the A.C.R. continued throughout the

A. C. R. surveyors crossing stream in Eckville area 1910



Left to right. J. T. Moore, President of A.C.R. pounding the first spike. Hon. G. P. Graham, Federal Minister of Railways Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada.

rest of the summer and early fall. Brushing and grading were carried out and starts were made on the bridges over the Red Deer River and Waskasoo Creek, as well as a trench to drain off part of Burnt Lake. Several hundred men and teams were hired, either by the Company itself or by small sub-contractors, and by October, 1910, there were four main work camps in operation with some 300 to 350 men in each camp. These camps were located at the Red Deer River west of town, at Burnt Lake, at Evarts and at Pitcox (now Hespero). In November a camp was set up some four miles east of Eckville and another at Edwell.

For administrative purposes, the Company divided the area west of Red Deer into three divisions with a resident engineer in charge of each division. Mr. Robert G. Dawe was in charge of Division No. 1, which extended from Red Deer to Sylvan Lake. Mr. George S. MacKay was in charge of Division No. 2, which extended from Sylvan Lake to Evarts, and Mr. James M. Robertson was in charge of Division No. 3, which covered the area west of Evarts. Mr. J. Grant MacGregor was the chief engineer.

In the winter months of 1910 and 1911 some work continued with survey parties under Mr. Paget, Mr. Chalk and Mr. Woodbury working in the area west of Rocky Mountain House. Also, gangs of men started work on the bridges across the Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House and the Medicine River south of Eckville. However, the A.C.R. found itself in increasing difficulties. The Company, which had already spent over $3,000,000 by the end of 1910, was beginning to face a scarcity of funds. The subsidy grant from the Dominion Government was

slow in coming through, since payments were only made as each mile of construction was completed. There were heavy expenditures caused by the construction of the concrete and steel bridges across the Red Deer and Saskatchewan Rivers and by the maintenance of the very high quality of grade (.4% or 20 feet to the mile with curves of no more than three percent), to which the Company had committed itself in order to become a "transcontinental" line.

The shortage of funds was also complicated by the appearance of competition in the form of the Canadian Northern Western Railway, which, in late 1910 began construction of a rail line which paralleled the A.C.R.'s line from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. This competition meant that the A.C.R. could not afford to delay construction, as this would mean forfeiting the better grades to the C.N.W.R. It also created a scarcity of available labour and materials, which forced up their cost. For example, the A.C.R. had been paying $2.50 a day for men (75¢ a day deducted for room and board) and $5.00 a day for men with teams. With the coming of the C.N.W.R., the A.C.R. found it necessary to pay $3.00 per day for men and $6.00 a day for men with teams. The cost of oats reached 90¢ a bushel at Rocky Mountain House and 35¢ a bushel at Red Deer in contrast to the 20¢ to 25¢ that a bushel of oats cost in Edmonton.

The A.C.R. faced numerous other problems, one being that 1911 was an extremely wet year and this made the roads in the west country all but impassible. The heavy traffic brought about by the freighting done by the A.C.R. and the C.N.W.R. compounded the problem. As an illustration of the seriousness of the situation, an A.C.R. contractor had to use 10 horses to get a grader out on the main road west of Pitcox to a grading camp.

The A.C.R. was also plagued by illness among those who occupied its key management positions. John T. Moore's health deteriorated to the extent that he was no longer able to deal with the necessary detail work. Matthew Neilsen, the A.C.R.'s general manager and vice president, came out from Montreal to take Mr. Moore's place, but came down with a fatal case of pneumonia.

In late March 1911, the Board of Directors of the A.C.R. decided not to rely on day labor and small sub-contractors any longer, and announced its intention to let out the contract for the balance of construction. An agreement was made by John T. Moore and J. Grant MacGregor with James McDonnell & Co., but the Board of Directors found McDonnell's price of $2,500,000 far too high. It ordered that the plans and specifications be amended and that a call for new tenders be made. In the meantime, the Company found itself so stranded for funds that it had to close down some of the work camps pending the result of an inquiry as to the status of the subsidy of the Dominion Government.

Finally, on July 8, 1911 the Company awarded the contract to Duncan F. MacArthur of Winnipeg at the cost of $25,000 per mile for some 70 miles of construction. Immediately, the pace of work picked up, with MacArthur starting up seven new grading camps in one week. The townsites at Benalto and Sylvan Lake were surveyed.

The flurry of activity was short lived, and by the end of 1911 the A.C.R. found itself completely unable to cope with its legal, administrative and financial problems. An informal agreement was made with the C.P.R. in December, 1911, and that company began to take over construction of the line. In January 1912, the C.P.R. began issuing the pay cheques on behalf of the A.C.R. and in December 1912 a formal agreement was drawn up whereby the C.P.R. leased the A.C.R.'s charter for 999 years.

For a while there was talk of the C.P.R. using the Alberta Central line as the main line from the prairies to the coast because of the high quality of the grade and because the C.P.R. was looking for ways of relieving pressure on its main line to the south. However, gradually it became apparent that the C.P.R. was really not interested in the A.C.R. line. Agreements were made with the C.N.W.R. for joint use of track near Rocky Mountain House and the bridge over the Saskatchewan River. Modifications were made to the grade and right-of-way in order to reduce construction costs, and it was not until August 1914 that the line from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was finally completed.

The A.C.R. has left its mark on the Central Alberta area. It helped to open up a strip of farmland 60 miles long west of Red Deer and it provided homesteaders struggling to get started with both well-paying jobs to help get the money necessary to make it through the difficult early years and with ready markets for their produce. However, it seems the line will not last much longer, as it is one of the rail lines slated to be abandoned in the near future.

## THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY

In 1908 and 1909, rich coal fields were discovered in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains west of Rocky Mountain House. In April 1910, the German Development Company and Mackenzie & Mann, the railway magnates behind the Canadian Northern Railway, formed a company by the name of Brazeau Collieries to exploit these newly-found coal fields. Shortly thereafter, Mackenzie, Mann & Co. announced that they would construct a rail line from Stewartwyn, near Stettler, to the Brazeau coal fields in order to gain access to the holdings of the new company.

Mackenzie, Mann & Co. wasted very little time in getting started. By August 1910 they had presented to the federal railroad authorities for approval a route map, even though they had not done any significant surveying. Mackenzie, Mann & Co. were able to do this by borrowing

heavily from surveys and plans made by the Alberta Central Railway in the winter of 1909 and 1910 which had been placed on file in Ottawa in March 1910. The proposed route of the C.N.R. followed the A.C.R.'s line. In the meantime, approval was given to the C.N.R.'s planned route from Stewartwyn to Range 25.

The C.N.R. was in no mood to slow down, and by September 23, it had pushed its grading to a point which was just east of Blackfalds and some 25 to 30 miles west of the limit of Range 25 set by the federal railroads authorities. It also dispatched parties of surveyors to work on a new route west of Blackfalds. By November 9, these surveyors had progressed as far as Eckville.

In late November 1910, Mackenzie, Mann & Co. decided to seek a charter from the provincial government, in part to avoid some of the entanglements with the federal railroad authorities and in part to secure a bonding power of $35,000 per mile. Previously they had been relying on a charter granted to a subsidiary company, the Alberta Midland Railway and a Dominion charter granted to the German Development Company. As might be expected, the bill to grant the charter caused stormy debate in the Alberta Legislature, particularly from those who were friendly to the Alberta Central Railway. However, the carter was eventually granted with the name of the new railway to be "The Canadian Northern Western Railway Co." The provisional directors were F.H. Phippen, Gerard G. Ruel, George F. Macdonnell, Reginald Temple and J.H. Phippen. These men held only 60 of the 20,000 shares in the new company with Mackenzie, Mann, & Co. holding the rest. The charter also expressly allowed the C.N.W.R. to make agreements with the Canadian Northern Railway to sell or lease the line.

In February 1911, the surveys were practically completed to Rocky Mountain House and the Provincial government agreed to guarantee the bonds of the C.N.W.R. The Northern Construction Co., a subsidiary of Foley, Welch and Stewart, in which Mackenzie, Mann, & Co. had an interest, was given the contract for the construction west of Red Deer.

For the months of March and April, the Northern Construction Co. devoted itself to freighting in necessary construction materials before the roads broke up in the spring. Surveyors were also sent out to put in the grade stakes along the line.

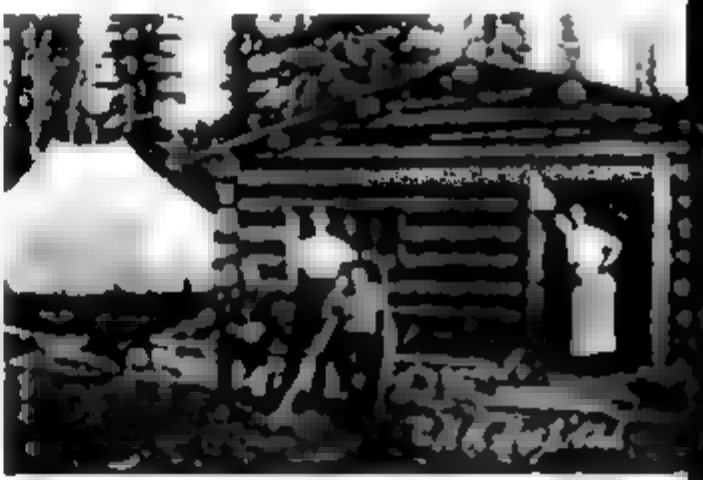
At the beginning of May the Northern Construction Co. began grading and brushing work north of Red Deer and west towards Sylvan Lake. Camps were quickly established all along the line. There were four camps set up within a short distance of Eckville alone, and two quite large ones were set up at Lesslieville. By mid-May the Northern Construction Co. had some 2300 teams and more than that number of men at work west of Red Deer.

While all this feverish work was going on, the C.N.W.R. was busy locating possible station sites at Sylvan Lake, a site belonging to M. Matchett which was two miles south of Old Eckville (NW 16-39-3-W5), and a site at Lesslieville (S 26-39-5-W5). The Canadian Northern announced that it was investigating the possibility of erecting a mammoth summer hotel at Sylvan Lake.

The work on the C.N.W.R. was not without its problems and delays. The years 1911 and 1912 were extremely wet and the roads were very bad thereby making the movement of men, horses, equipment and construction materials very difficult. The C.N.W.R. often faced legal problems with trespass because of an inability to secure the right-of-way fast enough. At one point, the C.N.W.R. faced five restraining injunctions from the Saskatchewan Land & Homestead Company alone.

The C.N.W.R. was also involved in extremely fierce competition with the Alberta Central Railway, whose line it paralleled. The A.C.R. sought and received injunctions preventing the C.N.W.R. from crossing its properties, particularly in the Rocky Mountain House area. The C.N.W.R. where possible put its grade up to six feet above the A.C.R. grades where the two lines crossed.

There were a few incidents of violence between the men of the two companies. In late October, 1910, a survey crew of the C.N.W.R. got involved in a prolonged fist fight with an A.C.R. crew which the Red Deer Advocate described as a near riot. Later in 1911, a C.N.W.R. crew tossed into a nearby slough several A.C.R. constables who were guarding the A.C.R. right-of-way. The A.C.R. responded by having the C.N.W.R. men arrested, transported to Red Deer and left there to find their own way back out west.



C.N.R. hospital west of Red Deer - 1911

By July 1911, the Northern Construction Co. had begun to lay steel and by September 8 they had reached the Blindman River, where they were held up by a court injunction granted to the

Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company and by the need to build a large trestle across the river valley. By October, the C N W R. had managed to have all the court injunctions along its line removed and the laying of steel continued rapidly, sometimes at a rate of three miles a day. By late October steel had reached Sylvan Lake.

Once freeze-up came, the Northern Construction Co. continued to blast some cuts between Eckville and Leslieville. The last of the grading was finished up and a decision was made to lay some of the steel over muskeg in order to help move in supplies for the next year's work. Government surveyors were hired to survey the C.N.W.R. townsites at Sylvan Lake, Eckville and Leslieville and in February 1912, people began to move out of the old village of Eckville to the C.N.W.R. townsite. Forhan and Clausen were the first to build a store in the new town but by mid-March 25 lots had been sold and there were a few stores and two pool rooms in operation at the townsite. Not everyone was happy about the move. The Eckville correspondent to the Red Deer Advocate complained that the new townsite was a place of "open on Sunday" pool rooms and "seven day" stores. He advised a change of name to Cripple Creek. Actually, the name Sakatoo was used by the railroad for some time as a name for the new town.

With the coming of spring, construction of the line moved ahead rapidly and by April steel had reached Leslieville. A phone line was built alongside the line as far as Eckville and by June some people were shipping freight in and out over the new line. On June 10, 1912 the line was completed to Rocky Mountain House, with J. H. Bertrand driving the last spike at that point.

For the rest of 1912 and 1913, the C.N.W.R. was pushed on to the Brazeau coal fields. Ballasting of the track and construction of station grounds were carried out between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Repairs were made to the track at points where the rapid construction of the line was all too evident. For example, the trestle at Poplar Ridge sank three feet shortly after it was built and heavy rains severly damaged the track in the Leslieville area.

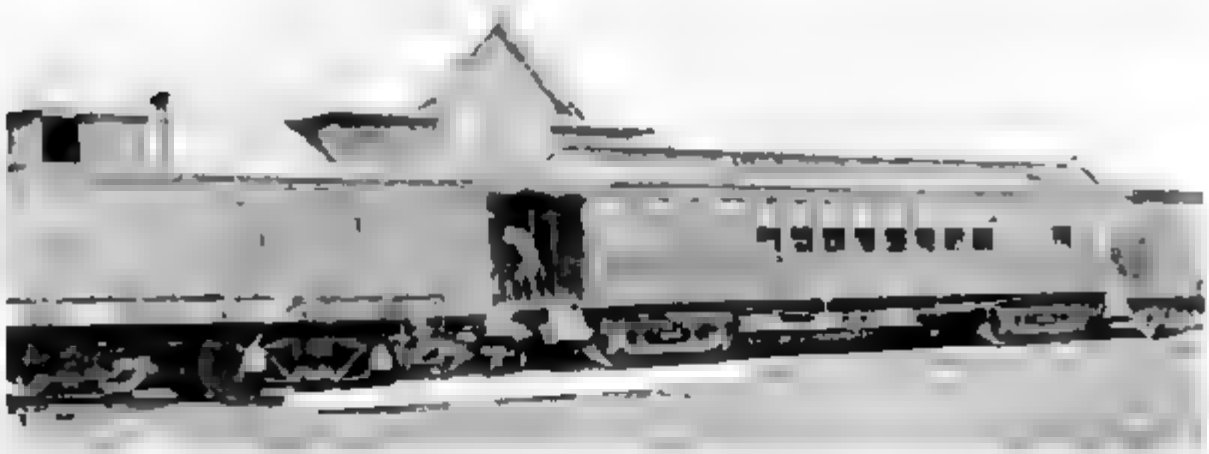
By March 1914, trains were running every day regular shipments of coal from Nordegg began to be made. It was in August 1914 that the whole line was officially completed.

The C.N.W.R. became eventually part of the Canadian National Railway system, and like the A.C.R. line to the south, it helped the farmers by opening up the country between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Among the many people who helped work on the road were such contractors as Mike Madden, H. J. Griffith, F. M. Mahon, Boomer and Hughes, Carrol and Harvey and W. D. Maxey. Local contractors such as A. Eckford, Capt. Dominique and Henry Reinholt, as well as such lumber outfits as McDougall and Martin, Walsh Bros. and Wright and F. R. Pettepher did a lot of work for the C.N.W.R. Right-of-way agents were G. A. Mantel and R. Johnston. Some of the doctors who worked for the C.N.W.R. were Drs. Collison and Grey at Red Deer and Dr. Honey at Eckville.

**HISTORY OF THE BRAZEAU SUBDIVISION OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS — by W. J. Rothwell**

The Brazeau subdivision of the Canadian National Railways, on which Eckville is situated at mileage 65.7, was constructed by the Canadian Northern Western Railway, a subsidiary of the Canadian Northern Railway. The Canadian Northern Railway placed most of their construction contracts with the noted financiers Mackenzie and Mann who in turn sub-contracted the work.

A more substantial fuel than that being used on the prairies was required for the winters and



C.N.R. First round trip through Eckville - 1912

there was an abundance of coal along the eastern Rockies and in the Red Deer Valley where Drumheller was the central point. Lines were constructed from Drumheller to principal connecting points such as Drumheller-Vegreville (for Edmonton), a distance of 173 miles, opened November 29, 1911; Alsask-Munson Jct. (for Saskatoon), 222 miles, opened October 27, 1911, and Drumheller-Calgary, 85 miles, opened February 12, 1914. These lines ensured that Drumheller and it's coal fields were adequately served, and the Canadian Northern turned it's interest to the Brazeau coal fields which were situated in close proximity to the Bighorn Range. As a further inducement to the railroads, a Federal subsidy was offered for a railway to these coal fields. Mackenzie and Mann obtained this and then built the line elsewhere, originating their line at Warden, 64 miles north of Drumheller on the Drumheller-Vegreville line and it was completed as follows in Fig. 1.

Building trestle east of Eckville

| | Miles | First Laid | Opened for Traffic |
|---|---|---|---|
| Warden-Otway (Via Eckville) | 115 | 1912 | August 18, 1914 |
| Otway-Ullin (Jct. at Rocky Mt. House) | 4 | 1913 | August 18, 1914 |
| Ullin-Brazeau (Via Saunders) | 54 | 1914 | August 18, 1914 |
| (Alix south Jct to mileage 0.54) | 0.54 | 1921 | 1921 |

Figure 1

In 1921, Alix South Jct. became the Junction of the Brazeau and Three Hills subdivisions. Mirror became the home terminal and originating point for trains to the Brazeau subdivision and still is.

An interesting story was that there was a "race" between the CNWR and CPR to reach Brazeau, the latter having taken over from the Alberta Central Railway in 1911 during the construction of their line to reach the Brazeau coal fields. I do not know how much credence may be placed in this story, but when the CNWR reached Brazeau in 1914, the CPR had only arrived at a point between Saunders and Alexo. They ceased immediately the grading of their roadbed at that point. I have seen this final abrupt point of the roadbed and it may still be seen. The CPR, however, stole a march on the CNWR when their surveyors were surveying prior to building from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and across the North Saskatchewan river. They had selected the best site for the railway bridge. The CNWR would now have to build a bridge next to it or go much farther west to find a suitable location which would necessitate much more capital. This seemed unwise considering that the bridge would cost about a quarter million dollars while one bridge could easily handle all the traffic of both railways. The subsequent negotiations resulted finally in a grant of running rights over the bridge to the CNWR, by the CPR and for which they must remunerate the CPR, in accordance with the terms of the lease. The bridge, which is located on a six-mile stretch of joint trackage from Otway to Ullin Junction, is owned and maintained by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Brazeau Collieries opened in 1914. The man most responsible for the formation of this Company was Martin Nordegg, whose family name was Cohn and changed to Nordegg after his arrival in Canada in 1906 from Germany.

Martin Nordegg came to Canada with a great deal of German investors' money. He was backed by German financiers and businssmen and a syndicate set up to finance him. He passed up other opportunities to speculate and decided to invest in Alberta coal fields, some of which he was to discover himself.

Nordegg first discovered, staked and filed claims to the South Brazeau, Race Creek and Bighorn coal fields and later the Nordegg coal basin in 1910-11 which turned out to be the more important field as he had forseen. In the latter, several geologists had seen the dark streaks or coal strata in the southern mountain of the two

mountains forming the well-known gap, but had failed to realize the meaning as Nordegg had.

Nordegg was soon in a successful partnership with the widely known promoters, Mackenzie and Mann, of the Canadian Northern Railway Within six years, he had a complete coal-mining operation working which produced 155, 322 tons of coal in their first year of commercial operations, 1915. In Martin Nordegg's last year at the mines, they produced 261,156 tons. He also had a town named after him which still bears his name. The railway station was originally named Nordegg also but altered to Brazeau during the first world war

In all probability the most successful of all the Canadian Northern undertakings were the coal railways. It was a matter of only months after completion of the lines that they were moving large volumes of coal and of which the Nordegg coal was only a small portion.

Nordegg coal was considered to be of a good grade and probably the best grade for coke Briquettes were also made from this coal. Nordegg coal was eagerly sought by the railroads for use in their steam locomotives Most of the coal produced at Nordegg was used by the Canadian Northern Railway and by settlers living near the Canadian Northern Railway's prairie lines

The coal movement from Nordegg in particular, but also the coal from Saunders and Alexo to a much lesser extent, formed the largest carload movement on the CNR Brazeau subdivision at that time. This coal traffic continued until 1955 when the last coal mine in Nordegg closed, although the volume had been decreasing since the first mine closed in 1948. Between these years the coal industry faced many problems including a post war decline and a drop in domestic and international coal markets. The change from coal-burning steam engines to diesel-electric locomotives on the railways doomed the Brazeau mines, which had been opened specifically to supply Canadian Northern locomotives with coal.

Lumber was also one of the commodities moved by carload but I have been unable to ascertain the volume of this traffic

Following is a synoptical history of the Canadian Northern Western Railway

## CANADIAN NORTHERN WESTERN RAILWAY
## (INCLUDED IN CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY CO AFTER AMALGAMATION)

INCORPORATION. December 5, 1910. The Canadian Northern Western Railway was incorporated under the laws of Alberta, Act 1, Geo. V, Chapter 48, Statutes of 1910, to build certain lines in the Province of Alberta

CAPITAL STOCK: Prior to amalgamation The amount of capital stock was Authorized 60,000 shares—par value $100-$6,000,000. Issued 20,000 shares — par value $100-$2,000,000. The issued stock was pledged as security for the Dominion Guaranteed Debenture stock

BONDS (1). 4½% First Mortgage Guaranteed Debenture Stock and Bonds The amount authorized was $2,851,750 of which $6,424,000 was issued and held by the public. Date of maturity was February 16, 1942. This issued was guaranteed by the Province of Alberta

(2). 4½% First Mortgage Guaranteed Debenture Stock and Bonds. The amount authorized was $2,851,750 of which $2,799,997 73 was issued and held by the public. Date of maturity was October 22, 1943. This issue was guaranteed by the Province of Alberta

(3) 4% Debentures. This issue was a charge on the Canadian Northern Western Railway to the extent of $2,124,184 for which supplementary indentures had been drawn up and pledged as security under the 4% Dominion Guaranteed Debenture stock

DECLARATORY: Works and undertaking declared to be works for the general advantage of Canada — Dominion Act 4-5, Geo. V., Chapter 20, 1914, P C. 443, February 20, 1917

HISTORY: Under Act 1, per foregoing, Canadian Northern Western Railway Company was incorporated to construct and operate a railway from Edmonton or Strathcona to Pine or Peace River Pass, also a line from the Canadian Northern Railway between Edmonton and Calgary to Rocky Mountain House, to Brazeau and McLeod Rivers, with branches to coal areas, etc. Dominion P.C. 443, February 20, 1917, declared the Railway for the advantage of Canada and open for traffic

NATURE OF CORPORATE & OPERATING CONTROL: The Canadian Northern Railway Company controls the Canadian Northern Western Railway through 100% Capital Stock ownership

The Company was operated as a part of the Canadian National Railways and it's accounts are included in those of the System

| PROPERTY | MILEAGE |
|---|---|
| Whitecourt to Peace River Jct | [illegible] |
| St. Paul to St Paul Jct | [illegible] |
| Camrose to Alliance | [illegible] |
| Red Deer Jct. to Red Deer | [illegible] |
| Medicine Hat Jct. to Steveville | [illegible] |
| Red Deer Jct. to Warden | [illegible] |
| Brazeau to Red Deer Jct | [illegible] |

AMALGAMATION. Many smaller railroads which had become financially troubled and or bankrupt had already been taken over by the Canadian Government and were known as the Canadian Government Railways. During 1915 and 1916 two of the largest railways, the Grand Trunk and Canadian Northern and their subsidiaries, were in serious financial trouble A Royal Commission known as the Drayton Acworth Report recommended by a 2-1 majority vote of the three-man committee, that both

railways be acquired and operated by the Canadian Government. This report was tabled in Parliament in May, 1917. In August, the Government passed legislation to acquire the stock, the price of which was to be decided by a board of arbitration. In December, 1918, a new Board of Directors was appointed and took over management of the "Canadian Government Railways", including the Canadian Northern Railway and its subsidiaries.

An Order-in-Council, P.C. 3122, dated December 20, 1918, was passed and this was the first official use of the title, Canadian National Railways, by the Board of Directors.

In the meantime, the Grand Trunk Railway held out against the Government until March, 1919, when the railway went into receivership, and in November, 1919, was taken over by the Government. Again, a Board of Arbitration settled the cost factor, and in January, 1920, the Grand Trunk Railway was operated by the Board of Directors of Government Railways.

Privy Council Order 2094, dated October 4, 1922, with the appointment of the Directors of the Canadian National Railway Company, finally brought the company into a legal existence.

There appears to be a confusion as to the date of complete amalgamation. This is probably due mainly to the matter of legal technicalities of some titles and including same in the corporate name of Canadian National Railway Company. For all intents and purposes the final amalgamation is considered to have been in early 1923.

The mixed train service which was operated on the Brazeau subdivision by the Canadian National Railways for many years was discontinued in early 1959. These trains were known as No. 319 in the Westward direction and No. 320 in the Eastward direction.

The last steam locomotive to pass through Eckville was number 2139 on Train Extra 2139 east, March 13, 1959. The first diesel-electric locomotive to pass through Eckville was No. 1043 on Train Extra 1043 west, March 16, 1959. I took pictures of these locomotives and same are accompanying this history.

The Brazeau subdivision has always been a busy line in carload traffic and in recent years the volume has been increasing steadily through the movement of new commodities.

The construction of the propane facility at Elspeth was completed in December, 1967. The first car of propane shipped was on December 26, 1967, consigned to Continental Oil Company at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. The average number of cars shipped from this facility is fourteen cars per week.

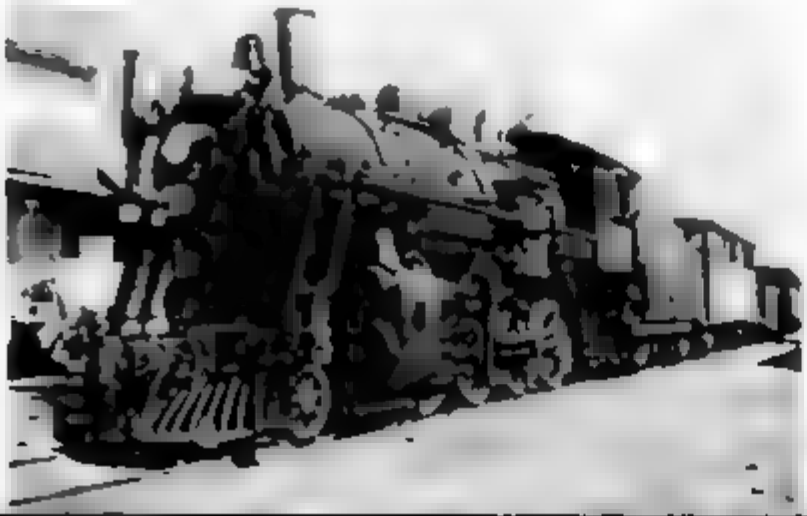
The pipeline system bringing propane to Elspeth originated at Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Co. Ltd., Sylvan Lake Gas Processing Plant, located six miles south on Diamond Valley road from Highway 11 and one mile west. It was subsequently extended to the HBOG Caroline Gas Plant located approximately twenty miles west of Bowden. Propane from Chevron Standard Plant two miles south of Elspeth also is marketed through Elspeth. The pipeline system for propane terminates at Elspeth. HBOG provided the pipeline and loading facility at Elspeth and operates same. Propane for all shareholders in the three Gas Plants is handled there although some of the companies involved market their own share of the product. HBOG handles and loads cars for these companies. Alan Russel has operated this Elspeth terminal since it was built and is still doing so. This propane loading facility is located at mileage 57.6 on the CNR Brazeau subdivision.

Having been unable to obtain information in connection with the Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd., propane loading dock at mileage 64.5 Brazeau subdivision, I can only say that I believe it was built in 1969-70 and that the first cars of propane shipped were two cars on October 22, 1970, destined Melville, Saskatchewan.

There is another propane loading dock on the Brazeau subdivision at mileage 93.9, Lochearn. The Company concerned is Amerada petroleum Corporation.

Re Aquitaine Company of Canada Ltd., Ram River Gas and Sulphur Plant, following is a short rundown on same.

Engine 2139. Last steam engine to pass through Eckville March 13, 1959. C.N.R. Brazeau Subdivision.



— located 32 miles SW of Rocky Mountain House
— prepares raw material gas for market by removing water, hydro-carbon liquids and harmful gases such as carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide from the raw gas.
— natural gas is transported from the plant by Alberta Gas Trunk line and Trans Canada Pipeline to markets in Eastern Canada
— hydrocarbon liquids are transported by pipeline to Dome processing plant in Edmonton
— hydrogen sulphide is burned to produce pure liquid sulphur
— liquid sulphur is either poured to block for long term storage, shipped by rail in liquid form or slated and shipped by rail in solid form
— Ram River Plant is among the larger gas processing plants in Canada and is the largest single sulphur producer in Canada (4400 long tons of sulphur per day)
— plant is built in two identical stages.

July 1970 — start of construction of stage I
May 1971 — start of construction of stage II
Feb. 1972 — stage I start up
Sept 1972 — stage II start up
Nov 1974 — completion of 27 mile CNR rail spur to plant from Rocky Mountain House.
Dec. 1974 – started shipping liquid sulphur by CNR
Aug. 1975 — completed sulphur slating facilities.
Apr. 1976 — started shipping solid slated slated sulphur by CN rail on a steady basis

— sulphur market is very transient but they average approximately two to three trains per week of slated sulphur (80 cars per train, 100 long tons per car) via CNR.
— most of this sulphur goes to Vancouver where it is loaded on to ships for transport to foreign markets such as Japan, Australia, and South Africa.
— 45 cars per week of liquid sulphur (88 long tons per car)
— most of this sulphur is shipped to Eastern United States to the large chemical companies

Eckville has always been considered an excellent business town, and the carload traffic received and forwarded via CNR testifies to this. Some of the commodities received regularly were — Eckville Co-op: mix goods, fertilizer, anhydrous ammonia and others. Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd.. various machinery and implements, etc. E. Tiihonen: various machinery and implements. John Deere (W. Eliuk) various machinery and implements. Imperial Oil (Geo. Armeneau) gasoline, fuel oil, fertilizer, etc. Searle Grain Co. coal. Eckville Co-op Livestock Association (J. Sambrook): hogs every week one to three carloads. Alberta Wheat Pool and Searle Grain Co.: grain (mostly barley). Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd propane. Elspeth loading facility: propane waybilled in Eckville CNR station).

The CNR station in Eckville was built in 1912. It was stuccoed in 1945 with electricity being installed at that time. Additions and improvements were made to the living quarters, which were provided for the agent, over the years including connection to the town water system when the town undertook this project. My wife, Hester, son Craig, daughter Diane, and myself lived in the living quarters during our sixteen years in Eckville.

I have been unable to obtain the names of all CNR station agents who have worked and served Eckville and district in the Eckville station but following are those I can recall.

Mr. Barnett dates unknown but understand he was agent in Eckville for 26 years, probably up to 1950-51.

A. H. Elliott approximately three years, 1950-51 to 1954.

F. R. Rogers: three years, 1954 to 1956.

W. J. Rothwell: 16 years, 1956 to 1972. Retired in 1972 but returned to work each summer in Eckville station until July 18, 1975, on which date I had the unpleasant duty of closing the Eckville station permanently.

F. A. Theberge: One year, 1972-73

M. Medvid. Two years, 1973-75

The only section foremen of the CNR at Eckville whom I can recall are R. T. Stout, 1951-1962, G. Gillis, 1962-1963, M. Rogutski, 1963-1970, R. T. Stout, 1970-1972 (His return to Eckville gave Bob a total of 12 years there.); G. Brzak, 1972-to present date.

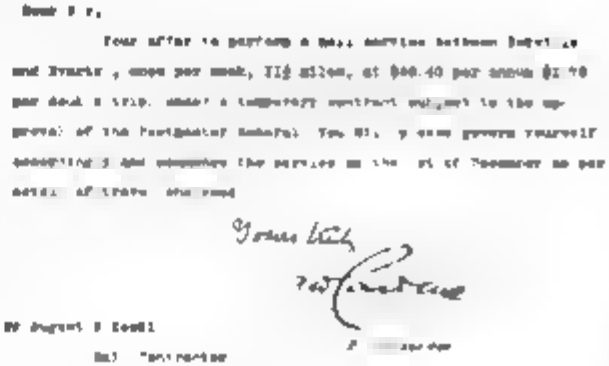
In my railroad career, I witnessed many events, both tragic and otherwise. One event which was the most unusual occurred on the Brazeau subdivision. In 1972, two empty propane cars which were in the Elspeth yard, mileage 57.6, in some way, started moving, which indicated that brakes were not set, ran through the west switch and onward along the main line westward. The section-men on their motor car eastbound were rounding a curve when they saw these two cars approaching and had time only to jump off the track motor car to save their lives. The motor car upon impact with the two propane cars did not leave the rails and continued on with the runaway cars, being pushed. The section foreman on motor car was Bob Stout who had to walk a considerable distance to a farm house to notify CNR of this and they in turn informed me. It was a peculiar sight as they passed my office window and one person came in soon after and said that it was the first time he had seen a railway motor car pulling two tank cars. There was a train coming from the west and while I knew there was practically no chance of these cars being able to climb hills near Withrow and Leslieville, especially the latter, I had to take the precaution of having the train use the necessary protection which I did through the elevator agent, A. Deman at Leslieville, by telephone. A

collision could easily have resulted in a catastrophe and when you think of two runaway tank cars together with the possibility of motor vehicles passing over unprotected private crossings it was a matter of great concern. However, the two tank cars stalled on the first hill at mileage 68.0 (near Withrow), rolled back down the hill and came to a stop. They had travelled a distance of 10.4 miles. The train pushed them into the Eckville yard. I have a picture of these two notorious runaway cars. All is well that ends well.

During 1973-1975, the Canadian National Railways re-built their roadbed on the Brazeau subdivision and installed 100-125 pound main line ribbon steel, bringing it up to near main line level. This was necessary in order to handle the large amount of traffic in 100 ton cars and 80 or more cars per train, such as the sulphur from Aquitaine Plant and propane from Elspeth and Eckville. The CNR now operates unit trains on the Brazeau subdivision with several engines according to the tonnage of traffic to be handled.

Eckville is a busy town on a busy railway line. Caution at railway crossings is essential as the trains now operate at a higher rate of speed than we had become accustomed to.

Portions of some of the information used in the foregoing History were based on material from the following: Canadian National Railways, Historical Research Officer, Mr J. N. Lowe, Montreal. Canadian National Railways' Officials in Edmonton. Public Archives Canada, Ottawa. Book "The Possibilities of Canada are Truly Great", memoirs by Martin Nordegg, edited by T. D. Regehr. Books: "History of the Canadian National Railways" volumes one and two, author G. R. Stevens.



## HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICES OF ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

In the early 1900's, as settlers were gradually moving westward from the main Calgary Edmonton line, mail facilities were called for, with the result that in the year 1903 plans were made for a post office that was to become the centre of Eckville.

Mr. Eckford, a homesteader, and one of the progressive type, erected a suitable building to house the post office and a trading post on his land, and then looked for a man to operate both of them for the benefit of the community. As he made plans for the building, Mr. Eckford obtained permission to operate a post office so that when Mr. John Killick, a young Englishman not long out from the old country, was chosen as the businessman to operate the post office and store, authority and supplies arrived in the name of Eckford Post Office. Mr. Eckford, considering the name too personal, changed it to Eckville — a name which has since become well known throughout the country.

In December of 1905, the post office and trading centre was officially opened at a site about a mile northeast of the present town of Eckville, a spot known for many years as Liberty Hall Corner, just west of the J. Onofryszyn residence.

Mail was first hauled from the Evarts post office, about 12 miles southeast, by the late Mr. A. B. Koski. Two years later, the mail contract was taken over by Mr. F. Kinna. Mr. Kinna later hauled the mail from Red Deer for several years.

In those days, travel was very different, as rivers and creeks had to be forded, muskegs were numerous, and roads were only trails that led to the west, so no doubt many difficulties were experienced before mail or other supplies reached the settlers.

Mr. Killick gave up the post office in 1908 and moved 30 miles west, to Rocky Mountain House, where he operated a general store for more than 47 years. Following his departure, the Eckville post office was taken over by Mr. R. Brunseraede, who carried on until 1911.

In 1910 the country west of Red Deer was being rapidly developed; with farming, timber, and coal mines which called for transportation. To fill this need, the C.P.R. and the C.N.R. both built railway lines west to Rocky Mountain House, with the C.N.R. going 60 miles further west to the coal fields at Nordegg.

When the railway went past Eckville in 1911 the trading centre and post office was moved from Old Eckville to its present site, and the late Mr. O. M. Forhan was postmaster and storekeeper from 1911 until 1918. Mr. C. S. Crosby was postmaster from 1918 until 1925, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. E. Hayes, who carried on for about a year. Mr. Daniel Clausen,

G R

# CONTRACT

FOR THE

# CONVEYANCE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MAILS

## (RURAL MAIL DELIVERY)

THIS AGREEMENT entered into this eighth day of March

in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight between

John Kemila of the town of Okville

in the County of Red Deer in the Province of Alberta

and Dominion of Canada Mail Contractor hereinafter called the Contractor his Heirs Executors

and Administrators of the one part and the Honourable Peter J. Veniot
Postmaster General of Canada acting for and on behalf of his Majesty His Heirs and Successors of the other part.

WITNESSETH that for and in consideration of the sum of money hereinafter mentioned the said Contractor engages COMMENCING the First day of April A D., 1928

to convey or cause to be conveyed His Majesty's Mails over

OKVILLE RURAL ROUTE NO. 1 VIA GILBY.

Three times per week in the manner and under stipulations hereinafter set forth serving on each and every trip or journey as the Post Offices now established or which may be established and all the Rural Mail Boxes now erected or which may be erected on the route it being agreed and understood however that in case the Postmaster General makes any change or changes by way either of increase or decrease in the frequency or distance to be travelled which the Contractor hereby agrees to perform a corresponding rateable increase or decrease as the case may be shall be made in the amount paid to the Contractor the amount of such increase or decrease to be fixed and finally declared by the Postmaster General.

The route to be pursued in the conveyance of the mails to be as described in the detail of travel or via such other roads as may be determined by the Postmaster General serving the Post Offices at Gilby

The computed distance which is accepted by the Contractor as the basis of this contract is 31 miles.

The mails to be conveyed in a suitable vehicle.

12 R. M. D.—5,000-26-3-23.

now deceased, then took over the position and was postmaster for 24 years — until he retired in 1950

Mr Clausen saw the greatest changes take place, with the village growing rapidly for about ten years, until the district had a complete line of services that few other villages of its size had to offer As land was cleared and roads were being built, the population of the district increased calling for extra mail services, so that in 1928 the first rural mail delivery was inaugurated and later this was increased to three routes which served about 300 farm families with mail service three times a week

About 1937 daily mail delivery was given to Eckville. By this time both railway trains were hauling mail. The trains traveled on alternate days, thus giving a great improvement in the mail service, which had previously been three times a week

Mr Clausen and his staff saw the change that took post office employees into the Civil Service in 1948. This was a great step forward for the employees because it gave them better working conditions, regular hours, holidays with pay, and a steady salary according to average work performed.

When Mr Clausen retired in 1950, his assistant, Mrs. M. K. Schofer, took charge for seven months until the position was filled late in the same year by Gordon McNeil, who is still the postmaster in 1977. Fifty years of progress have seen many changes and many moves from the first little office that was only a corner in a pioneer store to the present large modern office The post office was moved to the present building in September, 1966, from its former location in the building now occupied by Rhode s Radio and TV

The latest improvement in mail service has been that the mail delivery from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was changed from rail travel to Motor Transport in September, 1955. A daily schedule gives the most regular and fastest service possible between Eckville and the main city points. Of course, these improvements, and others, must be paid for Postage rates for letters have risen from three cents in the pioneer days to the cost of 12 cents for mailing a letter in Canada in 1977, and the end is not in sight!

**EARLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT ECKVILLE AND CONDOR — by Reverend J. Mayne**

In 1926 I was appointed by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada to the Student Mission Field at Eckville and Condor My experience there was fairly successful, although church attendance at both places could have been better I had learned from previous experience not to be discouraged on Sundays when the congregations were small. I boarded at the McDonald home in Eckville. and was well taken care of in that way. Generally, after I had been a few weeks on a Field, I would hear of the previous students, and could judge in that way how my work was going. I do not remember hearing such comments on the Eckville-Condor Charge, and had to be content

On all my student mission fields I did considerable visitation and thus got better acquainted with the people, some of whom never came to the services. On one such visit in Condor district the man considered himself above attending the service — or, was it below? We had a considerable amount of discussion but neither was able to persuade the other to his way of thinking I think I could find the house where we lived, but I have forgotten the name

At Condor there was a small but active Orange Lodge. On the twelfth of July there was a meeting in the morning which I attended as I was a member of the Order. The parade at Condor was small compared with ones I had seen in other places, particularly Northern Ireland where I had lived until coming to Canada at the age of fifteen

For transportation on Sundays and during the week I used a bicycle. On two wet Sundays I started to walk to Condor on the railway track The Section man was out with his hand car and gave me a ride almost to Condor When the weather cleared I again used my bicycle

At that time the late Mr William Aberhart was beginning his preaching. I was not personally interested in his line of thought. One or two of the Condor congregations, perhaps more, I felt were drawn to Mr Aberhart

Bill Bradshaw, of Alhambra, was doing high school work in Eckville at this time and he was boarding with me at McDonald's. I was invited to his home on two or three occasions and had a very pleasant time, as Bill's parents were very kind to me. Several years later I read in the paper that Bill had been killed in a highway accident, but I never learned any of the details

Nineteen twenty-six was fifty-one years ago, so I do not remember many names. Scott and Mrs. Hastie and Peter, "Wink", Ormie McKee and Laura Porter were some at Condor Doctor and Mrs. Sommerville, the McDonalds, and Joe Marshall come to my mind at Eckville

A Sports Day was held in Eckville and for me the specialty was the bicycle race. About half an hour before this race was to start a young lad asked to borrow my bicycle for a few minutes. I let him have it and away he went, not to return until the race was over Bill Bradshaw insisted on me using his bike. An older boy had his bike fixed with a larger gear to enable him to go faster However, he was not strong enough to push it for the one-mile distance of the race. At the three-quarter mark I looked back and the nearest rider was at the half mile mark. I coasted the rest of the way and it was announced that I had done the mile in four minutes. Had I known that I was being timed, I could easily have completed the mile in less time

**ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — by Mr. T. H. Curran**

The history of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church dates back to 1920 when the original building, a school house located one mile north of town, was bought for a community church and moved to the site where the present church stands. The title was held by several interested people in the town. Rev. W. G. Brown, the Presbyterian minister in Red Deer, was a promoter of the project.

Mr Mitchell, of Toronto, was the first student minister, coming in May, 1922. He stayed for the summer in the Dr. Backus home, now the Roy Saari home. Next came a blind minister who took the services at Sylvan Lake, Evarts, and Eckville.

In 1921 the "Ladies Auxiliary to the Eckville Community Church" was organized. The Charter Members were: Mrs. Heimbecker, Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Litt, Mrs. J. M. McDonald and Miss Tompson. During the year they donated one hundred and twenty-five dollars towards purchase of the church building, held an ice-cream and strawberry social, bought and varnished the benches in the church, had a refreshment booth at the baseball tournament and put on a chicken supper at which they charged fifty cents for adults and twenty-five cents for children.

When the vote was taken for church union in 1925 there were four votes for union and one opposed. Under the United Church student ministers were included, Mr Mayne from Edmonton, Mr. Wilson from Toronto and Mr LaCorow from Newfoundland. A two-room shack moved on to the church grounds served as accommodation for the student ministers. Then for a few years there were no church services and the building was rented by the school board to be used as a school.

Unable to continue, the United Church recommended that the Eckville parish be returned to the Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church. The first Presbyterian student, Mr Harold Corky, arrived from Ireland for the spring and summer of 1931. He travelled by bicycle, and saddle horse before obtaining a light delivery truck for fifty dollars from Red Deer, which he learned to drive on the return trip to Eckville.

Summer, 1932, brought Mr Hartley Casler from Ontario. In 1933 Mr. Essler was sent out to the Eckville field. He lived in Benalto during the summer, as it seemed more central. In 1935 Mr Malcolm McLean was the student minister. He remained here until the fall of the following year.

He was followed by Mr. Duncan Campbell. During his ministry Benalto instead of Centreville, became associated with Eckville and Hespero, a manse was built on the church grounds, a church was built at Hespero and the use of the church in Eckville for a school room was discontinued. The ladies changed the name of their organization to Eckville Church Ladies' Aid.

Mr T. M. Fraser came in 1941. It was during his ministry that the trees were planted on the church property and the grounds were fenced. The early 1940's brought a dedicated deaconess, Miss Ruby Walker, who travelled to Rocky Mountain House to give religious instruction to outlying schools and formed a young people's group and a Mission Band, as well as conducting services.

The first ordained minister to be called to Eckville was Rev. Fred Howick, who came in 1946. Up to this time the church had been run by the Ladies' Aid and a board of managers. Now a Kirk Session was elected and the Eckville Church was given the name St. Paul's. The title to the church was transferred from the United Church to the Presbyterian Church.

During the late 1940's an evening group of the Ladies' Aid was organized for those who could not attend afternoon meetings. They have continued to carry on the work of supporting the church started by the senior group. Their turkey supper put on every fall has become a community attraction and a tradition.

St. Pauls Presbyterian Church

The new church building was started in 1960 and dedicated in 1962. Many volunteers from the community assisted in excavating, pouring concrete, and constructing the new building. The old building was sold to Eric Korhonen who now uses it as his residence. A mortgage-burning ceremony was held in 1971 and the Eckville and Hespero charges were united in 1974. Plans are now being made for the construction of a new manse on a lot purchased on 53rd Street.

Other ministers, students and deaconesses who have served in our Church include Mr. A. V. Bentum, Mr. R. L. Bacon, Mr. Forbes, Mr. M. Coles, Mr. C. F. McGregor, Rev. Kingsley King, Rev. D. L. Crocker, Rev. Wm. Klempa, Mr. K. C.

Oldest and youngest church members - Mrs. J. M. McDonald, Sharon (Onofrayra), Lemka, Julian Sambrook - older

Grant, Rev. Peter Walters, Rev Sheldon McKenzie, Rev Howard Grace, Mr. Peter Booth, Mr Hugh Simpson, Miss Iris Ford, Rev B. S. Hartley, Rev. Kenneth Knight, Mr Kenneth McLeod, Rev R. J Burton, Rev Sidney Chang and our present minister, Rev. L. George Macdonald

**SAINT PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN SENIOR LADIES AID — ECKVILLE — by Janet Smith and Iris Elink**

On February 5, 1921, an organizational meeting was held at the home of Mrs Heinbecker to form a church auxiliary. Mrs Heinbecker was acting chairman and Miss Thompson acted as secretary The name chosen for the auxiliary was "The Ladies Auxiliary to the Eckville Community Church". The ladies present at this meeting were Mrs. Heinbecker Mrs Coughlin, Mrs. (Dr.) Backus, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs Herring, Mrs. Litt, Mrs. Garries and Miss Thompson

On February 25, 1921, the first meeting of the new organization was held at the home of Mrs. Heinbecker The members enrolling in the club at this first meeting were Mrs. Heinbecker, Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. Litt, Mrs. McDonald and Miss Thompson Mrs. Heinbecker was nominated president, Mrs. Litt as vice-president, Mrs. McDonald as secretary and Mrs. Coughlin as treasurer

Junior members who became members of the club in April, 1921, were Jessie Orr, Olga Mackie, Edith Smith, Edith Herring, Olive Garries and Rosa Hansen. At the end of the first year, there were 18 members belonging to the club

In August, 1921, $30 worth of lumber was purchased from Wilson Lumber to build church seats. W H. Johnson hauled 10 loads of gravel for the foundation of the church at a cost price of $18

The ladies held a chicken supper in the fall of 1921 They charged 50¢ per adult and 25¢ for small children. Proceeds $29

The ladies were very busy through the years, raising money for many causes. Some of their money raising projects were grab bag sales, guessing contests, sale of candy and home made flowers, lunch at the annual meeting, social evenings, suppers. plays, St Patricks teas, booth at the Sports Day and ball tournament, strawberry and ice-cream socials' lawn suppers, pie socials, birthday socials, bazaars, lunch at the home cooking contest at the school, on election day, ploughing bees, auction sales, Jubilee tea, induction service, catered to Sestrap's wedding reception, goose auction and held an old maids' convention

At a social evening in 1925, the ladies decided to have a sawdust pie They collected 100 articles and had one pie for 10¢ articles and one for 20¢ articles. (I believe it is simmar to our fish pond)

Many months they held two meetings as there was a lot of organizing to do

In February 1928, the name of the society was changed to the "Ladies Auxiliary of the Eckville United Church"

In March, 1929, a cabin was purchased from Mrs Dahl for $125 and moved onto the church lots, to be used by the student minister, later it was rented out for $5 per month

In 1938, because of the change in the church denomination to Presbyterian, the auxiliary name was changed to "The Eckville Church Ladies Aid"

Senior Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Hebner, Mrs. McNeil Mrs Tolvanen, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs Cunningg. Mrs. Riley, Mrs Heath. Mrs. Shanks

Many of the charities the ladies supported were teas for ladies who were not members, donations of money and clothing to the Womens Missionery Society donated articles toward the Post Office, handkerchief showers for new comers, reception for Mr Clarihue, donations to the choir, CGIT, Camp Kannawin and the Mission Band, pantry shower for minister, scholarships for students to attend school at

Medicine Hat from the Red Deer Presbytery and later from anywhere in Alberta

They acted as judges of home cooking at the school, held picnics, made payments on the mortgage on the old church, new church, old manse paid insurance on church, and transferred deed on old church

Built chimney in cabin, painted church and cabin, varnished seats, fenced around church, purchased chairs, hymn books and song books for church, built cupboards in the manse Donated often toward minister's stipend. They did a lot of visiting to the sick and shut ins, gave farewell gifts to ministers and hospital patients. They made quilts for needy families, for the Red Cross and donated a quilt to Camp Kannawin

The ladies decorated the church for Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

It all amounted to many hours of work and time given to the church and community The Ladies Aid decided to try to organize a younger womens group which was formed in January, 1948. The Senior Ladies group disbanded in 1966

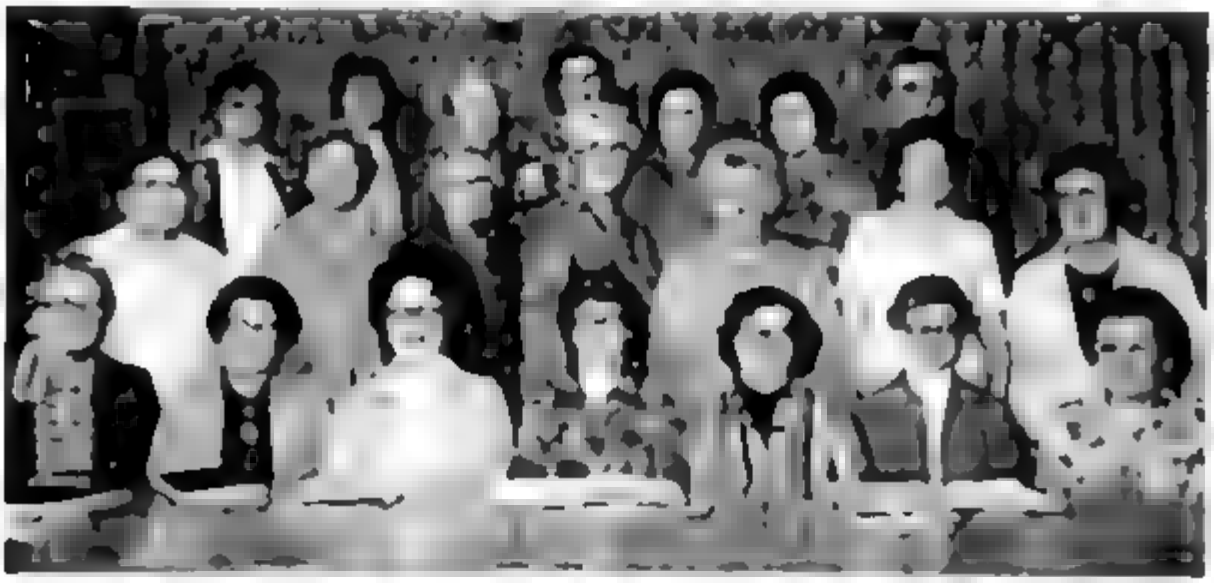
**ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN "EVENING GROUP" — Eckville — by Verna Purnell**

On January 8, 1948, Mrs. Crocker reported to the Senior Ladies Aid of St Paul's that a meeting was to be held to form a Junior Group of St Paul's Church. Charter members of the Junior Group included Mrs Jean Stopsen, Mrs Crocker, Mrs. Myrel Sestrap, Mrs. Ann McIntire, Mrs. Esther Yeo plus several more we do not have a record of Mrs. Jean Stopsen is still a member of our group and the only one of the original charter members

We do not have any records of the first 10 years but no doubt they were busy worthwhile years with lots of activities. One of which was a play, put on in 1952 by members of the Group to help raise money

Ten meetings were held during the year with no meetings held during July and August unless some important event came up and then executive meetings were held. Memberships have been as high as 26 and as low as 16. A highlight of 1959 was the group visit to CKRD-TV program "Late Breakfast" A play was also put on in 1958 with the proceeds going to the building fund for the new church Rev. Sheldon MacKenzie was the minister at St Paul's at that time and he also took part in this play Members served a turkey dinner as well as morning and afternoon coffee to the 30 some men who turned out to help pour the cement for the new church basement in June, 1960. Church services were held in what is now "Carritt's Hardware Store" until the church basement was able to be used before the upstairs was completed. Dedication of the new church was held on April 12, 1962, with the guest speaker being the Rev Peter Walters, a former minister at St Paul's. Deaconess, Miss Iris Ford was our minister at that time and put a tremendous amount of effort into the dedication. Iris has since been ordained a Presbyterian Minister in January 19, 1978, after many years of study and hard work. Being a very dedicated person, she will be a great asset to the ministry Our Evening Group served a dinner and lunch for this special Dedication Service.

Several missionaries and deaconesses have been invited to speak at our meetings over the years and their experiences have proven very interesting Members of the group have done



St Pauls Presbyterian Evening Group Front row. L to R. Lydia Cutras, Verna Purnell, Mary Drapaka, Barb Olson, Marg Shields, Pat Lindberg, Kay Smith. Middle row: Meta Dahl, Jean Stopsen, Gladys Thompson, Janet Smith, Patricia Angus, Iris Elnik, Louise Tiffenson. Back row: Laura Sambrook, Darlene Scholes, Mabel Kelm, Evelyn Onofryszyn, Janet Lightbown, Mary Maty and Florence Wiseman. Missing. Shirley Fisher, Mary Lupka, Mrs J M McDonald

volunteer visiting to the sick and shut ins and at one time visited all new-comers to the town and district

The group have helped financially in conjunction with the Ladies Aid and the Hespero Presbyterian Ladies Aid with the up-keep of the manse as well as buying furnishings, cleaning and painting the manse at various times when needed As well they have made several donations to help pay off the mortgages on the old manse which was finally paid off in 1965.

Our group has given financial assistance to the church youth groups such as C.O C.'s, Explorers, C.G I.T and the Sunday school and have sponsored girls to various camps. Members also assist with Mother and Daughters banquets Among the several fund raising projects over the years have been putting on plays, rummage sales, bake sales, bazaars and teas as well as our main annual event, the turkey supper Twenty-two of these suppers have been held up to date We have also served lunch after funerals and at auction sales and helped with the beef barbecue sponsored by the church board.

The Junior Group worked in conjunction with the Senior Ladies Aid in several of their activities until the Seniors disbanded in January, 1966. Since then, we call our Group "St Paul's Evening Group". Mrs. J. M. McDonald and Mrs Cummings attended our meetings for many years and so became our Honorary Members Some early memories of the group were contributing home baking and canning to our many single student ministers. We also have hosted dinners for several W.M.S. and Presbytery meetings, hosted and took part in World Day of Prayer Services, served lunches for Induction and Recognition Services for new ministers as well as taking part in clean up bees and financial aid to Camp Kanniwan — also have helped with T.B. x-ray clinics in Town.

In December, 1970, the Evening Group donated $1000 to the Church Board to finish paying off the mortgage on the church A Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held in April 18, 1971, with Rev Sheldon MacKenzie of Newfoundland, a former minister here and very instrumental in getting the new church program started, as guest speaker

After the new church was built a Memorial fund was started to help pay for an electric organ. The latest venture has been the building of a new Presbyterian Church Manse in Eckville A tremendous amount of volunteer labour has been put into this by the men of the church and several of our group have painted and cleaned. Rev. George Macdonald, our present minister, came to us from Nova Scotia and he moved into this new Manse in February, 1978. An Induction Service is to be held April 16, 1978, with which the Ladies will be assisting

Our group presented Mrs. J. M. McDonald with a Life Membership and pin in the W.M.S. for her many years of faithful service to both groups. It was presented to her at the 50th Anniversary Service on November 7, 1971. The eldest member of the church, Mrs J M McDonald and the youngest member, Mrs Sharon Lemke nee Onofryszyn), had the honour of cutting the Anniversary cake

At the present time, March, 1978, our group has 23 members and one honourary member Our group continues to be active and enjoys good fellowship.

## GIRLS' GROUPS OF ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

C.G.I.T began in Eckville in 1925 when a group of girls was organized and led by Miss Kathy Herring. The girls met each week with their leader at the Herring home after school. Sometimes the girls from the country rode horses Some of the activities included sleigh riding down Kasper's hill, picnics with homemade ice cream, and hikes looking for snails, frogs and things of nature. The Christmas party, where homemade gifts were exchanged, was a highlight of the year

The group was led by Miss Ena Paul in 1928 1929. Some of the girls who belonged were Bessie Bromling, Lena Lowe, Ada Toivonen, Sylvia Kalaputas, Elvie Sestrap and Evelyn Spurgeon With no resident minister, Vesper Services. Mother Daughter Banquets and Graduation ceremonies were not possible

In 1933 the group was led by Margaret McKinnon and Ruth Craig. Leaders and girls would walk to the homes for meetings — sometimes as far as three miles

An event that the girls looked forward to was three weeks at Camp Kasota on Half Moon Bay The total cost of camp was $5. Girls slept in cabins and were asked to bring their own mattress "ticks". Fresh straw would be supplied Girls from the surrounding towns came and became good friends of the local girls

In 1942, with the arrival of the deaconess, Miss Ruby Walker, C.G I.T again became very active. Meetings were now held in the manse The girls assisted with the Christmas service of the church and helped the Ladies Aid in packing Christmas baskets for the needy They took the lead in the first World Day of Prayer Service held in Eckville

C.G.I.T continues to play a major role in the spiritual and social development of teen-age girls in the community Present day activities include Bible study, crafts and games, and singing The girls take turns running the "Tuck Shop" in the hospital. The C.G I.T. Choir can be heard at many community affairs such as the Rememberance Day Service. The Christmas Vesper Service, the Mother-Daughter Banquet and the Senior Citizen's Tea are the main events of the year

The Explorer group of St Paul's Presbyterian Church was organized by Mrs. Marie Wilson and Mrs. Janet Lightbown in Oc-

tober of 1961. The program for the Explorers includes Star Ceremonies, Mission Study and a Mother and Daughter Banquet. Singing, Bible study, crafts, hikes and games are included in the meetings.

The C.O.C. (Children of Church) group for little girls in Grades one, two and three was organized a year or two after the Explorers. The program is much the same as for the Explorers.

Miss Iris Ford, the deaconess who served the church at this time, was the instigator behind the organization of both girls' groups.

At the present time the C.G.I.T. leaders are Barbara Olsen, Maxine Taylor, Iris Enik.

The Explorer leaders are Donna Anderson, Pat Lindberg and Sharon Watson.

The C.O.C. was reorganized in 1973 by Susan Skocdopole and Ingrid Lindberg. The present C.O.C. leaders are Susan Skocdopole, Ingrid Lindberg and Sandra Cordon.

**ECKVILLE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

The Church of the Nazarene came to Eckville because a family was interested and asked the district church leader for services to be held here. Early in 1948 a Christian Workers group from Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer took the responsibility for services, which we held in the Mike Covlin home. For a few months services were held upstairs in the "Den" of the Memorial Hall, then again in Mike and Eileen's home.

In 1949 Russell Quantz, who was attending C.N.C., accepted the pastorate and for a short time came from Red Deer by bus on the weekends with his wife and two children to Covlin's home. They visited extensively, and the work began to grow. Two lots were purchased on what is now 52rd Avenue from Mrs. Fanny Jones, and under the leadership of Russell a church building was soon erected, even though by this time he was also pastoring in Rocky Mountain House. Many thanks to several farmers, business men of the village and others, both men and women, who so willingly gave money for the lots and materials, and labor for the building. The church was completed and ready for use at Easter, 1950, and was dedicated in July of the same year.

A four-room parsonage was built on the other lot. Miss Ruth Lawrence, who was then the pastor, did some of the building herself. Rev. Garfield Ferris of Red Deer was pastor from 1952 to 1954, when Rev. Herbert Quantz came with his family from Victoria to live here. He pastored for seven years, leaving to move to Calgary in the summer of 1961 to attend University. Rev. E. V. Swarthout followed as pastor for almost a year and then Rev. Norman Falk was a supply pastor for four months. Rev. Harold Quantz came in August of 1962 from a pastorate in Redcliff.

In the fall of 1963 the congregation ventured on another building program on the same lot, to provide needed Sunday School classrooms. So Pastor Harold Quantz and various people worked diligently during the fall and winter and the first service in the new superstructure was held in April, 1964. Many thanks go again to everyone who worked and gave in any way. Numerous cups of coffee were shared in hospitality and much fun, too, as we worked together. The pen in the office surely seemed lightweight after laying blocks during noon hour. What do you do when you paint yourself into a corner? Finishing work continued so that the building was dedicated in October, 1965. The former church building was moved, as it was sold to the village of Eckville for a garage. In 1967 the present parsonage was purchased from Archie Huhtala and the former residence was sold.

Rev. William Baptist became pastor in 1967 and continued for five years, then Rev. Victor Buffey came. In January, 1974 he left to take studies at Canadian Bible College (now in Winnipeg.) Rev. Isaac Reaman came from Red Deer and supplied until Rev. Harold Quantz came back as pastor for a second time in July of 1974 and is at present the pastor.

As life is, pastors come and then move on, people come and go, but we believe each has contributed to the work of God's Kingdom. As we continue to work and worship together may we follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and tell the good news of salvation and serve our generation.

**ECKVILLE ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The group started in December 1958 as the Catholic Ladies Organization. Some of the founding members who still belong are Dorothy Forhan, Ellen Armeneau, Helen Kasha, Jenny Psiklia, Hazel Cordon, and Gertrude McDonald. Others who are not too far away are Bert Kuntz, Birdie Peta and Maxine McAndrew. Another founding member was Aileen Forhan who passed away December 10, 1976.

The group had hopes, at one time, of having a local church and were willed two lots in town for that purpose. With changing times, better roads and faster travel, it never came about so we are part of the Sylvan Lake parish.

As in any organization, we have had our share of bake sales, bingos, raffles, rummage sales and catering to raise money for what we thought was a good cause, at the time. Times changed and circumstances altered our needs. We do some service work such as heping host showers, serving coffee at funerals, taking a turn for the World Day of Prayer and have helped with T.B. X-Ray clinics by addressing cards, supplying postage and helping on clinic days.

Our Lady of Victory Camp at Gull Lake has received our support and of course our children over the years attended summer camps. Aileen Forhan cooked at camp one summer. For a number of years we helped with food by supplying two pies each (enough for a meal) or double batches of cookies

During the school term we used to hold catechism classes in our homes on Fridays after school (later changed to Monday) until our classes became too large. We had Christmas parties in the hall for families. For a few years catechism was held in the school. For the last few years, it has been held at Sylvan Lake after mass on Sunday in conjunction with the children from that district. Our Eckville group always supplies the lunch for the catechism Christmas parties at Sylvan Lake, ever since we started this amalgamation.

April 26, 1961 was charter night for our St Mary's Catholic Women's League as a part of a world organization. It was in the form of a banquet catered to by Mrs. Greenman and attended by ladies of surrounding organizations and priests. The ladies have helped with house cleaning of church and camp over the years, as well as taking part in parish picnics and socials. Catholic youth groups have been held for periods off and on over the years under various names through special interests of some of the priests.

In 1962 our C.W.L. started a scholarship to the top boy and girl students in grade nine. These were first based on results of departmental examinations but, since they were discontinued, it has been left up to the staff. Following is a List of winners to the present, according to our records and those at the school.: 1962—Clara Dobbs, Allan Tolonen, 1963—Vicky Liska, Gerald Sambrooke, 1964—Dianne Covlin, Rein Matliste 1965—Sylvia Andrew, Robert Spittal, 1966—Bernadette McDonald, Bryan Kasper, 1967—Judith Kantz, Ron Hietala; 1968—Faye Johnson, Ronald Koots; 1969—Debbie Soerd, Harry Thomas; 1970—Ann Kasha, Dwayne Ophus, 1971—Pat Purnell, Clarence Koots, 1972—Ruth Hietala, Keith Pragoda; 1973—Wendy Keegstra, Tim Gefle, 1974—Noreen Onofryszyn, Mark Liivam, 1975—Ingrid Lindberg, Paul Twa, 1976—Nancy Fischer, Micheal Wettstein, 1977—Shirley Nelson, Leslie Burdick

Since 1962 our club has bought the flowers for Christmas for the altar at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Sylvan Lake. In November 1968 we wrote a letter to Mr. Hooke about having a senior citizens home in Eckville. Eight years later this small request may have helped it to become a reality. On November 20, 1974 we gave up our Eckville C.W.L. charter to become a circle of the Sylvan Lake group. During the winter of 1975 we tried whist card parties as a form of socializing. We are still somewhat active so you will probably be approached to buy a ticket by one of our group to support our commitments such as the scholarship or the good cause of the time.

**FINNISH MINISTERS AND CHURCH HISTORY — by Mrs. Anne Parkkari**

In the early 1900's, when many Finnish families had settled in Alberta, there were also short-time ministers of the Presbyterian Church who came to minister. The first recorded minister was Reverend Hjelt, succeeded by Pastor Blomgren. Then in 1910 Reverend K. E. Korhonen came to serve more permanently and faithfully served until his death. In 1913 Reverend and Mrs. Andrew Harju and family moved into the parsonage east of Eckville and served also at Kuusamo, Brightview and Manyberries. In 1919 he moved to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

On July 19, 1919 Reverend and Mrs. John Luoma.a and family moved into the parsonage, coming from New Hampshire, U.S.A. He served until 1923 full time and then part time for a few more years. After this the parsonage was empty until it was moved to Sylvan Lake for a Presbyterian Church Manse.

In 1932 a Reverend Kopra and family ministered for a while. He built a house at Sylvan Lake which he sold and moved away.

Reverend Kuitunen was a well-educated man and had been here for a short visit.

Reverend Jarvinen from California, U.S.A. was preaching at one time for a short period. These two men were through here after Reverend Kopra. Reverend Muroma from Finland kept a service or two at Sylvan Lake, and a year or so later Reverend Yronen from Finland had a few services.

Reverend and Mrs. Wallas from Finland were here for about a year and a half, making their home at Sylvan Lake. One summer Reverend and Mrs. Lehto from the States held meetings. In the early 1940's a young graduate minister, Alex Koski, served here and at Wapella, Saskatchewan as a temporary minister. At this time also there was a young lady, a graduate of Camrose Lutheran College, that did preaching among the Finnish congregation. Her name was Jenny Ecola.

Then in the late 1940's two young Pentecostal ladies traveled by car and preached in different homes, mostly in the summer months. Their names were Lahja Rouhieanen and Eva Ecola. A few years later another two ladies visited the area and had meetings in homes. They were Anna Ponni and Aina Monkare.

At present there is Mr. and Mrs. Ella and Emil Kluna come from Calgary about once a month and hold services in Eckville.

**CANADIAN IMPERIAL BANK OF COMMERCE**

In November 1927 the Canadian Imperial Bank decided to open in Eckville a sub-branch of the Sylvan Lake branch. Mr. Harold S. Mann, who was employed in the bank at Sylvan Lake was delegated to come to Eckville two or three times a week to handle the business. Sometimes

Mr. Fred Appelton, the bank manager, would come, theoretically to check up on the business The banking facilities consisted of a little wire teller's cage and a desk and counter in a small office north of the lumber yard (now Carritt's Hardware). Mr Colpitts, a lawyer, also shared the office. There was a tiny safe in the bank, but nothing was left there overnight When Harold Mann and the junior clerk went across the street to the hotel for their lunch one of them carried the bills and the other one the silver, and of course one of them had a gun

Cecil Caton, who at that time was attending high school, was employed to light the fires and do other custodial work. He must have done his work well, for when the bank opened full time in 1930, Cecil was taken on the banking staff

In 1918 a bank building was constructed on the corner lot where the present bank is located Thus operated on a part-time basis at first, but in December of 1930 Eckville became a full-time branch of the Imperial Bank of Commerce In the original building Mr and Mrs. Mann moved into the living quarters — four tiny rooms Later a 10 by 10 foot kitchen was built on, and one of the bedrooms was converted into the manager's office

The first manager of the original bank was Mr. J M. McIntosh, and it is believed that the first accountant was Matt Perry. When the bank was opened for full time business in 1930 the staff consisted of Harold Mann and Cecil Caton. At that time a vault was added, a few other alterations were made, and the building was in use until October, 1976

In October of 1976 the old bank was moved off the site and temporarily the staff operated out of two trailers at the rear of the property During this time a new modern bank building was being constructed. The new building came into use on January 31, 1977, with a staff of 10 employees and Mr A. G. Drapaka as manager. The new bank building was officially opened on Saturday, February 5, 1977, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the public

The new building offers expanded services for its many customers Four tellers are now employed, a night depository service has been added, and several new safety deposit boxes are also available. The new modern structure is unique in design. The inside is built from concrete rafters and is the first of its kind to be put into use in the Alberta region.

**ECKVILLE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LIMITED — Information derived from the Notice of the Report and Statistics to be Presented at the 50th Annual Meeting on March 23, 1963. The Anniversary Review was written by Mr. John Lilyan, and the Manager's Progress Report written by Mr. W. G. McAndrews. Additional information was provided by Mr. Morley Cauling, General Manager, in 1975.**

The formation of the present Eckville Co-operative Association Limited was the out growth of an early experiment, utilizing the advantages of co-operative buying, which was begun in Lacombe in 1899. The United Farmers of Alberta also encouraged this practice, and it was to the Red Deer branch of the U F A. that the Medicine Valley Estonian Society turned for information as to the steps leading to the formal establishment of a Consumer's Co-operative. The Estonian Society was first formed in 1910 for social purposes, but apparently deviated from this restriction and on April 9, 1911 met to discuss the formation of a consumer co-operative. A public meeting held in the month of June, 1912 drew considerable interest and it was decided at that meeting to organize the Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Company. By August a provisional board was organized and they engaged the services of a Mr. Archibald Litt from Hamilton, Ontario as Manager. Mr E. N. Matchett was chosen as president, Mr. Fritz Kinna as vice-president, and A. E. T. Eckford secretary-treasurer. Other board members were Carl Langer, R. Stopsen, M. Rangen and A. Litt. A later formal organization meeting was probably held at which time F Kinna was made president, J Lundberg vice-president, and A. E. T Eckford secretary C. Raabis, H. Kingsep and C. Gustavson were chosen as directors.

Operating capital was obtained by issuing shares of $50.00 each. Many people invested their savings in these shares thus enabling the Co-operative to purchase facilities and inventory The first premises of the new organization was where the Eckville Bakery (now the J and K Foods, now stands. Their first six months of business brought a profit of $71.00 which the members agreed to re-invest in the business to provide additional capital. At this same meeting, on April 13, Mr. A. Isaacson was added to the board of directors. During an Estonian Society meeting held at the Henry Kinna home on September 14, 1913, the members present decided that the store manager could assume the position of the Co-operative's secretary treasurer, following the resignation of Mr Eckford from this position. The store manager was to be paid an additional sum for his added duties. The minutes of this meeting also note that H. Kinna would be invited to take an inventory for the year-end report, due late in November

For the next two decades, the volume of business showed a slow increase, probably due to the economic conditions of the time. A Mr. Rogers, newly arrived from England, soon succeeded Mr Litt as manager, and, while acting in the dual role as secretary-treasurer and manager, helped write out many of the original by-laws of the organization. During this time Mr Rogers was also the entire staff of the store, as well as a real estate dealer on the side. In 1932 Mr D. Clausen replaced Mr Rogers as manager

The Government of the Province of Alberta

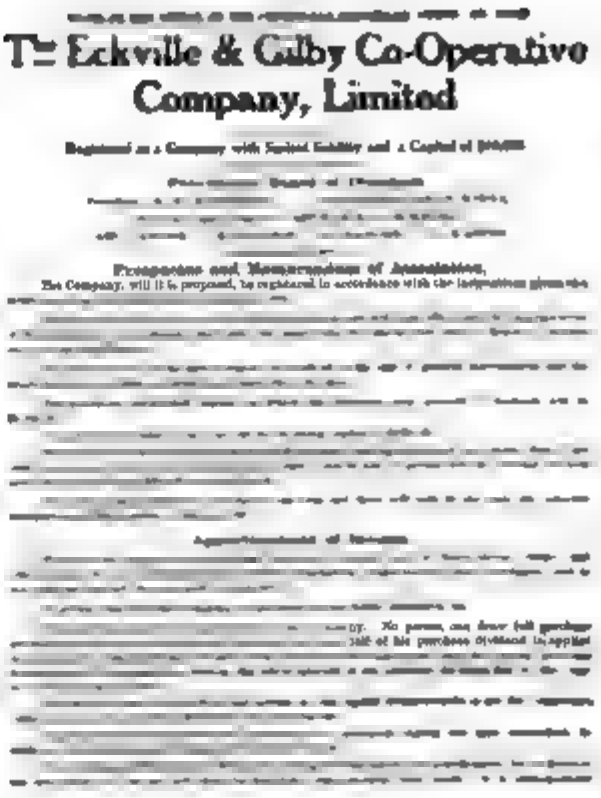
passed the Co-operative Association Act in 1937 and the following year the Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Company was incorporated as "The Eckville Co-operative Association Limited", with the objective of the Association being "to operate a general store" The number of shares to be issued is unlimited and the value is fixed at five do..ars each. Head office of the Association is to be situated in Eckville. Mr O. Umari was manager at this time. The business expanded to include a lumberyard and about 1938 a new store building was built on the present site

Business was apparently good, and when Mr. I. Kalla took the manager's helm in 1938 it began to expand quite rapidly U F A. oils was taken up from private contractors in 1944 and in 1947 a locker plant and slaughterhouse was added to the services provided for Co-op members, followed by a seed and feedmill in 1949. The capital for this particular venture was pledged by members, but, unfortunately only two of the pledges were honoured and the Association was forced to borrow the greater part of the money that was needed to purchase and remodel the flour mill which C. Moro had constructed some years earlier

Although this new service greatly aided the community, such large borrowing reduced the association's available operating capital and prompted the board to venture into the automobile retail field in 1950, as a means of increasing turnover. Further, a parts service for Canadian Co-operatives Implements Limited was added to the services provided. This proved to be too great a burden for the capitalization of the enterprise and sharp credit restrictions began to curb the Association's activities. The board was forced to make policy changes and decided to change managers as well. W G. McAndrews, formerly as assistant manager, was made co-manager with Mr. W. McIntyre, who had been managing the lumberyard.

In 1936, under the management of Mr Oswald Umari, a new store was built on the site the present store now occupies. Mr. Ike Kalla followed Mr. Umari as manager and under the guidance of Mr. Kalla the association had an era of expansion and by 1950 the business departments consisted of groceries, meat, dry goods, hardware, lumber, garage machinery, feed and seed mill, trucking, petroleum and lockers. The Association was doing about $500,000 00 volume of business a year and was regarded as one of the better co-operatives in the Province of Alberta Records are not available from 1936 to 1950, but there was quite an era of expansion and the volume increased by leaps and bounds However, one director stated that the entire volume of business in 1945 had been less than $100,000.00

In 1950, Mr. Kalla left the Association and W G. McAndrews took over as general manager Due to the heavy expansion program, increase in inventories, personnel, etc., the Association



The Eckville & Gilby Co-Operative Company, Limited

found itself in an embarrassing financial position. The board of directors at this time decided to cut back on some of their departments until a stable financial position could be established The petroleum and garage business was disposed of and a campaign to raise new share capital was embarked upon

A quota of $20,000 was set, but only about $9,000 of this was raised. With this new share capital and loyal support from the members, business continued to increase and by the end of 1955 the current liability to current assets ratio, which in 1950 was in a bad position at 1.1, was back to a very healthy position of almost 4 to 1 Total volume was still about the half million dollar mark, but the Association had two departments less than in 1950, namely the petroleum and the garage

Fertilizer sales were added to the business in 1956 and have continued to increase each year since. Sale of the garage and implement parts business (at a severe loss) and retirement from the retail sale of oil and gasoline followed in short order

In the meantime Mr McIntyre had left for another position and "Red" McAndrews was left in sole possession of the post of manager of the entire Association. Fire destroyed the main store and its contents on the night of November 13, 1957, and at first it looked almost hopeless to try to finance a new operation. However, the board entered into an agreement with the Atlas

Lumber Company (now Revelstoke Sawmills Ltd.) whereby the Atlas bought the Co-op lumber yard and after this Co-op was back in business in groceries, meat, and some dry goods, the new store being officially opened on September 5, 1958.

The new era of prosperity which seemed to have begun was interrupted by another major fire in the spring of 1961 which destroyed the old feedmill. This meant a further expenditure of capital when it was decided to rebuild on the present site of the feedmill. The new feedmill began operations in June of 1961. During 1962 new fertilizer storage sheds were built and with our new premises the total Association sales in 1962 were $900,000 with a total savings of $43,000.

A membership meeting held on November 10, 1971 approved the renovation of the main store and the construction of a new hardware — home furnishings center. This work was carried out through the winter and on April 20, 1972 the official opening of the new center was held and Mr. Fritz Kinna, the first president and charter member of the Association cut the ribbon and declared the new center officially open.

Mr. McAndrews served as manager of the Association from 1950 until he resigned on August 12, 1967. Mr. Oliver Stopsen was then chosen as manager and served in this position until November 1, 1973, when he was succeeded by Mr. Morley Couling.

These remarks out of the past constitute a brief review of how the Eckville Co-operative Association Limited made its first steps up a path leading from its first retail outlet in the building now occupied by the J and K Foods store with their first six months of business realizing a profit of $71.00 to its present modern facilities and a volume of business rising from $677,000 in 1966 to $1,242,000 in 1971, and a still higher figure of $2,900,000 in 1975.

Many people have served on the Eckville Co-operative Association's board of directors. All of them have so contributed to community welfare in this and other ways that their names have become familiar to us. People like C. Gustavson, H. Mottus, H. Talson, John Saari, H. Lapp, H. Kingsep, J. D. Phillips, R. Sestrap, J. Lundberg, A. B. Koski, A. Liivam, W. Burns, J. Caton, E. I. Erickson, Bill Smith, F. Andrew, C. Raabis and many others.

## THE ECKVILLE MUTUAL TELEPHONE

The Eckville Mutual Telephone Central served several subsidiary lines surrounding the village. These party lines each served an area of approximately 20 square miles. Such a telephone network served an area south and east of Eckville in the Benalto district. This was mostly a Finnish settlement. Persons wishing to join were charged $118.65, later lowered to $100 per membership, which sum paid for the construction of a line to the homes. Members paid 25 cents per month above the long distance charges. Each member had his own signal ring which was heard throughout in each home.

Poles were assessed at $1.75 each. A two-wire system was strung, but proved unsatisfactory. The second wire was eventually sold to the United Grain Growers Elevator Co. at Kootuk for a stretch of one and a half miles of line. Wire was sold for $27 and insulators at 10 cents apiece.

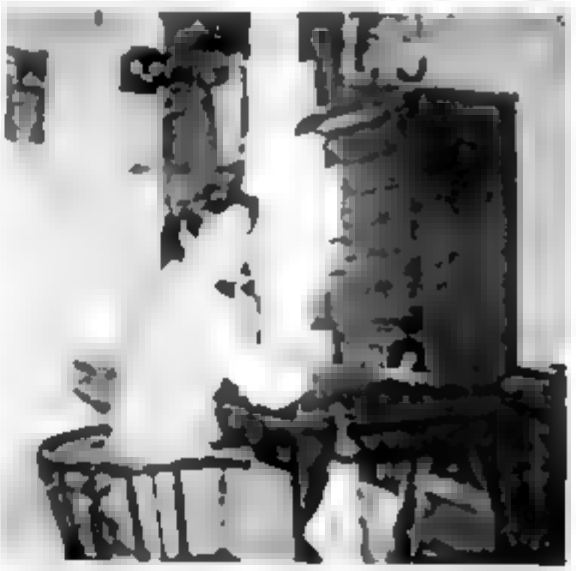
When it became necessary to replace four poles at two railroad crossings, Mr. John Heikkinen agreed to supply these for the grand total of $11. Poles were to be tamaracks 34 feet long and not less than six inches in diameter at the top; the used poles sold at $1.30 each.

The treasury seldom had a large sum of money, as witness the treasurer's report of $3.20 and $1.30 on two occasions.

Considerable friction was aroused by the fact that in case of emergency it was impossible to reach Eckville Central on Sundays and holidays except from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

In 1938, following the advent of the Calgary Power line which caused interference it was decided to sever the line to Eckville Central and members maintained the line between themselves. Lines were strung, avoiding the power line, and sometimes using insulators on fence posts to carry the wires.

Meetings throughout the period from 1919 to 1938 were held and the minutes were recorded in the Finnish language. The following are translations of their organizational and final meetings.



Evelyn Andrew on the switchboard of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association.

Minutes of the organizational meeting of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association held at the home of Herman Talson December 7, 1919, for the purpose of discussing and resolving matters concerning the Association.

1. The meeting was called to order by Henry Talson. He explained the purpose of this meeting and suggested officers be elected to represent this telephone association.

2. Officers elected were the following Chairman — Henry Talson, Secretary — Frank Nikkola, Treasurer — Abram Huhtala

3. The drafting committee for the constitution. Alexander Hietala, John Heikkinen, and Henry Talson

4. Executive Committee — Abram Huhtala, Henry Talson and Frank Nikkola

5. Henry Talson was unanimously chosen as a representative to the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association

6. Following a discussion, it was decided that new telephone poles be installed. These were to be ready by August 1, 1920, also that a two-line system would be strung at this time

7. A discussion arose as to whether more members would be accepted into our association. It was decided that membership be limited to 15.

8. The meeting was notified that the following persons had applied for membership: G.N Barhan, Buchanan, and Kinna, Weeks, and George Gilpatrick

9. The following applications were accepted G.N Barhan, Buchanan, and Kinna. Mr Weeks was rejected because of the distance to his home George Gilpatrick's application was tabled.

10. The secretary was authorized to purchase a minute book at the association's expense Meeting adjourned, Frank Nikkola, Sect., H Talson, Chairman, Last Recorded Minutes

Minutes of Telephone Association meeting held at the Young Peoples Hall on June 19, 1938.

1. The meeting was called to order by the chairman Henry Talson. Undersigned acted as secretary

2. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.

3. The former executive committee were unanimously re-elected.

4. A discussion arose as to what action should be taken regarding our telephone system. It was mutually agreed to repair the line for members' use between themselves, the system to be disconnected from the Eckville exchange by severing the line west on Henry Hietala's. David Hietala volunteered to cut these wires

5. Ray Niemela and David Hietala each volunteered to repair their share of the line

6. Members agreed that payments to the Eckville exchange be withheld from the time Calgary power line was activated, due to interference.

Meeting adjourned. Eli Nikkola, Secretary

**ECKVILLE BUSINESSMEN**

In the compiling of this history book of Eckville and district, many former residents will have been overlooked or we have been unable to contact them or their families

Some come to mind when thinking of some early business people. Creamery: (Pallisen) Pete, E. W Taylor, Henry Hansen, John Platon, Patchett, Bill Morris and it was during Bill's time that the C.A.D P bought out the Palliser Creamery

Early hoteliers were Jack Coglan, Harry Lowe, Bert Thompson, B. Dennett, Bill Marsh, G. D'Amico and presently V Clancy

Walter Herring, Sr was secretary of the school while living in town. He previously farmed in the Evergreen district He was known for his good penmanship. He left when his health started to fail., to make his home with his son Walter in Saskatchewan where he is buried.

In the garage business was Fred Isaacson His building was on the east side of main street. This burned down in the fire of August, 1928. Other garage operators were Art Garries, Sid Paston, Larry Knudsen and Nick Sherba.

We also had two butcher shops other than those connected with the grocery stores. Jack Bromling opened one in the old Bank of Commerce building He had a niece, Bessie Bromling (Nelson,, who kept the customers smiling with the humorous cartoons she was noted for drawing. Chris Baker also had a meat market on the east side of main street but at a later time than Jack

Dan Clausen, our congenial postmaster for many years, was a diligent community worker, too. The family consisted of three children, Edgar, Richard (Dick) and Bertha. They were very musical and had a dance orchestra at one time

An early grain buyer was Fred Heimbecker He and his wife were well known for their hospitality They had six children· Margaret, George, Albert, Lyle, Edith and Jack.

We had two Jackson's here at one time, both bachelors. One a grocery store owner The other, Ernest Jackson, the baker. His sisters, Mrs. Snyder and Mrs. Cooper helped in the shop He sold the business to M. A. Coppens.

In the restaurant business we had a Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Carter, Sam Lee (Chinese) and the old timers still remember "Happy".

The early blacksmiths were Harry Palmer, Bill McHattie, Jules Selvais, Bill Lilkala and Herb Riley

Pool hall and barber shop operators were Jack Coghlin, Bill Marks, Lance Rowett and Hans Rangen

Cobbler or shoe-maker in the early days was Bill Gillies and later Wally Pukk.

The early druggists in the old building that was torn down to make way for the new Co-op hardware was Clare Crosby and W. E. Hayes The post office at the time was housed in this building. Mr Crosby had a Mrs Roberts keeping house for him while here, she had two children, the boy Herchell

One of the early doctors was Percy Backus, from 1920-1924. He moved to Red Deer to practise

and then to London, England for more education. Dr and Mrs. Backus have two boys, Winston and Barrie. These boys are now in practise as M.D 's, Barrie in Ponoka and Winston in Grande Prairie. Winston is also a member of the cabinet in the Provincial Legislature

Clarence Haven was the dray man delivering freight, etc. from the stations, both C P R. and C.N R. He had a big friendly German Shepherd dog who would come in wherever Clarence stopped to deliver goods, jump on a chair, if one was available, and hold out his paw to shake

Imperial Oil agents were Von Hohum, Phil Laybourne, also a John Deere dealer — Mose Loewen.

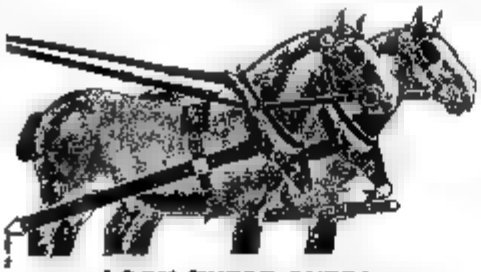
Veterinarians were: Dr C. Speirs, Dr James Neufeld, Dr Norman Guenther.

Atlas Lumber managers were: August Harju, Bob Gish and Ted Hansen.


**GOOD NEWS!**

OUR REMARKABLE JANUARY HARNESS OFFERING HELD OVER FOR ANOTHER MONTH.

POSITIVELY YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SEASON'S GREATEST HARNESS VALUE



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ROYAL HARNESS—A sturdy "Golden Grain" production, with the following choice features:

(1) Traces, 2 inches wide with layer
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(5) 1¼ inch breast straps, martingales and belly bands.
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ROYAL HARNESS, as above (less collars). **$32.95**

REGAL HARNESS, as above but with the popular 2 inch 2 ply traces as shown in cut (less collars) **$37.25**

These prices are f.o.b. Calgary or Edmonton, and can be ordered from any of our local dealers, who will hand back your money if you are not satisfied on inspection that this offer is really exceptional.

Remember to look for the 'GOLDEN GRAIN' T.M. trade mark stamped on every strap. It is your protection against substitutes.

ORDER NOW

**GREAT WEST SADDLERY COMPANY Limited**

DEPT. F

This Advertisement appears in February issues of *The U.F.A.* and *Farm and Ranch Review*.

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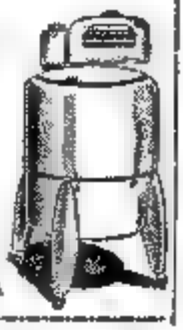

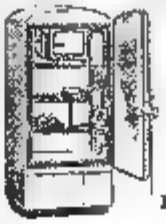

**KINNA ELECTRIC**

PHONE 28

ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

**TRUCK REPAIRS**

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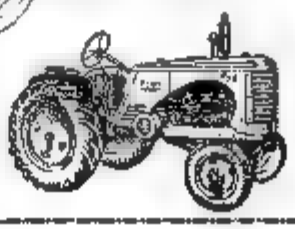

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PHONE 24

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PHONE 12 R2 — ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

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**H. RILEY**
GENERAL BLACKSMITHING

ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

**THESE ARE "GOOD SHOES"**
**PLEASE GIVE THEM GOOD CARE . . . .**

May we suggest that you—

1—Scrape all manure from soles and uppers.

2—Wash them at least once a week with warm water

3—Dry shoes for about one hour (do not place near stove or fire)

4—Grease well with "Warm Tallow" or "Neat's Foot Oil."

5—Never grease with lard.

**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
263 Fort St.
WINNIPEG - - - MANITOBA

When leather is burnt, it cracks and rots . so, when shoes are wet, please keep away from excessive heat (such as stoves or open fires).

Note to Purchaser—If shoes are to be worn around the barn, insist on purchasing shoes made with "Retan" Upper Leather.

**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
263 Fort St.
WINNIPEG - - - MANITOBA

Certificate

**CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO. LTD.**
263 Fort St.
WINNIPEG - - - MANITOBA

*We guarantee this pair of shoes to give good wear, otherwise the purchaser will be entitled to a refund or a new pair of shoes*

*We cannot accept responsibility for improper greasing or premature wearing of the leather caused by manure or acid, excessive perspiration, accidents or other causes beyond our control*

**In Witness Whereof,** *the Corporation has caused this guarantee to be signed by its duly authorized officers and to be sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.*

*Dated this day of*
*19 at* TOWN
*Signed* PURCHASER

CANADA WEST SHOE MFG. CO., LTD.
PER *H. I. Smith* MANAGER
PER SECRETARY

CANADA WEST SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED - CALGARY
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CLASS "C"

# Membership Certificate

This CERTIFIES that "The People's Home Library" has been adopted as the "Official Report" of The International People's Aid Association and that

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of (Town) Eckville (State or Province) Alberta

is hereby enrolled as a member of said Association and is entitled for five years to absolutely free consultation with Dr. W. C. Fair, V. S., concerning the diseases, symptoms, treatment, breeding or feeding of any live stock owned by himself or any member of his family.

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By [signature] Salesman.

Date [illegible] 19 17

NOTE—Do not forget to cut out and enclose this certificate, which will be promptly returned to you with a reply. Also enclose a two-cent stamp. Address, DR. W. C. FAIR, V. S., 625 Long Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. State symptoms fully, telling just how the animal acts. A fee of ONE DOLLAR will be charged for each consultation with those who are not subscribers.


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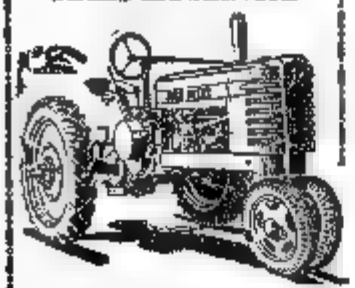

PHONE 23

ECKVILLE, ALBERTA

Clothing for Men, Ladies' and Children

RECOGNIZABLE QUALITY AND DISTINCTIVE STYLING

Alterations and Repairs

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**AT LAST !**

**The People are commencing to see the "Economic" Light**

. . . They are learning that the solution to FULL PRODUCTION for FULL CONSUMPTION results only from FULL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT and LABOUR . both recognizing each others value and both working in each others interests . . . Under a system of PRIVATE ENTERPRISE and FREE BUYING and SELLING . . . Free from Monopoly

FRIEND

# AUCTION SALE

Having received instructions from the undersigned, I will sell by public auction at his place the S.E. quarter 19 35 4 West, 2 miles east and 1 mile south of Lashburn, and 2 miles north at Cooder on

## Monday March 25th, 1929

**Sale to start at 11 o'clock** **Lunch at Noon**

### 6 HEAD OF HORSES

Bay gelding, 8 years old, weight 1350; black gelding, 9 years old, weight 1300; grey mare, in foal, 10 years old, weight 1200; bay gelding, 8 years old, weight 1300; light team, 7 and 12 years old, weight 2300.

### 17 HEAD OF CATTLE

Cow 7 years old, milking, heifer 2 years old heifer calf 6 months old, 2 cows 2 years old, 3 years old, 3 year old steer, one steer to freshen in May, milking cows bull calf, 7 months old (would make a good bull), blue roan bull calf, 7 months old.

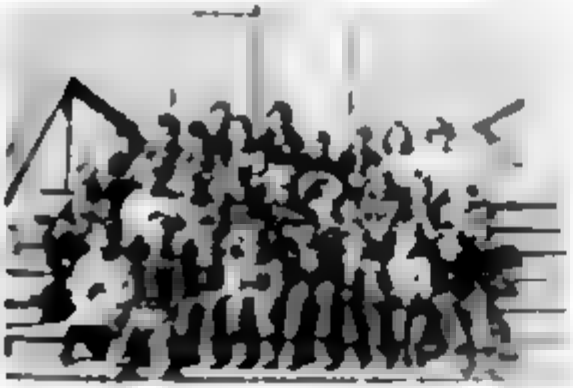
### HOGS AND CHICKENS

Duroc boar, with papers, 1 year old brood sow due to farrow April 6 young sows purebred
30 Purebred Barred Rock Cockerels

### IMPLEMENTS, ETC.

John Deere binder 6 ft. Massey Harris binder 10 ft. John Deere 16 disc, Massey Harris 14 disc, John Deere 14 disc, John Deere 14 disc, John Deere

Eckville School 1921 Top: John Maki, Hilja Hill, Selma Kemila, Dora Gillies, Hilja Maki, Florence Abe, Bessie Bromling, Elsie Toivanen, Second: Ema Kasper, Richard Clausen, Elvie Seerup, Lempi Hill, Nita Law, Mary Elson, Laimi Hill, Ada Toivanen, Mary Kangas, Hilma Hietala. Third Kathy Herring, Lilly Kickenen, Bruno Kult, Arthur Garries, Alex Orr, Howard Smith. Ernie Koski, Evelyn Spurgeon, Fanny Hietala, Rachael Abe, Susie Kemila, Rose Hansen, Lisa Lundberg. Fourth: Oke Lundberg, Oscar Mottus Edgar Clausen, Berthil Lundberg, Teddy Rogers, Alfred Molander, Grace Garries, Fina Koski, Martha Hietala, May McNeil, Edith Herring. Fifth: Calvin Bromling, Albert Molander, Emil Kult, Una Seerup, Charles Gillies, Annie Kenki, Ivy Lingren Kathy McGibbon Margaret Heimbecher, Bertha Clausen, Evelyn Clausen Alice Young Harry McGibbon, Arvo Seerup, Barry Armstrong, Bill Armstrong, Miss Ida Thompson, (Teacher), Mr Henry Ludwig (Principal) Bottom. Elmer Kemila, Rasmus Maki, Harold Molander Arthur Koski, Herbie Roberts, Alfred Isaacson, Unknown (but believed to be Bill Gillies), Ernest Toivanen



School Class at the old Presbyterian Church in 1929 Back row Left to right: David Matheson, Donald Matheson, Bill Lutz, Reino Maki, Jim Merriman, Ivan Kingsep, Allan Macky, Agnes Gustavson, Violet Kingsep, Mary Selvais. Second row: Ray Maki, Marjorie Lingren, Maria Lingren, Donald McDonald, Clelia Bromling, Selma Cowan, Helen Molander, Leila Saio, Dorothy Gisk Front row Dorothy Toivanen, Bob Umari, Stanley Lesvesky, Ray Kasper Ernest Johnson, Jack Goldfinch, Isobel Merriman, Bob Cowan, Phyllis McDonald

at $75 per year. In June, 1936 the rent was raised to $100 per year Some of the teachers of the 1920's and 1930's were Gladys Jones, Ena Paul Henry Ludwig, Laura Byers, Lydia Linitsky, E Baldwin, M. McKinnon, Ruth Craig, Benjamin Upshaw, John Benjamin Scott, Margaret Gardiner, Catherine Farries, Ado Tipman and J Henley Lewis A. W Harju was treasurer in 1928 and in 1929 Mrs. Ruth Lundberg assumed this job

The early school days were not totally without fun In a letter from Archie Litt's memories of November 15, 1971 we read, "The box socials were great, the gals would pack the refreshments, and the young bucks would bid on them at auction. Some good looking school teachers would raise bids up to $15 or $20 which was real money then — especially in the scarcity of that particular commodity. If the boys were wise to anyone who was after any particular gal they thoroughly enjoyed bidding them up." (2.)

During these early years, students from out side the Eckville School district were permitted to attend Eckville School to get their high school Tuition was set at $3 per month. This was paid either by parents or by their local school district if so authorized.

On July 14, 1936 an ad was put in a Calgary paper to sell debentures for $5,500 in order to borrow enough money to build a new school. This building stands yet as the north end of a present Junior-Senior High School complex. Mrs. Agnes Cowen acted as Secretary of the Eckville School District for many years.

September 14, 1940, the largest School Fair was held with 1,613 entries. Ewart McDonald won the scholarships with 126 points. Elsie Kult of Shady Lane won the girl's scholarship with 91 points

Back row: left to right, Phyllis McDonald, Selma Cowan, Mary Selvais, Elsie Molander, Louisa Zaleski, Lily Heinen, Josephine Coutts, Lucille Greenman, Agnes Luiste, Agnes Gustavson, Marjorie Lingren, Alberta Coutts, Marie Lingren, Albert Lutz, Jim Van Slyke Roy Schey. Second row: Joe Shippelt, Robert Langer, Frank Zaleski Jenny Lingren, Helen Jokinen, Myla Hegland, Mildred Umari, Pat Freeman, Freda Schunemann, Helvie Maki, Irene Doty, Linnea Molander, Ellen Barland, Ruth Barnett, Hope Smith, Mandi Barland, Olga Maki, Lila Doty, Reino Bastrup, Ralph Kingsep, Alfred Kiesa. Third row: Ray Maki, Morris Cross, Edwin Johnson Sally Sale, Maud Lewis, Isabel Morrison, Dorothy Gish, Anne Kiesa, Violet Kingsep, Dora McNiel, Lulia Sale, Ernest Johnson, Raymond Lindquest, Stanley Lazenby, Jack Goldfinch, Unknown, Elmer Johnson, Wilbur Lindquest, Bob Cowan, Jim Morrison. Otto Hiltala, Helen Molander, Sylvia Gish, Forth row: Charlie Kasper, Wilbur Umari, Reino Maki, Tay Toivanen, Elda Lewis, Elsie Johnson, Marie McDonell. Jean Lutz, Joan Morris, Molly Swanson, Ferne McNiel, Miss Ruth Craig, Mr. E. Boivin, Miss Margret McKinnon, Violet Hiltola, Dorothy Johnson, Gwen Stackhouse, Dorothy Toivanen, Waldemar Kiesa, Ray Morris, Alfred (Bud) McNiel. Front row: Harvey Cross, Ewart McDonald, Donald McDonald, Bob Umari, Russel Havens, Alan Macky, Ivan Kingsep, Donald Coutts, Edwin Herbert, Bill McDonell, Donald Herbert Ray Kasper, Fred Molander, unknown, Alan Herbert, Verner Elsea

In 1946, the village started collecting the school taxes. Previously it was done by the local school board. The next change was the organization of the Lacombe School Division No 56 on January 1, 1947. Due to the shortage of teachers several neighboring districts had been placed under the charge of correspondence supervisors. The school term 1948-49 saw the inclusion of Eckville School District into the Lacombe School Division No. 56. Centralization continued to be the dominant theme throughout the early 1950's due to teacher shortage and improved school facilities. Many stormy meetings were held between local district boards and members of the Lacombe Division. Local districts that finally were included in the Eckville centralization program were Estonian, Andrew, Benjamin Medicine Valley, Wolfe, Salma and Blue Bell. About this time the Home Economics and Shop Programs were offered as part of the Curriculum

The Home and School Association was organized in about 1950. It was very active in supporting school programs and projects. Driver Education was one of the topics initiated by Mrs. Olga Stenvig. This brief was presented to the Provincial Government. This has been realized and has become part of the High School Program now Bill Rothwell, as well as others, served as President This group disbanded in 1968 due to lack of support of parents. Through the years Eckville High School had a Glee Club under Marge Lazzer; also the band grew under the direction of Mr. Barrigan.

The Eckford Trophy was set up in 1953. The letters leading to this follow. Since the awarding of this coveted award each year, several other awards have been set up. The list is included

No 1
Granthums Landing B.C
14 12 52
To: Mr Eldon Bliss, Principal
Eckville School

I wonder if it would meet with your approval and if there would be a place in your school work, educational or sports, for a small trophy or cup? You see, it was fifty years ago this past summer that I took up a homestead on land that was a few years later, the site of "Old Eckville."

I have pleasant memories of those early days and would like to leave some small remembrance. Our two older boys, born while we lived on the farm, were not of school age when we left Eckville district for the coast in Dec 1918 but I have always been interested in young people — their work and play

No. 2
Eckville, December 31, 1952
To: Mr. Arthur E. T. Eckford
Granthams Landing B.C

I feel that it is most fitting that a trophy be offered for annual competition by the founder of this town, and so I heartily accept your suggestion. I suggest, and I know that the students here will feel, that such a trophy, no matter what its actual monetary value, should be the most highly prized award in the school. Therefore, I would like to recommend that your contribution take the form of a trophy to be awarded annually to the student who contributes the most to the life of the school while in attendance at this High School. That would mean that the award would go to the Grade Twelve student who, from Grade X to Grade XII was the outstanding student scholastically, athletically, and executively. Such an award would not go to a student who was an outstanding scholar but contributed nothing to the life of the school in the way of Athletics or Student Union representation. Similarly it would not go to a student who is an outstanding athlete and Student's Union representative but a poor scholar.

In my opinion, such a trophy should remain in the school and have a base sufficiently large so that each year the name of the winning student could be affixed to it, engraved on a small silver shield.

I might also suggest that the trophy be one of the "statue" type rather than of the "cup" type. In my opinion the inscription should read something as follows:

The ARTHUR E. T. ECKFORD Trophy
Awarded annually to the
Eckville Student
Who has contributed the most to
his school in the academic, athletic
and executive fields

8 1 53
Granthams Landing B.C.
To: Mr. Eldon Bliss, Principal
Eckville School
Dear Mr. Bliss:

Many thanks for your letter of Dec. 31st. I should apologize for having written to you at such a busy time, but mine was really a much delayed letter — put off from time to time during the past year. I was really a bit doubtful as to how you would receive my suggestion of a trophy. Now that I have your kind letter — and your acceptance, it was quite a relief! I will do my best to find something suitable for such an outstanding award.

**AWARDS IN ECKVILLE SCHOOL**

Students require incentive, encouragement and recognition in their growth toward adult maturity. Recognition of this fact has led to the establishment of a number of trophies and awards that are presented to deserving students each year. Most of these trophies and awards are kept on display in the school.

A. **Eckford Trophy** — This trophy is to be awarded to the grade 12 student who has contributed the most to the school in his or her school career. The student must be outstanding scholastically, athletically, and executively. The candidate is chosen by a vote of the grade 12 class with the principal and staff making the final decision. This trophy is presented at the Graduation Exercises.

B. **Athletic Trophies** (Presented at the Graduation Exercises). 1. **Most Valuable Athlete Awards** — presented by Dave and Mona Beckman. One trophy is awarded to the top girl athlete and one is awarded to the top boy athlete in Eckville High School. The candidates eligible for this award must participate in a number of sports, demonstrate good sportsmanship and help create good school spirit. This award may be won only once by a given student. The students in High School select three boys and three girls as a nominees for the trophies and the coaches and Phy. Ed. teachers are to make the final choice. 2. **Eckville High School Co-op Bonspiel Champions** — This award is given to the best High School rink. 3. **Eckville High School League Champions** - This award is given to the best High School rink if in Eckville High School there is a High School Curling League. 4. **McDonald Trophy** (Junior Athlete) — This trophy is awarded to the most outstanding boy or girl athlete in the Junior High School. The candidate is selected by coaches and Phys. Ed. teachers. 5. **Welkum Trophy** — This trophy is awarded by coaches and Phys. Ed. teachers to the top athlete from grade 1-12. The candidate must posses leadership qualities and must be of good character. (Staff reserves right not to award this trophy.)

C. **Academic Awards** (Presented at the Graduation Exercises). 1. Academic Award — Grade 10 (H. N. Anderson). 2. Academic Award — Grade 11 (T. H. Curran). 3. Academic Award — Grade 12 (Home and School Association). Each of the above awards is presented to the student with the highest academic average in each grade. (Note: The H and S also presents the Valedictorian in Grade 12 with a cheque.) 4. **Legion Award** — This is a cash award given to the diploma student in grade 12 with the highest average. 5. **A. T. A. Honor Pins** — The Lacombe Local of the A. T. A. presents honor pins to all honor students in grades 9 and 12 and to the top honor student in grades 10 and 11. 6. **Eckville Junior High School Award for Academic Achievement** — The name of the top boy student in each of grades 7, 8, and 9 is engraved on one plaque and the name of the top girl student in each of grades 7, 8, and 9 is engraved on another plaque. 7. **Catholic Women's League Award** — The grade 9 boy with the highest average and the grade 9 girl with the highest average each presented with a $25 award.

D. **Queen of Hearts.** 1. **Queen of Hearts Plaque** — The Senior High Student Union has the name

of the Queen of Hearts engraved on a plaque which is kept in the school. The Queen of Hearts, who is a grade 12 girl, is selected by vote of the high school students and is traditionally crowned by the previous year's Queen as part of the Queen of Hearts program. 2. **Queen of Hearts Locket** — The H and S Association presents a locket to the Queen of Hearts each year

E. **Senior High Students Union Awards** Presented at the Graduation Exercises). 1. Senior High Student Union Pins — The Senior High Students Union presents Student Union Pins to each of the Student Union Officers (Pres., Vice-pres., Sec. Treas., Social Convenor, Ways and Means Convenor, Boy's Sports Rep.; Girl's Sports Rep. and Room Representatives.) 2. **Year Book Editor Pin** — The Senior High Students Union presents the Year Book Editor with a pin each year

F. **Junior High Student Union Pins** — The Junior High Students Union presents pins to each of the Student Union Officers

In 1958 a new addition was built onto the old High School to accommodate the Junior-High and Senior High population. As well, a gymnasium was constructed. The school population from Grades 1-12 were now housed in one joining unit

Lacombe School Division No. 56 changed to County of Lacombe No. 14 effective January, 1961. By this legislation, Eckville school and district had coterminous boundaries for school administration. Financial matters were now handled by one administration body instead of two separate units

In 1961, a parcel of land was purchased from L. Kingsep. A new six-room school was built on this property to house Grades 1-3. This move resolved the problem of over-crowding found in the one school unit. In 1970, the new addition — four classrooms, library and offices plus a gymnasium were added to the original elementary school at a cost of $213,000. This unit now accommodated Grades 1-6. The other unit is used for Grades 7-12. In 1977-78, Eckville Schools (Grades 1-12) have a student population of about 465 students and has 24 teachers. Secretarial services are provided by Mrs. Laura Sambrook. Mrs. S. Haglund and Mrs. B. Wyzykoski are Teacher Aides

The High School has an annual formal affair called the Queen of Hearts, which is held in February. Grade 12 girls who have been chosen through the years are: 1961 — Tiuu Koppel, 1962 — Nora Sambrooke, 1963 — Beverly Anderson, 1964 — Anna Haapala, 1965 — Patricia Dann, 1966 — Frances Frid, 1967 — Muriel Fiss, 1968 — Isabel Smith, 1969 — Janice Matthews, 1970 — Joanne Erickson, 1971 — Jean Erickson, 1972 — Mary Ann Walsanen, 1973 — Ann Kasha, 1974 — Pat Purnell, 1975 — Debbie French, 1976 — Gwen Erickson and 1977 — Sandra Taylor. Graduation Banquet and Exercises are held in early June of each year. The Elementary School has an annual Christmas and Spring Program. In addition to this, the track meet is held in the spring. For the last four years, this school has been involved in two E.O.F. projects — one in reading improvement and the other dealing with leisure time. Many parents have helped with teaching crafts to these young people

Some of the names of teachers who have spent many years or several years serving the Eckville School are: Eldon Bliss, Mr. Inman, B. Curran, Henry Anderson, Marge Lazzer, Lynne and Harry Densmore, Steve and Berdu Peta, Dorothy Lawton, Gertie McDonald, Jim Keegstra, A. Ralph, Mrs. H. Terry and the present High School Principal, Ed Olsen. Elementary school teachers who have taught here or are teaching now include: Mrs. E. Morrisey, Miss E. Graves, Mrs. D. Hoven, Mrs. M. Niemi, Mrs. M. Palm, Mrs. H. Rothwell, Mrs. M. Winn, Mrs. J. Kasha, Mrs. M. Brososky, Mr. V. Angus, Mrs. C. Frostad, Mrs. G. McCann, Miss A. Coverdale and the present Principal of the Elementary School, Mr. J. Walker

(1) Files at the Eckville Town Office re Eckville's 50th Anniversary

(2) letter to Eckville Town Office from Archie Litt

**THE ECKVILLE AIRPORT — by Douglas Hawkes**

Previous to 1928, the federal government assumed responsibilities for the natural resources of Canada. The R.C.A.F. was engaged in fire observation for the forests of the eastern watershed of the Rockies and their main airport for this was at High River. One day a flight would go south to the U.S.A. border with an emergency landing facility at Pincher Creek. The following day, the flight would be up to Rocky Mountain House with an emergency landing field on the north side of Eckville, where the Elementary School is now located.

This was one of Canada's first few airports. The only airman posted at Eckville was Corporal Stan Green. He remained for one summer to receive two flights for refueling. After the province took over the responsibility for natural resources, the airport was abandoned.

Corporal Green went on to head the aviation section of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. In retirement he built a replica of the Bleriot aircraft which was the first aircraft type to fly over the English Channel. At the time of writing, he is building a replica of the Sepwith Triplane (single seat fighter circa 1916), at the Calgary Centennial Planetarium.

Eckville was further identified with the R.C.A.F. with a camera installation for bombing exercises for the Service Flying Station at Penhold during World War II.

During the early 1930's Earl C. (Rudy) Platt of Rimbey had a plane he brought to Eckville, on sports days, to provide rides to those daring enough to buy a ticket. There are various

opinions as to the admission charged. He had a helper along who would take tickets and turn the propeller to start the motor. When the helper turned the propeller to compression he called "contact", and the pilot turned on the ignition. Hopefully the plane would start with the next turn of the propeller.

Rudy was married to Edythe Andrew of the Gilby district. He lost his life in April, 1943, in a plane crash, while flying a load of fish from the far north.

The pilot needed assistance to start the plane on one occasion, so Edgar Clausen, a Grade nine student in the Eckville school, had the privelege of leaving class to turn the propeller and pushing the plane, thus getting it started. It was sometimes necessary to push the plane across the field until it got enough momentum to get air borne.

**THE ECKVILLE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL**

Early in the fall of 1934 a number of public spirited citizens met in the Eckville Hall to discuss the need for a district hospital in Eckville. This original meeting was chaired by H. S. Mann. After considerable discussion, a committee was formed, consisting of W. S. Ignatius, G. L. Caton, J. Buresh, H. T. Arnold, J. Mulharkey, H. B. Belt, F. Kinna, J. Saari, with H. S. Mann as secretary and O. M. Forhan as chairman. A person-to-person canvas for funds was conducted, bringing in $321 in cash and $100 in promises. Due to poor crops in the area, very little was accomplished until the spring of 1936, at which time the original committee was discharged with thanks and an official board of managers was appointed. This board was made up of O. M. Forhan, J. Saari, Dr. S. M. Palmer, D. Clausen, G. L. Caton and E. I. Erickson, with H. S. Mann as chairman.

Their directive was "to get busy and do something." The establishment of the Medicine Valley Community Hospital was officially underway. The "Jenkins" house was purchased and opened as a hospital on September 1, 1937. The first month's operations were considered most satisfactory, with 119 patient days and a surplus of funds. The hospital operated until May 16, 1938, when it was forced to close due to lack of funds.

The hospital was again opened on October 15, 1938 when Dr. Frank Coppock moved into town and set up a medical practice. Dr. Coppock was appointed Medical Superintendent in May, 1939.

In April, 1943 the Minister of Health instructed the Eckville Hospital Board to have a meeting with regard to building a new hospital. The first hospital board members were: R. B. Gish, representing the Municipal District of Eckville, O. Umari, representing the Municipal District of Lorne, A. E. Avery, representing the Municipal District of Lochearn, Alec Duncan, representing the Municipal District of Golden West and J. Buresh, representing the Municipal

First Eckville Hospital

District of Raven. H. S. Mann was appointed secretary-treasurer. The purpose of the meeting was to acquire the present Medicine Valley Community Hospital and to purchase a suitable site to erect a 15-bed hospital. They also prepared a plebiscite to obtain authorization to borrow $42,000 by way of 20-year debentures at five percent interest.

The plebiscite was held on August 5, 1943. Results of the vote were: For — 545; Against — 106, Spoiled — two, Total — 653. Percentage in favor — 83.6%. Walter Crouch of Condor was the Returning Officer. Ratepayers were to receive hospitalization for one dollar per day if they paid a hospital tax of $6 per quarter section of land per year. Non-ratepayers were to receive hospitalization for one dollar per day if they paid a yearly sum of $6 to the hospital.

Eight acres of land was purchased on the west side of the village for $400 from Mr. W. H. Cowan. Walter Crouch was appointed the first auditor. Fred Moos drilled the well for the hospital in June, 1944. Contracts for the new hospital were awarded to General Construction, Morin Bros., Edmonton, whose bid was $27,500. Plumbing and heating contract was awarded to Locherbi and Hole, Edmonton, for $8,948.90. Meeres and Hicks of Red Deer contracted the electrical work for $3,105. Morin Bros. were given the contract to complete the east end of the basement of the new hospital for nurses' quarters for $2,585.

The old hospital building was sold to W. H. Cowan for $2,000 and was rented by the Board for

Eckville Hospital

$25 per month until the new hospital was ready The funds from this sale went toward building of the nurses' quarters in the basement of the new hospital. The Hospital Aid operated a booth at the Benalto Fair and donated their proceeds of $200 to the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Guy Heath were appointed the first janitor and cook for the hospital.

In 1949 supporters' rates were individual residents of the district – $12, family residents of the district — $16; individual non-residents of the district — $16, family non-residents of the district — $20

In 1947 the total operating cost was $28,466.40, with a patient day cost of $4.55 In 1977 the budget allowed $606,000, with a patient day cost of $93

The hospital land was annexed into the village of Eckville in April, 1949

In February, 1950, Dr. Frank Coppock proposed increased hospital accommodation by building a nurses' residence to house 18 staff members. This would increase the hospital capacity by eight adult beds and four childrens beds. The board agreed and tenders were placed in January, 1951. The tender was awarded to the Sandquist Construction of Red Deer at a cost of $56,463.10

In July 1953, a tender for the solarium to be built on the west end of the hospital was awarded to Frank Fernell of Red Deer at a cost of $6,-116.82

Minor structural alterations were made on the top floor of the hospital in April, 1968, but this did not reduce the number of beds. The Edmonton hospital planning authorities did not give any encouragement for a new hospital or any major changes to be done.

In August, 1969, the Board met with Mr Lang of the Associated Hospitals of Alberta, who was to assess the hospital. His survey here indicated several areas within the hospital which were totally inadequate and facilities poorly arranged. Currently the board is actively involved with essential upgrading of the hospital to present day safety standards at an approximate cost of $100,000. Looking into the next five-year plan, a new hospital complex is expected. This would be a combination of extended care as well as active care hospital.

Eckville Hospital Board Members past and present include R. B. Gish, 1943-1948, O. Umarl, 1943-1944, A. E. Avery, 1943-1945, Alec Duncan, 1943-1946, J. Buresh, 1943-1946, Martin Stenvig, 1944-1950, F. J. Pattison, 1945-1955, M. W. Resetz, 1946-?, W. T. Burns, 1946-1963, J. T. Marshall, 1948-1967, Mrs. Barbara Luomala, 1950-1952, Herman Lapp, 1952-1967, Lloyd McNeil, March, 1963- to the present time; Henry Benecke, 1955-1971, Eldon Kinder, January 1966 to the present time, Mrs. Evelyn Onofryszyn, 1967 to the present time, Tom Forhan, 1968 to the present time, Alex Strem, 1971-1972, A. N. Hoven, July 1972 to the present time

Doctors serving the Eckville Hospital and District include; Dr. S. M. Palmer (deceased), Dr. Frank Coppock, 1938-1953 (deceased); Dr. Brian Sproule; Dr. Ben Dilk, Dr. Gordon Gibson Eckville) July 1953 to 1966, Dr. Sydney Cookson Sylvan Lake) August, 1962 to the present time, Dr. Peter Rowell (Sylvan Lake) July 1965 to 1973, Dr. Robert Swain (Eckville) October 1965 to 1975, Dr. Allen and Dr. David Ward, Dr. J. D. Banning (Sylvan Lake) 1973 to 1977 (deceased) Dr. John Bell (Eckville) 1975 to 1977; Dr. G. A. Gray (Eckville) 1975 and the practicing physician at the present time; Dr. Inglis (Sylvan Lake), 1977

Secretary-Treasurers and Administrators include: H. S. Mann from the start of hospital formation until his retirement in October, 1947 I. D. Forgues, November 1947 to July 1948, D. L. Crocker, July 1948 to May 1950, R. C. Ives, June 1950 to June 1966, Mrs. E. L. Yacooshin, July 1966 to July 1968 (she was the first woman secretary treasurer), Mrs. H. Misner, August 1968 to June 1969 first woman administrator), J. H. Nickel, July 1969 to July 1976, G. K. Schmidt, October 1976 to the present time

Directors of Nursing in order of service include: M. Greening, Alice Johnson, Ann Elliott,

Mrs. Porter's Nursing Home, 1929-1931 Present residence of Janet Hanford

Manor House

Barbara Luomala, Harriet Benson, Moneta Phalempin, Agnes Bardenhagen, Lila Bickford, and Agnes Bardenhagen.

The Board started work on a 44 bed Senior Citizen's Lodge in 1969 with approval in 1974. Construction by Bird Construction began in early 1975, with completion in February 1976.

To the Memory of

**Dr. Frank H. Coppock**

Whose Joy It Was to Serve
His Fellow-man

"He walked before the Lord in truth and with a perfect heart." — II Kings 20:3.

## 1896 - 1953

### *"So long, Doc"*

A host of friends, acquaintances, patients and business associates, not only within this district but throughout the province and Dominion to some extent shared in the grief which shrouded the Christmas Season for Dr. Frank Coppock's family this year.

"The Old Doc" or just "Doc" as he was best known to most of us, through his many years of service to his neighbors, had become an integral part of their lives. Rich or poor, old or young, native born or newcomer, they were one and the same to him -- people in need of help. From personal experience he knew the strain of long hours of physical labor, the absence of material wealth, the struggle for success, the brutality of war and the suffering of pain — and from this knowledge he gave as was needed. His was a dedicated life, personal gain counted little compared to the satisfaction he obtained from doing his job well and the best way he knew how.

True to the finest concepts of the traditional "country doctor" Dr. Coppock was yet not content to coast along on his reputation. To the best of his ability he kept abreast of the latest advances in medical science and this knowledge was placed at the service of his patients. Death was his greatest enemy and he fought it tenaciously on behalf of those in his charge yet, when his personal fight was lost, he met it calmly. Maternity cases were his specialty and the wonder of birth remained to him as fresh and miraculous as it had been in his earliest days.

Mere words cannot in themselves picture the man who was our doctor" — his many many contributions to the community materially through the modern office, the hospital, the nurses residence, the "ambulance" service and his yet unfulfilled dream -- the old folks home, or his personal contributions of self through his skill as a physician and advisor, his service in community organizations, his active, earnest support of anything which stood for a better community and better living conditions of its residents.

It is indicative of Dr. Coppock that he died as he had lived— in the service of his fellow men. It is fitting that as the good doctor passed away in the hospital which was his dream, a new baby uttered its first cry.

We do not find it easy to say "goodbye" to such a man as Dr. Frank Coppock because, by virtue of his innumerable contributions to the general well-being of the community he has become to all of us not an individual but rather an institution, as ageless as the process of life itself.

No, we cannot say "goodbye" to someone who will always be with us in so many ways. Instead, let us just say, "So long, Doc. Rest in peace, assured that you will always live on in the hearts of those you served so well."

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Dr Frank Coppock's office, 1946

**THE DOCTORS OF ECKVILLE — by Laura Marshall**

The first doctor to practice in the village of Eckville previous to 1920 was Dr. Evans, followed by Dr. McDonald, who stayed only a short time. Dr Evans left Eckville to practice in Didsbury The only information the writer has been able to unearth of Dr Evans is that he had a son, Alfred, who taught school in Calgary

In 1920 Dr Percy Backus opened a practice here and built the present residence of Roy Saari It was home and office combined Some minor surgery was perhaps performed, such as tonsilectomies, or lancing of an abcess. Perhaps even extracting a tooth occasionally. In 1924 Dr Backus sold his practice to the late Dr. A. Sommerville In 1931 Dr Sommerville sold to Dr Claxton and left for Toronto to take a course in Public Health. He later became the doctor in charge of the High River Public Health Unit Following this he was deputy Minister of Health in the Aberhart Government

As his last patient from Eckville, Dr. Claxton performed an appendectomy on Mrs. Laura Marshall. He said good-bye to her in the Red Deer General Hospital A Dr. Schreiber then practiced in Eckville for about a year Then Dr Palmer arrived to take over the medical needs of our community He opened the Dr. Backus house as a hospital and Miss Jolly was the matron and nurse, helped with the cleaning and even worked in the garden when she found time. Ruby Land, now Mrs. Edward Mottus, was maid of all work and also the cook. The dining room was turned into an operating room, if you can believe it! I think the maternity cases were on the second floor This being during the "dirty thirties" when there was no government health care programs, the hospital finally had to close down due to economic reasons

In 1936 Dr Frank Coppock arrived in town. he at once rolled up his sleeves and told Dr Palmer, who was residing in Eckville in the house that Jim Brown now lives in, "I'm opening up the hospital." He opened an office on Main Street but later moved his office into the residence now owned by the Pat Hovens and used this building until he built the present Eckville Clinic

After the death of Dr Coppock in December of 1956 Dr Gordon Gibson took over the practice He had been working with Dr Coppock for some months previous to the death of Dr Coppock. Dr Gibson sold the practice to Dr. Bob Swain, who had come out from England to look the situation over in 1965.

Much to the regret of all in the community, Dr Swain left Eckville in 1974 and moved to British Columbia. Since then our medical needs have been attended to by a succession of doctors, some of whom have been here for only a very short time. These have included two Dr. Wards, Dr Binning, Dr. Inglis, Dr. Bell and Dr. Gray

**THE ECKVILLE CEMETERY**

In 1927, Charles Kasper donated three and a half acres of land for a cemetery site. This parcel of land is bordered on the north by the C. P railway and on the east by the Medicine River A county road on the south side makes this a very suitable location for a cemetery It is located on the SW 15-39-3-W5.

The Knights of Pythias were very active in the district at the time. They had the land surveyed and registered as the Eckville Cemetery The first burials in the cemetery were in 1928, being the bodies of Mrs Jack Mackie, Jim Merriman Sr. and Charles Kasper, Sr

Two blocks had been surveyed. The first grave lots sold for $5 a lot. Later three more blocks were surveyed and these sold for $10 a lot The third survey made brought the price of lots to the present price of $25

There have been 200 burials in the cemetery and 400 lots surveyed

Joe Marshal. was the first secretary treasurer for the cemetery, and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1947 Ed Stopsen has been the secretary-treasurer and caretaker for the past 30 years.

As one of their community projects over the years, the Country Ladies' Aid purchased the cemetery sign and the wrought-iron gate and had them placed at the entrance to the cemetery

Burials during the early years were often on the farms. As well, many people had purchased lots in the Kuusamo and Gilby cemeteries, and are buried there Others have been taken to Red Deer for burial

**ECKVILLE BASEBALL — As Told to Sylvia Therkman**

Baseball was a very active part of Eckville during the 1920's. The first baseball team recalled is a team coached by Bert Bertram. He was the section foreman on the CNR in Eckville at the time. They were in a league with Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer, Olds and Innisfail. The summer of 1922, they received the pennant in that Central Alberta league. Players recalled are: Bill Walker and Fred Hopper, who worked on the section, Percy McGill and George Cummerford, from Leslieville; Grainger, from

Eckville Baseball Team. Back row: Ike Kaila, Mgr. Don McDonald, Charlie Phillips, Wally Franks, John Phillips, Bob Umari, Bill Douglas, Bill Hawkins. Front: Ted Hansen, Bert Cole, Bob Coughlin, Frank Stone, Roger Berlando, Dick Latiff. Not shown: Red McAndrew, Tom Forhan, Ernie Gare, Howard Mullen, Jack Bardenhagen, Bernie Hanna, Art Stone

Red Deer, Homer Isaacson and Matt Kalaputas, local boys. Percy was an accountant in the Canada Bank of Commerce and Steiner Johnson from Sylvan Lake. Williams came from Oregon. He stayed with the Harper family, and had played pro ball. There were probably other players which cannot be recalled.

During the years baseball went on and in 1938 and 1939 another group of players grew up. They were coached by Mr. Biss from Sylvan Lake. Mr. Biss had played ball in the National League. He coached the Eckville players twice a week and Sundays, when they played teams exhibition games, like the House of Davids, the Zuloos from the U.S.A. teams named Cubans, Edmonton Cardinals, Calgary Pucksters and Nacimine Miners, besides their league games. These players were: Fred and Ole Bardenhagen, Carl, Waldo and Arthur Raabis, Ray and Bill Toivanen, Ralph Kingsep, Ray Morris, Bill Marks and Tom Forhan.

There may be some names here which have not been recalled.

During World War II baseball was at a standstill, but was resumed after the war.

**ECKVILLE BASEBALL FROM 1946 TO 1966 — by Don McDonald**

Following the war, baseball was once again renewed, in the year 1946. A league was formed, consisting of teams from Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House, Eckville and Benalto. Some of Eckville's senior players were Tom Forhan, Ole and Fred Bardenhagen. The younger ones were Charlie and John Phillips, Bob Umari, Don McDonald and Jack Bardenhagen. In the finals, Nordegg played Eckville. Nordegg won, mostly because of their terrific fan support.

In 1947 the Eckville team improved greatly, with Ike Kaila as manager and Tom Forhan as coach. The League expanded to two divisions, East and West, with Rocky Mountain House, Eckville, Bentley and Benalto in the west. Red Deer, Lacombe, Clive and Ponoka made up the East division.

In 1948 baseball was still gaining popularity in town. Ike Kaila was still manager, assisted by Bill Marsh and coach Tom Forhan. On the year's team the players were John and Charlie Phillips, Wally Franks (who had previously played in Nordegg), Howard Mullen, who played previously for Benalto, along with Ted Hansen, Bert Cole, Bob Umari, Jack Bardenhagen, Bill Hawkins and Don McDonald completed the team. Our bat boy was Jack Marsh.

Nineteen forty-nine was perhaps the best year for baseball in Eckville. A new ball diamond was built with an eight-foot fence surrounding it. Complete with dugouts and an official score sign, it was without doubt the best ball park in Central Alberta. The team participated in eight ball tournaments, winning top money in seven of these. Some of the games were played in Brooks, Carstairs, Olds, Stettler, Clive and Rimbey.

That year the team won the league with 20 wins and eight losses, and swept the playoffs over Ponoka. New faces on the teams included Frank Leslie, Ernie Gare, Red McAndrews, Bernie Hanna, Roger Berlando and Art and Leslie Stone. The club physician was Dr. Coppock and Ken Krintila was Bat Boy. The coach was Ted Hansen, who also played. For a town of 500 population, it was not uncommon to get three or four hundred spectators to a game.

In 1950 Alfred Isaacson was lured out of retirement to play a few games for Eckville. Alfred was the best local ball player ever on the Eckville team, having played professional ball both in Canada and in the United States.

During the following years baseball interest slowly declined and the local interest went with it. By 1955 the local team was playing only exhibition games and tournaments. Fastball was gaining popularity, with the younger players taking up this game.

Alfred Isaacson still farms just north of Gilby. Red McAndrews is now working for the Co-op in Winnipeg. Tom Forhan and Jack Bardenhagen are still living in Eckville. John Phillips and Don McDonald farm in the Eckville area. Charlie Phillips farms in the Joffre district. Bob Umari lives in British Columbia and still occasionally visits in Eckville. Ernie Gare lives in Trail, B.C. Roger and Jimmy Berlando live in Drumheller. Ted Hansen works for Revelstoke in Calgary and Howard Mullen lives in Red Deer. Bernie Hanna came from Trochu and coaches baseball in Edmonton.

**HOCKEY IN ECKVILLE**

1927 — The first hockey in Eckville was played on the Medicine River just east of what is now the Coppen's residence or in the earlier days, east of Moro's flour mill.

Around 1931, the rink was moved up town and was on the ground that is now the Lions playground. Some of the early hockey players

Playing hockey on river ice CNR Trestle 1929

Old Rocky rifle skating rink

who played on the river or on the new rink up town were Bill and Barry Armstrong, Bill, Reg and Ray Morris, Arvo (Pickles) George and Ray Sestrap, George Johanson, Bill Toivanen, Ted Barnett, Dick Maver who used to work in the Bank, Ken Coutts (senior). George Finley, school teacher, later became a Colonel in the army, Tom and Harold Forhan

When the rink was first moved up town, they had no electricity, so they purchased two Delco generating plants, which worked sometimes and these were used until Calgary Power came to town in around 1937

In those days of open air rinks, it was quite a problem to get the snow off the rink, if there was a game on Sunday afternoon, we would have to spend the forenoon cleaning and flooding the ice all by hand and when the snow piled up so no more could be shovelled over the boards, we would have to have some shovelled back to make room for more

During the war years, there was a lull in hockey In 1945-6 things picked up again. We had some return men coming back who had played before the war and some younger ones came along We had some very spirited games with Nordegg and other teams, too. We used to go by train to Nordegg on a Saturday afternoon and play that night on their open air rink beside the railroad track and again on Sunday afternoon and return home on the Monday train

Later, we went by car and that was a real expedition as there was only one way traffic between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg. If you met something bigger than your vehicle, you took the snow bank and the heavier vehicle

Highway 11 Champs Back: John Phillips, Reg Hambly, Don McDonald, Howard Mullen, Allan Herbert, Laurel Nielsen, Norm Forhan (Manager). Front: Ray Toivanen, Charlie Phillips, Ewart McDonald, Jim Merriman, Bob Unnel, Jack Bardenhagen, Allan Forhan

Back row: Charlie Phillips, George McTighe, Red McCall, Stan Yee, Jack Bardenhagen, Front row: John Phillips, Ewart McDonald Clare Thomas, Don McDonald

would almost always pull you back on the road

In those days, plumbing and running water were not too common especially in the country But Nordegg had both in the miners' hostels where we stayed

We will never forget Clare Thomas's astonishment when he found he had a well right in his bedroom. The only complaint he had was that every time he went for a drink the lid fell down and hit him on the head.

Transportation got more modern and later we used to charter buses to take players and fans to the various playoffs in which we were involved Those trips were far from dull We think everyone who was involved had a great time.

In 1961, the rink was moved to the fair grounds and a cement block building was built to house dressing rooms and lunch counter These facilities were used for only three years when a canvas was organized under the capable chairmanship of Red McAndrews to raise money to build an arena. The canvas was an overwhelming success and the arena was built Later a whole new front end was added. The whole venture has been of great benefit to hockey, figure skating and the annual indoor rodeo and also other community activities.

After the arena was built, a minor hockey association was formed and has served the younger players very well. This has only been accomplished with the dedicated help of parents, coaches and referees

We think a tribute should be paid to those who by their involvement and support have helped to make possible what we have today Mr Goldfinch, Maud and Uno Krintala, Ike and Irene Kaila, J M. McDonald. Mrs. Kit Armstrong the oldest and most constant hockey fan Eckville ever had Ole and Helen Bardenhagen.

We, also, think a tribute should be paid to Don McDonald who by virtue of his ability got to play for the Olds Elks and went on to win the Central Alberta Hockey League scoring championship in 1951 52. Following that, he played professional hockey in Scotland

**A SUMMARY OF OUR LOCAL MIXED BONSPIEL — by J. R. Schiele — Love and Kisses, March 3, 1936**

I've been requested to unreel
A rhyme about our mixed bonspiel,
To tell you who won, which and how,
And every incidental row
It all went fairly smooth this year,
And all of us are in the clear
Except a few of the lively boys
Who won a game by making noise.
It's very well to root and cheer,
But don't you think there's something queer
About a man who's such a pest
He will not give a moment's rest
To skips, while they are trying a shot?
Or do you think 'tis tommyrot?

When Dr Palmer played Bill Marks,
The air was thick with lively sparks,
Hardly had they started play
When the Doc was called away
Two skips rushed out to take his place —
Norman Forhan won that race.
One end was played, Bill counted one,
The doctor came back on the run
Said he, "What's all the fuss about?
"We'll start all over, rub than one out."
Now Goldfinch and Deman played ball,
When Bernie Dennett caused a squall.
Said he, as he began to grouse,
"A lead can't sweep within the house,
"You can't get away with that you know
"You this and that, you so and so."

There was a rumor 'round the town
That a certain skip of high renown
Did rage and fiercely bang his broom
Against the wall — like the crack of doom
And just because he missed his shot,
He carried on like a tiny tot

'Twould be amusing, my dear friends,
To jot down all the incidents
All the trivial tales of woe,
How so and so could be so low,
So much of that is better unsaid,
I'll deal in prizes now instead

First there was the challenge grand —
To win that round, it took some sand
Kennedy played against Deman,
And played as only Kennedy can.
Never a man so smartly played,
Nor yet his rocks so neatly laid.
He must have plotted many moons
Just how he'd play to win the spoons.
Deman came in for second best,
And there the cake plates came to rest.
Battling Marks — (please don't be sore),
I'd dearly love to give you more,
But as you only won third place,
Accept the crumb trays with good grace.
Mr. Campbell, full of tricks
Finished fourth for the candlesticks.
But after all is said and done,
Half a loaf is better than none

Memorial Park showing Multi-purpose building and Arena

First prize in the Primary event
Again to Mr. Kennedy went.
While Mr Campbell, looking dour
Got fifty pounds of Robin Hood flour
Harrison crawls into a hole,
And munches at his cottage roll
He might have gone to greater heights
But stays up much too late at nights
What does he do, where does he go?
I'll bet a dime you'd like to know

The secondary event came next
Where many a skip was sorely vexed
Mr Mann did sweat and toil,

Lethbridge Bonspiel in 1952. Tom Forhan, Ralph Hambly, Dr Frank Coppock, Bill Marks. Winners of the Hotelmen's Event

And drilled and bored until he struck oil
"A Banker's Toady" — you will say,
But lest you chance to get too gay
Let me remind you of the fate
Of men now looking through a grate
For putting words like those in print.
So kindly take the proffered hint.
Deman won coffee — not too bad
For such a mediocre lad
Ike won flour by the bag,
But listen to this — it's not a gag,
He saved the town a lot of grief
By keeping Goldy off relief
With sausages, and biscuits, too,
I think they'll almost see him through.

Now we're in the final heat,
Where all the second-raters meet
And haggle over meagre spoils
As they unsheath their curling foils.
Marks got sweaters, nice and blue,
To better clothe his fighting crew
He ousted the Doc in the final hour,
Who humbly took his bag of flour
Norman Forhan came in last,
By all the others he was passed
But even so, he's not so slow,
He won free tickets to the show

I hope you will take this in fun
And not go reaching for your gun
For I have spent a lot of time
In trying to make these verses rhyme
So if I've said a thing or two
That might have irritated you,
Stop a while and think a bit,
Don't wear the shoe if it doesn't fit

**DIVERSIFIED FARM AREA REAL MODEL**
**District, Sure-Crop Belt West of Red Deer, Draws Many Settlers June 21, 1934**
**Eckville Busy Spot**
**Dairying, Stock Raising, Grain Growing, Year-round Markets**

Featuring the village of Eckville a program was given over Journal radio station CJCA Wednesday night. Included in the program was an article on the district, text of which follows

The district of Eckville might be called and rightly so, the sure-crop district of the southwest part of central Alberta. For never in its many years of production, has it felt the disastrous effects of drouth, plague, frost or extensive hail. While parts of the district are occasionally so visited, the activities of the farmers are so diversified that use is put to every kind and condition of grain and fodder to great advantage.

So this area might well be held up as an example of real diversified farming. The results have been so noticeable that the attention of credit men of large machinery firms and wholesalers has been attracted. Much favorable comment has followed.

Eckville is one of the oldest settlements west of Red Deer. And since the first settler located on the banks of the Medicine River, it has attracted many people of various races. They have succeeded in establishing substantial homes as well as raising thriving families.

Throughout the area one may notice the features of peoples from many of the countries of central Europe, as well as from the Scandinavian countries. The Finnish and Estonian people predominate north of the Central Alberta railway while Scandinavians are most numerous to the south.

**Dependable Citizens**

While there is a tendency for a few Finnish and Estonian people to lean toward Communism, it cannot be regarded as the more radical type practiced by some in the east. It has not spoiled their ability to realize the advantages of living in a country blessed with many good things. They are energetic, industrious, very dependable and peaceable. A good many of them are well-to-do and influential in the district. They farm well and their activities as such have done much to bring a good name to the district.

While the village comprises only a small group of buildings' Eckville is the scene of a great deal of business in the space of a year. Four elevators attend to the many carloads of wheat and coarse grains that are shipped out. The two great railway systems operate regular services for both passengers and freight over their branch lines.

A large creamery operates the year round, turning out over one-third of a million pounds of butter annually. This in itself is a great asset to the community for it provides ready cash daily to supply the tables of practically every farmhouse around.

One of the most up-to-date and efficient of smaller flour mills in the west operates steadily. It turns out flour of different grades, wheatlets and other by products every hour of the day the year round. The product ranks favorably with that of larger mills and customers are drawn from places 60 miles distant.

Two large shipping firms handle the cattle, hogs and sheep raised in the district. And every Wednesday sees several carloads of livestock loaded and shipped out.

**Home-Trained Players**

While Eckville is but two miles from a gravelled highway, one does not have to travel to the city to conduct business. Four stores handle extensive lines of merchandise and the prices vary little, if any, from those prevailing in larger centres. The village has the reputation of being a good trading centre and it deserves the name.

The social activities are many. Several community halls have been built throughout the area and there is maintained a lively program of events the year round. The village boasts the largest and best equipped of these, provided through the donations of a goodly number of public-spirited citizens. It is used for lodge purposes as well as for clubs, dances, movies and other activities. The building is provided with a clubroom, dressing rooms, balcony and well-equipped stage.

In sports, hockey, badminton and skiing are the favorite pastimes in the colder months, while tennis, basketball and baseball are played at other times. Eckville boasts of a real home product baseball team that gives a good account of itself in any company.

Steady improvements may be seen from day to day. Settlers from other parts have been coming into the district for two years past and now practically every available piece of land is taken. Outside of two or three farmers who work large acreages, lands round about are widely held and a maximum number of people are supported.

It is a rare bit of country to live in, and one is making no mistake in picking the Eckville district for a home.

**HISTORY OF THE ECKVILLE R. E. A. LTD.**

As early as 1945 the area farmers were talking about the feasibility of rural power in the Eckville area. Whenever farmers got together, in homes or on street corners the talk was rural power. A few of the farmers had lighting plants or wind chargers, but these plants did not prove very satisfactory but gave us electric lights.

Then on July 3, 1947 the first organizational meeting on record was held in the community hall at Eckville. Mr. J. M. McDonald called the meeting to order and explained the situation. He then suggested that the meeting appoint a chairman and secretary. Mr. H. Bice was nominated as chairman who took the chair. Mr. Eastman acted as Secretary.

Prior to this date it is believed that a few farmers locally had been contacted regarding power on the farm, with the idea that Calgary Power would build all farmers' lines. Each farmer to pay $100 cash and $5 per month service charge, plus two and a half cents per kilowatt used. At the above mentioned meeting, Mr. F. T. Gale, Superintendant of Farm Electrification for Calgary Power, explained that the Power Company had built four such areas in the province as experimental areas, but had discontinued building any more. Mr. Gale then went on to explain a new system to the farmers which he felt would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

His proposal was that all interested farmers form an association. The Power Company would build the lines at cost. The farmers were to pay the cost and two dollars and fifty cents per month service charge plus two cents per kilowatt used. The Association would then own the lines. His suggestions were not acceptable to several attending the meeting. However, at the meeting a provisional board was appointed to further investigate and feel out farmers as to their personal opinions. Those appointed on that board were: Mr. Harry Bice, Condor; Mr. Albert Hansen, Diamond Valley, Mr. Clyde Stauffer, Evarts; Mr. Charlie Skocdopole, Hespero and Mr. Adolph Roke, Evergreen.

August 5, 1947 the provisional board met in Eckville. Mr. H. Bice was appointed chairman, Mr. Hansen, secretary. In attendance at this meeting was Mr. Fitzpatrick, Supervisor of Co-op activities for the Provincial Government. He explained that an association could get financial assistance for building the lines from the Government. The secretary was instructed to carry on negotiations with the Power Company.

November 13, 1947, the Provisional Board met at the home of Clyde Stauffer. The secretary was instructed to write Calgary Power and get definite information on the points listed below:

I) estimate cost per mile.

II) estimate cost per month for public liability and total maintenance.

III) definite date Calgary Power would be prepared to build the lines and supply us with power and

IV) ask the Power Company to send a man to attend our next meeting that could give us a definite deal so we would have something with which to go to our people.

December 11, 1947, the Provisional Board met at the home of Harry Bice, with F. T. Gale in attendance. He explained that line costs were about 12 cents per foot, with a flat rate of $250 from the main line to the farmers' buildings. He also stated the Power Company would guarantee to construct the lines and make the power available to farmers by Christmas 1940. Mr. Gale also agreed to send us the necessary material to sign up the farmers. The Board then agreed to set up an association, its name to be Eckville Rural Electrification Association Ltd.

January 5, 1948. The Board met at the home of Albert Hansen. Ninety-three farmers had signed contracts since the December 5 meeting. An estimation of 3/5 of a mile seemed to be about the distance between farmers willing to sign contracts at an estimated cost of $645 each.

January 12, 1948. The board met at the home of Clyde Stauffer. Four directors had gone to Calgary to see Mr. Gale. They have a report on their talk with Mr. Gale. Also, 116 members were paid up to date.

February 11, 1948. The board members met at the home of Albert Hansen. Arrangements for the annual meeting, March 6, at the Hespero Hall were made.

March 6, 1948. The first annual meeting of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association was held in the Hespero Hall. An estimate of 175 members and visitors attended. Mr. J. D. Phillips was elected to take the chair for this meeting. A new board was elected to take the place of the Provisional Board. Henry Benecke, Harry Bice, Charlie Skocdopole, Clyde Stauffer, Lloyd Wells, Ed Tollefson and Albert Hansen.

Nine meetings were held by the Provisional Board previous to March 6, 1948, when the first annual meeting was held. Most of these meetings started at 8 P.M. and did not finish until after midnight. Also, during this time the directors drove many a hundred miles between meetings, signing up contracts and doing organizational work. They all gave their time and energy freely and received no money for their work and expenses until the February, 1951 annual meeting. They were then voted mileage and $4. per meeting.

At a directors meeting on February 28, 1949, Clyde Stauffer was appointed President of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association Board, a position he held until March 12, 1974. Albert and Hazel Hansen looked after the secretary duties for 17 years.

Through the summer of 1948 progress seemed slow, so at an October board meeting, C. Skocdopole, H. Bice and H. Benecke were instructed to go out and try and find a suitable digger for digging holes. A digger was purchased, rebuilt and reinforced at Skocdopole's shop and put to work and approximately 800 holes were dug with the machine, and 200 by hand. The machine was then sold.

Then on March 10, 1948 the first power was turned on serving the rural people in the Eckville district. A banquet to celebrate the occasion was held on June 2, 1949. The Eckville R.E.A. was incorporated January 21, 1948. The estimated cost of the project was $110,000; there were 176 members to start and it cost each farmer $645 for power at this time.

This covered a land area of approximately 120 square miles. There are now 330 subscribers using electricity in a land area of over 200 square miles. When the first hook up was made, the cost of a power line was 12¢ a foot. It is now $1 a foot.

The average farmer now uses approximately 700 kilowatt hours per month, compared to 100 kilowatts when power was first introduced

On April 6, 1950 at a directors meeting, the secretary, Mr. Hansen, was instructed by the board to contact other R.E.A.'s in the province as to the feasability of organizing a central body The central body was formed and called the Alberta Union of Rural Electrification Associations. Clyde Stauffer was elected president and Albert Hansen was elected secretary of this Association. Positions they held for many years

On April 18, 1975 a banquet and dance was held in the Elks Hall, Benalto to honor those members who were involved with the organization of the Eckville R.E.A. Ltd

Members of the first board the late Harry Bice, the late Albert Hansen, Clyde Stauffer, Charlie Skocdopole, Adolph Roke and Henry Benecke and their wives were among those honoured. Also, Ray Niemela and Alex Strem were honoured for long service on the board of directors. A group from Caroline led by Mrs. Berdette Bystrom provided musical entertainment

Slate of officers over the years are listed below

Mr. Harry Bice, President until February 28, 1949

Clyde Stauffer, President until March 12, 1974

Alex Strem,-President — March 12, 1974 to November 30, 1977

Stan Burns, President — 1977 to present time.

Albert Hansen, Secretary — 1947-1964

Stan Burns, Secretary — 1964-1973.

Marie Bott, Secretary — 1973-to present time.

The present Board of Directors of the Eckville R.E.A. Ltd., include — Stan Burns President. Ray Niemela, Vice-President, Marie Bott — Secretary-Treasurer Directors Ewart McDonald, Edward Sebek, John Robertson, Bud Bradshaw and Ed Bott

**COUNTRY LADIES AID**

What started as an afternoon get-to-gether with neighborhood friends in 1939 was later organized into the Country Ladies Aid. Old records bring back memories of times and roads quite different from the present time. Members braved snow drifts, ankle-deep mud and bush trails, mostly on foot, to attend a much awaited afternoon with friends

At first, to occupy busy fingers, several autographed quilts were made. Hattie Bromling is the proud possessor of one of these original quilts. It carries the following names: Effie Cates, Mabel Lewis, Mary Rogers, Fannie Jones, Hattie Bromling, Belle Greenman, Iva Gustavson, Agnes Gustavson, Gladys Payne, Mora McDonell and Gerda Gustavson. Two of these — Mora and Iva — are still members

Quilt making is still a popular pastime. A crib quilt is made yearly for the Eckville New Year's

Country Ladies' Aid. Front: Elsie, Fannie Kasper, Agnes Tolonen. Phem Kingsep, Sylvia Thorkmon, Hilja Takkinen. Fannie Jones, Jennie Pirkis, Ida Lundberg, Children: Diane Elson, Alan Tolonen, Judy Kasper and Darrel Elson

Baby, and one quilt is always kept on hand in case fire strikes a district home. The outstanding quilt was an appliqued Centennial quilt raffled during 1967

Early in our history Dr. Coppock was attempting to establish a hospital where the Roy Saari family now lives. In order to buy linoleum and other hospital supplies the newly-formed club held dances at Liberty Hall (now Onofryszyn property). Quilts were also made and raffled, and even barn dances were a popular way of raising money

During the war years the Red Cross received help with cash donations as well as large quantities of sewing and knitting. Parcels were packed for overseas relief, as well as for individual gifts for local soldiers. To help swell the Club's coffers lunch was served at farm sales sometimes as often as four in a year

Social evenings were held at members' homes. Cards and happy times are remembered About this time a blind member was the recipient of $20 per month until a pension was secured for her Amateur shows, wedding receptions, bazaars, Hobo teas, travelling baskets and lunches at wedding dances were undertaken. Yearly donations of $10 each were now sent to Cancer Society, Red Cross, T. B. Fund, Easter seals, and Woods Christian Home. With the exception of the latter, these donations still continue with the Cancer Society receiving a portion of farm sales proceeds. The Arthritic Fund received a sizeable donation. A number of burned out families and several cases where tragedy has struck have been given $25 in goods

When the present hospital was built a room was furnished The hospital has been the recipient of a number of things since then. Six overbed tables and patient name holders for each bed, as well as donations of cash towards a hi-low bed, wheel chair, croup tent, and a heat therapy machine. A $300 cheque was given to help with the heart monitoring machine Pyjamas, robes, and slippers have been made over the years. A lawn bench and two chairs were

U F W A L to R Mrs. J. Lundberg, Plaxton, C. Gustavson A. Heath, P Kingsnp. M. Thorkman. J Coutts, F Kasna, H Lowe and C Moss

added for the comfort of patients able to be out of doors

Before the advent of Town water and modern plumbing a rest room was furnished and maintained where the coin wash is now located Other undertakings were two $50 gifts toward the Manitoba Flood relief fund, the Institute for the Blind, Home and School Association, and monthly cheques to a crippled girl.

In more recent times the Arena Building Committee received two $100 cheques and the Senior Hockey Team $100 towards new uniforms Minor hockey, figure skating, Eckville Fish and Game, Niemala's Dam, driver training and the Eckville Friendship Club each have received $50. Cheer leaders were given $25 to help pay for new uniforms. The Eckville Legion received 25 metal chairs and the Lions Club received 50 chairs.

In 1966 a Centennial Rug, designed by Hilja Takkinen, was made and raffled. The resulting $210 had been set aside as a gift for the then promised senior citizens' lodge. We are pleased to say that a considerable amount has been added and a colored T V has been provided for the new Eckville Manor

During Centennial Year our project, a sign for the cemetery, was completed and installed Over the years countless friends have received fruit baskets or flowers while confined to hospital. District families are remembered with a sympathy card at the passing of a loved one Several sewing clinics have been sponsored by the Club

Recently engraved coffee spoons were presented to 25-year members and to some of our senior members. On the list of 25-year members we find the following names. Mora McDonell, Hilja Takkinen, Iva Gustavson, Sylvia Thorkman, and Fannie Kasper. The list of Senior Members is made up of Clara Bromling, Hertha Hillman, Ruth Dobbs, and Gladys Johnson However, Hilja Takkinen passed away on Febraury 11, 1974 and Clara Bromling passed away on May 25, 1976

To make sure that our Senior citizens are not forgotten at Christmas time a yearly party is held especially for them. This is held in conjunction with the annual "Santa Claus Day" in Eckville. On Farmers' Day favors for patients' trays are taken to the hospital

Besides our monthly meetings a pot luck supper near Christmas time is enjoyed by members and friends

Country Ladies Aid 1977 Hertha Hillman, Millie Bromling Iva Gustavson, Fern Shoodspole, Hilja Spolom, Elsie Gustavson Gertie McDonald, Sylvia Thorkman, Anna Jobs, Jean Ogden Margaret Houston. Inset Fannie Kasper

At the present time there are fifteen members, all of whom have been members for nine years or longer. The membership roll includes Hillie Bromling, Ruth Dobbs, Elsie Gustavson, Iva Gustavson, Hertha Hillman, Margaret Houston, Annie Jobs, Gladys Johnson, Fannie Kasper, Gertie McDonald, Hazel McDonell, Mora McDonell, Jean Ophus, Fern Skocdopole and Sylvia Thorkman.

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, ECKVILLE BRANCH NO. 156 — information obtained from Early Records**

The charter president of the Legion was Russell E. Eastman and secretary-treasurer was R. W. Needham. The first bank record is October 22, 1945. The next secretary was James B. Merriman in 1946, followed by Ed Stopsen from 1947 to 1950, during which period Harrold Tennant was president. Alex V. Brown was Secretary from 1951 to 1953.

About 1947 the Legion was given Lot 5, Block 3 by the Medicine Valley Livestock Association, from which tin building they operated their business under the management of the late Thomas Smith. The Legion made some improvements to the building, and it was rented for over 10 years as a shoe maker shop to Roy Saari and the late Wally Punk. In 1947 the Legion paid for getting the masonry gates built to the south entrance of the Memorial Park, and also provided uniforms for the boys' hockey team and also equipment for several soft-ball teams.

Names of members gleaned from early records of what was then known as British Empire Service League No. 156 were: Russell E. Eastman (deceased June 16, 1974), R. W. Needham, James Brown, Alex Brown, Ralph Downs, Jack A. Furnell, Thomas Hanna, Mrs. Geneve Hanna, Ralph Kingsep, John R. Luomala, A. Charles McMow, John A. MacLean, John MacNeil, James Merriman, Calvin F. Needham, Ralph Pihooja, Willard A. Phillips, Thomas Hrdlika, Simon MacKenzie, Thomas Smith, Ed Stopsen, John Suites, Jacob A. Tolonen, Harold Tennant (deceased) and Russell Aubrey.

By 1953 the membership had fallen to eight members, so the Branch was declared inactive except for Comrades Jim Brown and Ed Stopsen looking after the building rental and expenses. Branch was re-organized as the Royal Canadian Legion No. 156 in 1963 with Comrade Jacob A. Tolonen as president. Ed Stopsen was treasurer to 1968.

The minutes from 1963 to 1968 seem to be misplaced. However, by April 1968 the present Legion Hall had been purchased from George Sestrap, who had used the building as a cafe. At this time there were 23 members in attendance, with H. Bergh being president, W. Balch secretary, and George Johnson treasurer.

In about 1968 or 1969 the tin warehouse was sold. About this same time the sign was painted by Mr. Nygaard, a member from the United States. Tables, benches, and a piano were bought. A portrait of the Queen was donated by the Krintzas, and the brass plate and inscription for the portrait was donated by Mr. Chesterman. Repairs were made to the chimney and supports for the floor.

Bingo equipment was bought, which was used as a weekly entertainment for some years, as well as a big yearly Bingo as a source of income for the Legion. This equipment was also lent to the Senior Citizens when they used the Legion Hall as their Drop-In Centre.

The Legion has sponsored the Burn's Night in conjunction with the Legion Auxiliary since 1969. The two groups have sponsored the Armistice Day Church Service and the evening gathering since 1968. The Poppy Fund has always been cared for by Mr. Jim Brown. The booth at the Benalto Fair was a joint project for a few years. For some years V. E. Day and Vimy Night were remembered. Fund-raising projects were the Friendship Calendar and raffles of sides of beef and pork. Donations were made to the Eckville Hospital Fund, Colonel Belcher Hospital, Polio Fund and C. E. L. Christmas Hampers are given annually. Gifts are given to members in hospital and farewell gifts to members who have left. Members have been helped with plumbing expenses, funeral expenses, and victims of fires have been helped. A barbeque, or social is held in June with the Ladies Auxiliary as guests. The Hall has been used for dancing lessons, play school, Cubs weekly meetings, bake sales, strawberry teas, rummage sales and general meetings and socials.

In 1970 chairs were bought, a new, larger furnace was installed, and a donation of additional chairs from the Country Ladies Aid was much appreciated. The mortgage on the Legion Hall was burnt on October 16, 1971. The payment of the mortgage had been another joint project with the Ladies' Auxiliary. In June 1974 the Legion and Auxiliary entertained a bus load of Veterans from Calgary, as a friendly gesture.

Under the direction of Jim Merriman a new roof was put on the Legion Hall and the big windows were replaced with hardboard. In October 1975 the vacant lot which had been the home of the shoe shop was sold to Allen Postl.

The gable ends of the Hall were covered with tin by Art Carritt and a sign erected, which Mrs. Neale painted after the outside of the Hall had been painted. The Hall was painted by Mr. Young.

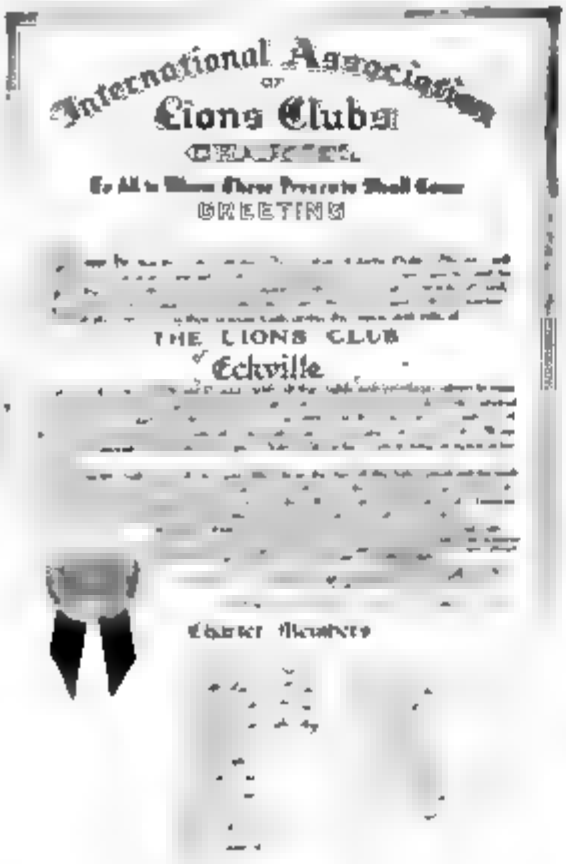
Past President Pins have been received by J. A. Tolonen, H. Bergh, A. Guest, E. Fiss, J. B. Merriman, A. Vandevelde, A. Carritt, and W. E. Austin. T. Smith was president of the Legion in 1977 and L. French in 1978. Legion members attend District and Provincial Rallies, and care for the building with regards to insurance, power, heat, and janitor services.

**HISTORY OF THE ECKVILLE LIONS CLUB, 1946-1973 — by W. J. (Lion Bill) Rothwell**

The Lions Club of Eckville was sponsored by the Lions Club of Red Deer. Charter Presentation Night was May 20, 1946, with District Governor Marshall Murray presenting the Charter to the first President of the Eckville Club, Lion Ike Kalla. The Red Deer Club took a bus load of Lions and their ladies to Eckville for this occasion.

The following were the Charter Members of the Eckville Lions Club:

Charter President: Ike Kalla (now deceased)
1st Vice President: T. O. (Tom) Forhan
2nd Vice President: J. Alcock (deceased)
Secretary: J. Stafford
Lion Members: R. B. Gish
A. (Art) Langer
R. B. Lawson
M. Anderson
G. Fry
R. E. Eastman (deceased)
Dr. R. Coppock (deceased)
D. Clausen (deceased)
J. E. Lundberg (deceased)
G. McNeil
H. S. Mann (deceased)
C. Hovens
A. Schofer
Rev. Howick
John Reid



Lions Club Charter

It appears that the minutes of the early years of the Club have been mislaid. The only information obtainable is that the Lions Club members joined the labor force with regard to the building of the park with baseball diamond in the 1940's.

Having joined the Eckville Lions Club in September, 1956, I can recall many of the main projects up to 1973, which are as follows: The Lions Club has been 'caretaker' of the hall since before I became a member and assumed responsibility for maintenance, Monetary and otherwise.

The Club paid rent into the hall fund for its own use of the hall, including meetings and projects, etc.

For years assumed payment of hall rent for baby clinic and is still doing this.

Sponsored the Boy Scouts and among other things paid the hall rent for their use of same which the club is still doing.

Sponsored Boy Scouts when they attend Scout Jamborees, etc. and is still doing this.

Assumed full charge for the canvass, etc., on behalf of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. The club has received letter of congratulations in the past for their showing in this canvass.

This project is still being carried on.

Sponsored a Little League baseball team. This was in the late 1950's. In the fall of 1960, a major project involved extensive alterations and remodelling to the hall. A new front was constructed and was two stories high, measuring 16 x 36 feet. The size of the Lions' Den upstairs was increased as were the kitchen and cloakroom downstairs. In addition, ladies' and men's washrooms were installed. Entrance to the hall was moved from the front to the side of the hall, with a wide sidewalk leading to the entrance door. These improvements cost over $5,000 (this back in 1960 and very little labour costs as Lion members performed the work). This was a lengthy, hard work project, and I must mention that not one Lion member reneged on his weekly turns to work. In the previous ten years, the Lions had spent another $4,000 on the hall and again labor costs were minimal since Lion members performed most of the work. We had two competent carpenters in our club who could direct the work program, namely Don Macrae and Dr. Gordon Gibson. We also had a membership approaching 50 in number at that time.

On October 8, 1960, the Lions Club sponsored a barbeque, carnival with games of skill such as bingo, etc. and a dance, in the hall with proceeds going towards the cost of the hall alterations which were already in progress. It was advertised as a 'mammoth' community activity and it turned out to be just that with an overflow crowd attending.

St. John's Ambulance first aid course sponsored with Lion Dr Gordon Gibson as instructor There was a large pre-course enrolment which began on January 17, 1961

For several years the club sponsored sports days with baseball tournaments, men's and ladies', games of skill, etc. and a dance at night

Organized Santa Claus Day each year and still doing this

Easter Seal Campaign and still doing this

Sponsored New Year's Eve dances and continuing to do this

Participated in Lions International's World Wide "Peace Essay Contest" in 1966 with $50 000 in prize money, for students 14 years of age and under 22 years of age. The contest involved a local level, district level, multiple district level and on up to a World-wide contest, with first prize in the latter level being $25,000. On the local level Miss Lana Wingate, a Grade 12 student in the Eckville High School, was the winner and was presented with a Lions Club award and cheque. Her essay was then forwarded for competition in the Lions District Level

Participated in sale of cookbooks entitled "A Lion in the Kitchen" with over 900 recipes from Lions members throughout the world, in 1965. On July 29, 1966, the Eckville Lions Club sponsored a Car Bingo with many other prizes in addition to the car which was a 1966 Plymouth sedan and won by Ed Solverson of Eckville. The event was well attended and was one of the Club's most successful project ventures

The Club has sponsored a candidate in the Eckville Ice Carnival Queen Contest for some years

Donated money to the Blind Golfer's Association

Annually hosts a barbeque in the latter part of June. Farmers and other men in the community who are not Lion members are invited

Clean-up day in the Town of Eckville is organized annually by the Lions.

Club has provided wheel chairs for Jimmy Johnson

Has hosted and or assisted Teen Club, etc , in providing dances (or other forms of recreation in Eckville)

Further work on the hall since 1972 has included repairs to the kitchen, electrical wiring, installed fans, put carpeting in the den, built more tables, painted and installed new door hardware, etc. In most years repairs have to be made to the roof and this often requires bringing in a trained man for the job.

1974 and on, club has donated $100 or more per year to the Eckville public library

1975 — sponsored a peddle pusher group

1976 — sponsored a defensive driving course, donated $50 to a group of school students going to France and sponsored a carol festival which has since become an annual project

1976 and onward, club has helped raise money for the Agriculture Multi-purpose Building in Eckville and helped raise money for artificial ice in the arena. I understand that a monetary commitment has been made by the club in connection with the former building

The Eckville Lions Club has, since it was Chartered, regularly held the following

Charter Night Held annually in November rather than the date of receiving its Charter in the spring

Ladies' Night The Lions of Eckville honour their ladies on this occasion annually Usually held in late April or early May

During the 1960's the Club held a Past Presidents' night annually to honour the Past Presidents of the club. It was later discontinued.

The club celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 6, 1971, with a capacity crowd in attendance. Guest speaker for the occasion was Past International Director Dr W T. (Bill) Waite, of Saskatoon. It was certainly a celebration that all Eckville Lions will remember, and we hope all others who were in attendance will also.

The Eckville Club sponsored the Rocky Mountain House Lions Club, and the Charter Presentation Night was January 12, 1968. The Charter was presented by International Director Lion Virgil P Moshansky of Vegreville and accepted by Charter President Norman Swainger A large number of Eckville Lions Club members and their ladies attended this event

The Eckville Club members have been conscious of the goodwill generated through visitations to other Lions Clubs and as a result many of such visitations were made

The Eckville Lions Club has for many years sent their incoming officers to the Lions Training School prior to their assuming office The club for as long as I have been associated with it has sent delegates to District Conventions and Mid Winter Conferences. While I was a member of the Eckville Club, I attended two International Conventions. In addition to being there as a District Governor-Elect on the first occasion and as an International Counsellor on the second occasion I was there on both occasions as a delegate of the Eckville Lions Club. Hester and I plan to attend another International Convention this coming June in Tokyo, Japan and wherever possible I shall act as a 'publicity man' for the Eckville Lions Club

In the Lions fiscal year, 1960-61, every Lions Club member in Eckville attained 100% attendance It was an outstanding achievement and the club was rewarded with several awards for both attendance and also the highest percentage of membership increase for that year. The club increased from under 40 members to about 63 members. The awards were Lions International plaque in attendance contest: District 37E plaque contest winner (involves attendance), District 37E award, a speaker's stand, involving highest membership increase that year

There are several Lions in the Eckville Club

who have had perfect attendance for as long as they have been members. Past President Ed Stopsen has had 27 years of membership with 100% attendance, Lion Alf Molander has had 21 years of membership with perfect attendance, Lion Lloyd Purnell has had 18 years of membership with 100% attendance, Lion Rex Baker has had 16 years of membership with perfect attendance

Following are the names of Presidents who have served the Eckville Club since it was Chartered —

1946-47 — Ike Kalla (Charter President)
1947-48 — Arthur Langer
1948-49 — George Anderson
1949-50 — Ted Hanson
1950-51 — John H Neale
1951-52 — A. Harold Elliott
1952-53 — W G. (Red) McAndrews
1953-54 — Elmer Kristensen
1954-55 — Eldon Bliss — Jan. Dan Clausen
1955-56 — Thomas O. (Tom) Forhan
1956-57 — Howard Whiting
1957-58 — Dr A. Gordon Gibson
1958-59 — Norman N. (Norm) Forhan
1959-60 — Chester F Kasha
1960-61 — W J (Bill) Rothwell
1961-62 — T H. (Bert) Curran
1962-63 — Julien K. Sambrook
1963-64 — Derrick (Dick) Lawton
1964-65 — Arthur R. (Archie) Huhtala
1965-66 — Stanley G. (Stan) Maki
1966-67 — Donald (Don) MacRae
1967-68 — George Armeneau
1968-69 — Edward L. (Ed) Stopsen
1969-70 — Edwin R. (Ed) Olsen
1970-71 — C. (Corny) Hughes
1971-72 — S. M (Stan) McCreight
1972-73 — Joseph (Joe) Lindberg
1973-74 — D. (Doug) Mulvey
1974-75 — Adrian Vandevelde
1975-76 — A L. (Art) Carritt
1976-77 — A. J (Alf) Page
1977-78 — Gerald Roy

Upon completion of his term as President, Lion Stan Maki was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year, 1966-67

Upon completion of his term as President, Lion Adrian Vandevelde was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year, 1975-76

Upon completion of my term as President, I was appointed Zone Chairman for the Zone which included Eckville for the following year, 1961-62. I was then appointed Deputy District Governor for 1962-63 of Region two in which Eckville was included. At the District Convention held in Calgary, I was elected District Governor of District 'E' for the year 1963-64 Upon completion of that term of office I was appointed International Counsellor by Lions International. The latter appointment has now been discontinued and when a District Governor completes his term as such he is referred to as Past District Governor

Lions are pledged to help through Lionism those less fortunate than themselves. Lionism is non-sectarian, yet it encourages religious observances and church loyalties. It is non-political, yet it inculcates a lively interest in government and civic affairs.

The purpose of a Lions Club is to determine community needs and develop means of meeting them, either through its own efforts or in co-operation with other agencies At the same time. Lions Clubs provide good fellowship and club social life for their members. A Lions Club also keeps friendships in good repair

Lionism is an active and efficient medium for united community effort and enterprise The prestige and importance of Lions work in all fields of endeavour is recognized throughout the entire world

The motto of the Lions is — "We Serve"

**THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL — by G. R. Sargent**

Alberta Wheat Pool's grain handling facilities at Eckville consist of three elevators. Eckville No. 1 was a 28,000 bushel elevator purchased from United Grain Growers in 1929. It was dismantled in 1963 and the salvage was used in constructing a new composite elevator The new structure has a capacity of 167,000 bushels consisting of a 50,000-bushel elevator, a 67,000-bushel crib annex and a 43,000-bushel crib annex. The 43,000-bushel crib annex was built in 1948 while the other two parts of the facilities were built in 1963.

Alberta Wheat Pool acquired Eckville No. 2 and Eckville No. 3 from Federal Grain Company in 1972. The No. 2 facilities consists of a 26,000-bushel elevator built in 1929, a 30,000-bushel balloon annex built in 1950 and a 65,000-bushel crib annex built in 1959. The No. 3 facilities had a 23,000 bushel capacity It was built in 1919 and was dismantled in January, 1974.

From 1932-1976 the Pool s elevators at Eckville have handled 11,834,948 bushels of grain. Nineteen seventy-three — seventy-four was the highest handling year at 674,017 bushels, the lowest grain handling was 49,052 bushels in 1934-1935.

Beginning on September 18, 1929 the wheat pool elevator managers have been W McDonald, R. R. Beattie, O. J Myers, E I DeMann, A. Langer, J. E Alcock, A. Langer (again), A. J. Kuntz, and L. A. Haglund, who took over as manager in 1971 and is still located in Eckville, in 1977

From March, 1972, the date of Federal Grain Company purchase by Alberta Pool, Mr. H. W Johnson was elevator manager at the pool s Eckville No. 2 and No. 3 facilities. On July 13, 1974 Mr Johnson left this position. On this date Mr. L. A. Haglund became the manager of

Eckville No. 3 and No. 2 in addition to managing the No. 1 facilities.

Pool members who have been elected as delegates to represent the members in the sub-district which includes Benalto and Eckville are as follows: J. H. Suggett, of Bentley, N. S. Smith, of Olds, J. W. McLachlan of Hespero, R. Pye of Penhold, J. W. Robson of Rimbey, Alfred B. Haarstad of Bentley, Mike Bittner of Thorsby, Alfred B. Haarstad (again) of Bentley, J. D. Phillips of Eckville, August Linvam of Eckville, Glen R. Nelson, elected in 1974 and still serving in 1977.

Delegates who have been elected to the pool's seven man board of directors for the district in which Benalto and Eckville are located are as follows: R. A. Macpherson of Delia, N. D. Stewart of Chinook, R. A. Macpherson of Delia (again), W. J. Blair of Naco, and G. W. Braithwaite of Red Deer was elected in 1960 and is still serving in 1977.

N.B. During the 1976-77 Leonard Haglund reached the one million bushel mark in grain shipments.

**THE ECKVILLE HANDICRAFT GUILD — by Iva Gustavson**

In the fall of 1968, adult classes in art and pottery were conducted by Velma Ebl and Gordon Thorsell. These classes were enthusiastically received. The following year, 1969, a Handicraft Guild was formed. Volunteers agreed to share their knowledge of needlework, candle making and other crafts. Reg Baker offered to teach leather tooling. It was a small beginning, but has grown steadily through the years.

In 1977, instruction was given in macrame, decoupage, soft leather, tooled leather, needlework, crochet, knitting, art, pottery, basketry, cake decorating, lapidary and chenille novelties. All of these are still conducted by volunteers.

For other projects, where outside teachers are required, a small fee is charged. During the past few years upholstery, furniture refinishing, stretch and sew and jean making have been enjoyed by capacity classes.

In order to make it possible for everyone to take advantage of a hobby the membership fee has remained at one dollar per season. Over 100 have joined each of the past two years.

The highlight of the season has been the annual display and sale. It is held each year at the closing of the year's activities. It has proven to be very successful with over 500 attending and enjoying the fine displays. Proceeds from this function help buy the equipment and supplies necessary to keep operating.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB, ECKVILLE & DISTRICT**

In 1972 a group of older people of Eckville began dicussing the possibility of having some sort of organization for the purpose of providing social and recreational activities of the senior citizens of the area. The idea gained momentum, with the result that on July 10, 1972 a meeting was held in the Eckville Legion Hall. A formal group, which became known as the Eckville and District Friendship Club, was organized, with the help of Paul Olsen, the Preventative Social Services representative from Lacombe. We were further assisted from time to time by Rick Sloan, who attended a number of our meetings, and by Ed Brandt.

The Eckville Legion offered their assistance by providing a meeting place, free of charge, for the first year, and later renting us the Legion Hall for our weekly Thursday meetings until we moved into our own building in August of 1977. Local merchants also assisted from time to time by donations of oranges or other goodies for our special parties, and by offering a discount on articles purchase from them. Interested individuals and organizations have also been liberal with their cash donations.

Membership was open to interested adults, and the fee was set at $1 per year. Eighty-seven persons joined the Club the first year, and the membership has remained approximately the same throughout the years.

In addition to the weekly get-togethers a number of organized bus tours to points of interest in surrounding towns or area have been arranged.

For several years the Friendship Club sponsored a horseshoe tournament in the fall, under the capable leadership of our most enthusiastic horseshoe player, Ralph Rolfsen, assisted by several others of our group. Various Eckville merchants made cash donations to provide the trophies which were awarded to the winners of the various events. A dinner, open to the public, was held each year in conjunction with the tournament as a means of raising money for the Club.

Another yearly fund-raising event has been the "Fish Mulligan" — a picnic type supper featuring fish mulligan as the main dish, supplemented by casseroles, salads, and pies. Some years this was held at near-by camp grounds and other years was served in the Club hall. These meals were always much enjoyed and well supported by the general public.

A raffle of articles donated by club members was held one year, and a fabric sale in 1976 added a tidy sum to our bank account.

A picture, purchased by the Friendship Club, was presented to the residents of the Eckville Manor soon after its opening, and money was donated toward the purchase of a piano for the Manor. The Club also had benches built and placed on the downtown sidewalks for the benefit of anyone who wished to "sit fer a spell".

Members who, over the years, have given of their time and talents to serve as members of the club executive have been: Presidents, Bert Curran, Helen Terry, Mabel Kelm, Anna Jobs, vice-presidents, Isabel Guest, Rudolph Dahl, Roy Kendrew; Secretaries, Jim Brown, Helen

Terry, Treasurers, Ruth Dobbs, Nora Moos, Bert Curran and Esther Mottus. (With apologies to any whose names may have been omitted.) Recognition also should be given to Wally Mottus and Mrs. Mable Keim for their leadership in carrying out the New Horizons Project of providing our own Club Centre

The year 1977 has been the most outstanding in the history of the Friendship Club. It was during this time that the Club secured its own property. Through the New Horizons project of the Federal Government a grant of money made possible the renovation of the former Canadian Imperial Bank building in Eckville to be used as the Friendship Club Centre. The building was made available to the Club by the Imperial Bank and the foundation construction and moving the building, along with the installation of gas, water and sewer provided by the Town of Eckville. Many hours of labor were donated by the men (as well as by the ladies) of the Club during the summer months to make the necessary renovations.

The first meeting in our own Club Centre was held on August 3, 1977, with the Grand Opening taking place on October 6, 1977. The ribbon was cut and the Centre declared officially open by Mr. Jim Brown, our senior member, and one whose interest in the Club has been shown in so many ways since its organization in 1972. Special guests at this memorable affair were Mr. Donald Mayne, representing the New Horizons; the Honourable Gordon Towers, M.P., along with several local dignitaries. All of the speakers were lavish in their praise of what the Friendship Club had accomplished.

The Club is now open two days a week, with one day being devoted to a whist party with prizes given. A pool table and shuffleboard keep the men busy, and the horseshoe pits are a popular spot during the summer. The bingo games held once a month always prove popular. As a service to the Eckville Manor residents the Friendship Club conducts a "bingo" one night each month, at the Manor. Roy Kendrew is our genial bingo caller, with Rudolph Dahl substituting at times when necessary.

The Club Centre is nicely decorated by several oil paintings, as well as clocks, lamps, and other decorations donated by some of the members. The families of Mrs. Clara Bromling made a cash donation to the Friendship Club in her memory. A large oil painting, selected by Mrs. Helen Terry, was approved by the Club as a fitting memorial to one of our first, and most faithful, Club members. A second oil painting, selected by Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Jobs and Mrs. Keim, was purchased by means of a donation made by his family as a memorial to the late Mr. Joe Maki. A third painting was presented to the Club by the residents of the Eckville Manor at the time of our Grand Opening, and later a picture of the Queen was presented by Mrs. Spink, representing the Lacomb Council on Aging.

Our refrigerator was donated by Mrs. Mabel Keim and her children in memory of another of our early members, Mr. Jack Keim. The Club piano was purchased by funds provided by a bequest from the estate of the late Mr. Leonard Kingsep.

Many other interested individuals and organizations have made donations of cash or of equipment or supplies, and the Club members are very grateful for this help. We feel very fortunate to have such a Club Centre for our own use, and were very pleased to receive, at the time of our Grand Opening, such lavish praise for our accomplishments. We hope that all senior citizens of the area will feel free to come and join us in the enjoyment of these fine facilities for years to come.

**THE OIL INDUSTRY**

Probably the most significant industry that has come or ever will come to this area is the Oil Industry.

In October 1956 Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas drilled their discovery well in L.S.D.7., 32-39-5 W5. This well was drilled by Richfield Oil Corporation under the terms of a Farmount Agreement with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. Hudson's Bay was the holder of a petroleum and natural gas lease issued to it by the Province of Alberta, covering the south half of section 32. Drilling of the well commenced on June 27, 1956 and it was completed on September 6 of that year. Oil production was encountered from the Basal Quartz and Mississippian formations. The discovery was given an initial potential of 40 barrels per day of production. The surface rights for the well were acquired from V. A. Elson as owner of the SE 32-39-3-W5, and Mr. Elson still resides on this property.

The Medicine River field was classified as an area of 2 480 acres and Estimated Recoverable Oil at 5,710,000 S. T. barrels.

This field map shows the discovery well in L.D.S. 32-39-3-W5.

For assistance in interpreting the map, solid black dots represent oil wells, an open circle surrounded by little lines, gas wells; and an open circle with a cross, a dry hole.

The Medicine River field produces from rock of Jurassic age. The Jurassic age is a portion of the Mesozoic era, generally known as the age of reptiles. The sedimentary rocks in the area of Jurassic age were laid down as sediments in a shallow tropical sea. Approximately 85 wells were controlled from this group office.

OIL WELL
GAS WELL
DRY HOLE

**WILDCAT DRILLING - ECKVILLE AREA**

To our knowledge, the first wildcat well drilled in the Eckville area was Amurex Richfield-Hudson Bay Medicine River 2-32, located in Lsd. 2, Section 32, Township 39, Range

| Producing Zone | Depth | Pay Thickness | No. of Producing Wells | Original Oil | Oil Produced | Oil Remaining |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lower Cretaceous Sand | 7160' | 17' | 17 | 9 million barrels | 1.5 million barrels | 7.5 million barrels |
| Jurassic C Sand | 7150'' | 20' | 22 | 19.5 million barrels | 5 million barrels | 14.5 million barrels |
| Mississippian Pekisko | 7250' | 36' | 11 | 7.3 million barrels | 2.8 million barrels | 4.5 million barrels |

Figure 2

3, West of the Fifth Meridian, about two miles north-northwest of the town. It was spudded on December 10, 1953 and completed on March 25, 1954 at a total depth of 8,987 feet. The well discovered oil in the Lower Cretaceous Basal Quartz sandstone at 7,027 feet and in the Mississippian Pekisko limestone at 7 230 feet

As of August 1, 1976, statistics on the Medicine River field are listed in figure 2.

In summary, total original recoverable oil in the field was 35.8 million barrels, 9 3 million barrels have been produced, and 26.5 million barrels remain to be produced.

In addition to the oil, the original gas reserve in the field totalled 377 billion cubic feet, of which 42 billion cubic feet have been produced, with remaining reserves of 333 billion cubic feet

These reserves and production statistics were taken from a publication entitled "Canadian Oil and Natural Gas Developments", prepared by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Texaco Exploration Canada Ltd
C. D Drysdale
Chief Geologist

**MOTHER GOOSE PLAYHOUSE HISTORY — by Johanne Kasha**

The Mother Goose Playhouse for four-year-old children was formed in September of 1975 by a group of interested mothers. At this time the Jack & Jill Playschool had a heavy enrolment of five-year-old children, thus necessitating two classes for them. This left the four-year-old group without a teacher or a classroom

The first executive consisted of President — Gail Latila (who later was replaced by Sharon Cooper), Vice-President — Louise Moench, Secretary — Emelia Thibeault, Treasurer — Johanne Kasha. Other board members were Terri Cunningham and Millie Postl. The teacher was Mrs. Debra OpdenDries

The Playhouse first operated in a room in the Eckville Arena on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9 a m. to 11:30 a m but soon had to move from the Arena because of various regulations Then the class moved to the Lion's Hall and finally to the Legion Hall to finish the 1975-1976 session in June

The Mother Goose Playhouse was greatly assisted in its first difficult year of operation by the Town of Eckville, the Recreation Board, local businesses, the Arena Committee, the Lion's Club and the Legion

The 1976-1977 session was conducted in the Jack & Jill Playschool room in the north end of the High School building

Mrs. Patricia Green of Rocky Mountain House was the teacher for both the Mother Goose Playhouse and the Jack & Jill Playschool during this school year

**REMINISCINGS OF AN ECKVILLE SCHOOL GIRL — by Alice Hawkins**

All the exhibitions with their death defying rides will never produce the excitement, the "my stomach's falling out" feeling that I experienced sliding down Kasper's Hill. Whether on a toboggan or skis, without the benefit of poles, the inevitable pile up was an experience Hurled face first into the ditch of white, soft, glittering snow was exhilarating

Smells produce fantastic memories. All the seasons were heralded by their smells. We predicted the weather by smells It smells like rain, it smells like a chinook, (which is magic in itself), the smell of the soft warm wind that appeared from nowhere. It smells like snow The cold air would rush up your nose on a crisp, clear winter night and it was a good clean smell. The delicate smell of spring, fresh green leaves and pussy willows.

The bakery had a smell that would tease your appetite. Hot bread must be the best smell in the world, and you could watch Mr Jackson putting all those good smells on trays in the window not only one day, but every day of the week

The Co-op Store was full of good smells the coffee brewing, hamburger being ground and sawdust on the floor The dry goods with the smell of winter or summer clothes, depending on the season The smell of vegetables, fruit, binder twine, leather, it was fascinating to experience all the different smells in one quick walk through the store

Garages smelled good, too. They had an earthy smell, combined with gas and grease that

was sometimes sharp but always stimulating. The train pulling into the station had a special smell, perhaps it was a smell of longing to move on, as many of us did

Summer had a warm exciting smell — bicycle hikes to the gravel pit, a game of scrub in the vacant lot, jacks and marbles played in the dirt Run Sheep Run and Red Light, Green Light played every night after supper. Sandwiches, watermelon and homemade ice cream, summer was great for smells. Fall brought with it all the smells that made you feel safe and warm inside The farmers stooking, digging new potatoes, chopping wood, raking the leaves, airing the blankets, these smells gave you the assurance of a close, cosy winter

Not all the smells were good one especially was very frightening, the smell of smoke. We had several bad fires. We watched Kennedy's house burn to the ground, partly out of a certain curiosity but mostly in genuine concern, to offer assistance. Every chimney fire was a potential danger Volunteers worked tirelessly to help put out the fires

A sage piece of advice is to cross your bridges when you come to them, but this is not always as easy as it sounds. A particularly troublesome bridge to cross was the trestle over the Horseguard river I have always regretted the fact that I never had courage enough to walk across it. It was exciting to get to the trestle, gaze at those tracks that seemed to stretch endlessly to the other side, and think "Today I'm going to do it"

It was easy to start out with bravado. A certain gait would lead you from one railroad tie to the other and I could go for perhaps 60 feet without any problem. Each time I attempted the crossing, I vowed I would not look down. Two things contributed greatly to my fear. First there was nothing to hang on to, and second, it seemed a very long way down Once I got almost half way across, and although I hadn't looked down, I was aware that there was water beneath me Each step I took from tie to tie, increased my anxiety I never made it . . . Something compelled me to look down, and that finished it As on so many previous attempts, I would sit down, and gingerly turn over on my hands and knees. In this position I would start the long trek back, as my stomach produced all kinds of revolting things which I swallowed. I would end up back where I had started much to the disgust of myself and some of my companions. I certainly admired those who could walk all the way across, and I was awed by the few who dared to run across. While I was disappointed by my inability to conquer the trestle, I was able to find some consolation among many of my friends who, like myself, never crossed that bridge

Even though the venture of crossing the trestle ended in consistent failure there were rewards. Sometimes the train would go by while we were there. The engineer always waved and blew the whistle and we watched the steam come rolling through the cow catcher in big white clouds. One of our favorite games was to put pennies on the track and watch the train wheels whirr over them. Then we would pick them up and admire how flattened they were. Beside the tracks, and along the river, the orange tiger lilies and the tiny purple shooting stars were resplendent If the season was right, we would find wild strawberries or brilliant yellow buttercups

On our street we had an implement shed, and because Mr. Cowan owned it, we called it "Cowan's Implement Shed." To me, it appeared huge. It was constructed of corrugated tin, and I think it had sliding doors, although I very seldom saw the doors shut This was a storage shed for the farm machinery Mr Cowan sold

Every time we walked by it we would run our fingers along the outside wall, or grab a stick and run that along the side. It made a super rumbling sound. Sometimes we played inside the shed. If it was raining that was an added bonus. The rain drops on the tin roof sounded like machine guns. It was an ideal place to play cowboys and Indians or Hide and Seek. You could hide around the tractors or harrows and keep moving from one place to another as the "seeker" spent many frustrating minutes trying to find you

While the shed was an intriguing and mysterious place in which to play during the day, as the shadows lengthened it took on a sinister air With the moonlight and the street light shining into the shed, the implements took on all sorts of menacing features. Each time I had to pass it on my way home, I was certain something would leap out and grab me Most times I would run down the middle of the road until I was past it and then walk very quickly home

Occasionally I would elect to walk down the sidewalk. The walk was elevated along Cowan's house and then it dipped two or three feet on the approach to the shed. There was a window in the Cowan house that faced out onto the walk and it was hard to walk by and NOT look in Mr Cowan always sat in a chair next to that window and read. I could have touched him he was so close. I would walk as far as to where he was sitting and stop. He was very nice and many times I contemplated knocking on the door and asking him to take me home, but I never did Instead I would take a deep breath hold it, and run as fast as my legs would go, past the shed, past the houses and almost home, finally to breathe again

Although I have outlived the Cowan shed, its memory is still with me. I think of the shed as I watch my own figure cast a shadow, and I especially think of it when I have occasion to hold my breath

It was inspiring to go to school in Eckville. There were always so many things happening — decorating the school or making costumes for Valentines, St. Patricks or Hallowe'en. Labelling

new equipment, unpacking new and exciting books, preparing for the exams, waiting for new teachers to arrive, going to another town for a sports event, there was always something to look forward to

Everybody went to school regardless of weather If it was 40 below you just wrapped another scarf around your head. Many mornings I tried unsuccessfully to smooth out the "bumps" under my stockings caused by the long-legged underwear God, how I hated that underwear . . . What a challenge to appear feminine without Stanfields wrinkles and lumps in evidence. But, unless you were extremely ill, you went to school.

Sports were fun in those days, everyone got to play regardless of ability and school spirit was high on the ball field, the hockey rink and the track

My first school was held in the Presbyterian Church. Miss McKinnon was the teacher She was a fantastic woman, blessed with patience and good humor. I met her 30 years later and despite many years of teaching reluctant children both those good qualities were still much in evidence

A more serious incident at school was the scabies epidemic Everywhere you looked kids were scratching. It was terrible. Dr Coppock prescribed a foul smelling sulphur ointment that we plastered all over our bodies. Eventually the outbreak was controlled, but the itching seemed to last an eternity

As we progressed to the higher grades school became more sophisticated. We experienced a greater range of emotions. We all witnessed the school fire. The School was a gathering place of friends the nucleus of all our activities, we were happy there. As we watched the flames ravage the building, we felt a very personal loss

By the time you reached Grade 9 or 10 it was very much in vogue to address everyone by their last name or by a nickname. We had some good ones for the boys: Smix, Corky, Two-Ton, Newt, Man

In order to ensure our attendance was regular we were given vitamin pills daily. Kay MacDonald used to bring her dog, Ricky, to school and we all fed him all our pills. He was probably the healthiest dog in the country

The teacher that created the biggest impression on me was Horace McCall. It was like an awakening when he arrived It was as if he said — "O K., open your eyes, this is what it's all about " His classes were always interesting and stimulating. Perhaps it was a combination of age, teacher and the times

Although I have always been grateful to Mike Worsley for helping me pass my Physics, I can remember at least five mice that through his courtesy, ran through my desk. The year I was in Grade 12 I had the fortune or misfortune, to be the only girl in the grade. It was only my sense of humour that sustained me through it I must have sat on 500 tacks that year

The "Coup" of my high school years had to be the "Great Window Caper." It must have occurred during Math class which required a good deal of board work on the teacher's part Every time the teacher wrote on the blackboard one of us would jump out the window You had to move quickly, but silently out of your desk, sit on the window sill, pull your legs through and drop to the ground outside, which was a pretty fair drop The excitement was in not knowing at what moment the teacher would turn around A more difficult task was maintaining a straight face and appearing interested in the lesson. I think we all made it, and I remember standing on the ground under the window, doubled over in laughter It really WAS an accomplishment, and it is one of my favorite memories.

**IN 1939 WE SAW THE KING AND QUEEN — by Mrs. Frank Coppock**

We finally succumbed to the spirit which prevailed throughout Canada and we, too, followed the thousands who flocked into Edmonton on Friday to see the King and Queen.

When it was finally conceded that Frank would not be able to make the trip with us by car, I decided to take Audrey and Donna upon the special train which ran through South Eckville, on the C.P R., one mile from here. Miss Jolly made the trip with us and certainly made the day much easier for me by the assistance she rendered to the youngsters.

Frank took us across to the station at eight-thirty in the morning. There was quite a crowd there when we arrived, as the teachers were taking the rest of the school children who hadn't gone by car It must have been about nine o'clock when our Royal Train, as Miss Jolly called it, pulled out of the station We really didn't mind the long hours we were on the train. The youngsters spent the first hour getting all the windows opened, and did remarkably well to lean out as far as they did without falling out. About ten o'clock the cry of "when do we eat?" became quite general; Mr. Scott, the Principal, was the first to feel the pangs of hunger We didn't eat just then, but it was not long before 12 when the first munchers started eating

New recruits came in all along the line, and there was a great deal of cheering at each town we passed through We had plenty of room in our coach and, as there were not any more added to it, I surmised that each town had a coach to themselves. The bridges proved a great attraction to the children, and they got in some practice cheering each time we went over one of them.

As we drew near the city, the teachers decided that they would march with the children from the station to their seats, a distance of about two miles out on Jasper Avenue. Audrey and Donna had their seats reserved with the rest

of the school children but neither Miss Jolly nor I had seats arranged for. Mr Scott advised us to take the bus out to where they were going and take a chance on getting in somewhere near them. However, as we came into the city we passed right by the Parliament buildings and we figured that would be an idea. spot from which to see everything, so, at the station Miss Jolly and I and the children left the rest.

From inquiries at a small ticket booth at the station we found that all the seats up near the Parliament buildings were gone but, since they were a dollar apiece, we didn't weep over that! Not to be daunted, we boarded a street car and got off at the entrance to the Parliament buildings. That was about two-thirty and at that time there were very few spectators around, at least compared to what came later. Most were outside along the curb and sidewalks. Just a few were inside the gates, and that is where we parked, right on the curb, just inside the gates. No one seemed to know whether we would be allowed to stay there or not, as there was a first aid station right behind us and the way to it had to be kept open. However, we were lucky, but had we known at the time we might even have been able to get quite close to the steps and seen the King and Queen alight from the car and enter the building. The soldiers were lined up in a guard of honor right in front of us, but they told us that the car would enter the other gate a few feet behind us. We were skeptical, but when we saw the Dragoons gallop by with their red tunics and silver plumeted helmets and enter the other gate we realized our mistake. Miss Jolly said, "Come on let's go," and I said "What about our things?", which were in a pile on the curb. But she took it all in her stride and with one swoop had all the coats, lunch, etc., in her arms and one of the youngsters under her guard for good measure. We had just a few feet to go, Audrey and Miss Jolly got a good look at both the King and Queen that time. I don't know what Donna saw, and I was so busy with my camera trying to get a picture that I missed out on that view. I had the camera all set and aimed at the car which I thought carried the Royal Coupe, but I always look before I aim so I realized that not any in that car were the ones I was after so I didn't even snap a picture.

By that time the crowd was running up toward the steps and Donna and Miss Jolly had disappeared. Audrey and I went back to our first spot but I was pretty uneasy when I didn't see the other two. I left Audrey parked between two soldiers with orders not to dare move. I soon found Miss Jolly and Donna farther up the line and they came back with me, which was a better place. It was then four-thirty and we had one hour to wait before the King and Queen were to come out of the building. This time we were sure they were coming right in front of us, so we stood packed right in line for the whole hour.

The guard of honor along each side moved up close together with just room enough for the cars to pass in between. I had Audrey and Donna between two soldiers and we were right behind them, so we all got a perfect view this time, although I was left with the feeling that it couldn't be possible that I had actually seen them.

The crowd long before this had come down from their seats in the bleachers and were massed outside the gates. In our first two-hour wait we had seen the members and their wives and all those who were to be presented go by and enter the Legislative building. We had a good chance to see the fashions of the day, and had a good mind to chuck our shopping bags and lunch and take a chance on following them in. Nevertheless, we didn't make the attempt and there was plenty of entertainment in the form of bands, bagpipes and marching to help pass the time quickly. It was five-thirty when the procession left the Parliament buildings. We then wandered out of the gates and, upon inquiring, found that traffic would be tied up for more than an hour.

* * *

This portion of a letter written by Marjorie Coppock in the summer of 1939 was found by her daughters, Audrey and Donna, after her death. The Miss Jolly referred to in the letter was an Eckville Hospital nurse who later married a man named Ball. The Frank referred to is, of course, her husband, Frank Coppock.

Duncan Ogilvie

For use of Farmers and Ranchers only



Form T-1a.
1919

# DOMINION OF CANADA

# INCOME TAX

## RETURN OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

All returns should be prepared in triplicate. One copy should be retained by the taxpayer and two copies must be delivered to the **Inspector of Taxation,** Customs Building, CALGARY, Alta., on or before **30th April, 1920.**

Name ... (Surname first) ... (Christian names in full)

P. O. address of present residence

State length of residence in Canada (Years) (Months)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM OR RANCH OPERATED

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Section or Lot. | | Township | R. or C. | Total acreage |
| Section or Lot. | | Township | R. or C. | |
| Section or Lot | | Township | R. or C. | Acreage under cultivation |
| Section or Lot. | | Township | R. or C. | Acreage under summer fallow |

Do you own or rent the farm or ranch?

Place of residence during 1918.

Did you make a Dominion Income Tax Return for 1918? Have you been assessed for Dominion Income Tax for 1918?

State whether married or unmarried, widow or widower (If status was changed during the year, state date of change)

State number and ages of children under the age of 18 years dependent on you for support
If supporting dependent brothers or sisters under the age of 18 years or a dependent parent or parents, grandparent or grandparents, give particulars.

If a widow or widower state number and ages of dependent children, if any, under the age of 21 years, or over 21 years of age and dependent on you for support on account of physical or mental incapacity.

**I hereby certify that the return embodied herein, the supplementary statements and additional schedules attached, if any, contains a true and complete statement of my Gross Income and Deductions claimed for the year 1919.**

Date Telephone address Signature

DOMINION OF CANADA

FIVE

CINQ

WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICAT D'ÉPARGNE DE GUERRE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA WILL PAY TO

LE GOUVERNEMENT DU DOMINION DU CANADA PAIERA À

DATE OF ISSUE

15-10-45

MG ES FERN VE NSON
NURSES HOME
HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL
CALGARY ALTA

TH 366896

FIVE DOLLARS

CINQ DOLLARS

No. 105

TAX RECEIPT

$ 6.00

Local Improvement District No. 2083

Received from Thomas Workman the sum of

Six Dollars

being Taxes due to Local Improvement District No. 2083 for the year 1926

on S.W. Sec. 34 Tp 31 Rge 2 west of the 2 Meridian.

Taxes current year 1926 $ 6.00

Arrears, $

Total Taxes $ 6.00

Dated Dec 20 1926 E M Dec CA Sec'y-Treas.

No. 1279

ALBERTA BRANCH

Edmonton Aug 4 1926

RECEIVED from Thomas Workman

Seventy eight ... Dollars

on Account of Contract re plow in full

MASSEY-HARRIS CO. Limited

per E M Black

L A Betts

Rockyford, Alta.,
Aug. 13, 1926.

...e, the undersigned, hereby agree to stook on the lands of S.B.Hovey 577 acres of wheat at the rate of forty-five cents (45¢) per acre, and the said S.B.Hovey hereby agrees to pay for the said stooking at the aforesaid rate. The work is to be done in a good husbandlike manner, of which S.B.Hovey or his attorney shall be the sole judge. The sheaves s shall not be allowed to lie on the ground but will be stooked immediately the crop is severed from the ground.

It is also agreed that S.B.Hovey will board the undersigned and any other men employed by them to stook the said crop free of charge.

witness { John Gelebraus.

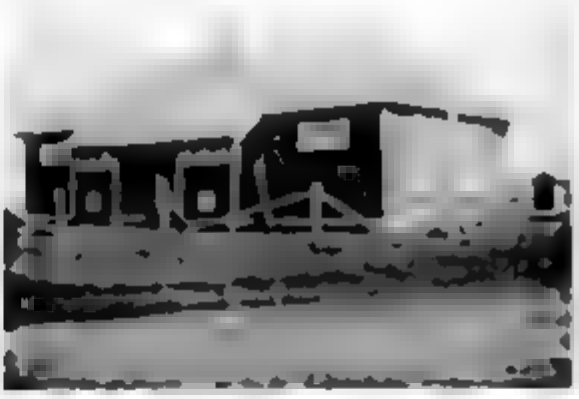
Stookers { Arthur M Workman
J S Leavesley

Owner { S B Hovey
per S B Hovey.

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Lundberg with three children, Boston sisters, Charlie Gustavson seated on the corner. His Livery stable and woodpile. Three men unknown.

John Lundberg (left) and Charlie Gustavson in front of Charlie's Livery Barn. 1913

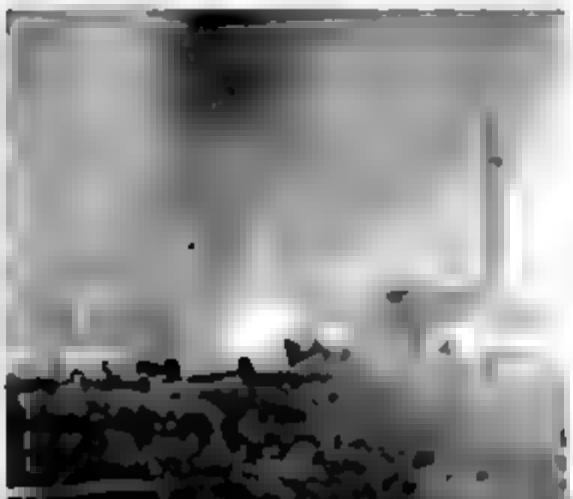
Homestead home of J.M. [illegible] north of Eckville. Note the well beside the house. About 1912



[illegible]

Eckville Hotel 192[illegible]-1922. Jack Coplin, manager

Hotel chimney standing after fire that destroyed the east side of main street in Eckville - 1[illegible]



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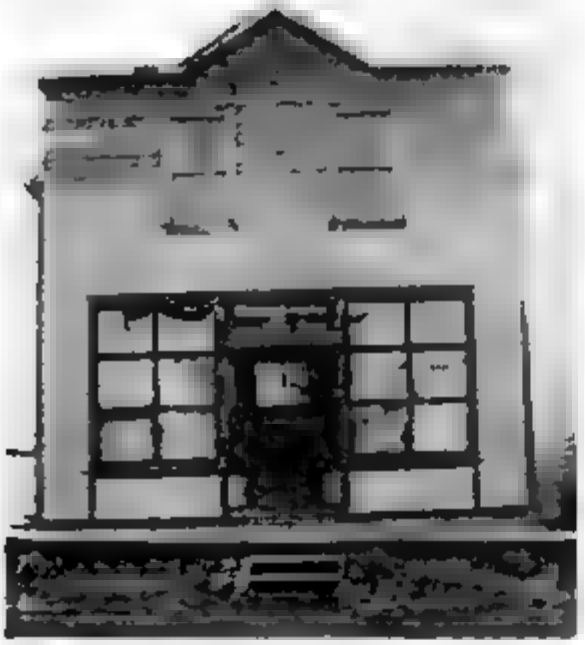
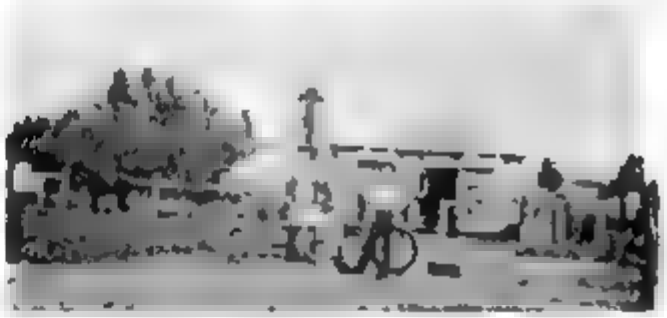


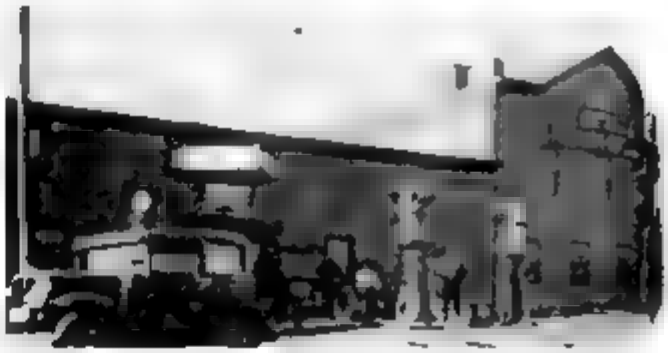
Hubl's Harness and Shoe Shop - 1930

Archie Litt John Johnson, John Vitala, ? Arvad Thorkman

Elevator fire

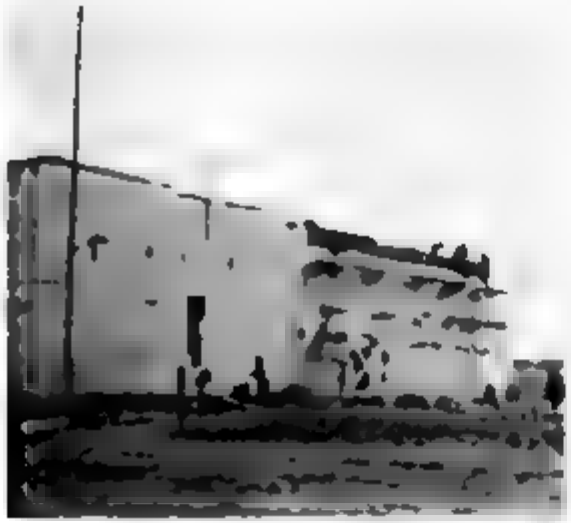


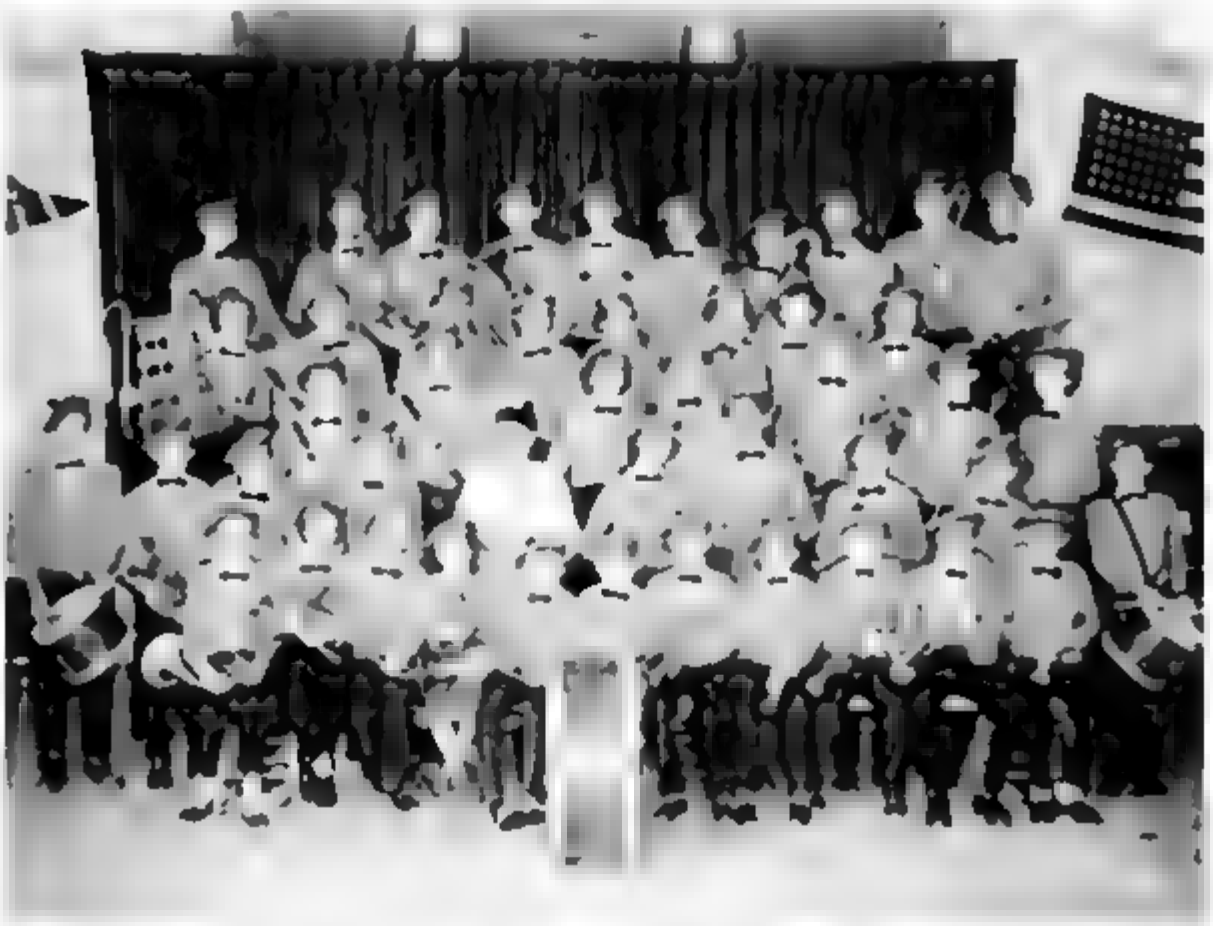
L. F. A. Service Station Proprietor Fred Moos



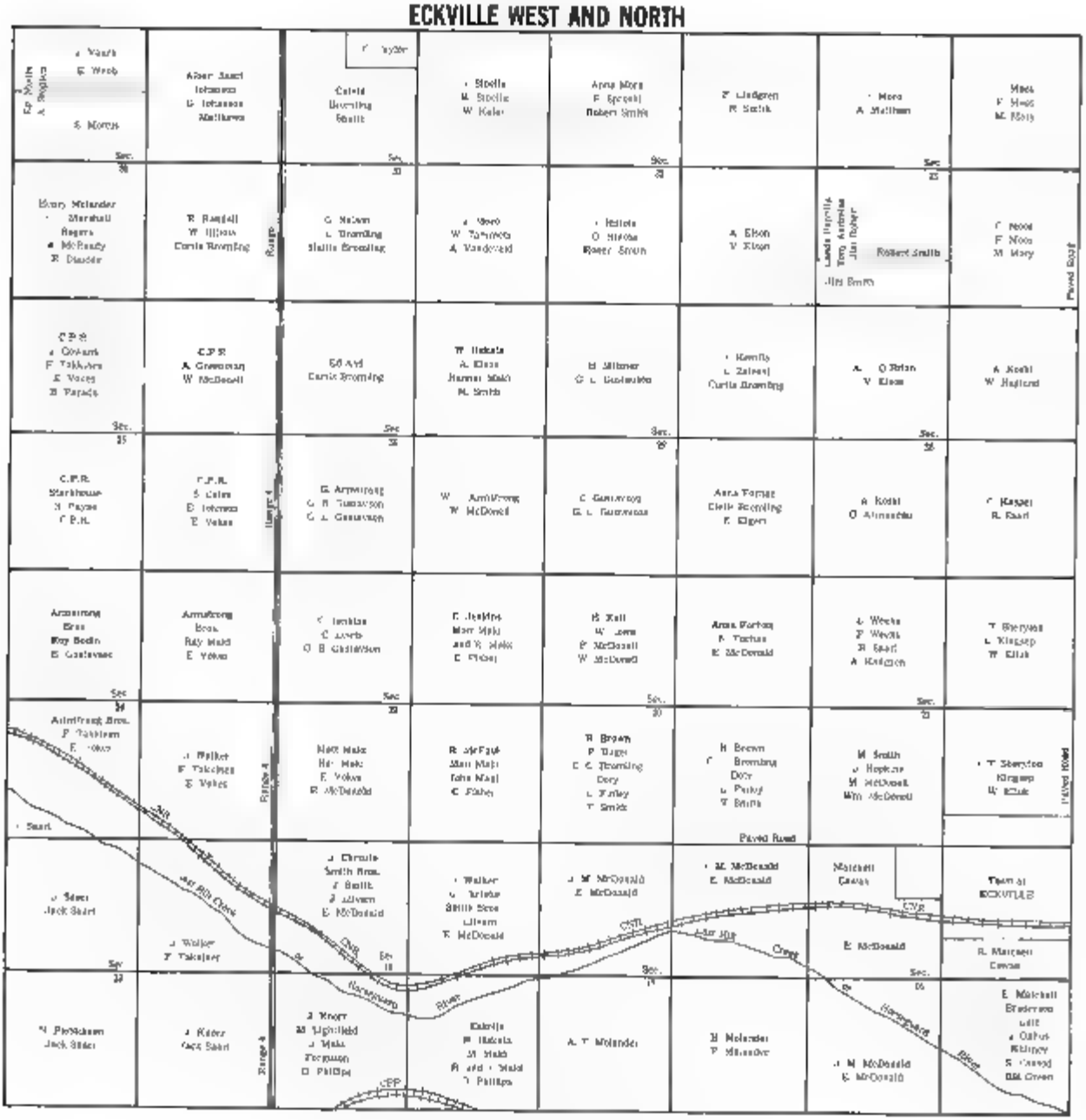
John Kemila Sr. Garage

Selvan Blacksmith Shop





## ECKVILLE WEST AND NORTH




# Family Biographies

**ASH, W.**

I, William Allan Ash, was born in 1892, at South Molton, Devonshire, England. I was the oldest of three boys. I also had two sisters, whom I never saw as they died of diptheria before I was born

My early years were spent at South Molton where I went to school. Later we moved to Woodbury, south east of Exeter, Devonshire because my parents died and we lived with relatives.

I, came to Canada in 1907 My brothers came after I did Harold Joe, the second youngest joined up with the Manitoba Dragoons in the first World War and was killed in action. Jack, my youngest brother now lives in Ameleusberg, Ontario

On arriving in Canada I first went to Clanwilliam North Minedosa, Manitoba. I

worked on a farm owned by Melville McKinny (who was a South African Veteran), for about three years. In 1910 Melville moved to a homestead about 65 miles north east of Brooks and I moved with him, as well as another S.A. veteran, Henry Monroe. I was not supposed to ride in the settlers box car as I was not a member of the family, however, Henry Monroe told me to wait at the side of the track farther away from the station, and when the train pulled out of Minedosa, I was thrown a rope and pulled aboard

I homesteaded the SW 32-26-10-W4, later called the Square Deal district, in November 1910, although I was not quite 18 years old (they stretched a point for me so I could qualify) Later I also acquired the SE 32 to make a half section farm

I worked a short time on the Bassano Dam which was being built in 1912 Through the early years I worked out through the summers for Melville McKinny and Henry Monroe, staying on the homestead in the winter as I had built a house the first thing

I was called up for the first War but failed my physical exam owing to my ankles having been broken when I was very young

In 1915 I worked in Calgary, dismantling old buildings to salvage the lumber In 1916 I worked in the Gleichen district on farms. I started farming in 1917, having bought some horses with a loan from Melville McKinny. In 1918 my friend, Melville, died and I was asked to, and did, rent his land as it was a section with more land broken than on mine I rented mine out as it was too far from the McKinny section. In all the years I farmed the McKinny land I had only two good crops, in 1923 and again in 1925. With some of the 1925 crop money I bought a new Model T Ford. Wheat at that time was as near as I can remember, at $2 50 a bushel

In the fall of 1926 I married Lilly Susan Kearon, whose folks had farmed near me. In 1934 we decided to leave the desert for the rains of Lesieville. A brother in law, Robert Bob Roberts, having already moved to the area was renting the SW 24-41-6. We brought two car loads of effects and livestock. For awhile we lived on the SE 24 41 6, then my wife took over a homestead from her father, the NE 7-41 5, in 1936 We skidded a house that I had built on section 24, with teams to the north east corner of the quarter, where it accidentaly burned down 34 years later just after I sold the quarter to Neil Godlonton in 1970

In 1940 I bought the SE 7-41 5 for $200 and this I sold in 1960.

At different times I worked out at local saw mills such as McDougal and Milton Dahmer where I looked after the steam engine. I remember one time when the belt broke on the flyball governor The saw got going at a fearful speed. The crew working at the mill disappeared like streaks of lightning It was a few moments

Bill Ash

before I was able to get the engine shut down. and all I could think of was the blade going through me. It had a fearful scream at that high speed

Lilly and I had one child, a girl we named May Lillian. She was born on July 27, 1927 May went to school at Washington Heights and helped us on the farm up to, and for awhile after her marriage to Elmer Howard Mason. In the fall of 1948, they moved in to Rocky Mountain House. They have three daughters, Margaret, twins Marilyn and Marie, and two boys Clayton and Brian In the fall of 1971 Elmer passed away May still lives there with their two boys. She has worked at the Mount View and David Thompson Hotels for the passed 17 years All of her daughters are married

I now reside in Eckville where I have lived for almost nine years

**BAKER, MAUDIE (McFAUL)**

Maudie Baker daughter of James and Ella McFaul came to Red Deer, N.W.T. with her parents in 1901 from Michigan, U.S.A. She went to school in Red Deer for a short time. Then worked for Bell Telephone until her parents moved to their homestead in 1902. Maudie went on this venture with them. A few years later, her mother's health began to fail, they decided to move to Vancouver and give up the homestead It was here she met her future husband, Ernie Baker, who, at that time, was a barber They were married and decided to look for greener pastures. They moved to Coombes on Vancouver Island where they operated a General store for many years. They retired in Nanaimo where they were both very active in church work Maudie was organist at the Brechin United Church for many years Ernie, although failing in health, taught ceramics at a senior complex in Nanaimo until his death in 1974. Maudie and Ernie had three children Harvey the only one living, lives in Victoria. He is also active in musical circles and church work. His family are very musical also, and wife, May, keeps busy as a registered nurse

**THE REG BAKER FAMILY — by a daughter, Winnifred Cameron**

In the year 1910 my father, Reg Baker, with his wife, Nora, came from England to the west of Canada. With his wife and small daughter Betty he took up a homestead and pre-emption at a place called Metishow, Alberta. They brought with them just their personal things and a few household goods. Here they quickly built a sod house that provided a roof over their heads for a short time until their house was built. Their first furniture was made from packing boxes and barrels, and made homely with coverings. Then came two chickens, one cow and a pig. With this, plus a team of oxen and a plough they were all set to get going.

Here they lived and worked hard to make a home and farm for nine years. During this time I Winnie) was born, also my sister, Cecille, and my brother Rex.

By this time, the area was getting very dry and my father thought it was time to move. So, after some looking in British Columbia and Alberta in August of 1920 we found ourselves landing in a place called Condor. We brought with us three train car loads of stock, machinery and household goods. My dad had bought a farm that had belonged to a Mr. Claude Saker, who later was killed in the First World War.

This farm was in the bush country about two miles north west of Condor, as the crow flies, and this was about the way we used to travel as there were no roads to speak of at that time and very few fences. However, roads soon became necessary as land was taken up and fences were built. The men of the district would work off their taxes by doing road work with horse-drawn slips and graders - and hard work it was! Many of the roads were made over swamps. Here poles were put down crossways close together and then covered with dirt. In dry weather, if kept graded, this made a fair road, but when the rains came the wheels cut down to the poles and were very bumpy and hard on the horses.

The first night in Condor we spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Prendergast who lived in Condor, and the second night with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Patterson, who were our neighbors to the south of our farm. By the next night we were settled in the one-room shack of Mr. Saker's. We would bring beds in at night from a shed and take them out in the morning to make room to get meals. So, of course the first thing to think of was a home. With the help of many good neighbors we were into this home before Christmas, less than four months from our arrival.

The reason my dad bought this farm was because it was just half a mile from a school, and with four small children schooling had to be thought of. My memories of Prairie Rose School is that of a steady stream of teachers. I don't know if we were extra bad kids, or if they saw greener pastures elsewhere. In the two years I attended Prairie Rose School I remember only some of the teachers. Miss Gertl Reighley was a local girl, and she stayed the longest time. She later married a Mr. Bob Shaw and the last I heard they were living in England. I often see two of her sisters, Mrs. Bertha McCallum and Mrs. Mattie Martin, both living in Red Deer. The other teachers I remember were Miss Smith, Miss Thompson, Mrs. English, Miss Summerhaze, Mr. Metcalf and a Mr. Springbet. I am sure there were more. A number of them boarded at our home.

That first year, having come in the fall, my dad had to buy all his stock feed, and it was a long cold winter. By the time spring came there was a hay shortage in the area, and it was very expensive. Then a slump in livestock prices created a real disaster. However, like it was at that time there seemed to be many good neighbors on hand to help. I remember a Mr. Ludwig coming one day and saying "I have a large stack of hay that I won't be needing, so help yourself, Reg — we'll talk about payment later." Then came Mr. Frank Patterson with. "Help yourself to straw. I have more than I will need."

My dad, being a veterinarian, was very useful, to all, in those days. I am sure he returned in full the many things done for him. He never turned down a request to go and attend a sick animal, and stayed with them for hours if necessary. I remember this well, as many of these trips seemed to come just at milking time!

The country in 1920 was not well settled and there were lots of open sections of land. This was a great delight to prairie-born kids. We would often lie quietly by a stream and watch the beavers building their dams, but just let us move or cough and "slap" would go the old beaver's tail and all would be out of sight for some time. This was on the river known as the Horseguard, although at that time it was shown on maps as Last Hill Creek. The beavers had made many backwaters to float logs for dams and food to the river. These were, no doubt, a trial to the farmers, but they made up a series of little islands, and these were great fun for us to explore. The three younger of us kids would get Mom to pack a lunch and we would go exploring in what we called the Cannibal Islands, one-half a mile from home.

Both my mother and dad, who had left servant run homes in England, must have found it a great change living in Canada, but they both loved nature and animals. They seemed always to have time for taking us for walks and explaining the names of flowers, birds, trees, and butterflies, giving each their proper names. Many times these trips were made useful, too, as we would pick wild fruit, of which the country had a great quantity and a great variety. Both Mother and Dad worked hard on the farm but still seemed to have time for family and friends and community work.

Dad served on school boards, Chamber of Commerce, and was weed inspector on several

occasions. He was also a great worker for the Chatauqua that came each year to our community, for a few days, bringing us a touch of the outside world with good music, plays, lectures and many other interesting things. Each sponsor, like my father, would guarantee the sale of so many tickets, and I well remember going with my mother to sell these tickets, and the things we took in trade, as money was scarce in those days. By trading for grain, meat, chickens, or most anything it made it possible for a lot of people to take this in who otherwise could not have gone.

My mother, with six to feed plus a teacher to board, still had time for Red Cross, W.I. and for helping neighbors when sickness struck in their homes.

Going back to school days, after two years at Prairie Rose the powers that were saw fit to move the school to Condor and that left us in a different school district. From then on we went the three miles to school at Lesileville.

Living as we did in the center of a triangle we were three miles by road from three different towns — Condor, Alhambra, and Lesileville — and at different times they were each our mailing address. Over the years we knew many people in all three areas.

At this time I should mention another neighbor, a Mr. Bob Graham, "Mr. Bob" to us kids. In his early days he had been a mountain guide, and was full of great stories. He would often take us for walks, and taught us a great deal about nature and the way to avoid getting lost in the bush, as well as what berries were good to eat. In later years, as he became quite crippled, one of us would go the mile to his place every day to see if he was O.K. I remember him teaching my mother how to cook beaver meat — three long boilings in clean water, then cook as other meat.

In 1953 Dad and Mother moved to Eckville to help me take care of my daughter, Laurie, as I had just become a widow that year and knew I would have to go to work. We all settled in on an eight-acre place, with a large old home, on the edge of Eckville town. With a great deal of renovations the home was soon ready, and this was to be retirement for Dad and Mom. However, Dad brought along a team of horses, pigs, two cows and some chickens, so he was soon set up with his beloved chores to keep him busy.

Dad soon joined the Light Horse Association and would judge classes of horses at the local stampede. I also recall him teaching the young folks how to shoe horses, and giving many good hints to them regarding owning a horse.

Dad also took up leather carving and became so good at it that he soon was teaching it at the Handicraft Guild which had been organized in Eckville. Many school classes came down to his work shop and there they would see not only leather carving but also a number of interesting things in his artifact collection. Many of these things are now in the Edmonton museum.

For Mom this was the first time since she came to Canada that she was able to become active in the Anglican Church. She was an active member of the Auxiliary up to the time of her passing. She also enjoyed many a good bridge game. To everyone in Eckville, young and old, my parents soon became "Grannie" and "Grandpa". In all, the Bakers, Reg and Nora, raised a happy, useful (I hope!) family.

Of the family, Betty married Emil Ulmer, and farmed and taught school for many years at Onoway, Alberta. For the last few years of her life she taught at Sylvan Lake. Betty and Emil had two children, Ken and Fern. Ken lost his life in a drowning accident, and left four small children. Fern married David Brooks and lives at Fort McMurray where she had gone to teach school. For the past several years she has been librarian there. They have one girl, Lamsin.

I. Winnie, married Fred Cameron, who was a C.N.R. agent and was well known in the area as he was agent at Lesileville for 17 years. He belonged to the Rocky Mountain House Masonic Lodge and took his term as Master and was made official bard of the lodge. As a C.N.R. agent we moved many times, living in many Alberta towns and loving them all. Fred's last station was at Galahad, where he died in 1953.

Our son Jim is an official with the C.N.R. in Edmonton and our daughter Laurie, graduated from the University of Alberta as a social worker. She married Bill Johnson. They live in Edmonton and have two boys.

I had a jewellery store in Sylvan Lake for 20 years, but I retired in 1977.

Cecelia, daughter number three of Reg and Nora married A. Chandler and lived and taught school in Edmonton until the time of her passing. They had a son Frank, now Dr. Frank Chandler of Dartmouth University, Halifax.

Rex, the only son of Reg and Nora, married Pat Baker from Okanagan, B.C. They farmed at the old home farm and Rex's farm that used to belong to Mr. Bob until 1953. In that year Rex became afflicted with polio and was no longer able to farm. He became a jeweller and had a jewellery store in Eckville for 22 years, until his retirement in January, 1977.

Rex and Pat had four children. Peter is married and lives at Penhold. Debby lives in Eckville. Mike is married and lives near Eckville and Venora is still at home. The Baker family will carry on the name for at least two more generations, with Peter and Mike and their two sons, Darin and Ben.

This is my tribute to a great pioneer family.

**LISA LUNDBERG BALDWIN**

Charlie Gustavson went for the doctor in 1908 when Lisa was born on the homestead in the Lockhart district.

There are very few memories of this first

home because the child was only four years old when the family moved from there to Eckville. However, she does remember the peddler who came with his enclosed vehicle filled with many things to sell, such as fabrics, buttons and thread, kitchen utensils, tools, and groceries, including oranges. The child delighted in the color and taste of the new fruit, causing the delicious flavor to linger still in her mind

The family lived in Eckville from 1912 to 1918, during which time Lisa attended the old Eckville school, a mile north of the village. While growing up she played and quarreled with the kids there. Some of the children remembered are the Clausens, Ted Rogers, Evelyn Spurgeon, the Herring girls, the Garries and the Sestraps. Lisa remembers racial and nationality prejudices — the idea being that only those of British ancestry were good people

The Lundberg family moved to the farm in 1918, about three miles east

Some memorable incidents she remembers while growing, and later as an adult were

Falling through the ice on the Medicine River when returning from school, and her brother, Okey, pulling her out

Helping with farm and household chores. Once, Lisa tripped and fell with two pails full of milk.

The sad death of her mother in 1918, and she and Lester living with the Botten family south of Eckville for about two years

Lisa Baldwin

Her father's second marriage to Ida Pearson in 1920

Contracting TB when 13 years of age and having to stay out of school for a year

Completing schooling in Eckville and Red Deer and attending Normal in Calgary in 1925-1926, and there living with the Storeys, former Eckville residents

Teaching north of Eckville, in the Andrews school, in Bentley, Okotoks, and in and around Calgary for 23 years, taking time out while her daughter, Beverly, was growing up

Travelling extensively, including four trips to Sweden to visit relatives and to other parts of Europe, Russia, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hawaii and the States

Her marriage to Everett Baldwin, principal of the Eckville High School, in 1931.

Being always and continuously interested in world affairs and politics, and running as a candidate for the provincial New Democratic Party

The unspeakable sadness caused by the deaths of members of her family — her mother in 1918, her father in 1950, and her two brothers Okey in 1970 and Lester in 1974

In later years, Lisa has come to the conclusion that the two periods in one's lifetime that are most enjoyable are childhood and retirement, because each entails freedom from tension and compulsory work, enabling one to pursue desired endeavors

**BARDENHAGEN, JACK AND AGNES — by Agnes Bardenhagen**

John Franklin (Jack) Bardenhagen was born at Bentley, on March 25, 1929

Agnes Fern Sveinson was born at Markerville on October 6, 1925.

Jack and Agnes were married in the Markerville Lutheran Church on October 6, 1950

Their attendants were Jack's cousin Robert Kraft and Agnes's cousin Thora Fisher and her younger sister Shirley Sveinson

Jack has lived all his life in the Eckville district, first on the farm at Gilby and then in town where he attended school.

Agnes took her preliminary education in Markerville and attended High School in Dickson and Innisfail. She entered Nurses' Training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary in 1943, graduating in 1946

She nursed in Calgary and Wayne, Alberta, before coming to the Eckville Hospital in February, 1948. She remembers that year well for the "big flood". Jack's cousin Floyd Kraft drowned in the Horseguard River that spring

Jack played baseball and hockey. He started playing baseball with his father Ole and Uncle Fred. He coached the Bashaw Men's Team when living at Dorenlee, Alberta.

He played hockey in Calgary in 1945 with the Calgary Buffalo Junior Team. He was a member of the Eckville Highway 11 Champs in 1946-1947

Jack and Agnes' first two children were born in

Eckville. William John (Bill) on July 1, 1952 and Beverly Agnes on November 21, 1953. A third child, Donald Blair was born on July 7, 1955 at Lacombe.

Jack bought livestock with his father for several years and then worked for Bill Marsh in the Eckville Hotel. In 1953 he began buying grain for Searle Grain Company. He bought grain at Dorenlee and Huxley, Alberta, and then returned to Eckville to work for Roy Berry at the hotel.

In 1958-1959 Jack and Agnes rented the Leslilville Hotel from Archie and Mabel Richardson. This was a most enjoyable year and they enjoyed curling and the friendly community.

In the past few years Jack has worked on the Trans-Canada Pipeline and enjoyed traveling and meeting new people.

Agnes resumed her Nursing career in 1959, and except for a short time she spent in Red Deer in 1969, has been on the Eckville Hospital Staff continuously since then.

Bill lives at home and works on construction and trucking. He has played hockey with the Eckville Eagles but his favorite pastime is working with motors in his shop at home.

Beverly lives at Yellowknife, N.W.T. where she is employed at the Bank of Montreal and has established a permanent residence there this year by purchasing a trailer. She truly loves the North Country and participates in various sports. She particularly likes camping and fishing in the northern lakes.

Donald married Beverly Ann Smith, on June 28, 1975 in Eckville and they have a son Alan Donald born February 24, 1977.

**BARDENHAGEN, OLE AND HELEN — by Agnes Bardenhagen**

Ole Bardenhagen came with his parents to Canada in 1905 from the U.S.A., where he was born in Michigan in December, 1896. Helena Caroline Johnson was born in Hancock, Michigan on February 11, 1901. She later lived in Butte, Montana, and from there came to Canada with her mother and stepfather, Charles Angle, in 1910.

Ole and Helen Bardenhagen were married in Red Deer, on March 9, 1919. After their marriage they lived in Lacombe for a few years and then moved to their farm west of Gilby. For the first year they lived with Ole's parents, Carson and Gunhild Bardenhagen, then moved to their farm which they had purchased from Tomingas, one mile south of the Gilby Cemetery. The old log house and garage still remain, quite tumbled down, on the east side of the road and the red barn and corrals are on the west side.

A daughter, Dorothy Mary, was born to Helen and Ole on October 19, 1923, but lived only two days. A son, John Franklin (Jack) was born on March 25, 1929 at the Bentley Hospital. He was the first baby born by Caesarian Section in Bentley. Dr. Henry was the attending doctor.

Helen and Ole Bardenhagen

Ole served as councillor for the M.D. of Lorne for several years and then travelled many miles, driving people to Bentley or Lacombe to the hospital, doctors, or on other business before Eckville had a hospital. He also served as sheriff in the Eckville district, which was not always an easy or pleasant task. He was active in baseball, and was the catcher for the Gilby Giants team. Helen was an ardent fan and supporter.

Ole was a fun-loving person and would go to great lengths to entertain people or make them laugh. Consequently their home was a popular meeting place for family and friends, and, of course, the good food supplied by Helen was also another attraction.

Eric Bardenhagen farmed and lived with his brother Ole until he married Linda Matthews on April 20, 1935. Ole and Helen stayed on the farm until the fall of that year and then moved into Eckville where they lived in the house presently owned by J. Onofryszyn at 4916 51st Avenue. They continued to help Eric on the farm and Ole joined Leo Zaleski in livestock dealing. In 1938 they purchased the Matt Heikkila property on the east side of town where Jack and his family still reside.

Helen raised chickens, milked cows, and raised a big garden. She kept boarders for many years. When the Eckville Creamery was in operation the young men who came to work there were assured of good room and board at Helen Bardenhagens! Their home in Eckville was a great gathering place for smear players as well as for fund-raising card parties during the Second World War. Helen's mother, Mary Angle, lived her last years with Helen and Ole — from 1946 until her death in 1951.

As a result of many fractures and injuries of his leg, Ole had the leg amputated in 1953, as

there seemed nothing else to do This left him a semi invalid until his death in 1959. Helen remained in her own home until her death in October, 1969

Ole and Helen Bardenhagen will always be remembered as generous, helpful, and considerate members of the Eckville and surrounding area communities

**BARLUND, FRANK**

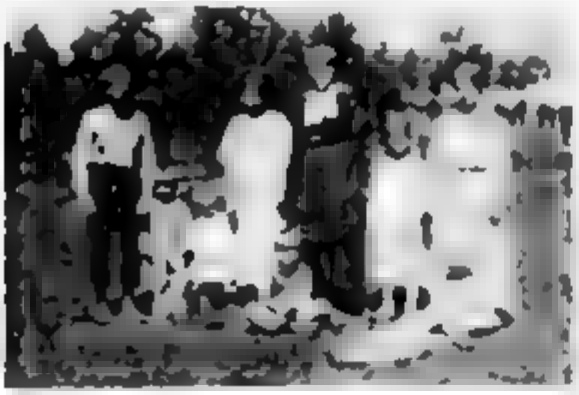
Frank Victor Barlund was born in Nakilla Finland September 5, 1872 Aine Marie Solen was born in Sukasissa, Finland October 5, 1878

They were married in 1898 in Finland He immigrated to the U S. before the turn of the century, having heard of the booming times in the U.S. in letters he got from his wife's brother Henry Soln in Michigan; besides this persuasion, the clothing business he was in was very slow in Finland at the time

He (Dad) worked in several places in the U S but his brother-in-law Charles Randall was homesteading in the Eckville area of Alberta, Canada and hearing of the "free land boom" — 160 acres of land for $10 and a clear title if you break 30 acres and put up livable buildings — so he decided to try his luck at farming, arriving at Eckville about 1908, working the first few months on the Charles Randall farm to get ideas on farming. In 1909 he filed on the SE 35-40-4-W5 north of Leslieville. At that time the country was very new — no roads, just trails A main trail was called the Hudson Bay Trail which crossed the Medicine River near the Charles Randall farm, going west over the Lutz (Matchett's) farm winding around and up over the Pattison farm (at that time Bantons and Hazletts) and over the Blueberry Hills following the high ground to Rocky Mountain House

Never having farmed before, Frank was a bit green, but knew he needed timber for building, and water, so chose a homestead with timber on it, and a good spring

Then he started preparations to send for his wife and two children, Henry and Ina When they arrived, they lived with the Charles Randall family south of Eckville, and Henry and Ina went to Eckville school with their cousins Eino and Arne when the school first started.



Frank, Ernest, Mandy and Mrs. Frank Barlund, Mrs. C. Randall and Reino, Ina Barlund, Mrs. Milija Saad, Tyyne and Ellen Saad. 918

As soon as Frank got his house built on the homestead, the family moved there and Henry and Ina were some of the first class held at Leafland School. By now they had two more children, Ernest and Carolyn.

Dad and Henry would cut the trees and brush, and Mother and Ina would pile them to get a trail made to the homestead, as once you got off the Hudson Bay Trail, a new one had to be made The homesteaders made their own trails at that time, costing the Government nothing And they cleared the land the same way, with grub-hoe and axe

Once they filed on their homesteads, they were on their own, no welfare or government assistance, yet they were very happy for they could see what they had accomplished with their own hands

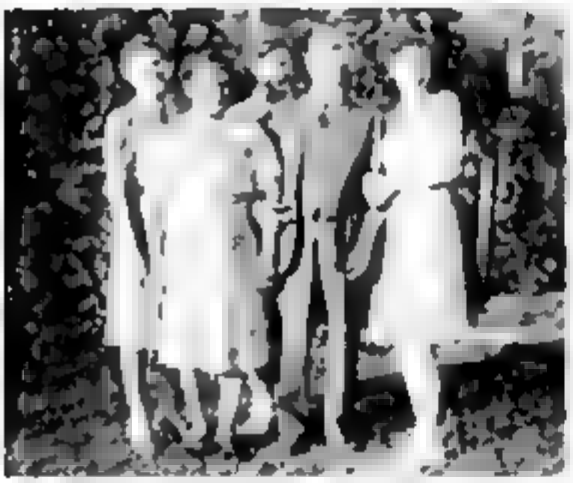
Frank broke land in the summer and also worked on bridge building crews for the Grand Trunk Railway and then for the C N R. These old bridges Frank and other old timers helped to build 60 years ago are still in use today Frank Barlund and A. B. Koski hauled timber for some of the first horse bridges in the Eckville area. They had good horses; Dad always admired the Koski horses and the good care Mr. Koski gave them

The homestead was polluted with big stones after Dad broke about 35 acres He had great difficulty in keeping his plow sharp. So he decided to rent the Charles Randall farm since they were leaving for Rainier, Washington, farming there for awhile, before buying the SW 8-39-3-5 and the NE 6-39-3-5. Dad again started building from scratch. This was raw land with very good soil. From this farm us kids went to school at Blueberry We never went hungry in the thirties or before. Men would stop at our place looking for work. Mother would always give them a meal. The Indians mother was sorry for; she would give them milk, eggs and homemade bread They sure would remember and come back now and then

Now I will talk of some vivid memories of mine

In 1920 and 1930 Dad would go logging at McDougall's in the winter, and we kids would look after the stock.

In the coldest weather he would be out with horses, logging, and come with the horses all sweated up with icicles hanging from their noses and Dad would have icicles stuck to his whiskers He would take feed and oats with him for the horses and bring back a load of lumber. Dad would leave the logging camp at daybreak with his load of lumber and get home very late at night, for the horses did not travel very fast with a heavily loaded sleigh. The dog would bark and us kids would run outside to listen in the crisp



Aina and Frank Barlund with daughters Ina, Ellen and Mandy

cold night. We would hear the jingle of the heel chains and the squeak and groan that the runners would make on the ice and snow because of the heavy load. When Dad came home before Christmas, Mother would say "Maybe it is Santa Claus coming" when we went out to listen. It was 35 to 45 below lots of times. The snow was drifted in big piles, we would cut the snow in chunks and make igloos and pretend we were Eskimos. Dad surely worked hard to keep us well fed and warmly clothed. He said he liked it here, for he could work and build on his own and not have a dictator tell him what to do and how to do it. Those were the happy times with Mother and Dad.

Mother and her midwife and nurse's aide training in the old country, which came in handy out here in the early days. A good neighbor, Art Lawson, asked Mother if she would come and help them, for they were having their first child. Art had in the meantime sent word for a doctor. The weather and trails were bad and the doctors travelled with horses in those days, consequently the baby came before the doctor arrived, so Mother delivered little Clifford Lawson. When the doctor arrived, he looked things over. He said, "I made the trip for nothing, for I could not do any better than Mrs. Barlund has done." We all thought it was very good of the doctor to say so. We were all proud of our mother.

Dad died November 11, 1953. Mother died on June 10, 1967. They are buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**BARLUND, ERNEST — submitted by E. Barlund**

My sister Caroline and I were born before a permanent doctor came to Eckville, and Mrs. J. Olsen was the midwife. At my sister Caroline's birth, was her aunt, Mrs. Charles Randall, and at my sister Ellen's birth, Mrs. J. Kemila.

The Randall's and Barlunds were in this area before the bridges, roads, hospitals, and schools were built. We had to ford the rivers when the water was high and it was dangerous to cross. My dad and A. B. Koski had a contract to haul the bridge material for this area because they had very good horses. In later years the rivers here have claimed several people, such as W. MacDonald and Mr. Kraft.

When my dad bought the SW 8-39-3-W5 and the NE 6-39-3-W5, I went to the Bluebell school and later the Tech. in Calgary. I, then, went to work for my brother when he built the Alec Stewart barn. We built some of the finest houses in the country, like the house of C. Martin, the Lobraw house, barn and garage, at the present time the property of Jim Smith, and dozens of buildings too numerous to mention.

During the war, I worked for the army building barracks.

Then I decided to go farming so I bought the NE-6-39-3-W5 from my dad. In 1946 I bought the NW-10-40-4-W5, where I am living today. In 1948, the SW 18-37-3-W5, NW 7-37-3-W5 and NW-7-37-3-W5 was bought from Bergstrom, and in 1951 I bought the NW-9-40-4-W5 and SE 9-40-4-W5. Finally in 1965 I bought the SW-9-40-4-W5 and the NW 16-40-4-W5.

I married Thelma Hall and we have five children. See Thelma Hall History.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Barlund and Family

I remember when J. Plathan would bring his brass band to our farm for a practice. We would have a real picnic and Mother would put on a big spread and dress us up in our best clothes.

I remember Isaac Hakkala for his songs, a grandfather to Albert Rein. I will always remember John Molander for his comical jokes. I remember this country when it was a boy's paradise. There were thousands of rabbits and prairie chickens, and partridge by the hundreds, all on a fair-sized knoll, doing their chicken dance. On a clear morning you could hear them for miles. It was also a pleasure to hear the

meadowlark and the robins singing in the trees We had no radio or T V , but we had nature to entertain us.

I made spending money selling rabbits to Mr D. Hamilton, and would sell hides of rabbits, weasels, and coyotes to Mr. Leavesley. The first cattle I raised were Herefords and Angus cross Then I bought a herd of registered Angus from Mr Bruns, through K. Sim.

**BARLUND, HENRY — by Ernie Barlund**

Henry was the oldest child of Mr. and Mrs Frank Barlund. Henry and Ina were the first students at the Leafland school with Frank and May Kangas and the Rolfsen children, Connie and Emil The first teacher was Mr Ludwig but he was not allowed to teach when World War I started because he was German; therefore his wife taught instead under the name of Mrs Lewis. The name of the hamlet of Leedale was changed from Wittenburg because it was a German name also.

Henry was a great help to mother when she was left alone on the farm to take care of the children and livestock in the winter Dad would be out building bridges for the C.N R. Henry would take a long pole with a snare on the end of it and snare partridges. In those days the partridges would just sit in the trees and look at you It was a long way to town and we only got to town once a winter for supplies. You would have to find your way around snow drifts because there were no snow plows then

In the summer Dad would break land with oxen and a walking plow He would guide the plow and Henry would drive the oxen. The oxen would feed on luscious green grass and when Henry would hit them with a switch to go through stumps, they would lift up their tails and let the fertilizer fly It was the only way the poor oxen could protest against the whip punishment and Henry would sure be a mess by the end of the day He then made up his mind there must be other ways of making a living besides driving oxen

Dad could not keep his plow sharp because there were too many stones on the homestead, so he decided to leave it and rent the Charles Randall farm at Eckville Charles Randall wanted his sons to get a college education so they left for Washington, U S A. Henry and Ina were again some of the first students at the Eckville school along with Ed and Ernie Koski, O. Kasper, E Clausen, John Maki and Fino and Arne Randall The Randall family stayed awhile with the Barlunds while Charles Randall was getting a home ready at Rainier, Washington

Henry played the cornet in the John Plathan brass band when we moved to Eckville Henry got a job as a carpenter's helper when the new school was relocated to the C.N R. location. Then my dad's brother Oscar, arrived from Finland Oscar was a master carpenter because he had completed his carpentry schooling in the old country and worked as a cabinet maker In the early "20's" he built many a fine house. He took Henry to work with him and they built the house for Oswald Umarl which is still standing in Eckville today They also built a house for Pete Moro on his farm that all the people around really admired and came from miles around to see. They built two houses for Mike Sestrap and Mike said that as long as Oscar was around he was the only carpenter for him and it was also the same with Henry after Oscar returned to Finland

Then Henry left for Calgary to work on the Hudson Bay store and the Eaton store. When the prairie fire burnt out Wainwright, Henry helped build the new Wainwright Hotel and Drugstore. Henry was working in Calgary when the Depression hit in 1929. Lots of people were going on relief at that time but Henry said he would not if he could possibly help it

He got a contract from Alex Stewart to build his barn which is still in excellent shape today This is when I went to work for Henry. We built houses and barns for Charles Snider, O. Nielson, Johnnie Razaline, B. Dennett, Ted Loblaw, and many more all in central Alberta

When the war broke out Henry went to work for the city of Calgary as foreman. He worked for the city for 25 years until he got his city pension and old age pension. He died shortly after and was buried in Calgary His wife May, owns his house in Calgary and his farm at Eckville, the SW 8-39-3-5. She has three boys and one daughter

**INA BARLUND — by Ina Barlund Garneau**

I, Ina Maria Barlund, was born September 30, 1908 in Finland. My mother, brother Henry and I emigrated from Finland in 1912 to join my father, who was already in Eckville. Later we homesteaded in the Leslieville area

I was approximately three years old then, but I recall the swarms of mosquitoes when we would go to the spring for water, which was about one-fourth of a mile away I, too, tried to help and carried the water home in a five-pound Rogers syrup pail. One day I was out playing and a fierce-looking cougar was stalking me. I didn't lose any time running to the house and into bed, covering my head with the blankets.

In 1914 we came back to Eckville. My father and mother, Frank and Aina Barlund, and five children: Henry, Ina, Ernie, Mandy and Ellen. Father was a tailor by trade and had worked in a shop in Marquette, Michigan, U.S A. Then, during the big farming expansion in Alberta he came there as did many more old-timers from Michigan and Montana. We children received our education in the Bluebell and the Eckville schools

I remember the day the First World War was declared. Father came home with a newspaper It was pink with black print, even now, when I see ads printed on colored paper it brings back memories.

Soon after the beginning of the war we moved to Eckville on the Charlie Randall farm located about a mile southeast of Eckville, across from the Eckville cemetery. That land now has three oil wells. Later we moved to our own home farm about one and one-half miles west. As children, we didn't realize how beautiful our old home place was. It too, has three oil wells on it now.

How we looked forward to the Benalto Fair. Mom would pack a picnic basket and nice cold lemonade in a crockery jar. Then we would sit on the fresh grass under young poplars for shade. A grass-hopper got inside the sleeves of my dress, which created some panic. Mother would remove it carefully, so it wouldn't soil my Sunday-go-to-meeting dress of white embroidery, always with a pink sash around the waist.

June 24 "Juhannus" (St. John's Day) was another great yearly event, with much to-do about spring cleaning. Everything had to be shining clean. We would bring wild flowers indoors to get the festive air; also poplar boughs over the gate to form an arbor. Poplar saplings lined each side of the doorway. The fresh blown leaves had such a fragrant scent. The house wasn't the only thing scrubbed. Mother would take the young children to the sauna and we were bathed and scrubbed. Well, I'd say almost parboiled. It was a a great feeling and we slept like logs. Then next day into our finery and to the community hall for the great picnic where we had all sorts of sports, races, horse shoe pitching, pie eating contest, and so forth.

I remember the first silent movie in Eckville with Charlie Chaplin. We didn't see much of the movie as the film kept breaking and then nothing appeared but darkness and flickering. Then the circus came to town. In my estimation that was the most awe-inspiring and enjoyable day of my whole life. To say nothing of the Chautauqua that was held in Lesliеville.

In 1918 there was a serious flu epidemic. I remember wearing a white cloth mask over my nose and mouth. There were many deaths in the outlying districts. However, I recall only one — Mrs. Mike Sestrap, the mercantile store owner's wife, a kindly person.

Berry picking time could be called an event. There were many wild blueberries, raspberries, saskatoons and high and low bush cranberries. The small wild strawberries I'll never forget, with their special aroma and taste — never to be equalled! They grew alongside the railroad tracks and in the meadows.

Even though life was strenuous it seemed so simple and we were busy and happy. Sunday visiting was such a joy, with many young folks coming over. Our closest neighbors were the August Kangas family. Maemi, the oldest daughter, would come over often. We had such secrets (as young girls do) to share with each other. Our other friend, Lillian Kerkanen, lived six miles away. We would visit back and forth as often as we could. Of course we had many other girl and boy friends. It would be nice to hear from some of them; still, so many have passed on.

In 1975 we had a get-together here in Seattle, when Mae and Bill Scott and Lillian Kerkanen (Mrs. Olnonen), were visiting my husband and me. I called three other ex-Eckville gals, Verna Lampi (Mrs. Larson), Alli Lampi (Mrs. Craig) and Ida Koski (Mrs. Johnson). We had a marvelous day at the beach, and I couldn't help but note how well preserved everyone was in spite of our years.

In the earlier years in Eckville our main transportation was horses. I used to ride like the wind and often challenged my friends to race with me. Later came the cars, rumble seat and all, then the airplanes. The first plane I saw close at hand was an open cockpit monoplane at the Eckville Sports Day celebration. The pilot took a passenger aboard (a pretty young lady who worked in the post office) for a ride. Unfortunately, he flew too low, hit some telephone wires and crashed. The passenger was injured, but later recovered. If I remember correctly, the pilot was unhurt.

Threshing time was quite an event. The old steam engine threshing outfit had 18 to 20 men working on the crew. I'll always remember the water man who hauled the tank of water for the engine. The big meals and morning and afternoon coffee carried to the fields kept the women folks busy.

Dancing was a popular form of entertainment in those days. Friday nights being the end of the week, we could dance until three in the morning but there was no dancing after midnight on Saturdays. In the summer everyone went to Sylvan Lake to bask in the sun and do some swimming. Those were happy days!

One of the most interesting people I remember was Mr. J. Olson. He was a great gentleman. I never tired of his tales and his telling us about evolution. A most interesting man. There were many more interesting people, but I cannot recall their names.

I attended the Bluebell and the Eckville schools. I was married to Harold Poirie in 1929 in Calgary. He passed away in 1950. In 1957 I married Captain Sidney Garness. Harold and I had two boys, Paul and Ronald. Paul died at the age of 28 years. He was in the service in Germany then taught school until his death. Ronald lives in California.

I have spent some time living in the United States, first in Montana and then I went to Seattle in 1941. I now live in Seattle with my husband Sidney. We both enjoy our retirement.

**LYDIA W. BERGSTROM**

In the spring of 1893 my parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Halverson, together with their family of two children, a boy, Nick, and a girl, Lydia, arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia from Sweden.

Before we became settled here, however, we were encouraged by relatives living in Chicago, Illinois, to come to the United States. This we did, and our relatives helped my dad find work.

We remained in the U.S. for two years, but, in 1895, we responded to the encouragement of friends to come to Canada and get a "free homestead." Our friends had settled in the Burnt Lake district, which at that time was a part of the Northwest Territories of Canada. We travelled by train as far as Red Deer, and from there our transportation was by lumber wagon, pulled by horses. There were no roads through the country — only trails which wound around, avoiding as much as possible the bogs and sloughs which were numerous. Mosquitoes were a constant pest, but the people we met seemed to be happy, which was an encouragement to us.

My father took up a homestead, the SE 16-38-1 W-5. This land was heavily timbered and stony, but it had two good springs for our water supply. So, with wood and water, he felt quite satisfied. He soon built a two-room log cabin with a shingled roof that didn't leak too much, and with a rough plank floor that wasn't quite level. The door did not completely open very easily either. Still, it was the best home all around, and we were quite content and happy living in it. All the land clearing was done by hand, as this was long before anyone had ever heard of a tractor or a bull-dozer. We cut the timber and sawed it into piles of stove wood. We grubbed out the stumps and picked the rocks and hauled them off from about twenty-five acres of land which we had cleared.

My father had purchased a quarter of CPR land but cash money with which to make the payments was very hard to find. After reading an advertisement in a paper indicating that men were wanted to work in a sawmill at Ballard, Washington, U.S.A., Dad decided that this might be a solution to the lack of cash. "Good climate, good pay" were offered in the ad as inducements for people to respond. So we were off again for the United States! However, we found that the climate was wet, the pay was $1.75 for a ten-hour day, and the work was wheeling scrub boards to a burner. The pressing need for cash, though, persuaded us to make the best of it. My brother quit school and got a good job in a shingle mill. Together, they were able to accumulate a little bit of extra money and in 1904 we all returned to Canada, being very happy to be back on our homestead. Sister Hilda had been born in Ballard (now Seattle), Washington, while we were living there.

In 1918 my family had a visit from a photographer, John Hilberg, from Anaconda, Montana. He had got our address from relatives in Sweden, so he had decided to take a trip to Canada in July, and came to see us while on his trip. At this time we got our mail in Red Deer, and he found someone there to bring him out to our farm. In the course of our conversations I became much interested in the photography business, and, at his invitation, went to Anaconda in October of 1918 to work and to learn the photography trade. This trip required two days of travel, involving six train changes. When I reached Anaconda I was very ill and landed in the hospital with the flu, where I remained for three weeks. During the flu epidemic the hospital staff wore masks over their faces all of the time.

John and I were married in 1919. We remained in Anaconda for a short time, then spent five years in Twin Falls, Idaho, followed by four years in Bellingham, Washington, where John passed away in February, 1929.

In October of 1929 I returned to Canada. My family were still living in the Burnt Lake area, so I built a house in Sylvan Lake where I lived until I sold the house in the summer of 1934. During a part of this time I boarded a girl who worked as a clerk in the bank, and in this way I kept busy.

December, 1934, brought a change in my life when I married John Bergstrom, who was a farmer in the Diamond Valley area south of Eckville. On the farm we raised grain, livestock, hogs, turkeys, and chickens. Prices were low in those days, but with hard work and keeping busy we continued on the farm until 1946. At this time we sold the farm and the machinery, and bought an acreage at Eckville, to which we moved. Here we built a house and reserved space for a big garden, but rented out the rest of the land.

This was our retirement home until April of 1961, at which time John passed away, and was buried in the Antarest Cemetery in Red Deer. That summer I sold the acreage and bought a house in Eckville on 52nd Avenue, where I am living at the present time.

**BROMLING, CLINTON AND CLARA AND FAMILY — Written by their Eldest Daughter, Hattie**

We moved from Mankato, Minnesota, U.S.A. in the year 1913 to Eckville, Alberta. Our first stop was with our grandparents, August and Julia Mitzner, in Eckville, as they owned and operated a hotel there at that time. We became very interested in watching the different teams of oxen that would come to town. Sometimes there would be six or eight teams tied to the hitching rail on Main Street.

We then moved to the August Mitzner farm (SE 25-39-3-W5), which was northeast of town. We lived here for two years. In 1914 our father hauled freight from Red Deer to Eckville with a team of horses. He would leave early in the morning and be in Red Deer by twelve o'clock. After loading his wagon he would rest his horses

overnight and then start back to Eckville the next morning — a long and hard trip at the best That winter he worked at a saw mill west of Rocky Mountain House. It was easy for him to get work, as he had owned and operated a mill while living in the United States, and he was a good sawyer. During this time Mom stayed home and looked after the family and did the chores That same year our sister Leah Alberta was born, making another addition to the family

In 1915 we moved to John Bromling's farm south of Eckville, the farm now being owned by Cunninghams. We lived here until 1918. Our father made a trip back to the United States to sell his farm there. He was the first person to make a deposit in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which is now the Drop In Centre for the Friendship Club. While living on the John Bromling farm Father and Bill Schunamen cut by hand and hauled 100 cords of wood to the creamery in Eckville one winter Our sister Julia was born while we lived on this place.

Our father was intereted in all sports, and spent several winters out West hunting. He was a personal friend of the late Clarence Sands, the big game hunter and guide at Nordegg

Our next move was to the farm west of Eckville which is now owned by Tom Smith (SE 20-39-3-W5). We lived there until 1932, and Curtis and Cletis were born during this time

In 1922 our father, with Calvin helping, hauled ice from the river for refrigeration for the creamery in town, and continued this for 25 years. Curtis helped with this job during the last ten years. Curtis also helped with digging several basements in town

He and Calvin hauled gravel from the pit west of Eckville with two four-horse outfits and loaded it on flat cars in town. It was then shipped to Sylvan Lake to build the hotel there.

We were all fond of horses, and at one time had 20 work horses. All the farm work in those days was done with horses. Calvin broke horses for Armstrong Brothers, as they owned a big horse ranch. He also rode bucking horses at the rodeos around the country, and won first prize at Benalto one year

We had some music in the family — enough to amuse ourselves with. Calvin played a cornett in John Plathan's band at one time. John Bromling and our father organized an old-time orchestra one winter and played for old time dances around the country. They wouldn't have made the Grand Ole Opera, but they did have a lot of fun. Members of the orchestra were John and Clint Bromling, Rudolph and Art Dahl, Ernie and Clarence Havens, Slim Meyers, Bernie Dennett, and August Harju.

In 1932 we moved to our present location south of Wood Lake. Mom moved to Eckville at the age of 62. She took and raised a foster daughter, Carol, who lives in Texas now, where she married Donald York. They have two children. Curtis and I stayed with our dad on this place.

Bessie married Greg Nelson and they had five children. Emma married Bert Bagstad, and they had five children. Leiah married Frank Watson and they also had five children. Julia married Art Lutz and they had eight children.

Our father passed away in 1950. Curtis and I farmed here until 1962. He met and married Hillie Bouwsema, and they moved onto the Zaleski farm north of town. They have two children. Hillie had come to Canada from the Netherlands in the year 1956. Cletis served in the armed forces in World War II. He married Lovern Kye and now lives in Rocky Mountain House.

Our Mom was a member of the County Ladies Aid for several years. She was interested in card games and bingo. She passed away in 1976 at the age of 92 years

**CATES, MR. AND MRS. STANLEY**

We were married in a small town, Wheatley, Ontario in the year 1917. Shortly after the wedding we came west to Travers. Our three daughters were all born in the Travers district, Meryl in 1918, Madaline in 1921 and Rena in 1925 We lived through the heartache of sandstorms, cut worms, grasshoppers and drought for 16 years.

Through the glowing stories of a school teacher from Bentley, who boarded with us for a short time, we became interested in the Bentley-Eckville district. We came, looked it over and decided to stay We bought a quarter section of C.P R. land northwest of Eckville

We moved in September, 1933. The winter of 1933 was a very cold one. We lived in a granary that winter, and nearly froze at times. Many times we were thankful to our many wonderful neighbors for the help they gave us. The next year we built a log house

Our son Kenneth was born in 1936. The children went to three different schools. First was Shady Lane, where crossing the Horseguard River was sometimes impossible because of floods, and in winter because of the deep snow Madaline and Rena went there, usually on horseback or in a home-made sled. Kenneth and Rena went to Wolfe school for a while, then to Eckville, where they finished their schooling. I belonged to the Country Ladies Aid for many years

We moved to Calgary in 1965, where our family had settled. Meryl married Maurice Dean. Madaline married Henry Gabie and now lives in British Columbia. Rena married Orville Liddicoat and lives in Edmonton. Kenneth married Hazel Dipple and lives at De Winton

Mr Cates died in 1972, and I, Effie Cates, now live in a unit at Elbow Valley Lodge, a senior citizens' home in Calgary

**CLAUSEN, DAN — 1950**

Eckville has made great strides since the early days. We now boast of a theatre, three grocery stores, four dry goods stores, three hardwares, three cafes, four implement agencies, jewelry store, Imperial Bank, Treasury Branch — Eckville Credit Union, two drug stores, two oil agencies, four garages, barber shop and beauty parlor, three insurance and real estate agencies, weekly newspaper (The Examiner), bake shop, licensed hotel, sash and door factory, new Presbyterian and Nazarene churches, memorial park, community hall, curling rink, eight school rooms and an additional four rooms under construction where grades are taught from one to twelve.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Clausen. Bertha, Edward and Dick - 1918

**THE CHRISTIE FAMILY — by Iva Gustavson**

The Christie family, consisting of brothers George and Jack, and sister Mary, arrived in the Eckville area in 1919. They bought a quarter section of land, two miles west of Eckville, from Jay Walker, an uncle of Kit Armstrong. An additional quarter section was purchased from the CPR.

After emigrating from Fife, Scotland, they had spent a number of years in Calgary. George was a World War I veteran. The brothers were excellent stonemasons and worked on the Banff Springs Hotel before and after coming to Eckville. Here they were in great demand as chimney builders. The Eckville Memorial Hall once boasted a fireplace built by the Christies.

They enjoyed their extensive library — classics, politics and religion — nothing frivolous. The weekly Boston Symphony Concert, on the radio, was thoroughly enjoyed. George played the concertina when neighbors gathered for a sing-song. George was a familiar figure on his bob-tailed sorrel horse, Rufus. He was a regular visitor to the Maki household for the weekly Saturday "sauna".

Mary was a marvelous cook and loved to entertain her visitors with cake and tea. In 1926, she returned to Scotland to care for their elderly parents. After they passed away she returned to her home at Eckville in 1930.

George passed away in 1938. Shortly after his death Jack and Mary sold their farm to the Smith Brothers and held an auction sale.

Jack and Mary moved to Victoria and later to Vancouver. Mary cared for Jack for the many years he was confined to a wheelchair. After his passing she lived with a friend, finally going to a nursing home. She lived to the age of 101 years.

**DR. FRANK HOUSTON COPPOCK**

Frank Coppock was born in Winnipeg in 1896, the eldest son of Ernest and Mary Coppock. He moved with his family to North Battleford in about 1906. Following the completion of his high school work he attended the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and graduated with a B.A. in 1917. He joined the Flying Corps and, following demobilization, took University work in medicine, graduating from the University of Manitoba with his M.D. in 1925. He interned at the Winnipeg General Hospital, then worked briefly with Dr. H. E. Alexander of Saskatoon before establishing his own practice in April,

Miss Jolly, Audrey and Donna Coppock, 1939

1926, having bought out the practice of Dr A. B Stewart of Rosthern, Saskatchewan

While in Rosthern Dr Coppock served on the Town Council and was campaign manager for his friend, Mr Walter Tucker He was active in medical circles of the province, and was an active member of the local Masonic Lodge

Following his marriage to Marjorie Frawley of Rosthern in 1928 he continued his medical practice there until September, 1938. At this time he moved, with his wife and two daughters. Audrey and Donna, to Eckville, Alberta. Dr Coppock maintained his active association with the Masonic Order and with the Alberta and the Canadian Medical Associations as well as finding time to contribute to the local endeavours of the growing village of Eckville.

The Coppock family first lived in the house now owned by Mr and Mrs. Allan Ralph, but later bought the late Oswald Umari's house, now owned by Mrs. Florence Waisman. His first office was at the south end of Main Street on the west side. Later he moved his office into the house, now the home of the Pat Hovens, until he built the present Eckville Clinic

At this time the old hospital had been closed, due to lack of finances It had been operated by Dr Palmer, who had retired. Doctor Coppock at once took steps to reopen the hospital (the present home of Roy Saari). It was soon found that this building was too small to accommodate the patients seeking admission. As a result, Doctor Coppock started the procedures necessary to have the present hospital built and it was due to his untiring efforts that we now have what is known as the Eckville Municipal Hospital, which was opened in 1944

In addition to his dedicated attention to the medical needs of the community, Doctor Coppock found time to serve on the local school board and on the Village Council, and was active in all community affairs until his death in December, 1953. He was president of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons at the time of his death

Mrs. Coppock passed away in Calgary in 1973 and is buried beside her husband in the Red Deer Cemetery Dr. and Mrs. Coppock had two daughters, Donna and Audrey

Donna Coppock (McCalder) was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on September 30, 1932. Her early education was obtained in the schools of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Eckville, and Red Deer before she attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton, graduating with a B Ed. degree. Donna has worked as a teacher in the Calgary schools for many years. She has two children

Audrey Coppock (Sloan) was born in Saskatoon on May 30, 1929. She also attended school in Rosthern before coming to Alberta where her schooling was continued in the Eckville and Calgary schools before her attendance at the University of Alberta at Edmonton where she obtained a Master's degree in Social work She was a social worker in Calgary for a number of years and is now in Regina. She worked as a director in a hospital there, for quite some time, but is now retired She has two children

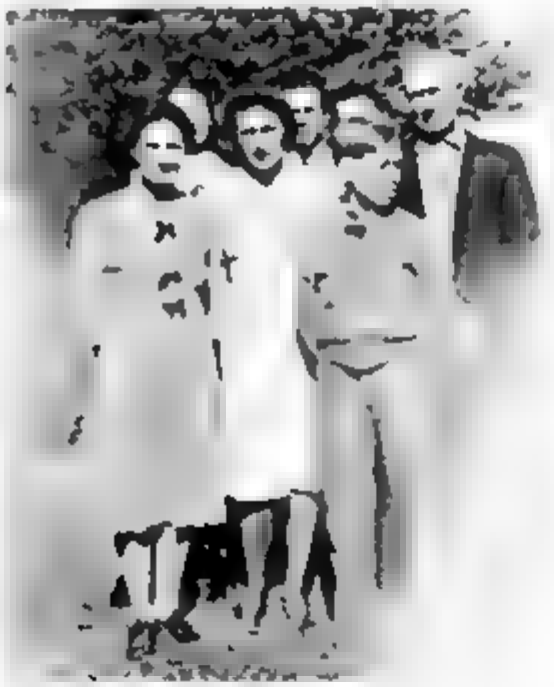
Donna, Marjorie, Frank and Audrey Coppock 1952

**LURAH AND JOSEPH COUTTS AND FAMILY — by Alberta Ebret**

Lurah Coutts was born Lurah Elizabeth Shoemaker in Corning, Iowa, U.S.A. on January 15, 1890. She grew up and went to school near Corning and worked as a milliner in that area

Joseph Coutts was born in Sunnyslope, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1878. In the late 1800's he emigrated from Scotland, working his passage across on a cattle boat For several years he worked on farms in Iowa, showing cattle on several occasions at the fairs in Chicago. While working on a farm near the Shoemaker family he met Lurah. They were married February 8, 1913 and moved to a farm in the Canora district in Saskatchewan. In 1918 they moved to Eckville where they bought the old Eckford place, one and one-half miles from the present town of Eckville In 1944 they sold the farm and retired to Calgary. Joseph passed away in August, 1951 and Lurah in August 1970 Lurah and Joseph had six children.

Evelyn (deceased in 1960) was married to Joe Morrisroe, of Bentley, Alberta in 1941. They had one daughter



Mr and Mrs. Joe Coutts, Evelyn, Donald, Alberta, Josephine, Lindy

Rowena passed away at the age of three years.

Josephine married Alphonse Stinn in 1942 They reside in Rockyford

Donald married in 1949, and lives in Calgary. He has two children

Alberta married Carl Ehret in 1948 and lives at Ardrossan. They have five children

Charles now resides in Youngstown

In the early days at Eckville the travelling Watkins and Raleigh salesmen wound their way through the countryside, selling everything from lodine to vanilla, to thread and needles, plus a lot of salves, ointments and health remedies. My mother always kept a full can of strong menthol ointment on hand, which she would rub vigorously on the chests of any of her children who showed signs of developing the inevitable cold. Thick flannel cloths were then wrapped around the necks and chests and the perspiring off spring were sent off to bed. It was very important that colds be watched carefully, as pneumonia was a killer in those days, and there were no antibiotics to check its advance. The local doctor did not have an easy life then, and had to make house calls in all kinds of weather

I am told that when I decided to arrive, during a raging blizzard in March, a neighbor, Jimmy Merriman, was also trying to make his presence known. The doctor finally made it to both places in a car equipped with skis in the place of front wheels and tracks on the back wheels

We did not have such things as school buses when I went to school and we had a one and one-half mile trek to town. In the winter when the river was frozen over, we were able to cut that distance in half. The Medicine River provided much of our recreation in those days — swimming during the summer and skating in the wintertime

The Liberty Hall, about a mile and a half north of town and adjacent to our farm, was a great social gathering place for the Finnish community when I was growing up. Although many of the plays and concerts held there were in the Finnish language, we all went and enjoyed watching whatever was offered. Dances were also held there, and the Liberty Hall had the distinction of having the best floor in the country

My mother and father enjoyed the whist and bridge games held weekly or monthly in the Eckville Hall in town. These social evenings were followed by dances. All the girls learned to dance when they were 10 or 12 years old by dancing with each other. It was a big thrill when the girls became old enough to dance with the young men of the community!

**COVLIN, MIKE**

Mike Covlin was born in North Dakota and moved with his parents and family to the Stettler district. In 1909, they moved to a farm in the Loyalist, Alberta area, where he grew up and later, after the passing of his parents, he and his four brothers farmed until 1938 when Mike bought a garage-machine shop and moved into Consort

Eileen Covlin (nee Lloyd) as a child, moved from Calgary to the Lloyd Hill district in the spring of 1920. This district was named after Albert Lloyd who managed the Post Office from 1912-1928.

In September, 1939, Mike and Eileen were married and lived in Consort until August 22, 1946, when they sold the business and moved to Eckville By this time, Helen Priscilla, aged five years, Richard William, three years, and Margaret Elizabeth, three months, had been born into the Covlin family

Mike purchased the two lots on the corner of main street where the "body shop" now stands, and two acres down by the river from Mr Von Holtum, who at that time, lived in Vancouver The dwelling was adjacent to the Moro Flour Mill, just north, close to the bank of the Medicine River

Mr and Mrs. Cyr, who lived across the track south of the old C.A.D P., kindly let us store our garage equipment until the garage was built

Coming from the dried-out area, rain was welcome, but our first week here it rained almost all the time.

Mike sent to the States for a pattern to make the machine in which the cement block was made. The late Charlie Johnson and one other older man helped. In the fall of 1947, the building was ready and business began and the name, Eckville Farm Equipment was soon erected.

Mr. and Mrs. Covlin, 1954. Helen, Richard, Margaret and Dianne

Mike was agent for J F. Case Machinery and Imperial Oil and subagent for Hillman cars. Dianne Marie was born May 30, 1949.

In the spring of 1952, Albert Schofer bought the acreage by the river and Mike bought 53 acres from Mr Cowan south of the track. Soon he moved an old storage shed over and, again with the help of Charlie Johnson, it began to take shape and the family took up residence. The spring of 1960, an oil company drilled a well on the property and as a result workers flocked to town and thus the "Covlin Trailer Court" came into being

All four children received their education at Eckville.

Helen worked in the Imperial Bank of Commerce, later, in 1962, married Stan Maki. At this writing they live in Rocky Mountain House. Stan is manager of the Credit Union. Their boys Cameron, 14, and Wendell, 12, are both hockey players

Richard joined the Canadian Air Force and later married Verna Saari. At present they live in Edmonton and to them was born Kristina, now seven years, and Terri-Jean, five years. After leaving the Air Force, Richard studied law at the U of A, becoming a lawyer. Verna is a school teacher

Margaret took a course at SAIT and became a dental assistant and worked in Edmonton. At present she is married to Ronald Lysell and they have Robin Michael 10 years and twins Nicole and Kent six years. Ronald being in the Canadian Navy, they live for a time at the east coast or the west, at the present are in Victoria

Dianne Marie attended Junior College Red Deer and on to the U of A and graduated with her B Ec in Edmonton

Mike Covlin passed away January 23, 1967 The garage was sold also the trailer court Eileen worked for several years in the cafeteria of the Co-op but in 1974 had to retire because of ill health. She continues to make her home in Eckville.

**COWEN, WILLIAM H.**

Mr. and Mrs. William Cowen moved to Eckville in 1919 from Merritt, B C. After his arrival in Eckville, Mr. Cowen established a hardware store. Later that same year Mrs Cowen passed away. There were no children Mrs. Cowen had been the former Clemantine Beamish She was born in Ontario and had been trained as a nurse. Before moving to Eckville she had been the matron of the Merritt Hospital. Mr. Cowen took her remains to Ontario for burial

In 1921 Mr. Cowen married Agnes Elizabeth Edgar Miss Edgar had come to Eckville to visit a friend, Mrs. Fred Heimbecker, with whom she had gone to school. In this way she became acquainted with Mr. Cowen, and they were married in December, 1921. In August, 1923, twins were born to them. The boy was named Robert (Bob), and the girl was named Selina.

After some years in the hardware business, Mr. Cowen sold the store to Builders Hardware. He then went into the implement business, along with bulk oil sales, and continued with this until his retirement

Mrs. Cowen passed away in February, 1949, and in 1950 Mr. Cowen sold their home in Eckville and moved to Calgary to be with his daughter, who was working there at that time

Selina married Fred C. Bourland, formerly of Matador, Texas, U.S A. in 1953. After her marriage, Mr. Cowen moved to Devon, Alberta, to be with his son, Bob. In 1955 Bob married Marie LeRoy, formerly of Fort Saskatchewan. At the time of their marriage she was a nurse in the Devon Hospital

Mr. Cowen later returned to Calgary where he remained until his death in July, 1958, at the age of 85 years. He was a former member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. He donated the land where the Eckville Memorial Hall now stands.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowen are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**THE CUNNINGHAM STORY — by Minnie Cunningham**

Mr and Mrs. James Madison Cunningham and six children came from Conquest, Saskatchewan in 1926 to make their home in the Eckville district, three and a half miles southwest of the village

James Madison, of "JM" as he was called, was born at Lakeport, Ontario in 1878 and came west with his parents to homestead at Bounty, Saskatchewan in 1906. Edith Mary Burcham was born in London, England in 1882. She came to Canada in 1898, then returned to England and again came to Canada in 1908 to marry "JM"

Mr and Mrs. J. N. Cunningham in 1908

A cyclone passed through the Conquest area on July 25, 1925, destroying a large barn, wind mill, pump and water tank, so a move to a new region seemed necessary. The relocation proved to be a wise one because a few years later a great depression spread across the prairies

The farm consisted of a half section, S.E. 5-39-3-W5 and N.W. 4-39-3-W5, plus a quarter section of rented land, N.W. 5-39-3-W5, which "JM" purchased two years later

The family included four sons and two daughters Archie, Laura, Claude, Audrey, Tom and Wally The younger four attended school at Bluebe... Claude, being one of the big boys, took the job of lighting the fire and sweeping the school. He would leave early in the morning to do this, going on horseback. He got six dollars per month

When Archie was about twenty he acquired a Stainer violin for twenty dollars. He played for dances with Mrs. Bill MacDonald, pianist Clarence Fitch sometimes chorded on the piano, substituting for Mrs. MacDonald. Roe Hancher performed on the saxaphone The drums were played by whoever was available and willing Claude helped out, and also John Vlitalla It is interesting to note that this orchestra initiated the twenty-five cent admission fee for dances at Liberty Hall where capacity crowds attended. Lunch was extra. This example was soon adopted by other communities. These were "the good old days!"

It was nothing to go to a dance in 30 or 40 below zero weather with a fast team and jumper No one noticed the cold when bundled up and tucked in with a heavy robe, the horses travelling at a good pace, the runners crackling over the snow, and the stars shining brightly in a cold dark sky. On one occasion they were out with a one-tier wagon box and sleigh heading home in the wee small hours. Archie was driving in company with Laura, Audrey and Helen, Mamie and Ralph Kangas. The horses were going at a fast trot down Lutz's hill half a mile south of Eckville. The road was icy and the sleigh started to slide sideways. Something hit the box and it overturned in the ditch, dumping everyone in the soft snow. Archie held onto the lines, stopping the horses. After a stunned minute or two, all recovered and gave a boost to right the box and put it back into position The snow-covered passengers piled in and all arrived home safely a short while later

Laura, Wally, Mrs. Cunningham, Tom, Mr Cunningham, Claude, Audrey, and Archie

Audrey was the first to be married. In 1935 she became the bride of Harry Olsen They have farmed in the Bluebell district ever since. They have two daughters, Joanne and Faye. Joanne and Bill Budvardson and two sons, Jim and Perry, now living in Eckville. Faye and Melvin Molander live in Didsbury and have two children, Cheryl and Corey

Laura married Charles McCune of Red Deer in 1936 They farmed at Shady Nook In the fall of 1947 they moved to Kelowna where they bought a two-acre orchard. They had three daughters, Carol, Betty and Colleen. Carol works in Kelowna. Betty and Wimp Hughes live in Calgary They have three children, Garth, Gavin and Lorrae Colleen and Mick Logan live in the Eckville district and have two daughters, Holly and Kim. Charles McCune passed away in 1957

Claude and Margaret Olsen were married in 1936. They live one mile east of the old home place. There are three children, Lloyd, Dale and Judy Lloyd and Linda are living in Eckville and have a daughter and son, Dawn and Neal. Dale and Mary are living on the old Cunningham farm. They have a son, Ronnie Judy is working in Calgary

Tom married Phyllis Binks in 1940. That summer Tom enlisted in the 17th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery and was based in Calgary until January when he went overseas. Tom returned home in May, 1945 and farmed in the Eckville district for a few years. They are now living at Mirror. They had three sons, Bob and twins, Barry and Brian (Brian passed away in 1967), and two daughters, Barbara and Brenda. Bob and Carol live in Calgary and have two boys, Tim and Kelly. Barry and Ena and two sons, Brent and Curtis, live in Red Deer. Barbara works in Red Deer and Brenda is in Calgary.

Archie and Minnie Binks were married in 1941. They farmed in the Eckville area for several years, and now reside in Red Deer. They had four children, Doreen, Derek, Glenn and Eileen. Doreen and Graeme Storck live in Calgary. They have a son, Aric Justin. Derek and Audrey also live in Calgary, and have a daughter, Pamela. Glen and Edythe are also in the same city. Eileen and Arthur Lawrence are living on the farm at Pine Lake and have three children, Leita, Tanya and Jarret.

Wally and Betty Maddox were married in 1951, and have always lived in the Eckville area. They have a family of four children, Lois, Gerry, Darryl and Susan. (An infant son, Greg, died in 1956). Lois and Peter Duncan live near Eckville. They have two children, Kelli and Shaun. Gerry and Terri Mottus have a son and a daughter, Jeremey and Melanie. Gerry was employed in the hardware department of the Eckville Co-op Store, but, after taking special training at the Saskatoon Co-op College and apprenticing at the Red Deer Co-op Store, he is now hardware manager of the Co-op Service Center in Fort St. John, where they are now living. Darryl and Susan are still at home. Wally enlisted in the Canadian Infantry in 1943. After his discharge in 1945 and until he was married, he lived at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 1, 1959. For two days a blizzard had raged, the roads were impassable. Laura had arrived a few days earlier, which was fortunate. The only other family members able to come were Archie's family. However, two days later, when the plows had been through, all other family members were able to be present, including "JM's" only surviving brother, Fred, from Bounty, Saskatchewan.

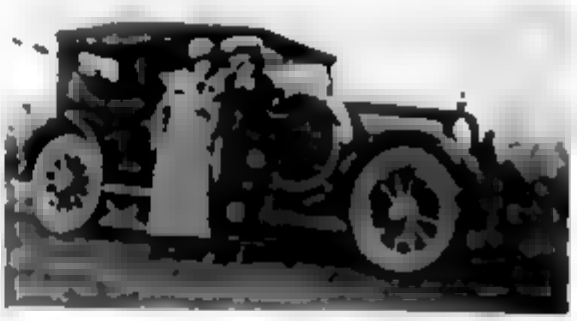
J. M. Cunningham passed away at Eckville in January, 1960. Mrs. Cunningham continued to live on the farm for a few years, then went to stay with Laura in Kelowna where she died in March, 1970. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham are buried at Red Deer.

"A good job done and rest well won."

**DENNETT, BERNIE — by Family Members**

Bernie Dennett was born in England in 1894, and immigrated to Hespero, Alberta in 1909 with his aunt, Emma Clonnier. He hired out to Jerry Macdonnell, clearing land with teams of oxen. When war broke out he joined the 89th Battalion in 1914, serving overseas until being wounded at Vimy Ridge in 1917. After spending several months in the hospital in England, he was given a medical discharge, and returned to Red Deer.

In Red Deer Bernie operated a pool hall, taxi business, and was a distributor for a brewery. In 1924 he married Ethel Harrigan, who was chief telephone operator in Red Deer. In 1926 he purchased the Eckville Hotel from Harry Lowe. This hotel burned down in 1928, in a fire that demolished a complete block of Main Street. The hotel was rebuilt the following year and operated until 1942. Many will remember Hank Bardenhagen as the bartender for many years. Bernie spent several months of each year in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary. While in Eckville he served for a time as mayor, at that time there was no such thing as remuneration for public service. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, Masons, Elks, and the Legion, plus several community clubs.



Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Dennett

After spending a few years on the farm in the Hespero district the Dennetts went back into the hotel business, first in Bowden and then in Innisfail, until ill health forced Bernie to retire in 1950, in Nanaimo, B.C. Being idle did not agree with him, so a china shop was purchased and operated until 1960, when he once again was forced to retire due to ill health. A move to Vancouver was then made, where they resided until Bernie's passing in 1967. Mrs. Dennett remained in Vancouver until 1975, but is presently residing in Red Deer at the Pines Lodge.

Five children were born to Bernie and Ethel. A daughter, Dawna (Billy) died in 1941. Mrs. Alf Sloan (Muriel) lives in Stettler, Alberta. Mrs. Fred Radford (Patricia), lives in Blind Bay, B.C.; Mrs. Arthur Snow (Marion) lives in Berwyn, Alberta, and Mr. Bud Dennett lives in Prince George, B.C.

**ECKFORD, ARTHUR E. T. — by Eva Eckford**

In the year 1920 Arthur E. T. Eckford left Dublin, Ireland, where he was born and educated, to immigrate to Canada. During the fall and winter of that year he worked on one of

Pat Burns' ranches near Calgary. For his labor he received twenty-five dollars per month plus his board and sleeping accommodation in the bunkhouse.

After reaching his land-to-be in 1903, it was 'first things first". This meant the construction of a log cabin with a sod roof. The sod helped to keep heat in during the winter time. This cabin was to be Arthur's home for the next several years. During the building period Arthur and his friend, Mr. Roper, lived with the Carney family in a large tent, all having travelled from Red Deer together. As well as having a large tent, the Carneys had a large family, but apparently this family did not remain long in this area.

By this time more settlers were arriving. Those best remembered were the families of Matchett, Mitzner, Kinna, Koski, Kasper, Brown and Pikett. It was not long before Arthur Eckford assumed a leading role in the development of the community. When it became necessary to have a Post Office, in 1905, he put up a suitable building on his own land, and gave the post office the name of "Eckville". Under an agreement with J. H. Killick, this was turned over to Mr. Killick, who built a store on the land. Subsequently this corner of Mr. Eckford's land was surveyed into lots, and Arthur Eckford donated one lot for the building by C. Snell, of a 'Stopping House" early in 1907. Arthur Eckford's position of Justice of the Peace was one of the first appointments in the west country. He was also a notary public, a school trustee, and a road councillor.

After making the required improvements on his land, Mr. Eckford went back to Dublin and returned in 1908, bringing his mother, Mrs. M. Eckford, with him. Mrs. Eckford spent her first months in a very new part of Alberta in the log cabin until the farm house proper was built during the same year.

When the CNR built its lines through the area in 1911-1912, a townsite was established about a mile south of the original town. The name 'Eckville" was retained — a fitting tribute to the man who had done so much for the district. The new village expanded rapidly. Business quickly built up and included a new post office, hotel, boarding house, the Co-Op Store (whose first manager was Mr. A. Litt), Sestrap's Store, a drug store, butcher shop, livery stable, blacksmith shop, and of course, a community hall. The new postmaster was Mr. Forham. The early arrival of Dr. and Mrs. Evans also proved to be a great boom to the new area.

The original townsite was referred to as "Old Eckville". Harry Woods was the last one to occupy a building on the old site, where his cheese-making plant turned out an excellent product.

So the years passed. In 1913 Mr. Eckford felt the long winters were a hardship for his mother, and decided to take her back to Ireland. It was with real regret that the community heard this news! Eckville and adjoining districts got together and planned a surprise gathering in the hall. Mrs. Eckford was presented with a pretty silver candy basket as a token of the esteem in which the recipient was held. The address and the presentation was given by Miss Gladys Matchett and Agnes Hampton (a school teacher). However, the "call of the west" evidently was strong, as Mrs. Eckford made an unexpected return to Canada, remarking that during the years of absence from her old-country home her relatives and friends had changed! In fact, life in the west had altered her own outlook.

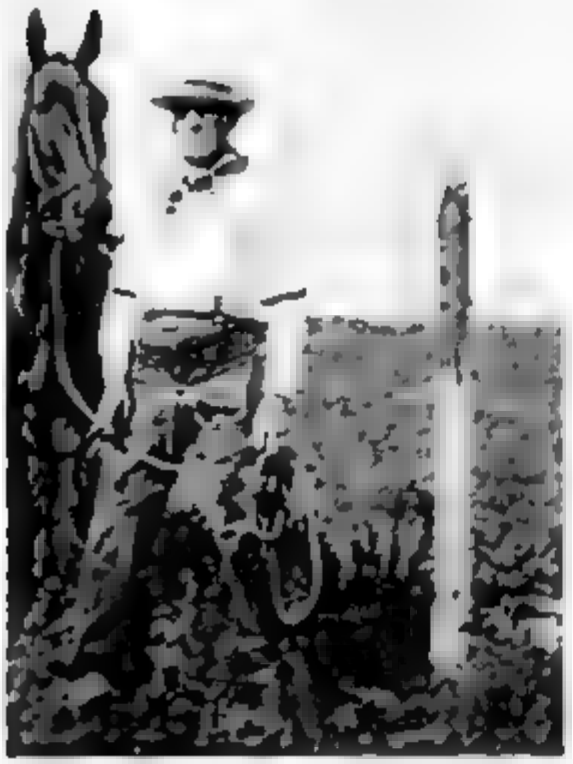
It was in the spring of 1914 that I, Eva McElveny, came into the picture. After the long journey from my home in Dublin, Arthur Eckford, his mother, and I were met in Red Deer by Norman Turner (Mr. and Mrs. Matchett's new son-in-law) who drove us out to the Matchett home where we were guests for a few days. On that drive out to Eckville I saw prairie crocuses growing, the first flower to be picked for me in this new country.

I really enjoyed the new life, new surroundings, and all the kindnesses extended to a newcomer. Sports Day, held on the May 24 holiday (when weather permitted), with races and baseball games and a dance in the evening, was one of the year's highlights. Picnics in the different communities provided a great opportunity to meet friends and, of course, exchange news. Often people went home to do their chores and then returned later in the evening for the dance.

Life in a pioneer community provided some exciting experiences. Coming home one night from a dance in the Bluebell direction and starting down Lindquist Hill, our team ran off the trail! The wagon box (on runners) upset, throwing all four occupants out into the snow, tangled up in cowhide robes! Arthur, although being dragged down the hill on his stomach, managed to hold onto the horses until he got them stopped. On another occasion we went to a dance via a railway hand car. Those were the days!

On September 9, 1914, Arthur and I went to Lacombe to be married by the Reverend Arthur Patstone, a family friend. After a brief honeymoon in Red Deer it was back to Eckville for us. As a delegation of friends was waiting at Kootuk the train stopped and let us off before entering the station. However, the well wishers overtook us, and we were driven home in style in a democrat. Our wedding was celebrated in true prairie fashion by a charivari that evening. Of course we promised to give a dance later, in the hall, for all our friends.

In the spring we moved onto the farm, which we called "Riverside Farm". In October of 1915 our oldest son, Tom, was born there. Dr. Evans was in attendance and Mrs. Ralph Brown took good care of me and the new baby. Later that year Reverend Patstone, when travelling through the district, was a guest at our home and while with us, he christened our son. This was a



Upper photo, Mr. Arthur Eckford Sr. Lower photo, Mrs. Arthur Eckford Sr.

happy event for us! In May, 1917 our second son, Edward, was born in Red Deer and later on he was christened there.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce opened its first branch in the village in Arthur Eckford's little office next to the Co-Op Store. The banking business was conducted from this location while the bank building was under construction. The first manager was Mr. McIntosh. He and his wife were very active in many village affairs, and were one of the popular couples of the village. The first Savings Account opened in the new bank was in the name of Thomas D. Eckford. He was about one year old at the time.

The year 1916 found us into the second year of war! Many young men from the surrounding districts left to "join up", which created anxious times for all with relatives and friends participating overseas. No radio gave us any news in those days! (Twenty five years later, during the next war, our concern was much deeper and more personal, with three sons and two daughters-in-law in active service in different branches of the Armed Forces overseas.)

The ladies of the village formed a Red Cross group. The first gathering was held at Riverside Farm, but I believe that the first business meeting was held by Mrs. Rogers at her home in Eckville. During Sports Day in 1916 I sold Red Cross ribbons for the benefit of Red Cross work.

In the forenoon of November 11, 1918, the ringing of bells and the blowing of horns and whistles automatically announced the wonderful news — that the horrors of war at last were over! There was great rejoicing in Red Deer, but for some there was also sadness, knowing that their loved ones would not be returning home. Arthur's mother and I took the boys with us to take a small part in that afternoon's celebrations.

During 1918 we talked about moving to British Columbia, and finally the decision was made. After the farm and livestock were sold Mrs. Eckford Sr., myself, and the two little boys went to stay in Red Deer until Arthur finished his business in Eckville — that of buying grain and hogs for shipment to Calgary. However, owing to the flu epidemic, travel was banned, and it was some time before we were permitted to start our journey to Vancouver, our destination. In 1920 our third son, Arthur Dermot, was born in Vancouver. North Vancouver was our home until 1947, when Arthur and I moved to Grantham's Landing, a spot right by the sea and loved by all of us.

It was at Grantham that Mr. Bliss, of the Eckville High School, corresponded with my husband, with the result that we donated a trophy to the high school to be awarded to the outstanding pupil of the year. Very nice letters of thanks were received from Mr. Bliss and the president of the Student Council. This expression of their appreciation was most gratifying. Now there are Eckford great grandchildren attending schools here in British Columbia. Perhaps, in the

future, they may be honour students, and be worthy of receiving such a trophy!

Of our eight grandsons and granddaughters there are seven surviving. Our oldest grandson passed away suddenly in 1971. Of course his death brought great sorrow to us all. Five of our family still live here in British Columbia. Our granddaughter and her husband and little girl live in Oshawa, Ontario, while one grandson and his wife live in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. The five great grandchildren, four boys and one girl, all live adjacent to Vancouver. The oldest of those children was 11 years old in 1977 and the youngest was six years old.

In 1961, after a long illness, Arthur E. T. Eckford passed away in Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver. He was a Boer War Veteran. So ended the life of one who had always been active in the affairs of every community in which he lived.

**ECKES, PAUL AND MARION AND FAMILY**

Before I met Paul, I had become a widow seven years previous, when my husband, Arnold Anderson, died, leaving me with three children: Sven Richard, four years, Kathryn Lynn, three years, and Marion Susan, two years old. (See Swan Anderson history.)

We lived on the Swan Anderson farm for two years following his death. Then we moved to my son's inherited land, across from the Eckville cemetery.

I had the old log house moved closer to the road and started to repair it. Kids from town had used it as a playhouse, and cattle that had pastured there had got inside the house and demolished it somewhat as well. With the help of John Robertson of Benalto doing the carpenter work for me, and Mr. Sterling of Benalto Revelstoke allowing me to buy the material needed on a monthly basis, I was able to make a home for the children and myself.

There was no well for water, so I hauled it in my cream cans. We used gas lamps for a few months until the power was installed. Our coal and wood stove provided us with heat and cooking facilities and our gas heater worked—sometimes!

I baby-sat for Mrs. Marg Palm for two years, taking Susan with me, as she was not yet in school. Then I got a job at Elgenes' Restaurant, owned by Ella and Gene Salsauler, and that is how I met Paul, who is originally from central Saskatchewan. He was working for McGregor Telephone and Power. They say that a way to a man's heart is through his stomach, and Paul always came in for meals and flapper pie. At least that's what he claims he married me for.

On December 31, 1964 we were married in Benalto. That winter we had a cold spell with a wind chill of 90° below F. The wind chill whistled through the house and froze everything that was upstairs. In the spring we demolished the house and bought a trailer, putting it on the same location. What a treat to have running water and an inside toilet!

Paul continued to work for McGregor Telephone and Power until spring, but decided he didn't like being away from home all the time, so he changed jobs and worked for Co-op for three years and then for Bud and Dave Lightbown for three and one half years driving truck. During that time we tried our hand at raising calves, pigs, and chickens, and milked some cows.

Three children were born to us: Terrance Paul on January 18, 1966, Rodney David on September 5, 1967 and Lezlie Ann on December 18, 1969. I drove school bus for Eckville, and then got a job at the Eckville hospital as a certified nursing aid, where I am still working.

Everyone has some major tragedy in his lifetime, and ours was when we lost Terrance at the age of five years in a drowning accident. The people of Eckville and surrounding districts were just tremendous during our loss, helping with trying to find his body, providing food donations, words of kindness and understanding.

Our small trailer, 12 by 52 feet, was getting a little cramped, so we bought a double wide trailer and moved into town. Paul had gone into the business of erecting steel bins. Today his business has expanded to all over central Alberta and the North Country. We lived in town for two years and then bought an acreage where the Young Peoples Hall used to be. We built a new home and at present are still living there. Rod and Lez are taking their schooling at Eckville and are involved in hockey and figure skating.

Rick, Kath, and Sue took their schooling in Eckville until grade 10 and then took 11 and 12 in Red Deer at the Comprehensive High School, commuting by car with other Eckville students going there. After their schooling Rick continued on at the Olds College, taking farm mechanics. It was here that he met his wife, Angele Doucet, from Fahler, where she was taking Fashion Merchandizing. When they graduated they were married on June 29, 1973. They then took a trip over to England, Scotland, France and down to Italy. While looking for jobs in Italy, Angele had an accident with her Moped bike and landed in the hospital for a week. As they were running out of money, they decided to return home after one month. They now live on their land in a mobile home across from the Eckville cemetery. Rick worked for Grand Equipment in Red Deer; tried his hand at steel building with his dad, farming, and oil rigs. But his main interest is in farming. Angele worked for the Eckville Bank of Commerce until they started a family. They now have two children — Christine Marie, two years old, and Sven Daniel, nine months.

Kath worked at the Eckville Hospital as a ward aid for two years after completing school, then went into training at the U of A for an R.N. degree, graduating in January of 1976. She then got married on March 6, 1976, to Bill Zaleski, a

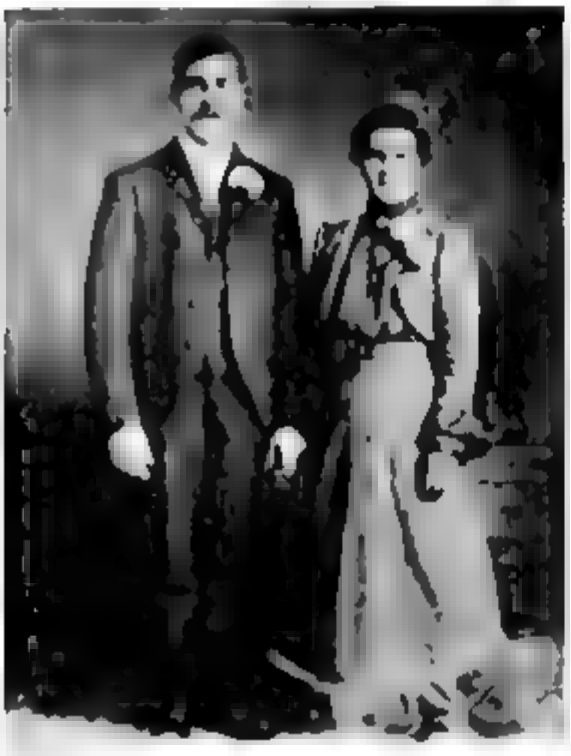
childhood sweetheart. She is employed at the Lacombe hospital, Bill is a licensed mechanic and worked for Kipp Scott's in Red Deer for three years, leased Eckville Motors garage for eight months, and now has a job in Ponoka as mechanic foreman and shop manager. They are now living seven miles north of Eckville on their land in a mobile home

Sue worked at the Eckville hospital for one year as a ward aid. She then also took her training at the U. of A. for an R.N. Susan graduated in August 1976, and then married November 6, 1976. She met her husband, Blair Penner, at the University. Blair's home is in Calgary, but the Eckville district was known to him before, as his grandmother's sister is married to a Mr. Bob Findley, who was manager of the Bank of Commerce some 20 years ago. His family used to come and visit the Findleys. At present Blair and Sue are residing in Edmonton. Sue is working at the Edmonton General Hospital and Blair is in his last year of the instrumentation course. They will be moving to their land in the Benalto area this year.

It is nice to have all the family close together.

**ELSON, ANDREW — by Olva Elson**

Andrew Elson was born in Teura, Finland, June 15, 1878. He immigrated in 1898 to Butte, Montana, where he worked in the steel mills for a few years. In 1902, he married Alexsandra Hakala. She also immigrated from Finland in 1898 to Butte, Montana. After their marriage they came to Canada, and took up a homestead one mile west and two miles north of Eckville, SE¼-32-39-3W5.



Andrew and Sandra Elson - Wedding, 1902

In 1906, they started clearing land with oxen to improve their homestead. To begin with, they built a small log house which they lived in for a few years. Also, they built a barn in 1907 which is still on the farm. In 1910 they built a new house and used the old one for a chicken house. Their closest town was Red Deer, where they had to get their supplies with an ox team. They did not have any children for many years. In 1912 the Lampis passed away within three months of each other leaving four children, Muriel Lampi was two months old when Mr. and Mrs. Elson adopted her. In 1919 they were blessed with their first son Olva. In 1921 the stork came knocking on the door again with another son, Verner. Also lost two in infancy.

In 1928 they had a sale, sold all the cattle, all the horses but two, machinery and all the household items. They rented the land out to his brother-in-law Matt Rein. The Elsons then moved to a warmer climate, Burnaby, B.C., and purchased a chicken ranch. Well, this chicken ranch in those depression years wasn't a very good paying thing, the feed cost a lot of money. The chicken eggs sold at 10 cents a dozen. The bounty in Alberta on magpie eggs was 12 cents a dozen, and you didn't have to feed them.

To make ends meet, Andrew Elson came out to the prairies in the fall to help harvest. As this venture in the chicken ranch was a failure, they sold it and returned to their homestead in Eckville in 1931, and resumed farming. He purchased four purebred Percheron mares in foal from John Hyvonen of Benalto, raised two stallions, sold one. Four years later he took first prize in Red Deer and Benalto Fairs with his stallion. He was proud of his big Percheron horses. They weighed from 1600 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. each. He also raised purebred Red Poll cattle. He took great pride in his livestock. They were always rolling in fat. He also raised hogs. In the 30's he took in some 220 pound hogs, they brought him $3. a head, just enough to get some groceries.

Saturdays they use to warm up the sauna bath, and some of the neighbors would come over for the evening for a sauna bath and play cards and have cake and coffee. The lighting wasn't very good, only coal oil lamps and wood burning stoves.

Sundays Mr. Elson would be the barber and cut hair. It seemed that there wasn't a Sunday that someone didn't come for a haircut. The price was right — free.

In 1939, they purchased a Massey Harris tractor called the Wallis, also got some heavier equipment to be able to control the quack grass, and from then on began to get better crops. They lived on the homestead until 1949 when they retired to a house they purchased from Everett Tarvas in the town of Eckville. Their youngest

son Verner took over the farm. One of the first oil wells in the Eckville area was drilled on the old homestead in around 1950. It is still in production. Verner also remodeled the old house and got Calgary Power. Their oldest son, Olva moved to Eckville and started a trucking business. Their daughter, Anne, married Floyd Bartesko. They had a daughter, Myrna, and moved to Red Deer. The oldest daughter, Muriel, married Everett McNeil, and moved to Alert Bay, B.C. They had four children — Gordon, Bertha, Clarence (deceased), Jackie. Muriel McNeil passed away at the age of 48 years in 1960. After living in Eckville for seven years, Mrs. Alexsandra Elson passed away January 14, 1956 at the age of 74 years. Mr Andrew Elson passed away February 4, 1962, at the age of 84 years. They were both laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery

Andrew, Sandra, and oldest granddaughter, Myrna, went visiting riding the tractor Coming home they had to come down Kasper's Hill Brakes went on the tractor so Sandra and Myrna jumped off and started walking down, sure enough, Andrew had made it and was waiting for them While cutting grain with horses and binder Andrew had a runaway, he fell off, horses going on their own, even made the corners pretty good. Andrew found his rubber boot in a bundle

**ELSON, OIVA — by Olva Elson**

Olva Elson was born at Eckville on August 9 1919, attended Eckville Elementary School while living on the farm with his parents Mr. and Mrs Andrew Elson. He continued farming until the fall of 1945. On June 12, 1942, he married Freda Oastrom of Hespero. They continued living on the farm until the fall of 1945. Then, moved to the town of Eckville where they purchased some property, built a house and garage and went into the trucking business. General trucking and gravel hauling for seventeen years. He was also grain buyer for eight years for Searle Grain Co at Eckville and Hespero. Olva coached hockey teams from juniors to juvenfles which he enjoyed very much. He was an active member of the Lions Club for several years and was very interested in town progress. He was on the town council for several years as councilor and deputy mayor for one year He was on the Presbyterian Church Board for three years

Olva and Freda raised a family of three Daryl, the oldest born in 1946, a daughter Diann in 1951 and number two son, Kevin, in 1957.

Daryl was quite talented in his younger days. He enjoyed singing and won many first prizes at all the talent shows. He sang on TV on the Red Deer station for a season. When he moved to Calgary where he was in the Civic Choir for a few years. Daryl finished his schooling in Eckville graduating in 1964. He came to Calgary to look for employment, got on as clerk with the City of Calgary In August 1970 he took Linda Johnson of Red Deer to be his loving wife. They both went to work for four years, saved up their money and purchased a house. Linda a banker and Daryl as dispatcher for the emergency fire police and ambulance for the City. On June 11, 1974, they were blessed with twins, Chad and Crystal who are three and a half and are real darlings

Daughter Diann received most of her schooling in Eckville. In April 1967, she married Jack Lamberigts. They lived at Sylvan Lake and had two children, Angelene and Roger. Angelene is 10 years old and Roger is eight years old. In May 1970, Jack Lamberigts was killed in a car accident. In 1970 Diann and the children moved to Calgary and started a new life. Diann took more schooling and is now working in the Calgary Court House. She remarried and has a son Eddy Compstone who is five years old.

Number two son Kevin took part of his schooling in Eckville until 1967 and continued schooling in Calgary He has been employed on construction work in and around the city After moving to Calgary, Olva worked with the city for six months. Then in February 12, 1968, went to work for Western Canadian Seed Processors of Lethbridge as a field representative covering an area from Crossfield to the Montana border He worked as a field representative for eight years. The company changed their name to Canbra Foods Ltd. two years ago and gave me a promotion as field co-ordinator Now I travel the whole province and into Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. My job is looking after 47 gathering points for the company This is January, 1978. I hope this job see's me into retirement with this company Also, wish the next generation will continue to do as much for the next history book

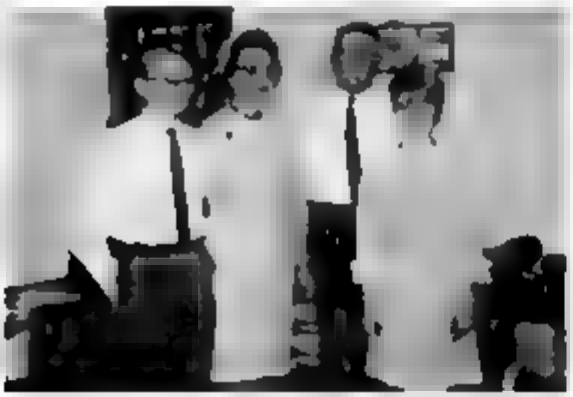
**ELSON, VERNER**

Verner Andrew Elson was born May 31, 1926 He took all his schooling in Eckville. He walked the three miles to school until he got a horse Some mornings he would get out of going to school by scaring his horse off with rocks and then telling his parents he couldn't catch his horse for some strange reason. Also played hooky once in awhile with a friend. Verner Elson was in air cadets while he was attending school. He enjoyed such sports as hockey and softball. He is still on his father's homestead SE 32-39-3 W5 and also farms another quarter which he purchased in 1947 He spent all his years on the farm except for 1943 when he lived at Alert Ba B.C. and worked at a logging camp at Beaver Cove

In 1948, he married Jennie Syren (of Condor) Jennie took her schooling at a country school called Northup which was built in 1921 She was the janitor for some time and had to keep the old pot belly stove fired up with wood. She helped her parents with farm work. She worked at a cafe in Condor so many years that some people started calling it Jennie's place. Also worked at Hespero store which included a post office. She missed the train one morning and the boss had to drive and finally caught the train at Sylvan Lake to get

the mail on it. In 1947 she came to work at Eckville Co-op Store and remained there until her marriage to Verner Elson on April 16, 1948.

Verner and Jennie began farming together after their marriage. They used to raise pigs and also used to milk quite a number of cows, by hand, and shipped cream until the Eckville Creamery closed its doors. Their farming now includes grain, hay and beef cattle. You could usually find Verner and Jennie working together but this one day Jennie thought she would finish shingling a granary roof alone while Verner worked in the field. After Jennie got to the peak on the granary, she was scared to come down and had to wait until Verner came so he could guide her down to the ladder. Even though Jennie herself was a farm girl, Verner found he had to teach her a thing or two about rolling barbed wire after he saw her trying it one day. Her sister was standing on one end of the wire while Jennie had the other end and was running around in circles.



Dwayne, Jennie, Verner and Loree Elson

Over the years they made many improvements to the land and buildings. Some of which included getting the power, putting plumbing in the house which saved them some mighty chilly trips to the shack out back. Shortly after they converted the familiar old sauna into a chicken house. They also upgraded their machinery from some horse drawn equipment to all tractor operated type.

They have also changed the appearance of the yard by moving old buildings such as the old wood shed. Now as you drive by the yard will catch your eye with its painted fences and buildings and well kept lawn. It means several hours of work a week but the new riding lawn mower helps lighten the load.

Jennie used to raise many chickens. She even raised turkeys to pay the hospital bill when their first child, a son, Dwayne, was born December 5, 1949. Their second child was a daughter Loree, born October 5, 1953. After Dwayne finished his schooling he was draftsman for Calgary Power in Calgary for five years. He married Shelley Linden (of Calgary) September 3, 1971. After tiring of the city, they moved to Caroline and have been operating Spruceview Transport since the beginning of 1977. They have two girls, Leane and Dayna.

Loree graduated from Eckville High School in 1971. She worked in a cafe and also in the drugstore in Eckville. She was fond of the farm and shortly after her marriage to Gene Sears, September 22, 1973, they bought a quarter from Reg Whillier west of Gilby, where they are presently living. As well as farming, Gene also owns and operates his own welding business. They have two girls, Katrina and Juli.

Verner and Jennie were quite active in curling in the 1960's.

**ELIUK, WILLIAM AND IRIS**

William Eliuk was born at Kaleland, Alberta in 1928, and in 1946 he moved with his parents to a farm in the Pinehill district. In 1951 he married Iris Thorlakson from New Centerville, and they moved to his farm west of Markerville.

In 1952 Bill was employed by Chester Kasha but in January, 1957, we took over the U.F.A. Co-op agency and John Deere dealership, known as Bill's Corner Service, and moved to Eckville. We purchased the old Co-op Lumberyard property and in 1965 erected a building, known as Eliuk's Farm Supplies Ltd., to house the John Deere dealership, as the U.F.A. Co-op building was too small for both businesses. Both businesses were expanding and proved to be too much work for us, so we resigned as U.F.A. Co-op agents.

We sold our farm at Markerville in 1966, and purchased the farm north of Eckville, where we now reside. In 1973, we relinquished the John Deere dealership.

We have four sons and one daughter. Richard (Rick) was born in 1952. In 1972, he married

Bill Eliuk Family. Standing: Randy, Bill, Iris, Marvin. Seated: Rick, Marcia, Kevin. December, 1976

Shirley Laye from the Leedale district, and they have two boys, Ryan and Colin. They reside in Olds, where Rick is parts manager for Greenline Equipment.

Randy was born in 1954. He is employed with Dowell Chemical and lives in Blackfalds.

Marvin was born in 1957 and works in the oilfield business. Kevin was born in 1961 and is employed by Revelstoke Lumber in Red Deer. He lives at home. Marcia was born in 1964 and is attending school in Eckville.

**ENGEN, GLEN FAMILY**

Glen was born in Bentley in May, 1934, the only son of Cassius and Mabel Engen. He worked with heavy equipment, starting at the age of 14 years.

In December, 1954 Glen married Myrtle Hansen. They have four children: Kenneth, JoAnne, Terry and Colleen.

JoAnne married Neal Knopp of Condor in June, 1975. They reside on a farm south of Condor. In 1967 Glen purchased his first Cat and still remains in the construction business, residing in Eckville.

**ESKI, JOHN — by Hilja Sjoblom**

John Eski came from his native Finland when a very young man. He came first to the United States, where he worked in various places before deciding to come to Canada to homestead. He filed on a quarter section of land on Blueberry Hill, next to his friend, E. Saarela. This was NE 18-40-4-W5. He filed on this place about 1910.

John lived on this place for a number of years and worked out as well. He was a hard-working man, and read a lot, taking a real interest in world affairs.

In the 1930's John sold his homestead and had a small house just south of Eckville which he called home. However, being a bachelor, he continued working out. When living in his small place here he did always raise a good garden, all kinds of vegetables, but gave most of them away to his friends and neighbors.

He suffered from arthritis and passed away around 1956 or 1957.

**FERGUSON, ALEC — by Loretta Ferguson**

Tiny (Alec), son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ferguson, has always been very active in hockey. Finishing school in 1955, he worked at the Co-op in Eckville and played hockey as a goalie with the Red Deer Monarchs, getting a trophy for the most valuable player.

He was married to Loretta Anderson in June, 1959. Following their marriage, they moved around to several places while Tiny was working on the oil rigs. He was away from hockey for about six years, then, when they settled down in Red Deer, he started playing as a goalie, and continued until 1973. He now coaches the Eckville Eagles Hockey Team.

The family took over the old Seatrap grocery store in April of 1971, calling it "Ferguson Mayfair Foods". They have continued to operate the store since that time.

Tiny and Loretta have four daughters. Cheryl was born in April, 1960, Sandra in June, 1961, Laureen in March, 1964 and Dawna-Lynn in December, 1968.

Tiny is involved in the affairs of the community, being a member of the Lions Club and doing many valuable things for the arena committee. He was a director of the committee for several years. He is quite an avid fisherman and hunter. The biggest fish always gets away.

**FORHAN, OSWALD MICHAEL**

Mr. O. M. Forhan was born in Owen Sound, Ontario on January 16, 1877. His father, Michael Forhan, was a watchmaker. Some of the watches he made are still in the family.

Oswald M. Forhan graduated from the Ontario School of Pharmacy (Toronto) in 1901. He came west with his brother P. H. (Harold) Forhan in 1903. They settled in the Evarts area where they both took out a homestead. While in Evarts he bought and operated a general store for a number of years. He later sold this business to a Mr. Jack Robinson. He and his brother broke virgin sod with the help of one ox, one horse, and an axe. While in Evarts he met his future wife, Annie McGregor, who came west as a young girl and was the second school teacher in the Evarts School. Her friend Miss Ada Belle Brown was the first school teacher in the Evarts School. They came west together from Nova Scotia in 1901. In Calgary in 1907, Mr. Forhan was united to marriage to Miss Annie McGregor.

At this time Harold Forhan left the homestead and took a job with Galts wholesale grocery firm in Calgary. He later moved to Camrose where he managed a branch wholesale house for Galts. It was here through a friend, Mr. Jack Donleavy, that he met his future wife, Estelle McCaul, whose father J. McCaul was a Dominion Government Railway Commissioner. Mr. Donleavy was later the CNR station agent at Sylvan Lake.

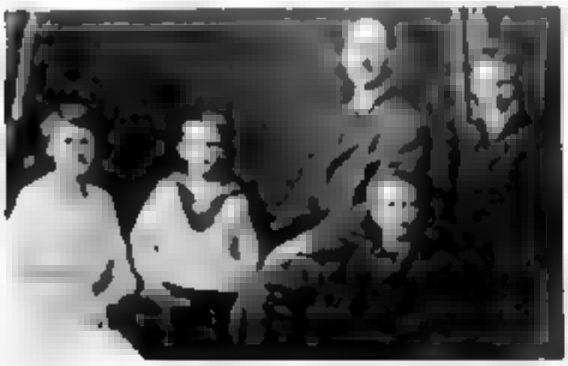
Harold and Estelle later returned to Ottawa where he established a brick factory which he worked at until his death. His wife Estelle is still living and resides in Ottawa. She was an ardent curler in her younger and not so young years.

Mrs. Forhan, nee McGregor, came west at the age of 21 years from her home in New Glasgow, Pictou County, Nova Scotia in the year 1901. Her grandfather established the Presbyterian Church in Canada and there is a cairn in Nova Scotia to perpetuate his memory.

When Annie McGregor first came west, she taught at the Bennett School east of Olds. In 1904, she taught at the Evarts Schools, and later moved to the Melita School on Highway 11. She boarded with a Mrs. Warwick later the Lloyd Wells' residence west of Benalto. She rode horseback to school and in the winter had to get

to school early as she had to light the fires so the school would be warm for the children when they arrived

Annie McGregor born in Nova Scotia in 1880 was married to Oswald M. Forhan in 1907. She died in the Eckville Municipal Hospital January 19, 1964, at the age of 83. She was laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery next to her husband who predeceased her in 1951.



Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Forhan, Tom, Harold and Norman. 1916

Mr. O. M. Forhan after selling his store in Evarts, left his homestead and moved to Old Eckville which was situated on what is now the Jarvis Ononfryzyn farm just north of present Eckville and just north of the Medicine River. He operated a store here for a coupe of years. When the railroad came through, he moved to what is now the present site of Eckville and opened a general store in partnership with Mr. Dan Clausen. After dissolving this partnership, he opened a drug store on the site of the present Co-op Hardware Store. This store also housed the post office. He sold the Drug Store to a Mr. Crosby and moved to Red Deer in 1916 and opened up a drug store there. He sold this business and moved to Vancouver in 1920. After the stock market crash of 1929, he returned to Eckville where he operated the old drug store until 1946.

In 1946, Mr. Forhan and his son Thomas built what is now the present drug store in the town of Eckville. Mr. Forhan was active in the drug business until his passing in 1951 at the age of 74 years. Mr. Forhan was active in community affairs and was instrumental in starting the first hospital in Eckville in the building which is now owned by Mr. Roy Saari. In the early days, as well as running the drug store, Mr. Forhan operated a farm northwest of Eckville where he raised hogs and also a mink ranch. At the peak of his operations he had as many as 500 mink. It was the second largest mink ranch in Alberta. Mr. Forhan was affectionately known as "doc" in the early days as he looked after the ills of both man and beast as we had no veterinarians in those days and at times the closest doctor was in Red Deer.

There were four sons from his marriage to Miss Annie McGregor: Norman McGregor, Harold Fitzpatrick, Thomas Oswald and Allan Francis.

**FORHAN, THOMAS OSWALD**

Thomas Oswald was born in Eckville in 1913. He moved to Red Deer with his parents at the age of four. At the age of seven his parents again moved, this time, to Vancouver. It was here that Thomas took most of his elementary schooling, graduating from Lord Byng High School. Thomas was active in athletics and in his senior year was selected to the Vancouver High School All Star Team in English Rugby. At the age of 17 he won the Western Canadian Junior Tennis Championship. After graduating from high school, he worked in Vancouver for two years. He returned to Eckville in 1932 and apprenticed with his father, Oswald, in the drug store. After apprenticing for three years, he attended the U. of A. graduating in Pharmacy in 1939. While attending university he played with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and also represented the University on the tennis team. After graduating from the U. of A. he worked in Edmonton for one year. He then returned to Eckville and entered the drug business with his father. Dr. F. H. Coppock was the local doctor at that time.

Thomas Forhan who is known as the Pill Doctor by many of his friends is an ardent sportsman and quite active in community affairs. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing and curling.

In 1956, he represented Eckville for Zone 18 in the Northern British Consols Curling Playdowns which was held in Edmonton. Playing with him was Robert Kraft, Don McDonald and Red [illegible].

While working with his father, he held the position of secretary for the village. He later was elected to council where he served for 12 years, six of these as the mayor. He was also the first secretary of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union and later served as the chairman of the Credit Committee serving this institution for 15 years. During these years he kept busy in athletics, namely baseball, hockey and tennis and as an honorary member of the Eckville Canadian Legion he served as Athletic Coordinator for that organization for four years. He was a charter member and past president of the Eckville Lions Club having retired from the club after 25 years of service. He is a past president of the Eckville Curling Club as well as being the first president of the Eckville Minor Hockey Association. He was also active as a hockey player in his younger years and was a catcher for the Eckville Senior Men's Baseball Team which won many laurels around Central Alberta. While catching for Eckville, he played with the Central Alberta All Stars who played many touring U.S. baseball teams. The most notable being

the colored house of door 6. Most of these games were played at Sylvan Lake. When the new arena was built he coached many minor hockey teams as well as a one year stint with the senior hockey team

After retiring from hockey and baseball as an active player he refereed for all classes of hockey and was well known around Central Alberta as a baseball umpire. When baseball died out, he coached and umpired both for the men's as well as the ladies' fastball teams. He is still active in these pastimes. At present he still operates the drug store in Eckville and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eckville Municipal Hospital

Mr. Thomas Oswald Forhan was married to Helen Dorothy Toivanen on August 12, 1946 and they have one daughter and two sons. Brenda Anne, Randolph Thomas and James Peter. Brenda Anne was born in Eckville on January 1, 1950. She went to school in Eckville, Red Deer and Vancouver. She was united in marriage to Gerry Gazenzoski on September 1, 1974. Gerry is employed in the identification division of the RCMP and is stationed in Red Deer. They have two children Michelle Leigh aged three years and Christopher Jon aged one.

Randolph Thomas Forhan was born in Eckville on November 16, 1951, and attended school in Eckville from Grade 1 to 10. He finished Grade 11 and 12 at Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer. He played football for the Red Deer Raiders. After graduating from high school, he played football with the Red Deer Junior Packers and enrolled at the Red Deer College. While playing a football game against Edmonton, he suffered torn ligaments to his right knee which necessitated surgery. This injury ended his football career and also college for that year. Randy is an avid sportsman and enjoys hunting and fishing and plays some fastball although he is hampered somewhat by his knee injury. He is presently living in Eckville and is employed by Cactus Drilling Co. In November, 1977, he was elected to the council of the Town of Eckville.

James Peter Forhan was born in Eckville on October 22, 1960. He played for the Lacombe Bantam Baseball Team when they hosted the Western Canadian Bantam Championships. He pitched and played third base. They won the Bronze medal in the playoffs. He also played goal for the Eckville Midget Hockey Team in 1977. They were second in the Provincial Finals losing out to Sherwood Park. He enjoys playing tennis and badminton and pitches for the Eckville Senior Men's Fastball Team. James is presently living at home is taking Grade 12 at the Eckville Senior High School.

**FORHAN, ALAN FRANCIS**

Alan Francis Forhan, youngest son of Oswald and Ann Forhan was born February 5, 1924, in Vancouver, B.C.

Attended Public School in Dunbar Heights, Vancouver 1930-32

Moved to Eckville, Alberta 1932

1932-41 — Public and high school in Eckville, Alberta

1942 — High school in Red Deer, Alberta.

1943-45 — Enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and stationed in Toronto, Ontario and Souris and Rivers, Manitoba

1946 — Attended high school refresher course in Calgary, Alberta

1947-48 — University of Alberta, Edmonton, and graduated as a Pharmacist in 1949

1950 — Joined Schering Corporation of Montreal as Pharmaceutical Sales Representative for Alberta, living in Calgary

1951-52 — Moved to Edmonton in same capacity

1953 — February moved to Toronto area as Representative and promoted

1954 - Promoted to Regional Sales Manager for Ontario. Travelled all Ontario from Windsor in the south to Timmins in the north

1955 — Married in Ottawa the former Marilyn Mielke, October 15. Resided in Toronto area

1956 — First Regional Manager with Schering Corp. to do $1 million in sales in his own territory

1956 — Infant daughter Stephanie was born and deceased. Born September 18 and deceased November 22

1958 — First son Mark Alan born in Scarborough, Feb. 15

1959 — Daughter, Allison Mary born in Scarborough, March 9.

1960 — Moved to Ottawa and purchased Howe's Drug Store.

1962 — Daughter Laurie Ann was born in Ottawa, July 25

In the intervening years, the whole family have worked their share in keeping Forhan's Pharmacy Ltd. of Ottawa a going concern. At present in 1977, Mark is attending Guelph University working towards a Science Degree. Alison is presently attending Seneca College in Toronto enrolled in Cosmetology. Laurie is attending Confederation High School taking the Academic Level Course. Presently (1977), Alan is president and owner of Forhan's Pharmacy Limited, 769 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario

**FORHAN, HAROLD FITZPATRICK**

Harold Fitzpatrick Forhan was born in Eckville in 1911. I took my schooling in Eckville, Red Deer, and Vancouver. After graduating from high school, I went into the real estate business in Vancouver.

In 1932, I returned to Eckville where I worked for my father on the farm. I also opened the first egg grading station in Eckville. In those days, our main market for eggs was Nordegg which was a thriving coal mining town.

In 1940, I returned to Vancouver and my first love which was building and real estate

In 1950, I was united in marriage to Theresa McDaniel. We have three children, Michael, Norman, and Maureen, all residing in Vancouver.

**FORHAN, NORMAN McGREGOR**

Norman McGregor Forhan was born in Evarts, Alberta, in 1908. My first schooling was in Eckville. At that time the school was on the Turner farm north of the present site of Eckville. We had to walk to school which was about a mile from the village. When I was a little older, my father sent me to the convent in Red Deer for further schooling. When my father moved to Red Deer in 1916, I attended public school there until we moved to Vancouver in 1920 where I finished my schooling.

After leaving school, my first job was in the Stock Brokers Exchange. After the stock market crash of 1929, I returned to Eckville with my father and have resided here ever since with the exception of a couple of years when I took a job with Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. in the N.W.T. After returning from the north, my father and I started a mink ranch. At one time, we had as many as 500 minks which was the second largest ranch in Alberta. When the market dropped out of the fur business, we sold out as it was no longer a viable operation.

In the 1930's, I assisted my father in the drug store. These years were known as the dirty 30's because of the hard times. In those days we had to be jack of all trades. We made many calls to assist the farmers with their veterinary problems. The most notable being injections for milk fever and inoculating for black leg. We also fumigated many farm homes for bed bugs as they were a common pest in the days of the harvest crews who moved around the country in the fall of the year.

Another pastime I had was going out on calls with Dr. Claxton. On other occasions he would call me to assist him to set broken bones.

In 1946, I was united in marriage to Aileen Langer. We opened a ladies' and men's ready to wear store. Our first location was in the old drugstore building. We later built our own store next to the drug store. This business was known as Forhan's Ready to Wear which we operated for over 30 years. We retired in 1973 and sold the business to Mr. Cliff Pitkanen.

In December of 1976, my wife, Aileen passed away and was laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

**FULTON, VIVIAN AND EILEEN**

Vivian and Eileen Fulton were raised in the Minburn area of Alberta. They came to Eckville in 1943 — Vivian in the spring, to work in the bank and Eileen in the fall to go to school. Eileen graduated from Grade 12 in 1945 and then went to Sylvan Lake to work in the bank. She was transferred to Banff, and later to Calgary, where she is still employed. She married Gus Beauchamp, and they have one son, who is married and also lives in Calgary.

Vivian worked in the Eckville Bank until the fall of 1945, and then was transferred to Sylvan Lake and later to Calgary. While in Calgary she studied to be a school teacher and went to teach in the Vermilion area. There she met and married Frank Farkash. They live on a farm and have raised seven children.

**WHAT ECKVILLE MEANS TO DR. AND MRS. GIBSON AND FAMILY**

Eckville held a lot of firsts for us — it was our first home — we were married on June 20, 1953 and moved into the old Mottus house on July 7.

Eckville was Gordon's first practice and after the untimely passing of Dr. Coppock he found it to be a very grave responsibility. Dr. Coppock was a hard man to follow and it took a few years to establish the trust and confidence necessary to be a good doctor.

Dr. Gibson

After a year in the Mottus house we built our own home, bought our first car, and had our first garden. Gordon even had his first taste of politics there when he became mayor. It was during this time that the water tower was built and it was a real thrill to have had a part in this vital step in the community.

Our three lovely children got their start in life in Eckville. David had two years of schooling there and all three have many happy memories of their childhood there.

All in all, Eckville, has had a very special place in our lives and we will always value the experience and the many lovely friends we gained in the 12 years we were living there.

**THE R. B. (BOB) GISH FAMILY**

Bob Gish, with wife, Lillian, was transferred to Eckville from Delburne in the spring of 1930 as the new manager of the Atlas Lumber Company. They had two daughters, Dorothy, seven and Sylvia, three years of age. Their first son, Robert, was born at home, in Eckville, in August of that year, and son Norman in October, 1935.

Bob became very active in the community and served as secretary treasurer of town council for some years and was chairman of the first hospital board. He was very interested in the sports activities of the town and served as a member of the annual sports day committee as special promotor on local baseball and tennis tournaments. Bob was also an active member on the committee to build the first covered curling rink which housed two sheets of ice. Both he and Lillian were active curlers and participated in the ladies', men's and mixed curling teams and bonspiels.

The whole family was involved in the church life of the town, with services being held in the little old schoolhouse. Bob was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and was inducted as an Elder in the Presbyterian church. Lillian was an active member in the Women's Missionary Group and served as president of the ladies' aid. Dorothy taught Sunday School and later was pianist for the evening church services. Bob and Dorothy were instrumental in forming a small choir, that would perform on special occasions at the services in Eckville and in Hespero. Sylvia soon was of an age to become a member of the choir and to teach Sunday School. Both Dorothy and Sylvia were members of C.G.I.T. groups and then became leaders.

Dorothy worked in the Imperial Bank in Sylvan Lake and Eckville after high school, and then moved to Calgary, where she was married in April, 1947. Sylvia worked in the office of the Atlas Lumber Company and was married in Eckville in August, 1947.

Meanwhile, Robert and Norman were growing up, going to school and taking part in the usual hockey and baseball activities.

Bob was moved to Red Deer in the fall of 1947 to manage the John's Hardware Store, which had been purchased by his company and was then called Builders Hardware Store.

Lillian and Bob Gish are now retired and live in Kelowna, B.C. Dorothy and husband, Douglas Hawkes, live in Calgary. They have a family of five sons, three daughters-in-law and two grandchildren. Doug is a real estate agent. Sylvia and husband, Ray Lawson, live in Red Deer. Ray took his high school in Eckville and is now hospital administrator at Michener Centre. The Lawsons have two sons, a daughter, two daughters-in-law and a grandchild. Robert a school teacher, and Norman, chairman of the B.C. Energy Commission, live in Vancouver. They are both married and Robert has one son and Norman has two sons and one daughter.

**GOARD, BLANCHE (McFAUL)**

Blanche Goard, daughter of James and Ella McFaul, came to Red Deer, N.W.T. from Michigan, U.S.A. in 1901. She worked in the post office in Red Deer before her marriage to W. J. Goard.

Mr. Goard and his brother owned and operated a Jewellery store, which they later sold out to H. H. Humber.

After Will and Blanche were married they also went homesteading west of the present town of Eckville on the SW 20-39-4W5. They soon found out that this was not the life for them.

They gave up the homestead in favour of Paul Pykett, who was married to Dorcas Brown. Her parents had come from the United States with the McFauls and Matchetts, the three families were very close friends.

Blanche and Will moved to Vancouver where he went into business again. Their three children, Stanley, Ronald and Alberta were born there. Will passed away several years ago. Blanche lives in Nanaimo with her sister Maudie.

**GRANT, REVEREND ED. A.**

Reverend Ed. A. Grant was the Presbyterian minister in the area west of Sylvan Lake in 1910 and 1911. Previously, he had served with his wife, as a missionary in Hyderbad City, South India. Rev. Grant held services at Diamond Valley twice monthly at 11 a.m., twice monthly at Pitcox at 3 p.m.; twice monthly at Eckville at 11:30 a.m.; and at Marianne every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. In late 1911 Rev. Grant moved on to Caribou Creek, near Calgary.

**THE GUSTAVSON FAMILY**

Charlie Gustavson arrived in Quebec from Sweden on July 20, 1903. He was born September 17, 1881 near Göteborg, Sweden. His father was a sailor and his mother raised the family on a small farm. Opportunities for schooling were very limited, and at the tender age of eight years he worked very hard for the local minister.

After spending a compulsary two-year stint in the Swedish navy he decided to do as so many others — to come and find his fortune in America. For a time he worked in a sawmill at Chabaygan, Michigan, in the U.S.A. It was while he was here that he met John Lundberg, who was to become his life-long friend. Together they later went to saw mills near Portland, Oregon. While here they saw an advertisement for homestead land in Alberta, which sounded like the answer to a dream. Free land! Fare was one cent per mile, or $12 to Wetaskawin. They decided to come and "own your own piece of land."

Charlie and John arrived in Alberta in March of 1905. It did indeed look promising with some farmers already in the fields. However, in 1906 winter arrived on October first and lasted until May, 1907. Many of the homesteaders at

this time were not prepared for such severe weather and many cattle starved to death, even though old straw roofs were dismantled for feed. Charlie and John had no livestock to feed, but even they found the weather a test for their courage.

After looking over homestead land near Camrose they decided that the open prairie land with few trees, was not to their liking. They returned to Lacombe, and later Charlie homesteaded near Gull Lake and John near Lockhart. Years of brush cutting, building a log house, walking over bush trails to Lacombe for supplies, even working on the railroad to earn a little cash, passed slowly. Potatoes were planted where brush piles had been burned. A fair crop resulted. Fish and wild life provided the main part of their livelihood. Later, after acquiring horses and oxen, they contracted land breaking with a team of horses in the lead, followed by a team of oxen, and a breaking plow. In this way many acres had their first furrow turned.

After proving up their homesteads they decided to sell their land and move to the fledgling town of Eckville. The railroad had just recently been built and a new town was in the making. John Lundberg took over the local hotel and in 1913 Charlie built a large livery stable. It occupied the lot between the present Co-op store and Eckville Motors. He operated a dray business, hauling from the C.P.R. as well as the C.N.R. It proved to be hard work, especially when he would tuck a hundred pound sack of flour under each arm, and carry them to an upstairs storage room.

As well as the dray business, he operated a livery. He was justly proud of his matched team of sorrels, Fanny, a small Indian Pony, and Maudie, her daughter, made a very fast team and had the endurance only the little wild ponies possessed. Travellers were taken in the high top buggy to Red Deer, Leslieville, Markerville, or "wherever". On occasion he drove the R.C.M.P. constable to carry out his duties. Several times when the assignment proved difficult, Charlie would be deputized. It was always his fear that he might be called on to use force — something quite foreign to his gentle nature. He kept this special team of horses until they passed on, when he very carefully buried his old "friends".

Times were changing! In 1914 Charlie bought one of the first Model T cars. Now his passengers could ride in luxury. The roads meandered from one hilltop to the next, trying to avoid the treacherous muskeg. If the car mired down it meant getting out and hoisting the back end over to firmer ground. Occasionally this would prove impossible, so a team was hired from a near-by farmer to pull the car out. It was even rumored that some of these fellows worked very hard hauling water to keep the hole impassable. The Model T proved temperamental, too. If the gas tank was below half-full and a steep hill was encountered it meant backing up the hill because the gas was gravity fed so didn't reach the motor otherwise.

On April 7, 1916, Charlie married a long-time girl friend, Gerda Anderson. Gerda was born near Stromstad, Sweden on July 26, 1883. She made the long trip to America alone, wondering what this new life, new language, new country would be like. A shy, retiring person, very fond of handwork, and gardening, she made a good home for her family. Shortly after she arrived they made the hazardous trip to Banff in the Model T. It proved to be quite a trip, but an enjoyable one.

On September 13, 1917, a son, Gilbert, was born and five years later, on May 1, 1922, a daughter, Agnes, was born.

During the war years, farming looked much better, with the increase in grain and livestock prices. In 1918 the livery stable was sold to John Kemila, who converted it into a garage. During the following years this building changed hands several times — to Fred Isaacson, the Co-op Association, and finally to Sherba Brothers, who lost it by fire.

For a time Charlie and family lived on the half section north of Eckville, then known as the Shenton place, later as Lenny Kingseps, and now as Bill Eulik's. This same land boasted a flying field, too. Meantime, Charlie was slowly clearing trees from his own quarter section of school land, SW 29-39-3-W5, as well as farming his rented land.

Charlie Gustavson, Lass and Bertha

He built a log house and moved to their new home in 1927. These were hard years with the depression soon upon them. Prices fell with wheat at 24 cents a bushel; barley brought six to eight cents a bushel and oats brought five cents. A good cow sold for $20 and a 200-pound hog for $1.50. After carefully dressing a large number of turkeys they took them to town to a buyer, who sorted them into two piles. For one pile he

offered two cents a pound, and for the other pile the offer was three cents. Charlie looked at him and said "You'll give me nothing", and promptly took his turkeys back home. That winter canned turkey was often on the menu.

In spite of the depression, this area didn't suffer from the drought plaguing the prairies. Crops and garden stuff was plentiful. Wheat was taken to the local flour mill and returned as flour, wheatlets, bran, etc. In the fall several boxcar loads of vegetables were shipped out to the less fortunate people on the prairies.

Socials, card games and visiting helped to pass the time away, and wood-sawing bees or building bees — even grain-hauling bees — got neighbors together to help each other and at the same time do some visiting. It was during the depression years that so many new folks moved to this area, starved or blown out of their prairie homes. Many of these newcomers were recipients of food from Charlie and Gerda's meager larder.

Charlie was a Wheat Pool and Co-op shareholder. He spent many years on the local school board, with its attending headaches, trying to finance it with little to go on.

Following a lingering illness, Gerda passed away in April, 1942. Agnes stayed with her dad until her marriage to Fred Sundberg of Seattle on May 27, 1945. After several lonely years Charlie married Albertina Bodin, from Provost in 1947. She passed away in 1954.

In 1955, being in failing health, Charlie moved to a small house in Gilbert's yard where he spent his remaining years. He owned a small Prefect, which allowed him to inspect crops and to go visiting in the neighborhood. He spent many hours in carving sailing ships as he remembered them from his long-ago sailing days. They were exquisite works, complete with delicate rigging, movable steering, and other details. Many of his friends are proud owners of these lovely momentoes.

A very quiet soft-spoken person, Charlie read widely and took an immense interest in local and public affairs. He passed away on December 11, 1964, leaving behind a host of friends, one of whom, Mr. J. M. McDonald, wrote of him, "He was a great man who never entertained a small thought."

**GILBERT GUSTAVSON FAMILY**

Gilbert Gustavson attended school in Eckville. Walking, horseback, and bicycle provided his means of getting to school. On October 26, 1938 he married Iva Lewis. Iva was born and raised at Laverna, Saskatchewan. She completed her schooling there and worked for a number of years in the Post Office. She arrived here in 1935 to join her family who had previously come to Alberta.

Gilbert and Iva have two children, Gerald (Gerry), born June 10, 1940 and Marilyn, born March 30, 1943. As with all others growing up during these years, they have known hard work and learned to get along with what was available. A herd of cattle, pigs, and a flock of laying hens kept everyone busy. Eggs for hatching were sold for a number of years. As times improved the cattle and chickens gave way to modern hog barns.

After finishing a course at Olds Agricultural College Gerry and his father formed a partnership. Between them they farm six quarters of land and grain farming is the mainstay of the operation.

Gilbert spent nine years on the Credit Union Board of Directors and also was a member of the Eckville Livestock Board for quite some time. He is a member of the Wheat Pool, the Co-op, and the Fish and Game Association. He is an avid fisherman and hunter, and loves the west mountain country.

Iva is a charter member of the Country Ladies Aid. She is also active in the Handicraft Guild, where she has held an executive and teaching position. She enjoys gardening, needlepoint, pottery and lapidary. She has been district convener for the Cancer Canvas for many years.

**GERALD GUSTAVSON**

On October 28, 1967 Gerald and Elsie Kirk were married. Elsie was born in Nigeria where her parents were missionaries. She obtained her schooling in Nigeria and in Canada. She is a registered nurse, having graduated from Calgary General Hospital. They have three sons. Joel was born on December 11, 1970, Wesley on December 23, 1972 and Andrew on March 21, 1974.

Gerry has been on the Co-op Board of Directors and is presently serving as president. He is an active outdoors man, enjoying fishing and hunting. He also enjoys working in his shop, especially with his metal lathe.

Elsie works hard with Hospital Auxiliary, Country Ladies Aid, and her Church work and activities in the Handicraft Guild keep her quite busy.

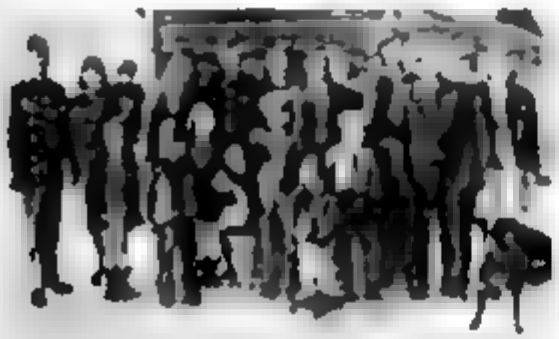
**THE HAAPALA FAMILY — by Vivian Bunch**

My father, Matti Haapala, was not one of the early pioneers of the Eckville District. It was not until 1941 that he moved from Manyberries, Alberta, bringing with him a large family. After many dry years on the prairie he decided to follow his former Finnish neighbors to the Eckville area which indeed, was greener pastures to us. He was able to rent land from Mr. McDonald and Mr. Marshall, of Eckville, which was situated west of Eckville, just next to Alfred Molander's.

Moving, itself, was a major undertaking for us. My mother had passed away in 1935 and the two older girls, Esther and Miriam, were married. My oldest brother, Reino, remained in Manyberries to farm for that summer, and

George was working in Saskatchewan, so that left a family of nine to move. My brothers, Arnie and Albert, came by train along with the cattle and machinery. Dad drove the 400 miles in a Model T Ford truck with the chickens in a box in the back! The late Mr. Jack Macky was good enough to offer to come and get the rest of us. We made quite a car full with Dora, Pearl, Grace, Vivian, Dorothy, Wilfred and Vernon and a friend, Vivian Kakkinen, as well as the driver. Needless to say, it must have been a very trying trip for him, and to this day I feel much gratitude toward him and his wife, Hulda, who is now a resident of the Manor House in Eckville, for all the help they gave us.

To us kids our new home was splendid. The outside walls of the house were brown weathered siding that had never seen paint, but we were used to that. The interior was bright and cozy. Of course there was no electricity, phone or plumbing. How we loved the trees, after living on the bald prairie! The Horseguard River ran back of the land, and we'd walk through the huge spruce trees to have picnics by the river and to skate in the wintertime.



Haapala Family (just before George and brother-in-law August Salminen left for overseas.)

Our crop was good that year and I can recall my dad saying that he made more from his share of the crop that year than he had made in the past 10 years on the prairie. He was very happy in this new area, going fishing in the nearby lakes, picking blueberries with us, and visiting friends. Our home was such a hospitable place, everyone was welcome, and we have many wonderful memories of our dad and the good life we had.

Starting at a new school that fall was another hurdle for us kids. To top it off, dad had sold the Model T to a stranger, who offered to give us a ride to school in it before he took it home. We agreed to go if he'd let us off up town and we'd walk to the school. When we arrived in town he laughingly drove right up main street and up to the school, where we all jumped out with red faces, much to the amusement of all watching! Two years later the school burned and we then had classes in the hall. Mr. Bill Davidson was our teacher then.

Among other new experiences we had were the sight of Indians traveling and camping just one mile away from our buildings. They would often come and ask for vegetables or other things, and we soon lost our fear of them. As far as I can remember, they never caused any trouble for us.

My dad had married again in 1943. His bride was Miss Emily Hill of Eckville. He bought a farm at Withrow and Reino, and later Albert and Vernon, went to help him there. Arnie rented the McKee farm at Benalto and we moved with him as we couldn't get to school from Withrow due to poor roads. This ended the chapter of our life near Eckville.

George was in the Army and didn't get home until the end of 1945. He was followed by his war bride the following summer. The family is scattered around now, with only a few of us remaining in this area. My father passed away in March, 1960, and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. My step-mother, Emily, still lives with her sister, Mrs. Glen Hare, in Duncan, B.C. Arnie lives at Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan, Wilfred at Dunblane, Dorothy at Hawarden, Pearl near Rocanville, all in Saskatchewan, Grace lives at Surrey, B.C., George in Menahga, Minnesota, U.S.A., Vivian near Leslieville, Alberta, and Dora, Reino and Albert and Vernon living near Eckville.

**THE LEONARD HAGLUND FAMILY — by Sadie Haglund**

Our family arrived in Eckville during the spring of 1971 to operate the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator. We came from a small town named Hythe, located in the Peace River country about 400 miles from Eckville.

Len was born in Broadview, Saskatchewan, the son of John and Helen Haglund. In his early childhood he moved with his family to a farm in the Beaverlodge area of Alberta. Here he received his education. After working at odd jobs for a period of time Len went to Grande Prairie and enlisted in the Regina Rifle Regiment in 1943. He took his basic training in Camrose and Calgary, then was sent overseas that same year. He saw action in Holland, France and Germany, before being discharged in June, 1946.

After his discharge from the Army, Len started working for the Alberta Wheat Pool. During his time of employment with the Pool he has been located at Sexsmith, Wembley and Hythe before to Eckville in 1971. Leonard was one of the 16 Wheat Pool managers in Alberta who handled a million bushels of grain during the 1976-1977 crop year. It is the first time Len had hit the million bushel mark, and this achievement sets a record for any wheat pool elevator in Eckville. Entry into the million-bushel club coincides with a quarter century of Wheat Pool employment for Len. In January of 1977 Len was presented with a

gold watch in recognition of his 25 years of service with the Alberta Wheat Pool and will be further honored by the Wheat Pool later in 1977

In the communities where we have lived Les has worked with a number of youth groups, including the Gilby 4-H Club. He is a member of the United Church, Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, the Royal Canadian Legion and the Fish and Game Association. He enjoys golfing, curling, fishing and hunting

I, Sadie Haglund, was born in Hythe, the daughter of Walter and Thora Tanchuk. I was raised in this area, and received my education in the local schools and in the McTavish Business College in Edmonton. For several years I worked as a school supervisor, in the Grande Prairie School Division Office, the Hythe Post Office, Sambrooke Insurance Agency in Eckville and at the Eckville Junior Senior High School as a teachers' aid. I have helped with the United Church Sunday School, with girls' groups, Order of the Eastern Star, the Ladies Auxiliary at Hythe and the Handi-craft Guild.

On July 20, 1951 I was united in marriage to Leonard A. Haglund. After our marriage we lived for a time on the family farm south of Beaverlodge, before moving to Hythe

Maureen, our only child, was born at Hythe on August 26, 1955. Here she was raised and received her education, except for one year of high school at Beaverlodge and two years at the Eckville High School, from which she graduated in 1973. While in high school she enjoyed and participated in school sports, and was a member of the Eckville Yearbook Staff. Since furnishing high school Maureen has been employed in Red Deer

**HALL, THELMA**

I, Thelma Hall (Barlund, was born at Lovern, Saskatchewan in 1918. I lived there for 13 years and went to school at Antelope. In 1931 my parents two sisters and I moved to the Eckville district. I attended school there till we moved to Evarts in 1933 where I finished my Grade 9. I went to work for the Stewarts in the store and post office and was there till 1940

In 1941 I came to work at the old hospital in Eckville for Dr. Coppock. Miss Coates and Miss Snow were the nurses here. It was interesting work but sometimes really hectic when there would be more patients than beds and we wouldn't know where to put them. Then there was the time the bathroom upstairs flooded and water ran all over the floor. Miss Coates and I mopped for an hour getting it dried up

One Christmas we were invited to the doctor's house for supper. The doctor always liked his Christmas cheer and he had plenty that day but was supposed to carve the turkey. However, the knife somehow slipped and so did the turkey right on the floor but the doctor just scooped it up and went on carving

We had lots of good times there and sad times too, when someone would pass away. We got to know everyone so well, it was just like family

I married Ernie Barlund in 1944 and we have lived around the area except for three years in Red Deer. We came to our present home in 1951 and have lived here ever since

We have four boys and one girl. They went to school at Lesliеville and David Thompson High through Grade 12. Bruce went to Red Deer College one year, then joined city police in Calgary. He was there for nine years. He has resigned now and has gone farming at Spirit River. He is married to Carol Middlestead of Grande Prairie and they have two girls

Robert went to U of A and took Agriculture. He has been working for five years for Energy and Natural Resources in the Peace River country. He married Arlene Elhorn of Wanham and they have one son and one daughter

Douglas went to U of A and took Agriculture. He was with Farm Credit Corporation for four years at Fairview, Grande Prairie and St. Paul. Now he is in Regina, Saskatchewan with the Bank of Commerce, a farm loan officer. He married Dana Fleming of Holden and they have one son.

Dale went to Olds College for two years and now is land assessor with Municipal Affairs at Hanna

Sharon went to U of A and took Agriculture. She is now credit advisor with Farm Credit Corporation in Lethbridge

**HALLGREN, AL AND JOYCE**

Al and Joyce Hallgren and family moved to Eckville in February, 1963. Al was then self-employed as a tank trucker, hauling crude oil and water for drilling and servicing oil and gas wells in the Eckville area. Eckville was a beehive of activity in the oilfield at that time, having roughly 35 big rigs drilling at one time.

Al and Joyce had previously lived in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake where Al owned and operated a gravel truck. Before this, Al was employed in a "doodlebugging" or, in plainer words, seismograph exploration, from 1951 to 1955. In 1961, he rigged up his first tank truck and went to work at Whitecourt, Alberta. He soon returned to work out of Sylvan Lake, where they lived at the time. They lived in various areas while hauling water for a big rig before moving to Eckville

When they first moved to Eckville, they lived in a mobile home in Covlin's trailer court for three years. They then bought the Gust Nygaard house in Eckville where they lived until July of 1973. They moved to the new house they built on the ski-doo hill, one and a half miles northwest of town. This hill, so we have been told, was called the Last Hill by the Indians who roamed this country many years ago. Some Indian artifacts have been found on this hill as proof the Indians used to camp here. The "hill" is located on NW 21-39-3-W5, which Hallgrens purchased from Rudolph Saari in April, 1973

Joyce helps run the business by answering the phone and dispatching trucks. Al and Joyce have been in the tank truck business continually since arriving in Eckville 15 years ago. They still operate their tank truck business which has grown over the years and done very well. Al and his sons own and operate an oil reclamation centre just out of Eckville. The "oil rec. centre" handles oil spill clean-ups and re-claims crude oil. This helps prevent pollution from these materials laying around. Son Darrell, is running this operation, besides driving trucks for his dad.

Al's grandfather, John Peter Hallgren, coming from near Stockholm, Sweden, was one of the first white settlers in the Red Deer area. He homesteaded just three miles east of Red Deer at that time. The old Hallgren homestead is now occupied by a Chinese market gardener.

Al's father, Andrew Edgar Hallgren, was born on the old homestead. He moved to Delburne and later to a farm two and one-half miles south of Sylvan Lake in 1931.

Al's mother, Mary Louise Augustine Leroy, was born in Nice, Normandy (France). She came to Canada in 1914 and married Ed Hallgren in March 1916.

Al was born at Delburne, Alberta and took his schooling at Marianne, Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. He had five brothers and four sisters. From 1942 to 1945, Al helped his dad run a riding academy in Red Deer and Sylvan Lake.

Joyce Hallgren, nee Joyce Doreen Harden, was born and raised about 25 miles west of Wetaskiwin. She attended school at Bonnie Glen and Canyon Creek.

Joyce's father, LeRoy Harden, now farms in the Bonnie Glen district. He spent much time in the Eckville area in his younger years. He was well known for his skill at cutting the necks off beer bottles with a whip or driving line.

Al and Joyce had six children. Dale Alexander and Donna Joy, twins, were born at Wetaskiwin in 1954. Donna is now Mrs. Harry Thomas of Eckville. Dale passed away in a car accident in August 1973. Dale and Donna attended school at Sylvan Lake, Airdrie and Eckville.

Deborah Dorothy Louise, born in Red Deer in 1956, took her schooling at Eckville. She is now Mrs. Jack French of Eckville.

Darrell Lee, born in Red Deer in 1958, went to school in Eckville. He is at present living at home and helping with the business.

Kelvin Alexis, born in Red Deer in 1960, is living at home and working out.

Allen Edgar, born in Eckville in 1964, is living at home and attending school in Eckville.

**HEBNER, EDITH**

I, Edith Hebner, was born September 1, 1898 at Birkenhead, Cheshire, England. I came to Canada May 1, to Toronto, Ontario. William Hebner and I were married in October, 1921 and left for the West on December 10, 1921.

We arrived at the homestead in Turtle Valley, B.C., and there had several surprises. My first surprise was to know I had only one white neighbor, who lived five miles away. The rest of the folks were Indians. There was no water supply on the homestead, so we had to carry it about one half mile. I learned lots of things from the Indians. They became real good friends, and, although I am now 79 years old, I keep in touch with some of them. They kept me in deer meat and salmon for years after my husband died.

I had never seen a wood stove before, and believe me, I had quite a time before I got used to it. I also had quite a problem with coal oil lamps. Our log cabin was really very small, but we managed to raise our three children there.

Our children were Harry, born October 9, 1922; Pauline, born December 21, 1926, and Kathleen, born October 31, 1929. In 1929 my husband took over the Rawleigh business and stayed with it for ten years.

Later we bought another homestead in the same valley. It was a beautiful place to live. My husband died in 1951 and I stayed there until 1957, when I moved to Eckville in June of that year. I bought a very small house, which I was told was the first bank building that Eckville ever had, and it later became a pool hall. Finally I made it livable and spent quite a few happy years there. In 1976 I moved into the Eckville Manor, where I feel quite content and happy to be.

**S. F. HERBERT FAMILY — by Mr. Herbert**

I was born on November 30, 1904, on a ranch just south and east of where the hamlet of Lousana, Alberta now stands. In the spring of 1905, my parents moved to their homestead five miles south and west of Lousana. My childhood was much the same as that of any children of the early settlers — trapping rats in the fall, shooting gophers in the spring, rounding up cattle and generally helping with the farm work. I received my education at Collins School, about two miles from where we lived. I have one sister and two brothers.

At the age of 15 years I went to work in the Lousana Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada. I worked in quite a number of different branches such as Rocky Mountain House, Wetaskiwin, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Regina and Broadview. In 1925, I left the bank and went to work for the Northern Electric Company in Winnipeg. It was about this time that many of the large city exchanges were being changed to automatic. This job consisted of installing automatic equipment. After about a year I moved back to my father's farm at Lousana.

In the spring of 1929, I started farming on my own. What with 20¢ wheat and eight and 10¢ a pound butterfat, it was a pretty rough deal. In the spring of 1934, I moved the family to Eckville, and travelled for the W. T. Rawleigh Company for the next seven years.

With no gravel roads and very little snow

plowing in the winter and not much money in the country, this business just made me a living. My district was from Markerville in the south to Bluffton in the north, and from Lesliеville to six miles west of Bentley. I traded quite a few Rawleigh products for horsehair and beef hides, and also quite a number of beer bottles. Most of the articles I took in trade were sold to Louis Robinson of Leedale.

In the fall of 1941, I joined the army and went overseas in August, 1942. We landed in England the day of the Dieppe Raid. I was stationed at the Headquarters of the Ordinance Corp, where I worked in an office. Outside of a few air raids, a plane crash very close to the camp and a few buzz bombs, my stay in England was uneventful. I returned to Canada in October 1945, and was discharged from the army in May, 1946.

I worked for several farmers in the Elnora District and in the fall of 1948 took over the post office in Lousana. I had a small oil and insurance business along with the post office. In the fall of 1954 the post office in Alix was open for competition. I applied, wrote a civil service examination, and was successful in winning the competition. I took over the post office in Alix and was postmaster there for almost 15 years. Having reached the age of 65 in 1969, the government turned me out to pasture. I must say with a civil service pension and the other pensions they have these days the grass in the pasture remained quite green.

I have a good house in Alix and am quite active in community affairs. I also do quite a bit of travelling. I have been from Mexico to Alaska, both the east and the west coasts of Canada and have made two trips to England and Holland. I still enjoy good health.

My family consisted of three boys and three girls.

Edwin is head of the parts department for Costello Equipment in Calgary. He does quite a bit of travelling between Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. His wife Joyce works for Woodwards in Calgary. They have a son.

Donald is maintenance man for Molson's Brewery in Edmonton. He spends his summer holidays building a retirement home on the Shuswap Lakes in British Columbia. His wife, Barbara, is a housekeeper for an auxiliary hospital in Edmonton. They have two girls.

Allan works for Continental Packers in Red Deer. His wife, Mary, works at the Michener Centre in Red Deer. They have three boys.

Evelyn, Mrs. R. W. Green, and her husband run the Eastgate Shell service in Calgary. Evelyn is also a housewife. They have a boy and a girl.

Florence is now Mrs. H. J. Dean. Her husband is retired from the American Air Force, and works for Continental Oil. She runs her own beauty parlor. They have four girls. They live in Moore, Oklahoma, U.S.A.

Doris, now Mrs. Adolph Hovey, lives on a farm in the Lousana district. She works part time in the Elnora Hospital. They have two daughters and a son.

**JACK HIITALA — by Martha Leeti**

Jack Hiitala was born in Raahe, Finland on December 6, 1879. He came to the United States in 1902 and worked in various areas before going to Butte, Montana where he worked in the copper mines. While in Butte he married Elizabeth Kyllonen, who also was born in Finland.

In 1906 Mr. Hiitala came to Alberta to look for land, and was able to buy the S.W. 32-39-3-W5. This land was located four miles north-west of Eckville. He brought his wife and first child to the farm in late 1907. He was naturalized in Alberta on September 2, 1910. They had three girls and one boy. Martha was born in Butte, Montana on July 10, 1907, Hilja was born at Eckville in June, 1908, Fanny was born in 1910, Vaino was born in 1912. In 1913 Mrs. Hiitala returned to Butte, Montana for medical treatment, but she died there in November, 1913. She is buried in Butte.

Jack later married Hilda Torsti and had four more children. Elsie was born in 1916, Ivy in 1917, Otto in 1920, and Violet in 1926.

They lived on the farm until 1950 when they bought a home in Sylvan Lake and moved there for their retirement. Jack died in December, 1952 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Hilda is living in the West View Lodge, in Rocky Mountain House.

Martha married Elmer Leeti of Sylvan Lake. Their four children were Aileen, born in 1928, Helen, born in 1936, Irven, born in 1938; and Gordon, born in 1942.

Aileen married Don Lyons of Red Deer and they had six children. The oldest boy, George, is married and has two children. He and his family live in Surrey, B.C.

Helen Leeti married Jack Anderson of Bentley and they have three girls and one boy. They live on a farm west of Bentley.

Irven is not married and lives on the home farm.

Gordon married Johanna Lauter of Kindersley, Saskatchewan. They have two children — a girl and a boy. They live in Sherwood Park, Alta.

Hilja married Toivo in Port Moody, B.C., and they still live in B.C.

Fanny died in 1924 and is buried in Kuusamo cemetery.

Vaino stayed on the home farm and worked until the second World War. Then he went into the army and was overseas about two years. He married Astred Rowan and they lived at Onoway until his death in January, 1969. He is buried there.

Elsie married Bill Johnson of Eckville and they had six sons and two daughters. Ronald is married and lives at Stony Plain. He has three sons. Jack is married and has two girls. He lives

Jack Hilula Family, Martha, Fanny, Hilja, Ivy, Elsie, Wainc. Father Jack. Mother Hilda (holding One.)

in Rocky Mountain House. Marvin is married has three children, and lives at Beaumont, Alberta. Elaine married George Piller and has one girl. They live at Sylvan Lake. Dennis is married and has a boy and a girl. They live at Leslieville. Larry is married and lives at Rimbey. He has one boy Leslie is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House Deloyce is married and lives at Sylvan Lake.

Bill and Elsie lived on a farm five miles west and one mile north of Eckville until they sold their farm and moved to Sylvan Lake in 1968. Elsie died in September of 1968 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery

Ivy married Bill Wright. They have a girl and boy

Donna is married and has three girls and a boy. They live on a farm east of Rocky Mountain House

Otto Hilta.a married Lillie Rogers of Eckville. They have five boys. They live on a farm at High Level, Alberta. The son Brian is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House. The other boys were Arnie, Craig, Dean, and Eric

Violet married Eli Saarela of Leslieville and they have three girls and one boy Eileen married Terry Fedderson. They have two girls, and live on a farm west of Gilby Beverly married Brian Adams and they have three girls and one boy. They live at Midnapore, Alberta Judy married Harley Peterson. They have one girl and live at Condor. Wesley is married and has three girls and lives on the farm. Wesley and his dad farm together north of Leslieville.

**THE JACOB (JACK) HILL FAMILY — by Mrs. Lyssie Shukla**

Born in Kauhajoki, Finland, Mr. Jacob Hill immigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 19, where other older members of his family had moved earlier. Working in the mines and on farms in Michigan and the Dakotas for one dollar a day for long hours was not to his liking, so he moved to the coal-mining towns in the Crow's Nest Pass Here he met Ida Maki, who had left her birthplace, Kuortane, Finland, a few years earlier, coming to Nanaimo, B C. and later moving to the Crow's Nest area

The couple were married on April 7, 1907 and settled on a homestead in the Eckville district, on which Mr Hill had filed two or three years earlier. During the next few winters they moved back to the Crow's Nest area where Mr Hill again worked in the mines, until a mine explosion occurred in Belleview, which killed a great number of men, many of them close friends Mr Hill, who was working on a different shift, was saved, but this tragedy cast such a pall on the community that many people left and never returned, among them the Hills

It was about this time, the winter of 1909 and 1910, that the Jack Wuory family, who had moved up from Wyoming, occupied the Hill home during the absence of the Hill family and for several months after their return, while their own home, about four miles north, was being completed. The two families became great friends and remained very close until the last member, Mrs. Wuory, died, Mr Wuory and daughters, Sylvia (Isaacson) and Mae, having predeceased her.

In common with most pioneers, the Hill family had their share of misfortunes, hardships and tragedies. The nearest shipping point was Lacombe or Red Deer, and roads being mere trails, it would often take two days for the round trip. Mrs. Hill relates that when she would try to listen for the rumble of the home-coming wagon in the late evening, the croaking of the myriads of frogs would drown out all other sounds.

Mrs Hill also recalls how terrified she was of the countless, but harmless, garter snakes, and was always thankful to have some of the neighboring lads come over to dispose of some of them Brush fires were a menace in dry weather, as were sudden winter blizzards, especially when the children were in school.

To augment the family income, Mr. Hill would work on the road gangs and on the railway right-of-way They also sold eggs and butter to the store, and milk to the cheese factory, built on the old Eckville site, and later sold cream to the creamery. At times, Mrs. Hill boarded men who were working on the railway

A team of stubborn, breachy mules was replaced by a team of horses, one of which, the mare, died while having a foal. This misfortune was a severe set-back, especially as they still owed for the team, and a good, well-broken horse was possibly one of the most expensive farm items. Somehow, more horses were eventually bought and raised, and by dint of back-breaking labor, the farm began to provide a fair living for

these hardy pioneers. Improvements were gradually made to buildings, and more farm machinery was procured, as well as a few labor saving appliances for the home. One of these was a brand new "Magnet" cream separator, which eliminated the work of cooling the milk in the well and then skimming it by hand. Later, icehouses or pits became a familiar feature in most farm yards.

Life was not all work, however, as there were many diversions, and visiting was a pleasant pastime, especially on Saturday, or "sauna" night, when neighbors without this traditional Finnish facility, would come to enjoy a bath, followed by a coffee party. There were a few community halls where plays, followed by a dance, were presented. The whole family would attend, and the small children would be placed under tables where they slept, undisturbed by the noise.

The major event, especially for the children, was the yearly picnic at Palm Beach and the Benalto Fair and Stampede. Sometimes, as a special treat, the family attended the Red Deer Fair and the sights and sounds there were awesome, indeed. The Hill children, however, were permitted to ride only in the tubs or small boats on the merry-go-round, the horses being considered too dangerous.

The children born to Mrs. Hill, as to most of the pioneer women, were born at home, with usually only a mid-wife, or perhaps just a neighbor lady in attendance. One of these wonderful women to whom our own family was much indebted was Mrs. (Granny) Ignatius, who would leave her own family for days, not only to assist with the birth, but to take over the care of the children and the housework. On one of the rare occasions when a doctor was urgently needed by a neighbor lady in labor, Mr. Hill rode to Lacombe to summon a doctor. Fortunately the mother's life was saved, although the baby died.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hill were active in the early community enterprises. Mr. Hill was on the Eckville Co-op board of directors for a number of years and worked for and supported the Mutual Telephone Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Hill sold their farm to their daughter and son-in-law, Aubrey and Lymie Shultz in 1950 and retired to the town of Eckville, where Mr. Hill died in August of 1964, the morning after the wedding of his granddaughter, Lynne Shultz to Ray Carson. Mrs. Hill moved to the Sylvan Lake Lodge in 1967, where she still resides in 1977 in fairly good health at the age of 94 years.

Of their four children, the eldest, Helvi, died in infancy in 1908, and the youngest Hazel, died in the Red Deer hospital in July, 1932, at the age of seven years, following a tonsillectomy. The death of this child of their middle years was the greatest tragedy in the lives of the parents, creating an aching void for many, many years.

Lymie and Aubrey Shultz sold the family farm in 1974, to retire to Red Deer.

Lempie married Frank Quist in 1936, and, with their daughter, Diane, moved to the west coast in 1940. They have lived in Vancouver for about 36 years, making yearly visits to Alberta to see her relatives here.

I must not end this chronicle without mentioning Uncle John Maki, Mrs. Hill's brother, who made his home with the Hills whenever he was not away working elsewhere. He was a companion for the Hill children, making them many toys and games for their enjoyment, and his help was especially appreciated during the many months when Mr. Hill was hospitalized and taking treatments for a growth on his jaw and throat. This was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, about 1923 or 1924.

Uncle John took an active part in many of the Finnish organizations and sports and was an excellent cross-country skier. He loved to hunt, and supplied meat in the form of wild fowl and rabbits, as well as venison, for the family table. He later bought an acreage on the west shore of Sylvan Lake, now occupied by Miss Jean Yuill. He finally moved to Karelia, U.S.S.R. in the early 1930's, where he died a few years later.

**HILL, LYMIE SHULTZ AND HILL, LEMPI QUIST**

Lymie and Lempi are the surviving daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob (Jack) Hill, the eldest, Helvi, having died in infancy before I (Lymie) was born, and the youngest one died in 1932.

We had a normal, happy childhood, and the family fortunes did not affect us greatly, as we were always well fed and clothed, and cleanliness was a passion with our mother. It is true, we did not have many "boughten" toys, but we did have a family of homemade dolls, some with china heads; and by way of paper dolls, we cut out figures from the colored pages in the catalogues and dressed them in clothing from the same source. Lempi did long for a beautiful doll, and in fact there was a lovely doll with real hair and eyes that opened and closed, in our home, but it had been a gift to our eldest deceased sister, and we were not allowed to play with it until we were older. Our Uncle John, who made his home with us from time to time, made us such toys as a sled, a checker game and card games, and bought us some toys when he could afford it.

We had few playmates in our earliest years but we did not really miss them. However, we were intimate with the Jack Wuori family who lived about four miles north of us, and Lempi and I would stay at their home for a few days, and the girls would visit us in turn. We always accompanied our parents to various community gatherings and to visit friends of theirs, and we were always happy when we found children of our own age at these homes. Of course the annual

mid-summer picnics, especially the ones held at Palm Beach, were a special treat, when we were allowed to enter the water with a number of other children, or to go for a ride in Mr Nerse.'s motor boat On one of these occasions, the engine stalled and we were very late getting back. Another time my brand-new hat blew into the water, and, sad to say, was never the same afterwards. The annual Benalto Fair and Stampede was almost never missed, and one or two trips to Red Deer to attend the fair there were never-to-be forgotten experiences, especially our first ride on the merry-go-round and our first taste of a banana ice cream sundae

I started school at the old Eckville School and then attended Saima School for a while While the Harper family lived one-half mile east of us, I usually rode "double" with Della Harper, but after Lempi started, we usually walked the two and one half miles, in summer, at least On one occasion, we were looking down into an old well on the Harper place and dropped our lunch bucket into the well, hearing our cries, Ray Harper got a ladder and climbed down, but was not able to retieve the lid, which we considered a major catastrophe. We went home and out of the field where our mother was digging potatoes, sobbing wildly all the time. She was so relieved to discover the reason for our grief that she did not even scold us, although we had been warned not to go near that well

When we were a little older, we attended the new school in Eckville, about four miles distant. By this time, the John Lundberg family had moved to the old John Heikkinen place and a deal was made whereby we drove to school with the Lundberg children, using our horse and buggy or cutter, and theirs by turn, with the boys driving and caring for the horse. This arrangement worked very well, and we children established a warm and lasting relationship. I can hardly remember having any teacher but Mr Henry Ludwig, as I had him for seven years. He was a strict disciplinarian, and how we wished he would have a sick day occasionally! But he never did. However, he was a good teacher and I am sure his pupils will never forget the terms of the "Magna Carta" or the "Quebec Act" or the rules of grammar which he so assiduously instilled into our young minds. Friday afternoons were always a treat when the primary teacher, Miss Thompson, would come and teach us art

At home, we were expected to do some household, chores, especially during the holidays. Lempi was diligent and industrious while I was always rather indolent I was an avid reader and would follow her through the house, reading out loud while she did the work However, I was usually expected to ride up into the bush to bring in the cows, and I learned to milk at an early age.

Lempi had the usual childhood diseases, most of which I escaped. While our father was taking treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, I did become quite ill and had to stay away from school for several weeks This illness was never diagnosed, as I did not see a doctor, but a daily dose of "Rawleigh's Liniment", which I heartily detested and avoided taking whenever possible, was my only medication, and eventually the illness left as suddenly as it had come

When we became teen-agers we attended various functions at the community halls, at first accompanied by our indulgent father, and later we joined other young people of our own age By this time, our youngest sister, Hazel, had been born, whom we all adored during her short lifetime She passed away following a tonsillectomy at the Red Deer Hospital in 1932 at the age of seven years, which cast a deep shadow on our lives, and I doubt if our parents ever fully recovered from the tragedy.

I took my Grade 12 in Calgary, and Lempi and I both attended Camrose Normal School. I taught in various schools, but she was unable to get a school, this being in the depth of the depression era

Aubrey Shultz and I were married in Calgary on July 5, 1934, and farmed in the Byemore area until 1950, when we took over the old family farm at Eckville, selling out in 1974 and moving to Red Deer We have two children, Jim is a helicopter pilot with the C.A.F He is married, has three sons, and lives in Fort Saskatchewan since 1971 Lynne (Mrs. Ray Carson), lives with her husband and three children in Red Deer

Reminiscing on her school days, Lempi recalls in particular, her most memorable Christmas concert held at Saima school under the tutorship of the teacher, Miss Grimson, whose home was in the Burnt Lake district. She had just started school in the fall, and as the youngest pupil, she was selected to deliver the opening recitation, which performance was, she thinks, the proudest moment in her life. Her favorite teacher, unfortunately died the following spring, a victim of the flu epidemic which swept over the world following the First World War

Mr. Ludwig was Lempi's teacher at the old Eckville School, then after a few years in Miss Ida Thompson's room in town, she again had the former as her teacher until she graduated in 1928, at which time Mr. Ludwig also left Eckville. Hence, at his farewell party she made him a presentation, having been his pupil in the primary grades and again upon her graduation.

This was also the year of the market crash and the beginning of the depression, when jobs became very scarce, and teaching positions, for which Lempi was trained, were well-nigh unobtainable, especially for those without previous experience. However, there was plenty of work on the farm, and being a good seamstress, she made all her own clothes, and did a great deal of sewing for other people. She took an active part in young people's activities, such as dances,

plays and singing groups. Thus, for her, the early years of the depression were busy ones.

In early 1936 she and Frank Quist were married, eventually moving to the west coast. They settled in Vancouver, where they built their home, in which they have lived for close to 40 years. They have one daughter, Mrs. Diane White, and one grandson, both living in Vancouver.

Each year brings Lempi and Frank, and until recently, their grandson, back "home" to visit relatives and friends in Alberta, and particularly the Eckville and Sylvan Lake areas.

To bring this history up to date, our mother moved to the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer from the Sylvan Lake Lodge, where she had lived for over 10 years, on December 5, 1977. This was her own decision, as she felt the burden of her old age and increasing feebleness necessitated the move. Always having been very adaptable, it is to be hoped that she will adjust to this change in her circumstances.

**JOHN FRANKLIN HOPKINS — by Mora McDonell**

John Hopkins was born in Kentucky, U.S.A. in 1866. Sadie McGhee was born in Oklahoma, U.S.A. in 1869. They were married in 1899 in Oklahoma. Both were school teachers at the time of their marriage, but they later took up farming.

John and Sadie Hopkins immigrated to Canada in the fall of 1912 to Bassano, Alberta. During the winter John filed on a homestead in the Hutton district and in the spring of 1913 the family moved to their homestead. John borrowed a team and wagon and drove 40 miles to Bassano to get lumber. Before a small house was built the family lived under a big tarp and cooked on an open fire. What a glorious day it was when the cook stove arrived from Eatons and the family moved into the new house!

The Hopkins family lived on the homestead until 1921 and then moved to Gem Colony, near Bassano. Here John rented an irrigated farm from the C.P.R.. In November of 1925 they moved to the Gilby district and rented land there which they farmed for six years. Then in 1931 the family moved to the Eckville area, John having bought the former Henry Smith farm. Mr. Hopkins had a team of mules with which he farmed, along with horses. His were the only mules in the area at that time.

Doug and Mora McDonell, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Bill and Mona

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins had one daughter Mora born in Oklahoma in 1904. After moving to Alberta Mora was married to Douglas McDonell. Mrs. Hopkins died at the age of 70 years in July, 1939. Mr. Hopkins lived on the farm alone for quite a few years then moved into the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer in 1956. He passed away in 1957 at the age of 91 years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins were laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

**THE HUBL HISTORY**

Louis Hubl was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1888. He lived a short time there before immigrating to Canada in the early 1900s. Since he came across on a boat and landed in Newfoundland the only direction he could take was to head west. He then started to work his way west, stopping for a time in Manitoba to work on the railroad. As it was, though, he wanted to see greener pastures, so he headed south and west ending up in North Dakota, and later in Montana. While there he was hired on as a cowboy, was given a horse and a revolver and told to ride the range, checking stock and fixing fences. One day while out riding he saw a little animal, and, not being able to catch it, he shot it instead, soon finding out it was scented. He then realized that the cowboy life wasn't for him.

He then moved to Frank, Alberta and tried his hand at mining. One night, in 1903, he borrowed a horse to go girling in a nearby town. This was also the night of the Turtle Mountain slide. But the slide did not discourage him; he continued to work in the mines in that area.

In 1906 two girls arrived from Czechoslovakia on the boat "August Victoria". They caught a train from Ontario to points west. One of its many stops was at Frank, and Louis was there holding his horse because it was scared of the noise the train was making. The ladies stepped down from the train and that is how Louis met his future wife, Julie Antonia Kec.

Louis and Julie were married in Frank on August 13, 1906. Louis Mark (Sr.), Joe Edl and Charlie Mottl played for their wedding dance. After they were married the happy couple continued to live in Frank, and their first son, Edward, was born there.

In 1908 the stories started in the mines, and since they had heard shortly before that the government was giving away free homestead land by Bowell, (near Medicine Hat), they decided to move there. Once they had been there for awhile they found out that farming wasn't easy as, drought, prairie fires, rattlesnakes and fear of Indians were always present. During one

of the winters at Bowell a bad blizzard hit and antelope were found frozen standing up in railway sheds. People came from miles around to get meat from the dead animals to can for use later

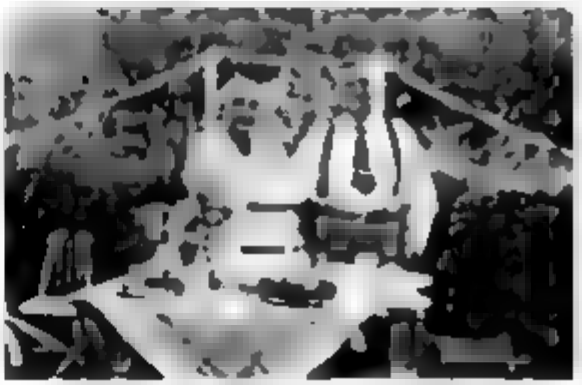
As money was dwindling, Louis decided to get some extra jobs. Being a harness maker by trade, he was able to get a job with the Wheatland Co. making harnesses for mules and horses. He was supplied with a Franklin car and later a McLaughlin Buick to drive to camps in Cypress Hills, Estevan, Saskatchewan and back to Medicine Hat fixing and making harness Since harness making was slow in the winter he also got a job at a glass factory in Redcliff just for the winter months.

After 17 years of facing hardships on the prairie they decided to leave, so by train they brought their family (now seven children) to the Eckville district. In 1924 they purchased a half section from Phil Laybourne, this being the N½ 1-38-4-W5. They then had their machinery shipped to Hespero by train. The machinery that they had, though, was not very adaptable to this part of the province as the Avery three-wheeled tractor was built with two wheels in the front and one large wheel in the back and was always getting stuck. Also they had brought along a 12 bottom plough that worked fine on the prairie but proved to be useless in this type of soil. The tractor was replaced by a Rumely oil-pull which was later replaced by a 20-35 Allis Chalmers. The new tractor was then used for all the farm work plus doing custom threshing for the neighbors

A harness shop was started on the farm, then moved to Eckville into Isaacson's garage. The garage burnt down in 1928, so Louis had a new shop built by Art Bellika In 1940 the shop and the lot were traded to Jake Bussinger, (later sold to Chester Kasha) for a pull type combine. Later a shop was started on the farm again and harness was made by the gross, (144 pieces of each), from there they were shipped to wholesale outfits all over the province. Some interesting stories were told in the shop by Jesse Craig, Fred Isaacson, the Armstrong brothers and Charlie Thorkman. A very amusing story told by Charlie was "How to Rid Your Horse of Lice" It starts out! "You put your horse in the barn for three weeks and feed it nothing but salt -- no water Then you take him to the creek for a drink of water; the lice will be thirsty and jump into the creek for a drink. You quickly lead your horse away and your lousy horse won't be lousy anymore."

In 1947 a fruit farm was bought in Creston. B.C. and on this land Louis built a small shop where he fixed bridles and saddles for people of the community, while also selling clothing and other merchandise. Being very active, he accepted an invitation to join the Creston Valley Fruit Packers Board and was a director for quite a few years

Louis Hubl passed away on February 8, 1963.



Louis and Julie Hubl - Golden Wedding Anniversary, Aug 13, 1956

His wife, Julie, lived in their home until 1974 when she moved into the Swan Valley Lodge in Creston where she still resides She keeps busy by reading, crocheting and watching television. It gives her much enjoyment to have visitors from Alberta

The Hubl family consists of

Edward married to Lenora Senkyr; their children are Ken and Shirley

Emma married Charlie Taskila; their children are Fay, Pat and Irene

Rose married Gillie Bjornson; their children are Gisli, Margaret, Gail and Norman

Clara married Oscar Rafnson, their children — Robert (deceased) and Judy

Julia married Jack Bagstad; their children are John and Hank

Louis married Lucy Negraff, their children are Tom and Linda

Robert married Eleanor Taskila, their children are Allan, Sheila, Stanley and Marvin

Mary married John Faynor; their children are Bill, James, Susie and Ricky

Henry married Evelyn Stewart; their children are Ralph, Dianne, Jeanette and Patricia

Mr. and Mrs. Hubl celebrated their Golden Wedding August 13, 1956.

**HUSSA, JONAS AND EMMA — by Josephine Halstein**

Jonas and Emma Hussa were born in Oulu Lani, Finland. Emma was a sister of Mrs. August B. Koski. The family emigrated from Finland to the U.S.A

In the spring of 1902 Jonas moved from Bonner, Montana to the Eckville district. Here he filed on a homestead of S.W. 34-39-3-W5. On this quarter he built a small log house and a shelter for a cow and a team of oxen. He then moved his wife and family to live on the farm. They had two girls, Annie and Elsa, and two boys, Andrew and Hans.

Because of the condition of Emma's health, they found the hardships of pioneering too great. She could not stand the privation they had to suf

fer, so, in 1910 Mr. Hussa sold their quarter of land to Mr Tigersted. With the proceeds from the farm he was abe to take his family back to Finland.

Mr Hussa returned to Eckville after he settled his family in Finland. He was employed by the Canadian National Railway in building the railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. Later he moved on from Eckville, and we lost track of him

Now all the family have passed away

**IVES, R. C.**

R. C. (Pat) Ives was born at Coleraine, County Derry, Ireland, where his father, Capt. J. F. Ives, was stationed with the British Army in 1903. The family was transferred to England. Pat attended King's school in Peterborough and St Oswald's College

On completing his education, he joined the Provincial Bank of England. In 1924, he came to Canada to Sangudo, Alberta, where he joined the Imperial Bank serving in Sangudo, Red Deer and Banff before returning to England in 1926

While in Red Deer, he met Ella Botterill, daughter of pioneer resident, Mr. and Mrs. W J Botterill. In October 1928, they were married at Peterborough, where Pat was Paymaster at Kemil Ltd., silk manufacturers. Their son, David, was born in Peterborough. In 1934, they returned to Red Deer where Pat joined Mr Botterill in the Real Estate and Insurance Business. When the Red Deer School Division was formed, Pat was its first secretary - treasurer until 1941, when he took leave of absence to serve with the R.C.A.S.C. and served in the Pay Corps until he was discharged due to a heart attack. He returned to the school division

In 1948, he opened his Real Estate, Insurance and Accounting business in Eckville. In 1949, he became secretary-treasurer of the Eckville Municipal Hospital.

When David joined the R.C.A.F. in 1949 and daughter, Margaret born in Red Deer, entered nursing training, Ella became a partner in the Eckville business then known as Ives & Ives. Pat continued with the Eckville Hospital until December 1966. He was forced to retire due to several heart attacks. The business was sold and they retired to Red Deer in 1967

Major David Ives is stationed at Namao after 20 years with the R.C.A.F. in Eastern Canada and the U.S.A. He and his wife, Maureen (Parry) and their family of two daughters and three sons live at St Albert, Alberta.

Margaret (who nursed at Eckville for a time) and her husband Ronald Soderberg and family of two sons and one daughter live in Bayside, California. Margaret is Director of Nurses at a Geriatric Hospital and Ronald is Chief of Inhalation Therapy at another hospital. Ella and Pat are enjoying their hobbies and retirement at 5051-45 Avenue, Red Deer, where the door is always open to friends and clients of Eckville and District

**HERBERT JOBS' FAMILY — by Anna Jobs**

Herbert Jobs was born in 1908 at Brightview, Alberta. His father died when Herb was only 14, making it necessary for him to share in the responsibilities of providing for four brothers and one sister

In 1929, Herb purchased a quarter of land in the Happy Hill District. Here he led a busy life, clearing land, and taking care of his few range cattle. With the help of Joe Hillman he built a log house. On June 16, 1937, he married Anna Schmidek, a daughter of his close neighbors, Mr and Mrs. Dan Schmidek. The young couple received five milk cows from the Jobs' family and a sow with little pigs, a milk cow, and two calves from the Schmideks, to help them get started with mixed farming Herb and Anna had two sons, George and Arthur, and one daughter, Irene

In the early 1940's, Herb bought a water well drilling outfit as a means of earning extra money Many people wanted drilled water wells, and Herb drilled more than 30 water wells during his time. Meanwhile, he bought a quarter of land five miles away from his home quarter, as it was the only land available to purchase. With two growing sons who were becoming interested in farming, Herb was looking for still more land Mr Peter Carlyle had three quarters of land near Eckville for sale, and it had a river to fish in, too. The family all enjoyed fishing and often went fishing along with the Pete Carlyle family. Finally, Herb decided to sell his own quarter of land to help buy the land from Mr. Carlyle, with the result that in 1955 the Jobs' family moved to NE 10-39-3-W5 in the Eckville District

That the soil was good was evident — waist-high quack grass was growing in abundance. It was necessary to work the land repeatedly until the quack grass was under control. By this time, George had finished Grade 8 in school and he stayed home to help with the farming. Soon the small house was cleaned and painted. Old buildings were ripped down and new ones slowly erected. The crops were good, and the family enjoyed the new district. Their old home place at Happy Hill was sold when the family decided to stay in the Eckville District.

The family often milked up to 14 cows by hand but finally invested in a milking machine. The cream was sold to the Eckville Creamery and the cheque fed and clothed the family. For a number of years extra income was also derived from the sale of around 500 turkeys which were sold during the Christmas season each year

The family enjoyed friends and relatives coming to visit them, and often hosted card parties with the neighbors. Mrs. Kasper soon had persuaded Anna to join in the Country Ladies' Aid.

In 1960, Irene graduated from the Eckville

High School and then went out to work. In 1964, she married Albert Nagy of Evansburg, Alberta, and now they live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. They have two daughters, Danielle and Kristine.

A large new house was built on the farm in 1963. In February of 1964, Herb had a stroke and has since been unable to work.

George married Audrey Sestrap of Eckville in 1968. They purchased a trailer in which they lived on the home farm. Their children are Wanda and Bradley. Audrey decided that Anna should learn to drive a car, so bought her some driving lessons in Rimbey. Anna learned to drive and was soon sporting a new green Datsun.

Meanwhile, Art finished his schooling in Eckville and went out working during the winter time. In 1971, he married Carol Sunde of Alhambra. The basement in the large house on the home farm was finished for Art and Carol to live downstairs. They have a daughter, Deanna, and twin boys, Dean and Devon.

In 1972, George purchased three quarters from Mr. A. Stopsen. They then sold their trailer, and moved from the home farm. George and Art decided that mom and dad should move from the farm, and bought a lot in Eckville in 1974. On this lot they built a house to which Herb and Anna moved in 1975.

In 1977, Herb and Anna were entertained at the home farm on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Herb and Anna are still active members of the Craig Lutheran Church. Their enjoyment from fishing has not diminished so they still drive out to Prairie Creek to catch some trout. Anna was president of the Eckville Friendship Club in 1977, and she and Herb both enjoy attending the Club's functions. They especially enjoy having friends and relatives come for a visit or a card game.

**JOBS, ARTHUR AND CAROL**

Carol Louise is the youngest child of Knut and Alma Sunde. Schooling was taken in Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson High School.

Her interests included riding horses during the holidays and the 4-H Beef Club. Travelling was also enjoyed. In 1965, she was one of the Centennial Exchange Students from the David Thompson High that travelled to Ontario and she hosted one of the return students to this area. The Centennial year, 1967, meant a trip to Expo and a fast tour of Europe with her sister, Audrey, and friends, Lois and Miriam Farrington, and Maureen Killick. Carol's education continued at the Red Deer College and at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, where she graduated, receiving her B.Sc. with a major in Home Economics.

In the spring of 1971, Carol was united in marriage to Arthur Leonard Jobs of Eckville. Life began on his mixed farm near Eckville. Their children, Deanna Dawn born December 16, 1973, and the twins, Dean Maxwell and Devon Tyson born September 20, 1975, bring them much joy and life is very rewarding.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN JOHNSON — by Josephine Halstein**

John and Miina Johnson (a well-known couple among the Eckville Finlanders) first homesteaded on a quarter in the Leslieville (Risula) area. Then, during the first World War they bought the Tigerstedt farm two miles north of Eckville. Mr. Johnson farmed here for a short time before selling the farm to Mr. Harrison, livery stable and garage man in Eckville. Mr. Harrison rented the farm first to Matt Heikkila and wife, and then to the Yakovitz family.

After this, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson built and ran one of the first restaurants on the main street of Eckville. It was a common sight to see boys in khaki uniforms who had returned from the war enjoying the fresh cooked meals. When the work got too heavy for the Johnsons, they sold their restaurant to Mr. Archibald Litt.

While living in the Eckville district the Johnsons took an active part in organizing and building the Liberty Hall that stood where old Eckville had been located. This hall was later sold to Matt Johnson. With the lumber he built himself a home in Eckville.

John and Miina's next residence was on the west end of Sylvan Lake. This they traded for a home in British Columbia. At the west coast

Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson spinning wool at Matti Johnson's (Elmer Johnson)

where they moved to Haney, they bought an acreage and made it their home. Soon after moving, Mr. Johnson passed away. Their son Elmer and his family of Seattle, Washington, came to live with his widowed mother. Mrs. Johnson passed away a few years later.

Elmer, the Johnson's only son, passed away in 1961. He was married to Ida Koski. They have two sons and one daughter, all living in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

**JOHNSON, MATTI FAMILY**

Matti Nikodemus Harju (in Canada known as Johnson) was born on February 25, 1881 at Aavaden, Finland. Hulda Elizabeth Tatson was born in Army, Wyoming, U.S.A.

The Johnsons had the first steam outfit and John Deere tractor in the area. They also did custom breaking, clearing land of J. McDonald, Lind, and surrounding areas.

Matt Johnson's farm was a very busy place with 14 youngsters of their own and the A. B. Koski's across the road and the Jack Hietala and Andrew (Anti) Elson families nearby. The four families would often get together for an afternoon of ball playing, horseshoeing and swimming in the Medicine River below A. B. Koski's home. After the day's activities there was fresh home-made ice cream to eat at the Johnson's.

Helvie Elizabeth was born May 28, 1906. She lost her eyesight when she was 21 years old, so spent the biggest part of her life in C.N.I.B. in Calgary. It was there she met and married Walter Young. They had some very happy years together before she died in 1957.

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Johnson

Sylvia was born in 1910, but passed away in infancy due to whooping cough.

Charles Mathew was born May 25, 1911 and died January 1972. He worked in logging camps before retiring to Vancouver Island, where he resided until his passing.

William John (Bill) was born July 28, 1913. He married Elsie Hiitola (daughter of Jack and Hilda) of Eckville and they had six sons and two daughters. They farmed for many years west of Eckville before retiring to Sylvan Lake in 1967. Elsie passed away September 25, 1968. Bill still is living at Sylvan Lake.

Ronald William was born in 1941 and married Donna Wadell of Valleyview. They have three sons. William, Kelly and Ronald Jr.

Jack Arnold was born in 1946 and married Yvonne Rodtka in 1970, of Rocky Mountain House. They have two daughers. Tracey, born June 8, 1975 and Linda, born June 10, 1976.

Marvin Wayne was born in 1947 and married Carol Maser. Their two children were Tammy Lynn and Ricky. He later married Candace, and their daughter is named Lana.

Elaine Helvie, born on April 11, 1950, married George Pillar of Sylvan Lake. Their daughter, Marlene, was born November 30, 1968.

Dennis Mathew was born in 1952. He married Myrna O'Hara in 1970. Their two children are Aaron and Malena. They are presently in Saudi Arabia.

Larry Walter, born in 1954, married Shelly Mason. Their two sons are Sharen, born November 28, 1974 and Bryce, born in February, 1977.

Leslie Allan was born in 1956 and married Deborah Rice of Eckville on July 26, 1975. They have one daughter, Marsie, born August 28, 1977.

Deloyce Hilda married Jim Danielson. Their daughter, Brandy, was born in December, 1976.

Matt Johnson Family. Back row: Arnold, unknown, Roy, Elsie, Bill, Charlie. Second row: Allie, unknown, Ernest, Aunt Mary, Helvie, Matt, Eddy. Front row: Ronie, Elmer, Elsie, Helen and Dorothy.

Ailie Saraphia, March 30, 1915 — January 7, 1978. She worked for many years in the Markerville area and for the J. Lawrence store in Red Deer until her marriage in 1939 to Hal Thompson. Hal was born in 1912 in Okotoks, came with his parents to the Poplar Ridge area in 1923 where Ailie and he farmed. Ailie also worked for a few years in the 1950's for Builder's Hardware in Red Deer. They have two daughters.

Beverly Jean was born November 10, 1942. She married Joseph Roth Jr. in 1961, of Shady Nook. They farm in the Poplar Ridge district. Their three daughters are Yvonne Elizabeth (Bonnie), born April 21, 1961, Rose Marie, born August 22, 1963, and Karrie Jean born March 26, 1966.

Yvonne Elizabeth (Beth) was born March 10, 1945 and married Bill Boyce of Penhold on June 5, 1965. They live in Calgary, and have three sons. Glenn William, born April 22, 1968, Callan, born June 13, 1970, and Daniel John, born October 24, 1972.

Arnold Elno was born April 1, 1917, and passed away January, 1972. He worked as a farmhand for Hans and Nora Moos, and later stayed with Hal and Ailie at Red Deer. He spent some time, also, working in lumber camps in British Columbia.

Roy was born January 25, 1918. He married Tynne Saantiika. He was a diesel mechanic until a few years ago when he retired in Penticton, B.C.

Edwin Herman (Eddie) was born April 4, 1920 and passed away in 1955. He worked for Dave Bourne in Red Deer trucking and as a cat operator until his death.

Ernest Wilfred (Ernie) was born August 20, 1922 and passed away on April 4, 1975. He worked for C.N. Elevator Builders crew until his marriage to Lil McNeil of Evarts. For some time he sold Rawleigh products in the Eckville area then worked for many years as a butcher at A.S.H. and Deerhome in Red Deer. His two daughters are Katherine Elizabeth, born in 1954 and Helvie Lee, born May 14, 1957. She married Dwayne Ball in 1975.

Elsie Bernal was born May 6, 1924 and married Clifford McNeil of Coronation on September 28, 1944. Their first home was the Eckville Mutual Telephone Office. Clifford and Elsie moved to Midway, B.C. in 1951, where Cliff passed away on March 7, 1973. They had three sons and two daughters.

David was born April 1, 1952. He married Marilyn, and they have a son and a daughter.

Alan Peter born August 4, 1954, lives in Surrey, B.C.

Carolyn Margaret, born April 6, 1957, lives in Midway, B.C.

Patricia Marion, born March 8, 1960, lives at home, as does Donald Mathew, born February 13, 1961.

Dorothy Mildred, born November 17, 1925 married Charlie Niemi of Eckville in 1942. Charlie passed away September 1976. They have two daughters and six sons.

Charlette Ann, born May 25, 1944 in Rocky Mountain House, married Dieter Huhn in 1967.

Gerald Mathew, born November 11, 1946 married Charlotte Chamberlin of Lumby, B.C. in 1966. They reside in Revelstoke, B.C. Their two sons are Daryl, born in 1967 and Alex born in 1968.

Alexander Malcome, born June 8, 1948 married Liana Cremers in 1968. They reside in Port Washington, B.C.

Judith Alice, born August 17, 1949, married Jim Meanich in 1973. They reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

James Willard, born August 29, 1952, was married in 1975 and lives in Grand Forks, B.C.

Cameron Charles, born July 28, 1959, married Lorraine Brown of Grand Forks, B.C. in 1977 and lives in Edmonton.

Timothy Arnold, born October 8, 1960, and lives at home in Grand Forks, B.C.

Daniel Eugene, born October 3, 1965, died in a house fire at Salmon Arm, B.C. in December 1972.

Elmer Raymond, born May 2, 1927, married Eleanor Johnson of Stettler, Alberta on June 25, 1949. Elmer has been in the plastering and stucco business since 1948, being his own boss since 1966. That year he bought the Stanley Cates farm at Eckville and the family had their first taste of farming. They spent four wonderful years there, then sold the farm to Ernie Vokes and moved back to Red Deer. But farming was in their blood, so one year later they bought the Ernest Trasker farm in the Burnt Lake district and are still happily farming. They have one son and five daughters.

Linda Gail, born April 13, 1950, married Daryl Elson of Eckville on August 8, 1970. They have twin children, Chad Michel and Crystal Rose, born June 11, 1974. They live in Calgary.

Valerie Ann, born March 18, 1952, married Don McLean of Eckville on September 5, 1970 and had one daughter, Melanie Ann, born March 15, 1971. Valerie later married Doug Denman and they have a daughter, Candace Marie, born on March 15, 1977. They live in Edson.

Raymond Elmer, born July 10, 1954, married Theresa Irene Sutherland of Air Force Base, Penhold, on December 17, 1976. Raymond farms and stuccoes with his father.

Nancy Edwina, born May 3, 1957, married Terrence Kumm of Red Deer May 21, 1977. They live in Red Deer.

Robert Mathew, born July 20, 1959, married Linda Joan Holtom of Sylvan Lake October 30, 1976. Their son is Michael Robert, born September 9, 1977. They live at Sylvan Lake.

Dixie Lynn was born July 4, 1961, Mark Reginald on October 25, 1962, and Shannon Grace, September 28, 1965. All are living at home and attending school at Sylvan Lake.

Helen was born in 1929 and married Melvin Kleeberger of Saskatchewan. They are now living at Dixon, California, U.S.A. They have three sons and one daughter

Darryl Melvin was born in 1948 and was killed in a car accident in June, 1966

Randolph Lee was born January 11, 1951, Steven Charles on August 1, 1954, Phyllis Ann on October 7, 1956.

Rose Margaret was born May 10, 1931. She worked at the J. Lawrence Store in Red Deer until she moved to British Columbia. There she married Lyall Cross of Kelowna, B.C. on May 10, 1952. They moved to California and have one son and one daughter. Robert Patrick was born March 17, 1967 and Patricia Margaret on April 11, 1969.

**JOKINEN, HENRY**

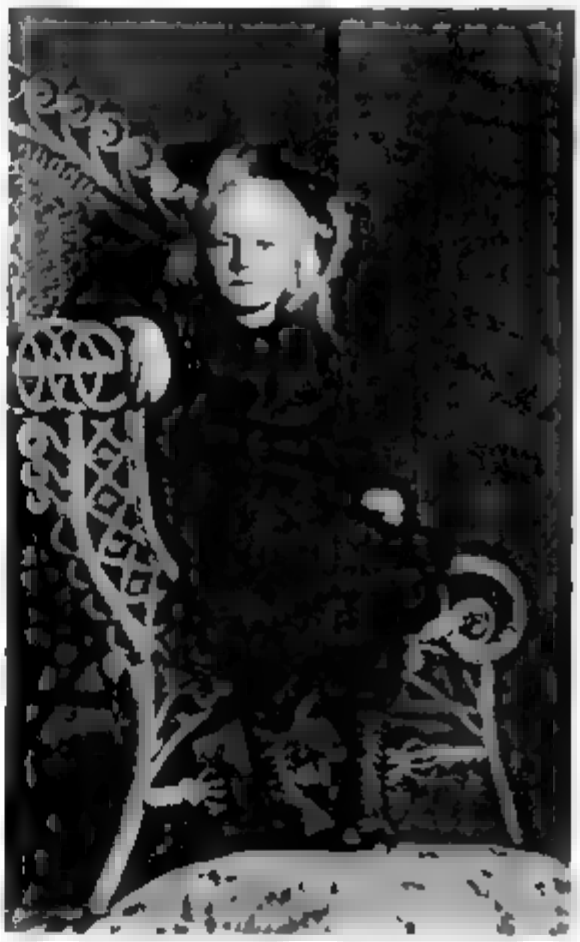
Henry Jokinen was born in Tampere, Finland on February 12, 1885. He was the oldest son of a tailor. All clothes were then made by hand. He received his early schooling and two years of college in Tampere, majoring in physical education and drama

In 1909 he decided to emigrate to America, where it was rumored that the streets were paved with gold and fortunes would be easy to make. He worked at various jobs, such as clerk in a grocery store, in lumber camps, and in mines. However, his real interests lay in gymnastics, and he participated in establishing ski groups in the Y.M.C.A., using rings, parallel bars, tumbling and pyramids. He also organized theatre groups and directed many plays. Most of the communities where he lived had a majority of Finnish people, such as Eckville, and the scripts were in the Finnish language.

Maria Helena Skarp was born in Oulu, Finland on April 18, 1895. Her father was a sea captain who sank with his ship in the North Atlantic Ocean when she was seven years old. At the age of 18 years when she came to Duluth, Minnesota, she went to work for an uncle who owned a restaurant. It was there that she met her husband and they were married September 10, 1915. The next year a daughter, Helen Katherine, was born in Iron River, Michigan. They later moved to Butte, Montana, where Henry worked in the mines

Maria contacted polio during the epidemic, and was partially paralyzed on her right side Gradually, with physiotherapy administered by her husband, she overcame it, but was unable to have any more children. During their stay in Butte they were again very active in amateur theatre, both directing and acting

In 1927 they decided to homestead in Canada. Henry arrived by train at Sylvan Lake in January The temperature was 40 degrees below zero—one of the most severe winters in years—and he was then very skeptical about his decision to move to Canada. The following year the beauty of the country unfolded and the



Helen Johnson.

newness and the challenge of the pioneer living excited him, so he sent for his wife and daughter, who was then 11 years old. They bought an acreage beside the Medicine River and began to build their house.

Henry worked as a carpenter in Eckville, Benalto and Sylvan Lake and the surrounding areas. He made many of the early buildings of logs, using an adze to square the corners. In the wintertime he liked to read, and had a large collection of books in English and Finnish. He made skis and poles out of poplar and birch wood. Candle wax was used to smooth the bottom of the skis. Races were held every winter His love of dramatics prompted him to organize the building of a community hall and he formed a little theatre group. The first play, "Seven Brothers", was a great success, and the admission was only 35 cents. The hall was also a warm dry place to hold physical exercise classes. The "Sissu Club" was made up of those interested in organized exercising

Maria had a bit of trouble adjusting to pioneer life. Once she singed all her eyebrows off trying to light the wood-burning stove. The first

summer here she mistook a skunk for a black and white kitty. Luckily for her, the skunk was the faster runner! She loved gardening, and took much pride in her vegetables and the many varieties of flowers, as well as her indoor plants. She baked her own bread, made jams and canned wild berries.

For bathing a steam bath was used, as most of the families had a steam bath house.

Helen Jokinen finished her schooling in Eckville. She was very active in community affairs, and had a lovely singing voice. She went into training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. In 1938 she graduated as a registered nurse, then returned home to work in the old Eckville Hospital for one year. She was offered a position at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and there met and married Charles John Harris. A daughter, Mavis Elaine, was born to them on November 20, 1944. In July 1945 Helen moved back to Eckville with the baby while Mr. Harris moved to British Columbia to establish a home for the family. Helen went back to work at the local hospital, but on December 20, 1945 she died of a brain hemorrhage while working the night shift.

The grandparents received custody of Mavis and she grew up and took all of her schooling here, graduating from Grade 12 in the Eckville school in 1962. Mavis married Fred Oczko in February, 1966. They have two boys. Andy James was born February 25, 1967 and Brent Allan was born March 14, 1969. Mavis graduated as a registered nurse in 1974 and at this time she is employed in Lethbridge, Alberta.

Henry died October 16, 1970. Maria lived in Eckville until 1974, when she went to Lethbridge to live with her granddaughter until her death on November 18, 1975. Both Henry and Maria are buried in the family plot in Eckville cemetery, along with their only child, Helen.

**JONES, MR. AND MRS. ALBERT — by their daughter, Mrs. Alvin Greenman**

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones, moved to Eckville in 1943. During the first winter they lived on the Tom Smith place, but later bought a lot in Eckville and built a house on it. Mrs. McCann now owns the house they built.

Dad farmed at Travers in the summer and spent the winters in Eckville. His health was very poor and on December 25, 1948 he passed away and was buried in the Travers cemetery.

Mother remarried on August 19, 1953 to Jesse Benge of Benkelman, Nebraska, U.S.A. and moved there.

She and Jesse returned here for visits several times. She passed away on September 4, 1970 at the age of 67 years. She was buried in Benkelman, Nebraska.

**KANGAS, AUGUST AND SELINA**

August and Selina Kangas and their two children, Frank Selden and Maemi came to Alberta from Butte, Montana in 1911. They traveled by horse and wagon from Red Deer to Leafland, six miles north of Lesieville, to their homestead. Two of their friends, John Leinonen and John Kulju had arrived earlier and had built a one-room cabin on Leinonen's place where August and Selina stayed until they built a cabin on August's homestead. August and Selina immigrated to the U.S.A. to Michigan in 1903 where they met and married. Their first child Frank Selden was born there. From there they moved to Butte where their second child, Maemi was born.

They lived on the homestead for five years. The area was all virgin land. The neighbors were newcomers, most of them Finns from Butte or the northern states. They were the people who opened the surrounding country, built the schools and made the roads. Mr. Henry Ludwig was the teacher when Leafland School opened its doors for the first time. Later on he taught high school in Eckville so he was Maemi's and Selden's first and last teacher.

The life on the homestead had hardships and happy times too. Wild berries and game were plentiful. Selina with her two children picked berries and August hunted birds or game and never came back empty-handed. Selden and Maemi set snares for rabbits which were in abundance, just thousands of them. Selina fixed them, made stews or chopped up for delicious meat balls or hamburgers as they are called now. Later on the rabbits developed a sickness and haven't been as numerous since.

In the summer there were the picnics and in the winter socials and dances. The dances were held in anyone's place who was fortunate enough to have a house or barn loft big enough to hold a crowd. They were really family affairs, they all bundled in bobsleds and away they would go to dance until the wee hours in the morning. August and Selina were very fond of dancing. Bill Austin was the chief caller for quadrilles and square dances. The summer picnics were fun too. There was always lots of lemonade and ice cream sometimes if someone still had ice in their dugouts. The children had games and races and then there were sing-songs and speeches on politics or current affairs. Victor Mattson was the speaker mostly. They all came dressed in their best finery — no blue jeans or t-shirts. In some respects life was good but money was scarce. Some winters August would go back to Butte to the mines to earn money to provide clothing for the family, three children now. Helen was born in 1912 and was to be the only Canadian born in their family of four. Then there was the need for implements and stock to buy. Selina stayed on the homestead and would get someone in to help with the chores and for company. The winters were cold and lonely. One winter Mildred Schey (Olson) from Eckville stayed. One day Mildred rescued Maemi when a mad pig attacked her. She beat the pig with a

broom until he released a very frightened little girl but not badly hurt, only minor teeth marks and scratches. Another winter Selden developed a kidney problem. August rode horseback to the nearest doctor in Eckville for medication. Selden got well and there were no more health problems

In 1916 they tired of homestead life. Prospects of making a better life were promising in Butte as copper was in great demand. World War I was raging in Europe. The first year was fine but later on in the second year the miners went on strike which lasted nine months. The strike ended, August worked again for a while and before long they decided to come back to Alberta with their four children. Ralph was born in Butte

In June 1918 they arrived in Eckville at the Kootuk railway depot. Ole Olson was there to meet them They stayed with Olsons until they bought a farm one-half mile west, which is now the late Simon Walsanen's farm. There was a frame house on the place but no barns. So again August was starting from scratch. It was hard going as during the war the cost of living had sky-rocketed.

Little by little August got going, getting more implements and stock as the time went on. Selden, Maemi and Helen attended Blue Bell School about two miles south. Life was about the same as on the homesteads with its ups and downs. There were drought years with poor crops, so again August went in the winters back to the mines to earn more money, sometimes to Butte or to the coal mines in Nordegg As Selden and Maemi grew older they helped out with doing the janitor work in the Blue Bell School. Selina at times worked for town people

August and Selina took part in all social activities. They did their share in getting funds to build the Liberty Hall, north of Eckville. One time Selina made all the costumes for a Finnish play conducted by Jokinen and held in the Eckville Hall. Both August and Selina were always willing to help a neighbor. When babies were born, Selina was often the mid-wife. August even delivered a neighbor's baby safe and sound He went to help a neighbor with the haying When he got there and was waiting in the house while the neighbor went for his horses from the pasture, the wife went into labor and there was no time to get outside help. This baby is still living somewhere in Alberta.

In 1920 August rented the Charlie Randall's farm and moved his family to live there Maemi and Helen attended Eckville School when the pupils moved from the old school north of town to the new two-room school in town. Later on after the family moved back to their own place Maemi attended Eckville School again for the high school grades which Mr Ludwig taught Helen did the same. Selden dropped out of school early and went to work for the C.P R. section crew During harvest he worked around Trochu and Barons. Finally he moved to Butte to the mines and then to California where he died in 1954

August and Ralph were the last to leave the farm in 1938. The only surviving members of the Kangas family are Ralph in Ladysmith, B.C. and Maemi in Calgary Helen moved to Montana and then Seattle where she married and went to Alaska. She died there in 1941.

**CHESTER KASHA — by Helen Kasha**

Chester Kasha was born in Lacombe in 1911 and I the former Helen Susut, was born in southern Alberta in the Retlaw area in 1911. My family (the Susuts) moved to the Clive and Lacombe area in 1927

Chester and I were married in Red Deer in 1935. We farmed in the Iowalta district near Lacombe for eleven years Then we bought a farm five and one half miles northwest of Rimbey In 1946 we left the Iowalta district and moved to Rimbey, where we farmed for three years more

In 1949 we sold the farm and bought the Massey-Harris business from Jake Busslinger's estate in Eckville. This business was located where the present A. H. Moench Hardware and the Credit Union are now. We also bought the Busslinger home, where I still live. In 1963 Chester bought the Axel Hansen farm south of Eckville, near Highway 11. A new building was built and in 1964 we moved the business out there This is where the Massey Ferguson dealership still operates

Our four children, Verna, Don, Ed and Bryan were born in Lacombe, and the fifth child, Ann, was born in Eckville in 1955. They all completed their schooling and graduated in Eckville.

Ann is enrolled in the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton. Verna married Paul Haljan of Edmonton and they are living in Edmonton. They have three boys —

Helen, Donald, Bryan, Chester, Eddy Verna and Ann Kasha

David, Gregory and Paulie. The histories of the other children appear separately in this book.

Chester was elected to the Town Council in March 1953, served as deputy Mayor and Mayor until 1956, at which time he resigned as Mayor and still stayed on Council until October of 1962. He was a member of the Eckville Lion's Club and was president during the 1959-1960 term. Through the years we attended many Lion's Conventions. He was also a member of the Red Deer Elks Club, the Eckville Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade and the Curling Club.

I am a member of the Eckville Catholic Women's League and the Benalto Royal Purple. In earlier years I was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary, the Women's Institute, the Evening Group and the Curling Club in Eckville.

In 1974 we celebrated 25 years of Massey Ferguson business in Eckville. The business is called Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd.

Chester passed away on April 3, 1975. His sons operate the business at present, and I hope it will stay in the family for many years.

**CHESTER DONALD KASHA AND FAMILY — by Mrs. Kasha**

Don Kasha was born in Lacombe on July 17, 1940, the son of Chester and Helen Kasha. At the age of five the family moved to Rimbey where he went to school for three years. In the year 1949 his family moved to Eckville and Don finished his schooling here. Shortly after Don was out of school he tried his hand at driving a truck — hauling pulp wood to the mill at Hinton. Finding that there was no future in it, he came to work selling farm machinery for his father.

As a young boy Don was very interested in hockey, and once he was out of school he began playing for the Eckville Eagles Senior Hockey Team.

In the early sixties Don was the fire-chief of the Eckville Volunteer Fire Department; living and working very close to the fire hall was quite an asset in this activity.

On August 25, 1962 Don married Elaine May Johnson. Elaine was born on March 8, 1943 in New Westminster, B.C. and she received her schooling in Surrey, B.C.

Don and Elaine made their home in a suite that was owned by Don's father, Chester Kasha. The Massey Ferguson Implement dealership, also owned by Don's father, was downstairs in the same building.

In 1965 Don built a home on an acreage two and a half miles south of Eckville.

There are two children in the Don Kasha family. The oldest child is a boy, Brett Joseph, born on February 15, 1963 and a girl, Jayme May, born on July 31, 1966.

**KASHA, BRYAN CHARLES — by Mrs. Bryan [redacted]**

Bryan Charles was born September 15, 1945 in Lacombe, the third son of Chester Frank and Helen Marie (Susut) Kasha. He lived with his parents, sister Verna and brothers Donald and Edward on a farm in the Iowalta District near Lacombe. In 1946 they moved to a farm five miles west of Rimbey, and in 1949 the family moved to Eckville when Chester purchased the Massey-Harris dealership.

Bryan attended the elementary, junior and senior high schools in Eckville. His first teacher was Mrs. Morrisey. One year the Grade 5 class was taught in the Lion's Hall by Mrs. Marjorie Lazzer because there was not enough classroom space available in the school building. Some high school shop classes were held in a building that was on the present site of the Co-op Hardware.

During his school years Bryan participated in track and field, curling and the Eckville community band, in which he played the French horn and the snare drum.

Bryan played hockey with the Eckville Eagles for many years as a goalie, left wing and defence. He was also active in the Eckville Pony Chariot and Chuckwagon Club when it first was formed for several years afterwards.

Upon graduation from high school in 1964 Bryan enrolled in automotive mechanics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary. While there he played hockey with the S.A.I.T. Trojans. After completion of this course

Johnson, Bryan, Kas, Melonie Kasha

In 1966 Bryan continued working in his father's business in Eckville. He later completed the Heavy Duty Diesel Mechanics course at S.A.I.T.

On July 23, 1966 Bryan married Johanne Iris Evenishen in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. She taught Grades 4 to 6 in the Eckville Elementary School until 1973 and is now doing substitute teaching whenever needed.

Bryan and Johanne resided in the Carl Fisher apartments for several years and then rented the J. Tulloch farm south and west of Eckville. In 1969 they purchased a trailer and lived near Kasha Farm Supplies Ltd. at S.W. 3-39-3-W5. A house was erected there in 1975. A daughter, Melesia, was born May 4, 1971 and a son, Kes, was born June 11, 1973. Both children were born in Eckville.

**KASHA, EDWARD AND LEAH — by Leah Kasha**

Eddie, the second son of Helen and the late Chester Kasha, was born in Lacombe in 1942. In 1949 the Kasha's moved to Eckville where Eddie received his education. After leaving school, he went to work as an apprenticing mechanic for his father, who owned the Massey Ferguson dealership. In 1961 he started going to technical school in Calgary, and later continued on in Edmonton until receiving his automotive and heavy duty mechanics' license.

Over the years Eddie has been involved in many local organizations. As a boy he belonged to Cubs, Scouts, and Army Cadets. Later he was a scout leader. Also, he was interested in hockey, playing with the Eckville Eagles, and coaching a midget team.

Eddie married a local girl, Leah Lutz, the daughter of Julia and the late Arthur Lutz. Leah was born in Eckville and received her education there. She is an active member of the curling club and the O.O.R.P. of Benalto. Since 1965 she has worked part-time at the local Post office.

Eddie and Leah have two children, Lonnie and Julie. They both attend school in Eckville. They reside on an acreage close to the family business south of Eckville.

**THE CHARLES KASPER FAMILY — by Mrs. August Kasper**

Charles Kasper was born in the district of Wasa, Finland, on January 26, 1873. He emigrated to the United States at an early age, where he lived for a time in Nebraska and also in Minnesota. During that time he served for a period in the U.S. army. Later he worked in the mines in Butte, Montana. It was here that he married Nanni Kultala on December 3, 1903. She had been born in Raahi, Finland, and emigrated to the United States to Butte with her brother, Henry Kultala.

In 1905, along with other settlers including the Frank Heitalas and the Frank Palms, the Kaspers came to Alberta and took up a homestead on SW 28-39-3-W5. They came in January and the winter was bitterly cold. Little is known of their hardships during those early homesteading days. Mr. Kasper did go back to the mines at Butte during the winters. Later they milked cows and the milk was taken to the local cheese factory one and one-half miles away.

Charles and Nannie Kasper and children Alline, Ottie, Elsie, August, Charlie, Nannie and Raymond.

Charles Kasper contributed much to the community in which he lived. Being a very active man, he gave a lot of his time to public affairs. The Eckville School District probably received more of his time than any other organization, as he was a school board member for a period of more than 20 years, and was the chairman of the board at the time of his death. He was also councillor for the district of Lorne for a number of years. He took a leading part in establishing a Pool creamery for the district and served as a director of the Dairymen's Association for several years. Being an enterprising farmer and dairyman, he was some of the first ones in the community to have a milking machine and a manure spreader. He helped to organize the Eckville Mutual Telephone system and was one of the first to install a delco light system on his farm. He served the Presbyterian Church as chairman of the board for a few years and was largely responsible for moving the old school building into town to be used as the first church in Eckville.

Mr. Kasper died suddenly on December 7, 1928. He was on his usual morning run delivering milk to the village of Eckville when he had a stroke from which he never recovered. Mrs. Kasper, with the help of her family, kept the farm and the dairying operations going until her death in October, 1960.

At the Eckville Home & School Association meeting on March 17, 1960, Mr. Julian Sambrooke, Divisional Trustee, presented a set of books to the school from the Encyclopaedia Britannica Company to be known as "The Charles Kasper Encyclopedia."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kasper had nine children, eight of whom were born at Eckville. Alline was born in Butte, Montana. She married Guy Heath of Oilmont, Montana. They had one

son, George, who married Doreen Soerd. George and Doreen had two children — a daughter, Valerie, and a son, Leonard, both living in Calgary. Ailine and Guy lived in Eckville for about 28 years after which they moved to Penticton, B.C. Guy died in Eckville in 1971 and Ailine makes her home in Penticton.

Ottie married Ivey Kujala and they had two sons, Gale and Keith, and a daughter, Jean. They later moved to Vancouver to make their home. Ottie passed away in 1970.

Elno died in 1961 at the age of 52 years.

Lempi was born in 1910, and died in 1917, Benny was born in 1912 and died in 1916.

August was born in 1914 and is still active on his farm near Eckville.

Nanny was born in 1916 and married Frank Zaleski. They had four sons — Jimmy, Darwin, Dallas, and Bill. Jimmy and Dallas are since deceased. Darwin and his family live in Calgary. Bill married Katherine Anderson and they live in Blackfalds, Alberta.

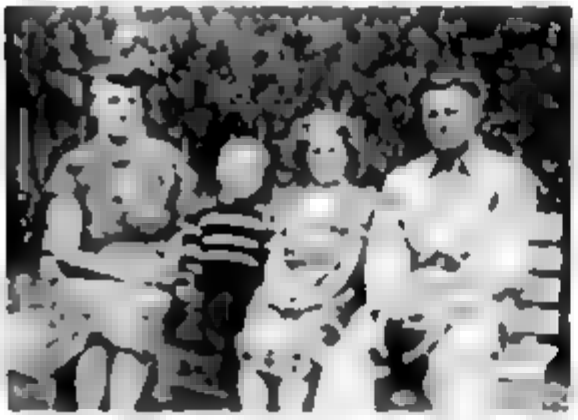
Charlie was born in 1921. He and his wife, Carrol, make their home in Summerland, B.C.

Ray died in Calgary in 1974 at the age of 51 years.

**THE AUGUST KASPER FAMILY — by Mrs. August Kasper**

August Kasper was born in Eckville in 1914, the son of Charles and Nanni Kasper. He left school at the age of 14 to help with the farm work after his father's death in 1928. In 1938 he married Fannie Tulsku of Manyberries, Alberta, and they had two children. Judy has been a teacher with the Calgary Public School System for eight years, after having received her B.Ed. Degree "With Distinction" from the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Bryon, of Edmonton, is a professional engineer and is presently studying for his Master's Degree at the University of Alberta on a two-year scholarship awarded by the National Research Council of Ottawa.

During the Second World War, in the spring of 1941, August and Fannie left for Edmonton where August took a course in sheet metal at a Youth Training Center. Later he was employed by Air Craft Repair, working on planes. Fannie worked at the New Method Laundry for the four years of their stay in Edmonton. Early in 1943 August enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and was discharged in 1945 at the end of the war, having spent two years in the Service in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia.



Fannie, Bryon, Judy and August Kasper

Following his return, August and Fannie came back to Eckville to the farm. They bought a half section (S15-39-3-W5) from his mother with the help of the V.L.A. They spent all of their earnings of the past four years on clearing the land to start farming. Later they were able to build a barn and started milking cows. Following this enterprise they went quite extensively into the raising of hogs. At present their main interest is the raising of Simmental cattle.

About 1960 August was in the "Save the Soil" campaign sponsored by the Eckville Board of Trade. He worked closely with the District Agriculturist of Lacombe to improve his farming methods and to keep his farm productive.

At present August is a director for the Diamond Valley Gas Co-op, and is the secretary of the Eckville Credit Union. Fannie is the librarian at the Eckville Public Library during the winter months and also is a long-time member of the Country Ladies Aid.

**KAUPPI — written by Sylvia Thorkman**

Mr. Kauppi, one of the very first residents in the Eckville area, squatted on the S.W. 22-39-2W5 in the 1900's.

Very little is known about this brave man. He lived in a tent the first years, later building himself a log cabin by the Medicine River.

His only companion was his cat Maru.

One day a neighbor had stopped in for a visit and while they were visiting, a very wet Maru walked in.

Mr. Kauppi looked at the cat and said "Maru has tried to do a little fishing."

When homesteads were available, he filed on this property and received his title for the land.

A few years later his health began to deteriorate and he was cared for by the Charlie Kasper family until his passing.

He had no known relatives.

**THE HISTORY OF THE KEMILA FAMILY**

Mathew and Madgelena Kemila were originally from Oulu, Finland. In the late 1800's, they left Oulu and immigrated to the Dakota's in the United States of America.

With their seven children, Mary, John, Charlie, Mathew, Elmer, Gus and Jenny, Mathew and Madgelena began a new life in Rock Lake, North Dakota. Tragedy struck several years later when Mathew was critically injured in an accident. Several horses bolted and ran, throwing Mathew under the wheel of the grain wagon. Mathew passed away three days later.

In 1906, Madgelena and her family left North Dakota and moved to Sylvan Lake, Alberta. For a short period of time they all stayed at Alix Kinnunen's until they settled in the Gilby district. In later years all the children would homestead in this area also.

Mathew and Madgelenas' first child, Mary, moved to Saskatchewan where she met and married Edward Niska. One of their children is Mrs. Hazel Johnson who married the late Charlie Johnson. Hazel resides in Sylvan Lake.

Gus Kemila also moved to Saskatchewan. Here he farmed until his passing. Elmer moved to Saskatchewan where he farmed before returning to the United States.

In 1912, Jenny married Gus Sestrap. They operated a general store in the Gilby district. In later years Matt (Mathew Kemila) married and left the Gilby district to farm in the Saskatchewan area. He later returned to the United States.

Charlie also spent some time in Saskatchewan but later returned to the Sylvan Lake district where he married Wilhimena Kinnunen. Charlie lived on a small acreage west of Sylvan Lake where they made their living selling garden supplies and dairy products to stores and summer campers. Here they resided until their passing. They had no family.

John Kemila married Mary Elizabeth Koski and farmed in the Gilby District for a short time until they settled in Eckville, Alberta. John was a mail carrier out of Eckville from 1912 to 1932. He delivered mail for the Alberta Government during the First World War, carrying mail from the Eckville, Gilby, and Leedale districts. This was a distance of 30 miles. Many funny incidents occurred during this time. One time one of the horses balked and lay down when John hooked them up. It took him a good half hour to get the horse up. Incidentally, this horse turned out to be the best one of the bunch because he never stopped once he got going.

In 1924, John Kemila built his first truck which was just a frame to which he added a box. This replaced the horses which he had used to haul freight to the Gilby, Lockhart and Leedale districts. John Kemila was known to be a jovial character. He was also the sheriff in Eckville for many years.

In 1932, John started a livery stable and a garage where it doubled as a supply house for coffins and funeral supplies. While John had the garage, he and a neighbor, Charlie Gustavson, built what was known then as a snowmobile car. Actually what it was, was a car mounted on a type of ski runners and powered by an engine with a prop in front of it. This machine was used as transportation for Dr. Sommerville for travelling across the fields to take care of his patients. It is understood that this machine is in the museum at Wetaskiwin. John Kemila passed away on December 4, 1959.

John and Elizabeth Kemila had five children,

Senia, Selma, John, Elmer, and Emil Kemila

Senia, Selma, John, Elmer and Emil. Senia was the first child born on July 20, 1908. Senia was married to the late George Mattson. George was a mechanic in Sylvan Lake in 1941 until moving to Condor where he farmed. Later he purchased another farm in Sylvan Lake. George Mattson died in 1963. Senia and George had two children, Walter and Viola. Senia lived in Sylvan Lake until she died in March of 1975.

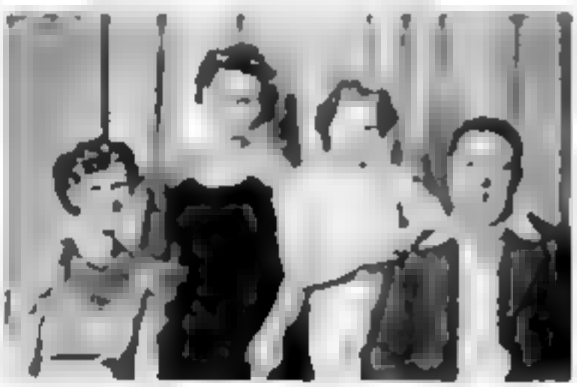
Walter Mattson now resides in Red Deer, Alberta with his wife Jeanette. Walter and Jeanette had four children, Garth, Brian, Susan and Janice. Garth died in 1957 at the age of seven. Brian married Donna (Horsley), and they have a son Shane born to them in 1974.

Viola married Frank Reese, and they have one son Micheal. They reside in Costa Mesa, California.

Selma was the second child born, September 20, 1909. Selma was married to the late Ed Koski. They had three children, Ethel, Helen, and Edward. Selma now resides in Edmonton.

Their third child was John, he was born on May 11, 1911. He was known in the district for a good many years as a trucker and a welder. Little John was considered a humorous fellow. Little John was the first man to have a truck equipped with a P.T.O. for loading grain.

John married Lily (Lindequist) and they had



Lily and John Kemila and Girls

John Eskelin, Mrs. John Kemila and Mrs. Matt Heikila

two children, Irene and Jean. Irene is now living in Port Arthur, Ontario and Jean is in Vancouver, B.C. Little John passed away on April 21 1961

Elmer was the fourth child of John and Elizabeth Kemila. Elmer was born on November 15, 1912, and died on January 7, 1925, at the early age of 12. Cause of death is not known

Their fifth child, Emil, has also passed away, leaving his wife, Ella and five children, Elmer, Sylvia, Clara, Clifford and Beverly. There were also five grandchildren. Emil passed away on May 9, 1968.

**KENDREW, ROY AND LIZ — (as told by Roy)**

My parents emigrated from England to the Eastern United States in 1886, 10 years later arriving in Red Deer, Alberta. I was born in a small red house on Michener Hill in Red Deer. A few years later we moved to Edwell, east of Red Deer where I put in my first year of school, from there we were transferred to Willowdale, an adjoining school district where I finished my Grade 8.

After school I spent several years on the home farm, then took off on my own, working on several local farms and later in construction. I worked for Charlie Ross who was foreman for the Mutual Telephone Company at the time, and for numerous other construction companies.

In 1937 I married Elizabeth Holland of the Tom Holland family, she was born in England in 1918. They came from England to Canada in 1924 and to the Leslieville district in 1930

I continued farming, doing construction jobs whenever possible; we put in a year in the Stettler area and then back to Red Deer

In 1941, our son Keith was born while we were renting a farm in the Shady Nook area a few miles west of Red Deer

In 1943, our daughter Sheila was born. We were on the Bob Cruickshank farm while Bob was serving overseas in the Second World War

In 1944, we purchased the Springvale Manse and acreage where we resided for a couple of years, working on local farms and in construction

In 1946, we purchased a farm in the Markerville district — SE 27 37 2 W5, where we farmed till the winter of 1959 and 60. We then sold out and moved to Eckville. Here my wife worked at the Eckville Hospital for over 18 years. I put in three years as "butter maker" at the Eckville Creamery — two years as "nightman" at the Eckville Hotel — then worked at the Eckville Hospital from 1965 till 1975. After leaving the hospital we retired and are living at home in Eckville

Our son Keith was married to Maureen Carrol and had two children, Shauna and Ryan. Keith and Maureen were divorced and went their separate ways.

Keith is now married to Lillian Barbus and they reside in Rimbey. Their family consists of two boys, Colin and Jason

Our daughter Sheila is married to Lyal Johnston of Rimbey; they have three children, Norma, Angela and Wesley

Added notes by hospital patients; —

1. "During the 10 years Roy and Lizzie worked at the Eckville Hospital I'm sure most patients will remember the visits they made to patients. My, how it brightened their stay in hospital. Roy always had a joke for everyone which made their stay seem shorter. Lizzie did many things to cheer up patients, but never wanted to take credit for such as doing many a janitor job, nurse maid or what have you. Many of us who spent time in hospital, especially long periods of time will be forever grateful to Roy and Lizzie."

2. . . . "After many stays in hospital some of my pleasant memories were Roy's cheery light whistle and infectious laughter in passing our rooms, and his genuinely interested friendly visits. When I was on special diet I remember Liz smiling at my door, "What would you like to eat to-day"? It made you feel like nothing was too much trouble — and that's a good feeling when you're sick'"

**KENNEDY, BOB AND OLIVAH (MAC)**

Bob and I were married in Hanna and moved to Eckville in 1936. Robert was then two years old and Barry was born in 1937. Bob passed away in October, 1946. I was working in the Co-op Store

Bob and Olivah Kennedy

Our house burned down in 1941 and we then lived over Ferris' store before buying the house next to Emma Lutz.

Robert spent five years in the Air Force, then married Margaret in the East. He has lived in Montreal for 15 or 16 years. They have three children — Robbie, 16 years; Joanne, 12 years, and Gail 9 years. He works in a rug business where he has been for the past six years.

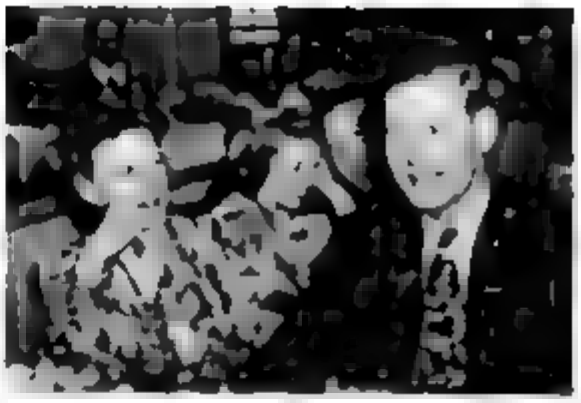
Barry and Roseann live in Prince George, B.C. Barry works for the Northwest Paving, where he has been employed for many years. They have three children. Wendal is 14, Jan 13, and Debbie is 10 years old.

We left Rockyford, where I worked for the Alberta Government Telephones from 1950 to 1955, and then lived in Prince George, where I worked for the Co-op for one year. After this I married Charles Thompson and we moved to the Okanagan in 1957. We have lived in Kelowna for four and one-half years.

Mom and Dad lived on the old Weeks place and later moved into town at the railroad. Dad passed away in Eckville in 1946 and Mom passed away in Kelowna in 1966.

**KENNEDY, MRS. J. (nee Barlund)**

I, Mandy Caroline Barlund born on April 15, 1916 in Eckville, Alberta, Canada. I went to Bluebell School, Eckville High School and Garbutt Business College in Calgary. I then went to work in North Vancouver, British Columbia. In 1940 I moved to Seattle, Washington where I now



Carolyn (Barlund) Kennedy and J. Kennedy

reside. On May 8, 1943 I married Jesse G. Kennedy Jr. We have four children, Carolyn Lacy, Sandra Marie, Kathrya Barlund and Jesse G. Kennedy III.

Here are a few incidents which I recall: When my mother went into labor with my younger sister Ellen, my brother ran about one and one half miles to a neighbor and told her that mother was about to have the baby and would she come to take care of mother as had been arranged beforehand. The neighbor lady said, "No, I'm sorry I can't come because Pa is going hunting with Oswald O. Forhan and I have to patch his pants." Henry ran back home and then he and my sister Ina ran to Eckville to see if they could get any help. They stopped at the John Kemilas. Mrs. Kemilla had company but she left them and rushed with Henry and Ina to come and be a midwife for mother and just in time. What a traumatic experience that must have been for two young children.

I was five years old when I went on our first camping trip with my mother and dad, Ernest and Ellen. We went to the northwest shore of Sylvan Lake in a wagon. We got there in the afternoon and Dad went fishing and caught several pike. He put the fish and some potatoes to cook in the coals of the campfire. We were sure that Dad would ruin all that beautiful fish in the coals. Mother prepared the rest of the meal. What a dinner! I have never since had such delicious fish. For the night we all bedded down in the wagon box. The next morning we woke up to one of those truly beautiful Alberta sunny days. Ina arrived on horseback. She had had to stay at home to do the chores, milk cows, feed and water cattle. Dad went fishing again and when he had his catch we all played out in the water then Dad swam out a long ways and yelled "Goodbye" then disappeared under the water. We children drew in our breaths because we thought he had drowned when up he popped several yards from where he had disappeared. He did this several times. It was the first time I had seen anyone swim under water. In the afternoon we went blueberry picking. Nothing can

compare in flavor to the Alberta low bush blueberry When we started dinner a huge black cloud appeared in the sky We had barely finished when the sky seemed to rip open with lightning and the thunder was deafening It started to rain so we rushed to a nearby farmhouse and they were so gracious and took us in for the night. I suppose I remember this picnic so well because everyone in the family had such a happy time'

The Indians always fascinated me My dad hired some of them to help him clear some land Mother gave them milk and eggs and bread After that, every summer long wagonloads of Indians came to our place for a handout They had found out that mother was an "easy touch" I remember seeing the Indians camped by the Horseguard river I hated to see their hobbled horses. I felt so sorry for the horses. After the Indians left we'd go to their campsite and we'd see the framework of their steam baths. One Sunday many young Indian men came to our place to show us how far they could shoot their arrows. The height and distance was incredible. I always wondered where they spent their winters because they had so few possessions and the winters were so harsh.

Although money was so scarce in the 1920's we created our own entertainment softball, baseball, swimming, skiing, skating and dances. We had a lot of fun and there are many happy memories.

**KERCH, JOE, ERNIE AND DOLLY**

Sometime during the first World War, Joe and Ernie Kerch arrived in the Eckville area. They lived on several farms, finally settling on the E½ 8-39-3-W5. A sister, Dolly and her husband Jack Bromling arrived a little later and established themselves on the now Cunningham farm About 1918 another brother Levi, drove a four mule team and wagon loaded with machinery from Minnesota, to join his brothers. A home and other buildings were readied for the arrival of their parents, John and Ann Kerch and a fourth brother, Ervin

Working as a family they were soon farming several quarters, had a good herd of Hereford cattle, some excellent hogs, a well drilling outfit, a steam engine and threshing machine. They did their own carpentry and mechanical work Detailed information was kept on each of the 1000 wells drilled, such as depth, quantity and quality of water obtained

Jack and Dolly (Kerch) Bromling

Jack Bromling was Searle elevator man for years in Eckville. The elder Kerch's passed on in the 1930's

The brothers continued to farm till 1943, when a farm sale was held. Fred Moos bought the well drilling outfit and Alfred Molander still has the 1916 threshing machine, which is still in very good condition

After their sale the brothers and Dolly and Jack Bromling moved to Corning, California, U.S.A. Ernie and Joe, though up in years, still reside there, the others having passed on.

**KERKKANEN, LEMPI AND SIMON**

Lempi and Simon Kerkkanen were married in Butte, Montana in 1907 after having come from Finland some years before. In 1911, with their daughter Lillian, they moved to homestead in the Withrow district For a few years Simon worked in the copper mines in Butte to supplement the income needed on the homestead. In 1912 they moved to their quarter section three miles northeast of Eckville, living in a small one-roomed home which they later converted into a chicken house. They moved the house from the homestead to their farm, and added on to it in 1927 28. At this time their daughter was married, and they took Agnes and William, a niece and nephew of Mrs. Kerkkanen, into their home William, however, died in 1934 at the age of 21 Mr. Kerkkanen died on June 2, 1936, being caused by injuries received in an auto collision.

Lempi remarried in 1939 to Verner Junnila and together they continued to farm until 1956. At this time they retired to Eckville, but in 1958 Verner passed away after a lengthy illness.

In 1961 Lempi was married again and moved to Rainier, Washington. After her third husband, Tony Kaila, passed away in 1965, she moved to Ladysmith, B.C., where she passed away in February of 1968. Lempi was buried in the Eckville Cemetery in the family plot there.

**THE IKE KAILA FAMILY — by Shirley McPhee, a Daughter**

Ike and Irene Kaila moved to Eckville in 1927, and lived in a house belonging to Mrs. Langer's father Ike was a clerk in the Co-op Store, which was located where the J & K Foods store is now They bought Umari's old house, and their first daughter, Alice, was born here in September, 1929, delivered by Dr Sommerville. Their second daughter, Shirley, was born in the Bentley hospital in June, 1934, delivered by Dr Henry In 1939 Ike and Irene bought the old Odd Fellows Hall and renovated it, and lived there. When the new Co-op was built, Ike worked there, replacing Oswald Umari as manager, when Oswald retired

in 1940. A few years later they moved into their new house, which was built next to the ball park.

Movies were shown once a week in the Eckville Hall by Mr. Watkins from Sylvan Lake. Ike purchased this business and in 1947 opened the Ecko Theatre, in a building owned by Ernest Jackson. It is still in its present location. About the same time, Ike purchased the local Chinese Cafe from "Happy", renovated it, and it became a popular eating spot.

Under Ike's management, the Co-op grew from a small general store to one that had large individual departments, including groceries, meats and cold storage, drygoods, hardware, lumber, service station, gas and oils, machinery and a lunch-counter.

Ike was very active in community affairs. He was a charter member and president of the Lions Club, a member of the Recreation Association, was instrumental in the formation of the Credit Union, managed the local baseball team in the late 1940's (when Eckville's team was recognized throughout Alberta), was chairman of the schoolboard that got the high school back to Eckville, and managed the hockey team at various times, usually with Uno Krintila as his right hand man. Both Ike and Irene were ardent curlers.

Ike, Irene and Shirley moved to Red Deer in 1950. In 1956 Ike and Irene moved to Edmonton, where, in 1960 Ike suffered a stroke. He continued in poor health until he passed away on July 22, 1976, but he always managed to maintain his zest for living. Irene still lives in Edmonton, and enjoys good health.

Alice married W. G. (Bill) Hawkins, who ran the U.G.G. elevator in Kootuk in 1949. Their older son, James, was born in Eckville in 1950, delivered by Dr. Coppock. Alice, being a talented pianist, played for many dances, social events and funerals in Eckville and the surrounding area. Alice and Bill left Eckville in 1951 when Bill joined the R.C.A.F. They now live in Richmond, B.C. They have four children. James, who received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering, is married and lives in Calgary. He is employed by Imperial Oil. Bradley lives in Ottawa, where he is employed by a consulting engineer. Katherine is employed in Richmond, and Kimberly is still in school.

Shirley received her certification as an X-ray technician while working at Parson's Clinic in Red Deer, and received her B.S. Degree in medical technology from the University of Alberta. She married Donald James McPhee from Red Deer, and they now reside out of St. Albert. They have two sons, Gregory, who is attending U. of A. in the faculty of mechanical engineering, and Gary, who has just completed high school.

**KILLICK, J. H. AND FAMILY**

Mr. J. H. Killick came to Canada from England in 1899 and in 1900 took up land in the Pine Lake district. Not liking the cold winter, he returned to England (the fare from Red Deer to London was $65 at that time), but was back in Canada by the fall of 1902.

At that time Evarts was a busy place, serving the whole area, and especially the immense district west to the Saskatchewan River. Mr. Killick chose Evarts as the place to start a store in 1903.

He married Miss Ada Belle Brown in 1906. She had come from Nova Scotia in 1906 and was teaching in Evarts. In 1905 she was the first teacher in the Bluebell School, built in 1905, west of Evarts. In 1905 Mr. Killick established a store on the Medicine River, two miles north of the present town of Eckville. He successfully applied for a post office for the area, and it must be given a name. Because he was leasing land from a Mr. Eckford, he called the post office "Eckville" — which is how Eckville got its name.

In 1907 he sold this Eckville store to a Belgian, Mr. Bruynserade, and moved back to Evarts, where he bought the hotel from Mr. Bob Lawrence. For a time he operated the hotel, a store and the post office, but Alf Millward bought the hotel in 1911.

In 1908 Harold, the eldest son, was born in Red Deer with Dr. Richard Parsons in attendance. Bernard, the second son, was born in January, 1910, and Gordon was born in 1912.

In the spring of 1912 Mr. Killick disposed of all his holdings in Evarts and went west across the Saskatchewan River to a homestead about two miles west of the historical site. The railroad was being built, and he obtained a contract to supply them with groceries from the store he started. The construction of the bridge over the Saskatchewan River was a tremendous undertaking because the dirt for the large grades was put there by teams of horses or mules using fresnoes.

Business was very brisk at that time. In addition to the railroad business many settlers were moving in, and Indians were bringing their furs.

J. H. and Ada Belle's [illegible] Wedding Anniversary

from as far west as the Kootenay Plains. They came down the Saskatchewan River in canoes

Vera, their first daughter, was born at this trading post In 1913 they moved across the river to the new townsite of Rocky Mountain House, which had just been established on the homestead of J. H Bertrand. Here Marjorie, the youngest daughter, was born

Affectionately known as "Jack", Mr Killick became a sort of legend in Rocky Mountain House Many needing it asked for, and received, help from him both in advice and in credit so they could get a start. The business grew and prospered until five stores were in operation. In 1959 the Hudson's Bay Company bought the store and Mr and Mrs. Killick retired.

On October 28, 1969 Mrs. Killick passed away and on May 26, 1973 Mr. Killick passed on. He, and of course Mrs. Killick, will always be remembered in Evarts, Eckville and Rocky Mountain House. They helped build this country His good counsel and sound advice was eagerly sought by newcomers It was through his generosity and sympathy that many settlers in this area remained and eventually prospered

Harold Killick was born in 1908 in Red Deer on April 29, 1905. He started school in Rocky Mountain House, where Mrs. Sadie Durnford was the teacher He was married in 1938 to Rakel Edin of Asker. They had two boys, Jack and Ronald Jack is presently president of Olex Industries, while Ron is manager of Turbo Resources for Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Harold later became a druggist and operated successful drug stores in Rocky Mountain House, Olds, Three Hills and Stettler He is now retired and living on his farm 10 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House, having sold his Stettler drug store in 1971.

Bernard Killick was born in Evarts on April 29 1910. He started school with Harold He took a business education course and was a bookkeeper. He married the matron of the hospital in Rocky Mountain House, Miss Irene McRae Their two children are Jim and Maureen Jim is in charge of a M S. institution in Saanich, B.C. Maureen is No. 1 for Time Air in Calgary

Gordon Killick was born in 1912 while his parents were living in Evarts. He started school in Rocky Mountain House, and went on to the U of A., graduating in Geology He worked with oil drilling companies until his retirement in Calgary He married Elsie Bradshaw, and they had a son, John. John is now a very influential man with Brascan in Calgary Elsie and Gordon have adopted three children — Margaret, Bruce and Doreen — a great credit to them

Vera Killick, Ada and Jack's eldest daughter, was born on Tom Gray's homestead. She married Dan Elliott, now deceased. Dan was ticket agent for the CPR in Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Banff

Marjorie Killick stayed single, and after years of successfully managing our ladies' dry goods department, bought her own store in Jasper She eventually sold this store after years of successfully operating it, and retired to Gabriola Island, near Nanaimo, B.C

**THE FAMILY PIANO — by Mrs. N. Watson**

In the year 1907 Mr. and Mrs. J H Killick purchased a Gourley piano from Brumpton's Store in Red Deer, the salesman being Joseph Wright The piano was moved from Red Deer to Eckville by wagon and team, where Mr Killick had just opened the first post office.

The next move for the piano was to Evarts, where Mr Killick had just bought a hotel, paying for it with horses The business and post office in Eckville was sold to a relative of Charles Snell of Red Deer

The piano remained in Evarts for four years, 1908 to 1912. when it was moved to the Tom Gray place west of the Saskatchewan River at Rocky Mountain House, where Mr Killick had a few months previously opened a new store. The next move was to Rocky Mountain House when Mr Killick moved his store from west of the river to the present townsite of Rocky Mountain House in 1914 Here it remained until 1921, although it was moved into three different residences in the town

Mr Killick sold his business in Rocky Mountain House to Mr Seth Witton and moved his family to Victoria in the summer of 1921, again moving the piano with them

Although in 1928 Mr Killick again went into business in Rocky Mountain House, Mrs. Killick and the children took up residence in Edmonton so that the children could finish school, and this time the piano was moved to Edmonton, where it remained until 1934, then being brought back to Rocky Mountain House

Once again, in 1971, it has been moved to Kelowna to the home of Mrs. Vera Elliott, the second eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. Killick

The piano was originally bought for approximately $60 to $120, and for all its travels it still looks and sounds like new Not a scratch on its polished mahogony surface'

**KINGSEP, LEONARD — HIETALA FAMILY — by Violet E. Himmelreich (Kingsep)**

My father's life began in Warroo, Estonia. on the Baltic Sea on the second of May, 1892. The family decided to emigrate to Canada, so my grandfather, Christian Kingsep came and took out a homestead near Sylvan Lake. Four years later the family came to Red Deer, where my grandfather was doing construction work, helping to build the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer My dad, Leonard Kingsep, came out with his uncle a year ahead of the rest of the family They came by boat to Montreal and landed on Canadian soil on September 15, 1898. They came by train from Montreal to Red Deer To get out to their homestead they had a slow journey by wagon and a team of oxen. My dad had two younger

brothers, Eustace and Kenneth, and two older sisters, Hel.ma and Lillian The only available schooling was at the nearby Norma School, which was opened when enough settlers had come into the area. They attended school whenever there was time from farm duties. Dad says that they got more education from experience than they ever got from attending school

My grandfather, Christian, was a sailor and a wanderer, so, after moving his family to Canada he left to seek his fortune elsewhere, and Grandmother Tina was left to raise her brood the best way that she could. She lived on the homestead all the rest of her life, and lived to be well past eighty years of age.

Times in the beginning were very hard with not much to eat and no money available for necessary machinery and livestock. Land had to be cleared and cultivated before there could be a crop or even a garden. Although homestead land was cheap and even free in some cases, it had to be improved, cleared and fenced before you could own it, according to government regulations. Dad told me that they even made their own crude shoes from cowhide. They farmed with oxen instead of horses

By the time Dad was 21 the first world War was brewing. His two brothers served in the army Eustace went to France and Kenneth went into the American army and was stationed in Panama Dad was exempted from service because he was needed on the farm. It was at this stage of his life that my mother entered the picture

My mother was born, Euphemia Hietala, in Butte, Montana on September 16, 1895. Mom's folks had come from Finland just after their marriage (leaving all of the relatives behind.) They settled in Butte where my grandfather, Frank Hietala, went to work in the copper mines Copper dust proved to be very injurious to the lungs and my grandfather knew that he was developing the dreaded miner's consumption, which afflicted almost anyone who worked in the mines for any length of time

Grandfather decided that it would be a healthier life to move to Canada so he emigrated to the area west of Sylvan Lake Quite a few Finnish families moved into the same area, a number of them also coming from Butte, Montana There developed such a solid little community of Finns that my grandmother, Emma, never found it necessary to learn to speak English although she lived to be well past eighty years of age

Grandfather Frank did not live very long after getting his family established on the farm, so his wife and children had to make the best of building a new life in a new land. My mother and Uncle Henry were the eldest children. There were two other sisters — Emma (Cunningham and Vie (Pitkanen) and a younger brother, Alex, who died when he was 21. In the beginning the family lived in a two-story frame house and farmed with oxen

My mother had never lived in the country before. She had never seen grass anywhere except in a city park, with signs saying "Keep off the grass." She thought that the milk they obtained in the city came from a special pump that the milk man had. It was a real revelation to discover that cows gave milk. She remembers being ecstatic to think that they could raise their own turnips.

All the children went to a little country school to learn their ABC's. My mother already had had a few years of schooling in Butte before she came to Canada. The late Mr. J M. McDonald of Eckville was one of their teachers. He was a young, handsome fellow just arrived from eastern Canada at that time. Although times were hard and money was scarce there still were enjoyable, memorable times, and they were blessed with wonderful, helpful neighbors

Their 24th of May picnic was a great annual event with picnic lunches, races, contests, and games and with a dance in the community hall in the evening There were always enough musicians in the area for a pick up orchestra Everyone attended, from the wee babies to grandma. All the young ladies turned out in their best home-made dresses with bows in their hair, and wearing high button boots.

It was on one of these occasions that my mother and dad met, which led to their marriage on December 6, 1917. The war was still on in Europe and times were becoming a little better for people on the homesteads. My dad and mother rented a farm south-east of Eckville and set up housekeeping In those days no one had very much when they began their married life, but that was of very little consequence. My brother Ralph was the first addition to their family, followed by Ivan, and I was number three

When I was a baby the price of wheat went up to three dollars a bushel and my father was able to buy his first car. We lived in a big two-story log house and my faint recollections of those days are mostly happy ones. The setting for that log house was a pretty place with lots of natural trees on the banks of the Medicine River For years Mother had to carry water up the steep bank of the river to the house.

I remember Mother doing her washing on the river bank on the nice days of summer in order to save some of the hard work of carrying water She would build a fire under her boiler and heat water and wash her clothes by hand in a wash tub with a wash board and home-made soap. Then they were hung to dry on twine lines tied from tree to tree on the river bank. My brothers and I would play about in the trees while she did her washing My brother Ivan fell into the river one day and Mom had to jump in and rescue him in water that was almost up to her neck. One of my early fears was of the bats that used to fly in

and out of our attic as it began to get dark in the evenings

Mother always had a lot of flowers planted around the house and she raised a big garden We always went picking wild berries in the summertime, and there was always a contest to see who would be first to get his pail filled with the wild raspberries, strawberries, saskatoons, or blueberries. Some years we even found wild hazel nuts in the woods

In the spring Dad alway put a net in the river as soon as the ice was gone and he caught a lot of suckers and pike. Mom made the best fish mulligan I have ever tasted out of fish, milk, potatoes, and onions. We lived almost entirely off the land so had little need for stores. Our clothes were all home made from whatever material or yarn we could afford. Times may have been hard, but life to me seemed good and the summers long and sunny Families and friends visited a lot and it was always exciting to have company

On Saturday nights we alway went to Grandmother Hietala's place for a Sauna (steam bath) and there was always coffee and cake afterward, along with lots of visiting. The sauna was a wonderful invention which was found at every Finn homestead. Grandmother's bath house was built of logs. There was a dressing room and a steam room. In the steam and wash room there was a stove built out of a large drum. An enclosure around the drum held lots of fairly large rocks to absorb the heat when the fire was on. My Uncle Henry would build the fire in the morning and keep it stoked up all day to heat the rocks. We would have pans of water and soap to wash with and then we poured water on the rocks to create steam. Grandmother made willow switches which you could beat yourself with to improve your circulation. After sitting in the hot steam for as long as you thought you could stand it, the next thing to do would be to splash cold water all over yourself to cool off enough to get dry After getting dressed and stepping out into the cool night, I remember it made me feel like a million dollars.

We had another little brother added to our family while we lived in the big house by the river, but he was so tiny that he lived for only a few days. He was born at home, and of course there were no incubators to be had in those days Even though I was very young I still remember those sad days very vividly

The year before I started to school we moved to the farm just north of Eckville. For me school days were the best days of my life. Although my brothers did not especially like school, I loved it, and could hardly wait until vacation was over so I could go back and start another term in a new grade. My teacher for grades one, two and three was Miss Gladys Jones; then I had Miss Byers and Miss Craig through grades four, five, and six. For junior high I was in Mr Baldwin's room — after having had lady teachers it was a bit [illegible] to have a man teacher In high school I had Mr Scott and Mr Lewis and my best teacher, (and a real gem), was Mrs. Westergard. One of my favorite memories is of our great basketball team and our outdoor basketball court, as we had no gymnasium. Softball games and track meets were fun, too.

Every fall at our school fair we could exhibit our vegetables that we had grown during the summer. On one occasion I dug up a whole row of carrots just to get six that were exactly alike. We made pressed weed and wildflower collections and caught and mounted butterflies and insects Our best artwork, maps and penmanship were handed in for competition. We led calves and colts in front of the judges and brought pens of chickens and ducks and rabbits and pigs. There were classes for cooking and canning and sewing For me all this was a serious business because money was given as the prizes, and sometimes this was the only spending money I could count on having in a whole year

Among the pleasant and indelible memories of my childhood were the days of harvest in the fall. The threshing crews were huge when they had steam threshers. There was always a feeling of excitement when the bundle haulers and the big machine moved into our field and started to work. Mother always had extra women (neighbors or sisters) over to help feed the men The place was like a huge bakery to me with all the pies, buns and bread baking There were large pots of potatoes and vegetables, roasts and gravy, and homemade pickles.

A long table was set with a white oilcloth cover, and homemade benches were used to seat all those hungry men. We always had tin basins and large cream cans of warm water placed outside the door for the men to wash before each meal There was always lots of practical joking and laughter along with all the work, and everyone seemed to enjoy it all, in spite of the hard work for both men and women. Everyone was up before daybreak. Huge breakfasts were prepared by the women while the men fed, watered and harnessed their horses. I was allowed to go out to the threshing machine when the ladies took coffee and hot rolls out to the men for a mid-morning and a mid-afternoon lunch

Christmas was special in those days, even though it was usually a simple and homey occasion with relatives usually being invited for dinner Christmas concerts were very important with Santa arriving to give out treats after the stage program. All the children took part in the concert of singing, recitations, drills and stage plays.

My mother was the heart and soul of our family Through the years she kept in contact with all the relatives, near and far, by writing lots and lots of letters and by sewing, knitting, or crocheting little gifts for them

We enjoyed swimming in the river when the days were warm in summer and skated for miles

up and down the river in winter when the ice was good. Every winter my dad and some of his friends went fishing to Buck Lake right after the New Year. They fished with nets through the ice. The fish they brought home were very good eating. Mother canned or smoked many of them. Although there were no deep freezes in those days we froze the fish into a big snow bank by digging out a big hole then putting the fish in it and pouring water over them. We chopped them out in chunks with an axe as we needed them to eat.

Another necessary project on farms was putting up a supply of wood before winter set in. This involved falling the trees and hauling them in. Then they had to be sawed into blocks for the heater and some of the blocks split into smaller pieces to be used in the kitchen stove. This needed to be done early in the season because the wood did not burn well unless it had some time to dry out before being used. It was the duty of my brothers and me to pile the wood into a long row against a fence after it was split and then during the winter it was our regular chore to keep the woodbox in the back shed filled with wood.

Mother and Dad lived on their farm near Eckville until 1966. In the spring of that year they sold the farm and retired to Summerland, B.C. Mother's health had failed by this time but they enjoyed the milder winters and especially enjoyed having fruit trees, roses and chrysanthemums in their back yard.

Ralph has spent most of his adult life in B.C. near the coast, felling trees for the lumber industry. His eldest son, Ellis, lives in Los Angeles, while Lenny, Mark, and daughter Laura live in Port Coquitlam.

Ivan first went north when the Alaska Highway was being built. His work was to haul fuel for the outfits working on the project. He lived most of the time at Fort St. John, until his death in June, 1971. His son, Leslie and family live at Fort St. John, but his two daughters, Diane and Shelley, now live in Alberta.

After finishing high school I took teacher training in Edmonton and have spent 14 years as a classroom teacher, mostly at the grade one level. During the war I worked in the Colonel Belcher Hospital in Calgary as a typist and office clerk in the Outpatient Clinic. I married Robert Himmelreich in 1946 and we have two children. Our daughter, Sherrill, is married and lives in Lethbridge. Her daughter, Danielle is our first grandchild. Our son, Keith, lives in Calgary.

Mother passed away in Summerland on the 12th of July, 1969, in her 74th year. Dad returned to Eckville in April, 1976 and passed away on the 10th of November, 1976, at the age of 84.

**KINGSEP, LOUISE TIPMAN (MOTTUS) — by Louise Kingsep**

Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Tipman and family of four sailed from Russia in 1902 to begin a new life in Canda. The trip took two weeks on an old ship which included three days in very dense fog. After landing in Eastern Canada we took a train to Red Deer and then by horses and wagon to Sylvan Lake, where several Estonian families had already settled. For two years we lived with an aunt and uncle, and dad worked in a lumber mill in Red Deer at the going wage of one dollar and fifty cents a day.

In September of 1904 we moved to our homestead in the Stettler area where Dad had built a large one-room cabin with a dirt floor and dirt roof. All of our belongings were loaded into a covered wagon which was pulled by two oxen — named Eric and Billy. We had a cow and bull tied to the wagon and a dozen chickens in a crate. Our trip was quite uneventful until we had to cross a creek. The wagon was too heavily loaded to use the bridge, so we forded the creek. Halfway across Eric decided to lay down and cool off, as it was a very warm day. However, the spot he picked was quite unsuitable as his head couldn't be kept out of the water. So eight year-old John went to the rescue by crawling out on the tongue of the wagon and, taking hold of the reins, could pull Eric's head up. No amount of coaxing or swearing could get that ox up until he was quite ready to do so himself. During all this excitement Billy quietly stood by and chewed his cud.

We arrived at our destination after three days of travel and settled into our cabin. It was furnished with a home-made stove made of rock and clay with a cast iron top. Beds were made with rails and straw-filled mattresses. The fireplace was used to bake bread, which was wrapped in cabbage leaves until we acquired bread pans to bake it in. As we had no outbuildings at this time, the chickens were kept in the cabin, fenced in under the bed. They kept us in eggs all winter, and there was no sleeping in as the rooster crowed regularly at day break.

After Dad had made sure we were settled in for the winter he returned to his work at the lumber mill in Red Deer. Mother and brothers, John and Mike, and myself, Louise, put up the hay, which was cut by hand, loaded onto a home-made willow stoneboat and pulled over to the cabin by the bull who was harness broke. In the spring Dad cultivated five acres of land with the aid of the oxen and seeded it to a mixture of barley, oats and rye. We also had a small plot for a garden. In the fall this crop was cut and threshed by hand. The straw was salvaged and used to make a straw roof for the cabin.

To bring in a supply of groceries for the winter was quite an ordeal, as the trip had to be made to Red Deer and took a week to complete. The bobsled was loaded with hay to feed the oxen and enough food to last Dad had to be packed. As more settlers had moved into the area, each one was called on and a list of supplies taken from each and delivered on his return. The years passed and improvements were made in living and working conditions. The family grew to five sons and three daughters - John, Mike, Ado.

Ferdie, Edward, Mary, Sophie and myself. There was no school in the area until 1910 and until then, Dad and Mom helped us with our reading. Dad taught us some German as well. Being a school teacher was the only occupation to strive for at the time, and two brothers and two sisters took this step.

In 1913 Dad passed away at the early age of 49 years, due to a threshing accident. The family continued farming, and eight years later, also at the age of 49 years, Mother died after a lengthy illness. Ado, Edward, Mary and Sophie became teachers, and John, Mike, and Ferdie carried on the farming.

In 1914 I met and married Hugo Mottus and we moved to the Gilby district where we raised a family of four sons and three daughters. We had many hard times during the depression, as did everyone with a family to feed and educate. Hugo was very much involved with the Medicine Valley Calf Club, being one of the organizers. However, after 13 years he resigned, due to ill health. He raised purebred Hereford cattle. He was one of the first members of the Eckville Co-op and served as board member, in addition to being one of the organizers of the Credit Union.

With his brothers Alex and Oscar Mottus owning a threshing outfit, they travelled the district doing threshing for neighbors as well as for themselves. With a crew of twenty at times, it was a very busy season for us housewives — doing chores while the men were away and doing the cooking while they were at our place. Everyone pitched in and did their bit so it was quite an exciting week.

With a lot of hard work and a lot of belt tightening we were able to give our family the education they desired. All seven of the children received their public schooling at the Medicine Valley School, which was three miles from our home. Our oldest son, Edward, became a school teacher and taught school for a year before going to the Air Force during World War II. Upon his discharge he furthered his education to receive his Ph. D. in organic chemistry. He did research for Monsanto in the U.S.A. for several years and presently is Senior Research Specialist. He married the former Ruby Land and they reside in Missouri, U.S.A. They have a family of two sons and a daughter.

Edna received her Grade 12 and worked in the creamery office, for several years, before marrying George LeBehan. They presently reside in Edmonton where George works as steam engineer. They have one son and one daughter.

Arthur finished his grade nine, but farming was in his blood so he remained on the farm. He married the former Betty Walls and they have two sons and two daughters.

After Art's marriage Hugo and I retired to our Wood Lake quarter. We bought a log house and had it moved to a site overlooking the lake. Many good times were had there as it was an ideal place for weiner roasts, skating parties, and family reunions. The house is still used as a summer cabin.

Roy finished high school in Eckville and then worked for McMillan and Blodel in Edmonton. He married Shirley Walker and they have two sons and four daughters. They live in South Burnaby, B.C., and presently Roy is part owner in a wholesale lumber company.

Sylvia finished high school in Lacombe and supervised Sunset School for six months. She married Alex Brown, who is Utilities Officer for I.D. No. 10. They live in Rocky Mountain House, and have four sons.

Amy also finished high school in Lacombe and then did office work until marrying Ed Zack who is presently District Engineer for the Department of Highways at Peace River. They have five sons.

Our youngest son, Dick, finished school and worked for International Harvester as assistant service supervisor for many years. He married the former Shirley Ceasor and they have two sons. They presently reside in Innisfail and Dick teaches hydraulics at the Olds Agricultural School.

Hugo passed away in November, 1955 after several years of ill health. I remained at Wood Lake for a year and then bought a little house in Eckville. After working and travelling for 15 years I married Leonard Kingsep in 1970 at Sylvan Lake. We moved to Summerland, B.C., and lived there until the spring of 1976 when Lennie was forced to sell his beautiful property due to ill health. We returned to Eckville, as Lennie wanted to be near old friends and his daughter Violet, who lives near Carstairs. Lennie was always ready to help his neighbors when any help was needed. In November of the same year he passed away.

Presently I am living in Eckville, and with my family, 26 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren life is full of unexpected happenings.

**KORHONEN, Erkki and Annie — by Maira Moon and Maija Korhonen**

Erkki Korhonen and Annie Maata were both born in Sotkamo, Oulani, Finland in 1906, Annie on January 4, and Erkki on December 14. They sailed to Canada in March of 1928, travelling by train from Halifax to Toronto, stopping at Erkki's sister's place. From there they boarded a train for Rocky Mountain House. Their first residence in Canada was at another of Erkki's sisters, Mrs. Ida Heikkinen's farm in the Bingley area. That spring he assisted his brother-in-law on the farm and Annie moved to Nordegg where she'd found work at a boarding house.

In the months to come, Erkki worked in a lumber camp and at various other jobs. In 1929 Erkki purchased a quarter section in the Talmi district from Mr. John Jackson for $550. Only 45 acres of this was broken. For the next year he

was hard at work, clearing more of his land and also continuing his work at the lumber camps

Although Annie and Erkki were each following their own endeavors, they were keeping in touch. They were married in Sylvan Lake on July 10, 1930. They settled on their quarter to farm. The next year, with the spring came their first born, a son, Mauno, on June 10, 1931. The days passed by quickly as there was lots of hard work to farming But, also, they enjoyed good times for the community people would get together to present plays in the local hall and, an occasional social evening for dancing. Their second child, a girl, Maila, was born on September 11, 1934, during one of the worst and earliest blizzards they can remember

In March of the next year, the Korhonens sold their farm and packed up the children, bag and baggage and headed for Russia. They settled in a place called Petrozavodsk where Erkki was employed as a catskinner. Two years later, July 10, 1937, a third child was born, a daughter, Maira. Times were very hard in Russia at this time so in the spring of the following year, they were travelling again. They returned to their birth place, Sotkamo, where Erkki was employed at lumber camps.

Two years later, in 1940, Erkki was drafted into the Finnish Army His enlistment lasted two years and he then returned home to farm. Two years passed and he was again called to the army but this time to fight. A son Eric, was born June 29, 1944 several weeks after Erkki had left He did not see his newest son until November of that year when he came home. The war was over'

The years slipped by with the good and the bad. Their last child was born on March 12, 1947, a daughter, Maija. The family had grown to a good size since that farm in Canada and the Korkonens had, thus far traveled many, many miles in several countries. Nevertheless, their itchy feet had not quite given up In May of 1951, Mom, Dad and family left Finland again. We travelled by train, ship and car and arrived in Leslieville in June Dad rented a quarter section north of Leslieville for approximately two years In the spring of 1953, the family moved into the village of Eckville.

The following several years brought a few changes with the older children leaving home. A gala event was the double wedding of the two oldest daughters on July 15, 1955. Also Dad tried his hand at farming for several years in the Eckville district. In the spring of 1958, Dad and Mom purchased a lot in the Town of Eckville. About a year later, they bought the old St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, moved it to this lot and remodelled it into what is still their home

During the years that Anne and Erkki have resided in Eckville and district, they have enjoyed the many friends they have made and the friendliness of the community Both Anne and Erkki were employed at the Eckville Elementary School as janitors for many years. Erkki also worked as a carpenter for various residents and businesses in the district. The Korhonens are enjoying their retirement in fairly good health They take great pride in their garden which is their summer pass time. Annie enjoys her handwork and Erkki his fishing Both are active members of the Friendship Club

Mr and Mrs. Eric Korhonen and family

The children are all now residing in various parts of the country, Mauno married Jeanine LeClerg from Geraldton, Ontario. They have three children, two sons and one daughter Mauno is employed by Kimberley Clark, in the pulp and paper industry

Maila married Raymond Anderson, youngest son of Charles and Lillian Anderson from Sylvan Lake. The live in Oliver, B.C. and have six children, four daughters, and two sons

Maira married Clarence Moos, eldest son of Hans and Nora Moos of Eckville. They are farming northeast of town and are the parents of one son and one daughter

Eric married Teresa Bellew of Coutts, Alberta. They are residing in Coutts where Eric is self employed as a contract painter. They have six children, three sons and three daughters. They lost one son at the age of five months

Maija is residing in Edmonton where she is self employed as a book-keeper

**THE AUGUST B. KOSKI FAMILY — written by his daughter, Mrs. Josephine Malstein, of Sylvan Lake**

August B. Koski was born in Kanus, Finland, on August 27, 1876. At the age of 17 years he came to the United States, where he moved from place

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Koski 1900

to place, working in lumber camps, mines, and in a furniture factory

Anna Maria Hyvari was born on October 8, 1878 and emigrated from Finland to the U.S.A. where she was united in marriage to August Koski at Hamilton, Montana, on November 16, 1900. Through the years eleven children — four sons and seven daughters — were born to them. Two daughters, Mary and Annie, have passed away, as well as one son, Eddie, who died in March, 1977. Ida Johnson lives in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., Josephine Halstein at Sylvan Lake (Kuusamo), Emma Lutz at Eckville, Arthur at Eckville; Lempi Christensen at Eckville, William at Prince George, B.C., Elsie McDonald at Cloverdale, B.C., and Ernest at Eckville.

In 1904 Mr. Koski was a lean, broad-shouldered man in his late twenties, with black curly hair and a handle-bar moustache. He

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DOMINION LANDS

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decided about this time to change his environment, and went to Red Deer, N.W.T., and then made his way thirty miles to the west. After walking about in the wilderness of the Medicine River valley, he found a pleasing site and filed on a homestead on S.E. 28-39-3W5, which is cornerwise with Old Eckville. He liked the winding river, having left behind similar scenery in his childhood home. Not only was it picturesque, but it was ideal cattle raising country, with flat low land, rich in grass for pasture or hay, with plenty of water within reach.

On this land he chose a spot of higher ground for buildings with the river on both sides forming a horseshoe flat on the far end of the house yard. This river that flooded its banks many times played a big part in the lives of the Koski family. The river was a benefit as a watering place for the livestock and it also helped to feed the family. Mr. Koski made his own net and boat, and the family enjoyed many meals of Kala Mojaka made with sucker, pike, or even an occasional whitefish. Problems, too, were sometimes created by the river, especially when it flooded. The first such occurrence was in the middle of the summer. The rain fell night and day until the water reached dangerously close to the level of the buildings, stopping however, before any serious damage was done. The next big flood was in the spring of 1920. At this time the whole Koski quarter, except a small area around the buildings, was under water and well over a half mile of road was cut off. During this time when Dr. McDonald needed to make a house call to the north of Eckville. He started off with a horse and buggy but after reaching the flooded area he would tie his horse to a tree and one of the Koski boys would row him across this long stretch of treacherous water. Here he was usually met by a member of the patient's family and taken to the home. Later he would return to Eckville by the same means. Fortunately, there already were telephones in the country. No lives were lost in either of these two floods, but some years later there were some drownings on the other side of Eckville when the waters rose high again.

After filing on his homestead in 1904 Mr. Koski started building a one-room log house with the help of his brother-in-law, Mr. Hussa, who had already settled his family on a homestead site one mile to the north. Mr. Hussa owned a team of oxen that were useful for hauling the poplar logs from the river bank to the place of construction. The work was heavy, but it sometimes had its funny side, too. On one occasion, when the oxen refused to pull the load, Mr. Hussa calmly stepped behind them, got down on his hands and knees and barked like a dog. This persuaded the oxen to continue moving the load. After the house was finished Mr. Koski made some furniture, making good use of his earlier experience in the furniture factory.

In December of 1904 Mrs. Koski, with their three small children, came to Eckville. Since the

Koski house was not yet ready to live in they spent the first winter in the home of her sister, Mrs Hussa. Mrs. Koski was a small, plump person, timid by nature and very shy of strangers She often talked about how frightened she was when she travelled alone with three little ones into a strange land. New friendships soon sprang up with neighboring families, but the center of Mrs. Koski's interest always remained with her growing family

Pioneer life was usually hard for the women and children. Much of Mr Koski's work was away from home, and this left the responsibility of caring for the children and the livestock to the wife. The cows, milked by hand, provided the cream which was churned into butter to be exchanged for groceries. Later the milk was sold to a near-by cheese factory. Everyone had to help with the haying, one of the older children staying in the house to take care of the baby. At first, the Koskis had only two horses, one of which soon had her first colt One day this precious new animal slipped into the river when Mrs. Koski was at home alone with the children She heard the mare neighing and rushed to help. Not knowing how to swim, she grasped hold of a near-by willow branch, lowered herself into the water and pulled the colt to safety The occasional loss of an animal by drowning was not so serious after the herd got bigger.

Although Mr. Koski was able to build up a large herd of cattle from a very small start, his greatest pride was in the horses that he raised and improved Some of these heavy work horses of Percheron strain won him prizes through the years at the Benalto Fair. Hogs also were included in the mixed farming operations

As the years passed more land was broken The main crop was oats, which were used mainly for livestock feed. Enough wheat for home use was grown and taken to the Kinna mill to be ground into flour. The grain was of a poor quality because the growth was heavy and slow at ripening and the frost came early Later more wheat and then barley was sown and the grain was hauled to an elevator Rye was grown for hog pasture. The well known Langer Brothers threshing outfit circulated around the country doing the threshing for many of the farmers. A blast of the steam engine whistle announced their arrival at a farm and bustle and excitement reigned until the outfit was taken on to the next farm.

During those first years there was very little money to spend on recreation, nor on unnecessary clothing. If a child wore shoes to school in the summertime everyone guessed that he must come from a well-to-do family The youngsters enjoyed bathing and swimming in the river even though most of them had never heard of a bathing suit. Most of the recreation was just a part of making a living Even tramping a load of hay was fun if the weather wasn't too hot. The boys made their own skis and stilts and if they were lucky enough to get skates they skated

Sunday was always a big day at the Koski home Whenever there were no church services at the schoolhouse the neighbors from miles around visited one another. When the boys grew bigger a Mr. Plathan organized a boys' brass band. Practices were held on Sunday afternoons — which meant a gathering of young people often at the Koski home Mrs Koski always set coffee for all who were present She always remained her light hearted self, and even after a hard day's work often took part in the children's games, or sat by and enjoyed watching them

Mr Koski was more stern by nature, and took life seriously. When he entered the house his word was law Although he was a man with a great determination to better himself, he never turned down a neighbor in distress. When death struck at a neighbor's and they could not afford an undertaker, (even if one had been available), they came to Mr Koski for help. He painstakingly built the coffin and then prepared the body for burial. If someone needed help with a sick animal he took his veterinary book along and set out to give whatever assistance he could to save the animal

His interest in the improvement of the community led Mr Koski to help with the organization of the Local Cooperative Association, of which he was an active member until his death and of which he was a director for several years He also served as a school trustee and was an active member of several farm organizations.

A. B., (as he was known around Eckville), was the first mail carrier and served the community in this way for five and half years. His first contract, dated December 1, 1905, called for one trip a week to carry the mail from Evarts to the new post office in Eckville. He received one dollar and seventy cents for each round trip, this amount later being increased to two dollars and fifty cents when, after a years and a half mail service was inaugurated to Lesliеville, a distance of 13 miles. Later Pitcox (now Hespero) was added to the route and three dollars was now paid for the round trip. This amount was later increased to three dollars and fifty cents.

In relating some of the difficulties of his job Mr. Koski emphasized the fact that it seemed that rain fell continuously during the summer, and since there were no roads or bridges this made transportaton difficult. The horse-drawn vehicle used for the conveyance of the mail during the first years was the front gear of a wagon. The tongue had been taken off and shafts fitted in. A home-made box on the top completed the carriage.

The Koskis had a hard life, but a life with a wealth of experience. There were many illnesses in the family but fortunately there was always a complete recovery In the years when no doctor could be reached a three-year-old girl was left paralyzed from the hip down on one side as the result of an illness. With daily massage by her

devoted family she eventua..y regained the use of the her .imb. Later, when the o.dest daughter became ill with double pneumonia Dr McDona.d was ca..ed. He immediately ca..ed a trained nurse, Mrs. Herring, and, thanks to their compe tent treatment and care, the girl recovered.

The original house that Mr Koski had built is still in use, with rooms having been added on through the years as the family increased in numbers. An ornamental cupboard built by Mr Koski still hangs on the wall in the place where he placed it after having made it. Ernest is still living on the original Koski homestead

Mr Koski died on August 29, 1949, and his wife passed away on November 16, 1951. Both are laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery

A very unforseen incident happened one day when Mr. Bruynseraede's cow got loose. Mr Bruyneseraede, who was running the general store in Old Eckville at the time, owned a milk cow He had built a small barn for this animal but she refused to stand in her stall long enough to be tied. To discourage her in this bad habit, he set up a pitchford behind her in such a way that when she tried to back up the prongs of the fork poked her and reminded her to stay put However, this time when he went to tie her she bolted back with such force that the fork stuck to her hind quarters and away she went, fork and all. She ended up at the Koski farm. When Ed and Ernest (still quite young) saw what had happened they chased the animal, with fork still attached to her, back to her owner

Mr Bruynseraede was so pleased to see his cow again that he rewarded the boys with an extra big bag of candy

As of June, 1977, several of the Koski family have passed away Ida's husband, Elmer Johnson, was the first to go, in the summer of 1962 when they were living in New Westminster, B.C He died suddenly while working on the lawn. Ida moved to Seattle, Washington, after Elmer passed away and worked in a hospital for some time. They have two sons, Edwin and Arthur, and one daughter, Alice, all living in Seattle

The next to go was Stewart Leavesly, 71, husband of Mary Stewart passed away in 1967 at the wheel of his car in Coquitlam, B.C Mary steered the car to a curb and went for help but he was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Mary's Hospital. He had suffered a heart attack while driving his car. Mary Leavesley followed her husband in death in 1972 while living in New Westminster She died of a heart attack in a near-by hospital, at the age of 71

Kenneth Coutts, of Sylvan Lake, husband of Annie, passed away in the Eckville Hospital on September 24, 1973, after a lengthy illness. He was 58 years of age. Annie Coutts passed away on June 11, 1974 at the age of 60 years, just nine months after the death of her husband. She died very suddenly on her way to Fort Saskatchewan with her son Jim. Annie and Kenneth are survived by two sons, Kenneth of Geraldton, Ontario, and Jim of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

Edward Koski passed away in the Eckville Hospital on March 22, 1977 at the age of 74 years Eddie had spent his last years with his brother Ernest in the old home a mile north of Eckville Eddie suffered from severe arthritis for the last few years of his life However, he was never confined to a wheel chair. He is survived by two daughters, Ethel and Helen, of Edmonton. A son, Eddie, predeceased him.

Ernest Koski still lives in the farm home north of Eckville left by his parents but is planning to move into the town of Eckville before the end of 1977. He had several serious operations in 1974, but is enjoying good health now

Josephine Halstein lives with her husband Iver on their farm west of Sylvan Lake. They have two daughters: Esther Dube, living west of Sylvan Lake, and Dorothy Wisotzki, living in Richmond, B.C.

Emma Lutz and her husband George live in the town of Eckville They have a family of four Norman lives in Calgary, Elizabeth (Betty) Spiers lives in Red Deer, Darlene Taylor lives in Red Deer, and Brian lives in Rocky Mountain House

Arthur Koski has retired, due to poor health, and lives in the Eckville Manor House

Lempi Christensen and her husband Kai live in the town of Eckville. Lempi works at the hospital part time

William Koski has made his home in Prince George, B.C where he has worked through the years as a carpenter, and at various other jobs from time to time.

Elsie McDonald lives with her husband Donald in Burnaby, B C. They have one son, Kenneth

A most tragic occurrence took place in 1933 in the Koski and Maki families when Neil Maki became ill with spinal meningitis and passed away at the age of 25 years, leaving behind a young widow, Emma, and two small children. Norman, age three years and Betty, age one year

Gene and Darlene Taylor have four children Cindy, Tammy, Cameron, and Tara.

Brian Lutz married Charlene Murray and they have two children, Gregory and Kirsty Dawn.

Betty and Cecil Spiers have two sons, Dale and Neal.

**THE ALLEN J KUNTZ FAMILY — by Mrs. [illegible]**

Allen was from Heisler, Alberta, and Bert was from Grand Falls, New Brunswick. Both of them served in the Canadian Army for a few years and then were married at Sylvan Lake in January, 1947

Al began employment with the Alberta Wheat Pool in May, 1946 and now has 31 years with the company The first year he was at the Elspeth Elevator, then the next 23 years were spent at

the Eckville Elevator, and since 1971 has been at the Pool Elevator No. 1 at Red Deer

Bert began employment at the Eckville Hospital in November, 1966, where she worked in the office for the next five years, before moving to Red Deer

Bert and Allen have three children. Dianne was born in 1947 and was married to Steve Cherniak in 1970. They have two boys - Darren and Dean. They live in Lacombe

Judy was born in 1952 and was married to Dwayne Waisman in 1972. They live in Black Diamond.

Ron was born in 1957. He lives and works in Red Deer

**LAITILA, EERO MATT — by Ken Laitila**

Eero Matt Laitila was born in Mansville, Minnesota, U.S.A. on October 14, 1906. He moved back to Finland with his parents early in 1908. In 1928 Eero boarded the ship "Stockholm" in Helsinki, Finland and, after eight days, landed in Halifax, having reached Canada on June 24. He had forty-five dollars in his pocket. He had had fifty dollars, but lent five dollars to a friend so that the friend had the required twenty-five dollars in order to enter Canada

From Halifax Eero travelled via C.P.R. to Sudbury, Ontario. There he found a job at a sawmill at Blind River. He worked there for about a year for thirty five cents an hour. In 1932, broke and out of a job, he grabbed a freight in Kirkland Lake, Ontario and headed west, looking for harvest work. After six days without eating, he jumped off in Lethbridge. Finding no work there, he jumped on another freight headed for Blackie, Alberta. Upon arrival in Blackie, he immediately got a ten-day job stooking for one dollar and fifty cents a day and board. After finishing that he got a twelve-day job threshing for two dollars a day and meals.

The winter of 1932-1933 was spent on a soup line in Calgary. In the spring he rode the rods north to Wetaskawin. There he found work in the Brightview district, brushing, for fifteen dollars a month

Eero came to the Eckville area in the spring of 1934. Soon after his arrival he met Eva Sylvia Laituri and married her on December 12, 1934. They started married life with thirty dollars cash, seven milk cows, and a few chickens. Having no means of transportation, they carried cream in three-gallon cans three miles to the creamery in Eckville.

In the spring of 1935 they borrowed four horses and and a disc to work some land. They hired a neighbor to seed wheat. After harvest they sold the wheat for thirty-five cents a bushel delivered at the elevator in Benalto. That fall, after selling the crop, and the calves for five dollars a head they bought a buggy and a horse by the name of Charlie. The total price for the buggy and Charlie was forty-five dollars. The purchase was made at a horse sale in Benalto.

Charlie was retired part-time with the coming of a Model A Ford car. Old Lizzy would usually start in the coldest weather if you put hot ashes under the oil pan, two changes of hot water in the radiator, and cranked like hell. Horses, however, were the most reliable means of transportation up until the mid 1950's, as the roads were not graded and often overflowing seismograph holes turned the roads into a muddy trail during the summer months. During the winter they were drifted solid. Eero drove the kids to school, regardless of the weather

Sylvia and Eero Laitila in 1949

Eero and Sylvia had three children. The oldest, Walter Edward, was born October 8, 1935 at the hospital in Bentley. He attended school in Eckville until his passing on December 24, 1951

Raymond William, the second eldest, was born May 31, 1938, also at the hospital in Bentley. He, too, attended school at Eckville. The building that he started school in is presently the welding shop in Eckville. He moved to Edmonton around 1955. There he attended a trade school and later went to work as a machinist. On November 5, 1960 he was married to Hazel Diane Hazelwood of Edmonton. They have four children. Angela was born in June 1961. Trevor and twin sister Heather were born in November 1963 and Sharon was born in March, 1966. They are presently residing in Edmonton

Kenneth Cameron, the youngest of the Laitila children, was born in the new hospital in Eckville on April 2, 1945. He attended school in Eckville. After finishing school he drove school bus for a short time, then worked as a motor grader operator with the country of Lacombe. From there he went to work for Northern Geophysical

and was trained as a vibrator operator. He worked in northern Alberta, the foothills of Alberta, northern British Columbia and in the Arctic.

Ken took over the home farm about 1964 and still resides there. He met Gail Annette Hennel during the summer of 1969, while she was employed at the Deerhome in Red Deer. They were married in Stettler (Gail's home town), on June 20, 1970. Their two children are Rachelle, born in March, 1972 in Eckville, and Daryl, born on his grandfather Laitila's birthday in October, 1973 at the hospital in Red Deer.

Eva Sylvia Laitila passed away on December 23, 1961 after a long illness. She was very kind and considerate at all times and was a wonderful cook. When company came and there was no cake, it took her only a few minutes to whip one up. When she made coffee there was always something extra good about it. Sylvia was a hard worker who never put off until tomorrow what could be done today.

Eero, after Sylvia's passing, married Senia Mattson of Sylvan Lake. They resided at Sylvan Lake until Senia's passing in March of 1976. He then moved back to the farm at Eckville. After residing there for a short time he moved into the Eckville Manor House, where he is presently residing. He was a hard worker and was always willing to give anyone a helping hand. He served on the Young People's Hall Board and on the Eckville Cemetery Board for a number of years.

Through hard work and by sometimes doing without things they needed, Eero and Sylvia increased their holdings and raised their family.

**THE GENE LAZZER FAMILY — by Mrs. Lazzer**

The Gene Lazzer family, consisting then of Gene, Marge, and Brian, who was just three years old, arrived in Eckville in late August, 1952 from the Barrhead area. Gene's job was to operate the first fleet of school buses to serve Eckville and Marge had come to teach school starting with a combined grade six and seven in one room of the old two-room school in the north-west corner of the school yard.

The Lazzers lived in Eckville for fifteen years before moving to Red Deer in August, 1967. During that time they saw many changes in the town and district. The school bus fleet had started out with only three buses but as new areas were served it increased to a fleet of nine. Changes in road conditions over those years were unbelievable. At first some of them were hardly more than trails with many mud holes and ruts. After heavy rains many roads became almost impassable. But within a few years all became high-graded, widened and gravelled.

Gene had a bus barn in one corner of the school yard which later doubled as a small tire shop business. From this beginning eventually a service station, tire shop and welding business developed on the site of the present tire shop at the south-east corner of town.

In the early 1960's, after selling his school buses to the County of Lacombe, Gene also had a fleet of four gravel trucks that were kept busy in various parts of Alberta during the extensive road-building projects run by the government.

After selling the trucks and the tire shop Gene started his own real estate business in Eckville. This is still his field as he is working for Block Bros. in Red Deer.

Modernizing the town started soon after Lazzers moved there and they were involved in part of it. Street building, new sidewalks and town sewer all came in about the time Lazzers and Dr. Gibson built the first more modern homes in the summer of 1954.

Community activities were important to the Lazzers, also. Square dancing was the rage the first few years and they were active club members. Gene was active in the Lion's Club all the years he lived in Eckville. The community drama group was of special interest for a number of years. Home and School activities, hockey for the boys, coaching school teams and being active in the Anglican church were also very much a part of their family life.

The Lazzer family grew considerably over the years. To keep Brian company, there arrived, in due course, Don, Barry, Allen and Brenda. With the exception of Brian, who is working in Lubya, some 800 miles out in the desert from Tripoli, for an Arab oil company, the family is all near. Don is employed in the oil industry in Red Deer and Allen is a part time postal clerk and full-time student about to enter Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Barry is the only one married. He married Viola McGhan from Penhold and they live in Edmonton where Barry is attending the University of Alberta. He is entering the faculty of engineering to obtain a degree in electrical engineering after having just received a B.Sc. in Physics. Brenda, being still a little girl, is in elementary school. Marge continued her teaching career after moving to Red Deer and is employed by the Red Deer School District.

**CHARLIE AND MABEL LEWIS**

Charlie and Mabel Lewis moved to the new prairie town of Laverna, Saskatchewan after their marriage in October, 1913. Both were born and raised in Ontario. Charlie was a blacksmith and carried on a good business until the drought hit. Being unable to collect anything for his hard work, they decided to take what they could carry and try for greener pastures.

They arrived in Eckville in October, 1933. He bought the NW 19-38-3-W5, which was then C.P.R. land. The following years were very difficult, with hard work, no money, and plenty of worries. This resulted in a perforated ulcer for Charlie and he passed away in June, 1936.

Mabel continued to live in her house on the

farm. She enjoyed gardening and caring for her few head of livestock. For a year she was in charge of a dormitory for high school students situated in the present Lion's Hall in Eckville. In 1914 she and her two youngest daughters went to Steveston, B.C. where she worked as cook on the P.G.E. railway until her retirement. She passed away in April of 1962, at the age of 70 years

Charley and Mabel had five daughters — Iva, now Mrs. Gilbert Gustavson; Anne, (Mrs. Bill McIntyre) who had three children, Sylvia, Phyllis, and Gregg, of Vancouver. Anne passed away in July of 1963. Myrel, now Mrs. Ray Sestrap of Clearbrook, B.C., who has two daughters Sandy, of Beverly Hills, California and Debbie, of Clearbrook. Hazel, now Mrs. Charles Boyd, of Bremerton, Washington, who has two sons, Chucky and Jim. Elda, who is now Mrs. George McBeth of Eagle Bay, B.C. She has one daughter, Gina.

Shortly after his arrival in Eckville, Charlie met a neighbor, Matt Maki. He very cordially invited Charlie over for a bath on Saturday evening. Being unaware of the custom of visiting and enjoying a sauna, Charlie was a bit concerned. He asked Mabel when he arrived home if he smelled that bad that a neighbor had to offer him a bath. However, he soon learned the real meaning of the invitation, and was to enjoy the hospitality immensely

**LIGHTBOWN, DAVID — by Pat Lightbown**

David Lightbown was born in Red Deer and grew up in the Diamond Valley district. He is the youngest son of Max and Margaret Lightbown. He started school at Gaetz and then moved to Red Deer for a few months. When Edd, his oldest brother, was called into the army, his folks moved back to the farm and Dave finished his grade one at Bluebell school. He went to school there until grade four, when Diamond Valley School opened again. His folks sold their farm when Dave was in Grade Five. They moved to Matsqui, B.C. where he finished his elementary schooling. He graduated from Abbotsford High School and then headed back for Alberta.

He worked for George Armeneau that summer and worked at Kitimat, B.C. the next winter. He worked at Lake Louise the summer of 1957, hauling asphalt on the Banff-Jasper highway. He worked for his brother, Robert for a few years before they went into partnership in the trucking business.

David married Patricia Forsell in November of 1962 and they have lived at Eckville since then. He trucked with his brother for about ten years and then bought out the business himself. He continued in this business until February of 1976 when he sold his business to Gerry Forsell. Dave then went to work for Texaco Canada Ltd., at the Gilby Gas Plant. Dave and Pat have four children, Kerry, Keith, Julie and Heather. The three older children now attend the Eckville schools, and Heather will soon attend play school.

**ROBERT LIGHTBOWN FAMILY—by Janet Lightbown**

Robert Lightbown (Bud) second son of Mr and Mrs. Max Lightbown of the Diamond Valley district married Janet Brown, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs. Jim Brown of the Gaetz district in Eckville in 1952. Bud owned and operated a general trucking business in the Eckville district for many years, until 1974. Being an ardent rodeo fan, Bud was instrumental in starting the Eckville Indoor Rodeo and also the Eckville Pony Club.

Robert and Janet's family consists of two daughters and three sons. Karen married Jim Tubbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tubbs of Condor. They operate the J & K Foods and the Echo Theatre. They have two sons, Jamie and Micheal, and a daughter, Janelle.

Myrna married Peter McLellan of Rocky Mountain House and they farm in that area. Their two sons are Cody and Layne.

Garry is attending NAIT in Edmonton in 1977, and Murray and Dean attend school in Eckville.

We live on an acreage just north of Eckville, located on the SW 22-39-3-W5.

**J.O. LINDBERG FAMILY HISTORY**

Joseph and Patricia Lindberg, with their four children, came to Eckville in 1970. They lived in the teacherage across the street from the school until they built their own home on the west side of Eckville in 1973. Joe was principal of the Eckville High School from 1970 until 1975.

Joe grew up in Saskatchewan and took his B.A. degree there in 1947. Later he received his B.Ed. degree from the University of Alberta. He taught school in Saskatchewan for several years before coming to Alberta.

Pat, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Avery, was born in their farmhouse in the Condor district, with Dr. Greenaway attending. She attended school in Northup and Condor and later completed high school in Qualicum Beach, B.C. She was employed with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in British Columbia and also in Red Deer.

Joe and Pat met in Condor in 1956 when Pat returned to visit her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crouch. They were married at the Condor Mission Church in June 1957. Their first three children—Ian, Ingrid and Sonja—were born in Rocky Mountain House. Wanda was born in Viking, Alberta, in 1967.

Joe's teaching career has taken the family to many interesting places, including Mayo, (Yukon), Edmonton, Condor, Holden, Bashaw and Meeting Creek, Alberta. Of particular interest was the launching of the new David Thompson High School in 1957.

Since coming to Eckville the family's main area of service has been in St. Paul's

Presbyterian Church. Joe also held several offices in the Lions Club.

**LINDQUIST, A. W. VICTOR — by B. A. Schey**

A. W. Victor Lindquist came as an immigrant from Sweden and worked on many construction jobs including the Field Tunnel west of Banff. In 1904 he settled in the Eckville district on land now owned by Claude Cunningham, some two miles south of Eckville.

He was a very inventive fellow and at one time completely built from scratch his own threshing machine with which he harvested his own crop. He also built a sawmill on his place and sawed lumber for many of his neighbors at neighborly prices.

At one time he envisaged a power dam and turbine which was to be located on the river on the old John Armstrong place across the road. Needless to say this never materialized.

A very helpful and friendly fellow, one of his first loves was playing cards or horseshoes and he sometimes spent several nights a week at these pastimes. I well remember him trudging down the hill with his lantern on dark nights to our place to pick up milk for his several cats and to spend the evening. He was quite musical and played both the harmonica and single row accordion for parties in the neighborhood.

A unique character, he was one of the true pioneers of the Eckville district. In or about 1944 he sold his land at Eckville and moved to Pigeon Lake where he died in 1947.

**LINGREN, FRANK RICHARD — by Marie Meyers**

In 1898 my father, Frank Richard Lingren, emigrated with his parents from Finland to Red Lodge, Montana, U.S.A. In 1906 they moved to Canada, where his folks filed on a homestead near Gabriel Lake. That year father worked in Red Deer, driving a dray team. He also hauled rock for the first United Church in Red Deer.

In the winter of 1907 my father worked with his father west of Edmonton in the bush as a timber cruiser. Coming home in the spring, they built a raft and floated down the Pembina River as close as possible to Edmonton, walking the rest of the way.

My mother, Emma Hilia Olson, was born at Frontier, Wyoming, U.S.A. In 1903, at the age of nine years, she immigrated to Canada with her parents, where they filed on a homestead south of Eckville, N.E. 32-39-3-W5.

Mother and Father were married in 1913. They moved to Butte, Montana for three years, where Father worked in the copper mines. In 1917 they moved back to Alberta and to the homestead north of Eckville.

There were seven girls in the family. Ivy, the eldest, was born in Butte, Montana, and the rest were all born at Eckville. Ivy, Jennie and Helen have passed away. Ivy and Jennie were never married. Helen was married to Final Evenson. They had seven children — five girls and two boys. They were Joan, Joyce, Janice, Carol, Stanley, Sherry and Dean. Marjorie was married to Henry Posti. Their three boys are Alan, Howard and Jim. Marie married Ed Meyers and their children are Richard and Patricia. Bernice married Alex Prusak. Their two girls are Bonnie Lynn and Linda Jane. Shirley Anne passed away as a baby.

My father passed away in December of 1955 and mother passed away in 1970. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**ARCHIE LITT AND FAMILY — by Archie Litt**

Archibald Litt — born at South Camp Aldershot, England, March 27, 1887.

Margaret Litt — born at Heysham, Lancaster, England, December 13, 1884, died August, 1949, at Vancouver, British Columbia.

Two children: Freda A., born at Eckville, Alberta, August 8, 1914. Robert A., born at Eckville, Alberta, November 30, 1920.

In the year 1977 the family consists of the two children above mentioned, seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, all living in or around Vancouver.

Archie Litt arrived in Eckville in the year 1912. The purpose of his coming was to organize a co-operative association. Having had experience in co-operatives in England and being a graudate from the English Co-operative Union in general management, he was recommended by the Canadian Co-operative Union.

The Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Association was then organized and commenced business with very small cash working capital, the founders having little or nothing to spare from the needs of their farming activities and living. Contributions were made to the capital by labor on the store building construction. Imbued by the spirit of the Rochdale pioneers, who started the co-operative movement in Rochdale, Lancashire, England, with a capital of 28 pounds, which later developed into big business until it embraced about one-third of the population of Great Britain, the business commenced in Eckville with a paid-up capital of less than $1,-500, including the contributions through labor on the building. The store was stocked with groceries, hardware, drygoods and footwear, and other items, depending upon trade terms and turnover. It was a bold venture and a nerve racking experience for the manager.

In April of 1916 A. Litt left the co-operative and enlisted with the armed forces in Calgary in the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance, and proceeded overseas as a private. He returned in October, 1919, having attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

After returning to Eckville Archie was employed by Mike Sestrap's store until April 1921. Then he was appointed to the position of manager of the Bentley Co-operative Association where he remained until the year 1926. He then

Archie and Margaret Litt Family with daughter Freda 1917

moved on to British Columbia to enjoy the warmer climate

The hard work at Eckville was lightened and brightened by a good social life. Association neighborliness, visiting, barn dances, dances in the town hall and at school houses bring back pleasant memories. Box socials were also common, and a good-looking school ma'am often contributed to the revenue by drawing high bidding All the young men wanted her box' At the dances in the outlying school houses and halls the babies were taken along and laid out in a row at the side of the building on tables strung along. the babies being laid side by side. The music was supplied by a fiddler and accompaniment of an organ of the foot pedal type. On many occasions A. Litt did the fiddling. Refreshments were supplied by the ladies bringing sandwiches and cakes

We had a small orchestra in which I enjoyed being a member and playing with my violin. It was conducted by Arthur Kinna, who was a good musician, producing good tone on his violin. Fritz Kinna played the cello, John Vernick the flute, Norman Turner on the piano and John Plathan the cornet, if I remember correctly One of the Koots boys also played the violin

These were the days of the pioneers, when roads were constructed with poplar poles on the muskeg over which the stage drove through, driven by a Mr Foster, who was a very interesting character. The stage carried the mail and passengers from Red Deer

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood We have grown with the times, and benefited by experience. Life has been worthwhile, and we are thankful for the opportunity of making our contribution to the progress as pioneers.

**LUDWIG, HENRY**

Henry Ludwig was born at Rolfeld, Germany where members of his family are still living in the family house. He was at school in Heidelberg and Astraffenberg. He did private tutoring in France and spent a considerable time at Edinburgh University He was on the staff of a boys' residential school and day school for some time He had a London degree.

He came to Canada in 1908, went to normal school and taught in Evarts for a short time and then taught at Haultain School in Calgary He left Calgary at the beginning of the first war and moved to the country, isolated at that time. In 1920, Mr Ludwig came to Eckville but he left in 1929, the pupils at that time were finishing Grade 11. He was 14 years on the staff of the High School at Medicine Hat He moved to Victoria in 1943. He died there in 1952 after a long illness

Mr and Mrs. Henry Ludwig, Francis, Margaret, and Philip (Son Anthony is missing)-- 1929

## ISAAC AND ELIZABETH LUMBY FAMILY

Isaac Lumby was born in Finland about 1873. His family consisted of his wife, Elizabeth, born in Vasa, Finland on October 30, 1877, and four step-daughters, Mary, born in Eureka, Utah, February 2, 1900, Emily, born in Butte, Montana on May 13, 1902, Verna, born in Virginia City, Montana on June 1, 1904; Allie, born in Butte, Montana on August 15, 1906.

Isaac Lumby came from Finland to Butte, Montana in the early 1890's where he worked in the mines. After his brother, John, was killed in the mines in 1906, Isaac married Elizabeth, John's wife, and acquired his brother's family of four daughters.

Elizabeth Lumby, born in Vasa, Finland October 30, 1877, came to Butte, Montana when she was 18 years old. She married John Lumby and they have five children. Their only son, Evart, died when he was two years old. It is not known whether he died of hemophilia, but it later was established that Elizabeth was a carrier. One of her five grandsons and a great-grandson were to have hemophilia in later years. When her husband, John, was killed in a mining accident in Butte in 1906, Elizabeth was left with four daughters to raise. She later married her brother-in-law, Isaac.

Isaac, ill from working the mines, needed a change. The family moved to the fresh air of Gilby in 1908. Their 165-acre homestead was seven miles west of Gilby between the Eckford and Koskinen farms.

Home was a small log cabin about 24' by 20' – one room with a sleeping loft. Before a well house was made, food was kept cool in a large box on the north side of the house. After a bear raided all of the food, a well house was built and ice, made during the winter, lasted all summer to keep food cold.

After living on the homestead at Gilby for about eight years, the Lumbys sold the homestead and bought a farm a mile north of Eckville. The neighbors to the south were the August Koski's, across the road were the Matt Johnson's, and C.P.R. land lay to the north.

During the winter, Isaac worked in the mines at Nordegg to supplement the family income. Food was always on the table, but there were no frills. All clothing was home-made from materials brought during the summer from Butte by Elizabeth's sister, Susan Rinda. The eldest daughter, Mary, lived with Mrs. Rinda in Butte and visited the family during the summer when school was out.

One by one, the daughters moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, and then to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. In 1928 Isaac passed away and Elizabeth, with her youngest daughter, Allie, moved south to be with the rest of their family.

Elizabeth Lumby Saare passed away in Seattle in 1954.

Emily Highlander died in Boise, Idaho in 1957. She had two sons.

Allie Hill passed away in Seattle in 1956.

Mary Swetman and Verna Larson both reside in Seattle. Mary has two sons and two daughters. Verna has a son.

## JOHN LUNDBERG

Born near Goteborg, Sweden, John attended elementary and secondary schools, graduating from the Folk School at the age of 14 at the head of his class. He apprenticed and worked as a baker in Goteborg from 1898 until 1903, and took part in a controversial strike, helping organize a baker's union.

At age 20, in 1903, he journeyed to New York and thence to Chaboygan, Michigan, where he met another immigrant who was to become a life-long friend, Charlie Gustavson. The two then travelled to Portland,Oregon, where they worked in the lumber yards and sawmills.

John never became a U.S. citizen, although he signed a declaration of intention for citizenship. He and Charlie became interested in the free homestead land available near Wetaskiwin, Northwest Territories. They came up from Portland, Oregon on a homesteaders' excursion in 1905.

In Canada the two friends first worked on the Wetaskiwin-Camrose railroad. They then travelled westward from Lacombe with a man and outfit hired for this purpose. After days of travel over bad roads, they decided they would never find land as long as the man was being paid on a daily basis, so they set off on foot. They walked from Lacombe to west of Bentley, to the Lockhart district. John noticed that the stream through the promised land yielded fish and that potatoes could be grown on the hillsides. The land was registered in the Dominion Lands Office in Red Deer.

A log house, with a sod roof, was the first Canadian home. Charlie took out land on the northeast corner of Gull Lake.

Hilda Johansen came out from the old home in Sweden and she and John were married on her arrival at Lacombe in 1906. Two boys, Okey and Bert, were born here, and a daughter, Lisa.

In 1912, when John heard of the village of Eckville 14 miles southwest, he loaded up potatoes and took them there to sell. Having dinner in the restaurant, John learned that the owner planned to sell. Mr. Lundberg bought the property. He wanted to be near a school for his children. It was planned that Charlie would build a livery stable, thus enabling the two to cater to all the travellers' needs.

John later became a dealer in John Deere Implements and De Laval cream separators.

While in Eckville and district, from 1912 to 1950, this ingenious man became involved in many activities. He helped organize and operate the Co-operative store, of which he was secretary for many years, the Wheat Pool also

received his dedicated support. He was a member of the school board, the Rural Electrification Association, the Save the Soil campaign, the Lion's Club, the Modern Woodmen and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

From 1914 until his death in 1950, he was a reporter for the Red Deer Advocate, using his weekly columns for local news and as a tool for the building of a good community.

John Lundberg, along with Mike Sestrap, built the telephone lines from Gilby to Eckville and into the Leedale and Kuusamo districts. Many difficult conditions were encountered but none so much as when the two men stripped and waded into water to put in poles and weight their bases down with stones. Some insulators were nailed to trees.

The switchboard was located in the hotel and consisted of a wall type telephone with a switchbox at the bottom containing five lines. Clara Botten, working in the hotel, also operated it. In 1918 the switchboard was moved to Dan Clausen's house and operated by Teressa, Clara's sister. In the mid-thirties John Lundberg installed the new switch panel covering a large wall area in the new telephone building. Starting in 1914, he was the telephone and lines troubleshooter for the district for many years.

The "Mountain View" hotel was sold to Harry Low on November 1, 1918 because the entire community was anxious for a beer parlour, but "No way," said Mr. Lundberg, "would I raise my family under these conditions."

He moved the family to the farm which he had purchased from John Heikkinen, three miles east from Eckville, May 18, 1918. While here, the youngest child, Lester, was born in Red Deer. On May 21, 1920 he also purchased one quarter section across the road, west, belonging to John L. Harper for four thousand, four hundred dollars. This was previously C.P.R. land.

Just before Christmas, 1918, Mrs. Lundberg (Hilda), passed away from peritonitis caused by a ruptured appendix. Roads were blocked with snow and the nearest doctor, Dr. DeLong, was located in Red Deer. Due to the great delay in the doctor's arrival at the farm, and the long trip with Hilda into the Red Deer hospital, the four children lost their mother. She lived for 11 days and was buried in the Red Deer cemetery on a cold winter's day.

January 1, 1920, John married Ida Pearson of Cove, Washington, who became his helpmate until his death.

The cold in winter seemed more severe then than now because of the inadequate home heating facilities. This consisted of a wood-burning heater in the living room and the kitchen stove with the wood box beside it. Warm water came from the tank at the side of the kitchen stove. This tank was called a reservoir.

There were severe and damaging hail storms some summers, at a time when there was no insurance available, causing great hardship to those affected.

The Lundberg children, except Lester, attended the old Eckville school one mile north of Eckville. This school was later moved into the village and used as a school there, Mrs. Bert Lundberg being the first teacher. Later this old school became a church. After this the children attended school in the village and Salma school east of the farm.

John and Charlie purchased the first car, a 1914 Model T Ford, in Red Deer. The car had carbide lights. Driving home, west of Red Deer, they were unable to put the car into high gear. When they returned to Bottenheimer's garage, where the car had been purchased, it was found that the emergency lever had not been let down to allow it to move into high, causing the engine to boil. While driving through the low grassy areas, in the early evenings, great interest was caused by the fireflies shooting off in all directions. The children have memories of what seemed a long trip, into Red Deer and back to Eckville in those days. Many times they fell asleep during those trips. Overhauling and upkeep of the car was done by John himself, as there were no local garages.

The annual picnic was held on May 24 and was looked forward to by adults and children alike. When it rained that day there were many sad children in the neighborhood. At the annual picnic people met and visited, children ran races for prizes. Ice cream was the cherished treat for all, and the day's celebrations wound up with a ball game at which the well-known local players were wildly cheered. A dance followed in the village hall.

Annual Christmas concerts were attended by everyone for miles around. The school children provided the program and each child present received a bag of treats and a present. The centre of attraction in each school was the gaily decorated and huge Christmas tree, which was lit with many burning candles. Small children and babies were brought along and as the evening wore on they slept in various places at the sides of the stage, on benches, or in any available space. The lunch, usually sandwiches and coffee was prepared by local women and served at the close of the concert. A dance usually rounded out the evening's entertainment.

The Lundberg children remember well the discussions engendered by the first World War, as their father was an avid anti-war advocate. He had many a heated debate with all and sundry, as most people had accepted the propaganda prevalent then — that the war was for a good cause — without reference to the cost, in material and lives, of this holocaust. Lisa, the daughter, remembers one such argument with a farmer who chewed tobacco. During his violent disagreement he spat forcefully and often on the ground, but one of these sputums landed in Lisa's

hair. The child's mother was especially put out at this evident indication of bad manners

The mode of transportation was with horse or horses and buggy in summer and bob sled or cutter and horses in winter Straw and blankets were put in the sled for warmth and, failing that family members got out and ran behind in order to stir up the circulation.

In winter and summer, families visited one another by this manner and sometimes the adults played whist till morning and stayed for breakfast. The children played in the bedroom till exhausted

The nearest hospital was at Red Deer, although Eckville had a resident doctor, one of the first being Dr. Evans Dentists pulled teeth without benefit of anaesthesia. During the 1918 1919 flu epidemic everyone wore masks over their nose and mouth to avoid the spread of viruses, but, even so, many people became seriously ill or died from this epidemic

Farm power, on the homestead, was supplied by oxen, followed by the walking plow and the riding plow pulled by horses, and later the tractor The children usually took forenoon and afternoon lunch to the father in the field, which they all partook of while he and the horses rested a bit

The official language of the Eckville district was English but most of the settlers spoke Finnish. There was a sprinkling of Estonian and Swedish settlers

The Lundberg children along with the Hill girls, Lymie and Lempi, took turns with the buggy or cutter and horse to school — about three miles. The horse, Roanie, had been a race horse earlier and would run fast if there was a child on horseback teasing him

The drumming of the male partridge in the spring, in a thicket near the farm house, is well remembered, as are the lovely cowslips in a marsh close by. Also remembered is the rush and roar of the creek that flowed through the land across the road and the large violets which grew beside this same creek in the summer There was also the fun the kids had sleigh riding down what seemed a steep hill by the house in winter Seeing the hill since, it seems to have lost a lot of its steepness. We skated on the slough across the road and played in the hayloft

In 1948 John Lundberg gave up active farming to devote himself to his other interests. He was a great lover of people and of nature and was always helping one or the other. He planted more than three thousand trees on his own place, and delighted in his garden.

He was a giver — not a receiver. He was profoundly convinced that the co-operative philosophy was the only sound way of living and devoted more than half a century to practicing and preaching that idea.

In 1927 arrangements were made through Herbert Greenfield (Premier of Alberta) and the C.N.R. for John to go to Sweden as an immigration officer. He held many meetings, where he spoke to groups of people explaining the opportunities in Canada. The trip was made in January by rail and the steamship "Drotningham" to Goteborg

After a visit with his family, and completing his immigration duties, four young men returned to Alberta with him They have made their homes here and have become good citizens of the country

His life story was skillfully dramatized by Elsie Park in the CBC radio "Summerfallow" series

The good works John Lundberg accomplished will keep his memory green for years to come

**LUNDBERG, Okey**

Okey was born in May 1907 on the family homestead at Lockhart which is about 15 miles north and east of Eckville. His father was originally from Sweden and had settled on a rough hilly quarter section He was of farm stock but found the life there very primitive and hard He persuaded his sweetheart to join him and they were married and started their family

Okey was the first born, but he meembered very little of the early life on the farm. The family bought the hotel at Eckville at the time the railroad was being laid through that area, so Mr and Mrs Lundberg were very busy people, feeding the working crews

Okey remembers feeling very lost when they moved to the tiny village Not being able to speak English must have been the hardest part of the move for him. He soon learned, however, and attended school, first at the old school site north of the village and later in the village itself. He often spoke of Mr. Ludvig, his last teacher. He was a very stern disciplinarian and didn't hesitate to give his pupils a crack on the knuckles or a sharp rap on the head He later told Okey's wife that he had been a very bad boy and was really surprised that he grew up to be such a responsible person

Okey, being the oldest of the family of four, was often expected to assist both his mother and dad.

Later they purchased a farm just a few miles out of Eckville and went back to farming. Mr Lundberg was a man of very high principles and when it seemed necessary to run a beer parlor in conjunction with a hotel, he would have none of it; hence the move back to the farm

On the farm Okey was his right hand man. His dad was always at the head of any progressive movement and was soon busy organizing the telephone lines in the area. He and Okey spent days putting up lines, climbing the poles, and all the chores necessary for the job. Around this time Mrs. Lundberg passed away leaving an infant boy to be raised. The family tried to manage as best they could until Mr. Lundberg married a lady from his homeland, Ida Sundberg who was willing to help him out.

Okey was attending school, but he also played in a band, help with the threshing crews at harvest time, and always with the milking at home. When he was only sixteen he went with a chum to the mountains to nail boxcar doors — a rough life in camp for a couple of youngsters Even so Okey managed to get his first year in high school, but during the next year he spent so much time with the threshing crews that he couldn't pick up the grade ten work and so dropped out of school. In a year or two he attended short courses at the University and became a governement cream inspector. He worked in Calgary and surrounding district The creamery at Eckville had burnt, but when it was rebuilt, Okey became buttermaker under Mr Bill Morris.

In 1928 he married a teacher in the district, Ruth Garries, from Bentley, and they built a small house on the outskirts of Eckville. It was an acre of land and they planted two rows of trees around it. These trees have made a lovely green spot on the edge of town and there are many houses built in their shade.

Okey was transferred to Lacombe where he became manager of the creamery there. His two children were born there, Oliver David in 1933 and Leslie Jean in 1936. While the children were still very small, Okey purchased the creamery in Rimbey and the family moved there. Okey built a freezer plant in conjunction with the creamery His two children spent their early years in school in Rimbey Those years in Rimbey were during the second world war and it was very hard to obtain good help. His business grew by leaps and bounds. Ruth helped all she could. She learned to grade eggs and to do the office work

Meanwhile the Central Alberta Dairy Pool wanted Okey in their business, so shortly after the end of the war Okey sold his creamery and became manager of the home factory of the Dairy Pool at Alix.

At Alix, Okey managed a very large creamery, which made butter and printed it into pounds. They had huge freezers that received butter from other smaller Dairy Pool creameries and from creameries in Saskatchewan. For years they printed all the butter for the Safeway stores in Western Canada.

Here Okey became involved in town affairs and for thirteen years was the mayor of Alix. While he was there, they installed both water and sewer, and opened up an entire new area for the town's house building projects. He was also president of Central Alberta Hockey teams and president of the Central Alberta Boards of Trade and it was during his time in office that the Board of Trade organized the Cavalcade, first to Biggar, Saskatchewan and then to Sakatchewan crossing on the Banff Jasper highway This road was a mere trail in the mountains. They forded rivers and cut trees. It is now a broad, beautiful road, which cuts off many miles for central Alberta tourists.

Ruth was busy raising her family, but for three years she taught a 4-H club of girls with great success. The first year two of the girls won a competition in Alberta, which permitted them to go to Toronto Winter Fair where they again won top spot for all of Canada for their sewing class. The second year two more girls won the chance to go again to the Winter Fair and again won honors for their cooking class

In 1961, the Dairy Pool moved Okey to Calgary to take over their plant there. Here there was also a dairy which delivered milk all over the city and made ice cream which was sold all over Central Alberta.

In 1969, Okey suffered a severe heart seizure followed by more heart trouble so that he was forced to retire.

In the meantime his son and daughter had married and had families. David married Betty Deen of Alix and they live in Drayton Valley, David working in the office for an oil company and Betty working most of her married life as a trained nurse in the Drayton Valley Hospital.

Leslie Jean married Clayton Lofstrand of Erskine and she and her husband lived at Whitecourt where they had three children. They are now divorced and Leslie and her baby daughter now live with her mother in Red Deer.

The families are as follows; David and Betty-Debra, Jacqueline and Sheryl- Leslie and Clayton-Leonard, Kim and Erin

After Okey and Ruth sold their house in Calgary, they moved to Vernon, B.C where they built a house overlooking the beautiful Lake Kalamaika, but they were not to enjoy it for very long. Okey passed away quietly sitting in his chair on April 26, 1970

His wife sold the house and is now living in a trailer in the "Pines" area in Red Deer

**LUNDBERG, BERTIL IVER**

Berthil was born in the Lockhart district, November 29, 1909 and at the age of three moved with the family to Eckville where his father and mother took over the restaurant and hote. The first day in Eckville he got lost. There were three houses in Eckville besides the hotel, Forham's, Dan Clausens, and Dr Evans', and Berthil was used to there being only one.

During the time between 1912 and 1914, when the railway was being built, he remembers the large crews of workers that stopped for meals and overnight lodging. After the telephone was installed, quite often a call would advise him of 100 workers coming for dinner that day. His mother worked very hard — beautiful white tablecloths on long tables, laden with food prepared on a wood-burning stove; and what huge piles of wood were put up each winter to heat the rooms as well as for the cooking. One year's supply of wood required a great amount! John L., being a baker by trade, was able to do much of the baking for the restaurant

Other memories of daily occurrences such as

drunks falling asleep on the platform of the hotel. His father, being a strong man, would load them into a wheelbarrow and wheel them to the tracks where he would load them into an empty box car. Sometimes fights took place in the hotel, along with one gunfight, when the children hid under the table.

The children have a pleasant memory of going to sleep listening to strains of music coming from the room above, played by John Plathan on a violin or one of many other instruments. Or, of the C.N.R. foreman by the name of "Pinkie" standing on the corner on a cold winter night singing his heart out.

One very fond memory was of going with Charlie Gustavson (who was like a big uncle) with his team and top buggy on various taxi errands throughout the country. One trip took a policeman to Gilby to try to subdue a boiler man who had gone berserk and was shooting from a little log shack just south of the Gilby bridge. Incidentally, he escaped through a back door into the brush and was never captured.

A regular guest of the hotel was "Foster", who hauled "His Majesty's Mail", and would put a bullet through the hat of anyone who would not give him the right-of-way. Another thought that comes to mind is of Benson, the "Rawleigh Man", in his carriage-type buggy and horses, who carried his head with severe tilt to the right.

The horses belonging to the guests of the hotel were put up in Charlie Gustavsen's livery stable, which proved that the thinking of John and Charlie worked out as planned.

Berthil attended school for three years in the old Eckville School a mile north of town. When they started to school Lisa, Okey and he could speak no English. Some of the teachers were Lillian Benedictson, Mrs. Quigley and Mrs. Kinna.

The highlight of the early years was the annual trip to Banff. Starting from Eckville in the early morning hours, over ruts, corduroy roads, and the muskeg flats to Red Deer and south to Calgary over the winding prairie wagon trails, and after a stop for ice-cream in Calgary, west towards Banff, proved to be quite a trip. He remembers a great mud hole between Calgary and Cochrane, where one was sure to get stuck, as there was no way around it. The neighboring farmer was always willing to pull you through for two dollars. His horse was always standing ready. It was later said that the farmer hauled barrels of water by night to maintain the mud hole for his own benefit.

Further west, when you hit the mountains, you must "sound claxton" on every curve, as the road was one car width and one vehicle would have to wait or back up to a wider spot in order to meet any oncoming car and have room to pass. Eventually you arrived at the park gate and later at the Homestead Hotel in Banff at about three in the morning. The year that registration of cars entering the park began, John Lundberg's car was the first car entered in the registry.

In 1918 the hotel was sold to Harry and Anna E. Lowe and the Lundberg family moved to the farm, one mile north and two miles east of the town of Eckville. The children attended Salma school for two years. The John Earle Harper property across the road was purchased by J. L. Having land in the Eckville school district entitled the children to go to the Eckville school. As this was their market place, it was more convenient that they go there.

In 1920 the new Eckville school was built. Henry Ludwig was the principal and Ida Thompson was the teacher. Okey, Lisa, Berthil, Lundberg, and several others were the pupils.

After finishing school Bert helped on the farm until 1929. His father thought it best that he learn a trade, so he began working at Rocky Mountain House in the creamery, making butter, under John Plathan, an old friend of the family. From there he moved to Rimbey to work for Central Creameries until 1935. Then he went to Innisfail where he worked for the Independent Creameries until 1941. The next move was to Red Deer for a few months in the Hepworth Creamery. At that time the Central Alberta Dairy Pool was going to open a new creamery and offered him the position of manager. Because of the co-operative teaching of his father, he accepted. During this time the plant where he worked won many prizes at the agricultural fairs for the excellent butter submitted. Shortly afterward the egg and live poultry departments were opened, followed by the eviscerating department, and finally the canners of Farmgold poultry. This covered a period of twenty years of research and expansion.

In 1962 Bert was transferred from these departments to the department of packaged goods, which entailed considerable traveling for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool (Alpha Milk) over the prairie provinces, British Columbia and Northwest Territories. His last assignment was the opening of new territory in Washington and Oregon, U.S.A. to sell Alpha honey. On April 15, 1968, the morning of the last meeting to be held in Seattle before shipping was to begin, Bert suffered a stroke and was forced into retirement.

After a partial recovery from the paralysis, he rebuilt and winterized his cottage in the summer village of Norglenwold, on Sylvan Lake. At present (1977) Bert is restoring a Model A Ford car, as well as enjoying his yard and flowers.

Each summer the family, consisting of Beryl (California), Georgie (Ontario), Earle (Edmonton) and their children spend holidays with their parents, Bert and his wife (Gladys Jones) who was the the first primary room teacher in the Eckville school.

Bert, like his sister, sadly thinks about all the members of the family who have passed on —

mother in 1918, Father in 1950, Stepmother in 1962, Okey in 1970 and Lester in 1973.

**LUNDBERG, LESTER — 1918-1973**

Lester, the youngest member of the Lundberg family, was born on March 9, 1918, when the family was living on their farm. When he was nine months old his mother passed away, making it necessary for his father to get someone to care for the baby. Along with having a housekeeper part of the time, Lester stayed at Nielsons in the Evarts area, and for a longer period of time with the Botton family in Diamond Valley. He was brought home when his father remarried in 1920.

Lester went to school in Eckville, on a bicycle in summer and horseback in winter. Like all farm children, he helped with the chores and drove horses and farm equipment. Whenever they could arrange it, he and Gilbert Gustavson could be seen packing their guns to hunt gophers or, in season, game birds. As he grew older the farm duties took more and more of his time.

One of the pleasant memories the family has is Lester's humorous side. He saw the funny side of most things in life,and and wherever there was a group of people he had them splitting their sides with laughter.

Lester married Mary Tolonen, a local girl, on November 22, 1937 and they took over the farming operations. His father and mother moved west, across the road to the Harper quarter where Mr. Lundberg had built a modern new home.

Two sons were born to Lester and Mary — Jack on December 23, 1938 and Stanley on November 21, 1944. Mary and he worked very hard on the farm. They milked several cows and began building up a herd of Holstein cattle. In 1946 Lester decided he would like to learn a trade. They sold the farm to Mary's brother Jake and his Scottish war bride, Agnes. The equipment and livestock were sold at an auction sale. That was a sad day for a certain neighbor child — it meant no more delicious home-made ice cream.

Lester and his family stayed with his sister in Calgary while he attended technical school, studying mechanics. On completion of the course they moved to Olds where he worked for a John Deere farm machinery agency for a year.

In 1948 he took over an implement business in Fort Saskatchewan. On a new location he built up a good sized showroom, parts room and repair shop, with spacious living quarters above. Mary and Lester added T.V. and appliances to their sales stock, and because they were always available the business grew by leaps and bounds, necessitating more and and more additions to the business.

In 1964 Jack joined his father, and in 1967 Stanley joined the business, and all are carrying on in the same manner.

In spite of the pressure of business Lester managed to serve two years on the Fort Saskatchewan Town Council.

For recreation Lester and the boys were ardent curlers, and won many trophies at various bonspiels. Lester also loved horse racing. Mary and he went to Calgary and Edmonton and to Phoenix every year to attend the races. Incidentally, he did very well at the races. Another sport he enjoyed was fishing. Many weekends they went north with their camper and boat. Long-standing friends, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Yee (an Eckville barber of the early days), were often companions on their excursions.

Lester suffered from diabetes for many years and at the early age of 55 years he passed away on September 16, 1973 from heart failure.

Mary is now living in an apartment in Fort Saskatchewan and spends her time travelling, or with various activities with her many friends and grandchildren.

John (Jack) married Lynne Hieland on December 24, 1969. They have two children. Lori was born August 12, 1970, and Dean was born March 25, 1972.

Stan married Donna Luckyfassel on April 9, 1966. Their three children are Jeff, born March 2, 1969, Jody, born February 26, 1971, and Sheryl born August 24, 1973.

**LEVI MARSHALL LUTZ FAMILY — by Jean Opinus**

Born in Westmorlin County, New Brunswick, of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry, on March 25, 1874, Levi Marshall Lutz worked during his youth in construction work in lumber camps in Maine [illegible].

At the age of 13 years he picked up the habit of chewing tobacco — a habit which was to remain with him all of his years. At one time in his later life, one of his sons, Albert, and a grandson, Donald Hansen, calculated that through the years he had chewed his way through enough plugs of tobacco that, if placed end to end, they would measure 13 miles!

On February 6, 1907 he married Grace Alma Brown, born October 9, 1888 in Petitcodiac, New Brunswick. A son, Lee, was born on October 1, 1907 in New Brunswick. In 1908 the family moved to Fernie, B.C., where Levi worked as a carpenter, and while there he helped rebuild the town, which had been levelled by fire. Here another son, Arthur, was born on January 1 1909, followed by a daughter, Hazel, on September 10, 1910.

In 1912 the family moved to Irvine, Alberta, where Levi filed on a homestead. There the rest of the family were born — Ethel on January 21, 1913, George on September 8, 1914, Clarence on May 28, 1916, Myrtle on June 15, 1918, Albert on November 24, 1919, Wilfred on January 22, 1922 and Jean on December 21, 1924.

During this time many hardships assailed the family, such as drought and sickness. As a result, Lee passed away in 1918 at the age of 11

L. Lutz Mrs. Lutz

years, and Myrtle in January, 1919, at the age of six months.

In 1925, with the help of a government agent, land was located in the Benalto and Eckville areas for many drought-stricken farmers on the prairies. Two box cars were allotted each family, with which to move to these new locations. In these, all possessions were loaded. Any animals or machinery for which there was no room were left behind beside the railroad tracks. Upon returning later Levi found the horses that had been left behind, but they were now wearing someone else's brand, so possession was never regained

Thus, on a cold rainy October evening, the family arrived by C P R. in Eckville. Horses were harnessed and the wagons were reloaded, the family, with the exception of Ethel, who had gone to live with an aunt in Winnipeg, proceeded to a two-room house on the Medicine River two miles south of Eckville. This was located on land owned by John Armstrong. Upon arrival at the house it was found that no one had remembered to bring matches with which to light a fire, but Mrs Armstrong (fondly known as "Kit") arrived on the scene, riding her fine horse "Headlight", and soon had the family warm, fed and settled for the night

In the spring of 1926 the house on the NE 10-39-3-W5 was vacated, and the family settled in on the land also owned by John Armstrong, for which they were originally destined. Besides this quarter of land, Levi rented and farmed the quarter east and another quarter southeast of the quarter on which the buildings were located This property is now owned by the Herbert Jobs family

As was the custom on the prairies, the family planted a huge garden in the spring of 1926, never realizing that the yield would be many times over what had previously grown on the prairie This feat brought many chuckles from neighbors, but, at the same time, filled many tables both at home for the family and for friends and neighbors

During these years Levi not only farmed, but did carpenter work for other people. Much time was spent in clearing land, from which he cut, sawed, split and sold wood. Huge wood piles wherever he lived, kept many families besides his own warm and comfortable. Working at building and maintaining roads also helped pay taxes and supplement the family income

In 1929 Levi bought the SE 16-39-3-W5 from E. M Matchett, this land being immediately south of the town of Eckville He did not take possession until the fall of 1930. This quarter at this time was occupied by the Hans Broderson family, who then moved each of the town of Sylvan Lake. During this year the family recalls picking pails of saskatoons on this newly-purchased land. Every afternoon any family member who wasn't assigned other chores took two milk pails to fill to the top with berries and return home in time for the evening milking

After moving to this new location Levi farmed portions of NE 16-39-3-W5, owned by W. H. Cowan, and also farmed the NW 16-39-3-W5, belonging to Mrs. Sharron, daughter of E M Matchett. This quarter, which is divided by the C.N R., is now almost completely included, on the north of the railroad, in the town of Eckville The remainder is owned by Ewart McDonald

On the road beside the buildings on the home place was a steep hill, referred to as "Matchett's Hill", which was famous for its excellence as a place to go sleigh riding in winter. This sport was enjoyed by everyone

During these many years Grace Lutz was an active member of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid, and during the depression years every transient who knocked on their door was fed. Anyone travelling with horses, without a place to sleep, always found shelter and food for himself and his animals

As tractors began replacing horse power on the farms in the early 1940's, Levi purchased a tractor, and later a grain separator and threshed grain for farmers for many miles around. For several years, during the war, Levi farmed the Merriman land directly east of Eckville. After the war he reduced the amount of land he farmed, but continued to help two of his sons, Clarence and George, who had returned from the army and had started farming In 1956 he sold the home quarter to his son-in-law, Ivar Ophus, but continued to reside there until his passing in August, 1959. at the age of 85 years. Grace passed away in February, 1959, at the age of 71 years Both Mr. and Mrs. Lutz are laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery

**ARTHUR LUTZ FAMILY — by Jean Ophus**

Arthur Lutz was born in Fernie, B.C. on January 1, 1909. He moved with his parents to the Irvine, Alberta area, and then to Eckville in October of 1925. He attended school at Irvine, and for a short time in Eckville.

For several years he worked for the Moro Brothers in their flour mill in Eckville. During the war he worked in the North, hauling freight on the Alaska Highway. After the war he bought a truck, one of several he was to own, and hauled gravel on many roads being built in Central Alberta. Winters were spent hauling logs and lumber in the west country. When rural electrification came to Alberta he hauled poles for powerline construction in many parts of Alberta.

Arthur married Julia Bromiling and they had eight children. They are Leah, now married to Eddy Kasha, twins, Monty and Hal, (Hal is married to Linda Lipka); Clara, married to Donald Lockwood, Shelly, married to Edwin Engen, Darcy, married to Donna Rennie, Deanna and Kerry, still at home.

In 1963 Art decided to try his hand at farming. For a time he rented land, and then purchased the SW 35-39-3-W5. He then moved from the town of Eckville to this land where he continued farming his own land and several rented quarters until his death in December, 1975.

At the time of his passing, Art still had a crew of men working for Calgary Power, clearing power lines and fencing right-of ways.

Arthur was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He was of a quiet disposition, but his ready smile and quick laugh as well as his love of playing cards (a pastime at which he spent many, many hours) will long be remembered by his many friends.

**LUTZ, ALBERT AND IRMA — by Jean Ophus**

Albert Lutz was born at Irvine, Alberta on November 23, 1919 and came to the Eckville area with his family in October, 1925. His school years were all spent in Eckville and after leaving school he went to the West coast where he worked at various jobs until enlisting in the Royal Canadian Engineers in 1939. After completing his basic training he went overseas and saw active combat duty in Belgium and France.

After returning from the army in 1946 Albert spent several years doing carpenter work in and around Eckville. Winter employment was found in the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House.

In August, 1946 he married Irma Turner whose home was in Burnaby, B.C. After living in Eckville for several years they moved to Red Deer and Albert went to work as a maintenance man at the R.C.A.F. base at Penhold, a position he still held at the time of his death in December, 1971, at the age of 52 years.

During his years after the war Albert was an active member of the Elks Lodge and made many friends throughout central Alberta through his association with the Lodge.

**LUTZ, WILFRED HERBERT**

Wilfred Herbert Lutz was born at Irvine, Alberta, on January 21, 1922. In 1925 he came to the Eckville district with his parents, brothers and sisters.

He attended school at Eckville, completing Grade 10. During his years on the farm Bill enjoyed riding horses and even now, living in the city, he often rides just for relaxation. After leaving school he worked for a time in the co-op butcher shop, drove trucks for Bill MacDonald, Ed Needham and Harry Brooks, hauling freight, machinery, grain, cattle, or anything there was to be hauled. He also worked for a short time in a lumber camp. He worked for Watson Construction during the building of the Trans-Canada Highway at Golden, B.C. and in the construction of irrigation ditches in southern Alberta. He worked for Lambs, in Saskatchewan and various parts of Alberta.

In July 1957 he married Harriet Benson, who was matron of the Eckville Municipal Hospital. They later moved to Calgary after a short time in Sundre, and they still reside there.

For several years Bill owned his own gravel truck, but he is now employed by C. G. Brown Construction Ltd.

Bill and Harriet have two children, Karen and Grant. Both children are still at home and are attending school.

**MacDONALD, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM (BILL) — by Dr. Kay MacDonald**

Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) MacDonald arrived in Eckville in 1926. Their daughter, Kay (Kathleen), was born in 1928.

Mother had the first orchestra, with Mrs. Findlay. Later Joe Shilley, Walter Hoglund, and Mr. Clausen played for many wedding dances. Mother taught music to many of the children of the community, and also taught school.

Dad had a trucking company and carried the mail for years on the rural routes numbers one and three. He also had a small farm near

Alice, Bill and Kay MacDonald.

Hespero, and one west and north of Gilby. He loved horses and Aberdeen cattle, which he had at the time of his sudden death.

A snowmobile was used for transporting the mail on his mail routes and also for frequently taking Dr. Coppock on his winter calls.

Both mother and dad loved hunting and I can still remember Sunday mornings, going out to hunt birds north of Eckville.

Dad was drowned in the Horseguard River in 1943, on April 7, while trying to get a car from the flood waters. He was only 48 years old at the time of his passing.

Mother passed away on April 7, 1949, also at the age of 48 years. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Our home, which dad built in Eckville, is still standing, and belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

**THE MATTHEW MAKI FAMILY—by Hilja Sjoblom**

Matt Maki arrived in Central Alberta in 1911, coming from the United States. At the age of 12 years he had come to the United States with his uncle. He worked and remained in the United States for 17 years, returning to Finland in 1905 and a while later married and settled down to farming there. A few years later he returned to the United States and found his old buddies getting ready to come to Canada, so he joined them.

They all came to Rocky Mountain House and Matt took up a homestead there. A year later he had a chance to buy two parcels of land, left from the young men who had gone to the Boer War in Africa and had not returned. This was called Script land, and was available only to a homesteader, who could buy it for $1.00 per acre if he had proved up on his own homestead. All this land was low and muskeg, which had to be ditched.

Dad ditched his homestead and broke one hundred acres the first two years with his four oxen and walking plow. He seeded all this land into timothy hay and it grew for years to come. He had built a one-room log house, a log barn, dug a well and was quite established when, in 1913, he decided to send for his family from Finland which consisted of mother and we three children, John, Saimi and myself (Hilja). We learned later that mother didn't take kindly to the new home, but she tried and worked hard to make a home there. They added another room to the house and got cows and small animals, pigs, chickens, and so forth. By now Dad had a team of horses and got more later.

Two children were born in Rocky Mountain House—Rannar and Helvie. In 1917 the family moved to the Eckville area, two miles west of town. Dad wanted higher land where he could raise grain, and everyone was happy with the move. Dad's first crop in Eckville was 30 acres of wheat and 10 acres of oats. He cut all the sloughs for hay and, with the oats, had plenty for their five cows and horses. The creek banks were cut with a scythe. Before leaving his farm at Rocky Mountain House dad had cut big pine logs for a house and barn on the new place. He hauled them home, one wall at a time, the following winter. Both buildings are still standing, and in good shape, 60 years later.

Eckville was starting to grow; it had several business places, store, creamery and a school for us children. The first winters it was hard for the smaller ones to get to school as it was so bitterly cold. The school was moved to the village and a new two-room school was built, which we all enjoyed. The first year in Eckville, John, then 10 years old, had a nasty accident. A horse kicked him in the face. There was no doctor near so Dad rushed to town. The druggist, Mr. O. Forhan, advised John's going to Red Deer for a doctor's care. He phoned Fritz Kinna, who had the only car around, and away they went. Mr. Forhan attended to John the best he could, as he was bleeding badly. Dad went along, and also Mr. Clausen, the postmaster, in case they had to push the car through the mud holes.

Eventually there were eight children in our family. Ily was born in August of 1917, Reino on October 1, 1919, and Ray on July 12, 1922. By now we older ones were good farm hands and we all had to work hard. The girls worked in the fields as well as milking cows.

Our mother was a quiet woman, and a home-loving type. She had to work hard and in the winter evenings she would knit mittens and socks until far into the night. She sewed everything we wore when we were young, but always had time to feed anyone who came around at mealtime. She was a strong woman, as most women had to be, in order to take all the hardships of pioneer life. Leaving everything behind back home in Finland and starting from scratch, almost, and weathering depression times, she still managed a smile and said, "Things will be better." She enjoyed going to the odd picnic, the neighbors gathered at Wood Lake at least every June 24, and the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. usually had an outing at some farm, which everybody in the community attended. These were fun times, as were also the Christmas concerts. The Finnish Christmas concert and dance was held at the home of one of our neighbors—Jack Hiitala—because the upstairs in their house was one big room, a hall, you might say. Later, when the Liberty Hall was built, the picnics and dances were held there. This was about 1924. We used to go there in the wintertime with a team and bob sleigh, all bundled up, and later on cars became popular, so that made travelling nicer.

As the years passed we children went away to work and later on to other places and provinces. Saimi went to Vancouver, B.C. in 1933. I followed her in 1934 and John and Helvie came in 1936. John worked in the Brittania Beach mines. By

then Saimi had married August Veinman and I had married William Sjoblom

In 1939 Dad had taken ill and passed away in July of that year. We all came home and John stayed home to help with the farming,as the farm had grown much larger because dad had been able to acquire more land from time to time. In October of 1939 tragedy struck again when Saimi and August Veinman lost their two-and-a-half year old son.

War had broken out, and the young men were getting nervous. Reino got his call for the armed forces in 1940, and he was overseas for five years. John was in the army for four years, with some harvest leaves to help Rannar and Ray, who were doing the farming

In the spring of 1940 Hilja and Bill Sjoblom moved from Vancouver to a farm in the Eckville district, with their two small girls, Helen, four years old, and Katherine, one year old. Their son Allan was born in 1941. Helen, now Mrs Bergeson, has six children: David, Wesley, Randy, Verlynn, Karen and Gary. She and her husband keep busy on their farm near Bentley. Their son David is married to Pat St. Jean and they have a daughter, Teja, born in 1977. This gives the Bill Sjoblooms a great-granddaughter Katherine, now Mrs. Kubbernus, lives in Calgary, where her husband, Leon, is foreman of a tin-smith shop. Both Kay and Leon are skilled skiers and mountain climbers, and regularly participate in these sports at Banff and other areas. They are members of the Alpine Mountain Climbers organization. Bill and Hilja lived on their farm north of Eckville for 36 years before their retirement. In 1976 they bought a home in Eckville where they, along with their son Allan, now live.

In addition to the son which they lost, Saimi and August Veinman had one daughter, Lorraine. They left Vancouver and moved to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. after the war Lorraine became a registered nurse and later married Fred Ewing She now has seven children. The Fred Ewing family now resides in Edmonds, Washington

Helvie married Ted Hagkull in 1939. Their four sons are Ronald, of St. Paul, Robert of Chilliwack, Ramon of Chilliwack, and Roger of Hope, B.C. Helvie and Ted are living in Chilliwack, B.C.

Ily married Arnold Matthews in 1945. They farmed in the Gilby district until their retirement to Eckville in 1974. Arnold passed away in 1975, and Ily continues to live in her home in Eckville

Reino married Margaret Koskela after returning from overseas. They, with their son, Rick, reside in Vancouver

Ray married Jennie Sutherlund in 1944 and they have three girls. Trudy married Ivan Houston and they have three children, Krister, Tyler, and Pamela. They live on a farm near Eckville. Barbara married Kenneth Ryan of New Westminster, B.C. Joan married Kenneth Bly of Edmonton. They have one son, Shane

Rannar married Geneva Docken and they have two sons. Kenneth, now of Calgary, is married, but has no children. Donald, also living in Calgary, is married and has two children. Rannar and Geneva now live in Drayton Valley, Alberta

In 1951 Mother had a pleasant surprise when her sister came to visit her from Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. They had not seen each other for 35 years. In May, 1952 mother took ill and passed away in June

**MAKI, RAY**

Ray Maki, the youngest of the Matt Maki family was born on July 12, 1921. He was raised on the farm just west of Eckville. As one of a family of eight, he developed a good sense of humor and a willingness to help anyone in need.

On March 29, 1944, he married Jennie Sutherland of Rocky Mountain House, who had been working in the Eckville Hospital since 1939. They farmed a half section, the SW 19-39-3-W5 and the NE 24-39-4-W5, neighboring the Maki home place.

Ray and his brother John had an additional quarter, SE 18-39-3-W5, which they jointly owned for pasture.

Ray and Jennie built up the farmsite, starting with the house in 1945 and the barn in 1947. They raised three daughters, Trudy, Barbara and Joan

On December 25, 1968, Ray passed away at the age of 46 years

Trudy married Ivan Houston in 1967. They farm in the Gimlet district north of Eckville Trudy and Ivan have three children, Krister Tyler and Pamela

Joan married Ken Bly in 1974. They have one son, Shayne, and live in Edmonton

Barbara, Mrs. Ken Ryan, of Vancouver was married in 1975. They have one daughter born December 27, 1977 Jennifer Rae is named for both her maternal grandparents.

Jennie was remarried, to Elwood Averill, in 1970. They farm in the Happy Hill district south of Eckville

**MANN, HAROLD, MAE, AND FAMILY**

Harold S. Mann was born in Exmouth, Devon, England. His father was in the Salvation Army at the time they came to Alberta in the spring of 1905. They were living in Edmonton when Alberta became a province

The family moved around often, as Harold's father was a minister They really had no "home town". Harold took his last two years of high school at Alberta College, which is now St Stevens, in Edmonton. He later completed two years correspondence work from Queen's University He taught school west of Bowden on a permit for a semester, before being accepted as a bank employee when an opening occurred

In 1925 Harold was transferred to the bank in Sylvan Lake, and in that year he and Mae decided to get married.

In 1927 the bank decided to open a sub-branch in Eckville, so Harold was assigned to come to Eckville two or three times a week to handle the business. When he didn't come, Mr. Fred Appleton, the Sylvan Lake bank manager, came; theoretically, to check up on business. They had a little wire teller's cage, a desk and a counter in a small office north of the lumber yard (which is now Carritt's Hardware.) Mr Colpitts, a lawyer, also shared this office, which later became a doctor's office. They used to go across the street to the hotel for lunch, which always had the same menu. However, at that time the CNR train went west on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and the train crew always ate at the hotel, too. There was always a fresh roast for them.

There was a tiny safe in the bank, but nothing was left there overnight. When Harold and the junior clerk went for lunch, one carried bills and the other the silver, and of course one of them had a gun.

Mr and Mrs. Mann moved into the bank living quarters — four tiny rooms — with three children and another one on the way, when a full time bank was opened in Eckville in 1930. Mr Mann was made manager, at this time being only 32 years of age.

Mr Mann was transferred to Winnipeg in 1949 and we were there for four years. However, Harold missed his farmer customers, and we all missed Alberta, so Harold asked for a transfer back to Alberta. We moved to Athabasca in 1951 and to Medicine Hat in 1957. We thought we had reached our "Happy Hunting Grounds" for sure, and intended to retire in Medicine Hat. Well, the best laid plans go awry (as Robbie Burns wrote) and ours certainly did. Harold died on November 18, 1964, after having worked for 42 years without sick leave.

**MAE MANN (Wife of Harold Mann)**

I was born at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, and at the age of three or four years my family moved to the United States, where we lived for a few years. In 1912 we moved to Alberta. My high school education was obtained in Didsbury, but after I began teaching I was there only during the summer holidays. Later my father moved to the west coast, so I had no place I could call home. I love Nova Scotia, and have been back to visit there several times.

I guess Eckville can be called my background, as we were there for 17 years, and our three youngest children were born there. Two older boys finished school there. Some of those years were pretty rugged. Wouldn't it be awful to go back to keeping house without running water and electricity! Our big entertainment was to go to Red Deer and spend 50 or 60 cents for dinner at the Club Cafe and 40 cents each for a show ticket. When I didn't have a girl to help in the house I had to hire a baby-sitter for 35 cents. ('Big deal') Sometimes we'd splurge after the show for a milk shake (15 cents each.) We were supposed to be well-to-do bankers.

One thing that I felt was a sacrifice, but one which we were willing to make, was burning so much wood, in the bank and at home, because we felt that we should buy the wood from the farmers. It would have been easier to burn coal, but none of the bank customers was a miner.

Our oldest son, Avard, is a meteorologist and has been supervisor of weather services for Alberta, Yukon Territory and part of the North West Territories since 1958. He resides in Edmonton.

Lance, the second son, is also with the weather service and is a radio sound technician on the weather ship, "Vancouver." He likes being at sea. He is out for seven weeks and on shore for five weeks. He and his family live in Victoria.

Marland, the third son, lives in Toronto and has two sons and one daughter. He is manager for a storage and distribution company.

Mary lives in Penawa, Manitoba, which is the town for atomic research establishment. She works in the hospital admitting office. Her name is now Peterson, and she has two boys and one girl.

Fleur, the youngest daughter, has recently moved to Prince George from Toronto. Her husband is the manager of McLeods store. They have three daughters. Her name is now Beliske.

**WILLIAM HENRY AND ELIZABETH JANE (PRICE) MANNIX**

William (Billie) and Elizabeth Mannix came to homestead the NW 14-40-6-W5, in the Bingley district on October 22, 1906 from Okotoks, Alta. With them came William Joseph, born Feb. 26, 1903 and Mabel Jane, born May 9, 1905. Norris Alberta was born Sept. 26, 1906.

Billie worked for Martin and McDougall Sawmill the winter of 1906-07. The mill was situated on the west side of the NE 3-40-6-W5. For many years he supplemented his farm income by sawing wood around the country with a buzz saw, covering the area from Leslieville to Sylvan Lake.

They later bought and moved to a C.P.R. quarter, SE 23-39-4-W5, three miles west of Eckville, and lived there until 1920 when they sold to Frank Bolton.

The children, Joe and Mabel, started school in 1911 by walking five miles to the Beaver Flats school. In 1912 the farmers laid corduroy across the swamp and built a bridge across the Last Hill Creek, (Horseguard River) which could be used only on foot or saddle horse. That made it two miles closer to school for children travelling that way.

From the C.P.R. quarter they moved south of Withrow where they lived until 1923, when they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C.

William Henry Mannix and Joe about 1906.

William Joseph, Norris Alberta, and Mabel Jane Mannix about 1910

William Joseph married Vera Merle Pendergast June 2, 1934. They have five children and reside at Sylvan Lake.

Mabel Jane married Chester Mason in 1918. They had eight children. Mabel died in 1960, Chester in 1970.

Norris Alberta married Helen Jacobson in 1941. They have two girls and reside in Calgary.

William Henry died Feb. 8, 1935 and is buried at Leslieville.

Elizabeth Jane died Jan. 4, 1960 and is buried at Rocky Mountain House.

**MR. AND MRS. BILL MARKS**

Bill Marks arrived in Eckville on October 19, 1927, just past his 19th birthday, to take over the barbershop and poolroom. This was located in the hotel and had recently been vacated by Irvine Palmer, who had moved to Bentley. In February of 1928, Bill was married to Georgina Robertson, of Red Deer, who was then working in the hotel dining room. They moved into a suite over the post office, on Main Street. Sometime between then and June, they moved to a small house opposite the old Co-op Store, now owned by the Pat Hovens. This was a rather fortunate move, because on the last Sunday night of June, 1928, fire destroyed one block on the east side of Main Street. Mr. Morris had arrived in Eckville that day, to take over the management of the creamery, and was staying at the hotel. He mentioned quite often that he sure got a warm reception at Eckville.

The barber chair was saved, and Bill set up shop on the stage of the community hall, which "Happy", the Chinese man, purchased and converted into a restaurant, having lost his in the fire. Mike Sestrap put up a building to the south of this, and it housed the barbershop and poolroom on the south side and the post office on the north side. Dan Clausen put up a new building back on the east side, and Bill and Georgie opened up the "Jiffy Lunch" in the part vacated by Dan.

Bill Jr. was born in January of 1930 in the house just east of their house, which was operated as a nursing home by a Mrs. Porter (Mrs. Joe Marshall's mother). There was no hospital in Eckville at that time. The doctor was Dr. Sommerville.

Lighting for the barbershop and poolroom was first by gasoline lamps, then gasoline burners (mantles) with a gasoline pressure tank outside and piped into the burners. The next improvement was a 32-volt lighting plant, followed by electricity from August Moro's plant at fifty cents a K.W., and finally by Calgary Power.

Recreation was mainly baseball, badminton and dancing. Curling was added, as soon as the curling rink was built. Eckville had one of the best baseball teams in the district, helped, no doubt, by second baseman, Freddie Bardenhagen, who used to "doctor" the baseballs for pitchers Carl and Art Raabis.

Bill and Georgie sold the barbershop in 1940 and the Jiffy Lunch in 1941, when Bill joined the R.C.A.F. At this time Georgie and Bill Jr. moved to Sylvan Lake. After Bill's discharge from the

service they operated an electrical shop at Sylvan Lake for approximately 29 years. They have now retired, but are still living in Sylvan Lake.

**MARSHALL, JOSEPH T. — by Mrs. Laura Marshall**

Joseph T. Marshall was born October, 1886. He emigrated from Armagh, North Ireland to Toronto in 1909. Having had training as a druggist, he was able to secure a job there working for Timothy Eaton in the drug department of the store for three years. In 1912 he and a cousin, the late Charles Rolston, also a druggist, decided to heed the slogan "Go West, young man, go west and grow up with the country." From Toronto they worked their way westward, stopping off at many places, until they reached Sylvan Lake. The C.N.R. had just been built through this area in the fall of 1911.

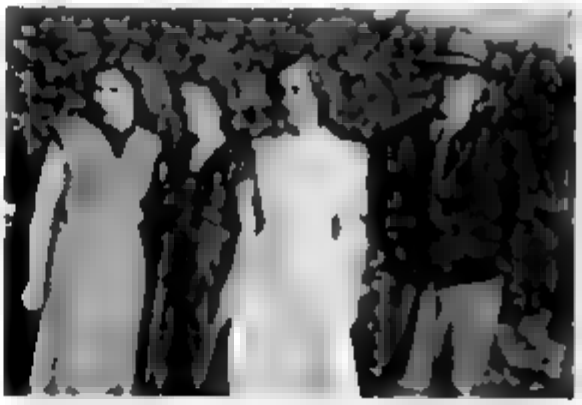
In Sylvan Lake they built and operated a drug store, later branching out into groceries and dry goods. In the fall of 1919 they sold out this business, Joe taking off for the "Ould Sod" for a holiday. (Charles Rolston returned to Toronto with his wife, but they were soon back to Alberta where they opened a store in Rimbey.)

Joe returned to Canada in May, 1920, this time ending up at Eckville. I might add here, that the snow was on the ground when he left Red Deer in October, 1919, and was still on the ground upon his return in May, 1920. Many will remember the hard, long winter of '19 and '20. At about this time Bill Cowan's first wife had died and Bill had taken the body east for burial. Joe was engaged to manage the Cowan's Hardware Store while Bill was away.

In the fall of 1920 Joe built his own store and operated it as "Marshall's Hardware and Dry Goods". Ably assisted by his wife, he continued in this business, in the same location, until his retirement in 1964, when he sold the business to Art Moench. A period of 44 years in the same business at the same place testifies to Joe's success in the venture.

In 1928 he married Miss Laura Porter, of Condor. They had a family of three daughters — Mavis, (who passed away in 1975), Maureen, and Josephine. Mavis and Josephine received their R.N. from Holy Cross in Calgary, and Maureen became a secretary and bookkeeper.

Joe served the town of Eckville in many capacities. When the village was incorporated in 1921 Joe, along with Bill McHattie and Clare Crosbie, made up the first village council, and Joe is now the only surviving member of this council. Off and on through the years he served many terms as a council member. He also served on the local school board for several terms and was for one term on the Eckville Mutual Telephone Board. For nineteen consecutive years he was a member of the local hospital board.



Joe Marshall Christmas day, 1953. Joe Marshall, Julia Moorman, Mavis

Laura and Joe Marshall Wedding, August 16, 1928 Elmer Johnson, Violet Singer (Kirby).

In 1971 Joe was honored by the town and was presented, by Miss Helen Hunley (M.L.A.) with a plaque for dedicated service to the town of Eckville. He is still alert, and is interested in local activities as well as provincial and federal politics. He reached his 90th birthday in the fall of 1976. He and his wife, Laura, are enjoying their retirement in their home in Eckville.

**THE E. M. MATCHETT FAMILY — by Gladys Matchett Turner**

My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Matchett, along with my two brothers, Ralph and Edward, and myself, moved from St. Thomas, Ontario to Red Deer about the year 1902 or 1903, where we lived for about a year and a half. My father and two brothers took homesteads and my sister, who lived in the East, bought a C.P.R. quarter on the banks of the

Horseguard creek. My uncle, Mr. Ralph Brown, and family settled on a homestead about two miles west and a Mr James McFaul and family a little farther on. Later my brother Ed sold his quarter to the C.P.R. for the town site of Eckville

Mr. and Mrs. J. Carney and family lived to the east on the Medicine River. They moved to Dutton, Montana — I don't remember the date. Dorcas Brown married Paul Pykiet. She is now living in Kansas, U.S.A. Theresa Brown married Lewis Fitch and lived at Rocky Mountain House. She passed away in 1976

I believe the first teacher when the school was north of the town was Miss Fenerty, from the Maritimes. She boarded with a cousin, Mrs. Killick, at old Eckville. Amy Richardson, another teacher, stayed with the Eckfords' Agnes Hampton and Miss McMann stopped with mother

I believe Dr Evans was the first doctor He later moved to Didsbury. In the winter we had dances at different homes, sometimes driving as far as Leslieville on cold winter nights. Mr McFaul and Albert Armstrong played the violin Later, when the hall was built, the dances were held there. My husband played the piano and helped out We had skating parties on a slough on my dad's farm and on the Medicine River at the Carney's. In the winter my brother hauled fence posts from a tamarack swamp west and a little south of the town. In early days there were quite a few prairie fires, which were frightening, as well as hail storms

**MATTHEWS, FELIX AND ETHEL — by Ethel Matthews**

Felix Maynard Matthews was born November 24, 1909 on the homestead, SW 28-40-3-W5 (now owned by Walter Andrew) He was the fourth child of Adam and Anna Matteus. He attended Andrews school until his parents bought NW 17-40-3-W5; then he attended Estonian school. When his brother was teaching Gaetz school he went to school there for a year

Felix and his brother farmed in the Bow Island, Alberta district for several years, returning to Eckville in 1930. He was married to Ethel Lutz on December 23, 1931.

Ethel was born in Irvine, Alberta on January 21, 1913 and went to school in Irvine, and Winnipeg, Manitoba. She arrived in Eckville in April of 1928. She worked in Red Deer, Edmonton and Eckville prior to her marriage. Clifford Arthur was born in Eckville on January 8, 1933.

The family moved to Rimbey in March of 1933. Grace Iona was born there on October 16, 1935. They returned to the Gilby district in 1937 to the SE 17-40-3-W5, which they had purchased before moving to Rimbey. As there were only 15 acres broke, they set to work with grub hoes and axes to clear the rest of the land. To earn a little cash Felix played drums in an orchestra with Mrs. William MacDonald and Archie Cunningham for a dollar a night. Felix was also a mechanic and helped the neighbors to keep their cars and tractors running.

Felix Matthews family. Back row: Arlene, Beverly. Front: Iona, Felix, Ethel and Clifford

Jean Arlene was born in Eckville on October 18, 1944, and Beverly Elaine on March 11, 1946

In 1944-1945 Felix operated a Caterpillar for Curry Construction, loading gravel for the roads in the M.D. of Red Deer, M.D. of Lacombe, and the Local Improvement District. In 1946 Felix bought a TD9 International tractor and worked at gravelling roads He also had a backhoe with which he dug basements and put in sewer lines in Eckville and farm sewer systems. He also worked for Calgary Power with a pole-hole digger, digging holes for power lines in several districts in Alberta. In 1950 Felix, Ethel and family moved to the town of Eckville, renting the farm to Arnold Matthews, who later bought the land. Felix sold out in 1966 and spent a year in Vancouver

Clifford is married to Dorothy Engen and they have two children, Nolan and Gwen. Iona is married to Herbert Oja and they have four children — Ian, Lorne, Laureen and John. Arlene was married to Robert Wise and had two girls, Roberta and Rhonda. She is now married to Gerald Heft and they have two children, Brian and Tracey Beverly is married to Vincent Bowker and their two children are Wanita and Vincent

Felix passed away October 13, 1971 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery Ethel is now living in Granisle, B.C.

**MATTHEWS, ROBERT (BOB) AND EILEEN — by Eileen Matthews**

Robert Eugene, youngest son of Adam and Anna Matthews, was married to Eileen Ferguson in May, 1944. Bob worked on road construction with the municipality for two years, then went to work for his older brother, Felix, hauling gravel.

In 1950 Bob went to work for the Massey Harris agent, the late Chester Kasha. This is when Bob decided to become a mechanic, and each winter for three years he attended a short term at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary to obtain a journey man's certificate.

Bob, being of musical nature, played the piano with several different orchestras. They played for country dances once, and sometimes twice, a week, which really helped the family budget

Bob and Eileen have three children — Larry, born May, 1945, Wayne born in September, 1946 and Janice born in May, 1951.

Larry is married to Rhonda Jarvis and they now live in Eckville. Larry and Rhonda spent eight years in the Yukon where Larry worked for the Department of Transport, as a radio operator Their three sons are Steven, Daryl and Blaine.

Wayne is married to Kellie Hughes and works for an oil company as an off-shore drilling superintendent Their two children are Shane and Melanie

Janice is married to Dr Greg Edwards and they live in Ponoka, where Greg has a dentistry practice

Eileen has been employed at the Eckville Co-op since 1960

In 1966 Bob became the U F A. bulk fuel agent in Eckville and also operated a garage in connection with the business. However, in 1975 the garage was burned and was not re-built. Bob and son Larry now operate the bulk fuel delivery and a small service station.

**THE W G. McANDREWS FAMILY — by Maxine McAndrews**

William (best known by everybody as "Red") and Maxine McAndrews and children, Murray and Margaret Anne, moved to Eckville from Calgary in March, 1949. Red was hired as Dry Goods and Grocery Manager for the Eckville Co op Store, and in 1950 became General Manager He held that position until July 1967, then moved to Calgary as Retail Adviser for Federated Co-operative.

During our 18 years in Eckville we had three more children — Jerry, Phillip and Stewart All but Stewart attended school in Eckville Margaret Anne took a C.N A. course in Edmonton in 1967 and in 1969 she married Don Sheets. They have two children — Kelly, six, and Glenda, three, and presently live in Stonehaven, Scotland. Don is a tool pusher on an oil rig in the North Sea

Jerry married Sandra MacDonald from Calgary in 1972. They are still in Edmonton Jerry attends the University of Alberta in the faculty of Dentistry and will graduate in May 1978. Sandy works as a Dental Hygenist, but will soon retire to care for our third grandchild

Murray married Donna Hennig of Beaverlodge in 1974. They live in Calgary, where Murray works for Calgary Co-Op and Donna at Primco Home Supplies

Philip is manager and Karate Master at Simons Karate Studio in Edmonton. He was married in November, 1976 to Jackie Mah, and she is his receptionist. Philip has had diabetes since 1972, but seems to live a good active life anyway

Stewart is just sixteen and ready for his driver's license He is in grade ten at Westwood Collegiate, plays hockey, football and basketball, as well as working part-time at Red River Co-op

All the boys have been very active in sports. especially hockey and football.

While in Eckville Red was mayor from March 1954 to 1960. In 1953-1954 the town sewer system was installed, a new fire truck purchased and a fire hall built He was back on council from 1963 to 1967 and was mayor from 1964 to 1966, when the water system was installed

He was secretary of the Arena Building Committee. The Arena was officially opened on January 25, 1964, with an ice carnival. Mr J M McDonald cut the ribbon at the opening The original building, seats and waiting room cost $54,600. Of this amount, $28,000 was raised by donations from farmers and business men. The government grant provided $5,200, winter works $8,000, the village $3,500, the Lion's Club $5,000 and two ice carnivals and two rodeos together raised $5,000 A fine tribute to a hard-working community! For the opening day we made one hundred thirty pounds of hamburger into patties in our kitchen

Red played first base or third base for the Eckville baseball team from 1949 until 1955. He was also an avid curler and took in all the local bonspiels. He was on a rink with Tom Forhan, Don McDonald, and Bob Kraft for the Council Play-offs in Edmonton.

I was kept busy looking after an active, growing family, but spent some time with the Ladies Aid, Ladies Curling Club, Home and School, and Boy Scout Parents Group. We fondly remember the good times at the Lion's "do's", the firemen s masquerades, the New Year's dances and sing songs, the high school graduations and the Eckville Sportsday parades.

We lived in Calgary from 1967 to 1969 then moved to Red Deer, where Red was general manager of the Co-op there until 1974. He then came to Winnipeg as Region Manager of Manitoba, but is now back in retail business as General Manager of Red River Co-op of Winnipeg

We hope to move back to Alberta upon retirement to enjoy visiting our family and old-time friends

**MRS. J. M. McDONALD (NEE MARGARET McNEIL) — by Mrs. Margaret McDonald**

Quebec was the birthplace of both my parents, Hugh and Martha McNeil. I was born at

Pointe aue Chene, Quebec, in 1892 and was the eldest of eight children. For 12 years we lived in Quebec, halfway between Montreal and Ottawa on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

In 1904 the family of eight children moved to Riverside (later named Elbow), Saskatchewan, and filed on a homestead. By 1912 there were seven children and papa wished for more land. So, we set out west to purchase a farm where land was more readily available. We resided in Lacombe for a few months before papa was able to buy a suitable location and in January, 1913, we settled on the NW 22-38-3 W5.

I will try to give you some idea of the village as it was during the years 1913 to 1920. There were two railway lines only one mile apart. Eckville was situated on the C.N. Railway and Kootuk on the C.P. Railway. There was one building at Kootuk, a box car, which was the station. John Lundberg managed the hotel in Eckville which was more like a boarding and rooming house. When John Lundberg sold his business, it was bought by Harry Low. During the time Harry was the proprietor he married Miss Thompson, teacher of the Eckville Elementary School. There was one elevator (Parish and Heimbecker). Heimbecker had his living quarters where the Carritt Hardware is now located. He had an office in the front. There were two grocery stores, a garage, livery barn, lumberyard and a small bank, where the Bank of Commerce is at present. I believe there were eight or 10 dwellings.

Some villagers kept a few livestock. We had a barn on a back lot, now owned by Margaret Schofer, where we housed a cow, a dozen chickens, two horses and the occasional pigs or rabbits. In 1936 my husband bought 14 acres of land one mile west of Eckville and the barn was moved to what is now the Ewart McDonald farm.

In the early days we provided our own amusements. There were social evenings every Saturday night at which we played whist and had community singing and some games. Then bridge became a more popular card game, and we had to be more settled and serious to play bridge. When there were no parties in the hall some couple would have two or three tables of cards in their home and we would play until one or two o'clock in the morning.

My husband, J. M. McDonald, was born at Vallevfield, Prince Edward Island, in 1891. During most of his childhood he suffered from bovine tuberculosis. When he was 16 years old doctors found it necessary to amputate his leg, which was certainly a major operation at that time. Between illness and trying to educate himself he became despondent and, as a last resort, decided to emigrate west. He travelled to Regina and stayed with a cousin, who was a Mountie there. The prairies did not appeal to him, and, in 1910, he took the train to Red Deer. Upon inquiring about land, G. W. Brown, the Presbyterian minister, suggested that he might get a homestead in the Leslieville area. Without delay he filed on the SW 3-40-5 W5. While working at brushing and such rigors of homesteading, although severely handicapped, he gained a measure of health.

He had taught school on Prince Edward Island, taking his training at Prince of Wales College, so he took on teaching duties at the newly built Campbell School. Although his parents were poverty ridden, education was given priority, and some of the family had a college education. My husband continued teaching in the Leslieville area until 1914, when he went to Calgary Normal School, as school regulations required it. Financing a year at Normal School was a real problem. Along with buying books, paying for board, he needed new clothes, as the ones he had were threadbare. He bought a blue serge suit for $12, and even that meant a "large hole in his pocket." He finished Normal School in June, went to teach at Melita, near Benalto, and was there for four years. During the flu epidemic of 1918 he volunteered to drive the nurse throughout the district. As no medicine was prescribed by doctors, they experimented and found that alcohol worked miracles — particularly on abstainers. They were fortunate in not losing a patient.

I met my husband at Melita when he bought my box at a box social. We were married in Red Deer, September 28, 1920, by a Presbyterian minister, W. G. Brown, to whom I referred earlier. The West had been so good to him that we were able to afford a very enjoyable two months honeymoon in Prince Edward Island. On December 1, 1920 we moved into the house, in Eckville, which he had previously built for an office, in 1918. The original is still standing, although enlarged and renovated many times.

He went back to teaching and taught for two years at Benjamin. Mack had a faithful pony, Frankie, and a cutter or buggy, which he drove the 14 miles every weekend. He was then Principal at Estonia for two years. The other teacher was Miss Benedictson, a wonderful person.

For health reasons he finally found it necessary to discontinue teaching and, instead, dealt in insurance. He was appointed auditor and justice of the peace in 1913. He retained the position of auditor until schools were consolidated and was J.P. for Alberta, a record number of years, which was at least 50! He was also game warden, and dealt in hay, too, so was busy with a number of jobs.

Real Estate business was of great interest to him. Besides selling land for others he often bought land himself. According to a map, dated 1923, he owned the E34-39-3 W5. I remember how concerned I was, and wished that he would quit dealing, when he had bought the NW 23-39-3 W5. Henry Mitzner, when visiting one day, inquired of dad why he would buy a quarter that was nothing but willow brush and swamp. The land

was brushed and water was drained into a creek at the south end of the quarter. Now, this is considered a piece of choice land. Later, he bought the SW16-39-3 W5, which was owned by the C.P Railway. This was another deal that was shunned by many and was considered a poor investment, as the soil was very rocky Up to the present time huge amounts of valuable gravel have been taken from this quarter

In 1925 he bought his first car, a Gray Dort, and we went to Waterton Lakes. We had a very pleasant holiday there with McGregors, who had previously lived in Eckville. While here, Ken McGregor was employed as a salesman, selling parts for machinery — such machines as there were in those days

On July 24, 1928, there was a terrible hailstorm that played havoc with grain crops in the area. During the same storm lightning struck a large stack of hay that we had just piled on the NW 23-39-3 W5. This fire meant a considerable loss to us, as, for various reasons, we were in a financial bind at the time

August 3, 1928, proved to be a disastrous day for the village of Eckville, as a fire began where the drugstore is now located and completely swept down the east side of the street. Mr. Von Holtum had a gas and oil station located there and it was thought that lightning struck the building Richard Clausen, the first to notice the fire, sounded the alarm, about two a.m. By the way, a number of you likely recall the antiquated fire alarm that was in the form of a large pole with a metal disc at the top, which gong, when struck by a huge metal spike that was attached to a rope, made a loud noise that carried considerable distance. Residents soon arose, but a "bucket brigade" was ineffective in controlling the blaze. A Chinese, "Happy", had just started a restaurant on the east side of the street. Volunteers helped him move his equipment to safety I clearly recall "Happy's" excited, frenzied state and that he was completely incapable of assisting in the moving of the dishes, cooking utensils, counters. Dad had built a garage on the side of our barn and the restaurant equipment was stored there temporarily. My husband bought the hall that is presently the jewellery store in Eckville and in a short time carpenters had made alterations to the building so that it was ready to be used as a cafe. "Happy" was certainly pleased with his new location, and operated the cafe there for a number of years.

Twelve o'clock noon was a time for activity and excitement and was looked forward to by many, as this was the time when the train stopped in the village on its way to and from Nordegg. The crew and passengers got their meals at the hotel, but, as it had also been destroyed by the fire, the crew boarded at our place. At the same time there were hail adjustors in the area who got board and room with us. Although this meant a lot of work, it was enjoyable cooking for the trainmen and hail adjustors, as they were jolly and had fun joking with one another

Tis said "Life is for living". We must have been in agreement with this adage as during the early 30s we had a cottage at Sylvan Lake. We spent considerable time vacationing there with family and friends

Soon came the depression, which affected a good deal of the world, particularly the prairies We didn't suffer, in this part of Alberta, as we got enough moisture to have fair crops. In the year 1936, the district donated a carload of vegetables to Saskatchewan, as there was a terrible drought in that province. That was the first year we attempted farming, and we had an acre garden west of town that produced well, thus we had an abundance of vegetables to give away to those less fortunate

In 1937 Mack was appointed administrator for the Debt Adjustment Act by the federal government. The act was a scheme introduced whereby farmers had their debts reduced. As this project covered a large area, Mack required a secretary. One of these was Myla (nee Hoglund) and the other was Ada Doupe of Red Deer She married Morley Obee, who was then employed by the creamery. They now reside in Cranbrook, B C.

Mr and Mrs. J. M. McDonald family Neil, Ewart, Donald Margaret and Phyllis

We managed to convince our two eldest sons that farming was a good life to pursue. By helping them with management and finances, Mack got them to continue his love of animals and the land. He also showed his interest in agriculture by assisting with school fairs, calf clubs, and

Save the Soil Program, at which time he worked with Peter Yacooshin

One of the highlights of his life was the honor of cutting the ribbon for the opening of the arena in Eckville in January, 1966, as he was very sports-minded

We had five children — Phyllis (Andrew), Donald and Ewart of Eckville; Margaret Ferguson of Red Deer, and our youngest son, Neil, and his wife, Darlene, and children, Dean and Danni, live in Lethbridge Neil works for the Federal Department of Agriculture, as a horticulturist

Looking over my husband's diary for 1962 I read the following. "I had many worries during my long life and my present most pressing one in which I am unable to get my friends to share is Inflation'." What would he say of today'

For many years I enjoyed being a member of the Presbyterian Ladies A.d The year 1971 was a memorable one for me, as I was honored by the town for having been a continuous resident for 50 years. I was also given a plaque by the Eckville Presbyterian Church, indicating that I had been a member for half a century

Our years spent in Eckville were very enjoyable and satisfying ones, no doubt because we met so many interesting, congenial folks. I am presently living in Eckville's lovely Manor House, a home for Senior Citizens

**DONALD A. McDONALD AND FAMILY — by Don McDonald**

Donald McDonald was born in Eckville on April 29, 1923, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J M McDonald. He attended Eckville School for nine years then was at Olds Agricultural College for two years. He graduated from there in 1942 Following this, he farmed with his father and brother Ewart until 1954. In 1951 he bought the NE 23 from John Lundberg and was already farming the NW 23, as his father owned this land

Donald moved into the John Lundberg house in the spring of 1955 and he "batched" on the farm for a few years.

He is very interested in sports, and was a keen competitor. He enjoyed hockey and played for the Olds Elks from 1948 to 1952. He spent the winter of 1952-1953 in Scotland, playing for the Falkirk Lions He returned to Canada and played for Olds again from 1953-1954. His last year in the Central Alberta Hockey League he played for the Red Deer Shamrocks. He was awarded the MacKenzie Trophy for being the highest scorer in the League in 1951-1952. Age and his health have forced him to hang up his blades, but he has been a coach in the Eckville Minor Hockey League, and also with the Rocky Rams in Rocky Mountain House

During the summers of 1947 to 1955, although busy with the farm, Donald managed to play quite a lot of baseball for Eckville

Donald has also been a member of the Eckville Curling Club for many years In 1956 a rink comprised of Tom Forbes, Red McAndrew, Don McDonald and Robert Kraft represented their zone in the Briar Playdowns in Edmonton

He now enjoys playing bridge, and is a member of the Red Deer Bridge Club.

In 1958 Donald met and married Hilary Voes, an R.N from the United Kingdom. They have two children. Mary was born in 1959 and Neil John was born in 1966. In 1966 they bought the NE quarter from Mrs. McColman. They have a mixed farm, with hogs, beef cattle and grain.

Hilary Frances McDonald was born on May 29, 1934 in Chandlers Ford, England. She received all her education in that country before immigrating to Canada in 1957, coming first to Toronto then moving on west to Eckville She has worked as an R.N before and since her marriage

A small, slight person who had never lived on a farm, she soon built up her muscles helping with the farm work. Her main interests in her spare time are her singing and her church work. She was a C.G.I.T. leader in the Eckville Presbyterian Church from 1968 to 1974. She is a member of the church choir and also of a choir in Red Deer, called the Waska Sues. Born with a ... d imagination and a sense of fun, she has played, produced and helped with many humorous skits and plays

Mary Lois McDonald was born on August 15, 1959 in Eckville. She has attended Eckville School, graduating with her high school diploma in 1977 She has been active in church and community groups, including the Gilby 4-H Club, C G I T and as a Sunday School teacher As a student, she studied the piano, obtaining her Grade VI and Theory I diplomas.

Neil John McDonald was born on May 19, 1966. He is an active boy and is attending the Eckville Elementary School. He is also a 4-H member, minor hockey player, attends Sunday School and is learning to play the piano.

One story that should not go unrecorded is the story of the blizzard on January 1, 1959. A family dinner was planned at the Roy Andrew farm and everyone went. Following a sumptuous New Year's Day dinner, everyone settled down to play cards or visit. The Andrew residence is a large, well-constructed home sheltered by trees From time to time, someone would glance out a window and remark that it seemed to be blowing a bit, but no one was really interested in the weather — it was nice and warm inside.

Following a lunch early in the evening, families started gathering up their respective youngsters to depart for home. The Laurence Fergusons with four small children under seven years of age were the first ones ready to leave. The blizzard was at its height, and there were some bad drifts in the driveway. The car was stuck before they went very far, but they were confident that with a bit of help they would be fine once they got onto the road. Roy Andrew, who had a fine line of machinery under cover,

started up the tractor and pulled the car to the highway. They were then on their way, and the men returned to the house to get warm. Someone remarked in a casual way that it seemed to be drifting quite a bit

The other members of the party made ready to leave Mr. J. M. McDonald was in his wheelchair and would have to be carried out to the car. This took a little time, and some were beginning to wonder if they should start out at all. But then, the Fergusons had left, so the road must be all right. Since Mr McDonald Sr was in the car by this time, it was agreed all should leave together in case they ran into some trou ble.

Roy was just getting ready to pull the car down the driveway and Phyllis, his wife, was busy bringing blankets in case they were needed on the trip, when a figure appeared, staggering up the road. It was Laurence, who looked like he had had a brush with death. He had got only about half a mile down the road and the car was hopelessly stuck He had had to retrace his steps into the storm. Being a city slicker, he didn't have his long johns along, and almost perished in the walk back to the house.

This changed the situation drastically. Quick ly the tractor and all available men left the farm and went to the stranded vehicle. Fortunately all was well with those left in the car, and the car was towed back to the farm. Everyone then prepared to stay the night and wait for the weather to moderate. What could well have been a tragic and senseless incident in the McDonald history turned out to become the longest- and best-remembered New Year's dinner of a lifetime

**EWART McDONALD FAMILY — by Vivian McDonald**

Third child second son of John and Margaret McDonald, born July 18, 1925, in the family home in Eckville He attended school in Eckville leaving before completing his Grade 12 — the farm chores beckoned more loudly than the school bel.

His earliest recollections of Eckville were going to school with a lot of "Finnish" children, some had to learn English at school. Their fathers could speak English but the odd mother, only a few words

Winter carnivals were a big event for young people. The Finnish ethnic group dominated the skiing events. Ewart remembers the fancy toques they wore and the skiing equipment Some of the contestants couldn't speak English so the cheering and shouts of encouragement were like a touch of the Olympics'

The Finnish were community-minded people having their own drama club and athletic group, that practised in the hall adjacent to our home He remembers Mr. Jokinen as barking the commands as they were doing tumbling acts and building pyramids to the ceiling Their saunas were a popular thing on Saturday nights and their first luxury. Most of the Finnish people were successful farmers and influential people in the community

Where did he get his "kicks"? Trying to tease the local Chinaman in the restaurant, skating on the rivers, playing marbles, walking to Shorty Westphal's to gamble on his punchboard and riding his saddlehorse to Grandpa and Grandma McNeils' on the week-ends — and be important for a couple of days. In winter he enjoyed tobogganing down Forhan's hill and in summer swimming in the Horseguard and Medicine Rivers. They would go upstream in the Spring, build a raft and float it down when the ice was going out

How was he punished for getting into trouble? Barred from seeing the show that was shown in the hall every two weeks. Occasionally, in the winter, on a Saturday, he was made to go to the Medicine and bring home a sack of fish Sometimes this did not take too long, he now wonders where the fish have gone. He thinks he can remember the last Pow-Wow held in this area by the Indians (which is now part of our land) He and two other boys (Goldfinch's walked west from town on the track and watched the proceedings one afternoon and when spotted by the Indians they immediately ran all the way back to Eckville. This certainly made an impression and probably broke a speed record for their age

Later in life, (his father had bought and sold land for Hudson Bay) his father purchased a quarter and put deposits on two others His idea to get something to get his sons out of the "Metropolis"!

This 114 acres west of town (N 17 39-3-W5 became the home place, being a ten minute run from town. This is where we are now living with other adjoining land being acquired

We have been in mixed farming, 20 years selling hatching eggs, registered grain growing

Family picture taken August, 1975. Left to right: Adair Bernadette, Vivian, Gertrude and Ewart McDonald

dairying (supplied milk for Eckville for 14 years). Our next venture was the most exciting raising Maine Anjou cattle. However, we are taking it much easier now keeping a few cattle and raising grain

Recalling the changes, he is sure the oil and gas discoveries were the most impressive. Very few have mineral rights and the area hasn't been recognized as much as other areas. There are four gas plants in the area and none have been named with "Eckville" in their locations

In 1950, Ewart found time to "run-off" and get married to Gertrude Hagerman of Sylvan Lake, who had taught at Shady Lane School where he met her. Raising three children and part time Home Economics teaching for 10 years has kept Gertie s life busy

Bernadette was born in 1951. She is now married to Frank Wyzykoski and lives south of town with their three children

Adair born in 1953 is apprenticing as a plumber in Red Deer He married Susan Parker from Prince Edward Island

Vivian, 20 years old, is hoping to complete her fourth year at University of Alberta, Bachelor of Education program with Home Economics Major

**McDONELL, DOUGLAS AND MORA — by Mora McDonell**

Douglas McDonell was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta in 1898, the third son of Mr. and Mrs Walter McDonell of Okotoks, Alberta He married Mora Hopkins, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hopkins, in Brooks in July, 1924. They lived on a farm near Gem, Alberta, before moving to the Gilby district in November, 1925, along with Mora's parents

The livestock, machinery, and other possessions of the two families were loaded into four box cars and were shipped to Eckville. I (Mora), my mother and my daughter, Marie, spent some time at Didsbury, visiting Mother's sister We planned to give the men time to get to the farm with the possessions which had been shipped by rail. However, the box cars were sidetracked, for some reason, and there were other delays, with the result that they got to Eckville only one day before Mother, Marie and I arrived Only the livestock had been taken to the farm. After our arrival, Father, Doug, and I each drove a team and wagon, hauling other things to the farm. The roads were very icy, and after reaching the place where Onofryszyns now live, I became frightened at the road conditions and refused to drive my team any further The team was then tied behind the grain tank which Doug's four-horse team was pulling, and I rode on the grain tank which Doug's four horse team was pulling, and I rode on the grain tank with him. After a time we reached a steep, icy hill with a narrow bridge across a stream at the bottom. The road was so icy that the wagons would sway from side to side, and one of the wheel horses fell on the ice. The other three horses continued on down the hill the best they could, and we got across the narrow bridge (which I thought we'd never be able to do!)

Mother, Dad and Marie were on the other wagon, and they made the trip with no mishaps Such was our introduction to Eckville!

We had started out from Eckville right after dinner, and didn't get to the farm until eight o'clock at night. The first job was to set up the heating stove, by the light of a smoky coal oil lantern. I made a pot of coffee on the heating stove — the best cup of coffee I'd ever drank! I thought maybe if I could make such good coffee (with this water) in this country, it might be worthwhile coming up here — but I've never made another cup of coffee that tasted so good!

Doug, Marie and I lived on the farm at Gilby until April, 1927, when we moved to the NW 20-39-3-W5, which we had secured near Eckville. We lived on this farm for 30 years.

Doug and I had two children, both of whom received their education in the Eckville schools. Marie was born in March, 1925 at Bassano, Alberta. After being employed in Calgary for some time, she joined the Armed Forces there in 1947 and was sent to Vancouver, where she served some time in the army before returning to Calgary She met and married Marc Ferland and they moved to Montreal to live until 1957, then moved to California. Their three children were Phyllis, Fyrn (deceased) and Ray. Marie was later married to O. D. Smith, and they live in California. Phyllis lives in Texas and has two children Ray is in California, and is attending university in San Diego.

Our son Bill was born at Gilby in 1927. He is married to Hazel Wulff. They live on a farm near Eckville, and they have four children. Lawrence is married and lives at Rocky Mountain House. He has one daughter. Brian is married and lives in Calgary. Clarence and Marilyn are at home Marilyn is attending the Eckville High School and Clarence is attending the Agricultural College at Olds

In 1926 Ruth Dyrland (now Ruth Dobbs) and I started berry-picking together, and have continued this practise up to the present time — a period of more than 51 years! We have enjoyed many fishing trips together.

Weather always makes a good topic for conversation, but 1951 was the year of the BIG STORM. This occured in March. For a while, the only way one could get to town, or any other place, was to walk on top of the big drifts It was weeks before we could get out with a vehicle

This March day had been a beautiful day, and the storm came up suddenly as we were coming home from town. By suppertime snow was coming down very hard, and continued falling steadily for two or three days. We had ordered baby chicks, but the phone lines were out so we could not phone to have the order delayed. We did get to town with Curtis Bromling and phoned from

there to ask that the chickens not be sent. The horses were white with .ather by the time we got to Eckville. They broke through the snow from time to time, and floundered around, trying to get out of the drifts and keep going. The weather was not extremely cold, but there was lots of wind which piled the snow up high enough so that in p.aces one could extend his arms straight out and touch the telephone lines just east of our house. Finally snow p.ows came from the west, so we could get to town by first going west However, the holes got so bad that everybody was getting stuck. Neighbors got together, using tillers, shovels, picks and axes, and opened up the road so that we cou.d reach Eckville by going east. The men had to cut through a huge drift that was still blocking the road in April.

In 1957 Doug and I moved to the SW 21-39-3 W5, near Eckville. Doug passed away in May, 1970. I continue to live in my home on this place.

**McDONELL, BILL AND HAZEL**

I, Bill (William Douglas) McDonell, was born in January, 1927, the only son of Doug and Mora McDonell. I attended the Eckville school.

At the age of 13 years, Fred Molander (also 13 years old) and I hauled bundles at threshing time. We worked as one man, but ate like two men. In 1944 I took a brief holiday from school to help Jim Smith haul gravel for the cement work on the local hospital, then being built. This was hauled with a team and wagon, loading with a scoop shovel. Heavy work! John Maki and Curtis Bromling were also hauling gravel.

After finishing school I worked during 1946 to 1948 as a cabinet maker for Bill McIntyre. I bought the SE 30-39-3-W5 from Armstrong in 1948 and started farming, using dad's machinery. Winters were spent working in bush camps west of Rocky Mountain House.

I married Hazel Doreen Wulff of Alhambra in 1954. Hazel was employed in the Eckville Hospital. As I had no house at that time, we rented one from Cletis Bromling for $15 per month. Three months later we moved to the Forhan place, which my father and I rented. Later we lived on the John Maki farm until our house was ready. We were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Lawrence (1955) married Colleen Pellar in 1976. They have one daughter, Angelina. Clarence (1957) is attending Olds Agricultural College and farms with his dad. Brian (1959) married Debra McDonald in 1977. He has one daughter, Sandra Lynn. He is apprenticing as a painter in Calgary. Marilyn (1961) is taking her Grade 11 in Eckville in 1977-1978.

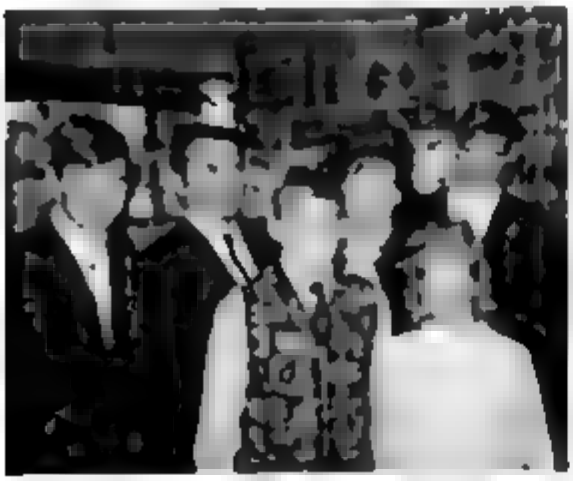
Hazel and I have been deeply involved with the 4-H Beef Club, of which I am presently Assistant Leader. Hazel joined the Country Ladies' Aid in 1956 and has been an active member since that time. She is also an active member of the Eckville Handicraft Guild.

Since buying our first quarter of land we have added three more quarters. In 1959 we purchased the NE 25-39-4-W5 from Al Greenman. In 1969 we purchased the NW 20-39-3-W5 and the SW 21-39-3-W5 from my dad. The 6M Ranch is the name we have chosen for our farm.

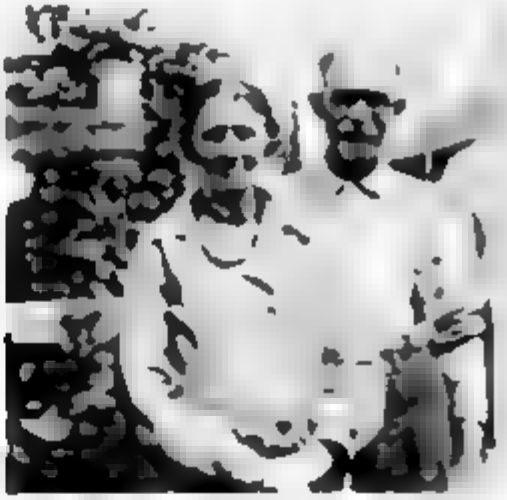
**McFAUL, JAMES**

Mr. and Mrs. James McFaul came from Michigan, U.S.A. to Red Deer, N.W.T. in 1901, with their three children Blanche the eldest, Russell and Maudie.

James worked as brick layer and carpenter. One of the houses he helped to build still stands. It is the home of Mrs. Dr. Parsons, Sr. and was formerly owned by the Goard family, Blanche's future in-laws. Blanche was working in the post office. Russell and Maudie went to school for a short time, he worked part-time for the C.P.R. as a car checker until he took a homestead west of Red Deer in 1902. Maudie worked for Bell Telephone. It was also 1902 when James and Ella McFaul moved to their homestead which was



Bill McDonell family - Lawrence, Bill, Brian, Hazel, Marilyn and Clarence



Mr. and Mrs. James McFaul, 1930

located near the Horseguard River on the NE 18-39-4W5 just west of the present town of Eckville. Maudie went on this venture with her parents Blanche stayed in Red Deer and was married at a later date. She and her husband took the SW 20-39-4W5 (separate story) to be near her parents. However, Mrs. McFaul's health began to fail; she was advised to move to a warmer climate, so a move was made to Vancouver, Maudie going along. While in Vancouver another son was born to James and Ella; they named him Howard.

In the early 1920's, Mr. and Mrs. McFaul came back to visit their son. They lived for awhile at Prairie Ranch (Russell's homestead, While here, Howard started school at Shady Lane. In the meantime, Russell and his father, James were building a home and blacksmith shop in Condor where James would live and operate the shop. They only lived there a few years, Howard had been going to Prairie Rose school, this was a long walk to the original location south of Lesliеville

Once again the urge came to move. They sold out to Guy Mills and went back to Vancouver and later to the Island where they passed away in the late 1930's. They are buried at Coombes, B.C

Their son Howard and wife Kay live at Westminster, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell McFaul, wedding

**McFAUL, RUSSELL**

Russell McFaul came to Red Deer, N W T with his parents and two sisters in 1901 from Michigan, U S.A. He went to school in Red Deer for a short time before working for the C.P R. as a car checker

In 1902, Russell took a homestead located one mile south of what is now known as Withrow He named it Prairie Ranch. He had to go to Red Deer every two weeks for the mail and groceries for himself and other homesteaders. He often spoke of having to open 17 gates each way on about 40 miles of trail.

One of the great pleasures Russell spoke of, was to have Mrs. Ell Anderson make bread for him, as she did for several other bachelors in the area. It was the best in the west, he always said.

In 1905, Macdonnell Brothers opened a store. They named it Pitcox, for many years he got his mail and supplies there. He said you could purchase anything from a horse collar and harness to a pin in this store. When the railway came through, the Macdonnell store was relocated and the post office was named Hespero

Russell worked for nearby homesteaders and for Pat Burns in British Columbia. While there, he was visiting at a ranch where he met his future wife Rosie Jones. She had come from Doncaster, England, to work for friends of her Welsh parents. They thought the climate would be beneficial to her health, as she had suffered with asthma since childhood. It was love at first sight and several months later they were married in Milner, British Columbia and left shortly after for "Prairie Ranch". This proved to be quite a change for Rosie, as she was used to having nearby ranchers' wives and children for company. Neighbors were few near "Prairie Ranch". However, she loved to ride horses and was able to get around. She made friends easily, their home, not much to look at outside, was very cozy inside and was the gathering place for the bachelors

Rosie loved to cook and her specialty was cream pie, enjoyed by many, including her family

When Fred and Keitha Bott settled on the quarter west, Rosie was delighted, as she had someone to have a cup of tea with, and often spoke of the fresh bread and home made butter they had with their tea.

Rosie was the first president of the W.I. in Condor, which was organized April 21, 1921. She wrote a paper on Canadianization and National events. This had high praise from other institutes in Alberta and in Eastern Canada. Three children were born to Russell and Rosie while living on the homestead, Hazel, Gwen and Ronald

Hazel and Gwen went to school at Shady Lane. Walking was the only way to get there, rain or shine. There wasn't even a horse to ride

The McFauls had a lot of hard luck while living on the homestead, crop failures and always losing a good milk cow or other animals. Russell finally had enough of working hard and in the end having nothing to show for his efforts. Fred and Keitha Bott bought the place, it is now the

home of their youngest son Max. We understand they still call the place "Prairie Ranch".

The McFaul family moved to their Hudson Bay quarter which joined the Jack Albert place on the east. The girls went to school at Prairie Rose, which had been relocated in Condor from a former sight south of Leslieville.

Bad luck seemed to follow the family. Russell decided he would go to Red Deer and find work. There was a considerable amount of building going on, and he got a job as a carpenter. He continued in this line of work until he retired.

In 1928, the McFauls had a sale in Hespero for odds and ends that were sold on the farm. Most of the cattle was bought by a new comer to the district. This did not seem to be a problem, now, to move the personal belongings to Red Deer where Russell had the good luck of buying a four bedroom house for $250. This house was put up for sale by the city of Red Deer for taxes. The tables seemed to turn from that point. The girls started to school, Russell's work was plentiful, Rosie was a police matron for the city, handling female cases. She held this position until her death in 1951. Many of the prisoners in the early days were cared for in her own home. They came from all walks of life, colour and creed. She cared for many abandoned children, some of which she found homes for in the district.

Several prisoners wrote to her while serving their sentences, some even visited her after their release. A few had changed their ways and had become useful citizens. Rosie used to recall how sad it made her when she had to accompany mental patients to institutions. Some of these girls and women she had known all their lives. She was always accompanied by a male police officer on these trips, either by train or car. The McFaul home was always open to those who needed a bed or a meal.

After Rosie's death, Russell's eldest sister Blanche kept house for him for two years. When Russell decided to retire, he sold his home in Red Deer and bought a home at Parksville, Vancouver Island. Once again Blanche kept house for him until his death in 1974. He was a life member of the Red Deer Old Timers Association. Both Rosie and Russell are buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

The eldest daughter, Hazel May, married Matt Kalaputas, formerly of the Benalto district. They have two children — John Richard living in Red Deer and Sheila Dawn married to Harvey Wylie formerly of the Benalto district. They have two girls, Becky Dawn and Stacy Lynn.

Gwen (Olive Gwendolyn) served in the C.W.A.C. during the second world war as a sergeant, stationed in England. After the war she married Dale Brimbe. They have one daughter, Beverley, R.N. Gwen passed away in Wenatchee, Washington, 1976, after a lengthy illness. She is buried in the veterans' section in Nelson Memorial Park, Nelson, B.C. where Dale and she had lived for many years.

Ronald Mervin served in the Navy during World War II. He married Phylis Just, they have three girls. Merle married Gordon Gauthier of Calgary; Gloria married Lawrence Murphy of Diamond Valley; Chyrl at home in Edmonton.

**THE BLAKELY McNEIL FAMILY — by Dora Carlyle**

W. J. Blakely McNeil was born May 29, 1879 at Bristol Mines, Quebec. He was one of 16 children. He came west in 1897 and worked in mines in British Columbia and the Yukon. He was also employed for some time on the railroad being put in from Skagway, Alaska to Whitehorse, Yukon.

In 1909, after working on the Cochrane Ranch in southern Alberta, he headed out to find a homestead, which he did, in the Esther, Alberta area. He built and lived in a small sod shack. Blake, being the first settler there, remembers sighting a wagon appearing across the prairies. He ran a mile to wave them in so he could have someone to talk to. He obtained some horses and then continued raising horses. He broke and sold some of these horses, as well as using them to break his land.

Blake built a house and in 1917 married Mrs. Christina Micheal Gagne. Christina was born November 14, 1885 at Bancroft, Ontario. She came from Kindersley, Saskatchewan to Loverna, Saskatchewan after the death of her first husband and daughter. She arrived in Loverna in 1915 and worked in the general store. There were five children born to Blake and Christina. One daughter died at birth and one son, Franklin, died of diphtheria in 1925 at the age of three years. They raised a son Alfred (Bud), and two daughters, Dora and Ferna.

Mr. McNeil was an Alberta Wheat Pool member and had the privilege of hauling the first grain to the elevator in Esther, Alberta. He was also a school trustee for many years. Grain returns were very good, and with the sale of horses, he prospered until the drought hit the prairies.

In 1932 Blake and his brother-in-law, Charlie Lewis, a blacksmith, at Loverna, Saskatche-

Blakely McNeil House

wan, went in search of land. They located a quarter, NW 19-39-3-W5, of timbered land west of Eckville. In the spring of 1933 soon after the crop was seeded, a caravan of eight wagons loaded with lumber (from granaries which they tore down), household goods, tools, spare wagon and harness parts, as well as supplies were loaded. They headed for the new home. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, their two small daughters, Hazel and Elda, an elder daughter, Ann and friend. Wilma English acted as cooks. They also did the laundry for all the men. Henry Benecke, who had arrived from Germany in 1927 and made his home with the McNeils, was in charge of the caravan. Many hardships were endured as roads were terrible and in places 10 horses had to be used to pu.. each of the eight wagons through wet, boggy stretches. Many repairs to wagons and harnesses had to be made. Extra horses were taken along, as well as a cow for milk. When they finally arrived at the selected quarter, a building site was cleared, and corrals built for the animals. A house was built by rebuilding the granaries, back to back, and building them higher for bedrooms upstairs. There were sheds built of poles with straw roofs to accommodate the animals that were to come later by rail. A well also was dug.

Mr. McNeil took his crop off at Esther. Henry had returned to accompany the remaining loads to Eckville. There were eight boxcars loaded with machinery, Mr. Lewis' equipment, the remaining household goods, cattle, pigs, chickens, and horses. Henry had to feed and water the animals on the train trip.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil, their three children and niece, Myrel Lewis, left the farm in an old Ford car complete with canvas snap-on curtains and mica type windows. They carried their own food and spare parts for the car. Bundled up in their blankets, they finally arrived in Eckville on October 31, 1933. Henry had arrived with the train loads. Everything had been transferred to the farm, including the McNeil children's Pinto pony, which they were de..ghted to see again.

Life started anew for everyone. The Lewis family and Joe Brando, who had driven a wagon on the caravan, lived in one-half of the house and the McNeils and Henry lived in the other half. Money was very scarce, of course. Joe and Henry had hauled bundles around Eckville that fall and had taken vegetables of all kinds, hay, straw and grain as the largest part of their wages. This, along with money received from the sale of wood which was cut, sawed and hauled to Eckville, sustained the two families.

It was still a happy time, evenings were spent with group singing, which Henry accompanied on his accordion. People dropped in for card games and house parties for the young and old alike. The McNeil children and Hazel Lewis went three and a ha.f miles to school in Eckville. Ann and Myre. Lewis acquired work in Eckville. Iva, the eldest Lewis girl, had remained in Lovers.a to work in the post office. She visited in Eckville the following year for Christmas, and came to stay in July, 1935.

That winter Mr. McNeil heard of a farm for sale in the Evergreen district. This was the NW . 37-4-W4, owned by Mr. Ropus. It had a house and buildings and some land broken. There was a.so another quarter of land that could be used for hay and pasture. Blake had a lot of horses and a herd of cattle. This land was purchased with help from Phil Laybourne. Mr. McNei Henry and Joe put the crop in that spring. The machinery and the animals except six milk cows were moved. This was an 18-mile trip. As soon as school was out Mrs. McNeil, the children, the remaining household items and the milk cows were moved. That fall the three children started to Gaetz school with Miss Dorothy Collier as teacher. They rode three and a half miles on horseback to school.

The Lewis family remained at Eckville.

Blake cleared more land in the spring and summer, along with his farming, and worked in the lumber mills in the winter. Bud joined in farming as soon as he finished his schooling. By this time Henry and Joe had acquired land of their own. Henry still lived with the McNeils while he built a house on his own land. He married Annie Lipka and they moved into their own house.

Mrs. McNeil and the girls did chores in the winter. Many cows, sometimes as many as 14, were milked by hand and the cream was sold for 99 cents to $1.25 for a five-gallon can. This, along with selling eggs and turkeys, supplied the family with all the necessary things. One summer the house was struck by lightning and set on fire, but it was soon put out by a bucket brigade. The farm was finally cleared and paid for, but by this time Blake's health had started to fail.

Dora married Jim Carlyle in December, 1942 and Bud married Laurine Vanhorne in November, 1944. Ferna married Ed Palkot in November, 1947.

Bud and Laurine took over the farm in 1946 and Mr. and Mrs. McNeil took employment as cook and caretaker at lumber mills in the Rocky Mountain House-Horburg area. They purchased a quarter of land in the Evergreen district in 1949 and built a home there. They also worked as cook and caretaker on the David Thompson Highway when it was first started. They then retired to their new home. Bud farmed their land until he sold out and went as a heavy duty mechanic with the army in Whitehorse, Yukon. Their son-in-law, Ed, farmed it for several years after that. They sold this place in 1955 and moved to a smaller house in Ferna's yard at Innisfail. Ed and Ferna had sold their farm at Stauffer and bought another farm west of Innisfail. The McNeils made several trips to Whitehorse to visit their families there. Jim and Dora had moved to Whitehorse in 1953, where Jim worked as a heavy duty mechanic and later in the army

warehouse stores. Mr and Mrs. McNeil enjoyed these trips and visited Alaska many times, as well as seeing Dawson City and Atlin, British Columbia, two of the early gold rush cities.

Mrs. McNeil passed away July 26, 1961, after an illness covering a long period of time. From then on Blake made his home among his three children. While in Whitehorse he had the pleasure of a trip from there to Skagway and back on the narrow gauge railway. This is the railroad he had worked on when it was first started. He was active in the Whitehorse dart league and had trophies as the oldest player, most sportsmanlike team and best team in the league, one year. His hobby was building replicas of all the first buildings in Whitehorse. He made these of willow, which he peeled and cut to size. He shingled some with vegetable crates, which the storekeepers saved for him, and others with tin. They were made identical to the originals, including all stairs, windows and doors. His daughter Dora has them now and they are to go to Larry, his eldest grandson.

Mr. McNeil entered the Senior Citizens Home at Sylvan Lake in 1965 and had remained there except for trips to visit his families in the north. He passed away on February 8, 1970.

Bud and Laurine now live in Surrey, B.C. They have three children — Diana, Kenny and Dale. Diana is married to Ron Gaucher and they have a son, Blaise.

Dora and Jim reside at Markerville, Alberta. Their son Larry works as a geologist at Keno Hill Mines at Elsa, Yukon. He is married and has two children, Cathrina and Darren. Their daughter, Lavina, is married to Fred Johannson and they farm at Markerville. They have two children, Heath and Bette Ann. Jim now works for the Alberta Forestry.

Ed and Ferna farm at Innisfail. Their daughter Linda is married to Ray Smith and has two children, Kelly and Carmen. They live and work on the home farm. Their other daughter, Marilyn, is married to Bill Howard and they farm at Wimbourne.

**PETER AND MARION McNEIL**

Peter McNeil was born in Ontario. His wife, Marion, was born in Scotland but immigrated with her parents to Ontario as a child.

In 1898 the adventuresome Peter went, like thousands of others, to Alaska to join the luring Gold Rush. But love overwhelmed the lust for gold and he returned to Ontario after a two-year absence to sail the sea of matrimony. The hardships of the North did not daunt the spirits of Peter, and he and Marion ventured West in 1907 to the Gadsby District. Three years later Mr. McNeil filed on a homestead near Coronation, farming there until 1937. At this time, Eckville, somehow, seemed to beckon to them, and they moved here, taking up residence on the east edge of town. In 1946 Peter passed away at the age of seventy. Marion resided at Eckville until 1960, when she moved to British Columbia. She passed away in 1966 at the age of eighty-three.

Mr. and Mrs. McNeil had four children. Olvah, born in 1906 in Ontario, Addie, born at Gadsby in 1908, Clifford, born at Coronation in 1912 and Peter Gordon, also born at Coronation, in 1914.

Olvah Thompson, formerly Mrs. Robert Kennedy, resided in Eckville from 1936 until 1953. She was a telephone operator at Rockyford, then moved to Prince George, B.C. and is now retired at Kelowna with her husband, Charles. Olvah had two sons by her former marriage. Robert lives in Montreal and Barry resides in Prince George.

Addie married Mel Cummings, a bank manager. Their two daughters live in B.C. and Addie and Mel also retired in Kelowna.

Peter and Marion McNeil with Olvah, Addie, Clifford and Gordon

Clifford, who came to live in Eckville in 1937, married Elsie Johnson. They moved to West bridge, B C. in 1950, where their five children were born. Clifford passed away in 1973. Elsie and the family reside at Midway, B C.

Gordon came to Eckville in 1936. From 1940 to 1945 he served his country in World War II, travelling extensively throughout Europe and the British Isles.

Upon returning from overseas he married Empi Maki, of Hespero. They have one daughter who is now Mrs. Bryan Foord. She and her husband reside at Penhold. Gordon is still the post master at the Eckville Post Office, having assumed that position in 1950.

**"THE MERRIMAN" — by J. B. Merriman**

To the best of my knowledge the name Merriman originated from "Moorman" who were supposed to have been nomads who used to roam the moors of Orkney, Scotland

Magness Merriman, my great-grandfather was recruited into the service of the Hudson's Bay Co. in the 1800's as a fur trader in the North West as it was called in those days. He spent most of his time in the Hudson Bay area based out of Fort Garry which is now Winnipeg. He served out his time and went back to Orkney where he married and raised a family

My grandfather, James Merriman was his oldest son. My grandfather never left Orkney or ever was in Canada.

My father, James Merriman his oldest son, was born in 1868 and sat at his grandfather's knee listening to stories of the North West

Dad, at the age of 13, went to the ship building yards at Grenoch, Scotland to learn his trade as a ship's carpenter

The stories of the North West he had heard from his grandfather must have kept calling him because at the age of 17, he in company with one of his uncles immigrated to Canada in 1905 to High River, Alberta where he had two uncles who had been in Canada since around 1890.

There being no ships to build on the prairies dad turned to bridge building Tiring of that he went to Vancouver and signed on a ship and worked his way to Australia. He stopped here and there but worked his way to New Zealand and many other Islands in the Pacific

In due course he returned to Canada and decided he would take a trip back to Orkney for the winter and during this visit he met the girl who would one day be my mother, Jean Harry

Dad came back to Canada and the girl who was to be my mother together with her sister immigrated to Spokane, Washington where she had an uncle and took her nurse's training at St Luke's hospital in Spokane.

Dad worked here and there at the carpenter trade. When the town of Nordegg was being built he worked there until he enlisted in the 10 Field Engineers in Calgary in 1915. He was decorated for bravery later in the war, receiving the M M

In 1919 after the war dad came back to High River to his uncle's and stayed for sometime

He then decided to make a trip to Nordegg to look for work. On the way he decided to stop in Eckville to see a piece of land he had seen from the train going to Nordegg years before He put up at the hotel and enquired as to who owned this piece of land with a log house and a log barn just east of Eckville. He found that a section man by the name of Kelly owned it and I guess a deal was made that night because it is our home today — NE 15-39-3-W5

Dad went to Nordegg and worked the winter In April of 1920 he went to Spokane and married my mother and they moved on to our farm

In March of 1921 I came along. Three years later in May, 1924 my sister Isabel Margaret was born

Mr. and Mrs. James Merriman, Jim and Isabel

Things were pretty tough for dad and mom those days. They were dealt a very hard blow by the big hail storm in 1924 which left them nothing. However, they held on by milking cows and feeding a few pigs and chickens

Dad was quite active in the community serving on the school board, he had a hand in building the new school in 1920 and I believe in moving the school from north of town on the Medicine River into Eckville, which was done with horses.

Threshing was done with the steam engines those days and quite a bit of stack threshing was done

We never owned a car but got around with horse power; even going to Evarts to the Burn's festivities in the sleigh with lots of straw and hot bricks to keep us kids warm.

In October, 1928 a great catastrophe hit our

family, dad and mom were just getting on their feet when dad, working on a threshing rig pitching bundles got a barley beard in his abdomen under his belt. The blood poisoning which followed took his life in three or four days, at the age of 40 years

Mom sold all the stock and machinery and went to Orkney where she thought she could live but found she could not, so we came back to the farm in 1929. The farm had been rented to Henry Mitzner, a very fine man who mom married in 1932. Henry Mitzner was a big farmer for those days; farming six quarter sections mostly with horses, but he had a tractor and a threshing machine also. Unfortunately, he was not destined to live very long and died in December, 1934 at the age of 43.

Again mom sold the machinery and most of the horses and cattle. Mom, Isabel and I carried on raising pigs and cattle

As soon as I got out of school I started farming and did so until I joined the R.C.A.F in the 2nd World War I was an air gunner and flew with 192 Squadron of the Royal Air Force which was a special duty squadron. Following my release from the R.C A F in 1945, I returned to farming and am still at it

In 1943 my sister Isabel started training to be a nurse at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, graduating in 1947 Following graduation she took post graduate training specializing in operating room nursing in Toronto. She returned to Edmonton and worked in the operating room until she married Dr. Vernon Krause in August, 1950. Vera had a practise in Mayerthorpe for some years, then specialized in pathology and is today one of the top men in his field. They now live in Dartmouth, N.S. where Isabel still has a few horses which she always liked. Isabel and Vera have a family of two boys and two girls

Jim Sr., Mary, Marlene, Loree, Jimmy Jr

On August 12, 1960 I married Marlene Guenther

August 30, 1960 our mother passed away

In due course Marlene and I were blessed with three healthy children, Loree Marlene, James William and Mary Jean. We enjoy the outdoors, and the girls especially like their horses. I think this has been the best part of my life

Mr and Mrs. Merriman Sr. and Henry Mitzner are buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**MEYERS, MATTHEW AND LILLIE — by Lillie Meyers**

**"RESUME"**

Matthew and Lillie Meyers first came to Eckville with the John Meyers family in May 1925. Because of eczema they returned to Medicine Hat to Dr Smythe. When we returned later in 1925 Mrs. Anna Dahl and Rudolph Dahl, Lillie's mother and brother also came to Eckville. Mrs. Anna Dahl was the janitor of the school at Eckville for 17 and one half years and also did laundry In 1939 she married Oscar Mottus, of the Wolfe School district. They resided in Eckville until her passing in July 1965. In 1927 the Matthew Meyers' returned to Manyberries and farmed there for eight years. In October, 1935 the Conrad Meyers' and Matthew Meyers' families came to Withrow

Slim and Lil acquired a house on a farmstead of Bill Dirsten's, northwest of Withrow and lived there, along with the Conrad Meyers family. The children of these families had to walk three and one half miles to Blueberry Valley School which was a hard way to get an education. The next year they had to walk the same distance to Wolfe School where two of the teachers remembered are Miss Munroe and Miss Blanche Arndt. They were always tired when they got home from school — one had to feel sorry for the little tykes Our entertainment was the annual Christmas concert and the dance afterwards. The kids got a candy bag at the concert of Christmas candy, orange and peanuts. Slim and Rudolph or Art often, or mostly, supplied the music for the dance by playing the violin and guitar

At Withrow the post office was operated by Lil Meyers for 12 and one half years and had 50 customers who came and picked up their mail. The going salary was $8.96 per month and for the mail carrying which meant going and picking up the mail from the train, they received $13.96.

Jack Scofield got Slim to go buying grain at Ahambra. Wally Meyers took over the oil business at Withrow and in 1948 he took over the post office when he married Vera Blomgren of Donalda, who was working at the Lumber yard at Rocky Mountain House and Vera became postmistress for a few years.

Rationing books during the war had to be picked up at Eckville and were given out at the store when the supplies were purchased

Matthew (Slim) Meyers and wife Lillian on their 50th wedding anniversary; Vera, Mrs. Wallace Meyers is at left and grandson Stanley Krowiec at right. - Jan 19, 1974

However we could buy only so much, and when the coupons were gone for that month we went without. We often traded coupons amongst ourselves to get the things we needed. The store was not supposed to take loose coupons so we took each other's books in order that we could a.. manage as some needed some things more than others. For example, we did not need butter coupons and traded them for sugar coupons

Our only medical care was with Dr Coppock of Eckville

Most weddings were very simple, however when Faye and Walter were married they had a reception in a cafe in Red Deer in 1941. Most of our clothes were made from boughten materials However back in the early thirties we made most of our clothes and underwear from flour sacks

In 1936 bread cost 10 cents a loaf Lil often read tea cups to tell the future often for a good laugh

Matthew Meyers died in January 1974 and was laid to rest in the Eckville Cemetery Lillie Meyers lives in Red Deer Their son Wallace and Vera reside in Torrington and have four children, Sharon, Shirley, Janet and Arvin

Their daughter Dorothy (Mrs E. Glenn Good) resides at Red Deer and have three children, Trudy, Brian and Stanley

Their daughter Marlene was born some 24 years after her sister Dorothy in November, 1950, delivered by Dr Coppock in Eckville hospital. Marlene married Stanley Krawiec Jr and they have one son Stanley Krawiec the 3rd.

**MITZNER, AUGUST AND JULIA**

August Mitzner was born at Pasen, Germany, and left for the United States at the age of 11 In 1880, in Minnesota, he married Julia Zeigo

Following the stream of people seeking land, he came to Alberta in 1904. In 1905, he brought the rest of the family to Alberta with the exception of Clara, Mrs. C. Bromling She and her husband and four children came in 1913

They took up a homestead north of Sylvan Lake, the SE 6-40-2-W5. They later bought and improved the farm north of Eckville This remained their home until their passing

They owned and operated a hotel and livery barn in Eckville, for a while, then moved back to the farm

Their home was a stopping place for immigrants as they were travelling through or looking for homesteads

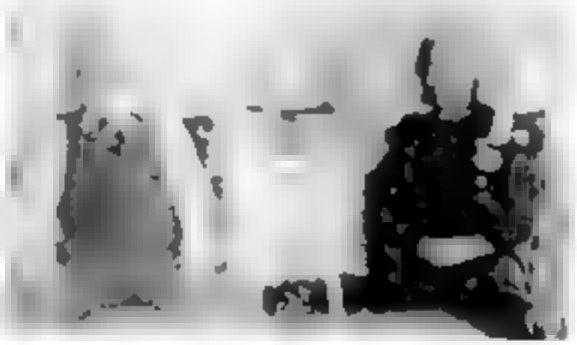
When the railroad was being built, the construction crews, with their mule teams sometimes as many as 40, made this their headquarters. Cooking for this gang of men and caring for the animals was a big undertaking

They had their share of hardships and grief, as did all the early settlers who helped build this wonderful country to make it what it is now

August took an active interest in community affairs. He served on the old Local Improvement council, on school boards and was a charter member of the local Co-op Store.

The family scattered, some going back to the United States. Charlie served in the Canadian armed forces and Frank in the U.S. armed forces

On December 21, 1940, Mr. and Mrs Mitzner celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary



August and Julia Mitzner Diamond Wedding

August passed away March 21, 1943 at 89 years of age. Julia died on May 29, 1955 in her 90's. Both are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Edward Mitzner lived in Billings, Montana. with his wife and one son, Lloyd. He returned to the family farm in Eckville. His wife passed away and his son and family remained in Billings. He passed away in 1971

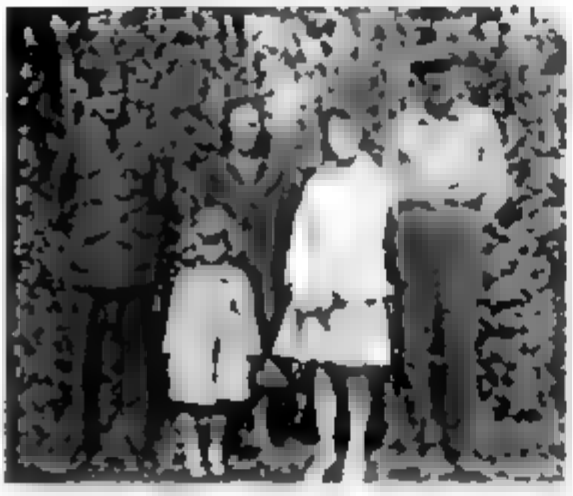
Hattie, Mrs. Stevens, lived in Billings, Montana. She had one son, Gordon

Emma, Mrs. Brown, is still making her home in Billings, Montana, operating a Ladies' Wear shop. She had no children.

Frank Mitzner died in a sanatorium in Walla Walla, Washington.

Charlie Mitzner had no children.

Henry passed away in 1934



Mixmer family - Donald, Bert, Lillian, Louis and Beth in front

Louis married Burt Brown. They make their home at Fort St John, B.C. They had three children, Donald died at an early age, leaving his wife and eight children. He is buried at Vig Lutheran cemetery Bentley

Beth, now Mrs. Bruder and Lillian, Mrs Pete Neal, both live at Prince George.

Clara Bromling's history appears elsewhere in the book.

**THE ART MOENCH FAMILY — by A. M. Moench**

Art Moench and his wife, Martha, came to Eckville in August, 1956 from Calgary We had a son, Douglas, age seven, born in Medicine Hat, Alberta and a daughter, Carol, age one, born in Calgary, Alberta In 1964 we were blessed with another daughter, Shawna, born in Eckville

Upon my arrival from Calgary I became the Department Manager for the Eckville Co-Op Hardware in the old building where the new Co-Op Hardware is now in operation

In March, 1958 the Co-op Grocery and Dry Goods Store on the corner of Railway Street was ruined by fire. By August, 1958 the store was rebuilt on a larger scale, with the hardware department in the basement of the new store While I worked in the basement my wife was also employed in the same department. She also managed the toy department during the Christmas season, first in the old hardware then later in the old Revelstoke Store, which was then owned by the Co-op. (This store was later sold to Art Langer and he in turn sold it to Carritt and Sons, who own and operate it at the present time.)

While employed at the Co-op we worked under W G. McAndrew, General Manager at the time until May of 1964. In June, 1964, we bought out the former Joe Marshall Hardware located next to the Legion Hall. We operated in that store until May, 1974, when we purchased the Chester F Kasha building and moved our stock from the other store to our new location.

Due to health reasons, I was forced to semi retirement and at present we still own the store and with the help of our family, we are still operating it

The years we've spent in Eckville have been very challenging and rewarding. We have met many people and made many friends. We are proud to say that Eckville is truly a wonderful place to live with the most beautiful area surrounding it The changes from 1956 to 1977 have been terrific, and many more are in sight, as you can see. The town is still growing, business wise as well as in the residential section.

Our children have attended school in Eckville, moved on after graduation and then returned to Eckville again a few years later.

Our son Douglas is married to Louise Mottus and they have two daughters — Kandice and Krystal. Douglas is an electrician, has his own business and also helps us with the hardware.

Our daughter Carol married Dennis Murray Carol is a C.N.A. and works at the Eckville Hospital and helps out in the hardware. Her husband, Dennis, is employed by us in the hardware

Our youngest daughter, Shawna, is attending Eckville Junior High. She will likely go on to other areas after graduation but will probably land back in Eckville to help with the family business

The 21 years in Eckville have passed so fast that I don't actually feel as an old timer, but maybe the next book will be written by our children, so they can carry on from where we left off

For now I'll sit back and visit with the many customers and friends that we've made over the years. We've always been too busy to do this before. So I hope to see you all in the future. It's been a pleasure meeting you and serving you all.

**HENRY MOLANDER FAMILY — by Vera Molander**

Henry Molander and Anna Charlotta Erickson were united in marriage in Revelstoke, B.C. in 1906. Henry worked there in the sawmills. In the spring of 1907 they came east across the mountains to Alberta to settle in Red Deer at the Conquist House. While there Henry worked in the brickyards, and Anna sold milk to the neighbors to earn a little money Alfred, their first son, was born in 1907

In 1908 Henry and Anna moved to a farm, the SW 36-39-4-W5. Their nearest neighbors were Ed Medin, John Randall, the McLeans, the Mattilas and the Tomingas family. In 1911 Albert was born, then in 1913 Harold was born, followed by Lennia in 1916 and Elsie in 1918

In the spring of 1918 Henry and Anna moved to the Billy Mannis farm, which now belongs to George Duncan, Sr. They lived there one year

before moving to Forhan's farm, where they stayed for five years.

Helen was born in 1921, weighing only two pounds and four ounces at birth. That same year the school first opened and Alfred started to school. He walked to school in the spring and summer, and in the wintertime he drove a horse with a stoneboat behind. The first Eckville school was moved across the river and made into a church. Alfred went to school only one year. The two-room school, built in Eckville in 1921, is now a blacksmith shop on Railroad Avenue.

When living in Red Deer they had bought a cow in the spring so they would have their own milk. The cow gave more milk than needed for the family so they sold milk to neighbors and others in the town. When living southwest of Eckville, Henry and Anna milked up to 20 cows a day by hand and sold the milk in Eckville. Lots of folks were too poor to pay for the milk, but pay or not, they still got their milk. Henry and Anna sold milk right up until the late 40's just before leaving the farm to retire in Eckville in 1952. They lived in a house just north of the hospital in Eckville. Anna died in August of 1955 and Henry in 1962. These people were very kind-hearted and would give you the shirt off their back if you needed it.

When living on Forhan's farm, the boys went out picking saskatoons. There were so many and so big (the size of grapes) that they filled every container they could find. Anna didn't know what to do with them all as she didn't have enough jars for them and had no way to freeze them.

When Albert and Alfred went to school they hauled the milk on the stoneboat and delivered it in town before nine o'clock. The teacher they had would look out the window and see them, then set the clock ahead and start class, so they'd be late!

Miss Kinna was Alfred's first teacher. Other teacher's names were: Mr. Ludwig, Miss Moller, Miss Thompson (married Harry Low), Miss Hope and Miss Benidictson. They can remember in the winter all huddling around the stove and walking around the room, trying to keep warm. The ink was frozen in the ink wells and it was noon before everything thawed.

Some of the doctors well remembered in Eckville were Dr. Evans, Dr. Backus, Dr. Somerville, Dr. Schreiber and Dr. Claxton. Later came Dr. Palmer, Dr. Coppock and Dr. Gibson. Home remedies for colds were goose grease and flannel cloths, warmed up on the cook stove. A wee drop of coal oil and sugar helped sore throats. For diarrhea a tiny drop of the very powerful "Hoffman Drops" helped. A mixture of sulphur and molasses worked as a spring tonic. Sweet oil was often used for earaches and cloves for toothaches. Brown paper soaked in vinegar with pepper sprinkled on it worked before a doctor pulled a tooth.

When Elsie was very small she had pneumonia. Dr. Claxton was afraid that she would not live, but with goose grease, mustard plasters, turpentine and steam, he managed to save her, although she has always had weak lungs.

In the 30's, when it was so dry, the price of machinery, livestock and grain was very low. The highest price remembered for machinery was $1,445 for a tractor and $200. for a plow! One thing they remembered about the price of cattle was their bull, weighing 1900 pounds and selling for $19. Pigs were three dollars each. Barley went as low as eight cents a bushel and wheat 20¢ a bushel. People would sell their animals and many times they were billed for the freight. Oxen were used for farming before horses became commonly used. They had buggies and democrats pulled by the horses. In 1923 Henry and Anna bought their first car, a 1918 Model T Ford.

From 1924 to 1930 Henry worked on the railroad, travelling throughout the province. In January of 1927 Fred, the youngest, was born. Alfred went out in the bitter cold to get the midwife for his mother.

The roads were only cow trails. There were no fences, and people travelled on the high parts of the land. Roads were built later, often by men who worked on them as a way to pay their taxes. This was much easier than paying cash, when money was hard to get. When it rained the trails were so bad they couldn't get through with the Model T. No one went anywhere without baywire, the most-used article to keep your car together and running. A rope was also carried so a horse could pull you out when you got stuck — that is, if the horse didn't shy away from the noise of the car!

In 1911 the Canadian National Railroad was built to Nordegg from Red Deer. Then in 1911 the Canadian Pacific Railway was built as far as Rocky Mountain House. Farmers went to help build the railroads after the crops were seeded. Picks, horses, shovels and slips were used. Hay was hauled to Withrow to be sold to the C.P.R. to feed the horses.

One day when Alfred was out cutting hay on Kingsep an airplane came over very low. His horse just crumbled to the ground with fright! The plane had come about two feet above the shed he was behind! The noise of the plane was enough to put a scare into anyone! Planes would land on level ground near the school on Lenny Kingsep's land. School children would rush to look at them, as they were something quite new to them at this time.

Anna had a horse (Dolly) and a buggy of her own to use for going to town. The horse had to be led to get it going, then she would jump in and the horse wouldn't stop until it reached Eckville. One day Alfred put the harness on Dolly for his mother to go to town. Anna and the baby got in, Alfred put in a crate of eggs, and got the horse going. Just as he let go, he remembered he had forgotten to put the bridle on the horse. There was no stopping or slowing Dolly without it!

Anna took Harold, the baby, by the collar and dropped him off the buggy, just missing a big tree. Then she herself jumped out. After running back to get the baby, who was fine, she realized that she had lost a $20. cheque in all the excitement. She walked back and forth over the track until she finally found it.

**MOLANDER, ALFRED AND BERTHA — by Vera Molander**

Alfred Molander and Bertha Molander were united in marriage on December 21, 1932. Alfred took his bride to his home on the SW 16-39-3-W5, where they are still living at the present time.

Vernon was born in 1934. He farms with his dad.

Melvin was born May 30, 1938. He married Faye Olson in 1960. They have two children, Cheryl and Corey. Melvin is now driving truck in Calgary.

May was born March 2, 1942. She married Albert Cook in 1961. They have two children, Lorna and Alvin. They are living at Grimshaw, Alberta, on a farm.

**MOLANDER, HAROLD AND VERA — by Vera Molander**

Harold Molander and Vera Thyssen were married on December 22, 1944 at the Dyrland home. They had 10 children, six boys and four girls. Their first baby, a boy, was stillborn. Then in December, 1966 their second youngest boy, Richard, died at the age of five years of a brain tumor. They now have four boys and four girls: Barbara, Teresa, Edward, Eric, Dale, Betty, Charlotte and Neal.

Barbara was born April 2, 1947. She has been working with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce since 1968, having worked in Eckville, Grande Cache, Yellowknife and Grande Prairie, and is now working in Edmonton.

Teresa was born February 14, 1949, and is married to Wayne Hewett, a gas plant operator now working in Mulhurst, Alberta. Teresa is a psychiatric nurse and is working in Red Deer.

Edward, who was born on March 17, 1950, works as a second foreman at Fleetwood in Red Deer. He married Lois Golem, and they have a son, Daryl.

Eric, the second oldest boy, was born on May 6, 1954. He is presently at home, helping on the farm. He helps his uncle put in his crops and helps put up the hay for his father.

Dale, born April 29, 1955, is in Vernon, B.C., working with a construction company.

Betty, born December 14, 1956, was married to Kevin Lario, of Red Deer, on October 8, 1977. They are living at Fort McMurray, where Kevin works in the insulation and aluminum siding business.

Charlotte Ellen, born April 18, 1958, is married to Lyle Rennie. They live in Red Deer, where Lyle is employed as a welder at Sorenson Distributors. They have one son, Alan.

Neal, the youngest child, was born March 19, 1964. He goes to the Eckville Junior High School and is active in Boy Scouts. He is in Grade 8 in 1977, and hopes to go through Grade 12.

Barbara, Teresa, Edward and Betty all have their high school diplomas.

Harold Molander has been working for the town of Eckville since June 20, 1964.

**THE FRED MOLANDER FAMILY — by Frances Molander**

Fred is the youngest son of the late Henry and Anna Molander. He was born January 2, 1927, on the home place — S.E. 17-39-3-W5. On October 30, 1948 he was united in marriage to Frances Taylor, daughter of "Curley" and Louise Taylor of the Stauffer district. From this union there are four daughters — Harriet, born July 18, 1949, Coral, born December 29, 1954, Penny, born July 3, 1956, and Rhonda, born July 6, 1958. Their children, in turn, have given them four grandchildren. Michelle and Clinton are daughter and son of Harriet and Maurice Clark of Eckville. Colin is the son of Coral and Wes Lewis of Red Deer, and Tasha is the daughter of Penny and Raymond Miller of Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Molander, Rhonda, Penny, Harriet, Coral

Fred is well known in the area as a "darn good" mechanic. He has been at this type of work since he was 16 years old. Also, in his younger years he helped his brother Albert in the trucking business. Grain augers were not too plentiful in those days, so scoop shovels were used for loading grain.

In 1949 Henry turned the farm over to his son Fred, who moved to the farm in 1952 and has resided there ever since. He has his own shop on the farm, and still does mechanical work on every type of machinery

Fred and Frances are also known in the community as Jehovah's Witnesses. Perhaps you have had a visit from them in the Bible Educational work. Apart from what has been said here, Fred and his family lead a calm and quiet life.

**UNCLE JOHN MOLANDER (1881-1974) — by Vera Molander**

Uncle John was born in Sweden, and grew up there. When he was in his early 20's he sailed for Canada, arriving in Kenora, Ontario in the spring of 1903. It took his ship 30 days to cross the Atlantic, due to stormy weather

He found a job digging trenches by hand After staying in Kenora for a few years he took the train west to British Columbia, to work as a scaler in the logging camps. He was also a foreman in a lumber camp in Washington, U S A. for a period of time.

When Uncle John retired from the woods in 1939, he bought a farm near Forshee, southeast of Rimbey He never built a house or barn on the land, but instead stayed with his neighbors Rigby's) when he was there, or batched in an old granary During the 1940's and 1950's he rented out his land, then later sold it to Leo Paim.

He lived in a house in Eckville with Henry and Anna Molander, which was sold later to Bruce and Joan Bardenhagen. He then moved to the Rocky Mountain House Lodge and lived there for a number of years. He often came to the home farm where Fred and Frances Molander now live, on the SE-17-39-3-W5.

Uncle John visited with his many friends and relatives in the Eckville area. Everyone who knew him called him "Uncle John"; he was loved by all

Uncle John lived to the age of 93 years. He died in a Rimbey hospital in October of 1974 and was buried in Red Deer beside his brother Henry and Henry's wife, Anna

**THE AUGUST MORO FAMILY — by Mr. and Mrs. August Moro**

Karl Moro and his brother John emigrated from Estonia to Canada in 1904. They were drawn to the Eckville area where an Estonian community was developing Included in this community were the Kingseps and the Kinnas, with whom the Moros had been acquainted in Estonia. With him, Karl brought his wife, Mary, and his sons, August, George, and Oscar August had been born in 1901

Both Karl and John acquired homesteads about three miles north of the present site of Eckville, their land being separated by the Medicine River. The farming work was done at this time with oxen supplying the power In 1919 Karl left his original homestead, having bought land 7½ miles north of Eckville (This land was later sold to his cousins, Pete and Ed Moro, and is still known as the Pete Moro place.) The family was moved to the new location, but Mrs. Moro suffered a stroke in 1921, and passed away in 1924. She was buried in the Gilby cemetery

Karl built a flour mill in 1923, located where the Coppens' house now stands. However, his sons, Oscar and August, formed a partnership and bought the flour mill from their father in 1925. In 1928 Karl, along with his sons, George and Otto, had moved to the Peace River area Karl took up market gardening, and the boys worked in a sawmill. (In 1958 Karl passed away and is buried at Peace River.)

This country appealed to Oscar, as well, so he dissolved his partnership with August in the flour mill at Eckville in 1929, so that he could join his father and brothers at Peace River. Here he, along with his cousin, Ed Moro, built and operated a flour mill, which business they continued for about three years. Oscar is now operating a farm machine shop as well as farming at Peace River Ed is retired, and spends his summers in Summerland, B C., and his winters in Desert Springs, California

August continued operating the flour mill at Eckville until 1947, except for a period of two years, 1935-1937, during which he rented the mill to his brother Oscar During this period August was occupied with a saw mill business in the Prairie Creek area The mill, in addition to grinding grain into flour, generated electricity, and in 1939 the town of Eckville was first supplied with electric lighting Anyone with power-outage trouble came directly to August for a solution to their problems. August was once refunded the amount of a monthly power bill after the electricity service was taken over by Calgary Power This was because he had been the longest user of electric power in Eckville

In 1947 August sold the flour mill to the Eckville Co-op and it was then operated as a feed mill and seed cleaning plant until it burned down in 1957. The sale of his house along with the mill necessitated the acquisition of another house, so, in 1947 August built a house in Eckville on his present lot. This house was replaced, in 1962, by a larger house which August built, assisted by two carpenters. This house was built from 4" by 4" squared logs, and the total cost was only $3,800.

After selling the flour mill August again became interested in working with the timber He built and operated his own sawmill and planer. This business was carried on in various locations in the Rocky Mountain House area until 1972, at which time he decided to quit working and enjoy his retirement years with his wife, Lily, at their home in Eckville

August was married in 1927 to Lilly Waisanen, in Calgary. Their honeymoon was their trip, by

car, from Calgary to Eckville. Their car was a Ford "bug", which resembled a race car. Prior to their marriage Lilly had been working in Calgary in the Ontario Steam Laundry and August spent that summer working in Cochrane in a garage.

Their family consisted of three children. Clarence was born at home, with Dr. Somerville officiating, in 1928. He is now employed in construction work in Edmonton. He and his wife, Martha (Letendre) have three girls — Wendy, Cindy, and Candy.

Norman was born in the Bentley hospital in 1932, with Dr. Henry in attendance. He now lives in Calgary, and is associated with the P. J. Toone and Cote Real Estate, Ltd. He married Lorraine Dancer, from Winnipeg. Their family consists of two girls, Carolyn and Pamela, and one boy, Gary.

Alice was born in 1942 in the Eckville hospital with Dr. Coppock in charge. She is married to Calvin Kenzle and now lives in Calgary. They have two daughters, Susan and Alexis, both still at home.

**MURRAY, CHIC AND MARGARET**

Charles (Chic) and Margaret Murray arrived in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on February 1, 1948, after leaving their home in Perth, Scotland and flying out from Prestwick. They were accompanied by their eldest daughter, Gaile who was then 11 months old and Margaret's mother, Elsie Adams.

Chic had just finished five years in the Army, having served with the Fife, Forfar Yeo. They were attached to the Canadian Forces and landed with them on "D" day.

They made their home in Birch Hills, Saskatchewan where son Frank and daughter Moria Charlene were born.

In the fall of 1971 they moved to Eckville accompanied by Charlene, where Chic took up employment with Kasha Farm Supplies as partsman.

On July 12, 1974, Moria Charlene married Brian George Lutz in the Eckville Presbyterian Church. They have a son Gregory Brian and a daughter, Kirsty Dawn and are living in Rocky Mountain House.

**THE FRED NEEDHAM FAMILY (MARGARET SCHOFER) — by Margaret Schofer**

In April of 1910 my Dad, Fred Needham and his brother-in-law, Leo Franke, went to Stettler, Alberta from Erie, North Dakota. They were met by Dad's brother, Walter, who took them to the Lloyd George district where he had picked his own land. Dad filed on homestead rights on the NE 24-32-19 W5 and pre-emption rights on the SE ¼ of the same section. Fred, Dad and Uncle Leo then went back to North Dakota to finish their affairs and bring their families and belongings to their new home-land. They left Uncle Walter to take care of their interests and break the required amount of land to hold homestead rights.

Dad and Uncle Leo came out again in October, 1910, shipping their settlers' effects and livestock to Stettler. They loaded the furniture and other things that would be needed right away for the homestead on wagons and left the balance on freight cars to be re-routed to Morrin, as the railroad was being built south. This freight did not arrive until in March, 1911. Lumber, bought in Stettler, meant a return trip. The first loads were taken to Uncle Walter's, a two-day trip, and left in his yard. By this time the women folk and families had been advised to come.

My mother, Bertha Needham, was a very young woman with two children, Edward, one and a half years old and four-month-old Pearl, who is now Mrs. Archie McAlister of Big Valley. Uncle Leo's wife, Pearl, was the mother of two-year-old Frances. Another Needham brother, Uncle Wesley, came to help the ladies with the children. He also took up a homestead in Alberta.

On the trip out from Erie, more immigrant cars were added to the train. Passengers were mostly women and children going to join their menfolk on homesteads in the new land. On the train, and before leaving North Dakota, the ladies had heard some wild stories about cowboys and Indians in Alberta.

Upon arriving in Stettler in early November they had to stay overnight. They got rooms in a hotel operated by "Daddy" Vart and his wife, who was a mother to all who came with children. Their rooms were on the main floor of the hotel near the office. As usual, there was a lot of noise around, and when the women looked out of their rooms to see what was going on, they saw men wearing cowboy clothes and guns. They were not long in closing their door. The men folk came from the homestead in the early hours of the morning and collected their families, and the next day started on the long trail, travelling over frozen ground for a full day's trip.

Homes had to be built before winter set in. A work bee was arranged and wonderful neighbors, Jack and Laurie Smith, Albert Chase and Mr. Reinhold, all new settlers themselves, were there to lend a helping hand. As the saying goes, "Many hands make the load light", and soon homestead shacks were built, although many hardships were yet facing the women and men alike. Many years later proper homes were built.

On one of the first nights in their new homes, the women and children were left alone, as again the menfolk had to go to Stettler for supplies. There were no locks on the doors and the women were still not very brave in this new land. To protect themselves against any possible intruders, all the big knives that could be found were put in the door. When the menfolk did return, it took some time before they could get into the house, with all the knives to be taken out.

Needless to say, the locks were put on the door the next day — but very seldom used after the folks got used to the country

As the years went by, more children were added to the Fred Needham family. There was James, who is with the Alberta Wheat Pool at Breton and who will be retiring from this position in 1977; Calvin, who is now at Clareshom [illegible] Mrs. John Moore) living at Langley, B.C., Irene Mrs. George DeWitt) at Airdrie, Alberta Margaret (Mrs. Schofer) at Eckville, Ralph, living in Calgary, Frances (Mrs Carmen Baird) at Rancho Mirage, California, Clarence at Alhambra, Gordon in Calgary, Roy at Big Valley, Lloyd at Hemet, California; Edward in Calgary and Pearl (Mrs. Archie McAlister) at Big Valley

Dad passed away on February 12, 1962 in Stettler, after many years of illness. Our baby sister, Eleanor, passed away on October 7, 1972 in a plane crash. Eleanor, her husband, Tony Glesebrecht, and their youngest son, Freddy, age 16 years, owned their own light aircraft They resided at Nanaimo, B.C., along with two older boys. However, it was Eleanor, Tony and Freddy who were flying from Nanaimo to Lethbridge airport for the Thanksgiving weekend — Tony's folks lived at MacLeod and they were going to visit them. Ten minutes after their aircraft left the Kelowna Airport, the plane crashed, and all three were killed. They were found in the early hours on the next day Their two oldest boys, Dwayne and Donald, are still at Nanaimo

In July, 1972 Garry Needham, Edward's eldest son, was killed in a motorcycle accident in Calgary

It was in 1933 that the family moved to the Benalto-Evarts district — to the SE 26-38-3 W5. known to us as the Black farm, and which is now the home of Mr and Mrs. Leo Soerd. We went to school at Evarts, in the winter with the sleigh and in the summer on horseback, with a wagon, or by walking

Our closest neighbors were the Dewey Nielsens, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hamilton, and the Robert Medins. These homes were our second home — we spent many happy hours with these wonderful neighbors. In 1935 we moved to the town of Eckville, and from there the family broke up and moved to many different places Mother is still with us, spending most of the winter in California with Frances and Lloyd. In the summer of 1976 she was not able to go back to her home in Big Valley, and happy to say, she has been with me since coming back from California. She was 85 years young on November 15, 1976

Through the early years in the Lloyd George area our home was 10 miles east of Rowley, Alberta — the Needham families helped the community in every way possible. They helped to build the Lloyd George School (in the early years it was called Micklekl), boarded many of the teachers, and served on the school boards. Dad was one of the district's musicians, playing violin, piano or banjo, along with his friend and neighbor, Jesse Miller, on the drums. They played for many school and good old barn dances and in homes. They were always active in community affairs and the Needham doors were never closed to any one in need

After a few years in this new land the folks did not worry about locking their doors — they soon found they did not need the knives in the door In those very early days everyone had to depend on their neighbor for help, and it was always there In our family this willingness to help carried on throughout the years as long as it was humanly possible for mom and dad to do it. As I sit and write these memories with the help of my sister Pearl and mother (most of it came from them) along with my brother-in law, Archie McAlister a lot of very pleasants thoughts go through my mind. Most of the memories are of the good times we had at home. Although there were many of us, and times were tough in the 1930's, we did have a happy home life and are very thankful for every minute that we had together The bad times seemed to bring us closer together We always enjoyed our neighbors wherever we lived — and Sundays were a big day when we lived at Rowley — there were always neighbors coming over or we were at the neighbors' homes for that friendly ball game or horse-shoe game, and, usually, at the end of the day, a big picnic lunch with lots of homemade ice cream. Those were the good old days!

I, Margaret started to work in the Eckville Town office on April 4, 1949, and am still on the job in 1977 I worked in the post office for a number of years with Dan Clausen, also for a short time after Gordon McNeil became post master My brother Jim had the rural mail route number three and I helped out on this at that time and later became involved with it again. When we first started on this route I remember Jim going out with a team and sleigh, leaving at seven o clock in the morning and getting home around seven at night. His pay (?) was about three or four dollars a day He would change teams about half way around the route At the present time the same mail route covers the Evarts area and very seldom does it take more than three hours to do it, even in the winter time — with roads being kept open and no need to use horses and sleighs anymore. Well, times change and we must keep up with the times

**THE NEUFELDS**

Alice and Jim Neufeld came to Eckville in March of 1963 to operate the local veterinary clinic The business was called Parkland Veterinary Clinic At that time it was the only veterinary service west of Red Deer. It serviced an area as far flung as Winfield to Caroline and Bentley to Markerville. The business employed three veterinarians and three non-professiona.

Dr. James Neufeld and two-headed calf born on local farm - 1966

people during its busy years. In December 1969 the practice was terminated in order that Jim could begin a new career in Veterinary Pathology

During the years in Eckville they built a house in the west-end subdivision of the town

Son Jamie arrived in Eckville in the summer of 1968.

Jim was involved with the Leslieville Elks, Eckville Legion and was probably best known for his addiction to curling, spending a great deal of time in local curling clubs and attending local bonspiels. Jim also participated in activities of the 4-H beef clubs and presented a trophy each year to the best group of five calves in competition at the annual Achievement Day

Alice was very active in the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid and was a founder and first teacher of the Eckville Figure Skating Club. (In the winter of 1968-69 we think.)

In September of 1970 the Neufelds moved away from Eckville to Ottawa

**OLDFORD, WILLIAM AND RHODA**

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Oldford lived just south of Eckville for a number of years before moving away to British Columbia. Rhoda is a daughter of a very early pioneer of the Blueberry Valley Leslieville district

Her father P. A. Smith wrote in a letter to a friend in 1955: "I do know that we had quite a time, in April, 1912 when we drove from Red Deer to Leslieville with oxen, it seems to me that it took almost a week to make the journey, we slept one night by the old Finn hall; the roads were so bad that we were getting bogged down pretty often, but there was one thing in our favour — we had plenty to eat — we had lots of fruit that we had preserved in Ontario, and a couple of good hams and plenty of bread, and of course we had a cow with us, we had a tough time, and I always figure that the ten years that we put in up on "them thar hills" were wasted."

Here Phil Smith seems to be referring to the homesteads he and his wife's people filed on in the Blueberry Hills north of Withrow — he later settled on a farm further west where his family grew up and he was quite successful, and a respected neighbor. His son Neal has lived there all his life, and raised his family of seven there.

Rhoda was a happy, carefree girl, always pleasant to be with, she had a great fondness for horses and riding.

She and Bill now live at Penticton, B.C.

**EDWIN OLSEN FAMILY — by Edwin and Barbara Olsen**

Edwin Richard Olsen was born on April 12, 1941 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. His father, Kaare Olsen, was born on January 20, 1909 at Mosvik in Nord Frondelag, Norway and came to Canada in April 1929. His mother, Anna Friesen, was born on January 25, 1910 in Armawir, Kuban Province, Russia and came to Canada in October 1924.

Barbara Jean Hawkins was born on April 25, 1946 at Bentley, Alberta. Her father, Elton Hohn Hawkings, was born on October 5, 1921 at Bentley, Alberta and her mother, Helen Margaret Terry, was born on October 16, 1924 at Cookstown, Ontario. Both Ed and Barb spent most of their growing-up years northwest of Bentley

Ed went to Lockhart school for Grades 1 to 8 and finished his schooling in Bentley. He went to the University of Alberta for four years following his graduation from high school, and received his B.Ed. During the summers he worked on the Louis Gyori farm as a hired hand for three years and then marked correspondence lessons in Edmonton. He also marked Grade XII Mathematics Departmental Exams in Edmonton for two summers. Ed came to Eckville to intern teach in May and June, 1963 and began teaching full time in Eckville in September, 1963. During this time he lived with his parents and commuted.

Barb went to Bentley school for Grades 1 to 4, to Poplar Ridge for Grade 5 and part of Grade 6 and finished Grade 6 at Riverglen School in Red Deer. Grades 7 through 12 were taken in Bentley. In April 1964 she began work in the Bank of Montreal in Bentley

On December 28, 1964 Ed and Barb were married in the Anglican Church of Epiphany in Rimbey, Alberta. They moved into Eckville on January 1, 1965

Ed became vice-principal of the Eckville Junior-Senior High School in 1966. Following summer school attendance and evening credit courses, Ed, Barb and the children moved to Edmonton in August 1971 where Ed completed his Masters Degree on a Sabbatical Leave. They moved back to Eckville in June 1972, at which time they bought their home and Ed began teaching again. In 1975 he became principal

Ed and Barb's two children were born in Eckville — Richard John on October 25, 1965 and Rhonda Lynne on January 10, 1968, with Dr. Bob Swain attending both births

Ed has been active in the community of Eckville and with other organizations. When the Anglican Church was in Eckville he was secretary of the board. He was treasurer for the Mathematics Council, Alberta Teachers Association for three years, was on the Eckville Recreation Board as secretary and as chairman of the Lacombe Regional Recreation Board, and also served part of a term as Town Councillor of Eckville. At present he is secretary of the Lions Club, after having held several other offices, including that of president. He received his ten year perfect attendance pin this year. He is also on the Eckville Library Board, is treasurer of the Lacombe Local ATA and is the Lacombe Representative on Council of School Administration.

Ed's hobbies are key collecting and mechanics. At the present time he is taking a mechanics course through International Correspondence Schools.

Barb has also been active. When the Anglican Church was in Eckville she was in the Women's Auxiliary as secretary and she also taught Sunday School and had a Youth Group for boys and girls. She has also taught Sunday School and has been a leader for CCC's and Explorers in the Presbyterian Church. She taught the Jack and Jill Playschool for three years and subbed for one year. She was secretary of the Board of Directors when the Playschool became affiliated with Preventive Social Services. In the fall of 1975 she approached the Town Council for permission to form a voluntary Welcome Mat for the town of Eckville and a five-mile radius. With the help of Dorothy Carritt the Eckville Welcome Mat was formed and Barb has been hostess for it. Since October 1975 76 new families have been welcomed to the community. At present time she is secretary of St. Paul's Presbyterian Evening Group, is beginning her sixth year as a CGIT leader, is in the Presbyterian Church Choir and is on the Parent Group Committee for the Eckville Scouting Organization. Barb's hobbies are collecting souvenir spoons and stamps.

Rick was in Eckville Cubs and is now in Scouts. He belongs to the Presbyterian Teeners Youth Group. Rhonda belongs to Explorers after graduating from COC. She is also taking figure skating. Both children are in their third year of piano lessons.

In June of 1977 Ed, Barb and the children transferred their membership from the Anglican Church to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

**THE JAMES OLSON FAMILY — by B. A. Schey**

James Olson and his wife Minnie arrived at Eckville in March, 1903 from Cumberland, Wyoming, U.S.A. They immigrated to the United States from Finland in about 1890, and were married in Ishpeming, Michigan on July 2, 1898. They had seven daughters and one son. One daughter and the only son died in infancy. The surviving daughters were Mrs. Ole Schey (Mildred), Mrs. Frank Lingren (Emma), Mrs. Henry Lingren (Ida), Mrs. Ed Aho (Annie) of Eckville, Mrs. Joe Connole (Jean) of Butte, Montana, and Mrs. Albert Saari (Mary) of Kaslo, B.C.

James Olson Family 1913

Mrs. Olson died at Eckville in December of 1936 and Mr. Olson in August of 1944. They homesteaded two miles south of Eckville, on what is now Joe Rasmussen's place — SW 10-38-3-W5.

Mr. Olson was one of the first settlers in the area and had for his mode of transport a horse and oxen hitched to a wagon, with which he hauled supplies from Red Deer (a two or three-day trip). He followed the trail which passed through the Burnt Lake country. Mr. Olson cleared a lot of land for himself and other neighbors, doing it the hard way — with grub hoe and axe. He also built many log buildings in the area, some of which still stand today. Some have been covered with siding so that they are no longer recognizable as log buildings. One example is the old Gustavson house, some two or three miles northwest of Eckville. He made most of his tools out of old scrap iron from which he fashioned, among other things, skiis and poles of birch and willow. Mr. Olson skied a great deal during his lifetime.

He handmade fish nets and boats, with which he reaped a harvest of different fish from the Medicine River, which bisects the homestead. He had his own smoke house and produced many delicious meals of smoked fish. Many of the saunas around the district were of his craftsmanship, and many people of the district enjoyed his saunas on a Saturday night.

**MICHAEL ONOFRYSZYN FAMILY**

Mike Onofryszyn emigrated from Poland to southern Alberta in 1928. He worked for farmers for a short time, then took a job as section man with the CNR. In 1935 his wife, Maria, and only son, Jarvis, came from Poland to join him.

The family's first home was Scotfield, Alberta and a year later they moved to Youngstown. The family had been farmers in Poland so when

Mike transferred to the CN section at Eckville, it was only natural they would return to the land They purchased the old John Johnson homestead two and one-half miles north of town In 1948 they moved to the old Eckford place one mile north of town, They moved to the town of Eckville in 1953

Mike retired from the CNR in 1962, and passed away in October, 1968. His wife, Maria, passed away in September of 1969

**JARVIS ONOFRYSZYN FAMILY**

Jarvis Onofryszyn married Evelyn Smale of the Gilby district in May 1952 and took over farming his parents' land, making their home on the old Eckford homestead

Four daughters arrived to bless their life Elaine in 1953, Sharon in 1955, Noreen in 1959 and Karen in 1969. The family has been very involved in the community over the years, taking active parts in the St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Farmers Union, Curling Club, Home & School, 4-H Club work and local politics.

The three oldest daughters graduated from the Eckville High School. Elaine married Leonard Engen of the Gilby district. They have built a new home on the first farm purchased by Mike Onofryszyn and have one son, Trent

Sharon married David Lemke of the Diamond Valley district and they have made their home on the Waldemar Lemke farm and have a son, Nathan

Noreen distinguished herself in the 4-H Club movement by winning the Alberta 4-H Premier's Award for 1977 She is attending Red Deer College

Karen attends the Eckville Elementary School

**OPHUS, PEDER — by Jean Ophus**

Peder and Thora Ophus were married in Norway in 1907, and came to Canada in June, 1916, bringing with them three children Carrie, born in March, 1908, Ivor, born in May, 1911, and Johanna, born in October, 1915. Upon arrival in Canada they settled in the Asker district, east of Ponoka

In the spring of 1920 they moved to the Springdale area. Here another daughter, Mary, was born in November, 1920. In 1925 they moved to Bentley and in 1927 to Lacombe. Peder was a painter by trade in Norway and continued this trade and also did carpentry work in every area in which he lived

Peder Ophus Mrs. P. Ophus

In 1930 the family moved to the Eckville district, settling on the N W 25-40-3-W5. They lived there until 1949 when they moved to the town of Eckville. Ivar still owned this quarter of land when they moved and it was rented by Elias Dyrland for several years

Thora was an excellent seamstress and did sewing for many people as well as her own family Her sewing was all done on a hand-operated sewing machine (not a treadle machine) brought from Norway, and she never owned a different machine

Peder was a quiet soft spoken man, and in his later years liked nothing better than to spend his time playing games with his grandchildren Peder passed away in April of 1957 and Thora in April of 1963

In 1927 Carrie married Burton Shales, who came from Lacombe. For a time they lived on the farm at Lacombe where Burt farmed with his father, William Shales The William Shales also lived in Eckville in their retirement years.

Burt and Carrie lived in the Gilby area and then in British Columbia. Returning from British Columbia they purchased the S.W 18-40-3-W5 and farmed there until moving to the town of Eckville Burt and Carrie had two chosen children, Arnold and Linda

Carrie passed away in April, 1955 and Burt in 1974.

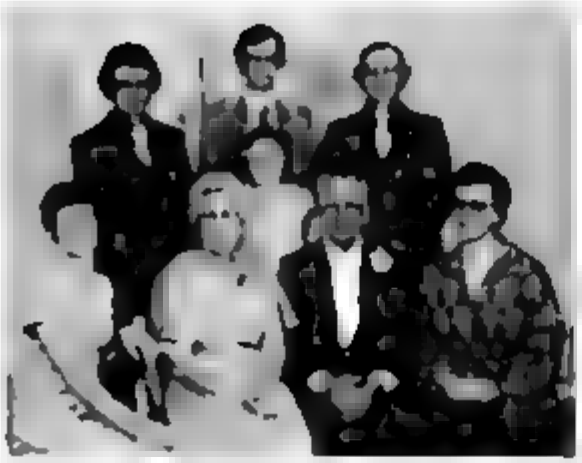
**OPHUS, IVAR — by Jean Ophus**

Ivar Ophus was born in Norway on May 15, 1911 and came with his parents to Canada in June, 1916. He lived in several parts of Alberta before settling on the N W 25-40-3-W5 in the Gilby area in 1930

Ivar spent many winters working in the lumber camps. Just a few of the many men he worked with are Alex, Rodger and Bill Lawton. Eric Bardenhagen, Burton Shales and Arthur Garbutt. Carpentry work, construction work, and grinding feed, are only a few of the jobs he turned to, in order to earn a living

In April, 1953 he was united in marriage to Jean Lutz and they bought a house in Eckville. There are six children in this family, a daughter and a son, Geneva and Maurice Clark, by Jean's previous marriage. The eldest daughter, Geneva, born on February 21, 1946 completed her schooling in Eckville and trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton to become a registered nurse

In December, 1967 she married James Burk, who came from the Sundre area. James was a teacher and taught at Sundre and Stoney Plain before joining the Department of Education in Edmonton. Geneva worked at the Olds, Sundre



Ivar Oyhus Family Front row: Geneva, Jean, Melanie, Ivar Cheryl. Back row: Maurice, Duane and Lyle

and Royal Alexandra Hospital as well as five years at the W W Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton. In October, 1976 James transferred to the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and they moved to Regina

They have two children, a daughter Jill and son Jay

Maurice Clark was born August 13, 1948 and took all of his schooling at Eckville. Since leaving school he has worked at several jobs, including McGregor Power and Telephone In 1967 when the underground telephone cables were installed in the Eckville area. In July, 1967 he married Harriet Molander, eldest daughter of Fred and Frances Molander they have moved around to various parts of Alberta, including Calgary, where Maurice worked for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and also operated an Eelectrical Business. In 1976 they purchased the S.W.¼ 2-40-3-W5 from Harold Molander, northwest of Eckville, and are living there.

Maurice is very fond of horses and buys, selling and training them. They have two children — a daughter, Michelle, and a son, Clinton

Cheryl, born December 23, 1953, graduated from High School in Eckville in 1971. After leaving school she has been employed continuously at the Alberta School Hospital, now known as Michener Centre. In January, 1976, she married Gerald Burdinsky, who is employed at Menzies-Herbert Sash and Door in Red Deer

Duane, born April 29, 1955, completed his high school in Eckville and after one year at the University of Alberta is employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He is presently working in Edmonton

Lyle, born on April 15, 1956, took his elementary and junior high schooling in Eckville and his high school at the Composite High School in Lacombe. He has worked in various construction jobs and is presently working with his brother Maurice

Melanie was born on June 1, 1967 and is fondly known as our "Centennial Baby." She is attending Eckville Elementary School.

In 1956 Ivar and Jean purchased the S E 16-39-3-W5 from Jean's dad, Levi Lutz, and farmed there until 1964

In 1964 Ivar and Jean sold this quarter to Stanley and Charlotte Whitney and the quarter northwest of Gilby to Elias Dyrland. They then purchased the E ½ 13-39-3-W5 from Mrs. John (Kit) Armstrong

During the years of their marriage, along with his farming operations, Ivar had done carpentry work, drove a school bus, and was employed for 12 years as a battery operator by various oil companies. In 1974 they sold the farm to George and Elaine Burkholder and purchased a house from Hans and Helen Coppens in the town of Eckville. Ivar is now employed at Kasha Farm Supplies.

**ORR, MR. AND MRS. JAMES AND FAMILY—by Sylvia Thorkman**

Mr and Mrs. James Orr came originally from Ontario to the Eckville district about 1916 They farmed the NE 22-39-3-W5. Both were community-spirited people, belonging to various organizations. Mrs. Orr was a member of the local U.F.W.A. during the years.

They had five children: Jessie, Andy, Nellie, John and Walter. Jessie was employed in the Eckville Hotel for a number of years.

The annual Sports Day and Picnic was held on Victoria Day (May 24) and was always a very gala affair and was well attended. Some years plane rides were available for a fee. Jessie was one who went up for a ride, and coming in for a landing the plane hit the telegraph line and crashed. The plane was a wreck, and the passenger, Jessie, received a broken arm.

When last known, Jessie had married and was living in Courtney, B.C. John and Walter attended Eckville School. In 1923 the Orrs held an auction sale and returned to Ontario.

**PORTER, MRS. MARGARET N. — 1881 1971 — by Laura Marshall**

My mother, Mrs. Porter, emigrated to Canada in 1920, from Middlesbrough, Yorks, England

She married Harry W. Porter in 1903. From this union were born seven children, Laura (Marshall), James, Malcolm, Walter, Cecil and Margaret (Steenson) My father was called up at the outbreak of World War I, as he was in what was known as the territorials, and was automatically called at the outbreak of the war He was seriously wounded in 1916 and died from the wounds. I'd like to point out here that my mother had to pay for the blanket he was buried in, out of the pittance the Imperial Government was paying war widows. Sure, he was awarded several medals, but does that feed and clothe a widow and seven children?

At the close of the first war my mother decided to come to Canada, as she had two brothers in Alberta. First she came to Chinook and, as she had had a great deal of experience in first aid and maternity work, she was in demand when news got around that she was proficient in these fields.

In 1925 she came to Condor and was busy mainly in maternity work. Many a baby she delivered without the aid of a doctor. At first she went out to the homes. Here she took care of mother and babe, cooked, did the laundry and took care of other members of the family. All this was done without the aid of modern conveniences such as we know today.

In 1928 the late Dr. A. Somerville persuaded her to move to Eckville, and in January of 1929 she opened and operated a nursing home. The house, located across the street from the bakery, now occupied by the Wally Hanford family, became the first nursing home. Many of the children born there are now grandparents. My first two children were born there, Mavis being born without the aid of a doctor. At that time Dr. Somerville went to Leslieville every Tuesday and held office hours. It was on a Tuesday that Mavis decided to enter the world. The doctor had to go and isolate a number of infectious diseases that day and so the baby was born before he returned to Eckville.

After two years the government started to interfere, and wanted a lot of information in regard to patient care, etc. As a result, mother decided to move back to the farm at Condor. In the meantime Dr. Somerville had left Eckville and Dr. Claxton took over. My mother regarded both birth and death as of a serious nature, and she felt that Dr. Claxton was too indifferent in either case. Many of her former patients still wanted her in attendance at the birth of their babies, and they also passed the word around that patients could expect good care. Consequently, Mother reserved one bedroom in her home to be used as a maternity room.

In 1944 she moved to Calgary where she joined the Red Cross. About this time the war wounded were returning so she again took up her duties of serving coffee, doughnuts, etc. to the returning soldiers. In about 1949 Mother moved to Red Deer to make her home with brother, Walter.

With the influx of war wives, many with babies and little ones, Mother was in her element again. Cots were set up and babies bathed and fed, giving the mothers a chance to rest after the long journey from England. After all this excitement was over mother took a breather, except for her church work at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer.

Mother still made her home with Walter until her failing health required that she enter the Father Lacombe Home at Midnapore. She was a patient there for three years. She fell and broke her hip and didn't recover from the operation of setting it.

Of Mrs. Porter, all can say "Well done, good and faithful servant."

**FURNELL, LLOYD AND VERNA — by Verna Furnell**

Lloyd and Verna were both born at Ponoka, Alberta, and were married there on August 31, 1947.

In the fall of 1949 they moved to Eckville, Alberta. Lloyd and his brother in-law, Denny Sheppard, bought the International Harvester business from Rus Eastman. Mr. Verne Starr (whom many will remember) was zone manager in this area for the International Harvester Company at that time. They operated the business in the building which is now the Legion Hall until the spring of 1959. Lloyd then worked in Red Deer for Nance Company until September 1959, at which time he started working for the County of Lacombe as school bus foreman for Eckville. He is still working for the County in that position.

Denny and Hazel Sheppard and family moved to Red Deer in 1959.

Lloyd and Verna have two sons and one daughter. Brian Lloyd was born January 6, 1950 and was married to Margaret Derk in Edmonton on August 17, 1974. They now reside in Edson, Alberta, where Brian works at the Hudson Bay Gas Plant.

Kenneth Edward was born March 10, 1954 and was married to Rinny Hughes in June, 1976. They reside at Eckville. Ken works for McGregor Telephone and Power, erecting steel towers for the Calgary Power lines.

Patricia Leanne was born February 8, 1956 and was married to Duane Engman on February 12, 1977. They live on Duane's farm in the New Hill district south of Eckville. Pat works for the Hudson Bay Gas Plant south of Eckville.

**QUANTZ, HAROLD FAMILY**

There is something about small-town friendliness that one appreciates. This was the feeling of Harold (formerly from Alliance, Alberta) and Dorothy (Vliet from Rimbey, Alberta as they moved from Calgary to Eckville in August 1958. Since Harold had a brother here and the town is close to Rimbey, and we were able to rent a house, we arrived in time for our oldest child, Carol, to start Grade 1 in Eckville. Harold did carpenter work and was employed on the building of the south addition to the school.

Because Harold was feeling a call to enter the Christian ministry, we moved to Redcliff in December 1959 but came back to Eckville in August 1962 as the minister in the local Church of the Nazarene. With the help of many people giving of their labor and their finances the present church building was erected between 1963 and 1965.

Our youngest child, Marilee, started school

here, and although we were away for seven years (two in High Prairie and five in Calgary east) she was in the graduating class with those with whom she had started to schoo.

Our son, Jerry, married Cindy Taylor from Calgary and they have two children, Chris and Angela. Jerry enjoys playing hockey with former classmates and friends. Our children lived here during their junior years, so consider Eckville their home town. When we were travel ling between Rimbey and Calgary, we often stopped to greet friends

"Make new friends but keep the old.
One is silver; the other is gold."

We probab.y hold a record, as we have lived in Eckville during three different periods of time for a total of 10 years at the time of writing, in a 21 year span. We appreciate the friendship and kindnesses which have been shown to us over these years

**QUANTZ, HERBERT**

Minister in the Church of the Nazarene in Eckville 1954-1961

Herbert and Jean Quantz, with three children (Douglas, Karen and Donnie), came to Eckville in 1954 to be pastor in the local Church of the Nazarene Herbert had taken a three-year course at Canadian Nazarene College in Red Deer after having been discharged from the Air Force

In Red Deer and later in Victoria, B C. Herb worked for T Eaton Company, but feeling that God's will was for him to be in the ministry, he subsequently accepted the pastorate here in Eckville. He clerked in Jenkin's grocery store as well as doing pastoral preaching and visiting

Leaving here in 1961 he moved to Calgary and attended the University of Calgary, where he gained a Degree in Education For a number of years he was both teacher and pastor, but is currently teaching in Drumheller, is active in the local church, and supplies as minister when needed.

**RALPH, ALLAN AND IRENE**

On January 24, 1874, John Alexander Ralph was born, the first son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ralph at Port Perry, Ontario. On December 16, 1885, Susan Albertha Morgan was born, the 11th child of Thomas and Catherine Morgan at Sandhill, Ontario. In March of 1886 the Morgan family moved to Treherne, Manitoba

As a young man, Jack Ralph moved to the Treherne area where he met and later married Susan Morgan on December 26, 1906. In January 1907 they moved to what later became the Nut Mountain district of Saskatchewan. It was not unti. April, 1908 that the young Mrs. Ralph saw another white woman, when new settlers finally arrived

In 1931, Mr and Mrs. Ralph welcomed into their home their chosen son, Allan, who was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 19, 1926.

In 1914, the Nut Grove School District No. 2924 came into being. It was in this school that Allan received his first 10 years of education He later graduated in Saskatoon in 1945, being the first student of the Nut Grove Schoo. to graduate from h gh school. He entered the teaching profession in September 1945 and taught for three years. In 1952 he graduated from Two Rivers Bible Institute at Carlea, Saskatchewan

In July, 1953, Susan Ralph passed away at Kelvington, Saskatchewan at the age of 68 years. Her husband, Jack Ralph, passed away six months later, on January 4, 1954, also at Kelvington, at the age of 79 years.

George Brown Hill was born in Preston, England on October 13, 1897. He immigrated to Canada after the first World War, having served in His Majesty's armed forces. In 1928 he married Mary (May) Black of Belfast, Northern Ireland Their daughter Irene was born on October 23, 1930 and their son Gordon on October 21 1933. Mr. Hill had one daughter, Frances, by a previous marriage. May Hill passed away on November 25, 1953 at the age of 46 years. George Hill passed away on March 25, 1968 at the age of 71 years

Mr A Ralph Mrs Irene Ralph

In 1956 Allan Ralph moved to Vancouver B.C., where he was employed by the B C Telephone Company for more than 10 years. He met and later married Irene Hill on July 26, 1957 In 1966 he returned to teach at Leader Saskatchewan for four years. In 1970 he accepted the position of French teacher in the Eckville Junior-Senior High School, where he is still employed in 1978. Irene Ralph began working at the newly-employed Treasury Branches of Alberta office in December, 1970 at Rimbey, Alberta, where she continues to work

**RANDALL, FAMILY — by Ernest Barlund**

Charlie, Erick, and Elmer Randall were born in Finland. Their father E. E. Randall filed on his homestead the NE 30-39-3-W5 about the turn of the century

CHARLES RANDALL filed on his homestead NW 10-39-3-W5 later than his dad, about 1905. He

came to the district from Butte Montana with the Hietala family (Henry Hietala still lives on his father's homestead one and one half miles east of Randall's farm)

Charles wanted a homestead with timber to build with and water for livestock, so he built on the west side of the Medicine River

The Hudson Bay trail crossed the river by the Randall farm. All the first homesteaders like Erick Randall and my dad, Frank Barlund, travelled the Hudson Bay trail to their homesteads north of Leslieville.

When on the homestead they had hardships with cattle dying of blackleg and other diseases as there was no vaccination in those days.

One time when coming home from Red Deer with clothing for himself, and family and groceries and other supplies he had a near catastrophe. The river had become higher due to spring run-off. While crossing, the brand new wagon box came loose from the wagon and upset, spilling contents in the river. All the supplies and the box were lost. The horses and wagon barely made it to shore, and Charles nearly lost his life. He said if it had not been for his son Eino on shore, telling him "Come on dad, you can make it, try again", he would have given up for he was just about played out in the cold and murky water.

Charlie wanted his sons to get a college education or better, but they did not have a chance on the farm. Eino and Arne were the first students at the old Eckville school.

Charlie farmed until about 1915, then he had a sale and left for Reiner, Washington to make a home on an acreage. He took a job as carpenter with the Libby Co.

Eino finished college and started in insurance business in Seattle.

Arne finished his education and became a teacher, then a principal at Mossyback Washington and later as inspector of schools in Alaska, and other American points.

Reino became a professor of Arts at Ellensburg Washington.

My aunt and Uncle Charles, died a few years ago. Arne died after a lengthy illness on August 1, 1977 at Polson Montana. ERICK RANDALL homesteaded on the SW 25-40-4 W5 (the T. Heikkinen land). He was a trustee for the Leafland school, and a councilor for the Leslieville area. Erick had a university education in Stockholm so he was well qualified.

He farmed until about 1931, when his wife died. Then he sold the farm to Heikkinens and left for Toronto. The log barn that Erick built still stands on the hill in Thelma Heikkinen's yard.

Ericks's wife was a Finn-Swede who was very fluent in the Swedish, Finnish and English languages. She too, served on the Leafland school board for many years. They did not have any children.

After his wife died and before he left for Toronto, Erick remarried, the lady was Matt Heikkinen's sister.

ELMER RANDALL homesteaded the SE 26-40-5-W5. He had two sons, Roy and Irvine, who live in British Columbia where they have been logging. Elmer left the homestead and died many years ago.

**MATTHEW (MATT) AND ALMA (PAANANEN) RAUHALA**

Matthew and Alma Rauhala were married on July 3, 1916. They lived in the Usona area for four years before they moved to the Reo district, northwest of Ponoka, in 1920, where they lived for 50 years. In June, 1970, they retired and moved to Eckville.

Mr. and Mrs. Rauhala have two sons, who both live in Red Deer. Emil and his wife, Ann, have two sons and one daughter. Henry and his wife, Barbara, have one boy and one girl.

Of the Rauhala's four daughters, the oldest, Dagmar, who married Roy Rook, lives in Alberta Beach and has five sons. Martha and her husband, Frank Jones, have recently bought a farm near Eckville. They have one son and one daughter. Dorothy and her husband, Derrick, Lawton, live in Eckville and they have three daughters. Elma and her husband, Ray Kelm, live in Rimbey. Mr. and Mrs. Rauhala also have a number of great-grandchildren.

In 1963 Matt and Alma flew to Finland, where they had a pleasant time visiting with relatives. On July 3, 1966 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, with open house for family and friends. Matt passed away on December 23, 1971.

Alma greatly enjoys doing handicrafts and makes most of the gifts she gives away. She often lends a helping hand to others. She belongs to a whist club, and takes part in the activities of the Eckville and District Friendship Club. She continues to live in her own home in Eckville.

**RHODES, WALTER AND ELLA**

Walter Douglas was born in Douglas, North Dakota, U.S.A. in February 1909. He came to Beverly, Saskatchewan as a small child with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Mark M. Rhodes. They farmed for many years and his father was elevator agent there. They returned to the U.S.A. to Alhambra, California, for a few years and in 1928 moved back to Canada. Walter went to school in Beverly and Alhambra.

I, Ella I. Bassett was born in Crocker, Missouri, U.S.A. in September 1910 and came to the homestead at Cowan, Manitoba with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay D. Bassett, in the spring 1913. We moved to Travers, Alberta to my Uncle Guy S. Bassett's farm in the spring of 1915. We were lucky to escape the 1918-1919 flu. We walked the three miles home from school many times through the dust storms that gradually covered the Russian thistles in the fence lines. Travers was a lovely little town on the wide open prairie but by 1923 we were "broke" and gave up

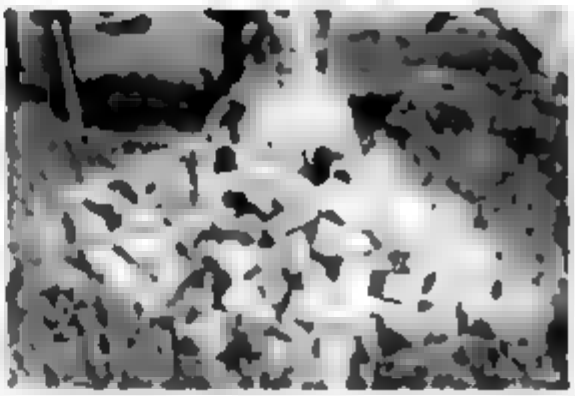
and went to Woonsocket, South Dakota where we farmed with grandfather that year. In the spring of 1924, we came back to Canada to Taber, Alberta and to irrigation farming. I went to Ingelview and Gold Coin schools in Travers and Milwaukee and Woonsocket schools in South Dakota. In Taber I attended Central school then took a complete dressmaking and designing course

The depression years were hard on the prairie. We worked at anything we could, regardless of conditions, hours or pay. I hoed sugar beets at $12.50 per acre (my limit was five acres) thinning, hoeing, topping and piling — took all summer. One winter we sorted pea seed for the Broder Canning Company in a cold old mill for 25 cents an hour. We wore our Dad's underwear, overalls, and heavy wool socks with overshoes. Our crew of eight girls were on night shift and we had fun. My better employment was a cook on the cook-car at harvest time for $5.00 a day, starting with breakfast about daylight and finishing at 11 p.m.

Walter and I met in Taber at my folks home in 1928 and were married in the Taber United Church Manse on January 9, 1933. We went to Milo for six months and then returned to Taber and lived in a 12' by 12' shack on 10 acres of irrigated land. This shack had been a brooder house for baby chicks. We cleaned it well and put in a new floor and covered the walls with gray building paper with lath on each side of the two by fours to hold it there

Walter (Dusty) came to Red Deer with a brush-cutting outfit in the spring of 1938. He cut brush in the Red Deer area and for a number of farmers in the Eckville district. In late September he brought Douglas and me here from Athabaska where we were visiting his folks. That first winter we lived on Myles Scowan's farm north of Eckville, where Baich now lives. That winter was very nice until the day before Christmas when it snowed and turned very cold. We were new to the country and hadn't

Ella and Walter Rhodes with Doug and LeRoy



Jackie Rhodes "All her empty milk cans."

cut any wood so we were busy sawing and splitting it all winter. Our good neighbour, Hans Moos, loaned us a team to haul the logs home. We moved to Fred Moos' farm in the spring of 1939. When not busy on the farm Walter worked for Alfred Kinna in his welding shop — this shop later belonged to Luther Finley. We needed this extra work because we were not to be paid until after harvest. We farmed for Fred until the winter of 1941 when we moved into Glen Bardenhagen's little house in Eckville as Douglas had started school. That winter Walter worked in Calgary returning in the spring to work for the Lacombe Municipal District on road construction. The winter of 1942 he was mail carrier for R.R. 3. He became foreman of the road construction in the spring of 1943 and was there until late fall of 1947, construction work in summer and snow plowing in winter. He then went south where he did construction work for many years. In 1954 he went to British Columbia where he presently resides. Some of his crew here were Bob Matthews, Herb Matthews, Louis Mitzner, Herb Riley, Alfred Kinna, Clarence Haarstad, Stan Leavsley, and Frank Wine as cook.

Walter played the Hawaiian guitar and sang at many parties, concerts and played for dances in an orchestra with John Viitala, Robert Kinna, Bob Matthews and others. Alfred Kinna had an amplifier which not many orchestras had at that time. The dances were held in barns, schools, and halls. I especially remember one wedding dance at Gilby. It was one of our long rainy spells, the roads were in poor condition and the one north from town was under construction with the road crew camped near town. We went to the dance by this road, driving in the ditches to pass the road construction and we decided to return by the west road. At the hall we parked in front of the door and we discovered later that someone had stolen our gas when we ran out at Felix Matthew's farm. We obtained gas from Waldo Raabl's farm, had coffee with the Matthews and started out again. It was raining so hard and we were sliding around and stuck so many times

that we ran out of gas again. By this time we were tired, hungry and muddy. It was getting night again and we were worried about our children. I wanted to walk but couldn't in spike heels. The Maki boys came along and took me home, brought back gas for the car and followed Walter home. We were lucky to have Mrs. Clara Bromling baby-sitting. She was still there and wondering what we were up to. The next day we heard that the police were stuck in the new grade all night and one of the road crew had started the "cat" and pulled them out when he came from the dance.

We were happy to stay in Eckville where we had met so many nice people. Some couldn't speak much English but someone was always there to translate for us. The "Bath House" was a new experience for us and we liked it. We enjoyed the visiting and lovely lunches afterwards. We used to go out west fishing, berry picking, camping or just driving with Lilly and August Moro, Mary and Fred Moos and their families and had wonderful times, lots of berries and fish.

I did dressmaking for many years in Eckville. I was the first Librarian when the Parkland Regional Library opened in the school in 1956. I enjoyed the Library, students, teachers and people who came for books. I also went to the Home and School convention for Eckville that year. In November 1957, I left the Library to work in Dr. Gibson's office and stayed on with Dr. Swain until I retired in 1967 due to ill health. I still live in Eckville on part of the acre we bought outside of town in 1942. This acre has been sub-divided into town lots now.

We have three children, Douglas, LeRoy and Jacquelyn.

Douglas was born in my folks home in Taber in September 1935 and came to Eckville in 1936. His history is elsewhere in this book.

LeRoy was born in the old hospital (Saari's house) in August 1942. He went to Eckville School, was a cadet under Mr. Bliss when he was 10 years old and never was old enough to go to cadet camp while we had cadets here. He worked at the Co-op Store, Eckville, the Hudson Bay store, Rocky Mountain House, then worked with an oil crew, later moving to Brooks. He had a Taxi business there and drove ambulance at the same time. He did painting for awhile then was employed by an oil company, his present job. He married June Rath of Brooks. They have a son Bradley, and daughter Trena, and a son Brent (deceased). They reside in Brooks.

Jacquelyn was born at the Eckville Hospital in March 1947. She went to the Eckville School and worked at odd jobs, babysitting, ironing and at the Eugene restaurant for Gene and Ella Salsauler. She married Earl Dyrland of Leedale. They have a trucking business and haul for Great West Feeds in Red Deer and reside in Red Deer. They had two children. Shelley (deceased February 1977) and Bartley who attends River Glen school.

**THE DOUG RHODES FAMILY — by Mrs. Rhodes**

Doug Rhodes came to Eckville as a small child with his parents, and took his schooling here. After completing his education he worked on a seismic crew and in a lumber camp at Nordegg. Following this, he worked for Chester Kasha for a summer. In 1956 he started working for Art Langer where he worked for 13 years, learning the trade of television and radio technician. He attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary where he furthered his training.

Doug married the former Georgina Reitmeier of Benalto, and they have three daughters, Holly (Mrs. Glenn Cornell) of Red Deer, Trudi and Tammi. They also have two grandchildren, Ryan and Christa.

In 1967 Doug and Georgina started their own business in a small room in the back of Art Langer's shop, and in 1972 they moved their business to the former Kinna building on Main Street, which they later purchased. In 1977 they renovated the building and built an addition onto the back of it.

As well as operating his own business, Doug has worked at many different jobs. He worked part time as trouble-shooter for Eckville Mutual Telephones, Northwestern Utilities, and Calgary Power, as well as being projectionist at the local theatre and operating a school bus for Gene Lazzer. Doug has been a member of the local volunteer fire department for 22 years, the last seven of these as chief. He is now the past mayor of the Town of Eckville.

Doug was a member of the cadets for several years and attended camps at Vernon, B.C. and Dundurn, Saskatchewan. He also played hockey with the Eckville Eagles, and baseball with the Eckville Club. He is a former president of the Eckville Fish and Game Association. He enjoys fishing, camping and canoeing in his spare time, and also does a bit of cross-country skiing.

Georgina worked for a short time at the local hospital, the Co-op store, and then for seven years at the telephone office. She started the C.G.I.T. group in 1956, along with Donna Wilson, whose husband, Harvey, was local manager of Revelstoke Lumber, and continued as leader of this group for three years. She was also an active member of St. Paul's choir for several years. At the time of writing, Georgina has been a member of the Order of Royal Purple No. 233, Benalto Lodge for the last 12 years, and works full time at the store.

Holly took her education in Eckville, where she was on the cheerleading team. She was a member of Explorers, C.G.I.T. and Junior Choir. She taught Sunday School at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church for three years. She is now kept busy with her young family.

Trudi was a member of C.O.C.'s and Explorers, and is still attending C.G.I.T. She also

taught Sunday school, is an ardent artist and enjoys sewing, cooking and babysitting. She would like to become an interior designer upon completion of High School.

Tammi also was a member of C.O.C.'s and Explorers, and of St. Paul's Sunday School. She enjoys Highland Dancing, which she hopes to teach. She also enjoys her pet dog, "Bashful". She enjoys sports, music, camping, travelling and babysitting.

Last summer the family enjoyed a three-week trip to the Yukon and Alaska along with Doug's mother, Ella Rhodes, and Georgina's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Reitmeier of Red Deer. They also took Georgina's niece and nephew, Robbie and Leah Reitmeier of Calgary. They had a very good trip and would like to return to the beautiful Yukon again in a few years.

Although the family is kept busy with their business and their many and varied activties, they enjoy living and working in the growing community of Eckville.

**THE RED RICE FAMILY**

Red (Harley) Rice was the youngest of 12 children born to Charlie and Annie Rice on May 21, 1938 at Viking, Alberta. They farmed at Viking until Red was in junior high, then retired and moved to Lacombe.

Red and Mary Ann Rice, September 1, 1956.

Mary Ann, youngest of six children was born to Joe and Ingeborg Hansen on February 2, 1939 at High Prairie, Alberta. One year later the Hansens moved to Battle Lake, Alberta where they lived for seven years. After a few moves, they returned to Westerose country where they lived until Joe retired and moved to Wetaskiwin.

When Mary Ann left school she took a job at Lacombe hospital and soon met up with Red Rice. They were married on September 1, 1956 at Westerose Church. They lived a few months at Lacombe, then moved to Sundre where they resided for 10 years. Red worked for Hudson's Bay and Canadian Superior.

Red and Mary Ann have three daughters — Debbie Ann, born July 17, 1957 at Lacombe, Donna Marie, born April 21, 1959 at Olds, and Diana Charlene, born June 9, 1963 at Olds.

In 1966 the Rices moved to Eckville. Red went to work as a battery operator for Brinkerhoff, who sold out later that year to Sun Oil Co. Red is still with Sun Oil. Mary Ann worked a few years at a local grocery, first called Sestrap and Co., then Ferguson Foods. She is now employed as casual help at the Post Office.

On July 26, 1975 Debbie married Les Johnson, youngest son of Bill Johnson and the late Elsie Johnson (nee Heitiela) formerly of Eckville, now retired at Sylvan Lake. Deb and Les live at Rocky Mountain House where Les is employed by Delta Controls. On August 28, 1977 they became the happy parents of a daughter, Marsie Ann.

Donna is currently working at the Red Deer Golf and Country Club and sharing an apartment in Red Deer with Linda Armeneau.

Diana is still at home and a Grade 9 student at Eckville Junior High.

**JOHN AND VIRGINIA SAFRONOVICH — by Virginia Safronovich**

John Safronovich of Buck Creek, Alberta and Virginia Psikla were married in Red Deer, Alberta, on July 23, 1959. Virginia graduated from Eckville High School and was a bookeeper in the Eckville Co-op before her marriage. John was employed in the oil fields as a derrick man.

After their four-day wedding celebration at the Psikla farm, (which is tradional of Ukranian-Czechoslovakian families) the young couple went to live in a rented apartment in Olds. In August — a great surprise! John won a trip for two to Hawaii. Since they had not had a honeymoon, this was it!

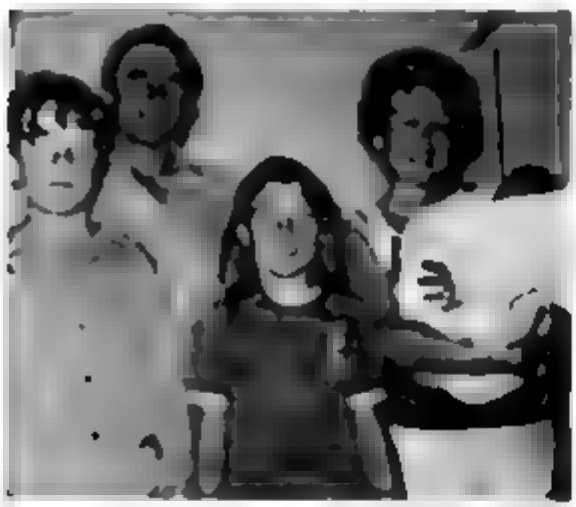
They purchased a house trailer and traveled to several places, following the rigs in Central, Southern and Northern Alberta. Randy was born in Olds in 1960, and Deborah was born in Eckville in 1961. By this time John was a driller, and every now and then the pink trailer would be parked in the Psikla yard, as the rig moved in and out of the area. In 1962, John was involved in a serious car accident near Gilby on his way

home from work. This accident kept him off the job for three months.

By this time the couple were tired of all the moving, and were eager to farm. After several tries to borrow money from government agencies, they found it was "no go". Finally, on November 12, 1963, they purchased the Clucas farm, which was one quarter of land. This took all their savings and a loan from the Eckville Credit Union. In the spring of 1965, the quarter was sold, making a few more dollars. Through savings and another loan from the Eckville Credit Union the Clarence Lutz property, W 26-38-3 W5, was purchased. The home quarter was originally owned by Mrs. Junnila and the other by Mr. Gunnar Forsell. This was a big change for the whole family, as they had been used to living in an 8 by 35-foot trailer for seven years. At that time the house seemed very large!

John continued working for Cactus Drilling, as a tool push. By 1968, he started his own trucking company — Whatley Trucking Ltd. He bought a full line of farm machinery. Working on the rig and farming proved to be quite a challenge. Virginia started driving the tractor. Neighbours knew when she did it all right — there was the top of one hill that was never done! One year, at combining time, John was sent to the United States border for two weeks. Everyone was wondering how ripe we wanted the crop to get before harvesting it. Well, we did get the crop in the bin that year, also some fast hole in Coutts, Alberta!

One day Willis McGonigal, who was elevator agent in Eckville, phoned to tell John that his grain had been accepted for malt, and could he please hurry and haul three carloads right away. Well, John, always being in a hurry, was in the midst of building a truck box. The end gate was to be finished. He sawed the top of the end gate for the hole, instead of the bottom. There were some fancy words, when he went to put it on the box. There was quite some laughing going on by the time he had finished hauling the three carloads of barley, with the hole in the top of the end gate in the truck box.



John and Virginia Salvenovich, with children Randy, Debbie and Garry

They farmed for five years, and then John sold his machinery and rented the land to Ralph Tatlock, who is still farming it today. In the spring of 1973, the big hip-roofed barn, which was a Junnila landmark, was torn down and burned, being replaced by a large steel quonset.

Gary was born on August 29, 1973 — a real joy to the whole family.

John became interested in flying. He obtained his private pilot's license in January 1974 and in February, with his instructor, flew a single engine plane to the Bahamas across the 600-mile Gulf of Mexico to Mexico and then home again. He became so involved with flying that he started Centralta Business Services Ltd. of Lacombe, in which he buys and sells aircraft. John is a member of the Lacombe Flying Club and also a member of the Benalto Elks.

In July 1974, John promoted his first oil well. He formed, and was president of, Panther Oil Limited, of which friends and relatives held shares. Land was bought at Red Water, and in September our first well was spudded'! There were anxious moments towards the end of the hole. Dry well. The land has since been sold, but there are a few of us around that had the thrill of drilling their first and last?? "oil well".

In the summer of 1976 we took on the project of building an 1900-square-foot addition to our home. The last of the Junnila house went up in flames in June, 1976, when the Eckville Fire Department came and burned it. With the old house out of the way, we proceeded to build on to the bungalow that Clarence and Irene Lutz had built in 1962. This house now became a one-and one-half-storey building, we are getting it completed in 1977.

Virginia keeps busy with bookkeeping for their companies. She also enjoys gardening, boating, swimming, "back seat" flying, and also belongs to the Catholic Women's League.

Randy, a student at Eckville High School, enjoys snow and water skiing, riding horses, basketball, volleyball, swimming, hunting and fishing. He is also learning to be a pilot.

Debbie, who was in Grade 9 in 1977, enjoys both water and snow skiing, flying with dad, riding horses, curling, volleyball, basketball and swimming.

Through the years the family has been involved in Boy Scouts, hockey, figure skating, music lessons, swimming, 4-H clubs and Catholic youth groups.

There are two old landmarks of the Junnila property, which are an old ice house and a sauna.

**ELLA ROSELEA MOTTUS SALSAULER**

Ella Roselea Mottus married Arthur Dahl in 1936 at Sylvan Lake. They farmed north of Withrow until 1946, when Arthur's poor health

forced him to give up the hard work on the farm They then moved to Eckville, where Ella was employed at the Co-op lunch counter and Arthur worked as a part time ice-maker at the arena. Arthur passed away in 1955.

In 1963 Ella married Eugene Salsauler and operated a restaurant in Eckville until 1967, when they moved to Lacombe. In 1974 they bought an orchard in Abbotsford, B.C., but soon moved back to Eckville, where they now reside in the new home which they built for themselves There were no children from either of these unions

**SAMBROOKE, ARNOLD E. AND HAZEL — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Mother nature taught Arnold a lot before his formal education started at the age of seven at the Estonian School. His love for the tall timber has ever been present, for he learned to fish and track wildlife very early in his life. Depending upon the weather, Arnold walked, rode horseback or skied to school, joined by the families of Mike Dvornik and Gust Mottus

Learning to use a trowel in his early teens, he helped his father (Arnold Sr., better known as Dick) build chimneys and was put to plastering small closets. Little did he realize then, that he would live with his own work later in life when he plastered the Mike Sestrap farm home, our home today (SE 14-3-39-W5)

On November 24, 1941, Arnold married Hazel A. Jamieson, daughter of Harvey and Margaret Jamieson of Sylvan Lake, and we made Eckville our first home. Arnold operated a mobile seed cleaner

I came to Eckville in the spring of 1939 first to help Irene and Lance Rowat, owners of the Barber Shop and Pool Hall, to operate "Jiffy Lunch". Later I joined the staff of the Alex Ferris General Store, and worked here until our marriage. I was employed afterward by the Eckville Bakery, which was owned and operated by E. Jackson, until Arnold joined the Armourment section of the R.C.A.F. (1942-1945), during which time we lived at Ladner and Coal Harbour. Upon discharge from the R.C.A.F. at Abbottsford, B.C., we returned to Sylvan Lake and picked up the trowel again. Many of the homes in Central Alberta were plastered or stuccoed by the Sambrookes. Harlan Sambrooke, a cousin, had learned the trade and joined Arnold and Dick

In 1953 we purchased the old home quarter from Arnold's father SW 26-40-3-W5. Arnold worked part time for the County of Lacombe repair crew. While in the Gilby area we were active members of the Gilby Sunday School and Hall Board. Ten years later we sold our holdings in the area to Walter Kalev and purchased land two miles east of the town of Eckville from Mr Scotty Glover. The farm is better known as the Mike Sestrap farm

We had four children. Nora May, was born in 1944. She started her schooling at the Estonian School and was later bused to Eckville. She was crowned Queen of Hearts at the Eckville High School in 1962, and was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She later went on to study for her B.A. degree and in 1967 she married Floyd Schamber, a son of Ben and Urma Schamber of Sylvan Lake. They have made their home in Rocky Mountain House. Nora is teaching school and Floyd is with the Alberta Forestry Service.

Gerald Arnold, was born in 1948. He completed his schooling in Eckville and then went on to NAIT, training to become a forest ranger. He has been working in the Crowsnest Forest and Grande Prairie Forest Reserves. In 1975 he married Lorraine Warkentin, a daughter of John and Anne Warkentin of Debolt, Alberta.

Lorne Bruce, born in 1953, completed high school in Eckville and then became a grain buyer. In 1972 he married Donna Irwin, a daughter of Ed and Clara Irwin of Rimbey. They now have a daughter, Tracy Lee, and are living at Lougheed, Alberta

Evelyn Patricia, was born in 1960. She started her education in the Eckville Schools and completed school at Lacombe Composite High School. She is very active in the community in C.G.I.T., 4-H Club work and junior leadership activities.

Arnold was the custodian of the Eckville Elementary School for several years after he stopped driving the Express Bus run to Lacombe. At present he is semi-retired and is living on the farm

**OLE SCHEY FAMILY — by B. A. Schey**

Ole Schey came from Steinkjoer, Norway in 1912 on the liner Olympic, a sister ship of the Titanic. He arrived in North Dakota, U.S.A. and worked his way west over a period of years, finally arriving in Butte, Montana. It was there that he met Mildred Olson, of Eckville and they were married in 1918.

They arrived in Eckville on September 12, 1919. Mr. Schey bought a quarter of land two miles south of Eckville (it is now the east quarter of the late Simon Waisanen farm), the SE-9-39-3 W5. He farmed this and also Mr. James Olson's land until 1946, when the land was sold to Simon Waisanen and Joe Rasmussen. They then moved to Calgary where Mr. Schey went back to his original occupation of painting and decorating, which he continued to do almost to the time of his death in 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Schey had six children. Pearl, Ray, Gloria, Gordon, Joyce and Terry. All live in Calgary with the exception of Gloria, who lives at Forestburg

Mrs. Ole Schey still resides at 308-8th Street, South West Calgary

**SCHOFER, ALBERT AND MARIA**

Albert Schofer left Eatonia, Saskatchewan during the latter part of the depression to seek employment in the Eckville district in 1937

For six years he worked for different farmers in the area. In 1943 he married the former Maria Razzonni of the Bluebell School district.

In 1944 he was employed by the Eckville Co-op and worked there until 1950. In 1951 he started his own business and continued in business as Abe's Super Service for 22 years.

In the years he lived in Eckville he served on the town council, as well as mayor, director of the Eckville Co-op, one of the founding members of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union, also as supervisor in the Credit Union Board and many recreation boards.

Three children were born to them. Gaylord married Sylvia Greenwood of the Evergreen district. They have two children, Chelsey and Ryan. They reside in the Eckville district.

Tim married Fay Wilson of the Clive district and they live in Ponoka.

Tina Marie has gone into psychiatric training in Edmonton.

Albert and Maria are now retired and live in Creston, B.C.

**SELVAIS, JULES**

Mr. and Mrs. Jules Selvais came to Canada from Belgium in January, 1920. They first stopped at Morrinville, then arrived at Kootuk late in the spring. Mr. Selvais was able to secure employment with the C.P.R. for that summer and the next one. They returned to Belgium in November of 1921.

However, Mr. and Mrs. Selvais and their daughter, Marie Louise, came back to Canada in April, 1926. This time they located at Elspeth, where Mr. Selvais purchased some land, and again worked for the C.P.R. He was a blacksmith by trade, so, when he learned that Mr. McHattie in Eckville had his blacksmith shop for sale, Mr. Selvais sold his land at Elspeth and bought the shop. He operated the blacksmith shop in Eckville for 12 years. In 1940 he sold his business in Eckville and bought another shop in Lacombe. The Selvais, with their children, Marie Louise and Roger, then moved to Lacombe.

Mr. Selvais passed away in 1968, and the shop was then taken over by his son, Roger, who continues to operate it at the present time. Roger had taken a course at a vocational school in Calgary, which helped him in carrying on the business. He and his wife, Doreen, have three children.

Marie Louise joined the armed forces and was overseas from 1942 until 1944. Following her return she married Frank Morissette, and they have made their home in Vancouver since then. They have a family of seven children.

Mrs. Selvais continues to live in Lacombe.

Marie Louise Morrisette (Selvais), husband Frank, first baby, Suzanne, Roger, Jules, and Mrs. Selvais. Christmas, 1948

**SESTRAP, MIKE — by Audrey Jobs**

Mike Sestrap arrived in Canada from Rakvere, Estonia, along with his two brothers, Mart and Gust, on January 21, 1905. He worked on the Calgary Banff railroad for a while to gain enough capital, and then started a homestead at Gilby, N.E. ¼ 30-40-3-W5.

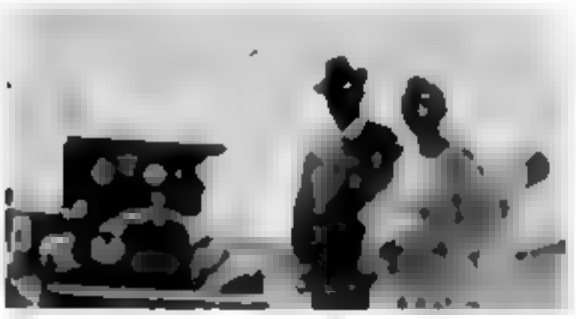
In Estonia, Mike rejected the idea of becoming a priest and turned his attention to tailoring. He became a master tailor at a very early age. He brought his sewing machine and iron with him to Canda, but they have since been lost.

Fanny and Mike Sestrap, Uno Kristin and Elvie Sestrap, 1914

Mike and Gust started building the Gilby Store in 1907, using timber they cut and had made into lumber at Maasep's Mill (Marsep's) which incidentally, was powered by a water wheel. By 1908 the store was in operation. During this time supplies were obtained from Lacombe, a two or three day trip by oxen. Mike bought out Gust's share in the store after a few years, then ran the business himself. Gust and his wife, Jenny, then moved to Moorcroft, Wyoming where they resided until his passing in 1975. Jenny had passed on in 1951 or 1952.

Fanny Krintila (nee Kangas — 1889-1919) was a widow with one son, Uno, (1910-1972) at the time she came from Massachusetts, U.S.A. to visit her sister, Mrs. John Heikkinen. She went to keep house for Mike at Gilby and later married him in 1912. Fanny and Mike had four children besides Uno, these being Elvie, Arvo, George and Ray. In 1918 Mike sold the Gilby Store and Post Office to Shorrocks, and moved to Eckville, buying a store from Mr. Eckhart. During this time Mike had also helped to build the telephone lines between Eckville and Gilby.

In the spring of 1919 Fanny died, a victim of the flu epidemic, leaving Mike with five young children. For a period of time the children were "farmed out" until Mike could get a housekeeper in to look after them. The first housekeeper was a Mrs. Herring, followed by Mrs. Banton, an elderly lady. Mrs. Fred Pattison also looked after the family during a two-month leave of absence taken by Mrs. Banton to tend a sick relative in Winnipeg. Mrs. Pattison relates that Mike was a very quiet man — very seldom offering any conversation. Anything required from the store was promptly sent home, with one exception. She wanted to make the children some gingerbeer and ordered the ginger and lemons several times but it never arrived. Mike was strictly opposed to liquor and thought gingerbeer must be some kind of Beer — thus the necessary requirements for the beverage never arrived. Mrs. Pattison also recounted a time when Uno, whose chore it was to haul water into the house, was being very sloppy, not knowing his stepfather was following him into the house. Mike reprimanded him, and Uno tore off upstairs and jumped out of a second storey window. Miraculously, he wasn't seriously hurt.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sestrap about 1922

In 1922 Mike caught wind of an eligible young woman coming out from Tartu, Estonia, to marry a friend of his. He couldn't pass up the opportunity, so he discreetly enquired when the young lady was to arrive in Red Deer, and made sure he arrived there first. Mike and Alma were married in 1922. Alma was a very astute woman, and Mike many times gave her credit for a good business head. They had their share of hardships, as did most families of that era.

In 1923, one Saturday afternoon, there was a big "do" at the local hall, when the towns-people discovered a fire on main street. The Atlas Lumber Company, Hiembecker residence, and the Sestrap Store were all in flames. Mike ran into the store and grabbed the first thing handy to save — the cash register — and ran into the street with it. The fire was a hard blow but with the insurance money and all the salvage clothing and goods which Alma cleaned and sold, they raised enough to start another store in the empty Charlie Kasper building, farther up the street. In 1928 another bad fire wiped out the East street of town.

During this time Mike also helped to finance and build the Memorial Hall (now the Lion's Hall). Mr. H. Jokinen (now deceased) was the head carpenter, and Dr. Asbury Somerville (now deceased) wired it. Electricity was supplied by the Delco Plants owned by various local residents. The Sestrap Delco Plant supplied the house and store with power. He also had one of the first cars in the district — a Model T Ford, followed by a Grey Dor-

Mike and Alma and children were well liked in the district — he was known as a good businessman. Many times, at Christmas, the customers would find a bag of candy included in their purchases. In 1938 Mike sold the store to Abousaffy and Ferris, and bought a store in Bowden, which Uno and Ray managed with occasional visits by Mike. By 1944 Mike was back in [illegible], once more in the store until he sold the business to Mr. Jenkins in 1949. Back in harness after a couple of years, Mike had Uno run the grocery store and the dry goods section was leased to Mr. McIvor.

Alma passed away in 1956 and Mike followed her in 1958. Uno and his son Ken then bought the Sestrap and Company Store and operated it until it was sold to "Tiny" Ferguson in 1971.

The following poem (incomplete) was composed by Mr. J. T. Marshall, about three pioneers of Eckville — Mike Sestrap, J. M. McDonald and Mr. MacIntosh.

There is a place called Eckville,
  which is a great town
Because of three gentlemen,
  Of established renown
They were Mike, Mac and McIntosh.
  A trio hard to beat
And these three gentlemen are noted
  For holding down the street

Now if you chance to Eckville come
You'll surely meet this clan,
With a smile upon their countenance
That would jar a healthy man.
They would gladly take you by the hand
And waltz you all around,
And tell you all the secrets
About our little town
And if at night you chance to wake
To noise upon the street,
You'll know it's these famous gentlemen
That's holding down the street.

(Used with permission)

**THE FAMILY OF MIKE SESTRAP — by Audrey John**

Mike and Fanny's son, Uno Krintila, was born in Pittsburg, Penn. in 1910, coming north with his mother as a toddler. He helped Mike in the store from the age of eight and was in the store business for the rest of his life. He operated a store at Rycroft, Benalto, Bowden and Eckville. Maude and Uno were married in 1933 and had one son, Ken, who is married and at present working as manager of a store in Gibsons, B.C. Uno was very enthusiastic about sports, especially hockey, and will be long remembered for his participation with the youth. He died in 1972. Maude is retired at Gibsons, B.C.

Elvie (born in 1913) took all her schooling in Eckville from Mr. Ludwig and Miss Thompson, then furthered her education in the U. of A., Edmonton, for a B.A. in Languages. She married Clifford Vertine in 1947 and is presently retired in Victoria, B.C.

Arvo, (born in 1914) took his schooling in Eckville. He is now in Terrace, B.C. with his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1939. Their two children are Sharon and Jan. Arvo now has a charter operation 40 miles down channel from Kitimat.

George, born in 1916, also took schooling in Eckville. He helped in the store until 1940, then married Lydia Kraft in 1941 and they lived on the family farm three miles east of Eckville until 1945. Then he went to work for Geoprosco. Due to ill health he quit oil work in 1960 and then, in 1962, he and Lydia started Sestrap's Cafe, which they operated until 1974. From 1971 to 1974 they also operated the pool hall. In 1974 they sold their businesses and retired to Penhold. Their three children are: Ronald, Audrey and Cindy.

Ray (born in 1918) was also in the store with Mike, Uno and George. He helped Uno in Benalto and Bowden, as well. In 1940 he married Myrel Lewis and they have two daughters, Sandra and Deborah. He bought the farm by the creamery in 1947, and worked for Larry Knudson in the garage until he sold the farm to Mrs. John Armstrong in 1951. He is now retired and living in Clearbrook, B.C.

**SETTERS, JAMES AND PAT — by J. Pat Setters**

Jim was born and raised at Mirror, Alberta. He came to Eckville in 1945 at the end of World War Two. He had served overseas for four years in the army (RCEME). He met Russ Eastman while overseas and came to visit him, deciding to stay and work for him. Russ was the International Harvester dealer then. Jim also worked for Jake Busslinger. In the fall of 1946, he bought a welding shop from Dick Tooley.

We were married in 1947. I am the second daughter of Jim and Helen Brown who farmed in the Diamond Valley district. We attended Gaetz School.

We sold the welding shop in the winter of 1947 to Russ Aubrey. In the spring of 1949, Jim bought his first grave. truck, hauling grave. in the summer and cattle, grain and lumber in the winter. He hauled lumber from many camps in the Rocky Mountain House area.

In 1957, we moved to Red Deer, still in the trucking business.

We formed a Limited Company in 1973, operating under the name of J. T. Setters and Sons Construction Limited. We also moved to an acreage on Highway 2A, north toward Blackfalds.

We have three children. Janice was born at Eckville. She married Dick Gehrke, the son of Orville and Ruth Gehrke, of the Burnt Lake district. They went to Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A. where Dick attended the Palmer School of Chiropractic. Upon their return to Red Deer, Dick practiced with Dr. Whitney. He soon set up his own clinic in Rocky Mountain House (Dr. R. J. Gehrke DC). They moved to Rocky in 1973. They have two children, Tanis Jill and Tyson John.

Byron was born at Eckville. He married Melinda Staples, daughter of Dr. J. C. and Mrs. Staples, formerly of Red Deer and now of Richmond, B.C. Byron is part owner and helps manage our company.

Wilson was born at Red Deer and is still at home. He operates one of the machines in our business.

**SHANKS, JOHN**

Mr. John Thomson Shanks were born Dec. 17, 1887, in Scotland, one of a very large family, raised on a farm, worked in a store for five years but wished to be a farmer some day. He left Scotland in the fall of 1912 with a ticket bought for Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, to settle on a homestead, free land, as was advertised at that time. He spent the first winter in Edmonton hauling coal with sleigh and team of horses. He met a gentleman who had his family living in the Mayerthorpe area where there was land still to be homesteaded, so thus he lived in the Mayerthorpe district. Next winter was spent at a logging camp near Athabaska. The following winter was spent on the homestead in a log cabin

with sod roof which he had built. Groceries were hauled for 20 miles.

The spring of 1914, he went to the prairies, Vulcan area and worked for a farmer for five years. Then back to the homestead to clear land by hand and build a two roomed cabin.

In the fall of 1920, he went to Scotland where he married Isabella Murray. She was born in Scotland February 13, 1892. She was a housekeeper. They were married on January 26, 1921, and spent their honeymoon in Scotland visiting relatives and friends and arrived in Mayerthorpe April 1, 1921, after travelling by ship for seven days across the Atlantic to Halifax then three days and three nights by train to Saskatchewan. They spent a week visiting, then went on to Edmonton and Sangudo as far as the train went. The last 20 miles by horses and buggy with their belongings in three trunks. The mailman and his wife brought them to Mayerthorpe.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Shanks - 1933

My father milked cows, shipped cream and cleared land by hand to start farming. May 1923, daughter Janet was born. Mail, groceries and supplies were brought by train since the railway had been built. My father farmed in the Mayerthorpe district until 1954 when he sold his land and retired to Eckville.

Mr. and Mrs. Shanks bought a house and lot from Mr. Bill Thomas father of Clare Thomas. Mr. Shanks died September 12, 1960 and is buried in Eckville Cemetery. Mrs. Shanks died May 9, 1967 and is also buried in Eckville Cemetery.

My father read a lot and was interested in community affairs. He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the church board, as well as a member of the school board for a few years. My mother was a member of the church ladies' aid.

**HENRY AND MYRTLE SMITH AND FAMILY — by Edith Smith Russell**

Henry W. Smith was raised on an Iowa corn farm. He married Lela Myrtle Howard in 1903. then, in 1906, he took his town-bred wife and three-year-old daughter Edith, to a homestead section in Dandhills near Whitman, Nebraska. Here Howard was born in 1911 and Alice in 1913.

While harvesting in the Dakotas Father caught the "Canada Fever", with the result that the homestead was sold early in 1914. In June he landed in Red Deer with an immigrant car loaded with our household effects, a cow, two dogs, two saddle horses and three mares with foals. (Most of the horses later died from swamp fever.) The family followed by rail via St. Paul, a weary journey for a mother with three small children. Father rented a house and then started looking for land. He finally decided to rent for a year, however.

In August the family moved to the Jack Kult place north of Pitcox, now Hespero. The trip from Red Deer took three days with the household goods loaded on a hayrack. The cow and some of the horses were strung out behind with me (Edith) herding them on horseback. The first night was spent at Bill Prevo's, east of Sylvan Lake, the second at Wright's, near the Eckville corner. What I remember most was mosquitoes, thirst, and bubbles rising on the muskeg as we jolted over the corduroy.

Our first home was a two-room moss-chinked log shack with a ladder to an attic. There was a cribbed open well with a bucket and a pulley, this was used as a fridge for cream cans until freeze-up. There was a privy without any seat, and a garden patch which my father manured and fenced with slabs. Everything but the potatoes froze the first year it was planted. There was some land in crop and I remember a threshing rig, pulled by oxen, coming that fall. Mr. Molander was one of the crew. The grain was bound, stooked, and stacked before threshing.

I recall also the welcome visit of a bachelor, Mr. Knorr, and his gift of a half-gallon sealer of wild strawberry jam. Another frequent visitor was an illiterate young mother of three, to whom I read the funny papers sent by my grandmother. A Mrs. Taylor taught me to knit, and to love sunsets and northern lights.

I rode to Shady Lane School (which was later moved to Condor and used for a store room). Mrs. Sam Edgar was the teacher, followed by a cultured Englishwoman, Mrs. Brown, whose homesteader husband looked after their four-year-old son during the week while she boarded at Hicks'. She taught me to waltz, sight-read music and to love watercolour painting, which has become a hobby of mine since my retirement. Other early teachers at the Old Eckville School were Miss Goodmundson, Miss Kinna, Mr. Ludwig, Miss Thompson, Miss Benedickson and Miss Paul in the town school. Alice and Hope also attended the Convent in Red Deer. We were all in High School in Red Deer at different times. Howard attended Olds School of Agriculture prior to joining the U.S. Navy. Alice and I attended Camrose Normal School. Alice took degrees in music at Toronto Conservatory and in Peoria, Illinois, U.S.A. Belatedly, I received a

degree in education from the University of Alberta. So much for education.

Back to 1914. The nearest store was run by the Macdonnell Brothers at Pitcox. For some reason, though, Eckville was our post office and many a trip I made on horseback, after school, for mail and a few groceries. Usually it was dark, and the coyotes were howling before I got home. There was no surveyed road, just a trail through successive uncleared farms. Struggling to open and close gates caused torn clothes and even tears. The gates with a loop and stick to lean against were O.K., but those that looped wire over the post were really tough.

Five of us lived in that log house over two winters. We were joined during part of the second winter by Russell and Rosie McFaul, since Rosie's first baby was expected and their homestead was quite isolated.

Rabbits were abundant during the winter of 1914-1915. Hundreds of them frollicked in the moonlight right near our house. In Nebraska a jackrabbit was fresh meat, but Alberta neighbors warned us not to eat the "snowshoes." However, we never lacked for meat. In addition to being a good butcher, my father was a good shot, prairie chickens were plentiful, and we went moose-hunting every year.

We often went to the Christmas concert in the old Eckville hall, driving down the Horseguard in a grainbox on a bobsled. Though padded underneath with straw and covered with quilts and horse blankets, it was still a drowsy cold trip, but the sleighbells kept us awake.

During this time the Smiths attended many auction sales, as discouraged oldtimers unloaded and went back "home". In this way we were able to acquire implements, livestock and even boxes of books. These books were a snare when I was left to baby-sit Howard and Alice, and sometimes loaf and bake the bread in the old Majestic woodburning range. Once, deep in "Uncle Tom's Cabin", I let the fire go out.

In 1916 a C.P.R. quarter adjoining Eckville was bought, a big granary built and fitted with bunks, and we lived in that while the new house was built by the Kopsala family. Paul Pykett, son-in-law of the Browns lived on the next quarter west, before the Bromlings and the Weeks, broke most of the quarter with a gang plow and our horses. The land required no clearing — low birch shrubs were plowed under. He had to work around a couple of sloughs which, however, are now long since gone and are growing grain.

The new house, a two-story seven-room frame building finished inside with lathe and plaster, Iowa-style, was completed none too soon. We moved into it just before the cold weather set in. A finely-mounted moose head and a new piano were much admired by visitors, but the old "His Master's Voice" gramophone and pile of scratchy records were also an attraction. Being located conveniently near Eckville, having a barn with vacant stalls, and my mother's good cooking, kept the extra leaves in the table at all times.

Hope was born in this house — a bit prematurely and without a doctor — on January 18, 1918. Subsequently, Mother was in poor health and finally was hospitalized in Red Deer. This was one of the reasons for the auction sale which my father held in June. This was a black day for me, for I had to part with Foxy, the sorrel pony some people may remember as being the winner of many pony and free-for-all races at sports days in Eckville, Benalto, and Sylvan Lake.

My parents and Grandmother Smith took an extended holiday to British Columbia, going down the coast by ship to Los Angeles. There, our first car, the old Overland, was bought and then driven to Iowa where a Mrs. Diraten had, in the meantime, taken the young Smiths to their maternal grandmother's.

During the flu year, I attended four different Iowa schools, celebrated one false and then the real Armistice, and had the flu, along with my father, Hope and Alice. Howard and Mother escaped it completely.

In the spring of 1919 the family moved to Wyoming where my father worked on the construction of the Lincoln Highway and I became an "easterner" in Rawlins High School.

News that the house, occupied by the Weeks family, had burned triggered our return to Eckville. It was a memorable trip from Rawlins, via Yellowstone Park in August. We travelled in the Overland car, tenting at night, with an extended stopover at Ladner, waiting for car parts. Through it all Mom, with a frying pan and dutchoven, fed us well. Service stations, roads, and camp facilities have changed a lot since 1920.

We lived briefly above the garage in Eckville where my father was for a time in business with Fred Isaacson. We later moved back to the farm into a small converted building. Father worked at the creamery (and made some of the prize-winning butter), put up ice for the stores and for our own use with a team and flat bed, butchered beef for the stores, delivered gravel from the pit on leased C.P.R. pasture land, raised purebred hogs and luscious strawberries. (He gardened by the moon.)

My mother's specialties were pansy beds, houseplants, and canaries. She also raised belligerent turkey toms, flocks of geese, and guinea fowl. The latter were a D.E.W. against coyotes.

Eventually the home place was sold to Mr. Hopkins. Father continued farming for a time on the Tatson place and on rented land near Gilby with the family living again in a log house. A new venture here was a flock of sheep, but in the 1930's the price of lamb and wool was very low. By then married, each of the Smith children received, not a wool quilt, but a mattress filled with approximately 40 pounds of carded wool, the joint work of our parents.

Farming was abandoned later on and the family lived in Red Deer while my father worked on C P R. bridge crews. After this we moved to Seattle where, during the War, he worked in the shipyards, and mother on the Bremerton Ferry. Hope and Alice (with the music degrees), worked for Boeing. After a ten-year lapse I resumed teaching, temporarily, and continued until 1969.

The last Smith home was in Rumsey, where Alice's husband had a general store. I was teaching in Stettler nearby. After a lengthy illness my father died of leukemia, in the Stettler Hospital, in May, 1955.

Mother lived in various places thereafter. She spent some time with Howard in Honolulu. He was a retired Lieut.-Commander, employed by an American Red Cross Unit attached to U.S. troops abroad and in California until his retirement last year. She also lived with Hope (Mrs. F. E. McElroy) in Maryland and Seattle and with Alice (Mrs. Harold Ruskin) who recently retired from teaching, along with her husband. While visiting the latter in Fullbrook, California, Mother fell and broke her hip in 1961. She accompanied my husband, Douglas Russell, and I back to Edmonton in 1962. She underwent surgery there but was in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. She spent several years at Rimoka Lodge in Ponoka. I was teaching at Ponoka Composite High School until we moved to Victoria in 1971. In May of 1972 Mother suffered a stroke which left her speechless and partially paralyzed. She died in the Red Deer Nursing Home in January, 1973, at the age of 89 years.

**SMITH, THOMAS SR. AND ELIZABETH**

Thomas Smith and Elizabeth Mary Johnston were married in Scotland in 1908 and came to the Medicine Hat area of Alberta to homestead nine miles north of Irvine in 1910. Mrs. Smith's brother, James Johnston, came and took the adjoining homestead, but was killed in action in France during World War I.

Life on the prairie was a succession of hardships, with crop failures from drought or grasshoppers taking 11 out of 14 crops. The first winter was spent in a single-board frame shack, which was improved on slightly over the following years. The barn was made of sods. Wood had to be hauled from the Cypress Hills, so the main fuel in summer was dried cow chips gathered by the children. Mrs. Kemp, a neighbour, was the midwife at the birth of the six children — George, John, James, Thomas, William and Robert — all born on the homestead. The four oldest children all attended the Long Valley schoo.

In December 1924 the family came to the Alex Staudinger farm, SW 22-38-2-W5, southeast of Benalto, which they rented for three years. The Peter Anderson and Arthur Caton families came from Irvine to Benalto at the same time. The train bringing them and their possessions arrived at Benalto carrying seven carloads of settlers' effects and 15 children. One unusual occurrence on the trip up here was the time the box car was opened for inspection at Calgary and their dog got out. Imagine their surprise, while sitting in the C.P.R. station at Red Deer, waiting for the train to Benalto, to have their dog walk in. It must have hung on some place under or on the coupling of the box car. The conductor said, "I am going to make an exception; your dog can ride with you to Benalto." About 50 of the Smith's horses were driven up from the prairie the following summer by Fred Cowan. Nine of the horses drowned in the swamp on the Staudinger farm as soon as they were turned out, and quite a few more didn't survive the first winter. During these three years the children went to the Evarts school.

Thomas Smith's mother, Margaret, lived with the family from 1925 until her death in 1947 at the age of 91 years. She was buried in the Medicine Hat Cemetery.

The next move was in 1927 to the former Gust Kalaputus farm, NW 28-38-2-W5, two miles east of Benalto, which they bought from Charlie Jenkins. They also bought Pt. SE 33-38-2-W5 from Julius Selvais, who moved to Eckville. Much of this land was covered by poplar trees which was cleared and broken the hard way — with grub hoe, axe and horses. The children went to school at Kuusamo, which then had two rooms, until 1934, when the senior room was closed and then Bill and Robert went to Eckville High School.

Thomas Smith managed the Medicine Valley Livestock Association for a number of years. It had buyers at Sylvan Lake, Benalto, Eckville, Hespero and Rocky Mountain House, and handled cattle, sheep and hogs. He was campaign manager for Mr. Gaetz, U.F.A. in one election campaign and for A. J. Hooke in two elections. Both Elizabeth and Tom were active in church and community affairs; she being a member of the Ladies' Aid and a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society. Tom was a Presbyterian Church Elder and for six years he was president of the Agricultural Society. Dur-

Thomas Smith (Sr.)

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith.

ing the war years they were busy with Victory Bond drives and with Red Cross work

When Mr and Mrs Smith left to reside in the Eckville district in 1950 they sold their land to their eldest son, George and his wife, Edna Edna was born and raised in the Carbon district, southeast of Three Hills. She has lived nearly 34 years on Grandpa and Grandma's home place, two and one half miles east of Benalto, and was their first daughter-in-law George and Edna raised two children, Patricia and David, and both attended public school at Benalto. In the fall of 1977 their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Meyers and baby son came to live on the 60-acre parcel of land at Elspeth, Pt. SE 33-38-3-W5. She has worked for many years at the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville, and he does carpenter work, and is a sub-contractor In 1967 the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Ltd. bought from the Smith a small parcel of land off Pt SE 33-38-3-W5, along the C N R. right-of way It is called the Elspeth Propane Terminal.

Four of the Senior Smith sons farm in the Eckville area

James and wife Elsie have four sons and one daughter — Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Gordon and Linda

Thomas Jr and wife Janet have two sons and two daughters — Ronald, Murray, Isabel and Edith

William and wife Jean have four daughters — Beth, Sharon, Mary, and Beverly

Robert and wife Kay have four sons and a daughter — Gary, Dale, Philip, Jim and Kathy

John and his wife Marlene live on Salt Spring Island, B.C They have three sons and a daughter — Kenneth, John, Bradley and Becky

In the spring of 1947 Thomas Sr. and Elizabeth left their farm east of Benalto to live with their son Robert on the Sproski farm in the Eckville district, later moving to their town home on 54th Street (later sold to Lionel Ramstead, who presently occupies this property)

Mrs. Smith died on November 3, 1955 at the age of 69 years. Mr. Smith continued to live in his own home in Eckville for a few years, then sold his home and lived with various members of the family until eventually going into the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer He passed away on November 3, 1976 at the age of 94 years. Both Tom and Elizabeth are buried in the Eckville Cemetery

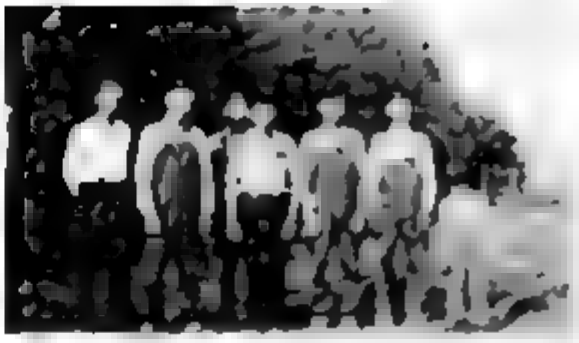
**SMITH, JOHN J. AND MARLENE**

We Smith boys all started out on our own in 1937 when the quarter section just across the road from Elson's farm was bought In 1938 George Christie's place was bought, and this became the home place for Smith Bros of which I was a member

In 1946 in October, the Smith Bros partnership was dissolved. Each one went his own way, but I got George Christie's old place as my share. I lived there until I sold it to August Litvam in the fall of 1959. I continued living there until my auction sale in April 1960, at which time I moved to Eckville

In Eckville I had a share in building the first Kingdom Hall, which was completed in 1961. In 1962 I married Marlene Hayhurst and we have four children, three boys and a girl. We built a house in Eckville next to the Kingdom Hall in 1969 In August of 1973 we sold our home in Eckville to Jim Bass and we moved to Salt Spring Island and bought a home on a one and three quarters acre plot, on which we now live

I became one of Jehovah's Witnesses in 1952 and the presiding overseer of Jehovah's Witnesses in Eckville prior to moving from Eckville for 17 years



Smith Brothers Tom, John, George, Jim, Robert and Bill

**SMITH, ROBERT AND FAMILY**

Robert is the youngest of six sons born to Mr and Mrs. Tom Smith in a homesteader's shack in the Irvine district about 20 miles east of Medicine Hat The house is still standing, and it is hard to imagine the hardships our parents must have endured, living in a house like that with a family of six. They endured 13 years on the homestead before moving north to the Benalto district in 1924. They rented a farm from Staudingers for three years and then bought a farm two miles east of Benalto. This was where I was brought up.

Since I was only one and one-half years old when leaving Irvine, my first memories are of our home at Benalto. I went to school at Kuusamo through Grade 8 and then to Eckville High School. During all of my growing up years the depression was in full force. It was not uncommon to see men riding the freight trains at Elspeth. A few came to our home for a meal, which they always got. We didn't have any money but we never went hungry, and my memories of childhood are happy ones. Before I finished school my older brothers had bought land north of Eckville belonging to Tony Andrelus. Jim and I still farm this place, 1977 being the 41st crop harvested there. In 1938 we formed a partnership (George, John, James, Tom, Bill, and Robert) and from then on we did business

under the name Smith Brothers. The same year we bought the Christie place west of Eckville where I lived until March 15, 1947. I had bought the Frank Sproski place in the summer of 1946 and then worked in the mine at Nordegg during the winter of 1946-1947. Made big money, too — $1.01 per hour less board, and union dues. I came home in March and moved to my own farm, NW 32-39-3-W5, which is now known as "Standalane Farm", with very little furniture, nine head of cattle and lots of debt. Father and Mother had sold the home place to George and Edna, so they came and lived with me until January 1950. I was married to Kay Hebner of Turtle Valley, B.C. on January 14, 1950. Kay was born in Chase, B.C. in 1929. She had a brother and sister. Her brother Harry lives in Salmon Arm, B.C. and her sister, Pauline Anderson, lives in Rocky Mountain House. Kay took her schooling in Turtle Valley then worked at various jobs until we were married. Kay's father died in 1951 and her mother moved to the Eckville district in 1957. When we were first married we lived in the old log house built by the Moros; the original owners of this farm. We lived in it for 11 years, during which time Garry, Dale, Philip, Kathy, and James were born. We built and moved into our present home in 1961. Everet Tarvis was our carpenter and Robert Ranger did the inside finishing work.

Robert Smith Family. Garry, Kathy, Jim, Robert, Philip, Kay and Dale

In 1956 we bought the SW 32-39-3-W5 from Otto Hiltala. Later we bought the Wayne Hiltala place and still own the SE 6-40-3-W5, and 80 acres of the SW 6-40-3-W5. Later we bought the NE 32-39-3-W5 from Mrs. Frank Lingren and Garry now owns this quarter. In 1972 we bought the NW 3-41-3-W5, which we still own. Garry, our oldest son, was born October 26, 1950. He took his schooling in Eckville and two years at Olds School of Agriculture. He was always interested in farming, and is now in the process of taking over the farm.

Dale was born February 28, 1953. He also took his schooling in Eckville but wasn't interested in farming. He took employment with Hunt Construction of Eckville, where he is presently employed. Dale was married to Val Jerden of Red Deer June 30, 1973. They have two sons, Jason and Robert.

Four generations of the Smith family. Standing, Robert, Dale (holding son Jason) and seated, Tom Smith Sr.

Philip, our third son, was born July 18, 1957, took his schooling in Eckville and went on to Olds Agricultural School for two years. He then decided to take an apprenticeship course to become an electrician. He is presently living in Calgary.

Kathy, our daughter, was born September 27, 1958. She is presently in Grade 12 at the Eckville High School and plans to go to university to become a home economics teacher. Kathy is in C.G.I.T., and was president of the organization in 1976.

Jim, our youngest son, was born September 26, 1960. He is in Grade 12 at Eckville and intends to go to Olds Agricultural School for two years. If Jim comes back to the farm maybe "The Gaffer" (an English term for "The Boss") will be able to get a little more time for fishing, travelling, and other activities.

Our four boys have all been in Cubs and Scouts and have enjoyed the camps and outings very much. Garry earned a trip to England in 1965. Jim earned a trip to Sooke, B.C. in 1974 and to Norway in 1975. Garry has been a Scout leader in Eckville for seven years.

The years have gone quickly with their share of rewards and setbacks. One of the most difficult things to accept is the frequent hailstorms. Nineteen seventy-seven was the 31st crop on our home place and in ten of those years we had hail, some very severe storms which took nearly all our grain crops and even our hay was badly damaged. We have always kept a good-sized herd of cattle and in recent years we have been

buying feeder cattle and fattening them for market In the bad hail years it is the cattle that pay the bills

One more thing I would like to mention is that we are part of a family that have worked and visited together all through the years. We have always got along well together and enjoyed a family reunion in July, 1977, with 63 of the family attending. I hope our family enjoy the same good fortune in the years ahead.

**SMITH, THOMAS AND JANET**

Tom was born on a farm at Irvine, Alberta, on June 1, 1917, the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs Thomas Smith Sr and started school at Long Valley, a small schoo. on the prairie. The house Tom was born in still stands and is occupied mostly by pigeons. The old school is used as a grain bin for wheat

In 1924, the family moved to a farm rented from Alex Staudinger in the Benalto district From there he went to school at Evarts by horse and cutter in the winter and saddle horse in the summer (without the saddle) Three years later father bought a farm two miles east of Benalto from Charlie Jenkins and from there he went to schoo. at Kuusamo. It was on No. 11 Highway one mile east of the cemetery but is no longer there Ena Woima taught grades one to six in the one room and the other room was seven to 10. He gave up on school when he got to be 17 and went farming with his brothers at Benalto and Eckville. He worked out one spring for a neighbor and got $22 a month driving horses to put in the crop.

He joined the army in November, 1941, and went to trade school at Hamilton for nine months and took mechanics. He graduated from trade schoo. to get top wages of $1.75 per day, then went overseas with R C A S.C in March 1943 and served in England, Sicily, Italy, France, Holland, and Germany and came home in January 1946

The farm he now lives on was bought in partnership with his brother, Bill, while both were in the army It is the S 20-39-3-W5 and was formerly owned by Luther Finlay We farmed with tractor and horses until we both were married, after that no more batching

On December 18, 1947, he married Janet Shanks, only daughter of Mr and Mrs. John Shanks, from Mayerthorpe, Alberta. Janet was born May 19, 1923 in a small two room homestead house two miles from Mayerthorpe. She went to a one-roomed school at Deer Lodge with one teacher, teaching Grades one to nine. Janet either walked or rode a horse to schoo. two and a half miles every day. Then three years of high school in Mayerthorpe with one teacher teaching the three grades. She then went to Edmonton for nurses' training and graduated from U of A H as an R N in 1947 She worked for one year at U. of A.H., then sometime in the Eckville Hospital in 1948

Janet was a member of C.G.I.T. for three years and joined the United Church at Padstow as a teenager

In the spring of 1948, we had a very heavy snow storm and Tom took Janet into work at the Eckville Hospital with a team and sleigh in early May. We started on the land on May 19 and seeded wheat May 24. That was the only good grade of wheat ever grown on this farm. In 1949. we were hailed out 100% and had no hail insurance

Janet and Tom Smith with Isabel, Murray and Ronald, 1957

Tom and Janet have two sons and two daughters. Ronald married Sharyl Stuart of Red Deer They have one daughter Karen. Ronald is a heavy duty mechanic and works for R. Angus & Co., and they live in Red Deer Ronald went over to Derbyshire, England with a Scout Group to a Jamboree in 1965. Isabel has B. of Ed., taught one year at Linden, Alta., then married A Wymann who works for Hilton Hotels. They live in Berlin now, but have lived in Singapore and Manila They have one daughter Christina, who has flown around the world before she was two years old. Murray has a dairy farm on the former Ranner Maid farm, NE 30-39-3-W5. He married Pat Staniforth, daughter of Bill Staniforth of Evarts on September 3, 1977 Murray also farms with his father Edith is at home and attends high school in Eckville. She works part time at the Eckville Manor House

Tom has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Eckville since 1958. He spent 30 years on the Church Board and was chairman of the building committee when the church was built He served three years on the arena committee and is a member of the Eckville Legion. Janet has been a member of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid for over 25 years, two years president of the club and Scout Parent Group and taught Sunday School for 13 years and also helped with Explorers for six years.

**SOMERVILLE, DR. ASBURY — by Mrs. Edythe Somerville**

Asbury Somerville was born in Hartney, Manitoba on September 6, 1896. He was the son of Reverend William and Fanny (Rankin) Somer-

ville. He received his secondary education at St John's High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, graduating from the matriculation course. He later attended the University of Manitoba, receiving his B.A. in 1917 and his M.D. in 1924.

He was married to Edythe Lavina E. Wales, of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on January 1, 1928. Their children are Mrs. E. E. Newhall and Mrs. D. F. Leslie.

Following his graduation from the University of Manitoba Dr. Somerville came to Eckville where he engaged in private practice from 1924 until 1931. He then attended the University of Toronto from which he received his degree in Public Health in 1932. He then returned to Red Deer, but, since there were no immediate openings in the field of public health, he carried on in private practice in Ponoka from 1932 until 1936.

During the years from 1936 to 1942 he served as director of the Foothills Health Unit at High River, Alberta. From 1942 until 1952 he was Assistant Deputy Minister of Health in Alberta, and Deputy Minister from 1952 until 1961. He also was chairman of Glenrose Hospital Board in Edmonton for a time.

Dr. Somerville earned considerable recognition in the field of public health. He was president of the Alberta Public Health Association in 1949, and president of the Canadian Public Health Association from 1954 to 1955. He was chosen to direct an Alberta Health Survey conducted from 1948 to 1950. He was made a Senior Member of the Canadian Medical Association.

In 1953 Dr. Somerville was awarded, along with his good friend, Morley Young, the Coronation Medal. He was given this honor for having given the most to his profession during his years of service in the field of medicine.

During the First World War Dr. Somerville joined the Canadian Army and served with the First Machine Gun Battalion in France from 1916 to 1919. Along with his practice of medicine at Eckville he also found time to serve as a trustee for the local schools for three years, and served in a similar capacity for three years while in High River. During his stay at High River he was president of the Rotary Club and of the Knights of Pythias, each for one term. He was a member of the United Church, and was a non-active member of the Masonic Lodge. Photography was one of his recreational interests. He also served at one time as president of the Skyline Hikers of the Canadian Rockies.

Dr. and Mrs. Somerville made their home in Edmonton for several years. Dr. Somerville passed away there on August 17, 1967, and his body was cremated. Mrs. Somerville still maintains her home in Edmonton, although she enjoys travelling a great deal, and makes frequent trips to Toronto to visit her daughter living there, or to Vancouver, to visit her other daughter. She goes on various tours as well, to enjoy other areas of the country.

**CECIL SPEIRS FAMILY**

Dr. Cecil Speirs came to Eckville in June, 1951, after graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph, Ontario. He set up Eckville's first veterinary clinic and practise. In September, 1952 he married the former Betty Mackie, of Eckville, who taught at Calkins Valley, Benjamin and Bentley schools. They purchased the August Moro property as their first office and residence. This house was later moved three blocks into town, where Cecil set up the first trailer court, in the summer of 1955.

Two sons were born to them. Dale in November, 1955 and Neil in August, 1957. The Speirs moved to Red Deer in July, 1963. Cecil is now operating a veterinary clinic there.

Dale and Neil are both attending the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Dale is studying horticulture and Neil is studying agricultural engineering.

**SPITTAL, PHYLLIS URSULA AND BOYS**

Having been asked for something about ourselves to put in the history book, we shall put in a few words.

Mother, my two boys Robert and Lloyd, and I came to Eckville August 4, 1962. Why did we come? Because we had been told Eckville had a good General Hospital and a good school, and having been assured that Bertha and Arvid Anderson would take us to our church (Full Gospel at Diamond Valley) — the one reason being as important as the other.

People say, "My family are the most important to me" — same here, but seeing they are, and I being the supporter, my job is and has been of uppermost importance. Therefore often things at home have to slide in order for me to have sufficient rest to be able to work. We have had our good days and our bad like everyone else. Being a midwife besides an R.N. and volunteering to be more or less on 24 hour call to help the Stork make a good arrival has been a joy — but there are drawbacks to that: a cake in the oven — bread rising — ask my good neighbour Lorraine Keegstra to pop over and take the cake out at such and such a time! The bread? Punch it down and hope for the best!

One time I had peas soaked and ready to plant — someone's dog or what came and took off with the peas and the can! While we were building our garage — Lloyd's Small Engine Repair Shop (Mr. Harold Quantz was carpenter), in putting on the shingles I was called off the roof three times! Nevertheless each delivery has its own joy.

Mother returned to Ontario when Lloyd was 10 years old and Robert about 12. Since then she has paid her sisters a visit in England, and several times she has been able to travel to British Columbia and stopped here for a year once. Mother will be 88 in March — and has just flown to Pender Island, B.C. to be with my sister Hilary.

I have enjoyed my life here at Eckville, but now I find I am slowing down. Therefore it is time to step out, allowing room for the younger person who has a lively step and more modern knowledge of nursing today. I look forward to a partial retirement and having a three day work week, to retire August 7, 1979.

Robert is in Calgary working for Stephens Medical and Surgical Company and has been there six years. Lloyd is home and has his repair shop, we hope business will pick up.

I have enjoyed my over 40 years of nursing and cannot imagine life without it; however I do have plans to keep myself active in retirement. Added by a hospital patient.

Much more could have been said about our Nurse Spittal, but it wouldn't be said by her, so we'll add a bit in appreciation. We remember the special care — the things no one else seemed to think of — the going beyond the regular line of duty to provide some creature comfort — the truly sympathetic help. Then we remember her dry sense of humour and her ability in dramatics when the occasion arose at hospital parties or at entertainments. She really knew how to make us all laugh, remembering that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine". Thank you, Ursula!

**AGNES GUSTAVSON SUNDBERG**

Following her marriage to Fred Sundberg they made their home in Seattle. They have three children — Allen, Gordon (who is now married), and Darlene. Fred passed away suddenly in March of 1961. Agnes still lives in Seattle with her daughter.

**TAKKINEN, JOHN — written by Fred Takkinen**

John Takkinen was born in Rovaniemi, Finland, in 1881. He immigrated to the United States in the early 1900 s. There he worked as a miner and a fisherman. He met Linnea Ylinen in Butte, Montana. They were married in 1910 and were blessed with a son, Fred, on March 13, 1911.

In 1912 John moved his family to Alberta, to homestead on the SW 13-40-6-W5 in the Talmi school district. Their daughter Nora was born on October 3, 1912 on the homestead. Another son, Harold, was born in 1918. He passed away in 1924 and was buried in the Rocky Mountain House cemetery at the age of six years. Nora and I walked a mile to the Talmi school where we took all of our schooling.

For years John worked hauling telephone poles and railway ties into Rocky Mountain House with a team of horses. He was very interested in Percheron horses and had a stud horse which he took with him all around the Rocky Mountain House, Lesdeville and Eckville areas for many years.

In 1928 the family moved to the Eckville district where they bought the NE 13-39-4-W5 from the C.P.R. I farmed there with my dad until 1935, when he passed away. I married Hilja Toonen on August 5, 1935 and we were blessed with three children, Alice, Lawrence, and Karen.

We had mostly good luck farming, although the crops of 1943, 1949 and 1951 were hailed out. During the summer of 1951 the old house on the farm was sold and moved into the town of Eckville, where it is still being lived in. We then built a new modern home on the farm, where we lived until I sold the farm in 1969. We then retired to Eckville, to a new home which we had built there. My wife, Hilja, passed away on February 11, 1974 after 38 years of happily married life.

Our children are all married now. Alice went to university to become a teacher and after graduating moved to Acme to teach. There she married Jim Bates and they now live on a farm near Acme with their four children, Sherry, Joanne, Doug and Tana.

Lawrence went to work for the C.P.R. in Calgary. He married Jean Vipond and they have two sons, Michael and Garth. Lawrence was transferred to Revelstoke, B.C., where they lived for many years. From there he went to Nelson for a short stay before moving back to Revelstoke. He now lives in Cranbrook, B.C. where he is still working for the C.P.R.

Karen graduated from high school in Eckville in 1975, and then took a secretarial course in Red Deer. She married Dale Harrison and they are now both working and living in Red Deer.

My sister Nora is married to Hans Moos of Eckville. They lived on a farm for most of their lives, but are now retired and living in the town of Eckville.

Our mother, Linnea Maki, is living in the Eckville Manor, after living for many years at Sylvan Lake. She moved into the Manor House right after its opening, so that she could be close to her children and many grandchildren.

I am now enjoying my retirement by spending my time fishing and hunting in the west country and playing crib with my friends.

**TERRY, THE LOWELL AND HELEN FAMILY—by Helen Terry**

Lowell Floyd Terry, eldest son of Floyd I. Terry and Lila Bolce, Terry, was born near Virgelle, Montana, U.S.A. on December 15, 1914. Helen Margaret Terry, the only daughter of Guy Collins and Lois Seright Collins, was born on August 16, 1914 at the farm home of her parents near Montague, Montana.

Both Lowell and Helen received their elementary education in rural schools of Montana. Lowell attended high school in Big Sandy, Montana, and Helen received her high school education at Geraldine, Montana. Based upon her standing as Salutatorian of her high school graduating class, Helen was awarded a one-year scholarship from the Greater University of Montana. In addition, she was the recipient of a four year scholarship awarded by the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. After four years spent at Montana State College, located in Bozeman, Helen was graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Secretarial Studies and a Secondary

School Teaching Certificate, in June of 1936. She then spent three years teaching business education in high schools in Montana.

In the meantime Lowell had completed his schooling and had joined the Civilian Conservation Corp, a government sponsored work project designed to provide employment for young men during the depression years. Following this experience he was employed as a construction worker on the Fort Peck Dam being built on the Missouri River near Glasgow, Montana.

After their marriage on March 3, 1939 in Great Falls, Montana, Lowell and Helen lived and farmed in various areas of north-central Montana, and through the years they were blessed with five daughters and three sons.

Their children received their education in various rural schools until the family settled in Big Sandy in 1951. Lucille, Joyce, Frances and Floyd all graduated from the Big Sandy High School, having the distinction of each one being made a member of the National Honor Society, (a precedent set for them by their mother during her high school days) Lucille and Joyce both became teachers in Montana—Lucille receiving her University training at Montana State College and Northern Montana College, and Joyce receiving hers from the Montana State Normal College at Dillon and the University of Montana at Missoula.

Taken in 1954. From left to right. Front row: Ruth Ann, Mrs. Helen Terry, Kenneth, Robert, Lowell Terry. Back row: Joyce, Frances, Lucille, Floyd

Lucille was married in 1963 to Loyd Kuehne of Wolf Point, Montana. Loyd had graduated from Montana State College with a B.Sc. degree in Animal Industry in 1961. Lucille continued her teaching career until they moved to Great Falls, where Loyd was employed by the 7-Up Bottling Company. They have a daughter, Rachel, born in 1965.

In 1965 Joyce was married to Maynard Brant, of Libby, Montana. Soon after their marriage they moved to Seattle, Washington, where Maynard was employed by Boeing Aircraft, and Joyce continued her work as a teacher, in the Kent and Renton schools near Seattle. They later returned to Montana where Joyce has continued her teaching career and Maynard is employed as an accountant by the Cal Gas Company in Kalispell. Their two children are Michael, born in 1967 and Michelle, born in 1969.

After their children all reached school age Helen returned to the teaching profession, this time teaching on the elementary level. She attended summer courses at Northern Montana College at Havre, and on August 9, 1957 she was awarded a B.Sc. degree in Elementary Teacher Education, and received the Elementary School Advanced Teaching Certificate.

The family was now beginning to think of a new location, and a land-seeking trip in August of 1958 and another in 1959 resulted in their purchase of the NW 6-4-5-W5, in the Bingley area northwest of Leslieville. A short time later they were able to purchase three more adjoining quarters.

Lowell had arrived in Alberta in February of 1960 but Helen and the children were obliged to remain in Montana until Helen finished her year of teaching and the children had completed their school year. So it was that on June 1, 1960 the final ties were cut in Montana, for all but Lucille and Joyce, and Alberta became their new home. They brought with them many happy memories, as well as the memory of two tragic events in their early family life—the death of Joyce's twin sister, Janet, at the age of six and a half years, in a public swimming pool in Lewistown, Montana, and the loss of their home and entire contents by fire on their farm north of Forest Grove, Montana, in 1951.

In 1959 Frances had been married to Paul Bogner of Fort Benton, Montana, and they immigrated to Alberta at the same time and to the same area as the rest of the family. In 1969 the Bogner family moved to Nordegg, where Paul was employed as a guard at the Correctional Institute there, later being transferred to the Provincial Institute at Peace River. He is presently employed as a Corrections Officer II at Peace River. Frances has been employed for a time as an attendant at the Autumn Lodge (Senior Citizen's Home) in Berwyn and since 1974 has been a nursing attendant at the Hotel Dieu Hospital at Whitelaw, Alberta. They purchased a farm near Berwyn in August of 1972, where they make their home and carry on the farming operations "in their spare time". They have seven children, the oldest of whom will graduate from a Peace River High School in the spring of 1978. His plans are then to enter the Military Academy in Kingston, Ontario.

After Floyd's graduation from high school in Big Sandy he was awarded a scholarship by the local Lutheran Church which enabled him to attend Concordia College in Moorehead, Minnesota, U.S.A. for one year. He was later employed by the Canadian Imperial Bank at Camrose and at Claresholm. However, he decided that the indoor, sedentary nature of

workers in a bank was not to his liking, so he resigned to work at more outdoor, active jobs, including farming, service station work and electrical work, before going to Montana to work in the lumbering industry and then on a livestock ranch at Big Sandy. He is presently employed in a lumber yard in Big Sandy, Montana, and does a good deal of trucking in connection with this operation. In 1966 he married Marlene Ames, daughter of Austin and Edna Ames of Rocky Mountain House. Their two children, Victoria and Frederick, are both attending school in Big Sandy.

Of Lowell and Helen's other children, Ruth Ann and Kenneth graduated from the Rocky Mountain House High School and Robert graduated from the Camrose Composite High School. Ruth Ann and Robert both attended the Alberta Bible Institute in Camrose, from which Ruth Ann graduated in 1966 with a Ministerial [illegible]oma, and Robert graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Kenneth took training in Auto Mechanics at SAIT in Calgary and was employed by Edwards Garage in Rocky Mountain House for some time before being lured to the oil industry. He worked his way up through the ranks, and has held the position of driller for the past several years. During his employment on the oil rigs he has won many safety awards. He owns a farm northwest of Leslieville and on his days off carries on his farming and livestock operations, assisted by his wife, the former Waltareena Thompson of Leslieville. Their two children, James and Marie, both attend the Leslieville school.

Robert accepted a pastorate at Biggar, Saskatchewan in August, 1973, and served as pastor of the Biggar Church of God for four years before resigning to further his education at the Anderson School of Theology, at Anderson, Indiana, U.S.A. He expects to receive his Master of Theology degree in 1981. Robert was married on May 2, 1971, to the former Bonnie Mastrae of Drayton Valley. Bonnie received her R.N. degree from Archer Memorial Hospital at Lamont, Alberta, on August 3, 1972, being a member of the last class of nurses to graduate from this hospital. Bonnie and Robert have a son, Shawn, born October 4, 1973 and a daughter, Jody, born August 1, 1975.

Following her graduation from Alberta Bible Institute Ruth Ann worked as a medical receptionist and secretary in Red Deer and later in Calgary before going to Ontario where she worked as a bookkeeper. On August 26, 1972 she was married to Ronald Paul of Napanee, Ontario, and has since made her home in Ontario. After graduating from the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph with a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture, Ronald has taught school, has been a Genetics Technologist at Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario, and since 1974 has been employed as a Quality Control Manager at Metcalfe Foods of Deseronto, Ontario. He and Ruth Ann own a farm near Enterprise, where they live but lease out the farm land. They have two daughters, Caralee, born November 16, 1973 and Ronda Joleen, born November 19, 1977. Their son, William, was born March 22, 1976. In addition to being a mother and housewife, Ruth Ann finds time to be a very successful Tupperware demonstrator and saleslady.

Lowell was a man of quiet disposition and one who had considerable ability in a number of fields. Because his father had raised and used horses on his farm, as a young boy Lowell developed an interest in livestock, particularly in horses. The favorite recreation of him and his chums always involved horses in one way or another—usually roping a horse off the range and then trying their luck at riding him. For several years before his marriage Lowell participated in many of the amateur rodeos of his area, winning his share of the awards given.

Big game hunting was another of Lowell's interests. In Montana he made a yearly major hunting trip each season, and after coming to Alberta he obtained his official Guide's license and took hunting parties into the big game area surrounding Fox Creek, Whitecourt and Valleyview.

While farming Lowell always did his own mechanical and other necessary repair work on his equipment. After coming to Alberta he took the required provincial examinations and was granted an Alberta Mechanics license. After leaving the farm he was employed by Schnell and Barrie, an International Harvester farm machinery dealership in Camrose, and later by Petterson's in Daysland. His ability as a carpenter enabled him to build or remodel several of the homes in which the family lived. His knowledge of electrical work and plumbing made it possible for each of these homes to be modernized.

In 1966 Lowell suffered a heart attack, and because of this the farm was rented and later sold to Loyd and Lucille Kuehne. In August of 1967 Lowell and Helen rented out their home in Daysland and bought a home in Eckville, where Helen had accepted a position as business education teacher in the Eckville high school. Lowell's interest always remained with the farm and he helped out there during the busy season until his failing health forced him into complete retirement. He then enjoyed playing cards with his friends.

Easter time proved to be an ideal time for a short holiday, so Lowell and Helen made a number of plane trips to Las Vegas to "try their luck" and to visit Helen's father and his wife who lived there. Prior to one of these trips they had been fortunate enough to be awarded an all-expense-paid trip for two to Las Vegas! This was quite a happy surprise. Each summer also brought a holiday trip, usually to visit members of the family or friends in Montana, Washington, British Columbia or Saskatchewan. In 1975 they

made a trip by truck and camper to Ontario to visit their daughter and family, as well as points of interest along the way

In March of 1964 the children honored their parents with a 25th Wedding Anniversary reception held in the Bingley Hall. In 1974 the parents were again honored—and delightfully surprised—by a special family dinner and party held at the Elks Club in Red Deer, this being the occasion of their 35th Wedding Anniversary

The Terrys were a close-knit family, and every Christmas all of the children with their families planned to spend the holidays with Lowell and Helen if it were at all possible. The Christmas of 1975 was to be extra special, for all seven children, with their families, planned to be present at the family gathering in Eckville. Lowell and Helen were enroute to the Calgary airport to meet Ruth Ann and her family when Lowell became critically ill and had to be rushed by ambulance to the Red Deer General Hospital, where he passed away on December 19, 1975—on the 61st anniversary of his birthday. He was buried in the Eckville cemetery

Helen has continued her teaching in the Eckville High School and in addition, taught adult classes in typewriting and accounting during the spring of 1978. She has taken an active part in the Eckville and District Historical Society and in the local Friendship Club. She has held the office of president of the Friendship Club and for the past two years has been secretary of the club. Travel continues to be a part of her activities, with frequent visits to the homes of her children. A visit with friends and relatives in Montana occupies a part of each summer. In the summer of 1977 she accompanied her daughter Joyce and her family on an extended sightseeing trip through parts of Montana, Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and Washington

Lowell had often made the comment that "My only regret is that we didn't come to make our home in Alberta 20 years before we did." Helen is in complete agreement with this feeling, and plans to continue living in her home in Eckville. Her hobbies are gardening and various handicrafts—when she can find time to pursue them

**THOMPSON, FRANK L.**

Having sold a farm and all machinery in the Rainy Creek district in January of 1962, it became apparent we were going to miss not having any land. Six months later in July we bought from Ezra and Homer Isaacson of Eckville the NW 27-38-3-W5, the west half of 34-38-3-W5 and NE 34-38-3-W5. We bought a full line of machinery again and took great pleasure making the yard into a show place by planting trees and lawn. We got two knobbies (burls), painted them red and set them close to the highway along with a sign — "Bonny View Farm"

The family consisted of myself, wife Marie, son Gary born March 5, 1949 and Mary Gayle born May 3, 1956. Both children were in school and Marie looked after them and took care of our 11 suite Bonny View Apartments in Red Deer. Because of this I had to batch most of the time

I liked the large spruce trees that had been planted years ago by the Isaacsons that surrounded the house and the wrens that sang and built their nests in the bird houses I had built for them. The neighbors were friendly and helpful. I was proud to be part of the community. Ten happy years were spent growing rape and barley, some was sold as seed to the neighbors or put through the elevator at Eckville

The crops were mostly very good. I owe a great deal to those who helped with the farm work — Bob Dickie (the mail man) — Ralph Lougheed — Ralph Dowler — Chris Anderson — Ken Ackerman — Lorne Hamilton and later my son Gary. Many more gave me their help and moral support. Thank you all.

During September, 1972, three quarters were sold to the Gefle Brothers of Eckville. The river quarter was sold to Dr. Marriott of Red Deer

Gary is married to Donna Richie of Lucknow Ontario. Mary Gayle married Ron Taylor of Red Deer and they have a little daughter, Julie Autumn. They reside in Red Deer. Marie and I live in a small but cozy house at 5135 45 Avenue in Red Deer

Would we do it all over again? — sure would

**THORKMAN, JACOB RICHARD**

Jacob Richard Thorkman, the eldest son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman was born February 7, 1891, at Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A.

In the spring of 1903, Richard came with his parents and brothers to the Eckville district

Richard married Mary Holland, eldest daughter of Thomas and Mary Holland of Condor. Mary was born in England, coming to Canada with her parents as a young girl.

Dick Thorkman family, Jim, Faye, Wilf, Robert, Richard and Mary and Richard Jr. (inset)

Richard and Mary farmed the SW 35-39-3-W5. This is where their five children were born, Richard Jr., Wilfred, Jimmy, Robert and daughter Faye Shirley.

The children took their schooling at Estonian and Eckville schools.

Richard and Rose lived at Pincher Creek and they have two sons Kim and Wayne.

Wilfred and Pat, living at Leduc, have two daughters, Sandra and Terry.

Jim, living at Warburg, has two children, Steven and Susan.

Robert, living at Warburg, has one son.

Faye (Mrs. Neil Ricalton) of Red Deer has two children Tony and Jason.

Richard and Mary lived on the farm until retiring to the town of Rimbey in 1960.

In May, 1968, Richard passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital at the age of 77 years. He is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Rimbey.

Mary is remarried, to Joe Bunch of Rimbey, and they presently reside in Drayton Valley.

**TIIHONEN, EDDIE AND LOUISE**

Eddie Frederick Tiihonen was born in the Oras district near Rocky Mountain House on the farm of his maternal grandparents, Andrew and Matilda Rahko. At one month of age he returned with his mother and father, Ed and Ina Tiihonen to their farm southeast of Sylvan Lake. His father, Ate (known as Ed) was born in Mikkeli, Finland and came to Canada at the age of seven years. Eddie spoke only Finnish until he started school, where, however, he learned English quickly. He took his schooling at the Marianne School and the Composite High School, Red Deer.

He completed his mechanic's apprenticeship at Lakeview Garage in Sylvan Lake, which was owned by Joe Untinen Sr.

Eddie was married to Mary Louise Warner of Red Deer in 1956. After living in Sylvan Lake for the first four and a half years of their marriage they moved to Eckville in October, 1960, first living in the house owned by George Johnson but after two years they built their own home on the crescent, west of the hospital, the first house to be built there. During these two years, Eddie carried on an automotive repair garage at Bill's Corner Service owned by Bill Eluk.

Being a born entrepreneur, however, he purchased a piece of land formerly owned by Searle Grain Company and he and Louise set up their own business under the name of Eddie's Automotive and Tractor Ltd. As their business grew, staff was hired and after about three years they became a dealer for New Holland farm machinery. Eventually an extension to the garage had to be built. The business has grown steadily.

Eddie and Louise have two children, a son, Mark Aaron, born in 1962 and a daughter, Jill, born in 1965, both attending school in Eckville.

The whole family enjoys outdoor life and when time permits do some hiking, camping and fishing in the mountains.

**MIKE TOIVANEN AND PETE TOIVANEN FAMILY — by Ray Toivanen**

At the turn of the century (1901), Mike Toivanen arrived in Eckville from Sebeka, Minnesota, U.S.A. to establish a homestead on SE 14-39-3-W5. After building a home located two and a half miles east of Eckville, he sent for his wife, Siegrid, and son, Pete. They arrived via Canadian Pacific Railway at Red Deer in early 1902. It's interesting to note that the old Red Deer train station (now an historical reminder) has been well maintained and is still in current use. The Toivanen family was reunited in a heavy downpour, which later caused their horse and wagon to become firmly bogged down in mud between Red Deer and Sylvan Lake. Such was their first glimpse of "Sunny Alberta".

Seven years later, in 1909, Mike Toivanen passed away, leaving his only son, Pete, to continue with the farming operation assisted by his new bride, the former Katherine Lempi Makl. He continued farming until 1928 when he sold his farm to Mike Sestrap, and moved into the village of Eckville.

Some of Dad's occupations in the early days consisted of hauling groceries from Red Deer by horse and wagon for Mr. Killick, operator of the store situated at the original site of Eckville, one

Lempi Toivanen (Mackie), Caroline Wuttunen, Henry Koli
Peter Toivanen Wedding Day, 1909

mile north of the present town. He was a Director for the Co-op Store, and bought hogs at Kootuk for Fred Patterson, and later for the Medicine Valley Co-op Association from the early 1920's to the mid-1930's

After business comes pleasure. Pete was one of the instigators of the building of the Young Peoples' Hall, a gathering place for picnics, dances, fairs, and church on Sundays. Frequently dad played the violin, accompanied by mother on the organ, for dances held there.

The Tolvanen farm was a gathering place for Sunday afternoon ballgames. Another favorite pastime in the early days was picking wild berries. Saskatoons, raspberries, chokecherries, blueberries, gooseberries and strawberries were in plentiful supply. In fact, an afternoon of picking, by the whole family, yielded sufficient berries to preserve a winter's supply

The north end of Sylvan Lake, called "the Eckville Beach", was a favorite spot for picnics and sports days. On those occasions, instead of a picnic lunch, the housewives brought the ingredients, which consisted of fresh milk and vegetables, to cook a Finnish "Fish Mulligan" The fishermen were always successful in catching enough fish to make a good pot of "Mulligan".

Dad was the mailman for Rural Route No. 3 covering the area east of Eckville. Many interesting stories to his family arose from this occupation. The slogan: "Neither wind nor snow, nor sleet or hail, will stop the delivery of this mail!" must have evolved here. After a heavy snowfall and strong winds had built up the snow drifts, dad would take a good run at them with his car in order to plough his way through. Snow ploughs were unheard of then! Later, when the rural residents came to town, they told of the big flurry of snow heralding dad's arrival. They would also relate how they'd waited to see if dad made it through the drifts, and, if successful, they would then venture a trip into town.

However, on the north end of the run, near the farm of Charlie Anderson, the drifts were often very difficult to maneuver. Consequently, Charlie would have his horses harnessed and ready to pull dad through this stretch. This is a fine example of the pioneer spirit, always willing to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever it was needed. Only when the snow became too deep for the automobile did dad resort to his horse and sleigh. This was a hardship in itself, as a cold winter day with sub-zero temperatures and blizzard conditions became a very long and difficult 12 to 14 hours to endure.

A common practice which adds a little "spice" to the early settlers image was the chewing of snuff by the men. For example, dad chewed snuff at the rate of three to four boxes per week, beginning at the age of 17 years and continuing until age 86 years. Thus, a rough calculation indicates that he went through approximately 12,750 boxes in his lifetime — enough to make a stockpile approximately 1100 feet high! Snuff chewing caused problems of its own. Dad's first car, a Grey Dort, purchased in the early 1920's, was an open touring model. When those of us who had the misfortune to ride in the back seat sensed that dad was getting ready to unload some of the "snoose", there was a mad scramble in the back to hit the floor, or duck under any available cover in order to miss the "spray"!

Mrs. Pete Tolvanen, nee Katherine Lempi Maki, came to Eckville in 1903 with her parents from Butte, Montana, U.S.A. Mr. and Mrs Gabriel Maki homesteaded about four and one-half miles northeast of Eckville. Pete and "Lempi" were married in 1907, and lived to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1957

Mother was active in the rural area. She was a member of the Church, the Women's Institute and the Young Peoples' Hall Board. The farmers' wives had their work cut out for them during harvest season. In later years they looked back with fond memories to when the steam engine pulling the separator and bunk car, pulled into the yard. Again the pioneer and community spirit prevailed, as all the neighbor ladies arrived to lend a helping hand to feed the threshing crew

Mother was very fortunate in being able to survive the flu epidemic in 1919. When very ill, a Chinese nurse arrived at the farm, helping to nurse her back to good health.

The family consisted of six children. Ada, the eldest, born in 1909, married Jim Sloan and they raised two sons, David and Robert. Ada passed away in Calgary in 1974

The second daughter, Elsie, born in 1911, became Mrs. Joe Hyde. She passed away in Calgary in 1961. She did not have any children

Ernest, born in 1914, married Shirley Stevenson of Leelieville. He enlisted with the army in 1939, going overseas the same year. He served in England, Sicily, Italy, Holland, France, and Germany before returning home in 1945. Shirley passed away several years ago in Calgary, where their only child, a daughter, Terry resides with her husband, Ron Ager, and four children. Ernie is presently living in Vancouver

Bill, born in 1916, married to Dorothy Bergstrom of Eckville, has two sons, Bob and Terry, and four grandchildren. He served in the army overseas from 1942 until 1945. They are now Lethbridge residents.

Ray married Irene Erickson of Stettler in 1950. He enlisted in the R.C.A.F. as a pilot in 1942. Upon his release in 1945 Ray began employment with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool, and is still employed with that company. Ray and Irene have two children, Scott and Janie, and one grandchild. They now live in Red Deer

Dorothy, Mrs. Tom Forhan, resides in Eckville. The Forhans have three children — Brenda, Randy, and Jim, and two grandchildren.

**TOIVANEN, HELEN DOROTHY**

Helen Dorothy Toivanen is the youngest child of Mr and Mrs. Peter Toivanen. She was born on the homestead on August 12, 1923. Dorothy took all her schooling in Eckville except for the last year of high school which she took at the Lethbridge Collegiate

Miss Gladys Jones was her first teacher for two years who then married Bert Lundberg, Margaret McKinnon for two years, then Ruth Craig, Mr. Baldwin, Ado Tipman, Mr. John Henry Lewis and Mrs. Westergard Mr. Scott taught us music

Dorothy was flower girl for the Lisa Lundberg-Everett Baldwin wedding

After graduation, Dorothy came back to Eckville. She worked at Aboussaffy and Farris General Store, at the telephone office with Esther Johnson and Mrs Louise Tink. Then went to work at Forhan's Pharmacy. In 1946 she married Thomas Forhan

Dorothy recalls the skating rink on the river below Kult's house (where we lived). Barry and Bill Armstrong, Pickles (Arvo) and George Sestrap, Teddy Barnett, George Johnson, Brother Bill, Bill and Reg Morris and many more playing hockey there.

Marg McKinnon was our C.G.I.T leader There were 10 or more. Dorothy and Sylvia Gish, Selina Cowen, Violet Kingsep, Alberta Coutts, Marie Louise Selvais, Phyllis MacDonald, Marie McDonnell, Isabel Merriman and myself. We walked to the different farms for meetings. Also went to Kasota Beach for two summers. Most of us keep in touch at Christmas.

We also had a hockey team with almost all the same girls plus Alfine Langer in goal. We played Rimbey, Rocky Mountain House, Sylvan Lake and one game with Red Deer who were above us. They let us have one boy to play and Bob Umari played. We won

We also played soft ball with most of the same crew and against the same towns

Mr Maclean, a Presbyterian minister was a lean tall man. I remember the first time Mrs. Von Holtum saw him stand up in church she started at his shoes and kept looking up and up She was a lovely tiny lady. He was our basketball teacher and coach. We won most of our games and played Rimbey, Rocky Mountain House. Sylvan Lake and Bentley

Once when coming back from Rimbey, we stopped at Bentley to see Mr. Bernie Dennett. At the time the doctor had maggots on his knee (a war injury) and he told us he'd lost two of the maggots. Back in Mr. Maclean's open air car, he started scratching and shifting around. Naturally, we asked what was wrong and he said "I guess I've got Mr. Dennett's maggots." We were horrified at first and then laughed.

I have been president of the curling club Started curling when 15 or 16. First bonspiel was at Lesliеville with Mrs. Bergstrom and Kit Armstrong; don't recall who the 4th was. We won a cake plate. Leslieville rink was baled straw for sides.

I have beens secretary and president of the Catholic Women's League, vice-president of the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary

**OSWALD UMARI — ELLEN KAILA**

Oswald Umari was born in Butte, Montana, and Ellen Kaila was born in Belt, Montana. As young people, they made their way to Alberta, and were married in Red Deer, in 1917. They lived at Sylvan Lake for a time after their marriage, then moved to Eckville about 1921

Oswald was one of the managers of the Co-op store in Sylvan Lake and Eckville They both took an active part in the affairs of the community, and enjoyed curling, tennis, badminton, and other sports

The Umaris left Alberta in 1945 and located at Enderly, B.C. Here they operated a grocery business with Bob and Wilbur until the business was sold in 1972

Oswald and Ellen celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1967 Oswald passed away February 11, 1973 and Ellen passed away on July 26, 1975

Their children, Bob, Wilbur, and Mildred all live in British Columbia

**VANSCO, VINCE**

I was born in Hungary, and came out from there at the time of the Revolution in November 1956, to Austria where I spent two months in the camp. From Austria I went to Holland where I spent another month and a half. From there we started to Canada on the Holland Ship. It took 15 days to get to Halifax because of an accident on the sea on the fourth day out when an Italian ship hauling wheat from Italy to Norway ran into us We had to go to the nearest port, which took three days and we ended up in Brest, France. It took a day to move things from the Holland Ship to another one and seven days from there to Halifax where we landed on March 25, 1957 Another two days of traveling from Halifax to Merlin, Ontario and I found my aunt and uncle and other relatives. It was three days later when I started to work for Dr McKibbon in the Veterinary Clinic in Whitley, Ontario. I worked there for three years and then went to Calgary for a month's holiday in the spring of 1960 to visit friends who had come from the Old Country with me I never returned East except to visit my relatives. I got work with Dr Cecil Speirs on April 1, 1960, at the Eckville Veterinary Clinic and have worked for him about 10 years. I found a place to live with Mr. and Mrs. Slim Heath and this was my home for five years.

In April 1965, I married Sylvia Edwards from Rocky Mountain House who had lost her husband in an accident a few years before. We bought the Slim Heath home and this has been our home ever since. The Heaths moved to Penticton, B.C Sylvia had three children — Pat, Dick and Greg

Pat married Garry Pollitt of Leslieville, Dick married Brenda Wasson of Pine Point, N W T , and Greg married Janice Matthews of Eckville

On November 10, 1966, our daughter Sheryl was born and is getting her education in Eckville. In 1976, Sylvia, Sheryl and myself made a trip back to my homeland to visit my parents, two sisters, one brother and other relatives It was good to go home to see the folks but it was great to get back to our home here — a wonderful community to live in

**VIITALA, ERNEST**

Ernest Viitala was born on his parents' farm four and one-half miles north of Eckville. He remained on the farm, working with his father From 1956 to 1962 he worked on the Eckville Mutual Telephone lines, and found this was quite interesting, meeting most of the people in the district In 1965 he worked with Kingsep Water Well Drilling, and also continued farming until 1973 At this time he sold the farm and moved into Eckville

Ernest secured a position with the County of Lacombe, driving the school bus from Eckville to Lacombe and working in the Lacombe bus garage during the day

On July 20, 1974 Ernest married Juanita I Lee. Juanita is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs George Lee of Evarts She was born in Eckville, raised in the Evarts District and worked in the Eckville Hospital from 1952 to 1956, before taking a Certified Nursing Aide Course She then worked in Olds, Ponoka Mental Hospital, and for nine years at Deerhome in Red Deer, before returning to the Eckville Hospital in 1973.

In 1975 Juanita left active nursing to devote more time to her home life

**VON HOLTUM, CONSTANTINE HERBER**

Constantine Herber von Holtum was born January 22, 1882 in Solingen Wald, Rhineland, Germany His father, Wilhelm von Holtum, was a lawyer and subsequently served as a judge in Aix-Ca-Chapelle, where Von recieved his education with a view for a career in banking as a foreign correspondent In order to acquire fluency in French and Dutch he spent part of his school years abroad. He had a marked aptitude for languages and, apart from the academic languages Latin and Greek, he became proficient in seven tongues of the modern world However, work in the bank did not appeal to Von and in his early twenties he quit his post and went on a visit to an uncle in Minnesota, U.S.A

After a short time spent there Von came to Canada in 1904 and took up a homestead near Leslieville, Alberta. While proving up on it he worked as a store clerk in Trochu, Red Deer, and Bentley

When the First World War broke out, although, by this time he had become a Canadian citizen, the Tories treated him as an alien Wrongfully accused of being a spy, he was imprisoned and brought to trial. Fortunately the Liberals, of which party he was a member, effected his release after two weeks imprisonment. (He lost ten pounds in that fortnight) Although he was acquitted, he lost, through this persecution, his homestead and other property except for a quarter section of land to which Mr Joe Huerlimann held the title, and which he was farming on shares. Following his release from jail Von remained in Calgary and became a partner with a Mr Cohen in a secondhand store

Eventually Von needed an operation on his lungs, part of which was removed. In order to recuperate he went to Eckville where he started a filling station for the Imperial Oil Company Along with this he commenced to build an automotive parts business. After some years he had a promising business going and this encouraged him to take a wife and start a family He was married to Anne Bajohr on January 20, 1928

The Wall Street crash came in the fall of 1929 and the following depression wiped out Von's business in a very short time. But, somehow, people survived those interminable, dismal years. In 1938 Von succeeded in getting three thousand dollars for the above mentioned quarter section of land which was nominally farmed on shares

Hoping to find some employment opportunities in Vancouver, and lured by the milder climate of B C., we settled in Burnaby However the chances for employment were not any better than in Alberta, and Von had to eke out a meagre living by growing a garden and tending people's grounds for pittance

The Second World War was well advanced before there was a job with the Vancouver Engineering Works, where he was employed for two and one-half years After the war was over things were for Von the same as before — his fortunes never changed till the end The pension for which he became eligible at age 70 was very small

In 1964, when he was past 82 years of age, his leg had to be amputated above the knee due to circulation blockage I visited him every second day while he was at Taylor Manor, a nursing home run by the city of Vancouver The day before his 86th birthday he suffered a light stroke and consequently he became slightly confused

After he was placed in a private hospital I visited him every day Von was an undemonstrative man, but it was obvious that he came to look forward to my daily visits. One day the nurse told me "Your husband was very worried over the delay. He kept asking when you'd be turning up." After a few months in the hospital it became evident that a circulation blockage was occurring in the other leg In times of sickness Von was a very patient and uncomplaining man, but I couldn't help feeling very sad over his lot. When I went to visit him on April 28, 1968 he was unconscious. I was allowed

to stay past the visiting time, and he passed away at four o'clock, without regaining consciousness

**von HOLTUM, Anne Katherine (nee Bajohr)**

I, Anne Katherine von Holtum, nee Bajohr was born December 27, 1892 in Riga, Russia. I was introduced to the three R s at home, starting my formal education at age eight in a private girls school, which I attended for 11 years, graduating with a teacher's diploma in 1914, the year the first world war broke out. My deceased father had emigrated from Germany and retained his original citizenship. According to the old-country law, I, too was a German citizen. After the out break of the war, I was temporarily interned in Central Russia, but was permitted to leave for Germany via neutral Rumania. I arrived in Berlin in the summer of 1916, received by the Red Cross, which also helped me to get employment with the postal services

Due to the hunger blockade there was great scarcity of food. The Russians were sending parcels to their prisoners of war. I was occupied with the translation of the addresses of those parcels. After awhile I got a post with the Department of Foreign Affairs, thanks to my knowledge of the Russian language, and the geography of the country. The work was most interesting and prestigous. On a Russian typewriter I had to make out forms searching for German prisoners of war, translating messages and making petitions for release of prisoners on the grounds of sickness. These forms were sent to the U S A. Embassies in London and Paris, prior to the entry of the United States into the war

The effect of the hunger blockade was steadily increasing and especially hard on the sick and infirm. I had a younger sister, afflicted with a congenital heart condition, languishing in a hospital in Berlin. To supplement her nutrition I left Berlin for employment in the country at a prisoner-of-war camp as censorship examiner and interpreter I often went after work to neighboring farms and persuasively presenting the situation, a person here or there was moved to sell a coupie of eggs, a bit of butter or home made fruit to make a modest parcel for my sick sister. However, she did not survive the war

I was at a camp in the Rhine Palatinate when the collapse came in November 1918. It was a great upheaval, with soldiers disorganizing on the move and milling around and the rampant flu adding to the misery. Somehow reaching Berlin in an overcrowded train, I landed again in the Foreign Office, where I handled newspaper clippings in the Press Department. This occupation was, however, of short duration, the great inflation which struck Germany, necessitated a drastic cut of the staff. For awhile I eked out a living as a seamstress. The members of my family were scattered, their whereabouts and fate unknown to me. It took years before contact with members of my family in Russia was reestablished. A sister, who was married to a Mennonite teacher in the Ukraine, wrote me that they were about to immigrate to Canada because of religious persecutions. She proposed that I join the transport at the point of embarkation, our birthplace Riga, at that time, the capital of Latvia. The formalities were handled by the C P.R. Only farmers and domestics were allowed to enter Canada. My relatives passed the screening, but I was stuck in Riga There followed three weeks of uncertainty and anxious waiting before the "go" sign came from London I crossed the Atlantic from Southampton to Quebec on the "Empress of Scotland" of the C.P R., arriving June 10, 1926. During the following summer I took stooked and worked as a hired girl on a farm near Winnipeg. In the fall I found in Winnipeg engagement as a maid. I did not mind the work, but I heartily detested the black uniform with white cap and apron I had to wear, signifying my servant status. I needed a long time to adjust to a changed social status and I found the prairie winters very cold. When spring arrived I took seasonal job as a dishwasher in a resort hotel at the C.P R. at Lake Louise, returning in the fall to the city, working once more as a domestic During the holiday season of 1928 I was at Chateau Lake Louise in the laundry. I was enchanted with the Rockies. I had always been keen on hiking. While some of my co-workers at the end of our daily stint in the laundry would nurse their feet with hot water baths and ointments, I would be off to explore the mountains, climbing as far as Lake Agnes. These excursions have remained a vivid and happy memory There I came to feel the "lure of the west", and so I came to Calgary In preference to domestic work I found employment as a seamstress with the Simmons Co. I boarded with some German people who happened to be long standing friends of Von. Von and I got married in January, 1929, and so it happened that I came to Eckville. Von was 47 and I was 36 years old.

The move to British Columbia in 1936 did not improve our economic circumstances. Von kept quite busy in the garden and liked this work, but he had no knack with tools to keep a home in repair nor the inclination to do so. We had hardly settled in our quarters, when things started to go wrong with the house. With the intent to earn some money for repairs, I started to go out to do cleaning by the hour. Our life style remained the same as during the depression. Von and I did not see eye to eye about the disposition of the available money, so I decided to go it alone — buy a lot and build a house of my own. I had happened to look at a picture in the daily paper; a middle-aged woman applying shingles for the roof of a building of which only the frame had been put up by hired labor. I said to myself "If this woman can undertake to build a house — so can I". I did not stop to think how many more hours I would need with my cleaning

paraphanalia to get to the same point as [illegible] other woman employing building tools In the spring of 1944 there seemed to turn up a chance for better earnings and work that would be easier on my physique, I was a successful candidate in a cross-Canada competitive examination for German-English. I expected this office to be in Vancouver. When the call came from Ottawa in September, I weighed the pros and cons the war was obviously drawing to a close, in Ottawa accomodations were hard to get and very expensive, while the offered wages did not come up to my expectations, so I concluded that it would not pay to move

By 1948 I decided I had enough funds for the foundation and the shell of a small house to be put next door to Von's place. All the time, while persuing my goal, I was up against much sickness, due to the menopause and glandular disturbances, there were acute arthritis attacks, several surgeries, a nervous breakdown. All alone I felt I was racing against time. But I was determined to overcome obstacles and to accomplish what I had set out to do. Naturally, it was necessary to find just a small outfit to whom to give the contract. This contract which I gave in 1948, came to nought because of a lumber strike. The following spring having engaged another outfit, I got struck again due to lumber scarcity caused by the Fraser River flood. Finally I found in North Vancouver some people who were building log houses

When it came to the finishing of the inside of my house, I went for advice to a newspaper man who was writing for the Sun, a Saturday feature on "livable homes", Mr Keith Wiles, who hailed from Didsbury, Alberta was intrigued when he heard that a log house had been built in Burnaby He was much taken with the authentic structure, on which the tools had been axe, adze, and derrick. The "Sun" brought a nice picture with a lengthy write-up. In it, Mr. Wiles expresses regret that log houses were disappearing from the Canadian scene for lack of incentive Describing this project under discussion, he paid tribute to the pioneering spirit of the little lady for whom this place had been built. He stated that people with lots of money would be very proud of this house but that actually it was the achievement of a woman whose earnings came from char work This tribute to my efforts gave me truly a great lift, Everybody who came to the log house in later years, when it happened to be properly heated, said that it had a charming atmosphere

But, to tell the truth, I had very little chance to enjoy the place and be comfortable in it Because, while there still was a balance to be paid to the builders, also all the inside to be done, the equipment to be bought, etc. I fell and cracked three spinal vertebrae. My earnings came to a sudden stop. This accident was a great blow. The ten working years had been very hard on the body, but there had been a buoyancy of spirit in the hope of better days ahead Now it seemed that I had exhausted myself in pursuit of a mirage. It was ironic to squeeze out of a pitifully small social assistance the money for payments on a heater, while living in a cold house because it was impossible to buy the utilities as well

From the beginning of my venture Von maintained that nothing good would come of it He had become a defeated and pessimistic, man forever hearkening back to the wrong done to him by the Tories, who years ago had stripped him of his property. Without remunerative occupation of which there was none for a man past 60, he lived in great poverty. He refused to get social assistance as a single person.

Von did not move into the log house but living next door he tended my rustic grounds and he stayed with me when either of us was sick. I must say that as a patient he was easy to look after because he was so undemanding and uncomplaining. Generally, however, each of us went our own way

Before graduation from high school our son, Herbert Junior, broke his neck in the gym In vain Von tried to get help for expenditures in orthopedic surgery and treatments. He did not get anywhere with Herbert's part time employer, the C.P.R., nor with the schoolboard which might have been liable because of the physical education teacher's incompetence Home had a stressful atmosphere, and the boy left home and high school in the middle of grade 12 to take unskilled work and pay off the debt

Faye, too, left home as soon as her education was complete, to teach out of town

The decade before my pension cheque was due at age 70, was a very lonely time and more desolate than the thirties. It was a great day when my first pension cheque arrived. Though the size in the sixties was not auspicious it had a liberating wholesome effect on the spirit because it eliminated the periodic visits by officious people checking up on you and your movements to make sure you adhered to the rigid regulations and restrictions dictated by the book. By and by the Federal government started to accord the aged greater consideration, giving us regular increases in keeping with the rising cost of living Another significant change in my life occured when the church where I worshipped was touched by the charismatic movement Learning to worship with adoration, praise and thanksgiving does away with discontent, worry and stress, giving instead peace of mind and putting joy in the heart. It is true what the scriptures say' Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you. (Luke 12 31) So to the spiritual blessings there have come my way the tangible gifts of comfortable and carefree living conditions. Everyday I thank the Lord that he has paved the way for me into this bright, warm and completely satisfying apartment, which the municipality built and

opened in 1972. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; ye, I have a goodly heritage (Ps. 16 6) I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall be continuously in my mouth (Ps. 34 1

**WAISANEN, SIMON AND TYYNE — by Their Children**

Simon Waisanen was born in Suournisalmi Finland, November 5, 1904, the second youngest of seven children. During his childhood he spent his time with his brothers: in the summer fishing, or in the winter in lumber camps. School, other than a few months of religious instruction, was not required.

At the age of 21, with the encouragement of his cousin Eli, Simon decided to seek the fortunes of the new land. Saying goodbye to his family, with his fare in his pocket, he set off for Canada They travelled by boat and finally reached Eckville, Alberta, in June, 1927. The day they arrived heavy rains had caused muddy roads. As Eli and Simon walked from the train to the home of their relatives their boots gathered more and more mud, making walking very difficult Simon's first words to his relatives were, "Why we're bringing the whole world with us." They had discovered good old Alberta clay, something unknown in Finland

His first summer was spent working for relatives and neighbors on the neighbourhood threshing crews. In the winter he spent his time at a lumber camp near Rocky Mountain House making railway ties with a broadaxe, at a few cents a tie. In 1928 Simon got a job working for the CPR, and his home became the CPR bunkhouse This was a small building which became very hot in the summer time. The biggest joke was to see when the meat would "begin to walk away", seeing as it was not kept very cold as the freezing facilities of the time were very poor

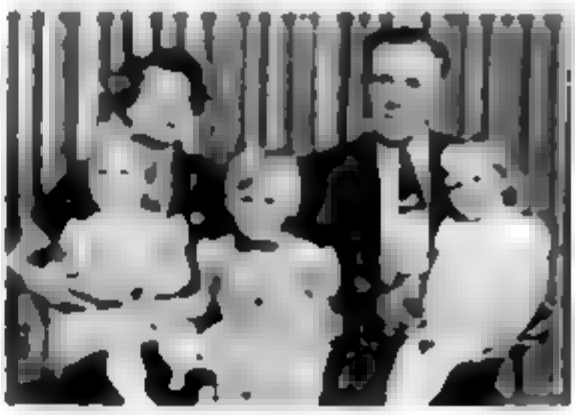
In the winter of 1931 Simon and some friends decided to try their luck at ice fishing They left for Buck Lake in 30° below weather with a team of horses, a sled and their gear. The fish were plentiful, and this tradition of going fishing was to be kept up until 1975.

In 1933 Simon bought a farm close to Hespero, but after a few years he decided it was not close enough to the Kootuk station, where he still worked on the CPR. He sold this farm and bought another one the very same day from August Kangas, located one-half mile from the CPR station. Simon got up early every morning, did his chores, then walked to work at the railroad station. After working his regular hours he then came home to do his farming. The work was hard, the hours long, but there was always time for a cup of coffee, a free haircut for a neighbour or friend, and always lots of fun. During the 1940's and 1950's Simon had many cooks and hired men who worked for him. Finally Simon quit the railway and began travelling the country from coast to coast He went back to Finland for a visit in 1948 and returned to find his crops all hailed out. However, as Simon always said, "there's always next year!"

Finally, a friend, Mr. Saarela, who had just come back from the Helsinki Olympics, suggested to Simon that he should get married. As a matter of fact, stated Mr. Saarela, while he had been in Finland he had found just the right woman for Simon. With some help and encouragement from a few friends Simon began a correspondence with this lady, and soon the future Mrs. Waisanen was lured to Canada.

Tyyne Nykkanen was born April 22, 1922 in Finland. After her correspondence with Simon began she was very impressed with his letters, and finally agreed to come to Canada on the condition that if she didn't like it then she could return to Finland. She arrived in the early part of 1953, not really knowing what to expect. She had never previously met Simon, she only had a picture of him. However, their first meeting was successful, and they were married in Red Deer in May of that same year. There was one condition, however — before she would get married there had to be a steam bath. This problem was quickly solved by the building of a steam bath.

Tyyne began adjusting to Canadian life by learning the language in night school. However this progress was stopped when their eldest daughter, Mary Ann, was born on May 3, 1954, followed by twins, Helen and John born on May 30, 1956, which kept her very busy However, she found time to take an active part in the Presbyterian Church choir and she sang, in Finnish, at many funerals and at the Christmas concerts. She also helped with many functions organized by the Finnish community and was part of the Finnish delegation in the Red Deer folk festival for several years.



Simon Waisanen family

Many visitors from Finland as well as many from around the community were entertained at the Waisanen home. One could always find a steam bath, a card game, and a cup of coffee with these friendly folks

Simon and Tyyne returned to Finland in 1965 for a six-week visit and enjoyed seeing many relatives again. Simon continued to buy land and build buildings by using the lumber from the land he cleared. The land was good to him and he always said, "Canada is the land of opportunity for those who wish to use it"

In 1967 Tyyne became ill and on April 16, 1968 she passed away at the age of 46 years. Simon continued to farm, with the help of his son, until he passed away in 1977. Both Simon and Tyyne are buried in the Eckville cemetery

Mary Ann married Stephen J. Smith of Eckville on August 9, 1975. They now live on NW 6-39-3-W5. Helen is employed by Simpsons-Sears in Calgary. John farms at the home place, SW 9-34-3-W5. All of the children were educated in the Eckville schools. Mary Ann also attended the University of Alberta and received her teaching certificate. She is presently teaching at the Leslieville school

**WEEKS, FLOYD AND BLANCHE**

Floyd was born in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A. in 1901. With his parents and brother Harlan, he immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1917, arriving at the Earl Fitch home (cousins of the Weeks), in the Centreville district. Earl Fitch moved the Weeks family to their farm at Eckville, which was later owned by a Mr. Brown, then by Tom Smith. Three years later they moved to the Henry Smith farm. Harlan and Floyd Weeks rented the Frank Jenkin's section a few miles east of Eckville

Floyd Weeks met and married the former Blanch Harden of Raven, in June of 1926. When they were first married they lived in Freewater, Oregon, U.S.A., where Floyd was a car salesman. Returning to Eckville, later, they went farming on a C.P.R. quarter that Floyd's parents had bought for seven dollars per acre.

Floyd and Blanch were in the restaurant business in Okotoks, Alberta, during the oil boom in that area in 1937, and later managed the restaurant in Eckville. After selling their acreage at Eckville they moved to an apartment in Calgary. To be closer to relatives, however, they soon purchased a lovely home in Lacombe

Floyd took some of his early schooling in the old Eckville School on the northern outskirts of Eckville.

Floyd and Blanch celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June of 1976, in Lacombe, with many friends and relatives present. Since their retirement they have enjoyed a bus tour to California, and they also enjoy gardening and their other hobbies.

**WEEKS, HARLAN**

Harlan, the elder son of Louis and Emma Weeks, was born in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A. in 1899. In about 1921-1922 Harlan took teachers training in Kansas. In his early years he taught at Red Raven, Alberta. After giving up teaching, he and Cal Fletcher bought a section of land near Withrow, Alberta.

Harlan married the former Grace Rathwell of the Rimbey area. To this union two daughters, Jean and Eileen, were born. Harlan passed away in February, 1974 of a heart attack, in Sidney, Nebraska, U.S.A.

**WEEKS, LOUIS AND EMMA**

In 1917 Louis and Emma Weeks and two young sons, Harlan and Floyd, left their home in Pleasanton, Kansas, U.S.A., accompanied by another young man by the name of Cal Fletcher. They came to Sylvan Lake, by train in the spring of 1917. Travelling in those days was a challenge, with the sloughs full of water, corduroy roads, many wire gates and a strange land with which to become acquainted. The Weeks family stayed with their cousins, the Earl Fitch family, until locating on a farm near Eckville. Their farm was known as the Brown farm and later became the Tom Smith farm. Louis and Emma Weeks lived on that farm until the farm house burned down. They lost everything they owned, including the pork barrel, which, in today's language, would mean the deep freeze and all its contents. After the fire Mr. and Mrs. Weeks moved in with their sons, Harlan and Floyd, who were then farming the Frank Jenkin's farm.

Cattle driving was a big event in the early days, and the Weeks family had their share of this. Hauling cattle by truck was unheard of, but two or three men on horseback and a wagon heading the way, loaded with feed, would lead off the procession headed for market, which would generally be Red Deer. They would get as far as the Half way House, on the west side of Sylvan Lake, where there was a rest stop and the cattle were fed and watered. By this time a rest was in order for both man and beast in preparation for the final lap of the journey to Red Deer the next day

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Weeks and Floyd returned to Pleasanton, Kansas. Later, Floyd returned to Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Weeks Sr. made many trips back to Alberta in their Dodge touring car to visit their sons and wives. They both passed away in Pleasanton, Kansas.

**MR. AND MRS. ED WICKSTROM**

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wickstrom lived in Eckville in 1919-1920. Ed managed a garage business. They have one son, Lawrence. The Wickstroms moved to Snohomish, Washington, U.S.A., where Ed was in the building business.

Ed passed away at Snohomish. Mrs. Wickstrom, who was 86 years of age in 1977, is still living in Washington. Their son Lawrence is married and lives near his mother.

**THE JACK WILLIAMS FAMILY — by May Williams**

Jack Williams, with his wife, May, and nine-year-old daughter, Edith, arrived in the Eckville

area on August 24, 1952. They spent some months on the John Smith and later on the John Maxi farms west of town.

In July, 1954 they moved to town when May went to work at the Eckville Bakery, then rented by Norm Forhan. Later she worked in Forhan's Dry Goods Store for ten years.

Jack unloaded coal for the Atlas Lumber Company and later for the Searle Elevator Company. He also did general draying and odd jobs around town, as well as beaver trapping in the spring and fall. Incidentally, at the age of 82 years, Jack is still trapping, although on a lesser scale.

May has worked part-time in the public library in Eckville for the past ten years. This, along with the sewing which she does for many of the ladies in and around Eckville, keeps her pretty busy.

Edith attended school at Eckville through Grade 11. She then went to work at a branch of the Royal Bank in Calgary during the summer holidays. When school reopened in the fall she decided to continue with her job. In April, 1963 she married Dick Cieski, formerly of Sexsmith, Alberta. After her marriage she worked in the Royal Bank in Didsbury. They have two sons — Ricky, born in August, 1964 and Michael, born in December, 1965. They are presently living in Calgary after having been in Toronto, Stettler, Calgary and Edmonton.

Jack was born at Moosomin, Saskatchewan, but moved to the LeRoy area at the age of 15 years. Some years later he moved into the town of LeRoy where he had many occupations, including operating a meat market, fur buyer, undertaker, veterinary work and buying livestock. During his last five years at LeRoy he ran the U.G.G. elevator and sold Case farm machinery in addition to handling the B.A. bulk oil sales.

May was born at LacVert, Saskatchewan, and went to LeRoy in the late 1920's. May and Jack were married in June, 1940 and lived in LeRoy until moving to the farm at White Fox in July, 1942. Edith was born in the Nipawin hospital in December, 1942.

In the fall of 1948 we sold the farm and moved to the town of Nipawin where we lived until coming to Eckville in 1952.

**YEO, STAN AND ESTHER — by Esther Yeo**

Stan and Esther Yeo came to Eckville in the fall of 1944, from Sylvan Lake where he had a barber shop in the poolroom. His Eckville shop was also in a poolroom run by Mr. Thompson at that time. Stan just couldn't quite decide which he'd rather do — play pool or barber. But, of course, he had to make a living for his family of three, one girl, Nona and two boys, Wesley and Terry.

We built the house where Mrs. Kerm now lives and also a small house at the back of the lot for my mother, Mrs. Strid, which now serves as a garage. Incidentally, our garage was built for next to nothing. Stan had hired Eric and Jack Bardenhagen, also a couple of others to put in the foundation. After paying them for the job, Eric suggested some pool. Less than one hour later, Stan had recovered their wages. Eric said that was the last time he was working for Stan.

We spent seven years in Eckville before moving to Fort Saskatchewan where we purchased another barbershop. We are retired now but Stan still haunts the poolroom, only now it is in the Pioneer Home. We thoroughly enjoyed our years in Eckville and it's wonderful community spirit.

Going back to the Fort Saskatchewan district was like going back home to us as Stan was born at Gibbons, Alberta only a few miles away from the Fort, July 22, 1910 and I was born at Camrose, September 17, 1915. We were married at Gibbons, October 30, 1933 and farmed for his dad until the fall of 1939, when we left and Stan took up barbering. His first shop was at Sexsmith, Alberta where we stayed two and a half years before coming to Sylvan Lake.

Our daughter is married with a family of five and resides in Edmonton. Wesley is married with four children and works at Dow Chemical training supervisors. Terry is single and works at the F.M.C. Plant at Squamish, British Columbia.

**ZALESKI, FRANK AND NANNIE**

Frank Zaleski and Nannie Kasper were married in 1938. For a number of years they lived two and a half miles northwest of Eckville on NE 29-39-3 W5.

This is where their children were born. James in June, 1939, passed away October 1952.

Twins Darwin and Dallas were born October 1, 1940.

Darwin married Irene Moyer of Nanton in 1962. They have three sons Randy, Rodney and Ricky. Darwin, Irene and family live in Calgary where Darwin works for Firestone.

Dallas married Lorraine Scott of Innisfail. They have a son Danny. Dallas passed away in 1969.

William was born June 27, 1954. Bill married Kathryn Anderson in March, 1976. They reside in the Salma district on the SW 32-39-2-W5.

Frank and Nannie now live on SE 4-39-3 W5, two and a half miles south of Eckville.

**ZALESKI, LEO AND SALOMA**

Leo Zaleski was born in Poland in 1884. He immigrated to Canada in 1903, working in Nova Scotia before coming west to work in mines in British Columbia and Alberta. In 1909 he married Saloma Muryn at Michel.

Saloma was born in 1885 in Lithuania.

Their first child Felix was born at Michel in 1910.

The family moved to a homestead in the Leaf land district in 1911. This is where their second son Frank was born in 1916. Leo decided to sell out and move the family to the Gilby district

Leo and Saloma Zaleski's wedding picture

NE 34-3-40W5 in 1920. This is where their daughter Leitha was born. Leo was a cattle and hog buyer in the area for many years. In 1933 the Zaleski's moved to a farm two and a half miles northwest of Eckville. Later moving to the former Charlie Schuneman place on Number 11 highway.

Felix married Emma Maki in 1934 and passed away in July 1939.

Frank married Nannie Kasper in 1938. They had four boys.

Leitha married Ralph Kingsep in 1945. They have a son Ellis born in May of 1947. Leitha and Ellis reside in Los Angeles, California.

Leo passed away in 1947 and Saloma in 1959. They are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

**THE SAGA OF THE T. EATON MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE**

With our shopping malls and super highways, speedy transportation spelled the end of the T. Eaton mail order catalogue.

Little did we think, back in the early 1900's, and 1920's and even the 1930's, that there would ever be an end to the brown paper rolled Eaton Catalogue. Excitement among the young ladies reigned much higher over the arrival of the Spring and Fall Eaton's Catalogue than any sojourn to a modern shopping plaza.

No book in any household was more carefully scrutinized, criticized, adored and planned with than the T. Eaton Catalogue. Many a child cut pictures to identify Dick and Jane and learned the names of household articles, furniture and machinery from Eaton's Catalogue.

It furnished the window through which the fashion-conscious could study styles created in the large, far-away cities of New York, Montreal and Paris.

When the catalogue was finally read until the covers were off and a new one had arrived, the time came for more practical use by relegating it for the purpose of a hot pan stand, door stop and even to the little house out back, where it was given a final reading.

But, in 1975 the catalogue met its demise, and no longer is the excitement of the Fall and Winter and the Spring and Summer Catalogue creating its usual pleasure in homes across the country.

[redacted]

Remember when?

. . . the water pail was always empty and the "slop" pail full.

. . . the house was full of the acrid smell of kindling roasting in the oven.

. . . washing the lamp chimneys, trimming wicks and filling the lamps with coal oil was a daily chore.

. . . the happy hum of the portable wood saw turned poles into symmetrical blocks.

. . . you matched wits with the old turkey hen cunningly hiding her nest.

. . . the largest "green" block of wood that the air-tight could consume, still didn't keep the water pail from freezing on a cold winter's night.

. . . the cream was always too fresh or too old, too thick or too thin, too warm or too cold, so hours of cranking or dashing were necessary to persuade the butter to form.

. . . the smoky, oily smell of a lantern being lit meant it was evening milking time.

. . . the tar build-up in the chimney and stove pipes resulted in the terrifying roar of a chimney fire.

. . . the frost painted dainty pictures on the window pane, followed, as the cold deepened, by a heavy slab of ice with a small peek-hole made by the impression of a warm thumb.

. . . the three hours boiling in the copper wash boiler so meat, chicken and vegetables could proudly take their place beside the rows of fruit, jams and jellies on the cellar shelf.

. . . the endless task of keeping the wood box full and the ash pan empty.

. . . the fear of falling down the well, as ice built up when the bucket sloshed, as you pulled and pulled with ice-caked mittens to satisfy thirsty cows.

you thought nothing of walking several miles to visit a neighbor

you clustered the "sad irons" under the cast iron frying pan on the hot wood stove, while you tackled that mountainous pile of ironing.

the word "baby-sitter" hadn't been coined

the skinned knuckles, aching back and sprained wrists meant you had spent hours over the wash board scrubbing those heavy work clothes.

you made a "sponge" by crumbling a yeast cake into the warm potato water and added flour — tomorrow was bread-baking day

you stuck your hand into the crock and the cold goo, called water glass, to collect an egg for baking

a carelessly open trap door, situated in the kitchen floor and leading to the cellar, proved a hazard to the unwary

the low-lying blanket of smoke from the smudge brought relief from the clouds of mosquitoes to man and animal alike.

. the cozy feel of the crackling wood fire and the sound of the kettle softly singing brought contentment on a blustery night

the togetherness of a family grouped around the kitchen table, sharing the same lamp, yet each doing his own thing

the favorite rocking chair was preempted by the family cat

you pried the clothes pins loose and carried the bed sheets like plywood into the warmth of the kitchen to thaw

handicraft meant knitting mittens and socks or ripping up a still usable garment to make junior a new outfit

half grown chickens paraded around indecently feathered — the result of years of poor breeding stock.

the only sight more welcome than the threshing rig arriving was seeing it leaving

you tried desperately to trap that little grey mouse before his children and children's children overran the house

. It wasn't unusual to see a team of oxen pulling a wagon.

the nearest barber was a friend down the road, or, worse still, you let your wife hack at it

the hot bricks were carefully transferred from the glowing coals to the drawers of the "foot warmer", which, tucked under the buffalo robe, kept toes cozy on the long cutter ride

the meat deep freeze was a bin of oats

. you listened with apprehension to the clicks and assorted sound of radios, clocks and children — there goes my private talk on the party line

watching the calves reach out long necks to touch the wire, then recoil with a snort — the electric fence was working

you were about to light the gas lamp but found a small pile of white ash Who broke the mantle this time?

. . . tinkering and fixing the crystal set and finally hearing a distant voice

the very warm spot in bed in that cold upstairs room, where the oven-heated rock had rested.

the breath-taking smell of lye and rancid fat meant soap-making.

a sturdy cardboard box tied with binder twine did duty as a suitcase.

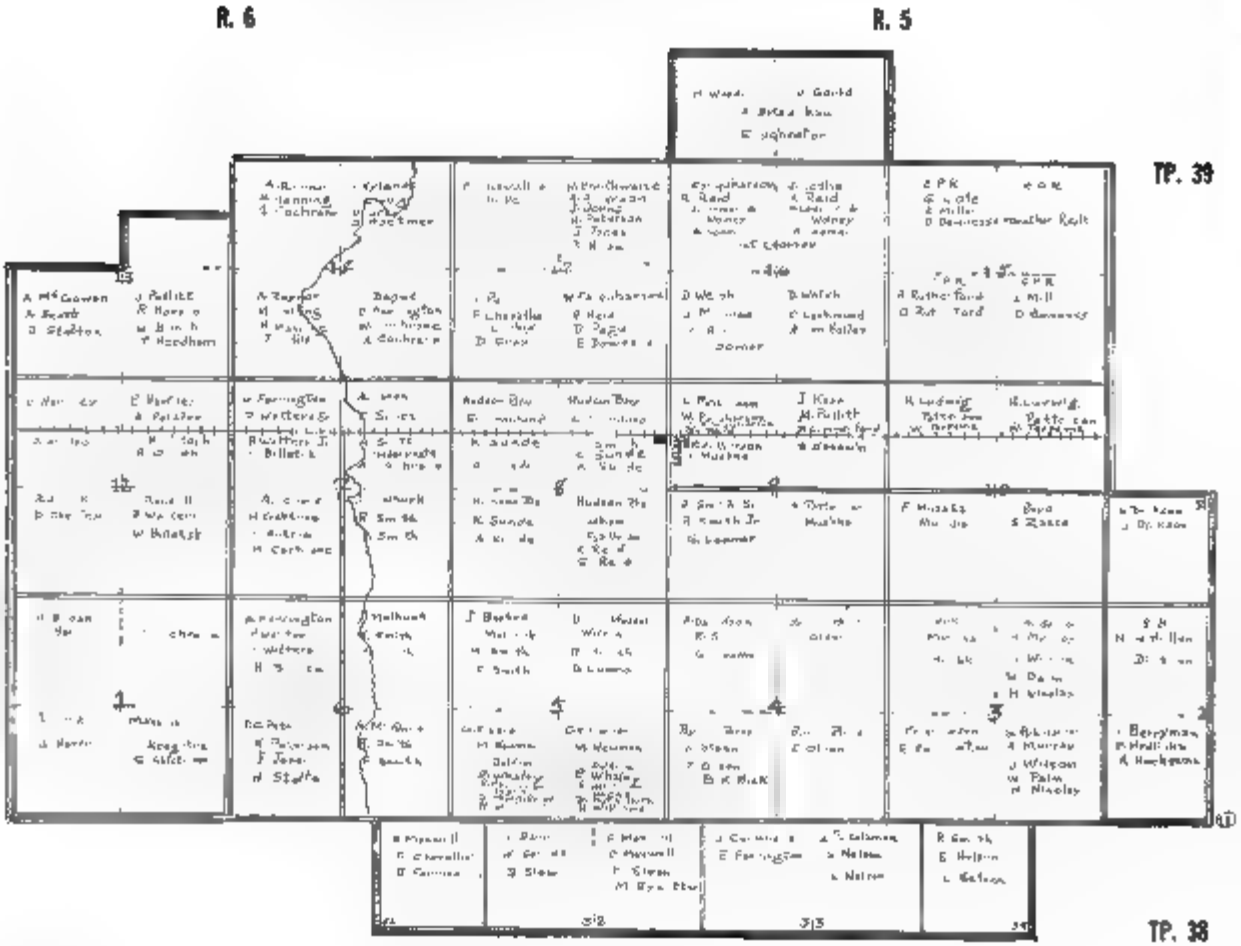
the long binder whip served the dual purpose as an ideal fishing pole as well as a horse persuader

. . the bobsleigh piled high with blue-green blocks of ice from the lake and hauled and packed in sawdust for next summer's refrigeration

the tattered gunny sack attached to old Dobbin's bridle provided a bit of relief from nose flies.

a young visitor from the city, returning from the "two-holer" out back, excitedly announced, "Daddy, they have double plumbing!"

# ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2930




LEGEND:
Original Boundary
School
Hamlet
Highway No. 11
Horseguard Creek
C P R.

# Alhambra

**THE EARLY HISTORY OF ALHAMBRA**

The Alhambra District, taking in 39-W5, was not completely surveyed until 1906 and it was not until years after this that the district was named It was generally allowed at that time that the country alongside and west of Horseguard Creek was a no good tamarack swamp and muskeg that never would be any good for farming.

However, people were flocking into the west, all classes of them, and the district got its full quota of kinds and varieties. The majority of them spoke English — with variations, of course

John Jones of Ontario, his brother Griff of Ohio and Tom Butler of Ontario came in 1905 and built a log cabin on Tom's quarter All three had filed on the same section — 20-39, just north of the future site of Alhambra, but they had to return the next year to file on it legally when it was open for homesteading and they did return! In March 1906 came the Byram family from England and homesteaded just south of Alhambra That same year the Helge Lund family and Ole Lund came and took up land in township 38, now known as Horseguard. The following year the Iver Lund family arrived and homesteaded there too. Also the J. P. Hicks family and the Barretts came about the same time. In 1907, Dan Sutherland, Alex McQueen and Donald Tolmie took homesteads on section 6-39, and Jack Davies filed on his homestead that same year In 1908 when John Kerr homesteaded his land these settlers were here: Jim Scott, Wm. Cooper, Harry Weller, Mrs. Walker, Mr and Mrs McClure, and E. Roberts. Early in 1909 Mr Patterson and his son, Frank, took up land The Raynar brothers, Gust and Austin, had land along the bank of the Horseguard and were among the first to settle there

J. Kerr's first winter as a homesteader, in 1908, was spent in company with D. Sutherland and D. Tolmie. They all stayed in Sutherland's shack. Towards spring tobacco and some other necessities ran short, so Tolmie and Kerr decided to walk to Leslieville. They had heard that there was such a place about seven miles northeast of them. So they plotted the course by the sections on a map and made a beeline for that place. Somehow or other their calculations were out, they ate their lunch on top of the butte where later Campbell School was built. After seriously considering the situation, they decided they must have passed Leslieville So they veered southeast a little bit and their conclusions proved correct for there was Leslieville down on the east bank of Lobstick Creek. It was a good sized frame building. The storekeeper's name was Bureau at that time

Bill and Charlie Farquharson, Andy Lennan, the Poplitt family, father and two sons, Jack and Tom, took up land in the summer of 1909 and by 1910, Gust Nylander. Wm. Cruickshank came about that time and shortly after came the Maxwell, Rutherford and Miller families, the E. G. Larson and Cochrane families The Bogues, the Askerbergs and the Braithwaites, the Pells and Joe Barbie and W. J. Little came that year, also the Luyckfassels, though by that time (1911 most of the free land had been taken up.

For some years before our first settlers came, the Alberta Central Railway Co. had a charter to build a railway west of Red Deer but nothing had been done about it, but since the charter had been renewed rumours of a railway and where it could go through were the common topics of conversation at that time. One thing they were all agreed on and that was that the railway would have to be built along the ridges — so thought the homesteaders, but the engineers when building the road thought quite differently and in lots of places it is built across deep muskeg

There was great excitement among the settlers when it became known that a survey party was working west from Red Deer and when a straight line of surveyers' stakes was run across Kerr's homestead in 1909 the railway was practically assured them. The Railway Co. paid the huge sum of $10 an acre for the right of way, but so delighted were the settlers at the prospect of the railway that they could have had it for nothing at the time!

Prospects of the railway brought other settlers into the west country surrounding Kerr's. L. Cooper came in 1909, also the Walsh brothers, Bob and George and about the same time came the MacDonald family, A. L. MacDonald, well known among the Scottish peo-

ple as the "Chief". The von Hollen families Fred, Herman, Carl and shortly afterwards Henry came from across the border and settled south of Alhambra a few miles and so did F. E. Lessing. Very few of the settlers who came into the district had money enough to fit themselves out with farm stock and implements. In the first few years horses that were brought into the district did not do well; the disease known as swamp fever was very prevalent then and there seemed to be no cure for it. A good yoke of oxen was considered the best bet and a lot of the land was broken with oxen the first few years.

In the "proving up" process of a homestead the aspiring landowner usually arrived with a grubstake sufficient to last several months at a time but despite his best efforts to make supplies eke out there were always some necessities such as tobacco, matches, beans or syrup running out. In this event a trip to Evarts had to be undertaken. It was courteous and proper to inform the neighbors that such a trip was contemplated so that the outgoing letters and a list of their requirements from the store could be collected. Thus was built up a very friendly intercourse between the settlers for many miles around. Many and varied were the experiences that could be told about the long bad roads and mud holes that had to be encountered on the way to the nearest store, or on the trip to the town of Red Deer. This part of the country was wet in those early times and there was not much difficulty in getting a plentiful supply of water. There was a lot of freighting in consequence of the railway being under construction at that time and with the prolonged wet weather and the heavy traffic the roads were completely cut to pieces and on many of the worst places a detour around hills and through bush and willows had to be made. Hay wire, an axe and a logging chain were standard equipment in the wagon box when on the trail.

Mr. Robert Smith and the family came to the district in 1912. He had been used to rain and wet weather, having farmed for many years in Scotland. The two older boys had come to this country the year before to make some preparations for the arrival of the rest of the family. Mr. and Mrs. John Leslie came to the country with the Smiths in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. R. Reid arrived from Scotland in 1911. Mrs. Reid had three brothers with homesteads in this neighborhood. Fred Mushka came in 1913.

Work was commenced on building the Alberta Central Railway in the summer of 1909. A grand ceremony was staged, at Red Deer when the then Prime Minister, Sir Wilfred Laurier, drove the first spike.

Camps were established at different points along the route between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and the settlers sold their cows to the camp for beef and went to work on the building of the grade, with their teams or without. The whole district west began to prosper. Different townsites were plotted and established along the route, including Alhambra.

There was lots of work, company and excitement when the railway was under construction. The right of way to the Saskatchewan River was cleared. There was a big camp at the Horseguard Creek and another at the Saskatchewan River where the company had an office and cache at the old townsite.

Teams hauled in baled hay and supplies of all kinds, including cement for the piers of the bridge across the river. The muskegs west were corduroyed with tree trunks with spruce bush on top, so it was a hive of industry until the road was completed. The most popular and most sought after man of the Alberta Central Railway was Mr. Ed Hogg of Red Deer who was paymaster.

The building of the Alberta Central Railway was spread over four years and it was August ... 1914 when the first passenger train came from Red Deer. The hamlet of "Alhambra" began to grow. There is good reason to believe that Alhambra was named by the president of the Alberta Central Railway, Mr. John T. Moore. Perhaps Mr. Moore connecting his own family name with the ancient Moores and their palace of splendor in Spain, "the Alhambra", suggested the name. Thus there is Alhambra in Alberta, about 16 miles east of Rocky Mountain House, and 45 miles west of Red Deer. After the railway was completed in 1914 many of the settlers made their living by shipping out posts, props, lumber and firewood. A big business was carried on from this point for a number of years.

Post yard in Alhambra, 1921-1922

Mr. Adams moved a building from his farm and opened a store and a post office. He was the first post master. Horseguard was the post office name until 1916. Mr. Perry built a two story log stopping house. It was fashioned of dry wind fall logs with moss stuffed in between and was roofed with poles, moss and tar paper. The first storekeeper did not stay in business very long.

Main Street, Alhambra, 1920.

Messrs. Bisset and Snarle had the store and stopping house for a time. A community hall and store underneath was built in 1920 and Mr Chas. Raine rented the store part of the building from 1920 to 1924. That was the most prosperous period in the history of the hamlet. Mr Emmerson took over the post office and opened a store. He and Mr Raine bought post, props and firewood from the settlers and enormous quantities were shipped from here! The hamlet was growing! There were two general stores, a dry goods store, a drug store, a butcher shop, a dry hotel, a harness shop, a pool room and a barber shop and a blacksmith shop. A disastrous fire in 1924 cleaned out a lot of these places. Mr. Raine's business practically collapsed after the fire. The common reason, he gave too much credit and got too little cash.

World War I was already taking its toll from every district in Canada and Alhambra district was no exception. Recorded here are the names of those brave fellows who left this district and served overseas at the call of King and Country Some returned not much the worse for their terrible experience, some returned wounded and in poor health, and some found soldiers' graves in Flanders Fields. The names of the men given below were not all from this neighborhood

Len Patterson - Wounded
W J Little - Killed
J. Rooke
J McBeth
J Leslie
Wm. Cochrane
H. Hicks - Killed in action
T Byram - Wounded
P Luyckfassel
E. Hart
R. Miller
N Eastman
W. Stockwell
W McLellan - Killed
L. Patterson - Killed
J. MacDonald - Died of wounds
W R. Walsh Gassed
W E. Goold
F G. Patterson
C. Smith
D. Blair
J W Cochrane M. M and D. C. M.
T Pollitt
A. Goold
H. Redmond
J Smith - Canadian Navy
Fritz von Hollen
C. Lachmund
N Macdonald
D. Fagg Wounded
J Mitchell won M. M
Bert Avery
R. Speedie

By 1919 the soldiers were returning from overseas. The Soldiers Settlement Board was buying land for the returned men and land values increased. The Peace celebration after the war was held at the Byram farm on July 26, 1919. The celebration took on the form of a picnic and sports day and was a huge success with a large attendance from the surrounding districts

Many well known family names around here can date their association with Alhambra to the period after the war, and in fact, in the early "twenties". The Bradshaws (who had already homesteaded near Pitcox, the Scotts, the Dicksons, the Farringtons, the Chevalliers, the

Catlings, Mrs. Mushka and daughter and many others all had a part in the development of our district

The 'flu epidemic in 1918 took its heavy toll from this neighborhood too and there was an outbreak of smallpox which was alarming but not so fatal

The Alhambra School District was established March 25, 1913. Mr. W. Bogue was Senior Trustee. Authorization was given November 11, 1914 to borrow the sum of $1200 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, building and equipping a school house. The Treasurer was Mr. J. R. Kerr. Approval was given July 5, 1915 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Alhambra School District, situated 375 yards north from the southeast corner of the NE 8-39-5 W5. In 1914 a school was opened in a temporary log house a mile south of the hamlet. Mrs. Ralph Patterson was the first teacher. Messrs. Bogue, Larson, Byram and Kerr formed the school board. It was not until 1916 that the new school was opened. Mrs. H. Brown was the first teacher. The school house was now the center of the social and community life. Parties, dances and religious services were all held in the school. The first Dominion Day picnic was held at the school grounds in 1916. The school trustees were in charge of the event at first. Besides a real community picnic there was a big variety of events for young and old, including horse racing, a harness race, and even a "Best Baby" show with the two bachelor farmers acting as judges. A big dance and some fireworks at night completed the day.

The prosperity lasted until about 1921 when prices started to level off. The winter of 1919-1920 was long and the snow was deep and it was about the middle of May before the snow finally went. Feed was very scarce. Tough wheat bundles off railway cars sold at Alhambra for 25¢ each. All the old straw stacks and straw roofs were used for feed. In the spring cattle were a good price yet but by the following fall the bottom had fallen out of the market. The hide of an animal in the spring was worth as much as the whole carcas in the fall. By 1928 the Depression was here and the "hungry 30's" which followed will be well remembered by all but the younger generation and just for their information here are some of the prices for farm produce at that time. Hogs, live weight, four cents a pound; cattle proportionately low; cream, 11 cents a pound butterfat, wheat down to 25 cents a bushel, oats, four cents, eggs, four cents a dozen, wool, four cents a pound. The Depression was attributed to over production.

Some of the missionaries of the different religious denominations who visited the district were, Mr. Heaven, an Anglican clergyman, Mr. Gorie, a young Presbyterian student who came in 1914, after the war there was the Rev. Alexander, Mr. Joe Stone, a student, Rev. W. G. Brown, Rev. Hjortaas of the Lutheran congregation and the Rev. McKechnie, the blind minister who was very well known over a large track of country west of Red Deer.

There was a goodly number of Scottish people associated with this district from the earliest years. The Scottish folk and many of their friends made merry and "Chief" MacDonald's place on New Year's Day. It was an annual event of importance for years. The Scottish people organized a Burns' Club in 1921 and held their first Burns' supper at Mr. Alex Rutherford's house. This was an annual event but the uncertainty and severity of the weather was a deterring factor. On an especially cold twenty-fifth the haggis froze solid in the Alhambra hall.

Prosperity did not come easy to this district. The land was too hard to clear, but there was satisfaction in taming the wilderness. A piece of new breaking was always of the utmost interest, not only to the owner, but also to his neighbors. Despite the discouragements of hail storms, frost and unfavorable weather the district had developed generally and there were some wonderful crops of hay, oats, wheat, barley and potatoes grown here. In 1936, Mr. F. G. Patterson gained honor for himself and renown for the district when he won second prize for Garnet wheat at Toronto Royal. The following year John and Leonard Sande, in the Beaver Flat district won first and second for oats at Toronto. This from the country out west, which was considered by many to be a no good kind of place where it froze every night of the year.

Mr. Kerr says in closing that no doubt some who well deserve to be mentioned were forgotten but they were not left out intentionally.

Special acknowledgement is made to Edith (Kerr) Peel for her kind permission to use excerpts from the publication, "Other Days and Other Ways" — Being the Early History of Alhambra — written by her father, the late John R. Kerr.

**ALHAMBRA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2930**

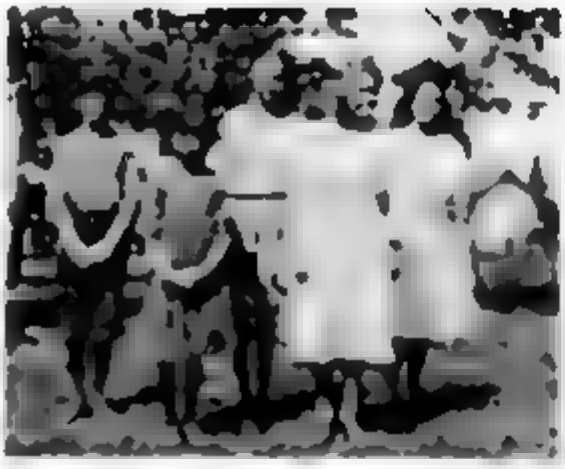
The Alhambra School District was established March 25, 1913 comprising of the following lands: Section 3-10 and 15-18 in 39-5 W5. Mr. W. Bogue of Pitcox, Alberta was Senior Trustee.

Authorization was given November 11, 1914 to borrow the sum of $1200 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, building and equipping a school house. The Treasurer was Mr. J. R. Kerr of Pitcox, Alberta.

Approval was given July 5, 1915 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Alhambra School District, situated 375 yards north from the southeast corner of the NE 8-39-5-W5.

The sum of $500 was borrowed June 28, 1926 for the purpose of building a 10 foot extension to the present school. The Treasurer was Mr. J. R. Kerr of Alhambra.

Although the Alhambra School District was



Grade VIII students at Alhambra, 1934 L. to R. Will Smith, Josephine Luyckfassel, Margaret Scott, Jessie and Annie Kirby

organized in 1912 and established in 1913 it was not until 1914 that a school was opened in a temporary log house on the Davidson place a mile south of the hamlet. Mrs. Ralph Patterson was the first teacher She boarded with the Kerrs and Mrs. Kerr looked after young Len, aged 10 months. On weekends they went back to their own home, three miles away Schoolroom howlers were common then too. One young boy had a seat near the window and was perhaps more interested in things outside the school than in it, he informed the teacher, "Here comes another kid" — the teacher corrected him — "You mustn't say 'kid', you must say 'child'", so profiting by this lesson he announced the next arrival thus: "Please teacher, here's two childs coming"

It was not until 1916 that the new school was opened. Mrs. H. Brown was the first teacher Other teachers were' Mrs. Kate Ludwig, Miss Isobel Thackery, Miss R Foss, Mrs. E. A Patterson, Miss T Crawford, Miss M. W Clark, Mr. J A. Moir, Miss M. E. Thorpe, Miss White, Mr. J W Hicks, Miss M Hango, Alma (Sande) Sunde, Miss W Stagg, Miss A. Kennedy, Mrs. A. Stollings, Margaret (Stelfox) Scott, Mrs F Fleming, Miss Doris Hall, Miss F Hauser, M. Murdock, M. Martz, Mrs McCann Mr MacFarlane, Mr Curlo, Mr and Mrs. H. Smith Mr J Gregorash

In 1945 a new two room school was built. During the four previous years a vacant L-shaped house in the hamlet had been used as a classroom as the school population had increased Then a third classroom became

The new Alhambra School was built in 1945 Grades 1 to 6 with F. Hauser, teacher Back row: Malachy Watters, Richard Nielsen Aaron Addy, Angus Cochrane, Clayton Patton, Burnie McGhee Maurice McMackin, Johnny Watters, Jerry Wulff, Neil Granlund David Petersen. Fourth row: Edward Mushka Eileen Wulff, Anne Mortenson, Virginia Farrington, Myrtle Stollings, Doreen Patton. Marjorie Bradshaw, Miss Frances Hauser Third row: Shirley McDonell, Coral Peterson, Delores Olson, June Harris, Shirley Pauley, Edna Larsen, Viola Wulff, Helen Granlund, Ruth Bonde Second row: Bobby Pollitt, Andy Patton, Helen Stollings, Joyce Granlund Anne McGhee, Joan Wilson, Margaret Liebig, unknown Joan Farrington, unknown. First row: Dennis Nielsen, Nells Bonde Larry Harris, unknown, Vernon Liebig, Ebbe Mortenson, Roy Wulff

necessary so another school was moved in and also a teacherage was built. This school and teacherage were later sold. The two room school was closed in 1964 and the children were bused to Leslieville School and David Thompson High. The Alhambra Community bought the school from the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15. The Community has recently sold the school house.

**ALHAMBRA**

This book deals with Alhambra
From its very earliest day,
From trek with stubborn oxen
To V 8 and Chevrolet

The month the Great War started
Brought to us our first train,
And with it men departed
Midst many tears and pain.

A log shack served the purpose
Of a temporary abode,
Until they built the schoolhouse
At the corner of the road.

The hamlet near the station
With a stopping house began,
It was built by Mr. Perry
On a very simple plan.

Soon a store was added
And filled with all things nice
Where you could take your surplus eggs
And trade for prunes and rice

Many days have passed since then
Twenty years or more,
And now you buy your groceries
At H. von Hollen's Store

If you should want some medicine
Or lotion for your face,
Then you must walk across the street
To Mrs. Lessing's place

If your disk or plow needs fixing
To C. Frasier you must go,
He'll fix it cheaply while you wait,
He's neither rough nor slow

Miss Scott is our postmistress
And her patience does not fail,
Though you may be a little late
In going for your mail

And if you want to sell some grain
Then go to C. H. Gill,
He'll grade it fairly, give you cheques
That will your bankbook fill.

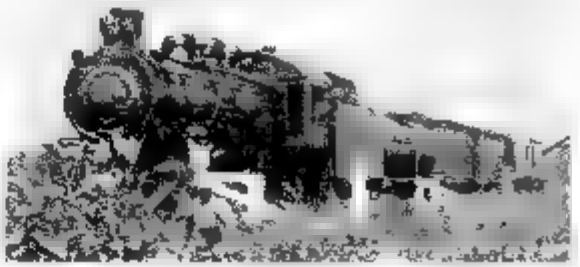
Fred Mushka is the section boss,
Has been here many years,
If in his charge you leave your cream
Then you need have no fears.

Wm. Farquharson is the shipper
Of your long bacon hog
On Wednesdays he's always there
In rain or snow or fog.

The hall in this community
Is near the softball ground,
And though a little out of town
Is very easily found

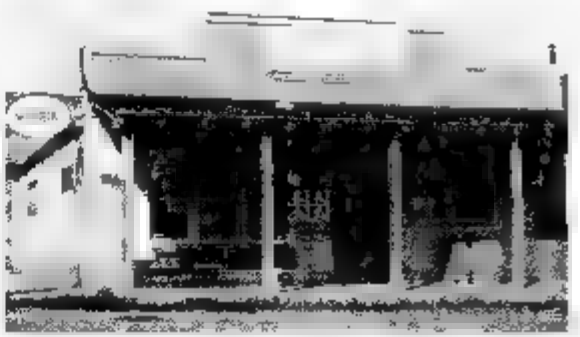
Miss Sande is our teacher
And she takes every care,
And urges all to do their best
For Leslieville School Fair

By EDITH KERR, Grade 8, 1935. Edith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kerr. Each verse was composed to describe a picture she had taken. She won first prize for this poem at the Leslieville School Fair, September, 1936.



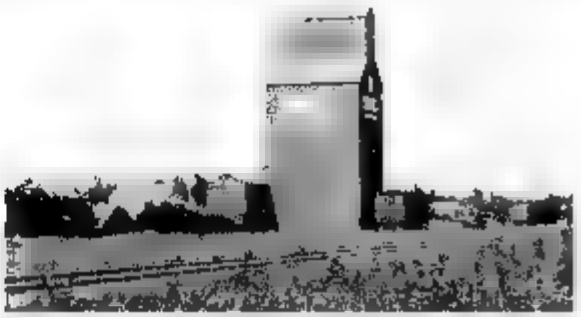
The month the Great War started Brought to us our first train, And with it men departed. Midst many tears and pain.

A log shack served the purpose Of a temporary abode Until they built the schoolhouse At the corner of the road.



Many days have passed since then Twenty years or more, And now you buy your groceries At H. von Hollen's Store.

If you should want some medicine Or lotion for your face. Then you must walk across the street To Mrs Lessing s place

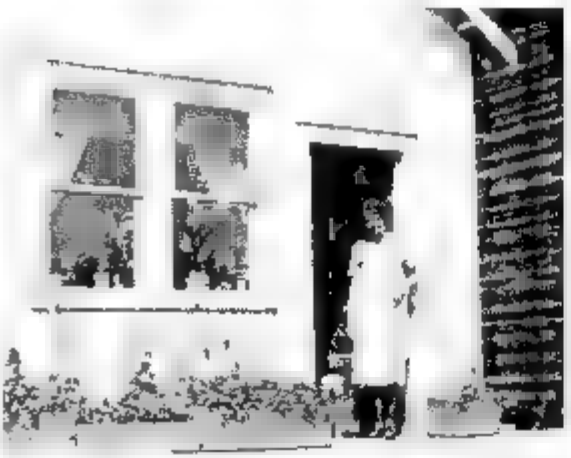


And if you want to sell some grain Then go to the C.H. Gill. He'll grade if fairly give you cheques, That will fill your Bankbook

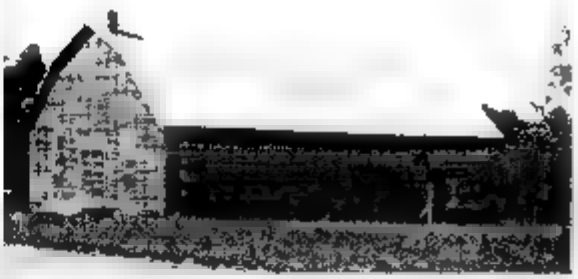
If your disk or plow needs fixing To C Frasier you must go. He'll fix it cheaply while you wait, He's neither rough nor slow.

Fred Mushka is the section boss, Has been here many years. If in his charge you leave your cream Then you need have no fears

Wm. Farquharson is the shipper Of your long bacon hog. On Wednesday he's always there In rain or snow or fog.



Miss Scott is our postmistress And her patience does not fail. Though you may be a little late In going for your mail.



The hall in the community Is near the softball ground, And though a little out of town Is very easily found

**ALHAMBRA IN 1937 — by Bertha Granlund**

When we were married two stores were situated here, one operated by Mrs. Lessing who also was a Notary Public, and the other store operated by Henry von Hoizen whose daughter, Violet Wulff, now operates the store. Margaret Scott was the postmistress. The garage was operated by Charles Frasier. Sunday School was held at the Frasier home. The elevator agent was Charlie Gill. There was a hog buying station and stockyards. The hog buyer was William (Bill) Farquharson. The trainmen picked up cream cans and delivered them to Red Deer. There was a community hall. Both high school and public school were taught which kept the young ones on a learning schedule.

These have all changed. The schools are centralized. One store, the post office and the hall are still here, the elevator, stockyards, station house, section house, tool sheds, garage, and the non-denominational church "gone with the good old days."

**ALHAMBRA TODAY — (By Bert Smith)**

Alhambra at one time was mostly pensioners: the Farquharsons, Mrs. Lessing, Mrs. Sininger. The Pollitts, the Mushkas, H. McClennan, Henry Lund, Mrs. Jones, The Fitches, Mrs. Chevallier, the Chapmans, and others. Now many young families have moved in, several trailers can be seen in the hamlet. The younger generation has taken over the duties in the community and have done a wonderful job. The community hall has been renovated and given a new name — "Alhambra Community Centre". It has a full sized basement large enough to cater to large crowds with its modern facilities — electricity, natural gas and running water. It has been a place for many large gatherings and will continue to be used. The young people should be congratulated for the long hours of work many of them have put in and will continue to do.

The little church that was part of Alhambra has been sold and moved to Condor.

The two room school that was built in 1945 was closed in 1964. Alhambra Community bought the school from the Rocky Mountain School Division Number 15. The children are now bused to Lesileville School and David Thompson High School.

Open-air skating rink behind community hall 1940's and 1950's

**BACKS, JIM FAMILY HISTORY — by Alta [redacted]**

Jim and I were raised in the Dog Pound and Bothel areas west of Crossfield. We were married in July, 1956, at which time Jim was working for the County of Mountain View. My maiden name was Williamson.

In the fall of 1956 we moved to Three Hills where Jim went to work for General Petroleum, drilling. We had a trailer, so moving wasn't much of a job. Jim worked on the rig until 1959, moving all over the province from Valleyview to the Crows Nest Pass.

A daughter, Kathleen Marie, was born to us on May 14, 1957, in the Didsbury hospital. In our travels we came to the Condor area and liked what we saw. We learned that Joe Cesonis wanted to sell his farm located north of Condor so we purchased it in 1959. No one had lived there for eight years, so the house was in bad repair. The garden patch had trees and weeds head high. Clark and Martha Sloan wanted to rent their farm out, and since it was only about a mile from our place we rented it and moved into the house there.

We had another daughter, Carol Lynn, on July 24, 1960, and a son, Keith William, on January 15, 1962. The last few days before Keith was born Jim spent his time going from the barn to check on a sow and then coming back to check on me. The sow had 18 pigs, and since she couldn't nurse them all at once, Jim got up every two hours to switch the pigs, putting nine in and taking nine out. Unfortunately, she saved only two of the pigs.

We moved to our own farm in the fall of 1962. We had been working on the house while living on Sloan's place. We applied for the power, but didn't get it until February 1963. We had an air-tight heater and a gas lamp we borrowed from my dad. The first night we spent there Jim and I were sitting by the heater reading and I commented on how cosy it was. Just then the lid on the heater started jumping up and down and the gas lamp spluttered a few times and went out! We lived without power for four months, so lived a little like the pioneers did. However, I went to Fay Jennings' to wash clothes—my pioneer instinct wasn't strong enough to bring out the wash board!

We lived on the farm four years, of which we were hailed out completely once and partially two other years. The storm that hailed our crops out completely came after a rainy spell, the sun came out for about two hours and then down came the hail. They were the size of golf balls and would hit the ground and bounce up again. It's a helpless feeling to see your whole years' gone in a few minutes!

Jim worked out most winters to help make ends meet, until we sold our farm to Larry and Sharon David in April, 1967 and moved to Lesheville. He worked for McBrides at Benalto and then for Kidd Construction. We lived in

Lesllieville for two and a half years, until the fall of 1969, when we purchased the Parker place, approximately ten miles south of Lesllieville. Jim continued to work for Kidd Construction, and was made foreman. However, he felt that his job was taking him away from home too much, and seemed to be consuming all of his time, so he got a job with the department of highways in 1974, where he is presently employed as a grader operator. We had rented the farm land out to Bill Von Hollen and Merle Cote.

We had two more daughters—Patricia Anne, born on July 1, 1963 and Barbara Jean, born March 20, 1966. Our children attend school at Condor and David Thompson. Kathy graduated in June, 1975 and married Jack Holkestad from Rocky Mountain House in August, 1975. They reside in Rocky Mountain House, and Jack is employed at Aquitane gas plant. Kathy is a secretary at I.G.A.

We attend Gaetz Catholic Church, where I have taught catechism for the past eight years.

**THE GARRY BERT FAMILY**

Garry Bert first became familiar with the Alhambra area in 1970, when he became employed at Killick's Esso owned by Bernard Killick. He drove to work each morning from his parent's farm (Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bert) in the Dovercourt area.

In December of 1971, he married Vicki Crawford, daughter of Bryan and June Crawford of Lesllieville and together they set up housekeeping in a small rented house across from the service station. This lasted for three months, then they moved into the house adjoining the service station. In July of 1976, they purchased the Esso Station from Bernard Killick and changed the name to Bert's Sales and Service.

**THE BILLETSKI FAMILY**

Walter and Helen Billetski moved to the Alhambra district on May 1st, 1971 along with their four children, Connie — 15, Anna — 14, Timothy — 3, and Martin — 1 year.

Coming from Red Deer, they settled on the Walter's farm. (NW 7-39-5-5) Walter worked for R. Angus Caterpillar and farmed part time.

The oldest daughter, Connie, married Stanley Hubl on September 4, 1976. They are now living on the Hubl farm in the Eckville district. Anna finished high school at David Thompson and is now at Red Deer College.

The farm is pretty much the same except for a few of the old buildings and corrals being torn down. The appearance of the house and barn haven't changed.

In the spring of 1975 Walter and Helen separated, Walter moving to Fernie, British Columbia and Helen still living on the farm with the young boys.

**ELTON DOWNESS FAMILY**

Elton was born January 17, 1902, at Stanley Bridge, Prince Edward Island. He came to Alberta with his parents and two brothers, Willie and Cecil, in 1907 residing first at Morningside, Alberta. His dad decided to go homesteading so they went by covered wagon eastward to Naco, but spent that first winter in Castor. In the spring they moved back to the homestead staying there two years; then moved to Veteran and stayed there for about two years. Then they moved back west to Lacombe for a couple of years and then moved back to Morningside. From there they moved south and west to the Eagle Hill district, west of Olds where they bought a ¼ section of land in 1920 and farmed until Elton married the former Mildred Ware on August 1, 1935. Mildred came from Llanhilleth, South Wales to Canada. She was born May 31, 1916, and came to Canada with her parents and eleven children. The family came to Canada under the Soldiers Settlement scheme in 1927 to farm in the Eagle Hill district, where the families were neighbors.

Elton and Mildred had four children, John born September 9, 1936, and Etta born February 15, 1940, while they lived at Eagle Hill. With their two children they moved to the James River Bridge district and lived with his brother Willie who had taken a homestead there in 1937. Our son James was born while we lived there, November 26, 1942, and in the fall of 1944 we purchased three quarters of land from the Waterloo Municipality, N W ¼, N E ¼ and S E ¼ Sec. 27-Twp 39-R 5-W 5. In 1945 on November 27, our son Donald was born.

In October 31, 1956, our house and contents were completely destroyed by fire. In August, 1957, John married a girl from Tangent, Thereasa Portalance. They have four children Gerald, Donna, Betty Ann and Dennis. They are residing in Red Deer.

Etta married a boy from Nipawin Saskatchewan in September of 1957 and they have two boys, Robert and Kelly. They reside in Carstairs.

In 1962 we sold our land at James River, not realizing land was so hard to find and looked for a year before finding the land we now live on S.E. ¼ Sec. 17 Twp. 39 R. 5 W 5. We bought this from an elderly man by the name of Dan Page and we moved here May 1, 1963, with our two boys, Jim and Don. Donald stayed one year and went working out at Westerdale where he met the former Sharon Brinson whom he married in December of 1966. They have two girls, Connie and Lori. In 1967 James left and married the former Mrs. May Cowan in July, 1968. James passed away October 12, 1974.

Now we are back to being just the two of us, making a few cows and keeping a few chickens and more or less taking life a little easy surrounded by good friends and neighbors.

**BUNCH, WALTER AND VIVIAN AND FAMILY — by Vivian Bunch**

Over the past 31 years we have lived on four different farms in the area covered by this book

As we were not pioneer settlers nor even permanent residents I shall write very briefly on each location

After we were married in Benalto in 1946 we rented our first quarter of land from Gust Mottus. Here we lived in a small tarpaper shack on the land situated between Withrow and Gilby. We were hailed out that year so were forced to obtain employment elsewhere

Walter obtained a steady job with Imperial Oil in the Leduc oil field and it wasn't until 1951 that we were able to purchase a quarter of land from Kalle Klivinen. This was right next to the land we had previously rented. We were only weekend farmers for several years and thoroughly enjoyed coming to the farm. In the last part of 1954 Walter was transfered to a battery job at Leslieville so we were finally able to move and to live on our farm. Then, due to the poor roads, we were unable to get the children to school, and decided to move to Leslieville. We lived in town for two years, during which time we were able to purchase another quarter of land SE 10-40-4-W5, and also bought the Wolfe School House and moved it to the farm. We remodelled it and installed power, sewer and water and by this time the road was high graded and gravelled

Walter had now been transferred to the Red Deer field (Joffre) so we moved to the city at the close of 1958 and lived there for ten months and were once again back on the farm. This time it was to be for four years during which time we raised sheep. Finally it proved too much for our health and we sold the farm to Vic Owen in 1964

We lived in Red Deer for some months while building a large home on one acre in Valleyview Subdivision. We lived there for five years when we again had the farming fever and wanted to get our young boys out into the country. After we got our property sold we were able to purchase a farm at Alhambra from Ray and Blanche Harris. Here we raised cattle and thoroughly enjoyed being out in the country again. We were to live here for five years when we decided to move north of Leslieville onto this farm, SW 31-40-4-W5, which we had purchased from Senia and Charlie Valley. Our son, Gerald, remained on the Alhambra farm with his wife, the former Laurie Urbinsky. During this past summer of 1977 this farm at Alhambra was sold to our neighbors Clarence and Terry Needham. We purchased a half section from Molly Phelan, the former Lebihan farm which is located adjacent to the land we now live on. Gerald and Laurie with their baby daughter live on this new land and do most of the farming for us.

Our children have attended school at Eckville, Leslieville and David Thompson High School. Cheryl is married to Robert Green and has three children and are at present living at Alix. Joyce is married to Gary Mah, has three children and lives in Rocky Mountain House. Vern is married to Gwen Needham, has three children and lives near Withrow. Janice is married to Gary Dietrich, has one little girl and lives north of Leslieville. Judy married Ron Marcinek, has two boys and lives near Condor. Wanda married Arnold Gray, has one little girl and they live north-west of Leslieville on the Gray farm. Sandra is single and works in Red Deer. Dwayne is also single and works around Central Alberta. Donald is in Red Deer, working in a welding shop.

The years we have lived on farms in this area have been our happiest years. It has been a good place to raise a large family and the beauty of this country compares with the best anywhere. For a family on the move, it is a real joy to have a farm to settle on.

**BUTLER, TOM — (By Ken Martin)**

Tom Butler came to Alberta from Ontario in 1906 and homesteaded the N.E. ¼-20-39-5 W5, this land being two miles north of the present village of Alhambra. Later on he purchased the N.W. ¼-20-39-5 (W5) from Bob McGuire; he farmed this half section until the fall of 1947 when due to ill health he was forced to retire. He never married. His mother and sister, Jean, joined him a short time after he came out and his sister, Sally, came out a few years later. His mother lived with him until her death in 1940 and his sister, Jean lived with him and helped him with his farming until her marriage to Austin Raynor in the middle thirties. Jean was a very good teamster and did her share of the field work which was all done with horses. She also had a fine flock of sheep, approximately one-hundred head. She had a name for each one of them and though they all looked alike she could pick out any one of them at any time and tell you its name. She could also do the same thing with a quite a large herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle which Tom had, she also had a name for each one of the cattle. Sally Butler had been a nurse before coming to this area and at the time she came out here she had tuberculosis quite badly the doctor in Ontario told her she only had a short time to live. She built herself a small building which was open on the whole south side. She covered the open side with cheesecloth and slept in it and the good western fresh air cured her of this disease and she lived a good healthy life until well over eighty years of age. Sally never married and kept house for her brother Tom all the time they lived here. She looked after her mother who was in ill health for a number of years before she died. Sally was a wonderful cook. All the time they lived here they kept all the furniture which they had brought with them from the east. The only cook stove she had was a small wood stove which could be classed as a real homesteader's stove but could she ever put up good meals with it! She was famous for her steam puddings which she had quite regularly for dessert. They lived in a log house all their

years here and she had scrubbed the board floor until it was worn down until the knots in the boards were higher than the rest of the floor. She was one of the kindest women that I have ever known. Tom was also a kind and gentle man who never got excited and always took lots of time and did things very thoroughly.

He built up a very fine herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle in which took great pride and was a great lover of horses. His one enjoyment in life was smoking his pipe; he always used the old style plug pipe tobacco which he whittled with his knife and, like all pipe smokers, he used a great deal of matches. He used to sit in an arm chair which had a hardwood seat about one and one half inches thick; he struck matches on the bottom of the seat of this chair always in the same place with the same stroke of his arm until he had a groove worn in it so that it was almost worn through the seat of the chair. At the time he had his auction sale I had my mind made up I would buy that chair regardless of what it cost me, but to my disappointment they did not sell any of their household effects.

Tom was a very interesting story teller and I could go on for a long time relating the stories he has told me of the early homesteading days and stories of eastern Canada. In my days as a teenager I used to stook for him for several years and the wonderful meals Sally cooked, especially those steam puddings, I will always remember. Upon retiring in 1947 he sold his farm to Austin Raynor. In 1951 Austin Raynor traded this farm to Joe McGhee for his farm in the Lamoral area which is approximately 40 miles west of Rocky Mountain House. In the fall of 1952 Joe McGhee sold it to Bud and Ken Martin who still farm it at the present time. Tom and Sally Butler moved to Parksville, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. I am not sure but I think Tom passed away two or three years later and Sally passed away sometime in the 1960's, but what year I am not sure. It was a privilege knowing such fine people and I am proud to be living on Tom Butler's homestead at this time.

**COCHRANE, HATTIE AND FAMILY**

Mrs. Hattie Cochrane and her three sons came from Tioga, North Dakota and filed on homesteads in the Horseguard district in August, 1910. Mrs. Cochrane filed on NE 36-38-6-W5, and her sons, John Whitney on NE 33-38-5-W5, William Hector on NE 31-38-5-W5, and James Edward on NW 36-38-6-W5.

In March, 1911, Mrs. Cochrane at 55 years of age moved her family of three sons, John age 31, William 24, James 18 and four daughters, Eva 21, Gladys 20, Hattie 16, Bernice 14, and John's son, Don, eight years, to her homestead. They lived in a log house for three years until the new house was built in 1914. The house was just a shell when the girls decided they were tired of living in the log house so forced their hand by moving all of their furniture out of the log house. The new house was still without shingles, windows and doors but the girls told their brothers that if they wanted any supper they had to move the cook stove into the new house. So the brothers moved the stove and the piano into the new house. This same piano is in the Alhambra Community Centre today where it has been used for many years and is still used. Mrs. Hattie Cochrane brought it with her from Buffalo, Minnesota, when she moved to homestead in Tioga in 1910.

John's son, Don, died of the flu in 1919 at the age of 15 years in Hanna, Alberta. John was very active in the district. He served 10 years on the council of the Raven Municipal District, six years on the School Board of the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 and he was a director for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. He took the census of the district for many years, and in the early days he rode horseback to do the job. J. W. Cochrane M.M. and D.C.M. served in World War 1 with the 10th Battalion and he received a medal for services rendered beyond the call of duty for which he received a pension from the King's Purse for the rest of his life. John died in June, 1968.

William Hector served in World War 1 from 1915 to 1918. He returned to Alhambra in July, 1919 and farmed with his brothers. He married Margaret von Hoven in October, 1931. They moved to the SE 18-39-5-W5 where they farmed. William rejoined the army in World War II and returned home in 1946. William and Margaret have one daughter, Lorraine, and two sons, Malcolm and J. Angus. William died in February, 1954.

Lorraine married George McCallum and they live in Victoria, B.C. They have five daughters and three sons.

Malcolm lives on his grandmother Hattie Cochrane's homestead. He married Anita Andresen from Ponoka, on June 28, 1969.

Angus lives on his dad's farm. He married Gloria Nothof from Hespero on April 23, 1960. They have two sons, William and James, both at home.

Eva moved to California and married Earl Leason.

Gladys married Tom Hall in 1915. He served in the Canadian Navy and was stricken with the flu on his way home and died in Red Deer. Gladys was remarried in 1921 to Joe Sullivan who was a barber and ran the pool hall in Alhambra. They had two sons, Dave and George. Dave died at the age of five. George lives in the United States. Gladys and Joe moved to Castle Rock, Washington. Gladys later moved back to Alhambra and lived with her brothers, John and Jim. She now resides at the Hardisty Nursing Home in Edmonton.

James Edward (Jim) farmed in the district and lived with his mother. He raised sheep for 30 years. He bought his first car, a Model T Ford, in 1921. He now resides at the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House.

Hattie worked for Sam Emmerson for two years and then she moved to Hanna and from there to California. She had three sons, William, Terrance, and Donald.

Bernice married Arthur Pederson in June, 1917 and they lived on his homestead the SE-32-38-5-W5 for two years. They had two children. Gloria and Arthur.

Mrs Hattie Cochrane had two married daughters, Edna and Grace, who also came to the Alhambra district Edna had married G Emil Larson in 1905 in Tioga They also had filed on a homestead, the SW 5-39-5-W5, in August 1910 and moved on it in March, 1911. Their children are Lars who married Ann Steed and they have two sons, Lorne and Adrich; Grace, married William Mofford and they moved to the United States, Dave and Ruth, both deceased, Robert, born at Alhambra, had rheumatic fever and spent a year on his back, then went to his aunt' Bernice Pederson, in Washington, he is married and they live at Castle Rock, Washington; John William, born at Alhambra, married Marge Birch and they have two children and live in Edmonton, Edna Mae married Chris Moeller, they have three children and they live in the Rocky Mountain House area. G. Emil Larson died in 1967 Mrs. G. Emil Larson lives in Rocky Mountain House with her son, Lars, and grandson, Lorne Mrs. Larson is 92 years of age and is still active

Grace married Burr Floyd Randall (Doc Randall) and they came to the district about 1930 and lived on the NE 27-38-6-W5. They had two children, Joe married Marie A. Fleury, and they have one son and four daughters, Grace (Gaye) married Jim Philips. They live in the Arbutus district and they have one son and three daughters.

The Cochrane home was known as a stopping house to all homesteaders trekking between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House

In 1924 the Cochrane Brothers had a contract to clear and burn the right of way for the road from Alhambra to Rocky Mountain House, now known as Highway 11. The old winding road was from one half mile to one mile south of the present highway

**DAVID THOMPSON HIGH SCHOOL**

The David Thompson High School is situated on the southwest corner of the SE 1 39-5-W5 along Highway 11 leading west to the David Thompson Highway

"This school is the brain child, not of one, but of several men from the Department of Education, from the Divisional School Board, architects, contractors and carpenters Moreover, the David Thompson grew out of a pressing need for high school classrooms — classrooms to accommodate students from the north, east, south and west — students brought to its doors by buses from Leslieville, Condor and Alhambra."[1]

The school opened September, 1957, under 'pioneering' difficulties, certainly at the beginning of the term – minus several windows, doors and a gym floor and a long list of other things The school was not completed until half of the school term was over. The official opening was on February 11, 1958, when a crowd of more than 750 people gathered in this magnificent new school. The evening started at 7 30 with a tour of the school and at 8 00 the Opening Ceremony commenced with Mr D. Hall as chairman. Dr T C. Bryne, Chief Superintendent of Schools for Alberta, cut the ribbon and declared the new building open. The invocation was delivered by Rev A. Kriese and Hon A. J Hooke was one of the principal speakers

Gifts to the new school were presented by Dr Bryne and Mr. J Cony. Kerry Bissell of Bissell and Holman, the architects, presented the key to the school, to Principal J. Lindberg

Other speakers were Mr. J. Cony, Mr S Sande, Mr Wm. Lougheed and Orlen von Hollen, president of the Students' Union

Two of the Rocky Mountain School Divisional Trustees, Mr Louis Karisen and Mr Sigurd Sande were honored for long years of service by being presented with gold watches engraved with these words: "40 years School Trustee Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15"

The first staff of the David Thompson High School Mr J. Lindberg — Principal, Mr D Hall, Mr. M. Sharpe, Mr Wm. Davidson, Mrs. A. Sande, Mrs. L. Westergard, Miss J Norton, Mr. Dobbs

The first Student Council: President — Orlen von Hollen, Vice-President — Heather Smith, Secretary — Loretta Linneberg, Treasurer — Ramona Lipka, Room Representatives — Elaine Rangen, Gerald Brandon, Wayne Linneberg Leone Torgeson, Audrey Sunde

The first Yearbook Staff Editors — Donald Holmgren and Ramona Lipka, Faculty Advisor — Mr J. Lindberg, Staff Photographer — David Akitt, Staff — Marion Kauppi, Fay Russell, Heather Smith, Arlene Gold, Patricia Brown Wayne Linneberg, Kenneth Ellis

When the Yearbook Staff was asked why they called this yearbook, "The Explorer" they gave these reasons' David Thompson was foremost among Western Canada's great explorers, and like him, this yearbook is blazing a new trail in an effort to establish a worthy tradition for our school; moreover, we thought of the Explorer satellite, which we hope, is the precursor of greater things to come Does not this title indeed seem fitting?"[2]

The first Graduating Class Delores Biswanger, Lorraine Biswanger, Louise Brandson, Patricia Brown, Birdie Diraten, Vernon Dyrland, Ken Ellis, Joyce Granlund, Tommy

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[1] The Explorer — 1958
[2] The Explorer — 1958

Houston, James Kasparsons, Stanley Kauppi Elaine Kubic, John Martin, Lorna Nelson, Wil Pattison, Florence Poland, Laureen Polnau Elain Rangen, Sharon Smith, Jenny Stolte, Orlen von Hoben, Leonard White

Over the years additional rooms have been built to this High School and as well, the gymnasium has been enlarged. This has helped ensure that the rural school children would be offered all the facilities and thus obtain an education of the same quality as urban school children. It was for this reason that the School Division was organized.

The other excerpts are taken from the keynote speech delivered by Alma Sunde at the David Thompson High Schoo. Graduation Ceremony, May 14, 1976.

**DICKSON, SAMUEL AND ALMA**

Samuel Dickson was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1877. In 1898 he came with his parents to the area west of Innisfail, now known as Dickson. Sam went to Toronto to learn watchmaking. He worked at this trade in Innisfail and Red Deer. In 1912 he moved to Fort Frances, Ontario, where he married Alma Wilkes. They operated the Royal Theatre there from 1912-1920. They then returned to Innisfail with their son, John. Sam and Alma, with their children John and Donna, moved to the Alhambra district in 1921 where they purchased a farm. Sam and Alma had three more sons, Robert James (Jim), Kenneth, and Gordon. Sam will long be remembered for his musical ability. He played his violin at many parties, dances, and school activities along with Mrs. Frank Patterson, Mrs. Angus Martin, and Frank Scott. Sam Dickson died in 1952 and is buried in the Lesllieville Cemetery. Alma married Eugene Bayer and they live in Fort Frances, Ontario.

John went to the Prairie Rose School southeast of Lesllieville, and later to the Alhambra School. He joined the Canadian Army in 1940 and served overseas for five years. After the War he worked for 27 years in the post office in Fort Frances. He is now retired. In 1950 he married Marjorie and they have five children, Linda, Beverly, John (Jackie), Daniel, and Debra. Beverly is married to Roger Wilson and they have two children. Beverly and Roger live in Stratford, Ontario, where they are registered nurses. Linda, Jack and Danny work in Fort Frances and Debbie is in school.

Donna went to school at Alhambra. She later worked at the Telephone Exchange in Sylvan Lake. In 1937 she married John (Mac) Pollit of Alhambra. They have four sons, Robert, James, Gary, and Donald. Robert (Bob) married Sharon Raymond in 1959. Bob operates "R. Pollit Oilfield Construction" and Sharon is the receptionist at the Eckville Hospital. They live north of Lesllieville and have four children, Wendy, who has graduated from high school; Darren, Melanie and Merrilee are in school. Jimmy married Faye Medin in 1963. They have three children, Dallas and Sandra in school and Shane at home. Jim and Faye live north of Withrow. Jim is employed as battery operator for Tipco Oil Company. Gary married Patricia Edwards in 1966. They have two children, Michelle and Mark, both in school. Gary and Pat live north of Beaver Flat. Gary works for Alberta Gas Trunk Line and Pat at the Treasury Branch in Rocky Mountain House. Donny married Rena Walker on July 6, 1974. He died in an oilfield accident September 16, 1974. Rena lives in Red Deer and works for Peavey Industries. Mac and Donna now live in Lesllieville. They cook for Speight Construction.

Robert James (Jim) took all his schooling at Alhambra. He joined the Armed Forces in 1944 and was stationed at Camrose and Suffield Alberta. Jim then worked in various points in northwestern Ontario until he returned home in 1947. In 1949 he married Alberta (Bobbie) Hall of Red Deer. In 1951 they bought a half section of land south of Lesllieville where they still reside. Jim and Bobbie have eight children, Sharyn, Bruce, Brenda, Kerrilee, Laurel Dean, Susan, Brian and David. Sharyn married Wayne Terpsma in 1968. They live south of Lesllieville on the former Ray Bunch farm. Sharyn and Wayne have four children, James, Brady, Donald, and Chantel. Bruce, after graduating from high school, joined his father on the farm. In 1975 Bruce married Judy Roberts of the Washington Heights area north of Lesllieville. They have two sons, Robert and Derek. Brenda received her degree in education. She married Dick Feser in 1975 and they have one daughter, Jennifer. Brenda and Dick live in Red Deer where Brenda teaches at West Park Junior High and Dick is Recreational Manager of the Roland Michener Centre. Kerrilee attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and took Computer Technology. She is employed as a Programmer Analyst at Alberta Government Telephones in Edmonton. Laurel Dean married Glen Winchester in 1975. They have one daughter, Janet. Laurel Dean is postmistress at the Lesllieville Post Office and Glen has a truck working in Oilfield Maintenance. Susan has graduated from high school and Brian and David are attending school.

Kenneth graduated from Red Deer High School and moved to Fort Frances in 1946 where he became a jeweller. He married Rose DeBenedet in 1949. They moved to Dryden, Ontario where they own and operate a jewellery store. Ken and Rose have three children, Robert, Sandra and Douglas. Robert is studying accounting in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In 1975 Sandra married Martin Lappage and they farm near Oxdrift, Ontario. Douglas is working with his father.

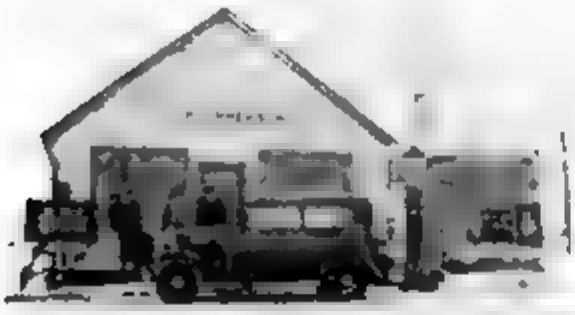
Gordon moved to Fort Frances in 1946. He served many years with the Provincial Police in Atikokan, Ontario. He married Ruth Barrett in

1949. They have four children, Donna, Barbara, Janet, and Gordon. Donna is a registered nurse She married John Naturkach in 1970 They have two children and live in Thunder Bay Barbara also a registered nurse, married Jack Wittluk in 1974 and they have two children. They live in Thunder Bay where Jack has a motorcycle shop Janet and Gordy live in Thunder Bay where Gordy attends school Gordon was remarried to Shirley Blanco in 1974. They live in Sanford, Manitoba where Gordon is a carpenter and Shirley is a nurse

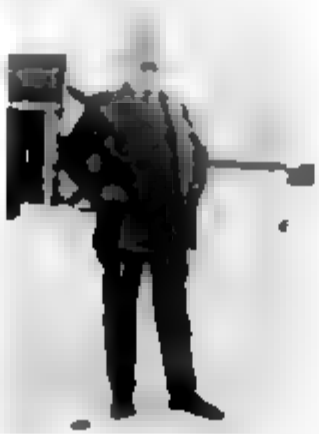
**EMMERSON, SAM — submitted by Evelyn MacDonald**

Sam Emmerson was a time-keeper on the C.P.R when it was going through to Rocky Mountain House in 1912 The first store and post office in Alhambra was run by Mr Bisset. When it burned down Sam Emmerson built the store and ran the post office, later the long distance telephone and rural exchange. He was a well educated man and always returned kindness with kindness but would not be pushed. He always had two girls working for him, one for the post office and the other a clerk, and a heavy man. The first one was Ira Schilling and later Bert Spearing; he, Margaret Scott and I were there when Sam Emmerson died of a heart attack in 1931.

Sam Emmerson was on the school board for many years and helped finance the hall which is still used today



Sam Emmerson's Store, Alhambra, 1930. Standing in front, L. to R. Sam Emmerson, Margaret Scott and Bert Spearing



Sam Emmerson, 1930

**A. FARRINGTON FAMILY — by Ted Farrington**

The Farrington family immigrated to Canada in 1908 and lived in Calgary until March of 1920 when we moved to Alhambra

There was my father, mother, my brother George and my sister Lucy and myself George who had served overseas in the first World War, had bought a farm through the Soldier Settlement Board and my dad later homesteaded a ¼ section half a mile south of the place George had bought

When we left Calgary on the 12 of March the snow was all gone but when we got to Alhambra the snow was still knee deep

We arrived with four work horses my saddle horse and two milk cows

The place George had bought was known as the Bill Bogg place. Our nearest neighbors were the Mowat family, who lived on the place later bought by Frank Scott who moved on in 1921 or 22 Jack Pollitt lived on his homestead just to the west of us. In the early days the people seemed to have more time for fun, in the winter there were always surprise parties and card parties. Just before Christmas we used to go to all the Christmas concerts at the schools around the district A favorite one was Beaver Flat where they always had a good concert

In the summer the mail came three times a week and the people seemed to have time to go to town Most evenings we would play ball and then down to the old swimming hole on Scott's or up the creek at Bradshaws. The Bradshaws had moved from Hespero the same year we got to Alhambra and settled north of Alhambra. There were no roads in the district when we first came We had to follow trails through the Hudson Bay section The first year we worked on the road west of Alhambra cutting and laying corduroy and then hauled dirt with dump wagons and fresnos. The roads were made then by clearing the brush out by hand and then you plowed the furrows and then with a team and slip put the dirt in the middle of the road to make a grade

In 1936 Germaine Chevallier and I were married and we rented the farm from my brother and dad. Mother and Dad moved to Calgary for their retirement. In 1942 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary

In 1938 Germaine and I bought one of John Cochrane's quarters where we live now

There was not much broke on it and it was slow work clearing by hand. The first year we cleared 10 acres and Fernie Chevallier broke it with eight horses. The following year, Howard Long who was in charge of Skoodopole's brush

clearing cat, was in the district looking for work and we had some land cleared with it. It was the first brush cutting done in this area. Now we have three quarters of land. We have recently bought a house in Rocky Mountain House for our retirement years.

**THE ROSS GOODWIN FAMILY**

Ross was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, during the Depression. He was adopted by James and Norma Goodwin and raised in the Oak Lake area. At the early age of 15 he left home.

His first job was freighting in northern Manitoba. He had a variety of jobs and saw a lot of the country and eventually worked on oil rigs. He moved with the Alberta rig, Commonwealth Drilling, to Fox Harbour, Nova Scotia in 1963. He met Beverly Benjamin and later married her in 1964.

We (Ross and Bev) left Nova Scotia the end of May in 1964 and travelled by car through several States, then back to Calgary, Alberta. We checked with Commonwealth Drilling and were sent with a rig that moved north of Leslieville. We rented a home there and worked on rigs in that area. In 1965 Ross quit working for oil rigs and bought a backhoe. In 1966 we moved to Alhambra and rented a house from P. Cummerford, which formerly had been owned by Mac Pollitt. Later, we bought the quarter, the NE-9-39-5-W5, that we are now on.

We cleared about 30 acres and drained the low land. At present it is all under cultivation except for eight acres. We used to pick roots and have a wiener roast. We still live in the house built by Jack Kerr who was helped by Mr. Fitch. Mr. Kerr homesteaded this quarter and built this house about 40 years ago.

We have a family of four. Bobby born November 18, 1964, Jimmy born January 10, 1967; Carla born November 28, 1968 and Donna born April 3, 1970. The children are bused to school at Leslieville, and enjoy it here. There are many forms of recreation nearby, curling, hockey, bowling, swimming, fishing and camping.

We have noticed over the past few years more things in this area for the children: the annual picnic, the Christmas concert, ball teams, and classes held at the Community Centre.

The community hall has really changed in appearance and name — Alhambra Community Centre. It has brought the community closer together. Also in the last few years we now have a mail route, natural gas, and dial telephones.

**GRANLUND, EINO AND BERTHA**

Eino Granlund emigrated from Finland in 1927. He arrived in the Alhambra district and tried to find a job. He worked at odd jobs harvesting, helped on threshing crews, cleared land, worked in the winter months in lumber camps cutting railroad ties and worked on the Nordegg highway for awhile. He got a job working on the C.P.R. track for the summer months at 25 cents an hour, while in the winter he cleared land and worked in lumber camps. He applied for Cook's farm and had it for a time, Fred Mushka bought it later.

Bertha came from Geyser, Montana with her family — Mother and seven children. Father had come earlier to look for a place to settle. They came by train to the Benalto district and stayed for a year. Father located a homestead in the Evergreen district where he built a log cabin with the help of his brother, Charlie. They lived in a rented house at a neighbor's farm until the log cabin was finished. Bertha attended school for one year at Kuusamo and she had to walk three miles, then at Knowledge, and at Evergreen for Grade 8 which she was not successful in passing because her help was needed at home as Mother was not too well.

Bertha and Eino were married on August 21, 1937, at the Baptist Church in Red Deer. They lived in the section house at Alhambra with the twins, Neil and Helen, who were a little over a year old. They were interested in land owned by the Hudson's Bay Company which happened to be available so they made a contract with Hudson's Bay to pay for it. They got enough land cleared for a building and had a granary moved on the clearing. They got Eino Lind to build an addition to serve as a living room and kitchen. The granary was made into a couple of bedrooms. Before the house was ready to live in the weather turned cold and they were freezing in the section house so Bertha sewed slippers from old felt liners for the twins' feet to keep them warm on the floor. One week before Christmas they moved into the new house and as the family increased more additions were built. They lived in this house until 1972. The other children are Joyce born 1940, John born 1943, died four days later, Kenneth born 1945 and Rosebud born 1946.

This land was mostly heavy timber and muskeg and needed clearing before breaking could be done in preparation for seeding a crop or even a garden. They got a double bed and a cow from Bertha's parents as a wedding present. They had a few acres cleared by 1939, about 16 acres, and Harry Manning did the breaking. Bertha's brother, Charlie, broke another 10 acres in 1940 which they had seeded for feed. Their horse machinery was bought from Bertha's brother-in-law who was planning to go to Red Deer for a job.

They pastured a neighbors' horses and in return were allowed to use them. When the time came to bind the grain, one horse didn't like the job so he lay down in front of the binder. They had to do something! All afternoon Bertha walked beside the binder to keep the horse moving with a whip as a reminder! They only had Labour Day free for cutting the grain as the railroad work was their source of income. After a fashion they did get it done, stooking was the next job. Chores were done late that evening in

the dark. After walking all afternoon in the hot sun, Bertha was very tired. The grain was threshed for the livestock. Elno got an engine and a grinder to grind the grain he bought from his brother-in-law. He also got a circular saw for sawing wood.

In the fall of 1941 Elno was debating if he should apply for active service in the army or buy a pair of work pants. He decided to join up and try his luck. He was accepted. Bertha was left with three little children, the twins five and one-half years old, and Joyce one and a half years old. Elno was discharged after the war in 1946. He went back on the job for the C.P.R. on different sections as he wanted to be foreman. The children and Bertha kept the farm in operation as well as they could. Bertha's brother, Charlie, came to help haul feed and grind the grain as there were pigs and cows to feed. The hogs helped to pay for the land even though they only got $20 each for a 220 pound hog. There were so many kind people who came to help through sickness and baby-sitting when needed.

In the late 40's they bought two quarter sections, NE-4-39-6-W5 and SE-23-39-6-W5, adjoining each other for growing hay. They sold this land in the early seventies to the Wolters of Lesliieville and then built a modern home on the home place.

Neil married Phyllis Willet and they have four daughters, Joanne, Dianne, Mary Ann and Rae Ann. They reside at Innisfail.

Helen married Ralph Whaley and they have three daughters and one son, Linda, Christine, William and Sandra. Helen and Ralph reside at Medicine Hat. Linda married David Parsons and they have one son, Shaye. They reside in Alhambra.

Joyce married Roger Villadsen and they have two children, Dana and Shelley. They reside at Devon.

Kenneth married Donna Wray and they are awaiting the arrival of their first child. They reside at Edmonton.

Rosebud Jives at St. Albert.

**HARRIS RAY AND FAMILY — by Blanche Harris**

Ray Arnold Harris and I, Blanche Ida, were married May 9, 1928, in my parents' home. Our parents homesteaded, when Saskatchewan was still part of the North West Territories, south of Carlwale, Saskatchewan.

We were all born in the south-east corner of Saskatchewan, where we farmed for the first 11 years of our married life. Then Ray worked at bridge building until he joined the army. He was stationed at the Royal Canadian Engineer Army Camp., Chilliwack, B.C., where he served his country to the end of the war.

We moved south-east of Rocky Mountain House from Vedder Crossing, B.C. until we located a farm. We met Mr. Pollitt at a railway crossing and in the conversation, he informed us he had a farm for sale. That is how we located in the Alhambra district where we farmed for a number of years.

We, with our three youngest children, Joan Doreen, June Gwendolene and Larry Vincent moved onto the former Jack and Jessie Pollitt farm in April, 1947, which we purchased through the Veterans' Land Act. Ray was a veteran of the Second World War. Our eldest son Alton Duane joined us later.

In May 1954 Ray became postmaster and myself his assistant, we also purchased the building the post office was in. I drove into Alhambra from the farm to care for the post office until September when we moved into Alhambra, with Ray continuing to farm from the hamlet until we sold it in July, 1970 to Walter and Vivian Bunch of Red Deer.

In September, 1969 the first mail route out of Alhambra was formed, Ray contracted to operate it, which he has done ever since.

I was news reporter for the local newspaper for several years, quitting early 1977, since, I have acted as an assistant.

Duane joined the Navy early in 1948, he served his enlistment period in an air carrier in many parts of the world. While he was stationed at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia he married Evelyn Francis McKay, October 17, 1952. Their union was blessed with two sons and a daughter.

Joan became a weather observer, training in Edmonton, she was stationed in Rocky Mountain, November 1953. Later she became officer in charge until she resigned in 1974. She married Christopher Stanley Puxley of Rocky Mountain House, June 30, 1973. Her hobby is raising purebred Arabian horses.

June worked in a bank and business office in Edmonton, where she married James Albert Wiltshire, March 15, 1958. Their union was blessed with a son and a daughter.

Larry worked as a weather observer at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. and various points in Alberta. He then took a two year tour of the world, then he attended university in Edmonton and has taught school at the Olds College, various points in the North West Territories and Alberta. He married Betty Lou Pluim of Wetaskiwin in Edmonton April 7, 1965. Their union was blessed with three sons. We are retiring December 31, 1977 to travel, quilt and collect rocks and Ray will indulge in following sports and play pool.

**HARTLEY, WM. (BILL) AND ELIZABETH (LIL) — by Ruby (Hartley) Anderson**

Bill Hartley was born October 4, 1896 in Sub District of Chertsey in the County of Surrey, London, England. He enlisted in World War I in 1916 and served in France until demobilization was declared and he was discharged from the service. He was 22 years old. A few years after recovering from the War he worked for the C.P.R. in the yards. Later he met Lil Hink. She was born October 20, 1894 in Euclid, North Dakota, U.S.A. They got married and lived in

Calgary for a few years where Richard and I Ruby) were born

In the early 30's Dad (Bill) and Mom (Lil) bought a farm, the NE¼-12-39-5-W5 at Alhambra, where they broke land and farmed with horses but Dad continued working his way up on the C P R. and became a fireman In the meantime, Mom continued with the farm chores. She always grew a large garden — enough for all winter — canned meat by the quarts and did all the baking We always had our own milk, cream butter and eggs. Our yard was a picture of beauty because Mom enjoyed growing flowers. She sewed most of our clothes from rags and hand-me-down clothes. Tilley was born in 193-

Richard and I started school in Alhambra We rode horseback as we were two and one half miles from school Dad had now become an engineer and operated the C P R engine Number 441 from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House Three times a week the train went west Sometimes Richard and I would go to the railway station after school was out and wait for the train. *While the mail and other supplies were being unloaded we would board the engine with Dad for a ride home where he would stop the old engine and let us off. Mom and Tilley would be in the barnyard waiting for the two little coal black kids to help with the chores after they had some lunch

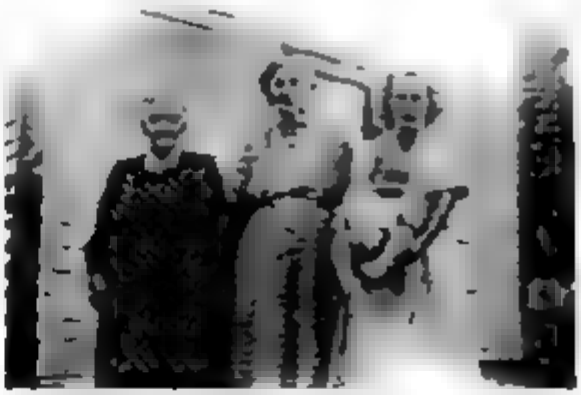
Our first car was a 1934 Chevrolet that Dad bought a few years before we left the farm. In 1944 Dad and Mom sold the farm and moved to Red Deer where they bought a house in West Park. Mom really enjoyed her home here as she had Calgary Power and lots of room compared with the little farm house. She was free of all those farm chores, so she had more time for her garden and flowers which she loved to care for Dad was still an engineer on the C P R. running different lines out of Red Deer In 1953 they sold this home and built their new home on 43 Street in West Park

Dad was a well-known railway figure. In 1952 he was one of a small group responsible for the formation of the Canadian Pacific Railwaymen's Social Club, an organization that has become very active in railway social affairs. Dad was chairman of the club for several years He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Waskasoo Lodge No. 16 of the I.O.O.F Another field that Dad was very active in was the Red Deer Pioneers' and Oldtimers' Association where he served one term as the president

After 37 years of service as an engineer he retired In the fall of 1954 Dad and Mom were honored at a banquet in Red Deer which was attended by top C P R. officials in Alberta and many of their friends from the district

On September 5, 1955 Dad passed away in the Red Deer General Hospital

Bill Hartley, engineer on the C. P. R. train between Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer, 1944. On his left is W. Newell, Fireman. Looking out the window are Richard and Ruby



Four generations. Grammie Hink, Elizabeth (Hink) Hartley, Ruby (Hartley) Newman holding daughter Karen. Red Deer, 1957

In the fall of 1962, Mom sold her home and built another new home on the next lot Landscaping this new yard included planting rose bushes, trees, flowers and a garden and the result — she created a beautiful surrounding for her new home

When Mom travelled she would go by train to visit her relatives and friends who lived far away

Mom was very active until her passing on February 24, 1977

*See poem about this train by Lyla Sarasin "Here Comes Limpy" on page 256

**RUBY (HARTLEY) AND CLARENCE ANDERSON FAMILY — (By Ruby (Hartley) Anderson,**

I was born in Calgary June 16, 1931 and moved with my parents, Bill and Lil Hartley, and my brother Richard to the farm in Alhambra in the early 30's. In 1938 I started school in Alhambra. I rode horseback most of the time to go the 2 and one half miles to school. Highlights of those years were the Christmas concerts in the Alhambra Hall that were enjoyed by all. Santa's arrival added that extra happiness. Some of my teachers at this school were Alma (Sande) Sunde, Miss Stagg and Mrs. Stollings

One experience I still remember while living on the farm happened when Richard and I were picking raspberries. In the distance we saw something black coming up the road but we kept on picking and finally our pails were full so we hurried home. After a few minutes our neighbor, August Savory came and asked Mom if she had seen a bear. She hadn't seen a bear. But we guessed right then that the black object we had seen on the road was a bear coming. We were scared then all right and didn't go picking berries for a long time

On July 28, 1944, Dad and Mom sold the farm and moved to Red Deer so I continued my schooling in the city. After finishing my schooling I worked at the Dry Cleaners and then at Scott's 5¢ to $1 Store. Then I left for Vermilion where I worked for Sandy and Ann Wright's Dry Cleaners. Later, when I was back in Red Deer I

Ruby and Roy (Chub) Newman with son Roger and Karen (inset)

Roy (Chub) Newman in the foreground, outrider for his brother W. J. (Buster) Newman's chuckwagon at Calgary Stampede 1956

met Roy (Chub) Newman, formerly from Condor. We were married in Calgary August 30, 1952. He owned his own truck and we moved to Okotoks where he hauled gravel. Then we moved to Rocky Mountain House where he worked in the bush. Here our son, Roger, was born in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital.

We were looking for a farm and finally settled on a farm seven miles south-west of Rimbey. Roy got a chuckwagon outfit and he was also an outrider for several chuckwagon outfits. We had many happy, exciting days and we really enjoyed it. In January, 1956, Karen was born. We continued to farm and run our chuckwagon until, in 1958, Roy took ill, and passed away in September, 1958, in the University Hospital, Edmonton, as a young man. We stayed on the farm and the children attended school in Rimbey.

In 1960 I married Clarence Anderson, from Bentley, Alberta. We purchased two more quarters of land west of our farm on the Leedale road. I work at the Rimbey Auction Mart, and have worked there for 15 years. I love outdoor life. Clarence is a foreman for Alpine Blasting from Edmonton. In 1962 our daughter, Della, was born. She attends school in Rimbey, now in Grade 10. She has taken swimming lessons and figure skating lessons since she was eight years old. She loves swimming, skating and riding horseback and all outdoor life.

My son, Roger married Edith Kemmis in March, 1972. They have two daughters, Wendy Ann five, and Joanne two. Roger is partsman for Roper's Ltd. He also helps me on the farm and he loves animals and farm life, riding horseback, fishing and hunting. They reside on the quarter west of Karen

My daughter, Karen, married Randy Cross. They have one daughter, Tanya two. Randy works for Flint at the Rimbey Gas Plant. Karen loves outdoor life, riding horseback, fishing, working in the garden and with flowers. She also likes to cook. They reside on the quarter west of [illegible]

**HARTLEY, RICHARD AND RUBY — (By Richard Hartley)**

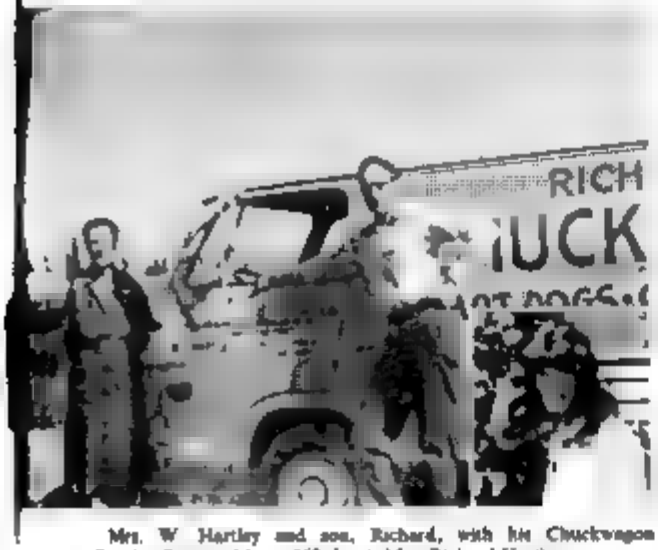
I was born in Calgary, October 30, 1932. I

moved from Calgary with my parents, Bill and Lil Hartley to Alhambra in the early 30s. In 1939, I started school in Alhambra and one of my teachers was Alma (Sande) Sunde. Our farm was two and one half miles from school so I rode horseback. In 1944, I moved with my family to Red Deer where I finished school.

I married Ruby Elizabeth Duncan in 1955. Ruby was born in Pakingham Township in the Ottawa Valley, Ontario. For two years we lived in Red Deer where two of our sons, Richard Jr. and Robert were born.

In 1958 we bought an acreage about one mile west of Red Deer and moved into a little trailer which was the bedroom and a granary served as a kitchen. It had a wood and coal stove, a table and chairs and an apple box made into a washstand. We had no power nor running water.

In 1959 we bought a mobile catering service, better known as "Richard's Chuckwagon". Loading up twice a day with coffee, hot dogs, pop, bars and pastry, etc., we served various business establishments in Red Deer, and built up our business as the city expanded which necessitated our buying two new trucks.




Mrs. W. Hartley and son, Richard, with his Chuckwagon Catering Service, May, 1960. Inset: Mrs. Richard Hartley

I have been an auctioneer since 1966. Also in 1966 I started my gravel trucking business called "Canary Trucking". At one time I was in the New and Used Furniture Business.

Our third son, Roy, was born in 1961. That same year we built a new modern home for which we both had worked hard driving our mobile catering trucks.

My sons and I have always been animal lovers. We have ridden in the Red Deer Parades, and in gymkhanas and we have received many trophies and honorable mention several times. Our sons are also very interested in cars and again they have won trophies. Ruby likes to cook, garden and grow flowers.

**RISKE, COURTNEY AND TILLEY — (By Tilley Riske)**

I Tilley Hartley, was born on my parents' farm west of Alhambra and I am the third child of Bill and Lil Hartley. I started school at Alhambra. When I was nine years old my parents sold the farm and we moved to Red Deer where we lived in a large eight-room house in West Park. I attended Central Elementary, Central Junior High, and Composite High schools.

Tilly, Ruby and Richard Hartley going to Alhambra School. 1944

When I finished school in 1951, I worked for seven years as cashier in the Royal Cafe. Then I moved to Calgary and I worked as an N.C.R. bookkeeping machine operator and cashier in the Parisian.

In 1959 I married Courtney Riske. We bought a home in 1960 in Calgary where we lived until 1977. Then we bought an acreage in Symon's Valley, Calgary, and we live there now. Our little girl, Lynde, is three years old. Courtney is employed with Dominion Bridge.

**HICKS, JAMES P. AND ANN**

The James P. Hicks family came to the Little Horseguard district where they took up a homestead about 1907. Mrs. Hicks, the former Ann M. Bond, was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, December 25, 1853 and married James P. Hicks December 23, 1875. There were two children of this marriage, Hiram P. and Minnie Estelle. Minnie was born at Bradford, Massachusetts, October 7, 1879. James P. Hicks was a shoemaker by trade before coming to Alberta.

They lived in a log house with a sod roof. The Hicks' were noted gardeners and their beautiful flowers were artistically arranged on either side of the walks, made from poles laid crosswise, leading to the workshed, well and garden. Mr. Hicks picked fresh flowers, arranged them in a tin can, and gave them to the children passing by his homestead to give to their teacher. They had a phonograph with the cylindrical records which

they enjoyed, as did their neighbors who came to visit Mr Hicks threshed his first crops by beating the heads of grain on a spiked log

Later, the Hicks' left their homestead to make their home on an acreage in Alhambra, now the K. Sunde residence. Here they also had a beautiful flower garden, so beautiful that it merited being photographed and put on the front cover of a McKenzie Seed Catalogue

Mrs. Hicks was very fond of children and when she no longer was able to look after the flower garden, they picked bouquets of wild flowers for her and in return she gave them candy

Mr. Hicks died at Alhambra on January 15, 1929 and Mrs. Hicks died on August 11, 1938. They are buried in the Lesieville Cemetery

**HICKS, HIRAM P AND JENNY**

Hiram P. Hicks homesteaded in the Little Horseguard district about the same time as his father, James P. Hicks Hiram married Jenny Redmond and they had four children, Charlotte, Harry, William, and Marjorie

Hiram Hicks was the first school teacher at the Little Horseguard School when it opened in 1912.

He was a veteran of the Boer War. He enlisted in World War 1 and he was killed in action

**LESSING, FERDINAND ERNST AND MINNIE ESTELLE**

Mr Ferdinand Ernst Lessing was a pharmacist who worked for a hospital in Chicago. He was born March 23, 1872 in Germany. He was very interested in going homesteading after realizing how well his friends, Fred and Herman von Hollen were faring after they homesteaded in North Dakota When the von Hollens left North Dakota to go homesteading in Alberta, in the Little Horseguard area in 1909, Mr Lessing came to visit them but stayed and homesteaded land north of Fred's, now the Fritz von Hollen farm. For a time Mr Lessing operated a general store at Stauffer where he also stocked medicines. He drove with team and buggy from his homestead to manage the store

On August 21. 1909, he married Miss Minnie Estelle Hicks. In 1911 the Lessings took little Stanley Barrett, at two years of age, to live with them as his mother had died. Stanley now lives at Horsefly and at Summerland, B C

Mr Lessing built and operated a drug store in Alhambra, driving with team and buggy from his homestead to manage the store. In 1931 the Lessings built a home on an acreage in Alhambra and left the homestead. When they purchased the Sam Emmerson Store from his nephew, Mr. Gould, who was looking after the estate, the Lessings stocked this store with medicinal products as they had sold the drug store. Mr Lessing was praised by doctors for his wonderful ability as a pharmacist and for his devotion to his profession. At one time Mr Lessing had a room available in the drug store every Friday for Dr. Greenaway to see people in the district who needed medical help. "Mr. Lessing with his knowledge of medicine rendered invaluable service to the community and many a one can remember with gratitude his help in time of trouble" [1]

Lessing's Drug Store built in early 1930's; later used as a residence

Mr Lessing died on March 20, 1935. His wife continued operating the Lessing Store until she decided to retire in 1947 and she sold the business to John and Evelyn MacDonald

As a young woman, she was a secretary to Sir Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911. She was secretary-treasurer of the Alhambra School District No 2930 from 1927 to 1940. Her excellent short-hand was put to good use during all these years, whether in business or in the home

On her 70th birthday she held a birthday party and many friends called to enjoy this day with her She was a gracious hostess. This party became an annual event, a highlight of the year for her many friends

Mrs. Lessing was very interested in outdoor activities and on her 80th birthday she still enjoyed riding her wooden wheeled bicycle with the children in the area. She skated on the open rink at the Community Hall and taught young children how to skate Children enjoyed visiting Mrs. Lessing She let them play with her dolls and toy dishes and gave them real tea parties' She enjoyed her garden with its colorful flowers and a variety of vegetables

In the fall of 1968 she moved to the Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens Home. She died November 26, 1968 at the age of 88 years in the Eckville Municipal Hospital after a brief illness. She was buried in the Leslieville Cemetery in the family plot beside her husband

**JOHNSTON, WATKIN (WATT) — by Ken Martin**

Watt Johnston came to the Alhambra area in 1936. At that time he was working for John Honan who had purchased the E ½-19-39-5 5.

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Other Days and Other Ways — by John R. Kerr

They came from the Innisfa.. area and he had worked for Mr. Honan for severa. years at Innisfai. Watt was a story teller of distinction and renown and he could entertain you for hours at a time. After leaving Honans he worked for Angus Martin in his sawmill and then worked for a time in the Bentley area. After that he returned to Alhambra and made his home with Bi.. Farquharson when he was not working somewhere else. He worked for Frank Scott on his farm and in the winter months helped Frank Scott with h.s butchering and meat curing business for two years. He a.so worked a few crop seasons for Bert Smith on his farm and in the winter months worked for various lumber camps in the Rocky Mountain House and Horburg areas always returning to Bill Farquharson. Watt was a man who could do almost any job. He was a good cook and good with livestock. He was a very handy man to have around if you had a bunch of young boar hogs or bu.l calves as he was an expert with a knife. Little is known of his early life or where he originated from. He passed away very sudden.y in 1956

**JONES, JOHN AND GRIFF**

In 1905, John Humphrey-Jones of Brockville Ontario and his brother, Griff of Cleveland Ohio, decided to answer all the advertisements telling of .and for the taking in the Canadian West. and to homestead in Alberta

John's landlady, as she told him goodbye, said fearfully, "Don't let the Indians get you, Johnny!"

On the train on their way west, they met Tom Bu.er from Ontario, and Tom Peel from Eng.and. They decided to travel west together. In Red Deer they bought a team, a wagon, and supp.es and headed west. They settled on Section 20 39-5-W5, about five m.les west of Les.ieville. On Tom Bu.er's quarter they built a sma. log cabin in which they batched. They cut fence posts and did some clearing until winter drove them out to work where they could unti. they could return in the spring when th.s land was thrown open for homesteading and they could file on it legal.y

John, a mou.der by trade, had spent the winter in Victoria, British Columbia where he worked at his trade but Griff had gone home to Cleveland to prepare to move his family to Alberta. They had begun to build a log house before his departure and the others worked on it in his absence

On September 3, 1906, the Griff Jones family arrived in Red Deer. After having always lived in a big city they found the contrast overwhelm ing, especia.y, as Mrs. Jones never went anywhere to meet other women and so did not see another woman for the first year there

It was some time before their furniture arrived so it was indeed hard and at last they were fairly comfortab.e but, alas, come spring, he sod roof proved to be too thin to turn the rains and all the furniture was ruined. Oh, some of it was usable, but it never looked the same again.

Tom Peel decided he preferred land farther south. Eventua.y Griff's stepson, George, homesteaded the other quarter

The children were Helen 16, Theresa 11, George seven, (a.. McGuires, children of Mrs Jones' former marriage), Grace three, and twin sons, Harold and Howard, nine months

They had some good times and some bad ones but the high.ight was the birth of another daughter in June, 1909. They named her Myrtle

In Apr.l, 1911 Helen McGuire and John Jones drove into Red Deer and were married in the Baptist Church. They had a double grain box on the sleigh and besides a load of seed grain for themselves, they had a load for Mr. Malcolm. On the way home a chinook wind blew up and to save the horses they both walked most of the way home. Both being red headed and fair skinned, they were both sun and wind burned and their feet were blistered. He.en was sitting with her feet in a basin of water when a commotion arose outside. All the ne.ghbors, mostly young bachelors, had gathered to charivari the newlyweds — very embarrassing at the time but someth.ng to .augh about in later years!

In November they moved to Calgary and in February a baby girl was born to them, named Eunice. In the spring they returned home but next year they again went back to Ca.gary where a son, Richard, was born in August, 1913. At ( ristmas time they returned to the farm. In the winter of 1915 they moved into Les.ieville and soon John and Fred Forman left for Toronto where John got work in a foundry. In August, Helen and the children joined him. In May, 1917 twins were born, Norman and Edythe, and in September, 1918 a son, Howard, was born. In November of that year the whole family came near to death in the great flu epidemic but even tually they all recovered. They moved to Guelph in 1919 and .ater they moved to Preston and then in 1921 they moved back to the homestead

It was too difficult for Eunice and Richard to get to school at Beaver F.at so they moved into Alhambra where they lived for about a year. John worked on the track and Helen ran a cafe. They moved to Calgary in the fall of 1922 where they made their home for the next 11 years com ing to the farm for summer holidays.

In 1922 the Griff Jones family .eft the farm for good, moving to Rocky Mountain House where the o.der folks lived for the rest of their lives with the exception of a couple of years spent in British Columbia. They are both buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery. As the rest of the family grew up they left Rocky Mountain House to make their homes elsewhere

The John Jones family moved back to the farm to stay in 1933. Times were hard but we had some very good times with friends and neighbors dropping in. We se.dom had a Sunday without a houseful of guests enjoying the mus.c we had, the

singing, not to mention Mom's good cooking, the laughter and the teasing and the jokes.

In October, 1936 Edythe and Norman Peterson were married in Red Deer. Norman was the son of another pioneer family and an excellent musician who played his banjo for years all over this part of the country. In August, 1937 they had a son, David, who is also a musician playing the accordian in several dance bands. In March, 1939 a daughter, Coral, was born. In 1940 Norman enlisted and in 1941 he was sent overseas serving there until he was invalided home in 1944. In 1945 a son, Philip, (Skip) was born.

In 1938 Eunice married Fred Manning, a neighboring farmer's son. They lived at the Manning farm for a few months then moved to Calgary where Fred enlisted in the navy and was sent to Comox where Eunice joined him. He served later at Esquimalt and received a medical discharge. They came back to Alberta for a short time, then returned to British Columbia. Fred worked for a few years in the shipyards in Victoria and eventually for B.C. Hydro. He retired to Victoria and then to Qualicum Beach. Eunice passed away in June, 1975. Fred has since remarried and lives in Victoria.

Richard became a baker and worked in Calgary, Rocky Mountain House and Sylvan Lake before enlisting in the navy in 1940. He was sent to the east coast where he saw a great deal of action in convoy duty, was wounded, and served until the end of the war. He moved to Victoria upon receiving his discharge in 1945 and has made his home there ever since. He married Lucille Turcotte in 1947. A daughter, Helen, was born in 1948, and in 1951 a daughter, Judith, was born. Helen is Mrs. Dale Finlan and lives in Vancouver. Judy is Mrs. Larry Gault and lives in Victoria.

Norman Jones also enlisted but for health reasons was soon discharged. He lived in Calgary and in Edmonton for some years but eventually moved to Vancouver and now lives with his wife, Edith, in Port Alberni. They have two daughters and a son. Both daughters are married as is Norman's daughter, Judy, by his first marriage. They have four grandchildren.

Howard Jones enlisted in the army and was sent to the east coast on his way overseas but he fell ill in Halifax. After several months in hospital there he was sent back to Alberta where he served in the Provost Corps for the duration. In 1945, he married Millie Latimer in Calgary. They have two children, Bob, born in 1946 and Gwen, born in 1947. Howard drove his truck and worked on road construction. He also bought the homestead from his dad hoping to make his home there eventually but they moved to Calgary and in April, 1958 he was killed in an accident. The two children are now grown up and married and Millie has remarried. They all make their homes in Calgary.

In October, 1955 John Jones died of a heart attack in the Alhambra store, minutes after having said he never felt better in his life. Helen Jones died in the Red Deer General Hospital after a few months' illness in April, 1976. They are buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Norman Peterson became postmaster at Alhambra in 1948. In 1951 the family moved to Vancouver where they lived until 1959 when they returned to Alhambra. Norman passed away in May 1968. Edythe lives in Alhambra where she is the postmistress.

In March, 1961 David and Joyce Paulson were married in Alhambra. In January, 1962 their daughter, Carol, was born. Their daughter, Michel, was the Eckville New Year's baby in 1973. They live in the Arbutus district.

Coral and Laverne Ahlstrom were married in June 1961. They have three children, Pauline 14, John 11, and Nelson nine. They farm in the Arbutus district.

Philip and Terry Cartwright were married on April 5, 1975. They make their home in Alhambra with Terry's three children, Hallie 12, Don 10, and Kim six. Skip is very well known as a guitarist.

**KERR, JOHN ROBSON**

John Robson Kerr came to Canada in 1907 from New Abbey, Scotland at the age of 22 years. He spent the first winter in Montreal and then in the spring of 1908 he came west to Alberta where he worked on a farm at Airdrie and in the Coronation district. In the fall of 1908 he filed on a homestead in the Alhambra district on the NE 9-39-5-W5 where he lived until his retirement to Red Deer in 1951. He lived there until his death in 1973. (Mrs. Kerr passed away in 1974.

When he lived in the Alhambra district he was active in bringing about the first school and served on the school board for many years. In his later years he wrote a short history of the Alhambra district and was very interested in the keeping of history of different districts.

He was married in 1912 to Nina Thompson also of Scotland. They had two children, Nina

Honeymoon race at J. Kerr's picnic, July 1, 1916. Back row: Max Pellitt, Margaret Scott, Alma Sands, John Dickson, Mattie Wilson and Charlie Farquharson. Front row: Ella McCarrol, Ted Pellitt Unknown, Donna Dickson

born in 1921 who died of pneumonia in 1928, and Edith, born in 1923, now living in Edmonton. She married T. W. (Bill) Peel in 1947 and they have five children. Bill is also the son of an old pioneer of the Northup district near Condor. Tom Peel was an early thresherman of the district having one of the first steam outfits and moving on to more modern equipment in the 1920's. In 1918 he was married to Violet Perry of Condor. They had two sons and a daughter, Thomas W. (Bill), George of Sherwood Park, and Doris (Mrs. M. C. Knight) of Calgary. Mr. Peel died in 1956 and Mrs. Peel remarried in 1961 to Dominic Silver. They now live in Calgary.

The Bill Peel family of Edmonton consists of Brian, 23, assistant manager of Clearview Restaurant in Red Deer, Barbara, 22, who is now Mrs. Keith Gheseger of Brooks, Douglas, 19, working for Canadian Propane, Edmonton, Kathy, 16, Grade 11 student and partime worker at University Hospital, Jeannie, 10, school girl and a Brownie.

**KILLICK, BERNARD AND RENE**

Bernard and Rene Killick purchased the "Sloan's Service Station" on Highway 11 at the Alhambra Corner in September, 1962, where they operated under the name of "Killick's Esso Service" for the next 14 years. In the spring of 1963 they acquired the quarter section of land that the Station is located on, also from Havelock Sloan, and they built their home east of the Station.

The "Quarter", SW-4-39-5-W5, has an interesting history. It was homesteaded in March 1906 by Bryam Brothers, Percy and John Thomas, who were "Glass Bottle Blowers" by trade, from Yorkshire, England, and who knew absolutely nothing about farming, let alone how to clear land and prove up a homestead. However they were good workers and eventually cleared enough land to put in a crop. The story goes that when asked what their first crop would be their answer was "Rolled Oats", and so the "Quarter" was named and to the oldtimers of the district it is still referred to as the "Rolled Oat Quarter".

The Killicks enlarged and modernized the Service Station and for 14 years enjoyed an ever increasing volume of business as the traffic increased on Highway 11. During that time it might be of interest to note some of the employees at the Station. They include Ralph Whaley, Warren Randall, Garth Ahstrom, Milt Zirk, Alec McRae, Doug Hope, Ed Mushka, Joe Frith, Garry Bert, Havelock Sloan and then of course there was "Bacchus" who came to the station as a pup. The big "Black Dog", as known to 100's, efficiently guarded the station for 15 years until his death in October, 1977.

The Killicks sold to Garry Bert in July, 1976. They intend to continue to live in their home just east of the service station.

Their son, Jim, was married in 1973 to Miss Linda Johnson of Edmonton. They are living in Brentwood Bay, B.C., and have a son, Timothy, two years old.

Their daughter, Maureen, lives in Calgary where she is employed by an airline company.

**KIRBY, THOMAS M. AND MARY — (By Jessie (Kirby) Harris)**

Thomas Miles Kirby was born April 21, 1858 not far from Salt Lick, Tennessee. He was the eldest of five. During the Civil War, his mother walked for miles to get cornmeal for her family, only to have the rebels take it from her. Great Grandpa, Lon Kirby, was at war fighting with the Northern soldiers, and the Kirbys lived in the south.

In 1878, he and Mary Bates eloped in the night and were married. They had eight children, Timothy, Susan, Jesse, Lucy, Sam, Eller, Huston and Zora. They lived in Tennessee until 1900 where they were sharecroppers. Then they drove a covered wagon to Illinois with four horses loaded with all their possssions. There in Illinois Grandpa rented land, and the boys and girls that were old enough worked out.

In 1914, they sold all they had except dishes, bedding, and clothing which was all packed in a large wooden box and shipped to Canada. About November 25, 1914 Grandpa homesteaded the SW 13-38-6-W5. He was a good woodsman. The logs in their house were hewed by hand with a broad axe. It was a small house, two beds in one end, a table in the centre, while the other end served as a kitchen. He dug a well six feet in diameter and 12 feet deep and cribbed it with field stones. It was there for twenty some years. Grandma baked baking powder biscuits for Grandpa three times a day, which almost everybody enjoyed when they were there for meals. She sometimes had to take care of people who came along sick with colds or flu in winter times. Their place was midway between Caroline and Alhambra or Rocky Mountain House. After Tim Kirby moved away there were no close neighbours.

In the early days he cut tamarack posts all

Tom Kirby in front of his house in Alhambra with grandson, Leslie Harris, 1949.

winter and managed to buy a team of horses and a cow. A quarter section of land for $10 was the only way they could own land. They always had people coming in but mostly in the summer as the lake was on one corner of his homestead. There always was a boat on the lake and it was a good place for a picnic.

Each Saturday he could be seen driving his grey mare to town. she was in good shape, but was driven quite fast to town and back again.

The work on the farm proved to be too much, so the farm was traded to Gus Sinnger for his blacksmith shop and a small three-room house in Alhambra. Here the Kirbys lived until Grandma passed away in April 1935. Grandpa then went to the Lacombe Home at Midnapore for a short time, he came back looking pale, and said, "If I'd stayed there I would soon died". After that he lived in Rocky Mountain House a short time. He then built a small two-room shack in Alhambra where he lived by himself until he passed away in December, 1946. He would have been 89 in April. While he lived the last few years in Alhambra, he would walk the four and one half miles to his granddaughter Jessie Harris's house, the old J. C. Adam's place, now the Jay Harris farm. When he was ready to go home, he would walk the four and one half miles back. He did not want a car ride, unless it was when he wanted to go. He stood very straight, he never stooped from old age.

**KIRBY, THE TIMOTHY SEE AND LIZZIE FAMILY — (By Eller Scott)**

Tim Kirby was born in Tennessee in 1880. When he was 20 years old his whole family moved to Illinois. He was the eldest of eight children. His mother's father was a blacksmith from Ireland so he learned from him. In 1904 he married Lizzie Miller who was born in Illinois in 1889. Tim was just a farm hand and did rent some farms but he could never hope to be able to buy a farm of his own in that good farming country so looked elsewhere. There was lot of country opening up in the north and west. After looking over all the information, he decided on western Canada and once he saw Alberta that was it, he even took a whiskey bottle of Bow River water all the way back to Illinois for them to see clear water.

We moved up in the fall of 1913 and had a C.P.R. quarter for 1½ years, then homesteaded the present George Cermak farm. NE 12-38-6-W5 in March, 1915. Things weren't too bad but never too good. There seemed to be always children! Jessie, Annie, Maggie, Eller, Leona, (died in 1928), Tim, the first boy, Winnie, Norma, the twins William and Willard, Alfred, Fay and David. Nearly all the girls were the oldest and the boys came along after. Poor Tim — raised with seven girls! We girls had to work outside and help in the shop and do the farm work, then the boys were born and raised in town. Phooey!

"When the T. S. Kirby family arrived on the

Timothy and Lizzie Kirby and their daughters Eller (Kirby) Scott, Maggie (Kirby) Peterson, Annie (Kirby) Addy, and Jessie (Kirby) Harris

homestead in the Horseguard district in 1914, Jessie was seven, Annie was five, Maggie was three, and Eller a year old. Leona, Tim and Winnie were all born on the homestead. Annie was eight when they started to school at Arbutus where they walked as Tim needed the horses for farm work. Otherwise they went by horse and buggy to the school for four months of every year. Their lunches consisted of biscuits, moose steak and a quart of vegetables and a whole pie. Eller was quite astounded at the dainty sandwiches and cake the other children had for lunch and asked one child 'Is that all your belly can hold?' Mrs. Hockett was the first teacher they had, followed by Tom O'Connor for two years. The six oldest children contacted small pox in 1917 and Lizzie nursed them through it with only an old doctor book to help her. It advised to drink cream of tartar water to thin the blood. They came through it with no scars and no loss of life. Their nearest neighbor was four miles away and no one came near them.

The older children had the job of threshing the grain with clubs, then fanning it through the hand fanning mill. Up until that time there had been no seed grain grown west of Benalto. Annie had a lesson in cash and credit when quite young. Tim had sent her to Alhambra for groceries with the horse and buggy. He gave her strict instructions to pay for the groceries. When she got the groceries, Charlie Raine asked her if that would be cash or credit. She didn't know what he was talking about and was too shy to ask so she said 'Credit', and took off like a scared rabbit. When she got home and Tim found out that she had charged the groceries he gave her quite a lecture on which was which. A few weeks later, Henry Lund came by to have a look at the seed oats the children had threshed, and made the comment that he 'sure had to give the children credit for the good job they had done'. Annie piped up and said she didn't want the credit - she'd take the cash! Tim was quite embarrassed but found out she'd learned her lesson on cash and credit.

Lizzie and Annie were skinning rabbits by lantern light one evening outside with Annie chattering nervously as there were many bears and cougars around. When Annie saw a shadow pass between two buildings, she screamed, 'Bob cat' and ran for the house. When she came back with the gun it was to find Lizzie beating Tim on the ground and he laughing as hard as he could. It took them an hour to find the knives by lantern light.

When we came from the States we had five horses, one of these was a pacer, a lovely horse some relation of Don Patch. We never knew how Pop got him but he came home late one night in Illinois and had this lovely horse. He never stole him because no one ever hung him for it! He was a pacer and if you tightened the reins nothing ever passed him, not even J. C. Adams 1919 Model-T car. Of course our roads weren't speed ways. That corduroy by the Horseguard Creek on Number 11 was like a rough roller coaster. Mr. Lessing bought that horse and he ran in Bill Farquharson's pasture till he was over 30 years old.

We had two cows when we came to Alhambra but had to let them go for groceries and we were without a cow for nearly two years. In 1916 it was cold and wet and the gardens were poor. Pop went out to the prairies to harvest. He was gone a long time. Our homestead house had no upstairs till about 1917, then that was better. We had more room but the stove pipe went just through the floor above. One morning someone left clothes by the pipe and the upstairs caught on fire. Grandpa had just come over to see us about something and ran upstairs with the water pail and threw that on, then threw the "thunder mug" on it and Pop came running in from the barn with two big pails of milk and that went on it too. We got it out! Mother lost her three beautiful hats and some clothes and the pane was out of the window, but we didn't have to move out. We were sure lucky.

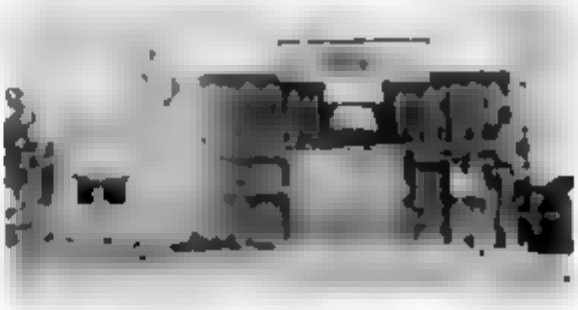
No one lived closer than three miles and we had muskegs to cross to get out. We had moose and deer to eat quite often and also ducks and prairie chicken. Pop hunted enough lynx, muskrats and coyotes to get a start in the blacksmith shop in Alhambra. We were too far from school and the roads were terrible so had to carry an axe and a saw to cut the trees out of the road if the wind blew. The trees were sure thick and tall. By the time we got established the war was well on and they wouldn't take Pop — he had too many kids — but a lot of homesteaders had gone to war or left the country for easier places.

Dave Howard lived between the big and small muskeg lakes and he made bricks. Our well was cribbed with the cull, Grandpa's well was cribbed with stone. We both had well houses and they were dark and cool to keep things in. When we went to town it was an all day ordeal because to Alhambra there were about six gates and to Rocky Mountain House there were 17 but by 1918 the roads were getting a little organized, before that we just went from farmyard to farmyard. I don't think Pop did much road work for his taxes, but after 1920 a lot of people did. I'm not too sure how much the taxes were, but men and horses scratched away with old skinny horses and old wagons trying to battle the muskegs. There were a lot of people who came here to get freedom and didn't have any idea how to hitch or drive a horse, use an axe or shovel and couldn't sharpen an axe. Their fence rails looked like a beaver had cut them off. Our Grandpa was a real woodsman. His axes were razor sharp and it took so much less time and effort. A lot of people drove their horses one-half a horse ahead of the other. The traces were not the same length, but they were hooked in the last link, one would be tight, the other nearly dragging on the ground. In the late winter and spring of 1919 there was a shortage of hay. People came for miles to our place for hay. Dad sold it for $10 per wagon box load. They would cover it with blankets so people would not see what they were hauling.

On the homestead we learned to tan hides and to make our own lye. We had a hopper that you put poplar wood ashes into and poured rain water over that, what came out the bottom was lye that bleached our clothes.

We moved to Alhambra in April, 1921, and just got there and had measles, so couldn't get to school for another six weeks, by the time it got through all of us. Jessie and Annie had had only about four months of schooling by then as the Arbutus school only stayed open for a little while in the summer. So when we got to school in Alhambra there was a school for about 28 children and when they all came, which wasn't very often, there were 45, three in a double seat. I was only eight and all that mass of kids sure astounded me. I will never know how the teachers got things across with all those kids and eight grades and three or four years difference in the ages in each grade. Some kids started when they were five and others not till they were eight or nine. My teachers at Alhambra were Miss Foss, Mrs. Patterson, Miss Crawford, Miss Clark, Mr. Moir, Miss Thorpe and Mr. Hicks.

Pop was the blacksmith not far from the school and real strict with us. If we did anything wrong someone would tell him, then look out! In



Tim Kirby's Blacksmith Shop in Alhambra, 1930

1917, Mr. Bill Bisset had a store, then that burned down. We got smallpox from him in February, 1918. That was bad! Then Charlie Raine built a big store with a dance hall above with a stage and a grand piano. He got a Delco plant in 1921. Sam Emmerson built a store about 1919, and Mr. Lessing a drug store about 1922. There was a pool room on the side of Charlie Raines' store till 1923 then Joe Sullivan built a bungalow up where the Post Office is now. Mrs. Bill Wallace was a dress-maker and had some dry goods in a small building just south of Charlie Raine's store, then Addy's had the hotel with seven rooms upstairs. A restaurant was just over by the new pool room. There was a butcher shop just north of Charlie Raine's store that hadn't been open very long. A chop house where you got your grain ground was just behind Charlie Raine's and there was a tractor in the shed behind Wallaces. Mr. Wallace was a conductor for the C.P.R. They had a farm just northeast. Well, on the night of April 29, 1924 Jessie had to have a drink of water and she heard a noise and looked out of the window and that hall above Raine's store was in flames. We all tore down there and the Wallaces had only gotten out in their night clothes. There were five children. The store, the floor in the pool hall, the flour shed, Wallace's store, the butcher shop, the chop house and the tractor all went. We didn't have much town left. The wind was from the southeast, otherwise most of the town would have gone. It seemed the 29th of April was "disaster" for that place. A couple of times since there have been fires on that day. Then on the 29th of May, the little Luychfassel two-year old granddaughter got lost and she was found the next day about noon.

The train came by Monday, Wednesday and Friday, anytime between five and 10 o'clock and went back next morning at five. We had pretty good mail service. Every Friday night people would come to town and wait for the mail to get sorted, it was in the corner of Sam Emmerson's store. That store would be packed with people waiting and sometimes they would eat peanuts till the shells covered the floor. In the early twenties, a sugar shortage occurred. One time we had company for supper and ran out of sugar so Maggie and I had to run and get some. She was too shy to ask for it so I had to. Pop said to tell Sam. I'll be down and pay after supper." He had refused to give anyone sugar without the cash. He looked over his glasses and the counter at me and I said, "Poppie wants some sugar" and he said. "Have you got the cash?" I didn't know what cash was and being me never said, "No", in my life hardly, I said, "Yes", so he put the sugar on the counter. I grabbed it and said, "Poppie'll pay you after supper" and was out the door before he could say anything. The folks didn't know about it for about three months, but those farmers, I guess, learned how to get sugar.

Before the Raine hall burned, we had our Christmas concerts and gatherings in there and had the two Mrs. Catlings to play that grand piano, which was wonderful. Then the Christmas after that, 1924, we had to have it in a hall Roy Addy had built about ½ block east of the school. The weekend before Christmas it started to snow and it snowed till Monday. The snow was nearly waist deep on us kids. We went to school because it was just past the shop. We got the fire started and the teacher and we were the only ones there till Thursday and Friday night was the concert. No one came to town till Wednesday and the train came out on Thursday behind the snowplow. That concert was the poorest we ever had, about one third of the kids didn't come and those who did hadn't practiced for a week. I think that was the year we all got calendar thermometers for Christmas and late in January this lady came in and said, "Sam, have you another calendar"? Mine froze and broke". He said, "You shouldn't have put it outside." She said, "I didn't, it was in our house, it was only 10 below."

In the early 20s there was a post yard in Alhambra where Emmerson and Raine bought wood props and posts and stored them just east of town. There was a cattle loading shute and corral. That yard would be full by spring sometimes right up by the station. You would drive up to the store and the man would come out, mark the end of every stick with a colored chalk and give you credit on your grocery bill.

Tim Kirby's first shop in Alhambra was about where Mushka's house is. It was an old black building with a big black poplar in front of the door. Pop would come out and stand under it and we would say, "Under the spreading chestnut tree ". He was there till 1928. We got a 1917 Overland car in 1923. There were quite a few cars in the district. Everyone went along 'cause you all had to push through all the mud holes. There again you had to carry an axe.

The Kirby's moved to the Ahlstrom farm from 1928 to 1934, then they went to Rocky Mountain House and he was the blacksmith there the rest of his life. Mrs. Kirby learned the trade. She worked in the shop all through the 1939 to 1945 war and said that using the acetylene torch wasn't half as hard as using a broom or mop under the bed.

The five oldest boys are blacksmiths and mechanics and the youngest is a cook in the P P C L I.

Late in 1924, Harvey Anderson, a grain buyer came to Alhambra and built an elevator. It took a long time to build, but was an asset. Fred Mushka was the section man and sure a wonderful person. If we could all be like him this world would be a wonderful place.

In about 1922, Mr. Tomsick from Arbutus came to our school with his trained dog, and put on a show for us. He also had a few shows in the Raine hall. We would all march down two by two to the hall. He took that dog on a tour all through the States and later sold him in California.

Temple Crawford started us playing basket

ball in the summer of 1924. We had a pretty good basketball team. All the girls had to bring 10 or 15 cents to buy the ba.. and the bladder to go in side

**HARRIS, THE JAY L. AND JESSIE FAMILY — (By Jessie Harris)**

Jay Louis Harris was born at Silver Creek Nebraska, U.S.A., in a little sod house on October 21, 1899. His mother passed away in April, 1900 so his grandparents took him and raised him as their own. In 1903, they came to Ponoka, Alberta where they took a homestead about 12 miles north of Rimbey, near Spring Dale. While Jay lived with them, Grandpa Woods did land breaking for customers with oxen. In 1912, Grandpa Woods passed away. Jay then went to Ponoka where he lived with an aunt and went to school for a short time. Then he worked in and around Ponoka, he hauled coal to the asylum for a while.

Following that he went on horseback to Lougheed where he worked as a farm hand for farmers in that area for a few years. While in the district, he met Jessie Kirby and they were married in 1926. Jay and Jessie have three children, Irvin, born in 1928, farms north of Rocky Mountain House; Wilma, (Mrs. DeCoteau) lives on an acreage on the home place, and Leslie is a mechanic and drives a "cat". In the fall they moved to Alhambra, where Jay worked for Tim Kirby for a year. The following winter he hauled saw logs and worked for Pete Peterson at his saw mill.

In the spring of 1930, he rented the Bob Speedie farm, N½ 25-38-6-W5 and farmed there for seven years. The crops were good but some wheat sold as low as 17¢ a bushel and 200-pound pigs sold for $4 a head! In the fall of 1931, after threshing, a little cyclone blew over the house blowing down the radio pole, also it blew the roof off a granary, carried it about 60 feet and deposited it on the straw stack. Jay's father lived with them for seven years.

In 1939, he bought the old J. C. Adams homestead, SW 1-39-6-W5, that was where the old Horseguard store and post office had been from 1908 to 1915. Clearing this land meant a lot of hard work with horses and grub hoe. Then later clearing was done with a caterpillar tractor when money permitted.

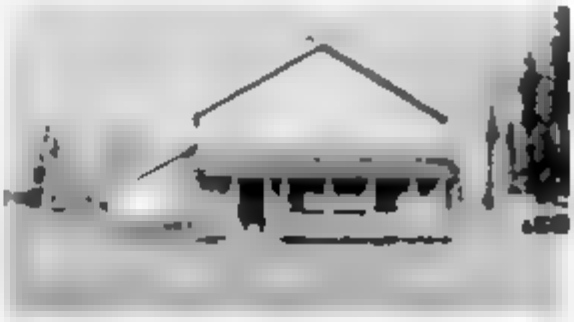
Now, Jay and Jessie live in Rocky Mountain House, where Jay works part time running the car wash for Pidherney.

**ADDY, THE ROY AND ANNIE FAMILY**

Roy left Ontario in 1903 and worked his way west arriving in Alberta in 1905 where he homesteaded north of Condor. One Christmas Eve he and a neighbor bachelor, Joe Nelson, decided to steal a chicken from a neighbor family. While Joe stole the chicken, Roy went to the house and kept the family busy, but when he went into the house he "chickened" out and told the family that he thought someone was stealing a chicken. The family, of course, caught Joe and invited the two of them to have Christmas dinner with them. Waldos bought his homestead in the 1930's.

Warren (Reilly) Addy homesteaded in the Horseguard area a few years after that, and Roy bought his farm when Warren decided to leave the country and go to Arizona, where he died a few years later. Roy and his mother lived on that farm and later sold it to Laughlin MacDonald and it is now owned by Tom Lund.

Roy built a hotel in Alhambra in 1919-20. The store was built in 1926, but was first used as a dance hall. He married Annie Kirby in January, 1929. They lived in the hotel and had four children. Louisa was born in Mrs. Porter's nursing home in Eckville in December 1929. Jean was born at home in July, 1931, as was Evan in July, 1933, and Arran in May, 1935.



The Addy Hotel, 1930

Louisa began school in 1936 with Miss Sande teaching her for all of her school years in Alhambra except for 1941 when Miss Kennedy taught. Jean began in 1937 with Miss Sande teaching her for all of her school years in Alhambra with the exception of 1941 when she had Miss Stagg from Nordegg. Evan began school in 1940 with Miss Sande the first year, followed by Mrs. Fleming of Rocky Mountain House, and Mrs. Stollings of Alhambra until 1945 - 46 when he had Mrs. Sande (nee Sande) again. Arran began school in 1941 with Mrs. Peggy Scott followed by Mrs. Stollings until 1947. Annie took Louisa and Jean to Red Deer in 1945 to finish their education.

Roy died on June 25, 1947 at the age of 62 years. Two years later Annie and the children bought the Telephone Office in Rocky Mountain House. In 1952 Annie sold the Telephone Office and after several years of office work, opened her first Fabric Shop in the Old Pewonka building (now Link Furniture). When expansion was necessary she moved from there to the Old Town Police Office. At the same time she organized and managed the Frosty Peak Drive In and Restaurant. The last expansion of the Fabric Shop took her to the W. I. Hall. When it became necessary to expand again, she sold to Winnie Chevalier and began Ann's Flea Market which she still operates.

Louisa began working at the Imperial Bank when Annie bought the Telephone Office and worked there until she married Vernon Bertagnolli in 1952 and moved to his farm in the Dovercourt area. They have four children Deborah born in 1955, Barbara born in 1957, Roy born in 1959, and Robert born in 1966.

Jean worked at the weather office for three years and at the Treasury Branch for another three years before marrying Donald Bertagnolli and moving to his farm in the Dovercourt area. They have five children, Rebecca, born in 1956, and married in 1977 to Dale Soppit of Rocky Mountain House — they live in Malta. Joe was born in 1957 and married Joanne Bergos of Bowden. They reside in Edmonton where they are continuing their education. Clark, born in 1959, is in college in Red Deer. Karen, born in 1961, and Mark, born in 1963. They are both at home and attending school in Rocky Mountain House.

Evan went to school for two years in Rocky Mountain House and was involved in the army cadets and later the Reserve Army. He went to Wainwright with the reserve army and worked on the switchboard there for a year in 1951 52. From there he went to the Red Deer telephone office as central office man. He married Marian Penner of Red Deer in 1956. They have three children, Diane was born in 1959, and is now training for a nurse in Edmonton, where Evan was transferred in 1969. Heather was born in 1962 and is in high school in Edmonton and their chosen son Christopher is six years old. Evan has been employed by A. G. T. for 25 years and is now staff supervisor.

Arran finished his school in Rocky Mountain House, where he was involved with the army cadets and later with the reserve army. He worked with A. G. T. in Red Deer from 1956 - 58. He began the first Frosty Peak Drive-In in Rocky Mountain House in 1959 which he sold in 1966 to Leon LeCerf. From there he went to Can-Aviation Electronics where he was employed as a radar technichian, on the construction of the DEW line. Then with A. G. T. and Calgary Power in Calgary which he left in 1975 and began his own Tele-Communications business in Calgary under the name of Del-Tronics which he is still associated with. In 1975 he married Betty Persaude of Guyana, South America. In 1976 he bought a motel in Florida and spends most of his time there.

**KUBIK, KEN AND SUSAN FAMILY**

The Ken Kubik family came to the Alhambra community in 1966. They lived on a small spot on the farm of Brian Sloan for six years. They then purchased an acre of land from George Loomer, and in 1974 they purchased the rest of the acreage. At this time Ken, Susan and three children, Cynthia, Donna and Jody are residing on the small acreage in the hamlet of Alhambra.

**LITTLE HORSEGUARD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2377**

The Little Horseguard School District was established February 24, 1911 comprising of the following lands: Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, the E½ 19-38-5 W5, Section 36, E½ 25-38-6-W5. Mr. J. B. Olson of Pitcox, Alberta was Senior Trustee.

Approval was given April 20, 1911 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Little Horseguard School District, situated one-quarter of a mile west of SE 29-38-5-W5.

The sum of $1000 was borrowed April 24, 1911 upon the security of the Little Horseguard School District, for the purpose of building and equipping a school house. The treasurer was Mr. H. P. Hicks of Evarts.

Authorization was given to alter the name of the Little Horseguard School District No. 2377 to Horseguard School District No. 2377, on July 13, 1950.

The downstairs of the George Walsh log house was used as a temporary school for a few months. The teacher was Chester Plank from Nova Scotia and when he went back there for Christmas he died of a heart attack. When the Little Horseguard School was opened in 1912 the first teacher was Hiram P. Hicks. Other teachers were: Mr. Chadsey, Mrs. Davis, Mr. E. Quantz, Mr. Leving, Mr. C. Springbett, Miss Anderson, Miss Jackson, Miss Carson, Miss A. Cook, Miss V. Jenson, Miss Mae Blair, Miss A. Clark, Miss L. Spencer, Mr. H. McCullough, Mr. Jardine, Mr. Hayhoe, Mrs. R. Betker, Mrs. F. G. Patterson, Irene Martin—supervised correspondence lessons, Mrs. Bligh.

The sale of the site and building was approved July 26, 1962 located on the SE 29-38-5-W5.

**THE LOOMER FAMILY — C. A. (Ted) and Vera (Dutch), Grant and George**

In November 1934 we moved from the Endiang area to the Washington Heights School district. We bought a ¼ section in that area. It was very dry on the prairie with lots of wind and dust storms, so we were glad to move to a district where we would get more moisture. And, of course, we did get lots of rain! We went through all the hardships of a pioneer family not enough acres under cultivation for grain and of course, early frosts

We had good gardens but just the basic vegetables. It was too cool at nights for the fussy vegetables, we never grew tomatoes or cucumbers as they always froze

Most everyone in the area had just moved into the district and we were very pressed for cash but we all worked hard.

Ted did a lot of road work for construction and worked in the woods during the winter The pay was not very good in those days but every dollar was a help. He finally got on a job with the government crushing gravel.

We had a boy born to us when we were on the farm. Grant was a darling baby. We enjoyed him very much

In the spring of 1941 we had a sale and moved into Rocky Mountain House and bought a house so made our home there.

In February of 1942 George was born, another lovely boy During the summer of 1942 we went out with Ted. We bought a small trailer house and we lived in camp. It was very crowded but we were all together, although camp life wasn't very good in which to bring up a family

The crusher was moved to the northern part of the province and I cooked for the crew We had lots of moves, only had the same camp for three to four months, and we lived in tents the year round. We quit the government job in early 1951 and moved back to Rocky Mountain House. Then Ted bought the farm of Robert Reid at Alhambra and we have lived here ever since

The boys finished their schooling at Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson. We have enjoyed the district. I was on the community hall committee for several years. It has been a good district. The boys both played ball and were very active at hockey

Grant married Lorain Bardenhagen from Eckville in June, 1961. They had two sons, Bradley and Kelly, born in 1962 and 1964.

After George quit school he worked for an oil company as battery operator for a few years. In July 1964 he married Heather Smith and they bought the Stollings property in Alhambra and lived there for several years. They have three sons, Derek, Roger, and Trevor, also very interested in sports. When Heather's dad retired, George and Heather bought some of his land on which they built a house and are now farming They sold their property in Alhambra to Ken Kubik

We retired from the farm in 1971 and bought a house in Alhambra where we now live

Grant, our oldest son, has taken over the farm Both boys have been active members of the community, serving on the hall board, etc

**LUND, HELGE AND ISABELLE AND OLE LUND — by John Thomas (Tommy) Lund**

In 1906 Helge Lund and Ole Lund came from Coal Harbor, North Dakota, to this district in search of land. Helge homesteaded on the NE 30-38-5-W5 and Ole homesteaded the SE¼ of the same section.

In the spring of 1907 they moved here from the USA. Ole was unmarried, but Helge had a wife, Isabelle, and seven children. They were: Hilda 12, Charlot and Herbert (twins) nine, Sophie seven, Olga five, Alfred three, and Marie one. The family lived in Red Deer for about six weeks while the men built a log house (which still stands) on the bank of the Little Horseguard Creek on the homestead. In 1908 another son, Otto, was born being the first white child born in this district. Later on twin girls, Nina and Christine, and finally another son, Tommy, were added to the family

In 1909 the eldest girl, Hilda, returned to South Dakota as there was no school here at that time. She still lives there, now 82 years of age Helge passed away in 1916 and Ole returned to the U S. where he died in 1920. Helge's family took over Ole's land. In 1921 the mother Isabelle, died. The second girl, Charlot, had died in the "Flu" epidemic in 1918. Her twin brother, Herbert, lived here on the farm until he died in 1967

Sophie became a stenographer working in Calgary where she married Herbert Bonham They stayed in Calgary a number of years, then moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and later to Winnipeg He died several years ago and Sophie still lives there

Olga also was a stenographer working in Calgary She and Sophie also took the younger children there to look after them after their mother's death. In 1926 Olga married the Lutheran minister who was serving this district at that time. They lived in Alhambra until 1928 when he was transferred to Spirit River. Later, they moved to Mellowdale where Olga died in 1945

Alfred spent most of his life in this district farming and sawmilling. He served overseas in the war and after coming back bought a farm 3½ miles northwest of Alhambra where his son, Leo, still farms. Alfred died in 1971

Marie became a school teacher and taught in various places in Alberta. In 1936 she married Charlie Wilson and moved to West Summerland, B.C. Later, she moved to Murrayville, B C. and died there in 1970

Otto lived in the U S A. from 1925 to 1936. He served overseas during the war and worked as a sawyer in some lumber camps west of Rocky

Mountain House and on the farm after returning. He died in 1969.

After finishing school Nina took a job with the Bank of Montreal in Calgary. After several years she transferred to Vancouver, British Columbia, and remained with the bank until she retired in 1966. She now lives in Victoria.

Christine went in for nursing. During the war she became a nursing sister and served overseas. After returning she worked for the V.O.N. for a year or so then took a Bible course at Three Hills and in 1948 she went to Ethiopia as a missionary nurse where she served until 1975. She is now matron of the senior citizens' lodge at Manning, Alberta.

Apart from attending school three years in Calgary, Tommy has lived his entire life on the farm here. In 1937 he married Elizabeth Macdonald. They have four children. Tyrone, the eldest, farms with Tom and they have acquired several of the neighboring farms. Curtis, the second son, is a school teacher and lives in Edmonton. He married Sonja Nyback of Camrose and they have four children. Sharlene, the only girl, married Orlen von Hollen and they also live in Edmonton where Orlen teaches. They have two daughters. Mark, the youngest, is at home attending David Thompson High School.

The winter of 1919-20 was the most severe one there has ever been since the white man settled here. The snow became so deep that many fences were completely covered and you could drive right over them. It stayed very cold through March and April and the snow did not start to melt until the first week of May. Of course, then it turned so warm the snow melted very fast causing the worst floods we have ever had. Most of the land was completely under water. P. O. Peterson built a boat at his place and was able to launch it right there and row it almost a mile across country to the Horseguard Creek. With the spring being so late feed became extremely scarce and many horses and cattle in the district simply starved to death. Hay was selling for over $100 per ton if you could find any to buy and very few people had that kind of money at that time. A lot of families only had an income of three or four hundred dollars a year.

There was no school in the district until 1912 when the "Little Horseguard School" was built, Hiram Hicks was the first teacher. He had a homestead 1 mile south of the school. He was killed in the First World War.

Until the 1920s the school operated on a very irregular basis as they could not collect enough from taxes to pay a teacher full time and there was no such thing as government grants at that time.

In 1914 the Lund family attended the Rocky Mountain House fair. They won a prize for having the largest family in attendance. The prize was a 100 lb. sack of flour.

As a young boy the two outstanding events I recall each year were the school Christmas concert and the July 1st sports day held at Alhambra. We would always compete in the races and hopefully win at least a nickel to buy an ice cream cone.

In the early years several families in the district would often congregate on a Sunday afternoon at some farm where they had a hay field comparatively smooth on which they could organize a baseball game.

A Lutheran minister started holding services in the Horseguard School in 1912. The first years these services were very irregular and far apart. By 1917 they did become more regular although still at least a month apart as the minister lived at Sylvan Lake and had to come out here with team and buggy or cutter depending on the time of year. In 1924 a parsonage was built in Alhambra and Rev. August Fenske moved in, then services were held in the school twice a month. Rev. Fenske and the minister who succeeded him also served other congregations farther away while living here. These church services were held in the Horseguard School regularly until 1951 when a Lutheran church was built on Highway 11 one half mile east of the Alhambra corner. The land on which this church was built was donated by Havelock Sloan. Rev. A. Reiner was the minister here at that time. He was followed by Rev. Paul Guebert, Rev. George Derwig, Rev. Edwin Lehman, and Rev. Wm. Kronen. By this time it had become very obvious that in order for the church to grow it would have to move into Rocky Mountain House as many people had left the farms. In 1970 a new Lutheran church was built in Rocky Mountain House and the one on Highway 11 was disposed of.

Prior to the building of the church on the highway, in March of 1931 the men of the congregation here along with some interested neighbors got together and cut logs which P. O. Peterson sawed and planed at his sawmill for the purpose of building a church. An acre of land had been obtained on the SE corner of 31-38-5-W5 just a few hundred yards east of the Horseguard School for this purpose. However by this time the Depression had really taken over and it was impossible to raise money to go ahead with construction. A few years later this lumber was sold as it was starting to deteriorate and the money was put into a "church building fund" and it was used to help build the church on the highway.

In the fall of 1935 we bought our first car, a 1929 Pontiac for which we paid $350. This seemed like a big step forward as prior to that we had to get around on horseback or with a team or, for greater distances, get a ride with someone who had a car.

It was after the last war before cars were used much in the winter as none of the side roads were snow-ploughed so became impassable.

In the spring of 1945 we bought our first tractor. Up to this time we did all our farming with horses, usually working from six to twelve of them.

Yes, there have been many changes and improvements since my folks homesteaded here a little over seventy years ago. But the land that my father and uncle took are two of the very few quarter sections that are still registered under the same last name that was on the original titles.

**THE IVER LUND FAMILY — by Evelyn MacDonald**

The Iver Lund family came to the Little Horseguard district in 1907. The nearest place to get supplies was Red Deer, with the Lund homestead being the stopping place between Evarts and Rocky Mountain House. My grandmother's patchwork quilts and butter took prizes at the annual Rocky fair. Grandpa (Iver Lund) died in 1915. My first memory of a big social gathering was his funeral. All the neighbors always came to funerals to pay their last respects. The coffins were homemade and the women covered and lined them with cloth. Grandma was also the midwife for the district having at times to go on horseback on account of the bad muskeg roads. If one dropped into her place, if only for a minute, he might as well relax until he'd had a cup of coffee and a bit of lunch. The teachers always boarded there as long as she was able to care for them. She died in 1941, a sad day for all of us.

My uncle, Henry Lund, came up with the family, he could always tell you about the best fishing holes and the best part of the country to hunt wild game. After Grandma died Henry sold the home farm to my brother Josh and moved out west where he operated a sawmill for quite a few years. Then he moved to Alhambra and bought Mrs. M. Erlisland's place and lived there until he passed away in 1973.

**MARTIN, THE ANGUS L. AND SVANHILD FAMILY**

Angus L. (Bud) Martin was born in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, December 29, 1913. In 1915, he moved to the Ridgewood District with his parents where they were farming, also he had five uncles farming in the same area. He took his early schooling at Ridgewood. In 1926, he moved with his parents to Lesslieville, where he went to school for a time. He says, "in one door, and out the other." He recalls skidding logs at a lumber camp, that his Dad operated south west of Phoenix in 1928-29. In 1930, he came to the Beaver Flat District with the family, and in 1935 he started farming on his own, section 29 [illegible] W5. His brother Ken, came to work with him, and they ran the operation together. Bud spent several winters working in the lumber camps, while Ken did the work on the farm.

In 1947, Bud married Svanhild Sande, and in 1948, Ken married Irene Mushka. They all lived on the farm north of Alhambra, that Bud and Ken operated. As well as farming, they had milk cows, range cattle and pigs, which kept them all occupied. In 1953, Ken and family moved to the other land that was purchased and each ran his own operation.

Before marrying Bud, Svanhild was secretary-treasurer of the Beaver Flat School District No. 1914 for a few years, then she worked as a receptionist for Dr. R. S. Wall in Red Deer. When her sister, Alma, resumed teaching in Alhambra school, Svanhild lived at the Sunde home, taking care of the children, Allan, Sonja and Audrey.

Bud's and Svanhild's only child, Joyce, was born in Rocky Mountain House and attended school there. She attended David Thompson High school where she graduated. Then she worked on the farm before getting a position in Rocky Mountain House. She is presently employed in Calgary.

A few years ago, they moved into their new house on the other quarter. By now, they were established in their "cow-calf" operation, which involves growing hay and grain, and doing a lot of fencing. Several 4-H Beef Club members have bought their prize winning calves from Svanhild and Bud, which shows they have a fine herd of Hereford cattle.

**KEN AND IRENE MARTIN AND FAMILY**

Ken Martin was born in Red Deer, Alberta, May 23, 1925, the son of Angus and Mattie Martin, who at that time were farming in the Ridgewood district west of Penhold. In 1926 he moved with his parents to Lesslieville and in 1930 moved to the Beaver Flat district. He took all his schooling in the one room school at Beaver Flat. Leaving school at the end of June 1940 he helped his Dad on the farm at Ridgewood for two years. The farming was all done with horses and the summer of 1941 at 16 years of age he plowed 120 acres of hay sod with 12 head of horses pulling a three bottom plow. The winter of the same year he worked in a lumber camp for Wm. C. McDougall hauling logs with a sleigh and four head of horses. In 1942 he started farming with his brother Bud, in the Beaver Flat district.

Ken and Irene Mushka were married November 19, 1948 at Alhambra. Irene Mushka was born July 25, 1927, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mushka, early settlers of the Alhambra district. Her father was section foreman for the C.P.R. since the start of the railway in this area until his retirement in December, 1952. Irene took all her schooling at Alhambra and High School at Sylvan Lake for two years and one year at Rocky Mountain House.

Ken and Irene lived on and farmed NW-29-39-5-5 from 1948 to 1953 when they moved to NE 20-39-5-5 which they purchased from Joe and Nancy McGhee the fall of 1952 and are still living there at the present time. They are also still farming NW 29-39-5-5.

Ken and Irene have two children, Jean Marion born at Rocky Mountain House May 2, 1951, and Marilyn Gayle born at Rocky Mountain

Irene and Ken Martin's wedding, November 19, 1948, in Alhambra Church

Marilyn and Jean Martin 1974

House January 20, 1965. Jean attended school at Alhambra, Leslieville and David Thompson High School graduating in June 1969. The fall of 1969 she attended Olds School of Agriculture graduating in June 1970. She then worked in the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at Rocky Mountain House for one year. In 1971, along with a girl from Acme, Alberta with whom she had gone to school at Olds, she went to Australia and for the next three years she worked her way all over Australia and New Zealand doing everything from working in offices to working on a large cattle ranch in Australia, then finished up working with a sheep shearing gang which travelled all over both the north and south Islands of New Zealand. She spent a short time in Suva, Fiji Islands, before returning home to Canada in 1974. At the present time she is working in Edmonton. Marilyn is still at home and attending school at Leslieville.

As well as farming, Ken worked several winters in a lumber camp for Art Fisher of Rocky Mountain House. The fall of 1954 he started working for the Prairie Farm Assistance Branch of Federal Department of Agriculture as a crop inspector. In 1963 he was appointed assistant supervisor of P.F.A. under supervisor Ken Geddes of Alliance, Alberta. During this time he travelled the area from the Saskatchewan border as far west as there were farmers in the central portion of Alberta. He finished this work the fall of 1974 when the P.F.A. department was phased out and replaced with All Risk Crop Insurance.

During this 20 years of seasonal work the late fall and winter chores were done by Irene and was quite a hardship on her especially when the children were small as they always had quite a good sized herd of cattle and milked some cows as well as raising some hogs. She always said it was a good thing their children were 14 years apart otherwise she couldn't have done it. In the spring of 1957 Ken started clerking auction sales for Clyde Stauffer of Evarts, Alberta and has clerked sales for several different auctioneers west of Red Deer. Clyde Stauffer retired from auctioneering in 1965 and he then started clerking with Russell Cole of Rimbey. In June of 1966 Russell Cole opened Cole's Auction Mart at Rocky Mountain House and Ken has been his clerk there since the day of the Mart opening until the present time. During this time he has donated his time to clerk many charity auction sales for different organizations, the main ones being the Auctioneers' Association sales for Retarded Children and 4-H Calf Club sales for many years. But he says, "Once a farmer always a farmer," so is still farming. He says he is a "Jack of All Trades and Master of None!"

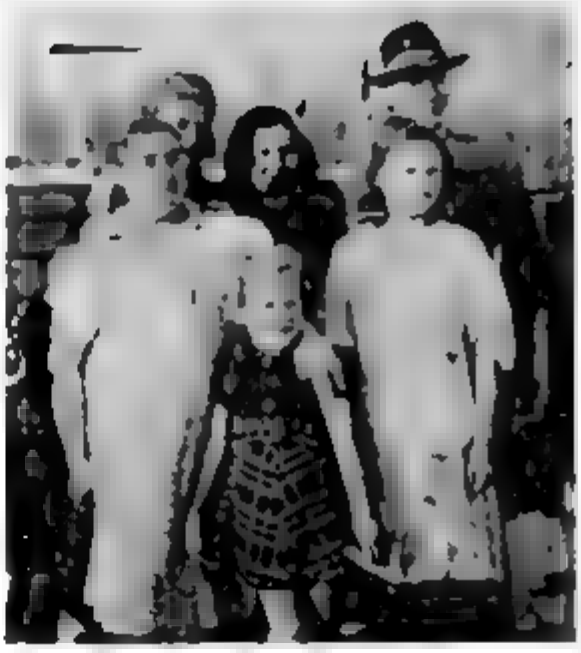
**McGOWAN, MARYANN CAMERON**

Maryann Cameron McGowan (Granny McGowan) left Scotland in the early 1920's and lived with her daughter, Mrs. Jack Poliit for a short while. Then she kept house for Mr. D. Fagg who homesteaded the SE 23-39-6-W5 west of Alhambra. After he died she lived there by herself for many years.

In Scotland she was a dentist's assistant. She attended at the births of many babies both in the Old Country and in the area where she settled here. Granny worked hard on the farm, but she also found time to help her neighbours.

She moved into the hamlet of Alhambra to spend her last years. On April 2, 1955, she passed away in the St. Joseph's Hospital, Edmonton, at the age of 94 years.

Granny McGowan in front of her log home with W. Peacock, Mary's husband



McGowan Family. Back row: Mary, Nellie, and Archie. From row: Mrs. Margaret McGowan, Lily, and Edythe

## McGOWAN, ARCHIE CAMERON AND [illegible]

Archie Cameron McGowan born in 1894 came o Canada from Scotland in 1920. His wife, Margaret, born in 1892, and their four daughters followed in 1923, arriving in Alhambra September 21, and the snow was very deep. They got off the train west of Alhambra at what was known as Pollitt's Crossing. The family stayed with their father's sister, Mrs. J. Pollitt for three days then moved to the Dave Welsh farm north of Alhambra. Lizzie and Jessie went to Alhambra School with Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson as their teacher. On this farm they had their first experience in handling animals. They bought a cow from J. Pollitt named Rosy which they had to learn to milk. In the spring of 1924 they moved to the farm one mile west. Here Jessie had her first experience in handling horses. It was a team of heavyweight grey mares, Jess and Dina, that were purchased from Harry Hambleton. At this time Lizzie worked for Mrs. Addy Sr. at the hotel so it was up to Jessie to do the chores and put up the wood for winter. Then they moved to a house that was across the road from Pollitts. Here the first Canadian McGowan was born. Archie Cameron, on August 11, 1924. In the spring of 1925 they moved to the Rehley place, south-east of W. Hambleton. Lizzie and Jessie walked three and one half miles to Beaver Flat School where Mrs. C. N. Beebe was the teacher. There were times when they had to walk through water to their knees to get to school as the roads were impassable and they had to go through Hambleton's field. When Mary started school Miss Wade was their teacher.

One incident that Jessie remembers well was when Mary took sick at school and the teacher sent her home at 10 o'clock in the morning. When Jessie got out of school in the afternoon she found Mary sitting in the ditch a little way from the school. Jessie carried her nearly all the way home, that was on a Thursday and on Saturday the parents took Mary to the doctor in Rocky Mountain House. Dr. Wm. Hill (who later became Chief Medical Officer of Calgary) examined her and held up the C.N.R. train to send her to Red Deer on a stretcher. She just got there when her appendix burst. The mother had to be away for two weeks so Jessie had to care for Margaret and Archie, do the housework and the chores. Mrs. W. Hambleton came and helped out and baked the bread. The father at this time was away helping the Pattersons bale hay around the country. In fact he was working away a lot of the time, leaving the family to take over the work of the farm.

Among the many seemingly incredible feats for a young girl only five feet tall that were done by Jessie, apart from chores, were: cut brush and wood — build chicken house and barn — broadcast seed for greenfeed — cut trees and trimmed them, measured them and took them to be sawed into two by fours, slabs and flat lumber — hewed logs-built houses to live in — worked out taxes on road building — broke in horses — went on range cow round-ups — drove a bundle team on a threshing outfit — dug wells and cribbed them, but the water was often stagnant so hauled water from elsewhere and ploughed fire guards.

The home the family lived in the longest, Jessie was proud of having built, although her father got a carpenter to help with doors, windows and the roof. As protection against cold, the logs were chinked outside with cow manure, and she cut long furrows of sod with the old Sulky plow and hauled them on a stoneboat, and piled them all around the house three feet high. On the inside she put three layers of tarpaper, then two layers of white building paper and then slats placed in squares, and the house was warm. That house burned down in 1936 or 1937.

They lived almost entirely off the land — had a garden — always had cows for milk and butter (sometimes butter was made by putting cream in a jam tin and shaking it — by the kids) — had chickens for eggs and meat. The mother sold butter to the train men and they got customers in Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House for her. The children all went picking wild fruit to sell — it was plentiful, so pailsful were sold to the train men and the customers that they found for them. The blueberries were all cleaned by the children before selling them. These sales made possible the buying of the necessary groceries and coal oil. Jessie used to catch prairie chickens or partridges in traps and their mother stewed them with vegetables. They ate enough rabbits to be completely turned against them. Jessie says that they never went hungry but there was no variety in the meals nor in the school lunches. The Sande girls helped to see that there was some variety in their school lunches. Jessie says they always shared their hot soup or stew with her and Mary — that they were a very good family — Mrs. Sande purposely put extra soup or stew in for them.

Something Jessie remembers was when her little brother Archie, sat in a pot of boiling potato peelings that her mother had just taken off the stove — she was in the habit of boiling the peelings to feed the pigs.

As one can see times were very hard and Jessie's life so far was so filled with hard work that she had no real girlhood, so in January, 1932, she left home to seek a happier way of life.

This has been mostly Jessie's story.

The complete family of Archie and Margaret McGowan are:

Lizzie born July 31, 1912, in Glasgow, Scotland, married to George Farrington.

Jessie born May 3, 1916, in Glasgow, Scotland, married to Mr. Duncan.

Mary born March 20, 1919, in Glasgow, Scotland married to William Peacock.

Margaret born January 9, 1921, in Glasgow, Scotland, married to Mr. Devore.

Archie Cameron born August 11, 1924. Killed in Action July 18, 1944.

Peter Cameron born August 12, 1926.

Nellie Smith born August 8, 1928, married Wm. Meyers. Nellie died August 11, 1975.

Edythe Harrison born August 23, 1930, married George Wood.

Lillian born April 20, 1935, married C. D. Wilson.

The last five were born in the Alhambra district.

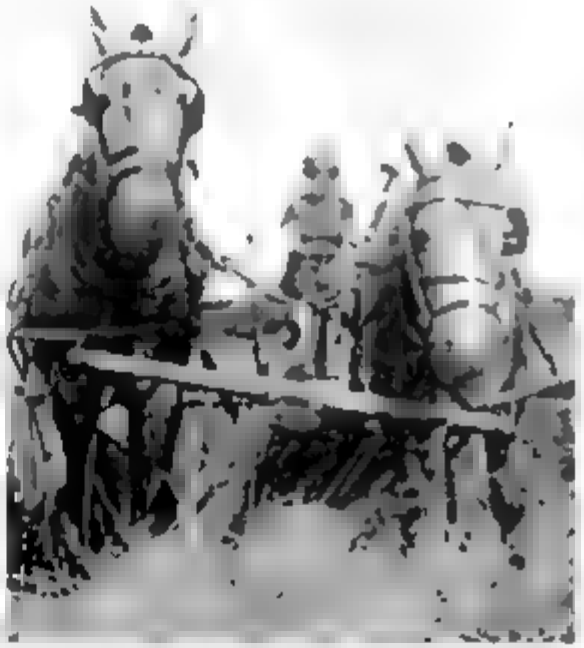
Their mother, Margaret McGowan, died February 22, 1948, at age 56.

Their father, Archie Cameron, died at age 72.

Mary and Margaret attended school at Beaver Flat and Alhambra. Walking home, a distance of four and one half miles, after participating in a Christmas concert one year, they froze their face and hands. Have you ever worn icicle pants? Well, Mary and Margaret did on this cold night.

They both had to work hard at home, helping with the chores in the mornings and evenings while going to school and in the summer they helped weed the big family garden. Their father, who worked out, was injured on the job in 1929 and spent some time in a hospital in Edmonton. After his recovery he was transferred to Field, B.C., as a watchman on the railway. With their father away, it was left to the family to take care of the farm.

In 1943 Mary was united in marriage to William Peacock. Her sister, Margaret, is now Mrs. Devore.



Mary (McGowan) Peacock raking hay, 1945. Note the screen mosquito veil to protect the team from the flies.

**MILLER, ERASTUS — by Olive Rutherford, Edna Berryman and Lyla Sarsein**

Father was born in Platsmouth, Nebraska, in 1873. He was married to Alice Russell at Rockford, Illinois in 1895, and in 1897 brother

Russell was born. In 1901 came brother Albert, in 1907 sister Olive and in 1909 sister Edna arrived The rest of our family was born in Alberta.

In 1909 our father, ERastus Miller, along with his young family and his three sisters with their husbands and families emigrated from U.S.A. to Alberta where they took homesteads in the Condor and Alhambra districts

After filing on his homestead claim, Father rented land east of Red Deer for a year or so and worked as builders' helper with his brothers-in law in Red Deer He later hauled freight from Red Deer to Pitcox (later called Hespero) with a team and wagon. The times were hard, but our father was a patient man

While living east of Red Deer we welcomed a new brother, Chester born in 1911 and two years later, 1913, a girl, Martha, arrived, much to our joy

By this time a small house was built and we moved to the homestead. Work was started on the C.P.R. and Father and other members of the family, took a contract to build two or three miles of grade between Condor and Alhambra As we remember, this was done with both oxen and horses pulling scrapers and fresnos. The roads were very poor and winding from one ridge to another, with corduroy in the low places Other homesteaders were scattered every few miles and were always ready to help each other in any way. We were especially close to the Frank Maxwell family, our aunt and uncle They homesteaded two and one-half miles west of us and through all the years were always there to help and cheer us. Often in times of sorrow and illness our families helped each other

In those early years Mother acted as a mid-wife and often had to change clothes outside behind the house, because the expectant father was inside in the one-room house "waitin' till she was ready" The Blairs, Stockwells, Leslies, Coopers and Pykalainen wives were just a few of the settlers she attended. We children batched with Dad until she came home again

We spent many happy evenings in those days gathered'round the fires while Mother read to us or sang songs. Wild berries were plentiful, also prairie chicken and rabbits and our older brothers were good with snare and slingshot, which helped out with the food bill. At that time too, there was a lot of timber In winter time our parents and the older boys cut fence posts, mine props and firewood which also helped to keep things going

In 1915, Russell enlisted in the army and in a very short time was sent overseas. Albert too, tried twice to enlist, but was turned down because of his age as he was only 16 at the time Disappointed, he came home and worked for a short time on the railway. Still not happy, he returned to the States and joined the navy, where he served for the next five years.

Olive and Edna went to school at what was known as the Davidson House, where school was held at that time, for the first years. It was a four mile drive with the wagon and they were quite small

Later a school was built northeast of us, three and one-half miles. It was called Prairie Rose Olive, Edna and Chester all went to school there Some years later it was moved to Condor and the younger members of the family also attended there. We older ones sometimes rode horseback The three of us on a brown mare called Kate, and sometimes we walked It was hard to attend regularly in winter as there was not much traffic and the roads would drift full of snow

In 1915, brother Fred was born. Mrs. Eastman, a nurse, who lived two and one-half miles to the south of us, came and attended Mother. She was one of the finest people you could ever find and for many years, travelled the country, wherever she was needed, in a one-horse buggy pulled by a chubby little black horse called Pat She and Mother were close friends over the years and many times we girls were sent to take her a pail of berries or to help her with the washing and such

Early in 1917, brother Earl was born and that fall an epidemic of cholera came and many of the younger children died. We lost brother Fred and at the same time, came the wire that Russell was wounded in action. It was a very sad time for us all.

In 1919 Russell came home from overseas He was married the same year to Alice Coltman and moved to Vancouver, where they made their home They had three children, Harold, Lorraine, and Wally Alice passed away in 1966 and Russell in 1972

In 1921, sister Lyla was born It was a cold rainy night in September Olive and Edna were sent to take blue berries to Mrs. Bell, collect the money for them, then stop at the post office at Condor to pick up the C.O.D. order, which was the baby's clothes ordered from the Eaton's catalogue

There wasn't much money in those days as we remember. Most of our dresses, pants, and petticoats and such, were made from flour sacks. Quite often we had pants with "Purity" or "Robin Hood" written across the seat

In 1927, Olive was married to Alex Rutherford. They farmed for a few years at Alhambra then moved to Red Deer where they remained. They have one daughter, Audrey. Alex passed away in 1959.

Edna married Charlie Berryman in 1928 They had first a daughter, Joy, then four boys Clyde, Earl, James and Allan. For some years they farmed at Condor, then moved to Whitecourt, where Charlie passed away in 1953

In 1939, Martha married Ben Simpkin. They made their home at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and were blessed with four sons: George Timothy, Billie and Steven. Ben passed away in 1976

Lyla was married to Clyde Sarasin in 1940

They lived for a while in Condor and later moved to Red Deer. Their family numbered three. Wendy, David and John. Clyde passed away in 1973.

In 1950, Chester married Thelma Prentice. They had a family of seven: Dorothy, Mary, Fred, Billie, Annie, Olive, and Phyllis. They made their home at Condor, where Thelma and the children still live. Chester passed away in 1974.

Brother Albert made his home in Seattle, Washington and passed away in 1942.

Earl served in the Second World War from 1942 to 1946. He returned home and farmed in the Alhambra district for several years. Mother made her home with him till her death in 1957. Earl's death came in 1967. Father died in 1938.

**OH HERE COMES LIMPY**

When I was a youngster, out where the West begins
We went to town on mail-nights to watch the train come in.
All the folks would gather at Meeres' General Store
And sit a swappin' tales, til they heard somebody roar!

Chorus
"Here comes Limpy, She's comin' down the line,
Here comes Limpy, She shore is doin' fine
Her whistle is a-blowin' and her headlight is ashine'
She done her level best to get the mail here on time."

When I was a little older, along about sixteen,
There was a little boy I liked, his name was Jimmy Dean,
I sat with him one mail-night, he courted me a spell,
But when I went to kiss him, he started in to yell,

Chorus: "Here comes Limpy . . "

I remember once the preacher, held a meetin' in the square,
It was quite a gathering, most everyone was there
He said, "Now when the organ plays each sinner must step out,"
But the whole crowd started runnin' cause they heard somebody shout,

Chorus "Here comes Limpy . . "

At Cousin Willie's weddin' it really was a joke,
Everyone looked solemn and just the Preacher spoke
Now William, do you take", he said, "this woman for your bride?"
But Will looked out the window and here is what he cried.

Chorus, "Here comes Limpy

My Uncle Ned got sick one day, we all thought he would die,
Pa went for the Doctor and Ma began to cry,
Uncle Ned just lay there, so feeble and so thin,
Till Limpy blew her whistle, then he shouted out like sin,

Chorus "Here comes Limpy

Those days are gone forever now, Limpy is no more
We don't go for our mail, They bring it to the door
But sometimes I get lonely and would give up all my pay,
If I could go to town again and hear somebody say,

Chorus "Here comes Limpy

This is a poem written about the train that used to run between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House during the years I was growing up

Lyla Miller Sarasin

**THE FRANK MAXWELL FAMILIES by Lyla Rutherford**

My father and mother, Frank and Edna Maxwell, came to Alberta in 1909 with their family. They came from Beloit, Wisconsin, U.S.A. to Red Deer on an immigration train and brought along some horses, cattle, machinery and household effects. Father and my older brother, Harold, came in the cars with the stock while Mother and the rest of the family came in the coach, as far as Red Deer.

There was no railroad going west at that time and the roads were winding trails following the high ridges. Father, along with his brother Bert and his brother-in-law ERastus Miller, went west to what is now Condor and Alhambra and filed on their homestead. I think at that time one paid $10 to file claim, then had to live on it six months of the year. One had to fence it and clear and plow 15 acres to prove up and get the title.

Father was a brick-layer and plasterer by trade and to make ends meet, he worked with his brother, Bert, on quite a few of the brick houses on what was the called Victoria Ave. in Red Deer, also on the W. E. Lord's house and the Old Cronquist house. Dad and Harold also hauled freight from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House. They also worked between Condor and Alhambra, building grade for the C.P.R.

For the first two or three years we rented land east of Red Deer as my brothers and I were all of school age and there were no schools close to the homestead.

Around 1912, Father had managed to build a small two-roomed, tar-paper house on the homestead, and we moved west. There were six of us children in the family then: Harold, Lee, Esther, Lyla, Stanley, and Clare. Alice was born in 1912 on the homestead. As I remember, Father and my brother cleared most of the land on the homestead by hand and broke it with horses. The first few years we grew only oats as the land was quite wet and the seasons were short. Later we raised rye and barley and, as more land was

cleared and the land dried, we grew wheat Prices were poor Oats, hauled to Rocky Mountain House were six cents a bushel.

Mother was often called upon to go when someone was ill or a new baby was due to arrive As we were a long way from a doctor and hospital we had to rely greatly on one another My parents, however never lost their taste for many American things, such as green tea, johnny cake, corn-meal mush and molasses cookies

Stanley, Clare and I went to school at what was called the Davidson school, opened in 1914 Later a school was built at Alhambra and we also attended school there. Alice, some years later attended the Alhambra school.

The first teacher we had at the Davidson school was Mrs. Ralph Patterson. Next came Mrs. Ludwig, then Mrs. Frank Patterson, also Mrytle Smith from Red Deer, who later married Mr Markle who ran an electrical business in Red Deer Annie White from Red Deer was one of our teachers also. These teachers worked hard as at that time, they taught from Grades 1 to 8. At Christmas time each school had a concert at which the children did plays, sang songs and did recitations. There was always a tree filled with gifts, candy and big red apples.

In those first years we gathered at one another's homes for sing songs, games and dancing. Later, dances were held in school houses, one every two weeks, sometimes in one school, sometimes in another. Often we drove ten or twelve miles with wagons, sleighs or went on horseback to attend them Music was supplied by Mr Cruickshank or Mr Chisholm on the violin Sometimes Albert Miller played his mouth-organ and if an organ was handy, someone would chord on it At Alhambra for years, Mrs. Luyckfassell, played the accordian for such occasions. During the first Great War Years, Box and Pie Socials were held and the proceeds were used for the war effort, Red Cross and such

Every year on July 1, we had a celebration at Alhambra. There were ball games and foot races for young and old, also tug-of-war. Prizes were given to the winner and the children were given a candy bar whether they won or lost Lunch was served on long tables. Everyone brought food and shared even to home-made ice cream!

In 1913, Harold returned to the States and brought back our Grandmother Maxwell, who made her home with us until her death in 1925 Harold returned to the States a year or so later, married and made his home there. He has five sons

In the year 1915, Lee went back to the States also, and served for two or three years in the army He later returned to Alberta and purchased a quarter of C P R. land two miles east of Father's place. He returned to the U S.A. again in 1923 and passed away in 1924.

Esther married Frank Birch in 1916. They lived for a short time at Nordegg, later moving to Edmonton, where they made their home They had one daughter, Marjorie Esther, who died in 1954

In 1923, I was married to Edwin Rutherford We had four children: Lee, Grace, Gordon and Alex. We farmed for several years in the Alhambra district. Later, we moved to Red Deer, where my husband, who was a painter by trade, went into the painting business, until the time of his death in 1960.

Stanley was married to Vera Truman around 1935. He remained on the home place and farmed with Dad and Clare. Later, he bought land close to Rocky Mountain House, where they still live They have three sons

Alice married Jim Anderson about 1936. They lived for a short time at Alhambra and Rocky Mountain House, then moved to Drumheller for a few years. Later, they moved to Lacombe where they settled. Jim still lives there, Alice passed away in 1976

Clare remained at home with Dad and Mother until they passed away, Dad in 1957 and Mother in 1959 After that Clare sold the home place and bought land close to Stanley where he made his home until his death in 1969.

## THE EDWIN AND ALEXANDER RUTHERFORD FAMILIES

Edwin J Rutherford, born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1888, came to Canda in 1906, where he worked on sheep ranches around Walsh, Alberta.

In 1910, his brother, Alex G Rutherford, followed They both worked on ranches to earn enough money to send for their mother and sister Mary They made their home at Walsh, Alberta until their mother's passing They then went into the Armed Forces.

After the war, they moved to the Alhambra district, where they took up land

In 1923, Edwin married Lyla Maxwell They had a family of four Edwin was secretary of the U F A for some time He moved to Red Deer in 1928, where he was a sign writer and a painter until his death in 1960.

Their sister, Mary, married James Lambie at Medicine Hat and later moved to Calgary where he worked for the C P R. They had one daughter, Grace

In 1926, Alex moved to Vancouver, B.C where he worked on odd jobs. He married Olive Miller in 1927. Their daughter, Audrey, was born in 1930 He worked for the Standard Oil Company at Marpole until 1937

In the fall of 1937, he moved back to the Alhambra district with his family He bought the C P R. quarter one and one half miles east of Alhambra where he lived until the late 40s. when he moved to Red Deer where he resided until his passing in May, 1959

## MUSHKA, FRED AND ZENA

Fred John Mushka was born September 15. 1888 in Cashwoka, Wolyn, Poland. He served in the Polish army from 1909 to 1911 He married

Zena Maruk in 1911, who was also born in Cashwoka, Wolyn, Poland on November 13, 1891.

On March 3, 1913, Fred J. Mushka came to Canada aboard the ship Libau, leaving his wife and young daughter, Lupka, behind. Lupka was born in Cashwoka, Wolyn, Poland on September 25, 1912.

Fred landed at Halifax, then came west to Alberta and started working for the CPR with a bridge gang in Edmonton. Then he helped to build the A.C.R. branch line between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. He first worked as a laborer on the section of the track between Alhambra and Hespero, but he stayed in Hespero in the section house. When he became section foreman for the A.C.R. on November 16, 1918 he lived in the section house in Alhambra.

Fred tried to get his wife, Zena, and daughter, Lupka, to join him in Canada but World War I made this very difficult and for a time it seemed impossible as he could not locate them in Poland. Zena and Lupka were separated; Zena was sent to a work camp, but finally they were aboard the SS Minnedosa and landed in Quebec, October 15, 1926. It was a joyous time when they were reunited with Fred and made their home in the C.P.R. station house in Alhambra.

In September, 1920 Fred had purchased the SW-10-39-5-W5, the former Jim Boyd farm, and in 1924 he purchased the Charles Raine acreage, Block K, in the hamlet of Alhambra. But the family continued to live in the station house as Fred was still the section foreman. He did some farming as well. In September, 1932 he purchased the Cooks' homestead, the NW-3-39-5-W5. Zena was kept very busy caring for their family of two daughters and four sons. She enjoyed her neighbors and always was ready to lend a helping hand.

New members of the family are:

Irene born July 25, 1927, married Kenneth Martin and they have two daughters.

John William born April 21, 1929.

Fred Alexander born August 14, 1930.

Leonard Nickoll born January 8, 1933.

Edward Peter born September 14, 1936, married Maureen Caldwell.

Lupka attended Alhambra School and two of her teachers were Mr. Moir and Mr. Hicks. She attended St. Joseph Convent in Red Deer for further schooling. Prior to her marriage to Steve Zaetz of Leedale on July 16, 1939, she worked in the Eckville area. Steve was born on August 2, 1906 in Kobrin, Poland. He came to Canada August 29, 1930 and settled in the Leedale district with his brother, Mike, on a homestead. After he and Lupka were married they lived on a farm in the Alhambra district. On February 14, 1941, they purchased the SE-10-39-5-W5, formerly owned by Jim Boyd. In 1949 they left this farm and moved to Windsor, Ontario. Here Steve was employed at the Chrysler Assembly Motor Plant until his retirement in 1973. Lupka was employed most of the time at a hotel and she also worked in a restaurant. Steve and Lupka reside at Windsor.

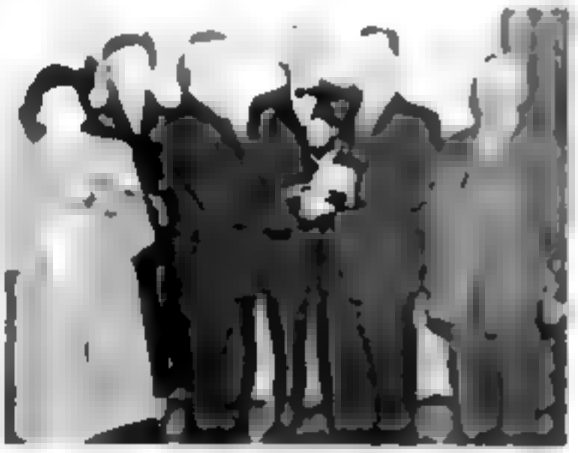
John attended Alhambra School, Grades 1 through 10 with Alma (Sande) Sunde as his teacher for all but one of those grades. He took Grades 11 and 12 at Rocky Mountain House where he graduated. After completing his schooling he started farming on his dad's farm. In 1968 he purchased the Frank G. Patterson farm. His farming operations include growing grain and raising cattle with his brother, Leonard.

Fred Jr. attended Alhambra School where he completed Grade 10 and then he went to Edmonton to take a Diesel Automotive Course at the Chicago Vocational Training Centre. Later he worked in Edmonton on construction jobs. Then he returned to Alhambra and worked on various jobs around here before settling on the farm and working on it until his death on September 6, 1958.

Leonard took his schooling at Alhambra where he completed Grade 10. Then he started working on the section for C.P.R. where he was employed for 10 years. Following this he became grain elevator manager for Federal Grain for eight years until Federal Grain sold to Alberta Pool. Now he has his own farm and he is farming with his brother, John.

Edward took his schooling in Alhambra and then he moved to Windsor. Here he married Maureen Caldwell, R.N. on October 6, 1962. Edward worked as a mechanic, and for a while he was with the Windsor City Police Patrol. Maureen worked in hospitals in Windsor and in Detroit. Later they moved to Alhambra and lived on the farm. Edward worked for Bernard Killick at the Service Station while Maureen was employed at the Eckville Municipal Hospital. Edward died on April 17, 1970.

Fred retired from the railroad on December 30, 1952. "In line with their practice of honoring fellow-workers when they retire, the Canadian Pacific Social Club held an enjoyable banquet



Fred Mushka retires from C.P.R. after thirty-nine years of service. L. to R. Mrs. Zena Mushka, Mrs. W. Hartley, Fred Mushka, W. Hartley. Don Twack, unknown.

Moving the first C P R. bunkhouse in Alhambra to the F Mushka farm, 1952

and dance at the Oddfellows' Hall on Friday evening, with Fred Mushka as the guest of honor W Hartley, president of the club, presided

Mr Mushka, section foreman at Condor, was superannuated on December 30, 1952, after 39 years of service with the company He was one of the first men to drive a spike on the high-level bridge at Edmonton, in 1913. He was foreman on the A.C R. in 1917. On behalf of the club, road master Dan Twack made the presentation to him of a handsome clock Mrs. R E Jones, honorary president of the club, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Mushka

There were 150 present, among them being Assistant Superintendent Hall, Calgary, George Russell, Calgary, travelling engine foreman section foremen John Hodick, Rocky Mountain House, Mr Pollitt, Alhambra, and Gordon Steadman, Benalto; also Messrs. Anhelier and Carl Lachmund, Alhambra, all with their wives, Messrs. Steve Pavlak and F. Motte, Benalto, J Filip, Alhambra; G. S. Shawe, Tuttle, Paul Novick, Red Deer section foremen and F Mushka Jr Alhambra

Messages of congratulation on Mr Mushka's long service were received from several high officials of the company

Rebekah ladies catered for the banquet, which was followed by an enjoyable dance with music by Willard Trimble and his orchestra Red Deer Advocate, February 16, 1953)

Fred and Zena Mushka's Golden Wedding Anniversary (1961) celebrated at their home in Alhambra

After Fred's retirement, they moved to the farm where they resided until their new home in the hamlet was completed in the mid-50's

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1961 with their family and a host of friends.

Fred Mushka died in the University Hospital, Edmonton on August 30, 1961 Zena Mushka died in the Red Deer Nursing Home, on December 18, 1969

**CLARENCE NEEDHAM**

Records reveal that various branches of the Needham family were at some time granted Arms but the oldest of these is the one which will be of greatest interest to our generations based on the assumption that it is attributed to a common ancester

Sir Robert Needham was knighted by Sir William Russel, Lord Deputy of Ireland, September, 1594

A description follows Arms Argen a bens engrailed azure between two buck's heads caboosed sable attired, Crest Aphoenix in flames proper, Motto: Nunc Aut Nunquam, Authority Burke-General Armory Meaning of Terms Arms' Argent — silver or white shield, represents gentleness, A Bend. means simple form, Engrailed means draped, Azure. means blue, Caboosed, means full faced stag head, no neck showing, Sable' means dressed in black, Crest Phoenix issuing from flames of fire is frequently used as a crest — an emblem of immortality, Motto: "Now or never"

This is one of the oldest Irish families, tracing its history back to Mac Niadh of the Line of Ithe, ancester of A'Niadh, or A'Naihe-Caithne The name has been anglicized to O'Needham, Needham, Needim, MacKnee, MacNie, McNeedem, Neville, and Neehan

**THE NEEDHAM FAMILY — by Olga Needham**

Clarence Vincent Needham is the son of Fred Moore and Bertha Needham. (Fred is the son of James and Fannie (Moore) Needham,. (Bertha is the daughter of Bert and Roseltha (Ayres) Fisk

Olga Matilda (Syren) Needham is the daughter of Waino Wilhelm and Alma (Luosa) Syren. (Waino is the son of Gustav and Leen (Antila) Syren.) (Alma is the daughter of Heikl and Agatha (Jakiaho) Luosa)

Clarence, number eight child, was born on November 11, 1927, at Craigmyle, Alberta. His wife, Olga, number six child was born on September 9, 1927, at Condor They were united in marriage in 1948

Clarence and his family lived at Airdrie, and moved to the Alhambra district in 1961 to their present location, NE-13-39-6-5, NW 13-39-6-5 and SE-13-39-6-5.

Their family consists of one son and three daughters. Gay is married to William (Bill) Glover of Rocky Mountain House. She took her

elementary grades at Airdrie and Alhambra, and her high school at David Thompson High. She took a stenography course. Gwen is married to Vernol Bunch of Leslieville. She attended elementary school at Airdrie and Alhambra and took her high school at David Thompson High. She took a hairdressing course. Terry, of Rural Route 1, Alhambra, farms. He attended the Leslieville Elementary School and the David Thompson High School. Greta is married to Ron Desjarlais of Rocky Mountain House. She attended the Leslieville Elementary School and the David Thompson High School. She took piano lessons and is presently teaching piano.

Clarence conveys mail from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and points in between. He farms with Terry as time allows.

We like this district and expect we will be in no hurry to move elsewhere.

**THE NEWMAN FAMILY — Alhambra 1939-1946, Condor 1946-1948**

The value of a family journal is realized when one is suddenly faced with writing a synopsis of family history covering even a relatively short period of time. The following events, relating to the Newman family have been recounted without the benefit of written reference and therefore some of the dates surrounding these events may seem a little vague or may, at times, have to be granted a little give or take.

It was however, in the spring of 1939 that three members of the Newman family moved to the John Larson farm, the half section situated immediately west of Alhambra corner, on the north side of Highway 11. These family members were Mrs. Mable Francis Newman and the two youngest of her four children, Roy Allan (Chub) who was then 19 years old, and Rita Margaret (Margie), 15 years old. Prior to this they had farmed in the Clearview district, south of Red Deer for approximately seven years. This branch of the Newman family originated in the Auburndale district; a community midway between Wainwright and Vermilion, Alberta. The father, Albert John Newman was at this time, still living on the original home farm. The second oldest son, William Irving (Buster), worked with him. Buster was 21 years old. The oldest son, Clifford Albert (Cipper), had gone to Chicago the preceeding fall, to take a course in airconditioning. He was then 22 years old.

Newman Family 1947. Roy (Chub) Newman, Mable Newman, Margie and Stuart MacDonald.

The actual move from Clearview to Alhambra was accomplished with the help of good friends from the Red Deer district, a brother and sister, Raymond and Doris Nicholson and Cliff Stannard, all of whom shared good humor and a pioneering spirit. It was an event that lasted for several days and was in itself worthy of a short novel. Trials and fun evolved in every aspect of the undertaking. The family's old car, a 1928 Buick, had to be coaxed to make the trip and then, after one visit to the hamlet, it refused to start again, ever. (It was eventually sold.) There was no electricity or plumbing at the farm, but Mrs. Newman, aided by the girls' cleaning power, made the house a home. With the aid of pitch forks, Doris and Margie then undertook cleaning and repairing the old pole and straw barn, to make it fit to house the milch cows that were to be transported by truck, as the house furniture and some machinery had been. When everything else had been either moved or sent on its way, Chub and Raymond, with Cliff's help began a two day trek with team and hay rack and saddle horses, trailing out the range cattle and the remaining horses. Before everything was settled, everyone had rare stories to tell. In retrospect, this memorable event was to set the pattern for the way of life that followed throughout out the years the family remained in the area, adjusting to necessity, milking cows (in poor facilities), and farming with only horse power, but through it all enjoying friends, old and new.

The first visitors to the farm arrived the second night. Lamp light was showing from the house. These were Jim and Dickie Davies and Frankie Wilson, curious kids from neighboring farms who had trouble finding enough courage to knock on the door. Mrs. Newman and the girls were very amused by the boys giggling in the yard and Mrs. Newman had to go out the door to invite them in. Their visit was very welcome and the new residents spent several pleasant hours learning about the neighborhood happenings and people. The next day the cows arrived and were settled into the newly cleaned barn. While the girls were doing the milking that evening, Dickie

Ladies' Ball Team, 1945. Back row: Marge MacDonald, Muriel Cooper, Ella Wilson, Bernice von Hollen, Violet Wulff and Aalve Jahraus. Front row: Shirley Wilson, Mrs. Ralph Cole, Lizzie Lund and Coy Bandau.

Davies came back to let the girls know the first ball practice of the season was to take place "uptown" and the girls were invited to join in. They rushed with chores, then walked the mile and a half to be welcomed into their first community activity. It was a good thing it was an outdoor event, the girls must have had something of an "old barn" aroma about them.

Ball games, summer picnics (May 24th at Condor and July 1st at Alhambra), and dances were the main social events the family participated in, although Chub and Raymond, who were exceptional horsemen and aspiring cowboys, made their way to take part in as many stampedes as they could. (Raymond had stayed to work and Doris visited as often as the girls could arrange it, which meant these friends shared many of the events surrounding the family during their first year or so in the district). The cowboys had to practice riding, and so to make this possible, they built a pole corral with a chute. On occasion, Sundays or evenings, any of the farm animals that would buck were given the opportunity to do so. These practice events drew considerable attention from other cowboy minded young fellows who lived near-by.

Transportation to stampedes was sometimes hard to find, since the old car had given up. When the Rocky Mountain House rodeo was to take place at the end of June that first summer the boys and a neighbor, Eddie Wilson, planned to ride to it on saddle horse. The girls wanted to go too. Mother Newman, as always, soft-hearted and hard-working, agreed to do the chores for the two days they would be away, leaving early on the 29th and returning on the 30th. The boys thought they could discourage the girls because there were not enough saddles to go around. The girls wouldn't be discouraged and so, their first trip to Rocky Mountain House was made on horse back, bare-back. Afterwards the girls were able to brag that they had survived the trip in better condition than the boys. (no allowance was made for the boys participation in the rodeo.) The group arrived in Rocky Mountain House by mid-morning. The boys made their entries and in the afternoon they rode in both bareback and saddle bronc events. In the evening they all took in the stampede dance and then rode a mile or so out of town to spend what was left of the night with the Stanley Maxwells. Next day they returned to the stampede and the boys again made their rides. (No record was made of how well the boys placed in the competition, but they did share some of the prize money.) Again that evening the dance was not to be missed, and finally, after mid-night they all trooped home, to arrive just in time to help Mother Newman with the chores. Then to bed! It wasn't a long sleep for the girls because by then it was the 1st of July and they were expected to play ball at the community picnic, which they did. Chub and Raymond barely found the energy to attend the picnic dance that evening. Eddie didn't.

In 1939 the gravel on Highway 11 stopped at Alhambra corner. During wet weather the "Highway" traffic faced many problems along the flat west of the farmstead. Among the vehicles that were frequently stuck in the mud were Sorenson's bus, and the C.A.D.P. milk truck which made daily trips to gather 8-gallon cans of milk at the gates of shippers from a point several miles west, hauling them into Red Deer. It was not uncommon to have some stranded driver walk up to the house looking for help. Sometimes a team could pull them out, sometimes they couldn't. At that time the 'bus' was an elongated four seater car. This was probably the first step up from the sedan car that provided the original bus service between Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer. It became a point of interest to watch the vehicles change in size and shape as the bus service grew. Another segment of Highway 11 traffic that was interesting to watch was the horse and wagon caravans of native people who travelled east in the spring to work somewhere during the summer, then in the fall they headed back west to their reserves.

Sorenson's bus service was frequently used by the family for shopping and visiting in Red Deer. The milk truck driver at that time was a very congenial chap named Donald Luck. He was not supposed to carry passengers but occasionally he made an exception because he liked company on the road, and someone would catch a ride into the city with him. This was a favor the family was able to return a few times when the road to the west was so exceptionally bad that it was impossible to haul milk over it. If

the truck swayed too badly through the mud, the cans which had to be stacked, would upset and spill. When Don stayed at the Newman's overnight, he would pitch in and give a hand with drying dishes or any other household chore that came up. On one such occasion the family learned he could handle a flat iron as expertly as he handled the truck. After that, Chub never found it as easy to ask to have his good pants pressed, and eventually he learned to do his own pressing.

While the bus provided means for travelling to Red Deer, local shopping was done mainly on horseback, or sometimes, by team and wagon. It was not unusual for Margie to have everything from a sack of flour to a kerosene can laying over or hanging from the saddle. Two or three times Margie or Mrs. Newman rode to Rocky with Jack and Marie Davies when they were taking a calf to market by team and wagon. In later years, after these good neighbors had acquired a car, the Davies shared many rides to town.

Their first year in the district produced many new experiences for the family. After freeze-up in the fall, Chub went out to work in the logging camps west of Rocky Mountain House. It was rough, hard work but he enjoyed it and went back again the following winter. He thrilled in telling how well his skid or logging team had performed.

Time and circumstances effected many changes for the family, with World War II causing the greatest disruptions, a it did throughout the world. Through many comings and goings by the rest of the family, Mrs. Newman was the only member who never left home for any length of time. She was a hard working, loving and reliable woman who faced hardships head-on, a wonderful cook who could always make a tasty meal no matter how limited her pantry provisions became. Hard work was not new to Mable Newman. In the early years at Auburndale, she had worked with her husband in the field while keeping her house and cooking for the family and hired men, as well as doing chores and raising her family. All this combined with the worry of keeping the farm going at this time, no doubt contributed to her declining health later on.

Among the changes that took place, the family gradually saw less of Doris and Raymond Nicholson. Raymond went back to work with his father and later entered military service. Doris was married in Red Deer, to Gordon Towers, Dec. 27, 1940.

Shortly after Canada entered the war, the oldest son, Clifford, visited at Alhambra before leaving to go to England, to join the R.A.F. He wanted to become a pilot and at that time his formal education was less than would be accepted for a pilot in the R.C.A.F. 'Clipper' was more mechanically minded than his cowboy brothers. He had been responsible for keeping the old car running while the family lived at Red Deer.

Clifford Newman leaving for England to join the R.A.F. in 1939

Some of the neighbors there had [illegible] if he Buick had had even parts of wings, it would have flown then. Clifford became a Spit Fire pilot and as the war progressed he was promoted to Flight Lieutenant. During the Battle of Britian his plane was shot down over the English Channel and he was reported missing in action, June 1941. His body was later found on the coast of Holland and he was buried in a Military Cemetery outside of Amsterdam. He was 25 years old on January 21, 1941.

The second son, Buster, also visited the farm for a few months in 1939. He did not qualify for military service because of a hip damaged in a fall from a horse during his school days. He returned to Alhambra after harvest in 1940. His bride, Elsie (nee Ruud), had arrived before him. They spent most of the winter with the family and added another new member when their daughter, Arlene Mae, was born in Rocky Mountain House on December 24, 1940. When they returned to Vermilion they began farming on their own. They later had three more children: Helen Jeanette, born June 17, 1943, Lela Marguerite, born September 7, 1944 and Lyle Irving, born February 17, 1946. Buster and Elsie visited Alhambra with their two oldest girls for a short time at Christmas in 1944.

In the spring of 1941, Chub was called into the Army's one month training program for 21 year olds. About the time he would have been released, the program was extended to four months, and then again extended to full duty. While he was away Margie became farmer as well as chore boy. Chub later transferred to the R.C.A.F. and while he was training as a Wireless Air Gunner at Winnipeg, he became ill with rheumatic fever and was hospitalized just one week before he was to graduate with a WAG wing. He was confined to hospital for over six months and was eventually released from the service early in 1945 with a medical discharge, as a result of damage to his heart during the illness.

On November 6, 1941 Margie was married to a local man, Angus Macdonald. They went to work for Lorenzo Cooper, a widower with a large farm operation south of Highway 11. On August 18,

1942, Margie gave birth to her only child, a son Stuart Roy During this time her father, Albert John Newman, came to help take care of the farm. He had sold his Auburndale farm and had turned to an old skill, carpentry, to build houses in Edmonton Early in 1943, he went back to Edmonton and the Macdonalds moved to the Newman residence. In 1944, the couple separated, Angus later joined the army and Margie continued to work the farm for her mother Mrs Newman at this time was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, a misery which became progressively worse during the rest of her life

The summer of 1945 brought another new experience for the family, Mrs. Newman, Margie and her son Stuart Mrs Newman's parents, Mr and Mrs. William Way from Stratford Ontario visited relatives in Alberta. They stayed with their son, Clifford Way and his family at Strathmore. During this time a holiday was arranged. Margie went to Edmonton and picked up her dad's car, then with her mother, Stuart, and a good friend, Muriel Cooper, they made their first trip to Banff and Lake Louise, together with the Way families whom they met in Calgary Jack and Dick Davies looked after the chores, which included milking about thirteen cows at that time, for the three days they were away It was a very exciting time; not only was it their first visit to Banff, but it was also the first time Margie could remember seeing her grandparents. They had not been out west since she had been a baby at Vermilion Mrs. Newman had been east to visit them only once in the interim.

Shortly after this trip, the senior Ways came to spend a month at the farm. Grandpa Way who was in his late seventies, had done all the pioneering he wanted to and could not appreciate some of the innovations the lack of facilities made necessary. Grandma Way, who was actually Mrs. Newman's step-mother, was also in her seventies. She was a very dear lady and wanted to do something to help. She had been a dressmaker when she was younger so she undertook basting together a plaid suit Margie was making Unfortunately Grandma couldn't see as well as she used to and the plaid wasn't matched very well. Margie had some difficulty in getting the seams open and re-sewn without her grandmother noticing

Grandpa Way and his youngest son, Percy had opened a chicken hatchery in Strathmore In the spring of 1945, they sent out boxes of 100 baby chicks each to Alhambra and Strathmore. Some good people with the railroad must have taken special care of the wee birds along the way The chicks that arrived at Alhambra were hungry but in good condition. Raising them was another adventure. To keep them warm when they were tiny, a milk can with a card-board hood fitted over it, was kept filled with warm water Over 90 of the 100 chicks survived, and with all the personalized attention they received as they grew they were a very tame lot of chickens. Young Stuart found them to be special play mates. It was not uncommon to hear a hen squawking because he was steering it around the yard with a wing in each hand. They never learned to keep out of his reach and the odd one had to take up swimming in the water trough

Muriel Cooper came to Alhambra in 1943, just after she had completed high school. She had been born and raised in part of New York City She came to visit her great-uncle Lorenzo, and finally planned to stay through the summer and then return to the U S A. to enter nurses' training Her stay grew in length as she found the country living to her liking. Although she had never before had the opportunity to ride horseback, she greatly enjoyed the saddle horse Mr Cooper bought for her Watching Muriel learn to ride and handle "Blackie" was great fun. Life was quiet for her around her uncle's home so she made a habit of riding over to the Newman's on mail days and Sundays. Her smile and bubbly personality were always welcome Her plans to return to school changed when she met a local man, Charles (Josh) Sininger Eventually Josh followed Muriel back to New York where they were married in 1946. They returned for visits to Alhambra but finally settled into farming at Penn Yann, New York. They had one son, John.

When Chub came home from the Air Force, he was unsettled and not ready to go back to farming steadily He worked at various jobs in different areas and came back to help out at times, but did not take up permanent residence at the farm again. In his travels he acquired a faithful old 1929 Chev car which he left for Margie to use after one of his visits. He spent some of his time back at Vermilion and turned to chuck wagon racing with Buster,

Mrs. Newman sold the farm in 1946 to two families named Robinson and Dolphin. The wives were sisters. These people were to take possession in the fall but as they did not have another place to live, they moved in during the summer and used the upstairs portion of the house. The men made use of their time by building a new barn, one Margie wished had been there earlier

Mrs. Newman purchased another farm in the Condor district, a half section, formerly owned by the Begg family, situated just east of the Withrow corner on the south side of Highway 11 The land was more open and the outbuildings were more usable. Chub arrived to help with the move and to put in the crop in the spring. Settling into the Condor community was very easy as the family already had friends and acquaintances in the area. Chub's old car made getting around much easier until he at last took it to Vermilion with him, and where it too, gave up. Friends often shared rides and it was still convenient to catch the bus

During the summers at Condor, the ball teams were again the centre of social activity, as

dances were during the winters. There were only nine ladies in the district interested in playing ball in the summer of 1947, but they were indeed interested. There were no spares to draw on but the team never was short a player for a scheduled game. They also won their share of the games which were played against Rocky Mountain House, Alhambra and Eckville. Some of the ladies would on occasion delay milking their cows until after a game, but no one would let the team down.

This great team spirit carried into the fall when they decided to put on a dance to raise money to buy sweaters. The community hall had lacked the care of a cleaning committee for some time, a fact that was so noticable, attendance at local dances had dropped off because of the heavy dust raised by dancing. The ladies decided the hall must be cleaned before 'their' dance, and so, the whole group gathered, armed with cleaning equipment of all sorts to do the job. They stoked up the fire and kept boilers of water hot while they attacked in full force, starting with the windows and woodwork. Before they were through, they had put seven cans of paste wax into the freshly scrubbed hardwood floor. Polishing the floor was accomplished by pulling one another around on dry mops that were wrapped in rags. The hard work of the day went unnoticed because of the good fun and fellowship that went with it. The ladies advertised their clean hall with their dance posters and had a very successful fund raising.

In 1947, Queenie Ford came to teach at the Condor School. She was a very attractive young lady, a fact that didn't go unnoticed by Chub, who was home for part of the fall, or by Dick Davies, who stayed with Chub for a short time. Through their escorting Queenie to a dance and a show, with Marge riding along, Queenie and Marge became good friends. Later, when a Friday night outing lasted a little longer than was expected, Queenie often stayed overnight with Marge, so that the people she boarded with would not be concerned about the hours 'the teacher' was keeping. Queenie also became a welcome member for the ball team. Her many friends were sorry to see her leave the following June.

During the winter of 1947-48, the ladies' team again decided to raise funds. This time they added a play to their dance. Members of the men's team willingly agreed to help out. The result wasn't the greatest theatrical production ever presented but it was greatly enjoyed, by at least the cast, through the many hours they spent in preparing for it.

Stuart reached school age in 1948. His mother took him to the Condor school and thought he might be reluctant to stay alone. Instead, he felt quite at home, the ball diamond was situated in the school yard and the ladies had frequently played against the school team for practice, so young Stuart was well acquainted. He happily waved good-bye to his mother and it was she who was reluctant to leave alone.

During the summer of 1948, Mrs. Newman and Marge made the decision to move off the farm and into Red Deer. The farm was sold to a gentleman from Wetaskiwin named Pearson. It was with some great regrets that preparations were made to leave the community, although Marge was not unhappy to see the end of milking cows. Friends held a farewell party in the community hall. It was a sad moment in time for the family, when Hilja and Ellie Syren sang "Now is the Hour". The move back to Red Deer was made in November, 1948.

In 1953, Chub was married to Ruby Hartley, who had also lived in the Alhambra district although he had not known her at that time. They eventually settled into farming in the Rimbey district. They had two children, a son, Roger Allen, born February 22, 1954 and a daughter Karen Gail, born January 3, 1956. Roy Allan (Chub) Newman succumbed to the heart damage he suffered during the war, September 1958. He would have been 39 years old, September 30.

Mable Francis Newman passed away in Red Deer at 79 years of age. (January 23, 1893-April 6, 1972)

Albert John Newman lived in Vancouver, B.C. for many years before he passed away at 81 years. (October 25, 1890-November 19, 1971)

At this writing, Buster and Elsie Newman are living in the town of Wainwright. They still raise cattle on part of their original farm.

Margaret (Marge) Macdonald is still living in Red Deer and is employed with A.G.T. Her son Stuart is living in Calgary and is employed as a Sales Representative for Labatt's Brewery.

**OLSON, EDWIN AND MICKEY FAMILY**

My parents, Mr. John B. Olson and Martha Olson came west to Rockford, Washington, a small town near Spokane, from North Dakota about 1904. At that time there were two children, Alma born 1902, married Everett Foreman who, as a young boy, had lived in Leslieville. They have three children. She is a widow now, living at Redmond, Washington. Norman was born in 1903, Carl in 1905, and I, Edwin in 1907.

In the spring of 1910 we came to the

House on the J.B. Olson homestead in the Harrogate district built in 1910

homestead in the Horseguard district, SE 31-39 5-W5

On July 7, 1910, Angie was born, completing the family.

We all went to the Little Horseguard School for our early education. To complete their schooling, Alma, Carl, and Angie went back to the U.S.A. and made their homes there.

Carl and his wife, Hazel, had one daughter Angie and her husband, Chester Schillen, had three daughters. Angie died as a result of a car accident in 1966, Carl died in 1969.

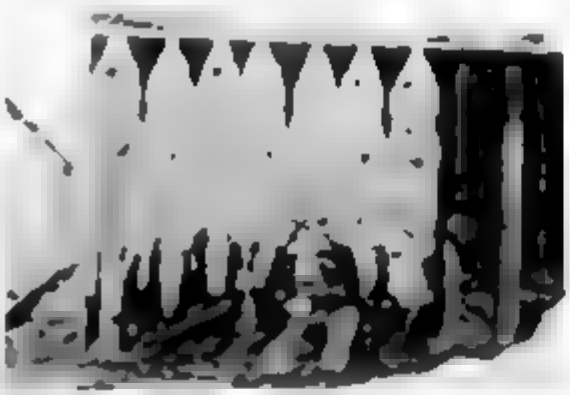
I spent from April, 1926 to November, 1931 at Toppenish, Washington. I came home to spend the winter with intentions of going back in the spring. In March, 1932, Dad passed away suddenly at the age of 66 years. Norman and I farmed together until 1946 when we dissolved the partnership. I bought two quarters of the Byram farm where I still live, E½-4-39-5-W5. Mother passed away in 1960 at the age of 88 years. Norman farmed the home place until he sold it in 1966. He lived in the Rocky Mountain House until his death in 1976.

During the years I spent in Washington I met Mildred (Mickey) Thompson. As I had decided to stay on the farm, she came up to Canada with my sister, Angie. I talked her into staying. On the 2nd day of October, 1932 we were married. At this time the Depression was really getting bad, the cheque for a five gallon can of cream was about $1.45. We managed to get together three or four cheques, took off on a honeymoon in an old "Puddle Jumper" Model T Ford that I had paid $15 for and brought up from the U.S.A. We stayed overnight in Red Deer, and came home the next day as that was all our finances would allow.

Phyllis was born in 1935. She is now Mrs. Alfred Bolzer. They have two daughters and two sons. They live in Calgary. Delores was born in 1937, and is now Mrs. Donald Armstrong. They have one daughter and one son. They live in Eckville. Our girls went to the Little Horseguard School until we moved to the Alhambra district in 1946.

In 1921 I walked the four miles from the homestead to the Alhambra school as there were not enough students to warrant a teacher for that term at the Little Horseguard School. The Depression years were very hard on everyone as all our hard work could not produce much money. We sold 2 100 pound hogs for $1.65 a hundred, oats for 9¢ a bushel, No. 1 timothy hay sold for $6 a ton, baled and loaded into a car at Alhambra, eggs sold at 5¢ a dozen. A yearling calf had very little value, so was kept until it was two or three years old.

In 1935 we sold six three-year old steers and three yearling calves. We got a cheque for $62.77 for the nine head! In those years all the cattle were kept in the barn through the winter, so we did a lot of shoveling for what money we got. Trapping a few coyotes each winter brought more clear profit at $5 and $6 each. They helped to pay the taxes more than once.



Coyotes trapped by Edwin Olson in 1937

**OLSON, RUNE**

Rune Olson was raised in Saskatchewan, where, in 1942, he joined the Armed Forces. Upon returning from overseas in 1946 he came to Eckville and purchased the Sodler farm, SW 5-39-3-W5 12 miles south on the Diamond Valley road. He brought his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Olson from the prairies the same year. His sister, Elvera, also came west and worked in Eckville for a time, Eckville being the closest town for doctors, hospital, mail route etc.

Later, Rune's parents started work at the Raven Trading Store where Rune met Doris, the youngest daughter of Noah Heare, on whose land the store was located. Doris, her two sisters and two brothers were raised in the Raven district. Their father used team and wagon in the early days to transport grain and hogs to Hespero. There he took the team to the livery barn for a feed and rest before starting on the long trip home.

In 1952 Rune and Doris were married and left shortly after for the oil fields around Devon, later moving to Drayton Valley, as the oil fields expanded. They went to the farm only to put in crops and harvest them.

In 1957, after being back on the farm a year, they sold it and moved to Red Deer. Here they got back into the oil patch. The two oldest children, Teresa, and Ronald, started and finished school in Red Deer.

After commuting back and forth in Willesongreen, Eckville and other oil fields, they decided in 1971 to move to Alhambra to the farm, NE 12-31-6-W5, they had purchased a year earlier from the Van Dammes'. Earlier residents were Mr. MacIntosh, Hartley's and Paisley's.

Here Mr. Olson kept on with his business and farm. The youngest Olson, Kerry, moved with his parents and started Grade 7 at David Thompson School, completing school in 1977 and is now employed in Red Deer. Teresa got married in 1972 and is now living in Vancouver. In 1973 Ronald came home to work with his father's business.

Since moving here, natural gas has moved into most rural and urban homes for heating, replacing propane, oil, wood and coal stoves and furnaces

As 1977 draws to an end a sour odor is in the air, coming from a gas well, out of control in the Lodgepole area. The low ceiling in the atmosphere is carrying the fumes many miles in every direction, as the wind changes They are hoping to get it capped by Christmas.

**THE PATTERSON FAMILY PRAIRIE ROSE**

The Patterson twins, Leonard and Frank, came out from England in the spring of 1907 They had attended Dr Fry's school in England and came to his farm east of Red Deer, to learn Canadian ways of farming. They did not stay there for very long, coming out west and filing on land there Eventually, the family came, Mr and Mrs. Leonard Patterson, Ralph, the girls Dollie (Annie) and Katie, and the young son, Leaman. They settled on young Leonard's land in the Prairie Rose district, where a very comfortable home awaited them. This home they called "Shendish", after the one they had left in Hertfordshire. Ralph's fiancee eventually came out from England and they settled on his land, two miles or so, south-west of "Shendish" Ralph and his wife, Emmie, were married in St Luke's Church, Red Deer By now, the boy farmed extensively for those days as Frank and his father filed on land in what is known as Alhambra district Mr Patterson's land eventually was sold to become part of the village district Mr Patterson, who had been in ill health for some time, died in the early part of 1914

World War I was to interfere seriously with the quiet family life of the Pattersons. Leonard joined up immediately. Later on, Leaman joined the second C.M.R.'s, in Red Deer Annie Patterson, who had been teaching in Red Deer married Sergeant Frank Holt of the second C.M.R.'s. Leaman was killed in action, June 2, 1916. Sometime later on, Frank Holt was also killed in action By this time, Leonard had been twice wounded, and after being hospitalized for a considerable time in the south of England, was returned to Alberta. Frank had joined the 211th battalion and left for overseas December 1916. With some others of the 211th, he was transferred to the 8th C.R.T., and when the war was over returned to Canada the spring of 1919

During their later years, the eldest son, Ralph, and his wife Emmie, enjoyed living in Kaslo, B.C. Ralph and his wife are both buried there. Leonard who stayed with his sister, Mrs Holt, during the last illness, is buried in Red Deer Cemetery. Frank, who had married Elizabeth Meston, September 1916, on his return overseas service, resumed farming in the Alhambra district They moved to Rocky Mountain House, where Frank became Justic of the Peace and later, Magistrate for a number of years. They had the pleasure of celebrating their Golden Wedding, September 1966, with their family and friends. The last of the Patterson boys, Frank died February 4, 1968, and was buried in Pinegrove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House

Ralph and Emmie Patterson had four children, Len is retired from the R.C.M.P. and lives in Regina, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters. Helen married and lives with her husband Stuart Dick, in Lacadema, Saskatchewan After a long illness, Helen died about three years ago Alec and his wife, Florence, still live on their ranch, at Clareshom, and he says he is semi-retired. They have a son and daughter, Ralph and Pat. The youngest of this family, Jane, was from some years, a nurse in the General Hospital, Vancouver, B.C., and married Charles LaCrue. They have one daughter, Anita

Katie Patterson who taught for many years married Henry Ludwig. After retiring from teaching at Medicine Hat, they moved to Victoria, B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig have both passed away. Mrs. Annie Holt is the sole survivor of the family The Frank Patterson's had a son and daughter, Leaman and Frances Leaman became a prisoner of war, after Dieppe in World War II. Shortly after returning to Canada he married Joyce Ambler, of Cochrane They have four children James, after extensive travelling, has returned to Canada. Dale is in the Navy Theresa (Terry) is married with two children and Grant is a photographer on the Campbell River, B.C. "Courier" Frances M. Patterson married Wesley J. Teskey, and they have five children. Four of them are grown-up and teaching The youngest, Christine, is still in high school. Grandmother, Mrs Frank Patterson, still quite active, lives in Rocky Mountain House, enjoying friends and very often, the company of grandchildren and great-grandchildren

**MEMORIES OF EARLY DAYS — by Mrs. Frank Patterson**

It might be interesting to some to remember what teaching was like in the early days in Alberta. The province was young, many people with young families were filing on land So rural schools were built and teachers were in demand My first school was a log schoolhouse in the Beaver Flat District. This was in 1912. The pupils were children of people who had moved from the United States and Britain. After finishing at Calgary Normal, I began teaching at Beaver Flat School in the spring of 1912, the secretary being Ted Frodeen and the chairman, Oscar Litchfield. There were five Sims children, three Marshall children, and the three Gaffney children. The Turton children were also pupils as was Effie Washburn, also Cissy Rodgers and Agnes McFaul.

The three R's were stressed. We put in full hours of study with a morning and afternoon

recess and a noon hour where we had lunch in school or out-of-doors if weather permitted. In this group, we had some good singers and all enjoyed Phys. Ed., sometimes taken out-of-doors. We were fortunate in having a well on the grounds and the cloak-room was at the entrance, the boys having one side, the girls the other. Some of the children rode horseback. Most of them walked, sometimes barefoot, because Beaver Flat roads in those days were occasionally under water. I preferred to walk the distance from my parents' home to school, a distance of about two-and-a half miles, and I cut through a few fences, crawling under, through, or over whichever was easiest. As in all the beginning schools, we certainly could have used more library books. As the years went on, I know this was remedied. The salary for teachers, those bygone days, was generally $50 per month.

Later, teaching at Bingley School, I remember Ethel and Jim Stewart, Frank Larsgard, Joe, Mabel and Norris Mannix, Lempi Lake, Mary Mikkela and Wenni Kohtala, also Jesse Nielson. J. W. Christian was secretary and Sigurd Sande was chairman. Kindly J. F. Boyce was then our Inspector of Schools. He would arrive by buggy and team and had the pleasant knack of putting pupils and teachers entirely at ease. At Gaetz School we had some big boys and girls, so to brighten things, we all took part in clearing away quack grass along the front fence, facing the main road. Spades and rakes were brought from home. This project was worked on after lunch each day. Somehow or other, we acquired many packages of flower seeds. The results were certainly gratifying. Our Inspector came out to visit the pupils, admired the lovely floral border and returned soon after to take a photograph, which was published in the A.T.A. magazine. Needless to say, the pupils felt amply rewarded. This would be around 1915. By this time, we had fairly good roads but in rain they were muddy. So I bought "Prairie Belle" boots to get back and forth to go to school. They were advertised in Eaton's catalogue. In this school were children of families that came from Germany, Austria and Norway — quite an interesting challenge here to teach English.

World War I years saw quite a few of the young men enlisting. In the Beaver Flat area young Oscar Litchfield, Paul Frodeen, Claud Sims and Billy Rodgers went Overseas. Oscar Litchfield was sent home and died in Red Deer General Hospital. Billy Rodgers was killed in action. Claud Sims, severely wounded, remained in hospital for many months and Paul Frodeen was killed in action a few hours before the signing of the Armistice. Alec Green, son of Mrs. Bert Hilbert, was one who returned safely to Alberta. He married one of my Beaver Flat pupils, Mamie Sims. George Meston was also one of the fortunate ones who returned home safely. He married Violet Innes and later, opened the store at Codner.

**PRENTICE AND COWAN FAMILIES — by L. A. Prentice**

After living in the Sylvan Lake district for years I took my family to Manitoba for 13 years where I worked for the Manitoba Paper Co. of Pine Falls, manufacturers of newsprint paper. Our last child, Shirley Elizabeth, was born there early in 1946. We already had five born back here in Alberta.

The tug to home overcame the two oldest children and Milton, our first born, and his sister, Thelma, returned to the home place of Thelma's new husband, a quarter section along Highway 11 half-way between the Condor corner and the Alhambra corner. Milton and Chester Miller ran a small sawmill cutting lumber for various people of the district, and farmed the few cultivated acres on the farm. Thelma's husband, Chester, bought Mr. Bennet's farm on the creek two miles north. With its buildings on the north shore, the Miller's decided to trade in Lesliеville.

Milton went to Sylvan Lake meantime, and he died suddenly there in 1958 on Good Friday. After the funeral the rest of the family wished to be back in Alberta so, during summer holidays of the year '58, we returned to live in Lesliеville where I had bought a house from Walter Bunch, Ray Bunch's nephew. Later Mrs. Prentice and I took over Allan Scott's butcher shop and our daughter Shirley started attending the David Thompson High School located on Highway 11 and the four Cowan children, our three grandsons and one granddaughter went to Lesliеville Elementary School.

Mrs. Sande of Alhambra was one of our daughter's teachers at David Thompson High.

After Mrs. Prentice's passing, at Christmas time in 1963, I became involved in a farming venture with Earl Miller until his passing in January of 1967. At that time I went to Caroline to work. My daughter, May, and her daughter, Dorothy, stayed on at the farm located one mile north and one mile east of Alhambra and Dorothy went to David Thompson High School.

Now May is in Taber, and Dorothy is going to the Red Deer College and the youngest Cowan boy, Ronald, is operating the farm.

**THE FRANK SCOTT FAMILY—by Joyce Lemke**

Mrs. Agnes Annie Scott (daughter of Allan and Eleanor Kirkham, nee Pierce) was born December 13, 1882 at 130 Elliot Str., Preston, Lancaster, England. She had two sisters, Mrs. Margaret Crossley, who died September 8, 1965, of Banff, and Mrs. Ethel Clitheroe, now 86, living at White Rock, B.C., both born in England.

The Kirkham family in England ran a general store and meat market as Mr. Allan Kirkham was a butcher by trade.

Miss Agnes Annie Kirkham married Frank Scott who was born in 1882 in Preston, Lancaster England, on October 30, 1905. Frank Scott was also a butcher by trade in England. Frank had

two brothers, William Scott of Calgary, now deceased, and Mark Scott of Indiana, both of whom were born in England.

Mr and Mrs. Frank Scott had three children, Marion Scott, baptised September 18, 1908, Margaret Scott, born April 17, 1910, and Allan Scott, born January 3, 1914. Marion lived only until age seven. Margaret Scott married Tom Stelfox on November 5, 1946, and had one son, Tom, born in 1949. Margaret passed away in 1967, age 57.

Allan Scott married Margaret (Peggy) Stelfox of Rocky Mountain House in 1940, to whom three children were born: Joyce, August 27, 1941, Margaret, October 3, 1944, and Brent, June 12, 1957. Joyce married Hugo Lemke in 1961 and to this union three children were born. Linda, Brian, and Teresa.

Frank Scott Family. L. to R. Allan, unknown, Margaret, Frank Scott, Mrs. Frank Scott, the last two are unknown. Alhambra Farm, 1928

In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott came to Manitou, Manitoba and then moved to Calgary for a short while, before another move to Innisfail. Their daughter, Margaret, attended school at Innisfail, where the family lived for nearly 10 years.

In 1924 Mr. and Mrs. F. Scott bought a farm at Alhambra: N.E. 7-39-5-W.5 from Andy Lenon, a bachelor, who homesteaded the land. Mr. F. Scott farmed this land and carried on a butchering trade too, with which the entire family helped. His son, Allan, was taught the skills of butchering by his father, Frank, who had been well trained in England. Margaret worked for Sam Emmerson who had a general store in Alhambra. She took over the post office after Mrs. McGrath and she held that position for many years. Her good sense of humor and happy smile will long be remembered.

In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. F. Scott sold their farm to Allan and moved to the coast. Margaret also moved to the coast where she married Tom Stelfox. They ran a general store in Vancouver for several years. Frank Scott passed away in 1945 as a result of a heart attack.

His grand-daughter, Joyce, will always remember the time on the Alhambra farm, when she had left her rag doll on the kitchen table. During the short while she was in the other room Grampa (Frank) Scott applied mustard to the seat of the doll's "undies". On her return, Joyce was dismayed when he asked her why she didn't change her doll's diapers more often!

Mr. and Mrs. F. Scott had purchased their first team of horses from Henry Stelfox of Rocky Mountain House in 1924. They were heavy English work horses known as Shires. Mrs. Scott was very capable of handling and driving the horses, as she had done it in England. Their first tractor was a 1530 McCormick Deering. Allan purchased his first truck, a Model A Ford Pick Up, in 1935.

Mrs. Frank Scott was always known for her lovely chickens. In fact, if visitors came and she wasn't in the house, Frank would advise them to go and look in the chicken house! It used to annoy Frank when she would feed his good seed wheat to the chickens!

Sundays were special days on the Scott farm, as friends and neighbors would drop in to play cards or sing songs. Frank, Allan and Margaret were all musical. Frank and Allan played violin and guitar for community dances.

Allan and Margaret attended school in Alhambra in the early 1920's. Two of their teachers were Temple Crawford and J.H. Hicks. They rode two miles to school on horseback whenever the weather wasn't too miserable. When Peggy and Allan lived on the Scott farm in the late 1940's, Joyce walked the two miles to school.

Around 1950, Peggy and Allan sold the Alhambra farm and built a meat market in Leslieville. Allan did a lot of custom curing and was a skilled meat cutter. The entire family helped with the business, and Joyce and Margaret finished their schooling in Leslieville and David Thompson High School. Allan had the meat business for about twelve years, then decided to return to farming one section of land which he owned northeast of Rocky Mountain House. He and Peggy built a new house on this farm (the old Hall place) and lived there a few years, then Allan sold and moved to another farm he had purchased—eight quarters in all—about twenty miles northeast of Rocky. Allan lived on and farmed that land until his passing on November 21, 1977, age 63, of cancer. His mother, Mrs. Agnes Annie Scott had lived with him on this farm for two years prior to being in a nursing home in Ponoka for two years before her passing on April 8, 1974, age 91.

Allan's passing brings a sad end to the Scott family story, but the memories of these four wonderful people—Mr. Frank Scott, Mrs. Agnes Annie Scott, Margaret and Allan, will bring smiles to the faces of those who knew them for many years to come. They were all kind, humorous, good-natured, hard working folk.

**THE SININGER FAMILY—by Evelyn MacDonald**

The Sininger family came to Canada in 1912, first to Bassano, then Midnapore, Calgary, Wilkie, Saskatchewan, and finally settled in the Horseguard district in April, 1918. We walked three and one-half miles to school which took us about one hour. We didn't mind, really, as we always met the von Hollen's and others along the road and it was good company. In the winter our lunches froze, but no problem we'd put our pails under the wood stove and by noon they'd be thawed again which was a real fun time.

My dad (Agustus or Gus as he was called) and the other neighbors worked out part of their taxes by building the roads which were over a lot of muskeg. There were five in our family, Florence, Violet, myself (Evelyn), John (Si), and Charles (Josh), the latter two born in 1918 (December) and 1924. I was so glad the war was over so they wouldn't have to join up but they were both overseas in the second World War.

In the winter the men hauled posts and firewood to Alhambra which Charlie Raine and Sam Emmerson bought to give credit for groceries.

At that time Alhambra was quite a thriving little place. On the east side of the street was Charlie Raine's store with the dance hall above, Joe Sullivan's pool hall and barber shop (which later moved across the street where Ray Harris' live now), the Addy Hotel (on the lot where Chapman's now live) then a dry goods store, next a house where the elevator man and his family lived and a big house on top of the hill which was Charlie Raine's. On the south street was Sam Emmerson's store which had the post office and long distance telephone (later the telephone exchange), Mr. Lessing's drug store and Roy Addy's store. Across the street were the blacksmith shop built by Tim Kirby and a big warehouse that was Sam Dickson's store and later Henry von Hollen's. On the west side was a restaurant and my dad's harness shop.

Chief MacDonald and my dad were on the school board, the teachers got only about $100. a month and at times there wasn't enough money in the treasury for that.

New Year's night was a real highlight at the Chief's, with all the food, the Chief playing the bagpipes and we doing the Scottish dances that they taught us. Another highlight was the 1st of July picnic in Alhambra and the Christmas concert in our school.

Then there were the wet years when one couldn't get the grain off the fields as the binder and horses would bog down. Somehow we came through.

Then came the hungry 30's and the war. I bought a small house in Alhambra for $325. at $25. a month and nothing down. I married Jock MacDonald in 1937 and our son, Richard, was born in 1943. Jock went overseas and came back in 1945. In 1947 we bought the old Sam Emmerson store, then built a store just out of Rocky Mountain House in 1956, and sold it in 1965.

Richard married Jeannie Steenson in 1965. They now have two boys and live in Red Deer.

**THE ROBERT SMITH FAMILY**

Robert (Bert) Smith came to the Alhambra district with his parents in 1912 at the age of 10.

His parents, Robert and Barbara (nee Davidson) had farmed for many years in Scotland before bringing their family of seven to Canada. Robert Sr. had been known there as "Rabbit Robbie" because of the many rabbits he trapped and sold. His wife was referred to as "Butter Babbie" as she made and sold butter. The Smiths homesteaded the SE 34-38-5-W5 and in 1916 bought the SW 9-39-5-W5 next to the hamlet of Alhambra from Frank Hall. They built a new home there and moved into it in 1919. True pioneers, they were popular in the community. Mrs. Smith had been a midwife in Scotland and continued her work here, delivering many babies. There were many happy memories of days when large crowds gathered at the Smith home to celebrate Burns' Day and dance to the wee hours of the morning. Mrs. Smith died in 1947 at the age of 79 and her husband in 1955 at the age of 97.

Of their children, Charles, the oldest, married Lillian Blair of Condor. He was an engineer and worked in mines and mills in various places.

James was in the police force for many years and was a magistrate in Red Deer before his death in 1954. He had married Isobel Thackeray, a school teacher at Alhambra.

George operated the garage at Lesliеville for a number of years before moving to the oil fields in southern Alberta and then to Peachland, B.C. His wife is Mary Spackman of Okotoks.

William married a Lesliеville girl, Francis Hammond and lived and taught school in Red Deer for many years. Now retired from teaching, he lives at Three Hills.

Threshing crew and cooks at the R. Smith farm, 1941. Back row: Barbara Smith, Edith Kerr, Murray Patton, John Larson, Dave Welsh, Carl von Hollen, unknown, Frank Wilson. Front row: Robert Smith Sr., John Malheur, Robert Smith Jr., Henry Land.

Barbara, who married Harry Simmons, is now widowed and living with a daughter at St Albert

Jessie and her husband, John Leslie, now both deceased, farmed at Leslieville. They had five children, Ed, Flora, Jack, Bill and Leonard Leonard and his wife, the former Jenny Kanfusis of Condor, now live on the family farm with their five children

Robert (Bert) was the son who took over the Smith farm on the retirement of his parents. He continued to live in the Alhambra district and work hard for the community until his passing on Oct. 5, 1977. In 1940 he married Mabel Wilson of Alhambra and they had two children who still live in the Alhambra district. Their son, Franklin, married Marlene Howes in 1973 and they have two sons, Ryan and Logan. Daughter Heather, in 1964, married George Loomer and they have three sons, Derek, Roger, and Trevor

Along with the others in the area, Franklin and Heather took their schooling at Alhambra and were among the first students to attend David Thompson High School. This school brought together students from a very large area, and needless to say, had caused much dissention in the area. First there were arguments for and against centralization. Then there were arguments as to where a centralized high school should be built as schools then existed at Leslieville, Condor, and Alhambra. The problem was resolved by placing it between all three areas, along Highway 11. Classes started in the fall of 1957 with a lot of very thrilled students attending

Following school, Franklin took up farming, taking over part of his father s farm. Heather attended the University of Alberta and returned to the area as a teacher in 1961, teaching first in Rocky Mountain House and later at David Thompson High School and at Condor

**THE JAMES WILSON FAMILY**

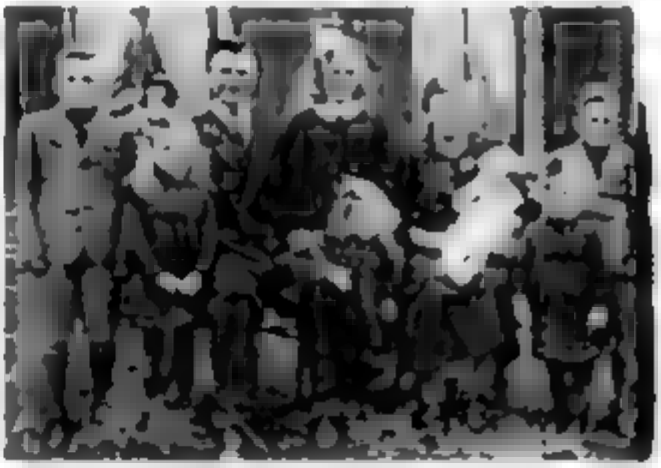
James and Alice Wilson (nee Ewan) left Scotland in 1924 with their nine children They arrived in Canada and settled in southern Alberta around the Picture Butte area where they farmed for 10 years before moving north to the Alhambra district. A 10th child had been added to the family by then. Mr Wilson passed away in 1935, shortly after they had moved to the area. The farm was carried on by Mrs. Wilson and sons Ed and Frank until they moved to Stettler in the fifties.

Frank by then was married to Shirley Mortimer of Rocky and Ed had brought over an English bride, Alison Winton. Son Jim also farmed in the area until he sold his farm to Wm. Palm. (It is now occupied by H Nicolay ) One of the eldest daughters, Alice, married Charles Frasier and they lived in Alhambra for a number of years They built the garage in the hamlet Mabel married Robert Smith and is the only one of the family still residing in the district. The youngest daughter, Ella, married Alex Polilit also of Alhambra. These members of the family, along with Bill, Annie, Violet, and Clara are scattered throughout B.C. and Alberta Mrs. Wilson passed away in 1973

**THE STOLTE HERMAN FAMILY**

The Stolte family comes from Overijse. Netherlands Following the hardships of the Second World War there was great uncertainty about the economic situation in Europe and a massive emigration began. As an agent for Canadian Pacific, Herman Stolte came into contact with many immigrants and so in May, 1951 he followed the trend and came to Canada with his wife and seven little children

Nine days by boat, four days by train and the Stolte family arrived in Lacombe where two brothers who had emigrated before World War II, awaited them. These brothers had purchased a farm for Herman Stolte from John H. Jones at S W 6-39-5-5 but, having bought it in the winter, they didn't know what the land was really like Herman Stolte was greeted by the expected bush, surprised by the swamp and welcomed by a house and a few outbuildings



The Stolte Family just before emigration. Back row: Albert Herman Stolte, Jenny, Aaltje Stolte, Armel. Front row: Riky, Bertha, Herman, Gertie

The first few years, (very wet) were spent draining swamp and clearing land Herman was very appreciative of the warm reception by his new neighbours and the advice of Havelock Sloan on how to farm "a la Canadienne." The English he had learned in Holland was soon augmented by interaction with his neighbours and children who began attending Alhambra school The children started school dressed in Dutch shorts and long socks but they were well accepted and soon learned the language and new dress code. In September the boys returned to school in long pants

At this time (1951 53) travel was difficult due to construction on Number 11 Highway west to

Rocky Mountain House. The children often had to bring back groceries and mail from Alhambra by bus on their way home from school. The family also remembers long trips to Rocky when a now ten mile trip to church could involve driving through Leslieville. Along with other families in similar straits, they took lunch with them and met socially between services. Mrs. Stolte still remembers the hot chocolate and stacks of sandwiches she prepared each Sunday morning

After the first four years, the hardest adjustment and work was over and the family could enjoy a new Canadian-born son, Allan. The farm continued to prosper and eventually launched the eight children into the world on their own

Jenny studied a year at the University of Alberta and then taught in Lacombe. She soon moved to Ontario where, in 1965, she married Harry Van Belle, now a psychologist in the Fraser Valley

Albert was the only one to continue farming After working with his father, in 1973 he bought his own farm two miles west of the home place and married Leona Vander Woude

Arend graduated from the U of A and began teaching in Edmonton. He married Geraldine Nyland, a teacher in the same school, in 1968

Riky studied briefly at the U of A and then went to work in a material store in Ontario. En route she met a Canadian soldier, Cliff Goebel, whom she married in 1967

Gertie graduated form Royal Alexandra School of Nursing in Edmonton and worked there till she met and married David George in 1968. He is now an air traffic controller in Grande Prairie.

Bertha graduated from Calvin College in Michigan and then taught in Edmonton where she met and married Bert Van Essen, a framing carpenter, in 1972.

Herman also graduated from Calvin College and taught briefly in Edmonton He married Grace Hoekstra in 1976.

Allan went from his father's farm to work at Van's Sausage Company in Edmonton

As of 1977, the Stolte's have 14 grandchildren

**SUNDE, THE KNUT AND ALMA FAMILY**

Alma Louise Sunde, the second daughter of Astrid and Sigurd Sande was born October 15, 1913, on the homestead. When she was four years old the family moved to the farm one-half mile south She took Grades I through 8 at the Beaver Flat school. In order to continue her education she went to Bingley, Leslieville, and Red Deer where she graduated in 1933. After her one-year teacher training, 1933-1934, she applied for several teaching positions advertised throughout the province. Four of her applications were accepted and she had to make up her mind where she wanted to teach. She decided to teach in the Alhambra School District No. 2930. After marrying Knut Olav Sunde, December 27, 1940, she resigned the following June and they lived in Alhambra

Knut was born in Olden, Nordfjord, Norway, September 29, 1910, on a farm a few miles from the Briksdal Glacier He attended the school in the district and helped with the farm work, which included milking several goats. He helped to build the last part of the mountain trail to the Glacier

In March, 1929 he immigrated to Alberta and worked on farms in the Duchess area in the summers and in the timber area west of Rocky Mountain House in the winters. At Calders' tie camp at Horborg, he hacked ties for 15¢ each, the following winter at Jack Allen's camp, he hacked ties for 7¢ each. The Depression had hit! He also hacked ties at Edson While in this area, he and a friend designed and built a motor boat, the "Viking", intending to travel to Yellowknife via the McLeod River and the Athabaska River After reaching Chisholm, they abandoned the "Viking" with its broken propellor. Knut went to work building and repairing elevators in Alberta and British Columbia.

At the outbreak of World War Two he did carpenter work at the Currie Barracks, Calgary and then built hangars at the Penhold Training Base. After he married Alma, he worked at the Army Camp in Red Deer In the winters he loaded ties at Rocky Mountain House, Ferrier Horborg, Phoenix, Lamoral, and Saunders.

In 1942 they purchased the S W¼ and the ½ of N W ¼-8-39-5-W5 from Hudson Bay and this land had to be cleared before any farming could be done

Knut and Alma have one son and three daughters.

Allan James married Wanda Lynn Gordon. They have two daughters.

Sonja Arlene married Kenneth Robert Tweit They have one daughter and one son

Audrey Kathleen married Elmer Harold Brattberg.

Carol Louise married Arthur Leonard Jobs They have one daughter and twin sons

Their first child, Allan James, was born March 19, 1942, at Rocky Mountain House. The following September, Alma returned to teaching at the Alhambra school for five years. Svanhild, her sister, worked for her, looking after Allan, Sonja Arlene, (born August 12, 1943), and Audrey Kathleen, (born August 12, 1946) Both Sonja and Audrey were born in Rocky Mountain House. During this time, Knut operated his own tie camp, prop camp, cleared his land, and did general trucking. Then in 1947, he got work in Nordegg, trucking and doing carpenter work at the mine. The following year the family moved to Nordegg but they lived there for less than a year Their third daughter, Carol Louise, was born July 21, 1949. in Rocky Mountain House

Knut continued working out doing carpenter work and trucking on various jobs as well as farming The Sunde family was very interested

Knut and Alma Sunde family Mother's Day 1977 Back row Devon, Art, Deanna, Carol, and Dean Jobe, Elmer and Audrey Stratburg Andrina and Ken Twist, Wanda and Allan Sunde, Knut Sunde Front row Robbie and Sonja Twist Lori and Teri Sunde, Alma Sunde

in the Rocky Mountain 4-H Beef Club. The four children took an active part in it and Knut was one of the directors for a while In 1953, Alma resumed teaching at Alhambra for two years, then at Rocky Mountain House

One of the highlights of 1957 was the family's four-month trip to Norway to visit relatives Knut and Alma spent holidays in Norway again in 1970 and in 1975

Alma resumed her teaching career in 1958 this time at the new David Thompson High To further her teacher training she took summer school courses at U of A. and attended evening classes held in Red Deer When she received her B.Ed. degree in 1969 she was a grandmother' She taught at David Thompson for more than 16 years and retired in June, 1974

Knut's Centennial project was to commemorate the Voyageurs' Canoe Trip from Rocky Mountain House to Montreal. He and Mr J B Killick trucked a large rock, with a bronze plaque suitably inscribed, from here to a site on the Expo grounds, Montreal. Eleven more plaques were placed around the base of this rock

Albera Centennial Rock ready for trip to Montreal

The Rock on its permanent base beside Voyageur Lake, Montreal. L. to R. The Sunde's the Killick's and Bud Salem Centennial Co-ordinator for Alberta

one plaque for each of the ten teams inscribed with the names of the paddlers, and another plaque for the Canadian Army.

For a few years, Knut and Allan operated the farm together, as well as working out. In 1971, Knut left the farming and carpentry businesses and set up an aluminum awning shop in Kelowna, B.C. Alma joined him after retiring from teaching but a year ago they moved back to their home in Alhambra where they presently reside. Again, Knut has taken up carpentry and has worked on different construction jobs.

Knut enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, skiing, and skating. His hobbies include working on the lathe and gardening. Alma's interests include needlecraft, reading, and travelling.

**SUNDE, ALLAN AND WANDA FAMILY**

Allan James is the first child of Knut and Alma Sunde. He attended school in Nordegg, Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House, and David Thompson High where he graduated.

Allan's keen interest in animals led to his active membership in the Rocky Mountain House 4-H Beef Club which continued throughout his school years. When he first joined the Club he was one of the youngest members. His enthusiastic participation won him trophies and prizes several times, including reserve and grand championships of the Club. Later, he was the club leader for a few years.

After graduating from high school, he attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology where he studied Petroleum Technology. He worked on oil rigs in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and British Columbia. Before he decided to farm the "home place", he spent a year at the U. of A., Edmonton, enrolled in the faculty of education.

In 1968, Allan married Wanda Lynn Gordon of Bentley, Alberta. Wanda has her B.Ed. from the U. of A., Edmonton, and has taught mathematics in schools at Grouard, Rocky Mountain House, and David Thompson High.

They have two daughters, Theresa (Teri) Lee born January 23, 1969, and Lori Rae born December 29, 19[illegible].

Besides all the work involved in their "cow calf" operation on their farm, Wanda finds time to do some substitute teaching and Allan is again a leader of the Rocky Mountain House 4-H Beef Club. Both of them are actively involved in the Alhambra Community Centre, and have served in a number of executive pos[illegible]ns.

**TWEIT, KEN AND SONJA FAMILY**

Muddy roads in August set the stage for the birth of Sonja Arlene Sunde. While Knut was attempting to navigate through the mud to the Rocky Mountain House General Hospital, Alma calmly" brought forth their first daughter. With such an auspicious beginning, Knut decided that she should take the name of a contemporary celebrity Sonja Henie, the Norwegian figure skater.

Sonja attended school in Alhambra from Grades 1 through 7. Among her fondest recollections of this time was bob-sledding down Grandma and Grandpa Sande's hill at Beaver Flat. Before road construction altered the landscape she, her brother Allan, and her three cousins David, Agnes, and Harold Sande would carom wildly down the mile-long hill. Another memory she recalls is Grandpa Sande's raspberry patch of wide renown. Grandpa Sande personally instructed each grandchild in the fine arts of raspberry picking. Memories of freshly baked bread and pungent coffee aromata emanating from Grandma Sande's kitchen still create feelings of home and comfort to Sonja.

Grandpa Sande was an avid fan of 4-H Beef clubs. Each year Sonja would buy her calf from his Hereford herd, and was quite often successful in winning the grand championship of the club.

In 1955, Sonja attended school in Rocky Mountain House for two years where she completed Grades 8 and 9.

In 1957, the family visited in Norway and upon their return, Sonja entered school at David Thompson High to finish Grades 10 through 12. School was made more pleasurable since the David Thompson High School was newly opened. Grandpa Sande was a prime instigator of the construction of this new school, and he was duly honored at its opening ceremonies.

Sonja, her brother Allan and sister Audrey would indulge their Grandpa Sande in one of his favorite pastimes, playing "Smear". Sonja and her other sister, Carol, enjoyed riding their horses. They would make frequent journeys to their Uncle Bud and Auntie Svanhild's farm three miles away. Auntie Svanhild became so accustomed to these early morning excursions that she inevitably set a couple of extra plates at the breakfast table.

Sonja left to attend the U. of A., Edmonton where she completed her B.Sc. in Household Economics and her B.Ed. degree. In 1966, she accepted her first teaching position at Grouard, Alberta. Her future sister-in-law, Wanda Gordon whom she met while attending University, also taught in Grouard that year.

The next year, Sonja moved to Lacombe to organize and instruct the Home Economics program in the Lacombe Composite High School. In 1970, she became engaged to a fellow teacher, Ken Tweit, whom she married on July 10, 1971. They purchased a farm five miles west of Lacombe where they still reside. On January 4, 1974, Andrina Kathleen was born to them, and one year later Robert Kenneth arrived on February 17, 1975.

Sonja is presently teaching half-time at the Lacombe Junior High School, and Ken is still teaching Business Education at the Lacombe Composite High School.

They both enjoy golf in the summer, and curl

ing in the winter. Combined with these activities, teaching and operating their farm, they remain quite busy.

Ken was raised in Stettler, Alberta where his parents, Barney and Frieda Tweit, owned a farm. They are retired from farming and spend their winters in Phoenix, Arizona.

**ARELIN VON HOLLEN FAMILY**

Arelin was born July 26, 1942 at Butte, Alberta and is the oldest son of Ted and Lillian Von Hollen. When he was approximately three and a half years old the family moved to their present location on number eleven highway-Leslieville corner. He has five brothers and one sister.

At age nineteen Arelin bought the former Carl Lachmund quarter and has lived there since. In the spring of 1962 he married Fay Knopp. Fay was born at Hartline, Washington, U.S.A., May 10, 1943, and moved with her family to the Condor district in the fall of 1961 where they settled on the Walter Sheppard quarter. Fay's parents Marvin and Tootsie Knopp have nine children, five girls and four boys.

Arelin and Fay have four children, two boys and two girls; Arlene is fourteen, Kleve thirteen, Jesse eleven, Darren seven and all are still at home. Each child has a special skill or ability that makes him unique as is the way with children the world over.

The family lived in a 12 x 48 house composed of three granaries hooked end to end until the spring of 1972, when they moved part of the old Rocky Mountain House Hospital onto their farm. They are still in the process of renovating and improving their home.

Arelin enjoys curling and pitching horseshoes. Fay's hobbies include gardening, planting trees and rock hounding. The family enjoys fishing trips, swimming outings, and visiting other family groups.

They farm in a very small way and Arelin works out at outside jobs periodically. They enjoy a very simple but satisfying way of life.

**von HOLLEN, FRED AND LILY — by Margaret Cochrane**

Fred and Herman von Hollen came from homesteading in Landa, North Dakota to homestead in the Horseguard district in 1909, followed by Fred's wife, Lily, and two children, Margaret and Sophie a few months later. Fred and Herman shipped two carloads of machinery, furniture, cattle and horses.

When they left Landa they drove 20 miles to Portal, where their belongings were inspected before being loaded on the railway cars. Upon arriving at Red Deer they loaded the hay rack with their household effects and equipment in the way they had loaded it at Landa. But the impassable road from Red Deer west necessitated unloading things at seven different places along the way before they finally arrived at the homestead. While all the necessary belongings were in transport, Lily and two girls lived with Karl von Hollen in North Dakota until word arrived for them to come. Fred and Herman lived in a tent while erecting the log house on the homestead. Fred and Herman's mother came too, but she did not stay very long. The very first spring on the homestead a garden was planted and produced very well. The hand-dug well was cribbed with sawed planks and 16 feet deep. It was used as a cooler for the cream cans, as it took a few days to fill the cream can since they did not have many cows. Lily made butter in a big wooden barrel churn and it was taken and sold in Red Deer whenever a trip was necessary to get supplies, which wasn't very often as the trip took three days. When the railway came through in 1914, Lily asked W. E. Lord of Red Deer, if he would buy butter for hats, for the ladies in the family. Mr. Lord consented and so Lily printed butter which was duly shipped to him and in exchange the hats came.

New family members were added, Annie, Eugene (Gene), Herman, Lily, August (Gusty), Hilda, Willa and Lorna (twins), Lorna deceased and Anthony (Tony). Mrs. Anna (Grandma) Lund attended at the birth of eight of these children. When Fred made the trips to Red Deer for supplies, Lily couldn't stay alone all these three days with two small girls, and do the chores, looking after pigs, chickens, and milk four cows. Her first helper was Ethel (von Hollen) Walsh, only seven years old, but Lily said she was a wonderful helper. But Ethel was needed at her home so Lily's sister, Elizabeth Lachmund, came from Germany in 1910 to help Fred and Lily. Elizabeth married Herman von Hollen. Other helpers at this time were the Morgeau girls. In 1912 Lily's sister, Sophie Oppel, with her two boys, came from Germany and she stayed and helped Lily for over a year. Later, she homesteaded in the district.

As there was no school, not even a school district, the downstairs of the George Walsh house was used as the first classroom for a few months. The teacher was Chester Plank who came from Nova Scotia, and when he went back there for Christmas he died of a heart attack. Then there was no school until the Little Horseguard School was built and opened in 1912 with Hiram Hicks as the first teacher. The first teachers only taught there as long as the taxpayers' finances permitted which often meant that there was only school for a few months of the year. In 1925, Alma Clark was the first teacher that got enough wages to be able to pay her board and room out of it. Before that time the teachers got a set sum of money plus room and board.

In 1923 the family did the janitor work at the school. The pay was $5 per month in summer and $7 in winter — the $2 extra was for lighting the fires early and carrying in the wood. The old wash basin was accompanied by two or three towels a week which the janitor had to wash. The school was thoroughly scrubbed twice a year and the floor thoroughly oiled to keep down dust.

At that time Grade 8 wrote Departmental Examinations and the teacher, Violet Jenson, from Innisfail gave extra tutoring during noon hours and after school

There was no shortage of food as they had a big garden and the vegetables were wintered in a good root cellar until the new house was built in 1917. Lily and the girls canned many jars of wild fruit such as raspberries, blueberries, saskatoons and also different vegetables. Saurkraut was a "must" so it was made every fall and then canned. Rabbits were plentiful and in season so were prairie chickens and partridges, which added meat to the menu.

In 1917 a new large house was built. This home served many purposes: weddings, all the six Fred von Hollen daughters were married in this house and so were some of the relatives. Social activities were often held here, too, a big verandah relieved this large living room of its furniture leaving space for dancing and games. Funerals were also held in this home for the following: Lorna von Hollen, Fred von Hollen, Roy von Hollen, Sophie Oppel, Karl von Hollen.

Rev. Andrew Hjortaas was the first pastor in this district. He drove from Sylvan Lake with a team and held services in the Little Horseguard School. He was followed by Pastor Thies from Morningside who held services every two weeks. The church congregation was inaugurated as the Immanuel Lutheran Church in 1927. The first church for this congregation was built on Highway 11. A few years later services were held in Rocky Mountain House at the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Then a new Immanuel Lutheran Church was built in Rocky Mountain House and services are held there every Sunday. The following children of Fred and Lily von Hollen still live in the area and belong to this church, Margaret, Sophie, Annie, Eugene, Herman, Gusty and Hilda.

Margaret married William Cochrane and they have three children, Lorraine, Malcolm and Angus. Lorraine married George McCallum and they have eight children. Malcolm married Anita Andersen. Angus married Gloria Nothof and they have two sons.

Sophie married James Hussin and they have three sons, Kenneth, William and Vernon (deceased). Kenneth married Maria Kunderka and they have two sons, but the younger son passed away with leukemia. William married Joyce McCalla and they have four children, but Karen was dragged to death by a horse.

Annie married Max Hansel and they have five children: Bernice, Dean, Laurine, Steven and Arlene. Bernice married Doug Moston and they have one daughter. Laurine married William McNutt and they have four children. Steven and June have two sons. Arlene married Edward Hammond and they have three children.

Eugene married Bernice Cole and they have one daughter, Jeanne, who married Gerald de Windt and they have one daughter.

Herman married Hildur Nelson and they have four children, Alfred, Beverley, Carmen and Wayne. Alfred married Dorthea Otto and they have two sons.

Lily married John (Jack) Leslie and they have one son, Gerrie. Gerrie and Lena have two children.

Gusty married Gwen Johnson and they have three children: David, Audrey and Karen. David married Linda Songer. Audrey married Ray Bott and they have two children.

Hilda married Rev. Alfred Miller and they have three children: Carol, Ronald and Debbie. Carol married Norman Saar and they have three children.

Willa married Walter Miller and they have two children, Myrna and Dennis. Myrna married Gordon Penner and they have two daughters.

Tony married Jean Dory and they have two children.

Fred von Hollen who was born March 19, 1879 in Bremen, Germany, married Lily Lachmund in 1906.

Fred died September 20, 1937.

Lily was born in Bremen, Germany on November 27, 1884.

Lily von Hollen died January 17, 1963.

Lily Leslie died July 29, 1973.

## WATERFIELD, WM AND FLORENCE FAMILY

My name is Bill Waterfield and I have my wife, Florence, daughter, Evelyn and two sons, Roger and John. I moved from Calgary to Alhambra in August, 1975. We live on the old Lessing place on the north side of the tracks. So, being a newcomer I don't have too much history. I have the trees planted around the acre and some day hope to have a very nice corner. I have two ducks, two geese, two guinea fowl, a few rabbits, and bantam chickens and also one goat. I am the care-taker at the David Thompson school. I am very happy I'm in the country and love my neighbors all around me.

## WATTERS, PETER AND ALICE FAMILY — (By Alice Periche)

In 1927, Peter and Alice Watters arrived in Canada from the county of Armagh, Ireland, with their three children, Micheal, Mary and Rose. They first settled around the Lacombe district, where Peter worked with the railway at Chigwell, and at the experimental farm in that area. However, the quarter they farmed was very swampy and things weren't working out, so in 1928 they moved to the Ridgewood area, where they farmed for eleven years. In March, 1939, the family moved again, this time to the Alhambra district. Peter bought 2 quarters of land from George Farrington, NW 7-39-5-W5 and SE 12-39-6-W5. By this time many things had happened to the family. Four new members of the family had arrived, Peter, Alice, Johnny, and Melachy. The oldest daughter, Mary, was married and in 1940

The Peter and Alice Watters family. Back row: Rose Mary, Peter Sr., Alice holding baby Alice. Front row: Mike and Pete Jr. Taken after 1930. Inset: Johnny and Mel. Taken after 1952

the second oldest daughter, Rose, went east to join the convent in Ottawa, Ontario. Mike was no longer going to school by the time they moved to Alhambra, he was out working. The only two going to school were Peter, who was in Grade 5, and Alice, who was in Grade 3, the two youngest boys, Johnny and Mel were still babies at home. Some of the teachers through the years that taught the Watters' children were Mrs. Alma Sunde (Miss Sande), Miss Stagg, Miss Kennedy, and Mrs. Allan Scott. One of the highlights of the family was in 1939, when Peter Watters went to Edmonton with his class to see the King and Queen. For this occasion, a special train was sent out from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, so the children and their escorts could be transported to Edmonton.

On November 23, 1941 Peter Watters Sr. died at the age of 63 years from cancer. For many years he had suffered and during this time, a neighbor, Mrs. Bill Cochrane, would help Alice Watters administer the medicine he required. He was buried at Sylvan Lake.

This left Alice Watters with a farm to manage and five children to feed. So Mike and she continued to farm and manage as best they could. Alice Watters was a very well liked person and even though times were hard and as sick as she was, no one ever left without a cup of tea and something to eat. She had beautiful wavey red hair that stayed red till she died. At this time the boys also started building a new house to replace the log house they lived in since settling there. The youngest daughter, Alice went to train for nurses' aid at the C.N.A. school, in Calgary. She trained in many hospitals throughout Alberta and in 1951 she was called home to look after her mother who was very sick at this time. Grandma Watters never did see the new house the boys were building because in September, 1951, she died from cancer, at the age of 55 years. She was also buried at Sylvan Lake beside her husband, Peter.

This left the four boys at home batching. Since Johnny and Melachy were only 13 and 15 years old at this time, it was thought they would go to foster homes. So in order that this wouldn't happen, Margaret and Harry Manning, neighbors at the time, went to Castor to talk to Rose Watters, who was, at this time, Sister Alice of the cross, at the hospital in Castor. It was decided that she would come home and look after the two youngest boys, so they wouldn't have to go to foster homes. In 1952, Rose Watters, left the convent and came home to Alhambra. The years were eventful and there was never a dull moment with the boys around. In 1956, Rose got a job at the Rocky Mountain House creamery till the spring of 1957, when she went to work for Ludwig Construction as a cook. Also in 1957, Johnny and Mel went to work for Mel Laydon Construction where they acquired the experience that helped them later on. Pete and Mike worked in bush camps, Market Construction on rigs, etc.

March 14, 1961, Rose Watters married Arnold (Buster) Bye of Hanna, Alberta. They reside in Edmonton where Buster works with Union Tractor and Rose works at a government cafeteria.

Mary Watters, the oldest daughter, married Jacob Roth of Red Deer' in 1936. In 1947, they moved from Red Deer to Salmon Arm, British Columbia where they are still living today. They have five children, Theresa, Frances, Dennis, Amy, and Eileen. All but two are married and live in British Columbia. Eileen is attending college in Calgary, and Dennis is also in Calgary working.

Alice Watters married Ed Periche of Dovercourt on April 8, 1953. They farmed in the Dovercourt district for 20 years before selling the farm. They now reside on an acreage outside of Rocky Mountain House. They have four children; Jean the oldest is married to Larry Bota of Fort Macleod. Larry works for Alberta Government Telephones, and Jean is an assistant accountant with the Treasury Branch in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Gordon is working with Quinn at the Aquitaine Plant (30 miles west of Rocky Mountain House). Linda attends college in Red Deer, and Brian will finish grade 12 this year.

Mike Watters is married and has two children, Colleen and Darcy, both are still going to school. Mike works around Rocky Mountain House and area with heavy duty equipment. Also, Mike acquired the old farm in Ireland that was never sold when Grandpa Watters came to Canada.

Meachy Watters married Karen Campbell of Red Deer on April 4, 1959. They presently live in Medicine Hat and have three children, Shelly, Kelly, and Dennis. Shelly attends college in Medicine Hat and the two boys still attend school. The boys are very involved in hockey.

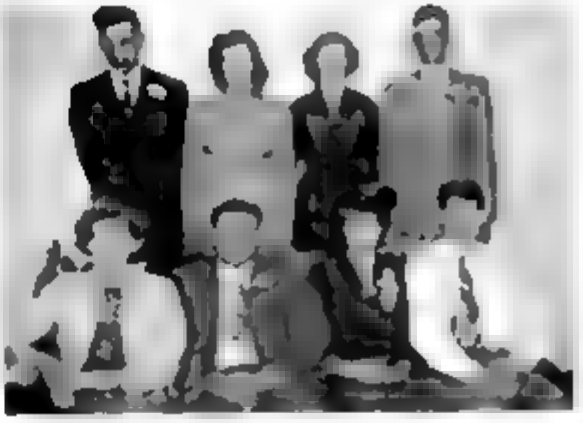
Johnny Watters married Donna Heikkinen of Benalto, and they have five children, Danny Loree Kim, Carrie Lee, and Leslie Rae. Danny is finished school and is apprenticing in Red Deer, for a carpenter, the four girls still attend school. Johnny works with heavy duty construction and Donna works in Red Deer. They reside in Joffre, Alberta.

Peter Watters married Claire L Heureux on January 25, 1960. Claire's first husband, Henry L'Heureux died from a heart attack leaving her with two boys, Guy and Blair. Pete lived on the home quarter his father had farmed, and during those years he worked in bush camps, oil rigs, etc. They had two girls of their own, Cindy and Cheryl, who are still at home. Guy married Judy Diebert on December 4, 1971, and they live in Edson, Alberta where Guy is employed by the Fish and Wildlife. Blair married Karen King of MacKenzie, British Columbia and they have one little girl. They reside in MacKenzie where Blair works in the paper mill. On February 16, 1969, Peter Watters passed away after a lengthy illness and struggle against cancer. He was 41 years old, and is buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

**WULFF, JOHN AND VIOLET**

Violet Elizabeth Von Hollen, daughter of Henry and Emilie Von Hollen of Alhambra married John Gustav Wulff of Swalwell, Alberta on November 24, 1932. Following their marriage they farmed there until 1942, and during this time their three sons and three daughters were born to them.

In 1942, they sold their farm and purchased "Von Hollen's Store" in Alhambra, situated on Block M 9-38-5-W5, which then became known as Wulff's General Store. This store burned in 1947 but thanks to a very supportive and cooperative community, it was rebuilt in a matter of six months. While in Alhambra the family took an active interest in community affairs, particularly in sports. John kept the rink ready for skaters and the hall ready for parties, and helped organize sports and look after the sports grounds. Violet and her daughters played on the ladies' soft ball team, while the boys played hockey and ba...



The John and Violet Wulff family. Back row: Stanley, Hazel, Eileen and Jerry. Front row: Viola, John, Violet and Roy.

In 1963, John and Vi sold the store and moved to Red Deer, where they lived for seven years. Vi was never happy there, however, and in 1970, she persuaded John to move back to Alhambra and buy back the store which now became "John and VI's General Store."

On January 9, 1973, John died of a heart attack and is buried in Horseguard cemetery. Violet continues to operate the store, now renamed "Vi's General Store."

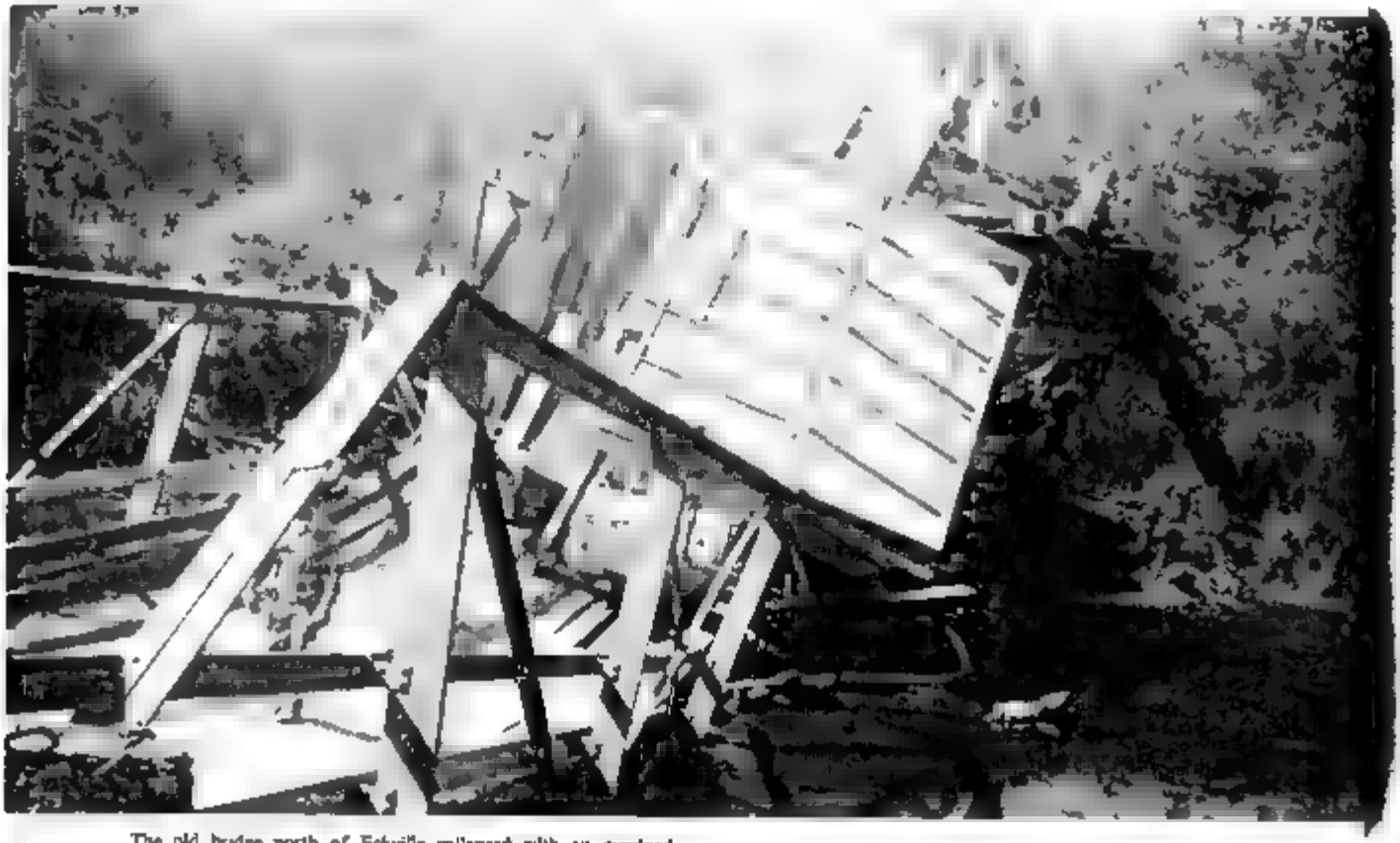
Ken Martin at one time gave Vi a barn cat, which was her constant companion for several years. Although the cat would not enter the store, it would sit by the door and "greet" the customers. It finally became ill and had to be put to sleep.

The close-knit family keeps in touch with their mother, and helps her out whenever the need arises. Eileen married Tommy Thompson

Four generations. Grandma (Amelia) von Hollen, Eileen (Wulff) Thompson holding Connie, Violet Wulff.

The Warehouse, 1930. Before this picture was taken it was Sam Dickson's store. Later it was Henry von Hollen's store.

from Entwhistle in 1953. They have three children and now live in Elnora. Connie (Mrs. Steve Schiffner) of Stettler has one son. Betty (Mrs. Dave Boulton) of Lousana also has a son, Pat. Hazel (Mrs. Bill McDonell) of Eckville has four children. Stan married Betty Lowe of Blackfalds in March, 1955 and they live in Red Deer. Betty conducts the business, Fabricana, and Stan works in real estate. Their family consists of Vivien, Rodney, Gina and Barry. Jerry married Phyllis Scott of Ridgewood. They first lived in Red Deer and had two sons, Kevin and Curtis. Later they divorced and Jerry married Madeline Gardner. They now make their home in Grande Prairie. Viola (Mrs. Jerry Fidler) lives in Red Deer. They have four sons and two daughters. Bruce, Darrell, Blake, Bradley, Debbie, and Cheryl. Roy married Carol Hollenbeck of Ridgewood and they had two children, Kelly and Clinton. Later they divorced and Roy married Sharon Dorchester of Lone Ridge, near Wetaskiwin, where they now reside.

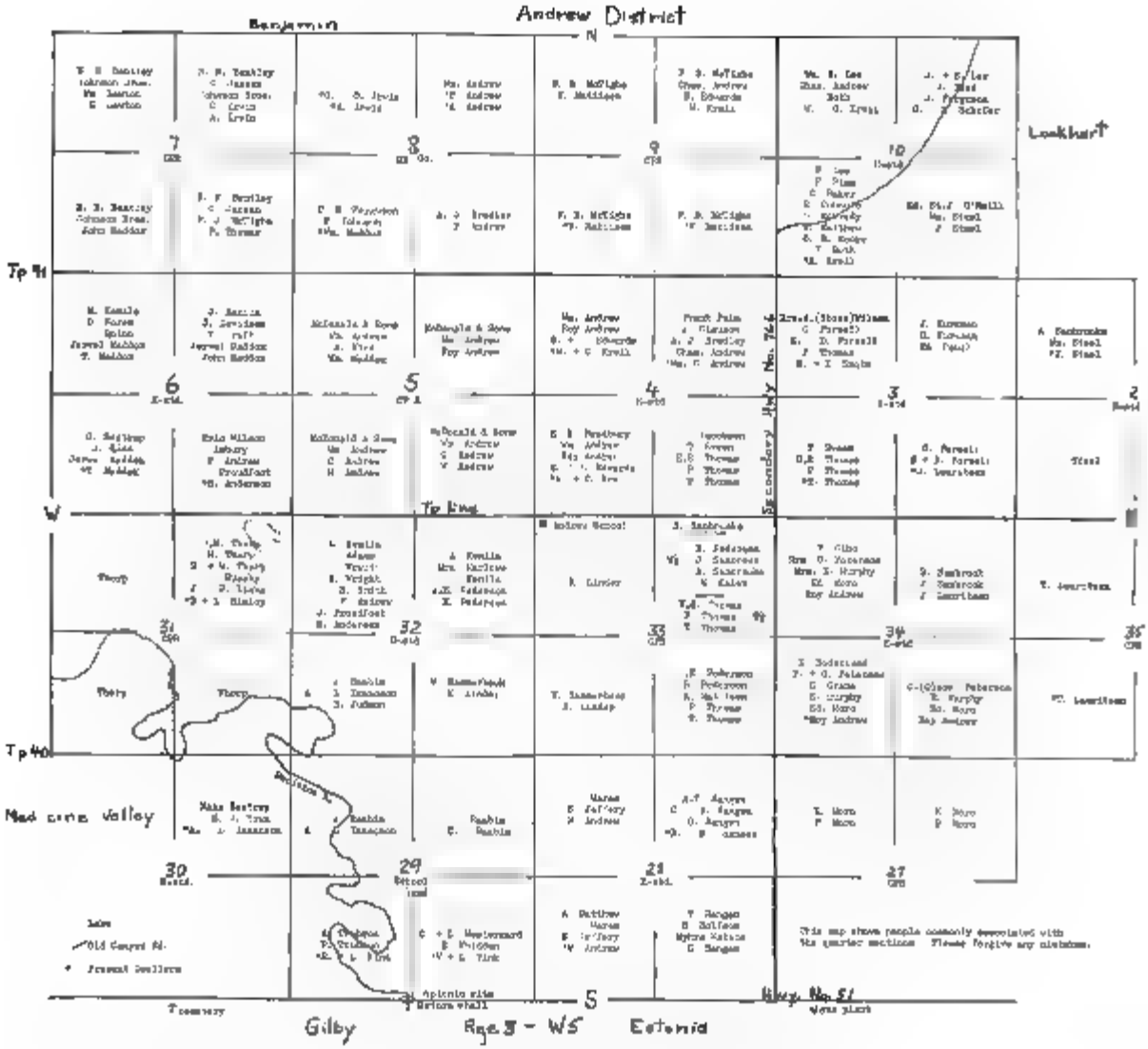


The old bridge north of Eckville collapsed with an overload Summer of 1958

Horseguard river flood, 1943, when Bill MacDonald lost his life Note Road under railway

Gravel pit on the McDonald land, SW 14-39-3 W5.

Children of Hosa and Trygve Ramgot


Andrew District
Benjamin
Lockhart
Tp 41
Tp 40
Secondary Hwy No. 764
Tip Line
Meadow Valley
Gilby
Rge 3 - W5
Estonia
Hwy No. 51
7
8
9
10
6
5
4
3
2
1
31
32
33
34
35
30
29
28
27
26
25
Old Course Rd.
Present Roadway
This map shows people commonly associated with the quarter sections. Please forgive any mistakes.

# Andrew

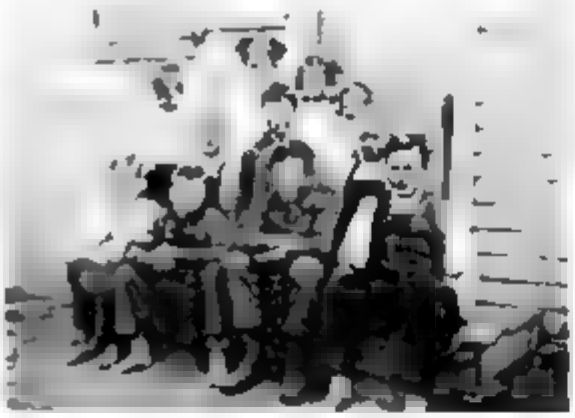
**ANDREW SCHOOL (District No. 2852) — by Myrtle (Linder) Gale**

On January 13, 1912, seven people interested in building a school in the Gilby district met at the home of Tom Sveen. Under the chairmanship of Frank Lee it was a unanimous decision that a school district be formed. The following persons were nominated as trustees; Tom Sveen, Wm. Andrew and Karl Linder. Wm. H Lee was appointed secretary

In March 1912 a meeting was called for the purpose of borrowing $800 to build the 24' by 30' Andrew School, to purchase two acres of land which was to be broken, seeded and fenced and to purchase school furniture. This loan was to be repaid in 10 annual installments with interest not to exceed 8%

The land was broken by John Liner, using three oxen, and took one week. The lumber was hauled from Jabez McPherson's mill in Lockhart district, also by oxen driven by Mr Frank Pike Mr and Mrs. Kemila built the school for $150 Charlie put in the windows while Mrs. Kemila shingled the roof.

Many important decisions were made at the board meetings, not the least of which was that at the January 1915 meeting the rate of taxes was set at 7¢ an acre. Tenders were called annually



Andrew School 1916. Girls standing: Alice Norem, Ethel and Gladys Andrew. Boys standing: Melvin Sveen, Pryce Andrew, August Sveen. Sitting, unknown. Charlie and Frank Andrew, Harry Rankin

Andrew School about 1925 Back: Esther Kurzman, Louise Rankin, Margaret Steel, Vivian Forsell, Elmer Linder, Rudy Wares, Boyd Thomas Edwin Linder Second row: Ruth Linder, Edythe Andrew, Elmer Forsell, Maurice McTighe, Elmer Linder, Billy Wright. Front: Roy Andrew, Irving Linder, Russel Wright, Bill Thorp, Julien and Sam Sambrook, ? Wright, Eileen McTighe, Julia Pederson, Pearl Kurzman

for supplying 10 cords of wood and the cleaning of the schoolhouse. Frank Palm repaired the school fence with fence posts costing 7 cents each

Teachers were the heart of the school system then as they are today. Miss Lockhart (Mrs Norem) was the first teacher hired Mrs. S. (Ethel) Sambrook was the second teacher of the school, appointed February 1915, at the rate of $3 a day. She was followed by a succession of dedicated men and women who left their mark on the lives of the children and the community that they served so faithfully It fell to the last teacher, Mrs. R. (Betty) Andrew, in 1953 to close the doors of the Andrew School, thereby closing an era. The following fall the district children were bussed into Eckville.

To recall some of the happy school memories it was decided to hold an Andrew School reunion. Under the capable and enthusiastic chairmanship of Vivian (Forsell) Ogilvie and a cooperative steering committee, this proved a resounding success, when around 200 residents gathered at the Gilby Hall on July 9, 1972 Julien Sambrook and Edwin Linder sharing M.C. duties moved the interesting program along to its con

clusion of animated conversation with old school pals and friendly teachers. The teachers present were, Mrs. Norem (Miss Lockhart), Mrs Baldwin (Lisa Lundberg), Mrs. Crawford (Anna Liner), Mrs. Pound (Nellie Ashley) and George Boorman now Dr. Boorman of Rimbey

All who were a part of the small school districts, such as the Andrew School, feel a tug of nostalgia at their demise, and one can be grateful to have been a part of that wonderful time in our history

**ANDERSON, HERB**

Herb and Shirley Anderson, both from Bentley area, rented the Wayne Stopsen farm five miles northeast of Eckville for three years before buying the SE 6-41-3-W5 in 1959 from J Proudfoot When they came to the Gilby district they had three children — Greg, Darcy and Jacqueline. Two boys, Wendell and Roland, were born later. They built their present home in 1967

Upon selling their property, Jim and Dora Proudfoot moved to Kelowna, B C. She had family ties at Kelowna and had lived their previously Jim was from Saskatchewan and has passed away

The Anderson family like to have a part in community activities. Herb is an enthusiastic hunter and Shirley has enjoyed playing on the Eckville Ladies' Softball Team for the past 15 years

Greg and Darcy live at home as they are employed at gas plants nearby Jackie has worked at various jobs since completing Grade XII in June 1977

**ANDREW, WILLIAM AND ALICE**

William Andrew and Alice Lee were married in England on January 7, 1896.

In 1905, they immigrated to Canada with four small children — Elizabeth (Ciss), Frank, Charlie and Pryce With them on the same boat came Mrs. Andrew's parents — Mr. and Mrs. John Lee; her two brothers — Bill and Frank Lee, her sister Polly and husband, Ernest Bradbury with their two sons — George and Fred, and her sister Edie with husband Harry Battersby

After 22 days on the boat, they landed in Halifax, then came by train to Lacombe, which was the end of the railway at that time. Trains moved so slowly then, that often the men would jump off to gather firewood to burn in the settlers' car stove for heating water, cooking and warmth

They all eventually took up homesteads in the Gilby district.

The Andrews' family spent the first year in Lacombe. Mr Andrew took employment with Bill McDermid, who was then in the draying business. In 1906, the family moved to the George Garries' farm south of Bentley, where they were employed. Their daughter Ethel was born in July, 1906, their first child born in Canada.

A year or two later the family moved to their homestead on the NW 4-41-3-W5 in the Gilby district It is believed that the lumber for their first home was hauled by team from Cumming's mill which was located near Gull Lake. Logs were used for the barn and other buildings

When the first few acres had been cleared with an axe and grub hoe, a team consisting of a horse and a white bull was used for breaking the land. Oats were seeded broadcast and froze before ripening and was cut by hand to provide winter feed for the few head of stock. Wild hay was also used for winter feeding. In those early years, the rabbits were so numerous that feed stacks required fencing, as they would eat much of the precious hay

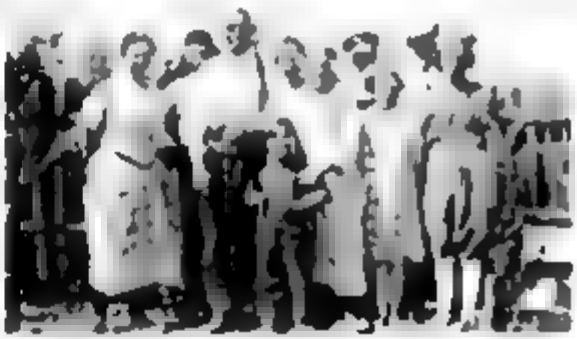
Prairie chickens and partridge, being very plentiful, provided many delicious meals when other meat was so scarce Fishing — mostly at Wood Lake — was usually good and was a welcome change in diet

Three children born after moving to the homestead were Gladys, Edythe and Roy, delivered by Mrs Tom (Mary) Sveen, who was a very dependable midwife, willing to assist in any circumstance. They lived on the corner where Tom Thomas now resides

The need for a school was evident as the district became more settled and a meeting was held about 1911 to begin to organize and plan for building and location. The school grounds were first plowed and disced by John Liner using three head of oxen. The lumber for the school was hauled by oxen from Jabez McPherson's Mill which at that time was located in the Lockhart district. The school was first opened in 1912 and was named "Andrews School District" for the Andrew family. The first teachers, from out of the district, also boarded in their home

With no community center, socials and dances were held in homes, ones that could provide enough space. There were also picnics in the summer and skating parties on the rivers in the winter

The Andrew family were active in helping with the building of the Gilby Hall, contributing many hours of voluntary labor The hall was first



William Andrew family about 1920. Back: Frank, Ethel, Pryce, Charlie Front: Elizabeth, William, Roy, Alice, Edythe and Gladys

opened in 1921. Their support continued throughout the years they lived in the area

Mr. Andrew was an enthusiastic gardener but not being familiar with our Alberta climate had some disappointments in the first years Winter and frost came so early one fall that a grub hoe was needed to dig the potatoes and a fire built to keep them from freezing until they could be brought inside. As years passed, and the boys took over the farm operations, he spent many hours with his garden and flowers — each year his well-kept yard was a blaze of color

Their first home was destroyed by fire in 1911 and replaced shortly after with lumber from Jabez McPherson's Mill, located in the Lockhart district. Shortly after they purchased SE 4-41-3 W5 from brother-in-law, Ernest Bradbury, who with his family moved to a farm at Burbank near Blackfalds

Field work was all done with horses now and as time went on as many as 16 head were used, with eight being used on the plow, four each on harrows and seed drill. A John Deere tractor was purchased in the early 1930's, which retired many of the horses. They were still used for some field work, hauling feed, wood and hauling grain to the elevator

Mr. Andrew's real love was good horses and he kept a well-groomed team of grays for driving. They gradually improved the cattle herd and raised good Shorthorn cattle, increasing the herd as time went on.

About 1930, they purchased SE. 5-41-3-W5 which was used for grazing land, until a tractor was purchased and part of the land was cultivated for grain

50th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Andrew 1946

Mrs. Andrew was one of the first members of the Gilby Ladies' Club and remained with the Club until their retirement to Rimbey. Being of a very kind and motherly nature, there was scarcely a time through the summer holidays that there wasn't a grandchild or two spending part of their time at the farm. In later years, she was affectionately called "Grandma Andrew by many friends as well as grandchildren

In 1942 an auction sale was held at the farm, after which they retired to Rimbey. Mr. Andrew continued with his gardening and had a very colorful yard through spring and summer. His well arranged flower beds and vegetable garden were set out with plants, which had been started in his own greenhouse. Mrs. Andrew loved company and spent many afternoons visiting friends and patients in the hospital, often taking flowers from their own yard to add a cheery note

On January 7, 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family dinner at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Lester (Gladys) Saunders, followed by an open house in their home

Mr. Andrew passed away in April, 1949 and Mrs. Andrew in March, 1964

Names of the family in order of age are: Mrs Albert Elizabeth (Ciss) Bradley, Frank Charlie, Pryce, Mrs. Paul (Ethel) Garries, Mrs. Lester (Gladys) Saunders, Mrs. Leslie (Edythe) Uhl and Roy

**ANDREW, FRANK, FAMILY**

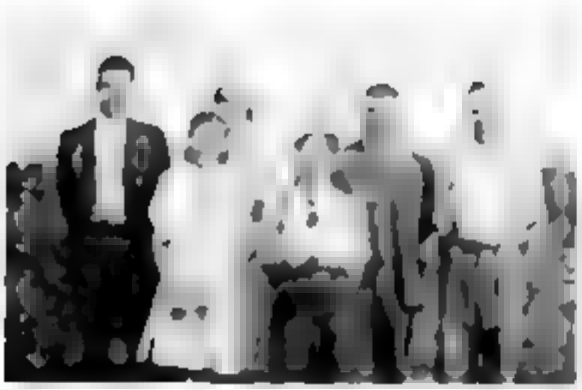
Frank (Francis) William Andrew, son of William and Alice Andrew was born in Suffolk England on September 9, 1898. He married Clara Olidia Botten on July 26, 1921. Clara was the daughter of Hulover and Gunhild Botten. Born in Brenton, Minnesota, U.S.A. on June 5, 1895 Clara was raised in the Bluebell District and before her marriage was one of the first telephone operators in Eckville working at the Mountain View Hotel

Frank served in the Canadian Engineers in the 1st World War. He served overseas for two years.

Frank and Clara settled in the Gilby district, the farm now owned by Herb and Shirley Anderson (SE 6-41-3-W5) There they had five children Russell, Walter, Bernadien (born July 3, 1926 deceased December 27, 1928) Ethel and Cecil

Along with farming, Frank had a breaking outfit with which he broke land for other farmers. While breaking he had a serious accident in 1930. He was run over by the plow losing one kidney and his spleen. Donations of blood from brothers, Pryce and Charlie, helped save him. He also had a threshing outfit, threshing in Leedale and Gilby districts.

In 1956, Frank and Clara sold their farm and retired to Red Deer. They celebrated their 50th



Frank and Clara Andrew Russ, Ethel, Cecil Walter

wedding anniversary in 1971. Clara passed away on December 7, 1975 at the age of 80 years. Frank now resides at the Eckville Manor House.

Russell, the eldest of Frank and Clara's family, married the former Betty Boulton. Betty was the last teacher to teach at the Andrew School before centralizing in Eckville. Russ and Betty now reside on a farm at Olds where Russ farms and works in the feed mill. Betty teaches school. They have three children, Eric, Sheila, and Rhoda.

In 1942, Walter bought the W½28-40-3-W5 from Sid and Emily Jefferey and family — Clifford, John, Joyce, Sidney, Fred and Barbara who moved to a farm west of Edmonton. Walter married the former Evelyn Haarstad of Bentley. They have four children — Lorrie married Niel Judson and they have two sons, Kory and Shawn, Ron married Karen Brownlee and they have a daughter, Gina Dawn. Janice and Debra are both presently employed in banks. The children have always been active in sports and 4-H. Walter led the Gilby 4-H Club for six years. We all always enjoyed the pony practices held at the farm. Walter and Ron farm together in the Gilby district. Walter and Evelyn reside on land homesteaded by Adam Mathews. Selling this land in the early days Mr. Mathews then moved to the farm where Ron and Karen now live. This land was sold by Arnold and Ily Mathews to Ron and Karen in 1974.

Bernadien, their third child, passed away at a very young age (two and a half) in the Bentley Hospital two days before Ethel was born.

Ethel married Laurence Osberg of the Medicine Valley district. They live at Okotoks, Alberta where Laurence has his own roofing company. They have four sons, Dennis, Grant, Greg and Donnie.

Cecil married Helen Stollings of the Alhambra district. They live in Blackfalds where Cecil runs a sand and gravel trucking firm. They have three children, Diane, Darryl and Shelly.

**ANDREW, CHARLES HENRY — by Hazel Andrew**

Charles Henry Andrew was born June 6, 1900 in Shrewsbury, England and came to Canada with his parents, William and Alice Andrew in 1905.

What little schooling Charlie had was acquired by attending the Benjamin, Stephenson and Andrew Schools. In the early years school was held in the summer months. When Charlie attended the Benjamin School he was lucky if he arrived by noon, as there were no roads — only trails through the bush and around the slough holes. He worked for a farmer in the Bentley area for his room and board while attending the Stephenson School. Many school days were missed, as there was always work to be done on the farm.

Leaving school at an early age, Charlie worked in a lumber camp for Jabez McPherson in the Carlos area as a carriage rider in the saw mill. He also worked on a farm at Gleichen. While here, he drove five horses on a fresno, digging ditches for irrigation. He later came home and worked for his uncle, William Lee, in the store at Leedale.

In 1920 Charlie bought his first quarter section, NE 9-41-3-W5, from the C.P.R. This was a bush quarter, so he spent many long working hours grubbing trees, brushing, burning, and breaking the land, with many additional hours picking roots and rocks. Breaking was done with horses and a breaking plow. Fencing was done by digging the post holes by hand with a post-hole digger. In 1921 he helped build the Gilby Hall and joined the Alberta Wheat Pool in Eckville in 1922.

After his marriage to Ola Meredith of Bentley in 1924 Charlie rented the NE 4-41-3-W5 from his sister Elizabeth (Ciss) Bradley of Calgary. Ola passed away in 1930 after a lengthy illness and is buried in the Bentley Cemetery.

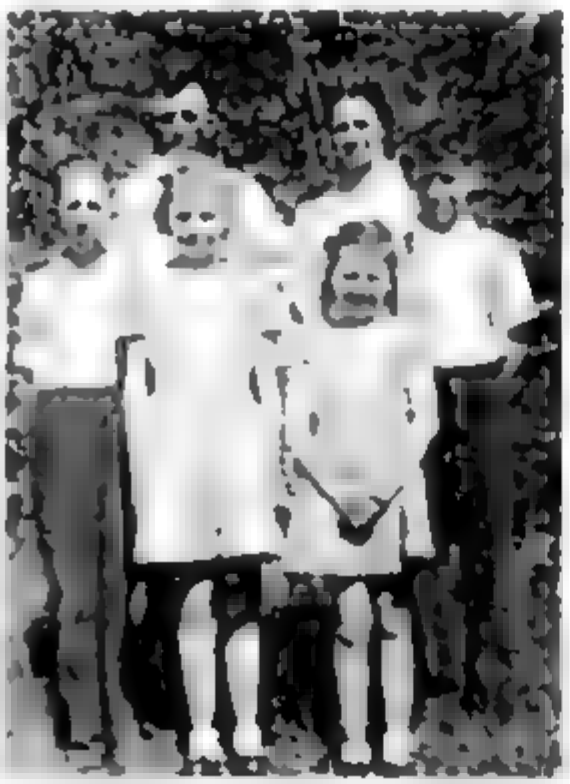
In 1932 Charlie and I (Evelyn Haze, Malcolm) were married. I was born and raised on a farm in the Lockhart district south of Rimbey, taking my schooling first at the Calkins Valley School and in 1930 and 1931 I attended the Olds School of Agriculture. I then returned home and helped my dad and mom (William and Katherine Malcolm) until my marriage. Charlie and I continued mixed farming, raising horses, cattle, hogs and milking cows. Many a mile Charlie walked, driving the horses to and from work on the hill. We were never without a good saddle pony and a good dog.

In 1938 we bought the NW 10-41-3-W5 from his uncle, William Lee, and in 1945 we bought the NE 4-41-3-W5, which we had been renting from his sister, Ciss Bradley. This meant more work, breaking the land, with the help of our children, Bill, Albert, Evelyn and Irene. We would go out and pick roots and rocks, with us all working at it the job seemed easier. The smaller trees were hauled home to be sawed into blocks for firewood to be used in the cookstove and heater. Every farmer had a large wood pile for winter use. We used coal oil lamps in the house for lights and lanterns for outside use. They had to be filled

with coal oil and the globes cleaned every night. Clothes were washed on a wash board until later when we got a hand washing machine. The water was brought in in pails from a hand pump outside for use in the house. Ironing was done with sad irons heated on the stove. We baked our own bread and made our own soap for washing. The most tedious job seemed to be churning the cream into butter. Having a bath on a Saturday night in front of the stove to keep warm, and using a small tub, or wash tub, was something else. Later we put in the Calgary Power, which was a great help in many ways.

Charlie took great pride in caring for his horses and the harness. He loved to drive the team, especially in the winter months, using the sleigh. He would put the scotch tops, spread rings and hip bells on the harness. The bells made such a wonderful sound as the team would trot down the road — it was truly a "musical ride". Every March for many years Charlie would take horses to be sold at the Lacombe Horse Sale. It took four to five months of feeding and grooming to get a horse in shape for the sale. Charlie also liked to break horses to drive as well as ride.

Life wasn't all hard work, as we would take our family to fairs, picnics, shows and dances. We went to many dances, as Charlie enjoyed dancing very much. He would be asked to call the square dances, which he enjoyed doing. The Christmas concerts put on by the teacher and her pupils were very much enjoyed by everyone. Quite often Charlie was asked to play the part of Santa Claus, giving the children their gifts and treats from a well decorated tree. The picnics at the end of the school term were enjoyed, too, as that was the day for races and ball games for the children and visiting for the parents, much lunch, coffee and homemade ice cream. We miss this today.



Charlie and Hazel Andrew. Bill, Evelyn, Irene, Albert, 1943

Alfred Molander purchased a 1928 Ford truck from Charlie, and his brother Fred had driven it home and had been working on it. There had been a complete motor job, welding and hammering for a few days. One evening there was quite a commotion in the cab of the truck. Investigation disclosed a bantam hen, and behind the seat a nest of eggs. The hen had apparently been there all the time. Fred says he hates to think of what may have happened if the bantam had popped out, squawking, when he was driving home! The children were happy that no harm had come to their bantam hen.

Charlie would often sit down in an evening and play the mouth organ or jews harp. Whenever we went camping in later years he always had his mouth organ with him. We both enjoyed picking berries, especially blueberries and low-bush cranberries.

In 1935 we hired a girl to work for us for two months. The top wages then was $8 a month. We built our new home in 1949, and planted many trees around the yard, including spruce, pine, birch and apple trees. We made a fence in front, using lanterns that we had bought at sales and had later painted. The old two-room house was moved away and used for a granary for many years. It is now demolished.

In January, 1953, Charlie, Bill and Albert picked roots on a piece of breaking on the hill, as the month was very mild and there was little snow. July of that year brought great excitement to the valley, when the first oil well was drilled on our place, NE 4-41-3-W5. This well is still producing today. Many a cup of coffee we served whenever the men working on the well came to use the telephone.

From May until October in 1958 Charlie lost his voice — he couldn't speak a word! That summer our good neighbors, George and Isabel Guest and family, Irvin and Clydie Both, Albert Guest and Ellen Guest invited us to go on a trip to Kamloops, B.C. with them. This proved to be a very enjoyable trip, even though Charlie couldn't speak a word.

In 1961 and 1963 we sold the half section on the hill to Shirley Edwards and Irvin Both. They later sold, and the new owners of both quarters NE 9-41-3-W5 and NW 10-41-3-W5, are Wallace and Carol Krell.

In 1967 we retired from farming, selling our cattle and renting the farm for pasture. Then we were free to travel, go fishing or just take care of our yard, which we both enjoyed doing. We bought a new truck and camper and did a lot of

travelling and fishing. Our first trip was to Alaska, which proved very interesting and enjoyable. Every year, at the first part of August, we would travel with the Cavalcade to the Kootenay Plains for three days of entertainment, hikes or visiting over a camp fire in the evenings. We never missed going to auction sales, as we liked to visit, or buy some small item or a box of "junk" to rummage through when we got home. Surprising what you can find in one of these boxes.

In 1970 we had a sale and sold our machinery and the antiques we had on display in our home for anyone to see. The school teachers would bring their pupils to see and enjoy the antique items, and Charlie was always very happy to explain each piece of them.

We sold the farm to our son Bill in 1971, then bought a home in Eckville. Both families moved in May of 1972.

In June 1972 our children and the community put on a 40th wedding anniversary party for us in the Gilby Hall. This was a day to remember! In that year our eight grandchildren's ages added up to 40 years, the same number of years we had been married.

Charlie hadn't been feeling too well since 1971 and passed away December 18, 1973. He is buried in the Bentley Cemetery. I continue living in Eckville, where I keep busy with my many hobbies, enjoy travelling, fishing, and taking care of the yard.

Our children had taken their schooling at the Andrew and Eckville Schools. An account of each of them follows.

William Charles Andrew was born March 12, 1933. He attended a two-year course at the Olds College of Agriculture in 1950 and 1951, returning home to help his dad with the farming until 1954. He then started to work for Texaco Exploration Canada Limited as a battery operator. He is now the plant foreman. He married June Gerber of Eckville on June 15, 1963. June had attended Gaetz, Condor and David Thompson Schools. After leaving school she worked for the Eckville Co-op as assistant bookkeeper. Bill and June have three children, one daughter, Coleen, two sons, Collin and Curtis. They live on the farm and raise a few Hereford cattle.

Albert Arthur Andrew was born April 22, 1934 and worked on the Lacombe Experimental Farm when he left school. Following this he worked in Uranium City in northwestern Saskatchewan. He married Marlene McLachlan June 27, 1974, of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, where he had worked for several years in the oil fields before moving to Wainwright Alberta. Here he has worked for Husky Oil Company as a battery operator since November 1956. They have two sons, David and Douglas, and live on the farm which they purchased when moving to Alberta. They raise a few cattle and raise and break the chuck wagon ponies which Albert drives in the summer months. They also enjoy saddle ponies.

Evelyn Mae, born April 12, 1935, worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware when she left school, then worked for the Alpha Dairy Pool, Red Deer. She married Franklin Brown on September 4, 1965, of Ste. Rose Du Lac, Manitoba. They have one daughter, Audra. Frank has worked for Alberta Government Telephones since 1956 and is now the construction foreman. They live on an acreage south of Red Deer.

Irene Loretta, born January 13, 1938, graduated from school, taking a certified nursing aide course in Calgary. She graduated in 1958, then worked in Calgary, Drumheller, Red Deer and Eckville. On March 30, 1961 Irene married Harold Leach of Swanson Saskatchewan. They have two children, a daughter, Ledena, and a son, Myles. In 1963 Harold worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware until 1967, when he moved to Kindersley Saskatchewan to work for the Co-op Hardware until the Co-op Service Center was opened in 1968, where he worked for another year. He moved back to Eckville and worked for the Eckville Co-op Hardware for three years. In 1973 Harold started work for Sunoco Oil Company as a battery operator and lives in their new home which they built in Eckville. Harold teaches guitar once a week during the winter months from the basement of his home. He plays the steel guitar himself in an orchestra. In November 1977 Harold was elected Mayor of Eckville for three years. He had been a member of the town council for two years previous to becoming Mayor. For two years he was on the Lacombe District Regional Recreation Board.

**ANDREW, PRYCE AND JESSIE**

Pryce Andrew, born in England, July 4, 1903, came with his parents, two brothers and a sister to Canada in 1905. Their first year was spent in Lacombe, later moving to south of Bentley to the George Garries farm, where his father was employed. A year or two later the family moved to their homestead on NW 4-41 3-W5 in the Gilby district.

With no school in the district, Pryce and his brother Frank walked several miles to attend Benjamin School about 1910-1911. The walk was shortened in 1912 when the Andrews' School had been built and was opened. As there were no roads, they would cut across the pasture and creek on the shortest route. In the spring, after the morning milking and other chores were finished, would run all the way to school to play ball for a few minutes before the bell rang. For two years, Pryce also worked for his aunt and uncle — Ernest and Polly Bradbury of Burbank and attended school at Blackfalds. His uncle operated the electric lighting power plant situated on the banks of the Red Deer River supplying Lacombe with electric power. Later, he helped his uncle, Bill Lee, who owned and

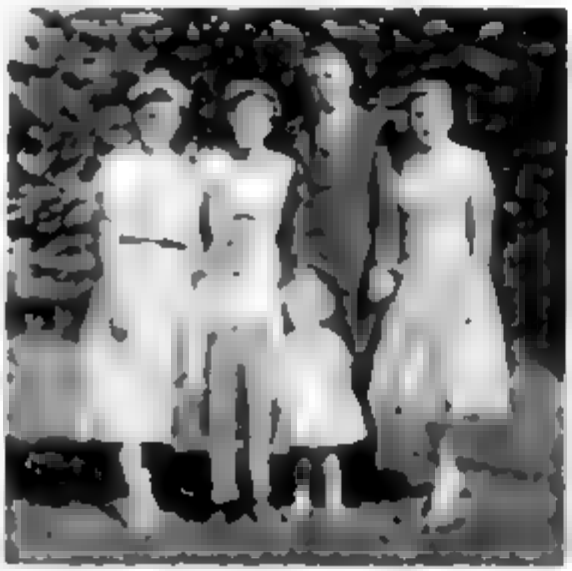
operated the Leedale store, returning home when the school term started.

At an early age he was helping with the farm work at home; milking cows, helping to clear land and working with horses in the fields. After leaving school, he continued working on the farm as the acres under cultivation increased and increasing numbers of cattle, horses and pigs needed attention.

Entertainment was home-made with many house parties, picnics and dances which were often held at the place with the largest space — sometimes the upstairs was used. Horseback was the popular method of transportation — especially with the younger crowd. Many an afternoon was spent horse-trading, with everyone going home thinking he had made a real deal. In 1926, the family bought their first car. It was a Ford Touring car and as Pryce recalls, cost $600 new. He was the only driver at the time as his father preferred his driving team.

In the summer of 1935, Pryce moved to his own farm on NE 8-41 3-W5 and later the same year on November 21, was married to Jessie Malcolm of the Lockhart district.

Although tractors were now becoming popular, he farmed with horses until 1940, when the first tractor was bought. In 1945 he purchased another quarter SE 8-41-3-W5 from his brother in law, Albert Bradley, after having rented for several years. Harvesting was still done by cutting grain with a binder, stooking the bundles and threshing separator, with a tractor used for power. Wood was the main source of fuel used for heating and cooking, with some coal used during the winter. Hauling loads and loads of firewood was done in the wintertime — after the pressure of harvesting and field work was over. In spring, neighbors exchanged work in sawing the piles of wood into stove lengths. When Calgary Power was brought in, in 1951, this chore was practically eliminated.



Pryce and Jessie Andrew, Faye, Allan, Shirley, Janet. 1956

Pryce served as a Board Member of Calgary Power when it was organized. He was also on the Gilby Hall Board for many years and on the Andrews' School Board prior to the school closing about 1952 when the children were bused into Eckville. Before A G T installed phones in 1967, he was a board member of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Assocation for nine years and worked as line trouble man for this area. From the time he started farming was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

They have four children — Faye, Janet, Allan and Shirley. Faye has three children — Karin, Brian and Drew and lives in Red Deer. Janet married Glyn Pugh and has two children — Terry and Elaine and they farm east of Ponoka. Allan is married to Darlene McLaren from Calgary. They have one daughter, Stacy and live on the home farm. He is presently employed as an electrician and is gradually taking over the farm. Shirley has lived in Yellowknife, N W T since November, 1976 where she was employed by the Imperial Bank of Commerce. Since July 1977 she has been employed by the R C.M P Detachment in Yellowknife.

They are still living on the farm and are semi retired. Pryce, in the last few years, has spent many hours at his hobby of repairing old machinery, harness, and wagons as the farming load gradually decreases.

**ANDREW, ROY**

Roy's parents sold him the W½ 4 and the NE 5-41 3-W5, upon their retirement. He was a bachelor farmer until March 1948 when he married Phyllis McDonald of Eckville. They lived on the homestead for 10 years and it was during those years that four of their six children were born. Their oldest, Donald Roy, was deceased in October, 1950.

In April, 1958, Roy bought the W½ and the SE 34-40-3-W5 from Edward Moro and sold the W½ 4 to Shirley Edwards. Being the home place was one-half mile off the road there were many gates to open and close (before the time of the 'Texas' gate) so the move meant progress. When the Moro property was purchased, with its complete set of fine buildings, the deal was considered a large venture but is small according to today's holdings.

Roy attended the Andrew School and for a time was the janitor, earning the princely sum of 10 cents a day. Phyllis took her schooling at Eckville, attended Edmonton Normal School and taught for six years previous to their marriage. She recalls that boys and girls growing up in Eckville at that time had the chance to participate in many extra activities. There were school fairs, calf clubs, C.G I T. and Sunday School. Some of the various sports were skating, skiing, playing ball, biking, hiking and

swimming — there were 'holes' in both the Medicine and Horseguard Rivers. If taking part in the commendable activities were too dull they sometimes went astray and would walk to the trestle where they dared one another to climb the structure. What a treacherous pastime!

Roy and Phyllis have five daughters. Sylvia, the oldest has her R N degree and is married to Dalph Ganga. They live in Edmonton Bonnie took a Commercial Cooking course and is employed in Red Deer. Lorene has her Distinction Award in aquatics, has been employed at swimming pools for the past four summers and is teaching school in Rocky Mountain House Joan is employed as laboratory and X-ray technician at Edson Hospital. Mavis attends Eckville High School and is in Grade 12 The girls enjoyed participating in many sports, were in 4-H clothing clubs and took music lessons from a very dedicated teacher, Mrs. (Westergard Whidden, who prepared them for Toronto Conservatory Piano Exams in both theory and practical.

Looking back over the past 30 years there is no doubt that the advent of Calgary Power brought the most notable changes in their way of living. When they first got the power, in the fall of 1951, their workload was considerably lessened — no separator to turn, cream to put down the well, or gas irons to fume away, only to mention a few of the improvements that were of their benefit

Roy and Phyllis consider themselves very fortunate that their pioneering parents came and toiled on homesteads so that they might have the satisfaction of mixed farming in this area

**BAKER, CHRIS**

Christopher and Nellie Baker came to the Andrew School District from Coronation, Alberta in 1922, with their oldest son, Ralph, who was then one year old. They purchased the SW 10-40-3-W5 or better known as the Canyon Place.

At that time, their oldest daughter, May, was living with her grandparents, Mr and Mrs Jack Williams, who lived nearby

Their second son, Frank, was born in 1925 and daughter, Olive, was born in Eckville in 1927

In about 1928 Chris moved his family to Eckville where he managed the local butcher shop for awhile

From Eckville they moved onto an acreage south of Lesieville in 1929, while there, Chris managed the butcher shop in Leslieville, for sometime

Their son, George, was born at Leslieville in 1930 and their daughter, Helen, in 1935

Later on they purchased a farm northwest of Leslieville, now known as the Paul Jones farm.

In 1942 their oldest son, Ralph, joined the armed forces and spent the better part of four years overseas. He returned home to look after his father's farm in 1946. The farm was sold two years later

Chris and Nellie returned to Lealieville to retire. Chris passed away in 1950, and Nellie lived with her son, George, for a few years in Calgary, before moving into a Calgary Senior Citizens' home

Ralph married Irene Heikkinen, they have six children, and are presently living at Winfield, Alberta

Frank is married, has two children and is living in Airdrie

May and husband have three children and are now living in Prince George, B.C

Olive married Veno Cech, and they had two children. She passed away in 1952

George is married and has one child. They are living in Calgary

Helen married Pete St Pierre, they have three children and are living in Edmonton

**BOSOMWORTH, JACK AND RUTH (LINDER) — by Ruth Bosomworth**

I first opened my eyes in a logging camp not far from Warren, Oregon, U.S.A. I was reported to have been born in a tent, and I guess that accounts for my love of fresh air Before I reached the age of two years my parents were looking for pastures new, and had heard glowing accounts of receiving free land in the form of homesteads in Alberta. Both being young, strong and ambitious, it appealed to them. They left Oregon for Alberta to try their luck in farming on a homestead in the Gilby district

In time they acquired two more quarters of land, and this was to be their home until they retired I learned my three R's in the Andrew school, which was situated a mile from home, on one of the folks' quarters. I then took a domestic science course for the fall and winter months When I returned I spent the next winter at Wolfe Creek, giving school lessons to three children, as there was no school there. The necessary school materials were being supplied through the government

In the spring, upon my return to the farm, I was offered a job as a telephone operator at Bentley, which I gladly accepted and enjoyed immensely I was 19 years old at this time. Unfortunately, after working there for approximately one year, I fell a victim of T B which started as a result of a bad cold and an attack of pleurisy. When, after six months of waiting for a bed at the Central Alberta Sanatorium at the Keith, as it was often referred to, about nine miles out of Calgary, I was finally admitted as a patient. I spent one year and 22 days, to be exact, there. When the folks asked if I could come home I was allowed to be released if I would promise to take my rest hours and continue the cure as I had been doing I spent several years convalescing at home

In 1936 my brother Edwin, who was then working in Courtenay, B C. wrote to me and encouraged me to come out there for a short holiday. Thinking the change might be beneficial, I

needed nobody to twist my arm, and in a very short time I was heading for British Columbia.

When Jack Bosomworth, my boy friend, heard of my plans he asked to accompany me, which he did. Owing to my present state of health, my parents begged me not to enter the sea of matrimony for at least a year. After visiting with friends for a month or so, Edwin told me that a couple of his buddies, who worked for the Comox Logging Company where Edwin was also employed, wondered if I felt strong enough to take a job cooking for them and Edwin. Feeling that I must do something if I was to stay on in B.C., I said I'd try it, and this is what I did. We got a place at Merville, B.C., and I was there for about a year, cooking for my brother and his friends.

The following year Jack and I were married at Courtenay, B.C. in 1937. After our marriage the boys I had been cooking for wanted to board with us, which they did for a time. On February 27, 1938 our first child, a boy, was born. We named him Innis John Karl. Shortly after this we moved to Comox, B.C., where our first daughter, Beverley Kathleen, was born on October 28, 1940. When she was only three or four weeks old we purchased fourteen acres of land not far from where we were living.

Work at this time was scarce in the line of work Jack was doing, which was carpentering, so we moved to Vancouver where Jack got a job in the shipyards, as it was war time. We were there for approximately two years when we again moved back to our place at Comox, as we had heard of a new airport being built only about five or six miles from our home. Jack applied for and got a job on this project.

In 1945 Sharon, our youngest daughter, was born in the Comox hospital, on May 6. All of our children were born in the Comox hospital.

In 1960 our son Innis was married to Diane Ellis, of Courtenay, and a day later we moved to Alberta, where work seemed to be more plentiful, and Innis and Diane moved to our place. We were hoping to be gone for only a year or so, but ended up being away for nine years. In 1969 we moved back to Comox and built a new home for our retirement.

Innis' first marriage ended in divorce, so he married Connie Sharpe, originally from Stettler, on September 16, 1967. A son, Darrell Allan, was born to them on October 12, 1975.

Beverley married Elmer Loyck and has three children, two girls and a boy. Lori was born on January 24, 1965, Joneel was born on October 4, 1966, and Dwayne on July 31, 1968. Beverley and Elmer lived around Rimbey for several years, where Elmer owned and operated a garage for some time, later selling it to Marvin Sargeant. He then bought several quarters of land south of Benalto and went farming on a large scale. Bev taught school in Rimbey and Stettler before her marriage.

Sharon Marie Ruth married Earl Hadley, of Red Deer, and they now live at R.R. 2, Ardrossan. Earl is employed with Schlumberger Oil Company, and works in and out of Edmonton.

Innis, our son, lives on our place where we gave him half an acre. He drives a big oil truck for Gulf Oil.

My husband, Jack, was well known both in the Lochart and Gilby districts, having worked for such old-timers as Mr. Bill Andrew, Mr. McTighe and Hilmer Thorp in the Gilby district and also for several men in the Lockhart district, such as Carl Thomas. He left Edinburgh, Scotland when he was 18 years old, to be with his brother Stewart, known as "Scottie" to his friends, in Carstairs. Later he came with Twineys, who settled in the Lockhart district. His first job was for Christ Baker, who then resided in what was known as "the Canyon".

**BRADLEY, ELIZABETH**

Elizabeth (Ciss) Bradley, eldest daughter of William and Alice Andrew came with her parents and other members of the family from England to Canada in 1905. She spent the first year in Lacombe with the family and when her parents moved near Bentley, she remained in Lacombe to attend school. After leaving school she worked as a telephone operator.

She is married to Albert J. Bradley and they live in Calgary. They have two children — Doreen, married to Tom Hall who lives in Calgary and have two married sons. Roland and his wife Hazel live with their sons at the West Coast.

**CHILDHOOD MEMORIES — by Edna Carrell**

The 1930's I recall
Were very happy times
For I was just a little girl
With my head full of rhymes

Dusty summer country roads,
Made soft puffs where ponies stepped
Carrying us off to school
And past the friends we met

Trotting clip-clop by the farms,
And all along the river
And if a thunderstorm came up
We sat, all wet, and shivered

Nine o'clock found us in school
Doing Rapid Calculation
In afternoons the History Class
Taught us all about our nation.

At recess time there were ball games,
And playing Farmer-in-the-Dell
Oh, how we loved hop-scotch,
And picking wild bluebells

Out beside the wood-pile,
Where we ate our springtime lunch
While gophers played and hornets buzzed,
Perched on sun-warmed wood, we munched

Salt pork with lots of mustard,
On homemade bread and butter

Tasted just de..cious —
While we watched a robin flutter

Built-in Nature Study
Was all around us, throbbing
Frogs croaked a.ong the roadside
And ducklings went a-bobbing

As afternoons turned cooler
We started out for home,
To milk the cows, and separate,
And be a little while alone

Mother waited by the stove
To .ay our supper out
Life on a farm was beautiful,
Of that I have no doubt

**THE HEBRE FERGUSON FAMILY — by Eileen Matthews**

Hebre K. Ferguson, with his wife, Abbey, and young son, Clarence, arrived in Edmonton from Truro, Nova Scotia in 1908. Hebre worked there as a carpenter for a number of years. Abbey passed away in 1911, leaving Hebre with a young son to ra..se.

In 1920 Hebre and Clarence moved to a farm in the Gilby area. Clarence did farm work in the district until the time he was able to purchase his own land

Clarence married Kathleen Lawton and they farmed in the G..by district. The land had to be c..eared of the timber and brush and broke with horses and a walking plow. The grain from the farm was hauled with a team of horses and wagon 12 mi..es to Eckville

Clarence and Kathleen Ferguson Wedding Picture 1926

There were cows milked and the cream was sold to the Eckville creamery. These cream cheques helped to buy groceries for the family

Clarence and Kathy have six ch..dren Eileen, Ra..ph, Laurence, Leslie, Faye and Alec Tiny). The older children attended Andrew school, which was two and a half miles down the road. Clarence served on the school board for a number of years and was active in other com..nity organizations as well. Throughout the summer months there were baseball games amongst the different communit..es and C..arence would be the umpire. A.l the families would at tend, and there would be a picnic lunch, com..plete with home-made ice cream after the game.

In 1938 the Gilby Calf C..ub was formed and the four older ch..dren belonged to this organiza tion.

In 1942 the farm was rented out and the family moved to the town of Eckv..le, where Clarence managed Larry Knudson's garage for one year

In 1942 Clarence took over the John Deere and Imperial Oil Agencies from the late Phil Laybourne. He belonged to the Eckville Curling C..ub, Board of Trade, and also assisted the hockey club and other sports activities.

The farm was sold to Fred Johnson in 1945 Hebre, having lived on the farm with his son, moved into Eckville at this time. He passed away in 1953.

Clarence passed away in 1948. The oldest son, Ra..ph, and his mother managed the business un til it was sold to the late Tom Klamski in 1953 This same property was sold to Revelstoke Lumber Company in 1958. At this time Kathy purchased her present home on 53 Avenue in Eckv..le from the late John Saari.

Kathy was night operator at the local telephone office from 1956 until 1967, at which time Alberta Government Telephones installed the present system.

Before retirement in 1969 Kathy worked in the Eckville Hotel Cafe, and also at the co-op coffee shop

Ralph married Chris Caldwell and lived in the eastern United States for a number of years before moving to Edmonton, where they presently reside.

Laurence married Margaret McDona..d in 1951, and they are presently living in Red Deer Laurence manages the A & W drive-in restaurants in Red Deer and Wetaskiwin. They have a family of four — two boys and two girls. Eldest son, Sheldon, has a degree in business administration from Northeastern University, Boston. He is married to Dorie and currently coaches the Red Deer Rustler Hockey Club Ron nie has his bachelor of arts degree from Wi..cox, Saskatchewan. He is now a research assistant for Attorney General Jim Foster. Margaret Ann has comp..eted her third year of pharmacy at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Cindy took a teacher-aide course at Red Deer College.

Les married Pat Crawford in Ju..y, 1951 and worked for A..berta Wheat Pool for 16 years. He later moved to Red Deer. They have five children: Gwen, Donald, Grant, Dwayne, and Barbara

Faye married Melvin (Bud) Osborne on May

1, 1953. They have three children, Dale, Rodney and Karen. The family is presently living in Edmonton.

**FORSELL, GUNNAR AND ADELINA — as recalled by Vivian Forsell Ogilvie**

Adelina Erickson emigrated to Seattle, Washington from Uddevalla, Sweden in 1903. She had several cousins already in Seattle with whom she first made her home. She worked as a housekeeper for different families until her marriage. Adelina was born in Alvick, Sweden on July 19, 1883.

Gunnar Forsell, at 17 years of age, emigrated to Tacoma, Washington to be with his uncle, Carl G. Forsell, in 1904. Gunnar was born in Vadevalla, Sweden, on April 3, 1885. While attending a dance at the Swedish Club in Seattle, Adelina met Gunnar. On August 3, 1907 they were married and set up a boarding house in Seattle. One of their first patrons was a couple from Alberta, on their honeymoon, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Peterson from Gilby. The Petersons, who had already established a home in Alberta, described the outstanding features of living in Alberta, and one of the features was the homestead. To be able to purchase a 160-acre plot for $10, appealed to the young Forsell couple. After some consideration, the Forsells sold their boarding house, packed all their belongings and entrained for Eckville.

They were full of enthusiasm. Here was an opportunity to be part of the great open country and the possibilities of riches appealed to them. Little did they know of the hardships and deprivations of pioneering. Upon reaching Eckville they hired a Mitzner livery outfit and started north for the Peter Peterson homestead. Mother tells of the rig getting stuck in a slough about three miles north of Eckville and how she gathered up her heavy long skirt, took one long jump, cleared the buggy and a wire fence to land on dry ground!

This young couple struggled like all other pioneers to carve out a home on the homestead they acquired, the SE 3-41 3-W5.

Both Gunnar and Adelina worked in Calgary before establishing a permanent home on their homestead. Working as a team, they cut the logs and hauled them to McPherson's sawmill near Bentley. Their ox and horse provided the power for the haul. A frame house on the hill replaced the little old log house nearer the road. To make ends meet, mother did house work in Calgary and she also bought a horse. Dad drove two or three teams in tandem while hauling freight between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House before the railway was completed.

To augment the often-empty larder, resourcefulness was necessary. Partridges and prairie chickens, which were in abundance, helped in the survival, and a garden patch was soon established. Today much emphasis is placed on style — new outfits at least every month, but in those early days the same dress or suit had to last for many years. Making something new out of something old became a real art. Many a shirt tail became a cute dress for a little girl, and a new piece of material was a prized possession.

Two children were born to Adelina and Gunnar. In March, 1912 Vivian, now Mrs. William Ogilvie, was born and Elzer arrived in 1914, in January. Vivian became a teacher in 1930, having received her training at Camrose. In 1939 she was united in marriage to William Ogilvie, who passed away in Lacombe in 1973. They had one daughter, Dolores, who became a library technician, and as of 1977, is working for Alberta Housing in Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunnar Forsell, Vivian and Elzer 1929

Elzer married the former Dorothy Simon of Forshee and he had a family of four — Gerald, Patricia, Carol Anne, and Susan. His family story is in a separate account.

The Forsells did their share in the Andrew School District, with dad acting as secretary treasurer for 16 years. Those days that position meant sending out all tax notices plus collecting the tax money, paying the teacher, and, in general, doing the entire business of the local school district. Finally the books were moved to Bentley, under the municipal system and then under the county system. The governing body was centered in Lacombe.

With the exception of one year spent near Tacoma, Washington, with Uncle Carl G. Forsell and four years in Ladner, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Forsell lived on the homestead.

Mother passed away in 1952, Dad passed away in 1954, and Elzer in 1956. All are buried in the Gilby cemetery. Uncle Carl G. Forsell passed away in 1931, and is also buried in the Gilby cemetery.

The present owner of the Forsell homestead is John Lauritsen.

The early settlers must have been a hardy sort. To survive they had to stand on their own feet. To be successful required even more effort. No doubt the pioneers would have had it no other

way and would do it again — would consider it a challenge and a rewarding experience. There were no government grants, no farm loans, no baby bonus cheques, to augment a meagre income. With the corner grocery maybe 10 or 20 miles away, a supply of flour was milled in the local mills from their own grain and stored in a dry place.

Oil wells dotting the countryside, gravel roads replacing the muddy grades and a wide hard-top through the valley would, no doubt, provide a big surprise to pioneers if they were to take a look today.

**FORSELLS — by Pat Lighthorn**

The wedding of Elzer Forsell and Dorothy Simon in 1942 begins this story. They came to live on the Forsell homestead where he and his father farmed. They had three children, first a son, Gerald and then two daughters, Patricia and Carol Ann.

I remember the harvest season the best because of all the excitement. When the threshing crew came we had a bunk house and a granary for the hired men. These places were supposed to be off bounds for the kids. The Indians camped in the pasture, and we weren't supposed to bother them, either, but there were some kids to play with so we were around quite a bit. We had hired men come out from Ontario to work a couple of years during the harvest. We have kept in touch with two of these men and Gerry had visited them when he was stationed in Ontario.

Gerry started school at Andrews School and that year (1949) there were many teachers until finally one settled. Pat started the next year. There were five students in grade one that year and they all graduated together from high school in 1962. We went to school there until the school closed in 1952. We were a mile and a half from the school but didn't always have to walk because some of our neighbors had twice as far to go, so, in the winter they used a cutter, and there was always room for two more to ride. In the spring and summer we usually walked barefoot. If we were supposed to be wearing shoes or boots we would stash them in a culvert to wear home again. If it was too muddy we had to wash our feet under the pump before we were allowed into the schoo.

In the fall of 1952 we were bussed to Eckville. Carol Ann started school that year, too. The school was too crowded so some of us from that corner of the district were sent to the Estonian school. The classes were grades three to six, so Carol Ann went to Eckville and Gerry and Pat to Estonian.

Grandpa and Grandma had moved from the farm to Ladner, B.C. in 1948. They were living out there when Grandma died in November of 1952. Grandpa came back to Eckville then and bought a small house in town.

I remember one winter while we were going to Andrews School. The weather had been pretty bad. I don't know if it was really cold, but there was a lot of snow and wind. Our road was drifted in solid from the half mile fence to the corner. As kids, we thought it was great to be able to walk anywhere in the fields without sinking into the snow. One night we went visiting the neighbors by sleigh. Gates and fences were no problem because they were drifted over. When the road was finally cleared out the banks were really high the road was really narrow. Daddy and Julien Sambrook were going to his hayland early one morning. We were on our way to school when they were coming back with a loaded hay rack. We had to climb the banks to get out of the way. We were above the rack when they went by, and were seriously considering jumping on the load when Daddy looked back. We decided to go to school instead!

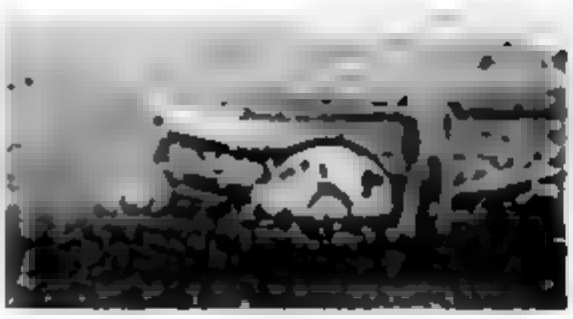
We continued our schooling in Eckville and were there for each new addition, the moving of the teacherage out of the school yard, and many other changes.

Grandpa lived in town for a couple of years, but spent lots of time at the farm. He had great patience with us. He loved to play cards, and, needing some competition, he taught us how to play crib and canasta and even solitaire, so we would let him rest from playing once in a while too. We used to come to his house in town too, and one night in particular, Hallowe'en night, we were there. We had never been trick-or-treatin in town before, so we were allowed to tour the next block that night. That was a real change for us, and we thought we'd really got a lot of treats. Grandpa died on New Year's Day of 1954.

The oil business came to our part of the country about 1955. The rigs were quite a strange thing in this part of the country. Daddy drove a water truck for one of the truck owners. The rigs were really busy and the trucking hours were to the extreme.

Alberta's Golden Jubilee was in 1955 and the school had a program in its honor. The teachers worked very hard organizing it. Our part of the program was a dance which we presented on the sidewalk in front of the school. The weather must have been good.

I remember Daddy belonging to the Bentley Elks and the Bentley Band. He was a great one to play a joke on someone. One time he'd bought Mom a new set of dishes. She was away at the time so it was a surprise, and we were very secretive about it. They were a new kind that didn't break. We brought her home and made some coffee before bedtime. She was sitting at the table and Daddy went to the cupboard, opened the doors and showed her the new dishes. Then he threw a cup to her. She was really surprized, but she caught the cup. Then he explained how they wouldn't have broken anyway. We thought it was a real funny joke. He played that trick on many people and we always got a real kick out of it.



Elmer Ferrell's tractor

Farming had really changed in that time, from threshing machines and big crews to combines and a couple of men working together

It seems that during the summer and fall of 1956 we were always on the go. We'd load up the big truck with friends and go berry picking and picnicking a lot. We'd just pick up and go whenever we could — it didn't matter if it was washday or whatever — if the weather was good or not — off we'd go. Mom and Daddy belonged to many groups, and I think each group had a picnic at Gull Lake every year. It was really fun. Gerry was in Grade eight, Pat in Grade seven and Carol Ann in Grade five when our dad died that November. It was a very hard time for us but we managed. Grandma Simon came to live with us. We had a new baby sister Susan the following January.

We stayed on the farm and rented the land for the next four years, moving to town in 1960. Mom kept the farm until 1964, when she sold the home quarter. In December of 1961 Gerry joined the Air Force and went East for his training. He had graduated from high school earlier that year. Mom was working in the Co-op and had been for a few years. Carol Ann and Pat were still in school. Pat graduated in 1962, Susan started school in 1963. Carol Ann graduated in 1964 and went on to a secretarial school in Calgary. Pat married David Lightbown in November of 1962. Mom and Susan moved to Fairview, Alberta, on the Labor Day weekend of 1964. Carol Ann married Ron Craig in July of 1965. They have three children, Kathryn, Bradley and Charlene. They reside near Delburne.

Gerry married Beverly Shearlaw of Three Hills, in France, in June of 1967. He bought out Dave Lightbown Trucking in February of 1976 and they now live in this district. They have one daughter, Rhonda.

**TED AND MYRTLE (LINDER) GALE — by Myrtle Gale**

Being the youngest of six children born to Karl and Emma Linder, I was the one privileged to go to high school. I attended the Red Deer High School, from 1939 to 1942, and later took my R.N. training at the Vancouver General Hospital, graduating in 1946.

In November of 1947 Ted Gale, of Saskatchewan, and I were married in Nanaimo, B.C. We lived and worked in Vancouver until buying a small farm near Red Deer in 1953. I nursed for ten years in what is now known as the Michener Centre at Red Deer. In 1968 we moved to the Linder farm in the Gilby district, where we are still living.

We have two sons, Gordon Edward, born in 1950 and Bruce James, born in 1951. Gordon was married to Katherine West of Edmonton on December 27, 1975. He has his degree in Education, and is a journeyman plumber. They have a son, Jeffrey, born April 12, 1976.

Bruce was married to Pat Sim of Calgary on December 27, 1976. Bruce has his degree in Education from the University of Calgary and Pat is with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce there.

Both boys have their homes in Calgary.

**GARRIES, ETHEL**

Ethel Garries, second daughter of William and Alice Andrew was born July 3, 1906, their first child born in Canada. She attended Andrews' School and on leaving remained on the farm sometimes helping with field work when needed.

On January 24, 1928 she married Paul Garries who operated Garries' Hardware in Bentley. On April 20, 1929 she passed away. They had one daughter, Muriel, who is married to Alvin Freeman and with their family live at Fox Creek, Alberta.

**MAY THOMAS HARTLEY — by May Hartley**

I was married in 1932 and we lived on the Carl Barhan quarter, about a mile south from Hespero store. Donna was born in 1934 at Mrs. Porter's Nursing Home south of Condor. We went there by team and cutter, two o'clock in the morning, on February 5. The roads were icy and the poor horses slipped a bit. We were on that farm for two years, then I was home with my parents, and Donna with me, for a year. Then we rented a quarter section from Arthur Thomas' father for a year. Next we purchased an acreage from Bill Whittle, two miles south and one mile east of Hespero. I did a little of everything while there. We had a dug well so drew water in a bucket for the stock and house for awhile before a pump was put in. Then the water was pumped by hand. We had no pasture for our cows so had to turn them on the road allowance. Many are the miles I walked to get them home.

Later my dad bought the rest of the quarter (Mr. Whittle had passed away) so Mrs. Whittle sold the land, which we paid him for in instalments. John was born February 10, 1941 at home. Mrs. Mitchel came to help. We had a straw and pole barn and chicken house for awhile before a lumber one was built. I took care

of the stock a lot, also the poultry, of course, and did the milking. I also cut wood for the house with axe and buck saw. John helped me with that when he got older. He went to work in an auto body shop in Eckville soon after leaving school. He drove back and forth for a short time, then boarded in town.

I became ill in 1955 and had an operation in Red Deer hospital in December. My brother-in-law, Cliff Hartley, took me to Red Deer. Donna came and stayed to look after the house. She was married and Fran was less than a year old. I was in the hospital nearly two months. It was bitter cold weather. They just got in to see me once. Donna had her husband's car, so my folks and brothers and wives also came. My sister-in-law, Phil MacBride, living in Red Deer, came every day, when I was permitted visitors. My brother Percy brought me home from hospital, but I never regained my strength and didn't feel up to milking cows and sawing wood any more. In November 1965 my brother Percy brought me and my belongings in to Lacombe to my mother's the next day. I went to the doctor the next morning and he put me in the hospital again. I had another major operation, and again was in hospital for two months.

When I was released from hospital John took me by car to California where Donna and her second husband, Ed Williams, lived. I was there six months or so, regaining my strength. Then a friend of Donna and Ed's was coming to Cardston, Alberta, so I came back with him. We drove right through, only stopping for gas and to get a bite to eat. We left La Puente, California about four in the afternoon and were crossing the line at Sweetgrass the next day about five in the evening. John came down from Penhold International Air Strip the next day in a four-place plane to bring me back to Red Deer (Penhold Air Strip) and by car to Lacombe to my mother's. There was room for only me and my suitcase in the plane so my trunk had to be shipped.

As soon as I was strong enough I took a position as baby-sitter and light housekeeping for a school teacher, whose husband was on the town police force. The little girl was two and one half months old. I was there until she started school. I worked for another family then back at Sautz's for another few years as they had another baby girl. When she started school I took a position at the hospital where I worked until October, 1976. I retired at this time, as I was past 65.

The staff took all the house-keeping staff out to dinner at the Crow Bar as my going-away gift. They paid my way and also gave me a present. They are a nice bunch and I still see them now and then.

In November my brother Percy took me out to British Columbia to visit my other brother Martin and a niece live at Abbotsford, Irvin in Vancouver, a niece at Mission, Harold at Chase, an uncle and a niece in Vancouver and a niece at Kamloops. Then we went to Percy's at Sicamous. Percy's son, Mike, and wife came from Alberta, and I came back with them in November. I visited John and Doris at Fort St. John while he was mechanic at the air strip a few years ago. They get down once in a while, as they are now living at Wetaskiwin.

**THE HUSEBYS — by Connie and Louise Huseby**

Halvor Huseby and his wife, Karen Huseby, came from Stravanger, Norway to Cottonwood, Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1898. With them they brought their three children, John, born in 1887, Ludwig, born in 1890, and Kristene born in 1895. Another son, Oscar, was born in Cottonwood, Minnesota, in 1899. Halvor, and the daughter, Kristene, both passed away in Minnesota.

John Huseby came to Alberta from Cottonwood, Minnesota, in 1911 and homesteaded west of Gilby. The following year Ludwig also came to Alberta, and in 1913, after the death of her husband and daughter, Mrs. Huseby and Oscar arrived in the Gilby area. They lived with John on his homestead.

Ludwig took a homestead west of the Leaf and school. He broke a few acres of land, but later traded his property for some equipment, and, along with his brothers, bought a half section of land a mile east of Gilby and they lived together for a number of years.

John married Connie Rolfsen in 1921, and the family all lived together until 1926. At this time Ludwig, Oscar, and their mother moved to a log house which they had built on the south quarter of their land. Their mother died in 1932, and Ludwig and Oscar batched there until Ludwig passed away in 1962.

Oscar married Louise Whiteside in 1962 and they lived on the farm until 1973. Oscar was disabled by a stroke and, being unable to carry on the farm work, he then traded the farm for Roy Engen's home in Eckville. Oscar and Louise are living in Eckville at the present time.

John and Connie have a family of six children. Harvey married Josephine Lawrence, a teacher at Andrew's School. (She later taught at Lockhart). They had two girls.

Muriel is married to Mart Engen and they live on a farm west of Gilby. They have four girls.

Thelma was married to Roy Engen. They lived on the old Engen farm for many years. A boy and a girl were born to them. Thelma passed away in 1969, after they had moved from the farm to a home in Eckville.

Violet is married to Gordon Carroll. They had five children but lost one little girl. They now live in Kitimat, B.C.

Ruby is married to George McTighe, and they live in Eckville. They had three children, but also lost one little girl.

Ken married Bernice Dyrland. They have six children and are living on the old Huseby farm.

John Huseby passed away in 1961 and his wife, Connie is now living in Eckville. For a

period of time following her husband's death she had lived in British Columbia

**IRWIN, CHARLES — by Olga Pederson Irwin**

My husband, Charles Irwin, was born in 1898 and came to Alberta from Kinnigo, Ireland, in 1921. He first worked on a threshing crew in the Brooks area, but returned to Ireland, living there until 1926, before returning to Alberta. He again worked near Brooks for a year, and then came to the Gilby district

We were married in December, 1927, and soon after bought the NW 8-41 3-W5 from the Hudson s Bay Company Our first home was a granary, as times were very "tough". After a year we hired Alex Ferguson, our neighbor, to build us a house, which is still my home

We had a family of five children. Helen was born in 1929 and was deceased in 1934. William, born in 1931, lives at Rocky Mountain House He and his wife, Donna, have four girls and two boys. Haze., (Mrs. Melvin Cave) born in 1934, lives at Hoadley and has a son. Florence (Mrs Andy Anderson, Rimbey) born in 1936 has a family of four, a boy and three girls. Albert, born in 1940, and wife (Darlene Baran) live on the home place. They have three girls — Brenda (born in 1964), Jeanette (born in 1968), and Angela (born in 1971)

My husband passed away in December, 1976, and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery

**KREIL, RALPH AND DOROTHY**

We moved to central Alberta from Coaldale in the fall of 1975 and in the spring of 1976 moved to our present home, formerly the Irvin Both farm.

Our children are; one daughter, Dixie, and two sons, Todd and Greg

We have made a few changes to the farmyard, such as a new house. Since Ralph is a carpenter by trade, we were fortunate enough to build a house That meant the old house had to find a new home, which it did and is now gone. The old barn, chicken house and pig barns have also been removed.

There is one thing we will never change though and that is our beautiful hill up the canyon. Coming from the dry, windy south, we really feel we live in God's country

**WALLACE AND CAROLYN KREIL AND FAMILY**

Formerly from southern Alberta and then near Monitor, Alberta, we moved to the Gilby area and in June of 1968 purchased the W½ 4-41 3-W5 from Shirley Edwards.

At this time our children were, Penny age seven, Cindy age six and Edward age five. Marty was born in the fall of 1971.

The first changes that we made in the farmstead were to move the driveway to the west side and to relandscape the yard. Continuing our efforts in 1970 we built a new barn, using as much good material from the old one as possible.

In June 1976 the time came to start building a new home. With the help of our neighbors and their tractors the old house was pulled from its location and into the yard. We lived in it while building our new home on the former site.

Seldom is there a Saturday night that we, Wallace and Carol, aren't playing in the dance band called "Wally's Westerners," along with Ralph Kreil and Jim Wingate

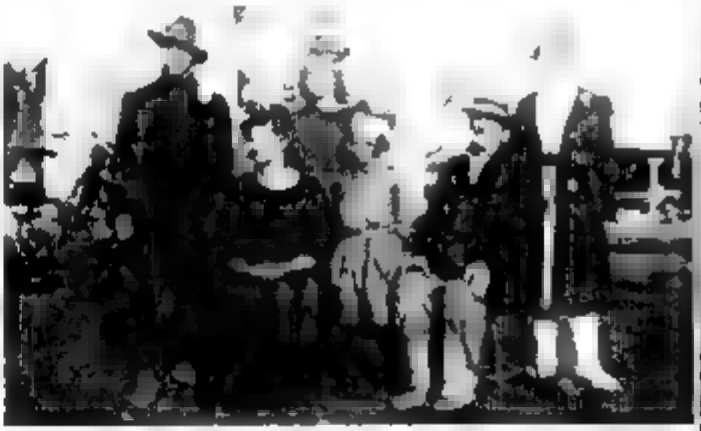
We enjoy living in the Gilby area as we have many wonderful neighbors, friends and relatives here

**THE KURZMAN FAMILY — by Mrs. Dave Kurzman**

John and Mary Kurzman and two children came from Seattle, Washington, U S A. in 1910. They lived first on the Ad Smith farm one and a quarter miles north of Lockhart Hall. Mr Kurzman filed on his homestead in March, 1910. This was the N E ¼ Sec 3, Twn. 41, R 3 W 5

This quarter was all bush land, so, first of all, land was cleared for a building site. Logs were cut in the hills and hauled by team to the McPherson Mill in the Lockhart district for making lumber By 1913 the site had been cleared and the house and barn built so the family was able to move to their own quarter in July, 1913. The house and barn built at that time are still standing

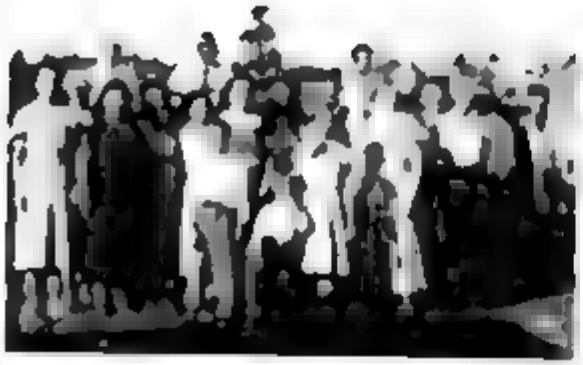
In 1910 a daughter, Esther, was born and Pearl, their fourth daughter, was born on the farm in 1916



Mr and Mrs. John Kurzman, Davey, Violet, Pearl, Esther

Mr Kurzman was a carpenter by trade and built houses and barns for a number of people in the community He also built the Lockhart Hall While Mr Kurzman was busy with his carpenter work Mrs. Kurzman and their son Davie carried on the farm work. Much of the land was broken with a walking plow pulled by a team. Mr Kurzman passed away in March, 1947

Mrs Kurzman was a good cook, and the Kurzmans were a very hospitable family Many picnics were held on their farm, and many gallons



Picnic at John Kurzman's

of home-made ice-cream were eaten there Dances were frequently held in their home, thus affording good times for the people of the community. Mrs Kurzman was a member of the Lockhart Ladies Club and helped with the C G I T for the girls. She passed away in March 1945

After his mother's death Davie took over the farm. He worked two years for E. Calkins in Bentley and spent two winters with Hough Mill working as a blacksmith's helper He helped build the Gilby Hall. He sawed many loads of wood for the Lockhart and Andrew schools. He received three dollars a cord for this firewood During the threshing season, for several years, he operated the threshing machine for Harry Thomas.

After the work was done in the fall a group of neighbors would usually go on a hunting trip This was a form of recreation for them, as well as a means of adding to the winter meat supply for the family Davie always joined in and enjoyed these trips

In 1948, Davie was married to Dorothy Jones of Forshee. They lived on the farm and continued the farming operations until 1972, at which time they moved to Rimbey to enjoy their retirement

Davie and Dorothy have a son Kenneth. He is employed by the Westbourne Drilling Company

Violet married Fred Wager and they lived in the Willisden Green district before moving to Calgary where Fred passed away in 1967. Violet still lives in Calgary They had five children.

Esther married Jim Strachan and lives in Rimbey They have two daughters who live in Edmonton

Pearl married Edd Cumming of Langley, B C. She passed away in 1975

Davie Kurzman was the last of the original settlers of the Lockhart District when he moved to Rimbey His first teacher is still alive and lives in the Red Deer Manor Mrs. Zella McPherson, wife of the sawmill operator, is still alive and lives in Lacombe

**LAURITSEN, TOM — by Annie Laursa**

Tom Lauritsen was born in the southern part of Denmark in 1904. He arrived in Canada in 1925, at the age of 24 years. Upon arriving in Canada he worked for various farmers in Saskatchewan. Later he moved to Peace River, Alberta, where he homesteaded in 1931. After leaving his homestead in Peace River he came to the Gilby district where he worked as a hired hand for the Thorp family This is where he met Julia Pederson, my mother

Mother was born in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota, U S A. in 1913. The family of John and Mary Pederson immigrated to Canada when Julia was four years old. They resided in the Gilby district on the N E 32-40-3-W5. Mother received all her schooling in the Andrew School

Following the marriage of Tom and Julia in 1933, they resided in a log house on the William Steel farm (N W. 35-40-3-W5). They resided in the log house for a short time until they could clear enough land on which to construct the present frame house in which they still reside This house is situated on S W. 35-40-3-W5, which dad purchased from the CPR. The home quarter was covered with dense brush, which they cleared almost entirely by hand

Throughout the years my parents purchased the three remaining quarters of section 35. which they still own and farm

My early recollections of farming include that of my dad farming with four to six horse teams One simple implement which stands out in my mind is the brush harrow. This harrow was made out of a huge willow bush. Also among the farm implements was the gang and sulky plows. Dad continued farming with horses until he purchased his first tractor, a 15-30 McCormick

During the depression my father and mother recollect selling market-weight hogs for three dollars. Dad hauled the hogs to Eckville with a team of horses and wagon box. In return for the three dollar hogs he would buy a 100-pound bag of flour Dad also relates taking an 850-pound steer to market in Calgary, and not receiving enough cash with which to buy Mother her second-hand treadle Singer sewing machine for twenty-five dollars

Father and Mother raised a family of eight children. Betty, the oldest daughter, was born in 1934. Betty resides in Red Deer where she is employed as a housekeeper John owns and farms two quarters N E. 34-40-3-W5 and S.E. 3-41-3-W5. John married Orpha Jodoin in 1964. They have two sons, Chris and Gary. Martin resides on the farm, where he helps dad with the farming During the winter months he works in the welding shop in Eckville, where he is apprenticing as a welder

Hans and his family reside in Calgary Hans has worked with the oil rigs for several years. He recently spent several months drilling in the United States. He has three children, Sandra, Denise, and Colin.

I (Annie) own a farm in Sylvan Lake area where my family reside. I was married to Ray

Lund in 1960. Ray and I have two children, Brenda and Brian. Ray passed away from complications of diabetes in July, 1964. Later I married Elmer Luoma of Eckville in December, 1965, and we have a son, Randy. Elmer also farmed a quarter of land on the north-west side of Sylvan Lake.

Mabel and her husband, Ron Lund, were married in 1963. They have two children, Roland and Maureen. At the present time they reside on a farm south of Eckville, where Ron works at various jobs.

Edith resides at home with her parents.

Esther and her husband, Ralph Mockford, were married in 1965. They have three children, Steven, Sharon and Darren. Ralph owns and operates a gravel truck. They reside in Eckville in the new mobile home sub-division.

The children all took their early schooling in Andrew School. We had three miles to go to school, and used various means of transportation to get there. When we rode horseback there were three on a horse. Later dad made a one-horse sleigh for winter use and a one-horse cart for summer. After the Andrew School closed in 1953 we were bussed to school in Eckville, from which Hans, Mabel, Esther and I graduated.

At the present time my father and mother still reside on the farm, where they raise cattle and grain. Dad enjoys his hobby of gun collecting and Mom enjoys her gardening.

**SW 10-41-3-W5**

The above quarter was homesteaded by Frank Lee, the NW 10 by his brother, William (Bill) and the NE 10 by their mother, Elizabeth Lee.

Fred Pimm bought the SW 10 early in 1915 and moved to a quarter in the Symonds district in 1922. (see Leedale for the Lee and F. Pimm histories)

Roy Counnic bought the land from Chris Baker and lived on the farm from 1930-31. He then moved to Springdale and on to Barrhead, Alberta, where he still resides.

Walter Matthew farmed the quarter from the spring of 1934 until August 1939. There were three children in the family.

Histories of other families living on the SW 10 are in this book.

**LINDER, KARL AND EMMA — by Edwin Linder**

Karl C. Linder, my dad, was born in northern Sweden, in 1882, and my mother, Emma Maria Hultgren, was born in central Sweden, in 1883. They both immigrated to the United States, at the turn of the century. Dad got a job falling timber in Oregon, and often talked of wearily, pulling a falling saw, the saw being slowed down by pitch, for a 10 hour day. Mother, also settled in Oregon, and got employment in some of the better homes in Portland.

While Dad was working in a sawmill in Portland, he got acquainted with Gustav Hultgren, Emma's brother. He was so impressed with the fine character of this man, that he exclaimed "Have you a sister? Then I can already begin to call you my brother in-law." The romance proceeded quickly and in the year 1907 Emma and Karl were married.

Dad heard of homesteads being available in Alberta, Canada, so he and a friend, Willie Hammerbeck, (then only about 19 years of age, and also of an adventurous frame of mind) got on a train and came to Alberta. Mother stayed behind, with the children, on a little acreage that they had bought in Oregon, while waiting for the word to come to Alberta.

In 1911 there were not many homesteads still available in the Gilby district, but there was one lying a mile and one-half northeast of the Gilby store, which had been abandoned by the man who had originally filed on it. Dad filed, and the SE 32-40-3-W5 was to be our home during those years when the family was growing up.

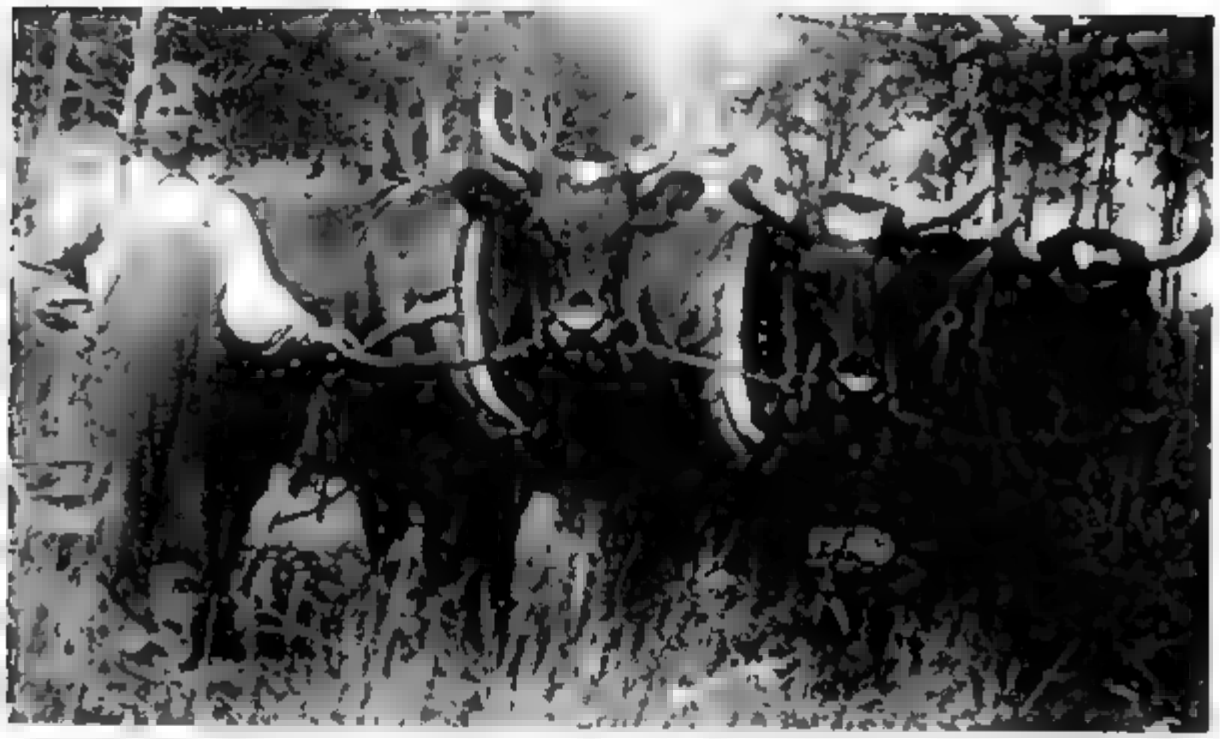
When my sister, Edith, was about three years old, and I was five months old, and my sister Ruth about a year older than I, Mother got on the train at Warren, Oregon, and headed for Alberta with her family.

Those were not the days of welfare offices and handouts. For a man to make a living for a family was a formidable undertaking. Before the homestead could be proved up, there were buildings to erect and a certain amount of land to be broken each year. There was the question of getting some power to pull the breaking plow and the harrows and discs, so that seed could be planted, and a crop taken off.

Tractors did not arrive on the scene until many many years later. Strange to say, even horses were very scarce. In fact, when we first got a horse, it seemed to me that there had been a real advance made both in farming and transportation. The problem of locomotion was first solved by Dad, when he purchased three sturdy oxen.

Farming was not all glory in that age for even the lowly oxen. Even though grass was thick and luxuriant, the poor old oxen pulling a breaking plow (sometimes then called a 'footwarmer') with the farmer following it on foot, had to contend with myriads of mosquitoes and flies. How those poor beasts must have suffered! Even the oxen had a spirit of independence, though, and one day, while pulling my dad's binder, they became so tormented by flies that they struck out for a clump of trees or willows, hoping to find refuge there from the attacks of the flies. Dad, who was intent on harvesting grain, not trees, undoubtedly tried to persuade the oxen to continue harvesting grain, but I understand that the oxen took the binder with them, and harvesting operations were halted for the time being.

Dad recounted how he got up very early to work, about three or four o'clock in the morning



Karl Linder with oxen about 1911

and continued till noon, when he broke off for that day

The oxen were large and powerful and eventually the sod was broken. This was followed by discing, harrowing and seeding, the oxen handling all these assignments

When winter came, Dad, who had grown up in Sweden where the farm animals were treated so kindly, and where it would have been unthinkable to expect the animals to spend the nights outdoors, took them in to what passed as a barn. Imagine his surprise in the morning to find that during the night the oxen had broken through the side of the barn, and were frolicking in the winter wonderland the next morning! Dad even took time out to do some custom breaking for the neighbours with his oxen

Later he got a sawing outfit, which consisted of an old Stickney engine, used to operate a circular saw. That old Stickney was hardly new even then but he did some custom cutting of logs for firewood in addition to providing his own. There was really only one source of fuel at that time — good old poplar trees, cut into logs. Some of the neighbours got together, the logs were fed gradually towards the saw, and wood, in stove lengths, was snipped off, one by one, to make the familiar 'woodpile' from which in the course of doing chores, farm boys repaired to, to fill the woodbox

Having arrived on the old homestead, and before the land was cultivated, there was the problem of feeding the family. These were not the days of welfare offices and handouts. What was my dad to do? He found the answer in getting some traps, and tramped around the more unsettled land of that age, trapping muskrats and weasels. The pelts were sometimes mailed as far away as St. Louis, Missouri. The proceeds helped to buy the simple needs of the pioneers

My parents told us of the multitude of rabbits and deer that were to be found in that day, so there was no shortage of meat. Dad had a trusty 30-30 Winchester and loved hunting. As children we certainly got to know the taste of venison and rabbit meat. As we grew older, we knew that if there was a fall of snow, the Winchester was taken down and the moccasins donned for light walking. Away Dad would go. Rarely were his hunting trips unsuccessful. There remain memories of those days about my father, moccasins for hunting, quinine for colds and putting his feet into hot water when he found a cold approaching. Some of the old remedies like the latter could probably still be profitably used.

So we survived those early days, continuing to grow and be healthy. In those days, long before electric lights, or even gasoline lamps, kerosene was a 'must'. I remember trudging with my mother to the Gilby store. Mike Sestrap, the storekeeper, was well known. Going to that country store would be as exciting for us as a modern boy of similar age going to a big town. Those remember, were not the days when every child's fancies were expected to be gratified. But there were treats on occasion. For example, the

kerosene can might lack a cap for the spout. No problem. Mike put a soft candy over the end of the spout and no spilling occurred on the way home. So a treat awaited me when we got home. The candy, with the spout problem now solved, was mine. Oh sure, it had a little kerosene on it, and this did not necessarily improve the flavour, but what is a little kerosene on a candy to a boy who had, up to that time, never eaten a chocolate bar!

The store contained products in bins, whether candy or rice. I do not remember packaged goods then. Cloth was found in bolts and sold by the yard. The ladies of that day had to improvise, and probably loved to do so, they might as well like it, as there were no other avenues open. I remember the storekeeper, skillfully measuring the cloth with his arm, he having been a tailor, I understand, in his younger days.

I doubt if it would have been possible to buy bread already made at the store. No, the farm ladies made their own bread. I still cherish the experience of coming home from school to find newly-baked bread or buns, on the table, covered with a white sheet. With a school boy's appetite, did I grab one, liberally covered with home churned butter? I sure did. Those were indeed the days!

My brother, Elmer, was born not long after my parents' arrival in Alberta, followed by Irving and Myrtle.

Going back into the farthest reaches of my memory, I believe a word should be included about early threshing. There was something most exciting about the arrival of the threshing outfit. It invariably had a steam engine to operate it, with the accompanying water wagon. In those days bundles were stacked, and stacking was an art in itself.

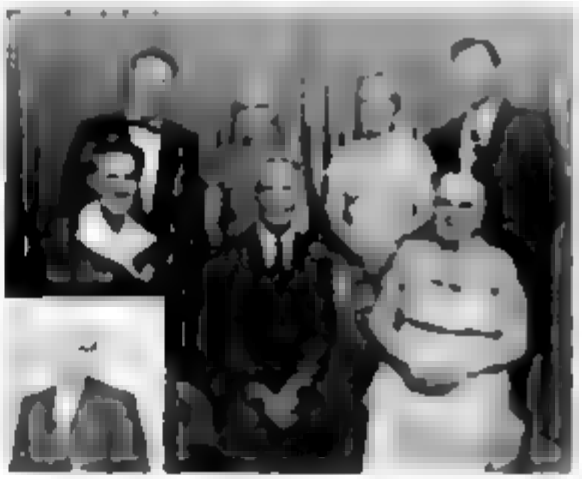
Threshing developed to the bundle rack stage, and as my good appetite continued, and still does, I did not mind at all the competition that developed among the farm women to put on a real, good spread for the threshers. Then there was, too, the morning and afternoon lunch. Coffee and refreshments were brought out to the threshing outfit, and there was much good-natured banter between the threshers and the farmers' daughters as they brought the lunch out to the field.

When Andrew School was built, the acreage on which it stood was fenced off, on land that was later bought by Dad, a quarter we dubbed the 'C.P.R. quarter' (NW 33-40-3-W5). Dad acquired two quarters of land in addition to the homestead. The other was known as 'the Hammerbeck quarter' (SW 33-40-3-W5) in memory of Willie Hammerbeck, who had bought that quarter originally, then returned to Oregon and later sold it to Dad. (Mr. Hammerbeck died recently and Mrs. Hammerbeck is still living at Warren, Oregon.)

The school was cold in winter and hot in summer, and creaked ominously during a windstorm. However, that is the school where we got our basic education. It was there we played during recess with boys and girls who, like ourselves, were children of the pioneers. It was there we surveyed the surrounding country during our recesses, and shared in the anxiety of our parents as they contended with the hazards of farming: cutworms, frost, hail and other factors. We knew that farming was the source of income our parents and we children depended on. The morals of the parents and children were wholesome, and the values I learned there have influenced me all my life.

In thinking of a community we think naturally of the supply of water. Our first well was a dug one. It later provided refrigeration for the cream can. One could not expect to get 'grade special' for the cream, if it was not kept in a cool place, so down went the cream can into the well suspended by a trusty rope. It was important to get the best price for cream, after all, our overalls, jackets and the mail order to Eaton's, started from the cream can.

In 1917, Billy Bjornson and his brother Louis, came to our home with a real well drilling outfit. The general principle was the lifting of a heavy object that drove a hole well down to water, where the pipes followed to pipe the water up, with the use of a pump. The first well was quite a long distance from our house, and we spent many an hour pumping water for the cattle. It was kind of fun missing school once in awhile, but carrying pail after pail of water for the house took some of the joy away. Too, the water from the first well was hard. In later years, Victor Johanson, from Bentley, began to drill for a well right at the house, on the porch as a matter of fact. Mother watched the drilling with much interest. One day Victor announced that he had struck water. "Is it soft?" Mother asked. "No, the water is not soft." "Then keep drilling," she replied. He did, continuing on for over 100 feet.



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Linder 50th Wedding Anniversary. Back: Edwin, Edith, Ruth, Irving. Front: Myrtle, Karl, Emma. Inset: Elmer.

When he next stopped and reported water, he said that the water was soft. The well is still there, with good water Believe you me, IT IS SOFT

My parents, Karl and Emma Linder, retired from the farm early in the 1940's and spent the last years of their lives living with Edwin Linder, in British Columbia. Dad dearly loved fishing for steelhead even when an old man, in his last years at the coast Mother continued to be interested in her family until her death in 1968

**A HISTORY OF MY LIFE — by Edwin Linder**

I was born in Warren, Oregon, U S.A. on January 11, 1911, the son of Karl and Emma Linder. In 1911, when I was five or six months old, my parents, with my sisters Edith and Ruth, and I came to Alberta and settled in the Gilby area. My brothers Elmer and Irving and my sister Myrtle were born in Canada

I was educated in the old Andrew School, located a mile northeast of our home, and continued on the old farm helping with the farm work until I was 23 years of age. Most of the depression years I lived in Alberta

In the spring of 1934 I went along with Jack Catling and his mother, from Alhambra, Alberta, who were on their way to settle on Vancouver Island. I got a job working for the Comox Logging and Railway Company, in the Courtenay area of Vancouver Island The logging operation was a few miles north of Courtenay I got a job there first on the section gang, at three dollars a day, and later got a job setting chokers. I continued in that logging operation, and others, advancing in position and pay, and finally moved to Ladysmith, B.C. where I resumed work for the Comox Logging and Railway Company I sought to provide a home for my parents who, having sold out the farming equipment and livestock, were retiring Both my parents joined me, and I bought a house at Ladysmith in a section of that town known as the Diamond district My parents lived with me here until we moved to Duncan.

I became treasurer of the Ladysmith and District Credit Union having learned shorthand and typing while on the old farm and supplementing my knowledge of bookkeeping in a business college in Vancouver when the logging camp was shut down because of heavy snow My knowledge, gained by myself and in school, came in handy

In 1948 there was a disruption in the International Woodworkers of America, in which the radical leadership was displaced and new officers installed. I was elected financial secretary and also filled the position of office manager I continued in that job until I retired in 1976, being to the best of my knowledge, the longest-elected office holder in the whole International Woodworkers of America, from Newfoundland to California, from Alabama to the Yukon

On September 3, 1965, I married Velma Geier then living in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. We live on 5330 Miller Road, Duncan, B C. where we have resided since our marriage

My father, Karl Linder, was born on February 7, 1882 and died on February 25, 1966 My mother was born on February 24, 1883, and died on March 17, 1967

**IRVING LINDER — by Myrtle Gale**

Following his schooling Irving farmed with his father, Karl Linder, in the Gilby district. In 1943 he and Muriel Shelby, of Campbell River, were married in Vancouver Irving drove the bus for the Vancouver Island Coachline for several years before moving back to the Gilby district in 1951. Here he farmed until 1968. He and Muriel then moved back to their home in Campbell River which is scenically situated on the banks of the Campbell River

They had four children Barry, Brian, Maureen and Norma

Barry, who has his own roofing company, lives in Edmonton

Brian, who is married to the former Susan deHoan, of Dawson Creek, has two sons, Corey and Ryan The family lives in St Albert. Brian has his degree in Science from the U of A.

Maureen died suddenly at the age of four years in 1954

Norma, the youngest child, is living and working in Campbell River

**ELMER LINDER — by Edith Oberne**

Elmer, son of Karl and Emma Linder, was born in 1912. In the fall of 1938 he and Dorothy Hutchison were married at Gimlet. They spent the early part of their married life around the Gilby district, and then moved to British Columbia.

Their three children are Larry, Verlie and Ross. Larry works in the Queen Charlotte Islands. Verlie is married and lives in Surrey Her children are Bruce, Bobby and Brenda Ross is married, with two children, and living in Duncan, B.C

Elmer passed away at Courtney in 1961

**LISKA, PETER**

Peter, a coal miner's son, was born on July 20, 1921, in Coleman, Alberta. He received his education in Coleman.

In 1940, he left the coal mines and went to Broderick, Saskatchewan, to farm with his parents

On July 17, 1947, Peter married Josie Trautman, a farmer's daughter. Josie was born on March 13, 1927, in Strongfield, Saskatchewan. She received her education in a country school which was called Cherry-Dale. A school bus service has been put in on route from Strongfield, so Cherry-Dale is no longer used for classes

In the latter part of June in the year of 1948, Peter lost all the wheat crop on his quarter section in Broderick. The grasshoppers came in

herds like cattle and ate crops, gardens, even the leather in harnesses

Farming was a very trying occupation on the bald prairies, and Peter decided to make a move. Leaving his parents behind, he and his wife Josie and her sister Jennie went to Alberta in search of jobs. The three took the passenger train from Broderick. The crops through Saskatchewan and eastern Alberta looked poor Some parts were invaded by hoppers, in other parts of the country, crops were yellowed from drought

After travelling all night, they finally arrived in Red Deer. About four hours later, they climbed on board a lazy freight and were on their way again. One thing that will always stay vivid in the trios minds is how scenic the countryside looked. Trees and crops were a beautiful green. The leaves and grass looked luscious enough to be used for salad. The tiger lillies were in full bloom along the railroad ditches and the girls had the urge to go out and pick them when the freight stopped for cream pick-ups

In the latter part of the sunny but humid afternoon, the tired three got off the freight at the CPR station one mile south of Eckville and hitchhiked a ride with Marg Schofer to Eckville, where Peter's sister, Mary, and her two sons, Joe and Louis Paikia, waited and took them to their home

After a few days of enjoyable visit and celebration of Josie's and Peter's first wedding anniversary, Joe Psikla suggested that Peter and Josie apply for a farm hand and cook at the Ray Niemela farm in Benalto where they were employed until the middle of September Peter's brother, Joe, brought out Peter's 1935 Chev, and Peter and Josie went back to Broderick. Sask Joe Liska stayed in Eckville to stook and after a couple of weeks he went back by train to Broderick

After several weeks of packing, the family, Josie, Peter and his parents, his brother , Joe, and wife, Millie, and four girls, Irene, Mary, Helen, and Vicky were on their way back to Alberta. Josie, Peter, and parents spent the winter at Wright's farm in Eckville

On a dry, sunny, warm day in the first week in April of 1949, with the help of Joe and Louis Psikla and Roy Saari, Josie, Peter, and parents moved to the Hilmer Thorp farm, two and a half miles northwest of Gilby, Alberta. Peter, and his brother Joe, and families were happy to have a roof over their heads and things looked quite encouraging until spring work began and the old 1927 Minneapolis tractor gave out. Peter's nephew Joe Psikla came to the rescue with his new John Deere D and put in the crop. With two months of dry spring weather and not being aware of what was in the soil, the barley crop turned out to be wild oats and thistle Snow came early in the fall and harvest was a struggle. The winter of 1950 was miserably cold. There were no storm windows on the house, one heat register in the living room and none in the other seven rooms. There was very little coal and they had to use green wood for fuel. The temperature in the bedrooms upstairs was 23 degrees F. The Liska family felt that they had fallen out of the pan and into the fire

In 1953, the Liska brothers felt they must repair the house to be comfortable. They remodeled the kitchen in the back part of the house which was the old homestead. A new basement was built adjoining the old one, and bins were made for vegetables and coal. A new furnace was installed and hot and cold registers were put into the rooms. In 1958, electricity was put into the house and barn and several years later, part plumbing for running water was also installed which made work a little more convenient

There were approximately 100 acres of brush cleared and land broke for seeding In 1957, the Liska brothers received an award of merit. seventh prize Regional, for malting barley Peter and Joe also raised hogs and cattle and milked by hand as many as 18 cows. The Liska ladies helped with chores and raised bountiful gardens, so their deep-freeze was always full of good fresh frozen vegetables and meat.

There were happy times as well In the fall of 1949, Peter and Josie attended a social at the Gilby Hall. Music was donated. A little bird told Percy Thubron that Peter was musical, so Percy took Peter in his truck to Peter's house and they brought back the old two row button accordion and guitar Everyone had a nice evening Shortly after, an orchestra originated which was called "The Polka Dotts" Peter played accordion. Josie the guitar, her sister Jennie played piano and Joe Psikla played the violin. A few years later the two sisters left the orchestra and Waldo Raabis and Roy Leach joined the boys. They called the orchestra "Rhythm Boys"

About three years later, Waldo and Roy left the orchestra and Josie and her sister Jennie joined their husbands and are still playing for dances. They call their orchestra "Family Four"

On September 26, 1953, a son Philip was born to Josie and Peter He received his education in Eckville. Philip was employed for several months with Watley Trucking In 1972, he worked with his uncle, Carl Trautman, constructing steel buildings. Philip married Barbara Graham in 1973. They have two sons Geoffrey and Jason. Philip has been employed with Fletcher's Fine Foods in Red Deer for five years. The Philip Liska's have a home in Sylvan Lake, Alberta

A daughter, Dolores Liska, was born on November 1, 1955. She took her Grade 11 in Eckville and finished high school at the LTCHS in Red Deer Dolores was employed as secretary for S & B Auto Body Shop in Red Deer for a year She has since changed positions and is now employed at Pam's Hallmark Shoppe in Red Deer

In March of 1972 the Liska brothers realized that after 23 years of struggle on the Thorp farm, they would never own it, so they set a date on May 3 for a machinery and cattle sale

Peter and Josie now reside in Red Deer where they own a home. Peter is employed at Federal Pioneer Electric and Josie works at the Red Deer Nursing Home. They are enjoying the convenience of city life

**JOAN (LAWTON) MADDOX — by Joan Maddox**

I came from Lacombe in May, 1907 at the age of two years by covered wagon with my parents, Frank and Clara Lawton, brother Billy, age seven, and sister Kathleen, age four years. My parents settled on NW 34-40-4-W5.

Our early years were spent playing near the buildings, as lynx and bear were often seen. Our three cows had to be herded as they would travel for miles, since there were no fences. Mother did not know her directions away from the buildings

There was a small lake near by with an island, which Billy claimed as his own. If you were in his favor you were allowed to go with him on the raft. Otherwise, he was Robinson Crusoe and had it to himself

One day, when dad was building the log barn, mother and Miss Sjodahl decided to go blueberry picking. Kathy and I were told to watch Alick closely, as he was only a toddler. However, he wandered to the lake and fell in only to get soaked. Mother got a large pail of berries, but next morning her eyes were swollen shut from insect bites

When the men were all away working one midsummer day, Mrs. Jake Amburs came rushing over, carrying a small child. They couldn't find Jimmy, age about four years Mother gathered us together to go the mile across the fields with her As we hurried up the hill, where a large barrel stood by the trail, up came a fair head from inside the barrel. Jimmy had climbed in and had gone to sleep there.

When Billy was raking hay one hot day on the far side of the farm with the oxen "Sam and Tom", the heel flies struck them. Home they galloped, across the narrow pole bridge and into the lake. Billy was still on the seat of the rake, in water too deep to wade out. In later years, as roads were being built, the lake had to be drained. It was a sad day for us children — no more swimming and rafting — but mother was happy, as there would now be fewer wet clothes

Billy and Kathy often went to John Rechy's on the next quarter. He always gave them a dried prune. He stirred his beans (these two being the main dish for bachelors) with his stove poker One day I was allowed to go along with Billy and Kathy. I stood by the door, watching, and, sure enough, he poked the fire and then stirred the beans! On the way home they ran ahead and left me, saying the bears would get me. That night I had a terrible nightmare that kept them awake They were punished!

Mr McDonald, who lived three and a half miles west, often came by on his way to Gilby with his bay mare and single buggy. He was a minister, and a very educated man. Some of the pioneers thought him rather queer He and my dad would sit for hours, talking astronomy One day Alick and I were racing to the house for dinner There, on the narrow porch, mother had put the rocking chair out for Mr. McDonald, as he had walked from Gilby (his mare had died) I was ahead and ran right into him. Being very shy, I was terrified, and cried The next time he came he brought me a lovely story book.

School days followed, with cold walks in winter and swamps to wade in summer. It closed after the Christmas concert, to open again in March, continuing all summer I went only through Grade 8, as that year my father passed away and I stayed home to help Billy and Kathy with the farming

Our social life consisted of dances and box socials. Gilby put on a Saturday social evening, when they had boxing, sing songs, and games. We would go for miles in 20-below or colder weather, either horseback or by sleigh load. We would have as much fun on the road as at the dance. Jack Mularkey, a friend of my family, was always along. He had a fine baritone voice, and always helped with the entertaining during the supper hour

In 1928, I married Jervel Maddox, who came to the valley with his folks from Missouri, U.S.A., at the age of 14 years. He worked out for farmers the next year In the spring of 1916, being tired of the job at 50¢ a day, he joined the Canadian Army. He was there a month before his mother was notified. Being not yet 16, she took him out By that time he had decided that the army wasn't so exciting after all. He joined the U.S. Marines in 1919 and was with them until 1921. At that time he came back to Canada and took a homestead at Winfield, Alberta

We spent 1928 on the homestead then came back and rented land until March, 1930, when we moved with our daughter Marie (10 months old) to NE 6-41-3-W5, which we had bought for $3000.

The dry years and poor prices made times very hard. We farmed with horses, so had few expenses. With the cattle, pigs, chickens, and a large garden plus good management we were able to get better equipment and more land, owning 960 acres when we retired and moved to Eckville in 1967. Our three boys now own the land.

We had nine children. Joan Marie, Elizabeth Lorraine, William Steven, Edythe Pearl, Eunice, Thomas Frank, Dianna Joyce, John Gilbert, and Ruby Lee. Five of the children were born on the farm, with the doctor waiting many hours for their arrival.

Our visiting and trips to Eckville were done

Jervel and Joan Maddon and family 1960

with a team and buggy until 1932 when we traded cattle for a second-hand Model T Ford

Cooking for threshers was a big chore even with a girl to help. A large table was brought in to hold the 14 men. We would have to be up at five o'clock, get breakfast over, milk the cows, get the children off to school and then start dinner. Sometimes the men wanted morning lunch as well as lunch in the afternoon. If we ran short of meat, chickens had to be killed.

Our children grew up to be very responsible as the years went by, enabling us to take a few weeks holiday each year.

"Old Blackie" didn't mind

In September of 1967, we bought a house in Eckville, as Jervel was ill. He passed away on November 28 of that year. I still live in the house with my daughter, Eunice, who is handicapped, but a cheerful companion. The others took their schooling at Andrew and Eckville Schools.

Marie married John Wilson. They had seven children. Ted, who served several years in the armed forces, is now an instructor in pollution at Whitehorse, Yukon. Richard passed away in 1967, after a long illness. Barbara, now Mrs. Albert Brandl, has one son, Brent. Randy, Terry Dale and Bradley are their four other children.

Betty married Walter Cunningham. They had five children. Lois, now Mrs. Peter Duncan, has two children, Kelli and Shawn. Gregory passed away in 1956. Gerald married Terri Mottus and has two children, Jay and Melanie. Darryl, and Susan, who is still in school.

Bill lives on SW 8-41-3-W5. He married Joyce Dyrland and their four children are Carol, Steven, Marian and David at home.

Pearl took a home economics course at Olds College. She worked as a dietician in Calgary General Hospital until she married Michael Dubyna. They have four daughters: Sharon (Mrs. David Werrett), Sandra, Brenda and JoAnne.

Tom lives on W 6-41-3-W5. He spent several years working for Mid-West Paper, in Calgary. He then took a mechanics course at Olds. He is married to Caroline Chappell. They have three children, Debbie, Jody and Anna-Marie who are still attending Eckville School.

Joyce took a secretarial course in Red Deer, then worked in Lacombe until she married Stewart Calkins. They have three children, Gwen, Jeffrey, and Shelly.

Jack lives on NE 6-41-3-W5. He married Susan Harcus. Their three children are Paul, Robyn, and Craig all at home.

Ruby-Lee took four years of University in Edmonton, getting a B. Ed. degree. She majored in French, and taught at Rocky Mountain House and in Calgary. She married Thomas Houston. They have two boys, Timothy and Brett.

**VOLDEMAR MATIISEN and FAMILY**

Voldemar Matiisen and his wife Rita Sigrid arrived with their three children, Hendo, Arne and Eda, at Eckville on June, 1948. They were sponsored as immigrants by Voldi's brothers, Alfred and Arnold Matiisen. Previous to this they had lived four years in Sweden, having escaped the Russian advance in Estonia at the end of World War II.

Having purchased the three quarters of the Frank McTighe farm, W½ and SE 9-41-3-W5, they moved there in January 1949. As luck would have it, the move took place on a record-breaking cold day, -50°F., providing a hint of times to come.

A mixed farm operation was commenced to support a family of seven, which now also in-

cluded Rita's aunt, Elsbeth Sadver and her mother, Melanie Dreybradt. They were deceased in 1960 and 1970, respectively. They were buried in the Gilby Kalmu Cemetery.

The oldest son, Hendo, entered the Eckville Junior High School and graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer in 1954. He studied Engineering at the University of Alberta. Arne and Eda began their schooling at the Andrew School and were transferred to Eckville in 1953 when the Lacombe County schools were centralized. Arne graduated there in 1958 as Valedictorian and Eda finished in 1962, winning the Eckford Trophy. They both continued their education at the University of Alberta, Arne studying Chemistry and Eda studying Psychology.

Arne married Carolyn Wilfley of Brooks in 1966 and they and their daughter Janet Ray have spent several years in Europe where Arne has been employed as a computer-log analyst. He recently returned to Calgary as manager at Computalog Services Ltd. Hendo has been employed in the construction industry throughout Alberta. Eda has worked at the University Alberta Hospital as a psychologist since 1966. She married John McClung, an Edmonton lawyer, in 1973, who is now Supreme Court Justice of Alberta, living in Edmonton.

The hardships of the early years of farming were eased by the arrival of three productive oil wells. For several years, Volli also worked as a battery operator. After that, most of the farm operation focused on cattle and grain. In 1964, Rita entered the University of Alberta, in the Faculty of Education, to supplement her European training in Medicine and Dentistry. She obtained a teaching certificate and commenced teaching at the Eckville Junior and Senior High School in 1965. In addition to teaching she operates the school library.

Volli managed the farm operation until 1974 after which he rented the land. They continue to live there, enjoying the home place which they have developed over the past 29 years. Their children return often on weekends and holidays to enjoy and appreciate the flowers and gardens and the scenery of Medicine Valley.

## THE McCRADY FAMILY

My mother, Reane, father, Homer John, sons — Herb (Sonny), Wilbur (Chick), Milo (Bill), Raymond and daughter, Ruth, moved from Drumheller to a farm in the Andrew school district. The farm was known as "The Canyon Place" because of the road that ran through it in a canyon between Charles Andrew and George Fraser of the Lockhart district. They arrived at the farm in the Easter holidays of 1930 and remained there until 1935 when they moved to a farm in the Lockhart district.

Father had been raised on a farm in Missouri and carried some of his earlier memories into his farming in Alberta, causing him to be known as eccentric to some.

One of his earlier efforts in raising hogs caused his neighbors to think he was in the bee business because when they looked down from the hills, his "A" huts for the pigs were mistaken for beehives. His basket rack for bundles was not a good design for the hills as the sloping sides allowed the load to overhang too far and tip. Mules were not in common use in the area and ours caused a lot of excitement as they were always ready to run, buck, kick or bray in order to get attention.

The McCrady home soon became quite a meeting place as my mother was one of the best cooks around and everybody was always welcome at our table.

Herb had a bright yellow Ford roadster that caught the girls' eyes, but Chick was usually the life of any party with his quick wit and yodelling.

I (Bill of Rimbey) was the woodsman, hunter and the one to keep the home fires burning when the rest of the family went anywhere. Sister, Ruth, was my helper. We were likely given this duty as we were the youngest, except for baby, Roy.

Later, our older sister, Mrs. Rounds, came back to the family with her three children — Gordon, Geraldine and Marion (Mrs. Paul Eckes, Eckville). She then moved to the Liner homestead where she took in Eunice Wells, a dwarf, and sister to Zeth Wells.

I'm sure the years spent on "The Canyon Place" were the happiest of my life even if it did take two bushels of wheat to buy my dad's tobacco. We were never hungry but clothes were very well worn before being discarded.

## F. B. McTIGHE AND FAMILY

Francis Bernard McTighe was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1879.

In 1905 he came from Holloway, Minnesota to homestead in Humbolt, Saskatchewan, where he met Eva Zengel. Eva was at her widowed mother's homestead in the Humbolt district.

Frank McTighe

Eva McTighe

Frank and Eva were married in Cranbrook B.C. on November 11, 1909

Frank bought grain for the Alberta Pacific Company for a period of 17 years

In 1919 they bought three-quarters of land in the Gilby district and lived there until the fall of 1948, when due to ill health, the farm was sold to Volli Mathisen.

The following January he went to Vancouver and Salt Spring Island on a holiday, where he stayed six weeks, then returned to Alberta

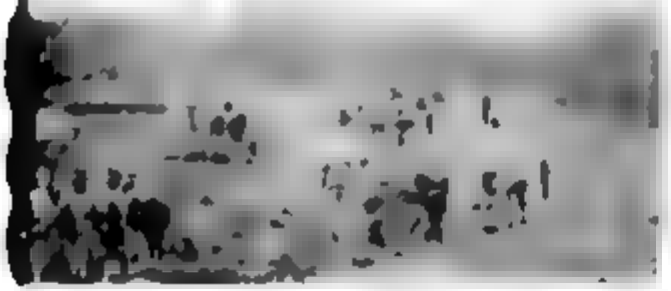
He had previously bought a tract of virgin land in the Rocky Mountain House district, Sec 8-42-6-W5, now owned by Eileen Lawton. After Frank's return from the coast, with the aid of a caterpillar and his boys, he began to get this under cultivation. While engaged in this endeavor death overtook him.

Frank and Eva had five children, Maurice, living in Dawson Creek and Salt Spring Island, Eileen Lawton in the Gilby area, Phillip in Red Deer, George in Eckville and Nora (Mrs Brodersen) of Winfield.

Eva McTighe was a very kindly even tempered lady, with a sense of humor, who made the most of things. She was dearly loved by her children and had a great number of friends.

Besides her own family she helped raise nieces and nephews, boarded school teachers, Miss Agnes Anderson and Miss Lenore McLean, cooked for hired men and looked after less fortunate men that Frank would bring home but she drew the line when Frank wanted to adopt two little Indians, in their later years. She must have been tired

In 1936 people came to the McTighe's, with horses and fresnos, to level an area for a skating rink. Ice was made and a granary was used for a club house, where lunch was served. In summer tennis, baseball and horseshoe games were played on the levelled ground



Making skating rink at McTighe's 1936

The sports activities were much enjoyed by all the young folks in the district and those coming a distance

After Frank passed on Eva married W. A. Saunders of Ponoka and lived there until his death 10 years later

She then moved to Eckville and later to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House, where she spent her remaining years

Maurice, at a very early age, helped with the farming and was in charge of five to six hundred head of ewes for the summer, on a lease 20 miles from home, in the west country

In the spring with his sister, Eileen, the flock, his two dogs (Bob and Charlie), a covered wagon with a Jersey milk cow tied behind, they'd head west on a trip that took two days. Once settled in a shack, by a spring which came out of the side of the hill, his work would begin. He would shear the sheep, lamb out all the ewes, along with the care of keeping the sheep on the lease as it was not fenced. During the harvest, when Maurice was needed at home, Phillip or George would take their turn at replacing him

One fall the loss of sheep was heavy from rustlers and Frank was interested in sawmilling so the sheep industry was phased out

Maurice then began to build roads and help set up the sawmill. He at one time cooked for a crew of eight men, on a heater, besides working with them on the road and when the mill was in operation he did the sawing

The mill was burned one winter and two years later a forest fire swept through burning a yard full of logs and the sawmill

Maurice escaped the fire along with Phil but Maurice's nerves were bad so Frank sent him to Fulford Harbour where he bought a fishing boat "The Ulinston C", and went into fishing business. He then married Tillie Akerman, from the Island and they went farming at Progress, B.C

There they raised a daughter, Mary Lory, two adopted children, Don and Jane and two foster children, Roy and Brenda

Maurice and Tillie have built a house at Fulford and intend retiring there. For his good works and help to the Fathers in Progress district the Pope sent him a papal blessing

Eileen spent a great part of her earlier life in the west country and loved every minute of it, at the sheep camp, cooking at the sawmill and, in season, picking berries.

In 1946 Eileen married Bob Alexander at Mill Bay, Vancouver Island. They adopted two children, John and Pat, but before Nan was officially adopted Bob passed away

Eileen then came back to Alberta and married Alick Lawton, Alick and Eileen adopted Nan and had two children of their own. Jim and Lorrie.

Phillip enjoys living and people. He was active in hockey and baseball in his youth. He ran the steam engines at the sawmills and when his sister would go to the boiler room from the kitchen he would remark that she smelled of the kitchen and would let out hisses of steam from the big throbbing engine

Phillip spent three and one-half years in the navy on the "Prince David" In Vancouver, he

met and married Sybil Green. When the war was over he settled north of the home place and there they raised a son and daughter, Wayne and Shirley

Sybil passed away after a lengthy illness. Phil then went to work at the Red Deer General Hospital where he is still employed and as a sideline trains dogs. Phil married a widow, Peggy McDonald, from Red Deer

George and Nora were the two youngest and were great pals. If they went horse trading with Pryce Andrew, who was working across the fence, in the field, George would always see to it that Nora was looked after, with a fur neck piece, even if she was barefooted

Nora lost her garters so her mother threatened punishment if it were to happen again. That night at the supper table, mother was very much surprised when she looked down at her youngest daughter, and saw that on one leg she was wearing a polka dot bow tie and on the other a red plaid one — George was looking after his little sister

George took over the farming of the land north of Rocky after his father passed on. He married his childhood sweetheart, Ruby Huseby They later moved to Eckville where George worked for an oil company and for Skocdopole Const. Ltd. There they raised two children, Susan and Bob.

Nora spent some time on Salt Spring Island working in a store at Fulford Harbour Later she picked fruit at Sannichton with her sister, Eileen, and when the season was over they took over a job painting a house and garage in that area

Nora returned to Alberta and married Dennis Brodersen. They lived in the Lockhart area for awhile, later moving to Winfield, on a farm, where they raised a family of ten, Larry, Holly, Lilden, Debra, Wayne, Layna, Bernie, Jilayn, Billy and Angela

**OBORNE, ROY AND EDITH (LINDER) — by Edith Oborne**

Roy was born in Wisconsin, U.S.A., but grew up in the Bentley district. I was born in Warren, Oregon, U.S.A. in 1906, and my folks, Karl and Emma Linder, moved to Alberta in 1911. I had my schooling at the Andrew school.

Roy and I were married in 1931. We spent eight years buying grain and then farmed in the Bentley district and on the Linder farm north of Gilby Later we moved northwest of Cochrane, Alberta, and ranched there until our retirement We are now living at Crofton, B C. on Vancouver Island

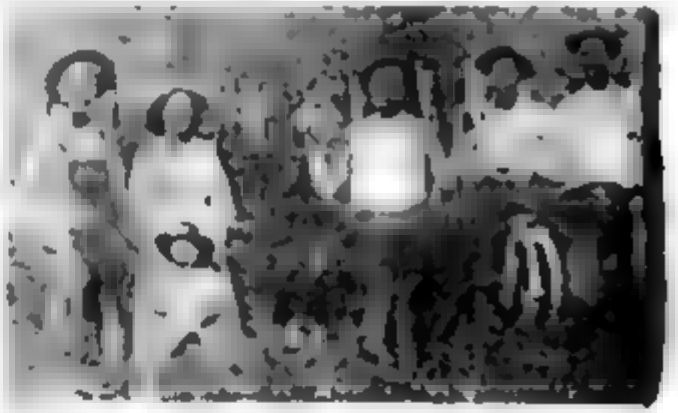
Our three sons are Allan, Boyd and Gordon Allan, Myrna and family live in Black Diamond They have two children — Lorna and Mitchell

Boyd and wife Edna (Kalev), and their children, Daryl and Janice, live in Cremona

Gordon, Jennifer and their children, Christine, Wesley and Lillian, also live in Cremona.

**PALM, FRANK AND HILMA — by Hazel Andrew**

Frank and Hilma Palm were the original owners of the NE 4-41-3-W5, (the late Charlie Andrew farm), homesteading from 1905 to 1915, when they sold out to Jim Clausen (no relation to Dan Clausen.) Frank and Hilma moved, and Frank worked at Manyberries and Red Lodge They had four children One son, Harold (now deceased) left one daughter, Diorah, living on Vancouver Island. Of the three daughters, Mrs Arne (Gertie) Vanter is buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery Flora, who was married to a Doctor, is buried in Oregon, U S A. Another daughter, Mrs. John (Frances) Glotjan, who is living in Nanaimo, B.C , has one daughter



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palm, Elsie Lamm, Emil Heino, Willie Steudinger Goat Man.

Frank and Hilma separated and in 1930 Frank left for Russia, where he married his second wife in 1931. Her name also was Hilma She passed away in 1944 and is buried in Kaljala Bieo March. Frank passed away in 1937 at the age of 50 years, and is buried in Russia.

Jim Clausen farmed the land until 1919 or 1920, when he sold to Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley of Calgary Jim was a bachelor. I was unable to find any record as to where he had gone from here

**EDWARD FAULL FAMILY—by Sharyn Faull**

In October, 1972 we purchased the Davie Kurzman farm and moved into the Gilby district We were not complete strangers to this area as I was born and raised in the Rimbey Bentley area Edward, everyone else calls him Ed, was raised in the Bentley area. Both of our parents are still living at Bentley

We had two girls, Pamela aged five and Leanda, aged three when we decided to start farming. The next summer we had a boy Jayson (Jay)

In 1974 we were able to purchase a half

section southeast of where we live, buying the land from Charley Walker. Everyone calls that land the Dvornek and Carl Johnson place.

Along with our farming, Edward works for Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, he has been employed with this company for nearly 12 years.

One of these days, with any luck, we hope to be full time farmers and enjoy our farm life and good neighbors more.

**PEDERSON, JOHN E. — by a daughter Olga Irwin**

John Pederson was born in Norway in 1869. He came to the U.S.A. and stayed for a short while in Illinois. While here he married Mary Peterson, who was also from Norway, and had been born in 1869. After their marriage the couple made their home in Minnesota, until 1919 when they moved to the Gilby district, settling on the NE 32-40-3-W5. My parents bought the farm through a land agent, O. Norem. Charles Kemila had been the previous owner.

Upon arriving, we were surprised to see that cattle had taken shelter in our home. The door had been left open and livestock ran "at large" in those days.

There were four boys and four girls in our family. While in Minnesota a girl passed away in infancy. The seven children coming to Canada and the years of their births were: Magnus — 1898, Albert — 1899 (deceased in 1933), Herman — 1900, Elmer — 1901, Bertha (Molander) — 1903, Olga (Irwin) — 1905, and Julia (Lauritsen) — 1913.

We were all kept busy, as we milked 25 cows. The cows were housed in the large barn which was demolished only a few years ago. We also had many pigs which were fed the milk. The cream was taken to Eckville by team and shipped, by train, to the Dairy Pool creamery at Ajax.

Herman resides in Rimbey and was predeceased by his wife, Evelyn.

Magnus and Elmer are living on the home place. Furnishings must have been well constructed in those days, as my brothers are still using the same large Usona cook stove that they brought with them in 1919. Many a meal has been cooked on the stove and, in spite of continuous use, it is still in good condition.

My mother passed away in 1946 and my father in 1950. They are buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

**PETERSON, PETER AND CARRIE — recalled by Vivian (Forsell) Ogilvie W½ and SE 34-40-3-W5**

Carrie was first married to Mr. Olsen and to this union was born one daughter, Esther. A logging accident took the life of Mr. Olsen. He was hauling a load of lumber south of the homestead (NW 34-40-3-W4), when the load slid and caught Mr. Olsen, killing him in about 1905.

Peter Peterson, a bachelor and homesteader living nearby, married Carrie Olsen and they made their home on the NW 34. It was this couple, along with Esther, who were guests at the Forsel. boarding house in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Peterson and daughter Esther Olson, about 1908

Esther married a man by the name of "Whitey" Murphy and they lived on the SW 34-40-3-W5. In 1935 misfortune struck them and their large hip roofed house and valuable contents were completely destroyed by fire. The Murphys then built the cottage-type dwelling that is still on the Roy Andrew farm.

Carrie died in Calgary in 1935 and was buried there. As far as is known Esther and Peter Peterson spent their last days together in Bellingham, Washington.

Peter and Carrie Peterson had many different families living in their buildings and renting the land. So that those pioneers be not entirely forgotten we are including as many as can be remembered in the Peterson history.

Living on the NW 34 was the John Saari family who later moved to the Salma district. Then came Carl Hule, a bachelor, who lived there with his brother, August and wife. About 1925 the Hule Bros. had a sale and the three of them went back to Estonia. Andrew Frederickson, a bachelor

and hired hand, was also employed by the Peterson sons. Andrew's living quarters were in a small shanty, close to the Peterson dwelling. He died in 1[illegible]

The SW 34 also had many occupants. In the early '20s a family by the name of Crane resided on the quarter and were succeeded by Esther and "Whitey" Murphy. The Whitaker family then rented the three quarters. A hot day in the middle of May 1939 was a tragic one for them as one of their sons was killed by lightning and the other was seriously burned. The brothers were fencing at the time. In March, 1940 the Whitakers had a sale.

Esther Murphy then sold the land to Edward Moro. A very enterprising farmer and businessman, Ed and his wife, Hilda, soon had many superior buildings erected on the farmstead. The property much improved, Ed sold and went to other challenges

**QUINN, JOHN**

John Quinn emigrated from County Down, Ireland. He worked as fireman on the C.P.R. passenger trains in the Big Valley area and lived in [illegible] Alberta for several years.

In 1921 he bought the W½ of 6-41-3-W5 through O. T. Norem land agent.

One evening while visiting the Lester Dobbs family and relating a humorous story he tilted the kitchen chair, thinking the wall was behind him, as if it was only a curtain, he fell into the bedroom hall. Another time he ended a tall tale by slapping his leg, igniting a box of matches. He ran outside, gripping his pocket, to save burning himself.

He farmed with horses and also raised Clydesdales of which he was very proud.

In 1949 he sold the farm to Jervel Maddox, upon retiring. Mr. Quinn lived in a hotel in Calgary until he was hospitalized for a brief time before his death.

Marie and John Wilson lived there for several years. Tom Maddox now owns it.

This S.W. 6-41-3-W5 was homesteaded by Mike Sestrap about 1910.

**RAABIS, JOHN AND ROSALIE — by Jean Raabis Hutchinson**

In 1903 John Raabis immigrated to Canada from his native Estonia, as did many more Estonians, and settled in the Medicine Valley. When he arrived he filed on his homestead about one and one-half miles north of where the Gilby store now stands, on SW 32-40-3-W5. His wife, Rosalie, along with others, and her young son Harry arrived in 1904 from their homeland. Arriving in Red Deer, they were met by Mr. Kinna, who had gone in by team and wagon to pick them up and take them to their new homes.

A trip to Red Deer in those early years was a three-day affair by team and wagon. They would go as far as Sylvan Lake the first day and stay overnight with a family that later became very good friends. The next day they would continue on to Red Deer and do their business and return to Sylvan Lake that night. On the third day they would continue the trip, arriving home that night. This journey certainly was a highlight in their lives.

The roads were nothing but bush trails in those days and traveling was very slow. Their first home was a log cabin which they built themselves. These were very difficult and trying times for them.

During the winter months of those first few years John, along with other settlers, went to work on the railroad at Kananaskis while their wives remained on the homestead to look after their cattle and take care of their children. In order to be able to plant a garden, land had to be cleared. The bush was very thick and it was very hard work to clear the necessary plot of ground.

In 1909 Rosalie gave birth to her second son, Carl John, and in 1911 their daughter, Louise, was born. Bush partridge, jack rabbit and fish were plentiful in those early years. Flour, sugar, salt, tea and coffee were the main staples which were bought. Wild berries were picked in the summertime and made into preserves for the winter months. From their garden they were able to store vegetables that would see them through the winter.

These first settlers were very hard-working people, and provided most of their own needs. There were many bad times and good ones, but I think most would agree that the good times surpassed the bad. House parties, picnics and visiting your neighbors was the only form of entertainment in those early years, so quite a community spirit emerged.

In 1916 Rosalie fell and broke her leg. She was taken to Rimbey to the hospital but about ten days later gangrene had set in and she was taken to Lacombe, where she had it amputated. This incident was very hard on her, her husband and their young children. Neighbors were very kind, though, and somehow they managed. In the following years she had an artificial leg and was able to do her own work. Besides looking after her home and family, she was a mid-wife for many years. She delivered several babies for many ladies in the area. Some of their families or descendants still live in the Medicine Valley.

In 1921 the Raabis family was saddened by the death of Harry, the eldest son. He died undergoing an operation on his leg.

In 1928 Mrs. Marie Hermanson, John's sister came from the Old Country and made her home with them.

In 1937 Carl Raabis married me (Jean Hutchinson) and we lived on the homestead with Carl's folks until 1941, when the senior Raabis' moved into the house that their daughter Louise had had built. Louise had gone to work in Eckville in 1938 for Mr. Ferris, a merchant. She was married in 1940 to Alfred Isaacson, son of

Mr and Mrs. Fred Isaacson. They made their home in Eckville and later moved to the farm

In December of 1941, Grandpa Raabis was hurt in an accident he had while driving his horses. He died from those injuries. His sister, Marie Hermanson, died the following year, 1942, and her death left Grandma Raabis alone. A year later Louise and Alfred moved to the farm and Grandma Raabis lived with them until her death in June of 1949. All three of these old folks are buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Carl and I had three sons, George, Tom and Terry. They attended the Andrew School until it was closed when the Consolidated School Divisions were forced. Then they were bused to Eckville where they finished their schooling.

Carl sold the homestead quarter to his sister, so it still remains in the family. He was employed by the County of Lacombe from 1949 to 1958. He then operated a gravel crusher for Hopkins Construction for several years.

In 1958 our son George left home to work at Banff and then apprenticed there to become a mechanic. He received his journeyman's papers in December of 1962. He was married in 1964 to Florence Kelly, of the Bentley district. She had two children, a boy and a girl, from a previous marriage. George adopted them and he and Florence have one son of their own. They live in British Columbia where George is assistant foreman with the Department of Highways.

Tom, our second son, married Mary Crouch of Condor in 1962. At that time Tom was employed at the co-op store prior to his marriage. He stayed there until 1965, when he moved to Red Deer and was employed by Red Deer Packers until 1968. When the Canada Packers opened in Red Deer in 1968 he transferred and has been employed there ever since. They make their home in Red Deer and have two daughters and one son.

Terry had gone to Edmonton in 1962 to go on the staff of McLeods Store there. He remained there for about six years. In 1964 Terry was married to Beverley Smith of Three Hills. They moved to Red Deer in 1966 and Terry apprenticed to become an electrician. He is now a journeyman electrician. They make their home in Red Deer and have two children, a boy and a girl.

In 1966 I was employed by the Red Deer Nursing Home and worked there for 10½ years, retiring in February of 1977. Carl has been employed since 1966 by a company that sells chemicals, fuel, and so forth in the oil fields, and is still with them. We make our home in Blackfalds, Alberta.

**NE 20-40-3 W5**

In 1931 Carl Rangen moved to his father's (Albert T. Rangen) homestead where he resided until his passing. The farmstead was on the west side of the quarter and Carl batched for 10 years before marrying. In 1948 the family moved their building site to the main road, where a lovely hedge of poplars had been planted. After Carl's passing his wife, Audrey, had a farm sale in November, 1972. (see Leedale)

Glenn Rangen then became the owner of the quarter and he in turn had the farmstead made into an acreage, which was bought by Barry and Mary Moxness in August, 1977. This couple have two children, Michael and Lisa, and are from Red Deer.

**SAMBROOK, JAMES E.**

March 21, 1924 was not only the beginning of a new season, for another much-loved and very hungry being was born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel "Tim" Sambrooke. Being the "born" in mention, I remember little of that birthday or the spring; some of the following ones held more for me. The first spring that I recall included mountains of snow, and mountains of what later proved to be wood blocks. The latter were brought into the house, but the former were not. Later in the spring the mountains of snow turned to little rivers, sloughs and small lakes, and the wood mountain turned to what my mother said was all out of bounds. Spring meant water, birds, small animals, green leaves, snakes and frogs.

Summer, berry season, fall, Christmas, all held me in a state where my elders wished there was more of spring's attractions at hand, I'm sure. The great dust clouds were tolerable, "that came about that time" if I was closed behind the house doors, although at some times Father had some problems assuring Mother and I that all was well.

More sombre things were in store. Off to Andrew school for eight years. At that time it seemed to me that money could be mine by working, and not by going to school. Later I was off to the grainfields, trucks and sawmills. At about 20 years of age, bricks, plaster and stucco became the focus of my attention. After about 15 years employment with this kind of work, I became allergic to some part of the business — maybe the work!

I then reviewed the surroundings for some kind of work to fulfill my money requirements and the oilfield seemed to be the answer. After five years in the "oil patch" other requirements seemed needed to be looked after. I viewed the surroundings again, and at Alliance on April 29, 1960 I was married to Jean Sheppard of Alliance. Of this marriage we are blessed with three sons, Gregory, Graham, Garth, and a daughter, Margo. A son, Colin, passed away at age nine months on December 4, 1962. We have since been transferred to Rocky Mountain House, where we now live.

**SAMBROOK, JULIEN K.**

Julien K. Sambrook was born November 3, 1916 in Lacombe, Alberta, and is the oldest living son of Samuel S. Sambrook and Ethel Sambrook of the Gilby district. In November of 1917 a

brother, Samuel, arrived, and the Sambrook household was soon echoing to the laughter and sometimes screams of two pair of lusty lungs. A third brother, Harlan, arrived in March 1923 to join the Sambrook household

The Samuel Sambrook family were all blessed with good hearty appetites and no time was lost getting the chairs up to the table when the time was opportune. While it may be considered a good omen to be blessed with a good appetite, there were times when the demand almost exceeded the supply. Father Sambrook was a good hunter and whenever the larder was getting low a brief jaunt to the hills west of the homestead was all that was necessary to replenish the meat supply

The "dirty thirties" came and went, and the second World War was upon us. My brother Sam joined up immediately, and thus started a lifetime career as a soldier. Julien remained on the farm, known as the NE 33-40-3 W5. He married Laura Robson in November, 1941, and set about building a small dwelling as soon as his efforts at a saw mill had produced enough lumber. Money was scarce, and Julien and his wife worked in the lumber camps during the winter months. Such was the case in late December of 1943, when his father passed away Leaving their employment at the mill where they were being paid $200 a month clear for their combined efforts they returned to the farm. Purchasing the farm from his mother, he and his wife began farming in earnest

In August of 1952, while polio was rampant throughout Alberta, Julien fell prey to the virus By 1956 it was apparent that he would have to give up the life of a farmer and try something that required less physical stamina. In April of that year he held a sale, after which he began working for the Eckville Co-op Livestock Marketing Association. In 1958 Julien opened an insurance office, and remains at this work at the time of writing in 1978.

Two chosen sons were added to the family over the years, Roland in 1952 and William in 1962.

**SAMBROOKE, SAMUEL EARL**

Samuel Earl Sambrooke was born on the homestead on November 9, 1917 and spent his earliest years in a continuing search for food. His problem was caused not by a food shortage, but rather by his inability to hold enough to meet his inner demands. Despite his shortcomings he managed to complete the curriculum at the Andrew School at age 13 and then offered his skills and talents to the labour force of that day

His timing couldn't have been worse, as the other attractive wages of the 1920's had been wiped out by the stock market crash in 1929 and he thus commenced work at the very depth of the great depression. All youngsters of that time were faced with almost 10 years of rock bottom wages, $1 a day in summer, $2 to $2.50 for harvesting. The jobless thousands in the cities posed no threat to the jobs for the farm kids who had strong backs and callouses on their hands The local farmers were a very tolerant lot, who gave the local boys preference, probably more out of a feeling of social responsibility than anything else

Sam was an indifferent worker who sought employment only because it was necessary to meet his everyday needs. Distant lands and great green pastures beyond the hills bore a strong attraction for him. When the war broke out he went overseas with the army There, during six years of war, he proved, if nothing else, that he had a strong survivor instinct Returning to Eckville in 1945, he farmed for a while in the Lockhart district before he returned to the army to round out his 25 years of service

After release from the service he and wife, Margery, (a native of Winnipeg) operated a small motel in Penticton, B.C. until they sold out in 1976. They are now retired and living in Vancouver, B.C., the land of liquid sunshine

One daughter, Elizabeth (Tillie) now Mrs. Richard Kotylak lives on a farm at Waskatenau, Alberta along with her husband and three children. A step-son, Jim, resides in Vancouver

**SAMBROOKE, SIDNEY (TIM) AND FAMILY**

Samuel S. Sambrooke was born on January 3, 1882 and spent his early years in a small village on the outskirts of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire County, England, the oldest boy in a family of three boys and four girls At the age of 11 years his education being completed, he joined his father working at a blast furnace in a steel mill There, for 12 hours a day, six days a week he hammered out axe-heads for the New Zealand and Canadian markets. Pay was poor, about a shilling a day, and the future not particularly bright

The rather straight-laced life in the class-conscious English society that offered little other than music lessons, singing in the choir and membership in the Guild did not appeal widely to the young men of that day The C.P.R. advertised widely of the excellent opportunities that existed in Canada, and "Go West, young man, Go West" was the clarion cry of the times. Young Sammy, although ultra-conservative by his background and training, was sufficiently non-conformist to yearn for something different Finally, in the spring of 1903, he had saved sufficient money to book passage from Liverpool to Winnipeg Had he chosen to take with him one of the axe heads that he had produced in quantity instead of a 38 calibre pistol, he would have been better prepared for the trials that lay ahead.

Aboard ship he met another Englishman of his own age, by the name of George Beddoes. who was also booked to Winnipeg. They became close friends and travelled the same trails for the rest of their lives

Somewhere along the way Sammy dropped

his Christian name (could you blame him?) and went by the name of "Tim". Also for some inexplicable reason he dropped the last letter from his surname, thus explaining why some members of that family spell the name differently, depending on their particular viewpoint.

On arrival at Winnipeg, George and Tim soon found that Englishmen were not in great demand in the farming community, but they managed to get employment even though little pay was involved. Before long they learned to harness the horses and hook them to the plow and perform other routine farm tasks. Tim always nursed a particular dislike to milking cows because, to use his words, "It's pretty tough in the cold weather, milking with your mitts on". As most farms required farm hands to milk cows at least during the winter, Tim found it more convenient to work in the logging camps near Kenora, Ontario, returning to the prairie in the summertime.

He was soon joined by his younger brother, Arnold, who had returned from service with the British Cavalry in the Boer War. The group of future farmers had now become a trio. Arnold became nicknamed "Dick" by which name he was best known throughout the rest of his life.

It soon became apparent to this group of tenderfeet that no homestead land was available in the arable portion of Manitoba. They conned the Immigration Agent at Winnipeg into believing that they were qualified, as newly arrived immigrants, to reduced fare to Calgary. After fortifying themselves on beer and free crackers and cheese at a hotel near the station at Calgary Tim and Dick looked for work while George Beddoes took the train to Lacombe where, by proxy, he filed on four quarters of land — one for each of the "Three Musketeers", and also one for his younger brother, Len, who by that time had arrived in Winnipeg. George then journeyed all the way back to Winnipeg, picked up his brother and returned to Calgary to rejoin the Sambrooks. Thus in November 1905 the two sets of brothers finally arrived in Lacombe where they legally filed on their land through the Government Land Agent, one Frank Vicarson. They then faced westward to locate their Bonanza.

Having no equipment, and little other gear, they easily negotiated transportation to Bentley with John Veefkin, who hauled freight for the Bentley Mercantile. At Bentley they obtained a night's lodging and meals, then proceeded on foot to Jabez McPherson's saw-mill in the Lockhart district. Here they found employment at $1 a day less a small charge for meals. As the food was excellent, the greenhorns felt they had struck it rich, a far cry from their days in Manitoba where the meager fare had reduced them to skin and bones.

The winter of 1905-1906 was extremely mild, necessitating the transportation of logs to the mill by team and wagon, but it provided a fine opportunity for the new landowners to locate and appraise their previously selected acreages. They found that they lay on or near the township line between Townships 40 and 41 and not too far from the mill itself. Their land was situated as follows: George Beddoes, NE 35-40-3-W5, Len Beddoes, NW 35-40-3-W5, Tim Sambrook, NE 33-40-3-W5, Dick Sambrook, NW 3-41-3-W5.

There were three situated high and dry in the Medicine Lodge Hills, Dick's quarter was straddle the ridge immediately to the north of one of the highest features (Rabbit Hill) and Tim was located on the western slope. The question of the soil or difficulty of clearing land did not worry them whatsoever. The most important ingredient, "good hunting", was situated right on the doorstep!

Since they had no tools, farm equipment or horses, their efforts at building cabins progressed slowly, but as the country was dotted with areas of good solid fire-killed timber, they made some progress with little other tools than an axe. In the summer of 1906 more homesteaders appeared in the immediate area. Carl and Dad Thomas arrived on the east half of section three with two wagon loads of effects pulled by four huge oxen. The Thomas' were originally from Ontario, had spent some time in the gold rush at Dawson City, Yukon Territories and had obtained the equipment and oxen in Vancouver. The bulls were huge brutes, weighing almost a ton each, and had been employed in the clearing of Granville Street in Vancouver before making the pilgrimage to the homestead. The Thomas' erected a solid log cabin on their land during the fall of 1906. This cabin reflecting good workmanship with its dove-tailed corners is standing on its original location, having served in many different capacities in the 70 years of its existence. The land is now owned by Philip Gyorl.

After the arrival of the bulls the bachelors made more rapid progress toward proving up their homesteads. The powerful but docile brutes gave reliable service at all times except "fly time" when they would sometimes panic, throw their tails in the air and head for the tall timber taking with them the plow, the wagon, or whatever. The ox yoke used at that time can still be seen at Julien Sambrooke's residence in Eckville.

The Thomas' were somewhat more affluent than the rest of the bachelors, as they had amassed a few dollars in the Yukon and were thus able to devote full time to farm development. The remainder wandered far afield, seeking work to supply the winter larder. During the summer of 1907 Tim and Len worked at construction of the cement plant at Exshaw. In the fall they returned to the homestead with three Cayuses they had bought from the Indians on a reservation at Morley. These ponies were of limited use as farm animals and spent most of their idle moments trying to escape back to the reservation. Not until they had raised colts on

the homesteads did they settle down to their new life

Winter was a time of celebration in the new community as the bachelors re-assembled to swap yarns and display their newly acquired possessions. They conducted the fall hunt to lay in a good supply of meat and thousands of rounds of ammunition were expended in skill-at-arms competitions. The stewing pot was always on, and though they frequently sang "We are poor but we are proud and we're particular," any high degree of fussiness wasn't alway apparent. The appointed cook for the day always had to field lots of complaints, such as "Too many pellets in the rabbit stew", "The partridge has been hanging a month too long

The winter was a convenient time to dig the well. Tim selected a building site in the NE corner of his quarter, offering a panoramic view of the valley, good drainage, and everything seemed right until it came time to get water. After digging through rock, shale and blue clay for 40 feet, he gave up and moved down to the flat, where he got water in 20 feet of easy digging

When the bachelors felt the need for more sophisticated forms of entertainment they could always find it by hiking to Bentley. There they practiced their barbershop quartets while Tim re-acquainted himself with the piano. He had also spent the long nights in the cabin practising on the violin, much to his mates' displeasure. Many of the married folks in Bentley were quite young and readily participated in activities. C. F. Damron teamed up with Frank Thorpe to compose little parodies about the local characters, which they would sing and recite at the dances during the intermissions. Tim Sambrook at that time was very proud of a new fur coat which he maintained was genuine raccoon. His friends agreed it might be coyote, but the village dogs were certain it was goat and treated it accordingly. Also at that time he was being chided about making only a token contribution to the church building fund, so a parody on the big-time spender soon appeared. It ran something as follows:

Tim Sambrook, we note, has got a new coat
He surely keeps our eyes a blinkin'
When he got his new coat, he gave them his note
And they took it, of course, without thinkin'
To church he did go, and he made a good show
Till they passed round the plate with the chink in
He showed his good will, with a ten dollar bill
But dropped in a dime, without thinkin'

E. St. John O'Neill, who later bought the Len Beddoes homestead, also was selected. He was pretty well a confirmed bachelor even at that time and never did get married, but must have at one time had notions of romance. His ditty was brief:

Then there is this singing O'Neill, for whom we all feel
His own clothes he does wash and does rinse
Fell in love no doubt, but it didn't turn out
And he hasn't loved anyone since.

Thus the single men added their contribution to the entertainment of the day. Most all of them at one time or another found themselves the target of C. F.'s pointed pen. Humor was often quite personal and always uncomplimentary, but everyone took it in good grace, as it was considered better to be ribbed than ignored.

But the carefree days couldn't last forever. The sounds of revelry eventually gave way to sounds of babies crying in the night as one by one the bachelors got married and adopted a more serious attitude toward the future. The homesteads were fenced, a few acres broken and the land was qualified as being proven up.

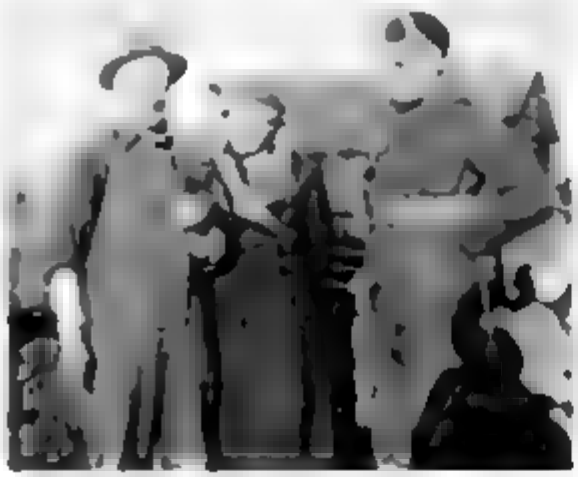
In 1912 Tim Sambrook married Ethel C. Reed, who was teaching at the Bentley school. Ethel was born in 1884 in Iowa, U.S.A. Her mother had died during childbirth and she had been raised by an aunt and uncle at Moville, Iowa, U.S.A., where she attended school and obtained her teaching certificate. After teaching school in Iowa for a time she travelled to Alberta to rejoin her father, who had immigrated earlier and located at Ponoka. After attending Alberta College in Edmonton to obtain an Alberta teachers' certificate, she taught school in two locations in Alberta before arriving at Bentley in 1910.

Samuel (Tim) Sambrook and wife Ethel

After their marriage in 1912 Tim and Ethel lived for a time in the log cabin on Dick Sambrook's homestead, as it boasted two rooms. With the help and technical direction of John Kurzman, who had located on the NE 4-41-W5, Tim erected a frame structure (two rooms and a path), which Dick plastered inside. This house, without a doubt, took the prize as the coldest house in the whole world, the Government of the day didn't offer any grants toward insulation, either. Ethel taught school for a year at the An-

drew school before the children commenced arriving on the scene

Five children, all boys, were born to the couple, two of whom died at birth or shortly after The first of the survivors, born November 3, 1916, was named Julien Kitchener, after two World War I military leaders. The second son followed in 1917, and, following the century long tradition of Samuels, was unofficially christened "The Prince of Wails" for obvious reasons. The third son, James Harlan, was born in March, 1923.



Tim Sambrook, Ethel Sambrook and son Sam Sambrook

The Bjornson Brothers of Bentley made a tour of the district during the years of World War I with a well-drilling outfit, and most of the homesteaders availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a good supply of water. With water available, the Sambrooks started raising a small herd of cattle and some pigs, the place started to resemble a farm, but many disappointments still lay ahead

The parents both contracted the flu in the deadly epidemic of 1918, and narrowly escaped death. Dick Sambrook happened to call by just as everything was freezing solid. Tim and Ethel, both delirious with fever, didn't even know their own names, much less being able to feed the children or look after the stock. Dick started the fires, fed the children, took care of the livestock and within a few hours the crisis had passed with no casualties. The extremely long cold winter didn't pass quickly and the long-drawn-out spring of 1919 saw the fledgling herd of cattle finally crawl away and die just as the grass was about to commence growth. The debts incurred for feed at 25c a bundle (in the stook and covered with snow) took a number of years to pay off.

The "roaring twenties" brought some relief to the beleaguered farmers as grain and hog prices were quite good, and the weather cooperative. Tim bought a C.P.R. quarter a half mile west of the homestead, which he called "The Swamp". It offered about 50 acres that was easily brought under cultivation and the remainder varied from pasture land to impossible bog. But times were good; only the pessimists worried about tomorrow. They would have been better off if they had, as the hungry "thirties" were just around the corner

No attempt will be made here to give an account of that period of suffering that reached into every household and left its scars on the personality of so many Tim Sambrook had suffered throughout his life with a serious thyroid condition for which medical science at that time had provided no cure. This condition affected his temperament, causing deep pessimism to take over from periods of high optimism. He seldom lost his sense of humor, but frequently lost his sense of direction of farm operations

The demands of the depression contributed to the development of a small enterprise of the Sambrook farm that was quite successful Because little money could be raised from other farm products, Tim started to raise raspberries and strawberries on a commerical basis. In a community that had long relied on the canning of fruit for the winter months, and the fact that over-grazing in the hills had destroyed the wild fruit, this project enjoyed a surprising measure of success

The war years brought about a man-power shortage, pickers could no longer be found, and it was necessary to plow up what had been a reliable source of revenue. It is interesting now, many years later, and after many unexplained changes in the value of goods, to compare the relative value of a case of berries against the value of other commodities at that time. A case of berries (24 pint baskets) brought $3. A select bacon market hog brought $5. A pair of G.W.G. cowboy kings cost $1.45. A two-year-old steer brought $40. The prices quoted were those of about 1936 or 1937, and you can place your own estimate on the farm value of these same commodities today, but you will readily see why that was the time "to be in the berries".

Tim Sambrook's health deteriorated steadily, and in December of 1943 he passed on to his reward. Ethel lived on in the family home alongside that of her son Julien and his wife, Laura, for a number of years before moving back to Bentley to live with her youngest son Suffering from reduced mobility in 1958, she moved back to Eckville for a time before it was finally necessary for her to obtain full-time care in the Rimbey Hospital for Senior Citizens. She passed away in December, 1964 and was laid to rest, alongside her husband and one son, in the Bentley Cemetery

The story of the Tim Sambrook elders is not one of great successes or impressive accomplishments, but rather one of perseverance in the face of great odds, an ability to laugh about their own shortcomings, and go back at it again It does depict rather graphically how ill-equipped and basically unsuited at least some of

the early homesteaders were for the trials involved in the great land adventure of the early twentieth century

They had a wide circle of friends in both the Lockhart and Medicine Valley. Their life-long friends, Len (now 93 years old) and Flora Beddoes are still hale and hearty, living in their own home in Penticton. The friendship between the two families has now endured for 75 years and holds chances of many more years duration. Without the assistance of the Beddoes' keen memory, this writer would have been unable to relate the many facets of life in the early days on the township line

**SAUNDERS, GLADYS (ANDREW)**

My parents were William and Alice Andrew, homesteaders of the Gilby district. After completing Grade 9 at Andrew School I took a course at the Olds School of Agriculture, in 1926, and in the fall of 1928 went to work at a general store, for Charles Rolston, in Rimbey. There I met and married Lester Saunders. We managed different businesses in Rimbey after we had farmed for Lester's dad for four years

In 1950 we moved to Ponoka where Lester was assistant-secretary for the Municipal District, which later became the County of Ponoka. He was secretary for 23 years. Upon his retirement we enjoyed fishing and travelling. Lester passed away in May 1977 and is buried in the Forest Home Cemetery, Ponoka.

We have two sons, Donald and Gerald. Donald is Ponoka's town manager and he has two children, Blaine and Sharon. Gerald took an electrical course at S.A.I.T. and has worked for Calgary Power for 19 years, still working for them at Brazeau. He lives three miles from Drayton Valley and drives with three others to work, 35 miles away. His two children are Karen and Randy

I am still living in Ponoka where I belong to a number of organizations

**SCHOOL PICNICS OF THE 30's**

The end of the year picnic — a very happy day

Always sunny and dry in the morning, although it usually seemed to rain enough to stop the last ball game!

The unusual sight of your neighbors dressed up. All the new babies in their little soft muslin dresses

Blue jeans hadn't been invented

No one wore "overalls" to the picnic

White shirts, suit pants and new caps

Ladies in fluffy organdy dresses or bright flowered prints.

Kids barefoot for the races, cars polished.

Little new colored "anklets" worn with canvas shoes

Courting couples parked in cars to watch the ball game in delicious solitude, unless the boyfriend was on the team. Then the girls stood at home base, cheering until they lost their voices

That was the "thing to do". If one didn't have a boyfriend, it was dreary!

Everyone enjoyed our school yard, for it was on a hill, and the ladies and babies could put down blankets to sit on and watch from above the softball diamond.

Every lady tried to have home grown radishes ready for her potato salad. The men took turns cranking the ice-cream freezer. Afternoon rain in the lemonade! Remember that indescribable smell of fresh green grass and rainy lemonade?

The school itself seemed foreign, with parents and neighbors seated along the aisles and squeezed into our tiny desks

It seemed wrong to see children running around the teacher's desk. But it was cool after a race and the voices from the ballgame blew in through the open window

A lovely, lazy day, and all the summer before us!

But sad, too, for we'd have to part with Teacher. (The 17-20 year-old ruler of twenty to thirty little, dusty rascals.)

Teacher instilled into us our future outlook on life

If we were treated fairly and were appreciated, Teacher had our undying love

If, by chance, through inexperience with people, or by accident, Teacher hurt our feelings or wrongly accused us, it left us with a lifetime bitterness or a sensitiveness to others' feelings depending on our own nature

Either way, our teacher made more impression on us than almost anyone else in our lives

Our teachers taught us honesty, Faith in God, and respect for others

The ladies were dainty, sweet and very firm!

The men were gentle and wise and strong-minded

Oh! I was lucky!

**SCHOOL PONIES**

There was Buck, Dan, Smokey, Red Cloud, Star and many others who should not be overlooked as pioneers in any district. Whether it was 90° or 60° below, these trusty steeds made their way to the drafty building called the school barn

Some carried two and three passengers. Some pulled a cutter or a buggy or cart. In any way, they were always ready and willing to do their duty. The only pay for their day's work was a bundle of oats or a feed of chop or whole grain — Depending on the shape of their teeth!

Many a race took place on the way home from school; many an arm was broken when the rider fell off the school pony; many a youngster received a nasty kick which may have given a lasting scar - but the ponies still made their way to school

The early 1950's saw the end of this method of

transportation, when the centralization of schools began. The ponies were put out to pasture when they were gradually replaced by the big yellow vehicles called school busses.

It was farewell to the school pony, the school barn, and the races often held on the way home from school. Many a pony knew the way home without even a touch of the rein. These were the pioneers of the rural school era.

**SODERLUND, KARL**

In 1902 Karl Soderlund left his country of birth, Finland, to try his luck in the United States. He worked at various places doing carpentry work, a trade he had learned while a young man.

In January 1905, Reverend Hjelt persuaded him to come to Canada, as Mr. Soderlund could do log work and build log houses. The two travelled as far as Red Deer and then on west. In April 1905, Mr. Soderlund filed on a homestead in the Gilby area, believed to be a quarter on the W½ 34-40-3-W5. By July of that year he sent for Mrs. Soderlund and their two children. His family made their home with Mr. John Heikkinnen, who lived two miles north of Eckville. In the spring of 1906, their homestead house was finished and they moved into it. They sold the property in 1908 for $1,200 and moved to the Elspeth district. In 1950 he built a house in Eckville and lived in it a year before moving to Sylvan Lake.

There were 13 children in the family. Mr. and Mrs. Soderlund both passed away in 1950 and are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

**CARL SORENSON**

During the 30s several young men came to the farming areas to act as hired hands. Carl Sorenson emigrated from Denmark during the depression years and worked for William Andrew, where he was happy to receive wages of $12 per month plus room and board. While at the Andrew farm Carl learned many valuable lessons on the care of farm horses.

He served overseas in World War II and while in England married Ivy. Upon retirement from the army Carl came to Lacombe where he and Ivy live in their comfortable bungalow.

**THE STEEL FAMILY**

In the spring of 1906, Mr. and Mrs. William Steel (Jack and Anne) landed in Calgary from Scotland. They stayed with the late Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson and Elsie, whom they had known in Scotland. The Davidson family lived on the quarter where Jack Maddox now lives. During their stay in Calgary Mr. Steel got blood poisoning in his hand and had to spend some time in the hospital. While being in and out of hospital he filed on a homestead, SE 10-27-4-W5, north of Cochrane, Alberta. The family lived in a tent, on the homestead, during the summer and before winter set in they moved into their log house. It was hard to keep the house warm - the attic was the warmest place to sleep.

Mosquitoes and black flies were very bad and smudges were often lit to give the livestock some relief. The land was not fenced and as a result their cattle wandered away. When located, a calf had a well known rancher brand on it. They did not know about brands until then, but soon obtained one for cattle and horses.

After putting in one year on the homestead they moved to White's ranch at Mitford for the next two winters, looking after the horses there. It was there that Anne was knocked down by a horse that her mother was feeding. The doctor came by horse and buggy from Cochrane, to set her broken leg. He and Mrs. Steel tore a bed sheet into long strips. She was then instructed to make a pailful of starch. When this was cool enough to handle the cotton strips were soaked in the starch and wound around Anne's leg. She had to lie on a table until the bandages were thoroughly dry. So a pioneer cast was made. While she was laid up, her mother taught her to knit, crochet and sew a neat hem.

Jim was born in Cochrane in May, 1909 and Margaret (Peggy) was born on the farm at Cochrane in 1912.

In 1919 they sold the homestead and moved north of Eckville, taking four railway cars of livestock, machinery and household effects. By this time Wm. Steel had a number of registered Clydesdale horses.

The Steels had bought the Dick Sambrooke (NW 2-41-3-W5) place and the SE 10-41-3-W5 from S. O'Neill. Jack, Jim and Margaret attended Andrew School. The family shopping was done at Gilby and Eckville. Entertainment was limited. A gathering of neighbors in the various homes - to mention a few — Kurzmans, Sambrooks, Forsells and O'Neill Bros. — St. John (Sinjun) and William (Billie), was always an enjoyable affair.

Mr. Steel, a tailor by trade, was very mechanically inclined and as a result made himself a stationary horse-powered threshing machine. Horses were hitched to the machine and walked in a circle, (much like a merry-go-round) providing power for the thresher.

Neighbors recall that Mrs. Steel's scones were very tasty and that her house was always spotless.

In 1921 Jack went back to Cochrane where he worked on various farms and did freight trucking from Calgary to Banff. He joined the navy in 1941 and was discharged in 1946. After the war he was in the excavating business and upon retiring did a great deal of travelling. He passed away November 13, 1977.

Mrs. Steel moved back to Cochrane and bought a house where she gave room and board to so many over the years. Jack and Margaret made their home with her. She passed away in 1958 at the age of 81 years. Margaret, still living in Cochrane, takes a great interest in gardening and house plants.

After Mr. Steel passed away in 1936, Jim con-

tinued to farm his dad's half section and had also got a homestead — SW 2-41 3-W5. He was a very progressive farmer and was interested in the care and protection of wildlife. Some of his hobbies were movie pictures, lathe work, reading, travelling and watching TV (he was the first in the district to have a set). He was a long-time member of the Wheat Pool, Farmer's Union and Eckville Credit Union. Jim passed away January 13, 1978 and was buried in Rimbey Mt. Auburn Cemetery. John Lauritsen has rented Jim's three quarters for the past 11 years.

Anne Melland married in 1926 and has lived in Calgary since. She has one son, Ian, and two grandchildren, Jeffrey and Jill Anne. She is a member of the Eastern Star and is interested in her church work. Her husband passed away in 1955. Note: Most of the Steel history was given us by Anne Melland.

**STONE, ANNA**

Mrs. Anna Stone and her son, Dan, emigrated from Norway in 1909 and homesteaded the NW 3-41-3-W5. In 1914 Anna married Algot Wilson, a homesteader from the Lockhart district and the three of them moved to a farm east of Gull Lake. Mrs. Wilson rented her homestead quarter, in the Gilby district, until 1933, when she sold to Gunnar Forsell.

Mrs. Wilson passed away in 1954 and Mr. Wilson in 1959.

Dan and his wife, Lily (McNaughton), are now retired and live at Gull Lake.

**SVEEN FAMILY — by Martha E. Pixley (Sveen)**

In 1884, Mother, at the age of five years, came to America from Norway with her parents and her two younger brothers. They settled in Minnesota, U.S.A, not too far from Staples, where other brothers and sisters were born, 10 in all. Mother, being, the eldest of the 10 became very responsible, and this probably led to her knowledge of people and problems. My dad also came with his parents from Norway to North Dakota at the age of 15. He was the youngest child and the only son of a family of eight. Being sponsored to America, and having to work out at an early age for little money, led them to be an inventive family.

My mother met my dad while she was working in Devil's Lake, and they were married somewhere near there in 1901, and settled near Adams, N.D. on a farm. A large house was built, and it was very modern for those times. It even had a pump in the kitchen! My brother, August, was born there December 28, 1903. The terrible storms of winter, and the tornadoes, and wind and drought in summer brought little money to pay for anything, so they decided to sell their home and go west. Spokane, Washington was the next stop-five acres of cedar stumps, which is today the center of a metropolis. My brother Melvin was born there. The only thing my mother said she missed when they left was the two Jersey cows that gave so much cream that she was able to sell a lot of butter.

After two seasons of grubbing and blasting stumps they were only able to clear a garden patch, so felt it was hopeless to try and clear the five acres. They soon boarded the ship out of Seattle for Alaska, where Dad worked on the railway for two years and my mother cooked for the crew of eight men, all living in the same tent. This task would seem impossible today, in sub zero temperatures. After two years they had earned some money, so set out to take a homestead in Canada. That is when they came to the Gilby district, in 1909. My brother Melvin was two years old then and August was six. These were happy times, building a new home and so many other families around them in the same category. Helping one another with different tasks, picnics, and dances, were the order of a lot of Saturday nights. My dad was a fine violinist. I can recall my mother saying punches were served also oyster stews. They nearly danced their legs off all night. Church services were held at their homes each in turn, on Sunday; usually followed by a picnic lunch outdoors in summer and of course coffee was brewed indoors in the winter. A lot of the services were held outdoors as the houses were small and a lot of homesteaders always gathered.

Marie and Thomas Sveen, Melvin, Dan Wilson, August, 1910. Martha Sveen, 1941 (inset).

Schools had to be built also, so my dad, having two sons almost ready to attend school, decided something must be done, so he and others had a meeting and the Andrew School District was formed between 1911-1912. I believe he was on the school board for several years. I can remember them telling that Melvin had to start school at a very young age to make the number of pupils needed. I can well remember my mother telling of the need for doctors and

teachers and of all the different problems, how they had to help one another delivering babies, doing housework, picking roots. They finally named mother "the Lady with the Lamp" I can also remember her telling about Mrs. Stenvig having to go to Lacombe to have her leg amputated several times before the gangrene was stopped. Mother took her there with a team of mules, and returning in a few weeks the same way, going home and having to help her in her home until she was able to get around again on crutches. So it must have been a rushed life for mother, doing her own work as well. My dad was a busy man — blacksmithing, raising hogs and farming in general, gunsmithing was also his trade and helping neighbors with most everything They told of how August and Melvin found a coyote pup and raised him. Dad built a kennel for him and he was chained but the chickens kept disappearing, every time a hen went past the kennel the coyote had the chicken So many chickens less, a fine bed of feathers for himself, he became a fine pelt the following winter. Then I can remember Mother telling of how, one day in winter, she saw two children coming across the field to their house It was Vivian and Elzer Forsell. They announced that they had come to stay Their mother had disciplined them for something so they were leaving home to stay with Sveens where they would be treated as people. I can well remember them talking about different neighbors; Peterson, Wilsons, Forsells, Kurzmans, Linders, Stenvigs, and Mother always regretted leaving such a fine neighbourhood., but at the time it was a frosty territory and they were unable to raise enough grain or potatoes for the hogs or themselves. Dad decided to sell and it was Mr and Mrs. Thomas who decided to move into their home in 1918. They moved to the Athabasca district and farmed there until the time of their death

I was born there on the farm in 1921, so knew very few of the people they talked of from the Gilby district, however, I can remember the many things they told about the Gilby district

My husband and I are now retired here in the Okanogan and the door is always open to visitors or travellers as it always was in Sveen home

**HARRY E. THOMAS — by Beulah May (Thomas) Hartley**

Harry E. Thomas came to Alberta from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1900. Relatives had come on ahead, as Dad came with the livestock to care for them The early arrivals took a homestead for Dad, which was hilly, with a few good-sized sloughs Even though he didn't care too much for the location, Dad put up good buildings and lived there until 1917, when he sold out We then took a trip to Iowa and Minnesota, U.S.A., to visit Dad's and Mother's relatives.

Upon our return to Alberta, Dad started looking around for a farm to his liking. When he saw the Martin Sveen farm, SW 3-41-3-W5, he looked no further, but purchased the farm, lock, stock and barrel, in 1918. The purchase included four horses, Reppa, Becka, King and Roany, a pony which would shy and also run away Dad later traded this pony for a smaller sorrel pony which we called Nancy Also in the purchase were included one cow, and I suppose there were some chickens

Father purchased a red Case tractor in 1918 to use for breaking land, as there wasn't much broken The grain was cut, stooked, and, when dry, put into stacks to be threshed during the winter, There was a dug well, from which we pulled the water up in a bucket My dad had a man from Bentley drill a well, which gave us soft water

When we came to the Sveen farm in 1918 there were three of us children We had all been born in the Haynes district, at home on the homestead We were Harold, age 10, born March 4, 1908 May, age eight, born May 30, 1910 and Boyd, born March 17, 1913, about five years old. Boyd died in 1945 in British Columbia. On August 6, 1919 Percy was born at Mrs. Vale's nursing home in Lacombe. Mother had fallen sometime before and hurt her leg rather badly, so couldn't stay home, when the rest of us were born, with Grandma Thomas to look after her. Beatrice Pimm came to look after the house and us older children. Martin was born at home on April 12, 1922. We had had a blizzard and the roads were drifted. When Harold went to get Mrs. John Raabis, three miles west and north, he got stuck when almost home, but managed to get the old Ford dug out and arrived home in plenty of time

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Thomas and May. Martin, Harold, Harry, Percy, Boyd, 1941

We all attended Andrews School, walking a mile. Dad would hitch up the team and take us when the snow was deep and the road not traveled. Harry Irvin was born in Lacombe on April 15, 1925. I left school at the age of 14 years so I was at home to look after the house and also to milk the cow

Dad got a larger Case tractor and a thresher, and the threshing was done from bundles drawn in by teams of horses hitched to a rack, or basket, on the wagon. Busy days, those, for the women as well, with threshers to cook for, but we enjoyed those threshing days!

In 1922 Dad had an elevator built just south of the old log barn In 1964 a fire started in the loft of the old barn and the elevator burned, too Later, Dad built a barn, using the foundation of the elevator, as it had not been damaged by the fire This gave shelter again for the animals

Dad supplied the poles and put in a telephone line which was joined to another line running two miles south of our home. He also served on the school board at one time. Dad always kept up with the latest machinery. It took a while to get all the trees off the east quarter It was necessary to chop the roots through and pull the trees with a team of horses. Stubborn stumps were blown with stumping powder I remember Charlie Andrew and his wife saying that their dog was afraid of thunder, and when the stumping powder blew, he came into the house and crawled under the bed

We had a McLaughlin Buick car to get around in for a while. We went once or twice a year to Haynes to visit Grandma and Grandpa Thomas. Later we bought a Chrysler sedan. We used to get telephone messages for neighbors who didn't have a phone. I often got the job of taking the message to them. I really enjoyed the horseback ride, but the messages were often of a death, or something serious, and I didn't like that

In 1928 Dad purchased a Chevrolet truck, which seemed like a large one to us. It saved that long trip for the horses to town with grain or pigs I used to drive it too. This same year Dad, Mom, Harold, Boyd and Irv (who was then four years old) made a trip up to the Peace River country As a result of this trip Harold and Boyd took up homesteads in the Hines Creek area. I stayed at home, as Percy and Mart were still in school, and while my parents were gone I took pigs to town with the truck. Mr Tim Sambrook came and helped to load them.

One teacher boarded at our home in 1922. Her name was Annie Moorhouse. She walked the mile to school Teachers surely earned their wages in those days. The last year I went to school there must have been about 30 of us, in Grades 1 to 9 and 10. Miss Kingsep was our teacher when I was taking Grade 9 She taught us to play basketball, and the district men put up courts for us. Since there were enough girls old enough to make up a team, we played baseball, girls against the boys, sometimes; at other times we would choose up sides. Later, the older ones who had left school used to meet on the school grounds to play ball

We had parties at one another's homes once in a while, where we played games, or cards, and had a good time Every summer during school holidays, they had a picnic at Gilby One time I remember our basketball team played against the Benjamin girls. We often went to the Estonian Hall to play basketball and we played once at the Eckville Sports Day I left home in 1932, so lost track of things there after that time.

Harold married Mabie Ostrem from Peace River They now live near Chase, B.C. Their five children — Sam, Judith, Ronald, Leatha and Genevieve — are all married

Percy bought the home farm in the 1940's Dad and Mom went out to British Columbia for a while where they had a raspberry farm. They had to hire pickers. In the 1950's Mom and Dad sold their land to Mart, as he and Anna were also living in the area, and they returned to Alberta, where they purchased a home in Rumbey

Dad later had a stroke which made it necessary for him to use a cane when walking. A second stroke put him in the hospital in Rumbey but he rallied and came home for a while, only to have to return to the hospital later, where he died in April, 1960 He is buried in the Gilby Cemetery

There was a log blacksmith shop north of the house, with a loft The chimney was made of wide boards. Dad had been doing forge work in there one day, and that night it burned down, along with a garage lean-to at the back. It was thought that likely a chimney fire had started it Our father liked to go hunting and fishing. He would get some neighbor or friend, Mom would pack the grub box and get the blankets and such ready, and he'd be off in the sleigh to Buck Lake for fishing. They would make camp and set nets in the lake. I, for one, used to get a little tired of eating fish. It was packed in a big box at home in ice, and we had to eat it before warm weather came. We also canned a lot of it The hunting trips, out by Rocky Mountain House, usually with horses, always resulted in a deer and quite often a moose. When we first came to the farm Dad could take a saddle horse and ride back into the hills and have a deer in a few hours There were so many prairie chickens then, too, that they'd be thick around the straw piles in the wintertime, and would even come right into the yard at home When Harold was fairly young he would hunt partridge in the bushes on our own land

In 1929 Father purchased the swamp quarter, across the road south of the west quarter, so we had pasture. He built a straw shed for pigs and put feeder boxes in to feed them their chop. Later a hog barn made of lumber was built in the northeast corner, a well was drilled there, and self-feeders were provided to feed the chop to the pigs. This made taking care of the pigs a lot easier. Dad also had an eight-foot corral built of logs, or rails, where he put colts to wean them, steers to be fattened, or used for whatever purpose needed. This was on the slope south of the house He built a big straw shed in the lower corner, with a long straw-feeder up one side where a big load of straw could be put into it, so the stock did not waste so much while eating

We had a good saddle horse by the name of "Fly". I always thought of him as mine. He was a big bay which Dad had bought when I was about 12 years old I would often ride him to visit school mates, and sometimes I would ride him

two miles north and to the top of the big hill, just for the pleasure of riding

**THOMAS, PERCY AND ANN — by Percy Thomas**

We, Percy and Ann, were married in 1937 and started farming on our own in 1939 in the Leedale district on a C P R. quarter, for which we had paid the full price of $700. Our first son "Junior" Percy Leroy arrived in 1940 and our second son, Phillip, was born in 1943

In 1945 we bought the former Billy Woods farm at Lockart In 1946 we ran the A B Cafe in Rimbey for six months, but in that same year we bought our half section of the home place from father, Harry Thomas.

In 1947 our third son, Tom, was born

My long series of back operations began in 1949 with infection starting 12 days after surgery Numerous operations followed, trying to stop the bone infection, which, however, still exists

Three more sons were born to us. Doug in 1950, followed by Harry in 1954 and Michael in 1955

In 1956 we rented the Pete Moro farm and later also part of the Forsell farm, the former Anne Stone place

In 1959 son Junior started his university training He took six years at the University of Alberta and then three years in Australia, where he received his Doctorate in Plant Genetics. He is now doing research work for the Federal Government and is living in Winnipeg

Phillip attended the University of Alberta After receiving his Master's Degree he worked as District Agriculturist in Sangudo and in Vermilion and then was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Crops for the province and is stationed in Lacombe

Harry, Douglas and Michael are doing oilfield construction work and are living in Eckville

My father, Harry Thomas, was a small man, but his size was the only thing small about him He had an endless supply of energy. In 1924 he bought a 22-40 Case tractor and a 32-inch thresher, which was a large outfit for those years. That tractor could be heard chugging away on the 4-14 plow at four o'clock every morning

He had a team of horses that weighed 2000 pounds each. I can remember seeing them weighed at the Pool Elevator at Eckville. Dad built an extra-wide grain box on the sleigh that held 200 bushels of oats and that team used to haul that load the nine miles to Eckville every day. Our neighbor, William Andrew used to josh Dad about standing on an apple box when harnessing the team

We raised a lot of chickens in those lean years and, of course, a few turkeys for Christmas. In the autumn, when they were all fat, the owls came at night to feast One night the chickens were squawking and Dad, in his pajamas and armed with the 1897 twelve-gauge, went to the fowls' rescue. The blast woke us kids and we rushed out to look for the owl All we could find was the turkey hen, as dead as could be! She had decided that night to roost in the top of the tree

My father had bought the second self propelled combine in the district in 1941. One harvest, on our long steep hills at Leedale, the driveshaft broke and the combine took off at speeds unheard of, and came very close to ending up in the middle of the creek at the end of the field

All of our sons married very lovely and efficient girls, and we have eight grandchildren — six girls and two boys.

In 1974 Ann and I sold our farm to our son Tom, who had worked with us on the farm for eight years. We then bought an acreage in the Green Park area of Sicamous, B.C., and are now building our own home there

**MARILYN GUSTAVSON THOMAS**

Marilyn went to school in Eckville. She graduated as a registered nurse in January, 1965 from the Edmonton University Hospital

She and Percy Thomas were married on June 10, 1965. Percy is the eldest son of Ann and Percy Thomas. He went to school in Eckville and at Olds Agricultural College. He obtained his B.A and M.A. degrees in Agriculture at the University in Edmonton. Following their marriage they lived in Winnipeg where Percy worked at the Federal Research Bureau at the University of Manitoba. Marilyn worked at the General Hospital there

Percy received a three-year leave of absence to continue his studies in Canberra, Australia, earning his Ph D. in plant genetics there. They now live permanently in Winnipeg where Percy works in research.

They have a daughter, Turi, born in Australia on November 28, 1968, and another daughter, Nicole, born in Winnipeg on November 17, 1970

**THE THORP FAMILY**

M. Jewel, a pioneer of the Gilby district, went to Tacoma, Washington and told J. M. Thorp that farm land could be purchased in Central Alberta. Mr Thorp became interested in his friend's stories of the land so that he, too, settled in the area and bought section 31 40-3-W5 from the C.P.R. in 1909. About 1915, his son, Hilmer, came up from the U.S. and farmed with his dad Hilmer was joined by his wife, Pearl, within a year or two

In 1924 the Thorp family had a household and machinery sale and went back to Tacoma, returning to the farm a year later In 1938 the family again sold out (returning to Washington) and the land has been leased since Their renters have been John Huseby, Joe and Peter Liska, Bernard Grutterink and presently Walter Andrew

Hilmer and Pearl had two sons, Bill and Russ, who still have joint ownership in their grand

Pearl, Russ, Bill and Hilmer Thorp, 1929

father's land. The boys were raised in the family's large house on the NE 31 and attended Andrew School. Bill and Russ were the envy of their fellow pupils; they had bicycles to ride to school

They each had three children and Bill now has four grandchildren while Russ has three. Bill has been a life insurance agent for 16 years and Russ is a veteran of the oil, tire and auto parts business. Bill and Russ have been living in the Tacoma area since leaving Gilby 40 years ago.

**UHL, EDYTHE**

Edythe Uhl, youngest daughter of William and Alice Andrew was born at the farm in the Gilby area. She attended Andrews' School and on leaving worked away from home through the winter returning to help at the farm during the busy season in spring and summer

She married Earl (Rudy) Platt of Rimbey and had three children, Joyce, Lorraine and Rodney (now all married). In 1943 Earl died in a plane crash on a return flight out of the north under adverse conditions. In 1949, Edythe married Leslie Uhl and they have one married daughter, Dixie. They farmed west of Rimbey, until retiring to Rimbey in 1973.

**WARES, RUDY**

His parents, John and Lenna Wares, came to Eckville in 1911 from Estonia. They homesteaded a quarter section at Gilby and later bought another quarter from Adam Matthews (Rudy's uncle). The two quarters were the W 28-40-3-W5, presently farmed by Walter Andrew

Rudy and his sisters, Elga and Erta, were born on the farm. The family moved to British Columbia in 1933. Mrs. Wares passed away in 1934 and Mr. Wares in 1968

Rudy and his wife, Maxine, live at Surrey, B.C. Rudy is employed there as a machinist. They have three children — Howard, Theresa, and Barry

Elga and Erta are married and have families. They, too, live in British Columbia.

**CARL AND LAURA WESTERGARD — by Lorna Tink (Their Niece)**

Carl P. Westergard purchased the recently rebuilt Gilby Store in the early part of 1938. At Christmas of 1938, he brought his bride, Laura L. Whiteside, to share life with him in the community. Soon the store became a meeting place for friends exchanging news, as well as a place for purchasing goods

When Laura agreed to teach in the Eckville High School during the war, Carl needed someone to work for him in the store. Thus a large group of capable persons found their way into the area throughout the ensuing years, some of which were Jim Nelson, Ada Cumberland, Lisle and Iola Whiteside, Laurie Lonneberg, Audrey Branson, Harold Westergard, Etta and Laura Svendsen, Minnie Nugent, and Mrs. Mason.

Carl and Laura Westergard

In 1946, Laura was granted the position of Principal at Dickson School, grades one to 12, where she was soon dubbed "Westie." This position necessitated weekly trips, as she returned each Friday night to be with Carl and their Gilby friends. Most Saturday nights were "company nights" with someone special arriving — frequently to fare on Carl's superb pancake suppers. Singing, crokinole, checkers or just good conversation were all the entertainment needed. Sundays were celebrated quietly with

"Meeting" at the home of a friend, and lunch together before Laura returned to school.

Carl loved to fish and whenever he could find a willing partner, he would head out to some stream or lake nearby. He and Laura both appreciated purebreed Shorthorn cattle and purchased two quarter-sections of land for pasture. This was the NW 20-40-3-W5, where the Leonard Skjonsberg family have built their home, and SE 29-40-3-W5, which has been purchased by Verral and Lorna Tink.

In 1955 Laura transferred to Leslieville School and then to David Thompson in 1957, where she remained teaching until her retirement. Perhaps because Laura and Carl had no children of their own, they seemed to "adopt" those around them. Many students, neighbours, nieces and nephews will remember being made to feel especially important as young people around Mr. and Mrs. Westergard. Following her retirement from classroom teaching, "Westie" brought young people into her home where she taught piano, organ, theory, or tutored in academic subjects for a very small fee, and often none.

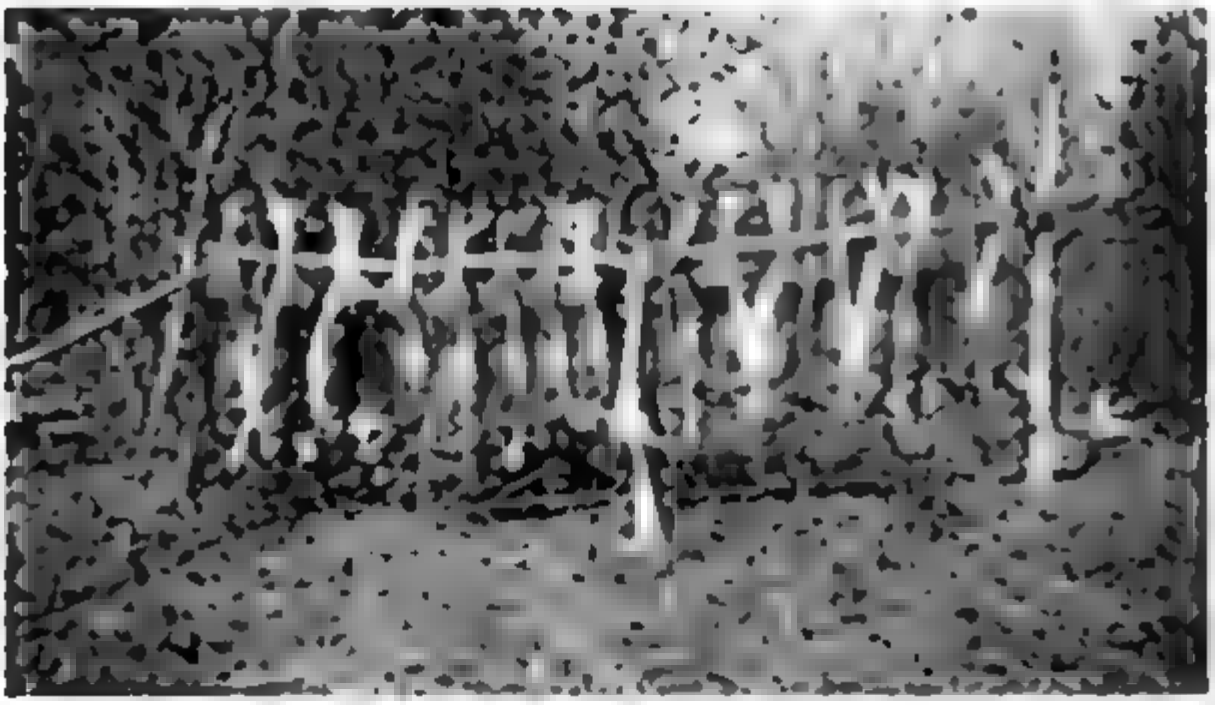
In February, 1964, Carl died after a short illness. He is buried in the Gilby Cemetery. The store was too involved for Laura to handle alone, and was sold to Jim and Johanna Blades. Carl and Laura had owned it for 30 years. Laura also sold one quarter-section of their land to Skjonsbergs but retained the "home" quarter. She continued to teach music in her home until April, 1972 when she died very suddenly. She is buried at Gilby. (Laura had married Eric Whidden of Rocky Mountain House in 1971. He is presently living at Rocky Mountain House.)

Leonard Phelps with two baby coyotes, 1949

Neil (Billy) McDonald with bottle fed pigs 1939

Thanksgiving and Christmas

Art Baldridge with a huge eagle having a wingspan of six feet



Rabbits were so numerous they were a good source of ready money in 1930

# Benalto, Melita

**ANDERSON, ARNOLD AND MARION — by Mildred Anderson Niemi**

Sven Arnold was the only son born to Swan and Elma Anderson. He was a very welcome addition to the family, especially because he was a boy, but also because he was the first new member in the family for eight years, and a brother for Annie and me.

Arnold was still a baby when Grandmother died. However for the first four years of his life he had a very special friend in Granddad. Due to his somewhat failing health, Granddad was spending more of his time at home.

As soon as Arnold was able to keep up with Dad, they did the chores together. This responsibility grew with the years.

Elma and Swan Anderson and Family: Mildred, Annie and Arnold, 1918

Arnold first attended Melita School, then Benalto when it replaced Melita. Now that he had a bicycle he had no problem in getting together with his school chums, Ernest and Arthur Longair.

Arnold was 11 years old when the doctor diagnosed that his failing health was due to diabetes. This he had to contend with the remainder of his life, but he learned to accept it, and tried to live as normal a life as possible.

As a young lad Arnold went with Mother and Dad on their first holiday from the farm, to visit the Einar Sundstroms and Wayne Heikkinen in Vancouver. Some years later, Mother and Dad accompanied by Arnold and Earle Farris, made a trip to Montana. With so many of Mother's relatives around Missoula, there were hosts and hostesses of all ages to entertain them.

For entertainment Arnold enjoyed dancing, curling and travelling when the opportunity arose. It was while he was on a trip to Seattle with Roy and Laurel Nielsen and Bert Cole that all four boys witnessed their first night baseball game. On their return they stopped at Lake Louise and decided to climb the glacier. Having accomplished this feat to their satisfaction, they began their descent. It was while they were thus occupied that a ranger confronted them! As they had not received permission for their venture, they were soundly "reamed out"! This dampened their spirits a bit, but by the time they had reached the car they were ready to continue on to Banff. By about midnight they finally had their tent set up. In the wee hours of the morning a storm blew up and this quartette was rudely awakened by a collapsing tent. After groping their way out from under canvas and tent-poles into the rain, they spent the rest of the night huddled in the car. That was the beginning and end of tenting for this foursome!

While attending high school at Eckville, Arnold was asked why he didn't take one of the junior high school girls to a dance. His comment, "Those kids?" It was one of "Those kids" Marion McCrady Rounds, that he later married. After attending high school at Eckville and then at Red Deer, Arnold began farming with his dad.

Marion was the third of six children born to

Fern and Roy Markely Rounds, in Newcastle near Drumheller.

Marion started school in Drumheller but when she was six years old the family moved to the Lockhart area, north of Eckville to the farm of Dolly and Homer McCrady, Marion's grandparents. To attend school at Caskins Valley three miles away, Gordon and Geraldine rode ponies, but Marion rode a Shetland pony. Before moving to Eckville, they attended Benjamin School for a short while.

Marion's granddad worked at a mine in Saunders, so she left Eckville for awhile to live with him, her grandmother, and her two uncles, Chuck and Raymond. She continued her education through correspondence lessons. Besides supplying their own entertainment such as horseback riding and target practice, they attended shows, dances, and hockey games at Nordegg. At times they would walk to Alexo and take the "jigger" (hand-car) back to Alexo. There was even a tennis court and skating rink at Saunders for one year.

After returning to Eckville, Marion was a ward-aid in the hospital. She took a break and went to British Columbia to thin fruit and to work in the packing plant before returning to the Eckville Hospital for two years.

In 1950-51 Marion, Jean Anderson and Doris Walster attended a Nurse's Aid Course in Calgary, in the old army huts near S.A.I.T.

Shortly after completing her training Marion and Arnold were married at the Eckville Presbyterian Church. They lived on the family farm. To them were born three children — Sven Richard, Kathryn Lynn and Marion Susan.

Farming, chores and a family kept Arnold and Marion busy. Recreation included the usual family get togethers and picnics, fishing trips and dancing, including participation in a square dance club. Day-long trips as far as Drumheller or more lengthy ones to visit family members in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the bordering states, were very much a part of their lives.

Arnold's health problems mounted. He finally lost his sight three years before his passing. However, Marion and Arnold continued their life-style much as before except that now Arnold could no longer farm. He never gave up hope for relief from his diabetes, nor for the return of some sight so as to see his children once more, especially Susan, whom he had never seen. Arnold died in the fall of 1957.

Marion and the children continued to live on the family farm for awhile, but then moved to Arnold's farm near Eckville (NW 10-39-3-W5).

Rick, Angele and their two children, Christine Marie and Sven Daniel, are now making their home on this site near Eckville. Kath and Bill Zaleski are living on the S½ of SW 32-39-3-W5. Susan and Blair Penner reside in Edmonton.

**CLARENCE ANDERSON FAMILY**

Clarence was the second son of Charley and Lillie Anderson, born in Split Rock, Minnesota, U.S.A. in May, 1909. His parents moved to the Manyberries district in southern Alberta later that same year. Here they took up farming, raising a family of six boys and two girls. Clarence attended the New Home School, of which he also served as janitor for several years.

Following the drought of the early twenties, like many other prairie farmers, they were compelled to leave the farm and move further north to the green area of Central Alberta. Clarence was 16 years of age when the family located on a farm in the Eckville-Hespero area. In 1929, they moved to the Jack Simpson farm at Benalto.

In 1933, he married Aili Huhtala of Benalto. She was born there on her family farm. Together, they took up farming in 1936 on a half section farm owned by Orme McKee. Here they lived for eight years, leasing farms from the Armstrong Brothers and Charles Klint. In 1944 Clarence purchased the SE 6-29-2-W5 from the Armstrong Brothers, as well as the quarter section directly across the highway — SE 31-38-2-W5, from Frank Jenkins. There were no buildings on the land so he purchased a small one-room cabin from Mr. Jenkins, adding a lean-to kitchen to one side. A small barn was erected for milk cows. These buildings served their needs until a larger barn and house were built in 1946 and 1948 respectively. The home quarter had a heavy stand of spruce which was processed into lumber. Part of this lumber was used in the buildings, and the remainder was sold.

In 1948, he bought the SW 32-38-2-W5 from Paul Burdick. Along with these three quarters Clarence also still rented farm land from the Armstrongs and Mr. Klint. Most years the crops were good, but in 1949, a hailstorm destroyed the entire crop, making it necessary to plow the fields.

Following the death of his father, Clarence sold the farm to Alfred and Nellie Woehler of Williams Lake, B.C. in 1956, and took over the operation of Central Steam Baths in Sylvan Lake. He was interested in carpentry work and built two houses on the property, as well as a four-suite apartment, remodelled from the old Sylvan Lake School. In 1963, they sold the steam baths to his brother, Richard, and his wife. They then moved to live in Rocky Mountain House. Clarence worked on construction in Calgary and for the Rocky Mountain School District for some time, preferring, however, to live in semi-retirement until his passing in November, 1972. Aili still makes her home in Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence and Aili had two children, Gary born in 1940 and Delores in 1943. They attended schools in Benalto, Sylvan Lake, and the Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer. Later, both attended the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, Gary study-

ing Electronics and Delores Chemical Technology

Gary married Patricia Pottcary of Eston, Saskatchewan. He is employed by Alberta Government Telephones in Red Deer, where they make their home. They have a family of four — Kevin, Kathy, Kelly and Kimberly

Delores worked in sulphur research in the University of Calgary until her marriage to Forrest Bird of Olds. They make their home in Rocky Mountain House where Forrest is vice principal of the Junior-Senior High School. Their three children are Lina, Carl, and Ryan

Clarence was an avid outdoor person. He never missed an opportunity to go big game hunting or fishing — sports in which he encouraged Alll and the children to join him. He also enjoyed curling and was a member of the building committee, promoting the building of the four-sheet curling rink in Benalto. He was a careful, conscientious worker, both in farming and construction work, as evidenced by the result of the work he left behind.

**THE ARMSTRONG BROTHERS**

James C. Armstrong (1846-1907) of Dutch Mills, Arkansas, U S A , married Mary Elizabeth White (1852-1904) of Cincinnati, Arkansas on January 26, 1873. To them were born the following children at Little Rock, Arkansas James Elbert on December 22, 1874, Robert Lee on September 11, 1877; William Jackson on October 31, 1878, Thomas Gaylord on September 17, 1880; Gracie Pearl on March 6, 1882, Sloman Garland on December 13, 1884, and John Peyton on June 16, 1886

The Armstrong family came to Alberta in the after part of April in 1904. They bought the W 1-39-3-W5 for five dollars an acre. They lived in tents until they were abie to accumulate enough logs to build their house (which is still standing today) The house had one room upstairs and one room downstairs. A lean-to was later added, which became their kitchen with a small attic for an extra bedroom

Grandma Armstrong, not being well when they came to Alberta, passed away on October 4. 1904. Grandpa passed away on July 9, 1907, after he had acquired a homestead — the quarter east of what used to be Melita School

The Armstrong brothers each took out a homestead and also continued buying land until their holdings eventually added up to seven quarters, much of it under cultivation. At one time they had 300 head of horses, some of which supplied entertainment at the "Famous Benalto Fair and Stampede" Gaylord was always there decked out in his cowboy hat and striking white chaps, riding around the grounds. However, finding pasture and providing winter feed for so many animals sometimes created a problem.

Gracie Pearl married Jesse Craig and they farmed south of Benalto until their retirement to Sylvan Lake. They had two sons. John married

Gaylord Armstrong, Kitty Barhan and Gladys Turner

Neva Crawford, who lived in the Diamond Valley District. John and Neva's children are Maureen. Murray, and Brian. Hal married Pat Savage. and they took over his parents' farm. Pat and Hal have a home in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A. where they spend their winters. They have a summer home in Calgary, and Hal works during the summers as a hail adjuster in some areas. Their three children are Wayne, Beverley and Elbert

John married Lulu Lenore (Kit) Barhan in 1913. They had three children — James William (Bill), Barry Barhan and Laura Marie

Bill married Lenora Shamlock and they had two children, Gail Marie and Joan Louise. Bill served overseas in World War II. He passed away in Victoria, B.C. in 1959. Lenora and her mother were killed in a car accident west of Edmonton

Barry married Irene Talson and they had five children' Barry (Bud) Darwin, Barbara Marie, Betty Lou, Bennett John and a baby boy who lived only a few hours and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery Bud married Jennine Moos. Their three children are Debbie Dawn. Dannet Sue and Daileen Marie. They reside at Sherwood Park, where Bud is in the oil business. Barbara married Bill Partica. They have a son, Timothy Bill is also in the oil business and they have spent many years overseas Their mobile home is in Sylvan Lake. Betty Lou is married to Terry Hannin. They have a son, Chad Michael, and live in Red Deer Terry is in the pipeline business. and Betty Lou is a legal secretary Ben is following his great uncle's pattern of remaining single. He also works in the pipeline business and makes his home in Red Deer. Barry died in 1949

James Elbert, William Jackson (Bill), Robert Lee (Bob), and Thomas Gaylord remained bachelors. Sloman Garlan passed away on July 12, 1895 at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sadness came to Kit and John when their little daughter passed away at the tender age of three years. She died of scarlet fever

The Armstrong brothers, being very musical often played for dances. Left-handed Elbert played a right handed violin, and it was sweet music, believe me! Quite often we would drive up on summer evenings and hear him playing "Arkansas Traveller" or "Listen to the Mocking Bird", or many others of his favorites. Elbert also was "chief cook and bottle washer" Everyone enjoyed his hot biscuits and corn pone (Johnny cake . He left this life on April 29, 1956.

Friends seem to have a special memory of each of the brothers. Bill worked the fields, and was about the best story-teller of all. He never laughed at his own jokes. Quite the charmer' Bill passed away on October 30, 1941. Bob was the "Boss Man" until his death on December 15, 1942 He was always consulted about any business transaction in the family Gaylord was the horseman. He would head the round-up when it came branding time He also shone as a ladies' man (shsh). He departed this life September 5, 1954. John was the "Old Married Man" as their French housekeeper, Madam Piecereaux, affectionately named him

John and Kit lived in what is now the Jobs' home. They had planned to build a new home and had lumber shipped from British Columbia. The site was selected when one day Kit took off on her horse, Headlight, to choose a new building spot on the hill where the Krause family are now living Theirs was one of the first homes in the area to have inside plumbing and electricity John passed away May 7, 1960. Kit and John were avid hockey fans and drove the boys, Bill and Barry included, to their out-of-town games. The Hockey Club's dances in Eckville were very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone Kit resides in Red Deer now and attends all the Eckville Eagles' hockey games and functions.

**THE AUSTIN FAMILY**

Henry Luther Austin was born in Wisconsin Rosie Prevo was born in Iowa. They were married in Nebraska in the latter 1800's. They had two sons in Nebraska, Orlie and W J. (Bill) Late Austin as he was known by his neighbors. homesteaded west of Red Deer in the Poplar Ridge district in 1902. He moved his wife, Rosie and the two boys to the homestead in 1903. The first home was a sod house. Two more sons and two daughters were all born on the homestead O M (Millard), Vera, Retta, and A.L. (Buster All went to school in the Poplar Ridge School.

Late brought one of the first threshing machines to the district, being a 21 inch Case This machine was hand fed and had no straw blower only a straw carrier. They later modernized this machine by adding a blower and self feeder. After the machine was dealt off it turned up east of Red Deer and was still in use in the 1940 s. It was first powered by six or eight horses on a horse power unit Later a single cylinder gasoline engine was used that had been converted from a stationary engine to a traction engine by means of a friction drive. This had no steering aparatus so had to be steered by horses on a pole This was called an "old famous" At that time most of the threshing was done from stacks to avoid being snowed under. They threshed from Red Deer to Hespero, and some years were almost late for spring work. The family also operated a sawmill on the farm for a while cutting the native timber for themselves and neighbors as a lot of building was needed. Bill took over the machinery work about the time of the first World War Bill and his brother-in-law A. D (Archie) Smith bought a new threshing machine, a 28 inch Avery that was used until 1936. They also bought a large gasoline traction engine. This engine was a twin sister of the Mogul, and could have been made by them, but was sold by International Harvester and there was no real name on this monster This engine was a "two cylinder" and had to be left running all night in the cold weather as you could not turn it over Archie and Bill worked together until 1928 when Archie moved to Rockford, Illinois

Bill then took over on his own and kept up this work until he sold his farm in 1948. Three quarters of raw land was bought from C.P R. This was three miles east of the old Sylvan Lake Creamery and there was some extra large timber on some of this land. Along with getting the land cleared, breaking, threshing, and some other custom work Bill also ran a sawmill and lumber planer for a few years at different locations. These were powered by two steam engines. These sawmill operations brought him in contact with the Skocdopole Bros. from Botha who had built one of the first brush cutters in the country A deal was made for lumber and they cleared the large timber areas of this land and some of his fathers original homestead. Some of this timbered land had stumps so big no ordinary tractor of those times could attempt to break it As the land was needed for farming the steam engine was fired up and with two ploughs behind breaking was started. As the breaking continued, dry wood became a problem so the old two cylinder gas engine was started up and as long as the ploughs hung together nothing could stop either of these engines Most of the land was broke by them.

All of the Austin men were the neighborhood handy men. No one would think of getting a mechanic from town before getting consultation from one of them. After the experience on all the old gas engines and all the old machinery the neighbors seldom had to go any farther

Orlie, the oldest boy, married Connie Wilson. a school teacher who taught school in the Evarts district. They have two girls and one boy The family moved to British Columbia in the 1920's

W.J (Bill) married Mary Caroline (Bea)

Smith, a stepdaughter of his uncle, Bill Prevo. They have four sons and two daughters.

Rosie Marie, married Gus Poffenroth. They have three sons and one daughter.

Kenny Ann Carey is married and living in Calgary.

Janet is married and living in the State of Washington.

Vern is at home in Red Deer.

W. E. (Dick) married Margaret Swanson, they have three daughters and one son.

Linda married Gilman Hills and reside in Benalto.

Sharon, married K. G. (Ken) Lightbown and lives near Markerville. William and Sandra live at home.

Evelyn Beatrice (Bea) married M. M. (Moss) Jensen, they have a daughter Lorna and a son Mervin.

R. L. (Jake) married and living in Calgary has three children, Dianne, Susanne and Lane.

E. F. (Gene) is married to Carol Cody and they reside in Red Deer. They have three daughters; Theresa, Tammy and Susan, all at home.

Orlie, the youngest son, was lost due to illness in his tender years.

Millard, married, now living in Edmonton, has four sons.

Vera, married R. C. James living at Longview, Wash. have two daughters and one son.

Retta married Ray DePauw living in Washington State have two sons and one daughter.

A. L. (Buster) married Hilda Knoll, live in Red Deer and have three daughters and one son.

W. J. (Bill) Austin carried on the farming and threshing operations until the farm was sold to Bahler Bros. in 1948 and purchased the Benalto Garage.

**THE JAMES BARHAN FAMILY**

James Barhan was born in Exira, Iowa U.S.A. He came to Alberta in 1911 with Charlie Jenkins, and purchased a section, Sec. 2-39-3-W5, of land across from Armstrong Brothers. James Barhan's son, Guy, followed two weeks later in an immigrant car with furniture and horses.

Mr. and Mrs. James Barhan's children were Olive, Eloise, Skyler, Guy and Lulu.

Laura (Granny) Barhan later brought Lulu, who was nicknamed "Kitten" because of her fondness for cats. This name was later shortened to "Kit", by which she is presently known to everyone. They were met in Red Deer by granddad (Jim) and Bob Armstrong at the railroad station. Bill, Gaylord, and John Armstrong had been back to Arkansas, U.S.A. to visit with relatives. Bob and Jim met Granny and Kit and gran's sister, Eva Jenkins, Charlie Jenkins' wife, who lived in their house for a time. The house was new and had two rooms downstairs which Ava and Charlie occupied. Granny, Jim and family had two bedrooms upstairs, plus a pantry and kitchen downstairs. It did not appeal to Kit and granny after leaving a nice home in Iowa, but they managed very well and acclimatized to their new environment.

Olive and Eloise married two brothers, Jack Freeman and Clyde Freeman and moved to the United States to live in Oregon.

Skyler (Punch) was a druggist at Atlanta, Iowa, and remained there, but came to Canada later where he was employed in Calgary by Parson & Denoon Stock Exchange as a salesman. He married Louella and they have three children — Marion (Knowles), Robert Walker, and Janet. They are all living in the United States.

Olive and Clyde later moved back to Exira and have two children, Doris and Jamie.

Eloise and Jack Freeman lived on Jim Barhan's quarter which Jim had purchased earlier. They have three daughters. Laura (Mrs. Charles Harrison) lives in Pender, B.C. They moved there after Charles' retirement as Fire Chief in Calgary. Their three children are Brenda Ann, Dana Sue and Charles (Chuck). They all reside in British Columbia.

Eva Naomi (Mrs. John Murray) lives in Calgary. They have six children — Marilyn, Nikki, Linda, Janice, Colleen and Kent.

Norma (Babe) married Terry Fowler and they are making their home in Calgary.

Guy Barhan married Flocella Johnston. She was one of the first school teachers at the Saima School. Everyone loved and respected her. She is presently living in Nanaimo, B.C. with her son, Roy. Marjorie, their daughter, is also living in British Columbia. All of the school children were saddened when their oldest daughter, Dorothy died in California at the age of three years. They had pulled up stakes here to make their home in California. They returned after Dorothy's death and Floss came back to teach at Saima. Guy farmed his father's land until he was tragically killed in a binder accident in the fall of 1937. His horses panicked and the horse-drawn binder ran over him.

Kit (Lulu Lenore) married John Armstrong in 1913. They had two sons and one daughter, James William (Bill), Barry Barhan and Laura Marie. Bill passed away in Victoria, B.C. in 1959. Barry died in December, 1949, and Baby Marie died in 1920 at the age of three years.

Mrs. Laura Barhan, affectionately called "Granny" by everyone, enjoyed the company of young people. She cooked huge meals for the ball players who came by to play ball on Sundays. She also had her famous recipe for baked beans. She often said, "I've got to bake beans in case the Lutz boys come by." The first words Art Lutz would say were "Hey, granny, bring on the beans!", whenever he arrived. Granny would chuckle with delight. To our sorrow she passed away on February 21, 1950, at the age of 85 years and five months.

The Barhans brought with them two cows and

horses, one a pony for Kit named "Flash", a pacer which Kit often rode

They also brought their piano with them. Kit played it and their friends, Gladys and Ralph Matchett, along with Norman Turner, (who later married Gladys), would come by, so they had good music. Arthur Kinna, a very good violinist, would often join them. All in all, it was very enjoyable Norman Turner also accompanied them on the piano

A couple of days after her arrival, Kit was out hanging clothes when Bob Edgar rode in on his horse He told her about the dance at Pitcox (now Hespero) the following night. He was happy to see young people coming to the country They went to the dance and had a great time, although the boys far outnumbered the girls. There were only seven girls in attendance and Guy, somewhat shy, didn't even ask a girl to dance.

Kit was an ardent curler and she delivered milk to the village of Eckville daily, rain or shine

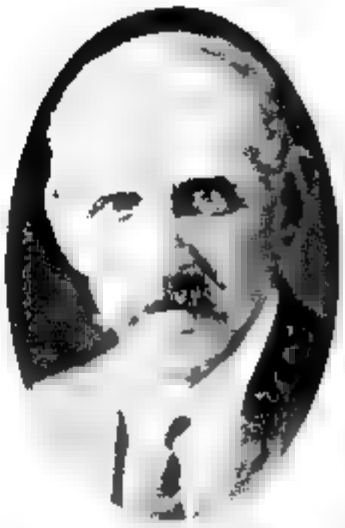
John was agent for the United Grain Growers elevator for several years. Unfortunately, he had to retire early because of repeated attacks of arthritis.

**BENALTO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY — by W E. (Dick) Austin**

It's a shame that no one has kept a record of the society, so my history is based on common knowledge of a few of the old timers that are left, and bits and pieces picked up here and there Most of it is from newspaper clippings, some old minute books and old fair books

The original society was formed in 1917 and the first fair was held in 1918. Prior to this, a sports day was held in Evarts, which ran annually from 1905 until 1915 Due to the railroad being moved to north of Evarts and possibly some other reasons, this was moved to Benalto in 1916. Some of the old timers claim there were a few bucking horses and a few horse races held along with this in 1916 but it is not known for sure

S.E McKee, president of Benalto Agricultural Society, 1917 to 1923



P N Cameron, president of Benalto Agricultural Society, 1927 to 1929 and 1931 to 1933

Ilmar Hyvonen, early director and past president of Benalto Agricultural Society.

The first full scale stampede was held in 1917 and has been held annually since then. There are also some old timers that claim a few exhibits were also in the first stampede but it is not known for sure. The first registered fair under the Benalto Agricultural Society was held in 1918

The full success of the society has to be given to the early founders of it and to the many men and women as officers that took part in the beginning and the ones to follow them. The fair and stampede were run by two separate groups in the beginning but were run on the same days After a few years they joined together but the actual year is not known

Here is a list of the original officers and the others that followed to carry on their work (note some of the time these officers spent in office) See figure 3.

## Directors*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Henry Talson | F G. Jenkins | L. B. Walker | C. Barhan |
| J Hohnson | I. Hyvonen | R. L. Armstrong | J W. W Slack |
| J D Barhan | J S. Simpson | J. M. Craig | L. Telning |
| A. McPherson | J P Armstrong | R L Tennant | |

## Past Presidents*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S. E McKee | 1917 23 | 7 years |
| Henry Talson | 1924-26 | 3 years |
| P N Cameron — 2 terms | 1927-29 and 1931 33 | 7 years |
| W Holsworth | 1930 | 1 year |
| Harry Bice | 1934 | 1 year |
| Thomas Smith | 1935-40 | 6 years |
| Jack McBride | 1941-42 | 2 years |
| Clyde Stauffer — 2 terms | 1943-48 and 1954-59 | 12 years |
| Lloyd McNeil | 1949-50 | 2 years |
| Ray Niemela — 3 terms | 1951-53, 1960-62 and 1966-67 | 8 years |
| Murray Stauffer | 1963 | 1 year |
| G. R. Sterling | 1964-65 | 2 years |
| G. R. Lougheed | 1968 ? | 10 years |

## Stampede Managers

(They were called sports directors from 1931-36)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| F G. Jenkins — 2 terms | 1917 26 and 1931 36 | 16 years |
| Chas. Jenkins | 1927 30 | 4 years |
| Orval Gatzke (Asst ) | 1936 | 1 year |
| Clyde Stauffer | 1937-40 | 4 years |
| Dewey Nielsen | 1941-48 | 8 years |
| Louis Kathol | 1949-61 | 13 years |
| Swan Anderson | 1962-67 | 6 years |
| Evart Ball | 1968-? | 10 years |

## Stampede Secretaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S Llen | 1937-38 | 2 years |
| Wilson Cameron | 1939-40 | 2 years |
| Grant Cameron | 1941 48 | 8 years |
| Harry Durward | 1949-67 | 19 years |
| Dennis Bramall | 1968-74 | 7 years |
| Les Ray | 1975 | 1 year |
| Bev Stanforth | 1976-? | 2 years |

## Secretary Treasurers*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| P T McKee | 1917-22 | 6 years |
| A. Norton — 2 terms | 1923-28 and 1934-40 | 13 years |
| J S. Simpson | 1929-33 | 5 years |
| C. B Pugh | 1941-44 | 4 years |
| Geo. Richardson | 1945-48 | 4 years |
| Jim Fink | 1949-52 | 4 years |
| G. R. Sterling | 1952-56 | 5 years |
| Jack Purdie | 1957 | 1 year |
| Peter Kachmir | 1958-60 | 3 years |
| Dale Mannix | 1961 | 1 year |
| Robert Brown | 1962-64 | 3 years |
| Bev Stanforth — 2 terms | 1965-67 and 1971-73 | 6 years |
| Pat Knowles | 1974-? | 4 years |

Figure 3

Original slate of officers. President, S. E. McKee, First Vice-Pres., J. W. Warwick; Second Vice Pres., T B. Millar; Sec Treasurer, P T McKee

Along with these officers, hundreds of directors and other members over the years have put countless hours of work into the society to make it what it is to-day

The Stampede in itself can be to the credit of the late F G. Jenkins and the Armstrong Brothers. They organized the first show and ran it for many years to make it one of the main

Benalto fair and Stampede

summer events in central Alberta. The Armstrongs along with Ed Medin, Orin Wylie and many more supplied the stock for many years of charge. The announcing was done by Frank Jenkins on a saddle horse with the aid of a megaphone

Many of the early exhibitors turned their prize money back to the society to help pay expenses. One of the early directors did this for many years, this was I. Hyvonen

In the early 1920's Mr. and Mrs. P. N. (Peter) Cameron and Mr. and Mrs. A. (Archie) Norton moved into the district. They became exhibitors and promoters for many years. Their years in office and leadership can be appreciated in helping to keep things going during the lean years. In 1919 the total gate receipts were $97. In 1920 an aeroplane ride could be had — 12 minutes for $10. In 1921 $3,900. was paid in prize money. $100. was paid to the best bronc rider, $15. was first prize for a horse race.

By 1924 there was a hall, a poultry building, a horse barn and a grand stand that would seat 500 people. These were all built at a total labor cost of $25. In 1935 under President, Thomas Smith, the society became free of debt.

In the first stampede there were no chutes so Bill Hansen was the ear man to ear down the broncs. In the second year only one chute was made so to save time, his services were needed again. Since then several sets of chutes have been built changing locations at times but always in the same area. In 1968 a new set of steel chutes were built with all new corrals, we hope they will outlast many of us.

Some of the riders in the first stampede were Levi Erickson, the Watrin Bros., Sykes Robinson and John Chitwood. The winner of top money at this event was a man from Clive but we were not able to come up with his name. The stampede has been run every year despite some horrible weather conditions. In 1937 it had to be postponed for one week due to the weather but was run off a week later in fine style. The cowboys had to billet in the hall for a whole week as the roads were so bad most of them couldn't leave anyway. This is the year that Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir were to have attended the fair on their way to Rocky Mountain House, but the roads were so bad their only stop was at Swan Anderson's.

Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Benner at the Benalto Fair

The fair has been held every year with the exception of 1932. Money was so scarce then, the fair was not held but a ball tournament held in its place. Benalto joined the pro rodeo circuit in its early years and have stayed in the circuit ever since.

Benalto Fair and Stampede, 1945

The original land site is the same location we use to-day In the early 1920's the land was up for tax sale and had it not been for the efforts of Peter Cameron and the McKees and other, this land would have been lost. The roads were almost impassible as it was during the spring run off, and someone had cut the fences that were used as a telephone line in the early years However, with their efforts and contributions they met the deadline by only a matter of a couple of hours and we still retain the land to-day It was not until 1946 that the deed was obtained and is now in the name of a board of trustees. We now have one of the finest community grounds in the country and we can be most proud of our forefathers who made it possible The grounds consist of our rodeo grounds with grand stand and race track, concession booths, a fine community hall, large parking facilities, an outdoor skating rink and our multipurpose building that is used as an agriculture barn by the fair and 4H Clubs and as a curling rink in the winter

I would like to thank everyone who helped me get this information, and a special thank you to Alice Durward for the use of a complete set of fair books and a scrap book that her mother Mrs. Pete Cameron kept. I'm sure without these my sources of information would have been very sum.

**BENALTO BAPTIST CHURCH — by G. R. Lougheed**

In the fall of 1927 a group of interested families met at Mr. O. McKee's home, and from this beginning a Baptist Church was started. By the spring of 1928, and from the home of Grandma Burdick, the church was organized. The original 20 chartered members included

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr S. E. McKee | Miss Elsie McKee |
| Mr Wm. Holsworth | Mr Lynn Burdick |
| Mrs S E McKee | Mrs. Lillian Nielsen |
| Mrs Ruth Burdick | Mr Everett Nielsen |
| Mrs Wm. Holsworth | Miss Bessie Burdick |
| Mrs Irene Bardwell | Miss Sarah Burdick |
| Mr J E McKee | Mr Dave Holsworth |
| Mrs Elmer McKee | Mr W O. McKee |
| Mrs. W O McKee | |

The first Pastor was Rev Howard Phillips The congregation held services in several places, such as the Booster Hall and the Knights of Pythias Hall, until they purchased the Broderson house and had it remodeled. This was then to be their place of worship until 1945. Rev William MacDonald was now the pastor and under his guidance a new church was built The old church was sold and is now the lovely home of Orlie Nielsen on his acreage east of town

This church building served the congregation until 1963; under the pastorate of Rev. Ron Allen it was overflowing and bursting at the seams. As a result, the new church was built, the lovely building we now worship in. It was a great day in 1970 under the ministry of Rev. Stewart Windrum, that the final payment was made, and the mortgage was burned

Our present Pastor, Rev. Denis Burgess came in 1972, and in 1974 a new manse was built after selling the old manse, which was moved away

Pastors of the Benalto Baptist Church have been

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev H. C. Philips | 1928-1932 |
| Rev Dickenson | 1932-1933 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rev | Earl Philips | 1933-1934 |
| Rev | Collins | 1934-1937 |
| Rev | Gibbons | 1937-1938 |
| Rev | D. Milligan | 1938-1941 |
| Rev | Wm. McDonald | 1941-1946 |
| Rev | R. Beck | 1946-1950 |
| Rev. | W Streight | 1951-1955 |
| Rev. | Jack Purdie | 1955-1960 |
| Rev. | Jim Stevens | 1966- 6 months |
| Rev | Stewart Windrum | 1967-1972 |
| Rev | Dennis Burriss | 1972 to the present |

The new church we have now, under the ministry of Dennis Burriss, is enjoying a good time in its worship. They have a full complement of Sunday School classes for every age. The Christian Service Brigade for boys was started in 1975. The Brigade section is under the leadership of Jerry Axelson and Harold Burdick

The Stockades have Gary Hillman, Earl Vokes, Dennis Burriss and Robert Akitt

The girls' program has Barbara Hillman and Ruth Burriss as leaders. We can say, "Here is hath the Lord Led"

**BENALTO — ITS EARLY SETTLERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES — by George Sterling**

Probably the best-known organization around Benalto is the Benalto Booster Club. The history of the club itself dates back to the very beginning of the location of the Hamlet itself, to 1912, when it was first considered that a townsite be surveyed at the present location along the Alberta Central Railway. It is shown on the C.P.R. plan as Blocks 1 to 4, A & B Plan of subdivision of part of S.W. 31-38-2-W5, made by D. T. Rownsend A.L.S. and dated January 2, 1914. It was registered in the Land Titles Office at Edmonton on the 4th day of June, 1914, as Plan No. 5237 A.Y.

Frank Jenkins, his cousin, Charlie Jenkins, the Armstrong Brothers, Swan Anderson, Jack Simpson, Matt and William Wuori are among the names of those who persuaded and suggested the location of the Hamlet of Benalto.

The first passenger train to come west from Red Deer on the Alberta Central Railway, which passed through Benalto, was in 1914. Passengers on this train included, among others, Charles Little, Locomotive Foreman; Watson Hall, district Superintendent; W. C. Doney, Red Deer C.P.R. agent; James Carrol, conductor, Lloyd Hambly, brakeman.

The station and elevators about 1928-1930

The first time that the Booster Club actually held a community program was in 1915 when a small group put on a stampede on or near the same location on the farm of Charlie Jenkins. This eventually brought about the acquisition of the present parcel of land, some 27 acres, now known as the Benalto Agricultural and Benalto Booster grounds. Charles Jenkins, with his cousin Frank Jenkins, transferred the ownership eventually to be jointly owned and registered in the name of the Benalto Agricultural Society and the Benalto Booster Club.

Frank Jenkins was born on August 17, 1873 in the County of Audubon, near the town of Brayton, in the State of Iowa, U.S.A. He came to this district and purchased land in 1912. During his active years he farmed, was an auctioneer, carried on a livestock shipping business, and for a few years operated a livestock business in Calgary, which went under the name of Barhan and Jenkins, a partnership. In the 1920's it was common to hear the broadcast of the noon prices of this firm over the W. W. Grant Radio Station, now CFCN. He continuously kept his interest in Benalto and the Benalto Booster Club. He was its president from 1917 to 1928 and from 1931 to 1933, and was Stampede Manager for most of these years as well. During the time he was not Stampede Manager, his cousin Charlie took on this work for him, until Charlie bought a farm in the Lesliville district, and even then Charlie was on hand to help with the Stampede.

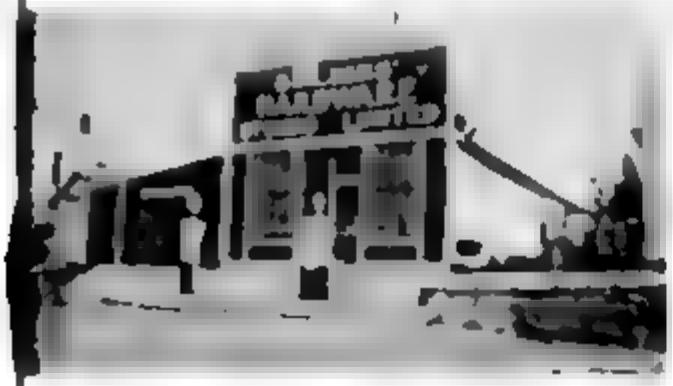
Frank's knowledge of the district and his contact with the many in the farming industry enabled him to call on people throughout the whole area to help in the work and activities in putting on a Stampede each year, as well as encourage people to come to Benalto to develop various business activities which, after all, was the purpose, and still is, of the Benalto Booster Club.

Among those were the Armstrong Bros., who were some of his best supporters. They had the horses for the Stampede. Ed Medin had the cattle, and Frank needed both horses and cattle to put on the Stampede. Gaylord was the horseman. Ed the cattleman, and they were always ready to oblige. He also had an outlaw horse, owned by Orrin Wylie, that was one of the hardest for the cowboys to ride.

The Benalto Booster Club in its earlier years as well as having an interested and active president also had a very active and interested secretary-treasurer. George Warren filled this office for many years. He had come to Benalto as its first elevator agent in 1919. Before coming to Benalto he had farmed the SW 25-38-2-W5, which was owned later by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Opp.

George Warren was an aggressive type of

fellow and did everything possible, by petition and advertising, to have people come to Benalto, and to help those who came with assistance in starting their business. To encourage McCanna & McKenzie to establish the first Hardware in 1921, the Booster Club bought Lot 4, Block 4 on Railway Avenue, and built a building 20' by 40' with 10' studs, and agreed to sell it at fifty dollars down and twenty-five dollars per month until fully paid. The agreement of sale was apparently fulfilled at the proper time, as McKenna & McKenzie sold out to George Kock of Strathmore in 1926 and George Kock in turn sold out to the Atlas Lumber Company & Builders Hardware in 1928. The building is still used and operated as a Hardware and is part of the building presently owned by George R. Sterling.



Atlas office and store, 1940

The Benalto Booster Club worked hard to get the station located in the present Benalto townsite. A copy of 53 names on a petition which includes farmers and businessmen throughout the Markerville, Evarts, Happy Hill, Craig and Benalto districts bear this out

The Stampede and Fair grounds, which consist of over 27 acres, were acquired from Charlie Jenkins for the community. For the earlier years ownership rested separately in the names of the Benalto Booster Club and the Benalto Agricultural Society. The operation of the two organizations on a separate basis often led to considerable discussion as to which one made money and which one lost money, especially after the Fair and Stampede. To make for better relations, the property was finally registered in a joint title in the Land Titles Office, Edmonton, Alberta, Certificate No. 174 L 127 in the name of six trustees, namely: Langton Wells, Swan Anderson, Clifford Hillman, G. R. Lougheed, Lloyd McNeil and Everett Neilsen, these trustees representing both the interests of both the Benalto Booster Club and the Benalto Agricultural Society

This amalgamation marked the commencement of very important growth in the development of the property. A permanent highway serviced by the County of Red Deer No. 23 serves the property. A four-sheet curling rink with modern facilities and cooling refrigeration equipment, is available for the Benalto Agricultural Society for the Fair and other special events and the Benalto Curling Club for winter bonspiels

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks No. 404 entered into a co-partnership with the Benalto Agricultural Society and the Benalto Booster Club for the building and operation of the Community Hall by agreement signed with the trustees on February 22, 1961. Since then a new community hall has been built, fully modern, for the use of the community and under the care and direction of the Elks and Royal Purple

The Benalto Booster Club played its part in getting the Benalto School property. The land was made available for purchase by the Rocky Mountain School Division by the owner, Mr. John Heikkinen in 1937. It was built by Waterman & Waterbury, Regina, with the material supplied by Atlas Lumber Company, Benalto. The 28' 2' x 8' were cut by Dave Adams' mill, west of Rimbey and hauled in by his son, William Adams. The land was levelled through the efforts of a "Bee" under the direction of Mr. Matt Harju of the Kuusamo district, who brought in the largest grader in use in the Municipal District of Lorne at that time. The trustees of the day were Emma Kinna, Archibald Norton, and Everett Nelsen, and Mr. Gust Maki was the representative trustee for the Rocky Mountain School Division. The school was ready for operation in the fall of 1938.

Roads were always a problem of which the Benalto Booster Club was aware, and they constantly endeavoured to bring attention to this problem by the government representatives and municipal bodies. In 1930 a big effort was made to have a direct road to Sylvan Lake one mile south of the present Highway No. 11. In 1940 a representative group drove to Edmonton to try to get help from the government. Included in the group was Alex Duncan, Councillor for the Municipal District of Golden West; and Alf Foster, father of the present Attorney General, Honorable James Foster. This trip was made in April. To get to Highway No. 11, it was necessary to have Albert Johnson (who at that time was our drayman) haul the car we were to travel in to Highway No. 11, and he also met the committee about ten o'clock that evening when we got back from Edmonton, to haul us back into Benalto. The mud was so deep no vehicle could operate under its own power. That delegation did have some success as a small grant from the government by way of the municipality did get gravel for the mud holes, which was hauled and spread under the direction of Dewey Nielsen acting as foreman. One problem arose as a result of the gravelling — the rocks in the gravel kept coming to the surface. Eventually this problem was solved with the paved road which now leads in from Highway No. 11 from the east and west.

In 1937 during the Fair and Stampede the roads into Benalto were practically impassable The Governor-General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir and Lady Tweedsmuir, Lord and Lady Buchan were slated to be in attendance for a short visit during the Stampede events, but the rain fell and made the roads impassable for travel into Benalto. The grounds, grandstand and buildings were decorated with Union Jacks and red, blue and white bunting. Three archways were also set up along Railway Avenue, and the bandstand was designated as the place where the guests of honor and their party would be located. The torrents of rain and wind shattered the archways and completely mutilated the decorations. It was not a complete disappointment for the Governor-General and his wife, however. He had requested on this trip to Benalto, that arrangements be made, if possible, for them to stop at a home with a Finnish Bath. Since the Anderson home was on the highway, they were able to visit at the home of Mr and Mrs. Swan Anderson at the Benalto corner

Due to the heavy rains the Stampede itself had to be postponed for one week. Plans were made to have the cowboys and the midway remain in Benalto. Travel was at a complete halt, except by railway E. J. Casey Shows, of Winnipeg, had the Midway and were travelling with trucks. To accommodate the cowboys and the showmen, the cowboys were given the use of the Agricultural barn and the showmen were given the use of the Booster's Hall. The arrangements went along well for a few days, until some of the cowboys felt that the members of the Midway were being better treated than they were The result was a raid on the sleeping quarters of the midway, and, as you can imagine, "all Hell broke loose"

One word that has always been commonly heard in Benalto is the word "bee" Whenever something was to be done in the community, such as build a community hall, build a school, a church, a curling barn and rink, build a grandstand, have a clean up or even build the new eating booth in 1977, the accomplishment of these projects invariably is carried out by means of a "bee." The names of all the willing helpers for these activities would make a long, long list

In the 1920's and early 1930's those who curled in Benalto were members of the Evarts Curling Club. In 1933 it was decided to form a curling club at Benalto. Ray Nourse, who was the agent for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company Ltd., arranged through his superintendent, Mr MacMillan, to buy a set of second-hand rocks for two sheets of ice. Mr MacMillan not only arranged to buy these rocks but also delivered them with his auto on the various trips he made on his inspections at Benalto. These were of a variety of weights and sizes — little "Tea Kettles" from an old Scottish Club in Scotland to big jumbos, which were about five pounds heavier than the standard size. Even with the variety of rocks, the members were thrilled to have two complete sets. Curling has proven to be a very successful sport at Benalto. At the official opening in 1933 among those who were invited to throw the first rocks were R. B. Weaver of Red Deer, Percy Duffield of Sylvan Lake and Hugh McLevin, of Red Deer. Laurel Nielsen can be mentioned as one who down through the years has spent many hours preparing and looking after the ice for the Benalto Curling Club as well as the Benalto Skating Club, which adjoins the Curling Club.

Archibald Norton, C.P.R. Agent, who came to Benalto with his family in 1921, played an important part in the life of Benalto for over 25 years He was always a very enthusiastic Benalto Booster Club member. For years he was the correspondent for the Red Deer Advocate, and served many years as the secretary treasurer for the Benalto Agricultural Society and was honored as Honorary Secretary for his faithful years of service. During his years with the C.P.R. he was instrumental in selling many acres of land to those who came into the Benalto, Evarts, Happy Hill and Craig districts.

Peter Cameron was another who, with Mrs Cameron, played an important part in the Benalto community, especially in the life of the Benalto Agricultural Society and the Benalto Presbyterian Church. Whenever a "bee" was called you could be sure you would find Mr Cameron along with Mrs. Cameron and their boys, Grant and Wilson, taking an active part in the work. A special banquet on January 24, 1948 was held honoring Mr. and Mrs. Cameron for their years of support and faithful service to the Benalto community.

Clyde Stauffer and his family, after moving from Assisk in 1935 and buying the Frank Jackson farm, has played an important part in our community life, as an auctioneer, Hereford breeder, as president of the Rural Electrification Association for the Province of Alberta, as president of the Benalto Agricultural Society and as Stampede Manager

During the 1930's and 1940's the Benalto Tennis Club was active, and in 1932 a ladies' competition was held and among the players were Della McKee and Alma Sterling Reverend J. W. MacDonald, minister of the Benalto Baptist Church, was a very active member during the 1940's. As well, a large number of other well-known people were active members

The Benalto Home and School was very active in the development of the school in the community The first president was Mrs. Lillian McBride, who served in 1939 and 1940, and again in 1942-1943 and 1945-1947 Others who served as president were Mrs. Laura Holsworth, Mrs. Jean Pugh, Ralph Lough and Mrs. Pearl Jensen Those who served as secretary-treasurer included Thelma Foster, Jack McBride, William

Morris, Bessie Burdick, Laura Holsworth and Grace Benner

A general store was operated for a number of years. It was started in the 1920 s by a Mr O. C Hansen, on Main Street where Mr and Mrs. Gl. Hills now live. He sold out in 1931 to Mr H. J Arlint, who came from Balcarres, Saskatchewan. One New Years Eve in 1934 the building burned to the ground. Then a dwelling replaced the store and for a short time Mr W J Pickard operated a jewellery store in this dwelling.

Another fire in the 1920's was the loss of the first Benalto Hotel on Railway Avenue It was rebuilt in the same location and has since passed through the hands of several owners, being now owned and operated by Ed Toperosky

The Benalto Booster Club, the Home & School Association, the trustees and the various other supporters who established permanency of a school at Benalto found its greatest support in the splendid teachers that devoted their interest and service down through the years. During the first school year at Benalto, 1938-1939, A Franklin Van Horne was the Principal and Laimi Maki was Assistant Principal. Others who served as Principal were W. C. Davidson, George Trasov, W. E. Farris. Assistants included Clifford Awcock, Alma Sterling, who served for several terms In 1952 an addition was

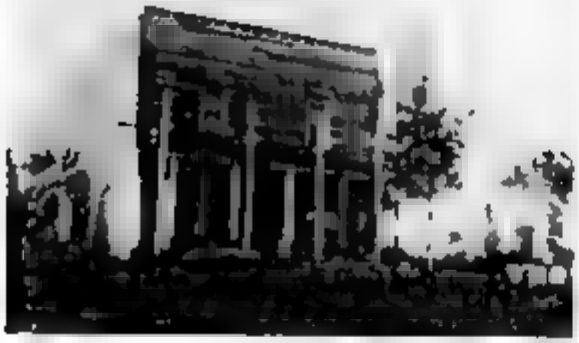
George Sterling and Wilson. Front: Alma Sterling and Keith

Alma and George Sterling, 1941

built to the school and four rooms came into operation. In 1954 a room was added in the basement, and Annie Simpson joined the staff Through the years many other dedicated teachers served on the staff. Alma Sterling was on the staff continuously from 1940 until 1971, when she retired. During this time she also served for several years on the Post Secondary Education Board for the Government of Alberta

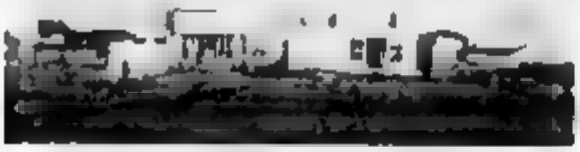
It was during the years of the Benalto Home and School Association that a regular contact was continued with the Rocky Mountain School Division by the Benalto Booster Club for support and extension to the school. The trustees for the School Division that gave a listening ear, Bjorn Thorlakson, Gust Maki, John Hillman, David Pearson and, after the transfer to the County of Red Deer No. 23, John Jillman, Levi Erickson, David Pearson, and Stan Swainson. The Home and School Association was discontinued at Benalto, but an association of the parents and teachers still carry on in the name of the Benalto School Parent Group. Among the main activities of later years is their assistance with the Strawberry Tea, the Christmas Concert and the annual year-end school picnic and sports day The active officers have been Anne Thiels and Lucy Nielsen

Among the merchants that have served in the Hamlet of Benalto are as follows, Jack Simpson and Scott Hastie, who built the first store in 1915,



Jack Simpson's Store, under construction 1915

followed by Mr MacRae, V. B. Buchanan and Arthur Kinna, Mrs. Emma (Kinna) Jenkins Donald J G. Wilkes and Ruth Wilkes, and Mr and Mrs. Roussel, all who, along with the general store, served in the distribution of mail with the post office. Following Mr and Mrs. Roussel, the Post Office was transferred across the main street to G. R. Lougheed, who was operating a general store there, in the same location where the community had been served by the Imperial Bank of Canada, a general store operated in turn by Brodersons, Simpsons, Robinson and Fleming, Foster Mullen, Knowles and now by Dick Thorstad



Part of the business section of Benalto, about 1930

In the late twenties and early thirties Herman Schmidek, along with Emil Schill, operated a hardware store and a machine and oil agency on the west end of Railway Avenue, which is now occupied as a dwelling by Mr. and Mrs. R. M Simpson. Mr James Longair worked with Herman Schmidek during the 1930's as a bookkeeper and also secretary-treasurer for the Benalto Curling Club. In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. Longair moved to Calgary where they took over the management of the Woods Christian Home for boys for a short time Mr Bert Swift carried on a hardware business in this same building for a short time as well as Mr Armtage This was followed by an electrical business operated by Mr Max Simpson.

Among the builders and carpenters who constructed the various buildings in Benalto the following contributed their skill S. E. McKee, John Hillman, Joe M. Hillman, and John Rotvik,

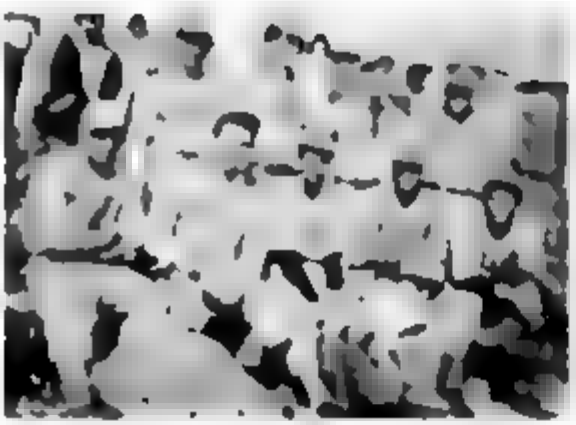
Main Street, Benalto, looking west, about 1940

S. E McKee moved to the Benalto district from Red Deer where he served as mayor of that city His first active interest in the community was his election as president of the Benalto Agricultural Society. He followed this by his activities in his church. He was one of the original leading officers in the Benalto Baptist Church, which brought about the organizing and building of the new church and manse, now served by Rev Dennis Burriss, as Pastor. John Hillman was for years an active carpenter throughout the Benalto, Evarts and Markerville districts. He also served for years as trustee in the Rocky Mountain School Division and was the councillor on the Red Deer County No. 23. Joe M. Hillman was also active as a carpenter, mail carrier, and for years operated the livery barn at Benalto John Rotvik, who built his own building on Railway Avenue in Benalto, was also an operator of a threshing machine in the Diamond Valley district for years. His sons, Gus and Elif, who now live in the Wetaskiwin area, served as pitcher and catcher on many occasions for the Benalto baseball team during the 1920's and 1940's

Coyote Hunt taken in front of Wilde's Store, 1930

Among those who painted the buildings as they were built during the 1930's and 1940's was Pete Hansen, who was well known throughout the Benalto, Markerville and Dickson districts

Baseball was a featured sport in Benalto, es



Benalto Ball Club, about 1946. Back: Everett Nielsen - catcher, Earle Farris - center field, Howard Mullen - first, Reg Hambly - left field, Tommie Nielsen - short and right field, Front: Bert Cole - pitcher, Laurel Nielsen - pitcher and short-stop, Roy Nielsen - third, Don Wilkes - right field, Ralph Hambly - catcher, Larry Mullen - bat boy

pecially during the years that Frank Jenkins and O. M. Nielsen and his boys lived in the area. The Benalto Fair and Stampede grounds right from the beginning featured a baseball diamond, and the names of Nielsen, Hambly, Fink, Rotvik, Hansen, Stewart, Bardenhagen, Lien, Forhan, Daley, Wilkes, Sisson, Sweinson, and Farris bring back many memories of Baseball here.

Among those recognized down through the years for their interest in the Red Cross and having received their Red Cross Service Pins, were Emma Kinna Jenkins, Alma Sterling and Annie Simpson. The Red Cross has always been a well-supported charity in the Benalto district. During the Second Great War, Emma Kinna Jenkins who at that time was postmistress and operator of the general store, gave unstintingly of her time and services to the Canadian Red Cross. She grew up the daughter of Thor Gudmundson in the Markerville district, taught school for a number of years, and when she came to Benalto she came as Mrs. Arthur Kinna. Her daughter Ruth took over the store and post office after the Second Great War. She married D. J. G. Wilkes, who had served as a flying officer in the Canadian Air Force. They are living in Peterborough, Ontario where Don is employed with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Baseball, and the Stampede program, were the main sources of entertainment during the earlier years at Benalto. The Booster Club actually came into being as a result of these sports. The district owes a debt of gratitude to the Stampede Managers for their contribution. Frank Jenkins was manager from 1918 to 1926, and from 1933 to 1936; Charlie Jenkins from 1927 to 1931, Clyde Stauffer from 1937 to 1940, Dewey Nielsen from 1941 to 1948, Ludwig Kathol from 1949 to 1961; Swan Anderson form 1962 to 1967. Evart G. H. Ball was elected in 1968 and continues to serve at the present time (1977). Clyde Stauffer, Ludwig Kathol and Swan Anderson were made Honorary Life Members of the Benalto Agricultural Society.

The McBride family, in their development of the Riverbend Farms Ltd., have made an outstanding contribution to the development of the community through their interest in the church, school, 4-H clubs and the Benalto Agricultural Society. On Friday, March 2, 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McBride were honored by the community as winners of the Canadian Rye Championships at the World Seed Fairs held in Toronto and Chicago in 1955.

The Livery Barn was an important business in the 1920's. During this time it was operated by J. M. and Helga Hillman, Orval Gatzke, and Albert Johnson. This property is now owned by G. R. Lougheed. The barn has been replaced by a lovely new home at the present time.

The blacksmith shop, a very important business in the earlier years, was located south of where the livery barn was. Tom Simon was for years the blacksmith at Evarts, and the mail carrier from Benalto to Evarts. Henry Johnson, who also operated a trucking business, George McLevin, who now operates McLevin Welding Ltd., Red Deer, spent a short time working in this shop with Henry Johnson in the early 1930's. L. Bjornson, who came from Iceland, made the iron railings on the side of the steps of the Benalto Presbyterian Church. In the winter of 1936 the old blacksmith shop burned to the ground. The property was taken over by James McGowan, who rebuilt and established a welding shop and a garage, along with the Imperial Oil agency. Mr. McGowan sold out to Uno Lindequist in 1941 and served during the remaining years of the War as an instructor for the War Department of the Government of Canada. After retirement he has made his home in London, Ontario. This business was taken over from Mr. Lindequist by William Austin Sr. and his son William Austin Jr., the present owners, who now use the building for storage and as a private garage.

The buying of livestock at Benalto was a very important business during the early years. This, with the selling of grain through the elevators, was the source of income for the farming industry. Hundreds of carloads of cattle and hogs were bought and shipped during these years. Some of the livestock buyers who dealt with a great many of the shippers from the area were Frank G. Jenkins, George Daley, H. McLennan, Ole Bardenhagen, Thomas Smith, Jack Simpson, Sivert Lien and Dewey Nielson.

The old-time tie rack for teams of horses extended from the elevators to the C.P.R. station along Railway Avenue. It was common to see teams of horses tied the full length, while their owners were doing shopping at the stores or having repairs made at the blacksmith shop after they had delivered their loads of grain to the elevators or to the livestock yards. The livestock

yards and scales were located in the area where the Cominco Elevator and shed are now situated One particular teamster, Henry Rowles, who farmed in the Raven area, drove a team of heavy draft horses. He groomed them beautifully. So that they would not suffer too much from the heat on their trip during the summertime he would leave home at two o'clock in the morning in order to arrive in Benalto before the sun got so hot, and would wait until late in the afternoon before starting home Mr. Rowles was a brother in law of Hon. George Hoadley, who was Minister of Agriculture in the U F A. Government of that day.

In order to raise money in support of community projects the Benalto Booster Club often sponsored plays or musical programs. It seemed as though everyone was willing to take part. A special feature involving the Kinna's musical talents was the musical saw Jack and Lillian McBride featured a sleight-of-hand act that always kept the audience in a happy mood, and the Norton family were great supporters in putting on plays

Down through the years an entertainment that was featured prior to the Stampede Dance which was held in the Booster Hall was a boxing match. This always attracted a full hall, and continued as an attraction until the late 1940's. Soon fireworks became a closing feature for the Stampede events. The first year of the Fireworks a laughable situation arose. The Stampede events continued until well after dark. The people were getting restless to get home. The boxing match had commenced and the Booster Hall was packed to capacity To satisfy the clamour by the grandstand to start the fireworks to wind up the show, the committee in charge of the fireworks program set off the display. No sooner had a couple of loud explosions occurred than those attending the boxing match started to vacate the Booster Hall and the boxing match. In less than a minute, by exit through the windows and doors, the hall was emptied. All that was left in the Hall were the two boxers and the referee. No one to this day ever knew who won the boxing match!

In 1937 the Benalto Recorder produced several issues which were edited by Mr Gordon Simpson while he operated the general store. In the issue for September 27 a letter by the late Rev R. S. Stevens, minister of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Sylvan Lake, was printed Through this letter he was soliciting help for drought striken parts of Saskatchewan in the way of vegetables, clothing and food of any kind Calgary Power was mentioned as having built a line through Benalto, and plans were being made to tie on to this service One of the features in the Simpson's Store add was: Shelled walnuts twenty six cents per pound; Nabob coffee thirty nine cents a pound compared to the 1977 price of four dollars per pound!); and ten bars of Pearl White Naptha Soap for thirty nine cents.

Among those who have served as officers in the Benalto Booster Club down through the years are the following Frank Jenkins, Charlie Jenkins, George Warren, W D. Murphy, George Richardson, D J G. Wilkes, W. J Morris, Ralph Lougheed, A. Norton, Sivert Lien, Earle Farris, Alma Sterling, Dale Nielsen, Gordon Steadman, George Sterling, and Ray Walker

**BENALTO ELKS No. 404 — by W. E. (Dick) Austin**

In the spring of 1956 some of our men, which later became members, had the occasion to be invited to an Elks function in a neighboring town Most of them liked what they were told about the Elks and set out to see if an Elks Lodge could be formed in Benalto. Bro. M. M. Jenson, who later became the first Exalted Ruler of the Lodge, got some advice from Bro John Watson and started the ball rolling The Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of Canada was contacted. Shortly after a Grand organizer was sent out to see the possibility of forming a new lodge in Benalto. There was enough interest so prospective members were called to a meeting After a few meetings, 43 men signed up for membership in the new lodge These men were to be known as charter members The date for the institution of the new lodge was set for June 26, 1956. With the aid of the Red Deer Elks patrol team and the Red Deer officers, the initiation ceremony was carried out on the 26th of June 1956. Two of the 43 members were unable to attend this ceremony so only 41 names appear on the charter

The first Exalted Ruler was Bro. M. M (Mads) Jenson, who was one of the main ones in the helping to get things started. His term started in June, 1956 and went until November 1957. He was then followed by: Bro. Reg Hamby 1958, Bro. Eric Matson, 1959 and 1960, Bro. Herman Stettner, 1961, Bro. Cliff Hansen, 1962, Bro D A. (Dave) Hietala, 1963, Bro. Jake Tolonen. 1964, Bro. Murrie Steele, 1965 and 1966; Bro. W E. (Dick) Austin, 1967 and 1968, Bro. C. V (Bud) Gefle, 1969; Bro. Don McCutcheon, 1970, 1971 and 1972, Bro. M. (Pete) DeChamps, 1973 and 1974 Bro. Howard Kathol, 1975, Bro. Les Ray, 1976, Bro. Terry Niemela, 1977; Bro. Walter Murto, 1978

The principles of the order are charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity Where charity is needed money is also needed and some of the money making projects was an annual car bingo, turkey shoots, raffles, etc. Our main job in the community other than helping where help is needed is the upkeep of the community hall in which we were the main body in the building of it. Our national project is the Elks Purple Cross Fund, by which any child under the age of 18 years may obtain medical assistance where and when the need arises. We are very fortunate in our area as we only had to use this service twice As we are fairly new in Benalto, our history is

short. Our membership now stands at 182. Dick Austin is historian for the Lodge.

**BENALTO GARAGE**

Sometime in the early 20's; the exact year that the original building was built is not known, but it was built by a John Henry Johnson. This was expected to be a large business as it was equipped with a double set of blacksmith tools. The original business was called Benalto Blacksmith Shop. As near as we know this business was owned by the Johnson family until it burned down in 1936. Many different people worked there or rented it for short periods of time but it never seemed to grow to the foresight of the builder.

Some of the people that were connected with it at different times were: Emil Schill, George McLevin, Simonds Brothers, there was a Thompson and two other partners whose names are not known, Joe O'Hara, Thor Bjornson who some knew as Lowkie Bjornson, and possibly more that have been forgotten.

The original building having burned; in 1937 Jim McGowan built a new building that is still in operation. Jim sold the business to Uno Lindequist in 1941. Uno operated it until 1946 and for health reasons sold it to W. J. Austin. Under Uno Lindequist the name was changed to Benalto Garage and Blacksmith Shop. The Austins changed it to Benalto Garage and it remains that to-day. It was owned by W. J. Austin until 1961 when he sold it to his son W. E. (Dick) Austin.

Submitted by
W. E. (Dick) Austin

**BENALTO HOTEL — by Elsie Heikkinen**

Mr. and Mrs. Redell built the Benalto Hotel in 1919. Campbell and Griffin built a buying station and Creamery in 1920-1921. Mr. Alex Karkainen built a pool hall in 1920. There was a lot of over two percent beer sold there during his time. Alberta was dry until 1924, but Mr. Karkainen managed to get over two percent beer in some way from Saskatchewan. The children of the district recall the "jumbo" ice-cream cones that they were able to buy for five cents.

In 1922 a Chinese man bought the Creamery and opened a restaurant. At four o'clock one spring morning in 1924 the restaurant caught fire from an overheated stove. The cook was baking pies and frying doughnuts during the night for a horse sale to be held at the fair grounds the next day. The doughnut grease caught on fire and he couldn't control the blaze. The restaurant as well as the hotel and pool hall were burned.

Alex Karkainen rebuilt the hotel in 1924. He operated it until 1926, when he sold out to Mr. and Mrs. Varley Buchanan. They operated the hotel until the passing of Mrs. Buchanan in June of 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Sivert Lien leased the hotel from July 1, 1942 until October 1, 1946. It was then taken over by Varley Buchanan's son Jack, who sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Billings in August 1947.

Mr. Billings ran it until July 1949. It was then bought by Mr. and Mrs. A. West, who managed it until the year 1955. It again changed hands when Mr. and Mrs. John Watson bought it. In the history of the hotel they owned it the longest period of time, staying until 1969.

The next owners were Nick and Nettie Koroluk, who were there from June 1969 until November 1973. In the next three years there were two owners — Bob Stenart and Art Kissinger. In November 1976 it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taperosky, who are the owners at the present time.

**ORDER OF ROYAL PURPLE, LODGE No. 239**

On April 29, 1959 The Order of Royal Purple, Auxiliary of the B.P.O. Elks instituted Lodge No. 233 at Benalto. There were 41 charter members, many of whom are still in regular attendance at the monthly meetings. Over the years many of the Eckville ladies have been members of this Lodge and have helped earn monies needed for their charitable causes. Over the years, members of O.O.R.P. Lodges all over Canada have played a big part in helping their Brother Elks in contributing to their pet project, Deaf Detection for Children. In 1976 the Order of Royal Purple contributed a total of $101,411.66 toward this fund.

**BENALTO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — by George H. Sterling**

The first church services that were held regularly at Benalto by the Presbyterian Church were in the early 1920's. The minister, Rev. W. G. McKechnie at Evarts, arranged to hold alternate services with Evarts and Benalto. There do not appear to be any records of this arrangement, but Mrs. Norma (Norton, Stewart tells us that when she came as a girl to Benalto, this was the arrangement at that time. She recalls that about the first Sunday she attended a church service after coming to Benalto, she was requested to be one of the Sunday School teachers.

The church service and Sunday school in those days were held in the Benalto Booster Hall. Lighting the fires and the janitor work was a volunteer service provided for the most part by Archibald Norton, who was station agent for the C.P.R. In the wintertime when it was too cold to have service in the hall, he invited the minister and the congregation to the waiting room of the station, for a church worship on Sunday.

The first records show that Rev. O. E. Mann arranged for regular services at Benalto in 1927, with Thomas Smith and Peter Cameron acting as Elders. He was followed by a Mr. J. S. Dingle, who was from Australia and served the field for about a year.

In 1931 Mr. Harold Corkey, a student at the time, spent that summer on the field. His father at that time was the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in northern Ireland.

In 1932 Rev. Joseph Carter, a graduate of

Spurgeon's College in London, England, served on the field until the spring of 1933 when he suddenly took ill and died.

During the summer of 1932 Mr H. Dasler served on the field and in the summer of 1933 a Mr Forbes served the field

In 1934 Malcolm S. MacLean of Brampton Ontario was appointed to field as a student to serve Eckville and Benalto. He continued on the field until 1935. Mac, as he was known to all who knew him, served during the World War II in the Airforce and after the war completed his theology at Knox College in Toronto. He is presently serving the Church in Winnipeg as Superintendent of Missions

Rev Duncan Campbell was appointed to the field in 1936, living at Benalto for a short time until a small manse was built at Eckville where he continued to live until 1940, when he was succeeded by Rev. J M. Fraser

In 1942 the Women's Missionary Society for the Presbyterian Church, appointed Miss Ruby Walker as a deaconess to the field, at that time serving Eckville, Benalto and Hespero. Miss Walker is presently serving in Grace Presbyterian Church in Calgary, Alberta

In 1943 Mr Otis MacGregor was appointed to the field and served until 1944 when Rev Douglas Crocker was appointed for the summer

In the fall of 1944, Mr Murray Coles, who farmed at Acton, Ontario, offered his services to the field for that winter and served until the spring of 1945, when Rev. A. F Howick was appointed

On graduation with his M A. from Knox College in 1946, after serving for a short time on Vancouver Island, Rev. Douglas Crocker was appointed to the field, and served until 1949, when he accepted a call to serve Rupert Street Presbyterian Church in Edmonton

It was during the years that Rev Crocker served on the field that the Benalto Presbyterian Church was built. The corner stone was laid on May 26, 1947, by Rev R. A. Sinclair who at that time was Moderator of the Red Deer Presbytery Rev Crocker conducted the first baptism in the church on September 4, 1947 when Linda Heikkinen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Heikkinen was baptised. Rev. Crocker also performed the first wedding ceremony when Roy Nielsen and Inez Johnson were united in marriage on July 2, 1948

Burning Mortgage, Benalto Presbyterian Church

Dedication of Benalto Presbyterian Church, 1948

In the summer of 1950 Mr Kingsley King, a student at Knox College, was appointed to the field

In the summer of 1951, Mr. William J Klempa, a student at Knox College served on the field He travelled by bicycle for the most part, and did a thorough job of visiting and looking after the regular church services, He is today one of the outstanding ministers in the church, presently serving Rosedale Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario

In the fall of 1951 Mr Kenneth Grant was appointed to the field as a Layman. He carried out an extensive visitation program and held services regularly at Benalto, Eckville and Hespero, as well as at the Happy Hill School. To assist him, Rev Thomas Roulston, minister of Memorial Presbyterian Church at Sylvan Lake, conducted the sacraments of baptism and communion. The records show that on October 25, 1953, Rev. Roulston baptised nine children at the morning service at Benalto.

In 1956 Rev. Peter Walter was appointed to the field and served until 1958. Rev Walter is presently the minister of Eastmount Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario.

Rev Sheldon MacKenzie was appointed to the field in 1958. It was during his year on the field that plans were made to build the church in Eckville. He was also on the committee of

Presbytery that arranged for the building of the new Manse at Rocky Mountain House. After leaving the field in 1959 he served in the First Presbyterian Church in Montreal and the First Presbyterian Church in St Johns, New foundland. He is presently on staff as professor at the Memorial University, St Johns, Newfound and

In 1959 Rev Howard Grace was appointed to the field and after serving a year he returned to his home in Nova Scotia

Mr Hugh Simpson, whose father at that time was the minister of St Giles Church in Calgary, served the field during 1960 and 1961

In 1960 the Benalto congregation transferred to the Sylvan Lake field, and since then Rev John Yoos has served as the minister Since that time Benalto, with Sylvan Lake, has become self-sustaining, and have added to the church furniture, a new Hammond organ, a Baptismal fount and a Communion table

Organists serving during the years have been Emma Jenkins, Norma Stewart, Edna Smith, Mrs. Ray Nourse, Ardis Bramall, Laura Holsworth and Alma Sterling

Among those who may be mentioned for their assistance in establishing the church at Benalto, include Dr M. S. Blakburn, Dr J. A. Munro, Mr A. B. McGorman, Mr. Ernie Ross, Dr Oliver Nugent; all members of the Presbytery of Red Deer, who at various times were serving offices in the church

Special mention must be made of the Benalto Presbyterian Ladies Aid, which has been an active organization for the church and the community from the very beginning of Benalto. It was their interest and financial help that made it possible to carry out the construction of the church building in 1947 Their thoughtful interest in the needy, the sick and the newcomer have made them an integral part of the church and the community

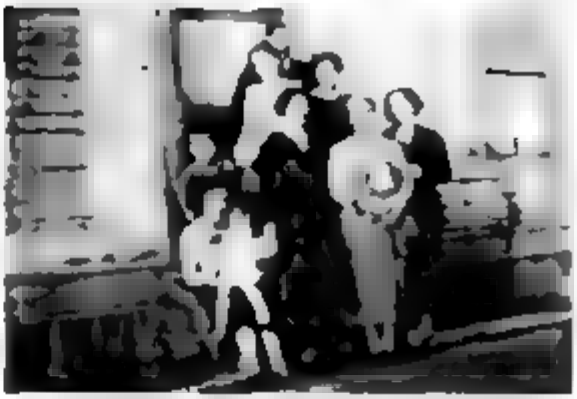
**THE BENALTO PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' AID — by Mrs. W. A. Holsworth**

The Ladies' Aid in Benalto has a long history dating back before 1929. The minutes of the meetings prior to 1941 were all destroyed, but a bank book starts with an entry of May 3, 1929 — credit $102

During the war years, Victory Bonds were purchased and donations were given to the Evarts Red Cross, and to the Benalto Red Cross Parcels were also sent to the soldiers overseas.

When the Eckville Hospital was being furnished, the Ladies' Aid gave money to the dining room suite fund. For a number of years the Presbyterian Church of Benalto and that of Eckville were one field. Money was raised for the Eckville manse fund

The biggest project undertaken over the years was to raise money to help build the Presbyterian Church in Benalto. The corner stone was laid on May 26, 1947. Extras have been



Benalto Presbyterian Ladies' Aid taken at Mrs. Cameron's home on the farm. Mr. Carter, minister. Mrs. Sterling with Wilson, Mrs Cameron, Mrs. Hambly holding Patsy, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Norton and unknown

provided, finishing the basement, fencing, carpet for the aisle, choir gowns, hymn books, and money to help buy the pews. Sunday School supplies have been paid for by the Aid. Yearly donations have been made to the W.M.S

The chicken supper which was held each fall to raise money was also a social event. Often a bazaar was held before Christmas. The Ladies' Aid ran a booth at the Benalto Fair with good success. One spring a fashion show, "The Spring Review", with the husbands modelling the clothes, made fun for all and raised money, too.

A neighbourly spirit pervades our Ladies' Aid. Countless visits and gifts to the sick, the shut-ins, and the bereaved have been a way of showing that we care.

We enjoy the Christian fellowship of our monthly meetings, our annual church picnic, and the potluck supper at the time of our annual Church Congregation Meeting.

**BENNETT, DAVID FAMILY EARLY HISTORY — by Arthur Bennett**

David Thomas Bennett was born in 1867 in Bagnalstown in southern Ireland. Annie Thorpe, who later became his wife, was born in 1872 in County Ross, Ireland. They were both Protestants. In 1893 they were married and later travelled to New Zealand where they purchased a dairy farm. Their three children born to them here were John, (who died of rheumatic fever in 1899), Irene and Harry After seven years the family returned to Ireland, County Carlow, where the second daughter, Mae, was born. The decision to come to Canada was made with a view to having a look at the homesteads then being offered for settlement We arrived in Brandon, Manitoba in 1901, where we spent the winter. David had gone to the Calgary area to look for a suitable homestead, and applied for a quarter section six miles west of Cayley Early the next summer we met dad in the town of High River, where he had gone on

ahead to begin building a house. We drove out the nine miles with wagon and team, and got our first view of the majestic Rocky Mountains — stretching out as far as the eye could see from north to south. Although the mountains were clearly visible, there was no human habitation to be seen, just the smell of the prairie flowers, the chorus of frogs in the distance, and the feel of the balmy chinook breeze. I remember my mother taking one look at the lonesome landscape, after which she sat down and cried.

We suffered all the hardships common to the early settlers. Fortunately, the winters of 1903 and 1904 were mild, and we were better prepared for the winters that followed. The winter of 1906-1907 was especially severe, and thousands of head of cattle which had been left on the open range, died from the extreme cold and lack of food. Only the horses survived, as they could paw away the snow and feed on the prairie grass below the snow. The Last Chance School was opened in 1905 and Irene and I rode horseback one and a half miles to attend this school.

In the year 1909 my father sold the homestead for $20 per acre and in 1910 bought two quarter sections of land south of Bassano for $11 per acre. During the move to the new location it was my duty to ride our little grey mare, named Minnie, and drive the cattle and horses, and with the help of our dog, Rover, I managed to keep them together. We spent the first night at the home of a friendly homesteader along the way, and the next day by evening we had reached the big bridge across the Bow River, 12 miles south of Gleichen, on land belonging to the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. Our plan was to continue on to Gleichen that night, but the tired animals kept laying down, so after about two more miles, we decided to leave the wagon and buggy there and return to town for the night, taking the team and the saddle horse. At the hotel a bed for two for the night cost $1, with meals at 25 cents each.

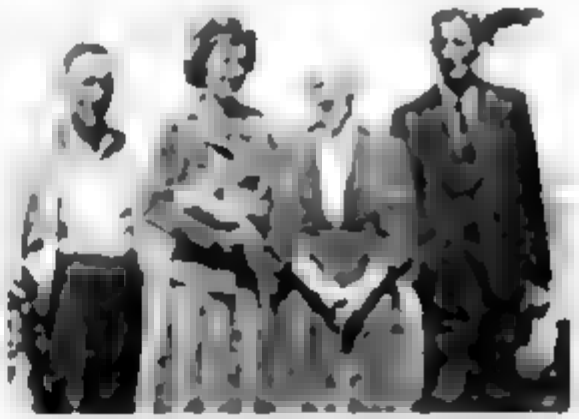
When we got back to the wagon the next morning we found only the cattle — no horses were in sight. After we had spent considerable time searching for the horses two Indian cow-boys came along with half of the number of horses, for which they demanded $4. A $3 compromise was reached, then the Indians said they would bring the rest of the horses for another $4. By this time we had found that two unbranded heifers had disappeared, so Dad agreed to the $4 price if the two heifers were also included. We finally got the horses for the $4, but the Indians agent advised us to accept that deal, and in return an effort would be made to find the two heifers for us. However, we never did hear anything about the missing animals, which was quite discouraging, as the $7 Dad had already paid was about half the price of a good cow in those days. This incident was the only unpleasant experience we ever had with the native people, and in later contacts with them we met some very honorable people among them. After reaching Bassano we bought supplies — 12 loaves of bread for $1, 1 pound of butter for 20 cents, a tin of salmon for 20 cents and a pound of tea for 25 cents.

After Dad and I reached the Bassano farm we put up a 12 by 14 foot frame shack and a barbed wire corral for the cows. Then Dad left by train for High River to bring the balance of the farm equipment and household furniture, and the rest of the family to the farm. No school was available however, which meant that we had to move to Bassano for a three-year period, where Fred, Violet and Arthur attended school. We brought the milk cows to town, also, and Irene, [illegible] and Violet milked them and carried the milk in pails around town to customers, who paid $1 for 12 to 14 quarts. This was done before and after school, as the girls and I looked upon school as a most interesting pursuit.

In the winter of 1913 Dad had a bad attack of pleurisy, and had to be sent to a hospital in Calgary. He was able to return home in the spring with two tubes inserted in his lower lung to drain off fluid, but he became a semi-invalid and Harry had to take over most of the work.

In 1915 Dad purchased an irrigated farm near Lathom, seven miles east of Bassano. Here the eldest daughter, Irene, taught school. At this time three of the children received their public school education under the direction of their sister. Later on Arthur went to high school in Bassano where Mr. Gordon Foster was the principal. In 1922 Irene was married to Cary McKenna, and they lived in Benalto. Harry Bennett worked the Trenholm dry farm, which was located about six miles south east of Bassano. Arthur helped him when not attending high school. He travelled to and from school on horseback during the years 1925 to 1928. For several years Violet held a position as a typist, then in 1927 she married Robert Prowse of Gleichen where they lived for some time on a farm. They later moved to Calgary, where their three daughters now live.

Fred Bennett attended Olds Agricultural College in 1925, under the principalship of the



L. to R. Harry Bennett, Max McKenzie, Mrs. David Bennett, and Mr. Bennett. 1930

late Doctor Grisdale. After later meeting a gospel preacher named Howard Phillips, Fred was converted, and attended the Moody Bible Institute in 1926. He became a Baptist minister. In 1940 he enlisted in the second World War and served for more than four years in Italy and France. From 1936 to 1945 he lived with his family, who by now had moved to the Benalto area. During the years from 1947 to 1974 Fred preached under the Southern Baptists in Washington, U.S.A. At present he lives with his wife, Hazel, at Puyallup, Washington.

In 1929-1930 Arthur took his senior matriculation in Red Deer. He attended Camrose Normal in 1930-1931, then taught school until 1945, when he joined up in World War II. He served in England, France, Holland, and Germany with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. He also worked as Educational Corporal at Taplow near London. After three and one-half years war service he returned to his home at Benalto. When teaching in Torrington in 1947 he met Lyla Krause, whom he married. They now live in Red Deer, where they have retired.

George Bennett studied at Three Hills Bible Institute in 1930-1931 under the Reverend Maxwell. After his marriage in 1943 he and his wife went as missionaries to Japan in 1948, where their two children, Kenneth and Gwendolyn, were born. They are now living in Nanaimo, B.C.

It was in 1927 when the Bennetts moved to Benalto, where they settled on the Woodman's farm. In 1930 they bought the Charlie Jenkin's farm nearby. Harry farmed this place for a number of years with the help, at times, of Fred, Arthur and George. David Bennett, the father, lived in Benalto until his death in 1944. Harry Bennett then bought the B.C. Learned farm east of Sylvan Lake in 1950. He lived on it with his mother. In 1958 Mrs. Bennett moved into the Senior Citizen's Home in Red Deer, where she died in 1961 at the age of 89 years. Harry is now living in Ladysmith, B.C.

(Additional information for this account was supplied by Fred Bennett and by Harry Bennett.)

**EINARSON, EINAR AND EDNA**

Einar Einarson and Edna Hyvonen were married in Red Deer. Einar was hurt in an accident shortly after. This happened at the C.P.R. crossing near Sylvan Lake Creamery while hauling wheat for Fred Grimson, with a sleigh and four horse outfit, the pole dropped and upset the load on him. They didn't expect to find him alive, but he was, and he was taken to Red Deer hospital.

Their first home was in the Burnt Lake district, south ½ of 3-38-2 W5.

Their first child was Walter who was born in Red Deer.

When Einar bought the farm, wheat was $2.00 a bushe. He broke some land and when he sold his first crop of wheat it was 18¢ a bushel.

They farmed in this area until May, 1936 when they moved to Oras, S.W. 14-39-6-W5. They lived in a small house with Ben Kestila and later bought his farm. Einar logged and sawed the lumber for their new house. Pine shingles were used for the roof. Jack McCarrol and Harold Anderson built the house.

During that time they farmed with horses, even had a horse baler. They bought a Model A Ford, which they enjoyed, also using it occasionally to haul groceries for the George Meston store from Rocky. At this time they got their first battery radio and really enjoyed listening to the church services.

Wild fruit was plentiful — raspberries, huckleberries, cranberries and high bush cranberries, which were picked by milk buckets full for the winter's and jam.

Walter didn't have many playmates, just Herby and Bunny so he was happy to have a little sister, LaVona arrive. She was born at Rocky Mountain House.

In March, 1940, Mr. Hyvonen went to Finland to fight in the Finnish-Russian war, so they went back to Benalto to their dad's farm.

They rented the farm at Oras to the Antila Bros. Later they sold it to Dr. Greenaway and purchased the Wayne Pitkanen quarter, S.E. 11-39-3-W5, just west of Hyvonen's.

In 1947 John and Miriam Hyvonen came and lived on the south half of that quarter. The lane to the farm drifted very badly every winter, so Mrs. Hyvonen and the Einarson's moved to Mr. Hyvonen's other quarter, N.W. 8-39-2-W5. They moved a house from Sylvan Lake. Fred Grimson, Walter and Howard Johnson, Ray Niemala and Matt Sytela helped move the house. They used two tractors and sleighs; later Nick Rahko remodelled the inside.

Most years you could expect hail, but there was always enough feed for the stock. We had a threshing machine and stook-loader so we had lots of straw.

We used a freezer locker in Eckville for meat. This saved a lot of work canning.

It was an exciting day in 1947 when they got the Calgary power. A. Huhtala did the wiring.

Einar worked at the Penhold Air Base two summers, one summer at Sylvan Lake and five years at Atlas Camp 15 (near Nordegg). That is where he became ill, and so in 1956, he sold the farm at Benalto to Jim Davis.

We bought a house in Innisfail from William Gires at 4512-50 Avenue. From there Einar drove to work at C.F.B. Penhold till he retired in 197-. He also helped in the Innisfail Tip-Top Bakery.

Einar and Edna moved to the town of Rocky Mountain House in 1973 next to the Nazarene church. They could walk to church now.

They now live at Westbourne Place, Calgary. Walter and LaVona went to the Benalto School. Walter later married Gail Morton in Vanderhoof, B.C. where they now reside on an acreage.

Walter operates a tree farm. They have two sons, Steven and Robert

LaVona finished high school in Innisfail and later worked at the Treasury Branch. She married Ray Newsham. They farmed in this area until 1972, when they moved to Calgary where Ray is employed with the Provincial Government. They have three children, Loretta Sheila and Keith

**A SHORT RESUME OF MY LIFE IN BENALTO 1944-1963 — by W. Earle Farris**

I came to Benalto in the fall of 1944 as the principal of the Benalto School. Alma Sterling was the second teacher, teaching the grades one to six, and I had the grades seven to ten inclusive. I had been transferred from the Dickson school to Benalto and I stayed in the hotel for several months before moving into the old store presently resided in by Mr and Mrs. Max Simpson. While in that building I recall doing the cooking and feeding the Nelsen threshing crew in the fall of 1945. The following year I moved into the house behind the lumber yard which had been the former residence of Elmer Opp and family. One of my early memories of the house was the complete overrunning of mice in the pantry. It took weeks to get rid of them. Bert Cole came to Benalto to work in the Midland Pacific feed mill and he boarded with me.

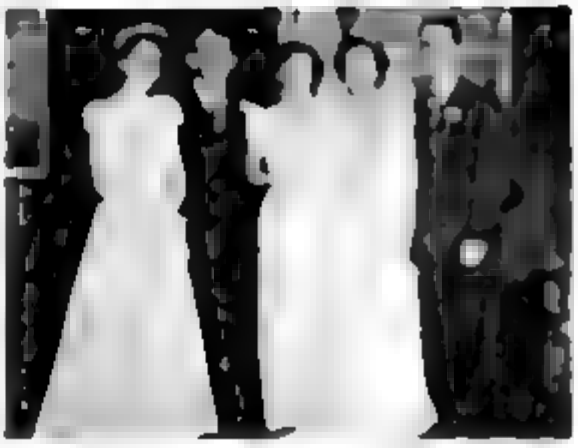
Bert was one of the star pitchers of the Benalto Baseball team. At that time we were in a league with Nordegg, Rocky Mountain House, Eckville, Bentley, Red Deer, Clive and Ponoka. What a time each team had to get to Nordegg in a truck if it rained, and it often did! Most games in Nordegg were always double headers so travelling there was cut in half.

From the Elmer Opp house I moved to Sivert Liens' house opposite the Midland Pacific elevator. It had been a granary, apparently which the Liens had moved to the property and had fixed up for a home. Bob Sharkey and Vester Niemi's brother boarded with me while they worked at the Midland Pacific.

Because the house was small, Matt Sutela, who was the handy-man for the Rocky Mountain School Division, built on a nice-sized kitchen. The house was moved back on the property and put on a foundation after I was married.

On July 6, 1952, I married Janet Margaret Staniforth. What a day it was — rain, rain, rain and of course we were without power for three days before the wedding. With no gravel on the roads, many cars had to be pulled in and out of the Staniforth farm, where the reception was held. My faithful best man, Arnold Anderson, saw to it that Jan and I got in and out safely.

On July 21, 1954, during the first day of the Benalto Stampede, our first son, William, was born and on Easter Saturday, April 20 our second son, George, was born. The roads were flooded, so it was a long trek over to Eckville to see my wife and George.



Wedding of Earle Farris and Janet Staniforth July 6, 1952
L. to R. Edna (Farris) Schaefer, Arnold Anderson, Jean (Staniforth) Smith, Janet (Staniforth) Farris and Earle Farris

The Benalto school began to grow substantially and it was not long before two new rooms and a full basement were built onto the old school. A fifth room was opened in the basement room shortly after the new part was opened.

During the time I lived in Benalto I played ball for the Benalto Ball Club, became secretary-treasurer of the Benalto Booster Club, secretary-treasurer of the Curling Club, became a charter member of the Benalto Elks, for which I was the secretary. A very active square dance club was organized for the community and after a winter of instruction from the Sylvan Lake Club I did the instructing of new dances. I helped the Eckville square dance club organize the following year.

Of interest to all residents of Benalto and Eckville would be the finding of a part of a shoe along the right-of-way of the C.P.R. just north of Benalto. The sole and part of the upper sides were of metal construction, with the uppers of leather. Some of the leather was still attached. Apparently this was a common footwear of the construction gang who worked in the building of the railway. It is still in my possession, and is much prized because of its history.

As a member of the Presbyterian Church I played an active role in organizing the church booth at the Annual Benalto Fair and Stampede. I was a member of the Board of Managers as well as being a member of the session.

In the fall of 1962 the senior grades of the school were moved to Sylvan Lake and I went to Spruceview to teach for one year. In the spring of 1963 Bill Hiensen and I motored to Vancouver Island. The result was that I received a teaching position with the Cowichan School District. In August, 1963 our household effects were loaded onto a van and we left Benalto with very fond memories of the years spent there. Our present residence is in Mill Bay, B.C. on Vancouver Island.

**FOSTER, ALFRED J by Thelma de Baltzhard**

My first husband, Alfred J Foster and I grew up in Edmonton but we came to Benalto from Saskatoon where he had been managing the branch of the Great West Saddlery for three years

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James D. Foster came to Edmonton before 1900 and his mother who is 95 years old is still very much alert and living in her own home in Edmonton.

My parents, Lambert B. and Dorothy Griffith came to Red Deer from England in 1906 and were married there My sister Marjorie and I were born in Red Deer but after the 1st World War we settled in Edmonton

My children are: Joyce Marilyn, born in Saskatoon and now living in Edmonton, James Lambert, born in Edmonton and now living in Red Deer Jim was elected MLA for Red Deer in 1971. He was appointed Minister of Advanced Education for four years and is now Attorney General for the Province of Alberta. Dorothy Elizabeth, born in Red Deer and is married to Timothy C. Lawrence and still lives in Red Deer

Thelma and Alf Foster in front of their store, 1944

**HALL, MAX**

Mr Max Hall was born in Ontario and came west to Estevan, Saskatchewan as a young man to work for his brother He met Grace Roluf who had also come from Ontario to work for her cousin. They were married in Arcola, Saskatchewan in 1911. They came to homestead at Loverna, Saskatchewan in 1912

They had good crops there until the late 1920's. Then it began to get dry, they were completely hailed out in 1928 and had no crops for five years. They decided it was time to leave, so in 1931 they loaded their belongings on the train and moved to the Eckville district where they rented Floyd Weeks farm one mile north of town. It was tough going that year but they milked cows and sold eggs. Mrs. Hall also did baking and sold it to the town people on Saturday mornings.

In 1933 they moved to the Evarts district and resided there till Mr Hall passed away in 1945 Mrs Hall lived in Benalto and at John Watson's for many years. She passed away in 1974. They are buried in Benalto cemetery

Mr and Mrs Hall had three daughters, Mrs. Madeline (Murrie) Steele who lived at Benalto and had a gas station and trucking business for 20 years. They sold it and moved to Edmonton They have three sons all married. Howard at Rimbey, has three sons and one daughter Walter in the Philippines, has one daughter and one son Ray in Edmonton has a son and a daughter Mrs. Maxine (Albert) McFadden lives in Prince Rupert, B.C. Her husband works for the C.N R. They have one son and one daughter Mrs. Thelma (Ernie) Barlund lives at Eckville on a farm and they have four sons and one daughter

**THE RIETALA FAMILY — by Marie Rietala**

Alexander Rietala was born in Finland on September 16, 1872 He came to the United States as a young man and worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana. There he met Venla Miller, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Miller Venla was born on February 28, 1887 in Vadso, Norway She came to the United States with her parents in 1891. Alex and Venla were married in Butte in 1903, where they made their home for several years Their only child, David, was born February 12, 1904 in Butte

In 1906 Alex moved his family to New Port, Oregon, where he had bought a small acreage on which they raised fruit and cattle. The law there required that you buy half high land and half low land. Alex also worked in the logging business, hauling logs with team and wagon. When he sometimes took Dave with him on these trips, he had to tie Dave onto the top of the load because the hills were very steep. Dave always looked forward to these trips with his father.

Beaver Creek ran through the acreage and Dave and two of the neighbor boys used to have fun running and jumping across it One time two of the older neighbor boys held on to both of Dave's hands and dropped him into the creek, which Dave thought was a very dirty trick to play on him

In 1910 Alex moved to Benalto, Alberta and bought 80 acres of Isaac Luoma's land, this being NE 12-39-3-W5. This was the next quarter east of his brother Frank, who had come out a few years earlier. Alex's sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs. Olaf Johnson, arrived a few years later and bought the other 80 acres of the same quarter, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Luoma

Venla and her son, David, came to Red Deer, Alberta by train where they were met by Mr. Charles Kasper They drove with horse and

buggy to the home of Frank Hietala, where they resided until their house was ready.

Alex did his first farming with three oxen. For the first three winters he returned to Butte to work in the copper mines while Venla and Dave stayed home on the farm. When the C.P.R. line was built east of the home place Mrs. Hietala would sell eggs and butter to the railroad workers. About 1916 Alex bought a quarter of land east of the home place, NW 7-39-2-W5, once owned by Max Ernest Bittner. At this time the farming was all done with horses.

Dave took Grades 1 through 8 in the Melita School. His teachers were Mr. J. M. McDonald from the Eckville District and Miss Bertheuson, of the Marianne District. Dave and his cousin, Walter Johnson, took their Grade 9 in Red Deer. Dave belonged to an athletic club, and took part in boxing and baseball. The neighbor boys used to hold boxing matches in the Young People's Hall.

Dave started helping his father with the farm work at an early age, root picking and clearing. There was a big slough on the east quarter where Dave caught muskrats and sold enough skins to buy his first bicycle. His father drove him to Red Deer by horse and buggy where Dave bought his bike for $10 and proudly rode it home.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hietala and son David, 1920

Alex liked to shoot prairie chickens, but on account of his failing health he had to wear a big fur coat. Most of the time the chickens saw him before he saw them. He passed away at the age of 53 years on December 10, 1925. He was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Dave and his mother continued to run the farm, and in May, 1929 they built a new seven-room, one-and-a-half storey house. The lumber was ordered from British Columbia. The cost involved was:

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Lumber | $1282.00 |
| Cement | 115.00 |
| Bricks | 26.50 |
| Plaster | 108.00 |
| Finish | 45.00 |
| Hardware | 61.95 |
| Paint | 100.00 |
| Flooring | 29.50 |
| Total | $1767.95 |
| Labor | |
| A. Kopsala | $175.55 |
| Dick Kopsala | 80.00 |
| W. Thorkman | 37.50 |
| Sandquist | 47.25 |
| Sambrook | 111.25 |
| Hoglund | 88.00 |
| Ignatius | 45.00 |
| Total | $666.35 |
| | $1767.95 |
| | 666.35 |
| Total | $2434.30 |
| | (complete house) |
| | 775.00 |
| | (new furniture bought in Edmonton) |
| | $3209.30 |

A. Kopsala and his son Dick were the head carpenters. The house was plastered by Dick Sambrook and painted by Mr. Hoglund and his son Walter. Dave and W. Thorkman lathed the inside of the house.

David married Marie Jansson, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jansson, on March 31, 1934. Marie was born July 12, 1914 and grew up in the Gilby district. Dave and Marie made their home on the farm with his mother. In 1935 Dave bought his first tractor, a John Deere, having steel wheels with lugs, from Jack Sunnell of Sylvan Lake. The horse-farming was fading out fast. In 1938 Dave bought a quarter of land from Von Holtum of Eckville, NE 7-39-2-W5. On December 10, 1945 he bought a quarter from the estate of the late Matt Talson through Henry Talson, the administrator. The 152 acres, SE 7-39-2-W5, sold for $5000. Since the C.N.R. ran through this quarter, Dave kept the 60 acres adjoining his quarter on the north side of the railroad and sold the remaining 92 acres on the south side of the railroad to Ray Niemela. Dave now owned 445 acres of land.

The Young People's Hall, owned by the Loyal Finns of Canada, was situated a half mile north of the farm. Church, dances and picnics were held there. Every June 24 a midsummer picnic was held. Both young and old enjoyed participating. A cleaning bee was held the day before to clean the windows, floors, benches and the yards outside. The one acre that the hall occupied was sold to Paul Eckes of Eckville in 1973. He burned the hall down and built his new home there.

In 1943 Venla Hietala bought herself a two

bedroom house in Benalto from Walter Koures for $3,300. She made her home there until her passing on August 19, 1947. Venla was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

In 1949 Calgary Power was available to the Benalto farmers at the rate of $649 per farmer. The introduction of power was the first step in the series of events leading toward the era of modern conveniences.

In 1950, Dave and Marie joined the Benalto Curling Club where they made many acquaintances and enjoyed many years of curling. In 1951 Dave bought his first combine, a No. 21 Massey Harris, from Chester Kasha for $3,057.75. In 1951 the two-mile road past the farm to No. 11 highway was graveled. The three neighbors, Niemela, Hietala, and Johnson each paid an equal share of the cost. Alfred Haarstad of Bentley was counsellor for the Lacombe district at this time.

In June, 1956, Dave became a charter member of the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404. In 1966 he was the Exalted Ruler for the Benalto Elks. On October 29, 1971 he was given a life membership in the Benalto Elks Lodge. Marie became a charter member of the Royal Purple of Benalto Lodge No. 233.

On March 31, 1959 Dave and Marie celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the farm. The open house was enjoyed by children, neighbors, relatives and friends.

Because of failing health, in 1967 Dave rented part of his land, and then raised only hay to feed his cattle on the remaining land until 1973, when he sold the farm to George Burkholder and moved to a new home in the West Park area of Red Deer. On June 7, 1976 Dave passed away, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Dave and Marie Hietala and family: Back: Mae, Harry and Albert. Front: Ruth.

In 1970 Dave and Marie had accompanied their daughter and son-in-law, Mae and Neil MacDonald, on a trip to New Port, Oregon, S.A., to visit the home Dave had left 60 years ago. The house was still standing and the trees were laden with fruit. Their neighbor's house was still being lived in, but by a new owner.

Dave and Marie raised four children. Harry Irwin, born August 27, 1937; Mae Irene, born May 30, 1942, Albert Alexander, born April 19, 1945 and Ruth Marie, born March 5, 1957.

Harry was born August 27, 1937 in the Red Deer General Hospital. He was an active and mischievous child who loved animals. He took his education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as his first teacher and then Earl Farris, later attending high school in Eckville. In 1950 Harry joined the Benalto 4H Beef Club with Clyde Stauffer as club leader. Harry received a trophy for the best kept record in 1954 and a trophy for most efficiency in 1955, he also belonged to the grain club for a year under the leadership of Ray Niemela. Harry started to curl with the Benalto High School and later joined the Benalto Curling Club. He became a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404 in 1960. On September 8, 1965 Harry and Robert McBride won first prize in a canoe race. They finished a 30-mile run in two hours, 28 minutes and 42 seconds.

Harry enjoyed helping his father with the farming, and was very handy with machinery. He rented some land from Ed Medin for a few years and raised some registered grain. He also worked on oil rigs. He was accidentally killed at Rocky Mountain House on August 22, 1974, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Mae Irene was born May 30, 1942 at the Eckville hospital. She began her education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as her teacher. In 1956 the Lacombe school zone was changed, so Mae took Grades 9 to 11 in Eckville, and Grade 12 at Red Deer Composite High School. She joined the sewing club in 1956 with Edith Niemela and Olga Stenvig as leaders. She also curled with the Eckville High School and made many friends through this sport. She studied education at Calgary University and taught her first class in Mirror, Alberta. In 1962 she married Neil Charles MacDonald, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacDonald of Fort Saskatchewan. Neil served in an armed forces station in Calgary and Mae continued teaching in Calgary. In January 1967 Neil and Mae moved to Germany, where they lived for four years. They have two daughters, Robyn Marie, born November 17, 1964 in Calgary, and Karen Mae, born September 10, 1968 in Germany. Mae, Neil and the girls arrived back in Alberta on July 14, 1970. Neil was stationed at an armed forces station at Asask, Saskatchewan for three years. He was then transferred to Grand Centre, Alberta, where they are currently residing. They both enjoy curling, square dancing and travelling. Robyn is active in figure skating, swimming and

gymnastics. Karen also enjoys sports and school.

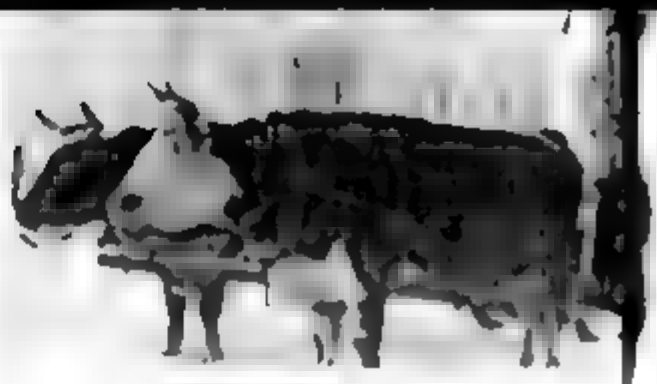
Albert Alexander was born April 19, 1945. He began his education in Benalto with Mrs. Alma Sterling as his teacher. In the summer months when the weather was good Albert rode to school on his bicycle, or his father would drive him to school. In 1956 he began attending the Eckville school, being picked up by school bus. He took Grades 5 through 10 in Eckville. For a year Albert drove the Benalto High School bus to Red Deer and drove taxis during the day there. In 1964 he enrolled at SAIT in Calgary, where he took two years of training in Electrical Technology. He was sent to the Westinghouse Company in Hamilton, Ontario. He didn't like it here, so he returned to Benalto and started with Calgary Power in Alix. He was later transferred to Innisfail. On April 13, 1968 Albert married Dorinda Marlene, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Niemela of Benalto. They made their home in Innisfail until January 1970, when Albert was transferred to Hughenden. In the spring of 1973 he was transferred to Rocky Mountain House, where they still reside. Albert and Dorinda have two children. Bonnie Marie was born March 15, 1972 and Trevor was born on June 18, 1973.

Ruth Marie was born on March 5, 1957 at Eckville. She took her first 10 years of education in Eckville and finished her high education at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer. Ruth continued her education at the Red Deer College, where she studied rehabilitation service. She won three academic scholarships during the two-year program. She is presently employed at the Michener Centre Group Homes in Red Deer.

**FRANK AND EMMA HIETALA FAMILY — by Jean Hietala**

Frank Hietala was born at Viirat, Finland and grew up there. He served his tour of army duties which was compulsory in Finland when you were 21 years of age. He then came to America. Emma Herranen and Caroline Hietala (Frank's sister) had come to Montana, to Butte and also spent some time in Calumet, Michigan. They worked at domestic sciences. When Frank came over he found work at Butte, in the copper mines. Frank Hietala and Emma Herranen were married in 1893, and settled to live in Butte. Euphemia (Fem) and Henry were born in Butte. In 1900 they decided to go back to Finland, where they stayed for only one year. They came back to Montana and father went to work again in the same place where he had been working before he left. In 1903 Emma was born and mother was kept busy with her family. Copper mines weren't the best places to work, and many a miner lost his health while working in one.

In 1904 father came to see about land here in the Benalto-Eckville area. He was able to buy the NW 12-39-3-W5, which a party had tried but had given up, but it was still under homestead status. It had a one-roomed cabin, a potato patch and a few improvements. They moved here January 15, 1905 along with a number of other families who settled here at that time.



Frank Hietala and son Henry in 1913

The cabin was very cold — the wind blew right through it, so they papered it with old newspapers that they had brought with them. The next summer they built a better house. Alec and Vie were born to the family while we were on the homestead.

It was not easy to start with a family in a new land. Father had to go back to work at the mines in Butte for two more winters. It was bad for father's health, and for the last five years before he passed away in 1916 he was not able to do any work. Mother and the children carried on the best they could, and now they are all grown up, and time has gone by so quickly. Mother passed away in January of 1947.

Femmie was married to Leonard Kingsep in December, 1917. Emma was married to James Cunningham.

L. to R. Emma Hietala, Ralph Kingsep, Mrs. Emma Hietala, Euphemia Kingsep holding Ivan Kingsep, Viola Hietala, Alec Hietala holding Violet Kingsep. At the back are Henry and Dave Hietala.

Vie is married to Wayne Pitkanen, of Sylvan Lake. Henry is married to Jean (Jennie) Heikkila.

Henry and I have had seven children, four girls and three boys. We have five children grown up. Elsie is married to Laurance Robinson of Red Deer. Their two daughters are Marilyn and Carolyn

Barbara is married to Preston Parks of Red Deer. They have four children — Danelia, Greg, and twins, Kevin and Karen

Allan is still single

Dorothy is married to Gordon Fisher and they live in Vancouver

Ronald is married to Shirley Raines, and they live in Calgary

Baby Violet passed away in 1944 and Ed in 1967

Henry and I still live on the same farm as Henry came to with his parents over 72 years ago. He still puts in a day's work on the farm

**HILLMAN, JOHANN (JOE) MARIUS**

Joe Hillman was born November 15, 1888 at Akra, North Dakota. His parents had emigrated from Iceland. At the age of two, his parents, sister and brother came to Calgary and from there by ox cart to the Markerville area

Joe attended school at Hola and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He was a member of the Woodman of the World Lodge and the Independent Order of Good Templers. Interested in music he was a member of the original Markerville Brass Band

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hillman and their attendants at their wedding, November 1919

He married his childhood sweetheart, Gudrun Bjornsson, in November 1913. Four children were born to this union, Helgi Sigmar born July 5, 1914, Johanna Gudrun born December 29, 1915; Larus Magnus born November 29, 1917 and Anna Thordis born October 26, 1919. All were christened by Rev. Peter Hjalmsson who had married their parents

In May 1920 Gudrun passed away suddenly leaving the four small children. The baby was raised by her parental grandparents and the three eldest lived with their maternal grandparents until they reached school age at which time they returned home to attend Happy Hill School.

During the summer of 1927 while Joe was away building roads a cyclone and hailstorm struck the area badly frightening the children. Leaving the farm Joe moved to Benalto where he operated a livery barn. He did all the local hauling with his horses — all the lumber and coal that came on the train was unloaded and delivered. In 1928 he bought an acre of land and built a small cabin supplementing his income by doing carpenter work and painting. During the Stampede there were many extra jobs. The children now attended Mehta School

In 1929 Joe took over the operation of the Eckshutt Plow Agency and obtained a milk route. In 1930 he took over the R.R. 3 mail route from Eckville and also the operation of the B.A. Oil agency in Benalto. Joe built a skating rink in Benalto flooding it with water hauled in 45 gallon drums on a stoneboat. Lighting was by Coleman lanterns strung on wires. Later a Delco was installed for electric lights and for pumping water to flood the ice. With the help of Mr. Simpsom and Mr. Hastie plans were drawn up and the first curling rink was built by volunteer carpenters interested in curling. Thus the "Booster Club" originated in Benalto

During the 1930's the children completed their schooling and worked at various jobs.

Johanna married and moved to Carstairs. Soon Joe had a grandson to enjoy. Larus joined and went overseas with the 13th Field Regiment. During the war Joe and Helgi worked on various armed forces building projects

In 1946-47 Joe built a home for Johanna at the West Coast and decided he liked the climate so he remained there. Helgi married and also lived at the West Coast

Joe passed away suddenly on November 10, 1961 and is buried at Haney, British Columbia

**HOLSWORTH, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM, SR. — by Mrs. W. A. Holsworth**

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth (Will and Rosa) moved from Red Cloud, Nebraska to the Evarts district in 1914. They left Nebraska because they

had no hope of owning the high-priced land there. For 20 years they had moved from rented farm to rented farm. John Holsworth, who had already settled in the Evarts district wrote to them of the good land available for about $15 an acre

They came by train to Red Deer with their family of six, Mabel, 18 years old, Edna 16 David 14, William 12, Ethel 10, and Clara eight years old. A neighbour, Mrs. Alice Tennant, made the journey with them to join her two sons, Richard and Charlie, who had homesteaded in the Evarts and Diamond Valley districts. The large wicker lunch basket held enough food for the nine travellers for at least four days

For two years Mr. Holsworth rented land from Douglas Walker before purchasing a half section of raw land, N 21 38-2-W5, from Parks and Carscallen, real estate agents in Red Deer A walking plow and four head of horses were used to break the land

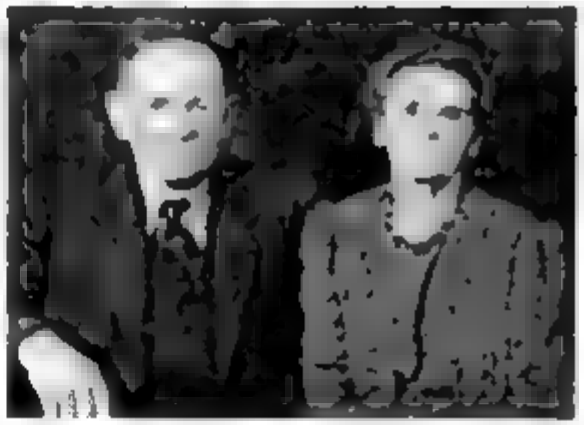
The next spring the Chinese restaurant was moved from Evarts for a house It took eight teams of horses to pull it on sleighs to its present location on the east quarter. A year later an addition was constructed, using lumber from the Evarts Creamery, which Mr. Holsworth purchased and tore down

In the 1920's Mr Holsworth purchased the SE 29-38-2 W5, school land which was sold by auction at Eckville, and also the NE 20-38-2-W5, which was the Charlie Johnson homestead This homestead land was fenced and had 30 acres broken and sown to hay This quarter was very wet, and Bill trapped muskrats to earn money The other quarter had been open pasture, and had been frequently burned over so there were no large trees on it Eight head of horses pulling a Van Slyke breaking plow were used to break the land

Life was not all hard work In the winter, rabbit hunts were organized, and these were a real social event Everyone gathered at one home, and while the men were hunting the women prepared a bountiful meal. The men arrived back, one time, with a wagon box load of rabbits, and with good appetites. Target shoots for both men and women were fun at these hunts. In the summer, there were many outings to Sylvan Lake for fishing or for picking wild raspberries, and always a picnic.

Mr Holsworth took an active interest in community affairs. For many years he served on the council of the Municipal District of Golden West He was a founding member of the Benalto Agricultural Society, a director for years, and was the president in 1930-31. He was a member of the Evarts School Board from 1927 to 1930. Mr and Mrs. Holsworth faithfully attended the Evarts Presbyterian Church, and after 1928 they attended the Benalto Baptist Church. He was a deacon in the Baptist Church

Mr. and Mrs. Holsworth retired from farming in 1930, and built a house on an acreage east



Mr. and Mrs. William Holsworth Sr. on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary

of Benalto. Mr Holsworth died on July 16, 1945 at the age of 76 years. Then Mrs. Holsworth moved into Benalto to the house which she bought across the corner from the Baptist Church. Here she resided until shortly before her death on November 17, 1958 at the age of 84 years

The oldest daughter, Mabel, married Charles Tennant on June 26, 1918 and moved to his homestead in the Diamond Valley district They had two children, Harold and Alice (Mrs. Aagie Berdahl) Harold died in North Africa, and Mabel, Charlie and Alice are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery

The second daughter, Edna, married Edwin Mannerfeldt on December 8, 1920, and they lived on his farm in the Evarts district After Ed died Edna retired in Sylvan Lake. Their daughter Dorothy (Mrs. Harry Periche) lives on the farm now

On June 23, 1925 Ethel married William Ormiston McKee, and moved to Condor where Orme was the elevator agent After a few years they moved to Orme's farm north of Benalto They had two children, Ronald and Margaret Orme is deceased, and Ethel has retired in Victoria, B.C

The youngest daughter, Clara, married Elmer McKee on June 14, 1928. They resided on the McKee farm for a few years before moving to the NE 34-38-2-W5, opposite the Kuusamo school They had two daughters, Doris and Jean. When they retired they moved to Red Deer

William A. Holsworth married Laura Norton on July 18, 1930. and remained on the home farm for five years. (Their history appears separately

David Holsworth married Elsie McKee on December 15, 1930. At first they lived on David's farm, and later moved across the road to the William Holsworth farm. Next they moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. They had five children Howard (deceased), Evelyn, Elsie, Marilyn, and David. All of them live in British Columbia

**HOLSWORTH, MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM A. (BILL AND LAURA) — by Laura Holsworth**

We were married on July 18, 1930 in a ceremony performed in the garden of the Norton home by Reverend Stevens, the Presbyterian minister. I had been teaching for three years, one at Happy Hill, and two at Kuusamo. Bill had been farming with his father, and he continued on his own for the first five years of our married life.

The depression was a discouraging time. I sold eggs at the O. C. Hansen store in Benalto for 5¢ a dozen. After they had been government graded, Mr. Hansen asked for a few cents back as he had overpaid me. Making butter to sell at the store for seven cents a pound was an unprofitable venture. We bought an incubator, and after hatching, raising and dressing the chickens, we received 25¢ apiece for them. Bill bought two weaner pigs from Orrin Wylie for $5. After they were fed to market weight they sold for $8. Grain was not worth much, eight to 10 cents for barley and oats, and wheat 15 to 20 cents.

We decided to stop farming, and held an auction sale in the fall of 1935. This was the last sale which Mr. Frank Jenkins held. Mr. Clyde Stauffer, who was a newcomer in the Evarts district, was introduced by Mr. Jenkins, and he sold some of the items.

For the next three years we kept a general store in Tees. This was a bad move for us. Business was poor as the depression was still on. People managed with very few groceries. In 1938 we gladly came back to Benalto to farm again. This time we lived close to the Benalto School, which was an advantage to our four children, Rosemary, Elizabeth, William and Joan.

In 1940 I started teaching again, first at Evarts, then at Kuusamo, and finally in Benalto until I retired in 1974. Bill retired from farming in 1970, but we have continued living on our farm.

Our eldest daughter, Rosemary, taught in Edmonton, and is at present a music consultant for the Edmonton School Board.

Elizabeth married Le Rae (Hap) Nielsen. They live near Benalto with their five children — Arthur, Ann, Elizabeth, Mary and Christine.

William married Carol Williams in Perth, Australia. At present they live in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia with their four children, Mark, Ian, Trevor and Cynthia.

Joan married Stanley Mannerfeldt, the eldest son of Gustav Mannerfeldt of the Centerville district. They now live in Mill Woods, Edmonton, and have three children, Rosemary, William and Marilyn.

**THE HUHTALA FAMILY**

Being of an adventurous nature and hearing of opportunities in the New World, Abram Huhtala left his home in Siikajoki in the County of Oulu, Finland before the turn of the century. He followed the example of many Scandinavian immigrants, arriving in the state of Minnesota, U.S.A., and finding work in the mines in Ely.

It was here he met and married Helka Mary Salo, who had followed her sister Hilma and brother Matt from Kaustinen, County of Vaasa, Finland, and arrived in Duluth, Minnesota. She later found employment in a boardinghouse in Ely. Following their marriage in 1900, they moved to the mines in Rock Springs and Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A. Their first son, Frans William, was born here on January 9, 1902. In March of that year, leaving his wife and son behind, Mr. Huhtala and his friend, John Lassila, decided to find a new home in Canada. Homesteads were available by improving the land, and living on it for three years. After arriving by train to Red Deer, they made their way west, and chose adjoining quarters on 36-36-3-W5, Mr. Huhtala choosing the southwest quarter and John Lassila the southeast quarter.

Assisting one another, each erected a small log cabin on his quarter. Abram soon sent word to his wife to dispose of furnishings in Wyoming, and set about clearing a plot large enough to grow potatoes the first year. With the help of a close friend, Andrew Jarvin, who acted as auctioneer, Mrs. Huhtala sold their furniture and took the train to her new home in Canada. She was accompanied by Isaac Luoma, who was also coming to homestead here. Mother and son of six months arrived in Red Deer on June 26, 1902, having paid a fare of one cent per mile to travel on the railroad. Mr. Huhtala, who had no means of travel except walking, hired Mr. Abram Holoppa with his wagon and team of horses to meet them in Red Deer. Their first purchase besides groceries was a door for their home, and flour sacks to serve as covers for the cabin windows. They had to have something to keep out the hordes of mosquitoes!

Mrs. Huhtala, having heard stories about hostile Indians in her new country, was a bit apprehensive about meeting them. Her fears were somewhat overcome on leaving Red Deer. Following a trail through the trees, they came upon a fallen tree blocking their way. Just then an Indian, carrying an axe, came along and obligingly cut and removed the tree. She declared later that she had always remembered her first encounter with an Indian with gratitude.

Travel through the forests and muskegs was slow, so the first night was spent at the home of Alex Pasma, a small house located two miles west of Snake (Sylvan) Lake.

As with most pioneers, Mrs. Huhtala worked side by side with her husband, grubbing the poplars and willows, doing her baking and washing at night while her husband wove a fish net to catch fish from the Medicine River, tanned hides, and made shoes. The fish, along with rabbits and upland game birds, were the source of their meat supply. During the first summer, they purchased a milk cow from a farmer in the Burnt Lake district, and a kind neighbor, Jack

Warwick, presented them with a hen and seven chicks. The weather was rainy and humid. Mosquitoes were very numerous, making clearing land a very trying task. With the coming of winter, it was necessary for Mr. Huhtala to leave his family once more, to work in the mines in Frank, Alberta. He was there at the time of the slide, but was in a neighboring town at the time. News of the tragedy reached the people at home, and many anxious days passed before they found out who had survived. In the meantime, Mrs. Huhtala took charge of her son, cow and chickens at home. Indians often passed by, and never having quite overcome her fear of them, she would take her baby and hide in the trees until they were gone. She had several Finnish neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Salamonson and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and family. Their frequent visits were of great comfort to Mrs. Huhtala.

Household facilities were crude. The wash tubs were made by sawing a wooden barrel in two. It was necessary to carry water from a slough a quarter of a mile away, until a well was dug the following year. This was accomplished by them both, he working in the well, while Mrs. Huhtala, several months pregnant at the time, winched up the pails of clay and rock.

With the money earned in the mines, they were able to buy a yoke of oxen, hand breaking plow and other implements. More land was cleared — enough to grow oats for feed for the livestock. Often Mrs. Huhtala drove the team of oxen on the breaking. While discing one day, the oxen were stung by heel flies, causing a runaway. A tragedy was averted when the oxen ended up in the bush, one on each side of a pole poplar tree. By this time Mrs. Huhtala's foot had slipped between the discs under the axle.

Neighbors took turns driving to Red Deer, 25 miles to the east, bringing back supplies. Driving a team of horses, it was necessary to leave home at 3:00 a.m. in order to return by 10:00 p.m. During frosty winter nights the anxious families at home could hear the screech of the sleigh runners for miles as the men returned. Sounds carried far on still nights. Mr. Lassila, their closest neighbor, was a talented violinist. Often, while walking to visit the Huhtalas, he would play his violin the three quarters of a mile, and his music could be heard for the entire distance.

Earning money in the mines during the winter, and clearing more land made it possible to acquire horses and machinery. Each member of the family who was big enough to help did his or her share. Life became a bit easier with the establishment of the village of Evarts only four miles to the south, eliminating the long trips to Red Deer. Potatoes and eggs were exchanged for groceries.

The Huhtala home was a convenient stopping place for people from north and west, going and coming from Evarts, and many were the visits over the ever-present cup of coffee. Mail picked up at the Evarts Post Office was brought in from Red Deer.

Enough land had been cleared to grow oats which were sold as horse feed to the C.P.R. builders, which came through in 1912. Wheat was ground into flour in the mills in Lacombe. The highlight of the year was the threshing season, with the huge steam engine operating the grain separator. Grain bundles had been stacked earlier to keep dry until the machine arrived, often after a snowfall.

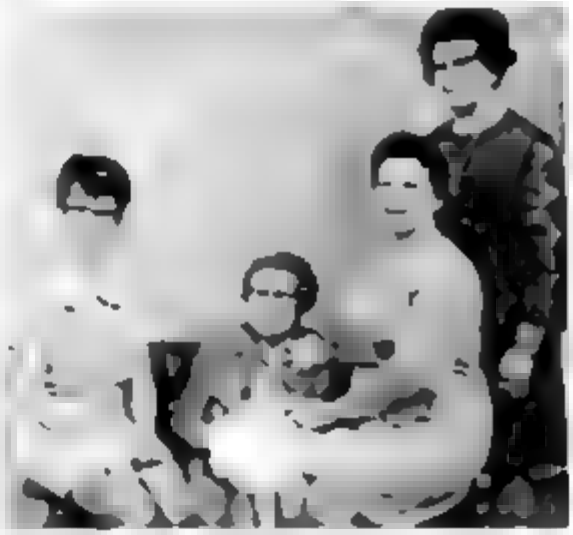
Having cleared most of the original homestead, it became necessary to expand. Mr. Jack Robinson sold them the adjoining northwest quarter and later they purchased the SW 32-38-2 W5 from John Koski.

The Melita School District was founded in 1906. The school was built later the same year by Mr. Matchett, Mr. Jack Warwick having hauled the lumber from Red Deer. This gave the family a school within one and one-half miles. Mr. Huhtala served as trustee on the school board for several years.

In 1914, Jack Simpson built a store and post office beside the C.P. railroad. It was here that the hamlet of Benalto was developed. Now the mail and groceries were within one and one-half miles — a far cry from the 25 miles to Red Deer.

Mr. Huhtala took a keen interest in the community. He was one of the founding members of the Alberta Wheat Pool and later of the Eckville Co-op Store, both of which he was a member until his death in 1927, at the age of 60 years.

Mrs. Huhtala continued farming with the help of her family. Later, she married Charles Raunio of Rocky Mountain House, and together they lived on the farm until retiring in 1953, at which time they sold it to Evald and Sylvia Larson. They bought a home in Eckville where they



Five Generations. L. to R. - Dorinda Hietala, Great-great Grandmother, Mrs. Raunio holding little Bonnie Hietala, Grandmother Edith Niemala and standing is Great Grandmother Olga (Huhtala, Ignatius) Harvilen

lived until 1966. In 1967 they moved to the Senior Citizens' Lodge in Sylvan Lake. Mr Raunio passed away in February, 1971. Mrs. Raunio moved to live with her daughter, Olga Harvilow in Sylvan Lake. She was the last of the original pioneers of the Benalto area.

Mr. and Mrs. Huhtala had a family of seven children, two of whom died at a very early age — Edward at 14 months and Arthur at two and one-half years. William married Lillian Aho, and moved to live in the Finnish Karelen sector of the U.S.S.R. in 1931. He passed away in 1942 at the age of 40 years. He is survived by his wife and three daughters, Violet, Emily, and Alice.

Olga married George Ignatius. They farmed three miles north of the home farm. They had two daughters, Edith and Hazel. Her husband passed away in 1953. Later, she married Andrew Harvilow, with whom she retired to Sylvan Lake in 1962.

Oiva married Ingrid Delaney. They farmed in the Kuusamo District, and had two children, Calvin and Phyllis. In 1962, he retired to Sylvan Lake, where he passed away in 1972 at the age of 60 years.

Alli married Clarence Anderson. They also farmed in the Benalto area. They had a son, Gary, and a daughter, Delores. Clarence passed away in November, 1972, after having retired to Rocky Mountain House where Alli still resides.

Arthur, the youngest of the family, married Emma Mottus. They have one daughter, Lynn, and now reside in Edmonton. An electrician by trade, Arthur works in Fort McMurray on the tar sands development.

**HYVONEN, JOHN**

John Hyvonen was born in Finland and immigrated to the U.S.A. In 1893 his wife and children joined him there.

After Mrs. Hyvonen's death in 1901 Mr Hyvonen, with his four sons, Matt, Andrew, John and Bill, settled on land north of Benalto, the same quarter where the Young People's Hall used to be. This was SW-18-39-2-W5.

John Hyvonen remarried (this bride also was from Finland). Soon after this Mr Hyvonen took his wife and two youngest sons, John and William, back to the U.S.A.

In 1901 his oldest son, Ilmar, drove his one team and wagon from Montana to his dad's farm where Matti and Andrew were still living. In 1906 Ilmar married Ida Kinnunen. In 1907 he bought SW 12-39-3-W5. On this land he built a one-room log house which is still standing. Ilmar and Ida had four children: Oiva, Edna, of Rocky Mountain House, Alli, and John, of Sylvan Lake.

At this time there was no town of Eckville or Benalto, and no roads or railroads. Mr Hyvonen made numerous trips to Red Deer for provisions for his family and for neighbors. This was done, of course, with horses.

The Hyvonens were very hospitable people and many a tired traveller would stop there to rest awhile on their journey or even to stay overnight.

Ilmar and Ida Hyvonen on the occasion of Ida's 80th birthday

Mr. Hyvonen enjoyed taking in the fairs at Benalto, Red Deer, and Rocky Mountain House. He always showed his animals, and through the years he won many trophies and championships with his Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle, Oxford and Suffolk sheep and Plymouth Rock chickens.

Ilmar went to Finland in 1940 and enlisted in the Finnish Army. He earned many medals in Finland, and as a result became interested in collecting medals and also coins. He loved to play cards, to travel, and to watch or listen to all kinds of sports.

Mrs. Hyvonen was born in Michigan in the U.S.A. At the age of 14 she came to Red Deer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Kinnunen, her sister Minnie, and four brothers, John, Alex, Arvig, and William in 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyvonen stayed on their farm until 1963, when they sold the farm to Ray Niemela and retired to the Autumn Glenn Lodge in Innisfail. Here they celebrated their 63rd. wedding anniversary. Mrs. Hyvonen was then 84 years old and Mr. Hyvonen was 91 years of age.

**JENKINS, FRANK G.**

Frank Jenkins will possibly be most remembered in connection with the Benalto Fair and Stampede. Coming to Canada from Iowa in 1911, he and his wife Josephine settled near the north end of Sylvan Lake on a homestead which he subsequently sold to the Murto family during the depression for one dollar down.

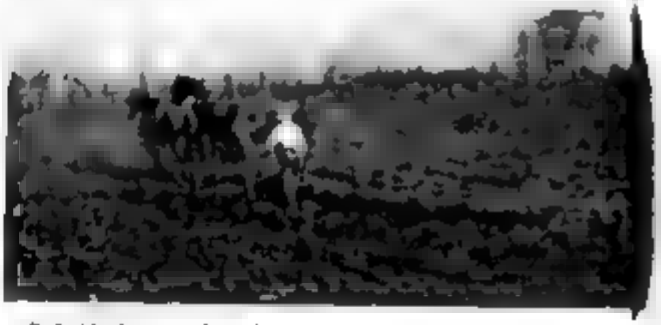
With the coming of the Alberta Central Railway, Benalto became one of the trading centers of the district, and Frank, along with

Mrs Josephine Jenkins and Ruth Kinna

many other public spirited settlers, felt that an annual summer celebration would be a welcome event for the area. The Benalto Fair and Stampede began with many improvised facilities but much enthusiasm and enjoyment, and is unique in being one of the few continuous affairs of its kind in the province. Many will recall Frank riding his horse around the stampede enclosure announcing events through a large, hand-carried loudspeaker with Gaylord Armstrong exhibiting his exceptional horsemanship as he picked up contestants. Frank continued as Stampede manager for many years.

In common with most pioneers, great skill in hunting and fishing became a way of life, not only for provisions for the home, but primarily as one of the few forms of recreation. The fall big game hunting trips were looked to with great excitement. Trophies were mounted and photographed. Among Frank Jenkin's collection were moose, deer, mountain goats, and a golden eagle. The Armstrong brothers and Arthur Kinna were frequent companions on these trips.

Not all events can be remembered with as much pleasure as hunting, for tragedy struck many homes during the 'flu epidemic of 1918. Frank recalled taking supplies to many stricken families and, as he was a constant pipe smoker the story circulated that he remained immune because of the pipe.



F. Jenkins homestead, north end of Sylvan Lake. Fall of 1912

Deer Hunting. Frank Jenkins and Bob Armstrong

A Fishing Trip! Frank G. Jenkins and friend

Always interested in livestock, Frank became a dealer with shipping points along the Alberta Central Railway and eventually moved to Calgary to continue in the business. He and his wife and Theresa Hoven, who was with them for many years, returned to Benalto in the early thirties to farm and buy livestock until he retired in 1945.

During the second World War Frank made a noteworthy contribution in his enthusiastic sale of War Bonds. In 1945 he married Emma Kinna, and several years after her death in 1951, he moved to Fairview, Alberta, where he died in 1963.

**JENSON, MR. AND MRS. CARL AND FAMILY — Written by Mrs. Carl Jenson**

We, Mr. and Mrs. Jenson, originally homesteaded in Saskatchewan, but the drought conditions prevalent there at the time drove us out, and in 1937 we rented a farm six miles northeast of Camrose, where we lived for seven years. Here we found the winters quite severe, and we missed the chinook winds that we had experienced on the prairie. With these thoughts in mind, we were persuaded, in the spring of 1943,

by a salesman from Canada Mortgage in Edmonton, and also a refugee from the dried-out area in Saskatchewan, to buy Section 2-39-3-W5, the former Barhan place, for the sum of $8,000 cash.

That summer Mr. Jenson drove an Oliver 99 tractor from Camrose to the newly-purchased farm. This tractor had been purchased in 1940 for the sum of $2,150. He pulled a rubber-tired wagon behind the tractor on which he hauled a tiller with seeder-box attachment. He went right to work in preparing for the next year's income, and Gaylord Armstrong told some friends that a "crazy man was sowing fall rye in the stubble and quack grass." However, this fall seeding resulted in a crop of 2,900 bushels of rye harvested the next year and sold for ninety cents a bushel.

It was not until March of 1945 that we left the Camrose area for good. The last week in March we moved into a very dilapidated house on our property. The many layers of paper had become detached from the laths and hung down in bulges, weighted down by large quantities of dirt. The cracks between the laths made good viewing spaces for the mice, and I'm certain they didn't approve of our taking possession of their home.

Kit Armstrong was our first caller as she rode in on a frisky saddle horse to round up her horses that had been wintering on the section. Neighbors were friendly and this we much appreciated, as I was left alone with the four boys while Mr. Jenson returned to Camrose to fetch the combine. One day Orrin Wylie drove in on his way to Eckville and discovered that I had no gasoline for my wash-machine motor. In just no time he had siphoned some from his car and thus solved my problem.

We had brought with us about 100 laying hens. Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson supplied me with chicken feed. We also had some milk cows which made the creamery in Eckville an important place for us, as we milked cows and sold eggs for a living in those days. Prices weren't very good for either eggs or cream, but we made out all right.

In 1947 we had a good crop of fall rye and prices were good. We had made plans to build a new house, but when we found that labor was so scarce we decided to buy the Heikkinen place close to town. Our five sons never missed a day of school due to weather or road conditions, which was a pretty good record.

Our oldest son, Morris, married Audrey Saarinen and they have two daughters. Paul lives in Edmonton. Earl married Alva Gray and they have one girl and one boy. They live in Vancouver. Chris married Margaret Pease after finishing his veterinary course in Guelph, Ontario. They have two girls. Allan, his wife, Karen, and daughter, Natalie, are planning to make their home on the NE 2-39-3-W5 of the Barhan section, as it is always called.

In the spring of 1967 we retired to Summerland, B.C. where we are enjoying good health and keeping busy with gardening and social activities.

**THE MORRIS JENSON FAMILY — by Audrey Jenson**

Morris and Audrey Jenson (nee Saarinen) reside at SW 2-39-3-W5, which is one mile east of the "Eckville Corner", north side of No. 11 highway, in a brown and white house that Gus built.

They raise Hereford cattle, and Morris carries on a trucking business during the summer months. They have two daughters. Debra Ann is married to Rick Gordon, and lives in Calgary. Their daughter, Lindsey Danelle, was born in September, 1976.

Sandra Lee graduated from the Eckville High School as valedictorian of her class in 1977. She plans to attend the University of Calgary and will major in education in preparation for becoming a teacher.

**JOHNSON HOWARD AND HELEN — by Helen Johnson**

Howard's interest in farming kept him on the family farm, living on the N ½ of N ¼-12-39-3-W5. We supplemented our income by renting land.

During the years 1947-1948 we operated "Johnson's Dairy" supplying milk to Benalto and Eckville. However, Howard was more enthused about mixed farming, so we gradually changed over to beef cattle and rented more land.

Faye Evelyn arrived on February 17, 1953.

We enjoyed our community activities and Howard was as interested in sports as before. Many of the winter evenings were taken up with curling.

Faye was at home until she graduated from high school in Eckville. She moved to Calgary in 1971 to attend university and still lives there. At present she is teaching school.

Howard and I farmed until he passed away in 1973.

The land is rented out now and I am at home — living in the original house the Johnsons came to in 1913.

**ISAAC JOHNSON FAMILY — by Mr. L. E. Johnson**

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and their family of six boys arrived in Alberta in March of 1902 and settled in what is now known as the Melita district. The boys were Lester, the youngest at four years of age and David, Philmore, Louis, Steiner and George, the eldest, at 17 years of age. Two older daughters, Ida and Lizzie, remained in Montana. We came by train through Sweet Water, Montana, to Calgary and on to Red Deer where we hired a team and wagon to take us to Sylvan Lake. There were about 10 families already homesteading in Sylvan Lake, most of

whom had come from the same area of Montana We stayed with the Passma Family, whom we had known in Belt, Montana. We homesteaded on SW 8-39-2 W5. There were two families already settled there by the Medicine River, the Wylies and a half-breed family by the name of Witts. A log house was built, and also a steam bath, which was enjoyed by all. An acre or two of land was ploughed for potatoes and vegetables. That first winter Isaac Johnson returned to Montana to work in the mines for the last time

There was a store and a post office called Evarts about five miles south where more people had settled earlier. After our arrival, the settlers started to come into the country going west and north. No roads were open yet, so everybody travelled the old Indian Trail that went through our place. Many of these settlers put up at our place and none were ever turned away Sometimes there were as many as 20 people staying overnight. The Armstrong family was the biggest outfit to come, with their five boys and one girl. They bought a quarter of land, 160 acres, for each boy and the girl. They came from Oklahoma, and with them they brought horses, mules, and about 20 head of cattle. They lived in tents until their house was built. Shortly after they came Mrs. Armstrong died of blood poisoning after cutting a corn off her foot

About 1905 the Melita School was built Since it was located on our place, we were close to school. There were no desks when the school first opened, so we sat around the walls in a circle on seats made from lumber placed on nail kegs and boxes. A Nova Scotia girl by the name of Miss McGregor was our first teacher. The first place she boarded was at Jack Warwick's and then she stayed at our place. A room was partitioned off for her and the logs were lined with cheese cloth The school was closed for three months at Christmas time. Miss McGregor was a real nice girl, she never complained about anything, and really enjoyed the steam bath. She taught school for a term and a half and then got married to Mr. Forhan who had a small drug store at Evarts. Later they had a drug store in Eckville

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson could speak Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and English. Mr Johnson was called on at times to act as an interpreter on court cases in Red Deer. Mrs. Johnson was a midwife, and she was called on at all hours Sometimes she was away for a day and a night.

In 1910 the Alberta Central Railway was started by John T Moore and Associates. It was supposed to go on to the Yellow Head Pass. After they got the Charter they were to get a government grant so two camps were established, one at Burnt Lake and the other at our place, to see how much it cost to build a mile. The workers had to run to Red Deer all winter long to get their wages. Moores bought our place as townsite for the railway. After they got the government grant they gave the whole thing to the C P R. The railway siding was moved to C.P R. crown land a half mile south. What a farce! The railway never did get any further than Rocky Mountain House

It was in 1905 when my sister Lizzie died in Montana and left three boys. They were brought out to our place to live. Their names were Harry, Gordon and Tommy Trimmer. They were about the same age as we younger ones were and they grew up as a part of our family.

The coldest winter that I can remember in Alberta was in 1906-1907. It started in December and for three months the temperature was almost always at least 30 degrees below zero F The winds drifted the snow along the fences so that all you could see were the tops of the fence posts. A thousand head of cattle died in the southern part of the province and in Montana Then came an early break and the grass was green by the end of March

The winter of 1909-1910 was the year Halley's Comet was to split the earth, so they said' It was to be the end of the earth' My brother and I were playing cards at our neighbours'. It was a cold winter night, with steam clouds floating around We were on our way home about 11 o'clock at night when we saw it in the east at a 45-degree angle. Needless to say, the earth was not split in half'

I came to Vancouver during World War II in 1940 and worked at fish processing work in a plant until my retirement. There were a lot of jobs during the war years, but this is no longer true. There have been so many people coming here, looking for work

The best years of my life were spent on a homestead in the Melita district in Alberta I just passed my 80th birthday Most of my generation have passed on

**JOHNSON, OLAF AND KAROLINE — by the Johnson Family**

Olaf and Karoline Johnson arrived in the Benalto-Eckville area in May, 1913. Coming from Butte, Montana, they purchased from Isaac and Anna Luoma the N½ of NE 12-39-3-W5.

Olaf Mukkala was born in Vadso, Norway in 1866. His parents, fishing people were drowned at sea leaving him an orphan at the age of 12. In 1879, at age 13, Olaf set out with his younger sister, Matilda to find his two older brothers Henry and Eric in America

Leaving Matilda in Michigan, Olaf, now 17, began to find his way west by working as a water boy for construction crews along the Oregon Trail. Olaf's journey led him to Butte, Montana where he successfully found employment in its copper mines.

Karoline Hietala was born in Virrat, Finland on May 15, 1868. When she was 18, she and a friend, Emma Herranen; who would later marry her brother Frank, came to Hancock, Michigan Both women worked as housekeepers with families who helped them learn some of the English language. Karoline spent time in Michigan with a Methodist minister and his

family as a companion-helper. Karoline later followed her two older brothers to Butte, Montana where she found work in boarding houses where miners lived. She worked for a time at the boarding house owned by the Ladic family, whose son Karoline's eldest daughter was destined to marry. It was in Butte that Karoline met Olaf.

The trials of being an immigrant with just eight days of formal schooling had forced Olaf Mukkala to become Olaf Johnson. Olaf and Karoline Johnson were married on November 28, 1894. In Butte, Olaf worked in the mines and daughters Lydia (Beth) and Mary (Rae) were born in 1896 and 1898 respectively.

The family moved to Calumet, Michigan and their sons John and Walter were born in 1901 and 1903. The mines in Butte, though, provided secure employment for Olaf Johnson and so the family moved there where Ann was born in 1907 and Ted was born in 1910.

Olaf Johnson with son Ted in foreground. Back, Beth, Rae, and Mrs. Johnson with Ann standing in front of her.

It was at this time that Karoline's brothers, Frank and Alec Hietala were homesteading land in Alberta and 1913 the Johnsons followed these brothers and settled on the farm between their homesteads.

Shortly after the family settled in the area their eldest daughter, Beth, returned to Butte to attend nursing school. Then, in 1915, the last member of the family, Howard, was born. In these years and ones to come, Olaf often spent winters working in the Butte mines to supplement the farm income.

The flu epidemic of 1918 saw Beth return home for a period of time. She spent long days and nights with her horse and buggy going to homes of the sick to nurse them and help with chores. Karoline had taught her well by example. In her years on the farm she often would walk miles to visit the sick, usually with a freshly baked cake under her arm. When people came to visit the Johnsons home and see the flower gardens Karoline loved, she usually sent home with them a freshly picked bouquet. And visitors were frequent.

The early day church services, mostly Lutheran, were held at the nearby Young People's Hall. These services were well attended even though many in the congregation had to travel long distances by horse and buggy. Every Sunday, the Johnson home had many of these people for coffee and there was always company for Sunday dinner.

Young People's Hall was a community centre for the area, and when church services or dances were held it was generally one of the Johnson family lighting the fire in the stove before and sweeping the floor after, never expecting a nickel. The dirty coffee cups were often taken home where Mother Johnson would wash them clean for the next time.

Although breaking new land, planting and harvesting crops, and caring for livestock, in Olaf's case — hogs, were no easy tasks, it certainly wasn't all work and no play to make son John a dull boy. There were weddings, chivaris, dances, ball games, and competitive gymnastics. The two main events in the early days were the mid-summer picnic and dance on June 24 and the Victoria Day dance on May 24.

By the 1930's the family had mostly grown and gone. The girls were settled in Seattle, John had gone off prospecting and for a time stayed with the Bill Lowry family when he worked in Drumheller; Walt was working mainly in lumber camps. In 1932 Olaf died.

Howard and Ted remained on the family farm with their mother, until she died in 1944 and Ted left the farm. During this time both Ted and Howard played softball on the Young People's All Star Team while Walt often acted as scorekeeper.

On December 27, 1945 Howard married Helen Niemela and there another story begins.

**JOHNSON, WILLIAM THEODORE (TED) AND RUTH — by Helen Johnson**

Ted moved to Penhold to operate a coffee shop in 1945. While there he married Ruth Soderlund in June, 1946. After they sold their business in Penhold, Ted worked on construction for a number of years. They have one son Gary and one granddaughter.

Ted has always had a keen interest in music

and while he was living on the farm he occasionally played at dances.

They are living in Calgary

**JOHNSTON, THE RALPH FAMILY—by Norma Stewart**

Ralph Johnston arrived in Elspeth in 1929 to operate the Wheat Pool Elevator at the siding between Benalto and Sylvan Lake on the C.N.R. In 1930 he was married to the former Marion Mather at Trochu. Their son, Wesley, was born in 1932. They left Elspeth in 1935 and after living in southern Alberta, Grand Forks, B.C., and Rimbey, they moved to Lacombe where they now reside. Recently they have been spending their winters in Arizona U.S.A.

While in Elspeth they were closely associated with Benalto, usually walking in during the winter time. Their son, Wes, graduated in Pharmacy from the U. of A. With the help of his wife, the former Norma Jean Stewart, he has been operating a drug store in Edmonton. They have two sons, Ralph, recently married to the former Jo-An Olstead, and a member of the Edmonton City Police, and Stewart, who is at home.

**KALAPUTAS, ANDERSON GUST**

My parents, Gust Kalaputas and Emma Soderback, were united in marriage in Evanston, Wyoming on June 20, 1894. They immigrated to Canada from Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1903 where dad was employed in a coal mine. They were met in Red Deer by August Halstien and they stayed the winter with them.

Dad homesteaded the NW 28-36-2-W5 which had formerly been homesteaded by Edward Aho and had returned to the crown.

A one-room log house was erected to house the family, also a small barn for the cow and oxen. William Aho, who owned the land adjoining on the east was a great assistance in building. Hardships were many for the pioneers the first years on the farm. There wasn't any ready wood pile — just tall timber. It all had to be cut into stove lengths.

The snow was deep and often, over night, snow piled so high behind the door, a shovel had to be used to go out.

Water wells were shallow and froze up. Snow was melted for use in the house during the cold winter, as well for the cattle. There were no roads, just trails. Trees had been cut down and a trail cleared wide enough for a wagon to pass through. These trails would wind from house to house. A main trail to Evarts passed by our home which was used by travellers from north and east of us.

Our first animals on the farm were a cow and a team of oxen. The one named Mike was a real pet and we could ride him around the yard. Sometimes there were three of us on his back.

Dad was a hard worker, clearing land during the summer with the only tools available, a grub hoe and axe. In the fall and winter he built houses for the settlers. Logs were plentiful and made cheap warm homes. The logs were fitted, hewed, and with corners shaped made comfortable houses.

Land was cleared and had to be made into fields. We purchased a team of horses, Dick and Molly, from the Indians. They were a great asset to our farming. The horses worked well with the oxen breaking land. They were faster on the road and on needed trips to Evarts and Red Deer. Also, in later years, they were our school ponies.

With an ox, and two horses pulling the plow the sod was made into fields to grow feed and grain. Turnips and potatoes were also grown. When harvest time rolled around, neighbors helped pick turnips and anyone who came for a visit went home with a boxfull of turnips, which were fed to the stock. The potatoes were taken to Red Deer and traded for essentials.

Machinery was bought together with the neighbors to share cost. Dad had a Massey Harris mower in joint with Sylvester Saha, a rake with John Koski Sr. and a five-foot Deering binder with a right hand cut with Alex Staudinger. This went on for years till they had to get larger machinery.

Melita was our first school. School was held in the summer months due to the amount of snow and inclement winters. Then Kuusamo school was moved further west from its original site and we were transferred there. Travelling to school was difficult. There was water everywhere on the way to school. The lowlands and hollows were filled with water. One evening riding home from school we decided to cross one of the bodies of water. Lying on the horse to keep our feet dry, we drove into the water and made it across which was quite a distance. This went on until Gust Hill, a neighbor, had watched us from his yard and reported the incident to our parents. Needless to say, our short-cut promptly ended.

In a few years, we had accumulated several milk cows. The cows were milked outside in the summer. Smudges were set burning to ward off the millions of mosquitoes and bugs while milking.

Milk was delivered each morning to the cheese factory, a distance of four miles. The factory was owned and operated by T. B. Miller.

Wild fruit was plentiful, we picked blueberries, strawberries, saskatoons, currants

Gust Kalaputas homestead house east of Benalto

and gooseberries. We almost lived on wild fruit during the summer It was a glad change to the dry fruit diet of prunes, apples, and apricots. Fresh fruit was only available in the store during the summer and this consisted of apples and oranges.

Homesteaders were still arriving, staying with us until finding homesteads further west in the Pitcox (Hespero) area. Some were the Matt Kangas and John Tukkanen families. The house was small but there was always room for a few more.

As the years passed by, fields were larger so the need for a threshing machine was evident. A syndicate was formed, a steam engine and thresher were purchased, which was named the Sambo. The shareholders supplied the bundle teams and men, also the grain haulers, counting 18 men in all. The machine operators were hired, as was the water monkey The water man had two wagons with a 400 gallon tank on each wagon drawn by four horses. He was the busiest man on the outfit. He pumped water into the tank by hand and sometimes had to haul water quite a distance from creeks or lake. Farmers had water wells but pumped water by hand so it was easier to obtain water somewhere else.

The cooks were also a busy lot. Food preparation went on for days ahead Few homes had extra dishes, so dishes were borrowed from the neighbors. Those were happy days. Harvest involved hard work and long hours but no one complained.

The flu epidemic hit the district in 1918 right in the midst of threshing. Threshing was completed short handed. In some homes the whole family was stricken. Neighbors were called on to feed the threshing crew My sister Ada and Dad were the two in our family who escaped the flu They were milking cows and doing chores for neighbors and tending to their care December 19, 1918, tragedy struck our home when Mother passed away at the age of 44 years. This left Dad with three of us in school but we seemed to manage with the help of kindly neighbors, Mrs Matt Lund, Mrs Matt Wuori, the Aug Hasteins, Sahas and several others

Dad farmed for a number of years before selling the farm to Charlie Jenkins in 1925 and retiring to Sylvan Lake, passing away on January 17, 1941

Mother and Dad were both laid to rest in the Kuusamo cemetery

The family consisted of eight children four girls and four boys

Elmer Waino the eldest, born April 21, 1896. Elmer was married to Anna Bay and they lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota. After Anna passed away Elmer moved to Newport, Washington. where he resided until his passing on December 9, 1972. He is buried in the veteran plot of the Newport cemetery

Mamie Willina, born February 6, 1898, attended Melita School. She is presently living in Vancouver and she is married to Charles Hoicka

Charles Gust, born March 29, 1900, attended Melita School and after leaving home operated a hotel in Orofino, Idaho. Charlie passed away August, 1951, and is buried in Spokane, Washington

Matt Arvid, born August 31, 1902, attended Melita School Matt is married to Hazel McFaul the eldest daughter of Russell and Rosie McFaul of Red Deer Matt worked for the C N R., retiring to Sylvan Lake where he presently resides. They have two children, Sheila Dawn (Mrs. Harvey Wylie) of Rocky Mountain House. Sheila has two daughters Becky Dawn and Stacey Lynn John Richard lives in Red Deer

Ada Elida, born January 3, 1905, attended Melita and Kuusamo schools, married Albert Proudler of Ontario. They lived in Sylvan Lake for a number of years before moving to Caroline where Albert sold real estate and was justice of the peace. Albert and Ada had two children Donald Ivan Francis is transit superintendent for the city of Red Deer, married to Barbara Thomas of Stettler They have two sons, Steven and David Charles. Dorothy Mae, an R N , was a Captain in the R.C.A.F until retiring last year She lives with her mother in Victoria, B C. Albert passed away January 25, 1955, and is buried in the Red Deer Cemetery

John Eric, born August 21, 1907, attended Kuusamo school. He served with the R C A F during World War II John married Eva Mathias of Saunders Creek. They lived at Hammond, B C Their daughter Mary Ann (Mrs Barry Short) of Toronto has three sons Graham, Frazer and Duncan. Judith Margaret (Mrs Brian Crossett) is living on Vancouver Island, and has two children. John passed away October 19, 1949. and is buried in the veterans' plot of the Haney cemetery

Sylvia Katherine, born June 2, 1911, attended Kuusamo and Eckville schools. She is married to Charles Thorkman of Eckville. They have farmed in the Saima district since their marriage. Charles and Sylvia have five daughters. Betty Marie (Mrs. M. Leo Silbernagel) of Calgary, took her schooling at Saima, Red Deer, going on to receive her R.N at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Betty has three sons, Peter Charles, Jerry Stuart and Dale Allan. Margaret Eileen (Mrs. Morley Grose) of Clive, took her schooling at Saima. Eckville and Red Deer, going on to take her B.Ed. at the U of A. She has two sons, Warren Keith and David Wesley June Bernice (Mrs Doug Nelson) of Calgary, attended Saima, Eckville and Red Deer schools, going on to the University of Alberta to receive her Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and her Bachelor of Education She has three children, Phillip Douglas, [illegible] Daryl Jay, Kelly Gay

Jean Edith Elida (Mrs. David Williams) of Kitimat, B.C. attended the Saima and Eckville schools. Jean is loans manager with the Royal

Bank. She had four children, Gregory Gene, Katherine Ann, Robert David, Patrick Allan. Greg passed away May, 1977. Fern Catherine, (Mrs. Glenn Skocdopole) attended school at Salma, Eckville and Edmonton. She has four children, twins Steven Charles and Susan Catherine, Carla Jean and Gerald Edward.

Frances Louise, born November 15, 1914, attended Kuusamo and Sylvan Lake schools. She is married to Rupert Griffith, formerly of Ridgewood district. They have five children and live at Peace River. Florence (Mrs. Wilfred Chateau) of Fairview has five children. Jean (Mrs. Laverne Knox) of Peace River has five children. Mae (Mrs. Henry Desanio) of Manning has three children. Beverly (Mrs. Russell Lowe) of Peace River has two sons. Lee and Blaine reside in Peace River.

**KINNA, ARTHUR AND BUCHANAN, V.B**

Music played a central role in a great many pioneer families and so it was within the Kinna home. At an early age in Estonia, Arthur Kinna showed exceptional promise as a violinist and his father, John Kinna, who taught him his first notes, sent him away to study. When the family immigrated to Eckville during Arthur's fourteenth year, his interest in music continued. Together, with other members of the family, the Kinna orchestra played for many community events. The first gramophone in the district was owned by Henry Kinna who requested Arthur to choose an excellent selection of records. These records were a great source of instructions in Arthur's musical education and he eventually played with the Calgary Symphony Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. On one occasion while playing violin in a Calgary concert, the American guest soloist failed to appear. As Arthur was the only one who knew the selection, he filled the gap admirably.

Although earning a living had to be of primary concern, Arthur's first love was the violin and such pupils as Johanna Schuneman (not sure about the name) gave him a great satisfaction. The family mail contract from Red Deer to Burnt Lake, Evarts, and Eckville required trips three times weekly, sometimes in adverse weather conditions.

In 1921, Arthur married Emma Gudmundson who taught school in the districts of Beaverflats, Sylvan Lake, Kuusamo, and Estonia. While teaching at Estonia school, she boarded with the Moos family, close neighbors of Kinnas. They began the operations of a general store and Post Office in Benalto in partnership with V.B. Buchanan who had married Arthur's sister, Minnie Kinna.

Education for pioneer families presented many problems. Those with a foreign mother tongue were probably the most eager to advance their learning and Minnie was no exception. With drive and ambition Minnie completed her grade 12 in Red Deer working for her board and won this distinction written on the fly leaf of POEMS OF LONGFELLOW — Presented by the Alberta Women's Association to Minnie Kinna for having made the greatest progress in Grade Eleven of the Red Deer High School during the year ending July, 1912. After completing Normal School she taught in many districts until her marriage to Varley Buchanan, who was a native of Ontario, coming west to work in the Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Minnie Buchanan was a well respected and ardent worker in the Benalto community affairs.

After dissolving the partnership of Buchanan and Kinna, the Buchanans operated the Benalto Hotel until Minnie's death in 1942. Their son Jack continued in the hotel after his discharge from the R.C.A.F. and he and his sister Mona subsequently sold the business to L. Billings. Jack moved to Brantford, Ontario to be with his father until Jack's death in 1962. Mona married Harold Crawford of Red Deer and their two children Debra and Jack live in Red Deer. Mona died in 1973.

Tragedy struck the Arthur Kinna family in 1928 when, after a very short illness, Arthur died leaving two small children, Ruth and William. Emma continued the business and was once again bereaved when in 1930 William died. As with all small communities each individual is called on to make contributions to civic affairs and Emma endeavored to do so with work in the Red Cross, Booster Club, Ladies Aid, and School Board.

Ruth was the first girl child born in the hamlet and in 1944 married Don Wilkes of Lacombe, Alberta, who was on leave from five years service with the R.C.A.F. After his second return from overseas in 1945, he purchased the Kinna store and operated it until 1963 when they sold it to W. Rozen of Red Deer.

Both Don and Ruth served the hamlet of Benalto and area for these years in the Booster Club, Agricultural Society, Curling Club, Boy Scouts, and Presbyterian Church. Three children were born to them, Gregin 1946, Donald in 1948, and Mona in 1960. Moving from Benalto in 1963, they resided in Fairview for seven years and now live in Peterborough, Ontario.

**LARSEN FARM — by Sylvia Larsen**

In the spring of 1953 Evald and Sylvia Larsen purchased the N 36-38-3-W5 from Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Raunio (former Huhtala farm). We had one son Kenneth at the time and were blessed with another son Ronald in 1955. When we bought the farm Evald noticed an old snow plow and he thought, how handy that will be for snow plowing around the yard, never realizing that living three-quarters of a mile off the main road it was a real necessity in order to get out in the winter. Another discovery was the fact that clay soil baked after a rain making it hard for seeds to penetrate, making it difficult indeed to grow a crop. After many years of grass rotation this

obstacle has been overcome. Many good times are remembered haying with the Wylies, and always being able to depend on Harvey and Bob for help. Cattle and pigs were a big source of income. Evald was active in the Farmers Union and many an interesting meeting was held at our house

Another quarter of land in the Diamond Valley district was purchased. Ken and Ron had [illegible] ing in Benalto, Sylvan Lake, Red Deer College and Calgary and Edmonton universities. Evald passed away November, 1976 Ken and Ron and myself are still on the farm

**LONGAIR FAMILY — by Ernest Longair**

The Longair family moved to Benalto from Edmonton in 1933. Jobs were scarce in Edmonton so my father, James Longair, moved his family to Benalto to work in my uncle's, Herman Schmidek's general store. Herman Schmidek operated a general store, the Benalto Store, and the Imperial Oil bulk plant Having one good hand and a hook, he was able to roll barrels of fuel around with amazing dexterity, combining the two. Fuel was delivered to the surrounding district in his Chevrolet truck. Gasoline was available at the store from two pumps If the customers arrived too early, it was appreciated if they pumped up their own gas for filling up their cars Both were hand pumps with overflows at the top for zeroing the gallons. Customers received more for their money on cold days than during summer afternoons, after the gas has heated. Oil for the cars was poured into large metal pouring cans for transfer to the cars While cars were fairly common, horses with wagons and sleighs were seen driving through town in at least equal numbers. Something that always fascinated me was the Finnish families from north of Benalto coming to town in winter using homemade skiis or pushing along, on one foot, a two runnered sleigh with a chair arranged for passengers. These too were handmade with typical Finnish mastery

As I was six years old, I gathered my lunch, and enrolled in the Melita School, one mile from Benalto on the Sylvan Lake highway There were approximately 27 students in the one room school under the direction of Miss Myrtle McLean. The following year Miss Annie Anderson became the school teacher, much to the delight of most of the boys. This attractive lady walked to and from her home farm one-half mile west of the school Water was carried in pails therefore proper respect was paid to this valuable commodity One pail usually lasted the school for the day The furnace was in the back of the school, surrounded by a large metal guard so that people wouldn't accidently burn themselves. Coal was burned, usually handy in a coal scuttle, sitting beside the furnace Pouring more coal into the fire was always a pleasant diversion when class got boring. As all grades were in the same room, one to eight, if your particular lesson wasn't too fascinating you could always listen in on what other classes were doing. At recess we quickly organized a softball game, playing scrub with one bat and one ball No one owned a glove for several years until Arnold Anderson finally appeared with one. Needless to say, ownership of such a valuable piece of equipment carried considerable clout Our school used to compete occasionally against Kuusamo School, about four miles east. After the softball season, anti aye over the school, provided entertainment during the recess period. Pum-pum-pull away from the east fence and the school also filled in time After the afternoon recess, time dragged until school was out at 3 30. Occasional breaks would come when a black Plymouth from Sylvan Lake used to roar by with horn tooting and dust flying from the gravelled highway Max Simpson was at the wheel, which explained Miss Anderson's blush and the students' interest in watching her degree of redness. A few years later we lost her completely to him as they were married and lived in Sylvan Lake

Millie Halstein, who played the piano, assisted Miss Anderson with the Christmas program. With this virtuoso came problems, at least for the boys, for the Christmas concert was to be in the form of an operetta. The whole school has to participate Most boys would have sooner died than sing in public. Three of us boys were to be the witch s helpers and were to take the princess, Mona Buchanan, by the hand and sing a little ditty as we led her to the witch Well, here was competition to hold her hand. but silence when it came time for the ditty However Miss Halstein and Mildred Anderson decided on a psychological approach, and when one of us made a peep the praise received was too much for the rest of us to stand so we decided to outdo the other by singing even louder From then on we had volume but I'm not sure about the notes The pinnacle of courage was reached by one of the boys who had to sing solo to the tune of "My Grandfather's Clock". Listening to Miss Halstein play the piano was a delight until shattered by your turn to sing The play was presented at Christmas but my memories of Christmas concerts were more than that, as we got a bag of candy and a present from the school board, free Presents were given from a list which each student submitted. I wanted a knife one year but was turned down as it was too war-like, I received a gun instead

With the building of the new two roomed school in Benalto, Melita was on borrowed time Grades 1 to 6 were held in Melita while the senior grades were held in Benalto. When the Benalto School was completed all the students moved into it. Now Grade 9 was offered at Benalto, and my brother Arthur for one, was able to continue his schooling, going to Grade 9. Abandoning Melita also saw the end of wending your way to school through the snow in winter, with the lowest temperature I can remember being -60°F

There were frozen noses that morning. Some could ride Johnson's sleigh for five cents. The rest of us walked. Gone too were the detours through Anderson's and Harry Hambly's woods in search of magpie eggs. One cent was paid for [illegible] eggs and two cents for crows' eggs. Five cents were paid for feet. Needless to say, we waited for the young to hatch to collect the extra bounty. Yellow lady's slippers and tiger lilies could be enjoyed along the railway right-of-way.

Our home in Benalto was the rented two room C.P.R. house. A wood heater, a few feet from the beds, provided warmth. The kitchen stove warmed the other room. The trees behind provided the fuel. Later, when Herman Schmidek sold his store to Swan Anderson, my father operated the store for Swan. My uncle left to run a service station in Vancouver about 1935. After working in the store for about a year, my parents went to work for Frank Jenkins on his piggery. After about one year there, we shared a house with Harry Hambly. My brother and I were caretakers at the school, receiving a total of $12 per month for our services. July and August were no pay months. Harry's rent was very reasonable and he allowed us a garden, pasture for a cow, and a house for some chickens. With our annual $100 for essentials, we were able to get by with the meat, milk and vegetables we could provide. Hunting beer bottles at 10 cents per dozen, provided for any extras such as 22 shells at 25c for 50. These provided the odd fool's hen or rabbit. Baths were rather scarce but Saturday night steam baths at Swan Anderson's were a god-send. Besides, Mrs. Anderson always provided the best coffee and cake for lunch afterwards.

About 1937 my best friend, Arnold Anderson, came down with diabetes. As we were in Grade 4 or 5 at the time, the disease didn't mean that much, except that Arnold had to take insulin, test his urine, and eat special candies. The candies may have been special but they still tasted good as he always shared a few with the rest of us.

In 1939, as we left the Baptist Church one morning, someone said Canada was at war. All that meant to me was that my Dad, who had been in the first World War, might be sent away and be shot. It worried me but that was all the war meant.

During the fall of 1939 my mother, Agnes Longair, received a letter informing her that she had been appointed matron of the Wood's Christian Home at Bowness, just west of Calgary. We were to receive $75 per month plus free room and board. This was nearly the same as we had been receiving per year. It seemed unbelievable. This meant we would have to sell our belongings which we had moved from one place to another. What we lacked in quality, we made up for in quantity. We finally held an auction sale at Harry Hambly's and sold our possessions. The next morning we caught the train and left for Calgary. Harry Hambly very kindly volunteered to take our two dogs Buster and Trixie. Leaving them was the hardest part for me. The Baptist Church gave us as electric floor lamp and many friends gave us their best wishes.

My father worked at the Wood's Home for three years, then to the airport at De Winton for the remainder of the war. We moved to Calgary where we attended high school. My brother Arthur enlisted in the Signal Corps and then transferred to the Air Force. I finished school and went to work for Calgary Power.

Both my parents died in Calgary, my father in 1962 and my mother in 1970. My brother is teaching high school in Calgary and I am teaching high school in Lethbridge.

Some events that might be of interest nowadays was Pastor Gibbon's winter baptism service. Pastor Gibbon's six foot frame carried on a variety of tasks from cutting (thinning — the clippers pulled every second hair out by the roots) hair, preaching and filling horse troughs with water for "saving" his congregation from the fiery furnace. Anyway, I didn't think I should chance the furnace so I decided to be baptized just in case. Well, Pastor Gibbons borrowed the horse trough from Sterling's hardware and filled it with water pumped by hand and heated on his stove. By Sunday evening the trough was ready and his volunteers had showed up in a variety of wettable get-ups. As the pump organ wheezed out a tune, and the congregation sang, each one of us was dunked under, brought up again and hastily sent to the manse for dry clothes. He deserves honors for enthusiasm anyway. I noticed the next baptism was held in the Medicine River in June.

One other highlight was our trip with the school children from as far west as Rocky Mountain House to see the Queen in Edmonton. We were to see street cars for the first time and a real, live Queen. Well we found our seats along the parade route and soon the Queen came by. We were, disappointingly tired but we didn't give up and rushed off to see her again at other points along the route. Altogether I saw her three times and to me she was as beautiful as queens should be. The train carried its load of tired kids home, getting us home about 10 P.M. We weren't concerned about Canada's political problems, we had just seen our Queen with our very own eyes.

**THE HISTORY OF LOUGHEED'S GENERAL STORE — by Ralph and Mae Lougheed**

On Lots one and two, on Main Street in Benalto, a small building was erected, which was the home of the Imperial Bank. The late Stan Hooker was the first and last manager to run the bank. (Stan always came back to the annual bonspiels held in Benalto, to renew acquaintances whenever he could get away.) After the bank closed down Emil Brodersons started a grocery store, which he operated for about three years. O. C. Hansen then had the store for the

next seven years. He enlarged the building and made the upstairs into living quarters

In 1934 Jack Simpson purchased the building and his two boys made some more additions to it Gordon and Jim were the storekeepers until 1937, when Jack Robinson purchased the store and carried on the grocery business. He in turn sold out in 1939 to Alf Foster. Alf and Thelma Foster, their children, Joyce, Dorothy and Jim (now Attorney General of Alberta) continued in the grocery business. They renovated the living quarters and also added the Cockshut farm equipment agency to the business. Later Alf Foster was Cominco agent for fertilizer

In 1945 Howard and Helen Mullen purchased the store, but carried on for only a year before selling out to Ralph and Arnold Lougheed. The Lougheeds came from a little town of Sibbald, in eastern Alberta, having left with the family in "the dirty thirties" to settle in Caroline, and later in Condor Arnold served overseas in the R.C.A F. and when he came back he joined Ralph for a short stint in the grocery business which was now known as "Lougheed's General Store."

Arnold still felt the call of a military life, and after a year or so he rejoined the air force. He spent the rest of his career in the R C.A F. and since his retirement he has been working for the Douglas Printing Company in Edmonton.

Ralph and his wife Mae, the former Mae Larsen of Bentley, carried on the business for the next 30 years. The business prospered through the many years, several additions were made. and in 1958 a complete renovation took place. with a 14-foot extension being added to the building It now had a complete new concept, both in the store and upstairs. Modern new fixtures were put in and self-serve was introduced in the grocery section.

By this time the fertilizer business was expanding and Ralph introduced the custom spreading of fertilizer to his customers. This practice proved beneficial for both farmers and the business. It wasn't long before our business was among the top fertilizer sales outlets. One year we won the sales contest sponsored by Cominco Fertilizer

In 1967 the nitrogen fertilizer anhydrous ammonia, was introduced to our Benalto farmers and those of the west country Our sales required five 45-foot applicators and two truck tankers to supply it to the farmers

In 1971 a new venture started when the Blindman Valley Propane Association awarded us the contract to deliver propane to their customers This gave us a great opportunity, as we already had the tankers to use In the spring we hauled ammonia, and during the rest of the year we hauled propane. Our sales territory reached from Caroline in the southwest to Innisfail on the east, and as far as Ponoka in the north. This took in about 750 customers. We consider this one of the largest ventures we ever took on, and we give special credit to the capable help that Ralph Dowler gave in managing the fleet of seven trucks.

We were fortunate, as Cominco built us an elevator, complete with a blender, for our fertilizer This made it possible for us to supply the proper blends of fertilizer which the farmers needed

In 1967 we acquired the post office. Elenor Windrum had joined the staff as full time bookkeeper, and assistant post-master. Barbara Nielsen, who was on staff for 15 years, was a great credit to the store in her position as manager of the grocery department At peak seasons there were as high as eight or nine people on staff

In January, 1974 the store and post office was sold to Jack and Pat Knowles, and in September, 1976 Ralph Dowler bought the fertilizer and propane business, which he is presently continuing to operate

Ralph and Mae built a new home in Benalto, where they are retired (or trying to be!)

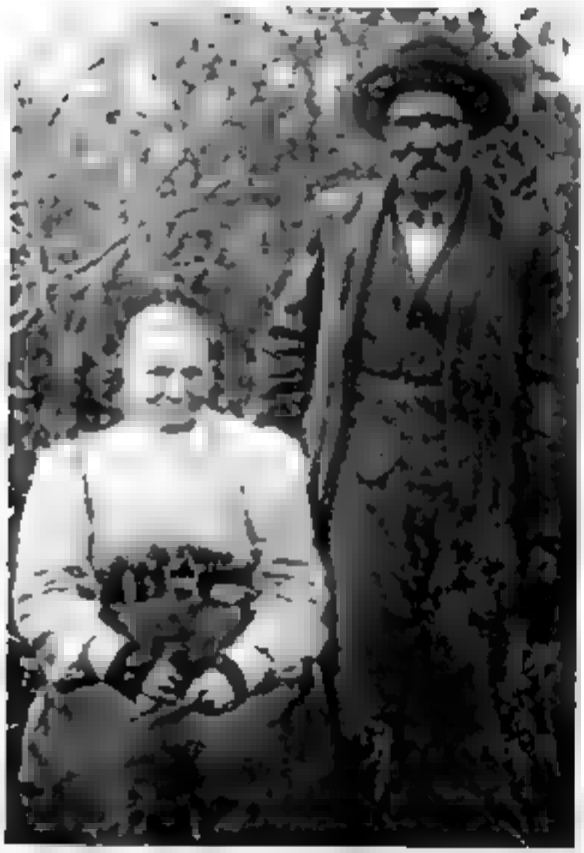
Their first years in Benalto Mae and Ralph Lougheed and Lillian Larsen

**ISAAC AND ANNA LUOMA — by Ken Laitila**

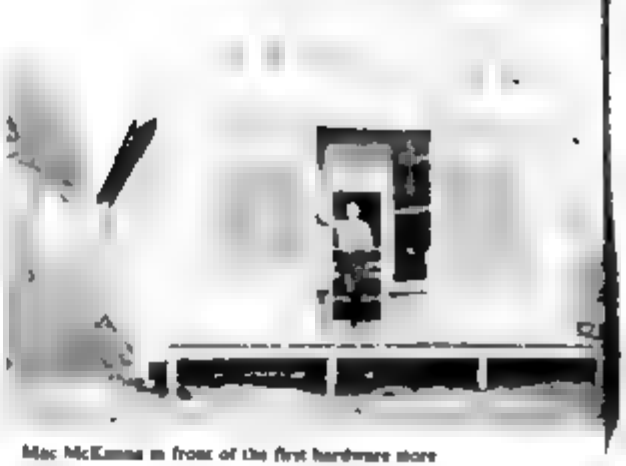
Isaac and Anna Luoma came from Wyoming, U.S.A. around 1907 or 1908. They filed on a homestead on NE 12-39-3-W5. Later they sold this land and bought 40 acres on SE 14-39-3-W5, in 1913. They began building the house that same year, but the completion of the house was delayed by Isaac's passing in November They had no children

In 1915 their niece, Eva Sylvia Laituri, came to live with Anna Eva had been born to John and Tekla Laituri in Almy, Wyoming, U.S.A. on May 13, 1907 She moved with her family to a homestead in the Oras area prior to moving to Eckville. She started her schooling at Melita school and finished in Eckville

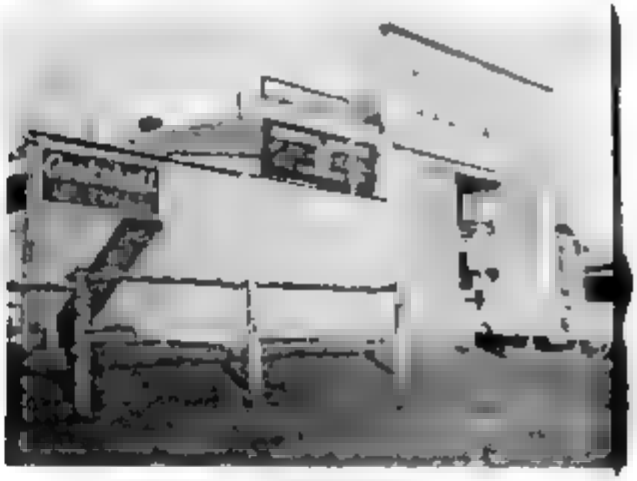
Anna Luoma passed away in January, 1935. leaving the place to Eva Sylvia Laituri.



Anna and Isaac Lemna.



Mac McKanna in front of the first hardware store



Benalto Hardware Store with additions, 1934.

**McKANNA, CARY AND McKENZIE, JACK FAMILIES — by Mac (Bennett) McKenzie and Lucille (McKanna) Ferry**

In the spring of 1922 Jack McKenzie and "Mac" McKanna of Vulcan, Alberta, went to Benalto, Alberta as partners in the first hardware store there. Jack left a position with the Bank of Hamilton in Vulcan and Mac had been farming in the same area. They were greatly assisted in their new venture by the Benalto Booster Club, of which Frank Jenkins was the president at that time. The store, plus living quarters at the rear, was soon erected by the two partners and many local volunteers. Even though it was not quite finished, they opened for business in about eight month's time. Their business was called the "McKenzie and McKanna Hardware".

It so happened that at that time Jack and Mac were courting two sisters, Mae and Irene Bennett, also of Vulcan. I (Mae) was employed with the Canadian Bank of Commerce there, and Irene was teaching school in the same area. Naturally our interest in the boys' success was keen, and, had it been necessary, we would have been with them, pounding nails. However, everything seemed to fall into place and as a result Jack and I were married on October 25, 1922 and Irene and Mac were married one month later.

We spent two very happy years in Benalto. Everyone was community-minded, and most anxious to see progress. The yearly mid-summer Stampede, the baseball games, dances and the weekly picture shows all helped to make life more enjoyable.

In 1924 Jack's mother, who owned and operated the Nanton Hotel in Nanton, needed help in managing the business, so we had to dissolve the partnership in the hardware store. We were sorry to have to leave Benalto, but we did return for visits in the years to follow.

Mac and Irene continued in the hardware business for another two years, then the Atlas Lumber Company bought them out. Mac then took on the agency of grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company and moved to Elspeth, in that capacity. He was transferred in 1926 to Spring Coulee, and then to Nobleford about 1938, where he continued to operate as a grain buyer until his retirement in 1954. They continued to live in Nobleford and Irene resumed her teaching career at Noble Central School as a teacher

of Grade I. After Mac's death on September 23, 1958 at the age of 77 years, Irene continued teaching there for another year before moving to Lethbridge. From Lethbridge she commuted to Sunnyside School, about seven miles out of Lethbridge. She was ill for about three years before her passing on December 15, 1964, at the age of 67 years. She is buried beside her husband in Archmount Memorial Gardens in Lethbridge.

The children of Mac and Irene were Lucille Jean and Robert. Both Lucille and Jean were born in the family home in Benalto with Jean Barton in attendance as midwife. Robert was born in the Bassano Hospital while the family lived at Countess. Lucille started school in Countess and Jean Barton was her first grade teacher. Jean and Bob started school in Spring Coulee. Lucille (now Mrs. William Perry of Chin, Alberta) became a school teacher and taught for 18 years. Her family consists of one daughter, Lynda, who lives in Whitehorse, Y.T., and three sons, Kent, Donald, and Cameron, all living in the Coaldale area. Jean married Bob Welsh of Nobleford, who was a farmer. Prior to her marriage she had attended Garbutt Business School in Calgary and had worked in Washington, D.C. in the United States, for the British Government during the war. She had two children, Barbara and Barry. She now lives in Calgary. Robert married Millicent Speaker of Lethbridge, where they still reside. Bob was a member of the Lethbridge City Police Force for a number of years, then was deputy warden at the Lethbridge Provincial Gaol. After a time he left this position to become assistant manager of Capital Furniture in Lethbridge. They had four children: Sandra, living in Calgary, (one girl who died in infancy), Kevin, a radio announcer in Winnipeg, and Cary, living at home.

To Jack and Mae McKenzie, only one child was born, a son, Gordon. He enlisted and served time in the Navy during the last war. He was married to Joyce Noble of Calgary in 1945, and they have three fine sons. Jack passed away in 1953. I have continued to live in Calgary since that time.

**MELITA SCHOOL — by Annie M. Simpson**

The North West Territories Gazette Vol. 2-3 records the date of the establishment of the Melita School District, No. 1458, of the North West Territories, as February 10, 1906. In the Alberta Gazette, Vol. 2 — 15, it is recorded that permission to borrow $1000 for the purpose of fencing the site, building a school house, erecting a woodhouse and other outbuildings was given on July 26, 1906.

The school was located on one acre of land of the SW 6-39-2-W5, which had been donated for the purpose by the late Isaac Johnson, then living less than half of a mile north of the school site. This was a central location for the several families who had children of school age. In the records of the Department of Education, the district was named Melita, after a girl named Melita, who became the first secretary-treasurer of the district. However, according to information received from the late Isaac Johnson's son, Lester Johnson, the name Melita was chosen from a list of names sent out by the government. This would seem more probable, as not one of the early settlers interviewed has heard of anyone in the surrounding area named Melita.

The Matchetts, who lived on the south side of Eckville, built the school. John Warwick hauled building material by team from Red Deer, and perhaps some of the lumber was also purchased from a sawmill which was in operation west of Evarts.

The first school board consisted of Messrs. William Wylie, Frederick Woodmancy and Isaac Johnson, with Mr. R. L. Abel as the secretary-treasurer.

There are no written records of any kind available, but according to information gained from the early residents, the first pupils were Onni and Mary Koskinen, Robert Wylie (now in the U.S.), Orrin Wylie (now a farmer in the Benalto district), Viola Wylie (Mrs. Max Lightbown now of Sylvan Lake), Ella Wylie (Mrs. Peter Carlyle of Happy Hill), Emma Wuobio (the late Mrs. E. Niemela, Benalto), Euphemia Hietala (the late Mrs. L. Kingsep, of Summerland, B.C.), Henry Hietala (a farmer in the Eckville district), David Falconer, Kate Abel, David, Philmore and Lester Johnson, Harry, Gordon and Earl Trimmer (who resided with their grandparents, the Isaac Johnsons), Ida Aho (taught school in Finland afterwards), Lizzie Koski (the late Mrs. Kemila, of Eckville), Elmer, Mamie, Charlie, Matt, Ada Kalaputas (Matt of Sylvan Lake, Elmer and Charlie deceased. Mamie now Mrs. Charles Holeka of Vancouver and Ada Proudler of Victoria, B.C.), Walfred Kujala (a farmer in the Kuusamo district until his death), Lillian and Mary Kujala (deceased), Emil Mattson (farmer in the Kuusamo district), George Mattson (deceased), Sauna Ropsfelt (the late Mrs. R. Kangas of Hespero), Selma Pitkanen, Luella, John and Kasper McCardle.

Some of these pupils were from the Kuusamo district and attended Melita School for only a short period of time. When the new Kuusamo School was built at a more central location they began attending school there instead of at Melita.

The first teacher at Melita School was Miss Annie McGregor (the late Mrs. Oswald Forhan, of Eckville) who taught there for two years. She received her teacher training at the Provincial Normal School at Truro, Nova Scotia in 1901 and 1902, and came to the West, to join her friend, the late Mrs. J. Killick, who was then teaching at Evarts.

An amusing incident occurred when Miss McGregor was teaching at Melita School. Mr

Wylie, a trustee, had the occasion to write Miss McGregor a letter, inviting her to accompany the family on a picnic to Sylvan Lake. She answered the letter promptly, but, by mistake, sent him the wrong letter — a love letter written to her by her fiance, Mr. Forhan, regarding their forthcoming marriage. Great was her embarrassment when Mr. Wylie returned the letter to her, in person.

Following Miss McGregor many teachers served the Melita school, but one especially, Mr. J. M. McDonald (later of Eckville) left a lasting imprint on the memories of his pupils. He taught at Melita first in the summer months of 1912. In January of 1914 he enrolled in the Calgary Normal School but returned to Melita in June, and continued teaching there until 1918. He initiated exchange softball games with Bluebell and Kuusamo Schools. The boys were taught how to make excellent bows and arrows from near-by birch trees. These would shoot true for 100 feet, but their use on the school premises was not condoned. To augment his salary as a teacher, Mr. McDonald engaged in several side-line occupations, along with his teaching. He sold insurance and also did considerable "butchering". To the delight of his pupils, he would often dismiss school at 2:00 p.m., or, on occasion, even at 11:00 a.m., to attend to these other duties. On one occasion he dismissed school early because of a threatening storm, and sent the children home. It was well he did, for the children, while still within sight of the school, saw the lightning strike the brick chimney, shatter it, and strew bricks all over the ground. The stove inside the school was also badly damaged.

Melita School, 1915. First row: J. M. McDonald, teacher. Second row: Emma Hietala, Lydia Johnson, John Wylie, Ivy Koskinen, Mary Koskinen, Dave Hietala and Elma Niskanen. Third row: Ellen Koski, Vienna Hietala, Annie Johnson, Evie Koskinen and Ida Wylie. Fourth row: Uno Koskinen, Aune Hietala, Olva Hyvonen, Hilda Wylie, and Irene Wylie.

With none of the old registers or secretary's minutes available, it is impossible to accurately list the teachers who have taught at the Melita School throughout the years. So often the schools were closed for the winter months, with classes held only in the summer, and sometimes several teachers would be hired to teach during one school term. Among those whom I have been able to determine taught at the Melita School for three or more years were: Mr. J. McDonald, Mr. William Code, Mr. William C. Davidson, Mrs. Alma Sterling, Mr. Earle Farris, Mrs. Barbara Goedicke, Mrs. Laura Holsworth, Mrs. Annie Simpson, Mrs. Dorothy Periche and Mrs. Adis Bramall. The Melita School District, as such, was terminated and the Alberta Gazette, Vol. 11, records the change of name to the Benalto School District, No. 1436, as of June 7, 1941. Many of these teachers, of course, served after this change was made.

The school building itself was not completed when school began in the fall of 1906. The pupils sat on planks placed on top of empty nail kegs, and their slates were used on planks serving as desks. Texts were few and included those in arithmetic, grammar, geography and the readers. The school was heated by a square box stove, which often proved to be inadequate in the wintertime. The janitorial work was done by the teacher or pupils.

The students were of various grades and abilities. Some had attended school previously, either at Kuusamo or in the United States, but most of them began in Grade 1. The school term was not the regular 10-month one as we have now, but depended on the weather and the available teacher supply. Pupils often attended school in July and August. The attendance itself was sporadic, as the need for an education was, by many, not considered of prime importance, and the transportation of children to the school was often a problem, too. Walter Johnson stated that he had attended school for 220 days in five years — only 22 days in one of those years! The [illegible]ies came across country two miles by horse and "stone-boat". Walfred Kujala related how they drove a mule and a home-made cutter to school and lodged the mule in the wood-shed during school hours. The mule often chewed through the tie-rope, then wandered home by himself, leaving the children stranded, so they would have to walk the five miles home. Jennie Woodmancy had a novel method of getting to school — she rode in a sleigh pulled by a big black and white dog for her two and one half mile trip. Mr. Hyvonen related how he, too, used a sled to transport his son, Olva, to school. It was attached by a lariat to the saddle of the horse which he himself rode to the school.

Discipline in those early days was more rigorous than it is now. Some of the pupils were bent on mischief and would "get the strap" almost every day. However, some of the teachers used slightly different methods of corporal punishment. Miss Coughlin taught several "lively" boys, among them Fred and Ted Heikkinen, Ted Johnson, and Olva Hyvonen. These boys she would send as a body, across the fence to the willow patches with the command,

"Cut yourself a gad." They did, and on their return, she would forthwith administer the punishment

Fighting among the boys was common. One loyal lad saved his brother from a forthcoming pen-knife wound by hurling a brick at the offending party, thereby rendering him unconscious Live gophers and dead mice placed in the desk drawers of teachers, especially the female ones, added excitement to the day On one occasion the two Timmer boys, aged 10 and 12 years, brought to school two real six-shooters, which they had brought with them from the United States The firing pins often jammed as they would shoot live bullets at targets as well as at each other — a type of Russian roulette, which, miraculously had no tragic results!

Recreation was not forgotten. During the winters skating was enjoyed on a nearby pond. Ball games were common during the warm weather, as well as various other outdoor games Sometimes the ball teams of one school would compete with those of another school. After a few years the well at the Melita school became infested with gophers, and the pupils eagerly vied for turns to make the noon-hour trip to the nearby farm of the late Swan Anderson for their daily pail of water. Dances in the early years were held at the school, not to mention the traditional Christmas concerts, a highlight of the year

The Melita School District had several men and women who devoted many years of their time to being secretaries or trustees of the school. Among the secretaries were Messrs. R Abel, Mr J. W. Slack (who for many years served simultaneously as secretary-treasurer of the Melita, Kuusamo, and Evarts schools He collected the school taxes, which were about $10 to $20 a year per quarter section of land.), V Buchanan, J. Simpson and Mrs. F Barhan. Among the trustees were. I. Johnson, W Wylie, F Woodmancy, A. Huhtala, I. Hyvonen, J Warwick, P. Niskanen, J. Heikkinen and S Anderson. At the time the Melita School District was transferred into the Rocky Mountain School Division, No. 15, on October 16, 1937, the school board consisted of Mrs. Emma Kinna, Everett Nielsen, and Guy Barhan, with A. Norton as secretary. Subsequently, with its transfer to the Red Deer School Division, No. 35, on December 30, 1954, and to the Red Deer County No. 23, on January 1, 1963, Mr George Sterling has served as official trustee

The district of Benalto, whose name the school later acquired, was named, about 1911, by a CPR surveyor during the time the rail line was built through to Rocky Mountain House "Ben Nevis" is Scotch for "hill", and "Alto" is Latin for "high", hence the name, as Benalto is situated on a hill overlooking the CPR tracks

The new Benalto school, itself, was built by Waterman and Waterbury, contractors from Regina. The school was a frame building covered with insul-brick siding, with the materials supplied mostly by the Atlas Lumber Company, of Benalto. The first teachers to serve in the new school were Laimie Maki and A Franklin Van Horne. It was during that year, 1938-1939, that the teachers and their classes planted the Russian poplars, which are now such effective shade trees, on the east side of the school.

In 1952 the Kuusamo School was centralized at Benalto, which required the building of two more rooms. Mrs. Laura Holsworth and Mrs. Barbara Goedicke were added to the teaching staff In 1954, with the additional centralization of Diamond Valley school, a room in the basement was converted to a classroom and Mrs. Annie Simpson joined the staff Old Hola, New Centreville, New Hill, and Happy Hill were centralized in 1957 and Evarts School in 1959, and Mrs. Dorothy Periche was added to the staff then

In 1961, with the addition of Mr Ivan Jenkins plus Mrs. Alma Sterling, who had commenced teaching in Benalto in 1940, and Mr Earle Farris, who had begun in 1944, the staff was enlarged to six members with instruction in Grades 1 to 10. In the intervening years between 1938-1961, Grades 1 to 10 or 11 had been taught During this time the students in Grades 11 or 12 had completed their education, for the most part, at the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer, and in the period 1958 to 1963 had been supplied transportation there by a county bus. In 1962 the Grade 9 and the high school students began attending Sylvan Lake School and were provided with a bus for this purpose At this time the Benalto School reverted again to teaching only Grades 1 to 8 and to four classrooms. By 1969, with decreasing enrollments, only three room were in operation With the retirement of Mrs. Alma Sterling in 1971 the school reverted to two rooms, in which Grades 1 to 6 are now being [illegible] The present staff consists of Mrs Annie Simpson and Mrs. Ardis Bramall

The Superintendents who have served the district are Mr. Boyce, Mr. Dwyer, Mr Gibson, Mr McLean, Mr L Thurber, Mr H R. Ross, Mr F Barnes, Mr. A. F Deverall, Mr. E. Read. Mr S. A. Lindstedt, Mr R. V McCullough, and Mr H Hall

Many former students of the school have achieved recognition in their various walks of life. The "little red school house" has done its work well

## THE EVERETT NIELSEN FAMILY OF [illegible]

Everett Theodore Nielsen, son of Ole and Elizabeth Nielsen, was born in Wall City, Iowa, U S A. in 1899. He came with his family to Saskatchewan in 1901. In 1919. the family moved to the Evarts district and farmed where Elmer Loyeks now farms.

In 1926, he married the former Lillian Nielsen, daughter of John and Anne Marie

Nielsen. She was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1900. Her family moved to the Olds district in 1902. They moved to the Milner district in 1904, then moved to Bellingham, Washington, U.S.A. in 1912. In 1914, they moved back to Alberta and made their home in the Benalto district. The lumber for their home in this district came from the old Evarts Hotel.

After their marriage Everett and Lillian moved to New Westminster, B.C. where their son, Lorne Melville, was born. They came back to the Benalto district the following year, residing on the Frank Jenkins place, now owned by Will Richmond. Later they lived on the Charlie Jenkins place, now owned by J. McBride, where Everett rented the land.

The Nielsen Boys and sister Mae, 1928. L. to R., Tunnie, Roy, Laurel, Myron, Merle, Orlie, Everett and Mae

Ralph Hambly, Everett and Lillian Nielsen, 1946

In 1932, they moved to the town of Benalto, purchasing the property of Mr. McKanna. Here Everett went into the general trucking business and had the bulk service for British American Oil, later Gulf of Canada.

Everett liked playing ball and was the catcher for the Benalto team. He enjoyed curling, being one of the first curlers in Benalto. For several years he owned a threshing machine and with his crew threshed for farmers in the district. He played in the Markerville Band.

Everett's son Lorne is better known as "Tunnie", getting this nickname from the former Frank Jenkins, after Gene Tunney, the boxer. Lorne attended school at Melita until the Benalto School was built. He went to High school in Dickson and Red Deer. He worked with his father in the trucking and gas business until his father retired in 1971. In 1947 they built a garage and for some years had a general garage service. From 1957 the late Arthur Bowman was mechanic until his passing in 1965. In 1961 they purchased the farm from Carrie Nielsen, wife of Dewey Nielsen, this being the farm of John Nielsen. From 1947 to 1949 Everett, Lorne, Laurel Nielsen and Earl Farris had an orchestra and played for dances in the district.

In 1950 Lorne married the former Lucy Vick, daughter of Edgar and Marie Vick of the New Hill district. Lucy attended school at Hazel Dell and New Hill No. 2 schools, and high school at St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer. Prior to her marriage she worked at the Imperial Bank of Canada in Eckville. They built their home on the property of the late Mr. Buchanan. They have 10 children, six sons, Larry, Terry, Leslie, Ralph, Glen and Jeff and four daughters, Wendy, Brenda, Lorna and Dianne. Brenda was married to Peter Dawley in 1975 and is living in Prince George, B.C.

In 1938, a daughter, Lorraine, came to live with Everett and Lillian. Lorraine took all her schooling in Benalto, then went to work in the Imperial Bank of Canada in Red Deer. In 1955, she married Norman McKenzie of Red Deer. Norm is a chartered accountant and has his own business in Red Deer. In 1973, Norm was president of the Red Deer Chamber of Commerce and is now a Red Deer Alderman. They have two daughters, Debra and Sandra. Debbie was married in October, 1977 to Jim McCutcheon, son of Doug McCutcheon of Sylvan Lake.

**NIELSEN, THE HAP FAMILY—by Betty Nielsen**

I, Betty Nielsen, have lived in Benalto most of my life. I was born in Red Deer on February 12, 1934. (See W. A. Holsworth history.) I lived on a

farm three miles from Benalto for the first two years of my life. After a three-year stay at Teec, (my parents operated a store there), we moved back to Benalto to a farm on the east edge of town when I was five years old.

My earliest memories of Benalto are the station, where my grandparents (Nortons) lived, and a wonderful hand pump on the kitchen cupboard, the train with all its steam, noise and bustle, and the horses at the station hauling the freight. I also remember the board sidewalks and losing pennies and once a quarter, down the cracks.

At school, we felt very smug, as our school was the only one for miles around with indoor plumbing. I went to the Benalto School from Grade 1 to 11, and then to the Red Deer Composite High School for Grade 12. My teachers were Mrs. Sterling, from Grades 1 to 6 and Mr. Farris for Grades 7 to 11. I spent many happy hours playing ball and rehearsing plays.

After completing Grade 12 I took nurses' training for three years at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. I then nursed for two years at the Blood Indian Hospital at Cardston, Alberta.

On December 27, 1957 I married Hap Nielsen from Glenwood. After living in Calgary for a short time then in Three Hills for several years, we returned to Benalto. I nursed at the Eckville Hospital for one year. We then built a house on a wooded acreage on my parents' quarter and near their home. Hap did oil construction work for about six years and then he went into business for himself—"Hap's Construction".

We have five children: Arthur 19, Ann 15, Elizabeth 13, Mary 11, and Christine 10 years old. Quite often the younger ones ask where they will live when they are grown up. For them it is hard to imagine any place better than Benalto. To be honest, I can't imagine any place better, either!

**NIELSEN, LAUREL AND MARY**

In 1919 the Nielsen family moved from Dundurn, Saskatchewan to the family ranch south of Evarts, Alberta. The family was made up of Mr. and Mrs. Nielsen, May, Everett, Orile, twin brothers, Murle and Myron, Laurel and Roy. Later, the family moved to Benalto where they have resided ever since. Laurel and Roy were engaged in a farming partnership for some years.

On July 24, 1948 Laurel and Mary Palm were married in Red Deer. Mary was the youngest daughter of John and Eva Palm of Sylvan Lake. Laural became involved in construction work.

One son, Gary, was born in 1949. He took his education in Benalto and Sylvan Lake. Gary works in the sheet metal trade and is employed at Pincher Creek. Gary and his wife, Karen, have two children, Lori Ann and Darren James.

Laurel has been active in all sports including hockey, baseball and curling. He is a member of the Elks Lodge No. 404, a member of the Benalto Agriculture Society and a member of the Benalto Curling Club. For several years, Laurel has been the caretaker of the local curling rink.

Mary is a member of the Royal Purple and the Benalto Ladies Aid. Her interests centre around her home and family, plants, her yard, and craftwork. For two years, Mary worked in the Eckville Post Office. Next, she was employed for one year by Don Wilkes in his general store in Benalto. Mary worked for seven years for G. R. Lougheed in his Benalto store.

Laurel and Mary celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 24, 1973. Their family and friends put on a program and dance in the Benalto Community Hall. Laurel and Mary are looking forward to enjoying their retirement years in Benalto.

Mary and Laurel Nielsen's Silver Anniversary at Benalto Hall, July 24, 1973

**NIELSEN, MYRON — by Barbara Nielsen**

Myron Nielsen was born in Dundurn Saskatchewan. In 1919 he moved to the Evarts district with his folks. They bought the SE 4-38-2 W5, called the Island Ranch. This farm consisted of nine quarters of grain and hay land. They brought a large herd of good quality Hereford cattle, horses, machinery, a model T Ford and a Maxwell car.

Myron finished his schooling at Evarts. In the spring of 1933 he bought and moved to the John Woods place, SE 20-38-2-W5. He worked on the railroad at Benalto for a few years, also on road work and bridge work. In 1937, Myron married Barbara Murphy of the Diamond Valley district. We have four children, Virginia, a registered nurse, trained at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She nursed at the Edmonton and Red Deer hospitals. She married Marvin Prier, of New Sarepta, and they have two children, Gail and Ross. They farm at New Sarepta.

Wayne was a cowboy and followed the rodeos for a few years. He then managed a garage in Ontario, then took to trucking, going through the States. Wayne is married and has one daughter, Cindy.

The Myron Nielsen Family Back: Virginia, Mervyn and Wayne Front: Myron, Barbara and Raymond. Taken in 1972

Mervyn worked in a garage at Sylvan Lake for a few years. He is now a field supervisor for an oil company. In 1968, he married Penny Garton, and they have a son, Randy. They live on an acreage east of Red Deer.

Raymond lives at home and attends school at Sylvan Lake. In 1962, we sold the farm and bought a house in Benalto. Myron worked out on construction jobs at Red Deer and out west. I worked for Mr. Ralph Lougheed, at the Benalto store for 15 years and later for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knowles. Our children took all their earlier schooling at Benalto.

**AARNE RAYMOND NIEMELA**

Ray Niemela was born in Red Deer on July 15, 1919, the son Eino and Emma (Wuobio) Niemela. He took his elementary education at the Melita School, near Benalto, and Grades 9 and 10 at Kuusamo. For one year he studied motor mechanics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary in 1935-1936.

From a very early age he was interested in scientific agriculture, which proved very fortunate, as he lost his father when only 12 years old, and became the man of the farm from then on. But, his interests expanded to embrace community welfare as well as the business of making a living.

The depression years were happy times as he, along with Howard and Ted Johnson, took an interest in and managed the Young People's Hall group, under the sponsorship of the Loyal Finns of Canada. They raised enough money to install a maple hardwood dance floor, even with their 35 cent admission charges. There was fun galore, everyone was welcome, and attendance was good. Very often the Roth family orchestra of Red Deer provided the music.

A highlight of the Young People's group was the operation of the STAR ball club, with Ray acting as manager. There was never a shortage of players, rules were strict, and closely adhered to. One season, 33 games were played, and only one was lost. But, in 1939 war broke out, men were called up, and a happy strong relationship came to an end.

In the winter Ray played hockey with the Palm Bay Hockey Club, on the ice of the Sylvan Lake North shore. He also played with the Benalto Hockey Club. These were the days when young fellows had to depend on their own resources and ingenuity to indulge in such sports. Government handouts were, as yet, unknown and the boys, with their own hands, created the facilities which made their play possible.

But, after all, work is the essence of a farmer's life. Ever at the forefront in adopting progressive methods, Ray, very early, decided that the day of the horse was nearly gone, he bought his first tractor, a Twin City, 3-plow machine, in 1936, costing $850 new. It burned the old Turner Valley naptha, or "skunk gas", as people called it then. About the same time he purchased a new Chevrolet half-ton truck for $802. Obviously, that was when a dollar was still a dollar.

For a time, Ray raised registered Tamworth hogs, an operation he began in 1944. In 1943, he also began raising registered seed barley, an enterprise which became his prime interest, and he finally abandoned the hog project. His first seed project was with Olli barley and he produced select and foundation seed of this variety for 30 years. For many years he has grown registered seed of other varieties, as they were presented the Robertson Associate Award, the highest distinction available to members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. The award is presented to members who have fulfilled with conspicuous fidelity and success their obligations as members of the Association.

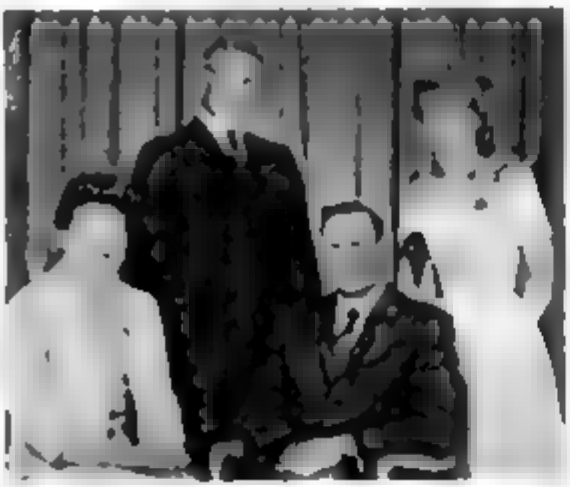
Ray began with the three-quarter sections of land that had been his parents, SE 12-39-3-W5, SW 7-39-2-W5 and NE 1-39-3-W5. Over the years he enlarged his holding with the purchase of the following properties. in 1961 from Mrs. George Gilpatrick the SE 1-39-3-W5, in 1964 from Ilmar Hyvonen the SW 12-39-3-W5, in 1946 from Frank Jenkins the SW 8-39-2-W5 which is now farmed by his son Terry, in 1946 from Matt Talson estate, a 92 acre portion of SE 7-39-2-W5, now owned by Ray's sister, Helen Johnson.

In addition, he has leased the following parcels from the Armstrong Bros. NW 1-39-3-W5 in 1941 now owned by Harley Stamm, in 1942 the SE 7-39-2-W5 from the Matt Talson estate; in 1944 the SW 6-39-1-W5 from Anna Huerliman, presently owned by her nieces Marie Pijeau and Josie McGrandle; in 1944 the SW 1-39-2-W5 from James

M..ar; in 1944 the N½ 5-38-2-W5 from Eli Nikkola; in 1971 the SE 31-38-2-W5 from Wm Holsworth.

From the time when he began to take an active part in farm work until his marriage, he worked together with his mother and sister. In 1946 he was married to Edith Helen Ignatius, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Ignatius. From this time on, he took over as sole operator of the farm.

Edith was born on her father's farm home on July 29, 1926. She took her public school at Salma, and went to Red Deer for her high school graduating in 1945. Prior to her marriage, she was employed in the office of the Centra. Alberta Dairy Pool in Red Deer. To them were born two children, Dorinda Marlene, born March 24, 1947, and Terrance Raymond born July 12, 1949. Their daughter married Albert Hietala in 1968 and they have two children, Bonnie Marie and Tevor Lee. Their son Terry married Marilyn Kubik in 1973 and they have one daughter, Karri Lynn Anne.



Edith and Ray Niemela with Dorinda and Terry

Since 1970, Terry has been an active partner with his father.

Over the years, the Niemela's have benefitted from the work of many capable hired men and women, some of whom have become lifelong friends.

Modern facilities have gradually changed the nature of farm life and work since the early years. The first telephones came the year of Ray's birth, 1919. Service was improved slowly and in March 1967 the present day underground cable system was completed, eliminating the old party lines. Electricity was brought in by Calgary Power Ltd. in 1949. Natural gas service came to the farm in 1972. Now, the modern farm homes of the district enjoy all the amenities people used to associate only with city homes.

The farm dwelling, itself, has undergone a veritable transformation. Ray and Edith started their married life in the house which included the old Wuobio homestead, later enlarged and remodeled, and finally in 1969, they moved into their present fully-modern house, designed by themselves, and built by Four Star Construction of Red Deer.

The actual work also has been transformed thanks, in part to modern labor-saving improvements. When Ray began selling registered seed, for example, he had to bag by hand as much as 20,000 bushels in a season and sew the sacks the old, slow way. Now their chore is quickly done by means of an electric hand sewing machine.

Formerly, seed-cleaning was done on a custom basis by Mr. Carl Selstrom, now, it is done by their son's own modern mobile unit. Binning and weighing is now done in their own building with their own scales, capable of handling truckloads up to 40 tonnes.

Community affairs have always been of great interest to Ray and Edith and their family. Edith was Benalto 4-H Clothing and Garden Club's leader for several years, and has given 10 years service to the Girl Guides of Canada. Ray was chairman of the Building committee at the time of the erection of the Benalto Community Hall in 1962, and the curling rink in 1953. He has served as leader of the Benalto 4-H Grain Club for a number of years. He was also chairman of the finance committee for the building of the Sylvan Lake Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1976. From 1971-1977 he served as an advisory member on the Agricultural Service Board for the County of Lacombe. Thirty years he has been a director of the Benalto Agricultural Society, several of these as president. At present, he is chairman of the local board of the Provincial Agricultural Development Committee, for the County of Lacombe. Since 1949 he has been a director of the Eckville Rural Electrification Association.

With all the busy activities of farm and community come many satisfactions and pleasures, as well as aching backs and tired muscles. They always look upon seeding time and harvest as times of special contentment and reward. Lunch in the midst of the bounty of harvest satisfies the yearnings of the soul as well as the hunger of the body. So it is with all the many busy demands of life. Serving as Elder for the Church also satisfies the human desire to to something for one's fellow man. So does their continuing involvement in such organizations as Club Finlandia, which they like to keep up to maintain the connection with their ancestral roots, however much they love to think of themselves as Canadians. Life demands service and commitment, but it bestows satisfaction and contentment.

**A FARMER'S FAITH — Author Unknown**

I believe in farming as a way to live and make a living

I believe in the dignity of my work. I want no man's patronage,
Preaching or pity
I believe in my soil. It will reward me in proportion to the thought,
labour and love I give it
I believe in myself. My success depends on me more than weather,
luck or laws
I believe in my neighbors. My community, like my soil, returns to me
as I give to it
I believe in co-operation, in thinking for myself and acting with my
fellows
I believe that only a united agriculture can insure justice and prevent
inequality
I believe in education. The more I know the greater my ability to
seize opportunities to be happy
I insist that my children be enabled to learn to be useful, intelligent
men and women.
I believe in conservation. I will leave a better farm than I took
I believe that living is the most important job in the world and I mean
to plan my work so that my family and myself will have the time
and means to enjoy life
I face the years ahead with confidence hope and cheer
I believe in myself, my fellow men and a Supreme Being
I believe in farming

**NIEMELA, EINO**

Eino Severi Niemela was born in Wesilahti, Onkemaki, Finland, on October 21, 1891. He immigrated to Canada in 1912, making his home first in the Rocky Mountain House area, finding whatever work was available for willing hands and a clever mind. In 1914, he worked for a time at the coal mines in Nordegg.

He later worked in the United States for a short while, finding employment in the mines at Anaconda, Montana. But, Canada lured him back, and he took up land in the Oras district settling on SW¼ 34-39-6-W5. Eino possessed an extraordinary skill with axe and broadaxe. On his homestead he built two finely crafted, substantial log buildings with wooden dowels, using no nails whatever. These buildings were made to last; both were later moved to his farm at Benalto, where one is still in regular use as a granary, and is sound as ever. In it one can see the skilful fitting of the logs, an art which is practically unknown today.

By 1916, he had made the acquaintance of the Wuobio family, north of Benalto. He worked for the Wuobios on the farm, and that year married their daughter Emma. She did not wish to move to his place at Oras, as she was the only child and

Seated: Eino and Emma Niemela. Flower girls left is Vieno Hietala, and right is Ann Johnson. Back: Lenny Kingsep, Oswald Umari, Euphemia Hietala and Mary Johnson.

did not wish to leave her parents. Since she had come with her parents to settle on this place, and had been part of the local community, she was reluctant to leave. Eino sold his farm at Oras, and purchased from Mr. W. E. Payne, the quarter south of his father-in-law's place, NE 1-39-3-W 5.

In 1919, together with Mr. Wuobio, he purchased SW7-39-2-W5 from Mr. Max Bittner. The farming operation was beginning to expand and prosper. Meanwhile, he had been busy with his trusty axe, grub-hoe, and four-horse team soon had his own quarter entirely cleared, and under cultivation. The land proved fertile and productive, and he raised exceptionally good crops of wheat those early years.

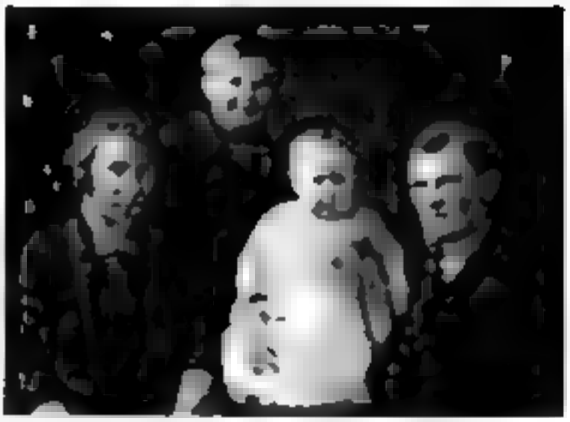
Also in 1919, their only son Ray was born. He still farms the same land and still finds it equally fertile and productive. The old settlers chose well.

In 1918, Eino's mother-in-law, Mrs. Wuobio died, a victim of the Spanish influenza. Mr. Wuobio passed on in 1922.

In 1922, a daughter Helen was born. She, too, has lived all her life in the same community, she is now Mrs. Howard Johnson, and lives on her own farm just one mile north of her childhood home.

The year 1925 was another milestone in the family's progress, they bought their first automobile, a Chevrolet touring car. The modern age had truly begun!

By 1930 the Niemela's were ready to enlarge the old family home, which had been built by Mr. Wuobio. To the original frame building, a four room addition was built, making a comfortable



Mr and Mrs. Eino Niemela, son Raymond and daughter Helen

roomy house. This addition was built on contract by Mr A. Steinback of Rocky Mountain House for $1,000

The "Dirty Thirties" were a difficult period for the Niemelas, as they were for all farmers. According to family records, here are some of the prices received for farm produce at that time

15 dozen eggs brought 89¢ in 1933

47 spring chickens, total weight 238 pounds brought $11.90 an average price of 5¢ per pound.

Other prices were comparably low. These were hard years, but hard work and thrift saw the farmers through them, just as these qualities had stood them in good stead during those first years of settlement

Mr Eino Niemela died on June 2, 1933, aged 41 years. He is remembered by all local people as a man of rather quiet disposition, one who minded his own business, and did not interfere in the affairs of others. He left his wife Emma, a son of 13 and a daughter of 11 to operate the farm. Emma Niemela capably managed and operated the farm with the assistance of her children and hired help. Struggling through depression years, despite costly mistakes, she was able to keep the family farm in operation

The family grew in number, when Helen married a neighbor's son, Howard Johnson in 1945, and in the following year, 1946, Ray also married a local girl, Edith Ignatius

Emma, retiring off the farm in 1947, moved to Sylvan Lake. She bought, Port Dover, on 4th Street East, which she sold in 1947. A new home was built on 2nd Street South West, where she resided until her passing, August 1964. She is buried in the Kinsamo Cemetery

In her retirement years, she took a keen interest in her church activities and received much pleasure from her grandchildren, Faye Johnson, Dorinda and Terry Niemela.

**NIEMELA, TERRANCE RAYMOND**

Terry was born in Eckville, July 12, 1949. His public schooling was taken in Eckville, and for his high school, he attended the Red Deer Composite High School. After graduation, Terry took a two year course in Agriculture, at the Olds Agricultural Vocational College, graduating in 1969

After leaving college, Terry decided to farm with his dad, Ray Niemela, in the growing and selling of registered seed grain. In 1970, Terry purchased one of Carl Selstrom's mobile grain cleaners with which he did custom grain cleaning in the community, as well as cleaning for himself and his Dad

In 1971, Terry met his wife Marilyn (nee Kubik) of RR No. 4, Eckville. Marilyn attended the Condor and David Thompson High School. In 1972, she took a Certified Nursing Aide Course in Calgary, graduating in August 1973.

Terry and Marilyn were married on September 1, 1973, in Red Deer. They purchased a mobile home, which they moved on to the Niemela farm near Benalto. Terry is presently the fourth generation living on the original Wuoblo homestead, which he now owns (SE 12 39-3-W5

On August 14, 1974, their first child was born, a baby girl named Karri-Lynn Alane.

In the winter of 1974-75, Terry designed and built a new mobile grain cleaner. The new mill has a capacity to handle from 125 to 225 bushels of seed per hour, depending on the type of seed it is required to clean. His old mill was sold to Marianne Farms (Staudinger Bros

In 1978, Terry and Marilyn hope to see their steel constructed building completed, that will house their grain cleaner, which Terry hopes to use as a stationary seed processing plant

Terry and Marilyn are both community minded. Marilyn belongs to the Benalto Order of the Royal Purple, and Terry belongs to the Benalto Elks Lodge No. 404. In 1976-77 Terry served in the capacity of Exalted Ruler of the Lodge

**NIKKOLA, ELI AND FRANK — by Sylvia Thorkman (As told to me by Helmi Erikkila)**

Eli and Frank Nikkola came to Canada in 1904 from their native land, Finland. They spent several years working in Eastern Canada before coming to Alberta in 1911. During that winter they filed on a homestead located in the Codner area northeast of Rocky Mountain House

After summer arrived they realized that most of their land was swamp and muskeg, which made clearing and breaking the land impossible. Determined to get the title for the land, they built buildings from logs, close by, and also bought a horse and a cow. Homesteaders in those years were jack of all trades!

Eli and Frank were musicians so evenings on the homestead were often spent playing the accordian and organ. They were never lonely, for neighbors gathered at their home to spend the evenings singing and dancing

After three years on the homestead and no

way to dry up the land, they decided to move on. Leaving their home in 1914, they moved to the Kuusamo district, where they rented land from Mrs. Ida Peterson, SE 4-39-2-W5, for four years. Mrs. Peterson passed away and the land was sold to the Burdick family from the United States. Another move had to be made.

In March 1918 Eli and Frank bought the NW 5-39-2 W5 from the C P R. This was new land, no buildings or improvements, so they decided to move their buildings off the Codner homestead to their new property.

Most of the winter was spent dismantling the log buildings, marking the logs, and loading them onto a C N R. flat car at Codner. They were then shipped to Elspeth, then hauled to the farm to be set up to make the brothers a place to live.

The following year they purchased the adjoining C P R. quarter, the NE 5-39-2-W5, to make the half section. In the years that followed they raised Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses, in wich they took great pride.

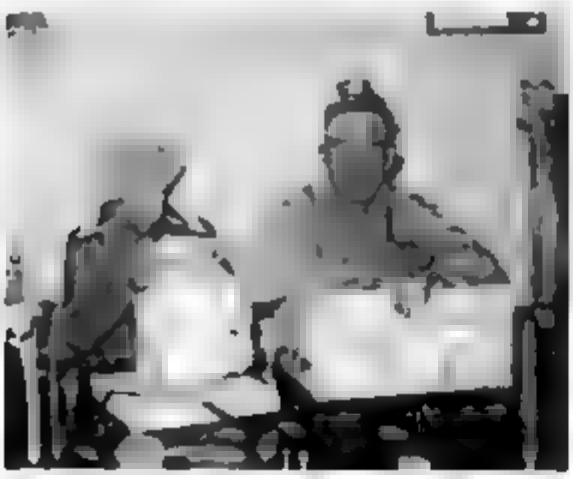
Eli and Helmi Saha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Saha, were married March 13, 1923. They have one daughter, Hazel, who was born April 11, 1924. She is married to Bob Cosman of New Westminster, B.C.

Eli and Helmi purchased Frank's share of the land. Frank made his home in a separate house in the yard until his passing in 1930. He is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Farming in those years was done with horses so the days were long and strenuous. Eli still found time to help in community affairs. He was the first secretary-treasurer of the Mutual Telephone line, east of Eckville. He was also on the board of directors on the Sambo Thresher Company, of which there were 14 shareholders.

Eli passed away in March, 1945 and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Eli and Helmi raised two foster children, Irene and Leonard Euren. Irene is married and lives in Wetaskiwin. Leonard is married and lives in Calgary.



Birthday Party, 1976. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Erikkila.

Helmi continued farming alone until October, 1955, when she married Bill Erikkila. The Erikkilas continued farming for several years before retiring and renting their land to Ray Niemala. They still live on the farm and are enjoying their retirement. In 1975 they made a trip to Finland, and have made several visits to various parts of Canada.

**THE PETER NISKANEN AND SWAN ANDERSON FAMILIES — by their Granddaughters, Annie Simpson and Mildred Niemi**

Peter John Niskanen and Albertina Tikkanen were born in Kiuruveden pitajassa, Kuopion laanissa, Finland, he on September 25, 1863 and she on August 20, 1871. Both families had immigrated to the United States and Peter and Albertina were married on February 16, 1891 later changing their name to Koski. A daughter Anna Elma, was born to them in Red Lodge Montana on July 1, 1897.

Albertina and Peter Niskanen and daughter, Elma

They lived in various places in Montana and Idaho for a number of years, but their nomadic life was over when Peter came to Canada in 1909 and bought the NE 36-38-3-W5, which was to be their home for the remainder of their lives. At first Peter farmed with oxen, but later bought horses and raised their colts.

Although Anna was an only child, she was not lonely, for she had a pony, named Tony, which she rode to visit neighboring girl friends, and her parents had a lot of company as well. Their home was used as an overnight stopping place for people travelling from further west to Red Deer. She attended Melita School to the end of Grade 8, and for a part of the time did the janitor work at the school. With this income she bought a large-mirrored bureau, which is still in the family.

Peter continued his farming operations alone until 1917, when he rented the farm to his new son-in-law, Sven Anderson, selling the farm to him two years later. Although Peter and Albertina were separated in the later years, both continued to make their home on the farm, with Anna and Sven. Albertina spent some of her time in

Ida (Marja) Halstrom, Elma (Niskanen) Anderson

Montana, where most of her relatives lived. Peter became a cattle dealer, and rode throughout the country, buying and selling cattle. Both Peter and Albertina were usually on hand to help out on the farm during the busy seasons

By 1928 Albertina's health had become very poor, as she suffered from both kidney and heart ailments. She was cared for at home by her daughter Anna until she passed away on December 2, 1928. Peter also passed away at home, on February 7, 1932. Both were buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery

The story of our parents follows

**THE SWAN ANDERSON FAMILY**

Sven Adolph Anderson was born on May 2, 1891 in Polstorp, Sweden, the second youngest of a large family In December, 1911, his brother Albin, who was already living in Big Horn, Montana, U S.A., sent Sven $90 for his ticket to America and an extra $60 for spending money

After working on the railroad for two years in Montana and South Dakota for $1.35 to $1 50 a day Sven accompanied a co-worker, Ole Rustan, to Kootuk in April, 1914. Since Ole's brother was railroad section foreman in that area, Dad began working on the railroad, helping to build the grade for the tracks to be laid west to Nordegg He soon became a section foreman, earning $2.90 a day

Dad lived in an "engineer's shack", which was located about one mile north of the Number 11 highway. It was at this time that Dad met Mother — when he would go to her home to buy milk, eggs, bread and butter from her parents In July 1914 the shack was moved to Benalto to serve as the station. With 1915 being a very wet year, the resulting high water moved the west end of the railroad bridge on the Saskatchewan River near Rocky Mountain House, and Dad was part of the crew sent out to repair the damage and clear away the debris floating down the river Dad continued to work on the railroad until December 1915, when he returned to the United States

As a result of Mother writing to Dad that Granddad wanted someone to take over the farm, Dad returned to Benalto and they were married on April 24, 1917 in Red Deer with Reverend Wolfard M. Ryan officiating A charivari following their return from a two-day trip to Calgary, and a wedding dance on May 1 at the Socialist Hall, completed the festivities, and then began the task of Dad learning to farm — something he had never done!

They first rented Granddad's farm, but after two years they bought it. Those first few years were difficult ones paying $250 for a mare who died, along with the foal, when foaling, Mother getting the flu in 1918, when Dad was gone hunting (Mother would likely have died had it not been for the care and kindness given her by an old bachelor, Ben Kestila, who happened to drop in for a visit); Dad's critical illness with erysipelas in 1921, Dad and we two daughters having scarlet fever in 1922, the complete loss of their 80 acres of crop destroyed by hail, and the loss of a horse who had got into a granary of wheat

We girls, Annie and Mildred, were both born in the old house. Mrs. Isaac Johnson was the midwife who delivered both of us. Mother had a goitre, and after failing to have it removed by two trips to doctors in Montana, it was removed by Dr. Thatham in Edmonton

Visiting was done on a leisurely basis in those days, and was often combined with going to have a steam bath. After the chores were done our whole family would leave on a Saturday night for friends' homes, sometimes as far away as Pitcox (Hespero), with a team and democrat or a bobsled in the wintertime After the baths the men would play Norwegian whist, the ladies would visit, and the children would sleep until the wee hours of the morning. Social events of any kind were always family affairs

In 1924 Dad and Mother bought a "tin Lizzie — a 1922 black, side-curtained touring car for $325. Although Mother learned to drive her driving days ended abruptly when she stepped on the wrong pedal as she was approaching the closed gate at the end of the lane. Fortunately, the gate wasn't much of a barricade, so no great damage was done, except that Mother never wanted to drive after that episode

In the early days the grain was stooked or stacked after being cut with the binder Prior to 1917 Mother's records tell of Langer's coming to thresh on the afternoon of October 23 and leaving to go to Huhtala's on the evening of October 26 They had threshed 3072 bushels in all. They charged three and one-half cents a bushel for

threshing oats and barley and five cents for wheat. The threshing bill came to $106.25 after deducting a discount of three and one-half percent

It was in 1927 that Arnold was born. Mother and Dad were overjoyed to have a son, and we, to have a baby brother. When he was about nine months old he developed severe convulsions, and was very ill for a time. This same year Mother and Dad purchased a brand new "glassed" or "closed-in" blue Chevrolet coach car, costing $1015. It was one of the first in the area, but touring cars soon became a thing of the past, as people became accustomed to the greater comfort of the closed-in cars. The evening of the day we got our new 1927 Chevrolet we all went to Liberty Hall to see a play directed by Henry Jokinen, "Saaristo Laiset". We had previously seen two shows at Benalto, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Lighthouse Nan", in 1925 and 1926.

When we were babies we were left at home with Grandad while Mother and Dad went to dances, but as children we attended the dances at Elspeth Hall, and as young ladies we would attend the dances in Sylvan Lake. Picnics at Sylvan lake were regular Sunday occurrences, and the Christmas concert and school fairs were highlights of the years. Another highlight of our school days at Melita was the time we walked to Jack Simpsons at Benalto to listen to King George V speak on the radio. New Year's Eve was a gala celebration among neighbors. It was the Finnish custom to melt tin (lead or solder) in a long handled dipper. It was held in the firebox of the stove, and then plunged into a tub of cold water. The resulting creation was then studied to attempt to predict what the New Year would bring. The Benalto Fair was another highlight in the community. To earn money for this occasion we children picked weeds from the garden, for which Dad gave us 25 cents, and Granddad always saw to it that we had extra spending money. When Grandmother was in the States she often sent us a new dress to wear, both for the fair and at Christmas time. If she didn't send one, Mother had one made for us. These were the days when we wore long underwear and dark home-knit stckings in winter. Mrs. John Kangas had a machine on which she would knit stockings and mitts to order for those who desired them.

Even the work sometimes became a social occasion for the men. Most farmers had an ice house, used to keep the milk, cream, and other food products cold. This was a pit filled with chunks of ice, insulated with sawdust. Neighbors would go together to cut blocks of ice from Sylvan Lake, load them onto bob-sleds and fill the ice house for each of the farmers. Firewood also had to be cut and hauled from tree lots, and again neighbors would work together, first hauling them and then cutting them into firewood. The resulting sawdust was used in the ice house.

The education of their children was of prime importance to Mother and Dad. All three of us started school in Melita. After Grade 8 Annie and Mildred took part of their high school in Kinsamo, and completed it in Red Deer. Times were hard when we went away to Red Deer. In 1930 and 1931 eggs sold at five cents a dozen, wheat was worth 22 cents a bushel, a five-gallon can of cream brought $1.70, a pig was worth $3 and a large cow would sell for $15. Still, by milking eight to 11 cows, and by personal sacrifice, our parents managed to put away enough money to send us to school. Annie took a one-year secretarial course at Garbutt's Business College, and then she and Mildred attended Calgary Normal School, and became teachers, which profession they have followed for many years.

Mother, Dad and Arnold took their first holiday in 1940 when they went to Vancouver to visit the Sundstroms and Wayne Heikkinen. Later they began making frequent trips to Montana to visit relatives and also travelled to Saskatchewan, Wymoing, Washington, and British Columbia. Dad made a trip back to Sweden in 1957 — after an absence of 46 years — to visit his five sisters and two brothers. Everyone was very surprised that Dad spoke such good Swedish after having been gone for so long.

The years went by quickly. Dad purchased more land and in 1935 bought his first tractor from Jack Sunnell, for a team of horses and $1000 in cash. This was a Model D John Deere. Arnold had joined Dad in the farming operations and lived at home, but we girls were both away teaching school. Throughout the years Dad maintained an interest in community affairs. He had been trustee of the Melita School Board for nine years, had worked arduously for the Benalto Agricultural Society, as Stampede Manager for several years, and was Honorary Life Member of the Benalto B.P.O.E. Dad was an original contract signer with the Alberta Wheat Pool and remained a member in good standing until his death. His farming efforts had been rewarded by his winning the reserve provincial championship award for malting barley in 1950 and in 1951 the provincial championship and the reserve championship in the interprovincial competitions.

Mother suffered from crippling arthritis for a number of years. In 1945 she gained some relief from a three-month stay at the hospital in Banff, where she underwent "gold" treatments and had mineral baths.

Mother and Dad lived a full life, and Dad lightened his working burden somewhat during the last few years. Their grandchildren gave them special pleasure throughout the years with their regular visits.

They were honored by the community on their 50th wedding anniversary on April 24, 1967, with a community get-together at the Benalto Community Hall, with a supper served by the Ladies of the Royal Purple, followed by a dance. During

the last year of their lives together their 55th wedding anniversary was spent quietly at home with close friends and family The power had been off for some days, but the house was kept warm with an auxiliary stove, the food had been prepared by the family, and the house was lighted with a lamp and candles. It was a memorable evening, and deeply appreciated by Mother and Dad. The lights came on before the night was over, so it was a nostalgic evening, combining the past with present

Dad passed away on December 30, 1972, in the Red Deer Hospital and on February 10, 1974 Mother passed away in the Eckville Hospital. Mother, Dad, and Arnold were each laid to rest in the family plot in the Red Deer Cemetery

**THE NORTON FAMILY**

My father, Archibald Norton, was born near Huntsville, Ontario in 1880, the youngest of seven children. His parents had emigrated from England in the early 1860's and had settled on a rocky farm in this northern Ontario district, where they endured many hardships.

Starting in a small way, the family delivered milk in the town of Huntsville for 26 years, only missing one day, that of the father's funeral. The milk was measured into containers supplied by the customer — some buying as little as a cupful at a time

My father attended night school when possible, acquiring some additional knowledge, particularly in business techniques. He played a cornet in the local band at this time. During their teens my father and one of his brothers acquired timber limits nearby where they felled trees for lumber and also sold the bark to a large tannery operating on the shores of one of the Muskoka Lakes

My mother, Mary Smith, was born in England in 1885 and moved to Huntsville at an early age, later marrying my father. They farmed near Woodstock, Ontario for a short time, where Laura was born, then moved back to Huntsville where I was born

Mr. and Mrs. A. Norton

Along with many others, my parents moved west in 1912 and settled in Bassano, Alberta, where George was born. My father started working for the CPR as a freight clerk, learning telegraphy during this time. He then became a relief agent, so for a few years we moved almost continuously until we finally took up residence in Benalto during 1921, when the station was opened for a permanent agent My father came in February and remained until his retirement in 1946. We followed late in April, after a severe blizzard.

During this winter my father and Mr Stan Hooker walked to Evarts occasionally on a Sunday to attend the church service and have dinner with the Madisons. We lived in the house on the Woodmancy farm (now owned by Max and Annie Simpson) where we spent two very happy summers, roaming around the farm and playing in and on the old buildings. We enjoyed living near Sylvan Lake and had numerous picnics on the beach, often spending all day Sunday, swimming or trolling for fish in a row boat. The Morrisroe and the Sestrap families were often the only other people in sight on the beach We made many trips out west, also, picking berries, catching fish and picnicking. My Grandmother Norton visited us frequently until her passing in 1929

In the winter we drove from the farm to the station in a homemade cutter pulled by horses borrowed from Billy Giselman. Then we walked to the Melita School, often down the railway track. The section men often stopped and gave us a ride on their "hand car" if they were going to work in that direction

After a year and a half we spent a winter in a one-room cabin south of the tracks, which was then moved and became the kitchen when the new house was built It is now the Bowman residence.

During the summer of 1923 or 1924 we had a severe hailstorm on a Saturday night Trees were blown down around our house and the next day the fields appeared to be swept clean — the crops had disappeared! However, the farm people attended church as usual on Sunday morning All around our property was unbroken land We used a path through the trees leading to the elevator house where Warrens lived (now the Dick Austin residence)

I, Norma, graduated from the Calgary Normal School and taught at the Bluebell and Melita Schools, marrying Peter Stewart in 1932. Our history appears elsewhere in this book

In the summer of 1925 or 1926 the Pocock and the United Grain Growers elevators were built Where our house now stands, tents were set up for the men with a large cook tent for meals. I spent a happy summer helping the cook and running errands for her and some of the men. Laura and I were attending the Convent at this time, as there was no schooling offered here past Grade 8. Our teachers here had been Miss Coghlan, Miss

Stewart, from Ontario, and Miss Solomon George also had Miss Eileen Fera (later Mrs Tommy Witworth), Miss Barton and Miss Ruth Garries (later Mrs. O. Lundberg) as teachers

We later moved to the new station and my parents lived in it for many years. They caught rainwater in a cistern and the train men left barrels of water for them as a well was never drilled. They used kerosene lamps, Coleman lights and burnt briquets for fuel

My father was fond of gardening and also planted the blue spruce trees on the Bowman property. He was commended by the CPR for his care of the grounds adjacent to the station

Through the years my mother and father attended the Presbyterian Church faithfully although they were members of the Anglican Church. In the early 1920's church was held at Benalto and Evarts on alternate Sundays, with most people attending both places. Church was held in the Booster Hall in Benalto and occasionally in the waiting room of the station. My father lit the fire for many years, and attended to the other janitorial duties, which sometimes included cleaning up the hall following a dance

I remember one Sunday School picnic held at Sylvan Lake in 1921. We went early in the day with the Jack Simpson family in a wagon. The road wound in and out among the trees, probably utilizing the higher ground and avoiding a large slough west of the Kuusamo School. The picnic was held on the beach and the foot races were held on the sandy road in front of the present garage west of the hotel. Another picnic was held near the Medicine River, probably on the McBride farm. I had hoped that all of the young people would have a swim. However, much to my disappointment the young fellows slipped away by themselves, as they were not using bathing suits.

Mr McKechnie, our blind minister, always came by train and stayed with various families over the weekends. One year he offered a prize at the Fair for learning and reciting a passage from the Bible (First Chapter of the Gospel according to St John, verses 1-14). Alice Durward (nee Cameron), Alice Sundstrom and myself competed with Mr McKechnie acting as the judge sitting up on the platform in the hall. Alice Cameron was declared the winner My Bible still bears witness to the time I spent learning those verses, apparently without the benefit of enough soap and water

Another interest shared by my mother and father was the Agricultural Society. My father served as the secretary for many years and my mother was a director Various work bees were held, one when the barn was being built, another when the roof of the hall was raised, others when the grandstand was enlarged. The women did their share by supplying meals and lunches to the men

One humorous incident which I remember was moving all of the exhibits to the station so a dance could be held on the first night of the Stampede, as well as the one always held on the last night. I believe on this occasion the cowboys were blamed for helping themselves to a pie Another time a dog belonging to the Henry Talson family was shut in the hall overnight by mistake. The food exhibits were all on display, but I believe that he left them alone.

The cowboys were usually in attendance at the stampede dances, which were very popular throughout the country The hall was always packed, so dancing was almost impossible and the floor either very dusty or muddy

Box socials were held in support of various projects

For many years, during the Fair and Stampede, John Heikkinen had the job of patrolling the grounds in search of people who had gained admittance without paying. This was possible as there were no gates or fences at the far side of the grounds

Both of my parents enjoyed curling Before the rink was built in Benalto a few of the local men journeyed to Evarts, often in bitterly cold weather to take part in the curling there.

During the wintertime people travelling to Red Deer drove their cars or travelled by sleighs across Sylvan Lake on the ice whenever possible, to save a little distance Sometimes, when something urgent arose, my mother would travel to Red Deer by train and stay overnight in the Arlington Hotel. Although reluctant to do this, she always felt better if Laura and I could stay with her, even though we were still children.

My father and Laura were interested in Amateur Dramatics and sometimes took parts in plays which were presented in Markerville, Alhambra and Caroline, as well as in Benalto My mother was a member of a Ladies' Community Club, the Ladies' Aid and a bridge club which was formed in the early 1930's. In the early days my mother was often called out during the night to assist a new baby into the world, or if an illness had occurred She also boarded teachers for a number of years

During World War II a committee comprised of John Watson (chairman), Tom Smith Sr., George Sterling and my father (secretary) sold Victory Bonds throughout the country.

My mother passed away in 1944. My Father moved shortly afterwards to Nanaimo, B.C where his two sisters were living. He made frequent trips back to Benalto until his passing in 1963

My sister Laura attended high school at the Red Deer Convent and the Red Deer High School and graduated as a teacher from the Camrose Normal School. After teaching for three years — one at Happy Hill and two at Kuusamo, she was married to Bill Holsworth. (Their history is recorded elsewhere in this book.)

My brother George took Grade 9 at the Melita School. He and Aili Huhtala (Mrs. Clarance Anderson) were the first to take Grade 9 at

Melita. He took the rest of his high schooling in Red Deer, and then attended the U of A where he graduated in Medicine. He volunteered for service at the beginning of World War II and served overseas until 1944

After his return George took post graduate work in Radiology from McGill's and then moved to Vancouver where, until his recent retirement, he has been associated with a firm of radiologists. He was married before leaving for overseas to the former Lois Andrew of Alix, a graduate nurse. They have a family of three boys and two girls

Peter, George's oldest son, after obtaining his Ph D. in math and teaching in the University of Toronto, is now in his last year of medicine. He is married to the former Sally Bence and they have one son

John, the second son, is a Nuclear Physicist and is employed by an oil firm in Calgary. He is married to the former Sheila Kelly, and they have a son and a daughter

George, the third son, attended the UBC in the faculty of Mathematics and is currently an assistant manager in the Treasury Branch in Red Deer. He will be moving to Mayerthorpe in 1978 to take up duties as manager in the Treasury Branch there. He and his wife, the former Chris Arnet, have a daughter and a son.

Susan, the elder daughter, married Nick Lane and they have a son and a daughter. They are living at Prince Rupert, B.C

Mary, the younger daughter, is married to Phil Michaelides and they live in Vancouver

**SAHA, SYLVESTER AND AMANDA**

Sylvester and Amanda Saha were married in Finland and immigrated to Canada in 1902 to the Benalto district. Sylvester arriving in the spring, Amanda and daughter, Helmi, in October of the same year

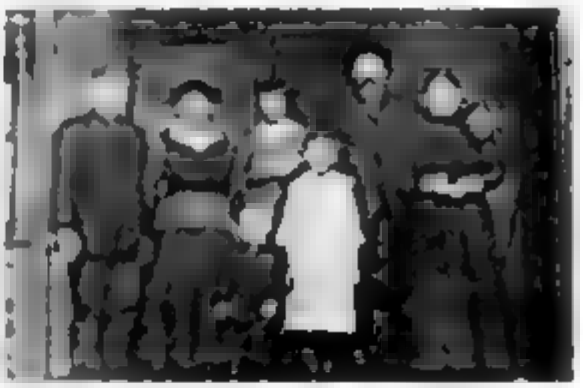
Sylvester's brother, Sam, had immigrated to Canada from Dakota earlier and homesteaded the SE 28-38-2-W5. He encouraged Sylvester and sent him the fare to come to Canada and settle here. Arriving, he found the land next to his brother was available. Sylvester homesteaded the SW 28-38-2-W5

He spent a busy summer preparing a home for his family. It was late October when Amanda and Helmi arrived in Red Deer. No definite time was known for their arrival so there was no one to meet them. Inquiring for a ride to the homestead, she met August Halstein who could speak her language. He arranged a driver, team and democrat to take her to her destination for the fee of $5. The first winter was cold and snowy. Shortly after Amanda arrived, Sylvester became ill. With no doctor or medicine closer then Red Deer, Amanda applied her home remedies and soon Sylvester recovered. Money was scarce and with equipment to buy, so like several other homesteaders, Sylvester found employment in a coal mine in Frank, Alberta

He farmed with three oxen purchased from the late Victor Pastobak for the price of $75 each. Oxen were difficult to handle during a hot day in fly season. The hours had to be arranged to early and late and a rest during the day. A pony was bought to team with the oxen. Later sold for the same price purchased and replaced by a team of horses

On June 22, 1906, a daughter, Hilja, was born. Work in the field was a family affair. Mrs. Saha helped with stooking and haying which was heavy work. Neighbors were relied on for help in work and for supplies. One day Helmi and Mr Saha were returning borrowed harrows and coal oil to the neighbors, the team bolted and they were upside down in the bush, with Helmi under the harrows. The first words Mr. Saha spoke after the runaway was to inquire if the coal oil was all there. Much to their relief, capable Helmi had held the container through it all, never spilling a drop.

Mr. and Mrs. Saha loved social life, they danced the old time dances like they were floating on a cloud. Onlookers gave them great applause after a dance. Neighbors were always made welcome with a friendly visit or a game of cards



L. to R. Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Karjala, Helen and Hilja and their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Saha and in front is Emil Karjala

In 1933, they sold their farm to their son-in-law and daughter Hilja and purchased land two miles east of Sylvan Lake. They farmed there for nine years, then selling their land, retaining four acres on which they built a cottage and retired

Mrs. Saha's sight was failing through the later years. She became totally blind the last few years but was able to do most of her house work and bake bread. Mrs. Saha passed away October, 1947, at the age of 71 years. Mr Saha passed away November 1958 at the age of 82 years. They are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery

Helmi married Eli Nikkola March 12, 1923. They farmed the NW 5-39-2W5 north of Benalto. They have one daughter born April 11, 1924, and she is married to Bob Casman, New West minister, B C.

Hilja married Wilho Euren in 1939. She passed away suddenly at the age of 30 years leaving to mourn her loss a husband and five small children. The grandparents raised the two older boys, Albert and Harold, and Mr and Mrs Nikkola raised the two younger children, Irene and Leonard. Eino remained with his father.

Eli Nikkola passed away in March, 1945, and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. In 1955, Helmi married Bill Erikkila, they farmed for a number of years before retiring.

**GEORGE SALONEN AND FAMILY**

George (Yrjo) Salonen was born in Montreal on December 26, 1894. According to the Finnish-Canadian Archives in Sudbury, Ontario, he was the first Finnish person born in Montreal and also thought to be the first Finn born in Canada.

His parents immigrated to Montreal from Merikarvia, Finland in 1888. They moved on to Belt, Montana, in 1896 and then on to Red Deer, Alberta in 1900. Later they settled in the Kuusamo District. When George was old enough, he started farming one and one-half miles east of Benalto.

In August of 1922, he married Salma Tommola, who also came from Finland the same year. They were married in Red Deer. In 1923, their first daughter Hilja, was born. Slowly they built a log barn for their many horses and few cows. Salma started raising turkeys each spring, and did so for many years. In 1925, they built their first sauna, out of logs also.

In the fall of 1925, their second daughter, Toini, was born, and in 1926 Ella was born but passed away in 1932.

Mr. Salonen had 160 acres of his own, on part of which the land had to be broken. In 1928, he acquired another 160 acres as a homestead. He would get a clear title to this land, after 40 years of farming, with a crop share going to the government.

In 1929, their fourth daughter, Ethel, was born. To clothe the four girls Salma was kept busy sewing and making over new clothes. She carried the babies along with her to the fields as she stooked the bundles of grain.

At one time they had as many as 23 horses, which they used to do the work in the fields. In 1939, Mr. Salonen bought a new Case tractor so only four of the horses were kept after that.

The girls travelled three miles to the Melita School, in summer by horse and two-wheeled cart; and in the winter by horse and cutter with a bag of hot oats under their feet, which Mrs Salonen had heated up to keep them warm on their way to school. Toini still remembers when they took a 12-dozen crate of eggs on their way to school in the morning in the two-wheeled cart. These eggs were sold to the store in Benalto for $1.08. Out of this money Toini bought herself a pair of running shoes for 98 cents.

As the girls got older they helped with the feeding of a hundred pigs, discing the fields with the tractor, sitting on the binder during harvest time and making hay.

In 1938 the Benalto School was built, so it was now only a mile and a half to school.

The Salonen girls were married, Hilja in 1944, now living in Edmonton, Toini in 1945, now residing in Beausejour, Manitoba, and Ethel in 1950, and now living in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. George Salonen and daughters, Ethel, Toini and Lilja, 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Salonen continued to farm until 1967, then the farm was sold to Mr. Ed Muth in 1968. Mrs. Salonen passed away on August 6, 1968 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Salonen moved to live with his daughter Hilja until his passing in August of 1971.

**SAMPO THRESHING MACHINE — written by Iver Malstein (Published exactly as written by the contributor at his request.)**

This is the story of a co-operative threshing company that was in operation in the combined districts of Kuusamo, Benalto and on the border of Eckville from the year 1917 to 1924. There were 11 members whom I shall name here regardless of their possible mention elsewhere.

Starting at the most northerly point they were Emil Mattson, Matt Kujala, Henry Lund, August Halstein, Sylvester Saha, Gust Kalaputas, John Koski, Jack Ropsfelt, Matt "Little Harju", Matt and Bill Wuori, Frank and Eli Nikkola.

This co-operative threshing outfit operated smoothly with no disputes, the man who got threshed first one year would be last next year. Those were the rules and no one disputed them.

In those days it was a steam outfit consisting of a Port Huron engine and a Gaar Scott separator and the farmers named it "Sampo" and the only Finn interpretation I can find is [illegible].

When that outfit arrived it took stout-hearted cooks to meet them as a normal crew consisted of 20 men give or take a couple, but these pioneer women rose to the occassion.

They brought their own bunkhouse where evening games of whist sometimes brought consternation to those who got skunked

The engineers blew a get-up whistle at six in the morning, at noon, and at quitting time If the water monkey was on the point of being late he was told to hurry with three long blasts of the whistle. Water is a must around a steamer The grain haulers were given short blasts if they needed to be hurried up. The whistles on the various engines were a slightly different tone from each other and every one knew their own whistles. The engineers would say "Hello" to each other with their whistles from a distance of several miles on a still morning.

The engineers employed were Fred Isaacson of Eckville, Gust Maki of Benalto, Henry Wright of Rocky and Bill Staudinger of Sylvan Lake John Koski, an Eckville blacksmith was separator man as was Felix Halstein of Sylvan Lake

Ell Nikkola was secreatary treasurer to start, later when Emil Mattson returned from overseas in 1918 he held the position until dissolution.

Every year more land was cleared so by 1923 it took forty days to thresh the members so it disbanded in 1924 and the cumbersome steam outfit had to give way to smaller gas outfits. Finally the separator was wrecked and steam engine 506 once resplendent with brass trim and gleaming injectors went to work heating a Red Deer garage

Old timers of Eckville I salute you!

**SCHMIDEK'S HARDWARE STORE**

Two brothers-in-law, Cary McKanna and Jack McKenzie, had built and operated a hardware store in Benalto in 1922. They sold it to the Atlas Lumber Company in 1926 and the partnership was dissolved Subsequently McKanna built another store for heavy hardware and implements down the street next to the hotel. He operated it himself for a short time but, upon becoming a grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, sold it to Herman Schmidek in March, 1928. This business became known as Schmidek's Hardware Store

Mr Schmidek will be remembered for his adeptness with the steel hook which replaced a hand he had lost while dynamiting rocks at Medicine Hat Upon taking over the business, he expanded it by adding other sundry items, such as groceries and dry goods, to the stock. In 1933 Mr Longair was hired to work in the store and continued doing so for about a year after Swan Anderson bought the business in 1937

Subsequently, Uno Krintila, Herbert Swift, and Mrs. Armitage leased the premises for short periods of time, after which it was used as living accommodations by several residents

From 1947 to 1962 Simpson Electric was located in the building. It is now used solely as a residence

**SIMPSON, R. M. FAMILY — by Annie Simpson**

My entry into the world was in one of those Marchs' when it came in "like a lion" My grandfather, Peter Niskanen, rode his pony through waist-high drifts to Ropsfelts to ask them to fetch the midwife, Mrs. Johnson. Fortunately, she arrived in time to deliver me, Annie Mae Christina, the first child of Swan Anderson and Emma (Niskanen) Anderson

I was a colicky baby, and Mother and Dad spent many sleepless hours rocking me in an attempt to stop me from crying. Finally a neighbor said to Mother, "You're starving the child! Put her on the bottle." This my mother did, and the results were gratifying

The next year my sister Mildred was born and several years later my brother Arnold was born We had a happy childhood on the farm, helping with chores, pulling weeds, herding the cows home from the pasture to be milked and even giving a hand with the milking. Picnics at Sylvan Lake were regular occurrences, where the children played in the shallow water while the men set about catching the fish for the fish "mulligan" which was a part of every picnic The fact that a few flies would invariably sample our "dish" did not deter us from enjoying it

An attack of appendicitis gained for me my first trip to Red Deer, when I was 11 years old. I had been sick at home for several days, and Dr Nix operated on me as soon as possible after I reached the hospital. He felt that any further delay would have resulted in a ruptured appendix, with likely fatal results

After completing Grade 8 at Melita school, I attended Kuusamo for two years, where Mr Glen Paul was my teacher, then took Grades 11 and 12 in Red Deer High School. This was followed by a year of business college in Red Deer, as I was still too young to attend Normal School.

The next fall I went to Edmonton, to enroll in the Edmonton Normal School, but, through a mix-up, I should have gone to Calgary However, the trip to Edmonton wasn't altogether wasted, as we visited the Legislative Buildings and witnessed the swearing-in of the late Premier Aberhart, who had just won his first election by an overwhelming majority

The next day found us travelling down that winding dusty road to Calgary That year must have been one of several dry ones. Seeing the parched grass and treeless "wasteland", I thought I knew now what was meant by the prairies'

The polio epidemic was especially widespread that year, and no sooner had classes started than we were sent home for a few weeks as a safety precaution. We were given assignments to be completed at home, and I "burned the midnight oil" but the thought of slacking up on any of them never entered my mind. My parents had worked hard and

sacrificed much to provide me with an education, and I just couldn't let them down

As a beginning teacher, I found the first few months of teaching at Melita school especially difficult, and without the help of an experienced teacher, Mrs. Ena Kinna, to whom I appealed for guidance, I think those first few months would have finished my teaching career Little did I anticipate then, the number of years that I would spend in the classroom! After two years spent at Melita I taught the next three years at Carriti school. My salary for each of these years was $840 a year

It was while I was teaching at Melita school that I met Max Simpson. He was one of a family of six — five boys and one girl. His parents had come west from Peterborough, Ontario. His dad was a station agent and wireless operator at Airdrie, Canmore, Field, Penhold and Sylvan Lake The youngest child, Max, was born while they lived at Penhold. He attended school at Penhold and Sylvan Lake. While he lived at Sylvan Lake he came to my first Christmas concert, and four and a half years later we were married

Max was an avid curler He was one of a foursome of teenagers from Sylvan Lake who excelled in the sport and who won many prizes at local bonspiels. After we were married, he made curling history in the Benalto area by scoring an eight ender against a friend, Don Wilkes. Don felt really let-down as he, himself, had accidentally shoved the last rock in to give Max and his rink — my dad, Vester Niemi and Carl Seastrom — the final count

After our marriage we lived at Sylvan Lake for a year before moving to Edmonton, where Max took training and worked as a sheet metal mechanic at Aircraft Repair Ltd. It was while we were there that our first son, John Robert, was born

When Max joined the Navy and was sent to the east coast, I came back to the farm to live with my parents until the end of the war When Max came home again he took an electrical course in Calgary, then we moved to Benalto where he became very busy wiring homes, as the countryside was being equipped with power By now our second son, William David, had been added to our family, and a few years later a third son, Kenneth Maxwell, was born

It was when Ken was three years old that Earle Farris, the principal of the Benalto school, asked me to teach in a new room which had been opened to accommodate the pupils being bused in from the surrounding area. With two weeks before the opening of school, I was fortunate to be able to secure Jessie Ignatius, who lived across the street from us, to care for Ken She did this until Ken started to school, and no one could ask for a more devoted companion for a child. She took him for walks, taught him the nursery rhymes, read to him, and defended him against his older brothers, even though he was often in the wrong!

Those were good years. The boys had their grandparents a mile away to visit, do odd jobs for to earn spending money, and also to gain a sympathetic ear when they felt that their parents were being too strict Cub and Scout leaders such as Don Wilkes, Ralph Lougheed, Jack Purdy and others, kept the boys busy with various outdoor activities and we parents worked behind the scenes to the best of our ability Our son Jack earned numerous badges, and became a Queen s Scout. He was presented with his award in Edmonton by the Lieutenant Governor

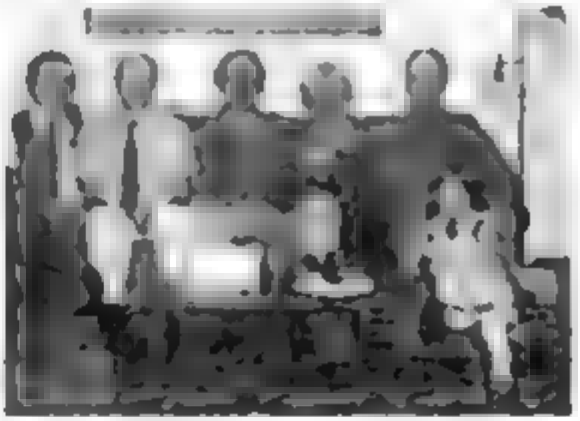
Sunday School, fishing expeditions, curling, camping trips, and school occupied our time The regular "sauna" at Grandma's and Granddad's took care of what we would do on Saturday nights until the boys were well into their teens, so discipline was not the problem it is today

During these years I continued teaching, as well as updating my education by evening credit courses in Red Deer and summer sessions in Edmonton and Calgary I obtained my B.Ed. in 1966 and my Diploma in Curriculum and Instruction in 1972

After my brother Arnold's death in 1957, it became increasingly difficult for my dad to farm alone, so Max quit his electrical work, rented some of Dad's land, and began farming an occupation he carried on until 1974

Our three sons are all married Jack, who is Department Head of Science at M. E Lazerte High School in Edmonton, married Jill Bennett of Edmonton, and has a son and a daughter Bill, who is Head Draftsman for the Alberta Energy Company in Calgary, married Marjorie Peers of Acadia Valley, and has two daughters. Ken, who, after earning a degree in Geology and working for a short time in the Arctic, turned to teaching and now teaches science in the Junior High School in Okotoks. He is married to Peggy Grainger of Edmonton has one son. Teaching seems to be a popular profession in our family, for of our three sons and their wives, four are teachers

Max and I have continued living in Benalto



The Simpson Family, March, 1976. L. to R. Ken, Bill, Jack. Annie, Max and Andrea, daughter of Bill

We have been here over 30 years, so we are fast approaching the time when we will become the "old-timers" in the area. Like so many "old-timers", though, we find that time does not hang heavy on our hands. Max has served as secretary of the Elks Lodge for over 15 years, and I am kept busy with my teaching activities.

**THE HERMAN STETTNER'S — by Marj Stettner**

Herman is the third son of Carl Stettner and I am the second daughter of Jack McDougall, both of Carmangay, a small town in southern Alberta. Both our families farmed in adjoining districts east of Carmangay where we grew up and spent our early life.

Herman and I were married in January, 1940 in Lethbridge. For the next four or five years Herman worked in the coal mines in the winter and on the farm in the summer. He worked in the mines in Shaughnessy and in Coleman.

In July, 1946, he started as helper with the Alberta Wheat Pool in Carmangay. In April of 1947 he was given the elevator in Namaka where we lived until August, 1953, when he was transferred to Benalto.

The elevator here was a more modern one than the one in Namaka, but it was still powered by a big gas engine. However, when they built the new annex in 1954 they put in the electric-powered motors which was a big improvement. We thought they were being really good to us as in the summer of 1956 they built us a new house, too.

Benalto being small, but active, it was not time until we were involved in every organization here. Around this time Herman's dad was a familiar figure here at Stampede and Bonspiel time. He never missed any of these events for many years. One of his best friends was Swan Anderson. He doesn't come up anymore. He is 92 years old and lives in the Golden Acres Lodge in Lethbridge. When we go down he never fails to ask about his friends up here.

Herman and I both used to curl a lot but the last years the Elks, Royal Purple, Agricultural Society and Church activities have kept us busy. I have sewed for the last seven or eight years, and have met many wonderful people. I feel really honored when I think back to the number of young girls who asked me to make their graduation dress and then later their wedding dress. I was always so proud of them, and they helped me keep in touch with the younger generation since our own two girls were grown up.

Donna, our oldest daughter, took a Radiological Technician course and went to Yellowknife to work. She married Fred Dornan, who is now vice president of Wardair Northern Operations. They live in Edmonton and have two children — a boy and a girl.

Betty took a secretarial course and also went to Yellowknife to work. She married Jerry Carter, an Aircraft Engineer with Mobile Oil. They live in Sherwood Park.

An elevator agent's days are usually quite routine, but one day a loaded box car had no brakes and it got away on Herman. He rode it halfway to Eckville before it stopped. Four or five men with poles tried to stop it at Ray Walker's but couldn't.

Another time to remember was in 1971. After 25 years of service Herman was presented with a gold watch at a party at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary, by the Alberta Wheat Pool. Al Kuntz was honoured at the same time.

As I think back, recalling things that happened years ago, I can't believe that it has been 24 years since we came to Benalto.

**STEWART, THE PETER FAMILY — by Norma Stewart**

I was born as Norma Norton, so my history prior to my marriage to Peter Stewart in 1932 is covered in the Norton history.

Peter Stewart was born in Scotland in 1906 and came to Canada with his parents in 1912. After living for a short time in Prince Rupert, B.C. they lived on a farm in the Burnt Lake district. In 1922, they settled in Evarts where they operated the store and post office for many years. We have remained closely associated with the Evarts people through the years.

Peter was very fond of animals, particularly horses, and started farming at an early age. He continued his farming even after moving to Benalto in 1944 where he operated the U.G.G. elevator for 27 years — until his retirement in 1971. He prized the warm and lasting friendships that he made with his customers while working in the elevator.

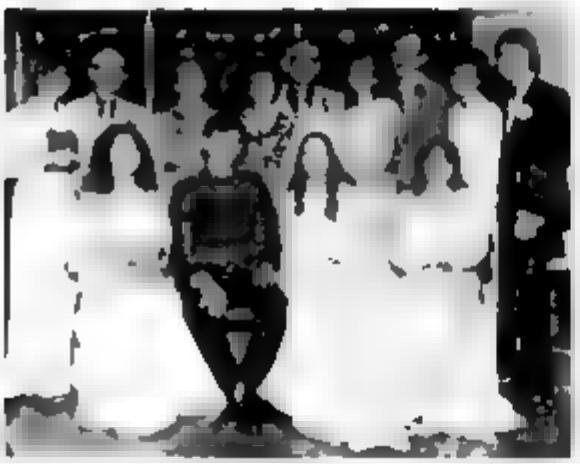
After living in the elevator house for 20 years we moved it to the farm. We built our present home in Benalto. During our years in Benalto we were active in various organizations, including the Presbyterian Church (Peter served on the board of managers), the Agricultural Society (as directors) and the Curling Club. We helped with the car bingos which were held in the early 1950's to help finance the building of the Agricultural Barn and the Curling Club. After our barn was built in 1948, two dances were held in the loft to assist the Baseball Club financially, and all of the parking space in Evarts was filled on both occasions. Peter was also associated with the Booster Club, especially in the earlier years, and the Boy Scouts' Parents' group. Together we enjoyed many evenings of square dancing after the Club was formed in Benalto.

I am a charter member of the Royal Purple, a member of the Ladies' Aid, and I helped with the 4-H Sewing Club, the Brownies, and the Home and School Association. I enjoyed a group called the "Knitters", as all the members had small children at the time, and it was often our only night out during the week. Through the years, usually accompanied by my sister, Laura, and

her husband, Bill Holsworth and their family, we enjoyed numerous picnics and berry-picking trips all through the West Country. Berries were more plentiful in the 1920's and early 1930's, sometimes covering the ground in a solid mat

In 1950, while we were away doing some Christmas shopping in Red Deer, a fire started in our basement. Luckily the town people were able to get the fire out, even though the floor boards were partially burned through

About the time we were married, I believe the prices were at an all-time low I remember oats selling for 6¢ a bushel, butter for 15¢ a pound, and milk cows for $15 each. We bought a side of pork for $2.00. We received $30 a month for carrying the mail to and from Evarts, a job Mr Simon and Peter's father had held for many years previously I resumed teaching in 1961, working as a teacher-librarian in Bentley, David Thompson, and Eckville, but retired in 1971, when Peter retired from the elevator



The Peter Stewart Family, June, 1977 Back: Isabel Stewart, Peter and Norma Stewart, Norma Jean and Wes Johnston, Rynie and Graham Stewart, Mary Horn and Stewart Johnston. Front: A friend, Michelle, Ralph and Jo-Ann Johnston and Leslie Horn

Our first child, Norma Jean, was born while we were living in Evarts. She attended school in Evarts, Benalto, and Red Deer, then went on to the University of Alberta where she obtained her B.Sc. in Pharmacy She is married to Wes Johnston, and they have operated a drug store in Edmonton for many years. They have two sons. Ralph is married to Joanne Olstad, and is a member of the Edmonton City Police Force Stewart, the younger son, is still at home

Mary, our second daughter, also born at Evarts, graduated from business college in Red Deer and is employed in the accounting office of the Summit Hotel in Calgary She was married to Ray Horn of Edmonton, and has one daughter, Leslie, who is attending high school.

Isabel, our third daughter, lives at Prince George, B.C. and is now employed by Simpson Sears. She has training in business education and comptometer work. She was married to Murray Salsauler They had a son, Rodney, who passed away at an early age.

Graham, Isabel's twin brother, graduated with a B.Sc and a degree in Education from the University of Alberta. He is teaching Art in a high school in Edmonton. His wife, the former Rynie Versendaal, is also a teacher, but since the birth of their daugher, Laura, has remained at home

While growing up our children all studied music, took part in the Young Peoples Society, the 4-H Clubs, and Graham was a Cub and a Boy Scout

**TALSON, MATT**

Matt Talson was born in Wyoming, U.S.A., in 1891 and he passed away in 1930. His wife was the former Selma Kopsala. She was born in 1892, and also died in 1930

Matt first came to Alberta with his parents in 1902 When he grew old enough he went back to Wyoming to work in the mines. Later he and a friend, Elmer Hyvonen, both 17 years of age, drove a covered wagon from Wyoming to Alberta. When their horses became worn out from the many days on the road, they traded with the Indians for a team of wild horses. With this team they were able to continue on to the Eckville area where his parents were living

Matt filed on a homestead about six miles to the north of his parents' place. Later he sold this homestead and bought a quarter section on the SE ¼ 17-38-2-W5

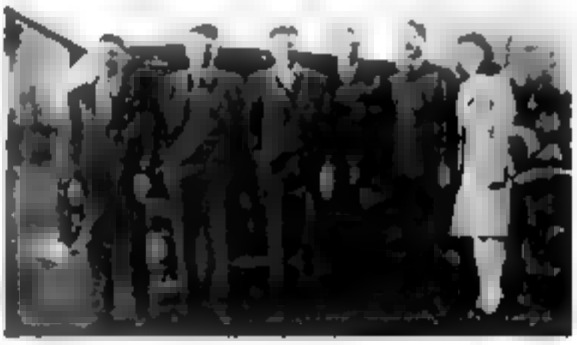
Of their six children Bill and Oscar are now deceased. Frank, John, Elmer, and Ethel are all living in British Columbia. There are 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren

The Matt Talson children were raised by their uncle, Mr Henry Talson, and his wife after the death of their parents in 1930

**THE MATHEW TALSON'S CHILDREN**

William was born in 1913 and died in 1970.

Frank was born in 1915 and married Hilda Ebeltoft in 1946. Their six children were Raymond, Robert, Arthur, Gordon, Sylvia, and



The family of the late Mr and Mrs. Matt Talson. L. to R.: Bill Frank Oscar John, Elmer and Ethel

George. They have two grandchildren. Frank works in a lumber mill and they reside in Coquitlam, B.C.

Oscar was born in 1917 and died in 1950

John was born in 1920. He, also, was married in 1946 — to Mary Lardner. They have seven children. Arlene (Mrs. A. Gaudet), Janis (Mrs. E. Fiolleau), Eric, Leonard, Arnold, Mike and Daryl. John has seven grandchildren. He is now retired and is living in Coquitlam, B.C.

Elmer was born in 1925. His marriage to Lenora Fielding in 1946 made the third marriage in the family in that year. They have three children, Victor, Donna (Mrs. R. Flemming), and Deborah. There are four grandchildren. Elmer now owns and operates a trailer court in Comox on Vancouver Island.

Ethel was born in 1928. She married Mel Day in 1947. They have two children, Cameron and Brenda (Mrs. W. Hanson), and four grandchildren. They live on Douglas Island, B.C., where they work for the forest industry.

**WUORIO, ISAAC**

Isaac Wuobio was born in Tornio, Turtola, O.L. Finland, in 1866. At the age of 18, Isaac left his native land for Hancock, Michigan, where he worked in the mines. After a few years at Hancock, he travelled west to Butte and worked in the mines.

At Butte, Isaac Wuobio and Olga Karkinen met and were married November 24, 1891, making their home at Red Lodge, Montana. Olga Maria Karkinen was born in 1870, at Karstula, Vastinkin Kyla, W. L. Finland. Olga left the land of her birth also at the age of 18 to go to Ironwood, Michigan, where she worked in a steam laundry. After a short period of time, she moved to Butte, Montana.

In the year 1895, while they were residing in Red Lodge, Montana, their only child, a daughter, Emma Pauline was born.

When Emma was small, the Wuobio family moved back to Butte, where Isaac was again employed in the mines, but underground work caused a crippling rheumatism, and he was advised to find something else to do.

In 1899, Mr. Wuobio bought the homestead rights of W. Koski on a quarter section of land at Rolla, North Dakota, and moved his family there. Occasionally, he had to go back to the mines to earn enough money to run the farm.

In the early spring of 1902, Isaac read in a Finnish newspaper that homesteads were plentiful near Red Deer, in the North West Territories, Canada.

It was April when the farm was sold and a neighbor, Mr. Toivanen, took them to Cartwright, North Dakota, with a team and wagon. By train they went from there to Winnipeg then to Red Deer.

The first of June that year, Mr. Wuobio squatted on a homestead with the Medicine River running through it. The town of Eckville stands on the west side of that land.

The season was rainy and mud was everywhere. Isaac was not satisfied. He could see no future in the country, so he abandoned the land he had squatted on, took his family to Red Deer, and bought tickets to Winnipeg. Hearing of good land to be had around Yorkton Saskatchewan he took his family there.

With three other men, they hired a livery team with a driver, and went in search of land but found that Saskatchewan had an abundance of rain, too. After fording two swollen rivers, the third one seemed too much for the livery team. He asked the men for a $500 bond if his horses were to cross that one. That was as far as they went. They turned back.

Mr. Wuobio was not satisfied with the land there. It was prairie and much like what he had left in North Dakota. There was no bush, and the water had to be hauled for two miles.

Going back to Yorkton, where Mrs. Wuobio and Emma were staying in a hotel, he took them back to Winnipeg. After staying there two weeks, they decided to go back to Finland.

Upon going to the station in Winnipeg, they met personal friends, en route for Alaska, who advised them that they would not like Finland. So, once more they returned to the west.

When they arrived back in Calgary, heavy rains had washed out the C.P.R. tracks between there and Red Deer. When the tracks were repaired, they resumed their journey to Red Deer where they bought a team of horses from Mr. Peterson (the father of Mrs. Reg. Whyte) and a new wagon.

They started back to the land they had abandoned, but found that in their absence it had been taken up by Mr. Kauppi.

Their new wagon loaded with trunks and other articles needed at the homestead, the Wuobios found travel very slow, and progressed only 12 miles the first day, due to muddy roads.

Wuobio's Homestead cabin, 1910

The next day they got as far as the Salmonson home, now owned by the Andersons

Mr Wuobio finally succeeded in locating available land on the SE 12-39-3W5, two miles north of Benalto

Staying at the Salmonson home while getting settled, they made the acquaintance of three men — Mr Gust Hill, Mr Henry Lund and Mr Matt Harju, who helped them build the homestead cabin. Red Deer, 25 miles away, was the closest town where building material could be obtained There, they bought their first two cows and a heifer

While struggling through the construction of their homestead home, shelter for nights was made by turning the wagon box upside down The cooking was done on a new stove erected near by

In July, they moved into the new cabin which had no floor, no door and no windows, and little Emma often cried because of mosquito bites The mosquitoes were thick and vicious in those days

Later that summer, the Wuoblos bought a haying outfit from Red Deer as well as a four week old pig from a settler in the Burnt Lake District On their return, while the team of horses were feeding, they found the pig had made a hole in the bottom of the jute sack and disappeared into the woods. The chase proved unsuccessful. Later they learned that the pig had wandered to a settler's place, been taken home, raised and slaughtered making for a very delicious Christmas dinner for the finders.

The first winter the homesteaders cut logs and had them sawed at a new mill located two miles north of home on SW 19-39-2 W5.

By now, other new settlers were coming in and Mr Wuobio helped to locate them on homesteads and many times acted as interpreter at the land office

New people arriving always found room to sleep in the 16' x 16' Wuobio cabin. Hay was often spread on the floor for beds. The family made their home in this homestead cabin from 1902 to 1912

The following summer Mr Wuobio and Mr A Huhtala cut hay on the school land near by Mr Huhtala had a horse and an ox, and Mr. Wuobio had a team to pull the mower Mrs. Wuobio raked the hay with a single horse rake. Mrs Huhtala helped stack it

The children played by the wagons while the men and women made long stacks of hay for winter use and to sell to other homesteaders

A walking plough was bought during the first years. Clearing the land was a slow, back breaking business, for it was done by hand, there were no bulldozers or tractors then. Men's muscles and horsepower provided the energy for the job. Many tiring hours of labor were needed to clear a small field. The first grain crops were usually oats and barley When the crop was ripe, it was cut with a mower, tied by hand into sheaves, and threshed by hand with a home made flail.

A neighbor, Mrs. Olson, and her daughter walked three miles, helped thresh the grain, then carried some of it home for their chickens.

By 1906, a horse-powered threshing outfit owned by Mr Kingsep of Eckville, threshed for the homesteaders. Later came steam powered threshing machines, owned by the Langer brothers, A. Kinnunen and I. Hyvonen

By 1912, they had prospered to the extent that they could afford to build the comfortable frame house which the family lived in until recent years

In 1916, Emma was married to Mr. Eino Niemela, a young Finnish immigrant who had assisted the Wuoblos with the spring and fall work several times. The wedding performed by the Rev. Andrew Harju took place in the Young Peoples' Hall

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Wuobio and daughter Emma and their cabin in 1918

Further progress resulted from the years of conscientious work, and by 1919, Isaac Wuobio, together with his son-in law, were able to purchase more land, SW 7 39-2 W5 from Mr Bittner These lands have been the centre of the family's farming operation ever since

Mrs Wuobio passed away Oct 30, 1918, a victim of the influenza epidemic, and Mr Wuobio in 1922 at the age of 56 years. Both are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery

**WUORI, MATT**

Matt and Bill Wuori came to the community from Massachusetts in 1914 after a few years of mining in the United States. While they established the homestead, Matt's wife, Alexandra, and two daughters, Hilja and Jean, returned to Wassa. Aly (as she was called) opened up a dry goods shop while she waited for Matt to get the homestead established. Then in 1915 she im-

migrated to Canada. As this was during World War I they were accosted by a German ship. The captain of the passenger vessel quickly had all the women and children appear on the deck to show the Germans that they were not on a warship and at the very last moment the German ship turned around and left

After the initial shock of arriving in the middle of "nowhere" Mother soon adapted to the new way of life. She was very fond of animals and gave names to all the cows. One thing that bothered her were the hawks that attacked her chickens. Matt had told her to shoot at them but did not show her how to use a gun. However, one day Mother picked up the 22 rifle, went outside, aimed into the sky (supposedly at the hawks), closed her eyes and pulled the trigger. Needless to say she never hit the hawk

Six more children were born to the Wuori family. After Hilja and Jean came the first set of twins, Hans and Margaret. Then came Roland, Alma and last but not least, another set of twins, Thelma and Violet. This kept Dad busy building sleighs and skis, as well as kicking sleighs. All the children attended Melita and Kuusamo schools

Dr. Backus, who was the area doctor, called first to see Mother as he would have her accompany him on his visits to the sick. She also went on her own to help sick children and elderly people. Her medical knowledge was passed on to her by her mother who was a doctor in Wassa, Finland. Mother was a victim of the 1918-1919 flu. Their son, Roland, was born at that time and she barely recovered from the ordeal. She lost all her hair which was auburn in color and curly, but when it eventually grew back it was grey

Social activities took place in the Elspeth Community Hall where Mother contributed to some of the musical programs by singing operatic numbers. When dances were held the whole family attended. The younger members were usually put to sleep on the back stage while the parents and children kicked up their heels in polkas, the schottische and Scandinavian waltzes

Picnics were held during the summer on the shores of Sylvan Lake with several families participating. Men folks did the fishing while the women prepared fish mulligan and other goodies. The youngsters enjoyed playing in the water and the boys usually climbed trees looking for crows' eggs

The area had its share of hail and dust storms. One hail storm in particular had every member of the family holding feather pillows against the windows to keep them from breaking. Margaret and Alma got lost in a blizzard walking home from Benalto. Mother, Dad and neighbors set out with lanterns to look for them. Finally Dad came through the open field in two feet of snow and found Margaret carrying Alma piggy-back. Both suffered frostbite on their knees

Five of Matt and Alexandra Wuori's family served in the Armed Services in World War II. Hans served in the Navy, Roland in the Army, Alma in the Air Force, and the twins Violet and Thelma in the Army. Also two grandchildren, George and Ronnie Staudinger, served in the Air Force and Navy respectively

All the children married and had families of their own.

Matt Wuori passed away in 1956, his wife in 1959, their son, Roland, in 1957 and their daughter, Hilja, in 1960. The remaining members of the family are located as follows: Jean Rich and Margaret Downs in Calgary, Alberta; Hans in Rossland, British Columbia, Alma Strachan in Victoria, British Columbia, Thelma Fertich in Montrose, British Columbia and Violet Lund in Vancouver, British Columbia

The Wuori Family: Alexandra, Matt holding Roland, Hilja and Uncle Bill Wuori. Hans and Margaret in front

**WYLIE, WILLIAM LEMUEL — by Orrin and Iva Wylie**

William Lemuel Wylie was born in Williamsberg, Ontario in 1865, leaving for Post Falls, Idaho, in his early teens where he married Nettie Mae Hite. They lived for eight years at Hauser Lake, in the Spokane Area, where the first of their family was born.

In 1901 he came to Central Alberta and filed on a homestead in the Burnt Lake area, returning to Idaho for his family. They travelled by train to Red Deer, N.W.T., sending their belongings, plus four head of cattle, two head of horses and two wagons in a box car. Upon arriving in Red Deer, they lived in "Government House", in the present Windsor Hotel, a residence for early settlers. They lived there the summer of 1902 and later that fall moved by wagon to their homestead

William Lemuel was noted for his athletic abilities. During their stay at Government House he proved his athletic ability by winning foot races, kicking contests (to see who could kick their leg the highest). He was about six feet two inches tall, and could kick four inches forwards and backwards above his head. He was an ardent hunter and marksman, winning a 12 gauge Winchester shot gun in a contest in the States.

On a trip west to look over the country, Mr Wylie saw some land he liked better and so gave up the first homestead and filed on NE 26-36-3-W5 where he farmed till passing away on March, 1942. Before taking the NE ¼ of 26, Lemuel came out to inspect it and noticed that there were hay stacks under water, belonging to Slack & Younge. Despite this, it meant that hay was readily available for his stock so the homestead was taken.

Until the subdivision of the School Districts, about 1905, this land was considered to be in the Evarts District, since Evarts was the closest post office and shopping area.

At the time of settling on his homestead none of the land was under cultivation, but there was about 25 acres of natural hay flats. The rest of the quarter was cleared by hand using an axe and a team of oxen.

The first house built on the homestead was constructed from logs cleared off the farm. The roof was built from rough lumber purchased from Dan Clausen's sawmill which, at that time, was located on the present farm of Chris Anderson. The roof itself consisted of two layers of lumber with tar paper between. There was no chimney and roof fires were frequent. The house itself contained a combined sitting-room and kitchen and a bedroom on the main floor, and two bedrooms on the second floor. The house was constructed by Will Witt, a Cherokee Indian from Oklahoma, in 1902.

Some of the earliest neighbors in the area were Slack and Young, who had a cattle ranch where Norman Wells now lives, and the Witt family, who lived on some of Carl Jensen's present land.

During his early years Mr. Wylie saw log drives coming down the Medicine River originating in the Leedale area and going to the sawmill in Red Deer. He remembered a water powered flour mill breaking loose and floating down the river, until caught in the corral of the Smith Brothers Ranch, south of Evarts. As the water rose, it took the side out of the corral and the mill continued on as far as Red Deer. The mill belonged to Kinna Brothers, who lived on the riverbank on the land now owned by Les Kind.

In or around 1908 a dust storm unexpectedly blew up and some of the Wylie children were caught out in it. They sought refuge in a hog house, but the wind was so strong that it lifted the roof off and scattered it in pieces over the field.

Mr. Wylie was believed to have had the first riding plow, known as the "Flying Dutchman", which he brought with him from the States. Jack Worwick had the first Chev touring car in or around 1915 or 1916. Mr. Warren, an elevator agent at Benalto had the first radio. Mr. Warren invited Mr. Wylie and his brother over to listen to the radio one evening, but they had to return several times because the reception was so poor. They stated that they wouldn't believe it until they heard it. This happened around 1924. The first horse-drawn threshing machine was owned by Robert Wilson. This machine was powered by eleven horses. The crew consisted of five men. There was one man pitching bundles from the stack, one man feeding the machine, two men taking the straw away and piling it and one driver. The capacity of this machine was about three hundred bushels a day. Pederson, from the Burnt Lake district, is believed to have had the first steam threshing machine, about 1906 or 1907. The crew consisted of seven men. There was one separator man, one water hauler, one steam engineer, and four pitchers, pitching from the stack. A lot of time was spent lining up the machine when moving it from stack to stack. The machine was pulled from farm to farm by two teams of oxen. The first gramophone was owned by the Smith Brothers. They held a social in the Evarts School in the early 1900's so everyone could hear it, and the social was well attended. The first train from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was in 1914. Two days were required to make the round trip.

For entertainment the people would visit back and forth for card games. There were a number of socials of one kind or another to raise funds for Christmas parties for the youngsters of the community. Later on, the people had rodeos at their farms — usually on a Sunday — to test or prove their riding ability. Arthur Kinna was noted for his musical talent and supplied the music for all the social gatherings. He was entered in many violin contests across Canada. There was an annual picnic at Evarts, which included horse racing, sports, and novelty events. This was a real treat to look forward to each year.

On Christmas Eve, 1883, William Wylie was married to Nettie Mae Hite. She was born in 1869 in Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A. As a young child she moved with her parents to Post Falls, Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Wylie had five children born in the United States before coming to Canada. Nettie Mae died on February 8, 1936. In all, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie had eleven children, two of whom, James and Elsie, are now deceased.

Mary Ellen married Monroe Peter Carlyle and had the following children: James, Jenny May, Harry and Steven. Pete Carlyle passed away in 1970, but Ella still lives on the farm in the Happy Hill district.

Margaret Viola married Max Lightbown and had the following children: Edward, Lillian, Elsie (now deceased), Robert (Bud), Darlene,

David. Viola and Max retired and resided in Sylvan Lake, Alberta, but after Max passed away in 1971 Margaret Viola moved to Abbotsford, B.C. where she is now living.

Robert Lemuel married Buelah Ormstead and had the following children: Sheila, Patrick Florence, John, and Carolyn. Robert and Buelah are retired and reside at Toulmne, California, U.S.A.

William Orrin married Iva Christie and they had the following children Harvey, Patricia, Robert (deceased), Carolyn, Elaine and Arlene. Orrin and Iva reside on the William Lemuel homestead near Benalto, Alberta

John Wesley married Mae Hunter and had the following children Kenneth, Lucy Mae and Margaret John and Mae reside at Iroquois, Ontario where John is retired

Nancy Irene married Theodore Bardwell and their children are Kenneth, Joyce and Alice They resided at Benalto where Theodore was employed at a lumber yard until his death. Irene then married Rudy Rasmussen and had the following additional children Ronald, Daniel, Shirley and Loyal. Irene and Rudy are retired and now reside at Abbotsford, B.C

Hilda Lenora married Henry Monteith. Their children are Florence, Marian, Donald, Diana, Robert, Orrin, Neil, Norma, Betty and Sharon Hilda and Henry reside on their farm at High Prairie, Alberta

Ida May married Stewart Meeres and had the following children: Murray and Lyle. Ida and Stewart live in Red Deer, where Stewart is employed in real estate

Ernest Oliver married Violet Cairns and had the following children Lionel, David, Sandra and Pauline. They reside on their farm at Lougheed, Alberta

**WYLIE, WILLIAM ORRIN — by Orrin and Iva Wylie**

William Orrin, born March 19, 1900 in Post Falls, Idaho, came to Canada with his parents in 1902 to live on his father's homestead west of Benalto. In 1906 Orrin started school, walking three miles across country to Melita School. His first teacher was the late Mrs. Oswald Forhan. On his first Christmas concert he remembers a neighbour coming to take the family with team and sleigh, driving right across fences, as the snow was so deep and hard. In the summer he remembers walking to Evarts to exchange eggs and butter for groceries and to collect their mail It was necessary to use a boat to cross the river

As Orrin grew older he and his sisters spent much of their winter hunting and trapping, often catching between two and three hundred muskrats and weasels. He remembers driving horses or a team of oxen to dances. He later raised a number of horses and cattle, and often on a Sunday the folks of the district would gather at the Wylie farm for a stampede, picking out the best buckers for the Benalto Stampede

On February 2, 1940 William Orrin married Iva Christie. In 1942, after taking over the home farm following his father's death, Orrin was hailed out one hundred percent but managed to salvage green feed for the stock. In the spring of 1943 there was one of the worst floods in the country The Wylies had to wade, in water one and a half feet deep, to the hog houses to rescue newly born pigs. On April 1, 1948, there was a bad blizzard, the temperature 30 degrees below zero, and the snow so deep and hard one could reach over the telephone lines on what is now the Number 11 highway The highway was impassable for over a week, the only vehicles mobile being Skoc-dopole's "cats", removing snow In the spring of 1948 there was another flood on the Medicine River In 1945 Orrin changed from horse-drawn machinery to power machinery The telephone was put in in 1946, and in 1956 electric power was installed. Iva Catherine (Christie) Wylie was born at Jenner, Alberta, where she went to school for two years Her father was a veterinarian. Then the family left for Viking where Iva attended Ribstone Hill and Philoya, a school near Viking Iva worked at various homes in Turner Valley, Stauffer, and Benalto before getting married.

Of the children of William Orrin and Iva, all were born in Eckville Harvey attended school at Benalto and continued by taking a year at SAIT He spent quite a few years driving "cats" on construction work. He married Sheila Kalaputas in 1962 and their two children are Becky and Stacy They presently have a quarter of land three miles east of the Dovercourt Hall, where they raise Quarter and Appaloosa horses Harvey works for the Alberta Gas Trunk Lines and Sheila works for the RCMP as a secretary

Patricia Ella took her schooling at Benalto and afterwards worked at the Eckville Hospital and at the Eckville Co-op, as well as working at the Eckville Dairy Pool Creamery In 1961 Patricia married Ronald Kind and they live in a trailer on the Norman Wells farm. Ron is a water well driller, and works for Roy Forrester Ron also during his spare time, helps Norman Wells on his farm. Patricia and Ron have two girls, Cindy Patricia and Rhonda Gail.

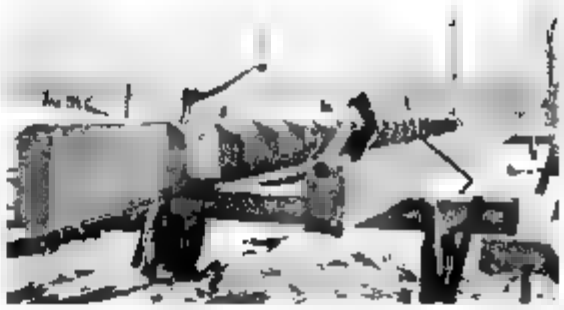
Robert David lost his life in an accident in 1967

Carolyn Mary Mae also took her schooling at Benalto. After leaving school she worked in the Eckville Co-op for about two years and then worked for some time at the Central Alberta Dairy Pool Carolyn married Wayne Oberne and they are now living in Kamloops, B.C., where they manage the Trans-Canada Gulf Oil Station They worked for some time in Eckville before leaving for British Columbia, Wayne working at the Revelstoke Lumber Yard. Carolyn and Wayne have two children — Tammy and Trevor

Elaine Ruth received her education in Benalto and Eckville then went to work in the Imperial Bank in Eckville Later she was

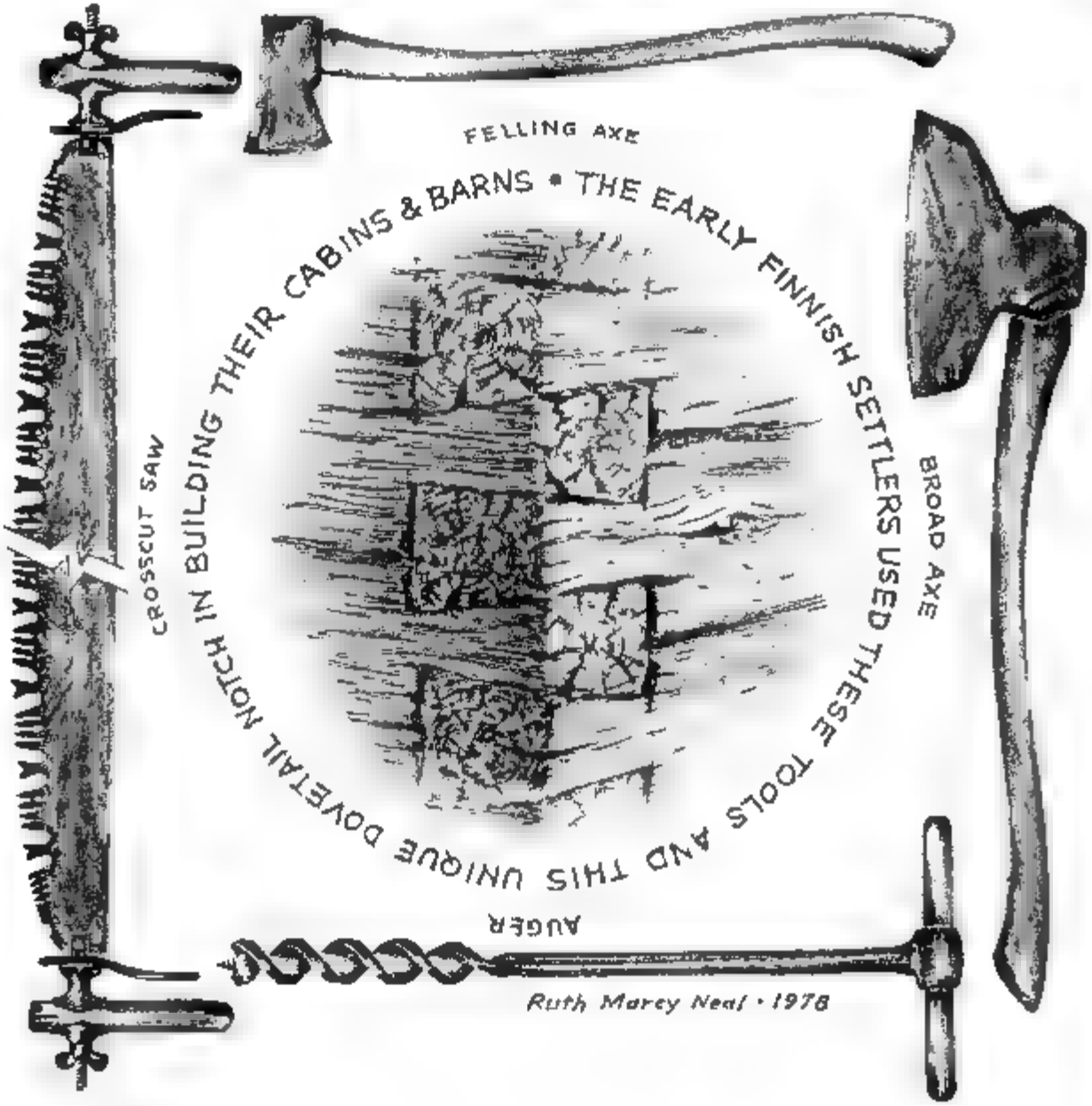
transferred to various branches of the bank in Alberta and British Columbia, and also worked as receptionist and pay roll clerk at St Francis Hospital in Nelson B.C for three years. At present she is bookkeeper for Shell Oil Company in Kamloops, B C.

Arlene Joan attended school at Benalto, Sylvan Lake, and Kamloops, B.C. She also spent a brief time at Red Deer College. After leaving school Arlene worked at various jobs, but, being much younger than the rest of the family, has not yet decided upon a career

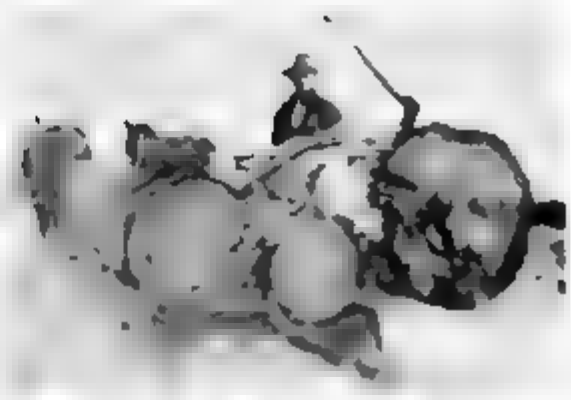


Edward Bartberger Broad axe. Wood carver

**LOGGING AND WOODCUTTING**


FELLING AXE
THE EARLY FINNISH SETTLERS USED THESE TOOLS AND THIS UNIQUE DOVETAIL NOTCH IN BUILDING THEIR CABINS & BARNS •
BROAD AXE
CROSSCUT SAW
AUGER
Ruth Marcy Neal • 1978

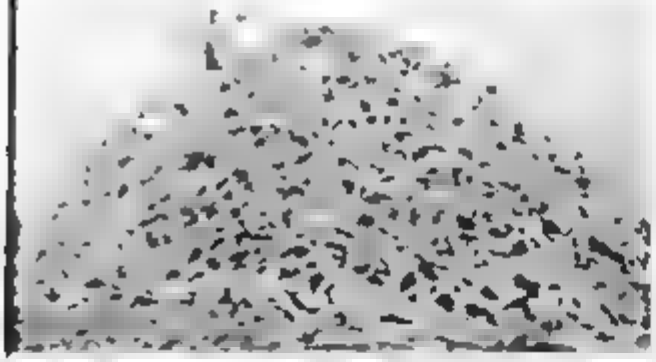
Stacking wood



Frankie Schroeder logging, 1943 - 1944

Frank Johnson and Marvin Schaar logging in 1938

Wood - sawing Boy. Joe Hoffman feeds the steam engine, his right hand on knee, brother John behind the saw blade. Early 1900's



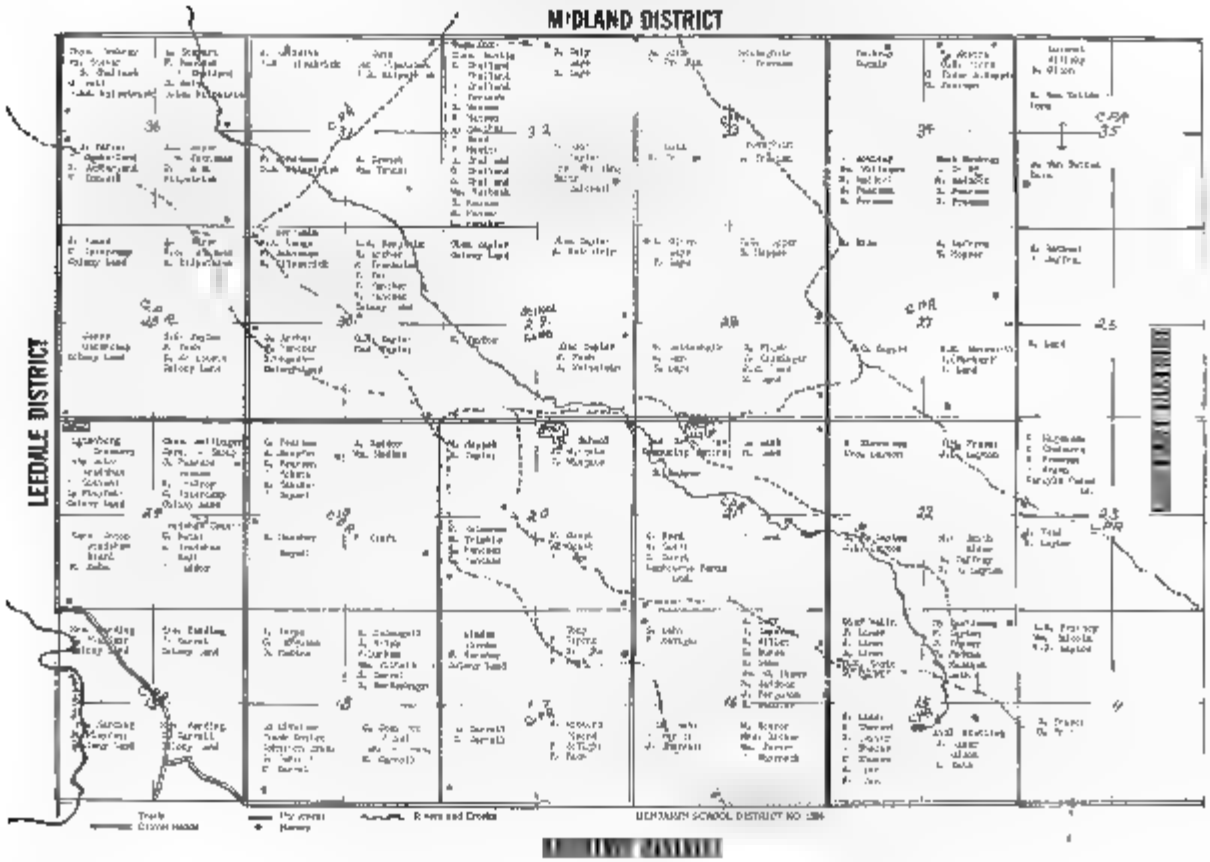
Bud and Darlene Lightbown on the woodpile. There were 80 pole cords in the pile on the Lightbown farm

Logs ready for wood

Splitting wood with a wood splitter

Sawing wood

# BENJAMIN DISTRICT MAP



# Benjamin

**AINSWORTH, KELSA WADDELL (BILL)**

Born September 18, 1907, Bill Ainsworth came to the Leedale area in April 1933. He worked some time for O. B. Moore operating a breaking plow, helping to break up many acres of land in the Leedale area. Bill was also handy with tools and did a lot of mechanic work in the area for the farmers. In the spring of 1941 he purchased the SW 27-41-3-W5, a raw C.P.R. quarter.

Ernest Morlock came out the spring of 1942 and worked with Bill until August. They both returned to the Big Valley district where Bill married Ernest's sister, Ruby, in August, 1942.

Bill and Ruby lived at Benjamin part of two summers, 1943 and 1944. Stewart, their eldest, was born in the Rimbey Hospital.

In August of 1944 they moved to Byemore. They were blessed with four more sons, Max, Allen, Marvin and Merlyn (twins). They raised their family on a farm, where Bill and Ruby retired, turning the work over to Max. Bill passed away July 6, 1975, and is buried at Byemore.

Ruby resides on the farm with Max, Stewart resides in Sangudo, Allen in Fort McMurray, Marvin in Calgary and Merlyn in Edmonton.

Bill was always kind and thoughtful, helping anyone any way he could.

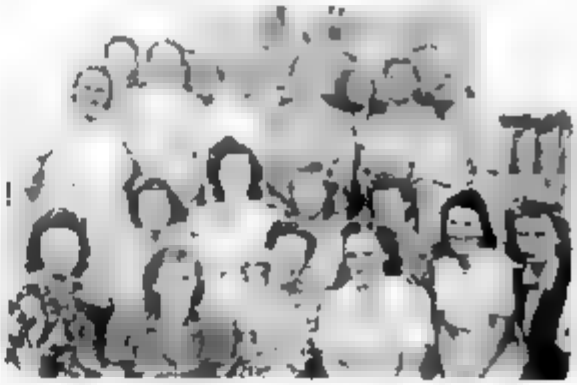
Bill Ainsworth

"For the smallest baby (two pounds and a few ounces) ever born there and having lived only because his father gave him brandy after the Doctor gave up, and later said he could never stand hard work, Bill did manage to live thru' a good many years of just that."

**THE BENJAMIN GET TOGETHER CLUB**

The club started in February 1945 with 16 members, which in the next few months became 30 members. The first meeting was held when Isobel Guest invited us to her home to start a social club. We had a membership fee of 25 cents and 10 cents for tea. We retained these fees until 1973, when we raised them a little.

The first officers were Mrs. von Tettenborn as president, Mrs. J. Layton vice-president, Mrs. J. Wingate secretary and Mrs. C. Land as reporter to the Rimbey Record. At the fourth meeting we assumed responsibility for the annual picnic and the Christmas entertainment. From that time on we assumed more duties to assist the community. Three entertainment groups were chosen, these would provide entertainment for the month, also wood for the fire. Some very good entertainments were put on. Mrs. F. Vipond was especially good at writing lit-



Get Together Club. Back row left to right: Gertie Pixie, Ida Ferguson, Dorothy Laye, Mrs. C. Land, Mrs. C. Hopper, Mrs. R. Maddock, Mrs. F. Wingate, Mrs. C. Bakke, Ada Taylor, Ada Wingate, Ann Thomas, Isobel Guest, Clydie Both, Mrs. Mogensen, George Taylor, Mrs. von Tetenborn, and Dora Wingate.

tle plays and Mrs. C Pierson provided a lot of costumes

The "Get togethers" believed in getting together, in spite of weather or roads. There are several stories of getting to those early meetings Like the time Mr Bakke hitched a two wheeled wagon to an old tractor and headed for a meeting at Beryl Layton's, picking up club members and their children on the way, until they were hanging on at all angles. There was the day it was muddy (and very little gravel) for a meeting at Molly Oborne's. Margaret Mogensen took her rubber tired wagon, a couple of horses and a lot of club members. We got to the meeting in fine style, but it must have rained during the afternoon, because on the way home we all took off our shoes and had a perfectly hilarious time helping to push the wagon up the hills Such mud! Clydie Both used to pull her youngest up the long hill in a little wagon to get to some of the meetings and Clara and Beryl Layton remember going to a meeting at Alma von Tettenborn's with their young children in a Bennet Wagon and a team of horses and spending a couple of hours on the way home, because one of the horses just lay down in the road and refused to move. Neis Mogensen came to the rescue that day with a team and pulled the balky one up. The men cooperated wonderfully in the bad winter weather by taking their wives to the meetings. Quite often they would stay and visit with the man of the house for the afternoon

During the war we sent parcels to the boys of the community who were in the armed forces and at the end of the war we put on a banquet in their honor

When the schools were centralized and the children were bused to Eckville, the community decided to buy the school for a community hall The club was willing to take over the responsibility of running it, but the government wouldn't have it, they didn't think ladies clubs were noted for a very long life

For our 25th anniversary we had a pot luck dinner at the home of Mrs H Land with an anniversary cake decorated by Mrs. J. Wingate We also celebrated with a party at the hall. We invited all the former members that we could and put on a program with skits and plays that we had used in the earlier years

In Canada s Centennial year we held a pot luck dinner and picnic. We invited former pupils, teachers and anyone who had lived in the community Approximately 120 people joined in the festivities and everyone reported a good time

There are only three members left of the original club — Mrs. J Layton, Mrs. J Wingate and Mrs H. Land. Fourteen of the original members are now dead — Mrs. C Land, Mrs F Wingate, Mrs. E. B. Guest, Mrs C Pierson, Mrs C. Bakke, Mrs R. Maddock, Mrs. F Vipond, Mrs. W Scott, Mrs. G. Misner, Mrs. R. Naylor, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs S. Kraft Mrs. J. C. Hopper and Mrs P McTighe At present the membership is the smallest that it has ever been. so many have left the district. There are only twelve of us now but we still look forward to the meetings and don't have any problems getting to them any more

**BENJAMIN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1506 — by Mary Kilpatrick**

When the first settlers came to this district it was a virgin land, trails were nonexistent, trees had to be felled by hand and cleared away to let the teams of oxen and horses pulling their heavy loads of possessions through and then only to be stopped by a swamp or muskeg. In summer these trails usually followed the high land and when winter came then could the swamps be crossed when they became a vast, snowy frozen waste land Our district has been blessed with many settlers who filed on their homesteads still remaining in the families up to five generations later There are the Lands, the Hoppers, the Taylors, the Wingates, the Layes, the Porters now Shorrocks) the Laytons, the Frasers, the Boyers and Johnsmans (now the A. Kilpatricks and Dave Kilpatricks). This district when it was first formed included sections 36, 25, 24, and 13 in 41 4 W5. Later on these sections were deleted and part went to Leedale and part to Gimlet districts

When these first settlers came into the district their closest railroad and town, Lacombe, which was 40 miles away to the east and our province was then known as the North West Territories

In 1906 a group of homesteaders got together to organize a school district and the first school board members were, Frank Benjamin, George Taylor and Duncan Layton Frank Wingate donated land for the school site at the NW corner of 20-41 3-W5. Part of the building material was hauled from Lacombe by George Taylor and his team of mules The school was built in 1907 with Link Boyer and Frank Benjamin as carpenters

Benjamin School Left to right: Teacher Muriel Craig, George Guest, Anna Liner Mildred Motset, Edith Guest Second row: Ray Motset, Herb Land, Margorie Wilkes, Glen Taylor Third row Frank Johnsman Jr., Ada Land Lorna Laye, Mat Taylor, Sid Hopper Laurie Layton Kneeling, Jim Wingate, Jessie Laye, Alice Land and Mary Johnsman

School opened in 1908 with Duncan Layton as the first teacher. Some of the first pupils were: Ernie, Fred, Ralph, Gene and Eva Benjamin (Eva much preferred to be called Evangeline as she liked the name much better than Eva), Ethel, Hazel and Shelby Taylor. As Frank Benjamin had the most children going to school it was decided that the name of Benjamin be given to the district and school. In 1910 Frank Benjamin moved away leaving the school in a precarious position with not enough children to get a grant. This plagued the district for quite a number of years. During this period school was held only half time. School in the early days was held mostly in the summer months as cold and distance made it to risky to send children to school in the winter. As was customary in all the districts the school was not only a place of learning but also the hub of community life there were card parties, dances, church, picnics, political meetings and elections. There was the most important occasion of the year, the Christmas Concert with its hours of preparation when the children got up on the stage and performed their recitations, songs and plays to the best of their ability. Each and every one of the teachers would put in many long hours getting costumes and props ready for that night. On this special night the school would be overflowing with parents, children and friends. One thing that amazed me was the huge amount of Christmas treats that were bagged up for all the children who came from within the district as well as those who came from other districts. Times were hard when these homesteaders were trying to get started farming and there was not much extra cash to be had but every child went home clutching their little bag of goodies.

It would not be fitting not to mention the wonderful teachers who put up with so many hardships in those days. They were a special breed of people who came out to these isolated frontiers to teach. There was no teacherage at the Benjamin School, so they either had to ride, drive or walk to school every day from the home where they were boarding. Many of the teachers would take the children on nature walks through the woods, along the creek or up on top of "old Baldy". In 1935 when Mr. Dowling was teaching one of the highlights of that era were our softball games. Every chance Mr. Dowling got he would let the children out to practice ball. He entered our school in the Central Alberta Softball Tournament at Lacombe. The children from Benjamin put on a very good showing and their last game was against a town team. This team from town figured they had it in the bag when they saw the country bumpkins they had to play against. As it turned out the town kids found out that those bumpkins were no push over and we won the cup for Central Alberta. The cup was a coveted possession of the Benjamin school children for that year.

In the southeast corner of the Benjamin District is a large hill that is known as "Old Baldy". The road to Eckville used to wind around the east and south side of this hill. In winter it would become as icy and slippery as a skating rink and it was a challenge to either go up or down. The mud in the summer season was just as bad to have to contend with. Baldy in the early days was noted for its snakes and I'm sure that when fall came that every snake in the country for miles around went up on the hill to hibernate. Then in the month of May on a warm day if you should have gone up there the ground would be litterly crawling with the serpents. John Archer built a home on the hill in the early days but he never lived there too long. Why he left is not known, perhaps all those snakes were not to their liking as his home was situated close to the top of Baldy. When the trees were not as tall as now, it was one of the most scenic areas in the district. When you looked across the valley to the southwest you could see the Medicine Valley with all its settlers' homes, fields of golden grain, the autumn colours the distant purple hills and in the far distance the majestic Rocky Mountains.

Benjamin School 1943. Left to right: Billy Tennant, Laverne Hancher, Ivy Wingate, Gordon Williams, Margaret McTavish. Middle row: Kenneth Mogenson, Benny Kraft, Phyllis Hancher, Sally Cummings, Byrdella Taylor, Mary Wingate, Marie Ervin, Ruby Guest. Front row: Joan Wingate, Ira von Tettenborn, Bernard von Tettenborn, Mattie Taylor, Pat Hancher in front, toy airplanes made by the boys.

The years that Benjamin District was in the Rocky Division is not known but it was in when Mrs. Alma von Tettenborn was teaching the term of 1942 and 1943. Irene Wingate was doing janitor work at the school and they ran out of wood so they used up some old broken chairs or anything else they could get hold of that would burn and when this supply of wood ran out they went over to Wingates and finished the day of school there. The school districts were as hard up as the people, first there was the depression and then the war so there was little extra money

to be had. One day in 1945 a car drove into the school yard with horn blaring and a Union Jack flying from the radiator cap and a young man by the name of Jim Wingate was yelling "The war is over, the war is over". That was a day Mrs Tettenborn recalls there was a holiday for all the pupils in the school.

Later on the Lacombe Municipality took over the district and in 1949 they bought a school house from Blackfalds and moved it three quarters of a mile east on Sid Hopper's land The old school was put up for bids and Alfred Kilpatrick bought it and moved it to the farm where it is still in use to this day The property where the old school stood was bought back by Jim Wingate before it could be returned to the Wingate homestead

The following list of teachers has been compiled from the memories of some of our district's residents and former teachers. They may not be in the order they taught and it is with regret should any be missed. Mr D M. Layton, Mr Fawis, Mr. Marsh, Miss Flo Johnston, Miss Kingsep, Mr Trenholme, Mr MacDonald, Miss Sestrap, Miss M Craig, Miss E Edmonds, Miss E. Tona, Miss O Heffren, Miss E. Smith, Mr Wm. Fraser, Mr. E Dowling, Miss B. Wallace, Miss E Hyde, Miss M. Ross, Mrs. Alma von Tettenborn, Mr E Ingram, Mr E Dahms, Miss S Peterson, Miss I Hunt Supervisors at about the year starting 1946 were Miss I. Johnson, Miss N Bakke, Mrs. Dora Wingate, and Miss Jean Beddoes. The teachers who taught in the new school were Mrs. Helen Newman, Mr W Saunders, and Miss D Dobbs

About 20 years ago the Anglican Church held services in the school and at that time there also was an undenominational Sunday School held too. The school was closed in 1954 and the community bought it for a community centre and the children were bused to Eckville

In September of 1953 a small feeder bus was used to bus the children from the west and north end of the district to the big bus. These two buses met at Herb Land's corner A. Hancher took on the job of driving the small bus but soon turned it over to his son Laverne. Laverne drove this bus for several years There was a break in between. when Gene Lazzer took over busing the children to school. Then the county bought the buses and they hired Laverne to drive the feeder bus again. The first year that the buses ran in the Benjamin District there was no such thing as roads. There was no gravel on any side roads and in some places there were no roads. In 1955 our counselor Alfred Haarstad put in 13 miles of roads in three weeks. What a wonderful change to not have to pull our cars out by tractor to a main road to get to town. Very little has been done to these roads since except for grading and gravelling There is now a paved road that goes through the district from north to south and is in about the middle of the district It is Secondary Highway No. 766.

This is a list of the very first homesteaders in the Benjamin District on whom there has been no history available. All these people lived at one time within township 41-3-W5. Thanks must be given to the Provincial Archives of Alberta from whom this information was obtained. Please note that only the sections are mentioned not the quarter sections and that the year also is mentioned

Section 14
John B. Mincke 1906, L. K. Fritchey 1905, Wm Malcolm 1906, Malcolm Fraser 1905, Andrew Duff 1907

Section 15
Hy Castleman 1908, Olaf Walin 1908, Axel Westling 1908.

Section 16
Andrew Duff 1906, John Cameron 1907, Scott Willet 1912, S. Lehn 1906, Harry Storer 1906, Mrs Richer 1911, E Teets 1906.

Section 18
Alex J. McDougall 1906, John McNab 1907, Phineas S. Dunham 1911, Clement V Chasson Henry O'Neill 1907, Ed Elverson 1905, Frank Moffet 1909

Section 20
Herman Hoppe.. 1906, Philip McLennan 1906

Section 22
J M. Fraser 1905. M C. Smith

Section 26
Ray W Shofer 1907

Section 28
William Ralph Pa.son 1907, Bernard Olson 1908, George Allen Flack 1906, Mathias C. Kessinger 1908, Will Gottschalk 1905

Section 30
L. A. Benjamin 1905, Edward Archer 1907, R Frank Benjamin 1905, O. O Archer

Section 32
Geo. J Coly 1906, High Gannon 1905, Tho Arthur Austin 19[illegible]
Robt. E. Bond 1906, Frank Hewitt 1907

This summarizes all the history that has been obtainable of our district. I hope that the readers will bear with me as I know there are perhaps mistakes as to events and dates It is very hard to put a history together when there are no records obtainable Without the help of the many old timers who are still living this history would not have been compiled

**HUGO BOOS**

It is reported that Hugo Boos was born in Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1882 He filed on his homestead the SE 32-41-3-W5 in the Benjamin District and received his patent in 1910. He left his homestead to join the Canadian Army when World War I broke out. He returned to the homestead in 1919

Hugo Boos worked in sawmills west of the Gimlet Creek in the early days. He was a very humorous and kind man. All his neighbors had the highest regards for him. He was very fond of

animals and took great pride in his horses and stock

In 1944 or 1945 Hugo Boos sold his farm, stock and machinery to Mrs. Winnifred Whiting and moved to B.C. He passed away in B.C. on July 7, 1947 at the age of 65

**IRVIN BOTH FAMILY**

Irvin Both and his cousin, Lee Both, left Blackie, Alberta and moved into a log shack northeast of the Aurora school. They arrived on November 12, 1934. They lived in this shack for a month or two then moved in with Bill Gardner. The three of them cut posts about six miles west of Aurora, for which they got the big sum of three cents a post or three dollars a load of 100 posts. They traveled back and forth with horses, and delivered their loads anywhere in the country. A load of posts brought enough to buy tobacco, one hundred pounds of flour and a pair of overalls. They also shot squirrels for seven cents a hide and rabbits at three cents each. They got fifty cents a cord for firewood which they cut and hauled.

In the spring of 1935 Irvin went to work for Joe Fizer. He put the crop in on crop shares that year. Irvin's mother and sister (Gertrude, now Mrs. Gaylord Fizer) came out in 1935 from Vancouver Island. In the fall the family moved into a log shack belonging to Mrs. Evernden.

Irvin worked around the Eckville area in 1936 and 1937, and was married to Clydie Reddinger on November 12, 1937. Irvin worked many winters in the sawmills at McTighe's mill for one dollar a day. The Government took thirteen cents a day of this for a hospital plan. All through the forties he worked at a number of sawmills.

After our marriage we lived in various places until we settled on a quarter SW 10-41-3-W5, on May 24, 1939. We farmed with horses for many years. We farmed this place for exactly 36 years before moving to Eckville on May 24, 1975. We sold the farm to Ralph Kreil.

We have five children. Lee was married to Erva Heringer in 1958. They farmed for Walter Hoglund for a number of years then moved to their own place in the Benjamin area. They had two children, Melanie and Kevin. Lee and Erva parted company after ten or twelve years and were divorced. Lee is now married to Mabel Fell and they are farming in the Benjamin area.

Jim was married to Sharon Jackson in 1964. They live in Red Deer area and have three girls — Sherrie-Ann, Rhonda and Jamie. Jim has done carpenter work all these years.

Charlie married Ann Hebert in 1965. They live in Calgary, where he is an electrician. Their two boys are Tim and John.

Doreen was married to John Noble in 1964. They farm northeast of Bluffton. They have two girls and a boy — Shelley, Tammie and John.

Gloria is still single and living in her own home in Red Deer. She is a Certified Nurse's Aid in the Dr. Richard Parsons Hospital.

Irvin and Clydie Both with Jim, Charlie, Doreen, Lee, and Baby Gloria

**BOYER A. LINCOLN, BAUM KATHRYN AND JOHNSMAN HARRIET AND FRANK — by Mary Kilpatrick**

Mrs. Kathryn Baum, my grandmother was born in Butler Indiana, U.S.A. in August of 1842. She was married to Eli Boyer in 1866. To this union were born three boys. A. L. (Link) in 1868 on January 6. The other two infants died within a month of their births. In 1876 Eli Boyer passed away. Eighteen years later Grandmother married Jesse Baum from Valparaiso, Indiana and they had one child Harriet who became my mother.

Grandma Baum and her two grandchildren, 1920

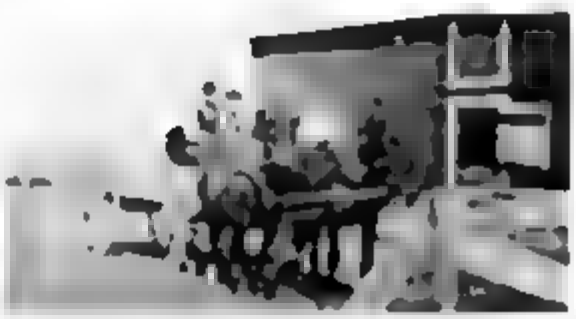
Uncle Link came to the Medicine Valley near Leedale in 1902 with Guy Farrow. These two men came from Hemmer, South Dakota where uncle had land near the ceded Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation. Uncle and Guy Farrow blazed the

trail from Fred Schrader's homestead southwest of Rimbey to the SE 36-41-4-W5. These two men were looking for range land to run a large herd of cattle and horses. The trails they blazed to what was to be their homesteads was in virgin land and they had many hardships as in places they were stopped by thick stands of bush, trees and impassable swamps. I remember Uncle telling of the time they got a pack horse down in a swamp and they worked for hours trying to get him out. The horse was one of the sulky kind and so their decision was not a happy one because they could not leave the animal stuck in the swamp to slowly die. When these two men saw the valley they thought it was a cattleman's paradise as the wild grass and vetch grew abundantly everywhere they looked. Uncle picked out the quarter he wanted for his homestead. He built his cabin upon a hill overlooking to the west the lovely Medicine Valley. Guy Farrow did not prove up on his land as he later went to British Columbia to live.

As soon as Uncle built his cabin he went back to the States. He returned the following year early in the spring and he made his homestead entry for the SE 36-41-4-W5 for $10 on March 23, 1903 and the on April 22 he bought the quarter directly south from the C P R. for five dollars an acre. Settlers began to arrive in the valley soon after his return so Uncle Link gave up the idea of ranching and went to farming. His little cabin was home to many who came into the valley looking for farm land, and many stayed with him until they built their cabins. His cabin door was never locked whenever he was away as there was always the chance of someone needing shelter. He often came home and found Indians waiting at the cabin for him, they also were given food and shelter should they need it.

In the Medicine Lake area there were lumber camps and he went up there and worked part time until he acquired enough lumber to build a house and barn. Early in 1906 he built his barn and put up the frame work for his house. He had not planned on building so soon but due to unforeseen circumstances his plans were changed and he built a much smaller barn than he had anticipated. Five generations have lived in this house and it is now the home of our son, David Kilpatrick and his family. The house was remodeled in 1961.

In the fall of 1906 Uncle went to Washington State harvesting. He used to tell of driving 36 head of horses on a combine. The people he worked for had a pet mule which was a nuisance when they were combining. One day the boss told Uncle to hitch the mule up in the outfit. Apparently with the hitch they had on these horses they could hitch up the wildest horse and he could go only one direction and that was where the lead team was driven as this team controlled the whole outfit. It only took one day of this kind of treatment and the mule stayed clear of the combine from then on.



Link Bayer and his mother about 1900

In the latter part of 1906 Uncle went back to the United States and Grandmother Baum returned with him to the homestead. They were driven from Lacombe by a Mr. Hamilton and in a postcard sent to my mother Grandmother told of how beautiful she thought this country was. She tells of quote "How straight, tall and thick the poplar trees are, so thick that a rabbit can hardly get through." Grandmother would take my brother and I for walks through the woods and she would tell us the names of all the plants and what ones had good medicinal value. She brought her dandelion seed with her when she came up to the homestead so she would have plenty of greens to eat. Little did she know how prolific they would become in this country. She used to make clabbered milk (yogart today) and with a little cinnamon and sugar it was a treat fit for a queen. Sassafras tea was another treat she used to make for us children.

In December 1906 a well was drilled, it was 86 feet deep, it must have been a blessing as Uncle hauled his water from the creek a half mile away. Winter was always the best time of the year to go to the nearest town to put in a supply of staples. The rivers were frozen over and Gull Lake could be crossed on the ice to their nearest shopping town of Lacombe. On one such trip Uncle Link went with Frank Benjamin who was driving his team of oxen. It was a cold 40 mile trip behind those slow plodding creatures.

Grandmother spent much of her time alone on the homestead as Uncle was away in the fall and winters working in lumber camps, as long as as she had close neighbors it was not so lonesome. Many people came into the valley in the early days and many found pioneering too full of hardships and so departed for other lands. When there were no neighbors close Grandmother usually had someone come and stay with her. Her long winter days were spent sewing, knitting and reading her bible. She could make the most beautiful quilts and every stitch was perfectly sewn. In the summer she raised huge gardens and she was well known for several miles around for her abundance of garden produce. In 1910 grandmother got a root cellar and she sold $10 worth of cabbage. How many pounds of cabbage this would have been is not

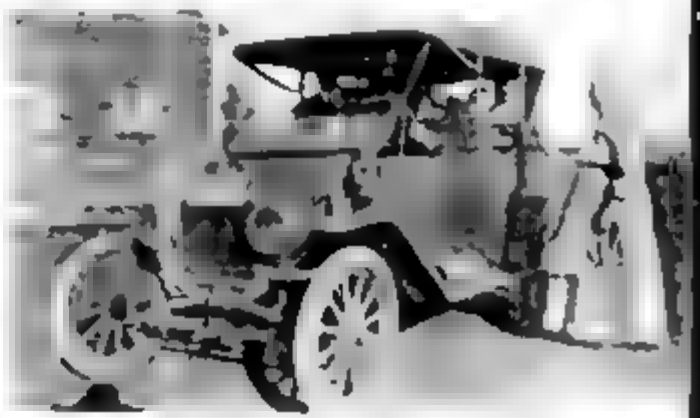
known but imagine that it would amount to several hundreds of pounds.

The following year Grandmother had a trip to Florida and when she returned to the homestead her daughter Harriet (my mother) came with her. The lonely times were over for grandmother. Mother was a trained nurse and she had completed her training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Mother's uncle, Dr. John Firestone had wanted her to come to Denver where he was practicing and nurse there. The wages were $25 a week. Instead she decided to come to Canada to be with her brother and mother. It was not long until Mother was called on to serve in the frontier districts in many an emergency. The closest doctor was at Lacombe the first two or three years she was here. Mother used to tell of the conditions she had to nurse under. Pneumonia and appendicitis were the two most common and serious ailments. She went winter, summer, day or night over trails that were hub deep in mud in the spring and full of bog holes when she left her brothers little homestead shack on the hill. Mother always praised the home made kitchen tables for operations as they were sturdily built. She used to tell of one young lad she nursed through pneumonia only to have him come down with an appendicitis attack. The doctor was sent for at Lacombe and when he and his assistant arrived the kitchen had already been transformed into an operating room by Mother and the operation was carried out by coal oil light. The young lad after a long convalesence grew into a fine young man. In 1914 Dr. Samuel Byers came to Rimbey and Mother nursed for him in this area until a hospital was built in Rimbey in 193.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnsman's wedding picture

Grandmother and Uncle Link used to have a tall, dark and handsome young bachelor come over to visit them. This young man's name was Frank Johnsman he came from Celina Ohio in 1907 and owned a homestead NE 6-42-3-W5. This is how my Mother and Father met and they were married four years later in Calgary in November 1915. Dad and Uncle Link started farming together and farmed the rest of their lives together.

On a winter's day Dad was out splitting wood when he accidentally chopped his thumb with the axe. When he got to the house and Mother saw the injury she saw that he had severed the thumb close to the first joint and that the severed part was being held to the rest of the thumb by a small piece of skin on the inside of the thumb. Mother had Dad bend his fingers and cradle the injured thumb into the bent forefinger, then they went to Rimbey to the Dr's. office. Dr. Byers took a good look at the injured thumb and said he could not have done a better job of setting it himself and to keep it in the position until it healed. Dad was always proud of the excellent job Mother had done on his thumb as there was only a hairline scar and it never bothered him all through the rest of his life.



Dr. Sam Byers driver, Kate Bacon standing, and the other people unknown

Dad bought two more quarters before 1920 the SW 31-41-3-W5 from the C.P.R. and the NW 30-41-3-W5. As Dad and Uncle Link cleared more land they bought more livestock and raised hogs. They hauled eight wagon loads of hogs one time to Eckville with the help of several neighbors, they left in the early morning hours in the

summer so that the heat of the day would not effect the hogs. They also bought a carload of work horses in Calgary about this time too. The one quarter Dad bought was heavily timbered and Dad girdled 120 acres of this land. To girdle a tree you would chop through the bark all the way around the tree trunk about two or three feet up from the ground, this would kill the tree and then after when a strong wind came up the trees were all felled Dad broke a fire guard around this area and when conditions were just right he set fire to the fallen trees Two or three burnings like this and the land was barren of all trees and brush and ready to break up.

My brother Frank was born July 6, 1918 and I, Mary came along the cold winter of 1919 and 1920. It was about 1923 that Dad and Mother moved over to the NW 30-41 3-W5. They had John Liner build them a house and Dad built a log barn. It was from this farm that we children went to school at Benjamin. In 1925 I contacted polio and with all the Dr bills and the depression Dad never finished our home the way he would have liked to do. Grandmother passed away on May 18, 1931 at her home and is buried at Rimbey in Mount Auburn cemetery It was during this time that the depression hit everyone alike and there was very little money to be had even for emergencies. It was during this period that my brother Frank came down with an attack of appendicitis It was on a September day in 1934 that he was operated on in the St Paul's Hospital in Rimbey While convalescing at home he got an embolism and passed away at home on November 18, 1934. and is buried at Rimbey in Mount Auburn Cemetery I finished my schooling in the Leedale High School and also in Edmonton

In 1940 Uncle Link passed away in the Lacombe Hospital, on November 23, and is buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey

It was on July 7, 1941 that Alfred Kilpatrick and I were married We have two children a boy David and a girl Frankie. We have four grandchildren My husband and I are living on the farm across the road from the old homestead. In 1945 Mother and Dad moved into Rimbey and retired there Dad passed away June 6, 1961 and Mother on October 18, 1968 and both are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey Under the Dan Kilpatrick story more is written on our family

I have written the story of my family after spending hours looking through old documents, postcards and letters. It spans a period of 76 years and starts when Alberta was then the North West Territories to the present time I sit and ponder why did my parents come to this country, was it the pioneer spirit in them or did they feel there was a freedom here that was not to be had in their country If it was freedom we must all guard it very carefully and not let it be taken away from us slowly and silently by controls and regulations.

**BURKE, ED**

Mr. Burke came to the Benjamin District from Ontario. He homesteaded the NE 16-41 3 W5. He usually worked on his land for the summer months but often went to the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House for the winter

The Liner children remember Mr Burke as a good natured bachelor neighbor They walked across his yard to and from school and they loved to stop and talk to Mr Burke. He was always ready to visit with them or tell them a story

Mr. J M. McDonald stayed with Mr. Burke when he was teaching Benjamin School. He drove with his horse and buggy from there to the school.

Mr Burke married a widow from Leedale in the fall of 1923. Shortly after that Mr. and Mrs Burke sold the farm and moved to a place southeast of Rimbey

Mr. Burke passed away a few years later

**CARROLL, CHARLES AND EDNA — by Edna Carroll**

Edna Shorrock married Charlie Carroll of Gilby, formerly of Drumheller, in September of 1941. They farmed south of the Medicine River for one year before Charlie received his call to the army. In April, 1942 he went to Camrose for Basic Training, leaving Edna at the home of her parents. Soon he was stationed at Victoria, B.C., in the Canadian Artillery, where Edna joined him in November, 1942

After five years, at the end of World War II, they began farming again with Charles' father in 1947 They lived again on the farm south of the Medicine River on Section 36. By this time they had a three-year-old daughter, Beverly-Jill; followed by a daughter, Heather Anne, born in 1947; and a third daughter, Penny Jane, born in 1951

In August, 1951, they hired Art Lutz to move their three room house to a new location five miles away on the quarter where they still live They were blessed with three more children daughter Nita Louise, born in 1953, and a son, Charles Freeman Stuart, born in 1957. Kathleen Marie was their last child, born in 1959

Beverly married Ronald Aldridge of Golden. B.C. in 1964. They have two sons, Terry and Steven. Their home is in Williams Lake, B.C

Heather married Robert Hebert of St Albert in 1964. Their two daughters are Rochelle and Candace

Penny Jane married Bill Rushton and lives at Blackfalds. They have two sons, Jay and Jimmy

Nita Louise married Neil Harrison of Lacombe in September, 1972 They have one little son, Ryan Charles, and live at present in the Red Deer area

Son Freeman passed away at the early age of 13 years, in 1971

Daughter Kathleen still lives at home. She graduated from high school in Eckville in 1977

## THE FAMILY OF HURLEY EMMETT CARROLL

As so many other families in the 1930's, the Carroll family moved here from southeastern Alberta s Drumheller area in 1931

Mr. Hurley Carroll was born in Oregon U.S.A., coming to the Cariboo area of British Columbia at the age of 18 years, after a short time spent in the American army He had been trained as a telegrapher and worked for the Railway at Vancouver and Prince George. There he met Charles and William Gow, also railroad employees. The Gow brothers and their sister Beattie had recently come west from Peterborough, Ontario. Beattie worked in a florist's shop in Vancouver On their visits from Prince George her brothers brought along Hurley Carroll.

They soon were married and moved around he Cariboo district, where Mr Carroll worked as a telegrapher and also as a packing-guide out of Quesnel for a while They were living at 150 Mile House when their first two children were born, Helen Margaret and Marjorie Jean. As there was no town at 150 Mile House as yet, Mrs Carroll was taken by stagecoach to relatives in Kamloops to await the birth of their child

Mrs. Carroll thought living in the Cariboo was a great adventure and had many interesting stories about their lives in interior British Columbia, as this was an exciting time with the people coming in from all over Canada and the States The stagecoach had many stopping houses which are still standing beside the present Cariboo Trail from Hope to Prince George

Soon, however, the Carroll family moved to Drumheller, Alberta, where Mr Carroll worked in the coal mines, farmed, and ran a dairy. They had three sons also — Bill, Charlie and Gordon When drought became so bad that most people were forced to sell out, the family decided to come north

With all their household effects on five wagons, they started across country Their eldest daughter was by this time in Calgary attending Normal School so she missed this unusual trip. They had five covered wagons, five teams, which were driven by Mrs. Carroll, Mr Carroll, Jean, Bill and one hired man. Charlie and Gordon drove the cattle on their Shetland ponies. They cooked in one wagon and slept in the wagons. It was very hard to sometimes have to keep going all night because they could find no water for the cattle Because of the drought, some farmers would not allow them to stop and water their livestock. Although it was such a hard trip and uncertain, with no one place to be heading for, Mrs. Carroll said it was a really exciting experience and gave her a feeling of adventure! The children were so impressed that they tell of their many trials with nostalgic voices, right up until today It doesn't impress their grandchildren much because it happened away back, but to a generation of quite sophisticated people, many having come to Alberta from cities in the East and from Vancouver and the States, where people were already using every modern invention of the 1930's, it must have been just as much of a challenge as it would have been for the earliest pioneers

The Carroll family reached the Leslieville area first, but, finding nowhere in that area to settle, they continued on to the Gilby area, at the advice of friends who had just recently arrived from the Drumheller area. They first settled down on the Keasey place and the children attended school at the Wolfe School and also the Estonian School. The boys rode their Shetland ponies to school, which they felt was lots of fun.

Later the Carrolls moved to a farm in the Benjamin district about five miles north of the Gilby Store and the children attended Benjamin school

Bill Carroll married the former Irene Luyckfassel of Nordegg, and now lives at Forshee on the shores of Gull Lake. They have two children — Colleen and Jim — also three grandchildren

Charlie and family farm just one mile south of the home place. They have six children and seven grandchildren

Helen is Mrs. Eugene Cook and lives in Calgary

Jean and her husband, Glenn Bardenhagen live on the home place. They have three children Ron, Bonnie, and Rod — and seven grandchildren

Gordon Carroll and his wife (the former Violet Huseby of Gilby) now live at Kitimat, B C They have five children and six grandchildren

Mr Carroll passed away at the age of 78 years in the Rimbey Hospital and Mrs. Carroll passed away in 1977 at the age of 94 years. She had been living in Red Deer

## CHALLAND, GILBERT AND MARGARET BILLIE) RALSTON

My dad Clarence Challand homesteaded in the Benjamin District in 1905 and married Florence Norris in 1909 and my sister Thelma was born in 1910 and I in 1912 but as our Mother passed away early in life my sister and I were raised and brought up in Leedale by my Uncle Jerry and Aunt Lou Challand All those years in the Leedale School would be another book but when I was old enough to quit school or almost I went up on the hill to help dad farm the half section of land the west half of Section 32 41 3-W5 except for the one year I attended the Benjamin School I remember knocking out a tooth with my lunch pail of Herbie Land's. This was an accident but I don't think anyone believed me then. Dad and I batched and farmed on the hill the last of the 1920 s and early 1930's

Those were the good old days when we farmed with horses we got from Guy Smith west

of Leedale, then we got 30 cents for No. 2 Garnet wheat and one and one half cents for hogs. I remember working for several years on the threshing machine each fall to pay our threshing bill and working on road work with the fresno to pay taxes.

I think at that time we were the only ones with an old battery radio and Stan Laye used to come over every night and listen to the radio and the Joe Louis fights if we got the radio on before he knocked his opponent out.

Dad being an old jockey and the love of horses we picked up a fine horse at the pound and we called him Fonda. Fonda turned out to be quite a race horse and I rode him at all the local fair day races and won many quarter mile races with him.

I think one of the most memorable times in my life was when I met my wife Billie Ralston at the opening dance of the new Imperial Lumber building in Rimbey. After going with her for about four years and riding in every week on the little grey horse, I convinced the city gal to come to the homestead. That was 1938 we were married. After came an Edmonton honeymoon then we set up housekeeping in the little house on the hill. The years that followed were some of the happiest even though we had to live on skim milk and eggs, as we had to separate the cream and sell it each week for to buy food and a little gas for the old Ford. I had quite a time making a farmer out of Billie she never complained.

I remember on one occasion coming in from the field late and while I did the milking and chores she said she would unharness the horses for me before going to bed, so I said OK. The next morning when I went down to the barn to feed the horses the harnesses were all trampled under their feet, not only under one horse but under all six. She just undid the hames and let the harness fall. It took me a week to clean all the manure out of all that harness. However we had many happy days picking chokecherries, high bush cranberries and lots of saskatoon berries on our farm. Frank Laye used to call them Alberta apples but Mrs. Ben Laye could really make pies out of those saskatoons. We also in the summer of 1939 took the old stoneboat and went down to the swamp and dug all those pine trees and planted them around the house, they are there to this day only full grown now.

I'll never forget when Gail our daughter was born in April 1940 in Rimbey Hospital. That month the floods came and flooded all the roads and the highway to Rimbey. It was three days before I could get in to see them. When it came time to bring them home I took the old Ford and Stan Laye followed us all the way home with the team and wagon and pulled us through the mud holes. I don't know if it hadn't been for our good neighbors the Layes, Bakkes and Kilpatricks I don't think we would have raised our children especially Gail as neither of us knew much about babies and it was a real worry to Billie when Gail took sick. Mrs. Bakke would come to the rescue. When our son Gilbert Jr. came along in 1941 we knew a little more and made out OK with him, but they were a handful and I learned to change diapers and Billie helped with the chores. We were a long way from being rich but they were wonderful years.

Then when Gilbert Jr. was about three months old we took the plunge and moved to Rimbey to work for the Imperial Lumber Co. and eventually selling the farm and moving to Claresholm in 1948 where we still reside.

My Dad spent his last years in the Senior Citizens Home in Claresholm and passed away on June 18, 1964 at the age of 89 years.

**CHALLAND, TERRY AND LOUCINDA**

Terry George Challand was born in Rolfe, Iowa February 3, 1873 and spent his childhood there. He was the eldest of a family of seven.

In 1905 Terry and his three brothers, Clarence, Claude and Merton came to Canada and found work in and around Lacombe.

In 1907 Terry came back to the U.S. and returned with his bride Loucinda Archer. They came out to Wittenburg and homesteaded the NE 36-41-4-W5.

Mrs. Challand or better known as Aunt Lou dedicated her nursing abilities to the sick, whether they lived near or far. She also operated a little store in Leedale in approximately 1916-1918 where she sold the staple foods.

Terry Challand's homestead

They worked hard on the land, brushing and breaking to get it into production. They built a home and hip roof barn which still stands.

They were active in the Church of Latter Day Saints, Terry being baptized on November 28, 1907 and was ordained an Elder in 1908 by Elder Anderson. Uncle Terry and Aunt Lou's marriage was sealed in the Salt Lake Temple.

In 1945 Aunt Lou passed away. Terry stayed on at the farm until 1950 when he sold the land and retired to Rimbey.

In 1969 he moved into the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital and passed away there on November 21, 1977 at the ripe old age of 104 years, and is buried at the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey.

**CUMMINGS, J. H. (JONTY)**

Jonty Cummings came out from England to his uncle's, Mr J. C. Hopper in April 1926, and worked in and around the district until 1929. He was married to Rose, daughter of Mr and Mrs Chas. Kemmis, who were among the first to settle east of Benjamin which became known as the Symonds district.

They then bought the homestead of George Mowbray (who had also came from the same part of England in 1902) and have resided there until the present time. They have one daughter Sally who is married to Henry Rangen of the well known Rangen family of Eckville. They have a family of three daughters and live in Red Deer.

Jonty became secretary of the Benjamin school district in 1929 and served in that capacity for several years. The school tax at that time was six or seven mills, far from the present rates. Both Jonty and Rose were always involved in the community effort and still serve in various positions in Rimbey.

They also became well known for their Shorthorn cattle, winning prizes at all the shows and sales in the area. The herd was sold in 1970 (after 40 years of selection) to a breeder in the U.S., where they continued to do well.

Well remembered are the conditions of the early days, when roads were just wagon trails through the bush and it was hard work with horse powered fresnos, slips and plows to build something of a road. When the crawler tractor appeared with the graders and we had graded roads, with ditches, that, seemed to be the ultimate in road building. A lot of people remember those roads after a rainstorm or in the spring; of getting stuck or sliding in the ditch. Then came the gravelled roads and eventually the black top road which runs from Eckville to Rimbey.

Many were the happy hours spent in the schoolhouse in this manner: the ladies would take lunch and at Benjamin the music was usually provided by Mrs. Tot Hopper on the organ and George Taylor with the bones at which he was very adept. They would keep things going merrily along until the small hours of the morning, then it was hitch the team to the buggy, democrat, wagon (or sleigh if there was snow) for the drive home where the horses had to be attended to; unharnessed and fed — a far cry from turning the key in the switch as we do now.

**JAMES C. FERGUSON FAMILY**

Jim and Ida were married in Rimbey in 1938. Prior to that Jim came from a farm between Rimbey and Ponoka. Ida Reidinger came from west of Leedale where her parents and family took up a homestead in 1932. Ida worked around Rimbey, and Jim was visiting his grandparents when Jim and Ida met. They worked east of Rimbey and at sawmills for about three years.

A daughter, Carol, was born to Jim and Ida in 1939. In 1941 they moved to a farm in the Benjamin district, into a small log house. Carol was followed by four more children — Gordon, Clare, Kenneth and Jane. This made up their family for fourteen years, when they had an unexpected surprise — another daughter, Marjorie.

By this time Carol had been married for seven years to Richard Matthews from the Forshee district, having been married in 1956. They had three children: Brenda, Vasery and Micheal, by the time Marjorie came into the picture. Poor Marjie was born an Auntie, and still gets teased. Fancy Brenda feeding Auntie Marjie her pabulum and washing her hands and face.

When Marjie was nearly two years old the Fergusons sold out and moved into Eckville in 1965. Jim worked for the Co-op feed mill for a few years, until he retired.

In 1966 Clare married Yvonne Whiteside and they have three sons.

In 1967 Gordon married Loraine Anderson of Gull Lake. They had no family. Gordon's wife died of diabetes in 1973.

Ken still works around Eckville at pipelines and oil well maintenance.

Jane is in Edmonton where she works as secretary, data processing, and with computers.

Marjie is still in high school and enjoys sports and riding horses. She spends most of her holidays with Richard and Carol's family. They have a dairy farm and a few good horses.

By now Jim has reached pension age, and they have at least one long holiday each summer — a luxury they didn't have time or money for when they were on the farm, busy raising a family.

**FIZER, GAYLORD AND GERTIE, AND MRS. ELIZABETH BOTH**

Gaylord and Gertie were married in 1937. In 1937 we, with Irvin and Clydie Both moved to and built a house on the NE of 34 41 3 W5, east of Jonty Cummings' quarter. In the fall of 1938 we all moved to a farm of O. B. Moore's, north of Leedale. Irvin and my mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Both lived with us too. We all moved back in 1939. O. B. Moore sold Irvin the farm in the canyon and mother, Gaylord and I bought the one on which we lived until 1957 when we moved to Rimbey. Mother passed away in 1949. Her 80 acres returned to the county, our 80 acres were sold back to O. B. Moore when we left.

We had four children, Wilfred born in 1939. He is still living at home and commutes to Sylvan Lake where he works as an electrician. Evelyn was born in 1941 and is married to Ray Young. They and their five children farm at Arran, Saskatchewan. Bob was born in 1943. He is married to Pat Sherburne and they have a general store at a little place called Scapa, Alberta. Bob also drives tanker and hauls oil, for Gibsons Petroleum. They have two children. Art born in 1946 lives in Kamloops, B.C. He is married to Alberta Rowen and they have two

children. Art has two children from a former marriage. He is a carpenter like his dad.

The children drove to Benjamin school with a horse and cart in the spring and fall and in a cutter in the winter. When they attended the old school they had about four and a quarter miles to travel and after the present school was moved in, it was about three and three quarter miles. They faced an awful lot of cold, weather, rain and storms over the years but enjoyed the ride in good weather. When the school closed down they went to Eckville School until we moved to Rimbey.

I remember one really bad hail storm. I can't recall what year it was. We were returning home by democrat and team when it started. The children and I just made it into the house and Gaylord took off on the run for the barn with the team. He found an old dishpan which he held over his head to return to the house. His fingers and knuckles were skinned and bruised by the hail, where he held onto the pan. It was a terrible storm. I've never experienced a worse one.

**FOX, FRANK AND FAMILY**

Frank Fox was born in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. on February 28, 1881. In 1900 he married Rosella Conner and they had one son Bob. In 1911 they moved to Alberta and settled in the Blackie area. In 1918 they moved to the Byemoor area in the Hartshorn District. Frank worked in the coal mines in Drumheller and it was at this time that their son Bob started his training as a boxer. Later he became the Light Weight Champion of Western Canada. He also taught boxing in Camrose when he enlisted during World War II.

The Fox family left the Hartshorn District in 1923 and settled in the Benjamin area on the SE 30-41-3-W5. For their journey to this area they built a wire cage out of one of their hayracks their poultry was hauled in this. Their household effects were loaded on another wagon and some 70 head of cattle were trailed to this farm. A few years later they moved again and bought a farm north of Leedale. Later on they bought another farm 10 miles east of Leedale and this is where Mr. and Mrs. Fox spent most of the remaining years of their lives.

Mrs. Fox passed away suddenly at her farm home on October 26, 1947 and Mr. Fox passed away on March 22, 1954. They are buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey. On September 13, 1959 Bob passed away. Bob's wife Yvonne lives in Penticton.

**FRASER, GEORGE**

George Fraser was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on September 13, 1875. In 1903 he came to Canada and spent some time at Parry Sound, Ontario and also at Revelstoke, B.C. In 1905 he came to Alberta and took up a homestead on SW 14-41-3-W5 in the Benjamin District.

In 1907 he married the former Mary Ann Smith who had come from Aberdeenshire Scotland in September 1907.

Mr. Fraser was a blacksmith by trade and many a plow share was sharpened by him for the homesteaders in the early days. He took a keen interest in community affairs and held many offices of trust, he was a trustee and secretary treasurer of the Benjamin District, he was councilor of the Municipal District of Lorne for a number of years and he and his wife were members of the Lochart United Church. He was elected elder of his church. His wife Mary was a member of the Lochart Ladies Club.

Mary and George Fraser had four children two boys and two girls. James S. is the oldest son and married Lois Beddoes. John E. married Bertha Myers. John passed away 27 September 1967 at the age of 55. Connie married Harold Skeels and Margaret married John Padzun.

Following the death of her husband on February 19, 1951 Mary moved to Bentley and in 1954 she moved to Rimbey. She became a patient in the Rimbey Three Way Convalescent Hospital and passed away there on July 27, 1957.

**GUTH MR. AND MRS. LOUIS AND FAMILY — by Joe Guth**

My folks moved to Huxley, Alberta from Spokane, Washington in 1917, and I was born there December 15, 1918. Dad was foreman of a ranch at Crossfield, Alberta for a while and then moved to the Benjamin Leedale area in 1922.

In 1926 my brother George was born and it was 40 degrees below zero that night. Dad called Dr. Sam Byers from Rimbey and he arrived by horse and sleigh after George arrived, but George was Okay.

Along about 1925 we had a heck of a cold spell and I remember the temperature dropping to 68 degrees below zero. The snow was two feet deep owls and birds froze, chickens feet froze on the roosts.

As for Eckville I don't remember much about it except that there was a flour mill in the town, and dad would take a sleigh load of wheat to Eckville to get ground. Well it was a three day trip by sleigh from Leedale to Eckville, one day to go, one day to get the grain ground and one day to get back home.

There were lots of Indians in the country and sometimes there were quite a few clearing land for dad. I used to play with the Indian kids. We traded them vegetables as part payment for their work. One time I had two buckets of vegetables which I was carrying to them on my horse, old Jimmy. On my return home the buckets banged together, scared old Jimmy and he left me sitting in thin air. All the Indians came out of their tents and laughed at me, whereupon I picked myself up from the ground and very embarrassed went on my way.

There used to be buffalo heads lying around in the woods, and sometimes there were two or three scattered around in the yard. The dogs

liked to chew on them. One time I found a head so large I couldn't pack it all the way home so I left it lying along the fence line. It may still be there, but if it is the grass has probably covered it up or the ants have made a home in it.

**THE GEORGE GUEST FAMILY — by Isabel Guest**

Philip Porter was born at Glen Allen, Ontario, later taking up a homestead at Abbey, Saskatchewan. He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1914 and while he was stationed in England he met and married Isabella Ellis. Two daughters were born to them there — Isabel in 1916 and Phyllis in 1918. After the end of the war the family returned to the homestead in Saskatchewan where four more children were born. Mrs. Porter passed away in 1926 when the youngest child was born. Philip Porter passed away in 1952.

I, Isabel Porter, came to Eckville, Alberta in 1937, to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Teed, whom I had known since my childhood in Saskatchewan. Mrs. Teed had suffered a stroke and I had come to take care of her.

In 1940 I married George Guest, and we farmed in the Benjamin area, SW 21-41-3-W5. There weren't very good roads in those days, and very often we were stuck in mudholes, there being a hill on the north road and another hill on the south road. Many a time we couldn't make the hill, and would have to go home and get a team of horses to pull the car. Finally, in 1955, the road past our farm was gravelled.

The Benjamin school children were bussed into Eckville in 1954 and the children had to walk a mile to catch the bus the first year. Sometimes it was so muddy that they could hardly pick their feet up out of the mud.

We had our ups and downs through the years. In 1945 on the last Sunday in July we were completely hailed out. The fields looked just like they had been summerfallowed — there wasn't a spear left anywhere! We had company that Sunday, Tom and Lilly Hunter, of Rimbey, and the hailstones made such dents in their car roof that it left holes and the water ran inside the car.

In the summer of 1945 I had an afternoon tea for the ladies of the Benjamin community. Our purpose was to get together and discuss the formation of a club, which we did that day. We decided to call the new club the "Benjamin Get together Club", and this organization is still very active today, although more than 35 years have brought about quite a change in membership. However, Dora Wingate, who was the first secretary, is still an active member. Alma von Tettenborn was the first president, but she has now retired to Red Deer.

We owned a herd of Jersey cows and were in the dairy business for quite a few years. During the first few years a truck came from Bluffton to pick up the cream, and we fed the skim milk to our pigs. Later, a truck from Bentley picked up the cream. Still later a truck route was established to pick up the whole milk and deliver it to Red Deer.

In 1968 we sold our dairy herd and milking equipment and in September of that year we moved into the town of Eckville. At first we rented out the farm but in 1971 we sold it to Lambourne Farms.

We had two children. Doreen Carol was born in Eckville in 1942. She is married to Robert Smith, of Bluffton, and now lives in Red Deer. Her two children are Brenda, born in 1961 and Darrell, born in 1964. In May of 1954 Doreen and Doris Mogensen were riding horseback on a Sunday afternoon. A dog scared Doreen's horse causing it to rear up and throw Doreen off. She landed on her leg, and the leg was broken. She had to be taken to the Red Deer hospital, where the broken bone was set. She had to wear the cast on her leg for more than four months.

Our son, Richard Gordon, was born in Eckville in October, 1948. He is married to Sharon Smith, of Eckville, and lives in Pincher Creek at the present time. He is employed by the Royal Bank, and is moved periodically. They have two children. Shari was born in 1973 and Janice was born in 1975.

In 1972 George became ill and wasn't able to work hard anymore. We then bought the Ecko Theatre in Eckville and operated it until George passed away, on October 24, 1975. I then sold the theatre in 1976, but have continued to live in my own home here in Eckville.

**THE WILLIAM GUEST FAMILY — by Isabel Guest**

William Guest emigrated from England to Brandon, Manitoba in 1903. Ellen Beatrice Rea also emigrated from England, in 1905. William filed on a homestead in the Benjamin district.

Often the bachelor neighbors would gather at William's house in the evening to play cards, and would put their saddle horses in William's barn. On one such occasion the group stayed all night. When William went out the next morning to milk his cows he turned the horses loose! His guests had to walk home, not knowing how their horses had got loose. William never told them of the prank he had played on them!

William and Ellen were married in January, 1907. They lived on their homestead in the Benjamin district until 1910, when they moved to a farm at Clive, for 13 years. In 1923 they moved back to the homestead, SE 20-41-3-W5. Mrs. Guest served as a midwife, both in the Clive and Benjamin districts, for a number of years.

Five children were born to William and Ellen. The eldest, William Rea, was born on October 13, 1907. He is now married and is living in Westlock. He has been a welder, a mechanic, a movie projectionist, and is now retired. His four children were George, Walter, Doris (Mrs. Mannen) and Lawrence.

Dorothy Ruby was born on November 1, 1909 She married Frank Laye and they reside two miles north of the original Guest homestead. Her two children are Mrs. Ruby Sztym and Mrs. Margaret Scott

Edith Jean was born May 13, 1911. She married Bill Withers and now lives in Lacombe They have three children — Delbert, Mrs. Donna Schribar and Mrs. Joan Hanning

George Henry was born on April 29, 1913. He farmed in the Benjamin district, across from the homestead, until 1968. At this time he and his wife moved to Eckville

Albert John was born January 25, 1923. He served in the armed forces, enlisting in January, 1945 and serving in the Royal Canadian Engineers for three years. After he returned from the army he farmed the homestead until 1971, and in 1972 it was sold to Mr and Mrs Rudy Heyn. Albert then moved, first to Lacombe and later to Red Deer, where he still resides. He is presently employed on the maintenance staff of the Red Deer General Hospital

In 1923 Edith, the youngest daughter, became very ill with spinal meningitis. Doctor Somerville, from Eckville, came to the farm with a Model T Ford equipped with skis so he could follow any sleigh tracks in the snow Edith was then taken to Eckville, where she was hospitalized in Doctor Somerville's house. She eventually made a complete recovery

All of the Guest children attended the Benjamin School. Mr J M. McDonald was the teacher when they started, in 1923

The first entertainment we remember was a chivaree for our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs Burke. who were just newly married. A large group of their friends came to their home with cow bells, horns, dish pans, fry pans, and anything else with which they could make a noise, and used this means of expressing their congratulations to the young couple. We had never heard of this cute custom that was carried out in the pioneer settlements whenever a couple got married

Mr. Guest purchased his first car, a Model T Ford, in 1928. In about 1929 George and Willie were driving it just west of the Benjamin school, and somehow they upset the car, with Willie under it George picked up the car and let him crawl out from under it, but the next day, when the two of them tried to get the car back onto its wheels, they couldn t begin to do it! Several men were needed to set it upright again.

William Guest passed away in March of 1952, and Mrs. Guest in November of 1967 Both are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey They had lived on their homestead ever since moving back to it in 1932.

**HANCHER, ALVA AND YOLA**

I, Alva Hancher was born April 23, 1908, on my mother and dad's homestead which was the NE 36-31 4 W5. In 1917, my parents hired Bob Buck to look after the homestead and we moved down to Utah for one year In 1918 we returned to Alberta to resume farming

In the spring of the year, the rivers and creeks ran very swift and deep from fast melting snow and were very dangerous. When I was fifteen years old, we had such a spring and an experience that I shall never forget

James Layton, his brother and some of our friends decided to go down to Taylor's creek and swim for the first time this year It was early May and the air was warm, I stood on the bank and noticed how clear and inviting the water looked. I dove in and swam up stream enjoying myself to the fullest Suddenly shouts of alarm drifted across the creek and fear gripped at me as I swam quickly to shore and ran breathlessly back to the group of kids standing there screaming They told me James Layton, a non swimmer, waded in and hit a soft spot which sucked him under. I looked down in the water and could see him face down on the murky bottom, I plunged in and swam out to him. I reached down and grabbed his hair and pulled him up, his weight lifted easily in the water His face was dark blue. I thought he was dead I pulled him to shore and rolled him up to the many eager hands grasping out to help drag him to dry ground and safety We worked over him frantically looking for a sign of life and it was a long time before his chest began to move a little, he was breathing, thank God, he was alive

I received my education at the Leedale and Benjamin schools by riding horseback. I stayed on the farm and helped Dad with the work.

In 1929 I married Yola M. Challand in Lacombe and purchased the SW 19-41 3-5 in 1931 from C P R. A small house was moved from the Trenholm quarter, east of Mr F Hancher's and set up on our newly acquired farm. The house was very cold in the winter and the dipper that sat in the water bucket was frozen every morning and the children were always thirsty at this time

In 1937 we bought a Waterloo separator and threshed as far west as Jim Smith's place

Alva helped build the Leedale curling rink and Leedale hall. The first wedding dance to be held in the hall was Yola and Alva's

Yola was very active in community affairs She was a member of the W I and the Benjamin Get Togethers. Yola was a talented piano player and played for numerous Christmas concerts and special occasions. "I never turned down anyone that asked me to play".

I would like to tell this little story on Alva I was weeding in my garden, when Alva poked his head around the corner of the big poplar tree which had stood in the corner of our yard for many years. "Do you and the kids want to drive to town with me? I'm leaving right away" "We sure would," was my reply The day was scorching hot and I could almost feel the cool breeze coming in the car window When we arrived in town Alva met a few neighbours on the

Alva and Yola Hancher 1951

corner of the street and someone suggested they go and have a few cool ones while the women finished their shopping. On the way home from town the inevitable happened. We felt thud, thud, thud in the car. Alva looked out his window and impatiently stopped and said, "flat tire." I nodded my head in agreement as I also spotted it. He got the jack and wrenches out of the car and I felt it being hoisted up. I jumped out and stood looking at him in disbelief as sweat stood out on his brow from all the jacking. "I thought you said you only had a few cool ones with the boys." "That's all I had, why?" "Then why did you jack up the back of the car when the flat tire is on the front?"

I can only remember one year that the hail completely took all the crop. It was in 1945. Earlier than that date we sold a truck load of hogs and received three dollars a pig. The trucking charges were three dollars.

We had five children. Laverne who is still farming in the Benjamin district. A baby boy who died in infancy. Phyllis who married Merl Bjorn son and lives in Edmonton. They have seven children, Carol, Susan, Merilyn, Christine, Sharon and Jackie and one son Gerrie. Patricia married Delbert Douglas. They make their home in Vernon and have a girl Darlene and a son Dwayne. Alvena married Murry Webster. They have a girl Gail and a son Douglas and live on a acreage in Ponoka.

Alva and I sold our farm in 1968 and retired in Vernon, British Columbia.

**HANCHER, FRANK**

My mother, Ida Anna Hancher, was born in Iowa October 4, 1879. She passed away May 8, 1957.

Mr. Frank Wesley Hancher was born in Pocahontas County, Rolfe, Iowa, U.S.A. Born October 9, 1876, passed away February 11, 1952. He met Miss Ida Archer and they were married on December 13, 1899. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hancher are buried in the Mount Auburn

Orson and Anna Archer and their daughter Ethyl

Cemetery at Rimbey. From Iowa they moved to McHenery, North Dakota in 1904.

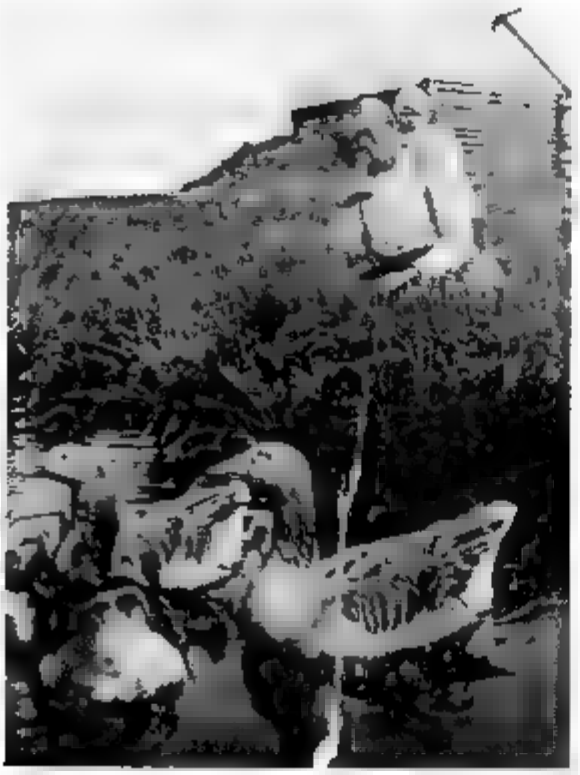
His wife's family, Mr. and Mrs. Orson Archer, had moved to Alberta, Canada so they decided to come to Alberta also. They moved from McHenery, North Dakota to Alberta in 1905 to work for a farmer at Morningside near Lacombe. They worked there for a year, then Mr. Hancher went to the Medicine Valley in search for homestead land for $10. which he found and built a log home and log buildings and proved up on the land, which was required for a homesteader to live six months of each year for a number of years to prove it. He had to break and cultivate a number of acres each year.

Mrs. Ida Hancher taught school at what is now known as the Leedale school for a small salary.

Frank would work out on construction, such as railroad grade work to make money to buy things they needed to farm with. They lived here on the homestead until 1918 or 1919 when they sold out and moved back to McHenery, North Dakota. The auctioneer was C. F. Damron of Bentley.

Their relatives all lived in the Leedale and Benjamin area for a number of years. One by one they moved away and the only ones left of relations, in the valley, was Mr. T. G. Chaland and Mr. Frank Hancher.

Mr. T. G. Chaland one of the earliest settlers



Frank Hancher and his son Alva on his homestead in 1908. N.E. 1/4 36.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancher

in the valley is still alive and is in fair health at Rimbey. His age is 104.

Mrs. Hancher pioneered the building of the Leedale Community Hall. A Leedale Hall Company was formed, shares were sold at $10. a share. A lot of work was donated and gravel was hauled from Eckville. The Hancher boys took part in this, their names being Alva and Roe. The trip took two days. The stop over was at Ole Bardenhagen's place.

There was at one time a creamery and butter plant, one half mile east and two miles south of the Leedale store, cornering the Eastbourne farm.

A party was held in the Leedale Hall December 13, 1949 to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hancher. There were people from near and far, also many relatives there, it was a great success and enjoyed by all.

The feeling between the neighbours in the early days was very good and everyone was treated with respect. The people in the valley could not have survived if each one had not helped each other. Exchange work was the policy. There was very little money in the valley in those days. Seed grain was very scarce and at one time the valley was called "Green Feed Valley." Whoever was able to raise seed grain shared with his neighbor.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancher are laid away in the Rimbey Cemetery in a double plot. They were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

They had three children, all boys born on the homestead. The oldest son died in infancy, the other two, Alva was born on April 23, 1908, Roe was born March 12, 1912.

Before moving to North Dakota, they purchased the Orson Archer homestead, in case they wanted to come back.

They farmed at McHenery, North Dakota for three years but due to hail storms and rust, they returned to Leedale and Medicine Valley March, 1921, on the farm they had purchased before leaving Canada.

The land was heavy timber and bush and it took a lot of hard work to clear which was all done with a grub hoe and axe. Sod broken with horses and hand breaking plow. They lived here on this place until they retired. They bought a home in Rimbey, where they lived until they passed away.

There are some highlights in their pioneer days in the Wittenberg district, now Leedale.

Mr. Paul Broderson had the first store at Wittenberg and handled a few provisions but the nearest place for the homesteaders, in the valley to get any supplies was Lacombe. Each neighbor would take turns to go with horses and wagon

and bring provisions as ordered by the others Mr Link Boyer, would go on the trip. George Taylor, Clem Johnsman, Terry Challand and Frank Hancher would also take their turns. The mail and some provisions were hauled by covered wagon to Leedale by a man named John Kemila of Eckville or Gilby. Leedale was the only place there was a phone. The settlers were able to call out through Eckville and Gilby when the line would work. There was a telephone system between T. G. Challand, Frank Hancher and Orson Archer which operated on barbed wire fence line. This line was very dangerous during lightning storms.

Mrs. Terry Challand, Mrs. P. E. Teets, Mrs. Lilly Duke, Bert Archer, John Archer and Orie Archer were Mrs. Hancher's brothers and sisters.

**HANCHER, LAVERNE ROBERTS**

On April 8, 1930, at the Trenholm quarter, NE 30-41-3-W5, in the district of Benjamin, a long dirt road winds through the land. To your left a team of horses are seeding wheat, driven by Frank Hancher. A little further on you stop at Yola and Alva Hancer's farm home. A familiar team of horses, with buggy behind, stand outside and you could tell at a glance that this was Dr. Byers' team. Inside the neat little house was Mrs. Lillie Challand, anxiously waiting the arrival of her first grandchild.

Dr. Byers and his assistant, Mrs. Sharp, were in the bedroom hovering over Yola. "The baby is about to be born," said the doctor. A sharp rap came at the door, and upon opening it, Mrs. Harriet Johnsman came bustling in. She looked fresh and clean in her white uniform, ready to administer the chloroform to her patient. A baby's cry was heard, and the doctor called from the half closed bedroom door, "Alva, bring some snow quickly, we need it to help revive your little son."

Alva rushed outside, looking around, he could see no snow. The weather was so warm for the last two weeks it had all thawed. He stood there a minute thinking, then ran to an old cellar, sure enough a small corner held the precious snow. He scooped it up in a small bucket he was carrying and rushed to the house and handed it to Mrs. Johnsman with a smile. The baby's cry soon became stronger, and it was a happy day in the Hancher household as their first son, Laverne Roberts, was born.

Laverne received his education by riding horseback two miles to attend the Benjamin School. On extremely cold days, with his feet numb and his fingers half frozen, it felt good to open the school house door and feel the toasty warmth of the big black heater, which stood at the back of the room. A large blackboard hugged the entire south wall and the little school bell was resting on the teachers desk, ready to ring the start of another day at school.

Miss Blanche Wallace was the first teacher Laverne had. Following were Miss Ethel Hyde, Miss Ross and last, but not least, Miss Alma von Tettenborn.

After receiving his schooling, he helped his dad on the farm and threshed for several neighbors in the district. He found time to stook for Alex Sherba, Bill Lawton and Hurley Carroll just to name a few of so many.

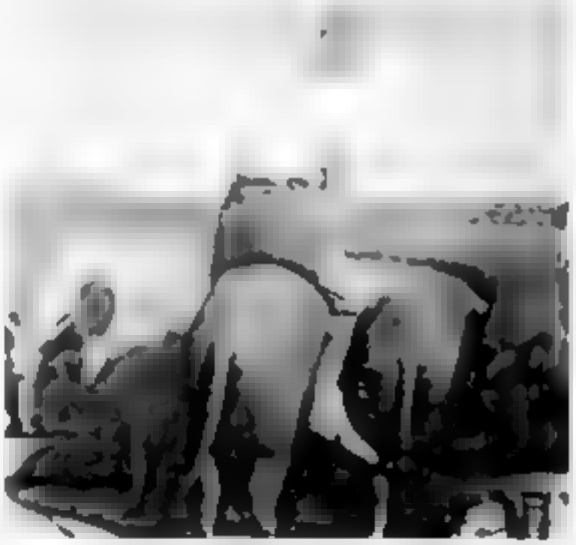
In the winter months he would go out west of Leedale and find employment at Earl Grey's mill. He also helped his uncle, Glen Challand, haul lumber from Johnny Jones mill into Rimbey.

In 1950 Laverne moved to Edmonton to work for an oil company. From there, he was employed by Gainers Meat Packing Plant.

In March 1951, he enlisted in the Armed Forces, choosing the air force as his preference. He took his training at St. John's, Quebec and Camp Borden, Ontario, specializing in air frame technician. He was stationed in Ottawa, Ontario.

In the spring of 1952, he was united in marriage to Kathleen McIlhinney of Ottawa and in August of the same year received an honorable discharge from the air force. He returned to Alberta and farmed the SW 30-41-3-W5 and NE 30-41-3-W5, owned by his grandmother Mrs. Ida Hancher.

Laverne was very interested in raising hogs. They grew well for him and he had such breeds as the older type Belted hog, Landrace, York, Berkshire and Tamworth. He always liked milk cows and was happy at that kind of work.



May Hancher and behind York and Tamworth sows

When we arrived from the east, we had no transportation, so Laverne purchased an old horse cutter from Alfred Kilpatrick and fixed it up as good as new. We had a fine black horse, named Spike, to pull our snow cutter. I anxiously awaited my first ride.

One nice winter night, Laverne told me everything was in readiness and we would try out our little cutter by going to Dora and Jim Wingates for the evening. I was all excited as I sat there and marvelled at the beauty of the winter. The fresh snowfall was shimmering in the moonlight as we glided along. The tree branches along the side of the road seemed to reach out to us with their arms so heavily ladened with snow. The silence of the night was only broken by the snapping footsteps of the big horse in front of us. "Listen, what was that noise," I asked Laverne. The sound came again and I could feel my face flush as no answer was necessary. Someone must have fed Old Spike a plate of beans before we left, as he tooted every step of the way to our neighbors. "Oh Well," I thought, "It isn't everyone that has music while travelling by horse and cutter", or do they?

In 1953 the first school bus came to our district. Laverne took the job as bus driver. Lacombe county gave him a small yellow feeder bus to drive and his route consisted of 17 miles. The roads had no gravel, with the exception of the Leedale main line road. In the spring of the year, one and a half miles was impossible to travel, that was from our farm to the Leedale road. Alfred Kilpatrick had a team of horses and was good enough to have them harnessed and waiting every morning for Laverne to drive them down to the gravel where the bus was left. The team was tied until the trip was made and Laverne drove the horses back. This had to be done most every school day all spring.

About three years later the county hired out the school buses to Gene Lazzer, and Melvin Molander then drove a jeep around the same route Laverne had taken three years earlier. In the later 50s the county, finding it too costly to hire out the buses, took them over and once more, Laverne had his bus back again.

The children that were picked up in those days, deserve a lot of credit, as they had pioneer hearts, braving the cold of winter or the mud in spring, because the feeder bus was broken down due to the miserable roads. The children I speak of were the Warneke children, Playfairs, Kilpatricks, Wingates, Laytons, McGilverys, Layes, Simmons, Scotts, Challands, Taylors, Mogensons and von Tettenborns. Laverne drove the school bus for 10½ years.

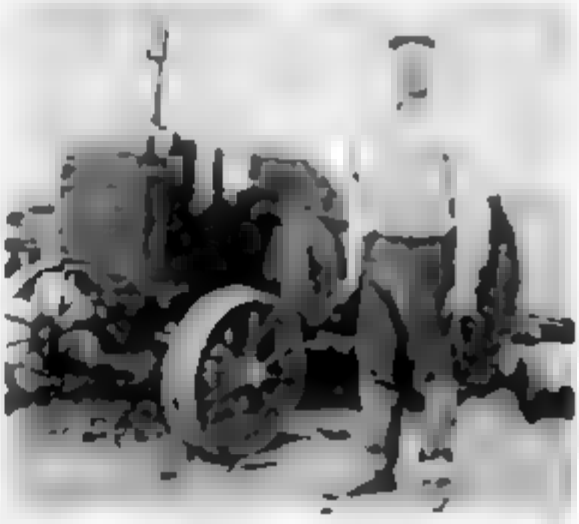
We enjoyed farming and the land was good to us. We put in long hours of work every day but on Sunday friends and relations would drop by for a relaxing day. The women would visit and the men would play horseshoes all afternoon and we would end the day with as much homemade ice cream as you could eat.

One Sunday when the raspberries were ripe and plentiful, a small group of us decided to go and pick the fruit that day and asked the men to come and help. With much grumbling and their minds more on horseshoes that berry picking, they consented.

It was very hot and not a trace of a breeze but we all worked hard to try and fill our buckets. Our pails were only a quarter full when Laverne appeared out of the bush, where he was picking, and I was so pleased to see his bucket brimming over with beautiful berries. Since his pail was full, he sat down in the shade of a big tree and patiently waited for the rest of us to finish.

When we returned home I cleaned my berries with great care and then I reached for Laverne's bucket and poured them into mine. I was lost for words, when out came dirt, twigs, and grass. Only the two inches at the top of the pail was berries. "Oh, that man," I stormed, "no wonder he got done so fast." He had stuffed anything he could find in the bucket and then just picked a few to cover the top. There was a small war at the Hancher farm that evening. One thing was for sure, I would never ask him to pick berries for me again.

In 1956, Laverne purchased the SW 20-41-3-W5 and NW 17-41-3-W5, the latter being the quarter owned by Lloyd and Molly Oborne. One quarter had 20 acres under cultivation so we bought a steel wheeled John Deere tractor and broke another 60 acres that summer. We purchased Walter' Andrew's house as he was building a new one, and moved it on our home quarter. A few years later we erected a new arch rib barn and filled it with milk cows.



Laverne Hancher and steel wheeled John Deere used for breaking

In 1971 we sold our farm and purchased the SE 2-42-4-W5, homesteaded by Mert Challand (Laverne's great uncle) and also the W½ 32-41-3-W5 which was homesteaded by another great uncle, Clarence Challand.

Through our life together, we raised four children. Leonard is married to Terry Hamilton and is employed at the Lavington Mill. He makes his home in Vernon, B.C. and has a daughter,

Rochelle and a son Ryan. Dallas is employed by the Federated Co-op and resides in Hanna, Alberta. Theresa is married to Kent Kinder and they have a little son, Jereme, and make their home at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Kevin is still at home and attending school. He also helps Laverne with the farm work

At this time of writing, we are into the 1977 harvest season and with the continual rain which has plagued our crop and hay for the past two months, I wrote this little poem and I would like to share it with you

Sometimes, hell on earth, is a farmer's life
Battling storms of rain, wind or ice
But calm yourselves, for beyond the blue
The Good Lord commands his angels too,
"Unlock those gates and open them wide.
Let all the farmers step inside."

**HANCHER, ROE RAYMOND**

Roe Raymond Hancher was born March, 12 1912, on the homestead NE 36-41-4-5, the next quarter north of Link Boyer. I went to school at the Leedale and Benjamin schools My teachers were, D Layton, Miss Kingsep, Peggy MacDonald and Miss Sestrap to Grade 7

I had trouble at Benjamin when Miss Sestrap was teaching so dad and mother sent me to Calgary where I stayed with an aunt and uncle for three years of school. While going to school in Calgary, I studied music, learning to play the saxophone and clarinet Then I returned home and was on the farm, farming and playing for dances until I was 21 years old. I then went to work in Edmonton wrecking automobiles. This was in the depression times and wages were very low I worked from eight in the morning, until six in the evening, six days a week My pay for the week was $10. I paid six dollars a week for room, board and washing which left me four dollars for clothing and spending money

After one year in Edmonton, I married a girl, Dorothy Gladys Rutter We rented two rooms and lived there for a few years. My father took sick and went from the city to the farm for one season, and a very cold winter. My wife and I lived in the Jess Bowman house, one half mile south of the home place The winter was very cold and we had a baby girl Roeberta, nine or 10 months old. It was so cold that winter, the water pail would freeze solid sitting by the stove. It was the coldest house I ever lived in.

We had a crop failure that year and I was not able to put the crop in the next spring so I went back to the city I got a job with International Harvester Co of Canada and was field expert and service man for them. I traveled all of Northern Alberta from Lacombe. I was in the company for 16 years when I decided to stop traveling as our family was three children then Roeberta the oldest, Wesley, a boy next, Elaine the youngest, and I was needed at home more than on the road.

I moved to Westlock Alberta where I worked for the I H C dealer In Westlock, we built our first home. We lived there nine years. The dealer there sold his place of business so I moved back to Edmonton and worked for I.H.C truck department as a mechanic for one year I sold my place in Westlock and moved to Thorsby Alberta I bought a home here and have lived here for 22 years I was employed by the Chrysler dealer here in Thorsby where my children finished school

My oldest girl Roeberta, died in 1947 My son, Wesley, finished high school here in Thorsby and went to Olds Agriculture School for three years. He then farmed my land for five years when he was taken sick and had an operation and was not able to farm. He went back to Olds and took a course in landscaping. He now owns his own business and is doing good

My youngest daughter is married and lives on Vancouver Island. She has two children, both girls. Wesley has four children, one boy and three girls

My wife was agent for Alberta Government Telephones here in Thorsby, until they changed the system to automatic. She then was employed with Northern Alberta Dairy Pool as a bookkeeper for the Thorsby Cheese Factory until 1975 when she retired I am also retired now in 1977 We are enjoying life and just returned from my daughter's place on the Island, where I did a lot of salmon fishing with an old neighbor, J Jones who also lived at Leedale.

**HANSEN, BEN**

I was born in Hatting, Denmark in 1947 and moved to Canada with my parents in 1957 and we lived at Coronation, Ponoka, and Edmonton before moving to the Leedale district in May of 1968.

In 1966 I met and married Donna Glenday of Edmonton and in August of 1968 our son Micheal, was born. We left the place in May, 1969 after confirming a place with the Edmonton Fire Department, where I am presently employed Our daughter Tammy was born in May 1971 Kelly in July, 1973 and Diana in October, 1974

In late June of 1968 it seemed that the whole country was on fire. While working on dad's place a call came to get home and work up land at the south end of our place, as a bush fire had gotten away from our neighbors In the meantime half of the neighbors were fighting a fire on the Melvin Simmons farm.

The really hard part about leaving was saying goodbye to all the friends we had made during the year spent on the farm, even now when we sit and talk about that year we get homesick

**JOHN CHARLES HOPPER — by Jean Hopper**

John Charles Hopper was born in 1885 at Langley Moor near Durham, England His parents were farmers and also owned a hotel in Langley Moor As a young man he worked on the farm, at the hotel, and also drove the local doctor

on his rounds. The lure of a new and better life caused him to immigrate to Canada in 1905. Before homesteading in the Benjamin district in 1906 he worked on a farm in Manitoba as well as working in the logging camps in the wintertime at Coleman, Alberta.

After twice returning to England he wed Mildred Mary Gilliam in 1912. At that time she was the postmistress at Langley Moor. When Charlie and Polly (as the couple were known) were married they returned to Canada accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Gilliam Sr. to live on a farm in the Symond district. When their house was completed on the homestead in the Benjamin district they moved there.

Charlie was for some time a trustee of the Benjamin school which was located about two and one-half miles distant from the homestead. The livestock that was sold from the farm had to be transported a long way to market in Lacombe by wagon or sleigh before the coming of the railway to Rimbey.

In 1929 the Hoppers purchased their first automobile, a model T Ford car. This was a great help in getting to town, providing it didn't rain and make the roads impassable.

Charlie and Polly had one son, Sidney Charles, who married Jean Beddoes of the Lockhart district in 1950. They have two children, Ron and Susan.

Charles' wife passed away in 1964 after a lengthy illness. Charlie continued to live in his home for several years before moving to the Senior Citizen's Lodge in Rimbey in 1973. Following a serious illness, he was transferred to the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1975, where he was still living in 1977.

**JERPE J. E.**

Mr. Jerpe filed on his homestead the NW 18-41-3-W5 on March the 16, 1906. He received his patent on January 11, 1912. He owned a butcher shop in Chicago and after the death of his fiance he came to Canada and settled in the Benjamin District.

Mr. Jerpe lived in the basement of his home and never finished the upper part of his home. He farmed in a small way and was a very religious man friendly and lived a quiet life. He served on the Benjamin School Board.

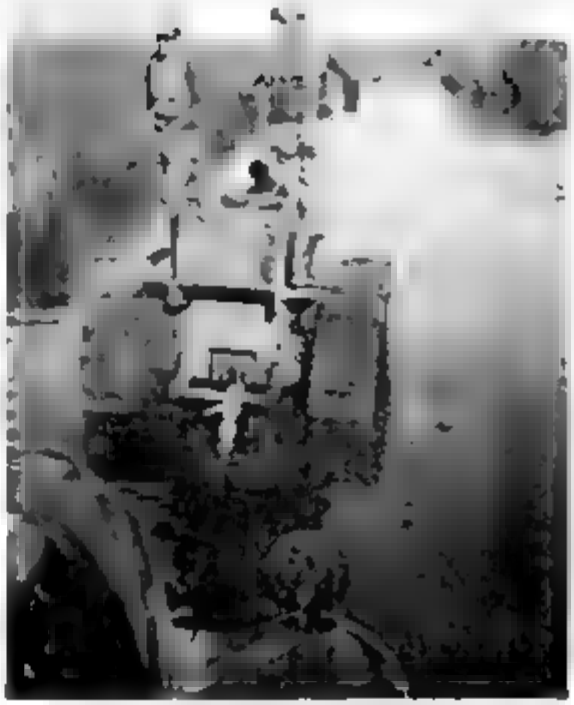
In the winter of 1936 or 1937 he was found dead in his home by Clarence Ferguson.

**JONES, JOHNNY**

Johnny Jones was born at Lacombe in 1909. He moved a sawmill to the Faraway area in 1935, and first became acquainted with the neighbors in the Leedale district then, although he resided in Rimbey at that time.

He bought the quarter we lived on in 1945 as he had been in the airforce from 1943 to 1946.

He married Louise Mohn in 1952. She had been teaching in Midland and later taught at Gimlet for two years.



Spring of 1942. J. Jones getting provisions to his mill. Crossing the Medicine River at Leedale.

Steamer broken through the bridge near Jone's Mill.

People in the Leedale area cut logs and made lumber at the Jones mill for the curling rink, then they trucked the lumber to its present site, where through community effort they all constructed it.

We sold the farm in 1965 and have moved near the Oyster River on Vancouver Island.

**KILPATRICK, DONALD (DAN) AND FAMILY — by Alfred Kilpatrick**

Donald Kilpatrick, my father, was born April seventh 1883 in Huron County, Ontario and he came west to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in the spring of 1910. He was a carpenter and built several barns at Tuxford, Sask. Lillie May Moffat, my mother was born October 30, 1885 near Hensil, Ontario. She came west in 1910 on a harvest excursion and used to tell of how hard the train seats were on that train ride to Regina, Sask. Dad and Mother were married in 1912 on March 12 at Moose Jaw. They took out a homestead near Lake Johnston at Old Wives, Sask. Dad served on the council for the Municipality of Hillsborough and also on the Bay Island School Board.

It was the early twenties in the spring when a storm started up, before long it turned into a howling blizzard. Cattle were driven by the storm into fence corners and died there. The storm also drove cattle and sheep out onto Lake Johnston and they fell into large cracks that were in the ice and perished there.

In 1918 when the flu hit the country, quite a number of people in our area contacted it but I never remember of the folks telling of too many people dying from it. Dad came down with it but us children and mother escaped the flu.

In our family four children were born. Burns my oldest brother was born February 16, 1913 at Moose Jaw. I, Alfred was born on the homestead on April 21 1915. Margaret my sister was born in Hensil, Ontario when mother and dad took a trip back to Ontario in the winter of 1920 and 1921. Bob the youngest was born on the homestead on April 18, 1922.

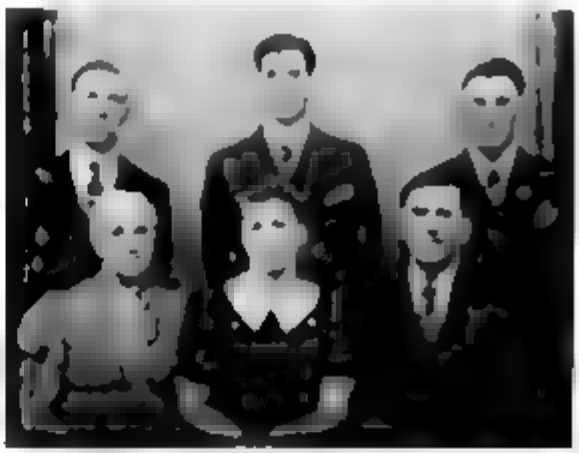
Drought and depression hit about 1929 on the prairies. Lake Johnston dried up to where old wells were found. These wells were dug and cribbed about the later part of the 1800's, so the old timers used to say. I can remember as a child going out to the pasture with my dad and brother to pick buffalo chips as they were called (they were dried cow manure) to burn for fuel in the summer as there was no wood on the prairie. During those years we always had a garden. Our house was up on a hill and about a quarter mile away there was a low area in which Mother always planted the garden and it produced plenty for our family.

In 1933 Dad came up to Alberta and rented a farm north east of Rimbey. When he returned to Saskatchewan he was unable to raise enough money to ship up to Rimbey so we were unable to make it for that year. In the spring of 1934 I came to Alberta and worked east of Rimbey for the summer and in the fall I helped thresh around Leedale. After 23 years on the prairie Mother and Dad could no longer take the dry years on the homestead so they pulled up stakes and moved to the Leedale area. They shipped up two rail cars of machinery, six horses, four cows, chickens and household effects to Eckville. It was right after Thanksgiving that they arrived and they then trailed up to a vacant house of Scotty Houston's and we lived there for the winter.

Previously to coming to Alberta Dad went to Regina to get transportation to Alberta but was turned down on two occasions. A neighbor was going to Regina to get transportation to northern Sask. and dad asked him to try and get it for him to Alberta. Our neighbor was successful and so we made it to Alberta. I remember one homesick horse we brought up from the prairie with us, his name was Dan. Twice he got away, once I found him at Dixon and the other time at Benalto close to the river, had he been used to water I'm sure he would have crossed the Medicine River and perhaps made his way back to the prairie before we could have caught him.

In the spring of 1935 we rented the Frank Hancher farm and moved there for a year. Then in the spring of 1936 we bought the Louis Guth quarter NE 31-41-3-W5. This was our home. About a couple of years later the NW 31 was bought and Dad and us boys worked at grubbing and getting more land into production. It was a lot of hard work but we were always able to have plenty to eat and fodder for our livestock. With the mills that were west of us Burns and I worked in the lumber camps in the winter and later on Bob also worked there too. It was some years after I was married that Dad bought another quarter of land from Frank Johnsman the SE 6-41-3-W5.

I, Alfred married Mary Johnsman in 1941 and we have two children Frankie and David. Frankie finished her high school at Eckville and then joined the Air Force. She married Robert Matkins who is Program Manager of the Montana Large Aperture Sleamac Array for Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation. They live in Billings, Montana and have two boys David and Roby. David our son took part of his High School in Eckville and finished in Red Deer.



Don Kilpatrick Family: Left to right: Alfred Kilpatrick, Bob Kilpatrick, and Burns Kilpatrick. Front row: Mrs. Kilpatrick, Margaret, and Don Kilpatrick.

He also went to Olds and took Agriculture Mechanics. Barbara his wife is a R N and took her training in Saskatoon They are now living in the area and farming our place in the Benjamin district They have two girls, Shannon and Melanie

Margaret married Gale Scott in 1945 and they have three girls. Audrey married Wm. McKay and they live in Fort St John, B.C. They have two children Janet married Paul Lange and they live at Sundre and have two girls Francie works in Edmonton

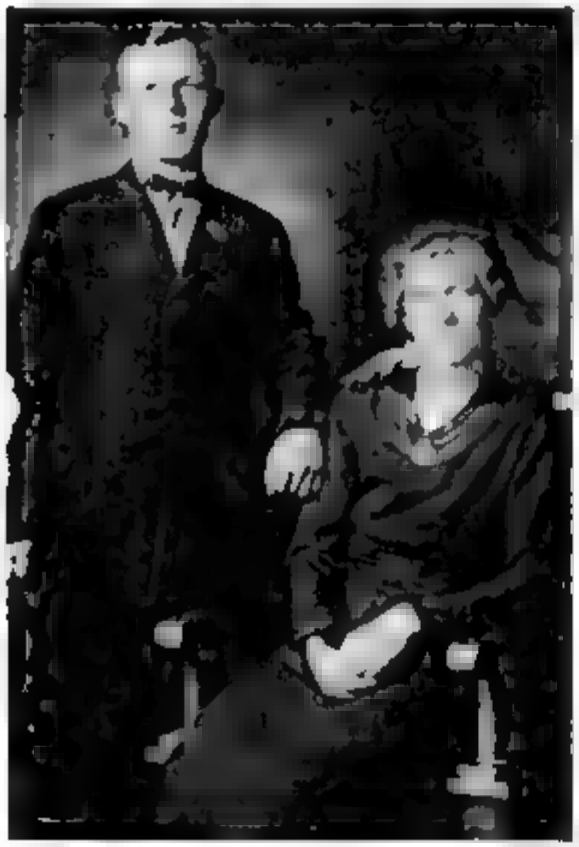
Bob married Vivian Broderson in 1949 and they live in Rocky Mountain House. They have three children. Lloyd is married and has a son and lives in Olds. Colleen works in Rocky Mountain House and Brenda is still at home

Burns my brother lives on the home place and is not married

Dad passed away in April of 1955 and Mother in February of 1964, and they are buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery at Rimbey

**KRAFT, GOTTFRIED (FRED)**

Fred Kraft was born at Saratov, Russia on May 28, 1893 and came to Canada in 1914. He served in the First World War in France with the 10th Battalion and on November 15, 1915 enlisted with the 89th Battalion in Calgary He received



Fred and Sena Kraft

British War and Victory medals and decorations Fred was discharged from the army on May 30 1919 in Calgary, where he married Sena Bardenhagen on July 19 of the same year Sena, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Carson Bardenhagen, Sr , of the Benjamin District, was born in Elk Rapids, Michigan, U S.A. on December 17, 1891. Their sons, Ole, January 18, 1921; Victor, February 26, 1923, and Floyd, August 25, 1924, were born at Gilby, Alberta. Then they moved to Calgary, where Robert was born on July 15, 1926 In 1928 they moved to Loyalist, where Ben was born on July 23, 1932 In 1933 they moved back to the Gilby district

After a lengthy illness, Fred passed away in 1942 Sena resided in the district for a number of years and then moved to Eckville where she purchased a house and lived there until the time of her passing on December 18, 1966. Both Fred and Sena are laid to rest in the Kalmu (Gilby) cemetery

Ole Kraft married Maxine Rogers of Tofield in November 1949. He began work for the Alberta Wheat Pool in 1951 at Delburne and then moved to Wetaskiwin where their daughter, Karen Lynn now Mrs. Ronald Draper of Hillspring) was born April 11, 1953. Later that year they moved to Fleet Their second daughter, Nita Louise, was born on June 9, 1955 at Castor She is now Mrs Norman Nelson and resides in Lethbridge. From Fleet, Ole and Maxine and family moved to Conrich and then to Hillspring in southern Alberta In 1972 Ole was transferred to Welling, south of Lethbridge, where he is still employed. They make their home in Magrath, Alberta

Victor Kraft served in the army from 1942 until 1946. He married the former Joy Berryman and they had four children, Judy, June, Steven and Pat. The family lived in Whitecourt for many years, where Victor owned and operated a trucking business He died of injuries suffered in a chuckwagon accident at the Red Deer Fair on July 21, 1976

Floyd Kraft served with the Medical Corp in the army from 1940 until 1946, and died as the result of drowning in 1948, at the age of 24 years.

Robert Kraft received his education at Eckville and served in the army from 1944 to 1946. He worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool at Sylvan Lake and Elspeth from 1951 until 1960. He married Betty Hansen in December, 1955. Betty, daughter of Albert and Haze. Hansen, was born and raised in the Bluebell district south of Eckville, where she received nine years of her education and completed her high school in Eckville After finishing Grade 12, she worked at the Eckville Hospital for several months and then spent one year working in the office at the Eckville Co-op. On June 1, 1954 Betty started work at the local Post Office and is still employed there.

In 1961 Robert attended "Molar System of Schools" in Calgary, where he received his certificate in barbering. In June, 1962 he obtained

his provincial license, after which he operated a Barber Shop in Eckville for the next ten years.

Robert and Betty are very interested in sports having both been active curlers for many years. Robert was instrumental in the construction of the local arena and has spent several years as a member of the "Arena Operating Committee" At present he is a member of the Eckville Town Council.

Ben Kraft and his wife, the former Joan Wingate of the Leedale district, reside at Sicamous, B.C. They have five children. Ariel, Bonnie, Brian, Lori and Marnie. Ben is employed by the Co-op Lumber Mill at Canoe, B.C

**LAND, CHARLES**

Charlie and Kathleen Land came to Canada in 1913, and settled in the Benjamin District on the SE 28-41 3-W5. They homesteaded a bush quarter and started the painstaking job of clearing it by hand and having it broken by horses with a wooden beam breaking plow

There were several other families in the district at that time, so the roads went from farm to farm across country, and to the school, which was the centre of community life. Here dances box socials and social evenings were held and Charlie used to help with the entertainment by singing and whistling across the blade of a knife.

Since they lived eleven miles from town, which was quite a long trip with horses and wagons, they and the neighbors used to take turns to fetch the groceries and the mail, that way each family would only have to make the tedious trip every three or four weeks and as there was no railway, Charlie took his turn hauling freight from Lacombe to Leedale

In 1917 the Land house burned down with all their possessions, and so for the next couple of years they lived at the Hiram Cutler farm near Rimbey They returned to Benjamin after that time to rebuild their home

When the road allowances were surveyed every farmer worked to make the graded roads They used horses and a slip for the high land This dug up the dirt and conveyed it to the proper place. When they had to go over low lying ground they corduroyed it, which meant cutting trees and laying them side by side over the swampy ground and covering them with dirt hauled with wagons with moveable floors

As more land was cleared and crops grown, they used to cut and stook the grain then stack it. so that later on in the fall or winter it could be threshed when the threshing machine made it's rounds to the different farmers

The Land's bought their first car, a Model T in 1927, but sleighs were still used in winter as the roads were not suitable for cars

In 1942 Charlie had a very bad heart attack. He never actively farmed after that but became interested in gardening and his son Herb took over the farm. They retired to Bentley in 1950, where Charlie had a model garden and they both enjoyed their retirement

Charlie and Kathleen had four children, one son and three daughters.

Herbert married Mrs.) Joan Porter who had twins, a boy Keith and a girl Barbara. Keith is at Fox Creek. Barbara married Robert Barlow of Calgary and they have two daughters, Michele and Alison and they are now residing in Chilliwack, B.C. To Herbert and Joan a son Michael was born and he is at home on the farm with his parents

Alice married Charles Arrowsmith of Rimbey, they have one son Douglas who married Lois Golder of Lacombe Douglas and Lois have two children, a son Larry and a daughter Connie Alice, Charles and Douglas and family live in B.C. at Armstrong and Enderby.

Ada married James Haarstad of Bentley They have two sons Denis and Dean. Denis married Pat Beranek and they have one son David and one daughter Brenda. Ada passed away in 1976

Ruby married Edward Mottus of Eckville and they have two sons Ted and Steve and one daughter Kathleen. Ruby and family live in Baldwin, Missouri.

Kathleen passed away in 1969 and Charlie in 1973, and are buried at Bentley

**LAYE, MR. AND MRS. BENJAMIN JOHN — by Mrs. Frank Laye**

In 1906 Mr and Mrs. Benjamin Laye and their two children, Frank, age eight years and Marion, age five years, left Abrum, England. They came to Brandon, Manitoba where he worked at Brandon Machine Shop for a year In 1907 they came to Lacombe Mr Laye worked on the brick school there which was being built that year Mrs. Laye cooked for some of the workers. On Febraury 28, 1908 they left Lacombe to come to the homestead with team and democrat, crossing Gull Lake, Alberta in a blizzard — there was not much snow before that. Four other children were born in the years to follow, Stanley, Lorna, Jessie, and Ralph. Mrs. Laye passed away in December 1940, age 66 years. Mr Laye passed away September, 1959, age 85 years.

Frank married Dorothy Guest. They reside in the Benjamin District. They have one daughter, Margaret, who married Lenard Scott and farmed in the Lecory area. They have two children' Murray and Heather

Marion married Harry Robb of Carlos. They farmed in that area. They had three children. Norma, Howard and Leonard. Harry passed away September, 1952. Marion passed away July, 1974, age 75 years. Norma married Harvey Stewart of Bluffton, they have a farm there They have three children Leslie, Ronald and Marilyn. Leslie married Linda Jones of Sorrento, B.C., now living at Red Deer. Ronald and Marilyn are at home Howard married Janet

Wilson of Bingley. The home farm at Carlos was left to him, where they reside. They have six children, Pamela, Angela, Becky, Sheldon, Monica and Sherman all at home. Leonard married Debra Wilson of Bingley. They are living near Rocky Mountain House. They have five children, Kevin, Calvin, Dean, Denise and Melanie all at home.

Stanley married Kathleen Neumeyer of Potter Creek. They took over his father's farm. They had one daughter Shirley. Stanley passed away October 1975 age 65 years. Shirley married Richard Eluik of Eckville. He works for John Deere Parts and Service of Olds. They have one son Ryan.

Lorna married Hardin Chaffee of Rimbey. They lived at Willesden Green District until 1942 when Hardin went into the army. Lorna moved into Rimbey with the four oldest children until 1945 when Hardin returned from overseas, the latter part of May. In the fall of 1945 they moved to Wainwright where Hardin worked in the Quarter Masters Store. They stayed there a year, until his discharge from the army. They moved back to Rimbey until 1956 when they moved to Edmonton. A year ago they moved to an acreage near Spruce Grove. They have eight children. Connie, Verlin, Navarro, Hardin Jr., Dale, Yvonne, Denis and Donna. Connie married Allan Maclean and lives near Alder Flats. He is a battery operator. They have five children. Heather, Randy, Douglas, David and Tim. Heather married Tony Maclennan and are living in Edmonton. They have one daughter Saylor. The others are not married. Verlin is married and lives in Edmonton. They have seven children. Navarro married Loretta Dimers. He operates a vacuum truck in the oil fields around Buck Lake. They have three children. Tina, Chad and Craig. Hardin Jr. and wife Judy lives on an acreage out of Spruce Grove. He is a carpenter for W. J. V. Bennet. They have three girls. Dale and wife lives in Edmonton. He is a machinist. They have two boys. Yvonne married Ed Schrieber. She is a supervisor for the Department of Finance in the Provincial Government. Denis is apprenticing electrician and is at present at Fort McMurray. Donna married Gordon Thachuk. She works for the Department of Health and Welfare.

Jessie married Fred Dentman of Rimbey. They took over the family farm east of Rimbey. They have one daughter, Muriel. She married Leonard Ingram of Bentley. They are farming east of Rimbey. They have two boys, Randy and Lorne.

Ralph passed away the winter of 1923 at the age of four years.

**DUNCAN AND ANNIE LAYTON — by Mary [illegible]**

One of the early families in the Benjamin district was that of Duncan and Annie Layton. Annie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Lockart, emmigrated from Nebraska, U.S.A. to Alberta in 1903, and operated the first post office in the district then known as Lockhart.

In the fall of 1905, Duncan Layton, who had left his home in Truro, Nova Scotia three years earlier to find work in the sawmills of British Columbia, returned to Alberta to file claims on homesteads for himself and five companions. They were Frank Wingate, Wallace Stevenson, George Fraser, Marner Smith and Jack Mink. Frank, Wallace, George and Duncan remained to farm the lands they homesteaded. Early in the spring of 1906 Mr. Layton began teaching in the newly organized Calkins Valley School Division. He had plans made up and obtained the permit for building a school in the Benjamin district. In 1907 the newly-formed Benjamin School District issued debentures and borrowed money to begin building. Link Boyer got the contract to build the school, assisted by Mr. Benjamin, a member of the school board. Mr. Layton taught from March until June of 1908. There was not enough money to continue longer. The first pupils consisted of three Taylor children and four of the Benjamin children. School was closed in May of 1910 when Mr. Benjamin, having "proved up", got title to his land, then packed up his belongings and moved with his family back to Montana. Without the Benjamin children there were not the required number of school children to operate the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Layton were married on October 28, 1908 and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary before Mrs. Layton's death in 1973. Mr. Layton, now 94 years of age, lives at the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer. He still remembers vividly his early years in the area as a teacher and a farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Layton and granddaughter Sandra

Of their six children, the two eldest reside in the Benjamin district. James married Beryl Beddoes and they have made their home on the original Layton farm since 1941. Their only daughter, Sandra (Mrs. Colin Heard) lives in Petawawa, Ontario.

Bob married Clara Tilleman. Their family includes Donna (Mrs. Jim Pearson) Bob, Harvey, Allan, Heather (Mrs. Robert Guidam), Chris (Mrs. Andy Brown) and Tim and Tom.

Laurie married Lenore MacLean and they will be retiring to White Rock in 1977. They have one daughter, Linda (Mrs. Greg Berry) and a son, Keith.

Jessie (Mrs. Hal Beddoes) of Kamloops, B.C. has just retired from a nursing career. They have four sons, Michael, Sandy, Ken and Ian.

Mary (Mrs. F. H. Blake) retired from teaching and lives in Red Deer. She has two sons, John and Tony.

Layton L. married Reva Hyde, and lives in Vancouver, B.C. They have a son, Mark and a daughter, Tammy.

**LINER, JOHN AND FAMILY**

Early in the year 1910 John Liner left his home in Sweden and sailed for Canada. With him was his brother Olaf and later the same year another brother Per also came to Canada. They first came to Barons, Alberta, where a sister and brother-in-law lived. The brothers were all carpenters and for several months they worked at carpenter work in Southern Alberta.

They then came north to Lacombe looking for homesteads. About 30 miles west of Lacombe there were three homesteads available in Sec. 15-41-3-W5. John filed on the SE quarter, Olaf filed on the SW quarter and Per on the NW quarter of this section. That winter the brothers built a log house on John's quarter. When spring came they went south again to do carpenter work for the summer.

In the fall of 1911 John's wife Edla and three children Anders six, Anna five and Alice two sailed for Canada. Per's wife Mina and son Gunnar came at the same time. After the ocean voyage and long train ride across Canada they finally arrived at Lacombe. John and Per were there to meet them and the trip to the homesteads was made with a team of horses and a wagon. The first winter John's and Per's families and Olaf all lived in the log house that had been built the previous winter. Per and Olaf built houses on their homesteads that winter and moved to their own homes in the spring.

John built a log barn on his land. A few head of cattle were bought, also some pigs and chickens. A few acres of land were cleared and John purchased a team of oxen to break the land. He often had to leave his family and go out to work at his carpenter trade to get some much needed money. Income from the land was very meager the first years.

In April 1913 another daughter was born to the family. She was named Albertina which was soon shortened to Alta. She grew to be a happy healthy little girl.

John Liner

Anders started school at the Benjamin School in 1913. His first teacher was Miss Flo Johnson. Anna started school the following year. Mr. D. M. Layton was our teacher that year. We found school difficult at first, because we did not know the English language. However we soon learned enough of the language so we could understand our teacher and our progress at school was quite favorable.

During the summer months wild berries were plentiful. We picked saskatoons, wild raspberries and blueberries, which were preserved for winter.

In July 1916 tragedy struck our family. Edla our dear Mother, passed away a few hours after the birth of her daughter Gladys. John was heartbroken and did not know how he would manage to raise his family by himself. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Putland, who had no children of their own, offered to adopt Baby Gladys. John did not want to give up his little daughter but he felt that it would be best for his little girl. So the adoption papers were signed and Gladys became the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Putland. They were very good to her and she had a very happy childhood. For the next two years the other four children stayed with relatives in southern Alberta and John worked at his carpenter work.

In December 1918 John married Sofia Peterson, who had just recently come from Sweden. He then brought his family back to the homestead. We were all happy to be back and we were happy to have a new mother. Again we went to school at Benjamin. By this time, Alice was school age also and two years later Alta started school. We had a long walk to school as our homestead was four miles from the Benjamin School but we had a path through the bush which shortened the distance a bit. In 1921 John

bought the quarter section which had been his brother Per's homestead and we moved there. We now had a better house and we were a mile closer to school. There also was more land under cultivation so it was not necessary to work out as much.

After finishing school Anders worked with his Dad on the farm for a number of years. He also worked in southern Alberta in the harvest fields for several years. In 1930 he filed on a homestead at Winfield. He built a log house there and it became his home for many years. Besides clearing land and developing his homestead he worked in lumber camps and for a time as a section man on the C.P.R. railway. In 1952 he sold his homestead and bought his father's farm in the Benjamin District. He farmed there until 1968, when he sold the farm and bought a home in Rimbey. In October of 1968 Anders married Eva Andrews and Andy and his wife still live in Rimbey.

Anna finished grade nine in the Benjamin School. Then she went to Calgary where she finished her high school and went to Normal School. She taught school for eight years in several school districts in Central Alberta. After the death of her step-mother in 1936 Anna came home to keep house for her father and help on the farm. In 1944 Anna and John left the farm and went to White Rock, B.C. where they lived until John passed away in March, 1948. After her father's death Anna came back to Alberta and in 1949 she married Andrew Crawford, who farmed south of Eckville. Andy and Anna continued to farm in the Diamond Valley District until 1971, when they sold their farm and bought a home in Red Deer, where they now reside.

After finishing school Alice worked in Calgary for a number of years. In 1939 she married Gust Svenson of the Winfield District. Gust had a farm west of town where he and Alice lived for many years. Their son Alfred was born in 1940. Alice passed away in 1964. Gust continued to live on the farm until his passing in 1975. Alfred is still farming on his parents farm.

Alta finished her high school in Calgary. Then she went to Normal School. She taught school for a few years, then she went to the Western Baptist Bible College and became a missionary. In 1943 she went to Nigeria, Africa under the Sudan Interior Mission. She served two four year terms in Africa. She came home on furlough in 1947 just before her father's passing. She went back for her second term in the fall of 1948. The climate in Africa was hard on her health, so she found she had to give up her work as a missionary. In 1956 she went to the Peace River District to teach school. There she met Edmond Roy and she and Edmond were married in 1957. Alta continued teaching for a few years after her marriage, while Edmond was farming. Then they moved to Peace River town where they worked for a number of years. They are now retired and living in Kelowna, B.C.

Gladys was taken by her foster parents to Burnaby, B.C. while she was still very young and they continued to live in the Vancouver Area for many years. Gladys became a teacher and taught school on Vancouver Island. She was about 25 years old when she was told that she had been adopted. She then came to Alberta to visit her father and brother and sisters. She stayed with her father and Anna for nearly a year. Then she went back to B.C. where she has lived most of her life.

**LINER, OLAF FAMILY**

In the fall of 1910 Olaf Liner filed on a homestead in the Benjamin District. It was the SW 15-41-3-W5. He built a house on his land in the winter of 1912, later he cleared land and built fences. He also worked at his carpenter trade much of the time.

In 1917 he went to Sweden and brought his wife Lydia and son Algot with him back to Canada. They came to the Barons District of southern Alberta where they rented an empty farm house and Olaf worked as a carpenter for about two years. Their son Algot attended the Garden Prairie School. In July 1918 their son Harry was born. In the spring of 1919 they rented a farm southwest of Barons, but this farming venture proved unsuccessful. They suffered three years of crop failure, due to drought, cutworms and grasshoppers. Another son Robert was born in March of 1920.

In the fall of 1921 Olaf moved his family to his homestead in the Benjamin District where they lived for about a year and a half and Algot attended school at Benjamin. In 1923 Olaf sold his homestead and the family lived in Calgary for about a year. Then in the fall of 1924 Olaf bought a C.P.R. quarter in the Lochart District, the SE 13-41-3-W5. Olaf worked hard on this farm. He cleared about 100 acres of land and broke it with horses. They also raised pigs, cattle and milked cows.

Their youngest son Carl was born in January, 1927. Harry and Robert were now school age. They went to the Calkins Valley School. Later Carl also had his schooling at Calkins Valley.

Algot worked in southern Alberta and at various jobs in the Calgary area. He remained a bachelor all his life. He now is retired and living in Calgary.

Harry bought a truck and for about 15 years he operated a trucking business known as "Liner's Transport". Then he bought his father's farm, where he is still living and continuing to farm. In 1945 Harry married Marie Krossa, some years later they built a nice new home on the farm. Harry and Marie have three children, Susan, Annette and Gordon. They also have six grandchildren.

Robert bought land in the Lockhart District which he continued to farm for several years. He also helped Harry with the trucking business. In 1957 Robert married Alice Haarstad. They con-

tinued to live on the farm and built a lovely new home. In 1966 Bob and Alice decided to move to B.C. they had a sale and sold their farm equipment and livestock. They moved to Rutland, B.C. and for a time Bob worked as a carpenter. Then they bought a farm at Armstrong where they lived for several years. In 1972 Bob and Alice moved back to Alberta and they are now living on a farm in the Lockhart District.

Carl became an Auto Body Mechanic. He was married in 1957 and bought a home in Calgary. Carl and his wife Martha still live in Calgary and he is continuing to work at his trade.

Olaf and Lydia Liner and three sons, Carl, Harry and Robert

Olaf and Lydia Liner on their Golden Wedding Anniversary Dec. 1958

Olaf and Lydia Liner moved to Calgary when they retired from farming and bought a home in the city. On December 3, 1958 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with a family dinner at the home of their son Harry and in the afternoon they had open house at Robert's farm where many friends and neighbors gathered to wish them well. In 1966 Olaf suffered a stroke which left him partly paralyzed. Lydia continued to look after him and nurse him through his long illness. He passed away in December 1971. Lydia lived in her home in Calgary for sometime after her husband's death. Then she sold her home and is now living in the Senior Citizen's Lodge at Rumbey. At age 93 she still enjoys fairly good health and keeps busy crocheting and knitting.

**LINER, PER FAMILY**

In the fall of 1910 Per Liner filed on the NW 15-11-3-W5. During the winter of 1912 he built a house on his land and dug a well. In the spring he and his wife Mina and son Gunnar moved to the homestead. He was busy that summer clearing some land and getting a few acres broken. He built a log barn and a chicken house. He bought horses, some cattle and chickens. Like his brothers, Per often had to leave home to do carpenter work to supplement his income. Gunnar who was ten years old was a big help with the chores when his father was away. Gunnar started school at Benjamin soon after they were settled on the farm. He soon learned the English language and made good progress at school.

Per's health began to fail in the fall of 1916 and after an illness of several months he died in April 1917. Mina and Gunnar left the homestead for about a year and found work in Calgary, but they came back to the farm in 1918 and Gunnar bought livestock and equipment and began to farm his father's homestead. However after the extremely long cold winter of 1919 and 1920 they decided to move to a warmer climate. They had a sale in the summer of 1920 and moved to California. In 1920 John Liner bought their farm. Mina passed away a few years later. Gunnar continued to live in California and worked at various jobs. He is now retired and lives in Los Angeles.

**MEMORIES OF "OLD BALDY"**

Others know the hill as "Old Baldy or "Snake Hill" but to myself and my brothers it was just "Grandpa's Hill". I do not know its history from 1919 when my grandparents came from Iowa to this valley. Some say there is an Indian grave beside the pathway which runs along the top. A pioneer once built a home right near the brow of this small mountain and indeed I did see this old basement or foundation on the trail when grandpa and grandma took us for a Sunday climb. As a little child I remember how lovely "the hill" looked with it's blanket of shiny green chickenberries.

When Grandpa came to Canada he had intended living near Leedale on a flat quarter section of land, but Grandma was so homesick for the "Old Country" that they settled here instead. The hill reminded them of Scotland. A fire cleared all trees from it and this is how it got it's name in the 1920's. It lies on the farthest northwest end of the Medicine Hills. In the 1920's and 1930's we walked right up the south-west face of it over slippery leaves and jagged rocks grasping small trees and going in a winding direction so we wouldn't slip. Grandpa always warned us to be careful or "you'll roll right down

the hill" It took about one half hour to climb right up to the snake pit where we rested. Once Grandpa showed me the snakes writhing around in their sunny rock cavern Grandma was always afraid to go there alone, for once she had gone looking for berries around the back of the hill and become lost. She finally came to a wire fence and followed it to the fields near the house Once too a grey wolf had chased their dogs, when they ventured too near the dark forest at the north end So to us children "The Hill" was a very wonderful and mysterious place where we went for a climb on Sunday. Grandpa walking ahead with his Willam Walking Stick, then came we children followed by Taffy the old sheep dog and last came Grandma keeping watch over us. It was worth the effort when we reached the top. There we sat down on a soft carpet of moss and leaves to view the snowy mountains and the Medicine Valley below. Grandpa pointed out the neighbors farms to the northwest and the Calkins Valley to the east Best of all was seeing the roof of their log house right below nestled in the trees

The hill smelled of Balm of Gilead trees and raspberries. It was covered with anthills which Grandpa stirred or poked with his stick so we could see the poor little creatures rebuilding their mounds. I really wondered if the whole hill might be one hugh red anthill for I was terrified of them when they crawled into my shoes and bit fiercely There were deer and other wild animals sheltering among the trees. Grandma became very upset when anyone hunted them. She thought of it as a natural sanctuary

Over the years "Old Baldy" has been many things to many people. Other neighbors have had sleigh-riding parties and hiking picnics along the old trail. Now the pavement runs right along the east side and the road crew built a look out on the south-east end. So our little mountain is not alone

**THE NELS MOGENSEN FAMILY — by Margaret Mogensen**

Nels emigrated to the Calgary area from Denmark in 1927 and I came from Denmark in 1929 We were married in Calgary in 1929

We lived in Calgary for 10 years, but at that time there was no work in the city, so we decided to go farming and came to the Benjamin district in the summer of 1939. Nels was never out of work after that! It was a raw quarter section with no roads We lived in a tent for two months while Nels helped the Layton boys with the haying Then they, in turn, helped him build a two room log house. At the time we moved to the farm we had the three older boys. Hugh was nine, Ken was seven, and Norman was three years old. Until we got a well drilled the following summer we hauled water from Layton's spring, a distance of one mile While we were living in the tent we had a hail storm that almost killed our chickens and soaked everything in the tent The mosquitoes were so bad that Norman was completely covered with bites

The road allowances was cleared the first summer from Lands to the northwest corner of our quarter The road itself was not built for a few years after that

In the fall Nels went harvesting at Balzac to earn some money for the winter. While he was gone Hugh and I laid part of the kitchen floor and I started to chink the logs inside the house

Our two horses ran away that summer, and we heard three months later that they were in the pound in Markerville It cost $35 to get them back out again. In the meantime we had bought another horse from Charlie Land to use for hauling water

An early snowstorm brought Nels home from Balzac, but after things dried up again he was able to go and help Harry Thomas thresh

That first winter and spring Nels cleared 14 acres and had it broken in the spring. In the summer of 1940 we had a well drilled. We had to drill down 150 feet to get water, so it was really heavy to pump

We brought chickens with us from Calgary and bought a milk cow from Charlie Land, so we always had fresh milk and eggs. Nels worked for different neighbors for the going wage of one dollar a day to help buy groceries The boys found life quite different from the city, with two and three-quarter miles to go to school, either on foot or on horseback

We were very fortunate that we were all healthy except for the fact that Norman was born with a club foot which required long and frequent treatment at the Red Cross Hospital in Calgary Transportation was so poor that it was a problem getting him back and forth and his hospital stays were sometimes prolonged.

Our life was generally untouched by the war except for communication with relatives in Denmark. Letters were sent from Denmark to a friend in the United States, who forwarded them to us and the same with our letters to them until the United States entered the war. Then all letters had to go through the Red Cross and we could send a message of only 25 words.

In 1941 Doris was born in Rimbey. We were worried about the availability of a doctor, as the doctor who had been there had joined the army, but another did come before she was born. Wayne was born in September of 1943

In 1947 Hugh left home to take Grade 11 in Eckville. He worked on MacDonald's farm for his room and board with them. The next year he boarded at Wecker's near Bentley and took part of his Grade 12 there. Meanwhile, Ken was boarding at Jim Jaffrey's and taking Grade 9 at Lockhart, as there was no teacher at Benjamin Mr McCullough, who was the school superintendent, offered to let him come and board at his home in Red Deer and finish his high school there. Hugh was able to go there, too, and pick up

he Grade 12 subjects that weren't available to him in Bentle

We remember lots of good times during those years, things like community picnics, families getting together for Sunday dinners, Christmas concerts, whist drives, showers for all the young people of the community who got married, and the Benjamin Ladies Club. Isabel Guest had the first meeting of the Club and I had the second

In December of 1950 our house was complete ly destroyed by fire. We had no insurance, so it was a terrible loss to us. Our neighbors were very good to us, they brought us bedding, household goods, and money. Laytons loaned us their old house and Herb Land pulled it in with his tractor. That winter we got out logs and sawed them and the following summer we started work on the new house. Rural electricity was being brought in at that time, so we had the house wired while we were building.

An incident happened about this time that we've always laughed about. We had some friends who drove up from Drumheller, but when they got as far as Baldy they got stuck in the mud from the heavy shower we had had that after noon. Mr. Aagaard walked up to our place and his wife stayed at Boths. After supper Nels and Norman hitched up the horses to the wagon and Norman went down to get her. On the way Nor man thought he heard chickens and, sure enough, he found about half a dozen chickens riding along on the reach of the wagon. He stopped at Johnny Fraser's and put the chickens in their coal box and picked them up again on the way home. So Mrs. Aagaard arrived in fine style with a box of cackling chickens in the wagon with her. She had a good story to tell her city friends in Drumheller when she got back home.

When Norman went to Grade 9 it was no longer being taught at Benjamin, so he went to Peterson's in Bentley and boarded with them, helping in their hatchery. The next year the school bus from Rimbey came to within two miles so he was able to come back home and take the bus to school to finish his high schooling. Then in the mid 50's Benjamin School was closed and all the students were bused to Eckville. Doris and Wayne were able to finish high school without leaving home.

In 1960 Linda and Beverly, our two eldest grandchildren, came to live with us and stayed for the next several years. Meantime, work on the farm was getting hard with Nels away a lot doing carpentry work, so in 1963 we sold the farm and moved to Eckville. There we built a new house where we lived for the next eight years. Nels built the Presbyterian Church in Eckville, as well as a number of houses in and around Eckville. I was the librarian at the town library from its opening until we left eight years later, in 1972. We made lots of good friends during our stay there and enjoyed many card games with them.

After talking about moving to Vancouver Island for several years, we finally did so in 1972, where we enjoy good health and many new friends — fishermen, card players and bowlers in the Duncan area.

**Our children:**

After finishing high school, Hugh took one year of education at University of Alberta and practice-taught at Andrew School for two months. After teaching during the following year at Morningside, he decided that he didn't like teaching so he worked for a year and then went back to university and took geology. He married Helen Swainson of Burnt Lake in 1955. He has worked in the oil industry since finishing university and has always lived in Calgary except for three years in London, England. They have five daughters and one son. The two eldest daughters are in university, one in Calgary and one in Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario. The others are still at home and in school.

Ken married Norene Fiske of Markerville in 1953 and had two daughters. He was remarried in 1963 to Marilyn MacFarlane of North Battleford Saskatchewan. They have two daughters and a son. Ken is part owner of Castle Appliance Service in Calgary, a thriving business with a large staff. His two older daughters are both married and living in Calgary. Linda has twin daughters and Beverly has a son.

Norman worked in the bank in Rimbey for a year after finishing school then travelled around the world for two years. On his return he worked in Vancouver in the banking business for several years. He is now living in Victoria and working for the provincial government. In 1959 he married Joan Page of Cambridge, England. They have a son and a daughter who are both still at home and attending school.

Doris finished school in 1959 and went to Calgary, where she worked for the Associate Clinic for four years. In 1962 she married Ron McKeen of Calgary. They have three children — two boys and a girl who are all at home and attending school. They lived in Calgary for several years and now make their home in Port Alberni, B.C. where Ron works in industrial sales.

Wayne finished high school in 1961 and went to work for a Tunisian family near Calgary for a year. This was a great help to him in learning to speak French. From there he went to university in Edmonton for a year, then to the University of British Columbia for two years. He then returned to Edmonton to get his Master's degree in history two years later. He then went to Caen, France, as an exchange student, later getting his Ph.D. from Sorbonne in Paris. He married Muriel Collette in France in 1968. They moved back to Canada in 1970 and he is now teaching history at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. They have two small children, a boy and a girl.

**THE MOWBRAY FAMILY**

Mrs. Mowbray and her three sons, George, Ralph and Tom, three daughters Violet, Edith and Ethel came to the district in 1902. Another daughter Elizabeth had previously emigrated to Australia. They came from Langley Moor in the County of Dunham, England, where they operated a butcher shop. They settled on a C P R quarter NE 3-42-3-W5 where they made their home. This became a stopping place for travellers and the trail radiated through the bush in every direction from there. At first they filed on homestead land to the northwest of Leedale, but gave it up in favour of section 34-41 3-W5, of which Ralph had the northeast. George the northwest (since 1929 the home of Rose and Jonty Cummings), Tom had the southwest and their mother the south east quarter. George and his mother eventually moved to Rimbey to a small holding directly south of the present feed mill. the house and barn are still in good condition and occupied. George then started a butcher shop in Rimbey which he occupied for many years, until his death. The first shop was located on the site of the present Chapparel Restaurant and the second on the site of the present Roy's T V. George Mowbray also bought a lot of furs in those days from trappers and homesteaders. He was never married. Ralph drove the mail from Lacombe to Rimbey for Alfred R. Coverdale, who held the contract in those early days. He then moved to a farm south of Bentley and later to Lacombe, where he worked at the Experimental Farm until his passing. He was married and had two sons.

Violet became Mrs. Chas. Braithwaite and lived on a farm just west of Lacombe in the Sprucevale District. There she lived all her life, she had a family of four, two sons and two daughters, the oldest son Charles is still farming on the old place. Edith married Ed Johnson who was a carpenter and managed the Imperial Lumber in Rimbey until he built and operated his own yard which he sold to Allan Needham. They then moved to Calgary where they lived to their passing, they had a family of two daughters. Ethel married Hiram Cutler who was one of the very first to arrive in the Blindman Valley, they had a large farm east of Rimbey which was later sold and they moved to B C. where they lived the remainder of their lives. There was a family of two a son and a daughter. Hiram had roamed over a lot of Alberta around the turn of the century, trapping and packing and living off the country almost entirely. He was an interesting story teller of the happenings of the real early days of this area.

**THE WILLIAM LITTLE PORTER FAMILY — Benjamin District, 1919-1951 — By Edna Carroll, a Granddaughter**

William Little Porter, with his wife Alice Mary (Dunn) Porter and daughter Norah, 2½ years of age came to Canada in 1919 from the farming area of Council Bluffs, Iowa, U S A.

Originally from Castle Douglas, Scotland, William Porter came to Portsmouth, England to work for Archibald Dunn, who was in business as a Draper (men's suiting and Scottish woollens). After marrying Miss Alice Dunn, fourth daughter of his employer, they decided to leave for America, where Mr. Porter was hired as a herdsman on a ranch of Armour's Packing Plant.

After arriving at New York City, with Norah, 12 years of age, in 1906, they proceeded to his work near Kansas City, Missouri. After working for 13 years in Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa, they decided to take up land in Canada. They put a down payment on a piece of land near Leedale but it was bleak and low lying land, so they were fortunate in finding a quarter section of beautiful hilly land in the Benjamin district. Losing their first initial payment given for the land at Leedale was a blow which was softened by the lovely new log house and the high hill on the half section they settled on. At first they got their mail and groceries at the Gilby Store. The family attended church services at the Lockhart Church, where Norah sometimes played the organ. In this way they became acquainted with many Scottish settlers in the Lockhart district and gradually began trading in the town of Rimbey.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter worked hard by today's standards — milking cows and separating the milk, raising poultry, and seeding a few acres of the hilly soil to produce enough grain for the livestock. Mr. Porter farmed with horses and a walking plow at first. Although they were both middle-aged by the time they came to Canada, he pumped water by hand every morning for the livestock and for household use. They made their living, as most other people did then, from the sale of their eggs and cream and some pigs or cattle. They also went by horse and buggy to Rimbey once a week to shop, a distance of about 14 miles. However, even though they had been used to modern machinery and city living they

Mr. and Mrs. Porter, daughter Flo Sherrack and Nora Sherrack about 1922

never thought of themselves as pioneers, for the many neighbors around them had been here many years earlier

The daughter, Noran, married Mr. Jim Shorrock of the Gilby district in 1923, and this union gave them three grandchildren. Mrs. Porter remained happy and quite well until only a year before she passed away in 1945 at the age of 76 years. Mr Porter continued to live alone, at home, and in good health and mind for a few years before coming to live at the home of his daughter, Mrs Shorrock He passed away suddenly in December, 1950, at the age of 86. Mr and Mrs. Porter are both buried at the Rimbey cemetery, leaving three grandchildren and five great grandchildren, as well as seven great great grandchildren at the present time

**PRICES — PAST AND PRESENT — by Mary Kipatrick**

This is a list of groceries and provisions Link Boyer and Guy Farrow bought in 1902 before they came to the Medicine Valley near Leedale This list was found in an old note and account book dating back to 1897 The approximate today prices are listed in the right hand column.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 joints stovepipe and damper | $ 50 | $ 3 50 |
| 1 five gallon can and oil (with coaloil today $1.10 a gallon, | 3.50 | 10 45 |
| 2 frypans | .65 | 6.00 |
| 1 bake tin | 25 | 3.00 |
| 1 stew kettle | .50 | 2 97 |
| 100 shot gun shells | 1 50 | 36 00 |
| 1 crimper and filler | .75 | 12.50 |
| 1 pr six inch strap hinges | .20 | 2.05 |
| 1 butcher knife | .40 | 9 00 |
| 1 enamel stew pan | 55 | extinct |
| 4 enamel plates | 60 | extinct |
| 1 lb. gun powder | 60 | 12 00 |
| 5 lbs shot No. 2 | 50 | 3.00 |
| 1 package wads | 25 | 2 35 |
| 3½ bu oats and sacks | .85 | 4.00 |
| 54 lbs. beef | 3.75 | 70 20 |
| 5 lbs. tallow | 50 | |
| Team expenses | 2 25 | |
| 10 bu. potatoes | 5.00 | 32.70 |
| 6 candles | 25 | |
| 50 lbs. flour | 1 15 | 6.22 |
| 100 lbs oatmeal | 5 50 | 65 00 |
| 3 sacks salt (per lb.) | 25 | .37 |
| sugar (per lb.) | 50 | 23 |
| 10 lbs nails | 50 | 6 90 |
| 10 lbs. spikes | .50 | 6 90 |
| 10 lbs. butter | 1 50 | 14 00 |
| 10 lbs. prunes | 1.00 | 11 90 |
| Baking powder | 1.25 | 3 97 |
| 1 square | 1.25 | 20 00 |
| 1 Diston saw | 2.25 | 11 65 |
| 2 lbs. coffee | .50 | 7 78 |
| 1 spear | 1.40 | |
| shoes | 3.00 | 35.00 |
| shirts | 1 50 | 20 00 |
| overalls | 1 25 | 21.25 |
| axe handle | .35 | 4 39 |

**REED, HOMER EUGENE AND ETTA — by D McElroy**

Homer Eugene Reed was born on January 31, 1874 at Jamestown, Indiana

He married Etta Mae Pierson in 1901, who was born in Howell, Michigan on September 22, 1873. She was a widow with two small sons, Paul Lyle and Donald Samuel

On June 14, 1903 their daughter Eva Arlene was born

The family came to Canada from Washington in October 1915. They lived in the Benjamin district for a few years on a quarter later owned by George Guest, the SW 21-41-3W5

Etta Reed feeding her chickens about 1916

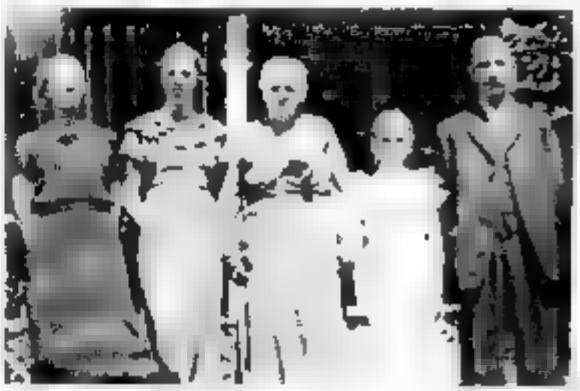
Then they bought a quarter of land in the Lockhart district and moved there. The Calkins Valley School was built on the south west corner of their land

They farmed there for several years. They were good neighbors highly respected and made many friends.

In 1936 because of ill health they retired and moved to Bentley

Gene passed away there on July 7, 1938 and Etta died on August 18, 1945. They are both buried in Bentley cemetery

Paul passed away at Lesseville on March 4. 1961 and is buried in the Mount Auburn Cemetery, Rimbey



Homer (Gene) and Etta Mae Reed with granddaughters Doris Dorotha, and Lila Pierson Taken 1934.

Don passed away at Bentley on November 2, 1963, with interment in Bentley Cemetery.

Eva and her husband Howard Lockhart live in Spokane, Washington, where they are retired.

**REIDLINGER, JOHN — by Clydie Both**

Mr. John Reidlinger was married to Lydia Steinvandt in North Dakota, U S A. in 1914. They were both born and raised in North Dakota. They came to "Sunny" Alberta shortly after their marriage and farmed near Medicine Hat, until moving to the town of Medicine Hat in 1924. Here John worked whenever he could find employment. They had nine children while living in and around Medicine Hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reidlinger

We left Medicine Hat in the "hungry thirties" and, along with five other families, moved west of Leedale. Our farm was about 11 miles west. We came out on the "$600 Plan." This money had to buy everything — two horses, one cow, a wagon, machinery, and another $600 was what we have to live on. Some months we had $10 and I also remember sometimes it was only $5. From this amount we had to buy 200 pounds of flour per month, and whatever was left was spent for other necessities. We surely learned to live off of the land! Getting to school was not easy, either. We had to walk four miles to the Aurora School, while in Medicine Hat we had had to go only two blocks.

All six of the families moved into the Indian Cabins, which were two miles from the farm. They all traveled back and forth every day.

The Indian Cabins had sod roofs and dirt floors. When it rained we had pots and pans set out everywhere to catch the drip. Dad found a frame house closer to our farm, and we then lived in this until we got our log house finished enough to move into it. We still had dirt floors in part of the house when we moved in.

In later years, when most of the family had left home, Dad built another house, but Mother never lived to enjoy it. She died of cancer in May, 1951, at the age of 59 years. She was buried in the Rumbey Cemetery. Dad never went back to the farm to live, and later sold it to Hugh Halliday.

Dad lived in a granary on Percy Thomas's farm for a year or so, then built himself a little house on a corner of a quarter owned by his daughter, Clydie, and her husband, Irvin Both in the Andrew area north of Eckville. He lived here for a number of years, but eventually went to the Senior Citizen's Lodge in Lacombe, in Rocky Mountain House, and in Sylvan Lake, where he would spend the winter, but come home to his own house in the summers. He always enjoyed a little farming if he could drive the John Deere tractor.

Joe and Lydia Reidlinger and five children.

Dad passed away with a heart attack in the Sylvan Lake Lodge in March of 1969 at the age of 78 years. He is buried beside Mother in the Rimbey Cemetery

Mother and Dad had nine children. The first was Martha, who died when she was one and one half years old

Elizabeth was married to Jack Shubert, and they had five children. They have now retired and are living in Rimbey

Eddie passed away in an accident and also is buried in the Rimbey Cemetery

Ida married James Ferguson, and they have six children, three of whom are married. They all live in Alberta. Jim and Ida have now retired to Eckville, after having farmed in the Benjamin area for many years

I (Clydie) married Irvin Both and we have five children. All except the youngest one are now married. Irvin and I farmed in the Andrew area for 36 years, but are now enjoying our retirement in Eckville.

Alma was married to Milton Johnson. They have six children, all now married and living in various parts of Alberta. In later years Alma and Milton were divorced, and Alma is now married to Martin Sewchuk. They live in Red Deer and both of them are working there

Laurence married Anne Lippert. They have four children. One girl was married recently but the rest are still single and most of them live in Calgary. Laurence spent some time in active duty overseas in 1945. He was wounded and was forced to spend some time in the hospital there. Laurence and Anne still live in Calgary

Joe married Marie Focher. After living in Calgary for a time, they moved to British Columbia in 1951 and are living in Vernon, B.C. at the present time. Two of their children are married and the youngest is now working in Calgary. Joe was overseas in 1945, and spent about 13 months in active duty

Florence married John McGlynn and they lived in Pincher Creek until Florence passed away in 1965. They had three children, the oldest one now being married. The two younger children live in Prince George, B.C.

Alfred married Julie Kramer and they have one child, not yet married. They all are living in Calgary

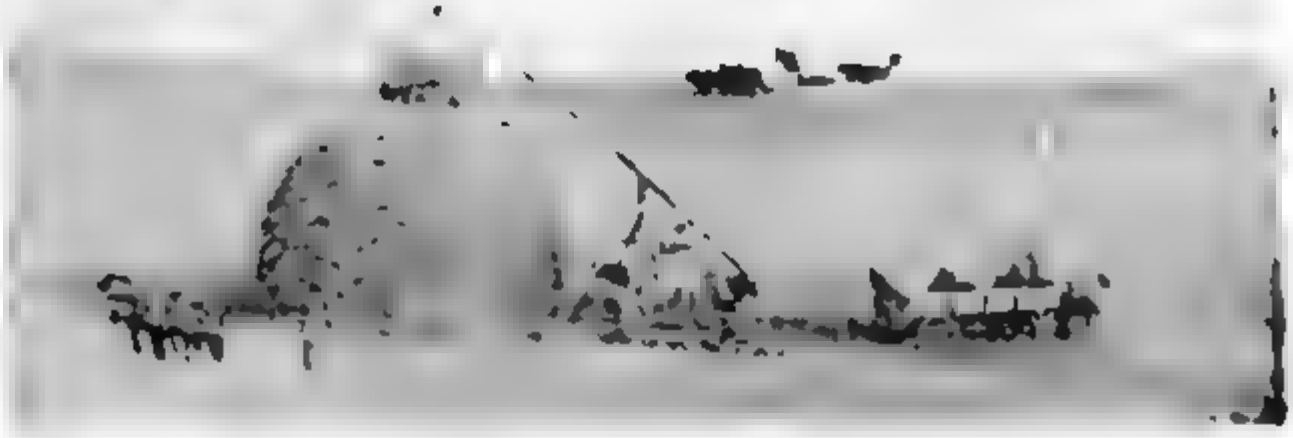
**TAYLOR, GEORGE NICHELUS AND ADA BELLE — by May Koski**

Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Taylor, emigrated from the state of Iowa to Alberta in 1905 to Morningside, and when spring arrived they all, including baby boy Myron Robert, born at Morningside in February, moved to Link Boyer's place temporarily, while Mr. Taylor put up a sod roofed shack on his homestead, S.E. 30-41-3-W5, 16 miles north of Eckville, or four and one-half miles southeast of Leedale, at this time called Wittenburg, but was renamed Leedale at the end of World War I, 1918. Mr. Taylor's reason for the move to Alberta, was that they had a great deal of pioneer spirit, also to find a place with an abundance of wood, grass and sparkling water, needless to say they found all three

Ada and George Taylor's Wedding Picture. 1899

When Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and family moved from Morningside to the Boyer place the first week of March 1906 the weather was very cold, around 42 degrees below zero. They were there three days, and on the evening of the third day, upon retiring, the bitter cold was still around however, at five a.m., when Mr. Taylor awakened it was so "hot" he thought the house was on fire, the snow was melting and there was water all around the place. An explanation of the heat wave was a welcome "Chinook" wind that had blown in, but who at that time as a newcomer to Alberta had ever heard of such a thing.

Most all the land in that area was heavy timber and Mr. Taylor's was no exception. The trees had to be grubbed out by hand, with axe and grub hoe, then piled one by one with the help of a horse and logging cabin into piles, and later burned and after that the land was ready for breaking with a breaking plow, then with a disc, then harrows, and in turn could be seeded to wheat, oats, barley or a large garden which was a must. Mr. Taylor was one of the first ratepayers to hold a meeting for the forming of a school district and acted as a member of the first board of trustees, consisting of himself, Orsen



G.N. Taylor's farm, stacking hay or grain 1910 at Landale

Archer and Frank Benjamin. Mr Taylor held office off and on for many years. The new school was built in 1908 and named Benjamin School District No. 1586. Mr Taylor with his mule team, named Tim and Jack, which he brought from Iowa, 1905, hauled the bricks for the school chimney from Lacombe over trails that hadn't the slightest resemblance to a road. He also acted as Poll Clerk for the first election held in Medicine Valley, the Polling station being in the home of Ernest Dahl. Some of the teachers at Benjamin were D. M. Layton, "Peggy" Macdonald, Mr Trenholm, Lydia Sestrap, Oja Kingsep, Miss Edmonds, Muriel Craig, Eva Tona, Olive Heffren, Edith Smith, William Fraser, Ed Dowling, Blanche Wallace, Ethel Hyde, Margaret Ross, Inez Johnson, Dora Wingate, Jean Beddoes and Miss Johnson in 1913 from Markerville

Mr. Taylor was exceptionally good with sickness and always willing during the pioneer days, when the nearest doctor was at Lacombe and the only means of travel was horse and buggy or sleigh. G.N. as he was better known, often assisted at the bedside of a sick neighbor or his child and his services were helpful and very welcome

Mr. Taylor followed farming all his life but in 1910 he also took up auctioneering, and cried his first sale in the spring of that year, and had many successful sales in the years that followed, his last sale was in 1939 for Mr John Johnson of the Eckville area. In the early days there were no bridges across rivers, so on each trip to Lacombe the rivers had to be forded (if they were not frozen) On one such trip Mr. Taylor had a man passenger with him, and when they, the mule team, wagon, and supplies were in midstream, the passenger got so scared, because of the rising water, that he grabbed the lines from Mr Taylor, and in doing so pulled the mule, heads too high and in turn their forelegs were striking the neck yoke and all were near drowning for a fearful minute. G.N hurriedly got the lines back from the passenger and gave the mules their heads, and all were pulled safely to shore

Mrs. Ada Taylor was always a willing worker, and in summer when the wild fruit was plentiful, she picked and preserved literally hundreds of quarts, consisting of raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries. In 1922 the Taylor family was milking five cows and shipping cream to the Rimbey creamery The butter maker at that time used their cream to make butter to enter in the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. His entry won first prize. He repeated the same type of entry another year though the date is uncertain, and won first prize a second time Taylor's sod roof shack was soon replaced with a two story log house and it was their home until 1928 when they built a three story frame house and it is still standing in good shape after nearly 50 years. The house is unoccupied at present. Their grandson Mac Taylor owns the home place. In the depression years 1929 to 1941 the younger generation in all walks of life had a hard time finding work or making a career for themselves. However three of the Taylor children were able to learn music and play several instruments, after which they started Taylor's orchestra and played for dances in the area, for many years to come. The instruments and who played them were, Georgia on the piano and saxophone, May on the violin and trumpet, Glen on the drums and George (dad) on, as he always said, the genuine buffalo bones for rhythm. After several years with the orchestra, Glen met Margaret Johnstone and they were married. Their family formed a band called Dad Taylor's Silver Notes. The Taylors' musical background seemed to be an inherited gift.

Some Sunday evenings in winter, the neighbor boys would come to visit and have supper with us, and if the hunters were lucky that afternoon wild prairie chicken was on the table, but more often it would be roast pork and homemade sauerkraut Mrs Taylor was known to make the best "kraut" for miles around. On

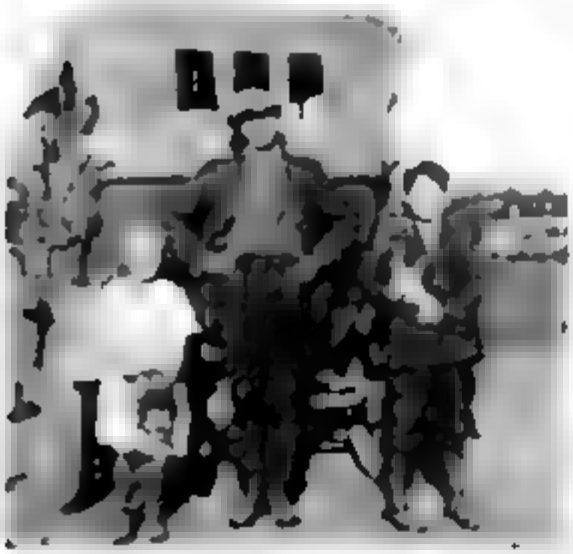
one memorable occasion Dustin Hamilton dropped by, and as most would remember, he had a good sense of humor and in no time he had us all laughing. He asked for the Eaton's catalogue then cut out two or three pictures of the men and women modelling the underwear, then pasted the models on slightly heavier paper and cut them out again, now they were like puppets, he would then manipulate them very artistically, just in front of candlelight or low kerosene lamp. He called it a Lantern Slide show. It really was a rib ticker, amusing and free. Cards were a good pastime, rummy and whist made a winter evening pass quickly.

Our family owned two model T Fords. The first one was a 1921 model. On one occasion we started for the Benalto Stampede and Fair on a very hot day in July in 1922. Everything went very well until we were two miles from Benalto, then suddenly the left front tire went flat. The boys and Dad got it fixed in no time and off we went. After going only another half mile or so, the other front tire went flat. Now once again the tire patching kit was hauled out and the "ruffing" over the hole on the inner tube, the stickum and then the patch put very carefully over the hole, then the tube was put back in the tire and pumped up with a hand pump. The tire was bolted back on the car and away we went, but not very far. We had a third flat and this time we were only about a half mile from Benalto. Now the repair kit came out again, only this time the supply was much less. However there was just enough to repair the last flat. It seemed to take a lot longer to fix the third flat as all I could think of was pretty balloons and ice cream. Literally hundreds of fair going folks were passing us in all kinds of buggies, wagons, T Fords and bicycles, and even some on foot. At last we got there and it was a grand day at the fair. We made it back home in the wee hours of the morning without another flat tire. Mr. Johnny Armstrong was one of the Stampede directors in the 1920's. His home place was south of Eckville.

In 1925 the Taylor family purchased a Mogul one cylinder tractor. It was a heavy type machine in those days. The flywheel itself was over four feet in diameter. The engineer put his left foot on the bottom of it and hands at the top, gripping and pulling, the body weight would pull it around until the engine started. The Mogul rate of speed was under four miles an hour. In 1926 they purchased a 28 inch Case threshing machine and did custom threshing in the Medicine Valley for many neighbors and in 1927 they had 28 days straight of non-stop threshing weather. In 1928 they purchased a new John Deere tractor to replace the Mogul, however they put the Mogul as stationary power to run the grain grinder to make chop. The horses on the farm were brought from Iowa except one buckskin pony, named Buck that Mr. Taylor bought from someone around Gilby in 1907, then sold him to Mr. John Kemila at Eckville in 1912, but bought him back one year later. When Mr. Kemila owned him he put Buck with another pony on the mail haul between Eckville, Gilby and Wittenburg. After Mr. Taylor purchased Buck the second time he kept him until he died in 1934 at the age of 32 years. I might add that we had a dog named Tip for 18 years. Also I have fond memories growing up with Buck and Tip.

The stock market was poor in the 1930's. I recall raising two pigs and when they were sold at proper weight one brought $5.00 and the other, $3.00. I recall spending some of the money for silk material to make a dress. Now for price comparison from then to now, 1977. Three pounds of pork roast costs more now than a whole pig sold for in 1936.

Mr. George Taylor was born near Laporte, Iowa, December 29, 1875. He died January, 1941 at his home. He attended school at Jessup, Iowa and was reared in the Methodist faith. At age 24, he married Ada Belle Sankey, July 24, 1899 of Littleton, Iowa. She was born April 28, 1877 and died September 30, 1962 at Red Deer General Hospital. She also was raised in the Methodist faith. They raised seven children, and there are now 89 living descendants of George and Ada Belle Taylor.



Miss Myrna and Glen Taylor

**TEED, JAMES HARLAN — by Clydie Both and Gertie Fiser**

James and Martha Teed came to the Benjamin district in 1934 from Abbey Saskatchewan. They lived on the quarter section of land now owned by Lee Both, and they owned the NE 10-41-31-W5. They later sold this land to Jim Ferguson, but it is presently owned by Gaylord Schofer. Mr. Teed farmed for a few years with horses, and then Mrs. Teed suffered a stroke and passed away in 1938.

Irvin Both met Mr. Teed one day about the

middle of May in 1939. They got to talking and Irvin asked Mr. Teed over for Sunday dinner. That was the first time I met him. When Mr. Teed got an idea he worked on it in a hurry. I really don't know how it came about but Dad Teed (as we soon called him) moved in with us before the next weekend.

He was always busy doing something different. One year he planted a bunch of turnips and chopped them up for cow feed. The cows surely liked them too! One day Gertie Fizer and I (Clydie) went out to pick berries. Gertie, having no overalls, wore a pair of Dad Teed's. When we got home he had her dress on. We certainly had to have a picture of them!

Granddad Teed, as our children called him, made his home from 1939 until he entered the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital about 1965, with or near Irvin and Clydie Both and Gaylord and Gertie Fizer. No related grandfather was ever loved and respected by his grandchildren more than he was; although childless himself, he was a wonderful man with children.

During one of his stays with us (the Fizers) he constructed a block house. He piled hand sawn blocks the way you would stack stove wood and plastered it inside and out with a mud mixture like plaster. This was in 1948, when he was 76 years of age. While constructing this, one day he was cutting poplar logs not far from our house. The weather was quite warm and as Dad Teed always wore woolen underwear it became too hot for him. We had all left home for the day, but had returned for something, and our niece, who was visiting us, saw that he was working in his underwear, so she snapped a picture. Dad, who usually had a remarkable sense of humor, just didn't appreciate it one bit! He had the house almost completed when he decided to go back and live with Irvin and Clydie Both and family.

Left to right: Jim Steele, Grandad Teed and Gaylord Fizer

Mr. Teed was a gifted entertainer, and played the violin for hours at a time until rheumatism affected his hands in his later years. He was a wonderful spinner of tales and had a host of amusing monologues that kept both adults and children in stitches, no matter how often they had heard him perform them. I remember one little boy who laughed so hard that he fell off his chair.

We moved into Rimbey from the country in 1957 and Dad Teed moved in with us to stay about 1963. He went into the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1965. His one great ambition in his later years was to return to the province of his birth, Nova Scotia, but he never realized it. He passed away in 1967 at the grand old age of 95 years.

**VIPOND HISTORY**

In the summer of 1929, Fred and Florence Vipond of Nakusp, B.C. arrived for a visit at the Rene Steeves farm in the Lochart district. Mr. Steeves had worked for Fred in Fred's lumber camp in British Columbia previously and had told the Viponds a lot about this part of Alberta. Fred helped Rene seed his crop. He and Florence liked the country and they wanted to settle somewhere where Marg had a school to attend. They bought a half section from the C.P.R. in the Benjamin district — E 17-41-3-W5. It had 50 acres broke on the north quarter and 15 acres on the south. Rene agreed to plow and summerfallow it that year and the Viponds returned to Nakusp. Fred contracted to log a million board feet of white pine logs off his timber limit across the lake from Nakusp. The following spring they loaded a box car with their lumber and personal belongings and moved to Alberta. They spent the summer on the Steeves farm living in a newly built chicken coop. The men planted the two crops, then built a house and had a well drilled on the Vipond farm so that the family could move in. Fred arranged to store his box car of lumber at Rimbey and what he didn't need, he sold. Some of it he delivered by team and wagon as far away as Eckville. One batch he traded for a milk cow.

The nearest neighbors consisted of the Bill Guests and Wingates to the north, Pryce Andrew and McTighes to the south. They were all good neighbors. The 1930 crop was a bumper wheat crop but the price fell from $1.20 a bu. to $.30 a bu. That was the start of the depression. Fred remembers a time when the price of a hog wouldn't cover the freight charge. Times were tough but they stuck it out and kept clearing land until 260 acres were cleared. Florence taught piano lessons to many young people in the neighborhood.

Marg took her schooling at Benjamin. Jean and Ethel were born in the late thirties and also attended school there until Grade 8. They were among those who had the excitement of moving to the "new" school when it was moved in. To have a school with a basement and furnace was really something after the drafty old school. Kids would bring jars of hot chocolate, soup or stew and heat them up in a tub of water on the wood stove in the basement. High school was possible

to attend when school buses started running to Eckville

Fred was a school trustee at various times They got hooked for various jobs besides hiring and firing the teachers. Wood and coal had to be hauled to the school and boarding places for the teacher had to be found. So it was one day when Fred and another trustee were cleaning out the school barn, they noticed smoke to the east of the school. They quickly drove towards it to discover Mogensons' home going up in flames and too late to save anything The neighbors got busy with tractors and put the old Layton home on skids and hauled it across the frozen fields to Mogensons' farm. It provided them with a home until they could build a new one

Most of the social life was carried on at the school. Whist parties, dances, talent shows, box socials, bridal showers, sports days and Christmas concerts were some of them. The McTighe family had the only big skating rink around the neighborhood for a time. Skating parties and hockey were enjoyed. They put up a rink shack and sold hot dogs and chocolate bars. Florence was a member of the Benjamin Get-together Club. Marg joined C.G.I.T Jean and Ethel sometimes attended the Vacation Bible School that came to the school during the summer

Improvements were added to the community during the years. Electricity came to the farm in 1951 and gravelled roads and telephones.

Fred and Florence Yipsad. Ethel sitting on her mother's knee. Jean and Margaret kneeling

Marg married and left the farm in 1943. Jean and Ethel left about 1956 and took training in Edmonton — Jean as an X-ray technician and Ethel as a teacher Marg has a family of five. She is now a widow and works as a computer operator for Toronto Dominion Bank. Jean married Lawrence Takkinen, a diesel inspector for C P Rail. They live in Cranbrook, B.C. with their two sons. Ethel married Les Meyers and they live in Edmonton with their family of three

Fred and Florence retired from farming in 1963. They bought a home in Eckville and found it a friendly place to live. The family lost their wife and mother in 1972 in a losing battle with cancer

Now — Dad's own words — I then lived alone in our home for three years. Then I got tired of batching and enrolled in the Old Age Manor Home and sold my house. I find the life here with the other pensioners more agreeable than living alone and batching. This home is well run, we are well fed and looked after

**VON TETTENBORN FAMILY**

In May 1929, Bernard Carl Baron von Tettenborn arrived at the farm of Paul Broderson Leedale. At 22 years of age, he had left his native Germany to try to recoup the family fortune lost in the runaway inflation and depression following World War I. He worked for Paul Broderson, later for Bill Broderson to learn Canadian farming methods and save money towards buying a farm of his own. He was just in time to share in the "dirty thirties", the depression which had become world wide. At Leedale he met his future wife Alma Eritsland, who was then teaching the Leedale School

In the spring of 1932, Bernard von Tettenborn bought the south half of 35-41 3-W5 in the extreme north east of the Benjamin District. In fact the east quarter was in the Symonds District This was C P R. land, completely raw and covered with trees. This seemed a bargain at six dollars an acre, but proved to be very expensive in time lost and human effort expended. In October 13, 1933 Bernard and Alma were married

Through hard work and thrift other lands were added. In 1944 a quarter one and one half miles north was bought from Charlie Arrowsmith. This was known as the Old Mowbray quarter, one of the oldest homesteads in the district. In 1951 the NW 35 41-3-4 W5 was bought from Mr Bileske. In June 1933 this was owned by a Mr Bucknall, later farmed by Felix Matthews of Eckville, then owned by Elmer Olson, who sold it to Bileski.

In 1940 a start was made in Red Poll cattle A considerable herd was built up, but discontinued in 1960, as the work involved was too much for the owner's health. The struggle to get ahead in the years of low farm prices is too well known to enlarge on here. We were all in the same boat, but youth, good health and warm hearted neighbors made our life here a pleasant one

Five children were born to the von Tetten-

borns on this farm. In December 1934 their first son Bernard Carl arrived, in February 1936 their daughter Iris Maria, in September 1946 Elizabeth Anne, in December 1950 Linda Irene and in January 1953 Mark Alexander. The son Bernard now farms at Round Hill. Iris married a Lutheran minister and now lives in Victoria, B.C. Betty Anne (now Angus) lives in Toronto. She got her B.A. from Carlton University in 1968, now has completed her thesis for a master's degree in Psychology and at present is working toward her doctorate. Linda graduated from the University of Alberta in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Linda married Ron Prefontaine in 1975 and now lives in Moose Jaw where she is on the supervisory staff at one of the hospitals. Mark married Sandra Hill in 1975, has his journeyman's papers in machining and now lives and works at Hinton.

Alma von Tettenborn taught at various schools during the teacher shortage. The winter of 1942 and 1943 she taught the Benjamin School. This proved to be one of the coldest winters. A picture of the school and pupils of this time is being sent. Many of these children are now grandparents.

The fall of 1966 was one of those rainy, snowy ones, difficult harvesting. On November 4, 1966 Bernard von Tettenborn senior, died of a heart attack while struggling with the harvest. His wife Alma continued farming for a few years, hiring the work done, until her youngest had graduated from High School and launched out on his own. Then she rented the land to the Hutterites. After living for a time in Rimbey, she now resides in Red Deer.

**WETTSTEIN, EMIL AND FAMILY**

Emil was born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1934. He came to Canada in 1955 first settling in Ontario. In May 1956 he moved to Alberta and worked on different ranches in the southern part of the province. In July 1967 he married Sheila Gamble Synak who moved to Calgary from her birthplace Brantford, Ontario, and together with her boys, Michael born 1961 and Christopher born 1962, they moved to Belseker, Alberta. In 1969 Katherine was born in Calgary and on July 1 of that same year the family moved to the Stewart Chappell place where they lived and Emil worked for Phil Fach on a share arrangement on the cattle with an agreement to purchase the farm. On December 6 the house they lived in at Chappell's was moved to the farm south of Glen Taylor's place. There was very little snow at that time in December. The family joined in the community affairs and took part in Christmas concerts, picnics and social affairs at the Benjamin School with Emil contributing his Swiss yodeling as entertainment at different times. In February 1970 Sheila joined the Benjamin Ladies Get Together Club taking part in their activities. In 1972 a group of ladies in the Benjamin District got together to form The West Country Art Club and Sheila was their first instructor teaching basics in drawing and oils having had seven years instruction in Ontario and also having won a scholarship from A. Y. Jackson of the Group of Seven who was the honorary president of the Art Club she belonged to in Ontario. In 1974 James was born which added one more to the Wettstein family. In 1975 they traded the quarter just east of the Oster camp quarter to the Hutterites for Glen Taylor's home quarter giving them the east half of Section 29.

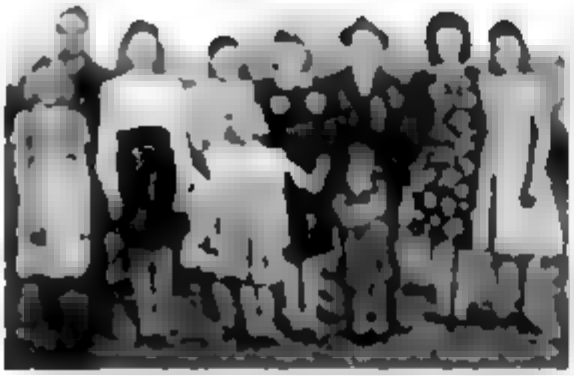
**WINGATE, FRANK AND FAMILY — submitted by Ada Brooks**

Frank Wingate was born on April 23, 1881 in Worchestershire, England. At the age of 21 he came to Canada sailing on the same boat as Mr. Bill Guest and worked as a farm laborer in Manitoba in 1902. Then he went on to Vancouver and to Revelstoke, B.C. There he worked in the mines. He received many recommendations for his faithful service. He came east taking up a homestead in 1905 which later became known as the Benjamin District. Frank and Wallace Stevenson came together from Arrowhead, B.C. after receiving a letter from Duncan Layton telling them of the homesteads that were available. George Fraser was also working in the mill at Arrowhead. Frank homesteaded the NE20-41-3-W5 and Wallace Stevenson the NW22-41-3-W5. They helped each other build cabins where they lived and batched together. At that time they had to clear land to put up buildings and blaze trails to travel on.

There were many wild animals, lynx, cougars, wolves and bears they had to watch out for. They mostly traveled on foot sometimes riding horseback. Their nearest post office was Lacombe. Many times they walked this distance for their mail and groceries. In places they had to walk under branches that spread out over the trails. After walking under a branch one day they noticed a lynx was sitting out on it. In 1906 George Taylor moved into the district so he helped blaze many of the old trails. He settled on a homestead north west of Frank's.

Frank Wingate enlisted when the first World War broke out in 1914 and served four years overseas in the 49th Battalion. After Armistice was signed, Frank was married to Ada Edridge of Norfolk, England on November 19, 1918. He returned to Canada in the spring of 1919 bringing his wife with him. They stayed at the home of Bill Guest's in Clive the rest of the year, coming out occasionally to make improvements on his homestead. The Bill Guests came out later and settled on the south east of section 20. During the years Frank was overseas a bush fire swept through and burnt his homesteading cabin and barn.

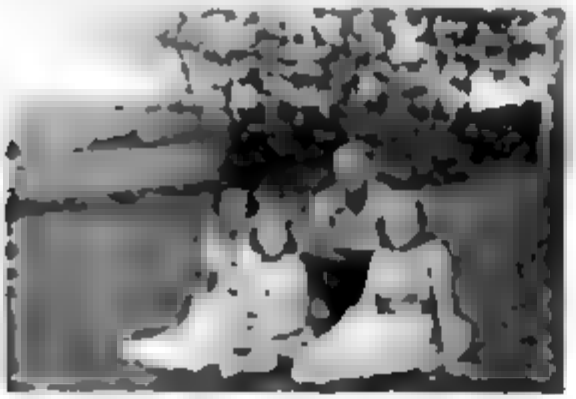
On Frank and Ada's move from Clive to the Reed place, the former George Guest, farm they made Lacombe the first day but their trek from



Left to right back row: Jim, Mrs Wingate, Mr Wingate, Ada and Elsie Front row Mary, Ivy, Joan and Doris, 1943

there took three days because of a detour they had to make by Bentley The water in places came up to the wheel hubs. Frank had four horses pulling and one tied behind. They couldn't buy any hay as there was none to buy so had to feed them oats that he had bought in Clive The Wingates lived on the Reed place until Frank was able to build another house on the homestead. Drinking water was a problem so Ada had to carry it for almost a mile from a spring on the south west of section 20. They were able to use water from ponds and rain barrels for washing purposes. Ada was fearful of Indians during her first few years as she had never seen one until she came to Canada

Their only son James Francis was born on the 8th of November 1920 at the Ran Steves' home at Lockhart James still lives and farms the original homestead in the Benjamin District They also had eight daughters losing Jessie in April 1937 at the age of seven weeks from a whooping cough epidemic that year The other girls are Ada Marion Brooks of Lesliville, Irene Winnifred Conrad of Yakima, Washington, Elsie May Engen of Eckville, Ivy Beese Roe of Red Deer, Mary Louise Mantle of Sherwood Park, Edmonton, Joan Isobel Kraft of Sicamous, B.C and Doris Mae Rowland of Olds



Jim Wingate farming in the early 1940's. Dora, Jim, daughter's Connie and Lana

In the summer of 1932 the Wingates were able to build a new house. The carpenter was Alex Ferguson He walked to and fro from his home which was about three and one half miles one way We were able to move into it the early part of that winter This house is still in the same place, the old one is still being used for a granary

In the winter months of the earlier years Frank helped take out corduroy to make roads through swampy places. Many animals were lost in bog holes in the swamps and quick sand in the creek Animals fed on the open range during the summer months and so many miles were walked through heavy bush land looking for cows especially if it were stormy weather There were times they wouldn't be found until the next morning unless they came home on their own. Range pasturing ended when herd law came into existence so this meant the size of the herds had to be reduced. After threshing was done and the green feed hauled in from the fields the animals were then turned in to pasture Farming was done by horses until the early fifties on the Wingate farm when Jim purchased his first tractor The horses were then retired to easier work for awhile

When growing up we had only the bare necessities, food was plain and often not much of that. At times we would be pretty hungry so it was very tempting to pick up a crust of bread or sandwich that had been thrown on the ground by some other boy or girl at school. Second hand clothes were a welcome sight. I was always a happy girl when Jessie and Mary Layton outgrew their dresses as they'd be passed on to me then of course when I outgrew them they'd be passed on down to my sisters as long as there was anything left of them. Mother used to make our underclothes and nightgowns out of flour and sugar bags. When I was 12 years old Mother shortened her wedding dress for me to wear to the Christmas Concert. Food was home grown, flour and porridge were ground from wheat Soap was made from the fat from the animals that were butchered For a change Mom used to boil whole wheat it took two or three days of boiling before it was soft enough to eat but it sure tasted good with milk and sugar They only bought things that couldn't be grown or made.

There were many years of hard times but everyone went through them together helping each other even in time of sickness. Doctors were only called when the illness was serious and before cars were available babies were delivered at home with the aid of a midwife. The first five Wingate children were born at home. I just thank God for the good neighbours and friends that we had who were always there when needed to help assist in anyway Many are gone now but not forgotten. To those that are still living I thank you. May God bless you all

Our dear Mother passed away December 11, 1960 after a lengthy illness. Before her death she said she was glad she had experienced hard times and had no regrets as they made her appreciate the easier years more

Our Dad continued to live on the farm until the late 60's when he moved to Devon Lodge in Lacombe living there and batching for four or five years. He then moved to the Senior Citizens Home also in Lacombe where he only spent a short time as he had the misfortune to fall and break his hip which hospitalized him for much time in the Red Deer and Lacombe hospitals. He was then moved to the nursing home in Lacombe where he still lives and is confined to the wheel chair. Although he is hard of hearing and has poor eyesight he enjoys visits from his friends, his family as well as his 27 grandchildren who are, Connie Wingate Madsen, Rainbow Lake Lana Wingate Whatley, Leduc Esther Brooks Thomas, Stettler Leanne Brooks Smith Leslieville. Charles Brooks, Leslieville. Elaine Brooks Bamber, Edmonton, Carol, Judy and Colleen Brooks, Leslieville Carl Conrad, Yakima, Washington, U.S.A. Fay Engen Ames Red Deer Edwin and Dennis Engen, Eckville Sherry Roe Krein, New Westminster, B.C. Gary and Bruce Roe, Red Deer Ronalie, Wendy and Jim Mantle, Sherwood Park, Edmonton Ariel, Bonnie, Bryn, Lori and Marni Kraft, Sicamous, B.C. Kevin, Barton, and Dwayne Rowland, Olds. There are 16 great-grandchildren, Karry, Carmel, and Marni Madsen, Rainbow Lake Wayne and Dallas Thomas, Stettler Melody and Marty Brooks, Leslieville Brian Whatley Leduc Shane and Jamie Smith, Leslieville Darrel, Darren and Darcy Ames, Red Deer Vanessa and Vashel Krien, New Westminster, B.C. Candy Engen, Eckville

Dad turned 96 on his last birthday April 1 1977

**WITTENBERG CREAMERY — research by Mary Kilpatrick**

This is the story about a creamery that was located on the north west corner of the NW 23-41 4-W5. All the information that has been gathered on this business is what has been told by many old timers who remember it. Apparently the creamery was operating in 1907 and ran from that time until about 1914. The creamery was built by Elijah Bradshaw, who formed a company. The name of the company was "Wittenberg Creamery". The building was situated east and west, perhaps about 60 or 70 feet long with a peaked roof and there was a lean to built on the south side which ran the full length of the building. This part held the steam boiler and punched well. Located in the middle of the main part of the building was the cooler room. This room had thick double walls which were packed with sawdust and ice was used as the cooling agent. After Bradshaw left and other people moved onto the farms nearby some continued to use the cool room. Ice most likely was gotten from the Medicine River and hauled and placed in this room with sawdust packed around it to keep it from melting.

In the early days many of the settlers did not own such a thing as a cream separator so after the milk was strained it was put in containers called vessels. These vessels were taken to a cool place, such as a root cellar and left there for a couple of days to let the cream rise. The cream by this time would be on top of the milk and it would be skimmed off with a skimmer. This was a flat scoop with tiny little holes in it. This would let the milk through and hold the cream. When the pioneers had enough cream to ship they would take it to a collecting place in their district where a sample of cream was put into a small bottle with their name on it. The cream was then weighed and recorded, then dumped into a large barrel which had two handles on each side of it and then two men would lift it up into a wagon and it was hauled to the creamery. The cream would be pretty well churned by the time it got to the creamery, due to the roughness of the trails and the jolting of the wagon. There was only one grade and it did not matter if the cream was sweet or sour. This cream came from as far away as the Rumbey and Eckville districts.

A Mr. Light ran this creamery and it has also come to the writers attention that grain was also ground at the creamery.

After the creamery had closed down the building was used for many years as a granary and barn for livestock and in about 1947 John Playfair bought the quarter and the building was torn down by John Warneke about this time too.

# Boyle

**ANDERSON, CHARLES ADOLPH — by Elsie Heikkinen**

Charles Anderson was born in Thompson, Minnesota, U.S.A. on September 30, 1885. His parents had emigrated from Finland in the mid 1800's. He married Lillie (Ellina, F Bodie of Duluth, Minnesota in 1905. She was born there on May 9, 1889. They had two sons born to them — Harold in 1906 and Clarence in 1909, with whom they journeyed to Canada in the year 1910, and settled in the prairie province of Alberta, 50 miles south of Medicine Hat

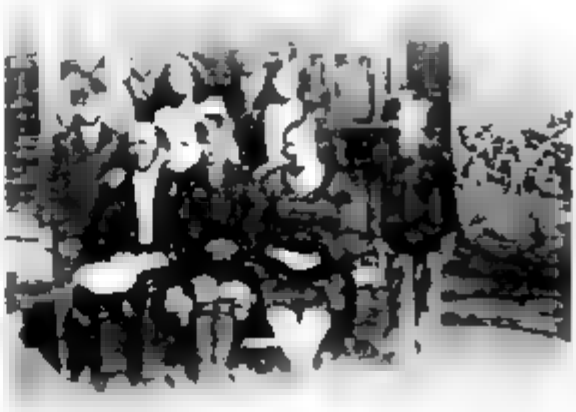
Frank Anderson (my grandfather) had immigrated to Alberta earlier to file on homesteads. Lillie Anderson's parents, Mike and Anna Bodie, were already settled near the town of Manyberries. Alberta (named for the variety of wild berries growing there) and which also turned out to be the Anderson s post office as they settled nine miles north east of this town

They were industrious and happy people, with a wonderful community spirit, and their toils were rewarded with fields of golden wheat number one quality The fields, however, turned to dust when the drought hit in the early 1920's After many crop failures, Mr Anderson was forced to abandon the land. and took advantage of the "free rail transportation" given by the government to prairie farmers

In the early spring of 1925 they loaded livestock, machinery and household effects into box cars, and travelled by train to the town of Eckville, Alberta, where former neighbors, the Jack Macky's, had already settled and were in readiness for them

In the meantime, Mr Anderson found a shack and some pasture land to rent along the railroad track, a few miles west of Eckville, for the first stop-over Later he found the Cloninger farm then for rent in the Hespero area, directly across from the Shady Lane school (which has since been moved) Those attending school there were Elsie, Wilburt, Hazel and Melvin. The teachers during those years were Miss Millar, Miss Foss, Miss Burnett and Miss Hazel Johnson. The highlight of the year was a hilarious Christmas Concert, with an over-capacity crowd in attendance

In 1928 Mr Cloninger passed away and the farm was sold As a move again was inevitable, a house for rent was found a mile north of Eckville, belonging to Mr Forhan Sr, druggist at Eckville. A lovely year was spent there, the neighbors and people as a whole were very hospitable



Back row l. to r Wilbert, Harold, Hazel, Clarence, Elsie, Richard
Front row Melvin, Charles Anderson, Ray, Lillie Anderson and Richard

Mr Anderson again was fortunate in getting Jack Simpson's farm near Benalto, for rent, and moved there in the spring of 1929 At that time many families travelled to Russia, and Mr Anderson got the urge, too, thinking of bettering their life, and in May of 1933 left with his wife, Lillie, and four youngest sons, Wilburt, Melvin, Richard and Raymond. The first part of their journey was by truck, hired, and driven by Martin Delaney of Lesliеville, Alberta They traveled via Minnesota, U.S.A. to visit relatives then on to Montreal, where they boarded the ship for Russia. They found the ocean trip very exciting, but upon reaching their destination they were to find it to be a lot different than what they had anticipated

They returned to Alberta in the Christmas season of 1936, and great was the rejoicing to be together with their family again Their only

regret was that Wilbur and Melvin had to remain However, Melvin traveled back home to Alberta in 1938. That same year Mr Anderson leased, with option to buy, some Hudson Bay land in the Sunset Hills area. Mr and Mrs Anderson then settled down to farming in earnest with their three sons

Richard (Dick) eventually took a job with Mr G. Sterling in the Revelstoke Lumber and Hardware business in Benalto, Alberta, and enlisted in the Air Force as a ground crew mechanic in 1939 He was stationed in several places before being transferred overseas, where he only served a short time due to the war ending on June 6, 1945

Mr Anderson got a sudden impulse to build a sauna (steam bath) at Sylvan Lake, which took shape in the summer of 1947, built by his son in laws with help from himself and his sons. It proved to be a very successful enterprise and he operated it, with the help of his wife, until 1954, when he passed away with a heart ailment on November 17, at the age of 69 years. This was his first time ever to have been hospitalized

In spite of arthritis, Mrs. Lillie Anderson is still in fairly good health and has enjoyed living at the Eckville Manor House for the past year She was one of the first residents when the lodge was opened in March, 1976. She celebrated her 88th birthday this year Her radiant smile conceals her age, however, so that one would never guess it

The children of Charles and Lillie Anderson are as follows

Harold married Edith Antila of Hespero in 1929 and remained home to help farm that year They then moved to Oras, Alberta, where their son was born. In 1934 a daughter was born, but died in infancy They moved to Calgary in 1942 where Harold was engaged in carpentry work until he retired in 1971. He then built a large new home at Oliver, B.C., but didn't have much time to enjoy it, as he passed away with cancer in 1975. They have one grandchild

Clarence married Aili Huhtala of Benalto, Alberta, in 1933 and settled on their farm directly across from the Benalto highway entrance Farming was his life, but in the instance of his mother's being widowed, and not keen on operating the steam bath by herself, he decided to sell the farm to Mr Alfred Wohler in 1955. He and his wife took over the Steam Bath and set Mother up in a little house of her own close by In the fall Clarence would hire out at harvest time. his beloved work, and his wife would operate the steam bath, which they did successfully until 1963, when he sold out to his brother Dick. They retired to a home in Rocky Mountain House They have one son and one daughter and seven grandchildren. Clarence passed away with a heart condition in the fall of 1972, still in the process of helping others do their harvesting

Elsie worked for Mrs. Minnie Buchanan in 1932 when highway number 11 was graveled, and the crew lodged with Mrs. Buchanan. This was a busy time for the Benalto Hotel. Elsie eventually went to work for Mrs. Emma Kinna, in the Red and White Store and Post Office, next door, for several years. Wanting a taste of city life, she took housework later with an early pioneer family of Edmonton, the Richard Secords. He had been one of the first teachers of Strathcona South Edmonton) In Edmonton in 1936 Elsie was married to Ted Hiekkinen of Benalto, Ted was then buying grain in Gadsby, Alberta, for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company and was transferred to Benalto, where we settled to live One funny incident stands out from our courtship days When Ted was in Benalto and I was in Edmonton, he had phoned me to come out on the bus, but I was reluctant, as his sister was sick and I wanted to stay and help her, which he wasn't too pleased about, and likely told me to 'Stay there then!" His sister decided that I had better go in the morning, so I took the bus and got as far as Leduc, when, surprisingly, I was paged and a message from Ted instructed me to go back to Edmonton, as he had arrived there on the early train Ted gave up grain buying in 1939 when we moved onto our farm at Oras, Alberta. We remained there until 1941 when we moved to Calgary, as Ted was engaged in carpentry work In the meantime we sold our Oras farm and bought a quarter at the west end of Sylvan Lake We came back to Benalto in 1946 to live, and are still here, retired now We are blessed with three sons, three daughters, and 13 grandchildren.

Wilburt is married and resides in Russia — he has one son and a new grandson in the past year He has made two visits here, one in 1968 for a stay of eight months, and again spent a year with his family here in 1976. He is retired now and they live in an apartment. Their climate is similar to that of British Columbia

Hazel married Sivert Lien in the year 1934. He was a grain buyer for the Midland Company in Benalto. They continued to live here until he had a move to Hines Creek, Alberta From there they moved to Sherwood Park where both were engaged in janitorial service at the school until 1964, when they moved to Campbell River, B.C They have since retired to Westbank, B C. They have three sons and two daughters and nine grandchildren

Melvin married Helen Lund of Sylvan Lake Alberta. They reside in Calgary where he is foreman of a carpenter crew He has built a modern cottage at Sylvan Lake in 1975, and they spend most of their weekends there. They have a son and three daughters and three grandchildren

Richard took work with the Revelstoke Lumber Company, after the war, in Brooks, Alberta In 1949 he married Jeanne Benoit in Brooks. They moved to Drumheller temporarily and then to Dawson Creek, and in 1963 retired from that job and took over the Sylvan Lake steam bath from his brother Clarence. He

operated this very successfully until 1975, when he sold out and bought a home in Salt Spring Island, B.C. They have a son (at home) and three daughters in Edmonton, Alberta, and three grandchildren.

Raymond married Maila Korhonen of Eckville, Alberta in 1955. They farmed for several years on the home place, until it was sold in 1963. They then looked over property in Oliver, B.C. and bought a fruit orchard with a fruit stand, which they operated for some time. He built a new home, and due to ill health, found the orchard work too strenuous, so sold out in 1974 and built another new home in the town of Oliver, B.C. and is engaged in maintenance work for the area schools. They have two sons and four daughters. One of the daughters is married.

**BELLIKKA, ARTHUR — by Viola Bellikka**

Arthur Johannes Bellikka was born on September 20, 1909 at New Ipswitch, New Hampshire, U.S.A., the son of Antti and Sara Bellikka. In 1916 he emigrated with his parents from Brandon, Minnesota to Saskatchewan, later in 1916 coming to Sylvan Lake. They lived there until 1926, when they moved to Eckville. Art received his schooling at Kuusamo and Marianne Schools. He learned the carpentry trade by working with his father from the time he was a young lad. Art was very interested in sports all of his life. He was a member of the SISU Club at Eckville. His transportation during the winter was a pair of skis and in summer it was his Model T. Ford.

Sisu Club

I was born on May 30, 1917 at the home of Mrs George Johnson in Sylvan Lake, who was my mother's mid-wife. My parents, John and Maggie Byttymen, lived on a homestead on the north end of Sylvan Lake, our post office being Palm Bay. The years of my childhood were happy years, even though we were very poor financially, which meant that I was denied my ambition to become a teacher. There was just no money for tuition, or even for books. I loved the outdoors and the beauties of nature. I enjoyed picking wild berries, and looked forward to threshing time and to the Christmas programs at our school. I received my schooling at Boyle School and at Eckville High School, then worked for various farm families for $8 to $10 a month wages. "Hired girls" were expected to do a great deal, including cooking, cleaning, taking care of children, feeding hogs, milking cows and doing many other things. On one of the farms the oldest son taught me to drive the tractor and when I brought his lunch to the field I was expected to continue with the plowing while he ate his lunch. It was a challenge!

On January 5, 1937 I married Arthur Bellikka. The first home we rented was across the road from the Eckville Cemetery. I still remember the old black flat top stove we got. It had an oven door on both sides, but it baked lovely bread. Today, it would be a valuable antique. Art's father and mother gave us a milking cow for a wedding gift. She was a beautiful cow and kept us in milk, cream and butter while we lived there. My mother and grandmother each gave us two setting hens, so I was busy that summer with little chicks, and had very good luck with them. My biggest problem was keeping the chickens out of my garden, which was my pride and joy. This was a good year, and by fall we had vegetables galore — even pumpkins, squash and corn.

In the meantime the chickens had grown to full size, and my sister came to help me can them for winter's meat. Early the next morning when we got ready for our task the aroma of skunk was overwhelming when I opened the door of the chicken house. I have never forgotten the sight that met my eyes, when they became adjusted to the dark interior of the building — dead and mutilated chickens lay all over the interior! My pet, Henny Penny, was still alive, so I went to pick her up, but she was so mutilated I had to put her out of her misery. This experience was the end of my chicken raising! That night I concealed a trap by the hole that had been dug the night before, and the next morning I found the biggest four-legged skunk I've ever seen. I've never liked shooting any animals, but this is one time I did not hesitate to get the 22 rifle. I had only one shell, so my aim had to be good — and it was! My husband would not believe it, but I had left the skunk in the trap for him to take out when he came home.

Art worked on carpentry throughout the community wherever a job could be found. Wages were 20 to 25 cents an hour, and there were times when he did not get paid at all. During the summer we made a covered trailer, with the help of my brothers, Elmer Kujala, and Art's nephew, Ray Koskinen, who came from East Coulee to stay with us until his parents relocated in Rouyn, Quebec.

In the fall of 1938 we packed up the trailer and moved to the folks' place. That winter we lived at Aunt Sarah's and Uncle Charlie's place, with my sister and her husband. This was a terrible

winter — there was no work to be had, and some days we had very little to eat. In the early spring Art and Elmer Kujala (my sister's husband) decided to get to Edmonton to see if they could get work. They had to pawn practically everything they had to keep going, but thanks to wonderful people like Jack and Mary Luoma, they were able to have a room at the Fairview Hotel. One day, in desperation and determination, Art jumped over the wall around the area where the Hudson's Bay store was being built. He confronted the foreman with "Where do you want me to start?" He got put to work, so we moved our trailer to Edmonton to the South Side Trailer Court. My brother, Aldo, and our dog, Rover, came with us. The job lasted for a few months, then again we moved back to my folks.

The trailer was too cold to live in for the winter, so we built a two-room cottage by the lake on my father's place. To me this was a haven. We had happy times there, as our home was a meeting place for the young people of the community who came to skate and play hockey. The Palm Bay Sports Club was organized that winter. On January 13, 1939 the first executive was elected, with Art as president.

Palm Bay Red Wings — 1939. Art Bellikka, Johnny Byttynen, Wayne Lund, Ray Anderson, Elmer Kujala, Henry Niemi, Marvin Wester, Ivan Russell. Front: Howard Vig, Dick Byttynen, Tony Byttynen

The Palm Bay Red Wings Hockey team won the cup in the district hockey tournament that spring. That summer men's and ladies' softball teams were organized. We had moved temporarily to south of Bentley where Art built a barn. We slept in a tent and I cooked the meals in a granary for a crew of four men. I baked all our bread, as we had our own stove with us. After supper we would jump into the old Model T and speed out to play ball. It was great to be young!

Then things changed — on September 10, 1939 Canada declared war. I shall never forget my mother's face when she heard the news, (even though she was expecting it). She knew what it was all about, as she had already lived through one world war. My brothers all enlisted for active service.

That fall we moved our little cottage to Art's parents' place and sold it the next summer to John Vara of Eckville. We then moved to Sylvan Lake, where we lived until January, 1942. On June 27, 1940 we became the parent of a baby girl. We named her Patricia Viola — a name chosen by my great-uncle, Percy Kent, of Red Deer.

My husband had been working with Bennett & White Construction Co., building the Holsum Airport, which job was finished in August, 1942. I then returned to Sylvan Lake and on August 12 1942 our son, James Arthur, was born in the Red Deer Hospital. My husband's work took him from Medicine Hat to Suffield, but I remained at Sylvan Lake, where we had rented a cottage from F. Bloom. Thanks to Mr. Bloom, I got my first washing machine that winter.

The winter of 1942-1943 was one of the coldest winters I can remember. I tried to get water from the town pump, but it was impossible. The snow was very deep and the temperatures dropped to 45° F. Thanks to my good friends and neighbors, the Coutts and the Balogs, I got water and fuel.

Art's work shifted to Edmonton (still with Bennett & White), so in January 1944 we moved to Edmonton, where we finally managed to purchase a lot and build a home. Art eventually left Bennett & White and went into a contracting and building company with Elmer and Dick (my brother). During the post war years materials were hard to obtain and consequently the business suffered and finally went bankrupt. It took a number of years to pay the debts, but we were used to hard times.

Art obtained a job as an appraiser for the City of Edmonton and was with the Assessor's Department until the time of his death, on June 24, 1959. The spring he died he was attending university, taking extension courses in real estate appraisal.

Art and I led a busy life, as we were always involved in the work and activities of our community and our church. Art served on various Boards and Councils in the City, and his interest in sports led him to coaching or managing boys' hockey teams. Remembering how he had had to repair hockey sticks for the Palm Bay Red Wings, he continually worked to get better playing conditions and equipment for the boys. I was a Cub and Scout mother, a Guide mother, an executive of the Home and School, and helped on Talent Shows for ACT. My almost 25 years of teaching Sunday School has been the greatest and most rewarding experience of my life. In 1955 we had moved to a larger home in the Highland district, in order to be closer to junior and senior high schools. Patricia and James both graduated from Eastglen Composite High School.

Patricia returned this summer (1977) from Glendale, California, where she has made her home for the past 12 years. In 1975 she married Mario Bonilla of El Salvador, Central America.

he is continuing his schooling for a career of clothing design in Los Angeles. Pat is presently working for a law firm in Edmonton, but plans to return to university to continue her studies for her B.A. degree in Linguistics

James married his high school sweetheart, Joan O'Dell, and they have three sons — Jerry, age 17, Jason age 12; and Jeffrey, age 6 years. They live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Jim is a field manager for Snap-On Tools. The boys like their father and grandfather before them are great sports enthusiast hockey being their favorite game, also.

What greater rewards could one ask of this life than to have loving children and grandchildren. My children were very fond of their grandparents, and always enjoyed visiting or staying with them, as well as having them come to live with us Pat and Jim remember how they used to sit on Grandpa Bellikka s knee — how he used to tease them with his goatee, and he always had a bag of peppermint candies in his vest pocket. They said Grandma made the greatest flat bread (rLska) in the bottom of her oven

Having a sauna at Grandpa Bellikka's, making home-made ice cream at my parents' home, and, still, getting together with the family by the bonfire at the lake — family life is still the greatest institution in the world, for it is in the home that the foundations are laid for the kind of world in which we live.

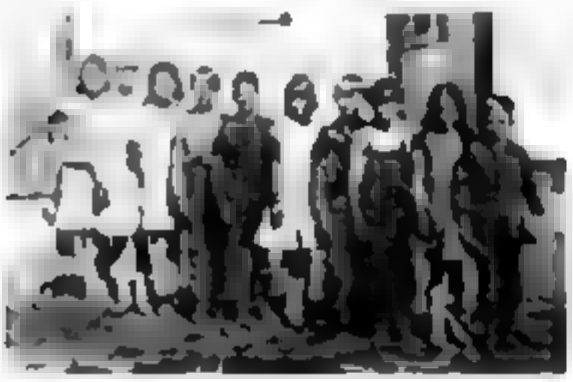
Happy the home when God is there
And love fills every breast,
Where one their wish and one
their prayer,
And one their heavenly rest

In 1963 I married Leo Cosby, formerly of Smithville. Ontario. We still live in the Highland district in Edmonton.

**BOYLE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Notes from the records of the Boyle School District 2910 from January, 1920 to April 1953.

The school children were bussed to Bentley in 1948



Boyle School L to R Sylvia Bettram, Anna Tolstein, Viola Bettram, John Bettram, Ragnar Johansen, Arne Anderson, Arnold Bettram, Tony Bettram, Victoria Johansen, Steve Olson

The first year school was open 72 days, with two teachers during the term, 10 children enrolled, average daily attendance four

The secretary was appointed from the district, lowest paid for duties was $25 per year — highest was $50

Interesting to note in 1933, 33 applications were received for the teaching position — Mr Harry Laycock was hired for $750 for the year — he had a family of five to support

The highest salary paid in that time was $1100 and the lowest was $740.

**BRATTBERG, AUDREY AND ELMER**

Audrey Kathleen is the third child of Knut and Alma Sunde A keen scholar, she enjoyed her school years at Alhambra, Rocky Mountain House and David Thompson High School She participated in school athletic programs and was also a member of the Rocky Mountain 4-H Beef Club Upon completion of Grade 12 she attended the University of Alberta, Edmonton where she received a B. Ed. The next three years were spent teaching mathematics at the David Thompson High school. Audrey then returned to the University of Alberta, Edmonton and obtained a M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Always having a yen for travelling, Audrey made trips across Canada, through the United States, to Hawaii and three times to Europe. Her first trip to Norway was in 1957 with the whole Sunde family. Ten weeks, one summer, were spent travelling about Europe with sister Carol Lois and Miriam Farrington and Maureen Killick. The last trip to Europe was more extensive, lasting six months, and included visits to Greece, Turkey and Tunisia Most memorable of all was Christmas with relatives in Norway

Audrey is presently teaching at Stratford Junior High school in Edmonton, and is also a curriculum co-ordinator in junior high mathematics with the Edmonton Public School Board.

Audrey is married to Elmer Harold Brattberg, son of Harold and Elsie Brattberg Elmer was raised on a farm in the Bentley district and attended school in Bentley. He has a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alberta, Edmonton and is presently employed as a Senior Engineer with A.G.T. in Edmonton. Elmer was very active in high school athletics and also became an avid skier He has skied most ski areas in the Rocky Mountains and also made a trip to Europe to ski in the Alps

Audrey and Elmer have a mixed farm in the Bentley area near the north shore of Sylvan Lake. Many enjoyable days of hard work and relaxation have been spent here on week-ends and holidays. During the spring, summer and fall months they commute from the farm to their jobs in Edmonton with their Cessna 182 airplane Both Audrey and Elmer have their private pilot's licenses and have encountered many interesting experiences while flying their plane

**BRATTBERG, HAROLD**

Born in Uddevalla, Sweden — came to Eckville in 1928 — worked five years in Eckville district — bought the land the Boyle School was situated on — NW 35-39-2-W5 — in 1931

Married Essie Vig in 1938 — there are four children

**Robert** married Marlene Smith of Glenwood — they have three children

**Ellen** married William Palm — they have three children

**Ethel** has one daughter

**Elmer** married Audrey Sunde — they are living on the farm home place

**BYTTYNEN, ARALDO (DICK)**

I was born on October 12, 1920 and spent my childhood days on my father's farm on the north shore of Sylvan Lake

In 1940 I left for the war and served with the Calgary Highlanders until 1946. Shortly after my return I married Florence Mattson of the Kuusamo district, and we took up residence in Edmonton. We have two daughters, Colleen and Jane. The girls have grown up and married. Colleen married Brian Dukanigan and has a daughter, Kathleen. Jane married Brian Kirkwood and has a son Jeffrey

**BYTTYNEN, JOHN L. — by Viola S. Cosby**

My father, John L. Byttynen, immigrated to Canada from Minnesota, U.S.A. in the early 1900's. He was born in Cokato, Minnesota in 1885. He had three brothers, Abraham, Albinius and Anthony, and four sisters, Aurora, Sarah Ann and Susanna. His parents emigrated from Finland to the United States in the 1880's, their ancestry being of Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish descent.

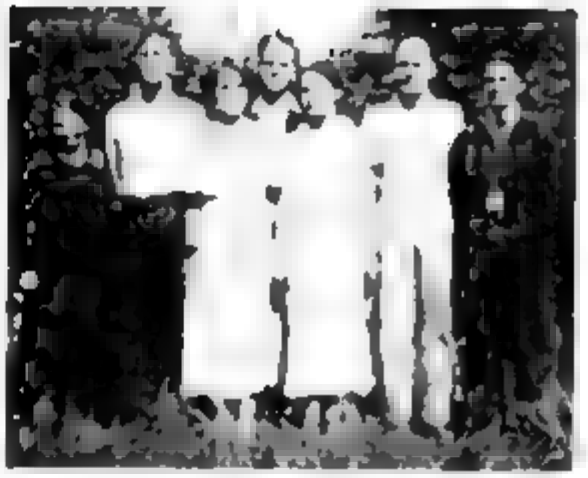
He homesteaded on the north end of Sylvan Lake in the year 1912. On November 17, 1913 he married Maggie E. McKee, daughter of James and Nancy Mahala McKee.

My mother was born in Frankfurt, Ontario in 1893. Her ancestors emigrated from Scotland and Ireland in 1763. Her father and mother were married on June 8, 1887 at Belleville, Ontario. Her parents and two brothers, John and Allen, and two sisters, Alice and Minnie, moved westward by wagon and oxen to Manitoba. They were in Brandon, Manitoba, at the time of the terrible blizzard in 1901-1902. The storm lasted for 72 hours. They were snowbound for days.

That following spring they moved further west to Alberta, where they homesteaded in the Boyle School District in 1904. The two youngest members of the family attended the school after it opened in 1912.

Grandfather McKee died February 7, 1916. Some years later, Grandmother married John Ebeling of Bentley. She died in June, 1939, one year after Grandpa Ebeling died.

There were six children in our family: Sylvia L. — 1915; Viola S. — 1917, John A. — 1919



The Byttynen Family. Maggie, John, Viola, Johnny, Sylvia, Araldo and Tony. At Granpa Ebeling's - 1934

Araldo R. — 1920, A. Anthony — 1921 and James A. 1923 (deceased 1923). We were all born at home. My grandmother was usually the midwife. Anthony was two and one-half pounds at birth and she took care of him, carrying him on a pillow and keeping him warm with heated bricks. I still remember receiving a spoonful of my grandmother's remedy for tummyache. It was a special recipe of hers and we never did learn how to make it.

My parents worked hard to make a living for the family. Land had to be cleared and ground broken for planting — trees cut and sawed for firewood were the only source of heat.

In spite of the hard times of our earlier years, they were happy years. We had all the wonderful gifts of nature around us and the added opportunity of living beside a lake. I remember with nostalgia all the wild flowers and wildlife. There were not only birds of every description but so many varieties of waterfowl. I still love to hear the call of the coot, commonly known as the mud-hen, especially in the springtime when they are mating. Yes, and even the eerie cry of the loon before a summer storm.

There were wild animals galore. The deer came down to the water for drink — even the fawns got used to us. My parents forbade the killing of beaver and muskrat and the creek on our meadow became not only their home but also a sanctuary for the wild geese and swans every spring and fall. We awaited their arrival every year with joy and anticipation. It is hard to believe that all this now is so changed. In place of a beautiful solitude of God's creation there is the creation of man — screeching power boats and ugly pollution.

My father worked at the coal mines in Alexo and Nordegg in the 1920's, coming home maybe once or twice a month. It wasn't an easy life for mother to look after the farm and animals. We raised a big garden of vegetables every year and

picked lots of wild berries to can. Sometimes the cold, cold winters froze our storage of fruit and vegetables and it was grim indeed.

It was a very difficult and trying time for my mother to take care of all the outside chores when we were all so young. The only baby-sitter she ever had was an old Norwegian fisherman, Ole Olson Hull, known as "Old Oola" to us all. We enjoyed him when he came as he used to tell us stories. He made whistles for us out of wood and sometimes he carved little animals for us out of wood pieces. We didn't see him very often, but we sure looked forward to his visits. (He died many years ago.)

My father was injured in the mine and from that time on he could not do heavy labor. He worked off and on as a carpenter. He also did blacksmith work at home — more or less a jack-of-all trades. He had wanted to be a veterinarian and had done some studying in books, and with the practical experience did his best to help when being called on by neighbours to take care of sick animals.

One of the exciting times of our childhood was when the Indian caravans stopped at our place on their way to Rocky Mountain House and then in the fall on their way back to the reservation at Hobbema. We looked forward to seeing them, especially Chief Yellow Eye and his wife and son Tom. Dad repaired their wagons and took care of their horses' hooves. In return, they brought us moccasins, a pair for each of us and usually a beaded pair for my mother. One year they brought dad a beautiful buckskin coat. He wore it for many years. It burnt with the house when my parent's home burned in 1949. This was the new home that was built after we grew up.

Dad also lost the black robe which was made from the hide of his favorite horse "Prince". Old Prince was a part of our family from 1915 to 1943. He served us faithfully all those years, on the field, on the road as part of a team, or as a single with the buggy or cutter, stone-boat or garden cultivator. He was also used for riding and if we got lost in the woods searching for cattle, we didn't need to worry as old Prince always took us safely home.

We attended Boyle School, one and one-half miles from home. Our school was a one-roomed schoolhouse. Grandpa McKee helped in building the original building in 1912 and my father helped put the addition on some years later.

The years we spent in school were happy years in spite of the hardships of the cold winters when the old wood stove didn't give adequate heat to keep our fingers warm enough to write. The teachers were marvelous people who knew how to give us warm-up drills or parade around the schoolroom desks. The battle of the elements was not always easy. I remember particularly the year I wrote Grade 8 Departmental Exams. It rained so much the road was a sea of mud. The teacher, Miss Hilman, and I trudged to the school each day so I could write my exams which were sealed in big brown envelopes to be sent away. It was worth it as I received my diploma and the honor of being the first pupil from Boyle School District to have obtained a diploma! We were both so thankful on the last morning when Mr. Frank Johnson, chairman of the school board, came to pick us up with his horses and buggy to drive us home. He was responsible for seeing that those big brown envelopes were properly submitted to Edmonton.

During these early years, Palm Bay was our Post Office. The Post Office was at the home of the John Palms. They owned the property adjacent to my parents. Mr. Palm drove with horse and buggy or cutter to Eckville to pick up the mail for the community. On request of neighbors, he also brought groceries. This was a whole day's journey! We owe much to these old pioneers.

Sometimes in the winter the lake was used for transportation when the ice was deeply frozen. There was always the danger of going on it too soon. This unfortunately happened to the Laycock family on December 7, 1937. Mr. Laycock was the teacher at Boyle School at that time. It was a nice clear Saturday morning. My mother came back from feeding the chickens and called out, "Those folks are driving too far out on that ice!" We all ran out to have a look and the next thing we heard was a loud boom, like when ice cracks, and we saw the car go into the break in the ice, about one and a half miles from our place. My brother, Johnny, put his skates on and away he flew across the ice. I ran to tell my father who was hauling some barrels of water for the pigs. He quickly unhooked the team, jumped on the back of one of the horses and started along the shore, as the ice on the lake was like glass. I started running but by the time I got there everyone was out except Mr. Laycock. His son Gilbert and my brother were pulling him up out of the water. It was truly a miracle that they all got out as Mrs. Laycock and their five-year old son were in the front seat with Mr. Laycock, while Gilbert and two other brothers were in the back seat. The car was completely submerged.

Mr. Laycock was unconscious. They worked on him on the ice but he didn't respond, so my father, with the help of the boys, put him over the back of the horse and quickly got him to the Hill's home about a mile away. Mrs. Laycock and I took turns carrying Ross, and believe me, it seemed much more than a mile. When we got there a message was sent to phone the doctor. It took a long time for him to come from Eckville.

My father kept working on Mr. Laycock on the kitchen floor, applying artificial respiration until he was exhausted and asked me to take over. We were sure happy when we heard him make a noise and he started to bring up water and slime. I have never forgotten it! It was truly by the grace of God this man lived.

We who lived or grew up beside the lake knew the dangers of the environment and we were

taught as we grew, but I am sure my mother must have had plenty of anxieties when we were small. We were fortunate that we had so few serious accidents throughout our childhood.

What could have been a major tragedy was the morning Tony had his two fingers on his right hand cut off. It was a December morning, 1927 — the day of our school's Christmas programme. With the anticipation of an exciting programme, the boys had forgotten to cut kindling the night before, so father sent them out that morning to bring in kindling to start the kitchen stove. Tony grabbed a piece of wood off the cutting block just as Johnnie brought down the axe. Mom and Dad drove him to Eckville with the horses and cutter. Those 11 miles must have seemed like an eternity. Thanks to Dr. Sommerville, Tony's fingers were saved.

Our community should remember with gratitude the great doctors of these early years (Dr. Sommerville of Eckville and Dr. Henry of Bentley) who dedicated their lives to their calling. Even when the roads were impassable, they found a way. I remember the time in 1940 when Dr. Coppock of Eckvide answered an emergency call by using a speeder on the railroad tracks to come and take a patient to hospital.

My parent's land was used for many different kinds of recreation. In the 20's there was an open air dance platform where dances were held occasionally. People came from miles around to dance in the moonlight. There was also a concession booth where candies, gum, and chocolate bars were sold, along with home-made lemonade and ice cream.

Another highlight was the picnics by the "Sisu Club". This was an athletic club under the direction and training of Henry Jokkinen of Eckville. There was fun and games for everyone. Many families came to fish and spent the night. There was a plentiful supply of perch, pickerel, pike and jack fish. During the depression years, fish was our main source of food.

In the late 30's, a group of young people formed the Palm Bay Sports Club. The first executive elected January 13, 1939 consisted of: President — Art Bellikka, Vice-President — Howard Johnson, Recording Secretary — Viola Bellikka, Treasurer — Laurie Layton, Secretary — Doris Vig, Program Convenor — Ray Niemala, Ice Convenors — Aldo Byttynen, Johnnie Byttynen, L. R. Layton, Wood Boss — Howard Vig, Marvin Wester, Ragnar Johanson, Lunch Convenors — Walter Johnson, Annie Anderson, Mary Balog, and Official Bouncers — Andrew Anderson, Ted Johnson and Chester Vig. The Palm Bay Red Wings played in the District Hockey Tournament (arranged under the auspices of the Red Deer Board of Trade) March, 1939 and took first prize!

The rink was also for pleasure skating. A concession booth was put up where coffee and hot dogs, etc., were served. The biggest handicap was the heavy snowfall, but there were usually willing people to clear the rink. A most willing and regular helper was the young school teacher of Boyle School, Laurie Layton.

The club put on dance programs at Young People's Hall to raise funds to buy hockey and other sports equipment. The hockey sticks alone would have been a major expense but for Art — he always managed to fix the broken sticks by splicing them together.

Two fastball teams were formed for summer. The ladies' team was managed and coached by Art Bellikka and the men's team was coached by Ted Johnson.

These were very exciting and enjoyable times and I am sure that it was one of the happiest times of our lives, especially for my parents, as they enjoyed the activities of the young people. My mother always had a cup of cocoa or coffee to serve.

These happy times came to an end, as young men left to fight for their country. My parents, like so many others, saw their sons go off to war. They all enlisted for active service — Johnnie in the Royal Canadian Engineers, Araldo (Dick) with the Edmonton Fusiliers, later transferring to the Calgary Highlanders when he went overseas in 1941, and Tony with the Royal Canadian Artillery. The first to leave from the Palm Bay Club was Ivan Russell. (He was like one of the family.) He was with the Edmonton Fusiliers.

Johnnie was stationed at Chilliwack, B.C. for the major part of his service with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Dick served three years on active duty. He was wounded in France in August, 1944, returned to the Front in Holland, and ended up in Odenburg, Germany, at the close of the war. He returned to Canada in December 1945. Tony was with the 78th Battery 13th Canadian Field Battery, 3rd Division, Royal Canadian Artillery. He was injured in England during a blackout. After several months in hospital, they were convinced he would be happier back in Canada.

Sylvia married Elmer Kujala November, 1937. They have a family of six children and seven grandchildren. Elmer died in November of 1962. Viola married Arthur Bellikka January, 1937. They had two children and have three grandchildren. Arthur died in June of 1959. Viola married Leo Cosby in May of 1963. Johnny married Lorraine Graham in May of 1943 and they have six children and six grandchildren. Araldo married Florence Mattson in June of 1946 and they have two children and two grandchildren. Tony married Gloria Bergert and they have five children.

My father is now 92 years of age. He has been a patient in a nursing home for the past four years. My mother died on December 5, 1956.

Palm Bay still remains, a little corner of Sylvan Lake, but only we who have the memories of what it used to be, can appreciate what we once had.

We are all indebted to the pioneers in every age and every generation. We owe much to those who came before us! They all want to remain great in their own worth and strong in their convictions — no matter what — they are our heritage

**CARLSON, HANS AND IDA — by Ida Carlson**

Hans and Ida Carlson came to live on the NE 34-39-2-W5 in the fall of 1939. At that time we had only clay roads, and travel was often made difficult because of the mud. The Boyle school was located across the road from us. We were serviced with mail route and telephone lines. Our building site was located on the corner of the land where there was a cross road. The mail route and telephone line did not go any further west than our place. We had only a few acres in cropland. We did have a water well, a good one, which never failed and is still in regular use, although now the water is brought up from it with a pressure system

The trees were in abundance, and supplied our cooking and heating fuel. When clearing land we found pouches of dried pemmican and a rock with arrowheads expertly chiseled out. We also have a rock that has been analyzed as a part of a falling meteorite.

We cleared the land bit by bit. It did take the most of 20 years to clear the land of trees, but we were recompensed each time with more fields and a better view of the mountains and Sylvan Lake nearby. Our two children, Peter and Marion, enjoyed the lake to the utmost

During our time on the farm we changed from one thing to another. Many years were spent with a dairy herd, but later on we went to beef cattle. Hans was a very good cattleman and hog producer, so we had some of each. Our grain crops were mostly barley, although we at other times had oats and wheat, and clover seed and rape more recently. We rotated our grain fields with hay crops, as this keeps the soil in good condition and also helps to prevent erosion. At one time we had a herd of goats and for a number of years had the usual flock of laying hens and chickens for meat purposes, too. Many beautiful birds made their homes on our farmstead. We grew vegetables in abundance, and had some good results with growing berries.

The passing years brought many changes in our way of life. Eventually our road became a hard-top. We were able to have a comfortable home with many modern conveniences. The telephone lines had gone underground and to the dial system, and also had been extended several miles west, although still remaining on the Bentley exchange. In 1941 we started paying our hospital tax. We were included in the Eckville hospital district and this system was kept that way for many years. In the late 1940's we, along with other farmers, helped put the rural electrification in our district and this line went west as far as the present Allan Russel farm. For many years now the school children of the Boyle district have been bused into Bentley

For a few days now, in 1977, on our farmstead an oil well drilling rig has been busy day and night, drilling for oil

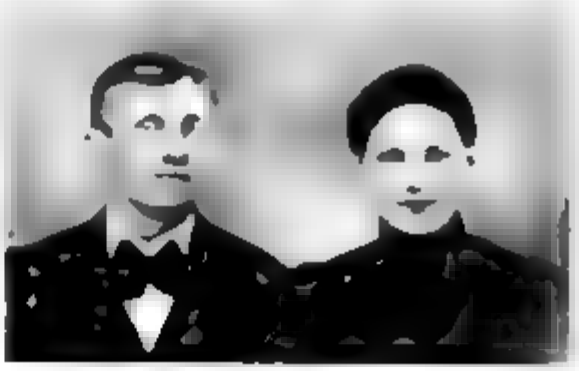
So many things have been left unsaid. I am grateful to my son Peter and daughter, Marion, and their spouses and all my grandchildren, my relatives and good neighbors of a good community. Indeed it was a privilege to have been allowed so many years on this location. May the time we were allotted still prove rewarding

Hans passed away in December of 1975, and I am now making my home in the Eckville Manor House in Eckville

**CHRISTIANSEN, PETER AND MARIE — by Ida Carlson**

Pete Christiansen spent the last seven years of his life with his wife and younger members of the family in the Boyle district at mixed farming. Pete and Marie, with three very young children, came to homestead in the Scandinavian settlement, west of Bentley, in the Stephenson school district. They arrived in the spring of 1901 and lived there until 1928 when they moved south to Turin, Alberta. This move caused the family much hardship with the terrible droughts on the prairies at that time and the depression years. Still owning land in the Boyle district and after five years of the prairie experience, they returned to this land to make their home. Pete died in 1941, age 71, and Marie, after some years, moved to Abbotsford, B.C. She lived there until 1964 when she moved to Calgary. In 1966 she was hospitalized at Claresholm, Alberta, and died there in June of 1967 at the age of 87 years. Pete and Marie were charter members of Grace Lutheran Church, west of Bentley and both are buried in the Vig Lutheran cemetery. Grace Lutheran Church is still active after more than 79 years since its beginning

When Pete and Marie arrived at their homestead from Sisseton, South Dakota, their address was Alberta district, N.W.T. When they needed supplies they went all the way to Lacombe as there were no bridges over the Blindman River for sometime. Pete came as a



(Pete) Jens and Marie Christiansen.

youth to the United States from Denmark. Marie was a girl of 10 years when she came to the United States with her parents, Mr and Mrs Eric Solberg, from Norway. About 1906 they moved into the same Scandinavian settlement, west of Bentley, but their farmland was in the Boyle district and, no doubt, their history will appear in "Homesteads and Happiness" Eleven of Pete and Marie's 14 children were born on this original homestead. The first child born to them in Canada was a son "Albert". If the child had been a daughter, the name would have been "Alberta" Albert was the first one of the children to die at the age of 48. There are still 10 children of this pioneer family living When Pete and Marie arrived on their homestead, the other settlers there were Martin Johnsons, Hans Skjonsbergs, Vigs and Haarstads came almost at the same time

I am grateful to Helen Beranek of Bentley for the book called "The Hansens". This book is written by Harry Hansen of Bentley and published in 1969. This interesting book covers several generations of the Hansens up to 1969. Many friends and neighbors of the family are included too Harry has some nice comments about "Pete and Marie" written here too. The Hansens were and are such well motivated people, that who could help but be their friends Many interesting pictures are included in this book. Eric, Ole and Carson Bardenhagen of Eckville are named as being on one picture of a group at a picnic at Gull Lake

P.S. I cannot close without telling you that I had a grandmother who was truly a great lady and she was none other than the late "Martha Solberg

**EKLUND, CLARENCE AND PHOEBE — by Phoebe Eklund**

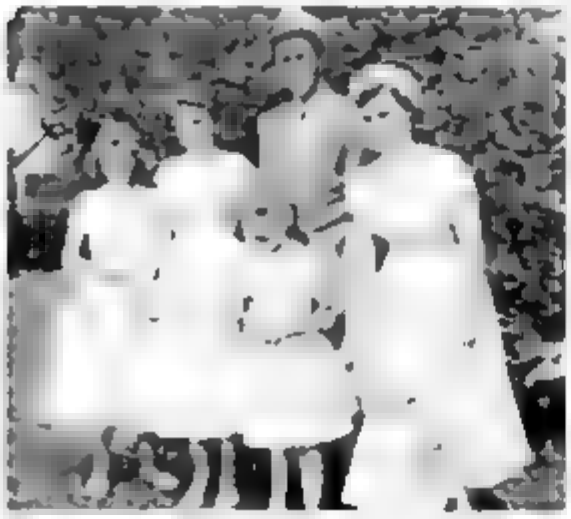
I, Clarence, son of Mr and Mrs. Aldor Eklund of Bentley do take thee, Phoebe, daughter of Mr and Mrs. Chauncey Brewer of Lacombe to be my lawful wedded wife for better or WORSE? Date November 14, 1939 First home — a wee cottage on Gull Lake shore. Landlord — Bob Woolgar who charged three whole dollars per month (a sum not always easy to raise.) As the next day was warm and balmy, the new Groom helped his dad thresh their grain, and the new Bride (no coat or sweater) merrily tripped to the field with lunch Our closest neighbours were the Butchers and the Huttons. My reminiscing is written in this fashion because 38 years later, 1977, everything is so different Weather — 40 to 50 below zero, and I mean Fahrenheit! With me oldtimers? Young people wouldn't understand the word, 'threshing', and they would be sure I meant $300 for rent. I'm sure Clarence feels it has been all for the 'better' and not 'worse' He is a real 'wheeler dealer', but all our friends maintain I am the only possession he hasn't traded. I wonder why — oh yes, the wheels and gears in my head rusted too fast, and they never rotated at a quick enough pace.

In 1942 we moved to Bentley to manage the Purity 99 Service Station, previously operated by Ronald Kirk. Between the Holmes Grocery Store and the Garries Hardware Store was a Tie Yard for tying horses. Good old days! Many a summersault did I, as a child, turn on the Tie Yard in Lacombe. Clarence did general trucking as did his friends, Elton Poling and Alec Wilson. In those days Clarence hauled fuel from Turner Valley (no pavement then), and in the evenings delivered fuel to the farmers. I kept busy serving gas, keeping records, AND keeping track of one small toddler named Connie and her puppy One time Mr Hergott, the Station Agent, phoned that Connie (whom he luckily recognized) was on a train headed for Rimbey and Hoadley The Depot was only a hop and a skip from our place. I very diligently set about becoming acquainted with all the good people in the Blindman Valley Did you ever try sorting out all the Skjonsbergs, Vigs, Solbergs, Petersons and Andersons when you don't know a soul? I pertinently asked Buz Farrell how many children he had, and of course he was still an eligible bachelor! Three of our first and faithful customers were George Cabelka, Albert Hansen and Mr. Elgood Another was Alfred Haarstad who was loved by everyone, and to my knowledge, never had an enemy. Four single boys who used to buy fuel were Abe Giesbrecht, Charlie and Harry Larsen, and Marvin Wester I also remember the Wianckos from Rimbey stopping sometimes In those days people had time to visit, and I imagine I talked their legs off Recall the gas rationing coupons and sugar coupons? It was lots of fun, along with the bad days, one bad day being when Connie turned the tap on a 45 gallon drum of oil

In 1944 we moved to the good old Boyle District (the best in the west), where we lived for almost 30 years. Most of these were on the quarter purchased from John Balog (S.E 35-39 2 W5), but we later bought the S.W. and N.E quarters in this section and built a house on the N.E. one In July of 1944 baby Gloria joined three year old Connie Life was good in those days as everyone enjoyed simple life. A trip for the girls on a hand sleigh pulled by mom to the mailbox and up the hill to Aunt Allie and Uncle Ole Solberg's wonderful big log house was a treat far superior to a motor trip to the big cities now Allie and Ole were substitute 'mom and dad' for many young people, including teachers or ministers who boarded with them Nobody could ever count the lunches (including fresh cinamon rolls) and meals they served to hundreds of people. Uncle Johnny Solberg was our mailman for years — in the days when being a mailman may include delivering groceries, picking up cream, selling stamps, walking and shovelling lots of snow If we hadn't been fortunate enough to have an expert road maintainer Frank Wine (another

'Best in the West'). I'm sure there would have been impassable roads many times for the mailman and all of us. Our third girl, Donna Lee (born in 1950) shed tears when Johnny retired, and printed a "Hi mailman'" inside the mailbox door, which cherry greeting still remains.

In 1957 a fourth girl, Heather Marie, was born and truly brought much pleasure to her three sisters and middle aged parents.



Clarence and Phoebe Eklund and daughters, Gloria, Connie, Donna and Heather. Taken in 1958.

Connie started to Boyle Country School and was privileged to have Mrs. Edith Russell as her first teacher. Dear Ida Carlson entertained the whole neighbourhood that year, as Peter was also a beginner and generously invited everyone in school to his Birthday Party. Of course parents also came to pick up their children. Next year our country schools started to disappear and the buses took over.

Connie, a medical secretary, married Doctor Clifford Herzer, son of Mrs. Sandy Strachan of Rimbey, and they have lived in Los Angeles California for 16 years. His three year Dermatology Course will be finished in May and they plan to move to their acreage near the Red Forest (Arcadia). They have three children — Cindy, Clifford and Cheryl.

Gloria married Leo Ganson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ganson of Lacombe. For six years they lived in Newfoundland where Leo taught school, then two years at Peoria, two years at Botha, and at present he is principal and teacher of a new Seventh Day Adventist Church School near Sylvan Lake. They have one boy, Gerald and three girls, Janice, Julie and Glenda.

Donna was a dental assistant, working in Calgary where she met her husband, Lance Holly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rob Holly of Calgary. Lance, after working as Orderly in the Stettler Hospital, has been taking a Paramedical Course for the past two years in Calgary. He has accepted a call to work in the Grande Prairie Hospital, so plans to move there in May. They have two boys, Glen and Brian.

Heather married Jack Bartko, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bartko of Rimbey, and so far, live closest to home, much to Grandma and Grandpa's delight. They lived near Rimbey, but presently are on an acreage 10 miles from Bentley. They both love the farm and animals, and are hoping to live in the country. Jack shares his mother's musical and artistic talents. Their little girl, Laurie Lee, is the youngest of our 10 grandchildren.

In August, 1973, we moved to our present home 15 miles west of Rimbey (S.E. 26-41-5-W5) situated in the Leedale area. At the time my roots were so deep in Bentley area that I didn't share my husband's enthusiasm in moving to a new land. However, even though I will never forget all our dear Bentleyites, I found the people in this area to be wonderful, kind, and helpful too. Rimbey is a friendly town, and I enjoy shopping there. For the past five years we have sold Vermeer Round Balers to supplement our farm income. I like to think we are pioneers as Clarence has cleared many acres of land. Life has been good. There have been a few clouds amidst all the sunshine, but thanks to God, loved ones, and friends, the stars and the rainbow are as bright as ever. Happy memories everyone.

**JOHANSON, ERICK**

Anna Katherine and Erick Johanson with their four children emigrated from Finland to Michigan, U.S.A. around the turn of the century, then to Canada in 1911 settling in the Wetaskiwin area. In 1914 they took out a homestead in the Sunset Hills area north of Sylvan Lake in the Boyle district.

Of the children living — Hulda Wester lives at Sylvan Lake, Arthur lives in Bentley, Irene Palm lives in Condor, Esther Lind in Prince George, B.C., Sam in Edmonton and Hazel Nelson in Edmonton.

Erick enjoyed carving wood. He is known for the wooden horses he carved and sold for $4. Some of these are displayed in various homes in the district.

**JOHANSON, VICTOR FAMILY — by Mrs. Signe (Victor) Johansson**

In 1923 we decided to leave Sweden and move to Canada. Victor's uncle, Mr. Ed Lofgren at Blackfalds sent back glowing reports of Canada to relatives in Sweden. He said you could make money in Canada, and we found out later this meant many hardships and much hard work. The opportunities were not so easy for a green Swedish family. Blackfalds was to be our destination. We left Bastutrsk, Sweden, July 1923, with our two children, Ragnar, two years old and Victoria, four months old. We arrived over six weeks later at Blackfalds as there were many delays along the way. We spent ten days in

London, England, while the boat was being repaired. Our children were vaccinated for smallpox while we were there. The journey had its drawbacks but the people along the way were friendly and helpful. We arrived at the uncle's place in late August, and stayed with them for one month. They had a large family of their own and four more made it a bit overcrowded. We then went to work for a bachelor, Mr. J. Hilstaad, who wanted some help on his farm in the Bentley district, and we stayed there for two years. While living there, Victor started looking for a farm of his own and found one that was covered with very heavy poplar trees. However we built a log house from the logs that were cut to make a place to a build a house.

We were situated on NE 3-40-2-W5, one half mile north of Boyle School and two miles from Mr. Hilstaad's farm, so Victor would help him over a time until we got more established. It was fortunate there were deer and rabbits to be had to supplement our diet and also fish from Sylvan Lake that was one and one-half miles south.

When we were grubbing trees, we used to take the children's shoes off. That way they wouldn't go very far away and we would know where they were at all times. They didn't seem to mind as they played contentedly.

Victor was learning to speak English a little better each year as he met and worked with others, and he learned also to read and write in English, and read a great deal in the years to come. However it was a Norwegian settlement so they could speak and understand each other without the use of English.

After our house was built, we needed some good water, so he got a water well drill and drilled us a well. Over the years he drilled many water wells. He was still drilling water wells long enough to drill a well for our oldest daughter and her husband at Lesliеville in 1951.

Victor and a neighbor made one half mile of corduroy road through a swamp one mile north of our place to make a better trail to town. There were jackfish jumping in the deep water and grass where they worked. In the years to come he always had a team of horses and a man or himself to help build more roads. They worked off their taxes this way.

He also invented a brush cutter to be used on a tractor, as we had one by that time, hoping to clear land a little faster. He contracted a large area of trees to be cleared. The invention worked fairly good but the cost of hiring men to pile and burn the brush and the cost of gas for the tractor plus repairing his machine proved costly and at the end of the contract he had made no money. However he used it on our own farm for a while.

After we had been in Canada five years we became Canadian citizens.

Ragnar started school when he was six years old and didn't know any English, as at home we spoke Swedish. However Boyle School was fortunate to have a teacher that year who could speak both English and Norwegian, so she was able to teach and help Ragnar through the first year. Her name was Miss Magda Wold, now Mrs. Magda Anderson of the Eckville district. As Ragnar learned English so did Victoria and I, we were learning together, and when Victoria started school she knew as much English as Ragnar. As the children progressed in English so did I, until I could also read and write in English.

With a lot of hardships and hard work our farm began to take shape. We got more land cleared and broken every year and we had some livestock, mostly milk cows, as the milk, butter and cream were necessary foods and income. It took the better part of the day to take the cream to town with a team of horses and buggy. We also had some chickens and pigs. We cleared more land every year to provide more feed for the animals, making it possible to increase the livestock. All the farming was done with horses in the early years, which were also our transportation until we got a model T Ford. I learned to drive it too, which created tension among the onlookers. I learned all the contrary ways of the car and could handle it as well as the next person, and drove it constantly, until it was vandalized. Then it was back to the horse and buggy for a while until we got another car.

In 1935 an addition was built on the house and another daughter, Elizabeth, was born that year. In the winter time Victor would run a sawmill, sawing lumber so he could get lumber to build a new barn. After the barn was built, there were a few barn dances held, one or two for the war effort, and the orchestra at one of them was the well known Ma Trainers Orchestra from Calgary. They took a few minutes before the dance to go to the neighbors and play a few musical numbers for an aged pioneer lady, Mrs. Eric Solberg. There were some dances held for the benefit of the Palm Bay Hockey Club, and also a wedding dances.

In 1939 Victor purchased a 32 volt windcharger to supply us with electricity. I got a washing machine that was run by a 32 volt power and it was a big help as we had hired men and I used to board school teachers.

I also looked after an aged widower, Mr. Upland, who lived across the road from our place. He was our closest neighbor. We used the windcharger until we were able to get Calgary Power. When there was first talk of rural electrification, Victor was out canvassing the neighbors for prospective farmers that would like to get a line put in. I believe it was one of the first rural lines put in. Then he took a course in farm electrification, wrote and passed the exam and wired many farmsteads in the years to come.

His main interest was farming and he learned all he could to make the land produce good crops. Farming always came first and every new facility that came out to improve and make easier and better farming he was ready to try. We got a

threshing machine as by this time we had considerable cultivated land on our half section, so every fall he went with his threshing machine and a crew of men to thresh for the neighbors and ourselves. Many of the crew were neighbors who worked off their threshing dues this way and sometimes we had Indians hired too. Then a few years after the war we purchased a combine and did only our own as by this time we had the half section all cleared and cultivated.

He was also very interested in politics, believing in the C.C.F. party and one year ran as candidate for the Liberal party in the Rocky Mountain House constituency in one election but was defeated.

Our first telephone line that Victor helped organize was strung on various types of poles that were replaced later with more substantial ones.

The Bentley community had a strip cleared on one of the Sunset Hills and made it into a ski hill, now known as the Medicine Hill Ski Hill. In 1950 they decided to have a log lodge built and [illegible] asked Victor if he would supervise and help build the lodge, which he did. It was the only building there for many years until later another building was built.

He was elected councillor for the Lacombe County and served on the council for many years until his passing in 1964 at the age of 68 years.

After the Second World War, we took a trip to Sweden, the first time since settling in Canada, and then we went again in 1963. When we returned from our first trip to Sweden we brought back ten pounds of Vega barley, that he wanted to try here. It was passed through customs and he seeded this small amount in a separate and well prepared piece of ground. It grew and showed great promise, was harvested with great care, yielding several bushels. This in turn was seeded until he had enough seed to seed his complete farm. It was a productive barley with a fairly short growing season and he used it from then on.

When Ragnar and Vicky were going to school they did the janitor work at Boyle after they got old enough. The pay would be up to $3.50 a month which was almost enough to pay for a pair of skis, which they bought. When they were through school, Ragnar stayed at home to help farm and Vicky went on to High School in Red Deer.

When Ragnar got married, a house was built on the farm and they lived there and went into partnership with us, finally buying the home place and the farm across the road from our place, farming this for a few years finally selling and moving to Salmon Arm, B.C. in 1973.

Ragnar married Bettie Britton of the Marianne district in 1948. They have four children, Anne, Bernard, Cindy, and Valerie.

Anne graduated from the Bentley High School and took a nurses aid course in Calgary and worked at the Rocky View Hospital until she married Wayne Malone of Calgary. They have two girls, Rene and Teresa, and they live at Hinton.

Bernard finished high school at Bentley and vocational school at Lacombe, is now employed at C.C.I.L. at Wetaskiwin, and has taken a heavy duty mechanic course at Edmonton.

Cindy took some high school at Salmon Arm, B.C. and is now employed at Hinton.

Valerie took some high school at Salmon Arm and is presently taking vocational school at Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

Victoria was married in 1942 to Albert Mottus of Withrow, and has three sons, Barry, Brian, and Ken. They live at Withrow until Albert enlisted in the army in 1944. After his discharge from the Army he purchased a farm at Lesleville, where they reside and are still farming.

Barry graduated from the David Thompson High School and took a Merchandising Administration course at S.A.I.T. in Calgary, and is now a manager of Totem Lumber Co. Store in Calgary. He married Helene Cote of St. Paul, Alberta and has two sons, Cameron and Spencer, and they reside at Bragg Creek.

Brian graduated from David Thompson High School and took two weather courses, one at Ottawa and one at Toronto. He was upper air technician at several locations in N.W.T. for seven years. He then took another course at Ottawa to become a Pilot Briefer, working for three years at Yellowknife Airport. He married Gwen MacLeod of Saskatoon in 1973, and had one son Kevin, and a daughter, Rea Anne. They live at Airdrie and he works at Calgary Airport as Weather Forecastor.

Ken is still at home, to graduate from the David Thompson High School in June, 1978.

Elizabeth took her schooling at Bentley High School and a secretary course at Calgary. She married in 1957 to Carl Wood of New Brunswick, and has three children, Deborah, Judy, and Kevin. They live at Calgary.

Debby married Herb Fitch of Sylvan Lake and has one daughter, Trudy. They live in Red Deer.

Judy is going to University in Calgary, and Kevin is still in High School.

I stayed on the farm for a while after I became a widow, then moved to Bentley, where I lived for a time, then moved to Sylvan Lake and now reside in the Sylvan Manor at Sylvan Lake.

I look back on the years past and wouldn't mind doing it all over again. We had hardships and hard work but there were also the social times. There were the Sunday dinners, community gatherings, and school picnics held on the shores of Sylvan Lake and all the neighbors were there. Then there were the Christmas concerts, and the parents would try to help the teachers as much as possible to make it easier for them, like filling candy sacks, making pop corn balls and sewing costumes; the men would

get the Christmas tree and set it up, and set up the stage and repair it if necessary; also keeping the gas lamps burning. It was the highlight of the year. The ladies would serve lunch at the close of the concert, and everyone went home happy knowing it was a job well done on the part of the teacher, students, and parents.

**OSCAR KARJALA FAMILY**

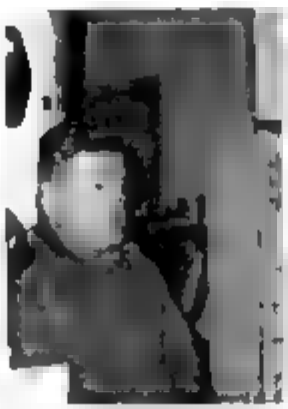
Oscar Karjala took his homestead, the NW 5-40-2-W5 about 1910. His brother Robert came to join him about 1916, as the brothers had planned to farm together, which they did for about a year.

Robert, his wife Ann, and their only child Emil, (born in Butte, Montana, in July, 1916), continued to live around the lake. Robert worked at ditch digging to drain swamp land to make it viable farm land.

Shortly after this Robert returned to Butte, Montana to work in the mines. During this year Mrs. Karjala and Emil made their home with the John Palm family at Palm Bay. The mines closed and Robert returned to his family. Robert then purchased the SW 4-40-2-W5 which was the Pete Holappa homestead. He began to clear his land and also did custom work. The long winter of 1919 was one of hardship. Many cattle in the area were starving. Robert sold hides in Eckville in order to buy food for his animals.

Robert is remembered for his jolly nature. About 1929 Robert was stricken with a kidney ailment. The doctor gave him about six months to live. But, being a determined man, he took care of himself, allowed himself no salt in his diet and carried a special water supply from the John Koski farm, by so doing he lived another seven years. Robert died December 26, 1936. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

Sarah and Robert Karjala



Emil Karjala

L to R. Louis Stopera, Gabriel Taikkonen, Pete Holappa, Rover and William Palm. Taken circa 1911 at the homestead, now the Emil Karjala farm.

Ann Karjala married Ilomaki in 1940. They moved to the coast where they made their home. She died in 1965 and is buried at Cloverdale, B.C.

Emil started school at Boyle. After his school years he worked for many farmers in the Bentley-Eckville district. He inherited a great sense of humor. He was known for his love of animals as well. Emil sold the family farm to Alan Russell in 1973.

Emil died October 8, 1977, and is buried in Kuusamo Cemetery.

**KUJALA, SYLVIA LUCRETIA ETHEL (BYTTYNEN)**

Born March 24, 1915, at Palm Bay on North Sylvan Lake, I attended Boyle School and did the janitor work before and after school hours when

taking the latter grades. Making that old heater get going and give us some comfort was a real challenge. Many students of that time must remember our marching around singing and clapping our hands for a long time before we could settle down to our books and when recess and noon came around we would flock around and above the old jacket heater, everyone making a mad dash to get the warmest spots. Water was another big chore. It had to be carried by pail from Mr. Turner's place near by or if his pump failed, I had to get it from Andrew and Hilda Anderson's place which was then west of the school. It was certainly rugged going when the snow drifted and got deep.

The summer after finishing Grade 9, I went to work for Petro's Dairy at Sylvan Lake. They delivered milk to the campers and cottages just during the summer months. In the winters, I went to work in Calgary, Red Deer, or in the town of Sylvan Lake, and back to help at the dairy for the summer again.

I met Elmer the winter of 1935 at a dance at Eckville Hall. He was on a break from hauling railroad ties at Rocky Mountain House, driving a truck for Fred Moos.

Elmer (Jalmar) Sylvester Kujala was born May 1, 1906. He grew up in the Kuusamo District. He had six sisters and four brothers. Only Ivy Kasper of Vancouver, B.C. and Amy Sloughter of Santa Monica, California, are still living. Elmer attened Kuusamo School, taking his Grade nine. He enjoyed sports of all kinds and helped manage softball and hockey teams for the Elspeth Club. They were real winners, I have been told.

He loved music and when some of the young men formed a local orchestra, called the Coconuts, he played trumpet, which he had learned to play. He played the violin and accordion as well. They played for many dances at Elspeth, Benalto and other places and at picnics, which were great community get togethers in those days.

Elmer and I were married November 10, 1937, at the home of Rev. R.S. Stevens, then minister of the Presbyterian Church in Sylvan Lake. My sister, Viola, and her husband, Art Bellika were our witnesses. Our only guests were our parents. After the wedding ceremony, Elmer's father treated us all to coffee at the Sylvan Lake Cafe where we jokingly called the soda crackers our wedding cake.

Our first home was a cabin rented from Arvie Niemela. It was a small two room place right by the lake, near my folks. That summer, Elmer built a motor boat in his spare time, between carpenter jobs, and I had lots of fun helping build it and trying it out.

Elmer's mother wished to visit her relatives in Montana, and asked if we would stay at the Kujala home to help out while she was away.

In the spring, Elmer's father gave us a little log house and two acres by the lake which he had bought back from Mr. John Eskie, who wanted to move to town. He said it was our wedding present, and it sure was a wonderful and much appreciated gift. It had only two small rooms, but was comfortable enough after we got it cleaned and fixed up. We moved into it that spring of 1939.

Our first son, Ronald Mathew was born December 15, 1939, in the old Eckville Hospital. He came home just in time to spend Christmas with us.

Kenneth Elmer Kujala was born August 17, 1942, in Eckville with Dr. Coppock being our doctor both times.

Elmer worked on a lot of buildings around Benalto and Eckville district. But work was very scarce so he decided to go to Edmonton where he and Art Bellika formed a construction company. My brother, Dick, joined them too, after returning from overseas.

Within the year the boys and I joined Elmer, making our home with my sister Viola until we rented a tiny house nearby.

Byron Anthony Kujala was born that winter on December 8, 1946, in the old Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.

By that summer the house we were building was far enough advanced to move in. We put up with sub-flooring and plyboard over some windows for a while, but gradually got it finished. It was in a new district and the two older boys had a few months extra holidays that summer, until the new Delton School that was being built, was finished.

Elmer worked for the city of Edmonton as a tax assessor for a few years then back to carpenter work again.

Carolyn Sylvia Kujala was born July 21, 1949, at the University Hospital, Edmonton.

Loretta Margret Kujala was born August 28, 1952, also at the University Hospital. Dr. Margret Hutton was our doctor both times.

The summer of 1952, we decided to go farming so we sold our house and bought a farm by Clyde, Alberta. We had some very rough times those years trying to made do in an old drafty house, until we were able to build a new house which we did eight years later.

David John Kujala was born October 27, 1955, in the Westlock Hospital.

Elmer worked on many buildings in and around Westlock and Clyde district, helped on the Athabaska School and built annexes on the grain elevators in many parts of Alberta. He last worked on the Auxiliary Hospital at Westlock.

On November 10, 1962, neighbors from around our area gathered at a neighbor's home and gave a surprise party for us on our 25th wedding anniversary. Everyone had a wonderful time. Music was supplied by a few neighbors, Elmer helping out, calling all the square dances he could remember and the Spanish Waltz, too. We received many lovely gifts from neighbors and family.

Elmer died on November 27, 1962, of a heart attack We laid him to rest in Dunngan Cemetery, situtated between Clyde and Westlock

We farmed for a few years more, the two older boys coming home to put in and take crops off. I rented the farm out for a while, then sold it to buy a house in West Jasper where we live today I have worked at the New Misercordia Hospital for a few years and I have been an Avon representative for 10 years now

Ronald attended U of A, getting his Bachelor of Science and graduated with his Masters of Social Work from the U of B.C He is now working for the B.C. government, working out of Vancouver

Ken is a sheet metal worker. For a few years he owned Sea Coast Sheet Metal Company with a friend at Sea Sechelt, B C. He has worked in many places in Alberta and British Columbia and has just moved to Calgary, where he lives with his wife, Pauline (French), and their three little daughters. Charlene was born September 20, 1969, Rachelle was born June 22, 1973, and Pamella was born September 2, 1977 He also has a son, Lance Kujala, born March 11, 1965, by a former marriage

Byron with his wife Leona (Madison) live on an acreage near Millet They have two sons, Vincent Anthony, born July 12, 1966 and Dean Russel Leo, born December 3, 1967 and one daughter, Cheryl Anne Vivian, born on February 11, 1969 Byron graduated from NAIT as a master electrician and has his own company, Lane Electric doing work in Wetaskiwin, Leduc and Edmonton area

Carolyn attended U of A, graduating with a Bachelor of Science, then attended Veterinary College at Saskatoon, graduating with her Dr of Veterinary Medicine in 1974. She married Don Thompkins of Regina on August 3, 1972, who is an engineer They have lived in Toronto and Calgary where Carolyn worked as a veterinarian. They have now moved to Regina, with their son Joe Brian who was born on April 14, 1977

Loretta married Dale Cannard, August 18, 1972. Both attended NAIT, Loretta graduating in Drafting and now working for Imperial Oil, and Dale graduating in Chemical Technology and now working with the Alberta Research Council. They have just moved into their new home on Christmas Day which they built on an acreage near Vimy, Alberta

David has attended U of A and worked with sheet metal shops on his holidays. This summer he has tried his hand at carpentry work He enjoys the outdoors, spending as much time as he can camping, back-packing, and canoeing. He enjoys both cross-country and down-hill skiing

David has been instrumental in getting us all interested in skiing, hiking, and camping So, most of our get togethers end up with us getting out and enjoying an outing both summer and winter, everyone from grandma to the wee ones

We all feel very blessed to live in a country as free and beautiful as Canada. May we all work to keep as much of it as naturally beautiful as possible for our future generations

**WALDEMAR MOTTUS AND FAMILY — by Esther M. Mottus**

Waldemar (Wally) Mottus was born in Varu, Estonia, December 8, 1908, the youngest of the eight sons of Mr and Mrs. Johan Mottus

After an eventful journey to Canada (as described in the story of Lena and Johan Mottus elsewhere in this book) Wally arrived in the Gilby district north of Eckville on May 24, 1916, at the age of eight years. Johan Mottus died in 1918 and it became necessary for his sons to earn their own living as soon as possible. At the age of fourteen Wally got his first job, harrowing land with horses for Fritz Kinna. He walked behind the harrows in bare feet, not for lack of shoes, but because he preferred it that way. In those days most children went barefoot all summer

From that time on, Wally was on his own. At age fifteen he went to Southern Alberta where he worked for farmers from spring to freeze-up He came home to Wood Lake for the winters For several years his life followed the same pattern — southern Alberta in summer and Wood Lake in winter While working for Harry Snell in Barons he operated the first corn binder to be used in Alberta

By being thrifty, Wally managed to save $300. With this wealth in his pocket he went to Edmonton in 1927 and enrolled in Hemphill Trade School where he took a course in Automotives and Tractor Mechanics. In 1931 he got a job working for John Kemila Sr ) in his garage, doing repair work at seventy five cents an hour

Wally had a great love for the outdoors, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. During the winter months of 1934 and 1935 he and two other yong men established a trap line about thirty-five miles south-west of Rocky Mountain House. Fur bearing animals were fairly plentiful and the catch was quite good of squirrels, weasels and lynx. When summer came he went ot southern Alberta, as usual.

In 1936 he rented space in John Kemila's garage, and started his own business, doing welding machinery and general repair work. He "batched" in a small one-room shack near the garage At one time a friend, Jack, was visiting him. Wally went to work in the morning leaving Jack still asleep. When Jack awoke he prepared to light a fire in the wood burning stove, using kerosene There was one big "bang". The kerosene can exploded and the whole shack was enveloped in flames. Jack got a few burns which were, fortunately, not very serious and Wally lost all his clothes and possessions The shack was completely destroyed. After that episode he

moved into the Kemila home where he got his room and board.

In 1937 Wally married Esther Nelsson, a teacher from south of Eckville. This is where I, Esther, come into the story.

My parents were farming in the Diamond Valley district. They desperately needed help on the farm, so Wally gave up his shop in Eckville and moved to the farm. My parents bought a house in Sylvan Lake where they retired. Wally did not give up his shop work. He set up a shop in a machine shed on the farm where he did his own repair work, as well as some work for neighbors. He spared no effort in making machinery run smoothly and efficiently.

Farming continued to be his main occupation. In 1942 Wally bought the first combine in the district — a small John Deere. For three years he straight combined successfully, to the intense surprise of those neighbors who didn't believe it could be done.

My mother died in 1936, and my father came back to the farm to live with us. In 1936 our first child, Lucille Dorothy, was born. Two years later along came a son, Leonard Waldemar.

There were no gravelled roads in the rural area at that time, and no snowplows in winter. When Lucille reached school age a problem loomed large. How was she to go to school? The nearest school was four miles away. There were no school busses. We didn't relish the prospect of driving her to school every day over roads which were often impassable, and it was too far for a small child to walk, so we decided to move. In 1944 we bought a house and a shop in Rocky Mountain House. Later in 1944 we had a farm auction. Father moved with us to "Rocky" in time for Lucille to enter school there. Wally made extensive renovations to the shop he had bought. There was no water or sewage services in Rocky Mountain House in 1944, but we modernized and renovated the house anyway, putting in our own water pressure system and septic tank.

Father died in 1945. We didn't like to leave the house he had built in the Diamond Valley empty. Empty houses are ruined by neglect, so we had the house moved to Eckville in 1952. It was a large house and it was difficult to move, but the task was successfully accomplished. We had the house modernized and re-decorated. That house still stands in Eckville, and it is presently rented by James Keegstra. It stands as a memorial to the pioneer who built it, my father, Nels John Nelsson.

Wally established a thriving business in Rocky Mountain House. He had all the work he could handle, and more. He was an agent for Homelite chain saws, which fitted nicely into his machinery and welding business. But life wasn't all work and no play. Wally loved to curl, and curled regularly in the local curling club. He went to bonspiels in most central Alberta towns, and also took part in the summer bonspiel in Nelson, B.C. one summer. We took up bridge, and spent many pleasant evenings playing bridge with friends. We all enjoyed camping and loved our numerous trips into the beautiful west country. In 1948 our third child, Linda Claire, was born.

Our life in Rocky Mountain House was full and happy. Wally was active in the 1% Club. He was elected to town council twice, and was on council when the new arena was built. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge. I was a member of the L.O.B.A. Lodge, the I.O.D.E., and I taught Sunday School in the Presbyterian Church. I was also a substitute teacher at the Rocky Mountain House School.

Lucille finished high school in Rocky, then took a business course in Edmonton after which she worked in Port Radium, N.W.T., Ottawa, and Calgary as a stenographer. Leonard also finished high school in Rocky then attended Montana State University where he took his B.S. degree. He took his M.Sc. degree at U. of A. in Zoology, and finally his Ph.D. degree at U. of A. in 1972. He is now vice-president of a consulting firm in Vancouver. Linda took grades one through nine in Rocky.

In 1962 we bought some land on the N.W. shore of Sylvan Lake, and built a modern home there in preparation for retirement. In 1963 Wally sold his shop in Rocky, and we moved to Sylvan Lake. Linda entered high school in Bentley. After graduating from high school, Linda took her nurses training in Foothills Hospital in Calgary, getting her R.N. degree in 1969. She has since worked in Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary, and Stanford University Hospital, California.

Our children are all married. Lucille and Alex Sabados have three children, and Linda and Fred Taylor have one child, while Leonard and Sharon Mottus have three children. Wally and I are enjoying our retirement very much. We like the peace and quiet of country life and enjoy the visits of friends and relatives. We can finally say, in all sincerity, "Life is Beautiful!"

**NETSEL, JOHN — by Viola S. Cosby**

John Netsel homesteaded the quarter next to my father's place NW 33-39-2-W5 on the lake in the early 1900's. He emigrated from Norway when he was a young sailor. He loved the great outdoors, and especially the water. He built row boats and also made a cabin boat. He used to take people, including my mom and dad, for lovely moonlight trips on Sylvan Lake in his cabin boat. He ran his own sawmill for several years, using a steam engine for power.

On Christmas Day, 1918, he married Aurora my father's sister. Uncle John spent a lot of his time in the north in the winters. He had a cabin there, and tended to his trapline while Aunt Aurora stayed on the homestead. She spent a lot of her time visiting neighbors. Her fingers were always busy knitting socks and mittens. Her

John and Aurora Natal on their homestead, 1940's

pastime was reading cards and telling fortunes from tea cups. She had a deep interest in the lives of people, and always was the organizer for family get togethers and parties

In her lifetime she had many careers, even having worked as a detective for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City in the U.S.A. She was a professional cook, and had worked in a number of famous hotels in Minneapolis. She immigrated to Saskatchewan and then to Alberta

I remember when she was the cook at the Eckville Hotel in 1931 1932. That was when I was attending the Eckville High School. My room mate and I dropped in to see her often and usually got a piece of cake or pie. Being teenagers, we surely appreciated her good cooking

When we were children she entertained us often with tales of her adventures. We enjoyed especially the stories of her fishing with her father in the fjords along the coast of Norway She spoke several languages

There was grief, too, in their lives. Their home by the lake burned to the ground in the late 1920's. In 1955 Uncle John died in his 90th year Aunt Aurora continued to live in the little home by the road, but it, too, burned to the ground in 1962, leaving her heartbroken, as she lost everything, including her pet dogs and cats. The Psikla family took her in and cared for until the summer of 1963, when she moved to her sister Sarah's home where she died on November 29 1963, in her 86th year

**ARVI NIEMELA FAMILY**

Arvi Niemela came from Haapajarvi, Finland in 1928 to Vancouver, B.C. where he worked at various logging camps until he moved to the Eckville district where he practised his trade as a carpenter and is well known for the numerous houses and barns he built

He married Hilja Talson in 1938 and they have two daughters, Mabel and Eleanor Mabel (Eastwood) is a lawyer in Vancouver and has three daughters, Claire, Judy and Susan Eleanor (Mrs. Leo Popow) lives in Lacombe and has three children, Kelly, Greg and Lisa

The Niemalas are retired and have lived in Bentley for a number of years

**PALM, JOHN — HISTORY OF A HOMESTEADER**

Juho (John) Fredrik Palm was born on July 15, 1861 in Pyhajarvi, Finland. Exactly why or when he came to North America is unknown Perhaps, like many other Scandinavian immigrants, he had heard of a "better life" and the opportunity to own land here. He worked at several jobs in North America. Probably around 1902 or 1903, John Palm met Eva Johanna Oatlin, also a Finnish emigrant She had been born at Uusikaupunki, Finland, on September 14, 1870 After coming to North America, she lived for a while in Montreal, working in a private home. The couple were married in Calumet, Michigan in 1903, and moved shortly afterward to Butte, Montana, where Mr. Palm worked in a mine

It was also in Butte that John Palm saw a map of land available for homesteading in Alberta (then part of the Northwest Territories), and he chose a quarter section on the north bank of Sylvan Lake, then known as Snake Lake. He filed his claim by telegraph, paid the required $10 fee and went back to work in the mine to build up his savings

Members of the Palm family first arrived in Alberta in January, 1905, when Mrs. Palm made the journey by rail to Red Deer. With her were 17 year old Frank, Mr. Palm's son by previous marriage in Finland, her six-year old daughter Ailie, and the couple's year-old son Willie. Mr Palm meanwhile remained in Butte. Mrs. Palm and the children stayed in Red Deer for several days until Mr. Koski of Eckville happened to make the trip and gave them a lift to the district During the next few months, the new arrivals stayed with the Herman Johnson family, who lived about five miles from the Palm homestead

Over the winter Frank crossed the frozen lake to the property, and with the help of neighbors, built a log shack. In September 1905 his father arrived and the family moved into their new home

Although John had selected his land sight unseen, he must at least have been pleased with the natural beauty of the surroundings His home and farm buildings were situated on a hill overlooking a bay of Sylvan Lake. Throughout

he area were stands of spruce, poplar and birch – all in all, a setting which must have reminded him of Finland.

To obtain title to a homestead, a settler had to acquire 15 head of cattle and clear a specified amount of land — conditions that were not always easy for new homesteaders to meet But the settlers were accustomed to using their wits in difficult situations, and meeting the government's conditions was no exception. For example, it was said that cattle belonging to a Mr. Upland were borrowed time and time again by various neighbors wishing to show government inspector the required number of cattle. As well, it wasn't unusual for homesteaders to show an inspector a cleared piece of land, lead the official through thick timber to another clearing, and then perhaps on to a third. After several such expeditions, the inspector could say that he had seen in total the correct amount of clearing, when in fact he might have seen one patch of clearing from several different directions. But the government inspectors overlooked such goings-on!

In the early part of this century self-reliance was a necessity and the homesteaders became skilled at all kinds of work, although not always with good results. Such was the case when Mr Palm invented a harrow, made out of spruce. He left the boughs on the tree, each branch about a foot long He sawed the trunks in half, with the flat side up. Using willow, he lashed on cross pieces and finally, added shafts for the implement to be pulled by horse. Came the day to hitch up the horse Mr. Palm had a standard harness which included side blinds. But he was a kind man — perhaps a bit too kind on this occasion — and it occurred to him that the horse, too, should have the right to see. So he cut off the side blinds The horse took one startled look at the contraption behind him, and took off. John lost hold of the reins, the horse got away and both animal and harrow went over the lake bank, the horse landing on its back Mr Palm lost no time in cutting the tugs and freeing the horse. But the harrow stayed in its watery resting place for years — and it's a good bet that family and friends didn't mention the harrow episode too often in John's presence

The Palm's food supply was heavily dependent upon the family cow, and a small garden spot But the surroundings also offered many sources of food. With home-made nets and sinkers made out of birch bark and stones fish were netted and hooked, supplying the family, winter and summer with fish. Rabbits were snared in winter, and in the fall ducks, geese and partridges supplemented the family's meals Raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries were canned for winter use. Some homesteaders ate deer and bear meat. It was said that Mrs. Palm always kept a kettle of soup simmering on the stove and that all visitors were fed, even though she may have had to add a little water to the pot Staples such as flour were carried by Frank Palm from Evarts store, a stop on the old freight trail between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, 13 miles from the Palm homestead.

Threshing. Left to right. Oscar Karjala, Ed Laukanen, Wm Palm, Mary (in wagon), John and Mrs. Palm. 1918

Cool, clear drinking water was provided by natural flowing springs in summer, and from holes dug in the ice during winter Lake water, however, had to be strained to remove small bugs. In 1917 or 1918 John dug his own well. In the district wells ranged between 15 and 50 feet in depth.

In 1910 the Palm family returned to Butte Montana, to the mines, but they were back on the homestead the following year

Clearing of land was the biggest job facing the settlers In those days you were making headway if you cleared an acre of land each year as well as keeping up the farm work. Grass in both the slough and treed areas was cut with a scythe and stacked for winter animal feed One method of clearing timber was burning it repeatedly for two or three summers. Some of the timber on the Palm place was so thick that it was almost impossible to burn. In 1911 Mr Palm began logging and hired a man to saw the poplar timber with a steam engine. The sawing was done on shares with the sawyer getting half of the lumber and Mr. Palm used some of the rough lumber for his own needs and sold the rest for fifteen dollars per thousand.

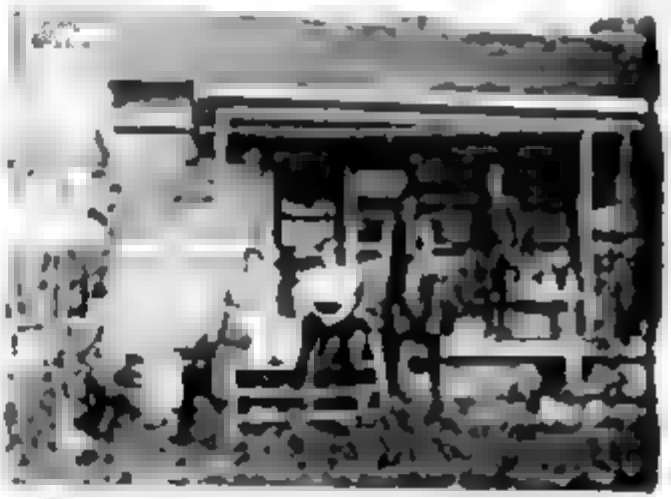
An important agricultural milestone in the community occurred when Henry Talson bought a hand fed type of threshing machine. Called a Stanley Jones thresher, it had a stationary motor and a straw carrier onto which the men forked piled straw. In 1918 John and three neighbors, Oscar Karjala, Henry Johnson and a Mr Leukuma, formed a company and bought their own threshing machine for two thousand dollars They paid for it by doing custom work for other neighbors

John had a second sideline, a leather tannery, run in co-operation with Pete Holappa. The operation consisted of a log building housing two wooden tanks about seven feet in diameter and five feet deep. Cow or horse hides were first soaked in the lake to soften them Willow bark cut and gathered in summer was cut into two-inch lengths and added to one of the tanks The animal hair was removed in the lime barrel After thorough cleaning, the hides were placed in the tannery for six weeks. They were stirred hammered, and worked until they were pliable and ready to use Mr Palm made footwear for his family and neighbours, as well as horse harness and similar items

Danger and health problems were a way of life for the early homesteaders. The food supply was at times uncertain and a shortage of good food contributed to illness and death. Infant mortality was high Three of the Palm children died in infancy due to prolonged sickness, no doctor or medicine. Mary (Nielsen) was born in 1914 There was little money for anything beyond life's necessities, and of course, hard work and new problems always faced the settlers

Black bears were often bothersome. A nearby homesteading minister had been troubled by a bear robbing his supplies. One evening the minister saw movement at the window, so grabbed his gun and shot the offender. The following evening he again saw movement at the window Thinking that the bear had had a friend, the minister again took his gun and shot — only to discover he had killed his one and only cow

The settlers around the north end of Sylvan Lake gradually developed a community spirit In 1916 they met and decided to request a post office Mr Palm was delegated to send in the application, which was granted It then became his duty to make a weekly trip to Eckville to pick up the mail. For this service Mr. Palm was paid fifteen dollars per month, a welcome addition to the family income. The post office continued until May 2, 1922, when Mr Carritt began delivering mail on a route from Bentley. Probably because of the mail service, the area became known as Palm Bay and that name was used on birth certificates and other official documents for years



Palm Bay Post Office. Standing: Allan McKee and William Palm L to R George Ignatius, Mary Palm, Allie Palm and Mrs John Palm. circa 1918

L. to R. Mrs John Palm, Mary, Mr John Palm and William Palm

Saturday night was, of course, sauna night Saunas in the settlement were the old type, consisting of an open fire in the center of a steam room with a pipe to let the smoke out. Every Saturday evening perhaps six or eight visitors would arrive at the Palm home, for their mail and a bath. First the women and girls would visit the sauna, then the men and boys. A refreshing dip in the lake usually accompanied the bath The rest of the evening was spent in conversation, ending with coffee and lunch. Sunday was a day of rest, with people completing only necessary work Papers were read and neighbors visited

Boating, swimming, and the annual Finnish mid-summer holiday in June were the main summer activities. Around 1920 the Espeth and Young People's Halls were built, and these quickly became centres for dances, box socials and Christmas concerts, adding greatly to the community life.

John Palm continued to farm until about 1937 when he retired to Sylvan Lake. He died on September 2, 1939 and Mrs. Palm died April 22. 1945. Both are buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery

It is interesting to try to imagine what Mr and Mrs. Palm would think of what has become of their property today Nothing remains of their buildings. Most of the quarter has been cleared, and the land belongs to a developer who will soon likely chop the property into what the real estate trade might call "prime lakeside lots", which will sell at prices far beyond John Palm's wildest dreams. We can do nothing but accept the situation, and perhaps occasionally reflect upon the homesteaders who first settled on the land

**RUSSELL, DOUGLAS H.**

Douglas H. Russell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to Canada in 1907 He and his brother, Len, worked for farmers in southern Alberta prior to buying adjoining land three miles west of Trochu, Alberta. Douglas married Edith M. Smith in 1928 Douglas and Edith have resided in Victoria for the past several years, but have come back to Alberta every summer to spend time at their cottage at Pigeon Lake

While Douglas and Edith lived at Trochu two sons were born Ian and Alan. Dry years during the 1930's made it necessary for Edith to return to the teaching profession, and she secured a teaching position at the Diamond Valley school. In 1939 Douglas purchased the E 4-40-2-W5, one mile west of Boyle School, where Edith was teaching at that time

In 1940 the family moved from Trochu to the new farm. They had been raising Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle, and these were moved to the new farm. Their first dwelling was a granary borrowed from Victor Johanson, then a temporary house was built during the summer of 1940, in addition to a 16 by 16 foot straw-roofed barn and a storage shed, the shed still being used

Less than 30 acres were cultivated when the farm was purchased, but through the years from 1940 to 1948 the more easily cleared portions of the land was cleared by the family, but after this custom clearing was done. Douglas sold his Clydesdale horses in 1944 and bought his first tractor, a 1928 Wallis The next tractor acquired was a 1948 John Deere "D" purchased in 1950 This tractor is still used on the farm during haying season

In 1952 Douglas discontinued active farming, but Edith continued teaching at Boyle, Salma, Evarts, Condor, and various other schools until her retirement in 1969

Ian Russell began his electrical apprenticeship in 1950 and has been working at that trade since then, his work mainly being in Edmonton. In 1963 he married Doris Upton, from Rumsey, and they have a son, Kevin In spite of hearing problems that eventually led to total deafness, Ian has continued to work at his trade successfully

In 1955 Alan married June Johnson from Clandonald, and they have two sons, Brian and Gary. For about 10 years Alan was employed by oil companies. In 1963 Alan and June bought the home farm and have resided there since 1964 Their holdings were increased by the purchase of the Albert Westphal quarter in 1971 and the Emil Karjala quarter in 1972. These two quarters adjoin the home farm

**THE ERIC SOLBERG STORY**

Eric and Mattea Solberg were married in Romedal, Norway, on June 6, 1879. After a few years they decided to make a move to America so Eric left to find a place for his family. A year later, Mrs. Solberg set out with four young children, Marie, Ole, John and Anna, to join her husband. Boat travel in those days was not as luxurious or comfortable as we know it today She liked to tell the story of how they had purchased a good, strong length of material, from which she had fashioned a cover filled with straw to use as a mattress for the journey across the ocean. The intention was to have the material for use in their new home. The day came when they would be leaving the ship and she decided that now was the time to empty out the straw, so she dragged the mattress over to the rail and was attempting to shake out the straw The captain of the ship saw her struggling with it, and, thinking that it was her intention to dispose of it he came to her assistance. To her great dismay with a mighty push, he shoved the entire mattress overboard Her precious piece of material was gone!

They journeyed to Sisseton, South Dakota U.S.A., where they put up a sod house. The first winter was a hard one, with blizzards sweeping over the wide-open prairie, snow so deep as to cover the windows and block the doorway They

lived many miles from a town where supplies could be purchased, so it meant a journey of several days with a team and wagon to go to town and back for the necessary groceries and sundry other items needed for the home Needless to say, these trips weren't frequent

The Solberg home was situated next to an Indian reservation, so it was not uncommon to have frequent visits from the Indians. The Indians at this time were still somewhat savage, but the Solbergs, while a bit apprehensive, never really feared for their lives. Mrs. Solberg was called on ocassionally to act as mid-wife by the Indians. She was well liked by them and they eventually referred to her as their "White Mother"

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Solberg once again decided to make a move, so they came north to Canada to settle in the district west of Bentley Here they settled and farmed on NE 9-40-2-W5 The land was covered with heavy bush and had to be cleared by hand, but Mr Solberg was a strong man and it wasn't long before he had a few acres opened in which to plant a crop. Their two eldest sons, Ole and John, had come to the area a few years earlier

Grandma and Grandpa Solberg, Mom (Eklund's) mother and dad. Taken at Bentley, Alberta

Their experiences in this new country, however, were not to be without its share of anxiety and tragedy The first night in this district was spent at the home of their son Ole, approximately one-half mile north of where the Boyle school was to stand in future years. On the following morning their youngest son, eight-year-old Gilbert, had gone outdoors with the intention of inspecting and exploring the surroundings. Having come from the bald prairie of South Dakota, he was, no doubt, intrigued by the abundance of tall trees. He spied a squirrel and started to follow its antics in the tree tops. Of course he soon became lost and couldn't find his way back to the house. There were no roads or fence lines to follow He walked all day and towards evening he came upon a house. Even at this young age he wouldn't admit that he was lost or hungry However, he went to the door, knocked, and asked the bachelor there for a drink of water The bachelor, a Mr. Schrader realized that the child was lost so he took him in, fed him, and kept him there for the night, or until such time as someone came searching for him. A search party had been organized by this time, with the pre-arranged signals of rifle shots to signify when he was found—one shot if dead, or two shots if alive. Mr Schrader's home was about one mile south of where in later years Saima School was to be situated. So Gilbert had wandered a considerable distance through the woods from the house in the Boyle district It is with certainty that there was a joyous reunion. A few years later tragedy struck when their 16-year-old son, Edwin, died as the result of a hunting accident

Mr and Mrs. Solberg were active in the community and were among the early members of the congregation of the Vig Lutheran Church Mrs. Solberg was one of the founding members of the Church Ladies Aid. Their door was always open to whomever should pass their way and they made everyone welcome. It was the site of many community picnics and dances, too. Mrs Solberg, having been a dairy-maid during her youth in the old country, was especially adept at making many varieties of cheeses. Perhaps I should explain here that being a dairy-maid meant that the young girls would take the dairy cows up on the mountainsides to summer pasture Here their duties were not only to herd the cows, but to care for the milk and cream by making butter and cheese

Mrs. Solberg would spend long hours carding and spinning great amounts of homespun yarn which she would knit into warm socks, mittens and other garments for her family One member of her family recalled how often he would waken in the morning to the familiar whir-r-r- of the spinning wheel, roll over for a few more minutes of peaceful sleep, secure in the feeling of well being. To Mrs. Solberg, the time spent at her spinning wheel was truly relaxation. Mr Solberg, too, had his hobby, which was the gathering of soft willow shoots. These he would soak in water for a time to make them supple and these he would fashion into baskets of various sizes. Some of these baskets were even used as a bed for a young baby Loving children as he did there were many of his grandchildren and great grandchildren who were the recipients of his hand-woven willow rattle. Mrs. Solberg was

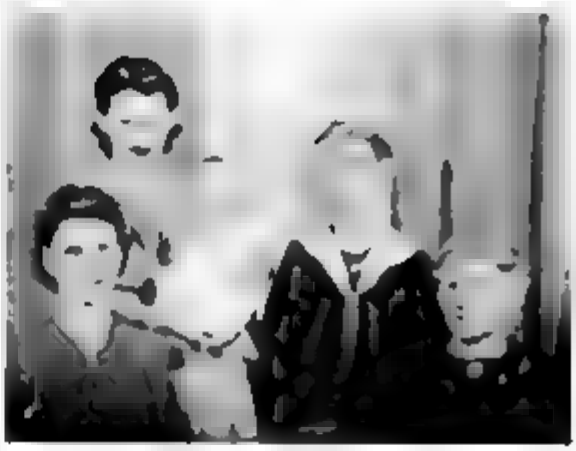
always willing to lend a helping hand whenever needed and many a time she was called on to act as mid-wife. She helped to bring many a baby into the world, as the nearest doctor at that time was in Lacombe

Mr and Mrs Solberg farmed until the mid-twenties when they sold their farm equipment and retired. For a short time they lived in a house owned by their son-in-law, E. G. Erickson. This house was on the old "Kidd" place. From there they moved into a house owned by their son Ole while a new house was being constructed for them on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. (This is now part of The Breakers subdivision.) This was a log house built by the late Victor Johanson. Eventually they moved into this house where they were to spend their remaining years. As in the years on the farm, this home, too, proved to be a gathering place for many a family picnic and get-togethers for the community. Eric loved to go out in his rowboat and catch a fish or two for dinner. Matthea continued with her spinning and knitting throughout the years. Summer days would find her out searching for the wild raspberries that grew so abundantly in the bush along the lakeshore. She had always had a cow or more to care for and these she refused to part with until a very few years before her death. Eric was very proud of his garden, especially the fact that he was able to grow a plum tree from seed that eventually bore fruit. At that time there were very few fruit-producing trees in the area, if any.

They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June, 1939. At that time there were 54 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren. Eric passed away in November, 1941 and Matthea followed in February, 1945. They are buried in the cemetery of the Vig Lutheran Church, now known as Grace Lutheran Church.

There were eight children. Marie became Mrs. J. P. (Pete) Christiansen. Marie and Pete had 14 children before Marie passed away in June, 1967. Ole married Ailie Palm and they had two sons. Ole died in January, 1976. John, who married Sophia Vig, had 16 children. For many years John was the mail carrier between Bentley and Rimbey. He lived in his own home in Bentley until November, 1977, when, at the age of 92 years, he became a resident of the Eckville Manor in Eckville. Besides being well known for the Norwegian rocking chairs which he makes, his ability to handle the fiddle and the bow has won him many trophies in old-time fiddling contests in Red Deer, Stettler and Rimbey. Mr Solberg and his fiddle have kept company for the past 73 years—since he bought it second-hand to play his first square dance in 1904. He recently picked up his golden violin to play for his son Edwin's golden wedding anniversary party in Leedale.

Solberg Family. Standing: Sever, Minnie and Gilbert. Seated: Ole and John.



Five Generations. Mrs. Emma Christianson, Mrs. Henry Dyck and baby Dennis, Mrs. Eric Solberg, Mrs. P. Christiansen.

Anna married Aador Eklund. To them eight children were born. Anna died in Sidney, B.C. in February, 1971.

Sever married Bertha Benson and to them were born nine children. He passed away in February, 1977.

Edwin died at the age of 16 years as a result of a hunting accident.

Minnie married E. G. (Fred) Erickson. They had four children. Fred passed away in 1937. In 1948 Minnie married J. E. (Jack) Sunnell. She now lives in her home in Sylvan Lake.

Gilbert married Olga Johanson. There were three sons born to them. Gilbert passed away in July, 1977.

**SOLBERG, OLE AND AILIE**

Ole and Ailie Solberg were married October 19, 1919 by Pastor Hjortos at Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Ailie was the former Ailie Palm. Ole came from North Dakota in 1906 to file his homestead in the Boyle district. Ailie grew up in the same district at her home at Palm Bay.

Ole had a good sense of humor and enjoyed the many little pranks he played. He cared deep

Allie and Ole Solberg and their sons Melvin and Fred.

ly for his horses. In the early days, Ole's hobby was auction sales. Ole eventually bought the John Paam farm, Allie's home.

Allie was known for her gardening and plants. She enjoyed carding and spinning wool which she used to knit many pairs of socks and mitts as well as heavy sweaters.

Many teachers of the Boyle School boarded at the Solberg home.

Ole and Allie had two sons, Melvin and Fred Melvin married Hilda Melling of Abbotsford, B.C. They have five children, Beverly, James, Barry, Raymond and Sharon They reside in Abbotsford, B.C. Fred lives in Montreal, Quebec

Allie and Ole celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1969, shortly after retiring to their home in Benalto. Ole passed away on January 12, 1976 at the age of 92. He is buried in the Vig Cemetery, west of Bentley Since then, Allie has resided in Red Deer

**VIG, CARL**

Came from North Dakota in 1900 — lived with his parents and other members of the family — filed on a homestead – SE 9-40-2-W5 in the Boyle district before he was 20. In 1916 he married Alice Petry who came from Colorado when she was 11 years old to live with her father Henry Petry on his homestead in the Sunset Hills they moved to their own place in 1916 — lived there til 1927 with four members of their family — moved to SW 15-40-2-W5 where five younger children were raised

**Elsie** married Harold Brattberg — has four children

**Chester** married Rubyrose Benson — has five children.

**Howard** married Joyce Atherton — was married in England during the war — they had five children — Howard and one daughter died in an accident in 1958. Chester and Howard served in the Second World War returning home in 1944.

**Doris** married Ole Skjonsberg — has five children

**Carl** married Bernice Johnson — has nine children.

**Bernice** has six children.

**Delbert** — deceased July 3, 1976.

**Doreen** has four children.

**Donna** has four children.

# Carlos

**AMBURY GEORGE — by Florence Bobier**

George Ambury, his wife and family, Alma, Daisy, George Jr., Charlie, Justin, Lucy, and Allen came to live in the south west part of the Carlos district. George filed on the SW 10-41-5 in January 1914 and was soon active in the organization of a school district. In fact, he was chairman of the first meeting called. All the children attended the Washington Heights school, and Alma went into the teaching profession.

The family were all avid readers, and Mrs. Ambury was an excellent seamstress and did a lot of knitting. It is recalled that she would often knit mitts and socks and read aloud to the family at the same time. Their log house has stood for many years. While at the homestead the family always hauled their water from the spring about a mile or so south.

**BERGMAN, A.**

I, Gloria Katherine (Block) Bergman was born on my father's (Rasmus Christian Block) farm SW 34-41-5-5, with Mrs. Bert Moore and Mrs. William Lees in attendance.

I attended Aurora school for nine years, with Mrs. Gladys Beckett as my teacher. I took correspondence for one year and attended Leslieville high school for one year. On July 20, 1963, I married Arthur Bergman of Blackfalds, Alta. and we moved into our own home in Blackfalds.

My husband Arthur, was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on November 13, 1932. His family moved to Vernon, B.C. when he was three years old. He lived there until he was 16 years old, then the family moved to Edmonton where Art learned the plumbing and plastering trade. Then Art's family moved to Blackfalds, where he was in the stuccoing trade throughtout central Alberta until 1971.

**BLOCK, RASMUS CHRISTIAN — by Bob Campbell**

Rasmus Christian Block was born in Denmark on March 11, 1886. About 1906 he came to Illinois, in the United States where he worked for a Danish farmer. Later he worked in Lincoln, Nebraska at a railway roundhouse for 17¢ an hour. An apple pie cost 15¢. For several falls he worked on a steam engine powered threshing machine in North and South Dakota.

In the spring of 1915 Mr. Block and Mr. Board came to Bentley, Alberta, with two Waterloo Boy tractors, made by John Deere. They used these tractors to break land in the area. Mr. Board stayed a few years, then sold his tractor and returned to the United States.

Around 1918 Mr. Block bought Hudson's Bay land which he later sold to Clarence Damron. He then moved to Rimbey where he showed silent movies. He also hauled mail from Rimbey to Bentley for a few years. He sold his movie outfit and bought the SW 34-41-5 in the Carlos district.

R. C. Block, Gladys Campbell, Karen and Gloria November, 1947

from Jack Brebber in the fall of 1920, moving there in the spring of 1921

He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool For about nine years he was secretary for the Aurora School district. Mr Block passed away on May 24, 1968.

**PIONEER DAYS OF MR. AND MRS. S. CAIRNS — by Hilda Cairns**

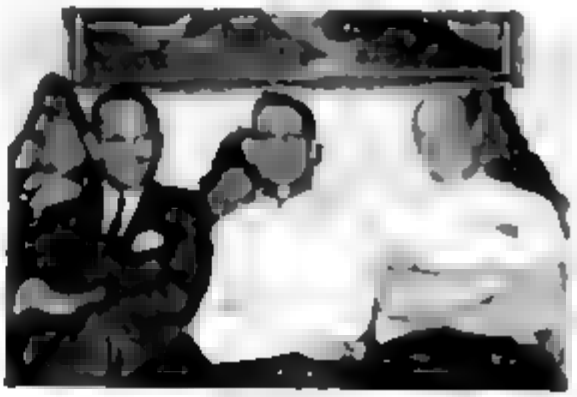
They called it "back to the land", but I call it "back to the bush", which was a big change for us prairie folks. There were six families who shipped cattle, horses, and household articles from Medicine Hat to Rimbey, Alberta, the railway station nearest to our destination. We came by train, and some of the men folks came with the equipment on the train. After unloading and reloading from the stock cars, we started on our way, which was about 25 miles west to the Aurora District at that time. The roads were nearly impassable as it was one of those wet springs in 1933. After a long tiresome trip we arrived at the deserted "Indian Cabins" It was like a small village, as there were six families and about 22 young folks, most of them of school age. What an experience' Some of the folks had never been away from city lights

Mr Cairns (always known as "Stub") and myself, Hilda, had three boys at that time. Elton, the oldest, was 13 years old, Raymond was 10 years old and Gordon was eight years old They all attended the Aurora School, where they received a Grade 8 education. We did not stay on the original land, but farmed with Mr H. Freitag on a share basis

Later we had a new addition to our family a little girl, Yvonne, born on November 12, 1936. As the boys grew up, they left the district. Raymond returned to Medicine Hat for a visit, as he had several uncles and aunts there, on his father's side. He got work in the ammunition factory, and later Gordon joined him there. Elton joined the army in 1941. Soon after this Raymond also joined, and Gordon joined the navy

About 1941, we left the district, as we were too far from transportation when the boys had left home We went to work for J. Sunell in the Blackfalds District for a time. Later, as Yvonne became of school age, we moved to Sylvan Lake. Mr. Cairns had a dray business for several years but when the gas was piped in, he gave up his horses and went to work for an oil company for several years. We bought our home here in Sylvan Lake in 1942, and have lived here ever since. We celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in 1970. Mr. Cairns (Stub) passed away very suddenly in 1972. In 1973, I sold the home and now I live in the Sylvan Manor

Hilda and Stub Cairns on their 50th Wedding Anniversary



The Cairns Boys, Elton, Raymond, Gordon

A little more about my family

Elton married Edna Snell in 1945. They have one son, Garry, who lives in Edmonton

Raymond married Muriel Chapman in 1943, and they have two girls. Raymond took up residence in Medicine Hat before going overseas, and still lives there. Muriel passed away in 1976

Gordon married Evylin Ross in 1951. They had two boys. Doug was killed in a pipeline accident in 1973. Don is a professional hockey player Gord and Ev adopted a little boy, Martin, in 1965 They live in Calgary

Yvonne married George Ross in 1957. They had two boys, Darcy and Dwight, and a girl, Crystal. They all made their home in Sylvan Lake where they all went to school

There are many things left out of our years since then, but space won't permit telling of all our experiences. I have made many new friends but still miss the old pioneer friends.

**CAMPBELL, GLADYS AND FAMILY**

Gladys Andrews was born January 3, 1905 to George and Lena Andrews in Rock, Oklahoma She came to Lacombe in the spring of 1905. They moved to a homestead at Buffalo Lake in the fall of 1906. In 1922 Gladys married Bill Campbell

On August 17, 1923, a son, Robert Campbell, was born. On August 1, 1924 Clifford was born and Charlie arrived on November 11, 1926. He

R.C. Block, Carl Pederson, Bob Campbell, Carl Skorstengaard, with bull elk and mule deer, December, 1951

passed away in February 1927 at the age of three months.

In 1928 the Campbells separated and on January 12, 1930 Gladys Campbell came to keep house for R. C. Block in the Aurora district. In April 1930 Gladys went back to Bashaw, Alberta to bring her sons, Bob and Clifford, back with her

**J. R. CORNFORTH — by Lavina Robinson**

The Joe Cornforth family arrived in the Leedale District in the spring of 1930. Previously they had lived at Belseker, where Joe was a barber, and also at Joffrey and Rimbey. Finally, they settled on the SE 24-41-5-W5, right next door to the Aurora School, which was kept well supplied with Cornforth children for the next 16 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornforth had a large family, and all were born at home except the last one, number 13. He was born in the Rimbey Hospital. Occasionally, Dr. Byers would make a call at the farm, but it was always hours after a baby was born. Each new baby was cause for great excitement for all members of the family, and oh, how we loved those little bundles!

Starting in 1918 with Ruby, the eldest, there followed Jean, Clara, Sidney, Joe, Ivan, Lavina, Elaine, Lorraine, Ben, David, Katherine and Delbert, the youngest, in 1940. On February 17, 1943 Sidney passed away in the Rimbey Hospital and in March, 1959 Joe Jr. was killed in a truck accident at Lodgepole. By 1976 the Cornforth clan numbered 11 living children, 54 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Cornforth was an ardent trader and dealer. He also cut a lot of posts and wood, and sold these to provide for the needs of his growing family. Ruby soon went out to work in the Belseker area, and Jean and Clara, when about 14 years of age, went to work in the Bentley area. They started their jobs at $5. per month, and gradually increased to $15. a month. Out of this wage they managed to send home a few dollars each month to help support the younger members of the family.

There was a small lean-to addition on the north side of our house, where for many years we boarded a succession of school teachers for extra income. For some years previous to 1945, the mom of this large household of children made weekly cream pick-ups in the district and delivered the cans to Myers' Store in Leedale.

Mr. Cornforth served as trustee and as secretary on the Aurora School Board for many years. He was the jolly old Santa Claus for many years at Aurora's Christmas concerts. When he moved to Ontario he carried on the Christmas Santa tradition in Eaton's store in Lindsay, Ontario for many years. The last two years even Santa got modernized, and he landed at the store by helicopter.

Mrs. Cornforth was a member of, and a hard worker for, the Ladies Sewing Club as long as she lived in the district. At a farewell party the club presented her with a cushion with all the members' signatures hand embroidered on it. She and all her children attended the Aurora Church and Sunday School.

In the early spring of 1946 Dad Cornforth and Elaine left for Ontario to find a new place for the rest of the family to move on. Many relatives already lived down east.

On April 8, 1946, Russel Cole, of Rimbey, a young, but promising auctioneer, held his very first auction on the farm of the Cornforths. Several days later Ivan and Joe took mom, along with five brothers and sisters, by team and wagon to the Lesliеville railway station. There Mrs. Cornforth bade farewell to Alberta, and headed for a new life in rural Ontario. The Cornforths took six of their children to Ontario, and left six grown up ones in Alberta.

Joe and Mrs. Cornforth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 14, 1966. Mr. Cornforth passed away on January 14, 1967, and Mrs. Cornforth on April 14, 1967, in Lindsay, Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cornforth on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Photo courtesy Lindsay Daily Post

**ELLIOT, ELMER — by Jack Elliot**

Early in the spring of 1934 Dad loaded up all the machinery on a hay rack, and grain tank for a move to a farm in the Aurora district west of Leedale. Accompanying him on the trip was his brother-in-law, Lou Hicks. Both men drove four horse outfits and trailed another team on the grain boxes. They cooked and slept outside, but had binder canvasses to make shelter if rain did come.

Dad and Mother decided to leave the farm they had bought in 1925, eight miles east of High River. Drought and grasshoppers, along with the depression made them think that a move to a homestead would be no worse choice.

Dad, Charles Elmer Layfayette Elliott, was born in 1890 at Burford, Ontario, and Mother, Ruby Pearl Hicks, was born in 1892 near Sarnia Ontario. Dad came with his folks to settle west of High River in 1906, and Mother's folks settled just south of High River in 1906. Mother and Dad were married at High River in 1916. There were three children born there by 1922, Charlie, Jack and Gordon. Shortly after Gordon was born the folks moved to Sarnia, Ontario where Dad worked for Imperial Oil in the surrounding oil fields. In 1925 they moved back to High River and the farm they bought. While in Ontario, a fourth boy was born to the family, Walter.

Immediately after school was out in 1934, Mother along with two boys started the trip of trailing 15 head of cattle, accompanied by a team, Bennett wagon, and all the camping gear, on the same 200 mile route that Dad had taken earlier that spring. As far as Calgary Jack and Gordon were with their mother, but from Calgary to Leedale, Gordon and Walter had the trailing chore. Most of the trip was blessed with good weather. Every day there was the constant problem of cattle along, or on, the road getting mixed with our herd. On two occasions the horses broke loose and tried to go home. The trip took 12 days. From Calgary north the pasture on the road sides was quite good, but on the whole trip it took a lot of foot work to keep the cattle moving along.

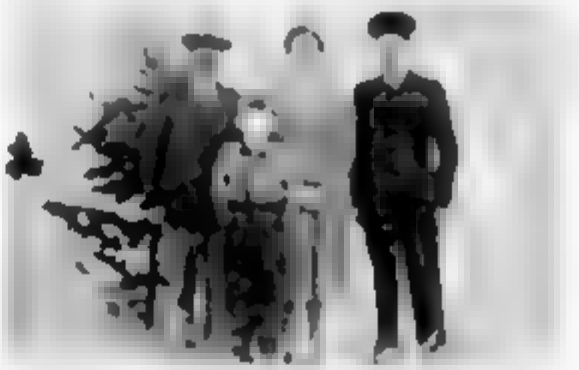
The summer of 1934 was abnormally dry at our new home. Dad had the Wallace farm rented for that year. The hay crop that year was very poor or none existent. Part of the cattle herd was sold for what little could be realized in the hopes of being able to winter the cows and calves. The change from the prairie to bush for the cattle and horses took its toll and many did not live to see the grass next spring. There was shortage of good feed along with shortage of money, that was the lot of homesteading in the mid thirties.

Gordon and Walter went to Aurora school that first year. There was a very large enrollment for one teacher to handle. Most every quarter was occupied by a homesteader in 1933-34. Many of the homesteads were heavy bush land. With few livestock and no crop land most of the homesteaders got jobs in saw mills or working for neighbors. The highest wage was about $1 a day. Most of the jobs were at the rate of $5 to $15 per month with board. With the long hours spent working outside and much of it in the cold, it made a person appreciate the end of a long day. The crackling log fire, a satisfying, if not fancy meal, family, friends and companionship were the essence of living and hope for the future.

Jobs in the summer often entailed leaving the district for the prairie to get a little better pay and steadier work. Some of these trips were probably partly wanderlust from being teen agers. Most years we came back in time for harvest. During the '30's I hauled bundles for Tom Cummings, Harry Thomas, Felix and Elmer Mathews, Jervel Maddox and Artie and Stanley Hollingsworth. Those threshing excursions, aside from the 11 hour days did give us a chance to meet many farmers, and get better acquainted with the district. It's surprising, but most of the farmers kept their daughters pretty busy while the threshers were around. The hard work didn't stop the hilarity of finding a barley bundle for a bed partner or a greased outhouse seat for after dark use. (I did hear rumors that the gentleman of the house had made the first trip to the outhouse and not the daughter though.)

In the winter of 1934-35 a shining star started over the horizon that gave most everybody a little more hope. A Social Credit group was formed at Aurora that held meetings every two weeks, followed by a dance. The school was crowded for every event. There was lots of discussion at every meeting along with lots of expectation. About the time the meeting was over the refreshments would arrive. It helped get the dance off to a good start as well as kept it going to the late hours of the morning. (The dollar paid for the bottle seemed a small price to pay.) The music was supplied by Ival and Earl Johnston, Teddy Evernden, the Lyons' family, as well as other musicians who happened to come through the district.

In the summer of 1935 our youngest brother, Ronald, was born. We were in the process of building a house on dad's homestead where good



Elmer and Pearl Elliot with sons Walter and Ronald

building logs were easy to come by. The lumber came from logs taken to Lawton's mill where they were sawed on a share or cash basis. We moved to the homestead in the spring of 1936, after living the previous winter in the hip roofed Johnson house that was owned then by Wilson Cox. (NW 35

January of 1936 will be remembered as one of the coldest experienced. The thermometer hovered at or below —40 F (about —50 C) for three weeks. It barely got to 30 or 40 degrees below (minus 40 C) in the day time. It took most of the time to just haul wood and buck it up for stove lengths. Trips out to haul feed and get groceries meant really dressing warmly and doing a lot of walking behind the outfit. Motor vehicle traffic was none existent in the winter. The narrow gauge sleigh tracks over the snow drifts were not for tires to follow. Anti freeze and vehicle heaters were unheard of.

CHARLIE went back to High River and stayed with his grandparents the Hicks. At Christmas 1935 he came in to see us but left immediately to attend the Tuxis Boys' Parliament at the University in Edmonton. Charlie worked in Penticton and High River until he went into the Air Force in 1941, where he trained as a radar technician. He was married to Jean Arton of Calgary in 1942. On the way to go overseas he contacted pneumonia while in Halifax, so he never got overseas. Jean joined him a little later and he spent the rest of the war years on the Atlantic coast.

Charlie went to U.B.C. after the war and completed his electrical engineering. He has worked with Westinghouse at Hamilton since 1949, and is due to retire in July 1978. Charlie and Jean have two daughters, Caroline, who married Randy Kowalski and lives in Hamilton, and Sharon married Joe Codispodi and lives in Calgary.

I Jack am the writer of this story and the rest of my history follows in a separate article.

GORDON: In June of 1939 tragedy struck our family, when our brother Gordon, along with his friend Edgar Robinson, were both killed in an accident near Penticton, B.C.

WALTER was the only one of our family attending school at Aurora after 1936. In the 1938-39 term Walter worked at Trenholms' (a mile south of Leedale), and went to high school at Leedale. He rode a small white mule to school and out home on weekends. That mule's head was only on the right end occasionally. The next year Walter stayed home and rode a bike, or horse, as conditions dictated. That year he had Oliver Misner, Steve Johnson and Doreen Mason to share the long trip. It was a ride of 9 miles daily, plus several gates to open. One morning he left home at 4 a.m. and pedal biked to Calgary where he worked until he joined the Navy in 1942. He saw a lot of duty on the high seas. Most of his time was spent on convoy duty in the Atlantic but he was taken off that long enough to take part in the Allied landing in North Africa, Sicily, and the D Day landing in Normandy. After the war, he settled in Calgary and married Mary Lehto of Barons.

For years Walter did cost and payroll accounting for Conforce in Calgary. Then he changed jobs in about 1970 and is now with Dome Petroleum. Walter and Mary have two daughters, Wendy, a school teacher and Judy who is in Junior High.

The folks stayed on the farm until 1950, at which time Ronald had most of his public schooling at Aurora. The farm was sold to Richard Harriman and the folks and Ronald moved to Red Deer.

RONALD finished his schooling in Red Deer and worked for the city for a couple of years. He joined the Air Force in 1958 and has completed training as a navigator, radar controller, and pilot. He spent the last six months of 1965 on a tour of duty in Egypt as a staff pilot on the Canadian Peace Keeping force. He has had numerous moves and is now stationed in Winnipeg as a staff pilot. Ron married an Ottawa girl in 1962. He and Pat have two sons and a daughter.

After the folks moved to Red Deer, mother worked as a seamstress at the P.T.S. for seven years and dad did janitor work at their church. Upon retiring in 1958 they moved to the Twilight Cottages. Dad passed away in 1961. Mother moved again in 1967 to the Centennial Court. Mother passed away in 1974. They are both buried at the Red Deer cemetery.

While living at the Kinsmen Twilight Cottages and Centennial Court, the folks really enjoyed their many new friends and old acquaintances.

**ELLIOT, JACK**

The beginnings of my history are in the previous Elmer Elliot story, now I shall continue with the next 40 years of my story, 1937-1977.

In the summer of 1937 I worked out and bought a team of horses. That winter I stayed home and cut posts and wood for sale. I was also able to cut and sell telephone poles for the Leedale to Rimbey telephone line, and I donated 20 poles to the group as a sort of line share. From 1939 on it meant going to the saw mills as the tamarack was all gone on "section 37".

In the fall of 38 Bill Gardner and myself rode the freight to Penticton B.C. I stayed and worked at a bush camp that winter. Bill, along with my brother Gordon, and Sidney Cornforth who were both out there too, came back to Leedale just before Christmas. Early in June of 1939, Paul Heringer, Edgar Robinson, and my brother Gordon were on their way to Penticton. In an accident between Summerland and Penticton, Gordon and Edgar were killed. I came back home with Paul immediately.

That fall war broke out in Europe. The war for the time being seemed far removed. Gradually the war became more real as the men started to join the services. National registration was held in the summer of 1940. The continuing news

of a worsening Allied situation gradually drew our lives more into the war effort

I worked at Lawton's mill bush camp in the winters of 39-40 and '40-41. Their mill had been in the Aurora district on Cox's land until about 1937 (NE 26. Lawton's mill had operated one winter before I worked there at the new location. that was approximately four miles west of McTighe's. The two winters spent at Lawton s were not too rewarding, about a dollar a day. I worked for Stanley Ho...ngsworth and Ted Pimm as they had the bush contract. The cross cut and swede saws were the order of the day with all the skidding and hauling being done by horses

The bunkhouse banter and antics did assist in making the long cold days go faster. Every one was quite eager to go to the camps in the fall, but when the warmer days of spring beckoned it didn't take long to break camp. Many lifelong friendships were made at these camps, that, along with the memories will not be forgotten.

In the spring of 1941 I was working for Stanley Hollingsworth hauling logs from the McTighe bush to the mill, (when we weren't stuck. However, the bush dried up fast and we were making good time until that fateful day of April 26. (Thinking of it now I believe Stanley and I would have been just as well playing in the bush with the squirrels, instead of hauling logs to be burned up at another spot). I will not dwell on the fire of that fateful day, other than to repeat the words of Jack Collingson who stood with me in the McTighe's blacksmith shop and watched it burning on three sides. Jacks words were. "This is worse than sitting in a submarine at the bottom of the Dardanelles and having the Turks depth charging us during the first World War"

I went over to Jones' mill and fought fire for two weeks after that. The wages were 25¢ an hour, less board of $1 a day. In spite of that, I did make $5 a day a couple of times when conditions got a little hot. The Saturday night revellers that were conscripted and trucked to Jones' to fight fire were about the worst equipped army of fire fighters that were ever assembled. There were about 120 men at Jones that Sunday morning that missed church service. A couple of days later we were down to about 20 men. We heard rumours that there wasn't an able bodied man to be found in Rimbey the next Saturday night

About this time things were coming to a head pretty fast. I had lost all my clothes at McTighe's fire and conscription calls were coming fast. They gave the offer of clothes supplied plus $1.30 a day. When my call came in July, I willingly went and joined the air force, active on the second day. I was among the first at Edmonton Manning Depot. From there I went to Lethbridge, a new station that was Number 8 B & G, in the Commonwealth Air Training plan. In the service I was an aero engine mechanic and the work was really enjoyable. Many lifelong and rewarding aquaintances were made while in camp. I was injured at the time the big air force build up was being made overseas.

With the hope of going overseas gone, Florence Richardson and I were married on May 3, 1943 at my folks' house on the homestead. Rev Habermel conducted the service and Bruce Johnson and Florence's younger sister, Edna, stood up for us. We left immediately for Lethbridge as my furlough was running out. Florence's history is in the Ed Richardson's story that she wrote.

I was stationed at Lethbridge until January 1, 1945, at which time the station was closed. From there it was No. 3 S.F.T.S. at Calgary where I got my discharge later in 1945.

We went up to Jones' mill in 1945 and I drove a cat there until we got a farm in the fall of 1948. The land, W½ 36-41-5 is still our home. We bought it from Ralph and Margaret Johnson who were retiring to British Columbia. Johnsons had got their home quarter from Jim Monohan in 1937 and later bought the quarter across the road from Thomas's in 1945.

We have spent the last thirty years on the farm. We went into the dairy business, and now my second son, Milton, has joined me in partnership, also my two youngest, Johnny and Dixie, work with us.

In the summer of 1976 we had the misfortune to have a disastrous fire which destroyed our barns and milking equipment. We moved our cows to a farm east of Leedale and milked there twice a day until we could build new facilities again on our own farm. We have enlarged our set up and now milk on the average of 75 cows. The milk is trucked out every other day to Red Deer.

Florence and I have raised a family of three sons and three daughters and we have six grandchildren.

GRANT was born at Eckville, May 29, 1945. He took most of his schooling at Aurora. On September 25, 1971 he married Lorraine Martin at Hespero. Grant works at the Gulf Gas Plant at Rocky. They have three sons, Greg, Teddy and Bradley.

MILTON was born at Eckville, October 18, 1948. He took a few years of schooling at Aurora, then finished at Leslieville and David Thompson schools. Milton got married on February 20, 1970 to Patricia Levinsky in Rocky. They are farming with us.

TERRY was born at Eckville, November 12, 1952, started school at Aurora and continued on in Leslieville and David Thompson. Terry started doing hospital work at Deerhome in Red Deer after finishing school. Then she went to Pouce Coupe B.C. and worked in an auxiliary hospital for three years. On November 13, 1976 she married Frank Wolfinger of Toms Lake. They have since moved to Prince George where Frank is attending university.

BEVERLY was born at Rimbey, July 2, 1955, went to school at Leslieville, and graduated from David Thompson. Like her older sister, Bev also

started on ward work at Deerhome, and then worked in the sport and recreation department She is now program co-ordinator at the Michener Sport Center in Red Deer

JOHNNY was born in Rimbey, October 20, 1958, he took his schooling in Leslieville and David Thompson High, and is living at home and working in the dairy business

DIXIE, our youngest daughter was born in Rimbey, March 4, 1963. She went to Leslieville school and is presently taking Grade 9 at David Thompson.

Before Florence and I went on holidays to Hamilton, Ontario in mid November 1977, she sat down and wrote the story of her family in this area, the Ed Richardsons. Unfortunately, this was to be her last story. While having a wonderful time she took sick on December 4 at my brother's place in Hamilton and passed away on December 9, 1977 at St. Joseph's Hospital.

We had been married almost 35 years. She was really looking forward to the compiling of this book on the history of the district she knew and loved so well.

**ELLIOT, M.**

I, Milton Elliot, am the second son of Jack and Florence Elliot On February 20, 1970, I married Patricia Levinsky at Rocky Mountain House. We have three children, Trevor Allan, Shayne Edward, and Tracy Elaine

After a few years working out on seismic rigs and soil testing outfits that took me all over the country, I went as far north as to where I washed my hands in the Arctic Ocean. I was just like a gypsy and always away from home so I decided I was going to make a change.

As I liked the farm very much I decided to go into partnership with my father, which I did. I am now living on the SW 36 41-5-W5, (the former Thomas quarter) across the road from my folk's place. We are in the dairy business and are known as J and M Dairy

**THE ERSKINE FAMILY — by Robert Erskine**

Because of the drought and depression of the "Hungry Thirties", the Erskine family moved from Oyen, Alberta, to greener pastures in the Carlos district SW 13-41-5-W5 north of Leslieville in May, 1934.

The father, Samuel Erskine, born of Scottish parents on the Island of Antigua, died in 1937 The mother, born in northern Scotland, (nee Hannah MacKay) died in 1953.

Jessie, their eldest child, was born in 1912 in Calgary. She married Russel Pendergast and they have two sons, Duane and Bruce. Jessie taught school for many years at Lone Deer and Rocky Mountain House. The Pendergasts are now retired, living at Lanzville, B.C. on Vancouver Island. Bruce Pendergast's son is the first great grandchild born in the family

Robert (Bob) was born in 1914, also in Calgary He is the only one of the family now living in the Carlos area. He has worked for some 25 years at developing varieties of plants for cold areas. Selections have been made of apple, crabapple, sandcherry, black, white and American currants, gooseberries, chokecherry, raspberry, and strawberry plants. Numerous rose and lily varieties have been selected, and a few potatoes, as well as a number of other plants.

Hannah was born at Oyen in 1916. Jessie and Hannah were both awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Bronze Medal on graduating from Grade VIII at Oyen. Hannah became a registered nurse and served overseas in the Armed Forces. After the war she received her M.A. degree from the University of British Columbia and a Ph. D from the University of Illinois, U.S.A. She now lives in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

William (Bill) was born in 1918 at Oyen. During the Second World War he enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and trained as a pilot and navigator He served as navigator with the same crew and plane on 33 bombing missions over Germany He married Doris Gildes. They live at Toronto and have three daughters, Denise, Lynne, and Cathy

Rosina (Rose) is the youngest of five, born in 1923 at Oyen. She married Richard (Dick) Brookes. Their two children are Robert (Bob) and Linda. Linda is a registered nurse, working at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House. She is married to Barry Balch, a partner in the Link Hardware at Rocky Mountain House. Rose has taught school for many years at Rocky Mountain House.

**GARDNER, WM. — by Eunice Gardner**

William Riley Gardner, better known as "Bill", was born April 6 1913, at Wittenburg. (Leedale) to the late Bill and Sara Gardner His father died on July 4, 1921, when Bill was eight years old. His mother was in failing health and went to Washington U.S.A., where she was told she could be treated. She took Bill with her They were there for two years, returning to Leedale in 1924. She passed away December 29, 1926. Shortly after, Bill went to live with his uncle, Tom Gardner, where he stayed until he bought his own land in 1949. This was a quarter of C P R. land, the SW 31-41-4-W5. He still worked with his uncle during the spring seeding, summer haying and fall harvesting, until his uncle passed away in December 1950 at the age of 90 years

Bill broke up much of his own land using an axe and horses. I believe it's safe to say he used horses longer than anyone for miles around. He broke many horses in his day, both to ride and to harness He also did a lot of castrating, of his own stock and the neighbors, right from tom cats to stallions, without charge

During the hungry '30's, while most people were eating rabbits, he was eating deer and moose meat The first wild game he shot was a big deer, with a 22 short, at the age of 14 years.

The big game is getting pretty scarce due to good oil roads and road runners.

On May 4, 1955, after putting in many miles and burning a lot of gas, he married the former Eunice Odland, youngest daughter of Jake and Lena Odland, of Bingley-Sleepy Valley district, and they started raising a family. He wanted a son to name after his uncle Tom. On March 2, 1956 the first "Tom" was born, but it turned out to be a girl. They named her Helen Brenda, after Helen Gardner, Bill's youngest sister. On April 6, 1957, (on Bill's birthday) another "Tom" was born. They named this one Wilma Ellen. Wilma, after William, and Ellen being his mother's middle name. Finally, on August 2nd 1959, Thomas William did put in his appearance, therefore, they decided to leave well enough alone.

The three children took their schooling at the Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High School. As soon as they left school, they all went out to work. Helen got a job at the Grand Hotel in Rimbey. Tom's first job was driving a road packer on road construction, and Wilma — well she got married — to Michel Fortin, formerly of Ontario. They went to work on a dairy farm in the Lacombe area.

**GRAY, ARNOLD — by Wanda Gray**

Arnold Wade, is the second oldest son of Gordon and Alma Gray. He was born on August 3, 1954 at Rocky Mountain House, Alta. He lived with his parents on their farm which was previously owned by his grandfather, (William Gray).

Arnold took his elementary schooling at Leslieville and his junior high at David Thompson. Everyday he had at least an hours bus ride to and from school. One day however, he didn't feel like going to school and his mother had to chase him down the lane with a stick! Arnold grew up like any other typical country boy, always into mischief.

Arnold's dad drove the government grader many years, for the community. One day, Gordon left the grader running and Arnold decided to play on it. Well, to his suprise, he accidentally hit the gear shift and it started moving! He got so scared that he jumped off and ran to the out house to hide. In the mean time, Gordon looked out the window and saw both the grader going down the road and Arnold just a running. All of Arnolds efforts were unnecessary, for shortly after, his dad showed him how to run it.

Arnold moved to Eckville to attend high school, where he lived with his aunt, Viola Johnston. He worked at various jobs until he moved to Red Deer.

While Arnold was in Red Deer, he worked for his brother-in law hauling house trailers. He had the job of driving the pilot car. Shortly after, Arnold met his bride-to-be, Wanda Arlene Bunch.

Wanda is the daughter of Walter and Vivian Bunch. She was born on August 19, 1954 at Edmonton, Alta. Wanda grew up in the Eckville district where she attended elementary school. She lived with her parents on their farm until they moved to Red Deer in 1964. There she took her junior and senior high school. In 1970 her parents moved to the Alhambra area and now reside in the Leslieville district. Wanda remained in Red Deer working at a variety of jobs before she met Arnold Gray.

Arnold and Wanda were married on August 26, 1972 at Rocky Mountain House. They bought a house trailer and lived at Arnold's dads farm for a few months. During the time they were there, Arnold worked for the neighbor farming. That same year they moved to Red Deer where they lived in Mayberry's Trailer Court for nearly two years.

In the spring of 1974, they returned to his father's farm. There they lived in their trailer while Arnold was employed with Kidd Construction.

On June 23, 1974 Gordon Gray passed away at the age of 62. They remember him with love, and the respect he deserved as a kind hearted father.

Arnold's mother, Alma Gray moved to Eckville and sold the farm to Arnold and Wanda. They then sold their trailer and moved into the house where they are now residing.

Arnold and Wanda now have a daughter, Shonastee Lynette. She was born on April 29, 1977, in Calgary, Alta. Shonastee is both a joy and a delight to her parents.

Arnold is still employed by Kidd Construction as a heavy equipment operator. They are renting out their farmland to their neighbor.

**GRAY, CLARENCE**

Clarence, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gray, was a small child when his parents moved to the Carlos area in 1912. He attended school at Washington Heights.

In 1937 he married Lois Pendergast, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pendergast.

They built a log house on a homestead, in what later became the Lone Deer School district. (The land was the N.W. 30-41-5-W5, and is now owned by Bill White). The summers were spent on the homestead and the winters at various logging camps or saw mills.

In 1956 they moved to the Garth district west of Rocky Mountain House and a few years later to the Ferrier district. Clarence worked for Alberta Forest Service on road construction and maintenance in the Clearwater Forest Reserve for approximately 20 years.

Clarence and Lois (Bon) have two sons — Ronald and William. In 1960 RONALD married Patricia Lindsay of the Aurora district. They have one daughter, Sandra, and one son, Allen.

WILLIAM married Kay Martin of Eckville in 1970. They have one son, Kevin, and one daughter, Wendy.

Ron and Bill and their families live in the Ferrier district, west of Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence and Bon continue to live in the Ferrier district

**GRAY, WILLIAM HENRY — as told by Viola (Gray) Johnston**

In Ozark, Michigan, William and Eleanor had fastened a canvas over the wagon box, and set out for Alberta, Canada. We were living on an acreage at the time and my dad had worked as a river boat pilot and a sawyer. My mother was a French Canadian, having been born in Quebec.

In 1911, my father and mother packed up their belongings and their family of six children, and we boarded a train headed out to western Canada. We arrived at Red Deer and the first year lived in the Poplar Ridge district, where one more son was born to the family.

In 1912 another move was made, this time to the Carlos district, where my parents would spend the rest of their lives. While at Carlos three more sons were born, but two of these died in infancy, and are buried on the home farm.

William Gray filed on the NE 17-41-5 W5. The land has now been in the Gray family for 65 years. My brother Gordon took over the farming from my dad, and now Gordon's son, Arnold, lives on the land.

I remember that we moved from Red Deer to Carlos on a March day that was bitterly cold. We had a team and sleigh and drove, I believe, the whole distance in one long day's travel. Our dad had fastened a canvass over the wagon box, and we had wrapped hot stones and placed these on the bottom of the sleigh box to give off warmth for the journey, and we had a coal oil lantern that gave off a bit of warmth, too.

I remember the first night we arrived in the Carlos district. I was a child of about five years of age. We spent that first night at the Jhalmar Ostrem home. Ostrems had a large family but somehow made room to shelter our big family, too. The next day we moved into the Nils Saturlund house, where we lived until we moved over to the McPherson's mill site, which was right near where our cabin would be built. My dad worked at the mill and when it shut down for the summer my folks got to stay there.

The most embarrassing moment of my whole life happened whilst we were living at the mill site that summer. There was a little foot bridge across the creek and a lot of the older folks were crossing it. I ran along trying to follow my dad and I fell into the creek. Being at a mill site the water was covered with saw dust, and as I fell in I had my mouth open (maybe ready to scream). Anyway, I took in gobs of sawdust. My brother-in-law, John, quickly fished me out of the creek, and I remember the folks laughing and laughing at me and I was so embarrassed. I suppose I did look shiny all drenched and covered with sawdust. I wonder if I reminded the folks of a doll all stuffed with sawdust as many of them were in those days.

Our first garden was ploughed using a saddle horse and a cow we borrowed from a neighbor, Fred Street. At first my dad used to walk to Lesieville, about 11 or 12 miles one way and then carry home the groceries and other supplies in packs on his back. For our size of family it certainly wasn't a small pack. Later he drove a team of oxen to town.

I never remember being hungry. In fact we always had a good variety of different kinds of food except for one time. For three days once we were down to potatoes and cranberries, but us kids made a real joke of it at the time, (though perhaps our mother may have worried about it). As the bowls went around the table we'd say, "Do you want potatoes with your cranberries or will you have cranberries with the potatoes this time?"

I remember my mother used to cut the tops off vinegar bottles to make them into jars to preserve fruit and jam in. She would take a piece of cardboard to fit the top, cover it with cloth dipped in flour and water paste, then wax the whole thing so it was airtight. Worked quite well, too!

Nelson, Earl, Gordon, Clarence, Florence and myself all went to school at Washington Heights. When Miss Lees was the teacher in 1920 she felt we should have a hot drink at noon. Each family brought a nickel to school and we bought cocoa. We took it in turns bringing milk to use in it. Each kid took a turn making the cocoa and some

Eleanor and William Gray

were definitely not destined to be cooks. We eventually began to loathe the thought of another pot of some of the dish watery stuff that was served up. When Miss Cline was the teacher we had some hot lunches, too. Often the boys would catch rabbits in the schoolyard. We girls would bring vegetables from home, and presto, we'd cook up a pot of rabbit stew or bunny soup!

I remember the "lard pail" lunch buckets, the pride and joy of every school kid. You scratched your initials on the pail to be sure you got the right lunch. Charlie Ambury was going to school at the time, and his pail had the initials "C A" on, so one of the kids scratched a "T" making it read "CAT" Then unbeknown to Charlie, the kids caught a mouse and put it in one of his sandwiches for a joke. A great idea!, except, Charlie didn't eat all of his lunch that day, he took it home. In those days nothing was wasted, and the lunch you didn't eat at school was served on the table at night. Still not too much of a problem, except, the Ambury's happened to have company at the supper table. Can you fea ture the embarrassment, and the anger at finding a mouse sandwich on the table? Mr. Ambury was so furious he made a real case out of it which involved the teacher, the kids and the school board. What a bomb shell that simple little letter "T" had created

Mr and Mrs. Gray's eldest three sons, Otto, Walter and Floyd, each took up homesteads in the Carlos area, but eventually they returned to the States to live. The next two, Nelson and Roy, went to live in Montana. Nelson married Nora Case of Lesleville. (Nora's parents were the first couple ever married in Lesleville) Nelson and Nora moved to Missoula, Montana, and so did Roy and Floyd. The youngest three sons, Earl, Gordon and Clarence, all took up homesteads in the Carlos district, married and raised their families here.

There were three daughter, Irene, Florence and Viola. Irene married John Lewis, and they came to homestead in the Carlos area, but eventually moved to Ohio to live. She is now retired and living in California. Florence married Bill Gawden, a miner, who worked at Nordegg They went to live at Rosedale, near the mines in the Drumheller area I, Viola, married a neighbor boy, Ival Johnston, and lived in the Carlos district until we retired to the town of Eckville in 1965

My mother passed away, after a lengthy illness in 1937. My dad died as the result of a highway traffic accident in 1943, as he was on his way to visit with his sons in Montana. He was then 73 years of age, had lived a long and rewarding life, and watched each of his 11 children start out on life's journey He had also had time to enjoy the company of many of his grandchildren

**HEMBERY GEORGE — as told by Bill Gardner**

George Hembery lived on the SE 36-41-5 (Lee Hollingsworth's land). He was a tough Montana fellow who carried and used a black leather snake whip. He was first to be on hand if a neighbor was in need. He was a butcher by trade and sold meat. He had a very young wife who died while they were living here, then George moved to Peace River

**HICKS, L. — by Mrs. L. A. Hicks**

In the spring of 1934 Lewis Allen Hicks and his wife moved to a homestead in Carlos country way back to no-man's land, or almost no one lived near us

We came up from High River Previously Lou had worked in the oil fields at Turner Valley

My brother, Elmer Elliot and his family had come up to live in the Aurora district also. We settled on the S.W 7-42-5, the quarter directly north of George Grey, and there we had some memorable experiences

We lived in a big tent that first summer while our log house was being built. One day there was a very sudden rain storm. The rain came down so fast, (before the tent could be really wet) with the result that the rain came right through. We quickly rolled up our mattress and covered it Then I got out an umbrella under which we sheltered. When the rain stopped there was a jam can lid full of water on top of the cupboard (it held our candle). The only dry places were in the oven, under the table and inside the cupboard

We got into our log house before winter but lived on a dirt floor with only furniture to act as partitions. The roof was covered with tar paper One spring day I smelled a funny smell. It was the tar paper burning around the roof chimney jack. I had some cans lined up, intending to get some seeds planted. These I took outside with two pails of water, dipped them into the water, then threw up on the roof Enough water splashed around the fire to deaden it a bit Then I climbed the ladder, which was at the back of the house, and finished extinguishing the fire

Another time as I started out to bring in our few head of cattle from the open pasture (we had no fences) I noticed a big cloud in the west which suggested I needed to hurry There were some other cattle pasturing on the other side of a creek near us and that day they had come across to our area. So when I tried to round up ours (I was on foot) they stuck up their tails and off they went with ours following them. After some fruitless attempts to get our cattle headed for home, I decided to give up and go home But — where was home? It was all open country — no houses — no roads! Then I remembered the cloud So I tried to keep it in the rear and thought if I could find the creek I could get home. After some time I finally came on a trail and decided to follow it It turned out to be the trail between our place and our neighbor to the north — and I got home just as the rain started. My husband, at that time, had a trucking job picking up cream to take to a

creamery at Bluffton. He would go one day and return the next. Well, he was on one of those trips when I was out after the cattle, so had I not gotten home, he wouldn't have known where to look for me.

The ground out in our area didn't seem to be very productive, at least, not the part we planted, so we decided to leave the homesteading business for others and we moved to a home which we rented from Vancel Misner and lived there for awhile until we finally moved in to Bluffton in the spring of 1937. And so ends our experience in Carlos country.

In 1943 we moved up to Pouce Coupe, B.C. where I am still residing. Lou passed away on January 10, 1967 as the result of an accident. We have one son Stewart, who married Marg Price, and has three children.

**HOLLINGSWORTH, L — by D. and L. Hollingsworth**

Lee was born in the Gimlet district on the former Perry place, (which is now Bill Houston's). Lee went to several schools, Aurora, Gimlet, Faraway, Eckville, and Sylvan Lake. The winters were spent out at the saw mills.

In 1953 Lee went to Nanton and spent the summer haying. In 1955 he rode horseback from Aurora to Coleman via Nordegg and Kootenay Plains. He stayed in the cabin on the White Rabbit creek on the Plains then continued on down to Coleman, then north to the Twin City cabin where Old Barb Wire Johnny once lived. Four summers he was in the south haying on the A 7, Riley and Streeter ranches. While at Streeters he helped trail Brahma bulls in to the Calgary Stampede. These were the years Ivan, Joe and Ben Cornforth, Art Hopp, Don Bryanton, Bruce Johnson, Lawrence Richardson and Bud Robinson all used to head south for summer work on the ranches.

For several summers Lee hauled gravel around Rimbey, Eckville, Red Deer and Hanna.

In 1956 Lee and Doreen Oliver were married at the Gimlet Missionary Church. Doreen was born in Innisfail, Alberta and went to school at Pine View, (west of Bowden). In 1948 the Oliver family moved to Leslieville.

Lee and Doreen have four children, Monty, Darcy, Angela and Rodney. All the children have attended Leslieville and David Thompson schools, and Monty and Darcy also went to school in Rimbey. The family are living on their farm in the Aurora district.

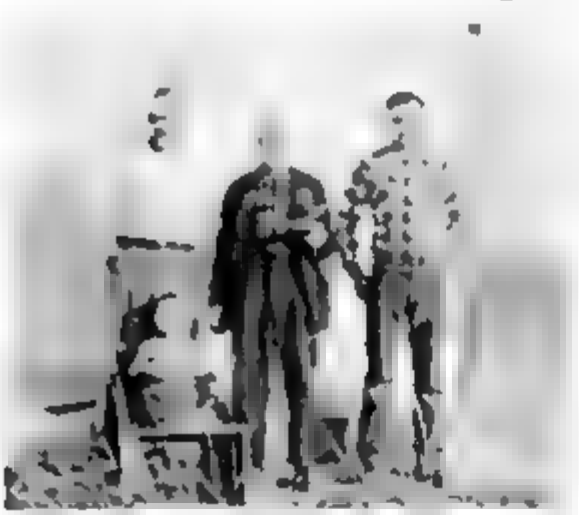
The Hollingsworths have always been interested in rodeo. In 1967 and the following two years Lee donated rodeo stock for the Gimlet stampede. Darcy has ridden in rodeos from White Court to Innisfail, and Rodney is now starting the circuit. Monty has driven chariots in races from points as far north as Vermillon south to Medicine Hat. Lee and Doreen have served as time keepers at various rodeos and Lee has judged pony chuck wagon races for four years.

**HOLLINGSWORTH, S — by D. Hollingsworth**

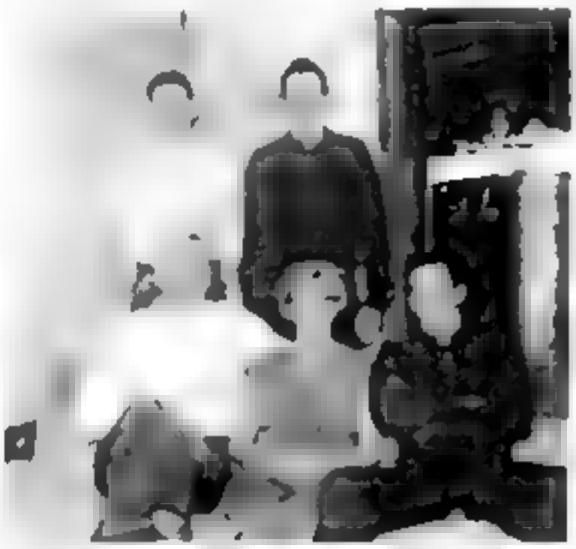
Stanley Hollingworth was born in Stettler in 1911. He moved with his family to the Leedale area in 1919. He married Adaline Misner. Adaline was always known as "Babe", and she had come to the Leedale area with her family from Alliance, Alberta.

Stan and Babe's home place was the SE 36-41-5. Stanley worked on a gravel crusher for many summers and worked in the mills during the winter. In 1945-46 they helped to run a restaurant in Sylvan Lake.

Stan and Babe had three sons and one daughter, also 12 grandchildren. GILBERT married Lorraine Oliver, lives near Leedale and has a family of five. EARL married Alma Gray,



Four Generations of Hollingsworths, Stanley, Dick, Lee, and Monty 1959



Earl, Lee, Stanley, Babe, Gilbert. Christmas 1963

lives near Rocky Mountain House and has three children. LEE married Doreen Oliver lives on the farm in the Aurora area and has four children. FAYE passed away in 1952 at the age of 13 years.

Stanley died in 1966 and Adaline in 1969.

**HUHN FAMILIES — information from Mrs. Campbell**

August Huhn, his wife and son Harry, and grandson Raymond, originally came from East Germany. They purchased the Jim Pendergast quarter, SE 22-41-5. They were good gardeners interested in improving their surroundings. They had apparently had a very productive farm in Germany but had been forced to leave everything behind. They came to this farm in the early 1950s then sold, and lived in Leslieville for awhile. Mrs. Huhn passed away in Rimbey and August eventually moved to Stettler.

Eric Huhn, brother of August, and his wife and family, Dieder, Peter, Laura, Irene, and three more younger children lived on the NE 22 and also the SW 2. Another daughter Mary had stayed in Germany. Soon after leaving the district the family returned to Germany for a visit but came back to Canada and are living at Thorsby.

**JOHNSTON, IVAL — by Viola Johnston**

Ival Johnston was born in Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A., the eldest son of Mrs. Lillian Fizer. The family moved from Washington to the Stettler district, and then arrived in the Carlos country in 1912. Ival and his brother Earl have many interesting tales to tell of their school days at the Aurora School — including the big pots of oatmeal porridge Miss Lees cooked up for the morning lunch for her pupils.

Eventually Ival took up a homestead, SE 5-42-5-W5, and he, with his wife, the former Viola Gray, youngest daughter of the William Grays, lived on this land in the Aurora district for 38 years.

Ival and Earl were avid hunters and excellent fishermen. We often went up to Medicine Lake to camp and fish for several days. The fish would be salted or smoked and would provide a tasty addition to the meals for months to come. We preserved moose, elk, and deer meat in sealers, and always had a good supply of canned wild berries for winter use as well as an abundance of them fresh during the berry-picking season. Cranberries and gooseberries were plentiful in the nearby swamp, and the surrounding hillsides produced buckets full of saskatoons, chokecherries and pincherries, as well as blueberries. One winter Ival and I shot rabbits to sell to a fox farm, and every other day we would have a sleigh box full to sell.

In 1941 a big fire occurred at McTighe's saw mill. Ival had been working there, but had come home prior to the fire in order to work on the farm. Reports were broadcast on the radio about the fire and we could see the reflection of flames in the sky. Joe Cornforth Sr. and I took two saddle horses and rode about 15 miles up into the area but finally the smoke became so thick that we had to turn back. My brother-in-law, Earl Johnston, and two other men eventually walked out, but Earl was badly burned, especially his hands. He was unable to work most of that summer until his burns healed. He lost all his clothing and the bedding that he and Ival had used at the mill, but he felt very lucky to have come out alive himself. My brother, Earl Gray and his family were all at the mill at this time, too, so you can imagine how worried all of us at home were.

When the first oil well was drilled in the Carlos area west of us Ival had the job of transporting the men the last five miles into the rig site, since the roads were so muddy that cars and trucks could not travel. Ival used the tractor and a wagon or stoneboat for the job.

Ival had a threshing machine and did a lot of custom threshing for the neighbors around the district until about 1963. During the winters he often did custom sawing, and often took his mill out west of Rocky Mountain House to saw logs.

We left the farm in 1965 and moved to Eckville, where, the following day, my husband, Ival, passed away. I keep busy with my handicrafts, as I enjoy doing creative projects. I also enjoy travel, my gospel work, and the companionship of my many friends in the Eckville district.

Ival and I have seven children, 26 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Our son Lester married Mary Connors of the Carlos district. They farm in the Leedale area and have a family of five children. Dorothy married Erwin Heringer. They farmed a half section west of our farm at Aurora for nearly 20 years, but now live in Eckville where Erwin is employed by the school division. They have a family of three children. Leroy is married to Marjie Brown of Leedale. He owns construction equipment, lives in the Rocky Mountain House area, and has a family of six. Lenore is married to Gene Steele, lives in Calgary, and has three children. Eleanor married Don Evernden of Rimbey and also lives in Calgary. She has twin daughters and a son. Glen married Gail Casey, lives in the Gimlet district, and has a family of three. (Three other children died in a car accident in 1965.) Lva married Sheila Kendrew of Eckville, lives in Rimbey, and has three children.

**LIDDICOAT, CHARLIE AND PEARL**

Charlie and Pearl homesteaded the NE 6-41-5 in October 1929, selling to Lewis (Chief) Alberta in 1941. They had four children. Irene, Orville, Verna, Hazel. They went to Drumheller after leaving the district.

**LOWE, P. — by Ramona Stewart**

The Percy Lowe family purchased section 35-41-5-W5, six miles west of Leedale, and moved

there in November, 1951 from Blackfalds, Alberta

The family consisted of Percy, Verona Melvin 16, Ramona 11, Kenneth 7, and David 4

The roads weren't too good and most people travelled by team and wagon, although we had an old three ton truck that was pretty cold in the winter time. When we required our mail we walked two and one half miles to the Carlos post office for it in the winter or, in the summer we rode the horse "Spud" We borrowed the old pony from Jack Elliott in the summer of 1952 and had the use of her for three years. Ramona and Spud were inseparable and had many good times together During the years spent on the farm in the Carlos area the children went to school at Aurora where Mrs Beckett and Mrs Emily Ames were the two teachers. The year of 1956-57 Ramona went to David Thompson school for Grade 10. That was the year the school was built

Percy Lowe farmed the section of land he owned, and he also had a sawmill where he sawed lumber for several years. He had a caterpillar and cleared land for himself and some of the neighbors

Verona milked cows, and when necessary worked on the sawmill, picked berries, and had a big garden She was a member of the Ladies Sewing Circle and she was often busy with community picnics, bazaars, pie socials, Christmas concerts and so forth.

We had skating parties in the winter time, on the beaver dams, over by Art Robinsons, and Carl Skorstengaards. We often walked the three or four miles to go for the evenings fun, and perhaps a weiner roast. One night in particular that is recalled, Melvin and Ramona walked over to Freitags about three miles in the winter, and helped Albert, Robert, Ruth and Irene to wall paper the living room. We had a real ball before the evening was over I often wonder how Mrs. Freitag ever put up with us, in those days but we certainly had fun

In 1956 MELVIN purchased land north of the Aurora School where he resided until just recently when he sold it and bought an acreage west of Rimbey

RAMONA, went to work in the Eckville Drug Store in July, 1957 In 1959 she married Lawrence Stewart and moved south west of Rocky Mountain House where they farm in the Strachan district. They have two daughters, Laurie age 16, and Carrie 12 years

KENNETH married Annie Nothoff of Eckville in December, 1962 and they now reside in Fort St. John, B.C., where Ken is a cat operator They have four children, Debby 14, Robert 13, Sandra 12, and Tammy 10

DAVID married Beverly Casey on July 27 1968 and they reside in Calgary with two children Tracy 6 and Troy 4. David has his own trucking and winch work business

VIRGINIA ARLENE was born in March 1955 when the family lived at Aurora. She died in July, 1955. Percy Lowe passed away in July, 1966

Verona has resided in Lacombe since 1958. where she worked in the hospital for many years She then worked in the Senior Citizens Lodge for two years and also in the nursing home where she was head housekeeper. Verona resigned in December, 1972 when she married Eugene Lindsay, and they still live in Lacombe. Eugene works for Mels Paving Ltd. of Red Deer

**S. A. LYONS FAMILY — by Fern Wolney**

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Lyons came to the Leedale District in the early 1920's. Mrs. Lyons came from South Dakota and Mr Lyons from Iowa. both in the United States. They purchased the NW 31 41 4-W5 from the Canadian Pacific Railway for the sum of $1,013.15. According to the contract, payments were to start in four years time, and run for ten years The last payment was to be made in 1946. Interest for this entire contract over a fourteen year period amounted to only $310.

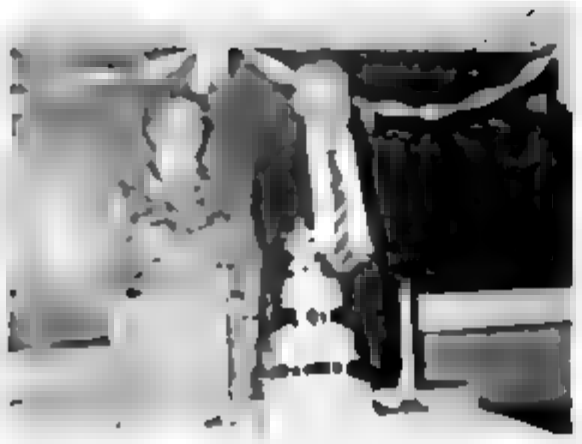
Mr. and Mrs. Lyons had a family of three sons and three daughters, all born in British Columbia except for Mary, who was born in Canmore. Alberta. Edith is now deceased.

Mr Lyons, called "Lon" or "S. A." for short, had the cream route west of Leedale from 1945 to 1964. He owned a 1928 Chevrolet truck which he used very often to take sick people to the hospital. Sometimes when he didn't have any gas he would go to a good neighbor and borrow enough to get the sick person to a hospital. Once he took Mrs Heringer to hospital when there was no doctor to deliver her baby. He put a mattress and quilts into the back of the old truck, made her comfortable, and got her there on time. He also had the experience of delivering a couple of babies where there was no doctor available He took Charlie Elliot and Mrs. William Lees to hospital for appendix operations, Eileen Corn forth, when she was very ill, and many others He would also help take the school children to different school activities at Rocky Mountain House and at Leslieville.

The Lyons family were musical, and often played at dances at Aurora and at Faraway During the winters Mr. Lyons often worked at Varty's and McTighe's sawmills. He was too proud to go on relief, but seemed to do a fair job of providing for his family during the hungry thirties. During the earlier years he drove the school van at Pine Lake. The van was a buggy pulled by horses

Mrs Lyons was a hard working person and took care of the farm while he was away working. She enjoyed creating handmade quilts, and always had boxes of washed and carded wool ready for another quilt

Mr and Mrs. Lyons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Aurora Hall in January, 1964. Mrs. Jack Elliott baked a wedding cake for the occasion. Mom and Dad en



Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Lyons on their 50th Anniversary January 1964

joyed visiting all the friends that came, and the singing, musical selections and the short dance which contributed to their pleasure on this special anniversary. They lived on their farm until 1966 and then had an auction sale and retired to Kamloops, B.C. Mr. Lyons passed away in 1970 and Mrs. Lyons in 1972.

**MANNIX, WILLIAM JOSEPH AND VERA MERLE**

William Joseph, son of William Henry and Elizabeth Jane Mannix was born at Okotoks, Northwest Territories, February 26, 1903, and moved with his folks to the Bingley district in 1906. He took part of his schooling at the Beaver Flats school.

Joe's first job was working for Frank Pettiford at the Valley Mill in 1916. He earned $2.50 for a 10 hour day and had to pay $1 per day room and board and $.03 towards compensation. He took the last board that came through the mill when it closed in 1916.

After the mill closed he worked for various farmers in the district until the fall of 1921 when he went to the United States to work in the wheat fields and picked apples before returning home. Joe worked for many lumber companies through the years, Jim McKechnie, Varty's, Pheonix, Northwest Tie and Timber, and McTighe.

Joe recalls his first trip through the Medicine River Valley in 1923. He was hired by Tom Skully, for $7 a day, to drive him, with team and cutter, to Leedale, then on to Gilby to pick up hides. They picked up at Louis Robinson's near Leedale then spent the night at Hugh Lindsay's, who rented rooms for 35¢ a night, going on the next day to Frank Tarrabains at Gilby, then on to ship the hides by train from Eckville to Simpson and Lee, Fur Buyers in Calgary. Tom died during a fire which burned the McTighe Mill about 25 miles west of Leedale in April 1941. He had holed up in a creek while the fire went over but died of exposure.

The fall of 1925 five teams with bundle racks left Leslieville to follow the stooking and threshing run on the Prairies. Four men, Joe, Ray Richardson, Percy Black and his hired man took five racks down as Norris, Joe's brother was already there. Percy's two outfits stopped at Trochu and Joe, Ray and Norris worked for Bill Ebel at Three Hills. They threshed with a steam engine fired with straw. There were bumper wheat crops that fall and it took them from September 3 to October 30 to thresh an area from eight miles north to six miles south of Three Hills. On October 31 Ray, Norris and Joe started for home camping two or three miles south of Pine Lake. It got so cold that night, 30 below F., that they had to take turns keeping the fire burning so they didn't freeze. It proved to be the coldest day that winter of 1925-'26.

The spring of 1925 Joe bought a team of three year olds, (Percheron and Morgan breeding) at Dave Conigar's Sale, northwest of Hespero for $19.50 a piece. He broke them the next spring and Maggie and Jiggs made the trip to the Prairies on bundle wagons in the fall of 1926, '27 and '28.

In 1929 Joe took his first eight hour day job which was with Royalite in the Oil Fields of Turner Valley. He and his brother, Norris, were plant employees and worked riveting tanks together. They got $5 for eight hours of work. They finished work at five o'clock so took jobs stooking grain for farmers in the area after hours.

In 1930 Joe decided to try his hand at farming for himself so he rented the George Joy's farm in the Condor district where he lived until the spring of 1933 when he purchased the Wilson Cox farm (S.E. 2-42-5-W5) in the Carlos district. He then homesteaded the S.W. 1-42-5-W5. There he met and married Vera Merle Pendergast on June 2, 1934.

Vera Merle, daughter of Samuel Thomas and Sarah Woods Pendergast, was born in her grandparents' log house, 16 miles south-east of Innisfail at Horse Shoe Lake, Alberta, October 20, 1908. She took her schooling at Horse Shoe Lake and moved with her family to the Carlos district May 14, 1931. She, being the eldest, helped her folks on the farm and was on call for any friend, neighbor or relative who needed help, sometimes receiving pay, sometimes not.

June 2, 1934 she and Joe went by team and democrat to Leslieville, then by train to Red Deer to be married.

"Then the little mistakes started".
Betty Merle was born March 10, 1935, William Dale was born June 22, 1936; Russel Lee was born September 6, 1937, Shirley Joan was born June 27, 1939. All were born in the St. Joseph's Hospital in Rimbey. Hospital bills were paid not only in cash but with produce. The hospital canned their own fruits and vegetables, so would take most anything as payment.

They recall one trip to Lacombe in 1940 with Mrs. Nugent. They went with Mrs. Nugent and Mrs. Lindsay to a Field Day at the Experimental

Station and upon returning they ran into rain at Rimbey about eight o'clock in the evening. The road was so slippery they had to tie ropes on the car and hold it from slipping into the ditch. They caught up to Mr. Skoreiko about three miles east of Leedale stuck in the middle of the road. By pushing his car with Mrs. Nugent's they both managed to get to Leedale where Mr. Skoreiko turned north and they continued west, arriving home at 3 a.m. taking seven hours to go 20 miles.

In 1941 Joe hired the Wolney Brothers to break and disc down three acres of land. After brush harrowing it, (cut willows, tied together and pulled with horses to smooth the land) he had Vera drive the team while he hand seeded this land from the back of a wagon with the first Altaswede Clover seeded in the Aurora district. He then rented the land to Ralph Johnston, except the hay land and nothing was done with the clover. In the spring of 1943 it was such a mass they burned it off. The clover came back so thick they had a terrible time haying it.

May 16, 1942 Joe, Vera and family moved to Sylvan Lake where Joe, with the help of Maggie and Jiggs, delivered ice, milk and wood. In 1944 Jiggs became a celebrity when he led the Orangeman's Parade in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer. In 1945 they built a new home in Sylvan Lake which is now owned by Bob and Shirley Pickering.

On February 28, 1946 one more little Mannix was added to the family with the arrival of Carol Anne.

About 1943 Joe went to work for Forest Plowman delivering Imperial oil and gas and did odd jobs of carpentry until 1953 when he returned to the farm at Carlos. Vera and Carol spent summers on the farm but did not move there until 1959. Carol receiving her schooling at Sylvan Lake, Aurora, Leslieville and David Thompson. Over the years Joe served on the Aurora School Board many times.

Mannix family 1959, Betty, Joe, Dale, Vera, Lee, Carol and Shirley

Betty married Charles Albert June 2, 1953. They had three girls and two boys, Wendy, Peggy, Brian, Duane and Cindy. Cindy was taken from them in an accident September 12, 1975. They reside at Sylvan Lake.

Dale married Shirley Popiichuk September 25, 1958. They have two girls and one boy, Sharl, Connie and Randy. They reside at Sylvan Lake.

Shirley married Robert Pickering November 22, 1957. They have two sons, Daryl and Darren, and reside at Sylvan Lake.

Lee married Carro. Belt May 18, 1962. They have two girls and two boys, Vernita, Dallas, Wade and Carrie, and reside at Leedale.

Carol Anne is still single living in Red Deer.

In February 1962, Joe and Vera sold their farm to Lawrence May and after living a short time in Leslieville retired to Sylvan Lake where they still reside.

**MAY, LAWRENCE**

In the fall of 1961, I, Lawrence May, moved from Mantario, Saskatchewan to my new farm in the Aurora District. It was the former farm of Mr. Joe Mannix and my new home quarter number was S.E. 2-42-5-W.5.

Coming from the prairie, where I was bothered with hay fever, it was a nice surprise to find it disappearing in the Alberta air. Another welcome change was the amount of rain fall we received that first year but sometimes, to my dismay, it never seemed to know when to stop.

In August of 1962 I married the the former Joan Stevenson of Flaxcombe, Saskatchewan and we moved a trailer onto our farm. After being used to power, water and telephone it seemed we were homesteading, without these conveniences. Out came the flat irons, coal oil lamps and yesteryear's appliances.

The next couple years were busy ones. Joan was teaching school at Leslieville and I was busy building a barn, fences, etc. and trying to milk a herd of Holstein cows, no mean feat for a young man who didn't know one end of a cow from the other. Those winters were bad ones and it was a common occurrence for Jack or Milton Elliot to take Joan to the school bus in their democrat, as our road invariably was blocked with snow.

Our first son, James Darren, was born June 13, 1964 at Eckville Hospital and Joan became a full time wife and mother.

In the winter of 1965 we bought a Pembina Pipe line house and had it moved down from Buck Creek.

Then, was no different from 'now' and there was always lots of work to be done on the farm.

On September 21, 1966 we had a baby girl, Debbie Ann, to add to our family.

About this time I decided milking cows was not my cup of tea and slowly started a range cow herd. The next few winters were spent working on rigs up north. Believe it or not, the highlight of my wife's social life those years was the 'fence line phone', installed between our place and Jack

Elliot s. It was there in case Joan needed help, but the tingle of the phone could be heard morning, noon or night.

On September 12, 1969 we had another baby, Lisa Dawn, and that winter I stopped working away from home.

The years have a way of blending one into another and us remembering them by what has happened In 1970. Darren started schoo. at Leslieville, riding the bus to and fro each day.

Nineteen seventy one and 1972 were years spent fencing, picking roots. burning brush piles and all the other jobs to be found on the farm Clearing land is a never-ending job on a new place and you just get finished to start again

I purchased the Robb Ervin quarter, S W 2-42 5-W 5. in 1972 to add to our place This gave me high ground plus a year around spring, which I needed

It was now Debbie's turn to start school at Leslieville and Lisa followed in 1975.

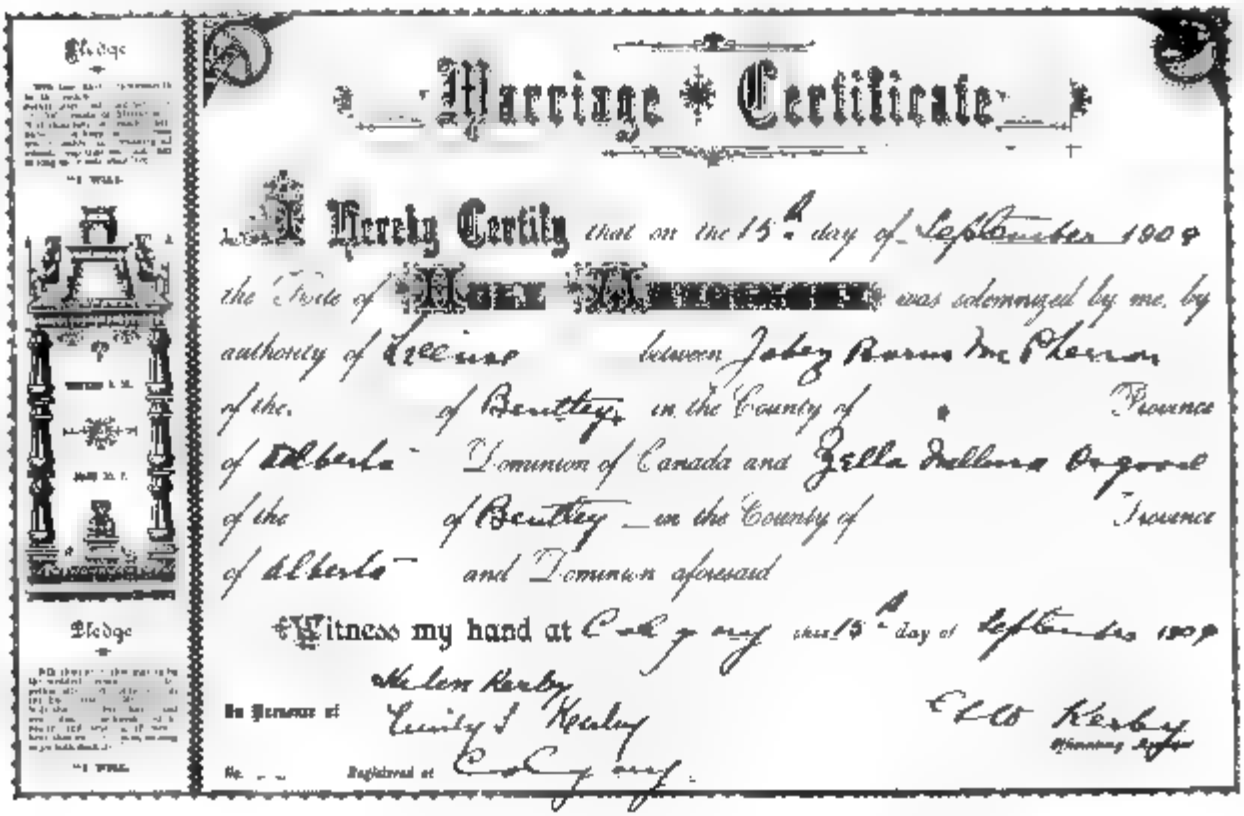
The past few years Joan has been teaching at Condor, the children have become involved in after school activities and my leisure hours are spent coaching a minor hockey team at Eckville during the winter and taking part in other community affairs the rest of the year

It's funny when one looks backward how the hardships of yesterday can bring back a feeling of nostalgia today.

**McPHERSON, JABEZ AND ZELLA — as told to John Little**

Jabez was born in 1879. He came from Clark County, Wisconsin U S A He came to Canada in 1900. Zella Mellissa Osgood was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1891. She came to Canada on the last day of January 1902 They were united in marriage on September 15, 1909. They made their home around the Bentley district

In 1913 it is believed they started up the first sawmill in township 41 5 located by the spring on the NW 17 41 5 to mill the pine and spruce on the quarter It was as most mills, driven by a steam engine, which was run by Dick Sambrooke. Jabez was the sawyer, also an edger was used. John Whitesell ran the planer It was believed to have turned out about 10,000 feet of planed lumber a day which was hauled to Bentley and Eckville Most of the freighting was done by Charlie Whitesell and Wilbur Charlie hauled the lumber with his horses to Gilby and Wilbur took over the load with his horses and finished hauling the load to Bentley where most of the lumber was sold. However, some of the lumber was hauled to Eckville. Charlie Whitesell was also one of the first homesteaders in the township, taking up the SE 4-41 5-W5 in July 1906 A brother of Charlie's, Delbert who worked at the mill, homesteaded the NW 4-41-5-W5 in May 1907



Pledge

Pledge

Marriage Certificate

I Hereby Certify that on the 15th day of September 1909 the Rite of [redacted] was solemnized by me, by authority of License between Jabez Burns McPherson of the of Bentley in the County of Province of Alberta Dominion of Canada and Zella Melissa Osgood of the of Bentley in the County of Province of Alberta and Dominion aforesaid

Witness my hand at Calgary this 15th day of September 1909

Helen Kerby
Emily J. Healey

Helen Kerby
Officiating Minister

No. Registered at Calgary.

John and Zella McPherson on their wedding day, September 15 1909

There was a second mill site started around 1920 on the NE 20-41-5-W5. Very little is known except that Jabez had to buy equipment as he had sold his machinery after the milling was finished on the first site as there was no intention of his sawing again. He had been on a picnic and seeing the stand of timber, he could not resist the urge to go sawmilling again. So he went to Lacombe to the forestry office and obtained a permit to mill.

The logging was contracted to Robert E. Hayward who employed other local homesteaders to cut the trees.

Mrs. Zella McPherson cooked for the crew with the help of Mrs. (Dick) Vivian Sambrooke. She remembers canning 500 quarts of fruit one summer which was taken out in the wagon box of oats, which was for the horses. Not one jar of fruit was broken.

Some of the crew was made up of Charlie Andrews, Frank Andrews, William Gray, William McPherson. The others are unknown.

**MORE NOTES on the fire. Information from Jack Elliot**

Jack recalls that there were about 10,000 logs that had been cut, skidded and decked, that burned down to heaps of ashes. Can you imagine the man hours of work that had gone into getting those logs on the roll ways, only to see them burn up?

As mentioned in the previous story, Mr. Montgomery rushed to the creek for safety. What made his ordeal so harrowing was the fact that nearby was a pile of between 2,000 to 3,000 logs that burned. Quite some "camp fire", eh??

It was only a miracle that saved the families who were escaping. If the fire had been but 10 minutes ahead of them they would never have made it. Had only one large tree fallen across their path it would have cut off their exit. After the fire it took thousands of cuts to clean all the fallen trees and debris from the trail to make it usable again.

Jack led Maurice McTighe from the mill to Clarence Roberts. His eyes were practically swollen shut from the exposure to smoke. Roberts fed them and bedded them down, and the Mounties brought them out home the following day.

**PENDERGAST, SAMUEL THOMAS AND SARAH WOODS — by Sam Pendergast — 1983**

Sam Pendergast came from Ontario to homestead in the Horse Shoe Lake district in 1900. On July 24th, 1907 he married Sarah Woods Jardine. Born to them were 11 children, nine surviving, namely: Vera Merle, born October 20, 1908, Thelma Olive, born February 16, 1910; Harmon Russell, born November 10, 1912, James Willard Donald, born February 16, 1915; Alma Ruth, born May 5, 1917; Lois Anna, born August 13, 1919, Phyllis, born April 1, 1924; Kenneth Hugh, born May 14, 1926; and Margaret Marie, born September 23, 1930.

In 1931 they moved to the Carlos district to homestead the N.E. 31-41-5-W 5, but lived on the Hanna place, N.E. 6-42-5-W 5, while proving up the homestead. Sam logged the first winter they were here and built a log house the next spring.

Alma and Lois attended the Aurora school a short time then took correspondence as it was more convenient. Phil, Hugh and Marg attended the Lone Deer school. Sam helped build the addition onto the Aurora school.

They farmed at Carlos until 1940 when they moved to Innisfail where Sam worked as a carpenter until he retired. He worked at the Bowden Air Port in 1943-1944.

Vera married Joe Mannix, June 2, 1934. They reside at Sylvan Lake.

Olive married William Harrison, October 14, 1933. They reside at Bowden.

Russ married Jess Erskine in December, 1935. They reside at Lantzville, B.C.

Jim married Jean Reid December 10, 1937. They reside at Prince George, British Columbia.

Alma (Toots) married Gordon Gray, June 8, 1937. They farmed in the Carlos district until Gordon's passing in 1974. Alma now resides in Eckville.

Lois (Bon) married Clarence Gray, July 19, 1937. They reside in Rocky Mountain House.

Phyllis married F. Stewart Quartly, November 6, 1946. Stewart died January 5, 1968 at Innisfail, Phyllis now resides in Red Deer

Hugh married Lanka Garnick, March 25, 1950. They reside in Rimbey

Margaret resides in Innisfail

Sam spent his retired years visiting friends and relatives, traveling in his little Anglia car. It is said that he found a new relative every trip. He was like a newspaper, for each stop he gathered information to carry on and left the news he had of previous stops. He slept away at Innisfail on September 9, 1965

Sarah being ill and losing her eyesight, didn't travel but remained at Innisfail and later in the Red Deer Nursing Home until her passing April 30, 1970

In his later years, Sam turned his hand to writing poems, one being

**This is Alberta**
While winter's grip is holding
We look foreward to the spring,
When the ice and snow have vanished
And the birds begin to sing

We look for the leaves and flowers,
To brighten up the land
It's the wonderful plan of nature,
Just the touch of the Master's hand.

When busy hands have planted
The good seed in the soil,
Farmers wait with hope and patience,
'Till rewarded for their toil

When with the rain and sunshine
There is grain o'er all the land,
Then the farmers reap the harvest.
From the touch of the Master's hand

The comes along the Autumn,
When the leaves have turned to gold.
As the sun is setting in the West,
What a beautiful sight to behold.

Time comes for the summer to take a rest
The ground to be covered with snow,
For the Northern Lights to brighten the sky,
With their white and golden glow

The wonderful beauty of nature,
When there's peace o'er all the land,
Let us stop and think it's all been done,
By a touch of the Master's hand.

**RANDALL, W. A. — by Florence Randall**

Arne William Randall, my husband for over 31 years passed away August 6, 1977. He was a man proud of his four children and two grandchildren, and a man proud of his Finnish heritage. He was a man who appreciated life and lived it to the fullest: a man who loved three things above all, his home, his work, and the sea. This handsome, dignified man of high morals bore a graciousness few men have

Our married life was as complete and beautiful as any married life could have been. We had ups and downs. But from every down we learned to cope better with the next down as well as to appreciate our many ups. We lived more in our married life than many couples in their combined lifetimes. Everything we desired or endeavored to accomplish we did. There are no regrets. And nothing unfinished

Arne consoled much more than he sought to be consoled which was evidenced by the thousands of students who sought his counsel. As one student wrote to him "You have been willing to be whatever person we needed at the time sometimes a father; sometimes a friend, always a teacher and advisor."

Where there was hatred he endeavored to sow love, where there was injury, he pardoned. Where there was doubt he encouraged faith, and where sadness he gave joy. Wherever there was despair he provided hope. His blind student, Harry Cordellis, wrote, "You opened the door for me to a beautiful world."

As a leading educator he created an environment where learning had to take place beause he cared about people. As a student wrote, "I am sure you do not remember every student whose life you have entered and effected, but you must be aware that a spark of you lives within each of us."

Arne was not a religious man, as such, but he lived the Ten Commandments. Our family's philosophy has become our religion. We believe in a higher power, but we also believe in a consciousness which enables man to realize the oneness of the Universe, to sense the presence in it and throughout it and to comprehend that love is the rule and basis of the Cosmos — or a cosmic consciousness.

We believe in reincarnation. Arne and I and the other members of our family have been together many times and will be together again. Death is merely a short separation. Arne has shed his bodily clothing and walked from one room into another far more beautiful

Two weeks before Arne passed on he experienced a few moments of supreme illumination. This experience, or revelation as he expressed it, no doubt clarified his thinking about life and death and a higher power. Perhaps this is why the night before passing away he asked for a priest. Mass was said for Arne in California the following morning, as well as in Poison

Walt Whitman asked himself, "Is it lucky to be born?" He answered his own question, "It is just as lucky to die." We can only feel that Arne was lucky too — after a seven-month bout with cancer

The rest of our family will carry on until we meet again

**RICHARDSON, ED. — by Florence Elliot**

Born in Saratoga, Minnesota, Ed Richardson came to Canada as a young man and worked for a few years in the Alliance and Daysland district of Alberta

On February 22, 1908 he married May Misner

Ed Richardson

at Daysland. To this union were born 10 children, Hazel, George, Ella, Charlie, Aileen, Marjorie Lawrence and Florence, (twins) Edna, Harvey Ella passed away at the age of seven and Charlie as a baby and they were both buried at Forestburg where the folks were living at the time. Harvey was born after they came to Leedale and was a baby of two or three weeks when he passed away and is buried in Leedale Cemetery

Many dry years and hard times forced the Richardsons to make a change and hope things would be better In the spring of 1929 they moved to the Aurora district five miles west of Leedale where they settled on the SE 36-41 5 and made their home there for several years. At that time there was only a trail from Leedale west and many springs the high waters from the Gimlet Creek or Medicine River made it almost impossible to get to the store at Leedale

Hazel and George were finished school when we arrived in the district, so Aileen, Marjorie, Lawrence and myself, (Florence) attended school at Aurora. Edna was too young but joined later We rode horseback to school and Aurora being built at the top of a hill, it meant one thing — the kid on the back end of the horse always slid off, (that was me) and I don't ever recall riding to the top I walked!

In the winter we were driven to school. The district neighbors took turns taking us and the teacher I recall one time when we were upset right in front of the school, teacher, kids, books, lunch buckets and blankets, a real show We kids and the driver thought it was real funny, but the teacher thought it was done on purpose and was quite upset about it all.

Later on we moved farther south and went to Washington Heights School. We were older then and we walked to school two and a half miles The school children used to take turns and did the janitor work for which we were paid $5 a month In the winter we had to be there an hour before the rest of the children to get the fire going and hope to have the school warm before the others got there. Those were the days!

HAZEL, married Ordell Murphy and they lived in the Bingley district. They had seven children. Del passed away, and Hazel and the family moved to Rocky After her family were all married and on their own, Hazel married a widower, Earl Gray Hazel passed away in June 1972

GEORGE never married. He went overseas in 1943 and was wounded while in service. When he came back he settled in the Bingley district also. He passed away April 2, 1972

AILEEN married Eugene Lindsay and lived in the Aurora district where she raised a family of five children. She passed away October 6, 1971.

MARJORIE married Richard (Dick) Owens, lives at Cloverdale, B.C., and has raised a family of eight children

LAWRENCE never married but he makes his home in the Leedale district. He has a house and a lot there

FLORENCE, (that is myself), married Jack Elliot, May 3, 1943 and we have six children and live in the Aurora district (Special Note — Florence passed away on December 9, 1977.

EDNA married Victor Misner, they live in the Last West district and have six children

Dad Richardson passed away in 1946 and mother passed away in 1952

**ARTHUR ROBB FAMILY — by Florence (Robb) Bobier**

Arthur Robb was the eldest son of William and Bertha Robb. He came with the family from Langley Prairie, B.C. in 1914.

In 1923 Arthur filed on the SE 20-41-5-W5 (This is the quarter more recently owned by his nephew, Leonard). This land had been part of the J. B. McPherson's timber berth. When it was opened for homesteading, Arthur filed on it immediately. He didn't live on it, although the boys built a log building on it which was convenient

Arthur's father had bought the Soltiz quarter, SW 27-41-5-W5, from Archie McKinnon in Lesideville. (He was a real estate agent, and loaned money, too). This transaction was around 1924 or thereabouts. After father's death in 1929 Arthur got the Soltiz quarter, and about four years later he abandoned his homestead so that his brother Harry could have that quarter

Arthur was married June 9, 1927. His wife Beth, had been born in London, England, had worked in Toronto, and then came to Red Deer to nurse at the Provincial Training School. I was working there, also, for a time, and while there I met Beth, and eventually introduced her to my brother Because our father would not hear tell of Arthur living away from home, he and Beth went to Red Deer, got married and Arthur got work there. They didn't come back to Carlos until father's funeral in October, 1929.

Beth and Arthur had two children, Clarence and Margaret. Beth belonged to the Ladies' Club and Arthur was active on the school board Arthur built the four-roomed, two-storey log

Arthur and Beth Robb and children Margaret and Clarence 1939

Clarence and Margaret Robb with their dog Ginger 1939

house, with the verandah, that still stands on that land, although no longer occupied

Arthur farmed until 1941 when he had a farm auction sale and moved to Sylvan Lake. About this time he joined the army. After his discharge the family moved to the coast, where Margaret married Bruno Weler. They have two daughters and a son. Clarence also married, and has four sons. He is a postman in Kamloops, B.C.

Later on, Arthur and Beth moved to Rutland in the Okanagan Valley, then in about 1958 or so they moved back to the coast to White Rock.

Arthur passed away July 5, 1969, and his wife, Beth, died the following spring.

**ROBB, HARRY — by Janet Robb**

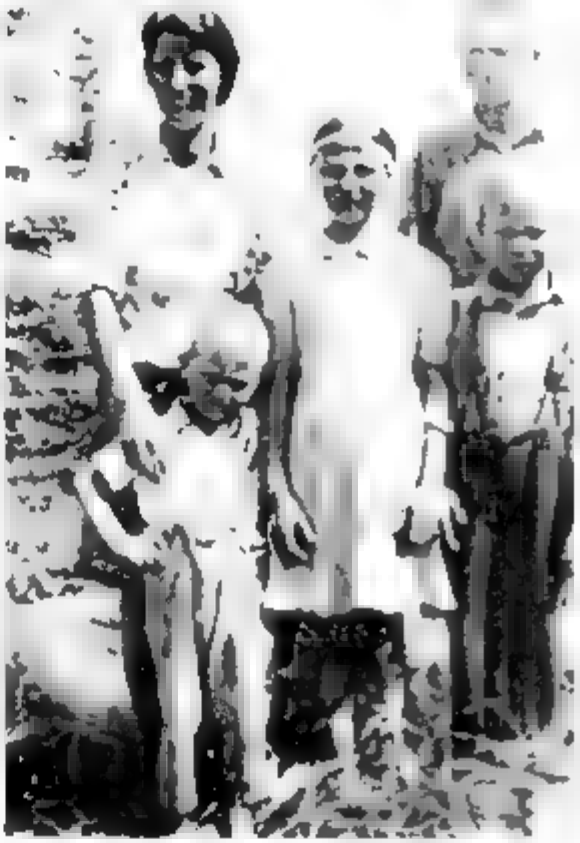
Henry Joseph Robb, (Harry), was the youngest son of William Robb. He was born September 5, 1896 at Langley, B.C., one of twins. His twin brother Howard Stephen died in February 1901 at the age of 4½ years.

Harry came to Alberta with his parents, brother Arthur, and sister Florence in June 1914. He was drafted into the army during the first World War. While training at Petawawa Camp in Ontario in early 1918 he became sick with pneumonia. Had it not been for his friend Bert Baxter finding him so ill, he would likely have died. When he was well enough to travel he was discharged and sent home, but was a long time recovering.

He would work in the bush at McPherson's lumber mill in the winter. He also worked with farmers during the summer months. He liked horses and usually sported a good saddle horse.

When Arthur Robb returned from Toronto to take over the family farm, he abandoned his homestead in Harry's favour. When the Tom Skorstengaard family arrived in the district, they rented Harry's farm until they had a house built to live in on their own land.

Harry was united in marriage to Marion



Marion and Harry Robb Leonard, Norma, and Howard

Alma Laye in 1934. Marion was born April 23, 1901 near Wiggins Lancashire, England. She was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Laye, who settled in the area between Leedale and Rimbey. Marion came to Canada, by boat, when she was five years old.

Harry and Marion lived for many years on Harry's homestead farm. Later they moved a half mile farther north to NW 21 which was purchased from Herb and Wilf Dale, the land where their son Howard and family still live.

They worked hard through the years, and built up their farm. They purchased one of the first tractors to be used for farming in the district, a new John Deere model AR.

Harry and Marion have three children — Norma, Howard and Leonard and fourteen grandchildren.

NORMA married Harvey Stewart and now lives on a farm at Bluffton. They have three children — Leslie, who is married, and Ronnie and Marilyn.

HOWARD married Janet Wilson. They have six children.

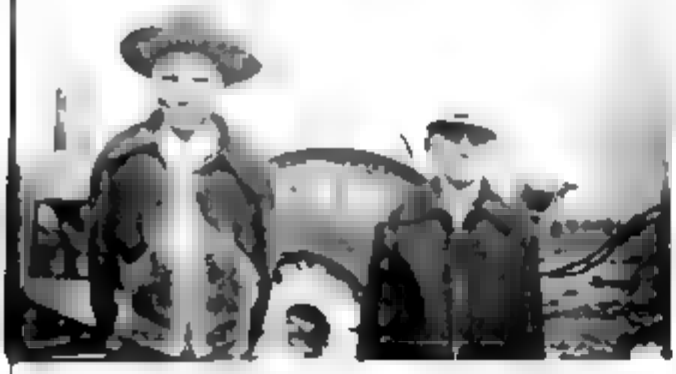
LEONARD married Debra Wilson and they have five children.

Harry passed away in Red Deer hospital September 18, 1952. For many years Marion lived on the farm with her sons. She eventually retired to the Rimbey nursing home where she resided until her passing on July 23, 1974.

**ROBB, HOWARD**

Howard Stanley Robb was born May 28, 1938, the oldest son of Harry and Marion Robb. He took his schooling mostly at Washington Heights, but also attended Aurora for a short time.

At the age of 14 years, after the death of his father in 1952, he and his ten year old brother Leonard, undertook to carry on the farming operation. They would go to school through the day, and as soon as they got home, they would head for the fields, sometimes working till after midnight to get the land seeded in the spring and harvested in the fall. They cared for a herd of cattle and put up the hay for their winter feeding.



The Robb Brothers - Howard and Leonard, about the time they started farming.

A few years after their father passed away their mother, Marion, was stricken with a paralytic stroke, and invalided. So for many years the boys cared for their mother as well.

For several years the Robb brothers, Freitag brothers and Carl Skorstengaard jointly owned a threshing machine and all worked together at harvest time.

In 1965 Howard and Leonard purchased a cat" and entered into the construction business. Since then Howard has worked throughout the north central Alberta region on road construction and oil field work.

On December 20, 1963, Howard married Janet Wilson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson of Bingley. Howard and Janet have six children, and now live on the farm his parents once lived on. Their children are Pamela, Angela, Becky, Sheldon, Monica and Sherman.

**ROBB, LEONARD**

Leonard Franklin Robb was born April 30, 1942, the second son of Harry and Marion Robb. He took all his schooling at Washington Heights.

Leonard's childhood was cut short by the death of his father when he was only 10 years old.

Leonard started in at the age of 10 and along with his brother Howard, they farmed their father's land.

Eventually Leonard owned the quarter section his father had first owned, the SE 20-41-5.

Leonard was united in marriage to Debra Wilson on January 8, 1966. Debra is the third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson of Bingley. Leonard and Debra have five children, Kevin, Calvin, Dean, Denise, and Melanie.

For several years Leonard and his family lived in a mobile home on the home place. In October 1968, an oil heater fire completely destroyed their home and contents. For the next six years the family rented the William Lees buildings. Leonard's mother lived with the family for several of these years before retiring to Rimbey.

Leonard has sold his quarter of land to the Bill McIlwraith family, and now resides on an acreage near Oras. In 1965 he went into the road and oil field construction business with his brother. He now works independently, and owns and operates "Len's Enterprises", a company of heavy equipment machines. He also owns a few head of horses. Horses were something his father was always interested in too.

**WILLIAM ROBB AND ED BOBIER FAMILIES — by Florence (Robb) Bobier**

William Robb was born in Fergus, Ontario, and his wife, Bertha, was born in Belleville, Ontario. They married and lived at Langley Prairie B.C. In May 1914 William Robb came to Alberta to look for land in the Peace River country. When he went to the land office in Calgary he was directed to the country north of Leslieville.

He chose the SE 22-41-5 W5, then went back to Calgary and filed on it. This land had been abandoned by Carlos Sleeper, an earlier homesteader from North Dakota, U.S.A. Mr. Sleeper had built a building 16' by 32' intending to have a store business. He tried, but with little success. He also tried to get a post office, but before that was completed he became discouraged and handed it all over to Jalmer Ostrem and his wife, and returned to North Dakota.

In June 1911, the Robb family came, bag and baggage, to Alberta. My brothers, Arthur and Harry, and a friend of theirs, came in the boxcar with four horses and household goods and some farm implements, besides furniture of Mr. and Mrs. Hayward. The boxcar was shipped to Blackfalds, then had to be unloaded and the things freighted by wagon and teams from there to Carlos, a distance of about 50 miles.

My oldest sister, Bertha (Mrs. Harry Patterson) was left behind in Vancouver, B.C. My other sister, Ethel, was away to St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. visiting relatives when we moved. She later came to visit at home when she returned from St. Paul. A few years later she married Frank Bain at Hardisty, Alberta, and they made Edmonton their permanent home.

My mother and myself, Florence, then a young girl of 11 years, came by C.P.R. to Red Deer. We took a stagecoach from there to Burbank, where we caught the C.N.R. going west. We arrived in Lea.leville some time in the night, found our way to the Hopkins Hotel and after supper we went to bed. The next morning Mrs. Hayward and four children (our travelling companions) started off for Carlos in one vehicle, and Mother and I in another. We had a spanking fine team of drivers and buggy all from the livery barn. We were the first passengers over that "rocky road to Dublin." It was a drive of some 10 miles over muskeg and rough roads. Arrangements were made for Mother and me to sleep at a neighbor's, Mrs. Ostrem's, home. Nils Satterland, another neighbor, gave up his home so we two families could use it until our houses were ready to use.

The second day after we arrived Mother and I decided, after breakfast at Mrs. Ostrem's, to walk the mile to our house. There it was, sitting on the top of a hill — no trees, and well exposed to the wind from all directions. We took a look around. The yard was strewn with tin cans, paper and garbage. Inside, the floor wasn't too dirty. There was a single board partition across the center of the house, but no ceiling and no windows. We saw a ladder-type stairway up the west end of the house and a hole in the floor was the way upstairs. Once we had climbed the "stairway", we found that one end had been used for a hay mow and chickens. We swept and did our best, but soap and hot water were badly needed.

The load containing our stove, beds, and some cooking utensils finally arrived and we moved into our house. To erect the stove was the first major job, as it required six feet of stovepipe for a chimney. The Hayward family occupied the east room downstairs, and we slept upstairs, while the kitchen was shared by all 11 persons until the Haywards had erected a building to move into. In this new country we soon learned we had unwanted company at night. People who were no longer in the country had had bed bugs — and we packed them home in our clothes. The legs of the beds were set in cans of coal oil and the beds were searched regularly for these creatures. We could often find them in the desks at school.

That first winter, Arthur and Harry got work at McPherson's mill nearby. Before they went to work at the mill, though, they went hunting somewhere west of Herman Freitag's homestead. They shot a deer, hung it in a tree and came home. Harry collapsed about one-half mile from home. Arthur came home and Father went back to help Harry home. Early next day Arthur and his father drove back and brought the deer home. This was a real treat added to the bread and flour gravy which had been our daily diet. For breakfast rolled oats and bread, dinner bread and gravy, supper the same. Occasionally we had a meal of boiled beans for a change of diet. We didn't even have potatoes that first summer. When Arthur had worked in the mill for awhile he got a sack of potatoes for wages. We learned that the potato water in which the potatoes had been cooked improved the flour gravy when added to it. Without even one bite to eat, Father drove over 25 miles in the spring of 1915 to find potatoes for seed. After that year we had plenty of potatoes. We ate a lot of rabbits in the first winter, but when they became diseased we stopped eating them. The next year we had a garden, turnips, carrots and parsnips made a welcome addition to our meals. It was two years before we had milk. Father bought a cow at a sale. She wasn't a good milker, but even that little was a big help. It also added butter to our menu. There was no trouble with water, although it had to be hauled in barrels from a nearby spring. A cold job on a winter day, but it was good, pure water.

In the summer of 1915 Father and Arthur went to Vulcan to work in the harvest with two teams and two racks. During their stay there, one of the horses got loose, and died from eating too much wheat from a bin. Shortly after this, the other horse died, and this was quite a severe loss. Father came home with the remaining team and rack, and Arthur stayed to earn more money.

Two years later Mother was offered the post mistress job, at a salary of $100 per year. The company and social side of the job meant considerable to her, as she couldn't get out among the people, and this job brought them to her. She kept this job for the next 19 years, and Father got the job of carrying the mail at the same time.

There was no school for me to attend that first

William and Mrs. Robb with Arthur, Harry and Ethel and Daughter 1922

summer. However, by 1915 Nils Satterland offered his house for a schoolroom and a teacher was hired. By 1917 our Washington Heights School had been built and I finished my grade schooling there. In 1930 I went to Three Hills Bible College.

Mother missed her church connections and felt that there should be some witness in the neighborhood. Both Mother and Father were raised Presbyterians in Ontario. They wrote to the Presbyterian Board in Red Deer and in 1920 William Wilson of McGill University was sent out for the summer months. Sunday services were held fairly regularly for the next five years. In 1933 I held Sunday School in Washington Heights, then in the afternoon I walked over to Aurora, four miles away, for another service. I would eat a lunch along the roadside.

In the spring of 1927 Arthur got married in Red Deer and worked there for the next two or three years. In the fall of 1929 our father was admitted to the Red Deer Hospital. He was operated on for cancer of the stomach, but died October 11, 1931. He is buried in the Lesliеville Cemetery.

Mother and I stayed alone on the farm for the next year. We hired Charlie Ambury to help with outside work. Arthur and his family arrived in the late fall of 1930 to take over the work on the farm, and they lived with Mother while I went to Bible College. A year later when I came home I found Mother was not too well, so I stayed home to care for her and Arthur and his family moved to the John Soltiz farm. We rented the land to an outsider, and with the post office, my garden and the cream cheques we managed.

I bought a cow and ten-day-old calf from Mr. Entenap for $25. She was an excellent milker, rich in cream. In the fall of 1935 I bought another cow from Bill Erskine. She didn't prove to be such a good milker, so I had her butchered. I canned one quarter of the meat, returned a quarter I owed to Arthur and sold one-half for $15, the price I had paid for the cow. The next fall I sold the calf for $19.

We couldn't continue to live in the old house on the hill, so early in the spring of 1937 I took out a home-improvement loan. I contracted the job of tearing down the old house and building that little stucco house on the south road near the west corner of our quarter. Ival and Earl Johnston built a barn and chicken house of logs for us. We moved into our new house on August 19, 1937.

The need of a store in the district became evident, so I talked over the idea with my friend, Will McKinnon, a merchant in Lesliеville. He stocked me with some groceries, and I opened up the store in the kitchen along with the post office. All was going quite well, but oh, the work! Shipping cream, caring for the cows, pigs, chickens and my garden, as well as the post office (my mother having retired in 1934) was all my responsibility. With the added work of the store I decided I needed a helpmate, and this led to my decision to get married.

My husband, Edmund Bobier, was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, August 22, 1901. He had taken his teacher's training course, then decided to go homesteading in the Peace River country. We were married May 12, 1939. When I married I was required, by the laws in force, to relinquish my position as postmistress.

Now I had one job less, and some help, but not for long. World War II broke out and my husband joined the Airforce and my brother Arthur joined the army. This left me with the store, the farm work, and my first son, who was a real comfort to me. The old adage "there is no rest for the wicked" certainly applied to me. My second son, Stanley, was born while my husband was still in uniform, and ten and a half months later my third son, Alfred arrived.

Alfred's arrival caused a bit of excitement, as he was born two months prematurely. My husband had been discharged from the Airforce by this time, so about nine o'clock in the evening of February 13, he got the team and cutter ready, wrapped me in blankets in the sleigh, and we set off for the Eckville Hospital, 25 miles away. At Lesliеville we changed into Mr. William McKinnon's car and he hurried me on to Eckville. In spite of icy roads we arrived safely, and just after midnight my Valentine was born. That was a race for life, and my three-pound baby lives today, a man of six feet three inches tall.

On April 1, 1945 we moved our family to Condor and purchased the Killick's store business. For five years we carried on there, but in 1950 sold out and moved to the Peace River country. The Government was offering returned servicemen land there. Due to the fact that we already owned a quarter there we moved onto it, and then looked over the Government land. We took a half section near Belloy, and I started in homesteading again. We lived in two 12' by 14' granaries that we had built on the land. Later we did move the house from Edmund's first homestead onto this land. We farmed here until

1965, when we sold out and moved to the city of Grande Prairie. In 1972 we were on the move once more. This time we bought a home in High River. It has proven to be a lovely place for retirement, and with my son Alfred this is where I am living today.

My mother, always a very tiny frail-looking person, moved with us to Condor, and then to the Peace River country. She went homesteading with us when she was 88 years of age. On December 19, 1960, Mother passed away at our home near Belloy, at the ripe old age of 98 years. She had given birth to seven children but never once in all her years was she in a hospital. Four of her children predeceased her. Harry's twin died at the age of five years, and my twin at the age of nine years, before we moved to the Carlos area. Harry died in Red Deer Hospital from cancer, on September 18, 1952. Ethel died January 8, 1959, and Arthur died July 5, 1969. My husband, Edmund Bobier, passed away here at High River in October, 1974.

Although my family has grown smaller, my memories of them and the life we all had together remains as clear as ever. My two older sons are married, and I have three grandchildren. I am active and busy with my garden and home here, and I love to travel.

**ED ROBINSON — by the Robinson Family**

Dad was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A. on August 1, 1895. He came to the Assask area of Sask. with his parents in 1912, later moving to Rearville, in the Chinook area, where they had homesteads. Ed married Alma Beryl Clipsham in January, 1917. She was born in Ontario May 19, 1899. They farmed in the Chinook area for a time.

In 1928 dad, my uncle, and some neighbors went to the Peace River country, looking for land, and some of them found land to their liking in that area. However, later that fall, dad bought land in the Condor District. They moved in the spring of 1929, on account of the depression. They came by Model T Ford and their possessions came by train. The first stop was a farm south of Condor. Five children, Arthur, Jean, Edgar, Gordon, and Dora had been born while dad and mom were living in the Chinook area.

Robinson Family. Mother, Jean, Edgar, Art, Dad, Dora, Gordon and our old Model T 1928

One episode that I remember was that my dad's sister, a school teacher, came to visit us. As the roads were far from good, one mile of which was rough corduroy, she decided that the side looked much better; she was lucky that her car didn't break through the muskeg! After finding out what muskeg was, she decided to keep to the roads in this country.

We later moved to a rented farm east of Condor. In these years we attended Rearville School on the prairie, Daisy Nook, and Shady Lane Schools in the Condor area. We had to ride horseback, and later walked, as there was no bus in those days.

In March of 1932, dad moved the family to a farm in the Aurora District where we attended that school. This move was made by team and wagon — over poor roads! Alice, Donna and Roger (Bud) were born in the Aurora area.

My parents were active members of the district. Dad was on the school board and belonged to the original Social Credit Party, which put on entertainment in the district. In 1932, there were a number of families who moved into the district, so the little log school had to have an extension added to accommodate the 45 pupils.

There was a spring south of dad's called King Springs. This is where they held picnics and ball games every Saturday afternoon. People came on horseback, with teams and wagons, or walked. No one was too busy then to enjoy an afternoon of sports. We had a creek past our buildings which froze and flooded in the winter time. The young people of the district found this an ideal skating rink. There was also a big hill just west on Heringer's, which made a good bobsled h...

Mother started the first ladies' club in the district. It was called the Aurora Ladies' Sewing Circle. Its main purpose was to teach the young people how to sew and do different crafts.

In 1946, Robinsons had a sale. They had sold the farm to their son Art. With their three youngest children they moved to British Columbia, where they lived until the fall of 1947. At this time they returned to Alberta and settled in Leedale. In 1950, Mother took over the post office, where she was postmistress for 17 years. Dad passed away at the end of May, 1951. Mother was a member of the U.C.W. and was the Leedale news correspondent for several years. When she left Leedale she took a trip to Ontario, the place of her birth. Here, she attended the Exposition, as well as visited her aunt. Upon her return, she settled in Red Deer, where she was very active in many organizations until her passing in September of 1974, at the age of 75 years.

The Ed Robinson family included eight children. Art, the eldest, farmed the home quarter for 40 years.

Jean married Rob Ervin

Edgar Robinson was born in Calgary on May 3, 1920. He helped at home and attended Rearville, Daisy Nook, Shady Lane, and Washington Heights Schools, and took Grades 11 and 12 in Leslieville and Rocky Mountain House. We, Edgar and I (Jean), walked the four and a half miles to Washington Heights, and we never missed a day of school. In 1939, Edgar, along with two neighbor boys, went to British Columbia to pick fruit. He met with an accident, and was killed in June 1939 at 19 years of age

Gordon was born at Youngstown, Alta. on August 31, 1922. He took his schooling at Shady Lane, Daisy Nook, and Aurora Schools. He helped at home, and worked out a lot. His favorite pastime was riding his saddle horses. Along with his brothers, he cut posts and shot rabbits to make extra money during the winter time. The rabbits were stacked like firewood in our yard that winter, waiting for the trucks to haul them to the fox farm. He moved to Elnora and married Issie Mundorff. They had three children, Carolyn, Gilbert, and Beryl Lee. They then moved to Innisfail to an acreage, where another son, Douglas, was born. In 1969, they lost their eldest boy in a motorcycle accident. Gordon is a carpenter, and works around the Innisfail area.

Dora was born in Hanna on February 17, 1924, and came with the family to Condor at the age of four years. She received her education by attending several schools before completing high school at Rocky Mountain House. She married James Wingate in 1944, and has resided on the farm in the Benjamin community since her marriage. Before marrying, she worked in Leedale and in the Co-op stores. They have two daughters, Connie and Lana, and four grandchildren

Alice was born in Rimbey on October 21, 1935. She took her schooling at Aurora and Leedale Schools, later boarding in Rimbey where she received her high school education. In 1953 she married Raymond Tschabold. They have two children, Frank and Yvonne. They reside on a farm north of Rimbey

Donna was born in Rimbey on April 1, 1937 She took her schooling in Aurora and Leedale, and later attended high school in Rimbey In 1956, she married Donald Rimbey. They have three children, Barbara, Wayne, and Colleen, also one grandchild. Both Alice and Donna remember riding a shetland pony to school at Aurora. Bud also rode with them

Roger (Bud) was born in Rimbey on October 25, 1938. He took most of his schooling in Leedale after returning with his parents, Ed and Beryl, from a year spent in British Columbia Throughout the years he worked as a farm laborer, on pipe lines, road construction and oil rigs. He married Margaret Dyrland. They lived in a trailer, and moved as the work did. Later they bought a farm west of Leedale, and lived here for a couple of years before they sold the farm and bought a house in Leslieville. They lived in Leslieville until Roger passed away in January, 1975. They had six children — Brenda, Shane, Amy, Crystal, Lance and Amber. His wife, Margaret, sold the house and moved her family to Enderby, B.C. She bought a trailer and is living at Mara Lake and working in Enderby

**YOUNG, G. — by E. Young**

Gordon and Elaine Young and daughters purchased the property, NE 10-41-5 and SW 14-41-5 from Semeen Ahrameen in 1973. They moved on to the property in 1976.

Gordon and daughters, Kathy and Gayle, were born and raised in Revelstoke B.C.

Elaine (nee Sarauer) was raised at Annaheim Saskatchewan

**WHEN PA IS SICK**

When Pa is sick, he's scared to death,
An' Ma an us just hold our breath
He crawls in bed an puffs and grunts,
And does all kinds of crazy stunts.
He wants Doc Brown in mighty quick.
For when Pa's ill, he,'s awful sick
He gasps an moans an sorta sighs,
He talks so queer an rolls his eyes,
Ma jumps and runs, an all of us,
An' all the house, is in a fuss,
An' peace an joy is mighty skeerce
When Pa is sick — it's somethin fierce!

**WHEN MA IS SICK**

When Ma is sick she pegs away,
She's quiet though. not much to say,
She goes right on adoin' things,
And sometimes laughs, or even sings,
She says she don't feel so extra well,
But then it's just a kinda spell,
She'll be airight tomorrow sure,
An good ole sleep will be the cure.
An Pa, he sniffs and makes no kick,
For women folks is always sick,
An Ma, she smiles, lets on she's glad
When Ma is sick — it ain't so bad.

Woman was created from the rib of man
She was not made from his head — to top him,
Nor out of his feet, to be trampled upon,
But out of his side, to be equal to him,
Under his arm, to be protected
And near his heart, to be loved.

# Diamond Valley, Bluebell

**ANDERSON, ALLAN AND CORA**

Allan Anderson was born in the Diamond Valley district. His folks originally came from Sweden. His dad Oscar Anderson lived in North Dakota for some time before coming to Alberta. His mother was Signe Hendrickson before she was married. She came directly to the Diamond Valley area with her folks when they came from Sweden.

Allan took his schooling at Diamond Valley School. He spent most of his life on the family farm, which his father homesteaded in 1903. He still farms and does carpenterwork besides.

In 1958 he married Cora Temple from Neudorf, Saskatchewan and ever since they have lived in the town of Eckville. Cora was born and raised in Neudorf, Saskatchewan area and took her schooling at Duck Point School. She worked in a dry goods store and bakery before coming to Eckville. After she came to Alberta she worked at various jobs, the longest time being with Seatrap and Co. Allan put in 17 winters in the lumber camp, running the "edger", and for the last four years Cora went along to be the cook's helper.

Allan was among the folk who helped get a church erected in the Diamond Valley district about 1935 and Allan and Cora have always been members of that congregation.

**ANDERSON — BROOKS FAMILIES — by Arvid Anderson**

The history of our family in central Alberta began with the coming of John Nelson, an uncle of my mother's, from Varmland, Sweden in about 1900 to homestead the NW 2-38-3W5 on October 27, 1902. This land later became the home of Adam (Scotty) McPherson family.

Mr. Nelson, spelled "Nilson" in Swedish was a minister of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church, and after homesteading he continued to minister to the Scandinavian communities of the central Alberta area. He became widely known as "Preacher Nelson", travelling by team, and sometimes on foot covering an area from Coronation on the east, through the Camrose and Wetaskiwin and Pigeon Lake settlements on the north and nearer home, from Alhambra to Burnt Lake and Red Deer. He was associated for many years with the Burnt Lake Mission-Covenant and Swedish Baptist churches, and I understand, was also a home-missions worker for the Presbyterian Church of Canada from 1904 to 1908. The John Nelsons had two children. Joe Nelson was elevator agent at Hespero (originally Pitcox) for a time after leaving his farm, SW 14-38-3W5, west of Evarts. He went from there to Meeting Creek as elevator agent and finally to Bowden to own and operate a garage with his sons, Russell and Harold, until his death. His wife was the former Ingeborg Lund, a registered nurse, whose home prior to her marriage was the Horseguard district, south of Alhambra. She still makes her home in Bowden at this writing. Naomi, the daughter, became Mrs. "Jack" Torgorud of Red Deer, and was the mother of Raymond (Ray) Torgorud, who was among the first announcers with CKRD when it was established in Red Deer. Ray will be remembered especially for his reading of the daily newscasts.

Preacher Nelson was fascinated with the primitive beauty of his new homeland in the Parklands area of Alberta and immediately after his arrival from Sweden began to write back to the "Old Country", urging his relatives to follow him. This soon resulted in my maternal grandparents coming to the Red Deer area. "Grandpa" Eric Hendrickson, Norwegian by birth, and a 27 year veteran of the Swedish army, was becoming tired of the regimentation and controls associated with life in Europe and was looking for the kind of freedom enjoyed by the people of the new world, so he was open to this persuasion. He arrived in Red Deer with his wife Karen and their youngest daughter Signe, who was then 14 years of age, in 1903. The rest of their family, Aaron, Fred and Carl Hjalmar Erickson followed within the next eight years, Aaron coming last in 1911. The older daughters, Mrs. Anna Nyberg and Mrs. Bertha (Oscar) Selstrom also came, Mrs. Nyberg to Red Deer and Mrs. Selstrom to a farm south of Burnt Lake.

Mr. Hendrickson, after his arrival in Red Deer worked for a time at carpentry prior to homesteading and coming west from Red Deer to what was then a part of the Evarts area, but

now Eckville. He homesteaded SW 28-37-3W5 where Jim Murray now lives. He was especially adept with the "broad-axe"; an art he had learned in Norway, and at constructing log buildings with the "dove-tailed" corners and scribed lower edge channelled to fit together — a characteristic Scandinavian and Finnish type of construction. Some of the log houses he built in about 1904-05 have been lived in continuously since those pioneer times and with improvements to the finish and renovated to modernize them, are still in use today. Notably; that on his own homestead occupied by Jim Murray, the house on the Logan farm and also that on the Ed Darbyshire farm.

My father, Carl Oscar Anderson known locally as Oscar, arrived in Alberta from farming near Pleasant Lake, North Dakota in 1903. He worked with the late Dan Clausen, later a well known citizen of Eckville, helping to operate a sawmill on the NE 10-38-3-W5, presently owned by John and Neva Craig, and on which I am now building on an acreage. While so engaged, my father homesteaded the NW 10-38-3-W5. He married Signe (Eric's dottur) Hendrickson in 1907 and they made their home on his homestead, where a frame house and barn had been erected. They lived there until my father's death in March, 1918. Before his death, he had with the help of the late Oscar Oastrom and others cleared and broke about 100 acres of his homestead land.

Three children were born to them here: Astrid, Arvid and Allan. Astrid died at the age of 16 while still at school at Diamond Valley. Allan now lives in Eckville and still farms land homesteaded by our father. I, Arvid, was born on father's homestead and grew up in the Diamond Valley district and received my public school education and first year high school in the country school of that name. The original building has been renovated and now serves as a community center. My first teacher was Miss Pauline (Polly) Hutchinson. At the time of my birth, the village of Evarts, three miles to the east of my parents' farm was still a thriving center, but the hope of being on the route of the Alberta Central Railway, which by-passed Evarts to the north through Benalto and "Kootuk" (later re-named South Eckville), by the C.P.R., was beginning to fade at that time. This turn of events dashed the hopes of Evarts becoming a metropolis, but it continued for many years to be the Post Office for that area, until the establishing of Eckville's Rural Route No. 3, at which time our postal address became Eckville. My earliest recollections of Eckville include the hitching-posts that used to stand along main street with a horizontal beam at about three foot height, to which saddle horses and teams were tied. Also there were tie-sheds behind the stores which fronted the west side of main street. Fred Isaacson's garage opened on the street near where the hotel now stands. Dr. P. L. Backus, who set a broken arm for me at age 11, occupied what is now the Roy Saari residence. There were then these long-established Eckville businesses, Mike Sestrap's General Store, Forhan's Drug Store, the Co-op (in the building where the bakery and confectionery have been more recently), J. T. Marshall's hardward, Cowan's International Harvester agency, Dan Clausen's Insurance and a restaurant operated by a smiling Chinaman known widely as "Happy". There was the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Isaacson's Garage, a hotel, Maclin's blacksmith shop, the Eckville Creamery, Moro's flour mill. A landmark as you entered the village from the south was Walter Herring's house on the corner opposite the C.N. crossing. The Eckville School of that day is now Leo Remmard's welding shop. There was a livery-barn between the present Co-op main store and Llivam's Garage, which later became the Isaacson Garage and which afterward was destroyed by fire.

In the 1930's I began taking Bible College training with the object of entering the Christian ministry. Upon completing this training, I was ordained to the ministry under the Apostolic Church of Pentecost at Port Coquitlam, B.C. Shortly after ordination, I took a pastoral charge in Victoria, B.C. While pastor of this assembly, I married Bertha Harty, then residing in New Westminister and employed at Royal Columbian Hospital. We had met while attending the Fundamental Bible College in Coquitlam. Our daughter, May, now Mrs. Brian Van de Wark was born while we lived in Victoria. From Victoria we went to High River, Alberta to pastor a church there during the years that the town was a training center for the R.C.A.F. where young men were being trained for overseas service in World War II. It was here that our second daughter, Beverly was born.

After a number of years we moved to Lemberg, Saskatchewan to take charge of a church there. After five years as pastor of this church, some health problems developed which were the cause of my requiring a change of occupation for a time. It was for this reason that we returned to the Central Alberta area, living for a few weeks in the Horace Meeres' house at Condor, then going to Benalto where we spent three years and finally moved to Eckville where I established the sash, door and cabinet business known as Anderson Woodworking. The first shop-building to house this business was erected in October of 1953 on the lot purchased from the village, and opened for business in November of that year. Many houses in the Eckville area, built during the years 1953 to 1965 are fitted with windows, doors and kitchen cupboards manufactured in this plant.

In 1954 we moved the former Buchanan residence from Benalto to Eckville and after renovations, it became our home for the next 23 years. In 1956 our son Bryan was born in the Eckville Hospital.

As the work increased, the original woodworking shop was enlarged, the shop area was doubled in 1961 and 1967 a two-storey front for office space with a basement for a heating plant was added

In 1968 Dual-Craft Industries Ltd. was formed for the manufacture of the Chalet folding trailer unit and truck canopies and campers. An assembly building 40 ft. by 120 ft. was erected for this purpose and the wooden parts manufactured in the former sash and cabinet plant were assembled in this building and shipped to customers as far away as Halifax, Nova Scotia and Waterloo, Iowa, U S.A

During our years in Eckville, I was secretary for a time of the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company I spent some years on the Town Council and when Red McAndrew resigned to move to Red Deer, I succeeded him as Mayor continuing until business duties forced me to drop out of civic service

In the early part of this year (1977), the Dual Credit Industries and Anderson Woodworking properties were sold to Mr Donald Macrae and his partners. As our Eckville residence formed a part of this property, it meant a move for us. We are at the present moment engaged in building another home on an acreage on the same quarter section where, some 74 years ago, my father in company with Dan Clausen sawed the lumber for his homestead house and barn

Mr. and Mrs. Arvid Anderson family.

Our daughter May Van de Wark lives in Calgary where her husband Brian is a member of the Calgary City Police Force since 1962. Their family consists of two daughters, Cindy and Shannon Our second daughter, Beverly is Mrs Nell Kuhn. Her husband was employed for several years with Dual-Craft, as foreman during which time the Kuhns had a home built in Eckville. Upon leaving Eckville they went to Hope, British Columbia to a business of their own. They have three children, Shelly, Lorlie and Shane. Just recently the Kuhns have sold their business in Hope and now reside in Abottsford where Nell is in the automotive parts business.

May, Beverly and Bryan got most of their public school and high school education in Eckville schools. May spent her first year after leaving high school with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Our son Bryan lives with us and is at present with Donald and David Macrae in the Dual-Craft business

In order to complete the history of our family, I should add that after my father died in 1918, my mother rented the farm to a relative for two years and in 1920 married James Brooks who had homesteaded NW7-38-3W5, which he sold later to Frank Page and purchased instead the land now owned by Orla and Andrew Nielsen. His homestead was until recently the home of the Cucas family

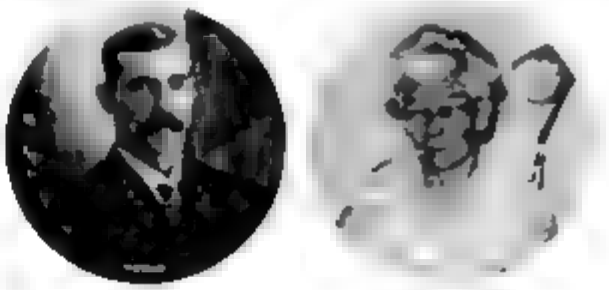


Photo of James Brooks, taken in Manitoba, and Mrs. Brooks

After my mother's marriage to "Jim' Brooks, they continued to make their home on my father's home place. Their children are Harry Brooks of Leslieville who married Ada Wingate; Alford Brooks who spent more than 20 years with the Canadian Air Force and now lives with his wife, Beatrice, formerly of Halifax, N S at Summerland, B.C. and Myrtle, Mrs. Arthur Bott of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. A more complete record of the Brooks' family history will be found under the names of Brooks and Bott.

**ANDERSON, CHRIS JR., — by Lillian Anderson**

Chris Anderson Sr. was born in Beirsted, Denmark, on June 26, 1883, coming to the Fort William, Ontario area, where he worked for the railway company laying track. He came on west to the Medicine Hat area of Alberta and filed on a homestead south of Seven Persons in 1908. Here he met his wife, the former Gonda Van Maarion, who, with her parents and family had immigrated from Rotterdam, Holland to Canada in 1910. They farmed in the Seven Persons area un-

Van Marven's and Chris Anderson Sr.'s approx. - 1909 Homestead days at Seven Persons, Alta.

ti. drought and crop failure for several years forced them to leave. The government offered to help such farmers by giving them two free railway cars for their belongings and family to relocate. The Andersons, with their family of eight children, moved to Cheddarville, south of Rocky Mountain House, to S 12-37-7-W5 in 1925. Their land at Seven Persons was later sold at a tax sale

In 1928 the family moved to the Daley farm N 31-37-3-W5, where they farmed until January of 1931, when they bought the E 15-38-3-W5 from a Mr. Hepworth, who was a creamery owner in Red Deer They moved their belongings on wagons, as there was no snow that winter and no frost in the ground. This lack of frost enabled them to put up fences for their cattle, horses and pigs. In 1950 Chris sold the farm to Chris, Jr He and Mrs. Anderson then retired to Calgary where Mrs. Anderson passed away in 1956 and Mr Anderson in 1977

In 1942 Chris Jr. married the former Lillian Lightbown of this district and they still farm the home place They have two children. Margaret Newlands, who has been a stewardess for P W A. for 10 years, and her husband, Brian, who is project manager for Cascade Development Ltd. in Calgary, along with their daughter, Kirsten, live at Bragg Creek. Son Richard, with his wife, the former Pat Snider, live at Sylvan Lake, where Pat is a teacher and Richard, after obtaining a B.Sc. Degree from the University of Alberta, is employed with the Alberta Hail Project of the Weather Modification Board at Penhold

Mary Anderson married Elvin Ross and they live in Calgary They have a son, Robert, who is with the armed forces in Ottawa

Gonda Anderson's first husband passed away in Calgary around 1951. They had one daughter Marlene, who lives in Calgary. Gonda married George Humble and they now live at Crossfield

John Anderson, who was serving in the Navy was lost at sea in the sinking of the "Spikenard in the north Atlantic on February 10, 1942 at the age of 24 years.

Lillian Anderson married John Rowles in 1936 and they live in Calgary. They have a son, John, Jr

Charley Anderson also served in the Air Force for several years. He is now in the Real Estate business in Red Deer. He married the former Laureen Ralston in Red Deer in 1941 and they have one son, John, of Waterton Lakes, and two daughters, Joan of Calgary and Janice of Red Deer

William Anderson (Charley's twin) was a fighter pilot and was shot down over Germany on March 24, 1945, and died at the age of 24 years This was during the second world war

Carl Anderson also served in the Air Force for quite some time. Upon returning, he farmed in this area before going to Calgary to work for the city He retired from this job in February, 1977 He married the former Helen Kulyk of Oyen in 1955 and they now live in Calgary

**BLUEBELL SCHOOL**

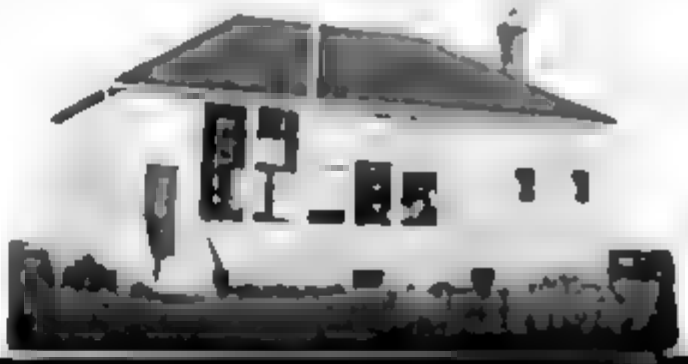
It seems that all the records of the Bluebell school have been lost. However, it was one of the early schools and should not be forgotten

We know it was opened in 1905 with Miss Ada Brown as teacher Miss Brown later married John Killick. Some of the teachers were: Miss Cochrane, J. M. MacDonald, Miss Coughlin, Miss Johanson, Mrs. Wannass, Miss Camron A. Barrie, Miss Norton, Miss Stewart, William Morris, Mrs. Wolma, Mildred Anderson, Mrs Owens, Mrs. Earl Hansen, Miss Golightly, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Macintosh, Miss McKee, Mr Bowles and Mrs. Savoy

The school was named by Mrs. Hansen whose favorite flower was the bluebell and they grew in abundance around the school. The teachers in those days usually boarded with the farm families. A teacherage was built about 1949 The janitor work was done by one of the older pupils for which they were paid the large sum of $10 per year All they had to do was to get to school early enough to have the school warm by nine o'clock, have the wood carried in and carry the water from across the road. In the holidays they washed the windows and scrubbed the floor

Olaf Medin, a bachelor, lived across the road and quite often gave the janitor a helping hand by stoking up the fire in the morning He also

Bluebell School



Bluebell School children - 1928

planted a hedge of spruce trees around the school yard

Some of the first families to send children to school were Isaacsons, Bottons, Rasmussens, Hansens, Pedersens, and Bradshaws. The first school burned down in 1932 at Easter. The children were not allowed to enjoy a longer holiday however, as half of the barn was new and it was turned into a classroom. The new school was built and ready in the fall.

The school house was used for many social activities, such as card parties, dances, business meetings, and the annual Christmas concert. The last day of school, picnics were always an enjoyable event. The school closed in 1955 and the children were bussed to Eckville. The school was sold to Art Moench who remodelled it for a family dwelling. It is now owned by Ezra Isaacson.

Other teachers at Bluebell school were I. G. Dodson, Mr. Strerrett, Miss Huttin, T. J. Knoor and Mr. Gleeb.

**BOLLER, CHRISTIAN**

Christian Boller came to Alberta from Oslo, Norway in 1905. After a period of time working for the railroad he started farming with his cousin, Hans Olsen in 1909. Later they bought the quarter of land known as the Bensen Place, SE 20-38-3-W5. They farmed together for a few years then Chris sold his share to Hans. Chris then bought a quarter of land from Jack Coughlin, which is at present owned by Henry Nagel.

In 1924 he married Selma Botten who had come to Alberta with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Botten in 1902 from South Dakota, U.S.A. Prior to her marriage Selma worked in Red Deer for a few years.

For a few years during the 1940's they owned a quarter of land that they bought from August Christensen, at present owned by Cliff Hansen. Upon selling this they bought the Coughlin quarter directly east of their home place.

In 1947, they retired from farming to live in Sylvan Lake, later on moving to Red Deer, and in 1963, they moved to Calgary. In 1964, Chris and Selma celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Chris passed away in 1966 and Selma in 1971.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Boller 40th Anniversary

Chris and Selma had one daughter, Verna. She attended the Diamond Valley school. In 1949, Verna married Bruce Castleman from Sylvan Lake. They moved to Calgary, where they still reside. They have four daughters, all of whom live in Calgary.

**THE BOTTEN FAMILY — by Iris Rasmussen**

One of the first families to move into the Evarts district was Halvor Knut Botten and his wife, Gunhild Ellingson, born July 21, 1862 and April 15, 1864 respectively, in Fraa Halingar, Norway. They had a family of four daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Botten emigrated to the Evarts district on November 3, 1902 and along with them came Pete Pedersen, his wife, Sifred and their family. Mr. Pedersen was a brother of Mrs. Botten.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten settled on the SW 33-38-3-W5 and homesteaded the NE 28-38-3-W5. The land Bottens settled on was Canadian Pacific Railway land. It is now owned by Martin Gefle. Pete Pedersen settled on NW 28-38-3-W5. Pete and his family lived in this area until 1908 when he sold the land to Nells Rasmussen. This land is now owned by Mrs. Theressa Rasmussen and rented by Elmer Rasmussen.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten were interested in educating their daughters. Mr. Botten donated two acres of land on which to build a school which became known as the Bluebell School. It was in operation from about 1904 until 1955. All the Botten girls attended this school.

Mr. and Mrs. Botten's oldest daughter was Thilda Hagrimsen, a daughter of Mrs. Botten by a previous marriage. She was born in Minnesota, U.S.A. on January 23, 1892. As well as attending the Bluebell school, Thilda also attended Central School in Red Deer. She worked at the Evarts Hotel for a time before marrying Hans Olsen in

1911. There were five children born of this marriage. Thilda Olsen passed away in 1932.

The second daughter was Clara Oleda, born June 5, 1895, also in Minnesota. She worked at Lundberg's hotel and later clerked in Sestrap's store in Eckville. Clara married Frank Andrews on July 25, 1921. Clara and Frank had five children. Clara passed away in Red Deer on December 7, 1975

Selma Christina, the third daughter, was born March 3, 1898 in South Dakota, U.S.A. After securing her education at the Bluebell school Selma worked at various places doing household chores and caring for children. Her duties were performed for Thilda Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Dodd Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Edgar. Selma married Chris Boller on March 18, 1924. One daughter, Verna, was born to this marriage. Chris and Selma farmed in the Diamond Valley district. They retired to Sylvan Lake. They later lived in Red Deer and Calgary until their passing Chris in February 1966 and Selma in December of 1971. Both are buried in Queen's Cemetery in Calgary

Thressa Botten was 10 months old when she came with her parents to the Evarts district, having been born in South Dakota on January 8, 1902. Most of her years have been spent in this immediate area. She recalls some of her teachers' names Miss Brown, Mr. Knox, and Mr Ptolmey. At the age of 12 years Thressa worked for Mrs. Bill Schuneman, an old timer of this area, now living in Red Deer

Thressa was the first telephone operator in Eckville. She ran the switchboard in Lundberg's hotel. She worked and trained for a year at the switchboard in Red Deer, then returned to Eckville to operate the switchboard there for seven years. Following her work at the switchboard, Thressa returned home to care for her folks until she married Orvel Rasmussen on August 31, 1932.

Thressa and Orvel, along with hogs and cattle also raised chickens and turkeys for many years. Just before Christmas was a busy time for turkey puckers. Thressa and Orvel, along with Albert and Hazel Hansen and Gilbert and Jean McNeil, worked together in the short cold days of December at their respective homes to dress a great many turkeys. Orvel passed away April 26, 1962.

Thressa is interested in flowers. She learned to work with wool and made many quilts, and still enjoys knitting She resides in Red Deer.

Gena Helena, the youngest daughter, was born September 1, 1904 at her home in the Evarts area. After completing her school days Gena remained at home with her parents until she married Rudy Rasmussen on February 14, 1923. Gena and Rudy lived on the NW 28-38-3-W5 for a few years and their first two children were born here. Later they moved to the NE 29-38-3-W5. Four more children were born to this family Gena Rasmussen passed away shortly after the birth of Helena on February 13, 1933. She is buried in the Medicine Valley cemetery.

Halvor and Gunhild Botten's home was situated geographically between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. In the early years people travelling this way with sleighs in winter and wagons in summer needed food and lodging for the night. Mrs. Botten was always able to find food to share. There was always a place for people to rest and get warm.

During the early years Mr. Botten would transport people to Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House. Jim Grandohl, a young man from Rocky Mountain House brought people either by cutter or buggy as far as Bottens. Then Mr Botten took everyone the rest of the way to Red Deer, often travelling at night in very cold weather Mr. Botten also hauled freight back and forth in the early years

Thressa (Botten) Rasmussen tells of different ways her Norwegian mother prepared food in the pioneering days. When coffee was in short supply Mrs. Botten used wheat. She would wash it well and put it in the oven. Over the wheat she poured a little molasses. Next it was roasted slowly until dry This roasted wheat was stored and ground the same as coffee. The taste was equally as good. Milk was nearly always in plentiful supply. Mrs. Botten made different kinds of cheese, roma, grout and vealing, a dish made of thickened milk, served with sugar and cinnamon

Mrs. Botten passed away October 16, 1934 after a brief illness Mr Botten continued living on the farm until his passing a few years later Both Mr. and Mrs. Botten are buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery

**BROWN, JIM, MR. AND MRS.**

James Brown and Helen Dobie were both born and raised in Scotland. They were married at Dalkeith Mid-Lothian, Scotland on April 30, 1915

After Dad's return from active service in World War I, he resumed his business as a coal merchant, but the urge to emigrate was upon him The decision to be made was — Australia or Canada? With the toss of a coin they chose Canada and on May 11, 1929 Jim and Nellie and their four children, Jimmy, Mary, Alex and Jemima left Greenock, Scotland on the "S.S. Metagamma" bound for Alberta, Canada, through the Soldier Settlement Board Scheme

After seven days at sea, and, I must say, not all pleasure, with seasickness, man overboard and icebergs, we landed at Quebec From there to Kootuk by train, where we were met by the late A.J Thubron, in place of Mr Goldfinch, who was supervisor for the Soldier Settlement Board. After an overnight stay at the Eckville Hotel, Mr. Goldfinch took us by car to Hespero, where we collected our baggage off the train and loaded it onto a hayrack and horses belonging to Donald

Hartley, who took us to the farm one mile east of Gaetz school, SW 6-38-3 W5

At first glance the buildings on the farm were a big disappointment but the decision had been made and the best had to be made of it. The land had been rented by a neighbor, Louis Hubl, for the year, so Dad worked for neighboring farmers to learn the Canadian ways of farming.

A barn was built and our first milk cow was purchased from L. Hubl. Bessie, our first animal on the farm, became a real pet and we did have milk. Our first team of horses and harness were purchased from another neighbor, John Mayles. Machinery and more horses were purchased at various farm auction sales, and then we were ready to start farming.

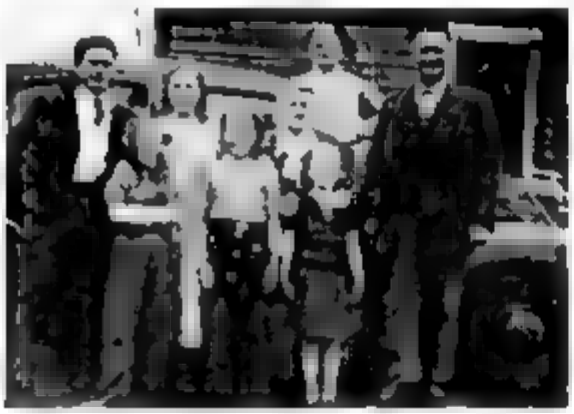
After coming from a town where Mother was used to the butcher and baker vans coming to the door, this was quite a change. The stove was a big challenge and learning to make bread was another, but with the help of kindly neighbors these problems were overcome. Mother knew how to make scones and many a time a scone and cup of tea was served and enjoyed in our home.

Our school was Gaetz, only a mile away, and the post office was at Hespero. Dad was a great walker, and often walked for the mail and the few necessities, including coal oil for the lamps. Later on we could get coal oil at N. F. Erickson's, and our mail route was R.R. 3.

Our social life consisted of the school picnics in June and the Christmas concerts at the school. Many a Friday night saw the family walking to Hubls (our closest neighbor) to listen to the Old Timers from C.F.C.N. Calgary. To hear a few Scottish tunes did much for the morale. A few house parties at different homes were always enjoyed, and the children were always included.

In November 1930 a baby girl, Janet, arrived, with Mrs. Charlie Wright attending as midwife. With the 1930's came the depression and all it brought with it; but with courage, pride and determination we came through.

Dad served on the school board and was secretary of the Farmers' Union for many years.



L. to R. Jimmy Brown, Virginia Chase, Mary Brown, Pat Brown, Mrs. Brown, Alex, Janet and Mr. J. Brown. 1937

Being a very military-minded man, he was instrumental in starting a Legion in Eckville, in which he is still active and holds a life membership. Through the Legion he started the "Burns Suppers". He is also an ardent member of the Friendship Club.

In 1939, when World War II broke out, Jimmy joined the Calgary Highlanders and went overseas in 1940. After his return he married Ruby Wayne of Calgary. They now reside in Camrose, where Jim is employed with the C.F.C.W. They have two girls, Barbara and Elizabeth, and one granddaughter, Rebecca.

Mary married Harry Medin in 1940 and they reside in the Diamond Valley district. They have two sons, Ronald of Hanna, Dennis of Rocky Mountain House, and a daughter, Faye, (Mrs. Jim Pollitt) of Eckville.

Alex joined the Royal Canadian Navy in 1944 and in 1947 married Sylvia Mottus of Gilby. They now reside in Rocky Mountain House and have four sons: Duncan, of Fort Murray; Robert of Vernon, B.C.; and Grant and Gordon of Rocky Mountain House.

Pat married Jim Setters in 1947. They now have an acreage near Blackfalds. They have two sons, Byron of Red Deer and Wilson, at home, and a daughter Janice (Mrs. Dick Gehrke) of Rocky Mountain House.

Janet married Robert (Bud) Lightbown in 1952 and they have a family of two girls, Karen, (Mrs. Jim Tubbs) and Myrna (Mrs. Peter McLellan of Rocky Mountain House, and three sons, Garry, Murray and Dean.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown 50th Anniversary April 30, 1965

In 1965 Jim and Nellie retired from farming and moved into Eckville where they still reside. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in 1977. Mother celebrated her 96th birthday anniversary on March 1, 1977 and Dad his 88th birthday anniversary on July 31, 1977.

**ALASTAIR BROWNLEE FAMILY**

"Red" and Bernice Brownlee and family came to the district from Joffre, where "Red" was employed in the oil-field. They bought the NE 32-38-3-W5 and NE 33-38-3-W5 from S. E Boettger in 1965. Their family consists of four children — three daughters and one son. Heather the eldest is employed in Red Deer, Karen who married Ron Andrew, lives north of Eckville, and has one daughter Gina, Sandra married Bob French and lives at Joffre; they have two daughters, Tracy and Michelle; Brian attends high school at Eckville

**BURNS AND FREW — by W. T. Burns**

I was born in Quebec in 1897. At four years of age I moved to California with my parents, a few years later to Oregon, then, in 1909 to Claresholm, Alberta and to the Ricinus district in 1913. In 1915, during World War One, I enlisted in the 22nd Battery in the Artillary, and spent three years overseas. I returned home to help my parents and to work on my own land. My parents were old timers of the Ricinus district. My mother passed away in 1923 and was the first white woman to die west of the Clearwater River. My dad passed away in 1929.

In 1926 I moved to the Diamond Valley district and married Margaret Frew, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Frew, who came from Scotland in 1913 to the Evarts district and later moved to Ricinus. In 1947 they moved to Eckville and lived in Eckville for 12 years. Mr Frew was well known for his accordion playing

Mr and Mrs E Frew

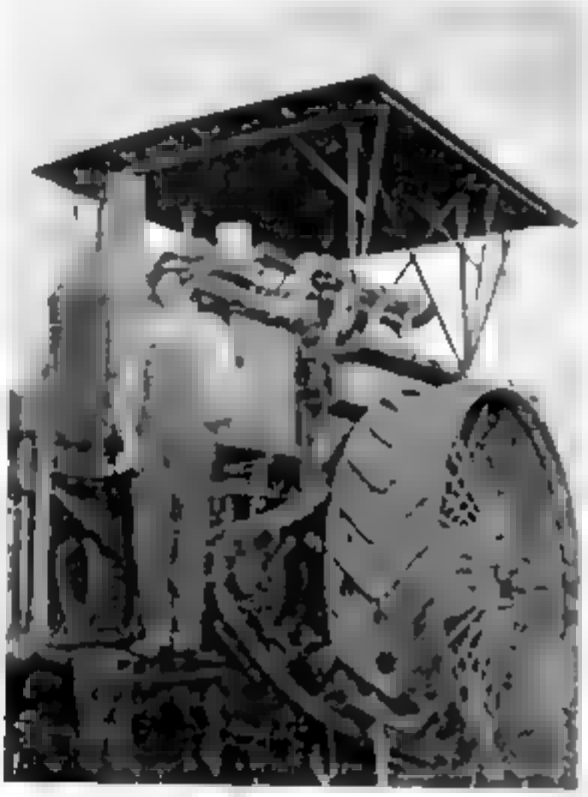
Mr Frew's work in Scotland had been making and moulding iron in the Crown Ironworks One day on the farm he found a piece of iron with the Crown stamp on it We thought he had found gold! He was so happy to have found a piece of iron with the Crown stamp on it, that he had made in Scotland

Mr. and Mrs. Frew both lived to be 90 years of age. She passed away in 1959 and he in 1960

My wife and I lived in Diamond Valley for 44 years. We raised a family of three sons — Bruce, Stanley and Robert — who now live and farm in Diamond Valley and are well known.

We had many ups and downs in the early days, especially through the thirties, but many happy days, too. It was a good life.

Now, in our older years we enjoy living in Eckville and enjoy our many friends here. We moved here in 1971 and last year (1976) we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary



Wyc Burns on gas tractor - 1912. 3 cylinder - 3 wheels - Buffalo Pitts

Wyc Burns and Family 1939

**BURNS, ROBERT**

Robert spent his growing up years in the Diamond Valley district with his parents, Wycliffe and Margaret Burns, and older brothers, Bruce and Stanley. After attending school at Diamond Valley and Gaetz, Robert went out to work on the oil rigs. He spent 10 years in the oilfields, with the majority of these years being spent working for the Duke Drilling Company. At the time he started drilling for them, he was told that he was one of the youngest drillers in Alberta.

With due consideration, a decision was made to make his life's work and home on the farm. He then went home to Diamond Valley and purchased the Lightbown home quarter, SE 5-38-3-W5.

In July of 1981 Robert married Deloyce Tolonen, daughter of Toimi and Elsie Tolonen and sister to Rodney. Deloyce grew up north of Eckville and took her schooling in the Estonian and Eckville High School. After two years of teacher training she taught in Bentley for two years. Following her marriage, she taught in the David Thompson High School. In the term of 1982-1983 Deloyce returned to university to complete four years and graduated in 1983, receiving a Bachelor of Education degree. She taught only until the arrival of her family. Family additions were three — Brent, Drena and Lance. Since the Burns' farm is on the edge of the Red Deer County, the children attend the Spruce View School.

In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Burns moved to Eckville, at which time Robert took over the farm, SW 5-38-3-W5, and in the meantime had purchased the Philip Larson quarter, SE 6-38-3-W5.

Bob is very interested in cattle. Along with a range cow herd, he is presently establishing a purebred Simmental herd. He and his brother Bruce operate a feed lot.

Bob, Deloyce and family are active community members, plus being members of the Diamond Valley Church. Bob is a Church Board member and has served on the Eckville Co-op Board for seven years. The family is active in the Range Land 4-H Beef Club, of which Bob is presently the leader.

Farm life for the R. Burns family has been very busy but rewarding and happy as well.

**STANLEY BURNS FAMILY — by Anne Burns**

Stanley Roy Burns, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Wycliffe Burns, married Anne Dobia, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dobia of the Evergreen district. The wedding took place on November 3, 1950. They lived in the house which Stan had built prior to their marriage on his father's farm.

In the year 1953 Gayle was born on February 11 on her grandmother Burns' birthday. She, being their first grandchild, was named after her grandmother, Margaret Gayle.

That spring Stan and Anne purchased the N 5-38-3-W5 from Douglas Walker. In the fall of that year they moved their house onto this land. The families that had lived on this land prior were Bill Ballance, Jack Day and Douglas Walker.

During the years from 1953 to 1956 the rainfall was very heavy. Stan decided to go into hog farming with grain farming being their chief occupation.

On February 27, 1955 another daughter, Beverley Anne, was born. By this time Stan had bad luck with his hogs and the crops were poor, so he decided to do some bush work for the winter, west of Rocky Mountain House. By the fall of 1956 he began roughnecking on the drilling rigs and this he continued for ten winters.

During these years and Stan's earlier years a lot of softball was played. The first team in the district was New Hill, which later changed to Gaetz and finally was called Central. This team consisted mainly of the same players and all those years Stanley played as pitcher. There were many teams taking part in different districts and they formed a league. Softball games were the chief sport in the surrounding communities for 20 years. The tournaments were plentiful, and enjoyed by all.

In 1963 Anne and Stan built a new house with Jack Friesen being hired as carpenter. Many homes in the community were built by Jack, as he was a very good carpenter and a fine fellow.

Beverley and Gayle attended school at Spruce View except for Gayle's first year at Benalto and last year in Red Deer, where she graduated. Gayle took training in Dental Assisting at NAIT. On July 20, 1974 she married Peter Stan and they are now residing in Calgary.

Beverley has completed four years of university towards a B.Ed. degree. In the fall of 1977 she began teaching at Sundre, Alberta.

Stan has served on the board of directors for the Eckville Rural Electrification Association for many years. He has held the position of

Stan Burns Family in 1976 with son-in-law Peter Stan. Back row: Gayle and Peter. Front row: Anne, Beverley Sheiden, Stanley

secretary for ten years and at present is the board chairman.

Both Stan and Anne have served on the board of several worthwhile organizations in the community

A son, Sheldon William, was born on March 16, 1970 and at present is attending Spruce View school.

During the past several years Stan has been growing rapeseed, barley and some hay. Animals on their farm have been scarce, except for chickens and pets

**CATON FAMILY — by May Caton**

Glen Caton, born in Missouri, U.S.A. on October 7, 1882 was the son of Harrison F. Caton, born in Ohio, and Helen (Whitlow), from North Carolina. The youngest of five children, his father died when Glen was four years old. After leaving school Glen went to Nebraska and then joined his brother, Charlie, in Montana before they came to Alberta in May of 1902

Glen and Charlie were the first to settle where the Diamond Valley swings west into township 38, across range four, west of the fifth meridian. As land west of the fourth was not yet surveyed, they squatted on the south half of section 12, and build a slab shack on the south-east quarter. In 1903 they were joined by their widowed mother, a brother, Oscar (Doc) and two sisters, Sadie and Jessie. Charlie went on to Nome, Alaska in 1903, where he stayed a year and then returned to Washington in the United States. He died in 1930 at the age of 56 years.

When range four was surveyed Glen filed on S.W. 20-38-4 W5th, which was CPR land. Doc retained his land and the girls sold theirs. All the family except Glen then moved to Washington in 1912.

Mrs. Glen Caton

Doc returned to Alberta in 1917. Jessie married Alex Stewart and returned to Diamond Valley in 1936. She now lives in Red Deer. Sadie returned in 1960 and died in Red Deer in 1972

Glen remained on his homestead for 55 years He was married in 1910 to Catherine Stewart, daughter of Angus and Janet Stewart who came from Ontario in 1905, to join a son, Alex Stewart, who had homesteaded in range three in 1901. Glen's family consisted of five sons and five daughters

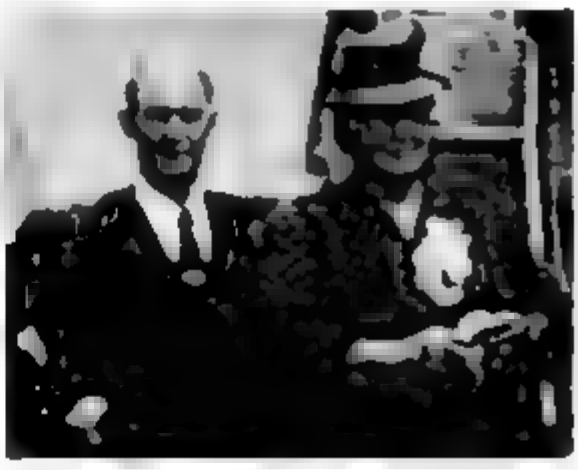
Cecil, the eldest, entered the service of the Imperial Bank of Canada and has remained with them except for the years he spent with the Royal Canadian Artillery in the Second World War. He married Eleanor Robson Galbraith and they have two children, Alan and Janet

Claude resides on the land homesteaded by his Uncle Doc. He married May Medin and they have one son, Stuart

Harold lives on the home place — he is the bachelor of the family. Russel and Gordon, who both served overseas in the Second World War now operate a farm machinery and dairy supplies business in Red Deer. Russell married Margaret Morris and they have a son Gary, and a daughter, Lyn

Gordon married Myrtle Chamney. They have three sons and one daughter. They are Bill, Dale, Glen and Lou Anne.

Edith Caton married Gordon Meyer. They live near Manning, Alberta. They have two sons, Lance and Ian. Ethel married Gordon Wilson, they live at Kevisville. Lillian married Don Major, they live at New Westminster, B.C., and have five children — Roland, twins Lewis and Lana, and twins, Connie and Catherine. Dorothy married Robert Park. They have one son and three daughters — Layton, Patricia, Darline and Lori. They live on a farm near Rocky Mountain House. Marjorie, formerly a nurse at Eckville, married Elmer Haupt and they farm in the Markerville district. They have a son, Murray, and daughters, Irene and Joan.



Mr. and Mrs. Glen Caton

Always interested in community affairs, Glen was secretary of the Local Improvement District, helped in the formation of the Municipal District of Raven No. 37, the formation of Gaetz School No. 1956 in 1909, was on the first committee of the Central Community Hall, was on the Eckville hospital board and the Eckville Co-op Board. As the district changed, he got his mail at Evarts, Evergreen, Hespero and Eckville. Many of these post offices have now been closed.

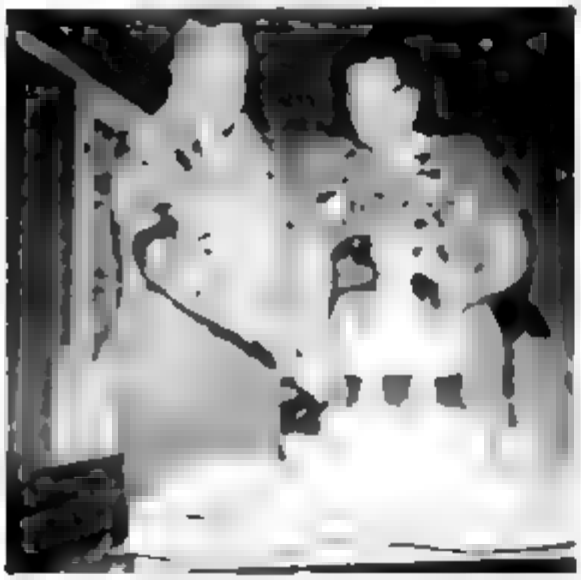
Glen passed away on March 17, 1957 and Mrs. Caton on January 3, 1969. Both are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

**CORDON, WILLIAM JAMES — by Violet Safron**

William James (Bill) Cordon was born at Bonnemain, Donegal, Ireland on December 15, 1921. He came to Canada with his parents, John and Annie Cordon, to the Hespero district in August, 1923, where he attended the Daisy Nook school. After leaving school he worked with his parents on their farm.

He purchased his first truck in 1942 and went into the business of general trucking. During the following years he hauled cattle, grain, coal, gravel, lumber and moved people and their belongings into and out of the district.

Bill married the former Hazel Anderson in 1947 and they lived for a few years on the farm near his parents. During this time he continued trucking and eventually purchased two gravel trucks. They moved to Eckville in 1953, from where he hauled gravel in the summers and hauled lumber and ties from sawmills out west in the winters. In the fall of 1957 and spring of 1958 he hauled gravel on the new Trans-Canada Highway, which was being built west from Calgary. He purchased his first gravel loader in the spring of 1960 and his first gravel crusher in the spring of 1964. With his son Robert he now carries on the gravel business the entire year.



Anne and John Cordon 40th Wedding Anniversary and Farewell Party November 18, 1966, Hespero Hall

Hazel was born in Wetaskiwin, Alberta on February 22, 1926. She grew up and attended school in the Millet district. After leaving school she worked for a time in Edmonton, and from there joined the C.W.A.C. in 1944. She was trained as a driver and continued in this work until her discharge at the end of the war in 1945. She attended business school after returning from the Service and worked as a stenographer until she met and married William Cordon.

Bill served for three years on the Eckville Town Council, and was a member of the Eckville Lion's Club for several years. Hazel is a member of the C.W.L. and the Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion. Both Bill and Hazel love the outdoors, and enjoy fishing in winter and summer.

Their children include Barry of North Vancouver, B.C., Nora (Mrs. Florian Hiebert) of Red Deer, Noel of Calgary, and Robert, Sandra, and Kelly of Eckville.

**Robert James Cordon** was born at Eckville on July 6, 1950. He attended school at Eckville and Lacombe, and graduated from the Lacombe Composite High School in 1970. When he was 11 years old, he took over a paper route, and delivered the Red Deer Advocate for seven years, from 1961 to 1967. During this time he was a member of the Eckville Cubs and Scouts for two years. He was an enthusiastic skater and hockey player, and played hockey every season with the Eckville Pee-Wees, Bantams, and Juveniles through the years 1961 to 1967. He has always had an interest in antique cars and trucks, and has owned two Model A vintage cars. He has recently built and completely restored a 1954 G.M.C. pickup truck. Robert is presently employed with his father in the gravel business.

**Noel John Cordon** was born at Eckville on December 10, 1956. He attended school at Eckville and Lacombe. He was a member of the Eckville Cubs and Scouts and ran a paper route for a time. He was in Vancouver for a short time, where he was employed by a painting firm. However, he returned to Alberta and worked at Deerhome in Red Deer for a year. He is presently living in Calgary and is employed with Blossom Florists.

**Sandra Anne Cordon** was born at Eckville on December 15, 1960. She attends school at Eckville, from which she expects to be graduated in 1978. She is a former member of the Eckville Figure Skating Club. She is a C.O.C. leader, and a member of C.G.I.T. She is active with the Yearbook staff of the Eckville High School, and is completing her seventh year of music study. She worked for the summer of 1976 as a playground supervisor for the Town of Eckville.

**Kelly David Cordon** was born at Eckville on May 6, 1962. He attends school at Eckville and was in Grade 10 in 1977. His hobby is drawing.

and he has won prizes at the Red Deer fair for his work. He attended art classes at Red Deer College in 1976, and with the Eckville Handicraft Guild in 1977.

**William Barry Cordon** was born in Eckville on December 27, 1940. He was raised by his grandparents, John and Annie Cordon, on the farm at Hespero. He attended the Daisy Nook, Blue Bell and Condor schools, as well as the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer. He later attended the University of British Columbia. He was married in Edmonton on November 24, 1962, to Jeannine Carduner of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and lived for a time in Montreal and in Ottawa. He traveled extensively through Europe and Asia and the South Seas, finally settling in North Vancouver in 1969. Later he opened a restaurant there, which he named "Hespero Villa". It was decorated with antiques — dishes and oil lamps collected from his grandparents' farm and friends in the Hespero area. The Safron children designed the antiqued sign "Hespero Villa", which he proudly displayed in the restaurant. Barry is active, playing the piano for an old time orchestra, and is a frequent visitor to the Hespero and Eckville areas, and never fails to visit his grandmother Cordon at Sylvan Lake.

**Nora May Cordon** was born at Eckville on October 22, 1948. She attended school at Eckville and graduated in 1967. When she reached junior high school she became thoroughly involved in sports. She joined every team, but track and field was her favorite. After practice, she did babysitting. There were always lots of jobs to be had. During her high school years she participated in volleyball, softball, curling and track and field. In 1966 she represented Eckville in the discus throw at the Provincial Track and Field Meet in Calgary.

Nora was fortunate in being able to take a Recreation Leadership course, organized through the Department of Youth from Edmonton. This course, held at the Composite High School in Drumheller during July of 1965 and 1966, enabled her to organize a ladies' keep fit group, which had a successful season during the winter of 1966-1967. She also coached a Grade 6 boys' softball team, which proved to be quite an experience.

After graduation in 1967, she went to Red Deer and found employment at Deerhome (now Michener Centre) on the recreation staff. After a year there she left and took a secretarial course. She was later able to work as a posting machine operator at Northwest Motors during the three month leave of absence of the regular employee. This gave her some valuable experience, and she then found employment with the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Red Deer as a posting machine operator. She worked here until her marriage to Florian Hebert of Red Deer, on April 11, 1970. They have two children, a boy, Laverne, aged six years, and a girl, Shannon, aged four years.

Nora is a member of the Order of Royal Purple No. 21, a member of St. Judes Circle, which is a branch of the Catholic Women's League, and is active in curling and bowling. She and her husband are both members of the Parkland Two-Way Radio Club, and are involved in C.B. and ham radio work. They reside at 6193 Hamilton Drive, in Highland Green, Red Deer.

**CRAIG, JOHN — by Neva Craig**

John Craig, older son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Craig of the Happy Hill district, grew up on the family farm and learned responsibility early in life. He took a real interest in the operation of the farm and helped to clear and break a number of acres of land. In 1935 he bought a quarter section of land in Diamond Valley, N.E. 9-38-3-W5. He married Neva Crawford and this farm was their home until his retirement from active farming.

To this union were born: Maureen, Murray and Brian. Maureen became a Nursing Aide and is married to Melvin Dyck. They live at Penhold, and have three children.

Murray married Darlene Gherke, and after their marriage lived for a time on the family farm. Later they moved to Carstairs where Murray was employed with Richardson's Trucking. After two years he moved to Macklin, Saskatchewan, where he was employed with an oil company.

Brian lives on the farm formerly owned by Andrew Crawford.

John's main interest has always been livestock. He became a promoter of Charolais cattle, and had a small herd for a few years. He and his wife retired from active farming in 1974 when Murray returned to take over the family farm. However, they still live in the district, and have a small herd of cattle.

**CRAWFORD, ROBERT — by Neva Craig**

Mr. Robert Crawford came from Grande Forks, Minnesota, U.S.A. to Saskatchewan, where he filed on a homestead. However, he decided to come to Alberta and did not return to the homestead. He liked the country around Red Deer so the family joined him there in 1905. They spent one year there and then moved to the Happy Hill district. Charlie Hendrickson, a bachelor, was their closest neighbor and the children were quite taken with his table. It sat in one corner of his house, and its base was a tree stump.

Mr. Crawford later rented the Liggot place in the Diamond Valley district and their five school-age children attended Gaetz School until the school at Diamond Valley was built. The family lived on several other rented farms before finally buying the S.W. 16-38-3-W5 in 1920. There were about 13 acres under cultivation when it was purchased. During the next 12 years Mr. Crawford and his son, Andrew, cleared by hand about 112 acres, and broke it with horses.

Mr. Crawford passed away in 1940, but his

wife and son, Andrew, continued to live on the farm. Andrew was married in 1949 to Anna Liner of the Rimbey district

Mrs. Crawford passed away in 1951

The eldest daughter, Pearl, married Sid Satchwell. She passed away in 1919, leaving one son, Walter, who now resides at Golden, B.C.

Agnes married Dan High and lived most of her married life in Red Deer. They have one daughter who resides in Calgary

Louise married Bill Thomas some time after his return from overseas, in the First World War. They had one son, who resides in the Red Deer area

Frances married James Bird, and they have one son and one daughter. Mr. Bird passed away in 1961

Temple taught school for several years after which she married William Campbell who passed away in 1966. Their two daughters are both married.

Neva was the only member of the family born in Canada, and still resides in the community. She is married to John Craig. They have one daughter and two sons

**AUGUST DAHLGREN FAMILY**

Gust Dahlgren came to Fargo, North Dakota, U.S.A. from Halmstad, Sweden in 1896. In 1898 he sent for Ida Malmstrom and they were married in Fargo that year. In 1903 he came to Alberta to take up a homestead, which is now the Mick Logan place. He built a log house in 1905 and sent for his family, who had remained in Fargo. The family was able to watch the building of the school, and Gust actually named the Diamond Valley School. In the late spring and early summer the dew was heavy in the morning and when the sun came up the whole valley sparkled like diamonds. This gave him the idea for the name, "Diamond Valley."

There was plenty of meat of all kinds, beef, pork, mutton, chickens; and prarie chickens were plentiful at that time. They took some of the grain—rye, oats and wheat— in bags to some place toward Rocky Mountain House and had it made into flour. There was no market for what they raised, but there was plenty of food

The freight was usually lumber going to Red Deer and supplies coming back as there was a store, saloon, and a livery stable in Evarts. There was also communication between Evarts and Red Deer by telephone

Gust and family sold out to Ed Wadson in 1913 and moved to Washougal, Washington, U.S.A. They had a family of eight children and, as they grew up, each one took his place in the business world. Both Gust and his wife have passed on. Their family still live in the States

Henry, the eldest son, had a drug store and was a pharmacist in Portland, Oregon. He and his wife are retired on a little acreage close to Portland. They have been out to visit a few times since they left here

**DARLINGTON FAMILY HISTORY — by Bill Darlington**

Will and Mabel Darlington were married in Essex, England in 1913. Their three children, Bill, Ken and Joan, were all born there at Springate Farm. Later the family moved to Kent to a larger farm. Here Will had a dairy herd and supplied milk to the city of London. However, misfortune in the form of Bangs disease in the cattle, along with the post-war hard times made the Darlingtons decide to try their luck in the new world.

In the autumn of 1928 they set sail for Canada and a new life on the western prairies. They travelled by train from the east coast to the Lougheed district of Alberta, where an uncle of Will's was already farming. Here they farmed for the next nine years while their family was growing up. However, these were the dry "Dusty Thirties" and grain farming in that area did not prove too profitable. As an alternative Will and his family became interested in raising registered Shorthorn cattle

In 1937, with two grown sons to help, Will and Mabel decided to make another move, this time to the Millet district. Here they continued to raise their excellent beef cattle as well as a dairy herd, as Millet had one of the best cheese factories in Canada at that time.

In 1943, with son Ken and daughter Joan both in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Will and Mabel and son Bill purchased the Doug Snyder farm in the Hespero district, west of Eckville. At the end of World War II (1945) Ken and his wife Lorraine also came to Hespero, purchasing one of the quarter sections of land from his father. Meanwhile, Bill had married Mary Gathercole and settled in a small house in his parents' yard, later taking over the big house when the senior Darlingtons built a new smaller home. Bill's three daughters, Sheila, Shirley and Marie, and son Bill Jr. were all born there.

The Darlington families were all interested in cattle. Bill and his father continued to raise some of the best beef in the west, while Ken had a herd of registered Jerseys and also a large poultry flock. All of the Darlingtons took an active part in the district activities and were always exhibitors at the Benalto Fairs. Bill and family also took a keen interest in 4-H Club work, as the many trophies in their living room will show.

In the fall of 1954 Will Darlington passed away, leaving his family to carry on the traditions of good farming that he had always practiced.

In 1957 Ken and Lorraine and their two daughters moved to Edmonton where Ken had accepted a position on the poultry branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture

Granny Darlington, as she has been affectionately called by everyone for many years, lived on in her own home, bearing up in her true English style, after the death of her husband and then that of her only daughter in 1961. She kept

up her interest in all of the farm activities until her arthritis forced her to give up her home and retire to the Eckville Manor House. Here, at age 86 in 1977, she still keeps up her cheerful interest in all activities of the district. Few babies have ever been born here who did not wear a tiny outfit fashioned from the knitting needles of "Granny" Darlington.

**DIAMOND VALLEY CHURCH — by Neva Craig**

Prior to beginning this little history of the Diamond Valley Church, I would like to pay tribute to those who have ministered to us in the school house and in private homes, off and on, through the many years before it came into being. As a little girl, I remember a Swedish pastor, Mr. John Nelson, from the Burnt Lake area, coming to speak in the different homes. There were quite a few Swedish people in the district at that time' but we all went, whether the Word was preached in Swedish or not. I think a few words were always said in English for our benefit. Then, there was a man by the name of W. G. McKechnie, who had lost his eyesight in his teen years, and, later becoming a Presbyterian minister who covered an area between Sylvan Lake and Rocky Mountain House.

There were others later on, of various denominations, who came to Diamond Valley to hold services. Mr. W. Cross, from a Nazarene College, held services for at least one summer, also an elderly Presbyterian minister who lived in the Centreville District, by the name of W. Sheppard.

There was usually a goodly number of people present, and I feel that those who ministered the gospel to us in those early years may have laid some of the ground work for the present church. William Deverill came in the late spring of 1934, at the invitation of the late Joe Hollander of the Gaetz district. There wasn't too much response in the few services held there, but the Max Lightbown family became interested. Later that summer, Max accompanied the Deverills to a camp meeting at Rossington, a district not too far from Westlock, Alberta. Following this, at the invitation of Max Lightbown, regular Sunday services were begun in the Diamond Valley School, with Mr. Deverill in charge. He lived in the Lightbown house on the SW 4-38-3-W5, and stayed for two or three months. Upon leaving, he placed Mrs. Nester, from Roundup, in charge of the services here. Mrs. Nester was a widow with three daughters, Eva, Lucy and Barbara. Eva, being the eldest, came here to stay with her mother for the first year, and attended school at Diamond Valley. The two younger girls stayed with Mrs. Nester's parents. Their only mode of transportation was walking, and Mrs. Nester walked a goodly number of miles in all kinds of weather. They, too, lived in the Lightbown house. Phillip Larsen, a neighbor, gave her a cow to milk in the summer months, and she sold butter to make a bit of extra money.

Through harvest time, Mrs. Nester began announcing that there would be special Evangelistic services later on, and just before Christmas and into the new year, Mr. and Mrs. G. Batke came. During this time a real revival took place, and a congregation of over 50 people was formed.

Camp meeting was held in Alex Stewart's barn loft the next summer, and on a clear evening the lusty singing could be heard a mile away. Following this camp meeting, Mrs. Nester was married to Mr. C. Upshall, and, together with the three girls, they continued the work here.

Services were held in the school for over two years, and people began to feel the need of building a church. Land was donated for the project by Charles Snyder, directly across the road west of the school.

The decision was made to build a log church, large enough to seat about 100 people. Logs were taken out from a forest reserve about 10 miles west of Ricinus during the winter of 1936, by volunteer labour. There was a small cabin on the property nearby that was not in use, and the owner said the men could stay there while they were cutting the logs. The men remember waking up in the morning to the tune of bubbling porridge being prepared by Mr. Upshall. Logs were then hauled by team and sleigh from this area to the church site. The stopping point along the way was the home of Clyde Comstock, a bachelor. Construction of the little log church was begun in the spring of 1936 with Ed Bartburger in charge. He had learned the trade of building with logs in Germany. A number of the men from the congregation helped when and where they could. Lumber for the floor and roof was sawed at a mill on the west side of the Clearwater River at Ricinus, on the George McNutt land, with a steam-powered saw mill. A man by the name of Ralph Berry, from Dapp, was in charge of the foundation work, roof, shingling, doors and windows, and the benches. Money was a scarce commodity during those years, but a sum of money was donated for nails, shingles and windows to the amount of about $100. Somehow, it covered the necessary expenses, doors being donated from an old house on the W. T. Burns' farm.

The church was completed and dedicated for service in the late summer of 1936, being affiliated with the Apostolic Church of Pentecost. Mr. and Mrs. Upshall continued the work until the following summer, when Mrs. Upshall's mother became very ill, and they left to be with her for a time. They later started a church in Edmonton.

Following the departure of the Upshalls the work was taken over by Miss Rowse and Miss Sczebell. Miss Rowse was the preacher and Miss Sczebell the homemaker. They lived in two granaries that were put together, and Miss

Sczebell, being very artistic, had them fixed up as nice as could be.

Following the building of the church, camp meetings were held two different years in Charles Snyder's barn loft. Miss Rowse and Miss Sczebell lived in these granaries until a small two-room parsonage was erected in the late fall. Water was obained from the school pump across the road.

The John Falkner family came after these two young ladies left. Some Eckville people may remember Jack Falkner, who lived for a time in Eckville and worked as a motor mechanic in Larry Knudsen's garage. Mrs. Falkner did most of the preaching, as Jack worked most of the time to supplement the family income.

Bert McPhail, a nephew of the Falkners, followed them as pastor, when they moved to Cheddarville. The John Harty family arrived in August 1940 and stayed until early spring the following year. Ben Evert came in the spring of 1941 and was married that summer to Myrtle Downs, of Calgary. C. S. Fair filled in for a short time after the Everts left and then Ken and Anna Seargeant came as Pastor, and were here for eight years.

During this time a new four-room parsonage was built, and during their stay here their home was blessed with four sons.

Ray Young, who had been pastor at the Withrow Mission, moved to Diamond Valley and was pastor at the two churches. One pastor has served both churches since that time, with the odd exception. Arden and Maryse Ellis came to us from Vancouver Evangelistic Tabernacle, but, due to ill health, were not able to stay very long. Louis and Shirley Peskett followed the Ellises, and both were good young peoples' workers. During their stay in the area the Frontier Youth For Christ Camp was founded at Shunda Lake, west of Nordegg. It was while he was leader at one of the summer camps that Louis was seriously injured in a mountain climbing expedition with young people and passed away 10 days later in an Edmonton hospital. Prior to this time he and his wife and two sons had been living in Edmonton where he worked as a Youth for Christ Director. A mountain, near the David Thompson Highway between Nordegg and the Saskatchewan crossing is named "Mount Peskett" in his honor. Agnes Hall, from Saskatchewan, came as an assistant pastor to Louis Peskett and served at Diamond Valley for some months.

Mel and Gretta Taylor arrived following Agnes Hall and were here for about a year. Bud and Doris McLean came to us from Kerrobert, Saskatchewan, with their two boys. Cliff and Eva Baines, with their family of two children, came from Camp Creek, near Athabasca.

Mel and Murle Hansen came from near Cold Lake, with one daughter and twin boys. Hugh Cruikshank came from Port Alberni, B.C., and was here for eight years. During this time the assembly increased in number and the need of Sunday School rooms became apparent. The parsonage was sold and the money was used to build Sunday School rooms, adjacent to the church. The parsonage was sold only because it was impossible to procure a well on the premises. Mr. Cruikshank felt the call to missionary and evangelistic work in the Far East, and as of 1978, is working in Indonesia.

Arthur Thomas, a local farmer and member of the congregation, had charge of the pastoral duties for about a two-year period. This brings us up to date on the history of the Diamond Valley Church. We are at present without a pastor, as we have been intermittently throughout the years, but contacts have been made. Like so many small country churches, our membership has fluctuated, sometimes in number near the sixties and sometimes as few as eight or ten. Through the years we have almost always had a Sunday School program at Christmas — usually taken care of by the pastor and his wife or by one of the local ladies.

A number of weddings have also taken place, the first one being that of Ted and Lillian Von Hollen.

We have been very fortunate indeed to have had Arvid Anderson, one of the first converts in the district, for our Bible class teacher for a period of over 20 years. He has also filled in many times when we were without a pastor. We have appreciated all of our pastors, as well as each of our local people who have so willingly given of their time down through the years as Sunday School teachers or any other duties to be found in connection with the progress of a church. My apologies to any whose names may have been missed, or for any dates that may be incorrect.

"We can only give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever."

**DIAMOND VALLEY GAS CO-OP**

On January 18, 1968, W. T. Burns, Charles Skocdopole and Robert Hubl were having coffee at a local lunch counter when the subject of natural gas arose.

A meeting of interested persons was held at the Gaetz Community Centre on February 28, 1968.

Charles Skocdopole was nominated president, W. T. Burns vice-president, Robert Hubl secretary-treasurer. Directors were R. H. Lewis, Bruce Hagerman, Jack Sheppard, Dave Pearson, Vern Nelson, R. A. Stainforth, Jim Savage, Donald Hansen.

The boundaries were set as Highway 2 on the east, Red Deer River on the south, Clearwater River on the west, Highway 11 on the north. However, a two-mile buffer zone was established if need be.

The name "Diamond Valley Gas Co-op" was chosen, as this seemed to be the district with the most interest.

A meeting on August 26, 1968, saw the incorporation of the Co-op with the Corporation Branch of the Provincial Government, with Mr Herb Warner being the representative. A contract was signed between Apache Oil and the Co-op to purchase gas from a well on Robert Hubl's farm for 14.8¢ per MCF.

Due to slow response of the local farmers, the boundaries had to be changed. Burnt Lake Gas Co-op was formed so the new boundaries were set: Medicine River on East, Gilby road on north, Stauffer road on west, Carodne highway on the south.

The services of Bell and Fenske as consulting engineers were approved. An estimated cost of $1375. per customer was set, as a target for the first 42 customers. Skocdopole Construction Ltd was hired to do the construction of the system Work started on October 27, 1971 and was completed December 22, 1971.

Gas turned on D V Gas Co-op Dec 23, 1971. Glen Skocdopole and W T Burns.

Donald Hansen and Robert Hubl donated their services to install meters and other service work. Robert Hubl is the permanently paid service man at this date.

In 1972, block B north of Eckville was installed, with 68 customers. A five-year contract with Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas was signed at 21½¢ per MCF escalating ½¢ per year

The fall of 1972, block C was formed and built with the gas supply being the original Apache well for the south end and the trunk line north of Leslieville to supply the north end.

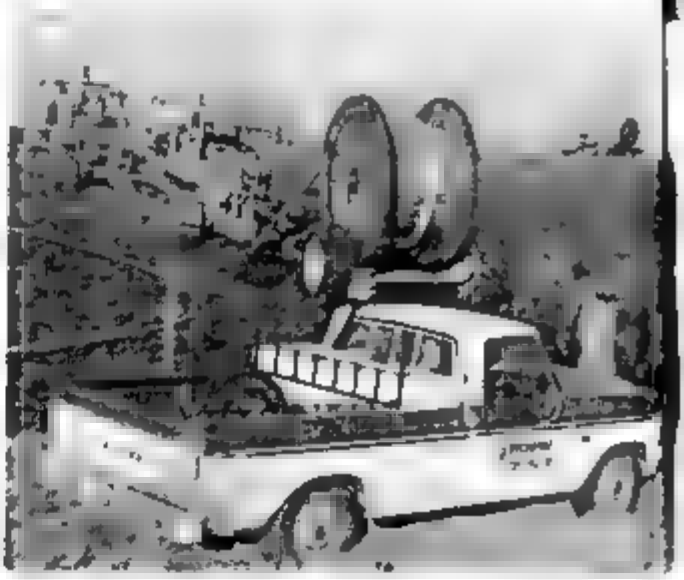
Members of the board in 1972 were W. T Burns president, C. Skocdopole vice-president, Robert Hubl secretary-treasurer. Directors Donald Hansen, Glenn Skocdopole, Claude Caton, August Kasper, Wilbert Kubic, Les Hake, Les Finkbeiner

In 1975, Wyc Burns retired and was replaced by Al Turner

In March, 1976, Mel Knopp and Arlen Von Hollen replaced Les Hake and Les Finkbeiner

1977 saw 138 urban and 136 rural customers to hook-up including Kountry Meadow Trailer Court at Benalto.

Due to the bad fall in 1977, many farmers would not permit construction to proceed across their land, so construction was not started until very late However, most of the system was completed before the ground froze too hard. Twenty-four customers did not receive gas because of this. These farms will be connected to gas as soon as weather permits in 1978.



Construction for Diamond Valley Gas, 1977

**DIAMOND VALLEY LADIES CLUB — by Darlene Burns**

During war years, the ladies hereabouts
Gathered at various homes to hold Red Cross teas
They knitted, sewed, visited and together
Sent parcels to the boys who were overseas.
Then at the home of Azalea Phillips
in August, of nineteen forty-two
A club was formed and fifteen paid-up members
Carried on, "business-like" the work they'd set to do.
Mrs. Gonda Anderson — since departed from us
With ready wit and steady hand, held the president's chair,
The secretary-treasurer was Margaret Nielson
And these two, for 10 busy years, held the offices with care
Mrs. Mabel Tennant, Margaret Burns, Neva Craig
And Christina Murphy with the Club did stay,
While Selma Boller, Azalea Phillips, Eva Sonnie, Alice Snyder,
Elizabeth Wright and Jesse Stewart later moved away

Diamond Valley Ladies Club. L. to R: Jessie Stewart, Mable Tennant, Mrs. Wright, Gonda Anderson, Neva Craig, Alice Snyder Lilian Anderson, Margaret Murphy, Hazel Hansen, Christina Murphy, Margaret Burns, Marina Razzolini, Mae Crawford, Eva Sonne. Maureen Craig

Margaret Murphy moved to Vancouver, Meta Erickson was a member, too.
Later Mrs. Mae Crawford passed away, but still the club had work to do.
Then the war was over, no more parcels to be sent,
But Club work continues on, the helping hand is lent
With fruit baskets for the ill, wreaths for the departed,
Farm sale lunches, showers and gifts for homes newly started
In August of 1943 two new members joined the clan,
Lillian Anderson and Catherine Caton helped the club to plan.
In March of 1944 Jean McNeil and her mother, Marion McLean were to stay
Along with Hazel Hansen, a good club member until she passed away
Donations towards the hospital,
Dances for a worthy cause,
Improvements on the old school house,
Club work continues on without even a pause
Lydia Bergstrom, Barbara Goedicke, Lily Wadson and Mrs. Helen McNeil
Joined with Sally Tennant and Teresa Rasmussen to be in on the deal.
New neighbors were Ruth Logan and Gertrude McCann
With Audrey Olson and Mary Medin adding their names to the local clan.
The roll call at the meetings proves interesting indeed
And the raffle is always an object that someone will need.
The entertainment that each one presents is of a varied kind
From readings to puzzles and prizes and they're not always easy to find
Cancer collecting each year has been our concern.
Then Beatrice Horner, Margaret Bouskill and Adeline Lemke
Became new members, we learn
In 1954 a tree, planted in memory of Dr. Coppock was done,
The birthday cakes, bean suppers and picnics proved to be fun.
Anna Crawford, May Caton and Anne Burns all joined, too.
A bread baking contest was held
And the District Home Economist told us what to do
The television appearance was a new experience for us all
Eileen Hansen paid her membership fee, Darline Burns added on in the fall
Donations to the ball club, to the orphanage and baby gifts were sent,
The "Jolly Seventeen" had to make more money,
Because it was always easily spent.
If the Community Centre needs a helping hand for repairs
They can count on the "Club" for an organization that cares.
Agnes Murdoch and Marj Tullock then came along
Each meeting begins with a favorite hymn for our opening song
Deloyce Burns, Mary Storms and Vi Wells are added to the slate
With Evelyn McGeachy, Zella David joining in,
Everyone tries not to be late.
A happy 25th Anniversary celebration for all, brought memories galore
For the members of long standing, and new neighbors had good times in store.
Mary Burdick, Marjorie Toker and Stephanie Hansen wished their way into pay
Leona Robin, a new member to help,
But Sharon Engert soon moved away
Catering to anniversaries, shut-ins receive Christmas baking,
Welcoming dinners, even bibs to the handicapped taking,
Sewing courses offered; sometimes special guests
Invited to the monthly meeting.
Helpful, thoughtful and busy, the years have a way of fleeting
Nineteen hundred and seventy-seven,
Thirty-five years of co-operation.
We have Margaret Neilson, Neva Craig and Christina Murphy
Who were here in the start of our little nation.
We congratulate the members, we wish them the very best,
We remember those departed, and God Bless all the rest

**DIAMOND VALLEY SCHOOL HISTORY**

As a number of homesteaders were coming into the area in the early 1900's with their families, a school was definitely needed, but there had to be a certain number of children before a school could be built. In 1909, when the

Robert Crawford family, with five school-age children, moved into the district, it was decided to take immediate action to get a school. In what was thought to be the central part of the district a two acre parcel of land was purchased from Smith Brothers section 9-38-3-W5 for a small fee. A school board was formed consisting of Alex Stewart, Gust Dahlgren and William Ballance. In September 1910 a debenture of $1,000 for building and furnishing a school was obtained from the Bank of Ottawa, Edmonton. Most of the lumber came from the Pettifler sawmill and Allen McKenzie of Red Deer was awarded the contract to build the school, receiving $542.50 for his work. Sam Smith broke one acre of the land for $4 and David Lightbown was paid $1 for fire guarding the school. The school taxes per quarter section of land in 1910 were $8.

The school site was registered in Edmonton in January 1911. On January 20, 1911 an advertisement for a teacher was placed in the "Family Herald and Weekly Star" — cost 53 cents. This was the beginning of Diamond Valley School No. 2154.

Emil Sonnie was paid for six cords of wood on February 11 and school supplies such as erasers, chalk, broom, dust pan, scrub brush, pail and cup, wash basin, heater and stove pipes, were purchased. The first teacher was Kate Pendergast from Nova Scotia. She arrived about the middle of April 1911 and her salary was $60 per month. She boarded at the W. Ballance home. Her pupils were Roy Gingras, Helen Ballance, Gladys, Norman and Reg Caskie, Edith Larson, Henry and Ella Dahlgren, Allen, Victor and Helen Sonnie, Agnes, Louise, Francis, Temple and Andrew Crawford.

The children came to school cross-country and much of it being low-lying land, they were often wet. Many times they came to school barefoot, later donning shoes and stockings at school. Two of the teachers, Mr. Wilson and Miss Berthason boarded at the John Lightbown home, also Miss Shultz, who taught at Gaetz school. Other teachers boarded at the Robert Crawford and Orla Nielsen homes throughout the years. Jim Lightbown, Charles Tennant and Wyc Burns all served as school secretary for several years.

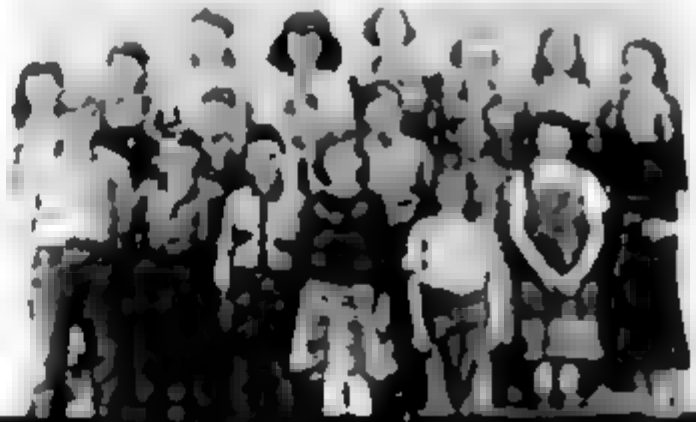
In 1918 the district was changed from Local Improvement District to Municipal District of the Golden West. On October 16, 1937 the district was included with the Rocky Mountain School Division. On December 30, 1954 the school was transferred to the Red Deer School Division. September 1954 school busses began transporting the Diamond Valley children to the Benalto school. The original building still stands and with the addition of a new entry and kitchen, it serves as the community centre for many gatherings. The school board members at the time of the school closure were John Kangas, Harry Medin and John Craig.

The school inspectors during the years were J. F. Boyce, A. R. Gibson, and W. J. McLean. The school superintendents were Mr. Barnes and Mr. Devril. Teachers: Miss Kate Pendergast, Mr. John Acton, Miss Carrie McMann, Mrs. J. K. Sneddon, Mr. H. J. Wilson, Miss Charlotte Clark, Miss Dorothy Maxted, Mr. Maurice Rockwood, Miss Bessie Burdick, Miss Mary Huchison, Miss Gertrude Kennedy, Miss Blanche Crawford, Mrs. A. Rasmussen, Mrs. C. McCanna, Miss Edith Smith, Miss Ena Pau., Mr. M. H. East, Mr. C. H. Pollock, Miss Anna Liner, Miss E. Walters, Mr. S. McCrimmon, Mrs. Edith Russell, Miss Christina Munro, Miss Darlene Nielsen, Miss Fay Tollifson, Mrs. Barbara Goedicke, and Mrs. Dorn.

An honour roll hangs in the community centre with the names and pictures of the young people who served in the armed forces during the Second World War. John and William Anderson, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Anderson, Senior, were killed in action. Others who served were Edna J. Phillips, Mike, John, Angus and Roderick McLean, Roy Wadson, John and Donald McNiel, Jim and Jerry Murphy, Charles and William Wright, Arthur Larratt, Alfred Brooks, Harold Tennant, Tom Horner, Ed Lightbown, Gordon Ballance, Charlie and Carl Anderson, Cecil, Russell and Gordon Caton.

Diamond Valley School. L. to R. Ida Wylie, Miss Hutchinson, Walter Satchwell, Gordie Nelson, Arvid Anderson, Evylin Shaffer, Ida Nelson, Claude Caton, Astrid Anderson, Signey Nelson, Olive Schaffer, Nova Crawford, Cecil Caton, Delbert Hutton.

Diamond Valley School Pupils - 1941



**ALEX AND FRANK ERICKSON**

Alex and Frank Erickson managed a meat market in Eckville about 1919-20. Frank married and had two sons. He passed away, and his widow and son live in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Alex Erickson worked in a top executive position for Pat Burns and Company until his retirement. He lived in Vancouver for many years. His first wife died while in Vancouver. After his second marriage Alex moved to California, where at 86 years of age in 1977 he still resides.

**THE ERICKSON FAMILIES — by E. J. [illegible]**

The history of the Erickson families goes back to 1903, when Erik Hendrickson immigrated with the younger members of the family to Red Deer. According to old Scandinavian custom, sons of the family took their father's Christian name, adding the suffix "son", thus the name of the descendants became [illegible]

Erik Hendrickson, a retired Swedish army man, on a pension amounting to approximately twenty Canadian dollars annually, came to Canada to begin a new life at the age of 48 years.

Haying the W½ 21-37-3 summer 1932. L to R. Hjalmarson's hired man with dump rake, A.E. Erickson, stacker Harold Hjalmarson, 1 wheel sweep E.I. Erickson, 4 wheel sweep Chris Hjalmarson and Harry Erickson not visible with mowers

He homesteaded the SW 28-37-3-W5 and built a home (still in use today) and a log barn of locally obtained timber, which is still in good usable condition in 1977. Both buildings were shingled with hand-split pine shakes. After "proving up" the homestead it was sold. The third owner was Dan Mount, and the land is presently occupied by his step-son, James Murray.

A short time later the oldest son, N. F. (Fred) Erickson also arrived from Sweden and homesteaded the NW 32-37-3-W5. He worked as a carpenter and built many homes in the area, one of them being the home now occupied by the Darbyshire family, on the SE 17-37-3-W5.

Fred was interested in establishing communications between the scattered settlers, and began promoting telephone service. The first telephones in the area were by means of barb wire fences, and connected the homes of Fred Erickson, Charlie Miller and Aron Erickson, with rings respectively one, two and three longs. Later the barb wire phone service was extended to include several more, including W. H. Stringer, who at that time was a member of the council of the Municipality of Golden West, which later became a part of the Municipality of Red Deer. A ring of five or six longs, or more, made quite a count down!

In 1917 the Happy Hill phone line was organized and members hauled dry tamarack from the west country during the winter. After construction in the summer of 1918 a telephone service with about 12 members and including the Happy Hill School became effective eastward from the Fred Erickson home. A line was also organized westward to Hespero, and by means of a simple switch on the wall of the Erickson home members of the Happy Hill line could be connected to the Hespero store. Later lines from Evergreen, Diamond Valley and New Hill were connected to the Erickson home. A switchboard was installed with the first operator being daughter Emily. This service was in operation for many years under the directory listed name of "Erixon" until absorbed by the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company.

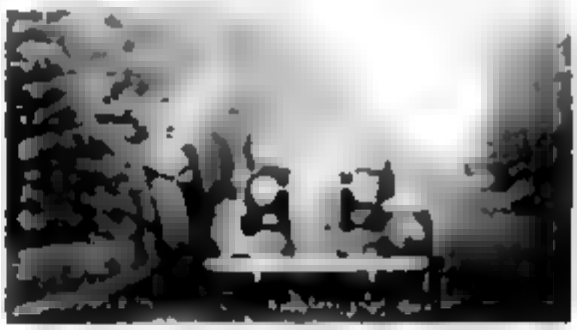
Fred Erickson was also the Esso dealer for many years, winning merit awards from the company for his business.

The elder son, John, continued farming the home place for a number of years. A gas plant was built on the north-east corner of the quarter. John is now retired and is living near Sundre.

The younger son, Frank, married Lela Hester and they moved to Mission City in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. Here he established a successful auto-dealership. They are now retired, and are living in Vancouver.

The youngest son of Erik Hendrickson, Hjalmar, homesteaded the NE 20-37-3-W5, selling this to G. W. Smith of Red Deer, who later sold it to Aaron Erickson in 1916. The total price was $1600, with a small down payment and the balance payable over a 10-year period. Hjalmar spent his life at Blairmore, Alberta, where he worked as a carpenter. He and his wife had a family of four children, who are now living in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

Aaron and Emma Erickson, with their two



Aaron and Emma Erickson leaving the farm for retirement at Haney B.C. summer 194[illegible]

small boys, came to Canada in the spring of 1912, just missing transportation on the "Titanic", the ill-fated ship that went down with a loss of almost all aboard. The family became farmers in the area and the parents retired to Haney, British Columbia in 1941 when the younger son, Harry, took over the home farm.

Aaron took an active part in community affairs, holding offices in the Diamond Valley U.F.A. local, as a school trustee. He was active in canvassing for membership for the Central Alberta Dairy Pool when it was organized. He was a Dairy Pool delegate for the Eckville district for a number of years. He also took a part in getting the rural mail route No. three established. He was a member of the original Board of the Central Hall when it was planned and built by volunteer labor in 1930. The land for the hall was donated by Fred Erickson, who also loaned some money for the building and supervised the construction.

After the death of his wife in 1956, Aaron returned to Eckville and built a house in town where he lived for a time. However, he spent the last couple of years before his death in 1966, with his daughter Lily in Edmonton.

Harry married Meta Payne from Rocky Mountain House. After being owned by the family for nearly 70 years, the home farm was sold by them when they retired to Penticton, B.C. in 1976.

The eldest son, Maurice, is a chartered accountant. After his marriage he spent a term with the Sudan Interior Mission in Ethiopia. He and his wife are now living in Dawson Creek, B.C., where he has established his own accounting business.

Robert entered a banking career. He is married and lives in Calgary, Alberta. The girls, Jeanette, June and Connie are all married and living in Alberta. June taught school for a number of years.

Elvie, the eldest daughter of Aaron Erickson, married Lloyd Nelson and lives on a farm at New Norway, Alberta.

Lily taught school at Crimson Lake and Spruceview and later spent several years in Nigeria with the Sudan Interior Mission. After returning home from the mission field she taught school briefly at Eckville, then married Don Kennett and now lives in Edmonton.

The elder son of Aaron Erickson, Erik Ingvar, won a scholarship at Young People's Week at the University of Alberta and took a two-year course at the Olds School of Agriculture. He then farmed in the Diamond Valley area until retiring to Osoyoos, B.C. in 1971. He married Emily Johnston of Lealievibe in 1935 and they raised a family of three: Bernard, Lorraine and Phyllis.

Erick served at different times in various associations such as secretary of the Diamond Valley U.F.A., before its disbanding under the Social Credit avalanche in 1935. He served in later years in various associations and in various capacities in Unifarm, the Livestock Shipping Association, the Eckville Mutual Telephone Company, and the Eckville Co-operative Association. He also served for a number of years as a deacon of the Benalto Baptist Church. Emily also took an active part in various women's groups.

Son Bernard graduated from Ryerson Institute in a course in business management in 1971 and has held various accounting positions in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Daughter Lorraine lives on a farm near Red Deer.

Younger daughter, Phyllis, after graduation from high school in Red Deer, worked for the Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary for a while. She later took a course at the Berian Bible College and after graduation served for some years with the Yukon Baptist Mission, until its amalgamation with the Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. She now lives at Grimshaw.

All the girls are married and have their own families.

**GEFLE, CARL VICTOR**

Carl Victor Gefle, better known as Bud, was born June 19, 1928 in Calgary, Alberta. He is the eldest son of Martin and Lillie Gefle.

Bud took his schooling at the Bluebell School. Depending on the weather, he walked, rode horseback or drove horse and buggy, and boarded the horse with Uncle Olaf Medin. Among his fondest school memories was to have had the present Mrs. Stephanie Woima as a teacher. Although there were many good teachers, she has left an everlasting memory.

On one occasion, several students had to remain inside the school in the basement for misbehaving. This area of the school was used for storage, including your coats and lunch pails. Never at a loss for something to do, Bud included, a game of football was organized using some of the lunch pails, which were actually empty syrup pails. The game was vigorous and noisy and the students outside, hearing this, naturally wanted to join in, putting an end to it all.

Youth activities were organized on your own. If you wanted to skate you made your own rink, and challenged all comers (including your sisters) to a game of hockey. A neighbor, Mike Worsley, and Bud enjoyed nothing more than whipping Marion and Bernice at this game and only occasionally did they each take one of the girls for a partner to make it a bit more even.

Assisting with the farming as soon as you are old enough is a way of life, and during the war years all the youth had to do their share. At that time the Harvard plane was a common sight and sound for many years in the area. The pilots took advantage of the farmers working in the fields to practice their flying techniques by taking dives at them. It caused a few horses to run away and

unnerved many a farmer who was only aware of their presence just as they were overhead and pulling up again. Bud remembers the amused look this procedure always brought to his grandfather Victor Medin, when he helped him cut grain

The winter soon saw the young men leave school and pursue their talents in the logging camps in the west country. Saturday night, regardless of weather conditions, meant a trip to Nordegg to watch the local hockey team. If they came home for the weekend there could be a chinook at camp and a blizzard on as they neared home

Bud put up a windcharger for his parents so they had electricity (25 watts per light) several years before the rural power lines came through

He worked for several years with electricians from Sylvan Lake and Eckville. Their work took them to many areas locally, and as far east as Penhold, Alberta. Running water and sewage disposal were practically non-existent in all of the rural areas. One day as the men were preparing to have dinner, the waste pail, being full to the brim, was sitting out waiting to be emptied, when one gentleman had the misfortune to turn around and put his foot right into it. Embarrassing indeed

This same community was planning a social evening and one mischievous youth made some very delicious chocolate using his own special ingredients, one of them being Ex-lax. The next day found some very busy people, depending on the extent of their sweet tooth.

Although Bud isn't actively engaged in electrical work now, he is a source of consultation for many folk

On November 12, 1955 Bud married Trudie Gertrude Amelia) McKenzie

Trudie was born September 4, 1935 in Calgary, Alberta, the eldest child of William D. and Beulah M. McKenzie. She was raised in Turner Valley, and many points in southern Alberta, where the oilfield work took her parents. The prairie was hot and dry, and one summer we lived in a tent I can still remember my mother, nearly every day, carefully burning the ticks off my brother and myself In 1945 we moved to Condor, Alberta, where my parents still reside on the farm, and we attended the Northup School. The Christmas concert was the highlight of the year for most students and parents. It took hours of practice and much patience from the teacher, but our efforts were rewarded by our parents attendance and keen interest

Alas oil was still in Dad's blood and in 1948 we moved to Leduc where I finished my schooling All the student functions were held in the school auditorium and the music was supplied by several talented students. We were fortunate to have a good skating rink only a block from home, and I spent many hours there.

The Gefle's have four children, all born in Eckville. Michael Stephen born August 8, 1956, Timothy Gordon born January 6, 1958; Connie Nadine born November 14, 1956 and Donna Lynn born May 24, 1963. The children all attended the schools in Eckville. They have participated in school athletics, Minor Hockey, Cubs and Scouts, Explorers and Figure Skating

In 1960 we bought the N W. 29-38-3-W5, after renting it for a number of years. Bud built most of the buildings and did all the landscaping and tree planting

In 1973 Bud entered a partnership with his brother Allen Gefle, when they bought the former Isaacson farm from Frank Thompson, which is the N W. 27 38-3-W5 and S.W 34-38-3-W5

Bud also operates several oil well and batteries for various oil companies. He is a charter member of the Benalto B P O E Number 404 Lodge and has held several offices including Exalted Ruler He assisted with coaching minor hockey in Eckville in its formative years.

Trudie is a charter member of the Benalto O.O.R.P Number 233 Lodge and has held several offices including Honoured Royal Lady and Secretary

At present our son Michael is assisting his dad with the farming on a full time crop basis and works part time on the oil rigs

Previously he worked for a contractor for Calgary Power in Central and North Central Alberta.

Tim is operating a cat, plowing in the gas lines to the farms in central and eastern Alberta during the summer He also helps with the farming when he is available and enjoys restoring cars to prime running condition. Tim and Mike have both operated the well for their dad

Connie and Donna are both attending school in Eckville.

The closest we ever came to getting completely hailed out was in July 1959. That year we did combine some but the snow came and stayed before we finished. A lot of our neighbors were not so lucky, "but then there is always next year"

**MARTIN GJEFLES — by Bernice Nielsen**

Hi! I'm Bernice Nielsen and I'm going to do my best to write my parents' memories for the Eckville and District history book.

My dad's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gjefle, (nee Mary Lee) came with their parents, Mr and Mrs. Syver Gjefle and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lee, to America in about 1867 from Nordre Land, Norway

My dad was born December 23, 1895 at Mound City, South Dakota, U.S.A. In 1911, the family decided to venture to Canada. They shipped their livestock, equipment, and personal belongings by train to Red Deer. They stopped overnight in North Dakota to say goodbye to dad's aunt and uncle, on whose land the Garrison Dam is built There is controversy over this dam today

between the United States and Canada. Younger family members live there now, and their house is about forty rods from the Dam. From South Dakota to Red Deer, the trip took four days. My grandfather had to remain at the U.S. border for one extra day while the livestock was checked for disease.

He and his family then homesteaded NW 36-36-5-W5, in the Horseguard District. The house they built in 1911 is still standing there, a little worse for wear, but a pleasant memory to drive to and look at once in awhile.

My dad filed on a homestead SE 31-37-5-W5 in the Horseguard District on December 23, 1913, his 18th birthday. There wasn't any snow on the ground on that day. During the fall of 1915 he operated the water wagon for the threshing machine. Harvest was late. This particular crew that year worked 90 consecutive days threshing grain all the way from Alhambra to Evarts. In 1916 dad went to Red Deer, and got his steam engineer's certificate, and operated a steam engine in the saw mills during the winter.

Dad served in the Infantry in the First World War. He was stationed in England. The Armistice was signed the day before the troops he served with were to leave for France. He, along with many others, had a go-around with the 1918 flu. In the Army the cure for most anything that ailed a body was a shot in the arm (I think) of number nine and a few good big slugs of rum. What number nine consisted of no one seems to know. Maybe that is what we should be getting now, instead of a swine flu vaccination! In 1919 dad returned to Canada and resumed farming.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Medin (nee Lydia Anderson) were both born in Sweden. My mother, Lillie Gjefle, is their eldest daughter. She was born June 24, 1905 at her parents' home in the Evarts District. In 1910 they moved to the Coronation District. Her parents also had a farm there.

The first school mom attended was Lucerne. It was built around 1914. Her means of transportation was horse and buggy. Her first teacher was Miss Gaetz and her second one was Miss Hood, in 1915. She boarded at Grandpa and Grandma Medins'. In 1919 grandpa moved his family to Medford, Oregon, U.S.A. Mom continued her education there, attending Lincoln and Medford High School. During the summer holidays she worked in the orchards. In 1923, they returned to Coronation, and in 1924 back to their farm in the Evarts area, but their address was by now, changed to Hespero. Mom was employed at different places throughout the district, and was also her dad's right-hand man at home, milking cows and working in the fields.

In March 1928, my parents were married at Red Deer. They never have told me when or where they met, so I'll not pester them about that. It seems I've been asking them enough other questions lately. But my guess is they more than likely met at a dance somewhere, between Evarts and Rocky Mountain House. After their marriage they lived in Calgary and dad worked for a rancher at High River. In the fall of 1928 they moved back to the Hespero area. Dad spent the winter hauling logs from the site eight miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House to the Rocky Mountain House Fort.

In the spring of 1929 they moved to Coronation and farmed there until 1933. These years, because of drought, they harvested three crops out of five. Mom tells me it was for sure the "dirty thirties"! By 1930-1931 things were really getting bad. All farm produce was getting cheaper. Eggs were from eight cents per dozen and down. Cream also was not worth much. Good cows could be bought for $10, if you had the $10! Pigs sold for $2 - $5. Along with the depressing parts of the thirties, now and again, some little thing would turn up and lift your spirits. Mom recalls one instance when she was trying to find just five pennies around the house so they could buy the Chicago Herald. When, lo and behold, in the back porch hung a pair of pants since the previous spring. She looked in the pockets and found $2. They hitched up the horses, headed to town and, besides the Chicago Herald, they loaded up a good supply of groceries! Lady Luck smiled on dad, too, when he was on his way to Castor for a load of coal. The weather was cold so he walked alongside his wagon to keep warm. He found a nice length of chain and 35¢ on the road. He had a lunch with him, but went to the cafe and treated himself to hot coffee and pie for 10¢. His double wagon box full of coal cost 75¢.

In 1929 wheat was $1.55 per bushel, oats five to seven cents per bushel. The yield in 1929 was about 11 bushels per acre. In 1933 wheat was 25¢ per bushel. That same year dad seeded 400 bushels of wheat and harvested 200 bushels. The grasshoppers and wind took the oat crop completely. A few other prices mom and dad remember from the thirties: the best coffee 25¢ per pound; a good house dress $1.00; prairie wool, $8.00 per ton (later it went up to $12 per ton) and snuff was 10¢ per tin.

In 1933 my Grandpa Gjefle passed away. Dad and mom moved to his farm in the Horseguard District. Grandma Gjefle lived with them from 1935 until 1937, when dad and mom moved to the Alfred Rasmussen farm just a short distance from Grandpa and Grandma Medin's. By this time, of course mom and dad had Carl (Bud), Marion and me (Bernice) around to keep them alert. I was pretty young so I don't remember a great deal, but I guess we were still in the era of the "dirty thirties". I sure do remember when the army worms came around and cleaned up the garden!

Christmas was always spent at Grandma and Grandpa Medin's and there were, always, so many good things to eat. The only hardship of the day was that we could never open our presents until the dishes had been washed. The Christmas

tree was very pretty, especially after dark, when grandma lit the candles on it.

New Year's Day was celebrated at our house. Grandma Gjefle would be with us that day, having returned from spending Christmas in Spokane, Washington, or in Montana. New Year's Day was her birthday. Come summer we spent a lot of time at my Grandma Gjefle's, putting up hay. Dad would haul it home in the winter with four head of horses. The distance was 18 miles and the trip took about 14 hours, which included loading the hay rack.

In 1940 dad and mom rented a quarter of land from Mr. Botten, SW 33-38-3-W5, in the Bluebell District. The Bluebell School is located on the northwest corner of this quarter. Ezra Isaacson now lives in it. Mr. Botton was a widower, and since the house was quite large, he lived in the front room. This was the first time we had a telephone, and was it ever great to be able to phone grandma! One of the first catastrophes that Bud, Marion and I got ourselves into was the pantry. It was large, with nice shelves on three sides, so we went in, shut the door, and looked to see if the people who had moved out had left anything behind. There was no door knob on the inside, just a latch on the outside, so there we were, hollering for the folks to get us out.

During World War II, gas, sugar and butter, among other things, were rationed. We made our own butter with a dasher that you pulled up and down in an earthern churn. We didn't get many cakes, but mom had a recipe for gingerbread that you sweetened with syrup or honey, so we had lots of that with whipped cream. Rhubarb was our canned fruit.

In 1941 my dad was quite sick, he spent the winter getting over a bad case of high blood pressure. The neighbors were kind in helping us out with the chores. Many thanks to them!

Local entertainment was visiting family and neighbors. After harvest was finished, we would have card parties and dances at the school on Saturday nights to raise money for the Christmas concert. Music was supplied by Norman Anderson, Margaret and Walter Boettger, and Bob Matthews.

In 1943 we received a pleasant surprise when our brother Allan was born. There was some dispute between Bud, Marion, and me over who the new fellow would sleep with.

In 1944, dad and mom purchased the farm from Mr. Botton. In 1944 or 1945 we had a hail storm that broke most all the windows on the north side of the house. The veranda saved the windows to the west. The crop and garden were lost, but we gathered hailstones in a hurry and made ice cream! Along about 1945 Bud sent away for a wind charger that he erected on top of the house, wired the kitchen and we had 25 watts worth of powerful light when the wind blew.

In 1954, our country schools were closed — centralization had taken over! The students from the Bluebell District went by bus to Eckville. Allan was the only one from our family who got in on that.

In 1955-56, the oil drilling rage started in our area. In 1948, Calgary Power came to us. The countryside that used to be pretty dark is now lit up with oil flares and yard lights. There are pipe lines going underground in most all directions. That's progress!

Time surely passes very quickly. Here it is 1977. Mom and dad are both doing just fine and taking a great interest in farming activities.

As for their offspring: Bud married Trudie McKeller of Condor. They farm a mile west of our folks on the former Gathercole place. They have four children — Michael, Timmy, Connie and Donna.

Marion married Russell Stauffer. They make their homes between Calgary and Medicine Hat. Russ drives a bus for Greyhound and they also operate Bar XH Aviation at Medicine Hat. They have two children, Judy (Mrs. Vern Payne) and Terry.

Allan married Ruth Halatlen of Estevan, Saskatchewan, and farms the former Isaacson place. Allan also works for Robert Pollitt Oilfield Construction. Ruth operated a beauty salon at Eckville for some time. They have two children, Travis and Vivian.

As for me, I'm Elmer Nielsen's roommate. We farm in the Happy Hill district and I operate a Giftware and Beauty Shop at Spruce View.

I may have a wrong date here or there, or an error in my little story. If so, they were definitely unintentional.

In closing, may I congratulate our parents, grandparents and all senior citizens for a job well done. I doubt if we youngsters have their determination or guts.

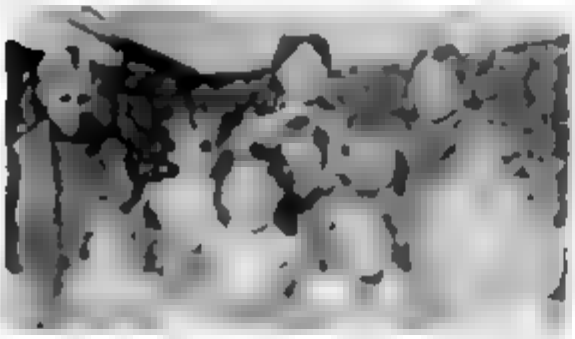
**HANSEN — O'BRIEN**

Hans Peter Hansen — born October 5, 1865, in Denmark. Christina Nielsen, born March 18, 1868, in Denmark. Married in Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. in 1893.

In the summer of 1902 Hans Peter Hansen visited various parts of Alberta, looking for a suitable piece of land on which to make a home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hansen May 30 1954

He selected the SE 28-38-3-W5, which became the Hansen home in Alberta. The family of six children, born in Nebraska, consisted of Grace Marie, born February 10, 1894, Hans Chris, born May 14, 1895, George William, born February 8, 1897, Carl Ingvar, born December 3, 1898, Alma Patricia, born January 6, 1900; Albert Neils, born August 6, 1901. The family arrived, along with more settlers, in Red Deer on April 27, 1903. On July 18, 1903, Rosa Julia was born.



Hansen and O'Brien Family. Chris, Grace, Willie, Alice, Mayme, Ella, Helen, Alma, Albert, Carl, Rosa.

The Evans farm, about five miles north of Red Deer, was rented for a year, during the summer some land was cleared and broken on the homestead and a slab shack was built. The family moved to the homestead in the spring of 1904. Evarts was the post office. Meanwhile, Peter Hansen worked away from home in the irrigation ditches around Lethbridge. The purpose was to get necessary cash that they needed since they had had nine crop failures in Nebraska.

More buildings were constructed in 1904, among them the original house, which still stands. This was the year Ella was born on September 21, 1904. It is recalled that an umbrella was put over the bed to protect the mother and the new baby from heavy rains.

The year 1905 saw real tragedy strike the family with the murder and robbing of Peter Hansen, while transporting a binder from the Evans place to their home. A man was charged with the crime and tried in the first criminal case in judicial courts in Alberta.

Mrs. Hansen received $1,000 from a life insurance policy. She used this money to buy milk cows so the family would have a continuing means of support. Mrs. Hansen had received in her native land the equivalent of a home economics course, which would include medical aid, home nursing, sewing and all home-making arts.

In 1906 or 1907 Mrs. Hansen filed on a homestead with widow's rights, which was about six miles west of the home place, and proved up on it with the help of her children. To help out the family income, Chris, the oldest son, freighted from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House, making two trips a week. During these years the Hansen home was the stopping place for many travellers from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House.

Meanwhile the school division had been formed and Mrs. Hansen had the honor of naming the school, which was "Bluebell" No. 1186, this name being used until the school closed in 1954. Her children, Chris and Grace, attended school at Crossroads (neither one could speak English) and then attended Bluebell school along with the rest of the family. Later, some of the grandchildren also attended this school.

In 1908 Mrs. Hansen married Andrew J. O'Brien, and three girls were born to them. Mayme was born on December 3, 1908, Alice on February 7, 1910 (died in 1974), and Helen born on October 16, 1911 (died in 1928).

In 1922 Mrs. O'Brien had a very severe heart attack and was unable to work any longer.

From 1904 up to 1928, when she moved to Red Deer, Mrs. O'Brien was one of the busiest and most helpful women in the West Country. She was always at the call of her neighbors for nursing service, and in any other need that arose in those pioneer days. During her time she was present at the birth of 187 children, and in many cases rendered assistance which saved lives. Her home was always open to friends and visitors and her hospitality became famous over a large territory. She was active in the work of the Women's Institute and other local organizations. She moved to Red Deer in 1928, where she ran a boarding house. Mrs. O'Brien passed away in 1932, and is resting in the Red Deer Cemetery.

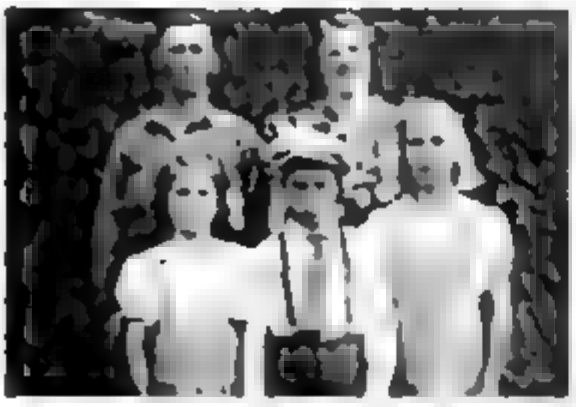
**ALBERT HANSEN FAMILY**

Albert Hansen was born in Sterling, Nebraska, U.S.A. on August 6, 1901. He came to Alberta with other members of his family in 1903. He received his education at Bluebell school.

Albert lived on the family farm with his mother and, as a teenager, worked at many jobs in the surrounding district, one of which was winter employment for the Knight Brothers, the family of the famous bronc rider, Pete Knight, in the Crossfield area. His job there was hauling wheat about 17 miles to the elevator, and he made a trip each day.

In 1928 Albert purchased the family farm S 28-38-3-W5, from his mother and settled down to clearing land as time and finances permitted. On April 14, 1931 he married Hazel Lutz of Eckville. Their son Donald was born at the Lutz farm on the outskirts of Eckville on February 20, 1932. Their daughters, Myrtle, on September 28, 1933 and Betty, on October 5, 1934, were both born at Mrs. Porter's nursing home near Condor, exactly one year and one week apart.

For extra income a large herd of purebred registered Ayrshire cows were milked, and the cream and milk was sold. In later years the milk



Albert and Hazel Hansen, Betty Donald and Myrtle

was picked up by a truck at the driveway and taken to the Alpha plant in Red Deer

Albert and Hazel were very active in all community work. Albert was a trustee for the Bluebell School District for many years. He was also instrumental in the grading and gravelling of the Diamond Valley road, which was strictly a community project as the Municipal District had no funds available for the work at that time. In later years he was a director on the Eckville Co-op Board, the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association, the Eckville Credit Union and the Co-op Livestock Marketing Association

Hazel was a long-time member of the Diamond Valley Ladies Club, in which she was a very active worker in their many community projects.

Albert and Hazel were secretaries for the Eckville Rural Electrification Association. Albert was one of the founding members of the Board of Directors, which led to many endless hours of hard work and bookkeeping for himself and his wife. As well, they provided board and room for several crew members when surveying and construction of the rural power lines got underway

We, the younger generation, recall the doors of our home being locked for the first time in our lives after well over $50,000 was collected one day from farmers in the surrounding area as a deposit on the installation of Calgary Power. The Hansens were also Secretary-Treasurer for the Union of Rural Electrification Associations for Alberta for approximately ten years.

Hazel passed away on November 24, 1964, after a lengthy illness

In October, 1965 Albert married Helen Haarstad. They resided on the farm until the spring of 1969, when they retired and moved to Vernon, B.C. Albert passed away on July 6, 1970. Albert and Hazel are both laid to rest in the Red Deer cemetery

**HANSEN, DONALD AND STEPHANIE**

Donald, son of Albert and Hazel Hansen, was born at Eckville in 1932. He attended school at Bluebell, the Red Deer Composite High School, and S.A.I.T. in Calgary

In 1954 he purchased the S 29-38-3-W5 from Mrs. Leo Zaleski, which had been formerly owned by Charles and William Schuneman. This land was across the road from land owned by his parents, S 28-38-3-W5, and with whom he farmed in partnership for several years.

During the winter he worked for about 12 years as a sawyer and millwright for the Atlas Lumber Company in sawmills in the Nordegg area. Other winter employment included working on oil rigs, pipelines and operating Cats on various construction jobs

In 1958 Donald married Stephanie, the fourth daughter of Frank and Ann Dobia of the Evergreen district. Stephanie attended school at Hazel Dell and after leaving there attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary. She graduated from there as a nurse's aide. She worked for several years at various hospitals throughout Alberta

To this union three sons were born. Dale in 1959, Gordon in 1961 and Gerald in 1965. At the present time the boys are busy with their education, and farming with their dad

Dale and Gordon each rent a quarter of land and are two of the few "fourth generation" in this area involved in farming land homesteaded by their great-grandparents

**THE HEBRIDEANS — by M. P. Maclean**

My first recollection of hearing anything about Canada was in the early winter of 1921 when I went to a meeting with my father showing pictures glorifying Canada put on by the C.P.R. They were trying to get immigrants to go to Canada, where they would get their own farms from the Soldier Settlement Board, and reduced fares on the boat and train from the C.P.R.

The picture of Canada I must say were very impressive. They showed people picking apples off the trees, children skating, skiing, picking apples and grapes and eating them, which impressed me very much. Apparently my father also, as he did not go back to sea for the rest of the winter but prepared to leave for Canada

In March of 1922, about 30 men, over half of them with families left the Island of Barra. Barra is the farthest west island of the Outer Hebrides, is 14 miles around with about 12 hundred people there at that time. It is about 80 miles northwest of the Scottish mainland

We stopped for a few days in Glasgow where we were joined by a number of other settlers from other islands from the Outer Hebrides

We sailed from Glasgow on the last day of March on the H.M.S. Metagama and after a very rough crossing, and being delayed by icebergs we landed in Quebec, April 14 instead of Montreal, as the ice was not yet out of the St. Lawrence River

We took the train from Quebec City and the idea was that families would drop off throughout southern Ontario and spend a year learning to

farm before proceeding west to get their own farms as these men were all sea-faring men and had never touched a horse before, let alone put a bridle on one. Some dropped off at Dalhousie, Toronto, Chatham and Windsor. Our family was dropped off at Chatham where my father got a job on a mixed farm with a lot of milk cows.

The following spring in April we again boarded the train, destination Red Deer wherever that place may be. We could not find out from anyone in Ontario but they all knew that it was in Indian country and there were no road maps at this time. We were joined in Toronto by two families and two single men. The rest of the settlers had decided they had come far enough and stayed where they were.

Before I go any further, I must tell you how little was known about Red Deer at that time by the people of Ontario. The last week before we left, there were people in our house every night begging my dad not to go there on account of the Indians. They told us so many stories and begged him for the sake of the family not to go but dad was determined. He wanted his own farm and by going west was one sure way of getting it. Finally the night before we left, the storekeeper in Chatham brought Dad his own shot gun and shells to protect us from the Indians. Also, they talked him into shipping our own stove, as they knew we could not get one where we were going. Dad was always mad about that for when we got to Red Deer we found the same stove. It cost $22 and it had cost dad $64 to ship if from Ontario.

When we got to Red Deer we looked for Indians, but sorry to say we did not see any. We were greeted by three Scots in kilts and one playing the bag pipes which brought back a lot of memories. The three were Scotty McPherson, Andy Stewart of Evarts and Chief MacDonald of Condor.

We were loaded into cars and driven four miles west to the Indian School where we were put into separate homes. The car that I rode in was driven by Charlie Chuck of the Club Cafe and needless to say as children we were very disappointed at not seeing any Indians, even Charlie Chuck disappointed us in that he wasn't wearing pigtails.

We were to get the buildings ready for occupancy for about 200 families who were expected to arrive sometime in May from all the Islands in the Outer Hebrides. The first five families that came to Red Deer were from the Island of Barra and were joined a short time later by the family of Alex McNeil. Those same six were the ones that settled in the Diamond Valley district.

The Indian School at that time was quite an impressive sight. There were two large brick and stone buildings, three stories high, kitchen facilities to handle at least five hundred people with dormitories to handle the same, seven separate family homes, barns, corrals, etc. After the new immigrants arrived, each man was driven around to pick out farms that were for sale at that time and if they liked them and the price was right, the Soldier Settlement Board bought for them. Some settled around Vermillion, Camrose, Westlock, Condor and many other parts of Alberta. As these settlers had no farming experience, they were lined up at the barns and someone there would demonstrate how to bridle a horse, harness him and hook him up to a wagon. They would drive him around and also learn to hook up a team and four horses.

A lot more settlers arrived later but I am not going to dwell on them as this history is only of the six families that settled in the Diamond Valley district.

McNeil. Alex McNeil settled on the NE 34-37 3W5, known then as the Dick Wright place, now partly owned by the oldest son Angus, and John Murdock. There were five boys and two girls in their family, Angus living at Sylvan Lake, Mary (Mrs. Beasler) in Edmonton, Donald in Vancouver, Angus John died July 2, 1969, John living at Sylvan Lake, Murdock in Red Deer and Lillian (Mrs. Johnson) in Red Deer. Their children went to both Diamond Valley and Happy Hill schools. Angus hauled cream to the Eckville Creamery for a couple of years, in about 1925-26.

Galbraith. Rod Galbraith settled on the SW 2 38-3W5 known then as the Billy Woof farm, now owned by Lawrence Murphy. They had three boys; James, Angus and Neil, all living at the coast and all went to the Evarts School.

McLean. Rod McLean settled on the NW 35 37-3W5 also owned at that time by Billy Woof and now owned by Scott Murphy.

McNeil. John McNeil (bachelor) settled on the SE 34-37 3W5, later known the Gibson place, later as Ingvar Erickson farm and now owned by Gary Stewart.

McCormick. Jim McCormick (bachelor) settled on the SE 4-37 3W5, known then as the Belke farm, now owned by John Murdock.

Neil Maclean's family history is found elsewhere in this book.

It only took about three years for the bachelors to find out that the way of life was not for them and both left for the sea and Vancouver and finally found their way back to the Island of Barra. About three years later, Rod Galbraith left for Vancouver and Rod McLean left for Vermilion and later found his way to the coast.

Alex McNeil and my father stuck it out and acquired more land as the years went by. Alex died on the farm at the age of 80, March 19, 1949. His wife died at 84 in June of 1964.

In about 1928, a few more settlers came to the Diamond Valley area from the outer Hebrides. James McNeil settled on the NE 9-38-3W5 known as the Larry Telning homestead and is now the home of Murray Craig. They stayed about seven years, then went back to the Island of Barra. Rod Willis settled on the SE 16-38-3W5 known then as the Gosney farm, later as the Charlie Wright place. He stayed about six years, then moved to

Vancouver where he died in 1976 at the age of 93. The Wilsons came into the area about 1929 and worked for John Watson for a number of years before moving to Clandonald, Alberta.

All of these people loved music and especially dancing. Whenever three or four couples got together, the dance was on. If only three couples were available, then the children were taken into the act to make a foursome. Having no music did not bother them, for someone would just hum the tune. I learned to dance so young that I can't even remember when. About 1925 when C.F.C.N. started broadcasting their old time music on the radio, they would all go to McPhersons who had a radio at this time and dance til midnight every Friday night. Then they started having surprise house parties every two weeks which lasted for years with the whole community getting in on them. The Cunningham boys of Eckville supplied some of the music.

They were happy people and all spoke the Gaelic language and as I remember, very clannish. If you were from the outer Hebrides, you were automatically one of the gang.

**THE JOSEPH HOLLANDER FAMILY—by Annie Hollander Frid**

I dedicate this history to the memory of my parents, Joseph and Antonia Hollander, who, through hardships and perseverance, helped blaze the pathways where highways never ran, and left a heritage and legacy that their children and grandchildren can justly be proud of.

My parents were born in Bohemia, Czechoslovakia, father in 1873 and mother in 1880. Father had taken his three years of compulsory training in the army, and following his discharge he travelled extensively through most of Europe. He was a great scholar, and was able to speak seven languages quite fluently. We, as children, were always amazed whenever people came to visit us, for he was able to carry on a conversation with them in their mother tongue.

Mother and father were married in 1905 and about six months later they sailed for New York. There was a song which the folks of Bohemia used to sing. Translated into the English language this would read as follows: "North America is like Paradise—only the voyage there is high priced, Beautiful America—beyond the sea, beautiful America." Mother always said that it was that song that made up their minds and lured them to the United States and later to Canada.

During their 18 days at sea (Mother was seasick the whole time) father met a man who claimed to own a farm and he asked father to come and work for him. The man was very friendly and promptly borrowed what was then a large sum of money from my father, giving his word of honor he would return it whenever father wanted it. Needless to say, father never saw the money again!

In 1906 my parents bought a team of horses, a cow and a few household effects and, armed with enthusiasm and hope, they went to Bismarck, North Dakota, where they filed on a homestead and built a 12 by 16 foot sod shack. It had one window, a door, but no floor. This, then, was their first home.

Mother was very young and about to have her first child, and because she was born of well-to-do parents, life in this new land was very bewildering to her. The Indians would canoe down the river not far from their hut, and at night would dance around their fires within their sight. The settlers were few and far between, and what with the language barrier and being afraid of the Indians (although they were always friendly) and with very little money, life was very hard for them. Sister Mary was born in this hut and to these conditions on January 28, 1907, with only a kind stranger to take care of mother and child.

I remember father telling us of his experience during a severe blizzard while they were in Bismarck. On this particular day he went to town—this was a three-day affair because they lived 29 miles from town. It took one day to get there, one day to get the supplies and rest the horses, and the final day to return home. A blizzard blew up on the way home and father lost his way. The roads were only trails that crossed and recrossed each other in various intervals. He was unbearably cold and thought that he would surely freeze to death. He was about to give up when he came upon a ranch house. He had to be helped off the sleigh and after a hot meal and a rest he was escorted a few miles until he got his bearings.

My parents moved to Canada and to Winnipeg in 1907; later they moved to Fernie, B.C. where father worked at the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Mines. Mother was a very good seamstress and it didn't take long before she had all the sewing that she could handle. She had bought a Singer sewing machine while they were still in Winnipeg and it was still in use and in very good condition when she passed away in 1951.

While my parents were in Fernie they rented a house belonging to Mr. Isidor Rowter. In 1908 the town of Fernie was threatened by fire—people were evacuated to neighboring towns. Mr. Rowter and father refused to leave and let the house burn down. With water from a well beside the house they fought off the fire, but it was a losing battle, and finally, to save themselves, they had to go down into the well. They both suffered smoke inhalation, and father suffered partial blindness for several days; strangely enough the house they fought to save did not burn down.

After father recovered, a friend of his, whose name was Frank Brzak, persuaded him to come with him to the Gaetz district, where Mr. Brzak had a homestead. Father, Mother and Mary stayed with Mr. Brzak and father filed on his homestead, NE 25-37-4-W5, and commenced working on a log house. Brother Joe was born in

the Brzak home on April 15, 1908 with just a neighbor lady in attendance

The cellar was dug by hand and hand-hewn logs were used for the ceiling (later to be used as the floor of the house). The house (cellar) was now ready for occupancy while the rest of the house was being completed or at least made livable

Father bought three oxen, two cows and a few chickens from John Jones of the Happy Hill district and started the business of farming in earnest—their roots had taken and were set

Those were hard times for the pioneers, and many were the experiences they endured. One can never give the early settlers too much credit for braving the hardships and for the tremendous amount of work involved in this new land and establishing a foundation for the future generations. My parents were only one of the many and it amazes me that they did so well with so little to do with.

Before their home was completed father received word that a railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House was in the process of being started—men were needed, and father got a job. He helped build the bridge that spans the North Saskatchewan at Rocky Mountain House. The wages were low and the working crew slept in tents—the winter was very cold, but they were thankful to be working. Father would send his wages via the rail crew to Mr. Robinson, a storekeeper in Evarts. Neighbors who went for food and staple would pick up the mail plus anything else that the women of the homesteads needed. Sometimes this would be only once a month

While father was away mother kept busy. She dug up clay and mixed it with water and filled the cracks between the logs of the house. Wood was plentiful, but she had to chop down the trees and split the wood by hand to supply the wood for her cookstove and the heater. She melted snow in the winter time for the stock and the household use

Every evening after the two children were in bed, she would cover the windows with blankets so the lights wouldn't show from the outside—she was afraid of strangers. She would then take her Czechoslovakian and English translation book and learn the English language. One night there was a knock on the door, but she kept quiet, hoping whoever was there would go away. A man's voice said "Don't be afraid, Mrs. Holander, I know you are there". She let the man in. It was Mr. Falk, who at that time was postmaster at the New Hill post office. He was concerned because all the neighbors with whom he had been in contact said that they had not seen mother for several weeks.

Father continued to work on the homestead, but in the winter months he worked in the coal mines at Nordegg. During the fall he would work harvesting south of Calgary

The oxen were eventually replaced by three horses, more land was broken and life became easier. The Evergreen post office came into being, and a general store was built eight miles north of our place, known as Pitcox, and later replaced by the Hespero General Store. The Gaetz school was two miles north of our place. Four more children were born: Helen in 1911, Millan, Annie and Josephine following her. All the children attended Gaetz school.

Our social life consisted of the annual school picnic, the box social and Christmas concerts. Dances were held in the schools and also in private homes. To pass away the winter nights, father would read us stories or tell us Bible stories, while the rest of the family would strip feathers to make into pillows and feather bedcovers. We always enjoyed visiting the John Motti family, they boasted a large gramophone, and had many many lovely records. Mrs. Motti was a dear, cheerful person and was always very kind to mother, and we loved her dearly

Father bought another quarter of land, NE 26 37-4-W5, which my brother Millan now owns and farms. The old house was remodelled and many friends gathered there to dance in the large living room. The house burned down in 1935 and a new one was built in the same location

The children grew up and started their own homes. Mary married Ernest Lipka, a local man, and they had two children, Helen and Albert. Mary passed away in 1943. Joe married Mary Murphy and they lived in Port Arthur. Joe passed away in 1959. Helen married Maurice Cave of the New Hill area, and they had one son, Ronald. Maurice died in 1936. Helen later married Anton Beranek of Daysland. They had three daughters—Shirley, Audrey and Arlene. Anton passed away in 1974. Helen lives in the town of Ponoka. Millan lives on his farm a mile north of the old homestead. Millan loves trees and his farmsite is proof of this. His many beautiful spruce and pines as shelter belts are a pleasure to behold. Annie married John Frid of the Hespero district; their two children are Kenneth and Frances. Josephine married Bill Savage of the Raven area. They had four children—Robert, Marlene, Brian and Joanne. Josephine passed away in 1964.

Father and mother retired to Creston, B.C. in 1947. Mother passed away in 1951. Father came back to Alberta after her death, making his home with Josephine until his passing in 1954. Both are buried in the Evergreen cemetery

**HOLMSEN, KRISTIAN — by Margaret Cunningham**

Kristian Holmsen, a bachelor uncle "Chris" of the Hans Olsen children, came from Norway in 1905. He made his home with his stepbrother, Hans Olsen, and family. He did a lot of road work and ditching in his day. Consequently, he was away working most of the summers, but would come home to spend the winters with the Olsen family

He was a quiet, hard working pioneer. He passed away in 1949 at the age of 78 years, and is buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery

**JOHNSON, JONAS — by Tradie Geffe**

Jonas Johnson was born at Gamlehult, Sweden on December 14, 1867 to Anna and Johann Johnson. He took some schooling there, but learned English after he immigrated to the U.S.A. He had a fondness for learning, and did a great amount of reading on his own

Uncle Jonas did some farming in the U.S.A. before he came to Canada with his brother, Victor Medin. They shipped some horses and machinery up by train. Together, he and Victor got their buildings up and crops in. Uncle Jonas' homestead was the N.W. 20-38-3-W5, and is now owned and farmed by Walt Medin. His original home is still standing in the same spot in fairly good condition.

After the Victor Medin family left the area for a few years, Uncle Jonas looked after their farm. His Uncle Nels Johnson helped him with the farming until he moved to the U.S.A. in 1920. Travellers between Red Deer and the west country usually passed by the homestead and were always welcome to stop and rest their horses, and there was always enough food prepared for anyone extra. Uncle Jonas had a reputation for being a good cook, so no doubt many looked forward to sharing a meal with him. He raised his own beef and pork, butchering it and doing the curing himself. He also made his own bread and butter. If the trip was a long one, lodging was also available for the night

There was a well known saddle horse named Nisse, that belonged to Uncle Jonas. When someone needed a one way ride they would borrow Nisse and upon reaching their destination, if the reins were tied up securely he would return right home on his own for a deserved water and feed. While returning home on one occasion the reins came loose and Nisse started grazing along the trail. Nearly everyone knew the horse by sight and experienced seeing him on homeward journeys. On this occasion thinking the animal had got away from its rider, a farmer along the way caught him and put him up until Jonas, realizing he was long overdue, came looking for him.

Wood Sawing Outfit. Jonas Johnson, Carl Hanson, ?, Ed Medin, Robert Medin and Olaf Medin. Nels Johnson far left

Uncle Jonas never forgot the time he was returning from Red Deer, and had to find a way across the Medicine River. The circumstances are not clear, but, Jonas being a heavy man, and Nisse, not a large horse, he could not safely swim across with his passenger. Jonas tied the horse's tail securely around his hands and let him swim across with him safely in tow

Uncle Jonas suffered very badly from arthritis and had to use crutches to get around. He took a keen interest in community affairs and was Municipal Councillor for many years. In 1926 he retired from active farming and spent the rest of his life with his brother, Olaf, until his passing at the age of 78, a bachelor

While living with Olaf he liked to cook a boiler of coffee for the social evenings at the Bluebell School. The crippling arthritis sometimes made it impossible for him to attend these functions, but some of the young people would go over for a game of cards or checkers, or just a visit. Several young lads also would spend the noon hours from school with him and he really enjoyed having them around as often as they could come

**LIGHTBOWN HISTORY — by Lillian Anderson**

John James Lightbown was born in Manchester, England in 1853 and his wife, Edwina Mary Greenhalgh, was also born in England. Her parents moved to Spain, where she lived for the first 10 years, moving back to England where she and her husband were later married. Their family of three boys and one girl were born in England where Mr. Lightbown was organist in the biggest church in Manchester for several years.

They came to Canada in 1901 on the advice of their doctor, because of the ill health of their son, James. They lived for two years in Brandon, Manitoba before coming on to Alberta to settle in the Diamond Valley district in 1903. Here he homesteaded the SE-18-38-3-W5 and later bought the SW-5-38-3-W5 from Mr. Leggett, where he farmed for several years. He passed away in 1930. Mrs. Lightbown had passed away several years before, at Golden, B.C.

The eldest son, David, homesteaded SW-18-38-3-W5. He married Mercelene Morigeau in 1913. They lived in this area for a few years, then went to work on the railway, living in several places in British Columbia, where they are still very active at ages of 90 and 83 years. They had four sons and two daughters.

Jim homesteaded NW 4-38-3-W5. He married Josephine Morigeau in 1920. After farming for a while he also went to work for the railway, living in several British Columbia towns before retiring to Langley, British Columbia. He passed away here in August, 1971. They had five daughters

Molly married Ben Early in 1907. They went to Columbus, North Dakota, U.S.A. where they farmed. They had one son, David, who still lives

in that area. Ben passed away in 1954 and Molly lives at Crosby, North Dakota

Max homesteaded NW-5-39-4-W5, where the Condor School now stands. He later traded this for SE-5-39-3-W5, where he farmed until 1949, when they moved to Matsqui, B.C. They lived there for 10 years, moving back to Sylvan Lake where he passed away in March, 1971. Max married Margaret Viola Wylie in 1916, and they had three sons and two daughters. Margaret now lives at Abbotsford, B.C. Their family includes Ed who married Katherine Biswanger. They live at Sylvan Lake and have three sons and four daughters. Lillian married Chris Anderson and still lives in the Diamond Valley district. They have one daughter and one son. Robert (Bud) married Janet Brown. They live in Eckville and have two daughters and three sons. Darlene married Roy Klatt and lives at Devon, Alberta. They have three sons and two daughters. David married Pat Forsell and they live in Eckville. They have two sons and two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Lightbown 25th Wedding Anniversary 1947

Lightbown Family 1972 Robert (Bud), Mrs. Lightbown, Ed, Darlene, David and Lillian

You can well imagine the hardships of a family coming from a big city to the wilderness of this country at that time. They came with team and wagon from Red Deer across the country where there were no roads. They lived the first winter in a tent. The three boys all being musical, provided entertainment at many a social gathering in homes and school houses. Jim was secretary of the school for several years

**THE BILL LOGAN FAMILY**

Bill Logan left Nova Scotia in 1925 on a harvest excursion and to visit his sisters at Michichi, a small town east of Drumheller. Bill liked the west so much he didn't return to his native province until 1961 when he and his wife took a six week trip to the Maritimes.

Ruth Hill came on the scene in 1932 as the local school teacher. At the Christmas concert that year, Bill was asked to be Santa and this started a romance which resulted in marriage. Three sons were born, Deane in March 1936, David in October 1938 and Michael in January 1940.

The Logan family moved to Withrow in 1943 and to the Gerry Macdonnell farm at Hespero in 1944. It was in this year that a daughter, Darlene, was born. In 1946, they bought the Ed Watson farm in the Diamond Valley district. During the war time, many schools were closed for lack of teachers so the Logan boys attended school at Shady Lane, Daisy Nook, Bluebell, and finally Diamond Valley. When centralization came in, all the children attended the Benalto School, finishing their high school days at the Composite High School in Red Deer.

Ruth went back to teaching in the fall of 1955, her first school being Old Knowledge. She and Darlene stayed in the teacherage through the week, going home for week-ends. The following year, the Old Knowledge pupils were bussed to Condor where Ruth taught Grades 1 and 2. Bill rented the farm to Deane for six years and worked on construction jobs, part of the time for Skocdopole Construction Company. During this time, the family lived at Hespero. Every summer Ruth attended university in order to further her education until she graduated in 1963. During the Christmas vacation that year, the family moved back to the farm in Diamond Valley.

In 1964 Deane bought land at Haynes where he met and in 1969 married Myrtle Soderberg. He later sold this farm and bought a larger farm near Caroline where they now live with their two sons and two daughters.

David married Helen Bozek of Evergreen in 1961. He bought a "Cat" and went into the construction business, working mainly on oil roads and leases in the north. They live at Slave Lake with their two girls. Mick went into the oil fields and in 1962 went to Australia for three years and later to Spitsbergen for a few months. He married Colleen McCune on Armistice Day,

1967 and now resides on the "home" farm with his wife and two daughters

Darlene enrolled in the four year psychiatric Registered Nurses program at Alberta Hospital, Ponoka. After graduation she nursed at the following places: Slave Lake, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Fort Churchill, Nanaimo and Victoria, B.C. where she presently resides.

Mick and Colleen moved to the farm in 1969 and Ruth retired from teaching that same year. In the fall 1975, Bill and Ruth decided to retire from the farm and bought a home in Red Deer where they are enjoying the lazy life

**McCANN, WILLIAM AND GERTRUDE — by Gertrude McCann**

"Bill" McCann was born in Hague, Saskatchewan, September 2, 1911. He was the youngest son of Joseph and Mary McCann, natives of Bruce County, Ontario. They homesteaded at Dewberry, Alberta, then moved to Gleichen where Joe teamed lumber to Arrowwood. Later he bought a farm one-half mile north of Arrowwood, where Bill grew up and received his education. He drove a horse van daily while attending school. After finishing school Bill joined his father in farming. He was a great horseman and loved all animals. His horses were always in demand for parades and floats. June 3 was a school holiday if you participated in sports. This is how he met his future wife, Gertrude. He was an avid curler, ball player and skater. In his early teens he was the team goalie. He attended the United Church.

Dry years and dust storms made him discontented, so he and his mother journeyed to the Gilby area to take over a farm his grandfather Burr had owned. Here he learned ways were different — fuel had to be chopped and sawed to keep you warm. Roads were poor, and faithful "Dobbin" was appreciated. About this time he took a bride, Gertrude Roebuck, a school teacher. She was the youngest child of Alfred and May Roebuck, who emigrated from England to New York, and later homesteaded near Champion, Alberta, where Gertrude was born on March 1, 1912

Gertrude was a sickly child in her early years. She remembers her dad, during the flu epidemic of 1918-1919, nursing neighbors and doing their chores, making the rounds on horseback through huge drifts and bitter cold. She was educated at Auburn School, Kirkcaldy, and at Vulcan High School. She later trained at Calgary Normal School to become a teacher. Schools were hard to get, and unless you had "pull" you often remained without a job. Boarding houses were few and far between, so most of the time Gertrude rode horseback on her former school pony, "Pete". Riding six miles were no chore, but on one spring day, April 21, clouds came in the sky. She had shepherded her pupils home and then decided to try to get home herself. By the time she got there she was covered with two inches of frozen sleet. Her arms were frozen from the shoulders down. The next day she had to go to school — no sick pay those days! Telephone poles had been snapped off by the gale and the weather was freezing cold. They were without telephones for six months.

Concerts, social evenings, pie socials, box socials and picnics were the main entertainments and school houses were used for these purposes. Neighbors had skating ponds and young people gathered on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons to skate. Later they adjourned to one of the young people's homes for supper. Gertrude taught kindergarten in Edmonton for five years before she came to Eckville, on July 23, 1940 as a bride

Bill and Gertie had three daughters. They were Margaret Mary (Mrs. Harold Burdick) of Eckville, who gave them four grandchildren, Leslie, Scott, Shelly and Melanie; Betty Ann (Mrs. Charles Greenslade) of Calgary, with grandson Bradley, Barbara (Mrs. Lyle McFadden) of Pincher Creek with granddaughter Dana.

One of the most trying times of her marriage was in the fall of 1942, Gertrude was asked to help out at Medicine Valley School for three months because the former teacher had been thrown from a horse. It was from 40 to 55 degrees below zero most of the winter. Her horse played out, and Alec Lawton was kind enough to let her have a horse for two weeks.

They moved to the Boller farm south of town, then right next door to the Razzolini farm, where Bill lived until his death on May 19, 1963.

Gertrude went back teaching in 1953 and planned to retire on December 31, 1962, but 1964 found her back in the Eckville Elementary school where she taught until retiring in 1975

Gertrude had quite an active musical class since 1948. She is a member of Benalto Baptist Church. She was organist, pianist and Sunday School teacher when needed. She is quite active in the Eckville Craft Guild, mainly in the knitting, crocheting and needlework sections. She is a flower lover and gardener. She moved to Eckville in December, 1968, where she still resides

**MACLEAN, NEIL AND THE FAMILY — by M. P. MACLEAN**

The Neil Maclean family came to the Diamond Valley District early in July of 1923 after emigrating from the Island of Barra, which is the most western island in the outer Hebrides on the west coast of Scotland

My father was a sea captain and knew nothing about farming or handling of horses, but being of a very determined mind, he wanted to farm

We settled on the NE 4-36-3-W5 known then as the Gingras farm, now owned by Murray Craig. It had 20 acres broke on it and the rest was heavy willows and small poplars

There were five boys and three girls in the family and all went to the Diamond Valley school. Mrs. Kay (the oldest) McNabb now lives in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. Michael lives in Hemet, California and Sylvan Lake. Mary (Mrs. Joplin) lives in Penticton, British Columbia. John lives in Edmonton. Angus was killed by an oil derrick in August of 1954. Rod lives in Port Moody, British Columbia and Murdock recently bought a house in Eckville where he intends to move from Calgary. Jean (Mrs. Gilbert McNiel) lives in Surrey, British Columbia.

My father died at Sylvan Lake in February, 1961. My mother also died at Sylvan Lake in May, 1974 at the age of 95.

Our first three of four years on the farm were very hard. The first year we were eaten alive by bedbugs and we did not know what was causing all the welts on our bodies until some kind neighbor told us. Oh, how well I remember how those bedbugs liked that foreign blood. After that we got some relief as mother had every bed post and chair leg sitting in a can of coal oil. Although it did help, somehow they had a way of dive bombing us from the ceiling on to the bed. Finally in desperation, we moved out of the house in the summer of 1924, cook stove and all, and had the house fumigated two weeks apart. Mom and Dad slept in a granary with some of the younger children, three or four slept in the wagon box with a binder canvas over it and I slept under it. I think it rained the whole two weeks and I can see my mother to this day trying desperately to cook a meal for us on that stove outside in the rain. That was the end of the bed bugs in our house and we never had them again.

The neighbors were very helpful and showed Dad how to do a lot of things. Dad started to break some land with four horses abreast which meant that one horse was always walking on the furrows which made it hard for him, and he was always crowding the one that was in the furrow. One of our neighbors showed Dad how to get away from that by using five horses, three behind and two in front, which meant, of course, four lines to handle instead of two. My father was a sea captain, although I had never seen him dock a two or three hundred foot long boat, five horses and four lines were just beyond his comprehension. When he would get to the end and had to turn around, my dad would have two horses going east and three going west and he would be hollering bloody murder for me to come and help but usually by the time I got there another pole would be broken out of that sulkey plough. My job at that time was to walk on the furrow that was being plowed and try to prevent it from falling back in its original position but with extra work done on that plough, a longer landside and extension of the moldboard, we did get a few acres broke that fall.

Driving five horses became easy for me as at 14 years old, Dad eventually gave up his seat on that plough and went to the lowly job of seeing that the furrow did not fall back.

Being the oldest boy, I was the official rabbit catcher which was our main diet the first two or three years on the farm. After school I would make the rounds and take the rabbits out of the snares, and reset them. I also devised ways to catch prairie chickens which were plentiful in the area at that time. The second year I graduated to a 22 rifle single shot, but was only allowed five shells each night so I still set snares and saved my shells to shoot jacks. Then one day one of our neighbors came in and told us that it wasn't safe to eat the rabbits as they were covered with water blisters that winter. Oh! how I loved that man, as I was getting sick and tired of snaring rabbits, but my mother had a different idea. She said "It doesn't matter how many blisters they have, you catch them." She would cut the blisters off and boil them for so long and always told me the first one of us that died from eating blistered rabbits, I could quit catching them. When any one of us got sick I hoped she would blame it on the rabbits, but none of us died and I had to continue hunting raboits.

Another incident that comes to my mind: my dad asked me to go to Eckville with a team and wagon and two ladies went with me. As I had not been to Eckville before, he told me to go one mile north, one mile west, four north to the correction line, one east and three north. I followed directions on the way to Eckville but on the way back when I got to Larry's corner, I could see what looked like a fairly good road ahead and it looked to me as though it would shorten the trip by two miles. After two and a half miles the road petered out but it looked open ahead so I went on. I ran into water on top of what was supposed to be the road. I decided to go on anyway, but did not get very far when both horses went down, also the wagon to the axles. I couldn't get the horses up so I unhitched them from the wagon. Finally I got one horse up and with a lot of coaxing got him on dry land. The other horse would not come out so I decided to leave him and go home for help. First I gathered a lot of sticks and put under his chin so he wouldn't drown, as the water by this time was over his back. The women had already walked on so I got on the other horse and started for home. After about a quarter of a mile, I looked back and saw that the other horse was standing so I went back. He was afraid to move, but finally with a lot of effort, he made it to dry land.

I don't have to tell you what was said to me when I got home. With four log chains and a roll of barbed wire and another team we went back and got the wagon out.

That was my first experience with what people called a "muskeg". I can assure you that living in the Diamond Valley area at that time, it wasn't my last.

**HUGH McNEIL — by Granddaughter — Phyllis Andrew**

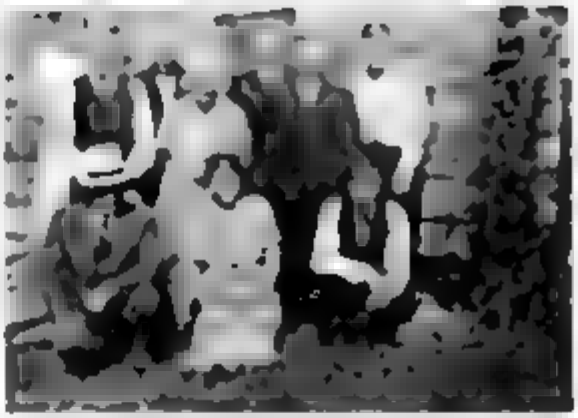
Quebec was the birthplace of my materna. grandparents. Grandfather was born in 1867 and grandmother (Martha Kelley) in 1870. The McNeil and Kelley families were among the few English-speaking settlers in a French community, coming to Canada in the latter part of the 19th century. My grandparents were married in 1891 and for 12 years lived at Points aue Chene, Quebec. While in Quebec, a son, Philip, died in infancy.

As the land in Quebec was very rocky, the family of five children then moved to Riverside, (later named Elbow) Saskatchewan, and filed on a homestead. The closest railroad was Davidson, which was 35 miles away. By 1911 many railroad lines were built throughout the province. The homesteads were taken and the price of land had soared. There were now five boys in the family, so grandfather set out to buy more land where it was not so costly. In January, 1913, he bought a quarter section, NW 22-38-3-W5, five miles south of Eckville. The land was bought from Dr [illegible]ens, a doctor practicing in Eckville at that time. Grandpa bought adjoining land, as it became available, until he had a section.

A nearly finished two-storey house was on the land when it was purchased. The house must have been a grand one in those days, as it had a furnace. It was fascinating to me to be able to pull and lower chains in order to control the heat from the registers. The basement could be entered by two ways: a heavy trap door, in the pantry; or by steps on the outside at the bottom of which was a door. Large pipes branched off from the furnace, which was in the centre of the basement, to the many rooms. Close by was a large supply of logs which were needed for fuel. There was an ice-house on the farm, and homemade ice cream was a must for the picnics.

Grandpa used to enjoy teasing his grandchildren by talking to them in French. He attended to the farm business, and for a number of years was secretary-treasurer of the Bluebell School District. Grandma was more inclined to stay at home, but she did have her friends. One day when grandpa and I were coming from Eckville, by team, we stopped at Charles Schuneman's (presently Frank Zaleski's) with a birthday gift for grandma's friend, Mrs. Schuneman, so the women in that day must have associated with their neighbors. She had a very friendly dispoattion and enjoyed corresponding with relatives and friends.

Love of music could be considered a trait of the McNeil family. They sang, what seemed to me to be, continuously. Some of the instruments they played were violin, accordion, and mouth organ. A piano, bought in Quebec, in 1904, for my mother, was brought west and is still in her family. Uncle Everett played the drums in Mrs. Bill MacDonald's orchestra. What a favorable impression he made on me when he came riding into town on his spirited horse, sporting attractive chaps!



Hugh McNeil Family. Back row: Margaret (McDonald), Mr. McNeil, Wesley, Gilbert. Second row: Leonard, Mrs. McNeil, David. Front row: Herbert, Mae and Gilbert. Taken at McNeil home about 1935.

My grandparents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August, 1941. They continued to live on the farm until February, 1943, when they bought a house in Eckville. They were in the house only a week when grandma passed away. Grandpa then made his home with his youngest son, Gilbert, who had taken over the home farm. Grandpa passed away in June, 1950. Both he and grandma are buried in the Eckville cemetery. Of their family of nine children three are surviving: Mrs. Margaret McDonald and Wesley McNeil of Eckville and Mrs. Mae Fletcher of Surrey, B.C.

The eldest son, David, married Ada Reeves of Penhold. They farmed near Evarts, retiring to Red Deer in 1956. They had three children: Lloyd, on the home place, Beatrice (Mrs. Willard Philips, R.R. 4, Eckville, and Ethel Thornton of Calgary. There are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. David passed away in February, 1977.

Herbert (deceased in 1967) lived in Great Falls, Montana, U.S.A. working in the smelter there, before retiring to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. He was predeceased by his first wife, Phene, in 1939. His second wife, Henrietta, passed away in 1974.

Leonard (deceased 1967) married Jean Fraser of Abbotsford, B.C., in 1930. They farmed the NE 21-38-3-W5. In 1935 they moved to British Columbia with their three girls — Evelyn, Marion and Leona. The girls are now married and have families.

Everett married Muriel Elson (deceased) of Eckville. They had three children, Gordon, Bertha, and Clarence (deceased). They lived on the Calvin Fletcher farm for a few years before moving to British Columbia. Everett passed away in 1975. His second wife, Hazel, resides in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Gilbert married Jean McLean of the Diamond Valley district, in 1941. They had a family of

three — a boy and two girls. Marvin and wife, Joanne, live in Stettler. They have a son, Ryan. Sharon and husband, Richard, live at Surrey, B.C. They have four children. The youngest daughter, Lois, is working in Calgary. Gilbert and Jean retired to British Columbia in 1971. He passed away in February, 1972 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Jean lives at Surrey, B.C.

**McNEIL, WESLEY — by Helen McNeil**

Wesley married Helen Hainsworth, of Lesileville, in February, 1929. They lived near Withrow for 12 years where they rented the Calvin Fletcher farm. They then moved to the NE 29-38-3-W5 with their three children, where they farmed until retiring to Eckville in 1964.

Son, Jim, married Betty Whillier, of the Gilby area, and is employed as a mechanic in Wetaskiwin. They have three children: Kathy has completed her first year at university. Mitchell and Colleen are at home. Isabel and husband, Ken Martin, live in Richmond, B.C. They have two boys — Kevin and Kirby. Avril is married to Glenn Rangen. They farm north of Eckville and have two boys, Randy and Eldon.

**MEDIN, CARL EDVIN**

Ed. Medin was born in Smolin, Sweden in 1889.

After completing his schooling, he left for Canada where he had four uncles, Jonas Johnson, Olaf, Victor and Robert Medin.

He arrived in Red Deer on May 5, 1907. After finding someone who could speak Swedish and tell him where to go, he found his way to the home of his uncles, and this became his home off and on for a few years.

His first homestead was the NW 36-39-4-W5 which was in the Wood Lake area. He built a shack and dug a well there but spent most of his time working out.

In 1913, he moved to SE 23-38-3-W5 in the Evarts district, this was to be his home for many years. During this time, he bought the NW 23-38-3-W5 and the SW 24-38-3-W5 and started raising Hereford cattle.

Ed. Medin 85th Birthday

He took an active part in the community. He did a great deal of carpenter work in the district. He worked at building the Evarts curling rink and later enjoyed curling in it.

He had many good friends in the district, two very good ones being Simon Lund and Frank Cuddihey.

In 1933, Ed and his Uncle Victor went to the Worlds Fair in Chicago, U.S.A. They drove down in Victor's car and enjoyed the trip very much.

Ed. lived at Evarts until the late 1950's when he sold his land and moved on to SE 31-38-3-W5 which had been his Uncle Olaf's homestead quarter in the Bluebell district. He lived there until 1972 when he sold his land and bought a house in Sylvan Lake, living there until moving to the Eckville Manor House.

He passed away January 1, 1977, in the Eckville Hospital and was laid to rest in Diamond Valley Cemetery.

**MEDIN, HARRY AND MARY**

Harry Axel, son of Victor and Lydia Medin, was born in September, 1909 at the family homestead. Except for a few years spent at Coronation, and Medford, Oregon, U.S.A., he has spent his life in the Diamond Valley district.

Living and working with his parents, Harry also did custom work, breaking land, grinding grain and threshing. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge in Eckville until it disbanded.

In 1940 Harry purchased the NW 17-38-4-W5 from Alex Stewart. In 1940 he built a house on this quarter and married Mary Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brown of the Gaetz district. We have spent our life since, engaged in mixed farming.

We raised a family of three children — Ronald, Faye and Dennis, who took their schooling at Diamond Valley, Benalto, Spruceview and Red Deer. They were all members of the Benalto 4-H Beef Club.

In 1962 Ronald married Elva Lorraine, daughter of Alfred and Ruby Anderson of Kevisville. They reside in Hanna, Alberta, where Ron is manager of the United Farmers of Alberta farm supply. Their three children are Gregory, Kevin and Christine.

In 1963 Faye was married to James Politt, son of Mac and Donna Politt of Lesideville. They purchased a farm in the Gilby district, where they now reside. They have a family of three children, Dallas, Sandra and Shane.

In 1971 Dennis married Penny, the daughter of Gordon and Joyce Primrose. They have two children, Holly and Jacqueline, and reside in Rocky Mountain House.

**MEDIN, OLAF — by Trudy Gefle**

Olaf Johnson was born around 1872 at Gamlehult, Sweden, to Anna and Johann John-

son. He took some schooling in Sweden before he immigrated to the U.S.A. where he had to learn English. There was a lot of confusion with mail, due to the many Johnson families here. To get away from this he changed his name to Medin, which is similar to a place in Sweden near the family home. He worked in a factory in Chicago and played baseball for a Chicago ball team as a pitcher. Later Olaf moved to Eckville and homesteaded S.E. 32-38-3-W5. He also bought and farmed S.E. 19-38-3-W5 which he later sold to his nephew Harry Medin.

Olaf raised several teams of horses for his own use and for sale. Some were sold as dray teams as far away as Red Deer, Alberta. He also worked for some time in the brickyard in Red Deer. He did a lot of carpentry work and helped many homesteaders get their homes and barns up, as well as the old Blue Bell School.

Olaf moved to Coronation, Alberta in 1912, where he obtained land and farmed for a couple of years. During his absence his house was used to accommodate the teacher at the Blue Bell School which was just across the road.

Although Olaf never married he took a deep interest in the young people and community affairs. On very cold mornings it was common to find him stoking the school fires. He also became the local barber, a trade he picked up and at which he was very good. Of course he always enjoyed having someone stop by for a good game of cribbage. It was also common to find many different saddle horses stabled in the barn while their riders were attending school and quite often supplied a boiler of coffee for them.

Around 1946 Olaf retired from farming and sold his land to his nephew Edwin Medin, now owned by Bernard Lahti. He remained living on the farm in his original home, travelling to Minnesota for part of the winters and staying with his nephew and wife, Bill and Esther Bergquist.

Olaf Medin passed away quietly at his home on August 8, 1957.

**MEDIN, ROBERT**

Robert Johnson was born at Gamlehult, Sweden around 1878, to Anne and Johann Johnson. He immigrated to the U.S.A. as a young man, settling first around Minnesota and Illinois where his brothers and two sisters were living. This area was populated by several Johnson families and it was difficult to keep the mail from going to the wrong family, so like his brothers he took the name Medin, which is similar to a place near the family home in Sweden.

He purchased land near Rugby, North Dakota and farmed it for several years before coming to Canada. Here he purchased his homestead, SE 34-38-3-W5, now owned by Willard Phillips. Robert first went into mixed farming, later milking cows and taking the cream to the creamery in Eckville.

About 1915 he married Olivia Lund. They had one child, a son, who died in infancy. Shortly after this Olivia went to Rockford, Illinois for a visit. When she returned she brought Stanley, who was just a young boy, home with her. Olivia and Robert adopted him. Shortly after this Olivia passed away leaving Robert and young Stanley alone.

Robert's sister, Annie Nelson, was a widow herself at this time so she came from her home in the U.S.A. and stayed for a number of years, keeping house for Robert and Stanley. In 1928 sister Annie returned to her home in the U.S.A.

Robert travelled to Sweden in 1928 to visit his family. He was accompanied by his niece, Hilda Johnson when he returned to Canada and she stayed with him to look after the housekeeping until she married and moved away.

Robert continued farming until his passing in 1948 at the age of 69 years. He is survived by Stanley of Rocky Mountain House, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**VICTOR MEDIN FAMILY — by Lillie Geibe**

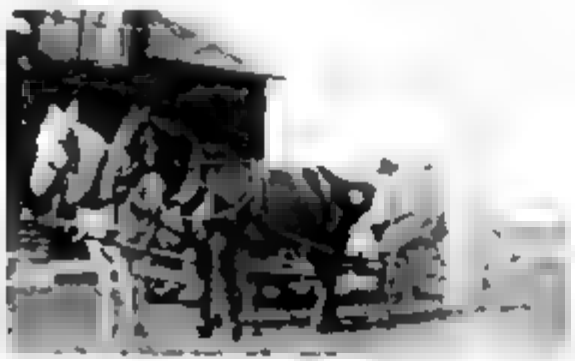
Victor Medin, my father, was born in Sweden in 1874. There he grew up and got his education on a small farm in the Southern part of the country. In 1893 at the age of 19 years he immigrated to the United States. There he worked at various jobs in several different states, from training horses in Indiana, doing farm work in Illinois and Minnesota,, to farming for himself in North Dakota.

In 1903 Father moved to Alberta, then still in the Northwest Territories, to the Evarts area. He shipped his horses and some equipment by train to Red Deer and drove the horses west to Evarts. There he acquired a homestead, SW 20-38-3 W5.

Medin Brothers and Sisters. Back row: Victor, Robert, Anna Nelson, Olaf - Sitting, Annie Johnson, Emily Bergquist. 1930

Lydia Anderson (my mother) was born in Sweden in 1881, also on a small farm, here it would be called an acreage. She was educated in Sweden and after finishing school she was employed in a nearby town until about 1901, when she moved to the United States. There she joined her brother, Oscar Anderson, on a farm in North Dakota. She worked at house work and learned to speak English. In 1903 Mother and her brother came to Alberta. Mother obtained work in Red Deer at the Alexandra Hotel. Later she worked for a farm family near Evarts. Her brother, Oscar, took a homestead west of Evarts. In the winter of 1905 Victor and Lydia were married, I believe, in North Dakota.

Mom and Dad settled on the homestead and began the job of building a home for themselves and their future family. Times were tough for the pioneers — money was almost non-existent. Dad hauled lumber to Red Deer from the sawmills further west and worked at them some of the time. When he took a load of lumber to Red Deer, he would usually bring back supplies for the camps and also to the store at Evarts, as that was their town and post office. This was a means of a bit of income, which was always hard to obtain.



Olaf Medin and Jonas Johnson

All but one or two of dad's horses died of swamp fever, as did a number of horses brought into the country from south of the United States border. My dad's brother, Jonas Johnson, came from North Dakota at the same time and homesteaded the adjoining quarter section NE 20-38-3 W5. He also lost some horses. However, quite a few wild horses were brought into the district. By helping to break and train them dad acquired some horses for himself. By this time dad and Uncle Jonas had some cattle. One year they lost most of the calves with blackleg, something they had not heard of before. All land had to be cleared the hard way, with an axe and a grubhoe, and horses for power.

Mother always had a good garden, so we had plenty of vegetables. Wild berries were plentiful — raspberries, blueberries and wild strawwerries. There were also cranberries. These did not have to be sealed, but could be kept in an earthenware crock with a good lid. All the pioneer women canned or dried all berries and vegetables that could not be kept in the cellar. Beef and pork were home grown and home cured. Fish could be caught in the lakes and rivers, and these provided fresh meat for a change. In later years mom raised a lot of turkeys and chickens. With cows for milk and butter there was always something to eat, even for any hungry traveller who might come along. Bread was all homemade; no ready sliced bakery bread was ever seen. Pioneer life meant a lot of work for the women. There were no washing machines and no dishwashers (unless the children did them!) The main equipment was the wash tub and scrub board and the old dish pan. Light at night was provided by coal oil lamps, not too bright, but better than candles. In 1918 the Aladdin mantle lamps came along. They were a wonderful improvement.

The Medin children came along in due time. First I (Lillie) was born at home at Evarts in 1905. I married Martin Gefle of Alhambra in 1928. We have four children, Carl, Marian, Bernice and Allen.

Harry, was also born at home at Evarts, in 1909. He married Mary Brown in 1940. Their children are Ronald, Fay, and Dennis.

Walter was born at Coronation in 1916. He is still single, and farms the home place.

May was born in Medford, Oregon, U.S.A. in 1920. She married Claude Caton in 1948. They have one son, Stuart.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Medin Golden Wedding, May, Walt, Harry and Lillie

We all live within six miles of dad's homestead.

As schools were built they became the centres for social life as well as education. Bluebell, built about 1905, is where Harry, Walter and May received a good deal of the three R's. After being closed when centralization came into effect, Bluebell was sold and remodelled. It is now the home of Ezra Isaacson.

Mom and dad spoke only Swedish when they came to the United States, so employment was a bit difficult to find. However, they soon learned to speak English. Canada appeared to hold a promising future, and it was to become their home. They had no desire to return to Sweden.

Recreation and entertainment were all provided by the people who took part. These were all local people, both young and old. Dances, box socials and even shadow socials were popular. The music was mainly accordian, violin and harmonica, and everybody would sing. Building bees and quilting parties also had their place. Refreshments were usually coffee, sandwiches and cake or cookies. Believe it or not, everyone could have a good time without booze!

In 1909 dad went east to look for land that was easier to clear and break. He located a quarter section, about five miles southwest of Haneyville, a small store and post office some 20 miles east of Castor. In 1910 Medins moved out to the new place that was all prairie with no trees, but lots of stones. They drove out with horses and wagons, taking lumber for a shack and a few necessary bits of equipment. Benches, tables and bunk beds were all home-made, and prairie hay was used to sleep on. Later the railroad came through and Coronation became our town. With another quarter purchased, the farm grew to a half section, raising wheat, oats, and some flax. Dad also raised cattle, and horses for work and pleasure. He had a team of good driving horses at all times. A very special pair were Prince and Frank — both black.

In 1914 Lucerne school opened. There my brother Harry and I attended school until the fall of 1919. By 1915 our house was enlarged and the teacher boarded with us. Her name was May Hood. She came from Edmonton. We drove a horse and buggy to school. The country school was the place for all gatherings, such as church, concerts, dances and socials.

In the fall of 1919 we moved to Medford, Oregon, a beautiful valley in the southern part of the state, where much fruit was grown. Those were pleasant years. One joyous event that took place in Medford was the arrival of sister May in April, 1920. Dad worked in an orchard, as did Harry and I during our school vacations in the summer, the vacation there being three months in length.

In 1923 we returned to Coronation for two years. In 1924 the crops were very poor, very weedy, hard to bind. In the fall of 1924 we returned to our original homestead. Then the post office was Hespero, located in the general store. It also had the telephone exchange. When the Hespero store burned the postal service was moved to Eckville. Now Hespero is only a ghost town.

In 1924 mom and dad bought a radio — that was really something! The only stations we could get were CFCN Calgary and CJCA Edmonton in Alberta, but we could get several stations in the United States. In 1925 dad bought his first car, a Chevrolet coach. That made it easier to go west of Rocky Mountain House to pick blueberries.

Mom and dad are gone now, and we still miss them very much. Dad passed away in 1956 and mom in 1966. They are both buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

So this brings to an end my little contribution. God bless the pioneers — they were a brave and wonderful people.

**MURPHY, HUGH — by Barbara Nelsen**

Mr. Murphy was born in Kent County, Ontario, in 1870 and went to Vancouver in 1910, where he met Margaret Gavin, who was born in Aberdeen-Shire, Scotland in 1885. They married in 1915, and left for Regina, Saskatchewan. Later they moved to a farm at Hespero, now owned by Jim Gowans.

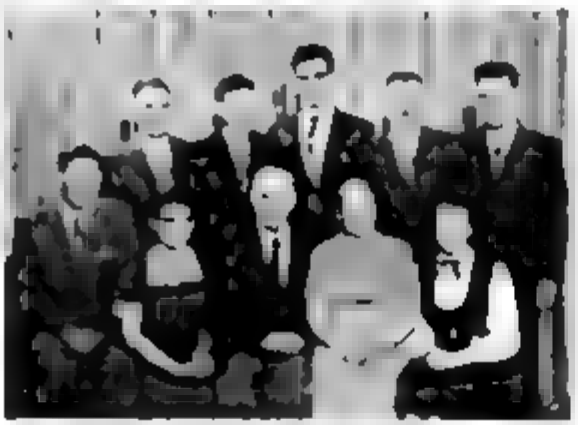
Mr. and Mrs. Murphy moved into the Evarts district in the spring of 1919. Moving in those days was quite different from modern methods. There was little packing done. Everything was loaded into the hayrack helter skelter and sorted out at the new home. The cattle and extra horses were herded along behind the wagon, usually tended by the older children. In those days the "correction line" was a very rough road with lots of corduroy, so all the household goods got well shaken up en route.

Five of the 10 children were born in the Evarts district. They were Merritt, Jerry, James, Mae and Keith. It was while there that Mr. Murphy took over the auctioneering business of George Welsh, who was leaving the district. I believe Mr. Murphy's first sale was on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Black as they were leaving to live in Calgary. This was the beginning of a very successful auctioneering career that lasted over 20 years in the area from Rocky Mountain House to Red Deer.

The year 1924 was a tragic year for the family, as two children, Merritt and Mae passed away in the same week in October. That same year saw record lows of temperatures, on December 17 the temperature fell to 66 degrees F. below at Evarts. The temperature did not raise above 45 degrees below F. for three weeks. The school was closed because of cold weather and snow.

Mr. and Mrs. Murphy and their family moved to the Shady Lane district in 1925, buying the SW 15-39-4 W5 from Mr. George Lee.

While living here, two ladies came to the school to hold church services. They came to our home and invited us; dad promised to go, but I don't think he intended to go but each night he went. On hearing the gospel, he was converted. This meant giving up the old life with the drinking, smoking and other things that didn't go with Christian living. This meant a much happier dad and a much happier home life.



Hugh Murphy Family Sitting L. to R. Scott, Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Elsie. Standing L. to R. Jim, Robert, Keith, Jerry and Jack Gavin

The older children took most of their schooling at the Shady Lane school. Scott and I did the janitor work for awhile. Elsie and Robert were born here.

In 1930 Mr. Murphy sold out and bought a farm in the Diamond Valley district. Using his carpentry skills which he acquired when he was employed at Vancouver as a carpenter, he built a house and a barn. In 1944 the farm was sold. Mr. Murphy always had the desire to go back to Ontario to visit his relatives. While there he bought a farm at Thamesville and tried his hand at a different kind of farming, that of growing corn and beans. Mrs. Murphy and three youngest of the family joined him there. After two years of farming in Ontario they moved back to Vancouver, where they had a happy retirement. Mr. Murphy passed away in 1959 at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Murphy still lives in Vancouver. She is 92 years old.

Jack went to the west coast, where he worked in the fishing business, later working in the Powell River pulp and paper mill. He married Alice Johnson, they have four children; Peter, Rosemary, Fraser and Patricia. They still live in Powell River, British Columbia.

Scott married Christina Munro, and to this marriage four sons were born, Lawrence and Allen, two sons passed away in infancy and are laid to rest in the Diamond Valley Cemetery. They farm in the Diamond Valley district.

Barbara married Myron Nielsen. They had seven children, Virginia, Wayne, Mervyn and Raymond, twins and a baby girl passed away in infancy and were laid to rest in the Benalto Cemetery. They live at Benalto.

Jerry joined the armed forces in World War II, leaving in 1941 and coming back in 1946. He married Helen Hiller and to this marriage were born four children, Judy, Conrad, Jim and Loree. They live in Edmonton.

James also served in the armed forces in World War II. In 1941, while still in England, he met and married Joan Wonham and they have five children, Bonnie, Terry, Patricia, Fraser and David. They live in Surrey, B.C.

Keith and his wife Dorothy have four children, Jo-Ann, John, Scott and Cathy. Keith passed away in July of 1976. Dorothy passed away in September, 1977. They lived in Burnaby, B.C.

Elsie married Albert Harris and to this marriage was born three boys, Murray, Ronald and Danny. Albert passed away in 1961 and about two years ago Elsie married Peter Johanson. They live in Vancouver, B.C.

Robert and his wife Helen have four children, Robert, Mike, Dale and Susan. They live in Surrey, B.C.

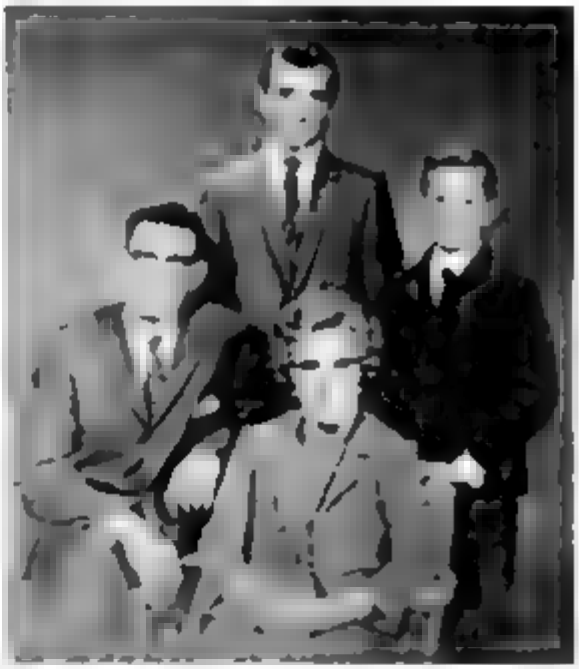
**SCOTT B. MURPHY FAMILY (SW 33-37-3-W5)**

In the spring of 1940 Scott Murphy left his homestead in the Bingley district to farm the SW 33-37-3 W5 in the Diamond Valley district. As only 70 acres of the quarter were under cultivation, clearing and breaking of the heavy bush was undertaken.

There were no buildings, so in the winter of 1941 spruce logs were cut from his father's quarter and hauled to Tony Cesonis's sawmill to be made into lumber for a house.

At the Diamond Valley church on April 5, 1942, Scott Murphy was united in marriage to Christina Munro of the Evarts district. Christina was teacher of the Diamond Valley school.

Throughout his years in the valley Scott has been interested in mixed farming. Their two sons, Laurence and Allen, have the same interests as their father, for they both farm.



The Scott B. Murphy Family - 1969

**NAGEL, HENRY AND EMMA**

Henry and Emma Nagel bought Bill and Gertie McCann's farm in 1959. They have two children Don and Louise. Louise married Jack Corlesa from Sundre. They have three children, Ricky, Adrian and Marianne. They are now living at Fort McMurray, Alberta, where Jack is principal and Louise teaches Grade 4.

Don married Mavis Bowhay from Bingley. They have three girls Cathy, Lorrie and Karen. They are living at Rocky Mountain House where Don works for Texaco.

**THE GUS NELSON FAMILY — by Mrs. Fred Nelson**

Gustof Nelson was born in Sweden on February 25, 1871. Along with his brother Axel, he came to Canada in 1892. In 1899 he arrived in the Red Deer area and took up a homestead in the Burnt Lake district. Here he met and married Margaret Bergstrom in about 1902 or 1903, who had come with her family from Sweden in 1902.

The Nelsons lived in the Burnt Lake district only until they had proved on their homestead, then moved to Golden, British Columbia. The next few years saw the family making many moves — from Golden back to the Burnt Lake homestead, to Oregon, U.S.A., back to Burnt Lake, and finally selling the homestead and moving to the John Bergstrom farm in Evarts, three miles from the Diamond Valley School. During the time they lived here Mr. Nelson built a house on the farm he had purchased in the Gaetz district. They moved to their new home in Gaetz in 1915.

The family lived on this farm for a few years then Mr. Nelson sold it to the Woodfords and bought another farm in the north-west corner of the Diamond Valley district, where Mr. Nelson built another home for his family in 1919. It was a mile and a half from the school, where the children received their education.

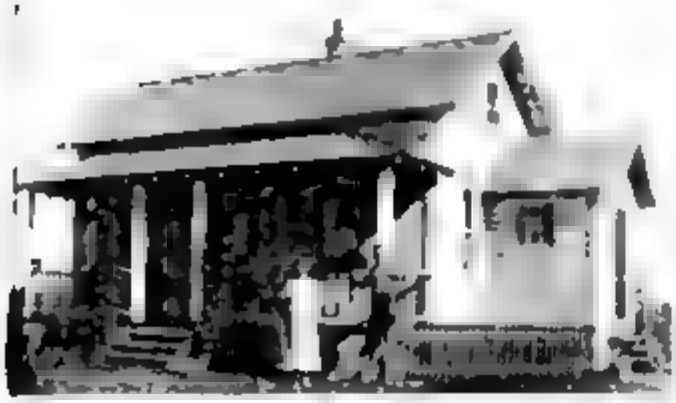
In 1926 still another move took them to Courtney, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island, where Gus worked for a construction company, until 1932, and then it was back to the Diamond Valley farm for them. While they were living in Courtney, their home in Diamond Valley had burned. It was necessary for Mr. Nelson to build another home on the farm, which is still standing.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Nelson

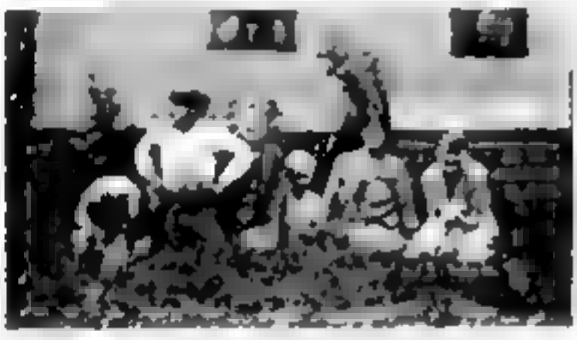
Mr. Nelson in the early years in Diamond Valley area was a road foreman, and also did a lot of building within the district. He had a blacksmith shop, and also employed his skill at building caskets during the influenza epidemic of 1918.

Mrs. Nelson passed away in 1940. Then their son George took over the farm for a few years. Mr. Nelson went to live with his eldest daughter, Anna, in Royalties, near Turner Valley for seven years before passing away. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson. The children now reside in Alberta and British Columbia.



Mr. and Mrs. Gus Nelson



L. to R. George, Gus, Fred, Mrs. Nelson and Danny

Anna married Ed Marple and they reside in Creston, British Columbia. Their three children are Harold, Audrey and Doreen.

Gregor married the late Bessie Bromling of Eckville. They had five children — Margarita, Nona, Jack, Doroas and David

Gerda married the late Fred Hodgkins and now resides in Black Diamond.

Ida married George Taylor of Cochrane, where they now reside. Their children are Joyce and Lyle.

Signie married the late Dr Greenaway She is now living in Olds. Her daughter is Sadie.

George married Mary Talson of Eckville. They have seven children — Sonja. Steve, Stuart, Sharon, Susan, Shelley and Sandy They live in Campbell River, British Columbia

Dagney married the late Matt Talson of Eckville and they had one daughter, Lynda. Dagney now lives at Harrison Hot Springs.

Gus and Frances Busslinger of Eckville were married and had three children, Gale, Joan and Randy. They now reside in Brooks, Alberta

Fred married Elsie Sutherland of Rocky Mountain House They have two children, Wanda and Wayne, and now live at Bowden

Gus and Fred both served overseas during World War II. Fred joined the army in 1941 at the age of 18. During his four years in the army he served in England, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He was with the Calgary Tank Regiment, Gus also was with the Calgary Tank Regiment. He was captured at Dieppe by the Germans but escaped from the prison camp in Germany Upon his return to Britain he was awarded the Military Medal

Gus Nelson with pet coyote.

**NELSSON, NELS JOHN — written by his daughter, Esther Mottus**

Born' In Varmland, Sweden, February 9, 1876 to Mr and Mrs. Nels Nelsson, twins — Britta Maria and Nels John

The twins lived in their farm home and grew to maturity there. Then they both got the urge to go to "Amerika", the name commonly used to designate any country on the North American continent. Nels John went to U.S.A. in 1903. Britta Maria married Nels Fredrick Erickson and moved to Canada a few years later

Nels John, my father, worked at his chosen trade, carpentry, and became very proficient There was always plenty of work for a good carpenter in a growing country, and he helped build many houses and commercial buildings. mostly in Two Harbors, and Duluth, Minnesota

Father didn't stay too long in the U.S.A. He was nostalgic for his old home, so he returned to Sweden, intending to remain there. However, the call of the west was in his blood, and again he crossed the Atlantic, this time coming to Canada. Again he took up carpentry and helped build dozens of houses in the Crow's Nest Pass area, and in Edmonton. There was no bridge across the Saskatchewan River there and he used to cross the river by boat

Like hundreds of young men of the day, father got the urge to own some land of his own. As he didn t have much money, he couldn't buy property, so he decided to file on a homestead in Central Alberta. Most homesteads near Red Deer were already taken, so he proceeded to go about forty miles to the west. He chose a quarter, SE 13-37-4-W5, in the New Hill area in 1907

A settler could get a homestead for a small fee, but a requirement was that he make certain improvements within a specified time. There were so many necessities to buy and so much work to do to establish a home and a farm out of wilderness area! He spent his summers working on his homestead, then when fall came, he went back to building houses to earn more money, which he then applied to his homestead the following summer

Father built himself a two-roomed house and a barn for his horses on his land. Then he dug a well by hand, lined it with wooden cribbing, and put a windlass with a rope and bucket over the well to facilitate lifting water to the surface. The

bush land had to be cleared. This was done with axe and grub hoe, and horse power was used to pull out stumps. It was a back-breaking task, but, like most pioneers, he was not afraid of hard work. Bit by bit, he wrested good farming land out of the virgin bush. His first crop, oats, was seeded by hand broadcasting. When the grain matured, he cut it with a scythe.

On the quarter directly south of Father's land lived a Swedish family, Emil and Linda Ostergren, and their two children, Ernest and Ellen. They had come to New Hill a year earlier, in 1906, and were fairly well established. Father spent many a pleasant evening in their company playing cards or enjoying the music they provided for themselves with violin and guitar. Father had a very good singing voice and could play the violin quite well. It was nice for him to get a good home-cooked meal once in a while, and good fresh milk and eggs from them to eke out his modest diet.

In 1910 tragedy struck the Ostergren family. Emil died of pneumonia, leaving his young family alone in a still strange land. Father helped them with heavier work but it was difficult for them to manage alone in spite of neighbor's help. However, romance came along, and father married the widow Ostergren in 1911. Since the Ostergren home was all set up for family living much better than his bachelor "shack", Father moved into the Ostergren home with his newly acquired family. Henceforth, he no longer worked out in winter. The Nelssons decided, for better or worse, to make their living solely off the land. In 1912 along I came — another mouth to feed!

Mother had one of the best gardens in the country, and raised enough vegetables to last all winter. Wild berries were abundant, and these were picked and canned. For meat, father would butcher a beef or a pig in winter when we could keep it frozen. In summer, meat was a problem, because we couldn't keep it from spoiling, so we depended mostly on eggs, and the occasional wild grouse. For a special treat we would have domestic chicken.

Mother was a good seamstress, and she sewed all the clothes for her family, even coats. Well washed flour sacks were used extensively for clothes, towels, sheets and pillow cases. She knit socks, mitts, and sweaters for all of us. She also made her own lye soap.

Cows were the backbone of the settlers' economy, providing meat, milk and butter for a growing family. Mother used to make butter which they exchanged at the store for necessities. They also kept chickens, geese, and hogs.

We kept our milk and cream in large syrup pails which we hung into the well, our only "cooler." It was a hazard, getting water from the well with a bucket. Those milk and cream pails dangling near the water were always in the way!

The roads in those days were really something! The settlers cut trails through the bush, following paths of least resistance, around sloughs and along hill tops. In wet terrain, corduroys were made by cutting poplar poles and laying them crosswise over the swampy spots. These corduroys made travel rough, when your only vehicle was a lumber wagon with no springs. Drainage was poor, and these makeshift roads were often almost impossible to travel over. Father told of shopping trips to Markerville or Evarts. He tied the wagon box securely down on the wagon so it wouldn't float away when he had to cross bridge-less streams. As he urged the horses into deep water he put his flour and his sugar on the wagon seat beside him so they would not get wet.

Taxes were inevitable even in pioneer days. Money was scarce, so settlers were given the opportunity of "working off" a part of the taxes by doing road work. Neighbors would work together, laying corduroys and covering them with dirt hauled there with horses and slips. It was slow and tedious.

In 1912 the New Hill school was built. Mr. Elwell was the first teacher. Finding a boarding place for the teacher was a problem, but Father's homestead house was empty, so that was rented out as a teacherage. There were many teachers who lived in that teacherage. One of them was Miss Eva MacIntyre who later married the New Hill postmaster, Bill Stringer.

The day father bought a new democrat was a day of rejoicing. How I admired the shiny leather seats! It was such an improvement over the heavy lumber wagon, and it had springs to absorb many hard bumps as we drove over our primitive roads.

Mother and Father liked cattle, and they gradually acquired a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus. There was no fenced land for pasture so the cattle roamed on open range. We lost many a young calf to marauding wild animals and some larger cattle got bogged down in muskeg lakes, where they drowned.

In 1919 my parents bought the Charlie Miller place NW 20-37-3-W5 in the Diamond Valley district. This was a good quarter, almost completely cleared of bush. In 1927 my parents and I moved to our new location, leaving my 27 year old brother Ernest to farm the old place. Father built a fine new frame house and the required outbuildings and Mother and I painted them. Father's twin sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Erickson, were now our neighbors living only one and one half miles north of us.

My parents were both interested in having a new community hall in our area, so a meeting of neighbors was called, at our house, and plans were made for building Central Community Hall. This hall was located on the Erickson farm and was built by volunteer labor.

Father was a member of the U.F.A. local. I went away to continue my education in 1928.

Meanwhile my parents carried on with their farming, and I helped them during holidays only.

In 1937 I married Waldemar (Wally) Mottus, a welding shop operator in Eckville. Because of my parents' failing health, it seemed expedient that we take over the farm work. Mother and Father bought a house in Sylvan Lake and retired there. Their retirement together was destined to be short. Mother died in 1938 and was buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. Father moved back to the farm with us. While we lived on the farm Wally and I had two children, Lucille and Leonard, who brought much pleasure to their grandfather.

In 1944 we all moved to Rocky Mountain House where Wally opened a machine and welding shop. The farm was rented out. Father's health continued to fail, and in 1945 he died, and was laid to rest beside Mother in the Diamond Valley cemetery.

**THE HANS OLSEN FAMILY — by Margaret Cunningham**

Hans was 17 years old when he came to Alberta from Norway with his father and mother, Daniel and Karen Olsen, in 1903. They settled on a homestead, N.E. 20-28-2-W5. This area was later called the Bluebell School district. Evarts was their nearest post office and store. Daniel met with an accident and died in 1905. He was the first person to be buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery. Karen Olsen passed away in 1909.

After his parents' death Hans took over the farm, but left shortly afterward to run a butcher shop in Bawlf. His stepbrother, Kristian Holmson, and a cousin, Chris Boller, were left to look after the farm in his absence. He came back to the farm in 1911 and married Thilda Haugrimsen.

Thilda had come with her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Botten, to Evarts from South Dakota, U.S.A. in 1902 when she was ten years of age. She had started school in South Dakota, and continued her education at the Bluebell school as soon as it was built. After finishing school she worked at Evarts until she got married.

Hans and Thilda also had a quarter of land at Coronation, but they didn't live out there very long before they sold it and came back to settle on the home place to make their permanent home. They did a lot of cutting brush and clearing land. Hans and his cousin Chris bought the quarter to the south of the home place, S.E. 20-38-3-W5, called the Benson place, and farmed it together for a few years. Then our dad bought Chris out as he had got a quarter of land of his own.

Their family consisted of four boys, Harry, Walter, Donald and a baby boy who died at birth, and two daughters, Margaret and Mildred. We all attended the Bluebell School; at one time four of us rode on one horse to get to school. With a load like that you would think the poor horse would be bogged down, but, no, it didn't stop her from wanting to race when the other kids on horseback were with us. Harry was up front and I was on the tail end, with Walter and Donald being in the middle. When she got a break-away Harry couldn't hold her so we had some fast and furious rides until our dad put another bit in her bridle. However, we never fell off the horse.

I can remember that when we were kids we used to help pile brush and pick roots in the summertime, along with our parents, so we know a little of the pioneer days and of the work it involved. The boys used to help with the stooking but the most tedious job of all was haying. It seemed to take all summer because it was slow and tiresome work in all that heat.

We always had quite a few horses. Our dad used to break them in during the wintertime. He would hitch up a bronco with an older work horse to a bobsleigh and box, jump in and away they would go. He would let them run until the horses tired and calmed down. By the time spring came he had an extra horse or two to use for spring work. When the bronco was quieted down pretty good he would let us kids go along, and we thought this was great fun.

There weren't any household conveniences away back then. The first one I remember was a washing machine with a round wooden tub. It had a big wheel that a handle fit into and you pulled it back and forth. That made the agitator work. This wheel was fastened inside the lid. We took our turns at keeping it going until the washing was done — but it beat scrubbing the clothes on a washboard. No wonder washday was called "Blue Monday."

Our mother passed away in 1932 at the age of 40 years and our dad passed away in June, 1942 at the age of 56 years. They were both buried in the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

Gradually the family grew up and left home. Harry was married to Audrey Cunningham in 1935 and moved to S.W. 27-38-3-W5, about one mile east of the home place, formerly owned by J. T. Marshall of Eckville. They have two daughters, Johanna and Faye. Johanna is married to Bill Budvarson of the Craig district. They have two sons, Jim and Perry, and live in Eckville. Faye married Melvin Molander of Eckville and they have two children, Cheryl and Corey. They live in Didsbury.

Margaret married Claude Cunningham in 1936 and they live two and one-half miles south of Eckville. They have three children — Lloyd, Dale and Judy. Lloyd married Linda Lutz of Olds and they have two children, Dawn and Neal. They live in Eckville. Dale married Mary Watts Storms. They live on the Sr. Cunningham farm south of Eckville and have one son, Ronnie. Judy is single, and works in Calgary.

Walter married Laura Langer of Eckville in 1944 and they live on the home place. Their two children are Barbara and Barry. Barbara works in Calgary, and is single. Barry married Dixie Blow of Cochrane and they have two sons, Kerry

and Robbie. Barry is presently living in Scotland.

Donald was in the army from June 1941 until December 1945. He returned from the Service and farmed his quarter of land which joins the home place, S.E. 20-38-3-W5. He and Walter farmed together for a few years, then he took employment in Calgary and now resides there. He is still single.

Mildred married Russel Fraser of Ontario in 1961 and they have one daughter, Debbie. They live in Calgary.

Most of our children attended Bluebell School until 1955, when it became centralized and the children were bussed into Eckville.

**THE EGNES PALKOT FAMILY — by Dora Carlyle**

Egnes Palkot was born in Lithuania on July 31, 1885. He came to Pennsylvania, U.S.A. and worked in a butchering establishment for two years. In 1911 he came to Calgary, Alberta and worked as a brick layer's helper. He left there when work became scarce and went to work on a farm at Claresholm. In 1914 he rode a freight train to Innisfail and then proceeded west on foot to the Stauffer district where his sister, Mrs. Bredick, was living. He was equipped with a swede saw, axe and pack sack. He often spoke of the time he stopped at Mrs. Linneberg's hen house and took a few eggs to suck and Mrs. Linneberg came out to gather eggs and found him there.

Egnes homesteaded on SW 17-37-4-W5. He built a small log shack and began clearing land. He returned to Claresholm for several years in the fall to work, and in the winters worked in the mines at Nordegg, returning to the homestead each spring to continue clearing land. In 1915 he borrowed a horse, an axe and a plow and broke three acres. The next year he bought a team of horses. He broadcast his crop and that fall he cut the crop with a scythe, dried it, then threshed it with a flail and stored it in bags. His diet on the homestead consisted mainly of berries, rabbits and wild birds. If it hadn't been for these, many homesteaders would have starved or given up and moved away. On one occasion when Egnes came home from the mines, he found that his home had been occupied by some other settlers who had come too late to build a house before winter set in. They then moved on to locate on land of their own.

Each year more land was cleared and broken, and in 1918 Egnes received the title to his homestead. Egnes cut tamarack posts and hauled them to Alhambra to earn extra money. This, along with his other income, made it possible for him to purchase a team of beautiful, matched grey horses, a fancy driving harness for them, a black cutter for winter and a fancy black buggy. With such outstanding travel equipment he started courting and soon won the hand of Antonia Speroski.

Antonia had come from Lithuania in 1923 and made her home with her brother, Frank Speroski, who lived in the Gilby District. Antonia tells a story about one time while out driving, they had stopped the team. When Egnes went to embrace her, he knocked her large hat off, which frightened the horses and they had a run away. Antonia and Egnes were married in 1924.

By this time the threshing was done by John Dietz, who had a hand-fed thresher driven by a 10-horse power pump engine. This was quite a job, as the stacked bundles had to be cut and fed into the machine and, as there was no blower on the machine, men had to fork the straw away into piles. In 1925 the Ebis bought a Case thresher and tractor. This was a real machine, and it cut the strings, as well as having a blower and grain auger.

On September 15, 1925 their first and only son, Edward, was born. On this same day their entire crop was completely hailed out. By this time there was approximately 80 acres in crop. Luckily, Egnes had put hail insurance on the crop, and this was the last day that the insurance was valid. It was the one and only time he had ever carried insurance and he was hailed out only once after that, in 1946.

Their first daughter, Frances, was born October 2, 1927. During that year they also purchased a used Chevrolet touring car, which came with snap-on curtains. In 1929 he traded this car for a new Plymouth.

In 1932 Egnes purchased an old 10-20 Titan steel-wheeled tractor, which he used only for grinding, because he was now established in the pig raising business. Egnes had an old binder which a farmer in Claresholm had discarded. His line of machinery had now increased to include a wooden box and wooden wheel seed drill, a two-bottom horse plow, a six foot single disc, a horse-drawn mower and a dump hay rake.

During these years the necessity to get their crops off made these early homesteaders into unpublished inventors. The fall of 1927 was very wet. In order to cut his crop Mr. Dobia mounted a motorcycle engine on his binder to run the sickle, canvas reel and knotter. The bull wheel drive was disconnected and set in a two-horse dirt slip. The horses were hitched to this and they pulled the binder through the soggy fields. Mr. Dobia took the crop off for Egnes that year. It took eight horses to pull this, while in an ordinary year four horses could easily pull the binder.

By this time the homestead shack was getting too small and an additional room was added. This addition made it possible to have bedrooms upstairs. This was a necessity because on July 18, 1933, twin daughters, Ileen and Ireen, were born.

In 1933 the SW 18-37-4-W5 was purchased from John Junaitis. There were 30 or 40 acres broken on this land and it was fenced with two rows of barbed wire. Egnes ran cattle on this land, as well as on a half section of Hudson Bay land

which he leased. The sloughs, which were dry enough, were mowed and stacked for hay for winter feed. Indians were hired to cut brush and grub and limb the big trees. In winter these trees were cut into firewood. The Indians would contract the work for three to four dollars per acre. At times there would be as many as 30 tents at the work site. The first part of this land was broken by Ed Clay, with 12 horses on a wooden beam plow. The other parts were broken by Mervin Howe, using Pete Lecerf's 22-36 International tractor with steel wheels and a steel beam plow. In all, 150 acres were cleared. The remaining patches were broken by Sandy Morigeau and Frank Dobia in later years.

During the hungry thirties, relief men were available to farmers for winter work. The government paid the men five dollars a month and the farmer five dollars for his room and board; most of these men were very good workers. The farmers would usually give the worker the five dollars which had been intended for payment for board and room. The men usually did the chores and cut wood.

In 1936 a Massey Harris Pacemaker tractor was purchased. It had rubber tires and was the first one thus equipped in the district. It caused much speculation as to the desirability of rubber tires, in regard to punctures and traction, but it proved to be reliable. A six-foot tiller and a three-bottom plow, 14-inch, were also purchased at this time. Egnes decided these pieces of equipment would be used for preparing the land only, and the seeding and binding would be done with horses. Within two years tractor hitches were put on all pieces of equipment. The horses were soon sold, except for two teams, which were kept for hauling bundles. Wheat, oats and barley were grown by this time, and summerfallow was part of the crop rotation.

In 1941 Edward finished his schooling and joined his father in the farming business. They purchased a Massey Harris 101 with rubber tires. Ed used this tractor and a rubber-tired wagon to haul fattened hogs to market at Hespero.

During these years many of the farmers paid their taxes by helping to build roads. This proved quite a job, as poles had to be cut and laid side by side in the muskegs. This was called corduroy and on this, dirt was hauled and laid over the logs, so the traveller could have a smoother ride. In other places ditches were dug and the dirt piled on the road and levelled off. This was done mainly with slips and fresnoes, pulled by horses. The farmers of the district took turns maintaining these roads.

In 1942 a number 15 eight-foot pull type Massey Harris combine was purchased. In 1943 a quarter of land was bought from Frank Trezka. There was about 80 acres of cultivated land, and the remainder of this land was broken by 1948. The building site on this quarter was broken, and during this procedure three gallons of powerful moonshine were unearthed. The men on that year's threshing crew will not forget the party they had with the help of this moonshine!

In 1949 Egnes and Antonia left the farm and bought one and a half acres at Sylvan Lake. They built a house and established the Sunset Paradise Camping Grounds. They remained in Sylvan Lake until 1971, when they sold the camp grounds and purchased a home in Innisfail. Egnes passed away in Calgary on September 2, 1974. Antonia still resides in their home in Innisfail.

Ed married Ferna McNeil of Evergreen on November 29, 1947. In 1955 they sold the Stauffer farm and bought a farm at Innisfail. They have two daughters. Linda is married to Raymond Smith and has two children, Kelly and Carmen. They live and work on the home farm.

Marilyn is married to Bill Howard of Wimbourne.

Frances is married to Jack Curtis and they reside in Delta, B.C. They have three children, Ronnie, Elaine and Cathy. Ronnie and Elaine are both married and Elaine has two children, Steven and Darren.

Ileen married John Glambeck in 1953 and they have three children, Bruce, Allan and Bonnie. They live in Red Deer.

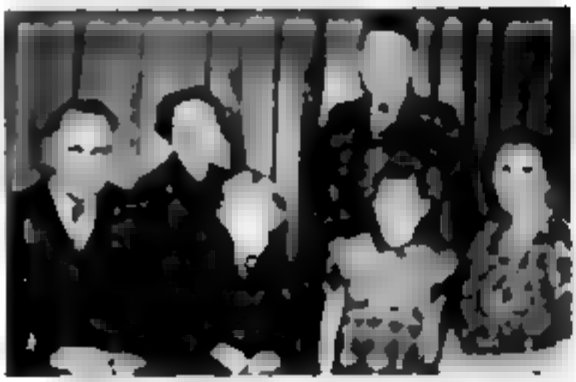
Ireen married Tom Burke. They live in Calgary with their three children, Kevin, Shelley and Phyllis.

**PHELPS, WILLIAM MAXWELL**

Bill was born in Dowagiac, Michigan, U.S.A., April 13, 1907. He came to Alberta in 1927 to his half brother (Fred Dalton) and family at Dalmead, Alberta. He worked on different farms as hired help. In 1930, he came to the Diamond Valley district to a friend that had Sec. 29-37-3-W5 rented. Bill helped him farm as he was a school teacher. Bill and I, Evelyn Martinson, were married October 1, 1932. The school teacher, Wendell Phillips, had left Bill the land by this time which Bill rented. We were there and farmed it until the spring of 1934. Then we rented SE 30-37-3-W5 owned by A. J. Hoven. We farmed with horses. Bill took horses to break from the Armstrong Brothers of Eckville for several years. In the spring of 1936, my mother had a sale and left the farm. We rented the land SE and NW 11-38-4-5 from her and moved there with our family of two, Marie born March, 1934 and Lenard born July, 1935. We bought this half section in 1938. We farmed with horses until after 1940. We had saddle horses and a driving team until 1942 when we bought our first truck.

My two brothers, Floyd and Melvin Martinson and two sisters Virginia and Ruth Martinson were with us from 1936-1952. They took their schooling at Gaetz school. By 1952, they married and made homes of their own.

Bill and I had lots of help as the years went by. Bill loved his farming horses and livestock.



Mr. and Mrs. (William and Evelyn) Phelps, Marie, Lenard, Muriel and Adelbert 1946

He did a lot of community work in different organizations

In 1942, we had a daughter, Muriel and in 1944 a son Delbert. In 1948, we bought our first car after spring seeding and took our family and went on a two month trip back to Bill's home state of Michigan, U.S.A. Also through Iowa and South Dakota to my folks relatives In 1949, we bought the SW and NW quarters of Sec. 11 36-4 W5. These quarters were bush land We cleared the NW quarter in a few years and had it into crop. We always milked 10 to 20 cows by hand and had a lot of hogs. In 1950, we built a chicken house and brooder and I spent a few years raising chickens and turkeys. The profits weren't large but we had spending money. The spring of 1949, the power came in which was a big help to the district

The spring of 1959, Bill had a heart attack after he had finished seeding the crop that day He was in the hospital for six weeks He recovered and was able to do ordinary work until the spring of 1961 when he had another heart attack and passed away Son Delbert was 16 years old at the time. He and I carried on farming with hired help. We threshed until 1965, then bought a combine and swather Delbert lives on and farms the home place. He married Lisa Wyzkoski and they have four girls, Cindy, Charlene, Candice and Crystal.

Muriel married Max Bott and lives and farms near Withrow, Alberta. They have one son Roger

Lenard married June Darbyshire. They have three children, Clayton, Constance and Lorna. Connie was married in June 1977 to John Macleod of Edmonton. Lenard has been an oil man for over 20 years. He has worked in Alberta and the U.S.A. At present he is living in Texas and is president of Thomson Drilling Co

Marie married Edwart Bott and lives and farms near Withrow, Alberta. They have four children, Russell, Gene, Carolyn and Joanne.

I have a suite in the Jem Apartments in Eckville, Alberta and am manager and caretaker there

**PHILLIPS, WILLARD AND BEATRICE — by Beatrice Phillips**

Eckville has always been a part of my life, as my family did much of their business there. I was born at Evarts, Alberta, the daughter of David and Ada McNeil. We had a mixed farming operation and milked a few cows. The cream was taken to Eckville usually twice a week, and the needed purchases made. One time I remember Dad taking some wheat to be ground into flour at the mill there. Mother had a great deal of difficulty making good bread with it, but I know nothing was wasted, as she always found a way to make use of everything It was the secret of success in the hard times, and we, as a family, did very well, thanks to our careful parents

In the fall of 1942 I, along with my sister Ethel, and Doreen Stauffer, took up residence in one room above the home of my aunt and uncle, the J. M. McDonald's. Here we ate, slept, and studied, but spent very few weekends there It was a very disturbing sight on the Monday morning in January when we drove up in front of our school and, peering through the frosty windows of the truck, saw the smouldering ruins of the school with only the chimney standing. School resumed a week later in the Hall. We did lose credits in our chemistry course because we did not have a laboratory, but, thanks to our much loved teacher, Mrs. Westergard, school continued. We did have concerts and bazaars to raise money to help replace some of the lost equipment

February was a sad month, too, for we lost our grandmother, Mrs. Hugh McNeil. March saw more and more snow and winds that made many roads impassible. One Friday night my sister and I had to walk the last half mile home in the dark, falling over four-foot drifts. Spring came, with the rivers all flooding their banks and causing the loss of two lives — Mr Leithhead, at Evarts, and Bill MacDonald, the father of our good friend, Kay. It was a time that will be hard to forget

After finishing school in Eckville I went to work at the Evarts store and then to the bank in Sylvan Lake. Doreen went on to finish her schooling at Red Deer and Dickson, after which she did some supervisor-teaching. She married Clifford Hillman and they still reside on their farm at Evarts. They have three children. Ethel went on to graduate from the Eckville School and later graduated as a nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital. In 1949. She worked in Stettler before her marriage to Frank Morrison Thornton in 1951. They now live in Calgary and have two children. Ethel still does part time nursing at the Foothills Hospital

In January of 1947 Willard Phillips and I were married. We went to live in the Evarts district and worked for Peter Stewart on his farm for five years. We then purchased a quarter of our own, and moved into our new home in the spring of 1952. Robert Media was the previous owner of

the quarter we bought. In 1960 we bought the land we now live on from Ken Darlington. He had built up the place after his return from the war. It had originally been owned by D. Snyder.

Willard was born in the Arbutus district near Rocky Mountain House. His father, J. Arthur, came west after graduating from MacDonald Agricultural College. He had been born in Westmount, Quebec, and had lived in the city environment, so he knew little about farm life in the rugged west. He took a homestead and married Laura Gardiner, who, with her parents, had moved from North Dakota, U.S.A. They also were on a homestead. They raised five boys and one girl, Willard being the second oldest. He attended school in Arbutus, then went to work in the bush. His first job on a threshing crew, in 1935, was in this same area. He also worked in the Evarts area in succeeding years and from there he joined the army and went overseas in January, 1943. He took part in the "D Day" invasion in France, returning home in December of 1945.

We have two sons, David and Keith, who both took all their schooling in Eckville. After their graduation they went to work, mainly in the oil industry. David married Wendy Primrose of Rocky Mountain House. They have two daughters, Carrie and Angela. David is presently employed as a driller with Loffland Bros. Drilling. Keith married Judith Szoke and is presently employed as a welder at the Syncrude plant near Fort McMurray.

**RASMUSSEN FAMILIES — by Iris Rasmussen**

In the spring Neils Rasmussen, his wife and family moved into the Bluebell area. They located on the NW 28-38-3-W5, which they purchased from Pete Pedersen and which is now owned by Thresea Rasmussen.

Neils Rasmussen, born September, 1862, in Denmark, emigrated to California, U.S.A. There he met Jensina (born September 13, 1862 in Denmark) and they were married on October 14, 1885 in California. They soon moved, and took up a homestead in Lakin, Kansas, U.S.A.

Neils and Jensina Rasmussen had eight children born in Kansas. A daughter, Ethel, born April 17, 1908, passed away on May 15, 1909.

Upon coming to Canada they brought with them settlers effects, ambition and a desire to expand in a new country. In 1923 they purchased NW 32-36-4-W5, in the Condor area. This land was later rented by their sons. They resided on their Condor farm until their passing, Neils in February, 1932 and Jensina in February, 1933. They are buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery, which is located on SE 16-36-3-W5, and is more commonly referred to as the Diamond Valley Cemetery.

Descendents of Neils and Jensina Rasmussen were: Clara Anna, born February 5, 1887. She married Charles Dickerson Steinbeck, known as Carl. They came with her parents to this country and homesteaded the SE 19-36-3-W5, which is now owned by Harry Medin. They lived in a log cabin on this land for about eight years. This cabin is still standing. Clara and Carl Steinbeck had seven children: Herbert Franklin, Edwin, Fred, William, Hilda, Joseph and Marie, all born in and around this area. Frank, with his wife and family from North Carolina have visited this area four different times. Joseph and his wife have also been here. Clara passed away after a sudden illness on January 18, 1919. She is buried in the Medicine Valley cemetery. Carl moved back to the States with his family on April 6, 1919.

Alfred Thomas, the oldest son of Neils and Jensina, was born September 22, 1891. Alfred homesteaded the NE 19-36-3-W5. He met Lily May Ellis, a local school teacher in this area, and they were married in 1921. Alfred and May have five children, Freda, Elsie, James, Lee and Nesley, all living in the Fairview, Alberta area. Alfred and May moved to the Clive area in 1927 where they farmed. In 1955 they moved to Whitelaw to be near their children. Alfred and May have both passed away. They are buried in the Whitelaw cemetery.

Marinus Henry, known as Enos, married Agnes French, a Condor girl. They lived until 1925 in the area, then moved to Yakima, Washington, U.S.A., Enos was accidently killed in May, 1926. Their three children were Henry, Earl and Dorothy. Agnes now lives in Oregon, U.S.A.

Rudolph Andrew, known as Rudy, was born December 2, 1894. He lived at home until joining the Army in May, 1918. He served in the 31st Battalion in Bramshot, England until the war ended. In 1923 Rudy married Gena Botten. They farmed the NE 29-36-3-W5, purchased through the Soldier Settlement Board. Rudy and Gena had six children. Ruth, Herman, Elmer, Oliver, Enos and Helena. Helena passed away six weeks after her birth.

Next came a sad time for Rudy and his family, as Gena passed away on February 13, 1933 of pneumonia. The shock of this news caused Rudy's mother to pass away the next day. There was a sad, double funeral and both were buried in the Medicine Valley Cemetery. Rudy carried on with his family of small children with help from relatives and neighbors. In the spring Irene Bardwell (nee Wylie), a widow with three small children, Kenneth, Joyce and Alice, came as his housekeeper. This proved to be a satisfactory arrangement, as Rudy and Irene were married June 21, 1934. Shortly after their marriage the community held a charivari, as was the custom in those days. Rudy and Irene managed to get outside without the crowd seeing them. They joined in the racket and revelry. After a while, when no one appeared, several men lifted Orrin Wylie in the window. No one was there! There was a great deal of laughter when Rudy and Irene were discovered in the crowd!

To this marriage was born Ronald, Daniel,

Shirley and Loyal. This large family was active in functions at the Bluebell School and throughout the area. Rudy and Irene were interested in raising their family in a Christian way. They attended the Diamond Valley Church regularly.

In the fall of 1947 Rudy sold his land, and early in 1948 they moved with their younger children to Abbotsford, B.C., where they still live.

Orvel Nesley was born May 24, 1897. Like his brother Rudy, he joined the Army in 1918. Orvel was in the 51st Battalion in Bramshot, England. After his discharge he rented land from his parents, eventually buying the original farm, NW 29-38-3-W5. Orvel married Thressa Botten on August 31, 1932. On the day of their wedding Ernest, Orvel's brother, drove them to Red Deer. While Orvel was away his other brothers and other ambitious fellows in the area got into the house and prepared it for the returning newly-married couple. They moved the new bedroom suite upstairs and brought the old one down, which they set up with great care. They filled the oven of the cook stove with rubbers and boots. To make things more interesting they placed a pump engine in the middle of the kitchen floor. Orvel and Thressa must have had mixed feelings when they returned home!

Orvel farmed in this area until his passing on April 26, 1962. He is buried in the Red Deer cemetery.

Clarence Raymon, the fifth son of Neils and Jansina Rasmussen, was born April 1, 1900. Ray married Annie Bjornson of the Markerville district in May, 1922. They lived in this area before moving to Flatbush in 1934. Ray and Annie have seven children: Bjorn, Richard, Clara, Clifford, Jean, Margaret and Ann. Ray passed away July 14, 1973, one week after attending a Rasmussen family reunion.

Ernest Richard, known to many as Johnny, was born March 31, 1903 in Lakin, Kansas. Ernest farmed the Condor land for his parents for many years. On April 11, 1934 he married Gladys Jayes. In 1945 they moved to Fawcett, Alberta, where they operated a cafe and service station for many years. This service centre had a motto "Eat with Ma, gas with Pa" and that is what many people used to enjoy, as Gladys was an excellent cook and Ernest's service was equally as good. Gladys and Ernest retired to a small farm in the Nestow area. They had three children: Gerald, Stanley and Bonnie Jean. Ernest passed away suddenly in January, 1975.

Hilda Ida, born July 26, 1905, came with her parents to this area. She attended the Bluebell and Prairie Rose schools. While on a trip to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, Hilda met and married Floyd McCormick on December 1, 1924. They made Spokane their home, where they had two sons, Floyd and Wayne. Floyd passed away in January, 1960. Hilda then married Lawrence Gugler in May, 1965. Lawrence passed away July 18, 1972. Hilda lives alone in Spokane, Washington.

Two grandsons of Neils and Jensina, sons of Rudolph Rasmussen, live in this area. Elmer Stanley was born March 16, 1927 at his home in the Bluebell area. Elmer, with his brothers Herman and Oliver, moved to the Fawcett area where they took up homesteads. Elmer stayed with his Uncle Ray and Aunt Annie for some time. On April 11, 1950 he married Iris Helen Wilson, a local school teacher. They lived on the homestead for three years before moving to Barrhead, Alberta. Here he started working for Farm Electric Services, and worked at this job for eight years. In May of 1962 Elmer rented land from Mrs. Thressa Rasmussen, where he now resides.

Elmer and Iris have four children, Wayne Elmer, born July 7, 1954, attended school in Eckville and on August 10, 1974 he married Sandra Nielson. Wayne works in Red Deer, but intends to make Eckville his home.

Lois Anne was born December 5, 1957 in Mayerthorpe, Alberta. She took her schooling in Eckville, graduating from high school in 1975. Since then she has acquired an interest in different types of cooking.

David Terrance, born November 18, 1962 and Clark Robert, born December 7, 1964, both attend Eckville school and reside at home.

**ENOS AND IRENE RASMUSSEN — by Irene Rasmussen**

Enos Gilbert was born July 22, 1930 at home in the Eckville area. He helped his dad on the farm until Mr. Rasmussen sold his land to Walter Boettger. Enos then helped his dad move to Abbotsford, B.C., but he returned to stay with Orvel and Thressa Rasmussen. He belonged to the Benalto Agriculture Society for a few years. He showed sheep at the Edmonton Stock Fair on several occasions. For 13 years Enos rented land from Mrs. Tennant. He met Irene Bozak of the Gaetz district and they were married in April of 1957 in Red Deer.

Enos and Irene lived in various places, until moving to the New Hill district. They later bought land there. They have five children: Therese, Brenda, Dorothy, Charles and Gale. Therese graduated from the Spruce View school in 1977 and is working in Red Deer. The other children are still at home.

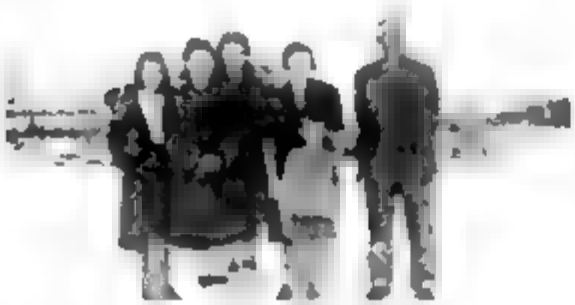
**THE RAZZOLINI FAMILY**

Giovanni Razzolini came to Canada to Vancouver from Montrumo, Italy, in 1913. From Vancouver he moved to Rockyford, Alberta to work on a farm. In 1922 he came to Eckville and bought the W 21-39-3-W5, from the C.P.R. This land was in the Blue Bell School district. The land was all bush and he had to clear it by hand and with horses.

In 1924 he married Marina Zanesco of Castelcucco, Italy, in Calgary. After their

marriage they returned to the farm, and to a brand new home, something that most people did not have. This house had been built by a brother-in-law that had lost his wife (Mr Razzolini's sister) and they were to raise three of his children in exchange for the house. In the mean time the brother-in-law remarried, and the rais ing of his three children by Giovanni and Marina never came to pass.

For income many cattle and pigs were raised. Four children were born to them: Amelia, Maria, Luigina and Gino. Due to ill health Mr Razzolini sold the farm in 1958, at which time the family moved to Lacombe. Mr Razzolini passed away on September 3, 1963. He is buried at Alto Reste Memorial Gardens in Red Deer. Mrs. Raz zolini now resides in the Eckville Manor.



Mr. and Mrs. O. Razzolini and family

Amy was born in April, 1925. She married Ron Davidge of Edson in May, 1946. They have two sons and one daughter, Dennis, Terry and Janice. Dennis married Mary Nickel of Van couver and they have one daughter, Michelle. Terry married Linda Pointer of Calgary and they have one son, Kyle. Janice married Laurence Tisch of Calgary and they are now liv ing in Winnipeg.

Luigina was born on November 10, 1929. She married Clem Croome of Edmonton on January 31, 1953. They had two sons, Murray and Dale. Clem passed away on August 20, 1960. Luigina married Jim Wright of Diamond Valley in November, 1967, and they have one daughter, Rina.

Murray married Sally Esary of Vancouver. They have one son, Adam, and one daughter, Becky. They are living in Coquitlam, B.C.

Dale and Rina are living in Calgary.

**THE HARRY SAFRON FAMILY — by Violet Safron**

Harry Max Safron worked for Trident Drill ing, later purchased by Peter Bawden Drilling. Harry was employed on the Trident rig, which drilled the hole where the Gilby Gas Plant is now located. While working in this area Harry met his wife-to-be, Violet Cordon. They were married on August 1, 1957, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Sylvan Lake.

In 1960 Harry decided to go farming, and purchased the E 25-38-4-W5 and the SE 30-38-3-W5 from his father-in-law, John Cordon. On August 21, 1963 the original barn burned down, so Harry applied for a timber lease from the Forestry Department. He cut the trees, hauled and sawed the logs, planed the lumber and, being handy with a hammer and talented with a saw, he built a new barn in 1964. He continued logging and in 1971 began building the new house, following the plans which he and Violet had drawn up. The family built the house themselves, with the ex ception of pouring of the basement, floor and footings and the building of the fireplace.

In 1972 Harry and Violet tried out a new ven ture — a Holiday Farm. In 1973 they accepted 52 young people from the ages of 16 to 23 years, for five weeks, supplying them with room, board, and farming experiences.

During the winter of 1976-1977 Harry was hired by the Eckville Agricultural Society as "spear-header" for the inside construction of the new Multi-purpose Building in Eckville. His job was to order material, solve construction problems and to organize the work for the many volunteer workers.

Harry is a member of the Benalto Elks Club, the Eckville Curling Club and the Hespero Hall Board. He is also kept very busy with 4-H Club and children's activities, even to teaching the school children to curl. He never misses a hunt ing or fishing trip out west, usually accom panied by his boys, and often by the whole family. In 1977 Harry received a five-year Leadership Award from the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs.

Violet, having been a horse-lover all her life, has taken part in many horse shows and gymkhanas over the years. In 1976 she was presi dent of the Eckville Catholic Women's League and vice-president of the Eckville Curling Club, in addition to taking an active part in the Eckville Curling Club and the Hespero Com munity Club. In 1977 she was presented with a Ten-Year Leadership Award from the Canadian Council of 4-H Clubs.

Harry and Violet have three sons and a daughter — Daniel, Dennis, Terry and Brenda. Daniel and Dennis both have graduated from Eckville High School. Terry and Brenda still at tend school in Eckville.

**SMITH, WILLIAM AND JEAN**

Bill Smith was born at Irvine, Alberta, the sec ond youngest son of Tom and Elizabeth Smith, and came with his parents to the Kuusamo dis trict in 1924. He attended school at Evarts, Kuusamo, Eckville and Red Deer.

After leaving school he worked one summer for Glen Eisenhauer, near Sylvan Lake, where one of his jobs was to plough for 37 days with a six-horse team. The pay was $25 a month with every second Sunday off. After this he worked for Stewart Brothers Equipment of Red Deer for

a few months — salary $45 per month — before going back to the farm to stay

He farmed with his brothers in the Eckville district until 1941 when he and his brother Tom enlisted in the army. Before going overseas he and Tom bought S 20-39-3-W5 from Luther Finlay. During the next four and a half years he served in England, Italy, Northwest Europe and with the Army of Occupation in Germany before returning home in 1946.

In 1948 he married Jean Staniforth, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Staniforth from the Evarts district. She was born in Red Deer and educated at Evarts and Red Deer.

In the spring of 1948 they moved to NE 6-39-3 W5, which they had bought from Ernie Barlund, and they have lived and farmed there ever since. They started without central heating, electricity, plumbing, telephone or gravelled road, but these all came as time went on. They farmed at first with a combination of horses and tractor and stooked and threshed the crop. In 1957 they bought Tom Cunningham's farm, SW 5-39-3-W5, when he quit farming to go to work for an oil company.

Jean taught Sunday school at Hespero Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Ladies' Aid until it was disbanded when the church closed. Both Jean and Bill were members of the Hespero Church Board. Bill was on the Eckville Co-op Association board of directors for 17 years and on the Eckville Co-op Livestock Association Board for many years, having the jobs of chairman and secretary on each of these boards. He has also had a turn as secretary of the Eckville Legion. Jean was on the executive of the Eckville figure-skating club and sang in the church choir.

Bill and Jean have four daughters. Elizabeth Jean (Beth) married Ole Bendixen and they have two daughters and live in Calgary.

Sharon Margaret married Richard Guest of Eckville. They have three daughters and live in Pincher Creek.

Mary Louise married Rod Bardenhagen. They have one daughter and one son and live near Rocky Mountain House.

Beverly Ann married Don Bardenhagen. They have one son and live in Eckville.

**SONNIE, JOHN**

John Sonnie emigrated to Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1880 from Sweden. In 1884 he sent for the girl who was to be his wife, Matilda Olson. They settled in Gallitzen, Pennsylvania, where he worked in the coal mines.

In 1905 they came to Diamond Valley, where he homesteaded NE 32-37-3-W5. This farm is now owned by John Murdock. They had seven children.

Hattie, the oldest, married Tom Varty of Innisfail.

Emil married Dazarene Reighley. He worked in large sawmills in British Columbia most of his life. He now resides in Vancouver.

Gus and his wife, Ruth, were farmers and now live in Finnigan.

Alma married Harry Ballance of Diamond Valley in 1913. They had four children, Gladys, Mary, Gordon and Hazel. Harry passed away in 1923.

Alma married George Elder of Innisfail in 1933. They moved to Vancouver in 1941. George died in 1942. Alma now resides in British Columbia.

Alan was a member of the police force and died while yet a young man.

Helen married Thory Johnson of the Markerville district. They reside in Calgary.

Victor and his wife, Eva, remained on the home farm until they moved to Calgary a few years before Vic died.

Of the Sonnie sons Gus has one son, Bud, who has a son now. He is the only boy to carry on the Sonnie name.

**ALEXANDER MALCOLM STEWART**

The blood of three branches of the Stewart clan, traceable back through the centuries, fused in the veins of Alexander Malcolm Stewart. He was the second man to cross the Medicine River at Evarts and locate a homestead, in what was later to become the Diamond Valley district.

He was born at Port Huron, Ontario, August 24, 1876, the son of Angus D. and Jane (Stewart) Stewart, and he attended school there. After working on a farm in Ontario, he came west from Wyoming, Ontario to Manitoba in 1899 and in 1901 he came to the Red Deer district and worked on farms in the area. On August 13, 1901, he first crossed the Medicine River by boat, where Evarts was subsequently located, to work at a saw mill three miles west of the river. Range three, although it was being surveyed that year, was not open for homesteading. However, any man 18 years of age or older, who was a British subject or who was willing to take out naturalization papers, could choose a quarter section and build a small house on it, and then have the first chance to file on it, as soon as that could be actually be done.

Alex Stewart filed on SW 4-38-3 W5 in 1902 and his first shack was built of slabs and poles. This was subsequently replaced by a home on a location farther to the south. Roads were non-existent in the area at that time and until 1903, when a post office was opened at Evarts, mail had to be brought out from Red Deer. The country was wet and most of the horses brought in died of swamp fever. For several years Alex used a team of oxen to break the land that he so arduously cleared by hand. He had one ox that he sometimes rode and when, as sometimes happened, he did not take the pasture bell off him, it announced his arrival at his destination.

In 1905 his parents and his sister, Catherine, came west from Ontario to join him on the

homestead. His father, Angus D. Stewart, the son of Alex D. Stewart, was born at East Williams, Ontario in 1843. He was married May 29, 1872, to Jane Stewart, the youngest daughter of Archibald E. Stewart, and they lived in Caradoc township for some time prior to moving near Wyoming, Ontario, from whence they later journeyed westward. A Presbyterian in religion and a Liberal in politics, Angus Stewart was a kind, generous and honest type of man. He homesteaded on the NW 17-38-3 W5, which originally had been C.P.R. land, but which had been traded back to the federal government and opened up for homesteading in 1908. He died on January 30, 1910, at the age of 67 years. Mrs Stewart continued to live with her son until the early 1920's, when she went to live with a daughter, Mrs Duncan Macarimey, in Manitoba, where she died in 1925. Both Mr and Mrs. Angus Stewart are buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. Their daughter, Catherine, married Glen Caton, one of Alex Stewart's nearest neighbors, in 1910.

Alex Stewart was married to Pearl Coughlan in 1918, and following her death in 1939 he married Jessie Caton in 1936. Throughout the years he took an active part in practically every phase of the development of the district, being a member of the first council when the first four township local improvement districts were formed, and when the district school was built in 1910 he was appointed secretary treasurer of the district at a salary of $35. per year. He never turned to power farming, using horses continuously after the era of the ox team had passed. For a number of years four black horses provided his favorite source of operational power. He also took great pride in his herd of Shorthorn cattle. In 1950, at 74 years of age, he received a Save the Soil scroll from the Alberta Department of Agriculture. The year 1956 marked the 54th successive year that he had put up hay in the Diamond Valley district.

He had a remarkable memory for names and dates and a keen sense of humor that is remembered by all those who knew him. His door was opened to everyone and he took part in every local activity. Throughout his life he enjoyed wonderful health. He had been having some of his field work done on a hired basis for two years, but he continued to keep his cattle and horses, until 1960, when he suffered a heart attack. He then sold his cattle and horses and rented the farm, on which, however, he continued to live. As late as the fall of 1963 he helped to shovel grain. He died January 28, 1964, at the age of 87 years and is buried in the Diamond Valley cemetery. His widow resides in Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

**THE CHARLIE VANHORN FAMILY (GAETZ) — by Dora Carlyle**

Charlie Vanhorn came to Gaetz district with his parents and brother William and sisters Eva, Reta and Winnie. They settled on a homestead one mile west and a quarter mile south of the present location of Gaetz school. He began working as an elevator agent and worked in many locations. While working in Monitor he married Charlottie Boles of the Gaetz district, who was also one of the first class in Gaetz school.

Charlottie had come from Oregon, U.S.A. with her parents in 1910 and lived on their homestead one mile west of Gaetz school. During their stay at Monitor their first child, Gladys, was born in 1918. They spent three years at Kootuk, the C.P.R. siding south of Eckville, later moving to a home one mile west of Gaetz school. Here two more daughters were born, Jessie on December 26, 1924 and Laurine on December 27, 1926.

Their home burned and they decided to start farming on their own, buying a quarter section from Ressers, a half mile father west. Here they broke more land, farming with horses. They built a new barn in 1937 and raised hogs, cattle, chickens, and shipped cream for many years.

Their daughter Gladys passed away in June of 1933 and is buried in the Gaetz cemetery. On August 11, 1942 a son, Howard, was born. All of their children attended Gaetz school.

Charlie was a school trustee for Gaetz school for many years and was also a member of the Evergreen Hall Board. When orchestras were brought in for special dances, the members of the band would board with the Vanhorns. Charlottie was an excellent cook and they enjoyed their stay with the Vanhorns.

In 1953 they sold their farm and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, buying a house on Ogalvie Street. Charlie worked as night watchman for United Keno Hill Mines for several years, also in the federal buildings and the old Edgewater Hotel.

Charlottie died in January of 1963 and Charlie in December of 1963. Jessie was married to Joe Andre in 1943. Joe was in the air force and when he returned at the end of World War II they bought the old Moldet place. Here they had two sons, Leonard and David. They sold their farm and moved to Whitehorse in 1953. Here they had two daughters, Hope and Faith. They were later divorced and Jessie and the girls moved to British Columbia. David moved down a short while later, and is married and lives in Chilliwack. Leonard still lives in Whitehorse. Jessie married John Edgar in 1974 and lives on the King George Highway in Surrey, B.C.

Laurine married Alfred (Bud) McNeil in November. They farmed Bud's father's farm until 1951, then sold out and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon.

**VICK, EDGAR AND MARIE**

Robert Edgar Vick was born June 3, 1861 in Uley, Gloucester, England. At the age of seven he moved with his family to South Wales where his father was Head Carpenter for Lord Llangat-

tock on the Hendric estate. Here Edgar apprenticed to the carpentry trade, later being appointed house carpenter. He worked as a carpenter for C. S. Rolls and Company. Charles Rolls was the son of Lord Llangattock. He also did a large amount of body work for modern cars (the Rolls-Royce). During the years between 1904 and 1910 he worked at sea as ships' carpenter.

In April of 1910 he sailed for Canada, working for a short period in Manitoba. Homesteads were available in Alberta at $10 per quarter section, providing the homesteader would clear a certain amount of land, raise so much stock and stay at least six months of each year for three years on his claim. He could then receive title to the quarter. He took up a homestead on S.W. 9-37-4-W5, ten and one-half miles south of the Withrow corner. He also worked for four years for Calgary Power on the Seebe Dam as a carpenter.

In 1915 he went to England and joined the British army, serving in France, Iran and Arabia as Royal Engineer. In Febraury 1919 he returned to his homestead and took up a second homestead on S.E. 9-37-4-W5. Morley Beaver (Chief Walking Eagle) was a life long friend, having prospected for oil in the west. This chief was the Indian who forecast our winter weather pattern so well until his death.

The Vick children going to school in the winter of 1940-41 travelling 4½ miles to Hazel Dell.

In January, 1925 Edgar married Marie Louise Lecerf. She was born October 23, 1894 to Jules and Louise Lecerf in Lille, France. In 1902 the family arrived in Canada and lived in Lille, Frank and Blairmore, Alberta. Just after they arrived the tragic Frank slide took place. The family were at Lille and could hear it plainly. They went back to France in 1904, but returned to Alberta in 1906 and homesteaded the S.W. 24-36-4-W5 in the Raven district, traveling from Innisfail by ox team. Marie Vick was a seamstress before her marriage. She was a member of the New Hill Ladies' Club until she moved in 1956 to make her home in Sylvan Lake. She is a member of the Catholic Women's League and a member of the Auxiliaries. Edgar Vick passed away August 12, 1952.

The Vick family - 1951

Edgar and Marie had a family of five children. Charlotte worked in Eckville for Sestrap and Company, in the Cafe and at the post office before her marriage in 1950 to Ross Davis of Butte, Alberta. They have four children, Brian, Wesley, Denise and Vickie. They live in Calgary where Ross is employed by Gulf Oil.

Robert, who married Audrey Wells of Red Deer in 1956, lives on the family farm. He built a home on the Southwest quarter and now owns all of section nine. They have seven children, Michael, Joiene, Pat, Gwen, David, Ken and Danny.

Lucy worked in the Imperial Bank of Canada in Eckville prior to her marriage to Lorne Nielsen in 1950. They have made their home in Benalto. Their children are Wendy, Brenda (Mrs. Peter Dawley, Prince George) Larry, Terry, Leslie, Lorna, Dianne, Ralph, Glen and Jeff.

Agnes graduated as a registered nurse. She worked in the Eckville Hospital and still works there part time. She married Johnny Murdoch in 1955 and lives in the Diamond Valley district. They have seven children Leanne, Barbara, Douglas, Gordon, Kevin, Heather and Robbie.

Marie served in the Air Force for four years. While in France, in 1955, she was married to Robert Burns of Toronto. They have a family of six, Clifford, (a member of the R.C.M.P.), Bernice, Linda, Arlene, Norman and Karen. They are presently living in Mynarski Park where Bob is with the Canadian Forces in Namao.

**WOOF, WILLIAM**

William Woof was born at Gill Ferbank, Yorkshire on February 24, 1874, one of nine

children born to Richard and Alice (Nelson) Woof. Richard's great grandfather had come from Norway and settled in England. William Woof's mother, Alice, was Scandinavian, too.

In 1900 he came to the United States to Iowa but the lure of homestead land in the Canadian west brought him to Calgary in the spring of 1901. He walked to Red Deer and stayed overnight at the old immigration hall where he found a way to go with a land locator in a party that included Jack and Andy Murdock and Alex Stewart, of whom you will read elsewhere in this book. They were to inspect land across the Medicine River in the present Diamond Valley district. It was not yet surveyed so homesteads couldn't be recorded but assurance was given that if a house or shack were built on the land selected it would be their homestead as soon as the survey was completed. Bill Woof selected SW 2-28-3-W5 and walked back into Red Deer to get a job to pay for lumber for his shack. He also worked at breaking land with oxen, first on the George W. Smith farm southwest of town.

Back at the homestead Louis Olson, who had homesteaded on section 10, usually went by team and wagon to get their mail at the Markerville post office and utilized these trips to obtain their meat supply in the form of prairie chicken. Being a crack shot, Bill Woof was usually commissioned to do the shooting for the party.

In 1905 he went to British Columbia and spent a lot of time working there but had to get back to Alberta to claim his homestead. His first crop of 15 acres yielded 25 bushels to the acre. Lacking horses or oxen, he made a deal with Oswald Forhan to have the use of his team of oxen in consideration of one day's work for Mr. Forhan for every day the oxen were used. Later he traded Gus Dahlgren a wagon for a team of oxen and he bought two other oxen at a sale east of Evarts. Breaking and discing with them became his main source of income, breaking as much as three acres a day. His was one of five ox teams breaking land on section 31 for Donald Smith — but he sold his oxen after that.

Then he got another contract to clear and break 40 acres for Sam Smith on land adjoining the Diamond Valley school. For this he bought three huge oxen, a plow and a wagon for $325 from Alex Thompson of Leslieville — Alex Thompson and George Bailey were Leslieville's earliest settlers (1903). After completing the contract he broke 12 acres for Sam Bratton on section 9 and the amount of the purchase price was fully recovered when he sold the oxen to a cattle buyer.

In 1912 he was married at Evarts to Mary Eva Foster who was born at Seberem, Cumberland, England in 1887 and came to Lacombe district in 1911. In 1913 Bill Woof did more breaking at Ferrier west of Rocky Mountain House with three oxen and a Cockshutt sulky plow he bought from Ed Mannerfeldt. With these he had to cross the Saskatchewan river west of Rocky Mountain House by ferry. At this job, he worked three three-hour shifts with an hours rest in between, as the weather was hot and sultry. The current rate for breaking at that time was $10 per acre.

By now they had a family of two sons, Richard born in August, 1913 and Robert Foster born in 1918. They decided to leave the homestead and in 1921 they moved to Kelowna, B.C. A daughter Rooney Alice was born to them in September, 1922.

After varied experiences in British Columbia they returned to Alberta and purchased a farm in the Poplar Ridge district, five miles west of Red Deer, together with machinery and cattle, onto which he moved in 1923. Later he purchased some school land and when his sons were able to farm on their own they obtained land on section 1.

The year 1951 was one of tragedy. On April 8 Mrs. Woof, who had been an active community worker and took a keen interest in local affairs, died at the age of 63. On December 25 death claimed the younger son Robert at the age of 33. The elder son Richard moved to Ohaton, Alberta and Bill took over his son's land. So much land required a tractor and although all his experience had been with oxen and horses, he gamely went ahead at 80 years of age to master the knack of operating a tractor, and he kept on at farming over a span of almost 10 years.

In 1963 he retired, eventually selling his land to Bob Edgar. In 1967 he moved in to Red Deer where he enjoyed keeping house for himself and, having an active mind, took an interest in public and political affairs and regularly attended meetings of the Central Alberta Old Timers' Association.

His son Richard and his wife Pauline are farming at Ohaton. They have two sons, Billy who is married to Betty Benz of Caroline. Bill works for Kipp Scott in Red Deer. Their second son, Eddie is married to Simone Correveau and they live at Stoney Plain.

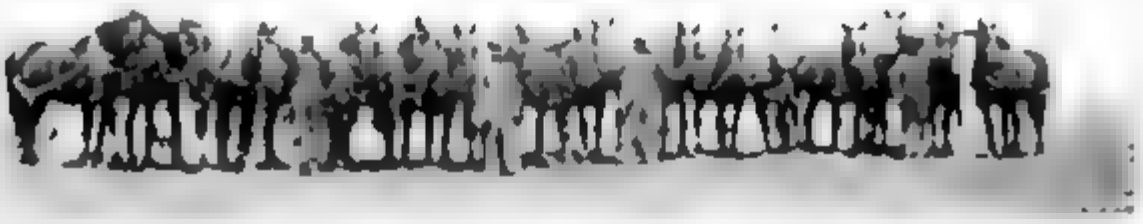
Rooney Alice was married to George Christian who was engaged in the electronics business in Vancouver, B.C. and they had four daughters, Jean (Mrs. Jerry Keeley) of Edmonton, Shirley (Mrs. Lloyd Hamilton), Marie (Mrs. Joe Langevin), and Jerry Ann (Mrs. N. Hansen) all of Red Deer. Roonie passed away June 20, 1973.

Mrs. William Woof and her son Robert Foster are both buried in the Red Deer cemetery. Bill Woof passed away in September, 1969.

The original homestead in the Diamond Valley district was owned by John Craig and was recently purchased by Laurence Murphy.

Henry Ashmun homestead, 1908. Note the oxen

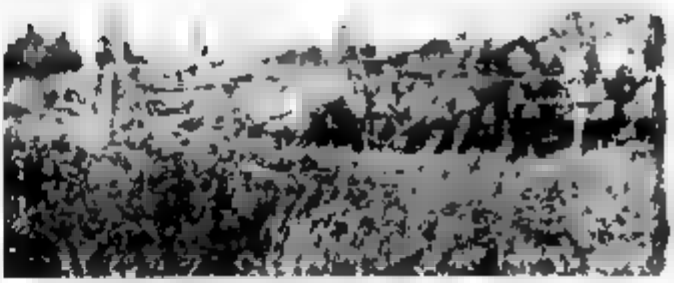
Claude Cassat with 3 horse outfit



Bill, Arvied and Charles Thorkamet and hired man with horses, 1926

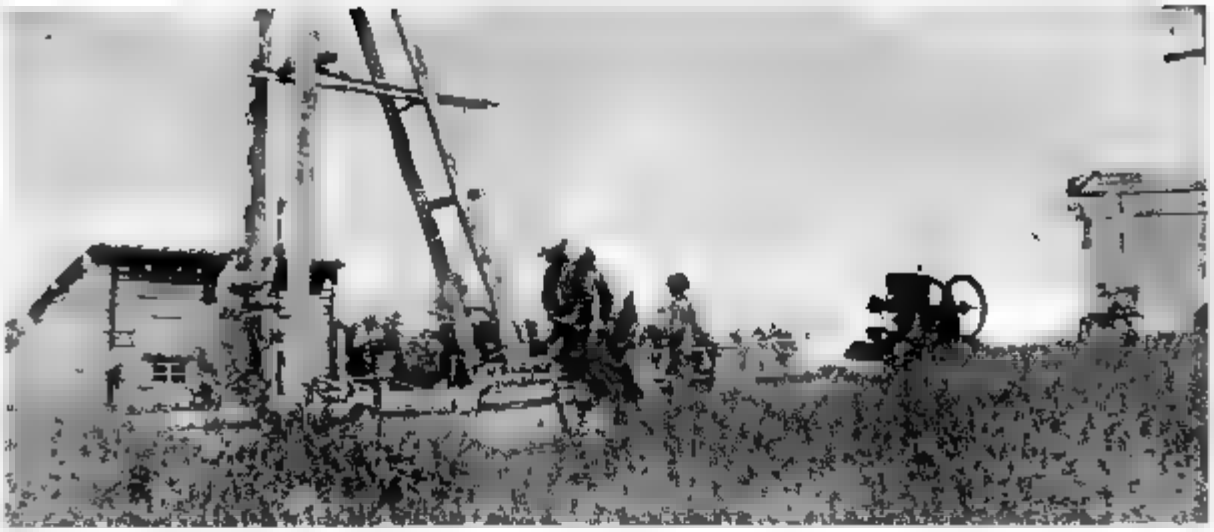
Harry Medin and August Christianson

Jim Wingate ready for the field in the 1940's.



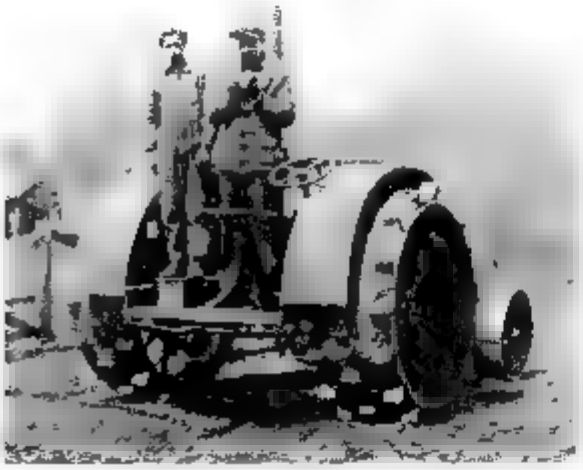
Frank Johnsonan and Link Boyer road-building past their farms in 1915

Charlie Gustavson and John Lundberg breaking sod in 1910.

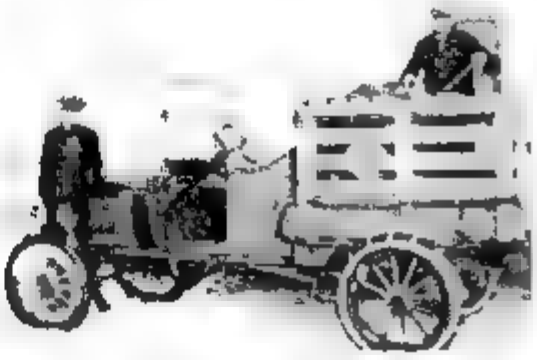


Well drilling outfit

Modern haying equipment

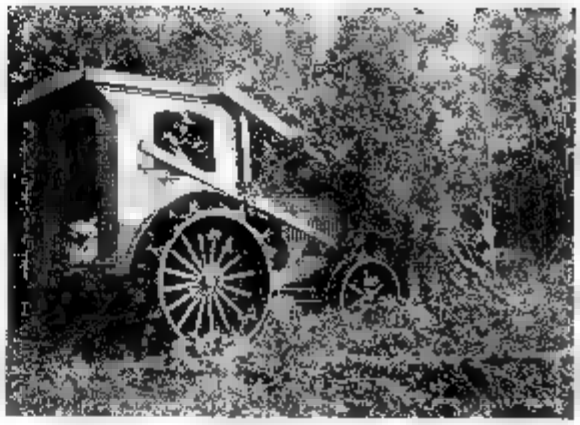


George Lutz and Billy Armstrong on McCormick tractor

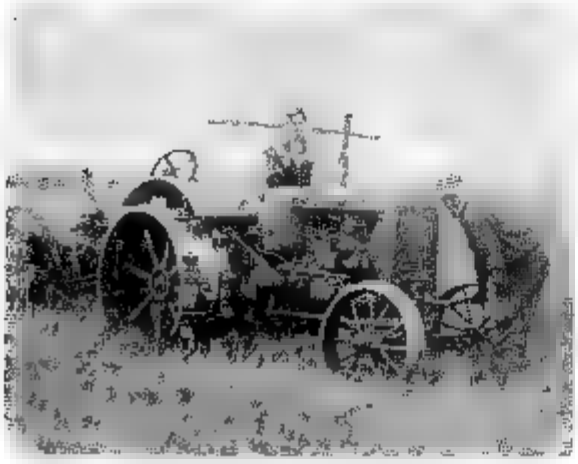


Harold and Harry Thomas with pigs bound for town.

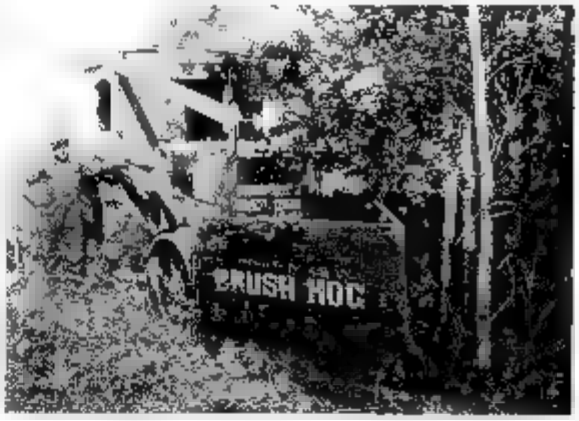
Advance Rumley Emma and Rosie Hubl.



Brush Hog built by Charles Skoodopole.



Fred and Alfred Molander with Wallis tractor 1934.




Front view of Brush Hog.

# Estonian

**BARDENHAGEN, CARSON AND GUNHILD**

Before coming to Lacombe, Carson and Gunhild Bardenhagen farmed in Michigan, near the Great Lakes, with their family of nine children, namely Carson, Lena, Jack, Eric, Sena, Henry (Hank), Ole, Fred and Anna.

When they decided to come to Canada, Carson, Frank Prause (a close friend) and Carson Jr. came first to find a place to live. They bought a boarding house in Lacombe, then sent for the rest of the family.

Where they lived in Michigan, they had never seen a gopher so, of course, it was quite a novelty when the train stopped on the prairie to get out and chase after gophers. Eric almost got too far before he realized the train was moving on and he really had to run just managing to catch the last car as it went by.

In 1907, they sold the boarding house and filed on a homestead, site unseen, in the Gilby area. This was the NW 18-40-R-W5. When they drove their team and buggy out to have a look at their new farm they found most of it under water. They built a small log cabin in which they lived while they were building the big frame house with a rock foundation.

The oldest boy, Carson, worked at various jobs, eventually married Alma Maddox and with their only child, a daughter, Evelyn, finally settled in the Gilby area where they farmed for many years before retiring to Eckville where they lived until their passing.

Daughter, Lena, married Ben Hicks and made Bentley her home.

Jack was an accomplished pool player and won many tournaments. He became a barber and made his home in North Dakota, where he married a school teacher, Bertha Bjorke.

Henry, his wife Annie, and their children Elva, Elmer and Francis (Pommie) lived in Eckville for a few years. Hank worked in the Eckville Hotel as a bartender.

Sena married Fred Kraft and Eric married Linda Matteus. Ole married Helen Johnson.

Fred started his education in a country school near Lacombe and continued it in the Medicine Valley school when his folks moved to the homestead. While still in Lacombe, his dad invented a brush cutter, pulled by a team of oxen and later by horses and went around cutting brush for the settlers. Fred and Ole followed the cutter, throwing the brush into long windrows which later were burned.

Working with oxen was very slow. The only time the oxen got any speed on was during fly time when they would throw up their tails and take off at full speed for the nearest shelter, with whatever they happened to be hitched to.

Fred left the farm when still in his teens and went to work as a cowboy on the Anchor P (P) Ranch in Southern Alberta. There he learned to handle horses so when he came back home he broke many horses for the neighbors, some to harness and some to ride. He also worked on a farm in Cayley for a Mr. Keller. When his father passed away in 1922, Fred came home and took over the farm. He was always interested in sports and played in the Gilby baseball team as well as Eckville. In foot racing, he was seldom beaten. Singing was another of Fred's favorite pastimes and he always helped out with the entertainment at all the social functions. He was also very fond of dancing and never missed any, riding to them on his favorite pony, Diamond.

In 1933, he married Mary Raabis and two years later their son, Arthur, was born. Maxine came along nearly two years after that.

Work was hard, as they had no modern conveniences and money was scarce but it was fun working together whether out in the field cutting grain and stooking or at home feeding pigs and chickens and milking cows. The first year the laundry was done in a tub of water on a scrub-board, with home-made soap. The white clothes were then boiled and, believe me, they were white when done. We needed no bleaches.

When Fred presented his wife with her first manually operated washing machine, Mary was really happy. No more back-ache from bending long hours over the scrub-board and no more raw fingers. And it even had a hand wringer on it. A few years later, this was replaced with a machine which was operated by a gas motor and washing clothes was a breeze from then on.

In 1945 the second son, Dennis, was born and a year and half later, a daughter, Gail. When Gail

Fred and Mary Buckingham

was about six years old, Fred and Mary sold the farm to their new neighbors, Roy and Bernice Leach, and moved into Eckville where Fred went to work as janitor and maintenance man in the Eckville Hotel then under the management of Bill and Bertha Marsh. Mary was offered the job of cooking in the Co-op lunch counter and remained there for fifteen years before retiring. Fred worked in the hotel for about ten years when, due to his health, he was forced to give it up. Fred passed away suddenly in November, 1975, and was buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Mary then went to work in the Manor House in Eckville which opened for business in February, 1976, but retired about a year and a half later.

Their son, Arthur, went to the Estonian school until it was closed when all the children were bussed to Eckville. When he graduated, he went to work in the Eckville creamery as bookkeeper but eventually ended up as manager of the butcher shop in the Co-op store. He married Shirley Gant and to this union four children were born. Conley, Jody and the twins, Tracey and Troy. At present, Arthur is a meat cutter at Safeways in Edmonton and Shirley works in a Korean restaurant.

Maxine married Paul Stephenson and had five children, Charlene, Ricky, Randy (deceased), Teresa and Michael. They are at present living in Red Deer.

Dennis is living in Veteran.

Gail married Ron Bruns and lived for a time in Fort St. John, then Smithers and finally moved back to Eckville, though Ron is still flying in Northern B.C.

**JIM AND JOHANNAH BLADES AT THE GILBY STORE—by Jim and Johannah Blades**

We bought the store in June, 1965 and as we became acquainted with the people of the community we enjoyed meeting them and doing business with them. We lived there for nine years, selling out in June 1974. We regretted leaving the community, but had to sell because of Mr. Blades' health.

**DEKKER, JOHN AND SUSANNA**

Mr. and Mrs. John Dekker came to the Estonian district in 1905 from their home near the line between North and South Dakota.

Mr. Dekker and four sons arrived in midsummer looking for land. Mr. Dekker, to the best of my knowledge, filed on 14-40-3-W5. Two of his sons, Henry and Edward, found land to their liking in the Leslieville district and Christian filed on a quarter section five miles west of where Gilby store is today.

Father and sons then returned to the Dakotas and brought back their cattle, chickens and various farm implements and tools needed to bring their land into production.

Mrs. Dekker and their two daughters, Susanna and Annie, arrived in Lacombe in December of the same year. One son, John, stayed in the United States to finish his education.

Soon after their arrival, they suffered the loss of their son, Christian. He died of pneumonia. There was very little medical help available and very few drugs around to combat that ailment in those days. Christian was buried in the Bentley Cemetery, with Mr. Layton officiating, on Christmas Day 1905.

The winter of 1905 - 1906 was certainly a long, cold and difficult one for the Dekker family. They certainly appreciated and never forgot the kindness of the other pioneers living around them.

Mr. Dekker and son, Edward, helped build the Estonian School and to the best of Susanna's memory a Mr. George Martin was the first teacher. Both Susanna and Annie attended this school.

The Dekker family left the Estonian district in 1915 and moved to Christian's homestead in the Medicine Valley district. They stayed only a short while and then, with the exception of Susanna, moved back to the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Dekker and Annie left first, in 1916, and the sons left soon after.

Susanna Dekker married Marlee Gant, a widower with one child, in 1916. They lived on the Gant homestead which was four and one half miles west of the Gilby store. While on this farm, one daughter was born and a few months later their house and barn went up in flames. They escaped the flames and saved only a few clothes and a small lamp. People smiled at them for carrying a lamp into the flame lit night, but Susanna has often said "That little lamp was the only light in the darkness for them for quite awhile". The loss of warm buildings was a dreadful hardship in those early years.

Susanna, her husband, and the two small girls

then moved on to the Christian Dekker homestead which they had purchased when the Dekker family left in 1916. Four sons and two more daughters were born on this farm. Susanna and Marlee lived on this place until 1947. They bought a rooming house in Red Deer and lived there for fourteen years after which time they retired to a home in Blackfalds for eleven years. They both entered Valley Park Manor in Red Deer in 1972. One son, Jessie John, passed away in 1923.

Susanna and Marlee celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on May 12, 1976, at Valley Park Manor with many of their family and friends around them. It was a very happy occasion.

Marlee Gant passed away in July, 1976, at the age of 96 years. Susanna still resides in the Manor where she has made many friends. She still loves to reminisce about the hardships and happiness of homestead days.

**ESTONIAN DISTRICT SEWING CIRCLES — by Audrey Foote**

It was in the winter of 1937 that Aune Parkkari, made the suggestion to a few neighbor ladies gathered at a "wood sawing" that we meet at one of our homes every two weeks. The idea appealed to us as times were hard and there was very little in the way of entertainment in the community. Since we were mostly busy mothers with small children, we took patching, knitting, etc., along so we would not feel our time was being wasted.

The first meeting was at Irene Palm's with about half a dozen ladies present. We decided at that time to have two rules: one was that we use first names and the other — no gossiping. Perhaps it is because of the latter rule that we have all got on so well.

I believe that the second meeting was at Hulda Westera. A group of us drove up there with a team and sleigh, quite unaware that Mary Psikia was walking a short distance behind us. She arrived about an hour later, having walked the whole distance of about five miles. Those were the days when men were men — or, rather, when women were women! I suspect that most of us would rather miss a meeting than to walk five miles to attend, but it goes to show what fellowship meant to us in those days.

Ethel Mathews was a member of our group. She was a great walker. She walked to most of the meetings during those first years and was later joined by Lila Kingsep. Ethel had a great appetite, but no figure problems — perhaps because of the vast amount of exercise that she got. No more circles were held that year.

Since then we have had sewing circles every year with the exception of one when, for some reason, we never got them started. During the winter of 1976-1977 there were no meetings, either. It seemed as though the ladies were becoming involved in so many activities — curling, and the very successful Handicraft Guild in Eckville, to mention only two — that there was no time available for the sewing circle.

During the forty years there have been many changes in the community. Estonian school, where our children got most of their education, is gone. We have bade farewell to old neighbors and have welcomed new ones. Our homes have been touched by births, deaths, and marriages. We have shared laughter and tears, and still the

Estonian Pioneers Float in the Eckville Parade

Sewing Circle met, and we are closer friends because of our association through the Circle

We have had contests, exchanged recipes, and during one winter we took a first aid course under the able guidance of Edith Brooker. We also have spent time cutting mat rags, making baby quilts, and carding wool.

Because we always took our sewing along, we just started calling our meetings the "Sewing Circle", but the sight of Aune's little truck with cab and back filled to capacity and all of us talking and laughing started some of our more imaginative husands to referring to our meetings as "hen parties."

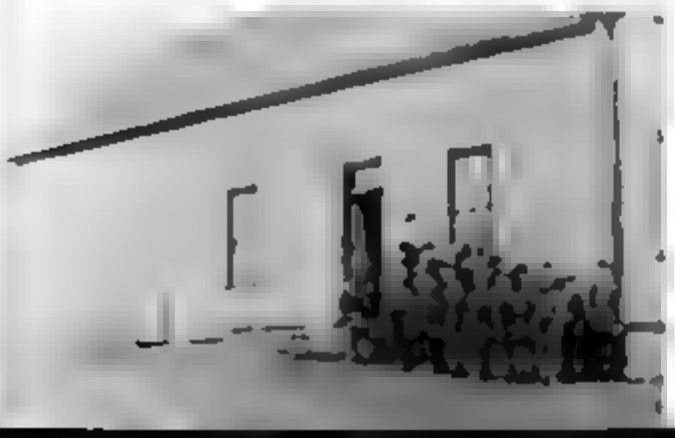
There must have been a strong bond of friendship formed, as we have travelled to Rimbey, Condor, and Sylvan Lake to meet at the homes of members who have moved away from our district. Looking back, I can count close to fifty ladies who attended these meetings throughout the years, and those who have moved away are scattered from Fort Saskatchewan to Nebraska, U.S.A.

**ESTONIAN SCHOOL NO. 1700**

At the turn of the century immigrants from Europe poured into Canada. Many made the decision to locate north of Eckville in Medicine Valley, as it is now called. Estonians primarily, a few Finnish, and a couple of Scandinavians settled in what became in the next decade, the Estonian School District. Only a few of these immigrants spoke a bit of English and to these, the non-English speaking turned for interpretation of Canadian laws. Realizing the necessity of learning the national tongue of Canada, they realized that it was necessary to build schools halls, etc., and to this end community spirit in the fullest was displayed.

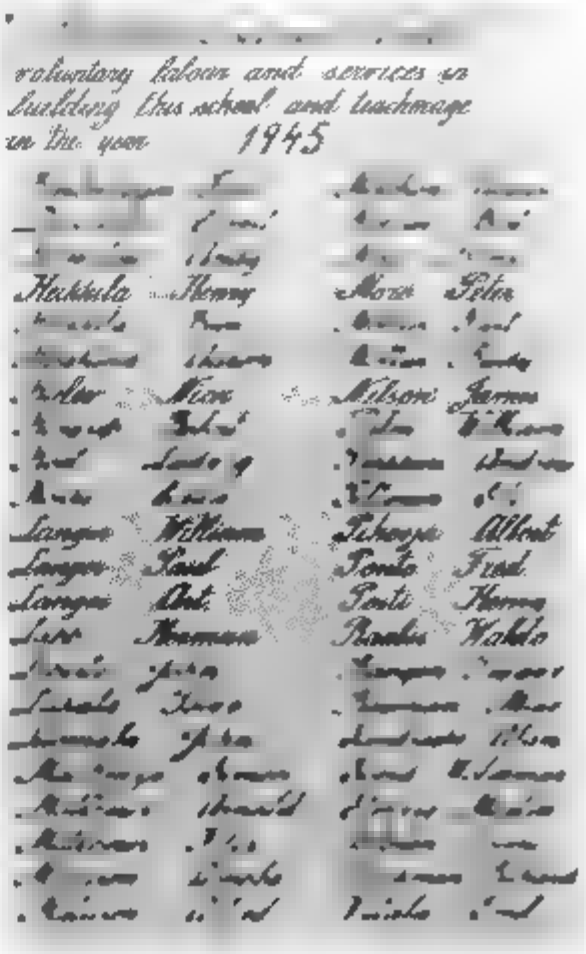
In their urgency to progress, a suitable site for a school was selected, as centrally located as possible. Rough boundaries were drafted and the Estonian School District emerged in 1910. The board members were local farmers who set a minimum mill rate, collected taxes, hired the teacher and kept a supply of wood at the school. The Estonian School site was located on an acreage in the north-east corner of 10-40-3-W5 (Carl Langer's property).

Estonian School in 1922 with Miss Sundstrom teacher



In an account written by Mrs. Anna Tipman, an early teacher at the Estonian Schoo., the school, built in 1910 from lumber hauled by local pioneers from mills many miles away, is described in detail. This building served the hundreds of pupils exceedingly well for the next 35 years, at which time progressive minded farmers considered it appropriate to provide a modern facility.

By 1945 school affairs were administered by the Rocky Mountain School Division. Our council representative, John Hillman of Evarts, was approached and his cooperation was readily obtained to proceed with the construction of a new school building. The Division would provide materials, a chief carpenter (Karl Soderlund, assisted by Mike Rauman), but volunteer help from farmers would be necessary to assist in the building project.




Volunteer labor in building the Estonian School and Teacherage in 1945

There was no modern gymnasium in those days. Exercise, so vital to good health, was obtained by walking or riding great distances to school. Even extremely harsh winters did not

deter excellent attendance. There was no indoor washroom but two toilets in far corners of the schoolyard served the purpose adequately There were no organized games, discipline was strictly enforced, although many of the students were much bigger and taller than the teacher The language barrier among children was quickly negated, although the accent of their national language remained. Education was of primary importance to everyone attending the rural school.

Of great interest, one teacher, Mr. Duncan Layton, age 94, a resident of Valley Park Manor in Red Deer, when visited, recounted his memories of the year 1914-1915 when he was a teacher at the Estonian School. He had a class of 52 children, grades I to VIII. He lived in a small shack a mile north of the school on the Gary Pederson land, presently the Paul Langer farm

In conversation with Mrs. Ena Kinna of Sylvan Lake she revealed her husband, Ernest, acquired his first "tailored" suit of clothes in his nine years of life — this being tailored by Mrs. Layton's capable hands — the suit in red, a Santa Claus suit, for the Christmas program. The Andrew School teacher, Mr Layton's sister-in-law joined her school with the Estonian for the summer picnic. Of great pride to Mr Layton was the fact that six of his early students became professionals, one even became a doctor The six he mentioned were Ole (Agnes) Kingsep, August Matthews, Anna Posti (Tipman), Otto Kingsep, Salme Raabis and Leyda Sestrap.

Olga Posti (Mrs. Alex Mottus) served as janitor for a time. Salary? Twenty-five cents per day — when she could collect! The trustees considered "women were to work for nothing." When a lady teacher was at the school the boys obliged, whenever possible, in starting the fire!

Early students were the Postis, Langers, Matthews, Moros, Raabis', Pihoojas, Moos, Deckers, Stenvigs, Langfords, Wuoris, Heikkilas

The intellectuals of the community in the early years were the teachers. They were respected, treated with courtesy and admiration. Fortunately, a full slate of teachers was made available for this narrative. I shall try to name them in the order of the earliest to the latest, with the comment that, due to the rigors of homestead life, males predominated in the list The list follows Messers Layton, Smith, Logan, Egen, J. M. McDonald, Priestly, Hughes, August Matthews, Lowry, Irwin, Little. Lady teachers were Minnie Kinna, Helen Christie. Anna Posti, Miss Gudmanson, Miss Benedictson

In the 1930's to 1940's Messrs. Edward Tipman, George Findlay and Ansley taught. Then lady teachers followed — Barbara Athey, Miss Rogers, Miss Aarsby, Barker, Jean Kenworthy, Ruth Wright, Isabel Lesher, Mrs. Lucy Nelson, Elma Jackson and Mrs. Hanson

Parents recognized the lack of musical appreciation in the school, so volunteers scoured the district with raffle tickets to raise money for the gramophone and a piano. The Gilbertson family owned a lovely piano. They agreed to sell it to the Estonian School for one hundred dollars, with the provision that it remain for the sole use of the Estonian community forever. Unfortunately, upon dismantling the contents of the new school before transporting it to Eckville, the piano disappeared. This was a great loss to the community, as it was a remembrance of the Gilbertson family, a pioneer family who remained with us for a long time.

The Rocky Mountain School Division, at a crucial point in attendance (55 pupils and one teacher in charge) transferred grades seven and eight to Eckville, providing transportation for them by bus. In promoting centralization as the new approach to modernizing education, involving bussing, a teacher per grade, indoor physical education, etc., the Estonian School — the ultimate community project — was hauled to Eckville where it serves to this day as a Home Economics room. Mr. Hillman took careful charge of all records, turning them over to the County of Lacombe

In 1961 Lacombe became County No. 14 and assumed the direction of education and municipal affairs within the confines of an enlarged boundary and the new title "County of Lacombe No. 14." In the transfer all records of the early history of the Estonian School District were destroyed. Only memories of the few remaining senior citizens can supply details of those early years.

The original site of the Estonian School reverted to the Langer Brothers property. Of particular interest and pride, the original Estonian School District has produced a great number of professionals among the pupils of the 1940's and 1950's. A total of 68 years of University plus technical graduates, is presumed to be a record for a rural Alberta district

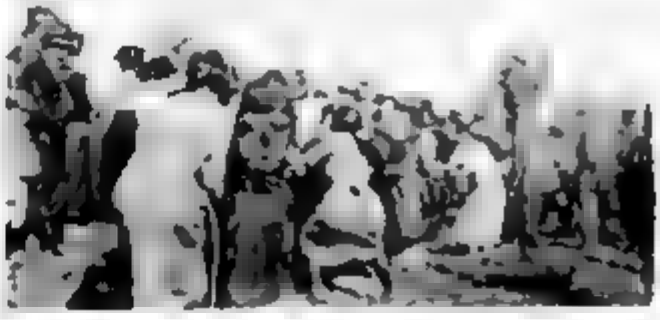
Information of pranks at school, even in those early years is gradually leaking out. Playing hookey was not unusual — boys not especially academic took a day off now and then, returning home at the usual time in the evening. Two lads even built a raft, stored eggs from the henhouse and other obtainable food aboard and sloved off down Medicine River for points south, only to get fouled up in a fish net strung across the river, upset, and lost all of their supplies — adventure thwarted

The girls in summer often took their lunch to eat outside the schoolyard to a creek bank in the shade of trees. One day the boys found a snake, cut it into pieces, and chased the girls at maximum speed, while yelling and screaming, toward the school.

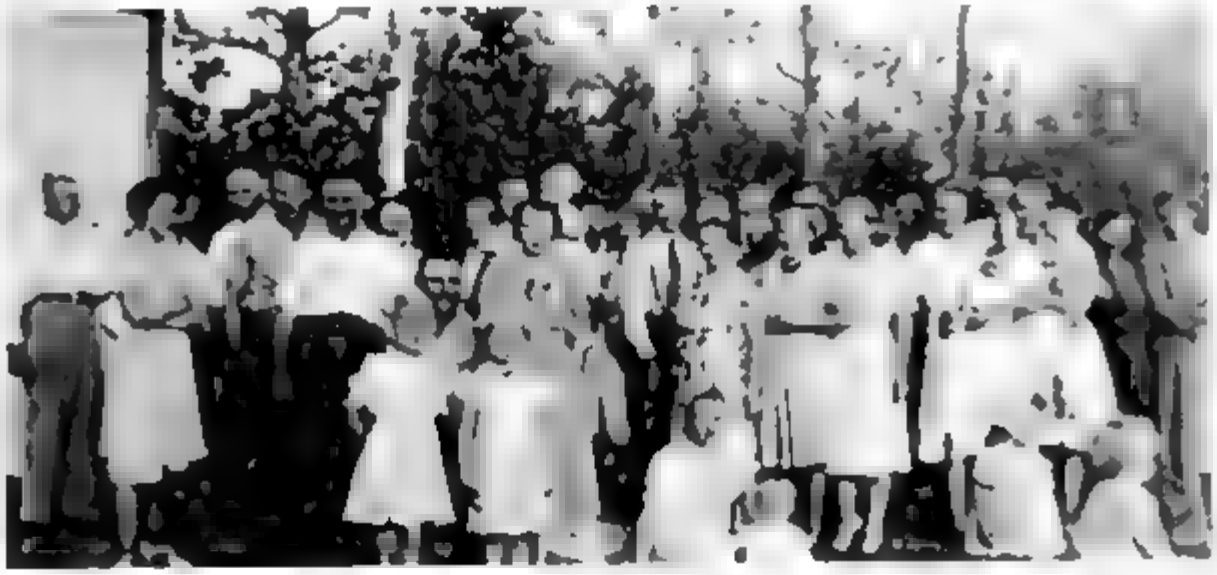
Another episode netted a young scholar a strapping The girls made a ball of rag strips with which to play Anti-I-Over This little boy caught the ball and ran victorious, to the base

Picnic in the early years

Tug of War at Bowness Hall Picnic



Ladies Tug of War at the Bowness Hall



Mid-summer picnic at the Bowness Hall

ball diamond. The girls tattled and the teacher ordered the boy inside. Not understanding English, he answered "Yes" and "No" in turn. He says he must have said "yes" at the wrong time, as he got a sound strapping.

**THE GILBERTSONS**

Mr. Martin Nathan Gilbertson entered the United States from Norway with his parents, as a very young child. They settled in Minot, North Dakota, where he received his early education. He later entered a college where he studied architecture and accounting. To help finance his education he taught English to new immigrants in the same school in which he took his training and many stories were told of his experiences. He used different poems to teach the "TH" sound, poems in which, in later years, are recalled as having been an amusement to his then young family. On behalf of Martin and for the benefit of the new immigrants of today, I enter one particular poem which remains with me still. It will be added as a footnote to this history.

Martin later moved to Duluth, Minnesota, where he operated a building contracting business. In 1901 he met and married Bertha White, who was born in Northwood, Iowa and who, for some time, operated a dress-making business with one of her three sisters.

In 1903 they came to Canada and Martin, his young wife Bertha and infant daughter named Myrtle, arrived in Alberta. They settled in Red Deer where they planned to start a butcher shop or some form of a merchandising business, but after inquiring about land they decided to buy a half section seven miles north of Eckville.

The first dwelling was built in the large grove at the north end of the homestead, where they lived about two years. During that time a second daughter, Cora, was born to them.

About that time Martin's father and brother Olaf arrived from Minnesota and filed on a homestead joining Martin's to the north, which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langer. Martin and Olaf's father (his first name I cannot recall) lived there until his death and his remains were buried in the Sunset cemetery.

Martin and Olaf built the Gilby store and Olaf operated it as a grocery store for a few years. Thus the Gilby store and district is named after the Gilbertson family.

When the homestead was cleared enough to make the claim valid Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson moved to Everett, Washington, U.S.A. where Mr. Gilbertson again engaged in the contracting business and also worked as a bookkeeper for the Hyde Wholesale Company. In 1910 they moved to Pitt Lake where they started a general store which they operated well into the First Great War period. Mr. Gilbertson was given a choice between leaving his wife and family (which, by now, included twin daughters, Pearl and Ruby) to join the army or return to Canada to the homestead.

Since Mrs. Gilbertson was suffering from asthma in a very severe way and the coast climate was unsuitable for her, they decided to return to Alberta to resume the improving of the homestead.

They returned to Alberta in the latter part of 1917. They lived with Olaf Gilbertson until a small frame house was built across the road from the Estonian hall. They later built a more permanent home where they lived for about 15 years. Martin worked hard to organize the farmers in plans of co-operation to protect farmers, as a whole, and improve the market price of farm produce. He organized the hog pool, and helped to establish the wheat pool. He valued the help of fine people such as Alf Thubron and Alfred Haarstad.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson sold the farm in the year of 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Mathisen, and retired at Salmon Arm, B.C. They bought a comfortable home looking over Shuswap Lake, where they enjoyed growing different varieties of fruit and berries.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gilbertson

Martin Gilbertson passed away in Kamloops in 1948, at the age of 74 years. His body was returned to Salmon Arm for burial.

Mrs. Gilbertson lived with her daughter Myrtle McClarg at Salmon Arm, B.C., and later moved to Vernon, where she passed away in 1971.

at the age of 95 years. Her body was returned to Salmon Arm and placed to rest in the Mount Ida Cemetery beside that of her beloved husband.
Footnote

A lasting tribute could be allowed Mr Martin Gilbertson for his tireless efforts to assist new immigrants in the mastering of the English language, for the poem which follows is one of which he used 85 years ago, and which may be of benefit to new immigrants of today

To the composer (because I do not know his name) I apologize.

Theofulus, the unsuccessful thistle sifter
Who sifted a sieve full of unsifted thistles
Thrust three thousand thistles
Through the thick of the thumb
See then that thou, when thou sift a sieve,
Full of unsifted thistles,
Thrust not three thousand thistles
Through the thick of thy thumb.

## GILBY CEMETERY

In 1903 many pioneers homesteaded north of Eckville. Along with hardships of daily toil there occurred the death of a neighbor or relative. In a new country a cemetery was often a distance away—and it became apparent a site for a cemetery was a necessity in the vicinity. One such was located on the Chas. Raabis farm NE 17-40-3-W5 and was named the Gilby Cemetery and registered in 1903

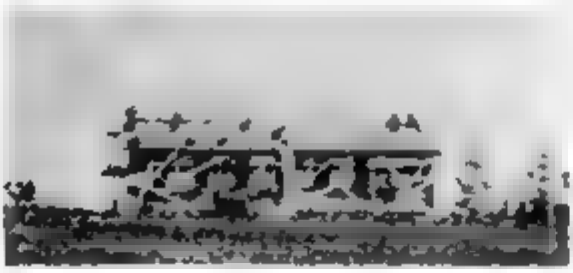
The first burial was Christopher Kingsep (father of Henry Kingsep). Only some seven - eight burials took place there. The cemetery has fallen into disrepair. Then the Gilby Kalmu cemetery originated and was used exclusively

## GILBY HALL.

The Gilby U F A. who had been meeting in the hall above the store owned by Shorrock Bros decided to build a community hall. The first committee consisted of Frank Lawton president, Oscar Thubron vice-president and possibly Hugo Mottus as chairman

Land was donated by Oscar Thubron. A fee of one dollar was paid to make it legal. Work started in the spring of 1921 with volunteer labour. By July it was finished in time for the picnic and dance

The only wedding ceremony and first wedding dance was for "Henry Pallo and Salme Kingsep"



Building the Gilby Hall in 1921

A piano was bought from Mrs. Hobson of Leedale. Mr and Mrs Crane donated a colt to be raffled. She also played the piano in 1921.

The hall was heated by two wood-burning heaters that usually smoked. The Thubrons were very faithful all through the years to start fires.

Music was supplied by Carl Koots' violin and Mrs. Thubron on the piano. They got $5 each. Later, Mrs. Gordon Jacobs, whose family had taken over the store, also played. At one time the Burr Bros. played Hawaiian guitars

About 1923, Matthew Bros. showed silent films

In 1927, a kitchen and ladies' coat room was built, a nice help for the ladies.

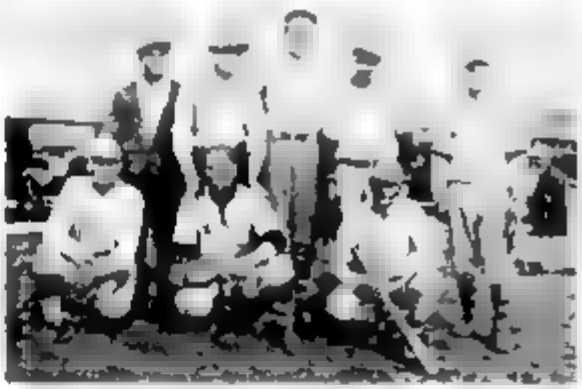
The men paid 50 cent admission. Ladies were free, but were expected to bring lunch which was free until later years. A box or weight social was held to raise funds.

The hall has been used for Sunday School and church services, funerals, 4-H gatherings political meetings, anniversaries, bridal showers, wedding dances and farewell parties.

Power was put in in 1951; a new floor the same year

It had been Mrs Laura (Westergard) Whidden's wish that the hall be reshingled and painted in 1971. After she passed away, Mr Whidden arranged to have it done. He also supplied paint for the inside and had the ceiling

Christening, Gilby Hall about 1940



Gilby Ball Team at Gilby. Back, Waldo Raabis, ?, George Findlay, Homer Isaacson, Fred Bardenhagen. Front Carl Raabis, Ole Bardenhagen, Carl John Raabis

painted. The propane furnace was installed in 1972; replaced by gas overhead heaters in 1976. Then the present board worked very hard improving the inside, putting carpet on the benches, making moveable small round tables, so handy for any occasion

Cabarets are held twice a year, and a Christmas program and treats each year

**GILBY (KALMU) CEMETERY**

Pioneers at the turn of the century had many problems to contend with. Not only did they enter a new country to find a new locality in which to settle, to build a home and provide a living, but they had to provide a resting place for those who did not survive. In the Gilby district, pioneers of Estonian origin met on June 13, 1914 and organized the Kalmu Cemetery Company with John Turner as president, correspondent, Fritz Kinna, and Mike Sestrap as treasurer

Those present at the organization were. John Turner, Mart Sestrap, Hugo and Oscar Mottus, Henry and John Kinna, Paul and Karl Langer, Mike Sestrap, P Perler, A. Pilhoja and Fritz Kinna

John Turner donated the present acreage from his land for the cemetery For finances, the meeting agreed to sell 60 shares at $8 per share for a plot If anyone was unable to pay for the desired plot a note for 30 days was to be accepted. Stipulations were that all graves were to be mounded, a cross erected and the plot to be kept in a tidy condition

Oscar Mottus agreed to build and erect a huge cross, 10 feet high, painted black, to be placed centrally. This cross survived for many years Mr Mottus received $3.50 for his efforts

Mart Sestrap was asked to build and erect a tool box, six by three by two, painted, with hinged lid and provided with a lock. For this he received $2. He also was asked to provide 100 tamarack stakes for markers

Dan Clausen succeeded Mike Sestrap as treasurer for a salary of $5 per year plus 50 cents for each plot issued

The salary in 1930 was increased to $10 plus $1 for each plot At present this has increased to $25 plus $10 for each plot issued. Volunteers for the past years have held a clean-up day every year with good results, but markers on all graves could enhance the appearance A few years ago a pump was installed and with good fortune the Alberta Government gave us a grant towards improvements. Again with volunteer effort, a new fence was erected, white posts with green wire, two new gates and finally, a large sign — Gilby (Kalmu) Cemetery At a meeting it was decided that the cemetery be named "Gilby Kalmu)" to retain the original name. Incidentally Kalmu is a grave, a "resting place" in Estonian, so it was decided to retain this in the sign, as Estonians organized the cemetery, primarily

By the end of 1977, 231 bodies have been interred in the Gilby (Kalmu) Cemetery Mrs. Perler was the first pioneer to be buried there

The present secretary is Walter Andrew

**GILBY LADIES' CLUB**

The first meeting of what was to become the Gilby Ladies' Club was held at the home of Mrs Frank (Ava) McTighe (Saunders), during the winter months of 1938 (may have been 1939) At this time it was a get-together for a few hands of cards and a social afternoon, ending with a simple lunch and coffee. Ladies present were the hostess, Mrs. McTighe, Mrs. Tim (Ethel) Sambrook, Mrs. Bill (Alice) Andrew, Mrs. Oscar (Agnes) Thubron, Mrs. Frank (Clara) Andrew, Mrs. Clarence (Kathy) Ferguson, Mrs. H. (Bea) Carroll and Mrs. Sid Jeffrey. Meetings were held in the homes of the ladies with lunch provided by the hostess

As no records were kept, it is impossible to state exactly when the Club was formed, but it is believed to have been 1940. It was felt that more could be accomplished as a Club

Over the years, the majority of the ladies in the district became members, each contributing in her own way to the success of the Club. Most held office in some capacity or served on committees. Meetings were held alphabetically from homes and most brought their pre-school children, which resulted in a very lively afternoon, as there were from 18 to 20 members. As no snowplowing was done in the winter, many of the men drove their wives using sleighs and horses, especially when roads were drifted or blocked. This changed as time went on.

After the business meeting, card tables were set up and the remainder of the afternoon was spent playing whist and visiting. Lunch was served by the hostess to end a pleasant afternoon

Many worthwhile causes were supported over the years. Funds were raised by various means — holding dances, serving lunches at farm sales and field days, catering to wedding receptions, bazaars, raffles, amateur nights and dances, members teas, etc

Some of the causes that were aided annually were: The Red Cross, Cancer Fund, Easter Seals Fund, T B. Christmas Seals, Heart Fund, Crippled Children's Fund, Canadian March of Dimes (Polio Fund). Contributions were also sent to Manitoba Flood Relief Fund, Springhill Disaster Fund and European Flood Fund.

Benefits were sometimes held for unfortunate ones in the area, including a Benefit Dance for the Eckville Arena Fund

In 1945, funds were raised to furnish a ward in the new local hospital. Contributions were continued over the years and hospital sewing was done from time to time.

When children were being bussed to Eckville, resulting in the closing of the Andrews' School, the Club organized and financed the Annual Christmas Party held in the Gilby Hall

Gilby Ladies' Club about 1954

In September, 1954 the Charter Members of the Club were honored at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. John (Connie) Huseby Each of the eight ladies received a corsage and an honorary membership. Business was dispensed with and everyone enjoyed a social afternoon.

In 1955 a Jubilee float was entered in Eckville's first parade.

Many enjoyable events were held by the Club and their families. Perhaps, the most enjoyed was the Annual Picnic in July, usually held at Gull Lake, but also at Crimson Lake and one year at Gilby's picnic area.

Occasionally a turkey supper was held at a member's home Whist tournaments were organized for some years with the play-offs held in Gilby Hall

Members and families were remembered with a gift when ill or in hospital, for special anniversaries, at housewarmings, farewells, etc. Flowers were also sent to a bereaved family of the Club.

The last meeting was held November 13, 1963 at the home of Mrs. Pryce (Jessie) Andrew with eight members present. At this time, it was decided to disband as a Club. Members were becoming so involved with their children's activities in town, they found it difficult to attend meetings and participate in Club projects

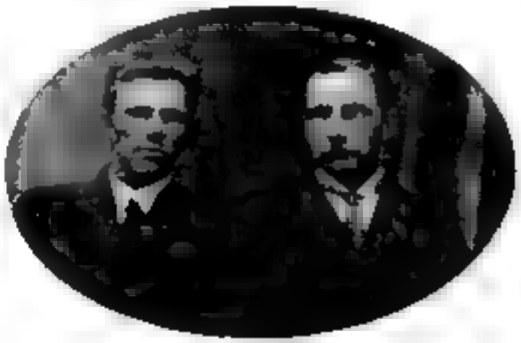
The remaining funds were contributed to the Eckville Arena Fund

And so it ended, again with eight ladies, a mile north from where it began, twenty five years later A quarter century of pleasant association with ladies of the district

**GILBY STORE**

Mike Sestrap homesteaded the SW 6-41-3-W5 While he was away working his shack burnt He was known to have remarked, later, that the fire was the best thing that ever happened to him as that was when he decided to build a store at Gilby in 1910. The store was 60' long, had a hall above and a full basement below. The hall was used as a social centre and meeting place for the people of the surrounding area.

All bare necessities were to be had at the store, including yard goods. Mike was a tailor by trade and made overalls to sell. Butter and eggs were often taken in trade for supplies.



Gust and Mike Sestrap

Before long, Mike's brother, Gus, who had homesteaded the NE 6-41 3-W5 came to help him at the store.

About 1912, the post office which had been "Medicine Valley" operated by E. T Withers on SW 2-40-3-W5 was changed to "Gilby" and was situated in the store. The post office provided many services, one of them being the registering of births. John Kemila, mail carrier, hauled the mail by covered wagon from Eckville. Folks would come to Gilby to visit and chat for hours

Gilby Store

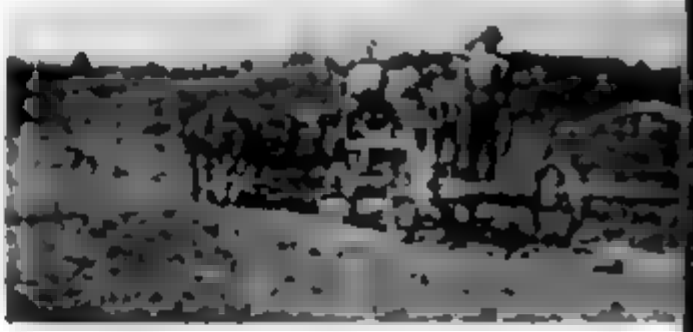
Gilby Store with Dan Clausen the storekeeper looking at the horses. John Kamila the mailman standing by his team

while waiting for the mail to come and be sorted

In 1915, Mike Sestrap sold to Shorrock Bros who sold to Henry Jacobs in 1922. Henry Jacobs sold to Frank Tarrabain about 1928. The old store burnt in December, 1930. Among valuables destroyed were the Gilby-Kalmu cemetery records. The store was rebuilt, about 1937, by Hamilton and Hauptman

Histories of the different owners of the store are found in this book

Through the years Gilby store has been a very valuable asset to the community. The present owners are Leo and Kathryn Robins. Their children are Jackie age five, Heather age three and one-half and Cindy age six months.



Road building in the Gilby area

Road building in the Gilby area

Floods on the Medicine River at Gilby

Floods on the Medicine River at Gilby

**GILBY SUNDAY SCHOOL — by Phyllis Andrew**

Years ago a group of devoted people from [illegible] saw the need for a Sunday School in this area. Gilby Hall was chosen as the centre and on October 4, 1953 Mr. Grant Sanders, Freda Gheseger (husband, Lom, deceased) (Spycher), Dorreen Carruthers (since married), and Esther McKilligan began classes. There were only six adults and children present on the opening Sunday, but the four stalwarts were not to be discouraged and made visitations in the district. Contacting the homes brought results, as 27 were in attendance the following Sunday, and services continued for 12 years.

To begin with, fires in the hall were built by the late Alfred Thubron and wood was supplied by the parents. Rent for the hall was free unless we used the hall at night, for which there was a three dollar charge.

Esther McKilligan was the superintendent and Mrs. J. Maddox was secretary-treasurer until February 10, 1956, when Mrs. Hazel Sambrooke was elected secretary-treasurer. Esther McKilligan left Bentley, so there was a shortage of teachers. The Sunday School Mission helped us out by sending us two young ladies — Misses E. Creighton and K. Hudson. Through the kindness of Mr. J. Maddox these girls were able to stay in a vacant house formerly owned by Tom Quinn on the S.W. 6-41-3-W5th. The girls were only able to assist until the end of the summer.

It was always difficult getting teachers, however, Ed Morsch and Norman Blish then came to our aid. Bill and Bob Ward, of Three Hills, gave a great deal of time and effort helping the Vacation Bible School and Sunday Services — at which time they would often show films. The services of many others, particularly those of the local girls who helped so faithfully through the years, were greatly appreciated.

Besides going to University of Alberta, where she was taking Pharmacy, Dorreen was able to give us valuable assistance as she was a very capable, efficient girl. For the summer months of 1957 she went to Hay River Mission Field under the name of Gilby Sunday School. A lovely "Friendship" quilt was presented to Dorreen when she left. The quilt blocks were autographed with embroidery thread by those attending Sunday School, sewn together and quilted by the mothers, at the A. Mattisen home. We tried to help with Dorreen's venture by sending money, a religious picture which was given to the Hay River Hospital, and by forwarding any left-over Sunday School papers.

V.B.S. (Vacation Bible School) was held for a week every summer at Gilby Hall, and later at Estonian Hall. Children from far and near attended and had a rewarding time studying the Bible and doing handicraft. All those attending V.B.S. had fun participating in the sports and games. At the end of the busy week there would be a program or picnic and awards were given. Mr. J. Brunner (Missionary from the West Indies), who assisted at V.B.S. in 1956 returned to help with the summer session in 1957. He was an adept woodworker so that made Vacation School even more interesting.

When building fires at Gilby Hall presented a problem, Sunday School was held in the homes. This proved successful as all parents were cooperative and some mothers even passed around treats such as home-made candy or cookies at the close of classes. It was the opinion of many that the Estonian Hall would be easier to heat and, fortunately, we had a janitor handy. This was Mr. A. Mattisen, who was very dependable and always had the hall tidy and warm. Although we changed our location, we were still known as the Gilby Sunday School.

Mr. Sanders had a bus which he drove around to pick up those children not having a ride. This generous act meant a lot to many boys and girls. Mr. Frank Wine was always willing to canvas the district for funds, whenever needed. He did a very capable job, so there was some money to operate the bus, plus a small amount to help defray other expenses.

For quite a time there was a fairly extensive library in connection with the weekly Sunday School. There were suppers, skating and tobogganing parties, and bridal showers for Dorreen and Freda, only to mention a few of the extra activities which helped to provide fellowship and lasting friendships.

The A. Sambrookes moved and we were without our able secretary-treasurer. Hazel worked hard to keep things going and was responsible for many duties, particularly at Christmas time when the Sunday School always had an excellent program. Phyllis Andrew, took over her position in 1963.

Meanwhile, our superintendent, a diligent and conscientious worker, had moved to Calgary. He continued to assist us but the long trip was "out of the question". We were sorry to hear of his wife's passing shortly after they left Bentley. He has since remarried.

Freda, with her pleasing ways, helped us so much but now had her own family concerns.

Regretfully, the Sunday School was unable to continue after 1965. I'm sure all of you associated with the "School" (there were over 200 names on the roll call) will recall, with nostalgia, the good

times shared and fondly remember the many choruses sung, with great vivacity, such as "Heavenly Sunshine"

**HARVILOW, ANDREW**

Andy was born in (Redvensi) Ukraine August 19, 1896, older of two children born to Alexander and Alexandra Havrilov (Harvilow). As a young boy he worked along with his mother for landlords, making 15 kopeks (cents) a day. Having an urge for better prospects, Andy at the age of 16, with a friend from the same village, set out for Canada, a land unknown to him

Boarding a passenger liner at an Austrian and Hungarian port, in Trieste, Andy bade farewell to his homeland. Sailing over the blue waters of the Atlantic took him 21 days at a cost of 150 rubles ($75). The approaching shores of Canada (Quebec City) opened up a wide new world for the courageous young lad, Canada, the land that he has called home for 65 years

July, 1913, Andy set foot on Canadian soil, his destination being Hosmer, B.C. He took the C P R train from Quebec City to Hosmer, a coal mining town

As his pocket money was at a premium, work had to be obtained, but due to a language barrier, communicating was difficult. Close friends of Andy's taught him five words in English thus "Mister, give me a job."

With determination in his heart, Andy was fortunate to get a job at a logging camp, drawing wages of $25 a month. After holding his job for nine months, the company went bankrupt, and Andy faced his first disappointment, only receiving $50 for all his labors.

During the war years, 1914-1915, all places of employment (logging and mining) ground to a halt. That winter Andy again boarded the train, this time from Hosmer to Sylvan Lake, Alberta. Fending for survival during these poverty stricken years, laborers willingly accepted available offers from employers.

From the spring of 1915 to the fall of that year, Andy accepted jobs on farms near Bentley, working for Mr. Poling for room and board, and, for Henry Stone, earning $25 a month. The winter of 1915 saw a slight increase in wages, Andy was working for Garries, cutting and hauling fire wood for one dollar a day.

Moving to Oyen, Alberta in 1916, Andy worked for Jack Norton, a farmer, for two years. Then in 1918, from spring to fall, he worked at Rosebud, for a farmer by the name of Comstock. There he was the ploughman for eight breaking ploughs

In the year of 1920, Andy purchased the N.W 18-40-2-W5 from Matt Talson, working for him for three years. This quarter was covered with bush except for five acres which he rented to Moro. To pay for the farm, he worked at several logging camps, namely, Brierley, Varty, Rowan, McDougall, August Moro and the Phoenix Camps As transportation was not available from these camps to Rocky Mountain House, their only mode of travel was their two feet. Andy often is heard reminiscing about the time he was walking alone in the early morning dawn, carrying an accordion and suitcase. Suddenly, stopping in his tracks, he saw a dark object ahead of him. Taking it to be a bear, he decided to serenade the unidentified object with his accordion. He thought, "If I make a loud noise, it will nicely walk away" Approaching it closer, this object proved to be a large burnt stump.

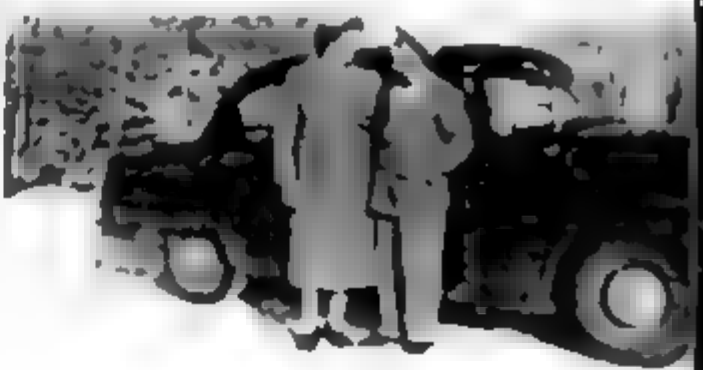
The days of hard work proved very strenuous but Andy had time for enjoyment. He is musically talented, playing the button accordion even to this day (age 81). His accordion had helped him bear many burdens, as he is able to play his troubles away. Andy played for several small country dances as well as entertaining for various organizations

The depression years of the dirty thirties when money was only heard of, Andy, wholeheartedly, supplied a home for two orphans, Pete and Fred Bobye, whom he met in Calgary. This formed a close relationship as if they were brothers.

From 1940-42 he worked at logging camps on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Returning to his farm, he spent his summers clearing his land by hand, and then farming it a few years, also giving a helping hand to threshing outfits.

In 1952-53, Andy rented a pool room in Fort Saskatchewan, where he made several friends

Miracles do happen, the love bug bit It was in 1955, Andy married Olga Ignatius, gaining two stepdaughters, Hazel Ignatius, and Edith Niemela. Andy remembers quite well the time during the courtship when Olga graciously gave him coffee with doughnuts dunked in salt instead of sugar



Olga and Andy Harvilow

After farming together till 1963, they both sold their farms, Andy to Toimi Tolonen, the closest neighbor, and Olga to Ted Sailor of Blackfalds, and then retired to Sylvan Lake.

Andy, during the years, had purchased a cabin, Andy's Cottage, on Lakeshore Drive which served as their home during the construction of their new home

At the present time, Andy is residing in this new home, 5224-47A Avenue, in Sylvan Lake, where he is enjoying good health.

During the retirement years he has enjoyed curling (lead), fishing, camping and playing his accordion. Andy has three great-grandchildren, Bonnie and Trevor Hietala and Kerri-Lynn Niemela.

The highlight of his life was a trip made in 1967 back to his homeland, the Ukraine, visiting his brother, Peter, and his family. While there he became a godfather to his niece's little boy, Walter. For entertainment, Andy belongs to the Sylvan Lake Curling Club, Friendship Club, and the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association.

Andy has certainly appreciated and enjoyed being a part of the Eckville Community.

**JOHN NESTOR AND SUSANNA HEIKKILA FAMILY — by Jean Hietala**

Father was born in Kuortana, Vaasa Finland and grew up there. In those days there was a movement of people wanting to come to America, as they called it. Father also wanted to come, so he came with a number of friends in October 1891. After sailing for two to three weeks they landed in New York, U.S.A. It was good to touch land once again. Their first problem was to find employment and they worked their way to Montana, and some went to Wyoming. Father worked in the coal mines in Wyoming, but a little farm is what he wanted to get started. He found one in Stockett, Montana, and started working on it when he was not working in the mines.

Mother was also born and raised in Finland close to the border of Sweden. Because of this, she was able to speak both Finnish and Swedish. She came with her two aunts who were going to America. They also chose Montana as their location. They worked in Great Falls — mother joining the staff at a boarding house, waiting on tables. This is where she met this miner and farmer, coming in for meals.

Dad and mother were married in Stockett, Montana in March, 1904. They made their home on the farm, not too far from Great Falls. The first child of this family was sister Hilda. She arrived a week before Christmas Day. They were happily settled in their own place, but this was not to continue for long. Agencies were telling of free land, lots of grass, good soil, but did not mention the nine months of winter or any other disadvantages.

Father was persuaded to go and see for himself this fabulous country. He chose the NE 34-39-3-W5. The other three quarters had already been taken. Father worked on the homestead for three months in the summer, and built a two roomed log house with the help of other settlers. In April of 1906 the family moved here. Mother and Hilda came by train and stayed in the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer until Mr. I. Hyvonen came to pick them up. Father came with the family belongings which they brought to the homestead.

In the fall Hilda had a little brother, Elmer being the new addition to the family. Over the years the family grew to include nine children. We were a happy family, sometimes we would fight over things but not often, for willow switches were so handy on the farm, and we respected them.

We are all grown up now, father and mother have passed away, along with four of our brothers. Father passed away in 1927, mother in 1939, Henry in 1956, George in 1965, Elmer in 1974 and Edward in 1969.

Hilda (Hawkins) lives in Ottawa.

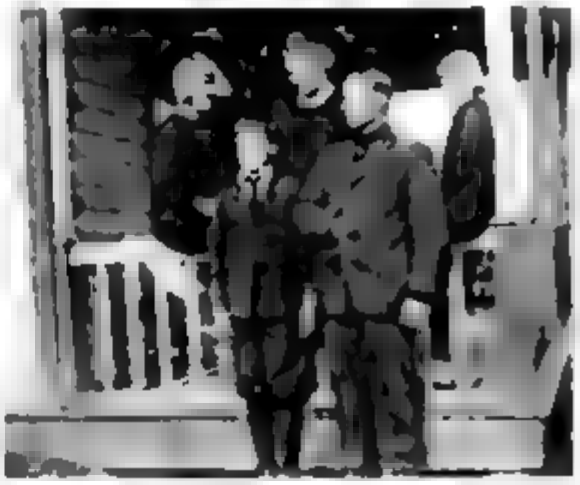
Elsie (Rasmussen) lives in Perdue, Saskatchewan.

Ted and Bill live on the old homestead in the original house.

I, Jean, live on the farm with my husband, Henry Hietala.

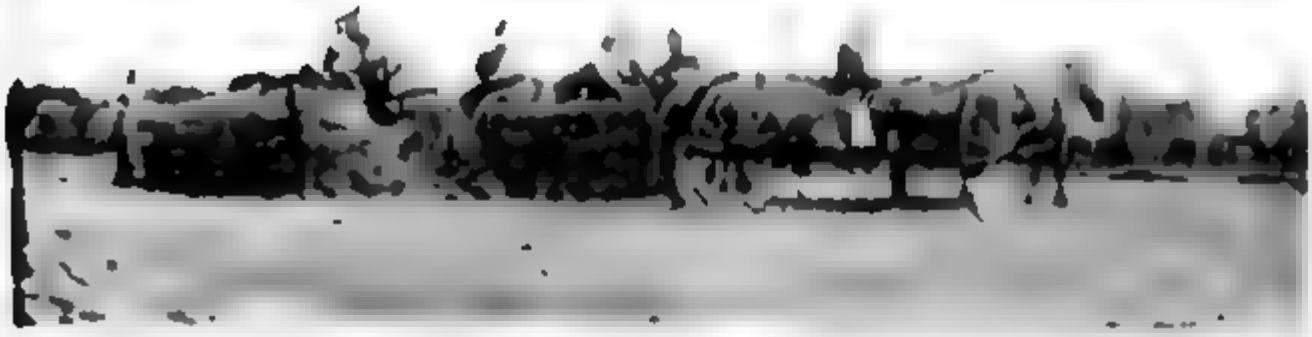
**THE HOGLUNDS**

Aaron and Mary Hoglund with their three children, Edith, Walter and Myla, moved from their homestead at Rocky Mountain House in January, 1919, to a farm 6½ miles northeast of Eckville. They had come to their homestead from Berkley, California, but unfortunately had to relocate because of the lack of school facilities for the children in the Frisco district. The move was a two-day trip, with the family and belongings securely bundled into a horse-drawn sleigh. One night was spent with some friends at the half-way mark, and the journey continued the next day. The weather was cold and there was plenty of snow, so the trip was quite an undertaking, with the horses and the driver probably taking the brunt of the discomforts.



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Hoglund and children Edith, Walter and Myla

Ours was a small mixed-farming operation so we had a little of everything — horses, cattle, pigs, turkeys and chickens, grain and hay fields. The work was all manual, with horses being used



Modern way of haying at the Hoglund farm - 1950's

for farm work as well as for transportation. The working of the land started in the spring with preparation of the land for seeding, and carried on throughout haying and on into the fall when the grain was harvested by binder, and the stooks stood in the fields waiting for the threshing crew to arrive. The prairie chickens took advantage of the delay by perching on the stooks and feeding from the grain in the heads. Even though one couldn't see the birds their presence was evident because they communicated with each other by a distinctive whistling sound.

The Langer Brothers, Paul and Carl, had a threshing outfit and they would do the threshing for the other farmers around the country when their own threshing was finished. The crew consisted of the engine man (he kept the tractor going, which in turn kept the separator in motion), the separator man, grain haulers, and the bundle rack drivers. The sound of the tractor alerted all of the neighbors that the threshing crew was approaching and it was a most delightful sound. The neighbors all came to help, the men wherever needed and the women to help with the food preparation and serving. Of course this help would all be returned when the threshing outfit reached the neighbors' farms.

One might think that with the threshing completed the work would be all done, but not so! Even though the grain was in the granary and the straw was in the stack, ready to provide food and shelter for the cattle during the winter (until the heavy snowfall the horses and cattle were happy foraging in the fields, picking up what the harvesting operations had left behind), there was still work to be done. The next big project was bringing in the supply of firewood for the following year. The trees were felled and logged in the wintertime. The logs were sawed into chunks in the springtime after which came the work of splitting the chunks into stove-size pieces, which in turn had to be arranged in neat piles. One always planned to get enough wood to last for the next year.

We children attended the Estonian School where the teacher taught grade one through grade eight. Our first teacher was Miss Lillian Olive Benedictson (later Mrs. Lewis True).

A trip to town, for us, didn't come very often, but one can well remember the general store. There you saw large barrels containing apples, coffee beans, dried beans, and mixed hard candy. The purchases were wrapped in brown paper and tied with strong string. A five-cent bag of hard candy out of the barrel was always included with the order. That store string was saved by winding it onto the ball already started. Mother used the backs of Dad's discarded leather mitts to make covers for these balls of string thus providing us with baseballs. All we then had to do was find a stick that most resembled a bat, and the game was on!

What the general store could not provide was ordered from Eaton's catalogue. Although Mother made most of our clothes we did get a new outfit ordered from the catalogue in the spring, and usually another one in the fall. Three weeks was a long time to wait for these new clothes to come from Eaton's in Winnipeg, but it was exciting when the large parcel did arrive! The dresses usually fit without too many alterations, but the dress-up shoes were worn regardless of how they pinched or how long it took to break them in. The arrival of the new catalogue never lost its ability to promote wishful thinking.

Dad followed his trade as a painter and interior decorator and he was kept busy in all of his spare time around the neighborhood beautifying homes and farm buildings. He was the councillor for the municipality for two terms. Mother and [illegible] participated in community efforts toward [illegible] for charitable and many other worth-while projects by putting on plays and concerts at the various community halls. Mother often gave a helping hand to the teachers of country schools with their Christmas concerts. These concerts were the highlight of the Christmas season at each school, with all the children participating. Mother played the piano and assisted with the singing and dancing. In later years she played organ on Sundays at the Sunshine Gospel Mission Church and, before the Estonian School was moved away and the children bused to Eckville for classes, mother, Kate McKenzie, and Faye Hoglund conducted a Sunday School class at the school.

Our first car was a Model T Ford, without side curtains — they came later. To wonder and

amazement of the passengers, they could ride in comfort, protected from the strong breeze created by the car in motion, as well as natural weather elements. During the colder weather two men were needed to start this Model T. One man would jack up a rear wheel to give it freedom to revolve while the other man was positioned at the front to do the cranking. If, or when, the motor started, the warming-up process consisted of a few rounds around the barnyard with the chickens squawking and flying in every direction, losing feathers galore as they made their escape from this motorized monster. The Model T had a running board and by stepping on it one could get in and out of the vehicle quite gracefully. The horse and buggy days were now of a past era!

The coal-oil lamp sat in the middle of the kitchen table, so long winter evenings were spent with the family gathered around, reading, doing homework, or playing cards. We children frequently quarreled over these card games and quite often Mother would get so exasperated with us that she would gather up the cards, lift a lid from the kitchen stove, and throw the cards into the fire. How we acquired a new deck of cards does not come to mind, but it must have been Walter who purchased them, as he had some spending money obtained by selling his muskrat and weasel skins. When he was old enough he would accompany Dad on his painting and paper-hanging jobs in the summertime and this also helped to increase his spending money.

The food we ate was almost all home grown or homemade and the aroma of that homebaked bread as you approached the house was beyond description. You quickly opened the kitchen door and there they were — six or more loaves along with a quick flat-bread baked and ready for immediate consumption with homemade butter. Food tasted so good that it is not suprising that the idea still persists that girls nowadays can't cook or bake and have the food taste "like Mother used to make."

Life was hard. The depression dampened many spirits — the plans and goals that so many had were either delayed or put aside forever. But one always remembers the close community feeling and the neighborliness. People helped one another, and the joys and sorrows of one were shared by all. In spite of the hardships, it was a good life!

Walter Hoglund is married to Faye Meyers. After many years of living in the Eckville area they have recently moved to Summerland, B.C. Edith (Mrs. Albert Brooker) lives in Calgary. She had two sons, Bill and Ronald, who are both married. Bill lives in Edmonton and Ronald lives in Sherwood Park. Myla (Mrs. Swanky) lives in Calgary. She has one son, Allan.

**HOGLUND, WALTER AND FAYE — by Faye Hoglund**

Walt and I were married December 11, 1941 in the Lutheran Pastor's home in Red Deer. This was followed by a reception for 32 friends and relatives in the Club Cafe banquet room in Red Deer, and an open dance at the Gilby Hall on December 12.

Faye and Walter Hoglund

Walt, the only son of Aaron and Mary Hoglund, was asked to come and farm the home quarter. Farming was all done with horses and horse machinery. There were some acres of open grain land and the rest was in hay. Since this was the time of the beginning of the war, there were no available men to be hired, so this was my start of outdoor work. I learned to drive horses and, as the years went by, got promoted to the tractor.

The next year Walt got Ray Meyers and Arvie Maki to help him and his Dad in clearing a quarter of school land across the road, which we had leased from the Government. (Later we were able to buy this quarter.) The clearing was done by hand and axe, then George Ignatius came with a breaking plow. Then came the time

to pick the roots before the land could be worked up for planting. The grain was cut with a binder, then had to be stooked and left until it came our turn to thresh. Bill Palm, our neighbor, had a machine.

Threshing time was quite a hassle, but fun, too, cooking for a gang of 15 to 20 men, finding places and beds for some to sleep (although the neighbors would go to their homes), and providing food and water for the horses. Neighbors would all help one another at this busy time. Some would go to help with the evening chores, then back again to the gang for a nice big supper and piles of dishes to keep the women busy.

Later, Mr. Jack Hill, long time friend of the family, gave us the opportunity to rent his two quarters of open land, and we could buy his machinery in the bargain. This was a great boost for us, as Nature was good to us and we reaped a fair crop. Much of the income went back into farming expenses. Roy Saari came with his Cat and brush cutter and did some clearing on the school quarter, and George Ingatius turned the sod. This work with the machinery made our farming much easier, but we were kept busier with the additional land to farm. We then bought a few more cows to add to our herd, and bought more hogs, as raising hogs was Walt's Dad's specialty. Prices were good by this time, which made it even more encouraging.

While I worked outdoors, with the garden, milking cows, and raising chickens and turkeys, Granny, as she was known to all in the community, kept busy indoors with cooking and dishes. We'd milk our four cows and separate the milk, then take the cream to the local creamery. The milk was mixed with grain into a mash and fed to the chickens and little piglets. The income from our cream would help to fill our pantry with groceries.

Saturday usually meant a gathering of neighbors at our home. We would start up the sauna (steam bath) and after having a good hot bath the neighbors would enjoy visiting and the coffee, fresh cinnamon buns, and cake that Granny had made.

Walt played the drums in a band of five. Fred Moos played the guitar, Lorraine Havens the banjo; John Viitala the violin, and Bob Matthews the piano. They played at the local halls, and in the winter months the dancing usually didn't end until the wee hours in the morning. In the summertime many times we would just change our clothes and go straight to work in the fields.

When an opening came in our local Co-op Store I applied for the job and worked as clerk for $55 a month for three years. When the war ended many of the boys were home again picking up their jobs, and I then returned to the farm.

From Mike Rauman we bought a small unfinished house which we moved to the school land quarter — the realization of our big dream of a home of our own. I made cupboards of apple boxes stacked together, and curtains from the flour and sugar bags, trimmed with rick-rack. We had no floor covering, but I kept my floors nice and white by scrubbing them with a scrub brush and lye water. Art Dahl did a few of the necessary carpenter repairs. We were so proud and happy in our two little rooms!

To be prepared for the cold winter weather we would haul logs from the bush and then call the neighbours in again to saw the wood into blocks which would fit into our cook stove and larger ones to use in our air-tight heater. Sometimes we would saw the wood with the big buzz saw, and then the crew would go on to the next neighbor's job.

Walt enjoyed hunting, so would welcome the winter, when he would take his gear, along with some of the neighbors, and go west of Rocky Mountain House to hunt big game. These trips always resulted in a moose or elk, which helped out our food supply, and we enjoyed the meat. We often went to Buck Lake fishing, to give us a change in diet. I liked the outdoors, also, and would often go tagging along behind.

Walt's community activities included several years membership on the local Co-op board, the Credit Union board, helping to organize the Farmers Union and serving as president for a time, and helping with the Curling Rink. We both enjoyed curling and spent two or three nights a week in the local rink as well as taking part in the bonspiels. Walt became part of another band, called the "Harmony Five", which became very popular in the community and was kept quite busy. This band was made up to Walt, John and Ludwig Koots, Waldo Raabis and Bob Matthews.

Under the leadership of Mr. John Lundberg, telephone service was made possible for the community. It was great to be able to communicate without having to hike to the neighbors to pass our messages along! Since this was a party line it sometimes took time and patience before we could get onto the line for a turn at talking. Once a week we would pick up our mail from Andrew Parkkari's mail box. We had many precious visits with Barb and Jack Luomala — we would often trudge through the snow to spend a full day there, and they would come to visit us in return. The Sewing Circle provided some social life for the ladies of the community. Once a month we would go to one of the homes, each taking her turn. We'd spend a very full afternoon, just relaxing, doing hand work, or sometimes the necessary darning, mending or other jobs, and then enjoy a bountiful lunch before returning home.

We later bought a quarter of land from Art Koski and another quarter from the Koski estate, near to town. Ernie Dorchester farmed these two quarters for 17 years, and after he retired to Eckville Glen Rangen is now farming these two quarters. David and Bill MacKenzie are farming the school land quarter. The home quarter estate

was sold to two of Mary and Aaron Hoglund's grandsons, Billy and Ronald Brooker.

I had always been interested in hairdressing, so we decided that I should take the training in the Marvel School in Edmonton. I started a hairdressing business in Eckville town in 1955, and was kept very busy and happy at my job until the time we thought we would like to make a change. As of 1978 we have a four-acre orchard and a home in Summerland, B.C.

Many former Eckville people live here, and we have enjoyed visiting with them again.

**HOW I BEGAN FARMING DURING THE DEPRESSION — by Herman Lapp**

I arrived in the Eckville District in the winter of 1931, at the peak of depression. The first year I found some work around Eckville. The next year with $25 down payment, I bought a hilly bush quarter on Section 13, northeast of Eckville from the Canadian Pacific Railway. That was the time when established farmers had hard times to make ends meet, but there were not many choices for me.

So, with $125 of capital and lots of optimism I started serious farming with an axe (swinging my axe from dawn to dusk). With help from Fritz Kinna's brush cutter and his breaking plow, I broke about 70 acres of lighter patches of brush land. I paid for gas, and the rest of the work was on time payments. We finished breaking land late in the summer, so there was no time to pick any stones or stumps, for I had to catch the harvest work to make some money, as I had none left. Harvest wages were from $1.50 to $2.50 for an 11-hour day. After harvest I put up a 12 by 16 foot frame cabin of lumber from sawmills. The lumber cost from $10 $12 per 1,000 board feet.

During the winter, I was scouting for cheap machinery (to do the job and fit my pocket-book) from public sales to farmers' yards. I was able to buy one seven-foot Massey Harris single disc drill, in working condition, for $10, one six-foot single disc harrow which needed some repairs, for $8; two ponies and collars for $50 on time payment from the Thubron family at Gilby. Also I bought for $5 other second-hand harness from here and there. I got wheat seed from F. Kinna on time. I rented a team of horses from neighbors, and then I was ready for the big job ahead — putting in my first crops. The spring was late, so I had no time to pick any stones or stumps, and I had to do my best by rolling some of them aside. Many times, though, I found my disc or drill one or two feet off the ground.

Living was cheap those days, eggs, five cents a dozen; live pigs one to two cents a pound, choice steers two and a half to three cents a pound. No farmers I knew charged anything for vegetables, they were so cheap. I also did some fishing.

That summer I cleared some more land and broke it. In the fall I bought a six-foot second-hand binder to take off my crop, but found all the troubles of the world were hidden in that binder. Somehow, I got my crop off and threshed 1600 bushels of Garnet wheat out of it, with the price being 30¢ a bushel. Did I feel rich!

You hear many young men say, "It was easy to get started farming in those days". How many young men are willing to go through what you just read?

**ALEXANDER JOHNSON —by Annie Luoma**

Aexander Johnson was born in Aavadelle, Finland, in 1878. In Finland, the name was Harju, which was changed to Johnson upon arriving in the United States.

Alec came to the United States as a small child and spent some time there before moving to Canada. He spent 44 years in Canada. While living in the United States Alec had married a widow with children, but his wife and stepchildren all died of tuberculosis.

Alec farmed and resided on N.E. 12-40-3-W5 until his passing in 1950. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

**JOHNSON, CARL (CHARLIE) AND SARAH—by Sylvia Kujala**

Sarah was born in Brainerd, Minnesota, U.S.A. as Serafina Cristine Byttynen on August 3, 1883 and Charlie (Carl) Johnson was born in Dawson, Minnesota in 1926.

Having come to visit Sarah's brother, John Byttynen, and her sister, Aurora Netsel, a few times over the previous years, Charlie and Sarah Johnson came to live in Canada July 19, 1929.

Sarah and Charlie Johnson

They had been farming in North Dakota and before that had worked in Minneapolis and St Paul, Minnesota. Her sister, Susan, and their Uncle Eli Joseph came with them. They stayed with her brother, John Byttynen, until they could find a farm they wanted. They bought a quarter section previously owned by the Angle family, now owned by Rudolph Saari, in a partnership deal. When the partnership broke up, Charlie and Sarah looked for a farm on their own. In the meantime they lived on the Wells farm for a few years (now owned by the Psikla family.)

They bought a CPR quarter, SW 1-40-3-W5, in 1934 and moved on to it when they had built a little house, a sauna and other farm buildings. They must have worked very hard, as this farm was of virgin land. They managed to clear bits of land here and there for fields and hay meadows. They raised mostly cattle and a few pigs and chickens. They seemed to enjoy life there, and always seemed very happy even though the money earned from a small farm then, as now, was very little. Sometimes Charlie had to go to work during the winter months at a sawmill in the Gilby district, and Sarah went along to cook for the crew. I remember the winter of 1937 when we, my husband Elmer and I, together with my sister and her husband, Viola and Art Bellikka, stayed on their farm to take care of it until spring.

Charlie and Sarah were both very warm, generous people, and made their place a home for many a man, young and old, who needed help in those depression years. It worked both ways, as the men sometimes helped out with the work around the farm.

Charlie had one son by a previous marriage still living in the United States. This was Bill Johnson, who with his wife, Ivy, still live in Havre, Montana. Sarah had been a pioneer of the district years before, having become the young bride of Oscar Karjala. After their marriage broke up, she went back to her relatives in Minneapolis, where she met Charlie some years later.

Charlie's health began to fail, so they moved to Eckville, renting a house for a while, then got their savings together to buy a little house and rented out their farm. Charlie died in the Lacombe hospital after a lengthy illness and was laid to rest in the Eckville cemetery.

Sarah, in spite of her arthritis and diabetic condition and failing eyesight, determined to live on in the little house. This would not have been possible if it had not been for her kind neighbors and friends. Mrs. Agnes Bardenhagen, being a nurse, helped out very much in spite of her busy life. In the fall of 1975 Aunt Sarah did not feel well, so stayed with her sister, Susan, in her trailer for a few weeks, then went into the Lacombe hospital. She died January 17, 1976 at the age of 92 years and six months. She was laid to rest beside her husband in the Eckville cemetery.

**KIND, ALFRED WILLIAM**

Alfred William Kind was born in Nottinghamshire, England on November 27, 1905. He came from England with his family in 1912, and was raised on a farm in the Red Deer district. He later farmed with his father, John Alfred, in this area.

Alfred joined the Army in 1941 and served with the Calgary Tanks, Light Horse Artillery, Signal Corps. He saw action in Italy, Belgium and Holland, with the rank of Gunner.

After his return to Canada in 1945, Alfred bought a farm, NW 5-41-3-W5, north of Gilby, in 1947. Here he built a home for himself and his father, John Alfred. William was noted for his beautiful flower gardens and for his love of fishing.

Alfred's father, John, passed away in 1951, at the age of 86 years. Alfred William passed away in May, 1971 at the Eckville hospital. His land is now owned by Bill Maddox.

**THE JOHN CHARLES KIND FAMILY**

John Charles Kind was born in Nottinghamshire, England, on October 12, 1900. He came with his parents from England to the Red Deer district in 1912, where they settled on a farm. In this area John received his education. He married Celeste Stringer of Red Deer in 1927, and they lived on his homestead in the Red Deer area until he joined the Canadian Army in 1941, as a member of the 14th Army Tank Battalion. He served in the United Kingdom and continental Europe. He was taken prisoner-of-war at the Dieppe raid in 1942.

Following his return home from the Service in 1945 he purchased the Kinna farm, S 20-40-3-W5, on the Medicine River in the Gilby district in 1946. Here John and Celeste raised six boys and three girls.

Ellen took her schooling in the Red Deer district. She married Roy Forrester of Red Deer and they are now residing in Red Deer. Their three children are Lawrence, who married Barbara Hadden of Calgary, and who now, with son David, resides in the Red Deer district, and Lorraine and Marlene, who both are now residing in Edmonton.

Leslie also took his schooling in the Red Deer district. He remained a bachelor and now owns the farm, S 20-40-3-W5.

Ken took part of his schooling in the Red Deer district and later attended the Andrew school and the Eckville school. He married Linda Carr of Red Deer. They, along with their sons James, Douglas and Toni, and daughter, Patricia, are now residing in Calgary.

Cecil was born in 1932 and passed away in 1967. He married Vera Robinson of Red Deer, and they had one son, Robert, who lives in Red Deer.

Stanley received his education in the Red Deer district, and in the Andrew, Estonian and Eckville schools. He married Deanna Davis of

Red Deer. Along with their daughter, Pamela, they now reside in Sylvan Lake

Vera also attended school in Red Deer, Andrew, Estonian and Eckville schools. She married Graham Rennie of Red Deer After living in Eckville from 1957 until 1967, they moved to Fort McMurray, where they lived for about five years. They moved back to Eckville in 1972, where they are now residing They had four children. Carol and Loren are living in Eckville Donna married Darcey Lutz of Eckville and they are now residing in Rocky Mountain House. Lyle married Charlotte Molander of Eckville. They with their son, Alan, are residing in Red Deer

Ronald took his schooling in Red Deer, Andrew, Estonian and Eckville schools. He married Patricia Wylie of Eckville. They and their two daughters, Cindy and Rhonda, reside in the Eckville district.

Irene received her education in the Estonian and Eckville schools. She married Reg Wickens of Red Deer Now, with their two children, John and Colleen, they are living in Rocky Mountain House.

Evan took his schooling in Eckville, and later married Linda Thomas of Eckville. They, with their son Steven, reside in the Gilby district

John Kind passed away on February 22, 1975 at the Eckville Hospital. His wife, Celeste, now resides on the farm with their eldest son, Leslie.

**KINGSEP, HENRY — by Mrs. Selma Palle (His daughter)**

Henry Kingsep was born in 1870 on Horma Estate in Woru, Estonia, a big farm or estate where they employed about 13 workers, both men and women. Henry was educated to be a school teacher. The study of languages in the higher forms of education was compulsory, as a result, my father spoke German and Russian fluently. I was told of when my father was teaching school in the town of Nuustak that he met my mother, Emilie Saar, daughter of a shoemaker there. They fell in love and were married when he was 24 and my mother was 17 years old. They lived in the top storey of a big, but very plain school house where Dad and his assistant were teaching. There were also some pupils boarding there who only went home on weekends. I was born in that schoolhouse in 1898 and was 11 months old when my parents sailed to Canada in 1899

My father had heard and read about this new, big country of North America where there was freedom and a lot of unoccupied land for him and his fellow countrymen to live and raise their families. Also, his older brother, Christian, who was a sailor, had visited Canada and was favorably impressed with the wide open spaces compared to the crowded conditions in the little Baltic countries

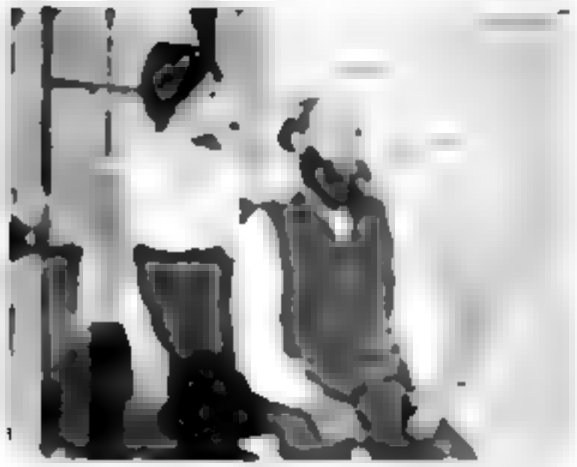
Another thing that attracted the early settlers was the fact that land was available in Canada for the payment of only $10 under a homestead plan. The homesteader got title to the land, 160 acres, after living on it for three years, and making certain improvements Father began to study the English language in preparation for a new life across the Atlantic. The family travelled for three weeks on the ship before reaching New York. U.S.A

As their destination was Canada, they continued their journey by railroad. As the railway was already laid as far as Red Deer, Alberta, they stopped there and made their first dwelling in a crude little shack about two miles east of Sylvan Lake, then known as Snake Lake, in the Northwest Territories. Soon my Uncle Christian and his family of five children took up land next to ours. In about three years time all the land around us was taken, leaving no room for Dad's countrymen who were to follow him soon. Because of this, Father moved further west and took up land, NE 9-40-3-W5, on the banks of the Medicine River, where there would be lots of water for people and livestock, and a lot of unoccupied land to extend into a settlement

That was the beginning of the Medicine Valley community north of Eckville in 1903, but of course Eckville was not there at this time.

During the early years Father had to make the trip to Red Deer to get provisions and mail for ourselves and the neighbors. It took about three or four days to travel that distance with a team made up of one horse and one ox. Since there were no roads whatsoever, he had to go through swamps and brush, often cutting down brush before he got through. To make travelling even more difficult, it rained a lot more in those days than it does now. Father often took shelter under the wagon box when it rained and also during the nights on those trips. The mosquitoes were very numerous and created misery for both people and livestock. Father would often build a bonfire in the pasture and the smoke would drive away these insects, especially at milking time For food he would snare rabbits and catch fish in the Medicine River from a boat of his own construction

Finally a little store was opened about one mile north of where Eckville now stands. My sister and I had to carry our homemade butter and our eggs over four miles to the store to exchange for other groceries. We would carry that bundle tied to the middle of a stick with us girls each taking hold of one end. We were allowed about 25 cents for two pounds of butter and the eggs were about the same price. When the school was first built close to the store, we had to walk the four and one-half miles every morning and evening for many months before our own community was able to build a school only one and a half miles away. My older sister and I were almost of high school age before we could attend school regularly. Three of my older brothers and sisters and I all started to school together, along with the children from about 30 other families of Dad's countrymen who had come out west and



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kingsep

had settled around us. Going to school in those days seemed like a picnic to us in comparison to the heavy work at home, milking cows and doing all kinds of chores on the farm, helping both Mother indoors and Father outdoors.

My father was a hard-working man, and he built practically everything that we had in our home in Medicine Valley — tables, chairs, beds with hay as mattresses, and even a stove out of rock and stone, where Mother could even bake bread, potatoes and turnips. Dad also made a wagon. He soaked the boards in some sort of solution to make them soft and then bent them into wheels. The house was made of logs, with a sod roof and an earthen floor. Grass soon grew on the roof. Moss was stuffed in the cracks between the logs. It had just one small window. Later on, Dad added another room, which had a floor of boards.

It was at this humble place that Dad's father came to visit us from the Old Country. How well I remember the apples that he brought! They were the first apples that we children had ever tasted, and they were so delicious! Unfortunately, Grandpa soon got sick, and Dad had to go to Red Deer to get a doctor. It was in the bitter cold of winter, so Dad fixed a tent on the sleigh so that he and the doctor would not freeze to death on the two-day trip. The doctor examined Grandpa and left some medicine for him, but he died before Dad was able to return from the trip taking the doctor back to Red Deer.

Dad made a coffin himself and Grandpa was buried on a hill by the Medicine River. There was not a cemetery, a minister, or a church anywhere near in those days. The few neighbors we had came together and sang hymns, and some spoke. The ladies covered the grave with wreaths of spruce bows and paper flowers.

In that same log shack two of my brothers, Henry and Otto, were born; also my sister, Emma, now Mrs. Herman Lapp, my sister Agnes, now Mrs. Stabel, was born while we were still at Sylvan Lake. All the children were born without the benefit of a doctor and with no phone available to call for help, and no roads to enable anyone to travel quickly. As the family grew larger, Dad started planning for a bigger house. Our land was almost all covered with trees, both poplar and spruce, so he had to cut them down to clear the land. He built a saw mill to cut the trees into boards. The pile of lumber got bigger and bigger as the years passed by until there was enough for a comparatively large house and a new barn. Our first barn was a sort of dug-out with a big pile of straw or dry grass on top. It was a great day for us children to move into a big house with a lot of room to run around in. My two younger brothers, Nick and Robert, were born in that new house. We enjoyed the new barn, too, when it was finished, a year or so after the completion of the house. It is really sad, almost tragic, when I think about all the hard work that went into building that house and barn under those difficult circumstances and then have them both burn down — the barn a few years before Dad passed away and the house about six years after his death. The loss was not covered by fire insurance in those days! On the spot where the barn once stood an oil well now produces the "black gold".

Before many years of farming Dad started concentrating on the building of a threshing machine. There was no outfit in our community until many years later, and "necessity is the mother of invention". We grew oats and barley and a little winter rye. Wheat didn't seem to be suitable for the cool, wet summers we had then. With the help of us older children and that of a few neighbors Dad threshed the little grain that we had, and then went on to thresh the neighbors' grain.

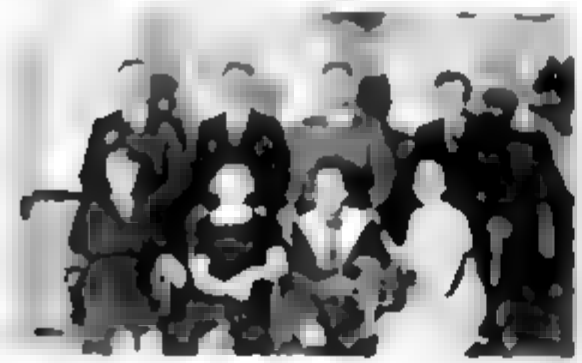
It amazes me now when I think of how much Dad was able to accomplish, yet he never seemed to be too busy to help his neighbors or to give advice when consulted. He helped to build the new neighbors' dwelling places and his team of horse and an ox was often put to work to plow an acre or so for them to use for planting potatoes and a garden. In order to buy the necessary farm machinery and livestock the men of the family often had to go out to earn money by working on building railroads and bridges. While the men were gone Dad assumed the responsibility of getting the provisions and the mail from Red Deer for many of the neighbors. Since Dad could speak four languages, he was able to help many with their language problems, being able to interpret for those in difficulty with speaking or writing. He learned the Finnish language from the Finns living to the south of us. Dad took no pay for his help, but counted it a privilege to be able to help those less fortunate than he.

Taxes were paid mostly by working on the building of roads. The community halls and the schools were built largely by free labor,

everyone giving of his time and energy for a community project. Dad was very interested in anything which he thought would help to improve and advance our community, and took the lead in promoting many undertakings of a community nature. He helped to organize the local Co-op Store, was a stout supporter of the U F A. movement and a member of the Gilby local. He had the gift of expressing his views very clearly and logically, and was often the spokesman for groups

In spite of so many other activities and interests Dad found time for music, too. He played the violin very well and his experience in the old country as a choir master encouraged him to organize and direct a choir which he kept up almost until the end of his life. He helped his own children and other young people, to get a start playing the violin. He purchased two violins from a second-hand store for only three dollars. One was for him to use, and the other for us children to practice with. Later, when my sister and I were in high school, Dad bought a second-hand organ. He and some of the children enjoyed playing on it, too.

My childhood recollections are that my father governed his children with a firm but gentle hand. He believed in equal opportunities for all. We looked up to him as a man of wisdom and fair judgement. We have certainly missed his wise council since he passed away on December 7, 1929 at the age of 59 years. He was buried in the Gilby Cemetery on a cold, bitter, blizzard day, with three feet of snow on the ground Despite the extreme cold about 300 neighbors and friends gathered to pay their last respects to one of our first pioneers in the Medicine Valley



Henry Kingsep Family Back: Robert, Nick, Otto, Henry Front: Emma, Agnes, Selma and Linda

The history of the children (and their families) born to Henry and Emilie Kingsep follows

Linda Kingsep Mottus was one of the first ones to attend the Estonian School when it was built in 1910. She married Gust Mottus, a farmer They farmed north of Eckville, and also raised berries. They were members of the Farmer's Union and the Co-op Store. They later moved to the town of Eckville, where Linda was a cook in the hospital for five years without missing one day

Gust and Linda raised one son and twin daughters. Their son, Rudy, took over his father's farm. He and his wife, Myrtle, raised five children. Their son Arnold lives close to Red Deer with his wife and two children. Their daughter Jean (a nurse) married Joe Maki and they live close to Eckville with two children Their daughter Helen married Les Davenport They live in Calgary with two daughters, Cherryl and Angela.

Linda and Gust's daughter Emma married Archie Huhtala, who was an electrician in Eckville. They operated an electric appliance store and repair shop owned by Fritz Kinna Archie served on the town council of Eckville They now live in Edmonton where Archie is supervisor of electrical construction at Athabaska Tarsands Plant. Their daughter Lynn is a graduate of the University of Alberta in Edmonton and works in the archives in Calgary

Emma's twin sister Elsie went to business school in Calgary, then married Vernon Brewer an accountant in Toronto. They have three children

Linda passed away in 1967 at the age of 71 years Her son Rudy predeceased her. Gust passed away in July, 1977

Selma Pallo (Kingsep) went to high school in Red Deer Selma took a business course in Edmonton, where she later worked as a stenographer. She married Henry Pallo of Red Deer in 1922. They have two children. Daisy is married to Leon de Launay, an electrical engineer with Bell Telephones in Montreal. They have three children. Jack works at Red Deer City Hall. For many years he was assistant city treasurer and now is internal auditor. Selma passed away in 1976 at the age of 78 years Her husband, Henry, predeceased her

Agnes Stabel (Kingsep) was a teacher and taught at Benjamin and Andrew schools. She has lived with her family in southern Alberta, but she and her husband Neils are now retired and live in Red Deer. She had five children, all of whom attended Bible School for two years, except for the youngest. Her daughter Violet passed away in 1962. All four sons became teachers although only Franklin is teaching now. Robert and Raymond are now building contractors and Armond is a minister. Agnes and Neils have 16 grandchildren

Henry Kingsep Jr. was a bachelor, and farmed north of Eckville, next to his parents' farm where we grew up. He took an agricultural mechanics course in Calgary for one year. He was a trapper of muskrat and beaver — mostly in the Medicine River. Henry passed away in 1968, and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery

Emma Lapp (Kingsep) was born at Eckville and went to Estonian School. She took her high school in Red Deer and Edmonton (where she

also took some nurse's training) She worked in Calgary and Vancouver for a few years before she married Herman Lapp, a farmer north of Eckville. They lived on the NW 13-40-3-W5 for nearly 40 years and carved a modern farm and home out of the wilderness. They raised registered seed grain and purebred cattle. Later on they rented out part of their land, and turned to commercial cattle feeding in a modern way. They were also busy with community activities. Herman was a charter and provincial board member of Eckville and District Credit Union; for 40 years he was a member of the Eckville Co-op Association, he was board chairman when the new store and feed mill were built. He served as a member of the Hospital Board when the nurses' residence was finished. He was chairman of the Gilby rural electrification association provisional board when it was organized and took part in many farm organizations. Emma was active as a member of the Home and School executive, a member of the Hospital Auxiliary, and of Church and Estonian Ladies Aid. She also participated in musical and other types of programs at the Estonian and Gilby Halls. In 1972 Herman and Emma retired in a more moderate climate in their home in Penticton, B.C., and are taking an active part in the new Retirement Centre, such as square dancing, entertainment and executive duties. Herman and Emma raised two daughters and one son.

Gloria and June attended high school in Eckville and they both have their names on the Eckford Trophy for being the best all-around student of their class. They both had training in piano, and also teacher training. Gloria taught school in Edmonton for a few years, then married Dr. John Lange. They moved to Pennsylvania, U.S.A. They have three children.

June got her Bachelor of Education Degree and taught school in Lacombe. She went on a world tour and settled down in Australia, where she married Anthony Acton. They live in the city of Melbourne and they own and operate their own graphic art and print shop.

Roy also took his high school at Eckville, and played trumpet in the Eckville and Bentley bands. He took a three-year course at NAIT in Edmonton. He married Frances Frid of Eckville, daughter of John and Anne Frid. They work for the city of Edmonton and live in their own home in Sherwood Park. He is an executive in telecommunications office and Frances works in a city office as intergovernmental assistant.

Otto Kingsep was 19 years old when he left the farm to attend SAIT in Calgary. He became a journeyman electrician, machinist and welder. After some years as superintendent of a manufacturing plant, he went into technical education and worked as a teacher, department head, and, for the last 20 years as shop director and school planning official. For several years he worked in underdeveloped countries, setting up technical training programs and schools. His daughter Karen lives in Edmonton. Son David passed away in 1975. Otto and his wife Vina are now retired in Penticton, B.C. He is a member of the Penticton "Tune Agers", a group of retired musicians. He teaches and calls square and round dances.

Nick Kingsep was active in Estonian Society and in other clubs for many years while on the farm at Eckville. After he left the farm he worked as an electrician in Calgary and later owned and operated a lunch counter in Ponoka. He married a nurse at the Ponoka Hospital, and then he and Rita moved to Calgary. He enrolled in war emergency classes and became a machinist. He advanced to foreman, production manager, and finally owned and operated his own manufacturing plant. Some of the items he manufactured were covered by his own patents. His latest venture was a farm machinery manufacturing plant in Lacombe. Nick and Rita are now retired and living in Calgary. They have one son, Gary, a mechanical engineer in Calgary, and two grandchildren.

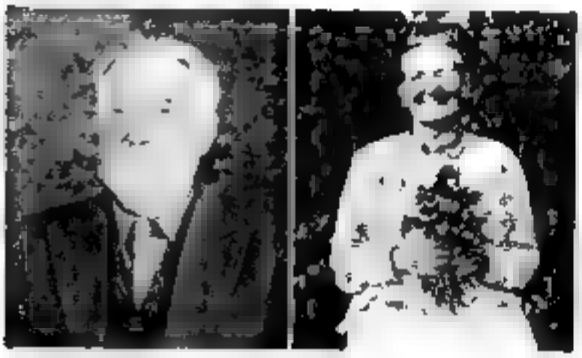
Robert Kingsep married Lila Wester and they took over the home farm. He designed and built two water well drilling rigs and was in the water well drilling business for many years, mainly for oil companies.

Their two children grew up on the farm and went to Eckville School. They both played in the school band. Robert Jr. worked with his dad for several years before he moved to Edmonton where he worked for an auto supply company. He later trained as a computer technician and programmer. He now works as a programming consultant. He and his wife, Annette, who is a pharmacist, live in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Lyann who married Art Gagne, a school teacher. They live in Vermilion, where Art teaches science in high school.

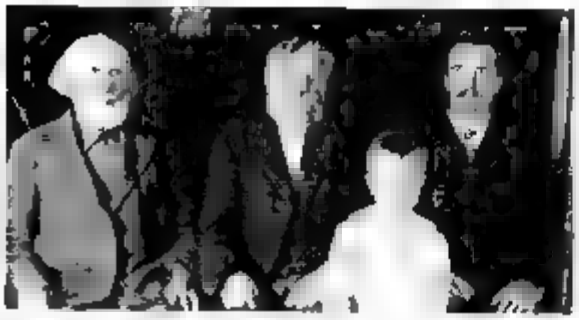
Robert passed away in 1971, having been predeceased by his wife, Lila.

**THE ROBERT KINNA FAMILY — by Robert Kinna**

Robert spent his boyhood working on his father's and grandfather's farm. He eventually purchased his grandfather's (John Kinna's) homestead. In 1939 Robert married Julia Solberg, from Bentley, and they moved to a small house on the farm. There a daughter, Edna Marilyn, was born. Times being hard on the farm, he took the opportunity the government gave and went to Calgary to take a government-sponsored machinist's course. When it was completed he moved with his family to Edmonton to work in the aircraft plant. When that plant closed he got employment in the Canadian National Railway machine shop. While working there, his daughter Judith Marie and son Ronald John were born. In 1960, being bored with turning out wheels for freight trains, he went to Montreal and Toronto and took a course as a diesel technician on the Canadian National microwave



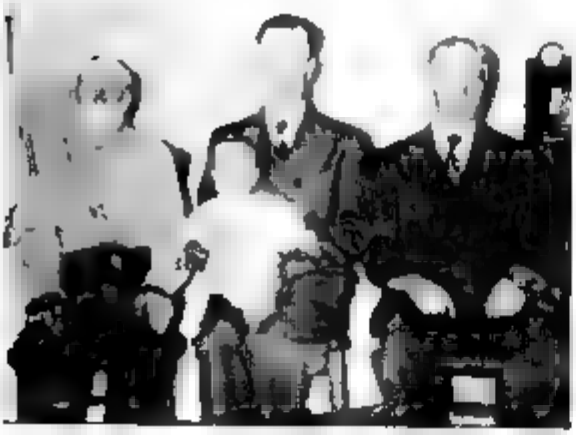
John Kinna Maria Kinna



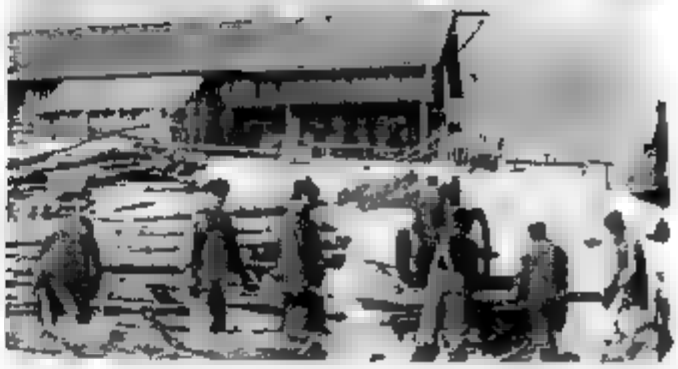
Four Generations Kinna 1913 Jack Kinna, John Kinna, Robert and Fritz Kinna.

system. When that was completed he got employment at Trutch, on the Alaska Highway as manager of the Canadian National Repeater Station. While there the Kinna's adopted a son, Kevin Daniel. When that office closed, taken over by remote control, he moved to Dawson Creek and on to the Little Smokey Repeater Stations. The opportunity arose, and he transferred to Lloydminster as a diesel technician in charge of seven microwave sites from North Battleford to Vegreville.

In 1975 Robert reached retirement age and



Four Generations - Kinna. John Kinna, Robert Kinna holding baby Ronald and Fritz Kinna.



Wood sawing bee at Henry Kinna.

retired to Edmonton, but he spends a good deal of his time at the home on the farm four miles north of Eckville. That has been the site of his holidays for many years, with an annual beef barbecue.

Daughter Marilyn married Arvon Stacey They have two daughters, Jillane and Kathryn Marilyn teaches school at Lamont and Arvon is a salesman for Douglas Rentals

Judy married Robert Worden. They have one son, Casey Judy works as a key punch operator in an uptown Edmonton office and Robert has a livestock trucking business.

Ron married Inge Grunert and he works as an electrical engineer for Alberta Government Telephones. Inge is a pharmacist They have one son, Steven.

Kevin Kinna is presently at home, attending Ross Sheppard High School.

The Kinna family roots began at Eckville, and that seems to be where they will remain.

## THE KOOTS FAMILY HISTORY

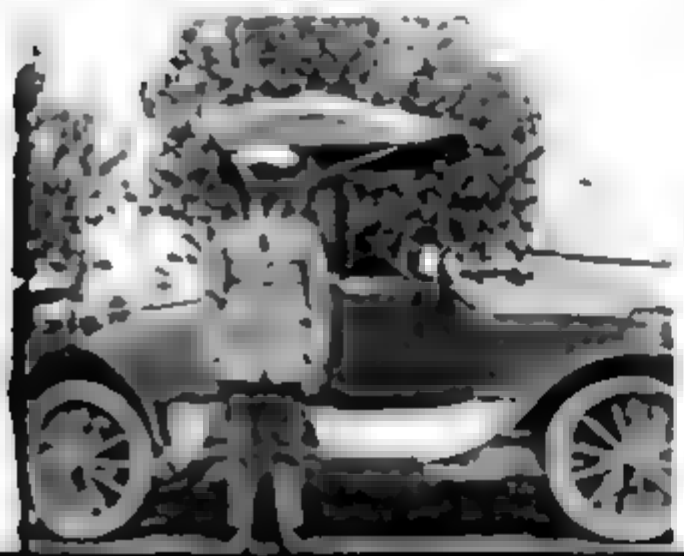
Paul Koots came to Canada with his brother, Peter, in March of 1903 from Estonia. Paul was married with three small boys, and Peter was single. They heard of the opportunities in the west and wanted to take advantage of them. Because Paul did not have the money for a fare to Canada and since his brother did not want to go alone, Peter lent him the money They landed in Halifax and traveled to Red Deer by train and were able to get transportation to the present Eckville area, where they knew some Estonian families Peter obtained SE 16-40-3-W5 and Paul SW 10-40-3-W5 as homesteads. The two brothers built a small two-room log cabin on Peter's homestead. They then got work on the railroad laying ties and tracks and pouring cement for the bridges. They worked west of Calgary into the mountains. Their biggest problem was that of language. Of the group of Estonians working for the railroad one spoke a little English and acted as interpreter Peter had some acres broken with seeding and harvest both done by hand. With Paul sending some money to his family in the old country and paying Peter back, there was little left to save from his wages. This was very

discouraging and he began to think of returning to Estonia.

In the meantime the family of Jaan Teener had heard of Alide Koots not being able to join her husband in Canada and loaned her the money realizing Paul would pay him when he could. Alide wrote her husband of her good fortune and with her three sons, Ferdinand, Carl and Woldemar, sailed for Canada. Paul had paid back the loan from his brother and saved enough for a fare back to his family. He went to Red Deer and gave up his homestead then went to pick up the last of his mail before buying the ticket back to the old country. In the mail was the letter from his wife telling that the family were on their way to Canada. Their boat docked in Halifax after a journey on which Alide had been very sick. Jaan Teener and daughter Anna watched over the boys during the trip. Alide gave the Teeners her blessings and was forever grateful for all they had done for her. They arrived in Red Deer in the spring of 1905. Paul made transportation arrangements for them to his brother's homestead and the family settled into Peter's cabin. Paul had taken another homestead, NE 16-40-3-W5, and on this land the brothers built another house, twice as big as Peter's. This was the Koots family's first home since Paul was married. After a while there was an addition to the family, twin boys were born, John and Ludwig. The bigger boys were conscripted as babysitters when their mother had to work outside. Once when neighbor ladies came to see the twins, the babysitters had disappeared. Their mother did not find out about this until sometime after. Later a daughter, Adele, was born and she remained the only girl in the family. The family's last child was another boy, Ernest, born on the day of Alide and Paul's silver anniversary.

A few acres of land were cleared each year by hand, and eventually Peter and Paul each bought a horse. This made a team which both of them used for work. Paul bought a democrat which was used for family outings for years.

Carl Koots and his Ford Car



Later each bought another horse and had a team of his own. A log barn and later a granary were built on the homestead. There were several Estonian families in the district now and mixed in with these were Finnish, Norwegians, Swedish and some Germans. A schoolhouse was built for the children of the settlers, some of them being more than 10 years of age. All of them had to learn to speak English first, then to read and write the language. Most of those who attended the school were able to complete the eighth grade.

There was very little in the way of medical facilities in this district. Alide Koots' services as a midwife were often called upon, since all babies were born at home.

When Ferdinand was old enough he went to work at the Red Deer saw mill. Carl went to work in the first co-op store in Eckville when he was 16 and had completed his Grade 8. He boarded in town with a family and bought a bicycle to come home with on Saturday afternoons after the store had closed. Paul bought a second-hand violin, since he was able to play a few tunes on it. Carl also became interested in music and began taking violin lessons from Arthur Kinna. John's interest in the violin was also aroused, that being the only musical instrument in the house. He organized a group of young people to form an orchestra. In this group Ludwig played the flute and Walley the cello. There were many socials and Christmas concerts where these local young people performed. Later he established dance orchestras where he played the saxophone and Ludwig the tuba. John studied the violin in the Alberta College in Edmonton.

The Estonian Hall was built in 1918 on two acres of Koots land. Paul and Ferdinand took active part in the building of the hall, with the rest of the Estonian Society members.

In 1918 the family bought their first car — a 1917 model Maxwell. In 1919 they also bought a steam engine and separator for threshing. This outfit did a lot of custom work in the area. Carl worked with Ferdinand as engineer and separator man. When Ferdinand died in November of 1921 of pneumonia, Carl had to learn to be a steam engineer and apply for a permit to operate it. Walley later went to the Institute of Technology and Art, after working for a farmer in Barons, Alberta, and took a steam engineering course. He completed this and went to work in the Turner Valley Gas Plant.

The family lived in the log house until 1933 when the boys built a new house. When tractors came into existence the steam engine and separator were sold. Carl bought a general store in Sylvan Lake with Ike Kaila and later bought Ike's share, as the effects of the depression were felt. Later, Walley came into the business as a partner. Carl married Thelma Wright from Innisfail and had two daughters, Dorlane and Bonita. Paul Koots died in 1935 from a heart attack. Carl died in 1947 after complications set in.

after an operation. A few years later Thelma married Wa..ey and had one son, Rodney

After public school Adele went to Olds College and completed the Home Economics course. She later enrolled at the Calgary Institute of Technology and Art in the Fine Arts course. She began clerking at her brother's store in Sylvan Lake during the depression and in 1941 met Ernest Dorchester

Harold Dorchester, his wife and two sons, William and Ernest, came to Alberta from Coderre, Saskatchewan in 1937 and settled north of Leaheville. In 1942 Ernest and Adele were married. In 1946 Harold and his wife went to B C. with son William following the next spring Ernest Dorchester bought the Fritz Kinna farm three miles north of Eckville. After 29 years of farming they sold it and moved into Eckville where Ernest is now self-employed as a carpenter. In his free time he golfs and curls

Ernest Koots was able to complete his high school education When the war broke out he joined the Air Force He met Jeanette MacDonald from P E I. while in the service and married her in 1946. They have two children, Janet Anne and Donald. Ernest bought a store in Hespero which subsequently burned down. He then moved to Nordegg where he managed a grocery store for the Big Horne Trading Co Later he moved to Edmonton where he worked for a short time in Woodwards. For more than the last 20 years he has been a salesman for Burns Foods. After graduating from high school in 1967 Janet-Anne received her degree in Honors Chemistry from the University of Alberta and her Masters in Madison, Wisconsin. Donald also graduated from high school in Edmonton and got his degree in Education from the University of Alberta

Ludwig married Leida Kirves in 1951. Leida's parents, Thomas and Minna, came to Canada in 1950. Her mother died three months later Thomas and her brother, Herbert, moved to Vancouver but Thomas came back to Eckville where he died in 1952. Herbert stayed in Vancouver where he married Erna Muld and had three sons, Thomas, Madis and Andres. Leida and Ludwig have two sons, Ronald and Clarence They both received their grade schooling in Eckville and went on to the University of Alberta, Ronald graduating with a degree in Agriculture and Clarence a degree in Education. They are very sports minded and have taken part in local sports throughout school and after. Ludwig was also involved in sports in his younger days. Ludwig stayed with the farm and is mechanically inclined as well as being handy with carpentry tools. He farmed with his brother John. John never married but with his love of music and hobby of making violins he lived in contentment He died of a heart attack in 1974. His mother, Alide, had died in November of 1959. Ludwig is still living on his father's second homestead where he grew up.

Peter Koots met his wife, Marie, through an Estonian newspaper from New York. They had three daughters, Selma, Amanda and Ella. As he grew older, a friend convinced him to return to Russia while the friend, of course, did not follow Peter felt with no boys to take over his farm he would have a very hard life in his old age Although Paul tried, he could not change his brother's mind. In 1921 he sold his farm to his nephew, Carl, and left for Russia with his family He died a couple of years before Paul did while Marie died in the spring of 1964.

**LANGER, Carl and Anna**

Carl Gustav Langer and his brother Paul came to the Eckville district about 1902 from Estonia. They filed on homesteads about 1903, five and one half miles north of Eckville on the east side of the road. Carl homesteaded the NW 10-40-3-W5, and Paul on the SW 10-40-3-W5

Anna Teener arrived, also from Estonia, a while later. Anna was a relative of the Kinna family. Her sister Emma Tomingas and John Tomingas family homesteaded a short distance west, across the Medicine River, later known as the Eric Bardenhagen place: Carl Langer and Anna were married about the year 1906

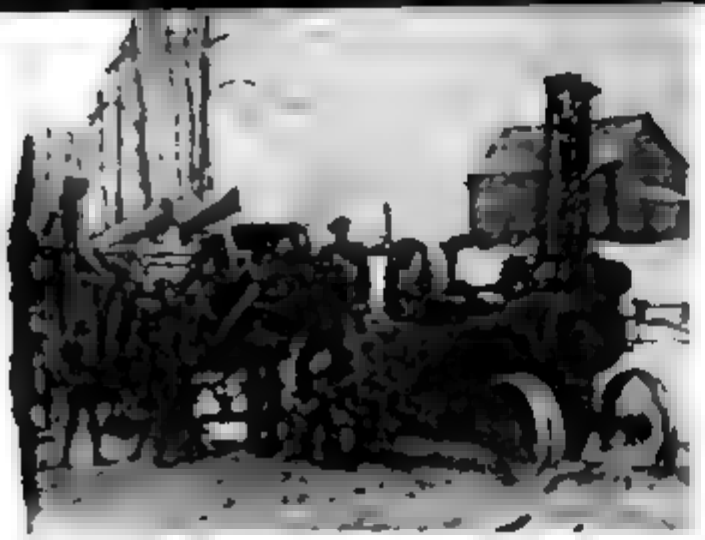
Up until this time Carl Langer worked to clear a little bit of land by hand and ax to try to get a start. This was done a little at a time, in between other jobs that he could get to have some income, as there was none from the farm.

Some of the neighbors and he worked on the railroad off and on A lot of the time at Banff and Kanaskis, where the railroad was being built at the time. Travelling by hand car from Banff where they were staying, to their work on building the railroad, and in the winter shovelling snow by hand to clear tracks that were drifted. Besides all this there were buildings of sorts started on the farm, all out of logs cut from the homestead. Farming started with two or three cows, chickens and maybe a pig, and eventually horses, by which all the work was done

Horses were the most popular mode of work and travel. Once in a while a trip to town was done by democrat along a dusty winding road around every slough and pot hole on the way, and fording streams. Before the democrat and horse many trips to town had to be on foot. The democrat was also popular for outings such as a get together with neighbors or berry picking

Around the year 1906 Carl Langer and his brother Paul Langer purchased a steam engine and a threshing machine, by mortgaging their homesteads and everything else they owned, as there was very little cash available. This was the only machine for threshing in the area, and the farmers who had a crop had to cut it into bundles and put it in stacks in the fall. The threshing outfit went around to each farm and threshed the grain from the stacked bundles.

The first few years of the Langer Brothers operation they threshed crops for the farmers and



Langer brother's threshing in winter of 1914

winter long, all the way from Sylvan Lake to the Leedale area, moving the separator with the steam engine. When the snow got deep they had four or six horses hitched to the front of the steam engine to help move it from farm to farm. With the help of some of the neighbors, who would go along and pitch bundles, haul grain and haul water and firewood for the steam engine. They kept on threshing till everybody's crops were threshed. The threshing from the bundle stacks required about eight men and when they threshed the bundles stooked in the fields it required about six to twelve teams of horses with bundle racks, two field bundle pitchers and two spike pitchers at the machine. The steam engineer was Paul Langer, who had to have a government qualified boiler engineer's certificate, the water hauling man, who usually handled the wood for fuel for the boiler and a separator man, Carl Langer, to set and adjust the threshing machine, a total of about eighteen to twenty men. Usually the outfit worked short handed as help wasn't always available for a full crew

The separator was a new Case 28 inch machine, about $1200. The steam engine may have been a Sawyer Massey used steam tractor, about $500. Horses were worth about $100, cattle about $30. Threshing wages were about one dollar a day, and a dollar a day for a team of horses. As there was very little money to be had most of the work was done and paid by exchange, by doing a days work for a days work in return, or payment in grain or feed. A very neighborly feeling persisted and everybody pitched in and helped wherever it was needed When the work was done they didn't ask for pay, because there wasn't any Usually a thank you was all they got and usually were very happy and rewarded from the visit and the company of other people

A three furrow breaking plow was also purchased and some plowing was done with the steam engine, but this was not too succesful as it required a lot of help to operate and the land was cleared of brush by hand so the fields were too small for this type of operation. The steam engine threshing went on till about the year 1929, when Carl purchased a new Wallis gas tractor with extension wheels and steel lugs for $1240, which was used for threshing and other work The steam engine was sold to Bill Dirsten for his lumber mill at the north end of Sylvan Lake.

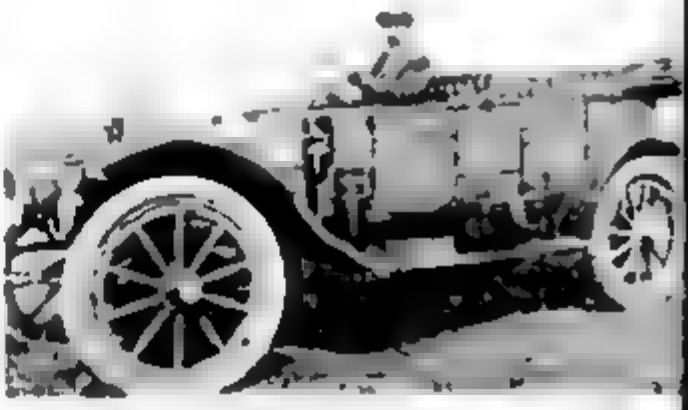
Horses were the most popular mode of work and travel up until then. Carl Langer, Fritz Kinna and Charlie Raabis built a brush cutter that was drawn by about six horses. This made land clearing a little easier. The men had to build everything for this machine, even the cutter blade. They had to cut a saw-tooth edge on the cutter blade with chisels and hammers.

These three men along with their neighbors were instrumental in building the first roads in their area with two horse slips and four horse slips or fresnos for moving the earth. Spade and shovel and ax cut trees from alongside the road for corduroy base in soft places in the road and for culverts Roads usually had to be built around sloughs — the easiest route. There were also a few teams of oxen used in the road work, and seen travelling on the trail One homesteader in the area had one horse and one oxen and he worked with this odd team for many years.

In about 1920 a small Cletrac track tractor was purchased for farm work, but many a morning when the old Cletrac gas engine wouldn't start the horses were still there and more reliable at that stage of mechanical machinery

In about the year 1917 an Everet touring car, with water proof removable or folding roof, removable curtains with celluloid windows, carbyde lamps for lights, running boards and vacuum tank for keeping a steady flow of gas was purchased. This may have been the first car in the district

The Langers were active in getting the Estonian school built and operating, for many years



Carl Langer and his 1916 Everet Touring Car

an institute of learning. It was located on the north east corner of the Langer land. Here the children of the district received their first learning. They were also actively involved in the building and operation of the Estonian Hall as a community center.

The Eckville and Gilby Co-operative Co. Ltd was registered as a company with limited liability and a capital of $10,000 on September 17, 1912. The first Provisional Board of directors and the first seven share holders were. President — E. M. Matchett — farmer. Vice Pres. — Fritz Kinna — farmer. Sec. Treas. — Arthur E. F. Eckford — farmer. Director — Carl Langer — farmer. Director — R. Stopsen — farmer. Director — A. Rangen — farmer. Director — C. Kasper — farmer. Witnessed by Archibald Litt, Eckville, Alberta, who was the first manager.

Carl and Anna Langer had a family of six sons and one daughter.

Paul Leonhard — farming in the district, was married to Velma Gyori on November 24, 1938. They had a family of two sons and two daughters. Beverly, Mrs. K. J. McKenzie, is a teacher for the Calgary Board of Education. Paula works for the Alberta Government Telephones in Calgary. Kenneth farms in the district. Leslie passed away in 1964 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Arthur — operated a hardware business in Eckville for 28 years and installed and operated a coin laundry and car wash in the town. He is now retired.

Robert — married Weema in 1938, had two sons and one daughter. Robert in British Columbia, married with two children, Myrna in British Columbia, married with one daughter, Gregory in Edmonton. Robert was in store business and real estate in British Columbia, now retired.

William Richard — farming in the district with his brother on the original Langer homestead.

Arvey — farming in the district on the original homestead.

Laura — Mrs. Walter Olsen, living five miles south of Eckville. They have a daughter, Barbara, who works in a Doctor's office in Calgary, and a son, Barry, who is working overseas in the oil industry, and is presently in Scotland.

Elmer — passed away in 1918.

Carl, Anna and Elmer are buried in the Gilby Cemetery, which they also helped to locate and to start and maintain, along with their pioneer friends and neighbors.

John Teener, Anna Langer's father, homesteaded the land now belonging to the Thubron family. John Teener reached the age of 70 years in the 1920's and sold his land and retired, receiving a Government pension at the age of 70, which was at that time the grand sum of $8. per month. He was taken in by the Langer family and lived the rest of his life with them. He immigrated to this area from Estonia and was buried in the Gilby cemetery.

**LANGER, PAUL**

Paul Langer arrived in Canada as an immigrant around 1905, coming from Samerpalu, Voru, Estonia, Europe. He bought the SW 10-40-3-W5 from Mr. Paul Koot, who had acquired it as a homestead, but had decided to return to his native homeland to rejoin his family. His plans were changed in a hurry when he got to Red Deer and received a letter in the mail stating that his family was already on their way to Canada. Paul Langer also bought the adjoining SE 10-40-3-W5 from the Armstrong brothers. About 1912 or 1913 he built a comfortable home on the first quarter of land he had bought.

Paul married Lydia Perler and they had a family of three girls: Erna, Alfina and Hazel. A son, Felix, died as an infant. (Lydia's history and that of their children is written under the heading of Peter Perler and Family.)

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langer, Erna, Alfina, Peter Perler (Mrs. Langer's father).

Paul was very active in community affairs, being one of the founding members of the Eckville Co-operative Association, a member of the U.F.A., and helped with acquiring the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. He was also active with the Estonian school affairs, this school being located on his brother Carl's land. In any community project he was always a willing helper.

Paul and his brother Carl, who owned and lived on the N 10-40-3-W5, together owned and

Lydia Langer, Mrs. Lynette Dolan Porter and Erna Langer Soerd

Maying on the Langer Farm

operated a steam grain threshing outfit. Paul operated the steam engine and his brother was separator man. This was one of the first steam threshing outfits west of Red Deer at the time, and they threshed grain for farmers as far east as Sylvan Lake and many miles north, west and south of Eckville. They threshed, starting in the fall and continuing almost until spring, as farmers had smaller fields those days and had their grain cut into sheaves and stacked so that winter threshing was possible. Both Paul and Carl were very mechanically inclined and Carl was also a very good blacksmith. He had a good shop on his farm for their own use, which still exists to some extent and is used by his sons. Minor repairs were no problem for Paul and Carl — they didn't have to make the time-consuming trip to Red Deer for repairs. All farming was done by horses in the early years and Paul raised and trained all his own horses.

Paul liked fishing and he and his fishing partner, Mr. Harry Thomas of the Gilby district, would take off with a team of horses and a sleigh with grain tank, also feed for horses and self to ice fish with nets at Buck Lake about seventy-five miles north. They returned about 10 days later with several hundred pounds of jumbo white fish — not the small ones as are caught today. The fish were frozen and packed in snow to keep, as there were no deep freezers in those days.

Paul died in 1928 in the prime of life, just as many big changes were to take place in our country and which would have interested him very much.

**Lydia Langer's Daughters:**

Erna, the oldest, married Leonard Soerd and they have been farming south of Eckville in the Benalto-Evarts district since 1936. During the years 1948 to 1952 they lived in Eckville, where for those years Erna was in charge of the Eckville telephone office as chief operator. For the last year and a half Erna served as secretary-treasurer for the Eckville Mutual Telephone Association. When she decided to return to the farm she trained Mrs. Kit Armstrong, who replaced her. Besides being a farm wife Erna was a school bus driver for the County of Lacombe for 10 years, from 1967 to 1977. Erna and Leo have three daughters, Doreen, Jeannie and Debby. A son, Johnny, died in 1947 at the age of five and an infant son died in 1952.

Their daughter, Doreen is living in Calgary. After receiving her education at Eckville and the Red Deer Composite High School she received her secretarial diploma from Mount Royal College in Calgary and is presently secretary for the Alberta Federation of Labor in Calgary. She married George Heath of Eckville in 1956 and they have two children, Valerie and Leonard, who presently are attending high school.

Jeannie received her earlier education at Eckville, Benalto and Red Deer Composite. After receiving her B.Sc. degree in Medical Laboratory Science from the U. of A. she was employed in the Provincial Laboratory and also the U. of A. Hospital in Edmonton. She married William A. Brown of Ontario in 1963 and they are now farming in the Benalto district and have built up a very nice herd of Charolais cattle.

Debra received her education at Eckville and the Red Deer Composite and graduated with a degree of "Bachelor of Social Work" from the University of Calgary. She is presently employed by the city of Edmonton in the Social Services department. She married James Murray of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan in 1975 and they are making their home in Edmonton.

Alfina (Alfeen), Lydia's second daughter, took up hairdressing and operated her own beauty shops in Edmonton, Sylvan Lake and Eckville. She married Norman Forhan of Eckville and together they owned and operated Forhan's Ready to Wear in Eckville for many years. Alfina passed away in December of 1975.

Hazel, the third daughter, graduated as a nurse and after nursing for a few years married Harry Lindskog of Lacombe. They are now living in Red Deer where Harry operates his own business. They have two sons, Thomas and Douglas, and one daughter, Joan. Both boys have done very well in hockey, having received

hockey scholarships of four years, attendance at Ann Arbor University in Michigan, U.S.A. While there they also played hockey in the college hockey league, which took them to all parts of the U.S.A. Tom graduated with a B.Sc. degree in biochemistry and is presently employed in Calgary by an oil company consultants firm. Doug, after having played hockey in Europe, decided to finish his education and is presently in his final year working for his Bachelor's degree in Commerce at the University of Calgary.

Their daughter, Joan, after finishing high school, attends Red Deer College and is presently employed in the business department of A.G.T. in Red Deer. She is a great lover of horses and has done very well in the equestrian classes, taking a number of prizes in the riding events.

**THE MATT LIIKALA FAMILY**

Matt and Matilda Liikala came over from Vaasa, Finland in 1909 and settled in Manyberries, Alberta on a half-section of homestead land. They had six children when they came from Finland — Femmi, Ivar, Hilda, Ike, Bill and Emil. While they lived at Manyberries Toivo was born in 1912 and Ed in 1915, as well as two other boys who died as infants.

Matt Liikala had a small blacksmith shop on his property and did work for everyone around Manyberries. His equipment was an old fanning mill case for a blower and a piece of railroad iron for an anvil. The other tools were all hand made.

In 1924 Matt and Matilda moved to Frontier, Saskatchewan, taking Ike, Ivar, Emil, Toivo and Ed with them. They rented land there and, as Matt had a blacksmith shop, Toivo and Bill started to learn the trade there at quite an early age. Bill and Toivo also tanned hides and made saddles, bridles, chaps and lariats. There was a family in Leedale, Alberta who had one of these saddles a few years ago. Times were rough during those years, and everyone pitched in and did what he could.

Matt Liikala passed away in 1926 in Saskatchewan, and Emil passed away in 1929. He died of a ruptured appendix, as it wasn't easy to get to a doctor in those days.

In 1934 Matilda Liikala, Bill, Toivo and Ed moved to Sylvan Lake. They lived there for only a few months before buying NE 35-39-3-W5 from the CPR. This land was seven miles north-east of Eckville and they moved there to make their home. Toivo and Bill had a small shop on the farm and did welding and blacksmith work as well as some farming. They also had a sawmill, and did custom work for people. They also built at least 16 sawmills for other people.

In 1939 Bill went to work in a shop in town and worked there until 1944. He went into the sawmill business with Charlie Johnson on Reg Whidler's place west of Gilby for a while. Ed and Toivo were on the farm with their mother while Bill was away. Toivo did shop work and Ed did mechanical work.

There was just an old house on the farm when they bought it, so in 1941 they built a new house. Toivo did most of the building himself. In 1949 Toivo and Bill started building a new shop on the farm — a building 32 feet by 62 feet. After it was finished they had a better place to work. The shop wasn't finished until after Bill had gone, so Toivo did most of this building, too.

In 1949 Ed married Violet Johnson and they moved across the road from the home place, and still are living there. They had four sons — Leslie, Richard, Leroy and Russel. None of the boys are married yet, and all are out working.

In 1950 Toivo married Mary MacDonald, who had three children from a previous marriage. The children were Norman, David and Judy, and in 1954 Toivo and Mary had a daughter, Barbara. Norman is married to Jean Paoni and they have four children and reside in Oliver, B.C. David is married to Donna Blair and they have five children and live in Rocky Mountain House. Judy married Maurice Charron and they live in Devon, Alberta. They have two children. Barbara married Raymond Ponto and they live at Worsley, Alberta and have two children.

Bill also was married in 1950 to Hilja Huhtala, who had five children from a previous marriage. They had a daughter, Millie, who is married to James Posti and they are now living in Red Deer. The next youngest daughter, Helen, is married to Allan Posti, and they live in Eckville. The other three live in Saskatchewan. Another girl, Elaine, lives at the coast. After his marriage Bill moved to Eckville in 1950 and worked for Chester Kasha for about four years. They then moved to Rocky Mountain House where Bill worked for Wally Mottus for a few years, and then they moved to the coast. They came back to Eckville in 1965 and Bill worked in a shop again. He passed away in November of 1975. Hilja now lives in Vancouver.

Toivo and Mary sold the farm in 1961 and bought an acreage at Eckville. Toivo went into partnership with Albert Ojala on a shop and they built up a good business. In 1966 Toivo sold his share of the shop to Albert. He and Mary then sold their property and moved to Oliver, B.C., where they bought an acreage. Toivo worked in a shop in Oliver for a year but then built his own shop on his own property, two miles north of Oliver and is still working in the shop five days a week and still enjoys it.

Femmi Liikala married Henry Kakkinen in Manyberries. Their two children were Toivo and Vivian. Henry Kakkinen passed away and a few years later Femmi and her son Toivo Kakkinen moved to the area northeast of Eckville. Femmi passed away in 1965 and Toivo passed away in 1975. Vivian married Emil Stuber and they had three children. They still live in Manyberries.

Hilda married Arthur Bodle and moved to Minnesota, U.S.A. They had four children —

Wilbert, Fred, Vivian and Russel. Both Hilda and Arthur have passed away.

Ivar Liikala married Aino Lahtinen in Frontier, Saskatchewan and they lived there until moving to Port Kells, B.C. Ivar passed away in the early 1940's. They had two daughters, Wilma an Edna, who are both married and live at the coast. Their mother, Aino, is still living there.

Ike married Celia Julha in 1929 in Medicine Hat, then moved to Minnesota, U.S.A. and from there to Laurel, Montana where they still reside. Ike was a railroad engineer for 26 years. They have a daughter, Maida, who is married and lives in Dickinson, North Dakota, U.S.A., and a daughter, Lillian, who is married and lives in Libby, Montana, U.S.A.

Mrs. Matilda Liikala was a midwife while living in the Manyberries area, and helped to bring many babies into the world. She passed away at Eckville in the mid-1950's.

**LIIKALA, WILLIAM AND HILJA**

Bill was born on September 4, 1904. Hilja was born on April 29, 1910 at Manyberries. In 1935 Bill, his mother and two brothers, Toivo and Ed, moved to the Eckville district, purchasing the NE 1-40-3-W5. This quarter was formerly owned by the Harold Flanky family.

Bill was a blacksmith by trade (a very good one, I'm told), so he opened a shop on the farm. The neighborhood farmers could always rely on Bill to repair their machinery.

In 1950, Bill and Hilja (Mickelson) Huhtala were married. They were blessed with three daughters, Elaine, Helen and Millie. The girls took their schooling in Vancouver, Rocky Mountain House, and Eckville. This is where Bill worked in a blacksmith shop.

Elaine is Mrs. Tadosuuk of Red Deer, Alberta. Helen is now Mrs. Allen Posti. She owns Helen's Beauty Shop in Eckville. Millie, Mrs. Jim Posti, is also a hairdresser.

Bill passed away in 1975 at the age of 71 years, and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. Hilja resides in Vancouver, B.C.

**LUOMALA HISTORY — By Anne Parkhurst**

John Emil Luomala, was born in Teuva Vaasanlavi Suomi (Finland) in 1880. At the age of 21 years he was converted to Christ in a Salvation Army meeting and came to North America in 1901. He settled in Quincy, Massachusetts, U.S.A. from where his brother also came.

First he worked in a granite rock-cutting and polishing firm. In 1905 he entered Lay College in Quincy, Massachusetts for three years to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel. His first pastorate was in Thomaston, Maine, U.S.A., with preaching points also in Longcove, Maine and Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1910 he made a preaching tour that took him across the country to Winlock, Washington State, U.S.A. In 1911 he came back by Toronto, Ont. and remained to Pastor the Finnish congregation. He was ordained in the Knox Presbyterian College in 1916.

Alma Konni was born in Keurie, Suomi in 1875 and in the turn of the century came to Canada along with many relatives. They were nearly all tailors by occupation. A cousin, Adiel Saaremaki, was Finnish Consul for many years. Alma attended the Finnish College in Hancock, Michigan, U.S.A. for about one term in 1909. About 14 years later we learned that our neighbor, Mrs. Mary Hoglund, had also attended the same college a year or so earlier and her picture was in the College history book. She was then Mary Anderson. Alma went back to Finland to start a match factory, which failed, so she returned to Toronto in 1912, just missing passage on the Titanic.

John Luomala and Alma Konni met and were married in July, 1912. A daughter was born in September, 1913, Anne Elizabeth. Another daughter, Ina Johanna, was born on March 13, 1915.

In 1917 we moved to Troy, New Hampshire, U.S.A. where Father pastored the Congregational Church among the Finnish people. Milford was also included and it was there that son, John Rufus, was born on May 4, 1917.

On July 19, 1919 we came to Alberta, Canada, to Eckville, where Father accepted the pastoral duties among the Finnish Presbyterians in Kuusamo, Brightview and Manyberries. Young Peoples Hall, three miles east of Eckville, was the building used for services. We first arrived at Reikki's home for a few days. Many were the happy visits that we had there, along with some thrilling rides we had in Esther's car. This was an open car so some rides were cold. We also enjoyed listening to Sadie playing the piano. One piece, particularly, which was "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" with variations.

Afterwards we were at Toivonen's and for some reason, Mother and we children walked the half-mile to the parsonage that was located two miles east of Eckville. It seemed like a long, long country half mile for us, this first view of our new home. We often went to Toivonens for sauna and we had so much fun. Mrs. Lempi Toivonen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Maki, and the Viitalas were friends we visited often. In fact the first birthday present of a box of chocolates I remember getting was from Mrs. Maki and she rode horseback four and one-half miles to buy it. It was my seventh birthday.

In 1921 Father bought 13 lots in Sylvan Lake, thinking to build and move closer to a school for the girls. But we lived with August Staudinger's that winter and were close to school as it was almost behind the school. However, when spring holidays came, we moved back to the parsonage and were taken the three miles to Saima school and then later drove a single horse and cutter. At this time the piano was sold to Martha Isaacson. Mother had taught me the notes when I was seven. My sister and I had also learned to read and write Finnish before we learned any English at school. We used to enjoy our visits to the Nick

Mr. and Mrs. John Cunningham, Ina, Jack and Anne

Isaacsons, too, for there were children our age, particularly Helen, Mary and Isaac. They had a wooden horse swing we enjoyed, as well as the lake. They were a hard-working family, hauling wood for fire wood and selling it in Sylvan Lake. They also raised acres of potatoes for sale. I remember that tragic night when Mrs. Isaacson, the mother, was taken by ambulance to the hospital where she died, leaving Mary and Isaac, the youngest children, only four and two years old. Then Martha came from Finland, a fine looking lady, and married Nick and mothered the family of four that were still home.

In 1923 Father bought a quarter section of very hilly and muskeg-covered land from a Moro family who went to Russia. So in the spring, at a very muddy time, we moved. Father drove one team with a load and I drove another team and load behind him along a trail that wound around trees and steep hills and muskegs. It was an unforgettable and frightful experience for me to see the horses claw and struggle so desperately to pull the load up such muddy and steep hills. Also, the road tilted so steeply that it seemed as though we would be dumped, but we never were. This move to the farm was an unforgettable experience for all of us. The home was a one-room log cabin which was old. Garter snakes were everywhere — one even curling around a flower-pot on the windowsill and falling down the wall between the logs and the beaver board that was our kitchen corner. The following year we had pigs running loose and that is when the snakes disappeared, with only occasionally one seen in the raspberry patches we earnestly picked every summer. We also picked wild strawberries, high bush cranberries and blueberries some years. Sometimes some of us got a ride to pick low-bush cranberries west of Rocky Mountain House. My sister and I always got the cows home, going with bare feet all summer, from a section of C.P.R. land with heavy bush and a section of school land. Also we all were hard at work at haying time, making hay out of the slough grasses.

That first summer we moved onto the farm, Father was sorely tried. At a very rainy time Father was flat on his back with lumbago. During the heaviest rain all our five horses ran away. My sister and I tried to look for them, but the forests were too strange and fearful for us to venture very far. Father started looking for them when he was still not well, but we never found them. He still tried to preach but the farm took much time and energy, so this part of his life became a now-and-then thing for the rest of his life.

After struggling with steep hills, he thought he'd like a farm that was level and nearly open and so he purchased the quarter section that Salma school was on. So we were again going to Salma school after two years at Estonian school. At this time we boarded the school teacher, Miss Atsinger, for one term. We girls were the janitors then. Miss Atsinger went to school early and usually made the fire. Very nice! In the meantime Mr. and Mrs. Ensign were renting and living on our hilly farm and their nephew, Ray, helped father clear some brush. However, after two years Father gave up this farm and we moved back to the hills. So we were going to Estonian school again.

This time we didn't go into the log house, as Father bought and moved a newer log house from Mr. Kandelen. This was moved from across the road from Salmi school onto the same knoll on which we used to live. Father made an upstairs on it and soon moved a bathhouse on the north side for a kitchen, and still later a log addition to the west side, for another bedroom. So as the family was growing so was the house, and eventually we had a lot of room.

It was about this time that radios were coming into the homes, so Father bought a two-piece Westinghouse radio so we could listen to William Aberhart every Sunday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and Eunice Wells came often to hear him, too, at our place. In 1929 Father sent Anne to the Prophetic Bible Institute, which was now two years old, for one term. Ernest Manning was one of the teachers. Ina took grade ten in Eckville, first riding horseback and then she boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins'. She finished high school in Dickson.

The winter of 1930 and 1931 was an open, mild and snowless winter. Then in March it was hot and sultry. The sky was red with clouds and smoke from forest fires west of Rocky Mountain House, so the sunshine was like a full eclipse. At five o'clock one afternoon a very fierce wind suddenly came up so you couldn't see any distance for dust and straw flying. It turned into snow, and snow fell for many days, making the month of March a real winter month. The following summer there was no wild fruit to pick.

In 1933 Anne and Andrew Parkkari were married and living west of Innisfail in the Gordon school district. Then in 1935 they moved onto Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson's quarter section

which they had purchased a year earlier. The farm location is SE 12-40-3 W5. Their son, Andrew Douglas, was born in October, 1937. In January, 1945, their daughter, Nancy Ann, was born.

In the fall of 1945 Mr. Lachlan Maclean began services in the neighborhood and the following year the church known as Sunshine Gospel Mission was built. In the spring of 1948 we attended church at Eckville in Covlin's home by the Church of the Nazarene, and a year later helped build that church in Eckville. The first pastor there was Russell Quantz, and two other brothers have also pastored there. We attended church there for 20 years.

Around this time brother Jack and friends, Charlie and Art Bott and Gloria Lapp were heard on CKRD radio, singing western songs and hymns once a week for a year.

In 1939 there was a young minister, Alex Koski, who came now and then to hold church services among the Finnish people and about this time also was a young lady, Jenny Ecola, who held services. There were other ministers for shorter periods of time.

Alex at first walked, then he got places with a bicycle and then by horseback. Eventually he graduated to an open car of antique vintage. Jenny Ecola graduated from the Camrose Lutheran College in 1940.

In October of 1956 Father was hospitalized, and was there for two weeks before passing away on November 9. Four years later, in March, Mother passed away in 1961. Three years later Andrew passed away very suddenly on October 9, 1964. Aune sold the farm in 1972 moving to Sylvan Lake in May of 1973.

Ina and her husband, Art Lockrem, live at Eagle Hill, 18 miles west of Olds, and Jack and his wife, Barbara, live at Trout Creek, Summerland, B.C.

**MacKENZIE, SIMON AND KATE — by Kate [illegible]**

We were farming in the East Coulee district during the very dry years and our crops were very poor, so we decided to move to the Eckville district. On May 10, 1936 Simon, myself and our two small sons crossed on the ferry at East Coulee (we had waited two weeks for the ice to go). We loaded all our belongings in a big truck and started on our journey. There were only dirt trails at that time and it was very dark when we reached the Estonian School. The road was very wet from the spring runoff and we got stuck; we had to walk the rest of the way, carrying what bedding we needed and the two boys between us and the truck driver. It was quite a shock the next morning to see the sun shining through every crack in the walls of the shack that was to be our home. With the aid of our good friend, Joe Marshall, who ran a hardward store at that time, we got tar paper and lining for the inside and by fall we were very snug and ready for winter.

For the first while, it was very lonesome for me. I had never lived in the bush and had never been very far from home. One afternoon a knock came at the door and there stood two little girls. They greeted us and told us their names were Phyllis Palm (now Erickson) and Sylvia Mickelson. They said they just dropped in on their way home from school to welcome us to their district. It made us feel very welcome indeed. In a short while we got to know our closer neighbors and came to enjoy their wonderful sauna baths. It seemed everyone had one, as there was no plumbing in those days. At that time our neighbors were: the Lapps, Tolonens, Stenvigs, Newmans, Jack Wuori, Hoglunds, Luomalas, Parkkaris, Langers, Moos, Pontos, Palms, John Lepisto, Scowens, Andy Harvilow and August Pihooja.

We were very busy as there were only 25 acres cleared on our quarter. Simon, with the help of the boys and myself, cleared a lot by hand. He would grub the roots and fell the trees, cut the branches, which we would pile and then burn. These were good years, and we eventually added a girl and a boy to our family. The children all went to the Estonian School and after Grade 8, they were bused to Eckville. Simon was a blacksmith by trade and was able to make an extra dollar now and then shoeing horses and sharpening plow shares and axes. Money was very scarce but we managed. In 1939, along came the war and Simon was gone for five long years. I stayed on the farm and with the help of our good neighbors, and with the sewing circle to

Simon and Kate MacKenzie Family. Duncan, Billy and Margie. Simon holding David.

help pass the time, we managed. We rented out the farm land, but continued to milk cows and raise pigs. After the war things continued to be tough, but we were able to get a better house and more land, and raised our family until they were ready to be on their own.

Duncan married Shirley Emmett and they have three children. They are now living in Calgary

Margie married Noel Stevenson. They have a boy and a girl, and are living just outside Red Deer

Bill and Dave took over the home place, and we are semi-retired, enjoying camping and fishing out west every chance we get. We really have seen changes from 1936 to 1977. We now have paved roads, plumbing, in all the houses, phones, two stores to buy groceries in Eckville, a hardware, drug store and the hope of a new hospital with there already being a lovely lodge for the senior citizens. All in all, Eckville has been a good place to live and raise a family

**MACKIE, GABRIEL**

In 1905, Mr. Gabriel Mackie arrived in Eckville from Butte, Montana, and after building a log cabin sent for his wife, daughter Katherine Lempi (who later married Pete Toivanen) and infant son Bill. They homesteaded on a farm four and one half miles northeast of Eckville in an area that was quite hilly, with lots of trees, and some sloughs Therefore, grain farming was limited and the main source of income came from dairy, livestock, poultry and eggs. There was a good crop of hay from the marshlands bordering the sloughs and the wooded area made excellent pastures.

Building of roads in this area was quite a problem, especially near the sloughs, and the only way to keep vehicles from sinking out of sight was to build a road bed and then lay small logs across this and cover it with a shallow layer of soil. This type of road was called corduroy

Bill was a proud owner of a new Model T Ford in the mid 1920's. Driving in that area was limited to dry weather only, because if it rained, it was impossible to get up the numerous hills and through the marshland areas.

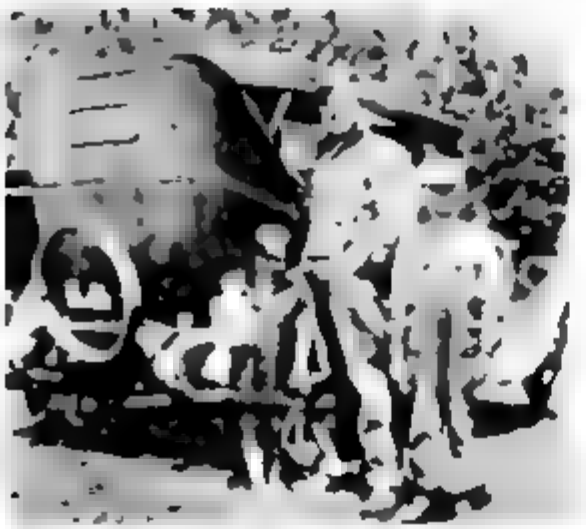
Bill also built his own radio set which was battery operated and had a loud speaker and was one of the very few residents to have one Consequently, Saturday evening was a good opportunity for the neighbors and friends to come over for a sauna, visit, and partake of coffee and goodies and listen to the unbelievable wonder of the radio. To the amazement of all, it was able to bring in stations as far away as Salt Lake City (KSL), Denver (KOM) and Mexico on occasions

Gabriel Mackie Family Daughter Lempi Katherine, Maria Mackie, Gabriel Mackie and small daughter

Reino and Bill Mackie building out of logs

Another son Reino was born on the homestead in 1907 Both Mr and Mrs. Gabriel Mackie passed away in 1927 and Bill and Reino continued the farming operation. Bill later decided to work as a carpenter until the early 1940's when he moved to Vancouver Island, B.C He later moved to Vancouver where he retired and still resides

Reino continued farming until the 1940's when he made the decision to sell the farm to Mr and Mrs. Mike Rauman and then moved to Vancouver While there, he married Flo Mitzner and they later retired to Vancouver where Reino passed away in 1973. Flo still resides in Vancouver



Arvis Mackie with Dorothy and Ray Teirstein

**MADDEN, BOB AND HAZEL — by Hazel Madden**

We bought the Gilby Store in June 1974 and sold in September 1977, to go farming northeast of Rimbey.

After Bob had worked 18 years for the city of Calgary, 11 as foreman, we acquired a quarter section north of Lealleville in 1966 and farmed for five years.

We have three girls which includes a set of twins. They are Pauline married to Neil Godkin ton, who is with Calgary Power at Rimbey. Their children are Travis, Troy and Karen. Charlotte is married to Lyle Attwood. They and their children, Brent and Trisha, live in Calgary. Louise Schulthess also lives in Calgary.

Standing alone on a country road was the Gilby Store. From this stemmed the friendly, helpful and appreciated attitude of those who shopped there. Something only found in a rural community.

The most pleasing thing that comes to mind are the visits from people coming to the store. They didn't rush in, buy something and rush out but would take a few minutes to chat with us. Then there were the times there would be a meeting at Gilby Hall. Some early arrivals would gather, in the store, to wait for the hall to open. Winter would find them standing over the floor register to get warm. Often, when folks had visitors they would take time to bring them to the store and introduce them to us. Tourists, who stopped to shop, would always come to see us when in the vicinity. There wasn't a day passed but the store was filled with laughter caused by someone's amusing anecdotes and experiences.

We cannot forget the children whom we thought the world of. We saw them as babies and by the time we left most of them were tall enough to show their beaming faces over the counter. I've lost count of the number of babies I've had the pleasure of weighing on the scales. We were always pleased to give each new baby born a box of Pampers which was a delight to the mothers.

Gilby Store was a gas station selling gas, bulk oil and propane. It was also a general store selling groceries, drugs, hardware and miscellaneous clothing. We introduced novelties and T-shirts with 'GILBY' and a picture of an oil pump printed on them. These proved popular and we were told of a T-shirt being seen in Japan.

The joy and pleasure we experienced the short while we ran Gilby Store, no words can explain.

**MATHISEN, ALFRED**

Alfred Mathisen arrived in Canada in June of 1929. He worked for three years on the farms in central and southern Alberta. He arrived in Eckville in the fall of 1932. Here he worked on the farm of John Moro.

In 1933 Alfred married Amanda Moro, and they bought their first farm, S 21 40-3-W5 in 1934 from Edward Moro. To this they added later the NW 27 39-3-W5 and the NW 33-39-3-W5. They farmed until 1970, when they rented their farm and retired to Summerland, B.C. There they spend the summer months. The winter is spent in their home in Hawaii.

**MATHISEN, ARNOLD AND SALME**

Arnold and Salme Mathisen immigrated to Canada from their native Estonia in the summer of 1937. After a brief stay in Mundare, Alberta, they came to the Eckville district in 1940. They bought a half section in the Lockhart district where they farmed for three years.

In 1943, they came back to Eckville to their present farm the SW 22-40-3-W5 and NW 15-40-3-W5 purchased from Martin Gilbertson.

Their two children, Tina and Rein, grew up on this farm and both attended Eckville School and the U of A in Edmonton. Tina received her BA degree in history and later received a master of library science degree from McGill University Montreal. She is presently employed as the head of Readers' Services with the National Museums of Canada in Ottawa.

Rein took his last two high school years at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in Red Deer and attended the U of A in Edmonton. He received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in civil engineering. He is married and lives in Edmonton.

Although retired from active farming, the Mathisens still make their home on the farm.

**MATTEUS, ADAM AND ANNA — by Erna Doig, a Daughter**

Adam and Anna Matteus were early pioneers of the Eckville district. Their lives began in Estonia, a small country on the Baltic Sea. The closest city was Tartu.

Anna's father, a government forest warden, was clubbed and robbed while delivering a

payroll. His team of horses turned the shay around on their own, and brought him home. He recovered consciousness, but never recovered from the blow. This left Maria Sonnotar a widow with five daughters and a son. Although she received a small government grant she was not able to raise all the children at home, and Anna was raised by foster parents. Because of her heritage she was entitled to four winters of schooling, and thus learned to read and write. That was a status that very few women hoped to attain in those times.

Adam was the oldest son of a land owner and was in line to inherit the land. He also was able to read and write. He had met Anna and decided she was to be his wife, so lost no time in courting and winning her hand. At 17 years of age Anna was married to Adam and began her married life in his crowded family home, a home that sheltered five other families. The land, about 12 acres, had every inch under cultivation to keep food on the table. Anna found it hard to adjust to this crowded life. She was a tiny woman, only four feet ten inches tall, but she was very courageous and determined not to let anything in life put her down.

At the turn of the century, on December 26, 1900, their first son was born. He was named August and two years later, on September 23, his brother Elmer was born. Adam had to leave his bride to finish two years of military service in Russia. This training was compulsory and there was no way to avoid it. Rumors of Russia preparing for war were the deciding factor in Adam's decision to immigrate to Canada. His military training would certainly require him to fight for Russia, and, as a peaceful farmer, he chose to take his family to the new land of plenty that his friend, Henry Kingsep, had chosen. Mr. Kingsep's glowing letters assured him that in Canada he could acquire a quarter section of free land from the government and that by making the improvements required would, in time, gain full title to the land with no cash payment involved.

In 1905 Adam, his wife and family, along with his sister Leene and her husband, August Pihooja, and their daughter Hilda made the ocean crossing. The sea was rough, there was seasickness, poor food, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, and numerous quarrels and much bickering amongst the many nationals aboard. Still, the ocean voyage was something to live forever in their memories. Above all, land was the most welcome sight!

Setting foot on Canadian soil was a boost to their spirits and their hopes ran high as they crossed the vast continent by train to Red Deer. That was the terminal, the end of the steel. They were fascinated by the vast tracts of empty land, so different from Estonia, where a small plot was like a pot of gold.

The last 45 miles to Henry Kingsep's homestead was travelled in a hired ox cart. The new immigrants wondered how the driver could find his way, but he wound around forests of cottonwood and aspen, where here and there a wheel track showed. There were no roads.

Their first winter in Canada was spent with their friend. In the spring Adam found what he believed to be a suitable homestead. It turned out to be northeast of Gilby, but there was no Gilby there at that time. After making a makeshift shelter, they spaded up enough land to have an ample garden. In that fresh, rich soil their garden responded well. By always working together they managed to dig a cellar where the vegetables could be stored for the winter.

On part of the homestead there were spruce and tamaracks and they cut down enough of the bigger timbers to build themselves a one-room cabin before winter set in again. The cabin had a sod roof and earthen floor and the logs were caulked with moss and clay. A stove was made of rocks, which were plastered with clay. This was used for cooking, heating and baking. A heavy table and a few benches were shaped from logs. Also the beds were shaped from logs and the pieces were held together with wooden dowels. The mattress bags were filled and stuffed plump with dried, fresh hay. To Adam and Anna this was luxury — a home of their own! It had taken work from the first gray streaks of dawn to the last sliver of light in the evening to accomplish the task, but they felt like a king and a queen.

In one corner sat a big barrel of sauerkraut, in the cellar enough root vegetables to put them through perhaps until the new potatoes came in next summer; some dried wild berries, and plenty of wild meat. Rabbits were so numerous they were easily snared along their runways. Grouse roosted in trees around the cabin and just after twilight, with a long pole, they could be knocked down and killed. Their meat was even more delicious than that of the domesticated chicken. Prairie chickens were even plumper and nicer eating but they were difficult to get, as they were more flighty, although they all had very little fear of man.

The most annoying creatures were the coyotes. There were so many of them it seemed like the forests around the cabin were filled with them. When they started howling at night they were weird and frightening. These slinky creatures stole one of Anna's three chickens from right under her nose. These three chickens and one rooster she was guarding almost with her life. She outwitted the coyotes by keeping the chickens within the rising walls of the cabin while it was being built. Even when the family moved in, the chickens had one corner of the cabin until they finished the coop, a dugout in a bluff shored with logs and made warm and coyote-proof. This was finished the first summer. For her efforts, Anna had twenty new chickens, which meant eggs on the table and some left over to sell.

That summer Adam made three trips on foot

to Red Deer, each time bringing back a 100-pound bag of flour, dried prunes, and leaf tobacco on his back. Anna was annoyed that he wasted packing space with his leaf tobacco, but there was mail from Estonia and, since Adam enjoyed his smoking, she forgave him

That winter, even in the deep snow, they cleared an acre of land. In the spring they dug it up with spades and sowed it to rye. After the garden was sown Adam went to Banff to work on a canal. Anna, with the two boys, gathered in a wood pile large enough to do for the coming winter, tended the garden; and raised more chickens

Anna was afraid of the roving bands of Indians. Her contact with them came much later when she had a cow and was milking. Three little brown faces were watching her from behind a bush. She gave them a bucket of milk, and they vanished like comets. Next time they came back with a bucket of berries in exchange for milk The Indians never harmed her

In the fall Anna harvested the rye, cutting it down with a hand scythe and binding it with straw into small sheaves. When the sheaves were dry and cured, she pounded the kernels out. She removed the chaff by holding a basket of grain high over her head and shaking it out in small amounts. The wind blew away the chaff and the clean kernels fell on a bed sheet, then gathered up to use. The yield was good, but the work was horrendous'

Adam returned from work in Banff with a team of oxen and a two-wheeled cart, also a metal plow share. Now, instead of just hand tools and human muscle, there was oxen power; a promise for a faster move forward on the farm.

As the number of animals increased, so did the family, with the following additions. Linda, born November 7, 1907, Felix, born in November, 1909, Erna, born in April, 1911, Arnold, born July 22, 1912; Herbert, born on June 13, 1919' and on April 22, 1922 a son, Robert. All these births took place without a doctor

With more mouths to feed and the need for hay for the livestock, in 1910 Adam purchased a quarter section of land with the Medicine River flowing and winding through it. Another house was built — this time a three-room log dwelling with two rooms for living and the third for storage and a pantry. A slab-board floor and shingle roof — this provided a house that did the family until after World War I.

It was an early and accepted custom that anyone could claim a hay meadow on unoccupied land by cutting the first swath of hay around it Henry Kinna, living just down the river from Adam, had cut a swath around every meadow Cutting was done by hand with a scythe and Henry couldn't cut all the hay he had claimed This made Adam angry, so he bought the land, even though it meant two places to work and the farms were two miles apart as the crow flies.

For Anna this division was a strain that sapped her health. Carting the little ones back and forth between the two properties and leaving the older children to fend for themselves throughout the day meant both hardship and heartache. There were still no roads, no real bridges; just the raw wilderness and the rich soil waiting to be broken and cultivated

The Estonian immigrants settled mainly along the banks of the Medicine River Valley. It was a very close-knit, co-operative settlement and, working hand in hand, their accomplishments were many. Despite the struggle to survive, education was a top priority. Carl Langer donated the land for the first school from his centrally located farmland. With collective efforts the schoolhouse was built — a large classroom complete with cloak rooms and a teacher's room. Homemade desks and a wood and coal heater were installed and a water fountain that had to be filled each day from the hand pump in the schoolyard. So intense was the interest in education that a pact was made that each family should try to educate one child as a teacher Their efforts in this commitment were outstanding. Six of the founding families did produce a teaching member, among them August, the first born son of Adam and Anna

The next co-operative effort was the pioneer Estonian Hall. This was to become the centre for social events

At Christmas time an ale was brewed from dried bread crumbs, sugar, raisins, and other ingredients. Every family brought something baking of all sorts, and a must was the glazed braided bread and huge rings of boiled blood sausages. Some small gifts and apples were passed out by Santa to all the children. These were all great luxuries

At Easter, egg boxing was the custom. The person with the hardest shelled egg who broke the most eggs was the winner This was done with beautifully decorated eggs.

After August became a teacher he changed the Bible name of Matteus from the Estonian spelling to Matthews, the English spelling After that the growing family became known as the Matthews family

Besides teaching, August tuned pianos and taught singing to the school children Among his activities he had two prize-winning stories accepted by "True Story", a MacFadden Publication.

Elmer was inventive He made a water wheel on the river with a long drive shaft that turned his mother's washing machine. He built a phonograph that earned him the nickname of "Mr Edison". He also made his own radio when radios first came into the country His biggest community service was the barbed wire phone system he installed

All of the Matthews family were ill in the epidemic of 1918, but there were no deaths in the family

In 1920 August and Elmer went to Nordegg to

work in a lumber camp. Pooling their earnings from this along with their father's, the new and permanent home was built. A full basement, two storey structure was finished in time for Robert to be born in, in 1922. He was the last child in the family of eight children and this home served all of the family until they left home.

Anna's mother, still in Estonia, lived to the ripe old age of 96 years, outliving all of her family with the exception of Anna. Anna had hoped to bring her to Canada, but there was never the money to spare. Anna, worn out with work, was laid to rest at the age of 55 years, in the Gilby cemetery.

Adam remained a widower and sold the home farm to his son Arnold. He lived out his remaining years with his youngest son, Robert, and his family in Eckville. At the age of 78 years Adam was laid to rest beside his wife in the Gilby cemetery, where so many of the brave and courageous pioneers rest.

**MATTHEWS, HERBERT WILFRED**

Herbert Wilfred Matthews was born at Gilby, Alberta, in June 1919 where he grew up on the family farm.

In August 1941, he was united in marriage to Estelle May Mason who was born at Hespero, Alberta, in September 1924. To this union were born six children. Shirley Yvonne May was born in August 1942, married Leonard Joseph Dinning in August 1964. Leonard was born in Drumheller in March 1924. They have three children, Barrie Adam, Leonard James and Paul Joseph. They reside in Edmonton.

Bobbie Wilfred was born at Dawson Creek, B.C. in November 1943. He married Johanna Wilhemina Vanderpolder in April 1972. They were divorced in 1972 and Bobbie married Debra Reber in Edmonton, in June, 1973. They have two children Tina Louise and Tanya Ann. They reside at Busby, Alberta.

Barrie Chester Adam was born at Rocky Mountain House in September 1945 and deceased in December 1945.

Sharon Janet was born at Red Deer, Alberta, in September 1947. She married Gerald Arthur Kochli in Edmonton in August 1975. Gerald was born at Daysland, Alberta, in August 1941. They have one daughter Corinne Sharon and reside at Nisku, Alberta.

Brian Garry was born at Red Deer in December 1949 and is engaged to Darlene Marion Waldren. He resides at Lacombe. Gail Eileen was born at Lacombe in December 1956. She married Gary Robert White in September 1977. Gary was born at Hardisty, Alberta. They presently reside at Mulhurst, Alberta.

Herbert Wilfred worked on road construction for the County of Lacombe for several years and passed away in March 1974. Estelle resides in Lacombe, Alberta.

**MEMORIES OF THE PIONEER ESTONIAN SCHOOL — by Mrs. John M. Tipman**

The Estonian School, in the Municipal District of Lacombe, came into existence because of the need of the children of the majority of the Estonian-speaking pioneers who had settled by the Medicine River. Their older children were already nearing their teens and had had no schooling whatever, as there had been no school close by. So, in order to have their children educated and learn the language of Canada, that is, English, a school had to be built. A suitable spot was selected in the middle of the community and a school was built in 1919. It was an oblong frame building of lumber, painted blue-gray on the inside and the outside. The school room area was on the east side, lengthwise, and the three anterooms, and entrance door were on the west side of the building. The outside door led into the central anteroom and the girls' cloakroom was on the left of this and the boys' cloakroom on the right. But, alas! The boys' cloakroom became the bed-sitting room of the teachers for the first few years. The pioneer homes were too small to provide a "room" suitable for the teacher. He slept and lived at the school and had his meals at the home of a nearby farmer, Mr. Stenvig.

Maybe it is not amiss, at this point, to mention that an additional room was added to the north end of the building in 1920 to form a two-roomed school. Here grades seven to ten were taught for a few years. Later these higher-grade children were taken by school van to Eckville High School.

The school room was furnished by wooden homemade double desks, the desk tops were painted black and the seats yellow. The desk tops contained two inkwells — one for each pupil, and below it was a compartment for books. The first heater was a long barrel-like affair, laid lengthwise on the floor and capable of burning three-foot-long spruce logs. Later on an upright school furnace, with a round metal shield, was provided for the school. A one-pail water fountain, with a push-button tap, provided drinking water. This was a delight to us children. Everyone, whether thirsty or not, wanted to push the button and drink the spurting water. The blackboards were just that — boards painted black, with a trough for chalk.

The majority of the children who started their schooling here were children of the Estonian pioneers — hence the name, "Estonian School". Those attending were the Koots, the Kinnas, the Kingseps, the Langers, the Matteus, (later spelled Matthews), the Moros, the Moos', the Postis, the Pihoojas, and Raabis' — all of Estonian lineage. There were two families of Norwegians, the Stenvigs and the Gilbertsons, one family of English, the Dekkers, and also one family of Finns, the Hills.

The first couple of years there was school only during the four summer months, due to the scar-

city of qualified teachers. Only University students were available as teachers during the summer months. Later some of the University students taught for six months, and finally, as time passed on, the full ten-month school year was established

The first children who arrived at the Estonian School were bare-foot boys and girls, fresh for their new adventure in life. It was a wonderful adventure as new friendships were formed where no companions had been available before. It did not matter that they couldn't speak with each other, they could hold hands and run and point to a flower, grass or tree, and each would say it in their own language, then each would repeat the other's word and laugh. What a wonderful feeling, just to have someone of another language to share his feelings with you!

It was said that teachers were hard to get for a pioneer school where the children did not know a word of English. Who would like to grapple with the extra problem of the language barrier in teaching? But the first teachers we did get to teach the Estonian school were wonderful. They were resourceful, patient, and had a sense of humour and were very understanding of us children.

For our first day of our school we carried only our "lard pail" lunch bucket, a slate, and a slate pencil. The teacher was a tall young man, wearing a "suit" and the whitest of white shirts, topped with a red colored tie. His hair was parted on one side and neatly combed. His outward appearance had an electrifying effect on every boy because from that day forward they became conscious that they, too, had hair. Strenuous efforts were made by them to comb their unruly locks into place just like the teacher's, and to be clean like him. To us girls he was from a different world and we wondered if we would ever be part of this outside world.

'School days, school days, the golden rule days, taught to the tune of a hickory stick." It seemed that this rule did not apply in this early Estonian school. There was only one rule: "Learn English during school hours and on the play ground." We left the room quietly, without asking permission, if nature requested, but hurried back so as to miss nothing. Thirst was quenched at the fountain. We lacked the words for asking permission. None of the children ever abused their freedom and no hickory stick made its appearance except as a "pointer" for words or numbers. The days for us were "Golden."

Now to the actual teaching and learning. Believe it or not, our very first text book was the T. Eaton Catalogue, and a very good text book it was for that purpose. It had words and pictures of people, clothes, rooms with furniture, curtains, dishes, clocks, horses, harness, sleighs and wagons, houses, barns, and paints. All words and pictures were eagerly absorbed by our receptive minds and repetition etched it permanently there. The whole school repeated each word in unison and then singly. Finally back to our seats to draw on our slates the object and to write the correctly spelled word beside it. The slates were perfect for such work as errors could easily be corrected. Our vocabulary grew by leaps and bounds — it was thrilling to know how many words we learned in a day!

The sentence-building came later and this was more difficult. Our teacher made us act out our sentences. For example, the child would go and sit on a chair and say "I am sitting on a chair." This acting out each sentence was fun. If some of the children didn't understand the English word, for example "open", the teacher asked for the Estonian word for it. He repeated the word "lahti" after the pupil. His accent often made us laugh and he laughed with us, too. Thus a kinship of understanding and mutual respect grew between teacher and pupil. After sentence building we progressed to the Alexander Readers and then we were on our way!

To further expand our vocabulary the early teachers took the whole school on excursions to the woods, meadows and lakesides. Here we learned to recognize the different types of trees and learn their names. The meadows provided a profusion of wild flowers of every shape, size and color and each with a pretty name. By the lakeside the wild birds were bountiful. We found ducks, geese, killdeers, yellow-headed woodpeckers, red winged blackbirds, robins, snipes, and hawks. The school room possessed a chart, in beautiful colors, of the common wild birds of Alberta. This chart was scrutinized thoroughly after each field trip and the book of wild flowers was examined with care. These field trips taught us not only the names of things we saw, but also a deep respect for plant and animal life.

During the first years our teachers were young men. Then we had a "Lady Teacher". This was a surprise and honor to us. We girls admired her to no end. We aspired to owning clothes like hers — beautiful blouses and skirts with pleats, that opened so beautifully as she walked. And her hair styles were beautiful, too. When she taught us girls "hair care" and presented each one of us with a length of red ribbon for our hair we felt we had risen in self respect. Last, but not least, we aspired to have a knowledge like hers. But the boys went one step further than us girls, and this irked us because we hadn't thought of it before. They washed their bare feet at the pump before coming into class. We asked the boys why they did this. The reply was, "No one goes before a lady with dusty feet." Believe it or not, we girls were not to be outdone by the boys. We asked the boys to pump water so we, too, could wash our faces and bare feet before we entered the school room. There were no towels in the school in those days, so all of us boys and girls dried our wet feet by standing on a poplar log like birds in a row, and let the wind do the work. Cold water and wind caused chapping

of the hands and feet, but this condition was easily remedied by applying "sweet sour cream" sparingly on our sores every evening. This treatment stung, but who cared? Fresh unsalted butter rubbed on our hands also kept them soft. These beauty remedies were always kept handy by our mothers.

The winter months brought the added problem of something hot for lunch. The teacher solved the problem of hot drink by providing hot water and the children were to bring their "tea". Bought tea was hard to get but the teacher was surprised to learn how many different native teas we had. There was camomile and caraway tea made from dried wild seeds of these plants; mint tea, made from dried wild mint leaves; and raspberry tea made from the wild raspberry plant. All of these teas were very tasty, but caraway tea became the favorite.

One of the teachers taught us to play checkers during the cold weather, as blackboard games used up too much chalk. Soon the schoolroom boasted of handmade checkerboards of stiff brown building paper, marked by the right colored squares — the checkermen were colored stiff paper squares, or buttons. This game was really enjoyed by older and younger children alike. After a sitting game like this there followed a fast game of "Pussy Wants A Corner", with the school-room windows open. Or if there was untrodden snow outside, a fast game of "Fox and Geese" was played.

The teachers not only followed the school curriculum but aroused our interest in other fields, such as love of classical literature during our story hours; interest in travel, by telling about their travels or stories about countries they read about. They taught us patriotic, Christmas, Easter, and Folk songs to foster our love of singing. We learned how the debate system was used in Parliament, and we often debated on topics familiar to us. Group games in which all participated taught us the importance of fair play, and honor was the aim.

Thus, in six years these Estonian school children had learned to speak English, had covered their eight years of schooling, and were ready to write grade VIII examinations in Red Deer. Some left school without obtaining a diploma, but from this first crop of pioneer children emerged teachers, storekeepers, and flour and lumber millers. Even a baker and a lady doctor had received a partial year's training in the Estonian School.

**MICKELSON, AUGUST**

August Mickelson was born in Madan, North Dakota, U.S.A. of Finnish parents. At an early age he moved to Manyberries, Alberta with his parents, Matt and Katrina and family in 1910.

In 1920, August was united in marriage to Lempi Luopa, for a short time living in the Manyberries District.

August and Lempi moved to the Eckville District in 1926, buying the John Ness homestead, NE 7-40-2-W5. Their family consisted of Frances, Albert, Ella, John, Sylvia, George, Marvin (deceased), Alan and Nita.

Lempi passed away in the spring of 1947, and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. August lives in his home in Eckville, and is enjoying his retirement.

**CASSIMER MOOS FAMILY**

Cassimer Moos emigrated from Switzerland to Montana, U.S.A. in 1893. In 1906 he made the trip to Canada with horse and wagon, settling on NW¼ 19-39-2-W5 northeast of Eckville.

Mrs. Lily Molkov emigrated from Estonia as a widow with her two-year-old son, Fred, to live with her sister, Mrs. Perler, in 1908. Mrs. Perler lived north of Eckville. The following year Cassimer and Lily were married, and in 1910 a son, Hans, was born to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassimer Moos

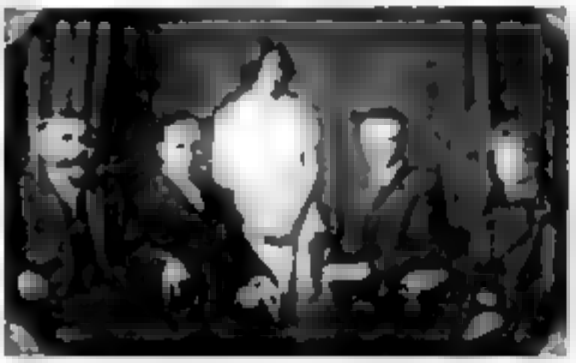
They later purchased and moved to NE-4-40-3-W5, which remained their home for many years. Cassimer worked very hard clearing land by hand and working on the railroad with his team of horses. In 1912, when the first Co-operative was formed, he was one of the first directors.

Life gradually became easier. The coming of the telephones in 1917 made life in the country more pleasant. By 1920 they were able to buy their first car — a 490 Chevrolet touring car. About 1923 Cassimer bought his first tractor. This was a Fordson, which he obtained from a farmer living on the McCreight place. Three years later a gas-powered Rumley threshing machine was purchased in Calgary. These machines helped to make farming easier, so, in 1918, SE-9-40-3-W5 was added to the farm. A few years later the E½ of 33-39-3-W5 was bought

from the C.P.R. In 1918 a new house was built, and this home is still being used

Raising sheep was a way of life for the Moos family and there was the wool to card and knitting and quilting to be done. In those days settlers had to go to Red Deer and Lacombe to a doctor or dentist and for the necessary shopping. Since Cassimer had a team of horses, he was able to make the trip in one day. He often gave a lift to neighbors who needed to go, or did some shopping for them.

The boys attended school at Estonian School and, as their mother boarded several of the teachers, their attendance was usually very good. Some of these teachers were Miss Benedictson, Mrs. Priestly, Mr. Smith, Mr. Little, and Mr. J. M. McDonald. In 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Moos chose a sister for the boys. Her name was Elsie.

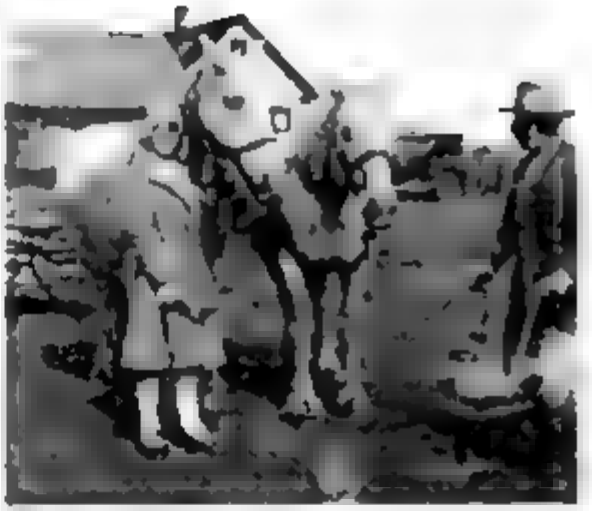


The Moos Family: Cassimer, Hans, Elsie, Fred, and Lily Moos

These were the years when everyone was a hunter, and Lily tells of the boys using a shotgun on a mouse which they saw crossing the kitchen floor. Entertainment was of the kind that people could make for themselves. Drama clubs were organized, and their productions were shown at various schools and halls. The annual Christmas concert was the highlight of the year in each community, and everyone, from baby to Grandma attended or took part in it. Mrs. Moos often sang "I Love a Little Cottage" and "Smiling Through" to the accompaniment of Miss Benedictson. Elsie took piano lessons from this teacher and Freddie took violin lessons from a Mr. Warbeton. Estonian gatherings, which sometimes lasted as long as a week, were held in the early summer. Each summer they visited a different district, such as Gilby, Stettler, Barons, Peace River, etc. Even the Saturday night steam baths were an occasion for visiting.

In 1930 Fred married Mary Bellicka and moved to his farm one-half mile south of the home place. They had two sons, Donald and Leonard, and a daughter, Jennine. Fred later moved to Eckville for retirement, and passed away there on April 13, 1973.

Elsie married Toimi Tolonen on April 19, 1937,



Cassimer Moos with daughter-in-law Mary and his horses

and they lived on his farm three miles east. They have a son, Rodney, and a daughter, Deloyce.

Hans carried on with the family farm, adding another quarter in 1929. In 1933 he and Nora Takkinen were married, and they have two sons, Clarence and Edward, and a daughter, Dianna. Hans was able to buy a larger threshing machine, with an Allis Chalmers powering it. For several years he did custom threshing, and the season sometimes lasted as long as forty days. He had purchased a new Ford V-8 car to take his bride on their honeymoon.

A rubber-tired tractor was soon added to the farming equipment, and in 1936 he bought a haystacker, which helped to make the job of putting up hay a little easier. It was in this year, too, that the new barn was built. It was hard to hire men to work on the farms during the war years, so often girls were hired to do the housework in order that the wives could help with the outside farm work. Grain combines first appeared in the district in 1939, a Case pull type machine for Hans and Masseys for Pete Moro and Harry Thomas.

When the electricity came to Eckville in 1942 Hans bought a 32-volt Delco power plant from Oswald Omari. This made life on the farm much brighter", and the installation of running water and indoor plumbing a year or so later further helped to make life more pleasant and convenient.

Highlights over these busy years were the arrival of Hans and Nora's three children — Clarence in 1934, Edward in 1935, and Dianna in 1938. "All work and no play" was not the rule in the Moos household. Hans and Nora both took part in curling, square dancing, drama clubs, hunting, and blue-berry picking. Hans spent 15 years, from 1959 until 1974, as councillor, first for the M.D. and then for the County of Lacombe. As the family grew up, more land was bought (N½

7-40-W2) and in 1955, when Clarence married Maira Korhonen, the young couple made their home at this location, since Clarence had decided to follow in his father's footsteps and be a farmer. However, they lived with the folks for almost two years, before they were able to build their own house. They have a son, Jerry, and a daughter, Lorraine.

Eddie married Shirley Raabis in 1958, although at the time, he was working on oil rigs, he later came home and started farming in partnership with his dad. A trailer was moved into the yard for their living accommodations. They have five children — Lane, Derek, Sandra, Brenda, and Wesley. The boys are now old enough to help their father a great deal on the farm.

Dianna was married to Keith Misner in 1959 and they moved to Keith's farm located in the Bingley, Alberta, area. Their three children are Darrell, Delores, and Donald. Keith lost his life in an accident in 1967. Dianna and the children then moved back home to live with her parents.

In 1963 Hans and Nora built a new house on the farm. They enjoyed living in it until 1971, at which time they bought a house in Eckville and retired there. Retirement for Nora has meant work in her yard and garden, and the curling season keeps her especially busy. The Friendship Club, TOPS, and Hospital Auxiliary activities all get a share of her time. She is a regular visitor at the Eckville Manor House. Hans spends a lot of time at the farm, and sometimes gets in some fishing and hunting. He and Nora usually make at least one trip each summer to B.C. to get fruit while it is in season there. And thus they spend their "retirement".

**MOOS, FREDRICK JOHN (MALKOV) — by Rose Henrickson**

Fred came to Canada as a small boy with his widowed mother in 1909 at two years of age. They lived with an aunt, Mrs. Perier, until the time his mother married Cassimer Moos. After her marriage they moved to the N E ¼ 4-40-3-W5. He grew up on the farm with a brother, Hans, and a sister, Elsie, and farmed with his parents until his marriage to Mary Belikka in 1930. He then moved to farm the E ½ 33-39-3-W5.

In 1933 Fred and Mary had a son, Donald, and in 1935 another son, Leonard, was born, followed by a daughter, Jennine, in 1937.

While farming Fred also operated a trucking business, hauling grain, fuel from Turner Valley, railroad ties to Rocky Mountain House during the winter months, and many other things. Later he moved to Eckville where he held the position of agent for the Searle Elevator for a number of years. After leaving the elevator he took over well drilling from Kerch Bros. and drilled wells in Eckville and the surrounding district. In 1946 he returned to the farm, with his two sons and a housekeeper, Rose Henrickson, and her small nephew, Perry. While farming he opened and operated the United Farmers of Alberta Service Station, along with the Case farm machinery dealership. He worked part-time for Eckville Mutual Telephones then became a steam engineer at the Bowden Institution until 1969. At this time he had a heart attack, and was unable to work after that.

The farm was rented out for some years. He moved to Eckville in May, 1970 to Grannie Moos former home, which Rose Henrickson still occupies. The farm was sold in 1971.

Fred passed away on April 13, 1973, leaving to mourn his loss sons, Don of Edmonton and Leonard of Red Deer, his daughter, Jennine, and nephew, Perry of Red Deer, and Rose of Eckville.

Don married Evelyn Hohnstein and their children are Kelvin, Donna and Janice. Leonard married Freda Nelson, who have four children — two daughters, Arlene and Joyce, and two sons, Ralph and Donald. Jennine married Bud Armstrong. They have three daughters — Debra, Danet, and Daileen. Later she married George Johanson and they have one son, Bret.

**MORO, JOHN — by Edward Moro**

My parents, John and Anna Moro were part of the first pioneers in the Eckville district.

My father, mother and three children, Peter, eight, Amanda, six, and Edward, four, arrived in Canada from Estonia in 1905. We came to Red Deer by train. From there we travelled by horse and wagon along trails as there were no roads. We settled on a homestead about five miles northwest from the present location of the Eckville village.

We were fortunate that my uncle — Karl Moro — had come to Canada two years ahead of us so we were able to stay with him and his family until our father got our one room loghouse built. To start with living was very primitive. We had a dirt floor, sod for a roof which was not rainproof. Since there was no source of income, father went to work for the C.P.R. west of Calgary. In the meantime, we had to do with what was available. There was an abundance of fish in the river, also rabbits and prairie chickens in the bush. The only groceries we used to get from the store were — sugar, salt, flour and soap. We also had a cow and a garden plot.

When father returned he was able to buy oxen and other equipment to clear the land. The clearing of the land was hard work and we all had to pitch in. When a few acres were cleared the breaking was done with the oxen. Also any traveling and hauling was done with the oxen. It took several days to make a trip to Red Deer and back.

In 1912 we were able to build our first three-bedroom house. In 1914 when the 1st World War began times were still hard. However, by 1918 farmers had horses and cattle, more land was cleared and we were able to grow more grain. Grain prices had improved. Milking cows was

also a good source of income. Milk was hauled to the local cheese factory. By that time many farmers were able to buy their first automobiles. As far as schools were concerned, most of the pioneers' children had to walk many miles to a country school in any kind of weather.

Our social life was quite lively. We used to get together at Sam and Henry Kinna's farm. An Estonian society was started by the group. We also had a library.

At present, my wife and I are retired and live in Summerland, British Columbia.

Peter bought the N 27-40-3-W5 from his Uncle Karl and the NW 26-40-3-W5, Hudson Bay land. The Peter Moro family lived on the NW 26 until their retirement to Eckville.

**MOTTUS, GUSTAV (1888-1977)**

One of the early pioneers of the Eckville-Gilby area, Gustav Mottus in 1910 came by boat to New York City at the age of 21 years from Semerpalo, near Verro, Estonia. He left behind in Estonia his mother, May Sark Mottus, (his father, Peter Mottus had passed away), sister, Katherine, and brothers, John, Jacob and Paul.

Gustav, or Gust, or Gus, as he was known to his friends, said that the ship was an old wooden one, and very crowded, and how he and another immigrant, Hugo Mottus (no relation) would spend the nights capturing the rats and throwing them overboard.

After working in New York State for a few months, he, along with Hugo (the friend he met on the boat) came to Canada to work on an Estonian farm west of Gilby. They wanted to get off at Lacombe but it was not until the train had already reached south Edmonton that they realized they had gone too far! Nothing to do but walk back the 75 miles! They followed the railway tracks, and slept in the ditches at night.

After working on the farm west of Gilby, Gus worked for the town of Red Deer digging ditches for the sewer lines. He thought nothing of walking along rough trails out from Red Deer to Eckville to visit friends, mainly a young lady named Linda Saar Kingsep, and back to Red Deer, a distance of 45 miles, each way.

Gus's brothers, Jacob and Paul, and sister Katherine came from Estonia to join him and together they homesteaded in Risula, about six miles west of Gilby. They cleared the land by hand, because the land was very hilly, they raised wheat where possible on the flat plateaus. There was a beautiful brook at the back of the house with watercress and lady's slipper growing on the banks. A sauna was built beside the brook to take advantage of the fresh, clear, running water.

Gus was never to see his mother and his brother again.

In 1917 Gust married the young lady he had been visiting in the Eckville area. Linda was also from the Estonian community in the area. Their

Gustav and Linda Mottus

son, Edward Rudolph (Rudy) was born there in Risula the following year.

Around that time Gust purchased from the C.P.R. a quarter section of land NW 23-40-3-5 at the other end of the Medicine Valley, about eight miles to the east. He built a log house (which was addded to in stages), and in 1923 twin daughters, Emma and Elsie, were born there. Grandmother Kingsep was the midwife and the three pound babies were placed in the oven of the wood stove to keep warm.

Gus's brother, Paul and sister Katherine (Katy) remained on the Risula homestead. His brother, Jacob, was killed on the homestead by a grinding wheel which flew loose while he was sharpening his ax.

On the C.P.R. quarter section Gust now made his home. He cleared the land by hand and with horses. It was gently rolling land and Gust raised wheat, getting something like 32c a bushel. He had five horses to pull the plough, disc, harrow, binder, etc., and the horses were taken care of by Gust with great devotion.

Linda would milk cows and sell thick cream (at a little over $2 a big can) and raise and sell strawberries and raspberries.

Preparing the land for the seed grain in the spring would require walking behind the 10 foot wide, horse pulled, harrow — dusty, tiring work in the cold March winds, when there were about 100 acres to criss-cross by foot!

As with other pioneers, Gust had to be very inventive in his farm repair work. He had a blacksmith shop, which was used often for all sorts of ingenious repairs to the farm machinery.

Traveling in summer would be by Model T, a very stylish one with curtains, over dirt roads which caused much aggravation by becoming muddy when it rained.

In the winter, travel was by a team of horses hitched to a big sleigh. Gus would heat a nice big rock in the oven for an hour or two, then wrap it in blankets and put it in the sleigh to keep feet warm. There would be a cushion of straw covered with blankets to sit on. Coming home from a late visit or dance in the Estonian or Gilby Community halls, the stars and the Northern Lights would be very bright and you could hear the crunch of crisp snow under the runners of the sleigh.

Social Credit was the big new political party, with Premier Aberhart and then Premier Manning. The party was to remain in power for 35 years, so there was a young generation of Albertans who had known no other political party in power.

In the 1950's Gus and Linda left the farm and lived in the town of Eckville, leaving their son, Rudy, to take care of the farm.

When Linda passed away in 1967, Gus lived in a Senior Citizen's Home in Rocky Mountain House, and then moved to one in Red Deer. He was very happy in these homes and lived in great comfort, until he passed away in 1977.

**MOTTUS, RUDY EDWARD — by Myrtle Patapoff**

On March 11, 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Mottus had a baby son — Rudy. They were living on a farm north of Withrow at that time. Later on when Rudy was six years old they moved to the NW 23-40-3W5 in the Gilby district. Rudy along with his twin sisters Elsie and Emma took all his schooling at the Estonian School. He stayed on the family farm and helped his dad farm. Rudy trained in the Army at Red Deer in November and December of 1938. He did not go into service overseas as his dad was in poor health and he was needed at home.

February 16, 1939, Rudy was married to Myrtle Solberg daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Solberg of Bentley. They lived on the farm with his parents until Mr. and Mrs. Mottus retired to live in Eckville.

Rudy worked at the Eckville Hospital from 1958 to 1964 as their maintenance man. He also was on the supervisory committee for the Eckville District Credit Union for three years. He served on the Estonian school board in the late 1940s.

Five children were born — Arnold now married to Vera Kind and living in Red Deer, has a son Robert and a daughter Kathy; Jean is married to Joe Maki and they live at Hespero. They have two children, a son Stephen and a daughter Lori. Helen is married to Les Davenport. They live in Calgary and have two children a son Ryan and a daughter Joanne. Cheryl and Angela at home.

Rudy passed away very suddenly on October 2, 1965.

On July 3, 1968 I married Bill Patapoff — born April 17, 1925 at Coaldale, Alberta. He served overseas in the army for four years. He is a head operator at the Gilby Texaco Gas Plant. Bill had five children — Valerie is married to Norman Anderson. They live at Bentley and have two children, Brant and Troy. Debbie at home. Susan is married to Richard Merrifield. They live at Fox Creek and have two children, Jason and Sherri. Nancy deceased October 19, 1976. Douglas lives at Sangudo, Alberta.

**JAMES AND MARGARET NELSON — by Lorna Tink (A Daughter,**

The depression, years of dryness, and hail for three successive years forced many families to leave home, farm, and friends for more promising areas. Such were the reasons for Jim, Margaret and their four children, Donald, Douglas, Dean and Leona, coming from Stettler to the Gilby area in the fall of 1936. Jim worked for a few years for his brother-in-law, Carl Westergard, at the Gilby store. He also worked in logging camps during winter months to supplement the family income. Margaret taught at the Medicine Valley School from 1939 to 1942.

About this time they purchased the Kinna-Neuman quarter-section (SE 23-40-3-W5), which has been "home" ever since. Mom taught at Estonian School from 1942 to 1944. These were the years of quilting bees, making packages for soldiers and so on. I don't remember the work — just the fun of visiting and having friends come to see us. Because there was no church near, on Friday afternoons, Mrs. Mackenzie, Granny Hoglund, Faye Hoglund and mom had Sunday School in the Estonian School.

In September of 1946, mom took over the Grade five to eight class at Dickson. Don and Doug were now in high school and Dickson offered grades one to 12, and a teacherage. By this time David and I had helped to round out our family to a happy half-dozen. Each weekend, holiday and summer found us back at Eckville, helping dad on our farm and taking a part in the community we called "home." One of the most important areas of our involvement was the Sunshine Gospel Mission, just one and a half miles south of our home, where Mr. L. Maclean met with people of the community in a service each Sunday afternoon. The Christmas concerts and summer picnics were truly memorable events, involving much planning and organizing.

Nelson Family. Back: Margret Nelson, Jim Nelson, Laura Westergard, ?, Carl Westergard. Front: Lorna, Dean, Les, Don and Doug.

I'm sure. I remember how nicely everyone was dressed, how excited and happy they were, and, of course, the scrumptious food, candy bags and treats.

Home was always a place for friends, baseball games followed by corn feasts, or skiing or tobogganing parties in the winter. Chiefly, however, our neighbours made our area a good one to put our roots down. Our beloved mom passed away on April 14, 1956 and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Dad remains on the home quarter. He has retired from farming and hunting, but keeps busy tending his house and yard, fishing and visiting. Don is a member of the RCMP. He married Eunice Petersen of Dickson. They have three children Brian, Brenda and Bruce and are presently stationed at Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Doug is an aeronautic engineer. He married Bernice Thorkman, daughter of Charles and Sylvia Thorkman of Eckville, and has three children Philip, Timothy and Kelly. They live in Calgary, Alberta.

Dean is a Major in the Canadian Armed Forces. He married Joyce Sherwood from Unity, Saskatchewan. They have three children Darlene, James and Deanna and are now stationed at Ottawa, Ontario.

Leoma is a registered nurse. She married Dale Cave, originally from the Stauffer area. They have four children Carl, Lorna, Wesley, Grant and live at Eckville.

Lorna received her B.Ed. from the University of Alberta and teaches in Eckville. She married Verra. Tink, originally from Lesheville. They have two children Garry and Gregory and live at Gilby.

David works for Bell Telephones and lives in Hanover, Ontario. He married Nancy Groh of Barrie, Ontario and has two children Daniel and Kimberly.

**BILL PALM SR. FAMILY**

William and Irene Palm were married September 2, 1924 in Red Deer, Alberta. Irene was the former Irene Johanson, the fourth daughter of Eric and Anna Johanson of Bentley. They set up their first home on the Leukoma farm, which was sold to Gust Juuti in a short time. That fall they moved to Palm Bay, on the north end of Sylvan Lake. This was their home for the next one and a half years. Their first son, Harold, was born here in 1925.

In 1926 the family moved to the C.P.R. land, known later as the Brattberg home, in the Boyle district. During the next three years the family increased to include Leo, born in 1926, Phyllis, born in 1927; and Thelma, born in 1929. At this time, Bill started a small sawmill, using a stationary engine. Then, by borrowing $50 from Fred Erickson with an agreement to repay this by doing grinding in return, Bill acquired a Moline tractor from Hans Rangen. This had a five-horse-power Fairbanks Morse upright engine. Bill now operated a larger scale sawmill. Rough spruce and poplar lumber sold for $10 a thousand.

The spring of 1930 was the next move to the present Rodney Tolonen farm, SE 18-40-2-W5. Over the next few years Bill cleared and broke all the acres of land on these three quarters. The family helped by picking roots. While Bill and Irene lived at Palm Bay they had Everitt Makela build them a log house, marked each log, moved these to their new location and then reconstructed their house in its original way. The house was of open construction, with no partitions. The ceiling and floor were made of green lumber purchased from Carl Hilstad. This shrunk, and they eventually were five boards short. An owl even found its way in but couldn't find its way out. The floor was the first ship-lap floor around the neighborhood. The roofing was of birch bark. This curled, then leaked, and the roof had to be shingled by Elmer Kujala and Bellika. The steambath, or sauna, was built by Ilo Maki. Saturday nights were traditional gatherings of family and friends for a bath, visiting and coffee. Everyone made their own entertainment. The log home of the Palms was the centre for several dances with music supplied by John Luoma on the accordion and Arvied Thorkman on the violin. The Palm family had now increased by two more members. Jack was born in 1931 and Ron was born in 1933. Harold died on March 23, 1937, a victim of pneumonia.

In 1937 Bill again got into the sawmill business. Prices were cheaper. Second grade lumber sold for $8 a thousand, top grade for $10 a thousand, and slabs for one cent apiece. It was not unusual to saw slabs into wood for three days straight. These would resemble a big straw pile. A one-ton truck load of slabs sold for $10. The Eckville Co-op and Eckville Creamery were two of the Palms' best customers. Bill Jr., born in 1937, and Betty, born in 1939, now completed the family of Bill and Irene Palm.

The William Palm Family. L. to R. Back: Jack, Thelma, Leo, Phyllis. Front: William Sr., Ron, Betty, Bill, Irene.

In 1941 a new barn was built on the Palm farm by Arvi Niemela. This was celebrated by holding a barn dance, which also was a wedding dance for Art and Betty Johanson. To pay Arvi for his services of building the barn, Bill traded him a 1928 Chrysler car, and in the bargain Bill got a Model T Ford to boot. The Model T was traded to Walter Hoglund and Ray Meyers in order to get the barn painted.

In 1947 the new house was built by Nestor Lindquist and Larry Saari, from lumber sawed by Bill. Bill Liikala planed some of the lumber. The old house was sold to Emil Wester Frizzell's, of Red Deer, moved it to Sylvan Lake, where it now stands. A housewarming was held by the neighbors and the family was presented with a purse of money.

During these years, the Palm family was engaged in mixed farming. One sideline was the use of the Hart Parr for grading the municipal roads. The outfit included Bill Palm on the Hart Parr, pulling the grader operated by Fred Ponto.

Bill's lifetime and interests centred around machinery and trading. Back in 1918, a company was formed. Its members included: Leukoma, Henry Johnson, Oscar Karjala and John Palm. Together they purchased a Stanley Jones thresher. Later, when this company broke up John Palm took the separator, Leukoma the engine, Johnson the truck and Karjala received cash. Bill bought this unit from his dad. This machine, the first in the district, was hand-fed, and portable, as it was pulled around by horses. It had a straw carrier on it. The stationary engine was a nine-horse power.

The next improvement was a wooden separator purchased for the price of $30 from Ulick of Bentley. Arvi Niemela and Bill Palm sawed birch lumber and rebuilt the frame of this machine. This was used for many years to thresh the crop as well as threshing for the neighbors. This separator was later sold to Liikala Brothers. During this time, farmers paid for the service of threshing by the number of bushels threshed. Charges were three cents a bushel for oats, four cents a bushel for barley and six cents a bushel for wheat. Wages paid were $4 a day for a man and team. The farmer was expected to feed all the men and horses while the outfit threshed at his place. The ladies competed to see who could put on the best meals.

In 1947 Bill acquired a steel separator. His run at threshing time included neighbors Tolonen, Lapp, McKenzie, Hoglund, Parkkari, J. Wuori, Art Johanson, Frank Johnson, Mac McDougall, Luopa, Liikala, G. Erickson and Yacooshin. Threshing was not all work. Often the evenings turned into a whist game at Lapps. Later this separator was sold to Leo Palm of Rimbey, after being used on the Condor farm.

The combine was purchased in 1952 from Chester Kasha. Later it was sold to Richard Korger. The combine brought a new, easier way of harvesting, but also did away with threshing which had been an exciting, eventful part of each year.

Bill and Irene Palm were surprised by a gathering of their family and friends on their 25th wedding anniversary in 1949. They were presented with a set of silverware and a purse of money.

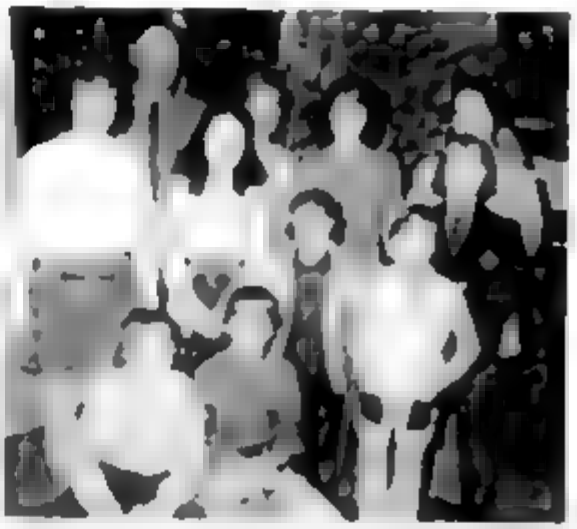
Bill served a term as secretary on the school board of the Estonian School. This school provided the early education of most of the Palm children.

Irene was a busy wife and mother during the years of farming. She helped with root picking, milking, as well as gardening and fixing up a beautiful yard. Irene was one of the faithful members of the sewing circle, which was organized in the fall of 1936. Auni Parkkari and Hulda Wester organized the neighborhood ladies into a social afternoon of visiting. This group continued to meet until about 1976.

In the spring of 1954 the family farm was sold to Richard Korger, of Nebraska, U.S.A. The family moved to their new farm three miles west of Condor, adjacent to No. 11 highway. This was the E 3-39-5-W5. Again, 200 acres of this half section had to be broken. An auction sale was held in 1971, the farm sold, and Bill and Irene moved to an acreage at Condor corner.

Bill and Irene's 50th wedding anniversary was celebrated in 1974. A family dinner was held at Phyllis and Gordon Erickson's home. A program and dance followed at the Eckville Lions Hall. Music was supplied by their neighbors, the Psikias.

Bill's 70th birthday anniversary was honored by a family party at the home of Mary and Laurel Nielsen. Bill received a leather armchair. Another party was held at the Nielsen home for Irene's 70th birthday. She received a purse of money.



The Leo Palm Family l. to r., back row: Leo, Ruth, Barbara Kathy. Middle row: Jocelyn, Lou, Donald, Frank. Front row: Rodney, Norman and Gordon.

Bill and Irene's children are all married They have 34 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. They are presently enjoying their retirement at Condor, where their activities include gardening, keeping up their yard, visiting, and playing bingo.

**PALM, LEO AND RUTH**

Leo Palm and Ruth Wright were married in January, 1950 and lived on the Alex Johnson place in the Estonian District. Leo was the son of Irene and Bill Palm. Ruth came from Lacombe to teach the Estonian School for the year 1948-1949.

Their daughter, Jocelyn, was born October 29, 1950. A second daughter, Barbara, was born four years later, on September 13, 1954.

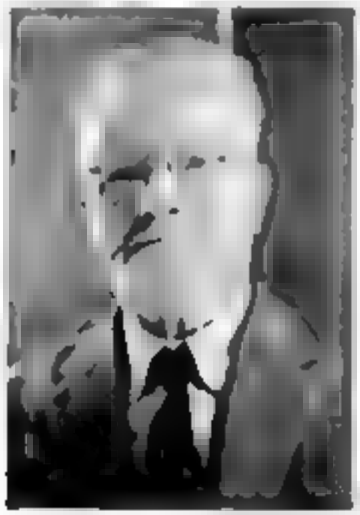
While living in the district, Ruth taught piano lessons in her home and in Eckville

In May, 1955, the family moved to a farm in the Forshee area, southeast of Rimbey, where they still live

**PELTONEN, ELI — by Kate MacKenzie**

Eli Peltonen came to the Manyberries district from Kurikka, Finland in 1925. He worked for the C.P.R. in Medicine Hat In 1929 he bought a farm at Manyberries. He sent for his wife and two small sons, Levi and Wayne and they farmed with horses and milked cows. The depression years were on and it was very hard to make a living so in the early forties Eli moved his family to the original Palm home at the north end of Sylvan Lake. In 1944 he purchased the Jack Wouri farm, seven and one-half miles northeast of Eckville. Levi and Wayne worked in the bush during the winter and during the summer they worked for different farmers, also putting in a crop on their own land

Levi married Francis Sweet (Michelson) They lived in Eckville and both worked at the hospital, he as caretaker and she as cook. Wayne remained on the farm with his mother and father They were good neighbors and were always willing to lend a helping hand. Mr Peltonen was a very well educated man and wrote many articles for the church papers in Finland. He was a very religious man and attended the Sunshine Gospel Mission until his passing. Mrs. Peltonen, Levi and Wayne have also passed away They were good neighbors and are sadly missed by the whole district



Eli Peltonen

**PERLER, PETER AND FAMILY**

Peter Perler and his wife, Elizabeth, with their six year old daughter, Lydia, immigrated to Canada in 1903 from the city of Tartu, Estonia, Europe. They settled in the Medicine Valley district north of Eckville, later known as the Estonian district At this time there were no roads and only about two or three families isolated in the dense bush in the area

Mr Perler took a homestead deed on NE 4-40-3-W5, built a crude shack, having a dirt floor to start Then he left his wife and daughter and went out seeking work. He worked on the railroad construction at Kananaskis, pushing a cement wheelbarrow, which was not easy for a man from the city who had been a school teacher and owned a hotel and a small knitting business. Due to great stories of free land and freedom, Mr Perler had succumbed to the urge to come to Canada.

Once here with his family he had no money left, nor could he earn enough to go back to his homeland. His wife tore all her nice city clothes to shreds in the bramble bushes. She was naturally very unhappy but had to make the best of it. They did not have much to eat in those days—a sack of flour, very few staples and what wild game, such as wild birds and rabbits, that were around. Many a time they had Indians come to the door begging for flour or something to eat, which scared Mrs. Perler and her daughter very much, especially when they were left alone. At one time Mrs. Perler had shot a rabbit and had it cooked, ready to eat, when an Indian came to the door and pointed at the rabbit. She gladly and hurriedly let him have it.

Lydia grew up very much alone, playing with colored stones in nearby creeks. A few years later a school was built a few miles north west of the present site of Eckville, so she was able to attend by walking about four miles through the brush and timber. She later married Paul Langer, who also had immigrated to Canada from Estonia and settled on the SW 10-40-3-W5. Peter Perler then sold his land to his brother-in-law, Cassimer Moos, which land is still owned and farmed by the Moos family He and his wife then went to live with their daughter and her husband, Paul, who by now had built a comfortable home. Mrs. Perler passed away in 1916 and Mr Perler in 1945.

Later, as the community grew, both Paul and Lydia Langer were active in community affairs Lydia belonged to the U F W A. and also was a member of the Estonian Ladies Club. She and

her very good friend, Mrs. Aaron Hoglund, sang duets at local functions. One of their very popular duets was "Whispering Hope".

Lydia and Paul had three daughters, Erna, Alfina (Alfeen) Hazel, and a son, Felix, who died very young. Paul passed away in 1928. Lydia, after having raised her family, sold the farm—the SE 10-40-3-W5 to William McKenzie and the home quarter, SW 10-40-3-W5, to Volley Soerd, who farmed it for a few years and then sold it to Paul Langer's grand nephew, Kenneth Langer. Lydia then moved to the town of Eckville where she built a new home and lived until her health gave out and after being hospitalized for about two years died in June, 1975.

**PIHOOJA FAMILY**

Mr. and Mrs. August Pihooja and their eight-month-old daughter, Hilda, arrived in Canada from Estonia in January, 1905. After reaching Eckville they stayed a year with Henry Kingsep and family, whom they knew, and who had come to Canada a few years before they did.

When Mr. Pihooja got his homestead he and his wife built a one-room log house with a sod roof. In those days rain sometimes fell for many days, and they had to catch the drips in pails. The only thing they had to buy was a window and lumber for the door and floor. The cracks in the wall were filled with clay and all was whitewashed with lime. They lived in this house for two years then built a big five-roomed log house.

In 1907 Lilly was born and Albert was born in 1909. There was no hospital or doctor close so a midwife was called.

Mr. Pihooja worked on the railroad where he made $1 a day and 50 cents was taken off it for room and board. When spring came he bought a team of horses and a sulky plow and got some land ploughed and seeded. As years passed, more and more land was cleared and bigger implements were bought. Then they bought another quarter of land from Mr. Dekker, who moved to the States. In 1914, with Mr. Soderlund as the carpenter, they built a big house from British Columbia lumber.

Carl Pihooja

A few dances were held in that house and the money that was raised from that was to buy lumber to build the Estonian Hall. The hall was all built by volunteer work.

Year after year more land was broke, and then they bought a third and a fourth quarter. In the fall when their crop was threshed Mr. Pihooja would be out with the threshing crew and Mrs. Pihooja would do the fall ploughing.

As years passed they bought their own tractor and threshing machine. Hilda went to college in Edmonton and worked in Edmonton and was married to Goldsmith Baisley. They went to Spirit River and farmed there for many years before moving to Edmonton.

Lilly moved to Red Deer, and Albert sold the farm and they moved to Calgary.

**PONTO, AUDREY AND FRED — by Audrey Ponto**

It was in 1932 that we moved to a farm north east of Eckville, a young married couple with two small children. The roads were terrible — to the east a muskeg and beyond, steep hills with a wagon road winding along the side of them.

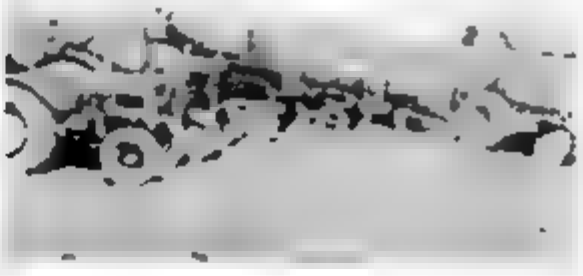
In those first years our neighbors were the Hoglunds, Luomala, Wuoris, Mickelsons, Johnsons, Johansons, Palms and Westers. Then our bachelor neighbors were Andy Harvelow, Alex Johnson, and Nels Aarstad.

Because there were no fences at that time, both Fred and I walked for miles, hunting for horses and cows. I made a little wooden fence with which to confine our three-year-old boy and the baby was left in her crib.

During the first two summers and one winter we lived in a one-roomed shack on what is now the Clarence Moos farm. I'm sure it was the coldest place in the country, having been built years before from green lumber. It had apparently harbored many bed bugs at one time but, fortunately, the cold had got the best of them.

Fred cut logs and had lumber made and dry piled. In the summer of 1934 we built a house with two rooms and pantry. It was a happy day for us when we moved onto our own land and into our new, clean little house.

We milked six to eight cows, but cream was worth so little that we quit separating and fed the



Neighbors gathered together to put in Fred Ponto's crops.

Sewing Circle gathering at Audrey Penn's

milk to the pigs. When the pigs were ready for market they were only worth three of four dollars. Later, when the prices improved, we started to sell cream again. This brought in enough to buy groceries, with sometimes a little left over to spend for clothes

The years passed and five more children arrived to bless our home. Fred and I worked very hard, but, while we had little of material wealth, we never went hungry. This was due in part to my husband's hunting and trapping through the winter months. Gradually land was broken and fences were built. We had what you might call a "mixed farm", trying at different times to raise horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese. At one time we even had a family of coyote pups which were pelted in the fall

In 1971 we sold out and moved to Sylvan Lake where we are now living and keeping busy and happy. The little boy I spoke of is now almost forty-eight years old. He is a deaf mute, but helped us in many ways on the farm and now works in Calgary. Many Eckville people will remember Ralph Ponto.

**THE AUGUST POSTI FAMILY — by Mrs. Anna Tipman**

Mr. August Posti, his wife Emilie (Milli), and their two small children, Hugo and Anna, came to Canada in 1902. They had been living in Estonia on his father's farm, who owned his 'small holding.' This tract of land was too small to be divided among his sons, so August Posti, not wanting to work and live on a Baltic Baron Estate, decided to come to Canada where free land was to be had.

The land in Estonia was mostly owned by landlords, the German Baltic Barons. The Estonian people were either vassals or slaves who worked and lived on these estates, producing wealth for the barons and getting a bare living in return. They had no freedom to move from estate to estate, or even to go to a village unless permission was granted by the lord of the manor.

In 1863 passport freedom was given to the common people of Estonia; now they could move from place to place. This freedom did not help them economically, as the land still belonged to the barons. But in 1865 land reform came into existence. The land was divided into small unit holdings and the Estonian people could either rent or buy these "unit holdings". Those who were fortunate enough to be able to buy this land felt free and independent, although land taxes were quite high. They worked their land according to best cultivation procedures known at the time. By the time August Posti was of the age to farm "land holdings" had become scarce, so he decided to look for farm land elsewhere. The newspapers advertised that in Canada 160 acres of land was available for $10. for "immigrant settlers", subject to three years spent making such improvements as building a house, clearing and cultivating 15 acres of land and fencing the homestead. August Posti and his wife decided to face the hardships of pioneering and come to Canada with their family

The Postis went first to Finland and from there by small ship to Liverpool, England. From here, with other immigrants, they crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a "cattle ship", which had been cleaned and white-washed to transport human cargo. They took the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to Red Deer and from there they went to Sylvan Lake, Alberta. At Sylvan Lake they were met by Kingseps, Walters and Kaska, who had arrived earlier

August Posti started to look for free homestead land. He chose the SW 16-40-3 W5, because it had the Medicine River running through it, abounding in fish — pike and suckers. There were spuce trees growing on it, providing logs for his house, and the pea-vine grew three feet high in the river valley, providing rich nutritious hay for his stock. They had brought with them sturdy home-made cloth, garden seeds, such as cabbages, turnips, carrots, beets and potatoes, which provided their first food when planted in virgin garden soil. They also brought flax and hemp seed. These plants provided the fibre from which Mr. Posti made rope

Money was a scarce commodity, much needed for buying machinery, cows, oxen or horses. August Posti worked helping to build the Canadian Pacific Railroad from Calgary west during the winter months. Miili Posti kept the home fires burning, spending her time looking after the cows, pigs and hens. She carded and spun wool to knit mitts, stockings and vests for the family. She churned and salted butter, money from butter sales was used to buy sugar salt, white flour and fresh and dried fruit or even as payments for machinery. The cows were milked three times a day, as cattle food was so plentiful that the cows would arrive home in the middle of the day and "baw." to be milked

After proving up on the homestead, August cleared and cultivated more land. He sowed by hand broadcasting the rye, barley, oats and flax. These were harvested by means of a sickle,

sheaved by hand and threshed by a flail. The whole family joined in the harvesting operation. Later more up-to-date machinery was used

The August Posti family increased to four boys and two girls, namely, Hugo, Anna, Olga, Karl, Henry and Rudolph. Of the original family of eight only three are living as of May, 1977 Mrs. John M. Tipman (Anna) of Stettler, Mrs. Alex B. Mottus (Olga) of Eckville and Mr Karl Posti of Gilby. All these are living on farms.

August and Milli Posti were very conscientious parents and were kind to their children They believed in the equality of sexes, both boys and girls had to know how to do outside farm tasks or inside household duties. The girls were taught to milk, feed cattle, clean barns, rake hay, stook grain, drive oxen or horses, chop fire wood and, of course, do all the myriad household duties. The boys had to know how to sew on buttons, mend a tear in work clothes, sew on a patch, or even iron a shirt. They had to know how to clean fish, rabbits or wild game for cooking and even how to cook it We, as children, found these chores challenging, and felt the pride of accomplishment. We joined with our parents in planting gardens, weeding, and later, harvesting Every task on the farm was shared

Money to buy "boughten" toys was scarce, but who cared! We made our own toys; cows, horses, pigs, hens and other things were cut out of double layers of birch bark, which provided four legs to enable the animals to stand. Often a whole farm of animals was produced. The home was marked out on the dirt, into as many rooms as the heart desired. Barns were produced the same way, and stocked. Our imagination did the rest! But our greatest interest was in the great outdoors. We had to know and observe the wonders of nature such as How and where all the birds built their nests, raised and fed their young; the "courting dances" of the prairie chickens and wood partridges; the life cycles of frogs, bugs, and mosquitoes in the ponds; how the small fish grew in the river. Ant hills had to be supervised for "war parties" between different tribes. Of the animals, the muskrats and beavers provided the most interest Many hours were spent watching them build their homes and filling their pantries. Our parents taught us not to harm, molest or destroy any wild bird, beast, flower or vegetation — all were sacred and had a useful purpose in life

August Posti was a great believer in community work. He realized that enterprises done co-operatively took the least output from each individual and produced the greatest good individually to the greatest number of people. The first project with which he helped was the building of the Estonian School, where a great deal of volunteer work was done by him and others. He wanted all the children to be educated, realizing the value of education due to the meagre education he himself had acquired.

The building of the Estonian Hall was another community project. The first neighborhood meetings had been held in the Posti's living room. Here agriculture problems were discussed, such as grain varieties, methods of tilling, marketing of crops and, of course, politics Community singing was enjoyed Physical training was provided by a "trapeze" hanging from ceiling beams. People came to realize that a building bigger than the homes was needed for all these community activities. Plans were made to build a hall with a stage and a library August was one of the key men in planning and erecting the Estonian Hall. He also was the first librarian.

The threshing of grain was a big problem to these early pioneers. Twenty-six farmers banded together and bought a threshing machine run by a steam engine. This portable outfit was moved by horses from farm to farm. Thus a grain-threshing society was formed. August was a member and almost in the centre of the threshing run. His son Hugo later acquired steam engineer's papers to run the outfit. A wheat pool for marketing grain was formed, a co-operative store was organized, a municipal hospital was built, with August Posti being a firm supporter of all of these projects.

August passed away in 1943 and his wife, Milli in 1945. Both were buried in the Gilby cemetery

**RAABIS, CHARLIE**

Charlie Raabis came to Canada from Estonia in the early 1900's with his wife, Leena, their infant daughter, Helen, and Leena's mother, Maie Poder, and settled on a homestead by Medicine River in the Gilby district

A few years later, Leena was struck by lightning during a severe thunderstorm while walking home from the hay field carrying a grass scythe over her shoulder and died as a result

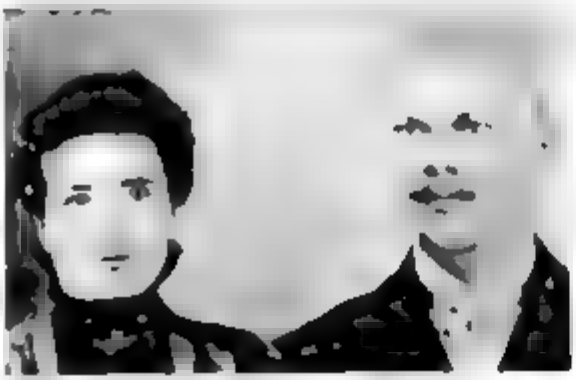
Olga Kinna came to Canada as a young girl, in 1903, from Woru, Estonia with her parents, John and Marie Kinna, her brothers Fritz, Arthur and Ernest and a sister Minnie. They, too, settled on a homestead on the banks of the Medicine River and five miles north of the present site of Eckville.

The nearest town was Red Deer. Roads were mere trails so it took about three days to make a trip on foot to Red Deer for groceries. Money was scarce so Olga went to work for Robert Gaetz in Red Deer for $6 a month She didn't know a word of English but the Gaetz were wonderful people and they got along very well with sign language

In 1906, she married Charlie Raabis and took over the care of little Helen.

Charlie worked for several years as carpenter on the C.P.R. while Olga looked after the farm and the children. When they were able to buy a team of oxen, Charlie quit the railroad work and started clearing land to make a few small fields of oats and barley and a garden

Around 1910, the Estonian School was built and in 1918 the Estonian Hall. Charlie was the carpenter for both these community projects. He



Charlie and Olga Raabis

Raabis Children. Art, Waldo, Clara, Mary, Hilja, Salme

also helped John Kinna built the first flour mill in the community

As the community grew a cemetery became necessary, so Charlie and Olga donated a few acres of their homestead to serve as cemetery About a dozen people lie buried there.

Eventually, horses replaced oxen for field work and fields became bigger as more land was cleared and broke. The important day of the year was when the threshing crew came to thresh the little bit of grain each farmer had stacked near the log barn so that the straw would serve as both food and shelter for the stock during the cold winters

Charlie also helped Grandpa Kinna build the first brush cutter in the community This was pulled by six horses and enabled land to be cleared much faster than could be done with an axe. In time the horses were replaced by a tractor

Charlie was a very community minded person and he and Olga both sang in the Estonian choir Charlie also served many years as trustee and secretary-treasurer on the school board and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Eckville Co-op Association.

When Charlie passed away in 1944, after a lenghty illness, Olga moved to Eckville to take care of her mother and father. After they were gone, she stayed in Eckville and spent most of her spare time in oil painting. This hobby kept her happily occupied for many years. She managed to paint a picture for each one of her seven children as well as for most of her grandchildren before her passing in the later summer of 1976

Besides Helen, who passed away at the age of 10, Charlie and Olga had seven children, the first one being a daughter, Salme. Many a time Mother had to leave the baby alone while she walked for miles through the bush looking for the cows at milking time. One cow always had a bell hung around her neck so when they were feeding, the bell could be heard for quite a distance and thus make finding them a lot easier

Salme got most of her education at the Estonian school which was a two-mile walk morning and night. Her first teacher was Mr. Egen Later, she walked seven miles morning and night to finish her education in the Eckville high school where Mr. Ludwig was a very capable teacher She attended normal school in Camrose and started her teaching career at the Outlet school a few miles north of Bentley where she taught grades one to eight She married a farmer by the name of Art Mottus and raised two children, Charlie and Donna.

The second daughter, Hilja, also received her education at the Estonian school. When she quit school, dad put her in charge of the cow milking, usually having as many as eight to 12 cows to milk by hand morning and night. This had to be done exactly the same time every day. Of course, we had to have some fun too, so we would squirt milk at the little pigs that were rooting around among the cows until they learned to lap it up as fast as it came at them. Whoever said pigs were stupid did not know what they were talking about because one little pig waited until he found a cow lying down and then helped himself to all the milk he could suck

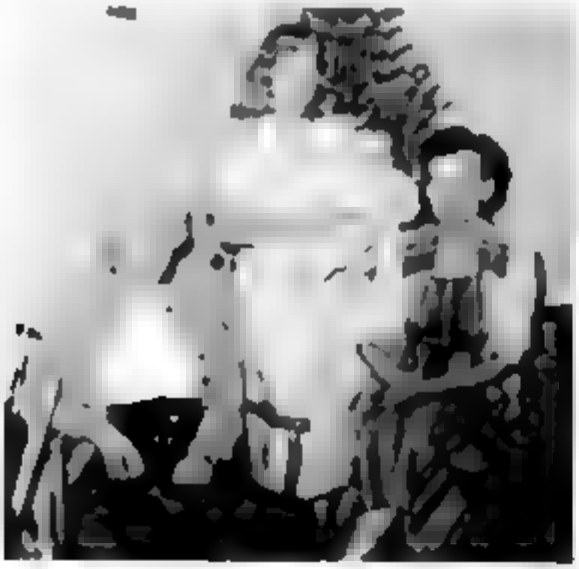
After milking, the milk was strained and run through a cream separator with the cream coming out of one spout and the skim milk out of the other. The skim milk was fed to the calves, pigs and chickens and a part of it was always made into cottage cheese. The cream was soured and churned into butter and the rest saved in a can until there was enough to take to the creamery in Eckville and sold

Lunch time during harvest. L to r: Ludwig Hunsby, Waldo and Art Raabis, Ludwig Koots, Mr. Rolfson

Hilja Kalev, Granpa Kiesa, Olga Rasbis, Edna Kalev, Nick Kalev, sitting Walter Kalev

Hilja married Nick Kalev, who was well known for his musical talents. He was an accomplished trumpet player, directed the choir and was a member of a dance orchestra. He passed away suddenly in 1951 and left his wife and two children, Walter 15 and Edna 13, to farm the quarter section on the Medicine Hi..

Carl also went to the Estonian school but quit when he was of age and stayed home to he.p with the farming. Later, he worked for the Moro brothers in their flour mill in Eckville. He then married Ethel Peterson and went farming in the



Four Generations - Olga Rasbis - Great Grandmother, Mary Bardenhagen - Grandmother, Center Maxine Stevenson and daughter Charlene

Bentley district. They had five children: Norman, Carol, Alfred (Alfy), Patricia and James

Mary, too, started her education in the Estonian schoo. and attended high school in Eckville, wa.king there with her sister, Salme. She meant to complete her high school in Red Deer but a distraction came in the form of a happy-go-lucky cowboy farmer by the name of Fred Bardenhagen, and school no longer seemed important. Mary and Fred were married on July 13, 1933 and, like in the fairy stories, lived happily ever after

Arthur went to work as a clerk in the Co-op store in Eckville under the management of Oswald Ulmari, at the age of 16. At that time, the Co-op store was located in the building we now know as the bakery. Arthur learned to play the violin at an early age, as did his younger brother Waldo, and together they entertained the rest of the family with violin duets

Some years later, Arthur took up saxophone playing and also piano, while Waldo chose the trumpet and guitar. They provided the music for dances for many years, Arthur's wife, Myrtle, playing the piano for them. Arthur's favorite sport was baseball and he, as well as his older brother, Carl pitched many a game. Arthur and Myrtle raised a family of three children: Kaye, Marlon and David.

They operated a small general store in Withrow for a time but gave it up to manage the Co-op store in Stettler. Art finally decided to go into business for himse.f and bought the Rainbow Cabins and Trailer Court at Sylvan Lake and, together with Myrtle, developed it into a very thriving operation. They eventually sold out and retired to Calgary

Waldo married Myrtle Greenman and settled on the home p.ace when Dad was no longer able to manage it due to i.ness.

Waldo and Myrtle were both very musical so naturally raised a musical family of four. Their daughter, Shirley, is married to Eddie Moos and though she sews and cares for their family of five children, Lane, Derek, Brenda, Sandra and Wesley, she takes time to sing at various socia. functions

Their son, Garry, learned to play many instruments, but the saxophone seemed to be his favorite. He went to Red Deer to work and become manager of the body shop for Festival Ford. He married Susan Whittaker and they have three daughters, Leslie and Lana (twins) and Pamela.

Wendy is married to Sid Scheifele and they live in Medicine Hat with their infant son, Tyler

Debbie is married to Gordon Brown of Fairview and they have two children, Jody and Tania. They recently moved to Hines Creek where Gordon runs an oil dealership for the U F A

Waldo and Myrtle sold their farmland NW 16-40-3-W5 to Walter Andrew, keeping eight acres including the buildings and in 1964 moved to Fair

view where, in partnership with Dorothy Forseil, they bought the "Pinky" coin wash which they operated very successfully for ten years, then sold it and moved back to their home in the Gilby area

Bill Sibelin, an old family friend, also lives in a trailer in Waldo's yard

For the last three years, Waldo and Myrtle have been working as custodians at the Eckville High School.

Clara, nicknamed Bill, when very young and still known by that name, went to Vancouver when in her teens, took a hairdressing course and went to work on a luxury liner, the Prince George, as a hairdresser, barber and beautician. There she met and married the chief steward Vic Bremner Their family consisted of two children, Judy and Allan

**RANGEN, MR. AND MRS. ALBERT T. — by John Rangen and Mrs. Trygve Rangen**

Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Rangen, along with their sons Trygve and Hans, moved from Maddock, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1905, and settled in the Gilby area. Dad filed on a homestead, NE 28-40-3-W5, and bought a quarter of C.P.R. land for seven dollars an acre. A year or two later he paid $11 per acre for another C.P.R. quarter, so he then owned S 27-41 3-W5, as well as his homestead

Dad and Mother shipped a carload of settlers' effects and a team of horses to the end of the railroad at Lacombe. (The railroad did not get as far as Bentley until 1918 or 1919.) Their belongings had to be moved from Lacombe to the homestead by horses and wagons. The family stayed with a neighbor, Pete Pederson, until our own house was built

There was a scarcity of horses throughout the country at that time, so Dad started raising horses to sell. His horse herd at one time numbered between 50 and 60 head. He became well-known for his horses, and during the first World War people came from far and near to buy them. As there were very few fences in those days, we often had to ride many miles, for days at a time, to locate the horse herd and bring them home to the corral.

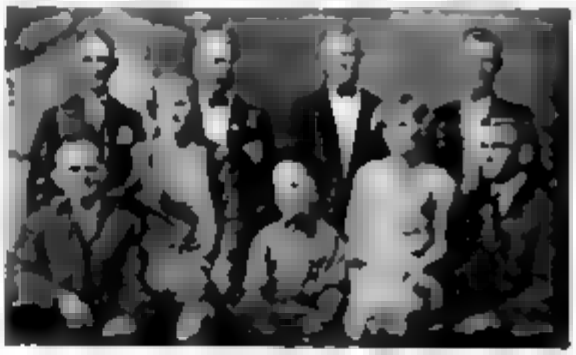
Dad also raised cattle and had some pigs. The first water well we had was dug by hand, and we got the water from the well by the "rope and bucket" method

Due to his extensive experience with caring for livestock, Dad became known as the veterinarian of the district, and was often called upon by neighbors who needed help with sick cattle or horses. Dad also had a feed grinder which was powered by a horse walking around in a circle, thus causing the mill to grind the grain. He did a lot of feed grinding for the neighbors

Dad was a good blacksmith, and spent many hours over the years shoeing horses and sharpening plow shares for himself and his neighbors. In 1912, when the local Co-operative Association was formed, Albert was active in its organization and became one of the first directors

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rangen. Trygve and Hans were born in the United States, then four more boys and two girls were born while the family lived at Gilby. Carl was born in 1906 and John (whose original name was Ingvald) was born in 1908. In 1909 Mother and the four boys went on a trip to Stangvanger, Norway, to visit her parents, and Karsten was born while they were there. They travelled to and from Norway by boat, and it took about two weeks to go one way. Trygve said he remembers when they came back they were all sea-sick most of the time. Mother's cousin, Nils Aarstad, came back with them, so she had some help with the children.

Caro: (who was originally named Caroline) was born in 1912. Aasen (originally named Julie) was born in 1913 and Alfred (originally named Sakaries) was born in 1915



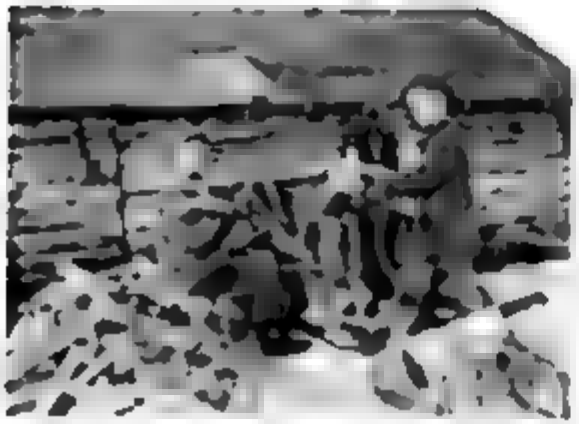
Rangen Family. Back: Karsten, Carl, John, Hans. Front: Mr Rangen, Caroline, Alfred, Nellie, Trygve

The children first attended the Estonian School and later went to the Andrew School, as Dad owned land in that district. On one warm sunny morning the children went barefoot to school, but had to come home in the snow'

Doctors and hospitals were far away in those days, but we were fortunate in having a nice neighbor with a Model T Ford who took Mother to the hospital in Lacombe when she was ill Mother passed away in 1918 and is buried in the Gilby Cemetery

After Mother's death Dad did a wonderful job of looking after eight children — the oldest one 15 years and the youngest only three years old' He got help from some of the neighbor women, but he would bake bread, churn butter, and do the laundry for the family. We children all had our own saddle horses, so we eight rode horseback or drove a horse on a two-wheeled cart to school Dad's cooking kept us well and happy, so we never stayed home from school on account of being sick

In a book (a diary) that Dad used to write in, we find this notation. "In 1910 he started spring



Trygve and Alfred Rangen splitting wood with home made wood splitter

work on the 14th of March and on the 2nd of June a foot of snow covered the ground. On June 22 there was a bad hailstorm and frost, and again on the 24th of July " That must not have been a very good year!

Dad built a house and barn in 1913. The barn was finished in 1914, and that barn is still standing in good shape today. Only half of the house was built. There was a big kitchen, a bedroom, and a pantry downstairs, and an upstairs, with a veranda along the north side of the house. The rest of the house was supposed to be on the south side, but his other half was never built. Dad hauled all the lumber from McPherson's mill, which was northwest, past Leedale some place. Since it would take two days to make a trip, Dad used four horses so he could haul bigger loads. Karl Soderland, who lived someplace north of Sylvan Lake, was the carpenter who built it. He would stay the week and then walk home for the weekends. The rooms were finished with grooved lumber, which was varnished.

In 1912 when the local Co-operative Association was formed, Albert was active in its organization and became one of the first directors. After the death of Mrs. Rangen in 1918, about 1922 or 1924, Albert had an auction sale and went to the United States for a year or so, taking Alfred with him. Carol and Alisen went to stay with Alfred Haarstad at Bentley. He came back about 1925 and bought land at Leafland, north of the Lesliеville district. Karsten, Alfred and the girls lived there with him. Dad was mailman for a few years, hauling the mail from Lesliеville to Carlos. In 1942 he bought a house in New Westminster, B.C., where he lived for a few years before coming back to live with Alfred. Albert passed away in the Eckville hospital in 1945.

Hans married Margaret Belt, and they had five children.

Carl (deceased) married Audrey Evernden and they had three children.

John married Clara Reirson, and they had two children. They are now living in Eckville.

Karsten is unmarried, and lives at Sylvan Lake.

Carol (deceased) married Floyd Fitzgerald, and they had four children.

Alisen married Leagh Vayle. They had three children.

Alfred is single, and lives in Summerland, B.C.

Trygve married Mable Solberg of Bentley. They had five children. Trygvie passed away in 1974 and is buried in the Gilby cemetery.

**RANGEN, TRYGVE — by Mabel Rangen**

In 1919 Trygve went down to Loverna to work for Chris Torgesen on a farm and in 1920 on his return home, riding Old Bess, he had an unfortunate experience. On the first day of the trip he stopped to stay overnight at a farmhouse near Stettler. Being very tired, he slept so soundly that he did not hear the man of the house when he came into the room and took all the money that Trygve had in his purse, leaving just a bit of change that was in his pocket. In the morning Trygve was going to pay for his lodging, but the man said that it was free. He obviously did not want Trygve to look in his purse! After riding on for a considerable distance Trygve stopped to have some dinner and upon looking into his purse, found what had happened. Of course it was too far for him to ride back to the farmhouse and he wouldn't have been able to prove that his money had been stolen even if he had gone back.

This experience did not discourage him from going back to Loverna and in 1921 he worked for another man there. This time he had enough money to buy a yellow car (a "bug") and his trip home in the car was uneventful.

After that he worked for Alfred Haarstad at Bentley for a while. Then in 1923 and 1924 he attended the Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary. He took a mechanical and special tractor course at Hemphill Trade School in Calgary. The course cost one hundred dollars for which he paid sixty dollars in cash and worked the rest out for fifty cents an hour. He stayed at a boarding house as there were no dorms in those days. After finishing his course he was not able to get a job anywhere so in 1925 Trygve, Carl and John bought their dad's farm. The three brothers operated the farm together for a while then Trygve bought out the shares of the others.

Trygve and I, (Mabel Solberg) were married on September 6, 1927 in Sylvan Lake. Trygve and Hans came down to our place in Trygve's truck, a Model T with the top and side curtains taken off. After getting to our place Trygve took my dad's car, which did have the top and side curtains! Hans was our best man and Ethe. Andrew was bridesmaid. There had been many days of rain all that fall and our wedding day was no exception. There were no gravelled roads at that time and the roads were so muddy that we had a hard time getting back to Dad's. We were so late that the guests had enjoyed the reception without

us. Even though we got home all wet and muddy we joined in the festivities and danced until morning

After my marriage I came to my new home in Medicine Valley to start a new life which was quite different for me. I was the oldest girl in my family and at home I had been used to cooking, baking, and washing for my parents and my nine sisters and five brothers. Trygve had two of his brothers staying with him but it was quite a change indeed to be cooking for four people instead of seventeen'

Trygve did all of his farming with horses. He was a horse-lover like his dad and had learned to ride and work with horses when he was quite young. He used to ride for many miles looking for the horses on the ranch. He said one could always tell which way the horses had gone by the direction that the wind was blowing. There were no fences in those days, so the horses could go where they pleased. He said he remembered one time he was out looking for the horses and they had wandered so far that it took him a long time. Coming home he met his mother out looking for him as she thought he had become lost.

Trygve had two cows and I had brought two cows when I came, having got one from my grandmother and one from my dad. These were the beginning of our herd of cattle.

Quite a lot of land had been broke on the farm so we soon had to start harvest. Pete Moro had a threshing rig so he was the first one to thresh after I came to the farm.

In 1930 we were hailed out so there was very little grain to sell. We milked a few cows and sold cream and eggs. Butterfat was ten cents a pound and eggs ten cents a dozen, so you see we didn't have very much money. Trygve would butcher a steer and take it to Sestrap's Store in Eckville so we could buy what groceries we had to have — we never bought bread or butter'

Trygve got his first tractor in about 1933. It was a Fordson, with steel wheels and lugs on the back wheels. In 1934 or 1935 he had Robert and Alfred Kinna come to brush and break up a swamp which was on part of the farm. After we got it worked down we seeded it into hay for pasture. We had quite a few horses and cattle by then, so needed extra pasture. Trygve continued the family tradition of raising horses which he would sell at the Lacombe horse sale. This sale was always held in March and one year there had been a bad snow storm at just the time of the sale. The road east of our place was all drifted in but Trygve got the horses over to Fred Moos' Fred had a big truck to haul horses but when he was turning onto highway 11 the truck upset. Of course the horses all got out but none of them were hurt by the mishap. By the time they got the horses loaded again and got to Lacombe the sale was over so Trygve had to take just what the buyers offered for them. He lost money on that load.

After a time Carl moved to his own farm and Hans went to Calgary to take a barber course. When Hans finished his course he got married and Trygve and I were alone with our family.

In 1930 we had had our first son, Melvin, followed by Allen, who was born in 1932. In the spring of 1946 we decided to build a new house as Roy had been born in 1937, Glenn in 1940 and Joyce in 1942. We had already built a garage so we used it for our kitchen and we slept in the granaries. We tore down the old house so the new one could be built on the same spot. George Cummings and three of his brothers were the carpenters. Fred Moos was there with four men, clearing and brushing 70 acres of timber, and they worked in shifts. There were many men to cook for and I found this to be quite a chore, living in the garage, with everything being so unhandy.

We had a pressure system put in the new house, — being one of the first families in the area to do this. We had a 32-volt lighting plant because Calgary Power had not yet come to the district. We had installed the phone in 1930, and Calgary Power did come in September, 1951. Trygve, Pete Moro and Albert Hansen were some of the ones who worked to get Calgary Power in, and they worked on the building of the lines.

After a time Trygve bought a bigger tractor and he and my dad bought a threshing machine. In the fall they would go out threshing in the Bentley and Lockhart districts for about six weeks each fall. In addition Trygve did custom breaking and wood-sawing and would grind feed for neighbors. Like his dad, Trygve was a good blacksmith which encouraged neighbors to come to him to get their plow shares sharpened. Whenever a neighbor had a sick animal he would come to Trygve for assistance as he was almost like a veterinarian. In fact he was handy at most everything — the neighbors even came for hair-cuts'

In 1948 Trygve bought his first combine and then in 1950 he got a Massey self-propelled machine, one of the first of these machines in the district. He and the boys were expanding their farming operations and felt that they needed the most modern machinery. At one time they were farming 12 quarters.

Gradually our family grew up and, except for Glenn, left home. Melvin got married in 1954 to Lyla Leahy. They have four children, Laurence, Monica, Darcey and Elaine. They live in Edmonton. Allen was married in 1956. He and his wife have three children — Debbie, Dale and Jody. They live in Red Deer. Roy married Janet Tipman in 1954 and their two children are Charlene and Russel. They live in Calgary. Glenn was married to Avril McNiel in 1961 and his children are Randy and Eldon. They live on the Rangen farm — being the third generation of Rangens to live there! Glen bought a little house from Lenoard Beddoes and moved it onto the home farm. He and his family lived in this house until

1967 Glenn had bought the Robert Kingsep farm, so we traded our farm for that place. Trygve and I moved onto that place in 1967 and Glenn bought our east quarter.

Joyce lives on a farm near Rimbey.

In 1970 Trygve and I went on a month-long trip to Norway. It was a nice enjoyable trip. Trygve saw the place where they had stayed when they were there on a visit. He had many cousins there and one uncle still living. The cousins were surprised that he remembered their places. He even remembered the names of the horses!

Between 1970 and 1974 we went to British Columbia every summer and had many other enjoyable trips together. In 1974 we again went to Norway for a visit. We had been there for only three days when Trygve passed away with a heart attack. Our trip was a tour which was to require a month's time, so I had a lot of trouble to get back home and to get Trygve's body home again. He was buried in the Gilby cemetery.

I am now living alone on our farm, which is located on N.E. 9-40-3-W5.

**MIKAEL AND AILI RAUMAN**

Mikael Rauman was born February 15, 1903 in Senajoki, Finland. Aili Ylinen was born January 26, 1904 in Ilimajoki, Finland. Mike and Aili were married in 1923 in their native Finland.

Being a carpenter by trade, Mike, searching for greener pastures, decided that Canada sounded like a wonderful place. Leaving Aili, Jussi, and Kaisu behind, he left for Canada in 1925. He made his home with his uncle, Gabriel Maki, and his family northeast of Eckville, Alberta. Good carpenters were in great demand in the early years, just as they are today. Mike helped build homes, and other buildings wherever needed, and even made a coffin or two, which were almost always homemade at that time.

In 1928, Aili and family arrived in Canada to join Mike. They farmed for a short period of time, and during the winter Mike worked in the logging camps. The family discontinued farming in 1935, and bought a house in Eckville from Oswald Umari. This is where their son Arne was born on August 1, 1936. Money being scarce, Mike did carpenter work for Dr. Palmer for services rendered at the birth of their son, Arni.

Dr. Palmer informed Mike that his fee would be a bit higher than he had quoted, since he had had to use instruments. Quick-witted Mike, though, wasn't going to be horn swoggled out of his wages, and made it quite clear that his job required instruments, too. Needless to say, they decided to compromise and split the difference.

When the Finnish-Russian War broke out, Mike was ready to help protect his "motherland", so, in 1939, he sailed for Finland. He spent seven months in service, returning home when peace was declared.

After arriving home Mike decided to buy the SW 2-40-3-W5 from William and Raino Maki, who had moved to Vancouver, B.C. For 26 years Mike and Aili lived here and farmed, but then sold their farm to Ray and Phyllis Myers, and bought a home in Eckville where both are enjoying their retirement.

Son, Jussi (John) is married to Marjorie (Lingren) (Posti) and they reside in Vancouver, B.C.

Kaisu (Katie) is married to Rudolph Saari, youngest son of John and Aina Saari. They have three children, Alice (Mrs. Jim Stearns), Irene (Mrs. Bruce Broad) of Red Deer, and Kenneth, who resides at home and helps his father farm.

Arni is presently employed in Red Deer.

**SAMBROOKE, ALLAN AND DAISY — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Allan was educated at the Estonian School and helped his father (Dick) mix mortar and did many odd jobs. After a short term with the R.C.A.F. he was medically discharged and returned to the transportation business, where he became a long-haul trucker, hauling pre-fab and mobile homes to all parts of Canada and the United States.

In July 1956 Allan married Daisy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holland, and the widow of Henry Heikkila. They first made their home in Bentley, later moving to Sylvan Lake and then to Calgary.

Lenard, Larry and Sandra are now married, and Daisy is the proud grandmother of three. Their son Brian is attending SAIT. After a severe heart attack Allan passed away. He was buried in Queens Park Cemetery, Calgary, on March 12, 1974.

**SAMBROOKE, ARNOLD (DICK) AND VIVIAN — by Hazel Sambrooke**

Have times changed? Arnold Sambrooke was an adventuresome lad, like many a boy of today! Arnold was born in 1883 and grew up in Staffordshire England. He attended an English boys' School and can well remember many a caning the head master gave for misdemeanors. Before he was 16 years of age, he bid his father and mother (Samuel and Emma Sambrooke) farewell and lied about his age to enlist in the Calvary Company of the Boer War Forces who were ready to sail for South Africa (1899-1902).

Many a tale could be related about his time in Africa, but hungry, fleabitten and in rags, he returned to London, England, only to see a brochure of Canada. This haunted him for weeks until he had persuaded a friend to join him and then they were off to Canada in 1902. They worked in Eastern Canada, returning to England in the fall, only to return to Canada with his brother Samuel (Tim) in the spring of 1903.

Arnold, or Dick, as everyone called him, was working at Natel when Turtle Mountain came tumbling down on the town site of Frank. The

men of the neighboring town came to help rescue any survivors and free the trapped miners, who later walked to safety on their own, above where the men were digging for them. Dick by now had learned the plastering and stucco trade, and did many of the buildings in this area. He had started to stucco in Fernie, B.C. in 1908 when a fire broke out fanned by a high wind that leveled the town. All this didn't discourage him, and he moved on to Central Alberta. He worked from Red Deer until he became interested in a Bentley maiden.

Dick and Tim settled on homesteads northeast of Gilby (NW 2-41-3-W5) in 1909. This area was then called "Green Feed Valley" because everything froze there before it could be harvested. Many a Saturday night was spent playing cards with St. John and William O'Neil, two brothers who were noted for their hospitality, fun and gaiety. Clarence Dameron was the auctioneer for their community "box socials". When anyone needed help, George and Leonard Beddoes were always there.

Dick had another brother, William, who came to Canada and settled in the Bassano area. William later built a monoplane — in 1926. Dick's sister, Maude (Mrs. J. Tones) settled in Vancouver.

In 1915 Dick married Vivian May Osgoode, who was born in 1893, the daughter of Elijah and Lenora Osgoode of Bentley, and then relocated on another farm two miles south, SW26-40-3-W5. Here he was able to purchase more land from the C.P.R. adjoining his land, at the foot of Medicine Hill. Dick worked in the lumber camp during the winter and improved his farm during the summer months. Vivian was an excellent cook and helped cook for the lumber jacks at the Jabez McPherson mill in the Carlos area northeast of Rocky Mountain House. She was a truly fine homemaker and their hospitality was well known throughout the area. Dick and Vivian spent many a happy evening with John and Mary Kurzman, Carl and Mavel Thomas, George and Leonard Beddoes and their wives, as well as the O'Neil brothers, just to mention a few.

Dick served on the Estonian School Board from 1926-1935 and was in charge of the roads in the district under councillor George Fraser and secretary Harold Hopkins, at Bentley before they moved the offices to Lacombe. The farmers in the area were allowed to work out their taxes by doing road work.

One hotly contested issue was the centralization of the small schools, another was, before teachers' wages could be raised $50, six dollars was given to purchase sports equipment, two bats and two balls.

Two sons were born to Dick and Vivian — Arnold Elijah in 1917 and Allan Jabez in 1922. Dick continued his trade in Central Alberta, selling their farm machinery and retiring in 1945. The land was rented to Rudy and Myrtle Mottus. In 1953 Arnold Elijah purchased the home quarter from his father. Vivian passed away after a lengthy illness, on October 4, 1958. Sometime later Dick married Alice Redmond (nee McPherson), but this marriage soon broke up and he came to live with his son Arnold at Eckville.

Dick was buried on July 17, 1967 in Bentley, with full military honours. He was a life member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

**SLADE, ARCHIE AND ETHEL**

In the spring of 1950 Archie and Ethel Slade, with one-year-old son, Bruce, moved from Nanton onto the Rosenbaum place, the NE 17-40-3-W5, which was purchased from Robert Smith. The Bert Molnar family had lived on this quarter for a few years.

We found a few variants from the prairie living to which we had been accustomed. There was heavier snow fall, and lack of chinooks; later springs, much more rainfall, heavy morning dew and less wind; the absence of crocuses (which were greatly missed) but the pleasure of finding wild strawberries and raspberries, solving the "caving cellar" mystery (moles), thanks to Cliff Matthews, "If you want beavers to leave your fence posts alone, use spruce, not poplar," (Cliff Matthews). The hospitality of neighbors sharing steam baths; the land clearing and wood-sawing bees, absence of potato bugs, grasshoppers and rocks, not a gopher in sight, quite a contrast to the great number now!

When Bruce and Connie started school, crossing the Medicine River to catch the school bus was a problem during high water. Shirley Raabis rowed them across the river at such times.

In 1956 we bought the "Keesie" quarter, SE 18-40-3-W5, from Victor Kraft after he moved to Whitecourt. We built on this location in 1960.

In 1966 when Ralph, Peggy Pihooja, Betty, John and Helen moved to British Columbia he sold us his half section across the road, N 7-40-35-W5.

Bruce attended school at Eckville and SAIT and now, with his wife, Linda, lives in Red Deer, where he is a welder.

Connie, having received her education in Eckville, Lacombe and Red Deer, is living in Red Deer, where she is a secretary at Michener Centre.

Jim graduated from the Eckville high school in 1976 after having spent a year and a half at Lacombe Vocational in welding.

In 1977-1978 Nigel is attending Grade 11 in Lacombe, where he is enrolled in the automotives course.

**STENVIG, MARTIN AND OLGA**

In 1936 the old Stenvig farm SE 14-40-3-W5 became the home of Martin and Olga Stenvig. August Stenvig and his wife, Jette, remained there until 1944, when they moved to Bethany Home in Bawlf.

There were five children in the Martin Sten-

Mrs. Stenvig Sr

vig family. These included Marlene (Mrs. J. N. Sorensen), of Calgary; Edward, of Red Deer, Donna (Mrs. A. Bagdan of Edmonton), Sharon (Mrs. Bruce Alexander) of Edmonton, Judy (Mrs. Ed Lauterbach) of Ontario.

Marlene, with a master of education degree is at present a librarian and teacher in the Calgary schools. Her children are Dana, Trudy and Laura.

Edward and Fay live in Red Deer. Edward is a sheet metal specialist, employed at Hayhoe's. Their children are Sheldon, Wendell and Kimberley.

Donna received her bachelor of interior design in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her children are Damian, Galen and Brennan.

Sharon is a legal secretary in Edmonton, and has one son, Dylan.

Judy is also a legal secretary in Ontario. Her children are Carrie and Aaron.

All the Stenvig children were encouraged to participate in everything. Three of the girls received piano lessons for many years. Their participation in the beef and garden 4-H Clubs taught them invaluable lessons in participation for the sake of knowledge.

Martin's memories are those of threshing days.

Olga's memories include: a happy home — picnics on the farm — baseball games on Nels Isaacson's land with crowds from all over central Alberta — musical nights at home — basketball games at Gilby — participation in three-hour plays produced by local talent — riding horseback — first radio in 1920 — a pressure water system in 1921 — community service it was possible to render to neighbors.

Happy memories, all.

**SUNSHINE GOSPEL MISSION — by Mrs. Kate MacKenzie**

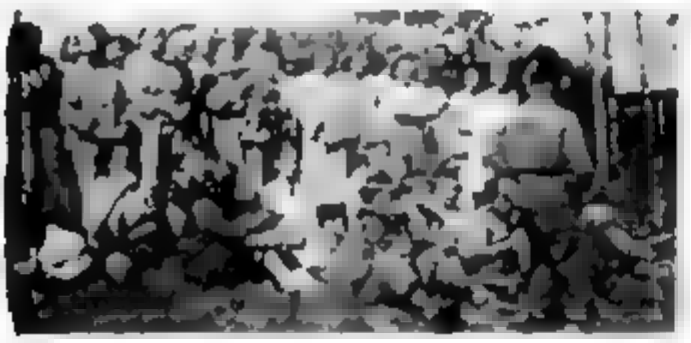
Mr. Maclean of Red Deer, a lay preacher, held two or three services in the "Young Peoples Hall" in 1943. Since most of the people came from the north, it was decided to hold services in the Andrew Parkkari home, since that would be closer. Some time later they were held in the Simon MacKenzie home. A large Sunday School was held with Aune Parkkari the Sunday School teacher, while Margaret Nelson, with helpers Audrey Ponto, Kate MacKenzie and Barbara Luomala, looked after the choruses. The adult attendance for the service which followed made it necessary to have a larger building.

In 1946, Mr. Maclean bought three acres of Government land (NE 11-W5) as well as all the material needed for the building. A nice little church was erected by the volunteer help of the interested men in the district. What a joyous time that was! Men hammering and sawing and the women keeping them supplied with food and coffee! Fifty-four chairs, an organ, pulpit, oil furnace, hymn books and book cases were all installed in the church. Mr. Hoglund added the finishing touches by painting the inside and varnishing the floor. How proud we were to have our first service in the new building. Mr. Maclean conducted the service and Mrs. Maclean asked the blessing on the new church.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean at Sunshine Mission

A board of nine trustees was elected, Mr. Maclean being the president. A Ladies Aid was formed in 1950. Their duties were to look after the church. Baby quilts were made and given to the new arrivals, fruit baskets were made for hospital patients and aid was also given when needed for flood or fire relief. The mission Ladies' Aid also sponsored a dear missionary, Ruth Ebbern, for many years in Africa. They also conducted Vocational Bible School in the mission during the summer. Mr. Brunner of Red Deer held Vocational Bible School in 1966 in the mission. On July 1, 1950 the Sunshine Gospel Mission was dedicated by Rev. D. J. Firth, Knox

Picnic at Sundance Mission, 1947



Picnic at Gospel Mission Church, July, 1954

Presbyterian Church, Red Deer. Nearly 100 people were present for the service and the social which followed. The following Sunday, Mrs. Audrey Ponto was elected to be responsible for the Sunday School and Mrs. Mary Hoglund and Emil Viitala for the music, she on the organ and he with his violin. (Mary Hoglund passed away in June 23, 1953.) Mrs. Lymie Schultz took over as organist and later Beverly Langer filled in. Mr E. Viitala passed away November 7, 1968. They were both sadly missed as they were faithful church members. Mr Maclean, along with his dear wife, faithfully served the mission for 18 years. They came, rain or shine. Mr Walter Quantz, of Gimlet, filled in for two years when Mr Maclean had surgery. Mr. Maclean came back and with an exchange program once a month with Rev. Broadway of Lockhart, he was able to serve two more years. In 1965, due to ill health, he asked to be relieved. Mr Walter Kokot of Leslieville filled in as pastor of the mission. In 1967, Mr. William Hutton served for two years, followed by Mr. Don Friesen, who served until we closed temporarily

Many happy events took place over the years. Great picnics were held every spring with all the ice cream and pop the children could eat, again supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Maclean. The Christmas concerts were put on in the mission by the church members and, at times, the building couldn't hold all who came. The Three Hills Bible Camp, which the children from the mission attended, went on for many years. Each year Mr Maclean would have them meet at the church, he would take his truck, drive them to the camp at Gull Lake, and take them home when it was over. A very happy event took place when Margie MacKenzie and Noel Stevenson were married in the mission, May 30, 1959. This was the only marriage solemnized in the mission. Mr Maclean was master of ceremonies and proposed the toast to the bride.

One remembers the lovely prayers by Mrs. Maclean every Sunday and the beautiful Finnish prayers by Mr. Peltonen. One also remembers Mr Maclean and his Bible, which was so much a part of him, everywhere he went, even when he was working. He and his wife did a great deal of good in the district and encouraged the young people to live according to the Bible teachings. I am sure when they were called home, Mrs Maclean in 1958 and Mr. Maclean in 1968, the Lord said, "Well done, my good and faithful servants

**THE THUBRON FAMILY — by Mrs. Clare Thomas**

Our Dad, Oscar Thubron, was born in the County of Durham, England. His parents lived in a mining town where they owned a hotel. Dad came to Canada in 1902 and settled on a homestead 17 miles north east of Calgary adjoining land owned by his sister, Elizabeth Greig and her husband John.

Mom, formerly Agnes Bullivant, was born in Ripon, Yorkshire, England. Her father was the schoolmaster there and Mom taught school under him for several years. When he retired they came to Canada in 1902 and also took up land north east of Calgary. That was where she met and married Dad.

Oscar and Agnes Thoburn, son George. 1907

Dad's brother, Alf, came out to Canada in 1909 and went into partnership with Dad, working on the farm and raising pure-bred Red Poll cattle which they took on the show circuit every year, taking in all the fairs. After being hailed out and dried out numerous times, they decided it was time to move, and in 1918 they moved to a farm at Gilby where Uncle Alf and my brother Percy lived together until Alf passed away in 1977, at the age of 92 years. Percy continues to live on the farm.

We have many happy memories of growing up at Gilby. This was a little country store built on what was once part of our land and at that time was owned by Mr. Walter and Jim Shorrock. It was a wonderful little store, stocked with everything you could want. The mail used to come three times a week, delivered by team from Eckville. This was quite an event and most of the people would come to the store to get the mail and groceries, but most of all just to visit.

Dad gave the community enough land to build a Hall, so in 1921 the Gilby Hall was built by community effort and is still serving a very useful purpose for all in the district.

Mom was a very active person, always willing to give a helping hand in any way she could. After getting her piano she gave music lessons to several of the young people, and loved to play while everyone sang. She passed away in 1969 after living a full and eventful life.

Uncle Alf and Mr. Gilbertson were instrumental in getting the Medicine Valley Livestock Pool started and Uncle Alf served as manager and secretary for about eight years. He always thought he was one of the last ones to drive down Calgary's eighth avenue with a load of hay, for after delivering his hay at the market and starting back, he was stopped and told he couldn't go that way any more as the street was now closed for teams and wagons.

There were just the three of us children — George, Percy, and I (Pat). George was married to Katherine Moe of Langdon. They lived in Red Deer for several years but now reside in Calgary. They have three boys, Bill, Jack and Gary, and six grandchildren. Bill married Honora Brown from Calgary and they have three children, Cheryl, Douglas and Laura. Jack married Elinor Hole from Twin Buttes, Alberta. Their two children are Judy and Brian. Gary married Diana Gulby from Smith Falls, Ontario, and they have one boy, Jackie.

Percy stayed and worked the farm when Dad died in 1938. He continues to live there alone since the death of Uncle Alf.

In 1941 I was married to Clare Thomas, who had come to the Benjamin District with his parents in 1934. We continued the farming operations on the Thomas farm until 1957, at which time we moved to Eckville. For the next 18 years Clare was employed, first by Bill Elliuk and later by Bob Matthews, until forced into semi-retirement for health reasons in June of 1975.

We have three children — Sharon, Ted, and Linda, and four grandchildren — Kathleen, Michael, Jason and Steven. Ted married Claudia White of Ottawa and Linda married Evan Kind of Eckville. All of the children are living in the Eckville area.

**TOLONEN, MR. JACOB — by Margaret Jack, his daughter**

Jacob Tolonen was born in Paltamo, Finland, in 1887. He emigrated to the United States to Hancock, Michigan in 1907 where he worked in a mine for a year. He then came to Alberta in November of 1908 to settle on a homestead near Enchant. Dad was joined by his brother, Edward, in 1910 and they farmed together for two years. In the summer of 1912 dad took a trip to Portland, Oregon, where he met Annie Leinonen. They were married in Taber on September 26, 1912.

Children born to them in Enchant were Toimi Mary, Hilja, Walfred (Slim), Ann, Jake and Margaret.

In November of 1925 they left Enchant and came to Olds, where they lived on Reed Ranch, eleven miles east of Olds for one year, moving to Trochu in November of 1926. Mother died in March, 1927 after giving birth to twin girls Thelma and Doris. The twins were adopted by two local families.

The problems without a mother proved to be many, but one incident turned out to be fruitful, when Mary, age 12, and just learning to bake bread, made one recipe and ended up with 25 loaves of bread.

The family moved to Eckville in 1932, settling on CPR land, section S.E. 13-40-3-W5, purchased by Toimi.

Jacob Tolonen and family. Ann, Jake, Mary, Doris, Hilja, Toimi, Thelma, Slim, Margaret. Front: Mr Tolonen

One type of recreation which Mr. Tolonen enjoyed was cross-country skiing, and he won many prizes in skiing competitions. Prizes at that time were gratefully received, for they were groceries or sacks of flour

Jake and Margaret attended Estonian School Ann spent her school years at Boyle School while living with Mr. and Mrs. Victor Matson. Mary, Hilja and Slim worked away from home in their late teens. Toimi worked for one and a half years at the flour mill in Eckville, but after his marriage to Elsie Moos he commenced farming full time and has remained on the same farm near Eckville until the present time. They have two children, Rodney and Deloyce. Mary married Lester Lundberg (deceased) and now lives at Fort Saskatchewan. Her children are Jack and Stanley

Hilja (deceased) married Fred Takkinen, who resides in Eckville. They had three children, Alice, Lawrence, and Karen

Wilfred (Slim) married Fern Greenman. They are living at Fort Saskatchewan. Their children are Paula, Elaine and Linda

Ann married Percy Thomas, and they are living at Sicamous, British Columbia. Their six children are Percy, Philip, Tom, Doug, Harry and Michael

Jake married Agnes Allen and they live at Lacombe. Allen, Robin, Norma and Nancy are their children.

Margaret married Robert (Scotty) Jack (deceased) She lives at Lethbridge and her children are Jim, Ken and Lori.

Mr Tolonen retired to the town of Eckville about 1950, later moving to the Sylvan Lake Lodge. He is now residing in a Nursing Home in Red Deer. He has been blessed with 23 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

**TOIMI TOLONEN — by Elsie Tolonen**

Toimi came to Eckville in 1932 and purchased the SE 13-40-3-W5. He worked in the Olds and Didsbury areas until 1934, then came back to Eckville to stay and purchased the NE quarter of [illegible]

In the summer of 1935, he started to work in the Eckville flour mill and continued with that job until late fall of 1936. In 1937, he married Elsie Moos and settled on the farm. There was land to be cleared the first few years and this was all done by hand. Our farming the first few years was done with horses.

In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Tolonen bought the NW 18-40-2-W5 from Andy Harvilow We had a few head of cattle, pigs and chickens. Everybody had big gardens. People did a lot of canning of vegetables and also meat, as we had no freezers in those days. People also picked and canned a lot of berries for fruit. We went west of Rocky Mountain House, coming home with tubs full of blueberries and cranberries, picked with pickers. It was fun as three or four families would go together and of course a picnic lunch was packed to enjoy at noon

We did not own a car the first few years, so usually got a ride with someone who did have a car On one occasion there was a dance at one of the halls, so we went by horse and buggy to my brother's place, Hans Moos, and then went with them in their car to the dance. Jake, Toimi's brother, was along, too. Then in the wee hours of the morning, coming home with the horses, something came loose on the harness and scared the horses. Immediately we were having a runaway! Jake jumped off, tearing his suit, and the rest of us were thrown off. The horses were found in our ravine the next morning, tangled up in the trees. Toimi and Jake were not hurt, but I had my knee in a cast for a few weeks.

About a year and a half later a daughter, whom we named Deloyce, was born to us in the Bentley Hospital. The Eckville Hospital did not open until four days later. This hospital was in the house that the Roy Saari's live in now. Two and a half years later Rodney was born. We were so happy that the hard work, even washing clothes by hand, did not bother us.

Margaret, Toimi's younger sister, was staying with us and going to school. Whenever Toimi's dad and brothers, Slim and Jake, would be out of work they would stay and help us until they found work again.

When Slim and Fern were married they stayed with us until they got a place of their own They lived on the Fred Moos farm for one year then bought the NE 5-40-2-W5. I enjoyed Fern's help and the company After a meal we would rush through the dishes, sit down and listen to the soap operas on the radio. We were busy those days, but once in a while we would take the afternoon off and visit neighbors. We usually walked, taking the kiddies in a sleigh in the winter and in a wagon or push cart in the summer. One spring we were walking by a slough and heard the frogs really croaking. Rodney was just old enough to talk, and he asked, "Mummie, do frogs talk

Finn?" He thought this because when Grandpa talked Finn he could not understand him, either

We had our sewing circle meeting every two weeks, each member taking her turn in having it at her house. We would walk, if close, or get a ride with one of the ladies who had a car Children were taken to the meetings, too. We still had our meetings until the winter of 1976-77 That year we just never got started.

When Margaret was through school, she found a job. Deloyce, just a little girl about four years old, loved her auntie and hated to see her go. She told her auntie she would let her let the water out of the sink if she would stay home!

Jake was overseas at war, where he met Agnes Allen of Edinburgh, Scotland. They were married in Scotland just before the war ended. Jake came home five months ahead of Agnes. They stayed with us for a while until they bought the Lundberg place.

As time went on things got a little easier, as tractors replaced horses and better machinery was bought

Winters were bad for us in the late 1940's, as Toimi was so sick with asthma that he had to spend most of the winters in bed. Many times I had to call Dr Coppock out in the middle of the night to attend Toimi. I was lucky to have Toimi's dad here sometimes to help with the chores As the children grew older we had a lot of help.

After their school days Deloyce took up education, and taught for a few years before she married Robert Burns of the Diamond Valley area

Rod stayed at home and helped on the farm. He later became interested in cattle and did blood testing in these areas for two and a half years under Doctor Speirs. He married Nancy Morgan of Rocky Mountain House. They lived on what used to be the Bill Palm place. They farm and raise cattle, some of which are purebred Simmentals. They have one daughter, Kathy, who was born in 1969

**VIITALA, JOHN ADULF**

John Adulf, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Viitala, married Myrtle Gibson of Weyburn, Saskatchewan in December, 1942.

Emil Viitala, Arne Rauman, Toimi Viitala, Lempi Toivanen, Ernie Viitala, Peter Toivanen at the Viitala home

They farmed the NW 2-40-3-W5, northeast of Eckville for a number of years. This is where their son, Wilfred, was born in 1943.

After farming for a few years John and Myrtle decided this wasn't the life for them, so the family moved to Edmonton.

Myrtle passed away on June 8, 1955 and John on July 1, 1960. Both are buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery in south Edmonton.

Son Wilfred is a member of the Edmonton City Police Wilfred is married to Wanda Haddwitz of Edmonton and they have three daughters.

**VIITALA, MR. AND MRS. JOHN G. — by Ernest Viitala**

In 1914, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Viitala and sons, John, aged 14 and Emil, aged 12, moved from Worcester, Massachusetts, U.S.A. to Alberta. They settled four and a half miles northeast of Eckville on NW-2-40-3-W5. John and his family stayed at the home of his sister, Mrs. J Makl, while building their own log house.

Bill Mackie, John Viitala, Bessie Mackie, Emil Viitala, Sitting Gabriel Mackie, Mrs. Mackie, Mrs Viitala, John Viitala Sr

After his home was completed John went out to work to get his first cow. Later his boys began sawing wood and grinding grain around the country. The wood saw, grinder and gas engine were set on a frame on the sleigh or wagon pulled by a team of horses. That's how they paid for part of their farm implements

Emil was in threshing crews with Koski's, Thorkman's and Langer's in steam engine days He also played in the band in the 1920's and 1930's. In 1929 Emil married Saima Asunma (nee Rauman) who had come to Alberta from Finland in 1927 with her son Elmer, aged four years. Emil and Ernest, born in 1933. The children took their schooling in the Estonian School.

Mrs. John (Maria) Viitala died in 1934 at the age of 64 years. John Sr. died in 1951 at the age of 81 years.

Emil served on the Estonian School Board for several years. He also played the violin at Sunshine Gospel Mission from 1950 until his passing away in 1967 at the age of 65 years. He is buried in the Eckville cemetery.

Elmer is residing in Innisfail, and works for Ready-Mix.

Ellen and John Kardelis are residing in Kamloops, B.C. They have three boys and a girl.

John, while working at Inuvik, N.W.T., died suddenly on August 21, 1977, at the age of 46 years.

Ernest married Juanita Lee on July 20, 1974 in Eckville, where they now reside. Ernie's mother, Saima, makes her home with them.

Ernie and Juanita Viitala - July 20, 1974

**WERNICK JOHN AND EMMA — by Henry Wenick**

In the fall of 1904, Jean Warnick and Emma Jasmin were married and immigrated to Canada in March, 1905. Jean came from a family of three boys and one girl. He carried on the same trade as his father carpentering. After finishing his apprenticeship in Russia, he then formed a partnership with his father. But his desire was to become a farmer which was impossible to do in Estonia on account of such a population. On hearing it was easier in Canada to get started, decided to venture, arriving by rail at Red Deer and then by wagon to Gilby staying for the first month with the Carl Langers. At this time he filed on a homestead, now owned by "Shorrock Bros."

To make ends meet financially he got a summer job in Calgary as a carpenter on the C.P.R. who were building a bridge over the Bow River. During this time, Emma stayed with the John Rabbis'. In the fall Jean came home to Gilby and built a one-roomed house to do until such time as he could afford better, which he did in 1909. In 1910 he received the deed to his homestead and to his surprise found they had changed his name to John Wernick. Rather than go through a lot of red tape to correct it, left it that way. A carpenter with tools was really in demand. Some of his extra work was in making coffins and he made many in those early days. He also built the Maasepp's turbine wheel and housing which was the local grist mill at that time.

Carpentering and farming were more than a one man job so decided to do something else. He then put an ad in the Winnipeg Free Press and was soon contacted by Mr. Gates of

Henry and Anna at Wernick house - 1974

Summerland, B.C. and a deal was made. His homestead and stock were traded for a ten acre orchard with a house plus implements and a horse named Jerry who also went with the place when sold later

On May 24, 1916, John, Emma and a family of four children left Gilby for B C. going by train to Okanagan Landing and the rest of the way by boat (S.S. Sicamous which is now a museum on the lake shore at Penticton) to Summerland Here they stayed for four years during which time he built up the orchard and remodelled the house which still stands in Summerland

In 1920 they decided to return to Estonia, now with five children. John's parents were still in the same house as when he left in 1905. As John was now a Canadian citizen he was not entitled to own land in Estonia. To fill in time he had a machine agency until he could get started on a farm for himself. The three eldest returned to Canada, namely Henry in 1926, Anna in 1927 and Eddie in 1929 leaving two brothers and one sister and their parents in Estonia. John passed away in 1948 at the age of 74 and Emma in 1962 at the age of 80.

On coming to Canada Henry attended Technical School in Calgary taking up Industrial Electrical Engineering. This was during the Depression and not many jobs available of our choosing, so was offered and accepted a motor mechanic's job and stayed at it for over thirty years, over 29 years with Edmonton Motors, until retiring in 1971. During this time he married and raised two boys and one girl and presently has five grandchildren. Henry and his wife are in Edmonton and previous to that lived in the Peace River country

Anna married soon after arriving in Canada and raised three boys and six girls and now has 22 grandchildren. Anna was widowed some years ago.

Eddie did farming and carpentering in B C. Here he married and raised two boys and three girls and now has five grandchildren.

# Gimlet

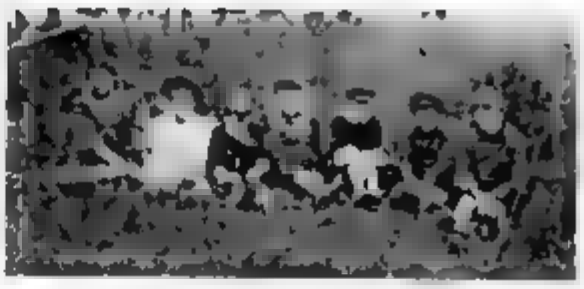
**THE GIMLET SCHOOL**

When families with children of school age settle in an area it soon becomes apparent that a school house is needed. A few students from Gimlet had to go all the way to the Leedale school so in 1908, George Meredith as head carpenter with a volunteer crew got timber out and had lumber sawed and they built the Gimlet school on N W 15-41-4-W5. The hardware (nails, hinges etc.) was brought from Lacombe and the total cost of the school was $800.00

Original Gimlet School building. Built in 1908

The first school board consisted of three members who were Izondorf, Mottet and Becker and the first teacher assigned to Gimlet was Mrs. Clay Aldridge who started at a salary of $4.00 a day or $840.00 per year. Thirteen children started school that first term either walking or riding horseback for miles

Following is a list of teachers that taught at the Gimlet school between the years 1908 and 1954. Mrs. Clay Aldridge, Mr Tenant, Mr Fallis, Mr McLeod, Miss Lillian Sharpe, Mr Trenholm, Mrs. Liela Anderson, Miss Milne, Miss Morton, Mr. E. A. Chappell, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Hattie Dobbs (later Mrs. Harry Stears), Miss Geneva Clayton (later Mrs. Jim Baird), Miss Selma Rabbis, Miss Elsie Peterson, Mr. Russel Hall, Miss Thelma Olson, Miss Ruth Hill, Mrs. Kathleene Johnson, Mrs. Marsh, Miss Bessie Snyder, Mr Allan Embrey, Mr Eddie Dahms, Miss Ruth Holland, Mr. Alex Mercer, Mr



Gimlet school kids, 1911 or 1912. Russel Hall was the teacher. Kids are, left to right: Lucy Mottet, Janette Heisendorf, Stanley Brown, Raymond Heisendorf, Ralph Easter, George Mottet, Herbert Easter

Vessey, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Stenrue, Mrs. Mamie Luton, Mrs Louise Jones and Miss Barr

Memorable events for students, teachers, and parents alike were the annual June picnics and the annual Christmas concerts held at the school. Everyone in the district brought a picnic lunch and it was all put together and everyone ate together. Then they had ball games, races and the local ladies had a concession booth. The wind-up of the big day that everyone looked forward to was the dance. Everyone joined in at these dances, bedding sleeping children in the sand table, on desks or in the corner and usually the last group of people were seen leaving as the dawn was breaking

Then the Christmas concerts were highly anticipated by the children as the teachers had them memorizing and practising poems, drills, plays and songs from about the first of November for the concert which was held between December 17 to 22. The concert started the evening and kept everyone well entertained for one and a half to two hours, the highlights being saved to the very last when the children all lined up and sang "Here Comes Santa Claus" and you'd hear the "tinkle, tinkle" of his bells and in would come the jolly old fellow and take his place by the beautifully decorated Christmas tree and hand out candy bags and gifts to all the eager children. To end this night of fun, a dance followed with music supplied by a local orchestra

Track meets were a hectic day for teachers and enjoyed immensely by all the students participating, but just as much by those who weren't because it was a holiday. For divisional trackmeets, everyone was loaded in the back of a truck and transported to a central rendezvous.

Then in 1954 came the centralization of several country schools and Gimlet had to close her doors to learning and "bus" the children to Leslieville. However, the school was not lost. The school building was bought by the community in the late 1950's for $400.00 and is now known as the Gimlet Community Center and is still controlled by a very efficient crew of board members. The building is used for numerous community functions and the men of the district have built a fabulous set of rodeo grounds there, which sees a very active little rodeo annually on the third Sunday of June.

**THE GIMLET SOCIALITE LADIES CLUB — by Ruth Casey**

In 1945 we held an organization meeting in the Gimlet school with the purpose of organizing a ladies club in the district. Thus the Gimlet Socialite Ladies Club was formed, the name being submitted by Miss Vessy, the sister of our school teacher at that time.

Mrs. Gladys Belt was our first president and Violet Brown the secretary. Among the first members of our club were: Laura Chappell, Rosie Walls, Jean Evernden, Lenora Jodoin, Sally Evernden, Pauline Kelm, Selma Dyrland, Fee Mason, Annie Parker, Hattie Pimm, Anne Tkacik, Violet Belt, Dorothy Dahms, Mabel Ervin, Miss Vessey, and Ruth Casey. Our aim was to meet once a month and bring some social activity into the community.

Among our first activities was a play. All of the participants will remember Stuart Chappell's delicious pancakes and Mrs. Browns' apple pie. These were the sort of midnight snacks we demanded while rehearsing! — and I think it's time we put on another play!

Down through the years we have held card parties, bridal showers and our annual fall pot luck suppers. Then there has almost always been a pancake supper in February, the one event when the gents don an apron and "flip the flapjacks".

In 1956 the question arose, what will we do with our old school? So the Community Club was formed, and we bought it to be used as a Community Centre. Ever since then, the people of Gimlet, Leedale, and Medicine Valley have kept it going and it is now used as a Rodeo grounds as well, with an annual rodeo held on the third Sunday in June.

The Gimlet Socialites are still an active ladies club, and the membership to date is as follows: Gail Johnston, Bea Clough, Ruth Neal, Mrs. Margaret Houston, Violet Brown, Trudy Houston, Rose May, Eileen Feddersen, Florence Feddersen, Myrtle Jackson, Hannah Oldford, Marjorie Staudinger, and Ruth Casey.

**GIMLET UNITED MISSIONARY CHURCH**

When the district was first being settled and for many years thereafter, church services were conducted out of the Gimlet schoolhouse by Christian workers from Didsbury or Christian school teachers and other people who wished to assist.

Then in 1933 a young couple originally from South Dakota, who had just graduated from Mountain View Bible College in Didsbury, were commissioned to full time service in the Gimlet-Aurora district.

The first resident minister and his wife at the Gimlet Missionary Church, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Baker

Upon arriving at their mission, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Baker stayed at the John Olson farm while finding and fixing a place to live. They decided on a house owned by Robert Flack which he said they could live in, if they thought it livable. So they bought a roll of building paper and proceeded to cover the logs. Interrupted by a loud noise from under the building, they pulled up a floor board to find a family of skunks had first occupancy at that location. But sensing the newcomers intent to stay, Mama skunk packed up her babies and moved on.

The Baker's finished repairing the house and furnished it with orange boxes and other locally

acquired chattel. And here they lived for the next four years while making their thirty mile trip each Sunday to their individual appointments of Gimlet, Aurora and Washington Heights. This they did by team and buggy. One of the team had a wee colt and being too small to make the trip on his own, they had to let it ride in the wagon for the first few weeks.

Mr. Kenneth Chadbourne gave a corner of land on which a new parsonage could be built and in 1937 the Bakers regretfully moved into the nice new three room house that Mr. Baker had built. After four years the old log shack was still home to them.

Church services, Sunday school and Daily Vacational Bible School were still being held in the Gimlet school. Tent meetings were also held just across from the school. Mr. and Mrs. Baker served Gimlet and their other districts for six years before moving to another field. When Mr. Baker came to Gimlet there were no members of the United Missionary Church but at the termination of their ministry here in 1939 the journal reports a membership of sixteen people.

Rev. and Mrs. Habermehl (Albert and Beulah) succeeded the Bakers at Gimlet and served here from 1939 to 1944. They, too had smelly experiences with the little black and white cats that roamed quietly about the neighborhood. One night when Mr. Habermehl was away and Gladys Beckett was staying with Mrs. Habermehl, an uninvited guest caused bedlam in the barn where the chickens stayed. The ladies, neither of which were experienced with a shotgun, proceeded with gun and lantern up the ladder of the barn, and pointing the gun down the feed chute, Gladys pulled the trigger. She was nearly unseated from her perch but there was no Mr. Skunk, only his odor remained to haunt them for months.

Replacing the Habermehls in 1944 and serving until 1946 were Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Neufeld (Ernie and Myna).

Gimlet United Missionary Church

During these years spring break-up and summer rains made it very difficult to cross the Gimlet creek to get to the school for church services. So when Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Quantz (Les and Evelyne) took over the ministry here in 1946 it was decided it was a time for a change. Mr. and Mrs. James Houston donated seven acres of land one mile south of the Gimlet school (S.W. 15-41-4-W5) and the parsonage was moved, enlarged and remodelled.

Rev. Quantz and the people of the district then proceeded to erect a church on the site. Les's brother Walter, succeeded him in 1950 and it was on Oct. 8 of that year that the Gimlet and Aurora congregations met with Mr. Frey, the District Superintendent and former pastors for the dedication service of the new church.

Mrs. Leinonen, a lovely little lady who lived a mile and a half from the church, very generously donated the big bell that is in the church in hopes she may hear it toll all the way to her place.

Rev. Jim Maconochie pastored at Gimlet from 1951 to 1955. During this period, Jim took time off to go to British Columbia and bring back a bride who was the former Jean Burgess. Jim and Jean were highly respected and the district regretted their leaving when they were called to another field in 1955.

But they were glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Walter Quantz (Walter and Elsie) to minister to them until 1959.

Next a big, humerous, slow speaking, wonderful man was appointed to Gimlet in the form of Rev. Earl Archer and he and Mrs. Archer (Katherine) were with us until 1962. During their ministry the parsonage and church were wired for electricity.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Umbach came to Gimlet in 1962 for a two year term followed by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Snyder (Wayne and Vicky) who ministered here for a year.

In 1966 Colin Meikle served Gimlet faithfully while finishing his bible school training. He also took time to acquire a wife (Shirley) while he was here and in 1967 left us in the care of his brother Allan and his wife Gale.

Gimlet then had Mr. and Mrs. Don Bacon (Don and Grace) minister to them for just one year, and in 1972 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wilcox came to take over this field. Their pastorship was enjoyed until he was replaced by Mr. Randy Ariss and his wife, Lynn, in 1975, and they are still working this field to date 1978.

**MR. AND MRS. H. BURLEY BELT AND FAMILY — by Gaddys Belt**

Burley Belt and Charlotte Sterling were married in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1903 and moved to the Haynes area in 1907. In 1908 they moved to their homestead northwest of Wittenberg (now known as Leedale). While living there Burley served as councillor for a number of years. About 1912 he purchased one of the first outfits for wood-saw-

Burley and Charlotte Belt on their wedding in 1903

ing and he also had one of the first threshing machines in the area.

In 1916 the family moved to the Gimlet district where they farmed for a number of years. When their eldest son, Roy, took over the farm they moved to James River Bridge in 1946. After their retirement they lived for a time at Didsbury and later lived in Red Deer.

Burley passed away in 1961 and Charlotte in 1969. Of their eight children, Rosa, Pauline, and Margaret reside at Huntingdon, B.C.; Ruth lives in Red Deer, and Donald lives in Sundre.

Burley and Charlotte Belt on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Sawing wood at Burley Belts in the early 1930's

**THE ROY BELT FAMILY — by Gladys Belt**

Roy Belt was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs. H. Burley Belt. He grew up in the Gimlet area. He served overseas from 1940 to 1945 in World War II. Upon leaving the forces he took over his parents' farm and in August, 1946 he married Gladys Gahagan of Asask, Saskatchewan.

Due to Roy's poor health they were forced to leave the farm and then moved around a bit until they settled in Leslieville, in August, 1959. They had four children, Ellen Gusek and Lorraine McNutt of Rocky Mountain House, Evelyn of Ottawa, Ontario and Harley of Leslieville.

Harley is presently enrolled in a two-year police science course at Mount Royal College in Calgary. After completion of this course he plans to take his R.C.M.P. training.

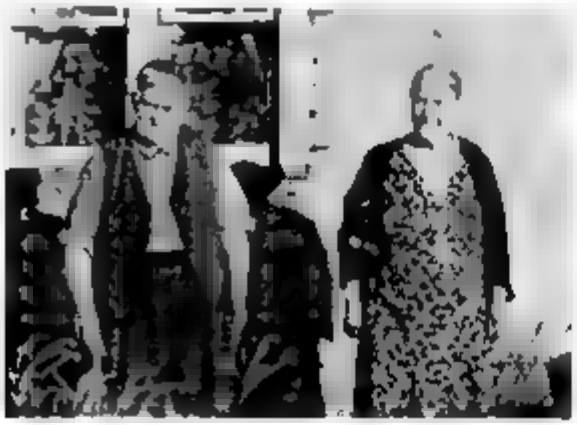
Roy was postmaster at Leslieville for ten years before his death in July, 1967. Gladys continued on as postmistress until her retirement in June, 1976. She still resides in Leslieville.

**BERRY FAMILIES: JOHN AND MAGGIE, HARRY AND BESSIE BERRY, JACK AND MARGARET (nee BERRY) WALLS — by Margaret Walls**

My dad and my brother, Harry, came from Lancashire, England in 1911 to file on NW and SW 10-41-4-W5. My brother was never robust, he had been to River Falls, Massachusetts, U.S.A. two years before, and had taken ill. The doctor advised him to either go west or return to England. He returned to England, but was determined to go back to America. He and his chum, Jack Mullarkey, arranged to go with another couple to Imperial Valley, California, but by sailing time the parents would not give their consent. Then Harry persuaded his dad to get the address of Frank Lawton, who had come to Canada from the same village in England. After exchanging a few letters, Dad and Harry came to Lacombe, Alberta, chose the land, then went back to Lacombe to file on it and get work on the C.P.R. line east of Lacombe. Dad was used to hard work, but Harry was not. In the fall they came back to the land to put in the required time and start improvements.

First, all with hand labor, they made a dugout in the hillside and covered it with trees and sod. The dugout was kept warm with a small cook

Jack Barry's log cabin home, 1915. Jack Barry and daughter Bessie



Jack and Maggie Barry.

stove, and became too warm to stay in on baking day. They made a bed of hogwire stretched over two by fours, with a mattress of sheets sewed together and stuffed with dried grass. Mother had sent a good supply of wool blankets. They survived the winter, more determined than ever to "prove up" and get the title. Some neighbors from Central Europe had a farming background, and looked with disgust on the green Englishmen. In order to learn, Dad and Harry would offer to help others build a barn or dig a well.

The next spring they built a one-roomed shack on Harry's place and dug a well on Dad's quarter. As money was getting scarce, they went to Calgary, where work was plentiful. That winter Dad returned to England to bring Mother and me to Canada the next May. By this time the boom in Calgary was over. Mother had no intention of going to the farm, but the men did go. Mother got work at the Hudson's Bay Store for $10 a week and felt like a millionaire. My first job was baby-sitting for $7 a week. Every cent we could spare went to the homestead.

During the summer, while the men were away working, we got a message that some kid had shot out the windows, lamps and even a can with some money in it. Mother's wool blankets were gone, but found later after the mice had eaten holes in them.

In 1915 my brother married Bessie Curson of Calgary and settled down on the farm. In 1916, because Harry's wife was expecting a baby, Mother came up and persuaded Bessie to go to Calgary to await the arrival. I was not happy at Calgary, as Mother was so strict, so Bessie told me to come and stay with Dad and Harry. I came, and soon I was working for Dan Clausen, who was running the Gilby store, owned by Mike Sestrap. I got $15 a month, but had little to spend, as groceries for the homestead came out of it. Mr. and Mrs. Clausen treated me very well, and I went visiting and to parties with them. Mother later gave up her job and came to the farm until spring, when I went back to Calgary with her. We roomed with Mr. and Mrs. Easter, who later farmed SW 14-41-4-W5.

Harry and Bessie Barry

Jack and Madge Wells 1918

I met a young soldier, Jack Walls, and we were married in November 1917. Jack was born on December 23 at Darlington County, Durham, England, and was one of 15 children in the family.

In 1918 Harry and Bessie were farming alone. They had another girl born in September with Mother, Mrs. Lawton and Mrs. Dyrland in attendance.

My folks were working in Calgary. In late October, when Dad and I came up for a few days, we were surprised to see the train crew wearing masks, as we hadn't heard of the flu. There were six of us staying in the two-roomed shack. Harry and the children came down with the flu, then I got it. We drifted in and out of delirium for several days. Bessie walked over to Norems, a mile and a half away, to send a message to Calgary and get medicine. Mr. Norem met her some distance from the buildings and told her to stop. He threw her a pencil and pad to write her message on. When she threw it back, he read it and put it in a pail of coal oil to kill any germs. Jack came out with medicine and a bottle of liquor, walking most of the way from Eckville. Meanwhile, Dad had got fires started in his house, although it wasn't yet finished, and moved me there.

When Jack saw how ill I was, in addition to being pregnant with my first baby, he arranged for Harry Lowe, who ran the Eckville Hotel, to come for us in his Model T Ford and we went back to Calgary. We would have taken Harry, too, but he was too ill to be moved. Mother, who had come up, got Jack Mullarkey to go for our friend, Mrs. Spencer of Carlos, who was a nurse. Dr. Henry came out from Bentley and said Harry had double pneumonia. On November 23, when Mrs. Spencer had gone home for the day, he passed away, after three weeks' illness, at the age of 28 years. Mr. Sjodahl laid him out and Mr. Lawton made the casket that Mother lined with her best crocheted table cloth. He was buried in the Gilby cemetery with Reverend Yautus of Sylvan Lake as minister.

Jack Mullarkey took over running the farm and Bessie and the children went to Calgary. They had no money; only what clothes they wore. Bessie got a job at Dr. McKid's house. The children were put in a shelter, where Helen, the oldest, later contracted scarlet fever. We took Beatrice, six months old, to our place, where my folks were also living. On January 22 I lost my premature baby girl.

In April 1919 my folks again decided to go to the farm. They gave Jack and me a partnership in return for our paying the mortgage and interest. Jack and I were both working, making about $99 a month. We bought a sorrel team (Topsy and George), a light wagon and harness and some chickens. Dad drove up, while Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Easter and the children came on the train. We sent about $30 a month up to the folks, bought repairs, cows and calves. I often look at young people today and wonder how many would do as we did.

In the fall of 1920 we came to the farm for the harvest. Several bridges were being built, and my husband and Jack Mullarkey got the job of hauling the timbers from Bentley. After several trips they were staying with Jack Farr in the Medicine Hills for the night, when a small colt they had with them kicked Jack, cutting his right eye so it laid on his cheek. Jack Mullarkey borrowed a buggy and, instead of taking him to a doctor, brought him home. I dressed the wound, with him screaming with pain, then saddled a horse and rode to Mr. Sjodahls. He took us to Eckville in his Model T Ford. I think we saw a doctor, but nothing could be done, as the tear duct was cut, so I went home. Some boys were going to Calgary by car the next day and took Jack with them. The doctors there put the eye back in, but most of the vision was lost, and he had to wear glasses. We were thankful that he could keep the eye.

Mother was constantly mourning my brother, and the children got on her nerves; so we moved into Harry's old shack. Jack was able to ride over to Balances (now Ivan Houston's) to help bale hay for $1 a day and board. I had lots of mice for company; a tom cat and a weasel would come out of the cellar and sit under the stove. I was afraid on a windy day as we had only a tin pipe, where the tamarack wood would spark and ignite the creosote that formed, sending flames high into the air. Our roof was only tar paper, and could easily have caught fire.

Four years later Bessie remarried, taking the children to Vancouver.

In spite of all the hardships, there were good times, too. At Christmas our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer, her brother, Bill Combs, and a young Englishman, Maurice Spires, came from their place, eight miles away, bringing lots of goodies. After chores, the Lawtons came and we were invited to the Chadbourne's, who lived across the road. They had five children — Asta, Hattie, Ken, Melvin and Eugene. Dad stayed home with the little girls. They had a gramophone with a large horn and Mr. Chadbourne played the violin. I don't think my mother ever enjoyed herself as much, as everyone danced and sang. The Lawtons drove home, but the others stayed. We had a bin of oats in one of our bedrooms, so we made a bed for the men there. Many a party we had at the Easter's. They had a piano that Mabel played and Jack Mullarkey, who had a splendid voice, would sing all the old songs.

In the spring we went back to Calgary where Jack got a job with Crystal Dairies, living in half of a bungalow that his Dad owned. We had to save money before "Little Johnny" came. A week before he was born prematurely, we got the word that Mr. Lawton had died suddenly. I felt as bad as if he had been one of my own family. Granny Lawton and I wrote often after that. While he was living we had spent many evenings

dancing around the stove in the middle of the room. Granny would have refreshments ready for everyone.

Philip John was born May 6, 1921, a sickly baby until fall, when we went to the farm for the winter. This time we built a one-roomed house, just one pair of board covered with tar paper, a four-holed stove and an air-tight heater, a divan crib and table, a block of wood with a cushion covering it for company. I spent a lot of time with the Lawtons when Jack would be away, going to dances with Kathy and Joan. Granny Lawton took over the care of Phil and he soon gained weight. Jack was working for Harding Brothers, hauling grain to Eckville for $250 a month, which they couldn't pay. For his wages he only got a few groceries, an old rifle and a wooden barrel.

After Jack got his engineer's papers we spent 11 years working for the provincial government at Fort Saskatchewan. Our daughter, Betty, was born there in 1931. We cleared the mortgage on the other land, also bought the SE 10-41-4-W5 and the SW 14-41-4-W5. We returned to the farm and farmed until 1957.

Our son Phil, who had married Rosie Skoreiko and had three children, had moved to Calgary. Our daughter, Betty, who had married Art Mottus, was living at Midnapore with their four children. Art was a welder for Shaw Construction.

We sold out to Alvin Snow and went to Calgary. Jack passed away from a heart attack on November 16, 1962. Our son Phil passed away on January 17, 1968, of a cerebral hemorhage.

I make my home on the farm of Art and Betty Mottus.

My dad died in 1945 at the age of 78 years. Mother died in 1948 at 81 years of age.

**BROWN, STANLEY AND VIOLET**

Stanley Brown was born in Blythe, England in June 1906. His uncle, Joe Brown, immigrated to Canada in 1905 to the Gimlet district and homesteaded the S.W. 22-41-4-W5 now owned by Bill Houston.

Stanley and his parents came to Halifax, Canada, by boat in 1912 and then came west to Lacombe, Alberta, by train. They purchased a team and wagon and continued their journey to Wittenberg (now Leedale) and from there southwest, crossing the river twice to reach their destination. At one point they mired down in the muskeg as a lot of the country was wet at that time. After unloading all of their worldly possessions and carrying them to higher ground they finally freed the team and wagon, reloaded and proceeded on to Joe Brown's homestead.

They lived in Joe's little log shack until Tom Brown homesteaded the N.W.-9-41-4-W5. They built the usual luxurious two room log house on this place but hauling all of their water from a spring, nearly a mile from home, was no luxury.

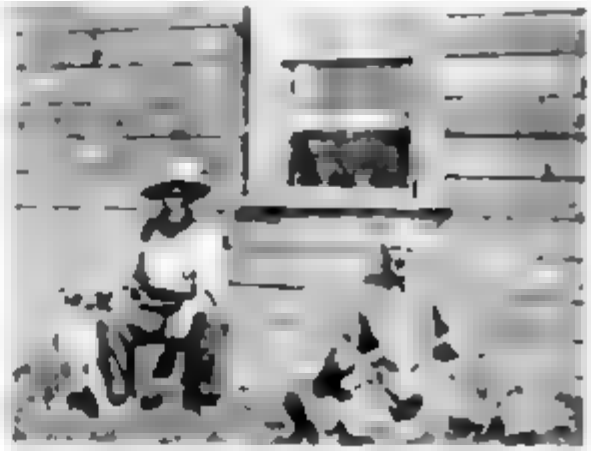
In May 1914 a little girl was born into the Brown family and she was named Mabel. Mrs. Brown was very sick after the baby was born and passed away in August of the same year with Bright's disease.

Tom took Stanley and Mabel and went to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, to visit his wife's brothers, Tom and Jack Kindred. They stayed there the entire winter and while there, met some friends that were going back to England so Tom sent baby Mabel back to his sister to raise, which she did. Mabel married and had one daughter and remained there until her passing in 1975.

Stanley and his Dad returned to the farm in the spring of 1915 and bought a team of oxen from Clarence Dameron at Bentley to break the land. While his Dad plowed, Stanley had to walk behind in the furrow and tramp the sod that wanted to fall back into the furrow.

Stanley attended school at Gimlet where he walked nearly two miles until they could afford a horse for him to ride.

In 1921, Joe Brown bought NW 21-41-4-W5 and Tom Brown bought S.E. -21-41-4-W5 which were both C.P.R. quarters.



Joe and Tom Brown on Joe Brown's place (NW 21) in the 1930's

Stanley Brown, Artie Hollingsworth and Alva Humphrey. Taken after McTighe's mill burned in 1941. They built this wheelbarrow contraption with salvage material at least parts of nails.

Stanley and his Dad hauled lumber from McPherson's mill about six miles west of their place, which they bought at $10.00 per thousand feet, planed, to build a cottage style house in 1922.

This farm was where Stanley spent the next 50 years of his life. He recalled many incidents in the next ten years after moving to section 21, too numerous to mention in this brief history.

One time he and Jack Mullarkey were going to a dance in Leslieville and the snow was drifted so deep in places, they had to unhook the team, lead them over the drifts and push the cutter over by hand. Then going down a long hill, the team spooked and began to run. In order to stop them, Jack pulled them off the road into the deep snow, but in doing so they broke the tongue out of the cutter. They had to go to a farm and borrow a brace and bit, two bolts and an axe and put the tongue back in the cutter. Is that so different from borrowing a jack and a wheel wrench and changing a tire nowadays?

Another time Artie Hollingsworth and Stanley Brown were coming home from a dance at Willesdengreen, both went to sleep and woke up to find the team going 'round and 'round Benson's race track. That's better than going to sleep at the wheel of a car, it would just promptly take you straight into the ditch.

Stanley purchased the N.E.-18-41-4-W5 in 1930 and one afternoon while plowing with six head of horses on a gang plow, Ted Pimm called him over for coffee. A few minutes later Doreen Mason came home from school on a full gallop and when she turned the corner, the clatter of her horses' hooves spooked his team and they took off but luckily he had left the plow in the ground and caught them quickly before they plowed too long a furrow.

In 1938, after courting Violet Hollingsworth for seven years, Stanley and she were united in marriage at the Gimlet parsonage. The first residing minister of the Gimlet United Missionary Church, Rev. Merle Baker performed the marriage and then took the happy couple for a wild Bennett wagon ride behind Harold Misner's Model A Ford, through the hamlet of Leedale and on to the Hollingsworth ranch. Thus started their thirty-one and a half years of married life.

Stanley and Violet Brown on their wedding day in July, 1938

In August 1941, their only child was born in Eckville, Alberta, a daughter which they named Patricia Louise (Patty Lou).

Tom Brown went back to England to visit in 1937 and returned to Canada in 1944. He lived with his family until his passing in 1945.

Joe Brown bought the S.W.-28-41-4-W5 to go with his section 18 quarter where he farmed for many years. Then he had the misfortune of losing his two storey frame home in a fire. He remained on the farm though until he purchased a house in Leedale and lived there until he passed away.

In 1963, Stanley and Violet's daughter Patty, married Richard Lee Fedirchuck. Over a period of seven years, three daughters were born to them: Bonnita Louise (born in Rocky Mountain House), Pamela Gay (born in Eckville) and Lisa Marie (born in Leduc).

Stanley and Violet Brown, daughter Patty and her husband, Rick Fedirchuck and their girls, Bonny, Pam and Lisa.

In 1966, Browns built a new three bedroom home on their farm with the average conveniences and this home was an absolute luxury to them.

Unfortunately, a fatal heart attack allowed Stanley to enjoy their new home only until December of 1970. But Violet remained on the farm and in 1974 her daughter and her family moved home to help her farm. They had purchased the S.E.-31-41-4-W5 in 1973 so are farming as well. Patty and Rick's girls attend school at Leslieville and David Thompson High School and so goes the story of the life of Stanley and Violet Brown and their offspring.

**CASEY, HOWARD AND RUTH, 1941-1970 — by Ruth Casey**

Howard "Bud" Casey and myself, Ruth Alice Parsons, were united in marriage in August 1941 at the Presbyterian Church in Red Deer.

Bud was born at Carstairs, Alberta, in November 1919, and moved to the Leafland area with his parents in 1930. I was born in Youngstown, Alberta, March 1924, and moved to the Bingley-Carlos area with my family in 1932.

For the first two years we rented the "Leafland place" E-1-41-5-W5 as Bud's father was away doing carpenter work. However being anxious to start on our own, we built a small house on Bud's C.P.R. — NE-7-41-4-W5. In the spring of 1943 we moved there and settled down to farm and raise a family. Our house was of lumber that was sawed at Lawton's mill. It wasn't very fancy, and of course had no inside plumbing, but was very warm and cosy.

There were no roads, just a trail through the woods, with numerous "bog holes" when it rained, and the snow got very deep in the winter. So our mode of travel was, of course, by horseback, sleigh, or buggy and lumber wagon. Our nearest neighbor on the next quarter south was Lyle Engen, a bachelor.

For a livelihood, we milked a few cows, and raised pigs. Bud hauled our cream to Rierson's, where the Bluffton cream truck picked it up. Montalbetti Brothers owned the store at Bluffton, and ran the cream trucks. We could send for anything from pins to kitchen chairs, and they very faithfully filled our orders and brought them out on the next truck.

Our first child, Wade Howard, was born on February 24, 1944, in the small hospital in Eckville — now a residence owned by Mr. and Mrs. Saari. The hospital was so crowded, that another lady and myself stayed at the hotel for almost a week waiting for that stork — Doctor Coppock would take no chances of babies being born out in a snowstorm somewhere along the road.

The morning Wade arrived, there were nine babies in that tiny hospital, and one was bedded down in a dresser drawer!

In January 1945 we bought the SE-20-41-4-W5 from Mrs. Hilda Trenholm, where we still reside. There was a two roomed "shanty" on it, an old straw shed that served as a barn, and approximately 30 acres broken. We moved over the hill into the Gimlet district in the spring of 1945 and began building again.

Our second child, Gail Esther, was born on September 28, 1945. Dr. Coppock had his new hospital by then so they didn't have to put the babies into dresser drawers. During my stay in the hospital there was a heavy snowfall, and as the trees still had most of their leaves, the weight of the snow bent them to the ground.

We were very busy in those years, clearing land and building. Ted Pimm, our good neighbor to the west did our first piece of breaking with his steel wheeled John Deere tractor and breaking plow. Ted always owned a John Deere, and when we heard that "Popping Johnny" start up in the spring, we knew it was soon planting time.

The roads weren't very good in those days — we didn't know what gravel or snowploughs were, so when it was muddy we travelled by tractor and wagon, and a sleigh in the winter when the snow drifted in the roads. The week before Christmas in 1946, Omar Jodoin was on his way to the Leedale store (six and one half miles) with his team and bob-sleigh, so I went along with him to do my Christmas shopping! There were no bright lights nor mobs of people, and Mr. Myers had a very well stocked store, so it was quite a simple task to purchase my gifts and groceries.

The following June we went to the Leedale picnic via tractor and wagon. There was always a very bad mudhole in the road by the Gimlet creek, so we had to travel through the Ken Chadbourne quarter,, (now owned by Wade), thru' the bush coming out at Clevenger's corner. We picked up some of the neighbors on the way, so we had a wagon load by the time we got to Leedale.

In the spring of 1948 we had enough of tractor travel, so we went to Red Deer and traded our car in on a shiny new jeep. Thus was our mode of travel for awhile, and it was also used as a farm tractor. As long as he lived, John Dyrland probably never forgot the ride he had on the binder behind that jeep!

On July 4, 1949, we were blessed with a new daughter, Beverly Marie. Her paternal grandmother said, "at least we have one Yankee in the family" — as July 4th is the United States national holiday.

In the spring of 1953 Bud decided he would like to try something besides farming, so he applied for an assistant district rangers job with the Alberta Forest Service. He was accepted and we sold our machinery, rented the farm to Bud's father and mother, and moved to Cadomin, a ghost mining town 70 miles south of Edson.

Our fourth child, Darryl Roy was born on the 8 of March 1954 in the Mercoal hospital, 20 miles north of Cadomin. There is no town there now as the last time we went through on a fishing trip, the hospital was being taken down — the last of the buildings to be removed — so Darryl's birth place is no longer on the map.

In the spring of 1954 we moved to McLennan in the Peace River area, where Bud served as District Ranger for two years.

In May 1956, he handed in his resignation as a forest officer, and went to work for Northern Alberta Railways for the summer. In August we moved back to our farm, where we have lived ever since.

A few changes had been made in the district, Gimlet School was now closed and children were being bused to Lesliesville and roads were being upgraded to accomodate the bus routes.

In 1956 we installed Calgary Power, but we didn't have the convenience of the telephone until 1970.

Our fifth child, and the baby of the family, Shauna Diane, was born on July 2, 1964. She is now attending Junior High at David Thompson. Shauna likes her horses and cats, and our Dalmation dog Bimbo, and seems to be a farmer at heart.

In April 1970 Bud again went to work for the Forestry as foreman of the cleanup crew at the Brazeau Dam and Wade looked after the farm. This job lasted for two summers, and we came back to farming again. We are now talking of retiring, but that time is yet to come.

Wade married Bonnie Jean Bardenhagen and now lives a half mile east of us on the NW 16-41-4-W5. He has cattle and horses and farms on a small scale, working part time in the oil patch. At present he is employed as tool push in the north. Wade and Bonnie have three boys, Rodger, Roland, and last but not least, Clinton Merle. They are all cowboys.

Gail married Glen Johnston. She lives with her family on the southwest corner of our land. They have three children — Shari, Shannon and Darcy. Gail and Glen had the very sad misfortune of losing three children in a car accident in 1968, their oldest daughter Maxine, and two month old twins, Tammy and Timmy. Glen works on construction and is at present working for Rocky Concrete.

Beverly married David Lowe, and they live in Calgary, with their two children, daughter Tracy and son Troy, who would like to move their house out to Grampa's farm. Dave owns a winchbed truck and is at present running a crane for a construction company in Calgary.

Darryl is still single and works as a derrick hand on the oil rigs. The only thing Darryl really liked about the farm was his pet duck Donna and his border collie "Billy", (given to him by Bill Houston when he was quite small).

**CASEY, MERLE AND HARRIET, 1894-1978 — by Ruth Casey**

Merle Casey was born in Dewitt, Iowa, U.S.A. in 1894 and came to the Crossfield area with his parents in 1906. He helped on the farm there until 1912, when he started farming on his own.

Harriet Belle Pierson was born in Gilman, Iowa, coming to Canada with her parents in 1910, they settled in the Carstairs district.

On June 10, 1916 Merle and Hattie were united in marriage at Crossfield, Alberta. They farmed in the Crossfield, Acme and Carstairs districts until 1931 when they moved to the Leafland district with their three teenaged children — Lyla, Agnes and Howard (Bud).

Merle bought the east half of section 1-41-4-W5, and moved the building site to the north side of the south quarter closer to the spring where water was plentiful.

Merle Casey. Bud, Agnes, Lyla and Harriet Casey, taken in 1947

The Leafland school was situated on the south east corner of this land.

In the summer of 1932, Ralph English came up from Crossfield to spend his summer holidays and there he remained to become a foster brother to Bud.

Merle raised a few foxes, and Bud and Ralph can well remember spending their summers catching gophers to feed them (in the winter it was rabbits). I believe Lawton's fields were the most popular trapping grounds, as Bud recalls the time when Alec whittled them each a pipe from a willow branch, and another incident when they went swimming in the creek with Dick, and someone hid their clothes!

Merle also did custom threshing in the fall. He owned a Red River Special threshing machine and a Rumley oil-pull tractor. Then came the war, and in 1940 Merle decided to go to High River to work on the airport as a carpenter. From there, he went to Vulcan, working with the Western Air Command's Engineering staff as inspector for the airport being built there, and Hattie moved with him. From Vulcan they moved to Port Hardy, on the far end of Vancouver Island, where he again worked as carpenter at the airport. Their living quarters were small, and they were very much away from the world, but Hattie enjoyed the seashore and dug for clams, etc. We still have the large snail, abalone and clam shells she brought back with her.

From Port Hardy they moved back to Vancouver with the Boeing Aircraft Co. and finally back to their farm in 1944.

In 1956 Merle and Hattie again left the farm and moved to Airdrie where he helped build the elementary school. Their next move was to the "P" Ranch at Alderside, which was owned by the Prince of Wales. Here Merle was employed as a carpenter and built several buildings during the two years he was there. Hattie was happier here as she was able to take her horses with her and could ride "Chubby" over the range whenever she liked

The next 15 years were spent at Acme where they bought an acreage. They kept several horses, and were active members of the Acme Riding Club until the early 1970's

In 1974 they sold their acreage and house and moved to the Rockyview Lodge in Crossfield and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary there in 1976. Now, at ages 82 and 83 years young they are living with their eldest daughter Lyla Allen in Calgary. Merle is still able to do a little fishing and can drive around the city, which is quite a feat nowadays.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Casey on their Diamond wedding anniversary in 1976

**CHADBOURNE, WILLIAM (BILL) AND [illegible] — by Alta Chadbourne Brown**

William Edward Chadbourne was born January 10, 1882 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota to Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Chadbourne. My grandparents farmed in that area. When my dad was 14 years old, grandma died and they were alone for a period of time until my grandad remarried, at which time Dad and his brother, Fred, left home to shift for themselves.

When Dad was 20, he married Dora Huntley. Mother was born in McHugh, Minnesota on October 10, 1883. My parents then moved to Harrison, Idaho where Dad went into the lumber business with his brother, Fred.

I was born September 19, 1906; Kenneth was born February 8, 1908; Hattie was born March 9, 1909, Melvin was born December 27, 1911 and Eugene was born March 29, 1914.

The Chadbourne Family - Alta, Ken, Hattie, Melvin and Eugene

When Eugene was about one year old, my grandad, who had moved to Alberta, wrote my dad to come to Alberta. So Dad and Uncle Fred dissolved partnership and we moved to Alberta in 1915

We lived near Bentley for a year but Dad couldn't get a clear title to a quarter of land that he wanted so we came north-west and took up a homestead at Gimlet. We lived there until some time in 1918. There was a log shack on the place which we lived in for several years. It was about 16 x 20 feet and every fall Dad had to plaster the cracks shut. A friend of ours had a similar place

and they said if all the cracks had been on one side of the house, there would have been only three walls

My grandad and stepgrandmother lived in a little 10 x 12 foot shack on Dad's farm After they left and went back to the U.S.A in 1917, Dad moved it over to our log house and used it for a bedroom.

Mr and Mrs. Bill Chedbourne and Ken in front of the log shack they first lived in at Gimlet in 1916

My dad nearly always worked away from home. He was very handy and was able to do a variety of jobs fairly well. In 1918, he bought a blacksmith shop and tools and we moved to Gadsby where he did blacksmith work for about a year During that time, the flu struck. My mother and three brothers were all in the hospital at one time and just before they were ready to come home, Dad and we two girls got the flu. However, we all survived

In the spring of 1919, my dad and brother Ken came back to the homestead and did some breaking, then we all came back.

Dad used to get up and start breaking land around 3 a.m. and break until 10 or 10 30 a.m., then he would turn the horses loose to graze as they had no feed, also the flies were so bad. He would start breaking again around 3 p.m. and work late

One winter Dad drove out north-west and filed saws for a sawmill Then another winter he shot rabbits and squirrels and sold the hides to make a living. We had a few cows and one horse to start with on the homestead. We had no fences so our cows and horses had free range. When Mother went to Gilby for groceries, it would take nearly all day since she had to run down the horse first. She had to drive all the way around "Robin Hood's Barn" to get there with no roads to speak of and so many gates to open on the way She wouldn't usually get back until late

My dad was a violinist and occasionally played for dances.

In 1919, we had a lot of snow and in the spring of 1920 there was a lot of water. North of our place about a mile, the creek flat was one big lake.

In about 1923 or 24, Dad got out logs and had them sawed into lumber and built us a frame

Mr and Mrs. Bill Chedbourne taken at home at Gimlet

house with two rooms upstairs and two rooms on the main floor — a bedroom and a room which served as kitchen and living room. I helped Dad shingle the roof. Later Dad built on a lean-to for a kitchen He put tar paper on the roof to start with and after it got a bit weather beaten, the rain would come through so it was almost as wet inside as out Dad used to say when it was raining he couldn't fix it and when it wasn't raining it didn't need it. However he did eventually fix it with some roofing

We children nearly always walked to school. When we did ride, it kept Dad busy repairing our outfit so we could ride as it wasn't new

I did janitor work at the Gimlet School and got $25. for the year. I gave my sister $8. for helping me, bought my dad a felt hat and my mother a white blouse and still had some left for myself.

Dad became a Christian in about 1934 and Mother was previous to that They were both baptized and joined the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church

In November 1927, my sister, Hattie, was married to Ted Pimm. They had three girls and one boy

On December 28, 1939 my brother, Melvin, was married to Thelma Jackman. They had two girls Mel was a trucker most of his life. He now lives in Edmonton

Ken never married and farmed together with Dad until he died, then on his own. Ken is now retired and living in Eckville.

Eugene also never married. He is retired as well, and lives north of Condor

Dad died on August 18, 1950 and Mother on August 4, 1951

I, Alta, married Isaac Brown of Buck Creek on April 8, 1940. He was a minister there. We made our home on our homestead at Buck Creek for May and June then moved to my folks for a few months

When we first went to Buck Creek, we rode about seven miles out from Breton with a friend then walked the other 13 miles. We had only one horse and walked pretty well everywhere we went

When we left Buck Creek, we loaded our Bennett wagon with our things and had our calf in the back. Our cow walked behind and I walked also to herd the cow. One of our wheels broke down, so we spent the night at a logging camp and spent nearly the whole next day fixing our outfit and getting ready to go again

My husband worked in the sawmill out at McDougals for the winter and in April we moved to Berrymoore where Ike preached for two years We moved several times after that — first to Lindbrook, then in 1945 to Sunnyslope where my husband had grown up. From 1949 to 1953 we lived in Redwater, which was then an oil boom town and Ike worked in the oil industry. In 1954 we moved to Linden

We have four children. Albert was born August 7, 1932, Joyce was born June 11, 1941, Paul was born August 25, 1944; and Jacob was born November 29, 1946

Albert is married to Kathleen Depage. They have one girl and two boys. Their daughter Verda is married and also has a little girl, making them grandparents and us great grandparents Albert and Kay now live in Edmonton where he is employed in the oil industry

Joyce is married to Dennis Penner They have a girl and a boy and live in Linden where Dennis is in the agricultural real estate business

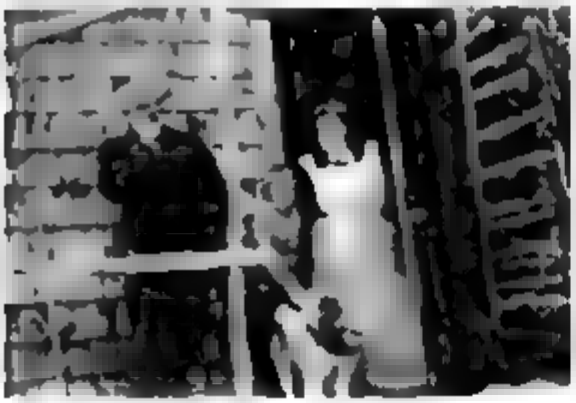
Paul is married to Jaqueline Paquette. They have a girl and a boy and live in Calgary where Paul is a pressure welder

Jake is unmarried and is presently living in Sidney, Australia where he is teaching Psychology in a university there.

We are retired and living in Linden. Ike keeps busy doing the odd bit of Carpenter work and I do some sewing and other hobbies. We do quite a bit of travelling also and are enjoying our retirement

**CHAPPELL, EDGAR ALBERT — Written by: Stuart Chappell**

Mr Chappell was born in Ontario of Scottish descent He came west with his family to Saskatchewan, and at age 16 years came to Calgary. Immediately he took a job teaching



Mrs. Chappell, Ida and Dick

school at Gleichen and later at Morley He then came to Red Deer to work in the Land Titles Office. It was there he met and married Miss Grace McInroy They raised a family of seven children, four boys and three girls

Ada — Mrs Donald McKenzie, Toledo, Ohio, Norman a veteran of World War I and II Albert of Potlatch, Idaho, Margaret — Mrs. Otto Skalev, Stettler, Alberta, Richard of Abbotsford. B.C. veteran of World War II, Stuart of Eckville and Ida — Mrs. Earl St. Thomas, Slocan, B.C

**CHAPPELL, STUART**

I came to the Gimlet district with my parents in 1925 at the age of 12 years. I attended Gimlet school where my father taught, then moved to the Centerview district, north and west of Bentley, where my father also taught. My mother died in 1928 and father died in 1932.

I remained in the Gimlet and Leedale area where I married Miss Laura Alice Withers in 1939, and we took up farming. We lived on the farm until 1973, then we sold it to Ivan Houston and moved to Eckville where we still reside We have two children, Carodine Grace now Mrs Thomas Maddox, Eckville, and Clifford Neil who married the former Fay Cummings, now residing in Calgary

We have four grandchildren, Deborah Laura, Jody Edmond, and Anna Marie Maddox, and Crystal Laurene Chappell.

**CLEVENGER, FRANK — SW 10-42-4-W5**

Mr Frank Clevenger came to the Gimlet district and homesteaded on the Gimlet Creek in about 1906. He worked in sawmills and Nordegg mines in winter, returning to the homestead in summer He returned to Detroit and worked in the Ford plant for a number of years. In 1927 he married and brought his bride to the homestead in a new Oldsmobile touring car. They sold their farm in the early 1970's and retired to Lacombe Frank died in 1973. His wife, Polly lives in the Senior Citizens Lodge, Lacombe, hale and hearty, with a great sense of humor at nearly 92 years of age

**CLOUGH, JESSE AND BEATRICE (BEA) — by Bea Clough**

Jesse was born in Revelstoke on November 14, 1927. I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, January 19, 1929, and went to Revelstoke from Brooksby, Saskatchewan in 1947

Jesse and I were married September 24, 1949. We had three children — David Jesse, Judy Beatrice, and Dwayne George.

In 1972 we bought the NW-20-41-4-W5 and the west half of 29-41-4-W5 from Bert and Selma Dyrland, and moved from Revelstoke in October

David, our oldest son returned to Revelstoke to work for Parks Canada. In 1974 he married Denise Rintaul from Vernon, B.C. They now have one son, Luke Jesse, born August 29, 1976.

Judy is employed as secretary at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School in Red Deer, and Dwayne is attending Red Deer College.

**CLOUGH, WILFORD AND VICTORIA — by Wilford Clough**

My father and mother, George and Florence Clough, my brother Irvin and myself (Wilford), migrated with several families from South Dakota, U.S.A. to Ponoka, Alberta in 1901. I was 11 months old. In 1903 we moved to Revelstoke, B.C.

In 1925 I met my wife, Victoria Hollingsworth from Cochrane, Ontario. We had two sons — Jesse and George. George was killed in a logging accident in July 1962.

In 1972 we moved to the Gimlet Community with Jesse and his family.

**DURAND, RENE AND REINE**

Rene Prosper Durand was born in Epinal, France August 30, 1893. He came to Canada to homestead north west of Wittenberg in 1911. After serving with the Medical Corps in W.W. 1 he settled on the SE 33-41-4-W5. In 1925 he married Reine VanHumbeck.

Reine Caroline VanHumbeck was born in Wolverthien, Belgium and moved with her family to the Rimbey district in 1913. In 1925 she became Mrs. Rene Durand.

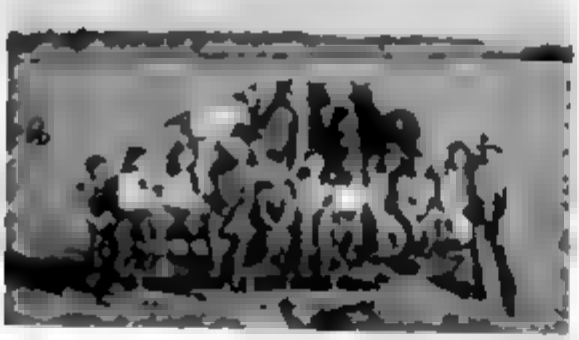
Rene was always active in Church and community affairs. He served as altar boy with the Catholic Church for 40 years. He also served on the Leedale School Board and the Leedale Hall Board for a number of years. He was a member of the U.G.G. and served as returning officer at the poll for many elections.

They had eight children. Joe; Mrs. G. (Betty) Schrett; Mrs. R. (Marie) Nelson; Mrs. S. (Celine) Baranky; Mrs. G. (Constance) Anderson; Raymond, Mrs. D. (Louise) O'Brien, and Charles.

Rene passed away November 28, 1966.

Mrs. Durand moved to Calgary in 1967. She passed away in Calgary March 17, 1975 at the age of 82 years.

The farm was rented out until it was sold to Howard Gibson in about 1971. It is now owned by the Hutterites, who have taken down all the buildings and cleared out all the trees.



Haying at the Durand farm. The crew, left to right: Raymond, Connie, Betty Durand, Roy Whitley, Donald Walinski, Glen Trenholm, Celine and Louise Durand, Lillian Trenholm, Marie Durand, Eva Trenholm and Nora Trenholm.

**EVERNDEN, TED AND JEAN**

Ted and Jean began farming in the Gimlet area in 1946.

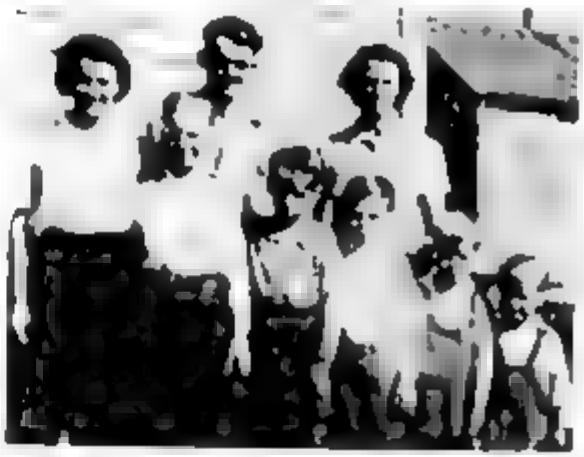
Jean was the daughter of Cecil and Mabel Jackman of Blackie, Alberta. She had three sisters, Myrtle (Hooper), Thelma (Chadbourne) and Bernice (Humphrey). They moved to the area when the girls were very young. Jean met and married Ted Evernden in a double ceremony performed by Rev. Merle Baker, at the Gimlet school. The other participating couple was Jean's sister, Thelma Jackman and Melvin Chadbourne. Ted spent many years in the army while the family remained at home at Gimlet.

Jean nearly bled to death one time when she had a tooth pulled. She took a sedative and went to sleep and the blood ran through the pillow and through the mattress and made a pool of blood on the floor. When she awoke she was very weak from the vast loss of blood.

Ted and Jean have eight children. Vernon, Eva, Howard, Grace, Jess, Arnold, Yvonne, and Gay. Vernon and Eva attended the Gimlet school. In 1952 the family moved to the west coast and Ted rejoined the armed forces. Jean then took a C.N.A. course and worked for many years in the hospital in Victoria.

**EVERNDEN, TOM AND SARAH (SALLY)**

Tom Evernden was born on August 30, 1910, in Bridge, Oregon. As a boy he lived in the Bentley district. Tom married Sarah Preston, known as Sally in 1932. Sally was born in Rimbey on December 6, 1911. Tom and Sally had six children, Shirley, Donald, Mirl, James, John and Ted. The children all attended school at Gimlet. Tom and Sally lived in the Gimlet district on



Tom and Sally Evernden and their children, Shirley, Don, Mirl, James, John and Ted.

different farms for many years. They lived on the "Carl Baird" place (S.W 33-41-4-w5), on the "Roy Whitley" place (S.E 28-41-4-w5) and they lived west of Roy Whitleys, and they also lived on the "Johnny Jones" place (S.W 25-41-4-w5) and then Tom bought the S.W 27-41-4-w5 and they moved the house they had built while living west of there Tom worked with Ted Pimm on a threshing machine for a few years and farmed for many years at Gimlet

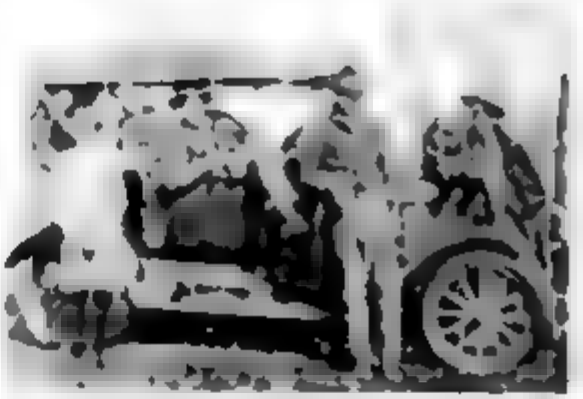
It was a great loss to everyone when Sally passed away as she was a good friend and neighbor to everyone Sally passed away January 19, 1953. Tom and the family then moved to the Rimbey area in 1956. Tom later passed away on December 20, 1964

## HOLLINGSWORTH, ROBERT LEE AND ANNINA ANTOINETTA

Robert Lee Hollingwsworth (Dick) was born in Escondido, California, May 22, 1869. He also had a half brother, Jim and a half sister Goldie His mother married again and had two more girls and three boys.

In 1896 or 1897 Dick came to Hecla and Glendale, Montana, where he bought a team of horses He hauled cord wood for coke to feed the smelter furnaces at Glendale. When Dick came to Hecla he owned a real fancy team and buggy and to be sure the buggy whip wasn't stolen he kept the whip in the shed that belonged to Antonio Quilici, this is how he met Miss Annina Antoinetta Quilici (Nina) She was born in New York City, New York, November 14, 1881. Dick and Nina were married on January 22, 1902 at Dillon Montana Nina had two sisters, Celesta and Harriet and two brothers, Tony and Gilbert Harriet is still living in Sherridan, Montana

Dick and Nina made their home in Glendale, Montana, and had seven children. True Evered was born at Rochester, Montana. January 10 1903. True married Elizabeth (Betty) Smith and had two children, Geneva and David. Ellis Anthony was born at Glendale, Montana, on December 27, 1905. Ellis married Jane Rhody in 1928, they had three children, Richard, Beverly and Robert. Ellis and Jane now live in Portland, Oregon. Stanley Gilbert was born at Stettler, Alberta on December 28, 1911. Stanley married Adaline Useral Misner and they had four children, Gilbert Earl, Lee and Fay Arthur Lee was born at Stettler, Alberta, Febrauary 7, 1914. Artie never married and he now lives in the Bingley district Violet Celesta was born at Stettler, Alberta, February 18, 1916. Violet married Thomas Stanley Brown on July 11, 1939 They had one daughter Patricia Louise (Patty Lou). Violet still lives in the Gimlet district. Evelyn Sylvia was born at Buffalo Lake, Alberta on February 11, 1919. She had double pneumonia when she was two weeks old and they very nearly lost her but she lived to marry Alva Oren Humphrey, February 21, 1940. They had one daughter Marilyn Ann. Evy now lives in Rocky Mtn. House. Annina Harriet (Babe) was born July 27, 1924, at home on SE 20-41-4-W5 in the Gimlet district, during one of the worst electrical storms ever. There was a houseful of people that stayed overnight after a two day rodeo that Dick and the boys put on. No one knew about the new baby girl until the midwives, Mrs. Sheffield and Mrs Annie Boomer told them all at breakfast the next morning. Babe married Frank George Murray and they had five children, Linda, Dale, Randy, Marty and Melodie



Some of the Hollingsworth family - 1925 - taken at the Lalbelle place which now belongs to Gilbert Hollingsworth. From left Violet, Evy, Artie, Stanley, Babe (Annie) and Dad Hollingsworth

Dick and a partner named Dunlap took their teams and came to Lethbridge, in 1905. Nina stayed in Hecla, Montana, for awhile until Dick got living accommodations for her and the first two boys.

Dick contracted excavating for the deep piers in the construction of the high level bridge at Lethbridge. He also supplied the sand and gravel for concrete to build the piers

Dick bought 96 teams of horses from the Dick Earch Ranch near Pincher, Creek. He also bought wagons, slip scrapers, bull slips, plows, wheel scrapers, tents to house the horses and cook tents. Nina did all the cooking for these men

Dick also managed the shearing corrals at Sterling, Alberta. Here again Nina did the cooking for the men, churning butter and baking bread every day as well.

Then Dick worked building railroad grade from Lethbridge to north of Calgary, near Vulcan. This grade was laid through Three Hills, Drumheller, Halkirk, Gadsby and Stettler

In 1909 he bought land three or four miles north of Stettler He plowed and worked this land with horses. He had 150 brood sows at this time Then Dick bought a steam engine to do contract work. It rained all summer and the steam engine couldn't pull the plow. He also had land on the north end of Buffalo Lake at Bar Harbor

Dick moved his men and horses to Edmonton and worked on the Low Level Bridge until it was completed.

In 1918, Dick traded the land at Stettler (Section 23) to Oscar Olson for over 200 head of cattle and trailed them to the Battleford Indian Reservation near Hobbema for winter feeding. In May of 1919 they moved the cattle to Hoadley and that fall on to Leedale to the present Belt and Mannix place, for winter feeding. The winter of 1919 was very hard on cattle because of the deep snow, and the severe cold and cattle feed was very scarce. In May of 1919 Nina and the family moved to Hoadley (the grocery store was called Nugent at that time) and later they moved to the Potter Creek district.

In 1920 or 1921 Dick bought land in Gimlet district (SE 20-41-4-W5). Dick, True and Ellis cut logs north of Jimmy Smith's in the Lampman Valley to build a four room house. This was the home place for many years and many memories still exist of experiences there. Every Sunday there was a rodeo and people came from all over to watch the young riders perform and to enjoy the day. Friends came and would spend the week-end visiting at Hollingsworth's. Berry picking was a great pastime and a lot of the women and children spent the afternoon looking for berries while the men took in the rodeo and the day often wound up with a dance. Fiddles, guitars, banjos and mouth harps were plentiful at that time.

In 1921 Dick and Ellis took two, four horse teams to Nordegg to haul logs and mine props for the coal mine there. In 1925 Nina took the three girls to Anaconda, Montana, as her mother, Mrs. Quilici was very sick and passed away. They came back in the spring of 1927 to what was called the Jacobs place, one and a half miles west of Leedale. In the fall of 1927 they moved to Lacombe and Dick worked for Abe Parker and Mrs. Graham and the children attended the Canyon school. Then in February 1928 they moved to the Labell place, one half mile west of Leedale where Gilbert Hollingworth now lives. In April of 1928 they moved to the Sam Easter place one mile east of the Gimlet school. The following fall they moved to Sylvan Lake where Dick had a Jersey dairy. Then in 1929 they moved back to Gimlet to the Roy Whitley place, one mile north of the Gimlet school. That fall they moved back to the old home place (SE 20-41-4-W5).

The Robert Hollingsworth Family taken in 1944. Back row: Artie, Stanley, Ellis and True. Front row: Mrs. Annina Hollingsworth, Anne (Babe), Evy, Violet and Mr. Dick Hollingsworth.

In 1931, Dick bought land in the Aurora district. This was the north half of 31-41-4-W5. The family moved there in the spring of 1933. Dick ran sheep and cattle there for many years with his boys Stanley and Artie. Ellis and True had gone back to the United States to work and live. Dick and the boys also held rodeos at this place. Evy and Babe finished their schooling at Aurora school.

Dick finally sold this land (the Moosehorn Ranch) to Lee May from Saskatchewan in the fall of 1958 and then made his home with his daughter, Violet Brown until he passed away in October 1964. His son True had predeceased him in February 1947. His loving wife Nina passed away in July 1952, a granddaughter Fay in February 1953. His son Stanley on November 1 1966, and his wife Adaline (Babe) passed away in September 1969. A son-in-law (Thomas) Stanley Brown passed away in December 1970. Dick and Nina's youngest daughter Babe passed away in September 1976.

So ends an era in the lives of two wonderful people and their family.

**HOUSTON, JAMES**

James Houston, a Scottish blacksmith, came to Alberta in 1925. He worked in several towns until he acquired a shop of his own in Bentley.

James, however, wanted to farm. In 1926, he bought the E 15-41-W5, the NE-10-41-W5 and the SW 15-41-W5. This land is located in the Gimlet area.

He worked at blacksmithing for several years, while the land was rented. During this time, James worked at his shop in Bentley.

A younger brother, Dan, from Scotland arrived to help with getting the farm project started.

This land is still in the family and has been added to as time and money allowed.

In 1929, James and Margaret Stevenson from Scotland were married. They continued farming for 39 years. Six children came to bless this marriage. Two of the sons are farming, William on land we later acquired and Ivan on the home place.

Newton married Margaret Osberg. They have four children, Douglas, Linda, Keith and Sandra.

Pamela married Jack Wild. They have three children, Jackie, Reginald and Roderick.

William married Lorraine Biswanger. They have four children, Susan, Shelley, Sherry and Scott.

Thomas married Ruby Lee Maddox. They have two boys, Timothy and Brett. Ivan married

Trudy Maki and have three children, Krister, Tyler and Pamela.

Morris lost his life in May 1971.

James and Margaret moved to Eckville in 1968. James passed away in June 1970. Margaret continues to live in their home in Eckville.

**HOUSTON, WILLIAM (BILL) AND LORRAINE**

Since history has to start somewhere, lets go back to January 1956. Lorraine Biswanger, the oldest daughter of Lawrence and Marie was attending school at Lesileville from her parents home at Withrow. Bill Houston was farming with his Dad, "Scotty" Houston. Bill is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. James Houston. He was born at home on the farm (SE 15-41 4-w5) and obtained his schooling at Gimlet, Eckville and Red Deer.

Fate or a "skating party" brought these two together and thus began a five and a half year period of going together which resulted in the inevitable . . . marriage.

But during that time, in 1957 Bill started a mini-milk route in which he picked up cans in the Gimlet area and hauled them to Withrow where they were put on the bigger truck of Roy Tubbs who then delivered them to C A D P Condensery in Red Deer.

In 1958, after graduating from the David Thompson High School, Lorraine entered Calgary General Hospital School of Nursing.

By 1960 Bill's milk route had expanded and he had purchased a larger truck of his own to haul to C.A.D.P. Condensery in Red Deer. As the unloading time was 8 30 a.m. he still had most of the day for farming.

Then 1961 was a very eventful year. April 15, Bill broke his leg as the result of a riding accident. Dodge Lawton said, "Bill was doing fine until he broke his leg, then Lorraine caught him". On July 3, 1961 they were married at the Withrow Gospel Mission by Rev. Louis Peskett.

In September, Lorraine completed her nursing education, in those days known as "training", and after three years with one day off a week, one month holidays per year, and a monthly allowance of $10, one became "trained" in many ways. It certainly was a happy day when the news arrived that Lorraine had passed the R.N. exams.

In 1962 Bill sold the milk truck and route to Ivan (Bill's brother) and bought the rest of section 22 from Bill's dad. He already owned the southeast quarter and started dairy farming on his own. These newly acquired quarters were known for their previous owners as: the northeast quarter was the Mottet place; the southeast quarter was the Chappell place; the west half was the Perry place.

The Thyssen quarter (SE-27-41-4-w5) was added to complete the present farm in 1970. Nineteen sixty-two also saw the start of their family when on August 20 Susan Lorraine arrived. Then on February 8, 1967, Shelley Grace made her arrival in the world followed by Sherry Lynn on August 27, 1968 and finally on September 21, 1970, Scott William, "a boy at last".

The William (Bill) Houston Family. Susan, Lorraine and Bill in back row. Sherry, Shelley and Scott in front row.

In 1960 they sold their dairy herd and went "beef" where their real interests were, besides this being a less demanding form of making a living.

Their hobby has always been horses and in earlier years they competed in the Rocky Light Horse Association.

When the rodeo arena was built at Gimlet in 1967 Bill helped with the stock until 1969 when Rodney Tolonen, Dan Dyrland and Houstons bought the rodeo stock and started the Gimlet Rodeo Co. That hobby has grown into a much larger business with amateur rodeos through out Central Alberta from Bowden to Whitecourt.

Being horse lovers, everyone in the family had to have a horse and of course the kids had a pony which was bought for Susan and was handed down the line as each child outgrew her. Their kids pony (Honey) had two colts that turned out to be the right size for pony chuck wagon horses, so in 1973 they bought two more to drive on the pole and used the two pets for the lead team and they were in the chuckwagon business.

The highlight of the racing was in 1976 when they lent the lead team to Gilbert Hollingsworth to take to Medicine Hat and run on a chariot. In four days of racing against 66 other teams from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia they finished in top place and brought home a beautiful trophy.

In the fall of 1975, they started to build their "dream home" and although at the time of writing they are not completely finished it is very nearly done.

**JACKSON, WILLIAM (BILL) AND MYRTLE**

William John (Bill) Jackson was born in Bromly, Kent, England on March 28, 1911. His father was killed in World War I and Bill with his mother, came to Canada in the early 1920's. They eventually lived on a homestead west of Rocky Mountain House. Later they moved into Rocky where Bill carried on a dray business. He later drove for Greyhound, then had its own trucking business

Myrtle Wynder Jackson was born in Cardston, Alberta on September, 15, 1920. She spent her early years in Beazer and Hillspring, Alberta. She attended Normal School at Calgary in 1939-1940

Bill and Myrtle farmed in the Hillspring area for several years, then in 1964 they bought the land that they now own in the Gimlet area. The Bar Anchor Seven, W½-10-41-4-W5, and SE 10-41-4-W5. This land was formerly owned by Mr and Mrs. Berry then by Jack Walls and later by Alvin Snow. The first three homes ever built on this place still stand.

Myrtle taught Grade 5 in Rimbey from January through June of 1967. Then she transferred to the Leslieville School where she taught for a number of years.

By a former marriage Bill had five children, William, Lillian, Arthur, Robert and James. One son Bob married Barbara Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brown, former residents of this area

Bill and Myrtle have as children Shelley and Perry. Shelley graduated from David Thompson School and has since worked for Parkland Savings and Credit Union. Shelley along with a loan manager, opened the new Credit Union in Rimbey, August 1976. Bill had his leg broken severly in two places when blowing up a split rim tire in 1972, so they have both retired, still maintaining their farming interests and doing some travelling

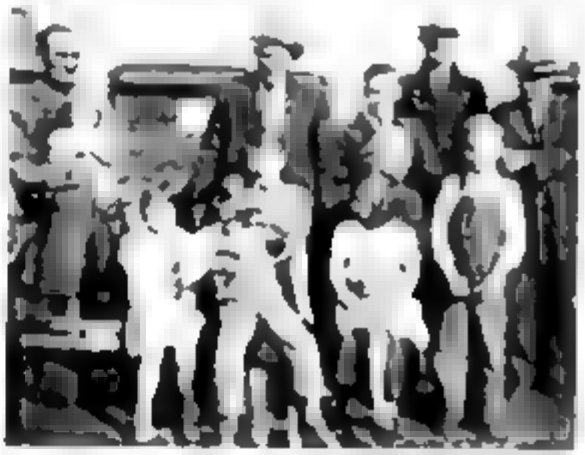
**KELM, ROBERT (BOB) AND PAULINE**

Along with many other oldtimers from this area, Bob and Pauline Kelm were both born in the United States and immigrated to Canada

Bob was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on July 25, 1888. After working in Minneapolis from the age of 14, Bob came to Asask, Saskatchewan with a syndicate known as "The Big Four Company" in 1914. He then took up a homestead in Loverna about 1918, where he farmed until he came to Rimbey in 1926

Pauline Belt was born in Iowa on April 23, 1906, and came to Lacombe with her family in 1907. They moved to their homestead west of Leedale (Wittenberg) in 1910. In 1916, the Belts bought a farm and moved to the Gimlet district, where Pauline took her schooling. In 1929, Pauline opened her own hairdressing shop in Peabody's Boarding House (Algar's in Rimbey) Her hairstyles were so becoming that she attracted the attention of Bob Kelm, who also boarded there. They were married in 1930, and after living in Rimbey for one year, they moved to the Anton homestead in Leedale

The Kelms had five children Raymond married Elma Rauhala and lives in Rimbey Myrtle married Ed Schwartz and lives in Abbotsford, B.C., as does Art, who married Lani Melenchuk. Doreen and her husband, Wayne McBean, live in Calgary Doris and her husband, Adrian Rieff, reside in the Lavesta district



Back row: Bob Kelm and Doreen, "Dad" Elliott, Don Belt, Herman Johnson and Burley Belt Front row: Myrtle Kelm, Mrs Johnson and Art Kelm. Mrs. Burley Belt and Jean Chappell and Ray Kelm

During their first years of farming, Pauline recalls paying $50 per head for cattle, and a year later, they traded a cow for a $15 grinder The pigs they bought for $4 were sold for $4 50 in the fall

Because of the poor roads and heavy snow falls, the old Model A was often parked from December until April, and horse and sleigh rides became popular. The spring floods allowed rafting to become an innovative means of transportation

A joyful reunion took place in 1951, when, after 40 years, Bob's brother and sisters and their families from the States visited the Kelms

The Kelms retired to British Columbia in 1952. Their farm is now owned by their oldest son, Ray Robert passed away in March, 1969

Pauline is very interested in handicrafts. She enjoys seeing all her old friends on visits to Alberta

**LANGE, WM. ARTHUR AND FAMILY**

Wm. Arthur Lange was born 1857 in Iowa. His wife Lucy was born 1866 in Iowa. Fred Arthur their son was born 1892

Wm. Lange bought the homestead of Frank Benjamins the NW 30-41-3 W5 in 1910 A post card dated 1910 of Kate Baum's mentions Mr. Lange helping her son Link Boyer dig a root cellar and another card later on tells of Mr Lange helping

Link shingle an addition he was building onto the home. It is not known how long the Langes lived on this farm but in 1918 Frank Johnsman bought the farm and Wm. and Lucy were living back in Iowa then. Fred Lange married Nora Withers in 1913 and they had two children Ruth born in 1914 and Wm. in 1918. Fred and Nora returned to Decorah, Iowa about 1918

Wm. Arthur Lange passed away in 1945 and Lucy in 1944. Fred passed away in 1961 and Nora is in a "Care Centre" in Independance, Iowa and is 83 years of age.

Much of this information was received from Ruth Lange Wallace

The Bed Bug's Laugh
The June bug lives the last of June.
The Lightening bug in May
But the Bed bug takes his bonnet off
And says I've come to stay

**LEINONEN, JOHN AND HILJA**
**WALIMAKI, ISAAC, DONALD, ALLI**

Mrs. Hilja Leinonen came from Butte, Montana, to the Gimlet district in April of 1930, with her husband John and two of her three children from her first marriage. Donald was age 15 and Alli age 12 and they also brought with them John's son Alfred, from his first marriage. Hilja's oldest son Isaac, was at this time, working as a carpenter in California. Alfred drove all the way to Alberta in a 1928 Chrysler, which was later traded for some breaking they had done on some of their land.

They came to live on a C.P.R. quarter of land, the NE 21-41-4 W5, which John Leinonen had homesteaded in 1915. He broke 65 acres and only farmed it for one year, as his first crop was hailed out 100%. He then moved back to Butte, hoping to save enough money for a new start. While in Butte, his first wife passed away and he later met and married Hilja Walimaki.

When they first came here they lived with Mr. Mottet for a month or so, while preparing a place to live. A temporary home was made from two granaries, which were attached together.

For the Finnish people, the "Sauna", or steam bath, is a very essential part of living, so as soon as the home was completed, a sauna was built. At first the neighbors were a little dubious about the customs of the sauna, but it later on became a Saturday night ritual for the neighbors to come for a bath, and visit over a cup of coffee.

The move to the farm proved to be a real hardship for Mrs. Leinonen as she could not speak, read nor write the English language. She was very lonely as there were no Finnish speaking people for miles around. She began learning English by speaking Finn to the children and they replied in English. In fact a neighbor made the remark that it was a funny family that had moved in. The mother speaks Finn but the children speak English. Also her only friend Mrs. Clara Lalone coached her and many happy hours were spent together.

However this new found friendship was very short lived as Mrs. Lalone passed away suddenly. As the years progressed, she did learn to speak and read the English language, and is now a very avid reader. She now subscribes to a Calgary daily newspaper, and particularly enjoys reading anything pertaining to politics.

John Leinonen passed away exactly one year to the day he arrived. He died from Miners Consumption. Alfred went back to Butte, soon after his father passed away.

Again Mrs. Leinonen was faced with a real hardship as she tried to run the farm with the help of her two children. They cleaned the land by hand, her and Donald chopping the trees and brush and Alli helping to pile what she could. Hilja's main worry was how she would ever get the crop in that spring. To her surprise one morning, a group of neighbors bringing their own machinery and horses, prepared the land and put in the crop. It was at that time that she realized what wonderful neighbors she had, and that she was really among friends.

In 1932 she wrote to her son Isaac asking him to come and help on the farm and he came that fall. Things were then a little easier with Isaac sharing the load. But these were the depression years and Hilja and her family, along with everyone else at that time, faced very difficult times. Besides working long, hard hours for very little money, they suffered from hail, frost and very long cold winters. These were the years when a horse rake could be bought for $35, a binder for $135, coffee was three pounds for 90¢ and butter was 25¢ a pound.

Donald and Alli went to the Gimlet school and their first teacher was Miss Hattie Dobbs, now Mrs. Stears. She was a soft hearted, kind teacher and many of her pupils still cherish the memories of their schooldays with Miss Dobbs as their teacher.

Their second teacher was Miss Clayton, now Mrs. Baird. She also had a soft spot in her heart for her students. Knowing that some of them

The Walimaki Family - Isaac, Mother (Hempo), Alli and Donald.

wanted to further their education, but could not afford to go anywhere for schooling, she taught grades 10 and 11, though grade 9 was all that was required of her

Adi left the farm to go to work and finally settled in Calgary. There she met and married Roy Danilowich and they have one daughter, Sharon. She married Jim Donnelly from Calgary and they have three daughters. Troi is 16, Corinne is 15 and Shauna is 13 and their family now lives in Victoria, B.C

Donald and Isaac never married and they still live on the farm with their mother

Well drilling crew from Eckville drilling water well on Leinonen farm in 1930

As times got better, their first tractor was purchased in 1947. Some years later Isaac bought a quarter of land from "Dad" Elliot (SW 21-41-4-W5). Then the boys bought a half section from John Dyrland. (SW 21-41-4-W5) and the NW 18-41-4-W5. They also bought a 1931 Model A Ford for $135. This little Ford with the rumble seat found a soft spot in the hearts of Mrs. Leinonen and the boys. Not only because it brought happier times, with fishing trips, berry picking and picnics but mostly because it played a part in saving their lives so many times. For instance, one time when accompanied by a group of neighbors, in their vehicles, they went on a fishing trip to Buck Lake. With Isaac driving and Peter Danilowich as his passenger, they led the procession in the "little Ford". They came up over a hill to discover a creek at the bottom - minus the bridge. There were only two skids across the deep ravine. Peter, bracing himself, grabbed for the brake handle, only to have Isaac inform him, "There is no brake!" Isaac steered on to the skids and reached the other side safely to find the little Ford had crossed with one set of wheels on the skid and just the hubs on the other side had rode across on that skid. The only color in Peter's face was two dark spots that were his eyes. He looked like he had seen a ghost!

On another occasion, again accompanied by a group in vehicles, they went on a berry picking trip to the Open Creek area. It was raining hard on the way home and all the cars kept getting stuck. Finally it was getting late and so dark, they decided to park their vehicles and sleep in their cars for the night. The next morning when Isaac and Donald walked around, they discovered the little Ford had saved their lives again! The two wheels on one side were on the very edge of a steep hill, and any slight push would have sent it rolling down! In fact Isaac was mighty nervous about getting in to start it up to slowly ease it onto the road.

On one more occasion, on another berry picking trip in the Faraway area, they came to a very sharp bend, and immediately approached a bridge where planks had been piled on one side, to keep cows from crossing. Having no chance to stop, and likely having no brakes, they hit the pile of planks and the little Ford just neatly slid the planks across the bridge in front of it and crossed to safety

The little Ford was retired after years of faithful service. For many years, antique car dealers came offering to buy it but Mrs. Leinonen refused to part with it. Finally, as she had no where to keep the car under cover, and it was getting weather beaten, she finally sold it for $125

When first moving to the Gimlet district, Mrs. Leinonen busied herself with a hobby of growing flowers. This hobby has only flourished over the years. Now at the age of 94, she still works diligently in her beautiful flower gardens. Her well kept yard of flowers, shrubs, and fruit trees attract the eye of many passers by, with its color and beauty

Mrs. Hilja Leinonen on her 90th birthday at home at Gimlet

At the age of 70, she hosted a birthday party for all her friends and neighbors and continued to have a party every fifth year, as she says a party every year would only make her grow too old too fast. In 1978 she will be celebrating her 95th birthday and with God willing she will be hosting another party for her family and all her many friends

To add to the meagre income of the farm, the Wallmaki brothers were fortunate to have a producing oilwell drilled on their home quarter in 1962 and another well drilled on SE 20-41-4-W5 in 1977

**McELROY — OWEN LELAND AND BUELAH BLANCHE, SW 26-41-4W5 — written by D. McElroy**

Owen McElroy Sr. was born in Kankakee, Illinios on May 6, 1893. His wife Buelah was born in Shelbyville, Illinois on June 2, 1893. They were married on December 25, 1913 and moved to Canada with their two sons Warren and Owen Jr. from Hillsborough, North Dakota in the spring of 1927. They settled on a farm east of Red Deer and while they lived there Ellen, Robert and Richard were born.

In the spring of 1939 they moved to the Leedale district and rented the land where Mr. and Mrs. Witse had lived for three years. Henry Thatchuk is now living on this place. In March 1942 they moved to the SW 26-41-4W5 which they purchased from the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nugent were living there at the time. Both parcels of land are now owned by the Leedale Hutterite Brethern.

That summer was a busy one with crop, fencing, and moving, the fall came quickly and things had to be organized for winter. They milked cows, shipped cream, kept quite a few pigs and a small flock of sheep. Mother raised a lot of chickens, geese and turkeys and grew a big garden. She did a lot of canning, was a wonderful cook and was always busy in her spare time with her knitting, crocheting and needle work.

The children attended Benjamin School and then Gimlet School after they moved.

Dad had a threshing machine and did threshing in the district every fall. He was a well experienced operator as he had helped thresh in his early years when they used steam engines to run the threshing machine. He enjoyed reminiscing about the work, the men and the old steamers.

Dad enjoyed big game hunting and fishing and took a lot of pride in his many guns and marksmanship. He was deeply interested in livestock as he had grown up on his fathers' farm where they kept registered cattle and horses. He learned at an early age, how to select the best animals and how to groom them for the show rings as they entered many of them in the Chicago World Fair where they received many prizes and ribbons.

During World War II their eldest son Warren joined the United States Army. He saw action in Attu and Kiska in the Japanese Theatre of war and also in Germany during the battle of the bulge. Owen Jr. joined the R.C.A.F. and spent two and one half years in the service. He volunteered for active duty in the Pacific but peace was declared before his departure.

As the younger members of the family finished school they found jobs and so were away from home.

The McElroy Family in the fall of 1943. Warren (U.S. Army) Ellen, Mrs. Buelah McElroy, Owen Jr. (R.C.A.F.), Mr. Owen McElroy and Richard and Robert in front.

Mr. and Mrs. McElroy were well respected in the community. Mother was a member of the Leedale W.I. and also the Gimlet Ladies' Club. She enjoyed her home and family and was a devoted wife and mother. She was raised in a Christian home and became an active member in the United Church that she and Dad belonged to in Leedale. In 1952 her health began to fail. The family held a reunion in May 1955 and she passed away in September, 1955 after a lengthy illness.

Dad McElroy lived by himself after her death, doing his own farming and chores until ill health forced him to sell the land. He was 80 years old when he bought a little house and retired to Rimbey in 1969. He had a cheery disposition and was well liked by every one that knew him. He kept active and passed away suddenly on January 30, 1973 at the age of 84 years.

Owen McElroy Jr., taken in the spring of 1940

The family is living in various places, Warren and his wife Betty have now retired and live on an acreage in Missouri. They have a son Bill and a daughter Donna and four grandchildren

Owen (Junior) and wife Doris live on their farm north of Leedale. They have two sons John and Gary and two daughters Helen and Barbara. The girls are married and there are four grandchildren.

Ellen and Jack live in California. They both worked for Airlines for years but now have other employment. They have no family

Robert and wife Marie live at Valleyview where they have a farm and she is teaching schoo.. Bob worked for Imperial Oil for several years before he bought the farm. They have one son Duanne

Richard and his wife Patricia live in Lacombe. He works at the Shell Station and she teaches school. They have a son Gregory and a daughter Susan.

Every day that passes becomes history. The years go quickly and with the passing of time, our pioneers who worked hard to open up the country, becomes history also.

Mr and Mrs. McElroy were laid to rest in the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey.

The family holds many happy memories of these two special pioneers

**MOTTET, CHARLES EDWARD AND OLINE IRMA**
**N E. 23-41-4 W 5**

Charles Edward Mottet and Oline Irma Llengne were married in Orvin, Switzerland and in April 1882 sailed for America. They crossed the ocean on a new ship, it's first voyage. There were three days of stormy weather at the start Something broke on the vessel, and they were taken out of their way. Some of the passengers received bruises and broken bones during the storm. For five days all of the sailors were busy on deck, on the fifth day some cleaned the cabins. The ship ran out of drinking water, they tried to distill ocean water but it tasted salty. It took 21 days to cross, when they reached New York 6,000 passengers were landing, some early, some late, some on time

Upon arrival they stayed with the Villard family, also from Orvin, in Kansas for two years Irma did housework and sewing for her board and also did washing for neighbors until they saved enough money to rent a farm of their own. Hopes of raising hogs for market ended when six sows were killed by lightning, so after two years went west and homesteaded in Scott County, Kansas. After losing three crops to drought, they left for Missouri. They rented three different farms during their 17 years in Missouri and did very well.

**THE LIFE OF THE MOTTET FAMILY AS I REMEMBER IT — by Lucy (Mottet) (Moore) Gregson, May, 1977**

My parents left Missouri in 1905 because my Dad was fed up with working all day in the heat and could not sleep nights as they were too hot

They travelled by train to Alberta, to me, a five year old girl, going to the rest room on the train was really something out of this world, at that time outdoor privies were all people had Their first year was spent at Bentley, Alberta, where they rented what is now Lord and Lady Gordon's farm. Adele and Ada were married so did not go along, Emma died of Typhoid fever in 1904 at the age of 16. All the others came to Alberta, oldest to youngest were, Rosa, Julia, Charles Frank, Eva, Esther, Lucy, George and Willis Willis died at Bentley at the age of six months in April 1906. Rosa told me I screamed when his coffin was lowered in the grave and had to be taken away This I do not remember as an extremely high fever a while later blanked out my memory, later George and I were playing and he fell while holding a ruler in his mouth I was sure he would die as blood ran out of his mouth and down his front, after a week on liquids he was O.K. Apparently that year Dad scouted around and found a place he homesteaded on south of Wittenberg (now Leedale) Charles helped build a log granary and a log shed for our stock, then we moved into the granary where we lived until a frame house was built, at this time Julia and Charles returned to Missouri where both were married soon after

After we Mottets arrived there were enough kids for a school, that's when the Gimlet school was built When it was completed I started school. I am sure I was seven years old by then and Esther and George also went to school. Esther had most of her schooling in Missouri. No matter how often Dad dragged two logs to make a trail for us kids to school it would soon snow and blow it full. If I remember correctly, we did not have school part of the winters at first There was no high school near so none of us went as the folks didn't have extra money for us to rent a room elsewhere, in fact we did well to enough to eat while clearing land of brush for fields, we kids all had to help with that plus chores too.

On January 23, 1908 Albert was born on the homestead south of Wittenberg How I loved that baby, he was such a happy child and grew fast He also took his schooling at Gimlet, beginning at the age of five, and recalls one day during noon hour the children heard something howl off in the bush. The older ones decided to investigate and all went into the bush to find the "coyote". It kept howling and they kept following until they heard the school bell ringing. All the bigger kids ran for the school leaving Albert behind. Suddenly the howl came again and as his hair raised up on end, he realized he was being followed. At that moment Jeanette Heisdorf appeared, grabbd his hand and they both flew back to the schoo. yard. It was not class time but the teacher, Russell Hall, had also heard the animal, a wolf, and

realizing what the children were up to had called them back

How the coyotes did howl at night in a circle around our buildings! Poor Spot, our dog, sat at the door and barked all night They would have killed her had she left the house, they were so large as there were many snow shoe rabbits to feed on. Once they were so plentiful we kids killed six rabbits one night with clubs, giving us good meat for a few meals

By 1908 the folks had cows, horses and chickens and bad luck too. They lost two horses, and later some cattle which ate wild parsnip also many chickens were lost to the coyotes. Mother made butter which was traded for groceries in Eckville.

Dad's first oat field was so tall one could barely see the horses ears above it when he was cutting it with the binder

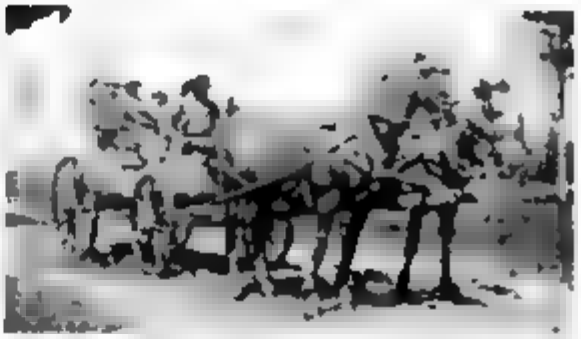
Dad often said July was the only month he had never seen any snow flakes so our garden was hardy stuff and how it did grow and such good flavor, rutabagas so sweet and big Mother made moc-apple butter which fooled many

The homestead was 160 acres and later Dad bought another 160 east of it which was good land too.

Charles Edward Mottet family 1909 - back, Eva, Rosa, Esther, Albert, Dad, Lucy, George, Mother

ROSA born April 8th, 1885, married Arthur Willits April 8th, 1913 and lived on Arthurs homestead (NW 4-42-3-W5), three and one-half miles east of Wittenberg until the "mid twenties" when they moved to Washington. They had six children, May, Earl and Ruby born in Canada; Harold, Frank and Donald born in Everett, Washington where they made their home. Arthur is gone but Rosa resides in a nursing home in Everett

FRANK, born October 29th, 1892. married Alice Willits December 24th, 1913. He sold his homestead (SE 18-41-3-W5) and moved to Youngstown, Alberta. They had three children, Mildred, Ray and Loyd. Frank died of appendicitis December 8th, 1921. Alice, 84, is living in the Rimoka Lodge at Ponoka, Alberta.



Pat Morton, Ada (Mottet) Purcell and her two children, Clarence and Winona, and Lucy Mottet, taken in 1915 Note the corduroy road over the muskeg, made of local trees laid closely together

EVA, born November 11th, 1895, married R J Russell Hall on June 5th, 1913. He was teaching school at Gimlet at the time. In January 1920 they moved to California. LeRoy and George were born on their homestead west of Gimlet two and one-half miles (NW 20-41-4-W5) Aileen and Evelyn in California. Eva died May 14th, 1953 of a cerebral hemorrhage and Russell died in Ontario in the late 1960's

ESTHER, born January 13th, 1897, married Harley Belt on June 24th, 1915. Their life and family are mentioned elsewhere

LUCY, born July 29th, 1901, married Claude Moore July 2nd, 1917 at Lacombe, Alberta, and made their home on the Jaggard quarter (SE 34 41 4 W5) southwest of Wittenberg for two years before moving to Oregon. Their greatest problem while here was getting water from the spring on the Medicine River for it was down a hill from the house. When the path was dry it wasn't too bad but when wet or icy it took great skill to get a full pail of water to it's destination A son Orville was born to them June 13th, 1919 and a daughter Osa was born in the U.S.A. Claude died in July 1957 at Moorehead, Minn., Lucy remarried and is widowed She resides in Lebannon, Oregon

GEORGE, born February 3rd, 1903, took his schooling at Gimlet. He is a bachelor and owns a farm east of High River, Alberta

ALBERT, born January 23rd, 1908, on the homestead south of Wittenberg, took his schooling at Gimlet He is a bachelor and after ranching several years at Bottrel, Alberta has now retired to Mirror His greatest interest being antiques, he has a beautiful collection of lamps and guns

C. Edward Mottet died August 12th, 1944 after a short illness

O. Irma Mottet died April 26th, 1945 after a lengthy illness

**MULLARKY, JOHN AND MARGARET**

Jack was raised in Lancashire, England, coming out in 1912 to work in the cotton mills at Fall River, Mass U.S.A. He made his way west, working in the mines and later in Calgary.

Jack Mullerkey

In 1914 he filed on NE 16-41-4 W5. He usually worked on the prairies in summer and lumber camps in winter, only spending the required time on the homestead which he was slowly improving

He enjoyed company, never turning down a chance of a dinner and a day of visiting Being interested in young people enjoying themselves Jack often took a sleigh load of them to dances.

One night a group from Medicine Valley had gone to a dance at Leslieville. At midnight it was announced that the orchestra would play an hour longer than usual as the Medicine Valley folks were late arriving. Jack having a splendid baritone voice had entertained during the supper hour

In 1928 he began corresponding with Mary Kerr in Ireland, who was a friend of Mr and Mrs. Graydon, recent arrivals from there. When they decided to get married and he had sent her the fare but she was unable to come. Her mother was ill and being a nurse was needed there. Her sister, Margaret, came instead and they were married that summer. Mary later came to Canada and spent some time in the area.

Margaret was a hard working woman. Together they built a new house on the NW 15-41 4-W5, which he had bought. The house burned down one night while they were doing chores Later they sold to Omar Jodoin and bought land south of Eckville where they lived until he died in 1948. Margaret and Mary lived in Eckville until they returned to Ireland a year later

**NUGENT, FRANK AND MINNIE — written by Ileene I. Hulberg**

My father, Frank A. Nugent, was born in Buffalo, Minnesota in 1892. His father owned a farm near town and was the sheriff of Buffalo County He provided the building to house the courthouse and first jail, a building which is still in use today Dad often told us interesting stories of his youth, like the time a notorious outlaw, Cole Younger, of the Jesse James Gang, was being held prisoner and dad shook hands with him.

When my father left school he went to work, as a cowhand, on a ranch near Cathmere, North Dakota. He later filed on a homestead in the same district

In 1898 my mother, Minnie M. McAllister, was born in Becher, Ontario (near Wallaceburg), and was raised on a farm with her five brothers and one sister She also relates childhood incidents usually about some mischief she had been up to

When mom was 16 years old, she traveled west to Cathmere, North Dakota to spend some time on a ranch owned by her aunt and it was here she met a tall, dark cowboy who was first attracted by her long ringlets and love of good horses. My mom and dad were married in Fairview, Montana on May 17, 1916

Frank and Minnie Nugent

They lived on the homestead until July of 1918 when they shipped, by immigrant car, to Lacombe, then transferred their belongings to a wagon and trailed the livestock to their destination at Gilby

After eight years in this district they moved to a Hudson's Bay quarter in the Leedale Valley, two miles south of Leedale on the Medicine River, formerly known as the Middlekoop place.

It was here where they raised their family, a place of which we all have many fond memories We recall both good and bad years on the farm, but the work and hard times are forgotten when we reminisce about pleasant events Many lasting friendships were made during those years when life progressed at a slower pace Times when listening to Major Bows, playing 78's on the old gramophone or playing cards with friends and neighbors was first rate entertainment

On mail day there was the Family Herald, Western Producer and Free Press Weekly to keep us posted on farm prices and affairs, recipes, poems and fiction. Reading was done in

the evening from pages lighted by a coal oil lamp.

The Medicine River provided us with our own swimming hole. It looks a little shallow and muddy now, but when we were kids it was as inviting as any swimming pool. In the winter it was our skating rink, sometimes after much shovelling, but the skating parties and wiener roasts were lots of fun.

Our house was a bit chilly in winter, but there was always a supply of good tamarack wood which was hauled from the Aurora area. With the help of Harley Belt, who owned the sawing outfit, and a crew of neighbors a large wood pile was put up in preparation for cold days ahead.

Winter was a time to fill the ice house with large blocks of ice to be used in the summer for cooling cream and making ice cream. I can personally vouch that my mom's ice cream is a mighty tasty treat. Cranking the freezer handle was a tedious task, and I remember waiting eagerly for that first sample from the ladle.

We always looked forward to the periodic visits from the Rawleigh and Watkin's salesmen who replenished our supply of extracts, spices, medicines, etc. and often to spend the night.

It took faith, courage and ingenuity to carry on in the 1930's. Conveniences were few, but fortunately, we never suffered for the essentials.

Loretta, Beans and Lucille Nugent taken in 1930

Farmers, it seemed, had a definite advantage with things such as freshly churned butter for our home made bread, milk, eggs and vegetables from the garden. Salt pork from the brine barrel was an old standby, other substitutes were prairie chicken, jackfish snared through the ice and even the odd jack rabbit.

My parents butchered animals and delivered meat from farm to farm in the summer time. This service was appreciated especially during threshing. The hamburger sold for 10¢ a pound. The job of opening gates sometimes fell on me, a chore which I was never too thrilled with.

Dad served the community as a self made veterinarian. He had a few instruments and a love for animals and was often called upon to help treat a sick cow or float a horses teeth. The standard charge was one dollar, regardless of time spent, and when he was paid he'd hand the money to Mom and say "here's another sack of sugar".

Our family hauled fuel from Eckville, by wagon, to the first gas pump in Leedale, owned and operated by my aunt and uncle, Loretta and Hugh Lindsay. They also had a store and post office.

Dad also hauled lumber to Eckville by team and sleigh from the Varty sawmill at Faraway.

Lucille's first driving experience was when she decided to take our McLaughlin Buick for a spin. She drove out the lane, negotiated the turn without stopping but mowed down six fence posts on the return trip.

Loretta enjoyed racing her pony. On one occasion she looked back to see how the other contestants were doing, fell off her horse and lost the race.

Mom was quite a cowgirl herself. One day the green-broke horse which she was riding decided to lie down in a slough. The horse won that round, but what he didn't know was that his stubbornness was no match for mom's determination and that she would persevere until it was clear that she was the boss.

We attended the Gimlet public school and later Leedale High. Say what they like, country schools were okay in my opinion. The teachers were nice — Hattie Dobbs, Geneva Clayton, Elsie Petersen, Selma Raabis, Thelma Olsen and Isabel Hood to mention a few. They tried hard to cope with 30 kids ranging in age from six to 14, in Grades 1 to 8.

Christmas programs and picnics were always special events and the dances after these affairs were a place where young and old were welcome. The school house also doubled as a Sunday School and church on Sundays.

About Halloween, can anyone reading this article recall how Scotty Houston's horses mysteriously got into the pound keeper's corral at Stanley Brown's one crisp moonlight night of October 31st?

Dad had been in the U.S. Marines in the First World War, and in 1941 he enlisted in the

R.C.A.F. so we left the farm to live in Calgary while dad was in the armed forces.

O. L. McElroy bought the old farm, and it is presently owned by the Leedale Hutterite Colony.

In 1946, after the war, mom and dad returned to the Gilby area where they farmed and raised registered Appaloosa horses. With them came Johnnie and Ronnie Graham, two lovable young fellows who made their home with us for several years. Ronnie was killed in a construction accident in Calgary at the age of 18 years. Johnnie lives at the West Coast and comes back to visit from time to time.

Virginia, affectionally known as Bridget, won the Rocky Stampede Queen Contest in 1957. She represented Eckville and was sponsored by the High School Student's Union.

Mom managed the Gilby Store from 1956 to 1962. Then in 1963 our parents purchased land near Rocky Mountain House and the following year retired to town where Mother still lives. Dad passed away in April of 1972.

Frank and Minnie Nugent on their 50th wedding anniversary with their family, Ileene, Virginia, Loretta and Lucille.

They had five daughters. Vera, the eldest, died at the age of two years.

Lucille, Mrs. Harold Lemieux, lives on a farm west of Rimbey. They have six daughters — Joyce, Fay, Carol, Wendy, Cindy and Gale.

Loretta married Eddy Aske. They had two sons — Wayne and Garry, (Garry deceased in 1961). They live on a farm east of Rocky Mountain House and Loretta is the Accountant at the Hospital.

Ileene, Mrs. Ingmar Hulberg lives on a farm too. We have one son Wendell, and twin daughters Lynda and Lynn. I am a health record analyst at the Rocky Hospital.

Virginia, Mrs. Roger Tetz lives in Ottawa with her family of two daughters and one son — JoAnn, Brenda and Edward. Virginia is an insurance underwriter.

Mom enjoys her 13 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. Her hobbies bring her much happiness, and many of her hand made articles beautify her comfortable home and the homes of her family and friends. She enjoys plants and flowers and takes special pride in raising gorgeous roses.

The "welcome mat" is still out at the Nugent home, and mom is always pleased when old friends come to call.

**OUELETTE, PETE AND LELAH (JOHNSON) AND FAMILY**

Peter Ouelette was born in St. Albert, Alberta on March 31, 1896, the son of Peter George Ouelette (originally from Quebec) and Eugenie (La Pierre) Ouelette, of St. Albert.

The first year of his parent's marriage in 1890 and 1891 his father was on a "river drive" from northwest of Edmonton down to "Walter's saw mill" on the Edmonton river-flats. That year he made $3,000. Later he worked at his trade of carpentry, on some of the first buildings at St. Albert.

In 1898 his father left for the Yukon gold fields. He soon returned with news that he thought he'd found a "strike". Next year, in 1899 he returned to Dawson City, where he contacted typhoid fever and died. A priest was sent down to break the news to Pete's mother. He handed her over her husband's watch and clothes, regrettfully saying there was no money because they had used it to give him a "good burial". Pete's mother was left with four small children.

When Pete was four years old his mother met and married Alphonse Jenette, and they moved to his home at Hay Lakes, east of Leduc, Alberta. Two sets of twins and three other children were born here, making a family of 11. Of these Pete has still living two half-sisters, Alice of Edmonton and Almena Angel of Beaverlodge; also a brother Joe Ouelette of Edmonton.

On October 23, 1917 at Leduc, Alberta, Pete married Miss Lelah Johnson of Hay Lakes, daughter of a pioneer American family.

Lelah's grandparents on both sides of her family were pioneers of U.S.A. Her mother, Amelia Ostenburg was born and raised in Wisconsin, where her family had lived for generations. Lelah's grandfather, Frederick Ostenburg fought in the Boer War. Instead of being issued a name tag, soldiers were tattoed on the arm. Lelah's father, Orrin Johnson, was born in Missouri, the son of a British immigrant family who arrived on the Mayflower. Lelahs grandfather Isaac Johnson was a Deacon of their Presbyterian Church. The family farmed and raised sheep, until an epidemic wiped them out. After this misfortune Isaac Johnson drove by wagon to Johnstown, North Dakota where he and his wife and oldest daughter, a school teacher, filed on three homesteads. The boys worked the

land while their parents built a log home. It was a very hard year with no ready cash but the first crop was good and from then on they were prosperous.

Isaac Johnson had six children: Orrin, George, Charlie, Emily, Hattie, and Nettie. Orrin took his own farm and in 1896 married a neighbor girl, Amelia Ostenburg. They moved to Inkster, North Dakota. They had 10 children. Lelah and her twin sister Lilah were born in Inkster on February 1897.

In 1899 her parents Orrin and Amelia Johnson moved to Bow Bells, North Dakota where they had opened a store. It was spring and a measle epidemic was at its worst. The doctor thought it was scarlet fever and by the time Mr. Johnson found another doctor from a neighboring town all the children were ill. They buried three of their little girls in one week. Lelah's twin sister Lilah two years, Bessie six years and Ina seven years. Mrs. Ouelette was only two but can still remember the doctor coming and saving the life of her brother Ray when he was nearly gone. The measles also claimed the life of a young neighbor girl who had been helping Mrs. Johnson. Lelah's parents later aquired a good farm, but Orrin gambled by buying wheat options (shares) on the stock market and lost much money.

In the fall of 1906 Orrin and Amelia Johnson, with their family of six: Homer, Fred, Roy, Addie, Lelah and Eva, left Bow Bells, N.D., and came to Alberta. In the first year they built a hotel at Hardisty. It was a very bad winter and a heater had to be kept going all night to dry the plaster. The hotel was finished in 1907 and they held an "Opening Dance" complete with liquor license. It was 30 degrees farenheit people came from 30 miles away by open sleigh. Lelah was eight or nine years old and remembers that she was allowed to stay up to watch the dancing. Her father was an expert violinist and he and friends played till daylight.

In 1918 Johnsons sold the hotel and moved to Wetaskiwin where they opened a store on the east side of main street. Here the children attended school. Lelah had been in the second reader in N.D. but had to begin again in the first reader. In 1914 Johnsons moved to Edson, Alberta to open another grocery store. Lelah attended Alberta Business College in Edmonton and returned to keep books for her father. The Grand Trunk Railway went through town and Mrs. Johnson had a good business. Settlers from Grande Prairie, 160 miles off, came for their yearly supplies. They travelled together with one covered sleigh carrying a stove and one team consisting of a horse and a cow so they were supplied with milk. Grande Prairie settlers raised big wheat crops in those days but there was no railroad and water was at 1400 feet with no available well drilling machinery. When the Grand Trunk Railway left town Mr. Johnson closed his business. The family moved onto their homestead at Roseavar while Orrin and son Fred went seeking a new home in the Hay Lakes area. In 1914 the Johnson Bros. bought a homestead there.

In 1918 a year after Lelah's marriage to Pete Ouelette, he joined the Canadian Army. In 1919 he returned from England and resumed farming. After this the Johnson family moved again to their farm on the S 18-41-3-W5 in the Medicine Valley. They aquired a large farm and also raised sheep on section seven. They also owned NE 12-41-4-W4.

In 1926 Lelah and Pete decided to come to the Medicine Valley. Lelah and their two baby girls, Marjorie, two years, and Florence, an infant, came by train from Leduc. Pete followed by wagon with their houshold effects, taking three weeks. They settled in the Scroggy place W 12-41-4-W5 near the Medicine River a short distance from the Johnson Bros. Here they raised their family of six children: Marjorie, Florence, Lawrence, Chester, Donald and Eileen. They attended the Medicine Valley School. In 1933 their house burned to the ground, luckily it was not winter. They all escaped but only managed to save the table, the cream separator, which Pete tore from the floor and the telephone, which they yanked off the wall. Also saved from burning was a little blue trunk which contained their family documents. All summer they lived in a crowded bunkhouse but by fall of the same year they had built a new two storey frame house. The house had not been finished yet but was cosy and large enough for a big jolly family.

Pete was a good violin player having taught himself to play as a 13 year old boy. His first violin was a Premium which his sister acquired through selling garden seeds. He remembers that he broke a lot of strings learning but by 15 years of age he could play quite well. All Pete's life he has been a popular musician at house parties and country dances. Mrs. Ouelette crocheted beautiful lace gifts for her family and friends. In 1942 and 1943 Pete and Lelah moved to a farm just a mile north of their home. SE 14-41-4-W5 (The Jones Place). Eileen, Chester and Donald finished their schooling at the Gimlet School.

In 1963 and 1964 they built a lovely new modern home. Five years later they sold their land to the Hutterite Brethern of the Leedale Colony and moved their house to Rocky Mountain House where they now reside. In October of 1977 the children and the community gathered at the Gimlet Community Center to honor Pete and Lelah on their 59th Wedding Anniversary. There followed a real old wedding dance with local musicians and Pete playing his old time fiddle tunes.

Lelah's father, Orrin Johnson passed away in 1934 and his mother 10 years later in 1944. Homer and Roy Johnson sold their farm retiring in B.C. Fred Johnson remained in the Eckville area. He passed away quite suddenly in 1972. Roy died in 1977. Homer still lives at Burnaby, B.C. near his sister, Mrs. Eva Jewell. Addie

(Mrs. Burr) passed away in the 1970's and was buried at the Gilby Cemetery. In 1972 Pete and Lelah lost their second son, Chester, quite suddenly when he passed away at home at the age of 43 years. He left many friends.

Of their remaining five children, Marjorie lives in B.C. She trained as a hair dresser. Florence married Rex Payne from Lethbridge. They live in Calgary and have one son Peter 13 years of age. Lawrence married Annette Laurie of Menaig. They live at High River where Lawrence is employed at a gas plant. They have five sons. Eileen married Harry Skoreiko of Leedale. They live in Calgary and have three daughters. Donald is at home with his parents.

Pete and Lelah are in quite good health and make welcome their many friends who drop in to visit.

There are at this time six grandsons and three granddaughters, also they are the proud great great-grandparents of four children.

**PIMM, THEODORE AND HATTIE**

Ted and Hattie Pimm moved to the Gimlet district to a C.P.R. quarter (S.E. 19-41-4-w5) in the summer of 1930.

To make an extra dollar, Ted cut tamarack posts and firewood.. He delivered the wood to Rimbey for $2.50 a cord, all ricked up. He also put his mules to work and did custom breaking for three years. His lead mule kept him on his toes as he would haul off and kick the driver if he wasn't the first one unhitched. Hattie used to ride one of the mules to the neighbors for eggs and on several occasions the old mule would put his head down and off over the front would go Hattie and the eggs and then the mule would trot off home, leaving Hattie to walk.

In the spring of 1927, Ted and some other men helped Mr. Wiltse move the Daniel Lalone house from S.W. 25-41-4-w5 to northwest of Leedale. The house had been built on a small knoll surrounded by muskeg. It was large for those days, being 24' x 36', of lath and plaster construction so it was decided to cut it in half using a cross cut saw. Then eight head of mules and eight head of horses were used to skid the house the 12 miles or more. It was a slow process as they had to cut a trail as they went along.

Ted also purchased the N.W. 17-41-4-w5 originally homesteaded by Buchanan. He broke 20 acres of land here for a total cash cost of 10¢. He used a five horse team on a 16" breaking plow and it cost him 10¢ for a can of grease to keep the trucks from squeaking.

Ted recalled the big fire of 1931, which burned south and west of them. It had been an open winter with hardly any snow. That particular day Ted had hauled a load of wheat to Rimbey and there was a terrific high wind. Joe Brown, an uncle of Stanley Brown was cutting wood in the bush and got caught in the line of fire. His wagon was burned up and his horses were singed but the fire burned around him and went on.

Ted and Hattie sold their land to Cliff Staudinger and moved to Rimbey in the spring of 1973. Their family of three daughters live in Rimbey, Blackfalds and Calgary, and their son Art lives in Swan Hills.

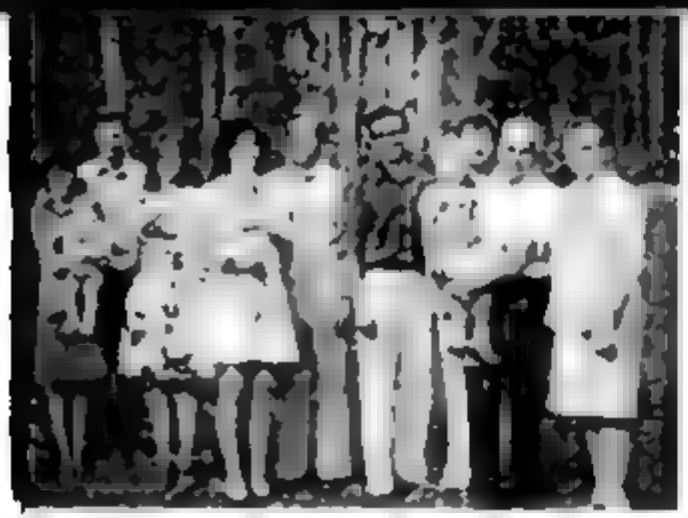
Ted is an avid golfer and curler according to the season and spends a lot of time visiting old friends at the local auction mart. Hattie still has a steady hand for the fancy work that she enjoys doing. So they are thoroughly enjoying their retirement from the farm but they harbour many fond memories of the Gimlet area and their life there.

**STAUDINGER, HELGE AND MARJORIE — by Marjorie Staudinger**

S.W. 19-41-4-5

It was a balmy day in May, 1962, when I picked up the mail at the end of the driveway and took it along to the old homestead for Helge to read while he ate the dinner I had packed. He always read the classified ads first. "I wonder what kind of land this would be" he queried, showing me an ad for three quarters of land north of Lesliеville. Examining the ad I conduced, "It's pasture we need. It would surely grow grass, if nothing else." Little did we dream that acquiring this land would produce much more than grass in the following years! It introduced us to a whole new community . . . and we'd never even heard of Gimlet before . . . a scarce 40 miles away. We gained a host of new friends. Neighbors made us feel at home and helped us in so many ways when we were constantly finding ourselves in need of something we either couldn't or didn't bring with us. They gave us permission to use the phone or pick up milk even if they were out.

It was in May, 1969 when fire swept through. It started somewhere southwest of us. We were not here that Tuesday morning when a hot dry wind picked up the smouldering embers of an old brush fire, raced across Stanley Brown's and into Clifford's "Walimaki Quarter." Ted Pimm phoned us at Marianne to tell us that the fire was moving fast and our tractors were in danger. No one present had operated diesel motors and they couldn't get them started. Not being familiar with forest fires, we wondered how a fire could burn on freshly cleared land but we believed his report and came as fast as we could. If it hadn't been for Dave Lowe coming along much before we got here, our tractors would have burned. He moved them to safety in the nick of time. Then came the long, grueling afternoon as a number of men fought the fire along the road that runs kitty-corner through Cliff's. If it couldn't be stopped there, there was no telling how far west it could go. It did jump the road into our southwest quarter, crossing only the corner, and within a few hours had burned itself out nearly 20 miles to the northwest. We were lucky to have neighbors who literally knocked themselves out in a situa



The Staudingers. Beth, George and Rachel. Louise; Karing, Dick and Rive; Russ; Cliff; Helge with Stewart. Marjorie.

tion where we'd have been quite helpless to even know what to do

The land was virtually wild when we got it. Only a small piece had once been cleared or had gone back to trees. Fire had gone through a couple of times before but that was also treed over again. For the first years it was a new and exciting place to roam, throughout the wooded hills and dales, and to picnic with family and friends from far and near

Then came the blueberry years. Hattie Pimm had told us that if we got more rain the blueberries would literally cover the ground. It was hard to believe in the first years when it was quite dry but when the wet years came we knew what she meant. For several years this trend continued. I asked everyone I could to come and pick and we had hordes of friends crawling all over the place and I picked all I could myself. We still left millions of them for the birds . . or whatever

Progress must take its toll and as Helge cleared a little more land each year, the blueberry patches became fields and pasture Then came years of less rainfall again and lastly, more cattle to trample what was left . . so now . . . even we must find blueberries further afield

We had no thoughts of living here when we bought the land but it wasn't long after that we walked from the road into the trees where our house now stands. It was so lovely and especially the birch were beautiful. As I stood transfixed, Helge asked, "are you thinking the same thing that I am?" and I answered, "That this would be a beautiful place to build a home" First we built the little cottage which was much more comfy than the granary Helge had batched in for several summers, whenever he came out here to work. I didn't have much time to spend here but enjoyed a few days off and on. It was the summer of 1969 when we started building our house and we moved into it in January, 1970

We turned the home place at Marianne over to three unmarried sons. That first summer their youngest sister kept house for them but after her marriage in November, they were on their own Mom and Dad had "flown the coop." Richard has since married Russell and Harvey still bach

In 1967 Cliff bought the N W 18-41-4-5 from Ike and Don Wallmaki. In 1973 he bought Ted Pimm's place, the S.E. of 19 and N W. of 17 At the time, he was working in Calgary with Melchin. Now, dividing his time between this and his brother's at Marianne, he farms his land

As I write, it's just eight years since we came here to live and it seems our sojourn at Gimlet is almost over. Our youngest son George and his wife Beth with their two little girls, Rebecca and Rachel arrived in March 1977 and whenever we can sufficiently ready a new home on the old homestead west of Sylvan Lake, they will take over the farming here. Our ties with Gimlet will remain fast and we are happy that some of the family will continue to live and farm in the district

**TRENHOLM, NATHANIEL AND MATHILDA — by Milda Trenholm**

Nathaniel is of English and Scottish descent His father and mother first came to Prince Edward Island, lived there for a number of years and then moved to Watertown, South Dakota

Nate, as his friends alway called him and his twin sister Mabel were born there. When the twins were ready to start school a married brother was moving to Canada, and since their mother had recently died, the family moved with him

With several wagons joined in a wagon train, they left South Dakota late in 1907 and arrived in Carstairs in 1908. The twins started school there Later Nate went to live with his sister Mae and husband. They lived on a homestead at Sunnyslope. He went to school at Burnside School.

During the First World War Mae and her husband moved to Victoria where there was work in the ship yards building the ships used in the war Nate, too, worked in the ship yards until after the war. The family then moved to Omak, Washington where he worked making boxes for packing fruit during the day and cleaned the fumes in the orchard at night. He decided to return to Sunnyslope and landed in Didsbury which was as far as he could go by train. The hotel was full and he was not allowed to sit in the lobby all night so he decided to walk. Since the walk was 20 miles he thought he'd spend the time learning to smoke. He bought himself a pipe and some tobacco and set out A few miles out he became so ill it was difficult for him to continue the journey. This cured him of smoking for the rest of his life

When he arrived he found his brother and family about to move to Sprucefield in Northern Alberta as homesteads were available and his sons were old enough to have a homestead Nate

joined them taking out a homestead and they all worked together

I was born and raised in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. When Nate was on a visit to see a friend in Saskatchewan, we met and in 1926 were married. We were married in Warspite and had our wedding dance in Sprucefield

We lived on a rented farm until the birth of our first daughter Eva, when we bought a quarter of land near Edmonton. It was fairly expensive land for that time and what with sawfiles 25 cent per bushel grain and being hailed out it was difficult to meet the payments and we were forced to sell it again. We then moved to Manyberries. There was a policy by which we could rent government land for three cents per acre. The country was so dry the grain would only grow four to six inches tall. After a terrible dust storm and the wind blowing rolls of tumble weed all over it there was nothing left for winter feed. Russian thistle was cut for feed and our belts were pulled in to the last notch. The following year we followed the harvest working our way north. I had to have an operation and Eva was hospitalized with whooping cough. By the time our doctor and hospital bills were paid our summer wages were nearly gone. We got a job operating a dray line in Northern Alberta but the town was so small there wasn't enough business to make a living. After the birth of our second daughter Lillian, we returned to Sunnyslope. Shortly after we arrived Nate became ill and he to had to have his appendix removed. Again there were the doctor bills and hospital bills. Through the years all of our children as well as ourselves had our appendix removed

In the meantime we found a place to live on a farm with a widow and her two sons. We could help on the farm and keep our cattle there. I milked four cows and fed out a few yearlings. When Nate was well enough he took a team and a sleigh and went to a lake 350 miles to the north bought a sleigh box full of fish and sold them all the way home. This took until spring. We pooled the money we had made and found we had enough to make a payment of a farm.

In 1936 Nate went to a real estate agent and found a quarter at Leedale. This was the N W 26-41-4 W 5. The agent said this quarter had a good house and a nice barn, 50 acres broken and the rest in light brush. We had to take his word for this, and hope that he was an honest man because we didn't have extra money to see it

We packed all our possessions in a covered wagon, tied the bull to the wagon and driving the cattle, we started out. When we were in the Wimborne area a terrible storm came up and our cattle became difficult to manage so we asked a farmer by the name of Taylor if we could put our cattle in a pen. They not only took in our cattle but us too and we stayed in their house for three days. They knew nothing about us and still were willing to take us in and wouldn't take any payment for their kindness.

Our two girls didn't seem to mind the trip and took the whole thing in their stride, running behind, riding on the wagon or riding on the tamest of the cows. There was also an element of excitement as Nate loved bull fights and everytime a farmers bull would break through the fence ours would be turned loose and they were allowed to fight until he could break them up and tie ours up so we could be on our way.

When we arrived at the farm we found there was no access road and the only way to get to it was through Mr. Nugent's pasture. There was less than 30 acres broken, the house was built out of four by six laid one on top of the other and the walls and roof were covered with tar paper held in place with slabs. The only dry place when it rained was under the kitchen table because there was an oilcloth on the table. The walls would shift every so often and I would pound them back in place with an axe. The good barn was a straw shed, the well was dry and the only good thing was a river running through the farm where we got water for washing and the cattle. We hauled our house water from Sherman's. Eva had to go through two gates and Nugent's pasture to get to Gimlet School which was three and one half miles away. Nate built little ladders at the gates so she could climb on her old horse. We were only there three days when the river flooded its banks and we saw a nice horse floating down the river with a saddle on his back. We never heard anything of the rider. What a sick feeling I had knowing the children had a choice of two gates and a pasture with a bull in or fording this river to get to school.

You can well imagine our bitter disappoint

A corner of the "good" house on the farm we bought, right unseen. The Trenholm family in the middle of the picture. Taken in 1937

ment but there was nothing we could do but make the best of it as we had very little money and had to live through the winter until we could sell cream

We were in need of seed in the spring but couldn't afford it Mr Tarrbain, who owned the Leedale store told us that Claude Challand had seed so Nate went to him, explaining his financial situation and Claude gave him the seed without even asking him when he could pay for it. Neighbors like this are never forgotten. Other neighbors we had on this farm were, Nugents, Belts, Wilses, Shermans and Thysons. They too tried to help smooth our way

Our first real meeting with the people of Gimlet was at a good old fashioned picnic You know the kind, lots of home cooking, home made ice cream and prizes for all the children whether they won or not

Our eldest son Glen was born on this farm

In 1939 we bought the N W 27-41-4 W 5 from the Canadian Pacific Railway Jim Baird had lived on it before. It was closer to school, a good road went by the farm, the well was very good and the house was quite good for those years We were really pleased with this farm. Nate worked in the sawmills every winter and I stayed on the farm taking care of the animals and the children

During these lonely winters we loved to read but there was a real scarcity of books. I heard that cancelled books could be obtained from the Edmonton public library for a small sum of money so I sent for some. For two dollars I received a large box so I ordered more and loaned them out to others who, like myself, didn't have too much entertainment. I joined the Women's Institute and got books for them which were kept in Leedale at Edna Varty's to be loaned out. Later they were kept by Mrs. B Robinson in the post office I also served on the Gimlet school board, also a member of the Gimlet sewing circle and was president of the Leedale Catholic Ladies club at the time the church was built in Leedale. This was accomplished by the labours of many hard workers

What with Nate working in the mills and me on the farm we were able to buy another quarter of land west of the Gimlet school. We purchased it from the "Sunset Home" at Bawlf. It had belonged to Charlie Augustine who died in this home. Ted Pimm moved on the farm further west and each person along the fence line gave one rod from each side so a road could be made so their children could go to the Gimlet School. This was not a road allowance so the road was built by the men themselves.

We later sold this quarter to Bud Casey and bought the N E. 27-41-4 W.5 which was directly east of our home quarter and owned by Mrs Lindsay, the postmistress in Leedale This quarter had the river running through it also so I kept quite a few geese. Occasionally an over anxious hunter had goose for dinner

Nate loved to trade horses and bought wild ones from the Indians at Nordegg for trading horses. When I think of some of the horses we've had I wonder who got the worst deal, he or his victim. At least he always kept a good team which were trained for skid horses and worked with him in the mill

During the summer he drove to Rimbey with the team to sell the pigs. He would come home fairly late, singing to pass the time and the children would wait for the sound of his voice to run out to meet him. He also had a weakness for the lonely of the world and often when he came home from the mill he would bring some lonely bachelor who had no where to go and he would stay with us until he found some summer work

Our youngest son Allen was born in 1946 and went to Gimlet School as did all the children. He took his high school at David Thompson School

A calamity befell our family when Nat lost his eye in a ploughing accident and again our neighbors came in to lend a helping hand and to check on the family while I stayed in Edmonton with him.

We later sold the farm and moved to Vernon British Columbia. We later took the farm back but I stayed in B.C. as Glen was in High School and would have had to board away from home. I returned to the farm after he graduated and we stayed there until Nate had a hunting accident which resulted in the loss of part of his foot. We then sold the farm and bought a house in Rimbey where we still live. Many of our old neighbors are also retired in Rimbey so we see many familiar faces

Our four children are married. Eva and her husband, Gus Makofka have two children and live at Bluffton; Lillian and her husband, Gus LeDuc have five children and live at Alderayde, Glen and his wife, Lois, have two children and live in Edmonton, and Allen and his wife, Terry, have two children and live in Italy

**WARNEKE, JOHN AND ESTHER — written by Esther Warneke**

John and I (nee Esther Sundby) were married at Athabaska on July 13, 1941. We have two children, a son, Lorne, born at Athabaska on November 16, 1942, and a daughter, Diane, born at Eckville, February 27, 1948.

John was with the R.C C.S., Canadian Army, World War II, serving for five and one half years. Three and one half of those years were spent overseas. During that time we lived at various places — Brandon and Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Kingston, Ontario. During John's absence, Lorne and I lived at Medicine Hat, Alta. When John returned from overseas, after the war was over, we moved to Calgary. It was while there we decided to go farming. After looking at various places, we chose to live at Leedale, acquiring the quarter known as the old Bradshaw place It was situated one half mile east and two miles south of the Hamlet of Leedale. It was at the crossroads,

and the corner was soon called "Johnnie's Corner", for three Johnnies lived across from one another all veterans of the war.

We arrived there from Calgary in April of 1947, in time for the spring thaw. We soon discovered what the roads were like. Having only a car, — for we hadn't yet bought any farm machinery or horses, — we couldn't drive out again for at least two weeks. All four roads were impassable. John had to hike to the Leedale store, with pack on his back, to get groceries several times.

There was an old creamery situated on John Playfair's, across the road from us. John bought it, and from the salvages, we built several granaries and a pump house. We still have the pump house, which we moved to our present home site, in the Eckville area near Condor.

One of the worse blizzards that I can recall, occurred the night before our daughter was born. It left all the roads blocked from fence post to fence post. With the aid of Doc. Coppock, good neighbors, our horses, jeep, tractors and trucks, and an all day session, we arrived in Eckville that evening. Everything turned out fine despite the experiences.

The curling rink at Leedale was built by the community effort. We are proud that John assisted in that. We enjoyed many years of curling there.

House built by Mr. Bradshaw in the early 1900's on the John Warneke place at Gimlet

We lived in the old house that was on the farm, supposedly to have been built around 1905, until 1959. Then we built our new home. We also bought two more quarters of land, one previously owned by Ted Evernden, and the other by Wilbert Burgoyne.

Lorne and Diane started their school years at Gimlet, attending there until the schools were consolidated in 1956. They were then bused to Eckville, where they graduated. Lorne went on to the University of Edmonton receiving his M.D. degree, and F.R.C.P. degree. He now has his practice in Edmonton. Diane has been doing accounting and secretarial work in Edmonton, and at the time of writing is attending Grant MacEwan College to become a social worker.

In 1970, our neighbors sold their farms to the Hutterites. The following year, after a tough decision, we finally did the same. We greatly enjoyed our years at Leedale.

**WILTSE, C. LYNN AND HOOPFER FAMILIES**

In the year 1906, C. Lynn Wiltse after several weeks travel, due to the large influx of immigrants into Alberta, arrived by immigrant car at Stettler, from DesMoines, Iowa. From there he went southeast of Gadsby where he located a homestead, later known as the Hill Top, the buildings were located on a knoll.

Lynn was followed by his father and mother Charles L. and Anna Wiltse and several other members of the Wiltse family. In 1906 Charles L. Wiltse located a homestead one mile south of the Hill Top. He then moved to Stettler where he was in the cattle business for several years before returning to the U.S.A.

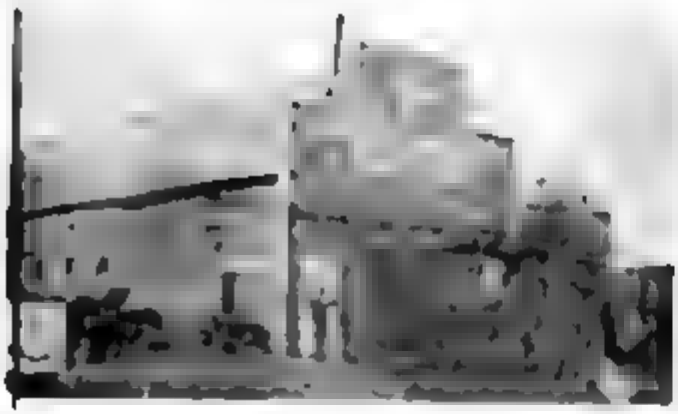
The Charles L. Wiltse Family, taken in 1906 or 1907. Back: Mina, Dell, Loretta, Lara, Lynn, and Lena Bell. Front: Garner, Mrs. Anna Wiltse, Mr. Charles Wiltse, Donna, Fred, and Harrison.

Harrison Wiltse located a homestead in the same area. He married Mabe. Bobidoux at Haskirk, where he ran a butcher shop. He was also in the cattle business at Halkirk and Lethbridge.

In 1908 Lynn Wiltse and Daisy Hoopfer, a daughter of another pioneer family, Albert L. and Alice J. Hoopfer, were married.

In 1910 Lynn Wiltse and his brother, Fred, Wiltse moved east to the new town of Consort. Here they engaged in the freight business, and also built and operated a large livery stable and Studebaker buggy and wagon agency. Their freight wagons moved two lumber yards from Castor to Consort along with many other supplies for the new town. They also drove many new settlers out in their buggies to locate homesteads in the Consort and Monitor area.

With the advent of the automobile Lynn and Fred sold their livery business and put teams to work building the new railroad into the area. Later Fred Wiltse who had married Daisy Watson acquired the Ford car agency, also a mer



Livery stable of Fred and Lynn Wiltse, taken in 1911

cantile store in Consort, which are still operated by his sons', Harold and Arthur Wiltse.

Lynn Wiltse took up a purchase homestead in the Monitor area which he farmed before selling and moving back to the Gadsby area in 1917. During the time he farmed in the Gadsby area he served on the school board, also as a deputy sheriff.

In 1921 Lynn Wiltse moved to the Leedale area, west of Lacombe, with six children, Edwin, Charles, Lyle, Marion, Evelyn and Clare. Another son, Harrison (Hal), remained in the Gadsby area with his uncle, Harrison. Hal Wiltse taught at the Big Knife School in school years 1940-41 and 41-42. The Lynn Wiltse family moved to a farm known as the Balance place, where they lived in the original log homestead house until 1924. At that time Lynn moved a two story frame house that had been built by Garner Wiltse on a half section west of the home site. This house was moved with horses and wagons. Another son, Fred, was born that year.

In 1921 Garner Wiltse who had been farming

The Wiltse homestead house on Ivan Houston's west quarter joining his home place. Left, Daisy Wiltse, Alice Haeseler, Charles Wiltse and on horse, Jack Carns and Clare Wiltse

in the Gadsby area, moved to the Leedale area with his wife Elsie Lesinger Wiltse. They moved onto the west half of the Balance place where they farmed until the following year, at that time they traded farms with Jack Anker for a place north west of Leedale. He farmed this place until 1925 when he passed away, leaving his wife and five children, Ruth, Marie, Helen, Loretta and Pearl.

Jack Anker bought the place north west of Leedale in 1921. He had moved west from Monitor where he had homesteaded. He also drove livery teams for Lynn Wiltse when the town of Consort was being built.

Also in 1921 Jim Anderson moved to the Leedale area from the Monitor area where he had homesteaded. He bought a place in the section east of the Balance place. Jim brought with him his wife Mina and three of his four children, Florence, Lela and Helen. A fourth daughter, Gail, remained at Consort where she married Art Redel. Lela Anderson taught at the Gimlet School in 1922 and 23 school year.

During the time Lynn Wiltse farmed the Balance land he hired an Indian tribe to clear land for him. They moved the whole tribe with their teepee's and horses onto the place and the squaws and children slashed and piled the brush while the bucks sat in the shade and watched. There were many acres cleared in this way in those days. Many of these Indians could speak no English. If they happened to come by at meal time they would come in unannounced, sit down at the table and wait until food was set before them, most of them used their fingers for eating, they would then leave with no more than a grunt. In the fall of the year they received a large steer as part of their pay. They took the steer down to the river bank where a large band of neighboring Indians had gathered. They then stoned the steer to death and cooked it. They feasted all night until all the meat was gone.

In 1926 Lynn Wiltse moved his family to the Garner Wiltse farm northwest of Leedale. In the fall of 1926 Lynn Wiltse, Charles Wiltse, Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons and Tom Simmons went hunting west of Leedale and returned with four moose. They were brought in whole with the hide on and in the cold weather were frozen solid. Lynn moved his moose into the house beside the air tight heater where it lay for several days, being turned occasionally, before it thawed out enough to skin and cut up.

In the spring of 1927 Lynn Wiltse moved a house, 24 x 36 and one and one half stories, from six miles southwest of his place. The house was first sawed in two by Charles Wiltse and Grover Simpkins, and then loaded on a front bob sled and timber, one half at a time. A right of way was slashed across country, and the snow had to be tramped by the men across a swamp so it would freeze enough to carry the horses and house. There were 12 head of horses and four head of mules used to pull the house. Those help-

ing on the moving besides Lynn Wiltse, were Edwin Wiltse, Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons, Charles Wiltse and Grover Simpkins. That spring a basement was dug and a foundation poured, with gravel dug from the bottom of the Medicine River, by horses and slip. The house was moved onto the new foundation that summer. One of the features of the new house was running water. The house was so positioned with the well below one corner of the kitchen, in a little ante room, that all you had to do was fill the tea kettle from a pitcher pump and run set it on the kitchen stove. No more running outside in 60 below weather to thaw the pump to get a drink. Lynn also started construction on a large log barn at this time. While in the Leedale area Lynn Wiltse served on the school board as well as serving on the Municipal Council as a councilman.

In 1928 Lynn Wiltse traded for a farm in Oregon, U.S.A. with a Mr. Polynik, and moved to it in the fall, thus ending 22 years of pioneering in Alberta.

Albert L. and Alice J. Hoopfer and children, William, Daisy, Marion and Dewey, moved to the Gadsby area from Bismark, North Dakota in 1906. Albert and William (Bill) Hoopfer took up adjoining homesteads in the area southeast of Gadsby.

The Hoopfer Family, taken in 1906 or 1907. Back: Marion, Daisy, Bill and Dewey. Front, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hoopfer.

In 1911 William Hoopfer took up a purchase homestead south of Monitor. In 1921 Bill married Florence Leister. He farmed in the Monitor district until 1937 when he moved his wife and three children, Jean, Doreen and Hallie to a farm he purchased west of Red Deer.

Marion Hoopfer married Ross Currie in 1917. They farmed in the Gadsby area until 1921 when they moved to a farm at Monitor. In 1936 the Currie's moved to a farm at Red Deer. They had seven children, Jack, Bob, Alice, Ross, Lorne, Glenn and Francis.

Dewey Hoopfer took over William and Albert Hoopfer's homesteads at Gadsby. In 1921 Dewey Hoopfer married Jessie Ellis. In 1925 and 1926 Dewey farmed in the Leedale area with his father, Albert Hoopfer. He then went back to the Gadsby farm. Dewey and Jessie Hoopfer had six children, William, Laurie, Alice, Verna, Jim and Dan.

In 1921 Albert and Alice Hoopfer moved to a farm three miles south east of Leedale where they farmed until 1930, when they moved back to Gadsby.

**WITHERS, HARRY AND JENNY — written by Laura Withers Chappell**

My father, Harry Withers came to Alberta from Nova Scotia in 1906 with his parents, two brothers, William and Charlie, and two sisters, Nellie (Hueppelsheuser) and Nora (Lange).

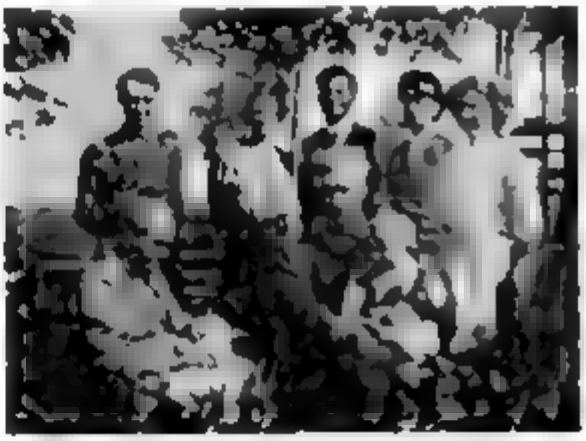
My grandfather Ephraim Withers homesteaded the SW 2-41-4-W5. This was also the first Medicine Valley Post Office and my father hauled the mail from Lacombe twice a week.

My uncle William homesteaded the SE 2 and Uncle Charlie the NE 4-41-4-W5.

My father Harry homesteaded the SE 9-41-4 W5. This land now belongs to Charlie Dyriand, Harriet Stears and Mark Smale.

My mother came to Wittenberg (Leedale) with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobs from Hamilton, Ontario. She had one brother Gordon and a sister Myrtle. They bought the Leedale Store and post office. A few years later they sold out and moved to Gilby, where they bought the store and post office.

My parents Harry and Jenny (Jacobs) Withers were married in 1917. They raised four children; Laura Alice (Chappell) of Eckville, Myrtle Glenville (Sweet) of Acme, Lorne Clifford of North Surrey, B.C. and Elva Jean of Didsbury, Alberta.



Top: Charlie Withers, Nellie Withers (Hueppelheuser), Otto Hueppelheuser, Harry Withers, Nora Withers (Lange). Bottom: Mrs. E.T. Withers (mother), Mr. E.T. Withers (father) Billy and Ruth Lange (two sons).

# Hespero, Condor, Shady Lane

**ALBERTA — by Louis DeMuelenaere, Condor, Alberta.**

I've travelled all over the country
And scarcely owned more than my coat.
For years I've worked in the timber
But still I was always broke.
Proceeding that hundreds grow poor
I made up my mind to try farming,
The only proceeds that are sure.
So packing my trinkets together,
It gave me quite a thrill.
I boarded a train for Alberta
For a town that's called Eckville.
Arriving flat broke in midwinter
The ground was all covered with snow,
And if I'm not badly mistaken, it
Must have been forty below
As I looked on my prospects so gleaming
The tears trickled down o'er my face,
And I felt that all of my travels
Had brought me to the jumping off place.
I bought a quarter section of prairie
And I settled down to hard toil,
For years I worked and I labored
With the rocks and the tough prairie soil,
And I tried to get out of the country
But poverty forced me to stay,
Until I became an old settler
Then nothing could drive me away
And since I am used to the climate
Also those cold winds that blow
To find a place more happy
I don't know where I would go.
And if you should long for excitement
The wild world to explore
You can get a free passage to Europe
That's where the great cannons do roar
We have the Jap and the Dago
Also the Russian Bear
And if you don't like their company
You can go see old Nasser

**ALBERTA'S LAND**

I remember when they broke these
acres broad and bare
Seagulls soaring behind the plough
in the air
The day they sowed the sky was
sunny and bright
The first green blades turned
toward the light
I remember the many stooks upon
Alberta's history
When the threshers came to thresh
the ripened grain
Farmers returned to the fields
fall work complete
Alberta is the land of forests
minerals and wheat
I remember pioneers, built roads
bridges, airports and factories
Pioneers made Alberta what
it is today
Through change and adversity shaped
its' destiny
Alberta's gift is in the land
Sunned and watered by an unseen Hand

Written by R. A. Jennings in 1955

**ANDERSON, ANTON OSCAR**

Anton Anderson was born at Woodville, Wisconsin, U.S.A. on November 6, 1885. He came to Canada with his parents, one brother and three sisters, in the spring of 1910, and settled on a farm in the Millet district. He married the former Ethel Blize in 1925.

Ethel Blize was born at Dixie, Washington, U.S.A. on December 27, 1902, and came to Canada in July, 1906 with her parents and younger brother, also settling in the Millet district.

After their marriage they farmed the Anderson home place following the retirement of his parents. During the following years, five children were born to them.

In 1946, they purchased the Reino Sippila farm, NE 14-38-4-W5, three miles south of Hespero, and moved there in April of that year. In 1953 they purchased the adjacent SE 14-38-4-W5 from Pat Hoven.

Anton was a friendly, kindly man and was a friend to all his neighbors. He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and kept bees for a time. Ethel was a member of the Hespero Community Club, and the Diamond Valley Mission. Tragedy

occurred in the family in July, 1961, when Anton passed away after being trampled by a bull on the farm. Ethel now makes her home in Sylvan Lake.

Hazel, their first child, was born on February 22, 1926. She married William Cordon, and they live at Eckville. Edith was born on September 2, 1927, and married Arthur Thomas. They live in the Hespero district. Jean, born November 18, 1929, married Raymond McCrady, and lives at Brooks. Clarence was born on June 27, 1931. He married the former Florence Campbell, and lives at Sylvan Lake. Owen (Bud) was born October 21, 1932. He married the former Eva Hope and lives at Kamloops, B.C.

**ELI ANDERSON FAMILY — by Magda Anderson**

Eli Anderson came to Red Deer from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1906. He worked in the sawmill and quarry while sizing up homesteads. After looking at land near Wainwright and Lochearn, he chose the northeast quarter of section 9-39-4-W5, which is six and one-half miles west of Eckville. Mrs. Anderson and the four children, Lena, Archie, Aria and Norman came in October, 1907. They spent the year 1908 in Red Deer and moved out to the homestead in 1909. Mr. Anderson freighted supplies out from Red Deer before the Alberta Central Railway was built in 1912. Members of the Anderson family got their mail at Lesslieville, Pitcox, Hespero, Condor, Withrow and now Rural Route 4 out of Eckville, and we've resided at the same location all this time.

Bear shot by Norman Anderson in their home yard in 1921

Mrs. Anderson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Rasmus, homesteaded the SW9 — and her brother the NE quarter of section 9. Her sister married George Jayes, who had homesteaded the SE of section 9.

Lena Anderson married Jacob Odland and resided in the Bingley area. Their children were Lawrence, Luke, Nellie, Beulah and Eunice. Mrs. Odlund died in 1964, and by 1977 the three eldest children have passed away. Eunice (Mrs. William Gardner) lives in the Rumbey area. Their children are Wilma, Helen and Thomas; Beulah (Mrs. Charles Phillips, lives in Drumheller. She and her husband have nine children.

Archie remained a bachelor and farmed the home place until he passed away in 1974. Aria Anderson married George Lee and lives southeast of Evarts. Their children are Charles, Nita and Gertie.

Norman Anderson married Magda Wold and farmed near the home place. Their children are Glenda (Mrs. Robert Wacher), who has three children, Cathy, Steven and Vicki, Norman Jr., who passed away in infancy; and Marjorie (Mrs. Vern Harbourne), who has two sons, Kevin and Shane. Norman passed away in January, 1973. Eli Anderson farmed a section of land with good buildings, at the time of his death in 1936. He was a member of the Shady Lane School Board for many years. Mrs. Anderson was very hard of hearing and read everything for amusement. She was an excellent cook — her home-made bread was a specialty. She passed away in 1939. In less than two years, we lost three Andersons from our corner.

**ARNOLD, CHARLIE**

My father, sister and I came out from Wiltshire, England in 1913. My mother was unable to immigrate as she had TB and remained behind in a sanatorium for treatment. My sister, Winnie, stayed at Pilot Mount with relatives and Dad and I came out to Lesslieville. I stayed with my cousins, Harry Arnold. Dad went on to British Columbia. I worked for my cousins and stayed on their farm for one and a half years. I then went out to Huxley to work at various jobs for about two years.

Later, I came back to Lesslieville as Dad had come back to Alberta and bought a farm. Dad and I farmed together for about three years; then, I decided to work out again, working around Rocky Mountain House in mills hauling logs.

Then in 1923, I lived in Condor, working at various jobs, mills, and threshing. I always

worked on threshing outfits and did so for about 50 years. Last threshing I helped with was in 1976 for Cliff Morrison

In 1923, Condor was very small, just a few families lived there — Clarence Fitch, the Eastmans, Scott Hastie were some of them. Later, there were Wardens, Meeres, Clements

In 1931, I took a lease on the quarter NE 35-38-5-W5 and built a small house where I continued to farm and work out a bit. I recall the times when you would get stuck on No. 11 Highway with a wagon and four horses hauling hay from the Bill Cruickshank place. I worked on the road from Lesheville to Highway 11 in 1932.

Local young people, Martin Resetz, Norman Eastman, Earl Doyle, Millers, Maxwells, and others would go by team and sleigh to dances. The music was supplied by local talent. Lunch supplied by ladies.

We held card parties in local homes. Some were John Simons, Bices, Bartons, Blairs, Mitchells, Hewitts. These were held during the winter, also dances in the homes which often lasted until daylight

The young people visited a local moonshiner to pick up their supply to add a little cheer to their evening

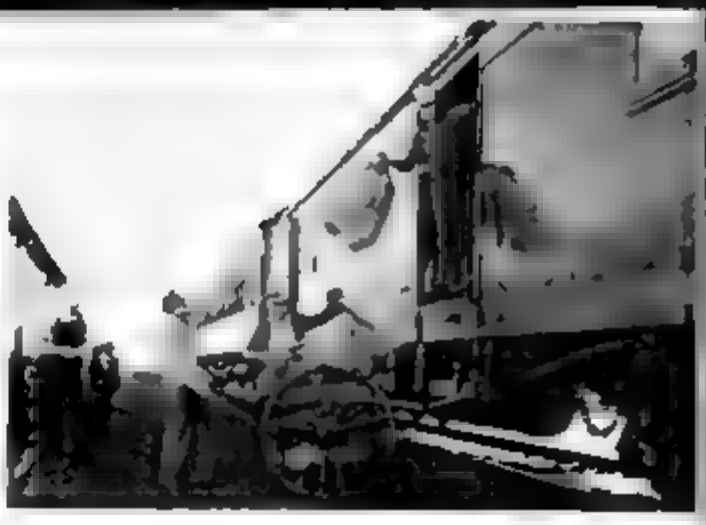
My mother passed away in England in 1918. My father passed away in July, 1947 in Cranbrook, B.C.

I still reside on the NE 35-38-5-W5.

**AVERY, ALBERT**

Albert Edward (Bert) Avery, born March 17, 1887, at North Nibley, Gloucestershire, England, came to Ontario in 1908 and to the Condor district in 1910. He homesteaded in the Northup area. During World War I, he enlisted in the army in the 89th Battalion and served overseas in England and France. While in England, he married Eleanor (Nellie) Bullock and then returned to his farm at Condor. It was two years before Nellie was able to join him here. Their son, David, was born in 1921. Bert's brother, Walter, lived and worked with them at that time

Bert Avery, Post Master Condor 1950



Meeting the mail train in Condor. Bert Avery. 1953

Bert was a member of the Red Deer Salvation Army, a school board trustee for 18 years, the returning officer for the M.D. of Raven for 20 years and was one of the first trustees for the Eckville hospital

Tragedy struck the Avery home, when Nellie died in 1922 and David died in 1930. The little Avery log cabin still stands to this day and can be seen from the Stauffer road

Bert (known to many as Uncle Bert) moved to Condor as post master from 1938 to 1962. He was well-known throughout the district as clerk for Clyde Stauffer's auction sales. He served in the Second World War in the Reserve Army. He had a life membership in the B.P.O. Elks. At most Christmas concerts in the district schools, Uncle Bert was a familiar figure dressed in red with a white beard. He was a friend to all and many parties were held in the back of the post office. After retiring from the post office, Bert lived with his "adopted daughter" Mary and her husband, Tom Raabis, in Red Deer. He later resided in the Red Deer Nursing Home and spent his remaining years there — an encouragement and inspiration to all.

**BICE, HARRY VEALE 1883-1962**

Harry was born in Cornwall, England and came to Canada as a young adult. When the war broke out in 1914 he joined the army and spent four years in England and Europe. After discharge at the end of the war, he returned to Canada and took up farming in the Condor district, SW 33-4-W5.

In March 1920 he married Annie Rutherford. They had four children, two boys and two girls. Francis contracted rheumatic fever and passed away in 1932 at the age of 11 years. Victor only lived a few days after birth in 1922. The two girls both live in Salmon Arm, B.C. Jean married Gerald Layden of Lacombe in 1948. They have four children, Garnett, Larry, Donna, and Dianne. June married Joe Buresh of Evergreen district in 1944. They have three children, Shannon, Beverly and Gordon.

Annie Bice is well and enjoys life in Rutland,

B.C. where they moved in 1953. Harry passed away in March 1962 in Vancouver's Shaughnessy Hospital. He was a good farmer, always enjoyed working on the land and with his animals. When he was so ill he said "If I can't work, I really don't want to live."

**BIRCE, ALLAN AND PEARL**

Pearl and Allan Birce came west from Essex County, Ontario about 1908. The settled first in Southern Alberta near Retlaw. After several extremely dry years on their homestead there, they decided to move to Condor. The move took place in early November, 1933. Mr. Birce brought the cattle, horses and machinery to Condor by C.P.R. Mrs. Birce and the six children — Edna, Ethel, Mildred, Verna, Jean and Walter — came by train later. The train trip north took three days, with nights spent at Blackie and Calgary. Mr. Birce bought the SE 20-38-4-W5. The land was purchased from Fred Nachtmann and now became the home of the Birces. The family couldn't move into the house until spring so spent the winter with Mr. Birce's mother and brother, Bill. Early in the spring the Birce family moved into the log house on the farm. Mr. Nachtmann had built a little shack on the farm for himself.

The farm was nearly all bush so the family started clearing land in the spring. A few acres were cleared and broke each year. The clearing was done by axe, with horses used to skid the trees off the land. The first machine clearing was done by Ed Skocdopole with a D 8 cat. The trees which were cleared from the land were used for firewood. Once the land was cleared, it had to be broke with horses and a breaking plow. Later on, machines were hired to break the land too. The firewood in the early days was cut with a crosscut saw. The Birce family cut logs to provide lumber for a barn and later a house. The Blacks had a portable mill and came to the Birce farm during the winter and following spring to mill the logs into lumber.

The Birce family soon became engaged in mixed farming on their farm. They grew grain as well as milked cows, raised chickens, pigs and, of course, horses. Mr. Birce and the girls walked many miles picking wild fruit such as strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries. Most of the other neighborhood folk also took advantage of nature's harvest to add to the larder.

The children attended school at Daisy Nook. Each day the children had to walk two and a half miles each way to school. Their first teacher was Miss Betty Baldwin. Grades one to 12 were taught in the one room school. The school students and their families took turns doing the janitor work for one month periods. The janitor work included starting the fire each day, hauling the firewood and water, sweeping the floor and once a month, scrubbing. The salary for all this work was $5 a month. The janitor had to go to school early enough to start the fires and thaw out everything in the winter time. Since there was no coal to bank the fire at night, it took quite a while to get the school warm in the morning. Later teachers at Daisy Nook included Mr. Inkster, Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Hilda Anderson. The highlight of each school year was the annual Christmas concert. Every student took part in the concert, which ended with a visit from Santa Claus and candy bags for everyone. The concert provided a grand opportunity to catch up on visiting with the neighbors. In the summer, the school students enjoyed ball games. As well, the girls spent many sunny noon hours playing pen knife, skipping and playing hopscotch. In the winter, the ice rink provided hours of enjoyment.

The Birce family enjoyed the friendship of their early neighbors. Some of these were the Douchnoskis, Kreats, Martin Resetz and his mother, Barteskos and many others. On Sunday afternoons, it was a common sight to see their yard full of young people playing games, especially ball games.

The early farm families in the Condor district had to be very self-sufficient. They had big gardens, their own farm-grown meat, milk and eggs. They picked wild fruit for jam and preserves. They had homeground flour for bread and porridge. Groceries were bought from the store in Condor. Mr. Clement was one of the early store-keepers. Mail came into Condor three times a week by train. Cattle were driven to the railway station. Pigs were hauled to town by wagon or sleigh. All the children have fond memories of Bert Avery (Uncle Bert) who was an early postmaster in Condor. He was postmaster for many years.

The roads in the Condor area were terrible in the spring during break up. Since there was no gravel on the roads, each spring the roads soon became a sea of mud. The snow was not plowed from the roads during the winter, which made the problem worse each spring when the snow melted. In the spring of 1940, when the roads were at their worst, Ethel Birce took very ill. One of the family members walked three and a half miles to the nearest phone so that the doctor at Eckville could be phoned. However, the doctor hesitated to come to the farm as the roads were certainly near impassible. After phoning Doctor Greenaway at Rocky Mountain House however, the family received good news. He would come! Miraculously, the doctor arrived at the farm by car. Ethel was taken to the hospital at Rocky Mountain House. She had pneumonia and, since there was no drugs or antibiotics, she passed away at the age of 20 years.

The years went by and the girls left home for various jobs. Walter continued to farm with his dad. Mr. Birce took sick a few years later and passed away in May 1951. A few years later, Mrs. Birce and Walter left the farm, first going to a ferry job and later to Calgary. Mrs. Birce passed away in 1966, following a lengthy illness.

The following is a history of the six Birce children: Ethel died in 1940, Edna married Bill Brodie and lives in Ponoka. They have two daughters, Janice (Mrs. Stewart) who lives in Calgary and has two children, Keith and Marcia and Shannon (Mrs. Tom Foster) who lives at Rocky Mountain House and has one daughter, Robbie. Mildred married Bud Taylor. She now lives at Viking. Mr. Taylor died in 1972. The Taylors have one son, Phillip, who resides in Edmonton with his wife, Rose. Verna married Charlie Bradshaw and they live at Condor. They have four children, Shirley (Mrs. Dennis Frisky) lives at Rocky Mountain House. Sharon (Mrs. Fred Blair) lives at Condor. Ken married Fern Biswanger. They have one daughter, Diane. Ken and family reside at Condor. Leslie lives at Condor and farms with his dad. Jean is married to Tom Campbell and lives in Calgary. Walter married Irene Petley and lives in Calgary with their four children — Allan, John, Robert and Debbie.

Looking back over the years, it becomes evident that the early days were definitely difficult, but happy, days. People were certainly friendly then and seemed to have more time to be neighborly.

**BLAIR FAMILY**

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Blair Sr. accompanied by some of their children and Homer Stockwell and family travelled from Guelph, Ontario to settle in the Condor district. Homer's wife was the former Jenny Blair.

Allen Blair Sr. took up a homestead on SE 36-38-5-W5. His family consisted of 12 children. They were: Dave, Jim, William, Bob, Allen Jr., Lillian, Jenny, Anna, Mae, Kate, Eva and Ethel.

In 1910 Allen K. Blair, Jr. came from Guelph, Ontario to join his family in Alberta. He was accompanied by his wife (the former Gertrude Dale) and his children, Mae and Dale. They settled on homestead NE 25-38-5-W5 where another son Earl was born. A son George was born in Ontario when the family moved back there for a short time. The children attended the old Prairie Rose School and later Northup. The first teacher at Northup was a gentleman named Mr. Leonard Huskins.

Mae Blair was a teacher and married Charles Fay from Rocky Mountain House. She taught in several schools in Rocky school division. They had one daughter, June. Dale Blair married Edna Christie (whose family also settled in Condor area in 1929). They resided in the Condor area for several years where their children all attended school. They had four daughters and one son. Joy (married Brian Dunn), Daleen (married Doug Cleaver), Donna (married David MacDonald), Terrie (married Dale Speight) and their son was Rocky Dale. Dale was a school bus driver in Condor district for 17 years, and he and his wife operated the Condor post office for 10 years. Dale and Edna retired to an acreage near Rocky Mountain House.

George Blair married Delphine Fitch (from Alhambra district). In 1941 George and Dale joined the Calgary Tanks Regiment and served overseas. George was captured and held prisoner for four years. On his return George and wife moved to Ladysmith, B.C. where they later had two children, Gordon and Brenda. George passed away in 1973.

Earl Blair passed away at an early age from appendicitis.

Dave Blair married Esther Mast (a former school teacher) and they resided in the Condor area for several years. Dave was a veteran of the 1st World War and known all over the district as a horse buyer.

William Blair married Mary Lisk (an early Condor resident) and they had two children, Wallace and Winnifred. They later moved to Vancouver where William was a butcher.

Lillian Blair married Charles Smith and they resided in the Alhambra district. They had one daughter, Lillian.

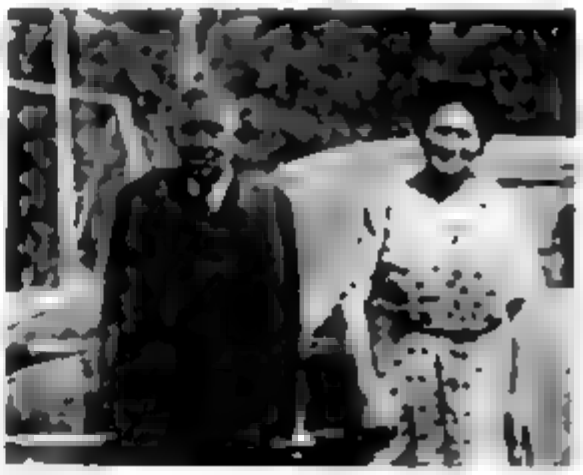
Allen Blair, Sr. was very well known for his skill with an axe, and he taught several local men in the proper use of the axe.

Allen Blair, Jr. was known for his physical fitness and a hike to Red Deer in one day was not unusual for him. On the return trip he would be laden with supplies and if he needed a rest, Evarts was the usual resting stop.

**BONK, MARTIN — Freda Ehses**

Martin and Susan Bonk immigrated to Calgary from Luxemburg in 1907 with their daughter, Elizabeth, who was four years old. Martin was a blacksmith by trade so worked in Calgary, Exshaw, and Golden, B.C. until 1909.

Mrs. Bonk had a hard time with the language so in 1913 they got a homestead in the Evergreen area. They lived there a few years, then sold their place and moved to a farm at Hespero where their daughter went to the Shady Lane



Mr. Martin Bonk, Mrs. Susan Bonk

School. In 1914 they moved to Leslieville where Martin had a blacksmith shop. The farmers from all around brought their horses to be shod. Elizabeth went to Calgary and stayed with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dams, and continued her schooling.

Then, on July 1, 1919, she married Oscar Oastrom of Hespero, and they lived on his homestead. The Bonks sold their blacksmith shop in Leslieville, and bought one in Hespero so moved there and resumed blacksmithing for a year. In 1928, they had an auction sale and sold their property and moved to Calgary where they bought a rooming house. They resided there until Mr. Bonk passed away on Nov. 6, 1955, at the age of 86 years. Mrs. Bonk sold the big house and lived in a small home until her passing in Sept. 15, 1964, age 84 years. They both are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta.

**BRADSHAW, ALFRED AND REBECCA**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bradshaw emigrated from Liverpool, England, to Canada in March of 1911. After landing in Halifax, they travelled by train to Edmonton. In April of 1911, they went to Bassano, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw brought with them their three children Alfred aged four, Percy aged two and Ethel aged 11 months. Florence was born in March 1912. In 1913, the family moved to a homestead near Pandora. While at the homestead, two sons were born, Charles in 1916 and Bill in 1918. The Bradshaws lived in this area until the dust bowl of the 1930's. In 1937, they decided to sell their farm and moved to the Condor area. Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw and their sons Charlie and Bill purchased a farm south of Condor. This land, the E 30-38-4-W5, was purchased from Mr. Maliski.

Since the half section of land was almost entirely bush, the first winter was spent clearing the land by hand. Some brush cutting was also done by Ed Skocdopole. The cut trees were often sold to residents of Condor to use as firewood. The first crops on the new land were oats. As well, the Bradshaws raised pigs. The whole family participated in this venture, with Mrs. Bradshaw taking over as nurse maid whenever a sow could not care for all of her piglets. She would feed the little pigs with a baby bottle.

Mr. Bradshaw and sons used a Hart Parr tractor to do their farming. They brought this tractor with them from the prairie. In the winter, many days were spent doing custom grinding of grain for the neighbors. While the men were busy on the land, Mrs. Bradshaw was involved in work around her home and in community work. For many years, she belonged to the Condor Mission Circle. She was never too busy to help anyone in distress. In her home, the kettle was always on in readiness for a cup of tea and friendly chat. Mrs. Bradshaw always raised a wonderful garden. As well, she was very interested in her flower garden and her houseplants.

When the harvest was completed each fall, the young men of the district would go hunting in the west country. This was not just a holiday, but an opportunity to provide meat for the winter. The men would drive from Condor to Moose Basin with horses and wagons. They would live in tents. On one hunting trip, Charlie recalls how a black bear frightened one of the horses to death. Myron Lawrence had to walk to Condor for another horse. In 1941, Charlie, Bill, Percy, Alf and some friends were hunting antelope near Brooks. While hunting, Bill was accidently shot to death. After Bill's death, Percy moved from the prairie to farm in the Condor Dist[illegible].

In 1946, Charlie Bradshaw married Verna Birce. They continued to live on the farm. In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw Senior moved into Condor to retire. Mr. Bradshaw's health began to fail and in December of 1956, he passed away. Mrs. Bradshaw continued to live in Condor until 1966 when she sold her home and went to live with her daughter, Florence, in Calgary. In 1970, she moved into Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House and lived there until her death in 1975. She was 92 years old at the time of her passing. Until her passing, she continued to enjoy visiting her friends and raising houseplants and crocheting.

Early neighbors of the Bradshaws were the W. Syrens, the A. B. Lawrences, the J. Rasmussens, the J. Neuberts, the Lahtis, the Marcineks, the P. Lagores, the Hornbys, the J. Pollands, the J. Jennings, the R. Lindsays, the Resetz, the E. Grahams and the A. Pirces.

When the Bradshaws came to the district the post office was run by Mr. Meeres. Later Bert Avery ran the post office. Mr. Crouch ran the bank in Condor. The Clements operated the general store. Walt Sheppard ran a machine shop. Mr. Meyers ran the grain elevator.

The following is a history of Bradshaw children and grandchildren.

The eldest son, Alfred married Lila Knight and lives in Okotoks. They have no children.

Percy married Evelyn Houghton and they live at Condor. Percy passed away in 1975. They have four children. Bud married Edna Leahy and they have five children — Theresa, Kathy, Johnny, Gordon and Raymond. They live at Condor. May married Bert Mason and they have four children — Kelly Anne, Donna, Dwayne and Gary. They live in Wetaskiwin. Barbara married Rod Crawford, they have one son, Blake. Charlotte lives in Red Deer.

Ethel married Clayton Galarneau. They live in Bassano and have three children. Ronald married Wilma Kuehle and live in Gem. They have two boys, Randal and Russell. Gordon married Eleanor Furnas and they live in Lac La Biche. They have two children — Norman and Jacqueline. Kathleen married Robert Dunn and lives in Calgary. They have two children, Lana and Cody.

Florence married David Jeffrey and they live in Calgary. They have three children. Beth lives

in Lethbridge. Wayne married Jean Gobel and they live in Surrey, B.C. They have two sons, Scott and Neil. Douglas married Laurie Rumsey and lives in Rutland, B.C. They have three sons — Ryan, Brett and Shane

Charles married Verna Birce. They live at Condor. They have four children Shirley married Dennis Frisky and they live at Rocky Mountain House. Sharon married Fred Blair and they live at Condor. Kenneth married Fern Biswanger, they live at Withrow and have one daughter, Diane. Leslie lives at Condor

**BRADSHAW, PERCY AND EVELYN — by Barbara Crawford**

Dad was born in England in 1906 and came to Canada with his parents in 1911. His younger life was spent in the Hutton and Pandora area in southeastern Alberta which at that time was very well settled with homesteaders on nearly every quarter

As a young man, dad worked for farmers and ranchers in the area. He also participated in boxing, trapping, breaking horses and hunting

In 1932 he married Evelyn Houghton. She was born in 1914 in Bassano, Alberta and spent 10 years of her early life moving to different parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan as her father was a railroad man. They returned to the Hutton area in 1929 where she met my father

They farmed through the drought years of the 30's and dad supplemented their income by working out and trapping. In 1934 their son Brad was born followed by a daughter May in 1939

In 1942 after the tragic death of dad's brother Billy, they moved to Condor where my grandparents were farming. They purchased the SE 30-38-4 W5 from my grandparents. For 10 years they lived in a log house. Times were hard at first but they made ends meet by milking cows. Extra income was made by selling loads of cord wood. Work was hard but there were good times as well: ball games, picnics, visiting with neighbors, card parties and berry picking. Undoubtedly dad will be remembered for his square dance calling, auctioning pies and boxes at the socials, and his recitations.

A third child Barbara, was born in 1951 followed by a sister Charlotte in 1954.

During the early 50's dad worked on oil rigs throughout Alberta. In the later 50's he started driving school bus and continued to do so until his death in 1975

My mother still continues to make her home on the original farm quarter. She keeps very busy with her gardening and outside work and enjoys travelling

Bud worked as an oilfield welder for 10 years before taking up farming on the SE 19-38-4-W5. He married Edna Leahy and they have five children — Theresa, Kathy, John, Gordon and Ray.

May is a registered nurse. She completed her training at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary She married Bert Mason and they are presently living in Wetaskiwin. They have four children — Kelly, Donna, Dwayne and Gary

Barbara worked as a secretary and dental assistant. She married Rod Crawford and they presently live at Condor. They have one son — Blake.

Charlottle attended Olds Agricultural College, enrolled in a business course. She is presently residing and working in Red Deer

**CHILD OF THE THIRTIES**

Child of the thirties
Hard work and play
Cut that wood
For a winter day.
Haul that water
From a neighbors well
A stoneboat and horse
And we kids as well.
Sit on the Plough
By your father's side
Four faithful horses
Give you a ride.
Run in the furrow
Bare foot and free
Cool black earth
And a mouse or three.
Walk in the grain
So very tall
Swim in the river
No clothes at all.
Down to the creek
In the spring time flood
Set sail your cargo
With your feet in the mud.
Child of the thirties
Happy and free
I can hardly believe
It really was me.

Shirley (Warden) Reaman

My husband lit the coal oil lamp
Smiling softly
As if remembering other days
As the flame surged into life
I was totally unprepared
For the sudden wave of nostalgia
That swept away my adulthood
Leaving me vulnerable to a memory
A prairie shack
Worn linoleum
An old cook stove
An air tight heater
A coal-oil lamp
And a gentle mother to light our childhood.

Shirley (Warden) Reaman

**CIRCLE OF LOVE**

Love is a fine thing
Speaketh it loud or soft
Much of joy does it bring love
Bright as a diamond ring
Clear as a lovely song

Waiting for one to sing
Only life can it bring
As a Branch from a dove
Circling offering love
To the parents of my parents
And their parents too
To my Father and my Mother
The childhood that I knew
To my children and their children
The future and the past
Love has drawn this circle
That will last and last and last

Dedicated to my parents Roy and Rosie Warden

Shirley (Warden) Reaman

**W. E. COLE FAMILY — by Mr. Elmer Cole**

My parents, William Cole and Mary Cole (nee Bell) were born in Ontario. They were married in 1901 and later moved to Manitoba. They lived at Rapid City where my sister, Hazel, was born in 1906, then they moved to Rivers, where I, Elmer, was born in 1908.

In 1911 my parents came West to the Loma district, north of Vulcan. My brother, Bert, was born here in 1912. My father worked on the farm for John Kerr and also for Alec Mitchell. In 1914 we moved to the Clarence Davis farm, eight miles west and one mile south of Champion, where dad worked until 1917, when he rented a farm across the road and farmed there until 1926, when he sold out and moved into Champion. My brother Arnold was born on the farm in 1919. All the family received their schooling at Harper, Hiawatha, Fireguard and Champion High School.

My parents were having a struggle to get along so I left school and went to work for farmers in the area. It did not cost much to live in those days, but money was scarce, as wages were poor and it was almost impossible to find work for the winter. After harvest was completed around Champion in 1932, dad and I went north to Olds and got a job threshing for ten days. From here we went on to Eckville to visit my sister Hazel, who was married to Robert Jarvis, and operating an elevator at Eckville. While here I found a job on a farm for the winter, and I never went back to Champion for 23 years. My folks moved to Eckville in December 1932.

Houses were not plentiful, but our neighbor, John Cordon, let us live in a vacant house on his farm at Hespero. I worked the following summer for Dewey Nielson, at Benalto. The wages were twenty five dollars per month.

In January 1934 I purchased a quarter section of land from the CPR. This was on a sort of homestead deal, but not quite so good. I was to improve the bush quarter, but after four years I also had to pay for it on a long term agreement. Here we lived for the next 37 years. My wife, Ina (nee Currie), and I were married in those depression years and raised a family of five healthy children. They are: Yvonne, now Mrs. Ken Dent, of Medicine Hat. They have four children — Fred, Doug, Janet and Rhonda. Bernice, now Mrs. Glen Stamp, has three children Richard, Violet and Colleen. Violet, our third oldest child, was killed accidentally in 1945, at the age of nine years. Moira, now Mrs. Eric Mannerfeldt of Sylvan Lake, has five children David, Joyce, Ina, Jimmie and Wade. Our only son, Ian, married to Phyllis Beach, has two boys, Timothy and Benjamin. He lives on the original quarter that I purchased from the CPR.

In 1952 I commenced buying grain for the Searle Grain Co. at Mintlaw, Alberta and later was transferred to Alhambra, where I operated the elevator for 16 years until it was closed on September 1, 1970. Three years later I was eligible to receive my pension.

When I look back upon those depression years, it makes me wonder how we ever made it. We never had much money, but never once thought of going on welfare. We made the best of what we had, and never went hungry. We enjoyed many good times at dances, ball games and celebrations of various kinds. We also attended church regularly at Hespero. I guess our success, if one can call it that, is due to hard work, perseverance, and keeping out of debt.

My father passed away in November, 1942, and my mother in 1955. Both my parents are buried in Hespero cemetery. Brother Bert also passed away at Vegreville in 1967.

**CONDOR GENERAL STORE 1963**

When I was in my twenties,
And my children were all small,
My shopping days were pleasant
And seemed no chore at all
With my baby in the carriage,
And my toddlers hanging on,
We arrived at the store,
A pleasant marathon
At the tinkle of the door-bell,
Came the owner from behind
She smiled a cheerful greeting,
At this little band of mine
I shopped for all my groceries,
Plus clothes and knick-knacks too,
It was a pleasant interlude,
No need to hurry through.
Everything was written down,
And charged to my account,
I never questioned prices,
Or fussed about amount
On a given invitation.
We all trooped back for lunch,
A choice of tea, or coffee,
And home-made buns to munch
We shared many laughs together,
And the children played and ate,
While the baby drank his bottle,
Content to coo, and wait.
I so enjoyed my shopping,
In the days that used to be,

In the Condor General Store,
Where there's always time for tea
Shirley (Warden) Reaman

**CONDOR LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION — by Violet Safron**

The Club was organized in 1952 and originally was called the Rocky Mountain Light Horse Association. The president and organizer was Allen R. Palsen of Condor, who, with his family, lived one mile west of the Condor corner and owned a saddle shop along No. 11 Highway. He rebuilt saddles and other leather articles and had many of his hand tooled leather articles for sale along with other horsemen's supplies. Violet (Cordon) Safron was elected the Secretary-Treasurer.

Later the Club was renamed the Condor Light Horse Association. Abe Littau became the president, Max Bott the vice-president, and Violet Safron the secretary-treasurer.

Abe Littau and Violet Safron trained the group to do a musical ride, for which the Benalto Agricultural Society paid $50 per year to the club to perform the ceremony in front of the grandstand, as part of the entertainment at the Benalto Stampede. The club held gymkhanas and musical ride practice on property which Carl Kendze fenced off and donated to them. Annie Cordon often supplied a hot lunch to the hard-riding group.

Plans for a log cabin were drawn up by the John Kasparsons family. Members of the club cut and peeled the logs to build a club house, but over the years interest in the club died, so the logs were later sold. The land was returned to Carl Kendze, with many thanks for its use. The money remaining in the club treasury was donated to the Crippled Children's Fund.

**CONDOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTE — by Magda Anderson**

On April 21, 1921, 27 women met at the home of Mrs. George Gledhill to organize the Hespero Condor Branch of the Women's Institute. Mrs. Gledhill chaired the meeting and Mrs. Crummy recorded the notes for the election of officers. Mrs. E. MacDonnell became the first president, Mrs. E. Crummy Jr. the first vice-president and Mrs. Gledhill was elected as the first secretary-treasurer. Directors were Mrs. A. K. Blair, Mrs. W. J. Clement and Mrs. Joe Nelson.

Mrs. Rogers, Alberta Women's Institute secretary, visited this new branch at their third meeting. Mrs. Joe Nelson was the first member to attend an Alberta W. I. Convention.

The 27 charter members lived in an area extending from north of Hespero to the Lesleville Highway. In the horse-and-buggy days it was too far to travel to meetings, and at the annual meeting on December 21, 1921 they decided to form two institute branches.

Mrs. R. McFaul was the first president of the Condor Women's Institute. At one meeting in 1921, a member told about pioneer times in our area for entertainment.

Their motto "For Home and Country" was kept in mind throughout their many endeavours. In war time the ladies prepared ditty bags, contributed milk for Britain, did knitting for the Red Cross, had some clothing drives, entertained in honor of war brides and welcomed new citizens.

In the community they helped pay for the hall piano, financed the building of the first kitchen, bought cups, chairs, stage curtains and gas lamps for the hall. More recently they contributed towards getting new cupboards in the new kitchen. They've also made donations to the local hospital.

To raise money they had dances, box socials, shadow socials, put on plays, catered at farm sales, held raffles and had bazaars and suppers. They are very grateful to the community for their support in all their efforts. In recent years this support is reflected in the success of the cancer collections in our area, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Charles Bradshaw.

On one occasion the W. I. supplied the lumber for the picnic booth on the playgrounds. Bob Hewitt received two cans of tobacco and a hammer handle for doing the carpenter work. Something for the local schools has always been included in W. I. work. Drinking urns, first aid kits, school ground equipment, magazines, cocoa and sugar for lunches, motor and pump for the skating rink are some of the things provided. More recently, achievement trophies to the Condor School, contest prizes and bingo prizes have been provided.

The ladies have not forgotten themselves. The regular monthly meetings, handicraft teas, conferences and conventions are times of learning and fellowship.

Some amusing incidents I found in the minutes are: The ladies were going to entertain their husbands by taking them out to supper on a trial basis. Some lunches at meetings were "satisfying", others were "adequate", many were "lovely".

When Bert Avery retired as postmaster at Condor, the Women's Institute bought the building and lot. They sold it, some years later, to Ken and Judy Leer.

The 1977 executive are: president, Mrs. Tom Wyzykoski, vice president, Mrs. Roy Tubbs; secretary, Mrs. Charles Bradshaw; treasurer, Mrs. Dan Eidt. Other members are: Alma MacDonald, Hughena Ellis, Pearl van der Meer, Anna Nelson, Mrs. John Meek, Mrs. Angus, Mrs. Wendell Frazier, and Magda Anderson.

The Condor Womens' Institute has carried on through the years without a break, for 56 years. That must be something of a record!

**CROUCH, WALTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Crouch and family came to the Condor district form Essex, England, in 1930. They lived on "Jolity Farm" in the

Evergreen area. They later moved to the town of Condor where Mr. Crouch was assistant post master and the agent for the Provincial Treasury Branch

Walter Crouch was born in Walworth England, in 1881. Before coming to Canada, he worked as a chartered accountant in London

Clara Crouch was born in 1885, near London, England. She served in World War I in the women's army corps.

The Crouch family were very musical and entertained many people with their talent both vocally and instrumentally

Mr. Crouch had his own orchestra and played at many dances in the Condor and Eckville districts. While on the farm, the Crouch girls, Daisy, Grace and Ivy dressed in men's bib work overalls could be seen driving a team of horses to town.

After moving to Condor, the Crouches continued to be active in community affairs. Mrs. Crouch served the Condor United Mission Church as organist for 25 years. She also taught Sunday School, was secretary-treasurer of the church board and led a Young Peoples group for many years. Mrs. Crouch was active in the Red Cross. She boarded many school teachers and at one time operated a restaurant in Condor

The district was saddened by the passing of Mr. Crouch in 1960 and Mrs. Crouch after a lengthy illness in 1964.

The family of Walter Crouch

Dorothy returned to England with her husband, Stanley Grant. They have three children Iris, Ivy and Malcolm and seven grandchildren

Grace also returned to England where she married Harold Harvey She lives there now with her daughter, Christine.

Daisy and her husband, Walter Avery, left Condor in 1948 and now live in Parksville, Vancouver Island, B.C. They have two children, Pat and Terry and eight grandchildren.

Ivy and her husband, Frank Bartesko and their four children Don, June, Janis and Kenny, left Condor for Victoria in 1951. They have six grandchildren. Don and his wife, Helen and son Wayne, live near Rimbey and June and her husband, Tony Szoke and family, live near Lacombe

Mary and her husband, Tom Raabis (formerly of Eckville) and their three children, live in Red Deer

John and his wife, Mary, live in Victoria, B.C He served overseas with the Calgary Highlanders in World War II

**[illegible]**

The quarter NE 36-32-4 W5 was originally the homestead of Horace Meeres. After he left it, it passed through many hands, to finally a Mr Cosgrove (brother of Dick Cosgrove) In 1942, we bought the farm from him and lived there until 1970. In 1974, our son, Neil, bought the farm from us and kept it in the family. On it we raised our three children, Allan now of Montreal, Sheila of Lesleville and Neil of Condor

**GEORGE CURRIE FAMILY**

George Currie and his two daughters, Janet and Georgina, and son, Coupland, came to Canada from Scotland in June, 1929. Mrs. Currie had passed away a few years before they immigrated to Canada.

They came to Hespero district and settled on a farm where Mr Currie lived until he passed away in 1948. Janet worked for Jerry Macdonnell's, at Hespero, for several years and then moved to Armstrong, B.C. where she still resides. Georgina married Elmer Cole, and lived at Hespero and Eckville. Coupland joined the air force in 1940. He is married and has two sons, Boyd and Derek. They now live in Edmonton. George Currie was instrumental in the building of the Presbyterian Church in Hespero. He canvassed people in the district for funds to erect the church building

**KUCHNOWSKI AND LAGORE**

Mr Carl Kuchnowski and Auguste came to Condor, Alberta, in 1915 from Germany They had two children, Helen Alma and Charlie Otto. They were in Condor until 1960, 45 years. Helen married Peter Lagore in 1929

Peter and Helen lived in Condor for 22 years. Then moved to 11610-84 Street in Edmonton. All their children (five boys) went through bible school to prepare for their future lives. They are all in the ministry. Arthur Lagore being the oldest son has spent 22 fruitful years as a missionary in South Africa. Arthur married Gladys Miller a year after he was a missionary. They had three boys born to them in Africa. Steven, now 20 years old is in Edmonton going to bible school. Dwight is 17 years old and is in High Prairie finishing his high school. Alan, 13 years, is in Africa with his parents

George Lagore now pastoring in High Prairie married Gwen Melnyk in 1955. They have two boys and one girl. The oldest boy, Gordon, is 20 years old. He has gone to bible school and is in the ministry. Then, Douglas is 19 years old Patricia is 18 years old. Cheryl Ranoe is deceased

William Charles has been pastoring, also, and now assisting his youngest brother in the church in Edmonton. William (Bill) married Bertha Motz in 1954. They have four children. The youngest being a chosen girl. Daniel Robert, the oldest, is 21 years old. Donna Helen is 19 years old and is in the ministry of music. Dwayne Peter is 18 years old and is in bible school preparing for his life ahead. Also desiring to be a preacher of the Gospel. Dolene Linda is 12 years old, our chosen girl.

Dave Peter Lagore is now pastoring a church in Calgary He married Eileen Buguski. They have two boys and one girl. Robert is 16 years

old, Debbie is 14 years old and Kenneth is 12 years old

Stanley Edward, the youngest son of Peter Lagore is pastoring a church in Edmonton He married Sharon Isrealson in 1970. They have two girls Shirley Ronae, four years old and Sandra Lynn, three years old

The five boys Arthur, George, William, David and Stanley have in the past been pastoring in different areas of Alberta. Arthur in Africa for 22 years

**EASTMAN'S**

Henry John Eastman came to Condor district in 1910. Married in Manchester, England, to Elizabeth Ashworth, they came to Canada in 1905 with two of their three children, Helena 14 years old and Norman aged 10, leaving a daughter Betty to come later Mr Eastman homesteaded on the NW 25-38-3-W5. Helena died in 1909. Leaving Mrs. Eastman in Calgary where she was working as a nurse. Henry Eastman and son Norman came first to Red Deer having an introduction letter to Horace Meeres, then the Fire Chief of the city. Later, Mr. Eastman and Norman, in 1910, left Red Deer for Condor, catching a ride with Mr. Foster a mailman as far as Eckville They then came to Pitcox, later to be called Hespero and were met by Charlie Stroud who took them by ox team to Condor corner where Ed French, who ran a store at Condor and Bob Hewitt were putting in the first culvert. The road being only a trail went through the lands of Homer Stockwell and Allan K. Blair, Sr. They stayed at the home of a neighbor, Mr. Jack Shaw, until a small house was built for them by Mr George Simmons, Sr. buying the lumber from Bill Blair

In the fall of 1910, Mr. Eastman worked at clearing land for the right of way for the Alberta

Mrs. Eastman

Mr and Mrs. Eastman

Central Railway, later to become the C.P.R. Norman also worked as water boy The railway gang camp was set up on Dave Blair's homestead. Mr. Eastman stayed with A. L. McDonald and Norman also did chores for Allan K. Blair, Jr while he and brother Dave Blair worked in a lumber camp

Mrs. Eastman came to the farm in 1911. She nursed over a large area even being taken to Rocky Mountain House by speeder in 20 below weather in the middle of the night to help a women who was having a difficult child birth She set bones and sewed up axe cuts and helped the sick; being made district nurse for the municipality of Raven. Betty Eastman came from England and also nursed in the district

The Eastmans cleared land and were helped in breaking it by Tom Peel who had some oxen and a hand plow. Mr and Mrs. Eastman were able to buy a team of horses later and being helped by another neighbor, Jim Craig, who also had a team of horses, broke more land and in 1913, planted spring wheat, the first of its kind in the district. The threshing was done by a horse drawn thresher owned by George Simmons, Tom Peel and Mr. Black Norman Eastman, Tom Peel and Jim Craig cut the first furrow to start building a road south to Caroline

In 1916, Norman Eastman, Ed Hart, Willy Stockwell and other district boys joined the 187 Battalion After training at Sarcee Camp, they went over-seas with the Famous Fighting Tenth. Norman and Ed Hart were both wounded at Hill 70 in France.

Norman married Milly Meeres in 1921. Took up the Simmons homestead on the same section as his father. They sold out and moved to Calgary in 1925. Mr and Mrs. Henry Eastman were burned out and moved with daughter Betty to Vancouver in 1929. Mr Eastman died at 87 and his wife at 93 years

In the second world war, Norman was on head quarters of Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp later joined Canada Pension Commission

Norman and Millie Eastman live at Jaques

Milly and Norm Estmann Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Lodge in Calgary. Their two children Elsie Harington, lives in Calgary and John lives in Ft. Saskatchewan.

**THE HISTORY OF THE EDGAR FAMILY**

The first we know of the Edgar family, two soldiers, Edgar and McKee, who fought with William, Prince of Orange, in Ireland in 1690, were given grants of land in Northern Ireland. Here they lived for many years and their families intermarried many different times.

Samuel Edgar, who married Miss Margaret McKee, immigrated to America in 1860 with his children, Margaret, who married Stephen Scott, and Mary, who married Alphonso Kilbourn, and Robert McKee, who married Miss Isabella Rebecca Bullied.

Samuel Edgar, with his family, arrived in Peterboro, Ontario after spending two months on the voyage in a sailboat. W. R. Edgar still has their grub box that they packed their food in on the ship. Samuel Edgar and his family went north of Peterboro to a little village called Apsley and took up homesteads there. It was a wild country and covered with heavy bush and of course Robert McKee, being young, soon became efficient with an axe, as lumbering was the major industry at that time. He was also a great hunter and found plenty of game in this new country. He was hired by the government to supply the road-builders with deer meat. They were building a new road that was called the Monk Road and ran north of Peterboro.

In 1870 during the first Riel Rebellion Edgar volunteered to go with Colonel Wolseley, who came with 500 British Troops to quell the uprising. He was one of the Voyageurs who manned the boats up the Great Lakes to Fort Garry where Winnipeg stands today. R. M. Edgar knew the late George Beatty very well, as he was also in the first Riel Rebellion. Upon returning home he continued on his homestead until his family of four boys and three girls were grown up. He then decided there were more opportunities for his family in the new country on the Prairies. He moved with his family to Manitoba in 1898 and they farmed there until 1903, but he still wished to take his family further west.

One day a young man, Joe Forster, called at our home and told us he was making his way out to his mother, father, and family west of Red Deer. My father, R. M. Edgar, asked him if he would write and let us know what it was like around Snake Lake, which is now Sylvan Lake. He later wrote to my father and described the country and said that there were still lots of homesteads to be had.

Father and mother decided they would move again, so in March, 1903 R. M. Edgar and his family moved to Red Deer. He rented a house near the Old Immigration Hall and not far from the Great West Hotel while he and R. H. Edgar, his son, would go out through the west country looking for homesteads. They went west of the Medicine River and chose homesteads near where Hespero is today. As the land was not thrown open for homesteading they had to "squat" on this land. This meant putting up shacks to show that it was occupied. The land they chose was the E-36-38-4-W5. They had to make the first road, as they were the farthest-west settlers at that time. There was plenty of hard work getting our logs for a house, barn, and other buildings, plus clearing and breaking the new land for crops and gardens. When the rest of the family arrived at the homesteads around the first of May, a prairie or brush fire had started northwest of the homesteads and was raging down towards our buildings, hay and feed. My father, R. M. Edgar, and myself, W. R. Edgar, were fighting fire and were nearly exhausted when the rest of the family arrived. We all fought fire until well into the night, to save our buildings and some pasture land for our cows and horses.

That summer, and for the next few years, there was a great influx of settlers, coming to the Condor, Leslieville and Alhambra districts. Pitcox was our first post office. It was opened up in 1905 by Macdonnell brothers and Frank Pearce. It was located near where Hespero is today, and was, I believe, the first post office west of the Medicine River. Our nearest post office before Pitcox was opened, was Evarts Post Office, which was about 12 miles away.

R. M. Edgar, R. H. and W. R., along with their teams, worked in a lumber camp during the winter of 1903-1904. It was south of where Condor

# GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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REFER TO FILE 4201.

im. EDMONTON, 15th June, 1910.

Registered.

Sir,-

Enclosed herewith you will find cheque in favor of yourself and men for work done in the month of May, 1910. Kindly see that these cheques are handed to the proper parties as soon as possible.

No. 14565, R.H.Edgar.....$38.50. Paid
No. 14566, R.H.Edgar.....24.00. Paid
No. 14569, A.J.Fred.....16.00. A.J. Fred
No. 14572, Eric Cullens..... 3.20.
No. 14573, S.Fred.....24.00. A.J. Fred
No. 14574, Jack Colts.....10.00. J. Colt
No. 14575, Edward Ago.....18.00. Ago
No. 14577, John Soggo.....22.00. J. Soggo
No. 14578, W.R.Edgar.....24.00. Paid
No. 14580, John A.Edgar.....48.00. Paid

Your obedient servant,

R.S. Tillis

CHIEF CLERK.

R.H.Edgar, Esq.,
Road Foreman,
Pitcox. Alta.

is today and was known as the Red Deer Lumber Company W. E. Payne, R. C. Brumpton, and others formed the Company Jim McCackney was the walking boss, Charles Bremmer was the foreman, and Rube Gee and Dad Weatherby freighted in our provisions. The wages there were a dollar per day and board, and a dollar per day for team and feed. A good many of the settlers took advantage of this work. The company took out over 2,000,000 feet of lumber The logs had to be driven down the Horseguard into the Medicine River then into the Red Deer River and to their saw mill at Red Deer It took a good part of the summer of 1904 to move the logs to the mill at Red Deer. This company operated for only one year, as it was too expensive to bring the logs so far

R. H. Edgar and W R. worked on a survey the summer of 1904 out where Rocky Mountain House is today. There were no settlers out that far at that time; it was a wilderness. We found that it was necessary to take any work that was offered us to keep the pot boiling and clothes to wear R. H. worked on a road survey in 1905 and W R. worked on the same survey in 1906. Many boys from around Red Deer worked on these surveys. We worked on different surveys for several years and in 1910 R. M. Edgar was appointed forest ranger in the Clearwater Forest Reserve I believe he was the first man to hold this position. By this time the Alberta Central Railway had received a franchise to build a railroad from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and on to Nordegg. The farmers and settlers were given the opportunity to work with their teams and equipment on this railroad. This was one of the first booms that Red Deer and the west country had seen

The declaration of war with Germany and her Allies in 1914 caused a great change in the picture. A good many of the boys, who had been raised and lived then on the homesteads, volunteered to go and fight for their country and the Motherland. In 1916 W R. Edgar enlisted in the 187th Battalion and was transferred to the 50th Battalion in France. He was seriously wounded on August 19, 1918, near Amiens. S. M Edgar enlisted in the 7th Battalion and was also seriously wounded, having his left hand taken off

R. H. Edgar was married in 1915 to Miss Veda Beeson. They had three boys, W H., L. M., and R. M. and one daughter, Velda, who is now Mrs. Ronald Scott and lives in Red Deer R. H. and his boys had built a good farm in the Hespero district, but R. H. and his wife decided they would rather live near Red Deer. In 1927 they bought the Woodsworth farm and have extended their holdings to about 3,000 acres. L. M. is on the Sam Blakley farm, R. M. on the Latam farm and W H on the Christian farm. He also farms the George Roth farm and the old home place

Robert McKee Edgar died on April 24, 1931 at the age of 82 years. Mrs. R. M. Edgar died January 9, 1919 at the age of 58 years

W. R. Edgar was married to Miss Ruby Lougheed on the 17th of June, 1924 and they have one daughter, June, now Mrs. N. R. Henderson, who lives in British Columbia. In 1939 they moved to the Waskasoo district of Red Deer Mrs. Edgar died on April 25, 1966

When the Second World War broke out L. M. Edgar and R. M. Edgar, sons of R. H. Edgar, both enlisted; Les in the Army and Bob in the Navy Both of them spent several years overseas during the war.

Robert H. Edgar was president of the Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timer's Association for several years and was active in building the Pioneer Lodge in 1958. He was also Reeve of the M. D of Red Deer for several years and took a great interest in the welfare of the Red Deer district and Red Deer City He served as an alderman of the city of Red Deer at one time. He passed away on the 4th of July, 1959, at the age of 75 years.

J. A. Edgar, the youngest son of R. M. Edgar has a summer home in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, U.S.A. and spends the winters in Florida, U.S.A.

Edith, the youngest daughter (Mrs. Scott Easson) lives in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. S. M Edgar, the oldest son of R. M. Edgar married Miss Minnie Craudlemire in 1913 and both have passed away They lived at Salmon Arm, B.C. Isabella Jane (Mrs. Kerr), the oldest daughter of

Robert McKee Edgar at 67 when he shot his last deer

R. M. Edgar, passed away in 1935. She lived in Detroit, Michigan. Margaret Edgar, the second oldest daughter, who never married, lived in Calgary, where she passed away in 1946. Mrs. R H. Edgar continues to live in Red Deer

**FLETCHER, CALVIN**

Cal Fletcher, born in Kansas, U.S.A. on May 25, 1893, came to Alberta in 1914 from Seattle, Washington. He worked throught the threshing at Castor, Alberta. Following the threshing season he came to Eckville by C P R. where he was met by J. Kemila, the village mail hauler He spent some time visiting the Lewis Weeks family, then, when he was about to go back to the States, he was offered a job in the Co-op Store by Mr. Rogers, the manager of the store. He accepted this offer and worked in the store until spring. By this time he had decided to join the service, but as he had not seen his mother for five years, he thought he owed it to her to go back home to enlist since Canada and the United States were fighting on the same side

After serving in the Navy and Naval Aviation he came back to Canada in the fall of 1919 with the intention of going into partnership with Mr Rogers. They were unable to make a satisfactory deal, so he was "jack of all trades" around town, helping in all the stores and businesses except the blacksmith shop, which was then owned by Mr McHattie

Finally Cal went to work for Mike Sestrap where he was employed for five years. He was married during that time to Mae McNeil. Mae was one of eight children, six boys and two girls The family resided in the Bluebell district. Her father, Hugh McNeil, was secretary-treasurer of the school for a number of years. Four of the McNeil boys are now deceased—Herbert and Leonard in 1967, Gilbert in 1972 and Everett in 1975

The Fletchers were active in the affairs of the village. Cal took time off from Sestraps to "work for the Lord", as it was called. He helped move the old school house across country to its site in the village. Everyone in town had a hand in the moving. Eckville was a lively place those days, and Mr. Fletcher was in on most of the sports. A dance or boxing match could be gotten up on very short notice. Music for the dances was played by Mrs. Clausen and Carl Koots and wood and lights for the hall were donated

In 1924 the Fletchers left Eckville and Cal went to work for Jerry McDonell, in the store at Hespero, where he worked for 21 years. He then moved to British Columbia, where he bought a store and retired after he and Mae had operated it for 10 years. They are now living in Surrey, B.C

The Fletchers had three children. Marjorie married John Sutela and is now living with her youngest daughter, Susanna, on the farm south of Hespero. Her eldest son, Calvin, lives at Sylvan Lake and has two children—Tracy and Cory Shirley lives in Lacombe and has two sons, Kelly and Michael Kendell Byron is married and living in Red Deer

Kenneth lives in Aldergrove, B.C. and is a dairy inspector for Safeway milk shippers. He and Alice have a son, Robert

Hazel lives in Burnaby, B.C. and is married to Maurice Illerbrun They have three children - Barbara, Marilyn and Cheryl Maurice works in the logging industry

**FOOTHILLS 4-H PONY CLUB — by Violet Safron**

The Foothills 4-H Pony Club was organized in 1964, being one of the first 4-H Pony Clubs in Alberta. Gordon Ross was District Agriculturist in Rocky Mountain House, and he helped to get the Club off the ground, as no one had any idea of what it would entail. The first practice and meeting was held at Stan Marcineks, at Condor The following officers were elected: Violet Safron, Leader; Douglas Ball of Benalto, Assistant Leader; and the Senior Committee Members were Mrs. George Boles, Rocky Mountain House, Stan Marcinek, Condor; Norman and Marie Guenther, Alhambra, Roy Tubbs and Bill McKellar, Condor; and Harry Safron, Don Ross, Ewart McDonald and Mary Cunningham (nee Storms), Eckville.

Violet Safron and Doug Ball attended a 4-H Leader's Conference in Edmonton in which all newly-formed clubs from Alberta gathered to exchange ideas and to draw up a guide for 4-H Pony Clubs

For the first few years the club members would take a trail ride into the mountains. Don Ross, Ewart McDonald and Roy Tubbs were trail guides, Marie Guenther and Bill McKellar were chief cooks, Harry Safron, Norman Guenther and Lloyd David were camp attendants, Zina Huss was dishwasher and Polly Ross was the "Tea Bag Lady", the name she received because she was the only one who had brought tea bags — only four She managed to save the bags by putting them on the clothes line to dry for re-use. Mrs. McKellar got to stay home and milk the cows. Jeanette (Pruden) Dyrland, James and Rodger Kinders, Johnny Bruinsmas and Wayne McTighe were evaluators.

Willis and Doris McGonigal (Searle grain elevator agent at Hespero and later at Eckville) helped organize many of the youth activities in the area.

Violet Safron, with the assistance of Doug Ball and a lot of support from the parents, trained 16 riders to do the musical ride which was performed at the Benalto Fair and at the Eckville Rodeo

In 1969 the first 4-H Inter-Club Competitions were held in the Eckville Arena, with the Gilby Club and Foothills Club competing Businessmen from Eckville donated travelling trophies and also a small trophy for the winner to keep Later

the Happy Hill 4-H Pony Club joined the Inter-Club competitions.

In 1969 the Lloyd David, Robert Robin, Mary (Storms) Cunningham and Harry Safron families all competed in the 4-H Rally at Lazy A Stables at Penhold. Each competitor from the club displayed a collection of ribbons at the end of a very successful day

In 1970 the club members attended the 4-H rally at Olds, again making a good representation in the winners' circle. On the way to the show, Lloyd David managed to tip the unpinned box off the three-ton truck, dumping four show horses into the ditch. They phoned ahead to Olds to delay the horse show, re-organized the truck, hauled one horse to the vets and continued on to Olds to compete in the show, winning several ribbons. Neil Bott's horse needed a few stitches so he stayed behind, while Karen and Gerald David and Yvonne Robin's horses continued on, a bit shook-up, but competed successfully.

Also in 1970, the Club members, assisted by several parents, painted the tool sheds, posts, signs and whatever needed painting, plus a few members' faces and hands, which didn't need painting, at the Hespero, Eckville and Evergreen Cemeteries. The paint was donated by the United Grain Growers.

In 1971 a Five-Year Leadership Certificate was received by Violet Safron.

The first 4-H Jamboree in the West Central Region was held at Wetaskiwin, July 25 and 26, 1975. This fun-oriented wind-up activity for clubs and individuals involved in 4-H was hosted by the Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce, and was attended by the Cunningham, Glen Kleeberger, Jack Saari, Harry Safron and Jim Smith families. A similar affair was attended by the Club in 1976 in Camrose and 1977 will see the Jamboree in Rimbey

In 1976, the Club members and their families toured the well-known Spruce Meadows, in Calgary, and enjoyed a two-day Trail Ride along the Cline River

Several members attended the Public Speaking Workshops at Ponoka and Condor

In 1977 Five-Year Leadership Certificates were received by Mary Cunningham, Selma Saari, Esie Smith and Jim Smith. Ten-Year Leadership Certificates were received by Violet Safron and Harry Safron.

On May 7, 1977 the Club members and several parents eagerly participated in the Highway Clean-Up, sponsored by the Alberta government, and cleaned 10 miles of Highway 11 from the Benalto Corner on west

To wind up the 1977 year, the Achievement Day took place on July 13 at the Eckville Arena, with Inter-Club following on July 15. The Awards Night concluded another successful year

**MR. AND MRS. ED FRENCH — Information given by their daughter, Hazel Darrett**

Mr. and Mrs. Ed French and three daughters, along with Mr. and Mrs. Kirk and son arrived in Red Deer from Colorado, U.S.A. in 1902. This is the story as told by the second oldest daughter, Hazel

Father homesteaded at what is now Condor, in 1904, and moved the family to the homestead. Our first post office was in father's home, until he built a store. Mr. Emberley, a neighbor, and father gave land for a railroad siding. This was a very important railway for the settlers in this new country — the Alberta Central Railway. I remember the men working on the grade, and also when the first train came through.

It seems that it was 1906 when Prairie Rose School was built. It was a one-room school where nine grades were taught. Our first teacher, Mr. Dodson, was a kind man and was well liked. Miss Forsythe came next. Some others were Miss Philips, Miss Kelsaway, Miss Patterson (Mrs. A. Holt), Miss Meston (Mrs. Frank Patterson), Gertrude Reilly (Mrs. Robert Shaw), Ray McDougal and Earl Sully. These are some of the teachers that I remember — doubtless there were others.

Some of the old-timers that come to mind are Emberly's, Stockwell's, Stroud's, Blair's, McDonnells', Raudebaugh's, Patterson's, Eastman's, Hewitt's, Rutherford's, Reilly's, Barton's, Leask's, Simon's, Hart's, Wright's and Harry Bice.

Father was a kind person and was always ready to help his neighbors. Mother was always busy and efficient. We were by now a large family and all very happy and busy. Father sold the store and farm in 1920, and we moved to Washington State, U.S.A.

Father and mother are both gone now, but it is wonderful that eight of us are still living and can get together quite often. Mother predeceased father by a few years, and Bertha, Effie and Ernest have also passed on.

**THE ELWOOD FRENCH FAMILY**
**By Alys A. French**

Elwood was born in Grandview, Manitoba where he lived until moving to Drumheller in 1929. In the fall of 1931 he came to the Shady Lane district with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George French, and three sisters, Alice, Merle and Joy. His father had purchased a half section of raw land from the C.P.R. This was about a mile north and across the road from the school.

The first winter they lived in a house across the road from their property, which belonged to Oscar Oastrom. Elwood and his father cut logs in the bush near Bungey, and had them made into lumber at Ralph Evans' sawmill. The following spring they used this lumber to build a house.

In 1935 Elwood and I were married. I was the former Alys Maurer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Maurer of Clive. I had taught the Shady Lane school for the three previous years during which time I boarded with Mrs. Alice Campbell. We moved north of the Horseguard River. There

he and his father farmed together until his parents moved to Didsbury in 1942 and he took over the farm.

Elwood spent long hours working on the land and doing chores but found time to play softball and do some fishing. These being part of the depression years, most recreation and entertainment was in the district or close to it. While we were here three daughter, Doreen, Carole, and Audrey were born. I was also during this time that I spent three more years teaching, one and a half years at Wolfe school and the same amount at Shady Lane.

Having decided to discontinue farming, we left this district in October, 1948, and moved to Didsbury. Elwood started doing carpenter work and after erecting one house there, went to work in the Drumheller district. The girls and I remained in Didsbury until the summer of 1949 when we joined Elwood. In the summer of 1951 we bought our present home in Drumheller.

Elwood has recently retired after having worked for Holmen Construction Company for over 25 years. Both of us enjoy gardening, working with flowers and in the yard in general. I spent nine years doing substitute teaching here in the Drumheller Valley and during the last five or six years have devoted a great deal of time to various crafts — bead work, chenille and feather crafts, ceramics, needlework, and other things.

As Verlayne was born in Drumheller we now have four daughters. Doreen is Mrs. Donald Ross, has three children — Kim, Lori and Susan — and the five live in Lethbridge. Carole is married to Robert Anderson and they are living in Michigan, U.S.A. with their son Perry and adopted Korean daughter, Tanya. Audrey lives in Calgary and Verlayne, her husband, Arvin Hopcraft, and son Shane have recently left Whitecourt to take up residence in Calgary.

We have many fond memories of our years spent in the Shady Lane district. On occasion we are privileged to be in that vicinity. We enjoy visiting with friends and former neighbors, hearing about and seeing the progress of the people and just relaxing in that part of Alberta which provides such beauty of nature.

**THE GEORGE FRID FAMILY**

At the turn of the century, western Canada and particularly Alberta, was a beehive of activity. People from Europe, Asia, the British Isles and the United States swarmed here to take up homesteads. In Hamilton, Ontario, Alfred Frid, too, had heard of the $10 homesteads that one could file for; so full of hope and enthusiasm, he and his two teen-aged sons, George and Ernest, took the train to Central Alberta.

On March 15, 1905 they arrived in Red Deer. The following day they bought three teams of horses and three sleighs and set off for the Diamond Valley area. It was here they rented a small shack on SE 17-38-3-W5, the quarter that the Diamond Valley cemetery is now located on. Three days later Alfred, George and Ernest Frid were hauling lumber from the Petteffer Lumber Mills, west of Evergreen, in to Red Deer. It is interesting to note that in 1906 they hauled the last load of lumber by sleigh on the 15th of May.

During the summer months George took many different jobs. He worked for MacIntyre Ranches at High River, helped put in the basement for the new Hudson's Bay store in Calgary, worked on the Alberta Central Railroad west of Alhambra, and at a sawmill in Fernie, B.C. Gradually he put aside a little bit of money and in 1908 he filed on a homestead two miles north of Condor.

In 1908 Alfred Frid filed on NW 19-38-3-W5, which is presently owned by Alfred's grandson and George's son, John Frid. In 1912 Alfred Frid, who wasn't cut out to be a farmer, decided to take his family back to Hamilton. George and Stanley decided that they would stay on the farm and give it another try. George and his father traded homesteads, and George moved to NE 19-38-3-W5, which was adjoining his brother Stanley's quarter. Alfred later sold the land he traded with George to Sam Barton. After he had sold the land, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Frid, Ernest, Norman and Beatrice returned to Hamilton.

On October 23, 1912 George married his childhood sweetheart, Elizabeth Clutton, from Hamilton, and they started farming in earnest. The 12 acres of land which was mainly plowed by a walking plow was gradually increased. With Stan and George sharing their machinery, costs and expenses, it wasn't too long before they were able to buy a P & O Sulky plow and a hay mower. They always used Bill Whittle's hayrake — there was a lot of machinery swapping in those days.

Credit must be given to the young bride, who soon learned to bake bread, milk cows, raise chickens and turkeys, and can wild fruit. Blueberries and saskatoons were abundant. She also looked after her beautiful flower garden; a hobby she pursued throughout the years. The years were lean, and at times George shot partridge and rabbits, which were plentiful, and these made a tasty addition to the meals. George often said if it hadn't been for the wild fruit, partridge and hope, they would have given up farming. Mrs. Frid was exceptionally capable. She always had her housework done so when George needed her for piling brush or burning it, stooking, stacking bundles or hay, or later on to run the binder, or just doing the chores, she was always there.

Their son John was born in August, 1913 and Ella was born in 1915.

Nineteen sixteen was a great year for the Frids, for now they were able to communicate with their friends and relatives via the telephone. The exchange was at Ericksons. There were many happy occasions, church services held in private homes, community picnics, berry picking, ball games, swimming, horseshoe

George Frid plowing the virgin soil

pitching or friendly visits with neighbors and relatives. They of course had no TV's in that era, but they bought their first radio in 1925.

In 1922 George bought his first car, a second-hand Model T Ford, for the sum of $125. This was a source of great pleasure for the family for they would now be able to get to Red Deer in less than two and a half hours — a distance of 30 miles.

In October 1924 George joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge in Eckville and held a continuous membership until he passed away in 1975.

In 1929 George bought a brand new tractor — a John Deere — for $1,040. He now had three quarters of land, and John was more than willing to run the new tractor.

George Frid was president of the Mutual Telephone Association of Eckville for several years, and was a recipient of one of the first trophies in the "Save the Soil Campaign" in 1949. Through the years he had seen many changes, especially in home improvements and farming methods — from the coal-oil lamp and the scrub board to electric lights and automatic washers and driers, and from the horse-operated threshing machines to our present day combines.

Mrs. Frid passed away in February 1965, their daughter Ella married James Tullock and they lived in the Diamond Valley district. They had three daughters — Evangeline, Jean (Hammond) and Susan (Krest). Ella passed away in 1943. George passed away in 1975. They are buried in the Hespero cemetery.

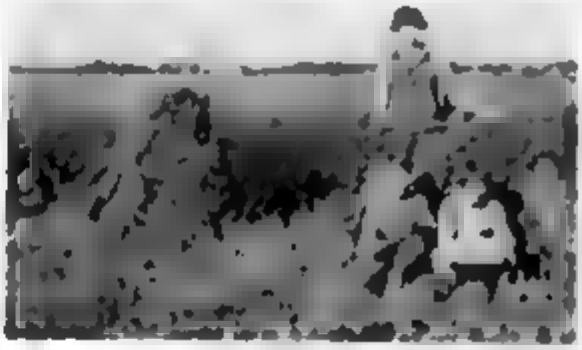
We salute Mr. and Mrs. Frid and the people of the "Pioneer Era", we respect the many hardships they endured and we thank them for the pathways they paved for future generations. Truly these pioneers left us a legacy and a heritage of which we can well be proud.

**JOHN ALFRED FRID FAMILY — by John Frid**

I was born on my parents' farm, NW 19-38-3-W5, on August 28, 1913, the first child of George and Elizabeth Frid. Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Whittle were with mother when I arrived, my father had gone to Innisfail (to the nearest doctor) to get the doctor, but by the time they arrived home I was already in the picture and trying out my lungs. My sister Ella was born April 5, 1915, with the same two ladies in attendance.

We children had the usual good times and problems of all small children. I started school in 1920 after the Easter holidays. The three and one-fourth miles to the Daisy Nook school seemed such a long way from home. My first teacher was Miss Innis, she later married Alf Rasmussen, a neighbor of ours. My second teacher, Miss Ucheeta, was the younger sister of the first Japanese girl born in Canada. My sister started school in 1922; and we rode double on an old sway-backed mare named Jess. Now old Jess had a very bad habit of shying at everything that moved, consequently we kids were always looking for fallen trees, stumps or fences to be able to get on her again. I think she really enjoyed dismounting us because she seemed to have that certain glint in her eyes whenever she unloaded us!

I earned my first money in the fall of 1923. I was to get the sum of 10 cents a night to bring in the neighbour's cows from the pasture and put them in the corral. Here I was, only 10 years old, and I was rich! I earned the huge sum of $6.10. I forget what I spent my money on, but I do remember buying a pair of spring skates; the kind that clamp on a pair of heavy boots.



Stooking grain - 1923. Maurice Frid (Standing), John and Ella by the stook

I continued school until 1928, when I passed my Grade Eight exams. I had hopes of going to Olds Agricultural College in 1930. However, the Depression and hail storms dashed those plans, so I stayed on the farm with my dad. I would go out with the threshing crew each fall, and in this way I made enough money to carry me through until the next harvest. Dad and I would also go out to do custom breaking for the neighbours, using our tractor. We got $4. per acre and on a good day, barring break-downs, we could break six acres.

In the winter of 1938-1939 we decided we would log out our west timber stand, as we needed lumber to do some building. We bought a sawmill and set it up. That spring we sawed about 60,000

feet of lumber. I was going with Annie Hollander and we were making plans to be married in the fall of 1941. The lumber would come in handy for building a house and other buildings we would need.

Dad and I did not have much experience in carpentry, but "where there's a will, there's a way", and in the spring we started building my house. By fault and error we went along, learning as we progressed, and by fall we had the house partially finished. Through the years we replaced every building on the farm, with Dad and me doing the carpentry work. We feel justifiably proud to think that we have one of the finer farmsteads in the district.

Annie and I got married on November 19, 1941.

Annie writes: I was born Annie Antonette Hollander on May 13, 1917, daughter of Joseph and Antonette Hollander, who immigrated from Bohemia, Czechoslovakia to the U.S.A. in 1905, and came from Fernie, B.C. to their homestead two miles south of Gaetz school in 1908. I was their fifth child, sister Mary was the eldest, then Joseph, Helen, Millan, me, and Josephine. We all attended Gaetz school. I started school after Easter in 1924 with Mr. August Matthews as my first teacher. I finished Grade 10 in 1933 with Mrs. Jonas Anderson as my teacher.

In the fall of 1934 I went to work as a clerk for Von's Store in Alhambra. I worked for Mr. Von Hollen until the fall of 1939. When I started working I got the wonderful wage of $10. plus room and board per month. Through the months my wages increased until I was earning $22.50. In the fall of 1939 I was offered a position with Lawrence Ltd. in Red Deer for $10 a week and I took it. Unfortunately, I had not taken into consideration my room and board, which was $17.50 per month, so this was not much of a promotion!

When John and I were married we started our life together with very little money, and, although the house was new, it was far from being finished on the inside. We had a few pots and pans, no furniture to speak of, and a big woodpile outside the door. We had to haul or carry water from across the road for three years, until we could afford to have a well drilled. I remember how lonesome I was the first year, and how happy I was when John would come in from the field. I'd run out to meet him — with two water pails. It seemed as though the water can was always empty!

Our house had been built in a grain field across from John's parents' house. There was no grass around the house — just plowed ground and a sea of mud when it rained. We summer-fallowed our future house yard in 1942. In the spring of 1943 we started to plant trees and seeded some grass. Every evening after the chores were done John would dig a half dozen or eight holes for the trees, then we would go across the road for a barrel or two of water for the trees. The next day I would take a spade and the wheelbarrow, and go over to the Moyles farm, which was just across the road and south of our place. The Moyles family had left several years prior to this and there was no one living there, but they surely had lovely little spruce trees back in the bush. I planted over 60 spruce trees that year. We hauled water whenever it was dry, and had to replace only one tree. Looking back today, we are glad we did this, and, although we have added several hundred more trees in the years that came, we still think that those little spruce trees were the loveliest.

John's sister Ella died in 1943, leaving behind three little girls. Susan was only four months old, and she came to live with us. Now we had a baby in our home! In June, 1944 our son Kenneth arrived on the scene, and in July, 1948 our daughter Frances joined us. In the fall of 1948 Susan's father, who by then had remained, took Susan home with him. She had to start school and become one of the family. Susan returned in 1957 and stayed with us until 1961, when she married Robert Krest. They live in Blackfalds and have two children, Brian and Annette.

Kenneth is married and has a family of three boys. They live across the road from us. Frances married Roy Lapp in 1967, and they live in Sherwood Park, east of Edmonton.

John continues with his story: I joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge in May, 1933. In 1949 I had the honor of being elected to a chair in the Grand Lodge of Alberta, and in 1957 was elected as Grand Chancellor of Alberta. In 1966 I represented Alberta at Supreme Sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, and again in 1968 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am a present member of Success Lodge No. 33 Innisfail. Annie joined the Pythian Sisters Peace Temple No. 8 Innisfail in 1965. She is a Past Chief and also a member of Grand Temple.

We have both been involved in all community activities such as Fish and Game Association, Unifarm, Hall and Cemetery Boards, Ladies Aid, and our Baptist Church. We both love fishing, camping and the great outdoors.

We have had a very good life here on the farm, especially now that we only grain farm. We hope to continue farming as long as our health will permit us to do so, then someone else can take over. We are thankful that we have been given the privilege to live in a country where freedom still reigns, and hope that we have been an asset to our community and our country.

**HESPERO-ECKVILLE AIRPORT — NE 30-39-5-W5**

The Hespero-Eckville Airport came into existence in 1945. The dirt work was done with a 60 Caterpillar and a pull-type grader.

The first aircraft stationed there was a Fairchild 24 C F.-AZT on November 13, 1953.

In 1959 the air strip was upgraded to meet government standards for registration. It was registered under Waskasoo Aviation Ltd. for

several years. Due to the fact the Penhold Air Base was military, only this air strip was used as the Red Deer air strip for training students

Mr. Pat Johnson, of Red Deer, was the instructor. The planes used for training students were an Ercope, Aronka, Tri-pacer

Runway lights were installed in the fall of 1976 and completed in the spring of 1977

**HESPERO COMMUNITY HALL**

Among the first halls in the Eckville district to be built was the Hespero Community Hall. A number of young men returned from the war with an incentive to build a place for social gatherings and community get-togethers, such as were found in the British and European communities

On December 15, 1922 the Hespero Industrial Society was formed in order to comply with the government regulations before a license could be issued for a public community hall. The first five trustees of the Society were Robert H. Edgar, John W. Lawson, George A. Frid, Joseph Nelson and Douglas Snider, and the secretary-treasurer was Gerry MacDonnell. The original hall (which burned down in 1937) was built just north of the present one

Several men started construction, and planned a box social for the grand opening night in the first part of 1924. However, when the day arrived the fir flooring material had not yet arrived, but as luck would have it, the train arrived at 4:00 p.m. with the much-needed material. With the help of 30 men, the floor was laid and the box social and dance was in full swing by 9:00 p.m. the same night. It is understood that some of the highest priced boxes sold for $50 — almost like spending $100 today. There must have been some hungry men, pretty girls, or too much moonshine! The orchestra was Harold Bone's of Red Deer and Pat Murphy was the auctioneer

Each year an annual dance was held to commemorate the hall. Before the hall was built the people of the community would gather in the back of the Hespero store, but with no heat there, the need for a new building was urgent. The hall was used for many functions, and in 1937, as it was being heated for a church service it became overheated and was destroyed by fire.

A meeting was held at the Hespero store on December 11, 1937 to consider rebuilding. Another meeting was held in the first part of 1938 and the final go-ahead was given by the members to construct another hall. A piece of land was donated by Gerry Macdonnell, and construction began with Elno Lind the contractor. A noted feature in the hall is a moosehead hanging on the north wall, which was donated by Carl Barhan. The Society bought a piano from one of the Macdonnell girls, also card tables were purchased. It is known that as many as 26 tables were filled when card parties were held. Where are our card players today?

In the early records of the hall it is shown that they had enough interested people to maintain ladies' and mens' entertainment committees, lunch committees, an auditor was elected as well as the usual slate of officers.

Annual dances are still being held, as well as wedding dances, showers, turkeys suppers, card parties and Christmas and Halloween parties. For those people who knew what it was like to go to the outdoor "johns" in those days, these are being replaced by indoor facilities. These renovations were carried out in 1977.

The names of some of those who served on the hall board and as members include the Macdonnell family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Threadgold, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Fletcher, the Hartley family, Mr. Curtis Grant, Mr. O. J. Miller, Mrs. A. Cordon, Miss B. Baldwin, Mr. A. Spearing, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tulloch, the Elmer Coles', the Stan McCreights', George Currie, Mrs. Nora McCuish, Jack and Nelmi Torsti; and more recent members include Kults, Peitikamens, Maki, Kelms, Dares, Patjas, Gordons, Kangas', Syrens, Strems, Lahti and Lind, and many more too numerous to mention. This is an example of many people supporting their community hall. We hope the spirit continues today!

Mr. Sedric Peitikamen served for a great number of years as janitor, something like 22 years, also Ronnie Kult as hall manager, in the more recent years of operation. Their dedication is most appreciated. We also are grateful to those who carried on before us to keep a place for our children to use when they grew up

**HESPERO LADIES' AID**

The first recorded minutes of the Hespero Ladies' Aid are dated December 9, 1937. The membership at that date included, Mrs. J. C. Hartley, Mrs. G. H. Macdonnell, Mrs. C. Gant, Mrs. J. Spence, Mrs. D. Snider, Mrs. C. Fletcher, Mrs. W. Edgar, Mrs. W. Whittle, and Mrs. C. Schuneman. Funds were raised by various entertainments. The first annual supper was held in the fall of 1938 which amounted to $27.25 and was a reasonable sum of money at that time. Gift parcels were mailed to the men and women, in the forces during 1939 to 1946. Donations were also given to help built the Hespero Church and to the upkeep of the church and the manse at Eckville. The "Aid" was always ready to give to

Hespero Hall on fire

any needy project in the community and their annual suppers were an event supported and enjoyed to the present date. The Hespero Church was closed in 1974 and sold to the town of Innisfail. The congregations amalgamated with St Pauls Presbyterian Church in Eckville. Thus the Hespero Ladies Aid came to an end after many years of friendship, meetings and assistance with many worth while cause. The last recorded minutes are dated May 7, 1975

**HESPERO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

In 1937 Rev. Campbell, who was stationed at Eckville, conducted church services, which were held in the Hespero Community Hall. The hall was destroyed by fire and services were discontinued.

In 1938, plans were laid for the erection of a church building and a very successful, every person visitation was made to solicit funds. The late Emo Lind, a local carpenter, with the aid of volunteers erected the building on the property donated by G. H. Macdonnell The board of managers consisted of: William Edgar, Reginald Tisdale and Robin Hartley Mrs. G. H. Macdonnell was the organist and she was assisted by Mrs. Douglas Snider

A congregational meeting was held February 1940, and a board of managers elected, consisting of: Mr James Spence, Mr. Douglas Snider, Mr Elmer Cole and Reginald Tisdale.

The ministers during the years were Mr Fraser, Miss Ruby Walker, Rev McGregor, Rev D L. Crocker, Rev Coles, Rev. A. F Howich, Rev. Kingsley King, Rev Glen Marsh, Rev. A. L. Sutherland, Mr. Ken Grant, Rev Peter Walter, Rev. Sheldon McKenzie, Miss Iris Ford, Rev. B. S. Hartley, Rev K. G. Knight, Rev Bob Burton and Rev Sidney Chang.

In 1945 a church manse was purchased for $5000 Mrs. Ruth Logan organized a choir which was an asset to the church. The first wedding performed in the church was between Miss Mary Brown and Mr Harry Medin, which was performed by Rev. R. A. Sinclair On Sunday November 24, 1968 the 20th anniversary was celebrated.

In 1972-73 many members had moved away and the attendance became so small that the Church congregation amalgamated with Eckville. The building was sold and moved to Innisfail

**THE HEWITT STORY**

Mr. R. G. Hewitt came to Canada in 1904 to Manna, Saskatchewan, later coming to Condor in 1908, where he homesteaded. Mrs. Hewitt came to Canada in 1912. She was to come over on the Titanic, but changed berths with a girl friend, so, came on the Empress of Ireland which she nursed on. She came to Red Deer and met Mr. Hewitt and they were married in the Gaetz Church. She nursed at Condor for a number of years, all through the flu epidemic. My sister Vera was born in 1916, while my father was overseas. He went over with the 50th Battalion in 1915. He returned home in 1918. I, George Hewitt, was born at Condor in 1919. My mother nursed with Dr. Backus for several years. Our first school was Prairie Rose, north and west of Condor

We moved from Condor to Red Deer in 1928 where my mother had a nursing home and my father worked at the Red Deer Hospital. In 1932, we went to Calgary where Mother ran a nursing home at 1404 West Mount Boulevard. Then, the depression hit, so we moved back to Condor in 1936.

In 1940, I, George, married Caroline Walsh. In 1941, I went into the Army. My father went to Penhold to the Airbase. In 1943, sister, Vera, joined the navy. After the war, Dad retired to Red Deer and sold his farm at Condor In 1946, I rented the farm, also worked for Frank Barton. Later, I moved to my own farm at Butte, Alta.

In 1954, Mother went to Rose Haven, Camrose, where she stayed until she passed away in 1964 aged 91. My father went to live with

Opening of the Hespero Church Sept. 29th, 1938

Vera in B.C. in 1955, where he passed away in June 1956. He was brought back to Red Deer where Mother and Father rest in peace.

My sister Vera, Mrs. T. MacDonald and husband live in Vancouver, B.C. (no family)

Caroline and I have seven children, Robert, Carol, Danny, Gary, Charlotte, Larry and Sheila. We now have sixteen grandchildren

This is the life story of my folks as well as I can remember

P S Some of our early neighbors were Neigards, Clements, Alberta, Jennings, Waldon and Wardens.

**THE HICKS STORY**

Grant Hicks with his parents Mr and Mrs Hicks homesteaded E-15-39-4 W5. They built a frame house. They donated the land for Shady Lane school. They boarded the teacher for a while. They stayed only a few years and their land was sold to Macdonnells in Hespero. Then they moved away. The house was moved to Hespero and was in use for many years

**HORNBY, WILLIAM AND ROSELLA**

William and Rosella Hornby came to Canada from England in about 1910 and settled in the Nateby area with their two daughters — Miriam aged eight and Una aged five. Their son Jack was born three years later

After many years of hardships and drought on the prairie, Mr Hornby and family moved to the Condor district in approximately 1933 about one mile west of Condor corner and one and a half miles south. By this time their daughter Miriam had married Robert Lindsay and they were on their own

The Hornbys moved into a log cabin in the middle of their quarter. Being close to a road was no major concern — the roads were only muddy trails

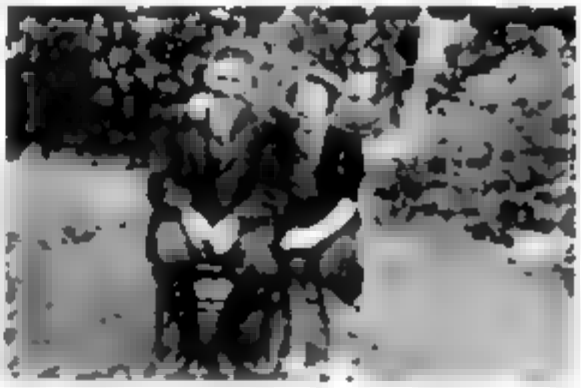
The cabin was one large room and the bedrooms were in the attic They made their living there as most others did — they had a few pigs and milked cows

However they didn't stay long in the old log cabin, infested with mice and the cracks filled with old rags to try to keep out the cold winds Spring came in March that year and the crops were put in early with horses. By May, a big snowstorm arrived, dumping large amounts of wet snow on everything Their next house, a bungalow was built at the edge of their quarter by Mr Hornby and his son-in-law, Robert Lindsay Next came a large high barn and upon its completion Bob danced the Highland Fling on the top of the roof much to the consternation of the womenfolk

Mr. Hornby was a gardener at heart and upon his retirement in 1942, when he sold his farm to his son-in-law, he gardened to his heart's content on a small acreage on the same farm. About this time their daughter Una, went out to work, first at Hespero, then on to Red Deer where she has kept house for various people since

After a few years on the acreage, Mr. and Mrs. Hornby moved their house to an acreage in the town of Condor. Here Mrs. Hornby was very active in their church Mission Circle Group Over the years she had taught Sunday School at Northup School and again when they moved to town. Mr Hornby was very crippled with arthritis and this was their main reason for moving to the Twilight Cottages in Red Deer where they resided until their passing, William in 1957 and Rosella in 1967

Their son Jack Hornby married Elizabeth Betty) Munro and lived on the present Herb von Hoxen farm during their early married life. Jack was in the Army during the war but never made it overseas because of a hand injury sustained earlier Their son, Howard was born while they lived in the Condor area.



Jack and Betty Hornby, 1937

Following discharge from the Army, Jack had a blacksmith shop in Condor and also spent a number of years in Nordegg working with the mining company It was here their daughter, Betty June, was born. Later Jack and his family moved to Condor where he spent a number of years as a Grain Elevator Agent. Betty was active in the Home and School Association and also in local church work at Condor Mission. They finally took up residence in Edmonton where Jack worked as a maintenance man at the Charles Camsell Hospital.

Their son Howard is married with a family of four and is living in Bowden Alberta where he is in the construction business. Their daughter, Betty June married Raymond Hillman (formerly of Eckville). They have a family of four and are presently living in Michigan where they are in the ministry

**GEORGE JAYES FAMILY**

My Father, George Jayes was born in Powassan, Ontario. After spending some time in California as a cook in lumber camps, he came to Alberta in 1908 and took up a homestead in the Pitcox district (later known as Hespero)

In 1912 my Mother, Mrs. Rachel Tweed who was a widow with two children, a daughter Keitha who later became Mrs. Fred Bott and a son Leland, came from Iowa to spend the winter with her parents, Mr and Mrs. George Rasmus, her brother Ben and sister Mr and Mrs. Eli Anderson. Here she met my Father who was a bachelor. She returned to Iowa in 1913 and sold her home there and came back to Alberta bringing a carload of furniture and a nearly new top buggy which hadn't sold at her farm sale. She rented a log house and Keitha and Leland attended Shady Lane school which had been built that year.

In the spring of 1914 Mother and Dad drove to Red Deer and were married and the next year I was born. In the fall of 1915 we moved to a farm at Castor. We drove, taking the chickens, two pigs, calves and camping equipment on a hayrack. Leland and Fred Bott were on horseback chasing the cattle. Weather was good and the trip took eight days — a distance of about 150 miles. In 1917 my brother Elmer (Bud) was born.

The first good crop was halled out and after they had a few dry years, in 1921 Dad decided to move back to his homestead in the Hespero district. By now Condor had a post office and a store. In the spring of 1922 I had to start school and walked the mile and a half to Shady Lane — Dad was on the school board for a few years.

In the summer of 1922 my sister Nellie was born. In winters Dad worked in sawmills to supplement the farm income.

Mother passed away in January 1929 and the same year in May Dad passed away. They are both buried in the Leslieville cemetery. Bud Nellie and I went to live with our brother Leland Tweed who had recently married Grace O'Neal from Iowa, and was living on a farm near Condor. We then attended Prairie Rose School.

In 1934 I married Ernest (Johnnie) Rasmussen, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Rasmussen, pioneers of the Condor and Bluebell districts. We farmed his home place for a number of years and in 1945 we moved to the Fawcett district north of Edmonton where we built and operated a service station and cafe for a few years, on Highway 44, later selling it and buying a farm north of Clyde in the Nestow area.

We had three children, the oldest, Gerald, is a shop foreman for Finning Tractor in Nanaimo, B.C. He married Ann Galleberg from Big Valley and they have three children, Daryl, Lisa and Darcy. Stanley, the second boy is a truck driver and is presently working for the Government. Our daughter Bonnie married Curtis Wright from Vancouver, a heavy duty mechanic; they have one son Jeffery and live in the Nestow district.

Bud served overseas in the Second World War and on his return in 1945 started driving a bus, a position he still holds, driving from Red Deer to Consort. He bought the home place and still farms it. He married Blanche Housen a nurse from Alix and they make their home in Red Deer. They have two daughters, Patricia, a nurse at the Red Deer General Hospital and married to Dave Sieboid, and Sheila who is in her third year of University in Edmonton.

Nellie took a hairdressing course in Calgary, and in 1946 married Richard Rasmussen, son of Mr and Mrs. Ray Rasmussen of the Flatbush district. Nellie and Richard farmed in that area for several years before moving to Westlock where Nellie works at Pembina Lodge, a Senior Citizens Home, and Richard works in Clyde for Steigers, a farm equipment dealer for White and Hesston. They have one son, Lee, who is apprenticing in Westlock at Doherty's garage. He married Penny Greig and they have one son Greg. Their daughter Janene lives at home and is cashier at a Red Rooster store in Westlock. A foster daughter Virginia is married to Ray Day and lives in Matsqui, B.C. They have two children.

My husband Ernest passed away in 1975 and is buried in the Nestow cemetery.

**JENNINGS, JOSEPH (JOE)**

Joseph, (Joe), Jennings was born in 1892 in CamGloster-Glastershire, England. Educated in England until 14. Had his training as a sailor on the ship Warspite. Transferred to the Merchant Service on the Warwick and was petty officer. He came to Canada in 1910 to Carnduff, Saskatchewan living with his sister and brother-in-law, Beatrice and Sidney Hopkins. They lived in a mud house. Just two boys immigrated to Canada in 1911 and 1912, Horace and Frank.

The three boys homesteaded at High Point, Saskatchewan. Joe joined the First Canadian Division in Regina when the First War broke out. Honorably discharged in Calgary, March 1919.

In 1919, through the Soldiers Settlement Board, Joe bought a quarter section at Condor.

Mrs. Jennings with daughter Joyce on her knee. Two friends from England in center. Joe Jennings on right.

He married Rosa A. Bridges September 19, 1920, in St. Lukes Anglican Church, Red Deer

Mrs. Jennings was born in Finchley, London, England, July 7, 1891.

They found times very hard and money very scarce. Joe sold his homestead in Saskatchewan for $300. Mrs. Jennings found a good friend in Emily Meeres who showed her how to clean her first chicken, and bake her first loaf of bread.

Joe was on the Condor school board in the 1930's and was secretary for U.F.A. He was also on the executive of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Jennings

Joyce — born June 16, 1921

Jack — born March 18, 1923 — Mrs. Jennings almost died having this baby. The doctor was late and Mrs. Eastman, the midwife, helped mother and baby until the doctor arrived. Roads were terrible. Dr. Grant of Sylvan Lake had chains on all wheels.

Yvonne — born September 14, 1924 — named "Yvonne Grant" in tribute to Dr. Grant who saved the life of her and her son Jack previously.

Elizabeth Emily — born February 26, 1927 — taught school for a number of years.

Frank Henry — born March 16, 1934 — drowned in Sylvan Lake, 1942.

Richard Joseph — born June 14, 1936 — Jack and Richard (Dick) both still farm at Condor.

Both Joyce and Yvonne served in the war with the C.W.A.C.

Jack never passed the medical so was not allowed to go. Joe, the father served on the homeguard. Mrs. Jennings was an ardent worker in the Red Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings left the farm in 1948-49 and moved to Red Deer. They moved back in 1950 to the original Barton home in the town of Condor. However, returned to Red Deer in 1956.

Mr. Jennings passed away November 26, 1976. Mrs. Jennings resides in Red Deer Nursing Home. She suffered a stroke seven years ago and is confined to wheel chair. However, is still alert and has contributed much as has her husband to our country and especially to Condor district. She is a talented painter and writer but hasn't been able to do either very well since her stroke.

**KAIKKONEN, PAUL**

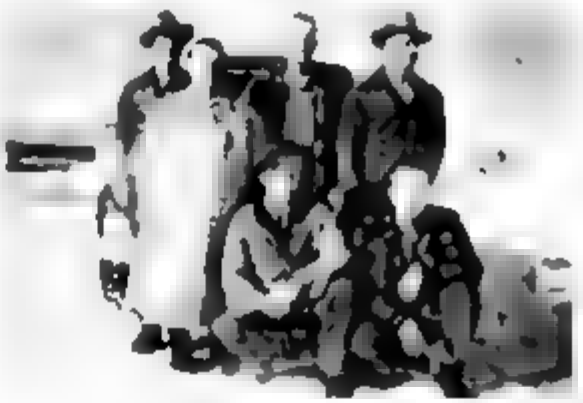
Paul Kaikkonen Sr. of Hespero, Alberta, N 1-39-4-W5, was born in Finland on June 21, 1883. He immigrated to the United States of America in the early 1900's, where he obtained employment in a coal mine at Sand Coulee, Montana. He made a trip back to his homeland in the year 1905. He spent a year there, then returned to Sand Coulee where he worked in the coal mines until he got hurt in 1907. Upon recovering from his injuries he met and married Anna Kaisa Waisanen, who also had immigrated to Sand Coulee from Finland. She operated a boarding house with her sister, Lili Holm. A daughter, Lydia, was born on December 3, 1911, and one son, Charlie, on February 11, 1913, while they were living in Sand Coulee.

In the meantime Paul Sr. had read about homestead land being sold in Alberta, Canada, 160 acres for $10. In 1912, he and his brother-in-law, Everet Saarela, came to Red Deer, Alberta, looking for land. The land office in Red Deer sent them out west to Condor and Lesliеville to look over some homesteads that were available. Paul Kaikkonen filed on a homestead one-half mile west of the Condor Post Office and store that was operated by a family by the name of A. French. Everet Saarela filed on a homestead eight and one-half miles north of Condor, on top of a hill, past the Blueberry Valley School. Paul Kaikkonen's other brother-in-law, Matt Ultto and wife, were already settled at Blueberry Valley School District at the time, so they stayed with them while looking for land.

In July of 1913, Paul Kaikkonen and family, Everet Saarela and family, along with Frank Holm and family, loaded their goods into a railroad boxcar and shipped them to Red Deer as the Canadian Pacific Railroad was not completed yet. The three families drove out from Red Deer to their homesteads by horse and wagon which they had brought along with them.

The railroad was completed to Condor and on to Rocky Mountain House in the fall of 1913. The C.N.R. was already in at the time, past Eckville and Lesliеville and to Nordegg.

Later on, after building a house and barn at Condor (which are still standing), Paul Kaikkonen and Everet Saarela went working at the coal mines at Saunders Creek and Alexo, Alberta. Four more children were born at Condor — Lily on September 11, 1914, Paul Jr. on January 1, 1916, Willie on March 26, 1917, and Eddie on August 28, 1918. Then Nielo was born on October 15, 1928 at Hespero, Alberta.



Paul, Mrs. Paul Kaikkonen Sr., Ed, Charlie, William and Niele

In 1919 Paul Kaikkonen Sr. bought land at Hespero and moved his family there in the spring of 1921, where they have farmed ever since.

In 1932 Lydia married Abel Jarvin of Sylvan

Lake. His parents, Andrew and Sandra Jarvin, had also emigrated from Finland to Army, now known as Evanston, Wyoming, U.S.A. They later filed on a homestead in the Bingley District, north of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta in 1912, and later moved to Sylvan Lake. Abel worked as a mechanic and welder for Joe Untinen in the Lakeview Garage in Sylvan Lake for 21 years before moving to the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1951 to work as a welder. From here he moved to Vancouver Island. Lydia and Abel are now retired in Port Alberni, B.C. They have one son, George, and a daughter, Eileen.

George has a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Anne Maria, and they live in Vancouver, B.C. Eileen married Roy Darling in 1953, and they have a son, Robert Norman and a daughter Gale. Eileen and Roy are owner and operator of the Sylvan Lake Steam Bath which was built by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anderson in 1947. Charles Anderson has since passed away.

Charlie Kaikkonen has operated his own Service Station on Highway 11, on the Hespero Corner, known as "Charlie's Service", since 1940 and on February 14, 1977 he married Donna Rowbotham of Sylvan Lake.

Lily married Bruno Kult in 1935. They had one daughter, Anna, who married Jerry Cumming. They have three sons and one daughter. Jerry died in 1971. Anna and family are living in Port Alberni, B.C.

Paul married Grace Hall in 1948, and took over the family farm. Four sons were born to them before Paul passed away of a heart condition in 1959. The sons are Elno, James, Albert, and John. Grace still lives on the farm with her boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kaikkonen

Willie married Mary Simpson. They have a family of one daughter, Linda, and two sons, Dale and Glen. Willie is a welder by trade, and they all live in Port Alberni, B.C.

Eddie remained single and lives on his own farm two miles from Hespero.

Nielo lives in Windsor, Ontario and works in a wheel factory there. He has one son, Nicky. His wife passed away in 1964.

Mrs. Anna Kaikkonen passed away in June, 1960 at the age of 75 years. Paul Kaikkonen Sr. passed away June 16, 1975, and was buried on his birthday, June 21, at the age of 90 years.

**THE KANGAS FAMILY — by Wayne Kangas**

After arriving from Kauhavala, Finland, Matt and Amelia Kangas and their family lived in Eveleth, Minnesota, U.S.A. where Matt worked in the open pit iron ore mines. Approximately five years later, about 1909 or 1910, they came to Canada, and settled in the Hespero district, which was called Pitcox until the railroad was built through there in about 1913. Arriving also at about the same time from Eveleth were Henry Pietikainen, John Sutela, Walter Maki, John Pykalainen, Ore and Henry Makela, and Jack Tuhkanen and families.

Matt, (who passed away in 1918), and Amelia (who passed away in 1938) had five children. Ida married Howard O'Brien, and lives in Santa Rosa, California, with her only daughter, Mildred, and her husband, Roy.

Richard passed away in 1961.

Gust married Irja and lived in Sparta, Minnesota, U.S.A. Their four children were Donald, Mildred, Robert, and Dennis. Gust passed away in 1968.

Annie was born in 1901 and passed away in 1974. She had married Jim Krest, and they had three sons, Albert, George and Robert. They farmed in the Hespero district.

Hilja married Dean Reeser and they live in Petaluma, California.

Richard Kangas married Saima Ropsfelt in about 1913. A wedding dance was planned for the evening to celebrate the marriage, when a tra-

Richard and Saima Kangas

gedy occurred. In the afternoon, Salma's father was going to get provisions for a lunch for the dance, when the team of horses he was driving ran away and the wagon in which he was riding overturned. When the wreck was found, Mr Ropsfelt was dead.

Richard and Salma bought Wilf Horner's homestead. (In 1977 Mr Horner is still living in the Senior Citizens' Home in Lacombe.) Richard and Salma had four children — John, Hilja, Wayne and Elsie.

John, who passed away in 1970, had married Vieno Salo. He served in Canada and overseas with the Sherbrooke Fusiliers in World War II. They had two sons, John Lorne and Robert Wayne. Lorne has his Bachelor of Commerce degree and lives in Leduc with his wife, Glenda, and their four children, Shelley, Vincent, Jeina and Nathan. Robert also has his Bachelor of Commerce degree and lives in Calgary with his wife, Ann, and their two daughters.

Hilja married Ike Raappana, and lives in Sonora, California. They have three daughters, Lillian, Diane and Ellen. Lillian lives and works in Modesto, California. Diane has her Bachelor of Arts degree and lives in Sonora, California with her husband, Terry Hunt, and their two sons, Forrest and Derek. Ellen has twin boys, Cary and Jerry, and lives in northern California with her husband, Carl Kruger.

Wayne married Ann Docken and they live in Red Deer. He served in the army for one year in Canada with the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Victoria, B.C.). He obtained a Coal Miners leave in 1943, and he and Ann moved to Alexo, Alberta, where they lived for 12 years until the mines closed down. The family moved to Red Deer in 1955, where Wayne was a steam engineer, and later was Chief Engineer with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool until his retirement in 1976. Wayne and Ann have two children, Wayne John and Sharon Ann. Wayne Jr. has his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering degrees, and is a Design Engineer with Texaco Canada Ltd. He lives in Edmonton with his wife Lynn and daughter Margaret. Sharon has her Bachelor of Education degree, and lives with her husband, Alan Cooper, and their daughter Shara in Red Deer.

Elsie married Wilfred Koski and lives in Eckville. She is the cook at the Senior Citizens' Home in Eckville.

Richard and Salma's four children attended Daisy Nook School and Wayne remembers the teachers that he had: Mrs. Larsen, Miss Duffy, Miss Uchida, Mr. Stuart Meeres, Miss Lougheed, Mr. Pawly, Mr. Lougheed, Mr. Jones, Miss Hilda Lawrence (who married and the next year was Mrs. Anderson), Miss Hilman, and Miss Baldwin. Mr. Gibson was inspector of schools. Since many of the children in this district spoke only Finnish at home, and knew little English when they started to school, the teachers must have had a more difficult time than usual with their beginners!

Roads were almost non-existent, even though the road allowances were there. Some of the holes never did dry up from one year to the next. The children walked to school on nice days, and rode horseback when the weather was poor. There were eight grades in Daisy Nook, and with 35 to 40 students each year, the seats were always full.

The Christmas concerts and the annual school picnics at the end of June were the highlights of the year. Mr. G. Frid was always a very able chairman, as was Mr. W. Edgar as Santa Claus. There seemed to be much more community life throughout the hard times and before than there is now. There were always get-togethers for skating parties, ball games, dances and other activities. Dances were very popular, with one in either Hespero, Evergreen or Condor every week. Often 10 to 20 people would get into a sleigh box pulled by horses, and go to a dance. Some of the immediate neighbors were: to the south — Maidits, Sieberts, Martinsons, and Cernys, to the west — Wyzikoskis, Kubics, Linds, J. Makis, J. Krests, and W. Wittle; to the east — Greenwalls, Ole Andersons, J. Laitinens and A. Bolons.

Wayne says, ". . .the hard times were not as bad as some people make out. It took very little money to live, and everyone was equal because no one had much money. Wartime rationing didn't affect anyone, for most of our food was raised at home. It was easy to get meat from farmers if one didn't raise their own, and purple gas wasn't rationed. There was plenty of tea, but maybe not enough coffee for the Scandinavians that had settled in this area!"

There was no question of money exchanging hands in payment for work. There was a reciprocal work code: one farmer would help another and he would return the work.

Richard Kangas farmed in the Hespero district until his retirement to Ladysmith on Vancouver Island in 1948. Part of the district was covered with lush timber, spruce, pine, poplar, and some big tamarack, as was all of the west country. No district history would be complete without mention of the bigger sawmills that moved in about the same time as the first settlers. They were known by the names of their owners: F. Petterpher, Tibadow, Kerch and Bromling, Ebls, Stockwell, Evans Brothers, as well as numerous smaller mills. Some sawdust and slab piles can still be seen at the old settings. Many original roads were opened by them, and the homesteaders, (nearly all of them), worked for the sawmill outfits in the off-season, as ready cash was hard to come by from any other source.

Long gone is the steam whistle, the saw and carriage whine, along with the dust of the grain threshing machines!

As this account is written according to the memories of people still living, any small dis-

crepancies in names and items will have to be overlooked.

**JACK KELM FAMILY — by Mrs. Kelm**

Jack Kelm's parents, the John Kelms, emigrated to Canada from Karlsruh, Russia in 1906 and took up a homestead at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan in 1907. In 1911 the Kelms moved to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where they bought a dairy farm on Dunmore Hill. After receiving his schooling at Elizabeth School in Medicine Hat, Jack worked at the candy factory and at a brick factory. In 1919 the family moved back to Saskatchewan and located at Rosthern. Jack was gifted with the ability to "witch" for water, so he was of considerable help to his father in the well-digging business which they established at Rosthern. In 1923 they moved to Empress, which is on the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, and here they bought and operated a livery stable until moving to Calgary in 1927. In Calgary Jack worked in Spiller's Flour Mill.

Mable Gabriel's parents came to Canada from Karlsruh, Russia and farmed in the Silberfeld district, near Waldheim, Saskatchewan. Mabel's mother was a victim of the flu in 1918 and her father passed away as a result of the dreaded epidemic in 1919, leaving seven children, Mable being the eldest of them. Mrs. Gabriel was only 27 years old when she died, and Mr. Gabriel was 37 years old when he died.

After a time Mable went to Calgary, where she found work at the Holy Cross Hospital. While she was working there she married Jack Kelm, whom she had known at Rosthern. Jack added to his income by playing his button accordion at dances. From an uncle, Jack, learned to play many pieces that the uncle had learned from hearing the gypsies play in Russia. (Many of these pieces I have never heard anyone else play.) Jack had only to hear a tune played once or twice and he was able to play it perfectly by ear.

In 1934 we purchased a piece of land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad, for eight hundred dollars, which turned out to be a high price, as it turned out to be a rough, rocky, slough-covered farm. This was in the Willow Dale district southeast of Red Deer. Jack left Calgary with a team of horses pulling a wagon with a rack in April in order to build a small shack before taking the family to our new home. This took many days, as he had to first find out where his land was located. Then he had to cut a road through two miles of timber, since he was the first to settle in this particular area.

On May 15 Jack came back to Calgary to get me and our three small children. What a trip that was, to our new home! Our youngest child, Phyllis, who was one year old at the time, was in a cast because of a broken hip resulting from a fall from her high chair. Our possessions were loaded onto the rack and covered over with an old tent in such a way that the family was able to ride and sleep on top of the household goods. We left Calgary on May 18 for our five-day trip to the farm. At one point we missed Phyllis, who, we thought, had been sleeping at the back of the rack. However, it turned out that she had fallen out of the wagon and was nowhere in sight. It was impossible to turn the rack around on the road, so I had to walk back, about three-fourths of a mile, until I found her sitting on the road, crying loudly, but unhurt. It was quite a task for me to carry her back to the wagon, as well as causing a delay in our travels.

On the third day of our trip we stopped at a farm with the hope of being able to water our horses there. However, the farmer wasn't able to give us any water because he was having to haul water for his own livestock. He told Jack that he had been unable to find water on his farm, even though at one time there had been a running spring on the land. Jack said, "Do you mind if I try to find water for you?" The man was delighted with this idea, and immediately took Jack in his car to a place where they could get a willow branch. This must have been some distance away, because they were gone at least half an hour. After their return Jack did find a slight indication of water near their house, but he thought that a well there would not yield sufficient water for their needs. Jack followed the vein of water for some distance until he found a real strong indication of water — he was hardly able to hold the willow in his hands! (This location turned out to be the spring that had formerly been used on the farm.) The farmer was so grateful that he gave us some oat bundles for the horses and a big box of food for ourselves. This somewhat lessened my annoyance at being left with the children, sitting on the wagon for so long, and not even knowing at the time, what was causing the delay! We never did find out the man's name, although he learned that our name was Kelm and that we were moving from Calgary. Quite a while after this we heard that he had phoned Jack's father in Calgary, wanting to know where we had moved, as he wanted to give Jack some money for his help in getting the water on the farm. However, we never did see him again.

At about 6:30 in the evening of the last day of our trip to the farm we stopped at a farm which was about eight miles from our new location. This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Towers (parents of Gordon Towers, who, at that time, was just a boy). Jack asked to buy some grain for the horses. Mr. Towers had no grain, but he gave us a quantity of oat bundles for the horses. In reply to his question as to how we were fixed for food ourselves I replied, "I've got some flour — I'll make some pancakes for us." After hearing this, Mr. Towers went into the house and came out with a large box containing bread, butter, bacon, eggs, potatoes and a gallon of fresh milk. Another example of how kind people were in those days!

We started our venture in farming with one cow, 25 chicks, a wagon with rack, two horses and a plow. Those were tough years, and if it had not been for Jack's accordion we would not have made it. Jack played for dances, birthday anniversary celebrations, amateur programs, and whatever else required a musician. He would often walk nine to ten miles with his accordion. Sometimes he would get only seventy-five cents for his evening's work, but other times it would be as much as three dollars, which was good money in those days. He also worked for various farmers in the community in return for feed and seed.

Jack Kehn and daughter Joan. 1941. Home on leave.

In April of 1941 Jack joined the Calgary 14th Army Tanks and in June he left for overseas. The children and I stayed on the farm until 1942, when Jack got his honorable discharge because of health reasons. We remained on the farm after his return until 1945. In September of that year Jack had got a farm one mile east of Hespero, Alberta, through the Veteran's Land Act. It was the Norman Bunch farm located on the N.W ¼ 6-39-3-W5th. Jack attended the Bunch sale in November and agreed at that time that Norman and his mother could remain on the farm for the winter. However, we got a call saying that Norman had found a place in Red Deer, and were moving right away.

Since we wished to move as soon as possible Jack went at once to see the Ted Pixley Trucking Company about moving us to Hespero. He was informed that the trucks would be busy for a week or two, so we thought that there would be plenty of time for packing. However, on December 2 we got word that the trucks would be there the next day to move us. We spent all night packing. Yeast had been set for bread, and that had to be baked. The girls were set to churning the accumulation of cream into butter while Jack and Lyle gathered up the cows and calves and penned up the pigs and crated the chickens. When the trucks arrived at nine o'clock in the morning the stove was still hot from baking and I had also made a dish called Grandma's Dumplings. This was Potatoes covered with bread dough dumplings.

In the flurry of getting everything loaded, no one ever thought about getting me and the children to Red Deer to take the train to Hespero, so we were all divided among the trucks. We left for Hespero with the trucks at about three o'clock in the afternoon, arriving there about six-thirty. It was a lovely warm evening, with the water running off the roof and a soft wind blowing to welcome us to our new home. The men put up the stove first, while the children found some old boards to burn. We got the boxes of food from the truck and I soon had a meal ready, including the potatoes and dumplings that we had not had time to eat that morning! Of course everyone was ravenously hungry, as well as tired, and it was not until the next day that we started to get some order out of chaos.

In 1946 we decided to tear down what had been a chicken coop. When we tore the floor up we discovered a small cellar under it. There were two eight-gallon cream cans and some other cans, along with basins and sealers, jam cans, and a lot of tubing, or pipes. We wondered what it was, at first, Jack thought it looked like a still for making liquor. We didn't keep it, as we thought we might be blamed for having used it, but we often wondered who had lived there and operated the still, and when "moonshine" business had been carried on.

Jack and I had a family of six children. When the oldest, Delores, was old enough to start school we lived five miles from the Willow Dale School, so I helped her through the grade one course at home by means of the material sent out by the Correspondence School of the Department of Education in Edmonton. As the other children became old enough for school they all attended the Willow Dale school until we came to Hespero and then they went to the Blue Bell School. After the rural schools were discontinued they were bused for one year to Condor and then finished their schooling in Eckville after the bus routes were changed.

Delores married Clarence Torsti and they have two children, Lorrie Ann and Douglas John. They live at Fort St. John, British Columbia.

Lyle joined the Navy in 1953 and is still with the Navy. He is now a 1st. Officer. He lives in Victoria, British Columbia, and has never married.

Phyllis married Nick Sherba. They had three children — Debbie, Lynda and Nick Jr. Nick

passed away in July of 1967. Phyllis now is married to Steven Tonak and they live in Calgary

Joan married Dick Feys of Rocky Mountain House. They have one daughter, Rhonda, and live in Blackfalds, Alberta

Darlene married Chuck Moore, and has one son, Carter James. She lives at Calgary

Dorothy married David Ewing of Big Valley Their two children are Calmont and Christene They live at Irricana, Alberta

In 1970 Jack and I sold our farm to Bert Ojala and moved to a home which we had bought in Eckville We were enjoying our retirement here when, on March 6, 1974 Jack passed away suddenly, as a result of a heart attack. I have continued to live in my home in Eckville and keep busy with the many activities of the Eckville and District Friendship Club, of which I have been an officer, and with the Eckville Hospital Auxiliary I have done some travelling, including a trip to Hawaii and one to the southern United States and into Mexico. In the summer time I enjoy spending my spare time working in my garden

**KENDZE, CARL**

Carl Kendze was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and came to Canada at the age of 11 with his parents, Julius and Olga. They settled near Margo, Saskatchewan, where they purchased a farm. Carl continued his education in a small country school (May School). There were only seven children enrolled at this time, one of the girls later became his wife

After finishing school, Carl helped with the farming at home, as well as working out for the neighbors. In the fall, he joined the local threshing crews to save money for a down payment on a half section of bush land which he purchased in 1937

In 1938 he married Adela Ziola. Adela was born on the homestead of her parents, Rudolf and Wanda (eight miles north of Margo, Sask) After the wedding, Carl and Adela (Dell) moved into their newly built log cabin and began clearing land to raise grain and pasture some dairy cattle. They lived there from 1938-1947. During that time they had three children, Deanna Margaret, Kenneth Ronald, and Marlene Alvera. Deanna and Kenneth started their education at Robertson School which was situated on their land

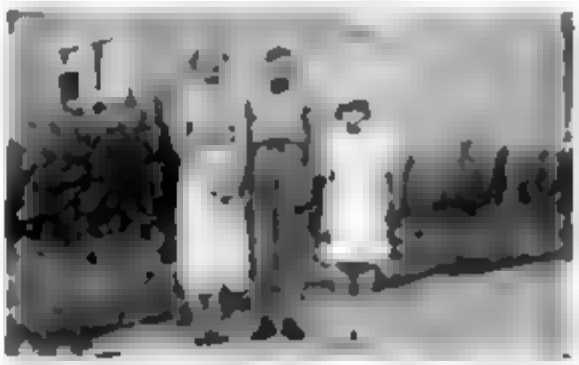
In 1947, they decided to go West — a yearning Carl had always had as a boy They sold their farm and cattle, shipped their machinery and belongings by freight (under the settlers effect program), packed their one-ton truck, and set out for Alberta. Arriving at Condor, Alberta, October 27, 1947, they purchased the former Harry Bice farm (Sec 4-39-4-W5) and moved into their home March 15, 1948. The old house saw many good times, and in 1963 a new bungalow went up beside it, and the old house went down the road

Since Ken returned to take over the farming operations, Carl and Dell purchased a trailer and are living on NW 33-38-4-W5 where the old Halfway House once stood. This building was run by Mr. and Mrs. Bell, and supplied overnight lodging for freighters, on the Red Deer to Rocky route and shelter for their horses.

The children attended Prairie Rose School in Condor (this school was later replaced by Condor Elementary School) and completed their Grade 12 education at the David Thompson High School built on Highway 11

Deanna, after completing a year semester at the Red Deer Composite High School, enrolled at the University of Alberta School Hospital and received her R N. degree in September, 1961. She worked for a year at the University Hospital after graduation then went to St Mary's Hospital in New Westminster, B.C., there she met Ralph Bergman, and they were married in 1963. Ralph is presently a school principal. They're settled in Delta, B C., and they have two children, Christine (age 12) and Grant (age 10).

Marlene, after completing a semester at Red Deer Composite High School, enrolled at the Key Secretarial School of Business Education, and graduated in 1963. She worked in Edmonton for Trader's Finance Company and was later sent to Dawson Creek as branch accountant On her return to Edmonton, Marlene met Gerald Beattie and they were married in December, 1975. Gerry is the President and owner of Beattie Contractors Ltd. — working on road and oilfield construction in the Arctic, Alberta, and B.C. They now make their home in Edmonton after living one year in Inuvik, N W T



Deanna, Kenneth and Marlene Kendze 1951

Carl and Dell still help their son with the farming operations when the busy seasons roll around, but they enjoy semi-retirement now that they have time to enjoy camping, travelling, playing cards, and dancing. Carl also frequents the auction markets — one of his favorite pastimes. Carl passed away February of 1978.

**KENDZE, KENNETH RONALD**

Ken, only son of Carl and Adela Kendze, was born in Wadena, Saskatchewan, March 22, 1941

Throughout his schooling he enjoyed and participated in most sports. After completing high school, he enrolled at the Southern Alberta School of Technology in Calgary and graduated in Design Drafting in 1962.

Drafting took him to designing pulp mills in Vancouver, B.C. fertilizer plants in Trail, B.C. and industrial piping in Edmonton. While living with three buddies in a high rise apartment in Edmonton, he and his friends persuaded the caretaker to rent the apartment next to them to some girl tenants! He did just that, and that's where he met Joanne McAdam, whom he later married — in April, 1968.

Joanne is a graduate nurse from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and had never even visited a farm until she met Ken. She enjoys country life, and loves to continually shock her city friends with all her new found knowledge.

When Ken and his Dad first formed their partnership - Diamond K Farms, was chosen as the farm name. Ken purchased three quarters of land of his own, and he and his family now live on the home quarter.

Ken and Joanne have three girls — Pamela Anne (December, 1970), Heather (June, 1973) and Brenda Marie (May, 1975). They're kept busy with the children's activities, their various club and board meetings, curling, swimming, and travelling.

**KULT, HENRY**

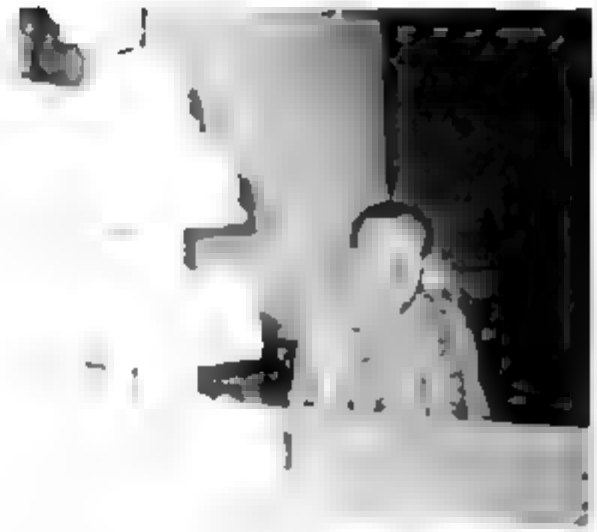
At the age of 24 years, Henry Kultala immigrated to the U.S.A. from Oululanni, Finland. During the spring of 1904, he left the U.S.A. and came to Alberta, where he filed for a homestead on May 26 of the same year. It was during this time that he changed the name to Kult, dropping the Finnish "ala". The original homestead was the N.W. 20-39-3-W5, which is presently owned by Mr. William McDonell, northwest of Eckville.

It was his desire to return to the United States where he became a citizen on September 19, 1904. He worked in the copper mines at Butte, Montana, and a few years later returned to his homestead.

On January 10, 1910 at Red Deer, he married Caroline Wetelainen and settled on the homestead. Caroline was born in Savo, British County, South Dakota on November 17, 1890, and came to the Kuusamo district in the first part of 1900 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wetelainen. The Wetelainens had to remain in Red Deer until spring as the Red Deer river was too high to cross.

As many pioneers from Rocky Mountain House and Lesslieville areas had to travel to Red Deer for supplies, the Kult's became well known for a resting place where the horses were fed and watered as well as the drivers. Caroline was an ardent cook and always had lots of homemade bread and goodies for anyone who stopped.

Three boys and two girls were born on the homestead, Bruno, Emil, Arthur, Lily and Edna.



Mrs. Caroline Kult on her 70th birthday

Henry was very fond of horses and always had a great number of them which was a very successful venture for him. While Henry was away horse trading Caroline kept the home fires burning, milking cows as well as doing the other necessary outdoor duties. She also made clothes for the family needs — not using any patterns, it did not take her very long to create a new frock for one of the girls!

During these years a lot of sickness and epidemics took some lives of this family. Arthur who was born in 1914 died in 1918 at a very tender age, and Lily who was born in 1916, died the following year.

In 1918 they sold the homestead, had an auction sale and moved to the outskirts of Eckville. Although jobs were not plentiful, Henry kept busy doing handy-man jobs, and they always had roomers or boarders at their house. The boys were not interested in continuing school so it was the decision of Henry to return to farming. A friend of Henry's had left a quarter of land two miles north of Hespero for him, so in the spring of 1928 the family moved to the farm. Additions to the family while in Eckville were a set of twins, Albert and Walter in 1919, the latter dying one year later. Elvie was born in 1921, William in 1923 and Elsie in 1926.

Mary and Hannah were born after they moved to the farm at Hespero. The Kults bought three more quarters of land, built a new house and a barn. Although Henry had acquired Miner's Consumption Disease which caused poor health, he always had great ambitions. Their first car was a 1925 Chevrolet and he also became partners, with a nearby neighbor, purchasing an engine and threshing machine. A Wallis tractor was purchased to replace some of the work horses.

Henry died on May 10, 1931 at the age of 51 and left a wife and nine children ranging in age from

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Kuit 25th Wedding Anniversary

a baby to the oldest, who was 20. Caroline remained on the farm with her family continuing with her excellent home life, and saw all her children marry and leave home to make their own livelihoods. Bruno continued to carry on the farming along with the capable assistance of his mother and his sister Hannah, as well as other members of the family coming over to lend a hand. Caroline died on May 17, 1968 at the age of 78 years. Henry and Caroline are buried in the Hespero Cemetery

The home farm was sold to Gerald Roy of Prince George, B.C. by Bruno on October 14, 1970

Most of the Kuit families today live around the Hespero district, Bill at Lesliеville, Bruno retired to Ruth, B.C., Mary still at Comox, Vancouver Island, however her husband has been transferred to Winnipeg for two years so she may be there at press time. Edna is in Edmonton and Hannah, at time of writing is in Edmonton. The only grandchildren living out of the province of Alberta are Albert's eldest son Leslie who lives at Maple Ridge, B.C., his daughter Linda lives at Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan. Bruno's daughter Anna and her family live at Port Alberni, B.C., and Mary's eldest daughter is living in Victoria, B.C.

**LAURENCE, A. B.**

In the year of 1931, the Laurence family moved to Condor from Carndiff, Saskatchewan, living on the SE 31 38-4-W5. Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Laurence had two sons and one daughter, Wesley, Myron and Ruth.

Wes lives in Edmonton with his wife, Fern. They have one son, Virgil, who lives in Edmonton with his wife and four children. Ruth, lives in Summerland, B.C. with her husband, Gordon, and two sons. Ruth is Mrs. Gordon McDermott.

Mr. A. B. Laurence had a saw mill in the early years. He also did a lot of big game hunting. In the year of 1934, A. B., sons and daughter went out west big game hunting where they were stranded for five weeks. Since then, there are two creeks north of Jack Fish Lake that are named Ruth Creek and Laurence Creek.

The youngest son, Myron, and his father continued farming. The mother had passed away in 1936 at the age of 56 years. One of the many jobs Myron enjoyed was threshing. The crew consisted of friends and neighbors. Dudley Frith owned the threshing machine and some of the fellows working on it were the Marcenik Bros., Bradshaw Bros., Pete Lagore, Sam Clement and others. The men often threshed for 20 to 30 days.

Mr. Laurence sold the farm, later moving to Ontario, where he enjoyed fairly good health until 1974 when he passed away.

In 1946, Myron married Margaret Knorr. Along with farming, he did various jobs, trucking, hauling milk, grain and lumber. In 1952, they left the Condor district and moved to Duvercourt where they lived for about three years, later moving to Sylvan Lake where they still reside. Myron and Margaret have a family of four, three sons and one daughter. Leonard lives in Sylvan Lake with his wife, Margaret, and two sons and two daughters. Raymond and his wife Lynn have two sons and two daughters. Ron and his wife Pat have three children. Lois lives in Edmonton with her husband Hugh McPherson (no family). Myron still has a great love for horses so manages to keep some on his acreage at Sylvan Lake. Hockey and ball are very favorite sports. The three sons are also hockey fans and are all on hockey teams.

**THE GEORGE LEE STORY**

George Lee was born in Yorkshire, England, September 3, 1882. He left England March 26, 1906 and sailed to Canada, coming to Bolton, Ontario, where he worked for two years before traveling out to Innisfail, Alberta.

In 1908 George went to Pitcox (Hespero) and took up a homestead, the N.W. 15-39-W5 three and one-half miles north west of Pitcox, where Alfred Oastrom's home is now. The name Pitcox was later changed to Hespero.

George went to Rochester, Minnesota and worked on the farm Dr. Charles Mayo of the famous Mayo Clinic for two years. He then returned to his homestead at Hespero and farmed there for several years.

George remembers well the times when the pioneers had to go to Red Deer for their supplies using a team of horses and a sleigh or wagon. The trip took three days — one day to travel from Hespero to Red Deer — one day to rest the horses and the third day to return home. In summer the prairie trails were difficult to travel on as there were many sloughs and swamps to cross.

On September 6, 1924 George married Arla Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Anderson of Hespero. Arla was born in LeGrand, Iowa, U.S.A. and came to Red Deer with her family in October, 1907 and to Hespero in the spring of 1909.

In 1925 George traded his homestead for a quarter section in the Evarts district. George and Arla went to Nordegg to work for the winter

of 1925 and moved to Evarts in the spring of 1926 where they still reside.

They had a family of three, Gertrude, the oldest is employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Calgary, Juanita, (Mrs. Ernest Viitala) is a Certified Nursing Aide, living in Eckville, Charles farms in the Evarts district

**LIND, OSCAR AND MARIA JOSEPHINE**

Oscar Lind was born July 25, 1885 in Hollola, Finland. He immigrated to New York in 1904. There he met Maria Josephine Sund who was born December 26, 1884, in Helsinki, Finland. She immigrated to New York arriving in November 1909. They were united in marriage in New York on February 21, 1910.

Close friends had left New York and homesteaded in the Evergreen district. Their letters persuaded Oscar and Fiina to visit Canada.

It was June 23, 1913, when Linds arrived at Evergreen to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Laine. Their homestead, W 15-38-4-W5, is now owned by Frank Dobia. That summer the two families lived in a one roomed shack. Later in 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Lind took a homestead in the Hespero district. It was an open winter and very warm on December 26, 1913, when they moved to live in a small shack someone previously built on this land.

Mrs. Lind worked in a hospital while in New York. Soon she was very busy acting as midwife. Many babies in this district were born with Mrs. Lind's assistance. Day and night and in all kinds of weather she travelled whenever her help was needed. She vividly remembers running through the woods in the dark to deliver a baby. Sometimes in the winter she would ride horseback, behind the father, through deep snow and drifts.

In New York, on December 26, 1911, their only child died at birth.

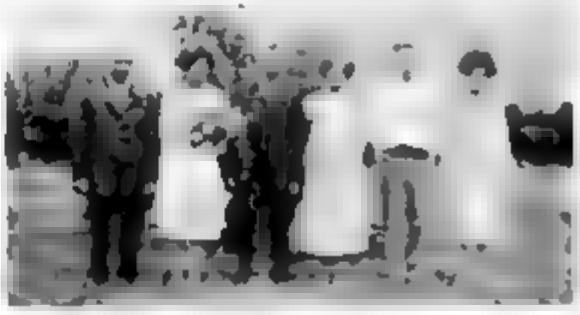
Mr. and Mrs. Lind adopted Eino in 1917. Oscar Lind passed away on February 13, 1960. He is buried in the Hespero Cemetery. Mrs. Fiina Lind still lives on the farm in the Hespero district.

**LINDSAY, ROBERT AND MIRIAM**

Robert Lindsay came to Canada from Aberdeenshire, Scotland at the age of 21. He married Miriam Hornby in 1927 and they resided in the Nateby Gem, Alberta area until 1932 when they moved to the Evergreen area (the former Jack Wicks farm). Their son Robert was one year old at the time. A short time later they moved to the Condor area settling on a Hudson's Bay quarter directly west of the Herb von Hoben home, with their son Robert and a daughter Rosella.

How well I (Rosella), remember the old farm buildings with their corduroy floors and straw roofs that leaked with every rain and the discouraging years when the hailstorms hit. Mom's concern was always how she would have enough money to buy underwear for us children for school. Mom would ride horseback to town for groceries or Dad would hitch up the team and take the cream and eggs.

Threshing time was a big event in those days. Dad would go as spike pitcher for the Dudley Frith rig. He worked for him for a few years and later with the Herb von Hoben rig. The appetites and amount of food prepared and consumed when it was our turn was something again.



Robert and Miriam Lindsay Wedding Day 1927. Robert and Miriam Lindsay. William and Rosella Hornby, Jack Hornby, Una Hornby.

Northup was our school district and the old one room school with a large round stove at one end stood on a piece of J. Poland Senior's farm — approximately one half mile east of the Stauffer road, and two miles south of number 11 highway. A new school was built about 1939 or 1940. The teachers during those years were as follows — Miss Nicholichuk, Mrs. G. M. Proud Erickson, Miss Marion Tolefson, Mrs. Anderson (von Hoben) and Mr. Bill Kirsch. Dad always took an active part in our year end picnics. This was an exciting time of homemade ice cream and our first taste of watermelon. There was something for everyone at these picnics — like the hog calling contest won by Jim Poland Senior and the husband calling contest won by Mom.

Christmas concerts were another highlight during those years. Days and many hours were spent in preparation for the big night. All the parents would bundle their children in cutters and sleds and head for the school. Bert Avery, the Condor post master, was Santa Claus for many years. Sunday School and church were held regularly in the school with Mrs. Munro and Mrs. Hornby as two of the regular teachers. Mr. Gygor and Mr. Glover were two of the ministers who came regularly during those years.

In 1942 Dad took over the farm from William Hornby and we moved the two and one-half miles east and north to his farm (the present G. Adrian farm). There was no moving van — just the horsedrawn wagon heaped full of furniture and belongings. Even the cat jumped on the last load, afraid he would be left behind.

On this farm Dad and Mom worked hard — milking cows by hand, raising pigs and sheep

and lumbering. By this time the old barn Dad had helped Grandad Hornby build was starting to lean, so he, with the help of our neighbors, Jerry Mulroony, spent a couple of winters logging our bush. He also spent a couple of winters in Nordegg working for the mining company in the sawmill area to raise enough money to finish paying for the farm

Dad never did own a car and if he had he wouldn,t have been able to drive it very often on the muddy roads in the spring or the high snow drifts in the winter, that even horses had to fight to get through. The low areas of the road were corduroyed with wood but often came near washing out in the wet years. Winters were long and cold but Dad always kept a year's supply of wood ahead for the stove and heater. The good old oven was the place to toast your feet on a cold winter's evening

PLUMBING — unheard of. Outdoor biffies — cold and draughty but well supplied with last season's catalogue.

WATER SUPPLY — At first drawn from a well by bucket by means of rope and pulley, later by pump from a drilled well

LIGHT — Coal oil lamps gradually replaced with an aladdin lamp placed in the middle of the table

LAUNDRY — Washing Machine — first a scrub board and a tub replaced by a hand pushed washing machine. Dryer — the clothes line — one out and one in. Iron - Sad iron — heated on the stove and did a surprisingly good job

HEATING — A large cook stove in the kitchen heated by wood only, complete with warming closet on top (a wonderful place for drying eggshells for re-cycling back to the hens) and a large reservoir at the side of the fire box for heating water

An airtight heater that gobbled wood, kept one end of the front room warm. It was nothing to have ice on the water pail on the wash stand on a cold morning.

About 1948 a new Massey 22 tractor replaced the horses for farm work. It also served as the family car complete with trailer behind. In 1958 Dad sold the farm to Fred Adrian and moved to the Condor corner, directly across from the store. Here he kept busy with his garden and helping the neighbors at haying and harvest time. He passed away in July, 1965 at the age of 78. Following his death, mother sold the property and moved to Red Deer, later to Jasper and back to Red Deer, housekeeping for various people. In January of 1977 she retired and resided in the Eckville Manor House until August of the same year, when she moved to the West Park Nursing Home in Red Deer, where she presently resides

Robert Lindsay Junior took his schooling at the Northup School and following Grade nine he spent a few winters in the bush camp west of Rocky Mountain House. Following this, he left home to work at Scott Fruit in Red Deer for several years. He now operates concessions in

Christmas at Condor Corner. Helen Lindsay, Miriam and Bob Lindsay, Clare and Brian Lindsay. Robert Lindsay Jr

Red Deer. He married Helen Grove in 1954. They have two sons — Clare and Brian, both working in Red Deer

Rosella Lindsay took her early schooling at Northup and High School at Condor. She boarded in Condor with her Aunt and Uncle — the J. Hornby's — the first year and by 1950 the school bus ran for the first time in this area. It took a wide area — Northup, Stauffer, Evergreen, Gaetz and Daisy Nook. The driver was Dean McCarroll. Following High School, she attended the Composite High in Red Deer and after working for awhile at the Bank of Montreal went to Berean Bible College in Calgary then on to Nurses Training at the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary

She came to nurse at the Eckville Hospital in 1961 and has been there full or part time ever since with the exception of two years spent in Jasper. She married Albert Ojala formerly of Rocky Mountain House, in 1965. For the past seven years they have resided on their farm (the former J. Kelm's) one mile east and one-half mile north of Hespero corner, where Albert is in the farming and welding business. They have one son, Ken, now 11, and attending the Eckville School

Albert, Rosella and Ken Ojala. Christmas 1978

**LIPKA, THE PIONEER FAMILY — by William Lipka**

Our dad and mother, August and Auguste Lipka, came to Canada from Germany on November 28, 1908, with their four children, Ernest, Emily, Caroline, and William, and settled in the Crows Nest Pass, Alberta. I, William, was two years old when I crossed the ocean. We lived at Bellevue, where Dad worked in the coal mines, until 1910, when Dad decided to go farming.

He took up a homestead on the SE 33-37-4-W5 in the Evergreen district. There were no roads — only trails through heavy bush when the family moved to the homestead. We lived in a two-room log house that Dad built. The floor was only one-ply lumber, and the knots would fall out of the boards. There were numerous garter snakes in those days, and often snakes would go underneath the floor into the cellar. They would sometimes stick their heads through the knot holes in the floor and we would see them looking at us.

Times were very hard, and often wild rabbits and prairie chickens were our main food. Dad still had to work in the mines for a few years, and from the homestead he would walk along the railroad track to Nordegg. This kept the family living and also provided some money so we could buy a couple of cows and other things to get started farming. Dad bought two oxen and a mower machine. The mower wouldn't work when he tried to cut hay with the oxen, but when he later bought two horses to use, he found out that the trouble had been that the oxen were too slow in pulling the machine.

Through the years four more children were born — Minnie, Adolph, Henry and Annie. We took our schooling in Knowledge and Gaetz schools, although we older ones received very little education because of helping at home, difficulty of getting to school and the hard time to get teachers.

As we boys grew up, Dad bought more land nearby. In the summer we were busy clearing land and breaking horses, in winter making logs and sawing lumber. We operated our own sawmill, starting with a twelve-horsepower stationary engine, and later buying a tractor, which we also used with the threshing machine we bought to do our own threshing as well as some custom threshing.

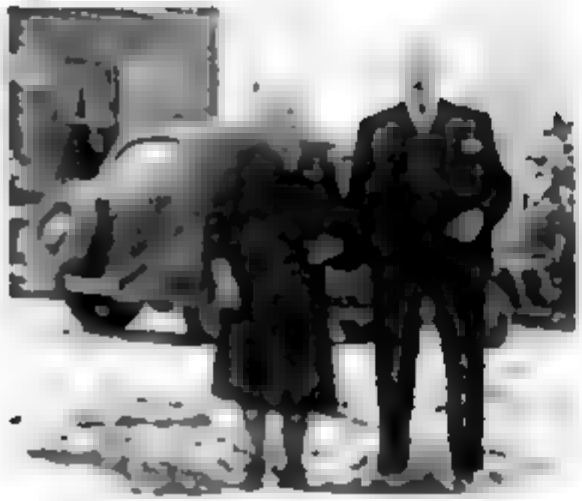
August Lipka Family. Adolph, Henry, William, Ernest and Annie. Front, Emily, Caroline, Minnie, August and Augusta.

Lipka sawmill

William and hired help on sawmill

Sawmill - August and William Lipka

Now the family starts leaving home. Ernest married Mary Hollander and they lived in Evergreen on the SE 31-37-4-W5. The Knowledge School was on their place. Their two children were Helen and Albert. Ernest's first wife passed away in 1943. In 1947 he married Mary



August and Augusta Lipka 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mogielka from Fernie, B.C. and had two girls, Judith and Linda Ann. Due to ill health he sold the farm and they moved to Eckville, where Ernest died in 1974. In 1969 Judith married Malcolm Thomson of Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, where they now live with their two boys, Chad and Travis. Linda Ann married Harland Lutz, son of Art Lutz, in 1976, thus uniting two old-time families. They now reside outside of Eckville.

Emily married Tom Howard in Vancouver and they are now living in Chilliwack, B.C. They have one son, Jim.

Caroline married Otto Edl (son of an Evergreen pioneer) and had two children — Louise and George. She now lives in Calgary.

Minnie married Steve Hunford from Markerville. They lived on the SW 3-38-4-W5 and had two children, Isabel and Jonas. Minnie died in 1936, leaving Steve alone to bring up the two children.

Adolph married Charlotte Marzinzik, and their three children were Eric, Richard and Leslie. They lived on the SE 34-37-4-W5, which they sold in 1946 when they moved to Kelowna, B.C. to live.

Annie married Henry Benecke and they had two girls — Elaine and Brenda. They lived on the SE 2-38-4-W5, but sold their farm in 1972 and retired to Red Deer.

In the year 1928, I, William, bought a half section of school land, E½-11-37 W5, in the New Hill District and started farming on my own. In 1930 I bought a new 22-inch breaking plow from Jerry MacDonnell. He owned a store at Hespero and also was a machinery dealer. I started breaking land for him with a 20 x 35 Rumely tractor, turning under brush and trees fifteen to twenty feet high, at $5 per acre.

I built a home in 1933 and the following year I married Mary Szymanek. I borrowed money to get married, this was during depression years and there was no such thing as going on a honey moon. During that time I found it very difficult to meet the payments on my land. We sold two-year-old steers for $17 per head, market pigs around $3 per head, and five-gallon cans of cream for $1.50. I sold a carload of wheat at 20 cents a bushel. It was hard to make ends meet.

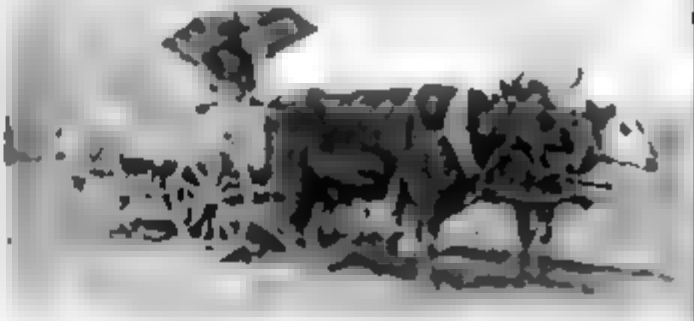
We had one son, Rudolph, born in 1938. We sold our land at New Hill in 1947 and bought the E ½ 34-37-4-W5 in the Evergreen district from Frank Popeck, where we are now living.

In 1965 Rudolph married Elaine Feitl. They have two boys — Allan and Kerry. I am at the age of retiring, my son Rudolph plans to continue farming.

**THE MACDONNELL FAMILY AND HESPERO**

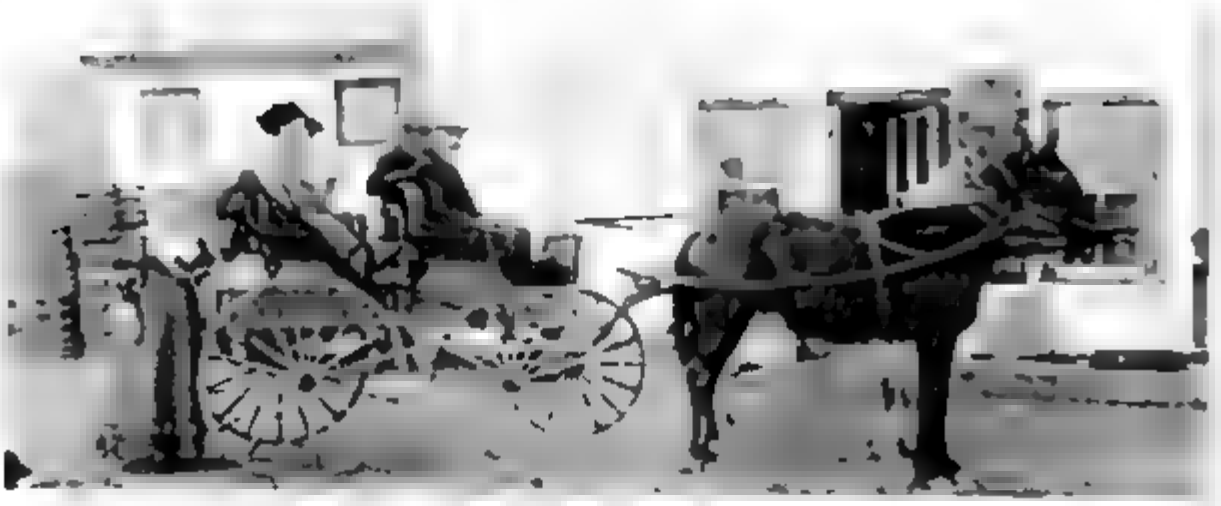
George Henry (Gerry) Macdonnell was born in 1881 at "Pitcox", Dunbar, Scotland. Later, the family moved to London, England, where Gerry finished his education at Dulwich College. After serving in the South African War and spending some time on the London Stock Exchange, he came out to this country with his brother, James A. W. "Jock" Macdonnell in 1904. They homesteaded west of what is now Hespero. A few years later, the brothers and the late Frank Pearce opened a general store on Jock's homestead and named it "Pitcox" after their old home in Scotland. Mr. Pearce withdrew from the firm a few years later.

Pitcox Post Office opened, in the store, on April 15, 1909, with G. H. Macdonnell as post master, receiving the mail on a semi-weekly basis via Mr. A. C. Foster, who had the contract to haul the mail from Red Deer. At this time everything for the store was "freighted" by wagon from Red Deer by way of the Burnt Lake Tra...

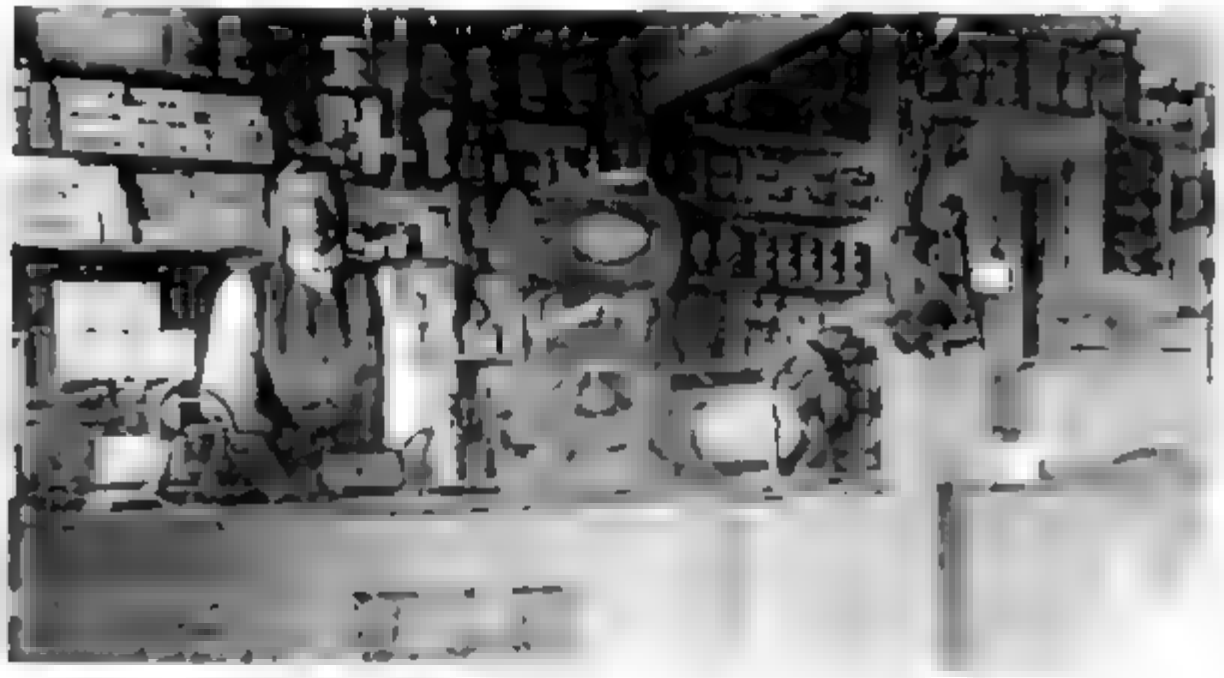


Rural Delivery Harms Dennett driving

MacDonnell Bros. Pitcox Store and house



Pitcox Store. Mrs. Emily MacDonnel, Mrs. Jock MacDonnel holding Freda, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Craig and Douglas Walker



Inside Pitcox Store. James (Jock) MacDonnel

With the coming of the Alberta Central Railway in the spring of 1914, the Macdonnell brothers decided to build closer to the railroad. Business was carried on at Pitcox until the new store was completed. The store opened in 1916 with a dance in the warehouse to which people came from miles around in buggies, democrats and wagons. Instead of Pitcox, the railway named the new hamlet "Hespero". Jock Macdonnell and his wife lived above the store and Jock ran the store until his death in 1918, when the flu epidemic was at its height

Now the freight came out on the train and it was just a short haul from the station to the store. After Jock's death, Gerry and his wife moved to the store and Gerry ran it successfully until he retired in 1946 due to ill health. He was postmaster, Justice of the Peace, Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. He was one of the earliest agents of both the Cockshutt Plow Company and Imperial Oil Limited in Central Alberta. He also farmed several quarters and in the earlier years ran a considerable number of stock. During the World War II, he worked hard on the Victory Loan Drives. He gave generously to any enterprise for the good of the community,

Threshing on the MacDonnell farm 1914

Threshing outfit MacDonnell Bros Ranch

the Hespero Church and the Hespero Hall were erected largely due to his efforts. For more than 20 years, Gerry took an active part in the work of the Masonic Order in Red Deer. Gerry died at Hespero on December 29, 1947, at the age of 66

**Family**

Mrs Emily Macdonnell, the boys' mother, came out from London, England, to be with her sons, and lived in the Pitcox house adjoining the store. She was well known in Red Deer. She belonged to the I.O.D E. and took a great interest in world affairs. Her hobby on the farm was raising baby chicks and she usually had chicks earlier than most people. Her cook, Emma Evans, came from London with her and cooked for the men on the farm. Emma later married Mr Dave Clonlinger and they lived at Pitcox.

George Henry (Gerry) Macdonnell married Lily Walker in 1913. Lily was the youngest daughter of Mrs. A. B. Walker who had come out from Edinburgh, Scotland, with her three daughters to join her four sons and settle in the Evarts district in 1906. Gerry and Lily made their home on the farm at Pitcox. They had three daughters, Bunty, Marjorie and Geraldine. Bunty and Marjorie were born at Pitcox and Geraldine (Dean) at Hespero. On this latter occasion, Dr Richard Parsons came the 30 miles

George and Lily MacDonnell with daughters Bunty and Marjorie

from Red Deer on a blizzard night in October. In those days it was not uncommon for Dr. Parsons to come out in all kinds of weather whenever he was needed. The Macdonnell girls took their schooling at St. Joseph's Convent in Red Deer. They got home once a month by train and on these journeys Laura and Norma Norton looked after them as far as Benalto. As roads improved and school restrictions relaxed, they got home more frequently by car or Sorensen's Bus.

Bunty Macdonnell married Ralph Nelson at Hespero, Alberta, October 14, 1940. They made their home in Banff where Ralph owned and operated the Magnet Meat Market. Ralph was active in the Masonic Lodge, the Kinsmen's Club, curling and worked untiringly for the erection of the Banff Recreational Centre. He died March 24, 1968, at Banff. Bunty still lives at Banff.

Marjorie Macdonnell, after three years service in the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F., married Rev. Earl F. Smith at Halifax, N.S. August 21, 1945. They have resided in different Presbyterian Presbyteries in Eastern Canada, and now Earl is minister at Park Lawn Presbyterian Church, Islington, Ontario. They have two children. Michael Dean Macdonnell Smith born 1948, married Eleanor Ford in 1971 at Whitby, Ontario. Dean now has a teaching position in British Columbia. Marjorie Lou (Louee) Smith, born 1950, married Michael Barati at Brockville, Ontario and lives in Mississauga, Ontario. They have two children, Mark Jonathon Barati, born 1971, and Michele Anne Barati, born 1973.

Dean Macdonnell married Norman S. Toseland at Banff October 11, 1952. They lived in Calgary and have two daughters. Evelyn Dorothy (Lynn) Toseland born 1955, married Bob C. Hartog in 1975 at Calgary where they reside. Geraldine Susan (Gerry) Toseland born 1959 in Regina, Sask., living at home in Calgary.

Mrs. Lily Macdonnell married John Watson of Evarts, November 7, 1952. Mr. Watson passed away April 23, 1975. Lily now resides at Banff.

James A. W. (Jock) Macdonnell married Hattie I. Walker in 1909 at Evarts, Alta. Hattie had come out from Edinburgh, Scotland with her mother, Mrs. A. B. Walker, and the family to the Evarts district in 1906. Hattie was the eldest sister of Lily (Walker) Macdonnell. Jock and Hattie lived at the Pitcox store until 1916 when they moved to Hespero and lived above the store. They had two daughters, Freida Bell and Grace Emily both born at Pitcox. Jock died in the flu epidemic of 1918 at the age of 36. He was well liked in the store and will be remembered for his kindness and geniality. He played the mandolin and in the early days played the violin at dances. Hattie and her daughters lived in Red Deer until moving to Liverpool, England. In 1939, she returned to Canada, living in Victoria, B.C. and later at Red Deer, Alta. Hattie died in Red Deer, at the home of her sister Mrs. Annie Wright on May 24, 1959 at the age of 73.

Freida Bell Macdonnell married Bill Sangster in London, England in 1936 and lives at Carshalton Beeches, Surrey England. They have two children, Andrew and Margaret. Andrew is married and has three children. Margaret teaches school in the south of England.

Grace Emily Macdonnell married Wilbur Knott of Edgerton, Alberta. They have two children, Sheila and David. Sheila married Fred Calvert of Wainwright, Alberta. They have two children. David, who's interest is in cattle, lives on the family farm.

**Events**

During the First World War the Red Deer Red Cross Society sent out sewing to be done, pyjamas, hospital gowns, etc. Lily Macdonnell and other ladies in the district would gather at each others homes for an afternoon of sewing, each travelling by buggy and taking her own hand sewing machine along.

In the spring of 1921, there was an epidemic of measles. Mrs. Joe Nelson, Miss Sophie Lund, Miss Florence Sininger, Bunty and Marjorie were all ill. They were taken to the Macdonnell's former home on the farm where Mrs. Banton and Lily Macdonnell nursed them. After everyone was better the whole house was completely fumigated. To give Lily a rest, Mrs. Emily (Granny) Macdonnell took Bunty and Marjorie to the Pitcox house, where she had continued to live. They had only been there a couple of days when a soot-filled chimney started a fire. Over at Hespero the Macdonnells were alerted by a man yelling "fire". Gerry searched the store, then finally looked out the window and saw the old Pitcox house and store in flames. He immediately saddled a horse and rode the half mile to Pitcox and was thankful to find his mother and girls safe. He tried to help Mr. McDougall, the hired man, control the blaze but this was hopeless and the frame building burned to the ground in no time. Meanwhile, Lily and Laura Giselman ran over from the store, (wading through the swollen creek) to find Granny Macdonnell and girls sitting on a sofa outside the hen house, bundled in winter coats over their night attire. This sofa and one drawer of linen were the only things saved. Granny Macdonnell lost everything, she moved into Gerry's house on the farm but she never really recovered from the shock and loss. She died in March 1922 at the age of 72.

It was many years before church services were held regularly at Hespero. At one time, services were held in the Macdonnell' dining room above the store. Rev. Alexander of the Anglican Church came in a buggy from Rocky Mountain House to hold these services. At another period, church services were held in a small building used to collect cream cans ready for shipment on the train. At this time wooden planks resting on nail kegs acted as pews for the congregation. Fortunately, this arrangement was temporary.

Dance held in the cheese factory at Pitcox Oct. 4th, 1912

and eventually services were held in the Hespero hall. For many years, student ministers served the community. On September 28, 1938, a small Presbyterian Church was dedicated. It had been built by residents of the area. Mr. Campbell was the Presbyterian Minister at that time, living at Eckville, Alta. For years there was quite an active congregation but times have changed and people have moved and now the church has been moved to the Innisfail Historical Museum.

The Hespero Hall was built in the 1920's and was the hub of community activity, being used for dances, church services, political meetings, picture shows, sewing classes, weddings and funerals.

Picture shows were looked forward to with great anticipation. Mr. Jake Heintz would come with his silent movies. Unfortunately, his equipment frequently broke down and the audience was left in suspense, in the dark, while he went outside to start up his generator again. At times like these the backless wooden benches became almost unbearable. "Felix the Cat" was the comic strip, surely the whispers of "Mummy what does it say?" must have driven the adults wild. The first "talkie" was a real event.

Two of the many outstanding events held in the hall were the Annual Dance held in November and a Masquerade dance held on St. Patrick's Day. On both these occasions people came from all the surrounding communities and for the masquerade most came in costume. It was also the era of the Box Social, and the Three-Act Play, with very good local talent, was always looked forward to. Music for the bigger dances was supplied by Ernest Kinna's Orchestra or Harold Bones' Orchestra from Red Deer. May 12, 1937, was the coronation of King George VI. This great occasion was celebrated at Hespero with a big fireworks display and dance. The Hespero Hall was filled to capacity and a great time was had by all. The hall burned down in the spring of 1938 and was immediately replaced, the men of the community doing the construction.

Macdonnell Bros. General Store was sold to Lorne Gordon in 1946 and eventually burned down in 1953. Through the years many people worked in the store and the house, names slip the memory but a few we can remember; 1918 Maggie Robertson worked in the house during the flu epidemic; Lottie Lund who died of the flu in 1918, Joe Nelson; Sophie Lund, Laura Giselman; Florence Sininger, Hilja Wuori, Bert Spearing, Fred ??; Coupland Currie. We will always remember Hilma Sutela beating her delicious chocolate cakes, and the many years Jennie Currie spent with us. Mr. Cal Fletcher will be well remembered for more than 20 years serving in the store.

In the Pitcox days dry goods travellers came from Winnipeg with trunks of samples. They drove to country points in a democrat and stayed overnight, usually with the store-keeper's family. They came every spring and fall with samples of the next season's goods.

**MARTINSON, HANS PETER**

My dad was born April 21, 1890, in Milford, Iowa, U.S.A., only son of Andrew J. Martinson and has four sisters. The year of 1912, he decided to come to Alberta, Canada, and get a homestead. His father got home prepared to start out for a new adventure with machinery and household supplies, four mules and two horses. He had two boxcar loads. His youngest sister, Alma, age 16, decided at the last moment that she was coming too. They arrived in Medicine Hat and homesteaded 15 miles from Suffield, Alberta. A four-room house, barn, chicken house and granaries were built. In 1913, he sent for his childhood girl friend, Geneva Alice Shilling. She arrived with her belongings in

Medicine Hat, September 10. They were married the same day. Dad had driven to Medicine Hat. 30 miles away, to meet mother and to their new home they went. Their first hardship was to get water. Dad dug many wells, nearly 100 feet deep, but at last got one that was good, one and a half miles from home, in a low spot. This meant hauling water, which they did. They always had a few milk cows, chickens and pigs. Though Dad farmed many acres, there was never enough moisture to have good crops. There was always feed. Every fall he took his team and rack to Saskatchewan for the harvest season. The best crop was received in 1916. Dad and Uncle Jason worked at any job they could find.

His sister stayed with them for several years before going to work in Medicine Hat. She married a young man from Brooks

In August, 1914, their first daughter, Evelyn, arrived.

Grandad Martinson came to visit his son in the spring of 1915. He liked the country but thought the family should look for a better farm. As new neighbors were moving in all the time, Dad decided to stay. Drier years resulted in less crop and poorer gardens

Another daughter, Meryle, arrived in July 19.7

By 1920, there was scarcely enough feed for the increased number of livestock. Dad found work, though it meant he was away from home.

In 1921 another daughter, Alice, was born

Dad journeyed to Red Deer to try to find land with a better water supply. Here, he was told there was land for sale 35 miles west. He arrived in Hespero and borrowed a saddle horse to look around. At the Hespero store he learned of land for sale five miles south. Phil Laybourne and John Wyzkoski owned the E 11 38-4 W5 and wished to sell it. After checking it over, Dad found the NE quarter was mostly brush with about 20 acres bare. The SE quarter had some good timber with the rest mostly brush. A short distance from the road, which was only a cut line, was a flowing spot of water He decided this had to be his new home. He made a down payment and returned home

He wrote his dad that he had found a half section of land with lots of timber for lumber, good soil and water Grandad sent the balance of the money and we owned the land by January, 1922.

That spring, Dad put his prairie crop in. He loaded his horses and machinery and headed northwest He broke a piece of land, built a four-room log shed and dug a well only 26 feet deep with lots of water In the fall he returned south to take off the crop. We salvaged all the lumber from barn, granaries, shed and house. We even took the fences. We arrived at Hespero on April 6, 1923, accompanied by a young neighbour fellow

Phil Laybourne and several others met us with sleighs and horses, to move my mother, two sisters and the household effects. Dad, Henry and I rode our saddle horses to drive the cattle and horses to our new home

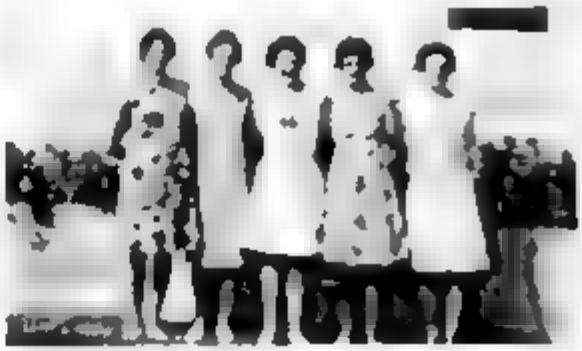
It was so different from the prairie. It was all closed in with bush There was no place to have a horse race. We could not see our neighbor's buildings but we had lots of water and fire wood It was only two miles to Gaetz school.

Dad started clearing and breaking land. He cut lumber during the winter. There was a good sawmill, owned by August Lipka and Sons, only seven miles from home

That summer we had a good garden, grain and lots of wild fruit such as raspberries, saskatoons, cranberries and choke cherries for jelly We had good neighbors to visit and everyone helped each other. The years seemed to fly by, with a good living. Dad did custom work with his grinder and sawing outfits. Farmers worked with horses and ships, building roads to help pay taxes.

Another daughter, Virginia, arrived in November, 1924. The NW of 11 was leased for pasture in 1925. He pastured cattle for his neighbors and was able to milk some of them The fall of 1926 was very wet, with nearly 100 acres of grain to be harvested. A stationery engine was installed on the binder to run the canvas, and skids were placed under the bull wheel. Eight horses were needed for each four-hour shift. Thus, Dad's grain and some of the neighbor's was harvested. The motor remained on the binder for several years when heavy crops proved troublesome.

In November, 1926, another sister, Ruth, arrived



Evelyn, Meryle, Alice, Virginia, Ruth Martinson

We had visits from former neighbors from the prairie. Dry weather and no crops forced some to leave. However, many of them thought it was too wet here and went farther south. Others bought land nearby

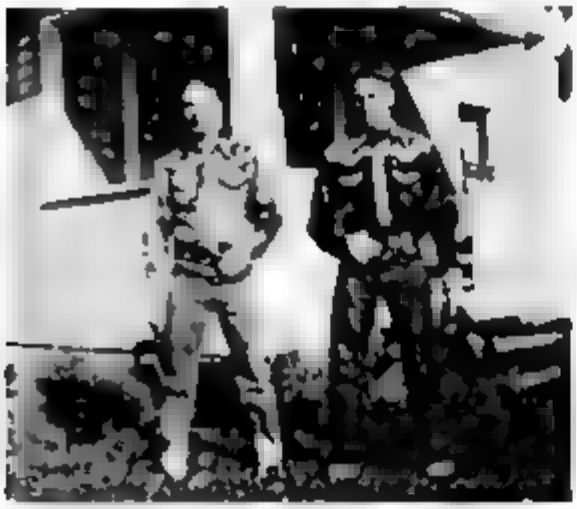
We had a well drilled 44 feet deep, which proved to be a flowing well.

On returning from school in March 1928, our dad proudly announced the arrival of a son, Floyd George Andrew, named for his grandfathers.

Dad bought a stationery hay baler. He did custom work, and his winters were spent away from home baling hay. A Model A Ford car and two-wheel trailer was purchased. It now became my job to supply Dad with baler wire, gas and oil.

Our new barn was completed in 1930. Grandad Martinson visited and enjoyed our new home. He saw us breaking land with 12 horses. Dad raised horses and broke young ones for his neighbors. He never owned a tractor.

Another son, Melvin, was born in April, 1931.



Melvin and Floyd Martinson

Dad received a Government order to bale hay, straw and greenfeed for the dried-out areas of Saskatchewan. He was away from home from February till May. I seeded 160 acres of crop, with four horses on the seed drill, followed by four horses on the packer.

Dad returned to Milford, Iowa, for a visit, his first since leaving in 1912. A lover of rodeos and horse racing, we had a farm rodeo, complete with ball games, at our farm each summer.

In the fall of 1933, we lost our home by fire. A new home was started in the spring. We had just moved into it at harvest time, when we lost our crop by hail. Fields were under water and buildings were damaged.

On September 4, 1934, Dad passed away at 44 years of age, leaving Mother with seven children. Evelyn was then married to William Phelps and had one daughter, Marie.

In 1939 Mother had a sale and sold the farm. She moved to Saskatchewan where she married Andrew Holm. They had one daughter, Ruby, now Mrs. Peter Chernawsky, she has eight children.

Mother passed away April 8, 1975, at 82 years. Stepdad, Andrew Holm, passed away July 22, 19[illegible], at 80 years of age.

Merle Martinson passed away from cancer in 1971.

Alice, Mrs. Fred Birdsall of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, has five sons.

Virginia, Mrs. Tom Hudson, of Summerland, B.C., has four children.

Ruth, Mrs. John Bourne of Penhold has five children.

Floyd married Yvonne Greenwood and they have four children.

Melvin (deceased in 1959) married Marion Sands and had three children.

**THE MATT MATTSON STORY**

Matt Mattson came from Finland in 1926. He travelled the country from coast to coast for a few years and then settled in the Eckville area.

In 1929, Aino Nisulla came from Finland and they were married the following year, living at Anti Belikka's for a year. After that moved to Mr. Ahola's homestead which they rented for nine years. In that time, fall of 1934, we had moved to Richard Kangas' place for one year. Then we moved back to Mr. Ahola's place.

Oscar and Helen started school in the Evergreen District. The name of the school was Knowlege. We had four and a half miles to school. It was closer to cut across the swamp and bush where Matt marked the trees, so we wouldn't get lost and it was about two miles shorter.

Matt liked horses and would trade them for a better or worse one. And maybe there was a dollar or two in it. And besides that, he farmed and had a few head of cattle.

We had a lot of good neighbors. There was always a helping hand when necessary. Matt and Aino had six children who were born here.

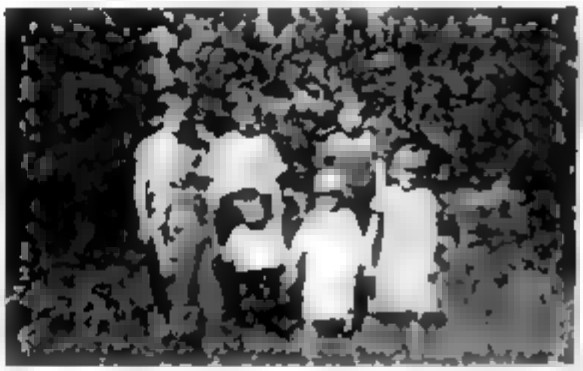
In 1940 we moved to Brightview District and made their home on the NE 22-45-26W5. Larry Lahti had moved us there. Elsie was born here.

Oscar is single, residing on the farm.

Helen married Viaho Havanka, and they live at Faun. They have three children.

Violet married Ken Kaiser, and they live west of Wetaskiwin on a farm. They have two children.

Paul married Maryann Scholze, and live in Edmonton. They have three children.



Three tall girls are Kangas's. Oscar, Paul, Violet and Helen Martinson

Lily was born in Eckville in 1937, deceased in 1938.

Edna married Melvin Havanka. They have four children. Edna deceased in 1963. The children live in Edmonton.

Elsie married Gus Stephan. They live on a farm west and south of Wetaskiwin and have two children.

Matt Mattson passed away in 1961 at the age of 58. Mrs. Mattson lives on the farm with Oscar

**THE McCUISH AND McCREIGHT FAMILY**

Mrs. Minnie McCuish was born and grew up in northern Ireland. Her family consisted of a son by her first marriage, Stanley McCreight, born in Manitoba, and a daughter and son by her second marriage, Nora and Bill McCuish, both born at Hanna, Alberta. Mrs. McCuish lost her first husband at Hanna in a drowning accident. Her second husband also died at Hanna four years before she came to Eckville. The family moved from the Hanna area to Eckville during the winter of 1937-1938, to the farm previously owned by R. H. Edgar of Red Deer. This farm is located one mile east of Hespero on the south side and adjoining No. 11 Highway.

Bill McCuish, Andy Murdock, Mrs. McCuish, Stan McCreight and Murray Trigg

Only about half the land was under cultivation, so the first few years were devoted to clearing the land and breaking it on the balance of the farm. Besides growing grain, they raised cattle and hogs and milked quite a few cows. When farm labor became scarce after the war, they discontinued milking, and a few years later sold their livestock and went into grain farming exclusively. About this time, also, they made the switch from the older way of harvesting to the modern method which did not require the extra help necessary with the threshing machine. In 1947, they began harvesting with a combine, as did many others about the same time.

The immediate neighbors living on adjoining farms in those early years and who have since passed on were: Mr. and Mrs. Doug Snider, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spence, Alex Ross, Mr. and Mrs. William Cole, O. J. Miller, John Cordon, George Currie, Carl Barhan and Jock Morton (who lived together at that time) and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Saarela, who had the Hespero Service Station.

Many changes took place during the time that the McCuish and McCreight family lived at Eckville, some of the most noticeable being the amount of land that was cleared and brought under cultivation. The roads were greatly improved; nearly all were gravelled and some of the most important ones were paved. The rural schools were phased out during the middle 50's in favor of centralization, and the children were taken by bus to a consolidated school in a central location. The municipalities were also phased out in favor of the County System about this time.

The coming of the modern utilities was possibly the most important event. Rural electrification in that district was completed and put into service by the spring of 1949. The arrival of the direct dialing telephone system with the buried cable in March, 1967, was a great improvement over the old style. The organization of a gas co-op was the next thing to benefit the district. The work on the pipeline was started in the fall of 1971, and early in the new year many farms were using natural gas.

Jim Hartley - about 1938

Mrs. Nora Hartley

In 1940, Nora McCuish married Jim Hartley, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hartley of Hespero. Jim served overseas with the Canadian Artillery during the war, and returned home in 1946. They had one son, Jamie. The family lived at Hespero until 1958 when they moved to Calgary, where Jim died 10 years later. Nora Hartley and her son still reside in Calgary.

Mrs. Minnie McCuish, who lived to a good old age, passed away in the spring of 1967, and was buried in Red Deer.

Stan McCreight married Betty DeLong,

formerly of Lacombe, in 1936, and they have two children, Joan and Bob

Bill McCulsh and Stan McCreight operated their farms as a partnership under the name of McCulsh and McCreight during their entire time at Eckville. Stan McCreight sold his farm to Dr. R. L. Hay of Rocky Mountain House in the fall of 1972, and moved with his wife and family to Calgary where they still reside. Bill McCulsh sold his farm the same fall to Ralph Bruinsma, and also moved to Calgary where he resides with his sister, Mrs. Nora Hartley, and her son.

**McKELLAR, WILLIAM D. AND BEULAH**

William (Bill) Duncan McKellar was born at Glencoe, Ontario, December 29, 1910, the second son of Neil J. and Gertrude McKellar (Little). He came west to Jenner, Alberta with his parents in 1917 where they farmed until 1925 when they moved to Turner Valley and bought a section of land south west of town. His mother died in 1925 and is buried in Jenner. His sister Flora, married Elmer Musgrove in 1925 and stayed in Jenner. She is at present living in Brooks, Alberta. His brother, Andrew, returned to Glencoe and in 1935 was killed while riding a bicycle. His younger brother Alex, married Edna Steen in 1933 and they live at Drayton Valley, Alberta. In September, 1934, Bill married Beulah Mae Steen, second daughter of Carl and Florence Steen of Turner Valley. They lived at Turner Valley until 1937 when their house burned and they lost everything they owned.

Royalties in south Turner Valley was just starting as a town then and they built a new house there. Bill worked for Brown, Moyer, and Brown. In 1940 he went to work for Dominion Drilling on their rigs and worked under Ralph Binnings until 1943, at which time they moved back to Royalties. At this time they were getting tired of moving every few months — they had lived at Patricia, New Brigden, Chinook, Taber and Cardston sometimes moving twice to some of these towns, to be nearer to where the rig worked. In 1943 having saved enough to make a payment on a farm, they picked Condor, as the soil looked good even though it was raining hard that day and the road to the farm was impassable. They bought the S.E. 36-36-5-W5 which was Bob Blair's homestead. The road from the west country to Red Deer had at one time gone right through the quarter and could still be seen at that time.

They continued to live at Royalties until 1946 when they moved to the farm which had been rented to Clayton Galarneau. Mrs. Galarneau is the former Ethel Bradshaw. However as there were only 72 acres cleared since they were farming with horses when the Leduc Oil Field started, Bill went back to Oil Work in the fall of 1947. The family moved there in January of 1948. Bill got a job with Cody Spencer and worked for General Petroleums as Lease Crew Supervisor, sometimes involving over 150 men. He was also in charge of crews trying to bring the Wild Well Atlantic No. 3 under control.

All this time they were getting more land cleared on the farm and had bought some machinery including a tractor. The power had also come to the district and in April, 1952, they moved back to the farm. They bought seven head of Registered Ayrshire cows and a bred of Yorkshire sow. Over the years these increased until they were milking 35 cows. They also sold hatching eggs to Red Deer.

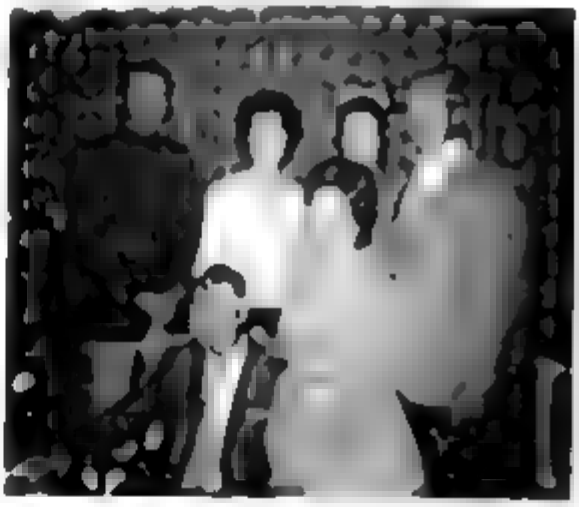
In 1972 they sold the milk cows and bought more beef cattle. Then in 1976 they sold most of these and now only have eight head of cattle and three horses left. The farm is rented and they are taking life easier.

While in the oilfields Bill worked at various jobs, including fresno work, working on the pipe lines, building steel and wooden derricks, tearing them down, splicing cables and doing all the jobs drilling an oil well involves.

Since coming to the farm, he has been active with the 4H groups and was leader of the Condor Grain Club and the Evergreen Dairy Club. He is active in the Elks Club and has held several offices, including Exalted Ruler. He is also active in the Presbyterian Church. His hobbies now are learning to play the electric organ and barbecuing when the occasion arises.

Beulah has had a busy life raising their family and helping Bill in all phases of farming. She is also active in the Royal Purple Lodge and has held several offices including Honored Royal Lady and District Deputy. Her hobbies are knitting and crocheting and they both love gardening and raising flowers and have a big yard to look after.

They have raised four children — Gertrude (Trudie) who was born in Calgary, September 4, 1935. She married Carl (Bud) Gefle of Eckville in 1955. They have four children — Michael, Tim,



Dale McKellar, Trudie Gefle (McKellar), Barb Pedersen (McKellar), Bob McKellar, Wm. D. (Bill) McKellar, Beulah McKellar

Connie and Donna. They live at their farm near Eckville

Dale was born in Calgary, June 5, 1937. He married Carol Ann Westaway of Turner Valley in 1955. They have three children — Cherie, Donald and Wendy. Dale is a Staff Sargeant in the Calgary City Police

Robert was born in Cardston, November 21, 1942. He married Sharon O'Handley of Eckville in 1962. They had two sons, Robbie and Mark. He is divorced and remarried. He and Carrone have a little girl, Johanna Jean, or J J as she is usually called. They live at Abbotsford and Bob works for the Co-op Feed Company as a salesman

Barbara was born in Edmonton, May 2, 1950. She married Fred Fedorick in 1974. They live at Kamloops, B.C. and have a little girl, Tara Lynn born May 7, 1976.

**MEERES, HORACE AND EMILY, AND FAMILY**

Mr. Horace Meeres was born January 3, 1870 in England, the son of a prominent physician, Dr Edward Meeres of Melksham, Wiltshire County He was educated in a private school at Plymouth and at age 14 years apprenticed on sailing ships On one voyage, after sailing around the Cape of Good Hope to India and the China coast, his ship was captured by pirates. He made his way to Canada in 1887 and after spending some time employed on railroad construction in Saskatchewan he came to Alberta and helped construct the Calgary Edmonton railway in 1890

While working in Calgary for the city water system he married Emily Hornett on January 31, 1894. Emily was the eldest daughter of Sarah and Leonard Hornett of Kingsly, Oxfordshire, England, who had brought their three children to Canada in September, 1890 They later homesteaded in the Hill End district east of Penhold, Alberta. Mr and Mrs. Meeres also left Calgary and homesteaded in the same area.

In order to make progress, like so many pioneers, the Meeres's had to seek employment to supplement the income from the homestead Mr Meeres was qualified as a steam engineer and was employed in that capacity on a steam boat on the Kootenay Lakes, and in the summer of 1897 in a lumber camp on the Little Red Deer River, where Mrs. Meeres also was employed, as a cook

By 1904 schooling had become a necessity for their six children, so they sold the homestead and moved to Red Deer, where Mr. Meeres was employed as an engineer at the Red Deer Brick Company and later with Bawtinheimer and Sons lumber mill. Also in 1904 Mr Meeres was elected to take charge of the first Volunteer Fire Brigade in Red Deer During his tenure as fire chief he rigged up a contrivance whereby the horses could be harnessed very quickly This helped to increase the efficiency of the fire department so that they gained the distinction of keeping the fire losses in Red Deer the lowest of any place in Western Canada. The brigade's football team won provincial championships from 1908 to 1915. Their brass band was in much demand, as it was the nearest thing to culture in Central Alberta. Both Mr and Mrs. Meeres had played in the Salvation Army Band in Calgary and after moving to Red Deer Mr. Meeres instructed the brass section of the newly-formed Cadet Drum and Bugle Band in 1914. Mrs. Meeres raised a large vegetable garden, and her flower garden produced many prize-winning exhibits

Canada went to war in 1914, and Ray, the eldest son, enlisted with "C" Squadron and went overseas in January, 1915 with the 12th Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was wounded twice — once at the capture of Vimy Ridge and later in the Battle of the Somme. After a long hospitalization he was discharged and sent home. Taking leave from the fire brigade, Horace Meeres went to officer's training school in Calgary and in 1916 resigned as fire chief and went to England as a captain in the 187th in charge of "D" Compan Horace also was wounded at the capture of Vim Ridge. After a leave, he was sent back to France' and was promoted to the rank of Major before returning home. In 1919 he was appointed inspector of the Soldier Settlement Board. The second son, Edwin (Ted) enlisted and went to France with the 50th Battalion in 1916.

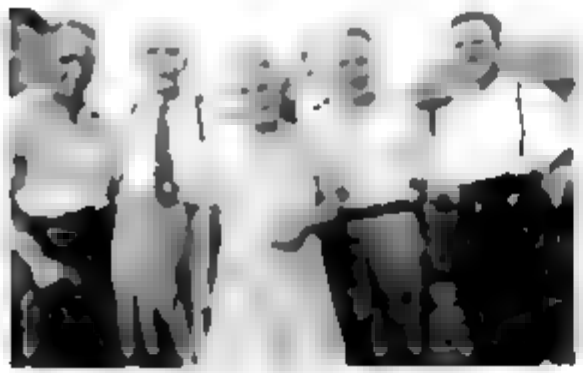
Mr. and Mrs Horace Meeres moved to the Condor district in October, 1919, bringing with them six of their children: Stewart, Milly, Rosie May, Dorothy and Alberta. Wilfred and Ethel had died in infancy in Red Deer. The winter of 1919-1920 was a long, hard winter. Feed was scarce in the Condor area, and many farmers were paying $10 a sleigh load for straw to keep their livestock until spring. Mr. Meeres hauled straw from Bill Cruikshank's farm west of Condor village, but, in spite of all they could do, 24 of his cattle died before spring. Another trial of that winter was having no well. Drinking water had to be hauled from a neighbor's well and Mrs Meeres had to melt snow for washing clothes One night the upstairs part of the house caught fire, and Mr. and Mrs. Meeres, along with a neighbor, Mr. Bell, fought the fire with snow and melted snow, while the children huddled outside, wrapped in blankets, trying to keep from freezing. They managed to get the fire out, but the house was badly damaged

In 1927 Mr Meeres sold the farm and moved to the village of Condor where he built a store in 1928, and in the same year was appointed a justice of the peace The family lived over the store until 1930, when they purchased the Pratley house. Mrs. Meeres was elected president of the Condor W.I. in 1927 and again in 1928. Mr Meeres was elected president of the Condor Social Credit group, politics coming naturally to him since in the 18th century there were 17 Meeres in the British House of Commons Mr Meeres brought the Atlas Lumber Company to Condor in 1938, it being then known as the Condor Cash and Carry

Hardwareteria. In November of 1936 he was elected president of the Red Deer Social Credit organization and was also president of the Eckville Hospital Board. Mrs. Meeres was also interested in politics, and travelled with her husband to meetings in various towns of the area. They both took an active part in the Condor community for many years, and both were members of the Central Alberta Pioneers and Old Timers' Association' having a life membership. Mrs. Meeres was a life-time member of the Women's Institute and took a great interest in its affairs.

Mrs. Meeres died in January 1952 and Mr. Meeres in September of the same year. Mrs. Meeres was 76 years of age, and her husband was 82 years old. Their funeral services were conducted by the Reverend J. C. Gardiner in Gaetz Memorial United Church and they are buried in the Red Deer Cemetery.

Stewart Meeres, the third oldest son, helped clear and get under cultivation much of the farm. He obtained his first class teacher's certificate at the normal college at Camrose and in 1927-1928 he taught and was principal at the two-roomed Leslieville school. One morning while driving to school after a heavy rain his car slipped on the muddy roads and went over the bank at the top of a hill where the road wound down to the Horseguard river. Stewart managed to pull a coat over his head as the car rolled over and over and managed to escape serious injury. He walked on to Leslieville, and carried on with his duties. He had earlier taught at Shady Lane, Prairie Rose and Daisy Nook schools. While teaching at Daisy Nook he organized a hockey team, and while cutting curved willows to use as hockey sticks he suffered a bad axe cut to his foot. This required attention by the district nurse, Mrs. Eastman. In 1929 Stewart taught school at Nordegg and continued teaching in various other places throughout Alberta. The second World War interrupted his teaching career, as he served with the R.C.A.F. In eastern Canada, becoming a flight lieutenant. In 1929 he was married to Ida Wylie of Benalto. They have two sons and several grandchildren. They are presently living in Red Deer.



Ted, George Meeres, Gramma Emily, Stewart and Ray Meeres 1946

Ray Meeres joined the family on the farm in 1920. Tractors were being brought into the area at that time and he was much in demand to help neighbors get their machines running. In the fall of 1920 he ran the tractor for Mr. Bob Blair's threshing machine while Mr. Bob Prendergast ran the thresher. Ray tells of scouring the district for chains strong enough for the tractor to pull the thresher across ditches and through muddy fields as they went from farm to farm to thresh the grain. Ray married Hilda Carlson of the Delburne district in 1926. He then moved back to Red Deer where he was employed with Gifford Electric and was later a partner in Meeres Hill Electric. Mr. and Mrs. Meeres continue to live in Red Deer. They have five children, a number of grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Theresa Meeres, the oldest of the girls, stayed at the farm at Condor for only a short period of time. She was appointed secretary of the Women's Canadian Club and served as secretary for Gates Manufacturing Company and for a time was on the staff of the Northern Crown Bank in Red Deer. She spent some time with the Salvation Army in Winnipeg and attained the rank of Captain. In 1927 she moved to Edmonton and was employed as a bookkeeper for the Legislature. In September 1936 she married Don Thomson, private secretary to James Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. The couple moved to Ottawa when Mr. Thomson became secretary for Mr. Prudham, M.P., and Theresa became secretary for Canadian Author's Association and also was secretary for two authors, Duncan Campbell Scott and Mrs. Madge McBeth. In 1967 Theresa and Don went to England to give a joint recital of their books of poetry at the British Poetry Society in London. Theresa helped Don with the research for his books "Men and Meridians", the history of pioneer map making in Canada, which was published in 1969, and a book on the story of early aviation in Canada. Theresa has had much of her own writing published in Canadian magazines while she also served as President for the Ottawa branch of the Canadian Authors' Association. The Ryerson Press used some of the Thomson's poetry in the book on the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, called "The Royal Tour", published in Toronto in 1959. Theresa and her husband had a joint book of poetry published in 1974, the same year she died at the age of 80 years. They had no children.

The second son, Ted, spent only some of his vacation periods helping on the farm at Condor. As an employee of the Imperial Bank of Canada, he was moved to several points in Alberta and Saskatchewan, working his way up until he became a manager, first in Saskatchewan and later in Red Deer. He married Miss Marjory Ramsey of Edmonton in 1934. They enjoyed winter sports and photographing wild life. One day near Jasper while getting a picture of a bear just leaving its winter den, the bear, hungry and

cross, took after Ted. Ted made good use of his legs and got away, even hanging onto his camera. Ted retired in 1963 and has since worked in the Red Deer and district archives. He won the Citizen of the Year award for his work in 1975. He was one of the members of the Silver Blades who was presented with a plaque for finishing the distance in the Kinsmen Skatathon in 1976. In his 80th year, Ted still skates once a week. His book, "The Homesteads that Nurtured a City", will be published in 1978. Mrs. Meeres died in 1969, after having been a faithful worker with the Canadian Red Cross and with their church, for most of her lifetime. Ted continues to live in his home in Red Deer, still writing, gardening, and fishing.

In March of 1921 Milly Meeres, the second eldest daughter, married Norman Eastman, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eastman, who came to the Condor district in 1910. Norman was a veteran of the first World War. Milly and Norman farmed in the Northup district south-west of Condor until 1925, when they sold out and moved to Calgary. Milly then became a hairdresser. They have two children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live at Jaques Lodge, in Calgary.

Rosie Meeres helped on the farm and attended school at Daisy Nook and Prairie Rose. She later helped her father in the store and post office. In 1931 she married Roy Warden of Condor. They farmed for some years before moving to the village of Condor. Rosie was a member of the Condor Women's Mission Circle. She died in the Red Deer hospital on February 21, 1955. She and Roy had seven children.

May Meeres worked in the Condor post office for several years. She married Max Gray, a grain buyer at Condor, in 1936, and they moved to Viking in 1938. There May ran a flower shop and Max worked for Viking Gas Company until he joined the armed forces in 1940 and went overseas. They later sold their house in Viking and moved to Calgary in 1963. Later they operated a flower business for several years in Camrose, and May also worked in the craft centre. She took many prizes throughout the years at fairs and exhibitions for her work with leather craft, ceramics, fancy work, flower making and weaving. In 1971 she won a silver trophy for the most outstanding rug in Design for Living exhibition during Klondike Days in Edmonton. Several of her wall hangings are on the walls of the Parliament building in Edmonton. May at present teaches weaving in the Camrose area. Max Gray died March 14, 1977. They had three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dorothy Meeres, the second to the youngest daughter, took her high school and musical training in Edmonton, where she stayed with her sister Theresa. She married Herb Stockwell in 1934. He and his father were operating a sawmill at Arbutus and other points in that area. They moved to the coast of British Columbia in 1945 where they continued in the lumbering business, living in various places before settling in Sechelt B.C. Dorothy put her musical training to good use, working with Girl Guides and senior citizens. After leaving the logging industry Herb drove a bus on the Vancouver run. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Alberta, the youngest Meeres girl, married Cecil Prendergast of Condor in 1934. Cecil worked as a sawyer in the lumber mills west of Rocky Mountain House. After farming for a while at Condor they ran a dairy at Sylvan Lake in 1938-1939, and lived for a while at Sechelt, B.C. before Cecil joined the army in 1942. In 1952 they moved to Calgary where they built a house and here Cecil worked in the building trade and for the Carpenter's Union. Upon his retirement in 1975 they moved to Sylvan Lake and built a house in Norglenwold Village, where they live at present. They have five children and eight grandchildren.

**MILLER, ORAL JAMES**

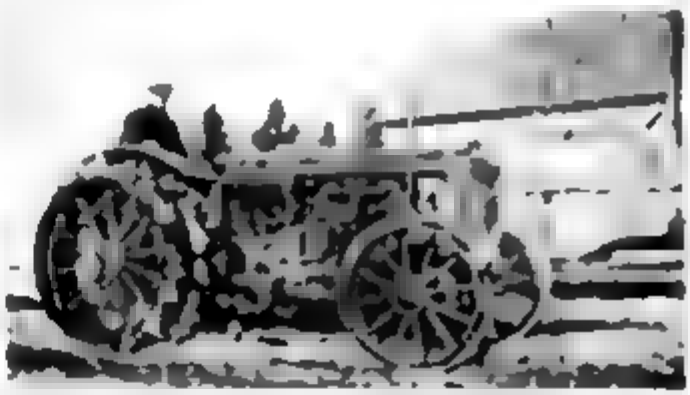
O. J. Miller was born in Island Brook, Quebec on March 8, 1889.

He was a member of the City of Calgary Police Force for four years before, and about three years following the first Great War, in which he served with the First Canadian Pioneers. He won the Military Medal and held the rank of R.Q.M.S. when he was demobilized.

Following his retirement from the Calgary Police Force, he came to Hespero in 1920 and purchased the SE 30-38-3-W5 through the Soldier Settlement Board and in 1926 he purchased the SE 25-38-4-W5, a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter. He broke both of these quarters with a breaking plow and a team of eight horses, hand grubbing the trees and pulling the stumps with horses. He also did land breaking for the neighbours.

O. J. was a very community-minded person. In 1923 he was one of the instigators of the building of the Hespero Hall.

O. J. Miller passed away on December 11, 1945 at his home at Hespero, nursed to the end by John and Annie Cordon and family. His inter-



O. J. Miller 1953 Brand New Allis-Chalmers Tractors

ment was in the Hespero Cemetery, with A. F Howick officiating. Percy Duffield sang "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." Pallbearers were Harry Bice and George Barton of Condor, Neil MacLean of Evarts, William (Bill) Ross, Stanley McCreight, Gerald H. MacDonell, and Archie Anderson of Hespero. Members of the Calgary Tank Regiment and other veterans formed a guard of honor for the ceremony.

His sister, Mrs. Edith D. Hare of Edmonton, still visits the farm at Hespero. One of his brothers, Dr. C. A. Miller, lives at Sundre.

**MITCHELL, ARCHIE**

Archie and Elizabeth Mitchell, with their son, Andrew, nine and daughter, May, two and one half, arrived at Condor, in April, 1929. They emigrated from Hamilton, Lanarkshire Scotland.

We arrived by train and were welcomed to the area by Chief McDonald. We were then taken by a neighbor, by team and wagon, to our future farm home, about a mile east and a mile south of the Condor corner.

Our first neighbors were the Mogers, Crowthers, Drivers, Murphys and Jim Tobin. Several years later, Mrs. Murphy was taken ill but would not enter hospital, the only place she would go was to our place so Mom could look after her. She died in our home and the funeral was held in our front room, with her friends standing in the kitchen and some outside as they could not all get in the house.

A few months later another daughter, Etta, was born, and then in 1935, daughter, Joan, was born.

As children, we attended Prairie Rose School, and our first teacher was Miss Johannson, who still lives in the Red Deer area. Our mother, along with the other ladies of the district, used to put on plays, dances and box socials to raise money for Christmas treats that were given to all the children at our Christmas concert. We used to practice for about two weeks to get ready for these concerts, and that night Santa arrived and handed out the goodies to all the young.

We lived on this farm until about 1942, the farm was rented and Mom and the girls moved into Condor. Andrew and Dad joined the Calgary Tank Corps in 1941. Dad was later discharged due to his health, but Andrew went overseas with his regiment. Dad took a job at the Penhold Air Base, and we moved to Red Deer around 1943. Dad held this job until the war ended. The farm was then sold and we moved to our home on 54 street. Dad then worked for Mr. Bettenson of Bettenson Cartage until his retirement.

On Andrew's return from the army, he worked in Red Deer and married in 1948. He had a family of five, twin daughters, a son and two other daughters. All his family but one daughter are married and have children of their own. Andrew was a captain with the Red Deer Fire Department for many years before his sudden death in 1975. His widow still lives in Red Deer.

May worked in Eaton's store for many years before her marriage to Archie Allan in 1950. They have three boys and all live in Red Deer.

Etta worked at Gaetz-Cornett before her marriage to Albin Anderson; they have one daughter and three sons and make their home at Ferintosh about 70 miles north of here.

Mom passed away in 1955, just after planning a holiday to her family in Scotland.

Joan, the youngest, worked in Eaton's and in 1970 married Sandy Wilson. They have one son and farm in the area.

Dad still lives in the family home on 54 street and keeps in fairly good health. He is in his 79 year and enjoys planting his flowers and looking after his yard in the summer.

**MORRISON, CLIFFORD**

I was born in Simcoe County, Ontario. As a baby, I was taken to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. I had my schooling there and when I was 16 my mother and step-father moved to Alberta. They settled on a rental farm in the Condor area in 1928.

When we first arrived in the Condor area, there was only dirt roads, not too many people went to Red Deer. Where the springs are along the highway between Eckville corner and Benalto, we had to drive on planks to get through. In 1929, Walter Syren and I worked on a road crew hauling brush and dirt to make, what is now, the highway passable for the few cars to go to Red Deer.

In 1944, I was married to Lola Ray of the Leduc area. We lived in North Vancouver where our oldest daughter, Betty, was born. We came back to the Condor area and rented land where Carl Kendze now lives. From there, we also rented the farm Jim Bott has now before buying land and settling where we live now. Our other children were all born in this area and had their schooling here. Some of them have left the area such as Betty and Henry Housen and three children at Alix, Tom and Judy Morrison and five children on the farm with us, Mary and Ron Ames and four children at Rocky Mountain House and Nola Massey at Freeport, Texas.

I can sure see a lot of changes since first arriving in the Condor area.

**OASTROM, OSCAR**

Oscar Oastrom was born in Lekvattnet, state of Varmland, Sweden, on April 11, 1887. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 19 years, in May, 1906. He landed in Red Deer and stayed with a cousin, who had come from Sweden to Canada a few years earlier. It was through the encouragement of his cousin that Oscar came to Canada. After coming to Red Deer, he and Eli Anderson worked at the Red Deer quarry for a time. In 1907, he came to the Withrow area and took up a homestead, SW 22-39-4-W5. He lived

Grant Hicks, Russel McFeat and Oscar Ostrom

here for a while, then, finding it hard to make ends meet, decided to go to the lumber camps at Fernie, B.C. for the winter, to make a grub stake. In the summertime he came back to his homestead and built himself a shack and began to clear his land. After settling here he started hauling freight for the Macdonnell Bros., from Red Deer to Pitcox, now Hespero. In 1917 he bought another quarter just west of his homestead land.

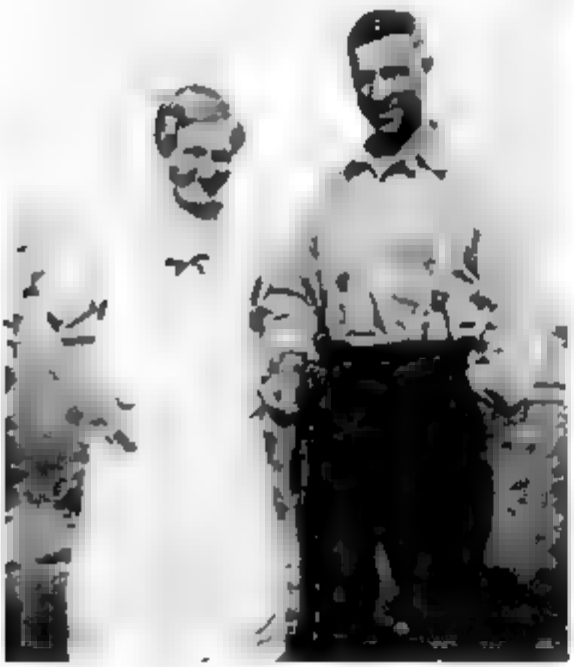
Finding it lonesome, he found himself a wife, being married to Alice Bonk on July 1, 1919. She lived in Lestieville, so they went by wagon from Lestieville to Pitcox and from there took the train to Red Deer. After their marriage they came back to the homestead and Oscar resumed farming.

On October 11, 1919 they lost all their year's crop through a fire caused by a spark from a steam engine. The engine was being run by Earl and Ralph Evans who were threshing the crop. A large new granary which had been built by Hugh Murphy was also lost in the fire. Having lost their crop and feed for the livestock, they had to get feed from somewhere. Henry Molander, of Eckville, and good friends and neighbors of the Wood Lake area gave them enough straw to carry them over the winter.

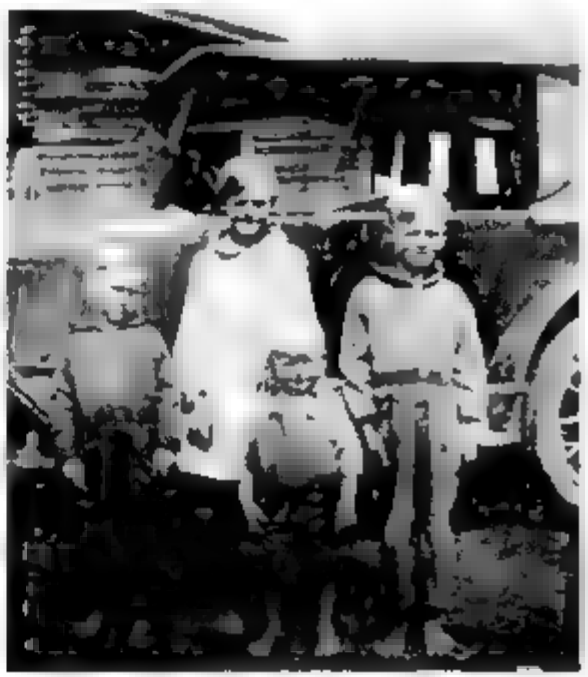
The following spring, they decided to rent out their land, and had an auction sale on March 11, 1920. They then went to Kandahar, Saskatchewan, where Oscar and his brother-in-law, Andrew Pearson, farmed two sections of wheat land. At that time the country was very dry, and the crops were very poor, yielding seven bushels to the acre. The dust storms and some tornadoes were terrible. While they were there, their oldest child, a daughter, was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They named the baby, Freda.

Finally Oscar and Andrew decided that it was no use staying on this farm any longer, and gave up the land. Oscar and his family came to Wetaskiwin, and Andrew Pearson and his family returned to Sweden.

While Oscar and Alice were living in Wetaskiwin, their oldest son, Ernest, was born.



Alice and Oscar Ostrom.



Freda, Ernie, Alfred and Donald Ostrom

However, they soon decided to move back to their homestead where they resumed farming. In 1929 they bought the NW 11-39-4-W5 from Dave Cloniger, in the Hespero area. They began farming on a larger scale, raising hogs and cattle as well as grain, so required more land. As time went on, Oscar kept on farming and buying more land. His two sons were still on the farm and were helping him with the farming

Oscar served for some time as a school trustee on the Shady Lane School Board — from 1929 to 1938. The Shady Lane School had been built in 1912 by Mr Stockwell of Condor, Alberta There were only four pupils attending at that time — Lucy Lowblaw, Norman Anderson, Arla Anderson, and Alice Bonk. The land that this school was built on was donated by Mr Grant Hicks, now owned by Stanley Kauppi.

Oscar and Alice had seven children, four daughters and three sons. Mrs. Freda Elson lives in Calgary, Mrs. Joan Kiprich in Lethbridge, Mrs. Lillian James in Calgary, and Hilda is at home Ernest and Alfred work on the home farm and Donald, of Edmonton, works for the Department of Highways.

After his retirement in 1955 Oscar made a trip to his homeland, Sweden, for a visit. On January 10, 1957, at the age of 69 years, he passed away of a heart attack. He is buried in the Hespero Cemetery

The Oastrom brothers, Ernest and Alfred, have continued with the farming, accumulating more land and more cattle. In their earlier days they had done a lot of brush-cutting and breaking land for people around the country Now Alfred is doing road construction work during the summer months with their Caterpillar tractor

They are also very handy at carpenter work, and both have built their own homes as well as a number of other buildings on the farm

Ernest is married and lives on the former Bill Buckle place. Alfred is married and lives on the former George Lee farm.

Mrs. Oastrom continues to make her home on the farm.

**PICKERING, GARY AND NELLIE**

Gary Lee Pickering was born May 6, 1945, second son of William and Louise Pickering of the Durham district, eight miles south of Bentley, Alberta. Gary had all his education at Bentley schools Later he worked in the nickel mines at Thompson, Manitoba for two years. There he met Nellie Rose Chastelaine and they were married on July 2, 1966.

Nellie was born in Favorable, Ontario on October 4, 1947 and moved to northern Manitoba with her parents, Mark and Annie, at an early age. A son Keith Warren was born March 30, 1967 A year following their marriage Gary and Nellie returned to Alberta. They first made their home in Sylvan Lake and Gary worked for Western Stockyards in Red Deer Lou Anne Mabel was born October 7, 1971 and Nadine Cheryl was born December 12, 1972.

In 1973 Western Stockyards bought the Angus McFadden farm in the Daisy Nook district and Gary moved there with his family to operate the cattle farm for four years. When the farm was sold, they bought a mobile home and settled in Withrow Gary works for Mike Shippelt Trucking. The children attend the Leslieville school. Gary has always been active in sports, hockey, football, fastball and now the pony chuckwagons. Nellie found life here very different from Thompson but has adjusted and now enjoys living in this west country

**PIONEER LADY—Dedicated to my parents Roy and Rosie Warden—by Shirley (Warden) Reaman**

On Thursday, January 5, 1978, my sister Treena and I visited Mrs. Annie Clement at the Pines Lodge in Red Deer. A first meeting for all of us. She gave us a poem our Grandmother, Emily Meeres, had written in honor of Mrs. Clements parents, Mr and Mrs. Barton. It was on the occasion of their 60th Wedding Anniversary

To keep in family tradition, I wrote this poem in honor of Mrs Clement and to all pioneer ladies mentioned in this book who have given us so much. We of this generation say "thank you"

**PIONEER LADY**

I met you for the first time
In the autumn of your life
And you have known fulfillment
As a mother, friend and wife
For even as we chatted
And you talked of joy and strife
I felt a certain magnitude
A quality of life
And its not found in tangibles
But in sacrificial giving
Faithful to the daily tasks
The joy of really living
Your life it wasn't easy
But nothing worthwhile is
But its only when we're tested
That one really learns to live.
Over sixty years of marriage
Is what was granted you
A "gift of time" together
That is granted very few
You have bathed a tiny infant
And kissed away a tear
Cleaned and sewed and sighed and laughed
For those you love so dear
I don't know about tomorrow
Or why some things have been
But this I know for certain
Today I met a queen

Shirley (Warden) Reaman

**PRAIRIE ROSE (CONDOR) SCHOOL No. 1670**

The Prairie Rose School District was formed June 25, 1907. The lands included were N31 and

32, T38, R4, W5, N35 and 36 in T38-5-W5 [illegible] 20 and S29 and 30-39-4 W5, also sections 1, 2, 11-14, 23 and 24, S½ 25 and 26 in T39-5-W5

On September 6, 1907, the board of trustees of which E. N. French of Evarts was a senior member and treasurer, borrowed $1,000 to build and furnish the school, to erect outbuildings, and to dig a well. This was the first school serving the homesteaders of the area.

On June 10, 1938 the name of the school district was changed from Prairie Rose to Condor.

**PRENDERGAST, JACK AND AMY**

Amy Mary Elizabeth Hart, the second daughter of Sarah and Fred Hart of Leslieville was born September 18, 1913, in a log house one-and-one-half miles south of Leslieville. Mrs. Harvey Bennett was the mid-wife. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett were also the Godparents.

Amy attended Prairie Rose School Number 1670. The three girls walked or in cold weather drove a horse to school two miles. Later a school was built at Leslieville where Amy finished school.

Amy worked on farms at Ridgewood, also east of Innisfail. Amy was a good curler and was one of the gang to curl in the old straw rink at Leslieville.

Amy married John C. Prendergast of Condor on November 28, 1935 and lived on a farm one-half mile south of Condor. On August 2, 1938 a girl was born, Amy Marie. On December 22, 1940 a son was born Frederick Robert. In 1940 the family moved to Penhold, where the husband was employed as a power engineer. Then in 1943, the family moved to Red Deer.

In 1944 Amy joined the Highland Dancing Association. Amy and her husband are both life members of this association.

In 1957 the family moved north of Red Deer. In 1959 Marie married William H. Kerr of the R.C.M.P., and now reside in Scarborough, Ontario. In 1976, Frederick was married to Alexis Prystupa and they live in Calgary.

Jack, Wink, Ann, Cecil and Mother Prendergast, George Johnstone

**PRENDERGAST, ROBERT HERMAN**

Robert Herman Prendergast was born at Campbells Bay, Quebec in 1865. On March 21, 1893, he was married at Renfrew, Ontario, to Maria Jane Cote who was born at Shanville, Quebec on July 26, 1863. They first lived near Arnprior, Ontario and moved to Warren, Ontario, where over a period of 20 or so years they operated a livery stable, logged and farmed. They moved west in 1913 arriving in Calgary on the first day of April, 1913 and after a stay of nine months, they moved to Condor and rented the Homer Stockwell farm and lived in what was later known as the Scot Hastie House in the hamlet of Condor. Mrs. Prendergast served meals to the odd traveller including the telephone gang when the first telephone line in the district was built. After subsequently twice renting farms on the prairie near Milo and also south of Richdale, Mr. Prendergast bought a C.P.R. quarter on Highway 11, one half mile south of Condor where they lived until retirement in 1933 when they built a house near the highway on their farm at what was known as the Condor Corner. Known to many as Mother Prendergast and Uncle Bob, their home became a rendezvous for many of the young people of the district who would gather there to dance, box, wrestle and play cards.

Mr. Prendergast loved hunting and for many years hunted with his son, Cecil, and Sam Barton and his sons, Frank and George. Driving with teams and wagons to a favorite spot northwest of Horburg, sometimes having to ford the North Saskatchewan River as the ferry was always hauled out of the river when the slushy ice started to run before the river froze for the winter.

Mrs. Prendergast died on April 10, 1945, at the age of 82 years, and Mr. Prendergast died in 1963 at the age of 98 years and 11 months. Their family consisted of four sons and two daughters, Cyprian, Robert (Wink), John C. (Jack), F. Cecil, Mrs. A. Riddell and Mona Warden.

Mable Armarel was born at Campbells Bay, Quebec, on May 12, 1894, and was married to A. Riddell in eastern Canada and subsequently moved with her husband to Port Hammond, B.C. She is now in Vancouver.

Mona Merle was born on April 6, 1901, at Hugel near Warren, Ontario and came west with the family and moved with them to Condor. She worked for some time in Ed Frenche's General Store and was married to Roy Warden on November 11, 1920. She was a member of the Condor W.I. and an active member of the basket ball club. She passed away on February 22, 1924. They had two sons, William of Comox, B.C., and Richard who was a bomber pilot in the R.C.A.F. during the second world war. He was killed in action while posted to the R.A.F. in the middle east in March, 1944.

Cyprian Lee Prendergast was born at Sandy Hook near Arnprior, Ontario on October 9, 1896.

He enlisted with the 179th during World War I and served with the transport section overseas and returned just in time to move west with the family. Leaving them at Calgary to work for a time in Vancouver and rejoining them at Condor. He taught school at what was known as the Emberly house. This school was organized by the community for one term, as the winter was so cold and there was so much snow that the children could not travel the three miles or more to the Prairie Rose School, which was located one and a half miles north and one mile west of the hamlet of Condor. He was married to Anna Stockwell in Calgary on February 14, 1921, and worked for some time with his father-in-law Homer Stockwell, in lumber mills at Rocky Mountain House. They subsequently moved to Vancouver and he died in Vancouver in January, 1929, after being involved in a serious accident in a saw mill the previous year. His wife is now living in Vancouver.

Robert Wellington (Wink) Prendergast was born on February 21, 1899, at Manal County at Renfrew, Ontario, and grew up in Warren, Ontario, where the family farmed, engaged in logging and operated a livery stable. He came west with the family in 1919 and was employed at Ed Frenche's General Store in Condor in 1920. In 1921, he farmed the Bill Stockwell place at Condor and in 1922-23-24, he farmed in Saskatchewan. Returning to Condor in the fall of 1924, he was employed at Scot Hasties' General Store from that time to the spring of 1929. On July 6, 1929, he was married to Hazel Dorothy Johnston who was born in Calgary. Her father owned Johnston Cartage Co. and who had been teaching at Shady Lane School. In March 1929, they moved to Red Deer where he was again employed by Scott Hastie in the operation of the John Deere and Regal Oil Bulk Agency. In 1932, he took over the Regal Agency, and in 1936, he moved to West Park to take over the sales of retail and wholesale products of the Great West Distributors Ltd. With the re-routing of Highway Two south from Gaetz Avenue in 1939, he built a service station and bulk oil plant on the south hill and took over the Minneapolis Moline Machine Agency.

After disposing of his business interests in 1942, he took over contracts for rural mail delivery, routes number two and four which he continued to operate until he retired in 1970. The Prendergast have one son, Victor Douglas, now living in Brantford, Ontario, and two granddaughters and two grandsons.

John Curry (Jack) Prendergast was born at Hugel, Ontario, on June 18, 1905. He moved to Condor with his parents, and worked in saw mills as a steam engineer, and was at one time in partnership with Homer Stockwell in lumbering operations. He was married to Mary Elizabeth (Amy) Hart, a daughter of Fred Hart, a pioneer Lesleville settler on November 28, 1935. They farmed the old home place at Condor until 1940, when they moved to Red Deer where Jack was employed as a steam engineer at the Alberta Dairy Pool Plant until retirement. They had one son Fred, and one daughter Mrs. Marie Kerr of Toronto. They still live on Highway 2A several miles north of Red Deer.

F. Cecil Prendergast was born on April 9, 1910, at Warren, Ontario and came west with his parents in 1919. He attended Haultain School in Calgary for nine months and completed his schooling at Condor. He spent his early years working in logging camps and as a sawyer in lumber mills in winter and on local farms in summer. He played soft ball with local teams and football with Red Deer in the Central Alberta League in 1930. He married Alberta Meeres on April 26, 1934, and they lived on a farm one half mile west of Condor for some years before moving to Sylvan Lake where they operated the Sylvan Lake Dairy until the beginning of 1940. After spending a year on the west coast, Cecil enlisted with Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1942 and attained the rank of sergeant. During his five years of military service, Alberta remained in Condor with their three small children. In 1952, they moved to Calgary where they lived for 23 years. Cecil being employed as a carpenter, foreman, and building superintendent during that time until retiring in 1975. They now live in Norglenwold, Sylvan Lake.

Their eldest son, Herbert lives at Half Moon Bay, Sylvan Lake, on an acreage and is a construction worker. He has four children, two boys and two girls. Their second son, Clark, lives in Red Deer and teaches at the Red Deer College and has two sons. Their eldest daughter Mrs. June Smithson lives on a farm north of Rimbey and has one son and one daughter. Their second daughter, Mrs. Kathy Bergan, is attending University in California and their adopted daughter, Shely, lives in Red Deer and works at Michener Centre.

Prendergast four generations. Robert, Cecil, Herbert and Steve (just born)

**PYKALAINEN, JOHN AND FAMILY**

John (Juhani) was born in 1882 in Kurkijoki, Karjala, Finland to Pekka and Katrina Pykalainen. They owned a small farm and a few domestic animals. This part of Finland was later to become Russian territory after the war of 1939-40.

John immigrated to the United States at the turn of the century; later he returned to Finland where he was united in marriage to Serafiina Tirkkonen. In 1909 John and Serafiina left their homeland for America, making their home in Biwabik, Minnesota, U.S.A. Here their daughter, Alma, was born on New Year's Eve, 1910.

Interested in the free land offered in Alberta, he joined a number of his friends and filed on a homestead in the Alhambra-Condor area. In this group were the Oscar Hillman family, the John Sutelas, Matt Kangas and the Jacob Tuhkanens. A daughter, Selma, arrived on a cold stormy March 26, 1913 in a little two roomed cabin on the homestead, a baby sister for Alma.

In 1946 retiring was a must as John and Serafiina faced failing health so they held an auction sale and retired to Sylvan Lake. Serafiina passed away in 1960 and John passed away in 1970 at the age of 88 years.

Alma married James Young and they lived in Vancouver, Wakeman Sound and Sointula, British Columbia.

Selma married Andy Murray of the Diamond Valley district and they reside in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

**SAARI, JACK**

Jack Saari, youngest son of Joseph and Elviira Saari was born December, 1930 on the family farm (SW 13-39-4-W5) which he purchased from his parents. In October, 1959 he married Selma Murto. They have four children: Brenda, born July 26, 1960 is in Grade 12, Carol, born July 11, 1962 is in Grade 10; Donald, born November 18, 1964 is in Grade 8 and Gerald, born September 12, 1967 is in Grade 5. All the children attend school at Eckville. The family have been active in 4-H work.

**SAARI, JOSEPH**

Joseph Saari, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Saari, was born March 19, 1888 near Humpila, Finland. He left his father's farm to immigrate to America in 1906, after his brother John sent him the fare. He joined his brother Walter's farming operation near Butte, Montana, and spent a few years farming, mining and lumbering. This was followed by three years' employment in building the Hudson's Bay railway. In 1915, after the railway work was completed, he travelled west to secure a homestead beside that of his brother John, in the Bingley district. He met Elviira Torsti that summer, just prior to her assumption of housekeeping duties in Edmonton.

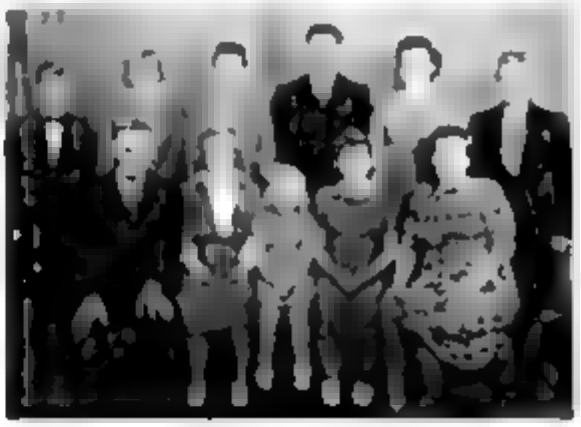
Elviira's parents had homesteaded near Bingley in 1910 and had sent fare to the 15-year old Elviira and her sister Hilda, enabling them to travel to Canada in July 1912. Elviira then went to work for the John Saari family as a mother's helper in 1913, while attending school at Golden Heights under Mr. McDonald, but soon left by way of the newly completed railway to work for a lawyer in Red Deer for $12 a month. Her subsequent employment in Edmonton was interrupted by marriage to Joseph Saari, and then terminated by the birth of their first baby, Juanita, in 1917. Mother and daughter joined father in Drumheller, where he continued as a miner for another year while Elviira ran a mine laundry.

They built their first home on their homestead in plenty of time for the arrival of daughter Elvi in April of 1919. This was followed by the purchase of three quarters of C.P.R. land north of Hespero in 1920, the beginning of the farming operation assumed by son Jack and his family when Elviira and Joe retired in 1959.

As pioneers on the farm overlooking the Horsegaard River they built a log barn, a house, which was later added to many times, and other buildings, while hand-clearing for cereal crops and dairy cattle.

In common with other pioneers of the time the Saari family grew their own vegetables, made their own cloth and clothing, grew and manufactured much of their own food while maintaining an active part in the community. Joe was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, a community road foreman, and Elviira was a charter member of the Hespero Ladies' Aid.

Another daughter, Aivi, was born in 1921, followed by a son, Eugene, in December 1923. Both the amount of land free of trees and the size of the family increased over the years. Edna was born in 1926, Jack in 1930, Miriam in 1932, Sylvia in 1934 and Violet in 1939. All the children learned to speak English after starting school and hold dear many memories of the teachers and classmates of Shady Lane School. Some of these classmates might be interested to know that



Joseph Saari Family. Back: Jack, Aivi, Elvi, Eugene, Juanita. Front: Joe, Miriam, Violet, Sylvia, Elviira.

Juanita married Alex Linden and raised two sons and one daughter and lived in Edmonton prior to moving to Half Moon Bay near Sylvan Lake in 1977. Elvi now lives in Barons, her daughter Diana, married to Frank Gwozdz, lives near Eckville and her son Benjamin lives in Calgary. Alvi became Mrs. Henry Nuumi in 1946 and lived on a farm near Picture Butte until they retired in 1976, still in the process of raising a family of five three girls, Maryanne, Ivy, Marlene and two boys, Hal and Boyd. Eugene, now residing in Prince George, has a son, Matt. Edna, now Mrs. Alexandropoulos, has five children and four grandchildren. Jack, married to Selma Murto, is raising his two boys and two girls on the farm near Hespero. Miriam, now Mrs. Eino Porttin, lives near Sylvan Lake, and has raised two sons, Wesley and Gary. Sylvia now resides in Red Deer and has two children and one grandchild. Violet, now Mrs. John Lilyam, has two daughters, Luisa and Melanie.

Joe and Elviira celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1966 and continued to live in their own home in Sylvan Lake until Joe passed away in March 1972 at the age of 84 years. In 1974 Elviira moved to Sherwood Park, where she currently resides with her daughter Violet and family.

**SCHOFER, HENRY CONRAD AND ANNA — by Marian Schofer**

Henry (Hank) C. Schofer was born in Moline, Illinois, U.S.A., the eldest of three sons and a daughter of Joseph and Katarina Schofer. He married Anna Mary Schaefer in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. in 1913. During the early years of their marriage they moved many times — to Florida, to Canada, and then back to Kansas City, Missouri. Henry worked at such jobs as baker, street car operator, bricklayer, and as a fireman on the railroad.

In 1921 Henry and Anna moved to Canada for the second time and took up farming in the Margo area of Saskatchewan. The spring of 1949 found them moving again, to the Condor district of Alberta. Here they purchased the Walter and Bert Avery farm, where they continued to live until they retired from active farming in 1956.

They have two children. Dorothy Anna was born in Wauchula, Florida and married Albert Eric Hornfelt of Margo, Saskatchewan. Their son Harold was born in Kansas City, Missouri and came to Condor with his parents. He continues to farm the same land.

In 1960 Hank and Anna moved to Creston, B.C. for their retirement. Anna passed away on March 28, 1965, and Henry died on April 8, 1968. Both are buried in the cemetery at Creston, B.C.

**SCHOFER, HAROLD JOSEPH — by Marian Schofer**

Harold was born in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. He came to Canada with his parents in 1921. They settled in Margo, Saskatchewan where Harold attended school and later started farming with his father. He moved to the Condor district at the same time his parents did, and purchased an adjoining quarter section of land.

Harold Schofer and Marian Elizabeth Charles of Leslieville were married in 1955. Their four children are Dennis, who is presently working in Red Deer; Gary, Sharon and Vern, who attend school in Condor or at the David Thompson High School.

Harold is musically inclined and has been known to "make the rafters ring" on a rainy day or snowy winter's night with his accordion, sometimes being joined by son Gary on the banjo.

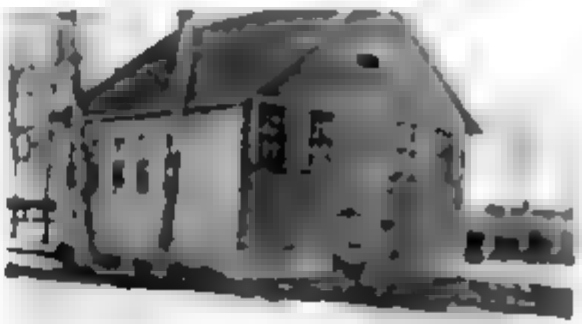
Marian worked for five years at the Leslieville Mercantile after attending school in Leslieville, and has been employed at the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union for the past 11 years. They live in the Condor district, where Harold carries on his farming operations.

**SHADY LANE SCHOOL No. 2805 — by Magda Anderson**

At a meeting of the newly formed board of the Shady Lane School District No. 2805, held on September 18, 1912, it was moved by Jacob Kult and seconded by Archie Douglas that they borrow $800 to build and equip a school. This sum was later raised to $1000. The south-east corner of section 15-39-4-W5 was donated by Grant Hicks, a homesteader, to be the school grounds.

The first board meeting held in the building was dated December, 1913. School opened in September, 1913 and Miss Fiecella Johnston (Mrs. Barhan) was the first teacher. The following were the first students: Leland and Keitha Tweed (Mrs. Fred Bott), Archie, Norman and Arla Anderson (Mrs. George Lee), Daniel Bott, Art and Lucy Lawson (Mrs. Ted Lobraw). It is said that Mrs. Lawson named the school "Shady Lane" because of the trees surrounding the school and the trail going by the school. Shady Lane was closed for a while in 1917. The pupils went to the country location of Prairie Rose. In the 30's, enrollment was up to 40 or more pupils.

The Shady Lane School building was moved to the Condor Elementary school grounds in 1954, where it was used as a classroom for a short



Shady Lane School

time. It is now a storehouse. Mrs. Florence Boomer was the last teacher who taught in the building. Magda Anderson was the last teacher at the country location.

The usual improvements were made to the school and grounds. A barn, well, teacherage, new fence, chimney replacement, cement foundation and new cloakrooms were provided. Throughout the years the school was the centre of the social life of the area. Christmas concerts, dances, picnics, church services and political meetings were held there. It was also used as a polling station.

Years ago Shady Lane won a contest in school ground beautification. Some spruce trees planted then are all that is left to mark the site of the school.

Some of the teachers who taught at Shady Lane School were: Miss Flocella Johnston (Mrs. Barhan), Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. Brown, Miss Jones, Miss Tucker, Miss Ena Paul, Miss Mason, Miss Foss, Miss Cairns, Miss Anna Liner (Mrs. Andy Crawford), Mr. Tipman, Miss Cameron, Miss Rose Nielson, Miss Gertrude Hagerman (Mrs. Ewart MacDonald), Miss Nellie Saville, Miss Brietzka, Stewart Meeres, Miss Maggie Dams (Mrs. Briggs), Miss Hazel Johnston (Mrs. W. Prendergast), Miss Alys Maurer (Mrs. Elwood French), Miss Nettie Jean Phillips, Miss Magda Wold (Mrs. Norman Anderson), Mr. Kirsch. Apologies are extended to any who may have been missed.

The pupils in the last class at the country location were: Stanley, Marian, Eino and Eileen Kauppi; Marjorie Anderson, Donna Bott, Leslie Kult, Frank Kult, Fred Smith, Peter and Edward Duncan. It is not known for sure whether or not Gordon Shea was one of the pupils in the last class.

**SKOCDOPOLE, CHARLES HENRY — by Gayle English**

Charles Henry Skocdopole, the eldest child of John and Marie Skocodopole, was born at Osceola, Oklahoma, U.S.A. on June 16, 1904. His parents were Czechoslovakian immigrants, his father having come to the U.S.A. as a child and his mother as a young woman. Marie was unhappy with the Oklahoma climate, so they decided to immigrate once again, this time to Canada, when Charles was nine months old.

They arrived by train at Blackfalds and lived for a short time at Bullocksville, a hamlet between Haynes and Alix. From there they moved to Botha where John filed on a homestead NE 16-38-18-W4, which is still in the Skocdopole family, now belonging to Charles' youngest brother, Emil.

Charles attended school near the farm for six years but was more interested in the building of machines to help with the farming than he was in school. When he was 16 years old the automobile was just coming into its own and he decided to attend the Sweeney Automobile School in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A. When he returned he worked for a time as a mechanic in Ernie Snyder's garage in Botha and also ran the projector in the local movie theatre.

Land-clearing being one of the tougher jobs of the homesteaders, he decided there was a mechanical way to do it, and the "Brush Hog" was created. The Brush Hog was built by Charles and his dad in their own shop. It was a V type brush cutter mounted on a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor. It proved a very successful machine, clearing much of their own land as well as their neighbors' land. In 1928 a 60 Caterpillar was purchased with a V brush cutter manufactured in Calgary mounted on it. From then on a commerical operation was set up by Charles and his brother Ed and the brush clearing moved west. In the fall of 1929 they were on the north side of Sylvan Lake straight in line with the main street.

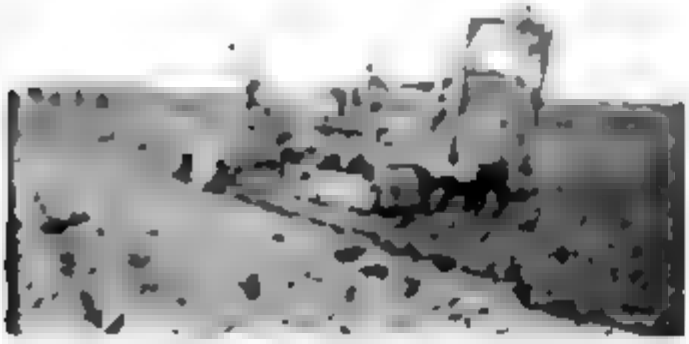
That November Charles, his two brothers and several others went moose hunting at Goose Lake, northwest of Barrhead. While they were there the Athabasca River ferry crossing froze over and everyone except Charles and Bill McChesney crossed the river in a basket to return home. Charles stayed to take the truck home when the river froze hard enough to cross, and Bill didn't want to go in the basket.

While they were waiting they went to work at the Pink Abernathy Mill where Mildred Strand, his future wife, was working as a cook's helper. They were married the following March 3, 1930 and then went to Botha for about a year. These being depression years, they decided to return to the north to the sawmills for work, working in the Abernathy and Tom Wolfinger mills. Charles mostly hauled lumber to Westlock and Edmonton. Roads were almost non-existent and he often had to load and unload his lumber several times per trip when the truck became stuck. While in this area their four children were born, one dying in infancy.

There were no schools near the sawmills, so when Ronald, their eldest son, was ready for school they had to return to Botha and Charles went back to land clearing, which had been carried on by his brother Edward.

On November 15, 1941 the family moved to their present location, NE 26-38-4-W5, having purchased the farm from Phillip Lloyd Cole and his son Ogden. It was fortunate it was a mild winter that year as the house was very poor. It consisted of a kitchen and living room on the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs, these being heated by a hole in the ceiling above a heater in the living room. It was one of the first wooden frame houses built in the area and one could see through the walls in many places. Every size of board had been used. Some had been hewed by an axe, and the building was lined with Norwegian newspapers of 1904 vintage, that is, where the mice hadn't chewed them up. Everything was crawling with bedbugs, but

Mildred did away with them by papering the whole house and then calcimining everything green. The green color came from the Paris Green poison added to the calcimine. The house was repaired so as to become liveable and a bedroom and porch were added. The family lived in that house until 1954, when they built their present home. Charles soon added a repair shop to the building site and continued clearing land, repair work and farming.



Breaking the sod

Skoodopole breaking plow

When Ronald finished school he went to work for Charles on the brush cutters during the summer months. The local oil boom was in full swing and Ron decided to make a year-round operation with the Cats, and went to work clearing for seismic lines in the winter of 1953. In 1954 Charles purchased another Cat, a D-6, and the year-round seismic clearing operation began. When Glenn finished school a partnership was set up between the four family members and a few years later the business was incorporated to become Skoodopole Construction Ltd. Charles was never actively involved with the oil operations, but looked after the business at home and the machine shop. The company has expanded the machine shop to become fully equipped, and many a neighbor knows he can get emergency repair work done at any time when Charles is home.

In 1973 Charles gave up his share of the company to his two sons and son-in-law and semi-retired. He and Mildred spend their winters in Victoria, B.C., where they enjoy ocean fishing.

Charles has always been interested in the progress of his community and was an early advocate for rural electrification and rural gas. He was a director on the R.E.A. from its beginning in 1947 and the gas Co-op from its beginning. When the Raven Municipality became a Local Improvement District in 1957 Charles was elected to the first advisory board for the L.I.D., and has remained on the board as the local representative to the present time.

Charles and Mildred have three children. Ronald Charles married the former Carol Kangas, daughter of Urho and Letty Kangas of Evergreen. They have three children, Clifford, Pamela and Patricia.

Gayle Elsie is married to Ralph English, son of Melvin and Ivy English of Calgary. They have three children — Rodney in Edmonton, Dale in Eckville and Dianne, wife of Bradley Forsythe of Rocky Mountain House.

Glenn Lyle is married to Fern Catherine Thorkman, youngest daughter of Charles and Sylvia Thorkman of Eckville. They have four children — Steven, Susan, Carla Jean and Gerald.

**SMITH, JAMES — by James Smith**

James Smith was born in 1915 at Irvine, Alberta. At the age of six years the family moved to the Alex Staudinger farm at Benalto, where we lived for three years. Like most farm people, our parents had very little money, so when any of the family could, they would get a job. In 1927, at the age of nine years, I was lucky enough to work for Mr. Tom Britton, milking cows and putting up hay, at a wage of $5 per month. That summer was one of the happiest that I remember, as Mr Britton sang or joked every day. Sometimes on weekends we put some cattle or horses in the corral and had our own small rodeo.

In 1927, our family moved two miles east of Benalto where we stayed until 1936. I remember it was every boy's ambition to get out with the threshing crew. At the age of 14 years I went for 28 days. Threshing was a hard job, but a lot of fun, too.

A quarter section of land was bought in 1936 north of Eckville where my brother John and I

Whoopee!

Smith family harvest

spent the summer, living in a granary. While staying there we summer fallowed the land. In the evenings Olva Elson, Charlie Kasper, and Frank Zaleski came down to swim in the river or play cards. Saturday evening was steam bath night at our good neighbours', the Elsons or the Kaspers.

In the following years the six boys in the family bought a half section of land from George and John Cristie two miles west of Eckville. Here we farmed until 1946, and were known as "The Smith Brothers". The house on this farm was close to the railroad and on the days when the trains went by we often counted the men riding the box cars looking for work. One day I counted 34 fellows on the cars. While farming there I remember two winters spent hauling cordwood with horses to the Eckville creamery to keep the boilers going. In 1943 we took on the job of hauling gravel for the foundation of the Eckville Hospital. John Maki and Curtis Bromling also had teams working on this job.

During the fall of 1947, the Smith Brothers partnership was dissolved, so I moved to the NW 12-39-4-W5, north of Hespero, where my family and I still farm.

Elsie Gerbatch was born in Brawlaw, Germany, in the eastern zone of what is now a part of Poland. This area was occupied by the Russians after the war. After some hazardous attempts Elsie escaped to the west in 1950. Her brother-in-law, who had immigrated to Calgary in May 1950, arranged for Elsie to come along with his wife and family to Calgary. After she had worked out for three years I was fortunate enough to meet Elsie and on May 1, 1953 we were married. In 1965 my uncle, James Smith, retired from the Bank of Montreal to come west from Toronto and live on our farm. He stayed with us until his passing.

Elsie and I have four sons and one daughter. Fred, Stephen, Ralph, Linda and Gordon. Fred moved to Calgary, after graduating from the Calgary School of Technology, to work for Atco Industries. On May 3, 1969 Fred married Lynne Carlson, and they have two boys, Colin James and Mark Andrew.

Stephen farms in the Eckville area in partnership with his brother Ralph. He married Mary Ann Waisanen on August 9, 1975. Ralph married Joan Staniforth July 24, 1976. They have a son, Gerald William.

Linda is in her second year at the University of Calgary. She hopes to become a teacher. Gordon, our youngest son, attends the Eckville High School.

**SYREN, WAINO WILHELM**

Seven generations

1. Matti, Mathew's son, Pietila. Born in Konilhahti, Finland. Died 1742. His wife, Briita, Andrea's daughter, born in Kovemake 1674. Died 1751.

2. John, Matt's son, Pietila, born December 18, 1705. Died March 16, 1781. His wife, Mary, Andrea's daughter, born in Sakyla 1705. Died July 26, 1765.

3. George, John's son (Ketola) in Junkkala, born March 24, 1744. Died November 27, 1809. His wife, Stiina, Thomas' daughter, born in Auvoinen, October 8, 1753. Died March 1, 1821.

4. John, George's son, Ketola, born April 4, 1780. Died February 17, 1853. His wife, Regina, John's daughter, Junkala, born February 12, 1856.

5. Gustav, John's son, Syren, born November 23, 1815. Died April 29, 1885. His wife, Leen, John's daughter, Antila, born January 3, 1817. Died July 21, 1875.

6. Wilhelm, Gustav's son, Syren, born in Auvoinen, August 1, 1851. Died March 17, 1931. His wife, Johanna, Branat, born in Bortom (Pittikyla) in June 1858. Died February 10, 1941.

7. Waino Wilhelm, Wilhelm's son, Syren, born at Honkilhti, Touru Laane, Finland, January 22, 1890. His wife, Alma Lousa, born September 28, 1891, at Ahtari, Waasan Laane, Finland. Her father, Heikl Lousa, Finland. Her mother, Agatha Lousa (Jakiaho).

After emigrating from Finland, Waino and Alma met and married in San Francisco on August 12, 1913, then homesteaded at Condor in January, 1914. Their children were born at Condor, Alberta. Walter Wilhelm born June 26, 1914. His wife, Alice (Taylor). They reside at Condor. Anna Alma born September 1, 1916. Her husband is William von Hollen and they reside at Alhambra, Alberta. Ivan Elmer born August 19, 1918. He served in World War II overseas and returned home when the war ended; accidental death June 20, 1950. Agnes Johanna born September 13, 1920, resides at North Surrey, B.C., her husband, Cliff Gibson, deceased November, 1977. Jennie Helen born October 15, 1925, and her husband, Verner Elson, reside at Eckville, Alberta. Olga Matilda born September 9, 1927, and her husband, Clarence Needham, reside at Alhambra, Alberta. Larry Levi born November 6, 1929, deceased November 29, 1929. Hilja Elizabeth born March 3, 1931 and her husband, Jerry

Jones, reside at Calgary, Alberta. Alll Margaretta born January 16, 1934, and her husband, George Datema, reside at Royston, B.C.

The first year on their homestead they had one cow and a team of oxen. On one trip that Waino made to Sylvan Lake with his team of oxen to get seed grain, he fell asleep coming home by Benalto in the afternoon. When he woke up he was at Pitcox (now Hespero) in the night, the moon was shining, one ox was standing up and the other one was lying down chewing his cud. He arrived home the next morning, travel was somewhat slower then'

What would you think of walking to Red Deer? Well, Waino did, to file on his homestead' He recalls walking many trips with a bundle of bedding and clothing on his back to brush camps looking for work west of Rocky Mountain House. One winter he snared rabbits to bring in a few cents. One hundred rabbits were sold to Adams' Store at Alhambra for two and a half cents apiece'

Waino and his wife, Alma, reside on their farm, N E. 19-38 4 W5, at Condor. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on August 12, 1973. In 1978 they will be celebrating 65 years of living together

**TAYLOR, LEROY**

I was born in Bowden in the year of 1925, April 9. My father moved to Condor in October, 1934, where he lived until 1964, farming all the time Mr Baker lived to the north of us, Mr. Black to the west, Mr Warden to the south, Mr Melnyk to the east. I went to school at Condor and Prairie Rose

It was very cold in the winters. In those days the kettle on the stove would freeze at night. We had a few foxes and mink for a while, then just milk cows after that

My mother passed away on May 5, 1953 while on the farm My dad passed away on December 25, 1976. He was living in Sylvan Lake at the time and was 87 years old.

There were four of us in the family, three sisters and I was the only boy One sister passed away in June, 1967

**THE TWEED FAMILY — by Leland Tweed**

My father, Knud Tweed, with his brothers, sisters and their mother came from Norway and settled near Montour, Iowa. His father died in Norway and is buried there. Little is known of their background.

My mother, Rachel Rasmus, came from Norway with her parents, George and Caroline Rasmus, sister Nellie and brother Benedict in about 1887. They settled in LeGrand, Iowa, and the children attended school there. Grandpa worked in a stone quarry about a mile away My mother married Knud Tweed and went to live on the farm about three miles from LeGrand. My mother was left a widow in 1909. We stayed on the farm for three years and then had a farm sale, buying a home in LeGrand in 1912. Shortly after we moved, her son Clifford died and, since Mother's family — parents, brother and sister Nellie, and Elf Anderson — had all come to Alberta to homestead, she was left the only one of her family in Iowa. Her parents wanted her to come to Alberta to stay for the winter, which we did That winter she met and became engaged to George Jayes, which meant we would be coming to Alberta to make our home. We went back to Iowa in February 1913 and then made plans to return to Alberta that fall. We sold our home and shipped our household belongings by box-car It took a month for it to arrive in Red Deer and several neighbors went to Red Deer by wagon to bring us our belongings. We settled in a house nearby and my sister Keitha and I went to Shady Lane School that had been built that summer That swelled the enrolment to eight; the same school housed 45 pupils many years later when Alys Maurer taught all eight grades

Early in the spring of 1914, my mother and George Jayes drove to Red Deer and were married. A short time later we moved to the cosy little home he made for us. It was not finished but it had three nice windows, a shingled roof, one large room and bedrooms upstairs

George enjoyed working with an axe — either cutting fire-wood or hewing logs. He served on Shady Lane school board This quarter section was on the same section where all Mother's relatives lived, and she enjoyed being near her family, but only for a short time, as we moved to Castor on an open half section in the fall of 1915. I attended Arthurdal School north of Fleet until 1918 when my schooling was terminated because of the flu epidemic, the schools being closed for a time. Later, because of the dry years on the prairie, we moved back to the homestead here My mother always enjoyed looking after chickens. They built a hen house for 100 hens Dick Schouten lived across the road on the Frank Buckle homestead and bought produce to send to the coal mines in Nordegg. He gave them an extra two-and-a-half cents a dozen as he knew he could guarantee fresh eggs to his special customers living there. So when a 12 dozen crate was filled, George carried it to Dick and received cash every time

In 1926 I went back to Iowa and worked on a farm there. While there I met my future wife, Grace O'Neal. I returned to Alberta, rented a farm in the Marianne district and two years later went back to Iowa and was married (1929). We came to Alberta to farm in the Condor district While I was away Mother passed away of

pneumonia. Having cooked in a lumber camp in California, George was quite capable of looking after their three children. Gladys, the eldest, was 14 and Elmer (Bud) and Nellie younger — all going to Shady Lane School. Four months after mother's passing, George, too, passed away. He took sick and died quite suddenly of pneumonia. The three young folks then made their home with Grace and me. They lived with us until they were old enough to go out on their own. Gladys married Johnnie Rasmussen and Nellie married Richard Rasmussen, Johnnie's nephew. Elmer served in World War II.

We had three sons — Myron, born 1930, and twins, Vernon and Virgil, born 1934. Our home is the former Otto Nelgard land that they bought from the Hudson's Bay Co. and is a half mile north of Condor, where the boys went to school.

Grace passed away in 1942 from a heart condition brought on by rheumatic fever. She lived for her family, her home, and her church. She is buried in Lesliеville cemetery, where my mother and step-father are also buried.

Myron took Grade 11 and 12 at Didsbury, there being no high school in Condor. After graduation he went to Bible School there and also studied music. Later he went to Cascade College in Portland Oregon, where he met Pauline Petticord, who was also studying music. They were married in Portland. Myron has made music his profession and after studying in several places received his Doctor's Degree in California. He teaches music in Point Loma College in San Diego, California. He is also minister of music at the Rancho Bernardo Community Church in Rancho Bernardo. They have two sons and two daughters. Randy finished high school and is studying music. Robin has finished high school this past year. Greg and Heather are both in school. The family gave a concert at Condor last September.

Vernon and Virgil took their schooling in Condor and attended Bible School in Didsbury. Vernon married Jean Vincent of the Red Deer Pine Lake area. He worked in Woodward's down-town store in Edmonton, then went to the new store in North Edmonton. He was later transferred to Calgary where he was in charge of sporting goods and toys. While in Calgary he was sent to eastern Canada and New York to buy toys for the store. Later, while in the Vancouver store he was sent to foreign countries to buy toys for Woodward's. He is now back at Edmonton's downtown store, where he is merchandise manager for hard goods. They have three children, Karen, Dale and Roger.

Virgil married Joy Paul from Red Deer Hill area in Saskatchewan. He worked for the Government of Alberta in Edmonton and was later transferred to Calgary where he is with the personnel Dept. of the provincial government. They have two children, Jill and Darrell.

**VON HOLLEN, TED**

We came to the Condor area in 1945 at which time hog raising was our main hobby. At this time, we were handling around 250 hogs and as time went on, we got up to 425. Well, nearly everything got to smell and look like hogs, so after some of our debts were paid, the hog situation got smaller and smaller until we had a quantity that we were able to handle properly. At two different stages, we nearly lost our new barn plus our piggery live-up, so at this point, we quit the idea of having sows coming in in the winter months and this, naturally, cut the work problem in half. As time went on, the pigs were all disposed of and Ted went into scrap and lumber, kind of easing off somewhat in logging as age was beginning to tell, plus the fact that by now our seven children were all on their own, five married and two working out. (six boys and one girl was our family.)

The scrap hobby resulted in much popularity for the boss, as he made a "tractor" fence with 100 units in a line-up across the middle of the field and everyone who went by made a practice of stopping into see this fence. News of the fence reached to many parts of Alberta, as well as right across Canada. We even had a writer stop in from New York who said he was going to publish a book with Ted's name and hobby mentioned. We never did see the book but some friends of ours told us they read an article about the tractor fence in a book he read from a library in British Columbia. Ted also made a car fence which drew a lot of people looking for car parts and this is still in existence today in 1977.

Lillian, his wife, has a hobby all her own and that is looking after and running a bottle depot on this farm. She got to know a lot of new people in this manner and is widely known as well. I also raise a large garden to help out some of my children who live in the city where garden space is very limited. For an extra help to my fellow friends, I also raise bedding plants, which seem to gain popularity as time goes on. I made my own greenhouse, starting on a small scale for my own use but within three short years I found it necessary to build another greenhouse larger, in size to accommodate my many new-made friends' needs. I still have another hobby which takes care of the long winter months and that is skinning coyotes for those who can't master this art. Even this adds to the pleasure it gives you to see the surprised look on the faces of the coyote hunters when they "can't believe that a coyote so badly shot and mangled up" can look so good when the job on it is all completed.

Well, all in all, if I have any spare time left, I like to read my Bible, for it is from there that I get my strength and inspiration to keep going. Now don't get the idea wrong, that I don't have any time left over, for that is not so. I have already worn out my first Bible and found it necessary to buy a larger print book as my eyes

are getting a little bit old for the smaller print. especially for evening reading

Well, this is about all of my interests, except that we have a wonderful bunch of very good neighbors and friends, always there when you need them

**WARDEN, ROBERT**

Robert William (Roy) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, December 3, 1899. He was the youngest of three boys. The two older children, Jim and Dick, died at a young age, leaving Roy as an only child

In 1906 his parents, Robert William and Anna Warden, left Scotland; Roy would be seven at the time. They sailed to New Zealand and finally to Vancouver where the family lived until 1916. The Wardens then moved east, settling in Carmingay, Alberta. In 1919, along with Mr. Warden's brother Archie, they purchased a quarter section of land a half mile north and one mile west of Condor

Mr. Warden was very well thought of by his neighbors and friends. He spoke with a fine Scottish burr. He rolled his R's and when he spoke his son's name, it came out "Rie". He never smoked cigarettes and never swore.

Mr. and Mrs. Warden were original homesteaders. Both had very fine qualities and high standards. They both attended the small church in Condor regularly. Mrs. Warden played the organ for many years

Mr. Warden died in 1923, just before Christmas. Mrs. Warden was very musical and sang many Scottish songs which her son, Roy, passed on to his children and we sang them many times. Mrs. Warden was an active member of the W. I. and the Mission Circle.

In August of 1934, Mrs. Warden married Jack Shaw. It is noted in the minutes of the W. I. of October 11, 1934, that M. Best and Mrs. Barton had bought them a chair. They lived first in the house next to the Condor hall until Jack Shaw built their own home across the road. Mr. Shaw with Bert Avery also built and operated a store which they later sold to Mr. Wallace Clement. Mr. Shaw died in 1946 and Mrs. Shaw (Warden) in 1948.

Roy Warden married Mona Prendergast November 11, 1920. They had two sons William Robert (Bill) and Richard Wellington (Dick). Mona died on February 2, 1924 and their two sons were raised by their two respective grandmothers, Mrs. Predergast taking Dick and Mrs. Warden raising Bill. Both boys went to war. Dick in the air force and Bill in the army. Dick became an instructor pilot and was killed while on a training mission over Cairo, Egypt, in 1944

Bill married an English war bride, Mary Geale. Mary died in 1968 with cancer. They had two sons Bob and Barry. Bill lives on the island in Comox, B. C. In 1931, Roy married Rosie Meeres. They had seven children: Horace, Shirley, Elsie, Bruce, Ted, Treena and Shelley. Our parents, Roy and Rosie, lived on the original homestead until 1947 when they sold it to Bill Lougheed. The short while we lived on the farm was filled with many, many events. Some good, some bad, but all having their place in the building of our lives

Mom and Dad were very unique people. Dad loved sports and was a fine athelete. His ball playing ability was well known throughout the west country. Both Mom and Dad were very musical. Dad played by ear and struck many a merry tune on the violin. Mom played the guitar and piano. They both enjoyed reading and telling us stories of their youth. Dad was especially fond of talking about Vancouver and Scotland.

Perhaps it can be best summed up by the following poem which Dad often repeated and wrote in Treena's diary

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself has said
This is my own, my native land

Robt. Burns

and Mom wrote "Shirley's"

Be good sweet maid
And let these who will be clever
Do noble deeds
Not dream them, all day long
And you will find
Your life will be
One grand sweet song

Mom died February 19, 1955. Dad died June 6, 1964.

One outstanding event was when our brother, Horace, drank some lye. He was in the hospital and nursing homes for over five years. I remember Mom telling me that at least three times they were (she and Dad) asked to go to Edmonton to say good-bye to him that he survived each time and is still going strong today. He was either two or three years old at the time

The fall of 1925 was very wet. A small creek on Dad's land had flooded its banks. Frank and George Barton were coming to thresh. Dad never got anyone else. It took four teams of horses to pull the grain separator across the creek. The water was up to the horses bellies

In 1936, Condor won the Alberta Fastball Championship. Dad was the pitcher and his son, Bill, was also on the team. He was also a pitcher. They never used gloves except for the catcher and first baseman. Dad's son, Bruce, was and still is an outstanding ball player and has batted many a home-run for his team. He, Bruce, also liked to play pranks and was a ring leader of such things as turning off the main switch at the school when they (the Condor people) were watching a National Film Board presentation. He and his buddies would then run and hide from the wrath of their elders. Our Dad told us many adventures about pranks the young men played at Hallowe'en. One was when they dismantled a wagon and carried it piece by piece up into a hay loft and put it all together again, to the amazement of the farmer

Our brother, Ted, inherited the love of sports from his father He was and still is a good hockey player. I can remember him writing into the radio station in Red Deer and telling them he wanted to be a goalie like Turk Broda, who was the star for the Toronto Maple Leafs. He never attained this status, however, that is what dreams are made of'

S. Reaman and Treena Mielke

**ROY AND ROSIE WARDEN FAMILY TREE**

1. HORACE LENARD — Born Jan. 17, 1933.

2. SHIRLEY ROSE — Born Nov 13, 1934.
   - — married Al Reaman
   - — live in Red Deer
     - a) Kerry
     - b) Randy
     - c) Kathy
       - married Dave Brzak
     - d) Michael
     - e) Danny — 1963-1967
     - f) Colleen

3. ELSIE MAE — Born Sept. 18, 1936
   - — married Bill Harrington
   - — live in Calgary
     - a) Dawn
       - married Jerry Pauliott
         - i) Crystal
     - b) Bobby
     - c) Lori
     - d) Cindy

4. RONALD BRUCE — Born Dec 25, 1937
   - — married Sabine Warden
   - — live in Sylvan Lake
     - a) Michelle
     - b) Timothy

5. EDWIN ROY — Born July 2, 1939
   - — married Gail Warden
   - — live in Benalto
     - a) Tammie
     - b) Jason
     - c) Trevor

6. TREENA EMILY — Born Feb. 15, 1949
   - — married Peter Mielke
   - — live in Eckville
     - a) Devin
     - b) Darcie
     - c) Jill

7. SHELLEY ROSE — Born Feb. 19, 1955.

Warden family. 1951 Ted, Roy holding his daughter Treena, Rosie. Shirley and Bruce.

**E. T WOLD FAMILY — by Magda Anderson**

My parents, Mr and Mrs. E T Wold, came to Condor in the spring of 1924. Thelma, Elvin, Roy and Erling arrived with them and I came after school closed at Leduc for the holidays. We rented land in this area for a few years. Then they went to dad's homestead near Breton, Alberta. The boys attended school at Prairie Rose and Shady Lane. Erling took Grade Eight at Daisy Nook. Mother passed away in 1956 and dad in 1958.

Thelma worked in Calgary, married Ed Long and raised five children: Laurence, Edwin, Thelma, Donna and Gordon. Edwin was killed in a shooting accident when he was 16 years old.

Elvin married Anna Hansen of Breton. They have three sons, Arman, Victor and Raymond. Elvin and Anna live in Leduc, after selling their farm south of Warburg. For a number of years they had the Battle Lake Store. Erling and Roy are farming south of Warburg

I, Magda, married Norman Anderson and have lived west of Eckville ever since. Our daughter Glenda married Robert Wacker, and they live on the Anderson place. They have three children, Cathy, Steven and Vicki.

Our son, Norman Jr lived only 17 months.

Marjorie married Vern Harbourne and they have two sons, Kevin and Shane. They live at Abbotsford, B.C.

Norman died in 1973. He was interested in hunting and fishing and was a good shot He shot a bear in their farmyard in 1922. Friends will remember Norman for his old-time violin music. I taught school in this area for over 14 years.

# Last West

**BARWICK, JOHN NE 32-42-4-W5**

John (Jack) Barwick first came to the Mount View district in 1909, and homesteaded what is now the Youb farm. He had immigrated to Canada with his boyhood friend Jerry Bell, from their home near Sandringham, Norfolk England. They had worked their way west from Winnipeg and Mr. Bell settled on the quarter adjoining the one Dad had chosen. Dad built a small cabin on the farm and cleared some land, then later went to Southern Alberta where he obtained work in a stone quarry near Nobleford. It was there he met our mother, Mary Sybil Nicolson, from Stornoway, Scotland who had come over to visit her sister. They were married at Lethbridge in 1911, then moved to Bellevue, in the Crows Nest Pass, where Dad worked as a miner and their eldest daughter, Babs was born.

Dad joined the army in 1914 when the first World War began, and served overseas for four years, mainly in France and Belgium. After his return, they moved back up to the farm in 1919. They had shipped their livestock and household goods by railroad to Lacombe, which was the end of the line at that time.

From there, Dad drove a wagon hitched to four half-broken broncs and loaded with the furniture, chickens and one sow, while Mother walked behind, herding the cattle. The trip took three days and she often told us the story of being so tired she could not walk another step on the last night of the trip, so they camped at what was later known as the Molene place, although they were only about a mile and a half from what was to be their home for the next 25 years.

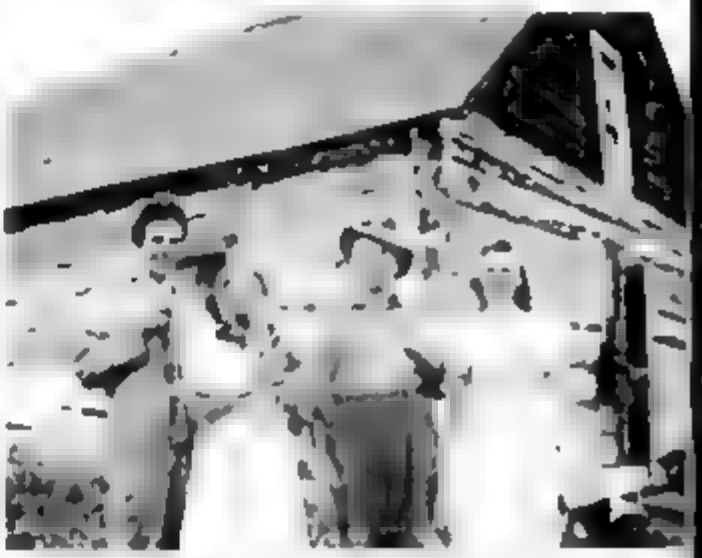
It was so cold during that first winter that new born calves had to be brought into the cabin so that they wouldn't freeze to death and Dad said he went to Rimbey with the sleighs on May 24, 1920, as there was still so much snow.

Dad was very active in community affairs and worked very hard to get a school established at Mount View as the nearest ones at that time were Whesden Green and Leedale. We did not have a very large school population at any time during the early years but we were certainly very proud of ourselves the years we won the award for physical training at the Spring Festival in Rimbey (about 1932 or 33) when our total student body numbered nine! Mr. Vic Winter was teaching at that time.

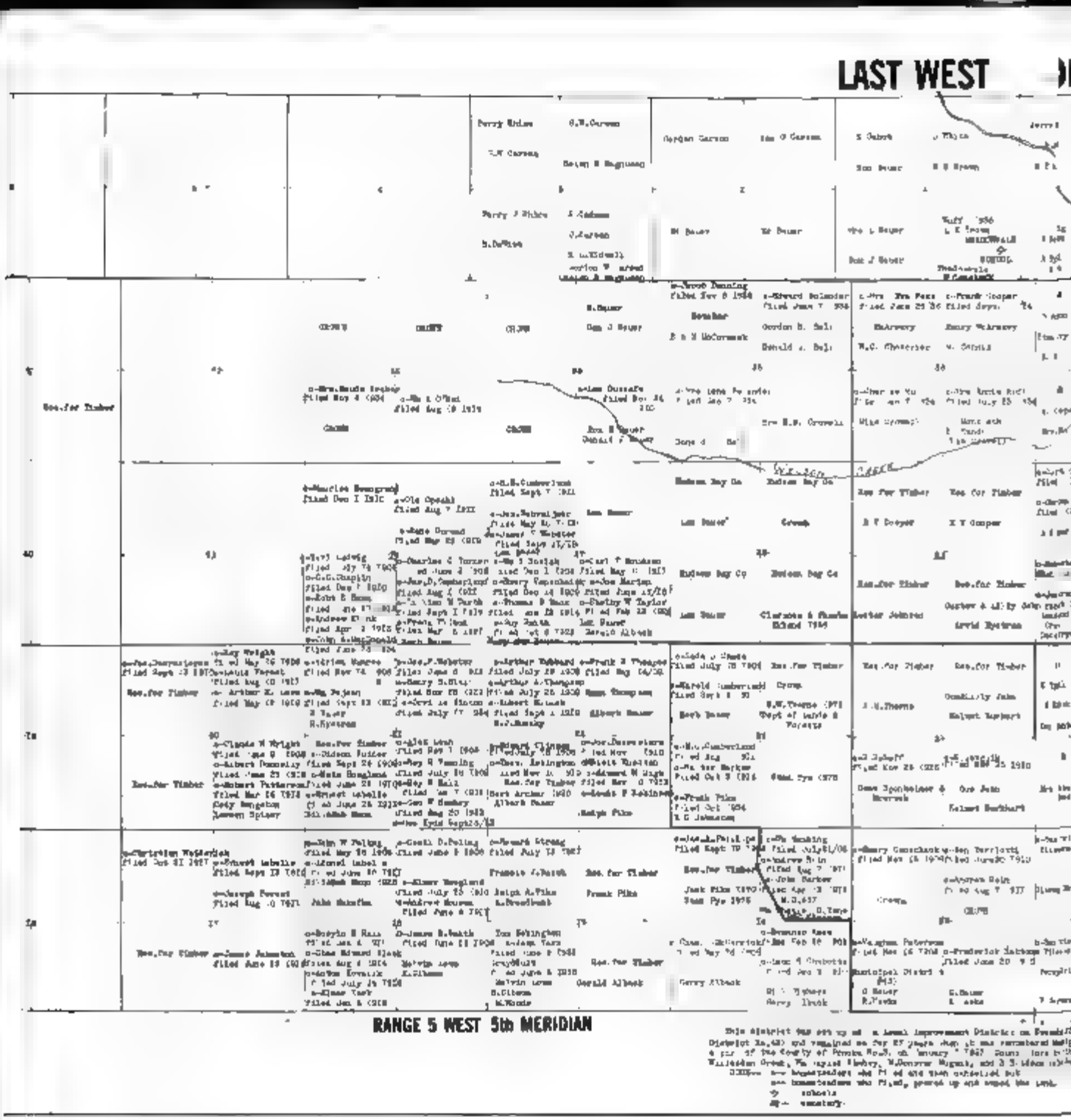
Some of those who were going to school during the early 30's will never forget having to get up at five o'clock in the morning to ride horseback to Rimbey (about 14 miles) to be in our seats at the Rimbey High School by nine so that we could write our high school departmental exams. We were not allowed to write them in our own school at that time, and as the road to Rimbey was usually a sea of mud during the June rains, it was impassable for anything except horses.

My sisters, Kathleen (Mrs. Earl Heyland) of Claresholm, Babs (Mrs. I. Anderson) of Monarch and myself, Jessie (Mrs. J. Caddy) of Red Deer, all attended Mount View, Babs for only a couple of years, I for all my school life, and Katie for several years, although she was attending Meadow Vale also, for a year or so after it was built.

Dad was a justice of the peace for the district



L. to R: Jessie Caddy - son-in-law Mrs. and Mr. J. Barwick and Jessie taken about 1942. House was built by Mr. Barwick about 1914




for many years and court was sometimes held in our home. During those times, my sisters and I were sent to the bedroom, with stern instructions to be quiet and not to disturb the proceedings, although we usually managed to peek out occasionally.

Mother will always be remembered for her quiet kindness to her neighbors and for her generosity in lending her beloved books to anyone who shared her love of reading. She was also very fond of animals and almost every four legged creature on the farm had a name and would come to her whenever she called. Some of them were real characters!

Mr. and Mrs. Barwick sold the farm in 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Moore and moved to North Red Deer. Dad spent his retirement years at his favorite hobby of gardening and his flowers were

admired by all who knew him and won some gardening awards. He was active until his death in 1970 at the age of 89. Mother passed away in 1972.

**BAUER EMANUEL**

The Emanuel Bauer's moved to the Meadow Vale district in March 1935 with a family of 10 children. Emanuel worked in sawmills, then he built his own sawmill and sawed fire wood and lumber. He sawed some of the lumber for the Meadow Vale school. Five children of Emanuel and Maria Bauer went to the Meadow Vale school, Len, Gilbert, Herb, Albert and Norma. Emanuel helped built on the school. Emanuel and some of the neighbors went together and sawed lumber to built on the school. He also helped built on the roads and bridges with his

team of horses. The roads and bridges would wash out.

He would use his horses to pull stumps out. Emanuel also cleared land by hand and with his team. Now easy with a brand new D 8 Cat. He also helped with threshing and haying in the area, and did some carpenter work. He also made shingles and people would come and buy them. He did a lot of blacksmith work and was kind of a vet for he would go and file the horses' teeth in the area.

When Emanuel and Maria moved in 1935, they stayed in Leslieville for a month while Emanuel was building their home. Mr. Denning, Ed Bauer and Emanuel went to Dave Adams for lumber to build their homes.

Emanuel did some farming until their retirement in 1969. Then they lived at the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer until 1966 when Emanuel passed away. Maria now lives with her son, Albert.

**THE BEIERBACH FAMILY**

Herb and Kay Beierbach bought a quarter of land from Ragnvold Caspersen in September of 1943 and moved on it in June of 44. As Herb was in the forces, Kay lived there alone until after the war, looking after the farm and teaching Mount View School. They bought the Ernest Jacobson place through the V.L.A. in February of 1947. In December of 1946 they were joined by baby Glen, and in June of 1948 by baby Leslie.

Since then Kay taught at Bluffton and at Rimbey as Home Economics Instructor. Herb drove the mail route for the west for three years and worked occasionally in garages in Rimbey.

Presently, Glen owns the Caspersen place but lives with his parents. Leslie, with his wife and Lyle, three years, and Lana, two years, live in a house on an acreage at home and is employed as autobody mechanic in Rimbey. Herb and Kay plan retirement on their farm, Herb enjoying fishing.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Beierbach and son's Leslie and Glenn. 1949

**BELL, J. J.**

Mr. J. J. Bell came from Norfolk, England, along with Jack Barwick in 1906 or 1907, he took a homestead in the district now known as Meadow Vale. Mr. Bell worked out quite a bit, worked on railroads, also in a stone quarry.

He married Annie Ethel Wager, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wager in 1915 and settled down to farming, and in a year or so gave up the homestead and moved to a farm south east, the NW 32-42-4-W5 where they farmed for many years and raised their family. This farm was later sold to his grandson, Douglas Ecker. Mr. and Mrs. Bell moved to the Wilsesden Green district where they lived their remaining years.

Mr. Bell served on the municipal council for a time and took an interest in the affairs of the district. He loved the outdoors along with hunting and fishing, and was a game warden for many years.

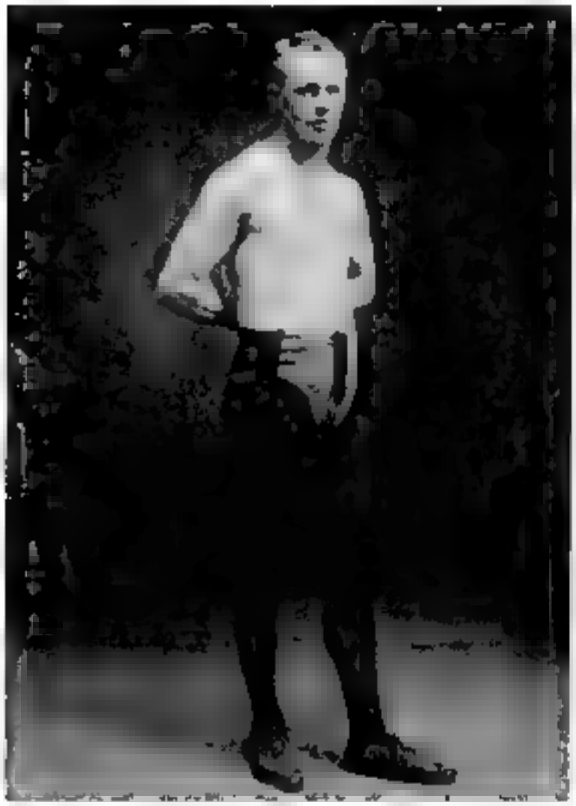
Mr. Bell passed away in September 1964 at the age of 84 years and Mrs. Bell joined him in November 1965 at 70 years of age.

There are five children in the family, Jessie (Mrs. William C. Thompson) of Rimbey, Violet (Mrs. Herman Ecker) of Bluffton, Lillian (Mrs. Ron Maser) of Bluffton, Donald married Bernice Simmons and they reside at Rimbey, and Gordon married Ruby Mann and they reside at Bluffton.

Back row, L. to R. Donald and Gordon Bell, Jerry, Allen and Jessie Thompson. Bernice Bell, Mrs. Tad Jensen. Front row: Willis and Diana Thompson, Jocelyn and Carlynn Bell, Mr. and Mrs. (Jerry and Anne) Bell.

**BENSON, LEO — by Norman Benson**

In 1906, Leo Benson came from Glenwood, Minnesota and homesteaded the NW-16-42-4-W5, being five miles north west of Leedale, which at that time was known as Wittenburg. There were very few settlers in the valley at that time and supplies were brought in from Lacombe, generally twice a year, in the spring and fall. One of the main items was a gallon of alcohol, which was used for medicine. Very little was ever used for social events.



Leo Benson - 1906 - ready to wrestle

A friend came up from Glenwood the following year and homesteaded the SE-16-42-4-W5. His name was Frank Hallett. The two were trained wrestlers and they travelled to different towns in Alberta taking on all comers. The Grand Trunk Railroad was being built in northern Alberta at that time and they found plenty of stiff competition among the railroad workers.

Frank Hallett sold his homestead to Josephine (Gramma) Simmons and went back to Minneapolis where he joined the City Police Force. While trying to apprehend some men who had just robbed a bank, he was shot and killed.

In 1907, Norman and Harold Chinneck, with their sister, Geraldine, came from Detroit, Michigan and took homesteads in what is now called the Midland district. Norman homesteaded the farm now owned by Harold Lemieux. Harold took the place now owned by Floris Looy. The new Wittenburg school was built that year and Geraldine Chinneck was one of the pupils. The teacher was a Mr. Craig. In 1908, she was married to Leo Benson in Lacombe and after a honeymoon in Banff and Calgary, returned to the homestead.

Life was always a challenge in those early days, being no doctor closer than Lacombe. Gramma Simmons was a practical nurse and was always there when the need arose. Many families owed a great deal to this wonderful person.

The Bensons raised a large family, there being eleven children. Lloyd, the first born, then Gilman, Claude, Verna, Elmo, Melvin, Cora, Norman, Jesse, Stella and Gordon. Only Verna, Melvin, Norman, Jesse and Stella are left, the rest of the family have been taken by illness and accidents. Leo Benson passed away in 1947, his widow in 1974.

The Benson Children - L. to R. Melvin, Verna, Gilman, Lloyd, Claude with Elmo in front and Mr. Benson at back at the fence

Mrs. Geraldine Benson with her son, Norman.

There were many happy events that took place on the Benson farm, and many sad ones too. One of the happy times would have to be the Benson Stampede. It was the usual, bronc riding, steer riding, etc., but the highlight would have to be the ladies democrat race. The team of horses had to be harnessed, then hooked to the democrat and then make the half mile track in as fast a time as possible. Mrs. Frank Nugent could win this race with no trouble. It was said she could put a lot of men to shame getting that team harnessed and on the track. There was always a big bowery dance at night. If anyone doesn't know what a bowery dance is, it's a platform only, with the sky for a roof. Bing's orchestra supplied the music. That being Bing Engebretson. This all took place on the land later owned by Jim Lukocs, just across the road from Benson's farm.

It was hard to keep horses in the early days as there was so much wet land around. They would get swamp fever and that was the end of them. The best team that was ever on the Benson farm was a team of matched sorrels bought in Lacombe for $600, and they only lasted two months before getting the disease and dying. That was a hard knock as $600, was a lot of money in those days. There were a lot of horses that came and went on the Benson farm. Two of the toughest had to be Nancy and Fly, Nancy, a roan and Fly, a jet black, traded from an Indian by the name of Yellowface. They were the toughest cayuses you ever saw. Both branded — on right hip. They carried nearly all the kids to school in Leedale. There used to be quite an encampment of Indians living across the road. Some of the young people used to come over every day. One girl about 14 or 15 used to come over and run up and down the stairs in our house. My how she could laugh. I guess it was quite a novelty in those days for them to see stairs. Her name was Annie Strawberry, daughter of John Strawberry.

In 1929, Benson's started sawmilling in the Medicine Lake area. The mill was a mile north of Medicine Lake where you turn to go down to the lake. The mill sat there in that same location until 1943. To see the country around there now you would never believe the beautiful timber that was there, back during the 30's. A terrible fire in 1941 all but wiped it out. Nearly all the early settlers are gone now, it's too bad we couldn't have gotten their first hand impressions of the early days. It would have made a most interesting and enjoyable reading to have it all on paper.

**BOLL, HERMAN**

Herman Boll came from Germany, then to the U.S.A. in the early 1900's, then to Alberta in 1907 and homesteaded the SE 34-42-4-W5 he farmed with oxen, then with horses.

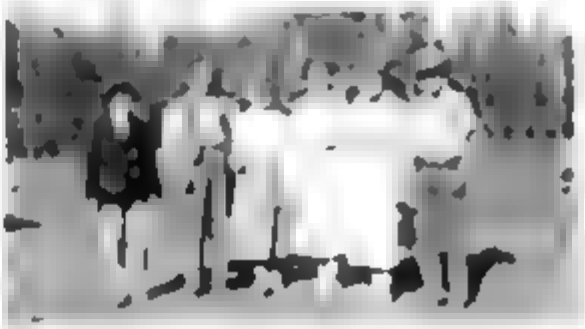
**BOWELL, HAROLD AND OLIVE**

We arrived in Canada from England in 1928 and worked for a farmer in Condor for three years, and in the spring of 1932 we moved out to the Mount View district and we settled on a quarter section (NW 27-42-4-W5) across the road from the Mount View School. Bing Engebretson, who was married to my wife's sister, Vera, and who lived in that district advised us that it would be a good start for us. We bought the land from the C.P.R., it was a raw quarter so we had lots of work to do to get established. My wife's brother, Reg Tisdale came to the district and bought a quarter section so we worked together which was better for us and him also.

We traded a cow for a house and the neighbors came with a team each and hauled it two miles to our place. Bill Thompson, Ed Hobeck, Bing and Reg did the team work, it was hard work. We soon realized what fine and friendly neighbors we had, always willing to help in any way they could. We now had a house and other buildings and our two boys, Bert and Len were now going to school, which was across the road and felt we were well established. In 1934 our third son, Ken, was born in April and we had to take my wife, Olive, to the hospital in Rimbey, eleven miles away and the roads were terrible, never thought we could make it, but through the efforts of Bill Thompson we finally made it, also to Mr. H. Lindsay of Leedale and to Mrs. V. Winter, the school teacher's wife who went along for my wife's sake.

By now, in 1934, we had our first crop, grain wasn't worth much, we fed most of ours to the stock we had, the first ten hogs we shipped we got $34 for them so we didn't have too much to spend on things. The kids used to hunt for crow and magpie eggs to get a few cents, also gopher tails, they could make two tails out of one but Mr. A. Bird, the Municipal secretary finally caught up with them, good detective work on his part.

Many good times they had in Mount View School, they had dances, basket socials and always a good Christmas concert. It didn't cost much, the ladies always took cakes and sandwiches, a small collection was made for the coffee and music, Bing, Ed Brown and Claude Brown, Ross McKinnon and others usually



Joy, Harold and Olive Bowell. Carol, (Mrs.) Vera and Dennis Engebretson

supplied the music They played as long as you wanted to dance

I was on the school board with Sandy Thompson and Jerry Bell for several years, I was also the secretary for this, I got $25 a year. I remember the time when Social Credit got into power Mr W S. Thompson was the returning officer for the district west of Rimbey and I was the poll clerk. Mr. Thompson was a very strong Conservative, and when the ballots were counted, except for a few, every one had voted S.C.-Mr. Thompson was not too happy about it and I was very glad to get back home. We have many happy memories of the Mount View district and friends out there. In 1945 we moved to Red Deer Olive, my wife, was very close to her parents and as they were getting on in years she felt she would like to be with them in Red Deer We go out west occasionally but there are not many old timers left

Olive and I are not young any more and it is nice that we can look back and recall all the happy times we had during the time we spent out west of Rimbey. There were times when sorrow struck the district either by accident or natural causes and it seemed like a member of the family had departed as everyone in the district and neighborhood paid their last respects

**BROWN, EDWIN**
NE-1-43-5-W5

Edwin Brown was born at Buffalo, New York, U.S.A. on January 30, 1898. He came west with his parents, Kervin and Teany Brown, also three brothers and two sisters in 1909. They settled near Red Deer, Alberta, where his father had a dairy farm for a few years, then they moved to Burdett, in Southern Alberta

My parents, Abraham and Annie Huff, with two small sons, travelled from Utah, U.S.A. by covered wagon to Spring Coulee, then in the North West Territories. This was in the fall of 1901. The trip took six weeks.

My sister, Eva, was born at Spring Coulee on October 26, 1903. Later they moved to Magrath, Alta., where I was born on November 28, 1905 soon after the province of Alberta was formed. In the fall of 1907 we moved to a homestead at Burdett My brothers both married and moved to the U.S.A. They have both passed on.

Ed served overseas during World War I, as did his brother, Claude. A younger brother, Eugene (Hank) served overseas in World War II

My sister, Eva, and Claude Brown were married October 28, 1920. His brother, Ed and I were married September 30, 1924. We lived in Calgary from January 1925 until September 1931. Two sons were born there — Leroy on July 20, 1925 and Norman on July 26, 1929.

At this time there were many unemployed men Ed was working for the city, hauling gravel with a team of horses and a dump wagon. He was to have two weeks' work, then two weeks off, which quite often turned into six weeks off work.

Ed and Edna Brown, 1934

It was then he decided to take a homestead. Land for homesteading was closed in many places. At this time the nearest available was west of Rimbey. He made a trip with Gordon Koenig and Walter Waddilelow to look at homestead land. He filed on the NE-1 43-5-W5 in July 1931 Later, land south of us was opened for homesteading and many new settlers moved in

In September 1931, we shipped by railway car, four horses, bundles for feed, furniture, a dog and cat from Calgary to Rimbey. Ed travelled with this car The boys and I left two or three days later Ed had only got as far as Lacombe, so he met us there. We came on the same train to Rimbey. A passenger car was hooked onto the end of the freight train.

We were able to get an old log cabin to live in, on Jim Strachan's land. No one had lived in it for years so we had to do a lot of work to make it warm enough for winter With lots of good wood, a cook stove and air-tight heater we were quite comfortable

It was lonely at first, but new people were moving in rapidly Many house parties were held and we attended many entertainments at Willesden Green and Mount View Schools

My parents, along with Claude and Eva Brown and five children, shipped from Taber to Rimbey the fall of 1931. They lived northeast of Rimbey for awhile. In March of 1932 my parents came to live with us. During the winter the men built a log cabin on our land, which we moved into in June 1932. Our third son, Lloyd, was born at Rimbey hospital on September 26, 1932.

We moved into our two-story log house in 1933 My parents lived in the little cabin until the death of my father on February 11, 1936. Mother made her home with us until her passing on September 5, 1951.

A Rabbit Hunt. L. to R: Tom Calgary man, Ed Brown and Andy Leraand. About 1935

There was no school near Children received lessons by correspondence. There were quite a number of school-age children. In 1935 meetings were held to organize a school district. Ed had filed on the SE-1-43-5-W5 in July 1933, a Soldier's grant quarter He offered land for a school site. The site was chosen for a school on the southeast corner of this land. A number of names were suggested for the name of the school. The one chosen by the Department of Education was Meadow Vale, incidentally, this was the name suggested by Ed. He donated the land for the school, also for a Cemetery on this quarter

Many men from the district took a team of horses, sleigh, food and bedding and went to Adam's Mill, where they donated their time to cut logs, help saw them into lumber and haul it to the school site. Mr. Adams received a share of the lumber

The school was built mostly by donation work Andy Leraand was the head carpenter He also built the school desks. Later Andy married one of our local school teachers, Miss Vellettia Hackett

Ladies of the district organized the Meadow Vale Ladies' Club We raised money in various ways to help with the building of the school. Many dances were held at the Ed Bohlender home. After the Second World War started in 1939 our club was disbanded and a Red Cross Group was organized with Mrs. W. J. McKinnon as president. The ladies did a lot of knitting and also made quilts for the Red Cross. After the war the Meadow Vale Ladies' Club was re-organized

The school opened in October 1936. Mrs. Alex Huberdeau was the teacher There were 25 pupils. Many good times were held there. Picnics, dances and of course the annual Christmas concert, in which every child took part. This was followed by a visit from Santa and a dance later People attended from miles around. For a few years we held a social evening at the school house, once a month These consisted of a program, followed by lunch and dancing. Ed and Claude played music, at many places, sometimes with others. In later years Ed and son's played quite often.

Lloyd Brown's team of goats being driven by his cousin, Thelma Smith. About 1945

Ed cut rails and posts to bring in a little money. He also sold rabbits, when they were much in demand by the fox-farmers for feed. He worked for the Municipality for a couple of seasons with Alton Snyder and Stewart McDonald Doing road work, he was also the cook.

The Willesden Green Post Office was moved from Dorsey Clayton's to our place in March 1943. It was 1947 before it was closed when the mail route was extended

About 1934 or 35 Claude and Eva Brown and children, Hilda, Grace, Viola, Rex, Wayne and Neva moved near Meadow Vale school. Another son, Jay, was born there in October 1936. In April of 1937 several of the children were stricken with Scarlet Fever and little Neva died on May 4, 1937 She was almost five years old

In July of 1937 the family moved to the Peace River country, where another son, Allen was born. At the time of this writing Claude and Eva are living at Edmonton. Some of their family are nearby. They have 23 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren

The years passed quickly. Our sons were growing up and going out to work. Leroy came home, one time, with a pair of buck goats, for his younger brother, Lloyd. Harness was made for them and they were hitched to a small bob-sleigh. Sometimes they were used for hauling wood or just for fun with friends. They didn't like to leave home. Lloyd would lead them down the road about a quarter of a mile, turn them around and jump in the sleigh. They would head for home at a great speed.

Leroy and Evelyn Robinson were married April 10, 1947 They lived on the SE-1-43-5-W5 for a short time, then moved to various places where Leroy was employed. Their home is near Barrhead. Leroy has been employed by Home Oil Company for many years. He works at Swan Hills. Their family consisted of five girls and one boy. Lois (Mrs. Kenneth Erickson) Edmonton, Barbara (Mrs. Bob Jackson) Duncan, B.C., Opal (died an infant in 1952), Lorraine (Mrs. Jack Johannson) Edmonton, Melody (Mrs. Danny Fraser) Swan Hills, Leland of Swan Hills and Thelma, at home

Norman and Mary Kneeland were married October 5, 1950. They have two daughters and three sons, Vivian, Elaine, Steve, Gordon and Barry, also five granddaughters.

Lloyd and Dorothy Pritchard were married in

Back row: Leroy, Edna and Lloyd Brown. Front row: Evelyn Brown, Barbara, Annie Huff, Lois, Norman and Ed Brown

April 1953. (Divorced) They have one son and two daughters. Edwin, Edith and Myrna, also two grandsons and a daughter

Norman and Mary live in Red Deer. Lloyd lives at Les' Trailer Park, near Red Deer

In July 1955, Ed and I moved to a farm near Nampa, Alta. He passed away suddenly on February 18, 1958. After his death I lived with Norman's most of the time until July 1962 when I returned to Nampa In September 1972 I moved to Red Deer, where I am at the present time. I have 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren

**THE BRYANTONS — by Fred and Doreen Bryanton**

The Bryanton family came west of Rimbey in 1927 After growing up at home, the oldest boy, Fred, married Doreen McDonald, from the Midland district, in 1943. In 1945, Fred, Doreen and baby, Faye moved to Mount View district on a farm formerly owned by Harold Bowell. (NW 27-42-4-W5

To this family five more children were born.

In 1957 they moved back to the Potter Creek district.

**COOPER, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Mr and Mrs. Frank Cooper came to this area from Monta Vista District in 1945 and bought the NE 36-42-5-W5

Mr Cooper was a veteran of the Spanish American War. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper in their earlier years, were very active in many things, especially the Rimbey fairs and rodeos

They had four children, Joe lives in California, a daughter in U.S.A., another daughter, Toots, in Ontario, and Franklin (Tag) in Leduc

Mr Cooper was killed in an accident in 1964 and Mrs Cooper passed away in a nursing home in 1965

**ECKER VIOLET**

I took all my schooling at Willesden Green and Mount View schools. We rode horseback or walked

I was married in 1937 to Herman Ecker We moved onto his quarter of land SW 32-42-4-W5. which he had bought in 1934. At that time there was no road in there, so we built log and rail bridges across the rivers and went out across other peoples' land.

In November 1939, my son Douglas was born In about 1945 we bought NE 31-42-4 W5 from Mr W. McKinnon so we could be closer to Meadow Vale School and near a road

Doug is married now, has two children, and now lives on the land my dad, Jerry Bell, owned, NW 32-42-W5

In July 1946, my daughter, Patricia, was born. She is married to Roy Stout They have three children and live at Breton where Roy is vice principal of the school.

In June 1951, my daughter, Wendy, was born. She is married to Len Olson, they have two children and live at Fort McMurray where Len is a surveyor for the government

My husband passed away suddenly November 1, 1969 as the result of a heart attack.

**ENGEBRETSON, ARNOLD J.**

Mr A. Engebretson, better known as "Bing" came from Glennwood, Minnesota in the early 1920's. He had different land locations, the last was SE 17-42-4-W5, where he farmed with horses In 1930 he married Vera Tisdale, an English girl from Stafford, England. They had two children, Carol married, lives at Nanaimo, B.C. and Dennis, married, lives at Quesnel, B.C

Bing was a great violin player. He played in several orchestras, one consisted of Rudy Platt. Edith Byers and Bing I seen him ride horseback many times on cold winter nights carrying his violin to Leedale to play with Mrs. Jenny Withers or Mrs. H. Lindsay

He could turn his hand to many things, he had steam engineer papers and run the Lockhart Steam Thresher, a community machine, for many years.

Vera Engebretson passed away in the early 1960's, in Red Deer Bing later married Selma Freeman. Bing passed away in 1967 in Bentley

Bing Engebretson

**FOX, FRANK, ZELLA, AND AUBREY (BOB) — by Mrs. Bob Fox**

They came from the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 1914. They settled in Drumheller Frank worked in the coal mine and Mrs. Fox raised chickens and Bob went to school

They moved to Byemoor in 1918 on a farm but the dry seasons came along so they were very happy to move to Leedale (NE 30-41-3-W5) in 1923. There they got lots of rain and feed for the stock. Mrs. Fox used to take the cream to Leedale in the democrat, it would be pouring rain and she would tell Bill Lee, the Storekeeper, what a nice rain. Guess he got a bit fed up, for he told her "you know Mrs. Fox, one can get too much" They sure did

Bob was not home very much, as he was travelling (boxing) He was in the States for a couple of years.

I met Bob in Stettler on July 1, 1924 but he was away quite a bit and we got married in 1927. Then we moved to Leedale and were there for about a year We bought a farm at Willesden Green, one half mile east of the post office Mr Wager was postmaster, a fine gentleman.

Then the war came, so Bob enlisted in 1942 and he was stationed in Camrose for the duration of the war

When the war was over we moved to Bluffton in 1948 and bought the Blue Bird Cafe and we had it for ten years.

Bob died in 1958 and I kept the cafe for a while but it was too much for me Then I moved to Victoria, then bought a house in Port Moody and now I am retired in Penticton

We still have the restaurant in Burnaby but they don't want me to work; mind you, I get rather bored but guess I'll get used to it

**HALLET, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hallet settled on the SE 16-42-4-W5, known as the Simmons quarter Mr Hallet was a wrestler and taught Bert Archer to wrestle so he had someone to spar with.

Mr and Mrs Hallet returned to the United States of America before 1912 where he joined the police force and was shot and killed

Frank Hallet 1906. Ready to wrestle

**HAMILTON, ORVAL AND BESSIE, NE 21-42-4-W5 — by Bessie Hamilton**

Orval was born in 1917 on a farm in Southern Saskatchewan. At the age of seven he moved with his parents to Vancouver, where he took all of his education. In 1932 they moved to Hinton Trail, which is in the Peace River country

Bessie was born in Scotland in 1918. Two years later Bessie, her mother and uncle joined her father at Elmworth, which is also in the Peace River area

On November 6, 1941, Orval and Bessie were married at Timmins, Ontario. In August, 1942 their first son, Kenneth Alvin, was born. In November 1942 Orval went into the armed forces Bessie returned to Elmworth until the end of the war Orval Jr. (Joe) was born in March 1944 at Beaverlodge.

Mr and Mrs. Orval Hamilton and Kenneth - 1941

Orval, having returned from the service late in 1945, moved the family to Red Deer in the spring of 1946. One year later they moved to a farm four miles from Eckville

In December 1950, Roy Miller was born and in February 1952, Marjorie was born. They lived at Eckville for seven years and left many friends there

In March of 1954 they moved to a farm west of Rimbey, located in the Leedale Valley The boys

really enjoyed living here as they had a river to fish in

They are mixed farmers like many others in the district. The two older boys took their schooling at Bluebell and Mount View and completed it in Rimbey

In August 1957, their second daughter, Susan was born. One year later on Ken's 16th birthday, Heather was born

Orval and Bessie are still farming. Ken helps his father with the farming and works on the oil rigs

Orval Jr. (Joe) is a driller on the oil rig and lives at Eckville. Roy is also a driller and lives in Calgary

Marjorie is married to Orman Savage and lives in Rimbey. He is in real estate. They have two children, Orman Jr. and Laurie

Susan is at home and Heather in Red Deer

**JENSON, MR. TED**

I was born in Denmark in 1887 and at the age of ten moved with my folks to Lincoln, County, Minnesota.

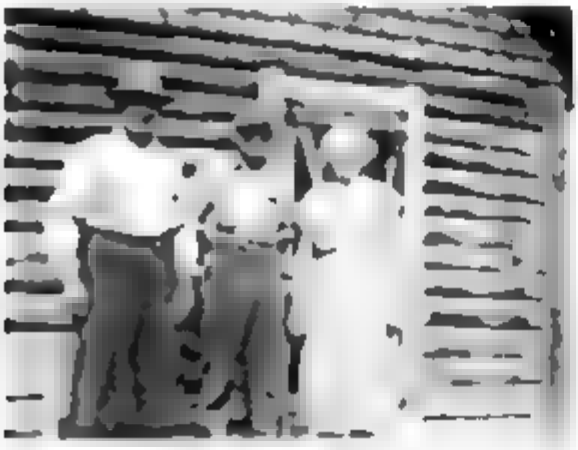
When I was nineteen I came to the Rimbey district and took a homestead in 1906. I worked in the saw mills in Alberta and British Columbia and on railroad construction

I was married in 1917 to Milly E. Wager and had one son, George.

I worked out until 1921 then moved back to the homestead. We mixed farmed for a living

My son and grandsons still own the farm. There are also great grandchildren. We retired and moved to Rimbey in the late 1960's

Mrs. Jenson's folks, Mr. and Mrs. George Wager, came from England in 1910. He was the first postmaster in the Willesden Green area.



The Jenson's, Ted, George and Milly - 1950

**LAST WEST M.D. 431, S.E. 32-42-4-W5 — by Mrs. Hilda Bird**

The municipal district of Last West, No. 431, has not existed as such for years, but in the 30's and 40's it covered a large territory, and my husband, Alf Bird, as secretary-treasurer looked after the books, taxes and such business, and his office was a busy place. Sometimes into the small hours of morning, by the light of a coal oil lamp. He took great pride in his sets of books and they were models of neatness and accuracy

The office was a tiny log building, which has been built on his homestead and moved, and one wall still had the magazine covers, calendar scenes, cartoons and poems pasted to those curving logs during long evening "on the homestead"

There was no office so far from a telephone or a bank! It was ten miles to the former, and a good sixteen to Rimbey, and the bank. Often the roads made getting there impossible for days. Those were times when the black tin box that held tax money was secreted in the house attic, and I remember how uneasy we felt about it. Uneasy? I was scared to death! Eventually the roads were dug out or dried up to where getting through became possible again.

There were two mail days per week, which meant a trip to the line of mailboxes by the road, to wait for hours sometimes while the mailman fought the roads. Sometimes bonfires were lit for warmth and cheer, and since almost everyone got their mail at that spot, it could become the social event of the week, and occasionally old arguments waxed hotter than the poor little fire. And, of course, someone always came to the office during those mail-waiting times. Many were entertained and coffeed by the old kitchen stove, sometimes with their feet in the oven, while I stepped over them.

There was a lot of mail, some of it addressed to Lost West and Last Post, and even Last Gasp. Some of it was very entertaining, as that of one writer who felt aggrieved and who advised the entire council to "tie a rope around your neck, and put a rock on it, and jump-it in the river."

Anything could happen and usually did. One time a strange old fellow who kept strictly to himself appeared at the office with a pig on a rope. His next-to-no English made it hard for him to get across his plan for applying the pig toward his taxes. When he was finally convinced it wouldn't be good business he and the pig trotted back down the trail. Later, Alf learned he had meant to impound the animal but a neighbour had given him a better idea.

There were also the little extras, like settling up for bounty gopher tails and magpie eggs, many a youngster made his spending money from them. Sometimes it would be a tobacco or jam tin full of the lot, mixed, broken eggs and all, and each was supposed to be accounted for and destroyed. This bounty lasted for only a certain time each year, but while it lasted it seemed almost everyone got in on it and there were dire reports of some who split gopher tails, or even removed them and then let the animals go. The get-rich-quicks are always among us

Municipal council meetings, once a month, meant a long day, often slushing by team

through mud or snowdrifts the 12 miles to Lavesta schoolhouse, and business always went hours beyond the expected time. People went there for miles, with real and imagined grievances, and some for entertainment, hard to come by in those times, Alf was often hard put to keep order throughout. Council meeting days sometimes found me in charge of the gopher tail and magpie egg detail. The less said the better!

I remember a little circle of kids and myself 'sorting out" by the woodpile, being approached by a "Mountie" who had come to see Alf about something. The office was usually where one started a quest. He observed this strange country game for a bit before we saw him, then politely asked, "Is your daddy home?" I was mortified!

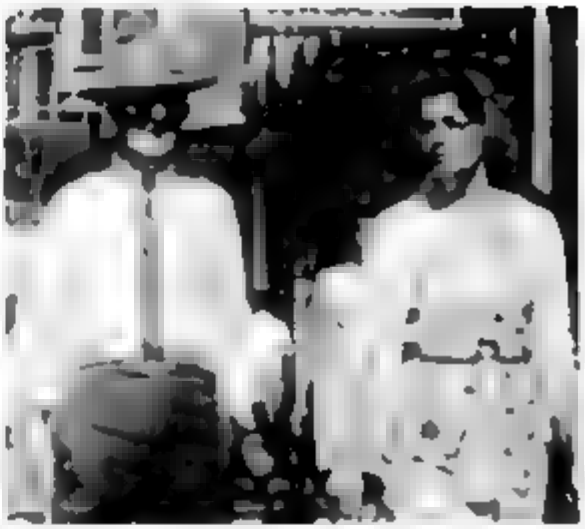
Once Alf walked in from the mailboxes and said "Here's a present for you — A couple dollars worth of gopher tails I just bought." Bounty time had ended, which I reminded him, but these kids were at the gate, and they were so young, and so crushed to think they had lost out, so Alf bought them on his own, and in those days two dollars amounted to something. I think all who knew him would say this was typical of Alf Bird.

Municipal Office - Last West M.D. 431 1946. (Reed Photo.)

Without Alf here to set me right I cannot tell you the proper location of the Last West office then, but I'm sure someone can add a footnote with that information. After we left, in late 1943, the office was moved and later still the old municipal district of Last West became part of the county of Ponoka, I believe

The little log office building later burned.

Alfred Bird was one of the many who came to Canada from Britain, in his case from Yorkshire, England. He used to tell of his first job after he left Montreal It was on a small farm in Quebec where he was promised eight dollars per month. After a gruelling month of 18 to 20 hours a day — and Alf was never a farmer — he decided to quit The boss was not able to pay him so much cash, so he had to settle for two dollars and fifty cents in currency, an ancient swallow-tailed coat and a gold watch-chain! Certainly something to write home about when he got back to Montreal



Mr. and Mrs. Alf Bird

He enlisted in the army, first World War, in Winnipeg. It was after his return from overseas that he took up a homestead west of Rimbey where he spent winters and the time he had free from his job as gatekeeper at Banff National Park, during the tourist seasons. He left that job to become secretary-treasurer of Last West M.D. In 1943 he took on the job of secretary-treasurer of the Lacombe Municipal Hospital, retiring to Edmonton 20 years later, where he died in September, 1975

We have three children; Marvin, married and has two boys, Neva, married and has a boy and a girl, and Alfred, married and has three girls (note — The Last West Office was located on SE-32-42-4-W5)

**LAST WEST HALL**

In the spring of 1943, three districts decided they would work together and build a hall, the districts being Willesden Green, Meadowvale and Mount View The board being two men from

Last West Hall beginning. Hardin Chaffe Main Carpenter, Reinhart Veach - Faithful Helper

each district, R. Bohlender, G. Tyndal, R. Vetsch, W. Thompson, Lloyd Sundberg and G. Jenson. Mrs. Mildred Reynolds was secretary. Hardin Chaffee was the main carpenter. Most of the work was donation. The Ladies' clubs put on different activities to raise money.

**LAWSON, MAX AND VERA**

Max and Vera Lawson and son, Mervyn, purchased the Jerry Bell homestead (NW 6-42-4-W5) October 1, 1931. Coming from Alsask, Saskatchewan this homestead, 18 miles from Rimbey seemed like a long way from home. However the Meadowvale people were overly friendly and made Max and Vera feel right at home. In 1941 they purchased the S½ 7-42-4-W5 from Slim Moorehead where they made their home until retirement.

Max and Vera Lawson with children, Mervyn, Myrtle and Jim Taken 1936 at their home on Jerry Bells Homestead

In 1942 Max had running water and power which was operated by a 12 volt lighting plant.

One of the first cars of the district belonged to Max, when in 1939 he purchased a Model "A".

Times were hard but every one of his family of ten will always remember the numerous times of fun they had while working like beavers. Leaving home Mervyn married Joan Stout and is settled in Bluffton with a family of five. Jim married Phyllis Whately and is living in Drayton Valley with a family of four. Myrtle married Ernie Repas and are living in the Leedale district with a family of five. Mary May married Herb Bauer and are living in the Rimbey district with a family of five. Velma married Buddy Farnham and are living in the Forshee district with a family of four. Lyle married Gayle Hunt and are living in Taber with a family of three. Arther and Charolette are living in Ponoka. John with a family of three is living in Edmonton. Ava married Marty Raadik and are living in Grimshaw with a family of two. Nora is living in Red Deer.

August 31, 1963 Max and Vera retired to an acreage in the Ponoka district. Later, on August 15, 1975 they moved to Casa Al Sereno Mobile Home Park where you ll often hear them reminiscing their enjoyable yet unforgettable years at Meadowvale.

**LUKOCS, JAMES**
**SW 15-42-4-W5**

James Lukocs left his homeland of Sauta Maria Romania, as a young man of 24 in 1928, leaving his mother, father, two brothers and a sister to come to Canada. James arrived at St. Johns, by boat then travelled by train to Calgary. Here he worked his way to Olds cutting brush with an axe, by hand to earn some money, then on to Taber to the sugarbeet fields. Here he met Giezella Kish, a nice Rumanian girl, they were married and decided farming was the life for them.

This brings Giezella and James Lukocs to their farm, a (C.P.R.) quarter, the NE 17-42-4-W5, in 1932 at Leedale. The land was all timber. There were about four acres that Leo Benson had cleared where the people of the district had put on rodeos for their own pleasure.

James set out to build a little log house, barn, and granary. He cleared the land of trees by hand, digging around the roots of the trees, taking away the soil, leaving them for the wind to blow over, then proceeded to clear and break this land with his team of horses.

For living money James cut fire wood. He could be seen going to Rimbey or Lockhart on

Mr. and Mrs. James Lukocs and Family Jimmie, Teresa and Mary - 1936

any day, warm or cold, in the winter, walking with his team and load to sell this fire wood for $2 a wagon load. Times were happy for them then.

Three children were born to James and Glezella, two girls, Teresa and Mary, and a boy, James Jr

The year 1939 came and brought sadness to James, illness and death came to Glezella. She passed away in the Rimbey hospital in November James lived on at the farm with his three small children to care for

In the year 1943, James purchased the quarter, SW 15-42-4-W5, from Mr. Frank Fox who had homesteaded this land. James moved his family from the little log house to the newer two-story frame home on the Fox farm. The children attended the Leedale school

Teresa Lukocs married Lester Robinson of Leedale and farms there now they have a family of Linda, nursing in Calgary, Janet, attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Beverley, also attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton, James, at home, Glenda, Bonnie, Joyce, attending Rimbey school and Holy at home

Mary Lukocs married Elwood Pederson of Bentley, having a family of Brian, at home Dean and Brenda, attending Rocky Mountain House school. They reside at Rocky Mountain House where Elwood has an Auto-wrecking business

Jim Lukocs Jr married Donna Misner from Leedale and have a family of Allen, who is attending Red River Community College in Winnipeg, also Denice, Elaine, Judy and Brent, who are attending Rimbey school

Jim Jr and Donna stayed to farm together with his father, James, until he retired. Then in 1964, Jim and Donna built a new home beside his father's house on the Fox farm, and are continuing to farm there.

James is still residing in his own little house, and still enjoys the farm life.

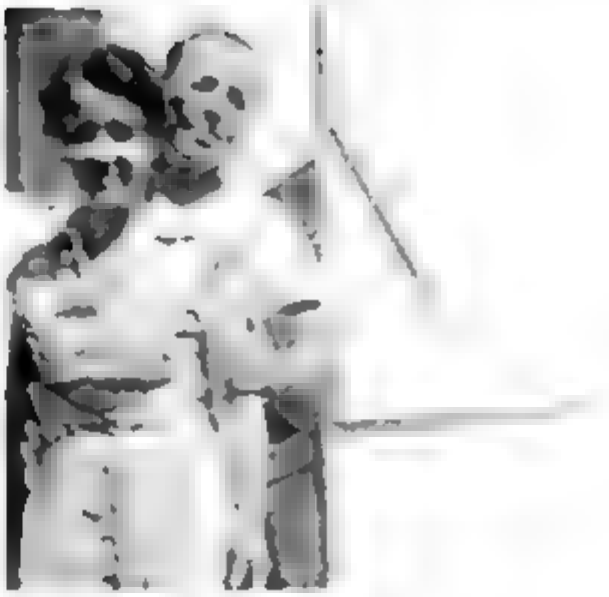
**LUPFER, JOSEF AND MITZE**

Josef Lupfer and myself immigrated from Austria in 1925 and arrived in Pincher Creek, April 1925. My brother, Joe Krieglstein, also came with us and we farmed at Pincher for two years when crop failures made us decide to leave that part. We were too close to the foothills where snow arrived early

In 1930 we moved to Willesden Green where we farmed the Northcot place for one year then moved from there to the farm 11 miles west of Rimbey (NE 30-42-4-W5)

In 1936 my husband was taken ill, suffering a mental breakdown, due to his war injuries and spent 28 years in the Provincial Hospital where he died in 1964.

My brother Joe and myself stayed on at the farm until 1945, when we made the move to Calgary



Mitze Lupfer and her brother, Joe Krieglstein

**MANOWICH, HARRY**

Mr Manowich was born in the Ukraine in Nov 1892, came to Canada and moved to Northern Saskatchewan while still a young boy.

He later farmed in Saskatchewan for a while and also worked in the sawmills.

In 1948 he came to the Rimbey district and bought the SE 26-42-4-W5 nine miles west of town where he lived until his death at the Rimbey Municipal Hospital on May 14, 1951

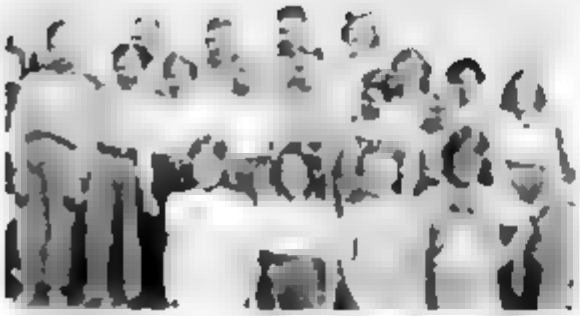
He was not married

**MEADOW VALE — by Edna Brown**

Meadow Vale School Number 4704. The first term of school was in October, 1936. Mrs. Alex Hubardeau was the teacher The pupils were Gordon Cadman, Shirley Cadman, Rex Brown, Maxine Cooper, Leroy Brown, Willie Bauer, Len Bauer, Betty Gwin, Willie Grundy, Margery Cadman, Grace Brown, Wayne Brown, Claire Shuler, Norman Brown, Albert Bauer, Isa Waddelow, Vera Gwin, Mariam Cadman, Viola Brown, Archie Cooper, Irma Shuler, Mervyn Lawson, Herb Bauer, Bud Reynolds, Tom Grundy

Meadow Vale school teachers were Mrs Alex Hubardeau, Berryl Merrill, Laura Stout, Nora Visger, Pearl Brewster, June Reid,

Meadow Vale School and teacherage S.E. 1-43-5-w 5



Pupils of Meadow School about 1944. Back row: Gordon Snyder, Willie Grundy, Mervyn Lawson, teacher, Edith Christenson. Middle row: Lloyd Brown, Gilbert Bauer, Jack Gwin, Jim Lawson, Fred Grundy, Larry Stewart, Wanda Gwin, Norma Bauer, Janet Grundy. Front row: Mary May Lawson, Anita Grundy, Betty Nickle and Myrtle Lawson.

William Ferguson, Vellettia Hackett, Edith Christenson, Ellen Hayward.

The above names are the teachers I remember from the opening of the school in October, 1936, until we left the district in July 1955. I am sorry if I have missed any of the teachers.

**MEADOW VALE CEMETERY**

Burials at Meadow Vale Cemetery: Abraham Huff — February 14, 1936, Baby boy — son of Mr and Mrs. Carl Ruff. Date unknown; Two baby daughters of Albert Babcocks. Date unknown Neva Brown — May 6, 1937, Annie Huff — September 10, 1951, Opal Brown — baby daughter of Leroy Brown's — January 1952.

**MEMORIES OF CASSIE BUTLIN**

My father and mother, Mr. Joseph and Catherine Stanton, and my uncle and aunt, John and Elizabeth Willner, came from England to Canada in June 1906.

My father settled on a homestead north west of Wittenburg, now called Leedale. His land was the NW 32-42-4-W5.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Broderson ran a store and post office at that time. We lived eight miles from the store by the roads in those days. 1906-07 was a terrible winter, we had calves frozen to death in the barn. My father had no idea of farming; he was a soldier for 25 years, most of his time spent in India

My uncle settled on the adjoining homestead so we were close together

In November, just after our log home was finished, one morning it was 40 below and our home was burned to the ground. We lost most of our things and my mother and brother and myself walked and ran three quarters of a mile in deep snow to my uncle's in our nighties and stocking feet. We blamed our big tom cat for scratching the hay that was on the sod roof close to the stove pipe chimney as he had climbed on the roof. Then the next month my uncle's log shack burned down but most of their things were saved.

The neighbors were all young men who had also filed on homesteads. They helped my father build another shack. One large room of logs and we divided it off after we moved in. Mr Jerry Beal, Mr. Andy Swanson, Mr Jack Barwick and Mr. Jenson, my mother baked bread for these boys every week. There was only one lady close to us besides my auntie, that was Mrs. Bert Crandon. Her husband used to work away in the mines in the winter time Lots of young men would come out and file on homesteads, but would only stay a year or so, they couldn't make a go of it.

My father had three pensions from England or we could have never stayed either

I remember Mr. Barwick was cutting bush on a road allowance when the axe slipped and cut through his boot and toes He crawled two miles to our home for help. My father and Mr Swanson travelled all night to get him into Lacombe Hospital. They put a mattress on the floor of the wagon box for him to lie on and changed teams at Bentley Mr. Williams had a boarding house and livery barn at Bentley so he lent my father a team of horses so he could go on without delay The roads at that time were bad and it was 60 miles to Lacombe by wagon trail.

In 1910 my father passed away and in 1911 my auntie passed away In 1912 my mother remarried and we moved to Medicine Valley 15 miles south of Leedale. My step-father was the rural mail carrier from Medicine Valley to Bentley twice a week.

Mr and Mrs. Withers were the postmasters and it was only a mile from our home.

There was a creamery two miles from us run by Mr and Mrs. Bradshaw

I have one step-brother living in Calgary, 88 years old, and my brother, Jack Stanton, retired R.C.M.P Detective, in Vancouver, 74 years old and myself left of our family

We had lots of happy days on that homestead and lots of sad ones.

**McKINNON**

William J. (Bill) McKinnon purchased a half section of land two miles north and sixteen miles west of Rimbey in 1933, at which time he was the Canadian Pacific Railway Station Agent at Barons, Alberta. He later moved to the C P R Station at Kootuk, one mile south of Eckville, with his wife, Edna, and twin sons, Walter and Jim. His brother, Alfred McKinnon, and the eldest son, Ross, travelled by team and wagon from Barons to the farm in 1933, living in a tent on the wagon en route. They bought one team and a saddle horse, and purchased one more horse near Calgary On arrival at the farm, they had to detour through a neighbor's farm to cross his bridge over the Medicine River, as the road had not yet been constructed west of the river They lived in a bunkhouse purchased in Rimbey

until a log cabin was constructed before winter set in

The family commuted from the farm to Barons, and later to Eckville until Bill McKinnon's retirement from the C.P.R. in 1939. Ross lived on the farm through these early years, but his uncle, Alfred, took a homestead four miles north of the McKinnon farm. Walter and Jim went to school in Eckville for several years, then moved to the farm and established a mink ranch and also raised silver fox, on the northeast corner of the farm.

In 1938, Walter and Jim enlisted in the 78th Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery at Red Deer, trained in Edmonton, and were with the first Canadian contingent of forces which went overseas in December 1939. They returned in the spring of 1945., after five and one half years of active duty in the Second World War. Jim had married Irma Shuler six weeks before leaving, and Walter married Claire Shuler on the day he returned from overseas. The twin brothers had been together all of the time they were on duty, except for a short period of Jim's illness, and were fortunate in being able to return home on leave at the same time, by unusual coincidence.

The McKinnon's, James, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKinnon, Ross and Walter

Walter's name had been drawn for leave, but Jim's had not. The ship was twelve hours out to sea on the homeward trip before Walter learned that at the last possible moment, Jim had been rushed onto the ship, taking the place of another soldier who had been too ill to make the journey. So they completed the five and a half years together, and peace was declared before they were required to go back into action. Jim and Irma moved to Red Deer soon after his return. Walter stayed on the farm for one year, during which time he built up the mink farm again. Then he and Claire also moved to Red Deer.

Ross worked with his father on the farm, where they raised Black Angus cattle, and some sheep. In the early years he played violin for many of the neighborhood dances and house parties, playing at times with various members of the Brown family, Carl Ruff, and others of the community who provided entertainment. For several years his orchestra, the "Swamp Angels", consisting of Ross, Jim, Walter, David Shuler, and Mary Alice Shuler, played in the area. In 1939 he married Mary Alice Shuler, and built a house on the quarter of land lying directly east of the Shuler farm. They remained in the area until February 1947, when they moved to Red Deer where Ross was employed by the Central Alberta Dairy Pool in the Condensery department.

Bill and Edna McKinnon owned the farm for sixteen years, and were active community members while they were in the area. With the assistance of their sons, his brother Alfred, several men who worked for them, and Edna's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Saunders, they built it up into a prosperous farm. Edna was active in the local branch of the Red Cross during the war years, and assisted in other community ventures, as well as carrying on her farm duties, and keeping a few of the mink from her son's fur farm during the years they were overseas. The McKinnons sold out and moved to an acreage west of Red Deer in 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, Edna McKinnon's parents, bought a quarter section of land two miles east and one half mile south of the McKinnon farm, after having helped on the McKinnon farm for several years. They built a house and lived there until his death in 1941. Mrs. Saunders returned to Manitoba for a time, then retired to Red Deer with Bill and Edna McKinnon.

**CLYDE AND ANNIE MISNER**

In early 1914 Clyde Misner along with a number of others, left Fosston, Minnesota to arrive in Harlem, Montana. After reaching Harlem, they crossed the Canadian border and homesteaded the south half of 22-1-20 in the Frontier, Sask. district where they built a shack.

In the last week of July 1914 he and his companions decided to work their way back to their families in Fosston, Minnesota. With team and rack they hayed and harvested along the way, arriving in Fosston approximately three months later.

Clyde Misner

In 1915 they again left Fosston to arrive on the prairies where they decided to settle. His wife Annie, and two children, Ernest and Lester came to join Clyde. Four more children, Chester, Mildred, Glen and Victor were later born in this district

Because of the long droughts in 1934, Clyde and Lester travelled to Rimbey where they bought their farm (NW 33-42-4-W5). In the spring of 1936 Clyde returned to Frontier to move his family. They journeyed by Model T and after two days travelling, arrived at their new home. Their cattle, machinery and personal belongings arrived by Canadian Pacific Rail.

Later this same year, Annie Misner passed away. Twelve later, in 1948 Clyde Misner passed away. Ernest died in Calgary in 1955. Later, in 1972, Lester passed away in Burnaby, B.C.

Chester and Glen Misner are presently living in Calgary; Mildred is living east of Rimbey and Victor is still farming the home quarter west of Rimbey

**MISNER, VICTOR AND EDNA**

In the spring of 1948 the marriage of Victor Misner to Edna Richardson marked the beginning of a new family and its own personal history

Following their marriage, the Misner's moved to Rimbey where they stayed with relatives and built their first home, which consisted of only two rooms. After the birth of their first son, Marvin, they left their home and went to live at the J. Jones' mill where Victor worked for approximately three years. During this time their second son, Calvin, was born.

In the spring of 1951 they returned to their home, but as a result of a hail storm that destroyed all their crops, they were forced to move again — this time to Innisfail, where Victor was employed as a labourer on the Bowden Institute. About a year later, they returned, with their two sons, to their home and moved their house to their own farm which Victor's father had purchased in 1934. By this time, two more sons had joined the family — Bob and Ron.

The Misner Family L. to R: Ron, Bob, Marvin, Calvin. Front row: Victor, David, Elaine and Edna

The family also lived in the Drayton Valley district where work was found in the oil fields

Returning to their farm near Rimbey, they resumed farming until 1966. The addition of two more children, another son David, and a daughter, Elaine, completed the Misner family

In July of 1966, an auction sale was held, all livestock, machinery, and some personal possessions were sold and the family moved west to Surrey, B.C. A year later they returned to the farm, this time to stay

In 1975 a family crisis arose. On a routine medical examination, doctors found abnormalities in Calvin's kidney function. Extensive tests and time showed the need for a kidney transplant. The family underwent tests in hopes that one of them would prove to be a suitable donor. Test results indicated that Ron was the best choice. The transplant was successfully performed in July of 1975 and both donor and recipient are now, two years later, able to lead relatively normal lives.

At the time of this writing only two of the Misner children are married — Marvin, living near Rimbey, has two children, and Ron, living near Eckville with one child.

**MOUNTVIEW**

The following is a list of names of people who were homesteaders, owners and renters over the years

NE 4-43-4-W5, W. Field, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Couper and family came to this area in 1932, they had a family of two girls and two boys. Janette (Mrs. Cecil Brooks) Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. Catherine (Mrs. Ray Farnham) Campbell River, B.C. George and Evan are twins, George married, lives at Burnaby, B.C. Evan lives in Red Deer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Couper have passed on

SE 4-43-4-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Whitledge and daughter homesteaded this land in 1909, lived here for three or four years, then left for the States. This land is now owned by Ted Jenson.

NW 4 43-4-W5, Andrew Swanson, homesteaded, 1907; Frank Cooper, 1942, Herman Janzen, R. Schultz, B. Geisbrecht, Donnie Nickoriuk

SW 4-43-4-W5, Ted Jenson homesteaded 1907 — now owned by a grandson, Walter Jenson

NE 5-43-4-W5, Jeff Sawyer, 1918, Jack White M. Skow; Philip Skow; Richard Youb.

SE 5-43-4-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Patton homesteaded this land in the early 1920's. Roy's parents lived on the same farm, but in their own house. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Patton had a family of

five. Ethel (Mrs. Tom Simmons), now deceased. Bernice (Mrs Bill Somers), of Sundre. Alton, Tommy and Clifford, all married and live in the area of Worsley Mr. and Mrs. Roy Patton and family left by covered wagon in about 1929 for Blue Sky M. Skow, 1931, Philip Skow, Richard Youb

NW 5-43-4-W5, Harvey Skow; Cleo Price Larry Vetsch

SW 5-43-4-W5, Frank Ecker, Ross McKinnon Cleo Price, Larry Vetsch

NE 6-43-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Roy Bowers lived here in about 1925. Mrs. Bowers was the former Jane Hunt, daughter of Hudson Hunt Roy Bowers used to take the farmers cream to Rimbey and bring groceries back. They left this area after a few years and went to Jaffray, B.C where he ran a mail route. After he passed on Mrs. Bowers moved to Wardner to be near her family, where they have a ranch on the Bull River A. J Engebretson, Pat Walsh; Stan Nickle, R. Lucas.

SE 6-43-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Gilbert Crandon and daughter bought this land in 1909. They came from Ontario, he farmed with oxen and they left in the 1920's.

NW 6-43-4-W5, J Bell homesteaded in 1907; M Lawson; R. Lucas

SW 6-43-4-W5, Strong, 1918; Bill Robinson; Howard Tyndal; Jim Stout

NE 1-43-5-W5, Jack White, 1920's, E. Brown

SE 1-43-5-W5, E Brown; Leroy Brown, Meadow Vale School on this property

NW 1-43-5-W5, Ken Gabott, 1930; R. Gee and family, R. Bauer

SW 1-43-5-W5, Donald Bauer

N½ 2-43-4-W5, Ken Carson

S½ 2-43-4-W5, Ed Bauer 1933 — have a family of four, Ronnie, Donald and Muriel at home and Donna (Mrs. Ed Krueger), Bluffton, Donna and Donald are twins

SE 3-43-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Sam Cadman and family came here in the early 1930's. They had a family of two boys and six girls. They farmed and milked cows and after a few years moved to British Columbia

Chequin, John Carson and family came in 1941 from Montgreenan district They had a family of five, Ken is married, lives in Rimbey, Helen (Mrs. Magnuson) lives in Calgary; Gordon married, Calgary, Ralph married, Vancouver, Ronnie married, Bluffton. Mr and Mrs Carson lived here for about three years then moved to Vancouver where he worked for Dominion Bridge Mr. Carson passed away in 1945. In 1951 Ina Carson married Volney Kidwell and returned to the farm. They lived there until Mr Kidwells death 1966. Mrs. Kidwell passed away in Calgary, 1968. The Carson family were a musical family, Ken, Gordon and Ralph were a part of a dance band "Blue Boys", a popular central Alberta dance band. They had many records made

NE 34-42-4-W5, Ed Hobeck, 1918, Fred Pimm, K. Lenglet, Pickering, Al Beaudebaugh, Bruce Leonard, Joe Oulette

SE 34-42-4-W5, Herman Boal, 1907 homestead, Al Gregg, Gerald Brodersen, Ken Hamilton.

NW 34-42-4-W5, Anthony Jacobson came from Minnesota in 1907 and homesteaded. He had two sons, Charlie and Ernest and a daughter, Mrs John Olson of Leedale Mr Jacobson was noted for his singing and was a good yodeller, he spent his remaining days with Mrs. Josephine Simmons. R Patton, Herb Beierbach

SW 34-42-4-W5, Charlie Jacobson settled on this farm in about 1916 or there abouts. Charlie farmed, he also liked to trap and hunt, he moved to the North Pine near Fort St. John in the 1930's and after a few years passed away

George Larsen bought the farm. George Larsen came from Rosebud in about 1931 He has farmed for many years, but is now retired. He has a son George Jr

SE 33-42-4-W5, Fred Pimm; Gerda Christiansen

NW 33-42-4-W5, Clyde Misner; Victor Misner

SW 33-42-4-W5, William Saunders, W. C Thompson, Jerry Thompson, Last West Hall on this property

NE 32-42-4-W5, J A. Barwick 1907, Sterling Moore, Don Kultgen, Keith Beebe; Richard Youb

SE 32-42-4-W5, Feeney and Cameron, 1920's A. Bird — was secretary of Municipality; W C Thompson, Jerry Thompson.

NW 32-42-4-W5, Jack Stanton, 1909, J Beal, Doug Ecker

SW 32-42-4-W5, John Wilner, 1909, Herman Ecker; Violet Ecker

NE 31-42-4-W5, Ross McKinnon; Violet Ecker

SE 31-42-4-W5, Joe Kriegelstein came in the early 1930's, and worked back and forth with his sister and brother-in-law Josef Lupfer After a few years he moved to Calgary where he worked in the Ogden Shops, and later passed on. A. C Cooper

NW 31-42-4-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKinnon and three sons came in the early 1930's from Namaka Mr McKinnon worked with the C P R. in telegraphy and worked at Eckville for a time, then retired, but remained on the farm for a few years, then moved to Red Deer. Their three sons were, Ross married Mary Alice Schuller. Jim and Walter are twins and both served in second War overseas. They married sisters, Jim married Irma Schuller and Walter married Claire Schuller. Walter has passed on — result of a plane accident. Stan Nickle, Ron Dyck

SW 31-42-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. A. C. Cooper and family came from Saskatchewan in 1931. They came by covered wagon. They brought with them quite a few horses. Mr and Mrs. Cooper have both passed on. Their son, Archie, lives on the farm and their daughter, Maxine (Mrs. Mike Crowell) lives at Whitecourt

NE 36-42-5-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cooper; Andy Lerrand, Henry McAreavy bought this

farm in 1940. Henry was a lover of music and liked to play the violin. They had three children, Charlotte lives in Calgary, Vernon, married and lives in Bentley June lives at home. Henry sold this farm and moved to Morningside. Mathew Coninx.

SE 36-42-5-W5, Carl Ruff and family came in early 1930's. They had a family of six children They lived here a few years, then moved a mile east of Rimbey, then later moved on. Jim Montieth, B. Randall, Maxine Crowell

NW 36-42-5-W5, Mathew Foss, Lawrence McAreavy

SW 36-42-5-W5, Maxine Crowell.

NE 35-42-5-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bohlender and son came from Hanna in 1930's, after a few years the farm was taken over by their son Rudy Rudy married Ethel Robinson. They have five girls and one boy Gloria (Mrs. Carl Jevne) lives at Slave Lake, Phyllis (Mrs. Dallas Bennett) lives in Calgary, Geraldine (Mrs. Jerry Thompson) Rimbey, Wanita (Mrs. Victor Schwieger) Blackfalds; Darlene lives in Ponoka and Darrel works out After a few years Mrs. and Mrs. Rudy Bohlender left the farm and went and worked on oil rigs, then later moved into Rimbey where he works at the gas plant. Donald Bell

SE 35-42-5-W5, Maxine Crowell

NW 35-42-4-W5, Frank Retzler; R. Denning C. Montieth, P. Rhine, Stan McCormack.

SW 35-42-5-W5, E. Bohlender, R Bohlender Donald Bell

E½ 27 42-4-W5, A J Engebretson; P Sorensen; Earl Derricot, Abe Giesbrecht; W Wheale

NW 27-42-4-W5, Harold Bowell; Fred Bryanton, Bill Wheale

SW 27-42-4-W5, P Sorensen; Earl Derricot, Abe Giesbrecht, W Wheale.

NE 28-42-4-W5, Wilson 1914 went to W W I and never returned, W. C. Thompson,

SE 28-42-4-W5, Bill McLean, 1913; G Walmsley, 1922; W. C. Thompson.

NW 28-42-4-W5, Fred McLean, 1913, Switzer; W C. Thompson, 1918.

SW 28-42-4-W5, Robert Grovenor came in 1914, originally from England, he was a bachelor. He lived here a few years then moved to Calgary and worked for C.P.R. as a freight porter He fell heir to a large inheritance from England, but he refused the money as well as a title. He passed away in 1962 at the age of 90 years. A. Ferguson W C. Thompson; Jessie B. Thompson.

Section 29-42-4-W5, Section 29 was school section for many years and rented as pasture Then the lands division put it up for sale for agricultural purposes

N½ 29-42-4-W5, Stanley Sherman.

S½ 29-42-4-W5, George Larsen Jr

NE 30-42-4-W5, A. Fox, 1918; Josef Lupfer, Leo McAreavy — Leo McAreavy and family came from Vegreville in 1940's They had a family of two girls, Sylvia and Jacqueline. After a few years they sold their farm and moved to Calgary Leo was caretaker at S.A.I.T for several years. Bruce Johnson

Lester Johnson — Mr. and Mrs Lester Johnson came from the Aurora district. They have a family of five. Roy married Lyla Taylor, they live at Leslieville. Charlene, Mrs. Ted Jenson, lives in the district. Calvin Lois and Delores live at home

SE 30-42-4-W5, Mr and Mrs. Ralph Brown and son came from Calgary in 1916. W S. Thompson, 1918; Dave Thompson

NW 30-42-4-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Sorensen and family came from Drumheller in 1933. They had a family of four, Jim, Erland, a son — name unknown — and a daughter Oda. They lived here for a few years, then went back to Drumheller A. Cooper

SE 26-42-5-W5, Clarence Ecklund.

NW 26-42-5-W5, Len Bauer

SW 26-42-5-W5, Shelby Taylor, 1924; Len Bauer

SW 27-42-5-W5, Guy Smith early 1920's — he was a bachelor and had many horses, as well as a lot of goats. He hauled lumber from the mills. He passed away at his farm. Herb Bauer.

NE 22-42-4-W5, Tom Plumb; Bob Plumb, A Giesbrecht

SE 22 42-4-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perkins and son, Tom Plumb; Young; Abe Giesbrecht

NW 22-42-4-W5, Wilson lived on this land — 1914 enlisted in W W I — went overseas and never returned here. Alex Beatty, 1934, K Washkevich, Peter Washkevich.

SW 22-42-4-W5, Rubottom, 1910, Jess Headlee, 1920; K. Washkevich

E½ 21-42-4-W5, M. Zaetz, O. Halin; O. W Hamilton.

NW 21-42-4-W5, Alfred Straarup; Frank Zurwell, Donald Bell bought this farm in about 1950. They have three daughters. Jocelynn, Mrs Gilles Lapierre, lives in Germany, Carlynn in Red Deer and Audrey at home

SW 21-42-4-W5, Leo Benson, G. Benson, K. Beebe

NE 20-42-4-W5, Ernest Jacobson, 1918; Ernest Bean A. and E. Thompson, Charles Repas

NW 20-42-4-W5, Little, 1918, Leo Benson, G Benson, K. Beebe

N½ 19-42-4-W5, Eugene Tyndal, K. Knatiuk, Don Bryanton.

NW 20-42-4-W5, W S Thompson, Dave Thompson.

NW 23-42-4-W5, Herb Bauer

SW 23-42-4-W5, Frank Pike; Dave Johnson

SE 22-42-5-W5, L. P. Robinson, 1911; Ralph Pike

SW 22-42-5-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Archer, 1920; A Bauer

NE 22-42-5-W5, Mrs. E. Thompson, 1911; Albert Bauer

NW 22-42-5-W5, Mr and Mrs. Lush, 1913, E. J Mutzky

SW 21-42-5-W5, Maurice Beaugrand, 1918, Ward Makofka

NW 21-42-5-W5, B. Pigen, 1911, Emanuel Bauer, Ron Nystrom

SE 20-42-5-W5, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Patterson 1918, had a family of three girls. Jessie married Russell McClean. He is now deceased and she lives in Calgary. Elizabeth and Tiny Cody Bengston, Laverne Spicer

NE 15-42-4-W5, L. A. Eaton, 1922; Mr and Mrs. Brian; Ed Solberg

SE 15-42-4-W5, Russel Stewart, Cleo Price, Clarence Woods.

SW 15-42-4-W5, Frank Fox, Jim Lukocs.

NW 15-42-4-W5, Bob Fox, K. Washkevich, P Washkevich.

NE 16-42-4-W5, Bert Archer, 1907, Jess Headlee, 1918; Wendelbow; Norman Benson, Tony Kriz; Keith Beebe.

NW 16-42-4-W5, Leo Benson, 1905 Gordon Benson, Keith Beebe.

SE 16-42-4-W5, Frank Hallett, 1907, Josephine Simmons, 1909, Harley Belt, John Benson, Dewy Simmons; Ted Pimm, Tom Simmons.

SW 16-42-4-W5, Mark Lampman, 1907, Harvard Nelson, Ed Hobeck, John Walters.

NE 17-42-4-W5, Jim Lukocs, 1930.

SE 17-42-4-W5, Ernest Bean, 1926, A. J Engebretson, Herman Lowe; Vidor Repas, Karl Hendricksen; Dave Morgan.

W½ 17-42-4-W5, Mike Tirpak, Ed Jestin, Cliff Luft

SE 18-42-4-W5, M. Repas.

SW 18-42-4-W5, Ben Terlotti, Percy Strous.

SE 13-42-5-W5, Fred Rattone, Len Bauer

SE 14-42-5-W5, Henry Chabot, 1918; Bill Withers; Jerry Albach

NE 15-42-5-W5, Frank Pike, 1920.

NE 16-42-5-W5, A. Munson, 1911; John Makofka

SE 16-42-5-W5, Jim Smith, 1912.

NW 16-42-5-W5, Bob and Bill Mann, 1925, John Makofka

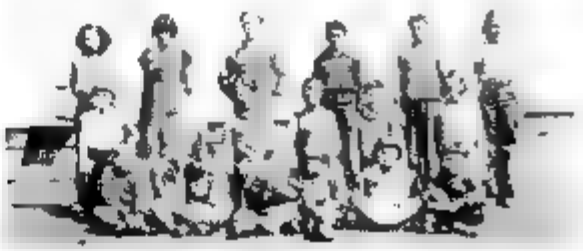
SW 16-42-5-W5, E York, 1918; Melvin Lowe, H Gibson.

Mount View Ball team - 1948 - Clarence Hobeck, Dick Northcott, Kingsley Northcott, Gilman Benson, Willie Thompson, Darcy Clayton, Claude Benson - there were two Cooper boys missing Evan and George.

**MOUNT VIEW SCHOOL**

This school was built in 1921 and opened in about 1924. The following are most of the teachers that taught in the school, Their names are not necessarily in proper order. Cecil Gowland, Ruth Walker, Cecil Brandvold, Barbara Tona, Stan McGee, Arthur Cumberland, Edna Hall, Kay Belerbach, Bernice Simmons, Joan Lawson, T Sheridan, Mrs. Freckelton, Arthur Gabriel, Duncan Layton, Victor Wenters, Jean Moore, Pearl Kroening, Viola Edgerton, Ruth Wright, Chester Dahms, Mrs. Ewart Brown.

Mount View - Allan Thompson, Brian Repas, Evelyn Bryanton, Joe Hamilton, Annie Tirpak, Shirley Repas, Faye Bryanton, Ken Hamilton, Marlene Bryanton, Sandra Thompson, little Leslie Bryanton. Betty Tirpak on horse at right Isabella Thompson on horse. T Sheridan, teacher



Mount View School June 1934. Back row, l. to r: Violet Bell, Catherine Cooper, Melvin Benson, George Jensen, Bill Perkins, Jessie Barwick. Second row: Kathleen Barwick, Cecil Pimm, Philip Skow, David Thompson, Archie Pimm, Lillian Bell Front row: Jesse Benson, Albert Bowell, Norman Benson, Gordon Bell, Mary Zaetz, Donald Bell - not shown was teacher, Victor Winters

**NICKLE, STAN AND FAMILY — by Mary Saunders**

On April 1, 1939 Stan Nickle, accompanied by a former trapping partner, Charlie Perry moved Stan's worldly belongings in two 1929 Chevrolet cars to the former Bing Engebretson homestead, NW 6-43-4-W5. They proceeded to make the one room log house liveable for Stan s wife, Mary, and their one year old daughter, Betty to arrive two weeks later

While on NW 6, Stan worked for the County running cat building roads. Actually, it was the Municipal District of Last West at that time. He also went trapping on his registered trap line bordering on the Banff Park boundary Because he was this type of rustler, his increasing family was well provided for and he soon had title to this quarter of land.

By the summer of 1949 the family consisted of five children — Betty, Gail, Jim, Doris, and Ken In August of that year we moved to NW 31-42-4-W5 which my dad, Ray Newton, had bought from Bill McKinnon. We rented it from him until buying it in the fall of 1956. Stan no longer worked out, but devoted full time to mixed farming raising grain, cattle and pigs

The family was completed in May 1953 when Norma was born.

Betty married Eric Gray of Leedale. Eric works as heavy equipment operator and welder for Revelstoke. They also farm in the Carlon district They had four children — Linda, Darlene, David and Tina. They lost Darlene at the age of fourteen and a half in a car accident

Gail married Murray Rathwell of the Willesden Green District. Murray has worked for Calgary Power and heavy equipment operator for the county. He is presently working for Amerada and farms in the Meadowvale district. Gail has taught for several years in Rimbey. They have two daughters — Sheila and Laura.

Jim is a heavy duty mechanic He is employed by R Angus of Lethbridge. He married Sharon Hoag of Rimbey They live at Coaldale, Alberta. They have two children — Leanne and Stanley

Doris married Jim Booth, a plumber from Rimbey. Jim has worked several years for the government at Nordegg and Camrose. They live at New Norway. They have three daughters — Barbara, Carolyn, and Catherine.

Ken is a pressure welder He married Donna Ervin of the Aurora district. They live at Fort Saskatchewan and he commutes to Edmonton where he is employed. They have two sons, Rodney and Randy

Both boys worked as heavy equipment operators building roads in the far north

Norma married Rodney Hamula, an electrician from Calmar. They live at Rocky Mountain House where Rod is employed by Sparrow Electric. They have two children, Michael and Marcia

In November 1971 Stan lost his life in a tragic hunting accident.

In the spring of 1972, Mary rented the farm and had an auction sale of the machinery Later the farm was sold to Ronald and Shirley Dyck

Mary moved to Rimbey and worked at the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital for five years. She bought a home there and still resides there

In November 1975 Mary married Bill Saunders of Rimbey, formerly of the Willesden Green District

The family all inherited their dad's grit and are all determined to make good homes for their families.

**THE PIKE FAMILY**

Frank Pike was born on the family farm in the Lockart district, where the old home still stands. His parents Frank and Josephine Pike were from Nebraska, U.S.A., having moved there in 1901. They raised a family of seven children, Frank being the tallest of the lot

Marjorie Withers was born in the Medicine Valley district just a few minutes before brother Bill arrived. There were two other sisters and one more brother to complete the household. Her parents William A. and Harriet Withers had moved from Kings County, Nova Scotia in 1908 Later moving to the Beaconsfield district in about 1930 or 31 to what is now known as the Asbach farm

Frank and Marjorie, as years went by, met and decided to tie the knot in 1930. In 1931, they homesteaded on the SW-23-42-5-W5, and built their home there. Those were lean years and Frank 'brought home the bacon by cutting posts and selling them, trapping in southern Alberta, stooking and hauling grain and anything that would bring in a few dollars. Much of his time was spent working in the sawmills also. He bought Henry Bishops' mill in 1946 and they moved 'lock, stock and barrel' to the Faraway district where they sawmilled for a couple of years, then in 1948 or 49. sold the mill to Hulberg Bros.

Frank was a licensed steam engineer and worked as boilerman in mills and later on in the oilfields. At one time they lived in Rimbey and Frank worked for Davis Bros. Garage and Marjorie worked in The Downe Inn as cook

They raised a family of seven children, most of whom still reside in Central Alberta. They moved away several times but always came back to the "Homestead" Most of the moves were made to get schooling for the family, as the Beaconsfield School which had been located on their place, had been closed down some years before

Their home on the farm was a popular stopping place for the people travelling to and from the Faraway district, as there was always an extra plate or two for the table and a place to feed the horses Later on when motor vehicles became the mode of transportation, if that broke

down, Frank soon had it fixed up for you and you went happily on your way

Marjorie could make up a mean batch of biscuits, and a meal in a hurry and then they would proceed to whip the pants off their visitors at whist or smear

In 1972, they sold the farm and retired to Rocky Mountain House. Frank still does a little carpentry but just as a hobby now, to pass the time, and Marjorie has taken up bowling. They enjoy travelling short distances, but two or three times a year they drive up to the Peace River area where two of the girls and their families live

The boys learned a wealth of information from "PA" in mechanics and sawmilling

That wasn't all they learned either, they were full of pranks. Once when the folks were away to Red Deer for a day everyone got their heads together and decided to pull a few tricks on them They came up with what they thought was a good idea. They got a lot of string and a cowbell and set up an intricate system controlled from an upstairs window. There was a string attached to a piece of wood to resemble a knock on the door, another to slam the yard gate and one to ring the cow bell. The folks got home and retired for the night, so then the strings started to work, out of bed came Frank but there was no one at the door, so he went back to bed. Knock, knock, again no one, so after a few more gate slammings and cow bell ringings he lost his cool and grabbed the shotgun. Thinking of the tractor facing the house, the kids decided to "fess" up while the tractor still had a radiator

Then there was the time they stuffed a suit of "Stanfields" and hung them in the outer biffy but decided to tell Ma so she wouldn't get too scared, but stood peering out the window when Pa made a bee-line down the path and opened the door and pulled back his arm to punch the "character" occupying the "one-holer"

**PERKINS — WILFRED AND FLORENCE**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perkins came to Canada from England after World War I. Mr. Perkins was a war veteran and they settled on the SE 22-42-4-W5 where they farmed for several years

He was the first secretary of the Mount View school. His salary was three to five dollars a year and most of his writing paper was the backs of old calenders.

They had one son, William.

In 1935 they sold out and moved to Victoria, B.C. where they have lived until passing

Mrs. Perkins who was born in Birmingham, England, died in 1950

William lives in Esquimalt, B.C.

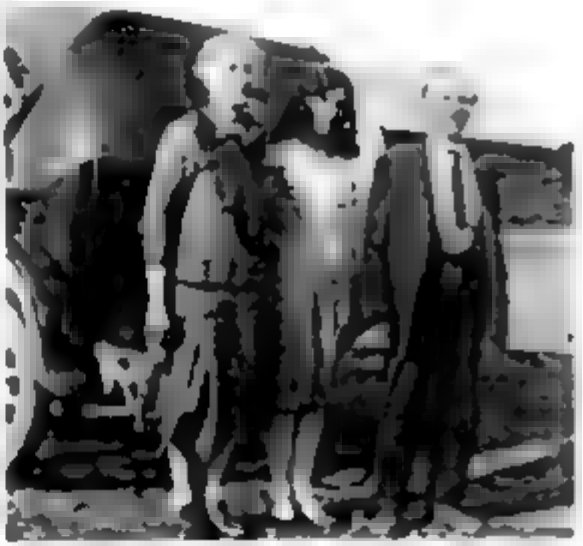
**RAMBLINGS — by Amelia Thompson, Ben (Urbano) Terlotti**

On May 6, 1906; Ben (Urbano) Terlotti and Nina (Caterina) Rattone were united in marriage in Valduggia, Italy. After the birth of a stillborn child, Mrs. Terlotti was in very poor health

One year later Ben came to the United States with some cousins. He worked in the coal mines in Burke, Idaho and Coeur d'Alene, first as a miner, then as a machinist. Later he was joined by his wife and in 1910 moved to the Leedale district, then known as Wittenburg, store and post office, operated by Mr. Paul Brodersen and his family

The Terlotti's homesteaded on the NW 12-42-5 W5, but bought a quarter of South African Scrip which proved to be muskeg and part of Lake 18 with no dry land to build a house on. Then the SW 18-42-4-W5 was purchased and here a log cabin was built with a sod roof. Later a four room log house was built with a tar paper roof. A terrific hailstorm came along and turned said roof into a sieve-like apparatus and shingles were purchased and quickly nailed on between showers. Later a frame house was built and is now occupied by Percy Sirois and family

A daughter, Amelia, was born in 1911 and a son in 1918 passed away at birth



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Terlotti with daughter, Amelia

The nearest railway station at the time was Lacombe and the only transportation was by team and wagon. The trip took at least two days and sometimes three days.

In 1949 Ben suffered a stroke and he was no longer able to farm. In the early 1950's he and his wife moved into a small house east of the creamery in Rimbey. Allan Gregg now owns the house

Mrs. Terlotti passed away Nov. 6, 1964. Mr Terlotti then lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Sandy and Amelia Thompson, where Amelia still lives, until his passing July 8, 1969, just 12 days before his 90th birthday. They were a very friendly couple and very well liked by all.

Fred Reisner, W.S. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Terlotti

**BEACONSFIELD**

While the Terlotti's still lived on the farm, a school district (Beaconsfield School District number 3828) was formed by school inspector F G. Buchanan. Ben became secretary-treasurer of the district. School opened on May 16th, 1920 with eight pupils — seven girls and one boy. A permit teacher (grade nine student) was in charge of the class. The school was held in a little log shack where a young newly married couple named Walter Barker had lived for a short time, SW 23-42-5-W5. The floor had lovely wide cracks in it where our pencils (often helped by a toe, when teacher wasn't looking) easily slipped down into the cellar (just a hole). When no more pencils were available the cellar door was opened and the pencils retrieved, and the "fun" started all over again. It was such a good excuse not to work because no one could work without a pencil!

School ran for four months and I don't know whether the district ran out of money or the teacher, Mark Mann, had to return to classes but the school closed. It was reopened the following spring with another permit teacher, Dudley F Pegreen in charge. School remained open for five months this time, then as most of the pupils moved away it was closed permanently.

The pupils came from varying distances — one fifteen years old girl rode a pony. On the first day of school, May 16th, 1920 the snow was up to the horse's belly when it was tied up in front of the school. This was the year of the long hard winter when snow came on the 1st of October 1919 and remained until the following spring of 1920.

Many cattle died that year and many calves died with goitre. Feed was terribly scarce, a high price had to be paid for it and it had to be hauled from long distances with a team and rack. The crops in 1920 were very heavy and good which made up for the terrible winter.

The Patterson girls also came to Beaconsfield school and lived near where John Makofka now lives. Jessie Patterson later became Mrs. Russel MacLean — sister-in-law to Mrs. Jack Beatty and had three sons — Clifford, Eddie and Don. Jessie's two sisters were Christina (Tina) and Elizabeth (Lizzie). A baby boy died at about one year of age and is buried at Leedale cemetery. Their dad's name was Robert but was known as Bob. These people were Scottish.

Two of Henry and Laura Chabott's daughters, Ernestine and Annette, also attended Beaconsfield school. Ernestine married Joe O'Hara and had five girls. She passed away twenty-two or more years ago and Joe passed away in 1968. Annette married Albert Kemmis and had a family of four boys and four girls. Her husband died in 1973, and she resides in Rimbey.

Roy attended the school in 1920 and Howard attended in 1921. They were the son's of Ephraim Everts whose wife was Hazel Lampman. The valley over the hills to the west of Leedale is called Lampman's Valley in her dad's honour.

**REYNOLDS — MILDRED AND THOMAS**

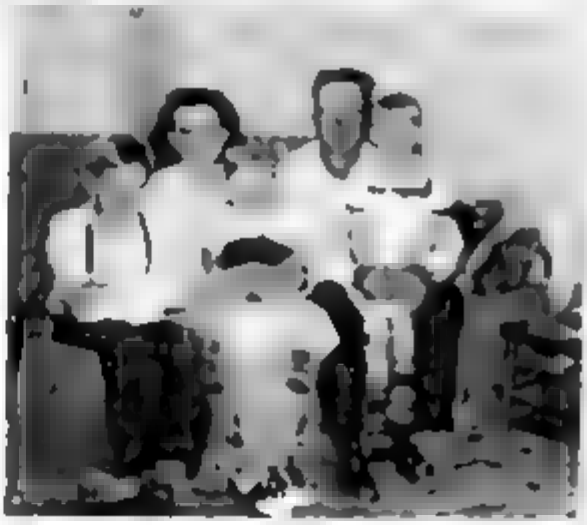
Thomas Reynolds was born in England in 1912 and came to Winnipeg, Manitoba as an infant. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to the area south of Calgary, where they resided in several different communities.

In 1931 the family moved from Cayley to the Meadow Vale District.

Thomas met Mildred Misner at a box social at the Mount View school. Mildred was born at Frontier, Saskatchewan in 1917 and had come to the Mount View District in 1936 with her father Clyde, mother Annie and brother Victor, in an old Model A.

Mildred recalls having to stop at every river, creek and mud puddle to refill the leaky radiator. Mildred's brothers Lester and Imar drove up with a team of horses and they all joined Ernest and Chester who had already settled in the Meadow Vale area.

Thomas and Mildred bought the NE 33-42-4-W5 just a mile north of the Mount View school.



Mildred and Tommy Reynolds with their children, Herb, Raymond and Agnes

During the next few years they were blessed with four children Herbert, Agnes, Raymond and Dorothy

Thomas died of polio in March of 1951 Mildred stayed on the farm with her four children until 1956 then the family moved to Cross Lake for four years but returned to the farm in 1960.

In 1961 Mildred married Henry Matson a local farmer, skilled carpenter and cabinet maker They live five miles south east of Rimbey

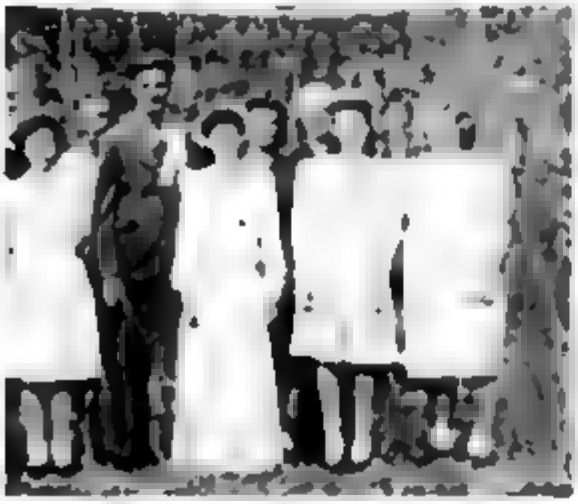
Mildred still owns the farm she and Thomas bought in 1939. It is now rented out, but when she has the occasion to visit it she remembers fondly, incidents of the early years. For example the time she saw Tom who was breaking land with an old John Deere, get off the tractor so mad at being stuck again, that he took off his hat, threw it on the ground and tramped on it. Or the time Raymond gathered the eggs, as he did everyday, put them in his breeche's pockets and then decided to jump on old Charlie, their faithful horse to take him back to the house, when he arrived the egg yolks were dripping down to his ankles

There was no well for the first three years, so all of the water used for washing and drinking was carried by pail all the way from the creek. One day Mildred was packing water for the bull and had just got to the corral when she slipped and fell spilling the water and there stood Tommy laughing his head off.

Herbert the oldest son was killed in a car accident in March 1970. Agnes Tiltgen the oldest daughter lives in Edmonton, Raymond the third child lives in Leduc and Dorothy Kulper the youngest lives near Redwater.

**ROBINSON, MR. LOUIS**

Louis Robinson, better known as L. P came to Alberta in 1911 and homesteaded the SE 22-42-5-W5, his mother owned the NE 22



Louis Robinson Family Evelyn and Archie Robinson, Rudy and Ethel Bohlender, Mrs. Bohlender Sr., Louis, Viola and Lucy Robinson - taken June 1, 1945 Lester Robinson missing from picture

L. P farmed in a small way but his main business was trading for furs from the Indians, such Indians as Josie Strawberry, Bremner Brothers, John O'Chiese and Yellow Face, to name a few early ones

In later years L. P was engaged in the bottle and scrap iron business in Eckville, Rimbey, Rocky and you name-it

He sold his business, which was located in Rimbey, to Keith Bland of Rimbey in 1975.

Louis married Lucy Gardner They have five children. Archie of Airdrie, Ethel Bohlender of Rimbey; Viola Jenson of Meadow Vale, Evy Brown of Valleyview, Lester of Leedale

L. P is now retired and lives in Rimbey

**THE SHULER AND STEWART FAMILY — by Mrs. E. Roberta Stewart**

During the depression or "Dirty Thirties" many people from the prairies moved to the north country and the bush, where they could grow a garden and raise feed for their animals. It rained there. Joe Stewart was one of these For three years he had been engaged to Roberta, the oldest Shuler girl, and never any money to get married. In 1933 he went looking for land. He found the Crandle place which had been standing idle for a number of years. According to the old timers the Crandles had a fight while building the new log house and she took the two kids and went back to Ontario, Where he went I don t know He had turned the place over to her One winter some folks by the name of Broadbent lived there. But now it was empty Joe bought it On New Year's Eve he and Roberta were married and the next spring, May 24, 1934, they moved to the place. Her father, Robert Shuler went with them to help.

In order to get free freight from the government they had to ship to Eckville and trek everything from there. Mr Shuler went with the cars to look after the animals and Roberta (Bertie) and Joe took a load in a truck

The Crandon house when Roberta, Joe and Mr Shuler moved there in May, 1934

Kenneth, the youngest Shuler boy, came out in August to help make hay. In October Mr Shuler went back and got the rest of his things and to bring Mrs. Shuler and the three girls, Mary Alice, Claire, and Irma. The older boys stayed to work in the salt mine at Alsask.

Those early days were hard but we were happy and enjoyed it all. The neighbors were wonderful and helpful too. There was free wood for the cutting out in the swamps, rails and fence posts. Rain to grow a garden and hay, and wild fruit in the bush. Joe went out to work in harvest and to the saw mill in winter. Joe took a homestead north and a bit west of the Cadman place. Then he turned the Crandle place over to Mr. Shuler, who paid out on it.

Larry was born December 1935 and in 1936 his father was killed as a result of an accident at Adam's mill. Bertie and Larry stayed with her folks on the farm until they sold it in 1949. That winter she spent in Alix and the next June moved to Red Deer with her folks where they had bought a little place to retire.

Kenneth died January 23, 1936.

Mr. Shuler passed on in 1959 just three months short of 80 years old. Mrs. Shuler passed on in 1965, just nine and one-half months over 81 years.

Roberta Stewart still lives on the Red Deer place. Larry married and has bought a farm one mile north of the Aurora school.

While in retirement many of the old neighbors from Meadow Vale came to call on them. One afternoon after some of them had called and gone, Mr. Shuler went into the living room to read his paper. Pretty soon Mrs. finished washing her cups and saucers and she too went in there to sit in her rocking chair. The sun was shining in through her plants in the west window making shadowy pictures on her arm and then reaching over to the foot stool where Mr. had his feet propped up, while he read his paper. She sat in silence for a while then said "You know those people back there at the farm were a pretty good bunch, don't you know."

"Yes, you'd have to go a long way to find any better, that's for sure." he answered.

It reminds me of the song that was so popular about the time we moved down here."

"What song?"

"Oh, you know, 'Those Dear Hearts and Gentle People, That Live And Love in my Home Town'. I don't know who wrote it, but it sure describes it and it has such a haunting melody, too."

"That's right. It does. Say isn't that what's on the radio right now?"

They listened for a while, then Mr. Shuler picked up his paper to read and Mrs. Shuler began thinking of all the neighborhoods they had lived in, but in particular the one they had recently left, Meadow Vale.

Their home was situated on the west branch of the Medicine River. They called it a river even though you could step across it where it came out of the Medicine Lake. Down by their house it was wider and as crooked as it could be, winding back and forth. Some of the loops almost touching before it turned back again. The school kids had lots of fun there and occasionally caught a small jack fish in it. It wasn't a very big river to be sure but in the spring run off or a heavy rain fall it would go on the rampage, causing a bit of excitement and also spread out all over. It was like that when the men wanted to build Meadow Vale school. They had gone to the bush in the winter time, cut the logs, hauled them to the mill to be sawed for half. The women at home did their share too. They held bazaars and so forth to raise the money for the hardware, windows and doors. Now they didn't know how to get it across to where the school was to be built, and the lumber was already piled, ready, waiting.

Mr. Shuler being the chairman suggested they bring it to his place and float it across. So that is what was done. They made a raft of the shingles and doors, piled the other stuff on that, tied ropes to it and then pushed it out as far as they could wade. They then threw the ropes to the ones on the other side in the water. Thus they guided it across the river and didn't end up down river with the bridge that went out. So the school was built. Its purpose, a community centre, as well as a school.

Through her reverie she heard the strains, "They read the Good Book from Fri. till Monday. That's how the weekend goes."

At first there were no church services. Then one spring during the break up, Carl Ruff's baby took very sick. He was a beautiful, blue-eyed blonde, and eight months old. They had to take him 19 miles to town to the doctor. The roads were terrible. They went part way in a bobsleigh. Then at Bell's they borrowed a wagon to go the rest of the way.

The baby died on the way in. In fact, as they crossed our meadow we saw the father get down under the blankets with the mother and baby. We knew that it was all over. They had to go the rest of the way to town to get the death certificate from the doctor. They brought him back and buried him in a little cemetery just west of the school. The casket was made by a neighbor. The minister came out from town. The flowers were all hand made, but just as beautiful as any you could buy.

That started the people thinking so they asked the minister if he would hold services in the school. There was no real road past the Shuler's place, only a trail past, and across the swamp. If the weather was dry he could go all the way in the car, but if not, . . he came to the Shuler's and Mr. Shuler took him over with the team and wagon. Later the men got together and laid logs for a corduroy road on the road allowance. Later on, they sanded the road into Rimbey, so in wet weather they could get in with out so much trouble.

If the minister couldn't come himself he

would send some one else. One Sunday, as usual when he couldn't come, he sent a man who happened to be the shoemaker in town. He was a Scotchman and one of the finest men you'd want to meet. This particular Sunday was a hot day in August, in the afternoon. Someone had left the window open the night before and the school was full of those big, green headed horse flies. This man had his mouth opened wide as it would go, being a small one to begin with, and in popped one of those horse flies while he was singing. There sure was some sputtering and spitting for a few minutes. The younger girls nearly died laughing and trying not to. They didn't want him to see them laughing at him, or to laugh in church.

From time to time there were different ministers from different denominations who came to hold services in the school. Denomination doesn't count as long as they preach and live what the Bible says. Only one ever lived right in the neighborhood and even he had to leave after a while as he didn't get enough support to live and keep his family. People forget that the preacher has to be paid if he is going to serve them.

Harold and Lucille Bradford with Phyllis their adopted daughter. The only resident minister in Meadow Vale.

For a long time we didn't have any service until Cyril Brewer came up from Leedale. He was from the Free Methodist Church. He was a big man, with a greeting for all he met. He came rain or shine. If he couldn't get through with the car he came on horseback like the circuit riders of old.

"I got a dream I'll build there one day, with picket fence and rambling rose."

I will remember the day that I and the younger girls arrived there. Lloyd, our second son, drove us across country in a car, from the dried out prairies. Rob, Bertie and Joe had gone in the spring and we came in the fall. They had done some fixing but it was still a very desolate looking place. The next summer Bertie and I had vines growing over the house and gardens full of flowers, many of them given by neighbors, which made them more valuable. Rob and Bertie had planted spruce trees in the yard and Joe made a fence and went to the bush and got a tree in a spiral shape to grace the top of the turnstyle gate out front.

December 1, 1935, my first grandson was born, the snow was already three feet deep. On January 23, Kenneth, our youngest son died. He had gone out west and north with his friend, Wally Reynolds, to trap for the winter. He took appendicitis. Wally ran seven miles to get a team to take him to Adam's mill to get a car to take him in to Rimbey, another 50 miles. It was an old open model car and by the time they got him to the hospital he was so cold they put him in a bath tub of warm water for five hours before they operated. The appendix had burst. He lived three days and was gone.

David, our third son, came to stay with us that winter. Later he went away to work and when the war started he joined the navy, as did Lloyd.

Leroy, the oldest son, only came to visit but never live there. He was too old for the army so he joined the reserve police force.

Bertie's husband, Joe, was killed at the mill in 1938, she then stayed on with us and raised sheep.

"I feel so welcome each time that I return, that my happy heart keeps laughing like a crown."

Many of the neighbors were new comers too. It wasn't long till everyone knew everyone else and we had lots of enjoyment visiting and hearing the tales from the old timers.

Then we had a social get-together every month and chose up sides, with a chairman, to put on a program. Each side taking turns. Some of those programs were better than what we get now from professionals on TV. There were the Brown's with their music, Mrs. Brown and Willie Thompson with singing, Jerry Bell with his step dance or jig as we used to call it. The others all did their share too, in plays, songs recitations, or what have you. If they didn't they had to pay a forfeit.

Many are the scenes that passed before her eyes as she sat in her rocking chair with the setting sun shining through on her arm.

When sorrow struck the neighbors were all there to help, maybe only a smile or a hand shake, or the offer of a loan. But it all meant so much.

Ethel and Rob (Bobbie and Bobba) Shuler cutting Golden Wedding cake

When we left there to retire, many are the letters we got from them wishing we were back there, and on our golden wedding anniversay so many of them came all the way down here to wish us well.

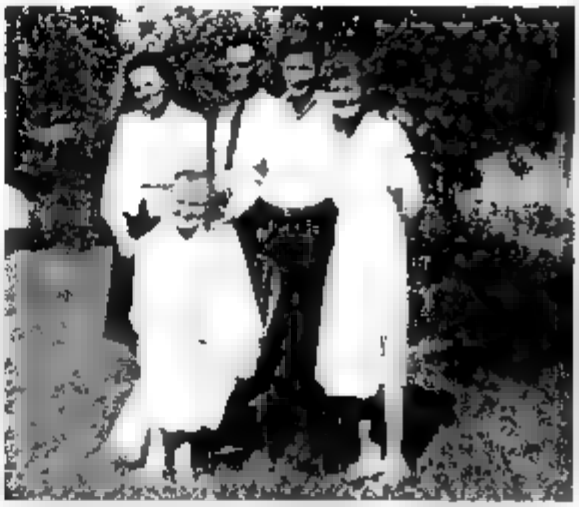
Is it any wonder that we forget the bad and remember the good in — "Those dear hearts and gentle people that live and love in my home town."

The strains of the music had long since died away and something more modern was on the radio, but Mrs. Shuler didn't hear it. Her mind was still back with her friends of yesteryear. The sun had set now and only the rosy glow of the sun set enveloped them as she sat in her rocking chair and he read his paper.

**SIMMONS, JOSEPHINE**

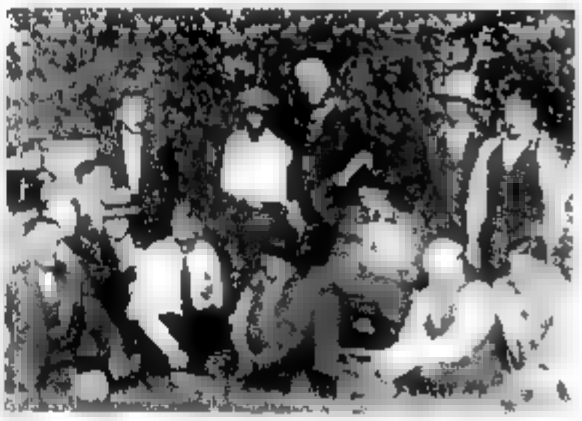
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Simmons and family moved to Seba Beach in the early 1900's from Minnesota, U.S.A. Joe Simmons worked on building railroad bed west around Seba Beach. Mr. Simmons and one daughter, Myrtle passed away there. Josephine Simmons and family moved to Viking for a time, then came to a farm at Wittenburg, the SE 16-42-4-W5, which she bought from Frank Hallet in 1909. They came from Lacombe in a lumber wagon with all their possessions. Her children were Carl, Jud, Ed, Agnes, Clara, Dewey and Tommy.

Carl was in World War I and was killed at Passchendaele.



Mrs. Josephine Simmons and family Clara, Ed, Tommy, Agnes, and Grandma Simmons

Mrs. Benson (on left) and Grandma Simmons.



Birthday party at Simmon's. Back row: Frank Fox, Bing Engebretson, Frank Johnsman, J.A. Barwick. Mike Tirpak, Sitting front: A.B. Haarstad, Willie Thompson, Herman Lowe, Pete Fraser, Fred Rattone, Geo. Hamilton, Leo Beason, Bert Wragg. taken mid 1940's

Jud married Elva Frizzell. He passed away at Seba Beach about 1915

Ed owned a farm, SW 16-42-4-W5, he was noted for his hunting and horsemanship and was good on the violin. He had one son, Clarence. Ed passed away in June 1971 at the age of 88.

Agnes, Mrs. George Cummings, had three children, Charles, Myrtle and Georgia. Agnes passed away in February 1973.

Clara, Mrs. A. Haarstad, had one daughter, Jean. Clara presently lives in Lacombe

Dewey married Beatrice Pimm. They had four children, Alice, Lois, Bob and Alfred. They lived at Three Hills for three years, then moved to Fort St John. Dewey passed away in 1936.

Tommy married Ethel Patton. They had three children, Bernice, Carl and Jody. They lived in the Peace River area for a time, then on his mother's farm for a few years, then moved to Lardeau, B.C. Tommy passed away in 1962 at the age of 60.

Mrs. Josephine (Grandma) Simmons was a kind woman and willingly helped many neighbors where there was sickness. She also helped Dr S. J. N. Byers in many cases and was also midwife to many women on the arrival of their babies.

**SIMPSON, MR. AND MRS. FOSTER**

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Simpson were our first rural route mail drivers west of Rimbey in the 1930's. Matt Kennedy drove for them

The route was 12 miles west of Rimbey, south east to Leedale, past Benjamin School and back to Rimbey, a distance of over 40 miles by team and buggy

Mail Route at 12 mile corner L. to R. Joe Lupfer, W S Thompson, Jessie Barwick, Violet Bell, Kathleen Barwick, (on horses) Claire Shuler, Alf Bird and Archie Cooper

**SKOW, MR. AND MRS. MODS**

Mr. and Mrs. Skow came to this district in the spring of 1929 from Rosebud and settled on the SE 5-43-4-W5, where they farmed for several years. They had a threshing machine and did custom threshing for many years

Mr. and Mrs. Skow had a family of four boys and one girl. Harvey lives at Stettler, Karen in Calgary, Mognes in Denmark, Peder in Edmonton and Philip at Brownfield.

Peder Skow - 1930

Mr. and Mrs. Skow and son, Harvey

Mrs. Skow passed away in 1952 and Mr. Skow in 1953. The farm was later sold to Mr. and Mrs. R. Youb.

**STRAARUP, MARY AND ALFRED — by Mary Straarup**

In 1928, Alfred came from Denmark along with my brother, Pete Hougard to the Camrose district. They both worked on farms in the area. In 1929, I joined Alfred, who was working on a farm in the Killam district. I also stayed there a few months

In 1930 we were married at Athabasca and along with Pete, we purchased a half section at Ellscott. Tom was born at Athabasca. Pete kept this land and in 1931, we moved to the Leedale district to what was known as the Mullback

place, now owned by the Armstrong's. Two of our daughters were born here, Anna and Ellen.

In 1934, we bought a C.P.R. quarter in the Last West district. This place is now owned by Donald Bell. Our youngest daughter, Agnes was born there.

Times were hard and I thought it was the end of the world, so we decided to sell out and go back to Denmark. In the fall of 1938 we had a sale and headed for home. We had only been in Denmark a short while when we started longing for Canada and the wide open spaces.

In the meantime, Agnes had become ill and was unable to travel. By the time she was well again, war had broken out and no one was allowed to travel out of the country. Ken, our youngest son, was born in Denmark.

Our dream was to return to Canada and in 1946, as soon as the war ended, we set out. We were the first family from Denmark to land at New York.

We came to Rimbey in the fall of 1946, to the place owned by Mr. O. B. Moore, one mile west of Rimbey. We were very happy to be back and to see all our old neighbors again. We lived on this place till 1950. We then bought a half section, three and one half miles south of Bluffton. We farmed there till 1964, when we retired to Rimbey.

We have five children, all living in Alberta. Tom works at Black Diamond but makes his home in Rimbey, Anna (Mrs. H. Perry) at Ponoka, Ellen (Mrs. R. McManus) at Edmonton, Agnes (Mrs. C. Lundstrom) at Hoadley and Ken married the former Lucille Brown of Drayton Valley and lives at Camrose. We have 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**SWANSON, ANDREW**

Andrew Swanson was born in Sweden, he came to this country from North Dakota in 1903, settled first in the Bentley district, and a year later moved to a homestead west of Rimbey NW 4-43-4-W5, where he farmed and milked cows. He passed away in 1941 at the age of 71.

Andrew Swanson 1930.

**THOMPSON, ALEXANDER MIDDLETON (SANDY)**

Sixteen year old Alexander and his father came to Canada from Scotland when Mr. Thompson returned from World War One. Sandy's mother had died some eight years before, leaving himself, one sister and two brothers motherless.

Sandy and Amelia Thompson on their Wedding day

In 1933 Sandy and Amelia Terlotti were married. Amelia had also attended Beaconsfield school and Leedale school. They farmed the NE 20-42-5-W5 where his brother David and family now live. Sandy and Amelia had four daughters, Betty, Freda, Isabella and Sandra. Betty married Robert A. Smith, a carpenter from

The Sandy Thompson family. Sandy and Amelia with daughters, Betty, Freda, and Sandra.

Dapp, Alberta. They live at number two Sherwood Crescent, Red Deer and have a family of four, three daughters and one son. Freda married Robert (Bob) Mayner and they lived on his father's (Henry Mayner) farm. Bob worked at the Rimbey Gas Plant. In 1969 they moved to Valleyview and later to Fox Creek where Bob works for the Bay Gas Plant. Their family consists of three girls and two boys. Isabella trained at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. In 1965 she married Paul Blair Nestransky from Saskatchewan. He is now teaching in Red Deer and they have two children, a boy and girl. Sandra married Ernest Huss from east and south of Rimbey near Gull Lake. They lived in Rimbey, several years in Calgary and now reside in Sylvan Lake. Ernie works mostly in Red Deer with Adal Excavating. They have two daughters.

Sandy worked for the Prairie Farm Assistance for many years. In 1953 he became Secretary of the Rimbey General Hospital where he remained for eleven years. He then became involved with the Prairie Farm Assistance again until his passing in September 1971. Sandy and Amelia moved to Rimbey in 1962 and she still resides at 5133-51st Avenue, Rimbey.

**THOMPSON, WILLIAM C. STORY**

My parents and I came to Calgary, Alberta in 1912 from Bonners on Windermere, England, I was two years old.

Mother ran a rooming house and dad worked on ranches and mines.

In 1918 and 1919 my father homesteaded the NW 28-42-4-W5, where I still live with my son, Jerry, making third generation on this farm.

When my parents came, they shipped their belongings to Kootuk (Eckville) by rail. From then on by way on trail only — by Gilby and Leedale.

I received most of my schooling at Leedale, five and one-half miles horseback. My first teacher was Mrs. C. D. Aldridge and my last was Mr. Jones. One day in the spring he said to the class, 'Let us do something we may be remembered by!' His idea was to plant two rows of trees, spruce and pine, and with the aid of Mr. R. R. Hayward and Mr. Rene Durand, they were brought and planted. Each of the bigger children had two trees he or she had to water each day until they were well started. Mr. E. Solberg has made the old school into a nice home and the trees are quite tall and much cherished by the old pupils.

There are a few memos I would like to mention — The first threshing machine I ever saw was on our farm, it belonged to William Perodgo of Lavesta, it was mounted on two wagons, the separator was all wood, and it was fed part of a bundle at a time. It was run by a 12 horse stationary engine. It took all day to thresh 100 bushels.

In the 30's I took 12 fat pigs to Rimbey on two sleighs, — trailed one sleigh, — and I received $36 for the lot. They were $1.50 per hundredweight at that time.

The Thompsons, William C., Elizabeth, and William C. Jr. in mid Atlantic trip to England - 1919

Willie Thompson, on his saddle pony, crossing the narrows of Medicine Lake

My father had a share of ups and downs when he started to homestead. He bought three cows and a big team of Clyde horses. In the spring of 1920, two cows drowned in a beaver dam — and one horse rolled in the barn and couldn't get up, so he died too.

In the early days the Indians held sun-dances in our area, one was about a mile from home — we could hear the drums away into the night. They usually built a shelter of trees and branches. They would gather from many tribes for a week before the dance, and the dance would last about a week. They had many horses with them as that was the only way of travel — they

usually had many dogs too. I understand they did a lot of horse trading as well.

My dad passed away in 1948 and Mother in 1952

I married Jessie Bell in 1939 We have three sons and one daughter

Bill is married and lives in Toronto

Jerry is married and lives on the home farm.

Allan lives in Edmonton, and Dianne works in Fort Nelson.

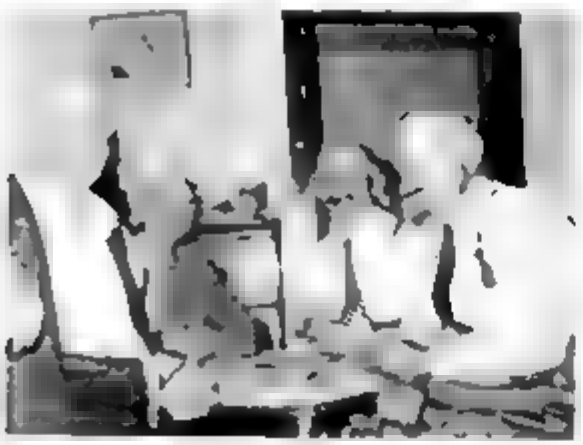
**THOMPSON, W. S. AND M. E.**

William S. and Mary E Thompson came to Canada in the early 1900's from Scotland and England. Were married in Lethbridge in 1913. W S. had a grocery store there until he joined the army to fight in the First World War After the war they moved to Calgary with son, Alex (Sandy) where they worked until 1920

In 1920 they bought a farm twelve and one half miles west of Rimbey. At the time there were no roads and very few bridges. A trip to town was a two day project

W S. was secretary treasurer of the Last West Municipal District for a few years in the 1920's

Mr and Mrs. W.S. Thompson with grand-daughter, Donna 1950



Fred Ratzlaff, George Hamilton, Ben Turiotti, and William S Thompson

Son, David, was born in Rimbey in 1923. Sandy married Amelia Teriotti in 1933. They had four daughters. He died in 1971. David joined the army in 1942 and went through the Second World War. He married Jean Monts in 1956, there are three children, Donna, Barbra and Jack

W S. passed away in 1960 at the age of eighty seven.

Mary E passed away in 1968 at the age of eighty-three

David still farms the land his father settled on

**TIRPAK, MR. MIKE**

I came to Canada in 1927 from a small town in Hungary For six years I travelled and worked in various places in Alberta. First job was clearing land for 18 cents a day I bought W½17-42-4 W5 in 1933, 14 miles west of Rimbey. Down payment was $25. at five dollars an acre over 20 years to pay for it. I cleared some land and built myself a log cabin. With a team of horses I hauled tamarack posts to town to sell to the early settlers, or trade for seed grain or meat. Things were going well so I sent for my girl friend, Annie Spisak, in Hungary I sent her fare and passport and she arrived here in December 1938. We were married December 27, 1938. Though we spoke little English we made good friends and neighbors. We built a larger house and raised our five children Mary, Mrs. Rodger Thomas, Camrose; Betty, Mrs. Terry Freeman, High Level, Annie, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Edmonton Frank, married, lives in Red Deer and Danny at home. We have eight grandchildren. We sold our farm in 1972 and are now retiring in Rimbey

**TYNDALL, EUGENE AND CARRIE — by Howard Tyndall**

Mother and Dad were both born at Fosston, Minnesota, United States of America. Dad's people moved to Cudworth, Saskatchewan in 1903. In 1917 they bought land and moved to Okotoks, Alberta

Mother's folks (Fred and Hattie Park) came up to the Nanton area in 1904 and homesteaded in the foothill west of town. They later traded for land at Stavely. Grandma and Grandpa Park lived the rest of their lives on this section of land

Mom and Dad were married at Calgary on December 15th, 1920. I was born in the Cow-town on November 27th, 1924 and later finished my grade nine at Beaver Valley school at Stavely Grade ten by correspondence and my school days were over

We arrived in Rimbey in a wet spring snow storm on March 11th, 1942 and settled in the Mount View district, seven miles northwest of Leedale on the North half of 19-42-4-W5.

We came from Stavely (70 miles south of Calgary) in a beat-up Model A Ford with a little two-wheeled trailer with household effects

behind. A cattle car and a settler's effects car came in on the Peanut behind an old steam locomotive. Our cattle looked pretty sad in the snow in the stock yards. Later Dad and I took them up Rimbey's main street out to strawpiles at Tarrabain's farm just north of town. (The snow was gone when we left the Porcupine Hills)

That first summer at Mount View was a busy one for the Tyndalls. A house was started, some land was cleared and sheds were put up.

We stacked over one hundred ton of hay for Jack Barwick for one-quarter share to get feed for the stock for the winter. Dad and I then went up to Fred Wager's farm and hayed till it snowed in October. I was so sick of haying I wished we were back on the prairies.

We left the Mount View district in 1958 and bought a farm at Homeglen, northeast of Rimbey. Dad died in 1966 and Mom passed away in 1967 after a long illness.

While we lived at Mount View I built a water-well drilling rig to drill a well at the barn. Thirty three years later I am still drilling wells in the Leedale — Rimbey area. Tyndall drilling is now the oldest drilling business in this area. A modern cable-tool rig had been added and there had been many changes in this trade.

My wife, Carole, and I were married in Lacombe in 1959 and still live on the old farm at Homeglen. Carole is the daughter of George (Doc) and Cora Allison of Rimbey. We were blessed with three girls. Dallas (married Russell Adams and has one son Darrell); Lila and Dixie are still at home.

I have many memories and many good friends from the early years out west, there was a community spirit then that is missing now, I wish we had it back.

## TRANSPORTATION

Oxen at Edgars

Mrs. F. Wingate riding side saddle on one of the first horses they owned 1919.

Mr. Hopkins with his mules.

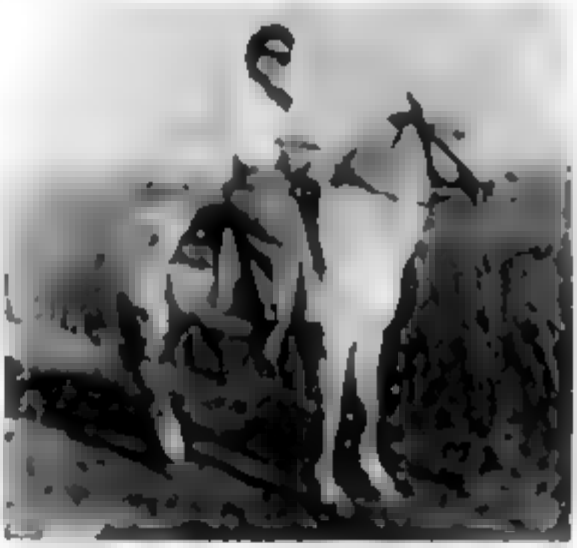
Allie and Ole Solberg. Courting days, 1919.

Lambale's First Bridge crew - about 1910

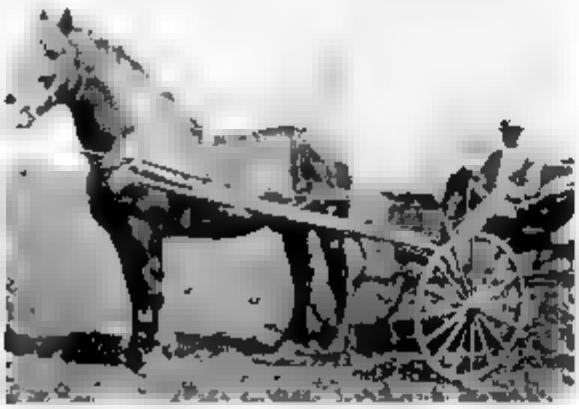
Good old days

Eckville's main street - showing Co-op store and drug store

Mary Johannsen's trick pony

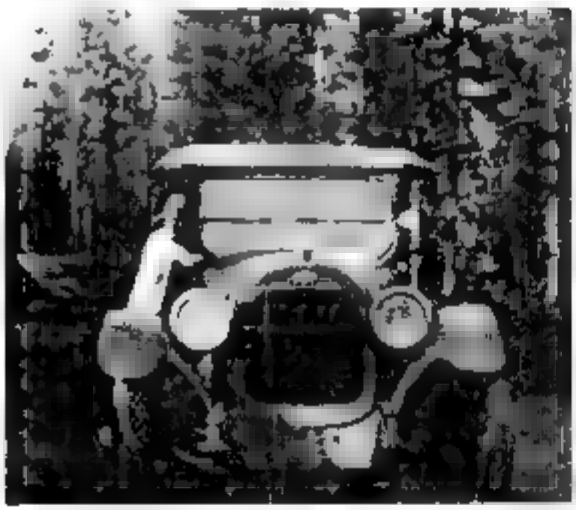


Harriet Baum Johannsen



Dick Thorkman with Percheron Stallion, Reg. no. 23933 (name Lanton) 1914

Orson, Bert, Orie, and Ethyl Archer 1916.



Bertha Molander, Baby Grand Chev 1921

Two-wheeled cart often used for transportation to school.

Auf Kilpatrick children and their dog, Chief

Carriage to cross Medicine River on Harley Belt farm at Leedale.

First car owned by A.B. Kouki. Eddy, Annie. Father, Elsie, Mother, Lempi and William.

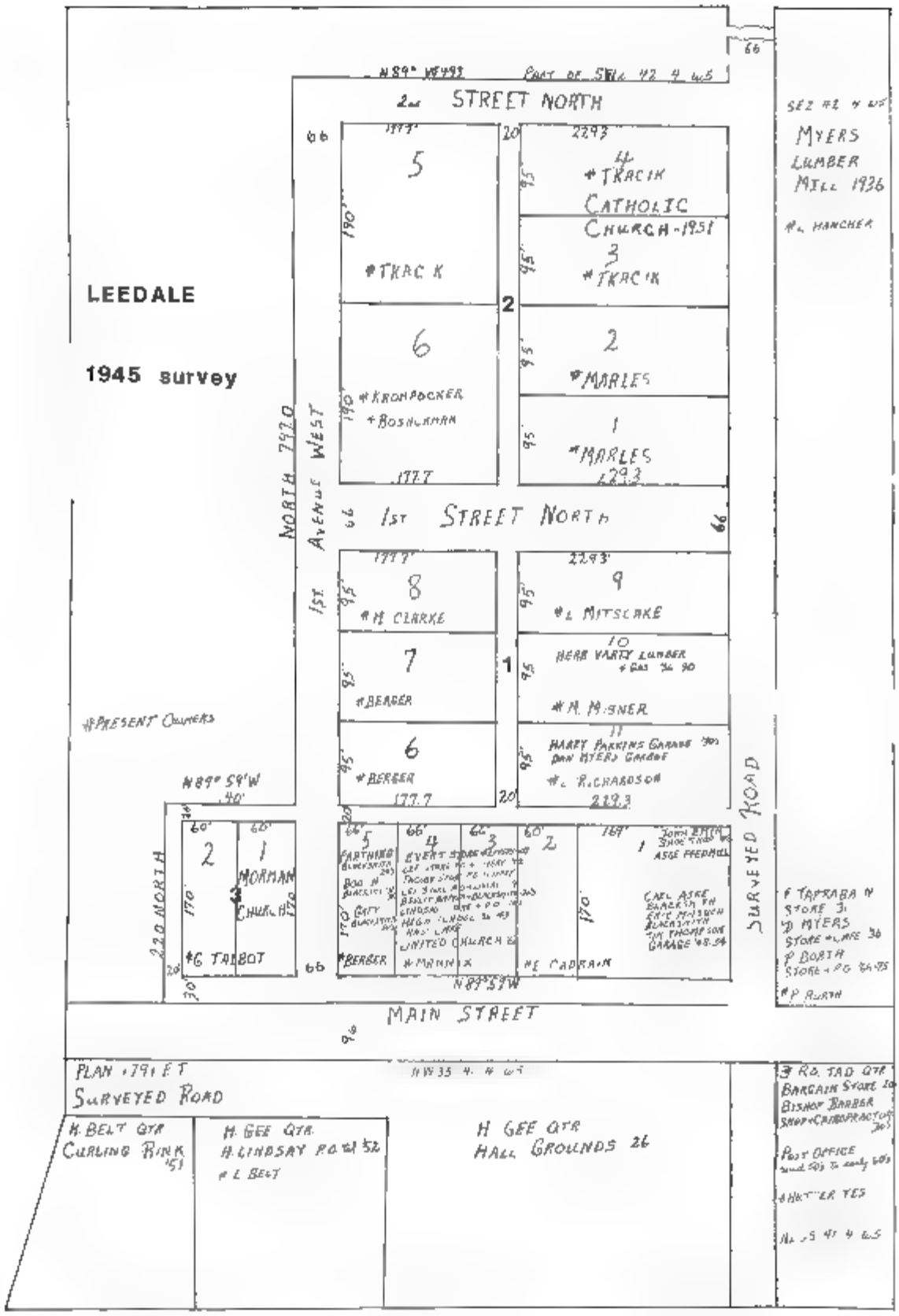
Alfred Kilpatrick and his team hauling two ton of timothy seed. 1943

The first snow car in the district Driver, Bert Archer with Mrs. Frank Hancher and two boys.

Model A Ford .926. Arvied Thorkman and Charles Thorkman.

Bill MacDonald's snowmobile used to deliver mail and for Dr Coppock's calls.

Ernest Viitala - modern school transportation


LEEDALE
1945 survey
2nd STREET NORTH
1st STREET NORTH
1st Avenue West
MAIN STREET
SURVEYED ROAD
MYERS LUMBER MILL 1936
#TRACK
CATHOLIC CHURCH-1951
#MARLES
#KROMPOCKER
#BOSHLAMAN
#BERGER
#H. CLARKE
#L. MITSCAKE
#M. MISNER
#PRESENT OWNERS
#G. TALBOT
MORMAN CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH
#L. RICHARDSON
#P. BURTH
#E. TAPRABA
#D. MYERS
#L. HANCHER
PLAN 1791 E.T.
Surveyed Road
H. BELT QTR
CURLING RINK
H. GEE QTR
H. LINDSAY
#L. BELT
H. GEE QTR
HALL GROUNDS 26
POST OFFICE

# Leedale

**WITTENBURG — LEEDALE — research by Carrol Mannix**

In 1902, ABRAHAM LINCOLN (LINK) BOYER from Valparaiso, Indiana and GERRY (GUY) FARROW from Mitchell, South Dakota came to the Medicine River Valley They cut a trail from the Fred Schrader homestead, south of Rimbey, to the Boyer homestead, SE 36-41 4-W5, one and one half miles east, one mile south of Leedale. They thought they had found wonderful cattle and horse range — but — the valley soon settled with homesteaders.

DOMINION LANDS.—SUB-AGENT'S RECEIPT

No. 84260 1826

Received from A. L. Boyer

Twenty five Cents ... Dollars

for Transfer Permit on S.E. 36-41-

3. W 5th

Number the Land is upon in Canty

Witness.

Sub-Agent.

TEMPORARY VOUCHER, WHICH MUST BE RETURNED AT ONCE STAMPED

In April 1903, MR AND MRS. PAUL BRODERSEN came from Jennings, Kansas, and in 1907 started the first post office and store. Mr Brodersen named the business, Wittenburg,

Mrs. Brodersen and Anna in front of building which was home, Post office, store and dance hall - Wittenburg.

A L. (Link) Boyer - one of the first to settle at Leedale (Wittenburg) 1902.

No. 7 May 2 1907

Received from Link Boyer of Rimby

the sum of Two Dollars ... Dollars,

being for Deed for on S.E.¼ 36.

N. E.¼ 25. W.¼ W. 5 m.

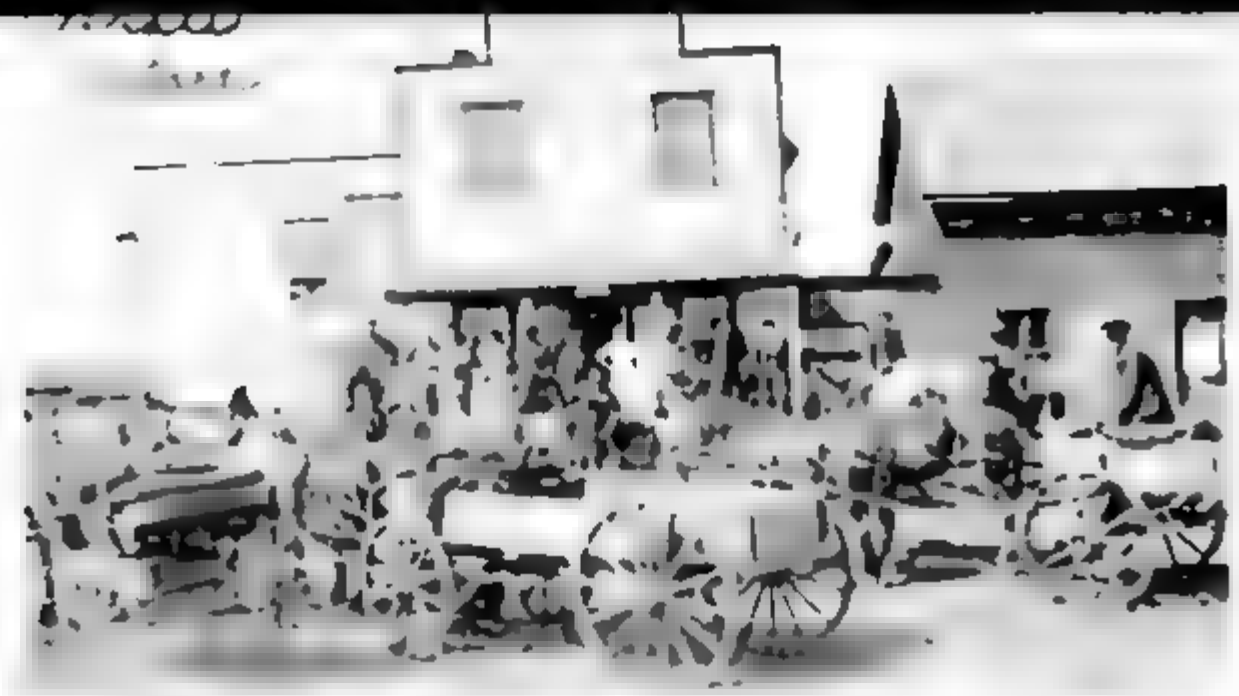
E. F. Dahl.

$ 2.00.

after his ancestral home in Denmark. He ran the post office and store until the end of the first World War

In 1904, WILLIAM, THOMAS AND CHARLES GARDNER homesteaded west of the Medicine River, W½ and NE 4-42-4-W5, and were the first to do so in this area. Tom and Bill lived there all their lives.

Wittenburg postal stamp



Leedale Store 1917

JAMES EVERT started a store in 1906 with his son, EPHRAIM EVERT'S home, and later built a large store one half mile south, on the town line, SW 2-42-4-W5. This he ran until 1912 when he sold to MRS. JOHN LEE and son's, FRANCIS AND WILLIAM. Mr and Mrs. Evert then moved to Washington. William (Bill) Lee ran the store and a livery stable until 1916 when he went to W W. 1. MR. AND MRS. MARQUIS (LAFE) FRIZZELL ran the business awhile during the war years then MR. AND MRS. HENRY JACOBS ran it until Bill took it over again after the war MR. FEENEY was a clerk and butcher for Bill after the war About this time Brodersen closed his store and the post office was moved to Lee's store. About 1925 the store was operated by MR. BEATTY of Rimbey and managed by RUSSELL MAC LEAN (Russell married Jessie Patterson.) PETER (EMIL) WEGREEN ran the livery barn and eating place

Mail and groceries were brought to Wittenburg from Lacombe, with some mail from Rimbey, unless you resided in Township 41, then your mail may have come from Eckville by team and wagon, driven by JOHN KEMILA, until May 1, 1923 when it was all changed to Rimbey RALPH JACOBS held the contract from May 1, 1923 to May 31, 1927

In late 1920's Mr Lee sold his business to MR. AND MRS. HUGH LINDSAY They ran both the store and post office until they closed the store and moved the post office across the street They continued to run the post office until 1952 when they retired to Calgary

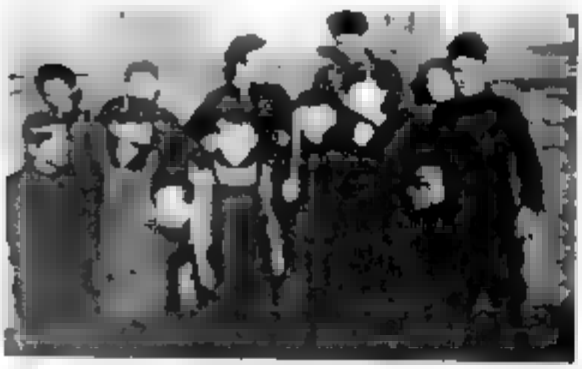
In 1907, the Wittenburg School was built and that saw the first Christmas entertainment in the valley. Mr. Craig was the first teacher. The students were GERALDINE CHINNECK Mrs. Leo Benson), ANNE SHOUPE (Mrs. Dave Evert), PHENA SHOUPE (Mrs. Mert Challand), AMANDA BRODERSEN (Mrs Robert McKenzie), BILL BRODERSEN, ERNIE AND DAVID EVERT, OLA MEREDITH (Mrs Chas. Andrew), JOE AND RUSSELL MEREDITH, MR. WASHBURN'S children and one child of MR. BECKER'S walked six miles from the Gimlet district to attend school School taxes were $10 per quarter and paid directly to the school board. A teacher's salary in 1915 was $525 plus room and board, which was supplied by anyone who could put them up for a month or two or a whole term. The teachers at Wittenburg Leedale were:

Mr. A. B. Craig, 1907-08, Mr Fallis, 1909, Mr Nicholson, 1913, Mr F. R. Riley, 1914, Miss Marie Rush, 1916, Miss Lockhart, 1917, Miss Rosa Carvetzel, 1917, Mrs. Nettie Aldridge, 1920, Miss Irene Hanahan, 1920; Mrs. L. A. Eaton, 1921, Miss I. L. Wilkinson, 1922, Mr H. B. Jones, 1923-24, Anna Brodersen, 1925, W J Watson,

A Birthday Card received by Mrs. Mantel at Leedale August 13, 1916

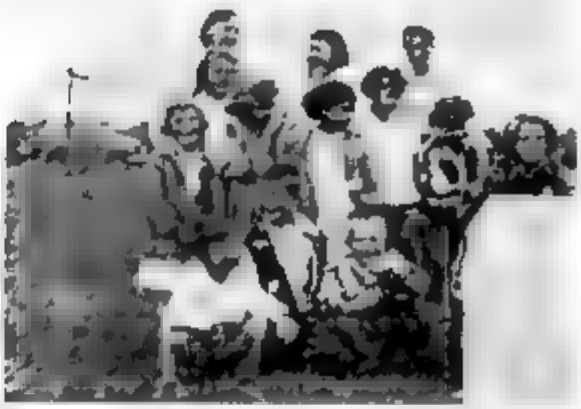
Lendale School House and Barn 1925

Lendale School 1924. The girls, back left to right, Tina Patterson, Amelia Teriotti, Thelma Challand, Lela Challand. Middle row Lizzie Patterson, Bertie Cumberland, Verna Benson, Fern Mulbeck, Ernestine Chabot Front: Mattie Wagreen, Annette Chabot, Elsie Thyssen.



Lendale School 1924. The boys back left to right: Walter Hayward, Claude Benson, Gilman Benson, Bob Hayward, Gilbert Challand. Front: unknown, unknown. Jesse Benson, Melvin Benson, Elmo Benson. Ronald Westlake

1926, Mr Kennedy, 1927; Alma B. Eritsland 1928-33, Miss Viola Ells 1934-35; John Hembry, 1936, Art Cumberland, 1937; Miss Phyllis Banyon, 1938, Ruth Berdine, 1939, Miss Viola Edgerington, 1940; Miss Elsie Merchell, 1941, Mrs. Violet Marsh, 1942-45; Mrs Florence Stewart, 1945-46, Raymond Saunders, 1946-50, Mr Yates, 1950; Mrs. Muddle, 1950; Mr Clare, 1951-52, Miss Florence Skoreiko, 1952-53; Mrs Kathleen McDonald, 1953-54, Miss Margie



Last students of Lendale School. Front left to right: Dwayne Ervin, Calvin Dahms, Leslie Belt. Second row: Judy Jevne, Katrina Tkacik. Shiela and Faye O'Hara, Barbara Dahms and Patsy Jevne, Dolores Belt, Nadia Wasilkevich, Carl Jevne Orva Olson teacher

Steeves (supervisor) 1954-55; Miss Orva Olson, 1955-56; Mrs. Willow McLeod, 1956-57, Mrs. Orva Tkacik, 1957-59

The school was closed and the children bused to Rumbey in 1959. Prior to the closing of the school there were many meetings to try and get a centralized school here. No agreement could be made between the three school districts involved, the County of Ponoka, the County of Lacombe and the Local Improvement District, so the idea was soon dropped and our children sent off in different directions to school. The school and property was sold to MR. AND MRS. EDWIN SOLDBERG, who have turned it into a lovely home

After the building of the school house in 1907, RICHARD SHOUPE began holding Free Methodist Church services and Sunday School in the building. Later a church was built across the road, northwest of the school.

Free Methodist Church Picnic 1930. Back left to right: Beatrice Challand, holding Maryin, Orris Challand, Cyril and Anna Brewer, Oscar Brown, Minnie Nugent, Lucile Lemieux, Alice Jevne, Grace Mason. Front left to right: Mrs. Rutledge, Mrs. Lusk, Esther Belt, Lavina Nichols, Doris Marcuse, Violet Belt holding Leslie, Zarola Visger, Bertha Brown.

Also in 1907 a company was formed, headed by MR. BRADSHAW, which built and opened the Wittenburg Creamery. It was located on Mr Bradshaw's, one half mile east and two miles south of Wittenburg. This business, managed by MR. LIGHT, produced butter and cheese until it closed in 1914.

Doctors were very difficult to get in the early years, for DR. HYNES had to come from Lacombe (40 miles) by team, and later DR BYERS SR by horse and cart from Rimbey (15 miles). There was a lot of pneumonia those early days.

Amusement and recreation were provided by picnics, dancing, ball games, horse racing and lots of visiting. If anyone wanted to visit outside the district and did not have their own transportation they often caught a ride to town with the mail carrier, then went by stagecoach or if from Lacombe, by train

In 1917 the people changed the name of the hamlet from Wittenburg to Leedale in honour of Bill Lee

In 1920's, MR. BEELEY a J P., operated a Barber Shop, was a clerk for Bill Lee and also ran the first blacksmith shop in Leedale

MR. BISHOP had a barber shop and was also a Chiropractor in the 1930's

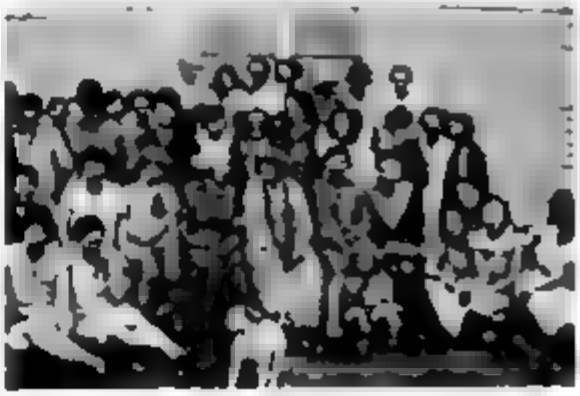
A blacksmith shop was opened by HARRY FARTHING in the late 1920's. It was later ran by JACK BOOTH and CARL ASKE bought it in 1937 ALBERT ADAMS ran the business for Mr Aske about 1944-45, then ERIC MASUCH had it until the early 50's EARL GRAY operated a blacksmith from his private garage from the mid 50's to the early 60's.

This is Grandpa Aske and George Reyns, the two Village Blacksmiths in Leedale, during a hard days work

There was a cemetery staked out in the hamlet in the early 1900's but the land was too low and wet so was abandoned. When the road was rebuilt about 1961 it was discovered that one person had been buried there A skeleton was lifted out with the dirt by an earth moving machine, being operated by Gilbert Hollingsworth. At first it was believed it was an Indian grave but after an investigation by the R.C.M.P., it was discovered a cemetery had been started there.

In 1921 the Bradshaw Cemetery Association was formed, with A. L. BOYER, Chairman and W. H. LEE, Sec.-treas. The cemetery was then registered with the Government of Alberta. It had been used prior to this time and records show the first buried there was Howard Bernard Belt, child of Mr and Mrs. H. B Belt, age one year eight months, November 5, 1915.

In 1921, the Women's Institute was organized with MRS. MARGARET (LOUIS) EATON as president. There were 30 members. It continued until about 1945

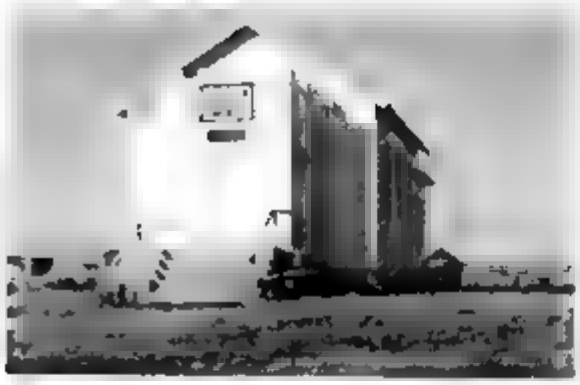


Leedale W.I. taken about 1930

FATHER HARRISON started the Catholic Church in the late 1920's and held service in the hall. The Church was built by FATHER MURPHY in 1951 and services were held there until about 1967 The Catholic Ladies Club was formed about 1946 with MRS. TRENHOLM, president, ERNISTINE O'HARA sec.-treas MRS PHIL MC TIGHE vice-pres with 16 members. It continued until the closing of the Church.

The Mormon Church was started by the ARCHER and HANCHER families and services were held in the community until the mid 1940's

GEORGE YOUNG held the first United Church service December 12, 1934 at the JOHNSMAN home. He also started a Sunday School and Young Peoples. Services over the years were held in the hall, the old store building, the Mormon Church and in 1962 the Free Methodist Church was purchased and moved to Leedale. A Women's Auxiliary to the United Church ran for several years but was discon-



Old Free Methodist Church after it was purchased and moved by the United Church

tinued in September 1967 as the Church was closed in August of that year. The Church has been sold and moved, and is presently Lee Hollingsworth's garage.

"AUNT" LOU CHALLAND operated a cafe and confectionary shop called the "Bargain Store" out of a building on the Rostad place in the mid 1920's. MRS. HASS ran a cafe from part of the old Lee store in the late 1930's. MRS. MYERS served dinners and ran a coffee counter in the back of their store in the late 30's and 40's.

The "Bargain Store" which was run by Lou Challand

In 1926-27, the Leedale Hall was built. Shares were sold at $10 a piece. MR. LOUIS GUTH was contracted to do the building, lumber was hauled in from VARTY'S MILL, rock was hauled from the land being cleared in the district to be cemented in for the foundation and in 1927 it was ready for use. Whole families came for the opening — the music (it is believed) was supplied by BING ENGEBRETSON and JENNIE WITHERS — there was still a debt to be paid off so the men were charged one dollar for the evening but the women and children were admitted free. The ladies supplied the lunch.

ROE HANCHER, MAY TAYLOR and CECIL (SLIM) PEARSON also had orchestras which supplied music for many dances those early years. ALMA ERITSLAND held the first Christmas concert in the hall in 1928 and put on the next five. There is still a concert held in the hall every Christmas, marking 50 years in 1978. Silent Movies were shown in the hall for a few years when it was first opened and movies were shown there again by JOE STEEN, in the early 1950's for a short time. A new hardwood floor was put down in the 1960's when the GLEN TAYLOR FAMILY orchestra was making good use of the hall.

About 1931, FRANK TARRABAIN built a new store, east of the old one, which he ran until selling to DAN MYERS in 1936. DAN MYERS JR. sold to PAUL BORTH in 1966 and it was closed and renovated into a house in 1975.

HERBERT VARTY operated a lumber yard and gas business which was open from 1936 to 1940.

Shortly after DAN MYERS came in 1936 to operate the store, he started a lumber mill. IVAN ADAMS ran this for him for several years.

HARRY PARKINS started a garage business

Old Store building converted to the Leedale High School

Leedale High School - 1938 39. Front row, left to right: Art Baldridge, Orris Challand, Layton Layton, Oliver Misner, Gordon Carroll. Second row: Aileen Upton, Gladys Beckett, Elva Visger Beatrice Brown, Katherine Gillespie, Fern Carmichael, Doris Pierson. Back. Jean Jackson, Bess Lindsay, Donna Belt, Ellen Hayward, Edna Iverson, Teacher Miss McNevin, Alberta Visger Floy Brown and Elsie Johnson

Part of Leedale 1940 L. to R. Mr Aske's blacksmith shop, Jim Thompson's Garage and Mr Myers' store

in the mid 1930's. Harry sold to MYERS and it was ran by ED BELT in the late 1930's

The High School opened in the old Lee store building in 1936 and closed in 1943. The teachers were Miss Helen Armstrong, Miss Isabel Hood. Mr James Demanchuck, Miss Kay McNevin. Mrs. Earl Stoilings.

JOHN EMIN, a shoemaker, had a shoe shop east of Mr Aske's blacksmith shop in the 1940's Being German, his family found it very hard during the war years. Later Mr. Aske bought the business and made it into a feed mill

In 1948 JIM THOMSON tore down the old feed mill and built a garage. He operated his business until 1954

When MR. AND MRS. LINDSAY retired from the post office in 1952, LEONA ADAMS ran it for a short time from a building set beside her father, Mr Myers's store. This building was moved across the road, south, when MRS BERYL (ED) ROBINSON took it over Mrs Robinson ran the post office until her retirement in 1967 when it was moved into the store once more, and ran by MRS. PAUL (BETTY) BORTH. The post office was closed about 1970 and Leedale patrons became R.R. 4, Rimbey

Plans to build a curling rink began with the forming of the Booster Club and in 1951 with HAROLD MASON, president, and BUD PARKS, secretary, building began. Ice was put in the rink in 1952 and the young people of the community had much fun skating. The first curling game was played in it in 1953

Leedale Curling Rink - 1952

Today, 1978, all that remains of this once busy hamlet is the curling rink, hall and four families

If, when reading the Leedale histories, you do not find the one you are looking for, please try Aurora, Benjamin, Gimlet, Midland or Mount View These six areas are very closely tied as Leedale was the store and post office for many people who lived in these surrounding areas.

Note Much of the above information taken from "Pas-Ka-Poo" Our thanks to Fred Schutz for allowing us to use it

**FOUNDING OF WITTENBURG (LATER KNOWN AS LEEDALE) — a newspaper clipping submitted by Lucy Gardner Robinson**

Wittenburg School District was organized in July 1906, by Paul Broderson. The board at that time consisted of Paul Broderson, chairman, William Gardner, Treasurer, L. M. Washburn, C. D. Aldridge, secretary. The rate payers were Leo Benson, Albert Archer, Frank Hallett, C. D Aldridge, S.W and H. W Eastburn, P. Broderson, C W., M., and T. Challand, Mr Wilson, C. H Hickman, E Dahl, D. Finch, A. L. Boyer, C Johnsman, F. Hancher, C. Fox, J., and L. M Washburn, J Beck, Jno Ferguson, Jas Ellis, S D Clifford, J. Olson, N. Craft, Thos, Wm., and H E. Gardner and Mark Lampman

The building material was drawn the following winter from William Cumming's sawmill, ten miles west of here. Messrs. L. Slater, Thos Gardner, Mark Lampman, Paul Broderson, F Hallet, and H. G. Washburn donating their teams, and their time for the work. The foundation of the new school was laid in 1907 by J McInnis and the frame work was built by Joe Zeluf. J Jennson built the stable. The furniture was placed in the building on December 14, 1907. The first sermon was preached in the building by Rev Wright of Rimbey on December 15. The first term of school commenced on December 17, 1907. A. B. Craig, a well known and well educated Scotsman was in charge, and the salary at that time for a teacher was $50. per month.

The scholars who attended the first term were Amanda and William Broderson, Dealla, Clara and Adaline Dahl, Ernest, David, Mabel, Leon, Lizzy and Myrtle Everts, Mabel and James

Jackson, Joseph and Ola Merideth, and Hazel Hallett. Mrs. Paul Broderson gave the school its name.

**MYRTLE JACOBS SONG**

These are the words to a song which Myrtle Jacobs sang at nearly all of the community gatherings in the Leedale area in the early 1900's. It is not known who wrote it.

Away up north in Alberta
Where the coyotes howl and sing
Where it rains and hails all summer
And you can not raise a thing

I took up a homestead in Alberta
Forty miles from the C.P.R.
You couldn't raise nothing but Jack Pines
On the mountains so steep and high
In the valleys there's nothing but muskegs
That never never go dry

**LEEDALE W.I. 1934 (WOMEN'S INSTITUTE)**
**The Spinsters Convention**

The past efforts of the Leedale W.I. have met with unqualified success, and the "Spinsters Convention" held on April 6 was no exception. The hall was crowded when the curtain rose and from start to finish the interest of the audience never flagged. Mrs. F. W. Hancher led the community singing, following which she gave a short talk ending with the story of the painting of the "Madonna".

The opening of the "convention" was a signal for hilarity for there gathered fussy old maids, garbed in garments fashioned in days gone by, with their cats, dogs, and birds. During the meeting the ladies discussed their chances of matrimony, sang plaintive songs of love, recited poems of despair, and listened to the debate on dress reform. Among other items, one spinster explained the rules of the Cottage Hotel, Rimbey, and we feel sure that the management will be keenly interested in these rules.

Just at the close of the meeting, hopes were revived in the hearts of the forlorn spinsters by the arrival of a "dandy" professor and his assistant. The professor declared he could rejuvenate his clients and give them their heart's desire. Needless to say, the ladies were intrigued, and the "remodeller" was set up for skinny old maids with cracked voices appeared as dainty little vocalists, fat old maids were changed into little executionists, fairies and even butterflies. One spinster desired to become a man, but was informed that it would take two ordinary females to make a man, so another spinster joined her and lo! there emerged a man.

Once or twice things went wrong, for one spinster would not be separated from her dog whereas the Professor washed his hands of the consequences and the poor dog emerges as a string of weiners. Another old maid, who counted the years as "just twenty," was the despair of the professor, but eventually she entered the remodeller, only to emerge in pieces. The most ancient spinster desired to become an angel, but the machine wasn't built to meet her years, and no change was made in her appearance, to her great disgust.

Despite these accidents the professor and his machine were very popular, and "hope sprang eternal in the old maids' breasts".

The show was followed by a dance to Rudy's music, and a cake, donated by Mrs. Hancher, was raffled and won by Mrs. Oliver Salmon.

Leedale W.I. Picnic. Standing left to right: Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Baldridge, Mrs. McElroy, Mrs. E. Archer, Mrs. Bengston, Grandma Simmons, Aunt Lou Chalkand, Mrs. Archer, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Pierson, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. C. Pearson, Ida Hancher. Sitting left to right: Jessie Thompson and Bill, Thelma Chalkand, Ellen McElroy, Vela Chalkand, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Ramsay, Iva Wingate, Peterson, Lila Pierson, with Steve Benson sitting in front. Helen Gillespie, Mrs. F. Lee holding baby. Five youngsters sitting: Phyllis Hancher, Edith Lee, Alvina Hancher, Marie Baldridge, Pat Hancher.

Leedale W.I. 1934. The Spinner's Convention Play (1934) Standing L. to R. Ida Hancher, Helen Baldridge, Beulah McElroy, Margaret Lee, Mrs. Gillespie, Aunt Lee Challand, Marie Pierson, Mrs. Pearson, Helen Gillespie, Yola Challand, holding Alvina Lila Pierson, Pat Mason, Ellen McElroy. The butterfly Phyllis Hancher Marie Baldridge and Pat Hancher sitting.

Over one hundred dollars was realized by the effort, and the director and the cast are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the enterprise.

The monthly meeting of the Leedale W.I. was held Thursday afternoon April 12, 1934 in the Leedale Ha... A vote of thanks was given to Mrs F. Hancher for giving so generously her time and effort in directing the rehearsals of the recent play. A vote of thanks was also given to William Lee and William Broderson in assisting that night by collecting door admissions. The net proceeds from the play amounted to $75.35.

As soon as the usual business was finished the members donned their "spinster" costumes and went in H. Varty's truck to the home of Mrs. C. Pearson. Mrs. Pearson had been one of the cast, but owing to ill health was obliged to drop out.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent, and Mr Pearson added to the pleasure of the guests by giving several beautiful instrumental selections.

Mesdames Baird and Baldridge served a delicious lunch.

## LEEDALE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE GOOD 1938

The members of the Leedale Women's Institute sponsored an amateur contest and program in the Leedale Community Hall on November 19 that was well attended and a success in every way.

The contestants were entered in three divisions from 1 to 10, 10 to 16 and from 16 to 90 years of age. Winners of the first division were, Edith Lee first, recitation, Caroline Englebret-son second, a song, and Marie Baldridge third with a reading. In the 10 to 16 class Mary Ralston of Rimbey was awarded first with a tap dance number, Floyd Kraft with a vocal solo and Victor Kraft with a vocal solo. In the adult division the honors were so equally divided that the judges were unable to make an award, but special mention was made of Mrs. C. Baldridge and Bill Lee in their artistic rendering of "School Days". The lady as the "Queen in Calico", did the vocalizing while Bill bove down hard on his harmonica. This number brought rounds of applause, as did two short skits done by members of the Institute. The first of these was a scene laid in the waiting room of Dr. Kill-em-off's office where Mrs. Dupres as "Nurse", was very attractive in a regulation uniform and where Mesdames Broderson, F. Lee, K. Wiltse, C. Pearson, M. Pierson and C. Baldridge swapped recitals of their aches and pains, until the arrival of a smartly dressed (Mildred Hobson), diverted their attention from their numerous symptoms to the current sale of hats and gowns at the Myers store at Leedale.

In the second skit, Mrs. Frank Hancher, well known to all Leedale theatre goers as an actress of outstanding ability, was undoubtedly the hit of the evening in her role of dancing master, Mesdames Trendholm, T. Challand and C. Baldridge — three pupils seeking instructions in the terpsichorean art, proved comedians of the highest order. Miss Mary Ralston, in a brief but charming dance number completely captivated the hearts of her audience as well as that of the dapper young dancing master.

Cecil Pearson in the capacity of "Major

Bowes" was all that could be desired and wielded the gong with such diplomacy that the victims actually liked it.

Members of the Leedale Women's Institute, of which Mrs. Wm. Broderson is president, and Mrs. Kenneth Wiltse secretary, served midnight supper and furthered the entertainment of the assembly by providing a dance orchestra under the leadership of Bert Archer, of Edmonton, and dancing continued until the hours of early morning

Miss Blanche Wallace, teacher at Benjamin school, J. Hembury of the Rimbey High School staff, and Mrs. A. B. MacDonald of Rimbey acted as judges in the amateur contest

Rasmus Murray, employed at Leo Benson's sawmill, was winner of the beautiful woollen quilt in a draw that was made during the supper hour. The quilt was made by the Leedale W I. and the funds derived from its sale go into the treasury

**LEEDALE, JUNE 1941**

For many years the Indians in this central area had a Rain Dance in the spring. For a week before the ceremonial dance the Indians passed through Leedale in great numbers. Their destination was a pretty, secluded valley 10 miles west of Leedale.

John Strawberry - an Indian who died at 110 years.

Most of them drove a team and wagon and many were leading horses. There were always two or three dogs and sometimes more with each wagon. The squaws and the children sat on the floor of the wagon box. Many stopped at the store to get a few supplies which usually included tobacco, baking powder, flour, matches and a yard of brightly colored material. They would hang the cloth on the limbs of the trees which surrounded the encampment and dancing area.

If the dance was meant to bring rain it certainly accomplished its purpose, as it usually rained the whole week of the dance.

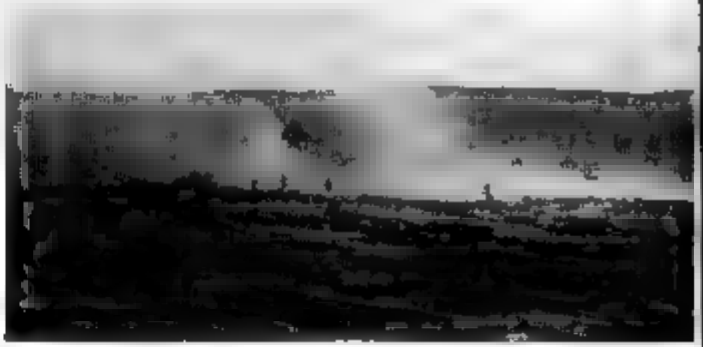
**[illegible]**

Every spring we live in fear of bush and grass fires. Years ago there was very little equipment that was very effective in controlling the dreaded fires.

Many settlers lost their homes and belongings in the raging fires which were fanned by strong winds in the tinder dry bush.

In 1937, Mrs. Lapeare saved her home from the flames although the barn, chicken house and wood pile burned.

In April 1941, Dick Hollingsworth, and S. A. Lyons narrowly escaped losing their buildings and fire fighters were out for several nights trying to protect homes and granaries.



Eight foot high log pile at McTighe Mill burned to ground - April [illegible]

McTighe Saw Mill. April 1941 - Note. Wheels melted down so are flat on bottom

That same month a raging bush fire swept into the McTighe Saw Mill 25 miles west of Leedale and burned the mill and log pile. Several families were living at the sight and they lost all their

belongings. Mr Earl Johnson was badly burned Hundreds of men were ordered out by the Government to fight the fire.

On April 29, Mr Skuly's body was found where he had burned to death when he tried to escape the fire.

Rain came on May 2, and everyone heaved a sigh of relief but on May 23, the fire again raged through the timber and claimed H. Varty's Mill and Mr Beaman s buildings. Rain came again on the 25th.

In 1968 there were many fire losses. The whole country was a glow at night and many farm buildings were burned. Mr. and Mrs. M. Simmons lost their barn from sparks which came from burning spruce a half-mile away.

**FIRST CURLING MEETING**
**April 12, 1949**

A meeting was held at the Jim Thomson home April 12, 1949 for the purpose of discussing building a curling rink and skating rink

Dan Kilpatrick made a motion that Harold Mason be chairman, seconded by Jim Thomson — carried

Bud Parks was nominated as secretary by Dan Kilpatrick, seconded by Johnny Tkacik — carried.

Moved by Johnny Tkacik that we build a curling rink seconded by Ed Belt

Val Tkacik, Bob Kilpatrick, and Ed Belt were appointed as a committee to see about timber to obtain logs and inspect some — carried.

Moved by Bob Kilpatrick seconded Vernon Belt that the meeting be adjourned.

**FIRST YEAR CURLING**

Harold Mason moved that the club members join together into rinks, in a way to make it convenient to let each other know of games and get transportation to them, seconded by Harley Belt

Skips were then appointed as follows
Harold Mason
Tustin Jevne
Val Tkacik
Henry Thachuk
Dan Kilpatrick
Johnny Jones
Harley Belt
Vernon Belt
Lavern Hancher

It was moved by Johnny Jones and seconded by Burns Kilpatrick that curling fees be $6 for men and $3 for women and school kids.

**"UNEXPLAINED — by Iris Couster, Craven, Saskatchewan (from the Western Weekly Supplement — January 2, 1963)**

This story is unexplained and something we never got to the bottom of, as it happened about fifty-five years ago, when I was only a small child, but I still remember it

It was the year 1907, and my father had homesteaded near Wittenburg, now known as Leedale. We were living in a two-roomed log shack. Our family consisted of my parents, brother and myself.

It was in early June, and it had rained for several days. My brother and I were sitting by the window looking out, when we saw a man emerge from the tall timber nearby and pass within a rod of the window He was tall and wearing a black felt hat We called our mother and the three of us watched him as he walked down the pathway leading to the half open door of the hen house and disappeared into the building

We kept on watching to see him come out, as in those days homesteads were lonely places After we had stood there for ten minutes or more, my mother called to dad who was dozing on the bed, and told him that a man had gone into the hen house. The small dog had seen him, as it began to bark

Dad got up and walked to the hen house, but no one was in there. There was only one door to the hen house and if the man had come out we would have seen him. He then looked to see if there were any tracks in the mud but there were none. We all went out and looked for tracks, but couldn't see any Dad accused the three of us with having too much imagination.

A month later, in the early evening of a hot July day, mother and I were standing at the door when our attention was drawn by our small dog letting out a couple of loud barks. We looked and there coming through the tall timber was this same man, who again walked within a rod of us and disappeared into the hen house as before.

We were frightened as Dad was away and my young brother had gone down to the end of the field to bring the cow home. The dog kept up a steady barking. We watched to see if the man came out, but there was no sign of him. Mother was worried as my brother had to pass by the side of the hen house on his way back with the cow

Shortly I saw my brother coming, chasing the cow ahead of him, and he raced into the hen house before we had time to shout to him, as the cow's watering pail was kept in the hen house. He came out again quite unconcerned, and when we questioned him, he was surprised, as he had seen no one

Several weeks later, a far-away neighbor was visiting us during the afternoon when the same thing happened again. The dog barked and we were all amazed to see the strange man appear, then vanish into the hen house. So we all put on a brave front and walked down to the hen house immediately and glanced in every corner of the small structure but there wasn't a sign of anyone! This has always remained a mystery

If it had been only one person who had seen it, we could have put it down to hallucination, but the first time there were three of us, the second time two of us, and the third time four of us, one being an outsider

This remains to this day unexplained. Mother

had told the story to different people later on, after we had left the homestead, and settled in Saskatchewan, but each had a different theory

One elderly lady who had lived near that part of the country at the turn of the century told us later that she had heard several men had been murdered there in the early days. Bones had been found on the Edward Dickson farm four miles away in 1904, but were identified as Indian bones

The above story is true but unexplained.

**RECOLLECTIONS — by Elva Visger Rice**

I was born in the winter of 1925 in what is now the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital. At the time, my folks (Lyle and Zerola Visger) lived on the Rostad place nine miles west of Rimbey, in a log house which is still on the property as far as I know

It was in the depth of a hard winter and my Father rode horseback in to see my Mother and I, with the snow up to the horse's belly. Our hired girl at that time was Evelyn Wegreen, who looked after my sister Alberta and brother Robert at home

Later we moved to the Manley Cumberland place near Leedale where Nora was born Next to the Coverdale place in the Simon district, and then to the Aldridge place a half mile west of Pierson's

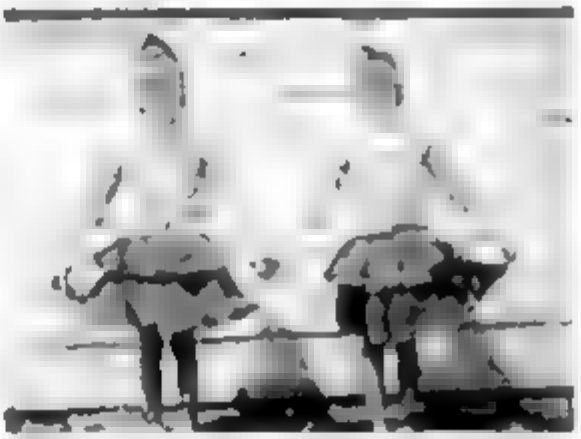
Dale, Joan and Bonnie were born while we lived there. One winter while we lived there, it was so mild on my birthday on January 19, that we sat in the shade and made ice cream. I remember we used to pump the horse trough full with a sort of tread mill, with a horse going in a wide circle. Sometimes the cows tails would get caught in the turning pipe and of course they would come to a slow stop. The last move was made to the old home place which was two miles east of Brown's corner My folks lived there for nearly 30 years. I well remember that move, as I was nine years old Alberta and Robert went ahead on horseback with the cattle and horses. The rest of us came in the wagon, driving the mules, Si and Jim. Bonnie was six months old in the crib at the back of the wagon. As we drove past Brown's I remember Mrs. Brown came out to wish us well

The old log house we moved into holds many a memory As Ellen Hayward used to say, "If those logs could talk". When the walls got dingy, we just pasted a new edition of the "Family Herald" over it. There seemed to be a lot of young people around in those days. No phones but word seemed to get around quickly about an upcoming tobogganing party. My sister Nora and Harvey Simmons, even went so far as to get married. There were lots of other short time romances

I took Grades 1 to 8 at Leedale plus three years at Leedale High School in the old Lee store. I kept those two barrel stoves going, and split those huge blocks of wood, but I loved it. Alberta and I lived in a borrowed thresher's bunk house in the school yard Other girls did likewise. The third year I lived with Beatrice Brown and Mildred Walker in a warm granary that Mr Brown made

In the winter those trips home for the weekend were something else, but Robert with a team and sleigh was our trusty chauffeur until Bill Lee's hired man, Charles Moore, caught Alberta's eye. Then we would come back with him on Sunday night, as the Moore's lived neighbor to us

It was fun living next to such a big family with kids our ages. Everybody was in the same boat in those days. The name of the boat was "Poverty". I'm still in one of the lifeboats but who cares? We don't have everything we want but we have everything we need



Elva Visger and Lila Pierson who were montmorers at the Christmas concert in 1931 They were in Grade 1 at the Leedale School

Remember when?

1. Miss Eritsland took us for a hike and warned "don't go in the river", but of course the Grade 8 girls had to try it
2. We spent our noon hours drowning out gophers to make a few cents from the tails
3. When Norman Benson's horse reared up and fell over backwards but Norman crawled out okay
4. We met the Benson boys on the way to school and were happy to announce to them that our baby sister Bonnie had arrived during the night, but they surprised us with the same announcement that their baby brother Gordon had arrived too
5. Miss Eritsland came to school with the firm decision, "No more talking in school, or you'll get the strap," I was second in line and bawled till noon hour
6. When Beatrice and I sat in a double desk at the back of the row, Gordon Baldridge went to the water fountain, collected a hand full of flies off the window sill and put them down Beatrice's neck

7. Miss Evans tried to teach us to chew each mouthful 32 times and when noon hour was over we were still eating.
8. Our skinny old horse Charlie, part Clyde, could beat any horse in the school.
9. When an airplane lit beside the hall on sports day.
10. When the Visger's drove their topless Model T with the kids behind in the meat house.
11. We had measles and we had to bake the valentines before sending them to school.
12. When every child at school had a nickname, everything from wall eyes, goose eggs, cave, donkey chin and egg nose.

I was married to John Rice in May 1949 and we farmed about 16 miles east of Red Deer near the school I supervised. Our four children Fay Eddy, Wendy and Danny were born while we lived there. We moved to Armstrong, B.C. in 1965 where we live now. In 1967 we acquired three foster children, Darlene, Glen, and Grace Felix from a nearby reserve, so now we have a family of seven. We also have two granddaughters. John works in the logging business.

**ADAMS, DOREEN AND ALBERT**

Doreen and Albert Adams and three sons, Vernon, Leonard and Kenny, moved into Leedale in about 1944 from the Faraway district where they had farmed and Albert had worked in the sawmills during the winter months. He worked for a time in Carl Aske's blacksmith shop but left that in about a year to go to work in road construction in the summer.

While there they added a daughter, Betty Anne, to their family. Doreen and family remained in Leedale for a time but when Albert returned to the mills for winter work they moved back to the Faraway district. While there, over the years three more sons, Lee, Neil and Albert Duane, were born.

Albert continued to work in construction in summer and mills in the winter until the fall of 1950, when he started firing boilers on oil rigs. He passed away while on the job at Coronation in November of 1950. Doreen and family continued on living in the Faraway district.

In 1957, she and Gordon Pike were united in matrimony in Red Deer. To them two more daughters, Holly and Janet, were born. They reside in the district and continue to farm and Gordon has been employed by Amerada Minerals Corporation of Canada Ltd. for the past 18 years.

Most of the family still reside in points in Alberta with the exception of the oldest son who lives at McBride, B.C.

**ALDRIDGE**

Clay Aldridge came to Alberta from Iowa, U.S.A. in 1906 and settled on a farm about three miles north of Leedale. In the fall of 1909 he returned to the U.S. and in November married Nettie Galey, who at that time was teaching school there. They returned to the farm early in 1910, shortly after their arrival Mrs. Aldridge was asked to teach at the Gamet School.

Their first child was born in November 1910.

Mrs. Aldridge was called to fill in at various times whenever a full time teacher was unavailable.

A second child, Walter, was born in September, 1914. The family moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1928.

Clay passed away in 1948. Mrs. Aldridge is still living and will celebrate her 96th birthday in July, 1977.

The sons married in Edmonton where Charlie still resides; Walter was killed in a car accident in 1942.

**ARDPOD, TEAKIE**

Mr. Ardpod, with 11 other young men, left Sauta Maurla, Romania for Canada in 1928. Leaving his wife and family behind he was in search of the wealth offered in the New World (or so the ad's said). James Lukocs was one of his fellow travellers as far as Canada. They did not meet again until about 1935 when Mr. Ardpod purchased the NW 8-42-4-W5, about one and one half miles west of Mr. Lukocs. This was a C.P.R. quarter and had been farmed by Lyn Wiltse and his hired man, Ted Pimm and later owned by Mr. Polynik prior to Mr. Ardpod, so had about 50 acres broke on it. It is believed someone had lived on the quarter earlier, for there was a dug well there but no definite information could be found. Alfred Straarup also farmed the land.

Mr. Ardpod was a section man for the C.P.R. so did not farm the land himself. He did built a log house and planned to bring his family over but his wife died in Hungary so he did no more with the farm. The Depew (or Depue) family rented the buildings for a short time after Mr. Ardpod left.

He sold the farm to Charlie Repas, moved to Calgary, where he remarried and lived the rest of his life.

**ASKE**

Early in the year of 1937 Carl H. Aske and son, Clarence, came to Leedale from Millet and purchased the blacksmith shop from Harry Farthing. They lived in the back of the shop until Mrs. Aske and the younger children joined them in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Aske and grandson, Edwin Royea

They soon bought a house that is still in Leedale. Many folks will remember, in the Aske home, the coffee pot was always on the stove and everyone was always welcome

After many years of hard blacksmith work Carl Aske retired in 1951 and they moved to Rimbey

Mrs. Aske passed away February, 1953 and Mr Aske in November of 1955.

Their family is as follows

Hilda Moonen lives in Kamloops, B C.

Clarence and wife, Rosie, live in Flatbush, Alberta where he is retired.

Johnny Aske passed away at Nojack, Alberta in July, 1962

Mabel Ervin resides at Clairmont, Alberta

Melvin Aske passed away in Edmonton, October 1972

Eddy Aske and wife, Loretta, live in Rocky Mountain House.

Josephine Royan resides in Rimbey

Hazel and Jimmy Varty live 29 miles west of Rimbey at Faraway

Violet and Gordon Belt reside in Red Deer

Clarence, Rose, Hazel and Grandma Aske, Marie Ervin, Kennie Ervin, Violet Aske, Seth Wells, Eddie, Grandpa and Johnny Aske.

**MR. AND MRS. MAURICE BEAUGRAND**

Mr and Mrs. Maurice Beaugrand came to the Leedale district in about 1910, homesteading on Open Creek. They later bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter, one and one-half miles west of Leedale where they resided until 1946 when they sold to Edward Belt. Mrs. Beaugrand is buried in Rimbey. Maurice retired to Whiterock, B.C. where he lived until his passing

They had one son, John, who received his schooling at Leedale and now resides in British Columbia.

**JOHN BECK**

John Beck was born in Kendellville, Indiana on August 2nd, 1870, and as a young man he worked in North Dakota and Washington. He came to Canada in 1905 and took a homestead which was the NW 14-42-4 W 5.

He was a hard working man, a good neighbor and friend. He sold the farm to O. McElroy in 1947. He bought C. H. Aske's house in Leedale and moved in 1948

He spent the last year with old friends and neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Brown and passed away January 12th, 1952.

**BELT GORDON LESLIE — M 68578 Lance Bombardier**

Son of Esther and Harley Belt, born April 18, 1920. Education at Gimlet and Leedale Schools 1926-1934. Worked on the family farm 'til joining the Canadian Army in October 1941, serving with the 112 Battery, sixth Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment R C.A. second Canadian Armed Corps, under the command of Lieutenant-general Guy Simmons in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, returning to Canada to be discharged in Calgary in November 1945

He purchased the N ½ 36-41-4-W5th, (former Terry Challand farm) through the Veterans Land Act in April, 1946, farming there until May, 1966 when we sold and moved to Kelowna, British Columbia. In June 1975 we returned to Alberta and now reside at 26 Piper Drive, Red Deer

I married Violet Aske December 24, 1941, we have four children, Delores Hatala, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, Leslie of Red Deer, Martin of Rimbey, and Lydia Ann Cooper of Red Deer.

**BELT, HARLEY J.**

I left New Hartford, Iowa, where I was born August 14, 1892, travelling through St. Paul, Minneapolis to Winnipeg, then on to Lacombe by train, arriving near the end of July, 1912. This route was travelled by many early settlers, for the sooner they reached Canada, the cheaper it was for them to travel. Homestead rates for travelling by train in Canada was one cent per mile. Upon reaching Lacombe, I was met by my older brother, Verne, who lived there at the time, and he drove me by team and buggy, to our eldest brother, Burley's homestead which was west of Wittenburg near the Gimlet Creek. Leaving Lacombe early in the morning, we travelled by road and trail, stopping at Willits, four miles east of Wittenburg for dinner This was where I first met the Willits. Like all pioneer homes their house was always open for tired, hungry travelers. The road east from Wittenburg was new at this time.

We visited a few days with Burley and his family, then returned to Lacombe where I worked for the town that summer putting in streets and sidewalks.

That fall, having earned enough money to buy a team and wagon, I went to my father's homestead on the Red Deer River at Haynes. There I finished breaking the land that my father, Isaac Ruphas Belt, had started to break

when proving up his homestead in 1902. He never completed what he started, for he was murdered in November, 1902 by Ernest Cashell, one of the "most wanted" men at that time. Verne had thought he would take over father's homestead but decided against it, and sold it the spring of 1913. I worked on a threshing outfit at Haynes that fall; then returned to Wittenburg to spend the winter with Burley.

Burley purchased the first threshing rig to be owned in the valley the fall of 1912. Upon returning from Hayes I ran this for him threshing throughout the country. Bundles were put up in stacks and threshing went on into winter then. The machine itself had a 10 horse engine, was hand fed with a straw carrier. Many a morning it balked at the idea of starting, especially when it was 40 below. Besides threshing, this engine was used to saw wood, and grind feed for many a neighbor. I recall threshing one winter as far north as Bargins, north of Willesden Green, west through Freitags, south to Salmons and Lawtons as well as several in the valley; Mottet's, Hancher's, Chaland's and Brown's. I returned to Lacombe the spring of '13 and worked there until haying season began. Burley and I rented the Everts' quarter and taking the hay from it was the first farming I did in the area for myself.

Sundays were a day of rest and relaxation. Ball games and pony races were enjoyed by all, spectators and participants alike. There were no churches so all Christian teachings were taught at home by the parents. Neighbors often called for a visit on Sunday. Picnics were also enjoyable. They were held at various places. The ones that come to mind were at Bradshaw's, Sherman s, and on the school section. Even, if at no other time of year, there was always a picnic on July 1. We played ball, usually inviting a team out from Rimbey, had horse races and other races for the kids, men and "fat" women. A collection was taken up and given out as prizes for the kids' races. Everyone took lunch, salads, sandwiches, etc. and some brought their homemade wines and moonshine. After the hall was built in 1927 most of the community gatherings were held there or at the school.

One evening, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sherman, Manda Brodersen and I were on our way to a dance at Lalones and stopped on the way at Russ and Eva Halls, (west of the Gimlet school two and one-half miles), Eva's sister, Esther Mottet, was there that evening so we took her along to the dance, "being the beginning of the end" I took her to the next dance at Brodersen's and from then on there has been no one else. We were married June 24, 1915, at Esther's parents home south of Wittenburg. Rev. C. D. McDonald came from the Leafland area to perform the ceremony. Our witnesses were R. J. Russell Hall, and H. B. Belt. Guests at the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Damron, Arthur and Ned, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. R. Hall, Mrs. E. Withers, Mr. H. B. G. Withers, C. L. Withers, Fred and Nora

Mr & Mrs Edward Mottet
request the pleasure
of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Esther Pearl
to
Harley J. Belt
Thursday evening June 24th 1915
at eight O'clock
at their home

W. Hanbury Allen

Harley and Esther Belt June 24, 1915

Lange, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Johnson, Vera and Everett, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Belt, Pauline and Florence, E. T., Bertha and Basil Bradshaw, G. R., Mabel and

Herbert Easter, Helen Lockhart, Mrs. Ida Clifford, Miss Anna, Miss L., Beatrice and Bertha Thompson, Mr and Mrs. R. E. Best, Mrs. S. Cole, D R. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. Ray VanLoan, John L. Mathieson, J. M. Fallis, Marie, Mearle and Nellie, Mr. and Mrs. John Olsen, Mrs G. Olsen, Mrs. E G. Gerlinger and Sadie, Rev C. D McDonald and Mr. and Mrs. E. Mottet, Lucy, George, and Albert

After a two week honeymoon to Pleasant Valley we settled on Burley's south quarter, where I broke 30 acres with four horses and a 16-inch breaking plow. That fall Esther stayed with my sister and her family, Lena and George Johnston, in the Aurora District while I was threshing. We lived in many different places over the first 15 years of marriage but always in the Wittenburg (Leedale, after 1918) area. The Hank Nelson place in 1916, and Simmon's 1917-20, three miles north-west, the C.P R. quarter one and one half west in '20 and the section one and one half miles north in 29 and 30. In the spring of 1931 we bought the NE 34-41 4 W5 and the NW 35-41-4-W5, known as the Clifford or Gee place, and lived there until retiring to the Lodge in Rimbey in 1972

Esther and I watched a small village grow in those early 1900's. The post office and store were there when Esther came in 1906, but after came the creamery, school, livery stable, blacksmith shop, barber shop, the new store, lumber yard, hall, high school and much later the curling rink Business flourished during the 30's and 40's, not only due to the many farmers in the area, but to the lumber mills in the west. Then during the 50's and 60's, with faster transportation and better roads another great change hit the country. The cry was for improvement by centralizing. The Calgary Power came into the country, the cry for gas and oil was heard, telephones were installed, and small country schools were closed and the children bussed to town. By mid 1975 the hamlet of (Wittenburg) Leedale was a ghost town, with only the hall and curling rink remaining of what once was a very busy little place.

Like most farmers in the area we learned early that to make a "go of it" in this area one had to run a mixed farm and work hard at it. By raising hogs and cattle for market or trade and our own use, mixed grains and hay for feed, chickens for eggs and meat and raising a large garden to feed the family, we came through the early years, the hungry thirties and the war years of rationing. perhaps better than most, for we were never hungry or cold. Heat was provided by wood burning stoves. Much land was cleared of trees which were sawed, then split for cook stoves or left in blocks for the furnace. Meat was canned or home cured. Vegetables and wild fruits were home canned The wild raspberries, strawberries and saskatoons were delicious by themselves or mixed with rhubarb. Blueberries were plentiful, choke cherries made wonderful pancake syrup and cranberries made the chicken and turkey a little better We built an ice house, which was filled with blocks of ice from the Medicine River every spring. This kept the milk and cream cool, and was used as the refrigerator is today. Butter was made from the cream, and cottage cheese from the milk.

By 1936 we managed to save enough money to build a new home. A two-storey with full basement for less than $2,000. The older boys logged, and Varty's sawed the lumber for the house Clem Baldridge was the carpenter Some prices were, 475 bricks $18.80, cement 80 cents per bag, ten test $55 00 per 1,000, 25 lbs. 2½" coated nails $1.75, doors, 2'6" x 6'6", $3.25, windows 12" x 24" $1.75 each. We had running water, by pumping water into a tank situated in the attic The sewer was put in when the house was built Water was heated in a tank beside the cook stove by pipes running into the lining of the fire box We also had a 32 volt light plant which supplied us with light. The bathroom was put in in 1943 making it one of the first modern homes in the Leedale Valley

The war years were anxious times for many Edward, Dallas, and Gordon, our three older sons, were all in the service, only Edward and Gordon returning. F/O Belt D. E. J29877 579 Sqdrn. R.A.F R.C.A F Overseas was reported missing in action on July 29, 1944, this being confirmed July 31, 1946. He is buried, with the members of his crew, in Orleans, France

We had eleven children, namely

Edward Harley — born April 1, 1916, took his schooling at the Gimlet and Leedale schools. He married Alma Challand and lived in the Leedale area until 1966 when they moved to Red Deer

Dallas Eugene — born December 7, 1918 — died July 29, 1944, took his schooling at Leedale and remained in the area until joining the R. A.F in 1941.

Gordon Leslie — born April 18, 1920, received his schooling at Leedale, joined the Army in 1941,

Harley and Esther Belt - 60th anniversary 1975

and later married Violet Aske. After the war they farmed the Terry Challand farm until 1966 when they moved to Kelowna, B.C

Floyd Chester — born September 29, 1922 — died November 17, 1922

Donna Pearl, Mrs. John Robert Unger, was born November 22, 1923. They reside in Edmonton.

Francis Boyd — born July 27, 1925 — died January 28, 1926 of spinal meningitis

Doris Louise, Mrs. Edward Owen Marcum, was born March 18, 1927. They reside at Langley, B.C

Vernon Charles — born August 25, 1928, received his schooling at Leedale and has farmed there all his life

Esther Fern — born January 3, 1930 — died January 7, 1930. She had no opening from her stomach to her intestine.

Gladys Valentine, Mrs. Russell Cole, was born February 14, 1931. After living several years in the Lockhart area they now reside near Rocky Mountain House

Carrol Maxine, Mrs. R. Lee Mannix, was born December 24, 1939. They and Vernon, make their home on the home place.

In 1965 we retired, building a small house on the farm, and when the Parkland Manor was opened in Rimbey in October 1972, we moved there. I still keep active in the drop-in-center and with carpenter work

**BENGSTON, HANNAH AND ART — By T Hansen**

Hannah and Art Bengston came to the Leedale district in the "Hungry Thirties" They arrived by Model T truck from Frontier, Sask. in the late fall of 1934

They settled on the SW 23-42-4-W5, which was two and one half miles north of Leedale.

At that time they had three boys and five girls. Another girl was born in Alberta

Norma married Bill Bunch of Rimbey, Thelma married Alex Murray of Marwayne, Virginia married Ernie Scanlon of Dawson Creek, B.C., Freddie married Kay Griener of Rimbey, Ruby married Lee Farrel of Rimbey, Stanley married Edith Jensen of Taber, Cody married Kay Brown of Rimbey, Eleanor married John Komenoski and Sylvia married Ron Stewart of Red Deer

Mr Bengston sold the farm to Allan Sieling and the family moved into Rimbey

Art passed away in 1966 and his wife, Hannah still lives in Rimbey

**BINYON, PAUL**

Mr. Paul Binyon and his daughter, Phyllis, boarded with the Robert Gillespies in about 1938. Mr. Binyon was a carpenter, who helped Harley Belt some with the building of his house, and Phyllis was the school teacher that year

**[illegible]**

Mr Bishop came to Leedale in the 1930's. He operated a barber shop and was also a Chiropractor. He later moved his family to the NW 32-41-4 W5, presently owned by Zoley Garnick. While living here he operated a saw mill in the Faraway district

There were five children, Hazel, Ivy, Lawrence, Henry and Virginia. From here they moved to British Columbia where Henry was killed in a saw mill accident

Harold Heringer bought the farm from Mr Bishop and John Jones pastured cattle on it for several years. Zoley Garnick purchased it from Harold Heringer about 1970.

**BOBCHUK, NICK**

In January of 1939 I came to Leedale and stayed with my sister and brother-in-law, Peter and Lillian Chibri. In the spring I went to work for Alex Skoreiko for two months. I then went to fight fires in the Sundre area, where I was when the war broke out. After that I moved back to the Leedale area and worked for Henry Chabot for $15. a month hauling wood and tamarack posts to the school

In the summer of 1940 I went to work for Herb Varty at the mill. Fire broke out and Bill Varty, myself and a few others were the last ones to drive away as fire engulfed the mill site.

That winter I worked for Henry Chabot, again, filling the school wood contract

The next fall I worked for Scotty Houston stooking and threshing for eight cents a pound of twine (approximately $3.84 a day) I made $152. that fall. When the fall work was over I went to Edmonton, joined the Air Force and went overseas

After the war, I farmed in the Lavesta area for a number of years and am presently living in Edmonton.

**BREWER, REV. CYRIL AND ANNA**

Cyril Brewer was born March 8, 1907 His parents Guy and Myrta Brewer lived in the Elkorn district on Grandpa Brewer's farm at that time.

Cyril married the former Anna Gusek, who was the daughter of Michea. and Regine Gusek She was born in Baucham, Germany and came to Canada at the age of seven years. Her father came to Canada in 1907, her two sisters Mary, and Augusta (Sumiak) in August 1910. Her mother, Regine, and the other children arrived in November 1910. They were Anna (Brewer), Emma (Krossa), Bertha (Jones) and a son William. Carl and Gus were born in Round Hill

In September 1931, Cyril and Anna came to the Leedale district to serve as minister at the Free Methodist Church, the services being held in the Leedale school. Rev. Richard Shoupe. Rev. Andrew Sharp and Rev. J. J. Walker had held the position previously. In July 1932 Cyril was ordained and later that year their oldest son Arnold was born

Anna and Cyril Brewer with Arnold and Evart, moving a milk cow from Pemuka to Leedale 1934

In 1934 Evart was born and in 1935 the family moved to Bashaw where their daughter Regine was born in 1936. Cyril was a very good carpenter so besides his ministerial work he was busy carpentering or helping someone with their farming

In the years that followed Rev. Louis Freitag, Rev. Wm. Carmicheal, Rev. J. J. Walker, Rev. Conrad Kaiser and Rev. Clarence Lyons served the church as ministers. Then in 1946 Rev. and Anna Brewer and family returned to Leedale. In 1950, after a second four year ministerial term, the family moved to Oregon and Rev. Bert Larwill replaced Rev. Brewer. He was the last minister to serve the Free Methodist Church at Leedale.

The children took their schooling in Oregon and following graduation from high school Arnold and Evart returned to Canada and shortly afterward in 1954, Rev. and Mrs. Brewer and Regine returned to Lacombe but due to Mrs. Brewer's ill health they moved back to Port Angeles, Washington in 1965, where they still reside

Arnold accepted a job with Edmonton City Telephone Co. on his return to Canada and has worked there ever since. He and his wife Deloris have four children: Darci Ann who is married to John Lee of the city, Ronald, Dale and Corrine at home

Evart and his wife Doreen also have four children: Gregory who graduated from high school this year, Brian, Linda, and Elaine at home. Evart worked for Halliburton Oil Co. for 20 years, then worked for an off shore drilling company in Nova Scotia for a time. On his return, he accepted a teaching position at Edmonton in a government school where he teaches heavy duty mechanic courses.

Regine married Philmore Smith, a farmer at Eyebrow, Sask. They have three boys: Richard, Kelly and Darren. Although Phil still works at the farm part time, they now live in Eyebrow where they recently built a new home

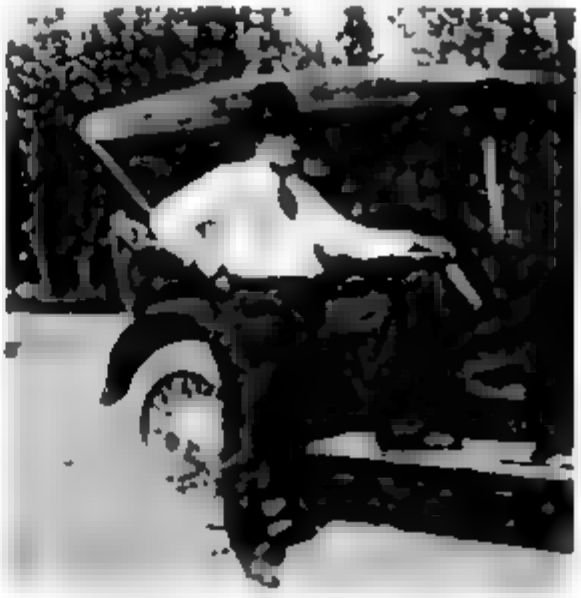
**PAUL BRODERSEN — by Mrs. Bruce (Anna) Thirsk**

Paul Brodersen came to Canada from the United States. He was the sort of man who could turn his hand to many things, farmer, storekeeper, blacksmith, carpenter and he had learned the printing business. He and his wife, Bertha were married in Lincoln, Nebraska where he had his printing shop. Times grew bad so they took up a farm out in Kansas and lived there for eight years. Paul was a pioneer and decided Canada was a new country so he would go north.

In 1904 he homesteaded 42 miles northwest of Lacombe, beside the Medicine River where he named his home Wittenburg after his childhood home in north Germany, just 30 miles south of the Danish border near the small town of Brdestedt in the province of Schleswig Holstein.

Two children, William and Amanda were born in Nebraska, a third child, Anna, was born in Lacombe, the first baby to be delivered by young Dr. Hynes.

A large dining and living room were built onto the existing early three-room home with a bedroom and dance hall above. The dining room became a store and post office. His wife, Bertha, was postmistress for eight years



Paul Brodersen 1916

Bill Brodersen and ? ? with team of mules

Paul drove to Bentley, 25 miles, twice a week to deliver mail and bring mail back along with groceries, hardware, etc. Saturday night was a big night, people of the community came to get their mail and buy groceries. Small Anna left to her own devices, liked looking at the funnies, fell asleep on the mail bags.

The hall above was used for community dances, usually Saturday nights. Bing Englebritson played the violin.

Later Bill Brodersen drove the wagon or sleigh to Bentley for the mail and groceries. Many times it was necessary to go to Lacombe for things needed. It was very cold in winter. Foot warmers were a necessity on those long trips.

Paul was a good blacksmith, horses had to be shod, runners made for sleighs, etc. etc. He and son Bill, ran a herd of cattle and later built up a registered herd of Herefords.

Bertha Brodersen and daughter, Amanda cooked many meals for people who came out looking for land and who often stayed overnight. Paul drove them around the country looking for land to file claims on. He also served as a commissioner and signed documents for people.

**PAUL BRODERSEN — by Amanda & MacKenzie-Paddison (nee Brodersen)**

My father, Paul Brodersen, was born in Denmark and my mother, Bertha Klement, was born in Austria, Hungary. They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S.A., April 27, 1893 and from this union three children were born. My brother William (Bill) and I were born in Lincoln, Nebraska and my sister, Anna Christine, was born in Lacombe, Alberta.

My father was a printer and Clerk of the Court in Lincoln. From there the four of us moved to Jennings, Kansas, where father farmed and mother set type for sale bills and wedding invitations on their printing press. From Kansas the four of us came to Lacombe in 1903. Father came by rail with settlers' effects and mother, brother Bill and I came by train later. We lived on a rented farm near Lacombe for one year while we children attended the Milton School. My father helped Mr. Butterfield and Mr. Skinner to set up The Lacombe Globe, which is an interesting newspaper today. From Lacombe we moved to Medicine Valley where father took up a homestead (NW 2-42-4-W5) and also purchased the following C.P.R. land (NW 1-42-4-W5) and (NE 3-42-4-W5). Father built our home near the Medicine Valley River on NW 2 where he farmed and raised Purebred Hereford cattle. He also started the first post office and store in 1907, mother was his assistant post mistress and clerk, and named the farm, post office and store "Wittenburg" after father's ancestral home in Denmark. In 1918 the name Wittenburg was changed to Leedale. However, down through the years I still visit my old home, the house is still standing as well as some of the other buildings. All the above land has been sold to the Tkacik Brothers. And the name "Wittenburg" (in prominent letters) is on a signpost as you enter their yard. There is always a friendly welcome when my sister and I visit the Tkacik families.

My father passed away June 19, 1929 and mother on December 1, 1959. My brother, Bill farmed and raised purebred Hereford cattle on the NE 25-41-3-W5. Bill sold the farm and moved to Rimbey in 1957. He passed away February 23, 1970 at the age of 76 years. His wife Florence lives in a convalescent home in Winfield, Alta. My sister, Mrs. Bruce (Anna) Thirsk of Surrey, B.C. and myself are the only survivors left.

**BROWN, OSCAR AND BERTHA, SE 14-42-4-W5**

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Brown moved to the Leedale community in April 1933. They bought the SE 14-42-4-W5 from Jimmy Jackson.

Oscar Brown was in the Rimbey area for the first time when he was 12 years old. He came with his father Andrew J. Brown from North Dakota in the summer of 1900 and lived near the Forshee area. His father left him alone there and went back to North Dakota to bring the rest of the family. Oscar was alone for two months, having his dog for company, baking his own bread, catching fish, snaring partridges and rabbits to eat in his father's absence. He recalled having a horse rancher, Mr. Reed, for a neighbor. Mr. Reed rode over to visit him about twice a week, perhaps to keep an eye on him. When the family came, they stayed about two months and then all returned to North Dakota because Mrs. Brown Sr. didn't like the bush country.

Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Brown had three daughters: Floy (Mrs. Glenn Challand) of Rimbey, Beatrice (Mrs. Orris Challand) of Rocky Mountain House, and Marjorie (Mrs. Leroy Johnston) also of Rocky Mountain House.

Their belongings were shipped by train to Rimbey and moved out to the farm with four head of horses on a wagon. Mrs. Brown and Floy herded the three milk cows on foot.

Mr. Brown broke 30 acres of land the first year with horses. The first three years they lived at Leedale they were either hailed out or got froze out. This made for a real hardship on top of just moving to the new community.

Oscar returned to Pincher Creek area each year for the first few years to thresh. Mrs. Brown and the girls ran the farm while he was away.

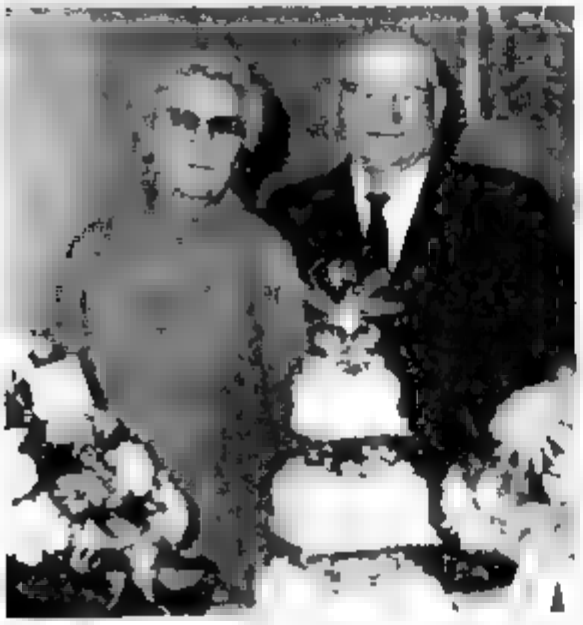
The money he made there would help with the operating expenses for the following year.

Mrs. Brown's hobbies for the years were milking cows, raising foxes and turkeys.

The Brown's were active in the Free Methodist Church. Mrs. Brown was the Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years. Many of the former children who attended Sunday school still recall the great times they had at the Easter parties Mrs. Brown would have for them.

In 1949-1950 they built a new house and in 1963 they sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Art Frayn and moved to Rocky Mountain House. During this time Mr. Brown became involved with the great sport of curling and curled in many bonspiels in Leedale and Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February 1969



HONORED ON 60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

In October of 1972 they moved to the Parkland Manor in Rimbey where they lived until their passing. Mr. Brown passed away in October 1973 and Mrs. Brown in December 1975.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN S. BRUN, NE 15-42-4-W5 — by T. Hanna**

My parents came to Canada from Christiania (now Oslo), Norway in the later 1880's. My dad came first to Minnesota and later my mother and five children came across by sailing ship. They left Minnesota and settled about 50 miles north of Regina at Govan, Saskatchewan, where the last four children were born. When I was five years old (in 1915) we moved to southern Saskatchewan just one-half mile from the Montana border, a nice but barren land, covered with

L. to R. Tillie Krogstad, Verona Stewart, Helen Lapeare, Hannah Bengston. Sitting: Mr. and Mrs. John Brun and dog "Sport"

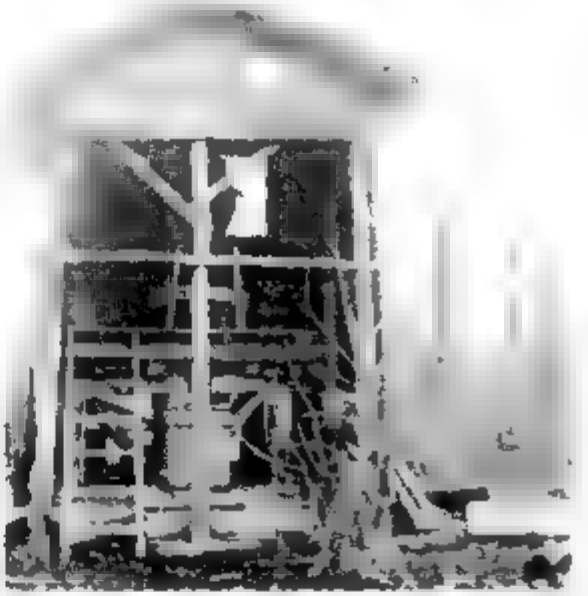
bleached buffalo bones, lots of antelope and luscious green grass, (no drought then).

During the "hungry thirties" my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brun, my brother Floyd and niece, Virginia Bengston came to the Mount View district from Frontier, Saskatchewan. They came in a Model A Ford to this beautiful country which seemed like a paradise after leaving the "dust dunes" in Saskatchewan.

They got an acreage 13 miles west of Rimbey by the bridge crossing the Medicine River.

Dad built a log house and blacksmith shop there, but they lived there for one year. They then purchased the Lou Eaton place (NE 15-42-4-W5) which was two and one-half miles north of Leedale.

They moved the log buildings and settled



Mr. John Brun's flour mill. He brought the grinding rocks, one from Montana and the other from Saskatchewan.

down to farm in 1935. He did blacksmith work for the surrounding district for a number of years

While he lived there he had a flour mill which he made out of two huge rocks. One rock he got in Montana and the other one on the Saskatchewan side. The rocks were about three feet across and one and a half feet thick, with a six inch hole in the centre. I always held the chisel for dad while he was carving them out. It was a long tedious and vibrating job I must say

One rock was put on top of the other. The mill was powered by a Model T Ford engine and as the top rock spun around the wheat was ground into flour, fine or coarse, whichever one desired.

When my parents came to Alberta they had to leave the rocks in Saskatchewan, but Russel Stewart and my brother, Floyd, went back with a half ton truck to bring them up. It was such an immense weight for the narrow tires, that the tires kept popping like popcorn, so they unloaded one rock on the other side of Calgary and made the rest of the way O.K. Later Russel and Verona went down and brought the other rock home. The mill is now in Stan Reynolds' Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta

Dad made his own roof shakes by hand. He was also a great woodsman and fisherman and slashed out many roads (still used) in British Columbia in the 1920's. Dad died in 1941, age 78 years, with many of his hobbies unfinished. My parents were very hospitable people and always had a house full of company

My mother and brother sold the farm to Cleland Price and moved into Rimbey. My mother died in 1956 at the age of 86 years, still humorous and contented

We miss them both very much

**BUCKNELL, TOM**

Tom Bucknell moved onto the "Lee" place, coming from Lockhart about 1934. That winter his house burned and he died from burns received in that fire. Pete Fraser noticed the house was burning and went to investigate. He carried Tom the one-half mile to his home. The weather and bad roads prevented Pete from taking him to the hospital for about a week. Lucy Robinson cared for Tom as best she could during that time, but the burns were so bad he lived only about another week after reaching hospital

**BURNS, WADE AND SUE**

Mr. and Mrs. Burns bought the SE 23-42-4 W5 from Cody Bengston and moved to the district with their son Eddie and daughter Shannon in December 1974 from Louis Creek, B.C.

Besides his farming duties Wade works at Parkland Motors, Chev Olds dealer in Rimbey as parts man and mechanic. He is interested in all sports and enjoys the position of pitcher in the Rimbey baseball team

Sue works at the Rimbey Livestock auction on sale days and is a licensed AI Technican and bonded Livestock Dealer

Eddie and Shannon attend the Rimbey school. Eddie plays hockey and is very interested in hunting and trapping. Shannon is enjoying skating lessons this year

**CLAUDE AND LILLIE CHALLAND NE¼ 2-42-4-W5**

The Challand brothers, Terry, Clarence, Merton and Claude, came from Iowa to Canada in 1905

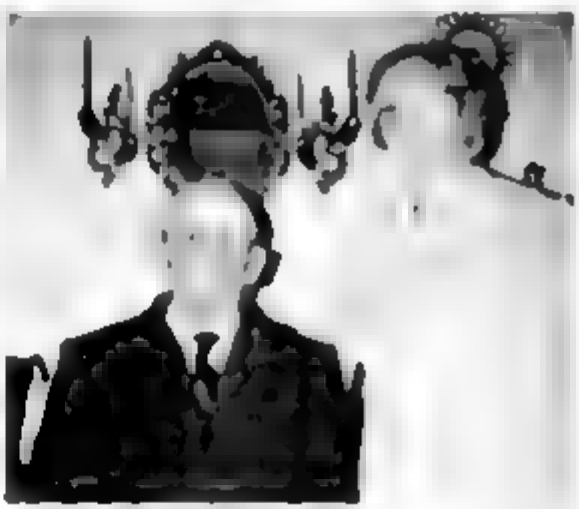
They arrived at Lacombe and remained in that area for two years before venturing to the Leedale area, known then as Wittenburg. They all took homesteads

Terry, who was married to the former Lou Archer in Iowa, homesteaded the NE 36-41-4-W5 in 1907. They had no children of their own, but later helped raise Thelma and Gilbert, children of Clarence Challand. Aunt Lou died in 1945. Terry sold them, and moved to Rimbey

Clarence homesteaded the NW¼ 32-41-4-W5 in 1907. He built a log house there in 1908, and later married Florence Norris of Baltimore, Maryland in 1909. Clarence lived there for 40 years when his son, Gilbert, took over the farm. It was later sold to Orris Challand in 1948.

Merton Challand homesteaded the SE 2-42-4 W5th in 1907, the quarter on which the Leedale store was later located. He lived there about three years before moving to Bentley

Claude Challand homesteaded the NE 2-42-4-W5 also in 1907. In 1908 he married Lillie Shoupe. To this union were born five children; Yola, Lela, Orris, Glenn, and Alma. Yola married Alva Hancher, farmed for several years south east of Leedale, and now resides at Vernon, B.C. Lela married John Scott of Calgary. Orris married Beatrice Brown of Leedale, and farmed a few years east of the store before moving to Rocky Mountain House. Glenn married Beatrice's sister, Floy, and they farmed south and west of Leedale before moving to a farm south of



Claude and Lillie Challand, taken on their 67th Wedding Anniversary 1975

Rimbey. Alma married Edward Belt also of Leedale. They also farmed west of the store before moving to Red Deer.

Claude and Lillie drove by team and wagon for three summers to Bassano-Brooks area from 1910 to 1913 to work at road building with horses and scrapers. They hauled building material from Lacombe by team and wagon to build their first good house in 1918. They recall many hard times, doing roadwork to help pay land taxes etc , raising hogs and horses, and milking cows to make a living. They farmed, adding land to their original until 1965 when they sold the farm to Russel Stewart and moved to Rimbey where they still reside.

**CHIBKI, PETER AND LILLIAN**

We moved to Leedale from Neilburg, Saskatchewan on October 17, 1938. We arrived by freight train bringing two cows, two calves, four horses and some machinery. We purchased a farm from Mr. Cuttler, which was known as the old La Belle place. Before we could move into our house, Ernest Lee had to first remove the grain that was stored there. Therefore, for two weeks we stayed with Pete's sister and brother-in-law, Alex and Mary Skoreiko.

That fall we started digging our water well by hand. The last 10 feet we hit solid sandstone rock and used dynamite, hammer and chisel and finally struct water at 35 feet. Our crop the next year froze and we threshed with sleighs. Being from Saskatchewan we brought Thatcher seed wheat, but that was the first and last time, as we found out Leedale didn't compare with

# Old timer dies at 104

**Terry Challand** - Terry Challand passed away on November 21, 1977, at the age of 104 years. A popular long-time resident of the Rimbey town and district Mr Challand enjoyed life to the full.

He was born in Iowa, the oldest of a family of seven, on February 3, 1873 and came to Canada in 1905, to the Lacombe district. He returned to the USA in 1907 and returned with his bride Loucinda Archer. They proved up a homestead in the Leedale area, southwest of Rimbey where he farmed until 1950 when he moved to Rimbey. He kept an interest in farming and even helped with some of the work on the farm in his 95th year.

He entered the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital in 1969 where he resided until his death. Funeral services were held on Thursday November 24.

Saskatchewan. Our first baby, Edward, was born on March 22, 1940 at the Rimbey Hospital which is, now, a Nursing Home.

That same year Pete's brother-in-law and sister, Nick and Helen Sulak from Edson purchased Palahnuik place. In the fal. of 1941 we had a sale to raise enough funds to make a down payment on the land we purchased northeast of Rimbey. We rented Sulak place for a year then moved to our new home on April Fool's Day of 1943. There was so much snow that there were deep banks on each side of the road. As we turned the corner to make the last half mile home, the horses and sleigh kept on going and the rack with our belongings was left hanging on the snowbank.

On February 22, 1944 our second baby, Deanna, was born.

Chibri family. Deanna, Peter, Lillian and Edward.

We are semi-retired living on the same farm north-east of Rimbey. Edward married Mildred Jensen, have two children and is Bank Manager of the Treasury Branch in Castor, Alberta. Deanna, married to Charles Montalbetti have two children and are living in Edmonton.

**CHINU**

Mr Chinu, a bachelor, came from France, first to the Aurora district, then bought a raw Canadian Pacific Railway quarter, NE 33-41-4-W5, about 1919. He sold to A. E. Westlake about 1921 and returned to France.

**HAROLD CUMBERLAND, NW 23-42-5-W5**

Harold Cumberland was born in 1890, in the Wallace Township, Perth County, near Listowel, Ontario to Wellington and Hester Cumberland. He moved to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, in 1907.

He convinced his parents to sell and move west in 1911 and he moved on to Saskatchewan in 1911.

He married Mae Greer in 1913, in Moose Jaw then brought his bride west to the homestead his father had filed on for him, NW 23-42-5-W5.

However, because of its remoteness and his love for the prairies, Harold and Mae stayed only until 1916, and returned to the Tunford farm.

He kept up the taxes on the homestead until the "dirty thirties".

They raised nine children. Harold died in Rimbey in 1972. He was predeceased by his wife in 1967.

L. to R. Manley, Florence and Harold Cumberland.

**JAMES D. CUMBERLAND — by Hildred (Cumberland) Parker**

My father, James D. Cumberland, came west from Listowel, Ontario in March, 1912. He had bought the S.W. 36-41-4-W 5 from a Mr. Dahl, in the Medicine Valley — Post Office, "Wittenburg" store and dance hall operated by Mr. Brodersen.

Dad and my elder half brother, Elwyn (Casey) had moved out in February, 1912 with furniture and some farm implements. Mother and we three younger children, Hildred, Nelson and Arthur, came a month later. Dad met us in Lacombe with a wagon, spent the night at Bentley at a Stopping House and spent the next day getting to Wittenburg. Turned west at about the present hamlet of Forshee. There was really no road — moved trees out of our trail and forded creeks.

Dad had moved west for health reasons. He had been plagued with boils while in the east. His doctor advised him that a change in climate might be beneficial. It did! Then there were the dreams, one being that the railroad had surveyed through the valley.

A sister was added with the birth of Alberta

There was the Wittenburg school where I rode my Indian saddle pony to in the summer months. Sometimes there would not be a teacher and I would attend Gimlet or Benjamin Schools

Dad's first quarter was very good soil and not as low as surrounding ones. Recall him throwing his hat out in the grain fields, if it came to rest on top of the oats — good crop

Grain and cattle were moved to Kootuk. It was a great day for me when dad or my half brother would take me along. Then I had a chance to feast my eyes on goodies in Sestrap's store in Eckville. Cattle were driven in a herd by cowboys to be loaded on cars at Kootuk

In 1919 dad enlarged his land holdings and also bought the first car in the valley, a new Model T. We had a car that would last the rest of our lives! Corduroy roads were being laid, otherwise the Model T could not get very far. Many a time horses, wagon, and saddle — horses would sink into the mire almost out of sight

My parents lived at Leedale until dad's passing August 24, 1938. Mother then sold the farm to John Archer in 1939. She passed away November 12th, 1969

My parents were buried in Bradshaw cemetery but when the Hutterites took over the valley the family had the bodies moved to Red Deer

Surviving are three children, Hildred Parker, Nelson Cumberland, and Alberta Baird

**MANLEY AND NITA CUMBERLAND SW 12-42-4-W5**

Manley was born in 1891, near Listowel, Ontario and moved west with his family, the Welly Cumberlands in 1911.

Manley and Nita Cumberland with 4 month old son, Harley - 1930

In 1928, he married the former Nita Nicholson, who was born in Dobbington, Ontario, in 1896 and came west with her parents, Reverend and Mrs. Sam Nicholson. They homesteaded in the Spruceville area in 1901. Nita went to the Camrose Normal School and taught school at Morningside, Spruceville, Chapel and Athabaska. She was clerking at the Nu-Way store in Rimbey when she met Manley.

Manley and his father operated the dray in Rimbey for many years, but the coming of the "Dench" truck made draying an unprofitable business, so Manley, Nita and small son Harley moved back to the family farm in 1934. These were the hungry thirties and things were tough. The land which had been rented before that to the Visgers was the SW 24-42-4-W5 and the SW 12.

Nita played the piano at church and was one of the very few women who could drive a car. Her neighbor Mrs. Brown could also drive and they quite often drove into Rimbey to shop in the summer. The roads were nothing like they are now, but were two black tracks, a pair of ruts, and lots of mudholes. In winter they were almost impassable, as the roads were seldom ploughed free of snow in those days.

Olaf Norem did threshing in the valley, and other neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Kruger, who lived on the quarter north, Cyril Brewer, Oliver Jacobs, Harry Robb, Jack Brandon and Lester Johnson.

After 10 years on the farm the land was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frowd, and in 1944, Manley, Nita and Harley moved to a farm one mile west of Gull Lake, where Harley still resides. Manley passed away on March 16, 1964 and Nita on May 1, 1973.

**WELLINGTON AND HESTER CUMBERLAND, SW 24-42-4-W5, 1911 — by Muriel Stevens**

Wellington Harris Cumberland was born in Listowel, Ontario, March 18, 1863 and died in Rimbey, Alberta in 1954 at the age of 91 years. His father, Joseph Cumberland had arrived in Listowel from Tyronne County, Ireland, in 1884 when he was eight years of age. It was here that his mother Rebecca Chamney was born in 1839.

Wellington married Hester Anne Grothier of Listowel in 1887. They had three children, Harold, Manley and Florence.

In 1911, Welly Cumberland and his family left their 12 room red brick house on the town line in Listowel to make the trek west, because their son Harold had decided the west was the only place to be.

Wellington took the advice of an old friend, Mr. Fallis, to buy land on the rail line which was to run near his homestead, the SW 24-42-4-W5 and through his farm which was the SW 12-42-4-W5.

In 1910, the surveyor stakes were in evidence to prove its certainty. The land was flat and clear as a fire had swept through this area some years previously. However, the rail line did not materialize.

Wellington and Hester Cumberland and Mrs. Lush

Snow and frost plagued the Wittenburg valley and crops were very poor. In 1914, when the war broke out, Florence, their daughter remembered canning wild fruit without sugar, of shooting partridge and prairie chicken with her pear handled 22 pistols, in order to supply meat for the table.

It was not uncommon to ride the range in search of their cattle. She also recounted how, at a dance at the Paul Broderson farm, a bullet sped up from the room below, luckily hitting no one.

Their two-roomed log house seemed a far cry from the lovely big home in the east. However, this home was the scene of many good times. It was here the ministers often stayed when they drove out from Rimbey to conduct services as Welly and Hester were very active in church work.

In 1920, Florence married Robert Watts of Rimbey, where she resided until her death in 1963.

In 1923, Welly, Hester and son Manley moved to Rimbey where the menfolk operated the dray between the station and the town. In those days they used to use horses and always prided themselves on the shining harness, the big Scotch collars and the sleek, groomed teams.

In 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Cumberland celebrated their 50th anniversary with a host of friends and relatives.

**DAHL, LINDIS**

Lindis Dahl, son of Ernest F. Dahl, of the Gimlet district, served in W. W. I, then purchased the SW 11-42-4-W5, the quarter the Leedale Public School was located on.

He married Lenore Baird of the Gimlet district and they had one son. The boy was about 12 years old when he and his mother moved to United States.

Lindis stayed and later married Evelin Wegreen. They sold and moved to British Columbia in the late 1920's.

Lindis had two sisters, Delia and Mrs. Ora Archer.

After Lindis died Evelin married Cliff Anderson and presently lives at Canby, Oregon.

**DEFILLIPPI, DOMINIQUE**

Mr. and Mrs. Defillippi was the original owners of the SE 23-42-4-W5. They also bought the NE 23-42-3-W5 and the NE of 14 formerly owned by C. D. Aldridge in about 1930.

Having lived in Edmonton, the farm did not appeal to Mrs. Defillippi so she never moved to the farm, but did come occasional for weekends with their two sons Philip and Raymond.

The boys usually spent the summer holidays on the farm with their dad, when there was much work to be done. Dominique did a lot of breaking and brushing while he was there and always kept a hired man to work and do the cooking.

Alec Jarbeau, Tommy Fuyarchuk, and Charlie Sorenson were some who worked for him.

In 1941 he sold the land to Harold and Grace Mason who also came from Edmonton and Defillippi went to the city.

After farming for many years Masons moved into Rimbey and the land was rented to Soren Hansen, Cliff Budd, and Dale Hatala and then sold to Cody Bengston who in turn sold it to Wade Burns the present owner.

**DYAR, MR. AND MRS.**

Mr. and Mrs. Dyar homesteaded the NW 24-42-4 W5, one half mile east, four miles north of Wittenburg in about 1909. It is believed his name was John (Jack).

Mrs. Dyar had an article published in Rod and Gun in Canada in April, 1910.

It is not known how many children they had but their son, Edward Thomas (Bunny) was very ill one fall (about 1914) with pneumonia and before over it, had an appendicitis attack. He was under the care of Drs. from Lacombe and was nursed by Mrs. Harriet Baum Johnsman several weeks before regaining his health. It is believed Esther Mottet (Belt) worked for Mr. and Mrs. Dyar at this same time.

The Dyars moved from the district about 1915.

**EASTBURN**

Sanford Walker Eastburn came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Eastburn, from Treuton, Iowa, to homestead the north half of 10-42-4-W5 in 1905. He was councillor for Local Improvement District number 431 in 1914 and Reeve in 1918. Walker married a Lampman girl and they had two or three girls and a son when they sold to Peter Mulbeck and O. B. Moore in about 1919.

This land is now owned by Ralph Armstrong.

**FAREWELL FOR MR. AND MRS. L. A. EATON — N. E. 15-42-4-W.5 — taken from Pierson scrap book**

Mr. and Mrs. Lou A. Eaton and son, who have been residents of the Leedale district for a number of years, left today (Thursday) for Muskegon, Michigan where they intend to make their home. Mr. Eaton's auction sale on Monday

was a great success and he was well satisfied with the result. Mr Eaton will go on raising onions and has acquired a ten acre plot for that purpose. He specialized in onions before coming to Alberta and thinks there is real money in the business, and his friends here hope his expectations will be realized.

Note: Mrs L. (Margaret) Eaton was one of the early teachers at the Leedale School, 1921. She was also the first president of the Leedale Women's Institute.

**ERVIN, SAMUEL AND MABEL**

In March 1933, just married a few months over a year, we put a hayrack, all enclosed for a living caboose, on a set of sleighs. With all our worldly possessions, including two canary birds, two cats, and a little dog, we left Leduc, travelling south and west to our destination, Leedale. By making it to the country school yards for night camping, we were provided with shelter in the school barns for our horses and were able to get water for our use.

It was cold, and the snow was deep, different times we would have to jump out and hang onto one side of our caboose to keep it from tipping over to get over the deep snow drifts. With a small air tight heater and little cook stove, we were warm and snug inside. Our last night we camped in Leedale Hall yard, next day ending our trek west and two miles south, on the farm later known as Tom Mason's farm.

With the help of my dad, Grandpa Aske, and Sam's brothers, we shovelled off the snow and started our mansion, which consisted of one room, serving as kitchen, dining room, bedroom, etc. Inside was finished by hanging newspapers, and white washed with a white powder substance from out west in the muskeg. By mixing this powder with water or milk and adding a bit of dye it made a beautiful finish. Our house was ready to move into, and just to think this was our first home and our very own. How happy we were! By this time it was time for a few acres of crop and garden. We were then joined by a very good friend of ours, no other than Seth Wells. Needless to say he was a very welcome guest, spending time with us off and on until his passing.

In February the stork spotted our happy little abode and dropped off a 1934 model baby girl, featuring, free squealing, economical feeding, streamlined body, water cooled exhaust and changeable seat covers. By this time we were sort of growing out of our wee house, so we moved a bit further west, to help an old gent, Mr Cox. We also bettered our housing and had out buildings too. This place is now owned by Dot Carroll.

What with farming, milking cows, raising chickens, etc., time passed on. Sam hauled out posts of tamarack from the swamps, leaving just before daylight in the winter time and getting back long after dark, with only a frozen sandwich for lunch.

In August we received another stork visit, a 1936 model, a little boy, much to our pleasure, and again in November 1938, the same make as the first one. By this time we decided, being as there was no trade in on the older models, we would have to move so Mr Stork couldn't find us. We moved out to Mr. McTighe's lumber mill in the fall of 1940. In the spring of 1941, we lost all our belongings, including our milk cow, dog, cat, etc., in a forest fire, so we moved back into the Leedale district to try farming again. In September 1941 our lives were saddened by God calling our little Kenneth home.

Samuel, Mabel, Marie and Eleanor Ervin - 1941

We finally ended up buying the farm one mile east of Leedale, which was known as the Baldridge farm. The winters once again found us in the lumber camps, owned by John Jones and run by our good friend, Henry Thachuk. I cooked in the cook house and Sam hauled logs with his team of blacks. We always moved back to the farm in the spring.

In March 1950, we had a little helper arrive, Dwayne, bed roll and all, a very welcome addition to our little circle.

Later we stayed on the farm. In 1967, Sam went to join wee Kenneth. Thus closes our chapter, as things didn't seem to have much meaning after this.

Looking back at so many happy memories and our sad ones, our many wonderful relatives, friends, and neighbors, I still have many things to thank God for and Leedale will always be home.

**EVERT, JAMES AND LAVINE**

James Evert was born in Ontario in 1861, his wife, Lavine Jarbo was also born in Ontario, in 1867. They were married in the year 1884, and shortly after they moved to Forest River, North Dakota, where they farmed for some years. At this location there were five children born to this family, namely; Earnest, Effie, Mabel, David and Myrtle.

In 1903, they were on the move again, this time for Alberta. They worked their way along, settling on a farm seven miles west and one and one-half miles south of Rimbey, which they later traded for a threshing outfit and moved west to Wittenburg (Leedale). Here the children got their chance to go to school for the first time.

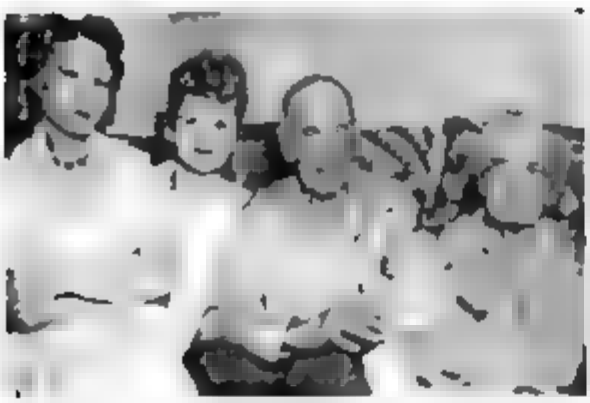
They had a half way house where Leedale is today, living there until 1913. While there three more children were born. Leo, Lillian, and William.

In the summer of 1913, they loaded their wagons again and were on the move once more. Working along the way, at the Strathmore dam and around Taber, ending up in the timber around Rockford, Washington. Here they lived to a 'good old age'.

Four of the children still live at Spokane, Washington, Earnest, Leo, Lillian and William.

Mrs. Evert lived until 96 years of age, Mr. Evert lived to age 87 years.

James and Lavine Evert



**Five Generations**

Mrs. Livina Everts, 96, holds her great-great-granddaughter, Janice Wallace, [illegible] Mrs. Wallace is the granddaughter of Mrs. Fred Mueller, a great-granddaughter of Mrs. Evert. The picture was photographed during a recent family reunion held at the [illegible] Mrs. Mabel Lee of Rimbey, Alberta, at Mrs. Everts' home, N1000 Vernor.

**FAIRFIELD, CHARLIE**

Charlie came to the Leedale district, either from the Eastern States or Eastern Canada in the 1930's. He worked in the mills west of Leedale and also spent some time with Link Boyer. Mary Kilpatrick recalls that he always received a newspaper from Chicago which had lots of comics the children always enjoyed. Charlie helped Mr. Boyer with the farming and Mary recalls how he would always carry a pocket novel with him. He would plow a half mile, then stop to rest the horses, reading a chapter in his book while resting, then go another half mile and repeat. Surprising to all, he did get an awful lot of work done. After he retired, Charlie made his home with the Griffin and Ervin families. He left Ervins in 1950's to stay with his sister at Maxville, Ontario.

**FARTHING, HARRY**

Harry Farthing, a W W I veteran, came from Calgary, in the early 1920's and stayed with the W. C. Thompson family. He was a boiler maker by trade and had worked for some time at the Odgen Shops in Calgary. He started a blacksmith shop in Leedale in the late 1920's. It was later run by Jack Booth, and was sold to Carl Aske in 1937.

Harry had a companion, a little Fox Terrier, dog, named "Ninety". When asked why he called her Ninety, he would explain "when her tail is up

Harry Farthing and John Lindsay

it makes a nine and any damn fool can see the zero."

The children of the village liked to visit Mr Farthing for though many homes didn't, Mr Farthing always had a little jam to put on the bread he offered them for lunch.

**FOX, CHARLES**

Mr C. Fox homesteaded the SW 10-42-4-W5, taking out an application for homestead May 18, 1905. He left the valley before 1912.

We are sorry no further information could be found of this person

**PETER FRASER — S.E. 9-42-4-W5**

Mr Fraser was born in Ireland on December 4th, 1888. During World War I he served in the British Navy. He came to Canada to Brooks, Alberta in 1919 and in 1928 he moved to the Leedale Valley where he bought and farmed the S.E. 9-42-4-W5

During the 36 years he lived at Leedale, Mr Fraser served on the council of the Municipality of East West for a number of years and also when the various municipal districts amalgamated into the enlarged municipality. Later when it became the County of Ponoka he acted as councillor for the Electoral Division No. 7

Peter Fraser

He was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, the Blindman Valley Livestock Co-op, the Rimbey Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and also the Kitchener Lodge No. 95 AF and AM at Rimbey

He was a kind and friendly man, a hard worker, a good neighbor and well liked by everyone.

Mr Fraser passed away in the Red Deer Hospital on July 19th, 1964.

**MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR FRAYN, SE 14-42-4-W5**

Art and Judy Frayn purchased the Oscar Brown farm in 1964. They moved out from Rimbey with five children, ranging from an infant to 12 years old. Sharron, the eldest now lives at Bentley, is married to Leroy Juuti and has two children. Tom and his wife, Elaine live at Pigeon Lake where he works for Texaco at the Gas Plant in Bonny Glen. Lana will graduate from the University of Alberta in nursing in November. She recently married Howard Curle and will live in Rocky Mountain House. Murray graduated from Rimbey High this year and is presently taking a business course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. Randy is attending Junior High in Rimbey and says he is going to be a farmer

Besides farming, Art is employed by Hudson's Bay Gas and Oil.

**FRIZZELL, MARQUIS (LAFE)**

Mr. and Mrs. Lafe Frizzell lived on the SE 10-42-4-W5 a few years about 1916. Mrs. Frizzell ran the store for Bill Lee in 1916, when Bill went overseas in World War One. The store was later run by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobs

Mr and Mrs. Frizzell moved to Rimbey in 1918 and owned Frizzell's Hardware Company

They had one girl, Elva. Elva married Jud Simmons in 1914. Jud died that same winter (1915) of appendicitis

Mrs. Elva Simmons and Mr. Jack Hinrichsen purchased the Rimbey Advance in 1921 and Elva was publisher until 1923, when both her father's hardware store and the newspaper office, which were side by side, burned down. Elva then, being an excellent horsewoman, took her trick horse "Mustang" to Hollywood, where she appeared in numerous pictures

**FROWD, ELVIN AND DOLINA**

Elvin Bertram Frowd was born in Blairmore, England in September 1885 and came to Russell, Manitoba in 1904.

His wife, Dolina was the daughter of Katherine and Murdock Thompson. She was born in Habust, Scotland in July, 1884 and came to Canada in 1901 at the age of 18 years.

She worked at Russell, Manitoba where she met and married Elvin Frowd.

They farmed there for many years and then in 1923 decided to go to Boggabri, New South Wales, Australia.

On their return in 1929 they lived at Acme, Alberta and farmed there until 1941 when they moved to the Leedale district and purchased the W½ 12-42-4-W5.

Mrs. Frowd was fond of needlecraft and gardening. Mr. Frowd was a good neighbor and they were both highly respected.

Miss. Alice Burgoyne worked for them for several years.

They farmed here until they retired and moved to Lacombe in 1964.

In April 1966 Mr. Frowd passed away at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Frowd then moved to Rimbey and was a resident of the Auxiliary Hospital for 10 years. She passed away in May 1976 at the age of 92 years.

Their daughter Dorothy and her husband Bill Brown, who also farmed here, now live in Rimbey where Bill is employed

Their three sons Bob, Glenn, and Lindsay are now married

A son Jack Frowd and his family live at Clinton B.C

**GARDNER, WILLIAM AND SARAH — by Lucy Gardner Robinson**

Three brothers, William, Thomas and Charles Gardner, came to Alberta from Minot, North Dakota in the year of 1905 to homestead, break up land for fields and gardens, do some fencing and build log houses. In 1906 the whole family came by train as far as Lacombe, then by covered wagon, hauling machinery on wagons and flat beds, driving the livestock the 40 miles to the N 4-42-4 W5, one and one-half miles west, one-half mile north of Wittenburg. They were the first to homestead west of the Medicine River

William and Sarah remained there all their lives. William died in July, 1920 and Sarah January 2, 1925. Tom also remained in the district all his life. Charles returned east to work building railroads.

To William and Sarah there were five children born

Margaret born March 24, 1903 in North Dakota. Lucy born October 7, 1905 in North Dakota, Mary born December 14, 1907 in Alberta; Helen born January 6, 1910 in Alberta, William Jr. born April 6, 1913 in Alberta.

We all attended Wittenburg — Leedale School walking the mile plus every morning and evening. In my memories, we all had a happy childhood making our own fun and laughter in work and play

The fall of 1912 we lost our home and personal belongings to fire. A new home was built in late winter. The lumber was bought and hauled by team and sleigh. This proved very difficult for the winter was cold and the snow was deep.

In 1918, when the first World War broke out, I remember going to our little post office for the mail and hearing the people talk about the war. It sure was a scary thought for us children.

With no radio or T.V. we all looked forward to getting the few newspapers that came, The Family Herald, Weekly Star and Free Press, and a catalogue or two. We sure looked forward to Christmas, New Year's and also the picnics

Margaret married Grover Simpkins April 20, 1920, they have five children.

Mary married Murphy Webb August 25, 1927, they have one boy and one girl

Helen remained single.

William Jr. married Eunice Odland June 8, 1952, they have two girls and one boy

Lucy married Lewis Robinson December 4, 1922, we have five children, all born and raised in the Leedale area, namely

Archie, born November 4, 1923, married Francis Lee in 1950. They have two children, a boy and a girl and presently reside at Airdrie

Ethel, born January 25, 1925, married R. Bonlender in 1947. They have five girls and one boy and reside in Rimbey.

Viola, born April 3, 1926, married George Jenson in 1948. They have three boys and reside on a farm north of Leedale

Evelyn, born May 1, 1927, married LeRoy Brown in 1948. They have six girls and one boy and live at Barrhead

Lester, born January 29, 1929, married Teresa Lukocs in 1951. They have seven girls and one boy and reside on his great uncle Charles Gardner's homestead, two and one-half miles west and one-half mile north of Leedale.

To date, I have 26 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. After living most of my life in the Leedale area, I now reside in Bentley, filling my time, babysitting

**GARNICK, PAUL AND JULIA — SE 13-43-4-W4**

Paul Garnick was born in Hungary in Oct 1899.

He married the former Julia Csaki in 1924 and came to Canada in 1930. They came to the Leedale district in 1938 lived on the SW 13-42-4-W5 for a few years and then bought land one mile south of Leedale

They had three sons, John, Zoley and Chester and two daughters Lynka and Margaret

Paul passed away in October, 1964 and Mrs Garnick now lives in Rimbey

**GENGE, FRED**

Mr. Genge, an Englishman, came from British Columbia to the NW 13-42-5-W5 in the early 1920's. He had been a sailor during W. W. 1 and bore a scar on his forehead, claiming to have had a bullet go through his head. He was retired and lived on his pension

Fred loved to play the banjo and sing. He spent many Christmas' with the Terlotti family

He spent one winter, about 1945, with the Westlakes and it is believed he died that spring He used to mention a family in British Columbia but they never came out here

**GIESBRECHT, ABE AND MAE — by M. Giesbrecht**

Abe was born at Rosthern, Saskatchewan and J. Mae (Fitch) at Condor, Alberta.

We were married in 1944 and moved to our present location NW 24-4-42-W5, the former Shipley place, in the spring of 1955. We arrived here from Bowden with five daughters, a dozen saddle ponies and an empty wallet

This district has been good to us as we have managed to keep the first five daughters fed and have raised two more daughters and three sons

We took the contract of Mail Carrier for RR. 4 Rimbey west, in the spring of 1957 and are still doing it. It has been extended over the years from 35 miles of rough, sometimes boggy clay

mud roads to 80 miles of pretty good gravel travel. It "we think" helps to supplement or subsidize the farm and dairy enterprise we are engaged in

The older five daughters all traded their horses for husbands.

Dianna was married in 1965. lives on a farm at Hoadley and has two sons and a daughter

Joanne married Dwight Fraser of the Lockhart district in 1967. They are farming the old Fraser family farm and also have dairy cows. They have three sons.

Donna married Ron Hansen in 1968. They live on the Hansen family farm west of Bentley and have a daughter and two sons

Pat married Mel Matson in 1975 and they have a home in Leduc. He works as an Oil Well Testing Technician

Linda married Garry Peterson at Bentley in 1970. They have the family farm and hog enterprize there. They have two sons and one daughter

Larry is endeavoring to farm in our local district, and is supplementing his income with a Seismograph Drilling enterprise

Marile is at home completing his high school education. His aim in life, quote "Anything but farming '

Kelly is going to high schoo. and milking cows at home. He is intersested in playing footba..

Darcy is in Junior High She is interested in music and baby sitting

Tracy is in the last year of Elementary school. She is interested in gardening and growing strawberries as big as eggs

**GILLESPIE, ROBERT A.**

The R. A. (Bob) GiLespie's from New Brigden, Alberta, rented the Brodersen farm, now owned by Tkacik Bros., in the spring of 1938.

The family consisted of Bob and Lucy and their eight children, Helen, Kay, Chuck, Alex, Andy, Bill, Dick and Mary

Kay attended high school in Leedale and the five boys attended public school north of town. Helen had finished school and Mary had not yet started.

What became an annual event every August, was a birthday party, which alternated between Gillespie's and Belt's to celebrate the birthdays of Chuck and Dick Gillespie and Vernon Belt. All three fell within a few days of each other

While residing at Leedale, Bob was a regular contributor to the three day Lacombe Horse Sale, held every year in March. He had brought a fairly large herd of horses with him from New Brigden and continued to do a lot of farming with horses for several years

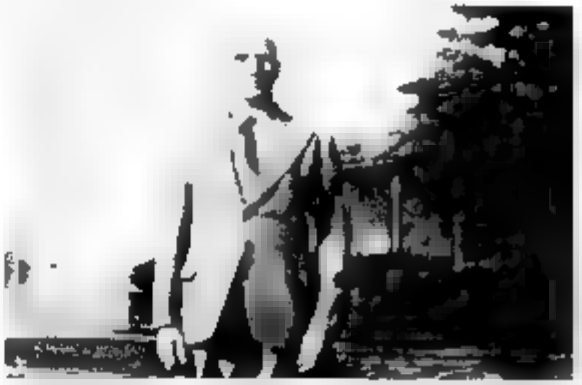
In 1941, Bob purchased land seven miles northwest of Rimbey where two of his son's, Alex and Bill still farm.

**GOODRIDGE, WILLIAM HENRY — by D. McElroy**

William Henry Goodridge was born in England and was a veteran of the First World War 1914-1918. He came to Canada and sometime during the 1940's he bought the NE 26-42-4-W5.

He didn't have much crop land on his farm but farmed it all with horses. In May, 1947 his shack burned down and he lost all of his belongings. He also lost some seed grain, chop, and a wagon in the fire.

He wasn't without a home long, for his neighbors came in and helped him build another little house and in less than a week he moved into his new house.



William Henry Goodridge

In May 1952 his badly mutilated body was found in his barn by a neighbor. It was evident that he had been kicked many times by the team he was putting in the stable. He had made himself comfortable in the spare stall, removed his shoes and passed away

He used to come to our place often for a friendly visit or a Sunday meal. He was a kind and friendly man, very humorous at times and a good neighbor

**GRAY, GEORGE**

Mr. and Mrs. George Gray retired to Leedale, from west of Aurora, in 1952. They purchased the Hugh Lindsay acre and resided there until their death. Mr. Gray passed away Feb. 28, 1956 and Mrs. Gray in 1967. George was janitor of the hall for a short time before his passing

**HASS, ELMER AND VIOLET**

Elmer Hass and his wife the former Violet Becker moved to the Leedale district from Marwayne, Alberta and farmed the NE 15-42-4-W5 for a few years.

They had four children, Marlene, Betty, Donna and Doug

When they left this district they moved to Exshaw where Elmer was employed

Violet became disabled with Multiple Sclerosis and during the 20 years she was afflicted she spent eight years in the Richard

Parsons Auxiliary Hospital in Red Deer. She passed away in the Bethany Auxiliary Hospital in Calgary, in July 1975 at the age of 52 years

The family is all married and lives in central Alberta. Elmer is now retired

**HICKMAN, C. H**

Mr C. H. Hickman homesteaded the SE 10-42-4-W5, taking out an application for homestead April. 22, 1903. He left the valley before 1912.

We are sorry no further information could be found on this person.

**HOLLINGSWORTH, GILBERT AND LORRAIN**

Gilbert Neal Hollingsworth was born on April 14, 1934, the oldest son of Stanley and Adaline (Babe) Hollingsworth. He attended school at Aurora, Faraway and various other schools

In 1954 Gilbert married Lorrain Oliver Frieholt, oldest daughter of Elvin and Edith Oliver of Leslieville

Gilbert and Lorrain have five children Maurice, the oldest son was born July 7, 1955, Marlene, the first daughter was born May 6, 1957; Merlin was born March 17, 1959, Maureen was born November 27, 1962 and Merletta was born December 2, 1963

In 1959 Gilbert and Lorrain moved to the old house on Stanley Hollingsworth's place at Aurora. In 1963 they moved north of Aurora where they built a new home on the NE 3-42-5-W5. In 1967 they moved to the Leedale district, one half mile west of the store, on the Ed Belt place, where they still live

**HOUGAARD, PETER**

I was born in Denmark January 20, 1905 and came to Canada in 1928 to Kelsey, Alberta, where I worked on a farm for one year. I came to Ellscott in 1930, working in the sawmill for one dollar a day. 'Lots of work, not much to eat.'

In the spring of 1931, eight of us took up homesteads, only two of us staying. We broke up 20 acres for me and the same for my neighbor. I had a fairly big tractor, a Twin City, at that time. This homestead was located four and one-half miles from the town of Ellscott I never did farm the place, rested it out for 16 years. In 1947, my wife, Ruby and I started to settle down on the homestead. We had a bunch of cattle, 80 pigs, but no water so we sold to Paul Lehanky

When we arrived at Leedale and saw the river we bought that quarter of land. We were there four years then bought a quarter section three miles north of Rimbey We have also lived four miles south of Ponoka and on an acreage south of Rimbey, which is now owned by Alfred Young We presently live in Ponoka

We have two children; Gordon and his wife, Linda (nee Walters), live at Irricana, and Judy, Mrs. Merle Sebry, of Ponoka.

Hougaard family: Peter, Ruby, Lorraine and Judy

**JACKMAN, CECIL AND MABEL — written by Myrtle Hooper**

It was in the summer of 1934 that Mr. and Mrs Cecil Jackman and family of four girls Thelma, Myrtle, Jean and Bernice arrived in the Leedale district.

After a great deal of thought Dad gave up the land he was renting at Blackie and filed on a homestead north of the Aurora school. They loaded all their belongings on wagons and along with three other families said "Good Bye" to the prairies

It was a long weary trip but everyone seemed to stand it quite well. For the kids it was lots of fun and excitement, but I'm sure it was quite different for the folks. Dad never did prove up on the homestead but instead moved over north of Leedale so we girls could start school that fall.

Dad worked on Tom Cumming's threshing outfit that fall and Mother cooked for the threshers. I remember our good neighbors giving us vegetables from their gardens. That winter Dad cut posts and hauled them to Leedale

We attended church at the Leedale School, Rev Brewer was the pastor

The next summer we moved to Olaf Norem's place and went to Benjamin School. That fall Thelma was stricken with polio and spent nine months in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

In 1937 Dad started working for Scotty Houston in the Gimlet district We then went to the Gimlet School and also attended church there. Rev. Baker was the pastor.

In 1939 Thelma married Melvin Chadbourne. They have lived in Edmonton for a number of years. They have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

That same year Jean married Ted Evernden. They have lived in Victoria for several years. They have four sons, four daughters, and nine grandchildren.

Myrtle married Stuart Hooper of Didsbury in 1943. They have lived on a farm there ever since. They have two sons, two daughters and six grandchildren.

Bernice married Ellis Humphrey in 1951. To them were born three sons and one daughter

They were living in Courtenay, B.C. when Ellis passed away in 1976. Bernice now has two grandchildren.

In 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Jackman moved to the Bingley District and from there bought a home in Rocky Mountain House. They sold their home in 1970 and moved to Didsbury where they have been ever since.

Mrs. Jackman is now 82 and still has a keen mind and a good sense of humor. She suffered a stroke six years ago and has been confined to the Auxiliary Hospital since then. She enjoys the occasional outing with her family.

Mr. Jackman is now 86 and lives by himself in a suite. He has his meals at the hospital with Mother. He still drives his own car around town. He enjoys the odd game of pool and spends much of his time visiting with old timers.

They expect to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on May 1, 1978.

**JACKSON, JAMES AND BESSIE**
**SE 14-42-4-W5 1907**

James Jackson Sr. was born in Toronto, Ontario in the year 1885. His wife, the former Bessie Gardiner was born not far from London, Ontario in the year 1870.

Shortly after their marriage they moved to Fosston, Minnesota, where their daughter, Margaret was born on November 28, 1898 and a son, James Jr., on May 30, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson filed for homestead the SE 14-42-4-W5 two miles north of Wittenberg, now Leedale, in 1906 and came to Canada from the United States on April 6, 1907.

They lived on the homestead for many years, where they built a log house and other buildings. They experienced many hard times as pioneers did.

Following Mr. Jackson's death the farm was sold to Oscar and Bertha Brown in 1933. Jimmy, Maggie and Mrs. Jackson then moved to his land which was the NE 13-42-3-W5. He also owned the NE of 12.

Maggie married Tom Kelly and lived in Lacombe. She still resides there in the Park Motel.

Jimmy and his wife Zelma, formerly of Yorkton, Saskatchewan, sold the land to Jack Cruickshank in 1949, after his mother passed away.

This land is now owned by Mrs. Lambertus and the old homestead is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Art Frayn.

**JACOBS, MR. AND MRS. H. J — by Mrs. Emily Prowse**

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Jacobs, bought the Leedale Store either in 1916 or 1915 from a Mr. Bill Lee for whom Leedale was named. This store was what they called "Half-Way House." They were built for travellers who needed a place to stay. There was a large store, warehouse, large kitchen, dining room, and living quarters on the main floor. The travellers could always get a meal there — whether it be breakfast, lunch, supper or midnight snack. My grandmother was always ready to prepare food. Remember it was not like now. There was no refrigerator, deep freeze or propane stove. Ice was cut every winter and put in an ice house to store meat. Upstairs there was a large dance floor, over the store, with several bedrooms on the side. There the weary travellers could get a good night's rest.

There was a large barn or livery stable for the traveller's buggy or wagon and his horse or horses. Feed for the horses was always ready in the barn and many nights there would be five to ten teams spending the night.

**JACOBS, RALPH M.**

I came to Alberta, Lacombe, 26th October, 1903 when I was 12 years old.

My wife, Sarah Sophia, came to the Stettler district in 1906, and in 1915 we were married.

I moved my family to Leedale in May 1921, to the Burley Belt homestead, on the Gimlet Creek, living there while I broke 30 acres on the NW 33-41-4-W5. I worked for McPherson Timber Lease, about 10 miles south-west of Leedale, the winters of 1921 to 1922.

In 1922, I built a log house on NW 33. My neighbors were; Chinu, one-half mile east. He had a sale in June 1921 and returned to France, R. Durand had the SE ¼ and Harley Belt the SW ¼.

Ed Carlson (Mrs. Jacob's uncle), Sarah, Myrtle, Irma and Ralph Jacobs (on horse), and Ed Bean taken spring of 1924. The house was built in 1922.

Mail came from Eckville until May 1, 1923, when it was changed to Rimbey. I took the contract from May 1, 1923 'till May 1, 1927, "Got web-footed getting over them roads."

We left the Leedale — Rimbey area the fall of 1927, moving to Carbon. "Was glad to get my feet out of the mud and get back to a cow country."

From Carbon, we went to Rowley in 1929, then on to Rumsey, Scotfield, finally retiring to Red Deer in 1967.

We have four sons, Verl of Edmonton, Melvin of Joffre, Frank of Edmonton, Larry of Red Deer, three daughters, Myrtle of Rumsey, Doris of Huxley and Melva of Blackfalds; 27 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Sarah Sophia Jacobs passed away September 27, 1975 at Red Deer, at the age of 76 years

I was 86 years old February 13, 1977

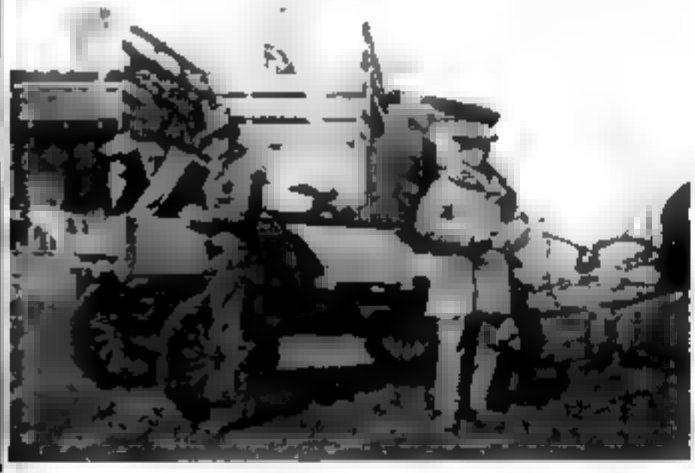
**JAGGARD, GEORGE**

George Jaggard homesteaded the SW 34 41-4-W5 in the early 1900's. He was a bachelor who had seen the world with the British Army. Having spent 20 years with the army he had many tales to tell. He did all his farming with a team of mules and a horse. He served in W W I, after which he moved to British Columbia.

**JOHNSON, ROBERT (BOBBY)**

Bobby Johnson had the contract to deliver the mail to Leedale from Rimbey from 1930 to 1942.

The mail came three days a week. Tuesday and Saturday he drove the route which was 56 miles long and on Thursday he drove directly to Leedale a 13½ mile trip.



Leedale Mail Carrier 1930-42. Bobby Johnson standing right side of picture, Scotty Kilkenny standing on left. Pat Walsh on the seat George Hendershot and Burns Kilpatrick standing behind the Bennett wagon.

He got 21¢ a mile. He wanted 25¢ a mile when his contract expired but was underbid. Mrs. L. N. Lindsay was post mistress at the time.

He also hauled grocery orders and bread to the Leedale Store besides making the odd delivery on the route. He picked up radio batteries and took them to Rimbey to be recharged. He had a little box built just the right size to hold the batteries so they wouldn't tip over.

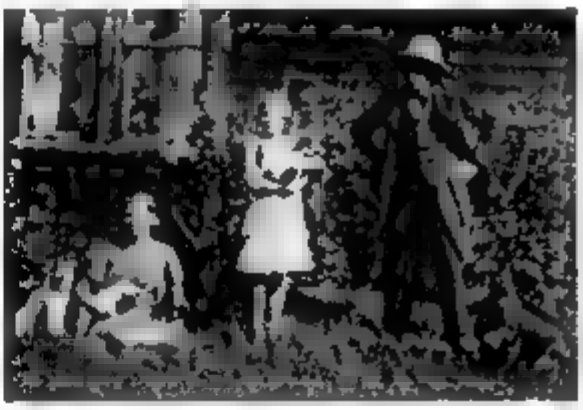
He also had many passengers either coming or going as the picture indicates. During the 12 years Bobby hauled the mail he had many different ways to travel. This particular team was named Pasty and Mona and made the trip many times. He had an old 1927 Model T in 1932, a 1928 Chev. one ton and at the last he made the route with a Minneapolis Moline tractor. His team swam the river on more than one occasion. There was only once that he failed to deliver the mail to Leedale. He was bringing the mail out on a Thursday and the river was flooding south of Rimbey at Macleans and rising. He swam the team across the river and then decided he should go back, so he left his outfit at Maclean's and took one horse, the locked bag, and swam back across the river. He took many chances during the spring floods in spring and the howling blizzards in winter, but the mail always came through.

In 1942 Bob joined the Royal Canadian Air force but due to health reasons he worked in the post office in Calgary. Since the contract had not yet expired his brother, Herb., delivered the mail to finish up the year.

Bob was well liked by everyone, was really jolly and accommodating. He passed away in 1953 after a lengthy illness.

**WILLIAM HENRY JORDAN**

William Henry Jordan lived on the S.E. 35-42-4 W 5, or the Nels Cumberland homestead. He was born in Ontario and for years worked in the log booms. He had been hurt many times. He came to Swallwell, Alberta in 1919 and lived in the Leedale area from about 1928 to 1932. He then returned to Swallwell, suffered a stroke while chopping wood and passed away at the age of 74 years.



Doris and Lila Pierson with William Henry Jordan - 1932

**KLEPADLO MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Klepadlo and their family of six children came to the district, living first on the NW 15-42-4 W5 and then moving to NE 10-42-4 W5 in 1934.

The children attended the Leedale School and although the family only lived there for three or four years they made many friends, were good neighbors and were very hard workers.

There were five boys and one girl in the family. Stanley and his wife Helen were married Oc-

Klepadio Family - 1941 Standing; Stanley, Johnny, Phyllis, Harry, Ed, Ted. Mrs. Klepadio seated. Mr. Klepadio missing from the picture

tober 20, 1945 and with the exception of spending a two year period in Toronto and Windsor, Ontario they have lived in Edmonton. They have no family

When World War II broke out, Harry joined the army and left to serve his King and country He was wounded in action and as a result lost his leg. On his return to active life he worked for the Coro Jewelry Factory in Toronto. He married there and he and his wife Joan had two children. Their son Wayne and wife Bonnie Jean have a daughter and he works for Toronto Hydro Company Their daughter Lynn is working as a model. Harry passed away in a tragic car accident four years ago. Joan still lives in Toronto.

Phyllis, now Mrs. Petric also lives in Toronto They have five children. She also has three children from a previous marriage all of whom are married and live in Edmonton, with families of their own

Ted and his wife Marion live in Rosebud, Michigan. They had five boys and one girl. They lost a boy in an Industrial accident. Larry the oldest of the family is married and has one child

Ed and his wife Ina live in Jasper Place. They have two boys and two girls. Ed has his own business known as Crown Welding and has a new shop north of the Winterburn corner

Johnny the youngest of the family also lives in Toronto with his wife Iris. They have a boy and a girl.

Mrs. Klepadio passed away in 1944. Mr Klepadio (Joe) who is hale and hearty at the age of 82 years lives in Edmonton at 9720-95st and still drives his own car

**LA BELLE, ERNEST**

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest LaBelle homesteaded the SE 16-42-5-W5, presently owned by John Makofka, in the early 1900's. They then moved to a raw C.P R. quarter, SE 3-42-4-W5, one mile west of Leedale in 1918. Ernest had lost an arm while working on the railroad at Lethbridge prior to coming to this country They had one child, Ernistine. They moved from the district in the late 1920's

Ernestine La Belle

**ERNIE AND HELEN LAPEARE**

Mr. and Mrs. Lapeare came to Rimbey from Frontier, Saskatchewan in the 1930's. They were driving a Model T and got stuck in the muddy road by Forshee, Alberta. (Happy day! It was the first muddy road they had seen for several years.)

They settled on the NW 23-42-4-W5th where they lived for several years They had three children: Babe who married Harold Ross in Nova Scotia; Richard who married Sally DeMarco of Toronto, Ontario, (they have three children); Dwight and wife Donna also live in Toronto, Ontario and have one child; Harry married Barbara Dahms of Rimbey and have two children

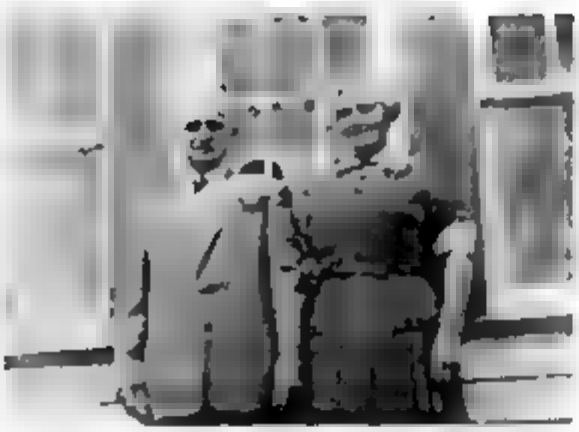
Helen and Ernie sold their farm and left for Creston, B.C. and later to Ontario but moved back to Alberta in the early 1970's

Ernie was a perfectionist in all things. He was a former tailor (in Saskatchewan), watch and miscellaneous repairer, mechanic, carpenter, violinist, wood cutter and splitter, farmer and grinder of feed — all this to earn their living — a remarkable man! Ernie died in 1977 in Ponoka, where Helen still lives

**LEE, FRANK**

Frank Lee was born in Shropshire, England, May 24, 1882, his wife, Mabel (Everts) Lee was born in Grand Forks, South Dakota, November 20, 1894. They both immigrated to Alberta with their parents around 1900, Frank to the Gilby district, and Mabel to the Leedale district, which was called Wittenburg at that time. Mabel's parents ran a store at Wittenburg until 1910 when they sold it to Frank and his mother. Later Frank's brother, Bill ran it. At that time Wittenburg was changed to Leedale.

Frank and Mabel were married May 27, 1911, at Bentley, Alta. They left in 1912 to go to the United States and lived there for a few years



Frank and Mabel Lee - 45th Wedding Anniversary - 1956

They then moved to the Drumheller district until 1936 when they returned to Leedale and bought the William Gardner homestead. In 1951 they sold out and moved to Rimbey, residing there until their passing. Frank passed away in September, 1958, and Mabel passed away in March, 1968.

There were seven children born to this marriage. Earnest of Pendryl, John, Lavina and Florence, of Wetaskiwin, Rosetta, of Buck Lake, and Frances, of Ardrie. Lillian died at birth and is buried in the Leedale Cemetery.

**HISTORY OF THE WILLIAM HENRY LEE FAMILY — by his daughter, Edith M. Price**

Mr. William Lee with his mother, Mrs. John Lee and brother Frank arrived in Wittenburg in 1912, and purchased the local store, which was previously owned by James Everts. The store was enlarged and Mrs. Lee took in boarders and served meals — the top floor of the store served as the local dance hall.

After the First World War broke out, William Lee joined the 50th Battalion, Artillery Division in Calgary in 1916. In 1917 he went overseas, and was wounded in France. He returned to Wittenburg in 1918, and continued to run the store. Then the name of Wittenburg was changed to Leedale in his honour. Bill Lee ran the Post Office until around 1925, selling out to Hugh Lindsay.

Around 1926 Bill Lee bought a farm just north of Leedale, and on January 25th, 1928 married Margaret McNab. A daughter, Edith May, was born in the farm house on September 24th, 1929, and the delivery was attended by Dr. Byers, who came out from Rimbey, and Mrs. Sarah Lush acted as nurse.

They continued farming through the 1930's raising sheep, cattle and poultry — product prices were so low in those days — can remember them taking a twelve dozen crate of eggs to Rimbey — got $.60 for them, which bought a child's straw hat at Rolston's store.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee were active in community and church affairs. Mr. Lee helped build the Leedale Hall in 1927 and was secretary of the hall board for several years. He was also the notary public in the community, and looked after the business of the Leedale cemetery, besides helping with elections, etc. Margaret Lee was a member of the Leedale Women's Institute for many years, and also the Ladies Aid, which was connected with the United Church.

William and Margaret Lee and daughter Edith - taken at home at Leedale - 1930

Their daughter Edith started school at Leedale Public School in 1935, Mr. Art Hembray was the teacher at that time. After grade seven, she went to the high school, which was held in Bill Lee's old store building in the village of Leedale.

In July of 1943 Bill and Margaret Lee held an auction on their farm, and moved to Victoria, B.C. They bought a home at 3951 Blenkinsop Road in Victoria. On March 11th, 1944 Bill Lee died suddenly of a heart attack. Margaret Lee and her daughter, Edith continued to live in the home and Mrs. Lee resided there until her death on September 19, 1975.

Her daughter married John Price of Salt Spring Island on February 14, 1953. They have three daughters, Patricia born in 1957, who now resides in Calgary. Teresa born in 1960 and Irene born in 1961, who are still living at home located at 1660 North Dairy Road, Victoria, British Columbia.

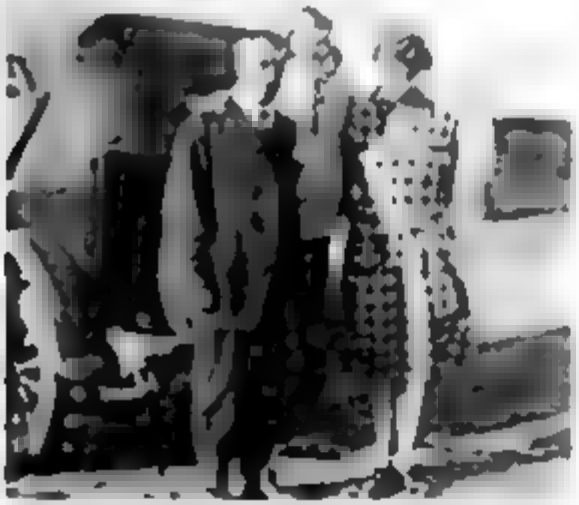
**LINDSAY, HUGH**

Hugh Lindsay was born May 11, 1882 at Tayvallich, County of Argyle, Scotland. Came to

Enderby, B C In 1910 then to Leedale in the spring of 1914. He enlisted in the army in 1916, went overseas in 1917 and returned to Leedale in June 1919.

He and Loretta Nugent were married on February 8, 1923. They lived on the farm until 1927 when they bought the Leedale store from Russell McClain

They had two children, Elizabeth Ann (Bess) born December 13, 1923 and John Charles born July 20, 1927. John passing away in February 1931



Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lindsay and Bess

Hugh joined the army in the Second World War, July 12, 1941 and was discharged September 1946

He was postmaster at Leedale from April 11, 1927 to July 1941. Loretta was in charge of the post office from 1941 until she and Hugh moved to Calgary in February 1952.

Bess attended Garbutts Business College in Calgary in September 1942, then was engaged as a Telephone Operator with Alberta Government Telephones in April 1945 and will be retiring in April 1978 with 33 years service. The last six years have been spent in the Telephone Office in Red Deer, having transferred here as the Chief Operator in October, 1971. She was married to Edward Skjonsberg July 21, 1976 and they make their home in Red Deer

Lindsay Post Office, House and Barn

**LUSH, MR. AND MRS. HUBERT**

Mrs. Lush was born October 8, 1872 and came to Canada from Des Moines, Iowa. In 1912 Mr and Mrs. Lush were married and moved to the SW 22-42-5-W5. Later they moved to the SW 11-42-4 W5, one mile north of Leedale living there several years. Mr. Lush passed away in 1948, Mrs Lush passed away in the Auxiliary Hospital, Rimbey, May 9, 1951

**MANNIX, RUSSEL LEE AND CARROL MAXINE**

I, (Lee) was born September 6, 1937 in Rimbey and lived in the Aurora district on the SE 2-42-5-W5, until the spring of 1942 when I moved with my parents, Mr and Mrs. Joe Mannix, to Sylvan Lake. We moved to Sylvan Lake so us kids wouldn't have so far to walk to school. I took all my schooling in Sylvan.

In 1951 my dad, brother Dale, and myself came back to the farm at Aurora. After I finished school in 1953, I helped Dad with the farm and worked with several Seismograph drilling companies, covering most of Alberta and part of the Northwest Territories

We did our haying with horses, — cutting, raking and stacking. We used a bucking pole to stack at first, then got modern and used an overshot stacker and sweep.

In 1961, Dad and I sold the farm to Lawrence May and I went to work for Dr. Spiers, blood testing cows Rodney Tolonen and I tested cows from Eckville south to Caroline, north to Rimbey and as far west as there were cattle to be done

On May 18, 1962 I married Carrol Belt of the Leedale district.

Carrol Maxine, "after thought" of Mr and Mrs Harley Belt, was born in Rimbey on December 24, 1939 and has lived most of her life in the Leedale area. She took her schooling at Leedale, Gimlet and Rimbey, attending Gimlet in 1950-51 and Rimbey in 1954-55. Getting to and from school was difficult at times. Most springs it was a real ordeal for those living west of the Medicine River The river would flood over the road and at one place the river was so close to the Dingle Creek they would run together, causing fast water, making it difficult for a saddle pony to stay on its feet. Many times during the flood time the children had to go west then north over the bridge at Pete Fraser's, then east and south to get to school, making it four or five miles further. Winters were bad also, for the roads were seldom snow plowed until the drifts were so deep the horses couldn't get through. One winter, about 1950, the snow was so deep that when the road was cleared with crawler tractors the children riding horses back tried to see over the snow banks by standing up on their horses, and couldn't, it was so high.

The big event of the day was after school, to race to Mr Myer's store for a five cent chocolate bar or if one was very rich that day a 12 cent bottle of pop. The horses became so well trained you

ended up at the store even on days when you didn't intend to.

After completing her schooling, Carrol worked for Algar Agencies in Rimbey until marrying in 1962

We took up farming on the Sherman or Griffin quarter, raising cows, pigs, horses and "kids" In 1965 we formed a partnership, Belt-Mannix, with Vernon Belt and moved to the Belt farm, Leedale Valley Ranch. We farm the land by modern technique, with a bit of "days gone by" come winter when the cattle are fed their hay and straw from a sleigh pulled by a team of horses An annual event occurs Christmas night when the Mannix and Tkacik Bros. families get together for an old fashioned hay ride and carol festival

We have four children' Vernita, attending Red Deer College, Dallas in High School, Wade in Junior High and Carrie in Elementary at Rimbey

The Mannix Family - Lee, Carrol, Dallas, Wade, Vernita and Carrie.

**HAROLD AND GRACE MASON, SE 23-42-4-W5**

We came to the Leedale district in June of 1941 from Edmonton, Alberta

We bought the Defillippi place.

There was a lot of brushing to be done and Buster Adams came in with his big "Cat" to do some for us.

One spring when Dan Myers Jr. was hauling cream, the roads were so bad past our place that he used four head of horses and a tractor to pull a hay rack to carry the cream into Rimbey

Don Kilpatrick built our house the first summer we were there

Harold and Oscar Brown thought it would be a good idea to have a curling rink in Leedale, so they talked to the neighbors and helped to organize a work crew to build it

Harley Belt donated the land to put it on and the following winter they were curling'

We had lots of fun, I remember one time when a bonspiel was on, it was 40 below zero but everyone still turned out

Irma, our eldest daughter, went to school at Midland. The first winter it was so cold and so much snow that we boarded her at Alice and Joe Lester's She married Ed Cross and they live in Edmonton. They have three daughters, all married and seven grandchildren

Helen also went to Midland, later to Leedale and finally to Rimbey after the bus took the kids to Rimbey She is married to Raymond Durand from Leedale. They have five children and own the Esso Service Station in Rimbey

Judy was born in Rimbey and attended school in Midland, Leedale and Rimbey too. She married Ron Rolfsen from Leslieville. They now live in Oyama, B.C. and have four children.

Harold and I moved into Rimbey in 1967 Harold passed away January 7, 1977

**OWEN JOHN AND DORIS BELLE McELROY — written by D. McElroy**
**S½ 13-42-4-W.5; N.W. 14-42-4-W 5, S.E. 23-42-4-W 5**

We may not need an introduction to most of you but just for these records I will give a few introductory facts.

I was born four miles south of Rimbey on my Grandfather Coverdale's farm and came to the Leedale district with my parents Paul and Marie Pierson, at the age of four years. My two sisters were Dorotha, nine, and Lila, two years. It was the spring of 1927

My husband, Owen, or better known to everyone as Junior, was born in Hilsborough, North Dakota in 1921 and came to Canada with his parents, Owen and Buelah McElroy and brother, Warren in 1927. They farmed east of Red Deer a few years before they moved to Leedale in the spring of 1939. ELen, Robert and Richard had then arrived to complete the family.

Junior helped his dad with the farming and threshing outfit in the fall. He also worked at Benson's mill, drove truck for Vernen Archer, and hauled lumber from Varty's and Jones' mills. In 1941 he worked for Dan Myers, driving the cream route, and hauling groceries for the store

One fall he drove a team and wagon in threshing time, pitching bundles all day for $1.00 a day. He has always enjoyed hunting and has rarely missed going Big Game hunting in the fall

I (Doris) received all my education at the Leedale school and attended Leedale High School in 1938-'39. We rode to school unless it was too cold and then the parents took turns driving us in a sleigh or cutter. In November 1939 I went to work at the Leedale General Store where Mr and Mrs. Myers had a thriving business. I received $10.00 a month, board and room to start

and after I had worked a year I got a raise to $ 50 a day. I was hired to clerk but also helped Mrs. Myers in the restaurant and done the chores if the men were busy. They handled a lot of lumber in exchange for groceries for the many sawmills which were operating west of Faraway. There were no store hours so the trucks would stop anytime of the day or night.

After Junior joined the Royal Canadian Air force, we were married and in the two and one-half years he was in the service he was stationed at Pearee, Alberta, Fort St. John, B C.; Greenwood, Nova Scotia and Penfield Ridge, New Brunswick. Our eldest daughter, Helen Alberta, was born in the spring of 1944 and it was in that same year that we purchased the S.W 13 — from Jim Thomson and we have lived here ever since.

Junior was honorably discharged in January, 1946. Our first home was a two room log house. The floors were bare and I used a wood and coal cook stove. We had no running water, indoor plumbing or electricity. We carried the wood and water in and the ashes out. The coal oil lamps, after they were trimmed and filled, served us well. The house was no mansion, but it was cozy and warm and held many happy memories.

We both worked hard to clear the land and get it into production, and with Junior's ability to do his own mechanical work, the welding and repairs, it saved a lot of time and money.

We had a lot of rain in the spring of '46. Roads which had no gravel were seas of mud, deep holes and ruts. On June 16th, misfortune struck when Junior was pulling a neighbor out of a mud hole with his 15-30 tractor. It reared up over backwards, pinning him underneath and breaking his leg. After a six week stay in the Bentley Hospital he was able to come home.

It happened to be the day that the neighbors had organized a bee to put up our sixty acres of hay. Altogether 17 men were responsible for operating the nine mowers, three rakes and several tractors, sweeps and stackers. We were so happy with a job well done, and it proved a real spirit of neighborliness.

The leg was still giving problems so Junior went to Edmonton in January, 1947 for therapy and an operation. After a five month stay he was able to come home in May. Our dads put the crop in that spring.

Times were hard but when looking back through our records we were amused at the prices. You could buy coffee for 49¢ a pound, eggs 30¢ a dozen; bread 10¢ a loaf, lard 16¢ a pound, coal oil 30¢ a gallon, five pounds macaroni 45¢; corn 18¢ a can, butter 43¢ a pound; 25 pounds chick starter $1.15, 49 pounds flour $1 45, Gas was $9.59 for a 45 gallon drum.

We sold bundles for 7¢ each, straw for $1 00 a load; Barley was 85¢ per bushel; Oats 63¾¢ per bushel; we paid $90.00 for a good milk cow, our drivers license was $1.00 and radio license $2.00.

In 1946 we bought the N W 14 — from John Beck for $3,000.00. By this time we had a few milk cows, pigs and chickens so we were pretty well self-supporting.

Our second daughter, Barbara Elaine, was born in August 1948. With Junior working on the threshing rig it was quite an interesting fall trying to do chores with a wee baby.

In 1950 Junior bought a three ton truck and did

McElroy Haying Bee July 30 - Aug 1, 1946. Sitting on ground l. to r. Melvin Simmons, Bill Goodridge, Harold Mason. With fork, Cliff Perkins, Art Ellertson, Raymond Lamberton, Harold Lemmon, Lyle Vinger, Vernon Belt, Oscar Brown, Paul Pierson, Ed Belt, Harley Belt. Back row left to right Robert Vinger, Owen McElroy Sr., Bob McElroy, Fred Valcourt back of Ed Belt can hardly see him. Not in picture was Tom Plumb, Glenn and Claude Challand

custom hauling, cattle, coal, grain, lumber, etc. That winter he worked awhile at Farnham's mill and got enough lumber to build a new house. With Mr. Loyek as carpenter, we got it started the next summer and was able to move into it in February before our son, John Robert was born in March 1952.

The McElroy family had a reunion in May 1955 and mother McElroy passed away in September after a lengthy illness.

In 1956 we bought the S.W. 23 — from Al Sieling and the S.E. 13 — from Cliff Parkins in 1958.

Our second son Gary Owen arrived in May, 1958.

We took our first holiday in the summer 1960. We made a trip to California to visit Junior's sister, Ellen.

In March, 1961 my father, Paul Pierson, suffered a stroke and passed away. My mother, in her 84th year and very well, lives in Rimbey.

I worked for Macleods Store in Rimbey for about five years, both in the Hardware and Furniture store.

Helen attended the Midland and Leedale schools before they were closed and the children bussed to Rimbey. Barbara, John and Gary took all Grades 1 to 12 in Rimbey and the children all graduated. Helen took a secretarial course at McTavish Business College in Edmonton and then worked at the Rimbey Gas Plant. In 1965 she married Gerald Adams and they have a wee daughter, Alisa Dawn, one and one-half years old, and a new son Aaron Scot born in Aug. Barbara also took a secretarial course at Key in Red Deer and worked in Bank of Montreal, Edmonton.

She married Edward Munday in 1968 and have a five year old son, Todd Edward and two and one-half year old daughter, Tania Elaine. They live in Red Deer where Ed is a partner in an instrument and electrical service company. Barbara works part time in a lawyers office. John took a two year Instrumentation Course at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and is working at Fort St. John, British Columbia. Gary is presently working for Siesform Drilling in Ontario and plans to go to College in the fall.

McElroy Family - left to right: Barbara, John, Helen, Gary Seated: Doris and Owen (Junior) - 1973

Junior's father, Owen L. McElroy passed away in January 1973 at the age of 84 years.

Last spring we sold a half section to Dolman Bros. and we are now planning to take it a bit easier.

Time has passed quickly and progress has brought many changes. We have been richly blessed with a healthy family and very fortunate to have so many fine friends and neighbors.

**PETER MULLBACK**

Peter Mullback came from Sweden to Boston, Mass. U.S.A. when a young lad; he met and married Hilma Hylen who had also emigrated from Sweden shortly after. Two children, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Martha, were born to them while residing there. In 1912 they stopped in Edmonton on their way to a homestead at Buck Lake where another daughter, Fern, was born. After making the required improvements on the homestead, they moved to Rimbey and then Bentley, where their last child, Chester was born. In 1919 they moved to a farm located two and a half miles north west of Leedale, where they engaged in mixed farming.

Due to the lack of a conveniently located high school, the Mullbacks moved to a dairy farm just three miles south of Edmonton in 1928.

Peter passed away in 1936 after a lengthy bout with pneumonia which culminated in a blood clot. Hilma passed away in 1975, in her 93rd year.

The sons and daughters all married and are living in the Edmonton area. Martha was widowed in 1966.

**DANIEL JOHN MYERS FAMILY**

Mr. Dan John Myers was born July 11, 1889. Mrs. Mary (Dolly) Myers was born November 9, 1887. Both were born in Kansas, U.S.A.

They were married October 12, 1907, and lived in the State of Kansas for several years, where their first three girls, Stella, Margaret, and Beatrice, were born. Then they moved to Saskatchewan while the girls were very young. They lived or homesteaded on a farm about three miles from the Montana Border and 13 miles from a small town called Frontier. While there they had a son, Daniel John Myers Jr., and two girls, Leona and Bertha.

Mr. Myers farmed and raised horses. The 1930's were hard years, and in 1936 the weather was so hot there wasn't going to be any crops and the grass was burned to a crisp, so there was no feed for all the horses we had, which was around 75 head. Many farmers were beginning to give up and move to Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Myers headed out to look for a place to buy where we could move. Within about four days they were in the Leedale area looking for friends who had left Saskatchewan, they stopped at the little country

store to ask if they knew where they lived. Frank Tarrabain was the owner and said he wanted to sell the store and the quarter of land it was on. After talking awhile, he asked if Mr. Myers would be interested in trading his horses for the store.

Dad said, "Well, it had always been his dream to go into business."

Mr. Tarrabain came back to Saskatchewan with them and they made the deal, so everything except some furniture and personal things was sold and the horses were shipped to Lacombe, Alta. to be sold. The three oldest girls were married, so there was just Dan 18, Leona 16, and Bertha 14. Leona and I (Bertha) rode in the back of the truck all the way to Leedale. When we arrived at Leedale, there was only the Post Office run by Hugh Lindsay and the store and Community Hall. This was August 14, 1936. When we arrived, we were going to sleep upstairs above the store. It was a mess, as there were hides of animals there, anyway we straightened a bit and made the beds. We did not get much sleep that night as the bed bugs decided to have a feed. Early the next morning the mattresses had to be burned. Cleaning was the order of the day. Mr. Myers was downstairs while mother handed Leona and me a pail of lye water and scrub brush. We were down on our knees scrubbing the floor when all of a sudden Leona upset the lye water and it ran through the ceiling of the store.

My dad yelled out, "What the heck is going on up there!"

We looked around the corner of the stairs, and there stood a bald-headed man rubbing his head and groaning. Needless to say, we girls thought it was a big joke. But my dad was very angry at us, and embarrassed as it was his first customer and not a very happy one. His name was Mr. Hayward.

Dad's business began to grow, and people brought butter, cattle, pigs, eggs, fence posts, and lumber to trade and buy groceries. We also had a large trade with the Indians for a few years. They brought in animal skins and leather-beaded jackets, moccasins, gloves and mitts of all sizes, which we bought and sold mainly to the men who worked at the mills which were 25 miles from us. Not many people had cars at that time so they were glad to have a country General Store. Mother had decided to start a restaurant at the back of the store and we sold meals for 25 cents, and had beds over in the house and charged 35 cents a night. Dad started a cream route, and we had kept two or three horses, so I used to hitch up the buggy, and go out and gather up the cream from all the close in customers while dad took the truck and went out to the Aurora area. We took orders for groceries and their cream, and then delivered the empty cans and groceries the next day. The first winter it was so cold the thermometer broke at 60 below. We all worked very hard and had a good business and many friends. The store was open seven days a week for many years. Mr. Myers was road councillor for several years, and had the store until he became too ill to run it. It was sold to his son, Dan Myers Jr. in 1964.

Myers Family picture taken on Mr. and Mrs. Myers' 50th Anniversary. Left to right: Bertha, Beatrice, Margaret, Stella, Mrs. Myers, Dan Sr., Dan Jr., Leona.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Leedale hall in 1957.

Dan Myers married Valeria Buck, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Challand of Leedale. Bertha Myers married John Fraser of Lockhart, Dec. 3, 1939, and Leona married Ivan Adams of Rimbey. Leona died in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers moved to Bentley, and bought a home in March 1964. Mr. D. J. Myers Sr. died May 24, 1965 and Mrs. D. J. Myers died July 11, 1965.

Bertha's husband died Sept. 27, 1967, Beatrice (Myers) Skogen died May 9, 1967.

Those surviving are, Margaret of California, Stella of Calgary, Dan of Edmonton, Bertha of Haney, B.C.; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

(Written by Mrs. Bertha Kern, youngest of the Myers' Family.)

**MYERS, DANIEL JR. — Information from Tributaries of the Blindman**

Dan, born in Frontier, Saskatchewan, came to Leedale with his parents in 1936 to help them operate the store business they had purchased from Frank Tarrabain.

Myers's Store not only served the farmers of the area but supplied groceries for the sawmills several miles west of them. These orders were usually filled at night after regular hours taking several hours to fill. Dan hauled groceries from Edmonton until 1941 when he joined the Army. He returned to Leedale in 1944 to join his wife, the former Valera Buck.

In 1949 they purchased the Dreitza place in the Lavesta district where they lived for three years. They then moved to Wainwright where Valera died in 1954. Dan worked several years in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. He returned

to Leedale and ran the store for about one and one half years prior to selling to Paul Borth in 1966

They had four children; Lorraine, Dianne, Faye and Douglas

**NE 9-42-4-W5 — by John and Sylvia Walters**

The NE 9 was homesteaded in 1907 by Mark Lampman. In 1910 Hank Nelson bought this farm and his brother, Arvid, farmed the SW 16. Hank left for California about 1918. In 1921 Jack Anchor had the farm.

**Wiltses**

Garner Wiltse bought the farm in 1923. In 1925 Lyn Wiltse purchased the quarter from his brother, Garner. In 1926 Lyn traded an old Model T Ford for the house owned by Mrs. LaLone. The house was a lath and plaster house, and was a very fine house indeed. In early spring February or March, the house was moved. Grover Simpkins and Charles Wiltse sawed the house in two pieces and raised it up. Ted Pimm, Dewey Simmons, Lyn Wiltse and his two young boys, Ed and Charles, helped with the moving. It was put on skids with one skid on a sleigh. They used four mules and 12 horses to move the house. It took two days to move one-half of the house the six mile cross country route. They crossed the swamp and Gimlet Creek. When they stopped to rest the horses and mules, the skids would freeze in the snow. Ed and Charles would have to loosen the skids so that the horses could advance once more. Finally the house reached its final destination. The following summer the house was put on a cement foundation. Charles and Ed Wiltse slip hauled gravel out of the Medicine River for the cement.

To celebrate the moving of such a fine house, a dance was held. This was just the first of many happy occasions the house was to know.

Lyn Wiltse also began the log barn that was here for many years. His sons, Charles and Ed, cut and skidded the logs from Medicine Lake. The lumber for the joists came from Lake Eighteen. The carpenter who built the barn was an expert. The logs were dove-tailed and it was a well built barn. The next owner, Polynik, completed the building of the barn. This barn was used until 1964, when it was accidentally burned to the ground.

Lyle and Ed Wiltse and Ted Pimm on NE 9-42-4-w 5

In the fall of 1928 Lyn Wiltse once again decided to move. He was a bit of a horse trader. He traded farms with Polynik from Shedd, Oregon. They traded land, stock, and household effects sight unseen. Mrs. Wiltse often regretted leaving some of her dishes.

Nineteen twenty-nine was the beginning of hard times. Dried out crops would be lucky to yield 10 bushels to the acre. Polynik rented the farm out to Manowich. Later he sold it to William Sulak. Peter Chibet also rented the farm for one year.

**Jevnes**

Tustan and Alice Jevne bought the farm from William Sulak on March 8, 1946. When they first came to look at the farm, they had to walk through the snow to get to the buildings. A fellow who was hauling feed told them, it would not be a good place to purchase, as the only thing that could be grown was greenfeed. However Tustan and Alice did not take his advice and found that although there were lean times, it was a good place to raise their family. In 1947 the Jevne's planted the shelterbelt that now beautifies the farmstead.

In 1952 the Medicine River flooded. In order to cross it, Tustan piled lumber in the wagon. From this precarious perch Alice held onto her babies and watched the logs and debris float by.

The roads were noted for being impassable. One instance was the occasion of John and Marie Tkacik's wedding. As Judy was the flower girl it was imperative that they be on time. The Jevne family left at seven in the morning and arrived in Leedale at noon in time for the wedding. As the five miles to Leedale were impassable, they had to travel all the way to Rimbey and then back on the Leedale road. Often the truck had to be left on the main road and the family would either ride the tractor or walk home. However poor roads didn't keep neighbors from visiting in those days. The Jevne's were always noted for their wonderful hospitality.

**Walters**

Henry Walters purchased the farm in 1965. After being home to Butch and Sandra Walters in 1965 and Tom and Elaine Walters in 1966 it became our first home in July of 1967. Once again the old house rang with cheery voices. The walls whispered their secrets. A house with atmosphere, it had known sad and happy times. We enjoyed sharing our humble home with friends and relatives who came often.

Now the old house stands vacant once again. With the help of our wonderful neighbors we erected a new home. Although Leedale, known as the "Greenfeed Valley," may often be short of

good crops, the people are its main asset. There is always a helping hand to be found. Good neighbors and genuine friendships prevail. We plan on raising our family here and hope that once they leave to discover the world, they will always cherish the memories of growing up in the Leedale Valley

**NE 34-41-4-W5**
**S. D. Clifford**

S. D. Clifford homesteaded the NE 34 — building a log house and a frame barn about 1910. Mr and Mrs. Clifford had one girl, Mrs. Ed Gerlinger They remained here until about 1918

**Robert Lee (Dick or Gramp) Hollingsworth**

Dick Hollingsworth came to the valley, to the Clifford place, now owned by Vernon Belt, in the fall of 1919, bringing with him a large herd of cattle expecting to let them rustle for their feed as they had on the prairies from which they came The winter of 1919-1920 proved to be one of the longest and hardest of this country's history with the snow coming early and deep, and staying long after spring should have come

Despite the efforts of Mr Hollingsworth to get feed for his animals, he lost nearly all of his cattle. He hauled hay from east of Lacombe, a 40-plus mile trip one way, and south of Red Deer, a 50 mile trip one way, in his attempt to feed his starving animals. The bones of the animals remain yet today, piled in a draw on the Belt farm, just a reminder of some of the problems the early settlers had in this area

Dick wasn't the only one to loose cattle that winter, there were very few, if any, that were able to bring their stock through. Many who thought they "had it made" when spring finally did arrive lost their animals when they went onto grass, for they had been starved so long they couldn't stand the feed

A more complete story of the Hollingsworth can be found elsewhere in this book.

**W H. Wills**

W H. Wills lived on the Clifford place the winter of 1920-1921. He moved from here to Rimbey in the spring of 1921 to open a photography shop.

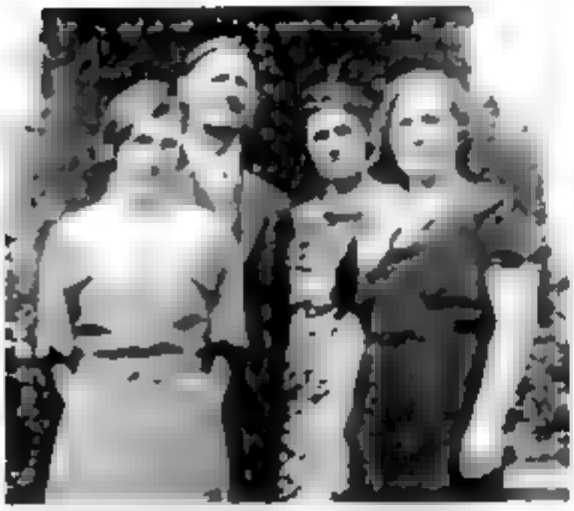
**Harold Gee**

Harold Gee purchased the NE 34 from S. D Clifford about 1921. He had been a bank clerk in Calgary prior to moving here. He married Mrs. Tyson, a widow, and she had a daughter, Elsie. They had a son who died in infancy They moved to Calgary about 1929

**OLSEN, JOHN G. AND B. OLI**

John and Oli Olsen came to Wittenburg from Blaine, Wash. in 1905 to homestead the W 34-41-4-W5. Their mother came with them and stayed until John married, then returned to Washington. Oli passed away about 1910.

Taken August 1, 1920 by Wills photo. Back row: unknown, A.J Engebretson, ?, Tom Simmons, Ed Holeck, ?, Pete Mullbeck, and Fern, ?, ?, Julius Mullbeck, Clay Aldridge, Jack Rotherham, Leo Benson and Verna, ? Front row Martha Mullbeck, ?, ?, Mrs Pete Mullbeck, ?, ?, ?, ?, Mrs. Clay Aldridge, ?, Mrs Josephine Simmons, ?, Mrs. Leo Benson. children in front Richard Mullbeck, ?, Lloyd and Gilman Benson, ?, ?, Claude Benson Charlie and Walter Aldridge, ?



John Olsen Family

John, born December 5, 1894, at Recine, Wash. married Hulda Jacobson, of Wittenburg, in 1914. They made their home on the farm, raising their two daughters, Ellen and Thelma. In 1942 they sold their farm to Glen Challand and moved to Edmonton. In 1944 they moved to Vancouver, B.C. where Ellen and Thelma still reside

This scripture, which was read at Mr Olsen's funeral, describes him very well

"A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always." (Acts 10 2)

**LEEDALE NEWS ITEM April 30th, 1942**

It takes Bert Parker to bring home the big ones — last Saturday he caught an eleven pound fish measuring thirty-five inches, in the Medicine River at Leedale.

Mr Parker was born in Oman, Michigan on August 27, 1878. He came to Canada to Vulcan, in 1923. He worked in the mines and lumber camps much of his life. He and his wife Annie and three children, Donald, Harold and Charlotte lived in Leedale. He retired to Medicine Lake in about

Bert Parker house - 1943 when the river went over it's banks

Bert Parker with his big fish.

1953 and went to live with Charlotte in Calgary in 1968. He passed away on November 21, 1973 at the age of 95 years

**PAUL LYLE AND CLARA MARIE PIERSON (1927-1948, N W. 13-42-4-W.5) — by Clara M. Pierson**

My husband and I were both born in the United States

Paul was born in Lake Gage, Indianna, January 28, 1893 and came to Canada with his mother and step-father, Homer and Etta Reed in 1915. They settled in the Lockhart Valley

I was born in Stark, Kansas on November 14, 1893 and came to Canada with my parents, Alfred and Rosetta Belle Coverdale in 1903. Dad filed on a homestead north of town but we never lived on it. We lived in a shack on the D B. Pineo place. Dad then bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter four miles south of Rimbey or Kansas Ridge at that time. We moved there when the house was built

Paul and I were married in July, 1918. We farmed north of town for a while and it was there that our eldest daughter, Dorothea Mae, was born in May, 1919. We later moved to the old Coverdale home place where Doris Belle was born in April, 1923 and Lila Marie in April, 1925.

We farmed there until the spring of 1927 when

we moved to the Leedale District. We bought a Canadian Pacific Railway quarter for $10 an acre with ten years to pay. Paul had built a little shack and covered it with tar paper to live in for the summer, so we had to store most of our furniture and other belongings in a neighbor's barn until our house was built. A few days later the barn burned to the ground so we lost all our things. It was heartbreaking but couldn't be helped. I'll never forget how bad the mosquitoes were that summer and how cramped we were in the little shack.

We managed to get some breaking done that year but we were anxious to get our house started. Paul hauled the lumber from Lacombe and I helped with the carpentering. I could pound nails pretty good in those days, in fact I won a nail pounding contest when I was a girl, against T. A. Iddings in Rimbey. We didn't get the house finished that fall but moved into it before winter.

We lived as many other pioneer families did, with no modern conveniences or power machinery. We had a few milk cows, pigs and chickens, so we had our milk, eggs and butter which meant a lot.

Paul spent many a hot, sultry day driving the horses on the breaking plow, fighting horse flys and mosquitoes. We both worked hard, grubbing and pulling the big trees and plowing down the small ones. The brush was all piled by hand and then burned as it was readied for the plow. Paul walked many miles behind the harrows trying to level it before the crop was seeded and finally made a harrow cart so he could ride.

I remember well the wash days, long and tiresome. We hauled water from the neighbors or carried it from the rain barrel. It was heated on the cookstove in wash boilers. I had an old hand operated washing machine but did a lot of the wash in the tub with the wash board. After they were rinsed in bluing, starched and hung out to dry, they were gathered in, sprinkled and ironed with the old sad irons.

I did most of my little girls' sewing, baked bread, milked cows and grew a big garden. I canned a lot of vegetables and the rest were stored in the root cellar. When the wild berries were ready, we would pack a picnic lunch and drive with team and wagon to a good berry patch and pick all day. When we got home and the chores were done, we would sit by the dimly lit kerosene lamp and clean berries so they could be canned come morning.

Paul liked to hunt and fish. Every fall he went Big Game hunting and usually came home with the winter's supply of wild game. I canned some in jars and the rest hung outside where it stayed frozen. There were quite a few grouse, prairie chicken, squirrel and rabbit at that time and when the meat supply dwindled they made a fine meal.

Times were really hard during the depression years. Little was accomplished, as everyone knows who experienced the hungry thirties. Everything was cheap in comparison to what it is today but there was no money to buy with.

Most of our groceries were got in exchange for fresh farm produce. I churned butter and got 15¢ a pound and eggs were 12¢ per dozen, but it all helped to buy the essentials.

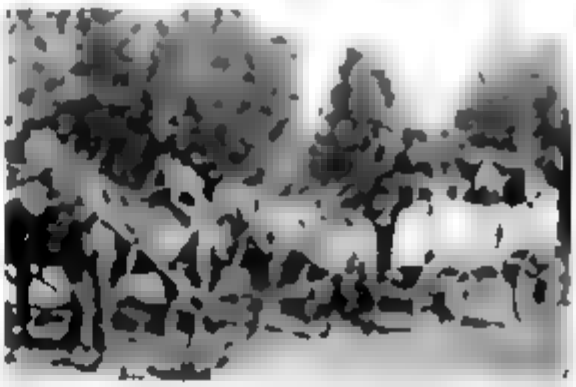
Paul finally traded for a 1928 Chev car. We couldn't afford to run it very often, but we did use it for special occasions.

In 1932 Paul was hauling lumber from Varty's mill with a four horse team and wagon. The wagon overturned due to a wash in the road and he broke his arm. He was laid up for quite a while with that.

Dorothea scalded her leg when she was about 14 years old. We finally got a $10 a month assistance from the Municipality to buy the medication she needed as the Doctor said she could stay at home. Paul worked the next summer with his team and frezno, moving dirt and building road, until the debt was paid up.

Every spring I did papering and house cleaning. I did sewing and knit many pairs of socks and mitts with the knitting machine in the winter.

I could operate most of the farm machinery and in the fall I drove the horses on the binder and cut the crop while Paul did the stooking. I always helped him stack the hay and greenfeed bundles. He worked on the threshing rig in the fall, sometimes with the team and rack and other years he helped run the separator.



Paul and Marie Pierson leaving for their homestead at Faraway 1940

In 1940 we filed on a homestead 20 miles west in the Faraway District. It cost us $10 and we had to prove up on it. That is, break ten acres a year and spend two months a year on it. Every spring we would load up enough supplies to do us a month and with a four horse team and wagon head for the homestead. We broke 25 acres, built a shack and small barn and in 1943 sold it for $500.

Our big outing for the year was the Leedale Celebration. The whole community gathered at the hall grounds to play ball, horse shoe, run foot races etc. They had a booth and sold hot dogs

coffee, pop, ice cream, etc. We would spend the day, go home and do chores and then go back to the dance at night.

We really enjoyed the Christmas concerts too. Several families would get together and with team and sleigh drive for miles to see the children perform. The drive in the cold, crisp air, with sleigh bells jingling and the horse's feet squeaking in the cold will never be forgotten.

We hired a man for the winter through the Government plan where the government paid $5 a month and we paid $5 a month, board and room. They helped get firewood up, cut posts, cut ice for the ice house and helped with chores.

Paul was a kind and friendly man, well liked by everyone. He was a hall board member and a school trustee. He acted as Game Guardian and was a license vendor for years.

I was a member of the Leedale Women's Institute and took part in many money-making plays.

Dorothea attended the Symonds school before we moved and then the girls rode horseback two and one-half miles to Leedale school.

Paul and Marie Pierson's 40th Anniversary. Seated - daughters Lila, Doris and Dorothea - taken 1956

In 1949, we sold the farm to R. Stuart and bought an acreage at Leslieville. We kind of semi retired and took it a bit easier. In March, 1961 Paul suffered a stroke and passed away in Rocky Mountain House Hospital. I rented the land for a while and then sold the acreage in 1972 and moved back to Rimbey.

The girls are all living quite close. Dorothea and Charles live at Leslieville. Doris and Junior on a farm that joins the old farmstead, and Lila and Steve live in Edmonton. I have 17 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. I will be 84 years old this fall, do my own housework and enjoy many social functions. I keep myself busy with crocheting and knitting.

We worked hard the years we lived at Leedale, but we were young and healthy. I have many happy memories — with family and friends while we were there.

**JOHN AND MARY PLUMB — E. ½ 22-42-4-W5**

My husband, Jack, was born at Blackfalds and I, Mary Jane Graves, was born at Lacombe. We lived at the coast where our five children were born near Victoria, British Columbia. They are Bob, Pam, Beverly, Billy and Audrey and all married now.

We moved to the farm west of Rimbey after Jack's brother, Tom passed away in 1959. We spent the summers there and in the fall went back to Victoria. The days we spent on the farm were the happiest days of our lives.

John Plumb on tractor - spring 1960

Being born in the city the children were used to all the conveniences but on our Leedale farm we had no electricity, no radio, a small cabin with coal oil lamps and outhouse.

The neighbor's children from Victoria came to visit and thought pumping water by hand was the greatest, wanted their dad to get a pump and take it home.

A couple of teenagers who came to Leedale to visit thought it was great until we had a big hailstorm. In Victoria thunder and lightning is so rare most people don't know what it is. The boys thought for sure the end had come and went back to Victoria the next day.

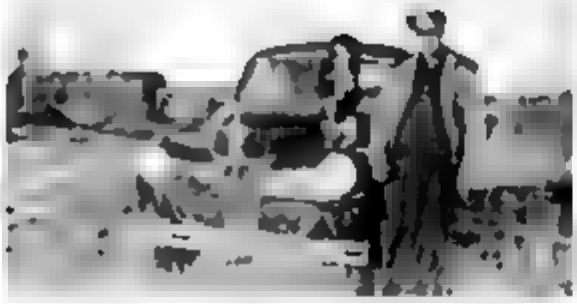
In June 1962, we sold the farm to Elwood and Dorothy Young and my husband, Jack, passed away that same year.

I believe the greatest inspiration came from the people. The way the farmers got together to help each other. Everyone seemed to know everyone and had a genuine concern for each other and their families. We found our neighbors were so friendly and helpful. We felt welcome and wanted from the start.

We learned first hand that an abundance of material things do not make happiness, but freedom and good people do.

**THOMAS HENRY PLUMB**

Thomas Henry Plumb was born at Blackfalds on May 24th, 1902. He lived in that area until he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army in 1940, and served during the war years.



Tom Plumb and his dog, Teddy

In 1946 he purchased the SE 22-42-4-W 5, and farmed there until he passed away in February, 1959.

Tom was a good neighbor and was always willing to lend a helping hand

**PRICE, CLELAND**

Cleland Price was born in Vermilion, Alta. in March of 1913, and moved with his parents to the United States when he was an infant. In 1919, they moved to Golden, B.C., where they lived until moving to Alberta in 1925.

Cleland worked in the mines at Nordegg for many years and came to the Leedale district in 1946. He worked for Leo Benson in the saw mill for a time, and then decided to go farming. He bought the SW 14-42-4-W5 from Mrs. Hanna; the SW 15 from Russell Stewart, and the NE 15 from Floyd Brun. He raised a lot of cattle and worked hard on the farm. He later sold the farm and rented Mrs. Matson's land until his death in 1976.

He had three sisters, Mrs. Ann Costyk, Mrs. Jean Fabreau, and Mrs. May Reistad, all of Calgary.

Cle was a good neighbor and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Cle Price

**RANGEN, AUDREY EVERNDEN**

Audrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Evernden, was born Sept. 15, 1916.

My father, who decided far away pastures looked greener, went to California in 1924, where he had a sister and brothers.

In January, 1925 my mother and four of us children moved seven miles west of Leedale where my mother kept house for Mr. Wilson Cox.

Mr. Cox was a well-to-do man at that time, he had several quarters of land at Leedale and also in the Bentley district, and he had a good-sized herd of cattle. My sister, Strousie, enjoyed riding horseback so a pony was bought for her. She lost this pony when it was kicked by another horse and had to be destroyed, so another was bought so Strousie could round up the cattle once in a while to see how many had been lost to coyotes, wolves or rustlers. Those days the cattle roamed all the land that wasn't seeded to grain or hay.

There used to be just a trail called Varty Mill Road west from Leedale so in 1930-31 the farmers got together with horses and scrapers and built a road as far west as Aurora. In 1950 the oil wells began to come in so the road was built on west to join the Bingley road. The road south to Lesliеville had been widened and gravelled.

In 1928 my father returned for Strousie, Lois and me. He took me to Edmonton, then sent me on to Galahad, Lois stayed with our grandparents in Lacombe and Strousie returned to California with father where she still resides.

I returned to the Leedale area in 1929 with my sister and brother-in-law, Velma and Harold Misner, where I lived until 1936, except for four winters 1935-39 when I went to Didsbury Bible School.

In 1941 I married Mr. Carl Rangen and we lived on his farm, eight miles north of Eckville, until 1971. We have three sons, Irving, Ross and Albert and a foster daughter Cheryl.

After Carl passed away Oct. 19, 1971, I moved to Vancouver, B.C. where I still reside.

**JOSEPH CLEMENT RAUDEBAUGH**

Joseph Raudebaugh was born in the United States in 1883. He came to Canada in 1911 and was a veteran of the First World War 1914-1918.

He came to the Rimbey district in 1921 and lived in Leedale with his wife and family from about 1940 on. They had eight children, Leo, Elmer, Alvia, Robert, Irene, Edna, Pearl and Edith.

He passed away in 1961 at the age of 78 years.

**THE REPAS FAMILY**

In 1924, Mr. Abel Repas left his home in Matronovak, Hungary, coming to the coal mining town of Taber, Alberta. He worked for three years there, then moved to Hillcrest, where his wife, Mary and three eldest children, Helen, Vidor and Charlie joined him from the old country. Two more sons were born here, Joe and Ernie.

Helen was married in 1932 to Joe Berze, who also worked in the mines. They have two sons, Joe Jr and Zolton, and live in the Forshee district

In 1933 they left the coal mines to begin farming at Leedale, purchasing the SW-9-42-4-W5. He brought with him the newest car to the district, a 1930 Essex Super Six. With few roads and money scarce it was not driven much and was eventually sold. Travel was done with horses for many years before he acquired another motor vehicle, a farm truck.

There was lots of work to be done. The first winter was spent cleaning the seed grain by hand, the children helping when they got home from school. It was slow, tedious work and took all winter

The language spoken at home was their native Hungarian, though the children soon learned English and spoke this between themselves. Mrs. Repas spoke little English, though was able to communicate to others who came to visit. There were other Hungarian families in the district with whom she often visited. She was known as a kind warm hearted person by those who remember her She passed away July 9, 1963 at the age of 64 years

Their young son, Joe died in 1941 at the age of 16. Their second daughter, Violet, was born after coming to the farm. She was the only one of the family to gain a high school education and went on to train as a Certified Nursing Aide.

The Repas children attended the one room Leedale School, walking a distance of three and one-half miles, morning and afternoon. If the river was low enough they could wade it and go across country, cutting one and one-half miles from their walk.

The family milked a few Shorthorn cows until the mid 40's shipping cream to Bluffton via Montalbetti's cream truck. The truck also brought needed groceries on the return route. Trips to the town of Rimbey, some 15 miles away were seldom made. Mail came to the post office at Leedale and the general store there provided the necessities as well as machinery repairs.

As the years went on Mr Repas acquired more land, four quarters in all. He owned a threshing machine to harvest his crops which were, barley, wheat, oats and some rye

Neighbors helped with the harvesting, hauling bundles and had their own crops threshed in return. Few wages were paid or received at that time. Mrs. Repas' old country cooking was much appreciated at meal time. The harvesting lasting nearly two weeks at times

Berries were usually plentiful, and many were picked and canned for winter Blueberries, saskatoons and chokeberries from which they also made wines

Vidor left home to join the army as the Second World War raged across Europe. He served with the Princess Patricia, driving a truck with supplies. Upon his return from the war he married Dorothy Golley and settled down to farm the SE-17-42-4-W5, which was the former Herman Lowe place. They have four children and farmed until 1973 when they sold the land and moved to an acreage near Red Deer

Charlie left home at the age of 15, working at various jobs in Alberta and British Columbia before returning to farming. He married Marion Owen, from the Wilesden Green district and bought the SW-8-42-4 W5 from Tom Lloyd. They have four children.

Ernie farmed with his dad for a few years, then he married Myrtle Lawson, from the Meadow Vale district He purchased the NE-7-42-4-W5, one of the quarters his dad owned, and they make their home there. They have five children. In 1974 when the home place was sold, Ernie purchased two more quarters, thus keeping the land in the Repas name.

Violet married Elmer Solberg, also of the Leedale district. They are living in St. Albert and have five children

Mr Repas, at the age of 82, is presently residing in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital, his health and memory are both quite good for his age

**ROSTAD, J J**

Mr. Rostad settled first on what now is the Giesbrecht place, then moved to the NE 35-41-4 W5, building a house on the west side of the quarter (across the fence, east, from where the Leedale Hall now sets) Being a very wet quarter it was not broke up until about 1949, by Dan Myers, shortly before he sold it to Edgar Robinson

Mr Rostad also built the barns for Terry Challand and Mullbacks.

The Rostad children attended the Leedale School in 1916 or 1917

Mrs. Terry (Lou) Challand ran a "Bargain Store" which was located on this land while Mr Rostad owned it

**ROYAN**

In December of 1937, George and Josephine Royan moved to Leedale where Edwin, Gena and Carl were born.

On returning home after the war, George went into partnership in the blacksmith with his father-in-law, Carl Aske, until November, 1950 when the Royans moved into Rimbey

That same month Bob was born and two and one-half-years later Annamae was born.

George worked for the town of Rimbey until he was forced to resign due to poor health.

He passed away December, 1968.

Josephine Royan still resides in Rimbey

**RUTLEDGE, MR. AND MRS. FRED**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rutledge moved to Leedale in the 1940's. Mrs. Rutledge, Evelyn Ann, was born in England in 1896 and came with her parents to Manitoba. In 1928, she married

Edwin Royan feeding a bottle of pop to the cub bear that Ivan Adams brought to Leedale from out west at time of fire

Fred and moved to Alberta living at Turner Valley and Leedale

Mr. Rutledge had lost an arm and had a hook which he could use as well as most men did their hands.

They had seven children; Alfred, Robert, Fredrick, Clifford, Eliza, Clara and Evelyn.

Mr Rutledge died in November 1950 and Mrs. Rutledge at Turner Valley, May 27, 1956.

**SHIPLEY, ARTHUR W CHAPMAN AND GLADYS M. — Written by Gladys M. Shipley**

Arthur Chapman was born in England. He came to Canada and then returned to England to

Arthur W. Chapman and Gladys M. Shipley 1934

serve his country in the first World War. He was gassed while on duty there.

He returned after the war to Calgary, Alberta and worked on a job where I, Gladys Shipley also worked.

We decided to leave the city and buy a farm so purchased the NE 24-42-4-W5 in 1936. It was nine miles west of Rimbey.

In the years that followed we built a barn and paid for the farm.

Arthur Chapman and Gladys Shipley's house 1936

I played the organ at the Mount View school the year that Rev. Parr held church there. Then Rev. Don Littlejohns and family picked me up to play the organ at Mount View and also Leedale United Church, whenever the organist was not able to be there.

We spent 17 years on the farm and in 1953 sold out and moved back to Calgary, and then to Victoria B.C. Mr. and Mrs. Abe Giesbrecht now own the farm.

Arthur bought a small house on N. Pender Island and lived there for several years near his sister and husband. He passed away in the vet's hospital in November, 1976.

I have been quite well, but recently had surgery. I was 84 on July 2, 1977 and live in an apartment in Victoria, B.C.

I visited Rimbey with Rev. and Mrs. Littlejohns this fall and enjoyed visiting with old friends.

**SIELING, ALLAN S.W. 23-42-4-W5**

ALan was born in Walkerton, Ontario and came west with his parents in 1918 when he was a very young boy.

In 1939 he came from his home in Asask, Saskatchewan to the Rimbey district. He worked on the farm for such people as Jack Beatty, Wilfred Marchildon, and Bill Mickey. In 1944 he went to the Leedale district and worked for farmers, such as Harold Mason, Oscar Brown, Glenn Challand, and J. McElroy.

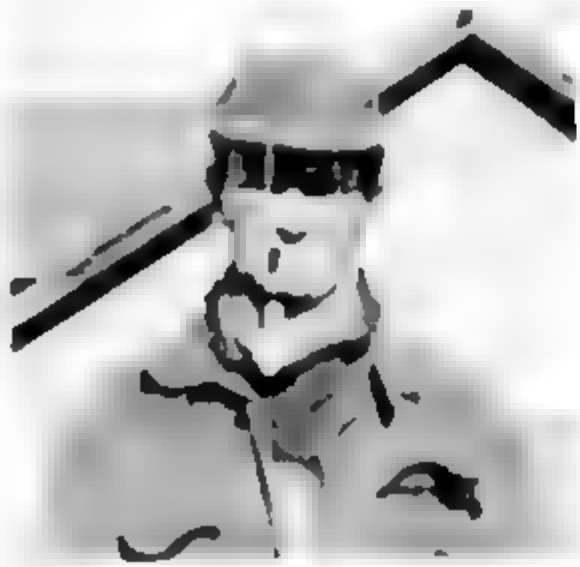
He later acquired some land of his own in the Leedale district and farmed there until 1955. While there he had bachelor neighbors that he

Allan Bishop and nephew, Gordon Conley

chummed with. Their names were Tom Plumb and Clo Price, so people used to say "Here comes Ceiling Price on Plumbs"

Allan was a very hard working man and a great lover of horses. They were always given the best of care and he was very proud and kind to them.

In 1956 Allan had enough of farming and sold his farm to O. J. McElroy. He went back to his home town of Alsask where he got a job at the new Air Base and made it the beautiful place it is to-day. He planted and looked after approximately 10,000 trees of all kinds, as well as keeping the grounds at the Air Base like a show place. His labors did not go unrecognized however. In 1975 at the age of 65, he retired from the Air Base. A large party was given in his honour. He was presented with a gold scrolled plaque signed by Pierre Elliot Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.



Pete Skinner walked through the Valley in the 1930's carrying all he owned on his back. He made his home where ever he happened to be.

**SIMPKINS, MRS. GROVER (MARGARET) — by Margaret Simpkins**

I came to Canada in 1906, as a child, with my parents, Mrs. and Mrs. Bill Gardiner. My father and uncle, Tom Gardiner, came the year before and built a little sod roof shack and plowed up a small garden patch. We came up by train, known as a settler's car, which was filled with cattle, horses and machinery. We got to the town of Lacombe on June 6, 1906. It rained all that summer and our little shack leaked every time it rained. The next year my father broke 40 acres of land which we put into wheat. It froze in the blossom so father cut it for feed. Those early years it froze every month of the year, but we lived good. We had all the wild meat we needed and all the rivers and lakes were full of fish. Father was a good hunter and trapper. Every little pond was full of rats, they were a good price. On our way to school one morning we saw several lynx up a tree which my father came and shot. As the years went by the country changed for the better.

It was in 1920 when I met my husband, Grover. He also heard of the free land up in Canada and he came from Helena, Montana in 1919. We lived at Leedale until 1933, when again we heard of the Peace River country, the land of milk and honey, which proved to be so true. We liked the country and the people.

When we lived at Leedale, I remember hauling oats to Eckville for four cents a bushel in 1926.

We had four children when we set out for the Peace country and we wished we had come 20 years before. The worst draw-back to this country then was no one had water wells and it was a long haul from the Smoky River. I remember melting snow for 85 head of cattle.

Then World War II came which took many of our boys and the country was left short handed. It also claimed the lives of our two boys, Riley and Mickel, but that is the way life is, some good, some bad.

My husband passed away in 1956 after a short illness. I now make my home with my two boys, Williard and Ben. Our daughter lives in Edmonton and son, Alvin and family live in Red Deer. We have had a good life in this Peace country, I have had my good health. What more could one wish for?

**SORENSON, PETER AND ELIZABETH**

Andrew Peter Sorenson was born in Haarsteu, Denmark in 1877 and came to Nebraska U.S.A. in 1896. His wife Elizabeth was born in Essex, England in 1886 and came to Calgary, Alberta at the age of 19 years. They were married in 1911 and lived in the United States until 1925 when they moved to Bassano.

In 1934 they came to the Rimbey district and bought the SE 27-42-4 W5 from Bing Engebretson in the Mount View district. Bing had bought the quarter because of the Mount View school site.

The school had been moved to a new location, one mile west and a half mile north.

Mr and Mrs. Sorenson had one daughter Eileen Marie and a son Fredrich Don Pannell (by former marriage) who lived in Seattle Washington

Mr. Sorenson kept busy with the farm work. His wife was an ardent gardener and homemaker

In 1947 they sold the farm and retired. After a short stay in Rimbey, they went to British Columbia and then back to Calgary Mr Sorenson passed away on January 19, 1958 at the age of 81 years.

After her husband's death Mrs Sorenson moved back to Rimbey to make her home and passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital on August 7, 1961, at the age of 75 years

**STEWART, RUSSEL AND VERONA — by T [illegible]**

They came by covered wagon from Bracken, Saskatchewan to Alix, Alberta in the 1930's where they farmed for a short time. They had

Russell and Verona Stewart, Valerie and Gordon (Bunky)

two children then, Valerie and Gordon (Bunky).

They then moved to the Leedale district SE 15-42-4 W5, sold there and purchased the NW of 13 and later the NE of 2 before moving to Red Deer

Their family then was three girls and two boys. Valerie married Bob Boos of Gleichen, they had a girl and a boy. Valerie passed away a few years ago. Gordon married Germaine Olsen of Bentley and they have three boys. Caroline (born at Alix) married Joe Larson of Prince George, B.C. They have three boys and one girl. Dennis (Danny) married Pat Dann of Eckville and they have one boy Terry married Skip Peterson of Alhambra. They have two girls and a boy

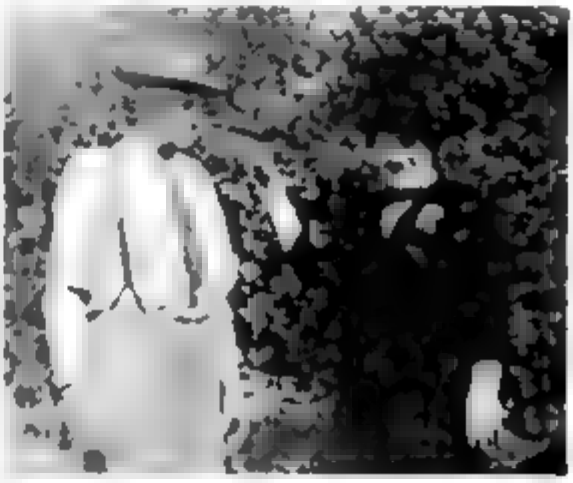
Besides farming Russel was a truck driver After living at Red Deer for some years they sold out and bought an acreage at Rocky Mountain House.

Russel passed away in 1972 — results of a truck accident. Verona now lives on an acreage at Alhambra

**SW 35-41-4 W5**

DEE FINCH, a bachelor, settled on a raw Canadian Pacific Railway quarter, SW 35 — before 1910. He sold and moved to Bentley about 1919. He married Mrs. Fallis at Bentley

MR. AND MRS. JACK SHERMAN purchased the SW 35 — about 1919 and lived there until they moved to British Columbia about 1938. They had no children. Mr. Sherman was a veteran of World War I. Mrs Emma Sherman, a sister of Bill Lee's, was very active in community work. While here Bill Lee built the barn, which is still standing, for them.



Jack and Emma Sherman - 1930

Harley Belt rented the land until it was sold to MR. AND MRS. OLIVER GRIFFIN in about 1942. Oliver and Pearl had one son, Richard, who resides in Edmonton Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were active in community affairs. Pearl played the piano for many Christmas concerts and other functions held at the hall. Oliver loved to curl at the local rink. Many will remember him slapping his knee, saying, "I get a bang out of that."

Many winter evenings were spent playing cards, games, having a sing song or just visiting in their old and later, new house

Oliver passed away in Ontario July 12, 1963 and Pearl in British Columbia in September 1970.

In 1962 the land was purchased by MR. AND MRS. LEE MANNIX, who resided there until 1965 and still own the land

**THOMSON, MR. AND MRS. JAMES S.**

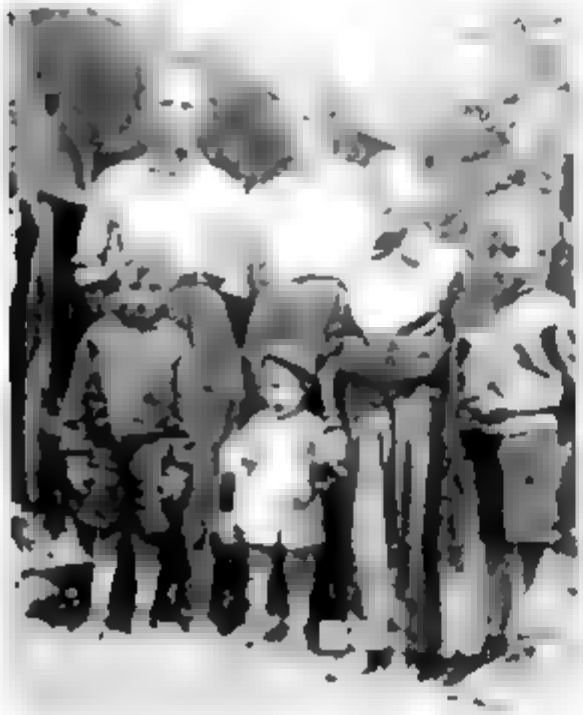
Jim Thomson was born in Scotland and came to Canada with his brother, William in 1935. He worked at Didsbury and other places before he bought a C.P.R. quarter at Leedale It was the SW 13-42-4-W5

In 1938 he married Dorothea Pierson and in October 1939 Lyle James was born. In February 1941 he had a chance to go to Pincher Creek to run a garage so they sold their stock and machinery to O. B. Moore and moved, but in

December 1941 they returned to the farm. In February 1942 a second son, John Leslie, was born. A year passed and they moved to Leslieville to operate a garage there.

They sold the farm to O. McElroy in May 1944 and it was in March that year that Allan Wayne arrived. In October 1947 William Paul was born.

In 1948 they decided to move to Leedale where they built a new home and a garage. Here Jim sold gas and did all kinds of mechanical work and welding.



Mr. and Mrs. James S. Thomson with sons, Lyle, John, Allan and Billy 1949

In 1952 the garage was sold to E. Masuch and Jim went to work on an oil rig.

Lyle lives in Calgary, and has two boys and two girls

John lives in Edmonton, and has two boys

Allan has accepted a job in Libya and has three boys

Bill lives in Red Deer and has two boys.

**JOHNNY AND VALENT TKACIK**

Johnny and Valent and their families are living on the old Bill Broderson place N.W 2-42-4-W5 at Leedale, which they purchased in 1947. The house, built in 1903 was once the Wittenburg store, post office and dance hall. It is still standing and has become a landmark for many of the early settlers who come back to visit. We have spent many enjoyable afternoons reliving the history of Wittenburg with them. In 1969 we imported our first simmental heifer from Switzerland and we named our place "Wittenburg Simmental Ranch"

Before settling in Leedale, Johnny and Valent worked for many different farmers during the summer. In the winters they worked at the saw mills. Lawton Brothers, McTighes, Johnny Jones, Clarence Eadie and Earl Gray were some mills they worked at

Valent was in the armed forces from 1944-1946. Johnny hauled cream for D. J. Myers for a number of years. He also made many trips to Calgary with cattle and brought groceries back for the store

Johnny and Marie Ervin were married in 1955. They have four children. Beverley — working in Edmonton after completing an executive secretarial course at N.A.I.T. Patty, Mavis and Gary at home.

Valent married Orva Olson in 1957 and they have four children. Valerie — taking ladies' hairstyling at N.A.I.T. in Edmonton, Gwen, Bradley, and Kristine at home.

**JOSEPH AND ELIZABETH TKACIK**

In 1928 Joseph Tkacik immigrated to Canada from Senglar, Czechoslovakia. He worked around Eckville with the Johnson Bros. and Leo Zaleski. He started working for Mr. Bill Broderson in 1930 at the home place and at Lockhart for $15 a month plus room and board. At this time 15 people lived there. Joe often told of the time he was hauling hay from Lockhart to Leedale and upset the load 12 times due to the deep snow and drifts

Another story that was told about Joe was his last driving experience. Joe drove Elizabeth and Mrs. Withers to a picnic at Gimlet. The trip was uneventful on the way down. On the way home the two ladies did a bit of back seat driving which upset Joe. Consequently he drove through the gate without opening it. To my knowledge this was the last time Joe drove a car

Mrs. Tkacik, Elizabeth, Agnes and Valent arrived at the home place at Leedale in March of 1933. Valent's second day in Canada proved disastrous when he became enthused about the horses and had his thumb smashed between the end of the wagon tongue and a post. Mrs. Johnsman stitched the thumb up for him. It was difficult for Mrs. Tkacik as she did not understand English, but being a very good cook and seamstress managed very well.

Mr. O. B. Moore hired Joe in 1937 and until 1940 the family lived in Benjamin, Andrews and Mountain View districts. The highlight of this five year period was July 20, 1938 when Frank and Johnny arrived from Czechoslovakia. The family was once again united. Their joy was dimmed a little the second day when a terrible hailstorm struck the district

In 1940 they bought a place south of Gimlet and settled in to their own home on the quarter NW 3-41-4 W5. Valent, Liz, and Agnes attended the Gimlet school. The Broderson place NW 2-42-

4 W5, was rented by Joe in 1945, Valent and Johnny bought it in 1947

Joe and Elizabeth lived on this place until 1956 when they retired to Red Deer. The welcome mat was always out and many people enjoyed their hospitality. They were both avid gardeners and had beautiful flowers. Two of Elizabeth's brothers visited Canada, John in 1965 and Carl in 1968.

The last mass celebrated in the Catholic Church at Leedale was Joe and Elizabeth's Golden Wedding Anniversary where they renewed their wedding vows. This was held September 2nd, 1968.

The Tkacik Family - Valent, Johnny, Frank, Agnes, Sophie and Mary. Joe and Elizabeth sitting. Elizabeth is missing

Joe and Elizabeth Tkacik had 7 children, Frank living at Leedale; Johnny living at Leedale, Valent living at Leedale, Mrs. Elizabeth Williams at Taber, Mrs. Agnes Satnik at St. Paul, Minnesota; Mrs. Sophie Jenson at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Mrs. Mary Naslund at Edmonton; 28 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Elizabeth passed away January 14, 1972, Joe passed away June 10, 1973.

The hospitality extended by Joe and Elizabeth and the regard they had for their friends and neighbours will never be forgotten.

**VARTY'S**

Herb and Bill Varty (brothers) moved from Kitscoty, Alta. to the Faraway district and started up their sawmill in 1921.

Herb's wife Edna and three children, Jimmie, Alice and Bert joined them in 1922, as did another brother, James and wife, Mae.

In 1928, Herb, Edna and family moved to Leedale where Herb ran a lumber yard. The lumber was sawed at Faraway, then hauled, by truck, to Leedale to be sold. They also hauled cattle, grain, and other farm produce for the farmers in the area. Their business included selling gas from their pump at the lumber yard.

In 1935 they did custom sawing for different people, Hayward's, Hohn's, Becker's, Draper's, Laye's, White's and in the spring of 1936 sawed for many on the Medicine River. Later that year the mill was moved back to Faraway.

Herb and Edna returned to Faraway, closing the lumber yard in 1940, remaining there all their lives. Herb passed away in 1951, Edna, October 7, 1972.

They had 11 children, namely: Jimmie, of Faraway, Alice, of Chauvin, Bert, of Winlaw, B.C., Dorothy, of Hussar, Alva, of Calgary, Bill, of Rocky Mountain House, Earl and Bob, of Faraway, Shirley, of Leslieville, Don, of Vauxhall, and Jeannine, of Elkwater.

**WASHBURN, M. L. AND JOHN H.**

M. L. Washburn homesteaded the SW 12-42-4-W5 taking out an application for homestead July 15, 1905.

John H. Washburn took out an application for homestead on the NW 12 on April 30, 1906. Both these are now referred to as the Frowd or Cumberland places.

Washburn children attended the Leedale School in 1907. Both families left the valley before 1912.

We are sorry no other information is available on these families.

**WASHKEVICH, KONON AND ELIZABETH**

Mr. Konon Washkevich came to Canada in 1928 from the province of Grodno which was under Polish rule then. His family lived in the municipality of Kobrin and the nearest village was Laskowo. The nationality of the people was called Byelorussian. After working at various laboring jobs for several years, Mr. Washkevich came to Rimbey by way of C.P.R. freight train in the early spring of 1934. A friend, Sam Zaichuck, lived on the SE-15-42-4-W5. (The land was later owned by Russel Stewart and then by a miner from Nordegg.) Later until about 1964, the land was owned by Cleland Price. When Mr. Zaichuck tried to sell this land in 1936, he was not able to obtain $50. for the quarter section!

Mr. Washkevich and a friend, Steve Zaetz, started walking to the Zaichuck place. They were going by way of the 'Midland Road' and when they came by Mr. Lyle Visger's place he was in the process of building a log barn. At the time Visgers lived one-half mile east and three miles north of Leedale. They followed that road straight west across the swamp to where Zaichuck's lived. Mr. Washkevich lived at Sam's for three weeks while making arrangements to purchase the NW 15-42-4-W5, which is one mile west and one mile north of Sam's. This land was first owned by Bob Fox, then Joe Miklas and then Joe Klepadlo from whom Mr. Washkevich bought it. The road came from the south, turned west past Sam's place, (the same route it still

takes), and ended at the place Mr. Washkevich chose. From there to the north the road was only a trail. There was no bridge over the small creek that crossed the trail, so in order to be able to get to the road, which now runs straight west of Rimbey, Mr. Washkevich built the first bridge that crossed the creek in the summer of 1934. In order to build the bridge, he obtained two heavy beams that were left over from a bridge that was built over the Medicine River west of where Jim Lukocs now lives. (At that time Frank Fox owned the Lukocs place.) Across these beams Mr. Washkevich then laid poplar logs and this was the 'bridge'.

As soon as Mr. Washkevich obtained the property, he started building on it. All the buildings were of logs, the house was a kitchen, bedroom and pantry, had a roof of slabs and each time it rained, it was little drier inside than it had been outside! There was also a small log barn and a chicken house. There was a hand dug well on the property, which Mr. Washkevich later dug deeper to a depth of 40 feet. He changed the water-drawing mechanism to a crank and pail on the end of a rope, which served until a pump was installed about 12 years later.

The first spring Mr. Washkevich purchased two horses from Mr. Bowman who lived on the present George Patterson place, and one from Earl Rimbey, who lived where the Rimbey Transport is now located. He purchased a sulky plow from Joe Klepadlo, who then lived on the present Armstrong place. That spring Mr. Washkevich attended a farm sale near Gilby and bought a cow and calf for $22.50; a horse for $40 and a set of harrows. A 16 run disc drill was bought later. To seed the first crop a drill was borrowed from William Polanuk, who then lived where John Walters now lives. After Polanuks left there, the land was owned for a short time by one named Sudak (a brother-in-law of Mr. Skorieko's). The Skorieko family owned the present Armstrong land for many years. After Polanuk sold his land, it was bought by Mr. Tustan Jevne and family and then the Walters family.

Mr. Washkevich planted wheat, oats and barley on the 40 acres that was then cultivated land. The crops grew very well, but frosts came early and often, and many times the crops ended up as just cattle feed. A binder was borrowed from Mr. Polanuk to cut the first crop and from Mr. Mike Zaetz the second year. There was a family named Guth, who lived where Burns Kilpatrick now lives, and a binder was bought from them for $50.

When the men arrived at Sam's place, Steve Zaetz stayed only a couple days, then returned to Bowden and came back within a short time with Steve's brother Mike, his wife Sylvia (who was Mrs. Washkevich's sister) and their two daughters, Mary and Annie. They all moved into the house with Mr. Washkevich and then worked on their house on the present Hamilton place, moving there about a month later. That summer the men all spent many hours clearing bush and breaking land with horses.

In October of 1934, Mrs. Washkevich and son, Michael, arrived at their new home in Canada. At the time Mike was nine years old. When she was shown all the land that made up a quarter section of land, it was very hard for Mrs. Washkevich to believe that they could possibly own all that property! Back in the homeland the parcels of land had been divided up into very small lots.

Each winter Mr. Washkevich spent any spare minutes brushing land by hand. The first land breaking he did with horses and a one furrow plow. He did about ten acres this way. The next piece of breaking was done by some of the Benson family at a cost of four dollars per acre, then in later years by Mr. Bill Ainsworth who lived with the Harley Belt family and used a tractor that was owned by Mr. O. B. Moore. Mr. Moore was well known throughout the area for helping many people obtain credit, land, machinery, stock or any other transactions necessary.

The Mount View school was located to the north of the Washkevich farm about three miles and also a school was located near Leedale on the acreage presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Solberg. Mike attended school at Leedale and his first teacher was Mr. John Hambry. To get to school, most of the children walked, but a few rode horses or had a buggy to ride in and drove a horse (if one could be found that would co-operate).

In September, 1935 a daughter, Mary, was born. Mrs. Washkevich's sister, Mrs. Zaetz attended as mid-wife but Dr. John Byers, a well-known practitioner in the Rimbey and Ponoka areas, who was then practising in Rimbey, had to be called. At that time telephones were not common, so Mr. Washkevich went to Polanuk's place and he had an old cat with which he drove Mr. Washkevich to Leedale where Mrs. Lindsay, who then ran the post office, had a telephone. Dr. Byers then came by car. He practised in Rimbey until going into the services in World War II.

Future births, Nena, in November 1937, and Peter in January, 1940, were attended by Mrs. Zaetz only. Nadia was born in the hospital in Rimbey (presently auxiliary hospital) with the doctor in charge then being Dr. Beugas. For quite a good many years there was no dentist in Rimbey.

The first land payment was to be cash (including all back taxes). Payment of $150 went to Joe Miklas to cover payment owed by Joe Klepadlo and a $40. commission to Klepadlo. The first payment to the C.P.R. was $160. (one dollar per acre); after that, each payment was one-third of the crop as payments, taking about eight or ten years to pay for the land. During these years and on into the Depression years there was not money to pay taxes with, so the men worked for the municipality (which was the form of government then) at road building and

brushing of road allowances. The councillor at the time was Mr. Hayward, (father of Bob Hayward)

In about 1936 or 37, five cows were obtained from Mr Jack Beatty, who was a hardware store owner in Rimbey. Mr Beatty was very good about giving much needed credit to help the people and there were many people who obtained cattle to start a herd in this way. The method of repayment was that for each cow received, you had to raise a steer up to the age of two and one-half years and fatten it for him. There was no definite time period set for this, just an agreement that this would be as soon as possible.

During the depression years many products were in short supply so rationing was put into practise. Major items involved were gas, coffee, tea, sugar, and nylons which were rationed because the fabric was used to make parachutes for the air force.

A team and wagon was the only mode of travel for many years. There was a hall, store and post office in Leedale and there were occasional dances held there and at the school house. School concerts were a very popular form of community entertainment and were eagerly looked forward to as the high point of the winter season's entertainment. Spring picnics, usually held at the end of the school term were a popular annual get-together each year also, and everyone from near and far attended, regardless of whether or not their children attended that school or even if they had no children at all. Visits between friends were fairly often as the hardy folk travelled a good many miles for the pleasure of a visit. Such visits always produced an abundance of good home cooked foods — meats, coffee and especially the white breads. (Occasionally there were also the products of a homemade 'still'). To ones who had come from a country where meats were hardly ever used and white breads were not known (their breads were usually made of home ground wheat,) these foods were considered a grand feast. The Washkevich family and their friends were of the Orthodox faith and the only church of this faith in this area is still located in the Springdale community, northeast of Rimbey, and although this was a great distance to travel in those days, the families did attend occasionally and especially for any religious occasions within their faith, or weddings or christenings.

Mr Washkevich purchased the first family auto about 1943, from Gilman Benson. It was a used Hudson Terraplane and the price was $700. cash. The first tractor was purchased in February 1945; a Massey Harris on steel wheels. It had taken many months of negotiating, as due to the wartime steel shortage a permit was needed to be able to get a tractor. The cost of that first tractor was $1,400. In order to qualify for a permit, a farmer was required to have about 200 acres of cultivated land, so extra acreage was rented from some other people.

The Zaetz family left for Winnipeg in 1941. The farm was taken over by Mr. Orval Hallin, who paid Mr. Zaetz the sum of $600. to cover the cost of improvements and then took over the remaining C.P.R. lease. Mr. and Mrs. Hallin and daughter Karin lived there until about 1953.

The family friend, Mr. Steve Zaetz, was married in about 1939 in the church at Springdale (presently St. Mary's Convent). A wedding party followed at the Mike Zaetz farm where a record player was used for dancing music. From there the party then travelled to the bride's home at Alhambra, hiring Mr. Louis Robinson with his truck to drive them as no one had a car yet. Mr. Robinson was in the business of buying furs, seneca root, also copper, bronze, etc. He also did small hauling jobs for people for many years.

Mike finished his Grade 9 schooling in Leedale (which was then a High School, but that part was closed after only two years in existence). Mary and Nena took their public school (up to Grade 9) at Mount View, then Mary went to Red Deer to take Grade 10 and 11. Nena took up to Grade 11 in Rimbey, then she went to Red Deer Composite High for her Grade 12. Pete completed his schooling with Grade 9 at Mount View and Nadia, her high school in Red Deer.

The Washkevich Family - 1974 - Nena, Peter, Mike, Mary, Nadia, Mr. and Mrs. Washkevich

The family are all married now, Mary (Mrs. Gordon Leblanc) has two children and lives in Montreal; Nena (Mrs. John Rowat) has five children and lives at Forest, Ontario, near Sarnia. Nadia (Mrs. John Papp) has four children and lives in Vancouver. Pete married Sandra Cummings, they have three children and are presently living on the site where Mr. Washkevich first began his farming operation. Mike married Nettie Osatiuk, they have four children and until October, 1976 they farmed the land on which the old Leedale school was situated, moving from there to Red Deer that fa...

Mr. Washkevich farmed the property for

many years, later acquiring two more quarters of land, sold the property to son, Pete in 1969 and retired to the town of Rimbey where they still live

**WASHKEVICH, MICHAEL**

I came to Canada with my mother in 1934 to the farm my father had purchased north of Leedale. At the time I was nine years old. I do not remember too many details of the early years there as I was too young. From the time I was about 12 or 13 years old, I helped my father with the farm work, helping with the land clearing by hand. When the cattle herd had increased, we used to let them pasture along the road sides and on property that was not yet fenced. This was called "open range". As soon as I got home from school, it was my job to go and get the cows, sometimes walking many miles to find them.

I took my Grade 9 at the Leedale High School, which was closed the following year, then stayed home to help my father with the farm work. I bought my farm, one mile north of Leedale, in 1946 from Mr. Frank Fox. Before him the property was owned by Mr. Claude Challand who farmed the land and lived on the quarter section to the southeast of it. This is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harrison. The small house on the property was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lush.

My first crop on the farm was seeded the spring of 1947. I lived at home until 1953, getting the use of my father's machinery to farm mine while helping with his farming. For many years our crops were threshed on a custom basis or exchange help basis by Mr. McElroy Sr. or Mr. Oscar Brown and later the Tkacik Bros.

Even though many of the roads were much improved by this time, the road between my farm and my father's farm was impassable every spring. There was many a time an unsuspecting traveler had to be pulled from the mud holes with horses or a tractor.

The one-roomed school, which was located on the corner of my farm, was closed about 1960, and it was not until then that the road was graded up and gravelled for the school buses.

There was mail route service for many years, even before I bought my place. The route was driven by various people, a Mr. Thompson, who lived near Rimbey, then Herb Beierbach and after I moved to my farm, Cleland Price, and later the Giesbrecht family. Because of the poor roads in the early years this job involved many hours of hard travel and struggle with mud, crossing by way of fields and backtracking many extra miles.

In 1955 I married Nettie Osatiuk and we settled on my farm. Our children, Irene, born in 1956; Anna, born in 1957; Olga, born in 1958; and Debbie, born in 1970 were all born in Rimbey and the older girls attended school in Rimbey travelling by bus until they completed their high school years. Debbie began her schooling in Rimbey, also, but only went there two months until we moved to Red Deer at the end of October 1976.

**WATERS, DAVE**

Dave Waters homesteaded the NE 12-42-5-W5 in the early 1900's. He operated a steam engine at George Cumming's mill in winter and worked his homestead the rest of the year.

**THE WEGREEN FAMILY — as told by Walter Wegreen**

Peter (Emil) and Anna Wegreen, with four children, Walter, Evelin, Beatrice, and Mattie came from Montana to Red Deer, Alta. the fall of 1923, moving to the Leedale district the spring of '24. They lived on the Dahl homestead in 1924 and moved to the LaBelle place in 1925, later moving to the Leedale store to run the livery barn and eating place. Mr. Wegreen also hauled mail, groceries, etc. In 1927 they left the district, moving to Portland, Oregon.

Walter returned to Alberta about 1931. After serving three and one-half years in the army, he moved to Red Deer where he still resides. Walter married Dora Parsons from Westlock. They have two children, Vivian Cameron, presently a nurse at the Holy Cross Hospital, Calgary and a son living in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Evelin married Lindis Dahl and after his death married Cliff Anderson and lives at Canby, Oregon.

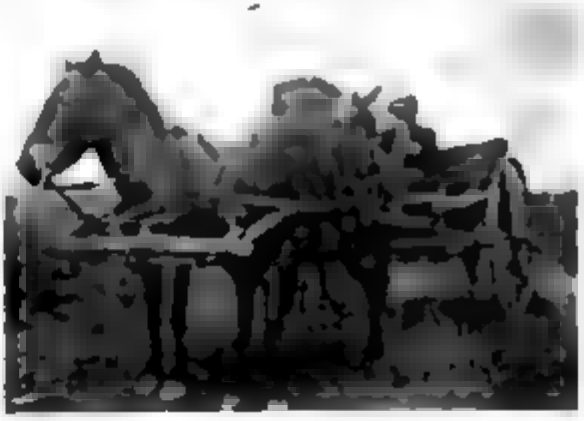
Beatrice married Bernie Stanfil and lives at Portland, Oregon.

Mattie married John Beck and lives at Sutherlin, Oregon.

**WELLS, SETH**

Seth Wells, born and schooled at Blackfalds, moved with his parents and eight children, four girls and four boys, to the north end of Sylvan Lake in the early 1930's.

Seth had often travelled the Medicine River Valley in the 1920's, stopping to visit with the Mullback family when passing by. From 1933 to 1950 he travelled the Valley with his team of Shetlands, Bun and Bud, sharpening scissors and



Seth Wells with his shetland ponies.

knives, taking orders for sharpening discs which was done by his partner, Clarence Aske. He did not start his team in the usual manner but with a "get out of town". As well as his little team he also had a big grey team but didn't use them very often.

Seth was well read and could discuss any subject.

In 1950 he retired to Millet, making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Pinyon until going into a nursing home. He is buried at Wetaskiwin.

**WESTLAKE, MR. AND MRS. A. E. (BERT)**

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Westlake purchased the NW 33-41-4-W5 after World War I and lived there until their only son, Ronald, took it over after World War II. Mr. and Mrs. Westlake then moved to British Columbia.

Mrs. Elizabeth Westlake was a sister of Bill Lee, Mrs. Jack (Emma) Sherman and Mrs. William (Alice) Andrew.

Ronald married Liza Rutledge and they had three girls, Ginger, Ruth and Glenda when they moved to British Columbia in about 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Westlake

**FIFTY FOUR YEARS OF RODEO**

In 1966, at the age of 89 years, Frank Whitford of Leedale was looking forward to attending the Calgary Stampede for the 54th time. Though he has ridden in the parade since, he actually did ride in competition in the saddle bronc event in the first stampede held in 1912. It was his last time in that competition for he broke his hip, and it bothered him too much to ride broncs after that. His love for horses and riding never left him for he was still riding occasionally in his 90th year.

The son of a French half-breed mother and a Scots half-breed father, Frank followed his father and became a first-rate ranch hand. He came to Alberta with his father, Philip Whitford, who was active in the Riel Rebellion and assisted the Royal Northwest Mounted Police in their duties.

Frank worked on ranches around Morley for some time, receiving $35 per month. He knew Rev. John McDougall, for he was the minister and also taught at Morley at that time.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitford at home in Leedale - 1957

Frank first came to Leedale in the fall of 1930. The next spring he rented the Miles' farm, put in a small crop, and was hailed out. This happened two years in a row so he left but returned in 1938 to homestead 13 miles west of Leedale.

In 1951 he bought Mr. Aske's house in Leedale and lived there until he was admitted to the Auxiliary Hospital in Rimbey in 1968.

Frank Whitford was born December 2, 1876 and passed away November 12, 1970 at the age of 93 years, 11 months and 10 days.

**NORRIS AND MATTIE WILLITS**

Norris and Mattie Willits with their five children, Arthur, Alice, Scott, Mildred and Neil, came to Alberta from Wessington, South Dakota in the spring of 1907. Mr. Willits took up a homestead three and one-half miles east of what was called Wittenburg P.O., later it was named Leedale.

Mr. and Mrs. Willits on their 50th Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Willits in front of their home (1948) which was built in 1908

In the spring and summer of 1908, Mr. Willits and his son's Arthur and Scott, built a large log house and the family moved into it right away They had been living in what was called the Schrader house during the winter. Mr. and Mrs Willits lived in that house as long as they lived, she passed away in 1949 and he in 1952

Arthur married Rosa Mottet, in 1913, they lived on his homestead for a few years finally moving to Everett, Washington with their three children. Later on three more children joined the family circle. Arthur passed away in 1974, Rosa is still living in Everett.

Alice married Frank Mottet in 1913; they had three children. Frank passed away in 1921. Mildred, the oldest of the children, married Lloyd Lyons, they live east of Ponoka Ray married Pearl Hensley, they now live in Calgary and Lloyd married while in the Army and he and his family live in Burlington, Ontario

Scott never married.

Mildred, married Fred Uhlig, they had two children

Neil married Vivian Miller; they moved to Everett, Washington where they still reside They have one son

After Mildred's husband passed away, she lived with Scott on the old home place for seven years. Then Scott sold the farm and had an auction sale with Russell C. Coe as auctioneer They moved to Kelowna, B.C. where they still reside.

**THOMAS M. WILSON**

Thomas M. Wilson lived on the NW 24-42 4 W5 now owned by Mr. Abe Giesbrecht in 1931 32

He was born on June 15, 1874 at Timble Great York County in England. He was the son of an Imperial Army officer and served with the First Canadian Labor Battalion in the Great War where he was badly gassed and honorably discharged

Tom came to Canada in 1921 and lived in this area for sometime before he filed on a homestead in 1932 and moved 20 miles west of Leedale and to the frontier district of Squaw Hills

He built a cabin in the true pioneer manner and also managed to break a few acres of land

Leedale was his closest town and he thought nothing of setting out on foot to get his supply of groceries and the mail.

Early in 1935 Mr Wilson received word that he had inherited $11,500 from a relative in England and decided to return to the Old Country. So it was, that on March 6, 1935 he and his faithful little dog, which was his constant companion, walked the long trail into Leedale for supplies.

It was a cold and snowy day and on his return trip he stopped and had supper with a friend six miles west of Leedale. After a brief stay he undertook to walk the remaining 14 miles.

Apparently he was seized with a sudden heart attack and his frozen body was found the next day about one-and-one-half miles from his home with his faithful little dog standing on guard

Dr. Byers, Coroner, and C. P. Fordham, R.C.M.P., investigated and declared no inquest necessary

Mr Wilson's body, wrapped in a blanket, was

taken to Rimbey on the top of a truck load of lumber driven by Mr Varty. The little dog, icicles frozen to her mouth, was still by her master's side

A family who read the tragic story in the paper in eastern Canada wanted the little dog and it was shipped to them.

And so ended the life of still another true pioneer who worked hard for so little.

Mr. Wilson's only relative in Canada was a brother, Bramley Wilson in Extension, B.C.

Thomas Wilson, who was 61 years old, was laid to rest in the soldier's plot in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Rimbey on Sunday, March 17, 1935.

Funeral services were arranged by the Rimbey Branch of the Canadian Legion.

**MR. AND MRS. WILTSE — CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

The Leedale Community united on Tuesday evening October 27, 1936 to honor Mr and Mrs Mortimer Wiltse who were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary

The affair took place in the Leedale Community Hall and a large gathering was present to mark the happy occasion.

Mr. Wiltse is 70 years and Mrs. Wiltse 72 years of age, and they are both very active They were born in Athens, Ontario and were married at the same place. They moved to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and in the year 1933 they decided to come to the Leedale district. The family is made up of two sons, Kenneth, living on the home place and Asa, at Penticton, British Columbia. Another son passed away in Saskatchewan There are 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren

The evening was enjoyably spent in games and dancing, after which the Leedale Women's Institute presented the guests of honor with a silver tray. Individual gifts were also received and a purse of money was made up of those present

The whole evening was a complete surprise for Mr and Mrs. Wiltse, as they had been entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Challand s for supper and were induced to pay the hall a visit afterwards.

The best of wishes were extended to Mr and Mrs. Wiltse for many more years of happiness together

Mr and Mrs Wiltse lived on the land now owned by the Leedale Colony and occupied by Mr Henry Thachuk.

**WILTSE'S FAREWELL**

On Monday March 14, 1939 a surprise farewell for Mr and Mrs. Wiltse Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Wiltse Jr was given in the hall by the W.I. A different form of amusement was displayed in a pick-up program and a sing song, followed by games and an hour of dancing. Mrs. F. W. Hancher, W.I. president, presented Mrs. Wiltse Sr. with a book, "Harbor Lights Home", and Mrs. Wiltse Jr with a set of salad forks, and expressed the deep regret of the community on the departure of friends and neighbors.

**ELWOOD AND DOROTHY YOUNG E. ½ 22-42-4-W.5 — written by Elwood Young**

I was born and raised in Alberta near Delia.

My wife Dorothy was born near Donovan, Saskatchewan

In June 1962 we bought the E ½ 22-42-4-W.5 from John and Mary Plumb and moved from Edmonton with our three children. We lived on the farm until November, 1965 and then we moved back to Edmonton where I worked as a heavy duty mechanic until 1974. We then moved to Kelowna, B.C., to operate "Glenwood 66" on Highway 97 at Richter Street

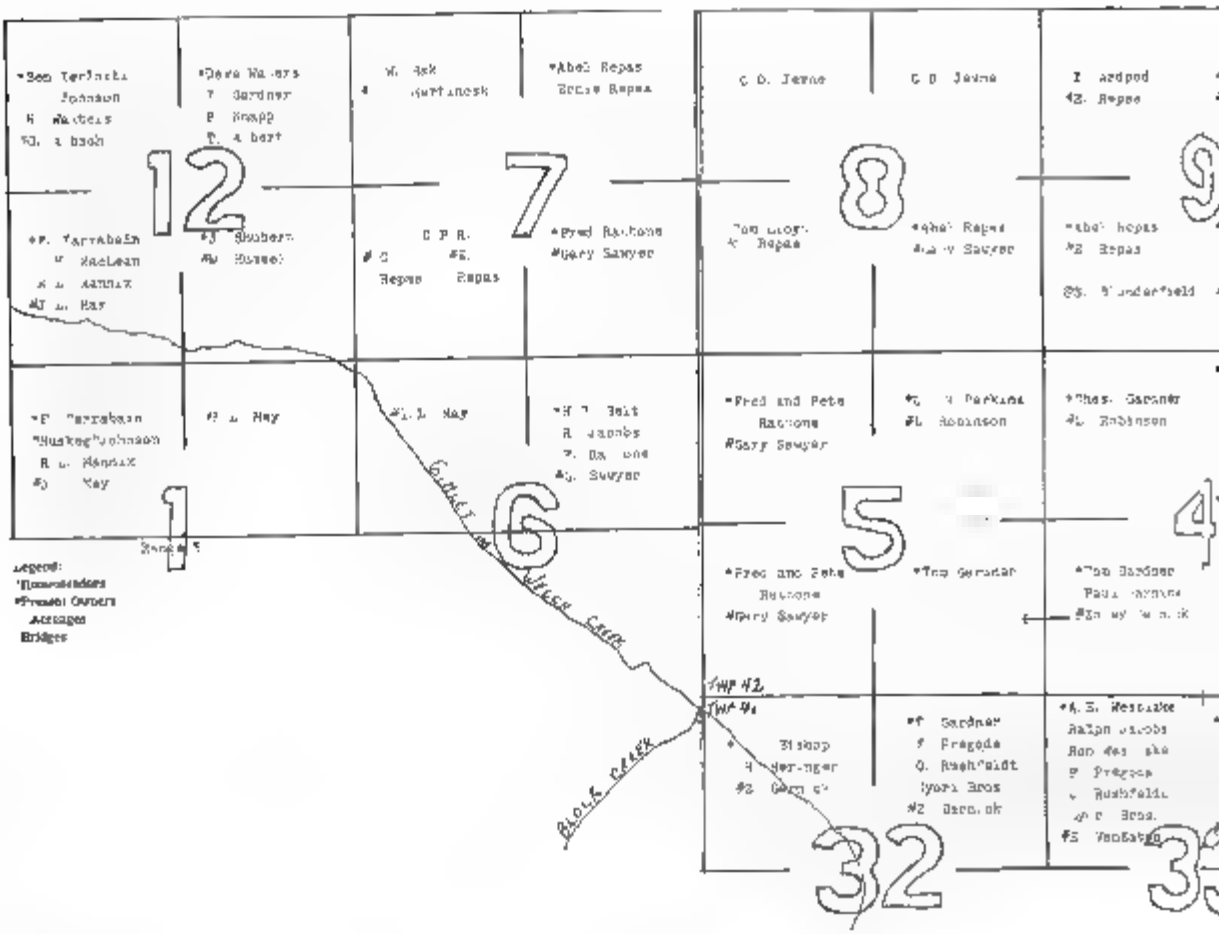
The farm was rented to Clarence Eklund and then Junior McElroy until we sold it to Larry and Abe Giesbrecht in the Spring of 1973.

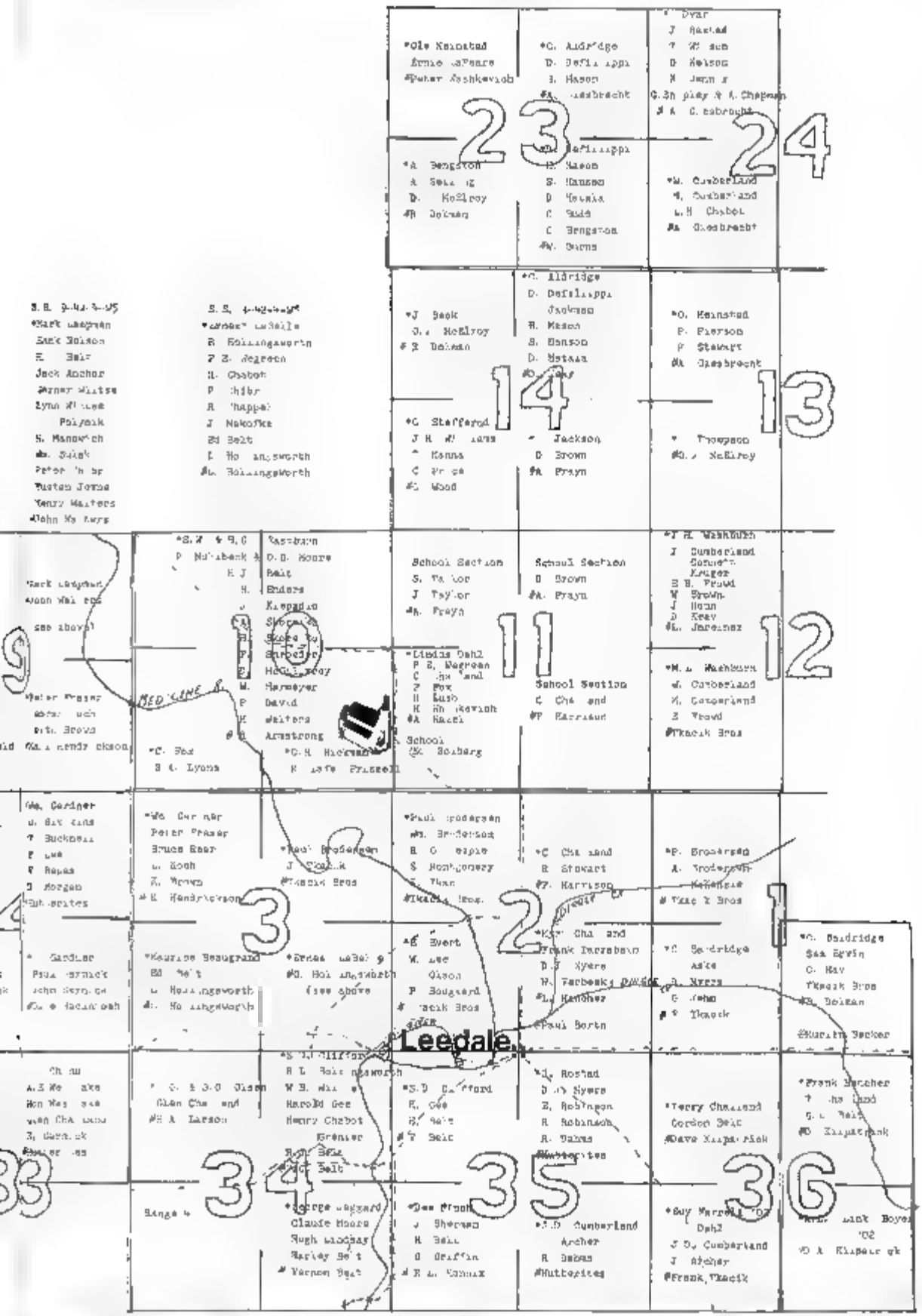
Our children, Kevin, Kim and Kathy are still at home. Kevin graduated from high school this year, Kathy goes to senior high next year and Kim is working at the service station.

# WITTENBURG-

# LEEDALE

# DISTRICT




Leedale
MEDICINE R.

## JUDGE NOT

Pray don't find fault with the man that limps,
Or stumbles along the road,
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load.
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,
Though hidden away from view
Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,
Might cause you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today
Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall, or felt his shame
That only the fallen know
You may be strong, but still the blows,
That were his, if dealt to you,
In the selfsame way, at the selfsame time,
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins,
Or pelt him with words or stones,
Unless you are sure, yea, double sure,
That you have no sins of your own.
For you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice
Should whisper as soft to you
As it did to him when he went astray,
Would cause you to falter, too.

# Leslieville

**BEAVER FLAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1914**

The Beaver Flat School District was established December 24, 1908 comprising of the following lands: Sections 19, 20, and 29-32 in 39-5, Sections 23-26, 35 and 36 in 39-6' Sections 5-8 in 40-5, and Sections 1,2,11 and 12 in 40-6-W5. Mr Wm H. Cornel. of Leslieville was Senior Trustee

Authorization was given February 10, 1909 to borrow the sum of $350 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and furnishing a schoo. house. The treasurer was Mr. Theo. J Frodeen of Leslieville

First Beaver Flat School built in 1909. Bell tower can be seen in the background. Picture taken in 1924 by A. Joslin, teacher

The sum of $350 was borrowed on March 31, 1909 upon the security of the Beaver Flat School District for the purpose of procuring a school site, erecting and equipping a school house. The treasurer was Mr. Theo J Frodeen of Leslieville

On August 5, 1925 the sum of $1600 was borrowed for the purpose of the erection of a new school building and equipment. The Treasurer was Mr S. Wilson of Rocky Mountain House

The first Beaver Flat School was built on the portion of land donated by David Malcolm; it was built with logs cut on Leonard Ma.colm s quarter Miss Lizzie Martin was the first teacher and she boarded with the W. F Malcolms. Leonard Malcolm was killed in action overseas during World War I and W F Malcolm donated a be.. in memory of his seventh son, this bell was installed upon the roof of the new school built only a short distance from the log school house which later burnt to the ground in the late 1920s.

The new Beaver Flat School was built in 1926. Note the big bell on the roof. Picture taken in 1928 by J W Grant

The next teacher after Miss Martin was Miss Goodmanson, then Mr Oliver, Mrs. Mitchell, E. A. (Meston) Patterson, Hope McKee, Miss Edmundson, Miss I. Strong, Miss V Leather, Miss A. Joslin, Mrs. C. N Beebe, Miss N Wade, Mr J Grant, Miss L. Lytle, Mrs. McDonald, Mr. Wm. McRoberts, Mr. T Bowhay, Mrs. M. Stratton, Rose (Erskine) Brookes, June (Hainer) Crawford, M. (Sande) Billings — supervising correspondence lessons, R. (McQuaig) Lynn.

The sale of the school site and buildings located on the SW-31 39-5-W5 was approved September 9, 1960.

**BELL, JOHN**

John Edward (Jack) Bell and his wife Hannah Jane (Jennie) and six children, Harry, Bill, Jack, Joyce, Elsie and Ina arrived in Leslieville March 26, 1926, from Carlisle, Cumberland, England, through the Soldiers' Settlement Board, and settled on a farm on the outskirts of Leslieville, NE-26-39-5 W5.

Mr Bell farmed all his life, and specialized in

purebred Shorthorn cattle; he also delivered milk to the hamlet, and one day a week bought hogs at the local stockyards

The Bell family liked to curl and took part in many sports

Harry married Bertha Reighley, and they have one daughter, Cheryl

Bill married Lila Brock, and they have three children, Joyce, Gail and Bill

Jack married Drex. Reighley, and they have one daughter Bonnie

Joyce married Pat Cummerford, and they have three children, Mary Ann, Jean, and Jack

Elsie married Alf Westwood, and they have one daughter, Fay, and they live in New Zealand.

Ina married Roy E. (Pat) Bourke, and they have three sons, Bob, Bill and Blake

Jack Bell, Jr , died April 8, 1951.

Mrs. Bell died June 9, 1957

Mr. Bell, Sr., died January 19, 1967

**BINGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2565**

The Brock School District No. 2565 later known as the Bingley School District No 2565 was established September 25, 1911, comprising the following lands: S17-20 and 29-32 in T40-5 S13, 14, 23-26 and 35-36 in T40-6-W5. Mr S. A. Laragard of Bingley, Alberta was Senior Trustee

The school district name was altered from Brock to Bingley, December 11, 1911

Authorization was given January 25, 1912 to borrow the sum of $500 for the purpose of purchasing a school site, erecting and equipping a school house. The treasurer was Mr. J. W Christian of Bingley

Approval was given on February 14, 1912 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustees of the Bingley School District, situated at or near a point 60 rods west of the NE corner 24-40-6-W5

Approval was given June 21, 1912 for a school site selected by the Board of Trustee of the Bingley School District, situated at or near the middle of the eastern boundary of S23-40-6 W5

On June 10, 1913, the sum of $300 was borrowed for the purpose of completing and furnishing the school house. The treasurer was Mr J W Christian of Bingley

Teachers at the Bingley school were Elizabeth (Meston) Patterson, Miss Holmes, Miss Moseley, Miss Thompson, Mr Harding, Mr. Birch, Mary Alberts, Mr Carnett, Mr Rogers, Mr. Rushcal, Miss Marie Lund, Betty Baldwin) Hartley, Mr. Holditch, Mr. Bruce Simpson, Mr Hoseton, Mr. R. McRoberts, Mr Wm. Morris, Miss L. Dicken, Miss Ruth Hill, R .McQuaig) Lynn, Mr. T. Bowhay, M. (Anderson) Schoderus, Mr. Pravatt, Margaret Reade, Mr. H. Rodgers, Divine, Mrs. Loewen, Mrs. R Brookes

The sale of the school site and buildings located on the SE 23-40-6-W5 was approved July 17, 1961

After the Bingley School District was included in the Rocky Mountain School Division, No. 15, Mrs. M. L. Green of Bingley, Alberta was appointed Official Trustee on January 3, 1944 Mr. Frank Wilson of Bingley, Alberta was Official Trustee on July 12, 1945. Mr J. A. Spears of Bingley, was appointed Official Trustee on April 14, 1947.

**ARTHUR BOTT FAMILY**

Arthur Bott married Myrtle Brooks of the Diamond Valley District on April 21, 1946. That fall they took up residence in Eckville where Art worked in the Alberta Wheat Pool with Joe Alcock. In the summer of 1947 they moved to Oras, where Art was elevator agent until it closed in the fall of 1948. They then moved to the Condor area and in the spring of 1949 Art went to work with Harry Lloyd of Leslieville, as a painter In 1950 they moved to Leslieville. While in Leslieville, Art and Myrtle were janitors at the school and Art joined the Elks and Myrtle, the O.O.R.P , both as charter members.

In the summer of 1954, they moved to Rocky Mountain House, as most of Art's work was there. Shortly after the move, Art joined the Rocky Volunteer Fire Department, the Chamber of Commerce and the Kinsmen Club. He was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for one year and president for one year In 1965 he was elected to Rocky Mountain House Town Council, on which he sat for three years. In 1969, when the Central Alberta Chamber gave up sponsoring the David Thompson Highway Cavalcade and turned it over to the Rocky Chamber, Art was appointed chairman of the committee, which post he held until the official opening of the highway in 1977, when the Cavalcade was discontinued Art was appointed Deputy Fire Chief in 1965 and 1976. Upon the retirement of Fire Chief Bert McGrath, Art was appointed the new Chief, a position he still holds

Art and Myrtle have five children, Eva, Ray, Sharon, Fred and Keith. The eldest daughter, Eva, was married to David Glover in 1965. Dave is employed with Alberta Gas Trunk Line as a Senior Controls Technician. Dave and Eva live on an acreage eight miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House. They have one daughter, Tracy and one son, Randy. Art and Myrtle's oldest son, Ray, married Audrey von Hollen in 1971 and they live eight miles south of Rocky Mountain House. Ray is a Telecommunications Technician with Alberta Government Telephones. Ray and Audrey have one son John and one daughter, Susan. Art and Myrtle's youngest daughter, Sharon, is employed as an Accounting Clerk for the City of Red Deer and their two youngest sons, Fred and Keith, are still at home. Fred is presently employed with the Recreation Department of the town of Rocky Mountain House and Keith is in Grade 9 at School

**BROOKS, HARRY AND ADA**

Harry and I (Ada Wingate) met in Eckville in 1944. I was employed at the bake shop working for the late Ernest Jackson who owned and operated it.

Harry was one of the many truck drivers at that time at Eckville and one who took his coffee breaks at the Co-op lunch counter where most everyone else took theirs.

It was there I was introduced to Harry and noticed he was a real tease and flirt with the girls that worked at the counter. There were many young single girls working in Eckvine at that time so I didn't expect I would ever have a chance to be dated by him even though I hoped to

One evening Harry was asked if he could take a team of young people to Elspeth to play ball. To my surprise Harry asked if I'd like to go too, and I accepted

Harry was a busy truck driver along with the other truckers. He hauled everything from machines to people and I was employed at the store working for Mike Sestrap. One afternoon early that summer Harry came in and asked me for our second date! Before that I figured he wasn't too interested. After that dates were more frequent

Harry had Bruce Burns hired to help him. It was a rule that close deliveries were made in the evening then they could each take a girl with them. One evening Harry asked me if I'd like to go with him. They were hauling a piece of machinery for a farmer at Sylvan Lake so I accepted. That night Bruce started to laugh, when asked what was so funny he let the cat out of the bag In order to decide which girls they would take they'd flip a coin and that night he was to take another girl and then he asked me. I think that ended the flipping of coins! Anyhow the dates became more regular and we were married in November of 1945.

After our marriage we rented Harry and Mary Medin's house and lived there for five years. It was there our three eldest children were born and Harry got started in the saw mill business

He bought his first portable mill setting it up on the home place of his mother's, Mrs. Signe Brooks, doing sawing for some of the neighbors who came out and helped him. He also set his mill on the Charlie Snyder's farm and sawed there

In 1950 we bought a home in Leslieville from John and Ruth Buckta. We moved October 29 that same year

While living at Diamond Valley Harry had rented the farm of his mother and dad. Harry's father passed away in December, 1947 at the age of 89

Harry farmed for about eight years along with bush work in the winter

Harry traded his small mill in on a bigger one and sawed for two months north of Wolf Creek for Knut Sunde.

He worked two winters for August Moro at Jack Fish. In the spring of 1952 when Harry and his brother Allan were moving out, the lights on the truck went out and they ended upside down in the ditch. The tractor which they were hauling rolled back up on its wheels. The only tragedy was that the battery acid had eaten the seat of their pants! That fall of 1952 several men formed the Albert Creek Lumber Company. They were Walt Hoglund, Ray Meyers, Art Johanson, Bill Palm (Sr ) and Harry Brooks. They hired Josie Kauis, her husband Louie and daughter Marguerite to cook and bull cook.

In the early part of 1954 Harry went up to Lac La Biche to help work in a mill. His stay there was very short (in fact he beat a letter home that he wrote me by a week) as the mill started to fly apart in all directions.

In 1955 Harry bought Cliff Brierly's saw mill and camp. He sawed two years west of Sunchild then two years at Sylvester Lake and Doctor Lake south and west of the Sunchild. Jean Bardenhagen was then hired as cook as Josie's health failed her

Harry sawed two years north of the Nordegg River up the Sunchild, four years on the Wa Wa, three years at Rapid Creek, one year in Rocky Mountain House and two years at Rough Creek.

He had hired many of the farmers from different areas, Rimbey, Bentley, Sylvan Lake, Leedale, Camrose, Eckvine, Rocky Mountain House, Alhambra, Leslieville and other points, including Indians from North Battleford, Saskatchewan

We have seven children who have all attended the Elementary school in Leslieville and six who have graduated from David Thompson High. Our three oldest daughters, Esther, Leanne and Elaine have also graduated from Berean Bible College in Calgary Our next two daughters Carol and Judy are now attending Berean Coleen our youngest is taking Grade 11 at David Thompson High

Most of our daughters went to camp as campers under Youth for Christ, the older ones also were workers as well as counsellors at Frontier Lodge at Nordegg. Esther's and Leanne's husbands also worked there before they were married

Esther worked for awhile at Youth for Christ office in Red Deer, also worked for Social Development at Westfield in Edmonton

Esther and Leanne spent two months one summer working at Circle C Ranch in Delevan, New York under Wes Aarum.

Esther (Mrs. Dave Thomas) lives at Stettler Dave is the principal at Gadsby Elementary and Junior High School. They have two sons, Wayne and Dallas

Leanne (Mrs. Lyell Smith) lives at Leslieville, they have a son Shane and a

daughter Jamie. At the present time Lyell is employed at the Revelstoke sawmill for the winter months and then trucks in the summer which is a new project for him. They have settled on a farm, having bought the old Loutiamus quarter

Charlie and his wife Juliann (Enslen) live north of Leslieville having bought an acreage on his father's farm and built a new home there. Charlie is a truck driver, hauls gravel and sand in the summer months and usually hauled lumber in the winter months for his dad and also helped with other jobs at the mill when short handed. Charlie is an active member in the Church. He belonged to the Boy Scouts when he was in school as well as the Cub Pack. Charlie and Julie have a girl and a boy, Melody and Marty

Elaine worked at Reitmans in Red Deer from the time of her graduation from Berean Bible College until her marriage to Warren Bamber of Edmonton. She is employed for Altrans of Canada and Warren is at present selling airplanes. He took his pilot's training and instructing course at the Flying Club in Edmonton

After residing in Leslieville for 25 years, we bought a mobile home and moved out to the farm, formerly that of the late George Cummerford, a mile north of Leslieville and have resided here for the past two years.

N.B. Ada Brooks has written the family story, and we conclude it with a poem she wrote. Ada is well known for her many poems, composed to commemorate birthdays, wedding anniversaries and farewells, and recited at the celebration of these events

**[illegible]**

A tiny seed from the very beginning
Was created by God, and not to go sinning
Watered and nourished by his love
Tenderly watched by the Father above.

While this seed grew to a tender stage
In crept the weeds with the enemies rage
Choking the growth of this tender plant
Interrupting the progress for which it was meant

Straying away from the straight narrow road,
Being enticed from the Father's Abode,
Drifting on and heeding no warning
Of what lies ahead for another new morning

This plant became all twisted and bent
Unable to feed from God's nourishment;
The vines of weeds entangled its life
Only crushing, crippling and causing it strife

Left all alone, blinded and low
Unable to care and unable to go —
Struggling along in a miserable state
Searching for help but almost too late.

Then alas! came a stranger loving and kind,
To assist this sick creature so out of its mind
And opened the sin blinded eyes to see.
All hope is in Jesus, He sets us free.

This is for All, dear sisters and brothers
Take refuge in Jesus and telling all others
Flee from the powers of darkness today
Cling only to Jesus while still you may

While the day of grace is still at hand,
Hearken Ye, all to the Lord's Command'
"Only one life twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."

Matthew 11 28-30 and John 3 16-18

**BROOKS, JAMES**

James Brooks of Irish and English origin was born in Tilsonburry, Ontario March 25, 1866. He went to Moosomin Saskatchewan where he lived with relatives. He worked and operated the steam plant in the Robin Hood Flour Mills at Moose Jaw. James also lived at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, with relatives. It was there when working on a threshing machine that he got a barley beard in his right eye and lost the sight in it

In 1911 he moved to the Diamond Valley district and took a homestead the NW 7-38-3-W5 which was too rocky for farming, although he did do some breaking on it, and built a log house there. He sold it to Frank Page who later sold it to Jack Clucas

James Brooks was known as a good neighbor always willing to help in time of need. He always enjoyed cutting the neighbor's children's hair and had always cut the Caton boys' hair. After Claude Caton got older he started cutting hair. To return a good deed he was giving Mr. Brooks a shave and a hair cut. Mr. Brooks always had a moustache but Claude didn't give any consideration to that and ended up cutting half of it off. Well, a decision had to be made either wear half of one or none at all!

James bought another quarter section from John Simons the NE 6-38-3-W5 where he lived and farmed

It was there he met Oscar Anderson whom he worked with for sometime and then farmed the place for Mrs. Anderson after the death of her husband Oscar

In 1920 he married Oscar Anderson's widow Signe Elizabeth (Eriksdattur) Anderson and they lived on the Anderson place the NW 10-38-3-W5. By her former marriage Mrs. Anderson had three children, Astrid, Arvid and Allan.

Mr. and Mrs. James Brooks then had three children of their own; James Harry born May 2, 1921 Alford Harold born September 1, 1923 and Eva Myrtle born November 21, 1925

Their son Harry has seven children (six daughters and one son) and six grandchildren

Myrtle (Mrs. Art Bott of Rocky Mountain House) has three sons and two daughters and four grandchildren

On finishing school Alford enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. He was stationed at Kingston, Ontario and then Dartmouth, Nova Scotia — then at Halifax where he met and married Beatrice Kir

by. Alford took leading Aircraftsmen training then on to flight engineer

He was transferred to Comox, Vancouver where they lived a few years before being sent to Germany for three years. On their return Alford was stationed at Cold Lake until his retirement in September of 1973 after being in the R.C.A.F over 30 years

They now live at Summerland, B.C. Alford was employed for awhile as a mechanic for a trucking company at Penticton. He is now selling P.A. systems and installing them. They have one daughter Joan (Mrs. Lee Irwin) living in Calgary and one granddaughter Krista Lee

James Brooks passed away December 15, 1947 at the age of 82 and his widow stayed on at the farm with her son Allan until 1957 when she moved into a small home in Eckville. In 1961 she moved to West View Lodge in Rocky Mountain House where she resided for 10 years. The James Brooks farm was sold to Andrew Nielsen in August of 1967

Mrs. Brooks spent a year with her children, spending some time in each home. She then went to the Lodge at Sylvan Lake where she resided until her passing on September 3, 1973 at 84 years of age.

**BUREAU, MR. AND MRS. EDMOND AND FAMILY — (by Maitie Martin)**

Many times the name of Mr. Bureau has been mentioned but nothing about his family. Mr Bureau was born in France but moved to the United States as a young man and studied to become a civil engineer. His profession took him to different countries and he spent some time in China as well as France and the States before he came to Canada. He was a good natured man and was liked by everyone. In France he was married to Madeline Brunner who had formerly been married to Count Brunner and she had one little daughter named Isabel who was with them when they came to Lesliieville. Then another daughter was born in this country named Odette and before they left our district a son was born named Pierre — all nice children. Mr. Bureau spoke perfect English but the others had to learn it, so when they first came to Red Deer Mrs. Archie McKinnon undertook the job of teaching them English and they remained good friends ever after. Mr. Bureau saw the necessity for a store to help the new settlers so hired a friend of his, a Mr. Ga.ot (Galow), to come and start building. Also helping with the building was a young man from Sylvan Lake named Jules Armeneau. Soon, a fairly large building was erected, the front part being used as a store and the rest for the family dwelling. A few years were spent there and then they sold to Messers Campbell and McKinnon and went back to France. Mr. Bureau, although being a Roman Catholic, donated the land on the corner of his place for the log church to the built, where services were held for many years. In 1907 he applied for a post office and thus the Leslieville post office came into being

Mr. and Mrs. Bureau, Isabelle and Odette. Isabelle's confirmation

The first store in Leslieville built by Mr. Edmond Bureau in 1906, later bought by McKinnons

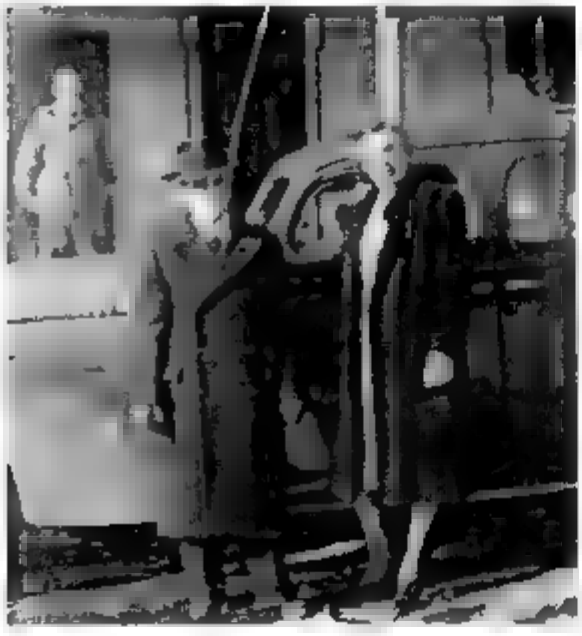
**THE CARD FAMILY**

The Cards originated in Ontario. At one time, James Card owned a lot of property in Leslieville. They had a 10 room hotel, more on the line of a boarding house, because of so many men needing lodging. The men worked at several sawmills around the country. They also ran the general store, livery stable, sawmill, and feed grinder. The boys were very talented, for they held steam engineer's tickets, and were very good with machinery

Mr and Mrs. Jim Card very early settlers at Leslieville

The sawmill and planer were located where the hotel is now

Mrs. Card lived to the age of 70 years Ironically, she got her first pension cheque, but never did get a chance to cash it



Ferg and Mabel Card, 1944

Jim Card and sons had a saw and planer mill at Ferrier. Ferg had a feed mill and sawmill on the creek bank. Bill, the oldest, had no children. Caleb (Kep) had three children. Ferg. had one child. Herb had four children. Bertha (Card) McCauley had one child. Roy had three children. Lou and Floyd were never married.

**CLAUSS, PETER — by Dianna Clauss**

Peter Clauss immigrated to Canada from Germany in 1956. His first work was in the Brooks district where he worked on a farm for $25 a month plus room and board. When he had learned enough English to get by, he moved to Medicine Hat and started work at the brick yards until they burned down.

He met Dianna Reidinger from Medicine Hat and they were married in 1962. Peter worked for Good Year Tire for the next few years.

The couple were looking around for land and in 1966 they found a quarter north of Leslieville. They bought the SW 1-41-5 from Henry Stellox but they didn't move out to the farm until the spring of 1971.

That year was a wet year and there was just a trail of clay for a road so they usually ended up parking the truck at Centerview Hall and walking the mile home, carting groceries, and little Dennis. Karl (8 years old at that time) walked to Centerview Hall to catch the school bus and home again in evening. By next school year a new road was built and the bus came to the gate During this time both worked out part time and still do

In 1973 Peter and Dianna bought the E½ 2-41 5 from Semeen Ahrameen. In 1977 they have started to build a new house on the NE quarter of this land and have had the electricity and gas put in. In the summer of 1977 a new graveled road was put into the quarter where the new building site is. The family hope to be moved into their new home in early 1978. They have sold the origina. home quarter now, but plan to keep the Ahrameen quarters for living and farming

Peter and Dianna have two sons. KARL, aged 14 years, has attended Leslieville school and is now at David Thompson. He is very active in sports. DENNIS, aged nine is a Leslieville school. Both boys belong to the Leslieville Cub and Scout Troup

**THE CRAWFORDS, (JAKE AND BOB)**

John Mowbray Crawford (Jake) was born in 1872 in the shire of Peebles in Scotland. He was looking for a land of opportunity in 1904 when he left Peebles where he had been employed in the gas-works, and crossed the ocean to Canada. His wife, Margaret, had died leaving him with two small children, Robert who was six years of age and Grace, two years younger. They were left in Scotland with their grandparents while their father journeyed to Brookdale, Manitoba, where he found employment on a farm

Jake remarried and a second daughter, Jean

had been born in Canada, when he returned to Scotland two years later to take his two older children to Canada also. After his return to Brookdale he moved his family a few miles away to Moore Park, where he had been offered an increase in wages to manage another farm. His income was now $75 a month for eight months of the year and $40 a month for the four winter months.

His second wife died in childbirth when their tiny, third daughter, Ellen was born, weighing only one and one-half pounds. Her bassinet was a shoe box lined with cotton batting and somehow, miraculously, she survived. Jake advertised for a housekeeper and Miss Henderson arrived from Toronto to care for the family, remaining with them until 1942

A hired man who had worked with Jake on the farm, moved to Alberta and sent word back, urging him to also take advantage of the opportunity to own his own land through the Homestead Act which would allow him to occupy and improve a quarter section. If he met his obligations within the prescribed time limit, he would receive the title to that quarter and he could acquire another quarter nearby, by paying $3 an acre to purchase it. This was called a pre-emption. The Crawford family moved to Manyberries, laid claim to a homestead and eventually acquired a pre emption as well.

After Bob completed his education, he assisted his father on the farm during the summer months and hauled coal from the mines to Lethbridge in the winter. He served in the army during World War I and remembers having to carry dead bodies out of the tents when the "flu" was rampant in 1918.

Bob met his future wife, Hilda Adams, at a Valentine Dance in Lethbridge, in 1919, after his discharge from the army. Her parents, Annie Elizabeth and William Albert Adams, had left Yorkshire, England, in 1911. William, born in 1879, was the eldest of 12 children and had started working in the coal mines at the tender age of 10 years to help support the large family. After he was married, he worked to obtain the papers which allowed him to become a pit boss in the mines. He became very ill and they debated whether to emigrate to Australia or Canada. A younger brother, Tom had moved to Canada and made his home in Lethbridge, Alberta, so they decided to follow him and crossed the ocean with their four children, Hilda, eight years of age and her three younger brothers, Bryan, Billie, and Stephen. There had been a suspected case of smallpox on board the ship so they were quarantined on St. Croix Island for 18 days before being allowed to enter Canada and to continue on their journey by train to Lethbridge

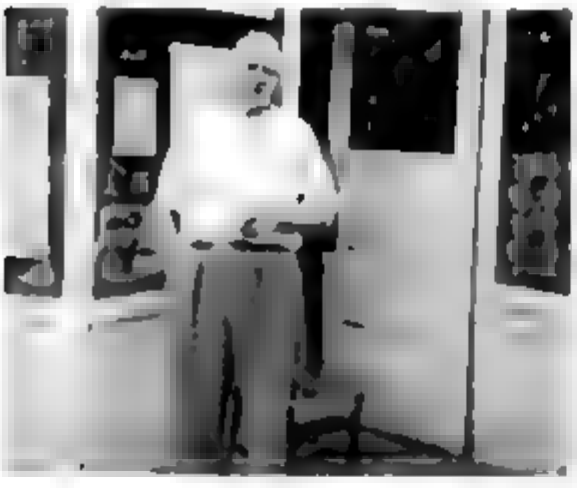
Hilda's father first obtained employment with the John Deere Company for a wage of twenty-five cents an hour. Later he moved his family to Diamond City where he received better wages as a pit boss in the coal mine. He augmented his income by transporting travellers, on their way to and from Lethbridge, across the Belly River in a rowboat, charging 25 cents per person. He bought a farm in 1917 and then two cows for which he paid $125. Prices had risen during World War I. Hilda's mother became noted for her butter which she sculpted into delicate flower petals for her customers. Later they moved into Coalhurst where William received an increase in wages as a haulage boss in the coal mine. Hilda's youngest brother, Bobby, was born in 1918. She remembers well the "flu" epidemic of 1918-1919 when she assisted in nursing the many victims and then came very close to death herself.

Bob and Hilda were married on May 24, 1921, in Coalhurst and lived on Bob's homestead near Manyberries. Her parents bought a farm near Bluffton and moved north to it in the same year. Bob and Hilda's first son, Bryan, was born in 1922 and his brother Larry in 1924

The crops in the area had been very poor, year after year, because of drought and the government offered the farmers free transportation if they wished to move off their homesteads to a new location. One day in 1924, the Watkins salesman told Bob that he also would be a good salesman and urged him to apply for a territory which was available, bounded by Innisfail on the south, Lacombe on the north, and as far west as he wanted to go. He submitted his application and was accepted. The last thing that he did before moving out was to pay his taxes in order that he would be allowed to move his buildings and equipment

He drove his ponies pulling the medicine wagon from Manyberries to Bluffton a distance of 350 miles. Hilda followed by train with Bryan, two years of age, and Larry, a baby only two weeks old.

They had considered living in Eckville but the McTavish family who had been neighbours in Coalhurst, had purchased land northeast of



B. Crawford in front of old school Division office in Rocky Secretary treasurer of Rocky Mtn. School Div # 5 1940

Leslieville, so the Crawfords rented a house in Leslieville from Bill Barton until the house was built which stood where John's Parkland Oil and Gas Ltd. is now located. They sold this house to Joe Mannix and bought the Pool Hall with living quarters, which was situated between the Post Office and the old Butcher Shop on Main Street. Bob continued selling Watkins products until 1932, at first depending upon his ponies to draw the medicine wagon, then horses, which were later replaced by a Model T Ford. He depended upon the hospitality of his customers for lodging while travelling through his large territory. He was told, "There's no use going west of Rocky Mountain House, Bob. There's no money out there!" He found this also to be true when he collected taxes for the Municipal Districts of Golden West, Lochearn and Raven during those difficult years.

Bob's father, Jake, decided to relocate also and moved from Manyberries to Leslieville in 1925. He bought the N.W. 13-5-W5 from Clarence Fitch and farmed it until 1942 when he died at the age of 70 years. Miss Henderson moved into a small house which Bob owned in Leslieville and lived there until her death in 1945.

One day in 1932, Bob was offered a dealership for John Deere Farm Equipment and he reminisces, "That was the turning point — it was from being flat down to up a little bit!"

His business expanded. He was also selling B.A. Oil and Gas, fertilizer, Dodge, Plymouth, Chrysler cars and trucks so the Pool Hall became an office and an addition was built to accommodate the equipment.

The family had also grown and now included two daughters, Margaret, who had been born in 1927, and Patricia in 1935.

Children and adults alike were very resourceful in those years providing much of their own entertainment. A curling rink was constructed — of straw! There were four hundred guests in attendance at a Farmer's Ball in 1928. Chautauquas were held in the Community Hall. Movies were shown occasionally and the children would adapt some of the incidents to stage a "Great Trek" of their own, assembling all the "kids", baby buggies, carts, bicycles, wagons, etc. — even going so far as to ford the creek or to burn one of their number at the stake! Alan McMeekin was tied to a clothes-line pole, the fire was lit, but everyone became frightened and ran away when the rubber soles on his running shoes began to melt. Luckily his mother saw what was happening and rescued him just in time! One Hallowe'en the C.N.R. train stopped in Leslieville for water. McCallums' outhouse was loaded on a flatcar and transported to Nordegg. A buggy was taken apart, carried over a high board fence, piece by piece, and reassembled in Sam Gormley's backyard which had no gate! A great deal of work was accomplished by threshing crews, wood sawyers, barn raisings, quilting bees but there was always time for relaxation and entertainment after the work was done.

With the advent of World War II, Bryan enlisted in the army and Larry in the air force. Margaret married Bob Manning in 1945 and they have two sons, Stanley and Larry, and one daughter, Patricia. Bryan married June Hainer in 1946 and they have one son, Rod, and two daughters, Julie and Vicki. Patricia married Les Ferguson in 1951 and they have three sons, Don, Grant, and Dwayne, and two daughters, Gwen and Barbara. Larry married Norma Bateman in 1964 and lives in Stettler. Margaret lives at Hartell, Pat lives in Red Deer and Bryan lives on Grandpa Jake's farm south of Leslieville. Rod Crawford married Barbara Bradshaw in 1971. They have a son, Blake, and live at Condor Corner. Vicki married Garry Bertagnoli in 1971 and they live at Alhambra. Julie married Laurie Bertagnolli in 1972. They have a daughter, Kelli, and a son, Terryl, and live in the Dovercourt District. Bob and Hilda now have 11 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 56th anniversary in 1977.

Bob became secretary-treasurer of the Rocky Mountain School Division in 1956 and they moved to Rocky Mountain House after living in Leslieville for thirty-three years. Ill health forced him to retire in 1963. He is a charter member of the Leslieville Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and served as secretary for 14 years.

They continue to live in Rocky Mountain House where Hilda is actively involved in the Memorial Presbyterian Church Choir and Women of the Church Group, the Hospital Auxiliary, the Women's Institute and the Pioneer Centre Senior Citizens Group.

**CUMMERFORD FAMILY**

Patrick (Doc) Cummerford was born in Ireland, and came to North Dakota, later moving to Potlatch, Idaho. From there he came to Leslieville in 1919, accompanied by his wife and two sons, George and Charles. He took land just north of the present village, which came to be known as the Cummerford Ranch. In Idaho he had practised the profession of veterinary science, and continued this work when he came to Canada. He died in United States in 1926. His wife, known affectionately by everyone as "Grandma Cummerford", continued to live in Leslieville until she passed away.

Besides taking up land, he and his two sons also purchased one of the local stores, the Leslieville Mercantile, which remained in the family until 1966. Charles and his wife Harriet also lived in Leslieville for five years, until his health forced their return to the States. The original store was located one block west of the present site.

Mrs. Effie Cummerford and her son Pat, aged four years, came to Leslieville in 1921, after the death of her husband, Jack, in the United States.

Doc" Cummerford on his prized horse. "Doc" was well known for his veterinary work, and doctoring people when needed

She later married George, who, along with her son Pat, operated the store for many years.

Pat Cummerford married Joyce Bell, and they lived in Lesllieville until 1953, when the family moved to Red Deer. Along with his partner, Mr. Al. Payne, Pat operated Central Alberta Music Systems until 1976.

Pat and Joyce have three children, Mary Ann (Mrs. A. Machan), Betty Jean (Mrs. A. Ward), and Jack, who is married to Marilyn Cave, all of whom live in the Red Deer area.

Pat died in 1977. His wife still makes her home in Red Deer

**DEVEREUX, CYRIL (SID) AND KAY — by Sid Devereux**

We left Veteran, Alberta in October, 1943. After a series of very dry years with dust storms and grasshoppers to put up with, we were looking for greener pastures.

We bought the NW 3-40-4-W5 and SE 3-40-4 W5 from Vance McCarthy, two and one half miles northwest of Leslieville. We had an auction sale down there and shipped a mixed car of livestock up here, we left a neighbor lad to accompany the stock, and we came here in time to attend the McCarthy sale to pick up some items we would need.

Neighbors here were very good to us the Schlebs, Hainsworths and Barretts had us stay overnights at their places until we got our house in order, the boys were small then, Francis nine and Wayne five, so they were not able to help much.

About the time of McCarthy's sale we had heavy wet snow and it turned quite cold, but it soon cleared up and the snow all left and we had very little the rest of the winter. Francis started going to school at Campbell just one quarter mile away. Mrs. Norman was teaching at the time.

For a while Kay and I were very homesick and missed our old friends and neighbors and also the wide open prairie. Our half section here seemed very small, while we had only one quarter of seeded land down there, we had quite a lot of grazing lease, I believe at 2½¢ per acre, and for crop lease we gave one sixth to the "Special Areas". Also in the fall when the crops were in, we had what they call Free Range and could let our stock run out if we wished.

As time went on we made new friends and felt more at home here. On the prairie we had only one neighbor less than a mile away; here we had four, so didn't feel nearly so isolated.

Our first crop here in 1944 was very good, the oats ran over 100 bushels per acre, which helped a lot. We were milking seven or eight cows and started raising pigs and keeping some range cows, so we made out not too badly.

Francis took Grade 11 and 12 in Red Deer and then took up Air Craft Engineering at Calgary Technical Institute. After finishing the three years' course there he worked for AVRO Aircraft in Toronto. He worked on the ill-fated AVRO Arrow and when the Government cancelled the go ahead on it he was offered a job in Quebec City, for Defence Reaschevich Establishment where he still works. He is now married and his wife works at the same place.

Sid Devereux family, taken in Calgary while Francis attended Tech

Wayne went through high school in Leslieville. After graduation he took a job with a surveying outfit for a while, then took a heavy equipment operators course in Idaho, U.S.A. After graduating there he did cat skinning, also had a grave. truck for a while, now he is in the back hoe business and has also taken our farm over. He married Jackie Livingston in August

1960. They have three children, Greg 15, Pam 14, and Brad eight years. Jackie is presently employed at David Thompson High School as Librarian

Kay and I are semi-retired and living on the acreage that Wayne and Jackie had previously on NW 1-10-4-W5

**DOUPE, TOM**

The Tom Doupe family rented the Carl Holmes quarter in the Bingley district from 1932 to 1935, then from 1935 to 1944 they lived in the Carlos area

In 1944 they moved to the Fred Street farm at Leslieville for four years. Then they rented the farm of Ernest Johnson (brother-in-law of Bert Doupe), for another four years before moving to Victoria

For family story, see the Carlos district

**DURBIN, HENRY AND BRICKLE, CHARLES — (by Mattie Martin,**

Another couple of "old bachelors" who came in the early years were Henry Durbin and Charles Brickle. They also lived up back of the hill north of town and had brought some settler's effects with them along with a yoke of oxen. They were supposed to work together but like most people who try that, they found out it didn't work so they split up and Brickle was the first to leave. Henry's mother came to stay with him for a while but she too went back to the States. Henry Durbin was a very curious person, always asking questions. In a few minutes of conversation with him he would nearly learn a person's life history. He too got tired of farm life and left the country, never to be heard of again.

**ENNIS, WILLIAM—Information from Earl Skoven and Florry Bohler**

One of the very early pioneers of Township 41, Bill Ennis, filed a homestead claim on June 12, 1909, and lived the rest of his life in the north Leslieville area. He homesteaded the S.E. 3-41-5-W.5, the quarter now owned by Dave Trevelyn across the road west of Centerview Hall.

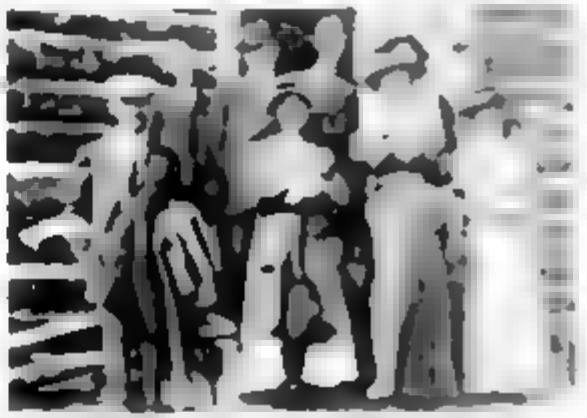
Bill was born near Port Carling, Ontario in 1883. He moved west to Manitoba as a young boy. Later he came to Alberta and worked in the Lacombe and Blackfalds area. He got a job at the livery stable in Lacombe. He freighted goods and took people out to look for homesteads. One time he even drove a Mountie out to pick up a law breaker. He joined the army in the first World War, but only got as far as Ireland.

Bill was "quite a ladies man", but remained a bachelor all his life. In the old days he owned a spanking team of drivers, and a nice buggy and cutter, and no school teacher ever lacked for a way to get to a dance. He was always there to lend a hand in organizing a picnic or a dance, and he took an active part in school affairs. He called the quadrilles at all the dances for many years. He was a neighbor highly respected and well liked by all.

Sometime about 1964 Bill retired to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House after spending 55 years on his land. In the fall of 1966 he passed away, and a former Washington Heights teacher, and friend, Ivy (Greentree) Houchen, arranged the funeral, and burial, in a Field of Honour in a Calgary cemetery.

**ENSIGN, THEODORE (TED) AND MARSHALL — by Mattie Martin**

It was possibly about 1907 or 1908 when Ted Ensign came to our district and settled on the land at the foot of the Butte Hill which had been vacated by Mr. Johnny Campbell. With him came a young man named Leigh (Lee) McMillan who also took a quarter near there. They were quite a pair of bachelors, especially Ted, who was noted for his pancakes. Whenever there was a picnic or a party Ted would always offer to make the pancakes and they were good too. He wasn't much of a farmer and used to boast about how he had gone to "Ohio State University". Someone jokingly remarked one time that he had gone in one door and out the other. Be that as it may, Ted was a very likable kind of person and came from a very fine family as we found out after his parents had visited here one summer. They were nice people, the father being a Methodist minister. Ted was a very good tenor singer and was a member of our choir at the little log church for many years, and was always willing to help with anything that was being held in the community.



Back row: John Reilly, Mr. McMillan, Ted and Mrs. Ensign, unknown. Front row: Bob and Bertha McCallum, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Bennett

Marshall, his younger brother, came out later and lived with Ted on the farm but he did not take too kindly to farm work so didn't stay too long and went back to the States. Ted, however, stayed on, helping to clerk at McKinnon's store for a long time and finally married Miss Julia McKinnon. She passed away not too long after and is buried in the Leslieville cemetery. Several years after, about 1950, Ted was married to Mrs. Jim McCarrol and they lived at Condor and

Niska until his passing a few years ago. Before his marriage he lived for some time with his friends at Withrow — long enough to be jokingly referred to as "Mayor of Withrow" Ted, as he was called, was well informed, community spirited and well liked.

**LARS ERITSLAND FAMILY — LESLIEVILLE — by Marie Guenther**

Lars Eritsland came to Alberta in the spring of 1916 and worked for Mr. Eggen at Blackfalds for a few months to earn enough money to move the rest of the family and belongings up here.

In Oregon they had owned two houses and a 100 acre farm at Eugene. These were traded straight across for two quarters in Alberta, sight unseen. One of these quarters was the one west of Lesli.ville where the Eritslands eventually built a big house which is still there, now owned by Martin Vandenberg. This quarter had been homesteaded by Mr. E. Pryor. The other quarter was two and one-half miles north of Alhambra. Agnes and her husband later bought and lived on this quarter. It had been homesteaded by Mr. Woods. The remains of his log cabin can still be seen along the creek bank.

In July, 1916, the younger members of the Eritsland family and their mother, Anna Marie, arrived at Leslieville. The children were Paul (16), Ida (13), Agnes (11), Anna (nine), and Esther (seven).

The first year that the Eritslands were here Lars had planted potatoes at Blackfalds where he was working. In the fall, his good wife, Anna Marie, went and dug them. She had them hauled to the railway tracks, intending to flag down the train and get them moved home to Leslieville. For some reason the train didn't stop, so she stayed overnight with friends. After making arrangements to have her potatoes put on the next train, she set out to walk home down the tracks and walked all but 11 miles when she was given a ride on a speeder.

In May, 1917, Emma (19) and Hilda (23) came up from Oregon. Hilda taught school at Bingley till the fall of 1917 when she returned to Oregon to marry Victor Stratton. In 1931 they moved to Alberta to homestead at Condor. Hilda taught in several schools in the area over the years and after they moved to Red Deer she taught children at the Provincial Training School for many years. She now lives in Mission, B.C. They have seven children: Julia (Mrs. N. von Hollen) of Hatzic, B.C., Victor of England, Lillian (deceased), David and Lucille of Oregon, U.S.A., and Douglas and Daniel in the U.S.A.

Emma got a job teaching in Prairie Rose School in 1917; at that time it was between Leslieville and Condor. In 1918 Emma taught at Talmi where she was the first teacher in the district. She lived upstairs in the old log house that was used as a school room. She married Andrew Hjortaas, a minister. They lived at Sylvan Lake and held services in many areas between

Back row: Ida, Anna and Agnes Eritsland. Front row: Mrs. Eritsland, Esther and Lars Eritsland. Inset: Paul Eritsland.

Rimbey, Leslieville, Alhambra and Sylvan Lake. From there they moved to Macrorie, Saskatchewan, where they lived for 30 years. Then they moved to Calgary where Andrew died. Emma now lives in Camrose. They had one adopted daughter, Freida, who lives in Camrose.

In 1922, Oscar (26) moved to Leslieville after the death of his wife in a fire in Chicago, bringing with him his two year old daughter, Esther. He later married Mildred Magrath and moved to Calgary, then later to Lethbridge where his wife still lives. Oscar died in 1971. They have six children besides Esther who is at Woodstock, Illinois. They are Bernard (in U.S.A.), Dorothy, Marie, Lawrence, Rosalind, and Carol (in Vancouver).

Lydia, the oldest daughter, married Jappe Dahle in Minnesota and remained there on a farm to raise nine boys and one girl and as far as is known they live in the United States. She died in 1960.

Of the family who came to Alberta in 1916, Lars died in 1930 of a stroke. Anna Marie, the mother, remained on the farm with Paul for many years, eventually moving to Alhambra to live near Agnes. She lived to be 96 years and lived alone, looking after herself until she was 94. At the age of 91, Anna Marie was discovered upon her porch roof one day reshingling it. She was very active till she broke her hip at 94, in a fall in the house.

Paul remained on the farm until 1970 when he retired to Red Deer with his wife, the former Cecil Hogberg whom he married in 1948. He died of cancer in 1977.

Ida married Rudy Lowe of Blackfalds and lived on a farm there till her death in 1965 of cancer. They had twelve children, two of whom died in their teens. Peter lives in Australia, Lor-

na in Red Deer, Lawrence in Calgary, Marjorie in Rimbey, Ralph in Alberta, Betty in Red Deer, Donald in Calgary, Dorothy in Mirror, Norman in Warburg, and Thelma in Lacombe

Agnes taught school at Hay Lake for one year, at Harmonian for two years and at Leedale and Hoadley

Esther taught at Fuller and Midland Schools. Esther and Agnes married brothers, Earl and Victor Stollings and farmed at Rimbey for several years. In 1938 Agnes and Victor moved to Alhambra where they farmed for a few years. Agnes taught school at Alhambra for many years. They raised one boy and three girls. Robert is married and has two children. The family lives in Red Deer Marie (Mrs. N Guenther) lives in Alhambra district and has five sons and two daughters. Myrtle (Mrs J von Hollen) lives in Haney, B.C. and has three children. Helen (Mrs. C. Andrews) lives in Blackfalds and has three children. Agnes died in 1964 of cancer

Esther and Earl and their two boys moved to Saunders where Earl worked for the forestry While there they had two girls. Cecil and Lara are married and live in Edmonton. Shirley (Mrs Chalmers) lives in Caroline. They have two children. Mavis (Mrs. W. Weber) lives in Calgary. They are expecting their first child this year They eventually retired to Jasper. Esther died of cancer in 1971

Alma taught at Leedale for five years. She married Bernard von Tettenborn and they farmed at Rimbey till the death of her husband. Alma then moved to Rimbey and then to Red Deer where she now lives at the Centennial Courts. They have two sons and three daughters Bernard, Iris, Linda, Mark and Betty-Ann. Bernard and Gladys with their family live at Round Hills. Iris (Mrs. Nast) lives in Victoria and has eight children. Linda is married, has a family and lives in Edmonton. Mark is married and resides in Edmonton. Betty-Ann is married and they have one child; they live in Eastern Canada

**FENIG, R.**

I, Raymond Fenig, was born January 1895 at Zagrow near Pozun, Meklenberg, East Germany. I understood from my father that the name Fennig was an alteration from Fennigan, as my parents were supposed to have come from Ireland

My father was a building contractor and also for awhile Mayor and also in charge of the fire brigade of Zagrow. I remember well, a very large church my father had built where I used to sing as a choir boy. It had a very large organ and a beautiful picture hanging over the altar, which I have heard the Russians took after they occupied East Germany. I attended school in Zagrow

In May 1912 I immigrated to the U.S.A. to live with my aunts at Scranton, New York. Between 1912-1914 I used to go west to work on farms, particularly at harvest time. In 1915, I bought a quarter of land near Hertzfield, Wells County in North Dakota. My first crop was mostly flax with some wheat. The same year I volunteered for the army but was turned down on physical grounds

In 1917 I enlisted in the army but was discharged later in the year. I then went west to Seattle and found a job riveting in Skinners Shipyard, until I was laid off due to the slump in ship building after the end of the first war

From Seattle I went to Aberdeen, Washington to work in a logging camp, this was in 1919. I worked on the steam engines. One of these was rated at 3,000 H.P., and was built by Washington Iron Works. They built six of these engines and then stopped as they were too heavy to move. Oliver Salmon and Harry Godkin worked at the same mill.

I owned a small acreage just outside of Aberdeen and built a house on it. I had become acquainted with a Mr. William Turner who owned a quarter just south of the present Cross Roads Store. (His land is now owned by Russ Parr) Mr Turner told me about Alberta.

In 1929 I sold my property and moved to Alberta coming up through Kingsgate. I brought a few pieces of furniture with me, which came by rail

I remember a terrific hail storm that wiped out everything around Leslieville just after I arrived, however, just a mile north there was no hail.

I bought the quarter Jack Leslie now owns, the SW 28-40-5. I plowed 42 acres and broke seven acres the first year, and dug a 40 foot well, just south of the house where Jack lives now. This was really good water, but unfortunately, where I dug was on the road allowance and the well was filled in when the road was surveyed.

In 1934 I sold the SW 28-40-5 to Paul Hansinger for four very small heifer calves and 400 board feet of 2 x 4 lumber. I moved to the W ½ 16-40-5 known as the Moser place. (Henry Moser worked at freighting and building in Billings, Montana) I rented this Moser land for about 10 years, and I also farmed the NW 30-40-5, known as the Carl Holmes place and also the NE 8-40-5 at the same time.

Around 1943 I bought the SW 22-40-5 and I later bought the NW 22 to make a half section. This later quarter was homesteaded by Gordon Tink's father. I bought a D 2 "cat" in 1948, it was the first in the district

In 1964 I sold this land to Dennis Anderson, although I continued to live there for awhile. In 1967 I bought the land farmed by Gilbert Maitland E ½ 34-41-6. In 1972 I sold this land and retired to Rocky for a year.

In 1973, I got tired of being retired and bought the NE 4-41-6 where I am farming now. I have cleared nearly all of the quarter since I came here

I am now 83 years of age, and keeping quite active, busy and enjoying life

**FOURNIER, GEORGE — (by Mattie Martin)**

George Fournier was a quiet, nice young man who came from eastern Canada about 1907 or 1908 and took up land on the Blueberry hill. He was just a very young fellow and trying to farm without too much money and machinery was a task he couldn't cope with so he didn't stay too long in the district. He used to come to church and to any picnics or other affairs that were held and we all thought a lot of him but he left after a short stay and went back to his former home

**FREYLINGER, PETER AND HELENA FAMILY — by Mrs. Walter McMeekin**

Peter Freylinger was born in Esch sur Aizette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on June 5, 1891, the son of Nicolas Freylinger and Katherine Schmidt

Helena Sassel was born in Esch sur Aizette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg August 3, 1890 the daughter of Michel Sassel and Suzanne Reuter

My parents grew up in Luxembourg where the official languages are French and German while the national language is Luxembourgeois They received their education there

In 1911, Dad immigrated to Canada, at first being employed in Nova Scotia, and a year later came west to Coalhurst, Alberta, where he worked in the coal mines. Mother joined him there a year or so later

In his quest for a farm Dad came to Central Alberta and the Hespero — Evergreen area. In 1919 they bought the former Lawrence Fritch farm (SW 16-38-4 W5) and moved there

Dad wanted a bush farm, lots of bush — the prairies were so barren of trees and windy He got it and spent many years clearing the land and breaking it, to make it suitable for mixed farming. The work was done by horses. The tractor being used much, much later in farming operations

There was an abundance of wild berries, flowers and wildlife right on the farm. Prairie chickens and rabbits were very plentiful. This put meat on some pioneers' tables when not much else was available

Roads were built with horses, scrapers and lots of "man-power". They were dirt, and in marshy places corduroy with dirt In the spring some of these became boggy and inundated and the dirt was washed away or the logs sank into the bog, so had to be repaired. In the winter the snow drifts were very high across the roads in places and travel was almost impossible

Travel was by horses, sleighs and cutters in the winter and wagon, democrat or buggy in the summer. Cars were very rare We rode horseback, walked, (some had horses and buggy or sleigh) to get to our one room school. We lived three miles from Daisy Nook, the school we attended. Grades 1 to 8 were taught there in the early years and later in the 30's high school. One teacher taught all these grades — including the high school

The teachers I remember are, Mr Stewart Meeres, my Grade 1 teacher and following him, Mr. Glenworth Jones, Mr Norman Lougheed Miss Hilda Lawrence (now Mrs. Jonas Anderson), Miss Aileen Hillman and Betty Baldwin (now Mrs. Robin Hartley), the last of which I must pay tribute to for helping us all so diligently in our quest for senior matriculation.

Box socials and dances nearly always raised funds for our annual Christmas concert and a community picnic always ended the school year

The nearest doctor, if there was a resident one, was Eckville, Rocky Mountain House or Red Deer

Telephones were few, our closest being at Frank Cerny's one and a half miles distant. Radios were rare until the 30's when they became more common. The hand wound gramophone was one source of music, a few had these. Coal oil or gas lamps were used for lighting and wood for heating

Holidays such as Christmas and Easter were spent and shared with neighbors; few had relatives near Neighbors visited each other often and an evening of entertainment was sometimes playing cards, the accordian or other musical instrument, the gramophone and conversing and the serving of lunch and coffee

Most social events were held in the one room school, such as dances, concerts, an occasional silent movie and church services. All partook in these occasions, young and old intermingled. They were truly family get-togethers

A community hall was an urgent need. Both my parents were active in community affairs and participated in every way they could to help in the building and management of the Evergreen Hall

Dad served as a school trustee on the Daisy Nook School Board for many years and was also the district weed inspector and road foreman (when road building and repairing took place) at one time

Dad was of a serious nature; was an avid reader with a deep passion for learning He was an interesting conversationalist and loved to recall events of the past. I'm sure his friends and neighbors will recall hearing the tale of the obstinate horse he once owned on the prairies — that nothing on earth could move — once it had decided to stop, no matter where, and also of the time when he came to this area in search of land in June, upon looking out of the window in the morning, there was snow on the ground— not much encouragement to a would-be-farmer

Mom was of a jolly, fun loving nature and enjoyed both young and old. Her family, home and farm were her life

Both Mom and Dad spoke several languages fluently, but in all the years met only two people with whom they could converse in Luxem-

bourgeois — Mrs. Bonk, whose husband had the blacksmith shop at Hespero and Mr. Matt Hoven, a farmer of the Gaetz district

Burials often took place on the home farm in the early years and so the body of Mr Buchta Sr., father of Albert, and son-in-law of Mr Fritch, rests on the hills of the farm

During the ensuing years my parents received their citizenship papers and became British subjects. They were proud to be a part of their adopted land.

They had three children

— a son Michael John of Mission, B.C., born in Esch sur Alzette, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on September 8, 1910. He is now retired from the logging industry in which he was employed. He married Cora Belle Wright of Keremeos, B.C. and they have a family of four, Theodore (Ted), Darlene, Sheila and Cheryl.

— a daughter Catherine Helene born at Coalhurst, Alberta, January 11, 1915. She married Gudbjorn Thorlakson of Markerville, Alberta. They lived in Markerville, Evergreen, Benalto and Red Deer. He was a cream hauler, mechanic, trucker, farmer and school janitor. The had three children, Kenneth Peter of Calgary, born on November 15, 1940, Donald Clare of Toronto, Ontario, born on March 1, 1947 and Myrna Lois born August 29, 1943, whose untimely passing on December 19, 1952 brought deep sorrow to their lives. Catherine passed away on February 22, 1970. Gudbjorn presently resides in Red Deer

— a daughter (myself) Cecilia Anna (Mrs Walter McGregor McMeekin of Lesliеville) born at Coalhurst, Alberta on June 14, 1917. Walter and I lived in Calgary while he served in the Royal Canadian Airforce and after his discharge, moved to Lesliеville where he managed Lesliеville Motors until it changed ownership in 1975. He remains there presently as head mechanic. We are blessed with three sons and three daughters, as recorded in the Walter McMeekin history

Mother passed away on October 14, 1955. A year later Dad sold the farm to Wenzel Kubik (Jim) and moved to the town of Rimbey where he resided until his passing on October 14, 1967

**GALOT, MR. AND FAMILY — (by Mattie Martin)**

The NW 24-38-5-W5 had been homesteaded by Leslie Reilly in 1906 but as he had received an appointment at the Merchant's Bank in Red Deer he gave up the land and Mr Galot applied for it and got it. As he did not have enough money to build a big house he made a dugout in the side of the hill, cribbed it up nicely inside, and sent for his family

They came and were frustrated when they saw where they had to live but made the best of the situation and soon settled down. There was Mdme. Galot, Jeanne, Angelle and a nice little boy, Maurice. Jeanne found employment at Mrs. Bureau's, Angelle went to work at Innisfail where she married, and Maurice in later years went to Maple Creek and still farms there. This land, after the Galot's left, became the home of the Tom Davenport family

The Galot Family at Red Deer 1909 with Mdme. Pierrette

**GIBSON, THE GORDON FAMILY**

Gordon was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. He received his early education in Congress, Saskatchewan. Most of his high school subjects were through correspondence courses. He attended the Fundamental Bible School at Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, and came to this area in 1940 to pastor at the Withrow Gospel Mission. In 1942 he married Freda Bott, oldest daughter of Mrs. Keitha and the late Fred Bott of the Withrow area. Freda grew up on the family farm along with her seven brothers and two sisters. She attended the Shady Lane school and also the Fundamental Bible School at Port Coquitlam, B.C. It was during their stay at Withrow on October 4, 1943, that their first daughter, Joy, was born. Together the three of them travelled around in their old 26 Chevrolet, even taking their goat along whenever they planned to be away for several days. On one of their trips out west of Rocky Mountain House to pick blueberries, the goat was sitting on the back seat of the car when they boarded the ferry to cross the river. It was the ferryman's job to count each passenger and keep a record of it. Well, he even counted the goat as one of the family. She was a pet as well as a good source of milk but was also a nuisance at times. While on this trip they slept in a bathhouse on a straw tick. There was a window with no glass in it but a slab nailed over it. In the early hours of the morning, a bear came and looked in the window at them. It was lucky there was a slab over the window. As they were leaving for home, it had just rained. They went in the ditch. We pushed the car out but it went in the ditch on the other side. This time it

had to be jacked out. In spite of all the inconveniences, they took home a lot of blueberries which made the trip worth it all.

One experience the Gibson's had while they lived at Withrow will never be forgotten. Freda's brother Dave had taken them to Withrow in a wagon to do some work around the church. At the time the Horseguard River would flood in the spring and flow over both approaches to the bridges. While they were at Withrow the banks of the river had flooded over the road. They started across the water and the wagon box began to float off the wheels and carriage of the wagon and by the time they reached the bridge it was just hanging on by a peg. Rather than taking any chances on crossing over the opposite approach, they decided to leave the wagon along with horses' harness on the bridge and ride the horses back to Withrow as the other approach was deeper and swifter than the one they had just crossed. Dave had to stay with Gordon and Freda until the river went down.

The Gibson's pastored at Withrow and Diamond Valley for a number of years and then moved to New Raven to pastor the Gospel Mission there. It was while they were at New Raven that Gordon decided to teach school. He took his Grade Twelve at Dickson School. It was also at this time on January 19, 1947, that their son, Danny was born. In the fall of that year Gordon attended the University of Alberta to prepare for his teaching. In the spring of 1948 he began teaching at the Medicine Valley school. Their first trip to Medicine Valley was when their brother, Eddie, took them and their belongings in a lumber wagon. Again the Horseguard river was flooded and the water was running over the road but they made it across without any trouble.

In September 1948 they moved to the Wolfe school and lived in the teacherage. During their first winter at Wolfe their means of transportation was a horse named Fanny, loaned to them by the late Garnet McLean and a cutter. Many times they walked to Withrow for the mail or to attend church. Sometimes the snow was very deep and drifts were high. As soon as they could afford it they bought a Model A Ford. They ate lots of prairie chickens and got another friendly goat to supply them with milk and to follow the school children around.

It was in January 1951 that they moved back to the Medicine Valley School. As the school had a very large enrolment his wife helped with his teaching by supervising the lower grades. The highlights of the school year were the ball games, picnics and the Christmas concerts which usually lasted at least two hours. They included dialogues, recitations, drills, songs by the whole school as well as solos and duets. The school was always jampacked for these events.

After leaving Medicine Valley the Gibsons moved to Evarts where Gordon taught for one year. On May 4, 1954, their second daughter, Maxine was born. Soon after this happy event took place they moved to Leslieville where they have made their home since.

On May 15, 1959, their third daughter, Carol was born and two years later on February 17, 1961, their second son, Dale was born. Carol graduated from David Thompson High School in June, 1977. She lives in Rocky Mountain House and is a stenographer for the Department of Social Services. Dale is living at home and is attending David Thompson High School. Their daughter, Joy, married Allan Brososky of Eckville. Allan was employed with Molander Brothers for about ten years before he and his family moved to Fort McMurray where he is now employed with Great Canadian Oil Sands. They have four children, Debra attending High School, Howard in Junior High, Blain in Elementary School, and a foster child, Eldon at home.

The Gibson's son, Danny, lives on a farm near Innisfail with his wife, Judy and their three daughters. Susan and Jenny attend elementary school in Innisfail. Their new baby daughter, Charlotte Anne, was born November 4, 1977. Danny is country sales manager for the Ad-Viser Publications in Red Deer.

The Gordon Gibson Family. Left to right, Dale, Maxine (as a bride), Gordon and Freda sitting, with Danny at back, Joy and Carol.

Their daughter, Maxine is married to Paul Depner and they live at Rocky Mountain House. They have a two year old son, Clay. Paul is employed in oil field work. Maxine is a stenographer for the Department of Agriculture.

After twenty-six years of teaching school Gordon retired in 1974. He enjoys curling, playing horseshoe and gardening. He also does some substeaching.

**THE GLASSPOOLE FAMILY — submitted by Mrs. Frances Lyons and Mrs. Margeret Hall**

William Wallace Glasspoole, born in March, 1869, and Hannah Kate Dodge, born April 9, 1890 in Webster Rooks County, Kansas, U.S.A., were married on November 26, 1914 Their eldest daughter, Frances Ellen, was born October 15, 1915 and Evelyn Jane was born April 15, 1917 Both were born in Cour D'Alene, Idaho, U S.A.

In 1917 the family moved to Canada, and lived in quite a few different areas. They lived for awhile at Carlos, Alberta, and this is where James Henry was born on September 10, 1918. The family then moved from Carlos to Leslieville, and then to Horberg, Alberta where Mr Glasspoole worked as a pumpman for the C.N R. It was here that William Rex was born on April 1, 1921, Andrew Martin on October 7, 1923, and Margaret Emma on February 25, 1925.

In 1925 the family moved back to their homestead at Leslieville but didn't stay there for very long. The next move was to Ted Ensign's farm, where Berry Arlene was born on June 29, 1927. Here, also, Frances, Evelyn and James all started to school. They attended the Campbell School (or Butte, as it was sometimes called.)

The next move was to Alix in 1928 where Mr Glasspoole had a pumpman's job for the C.N.R Here two more children were born Dorothy Annette on September 1, 1929 and Everett Wallace on December 13, 1934.

Mr Glasspoole passed away on February 18, 1948 at the age of 77 years. Mrs. Glasspoole lives in Red Deer, and on April 9, 1977 she was 79 years of age

**GORE, JOHNNY — (by Mattie Martin)**

Johnny was a small boy in stature but with a heart of gold inside him. He was sent out from England, as a lot of others were, to be a helper on a farm so he lived with the McLeans near Lake Megantic and came west with them. Living across from the Hopkins place he became well acquainted with them and later married the oldest daughter, Ethel. He built a little house in Leslieville (which is now the W. I. Hall) and they lived happily there for some time till one day someone whom Ethel liked better came along and she went away with him and left little Johnny. He was very upset so the McKinnon's took him under their wing and he was their faithful friend forever. He joined the army during the first World War and was a bugler Later he was a drummer in the orchestra that we had in those days but finally he took sick and passed away at the hospital in Rocky Mountain House and is buried in the Leslieville cemetery

Johnny Gore and District Foreman

**HAINSWORTH, THE JOSEPH FAMILY — by Art Hainsworth**

Joesph Hainsworth came to Canada from England with his parents when he was seven years old, in the year 1882. Mary Hogg came from Scotland with her parents in the year 1888 when she was six years old. Both families settled in Manitoba not far from Winnipeg In those days it took three weeks to cross from Britain to Canada Most of that time was spent in lower deck as the seas were too rough to allow passengers on upper deck, with the type of ships used in those days

They met and were married in Winnipeg on May 1, 1902, spending the next 16 years in Los Angeles U.S.A., where their family increased by two sons and four daughters In 1918 they returned to Canada, living one year at Red Deer, Alberta where Dad worked for Hewson Draying Co They then rented a farm near Evarts, a small town along the Burnt Lake Trail. This is where I was born in August 1919. The farm they rented was sold and in May, 1920 they moved to a half section farm, SW 10-40-4-W5, SE 9-40-4-W5, five miles north and west of Leslieville which they purchased from Mr J. M. MacDonald of Eckville. It was formerly homesteaded by Mr. Ted Ensign, an early settler in the district

In the winter my father and oldest brother John took teams and worked in the lumber camps of Fishers and Phoenix, while my older brother and sisters cared for the livestock on the farm. In 1921 another son was born, and in 1926 the family was completed by the birth of another daughter

Among my earliest memories of the farm was dad seeding grain by hand from tubs in the back of a wagon, and harrowing the grain into the soil with a drag-harrow This proved to produce very abundant crops. Although in those days with the slow ripening varieties of grain it turned out to be greenfeed more often than grain.

In the late 20's a horse powered hay baler was obtained and many carloads of hay were baled throughout the district by my dad and two older

brothers. Most of the hay was loaded in boxcars and shipped west to the logging camps or the mines at Nordegg and Alexo.

The first threshing I remember was done by a small hand fed separator and a straw carrier instead of a blower. This straw had to be forked away from the end of the carrier by hand to prevent it piling up and plugging.

Later most of the threshing was done by Mr. Card's steam powered separator and a large crew. It seemed to me more time was spent moving from one small field to another than it took to thresh them. On occasions the big steam engine would bog down in the many soft mud holes in the district at that time. It wasn't long before our close neighbor got a high elevator wooden separator and a Rumely tractor. As there were no augers at that time, the grain was elevated to about 16 feet then run down a pipe into the grain bin or wagon.

My oldest brother and sister were through school when we moved to the Leslieville district. The rest of the family obtained their schooling at the Campbell School, which was situated at the foot of the big hill on the present Albert Mottus farm. As I remember there was always a Hainsworth to do the janitor work at the school. I put in three years at it for the much appreciated salary of $5 a month. Many were the mornings I left before daylight and walked, (or ran) the one and one half miles across country to light the fire only to have the teacher come and send the two or three of us who got there home, when the temperature was -40 or -50 Fahrenheit.

Dad and Mother celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the farm in 1952. They also celebrated their 60th anniversary in the Leslieville community hall in 1962. Mother passed away in October of that year, at the age of 80 years.

In January 1963 I married Verna Doupe of Victoria, B.C. Dad lived with us on the farm until his passing in the West Park Nursing Home in April, 1972 at the age of 96.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hainsworth on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1952

Verna and I spent 14 years on the farm, then sold it to my nephew Steven Hainsworth and wife, Priscilla (nee Robinson) of Aurora, who are presently on the farm with their three children.

Eight of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hainsworth are still living in Alberta.

John, a widower retired from farming, lives in Rocky Mountain House. Miss Daisy Hainsworth passed away in 1968. Helen, (Mrs. Wesley McNeil) retired from farming, lives in Eckville. Charlie retired from working for the C.P.R. and lives at Sylvan Lake. Florence, (Mrs. George Barret), retired from the farm to live in Delburne. Ruth, (Mrs. Donald MacDonald), lives in Fort Saskatchewan. Verna and I (Arthur) live on an acreage close to Leslieville. My brother and his wife, David and Betty farm at Leslieville and Dave also works for Homestead Oil. They have five boys, Gordon, Steven, Barry, Brent, and Lyle.

**Gordon** married Doreen Thompson and they farm on the original Jim Thompson farm and also work on oil rigs. They have two boys Matthew and Kevin.

**Steven** and **Priscilla**, on the Hainsworth homeplace have two girls and a boy. Trina, Tammy and Cameron.

**Barry** married Beverley Yarbrough and they live on the Dave Hainsworth farm and he works on oil drilling rigs. They have one daughter Monica.

**Brent** and **Lyle** are still at home and attending David Thompson High School.

## HALL, REG AND GLADYS

Reg and Gladys Hall came to Leslieville from Rocky Mountain House in the spring of 1937. Reg worked as a mechanic for Percy Black who had the Massey-Harris dealership. He later worked for Carl and Claude Davenport in their garage. Reg also did the original electrical wiring in the town of Leslieville when electricity was first available. Gladys was an active member of the Women's Institute.

Reg joined the Air Force in 1940 and subsequently moved his family to Red Deer, Alberta. After the War Reg settled in Sudbury, Ontario. He is now retired. Gladys has remarried and still lives in Red Deer where she works as a bookkeeper at Red Deer Motors.

Reg and Gladys have five children, Alberta, Dean, Keith, Mona, and Douglas. Alberta (Bobbie) attended Grades 1, 2 and 3 at the Leslieville School before moving to Red Deer. Her Grade 1 teacher was Cecely Baker. In 1949 she married Jim Dickson of Alhambra, Alberta. They now farm south of Leslieville. Jim and Bobbie have eight children whose histories are recorded in the "Dickson, Samuel and Alma" history.

Dean was Area Manager for Texas Oil in

Estevan, Saskatchewan. He died in an accident at the age of 22 years

Keith trained as a Stationary Engineer in Vancouver, British Columbia. He married Marjorie Webb of Montreal, Quebec in 1960. They have two sons, Christopher and Steven. Both are still attending school. They live in Prince George, B.C. where Keith works at the Pulp and Paper Plant

Mona worked in a bank in Vancouver, B.C. She married Walter Giesbrecht in 1961, and they have two children, Dean and Kathy, still in school. Mona and Wally live in Kamloops where Mona is employed as a secretary and Wally is employed as a meat cutter for Swifts.

Douglas, after leaving school, went to work for the Red Deer Post Office where he is still employed. He married Meredith Cameron in 1961. They have one daughter, Kimberley, who is attending Red Deer Composite High School.

Gladys's younger brother, Dale, and her sister, LaVerne, came to live with the Hails in 1938 when their mother died. They went to school in Lesileville

Dale is a Stationary Engineer in Prince George. Dale and Isabelle were married in 1951 They have one son, Peter

LaVerne married Thomas LaPointe in 1957 They have four children, Thomas (Kippy) Leanne, Cheryl and Rhonda. LaVerne and Tommy live in Surrey, B.C. where Tommy is warehouse manager for Safeway

**HAMBLETON, WILLIAM AND KATHLEEN: HENRY AND JEANNE HAMBLETON, HARRY**

William Hambleton, known to his friends as "Bill" was born in Leek, Staffordshire, England, in 1878. He arrived in Canada by boat in 1903. He continued his journey by train until he arrived in Winnipeg. Here he joined his brother, Harry, who was working as a cabinet maker. During the winter months Bill worked at his trade as a bricklayer.

In the spring of 1904 the brothers headed west to take up homesteading. Upon arrival in the Alhambra district they settled on the SW 24-39-6 W5. They started out with a 'team' consisting of one ox and one horse. They broke the land with the 'team' and a walking plow. The 'team' was also used to fetch supplies from Red Deer each spring, summer and fall. They lived in a one-room log house with a sod roof, furnished with a stove, a wooden table, chairs, and beds. The brothers farmed this quarter from 1904 until 1914. During this time they suffered through hardships, enjoyed good times and survived through culinary failures and unexpected successes

Bill and Harry managed to be fair cooks, but at times the cold winters frustrated their best efforts. One winter evening Bill mixed up a batch of bread dough and in order to keep it warm so that it would rise, he proceeded to take it to bed for the night Upon waking in the morning he discovered that the dough had not risen at all. As the brothers headed out to fetch a load of wood, Bill threw the dough out by a fence post, disgusted with his failure. The brothers returned in the afternoon with a sleigh load of wood. when all of a sudden the team took flight. Harry hung on to the frightened team with all his might. Bill jumped off, prepared to do battle with the critter that was scaring the team. Sneaking into the yard, past the gate, past the lean-to shelter, he stopped all of a sudden and looked - - - -. The varmint wasn't any four-legged critter at all. Lo and behold, the bread dough had risen up beside the fence post into a huge ball! Bill swiftly grabbed the dough, stoked up the fire in the cookstove, and sliced the dough into loaves and proceeded to bake the bread for supper

In 1914 with the call of World War I the brothers joined the Canadian Army. Bill served for five years and 10 months. During this time he fought in France at Vimy Ridge, in Germany and did duty time in England. While in England, he met and courted Kathleen Swain. They were married in 1919, and a son, William Henry Swain was born on July 26, 1920. Bill was honorably discharged from the army in 1920 and returned to the Alhambra district in December, 1920 with his wife, son and four year old step-daughter, Florence

After Bill returned from the War with his family he found he had lost his original homestead as it was reclaimed to meet tax payments. So he rented the NE 12-38-6 W5 where R. Olson lives now. Here he lived with his family until he could purchase the SW 30-38-5-W5. Then the family lived there in a two-room house which they expanded to a two storey house over the years. They had seven head of Shorthorn cattle, but only one cow survived calving after the first winter'

In 1920 Bill started to work for the C.P.R. on the track from Alhambra west to 55. He worked on this job for four and one half years with Jack Pollitt as the section foreman. Other men who worked on the same job were George Farrington and Harry Crabtree. George bought the NW 7-39-5-W5. Harry Crabtree was from Yorkshire, England and had three sons, Horace, Arnold and Ervin. Harry farmed the SW 7-38-5-W5 which he later sold to G. Antrim and bought the quarter Clarence Needham now lives on from Bill Phillips. (See Farrington and Watters histories.)

Henry, Bill's son, attended the Beaver Flat School from 1927 to 1934. The youngsters of the area got a great deal of joy in skating on the creek in winter time but their real favorite sport was heading for the swimming hole after school or on a Sunday afternoon in the summer

In the late 1930's, Henry and Arnold and Ervin Crabtree worked in mills in the bush camps. Arnold made skis with no poles and the boys amused themselves skiing downhill in the moonlight when the day's work was done. Arnold also made snowshoes, tanned hides, and was a

In 1936 the Hambleton's bought their first car a chev Left to right Bob Maconachie, Tom Butler, Harry Davis Hambleton, Flo (Hambleton) Turton, Steve Stevanger, Bill Hambleton seated inside the car

taxidermist Ervin took a mail order course in electricity and radio repairing. Arnold and Ervin live in British Columbia. Horace was a fire ranger in the 1930's.

Bill broke the land with a team of horses until he acquired a 1936 Allis Chalmers tractor. He raised cattle and purebred Leghorns which he had shipped in from Ontario. However, in 1943 Bill lost 250 chickens when the chicken house caught on fire and burned to the ground. The family's first car was a 1929 Model A Ford bought by Henry in 1937. Lloyd Courtright had shown him how to drive before he bought the car Henry helped his father farm as well as apprentice as a butcher under Frank Scott from 1942-1947 In 1945 Bill's sister, Susan, emigrated from England after retiring from a nursing career, during which time she nursed through both World Wars

In 1947 Henry met Jeanne Heatley, daughter of William Caleb and Anne Heatley of Leduc Jeanne attended Rocky Mountain House School from 1945-1948. She then worked in Spoor's Meat Market. Henry and Jeanne went out together during 1947-1951. During this time they attended shows, and dances at which Henry was the "Caller" for the square dances. On July 20, 1951 Henry and Jeanne were married. They took up residence on his father's farm. In 1956 their first daughter, Tennis was born and their second daughter, Nola arrived in 1960.

**THE HANSINGER FAMILY — by Kate (Hansinger) Bystrom**

Paul Hansinger and family arrived in Canada in the spring of 1928. Their first home was in Midlet, Alberta, where he farmed and operated a barbershop and pool hall.

Father was born in a little village in Austria he married the former Mary Lochmuller in 1919. He served in the First World War, and was in the military ranks till coming to Canada.

He had heard of the great country called Canada, and the large amounts of land available Being eager to seek new adventures and to have some of this new land, he convinced my mother that Canada should be their new home

On April 1, 1930, the family arrived in the Lesliеville district to take up residence on the SW-22-40-5-W5. The move was made by team and wagon, stopping overnight to feed and rest the animals. We stayed with kind and friendly farmers along the way It was an endurance test, as the weather was frequently bad and stormy

In 1933, the land formerly owned by Mr DePerrier was purchased and became the family's home. We children took our schooling at the Golden Heights school, which was also the centre of all community activities. The Christmas concerts and annual picnics were the big events of the year

The hungry thirties were a challenge for survival. Many a load of railroad ties were hewn by hand with the broadaxe by my father They were then hauled to Rocky Mountain House by team and sleigh in severe winter weather, to get money to buy food and clothing

Summers were spent by clearing more land. most of it being done by hand. As time went on. more land was purchased, one of the quarters being the former Tommy Rolls farm, where my parents live, and have retired. Their present home is a comfortable modern house, built following a tragic fire in 1950, in which they lost the old house and all their belongings. Thus, they turned misfortune to advantage, as they expect to continue living on the farm. Like many oldtimers, they prefer the country life

One of the big events in our lives was when father bought a threshing machine. With the help of his sons, many years of fall threshing was done for neighbors, it was always exciting to see the threshing crew move in, and get the grain in the bins, and see the big straw stacks in the fields

There were four children in the family. Paul Hansinger, Jr. married Beverly Turner of Winnipeg. They live in Vancouver, having a family of three children, Greg, Kim, and Pattie.

Peter Hansinger married Marjorie Feyes of Rocky Mountain House They farm the original home place in the Lesliеville district, and have a family of two, Cindy and Darlene.

William Hansinger married Feye Moore of Ridgewood. They farm in the Rocky Mountain House area, and have one son, Rick

Catherine Hansinger married Langton Wells of Benalto, having two children, Bruce Wells and Judy Wells. I was widowed and remarried to Edward Bystrom, who is also deceased, and I now make my home in Red Deer

**HART, FRED**

Fred Hart and his wife, Sarah Ann, and three sons of Thomas Hart immigrated to Canada in 1906, and homesteaded in the Lesliеville district the same year

In 1911 and 1912 he worked as a cook for the crew on the A.C.R. bridge out of Red Deer. He later went to Fairmont Hot Springs and cooked for the C.P.R. returning to Lesliеville in 1914

He was a school trustee for many years at Prairie Rose and Leslieville Schools. He belonged to the Alberta Wheat Pool for many years.

In the early 1920's he helped McKinnon Brothers by providing a democrat or sleigh for a hearse.

In 1924, he built a "turkey fence" eight feet high of pickets and twisted wire. Part of this fence still stands

In 1932, he provided the straw and helped bale it for the first curling rink in Leslieville. Curling took place in this rink for one year He was an ardent curler for many years.

Mrs. Hart belonged to the Condor Women's Institute, driving the many miles with horse and buggy

Mr. and Mrs. Hart left Leslieville to live in Red Deer in 1942. They have three daughters, Mrs. Norman L. Beno (May), Rocky Mountain House; Mrs. J. C. Prendergast (Amy), Red Deer, and Mrs. Oswald Moore (Nellie), Ridgewood District

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hart and their nephews Clifford, 2 years, Edgar, 4 years, and Harold, 6 years, sons of Tom Hart, before coming over to settle in Canada

**HART, THOMAS — as told by Edgar Hart**

Thomas Hart, my father, came from Somerset near Bury, Lancashire in England. He lost his wife, my mother, at the age of about 28 or 29 when my youngest brother was born. Within a few months he gave up his good position as Assistant Superintendent of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in Bury, Lancashire, England and came to Canada to start a new life. My older brother and my younger and I went to live with his brother Fred and his wife, who had no children at that time. That was 1905. The following year they brought us out to Canada in the early spring. Dad had ridden a horse from Wapella (Manitoba-Saskatchewan border) across the prairie and finally settled near what was later Leslieville He was able to get a quarter section for his brother Fred cornering our quarter

Our first house was a log shack without flooring 12' x 14'. This later became half of our chicken house In the summer of 1906 my Uncle Fred and Dad built a house on his quarter, which had an upstairs. In 1907 they built a house on Dad's place, then a log barn which turned out to be too small so another log barn was built attached but it had only a flat slab roof covered with straw

We started with a team of oxen with long horns with which we used to go to Red Deer for groceries twice a year (a four day trip). The road was considered to be 46 miles at that time

Dad used to go out with a bridge gang as a cook and for a time he went coal mining along the Red Deer River

Having been a widower for several years. Tom Hart married again in 1913 and took the boys home to live with him. He married Cora Donovant of Delburne who was working in Red Deer at that time. From this marriage there were two children, George and Frances

Tom was a fire guardian along the Clearwater and Big Horn west of Rocky Mountain House. He was a game guardian, fish guardian, justice of the peace, official auditor for school district and municipalities. Our house was frequently used as a court house for preliminary trials of a serious nature and game infractions and the like. Dad passed away in 1934 due to ruptured appendix.

We had some very cold winters in those days The kind that would take your breath away if you didn't have your mouth covered. In 1908 or 1909 we had a very wet year In late spring it started raining and continued every day for more than 60 days. This along with melting snow flooded the Horseguard Creek to our south and the Lobstick to our north. These creeks joined on our east so we were trapped We ran short of food. My dad shot a deer with a shotgun after a lot of patient trying This saved the day for us, but we all got scurvy After some weeks we were able to get 10 pounds of flour as the creeks went down and someone had got some supplies across the Medicine River after losing a couple of teams trying to swim across

Now follows news of Tom Hart's family — by George Hart

Harold, the oldest son, spent most of his life on ranches before retiring to his home in

Cochrane. He served his country in World War I and was in France. Harold had one daughter, Beatrice and one son, Harold. Harold passed away in 1977

Edgar also served in World War I and was also in France. After the war he had his own store in Calgary. He later sold it and worked in the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary from which he retired. Edgar had one son, Thomas Fred who is in his own insurance business in Calgary

Clifford was versatile and worked at many different types of jobs. He retired from the oil fields and makes his home in Leduc. He has one son, Garry.

George went to school first at Leslieville, then took ministerial training and attended the Northwest Baptist Theological College. He married a classmate, Olive Tisdell, of Calgary. In 1942 George served in the forces overseas for three years and eight months. Upon returning from overseas he entered the ministry under the Christian Missionary Alliance and then transferred to the Baptist Union of Western Canada and under them he took further studies at McMaster University. Later he transferred to the United Church taking correspondence to further his arts courses from Queen's University and in his ministry with the United Church he took summer courses to gain another year of Theology

At school George liked sports, especially basketball and running. He also enjoyed curling, softball and hockey. His wife Olive grows beautiful plants and is artistic and enjoys painting. George and Olive have three children two boys and one girl, Douglas, David and Lois (Barnes) and six grandchildren, all living in Calgary

Frances married Bert Lea, a farmer of Three Hills. They farmed there until Bert moved with his family into Calgary in the early 1950's. They had three children, two girls and one son, Joyce, Lois and Raymond. They have 10 grandchildren. Frances was widowed in 1966 and Bert was buried in Calgary.

**HEIKKINEN, MATT (Leslieville)**

Matt Heikkinen, born January 27, 1896 and his wife Ida, born March 20, 1900, in Sotkamo, Finland, were married January 25, 1921.

Matt left his wife Ida and two and one half year old son Tauno, to go exploring, not really knowing what was in store for him. He came to Canada from Sotkamo, by ship to the east coast, and then by train across Canada to Leslieville. In May 1924 he arrived at Al Spears' farm (which is now Gus Siegles place) and worked for Spears that summer

That same year in September, his wife Ida and son Tauno came out. They spent the first winter of 1924 and 1925 at the home of Alex Schroderus of Bingley, and Matt worked in lumber camps in the area

In the spring of 1925 they moved to the coal mining town of Saunders and for about a year they worked for Louis DeMarchis' dairy farm which supplied milk for the town of Saunders. While there, another son Alfred (Fred) was born in 1925

In 1926 they moved back to the Bingley district where they purchased a farm which is now the Jack Shaw farm. They farmed with horses, and in the early thirties bought their first car, an old Star

A daughter Irene was born in 1927 and another son Roy in 1929.

They resided in the Bingley district until 1938 when they moved to the Leafland district to stay. There they built a new home in 1938. In 1944 another daughter Elsa was born. Their location was right on the road extending west from Lacombe (Highway 51) and here Matt opened up a country store and Esso Service Station in 1954, which was very handy for the neighbors around him, and for some it saved a long drive to Leslieville, when roads were not as good as they are now

Matt Heikkinen was an ardent hunter — got his big game every fall, and also helped get some for his neighbors. The family enjoyed music and Matt played the button accordion. Matt Heikkinen was known for his custom threshing for many years all around the country

The Matt Heikkinen family, Tauno, Fred and Roy at back Seated, Irene (Mrs. Ralph Baker), Mrs. Ida Heikkinen, Mr. Matt Heikkinen, and Elsa (Mrs. Curtiss Morton)

Tauno Heikkinen was married to Thelma McMillan in 1945 and they farmed from 1945 to 1955 on the Eric Randall farm SW 25-40-5-W5. Then Tauno and his younger brother Roy bought Harry Lloyd's Red Head Service Station in Leslieville, and so they were located there for ten years, after which they went back to their farm and built a beautiful new home

Tauno and Thelma had three girls and one boy; Viola, Shella, Marie and Wayne

Viola married Allan Rolfsen and they have two girls, Charlotte and Lori Ann. They live in Leslieville. Viola is a N.A. at the Eckville hospital.

Shella married Robert Menzies; they have a girl and a boy, Shauna and Robert. They have a farm nearby where they make their home and Bob works in Rocky Mountain House as well.

Marie married Tom Judd and they have three boys, Michael, Bobby and Chad and reside in Langley, B.C. where Marie is a part time nurse

Wayne is still at home and attending David Thompson High

As well as operating the Service Station at Leslieville, Tauno and Roy drove a school bus for several years.

Tauno passed away tragically on the farm in 1972

Alfred (Fred), Matt and Ida Heikkinen's second son married Vivian Sorvisto in 1948. Fred purchased SW 36-40-5-W5 and they farmed until 1957 when they took over the store and service station, which they had for 17 years until 1974.

Fred and Vivian had three boys, James, Jerry and Randy

James (Jim) married Janie Helmer, and they reside west of Rocky Mountain House and have two boys, David and Donald. Jim works as an operator at the Amoco gas plant at Ricinus.

Jerry married Wava Lee Minks and have no children and seem to be the wandering kind lived at White Court for awhile and are now in Atlin, B.C.

Randy is still at home and going to school.

Irene Heikkinen married Ralph Baker in 1947; they now reside in Winfield, and have three girls and three boys: Margaret, Janet, Betty Anne, Robert, Darrell and Wesley

Margaret married Laverne Muyres and they have four children, Michael, Shane, Cody, and Candace. They later divorced, and Margaret is now married to Gus Vaalstar and they live in the Buster Creek area north of Rocky Mountain House

Janet married Raymond Becker, and they have three girls, Nadine, Carla and Jo-Ann, they live south of Buck Lake and are in the process of building a new home

Betty Ann married Arnold Engblom and they have two children, Shay Ann and Tyler Jason

Robert and Darryl are not married and are employed in Red Deer

Wesley, being a few years younger is still at home and going to school. Irene and Ralph were in the dairy business for quite a few years

Next in Matt Heikkinen's family comes Roy and he is the bachelor of the family

Ella, the youngest, married Curtiss Morton in 1974 and they have two boys, Ryan and Myles, they are living at Codette, Saskatchewan where they farm.

Matt and Ida Heikkinen went back to Finland in 1947 by ship for a visit. Matt Heikkinen was a well known and highly respected man, and was greatly missed when he passed away in 1961.

Ida lived close by Fred and Vivian for 15 years. She loved to go berry picking when berries used to be plentiful and in no time at all she would have a pail full. She was known all over the country for the beautiful rugs she made on her homemade loom which was built by her brother Eric Korhonen of Eckville. She made hundreds of rugs from discarded clothing cut in strips for friends and neighbors, and they surely missed this service when she could no longer do it

She moved to the Eckville Manor House in 1976

**HENDRY, CHARLES AND WILLIAM, TAYLOR, DAVID AND STANLEY, RIDGES, EDWARD**

Known to all as Charlie and Will, the Hendry brothers came west from Newfoundland to Red Deer in the spring of 1909. Their parents had come from Greenock, Scotland in the 1870's and farmed, fished and market gardened in Newfoundland. Charlie and Will got work at the Valley Lumber Company Mill in Red Deer. There they met Dave Taylor who had come from Campbellton, New Brunswick and also worked for the Valley Lumber Company northwest of Leslieville as a millwright

Dave homesteaded in the Leslieville area in 1907 and so told Charlie and Will of available land near him to homestead. They traveled by team and wagon west from Red Deer and filed on the NW-4-40-4-W5 for Charlie and the NE-6-40-4-W5 for Will

They continued to work in Red Deer but came out to Dave's homestead and worked from there on their own places to get some land cleared and a log house built on Charlie's land for their mother Isabella Hendry and her two daughters Jessie and Jean, who came from Newfoundland in May of 1911. Mrs. Hendry had been a widow since 1898. They had ten children some of whom were born in Scotland. Jessie was the eldest and Jean the youngest of the family

During the summer of 1911 all the Hendrys lived with Dave Taylor and his wife on their homestead till their own house was livable. Jean went back to Red Deer and again stayed with Dave and Lizzie in their house which they used when his work was in Red Deer. Jean got a job cooking at the hospital. Margaret Godkin and Cora Hart, who were of the Leslieville area, were boarding at Taylor's also. Margaret was going to high school and Cora was helping at the hospital.

Jessie Hendry stayed on the homestead and with her brothers raised some very fine horses. They also had a blacksmith shop and a sawmill. They were a repair depot for folks for miles around and logs were hauled home to build many homesteaders' buildings. The nails and windows

folks used were hauled from Red Deer by horses It took two days to make the trip

Jean Hendry went to Edmonton in the fa.. of 1911 and married John Edward (Ted) Ridges, on November 23. He had come west from Newfoundland with them that spring and was working in Edmonton at electrical wiring

He was born in Calcutta, India where his father was a coach builder and moved to Wolverhampton, England when he was a small boy There he had grown up and taken a trade of electric wiring, so applied and got his first job on Belle Isle just off the Newfoundland coast He met Jean Hendry at the Belle Isle Congregational Church where Jean and Jessie both sang in the choir The Ridges were from a long line of Quakers which was reflected in his way of living. Ted and Jean lived in Edmonton until 1918 when they came back to Leslieville and took an abandoned homestead, NE5-40-4-W5. It had first been filed on by Tom Hazlett and the log house which he had built on it still stands in fair shape It was the first home for Ted and Jean. It had a dirt floor After they got enough land cleared to prove up and own the homestead they cut logs and built a small frame house. As her brothers owned the sawmill across the road, they helped them.

Jessie Hendry farmed with her brothers and mother till October 2, 1915 when she married Carl Bransell who also had a homestead located across the road from Dave Taylor, the NW32-40-4-W5. Carl too had come to Canada from Michigan, U.S.A. where his family were. He also worked at the Valley Lumber Company in Red Deer and Dave Taylor also told him of land to homestead. He got his homestead about 1906 and built a log house. Jessie and Carl lived in that house as long as they farmed. They sold in 1948 Their west quarter (Cattle Homestead) was sold to Daniel Taylor in 1946. Their homestead was sold to Allan McMeekin about 1950 Victor Smith now owns it

They had no family Carl passed away in 1951 and Jessie in 1952. Both are buried in the Leslieville Cemetery

In 1916 Charlie and Will decided to go back to Newfoundland so Mrs. Hendry went too and stayed with a daughter, Isabelle, there while they looked for work. They jobbed around for two years, lastly working in Askwith, Saskatchewan, before returning to the homestead to do sawmill and blacksmith work again

In 1915 Dave Taylor had a brother Stanley with his wife Anna come from Oregon, where he had been engineer on a railroad, wanting a farm They purchased land from Hopkins SW31-39-4 W5. It had also been Hopkins' homestead

Stanley and Anna lived with Dave and Lizzie for the first year They brought furniture with them from Oregon and stored it on the old cattle farm across the road west of Carl Bransell, the NE31 39-4-W5. They built a small shack and started the shell of the original house which is still the main house today Stanley had homesteaded in the Pine Lake area about 1906 and after all these years sold it after he started to farm at Leslieville. For his price he got his first tractor, an old 22-36 Hart Parr, as a straight across trade of farm for tractor

Dave Taylor joined the services in 1916 and later sold his land to Tom Shaw and his son-in-law Phillip Smith, Neal Smith, a son of theirs, still owns and farms the land.

Mrs. Hendry passed away in January 1927 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery.

Charlie and Will had another sale in 1928 and moved to the Peace River country and got a half section of level land near Whitelaw. At last their dreams came true and they could farm properly, as they said Newfoundland was full of rocks and their land at Leslieville was full of hills. Each time they came down to visit they would say "Those hills here are still growing!"

Will passed away in 1945 and Charlie in 1956. Both are buried in Berwyn Cemetery

Ted and Jean Ridges remained on the homestead. Four children were born but three passed away as infants. One daughter grew up and took schooling at Blueberry Valley School In 1946 she married Daniel Taylor, son of Stanley and nephew of Dave Taylor

Ted and Jean have told of walking to church at Leslieville on Sundays. Jean enjoyed singing and helped out at many school and church functions. Ted enjoyed working with books and held many executive positions on the Blueberry school board

Jean continued her love of gardening which she inherited from her father as he was a trained old country gardener and loved it. She gave much pleasure to her many friends with flowers for weddings, hospitals and funerals over the years. She grew and gave away many trees and plants for neighbors to grow and also many vegetables for needy people to eat. She is now a resident at the Valley Park Manor Nursing Home in Red Deer which is built almost on the location where she lived with Dave and Lizzie Taylor while she worked in the hospital in Red Deer

Their daughter Isabella and husband Daniel Taylor took over the homestead in 1963, cleared the land and now pasture it. The house they built in 1935 still stands and the trees Jean grew from seed are like a forest around her garden spot.

Ted passed away in 1967 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery

Stanley and Anna Taylor had two children Daniel who farms the original land and Kathleen who lives in Calgary (Mrs. Douglas McLaughlin) Stanley homesteaded and proved up with cattle the SW7-4-4-W5 and used this land for pasture. He bought the NW6-4-4-W5 from a Mr. Card and the NW31-40-4-W5 from another Hopkins.

They took active parts in community affairs curling, Womens Christian Temperance Union

and Alberta Wheat Pool. They retired to Calgary in 1946 when they sold to their son Daniel. They were active there also — gardening, carpentry and had boarders. Stanley passed away in 1963 and Anna in 1967. Both are buried in Queen Cemetery in Calgary.

Their daughter has two children. Doug and Letha. Their son has four children. Janette, Sandra, Stanley and David.

The original Dave Taylor when he returned from the services stayed in New Richmond, Quebec. He lost his wife fairly soon after, but he lived till 1964. He and his wife are both buried there.

**HILBERT, HERBERT WILLIAM AND MARY**

In 1908 Bert Hilbert came to the Leslieville area. He homesteaded in 1909 on the NE-35-39-6-W5. He stayed on the homestead in the winter and returned to the prairies in the summer to break saddle horses and ride in roundups.

Bert worked on the C.N.R. grade east of Codner, driving a team of oxen in 1910. Others working with him were Pete Peterson, John Riach and Ted Frodeen. He built a log house on his homestead, skidding the logs with his saddle horse.

In 1913 Bert met Mary Green who had come over from England in March of that year with her son, Barnard, to join her other son, Alec, who was working near Calgary. Bert and Mary married in Calgary in August, 1914, and moved to the homestead at Beaver Flat. Their son, Ronald, was born in October, with Mrs. (Gafney) Wilson attending.

Several teachers boarded at their place over the years, including Elizabeth Meston, Enid and Hope McKee (Enid taught at Oras and Hope at Beaver Flat), Victoria McKenzie, Edith Moseley, Marie Lund and Betty Baldwin.

The Hilbert family purchased the SW-13-40-6-W5 from Alf Harvey in 1919 and moved up to "The Ridge". Here they were in the Bingley School District. Bert was chairman of the school board in the early '20s, and Tom Ogden was the secretary.

In 1930 the NW 12-40-6-W5 was purchased from the Bennion Estate and is now owned by Ronald's son, Roy, who has built a home there.

Mary Hilbert passed away in February, 1938. Bert continued to live on the farm until the late 1950's, then moved into a house in Rocky Mountain House for a few years. After a heart attack, he moved into Westview Lodge. He spent almost a year in the Red Deer Auxiliary Hospital and died in November, 1965.

**HILBERT, RONALD AND MILDRED**

Ronald Hilbert married Mildred McColman from the Crimson Lake district in 1941. They lived on the farm for six years during which time they had a daughter and two sons. In 1947 Ronald began working on highway construction and over the next twenty years the family lived in many places in Alberta including Nordegg, Sylvan Lake, Alder Flats, Falher, Sangudo, Whitecourt, Cold Lake, Spedden, Killam, Westlock, Innisfail, and Saskatchewan River Crossing. The children attended school in most of these places, but sometimes they were too far from the school so started the term with correspondence lessons, returning to Rocky Mountain House in November, usually, and attending school there for the balance of the term.

In 1960, after graduating from high school in Rocky Mountain House, Maxine left to begin training as a Medical Laboratory Technician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She graduated from there in 1962 and worked at the University Hospital for a year. Her next job was at the Charles Camsell Hospital and from there to the Medical Sciences Building in Edmonton until 1974. Maxine married Joe Coombes in 1967 in Edmonton. They moved to an acreage near Balfour, B.C. three years ago and have since bought a house nearer Nelson where Maxine works at the hospital.

Robert Hilbert began work with the Alberta Forest Service soon after leaving school in 1964. He married Mavis Huhtala in 1967. Mavis was a stenographer at the Town Office in Rocky Mountain House for several years. In 1974 their son, Kelly, was born at Eckville Hospital. In February, 1976, Robert transferred to Fort McKay Forest area. Their second son, Clay, was born in Fort McMurray in December of that year. In June, 1977 Robert bid on the position of Forest Officer at Hines Creek, Alberta. The family moved there in July, 1977.

Left to right, Mrs. Anna Hilbert (Bert's mother), Herbert (Bert) Hilbert holding Ronald, Mrs. Mary Hilbert (Bert's wife), unknown

**HILBERT, ROY AND ELAINE**

Roy Hilbert left school in 1960 to work on highway construction at Spedden. He spent several years on oil rigs mostly in northern Alberta.

In August 1968 he married Elaine Shultz. Elaine, a hairdresser, owned the Style Shop in Rocky Mountain House for several years. In 1970 they began building a home on the NW-12-40-6-W5.

In February, 1972 their daughter Allene, was born in the Red Deer General Hospital. They have a second daughter, Coral, born in Red Deer General Hospital in July, 1973. Their third daughter, Leah, was born in October, 1975.

Roy and Elaine live in their home in the Beaver Flat School District. Roy works with his tree-farmer for Rocky Wood Preservers.

**HOGBERG, AXEL — by Mary Arnold**

Axel Hogberg, my dad, was born in Karlstadt Vermiland, Sweden in 1883. He came to Canada about 1910 where he worked at various things among which were gold and coal mining in British Columbia. His older brother, Andrew lived near the coast and another brother, Charlie lived in the Nelson area.

About 1915 Dad came to Alberta and homesteaded the SW 8-40-5-W5. He also bought the NW 4-40-5-W5 from Albert Turton. He then worked in the Nordegg coal mine.

In 1923 he married Cecil Elizabeth Rodgers daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Rodgers. They were married at her father's farm in the Beaver Flat district after which they farmed at Leslieville until Dad's death.

In 1931 Dad suffered a stroke at home after fighting fire in the Bingley area on a very hot day. This left him in poor health and one hand partially paralyzed. Nevertheless he carried on farming and was a hard worker; harnessing, bridling and hooking up the horses. The snaps and buckles were very hard for him to do up so the family all helped. Mom also worked so very hard and did a lot of outdoor work — milked cows, fed pigs, stacked hay, stooked grain, split wood, churned, printed and took butter to town for sale to buy groceries, wool for knitting sweaters and mitts and material to make clothes. We always had a big garden which we all helped to weed.

Dad had a threshing machine and in the fall he had a crew of men and threshed for the neighbors. He enjoyed going hunting with friends. He was very interested in church work and helped to build the Leslieville church opened about 1930, which later burned down.

When we were young I remember us bundled up in the sleigh in winter, wagon or buggy in the summer, going to neighbors for church services or people coming to our home. Several families took turns having services in their homes. Being a large family we really had and still have a lot of good times together. We, like others, had very few toys. When very young on rainy days we spent a good many hours playing store, taking turns being store keeper and customers. When a few friends came over, we had a ball team and played ball. We enjoyed picnics or just paddling in the creek that ran through the homestead quarter.

Our family went to the Campbell School. We also enjoyed the Joseph Club held in the different homes. McCarthys, Lister-Kayes, Skagens, and ours were some that attended and we were led by Rev. and Mrs. Robert Young in the '30s.

Dad passed away December 27, 1947.

The story of the family of three sons and three daughters follows:

**Mary** married Clifford Arnold. They farm at Leslieville and have one son and one daughter. Allen married Jean Cumming of Red Deer and they live in Red Deer. Karen married Wesley Gardner of Edmonton. They have one daughter Rhonda. Karen lives at Leslieville.

**Ivy** married Robert Marsden of Leslieville. They live in Red Deer and have one son and one daughter. Greg married Brenda Johnson. They have one daughter and live in Calgary. Irene married Joe Looker. They live in Red Deer and have one son, Chris.

**Bill** married Elizabeth Wiebe of Saskatoon. They farm the Hogberg home farm at Leslieville. They have one daughter Edna and three sons, Ronald, Kenneth and Larry, all at home.

**Cecilia** married Malcolm Jessop of Leslieville and they farm at Beiseker. They have two sons and two daughters — Bernice, Glenda, Barry and Axel. Bernice married Len Renkema and lives at Armstrong, B.C. They have one daughter and two sons. Barry married Penny Grant of Calgary and make their home in Swift Current, Saskatchewan with their two sons. Glenda married Don Osudar. They have one son and live at Beiseker. Axel lives at home.

**Henry** married Lois Adrian. He drives a truck in Red Deer. They have two daughters and three sons. Anita married Robert Duncan and they live in Edmonton. Judy Phillips lives at Rocky Mountain House. Andrew married Yvonne Vos and they live in Red Deer. Bruce and Kevin live at home.

**Walter** married Sheila Kring and they live on the former Jens Skagen farm, next to the Hogberg home farm at Leslieville. They have three daughters and two sons. Linda married Bruce Slade of Eckville and they live in Red Deer. Debbie is presently in her third year of Bible school at Briercrest Bible Institute in Saskatchewan. Eddy works in a garage at Nordegg. Calvin works at the I.G.A. store in Rocky Mountain House upon his completion of his schooling at David Thompson High. Margo is attending school at David Thompson High.

Mom remarried in 1949 on November 2nd. She married Paul Eritsland of Leslieville. They farmed there a good number of years before

retiring to the Twilight Cottages in Red Deer in 1971. Paul passed away in April 1977 after a long illness

Mom now lives at the senior citizen home in Red Deer where she has many friends and keeps very active in church work

**JOHNSON, CARL**

Carl Johnson was born in the Gilby district on November 28, 1909. With their father and mother (Johann and Annette) Carl, his one brother, and three sisters grew up on the family farm, NE 14-40-4-5. His father was born in Sweden and his mother's birthplace was Norway. They were married in Norway in 1902 before coming to Canada.

Carl attended Medicine Valley School. During hard winters the school was closed from Christmas until March and for these years the school stayed open for the summer months. Some of these summers he remembers having to miss school to work on the home farm or for neighbors. They lived mainly on rabbits, Wood Lake fish, prairie chicken, bush partridge, blueberries and saskatoons. For a few years he spent most of his time working at home and around the neighborhood. His mother passed away in 1922 and his father passed away in 1926.

Carl Johnson. Taken winter of 1925-26

In the spring of 1928 Carl worked near Coronation doing spring work. That fall he drove a team of horses with a hay rack to help with threshing at Delia, Hanna and Three Hills. During the winter of 1928 and 29 he worked in the bush for Tex Small and Frank Davis hauling mining props. He then hauled lumber from mills at Far Away and Wolf Creek, to be used in building the Leedale Hall. He worked at many different jobs on farms west of Beatley and wherever employment was available, until 1934 when he bought his farm east of Gilby, NW 25-40-3-5. For eight years he rented his farm out and worked for Wm. Andrew. Whenever time permitted he broke land on his own farm.

In the early 40s Carl began farming his own land and also built a saw-mill. He sawed lumber for neighbors as well as for himself. He remembers selling clear 2 x 6 spruce lumber 16 feet long for $50 per 1000. During the 40s and 50s he did much repair work on many kinds of machinery around the neighborhood. He also did much black-smith work, a trade he had learned at the age of ten from his father. He sharpened many plow shares and shod many horses. He was always a horse dealer, enjoying buying, selling, or trading horses

In 1962 Carl sold his farm to Charlie Walker. In 1963 he rented the A. V. Higgins acreage south of Lesliеville. Here he continued doing his black smith work and raised sheep. In 1968 he moved to Les Finkbeiner's farm north of Lesliеville where he still resides. He keeps busy with chores and black-smith work and enjoys fishing in his spare time

**JOHNSON, ERNEST H**

Ernie Johnson moved to the Blueberry Valley area from Wetaskiwin.

Anna, Ernie's mother, was well known for her baking and knitting, and helped make many quilts for the needy, mostly working by hand.

Ernie married Gertie Devenny, a teacher at the Blueberry Valley school.

In the early days, Elmer Salmon and Ernie worked together at clearing land with horses.

One discouraging incident occurred when Ernie had a truck load of steers to go to market. The load was too much for the old Blueberry Creek bridge, and the truck broke through, dumping cattle all over the road and into the water. After getting them to the railroad in Lesliеville, he shipped them, only to get a bill for $6. The price received for the steers did not cover the freight.

The Johnsons had one son, Donald.

Ernie sold the farm and moved to Red Deer. He bought a farm in the Penhold area, which he farmed for several years, though living in Red Deer.

Donald Johnson has two sons, and lives in Red Deer.

**FRED KIRKMAN FAMILY**

Fred Kirkman was born in February, 1885 in Cleothorpe, England. He and Jim Hall left England at the same time. They became acquainted whilst crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the steamship. Their plans were to look for land to take up as homesteads. They came to Lesliеville in 1907 to locate land suitable for homesteads, then returned to Ontario where they worked on farms for Mr. Kennedy in Connington, Ontario. Fred returned to England by working off his passage fare on a cattle boat. His purpose was to borrow money under his father's will in order to go homesteading out West. Jim came west to the homesteads to look after things until Fred returned. Fred proved up and registered his homestead in 1909. They lived in a tent until they could build a cabin. Jim built a log cabin on

his homestead in 1910. Fred purchased a team of oxen in May 1909 and a walking plow to break up his land.

Fred's sister, Mrs. Annie Smith, and her daughters, Ethel and Madge, arrived from England on May 25th, 1912, at Red Deer. Fred met them and they traveled to Leslieville over almost impassable roads with a four-horse team and wagon.

In August, 1914, Fred enlisted in the army at Leslieville as a cook. He served in army camps in England and France, cooking in the Officer's Mess Hall. While overseas he married Florence Mabel Hampton on May 2, 1918. Florence was born in Cornwall in July, 1893. He returned with his wife to his homestead in March of 1919. After returning he bought Jack Allen's homestead in 1920 through the Soldiers' Settlement Board, this gave him a half-section. Florence was very interested in gardening and had some very good gardens.

Fred and Florence's first baby, a girl, born in 1920 was stillborn and was buried on the farm near where the first cabin was built. Their second child, a son, Herbert William was born in 1922.

In 1921, Fred's sister, Annie Smith and her daughters, Ethel and Madge, returned to England. In 1932 Ethel returned to Canada to the Leslieville area where she married Donald Malcolm on the 26th of December, 1932. They now live in Richmond, B.C.

Herbert got his education at Beaver Flat School from about 1928-1937. He walked three miles to school every day, some days in 40° F below zero through drifts two to three feet deep. Some of his teachers were, Mrs. MacDonald, Mr. Wm. (Scottie) McRoberts and Mr. Thomas Bowhay.

Fred's first car, a Pontiac with a rumble seat, was purchased in 1931.

This musical family helped to make many entertainments very enjoyable. Fred played the mouth organ, a one-string Japanese fiddle and the piano. Florence plays the piano and Herbert plays accordian, piano, guitar and other instruments. Florence played for concerts in the Beaver Flat School, walking the three miles to and from every practice. She played for Bible studies and various entertainments such as house parties. Fred, Herbert, and Mrs. Mattie Martin played for entertainments in the Beaver Flat School on many occasions.

Fred farmed on the same land he homesteaded until 1942 when he re-enlisted in the second World War as a Veteran Guard, guarding German prisoners in Kananaskis, Vernon, Ioco and Medicine Hat, returning to the farm in 1946, where he carried on his farming operations.

His son enlisted with the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and served in various stations in Canada such as Prince Rupert, Trenton, Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary, returning to the farm in January, 1946. Ten years later he married Frances Richardson. He worked for Killico Stores from 1946 to 1954 and for William Hunchak from 1955 to 1963, then for the Alberta Government with the Highway Department to the present date.

Fred passed away in September, 1975. Florence is still living on the original homestead by herself and is kept very active.

**KNOPP, MELVIN AND MAUREEN**

The family of Melvin and Maureen Knopp moved to the Leslieville district in August of 1967. The family consisted of five children: Gerald 15 years old, Linda 14, Rita 11, Lyle nine and Joann five. Another son, Ronald was born in Canada in 1972.

We moved onto a new building site on the former John Reid place north of Leslieville, SE 22-40-5-W5. We enjoy the view of the mountains and a continuing change of scenery during the whole year.

We were both raised in the state of Washington, of mainly German parents, and moved from a farm near Marlin, Washington, in the middle of the state. We had a diversified farm, raising mainly hay with some wheat and oats and kept cattle and hogs for stock. It was an irrigated ranch so we were glad to move to Central Alberta where most years we get ample rainfall for the crops.

We acquired the former Irvin Albert quarter, NW 15-40-5-W5, then farmed by John McLeod, in 1970 and have enjoyed using the apples grown in the orchard that the Alberts planted many years ago.

In June of 1977, our daughter, Rita, was married to Gregory Masson of Red Deer formerly of Lethbridge. They both work and live in Red Deer.

We enjoy the many fresh vegetables grown in the family garden and also the tame and wild berries that grow well in this area.

The family enjoys living in Canada and helping on the cattle ranch here.

**KRING — MACDOUGAL**

Florence Bishop was born in Heatherset, Norfolk, England on December 25, 1894 and came to Canada in 1920. She was married to Clarence MacDougal in the same year at the Knox United Church, Calgary. They moved to Bingley and took up a homestead, the SE 36-40-5-W5.

They had one son and one daughter. John is living in Calgary. He took up carpentry work as his trade. He has one daughter Cheryl. Mary (Mrs. Everett Bowerman) lives in Red Deer, and has two children, Dixie of Calgary and Lorne of Red Deer.

In 1925 Florence was left a widow as Clarence died of a heart attack in March. Florence then bought a house and moved to Leslieville.

In September, 1927 she married Charles Kring who was born on December 28, 1894 at Pluna, Ontario. While at Leslieville Charles was employed with the C.N.R.

Charles and Florence had four children. Robert was born November, 1928. He took his schooling in Leslieville and Red Deer. In 1952 he married Lillian Connybear from Black Diamond. They had four children. While working in Bassano Bob died as the result of a car accident in August, 1962. His wife and children live in Kamloops.

Wesley was born October, 1931 and took his schooling in Leslieville and later joined the R.C.A.F. In 1964 he married Violet Kopeck. They live in Leduc and Wes is employed with Ward Air. They have three boys, all at home.

Sheila was born in August, 1933 and took her schooling in Leslieville. She married Walter Hogberg in August 1954. They have three girls and two boys. (Refer to Hogberg History for their children's story.)

Charlie and Florence Kring holding Derry and Sterling Bott. Taken in George Bott's home, 1957

Florence was born September, 1937 and took her schooling in Leslieville. In October 1953 she was married to George Bott in Leslieville Church. That winter George went to work in the bush for Art Fisher and in the spring of 1956 he started working year round with the Department of Highways and has continued working with them ever since. They had seven children. Derry was born in March, 1954. He graduated from David Thompson High and went to S.A.I.T. to take up cooking. His first job of cooking was at Waterton. He now is cooking at the Single Men's Hostel in Edmonton. Derry married Hazel Fox of Devon in July, 1976. They bought a house and make their home in Edmonton. Sterling was born in June, 1956, graduated from David Thompson High and is apprenticing at cooking at the Single Men's Hostel in Edmonton. Sterling is an excellent swimmer and also likes hiking and camping — a good sportsman. Brenda was born in July, 1958. After graduating from David Thompson High she went to Edmonton to cook at Fullers and later to the Single Men's Hostel. In June, 1976 Brenda and James Kult were married in Leslieville. They bought a trailer and are living on Albert Kult's farm. Jim has taken up dry walling. Steven was born April, 1960. In 1961 he developed encephalitis. He spent most of his life in the Provincial Training School and Eric Cormac Center. Steven died on August, 1977. Sherry born November, 1962 and Robert born October, 1963 are both attending David Thompson High and Kimberley born in November, 1971 attends the Leslieville school.

In July 1971 Dad Kring (Charles) died in the Rocky Mountain House hospital. He had been living in the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House for several years.

**KUEHNE, LOYD AND LUCILLE**

Loyd, Lucille and two and one half year old Rachel became landed immigrants on November 9, 1967. Loyd and Lucille had both been raised on a farm and Loyd wanted to get the few head of his registered cattle onto some land of his own. Lucille's father, Lowell Terry, let Loyd know that three quarters of land were available for lease. So the Kuehne's left the city of Great Falls, picked up their cattle that a friend had been "running on shares," loaded up everything they had and "headed north" to Canada. Loyd had said many times that we might as well move to Canada and save time on the road coming to visit my families.

The land leased was two miles west of Centerview and two miles east of the Terry property. It belonged to a Calgary man, George Clark.

The first two winters Loyd worked for Canadian Wells and Keno Construction companies.

In April, 1969 the Kuehnes bought the farm belonging to Lucille's parents. Loyd continued to farm Clarke's land until 1972.

Lucille began teaching in Leslieville in the fall of 1968. She had taught four years in Montana.

Rachel was left for one year with Mrs. Allan Rolfson as babysitter. Being an only child, Rachel enjoyed the company of the Rolfson girls. For two years Mrs. Austin Ames took care of Rachel while Lucille taught. Rachel began school at Leslieville in 1971.

Lucille became a Canadian citizen in 1972.

**LESLIE, JOHN**

John and Jessie Leslie were born in Scotland. They were married in Aberdeen on May 31, 1912. They sailed for Canada June 1, 1912, accompanying Jessie's family the Robert Smiths of Alhambra. They settled in the Alhambra district and took up a homestead there.

John enlisted in the army in 1916 and served overseas in the First World War. He returned home in 1919 bringing scarlet fever with him. He was dreadfully ill but anxious to get home so did not report his illness. Consequently, all the family contracted it. In 1920, they purchased the family farm two and a half miles west of Leslieville and spent their remaining years

Jack and Jessie Leslie Family, 1937, Jack Leonard, Flora, Bill, Ed. Seated: Jessie and Jack

there. Their first home was a small log house with natural fertilizer chinking the logs. The children attended the old Campbell school and high school in Lesliеville. The Leslies had five children

John who married the late Lily Von Hollen and resides in Onoka. They had one son Gerrie who is a Dr of Microbiology in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Edward is an oil driller and married June Dingman. They have four children and live in Edmonton

One daughter, Flora, a nurse, married Elmer Tomalty of Red Deer. They live on their home farm there. They had three children

William, a mechanic in Calgary married Carol Marcinek. They have four children.

Leonard still lives on and operates the home farm. He married Jenny Kantusis of Condor They have five children.

John was deceased March, 1962 and Jessie passed away December, 1973. Many humorous and hardship stories have been related of the early years. During the homestead days, John walked from Alhambra to Leslieville to work on the railroad or to the west country to work in the sawmills. Sections of the road were corduroyed with logs across the muskegs and sloughs. In the wet spells, he would walk the fence to get across the worst mire.

John and a neighbor made many trips to Red Deer by team and wagon or sleigh to bring in supplies for themselves and the neighbors. They forded the rivers in many instances. The trip took about four days

Wheat was taken to a flour mill in Eckville to be ground into flour or cracked wheat. If you were fortunate enough to have aged flour on hand it made good bread but the fresh flour made pretty heavy dough. The neighbors all helped one another and had very little source of revenue. They truly lived off the land

**LIIVER, HERMAN AND ALICE**

Herman and Alice Liiver were both born in Estonia. Herman had a small acreage and bought and sold cattle in the near-by town Alice worked in a creamery both before and after their marriage in 1928.

Following the occupation of their homeland by the Russians, the Liivers took refuge in Sweden, where they spent five and one-half years. In 1949 they came to Canada, first to Saskatchewan, where they didn't like the dust, and later for a short while to Calgary. They found employment with the Lawton Brothers after coming to the Eckville area, and Herman soon found a farm nine and one-half miles north of Leslieville. Alice remained with the Lawtons for a time, continuing her work as a housekeeper.

Mr. and Mrs. Liiver continued farming until retiring to Eckville in 1968, where they had constructed a new home. Herman passed away in November of 1972. Alice continues to live in Eckville. Her friends marvel at her beautiful handwork and gaily patterned knitting. She is a member of the Friendship Club and the Handicraft Guild, in Eckville.

**LLOYD, HARRY NEWTON**

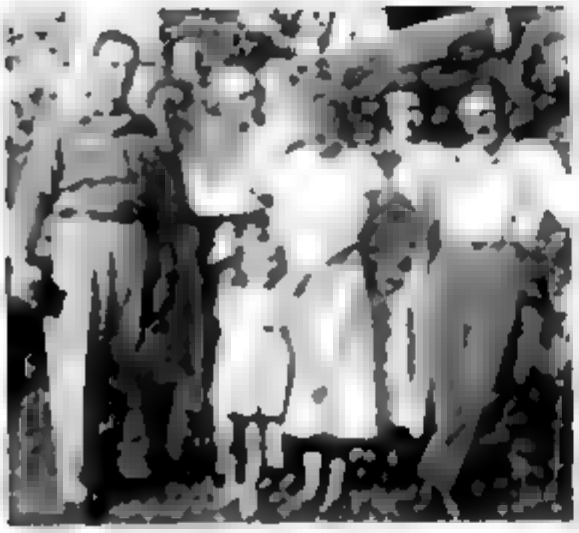
Harry Newton Lloyd (born August 28, 1885 at Eldro Springs, Mass.) and Hattie Augusta Kautz (born January 3, 1901 at Toledo, Ohio) were united in marriage on December 15, 1928 at Chinook, Alberta. They lived at Chinook, where Harry's son Paul and Hattie's son John took some of their schooling. Then they lived west of Rocky Mountain House for awhile before coming to Leslieville to farm in 1931. Their home was on the SE 12-40-5-W5. From here Paul and John continued their education at the Blueberry Valley school

Paul went in to the Marines later on and John farmed with his dad in the early years and worked at lumber mills and various jobs.

Harry Lloyd was a painter and decorator by trade and supplemented his income doing this. He thus became extremely well known and liked in the district – not only at Leslieville, as he painted in schools, hospitals, public buildings as well as in private homes

Around 1950 they bought the Red Head Service Station, presently known as John's Parkland Oil and Gas. They were in business until August, 1955 when they sold their business to Tauno and Roy Heikkinen.

Hattie and Harry retired to the house presently owned by Mr Bert Wiens, while they were waiting for the completion of their new home in 1957 Here they lived for many years, both being active members in the community Harry con-



Hattie and Harry Lloyd, Paul, Marybelle, Kay and Paula (held by Harry), Helen and John Lloyd

tinued in the painting business as long as his health allowed.

In June of 1965 they decided to sell their property, due to ill health and move to the West view Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. Harry had a stroke the day of their sale and passed away the following day, June 30, 1965 in the Rocky Mountain House hospital. Hattie bravely continued with their plans and moved alone to the Westview Lodge. She was fighting cancer, and spent a lot of time in hospital, but she resided in the Lodge, when not ill, until her passing on February 18, 1970.

Their son Paul of Las Vegas, is still in the Marines.

Their son John married Helen McMillan in Lacombe in 1943. They lived on a coupe of farms in the area, farming part time and working out, and they moved out to the coast for a couple of years. They bought the home farm in 1952 and they continued farming there until 1965, when they moved into Leslieville and rented out the farm. John then had been employed by Arnette and Burgess Pipeline Co. so now worked full time. He was killed in an industrial accident at Edmonton, July 29, 1971. John is survived by his wife Helen of Leslieville, a son Walter and daughter Darlene.

Walter is at Grande Prairie, where he is presently the accountant for the Treasury Branch.

Darlene and her husband Don Jackson live in Leslieville and have three children: Randy and Dawna McGregor whose father Richard died tragically in an industrial accident on September 16, 1974 — and Rhonda Jackson.

Harry and Hattie Lloyd will always be remembered for their friendliness and good humour — who could forget Harry's hearty laugh? It was so infectious! On the farm they were wonderful neighbours and in business they were great to deal with. Hattie's courage and true Christian spirit through years of illness, left a tremendous example to all of us.

**LOWEN, JACK AND MARY — LESLIEVILLE PIONEERS — by Ralph Lowen**

Dad, Edgar Thomas Lowen, known to his friends as just E T or "Jack", was born in Devonshire, England in 1885, one of a family of five.

While a boy in his homeland, his dreams were to come to Canada to the "Wild West" to be a cowboy. This inspiration came from watching the many Buffalo Bill shows in England. In May of 1906 he landed in Canada alone. His first job was a farm laborer in Ontario. In 1907 he arrived in Calgary and hired on with the Pat Burns' Ranches as a "cowpoke".

Only the summers were spent with Burns — the winters took him north to trapping on his homestead filed near Edmonton. Later, he filed on his second homestead near Leslieville. In order to file his claim on this land, he took a train from Calgary to Red Deer. This took him by way of Snake Lake, known now as Sylvan Lake. It was then surrounded by swampy, marshy land. He had to hang on to the willows and shrubs to make his way around without sinking in the swamp. This same area is now a booming resort.

Jack and May Lowen in Calgary before leaving for homestead in Beaver Flat, 1914

In Calgary in 1914, he married May Lyons Tarbuck, also from England, and left for the homestead near Lesllieville. Their move was made by two boxcars on the railway. They bought a wagon, a team and equipment, three Shorthorn cows, a pig, some furniture and necessary housekeeping and homesteading supplies. While en route, the pig they had bought had piglets, the sow died, but they somehow saved the little pigs. When they arrived at the last stop near Rocky Mountain House, the train man opened the boxcar door and to his surprise saw Mother sitting rocking in her rocking chair which she had bought at the auction before leaving Calgary. From the end of the railway line they went the remainder by team and wagon, caravan style. On approaching muskegs, the load was taken across piece by piece, reloaded and continued on to the next muskeg. The determination of our pioneers!

They arrived at the new home, a one room log house which Dad had built previously on a treeless, grassy slope. It was Mother's job to keep the logs chinked with mud. This simple little home was located in the Beaver Flat District No. 1914 on SE-12-40-6-W5. Another log building had to be built to serve as a barn. This was great hay country; the frosts came too late in the spring and too early in the fall for grain.

Their first son was born while they were on the homestead, but he died very young with whooping cough and pneumonia.

In 1917 they sold out and moved to the Horseshoe Canyon area, just west of Drumheller. Mother's sister and husband were already settled here. Dad bought some land here and went into farming and ranching. They raised five sons and three daughters after moving here.

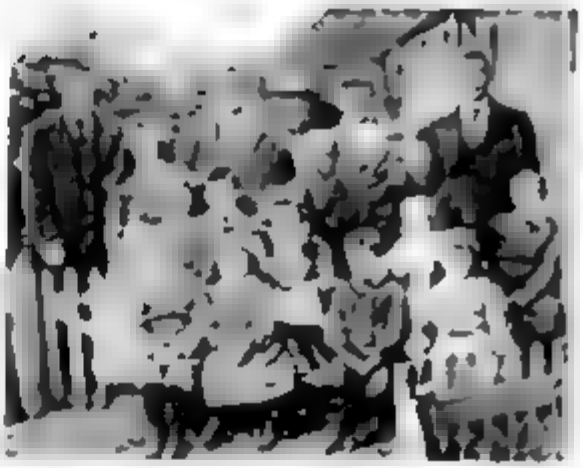
Ken, Ralph, Tom, Jack, Chris, Barbara, Gwen, and Betty.

Dad passed away in 1960 and Mother in 1971. Although their stay on the homestead was relatively short, it was a very memorable part of their lives. One neighbor I can remember Dad speaking of was the "Hilbert's", only a few miles away. About 10 years ago we drove to Lesllieville and looked up the Hilbert place, now operated by a son. He took us to Dad's homestead and we have kept in touch ever since.

## WILLIAM FAIRWEATHER MALCOLM AND FAMILY

The turn of the Century for Western Canada saw an influx of adventurous people looking for a new way of life. Word spread across Canada that land was available for "homesteading" in Alberta, — thus — in 1904 Frank Tyndal and James Malcolm, both employed as ploughmen in Prince Edward Island relayed the message home to Kerrimuir, Scotland.

William Fairweather Malcolm (W F.) tired of being involved in the Coal Cartage business, made a sudden decision to leave for Canada with his fifth son, David. A story passed through the



William F. and Catherine Malcolm and family taken in Kerrimuir, Scotland in the late 1890's. Back row: William Jr., John, Isaac, and Alexander. Center row: Rev. James, William Sr. holding Catherine Jr., Catherine Sr. holding Donald, (the youngest) David. Front row: Andrew, Anne, Leonard, and Isabel.

family relating how Dave in a hurry to pack his belongings, arose early next morning and picked the newest pair of socks in the house, which belonged to his brother Andrew, hoping that he would not miss them.

W F. had 13 children, eight sons and five daughters and two step-sons. His wife Catherine and an infant daughter Bell had passed away early 1900, eventually all but two sons made their way to Canada. John remained in Scotland and Alexander, a stone mason had gone to New York city to work building the "skyscrapers".

When David and W F. arrived in Edmonton they found it was still a settlement of tents. They went south to the Red Deer area to look for work and started at the Murdock MacDonald place and also worked for the Martins in the Ridgewood area.

W F. went west looking for land and early 1905 he took section 31 in township 39 Range 5-5. This was to be the homesteads of three of his sons David, Leonard and James. W F. took the N E quarter with the Horseguard Creek running through it. James arrived from the East and he and David went to work at Martins' Mill to the north and got enough material to build a house and barn on the bank of the creek near the beaver dams.

In 1909, Granny (Agnes, W F.'s second wife), her son James Lindsay, together with Leonard, Anne and Donald left Glasgow on the "Steamship Athena". Agnes's older son had left before and settled in Montreal.

Granny and the four children stayed at Ridgewood with the MacDonalds until the house was ready to move into. When that day came the story has been related that someone miscalculated the number of stovepipe lengths needed to hook up the kitchen range to the chimney and as it was impossible to get more

pipe right away the stove had to be put up on blocks and Granny, being a petite woman, had to stand on packing cases to do the cooking

The first Beaver Flat school was built on the portion of land donated from David's southwest quarter; it was built with logs cut from the northwest quarter which was Len's. Miss Lizzie Martin was the first teacher and she boarded with the Sr. Malcolms. Some of the families attending that first school were the Ed Sims, Geo Turtons, Rodgers, Marshall's, Raivio's, Antilla's and the Smith sisters. Mrs. Smith and her two daughters came from England to live with her brother Fred Kirkman and they went back to England in the early 1920's. During the war years 1914-1918 Len, David and James served in the Canadian Army, Andrew served in the Navy Leonard was killed overseas in action and W.F donated a bell in memory of his seventh son, this bell was installed upon the roof of the new school built only a short distance from the log one which later burnt to the ground in the late 1920's.

Most of the family had learned trades in Scotland, David was a house painter and paper hanger, from time to time he would do some painting etc. for neighbors and did the school whenever it needed a new coat of paint, also when Mr G. Meston Sr opened a general store at Oras he painted a sign for it. Andrew was a baker and when the survey crew (one of whom was Gen. Pearkes) were surveying for the railway to Nordegg, Andrew was a cook for them, about 1912. After the war Andrew and his wife settled in Calgary where they had their own bakery, later in the 40's he worked for Pleardy's.

Susan, the oldest daughter had a boarding house in Calgary, the other girls helped her She married Adam Gorrie a shoemaker and had a store near Andrew's bakery Catherine married Frank Roy and raised three sons, Bruce, Leonard, Frank (killed in war 1944) Susan and Andrew had no children. Era became Mrs Stephens during the war, her husband was killed overseas and she took up residence in Calgary too, she had three children Catherine, John and Jean. Bill was a saddler and he and his wife Mary and daughter Margaret also made their home in Calgary. James married in Scotland during the war years and finally took his family to farm near Hanna; they had two daughters Violet and Isabell and one son James. Ann the youngest daughter married a railway engineer Herbert Lundy, they had one son, Raymond, and had a farm at Coronation. Ray and his wife Adeline and some of their children live there now.

When David returned from overseas in 1919 he built a log house on the southeast quarter, in May 1920 Isabella Leonard came out from Scotland and they were married in Calgary They had met in 1918 when she was nursing the wife of James, (David was visiting on leave). Isabella had trained in Edinburgh and Glasgow and nursed in England and Scotland during the war years. Her training was of great value in the years to come on the homestead. She was called upon quite often to deliver the babies of the settlers during the 1920's and 30's She would often stay 10 days or more with a family (taking her own baby with her), and as well as assisting at the delivery she often had to cook meals and do washing and baking for the family while the mother recovered to cope on her own. There was little money and she often received seed grain or potatoes as payment The nearest hospital was at Red Deer, she worked with Dr Somerville from Eckville and later Dr Hill and Dr Greenaway from Rocky Mountain House. When the Women's Institute started in the district she gave lectures on Home Nursing and First Aid

W F.'s youngest son Donald married Ethel Smith, niece of Fred Kirkman in 1932. They lived on the Taylor place across the creek. Donald had a new house built, his brother Alex came out from New York to lay the foundation and build the chimney Donald raised purebred Shorthorn cattle and traveled around the country with a purebred horse, he also had a beautiful saddle horse called Spider. They had three children, Margaret, William and Mary. In the late 50's they moved to Red Deer where Donald worked for the school board and in the late 60's they moved to British Columbia. Margaret married Jack Armstrong and they have two children, Patrick and Coleen. William lives with Donald and Ethel close by

W F. passed away in November 1935 and Agnes in 1940. David and Isabella moved to Red Deer in 1948 and both passed away there. Their only surviving child Aileen lives with her husband Thomas Haime in Victoria. They have three children, David, Arlene and Lorne.

W F.'s surviving children are Donald, Catherine and Anne

Some of the hardships of those years were due to the lack of communications (no phones, radios and no mail delivery) and distances between neighbors would often be half a mile or more, so often one relied on sound and chimney smoke to be sure all was okay with them. The winters were long and bitterly cold (no central heating) we often heated bricks in the oven or on top of the coal and wood stove and wrapped them in flannel to heat the beds. Often Father or Mother would stay up or take turns keeping the fires stoked up all night. There were real cold clear nights when one could hear the trees crackling and see the northern lights dancing across the sky and hear the great horned owl going "to-whit-to-whoo."

Some of the tragedies were severe illness and death due to lack of medical help and the time lapse when word did get through to help. There were moments of despair when a field of grain would be set back by a late frost or when nearly ready to harvest it would be battered by hail and wind. There were times when all a family's hopes and belongings would be destroyed by fire

or a prize animal would die for lack of trained help and medicine

There were happy times too, such as wonderful Christmas concerts with everyone wearing their very best and pretty clothes, eagerly looking forward to Santa Claus arriving with a gift, a bag of candy and an orange (for some it was the only candy or oranges they would get all year) The tree would be big and reached to the ceiling, the decorations were mostly made by the teacher and the children and there were wax candles clipped on the boughs (no fire department) and never a mishap

Fun times like chicken and bean suppers and dances were held in the school with the desks pushed back to the wall. The whole family would come (no baby sitters) and the little ones would be put to sleep on the desk tops. The orchestra often consisted of Mrs. Angus Martin at the piano, Johnny Gore on the drums, Frank Scott and Sam Dickson with violins

There were competitive times such as the annual School Fair at Leslieville with everyone doing their finest sewing baking, and school work such as writing compositions. There was garden produce grown from the free seeds we received in the spring. There were sports days and school picnics (the ice cream was delicious)

There was the magic of our first battery radio only to be used on very special occasions such as Texaco News, the funeral of King George V, hockey games and concerts

That momentous occasion, when we went to Edmonton by special train to see the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the first train ride for most of us

Sunday dinners, Christmases and New Years with friends, such as Mestons and Maconochies, were also special occasions

Harvest time with threshing crews to prepare meals for, the aroma of fresh baked bread, apple pies and roast beef and fresh garden vegetables was a special occasion. The welcome sight of ripe grain and fresh straw and a good yield meant bills would be paid and money enough to carry the family through another year

Some of the teachers who boarded at Dave Malcolm's home were Miss Wade about 1927 28. Miss MacDonald about 1930 and Mr. W C. McRoberts about 1935-36-37

**MARTIN, ANGUS AND MATTIE FAMILY (THE)**

Angus McCoil Martin was born at Buxton, near Chatham, Ontario, April 12, 1881. He came to Alberta with his family to farm, known as Glenfromie, being the NE 14-37 1W5 which had been homesteaded by his father in 1889. When he was 18 years old he took up his own homestead which was NW 12-37 1W5, which he farmed for many years. In 1907 in company with his brother Lachie and W C. MacDougall of High River he went into the lumber business which kept him busy during the winter while farming in the summer. In 1939 a disastrous fire put an end to the lumbering and he and his family settled on the farm

On December 27 1911 he was married to Miss Mattie Reilly, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Reilly, who was born in Toronto, Ontario, June 13, 1888 and came to Alberta in 1903. Angus and Mattie had a family of six sons and two daughters

Marion Elizabeth, now living in Calgary, born September 22, 1912, married to Herbert E Miller, August 24, 1934. They have two sons Kenneth Robert, born May 26, 1935 married to Miss Gerda Graig and they have four children — Katherine Marion, born January 10, 1964 — Stuart Angus, born November 1, 1965 — Kristan Lee, born June 2, 1969 and John Lachlan, born June 27, 1971. Verne Ronald, born October 18, 1938 married to Miss Constance Alexander December 27, 1965 and have one daughter Sharon, born October 19, 1968

Angus Leslie (Bud), born December 29, 1913, now living at Alhambra, married to Miss Svanhild Sande August 7, 1947 and have one daughter Joyce Ann born July 12, 1950

John Cameron, born March 21, 1917, now living at Richmond, British Columbia married to Miss Margaret Dodds September 24 1941. They have two daughters: Marlene Emily born April 21, 1945 and married to Lloyd McLeod, November 4, 1968; they have two children — Dayna Kim born June 1, 1972 and Terrie Dawn born July 7, 1977. Shirley Anne, born March 25, 1951, married Douglas Kinsear, January 5, 1974 and have one son — Thomas James, born October 20, 1977

Gordon Victor, born November 18, 1918, passed away October 30, 1953

Douglas Murray, born June 17, 1920, now living in Red Deer, married to Miss Alice Christine Jahraus, November 17, 1949. They have two daughers: Eleanor Louise, born February 20, 1951 and Diane Janine born October 6, 1952

Margaret Adelaide, born November 9, 1922, residing at Rocky Mountain House, was not married but was Senior Night Supervisor at the Alberta School Hospital for over 30 years. She lives with her mother

Kenneth Alexander, born May 23, 1925, now living at Alhambra, married to Miss Irene Mushka, November 19, 1948. They have two daughters Jean Marion, born May 2, 1951 and Marilyn Gayle born January 20, 1965.

William McKenzie, born August 17, 1927, living at Rocky Mountain House, married to Miss Ida Krenbrink, June 18, 1947 They have two sons Wayne William, born August 7, 1948 married to Miss Eleanor Gaienza February 28 1970 and they have two sons Robert William born September 19, 1970 and Wayne Scott Franklin born July 27, 1975. Bruce Allen, born September 30, 1949 married to Miss Sheila Kolodziejak in 1971 and have three daughters Kimberley Ann, born September 25, 1969, Tara

Lee, born July 1, 1971 and Tammy Roxanne Lillian born June 25, 1974.

After several bad heart attacks Angus McColl Martin passed away in the Eckville Hospital on February 24, 1964 and is buried in the family plot in the Red Deer Cemetery

**MASON, WILLIAM J.**

I, William Jennings Mason, was born in 1888 at Kokomo, Indiana. My parents were Thomas Jefferson Mason and Martha Mason. I was the oldest of their family of five boys. My brothers were Chester, Noel, Alonzo and Tommy

About 1900 we moved to the Woods county area in eastern Oklahoma. In 1901 we moved to the western part of Oklahoma when it was opened up for homesteading We went by covered wagon, trailing some cattle and horses. We stayed there until 1912, then moved to Montana

A rhyme that comes to mind might explain why we left. "Hurray for Oklahoma, the land of the free, the home of the grasshopper, the bed bug and flea.

A neighbor asked my father, Thomas, why he was going so far north. Didn't he know that water would freeze in wells 40 feet deep? Thomas answered, "Hell, I've seen it boil in wells that deep in Oklahoma, so which is worse?"

My father farmed in Montana for a year and a half before deciding to move to Alberta. My father, mother, and my four brothers and I came by train as settlers, at a special rate. We crossed at Portal North Dakota and came to Rocky Mountain House in 1914. The first winter was spent southwest of Crimson Lake. Then we moved to the Leslieville district about 1915, to the NE 19-40-5, land known as the Pete Moser place. Later we moved to the John Young quarter, NW 21-40-5 and stayed about five years

During the first War I went to Calgary to join the army but was not called up until the war was almost over, and then my call was cancelled

In 1919 Helen Albertine Seeland and I were married and we moved to where Jack Leslie now farms, (this land was known earlier as the Elliot place) In early 1921 I homesteaded the SE 31-40-5 and moved there shortly afterwards. We raised our family here and are continuing to live on this land, having been here now for 56 years We had seven children, Norman, Vera, Elmer, William, Alfred, Andrew, and Mildred.

My father, brothers and I, played music for dances all around the district, as far east as Condor and west to Rocky Mountain House.

I remember working at the McDougal mill for 50¢ a day The pay was to be taken out in lumber at the end of the winter. Some of the men would play poker, betting 2 x 4's and 2 x 6's. The planed lumber was delivered to Rocky Mountain House for $7 a thousand feet.

My father lived for a little while on the John Saari place SW 4-41-4-W5, before homesteading the SW 24-41-6-W5 around 1922. My father died in August 1924, and my mother passed away 25 years later in 1949

I have a very good orchard which I started about 1935. I raise Battleford, Heyer No. 12, Rescue and Osman apples and crabapples, enough for myself and family, and the neighbors around the district My yard and garden is a very beautiful spot in the spring when all the trees are in blossom I've only lost one crop due to frost in all the years I've grown fruit in this spot in Alberta

**McCALLUM, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT DUNCAN — by Mattie Martin**

Robert McCallum was born in Scotland, January 2, 1886 living there until after his father's death, his family moved to Yorkshire where he resided until coming to Canada about 1910. At that time he was a young student minister and was stationed in southern Alberta at Gleichen and Pincher Creek. He was sent to Nordegg in 1912 and came to Leslieville in 1915 In his youth he had started to study medicine but ill health prevented him from following that profession but after a while in this west country his health improved. What he had learned at medical school was kept in his head and many a person was helped by him in times of sickness He preached for many years at Leslieville and surrounding district and conducted over 200 funerals during his time. He was the postmaster for nearly 40 years and also filled the position as secretary for the municipality for a long time until ill health overtook him and he had to resign from his labors.

On April 16, 1916 he was married to Bertha Alice Reilly in Red Deer and they settled down to their married life in a little shack but later built a large house in Leslieville which was used as the

Robert (Bob) and Bertha McCallum, 1952.

post office and their dwelling place until their retirement. They sold their property about 1962 and went to live at the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. After a stay in hospital in Rocky, Mr McCallum passed away January 27 1964. Funeral services were held from the Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mountain House with burial in the Leslieville Cemetery, January 31, 1964.

Bertha was a helpmate to Bob in the Post Office all the years that they were employed there and took a great interest in the works of the community, especially the Women's Institute, of which she was a charter member, and the Royal Purple, of which she was a life member. She took great pleasure in curling and knitting and in her younger days was a very fine singer. She remained in Rocky Mountain House for two years after her husband's death, then moved to Red Deer, remaining there until her passing on October 7, 1977. A memorial service was held in Red Deer on the morning of October 12, with a special service by the Elks Lodge and the ladies of the Royal Purple officiating in the afternoon from the Elks hall in Leslieville. Burial was in the Leslieville Cemetery.

To this couple was born a daughter, Betty Jean Isbbel who was raised at Leslieville until she married Mr. R. T. Gregson and went to live in Toronto. To them were born four daughters and one son, Marilyn, Sandra, Lynn, and the twins, Robert and Donna. They all live in or close to their parents at Port Bolster, near Lake Simcoe, Ontario. There are six grandchildren.

**McGILL, PERCY THOMAS — (by Mattie Martin)**

One could write pages about this person but time will not permit so I will stick to a few details. He was born and brought up in Ontario, around London, I think, and whatever possessed him to pick on Leslieville as a homing place never was found out. Early in 1912 he arrived and from that time on he remained here. That particular winter was very cold after the New Year, there being no snow until after Christmas and then it turned bitterly cold, something that Percy was not used to.

A man by the name of Oliver Wright (commonly called Ollie) lived down on the road east of Bailey's with his wife and family and his father. He was a man of tremendous proportions but like all fat people liked to be jolly and have fun and we did have many good laughs with him. Well, he took a contract to do some bushwork out near Nordegg that cold winter and hired a bunch of the young fellows around to go out and work for him. Among the lot were Percy McGill, Ted Ensign, Tom Butler, Leaman Patterson and Victor Reilly and maybe others, and Fatty Wright himself. On the way out they stopped for lunch and of course Ted Ensign offered to make the coffee. No water being handy, he scooped up some nice clean snow. Also in that year there were lots of rabbits which had been scampering around and you can imagine what happened to poor Ted when the boys drained their cups. The best part was hearing McGill tell it. It was not too long before he and some of the rest arrived back at Leslieville and there he stayed until his passing. For a long time he was a clerk in McKinnon's store, he had a butcher shop of his own and did well with that. In nearly all the plays we used to put on he had a leading part for he was a good actor. He also was a good poker player, as many could testify and was wonderful with figures and had a remarkable memory. He belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, and although he seldom attended a service, was buried from the Catholic Church in Sylvan Lake, Father McDonald conducting. Percy had had pneumonia more than once, finally having a fatal attack.

**McLEAN, MR. ANDREW — (by Mattie Martin)**

Andrew McLean came from Quebec, near Lake Megantic, to Alberta about 1907, coming out to the Leslieville district and settling on the land about two miles east of there, directly east of the quarter that the Hopkins family lived on — said land later being taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Inglis. With Andrew were his mother, a sister, Barbara (who later became Mrs. George Thompson) and a young lad by the name of Johnny Gore.

There was another sister, Lily, who was married to Mr. Norman McDonald and they lived east of that, not too far from Harry Arnold's place. Andy was not a strong man but was a good farmer, having brought with him horses, cattle and machinery. His mother was a very nice person and died a few years later. After Barbara was married he left and not too much was heard of him.

The Norman McDonald's lived for several years on the farm where their children were born, at least some of them. Ronald was the oldest, then Hector (who afterwards married Mona Ball) and Flora, and I think there was a younger girl. There were also two brothers of Norman's who had land farther north but they did not stay too long. Norman worked at Nordegg in the winter. They finally moved to Red Deer where they lived for several years. Mrs. McDonald (Lily) was a fine singer and also did recitations and readings at many gatherings, but I think the McDonalds are all gone now.

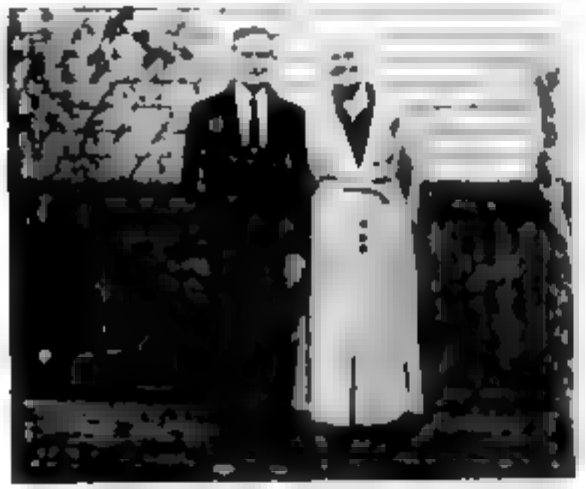
**McLEOD, ALLAN — submitted by John McLeod**

Allan McLeod was born in Prince Edward Island in 1854. His wife Emaline Keennon, was born in Makaska County, Askalooca, Idaho, in 1864. They were married in 1880.

They came from Gaston, Oregon, to Alberta in 1906, settling northwest of Leslieville on the SE 34-39-5-5. The family consisted of eight sons, one daughter and Allan's father, Grandpa John McLeod — who was born in 1829, in Scotland. He

died in 1906 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery. Allan's eldest daughter Minnie remained in Oregon. Allan and Emaline McLeod operated a stopping house for the stage coach, freighters, and for other settlers seeking land, and although there are none of these buildings there now, the row of spruce trees planted by Emaline McLeod still stands, stately and tall marking the spot where our Grandparents carved out a home and a new way of life in Alberta, and these trees still hold a meaning for us, and somehow these trees were spared when the house burned down a few years ago.

Grandpa and Grandma Allan McLeod's family were — Minnie (stayed in Oregon), Dan, John, Albert, Henry, Kate, Frank, Sterling, Leto and Leslie. Of these, Dan, John, Albert and Henry each homesteaded a quarter of 28-39-5-5. Kate having married Alex Sim, homesteaded the SW-34-39-5-5, (now owned by William Dirsten). They also bought the NE-7-40-4-5 and in 1943 sold it to Oliver Salmon.



Mr. and Mrs. Allan McLeod, 1936

Grandma and Grandpa Allan McLeod raised the family of James McLeod, (more is told of this in the James McLeod history).

There were no telephones, no radios, no television and no electricity! There was, however, lots of bucksawing of wood to keep the house warm, hauling of feed for the stock, lots of barn cleaning, lots of water carrying and lots of walking if you wished to go somewhere.

Before long, someone brought in a wood sawing machine and people gathered at each other's places to exchange work and get the wood pile sawed. Sometimes the crew consisted of nearly as many men as the threshing crews.

Clearing the land by hand with an ax and using a team of horses to pull the stumps, usually used up the summer months, and sometimes was a real struggle before a field of any size was obtained.

Roads were not always passable, even to the horse-drawn vehicles. Most of them were winding trails that kept to the higher land, regardless of where the road allowances were. Most creeks were without bridges so were just forded, if the water wasn't too deep. Recreation came in the form of sleighing and skating parties, house parties and dances in the local school houses. On one such occasion it was decided to have a masquerade ball, with all the costumes. Leto, being a bit of a clown thought it might be interesting to go as a young lady, and so, in long dress, ringleted wig and make-up he arrived at the dance. One young man was badly smitten with the new girl, and lost no time showing his affections, and claiming every possible dance with "her" and finally as his supper partner, at which time everyone unmasked to show their identity. The young man was quite shocked to find he had fallen so hard for Leto McLeod, whom he knew quite well!

Grandma and Grandpa McLeod returned to Oregon about 1918, taking Mary, Wallace, Angeline and Isobel with them. Margaret remained in Red Deer, where she was employed. Dan, Albert, Leto and Leslie also returned to Oregon then, as did Kate and Alex Sim, just a short time later.

Frank became a railroad steam engineer and for several years was employed with the C.N.R. on the train that travelled through Leslieville. He transferred to Jasper, where it was discovered he had colour blindness, and he worked in the roundhouse there until his retirement in 1959. He was married and he and his wife, Mildred, operated a rooming house in Jasper until her passing in 1968, and a short time later he sold out and moved to Edson. He also had the misfortune of having his right leg amputated below the knee. In 1972 he married Mrs. Rose Whidden and they continued to make their home in Edson until his passing in August 1975.

Sterling served with the Armed Forces during World War I. He returned to Leslieville and later married Maude Richardson and they lived at Leslieville for a few years before moving to Oregon where he lived until his passing in October, 1977.

Henry had learned the blacksmith trade from Mr. Ed Good and was employed in his shop in Rocky Mountain House. He also did blacksmith work at the sawmills in the winter. In 1916 he married Margaret McLeod, the eldest member of the James McLeod family, (mentioned earlier in this writing) and they remained at Leslieville until 1952.

Kate now 80 years of age, still lives in Oregon. Leto lives in Oregon and Leslie in California.

**McMEEKIN, ROBERT AND ISABELLA**

(Originally the name was McMeeking, but in the ensuing years, for reason unknown, the "g" was deleted and the name became McMeekin for the following generations.)

Mr. Robert McMeekin was born in Glasgow,

Scotland, March 20, 1882, the son of John McMeeking and Mary Lynch.

Isabella McGregor was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on August 11, 1881, the daughter of James McGregor and Margaret Munn

Robert and Isabella grew up and spent their early youth in Scotland. They were married there in the early 1900's. After a number of years they and their young family immigrated to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. In 1915 Mr. McMeek n enlisted and served with the 77th Battalion Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in World War I. Upon his discharge in 1916, they lived for a time in Ottawa, later moving west to Calgary, Alberta. There Mr McMeekin owned a draying business and taught carpentry at the Indian School. He was also employed with the railway at Gadsby, Alberta for a time. In the early 20s they moved their belongings by horses and wagon from Calgary to their homestead, the farm now owned by Tom Holland in the area north of Leslieville (SW 20-40-4-W5) Mrs. McMeekin and younger children came by train

Mrs. McMeekin assisted Dr. Sommerville of [illegible]kville at many of the births in the district, when most births still occurred in the homes

She was of a humorous nature and enjoyed a bit of adventure. She was among those who availed themselves of the first chance Leslieville people had of flying over their village for 10 [illegible] when a Mr. [illegible] in his [illegible] Moth visited the town in February 16, 1931. The old Cap Card field, just northeast of town proved an ideal landing and taking off place She sometimes sang and played a bit of piano at some of the social events.

Mr. McMeekin was a quiet man with an aptitude for art His main interests were his home and family

They had seven children, two daughters, Mary and Margaret and five sons, Alexander, Robert, James Walter and Allan

All their sons were in the services during World War II. Alexander in the Royal Canadian Navy; Robert and Walter in the Royal Canadian Airforce, and Allan in 10 Field Company R.C.E.C.A.S.F Canadian Army (active). He served in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Central Mediterranean area and Continental Europe

Alexander Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland on Nov. 1, 1901. He passed away September 18, 1964. During his life he traveled about a lot and had varying occupations such as hotel waiter, stevedore, longshoreman, bodyman, pipefitter and farmer

He was married three times First, to Marie Chevallier of Alhambra. Their two sons are. Robert Leslie, born July 17, 1929, and Maurice Victor Louis born July 12, 1934. Second, to Ruth Peabody of Forest Grove, Oregon, U.S.A. Their daughter is Virginia Helen born April 20, 1938. Third, to Helen Johnston of Oregon. U.S.A. Their son is Alexander born August 18, 1951 and a daughter Valerie Jean born April 7, 1959. His widow Helen now resides in Oregon.

Mary Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland, November 3, 1907 She passed away there in infancy

Margaret M. McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland, July 30, 1908. She passed away in the late 1950's. She was married twice Her first husband was Ralph Marwood of Calgary They had one son, Ralph Frederick. Her second husband was W. Lou Myers of Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. They lived in Portland and Florence, Oregon and Redwood City, California Lou passed away in early 1950

Robert Gunnion McMeekin was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 9, 1910. He married Joyce Payne of Calgary, where they resided for many years. He worked for the Government as a paymaster for the Department of National Defence, and in the Department of Indian Affairs there. They retired to Royston, B.C. where he passed away in January, 1972. They have one daughter, Janet Isabel, born August 31, 1966

James Munn McMeekin, born May 30, 1913, passed away in a drowning accident at Leslieville on July 22, 1928

Walter McGregor McMeekin born at Coronation, Alberta on October 7, 1917 married Cecilia Anna Freylinger of Evergreen. They lived in Calgary during the years he served in the Air Force and upon his discharge took up residence in Leslieville, where they still reside. He managed Leslieville Motors for many years until it changed ownership in 1975. He remains there as the head mechanic. They have six children

Maureen Helene Isabella (Mrs. Tom Coulter of Fruitvale, B.C.) born January 16, 1941 at Eckville She was a head teller with the Bank of Montreal until her marriage. She is talented in art Her husband Tom, is a manager with S S. Kresge Company, so they are transferred quite frequently — so far they have been in Red Deer, Alberta North Battleford and Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Toronto, Ontario; Prince George and Fruitvale B.C. They have three children Thomas Gerald, Sandra Maureen and Dawn Michelle

Carole Roberta (Mrs. Charles W Bilawchuk of Edmonton) born February 4, 1943 at Calgary She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta in 1972, and is presently employed as a social worker with Alberta Social Services and Community Health. Her husband, Charles, is employed with City of Edmonton Telephones. They have two children, Lesley Dawn, and Todd Alan

Peter Walter McMeekin of Condor, Alberta. born December 28, 1946, at Eckville, Alberta. He married Deborah Pamela Grace Bates of Condor. He works in construction, is an operating engineer and also a mechanic They have two daughters, Susan Katherine, and Sherrie Marie

Cecile Margaret (Mrs. Paul Viala of Red

Deer) born March 5, 1949 at Eckville. She was a switchboard operator and receptionist at Red Deer College until she retired on December 14, 1977 to await the arrival of their first born in January, 1978. Her husband, Paul, is a foreman at Federal Pioneer Electric in Red Deer.

Bruce Alan McMeekin of Alhambra, born on March 14, 1951 at Eckville. He married Gwen Gayle McMillan of Alhambra. He works in construction and is also an operating engineer. They are also awaiting the arrival of their first born in January, 1978.

Robert James McGregor McMeekin of Leslieville, born on August 23, 1954, at Eckville. He is employed at Rocky Wood Preservers, is a licensed grader and scaler and works at all aspects of the lumber business, as well. He is a member of the Leslieville Elks Fastball team. They won the 1977 Foothills Fastball Championship and he is also a member of the "Hillbillies" hockey team (Rocky Commercial Hockey League). They won the 1976-1977 championship. He is single and lives at home. All the children attended Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High School.

Allan Smith McMeekin, was born at Calgary on August 22, 1920. He married Dorothy Jean Gallaway of Calgary, who passed away in 1947. Allan worked at Shepherd, Alberta, and Calgary for a time, later farmed and was employed with the railway at Leslieville. He now resides in Rocky Mountain House.

Mr. Robert McMeekin passed away in 1926 and Mrs. Isabella McMeekin and the family of the younger children moved into the town of Leslieville in 1927. Through the years they lived in various places throughout the province — Huxley, Calgary, and Evergreen included, but returned to reside in Leslieville where Mrs. McMeekin passed away on March 27, 1964.

**McMILLAN, HUNTLEY AND LEIGH (LEE) — by Mattie Martin**

Leigh (Lee) McMillan was a real nice young man who lived up behind the Butte not too far from Ted Ensign. He and Ted always remained good friends but Leigh did not stay too long in the country and went back to Edmonton. However, his brother, Huntley McMillan, came and lived on the farm and did well. He married one of the Conn girls (whose parents came to live on the place where Mr. and Mrs. McNeil lived and where the Laurence Olivers now reside). Then Huntley's parents came to live on the farm and were good residents for a number of years.

**McTAVISH, WILLIAM AND EFFIE**

William and Effie McTavish came from the Lethbridge district and proved up on Henry Decker's homestead SE-13-40-5-W5. They had one daughter and two sons, Muriel, Douglas and Gordon.

They were a happy, warm hearted family and contributed much to the social life of the community. The ladies were members of the W.I.

Muriel married Frank Averill and they had two daughters and one son, Audrey (Mrs. Starn) Drenadine (Mrs. Ammons) and Billy. They all live in the U.S.A.

Frank was a gifted artist and they lived for a time on SE-11-40-5-W5. Frank died quite awhile ago. Muriel used to come to the farm a lot to help Doug out, but she passed away not long ago.

Douglas has not married and lives on the homestead, farms a half section and has a lot of good beef cattle.

Gordon became ill and passed away while still a young man.

**MENZIES, THE ARCHIE L. HISTORY**

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Menzies arrived at Sarnia, Ontario, from Scotland in 1905, where they resided for the next two years. Archie came west on a harvest excursion in the fall of 1906 to Innisfail. After the harvest he set out on foot to locate a brother Bob, who had earlier located somewhere near Oras. This was all virgin territory so as a result the ponds he could not wade through, he swam, to get there. Bob and Archie then went on a land scouting spree for a homestead. Archie filed on NW-10-40-5-W5 in September, 1907. Bob filed on NE-9-40-5-W5. Archie then proceeded to erect a small log cabin before freeze-up.

The following spring he brought his wife and two young children out to the new home.

Many the disappointments and setbacks they encountered in ensuing years as frost, swamp fever in horses, and shortage of money plagued them as well as all early settlers. All supplies, food, building materials, and other necessities were freighted from Red Deer by oxen and later by horses, a journey of 40 odd miles, a journey through, around, and across muskeg, rivers, and bush trails. However, with typical "Scotch" determination they persisted and finally overcame their adversities. In the ensuing years five more children were born and raised.

In 1911 the first school was voluntarily built but only remained open during the fall and spring months for a couple of years until more settlers and pupils became available.

Archie spent part of the first few winters working at a sawmill fifteen miles from home.

Archie Menzies with his team and wagon, accompanied by his brother Bob in 1909; taken in Red Deer where they travelled more than 40 miles to get their groceries and supplies.

Mary Ann, Archie's wife, stayed home and looked after the family and the few livestock during his absence. He received the princely sum of $15.00 per month for his labour, but it helped to keep the family fed and clothed.

He built a new barn and house in 1916 on higher land in hopes of combating the dread of the early settlers — swamp fever, which took many a homesteader's horses, leaving him with no farming power for a time.

The C.N.R. railroad constructed a line through to Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg in 1912. Leslieville then became the hamlet as known to-day. Mail service which had previously been brought by stage once a week to the store was now transported by train. The settlers really thought everything was going well now. Coal mines opened at Nordegg and settlers earned extra cash working on the railroad and also obtained a market for their surplus hay and oats as feed for the mine ponies.

The first phone line of eight miles was constructed by volunteer labour about 1916 and used extensively up until the time the existing lines were taken over by A.G.T.

The fruits of the land were wild berries as saskatoons, blueberries, strawberries raspberries, gooseberries, also wild game like deer, rabbit, moose, prairie chicken and partridge also an abundance of wood for fuel.

A log church was put up in Leslieville by interested volunteers in the early years in which Archie participated and the building was used for about twenty-five to thirty years afterwards.

New roads were constructed as time went on and extra money was earned by helping at this job with a four-horse team.

People had various forms of entertainment such as dances, Christmas Tree programmes, also the famed chautauqua made it's appearance in the early 1920's or before. Later on the School Fairs and summer picnics held a place in the social life of the community.

It seemed like a miracle that everyone seemed to stay healthy as doctors and modes of travel were far away in time of need. Midwives were a blessing to many a newborn under those conditions. Home made remedies and cures all seemed to work wonders.

During these early days mechanized power was unheard of, so brushing, clearing, piling, burning, were done by hand. Many laborious hours were spent in these tasks by Archie, Mary Ann and their family until enough land was put in production to meet the demands of a growing family. To-day very little of the homestead is not broken.

Archie and Mary Ann purchased their first car, a new 1926 Chevrolet. Prior to this buggies, democrats and wagons, as well as horse-back were the modes of travel.

Archie and Mary Ann have gone to their just reward. Archie passed away in 1948 at the age of 70. Mary Ann passed away in 1970 at the age of 90 years. But the original homestead is still lived in and farmed by some of the sons. Following are the names of their sons and daughters, Archie, Margaret, Mary, Robert, Agnes, Alexander and Donald. All but Margaret still live in the immediate district. Margaret lives at Delburne, Alberta.

Archie, Jr. homesteaded the NE 10-40-5W5 in 1922 and later purchased the NE 9-40-5W5 of his Uncle Bob's estate. Archie still farms this land to-day.

Robert bought the NE 16-40-5W5 of his Uncle Bob's and later became an Alberta Wheat Pool agent. He is retired from the Wheat Pool and at present residing in Leslieville with his wife, Evelyn, owning a grocery business — the Leslieville Mercantile. They have five children all married and living in the surrounding area.

Margaret and her husband, Harry Gongaware are retired from farming and live on the family farm at Delburne. Prior to her marriage, Margaret taught school. They have two sons — both married and they carry on the business of farming.

Mary and her husband, Ed Smith are actively farming east of Leslieville at present. They have two daughters — both married and live in the area quite close to them.

Agnes and her husband, Laurence Oliver reside on a farm a few miles from town. Laurence works full time as parts-man at a machine shop in Eckville. They have one son, who is a draftsman in the city.

Alex and his wife, Margaret and his brother Don reside on the original Menzies farm and continue with the farming operations.

These are the grandchildren and great grandchildren of Archie and Mary Ann Menzies.

Lorraine and Phyllis are the children of Ed and Mary Smith. Lorraine is married to John Schroderus and reside in Eckville. They have four children, Karen, Lorne, Julie and Loralie. Karen is married to Robin Tolonen and lives in Red Deer. Phyllis is married to Ensio Schroderus and has two children, Ken and Audrey. They reside in the Leslieville district.

Philip and Keith are the children of Harry and Margaret Gongaware and reside on their farms in Delburne district. Philip is married to Lois Hoerle and has three children, Neil, Greg and Lori. Keith is married to Maureen Perry and has two children, Allan and Sheila.

Connie, Carol, Bob, Marlene and Wendy are the children of Bob and Evie Menzies. Connie is married to Jerry Litz and has three children, April, Dana and Bradley. They live in Red Deer. Carol Bryant resides in Calgary and has four children, Garry, Curtis, Sherri and Rodney. Bob is married to Sheila Heikkinen and has two children, Shauna and Robert. They live in Leslieville area. Marlene is married to Chester Ketchum and lives in Leslieville. They have two children, Christopher and Jennifer. Wendy is married to Bob Bryant and resides in Caroline.

They have two children, Angela and Kimberley

Don is the son of Laurence and Agnes Oliver and resides in Red Deer

**THE MESTON FAMILY**

Mr. and Mrs Robert Meston and three daughters left Aberdeen, Scotland, May, 1911 Mary and Bessie, (Elizabeth) came out to Alberta by themselves, to be followed, a few weeks later, by their parents and the eldest sister, Ella The brothers, George and Bob were already here, having taken up land in the Bingley district George met the family at Red Deer Railway Station. The trip to George's homestead was made by wagon and team, and took two days. It wasn't what you would call a comfortable drive, but George was very proud of his team, "Nancy and Fred" — partly broncs. Looking back, my parents, who were not young, had a great deal of courage and were not afraid of work. Eventually, my father filed on a homestead and Joe Frost, a good neighbor, built a comfortable home, on that land. A nearby neighbor of theirs was Billy Barnes. Other neighbors were Fred and Harry Richardson, and Mr. and Mrs. J Nielson, who had one son of school age

It was an entirely new life for all. My mother was the happiest of women when she mastered the art of bread-making, and she enjoyed looking after the young stock, and the chickens. Father kept a neat farm-yard and knew his cattle. Ella had house work to keep her busy. The other two sisters followed what they had studied in Aberdeen. Mary became a nurse in the General Hospital, Calgary, and Bessie took up teaching. In those days, mail was eagerly looked forward to, and we'd take the afternoon off to visit Bingley P O. J W Christian handled the mail, then followed by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ogden. The Ogdens came from the Bingley district in Yorkshire, England. Mrs. Elizabeth Ogden was an enthusiastic gardener and it was usual for her to carry off most of the gardening prizes at Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Fair. Her flower garden was always attractive.

Father died at home at the age of 74 years Dr. Backus of Eckville had visited him from time to time. Mother came with Ella to stay in a neat little house on our farm at Alhambra. When our mother had her last illness, Mary came out from Red Deer to nurse her She had reached the age of 84. Both parents are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House

**MOORE, OSWALD AND NELLIE — by Nellie Moore**

I am the third daughter of Fred and Sara-Ann Hart and was born on the farm at Leslieville, I took my schooling at Prairie Rose and Leslieville Schools. I played on the softball team and learned to curl from an old Scotch gentleman, T O. Stephenson, in the old straw rink. Later I went out to work and met Oswald Moore of the Ridgewood district. Times were hard and not much money, so we went together for four years He bought a farm, so then we were married in 1937, and are now semi-retired on the same farm We had a celebration at our daughter and son-in-law's home for our 40th anniversary This was held in the same yard in which we held our wedding reception. I have been a member of the Ridgewood W I. for 27 years

We have three daughters and two sons — Mrs Neal Buckley (Dorothy), who lives on Oswald's Dad's farm. They have three children, Brian, Chris and Arlene. They farm six quarters in the district Mrs. Eric Morphy (Audrey), they live in Langley, B C. They own Birkland Kennels and raise and train German Shepherds which they import from Germany They have no children. Mrs Mike Cavierier (Gladys) resides in Red Deer They manage the West Park Automotive Garage with Shell products Mike is the coach of the West Park Ladies Softball team. His wife Gladys and their two daughters play on the team. They also have two younger ones, Pamela — eight years old and Glen — five years old. Edward (Ted) married Patsy Johnson and have two children, Allan — seven years old and Sherri — four years old They farm his father-in-law's four quarters and his Dad's five quarters along with two that he owns, one quarter is pasture land so he has range cattle and feeds out many in the winter Patrick is quite a lot younger than the rest of our children, graduated from Grade 12 this year and took up auto body work. He works and lives at home. Ted and Patrick play on the Ridgewood Ball Team. Ted also coaches and has a team of young boys from 15 to 18 years of age He also has four older men from Innisfail to help him

**MOTTUS, ELMER**

Elmer (Scotty) Mottus joined the armed services in 1941 and served for a time overseas too After his discharge from the services in 1946 he was on the home farm for a while. Then he purchased the former Mr. W Barret's farm at Leslieville in 1951, where he and his family still farm.

He married Miss Mae McGowan of Markerville in 1952 and has three children, Sandra born in 1955, Allan born in 1956, and Murray born in 1958. They took their High School at the David Thompson High School. They are now employed at various jobs

**OJA, JOHN AND TECKLA**

John Ulas Oja was born at Vaasa, Finland September 23, 1886. He came to Canada in 1909 and worked in Montreal. Then he came west and worked on the C.N R. between Rocky Mountain House and Nordegg and he also worked in bush camps. He homesteaded the NW 17-40-5-W5 in 1909

He went to the United States and while there he met Teckla Hatula. Teckla was born in

Lakota, North Dakota October 1, 1899. They were married in Butte, Montana where they lived for a while. Later they moved to the Rocky Mountain House area with their three young daughters, Mabel, Agnes and Violet. Then they lived on the homestead in the Golden Heights district. The next move was to a farm in the Bingley area and then to the farm in the Beaver Flat district, the NE 12-40-6-W5.

John and Teckla had 11 children, Mabel, Agnes and Violet born in the United States, Sadie and Iva born in the Golden Heights district, Wilbert, Howard, Melvin and Herbert born in the Beaver Flat district. Two children, Wesley and Esther, passed away at an early age.

John farmed his quarter section well with heavy draft horses and he had fine cattle. Besides farming he operated a lumber mill and tie camp for a number of years. He was an expert with a broad axe and many of his log buildings are still standing, some on his home farm and some on his son, Wilbert's farm. Also he was a familiar sight at threshing time hauling bundles and grain with his fine team.

John and Teckla always had a large garden in which they grew all their needs from bushels and bushels of potatoes to the "hard to grow" vegetables such as corn, cucumbers and tomatoes.

John was an ardent hunter and fisherman. Many times he went hunting with Sigurd Sande, Matt Latuva and Leif Skagen. He went on many fishing trips to Buck Lake and Sylvan Lake with old friends like Sam Sande and Alex Schroderus.

Teckla was always very busy caring for her large family, plus preserving, pickling, canning and salting the meat and fish that John got on his hunting and fishing trips.

John and Teckla Oja family, 1968. Back row: Wilbert, Iva, Herb, Howard and Melvin. Center row: Agnes, Mabel, Violet, and Sadie. Seated: John and Teckla Oja.

One very nice change was when the family moved out of the old log house into their new home which John and his sons built with the help of Ed Stenback, this was in 1947.

As the years passed the sons and daughters married and moved away and had families of their own. But usually every Sunday there would be a houseful at John and Teckla's home where many cups of coffee were enjoyed and always there were treats for the grandchildren.

John and Teckla's five daughters and four sons:

Mabel married Archie Richardson and they have three children. (See Archie Richardson history.)

Agnes married Aubrey Laycraft and they have four children: Warren, Marilyn and Sharon and a stepdaughter, Gloria. Warren married Lorna Hurl and they have three children.

Marilyn married Warren Burnett and they have two sons, Ashley and Kevin.

Sharon married Al Johnson and they have two children, Kyle and Shelley.

Violet married Louis Niedermoser and they have four children, Dale, Darlene, Dennis and David. Dale married Fidelia Ludwig and they have one daughter, Annette. Darlene married Joe Hagen and they have three children, Debra, Calvin and Patricia. Dennis married Florence Irwin and they have two daughters, Brenda and Tara. David married Fern Turner and they have two daughters, Jo-Ellen and Jan.

Sadie married Bob Hayes and they have five children, Kathy, Connie, Carol, Robert and Alison. Kathy married Ken Yamchuk and they have three children, Jamie, and twins, Jerry and Lisa. Connie married Jim Martin and they have one son, Shayne.

Iva married Olva Alanen and they have two children, Don and Lois. Don married Pamela McIntyre. Lois married Pat Whiteside and they have two daughters, Sheri and Lana.

Wilbert

Howard married Louise Mitchell and they have four children, Warren, Bryne, Cheryl and Darrel. Warren married Jennifer and they have one daughter, Juliana.

Melvin married Alma Sande and they have two sons, Dwayne and Randy.

Herbert married Iona Mathews and they have four children. (See Felix Mathews history.)

John passed away January 7, 1976 in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital at the age of 89 years. He was laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery. Teckla is still residing on the home farm with her son, Wilbert. She enjoys fair health, cooks the meals and cleans the house, and always has the coffee pot on when visitors come. Teckla will be 89 in October, 1978.

**OLIVER, ARTHUR H**

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Oliver arrived in Leslieville, Alberta in the spring of 1934, from the drought area of southern Saskatchewan. He had

made a land scouting trip the previous summer and purchased the NW 20-39-4-W5 from Mr A. Dobson in Ontario, who had homesteaded this land some years beforehand

They drove up in a model T Ford car with their two daughters, Joy and Mary Their son Laurence came up with a car load of settlers effects, and a few head of horses and cows. They farmed here until 1941 when they moved into Leslieville, their son taking over the farm, upon his marriage to Agnes Menzies of the district.

Mr Oliver clerked in the local hardware store run by Mr Clarence Finkbeiner He also had a barber shop set up in the same location for several years.

Arthur and Penny Oliver

Mrs. Oliver was noted for her quilt making She made many that were on display in various places.

Mr Oliver enjoyed singing, reciting, and dancing and was always in the fore at social functions and gatherings. They had a family of one son, Laurence and three daughters — Aileen, Joy and Mary and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Oliver died in 1956 at the age of 75 years and Mrs. Oliver died in 1966 at the age of 79 years

**PEEVER, C. — by Jenny (Peever) Skoven)**

In 1925, my dad Charles Peever, came to the North Leslieville district from the dried out area of Cavendish, west of Empress, Alberta. My mother had died in 1923, so I was the only one to accompany my dad.

I, Jenny, was born near Cobden, Ontario, on the family farm where my father was also born.

For the first year that we were in the Carlos district we lived in a house on the SE 12, until we located the land to buy, the former Ambury homestead, SW 10-41-5-W5.

For many years the school teachers of Washington Heights found a hearty welcome and many meals at our home. Some of the teachers that boarded with us were: Margaret Whiteside (now Mrs. Jim Nelson) Washington Heights was her first job in the teaching profession. Florence Everett, who later went to Africa as a missionary and married Leslie Crawford. Mrs. Lizzie Weston from Clive, Mr. Boyer, Miss Klengersky, Lyla Fretwell, Isabelle Simpson (from Innisfail) Hattie Dobbs, Same Raabis, Roy Wadson and Doug Sterling were others who stayed with us. The last teacher was Miss Adelle Hamman who married and is still teaching out in Victoria. My dad was a trustee for several years. He also built a cement foundation for the school in 1929. Mr. Paul Fizer and Ival Johnston helped with this project.

My dad passed away in December 1940. In 1941 I married a farmer who lived nearby, Earl Skoven. We were married in Rocky, and have continued to live on the farm here ever since.

**PEPPER, EDWARD L.**

Fate has decreed that I, Jimmie Pepper, be the one responsible for writing an account of the Pepper family, one of the early homesteaders in the Leslieville community Obviously at this late date there are many gaps in my memory concerning the events that took place and the order in which they occurred. What follows is my best recollection of the lives of our family

My mother and father met in San Blas, Argentina, South America. Both of them were employed by an English family who had a large ranch and other holdings in that area. My mother was a governess in the family and my father was one of the overseers

Theresa and Edward Pepper on their wedding Day, 1900, in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

My mother and father were married in Buenos Aires, Argentina, circa 1900, and shortly after went into ranching on their own. Anita, Eileen and I were all born in San Blas but lived at the headquarters of our ranch at Punta Rouvia, about 20 miles from San Blas. A severe and extended drought forced the family to sell out in 1910 and seek a more favorable place in which to make a living.

We took off by steamship in the spring of 1910. I am sure of this date, as it was the year the tail of Halley's Comet was closest to the earth and we saw it on May 18 as we approached the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. We sailed from Buenos Aires to Liverpool, [illegible] by the way, was my father's birthplace. From Liverpool we went to Ireland where Mother was born and raised. After a short visit Dad took off for Canada, "the land of milk and honey" according to the pamphlets which the government sent out.

I believe that somewhere on the long journey between Liverpool and Calgary my dad became friends with Fred Snell and they proceeded together to Leslieville. Why they decided on Leslieville I do not know but, be that as it may, they both filed on homesteads — dad on the NE 18-40-4 W5 and Fred Snell just across the road to the west.

Mother, Anita, Eileen and yours truly remained in Ireland until sometime in 1911. It was during this period that Maureen was born. Following this event "Nummie," (Mother) Maureen and I took off for Leslieville, leaving Anita and Eileen in a convent school in Sligo where two of our aunts, Mother's sisters, were nuns.

We sailed from Liverpool in the steamship Corsica and landed in Montreal. We proceeded by train from there to Red Deer and then by stagecoach to Leslieville. I distinctly remember the trip from Red Deer. It took us two days and it rained almost the entire distance. Between the mud and the mosquitoes who could ever forget that trip?

Leslieville, as I remember it, consisted then of a store and a post office run by Mr. Campbell and his son-in-law, Archie McKinnon. There was also a small log church built by the Reillys (who were among the earliest homesteaders of the community) and by many other settlers in a cooperative effort. The old store was on the north side of the present railroad tracks. During that first summer I remember watching the railroad grading crew working on the flats east of the store. It must have been the following summer that the first train went through.

After landing in Leslieville, one of the neighbors took us and our few belongings out to the old Ed Denham place which was located between the Percy Leathers' and Henry Collins' homesteads. Since money was a very scarce item in those days, Dad soon left us there and went job hunting. "Nummie", as she was now known to practically everyone, Maureen and I lived as best we could, like all homesteaders of that time, on what few groceries we could afford plus some wild rabbits and an occasional partridge which I managed to get with my 22 rifle. Game laws were almost nonexistent in those days, although we were all aware that Tom Hart, who lived south of Leslieville, was a game warden and was not averse to doing his duty. We always knew when he was on the prowl though, and confined our meat to rabbits until the signal went up that the coast was clear at which time partridges could be on the menu again.

Dad came home that first winter after working on the bridge crew that constructed the railroad bridge over the Athabasca River in the Yellowhead Pass near Jasper. We then all moved down into Ed Dekker's old shack which was just across the line from where we built our first log house on the homestead. Dad and I worked on the house all winter in spite of cold, snow and blizzards. When spring came we moved into the house such as it was. Dad again took off to work and I began clearing some land on the homestead. The next year dad acquired a team of horses which helped to clear the land and break up some sod. Sometime during the first summer we acquired a pony which I was able to ride the five miles to Leslieville for the mail and groceries and to haul Maureen around when we went places.

We spent the years of 1912 and 1913 on the homestead. Talk about the cold! No words could ever describe what it was like those two years. Only the old-timers would believe me anyway. Our nearest neighbors who lived there all the year around were the Leathers and the Delaneys. The Snells, the Dekkers, Harry Longstaff and some others whose names I cannot recall lived on their homesteads during the summer months and went to work in various parts of the country during the winters.

In the summer of 1914 just before war broke out Anita and Eileen joined us on the homestead, bringing the whole Pepper family together for the first time. It was about this time that Dad and Nummie became active in helping to set up a school district. After much legwork carrying around the petitions and many meetings, the Blueberry Valley School District was finally formed. It was named for the creek of that name, but who named the creek I do not know. The school first opened in 1915, I believe. Nummie served as secretary-treasurer of the school district for many years, a job she thoroughly enjoyed.

The first teacher was a kindly old gentleman who had one peg leg — hence the nickname Peg Leg McDonald was soon adopted and used everywhere except within his hearing. Other teachers we had were Mrs. Ludwig, Mr. Ludwig and Violet Godkin. Some of the first students were Dooney and Verna Lampi, Timy, Koski and Chelis Carpenter, Milton Dirsten, Sylvia Orchard, Ingrid and Martin Delaney and the four of us. While it was a simple country school, as I look back on it I feel that it offered a remarkable education for the times.

In our own family we all liked books although we had very few of them. Nummie was constantly reciting poetry so we learned many exciting and interesting poems. Even now I can

remember many of them but not in their entirety

In spite of the hard times, the lack of decent transportation and the awful roads, we all managed to get around and maintain contact with each other within the community. Picnics, dances, box socials, berry picking safaris, etc., were all part of the community life of those days. Nobody had any money to spare but we all managed to have fun without it.

Dances were the most popular. Ludwig Huseby from up Rimbey way played his fiddle for most of them. On occasion George Thompson would supply the fiddling and his brother Charlie chorded on an old organ belonging to the school. These dances often lasted until dawn.

Following World War I baseball became quite the pastime. George Cummerford and Percy McGill were considered the stars of the game. The first game I remember seeing was pitched by Harry Cummerford.

Speaking of the Cummerfords, our earliest medical needs were taken care of by a veterinarian. Doc Cummerford as he was known by everyone. Between administering to those with severe frostbites, colds, whooping cough, measles, or other ailments and taking care of a severe outbreak of swamp fever among horses he had little time left to run his farm.

In 1915 a young student of medicine and theology from Scotland by the name of Bob McCullum arrived in Leslieville. For many years — in fact until Dr. Backus came to Eckville — our beloved Bob took care of all our medical and spiritual needs. Since he was an avid reader as well as a homespun philosopher he was also the intellectual leader of our community. I count him among the top scholars I have known.

In addition to these two men there were numerous characters in the Leslieville community who contributed much to the enrichment of our lives, each in his own way. Chief among these were George Cummerford, who was not only the world's authority on baseball but on any other subject you might wish to discuss, and Percy McGill, a great mimic. His favorite targets were the older ladies in the community who had lost their teeth or those who were attending a W.C.T.U. meeting.

Sam Gormley, the "wild Irishman," was another character. He loved to recite poetry and would do so at the drop of the hat, his favorite poem being "The Battle of Killiecrankie."

Johnny Gore with his love-life problems, Mac Tavish with his amusing anecdotes and sayings and Little Al Spears with his tremendous voice with which he could harangue the entire Leslieville population without benefit of any sound system all added spice to life in Leslieville. Three younger generation girls, Margaret McKinnon, Eileen and Maureen, were not far behind the above characters in dramatizing the humorous personalities in the communities. There was no dearth of mimics in Leslieville.

About 1920 we bought Harold Snell's old place three and a half miles north of Leslieville. We built a log house on it, moved in and the job of clearing land and breaking up sod started all over again.

Shortly after this we bought an old 1914 Model T Ford. Between working on the engine which burned two quarts of oil with every gallon of gas, adjusting the clutch and brake bands, replacing the differential which was forever stripping gears, and patching blowouts, I spent more time working on it than I did riding in it. No words can express the grief that went with all this. Maureen did a good job of driving it except on occasion when she had trouble stopping it to open a gate. The result was simple: she just took the gate right along with her.

Shortly after this last move of ours a new combined grade and high school was built in Leslieville. Eileen and Maureen finished their schooling there. One of the first teachers in the new school was Ray Salt. That added much spice to the community.

Now for a final brief account of what happened to the members of the Pepper family thereafter. Dad worked on a bridge crew on the CNR for many years, returning to the farm in 1928. He passed away in 1931 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery.

Nummie and Maureen continued to live on the farm for a number of years, after which they moved into a small house just east of the Community Hall in Leslieville. Nummie spent the last years of her life in a rest home. She died in 1956 and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery beside my dad.

Anita stayed with us on the homestead until 1917 or 1918. She then went to New York City where she received her R.N. diploma from one of the city hospitals. She continued her nursing career for several years before marrying Arthur Ross who was employed in the head office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. They had two children, Jimmie and Dick. The latter is deceased. Anita is now widowed and lives near Clearwater, Florida.

Her son Jimmie received his B.Sc. degree in Chemical Engineering from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, his M.Sc. degree from Montana State University, and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University. He is married to the former Lucille Viet of New York City and they have seven children. Presently they are living in Naperville, a suburb of Chicago, where he is employed by a large chemical company.

After completing high school, Eileen joined Anita in New York City and received her R.N. diploma from the same hospital as did Anita. She too continued her career for several years before she married Gus Runge, an Engineer graduate of the University of Alberta. They lived in several mining communities in Ontario before

Gus accepted a teaching assignment at a college in Kitchener, Ontario. After he passed away in the early 1960's Eileen accepted a position as supervisor of nurses in a Kitchener hospital. She retired from that position about three years ago and has been spending her time between Florida and Kitchener. The Runges had two sons, Ted and Lorne, both of whom live in the United States

Ted received his B.C. degree from McGill University and his M.B.A. from Toronto University. He married the former Eleanor O'Mara of St. Catherine's, Ontario. They live in Rochester, New York, with their three children. Ted is employed by Xerox Corporation

Lorne received his B.Sc. and M.D. degrees from McGill University. He is married to the former Ellen Fitzpatrick of Boston. They live in Syracuse, New York, with their four children, where Lorne is assistant professor at Upstate Medical College

Maureen worked part of the time for Bob McCallum in the Lesliеville Post Office, a job she held for several years, and she was the last of the three Pepper girls to leave Lesliеville. Maureen spent much of the World War II years working in Prince Rupert, B.C. Then she joined the Department of External Affairs of the Canadian Government. In the years following she was posted in such places as The Hague, Holland; Beirut, Lebanon, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; and Pretoria, South Africa. She made many friends while in the Foreign Service and travelled extensively. She has now retired and is living with a widow friend in South Africa

Now for myself. After graduating from South Calgary High School, I attended the University of Alberta, receiving my B.Sc. degree in 1931. The next year I attended Montana State University, receiving my M.Sc. degree from there. Upon graduation I joined the faculty of Zoology and Entomology Department. In the next few years by taking occasional leave to attend the University of Minnesota, I completed work for my doctorate degree and was granted my Ph.D. degree in 1942. In 1947 I was appointed head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Montana State University in Bozeman and State Entomologist.

My wife, the former Ruth Staples whom I married in 1934, and I have a son Jimmie and a daughter Jill.

Since I retired in 1973, Ruth and I continue to make our home here in Bozeman

Jimmie received his B.Sc. degree in Architecture from Montana State University and his Master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of California at Berkeley. He now lives in Santa Cruz, California, where he is associate professor at the University

Jill received her B.Sc. from Montana State University. She is married to Major Philip W. Nuber of Bozeman. They have two children and are now stationed in Tucson Arizona, where he is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force

**PETER PIDHIRNEY FAMILY**

In April, 1947 we and our family of three moved from the farming community of Hemaruka, Alberta, to the former A. D. Richardson farm which was situated directly east of the hamlet of Lesliеville

That fall our eldest daughter, Elaine, started school in the hamlet. At that time the twins, Maxine and Mervyn were two and one-half years old. The following year, 1948, Beverley was born. Dale, Wayne and Brian were later additions to our family

Presently Elaine Rudyk and family live in Edmonton where she is employed in a bank. Maxine McCorman is a school secretary in Spruce Grove, while her twin brother, Mervyn, has a trucking business in Rocky Mountain House. Beverley is now in London, England, after having spent five and one-half years in Australia, one-half year in New Zealand and two years in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dale is engaged in the construction business at Medicine Hat, while Wayne is doing apprenticeship training in the auto body field. Brian now 16 is in grade eleven at David Thompson High School

**REID FAMILY**

In 1906 the Reid brothers came to the Golden Heights area. Two sisters and their mother arrived in March 1907

GEORGE P. REID homesteaded SW 22-40-5-W5. He later lived at Joffre

M. L. REID (Amus) homesteaded NW 23-40-5-W5 after it was cancelled by Tinkham, also homesteaded the John McLeod quarter. Amus later lived at Edmonton.

W. H. REID (Willy) homesteaded NW 22-40-5-W5. He was killed at Vimy Ridge

JOHN REID homesteaded NE 22-40-5-W5 and SW 15-40-5-W5

MRS. ANN REID — mother of the Reid boys, and widowed, was the first woman to file on land in the Lesliеville district in 1907. She proved up in 1911, but owing to ill health had to leave in 1912 for a lower altitude. Mrs. Reid's home was a favorite stopping place for the early settlers and half way house to the lumber camps. She loved Lesliеville and up to her death never lost interest in her "farm"

Her two daughters were, Edith and Annie, Edith went to live in Scotland, Annie married Fred Kirsch, who homesteaded nearby and eventually retired to Red Deer. Annie's son, Bill, taught school at Leafland, Golden Heights and Rocky Mountain House.

**REIGHLEY, BENEDICT JOSEPH**

Ben Reighley moved to his farm at Lesliеville in 1929 having previously lived at Happy Hill. He first bought NW 25-39-5-W5 from Mr. Cap Card, and later purchased the adjoining quarter to the

east. Until 1931 he lived alone, keeping up both his Leslieville farm and the original family home. In that year Mrs. Reighley also moved to Leslieville. Two daughter, Babe and Drexel moved with her at that time.

It was the usual mixed farming operation, with cattle and grain, that he carried on. Like every farmer of the time he had his favorite team, Nigger and Queen, of which he was very fond.

Mr. Ben Reighley with team, Nigger and Queen.

In 1933 his son Stephen was married and came to live on NW 26-30-5-W5. At first father and son worked together.

In 1944 he sold his farm and moved to Red Deer, where he lived until his death in 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Reighley raised a family of seven daughters and one son, Stephen. Of the daughters, only Babe and Drexel ever lived in Leslieville. None of the family remains in the district at present.

**REIGHLEY, STEPHEN**

Stephen Reighley was born in Farber, Missouri. At the age of one year, he came to Canada with his parents, settling in the Happy Hill district.

He farmed with his father till 1929, and then rented the home place from his father till March, 1933, at which time he moved to a farm at Leslieville. In 1933, he married Ella Budvarson, who had worked as a hairdresser in Calgary. In 1945, he purchased the original home farm at Happy Hill.

In 1962, he sold the farm to Donald Campbell, and moved to Red Deer, where they have since made their home. He is now employed by the Alberta Hail Board.

Stephen and Ella Reighley with son, Ronnie and daughter Jeanne.

They have two children. Ronald completed a three-year course in psychiatric nursing, received his R.N. in Calgary and later attended McGill University, where he was awarded a Bachelor's degree, and later his Master's degree in nursing. At present he is co-ordinator of the Department of Psychiatry at the Calgary General Hospital.

Jo-Anne took a secretarial course and worked at the Parsons Clinic. She married Arthur Jarvis, and they have three children, Trena, Darcy, and Trudy.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN REILLY FAMILY — by Mattie L. Martin**

It was in the spring of 1903 that Mr. Reilly was approached about coming to Alberta, which, at that time was known as the North West Territories.

After giving the matter much thought it was decided to come to the Indian Industrial school at Red Deer where a position as carpenter instructor was waiting for him. So, on August 27, 1903, the parents with six of their children boarded the train at Toronto for the trip west.

It was not much pleasure sitting on those hard, wooden seats for nearly five days but quite an experience for the younger ones who had never been on a train.

It had rained most of the summer in the west and another experience was to climb on to a democrat drawn by a team of big horses through mud up to their knees over the three miles from

the town of Red Deer to the school. However, we arrived safely and settled down there for two years. By this time we were getting used to the climate and the ways of the people of this country

Then a notion to go farming was formed so Mr. Reilly and his son Leslie started out to look for suitable land. After driving east in the Content, Buffalo Lake and Red Willow country they did not find anything that suited them so they headed west of Red Deer where they found something more to their liking, which was in the township 39, west of the 5th meridian. At that time only Mr Johnny Campbell lived west till you came to the Clearwater where two bachelors by the name of Fletcher were living. In March, 1905, our two men went out and built a little shack on the place. Going back to Red Deer in a few days they had to walk nearly all the way as the snow had nearly all gone and it was all the horses could do to pull the empty cutter. In the meantime, horses and wagon and cows, etc had been purchased so on March 11, the family and some of their effects were loaded into the wagon and started out for their new home. We arrived later that day at the home of Mr and Mrs. A. R Thompson where we stayed for the night, continuing on down one mile farther in the morning to our new home. We didn't think much of it at that time, but as time went on we were happy in our work, clearing the land, milking the cows, hauling wood, etc., we learned to love the farm

May I digress here for a moment to pay tribute to those good neighbours the Thompsons and George Baileys, who were the only neighbours we had for over a year and who were always good friends. We had nice times together

In 1906, (we squatted on the land for one year) the land west of us was thrown open for homesteading and soon there were lots of neighbours, mostly bachelors, but soon several families came too and the country was full of people. There were no schools so the younger ones had to be taught at home for two years. In 1906 Mr Reilly got the contract to build the first school at Old Eckville, then in 1907, to build the Prairie Rose school to which our young folks went. The first teacher was Mr Fred Dobson, a nephew of Mrs. John McNeil, the next was a young lady from Ontario; Miss Dora Forsyth, then Miss Annie Patterson who later became Mrs. Frank Holt, who is still living in Red Deer after teaching there for many years. At this time she is living at Valley Park Manor at the age of nine-two years.

In 1906 Mr Edmond Bureau came and built a big house — part of which was used as a store and Post Office, the mail being hauled from Eckville by Mr. August Koski. A suitable name had to be found for the post office and several names were suggested, but it was Mr. Bureau who finally settled this He wanted a name with a "ville" in it so sent in the name Lesleville and it was then accepted by the government

For a few years church services were held in Reilly's house and people from near and far came to the services that were conducted by students from different denominations. The first one was R. E Harkness, a Baptist who rode all the way from Burnt Lake on horseback, followed by Donald Kennedy, then Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and even the Priest, each taking their turn until in 1908 the log church was built on the corner of Mr. Bureau's land which he gave as a site for it. Mrs. John Reilly was the Superintendent of the Sunday School for over twenty years and always a great worker in the church. Mrs. Reilly was also always interested in the work of the church and was also a life member of the W C T U

John Reilly was born at Morin Flats (now called Morin Heights) about sixty miles north of Montreal, April 27, 1857 — and passed away December 26, 1928 at Lesleville

Martha Jane (Cameron) Reilly was born December 2, 1857 and passed away May 14, 1926 They are both buried in the Lesleville Cemetery which is on the corner of their land

Their family were all born in Toronto, Ontario, where they lived when they were first married

John Archibald Clark; born September 10 1881, passed away in 1954 at Victoria, British Columbia.

Leslie Howard, born December 27, 1883, passed away at Edmonton, on July 12, 1965.

The Reilly girls, left to right Carrie, Maggie, Mabel, and Martha

Martha Lillian (Mattie) born on June 13, 1881 and still resides in Red Deer, Alberta.

Mabel Adelaide, born May 3, 1891, passed away May 10, 1940

Bertha Alice, born April 9, 1895, passed away October 7, 1977

Victor Leonard, born May 24, 1897, residing at Kelowna, B.C.

Gertrude Elizabeth, born July 25, 1899 residing at Penticton, B.C.

Clark became a Methodist minister preaching in Montreal and later in Ottawa where he and his wife lived for many years. They had one son who was medical doctor, he died very suddenly a few years ago in Victoria, B.C.

Leslie Howard married Miss Irene Hardisty in Edmonton. They had one son and one daughter

Mattie was married to Angus Martin, they were the parents of eight children — seven are still living

Mabel was married to Robert Aikins and had no family

Bertha was married to Robert McCallum and had one daughter

Victor was married to Myrtle Weaver in Jasper and they have two sons.

Gertie is married to Robert Shaw, residing now at Penticton, B.C., no children

Much more could be said about this family, their work, their talents, their responsibilities through the years. Even though in our later years we all went our separate ways, we remember with pleasure and kindness the days we spent on the farm with our parents at Lesllieville, Alberta

**RAY AND OLIVE RICHARDSON — by Olive Richardson**

Ray Richardson lived in the Lesllieville area, then, in 1940, he brought his wife Olive, and his family of nine children to live on the former Panrucker quarter NE 7-42-5-W5. Here we raised black Angus cattle for three years, before renting the Arthur Robb quarter and moving there, where we lived for two more years.

Ray was always interested in horses, cattle, and rodeos. He had a palomino pony, and the children had two part shetlands, which they rode to the Aurora school. We always had an assortment of other ponies for riding, too. Ray accompanied his friend, Ray McBride on a cattle drive from this area to Cochrane in 1944. He was active in organizing and working at the local rodeos here

Between 1924 and 1944 we had a family of 11 children: Henry, Hilda, Mark, Pearl, Bill, Laura, Evelyn, Vera, Percy, Marie and Merle Henry joined the army in 1940 or 1941. He now lives with his family in Vancouver. Laura married Grant Paynter and lives in Vancouver also.

Hilda married Paul Heringer and lives in Kamloops. Mark is single, and Marie is married, and both of them make their homes in Kamloops, too.

Vera is married and lives in Toronto. Percy and Merle both live in Ottawa.

Pearl and Bill both died in separate car accidents. Both were married and had families. Evie, also married, passed away in Edmonton. We have 23 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

In 1945 we had a farm sale at Carlos, and we moved our family to Falkland, B.C., where Ray continued working on ranches until he retired We then came to live in Kamloops, B.C.

On September 19, 1972 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary Ray passed away June 5, 1974. I am continuing to live in Kamloops

**RICHARDSON, ROY FAMILY**

Wallace Roy Richardson was born in Lesllieville on May 3, 1934, the only son of Archie and Mabel Richardson, on their farm home which is now the farm of Peter Pidhirney

He went to school in Lesllieville and following his school years he went to work as a catskinner where he was employed all over Alberta in the road and oil construction fields He owned his own cats for many years and was employed by the Government of Alberta

In April, 1960, he was married to Barbara Lydia Jones also of Lesllieville, the only daughter of Paul and Lillian Jones. On April 8, 1961, their only son Archie was born in Rocky Mountain House and on March 12, 1964, their chosen daughter Paula Lydia was born

Following their marriage Roy was employed in the Peace River area for several months in road construction. Following the birth of their son Archie, they took up permanent residence in Lesllieville, where they resided in their trailer on the farm of Roy's parents north of town

In 1969 Roy sold his machinery and was then employed with the McMeekin Construction Company as foreman until 1974. In April 1971, they purchased a home in Lesllieville which originally had been the Bill Davidson home

Roy was an active member of the Lochearn Masonic Lodge in Rocky Mountain House, a member of the Lesllieville Elks, the Lesllieville Curling Club, the Community Hall Board and the Lesllieville Fire Department

Barbara was a member of the Lesllieville Order of the Royal Purple, the Curling Club, and the Group Committee for Cubs and Scouts of which she was the chairman for two years.

Roy was killed in a motor vehicle accident on December 18, 1974, and was laid to rest in the Lesllieville Cemetery

Barbara was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, spending her early years in Wrentham and later moving to Calgary where she took all of her schooling. Following high school she went to business college and has been employed in the secretarial field for many years. She moved to Lesllieville in 1954 and resided there until moving to Portland, Oregon, for two years.

In 1967, she went back to work as the school secretary at David Thompson High School and was employed there until June 1976, when she

became the secretary for the Superintendent of Schools in Rocky Mountain House.

At the present time their son Archie is attending David Thompson High School and is completing Grade 11. Archie is a member of the Senior Boys' Basketball team, and is very interested in all sports and in restoring antique engines with his maternal grandfather Paul Jones. Paula is also attending David Thompson High School and is completing her Grade 9. She is very interested in all sports and is very musical

**THE WILLIAM AND LAURA RICHARDSON FAMILY — by Vivian Kult**

William Wallace Richardson came to Leslieville in 1915, being transferred from Joffre. He was a pumpman for the C.N.R. Archie, the youngest son, then 13 years old, came with him. They bought S½ 25-39-5-W5, this being raw land which they had to clear and break.

Mrs. Richardson and the rest of the family came in 1918. They lived in the village of Leslieville until 1926, at which time they moved to the farm. This was their home until Mrs. Richardson passed away in 1932 and Mr. Richardson in 1940. There were eight children in their family.

Wallace was the oldest child. He worked on a survey crew in 1900 in the Eckville area. He later was married, and he and his wife, Ida, left Canada and went to Washington, in the U.S.A. in 1922. They had no children, and both have since passed away.

Gertrude married Joe Raven of Lacombe. They had four children. Frank lives in Blackfalds, Bertha Peterson lives in Fort Saskatchewan, Gordon lives in Victoria and Charles is deceased.

Dora married Jake Morden of Prentice. Dora and Gertrude had a double wedding in 1902. Dora and Jake had four children, three of whom are deceased. Jack lives in Calgary.

Bertha married Arthur White of Montana. They later moved to Washington, in the U.S.A. Both are now deceased. They had five children, two of whom are deceased. Elsie, Irene and Vera all live in Washington.

Mary married Roy Barton from British Columbia. He and their oldest daughter died of influenza, and one son, Lloyd, died at Leslieville. Two daughters, Amy Bardwell and Vivian Miller, live in Calgary. Mary married Fred McNeil of Leslieville and both are now deceased.

Raye married Olive Hopkins of Leslieville. They had 11 children, three of whom are deceased. Raye passed away in 1973 in Kamloops, where Olive still lives. Vera lives in Edmonton and Henry, Hilda, Mark, Percy, Laura, Merle and Maude are all in British Columbia.

Maude married Sterling McLeod in 1920. They lived here for four years then went to Oregon, U.S.A., where they still reside. They have five children, all residing in Oregon.

Archie married Mabel Oja in 1928. They lived on the original homestead until 1946, when Archie sold the homestead and bought the Godkin homestead, S½ 1-40-5-W5, which he had been farming for two years. In 1948 Archie sold this land to his son-in-law, William Kult, and built the hotel in Leslieville. The hotel was opened in 1949 and he and Mabel owned and operated it until 1962, when he sold it to Shirley James, from Ontario.

Archie then bought the Dr. Patrick Cummerford homestead where Archie and Mabel retired and still live.

Archie and Mabel had three children, two of whom were born on the farm — Vivian in 1928 and Roy in 1934. Joy was born at the home of a mid-wife, Mrs. Henderson, in the area in 1935.

All three children received their education at the Leslieville school until they reached grade ten. Vivian then went to Calgary for grades 11 and 12. She also worked for T. Eaton's of Canada there for a time. She returned in May, 1947 to the farm and married William Kult of Hespero on December 1 of that year. They resided with William's mother, Mrs. Caroline Kult, for two years before moving to their farm at Leslieville, where they still live. Vivian's school teacher was Miss Cecily Baker, who began teaching the year Vivian began in grade one and left teaching, as Mrs. Chandler, the year that Vivian went from grade six to seven. This required a change of rooms in the school. Mr. William Kirch was a teacher for two years and the rest of her time in Leslieville she was taught by Mr. Edgar Nelson, whose wife was teaching in the junior room.

William and Vivian have four children. Marlene Malcolm, of Markerville, was born in Eckville in October, 1948. Myrna Ross was born in Eckville in September, 1950, and now lives in Whitecourt, Alberta.

Douglas was born in Eckville on January 16, 1953 and he resides at home.

Marie Cannaday was born on January 28, 1954, with Dr. Gibson in charge. The other children were all born with Dr. Coppock in attendance. Marie resides on the home farm with her husband and two daughters, Marlene and Myrna, both of whom have a son and a daughter.

The four children of William and Vivian all received their junior and senior education at Leslieville and David Thompson schools.

Roy received all his education in Leslieville both junior and senior. He married Barbara Jones in 1960. They resided in several places, but finally bought an acreage on the original Richardson homestead. Their two children are Archie, born in 1961 and Paula, born in 1963. They are both in school at David Thompson High School.

Roy was killed in a traffic accident in

December of 1974. Barbara lives on the home place with the children.

Joy married Lester Fontana in 1957 and also they have an acreage on the original homestead They have two children. Debra was born in Red Deer She attended school at Lesliville and David Thompson schools

John was born in Rocky Mountain House in 1966. He is attending school in Lesliville

The mode of travel in the area when the Richardson family came was horse and buggy or saddle horse. Archie bought his first car in 1921 He brought the first gas powered tractor into the district in 1920. He and Raye hauled ties at Nordegg on the ice road until 1928, when trucks moved in. They hauled with men from Eckville, Sylvan Lake, Benalto, Lacombe and many more places. Archie and Raye grew up breaking range broncs for friends and neighbors. Archie also ran a custom threshing crew until the year 1946. He is now 74 years old, and is at present breaking a saddle pony for himself. He used to raise purebred Aberdeen Angus cattle until 1946, but is now raising Murrey-Grey cattle

**RODGERS, JAMES R. — by Harry Rodgers**
**Farewell to Derbyshire**

James R. Rodgers ventured to Canada through the influence of a letter from his nephew, William Rodgers, who had homesteaded on NW ¼ 35-39-6-W5, advising his uncle Jim to come to Canada and take a homestead on SE ¼ 35-39-6-W5

So Jim left Derbyshire, England, in the spring of 1911.

He landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia and travelled by train to Penhold, Alberta, where he arrived with only $17. He did farm work in that district as well as build his shack on the homestead. In the spring of 1912 he was joined by his wife, Louisa Jane and two daughters, Cecilia age nine and May, one and one half years. They made their home on the homestead one part of the year and went with him to Penhold the other part of the year where he worked. The next few years they acquired some livestock which Mrs. Rodgers and family took care of while Jim worked out in the winter in both Cap Card's Sawmill and Daniel McGrandle's Sawmill. Later he worked as a teamster in the winter for several years at the Brazeau Collieries now called Nordegg. He walked from his homestead to Penhold numerous times

Then in 1914 a son, Harry, and in 1916 a daughter, Ida, were additions to the famil

They recall making numerous trips between the homestead and Penhold with team and wagon, fording the Medicine and Horseguard Rivers and going as far as Evarts, for seed grain. As the years went by and the livestock increased he cleared the land with axe and broke it with horses. For years there were not any markets in the country. If you had any hogs or beef you dressed them and sold them to cafes and hotels. The feed was sold to people who had a cow and a team of horses in Rocky Mountain House. This took place all through the 1920's. Son Harry recalls hauling with two outfits at temperatures of fifty below zero

Mr. Rodgers purchased most of his machinery from Stewart Brothers of Penhold, and in 1924 he purchased a new Deering Binder. Harry started mowing hay with a team and mower at the age of nine. In one case he hit a stump and the team broke the eveners and neck yoke and he went at least thirty feet before he got the horses stopped. Then two years later he took to running the binder and has never missed a year of haying since

The family all attended the Beaver Flat School, which had been built in 1909 of hewed logs, later a new school was built in 1925. We often speak of the furnace being capable of freezing out rats. The cold air was vented outside, maybe to warm up Alberta. The family walked to school in the early days and later rode horseback. The district had hundreds of sharp-tailed grouse

In 1923 Cecil was united in marriage to Axel Hogberg who farmed in the Leslieville district They made their home there until his passing

In 1924 Mr. Rodgers quit working out and devoted his full time to the farm, which included milking cows and raising hogs. We used to meet the train at Codner to ship the cream to the Alix creamery. Harry recalls, around 1925, the Leslieville School Fair, to which he took a calf and won first prize which was $3

In 1928 they replaced the old homestead shack with a new home. He also purchased a quarter of land NE 27-39-6-W5 from Stanley Wilson who was well known as secretary of the Beaver Flat School for many years. He purchased his first car "The Biskow", but there were no roads to run it on. In 1929 he had the Mason boys namely Chet and Noel, clear and break thirty-five acres That year was very dry with poor hay and grain crops and not enough snow to sleigh all winter

Then came the thirties and the Rodgers' livestock was increasing. So they purchased NE 35-39-6-W5 from the Soldiers' Settlement Board for son Harry, this quarter being Bert Hilbert's homestead. In those days if you proved up your first homestead before 1925 you were entitled to a second homestead so he took the opportunity and filed on the NE 26-39-6-W5

Harry recalls breaking up on NE 35-39-6-W5 sixty acres with four horses and sulky breaking plow in 1930. In the winter they cut logs and hauled them to a sawmill to have them sawed into lumber for use on the farm. We also cut and sold mine props to bring in a few dollars. Mrs Rodgers filed on a homestead SE 3-40-6-W5 in 1931

In the spring of 1932 at an auction sale of John Kemlia's at Eckville, Alberta they bought a team of Belgian mares for $50 and got five per cent discount for paying cash. In 1935 they

bought a Model A Ford, and in 1936 purchased the first tractor and machinery which he used to break up land. This increased the feed supply

In 1935, daughter May decided to try her hand at working out. She worked in Calgary, Edmonton, and in Red Deer until 1941 when she was united in marriage to Charlie Brown who purchased a welding and blacksmith shop at Markerville, where they made their home until this time

In 1943 son Harry purchased NE 34-39-6-W5 By this time the Rodgers livestock had increased, their farming had increased and in 1946 they purchased their threshing machine and that's when son Harry decided to go into registered cattle In 1948, Harry purchased SW 35-39-6-W5 and his first rubber tired tractor

Mr. Rodgers took great pleasure in looking after the garden and after seeding spent a lot of his time with the vegetables and flowers. Mrs. Rodgers and daughter Ida through the years were active in taking care of the house, picking berries, cooking, raising chickens and turkeys, and made many trips to town with team and democrat to deliver the cream and bring home groceries and mail. Sadness came in December of 1948 when Mrs Rodgers lost her life in an accident on Highway 11 near Benalto, at the age of 71

In the spring of 1949, Mr. Rodgers decided to retire from the farm and built a home in Rocky Mountain House, where he later married Mrs. Mary Hulda Teske. Through his years of retirement Mr Rodgers enjoyed gardening of both vegetables and flowers until his passing in July, 1960 at the age of 81. Mrs. Rodgers enjoyed needlework. She stayed in their home as long as her health allowed, then went to live in Westview Lodge for awhile — then lived with Ray and Ida for a couple of years and later in nursing homes until October, 1975, when she passed away

In 1949 daughter Ida was united in marriage to Raymond Teskey and took up farming on NW 26-39-6-W5 until his passing in February of 1974

**RODGERS, HARRY FAMILY — by Harry Rodgers**

The continuation of the farmstead and the LHR Herefords

In the spring of 1949 Harry Rodgers was united in marriage to Louisa Attfield. They purchased the home place SE-35-39-6-W5 and NE-26-39-6-W5 from Mr. James Rodgers and continued the farming operation. In December of 1950 they purchased a new truck.

In 1951, we became the proud parents of our first child, a daughter, Louisa May. March 17, 1951 was the date of the worst blizzard on record in the country. The railroad between Rocky Mountain House and Red Deer was snow blocked for a week. Harry drove in the blizzard from Red Deer to get home as there was nobody home to do chores. The first combine was purchased in 1952.

In 1953, son Harry James was born into the family By this time a lot of the old buildings had to be replaced, and we lost our grain crop by hail. In 1954 we purchased NW 35-39-6-W5. In 1956 we lost another grain crop by hail. In 1957, Harry decided to raise registered polled Hereford cattle. Harry is a life member of the Hereford Association and the letters LHR Herefords are spread for miles around. He purchased NW-34-39-6-W5 in 1957. In 1958 we had one of the best grain crops that we have known.

In 1959, another daughter, Beverley Irene, was born and the same year we purchased our first self-propelled combine. In 1962, we purchased the first diesel powered tractor and the diesel fuel was eighteen cents per gallon. This same year we quit milking cows and continued with beef cattle and raising hogs

In 1964 we replaced the old home with a new one with modern facilities. In 1967 we purchased SW 34-39-6-W5 which we cleared and broke up, so the farm has one thousand cultivated acres.

Daughter Louisa May competed her education at the Rocky Mountain House School in 1970, and has been a bookkeeper at Rocky Concrete and Construction Limited in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, for the last six years. Son Harry James completed his education at the same school in 1971, and has been occupied farming with his father up to date. Daughter Beverley received her education at Rocky Mountain, Alberta, and has been active helping her parents

Harry recalls hunting and fishing trips back for forty years, bringing out moose horns with a spread of fifty-seven and one-half inches. Back in the days when they used the ferry over the North Saskatchewan River, Harry, upon returning from a hunting trip with an old friend, Carl Linder, found the ferry out, so they had to carry three deer and a moose over the railroad trestle one evening, returning a few days later to bring the car home.

Son Harry James enjoys the same sports and we both hope to continue farming as long as health permits.

**THE SAARELA FAMILY — by Elma Shaw**

Evert Saarela was married to Elvie Luna Kaikkonen in 1912 at Great Falls, Montana. Both of them had come originally from Finland to Michigan, U.S.A., and after their marriage they moved to Helena, and then to Butte, Montana where Evert worked in the mines

Hearing about homestead openings for settlers in Alberta, Evert came in 1913, as far as Red Deer by train (there was no railroad west of Red Deer at that time). From Red Deer he continued on to the Blueberry Hills, to file on his homestead, N W. 17-40-6-W5

Number 11 highway was only a trail, and sloughs had to be dodged around, even on foot. Blueberry Hills got the name from the

blueberries on the hills. They were so abundant that the hills were just blue with the berries

He returned to Montana in 1914 where he worked in the mines during the winter months and then brought his wife and small son, Eino to the homestead in Alberta. During some winters he worked in the mines at Nordegg while Mother stayed on the homestead, doing the chores, taking care of the children, and exchanging home-made butter and eggs for groceries at Leslieville, seven miles away. Elvie was a good horsewoman in her day, as she had learned, while a young girl in Finland, to drive reindeer The three youngest children were born on the homestead with only a neighbor midwife, Mrs. Lampi, delivering the babies

Every summer, for years, the early settlers held an annual picnic, some people coming for miles with team and wagon, each lady bringing some food to add to the picnic dinner. The kindly settlers arranged working bees in the neighborhood when anyone wanted some building done. The ladies had their quilting bees, exchanging ideas, and perhaps some gossip. The pioneer theory was that when the new spuds were big enough to eat, the partridge made good fryers, and rabbits good roasts or stews

The Saarela family had no health problems then, even the 1918 flu epidemic was missed.

Eino started school at Blueberry Valley, at the time not knowing a word of English. There were only six children in the school then (about 1918) and I do not know the teacher's name. Mrs Saarela boarded Leyda Sestrap while she was attending the Blueberry School. Years later Leyda became a doctor of medicine. Mrs Graham was one of the Blueberry Valley teachers. She would carry her young daughter Barbara, the one and one-half miles to the Saarela home to be cared for every school day

In 1922 the Saarelas moved 3½ miles north of Leslieville, S W. 14-40-5-W5, where Eli, and his son Wes, are still farming The children went to Golden Heights school, walking, riding or driving. The school was the community centre. Sunday school, church services or dances were held there at various times. Bill Ennis did the calling for the dances, often arriving just as the children were let out of school, to be sure he would not be late

In the depression years Saarela took some wheat to Eckville to be ground into flour for home use Money was scarce, but no one went hungry The farmers paid part of their taxes by working for the Municipality, doing road work Rabbits were so thick that the green feed stacks were eaten through at the bottom. The buyers wanted rabbits for mink meat, so the second generation boys were quick to round up 22 rifles in order to make a few dollars. Rabbits were killed by the thousands and hauled to railways stations. Often the family watched the prairie chickens doing their chicken dance — a never-to be-forgotten spectacle!

At harvest time the farmers helped one another to get the crops in — only the threshing machine operator had to be paid cash. They were sometimes hailed out, and suffered some wet years but had no real drought problem. The second generation played baseball on some hayfield in summer and in winter time a lot of young people, and some of the parents tried out their skis on what is known as the Leafland Hills

The first family car was a 1925 Chev touring bought in 1926

Eino, the oldest son, was stricken with spinal meningitis on March 1, 1928 and died in the Eckville Hospital on March 28, 1929 at the age of 16 years.

Before his death on December 26, 1963, from a heart attack at the age of 75, Evert Saarela had made two trips to Finland, in 1947 by ocean liner and in 1952 by air, to attend the World Olympics at Helsinki. Elvie Saarela also made two trips to Finland by air, the first in 1960 and the other one in 1974, at the age of 86 years

Mr and Mrs. Saarela celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 23, 1962 In 1966 Mrs. Saarela moved to Eckville to live and passed away there on December 18, 1976 at the age of 86 years. She had suffered a severe stroke on December 10, 1976

The children of Evert and Elsie Saarela were: Eino Evert, born December 19, 1912, and died March 21, 1929, Edward Elmer Saarela, born August 25, 1914, and died January 31, 1973, Elma Elsie Shaw, born March 4, 1916; and Eli Ensio Saarela, born on April 28, 1918

Edward married Nellie Raivio in July, 1934, and they have three boys and two girls. Joyce married Jerry Verhaeghi and they have three boys and two girls. Melvin married Elsie Nygaard and they have one boy and two girls. Hazel lives in Anchorage, Alaska. Vera and Lois live in Rocky Mountain House.

Elma married Lauri Heila in December, 1934 Their children were Elsie, who married Eugene Scott and has two boys, Elvie, who married Robert Labonte, and has one boy and one girl. Lauri died of a heart attack in 1953 and in 1965 Elma married John Shaw

Eli married Violet Hiitala in September of 1947, and they have four children. Eileen married Terry Fedderson, and they have two girls. Beverly married Brian Adams, and they have one boy and three girls. Wesley married Karen David and they have three daughters. Judy married Harley Peterson, and they have one daughter

**THE SALMON FAMILY**

Arthur Luther and Sarah Salmon lived along the Wishka River near Aberdeen, Washington, where sons Norman, Oliver, and Elmer, and daughter Gertie were born. After Arthur had suffered a stroke and was advised to seek a drier climate, he decided to move to Canada. In April,

1912, he arrived by stagecoach at Leslieville, along with his son Norman. In May the rest of the family joined him there. En route, Norman's skill in horsemanship stood him in good stead, as he was driving a team of half-wild broncos, but was even able to help pull out freight wagons that were bogged down in the muskeg near Sylvan Lake.

After living on several rented places, they homesteaded six and one-half miles north of Leslieville. The youngest son, Harry, was born there, on May 7, 1914. In August of that year, Arthur suffered another stroke and died, aged only 52 years.

The older children worked out to help the family get established. Gertie found employment in Red Deer. Norman worked for the Valley Lumber Company, hauling lumber, but also helped out by bringing home wild meat, even training his dog to tree fool hens, which he could then catch in snares. The Salmons were fortunate in having a spring of ice-cold water, which kept the meat fresh for long periods.

Gertie married Herb Card in 1915, and lived in Leslieville.

Norman married Mable Turner.

Oliver Salmon married Edna Stears.

After returning to the United States for two years, Sarah came back with her family to the homestead, and raised her two grandchildren, Jim and May, there.

Elmer was married to Alice Johnson; they farmed for a time, and later moved to live in Rocky Mountain House.

After the grandchildren grew up, Sarah sold the farm and moved to Leslieville, then to Rocky Mountain House, where she passed away in 1963.

Sarah Salmon and Lottie Stears. May, Marion, Jim, and Clarence Salmon

Grandma Salmon's old home. May Salmon with her hunting trophies. (Skunks)

**SALMON, ELMER**

Elmer Salmon married Alice Johnson in 1926, and they lived at first near Wayne, Alberta, where their first daughter, Lorraine was born.

The family returned to Leslieville, to the place across from the Blueberry Valley School, where two more daughters, Gertie and Shirley, were born.

Elmer has always been a very sociable and sports minded person, and entered enthusiastically into sleigh-riding parties and all other sports. January 1 is his birthday, and he made it a gay occasion, serving up pancakes to feed all merrymakers who came by to join in their winter fun.

In 1940 the family moved to Rocky Mountain House, where Elmer operated a sawmill near Buster Creek, and also worked at trucking lumber. Later, he worked on the Brazeau dam. While they were in Rocky Mountain House, another daughter, Carol, was born, in 1945.

Alice died in 1946.

Their eldest daughter, Lorraine, married John Winchester, and they had five children. Alice, now Mrs. Dan Hewitt, lives in Rocky Mountain House, and has three children, Diana, Danny John, and Keri. Cynthia, now Mrs. Paul Roberge, lives in Beaumont, Alberta, and has two children, Monique and Denis. John married Lannie Hanson, and they now live in Spain, they have one son, Leland. Glen married Laurel Dean Dickson, and lives in Leslieville, where his wife is now postmistress, they have a daughter, Janet. Nancy, now Mrs. Carney Koiza, lives in Nordegg, and has one child, Shyla.

Lorraine was later divorced and remarried to Glen Carlson. They have a daughter, Kristyne.

Gertie Salmon, now Mrs. Galvin, has two

children, Patricia and Darcy, and lives at Drayton Valley. She lost a son, Daniel, who died on January 17, 1978.

Shirley (Mrs. Roditka) has four children, Connie (Mrs. John Berkeley, who has a son, Joshua), Shelley, and twins, Rhonda and Ronald.

Carol (Mrs. Larry Bergen) had two children, Pamela and Ed. Carol was killed in a tragic highway accident in 1977; she was living in Alder Flats at the time.

**SALMON, GERTIE (Mrs. Herb Card)**

Gertie Salmon married Herb Card in 1915. They farmed near Lesliеville, and also operated a sawmill. They had four children, Howard, Jervold, Roy, and Jeanie.

After selling their farm, they moved to Joffre, where they operated a lumber yard and a gas station. Later they moved to a farm on the eastern outskirts of Red Deer, which is now the Eastview subdivision. Herb died in 1975, after a lengthy illness.

Howard now lives in Vancouver, and has two children, Raymond and Judy (Mrs. Williams) now of Courtenay, British Columbia.

Jervold married Dorothy Costeno; they have six children, Donna, Gail (Mrs. Slosher), Linda, Susan (Mrs. Leduc), Brian and Randy.

Jervold now runs a trucking business in Red Deer.

Gertie Card now lives in Red Deer with her daughter, Jeanie.

**SALMON, HARRY**

Harry worked on the farm, helping his mother until Jim was big enough to take over. Harry was a musician for country dances. He and Eli Saarela would make fine music, usually getting to the dances on horseback.

Harry worked on many different jobs, from construction on the Alaska Highway to equipment operator on the Pacific coast. He had a welding shop in Taber before coming back to Rocky Mountain House. In 1943 he married Irene Allen. He started in the trucking business, hauling lumber from saw mills to Rocky Mountain House. He and his son Art are still in the trucking business after 35 years, hauling mostly big machines.

Harry and Irene have seven children.

Anetha married Bob Glover; they have four children; Arthur is not married, Ken married Colleen Fisher, and they have two children, Lloyd married Janet Dyer and they have one child; Judy married Melvin Lougheed, they have two children; Terry and Tena are both at home.

**SALMON, NORMAN**

After leaving home, Norman married Mable Turner, and they had two children, Jim and May. Jim was born while the family lived at Sunnynook.

Norman then obtained employment at Nakusp, British Columbia, and May was born there. Mable died when May was only two months old, and the children were taken to be raised by their grandmother at Lesliеville.

Norman returned to Aberdeen, Washington, where he became a surveyor and engineer for the city, and designed several bridges over the Chehalis River, as well as engineering the water system for the city. He married Dorothy Turner, the sister of his first wife, and they have three children, Miriam, Bob, and Tom.

Jim Salmon married Hilda Schuel, and they have five children. They live in Fruitvale, B.C.

May married Percy Nelson, and they have two children. She died in 1975.

Miriam married Lewis Stevens, and has three children.

Bob married Mary Wald; they have three children.

All the family now live near Aberdeen, Olympia, and Seattle.

**SALMON, OLIVER**

Oliver Salmon married Edna Stears in 1924. He worked on the railroad near Lethbridge, where their children, Lenard, Marion, and Clarence were born.

Oliver was a qualified steam engineer, and worked at lumber mills, and on the old-time threshing outfits. He later worked in the mines at Nordegg, and when they closed, he farmed near the Blueberry Valley School, on the land previously belonging to his brother, Elmer. When the one-room schools were phased out, he bought the Blueberry Valley School, which he converted into his farmhouse.

Edna died in December, 1976, and Oliver in May, 1977.

Lenard married Cleo Kiser, and now lives in Harrowgate, British Columbia.

Marion married Jack Sterling, and they have seven children, all living at Rocky Mountain House.

Clarence married Doreen Mason, and they have two children. They also live in Rocky Mountain House.

**SANDE, SAMUEL (SAM) AND ADA**

Samuel Olai Johansen Sande was born at Bergen, Norway, October 19, 1888. He came to Alberta in 1910 and homesteaded the SE 25-40-6-W5, in the Bingley district. He enlisted in World War I in the Canadian Forestry Corps and was overseas for four years. After he returned from overseas he bought the W 8-40-5-W5 in the Beaver Flat district from his sister, Olga Grosseth and her husband, Louis.

While in England he met Ada Cartwright Thompson. Ada was born in Hetton-le-hole, Durham, England on March 22, 1897. She worked in the munitions factory during World War I.

She came to Canada in 1926 with her husband Jim Thompson and two small children, Ada and

Jim, later another son, John was born. Divorce followed and Ada worked at Claresholm, Gleichen and for the Bower family in Red Deer. She received a beautiful black mare, of which she was very proud, from the Bower family.

Sam and Ada were married on December 8, 1930 in Red Deer and lived on their farm at Beaver Flat. They have three chidlren. Norman born October 24, 1931, married Beth Woodward and they have four children, Janet, David, Brian and Karen. Irene born July 16, 1933 married Brian Marshall and they have three children, Kathy, Micheal and James. Alma born, February 8, 1938 married Melvin Oja and they have two sons, Dwayne and Randolph. Step daughter Ada married Leon Denstone and they have three children, Carole Ann, Audrey Mae and Gary; stepson Jim married Teresa Faulkner and they have five children, Barbara married George Lloyd who was killed in an accident and she is remarried to Mark Ririe. Waltereena married Ken Terry and they have two children, Jim and Marie. Derek married Barbara Comeau; Doreen married Gordon Hainsworth and they have two children, Matt and Kevin; Jean married Mickey Turney and they have one son, Chris, stepson John married Margaret Bremmer and she has one son, Lloyd married Linda and they have three children, Roger, Ricky and Lance. Lloyd is remarried to Judy and they have one daughter, Celia.

Sam and Ada Sande, 1930

It was a hard life clearing the land and farming in the summer, and working in the bush and lumbering in the winter, but a happy life.

Sam liked to hunt and fish. He often went hunting with his half brother, Sigurd, and his friend Leif Skagen. He also had many happy and successful fishing trips with his good friend, John Oja. Ada is very fond of singing and music, enjoys knitting and her vegetable garden and beautiful flower garden. They owned a Plymouth car and many good horses. Sam was a Masonic member of Lochearn Lodge No. 151.

Sam's and Ada's marriage was very happy but was cut short by his untimely passing away in April, 1940 at 51 years of age. He was buried in the Leslieville Cemetery. It was a very sad day for his beloved wife and family, and his many, many good friends, as Sam was a very quiet, kind and well liked man by all who knew him.

**THE SIGURD AND ASTRID SANDE FAMILY**

Sigurd Olai Sande was born in Sande, Indre Holmedals, Sunnfjord, Norway, May 11, 1883. After completing his education, he clerked for two years in each of these stores in Sande, first at Lyder Sivertsen, and then at M. Johannessen. They both gave him a high character rating. Leaving his fiancee behind, he emigrated to Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1903 and worked in the U.S.A. for three years before leaving Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1906 to go homesteading in Alberta. Carrying a few belongings he walked west from Red Deer and spent one night in the shelter of a wall of the old fort at Rocky Mountain House, where today only the "Chimneys" remain.

He homesteaded on the NW 18-40-5-W5 in the Bingley district, approximately 50 miles northwest of Red Deer. He walked to Red Deer for supplies and mail, and later he walked to Evarts for them. Andrew Sande, who homesteaded at the same time, filed on the quarter section adjoining Sigurd's land on the south. These ingenious Vikings built one large sod-roofed log barn, half of it on each quarter section, which meant a saving of two walls. In the summer months Sigurd broke the land with oxen and in the winter he worked in the lumber camps operated by Martin and McDougal.

In 1909-1910, Sigurd returned to Sande, Sunnfjord, Norway, to visit his fiancee, Astrid L.

Sigurd Sande's two storey log house he built on his homestead in 1907-1908

Sande, and his relatives. While he was away, Andrew looked after his place and did the chores. Astrid L. Sande was born in Bergen, Norway, on June 17, 1882. At the early age of two she moved with her parents to Sande, Sunnfjord. She took all her education there. She was a member of the Lutheran Church Choir in Sande for many years. In June, 1911, Astrid and Olga, a sister of Sigurd, arrived in Red Deer, where Sigurd met them with horses and buggy. Astrid and Sigurd were married in the St. Luke's Church in Red Deer on June 19, 1911. Sigurd brought his bride and his sister to the two-storey log house he had built on the homestead. They were blessed with three sons and three daughters.

Svanhild — born May 17, 1912, married to Angus Leslie Martin August 7, 1947. They have one daughter.

Alma Louise — born October 15, 1913, married to Knut Olav Sunde December 27, 1940. They have one son, three daughters and seven grandchildren.

John David — born April 26, 1915, married to Janet Stefox July 2, 1939. They have two sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. Janet died April 30, 1973.

Magda Leonora — born May 27, 1917, married to Leonard LeRoy Billings November 30, 1946. They have two daughters and two grandsons.

Leonord Sigurd — born March 9, 1920, married to Audrey Kathleen Colbeck July 20, 1946. They have two sons and two grandsons.

Clifford Martin — born April 4, 1922, married to Mildred Patricia Yurkiw February 27, 1954. They have three sons, one daughter and two grandchildren. Clifford died February 7, 1965.

Sigurd and Astrid's first child, Svanhild, was born on a very special day as May 17 is Norway's National Day. For many years, their cozy log house on the homestead was the scene of many happy gatherings of Norwegians in the district. The Sande hospitality was known far and wide to the early pioneers and travellers of many nationalities. Many social evenings were enjoyed by neighbors. Those who played musical instruments brought them and played for the dancing and singing. They also enjoyed listening to the new Thomas Edison phonograph that Sigurd had bought. Astrid's culinary skill was very evident in the meals she prepared for her family, threshing crew or visitors. One could never say "No" to a slice of her homemade bread and butter and a cup of freshly brewed coffee.

Sigurd and Astrid, like their pioneer neighbors, had their own language, religion, culture and lifestyle. How was the language barrier overcome? Timothy Eaton's Catalogue

Sigurd and Astrid Sande Family, and Sande — Sande wedding, 1940. Back row: Leonard and Svanhild Sande, Knut and Alma Sande, Magda, Clifford and John Sande. Front row: Sigurd Sande, niece, Irene and Alma Sande and Astrid Sande.

and the Almanac played an important part. As small children living on the homestead, Alma remembers that when the Almanac had come, her sister, Svanhild, asked their mother, "Is there a Svanhildnac?"

In the opening up of this area, these pioneers knew hardships, isolation and loneliness, but as the language barriers were overcome the common problems called for co-operation so a process of acculturation was achieved by close personal friendships and mutual respect. Sigurd and Astrid were keenly interested in the progress of the country. Sigurd helped to establish the Bingley School District No. 2585 in 1911 and in 1912 he cut logs for the first school house which was completed in 1913. The treasurer was Mr. J. W. Christian, and the trustees were Mr. Sam Larsgard, George Diggins and Sigurd who was chairman of the board. After moving to the Beaver Flat School District No. 1914 in 1918, Sigurd served as school trustee for that district for many years. In 1925, the school taxes on his quarter section of land in Bingley were $17.69.

The little log schoolhouse became the community center and truly united all nationalities. Regardless of rain or sunshine, families for many miles around came by team and wagon or on horseback to participate in the picnic. The first picnic that Sigurd and Astrid and Olga enjoyed was at Beaver Flat and Olga still laughs when she tells how she shocked everyone when she hoisted her long skirt above her knees at the beginning of the ladies' race that she won.

Other entertainment included the Chautauqua held in the Leslieville community in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Sigurd and his brother Sam, were two of the guarantors. Also there were the silent movies, e.g. "Ben Hur". The annual Farmers' Ball in the Leslieville Hall in the 1920's drew a good crowd of adults, and children as well, as the spelling bee was held at the same time. This was a popular event in which many schools participated and entered only their best spellers. The school Christmas concert was an annual event and enjoyed by everyone in the packed schoolhouse.

Astrid often mentioned how she enjoyed her first Christmas here when Sigurd took her to the Leslieville Church Christmas program, and although she did not understand the language, the church atmosphere, the choir singing carols and Mr. J. Reilly giving the Christmas message meant so much to her. Christmas Eve on the homestead was very special. The tree, decorated with homemade streamers, balls, and paper hearts woven in two colors, was put in the centre of the living room. Astrid, Sigurd and their little children joined hands and walked around the tree and sang "Silent Night" and other carols in Norwegian. Astrid's beautiful singing is a joy to remember.

Before 1920, Sigurd and Astrid helped to organize the first Lutheran Congregation at Leslieville and they were members during the years it existed. Services were held in the members' homes. Sigurd was secretary-treasurer from 1923 until 1930. The pastors at this time were Rev. B. Guldseth, Rev. Olaf Asper and Rev. Elle. Astrid and Sigurd were faithful contributors of donations to the mission field throughout their lives.

Sigurd's brother, Samuel Olai Sande, another community-minded man, homesteaded SE 25-40-6-W5 in the Bingley district in 1910. He enlisted in World War One and after returning from the war he bought W½ 8-40-5-W5. He and Sigurd worked together for several years to harvest their crops. One fall was exceptionally wet and Sam, who had his own blacksmith shop, helped design and build a large wheel that carried the horse-drawn binder over wet fields so they managed to harvest their crops.

Not only were schools and churches needed but roads were badly needed. There were road allowances, but many of these were not fenced, not even a snake-rail fence. Herds of horses, freed from the lumber mills that operated only during the winter months, roamed the country until more settlers homesteaded the land. Sigurd was a road councillor for twenty-five years and a reeve for twelve years of the Municipal District of Lochearn No. 401, Leslieville, Alberta. During his early years as a councillor, he travelled on horseback and helped many a family in the flu epidemic of 1918-1919. His district covered the area north from his homestead to the North Saskatchewan River, west and north of Rocky Mountain House. After he bought one of the first cars, a model - T Ford, his work took him in many directions to help people get to the doctor. Since Sigurd was on the end of the telephone line in that area, the family had to relay the message to neighbors for many miles regardless of weather and road conditions. Most of the road work had to be done by hand in the early days which meant digging ditches with a shovel. Low-lying area roads were corduroyed to make them passable in the rainy season. This meant covering the road with small 10-16 foot logs and then covering the logs with dirt, using a wheelbarrow and shovel. Later, came the horse-drawn machinery, such as the slip for two horses, and the fresno where four horses were used, then the two-wheeler-like slip that needed two or four horses. In later years, the small grader was used and many a mile has been built using horse-power from six to twelve horses, depending on the size of the grader. Then followed the mechanized road building machinery. The Municipal District was divided into six divisions for many years until it became Local Improvement District No. 10. Shortly after that, the local schools were organized into the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15. Part of the Lochearn Municipal District is now in the Lacombe School Division. Sigurd spent many long hours attending council and school meetings, and most of

them without a stipend, mainly because there was no money, anyway. Astrid's kind consideration for others and willingness to help all was her first thought. This greatly assisted her husband to carry out his duties as councillor, reeve, and school trustee

The Sande children attended the Beaver Flat School No. 1914 that was established in 1908 and opened in 1909. For several years the school opened in May and continued throughout the summer until Christmas. Most of the time the children walked the two and one half miles, but what a pleasure it was when they had three saddle horses to ride to school. During the years that the six Sande children attended Beaver Flat school the teachers were Miss Edmundson, Miss I Strong, Miss V Leather, Miss A. Joslin, Mrs. C. N Beebe, Miss N Wade, Mr J Grant, Miss L Lytle, Mrs McDonald, Mr. Wm McRoberts and Mr T Bowhay

Being farmers, Sigurd and Astrid were keenly interested in growing high quality produce. This was evinced in the prizes they won at the fair sponsored by the Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society in the years 1927 28 29. Top awards for wheat, barley, oats, corn and many vegetables were received. Astrid enjoyed sewing and knitting and won several prizes at the fair for her needlecraft. In the 1930's Sigurd won prizes for his grains at the provincial seed fairs and at the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, Ontario. In 1936, Svanhild won first prize for beans at the Toronto Royal and the following year at the same fair, John and Leonard won first and second, respectively, for oats. All three Sande boys were members of the Leslieville Grain Club and won prizes for their grain plots and also for the threshed grain at the seed fair. John was leader of the Club for a few years. This shows that the family farm has its merits

Sigurd and Astrid were active members of the Leslieville School Fair Board. Their six children won scholarships and a trip to the Olds School of Agriculture for highest number of points. In recognition of their high quality produce, the Olds School of Agriculture presented them with a variety of shrubs and fruit trees to plant on the farmstead. Their beautiful garden attracted many visitors

Also, they raised cattle and had some registered Shorthorns and Herefords. From this fine herd of Hereford cattle, 4-H Beef Club members purchased animals that won the grand championships several times.

In 1935, Astrid went to Norway on a well-deserved holiday to visit her father, sisters, and a brother whom she had not seen since she left in 1911. When she returned in February, 1936, a terrible blizzard was raging in this area. The bus driver, Gordon Sorenson, drove his bus off his regular route to Rocky Mountain House to her farm home, 10 miles north of Alhambra, to make sure she got home safely. This brings to mind the many hazards of winter encountered when travelling. The mailman, Thomas Ogden of the Bingley post office in the early years, fought drifts and cold winds for several miles and this meant weary horses and driver by the time they got to the Sigurd Sande farm. Here he came in to thaw out and have a spot of tea. Sigurd was ready with his team and sleigh to take Tom the rest of the way to Leslieville and back to the farm. Now Tom could hitch up his rested horses and resume his tough journey with renewed energy

Sigurd enjoyed hunting moose, elk and deer in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. He had many sets of large horns. As an avid fisherman, he enjoyed catching trout in the west country streams

The Depression came and it left its mark even on the hardiest of pioneers who had already had a rough time. Sigurd was shipping a carload of cattle to Calgary, but before the train personnel would load the cattle, freight charges had to be prepaid. Upon receipt of the cheque for this carload of cattle, he realized less than he had paid for the freight! Many cases of hardship, never to be forgotten, were prevalent but these hardy pioneers never gave up. Food was not scarce nor expensive, neither was clothing nor shoes, but they had no cash to purchase them. Eggs were selling for three cents per dozen. Flour sacks were not only used for underwear, but also for shirts, blouses and dresses. Astrid didn't need a pattern to make these garments, she designed them herself, and made many pretty clothes from snow-white flour sacks and from printed flour sacks. These thrifty, frugal, honest, hard-working people persevered through the 'Dirty 30's", and also through World War Two when rationing came into effect for the following: gasoline, sugar, jam, jelly, coffee, tea, canned milk, butter, and meat

When the Women's Institute was organized in the Beaver Flat district Astrid was one of its active members

After the Rocky Mountain School Division No 15 was established Sigurd was Divisional School trustee for several years. He served as a school trustee for over forty-five years, both on the local school boards and on the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 Board. A crowd of more than 750 people gathered on February 11, 1958, for the opening ceremonies at the David Thompson High School, which Sigurd was instrumental in having located on the site near Condor. Sigurd Sande was honored that evening for his long years of service when the Hon. A. J. Hooke presented him with a gold wristwatch engraved with these words. "40 YEARS SCHOOL TRUSTEE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 15" Later, in 1960, a set of encyclopedia was presented to the David Thompson High School in Sigurd Sande's name. In the November 1, 1974 issue of "Red Deer County News", Mr Dave Pearson, a trustee of the Rocky Mountain School Division No. 15 at the

same time as Sigurd, has high praise for the many trustees he has worked with. He singled out the high-minded conduct of men like Sigurd Sande.

Astrid and Sigurd resided on their farm all their lives and kept very active. Astrid died on December 1, 1960.

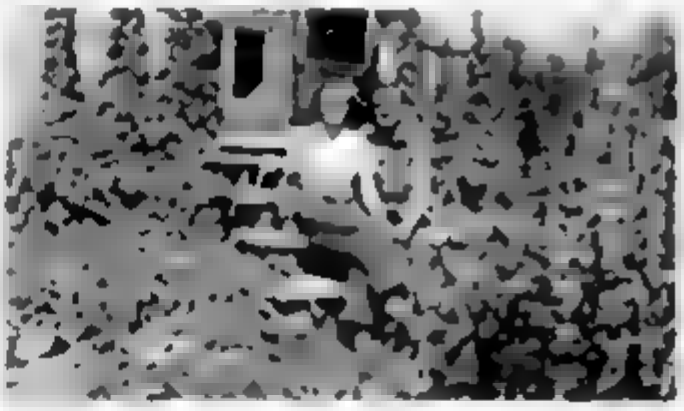
Sigurd continued to be active in his farming and cow-calf operations. He was active in community affairs and keenly interested in world affairs. He died on October 21, 1963.

**SANDE, THE JOHN D. AND JANET FAMILY — (By John D. Sande)**

I completed my schooling at the Beaver Flat school in 1930 where my family lived. Through the years before I married Henry Stelfox's second daughter, Janet, I helped with the work on the farm. Dad had just bought a 22-36 International tractor, disc, and a breaking plow; then a year later, a Waterloo threshing machine so we had to go to work at whatever we could get to keep up the payments on all of this equipment through the thirties when prices on farm products dropped to an all-time low. In the summer months we cleared and broke land on Dad's homestead and did custom breaking around the neighborhood. In the fall it was the same, we went out threshing, so besides the home farming we had lots of work to do. This continued after I got married to Janet on July 2, 1939. I was building my own house on the family farm and this is how I got my lumber. Through the winter months we took out logs on the Wolf Creek that was eighteen miles to the north-west of us. We travelled by team and sleigh when there was snow and by wagon when the roads permitted it. Dad and my brothers put in many a cold trip to bring out the lumber, slabs, and some firewood. This lumber was sawed by Ralph Evans and his crew from east of Lesleville when he had his mill on the Wolf Creek. The forest fire became quite a thing in the spring before the new grass got tall enough. We still had some logs and some lumber that we were unable to get out in the winter months which got burned. The price of lumber at the mill in those years was $7 for rough and $10 for planed per thousand. After our second winter in the timber we took a permit to supply a dairy farmer east of Red Deer with all the material he needed for a small barn at $18 a thousand, delivered.

In the spring of 1939 I undertook a different type of work — to build a house to live in after we were married. I built it on Dad's home place out of the best lumber from our winters' work. But the time came to be married and I still had some of the house to finish so we lived with my folks the first year.

July 1, 1939, was a nice bright morning after many a rainy day so Dad and I went to see how many mud holes we had to fix between home and Rocky Mountain House so we could get to the first wedding of our family by car. We got the mud holes repaired with logs and dirt so they really looked good. But by mid-afternoon we had a different outlook on the whole bright day earlier. Black clouds came up and the wind blew stronger. One of the worst hailstorms hit that area, such destruction had never been seen before. Our early morning work went down the road so Dad and I spent from early evening until early the next morning getting back home with the car. So to the pasture I went for the horses so we could get to my wedding in time with team and wagon and the 12 miles to go. But the bright sun and the blue sky really made me forget the night before till I looked at the bare fields that had been all green with grain, and the trees that were stripped of their leaves! Uncle Sam, Dad's brother, and his wife, Aunt Ada, came to the wedding in their democrat and team of nice sorrels. They brought my wife, Janet, and me back home instead of us going back in the big heavy lumber wagon.



Janet and John Sande on front steps of Sigurd Sande Home

Our first son, David, arrived on May 30, 1940 during the early part of World War II. It was a time of great uncertainty but we carried on the best we could. We continued farming and growing everything that was in demand. In 1941 we moved into our own home. The next year, on April 20, our first daughter, Agnes, was born. The uncertainty caused by the war continued — I got my notice to stay close to my home. Our second son, Harold, arrived on January 18, 1945, a cold day.

Towards the end of the war we decided we should try to get a farm of our own. The family would soon be of school age and we hoped to get land closer to the school than I had been so that they would not have the long distance to go that I had travelled. We got the farm known as the Washburn place, the N E-1-40-6-W5 which was one mile south of Dad's. It had a nice set of buildings except for quite a small old house, compared to the one we had built on the family farm. That fall our son, David, started school at Beaver Flat. Next summer our second daughter Helen, arrived on August 25, 1947. As the children

reached school age they continued their education at Beaver Flat until it was closed and then they were bused to school at Rocky Mountain House

In 1951 I moved the new house we had built on the home place down to our farm to replace the old one because we were all looking forward to getting electricity on the farm. Our farming operations got bigger as the family was able to help. The last few years that we were on the farm we had 20 milk cows, around 75 pigs of all ages, as well as beef cattle and a nice flock of sheep. We got our start in sheep from the University of Alberta Experimental Farm, Edmonton

In 1956 we left the farm. Our younger daughter needed extra teaching and training so in the fall term, after a big decision, we went to the city of Edmonton to live and start new work. This meant the family had to take a close look at what each one wanted to get started in. Janet and I got work at the new School for the Deaf that was to open in the fall. David was in his last year of high school, Agnes was in her last year of junior high, Harold was in his last year of elementary, and Helen went by bus to her school for the handicapped for special training. The farm life was missed by all of us. The last few years at the School for the Deaf, Janet was a house mother with 15 little deaf boys, ages five to eight years. She really enjoyed the chance to help them get started in life

In 1973 Janet took ill and spent a few months in the hospital. She passed away on April 30, 1973, and was greatly missed by her family and many others for her cheerful smile at all times. A year later I had completed eighteen years at the school and I moved back to the country to live west of Millet in the Pipestone community.

As David and Agnes have compiled their own histories, I will write only about Harold and Helen.

Harold completed his senior high school and then attended the Olds Agricultural College for two years. After graduating he worked on different jobs. When he worked in Red Deer at Corbett Auto Electric Shop, he met Barbara Jean Storey, the youngest daughter of Carl and Gladys Storey of Red Deer. They were united in marriage on September 3, 1966. They have one son, Darryl, and one daughter, Nicole. They bought the Pipestone General Store which they operate at the present time

Helen took different types of training to help her as she is handicapped. She attended the school at Edmonton Centre, and the Alberta School Hospital, now known as Michener Centre, Red Deer. At present she is at Wetaskiwin in a Group Home and goes to the Horizon Unlimited Work Shop

**SANDE, THE DAVID, BARBARA, NEIL AND CRAIG FAMILY**

John and Janet Sande's first child was born May 30, 1940 in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital and was named David Joseph. David was the eldest grandchild on both parents sides (Sande and Stelfox) and reaped the early benefits of attention from grandparents, aunts and uncles.

On July 13, 1963 David married Barbara Jean Woywitka whom he had met in 1958 on a scaffold, while decorating the U of A gymnasium for a dance, and had dated through their University days. On March 14, 1969 their first child Neil David was born. Two years later their second son Craig Martin was born on April 26, the same birthdate as his grandfather John Sande

David was very fortunate to have had the opportunity of varied educational experiences. From 1946-1953 he attended Beaver Flat School - a one room country school with grades one to eight. In 1954 and 1955 he was bussed to the much larger Rocky Mountain House School. Following his family's move to Edmonton in the early fall of 1956 David attended Strathcona Composite High School for two years and graduated in the spring of 1956.

In September of 1956 he enrolled at the U of A in the first year of the Bachelor of Physical Education degree program from which he graduated in 1961. In 1966 David returned to the University of Alberta and in 1968 completed his M.A. in Administration. Following two years of study at the University of Oregon in Eugene, David graduated in 1975 with a Ph.D. in Education.

David's formal work experiences include assisting on the family farm until they moved to Edmonton in 1956. Summer work between high school or University terms were as follows

1957 — Work as a carpenter's helper building the David Stelfox house at Ellerslie

1958-'59 — A labourer and truck driver at Gunnar Uranium Mines on Lake Athabasca

1960-'62 — Roller operator on asphalt paving crews in the Edmonton vicinity

In September of 1962 David began work as a high school teacher of physical education, biology and chemistry at Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton where he worked until June of 1965. Following the completion of his masters degree course work in 1967 David was hired by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation of the U of A where he has continued to work, and is now an Associate Professor

Since his youth David has maintained an interest in physical education and sports and has continued to participate as an athlete, coach or sports administrator. As an undergraduate David was a student manager with the Golden Bear Hockey team and active in Block "A" activities. For a period of 10 years from 1964 to 1974 David was the Director of a High School Recreation Leadership Training Program at O'Leary Composite High School. As a high school teacher he coached football, basketball, wrestling, volleyball and track and field and was active on

CAHPER executive — President 1967. While at the U of A he served as an assistant football coach with the Golden Bears during the late 60's and early 70's.

In 1977 David was chairman of the Canadian Gymnastic Championships in Edmonton. He also served as Deputy Chairman of the 1978 Commonwealth Games Sports Division. As his children grew and showed an interest in sport he acted as a community soccer and hockey coach.

David's childhood days were filled with the excitement of active farm life punctuated by play with brother Harold and sisters Agnes and Helen and the ever present pets (dogs, cats and rabbits). Earliest recollections are of racing downhill to Grandma Sande's, a distance of about 30 yards to greet her and share some cold oatmeal cereal and sugar. Further memories highlight trips to visit Grandma and Grandpa Stelfox in Rocky Mountain House to watch Grandma Stelfox's canary or to sit in a huge stuffed chair with his brother and sisters to hear Grandpa Stelfox spin tales. Christmas, birthdays and other special occasions always meant visits with aunts, uncles and cousins and were very exciting occasions.

As a youth David had major interests in school, sports and livestock. Though never top of the class, David found school a real challenge and never faced any major difficulties. Hunting and Fishing with Grandpa Sande were always exciting. In the fall of 1954 while hunting with Grandpa Sande David shot his first moose. Often after fishing trips, while driving home from Chambers Creek or one of the tributaries of Prairie Creek, David would have to reach to the car's accelerator and pull Grandpa Sande's foot off when a cramp in the thigh would cause him to tramp the accelerator to the floor sending the car lunging through narrow logging roads or the ever present frost boils of Highway 11.

School and community sports days and baseball teams were always important activities for David. During one busy spring he played on two different school teams, a bantom team and a community team.

David's interest in livestock was carefully tutored by his father and led to a deep love of all livestock. This interest was further generated into active participation in the Rocky Mountain House 4H Beef Club and special interest in the records of the farm dairy herd, sheep and hogs. It was also during this period, with many successive years of severe hail damage to crops, that David became aware of the significant gamble involved in farming.

There is absolutely no question that the most significant event of David's adult live was his marriage to Barbara, and their many years of shared joys and sorrows. Their honeymoon was his first significant extended trip and due primarily to Barbara's great love of travel they journeyed to Europe in the summer of 1965, to Expo in Montreal in 1967 and then after Neil and Craig were born they made many camping trips with major journeys in 1974 down the Pacific Coast of the U.S.A. and in 1976 to Montreal for the Olympics. In January of 1977 David and Barbara with Dave's brother Harold and his wife Barbara purchased a quarter section of land in the Pipestone district just east of Pigeon Lake. The purchase came as a result of being forced to sell land in the Cow Lake area of the Rocky Mountain House District when taxes were raised substantially as a result of the land being declared recreational. This sale saw a severance of David's physical relationship with the Rocky Mountain House area but has led to increased pleasure for Barb and Dave in teaching their sons Neil and Craig to ride horses and to share the beauty of the country and the efforts of farm activities while visiting their new farm.

Following her marriage to David, Barbara continued to teach physical education and mathematics at Jasper Place Composite High School until Christmas of 1968 — three months before Neil was born. Barbara has always been very active in church and community activities. She has served Southminster United Church as a choir member, a Sunday School teacher and as an active committee member. Her community activities have included curling, squash, yoga and very active membership on the Parents' Advisory Committee for Greenfield Elementary School's Bilingual program as well as Vice Chairperson of the Alberta branch of the Parents For French Organization. The demands of homemaking have been further challenged by the needs of two very active boys and Barbara has spent hours in support of their activities.

Neil and Craig are typical of most elementary school aged children. They are both in the French BIlingual Program and along with an enthusiasm for school they share their parent's interest in athletics with their own involvement in swimming, skating, hockey, soccer and music activities. Often the backyard is filled with neighborhood children engaged in some boisterous play endeavors. Both boys have taken an active interest in the Boy Scout program — Neil in Cubs and Craig in Beavers.

It is with continued pride and pleasure that Barbara and David watch their children grow and mature in their understanding of man and his world.

**CRITCHLEY, THE IAN AND AGNES FAMILY**

Agnes Kathleen, first daughter of John and Janet Sande, was born in the Rocky Mountain House Hospital on April 30, 1942. She attended school at Beaver Flat, Rocky Mountain House, and Edmonton where she graduated. After completing her high school she worked for several years at the Edmonton Centre for the handicapped. While working there she met Walter Ian Critchley who was driving the bus for the handicapped to the Centre. In 1964 Ian joined the army and was transferred to Kingston, Ontario,

New Year's Day, 1970 at J. Sande Home. Back row: Ian Critchley, Barbara, Harold and David Sande. Second row: Agnes Critchley, Helen, Barbara, and Janet Sande. Front row: Peter Critchley, Darryl and Neil Sande

the following year. In 1965 Agnes and Ian were married and lived at Kingston where Ian was a Captain in the Canadian Army. They returned to Edmonton in August, 1969. Ian attended University in the faculty of Education and graduated in 1973.

They have three sons, Peter Ian born July 1968, Charles Richard born August, 1972, and Michael David born September, 1977.

When Agnes thinks back to times spent with her grandparents, she thinks of Grandma Sande's homemade butter, and cleaning out the wooden butter bowl, of being old enough to be allowed to pick raspberries in Grandpa Sande's prized raspberry patch after he was assured that she knew how to pick without damaging the plants. She remembers being allowed to play their phonograph with its cylindrical records.

**BILLINGS, THE FAMILY OF LEONARD AND MAGDA**

Magda Leonora the third daughter of Sigurd and Astrid Sande, was born on the homestead on May 27, 1917. She got her schooling at Beaver Flat and Alhambra. During these years she won many awards for outstanding achievements in sports. At the Provincial Meet held in Red Deer, she placed first for the 100 yard dash, the 440 yard, and the 880 yard.

On November 30, 1946, she was united in marriage to Sgt. Leonard LeRoy Billings of Spokane, Washington.

They are blessed with two daughters. Beverley Lee, born September 8, 1948 and Eleanor Sigrid, born April 9, 1955. Beverley and Eleanor attended school at Penhold, Innisfail, and Red Deer, receiving their high school diplomas at the Lindsay Thurber High School. After graduation, Bev worked as an operator for AGT in Red Deer and Calgary. In 1967 Bev was united in marriage to E. Dwayne Tester and they are blessed with two sons, Edwin Grant and Gregory Scott. Dwayne has his Master's degree as an electrician and operates his own shop at Bowden.

Eleanor furthered her education by attending Humber College in Toronto, graduating with honors in public relations, general arts and science. In Toronto she was very active in Big Brothers. Four years later she returned to Red Deer and at present she is on the board of directors for Big Brothers, and she has enrolled at Red Deer College where she plans a four year course in education.

Magda and Leonard reside in Penhold, and Magda is cooking at Autumn Glen Lodge in Innisfail.

**SANDE, THE LEONORD AND AUDREY FAMILY**

Leonord S. Sande, the fifth child of Sigurd and Astrid Sande, was born on March 9, 1920, and grew up in the Lesileville district. He received his education in the Beaver Flat school district. He enjoyed competing in track and field events in Central Alberta, receiving many ribbons and two trophy cups for his efforts.

After the Second World War was declared Leonord joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and served for four and a half years. During his years of service, he attained the rank of Flight-Sergeant. Following the War, he returned to the Lesileville district and purchased a farm, after marrying Audrey Kathleen Colbeck in Vancouver, B.C. Prior to their marriage, Audrey was employed as a dressmaker. Leonord and Audrey have two sons, Chris and Melvyn.

Audrey was born in North Bay, Ontario, on October 7, 1923. She travelled to the west coast as a small child with her parents, James and Ethel Colbeck. Ethel is a Canadian of Irish descent and James was born in Yorkshire, England, coming to Canada with his parents in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Colbeck are in good health, and presently reside in Burnaby, B.C.

**SANDE, THE CHRIS J. AND DIANA FAMILY**

Chris J. Sande was born December 8, 1947. He grew up on his parents' farm in the Bingley district. At school age he walked a mile and a half to attend the Bingley School where his elementary education was achieved. Teachers at that time were, Mr. H. Rodgers, Mrs. Loewen, and Mrs. R. Brookes. Grades 1 to 6 were taught in this single classroom school. The remainder of Chris' education was received in Rocky Mountain House where he graduated in 1965. The following fall Chris enrolled in a two year Agriculture Mechanics Course at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary and graduated with a diploma in 1967. He then returned to the farm where he has worked with his father in a cow-calf operation.

Chris was subsequently married to Diana

Lynn Study of Kathyrn, Alberta. Before marriage she worked in the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary as a Certified Nurses' Aide. They have two sons Jeffery Allan, born March 29, 1968, and Kevin James, born August 29, 1970. The family resides on the Sigurd Sande home quarter (NW 7-40-5-W5). Jeff and Kevin attend Rocky Elementary School in Rocky Mountain House Alberta.

**SANDE, THE CLIFFORD MARTIN AND MILDRED FAMILY — by Andy Sande**

Clifford Martin Sande, the youngest son of Sigurd and Astrid Sande, was born at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, on April 4, 1922. He attended Beaver Flat School for part of his education. In Red Deer, he received his high school education and graduated from the Lindsay Thurber Composite High School in 1941. As he was awarded for his excellence of mind, the same is true for his physical ability. He excelled in track and field events where the sportsman that he truly was, became very evident. At the age of 15 he won 5 provincial track and field championships, not to mention the trophies for his athletic ability in school.

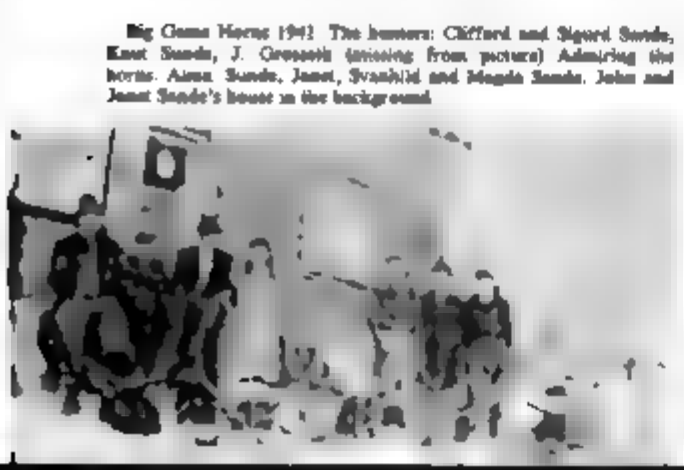
His many experiences in life could fill a small book and make wonderful stories when he reminisced. One such experience involved luck as well as bravery. He was a boy of 14 at the time.

"On November 2, 1936, while wandering in some woods he came upon a young golden eagle in pursuit of a rabbit. In the minutes that followed he brought down the bird with a big stick, knocking it unconscious and killing it. It was a beautiful bird about two years old, with a wing span of seven feet. Weighing approximately eleven pounds and over two feet tall, it had talons that could kill as well as carry most any prey. Arnold Crabtree, a local taxidermist, stuffed and mounted the bird for Clifford."

He worked for the Canadian National Railway as a tie loader and then became a tie inspector at several points in Alberta and Ontario. He was also an employee of the Texaco Oil Company for many years. He began as a roustabout and later, a battery reader.

In 1953 on February 21, he married Mildred Patricia Yurkiw of Radway, Alberta. Before her marriage Mildred had worked in Edmonton. Later they moved to his farm the SW 25-40-6-W5 approximately 15 miles northeast of Rocky Mountain House. He had purchased this property earlier from Frank Larsgard.

Big Game Horns 1941. The hunters: Clifford and Sigurd Sande, Knut Sande, J. Grenseth (missing from picture). Admiring the horns: Anna Sande, Janet, Svanhild and Magda Sande. John and Janet Sande's house in the background.



**SANDE, THE ANDREW DENNIS FAMILY — Autobiography by Andy Sande**

I am the oldest of Clifford's and Mildred's children. I was born September 11, 1954 in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. I was six weeks old when my father who worked for the C N R. in Ontario moved my mother and me back to Alberta to live on a farm. My parents had three more children born to them. Donald Brian on March 13, 1957 Linda Anne on May 28, 1960, and Stephen Martin on February 2, 1965.

I was attending Rocky Elementary when my father died on February 7, 1965. Mother decided to raise us in the city and so she moved her young family to Edmonton, where the family still resides. She bought a modern home in the city and worked hard caring for her family and growing a big garden. It is not easy to be a single parent and raise a young family, but Mother deserves a lot of credit for helping us to get where we are today.

I attended McArthur Elementary School for three years, then went to Wellington Jr. High School also for three years. It was there that I participated in sports to any degree. I was taught by my parents and close relatives that sportsmanship was far more important than winning or losing. Although I was never pushed by those around me I was near or at the top of most athletic endeavors.

In 1973 I graduated from Queen Elizabeth Composite High School. While attending school I did not make it to the provincials in "Track and Field" as my father did, (and won 5 medals) but I came close, and received many ribbons for my efforts. I also took on a part-time job in grade eleven, working at Canada Safeway. Later I made it my career. I had many fields of education open to me and probably could have had any one of a dozen careers, but it was not practical at the time and therefore I went another way in life.

On September 8, 1975, I married Susan Mary Keeler, and now reside in Edmonton. We have two children, Beatrice Ann Keeler, by Susan's first marriage, who will be 10 years old May 17, 1978. We also have one of our own, Richele Jane, born to us on December 29 of 1976.

I am now part of the department management of Canada Safeway. I am very happy with my new family and job, and enjoy both respectively. My one dream in life is to have a dairy farm and to have my family grow up and experience life the way my father wished his family to do.

Donald Brian Sande was born on March 13, 1957 in Rocky Mountain House. He attended

Rocky Elementary, McArthur Elementary, Wellington Jr High School, and Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton. Don was prominant in sports both in school and in the community. He has received many ribbons, medals and trophies for both himself and his teams' efforts. Don also has a Hunter Training Conservation certificate from the community. Don now has most of the training from N.A.I.T. needed to be a motor mechanic. He is employed at one of Texaco's Service Stations in Edmonton and is engaged to be married in the near future.

Linda Anne Sande, the only daughter of Cliff and Mildred, was born on May 28, 1960. She attended McArthur Elementary, Wellington Jr. High School, and Queen Elizabeth Composite High School in Edmonton. She was a Brownie and a Guide with the 58th Pack in the Church of the Good Shepherd. She participated in school and community sports. She also has her Hunter Training Conservation certificate from the community. She too is to be married in the near future.

Stephen Martin, the youngest son of Clifford and Mildred Sande was born February 2, 1965, in Eckville. He attended McArthur Elementary, and is now attending Wellington Jr. High School. He was active in Cubs and Scouts in the 112th Pack. Steve is also active in school and community sports. His favorite sport is soccer and he has been on several city championship teams. He has taken over as the man of the house now that his sister and brothers have left to start on their own. He has several small jobs around the community one of which is delivering the city "Journal". Although his future did not look too good at first having lost his father when he was only five days old, he is accepting life and its experiences very well and his family is very proud of him.

**GEORGE SCHIEB AND FAMILY**

The pioneer days had passed and the country was well settled when the George Schieb family arrived at Leslieville in 1928. They bought and settled on the farm of the late Amos Norem, four and one-half miles north of town.

George, of German parents, was born in Defiance, Ohio, on October 7, 1886, later moving to North Dakota. In March, 1909, he came to Alberta and took a homestead at Winnifred where he farmed for ten years and took part in many community activities.

He was united in marriage to Evalena LaMarsh on October 17, 1919. Evalena, (a cousin of the well known Judy LaMarsh) came west from Wheatley, Ontario, with her family in 1910 to settle on a homestead at Winnifred, Alberta.

The Schiebs after their marriage farmed for a while then spent some time at Empress, Alberta. After spending a few years in the lumber industry in British Columbia and Idaho, they settled in Leslieville.

There were two children, Lucille and Garth, who received their education in rural schools.

Lucille married Neil Smith in 1938 and they still farm in the community. They raised a family of seven children, four girls and three boys, most of whom still reside in the area or close by.

Garth took high school in Red Deer and later graduated from SAIT as an aeronautical engineer. He spent twelve years with Canadair in Montreal where he married Louise Doyle. They have two sons and now reside in Calgary.

Soon after the Schiebs arrived in Leslieville the depression set in, but the mixed farm proved to be a good place to ride it out — never a lack of food, supplemented by wild fruit, which was plentiful in those days.

The friendly, helpful, spirit of the many wonderful neighbours helped each other through the trying times. Everyone was always ready with a helpful hand and an encouraging word where needed.

The 55th Wedding Anniversary of George and Evalena Schieb

In 1937, the family moved to a rented farm owned by George Cummerford, one mile west and one and one-half miles north of Leslieville, across the road from Campbell School. A few years later they bought a farm two and one-half miles south of town, from Charlie Frost where they continued in mixed farming until retirement in 1962 to the village of Leslieville. In November, 1965, they moved to the Twilight Village in Red Deer where they resided comfortably and happily among many former friends and lots of new ones.

George passed away recently — June 5, 1977, in his ninety-first year. Evalena resides in The Pines Lodge, Red Deer, and continues to enjoy handwork, reading, sewing, and visiting with her many friends.

**THE EDWARD LEWIS SIMS FAMILY — (by Mamie L. Green)**

The Sims family was one of the first settlers in the Beaver Flat district. Mr. Edward Lewis Sims and his wife, Rosa May, with six children

homesteaded in 1906. Claude Hilton was the oldest Sims child; then came Mabel Lorainne, Mildred Elizabeth, Emmanuel Edward, Muriel Verna and Mamie Letitia, the baby, three months old. In 1908 they moved back to Red Deer for the winter where Mary Alexandra was born on December 8. Mr. Ed Sims worked for the city of Red Deer that winter hauling coal up the Red Deer River and the thermometer dropped to 70° below zero. Mr. Sims had built a one-room log house and a barn in 1906 and they moved back from Red Deer in the spring, 1909. He helped to build the Beaver Flat log school house where he was one of the first trustees on the school board along with Dave Marshall and Ted Frodeen who lived south of the school. Mr. Sims had a team of bay horses named Dick and Jack and he broke 10 acres for himself and several other settlers who had moved in so they could prove up on their homesteads. He broke land for Bill Law, a bachelor, west of him, Mr. Cornell, Bill Deering, Bob Maconachie, Will Hambrook and Hansen who joined Mr. Sims on the north and many others.

They lost one child before birth in 1910 when Mr. Sims was away working. A grass fire swept across from the west and Mrs. Sims lifted a calf through the fence to save it and she became very ill. The neighbor women, Mrs. Riach and Mrs. Wilson, came in to help with the rest of the family. There was no doctor at that time closer than Red Deer.

In March, 1914, their ninth child, Ruth Isabelle, was born. They had lost a two-year old girl, Nellie, from scarlet fever in Troy, Idaho, U.S.A. before they moved to Alberta.

The first teacher in Beaver Flat was Miss Martin, sister of Angus Martin. The next one was Miss Goodmanson, then Mr. Oliver, then Mrs. Mitchell. That year the C.N.R. railroad went to Nordegg, and Mr. Sims worked on the railroad south of the school. Then Bessie Meston who is now Mrs. Frank Patterson living in Rocky Mountain House, taught Beaver Flat three terms. She was teaching the year the war broke out in August 1914. These teachers taught 30 to 34 pupils Grade I to Grade 8 without any help. The inspector visited the school once a year.

Claude Sims, a returned soldier, married Annie Piiralnen from the Tiami district and they had nine children.

Mabel Sims married Archibald Denbury from Calgary and they had four children.

Mildred Sims married Mathew Ramage who was a Sergeant in the 187th Battalion in Red Deer and they had five children.

Mannie Sims, a returned soldier, married Mary Loituri from Oras district and they had six children.

Muriel Sims married Ted Sullivan from Calgary and they had only one child.

Mamie Sims married Alec Green, a returned prisoner of war, and son of Mrs. Bert Hilbert and they had three children.

Mary Sims married Baxter Wall of Calgary and they had three children.

Ruth Sims married Angus MacLean of Red Deer and they had two children.

The early settlers who came after Mr. Sims were: Bill Law, Bert Hilbert — a cowboy, Bob Maconochie, Will Hambrook, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Cornell, Jack Lowen — a cowboy, and Mrs. Jack Lowen, Mr. and Mrs. Washburn, The Malcolm's — the father and mother and their three sons Dave, Donald and Leonard, Three Frodeen Brothers, Joe Scott, Mr. and Mrs. McFaul, Billy Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. James Rodgers, Three Turton Brothers, The Delaneys, Hansen, Bill Hambleton, Ben Kistler, The Riachs, Stanley Wilson who was Beaver Flat school secretary-treasurer for years; Thorkmans; Harvey McCallum and his father, Mr. McCallum, Fred Kirkman, Ben and Alf Chinery, Alf Harvey, Ed Poet, and Frank Fleischer who homesteaded the John Oja place and made all the desks for the Beaver Flat school.

[redacted]

With an eye to the future
And faith in their God
With horses and oxen
They broke up the sod.

When flies and mosquitoes
Pester cattle and folks
They built a smudge
And all smelled like smoke.

Ducks and geese from the ponds
Fresh fish from the rivers
Green herbs from the sod
These meant health to the liver.

The log cabins were sturdy
With dirt for the floor,
But the children were healthy,
What wished they for more.

Of times in the evening
When neighbors dropped in
Before saying "Good-night!"
They sang parting hymns.

Let us honor the pioneers
Both husband and wife
Our heritage from them
Is a much richer life.

Mabel L. Denbury
Dedicated to my parents
Lewis Edward & Rose May Sims.
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta

**BE OUR GUEST**

Here's an invite to Alberta,
Richest country of the West,
Whatever you are looking for
We really have the best
Bustling towns and roaring cities
Quiet camps, good eating places
Where aeroplanes and helicopters
Ride the upper airland spaces.

Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest!
Here the fishing is the grandest
In our lakes and streams so clear,
Come with car and tent and boat
But don't forget your fishing gear!
You can fly along our highways
In your auto old or new,
From our roads as smooth as ribbons
You will get the grandest view
Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest!
Elevators, granaries, bursting
With the fruit of richest soil
And a thousand cattle grazing
In the country rich in oil.
Come, climb our highest mountains,
Descend the deepest shaft,
You may even see a red deer
With her new-born speckled calf.
Come to the West
We have the best
Be our guest!
See the prehistoric monsters
That once roamed our boundless plains,
It's no flight of foolish fancy
For their skeletons still remain
In the Badlands of Drumheller,
Where these fossils may be found,
The remains of these dread creatures
Near the Hoodoos, they abound
Come to the West,
We have the best
Be our Guest!

Mabel L. Denbury
1966

**SKOVEN, E. — by Earl Skoven**

I, Earl Skoven, was born in Billum, West Jutland, Denmark. I came to Hurley, South Dakota in 1923, and to Canada in 1927. I worked in Saskatchewan, and in a lumber camp in Ontario, and then in Southern Alberta for a year or two. Finally I came to the north Lesliеville area in 1930, in the fall. My brother, Svend Skoven, and I bought the former Ben Austin homestead, the SW 3-41-5-W5. A few years later Svend bought my share of this land and I bought another quarter north west, the former Billy Barton quarter NE 4-41-5-W5, where I have continued to live.

On July 12 1941 I married Jenny Peever. We have a family of three daughters, and eight grandchildren. On October 22 1943 we were blessed with twin daughters, EVELYN, she is married to Herman Bolze and lives in Rocky Mountain House. Their children are David, Trevor and Shannon.

ESTHER, married Leonard Mulholland and lives west of Mundare. Their children are Bobby, Carol and Dianne.

EARLENE married Allen Field and lives at St. Albert, with children Kevin and Monica.

Since retirement my wife and I moved to an apartment in Rocky Mountain House for one winter, but we like the country living, so we purchased a modern mobile home and are continuing to enjoy a quiet life out on the land I bought over 40 years ago.

**SKOVEN, S**

Svend (Slim) Skoven Kristenson was born in 1904 in Billum, Denmark. He immigrated to the United States with his brother Earl in 1923. He came to Canada in 1928 and went to work on a farm in Mair, Saskatchewan. During his years in the States and Canada, he spent time working in lumber camps, on rail road work, and several farm jobs.

In 1930 Svend came to Leslieville and bought land nine miles north west of Leslieville. It was the former Ben Austin quarter SW 3-41-5. After buying the farm he went out to work part time at Dalmead, where he met his future wife, Christina Walters. She was working in the area also. They were married about 1932 and moved back to the farm.

The rest of their years were spent farming and logging. Two children were born, Marie and Walter. The children went to school at Washington Heights.

In 1950 Christina passed away. Svend passed away July 11, 1976 at the age of 72 years. MARIE left for Calgary in 1952 to work at the Sanatorium. Later she married and moved to British Columbia, where her three children were born. In 1977 she returned to the Leslieville area to live on the NE 3-41-5-W5 one of the quarters formerly owned by her dad. WALTER worked for Standard Gravel for some years. In 1968 he met and married Aldonna Luyckfassell of the Bingley district and they started farming the home place and the NW 3. Walter and Aldonna have one daughter, Colene, born in 1975.

**SMITH, P. A. — by Ed Smith**

Ed Smith, eldest son, is writing this history of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Smith, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Shaw, and Uncle Mr. G. Shaw.

In 1911 my father, grandfather and uncle came from Barrie, Ontario, and took up homesteading and built a house to live in. I came out in 1912 with my mother, little sister, Kit and grandmother. I was four years old, and the only thing I remember was sitting in the wagon while they loaded on a barrel churn in front of a big brick building in Red Deer, this was the building where Dr. Long, the dentist, had his office, but is now torn down. However, we did not come from Red Deer with oxen. I think the men drove the oxen and the women and children came with the mailman, (his name was Foster) who had a team of roan horses on a democrat. I remember our grandmother's hat being knocked off going under some bushes.

Our grandfather had a house built, but he had built it on the wrong quarter so he had to move it. Logs, which had been hewed out to build a barn with, were strung out on which to move the house to the right quarter of land. A stump puller and an ox were used to move it.

P. A. Smith homestead, N.E. 9-40-4-5; T. W. Shaw homestead, S.E. 9-40-4-5; G. J. Shaw homestead, N.W. 9-40-4-5; Fred Bott, Sr., homestead, S.W. 9-40-4-5.

These neighbours had homes near by, Vic Green on the south and Fred Bott on the west of Shaw's. Kirkmen lived on the east of the Smith homestead. Carpenter lived on the north of G. J. Shaw's and Robert Eckford cornered the G. J. Shaw quarter.

Robert Eckford was the brother of the G. E. T. Eckford, for whom Eckville was named. He homesteaded just north of Eckville and the land is now owned by Ernest S. Barlund.

There was no school when we first came to the homestead. I was 10 years old and my sister Kit was six before we started school. We walked two-and-one-half miles through solid bush on a cow path, but school lasted for only two or three months in the summer. I remember one teacher named Ludwig. He was real stern, he came from Germany. This was during the first World War. One morning he had a bag of cookies and passed them around to the children. When he came to Maureen Pepper, she asked him if they were poison, because he was from Germany and the war was still on.

In 1918 our brother Nell came along and in 1919 our grandmother passed away. In 1920 the family moved from the homestead to a farm they bought from Dave Taylor. This farm was nearer to town and also to the Blueberry School. The homestead was about eight miles from Leslieville. There was no road in those days.

Many times we could not get home from school because of bush fires. Sometimes we stayed with people that lived near the school. One time there was a hail storm which came up as we were going home. We were just by Robert Eckford's place, so we stayed there until it was over. Mr. Eckford now owned the team of horses that Foster, the mailman, had used to bring the mail from Red Deer. There was no railroad at that time; it was just being built in 1912.

In 1922 our sister Rhoda arrived. In 1930 our grandfather passed away.

Our mother was secretary for Blueberry School for many years. I had the janitor job at 83¢ a month, but do not remember for how long.

In those days we threshed our own crops with a threshing machine and tractor and a crew of men. The farmers would help each other until all the neighbor's crops were threshed.

To keep warm in winter we gathered a huge pile of trees then quite a few neighbours would help each other, saw up the wood, making a sawing crew of about six men. The womenfolk were kept busy cooking, providing everyone with plenty of good home-cooked food to eat.

There were lots of deer and some bears on the homestead. Deer would stand on the path on the way to school and we had to walk around them.

One time Harold Arnold and I went to Wood Lake, found a boat, paddled out to the middle and jumped in and had a swim, then continued on to the other side. We left the boat and walked back. The owner of the boat, Mr. Henry Lindgren, was waiting and made us bring it back.

We also had a black dog named Sam. He would run around and scare grouse into trees and then bark. All we had to do was pick them out of the trees with a .22 rifle. I still have this gun. The grouse were then stuffed with dressing and roasted and tasted real good.

In 1933 our sister Doris was born. She used to love riding a horse. One day, in 1952, her horse stumbled and she was hurt so badly that she passed away.

In 1939 our mother passed away and in 1956 our father passed away.

We, the Ed Smith family, live on the west half of 19-39-4-W5. We own three quarters and have lived and farmed for 44 years. The land originally was the homestead of Herb Card and Anderson and Reily. Leslieville was named after Leslie Reily, the son of John Reiley.

I remember seeing my first threshing outfit. I was working on the Kirkman homestead. The engine was a one cylinder upright Stickney and a hand fed wooden separator. This was owned by Molander and Stridsberg of Eckville. Later, I owned a threshing outfit and did threshing around the country for about 20 years. Mr. George Johnston, our neighbour, used to haul bundles for us and then he would get his threshing done. While we were threshing on his farm, George would always be driving around in his buggy, bringing out lunch, and what not. One day the boys took all the nuts out of his buggy wheels. He did not know this, and even though he drove around all day the wheels did not come off. I guess the joke was on us! At this time, threshing was done by the hour. One of the men went to get a drink of water and George said to me, "There goes some of my money." Another time someone put a dead cat under George's pillow in the bunk house where the threshing crew slept. He slept on it for a week before he found it.

There were lots of hard times in the thirties for everyone especially when you were just starting to farm on rented land, even though we grew most of our own food.

In the year 1933 I was married to Mary Menzies. Our first child was Iris Lorraine. The second child is Phyllis Mary. Our girls went to school in Leslieville School, since we lived in the Leslieville district. The girls are both married, to John and Enslo Schroderus, and have given us six grandchildren.

Lorraine and John Schroderus' children's

names are Karen, Lorne, Julie and Loralie. They live in Eckville, except for Karen, who lives in Red Deer where she is employed.

Phyllis and Ensio Schroderus' children's names are Kenneth and Audrey. They live in the Lesheville district. Kenneth now works in Red Deer.

Karen, our oldest granddaughter, is married to Robin Tolonen. They live in Red Deer.

In the year 1936, my sister Kit, was married to Louie Henderson, of Penhold. Their two children are Peggy and Betty, and now have seven grandchildren. They own a garage and gravel trucks. Louis passed away 21 years ago.

The girls went to school at Penhold. Peggy married Lou Boudreau, and Betty married Raymond Strickland.

Peggy and Lou Boudreau's children's names are Annette, Michael and Cheryl. They reside in Trenton, Ontario.

Betty and Raymond Strickland's children's names are Mark, Lorie, Shannon and Leanne. They live in the Penhold district.

In 1938 Neil was married to Lucille Scheib, both of Leslieville, and reside on the farm where all the Smith children were raised. Their children are Sharon, Leslie, Linda, Victor, Peter, Rhoda and Pamela. The children went to school at Blueberry, Leslieville and David Thompson. Five of Neil and Lucille's children are married, and have given Neil and Lucille nine grandchildren.

Sharon and Marvin's children's names are Dean and Heather. They have recently moved to an acreage north of Leslieville.

Leslie and Sandra Smith's children's names are Shauna, Kelvin and Kent. They live in Wetaskiwin.

Linda and Don Mockford's children's names are Sherry and Loralie. They live in the Leslieville district.

Victor and Bonnie Smith's children's names are Todd and Lee. They live in the Leslieville district.

Rhoda and Jim Swinston were married recently and lived in Red Deer.

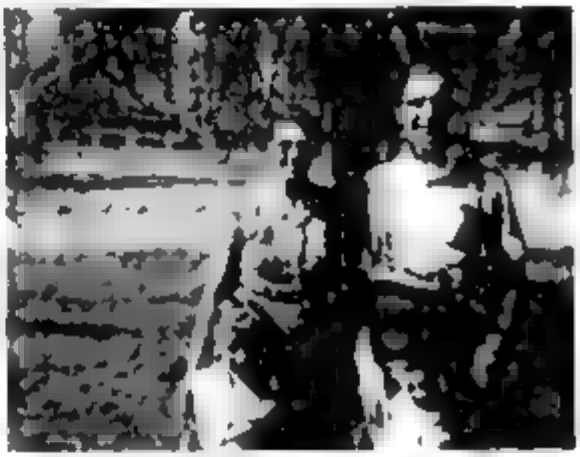
In the year 1942 Rhoda was married to Bill Oldford of Penhold. They now live in Penticton B.C.

**TESKEY, RAYMOND AND IDA — (By Ida Teskey)**

Mrs. Mary Teskey and her sons, Raymond, Elmer and Leonard came from Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan in 1942 to settle in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. They bought the property where Walter Good had his greenhouse. Raymond and Leonard worked for some time for John Gibson. Then they took out props in the area north of Rocky Mountain House and sold them in town. They also worked for their uncle, Fred Adrain, at the sawmill at Ricinus. Later, James Rodgers of the Beaver Flat district employed them.

In 1946, Raymond bought the SW-26-39-6-W5, and in 1947 he bought the NW-26-39-6-W5 from Harry and Jim Gault. Raymond cut logs and sawed lumber, then built a house on the NW-26-39-6-W5. He sold the SW 26-39-6-W5 to Henry Stelfox. In 1949, her purchased the NE-27-39-6-W5 from James Rodgers. This quarter was homesteaded by Louis Karlson.

On July 2, 1949, Raymond David Teskey was united in marriage to Florence Ida Rodgers, then living on the farm. In 1958 they adopted two children, a daughter, Joyce Ida and a son, Brian David.



Ray and Ida Teskey and children, Joyce and Brian 1959

Raymond and Ida farmed a half section of land and Ida enjoyed working in her big garden and raising chickens and turkeys, while Raymond enjoyed his horses and his dog, Buster. Raymond enjoyed fishing and hunting; Ida also enjoyed fishing.

In 1973, Joyce Ida was united in marriage to Vernon Grosso. They have a son, Nicky. Brian works at the Aquitaine Gas Plant located south west of Rocky Mountain House.

In 1974, Raymond passed away with a heart attack at the age of fifty-nine. In April of that same year Ida had a farm auction sale and sold everything. The farm was sold to Kory Idland. Ida bought a house in Rocky Mountain House where she resides.

**TURTON, HAROLD FAMILY**

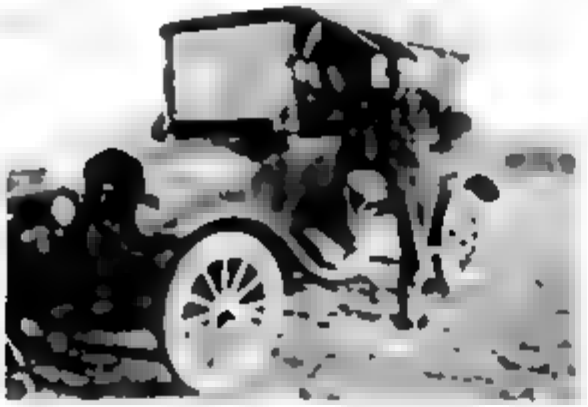
Harold Turton was born July 3, 1884 in Carlton, Yoshire, England. At the age of 21 years, sailed for America aboard the ship Lucania, landing in New York on October 27 1905. After two years at Jacksonville he left on the 13th of August, 1907, for Nanaimo, B.C., arriving on August 9. He worked at the Western Fuel Co. Mine for $2.85 a day. In those days one could purchase six pairs of slacks for 50¢, a hat for 20¢ and a pair of boots for $2.50.

On January 25, 1908, he homesteaded the NE-6-40-5-W5.

Being fifty miles to the nearest town they walked to Red Deer and packed their groceries back, taking up to two days. One could buy a side of bacon for $1.70 or two pounds of steak for 50¢. In 1913 he bought an ox from Jim Hall by the name of "Spot" for $85. Along with his brother George Turton who had the breaking plow, they were able to break a few acres for neighbours.

Later he worked on the concrete piers of the present North Saskatchewan railway trestle — firing the steamer.

In the early 1920's Harold married Winnifred Lawrence who had two children, Frieda and Harry. They had a daughter born on January 16, 1925 whom they named Kathleen. Both mother and daughter Kathleen died about one-and-one-half years later with tuberculosis.



Harold Turton. Car purchased from Charlie Read, about 1923

He then raised Frieda (Mrs. Henry Courtright) now residing in Rocky Mountain House and Harry Lawrence now of Calgary.

In February of 1939, Florence Kathleen Milborrow and Harold Turton were united in marriage. Florence came to Canada from England at the age of five years with her parents' mother, Mrs. William Hambleton and stepfather, William Hambleton.

Harold and Florence had three daughters, Hilda born in 1939, (Mrs. Clayton Grosso), Trudy born in 1943 (Mrs. Clifford Hall), both residing near Rocky Mountain House and Kathleen (Mrs. Frank Klein) of Calgary.

The girls attended school at Beaver Flat, a distance of two miles away. The School teacher then was Miss Rose Erskine and later Mrs. Roberta Lynn.

Florence was a member of the Beaver Flat W.I. and Harold a member of the "Knights of Columbus" Lodge in Leslieville.

Being a very avid gardener he took pride in his many flower gardens, fruit trees and shrubs. Also worth mentioning, along the driveway at the farm and still standing are the spruce trees and the northwest poplar shelter belt and many other trees he planted well over 50 years ago.

In April of 1957 they had a farm sale, but remained on the farm until November 1958. At this time they retired to Rocky Mountain House. They remained active in church functions. Harold was honorary member of the Anglican Vestry.

Harold Turton passed away December 25, 1973 at the age of 89 years.

**ZANDER, CARL FAMILY (THE)**

Carl Zander came to Canada in 1912 and worked in southern Ontario for a number of years before coming to western Canada. He first worked as a hired man for a grain farmer in southern Saskatchewan and then travelled to Edmonton where he learned a trade as a barber. During the 1st World War, he worked in the C.P.R. yard in Red Deer. A few years later he came to the Leslieville area and bought a quarter of land — NW 32-39-5-W5.

Mr. Zander married in 1923 and Carl and his wife, Anna, worked hard clearing land and eventually expanding their farming by purchasing two more quarters of land — SE 5-40-5W5 from the Hudson Bay Co. in 1928 and another — SE 5-40-5W5 in 1936 from Mr. E. Eritsland.

Mr. and Mrs. Zander raised two sons — Max who now resides at Rutland, B.C. and Paul who lives on the family farm.

Max and Paul both got their schooling at Campbell School, that taught through Grade 8. When Max started school, he didn't know a word of English but Paul, being four years younger, learned from his brother so found it easier. They walked two miles to school each day unless the weather was too severe. While attending school, they also got the chance to learn to swim in the creek nearby during their noon hours, and had many happy hours of fun on the Butte hill near by. During the summer months, they also attended Sunday School in the school house which Rev. Bob Young conducted.

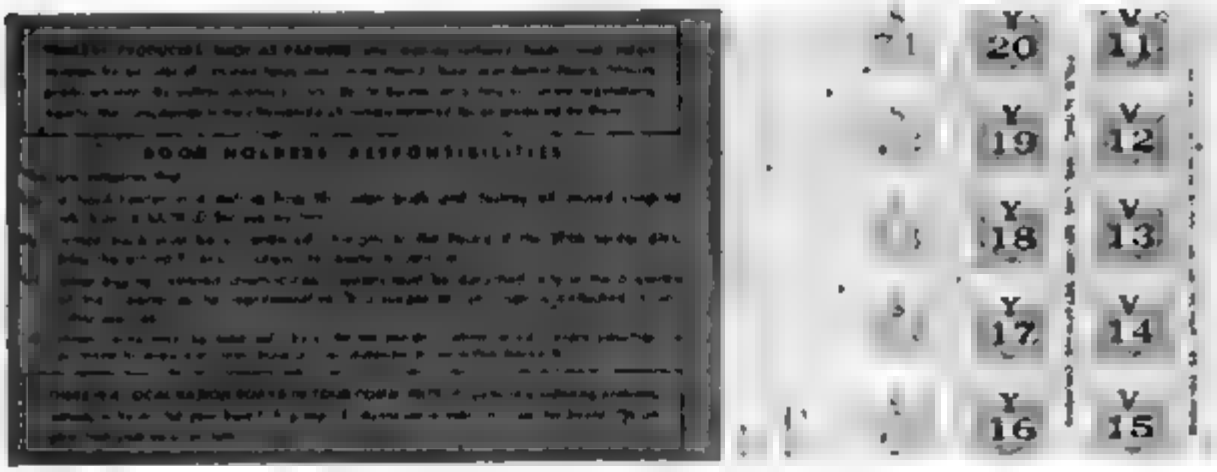
After Max and Paul finished school, they started logging, having lumber sawed and erected new buildings on the farm. All the buildings on the farm today, have been built from their own lumber with the exception of their home.

Max, a journeyman welder, left the farm in 1962 and moved to Rocky Mountain House. He married in 1970 and in 1974, he and his wife, Ann, moved to Rutland, where they now reside.

Paul married the former Helen Stefox of Rocky Mountain House in 1953 and they raised two children — Pat and Don. Both children received their education at the Leslieville Elementary and David Thompson High Schools. Pat married Don Dirsten of Leslieville in 1974. Don moved to Red Deer in 1974 where he is employed.

Carl Zander passed away in 1961 after a lengthy illness at the age of 73 years. Anna Zander passed away in 1969 at the age of 85 years.

Carl Zander and son Max with Mr. Crawford. Carl's first line of machinery about 1940. Taken on main street of Lashenville




Inside cover and coupons of a Ration Book 6 issued by the Ration Administration Wartime Prices and Trade Board

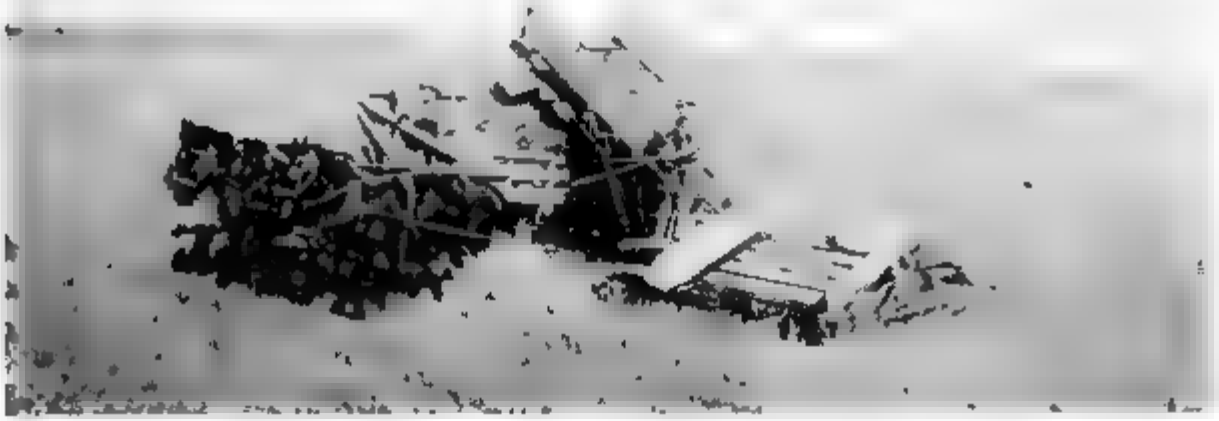
Lashenville station soon after the railway came to Lashenville

Putting the grain bundles in stacks which will be threshed later in the fall or by the beginning of the next year. On the Link Boyer homestead.

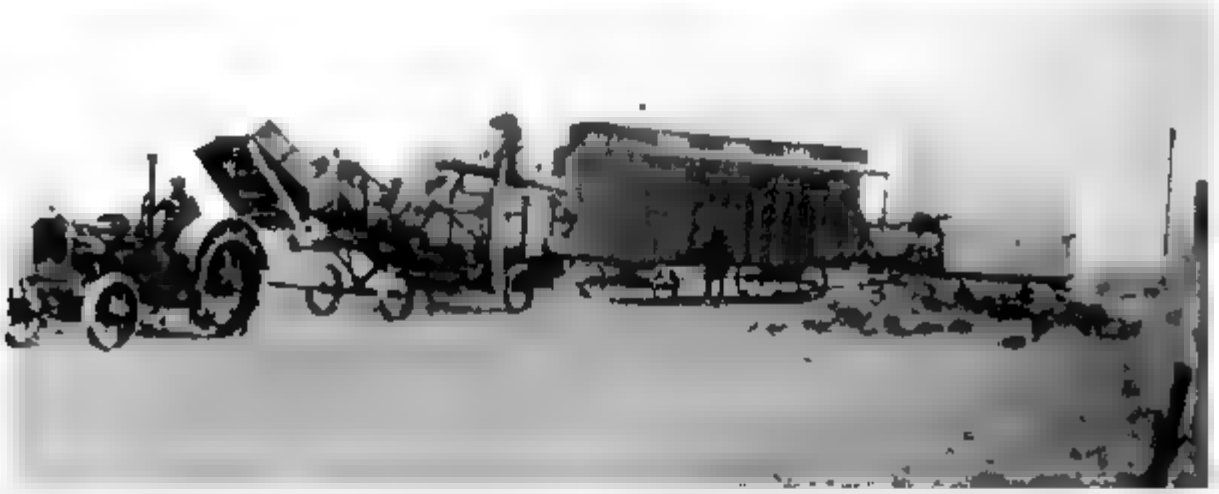
Stack threshing

Threshing separator and steam engine.

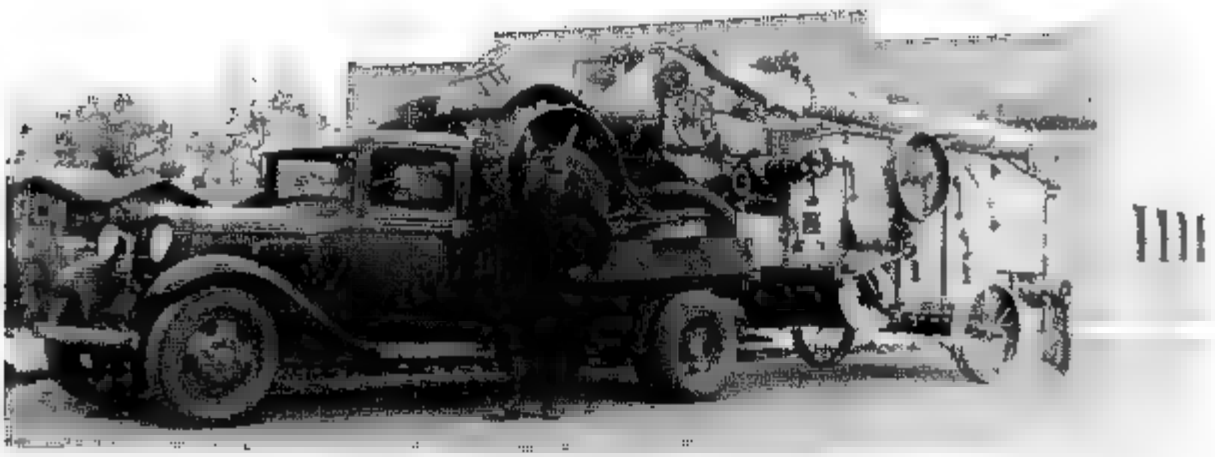
Bundle wagon used for threshing



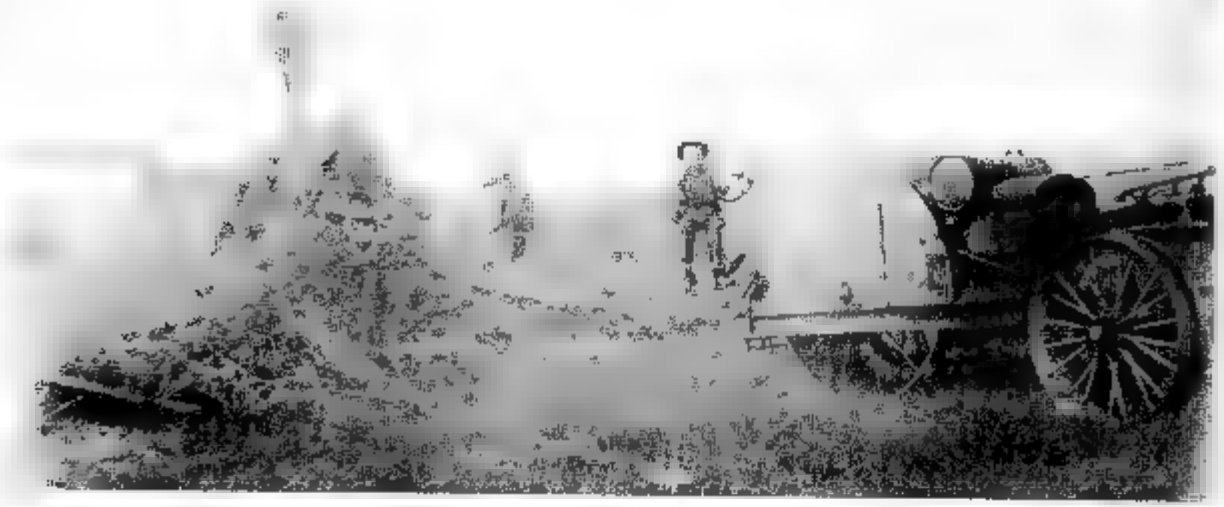
Charles and William Thorlemas loading stooks 1942



Moving a threshing outfit

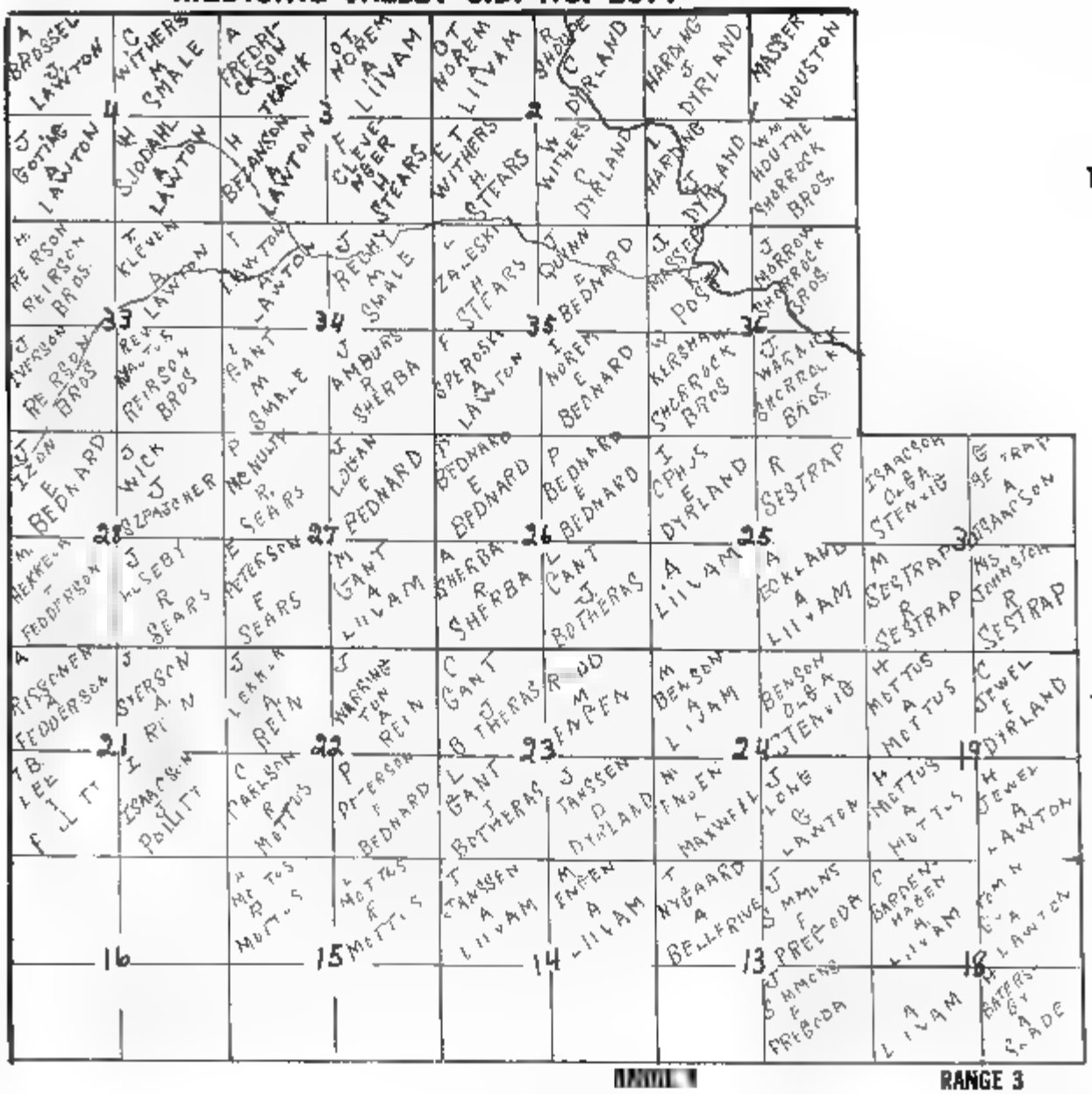


Albert Molander Trucking. This truck took three gallons of gas to come from Calgary.



Three wheel Emerson tractor owned by the Hubl family

# MEDICINE VALLEY S.D. NO. 2577



# Medicine Valley

**AMBURS, JAKE AND KATE**

Jake and Kate Amburs with children Chloe, Walter, Lester, and Jimmy came from Kansas, U.S.A. in 1907 to homestead the S.E. 34-40-4-W5. They brought horses, cows, and a few household effects and a wagon. As most pioneers did, they likely came to Lacombe by rail and drove out to the valley. They built a one-roomed log house and barn, also a large root cellar in the hillside possibly fearing the cyclones of Kansas.

Thelma was born in 1911. Mrs. Amburs took time to cut up yards of American cotton print and pieced quilts by hand. They were hard working people raising horses, cattle, pigs and chickens. They also had a very good garden.

Both were very good neighbors, and like all the pioneers were very happy, even though times were hard.

Chloe, Walter, and Lester attended Medicine Valley School when it opened in 1913.

In 1916 they sold the farm and rented the S.E. 6-41-3-W5 for several years. Later they moved to Montana where they had a sheep ranch. Another boy, Jake, was born there. He was killed when in training in the U.S. Army in Alaska about 1944.

Chloe married and lived in Montana as did Walter and Lester. Jimmy never married. Thelma married and lived in Washington. Lester died in 1956 and Mr. Amburs passed away in 1958. Mrs. Amburs had died several years before.

**ANDERSON, JOHN**

John Anderson came from Fargo, North Dakota in 1910, a well-dressed mannerly young man who homesteaded SE 6-41-4-W5. Clearing the land with axe and grubhoe as others did.

He was a well-known horse trader who always had to have a few dollars to boot on a deal.

He farmed with horses and when they became too old to work, he would butcher them for meat. It amused him to serve it when someone stopped in for a meal and tell them later that it was horse meat.

Reg and Mina Mason and family moved there to take care of him. He signed the farm over to them.

On Christmas day, 1953, he was burned when his small house burnt down, dying in hospital at age 80 years.

Reg sold to John Pickering who later sold to Rierson Brothers.

**ANDERSON, OSCAR AND ANDREW**

Oscar Anderson came out from Sweden in 1909 to homestead the N.E. 5-41-4-W5. He put up some buildings, started clearing land and got some livestock.

In 1913 his brother, Andrew, came and filed on S.W. 9-41-4-W5.

He and Oscar always lived together and never married. They were wonderful neighbors and liked by all who knew them.

They raised good cattle. As the farm was very isolated they were very unruly when strangers came. In 1929 they sold two seven year old Hereford steers by getting them in a small corral. They were able to get them loaded in a truck chaining each as they weighed 1800 pounds each with a tremendous spread of horns. The Kootuk stock yards were busy controlling them until they could be shipped.

They also owned a jackass that could be heard across the valley.

Andrew passed away in 1941. Soon after, Oscar made his home with Gus and Emma Nygard until he passed away in 1947. He left his

Oscar and Andrew Anderson

farm to Gus and Andrews to Lyle Engen, who had always been loyal friends to them. Jim Lawton now owns Andrew's farm.

**BARDENHAGEN, CARSON AND ALMA — by Joan Maddox**

Carson came from Minnesota, U.S.A. to Lacombe about 1906. He worked at various jobs in Alberta. Later making his home with his parents at Gilby.

In 1918 he married Alma Maddox of Gilby. They worked near Calgary and later Vernon, British Columbia, where their only daughter Evelyn was born.

In 1921 they rented the SE 34-40-4-W5. Carson worked on local road construction that summer. They had bought horses and a few cattle.

In 1922 they moved to Winfield, Alberta to a homestead which they sold in 1929, returning to Gilby to rent land until 1930 when they bought the W½ 13-40-4-W5 from J. Simmons.

Evelyn rode four miles to the Medicine Valley school, having had very little schooling before.

They put up a set of buildings and improved the farm land.

Carson and Alma Bardenhagen's grandchildren Cora Lynn and Alma Lee

In 1953 they rented the land and bought a house in Eckville. They sold the farm to Fred Pregoda in 1959. Carson spent a year in the Rimbey Three Way Home passing away in 1965. Alma's health was failing, she spent some time in the hospital, later going to the Red Deer Nursing Home. She passed away in December, 1971. They had three grandchildren.

**BARNES, EDGIL MERSHEL**

I have been told I was two years old when I went North, so I don't remember anything about the trip. I was four years old when we moved to the Ambury place, about one-half mile from the school. We didn't stay there very long, we soon moved back home. It seemed my folks always had to be on the move — I never knew why.

I don't remember my first teacher because World War I was going strong and teachers didn't stay long. We had cattle thieves and cowboys. One teacher I have never forgotten was Mr. Frame. He ruled by the stick! My last teacher was Miss Dobbs. That was in 1923.

Once I went out to rope a cow and the rope stuck to the saddle horn. My horse fell with me. I don't know how long I was unconscious, but I was tough at 12 years of age. I would ride anything, but I haven't roped anything since that episode. On April 15, 1919, while at school we could hear a bad storm coming. My brother and I had four miles to walk to get home from school. We made it home all right, but we got very cold on the four-mile trip. We stayed on the north side of a fence so we wouldn't get lost.

We made one more move — to the Kates place for the winter. This was a bad winter with lots of snow and ice. I attended school for a short time that year before we moved back home again. We had lots of fun skating and going places. I can still see the tin barn and granary and the grove of trees in front of the house. I remember pumping water by hand. We had a big water tank to keep full. We always had plenty to do. My mother taught me to milk cows when I was seven years old. I remember the flu, as I fell ill with it. I knew if I had a cup of cream I would get well, but no one had a cow milking then. So I didn't get any cream, but I'm still here!

I would surely like to go back and see the old place, but I know it would be different now! We used to drive old Queen to Eckville with George once a week to take butter and cream to sell. That was a distance of 12 miles. The roads weren't very good — usually either dusty or muddy. I remember when my father moved the house away from the barn. It took four horses to pull it. I attended school at Medicine Valley School, and I remember the names of the boys and girls we went to school with throughout the years. Gilby was the post office and store. We used to have a lot of fun there at dances and parties. We eventually moved away from that area because my mother wanted to come back to Oregon, and I am still living in Oregon.

I remember getting ice from Wood Lake, so we could have ice to use all summer. That was a cold job! It was frozen about three feet deep, and had to be sawed by hand. We used to trap muskrats and weasels at Wood Lake, also. Usually we didn't make much money trapping because it was so cold, and often the snow was too deep.

I was married in 1936. My wife, Ruth, and I have two girls and one boy — Pat, Bill and Myr-

tle. They are gone from home now, and just the two of us are here. We have three granddaughters and two grandsons. We have now been married for over 40 years. My wife is from Wyoming, U.S.A. I had been working in Oregon but left there and went to work in a mine in Wyoming, in 1936. After I was married I came back to Oregon and went to work falling timber. I stayed with that job until after World War II and then I shipped out to Guam for one year. After that I came back to Wyoming to work on construction work, building bridges, dams, schools, roads and paper mills, doing carpenter's work and form-setting. My wife raised the children as I was gone most of the time on a job. All I did was work hard, but I never got rich. However, I'm happy the way things are now.

One year we made a trip to Texas. We stopped at Hereford and I worked on a school and a grain elevator. Then we came back to Wyoming. I tried farming for one year in Wyoming while I worked on a dam and power house, but soon gave that up and went back to Salem, Oregon. Here I worked at harvesting prunes and working in the woods again. I never seem to stay on a job very long, as I like a change.

Now I have retired and am living in Saint Helens, Oregon, until I can move to a better place. There is lots of good fishing here, but I do not go fishing. I like to hunt, but am not able to shoot a gun any more because of doctor's orders. We are just living and enjoying our retirement.

**BARNES, JOHN AND WIFE, PAMELIA — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

John William Barnes was born in Erie, Kansas, U.S.A. on October 5, 1870. He crossed the plains with his parents by ox cart in 1876 and the family settled in Union County, Oregon. Mother was born on June 26, near Joplin, Missouri, and crossed the plains by covered wagon train in 1886. Her folks settled at Eugene, Oregon.

My folks were married on July 3, 1893. Dad took a timber claim near Mohawk, Oregon. They had two children while living there, and had lost a small child. Clarence, our older brother, was born while they were visiting father's folks at Mohawk.

During the time the folks lived on the timber claims the Cleveland panic was on. There was no work, money, or food, and the settlers and their families nearly starved. Their only food was what they could raise in their gardens and the wild game that they were able to get. In 1899 dad decided to go to eastern Oregon, near Prineville, and homestead. He sold his rights to the timber claim, bought a team and wagon, loaded everything they owned on it, trailed a cow, had a pig in a crate, and started across the Cascade Mountains.

Dad filed on his homestead, built a 12 by 18-foot shack, and moved the family in. He then went back to work. Mother was a small, young mother, afraid of everything, so life was rough for her. Her folks lived up the valley about five miles away.

I was born on the homestead — the fifth child born to my parents within a period of six and a half years. The country was hot and dry, the best crops raised were sand toads and children. The midwife who helped at my birth charged the folks a 50 pound sack of flour.

We spent our school days in Eugene, Oregon. In 1913 the folks decided to immigrate to Canada, where there was free range. The pioneer blood was flowing in dad — he just had to go deeper into the new land. On July 4 we had spent our last celebration in the States for a long time. The next day our wagon was loaded and we were on our way across the mountains again, to eastern Oregon, to stay with mother's mother while dad went into Canada to locate a new place.

On July 27, 1913 our dad took a few belongings and started walking across country to Madras, Oregon, where he would catch a train which would take him to the north land, across the border, into Canada. He arrived at Lacombe, in a few days. There he met an old fellow named Bill Long, who was tired of the loneliness and wanted out. Dad had found the thing he was looking for! He had never seen Mr. Long's place, but fell in love with the country around Lacombe. So they traded places, without dad even seeing the land or buildings.

Dad sent for us to come. Mother and six of us children arrived in Lacombe on September 27. Nellie was married by this time, so she stayed behind, at Eugene. The next day we, along with everything we owned, were again loaded onto a wagon and at day-break we started for the farm. For us, it was a trip into the unknown! We traveled around big lakes, over corduroy roads, and reached the farm in time to look it over before night set in. We thought it was beautiful! The buildings were good (the house was joined to the barn on the north), the fences were good, and we had one of the best wells in the country.

We older children went to school on the next day after we arrived at the farm, on Friday, in order to find out the supplies we needed. In those days your parents furnished all your supplies. We had a man teacher who didn't like the neighbors across the border, so we got off to a bad start. However, he wasn't hired to teach there the next year.

Father had to go to work the next day, leaving mother and we six children, ranging from two years to 14 years in age, alone in a strange land. There was no lock on the door — only a wooden button. We were all sitting around by lamp light,

Clarence Barnes

when something drew our attention. There, against the window, was a man's face. Mother blew out the light, hurried to put a chair under the door knob, and to this day we have no idea who it was. Needless to say, we didn't sleep any that night! Dad worked until winter set in. When he came home he brought a supply of flour, coffee, sugar and lard, and a lot of other small articles of food. Believe me, it was a good thing he did, for the winter was long and cold. As for meat, there was rabbits, prairie chickens and partridge. You could fish through the ice. We trapped the birds in order to save the ammunition.

Our neighbors were a mile each way — Engens on the west and Simmons' on the south. Bardenhagens were southeast, Jewels to the east, and Sestraps to the northeast. The Engens had three children, two boys and one girl, who were near our ages. Mrs. Engen had another child in the spring, but something went wrong and she passed away, leaving her family and her new baby girl. My mother felt very bad about this, and tried to help all she could. Our two families were always very close.

Barnes Family

We grew, as all young people do. We walked three miles to school and in the winters our lunches often froze, and we along with them! However, the country was beautiful. There were dances, school programs, box socials, and each year, on the 24th of May, Eckville always had a celebration which we never missed. We made our own fun, and sometimes took such chances that we wondered sometimes, how we made it. As the saying goes, it was "survival of the fittest", yet we all stayed well.

Then came World War I. We all worked a little harder while the men folks went off to war. Bessie, Clarence and I all worked out, when there was no school. I worked east of Lacombe for eight dollars a month. I got up at five a.m. and went to bed at 10 p.m. I stayed there 10 months. It had been agreed that I was to go to

John and Pamela Barnes 50th Anniversary

school, too, but the lady of the house managed it so I never went for even one day. I was only 50 miles from home, but it took four days to get there.

Mother and dad lived on the old home place until 1925. Mother wanted to go back to the States to be near her mother. So the folks had a sale and moved back to Salem, Oregon. Dad passed away on August 3, 1943 and mother in July, 1962.

There are many, many things to tell about. Some were a little rough, but most were good. I'll write a short story about the young people of the Barnes family.

**THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND PAMELA BARNES — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

Bessie Barnes was 14 years old when her folks moved to Canada from Oregon, U.S.A. She worked hard on the ranch, and also worked out a lot. She never really liked the valley, yet she spoke kindly about her early years later in life. In 1918 she married Johnny Adamson, who was a rancher near Rimbey. They later lived in Rimbey. John had three children — a daughter and two sons — who are all lovely people and seem just like our own. Bessie and Johnny later had a daughter, who was a blessing to all of us. After some years they moved to Salem, Oregon, in order to be near Grace. Bessie spent her last days there, passing away in the early 1970's.

Clarence left the farm in Canada to make his way in the world. He spent some time journeying around, later working in the forests in Idaho, U.S.A. He also supervised crews of Civilian Conservation Corps boys. This was a project set up by the U.S. Government to provide work for young men during the depression years. Clarence met and married a girl from Idaho. They have a son and a daughter and four grandchildren. Clarence lives at Lebanon,

Oregon, where he is retired. His health is not too good, but he is happy

As for myself, Mabel, I've been back and forth, so haven't lost contact with Canada. I have two sons and one daughter. James has three sons and one daughter; Bill is single; Janice lives in Oregon and has two sons and a daughter. There is more of my history in Simmons' story

Johnny was a hard worker, a happy-go-lucky sort of a guy. Although he worked hard it seemed as though life wasn't good to him However, he had two lovely sons and they have a nice family Johnny passed away with a heart ailment in September, 1955. He was young, but this is life. It seemed to me as though I had lost my best friend

Cecil married a girl from Salem, Oregon. They had two sons and one daughter Cecil's work took him away from home so much, and things went wrong in the little family He moved to California and started life anew He married again and worked for some time as a heavy duty machinist. One of his sons is making a career in the navy He also has grandchildren. He and his wife are now retired

Edgli lives at St. Helens. He has two daughters and one son, and several grandchildren. His story appears in a separate account

Nellie was never so well known at Gilby She never made outside friends, like we younger ones did. She married and had seven children. She passed away in 1975 and her husband died just three months later

Needless to say, the years we spent in Canada were dear to all of us, and will never be forgotten.

**THE BEDNARD FAMILY — As related by Eugene Bednard**

Dad and Mother, Prokop and Helen Bednard, their sons, Walter and myself, landed in Halifax on January 1, 1926, from Poland. Knowing the meagre living we were able to eke out on our few acres back home, Mother's sister, by now living in the United States, provided the money for our passage and had made arrangements to have a Saskatchewan farmer sponsor us. At Halifax an immigration officer directed us to the train, and we were on our way to Kamsack.

Our first Canadian dwelling was a one-room shack which was provided by the sponsoring farmer, a Doukhobor Dad and Mother worked there a little over a year. The wages were $25 a month, and we were on our own for all the expenses.

We came to the Eckville area due to arrangements having been made by means of letters, that we live with the Yacooshins, my uncle and his family In the spring of 1927, Mother's sister, Eva, and her husband, Peter Yacooshin, acquired their farm east of Eckville. As Peter was a factory worker in the Ford Motor Company in the United States, he knew nothing about farming He was afraid that he couldn't manage the farm himself, so he had a crop-sharing agreement for dad's help.

In 1927 dad filed on a homestead NE 27-40-4-W5. The same year he also bought the Hudson Bay quarter NW 26-40-4-W5, across the road, and broke a few acres on it. He paid $25 down and then made yearly payments on it. The only reason he homesteaded the first quarter, as it was practically under water and useless, was that he wanted to build a house that he knew he would not lose If he were unable to pay for the Hudson Bay quarter, he could go out and work and he'd still have a home to come back to

In their spare time, during the summer that mother and dad lived at Yacooshins, they went to the homestead to build a one-roomed cabin of logs which they cut themselves. The barn was a dug-out in the hillside, and was supposedly lived in by an American convict some years previous. When his picture came out in the papers showing that he was wanted by the U.S. authorities, he disappeared

In November, 1927, we finally moved to our homestead, in deep snow and forty below zero weather. Our transportation was a sleigh and rack piled high with straw, and pulled by a horse and a half — one horse was crippled — with a cow tied on behind. When we arrived we weren't allowed off the load just yet It was pitch dark and we had to wait while mother went in and lit the fire and dad put the horses and cow in the barn. When the house was warm we were finally allowed inside. As we sat around the airtight heater somebody commented that "It's nice to be in your own house."

We spent this winter on the homestead. In the spring, dad rented the quarter north of us from C. C. Nedderly, an American, and we moved onto this piece of land. This quarter is now owned by Roger Sherba, my nephew This property had more suitable accommodations and outbuildings, and was our home for the next five years.

In the meantime we acquired a few more farm animals, and during the winter dad cut logs and took them to Lawton's mill. Out of this he got enough lumber to build a barn on the homestead in 1933 and to add two bedrooms to the house Later that year we moved back to the homestead. During the 1930's dad bought the Pedersen quarter, NE 1-26-4-W5, and the Alfred Norem quarter

In the first years they were in Alberta, the folks were school janitors, and were paid $2.50 a month. From about the third grade on, Walter and I dusted the desks, swept the floors, hauled the wood into the school entrance on week ends and lit the fires every morning to warm the school for the arriving children. Dad and Mother saved the money for us, and at the end of the school year bought Walter and I a bicycle for $25.

We went to school at Medicine Valley My first teacher was Sophie Tipman, and, by coin

cidence, my last teacher was Ado Tipman, her brother

The first vehicle that we owned was a 1935 International half ton that we bought in 1936. The first tractor was a new Model 25 Massey that we got in 1937

During the summers, six or eight families would get together every Sunday at pre-arranged homes. The kids played, the parents visited, and when the weather permitted, we had a picnic. Yearly school picnics and Christmas concerts were a must for everyone. Walter and I went to dances at the Gilby and the Estonian Halls. We walked once, but other times we used the family conveyance

Walter married Hedvig Cech in 1942. They spent a year on the farm, part of that time in a little house on the Norem place. From there they moved to Rimbey where they lived for three years. They then moved to Summerland, B.C., where they still reside. They have four daughters, all married. Mary Ann lives in Summerland, Joyce in Winnipeg, Patsy in Red Deer, and Susan in Edmonton

Walter Bednard Family: Hedvig, Patsy, Walter. Front: Mary Ann and Joyce.

In 1942 I married Helen Dejnaka of Condo, Saskatchewan. She had come from Poland at the age of four years with her mother, Zina. Her dad, Lawrence, had come to Canada two years earlier

I had met Helen when my parents decided to go to Saskatchewan for a trip. A couple dozen letters and a few trips later, we had a Ukrainian wedding at Condo. We stayed on the farm for two years with mother and dad, at which time they sold it it to us and moved to Summerland, B.C.

Dad passed away in 1957 and mother in 1964. They are both buried in the Gilby cemetery

Helen and I have two boys, Gene and Dwayne. They both started school in Medicine Valley and then, when bussing came, went to Eckville. They completed their high school at the Red Deer Composite.

Back: Lawrence Dejnaka. Centre: Helen and Eugene Bednard, Zina Dejnaka. Front: Gene and Dwayne Bednard

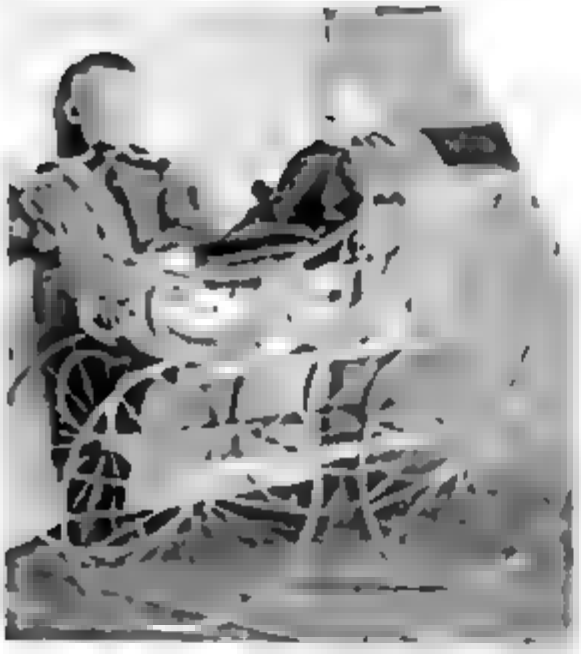
Gene and Barb (Niemi) and their two little girls, Traci and Kari, are living in Grande Prairie, where Gene is with the Farm Credit Corporation. Dwayne is a mechanic with Red Deer Motors. He and Susan (Shaw) have one son, Kevin

We built a new house on the farm in 1961 and continued farming there until we moved to Red Deer. Our home here is made of the original Piper's brick, and is one of the few landmarks left

For a few years we both worked at Deerhome (now Michener Centre), and for a couple of years, after the boys were married, they took up farming. Now I'm doing the farming, grain only, and commuting from Red Deer. As of 1977, the farm has been in the family for 50 years.

**THE DOBBS FAMILY — by Harriet Dobbs Stears**

My father, Frank Dobbs, came to Lacombe in 1900 and filed on a homestead 15 miles from Lacombe (SE 18-42-27-W4). In 1901 Dad, Mother, George, seven years, and I, two and one-half years, left Boyd, Iowa and reached Lacombe, April 12. Lester was born March 5, 1902. George, Lester and I attended school at Iowata (we walked three miles). I passed Grade 8 so we moved to Lacombe for high school in 1914-15-16. I attended Camrose Normal in 1916 and taught Meadowbrooke, Elkhorn, Morningside and Sun-



George and Harriet Dobbs as young children

ny Creat having five years experience before I came to Medicine Valley

In July 1921, Dad bought Ephriam Withers homestead in Medicine Valley and on July 4 we moved from Lacombe with four teams and wagons. There was no gravel on the roads. It had rained and was raining Cecil Petry, Pat Withers, Seth Wells and Dad drove the teams The horses were tired so we stayed overnight in Bentley. We managed to get Seth's wagon with the piano into a garage. The rest of our possessions were soaked for it rained all night We hired an extra team, divided the loads and struggled through Sunset and Medicine Hills. We reached the new home about 4:30 July 5 Mother's birthday)

There was a big six room L shaped house and a large barn built of lumber made from logs that grew on the quarter, also other buildings. The old house was the Medicine Valley post office. There were two small gardens with radishes, lettuce and potatoes in blossom Next morning, July 6, the potatoes were frozen almost to the ground but they recovered

Everyone was very busy. The cream cheques were the steady source of income so each family milked from six to 12 cows by hand, usually outside in a corra.. The skim milk was fed to pigs and calves. We took turns hauling the cream to Eckville creamery

Lester and I went to the Leafland picnic with Charles, Pat, Jennie, Laura, (age three), and Myrtle, (one and one-half), Withers, via lumber wagon, on spring seat and two boards. The road ended about one and one-half miles west. The mile past the Reirson farm had been corduroyed that summer. The logs were covered with willows and a thin layer of dirt We went slowly and crossed safely Then we climbed a very steep hill, passed the Prouse house (belonging to Lawtons) and soon reached Leafland School (about 18' by 24'). They had built a bowery covered with leafy branches Mrs. Stears brought her organ and Ludwig Huseby and Bob Larson played violins Pat put Laura and Myrtle to bed in the wagon. Carson Bardenhagen did the same for Evelyn. The dance began about 8.30. About 12 it began to rain. We left the bowery and fled for the school. Pat and Carson brought the sleepy children in blankets and laid them on desks against the wall. The dance lasted till daylight for no one cared to try hills and corduroy in the dark. Perhaps one memory lasted longer than the rest — a man in a light grey suit He was young but he did not dance. He stood among his bachelor friends, Bill Tilley and John Izon. He looked lonely He was Harry Stears, the man I married 23 years later The Withers men were good horsemen and we reached home safely

The other social event the opening of the Gilby Hall, July, 1921. There was a large crowd. Many happy social events were held there Harry was there, too.

Nineteen twenty-two, three and four I taught Medicine Valley School, 1925 Grimshaw, 1926 Onion Lake Sask (school in Alberta), 1927 Wolfville 1928 Onion Lake 1929 1930 to June 1931

Ruth, Lester Dobbs, Mrs. Dobbs Sr

Gimlet, 1931-1937 depression — home One year I applied for 60 schools and didn't get one. In 1937 1938 I taught Washington Heights and 1938-1939 Gimlet

In 1926 Lester married Ruth Dyrland. He bought the quarter across the road, built and moved there in 1937 Later he bought a quarter from Frank Clevenger, west of the home place

Mother got pneumonia in 1937 and wasted away I stayed with her six years till she died, December 21, 1943

Nineteen forty four was a busy year. I had 10 cows, 45 hogs, chickens, two well loved saddle horses and a dog to take care of. I had never cooked, baked or stayed alone. I had about three hours each afternoon and spent them trying to bake cakes, pies and cookies. I had milk, cream, eggs and butter but sugar, syrup, jam, tea, coffee and butter were rationed and one person had very few coupons each month I saw a recipe to make angel food cake using half sugar and half syrup. I beat the mixture and baked it. The oven had no thermometer. When the hour was nearly up I took a peep It had risen beautifully but when I took it out of the oven it resembled an overgrown doughnut I tasted it. It was bitter from cream of tartar. I offered a taste to Bowser He said, "Thanks, but I won't have any either." I put it in the pig trough. They rooted it around two days. It disappeared and the pigs weren't sick so I think it ended trampled in the mire

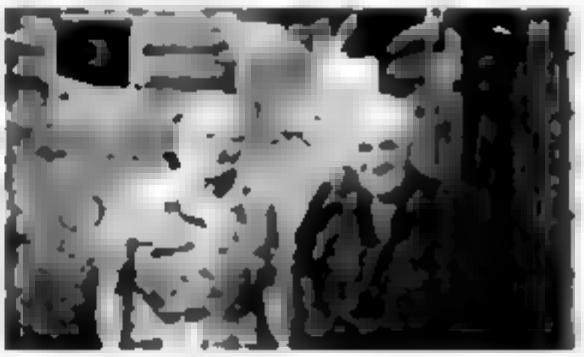
That fall teachers were scarce so Gimlet School District offered me the position and sent Nellie Thyssen to do my chores. I thought of Harry Stears He came to Canada in 1912 with his parents, sister, Ora, Albert and Edna from Jamesville, Iowa. They rented a farm a mile west of Leedale for a year then bought a farm near Leafland school. His father was sick so Harry became the wage earner at 15 years of age.

He served in World War I and was in the front line trenches three months and six months in Germany with the occupational forces. When he got home his old routine began. (1) Preparing and seeding 50 acres with horse drawn implements. (2) Working off the road tax. Each farmer was permitted to work to pay his road tax. He could work single handed or with a team or more horses. He could work longer and pay off his school tax, too. There were no power saws The men cut trees with axes, Swede and cross cut saws to corduroy swamps and mud holes. (3) Cutting the year's supply of firewood, hauling it home and exchanging labor with the neighbors to get help to saw it with a buzz saw. (4) Haying. (5 Harvesting and stacking hay and bundles for the five milk cows and horses. (6) Joining the "Bundle Wagon Brigade". Seven or eight farmers took their teams and bundle racks and drove south of Calgary to go threshing till Christmas They slept under wagons Bill Chadbourne, Jack Mullarkey, Bill Gardner, Leonard Slater, Ralph Slater were some that went (7) When he got home he went to the lumber camps and sawed lumber or was the engineer the rest of the winter He worked for Lawtons, McTighes, Vartys Atlas and Brierleys. He was as unsettled as I had been. I thought if we joined forces we could make a permanent home. His brother, Albert, was killed in a sawmill accident while Harry was overseas. Ora died young (41). His mother received her pension. She was 76 and couldn't stay alone so Harry moved a small house to Edna's yard for her

I wrote the first letter It brought results. He came to talk it over and the next Saturday we went to Red Deer, November 4, 1944 and were married. I taught Gimlet that winter, with Nellie's help and he sawed lumber. Next winter he sawed lumber then he came home to stay

In 1947 his mother died

In 1947 we traded farms with Lester and had nearly 300 acres to farm. That meant power machinery and a hired man part of the year. His nephew, Harry Cummings, always came to help us



Mattie and Harry Stears at home

We got hailed 100 per cent twice so I taught 1948, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957 By that time consolidation did away with the one-roomed schools and "Pussy was left without a corner." I had served 19½ years of the 20 year pension term. I was determined to teach the last half year if I had to sit on the North Pole to do it I got an Edmonton Journal and applied for schools for the last time. Fort Vermilion accepted my application. I was amazed when I received my first cheque. The isolation bonus made it almost double the amount I used to receive. The amount of the pension was based on the five highest paid years. Harry could manage at home with help from young Harry and Roy Anderson so I stayed five years. I started my sixth year Harry wrote "I'm sick. I can't winter alone. Come home." I took the letter to Mr Ted Giles, the inspector. He said, "Go home for two weeks and see how conditions are at home. On the way, stop at Edmonton. I think your pension term is served. Get Miss Catherine Berry to check your length of service and put your name on the pension list." In less than half an hour all the days I

had taught (28 years in 11 schools) were totaled and my name put on the list

Harry met me at Lacombe. He said his strength was gone. We sold half of the cattle and rented two quarters to Don Dyrland. We lived on the home quarter and kept 30 head of cattle and three horses for six years. Harry's health failed so we sold the cattle, most of the machinery and rented the home place to Don except the house and garden and retired.

In 1970 young Harry died in Rocky Mountain House Hospital after three months of cancer and in 1971 brother George died in Bentley Hospital after three painful, hopeless months. Cancer again

Harry Stears died in Red Deer Hospital, February 9, 1972 after six months of steady pain — cancer

Our marriage lasted 27 years. There were a few happy days. The first was in 1950. The two Harrys drove a new red International truck to Sylvan Lake to get license plates.

The second, when Harry drove the new Super W6 tractor home. He loved machinery and was very proud of his two red "pets"

The third was rural electrification in 1951. I didn't believe it was possible even after the buildings were wired. I tried the house lights and left the outside one for Harry to initiate. The next was TV, the new drilled well and preasure system and later another truck

We enjoyed the Calgary Stampede, fairs and the best movies. We went to Invermere four times and in 1957 the two Harrys and Cora drove the red truck to Ft. Vermilion the last of June to bring me home via Athabaska

I think that covers my history. I still live in the house we came to July 5, 1921. I belong to the Eckville Friendship Club, enjoy card games, bingo and Senior Citizen trips. My hobbies are music, books, knitting, embroidery and gardening. There is also Shadow. I think someone unloaded a small border collie pup at my gate about eight months ago. There haven't been many dull moments since

I have enjoyed good health except for two sessions of pneumonia in Eckville Hospital in 1974 and 1975. I owe a debt of gratitude to Drs. David and Alan Ward, the nurses and hospital staff for their care and kindness.

Harry has two nephews, Leonard and Clarence Salmon, one niece Marion Sterling. I have four nieces. Mrs. Dick German (Betty), Mrs. Al Chiswell (Doris), Mrs. Harold (Leanne) Herber and Miss Clara Dobbs R.N

**RUTH DYRLAND DOBBS — by Ruth Dobbs**

Ruth married Lester Dobbs in 1926 and lived on the Dobbs' homestead until they moved across the road to their own place. They moved to Sylvan Lake in 1947, and back to a farm north of Eckville in 1948. They farmed here until Lester passed away in August, 1954. Ruth then moved to Eckville with the two youngest girls

Lester Ruth, Doris and Betty Dobbs

and worked at the Eckville Hospital until she retired in 1970. They had five children.

Frank died as an infant

Betty married Dick German and they live on a farm at Sylvan Lake. They have three daughters. Wanda married Calvin Metcalf of Calgary and they have three children, Jason, Tara and Sean. Wendy is with the Canadian Armed Forces and is stationed at Edmonton. Shirley is at the University of Alberta in Edmonton

Doris married Al Chiswell, and they live on a farm at Lacombe. They have two daughters. Alison also is at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, and Coreen is attending high school at Lacombe.

Lee Anne married Harold Herber, and they and their two sons, David and Darren, presently live in Saudi Arabia, where Harold works for Halliburton Oil Company.

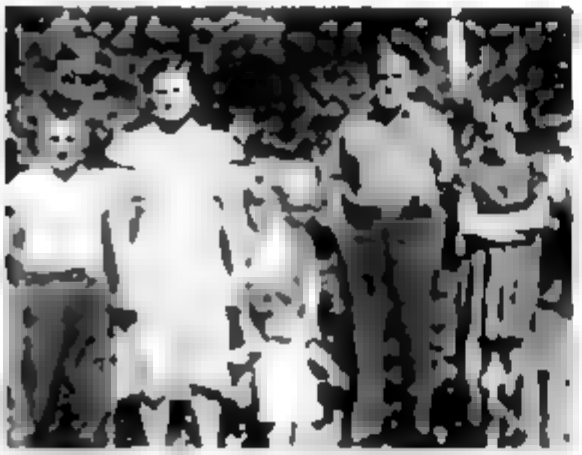
Clara is a registered nurse and works in the operating room at Red Deer General Hospital.

**DYRLAND, MR. AND MRS. BERT — by Mrs. Bert Dyrland**

In 1928 I, Selma Gant, of the Gilby area, was married to Bert Dyrland, who had come to the district with his parents in 1918 from Thiefriver Falls, Minnesota, U.S.A. We lived beside the

Medicine River for two years and rented Mr James Shorrock s land On June 27, 1929 our first child, Irene, was born, followed by our son Allan in September of 1930.

In the spring of 1932 we moved onto our own quarter section of land which we had bought Inez was born in September of that year and our son Vernon arrived in 1939. These four children all attended the Medicine Valley School where, years before, I had received my education under the guidance of my teachers, Mrs. J D Lawrence, Mr. Frame, Miss Dobbs, Mrs Graham, as well as others who were there for shorter periods of time



Allan, Selma, Inez, Vernon Bert and Irene Dyrland

Dale was born in 1942 and Earl in 1944 With our growing family we felt the need of a bigger house, so we built one However, we sold our farm in 1947 to Raymond Peterson and we then moved to the Leedale district, living in a house owned by Johnny Jones, located up by the old creamery Mr Jones owned and operated a big saw mill and Bert worked for him while we were living there. In 1949 we moved to the Thacik place, south of the Gimlet school. Here we lived for one year before moving onto our own place three miles northwest of the Gimlet school. Three of our boys attended this school.

We continued living on this place until 1972, when we sold our home to the present owners, Jesse and Bea Clough, who came from Revelstoke, B C. We bought a new home in Eckville and enjoyed a few years of our retirement there until December 10, 1976, when Bert passed away from cancer. I continue to live in my home in Eckville.

Irene Dyrland was married to Jack Bennett on May 25, 1959. They live in Calgary. She is a secretary and Jack is an accountant. They have no children

Allan Bertie Dyrland was married in 1956 to Ruth Norles in Brandon, Manitoba. Alan served for 25 years in the armed forces as a parachute jumper. They have no children.

Inez Dyrland was married to Edward Knowels in 1964 at Rimbey, Alberta. She lives in Red Deer, and has two children.

Vernon Dyrland married Lena Olah in 1962 He took his schooling at the Gimlet school, Lesllevllle school and high school at David Thompson school. He worked for Macleods in Red Deer, then in Olds, Rosetown, Saskatchewan, Lloydminster, and now they are living in Vermilion, Alberta. Both Vernon and Lena drive a school bus. They have two daughters, Delphine and Lisa

Dale Dyrland married Leanne Ferrano in 1965. He took his schooling at the Gimlet school and then on to Lesllevllle school, followed by high school at David Thompson. He was a soldier and served in Germany for three years. Their daughter Heidi was born in Germany When they came back to Canada he was stationed at Chilliwack, B. C. While in the army he took heavy duty mechanics, so when he was discharged, or got out of the army, he went to work for Finnie Tractor for three years in Kamloops and Dawson Creek, B C. They are now living in Red Deer Their son Jason was born at Chilliwack, B.C

Earl Dyrland married Jacqueline Rhodes in 1965. He also received his education at the Gimlet, Lesllevllle and David Thompson schools. Earl started working on the oil rigs when he was very young and he had several bad accidents. He finally quit this work and went with Cains Power Tongs and Tools, oil well servicing. For the last two years he has had his own trucks and works for Great West Feeds of Red Deer Earl and Jacqueline had two children, Shelley and Bartley. Shelley passed away very suddenly on February 20, 1977 at the age of 11 years. Jacki and Earl and their son Bartley live in Red Deer

**CHARLES DYRLAND — by Julia Dyrland**

Charles married Julia Szoke in December of 1939 and lives on the home place. They had six children Pearl, Margaret, Sylvia, Philip, Brian and Kenneth.

Pearl married Allan Boettger of Eckville in 1960. Their five children are Coreen, Dwayne, Sharon, Keith and Dean. They are in the trucking business and live in Bentley

Margaret married Bud Robinson of Leedale in January, 1962 and they lived for a while on a farm west of Leedale, and later in Lesllevllle She became a widow in 1975, with six children She now lives in Enderby, B.C. with Brenda, Shane, Amy, Crystle, Lance, and Amber

Sylvia married Robert Clayton in May, 1967 He works with Kidd Construction and they live in the Lesllevllle area. They have one son, Dale, and two of Robert's three children, Terry and Jim, live with them.

Phillp married Bernie Chapin of Caroline in 1969 He has worked for construction companies for several years as cat and buggie driver. The last two years he has spent with Lyle Walker, but

now is going to try dairying in Stauffer. Their two children are Quinton and Holly.

Brian married Jamie Brown of Bentley in 1974. They live on the home farm, helping his dad with the farming. They have two boys, James Lee and Craig Charles.

Kenneth Dyrland married Shelly French of Eckville in 1976. He worked with Hunt Construction and now is working with the new owners. They have two little girls, Jody Lynn and Melony Jane. They live in Eckville.

**ELIAS DYRLAND — by Johanna Dyrland**

Elias married Johanna Ophus in June, 1935. They moved to the NE 19-40-3-W5, known as the Jewel place, and have lived there ever since. They had nine children.

Don is farming his own and rented land, and lives at home.

Roy married Joyce Greenman in 1957. They are living at McKenzie, B.C. They have five children: Lonnie, Ronnie, Twiala, Darryl and Jason, all at home.

Bernice married Ken Huseby in 1957 and they are living on his mother's farm. They have six children and two grandchildren, all living at home. The children are Marilyn, John, Brian, Karen, Kevin, and Travis and the grandchildren are Bradley and Christina.

Ellen married Hank Klassen in 1960, and they are living at Soda Creek, B.C. They have three children, Vicky, Pam, and Randy.

Pat has been working in Eckville. She lives at home with her daughter, Debbie.

Dick married Marlene Harden in 1968. They have a son Darren, and five months after Dick passed away in 1972 their daughter, Lorrie Lee, was born.

Nancy is living and working in Red Deer. She was married in July, 1977 to Dave Watt of Red Deer.

Bill was still at home until he passed away in 1973.

Gordon is working the farm with his dad, and is living at home.

**THE DYRLAND FAMILY**

The history of the Dyrland family began in Shelly, Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1897, when Samuel Dyrland and Ellen Kreamme (both of Norway) were married. They farmed at Shelly for a number of years before moving to Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

In April, 1918, the family immigrated to Eckville, Alberta by train. Mrs. Dyrland and Clara, Bert, Ell, Ruth, Joe and Charles made the trip by train in about four days. Mr. Dyrland and son John left a week earlier, travelling on the immigration train to look after the two carloads of livestock and machinery.

Alfred Norem met the family at Kootuk with a democrat pulled by a team of small mules and drove them to the Norem farm. They stayed there for several days, until the men moved them on to their farm SE 2-41-4-W5. Ruth, Joe and Charles started school at Medicine Valley and the older boys farmed with their father until he passed away in July of 1936.

Dyrland gathering.

In 1926 Mrs. Thyssen passed away suddenly, leaving a family of three small girls. The youngest, Vera, came to live with the Dyrlands as one of the family.

Through the early years Mrs. Dyrland nursed many sick people and acted as midwife for many mothers in the district. In later years she kept busy with her quilts, houseplants and garden until she passed away in September, 1950.

**JOE DYRLAND AND FAMILY — by Helen Dyrland**

In August of 1936 my mother, Clara Lalone, died and I went to the States for a few months to stay with an uncle of mine. Joe Dyrland came to Minnesota in December of 1936 and we were married on the 11th of February, 1937, in Ada, Minnesota. We returned to the Eckville District to make our home.

We had six children — three boys and three girls, who were Joyce, Daniel, Myrna, Sammy, Larry, and ten years later, Trudy. They are all married now and live near home. Myrna married George Scott, from Rocky Mountain House and they lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba for six years. They have now moved back to Calgary where they make their home.

Joyce married Bill Maddox and lives on the farm near home. They have two girls and two boys.

Sammy married Judy Dahl and lives in Lacombe. They have two boys and two girls.

Danny married Jeanette Pruden and lives on the old Tom Mason place west of Gimlet School. They have two girls.

Trudy just married lives at Stauffer in a trailer.

We have 17 grandchildren and all are well and healthy.

**JOHN DYRLAND — by Ruth Dobbs**

John lived at home until 1921 when he went to farm in the Provost district. He moved back to the Medicine Valley in 1936 and settled on a farm

west of Gimlet School. He lived there until 1950, then sold his farm to Ike Walemaki. He worked as caretaker at Atlas Lumber Camp 15, northwest of Rocky Mountain House. In 1965 he came to Eckville and built a new home and lived there until his death in December, 1972.

**ENGEN, MARTIN**

Martin Engen was born in Valdres, Norway on October 20, 1874. He immigrated to the U.S.A with his parents at the age of four years. When he grew up he took a homestead near Leeds, North Dakota. On August 2, 1902 he was united in marriage to Mathilda Syverson of Starbuck, Minnesota. Three children were born to them at Leeds, North Dakota.

Mr. Engen and his family moved to the Gilby district on November 9, 1909. He brought some horses with him although at that time many of the neighbors here were still driving oxen. In 1910, Mr. Engen's father came to live with them Grandpa Engen took a homestead here, but he passed away in 1912

In 1914, another baby girl was born to Mr and Mrs Engen. Seven days later Mrs. Engen passed away, at the early age of 36 years. She was one of the first people to be buried in the Gilby cemetery

Martin Engen and Matilda taken approximately 1913

On May 8, 1916 Mr. Engen married Paula Nygaard. There were five children from this marriage, who, along with the four from his previous marriage, included the following; Lyle Sterling, born in 1903 and passed away in 1966, Cassius Elwood, born in 1904, and living in Bently; Marian Verna, born in 1906 and now living in Bentley; Mathilda Mildred, born in 1914 and living in Prince Rupert, B.C.; Earl Gilfred, born in 1917 and now living in Eckville, Martin Elmer, born in 1918 and living on a farm in the Eckville area; Roy Edward, born in 1921 and living near Eckville, Floyd William, born in 1923 and now living in Eckville, Gladys Eilleen, born in 1929 and living at Killam

Gathering at Engens

Mr. Engen helped start the Medicine Valley school district and was on the school board for several years. He even served as mid-wife to the new-comers in a few cases!

Mr. Engen passed away in August, 1949. Paula Engen is in Valley Park Manor in Red Deer at present. She was 79 years old in 1977

Lyle never married

Cassius married Mabel Nygaard. They have two children, Glen and Marie

Marian married Gus Haarstad. They had two sons, Vernon and Merlyn. Vernon passed away in 1974

Tillie married Roy Garries. They have one daughter, Susan

Earl married Marie Mitchell They have two sons, Rupert and Murray

Martin married Muriel Huseby They have four daughters, Dorothy, Norma, Kelly and Holly

Roy married Thelma Huseby. They have two children, LeAnne and Leonard. Thelma passed away in 1969, and was buried in the Gilby cemetery Roy later married Leitha Ambury

Floyd married Elsie Wingate. They have two sons and one daughter, Faye, Edwin and Dennis.

Gladys married Lloyd Sand. They have two daughters, Marian and Janet

**THE FEDDERSON FAMILY**

We, Alvin and Florence Fedderson, with our children, Tom, Terry and Fern, moved to Eckville in August, 1961, coming from Calgary

We had lived here for three years when we lost Tom due to an accident in the Medicine River He died on June 20, 1964. This is when we found out what truly wonderful neighbors we had.

Terry finished his schooling in Eckville, and Fern took all of her elementary and high school work in the Eckville Schools. She graduated from high school in 1974.

Terry married Eileen Saarela of Leslieville in June, 1966. Six years later we had our first grandchild, Beverly, born on June 16, 1972. On May 6, 1974 Terry and Eileen had their second daughter, Elenore. They live in the Gimlet area north west of Eckville

In 1976 Fern married Larry Hullgard, of Condor Since finishing high school she has worked as a secretary or as a receptionist.

**FREDRICKSON, ANDREW — by Joan Maddox**

Andrew (Shorty) Fredrickson came from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. in 1910 to file on NW 5-41 4-W5. With axe and grub hoe he cleared the big trees, building a house and barn, farming with horses.

He was an honest neighbor, always willing to help anyone, but quite capable of holding his own in any disagreement.

One that came in for discussion in days of measuring, was as to whether the surveyors stake was correct. This was important as a good spring was near the line, but Shorty kept it.

In 1928 he bought NW 3-41 4-W5 owned by the C.P.R. Again he cleared, broke the land and put up buildings.

He always said that when he died he wouldn't leave a wood pile for the neighbors to quarrel over. He passed away suddenly in 1939. There were only a few chips by his chopping block. Mr. Tkacik now owns the land.

**GANT, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS — by Selma Dyrland, their daughter**

On the 10th of August, 1911, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gant, and I, Selma, age seven months, arrived in the Medicine Valley district. Father acquired a homestead right away and, being an experienced woodsman, he quickly put up a log house and barn and other buildings. He was able to get a team of oxen in payment for working for a neighbor, Jake Amburs. A couple of years later he got a team of horses — a big black and a bay — as well as a cow in payment for work he did, so he got rid of the team of oxen. He kept the cow tied to a big log so that she could not run away. Father used to walk to Lacombe to work, so he could not get home very often.

In 1913 my brother Clarence was born and in 1915 Eunice was born. That was the year that Mary Gant, my mother, rode on a wagon load of hogs to Lacombe to get her teeth out.

In the spring of 1917 my parents held an auction sale and moved to Carmangay, Alberta. Father drove down with six horses and a new Baine wagon, as he planned to work on the road.

Louis and Mary Gant Family

Selma and Clarence Gant

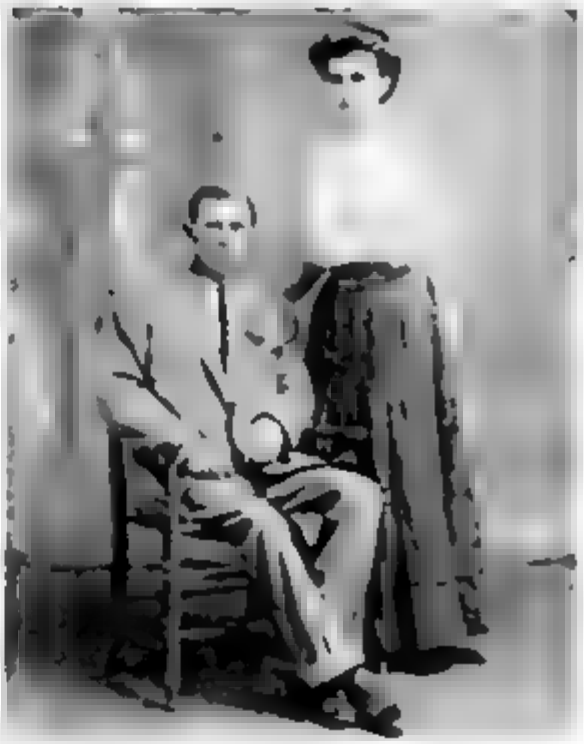
Mother and we children went by train. That fall, on September 13, my brother, John, was born. However, by November of 1917 the family had moved back to the homestead. We lived there until 1921, when father bought a Hudson Bay quarter three miles west of Gilby. We all lived there until father passed away on May 5, 1938 at the age of 63 years.

After Father died Mother sold the farm to my brothers, Clarence and John, and she moved to Rimbey, where she lived until 1958. In the mean time I had been married and mother lived with me and my family in 1958, before going to the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. She left the Lodge and after a year, in 1964, she passed away in Edmonton at the age of 78 years. Both she and father are buried in the Gilby cemetery.

Clarence Gant married Mary Wolney in 1938. She was from an early pioneer family also. They had two children, Shirley and Lawrence. Shirley is married to Arthur Bardenhagen and lives in Edmonton. She has four children, three boys and a girl. Lawrence is a pilot for the firefighters and he and his wife live in Duncan, B.C. Clarence passed away in 1957 from cancer, at the age of 44 years.

Eunice Gant married Bruce Jordan of Rimbey in 1945. They have six children. Patricia is a teacher and is married to Mervin Layden

The Clarence Gant Family: Clarence, Shirley, Lawrence and Mary



Marlee and Celeste Gant 1909

and they are farming at Innisfail. They have three children. Dennis is married and lives at Rimbey with his wife Gwynne and three children. Jimmy also farms at Rimbey with his wife Reta and two boys and a girl. Gerald married Bev Unger and they and little Heidi live in Rimbey. Wesley married a Swiss girl, Elisabeth, and they are farming west of Rimbey. Virginia and her husband, Reg Olson, are living in Innisfail. Dennis and Gerald work full time at Jordon's Equipment in Rimbey. Eunice and Bruce still farm northeast of Rimbey.

John Gant married Helen Skoreiko on April 10, 1941. They have four children. They lived west of Gilby after they were married, then they sold their farm to Clarence and moved to Stauffer later selling out there and moving to Markerville. In time they sold out there, and moved to Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Now they have moved back to Canada, in 1974, and live northwest of Alhambra. The three older children live in Rocky Mountain House. Elaine married Bill Speight of Speight's Construction on August 12, 1961 and they have four sons.

Eldon married Paty Winchester on November 20, 1970 and they have one son, Jason. Eldon is a catskinner in heavy construction work. Delmer is a driller in the oil fields. Debbie is still at home and is attending school.

**THE GANT AND WHILLIER STORY — by Mary E. (Gant) Whillier**

My father, Marlee Gant, was the first of the family to arrive in the Medicine Valley. He came early in the spring of 1910. Lacombe was the nearest railroad. He got a ride as far as Bentley and walked the rest of the way. The old Gilby store was under construction at the time, and he spent the night there sleeping on a carpenter's table. Mike Sestrap was the owner.

Father filed on the S.E. 27-40-4-W5, then returned to Deer Park, Washington, to sell his property and bring my mother (Celeste) to the new land. They arrived in the early summer, and stayed in Lacombe with Mrs. Dobbs, while they bought a team and wagon to bring their goods out to the homestead. The rest of the summer they lived in a shack which belonged to Julius Severson. (Mr. Severson was away working). During this time they were building a house of their own.

In 1911 my uncle, L. C. Gant, with his wife, Mary, and my cousin Selma came to the area. He homesteaded on the S.W. 34-40-4-W5. The Smale family now own this land. In 1914 another uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lee, and their children, Alma (Mrs. C. Bardenhagen) and Jerval Maddox came to Alberta. They spent the summer with us while they were building their house on S.W. 21-40-4-W5.

Most of these first houses were pretty crude, but served the purpose until something better could be built. This was about the time the Lacombe road was being built and surveyed (Highway 51). There was either a family or a bachelor living on nearly every quarter.

Father had to go out to work quite a bit and leave Mother (and later me) alone. The Lumby girls used to stay with us, to help mother and also to be company for us. Mother was not too well at this time, and in March of 1913 she passed away. The neighbors were very kind and took me off Father's hands for most of the first year. When Father brought me home I had learned to talk, but in Finnish, so he had to start all over and teach me to speak in English.

My first memory is of the Lumby and Carlson homes. The Carlsons were a large family and lived on S.W. 22, now owned by Richard Mottus.

One of my early memories is of the Christmas of 1914. Father and I, with the Lees, had gone to the Medicine Valley School Christmas Concert. Mr John Barnes was the Santa, complete with mask and fur coat. I was terrified, and took quite an amount of calming down.

In 1916 Father married Susan Dekker, and we were a family once again. The following winter the Dekkers left for California, and we bought their land N.W. 20-40-4-W5. In August of 1917 my sister Gertrude was born.

That winter we suffered the tragedy of a fire which took our home, barn and some stock. The old log house was still standing. It had been used in later years as a place for anyone coming along to sleep, so had a bed, stove and table in it. We lived there until spring then moved to the Dekker place.

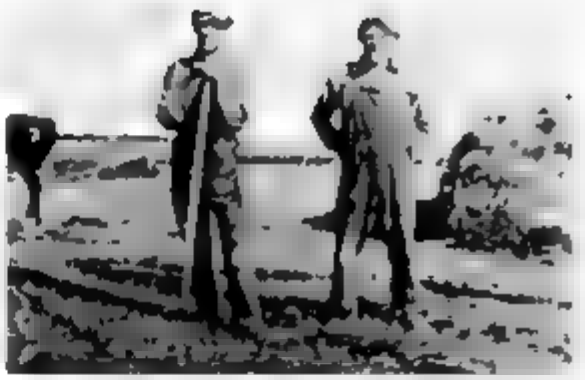
Reg Whillier breaking land 1929

My first brother, Martin, was born in the spring of 1919. Later that year Father sold the homestead to a man from Penhold named Jefferies, and the home, or Dekker place, to Mr. and Mrs. Comfort and their son Lewis. We moved our belongings to the John Vick place for the winter. Shortly after Christmas Mother and we three children joined her people in California. Father cared for the stock until the spring of 1920, then had an auction sale and came to join us in California. However, we returned to the old place in the spring of 1921, as the land sale had fallen through. There the rest of the family were born. The children were Mary (Mrs. Reg Whillier), Gertrude (Mrs. Arnold Moore), Martin (presumed to be dead), Jessie (deceased), Lorena (Mrs. Doug Drummond), Ella (living in Santa Fe, New Mexico), Eugene and Glen (both in Red Deer).

In 1946 the folks sold out to the V.L.A. and moved to Red Deer. They are presently residing in the Valley Park Manor in Red Deer.

**GARBUTT, ARTHUR AND PEARL**

Mr. and Mrs. Garbutt came from Millet in 1930, buying the SE 36-40-4-W5. They were very friendly people, having several community picnics at their place. Although, they had no family, they enjoyed having children visit and were aunt and uncle to many.



Art Garbutt and Bert Dyrland

They had lived in Texas and never tired of telling stories of the years spent there.

He had an old Ford truck with a leaking radiator. He tied a cream can of water with a pump and hose in it on the running board. Every few miles, he would reach out and pump some water into the radiator.

In 1945, they sold the farm to Dick Lawton who later sold to Sven Osberg.

They built a house in Eckville. Art worked as caretaker at the hospital, Pearl worked in the kitchen until she became ill and passed away in 1954.

Art remarried before he suddenly passed away when he was meeting his old friend from Texas in 1957.

**GOTING, JOHN**

John Goting was a step-brother to Oscar and Andrew Anderson. He came from Sweden in 1914 and filed on S.W. 4-41-4-W5. He became ill in 1916 and passed away.

**THE HAPPY VALLEY CLUB**

The Happy Valley Club was organized November 24, 1943. Mrs. Annie Parker was president and Mrs. Violet Brown was secretary-treasurer. We held our first meeting at Mabel Ervins. Those present at the meeting were Mrs. Lydia Thoen, Mrs. Griffen, Mrs. Wallmaki, Mrs. Pauline Keim, Mrs. Dorothy Dahms, Mrs. Mabel Ervin, Mrs. Annie Parker and Mrs. Violet Brown.

To find a name for our club, we all put a name on a piece of paper and then drew a name. Mrs. Lydia Thoens paper was drawn and that is how the Happy Valley Club got its name. Our club now has 15 members.

Our Club has helped many families who have had fires or accidents of any kind in their homes. The Crippled Children's Organization and many others were supported by our club.

The Happy Valley Club has catered for many wedding receptions, put on showers for young couples and put on lunches for dances and also for some auction sales.

Our club will soon be celebrating their 25th Anniversary Many, many quilts have been hand-quilted by this club and a lot of fun was had at the same time. We enjoy our meetings very much. The Gimlet Socialite Club and the Happy Valley Club entered a float in the Eckville Parade in 1966 and won first prize. The float depicted an Old Fashioned quilting party

**RUTCHISON, GEORGE — by Jean Hutchison Raabis**

My father and stepmother came from Calgary to the Medicine Valley in 1933. They settled on a farm about two miles north of the Medicine Valley School. My mother had passed away in 1923 and dad was left with four very young children, two boys and two girls, Bob, Floyd, myself (Jean) and Dorothy

Dad eventually married again. Our stepmother had a daughter, Frances, whom dad adopted. A son, Bill, was born to them and several years later a daughter, Eileen. When the folks came to the farm I was sent to my aunt and uncle's at Trochu to attend school there. The younger children, Dorothy, Frances and Bill, attended the Medicine Valley school. In November of 1937 I married Carl Raabis. We have three sons, George, Tom and Terry

Dorothy, my sister, married Elmer Linder in October of 1938. They had three children, Larry, Verlie and Ross. Dorothy and Elmer were divorced when their children were quite young Several years later Elmer passed away Dorothy is now married again and lives in Washington, U.S.A.

Verlie and Ross are married, but Larry has never married. They all live in British Columbia.

Bob, my eldest brother, married Evelyn Bardenhagen in 1939. They have three daughters, Cora Lyn, Alma Lee and Norma Jean. They are all married now and have families of their own. Floyd passed away in September of 1941. He was never married Frances, the adopted sister, is married and has three children. She lives in British Columbia. Bill also lives in British Columbia, but has never married. He and Frances both served in the Forces during the war. Eileen is married and lives in British Columbia. Dad left the farm in 1940 and returned to Calgary. He enlisted in the Ordnance Corp in the Army for a couple of years during the war, and later moved to the coast to live. He passed away in March of 1974. Our stepmother is still alive and lives in Nanaimo, B.C.

**ISAACSON, ISAAC — by Hilja Sjoblom**

Mr. Isaac Isaacson came from Butte, Montana about 1909, and filed on a homestead four and one-half miles west of Gilby, on SE 21-40-4-W5. He worked on his land during the summers, but made several trips back to Butte to work in the mines where he had been employed. He met a Mrs. Sophie Jewelberg, who had also been a homesteader's wife near Rocky Mountain House. Her husband had passed away and she had returned to Butte to work. They were married in Butte in the early '20s, and came back to live on the homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaacson worked hard and kept the place nice. Their house was always open to passers-by, as in those days everyone traveled with horses. It was nice to be able to give the horses a rest and to get a lunch or a meal if it was close to a meal time. The Isaacson home was always such a friendly place.

Mr. Isaacson took ill and passed away about 1936, and was buried in the Gilby cemetery. Mrs Isaacson lived on the place for a few more years, renting the fields but taking care of her stock.

In 1940 Mrs. Isaacson sold her place to William Sjoblom, of Vancouver After she sold the farm she had a small house built in Rocky Mountain House where she resided as long as she was able to take care of herself. She had to be taken to a nursing home in Edmonton, where she passed away in 1943.

The Sjoblom's owned this place for 36 years, then sold it to James Pollitt, who resides on it at present with his family

**I THINK I SAW THE WIND TODAY — by Bob Osberg**

**NOSTALGIC RETURN**

You have probably experienced it. We all have. Rekindling old memories has a bittersweet effect which disturbs our beings as we hover between anticipation and regret. We anticipate seeing things as they were, and then we regret that they have changed so much

I took my trip into the past recently by visiting the deserted farmstead of my childhood. It was not the first return visit I have been back half a dozen times, but still I am almost overwhelmed by the flood of nostalgic memories.

Only the house remains now. The rest of the buildings have been torn down or moved. It is here that I stop first. The once stately spruces surrounding the house have become straggly and broken while the tired old building stands forlornly with its open porch slumping wearily almost to the ground.

Inside I see the remains of the old wringer washing machine. Immediately the smells and sounds of Wash Day return. I hear the put-put-put of the gasoline motor and the swish-chug of the plungers. The smell of exhaust from the pipe sticking out through the half-open window is heavy in the air, vying for recognition with the wet smell of the white garments being boiled on the wood stove.

I shake my reverie and move on to other rooms Decay has set in. The floors have crumpled in places and great expanses of wallpaper hang from the ceilings. Wallboard has been torn off in spots and the gaping holes reveal the log walls with moss still chinked between each timber

Upstairs I find my iron bed and spring still intact. The open window and the non-insulated walls bring forth more memories. I can see my brothers and I thumping the wall and gleefully diving under the covers as our cousins, who were staying over, stared aghast at the horde of angry yellow-jackets buzzing through the open window. And I can smell the burning sulphur we used to try to smoke the wasps out of that wall.

I leave the house, to wander through the woods. It was here in this parkland setting that I developed my love for nature. I search for and find, though much fainter now, the path I had followed for years. Twice a day up to grade nine I had trod this winding trail for two miles to attend the one-room Medicine Valley School. Grass and underbrush has moved in on it but it still remains an easy route to follow, and it still leads to the favorite spots that I knew so well. Strawberries still are growing in the little meadow, red currants hang over the bank of the meandering creek, and under the grove of spruce trees I see the large rotten log where a ruffed grouse still thumps out his challenge and love call.

It is in the sloughs and muskegs that I see the most change. I remember them as large bogs, so water-logged that a horse was unable to walk through at times. You could stand in one spot and shake the land for a hundred feet around. Now, oil company roads criss-cross these areas and many are completely dry.

I see a change in the river, too. The Medicine River seems to flow much slower now. The brown grass-stained water is sluggish, allowing weeds and algae to multiply readily. How well I remember swimming and skating that river. Because it is slow moving, a cold snowless fall provided miles of glass-smooth skating and sopping wet feet when we didn't quite jump the beaver dams. After being used to the sparkling Highwood River, the thought of swimming in this grimy water is revolting.

Our life is made up of memories, good and bad, and although I know one shouldn't dwell upon the past, I'm glad that I can take the occasional trip back in time to taste some of those bitter-sweet memories.

**IZON, JOHN**

John Izon was born in London, England. His parents were in the steel mill business.

He was in the American Army at the time of the Spanish-American war. Seeing little active service at this time because he was in hospital with typhoid fever.

He homesteaded the N.W. 28-40-4 W5. Many were the amusing stories that he would tell about his team of huge holstein-hereford oxen, Turk and Blue, as he spent his evenings with the neighbors or at the Medicine Valley post office. This was a gathering place for the Saturday mail delivery. He lived alone and was found by his neighbors several days after he had died in 1946.

**JANSSON, MR. AND MRS. JOHAN — by Daughter, Mrs. Emma Nygaard**

Mr. and Mrs. Jansson, with a daughter age two years and a son age nine months, came from Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. to the Gilby district in July of 1908. They filed on a homestead, NW 4-14-40-W5. Soon after their arrival they built a two-roomed log cabin on their land.

In November 1909 another son, Carl, was born, followed by a daughter, Emma, in 1912. The last child, Marie was born in 1914. These three children were born in the small home with a neighbor serving as midwife. Doctors were not readily available, as the nearest towns were Lacombe and Red Deer.

Until the year 1910 dad would walk to Lacombe for supplies, as there was no other means of travel. In 1910 the Gilby Store was built, and this also served as our post office. At this time no roads had been built — any travel done was over the trails, winding around over the high ground.

The first school in the district was built in 1913. This building was located on NW 28-40-4 W5 and was known as the "Medicine Valley School". The affairs of the school were administered by a board of three local men, the first board being Frank Lawton, Bill Withers, and Martin Engen. These men collected the taxes, hired and fired the teachers, and paid the teachers' salaries. The first teacher was Mr. Fallis, who served in 1913-1914. From the years 1913 to 1918 there were nine teachers. During this time the teachers had to find board and room in the community with some of the farm families. In 1919 a teacherage was built, which solved the problem of teacher accommodations. In 1919 Mr. William Frame, a returned soldier, was hired as the teacher, and he served in this capacity for three years. The school was not well heated and our fingers would get so cold that we could hardly hold our pencils. By noontime our lunches would be frozen. For this reason school holidays were scheduled for the winter months. In spite of these handicaps our beloved country school remained in constant use for us and our children until 1955. At this time the children started being bussed to the Eckville school, and later our old school building was sold and moved away to another location.

Father, in his homeland of Sweden, was a blacksmith by trade. To help increase the family income after settling in the Gilby district he started doing blacksmith work at his farm. This enterprise filled a real need in the community and he became known as "Blacksmith Jansson". There was not much income from this source in those early days because most of the people were as poor as we were. Since Father never turned anyone away, a lot of the work was done "on time" and the customers would pay him when they could. Nevertheless, by 1919 Dad was able to buy a quarter of C.P.R. land cornering our homestead, and began to break and to build on this land.

In the spring of 1922 Mother became very ill, and passed away in May of that year. This was a great shock to dad, and he was left with the responsibility of raising five children ranging from eight to 16 years of age. Nevertheless, dad carried on, and in 1923 he finished the house which he had begun to build in the fall of 1921, and we moved into it. Dad was still doing a lot of blacksmith work but was beginning to be bothered by rheumatism. Then his heart started to give him trouble and in the spring of 1926 he was taken to the Lacombe hospital. Dad passed away in June of that year, and was buried beside mother in the Gilby cemetery. Now the two older children were left to try to keep us all together and to run the farm. We had no relatives in Canada, so other than the kindness shown by neighbors we were by ourselves. Since then life has been quite good to us.

In 1927 my oldest sister, Elida, married Edwin Soberg and moved to a farm in the Bentley district. They had three children. At present they have retired and are living in the Leedale area.

My oldest brother, William, never married. He lived on our home place and farmed in that district until his death, from a heart attack, in 1971.

My other brother, Carl, also a bachelor, had a farm east of Gilby. He later sold the farm and, following in dad's footsteps, took up blacksmithing. He is now living in the Lesslieville district and still enjoys farming and blacksmith work.

I, Emma, am the fourth child. In 1929 I married Gus Nygaard. We had two children. We farmed in the Eckville district close to my first home for 31 years. We are now retired and are living in Eckville.

My youngest sister, Marie, was married in 1934 to Dave Hietala. They farmed in the Benalto area until they sold their farm in 1973 and retired to Red Deer to live. They have four children.

**KLEVEN, THEODORE — by Joan Madden**

Theodore Kleven filed on the N.E. 33-40-4-W5 about 1910 when he arrived from Minnesota, U.S.A.

He was a bachelor who liked to visit, but he stuttered badly and would be annoyed if you tried to help him with what he wanted to say. He was often seen starting the trip to the Gilby Store with his bay team, Jennie and Boxer, about four o'clock in the afternoon. He would be late returning, as he had to stop and chat with everyone he met along the way.

He served on the Medicine Valley school board for some time. In 1928 ill health forced him to sell out. He entered a Camrose nursing home and died there several years later.

**KOSKI FAMILY HISTORY — Frank, Ellina and Children**

Frank Koski, born December 8, 1873 in Hult[illegible] Finland, and Ellina Peura, born January 28, 1874 in Vaasanlaani, Finland, were married on March 6, 1904 at Muttialla, Finland. Mr. Frank Koski came to Canada from Finland by ship in 1912 and homesteaded a quarter section about seven miles north-east of Lesslieville, Alberta. In 1913 his wife Ellina, and daughter, Taimi, age six and son Arthur, age three, joined him on the homestead. On December 19, 1914 a son, Ernie was born, and Frank Jr. was born in Eckville, Alberta on October 7, 1918.

The Koski quarter-section was heavy timber and to get the land ready for seeding the trees had to be grubbed out by hand with an axe and a grub hoe. By means of much hard work, though, by 1934 over half of the quarter was in farm land. Like so many of the pioneer farmers, Mr. Koski worked at many jobs to help get the farm started and to buy a cow and work horses. During the years 1912 and 1913 the Canadian Pacific Railroad was building a line between Red Deer and Rocky Mountain House, and Mr. Koski was employed on this job. The line was later extended to Nordegg, where a coal mine, known as Brazeau Colliers, was being developed.

Mr. Koski packed flour and other necessary household supplies on his back from Red Deer to the homestead. It was a three-day trip if the weather was good, but longer if it was stormy.

Art Koski, who was born in 1910, remembers his dad broadcasting (planting) the wheat by hand. He doesn't recall how it was covered, but supposed this was done by a harrow being dragged over the field. Haying was done by a scythe and a three-foot hand rake, then put to cure on wooden cross stakes stuck in the ground. When it came time to cut the wheat the neighbors came with sickles. Men and women worked side by side and tied the bundles with straw and then stooked them. After they became dry the bundles were stacked. Later in the winter, after the other farm work was finished, the bundles were threshed with a "flail" and on windy days they threw the mixture into the air so the chaff would blow away from the wheat. As the age of improvements crept in, the wheat was cut with a scythe with some sort of rack on it, to catch the wheat, until there was enough for a bundle and then dumped off and tied by hand.

In 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Koski sold their farm and retired to the town of Sylvan Lake, into a new home which their son-in-law, Mr. Carl Soderland, had built for them. Their daughter, Taimi, had married Carl Soderland in 1932. They are now living in Vancouver, British Columbia, and they have a daughter, Margaret, who is married to Tom Keys. Margaret and Tom have six children. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Koski have both passed away, and are both buried in the Sylvan Lake cemetery.

**FRANK KOSKI JR.**

Frank Koski Jr. married Edith Cumming of Lesslieville area in 1941. They made their home

first close to the Blueberry school, then moved to the Rocky Nordegg area and finally to Invermere, British Columbia. They have four girls — Elaine, Donna, Frankie, Debbie and have one son, Gerald. Frank and Edith have had saw mill and lumber businesses both in Alberta and in British Columbia

**ERNIE KOSKI**

Ernie Koski, son of Frank and Ellina, was born in the homestead house on December 19, 1914, and grew up in the Leslieville and Blueberry district. In 1935 he met May Taylor and they were married on October 28, 1939. Ernie and May bought the Koski homestead and lived there for a year before moving to Nordegg in 1941. At Nordegg Ernie worked for the Brazeau Coal Company for almost 15 years, until the mine closed down. They then moved to the Millet-Edmonton area in 1954 where they lived until moving to Red Deer in late 1955, where they have lived since that time.

Ernie and May have two daughters, Lois and Linda. Lois was born in Bentley, Alberta on September 11, 1939. She married Gary K. Allison on May 16, 1959, and they have two children. They live in Red Deer. Linda was born in the town of Nordegg on February 7, 1954. She grew up in Red Deer, but later moved to Calgary. She married Frank Marasco Jr. in Calgary in June, 1977.

Ernie's occupation in Red Deer has been with Flint Engineering and Construction. On May 28, 1977 at the Capri Motor Inn he received a 20-year pin award. May was interested in music throughout her life, and played several instruments, including the violin and drums. In 1977 she was still with an entertaining group and dance band called the "Outcasts"

**ART KOSKI**

Art Koski was born October 10, 1910. He remembers that, while he was growing up, he plowed many a furrow by the use of a walking plow. In 1931 he helped build highway 11, working with a team and fresno (a dirt slip). He also helped built the number 12 highway, between Bentley and Rimbey, Alberta.

Art married Edna Jackson of Rocky Mountain House in 1934. They have two children — Shirley and Marvin. Shirley married Dave Callen of Rocky Mountain House and they, with their four children, now live in Rapid View Saskatchewan. Marvin married Heather Darch of Big Valley, Alberta. They and their two children live in Calgary.

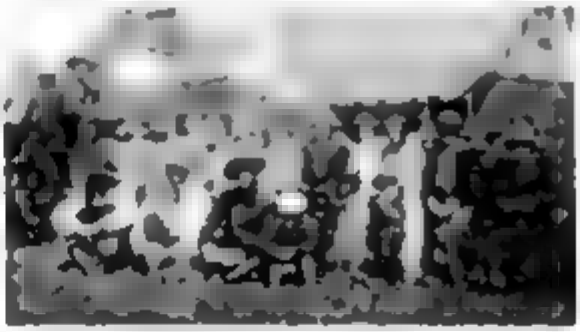
The children attended the Blueberry School and Art remembers some winters when the snow was so deep that the school had to be closed for weeks at a time, and in the spring the crust was so hard that they could walk cross-country to school.

Art is retired now and lives in Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. Art and Edna farmed a few miles north-east of Rocky Mountain House for many years.

**LAKEVOLD, MR. AND MRS. OLE — by Alice Lakevold Hersch**

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Lakevold moved to Gilby with their four children, Olga, Cora, Roy and Alice about 1919. We settled close by the Medicine River on NE 35-40-3 W5.

I attended the Medicine Valley school and rode my horse to school. We did enjoy our six years at Gilby with our good neighbors and friends. We remember many good times we had there. We would fish in the river, and we had a good patch of raspberries on our place. Many people came to pick them.



Lakevold picnic 1922

My sister Olga married Alex Ferguson of Gilby and they lived across the river from us. Dad built a foot-bridge across the river for us to use in getting to my sister's home, and it was very helpful to us.

From Gilby, mother and dad moved back to Provost, Alberta, where dad had homesteaded. They continued to live there until they passed away.

Cora has passed away. Olga lives in Kelowna, B.C., and Roy lives at Kingston, Washington, U.S.A. My husband and I live in Spokane, Washington, U.S.A. We have a son and he and his family live in Spokane, also.

**THE LARSEN FAMILY — by Martha Reitsma**

It was in the year 1910 that we, my mother, four brothers and myself, left Norway — the third of May, to be exact. On the fourth we landed at Newcastle, England about noon, and arrived at Liverpool in the evening. We stayed there for two days. In the late afternoon on Friday, we were put on the boat for Canada. On the 13th of May we landed in Quebec. We boarded the train that same day and for four days and nights we sat on those hard wooden seats, until we reached Calgary on the 17th. Here we changed trains for Lacombe, Alberta, this time riding on cushioned seats'

There was no room in the hotel in Lacombe, but an old man took us to a rooming house where we stayed until the morning of the 19th. A man

with a team and light wagon started off for Gilby, with us and our baggage. This transportation had been arranged by Ole Boody, as we did not know anyone there, and brother Bob was not there to meet us. We arrived at Gilby in the evening. Gus and Mike Sestrap had the store at that time. We all had supper and stayed overnight with them. Gus brought in a big armful of hay and spread it on the floor, put some blankets over it, and we slept just fine, all in one big bed. Next morning, Gus said that Bob would be here by 10 or 11 o'clock. We wondered how he knew that, but Mr. Vidmark had come and my two brothers, John and Halvar, went along to get brother Bob to tell him we were at Gilby. In about one hour the three of them came back and had dinner, and shortly after that Jake Amburs came with a team and wagon and took us all up to Bob's house. We stopped at Ambur's place to meet the family, his wife and four children. The men were gathering up axes and saws to clear away bush and trees on the trail.

When we had been at our new home for about three days Bob said that he would take me to show me were to get milk and butter. So we met the Lawton family. Mrs. Lawton was home with her children while Mr. Lawton was away working. There we got our milk and butter that summer, and learned our first English from Bill, Kathy, and Mrs. Lawton, who was very kind to the children. Twice a week we got one pail of fresh milk, which we paid for, one of skim milk, which she gave us.

L. to R. Back: Arnt Larsen, Emil Rothem. Front: Hans Reirson, Lute Larson, Robert Larson

Bob and John went out to work on the road. Mr. Hunt was the boss and had his whole family with him. They started work over by Leedale, or Wittenburg, as it was called in those days. They worked on the road until late fall. Before they left Bob told us what he wanted us to do. Halvar, or Hal, as we called him, was to cut logs for the barn — enough for the walls. Hal cut them down and we kids cut the branches and took the bark off so they could dry. The bark came off easily, as the sap was still running.

Later Halvar cut hay, using a scythe. It was hard work for a 16-year-old-boy. He had made us some hand rakes, and we raked it and stacked it. When the oats were ripe, Hal cut them, also, with the scythe. We made bundles and set them up. The next year Hal dug a root house in the hill for our potatoes and other garden stuff. It was there for many years. He also made a wheelbarrow to haul away the dirt. Halvar and John each filed on a quarter of land — Hal west of Bob's and John on the north side. They farmed together for some years.

In 1918, they started to build a new house — a big one — and had it finished in March, 1920. There was lots of snow that winter, and it laid on the ground for a long time. Our mother, Anna Larsen, died in 1918, so she did not get to live in the new house.

John came back from the coast late in the fall of 1918. He had been fishing and working at other jobs there. There was lots of flu that winter. Some of our neighbors were very sick, and one died, but we escaped the flu that time. When a person went to an auction sale he was to wear a mask, or to wear a handkerchief over his nose and mouth.

Halvar left home in 1922, first going to British Columbia, then on to Alaska, where he died in April, 1923, from being gassed in a mine. John left home some years later, and has not been back. Arnt left for the United States in the middle of the twenties and was back to visit in 1969. He died later that fall. Lute left Bob's place in 1929, first going to the prairies to work in the harvest and then over to British Columbia. He now lives in Prince George, B.C. He is married and has two children.

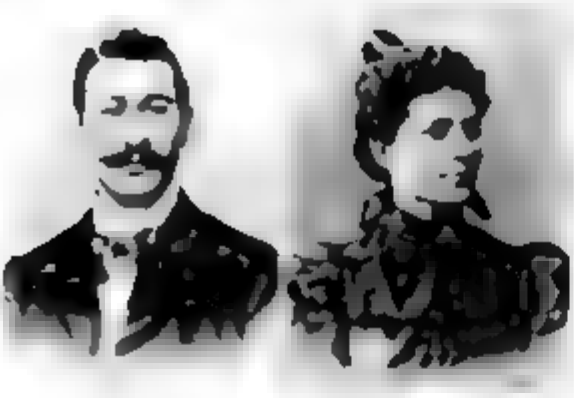
Bob lived on his farm until he got sick. He died in January, 1963 at 78 years of age. In the years he was farming he used only horses. He had an auction sale in 1931 and rented the farm after that.

**THE FRANK LAWTON FAMILY — by Joan Madder**

In 1898 Frank Lawton, a qualified carpenter and also a player on the "Bolton Wanderer's Rugby Team", was married to Clara Gilbert, who was parlor maid to Adkin and Sons, the millionaire tobacco people.

On March 7, 1906 they set sail for Canada with William, age five, Kathleen, age three and Joan, aged 11 months. Their only possessions were contained in two metal trunks and a few cases. It was a rough, two-week journey, travelling steerage. All were very sea-sick.

They spent one month on a farm at Woodstock, Ontario, later travelling by train to Lacombe, Alberta, arriving with 75 cents. They rented a single room over the harness makers' shop. Frank got work at once in the sash and door factory. That summer he came to the Medicine Valley and filed on the NW 34-40-4-W5. During that year they bought a milk cow, a team of buckskin ponies and a light wagon, which, by



Frank Lawton 1908. Clara Lawton

the spring of 1907, had been made into a covered wagon to hold all of their belongings. Leading the cow behind, they started the week long trip west, the latter part being only trails winding along the highest ground. The river had to be forded. They made a tent of the wagon cover to live in while the one-room sod roofed house was built from logs. When it rained, as it seemed to do all summer, the water would pour through the roof. The canvas again was stretched to keep the beds dry. The children would sit on the trunks with rain capes and sail paper boats on the water as it was being swept to the gap where the floor met the walls. Old Shep would come from under the table and shake himself. Frank would be away most of the summer, building for farmers around Lacombe. By fall they were able to buy two more heifers.

In January, 1908, Alick was born, in 40-below zero weather, with only a small cook stove for heating. Frank was doctor, nurse and housekeeper.

In 1910 a 14 by 14 feet lumber shack with shingle roof was bought for $25 from Bill Kurshaw, who had homesteaded NW 36-40-4 W5, but was leaving his homestead. Roger was born in this house on October 7, 1910. Frank again managing alone.

The meat which the family ate consisted of wild chickens, partridge, and rabbits. Wild berries provided a plentiful supply of fruit for the family table. They were now raising the steer calves for oxen to do the field work, as some land had been cleared. Mail and supplies were got once a month from Lockhart, where the most needed groceries were sold. It was a long day's trip for two men and a team and wagon. They would carry a chain and spade to get the wagon out when it became stuck in the numerous swamps. Letters from England and the Eaton's catalogue were very welcome portions of the mail.

In 1910 the Medicine Valley Post Office was opened on Mr. E. T. Wither's place. Mike Sestrap built a store at Gilby, just five miles away. Life was indeed 'improving'. Milk was strained into a tall can with a tap at the bottom. After it stood all night the milk was drained out and from the cream butter was churned to be traded for groceries at the Gilby Store. There was only one pony left by this time, so the Jersey steer was driven with him on these trips. There were almost seven years between the trips Mrs. Lawton made. Visits to neighbors were often only once a year! She enjoyed good reading, and kept up a regular correspondence with relatives and friends in England.

Mrs. Lawton, coming from a family of dress makers, was very capable at making over the clothing that people had given to her. At first by hand, and later with the use of an old sewing machine, she kept the family clothed. In 1916 the old machine was replaced by a Singer treadle machine that is still in use. Mrs. Lawton also sewed and made hats for friends, enjoying their visit at the same time. They always welcomed whoever came that way with a meal or even a bed on the floor, if needed. Mrs. Lawton acted as mid-wife at several births.

Early in 1911, as there were 12 children in the area between the ages of eight and 13 years, it was decided to apply for a school. There was some opposition from bachelors and those without school age children, although not so severe as in the Leafland district to the west where at the beginning of the meeting all knives and guns were ordered to be put on the table.

There was now a larger log house being built with an upstairs. The first floor was the usual rough lumber, but later a hand-planed, with tongue and groove, one was put down. This work was done in the house in winter, so it was a happy day when the work bench, shavings, and sawdust all were cleared out.

On March 3, 1913 Derrick was born, again Frank was in charge of the birth. Other than colds, the family suffered no sickness through the years.

In the spring of 1913 the school that had been built on the NW 24-40-4-W5 was opened with Mr. Fallis as teacher. It was quite an event for children who had scarcely been out of their own yards. The path to the school led through swamps, and in summer shoes were carried to be put on at school. The school board members were F. Lawton, E. Withers and M. Engen. The students that year were Chloe, Walter, Lester and Jim Ambars, Bertha Backus, Fred and Annie Bardenhagen, Lyle and Cassius Engen, William, Kathleen and Joan Lawton. The rate of assessment was eight cents per acre. The secretary-treasurer got $30 per year. The teacher's salary was $40 per month, and he did the janitor work. Mr. Fallis taught the 1914 term also.

The oxen had now been sold, a team of mares bought, and colts were being raised, so farming went a little faster.

On July 25, 1915 a premature baby girl was born, but lived only one day. Mrs. Best, a trained

nurse and the only medical help for many miles, came on horseback to help

More settlers were coming, bridges were being built, and roads improved, as everyone could work on them to pay the taxes. Some men worked by hand and others used a team, putting down logs to corduroy the low places. School concerts were held at Christmas, and occasionally there would be a church service in the school. The only other religious training was taught in the home

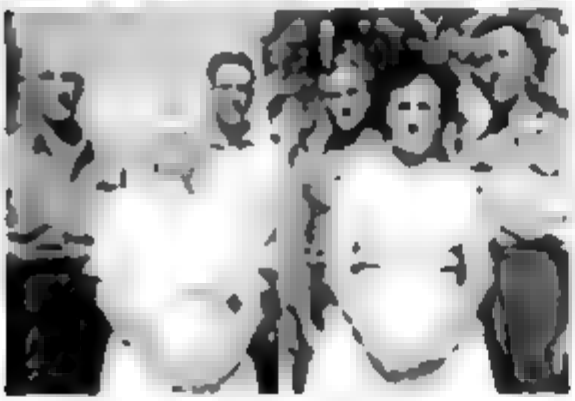
In 1919 the Lawtons bought the NE-32-40-4-W5 for $2000. They moved there for the summer to break more land. There was now a nice herd of Shorthorn cattle. Wheat and a large garden was put in, as on the higher land, they were away from the frost. Hail came when the lovely crop was almost ripe, cutting the yield very low. They always looked on the bright side, so planned for another year. William had now homesteaded NE 6-44-4 W5. Clearing and breaking was also done there in 1920.

On April 25, 1921 tragedy struck the family, as Frank died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage. The neighbors made the casket and he was buried in the Gilby cemetery. Billy, not yet 21 years old, with his sisters, managed the farm. The work was hard, as the heavy wheat bundles had to be stooked, then stacked to await the threshing crew which would come later in the fall.

A few years later Billy traded his land for a steam threshing outfit. Now stook threshing was done. Clara, although still saddened by her loss, kept cheerful as she watched her family growing up and taking an interest in their friends and social activities.

The log house was enlarged, with a living room and bedroom above it. The first radio was bought, and in due time a model T Ford car

In 1926 Kathleen married Clarence Ferguson, who had bought land in the area. In 1928 Joan married Jervel Maddox and they moved to Winfield, Alberta. In 1937 Billy married Ann McLeod, and they moved onto the NE 32-40-4-W5, which he had bought. In 1940 Derrick moved onto the NE 26-40-4-W5 that had been bought from Bardenhagens, farming there until moving to Eckville. He was married to Dorothy Rauhala, and they have three daughters.



Lawton Family

Clara now had only Alick and Roger at home. She kept very active and interested in the grandchildren. She was also enjoying a new six-roomed house, a better car and nice clothes, that she had never forgotten how to choose and wear. She would never be seen out without her hat and gloves.

Clara's health was failing, and after a short illness she passed away on May 3, 1947

Alick and family, and Roger, still live on "The Covered Wagon Homestead", where hospitality is just as great as it was in 1906. Alick is married to the former Eileen McTighe

**LAWTON, WILLIAM AND ANN**

Bill Lawton was born in Kent, England, in 1900. He came to Canada with his parents and sisters in 1906, spending the first year in Lacombe where he went to school. In the spring of 1907, they travelled by covered wagon to the homestead; the trip taking seven days

Bill, then seven, helped his mother with the chores, as his father was a carpenter and spent some of the summer months away. The stove wood had to be cut with a buck saw and water carried from the creek nearby

Grain for seed and feed was beaten with a flail on a canvas, put through an old bed spring, then poured from a pail in the wind to clean the chaff out

When the Medicine Valley School was built in 1913, he attended for three years before leaving school to help with the farm work. In 1918, he homesteaded NE 6-41-4-W5.

He and the family worked hard clearing and breaking the land to get thirty-five acres so he could get the title. His father passed away suddenly in 1921 leaving him responsible to run the farm with the help of his sisters and younger brothers

Bill's early dream of owning a steam engine came true in 1925 when he traded his land for a threshing outfit. The whistle could be heard across the Valley

In the early thirties, he started a saw mill together with his brothers, which sawed lumber for many of the buildings between Leedale and Eckville.

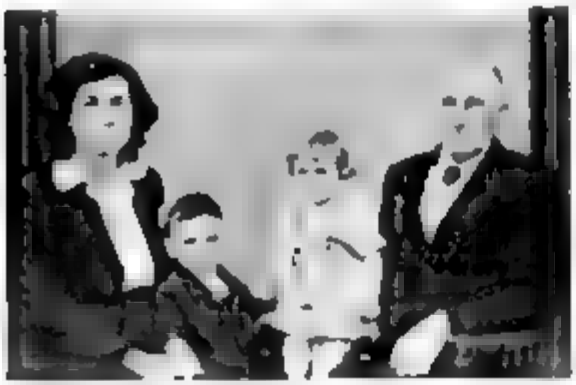
In 1937 he married Ann McLeod of Calgary who was teaching in the district

That year, the saw mill was moved to a timber limit 20 miles north of Rocky Mountain House where it was operated until 1944. It was quite an experience for Ann to spend the winter in a logging camp

In the spring of 1940, forest fires covered the area and were out of control. They removed the roof from the mill buildings to save heat on the machinery. When the fire died down, they went back expecting ruins but very little had been burnt

During the winter, they had hauled the lumber to higher land. The fire had got to the lumber piles, but the wind had changed so none was lost. The McTighe mill nearby was a complete loss

They returned to farming near the old home and later owned NW 7-41-3-W5 and SW 5-41-3-W5. It was told that they moved so often that when he put the chicken crate in the yard the hens would go into it



William and Anne Lawton, Graham and Lynn

In 1948, a son, Graham, was born, who married Judy Sears. They have two sons.

In November, 1950 their daughter Lynn arrived. She married Ken Wilton, is a lab. technician, and lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Bill took an active interest in community affairs and could always take time to recall the early days in the Valley with his many friends, although arthritis and failing health had kept him nearer home the last few years. He passed away January 16, 1974.

Ann now lives in Rocky Mountain House.

**LAWTON, ALICK AND ROGER**

Alick and Roger (Dodge) Lawton were born and raised on the old farm which their parents homesteaded in 1906 and where they still live. They attended the Medicine Valley school and later farmed with their brothers Bill and Dick and their mother. Their father had passed away in 1921. Their two sisters, Kathy and Joan, were married about this time. The farm then consisted of a half section of land.

Until about 1920, the farming was done with horses. They both worked on the steam threshing outfit that Bill had bought in 1926. In 1930, Alick bought a threshing outfit and ran it with a 22-36 McCormick Deering tractor which still runs good. About this time, they sold most of the cattle which were shorthorn milk stock and received about $1100 for 38 head. They then began to build up a herd of Hereford cattle with a yearling bull bought from Wm. Broderson at Leedale for $50

In 1932, they started in the sawmill business with a mill that had formerly been owned by Jabez McPherson, Julius Johnson and the Northcott Bros. The mill was driven by Bill's Nichols and Shephard steam engine. This was traded on a 80 H P case formerly owned by Hugo Mottus. About 1935, Bill puchased a 110 H.P Case to drive the mill and farmers from as far as Rimbey hauled logs to be sawn. In 1937, a timber limit was bought 20 miles north of Rocky and the four brothers operated it together until 1940. Alick and Dodge then sold out to Bill and Dick Their mother had passed away in 1947. They then continued to increase their cattle herd under the name of Lawton Bros Covered Wagon Homestead and now run about 1,000 head during the summer of mostly Herefords and also keep about 50 horses of mainly quarter horse breeding. Their farm and pasture land has been increased to about 20 quarter sections with additional leased pasture

Lawton Sign. Alick and Roger Lawton had this sign erected in memory of their parents who homesteaded the land in 1906. Roger passed away February 1978. Alick now owns the property

For several years, they trucked cattle to the Elk Creek Flats to pasture and then had a trail drive to bring them home in the fall which took about four days. Many interesting experiences were encountered hauling over Corkscrew Mountain on the trunk road west of Caroline and also on the fall trail drive home

In 1957, Alick was married to Eileen McTighe who had grown up on the east side of the valley north of Gilby They have one daughter, Lorraine, who is taking nursing in Red Deer and one son, Jim, attending Eckville High School. Eileen had previously been married to the late Robt. Alexander at Duncan, B.C. and has three adopted children John, Pat and Nan

The Lawton Bros. home has always been a meeting place for friends and neighbors from far and near and many summer evenings and weekend trail rides begin there and travel into the hill country to the northwest. Dodge has always been interested in horses and still enjoys leading the Eckville parade and the grand entry at the Eckville Rodeo. Many interesting experiences are told of the early years. Some old timers recall seeing what they called a ghost light that floated around at night. It was first reported being seen about 1915 by Jack Mularky

Alick and Eileen Lawton

Derrick and Dorothy Lawton

who was then living on what is now the Mark Smale farm. Late one night, he walked to a spring for a pail of water some distance from the house when suddenly, he was startled by a strange light above him. As he returned to the house, it followed above him and then circled the house several times before disappearing. Apparently, it was the size of a football and was seen quite often for a few years around that district. No satisfactory explanation has ever been given as to what it was.

Alick and Dodge Lawton have always had a great deal of satisfaction in accomplishing what many would not attempt and their roots have grown very deeply into the old Covered Wagon Homestead.

Dodge passed away February 13, 1978 with interment in the Gilby cemetery.

**LAWTON, DICK AND DOROTHY**

Derrick (Dick) Lawton and Dorothy Rauhala were married in Rimbey on June 29, 1957. Prior to their marriage, Dorothy had taught school in Rimbey and Bluffton. She was born west of Ponoka, where she took her early schooling and later attended Concordia College and U of A in Edmonton.

Dick was born in the Gilby District northwest of Eckville and attended the Medicine Valley school. He later farmed with his brothers Bill, Alick and Roger. Their father had passed away in 1921. They also ran a sawmill near home and later moved the mill 20 miles north of Rocky Mountain House.

In the spring of 1940 a big fire went through that area, burning out the McTighe and McDougal Mills but missed the Lawtons' camp. A large amount of logs and lumber was lost at the McTighe Mill but about 200,000 feet of Lawton Bros. lumber which had been hauled there to be on a summer road, fortunately was saved. The McTighe family and their crew were trapped at the mill and, in the confusion, were separated. However, most of them escaped by a bush trail past McDougal's Mill. Philip and Maurice McTighe and a few others had almost given up hope of getting out, but managed to get east through the fire to safety. Alick and Dick Lawton got there about 10 o'clock at night and found the whole country on fire, but managed to get into the mill yard and bring out a man suffering burns and exposure. He had climbed into a large barrel of cold water until the fire passed. Later that night, the fire cut off the road out, burning the two bridges over the Wolf Creek, so they had to stay at the burnt-out mill until they rebuilt the bridges. Two milk cows and many chickens were found burnt to death where the fire caught them.

Bill and Dick Lawton 1930

The next day, Constable McMullen from Rocky Mountain House and Constable Christopher of Rimbey arrived with a search party to look for an older man named Tom Scully that was reported to have been caught in the fire. His body was found the next day and he had died from burns and exposure from lying in the cold creek while the fire went over. He was buried where he was found but a few days later was moved to the Leslieville cemetery. A book could be written of the hardships and the humour of the sawmill days between the Wolf and Beaver Creeks.

After their marriage, Dick and Dorothy Lawton purchased the late Dr. Coppock home in Eckville and Dick took over the Eckville Bakery with his nephew, Lawrence Ferguson. This was operated for nearly a year and then sold out to Eugene and Helen Bednard.

During the first few years, Dorothy went back to summer school at U of A and obtained her B Ed. She continued to teach English and drama in the Eckville High School until weakened health which began with an almost fatal attack of pneumonia and pleurisy in 1965 forced her to retire from active teaching during the last few years.

In 1964, they built a new home on their acreage by the Medicine River adjoining the northeast corner of Eckville and moved there with their three daughters, Linda, Jane and Gwen where they operated a feed lot for several years.

In 1975, Dick rented out the farm land and has since worked at the Eckville Co-op Hardware.

**THE LEAFLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT — by Martha Reirsen**

In the early years there were many families in the Leafland school district. About 1911 many people came into the area and took up homesteads. John Iversen, with a family of three little girls, settled across the road from Bob Larsen's place. Mr. and Mrs. John Vosberg and Mr. and Mrs. John Wick came to the district, but they did not stay very long. Iversens and Wicks left for British Columbia to start fishing for halibut and cod. Mrs. Vosberg died in 1916, so John Vosberg took his little daughter, Jean, and went to the U.S.A. to Mrs. Vosberg's folks. The baby died shortly after her mother's death.

Others who lived in the Leafland district for some years but who have now moved away include the Joe Worneys, Kingerskis, O. E. Salmons, Reins, Rolfsens, Tom Cummings (all of whom are now dead), Lautamus, to mention a few. Mr. and Mrs. Farrant have both passed away, their daughter now lives in Eckville. All of the Larsen family are gone, and Lule lives in Prince George, B.C.

Albert Rangen came to the district about 1925. Mr. Rangen passed away many years ago and the young people have all left now. Of the original old-timers the Heikkinen family are still there. Some of the Reirsen family are still living on the same old place but others of the family have moved away. Mr. Hans Reirsen passed away in 1974.

The Caseys and the Adens came in the early

1930's but the Allen family has now moved away and the Leslies live on the Allen's place

We had lots of bachelor neighbors. John Izon came in 1908. In 1910 Hans Reirsen found John Anderson on the railroad and got him to take a homestead. Oscar Anderson came in 1909, and his brother Andrew came from Sweden in 1913 They were real good neighbors. T P. Kleven came in 1911 and stayed until he got sick and had to be taken away Then Bill Tilley got a homestead west of this place. Frank Prause got sick and sold his place. Charlie Warden had a homestead across from Leafland school, but all those bachelors passed away many years ago

During the era of the Leafland School the teachers had to board out. Farrants boarded teachers during the earlier years, but it was quite a distance to walk to school. Later, teachers were able to board at the Cummings home Caseys and Allens also boarded teachers some of the years. Some districts were able to provide a teacherage for the teachers, which was much better for them

A Rev. McDonald lived close to the school and he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the school district for many years. Hans Reirsen and Mr Madsen served on the school board at the time When Mr McDonald became sickly and had to leave, Mr Stears became the Secretary. Other trustees who served on the board were John Lautamus, Oscar Anderson and Mr. Rangen After some years Hans Reirsen declined to be on any school board. Soon the schoolhouse and the barn were sold. The children in the district are now bussed to town; thus, the end of the country schools.

In 1922 Gustav and Clara Reirsen started to school at Leafland. Their father took them to school the first day, just to see that they got there all right. The teacher's name was Mr Earl Halpin, of Lacombe. He taught for only a short time before going back to University to study to become a dentist He later settled in Rimbey and had his practice there

In 1913 four and three-quarter sections of land in the south-east corner of T 41-5-W5 were included in the newly formed district of Leafland. The school was built on the south-east corner of SE 1 41 5 in 1915 and opened just two months after the Washington Heights school to the north-west

The Klengersky, Zaleski, Burns and Wolney children were some of the ones who attended the school from this township. Ed Ostrem served as trustee, A Lewis as chairman and Albert Rangen as secretary of Leafland School

Robert M. Erskine a prominent plant breeder in the Carlos district, has named his gardens on the SW 13, (about two miles north of the school) the Leafland Nurseries. He gave the name, Leafland Beauty, to a hardy shrub rose developed from his cross breeding program, and also gave the name to a hardy variety of apple he developed

Others who taught at the Leafland school included Miss Teresa Miller, Miss McKinnon, Lila Anderson, Miss Herman (from Sylvan Lake), Miss Tafteland, Miss Albert, Mr William Bradshaw (1927-1928), Mr. Cliff Arvcock (three terms), Mr William Kirch (four terms), Mrs Anne Lawton, Ruth Hill, Mary Layton, and Ida Bergstrom Later there were just supervisors, or sitters. The children got the lessons from Edmonton. Soon the Leafland school was closed and sold, as were so many other schools in the nearby districts

There used to be a picnic at the school each year, at the end of June, when school was out, and this was a great day for the adults as well as for the children. They played ball and ran races, and often there were other contests or games of various kinds

The Christmas concert was always another highlight of the school year. The teachers and the children worked very hard at it so they could present a successful performance. Everybody enjoyed their singing, plays and recitations.

But those days are gone forever! The schools, and even the buildings are gone from most districts. If it is for the best, or not, I do not know

**LEE, THOMAS AND MINNIE — by Joan Maddox**

Mr and Mrs. Lee, with her daughter, Alma, age 18 years and son, Jervel Maddox, 14 years old, came in the spring of 1914 to homestead S.W 21 40-4-W5.

They were hard working thrifty people, always willing to share their lovely garden vegetables. He, and later, Jervel, would leave to find work for as little as one dollar a day They always had to carry their own blankets. Mrs. Lee and Alma stayed home to take care of the animals

When Jervel was 15½ years old he worked on

Thomas and Minnie Lee

a farm near Eckville for fifteen dollars a month. He would do the chores, then take a four-horse team and drive to Alhambra. There he would cut a load of tamarac posts to bring back in the evening. The cold lunch provided for him would be thawed over a fire which he built at noon.

One day it was 40 degrees below zero by evening. The sleigh runners would stick to the road. He had to leave the load as the horses were exhausted. For several days he spent his time doing chores and also split a large pile of firewood.

In 1919 he was in Idaho, U.S.A. Work there was scarce, so he joined the United States Marines and had an opportunity to see some of the world during the next two years. By 1922 Jervel had returned to Canada and took up a homestead near Winfield, Alberta.

Mr. Lee rented his farm in 1919, sold the cattle and moved to Vernon, British Columbia for one year. Then they returned to the farm and continued farming until 1943, when they retired to Eckville. A few years later they entered the Twilight Lodge in Red Deer. Mr. Lee passed away on November 28, 1957 and Mrs. Lee on January 25, 1960.

**LESLIE, ROY AND OLIVE**

In 1961 Roy and Olive Leslie bought the land previously owned by Warren Allen, NW 31-40-4 W5 and NW and SW 6-41-4 W5. They also bought the NW and SW 33-40-5 W5 from John Koshkin in 1965. They left Mossleigh, Alberta in the spring of 1965 and built a home on NW 31-40-4 W5. Although intending to retire they soon became enthusiastically involved in clearing land, planting crops and raising cattle.

Olive and Roy have four children and 12 grandchildren. Their son Jack and his wife Carolyn, farm in partnership with their parents. Jack has been in the district since 1962 and owns NE 31-40-4 W5, S 28-40-5 W5 and E 1-41-5 W5 where they live. They have three boys.

Their daughter Elsie and husband Bob Montgomery have the SE 28-7-40-4 W5 and SW 17-40-4 W5 which was formerly owned by Gordon Ames. Bob works for an industrial firm, coordinating the construction of plants in various parts of the country. They have just returned from a year's stay in Alaska where Bob coordinated the construction of a fertilizer plant addition. They have one son and Elsie has a son and daughter by a former marriage.

Their daughter Janet and husband Lyle Nash live in High River where Lyle is involved in the oil industry. They have three sons.

Their son Tom and wife Phyllis live in Edmonton and have three children. Tom has just started a trucking business.

The Leslies are kept very busy with their farming operation and enjoy a host of friends here, and the many friends and relatives who come from the south country to enjoy the beauties of their new homeland — where they "came to retire" a decade ago.

**LIIVAM, AUGUST AND ALMA**

Alma, second daughter of Mart and Emma Sestrap, grew up following her father's footsteps and consequently she was familiar with every phase of work involved in operating an eight hundred acre farm. In the 1910's and 1920's all the farm work was done with horses, and an 80 cow herd was a lot of cattle.

The experience she gained came in useful, after her father died suddenly in 1927 leaving Alma the burden of operating the farm at the age of seventeen. An older sister was attending the University of Alberta, a younger one was still in high school, and a six-year-old brother was attending the Medicine Valley School.

Alma was capable of caring for livestock and had had considerable experience in training and driving eight-horse outfits while plowing, clearing and breaking new land, and on road-building equipment. All this she did with a minimum of hired help (and that mostly inexperienced.) Sowing and harvesting the crops was routine work and during the winter she would haul the grain to the elevator in Eckville, using a grain tank mounted on a sleigh and pulled by a four-horse team. This meant tending the horses and keeping them shod as well as loading the grain from the bin into the grain tank by means of a scoop shovel.

In May of 1932 Alma was married to August Liivam, who emigrated from Tallinn, Estonia in 1926. He was a city boy, with only a limited knowledge of English. He had apprenticed in farming in the Stettler area in the days when wages were fifteen dollars and board per month. He had worked for a time in British Columbia lumber camps in the late twenties before homesteading a quarter section of land west of Dawson Creek. He also hauled water for a time to the town of Pouce Coupe. Finding it too difficult to start farming with no money and with his limited knowledge of the English language, he came to the Medicine Valley area to try his luck there.

When they were married they pitched a tent on the SW ¼ 25-40-4 W5th, and started building a home. By 1934 they had managed to build a log barn and a log house in which they raised a family of six sons and one daughter. Their family included John, married to Violet Saari, whose children are Lisa and Melanie. August married Valerie Doney and their children are Mark and Theodore. Helen married Stanley Johannson, their children are Terry, Wesley, Wendy and Darren. George married Miriam Linden and their children are Mitchell and Kelly. Harold and his wife, JoAnn, have a son, Jason. Larry and Kenneth are not married.

From 1932 to 1977 August took an active part in many community affairs. He served on the Medicine Valley School Board, the Mutual Telephone Company board of directors, and the Eckville Co-op Store board of directors for twenty-five years. He was an Alberta Wheat Pool

delegate for many years, and also served as a Unifarm delegate

In 1956 the Lilvam Farm won the plaque donated by the Imperial Bank of Canada and Eckville Board of Trade in the "Save the Soil" competition. In 1956 they were awarded second place in a National Barley Contest with a carload of malting barley of O.A.C. variety, and in 1957 won first place in the same competition with another carload of barley

In 1969 August purchased the Eckville Motors business, which he is now operating with his son George. August and Alma still are living in the house on the farm which they built just after their marriage

**MASSEP, JOHN**

John Massep homesteaded the N.W. 36-40-4-W5 about 1908. He and his neighbors dug a canal about 20 rods long, eight feet deep, and 12 feet wide in the bend of the river. They put hewn logs to make a dam. When the gate was opened, the water would turn the large boxed-in wheel, giving him power to run the first sawmill and grain grinder in the district. This was very slow and tedious, but now the pioneers could have lumber for their floors in the log houses.

John Massep

Several years later, he was sawing lumber about three miles away. A steam engine had come to supply the power. He was met one morning slowly walking and when told he should hurry as they had the steam up he replied "there is lots of time in Canada". He was a very big man, slow in movement and speech

He sold his farm to Karl Posti and returned to Russia about 1923

**McNULTY, MR. PATRICK — by Mary Whillier**

Mr. Patrick McNulty filed on the N.W. 27-40-4-W5 in 1909 or 1910. He worked out most of the time. For some reason he never 'proved up' his homestead. As far as I know he never owned any livestock except a cat. There was a hole under his shack and another in the floor. When he was away the cat could go in and out. His shack was built of rough sawn tamarack boards.

He did clear a few acres of land. No one seems to know where Mr. McNulty came from or where he went. Some think he joined up in World War I and never came back

While he made his home amongst us, he worked out as a cook in logging camps and railroad construction camps.

He loved to cook and would bake huge pies blueberry, rhubarb, evaporated apples or peaches. When he came to visit, he always brought a pie or two.

The Sears family now live on this land

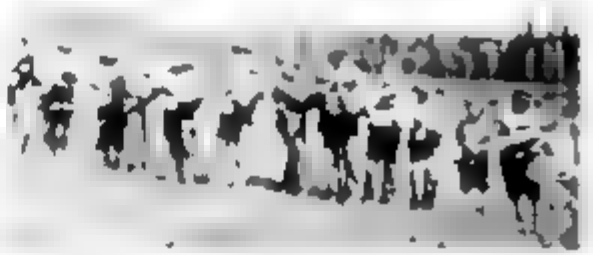
**MEDICINE VALLEY SCHOOL HISTORY — by Joan Maddex**

The Medicine Valley School District No. 2577 was organized in 1911. It was decided to erect the building on NW 26-40-4-W5. A school board consisting of three local men administered, collected taxes, hired and fired the teachers, paid their salaries, and in general took care of all the business of the school. The first board members were F. Lawton, B. Withers and M. Engen

Eight hundred dollars was raised through debentures for the purpose of erecting a frame school house and furnishing it. This sum was repayable to bearer in ten equal consecutive annual instalments with interest at six per cent

The school was constructed, two acres fenced and plowed, and classes evidently were started in 1913, with Mr. Fallis as the first teacher. In 1921 a barn was erected for housing eight horses that students used to ride to school.

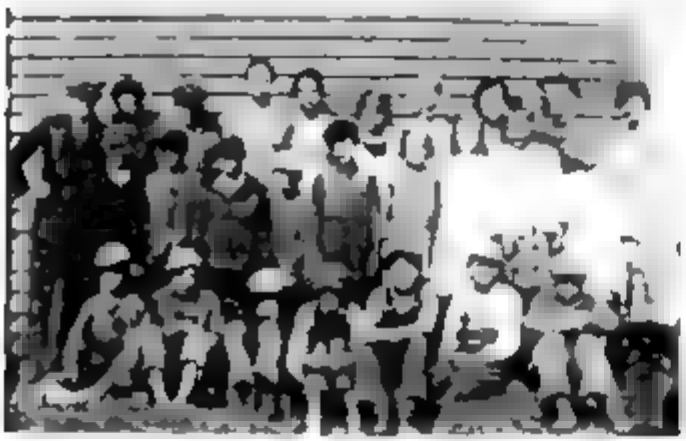
Drinking water for school use in early years was hauled in by parents who drove children to school, over what were then, nothing more than mere trails through brush, timber and sloughs. Even in later years drinking water was always a problem. The quality of water from the wells drilled on the school grounds was by far superior



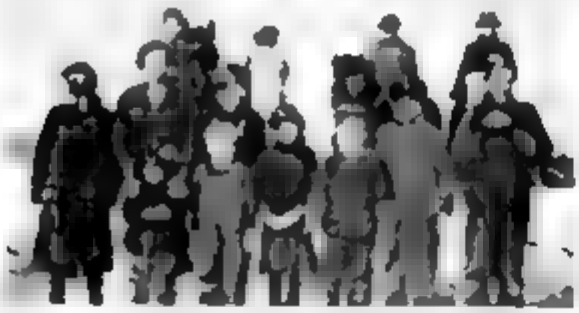
Medicine Valley kids carrying in wood

M.V. basketball team 1913 L. to R. Luella Thompson, Mabel Easter, Helen Lockhart, Nora Withers, and Annie Bardenhagen

Top Picture - Front row L. to R. Mary and Selma Gant, Olga and Alma Sestrap. Second row: Joan Lawton, Carl Jansson, Leyda Sestrap, Edgil Barnes, Mabel and Cecil Barnes. Third row: Lyle Engen, Alick Lawton, Clarius Engen, Johnnie Barnes



Mr. and Mrs. Frame and School 1920



Medicine Valley School 1925

water for the down hill slide in winter than for the purpose for which it was intended

The school carried on under this administration until it was, in 1937, absorbed into the Local Improvement District, with business administered by the Lacombe Municipal District With the centralized school it became necessary to establish a bus route to convey the pupils to and from school. This at first proved to be a difficult task, but with improved roads and snow removal equipment, it has become an accepted fact that early settlers could not even have dreamed of. The only hardship has been the steady increase in taxes to cover the cost of bigger and better buildings and the cost of better teaching staff and supplies

In 1956 the old school house was auctioned off and purchased by Dr Spiers and moved to a site southeast of Eckville and is at present being used as a residence.

In reading the old minutes one notes an odd coincidence. Frank Lawton's name is the first in the minutes of 1911 and the final meeting of the school board was adjourned by his son, Derrick Lawton, in April, 1948

Teachers who taught through the years at the Medicine Valley School include: Mr. Fallis, 1913-1914, Miss Helen Lochart, Mrs. Urich, Miss Effie Story, 1916, Miss Bessie Buchan, 1917; Mr Egan, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. McDonald, Mrs Lawrence, Mr. Wm. Frame, 1919, Miss Olga Lakevold, Mr. Wm. Frame, 1921, Mr Coffee, Miss Hattie Dobbs, 1922-1924; Mrs. Levore Graham, 1924-1927, Miss Sophia Tipman, 1927-1929, Miss McFarlane, 1929-1930; Mrs. Raymond Lewis, 1930-1932, Miss Tipman, 1932-1934 Edward Tipman (Sub.), Miss Selma Pykalainen, 1934-1936, Mr. Ado Tipman, 1936-1937; Mr Al White, 1937-1940; Mrs. M. Nelson, 1940-1942, Mrs. Anne Lawton, 1942, Mrs. G. McCann, 1942-1943; Mr. Billy Nill, summer of 1943; Mrs. Watson, 1943-1944, Mrs. Edna Anderson, 1944-1945, Mr. W. Kirch, 1945-1947; Miss Gladys Johnson (supervisor) 1947-1948; Mr. Gordon Gibson, 1948, Mrs. Edna Von Holland, 1948-1950, Mrs. Don Ross, 1950, Mr. E. Lowe, 1950-1951, Mr and Mrs. G. Gibson, 1951 1953 and Mrs Mary Siebin, 1953-1955

**MEDICINE VALLEY, N E. 23-40-4-W5 — by Mary E. Whillier**

This land was homesteaded by John Wick, in the 1910-1913 era. The family put up a very well built log house and barn. The latter is still in use. The Wick family did not stay many years in the district

In 1914, the M. Gant family spent the winter in these buildings before leaving for the U S.A

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nugent bought the farm, where they lived until 1925, then moved to the Leedale district

In 1926 Mr Matt Jackson and daughter Ilma moved in. They had formerly lived south of Wood Lake (Gabriel Lake), where Mrs. Jackson had passed away

In 1929 Mr. Jackson became very ill. He passed away in January of 1930. Ilma sold the cattle and goods and went out to work. She married Ben Plestead and moved to Calgary

In March of the same year Mr and Mrs. R. J Whillier moved on to this place where their first son was born. That fall the land was sold to Mr

Frank Anderson. Mr Anderson had worked at railroad construction in the U.S.A. in the earlier days. He had returned to his native Sweden, married and raised a family. Then with his son Evart, he came to this district In 1935 Evart took over the farm and Mr. Anderson returned to Sweden to live out his remaining years. In 1937 Evart sold to Mr. William Rourke of Calgary, and moved to Red Deer He worked and made his home there for many years. He retired in 1977 and now resides in Bentley

Mr Rourke never lived on this land, but rented it out During the winter of 1937-38, Charlie Johnson and William Lilkala rented the buildings while they carried on a logging and sawmill operation on the Whittier land.

In 1945 Mr and Mrs. Nugent bought the farm again, where they lived until they sold to the Jan Szpajcher family who are the present owners

**THE VALLEY — by Mary Whittier**

We stopped our car beside the road and got out. We were on top of the Medicine Hill on Highway 51. The view before us was beautiful — a wide, fertile and prosperous valley It was ten miles before the road vanished over the Blue Berry Hill to the west and as far as the eye could see north and south

Industry was mixed with the wonderful farm land as numerous farms and gas plants dotted the landscape. Good black-top and gravel roads made a net work between the well kept farms

It was just at dusk, with the last rays of the setting sun turning the jagged peaks of the distant Rockies to the south west to gold and crimson. As the light faded the lights of Eckville started to come on. Then lights at the gas plants. As we looked over the valley the mercury lights came on in a mystical of farm yards. It was a wonderful sight the Valley of Home

In 1910, my father stood in this self-same spot and looked west. The terrain was the same. But he stood on a narrow rutted trail, which wound down the hill searching for the easiest grade. Then, across the valley, following the highest ground to avoid pot holes and swamps. It vanished over the western hills as only a cut line.

The land in between was a mixture of spruce, poplar and willows with a few open prairie areas and the hard earned small fields of homesteaders showing up like patches on a multi-colored quilt. He started slowly down the hill toward his "Homestead and Happiness" and hardships.

**EARLY SPORTS**

Baseball and making and learning to walk on stilts were some of the summer recreations.

In winter, they made skis by sawing them from a bent tamarack tree. They were kept soaking in the range reservoir, then attached to the open beam in the low ceiling to get a perfect bend. A strap was tacked on. This had to be redone quite often. It was a relief to the household when the snow melted.

Staves from wooden barrels with the end pointed served very well, too. It was quite usual to go over the hills for a long moonlight hike

Tamarack also was used for very well built hand sleighs Heavy tin or steel on the runners a braided binder twine for a rope

Ice was cleared on the Medicine River. The young people gathered on Sunday afternoon or evening in the moonlight to enjoy themselves around a big fire

**MEMORIES OF THE MEDICINE RIVER VALLEY — by Virginia Miller Krispin**

We, my mother, two sisters, my brother and myself, arrived in the valley in July, 1922, at Leslieville. We were totally unprepared for the ruggedness of the territory, as my two brothers who had gone north in the spring failed to give us any details.

Our future home turned out to be a rustic log cabin set some distance back from the road and surrounded by huge trees. It had been poorly kept and there was much work to be done. It was very inadequate for seven people, but we set out to make it do.

We pitched a tent by the house and by placing the springs over two large logs and the mattresses on the springs we had a lovely outside bedroom for the summer. I am sure that the rest of the family did not share my enthusiasm, but to me it was a great adventure. One great change was learning to bake and heat, using wood instead of coal. Our cooking survived as we learned to use dry wood for the first layer in the stove to get the fire going, with green wood on top to hold the fire. It took about two weeks for my brother and I, using an axe and cross-cut saw, to cut down a year's supply of fire-wood. This was done during the winter as the logs were loaded on sleigh runners, then secured with logging chains to be hauled home.

Ours was a community of mixed farming, and after a devastating hail storm, when you stood and watched the summer's work being washed down gullies, it was good to have something else on which to fall back. We took cream to the creamery in Eckville every week and this served as our grocery money

The people were very friendly and easy to know. Our nearest neighbors were the Lawton family and we became good friends.

Pastime for the young people was going to dances, both near and far away. Transportation in the area was by horses and buggy People drove for miles to attend dances which were held in school houses or dance halls in the vicinity. Music for these events was furnished by anyone who could play, and they would take turns playing so that everyone had a chance to enjoy dancing. On Sunday afternoons a group of the men would get together and play baseball, and we enjoyed watching the games.

My favorite pastime was riding horseback. It was wonderful to have miles of open land and be

able to roam free. I enjoyed riding through small clearings which were filled with wild roses and I am glad that the wild rose is emblematic of Alberta.

Wild raspberries and strawberries were plentiful and in the fall there were blueberries to pick.

Our first post office address was Leafland, which was only a house in the area to which the mail was delivered and you picked it up there. Then we moved to a farm near Gilby, adjoining the Bardenhagen homestead. Gilby was a very small place consisting of a general store and post office combined, and two small buildings. Our next move was to Eckville, and after spending about a year there I left to go to Toledo, Ohio, U.S.A.

My memories of Medicine River Valley are mostly pleasant and happy ones, so much so that the unpleasant ones have faded with the passing years.

**MOTTUS, DR. EDWARD H**

From a news item released by the public relations department of Monsanto, and datelined St. Louis, Missouri, December 6, 1971 comes the following information.

Dr. Edward H. Mottus, a science fellow with the corporate research department, Monsanto Company, has been appointed to the position of senior science fellow in recognition of his significant contributions in polymerization catalysis technology.

Monsanto developed the titles of science fellow, senior science fellow and distinguished science fellow to recognize superior contributions made by its scientific personnel. This advancement plan for key scientific personnel makes it possible for individuals to advance in the organization through their scientific or technological work rather than through increased administrative responsibilities.

This is Dr. Mottus's second step in the scientific advancement plan. "Since his appointment to the position of science fellow in 1967, Dr. Mottus has continued to demonstrate exceptional competence in his special field of polymerization catalysis."

A native of Eckville, Alberta, Canada, Dr. Mottus received a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Alberta in 1949 and a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois in 1952. He also served as a post-doctoral Fellow with the National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, from 1952 to 1953.

Dr. Mottus joined Monsanto in 1953 as a chemist with the former central research department in Dayton, Ohio. In 1961 he transferred to the former research and engineering division in St. Louis. From 1962 to 1965, Dr. Mottus served as a research specialist with that department and in 1965 he was appointed a senior research specialist in corporate research. Recent work by Dr. Mottus has led to new catalyst systems for polyethylene which are the subject of several issued and pending patents. His latest work, involving copolymers designed for outstanding barrier properties for food and beverage packaging, has been innovative, productive and of direct use to Monsanto.

Dr. Mottus lives with his wife, the former Ruby Land, and his three children.

**NOREM, MR. AND MRS. O. T. — by Thelma Lucas**

Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Norem came to Medicine Valley from Wyndamere, North Dakota, U.S.A., in 1913, bringing with them their large family. They settled on and farmed NE 3-41-4-W5 where the old home still stands. This land is now owned by John Liivam. They shipped in their possessions which included the first herd of registered Polled Hereford cattle to be brought to this part of the country.

Mr. Norem will be best remembered for bringing many new settlers to Medicine Valley and the surrounding area by selling real estate. He also served as secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Valley school district for some years.

Mr. and Mrs. Norem sold out and moved to the Calgary area in 1921. They and their sons, Roy, Amos, Ingvald, Alfred and Olaf have all passed away. Sons Howard and Morris live in Calgary and daughters, Ellen (Mrs. E. Brandt) lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, U.S.A. Alice, (Mrs. H. Leinweber) lives in Calgary, Thelma (Mrs. A. Lucas) lives in Drayton Valley, and Ruth lives in Red Deer.

**CLARA DYRLAND NOREM — by Ruth Dobbs**

Clara married Amos Norem in September, 1918 at the Dyrland home. They then resided at

Amos and Clara Norem and Family

Provost and moved to Medicine Valley in 1921. Here they lived on the Harding place for eight years. They moved to Rimbey in the fall of 1937 where they purchased a farm two miles east and two miles north of Rimbey. On this farm they built a new house. They had two children. Their daughter Elaine was born in 1939 and son Stanley was born in 1946. Elaine married Thomas Barker of Sylvan Lake in 1959. Their three children are Deanna, born in 1961, Travis, born in 1963 and Cheryl, born in 1977. They all reside at Sylvan Lake. Stanley lives in Red Deer.

Amos and Clara Norem sold their farm at Rimbey and retired to Red Deer in 1956. Amos passed away in May, 1976 and Clara still resides in Red Deer.

**GUSTAV NYGAARD — by Emma (Jansson) Nygaard**

Gust emigrated to Canada from Drammen, Norway, in April, 1912 at the age of eight years with his mother, two brothers and four sisters. They came to Ponoka, Alberta and settled in the Asker district for awhile. They then moved out of the Eckville district in 1915. In 1918 the family lived in Calgary for a short time.

At the age of 14, Gust went out to the prairies around Sibbald and Loverna to work for farmers. Farm wages weren't much at that time — only $20. a month. He worked for four years. Then he came back to the Eckville district and worked for different farmers.

In 1928 Gust purchased a quarter of Canadian Pacific Railway land, NE 23-40-4 W5, three miles west of Gilby, and started to farm.

In December 1929, Gust and Emma Jansson were married in Lacombe, Alberta, and settled down to farming. It was quite a hard time to make a living on the farm in the thirties. Farm produce was not worth much. In the spring of 1932, weaner pigs brought $1.50 each and that same fall 210-pound pigs brought $3.00 each. Wheat and oats were very cheap, too. Good Garnet wheat was 22¢ a bushel and oats around 9¢ a bushel. Eggs would bring 10¢ a dozen. A five-gallon can of cream sold for $1.50. We had to do a lot of work for very little return. The cost of farming was not as high, as we farmed with horses for the first 12 years. This was Gust's main hobby, as he just loved horses. He always liked to buy, trade and break horses for harness and riding. We bought our first tractor in 1942.

In 1936 our son, Ernest, was born. He married Darlene Goforth in 1960. They have four children, two boys and two girls. They live at Sedgwick, Alberta. There Ernest is employed by Atlantic Richfield in oil work.

In 1940 our daughter, Elsie, was born. She became Mrs. Melvin Saarela in 1958. They have three children, two girls and one boy. They live nine miles north of Rocky Mountain House. Melvin works on construction, and Elsie works at the Credit Union in Rocky Mountain House.

Both of our children had most of their schooling at the Medicine Valley School. Elsie had three years schooling in Eckville, as the Medicine Valley School was closed and in June, 1955 the children were bussed to Eckville.

In 1941 we sold the Canadian Pacific Railway land to Martin Engen and we moved to our other quarter three miles west, NW 21-40-4 W5. There we farmed until 1961. We then sold our farm to Alvin Fedderson, and moved to Eckville. Gust worked for a machinery dealer, Chester Kasha, for eight years until he retired in the fall of 1970.

**SWEN AND SIGRID OSBERG AND FAMILY — by Sylvia Le Blanc**

Dad came from Sweden in 1910, and worked in British Columbia as a logger until 1924, when he came to Alberta. He and Gust Peterson started farming together in the Newlands District. After he married Sigrid Skretting they moved to a farm a half mile east of Pearsons. There dad worked very hard on his irrigated farm until the late 40's, then, because of mother's health, they moved north to Eckville in 1949. They lived here for several years. Things were not always easy when they lived in the Newlands area, as mother had asthma. They raised 10 children, but mother still found time to be a very active member of the Newlands Ladies' Club.

I, Sylvia, was the oldest child. I married Ed Bahler, and we have two sons. Gary married Irene Slodkowski and they live in Picture Butte, Alberta. Brian married Belinda Gunderson, they live on a farm east of Picture Butte. I am now Mrs. Leo Le Blanc.

Arthur married Dorothy Parsneau of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and they now live on a farm at Alix. Their seven children are Janice, Joanne, David, Susan, Sonja, Terry and Barbara.

Florence married Wallace Fritz. They lived for a time in the Newlands District, but now are living in Lethbridge. They have five children — Darryl, Derrick, Wendy, Darcy and Darren.

Laurence married Ethel Andrews. They live in Okotoks while he works in Calgary, commuting to his job. They have four sons, Dennis, Grant, Donald, and Gregory.

Margaret married Newton Houston of Eckville and they have four children, Douglas, Linda, Keith, and Sandra. They all live in Calgary.

Ray married Elma Egeland of Vauxhall. They live in Picture Butte with their two daughters, Luanne and Wanda.

Ray's twin sister, Fay, married Bill Moore. He was a barber. He passed away in 1974, after a long illness. Fay works at the General Hospital in Calgary. They had three children: Sherry, Dale and Kim.

Robert married Diane Else of Calgary. He attended university and got a degree and is now teaching at Okotoks. Their home is in High River. They have four children, Bradley, Scott, Kris, and Tracy.

Gary married Lorna Park, he is an electri-

cian and very interested in hockey and basketball. Their six children are Duane, Perry, Brian, Kevin, Leanne and Cindy

Donna, the youngest of the family of 10 children, married Donald Erdmann of Calgary Donna works in a bank and Don is a chartered accountant They have a daughter, Brenda.

We think our parents raised a great family though both have now passed away — dad in 1957 and mom in 1960.

**PARTIES, DANCE TUNES AND FASHIONS — 1930 STYLE**

In the 1930's I was too young to go to public dances but I remember hearing about house parties from my classmates. It was with a feeling of loneliness that I listened to my school friends talking and laughing about what fun they had had at a Saturday night house party. Little did I realize until I was much older that the party probably at the home of one of their numerous relatives — for I was the child of a late marriage and had no young relatives. Out in the cloak room on rainy noon hours my school friends taught me to dance the schottische to the humming of the other girls. Popular tunes seemed to be "Down by the Canebrake, Close by the Mill", and waltz tunes like "Red River Valley" and "Springtime in the Rockies." I would listen to the little girls telling who was courting who, and where there would be a bridal shower. How deliciously romantic it was to my childish mind!

Every summer, it seemed to me, the Art Garbutts had a day long picnic out in their hayfield, beside the Medicine River Mr. Garbutt had built a foot-bridge high across the river to get from his tree-shaded house to his mailbox, about one-fourth mile away That foot-bridge was a real work of art, or "Art", and imagination (of which Mr. Garbutt was not lacking) Made of thin, supple poplar boughs, it rested on wooden supports and hung swaying in the shadowy light above the dark water. The trickling and bubbling of little rapids over slippery flat rocks reached our ears as we cautiously made our way over the bridge.

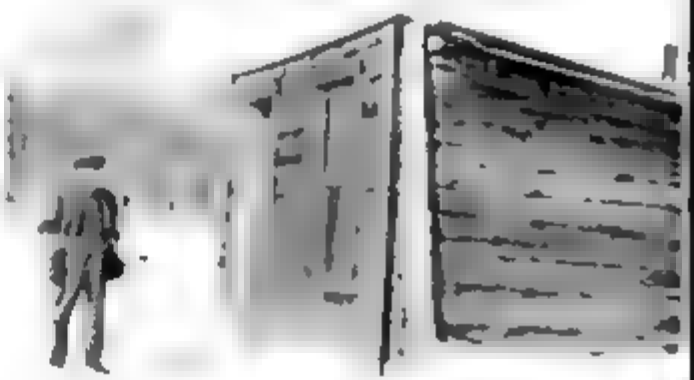
After a day of ball games and races we all went home for "chores." Then, somehow, Mamma and Daddy decided that I could come back with Daddy to my first grown-up party, which was to be held at the Garbutt home that night. So, wearing my beautiful organdy (from Eatons) dress, we left Mamma behind with my little brothers and walked back the one half mile dusty road, through evening shadows, carrying our trusty coal-oil lantern. Fireflies danced and the river murmured softly as we climbed the river bank. Yellow lighted windows and jolly voices mixed with oldtime fiddle and mouth organ music reached us. The rooms were full of people of all ages. Some young men had brought girls by team and buggy from the district west of us. I watched from the bedroom door as the pretty young "flappers" giggled and smoothed down their sleek bobs" or heated the curling iron to touch up a windblown "spit-curl" One dark and attractive girl always glows in my memory. She wore a scarlet crepe formal, ruffled around her ankles and with a sash tied in the back Our 1970 fashions are very similar

Some couples played whist while others stood waiting to dance to our local musicians. Somehow, one of my girl friends persuaded her older brother to ask me for a dance I was twelve years old at the time and this was the first time I had ever danced at a house party. I could hardly believe it, as I shyly stumbled around! What a patient and polite boy he was! How was I to know what fun we'd all have in four or five years, dancing at our local Gilby Hall!

**PETERSON, ED — by Mary Whillier**

Mr. Edward Peterson came to the Medicine Valley from Devil's Lake, North Dakota, sometime prior to 1910 He settled on the S W 27 4 4 W 5

His house was a one-room, one-slope-roof shack. He had found six trees, in two parallel lines, and had built a house around these with a tree for each corner and one in the center of each long wall. This was fine until there was a real heavy wind, which nearly shook the place down, then the tree tops were cut off well above the roof.



Ed Peterson. Trees at house corners

He never married, but was a good friend and neighbor One of the most pleasant memories of him, was his sugar lumps No child ever came to his place without being treated to sugar lumps

In 1929 after a lengthy illness, he passed away in the Red Deer hospital. M. Gant bought the land. In 1933 he sold it to Reg. Whillier, who cleared it all but ten acres left for a wind-break.

In 1974 it was sold to Gene and Lorrie Sears

**PRAUSE, FRANK**

Frank Prause came from Minnesota, U.S.A. to Lacombe, where he worked for some time. In 1910, he filed on the NW 32-40-4-W5

He was a thrifty, hard working man of German descent and farmed with oxen

In 1919, he became ill with cancer and held an auction sale. Frank Lawton bought the farm for $2000. He returned to Minnesota, taking treatments in Rochester, passing away years later

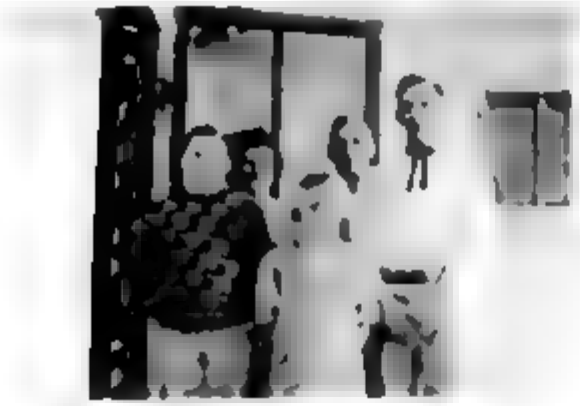
Lawton Brothers now own the land.

**THE PREGODA FAMILY—E 13-40-4-W5**

I, Fred Pregoda, was born in Edmonton, December 13, 1915 and at the age of three moved to the Lavesta district, (Rimbey) where I spent most of my growing up years and got my education.

In the fall of 1946 I bought one quarter of land from the late Thomas Gardner, for the sum of $2080, $1040 cash and $1040 spread over 10 years. Two years later I bought another quarter from the late Bert Westlake for the sum of $1500 cash. There were no buildings, no wells and only some wires hanging on the brush for fences. There were about 80 acres broken on the half-section and in the time we were there we cleared and broke 100 acres

In 1952, I married Joan Phillips of Sleepy Valley area and from this marriage there were born three children, two boys and one girl. When the oldest boy was about school age we decided to move some place closer to school, as we were on the outside boundary from the nearest schools. In the fall of 1956 we sold our land in Leedale to the late Ole Rushfeldt for $8000 cash and through our good friend, the late Chester Kasha, found the holdings we now have, which originally belonged to Mr. James Simmons.



Keith, Joan, Shirley, Fred and Dan Pregoda

This summer of 1977 we had a visit from Mrs. Simmons. She wanted to see the old place and take some pictures. She informed us that one of her babies was buried in our yard. She lives in Hardin, Montana and is 75 years old. The Simmons left in the early 30's and the land was purchased by the late Carson Bardenhagens from whom we acquired it. We have cleared and put under cultivation another 100 acres since we came here and made other improvements as well

The wife and I are now retired and our youngest son, Keith, has the land. Our eldest son, Daniel, has the original Herman Lapp land which is five miles east of us. We can see him working in the field from our living-room window, with binoculars, on a clear day.

Dan is married to Carol Solberg of Bentley district and they have two children, Eldon and Cory. They lost an infant son.

Our daughter, Shirley, is in her first year of College, taking nursing

We have enjoyed reasonably good health and the land has been good to us. We hope to have a few more years to enjoy our retirement on the farm, where we have reserved the residence and garden spot

**RECHY, JOHN — by Joan Maddox**

Mr. John Rechy came from Lacombe about 1905 and filed on the N E ¼ 34-40-4-W5. He cleared and farmed the land with oxen. He was a bachelor and a wonderful friend to all the settlers. He had built a very small lumber shack, the tar paper siding being held on with laths. It was just large enough for a single bunk, a table and a cook stove

One day he asked Mrs. Lawton how she liked homesteading, and as there was no going back to a different life, she said it was wonderful. John replied that it must have been a terrible place where she came from!

About 1912 he sold to Mr. Burton and returned to Lacombe. Mr. Randler was the next owner, who came from Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A. with his wife and son, Howard. They brought cattle and horses with them. He had a lovely team of driving horses, a cutter, a whip in the socket, and a heavy lap robe lined with red

The first car in the area was seen at their place. After a few years they returned to Washington, selling out to Mr. Gerlinger of Leedale. About the time the Randlers left, a ball of light was seen. It appeared to be on the large gate post. Other times it was seen in the swamp or along the creek that ran through the farm. It was named "Randler's Ghost" and continued to be seen for many years.

Through the years this farm changed owners a number of times. Mr. Gerlinger had the land farmed by Harry Berry. The Berry's first daughter was born there, and the birth was attended by Mrs. Lawton.

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Lawrence bought the land from Gerlinger. Mrs. Lawrence taught the Medicine Valley school for two terms. In 1920 their daughter Hazel was born, and in that same year they sold out to Leo Zaleski, who in 1928 sold it to Hank Bezanson

Edgar Smale bought the farm from Mr Bezanson in 1934 and farmed it until his death in 1973. His son Mark now farms and lives on the land.

**THE HANS REIRSON FAMILY — by Martha Reirson**

Hans Reirson left Norway for North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1906. In the fall of 1908 he came to Lacombe, Alberta and took a homestead. He worked for an elderly couple that winter and the next spring he came out to the homestead to cut logs and build a shack. Bob and John Larson came out at the same time, as they had filed on land, too. It was necessary to clear land and to get some land broken as well as build the necessary buildings. The breaking of the first acres had to hired, as the homesteaders did not have enough money to buy horses, as horses were high priced in those days. Jack Amburs broke the first few acres

In 1912 Hans bought a team of horses from Roy Holsey and one from Bill Shoup and started to break up land for neighbors at three dollars an acre. Hans proved up on his land at this time, got his citizenship papers, and took a loan to finish his new house that he had started the year before. In 1913 he married me (Martha) Larson and the next year we had our first-born, Gustaf

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Reirson's wedding picture taken by Rev C.D. McDonald at his residence near Leafland School. He was the minister that performed their marriage on July 20, 1913

In 1915 a daughter, Clara, was born. Louis was born in 1917 and died in 1926, being nearly nine years of age. Reidar was born in the fall of 1918, John in 1921 and Herman in 1923. Harry was born in 1925 and died in 1929, at four years of age. Allan was born in 1928, Robert in 1931, Judith in 1933, Lloyd in 1934, and Joyce in 1936. Joyce passed away in 1944 at the age of eight years

The 1930's brought hard times for us, as for everybody else. We got eight cents for butterfat in shipping cream, and eggs were four cents a dozen. However we did not sell eggs at that price — we just fed them to the calves. Hans and the boys were farming with horses for many years. In the 1920's a disease came and afflicted the horses. Good horses got sick and lingered on for awhile and then died. We lost quite a few and our neighbors did, too

In 1923 we had a set-back. We had a very nice wheat crop on the south quarter. There were six big stacks of it, but one night they burned to the ground. Hans felt very badly about it — even thought about selling everything and leaving, but finally decided to stay. In 1964 or 1965 we had another fire. Lightning struck the pig-brooder house and killed the sow and young pigs. It happended in the evening while some friends were visiting. Everybody went out to fight the fire and got soaking wet from the rain. Other neighbors saw the fire and came to help, too, but they could not do much with the burning brooder house. However they did save the building close to it where the feed and hammermill were stored. They carried water and splashed it on the walls and roof.

Hans and Martha Reirson and Family. 60th Anniversary

In the earlier years, before we started to use coal, they hauled a big pile of wood to be sawed up for the cookstove and heater, and it kept us warm. It did not cost much except for the work. The man who sawed it got some pay, but for the rest of the crew you just changed work with your neighbors and helped them back. They cut the logs for wood in the fall after harvest and hauled it home when the snow came.

In those days when someone died the neighbors went together and dug the grave and after the burial they all took a hand and covered the grave again. Funerals were held at the home. Even some of the coffins were home-made, and were very nice, too. The Larson brothers made some, with the help of Ed Pederson and Charlie Wardell. Times have changed, and this is not done any more.

**THE ROLFSEN FAMILY—by Family Members**

Rolf Rolfsen came from Norway to Canada in 1909, locating in Calgary. Two years later he was

joined by his wife, Marie, and three children, Emil, Connie, and Edward. The family remained about two months in Calgary, and then came to the area northwest of Gilby, where Mr. Rolfsen acquired a homestead. The family lived with John Anderson while Mr. Rolfsen, aided by the neighbors, built a house on his homestead

In the spring of 1913 the settlers in the community felt the need of better mail service, with the result that a post office was established in the Rolfsen home. Because this was in a wooded area, and the leaves were so numerous and so beautiful, Mrs. Rolfsen named the post office "Leafland." Victor Mattson had the contract to bring the mail from Gilby to the Leafland post office. This mail service was continued until the Rolfsen family moved to a location just a mile and a half east of Gilby. This location is still referred to as "The Rolfsen Corner"

During the time spent on the homestead Ralph, Norman and Martin were born. Edward, at the age of 15 years, was killed in an accident caused by a run away team. In 1929 Mr and Mrs. Rolfsen, with the three younger children, moved to a farm near Bluffton, Alberta, where they lived until 1940, when they moved to Rimbey for their retirement. Mr. Rolfsen passed away in June, 1947, and in 1948 Mrs. Rolfsen and Martin moved to Vancouver Island, B.C. Mrs. Rolfsen lived in Nanaimo until her death in February 1959. Both she and Mr Rolfsen were buried in the Gilby cemetery

In 1922 Emil went to British Columbia where he worked for a year in the mines before going to the United States. Here he spent about 10 years working in the woods in Oregon and Colorado, and four years in California. He was married in 1940 to Velma Wilson, of Rawleigh, California. Following their marriage, Emil and Velma spent six years at Anchorage, Alaska, where Emil was foreman for the city of Anchorage for five years. They returned to Alberta in 1946 and spent the next two years on a farm near Rimbey before Emil again heeded the call of the west, and they located in Westminster, B.C. Here he spent 24 years as the owner and operator of a coffee shop and pool hall. In 1972 Emil returned to Eckville for retirement. His wife, Velma, had passed away in March, 1960 and was buried in California

Norman married Elsie Lenglet, of Bluffton, and they have made their home in Nanaimo, B.C. Martin also lives in Nanaimo; he has never married

Ralph Rolfsen and Lilly Sjostrom, of Bluffton, were married in 1936 and went to British Columbia to make their home. Ralph was employed in the woods there until 1956, when they returned to Alberta. They lived at various locations in the Gilby and Eckville area until they bought a home in Leslieville in 1968. Ralph was very interested in hunting and pitching horseshoes. He participated in many horseshoe pitching tournaments, and the many trophies that he had won over the years are proof of his skill in the game. Ralph was killed in an automobile accident on January 21, 1977. His wife, Lilly, continues to make her home in Leslieville

Six children were born to Ralph and Lilly Rolfsen. Ronald was born in Watastuvin, B.C. on May 26, 1939. He married Judy Mason, and they are now living in Oyama, B.C. where Ronald has a business of digging basements and pipe lines. They have four children: Gloria, Darcy, Malcome and Harold

Allan married Viola Heikkinen and they live in Leslieville. He was born in Rimbey on July 28, 1940. Their two children are Charlotte and Lori Ann. Allan has worked with the oil industry for many years. Viola works at the Eckville Hospital

Betty was born in Rimbey on May 26, 1941. She married Ron Severson, and has three children—Dawn, Pam and Todd. Betty works as an aide in a hospital in Edmonton

Marion was born on February 5, 1945, in Rimbey. She married Dick Bangle. They have two children, Teresa and Daryl. Marion is a housewife and Dick is a diamond driller

Clarence was born February 18, 1951 at Duncan, B.C. He married Cathy Bangle, and they live in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, where Clarence is employed by Murphy Oil. Cathy was working as a janitor's helper until she was in a car accident in 1976, which resulted in a broken leg. The original set of the broken bones was not a success, so in July of 1977 she had it reset, and is now much better. Their two children are Clinton and Christopher

Lynn married Rick Tomiuk and they live in Edmonton. Lynn works with Edmonton Telephones and Rick is a tobacco salesman. Lynn was born on March 24, 1955.

In 1921 Connie Rolfsen was married to John Huseby, and lived with her husband on a farm east of Gilby. During 1930 and 1931 they lived at Prince Rupert, B.C., but returned to their farm and lived there until 1936. During the next 10 year period they rented and lived on the Thorpe farm, north of their own farm. The remainder of John's life was then spent on his own farm, where he passed away in 1961. He is buried in the Gilby cemetery. After his death Connie spent some time in British Columbia working for her brother Emil, and also spent some time on her farm, which was being operated by her son, Kenneth. In 1973 Connie moved to Eckville, where she has since made her home

Connie and John Huseby had four daughters and two sons, all except the two youngest being born at the farm home near Gilby. Harvey, who was born on March 26, 1921, married Josephine Lawrence, a teacher from Adea, who taught at the Andrew and Lockhart schools. They now live at Surrey, B.C., where Jo is still teaching and Harvey is employed in construction work. Their two daughters are Melody and Cheryl.

Muriel was born August 19,1923. She married

Martin Engen of Eckville and they live on a farm west of Gilby. They have four daughters—Dorothy, Norma, Kelly, and Holly

Thelma was born August 22, 1925 and married Roy Engen. They lived on the old Engen farm, west of Gilby. Their children were Leanne and Leonard. Thelma died in 1969, in October. She is buried in the Gilby Cemetery.

Violet was born October 18, 1927 and married Gordon Carroll of Gilby. They now live in Kitimat, B.C., where Gordon works in the Al-Can aluminum plant. Their children are: Maureen, Gary, Sherry (who passed away at the age of 11 months), Jack and Shirley

Ruby was born in Bentley on May 19, 1932. She married George McTighe of Gilby in January, 1951. They live in Eckville and George has been employed in the oilfield business. Their children are Susan and Robert

Kenneth was born on October 9, 1934 in Bentley. He married Bernice Dyrland of Gilby, and they live on the Huseby farm in the Gilby area. Their children are Marilyn, John, Brian, Karen, Kevin and Travis

**MARTIN SESTRAP FAMILY**

Martin Sestrap and Emmeline Pedra both were born in Estonia. At an early age, they migrated to Russia and secured employment with Russian Prince and Princess Walkonsky. While thus employed Emma travelled all over Europe with her mistress, learning to speak six languages fluently. After her arrival in Canada her services were much in demand for translating and for explaining business transactions to those who were not familiar with the English language spoken in Canada.

In the early 20th century Canada became a pot-pourri of ethnic peoples. Among those migrating from Estonia were the Sestraps — Martin, Mike, and Gustav. Mike arrived on January 21, 1905, and filed on a homestead on N.E. 30-40-3-W5. Martin soon answered the call to the new land, and arrived on April 20, 1905, settling on S.W. 30-40-3-W5. Two years later Gustav (Gust) followed his brothers to Canada and homesteaded on S.E. 30-40-3-W5, later moving to S.W. 6-41-3-W5. Gust married Jenny Kemila, but in 1919 they, with their three children, moved to Moorcroft, Wyoming, U.S.A. Martin's wife, Emma, did not emigrate to Canada until 1907, when she came to join her husband.

Like all pioneer women, Emma worked alongside her husband, clearing land, harvesting, feeding livestock and raising a huge garden. Along with all of this, she raised a family of four children, Leyda, Alma, Olga, and Robert. Nevertheless, she always found time to lend a helping hand to neighbors in need.

By hard work and good management Martin was able, though the years, to build up the biggest farm enterprise in the area west of Lacombe. He acquired a fine herd of Hereford cattle along with hundreds of acres of land which had, over a period of twenty years, been cleared of trees and bush and much swamp land drained and made suitable for cultivation. Martin was also a carpenter, blacksmith and farrier of repute. Farmers brought unmanageable horses to him to be shod. He made the shoes in his shop, and thus a perfect fit resulted for every horse.

Mrs. Sestrap, Mrs. Redmond and Mrs. Sherba

Martin's energies were not spent entirely on his own affairs. He was a community minded pioneer who believed in enrichment education, and young people were his pride and joy. For many years baseball games, which drew spectators and players from great distances, were played on the Sestrap farm. For several years community picnics also were held here. Later, under Martin's leadership, the Gilby Hall was built by the men of the community, and this then became the center of community activities.

Another of his community projects was a rural telephone line. The Sestrap family owned one of the first telephones north of Eckville, and Martin assembled his neighbors who were in need of phone service and had little money to finance it, and organized twenty or more people who developed a barb-wire telephone system. Martin installed a switch in his house, which enabled his family to transfer calls for neighbors over the barb-wire system. This the family gladly did without remuneration, as a public service. Many times in the dark of the night and in the fiercest winter weather the Sestraps were asked to deliver urgent messages to friends or neighbors without phone service. Every request was immediately attended to.

In the early days the Sestrap farm was a stopping place between Lacombe, Leaheville, and Rocky Mountain House for travel-weary pioneers with their horses or oxen. All were sheltered without question and later sent on their way. The ranch was named by the family "Mersloa Farm". The name was made up of the initials of all members of the family.

In 1927 Martin lost his life through a farm accident. This left his widow, Emma, to carry on the successful operation of the farm, along with the assistance of her children, until her retirement. She passed away in 1955.

Leyda, the eldest daughter of Martin and Emma, graduated from the U. of A. in 1934 with a degree in medicine. She later served in the Army

Medical Corps for four years. Following advanced study with Menminger Clinic, she became a Doctor of Psychiatry which she practiced until her death in 1973.

Alma married August Llivarn in 1932, and they raised a family of six sons and one daughter while farming in the Gilby area

Olga married Martin Stenvig in 1936 and they had four girls and one boy. They also continued to live in the Gilby area

Robert, an orchardist and contractor, owns his own extensive cherry and apple orchard. He has his own cherry cannery and produces quantities of commercial apple cider He operates an airstrip on the farm. He married Elizabeth (Betsy) Wax and they live on Vaslon Island. They have two girls and one boy

**THE FAMILY OF JAMES WILLIAM SHORROCK — by Edna Carroll**

Jim Shorrock originally came to Canada in 1899 from Manchester, England. His father, William Shorrock, and mother, Alice (Taylor, Shorrock, were in the jewellery business. Jim was an accountant and worked for Boddington's Brewery in their office. He was also in the Cadets

Jim came to the Jones Ranch at Lacombe as a sponsored immigrant to work as a "bronc buster" and all round hired man. There was no Bentley town at that time. As the Jones family were London music hall entertainers, they really had no idea of farming methods and, to hear Jim tell about it, it was a hilarious time. When money ran low they would go to Edmonton where they hired out as entertainers, as they were talented in music and comedy Thus, Jim did not learn much from them about farming. Soon he left to take up a homestead at the west side of Gull Lake, on what is now the Gideon farm. To add to his income he took a job at Cummings sawmill, which later became the farm of Allie Shirtcliffe.

At 14 years of age his brother, Walter, arrived in Lacombe, accompanied by two older sisters. When the sisters returned to England they left Walter with Jim. After trying homesteading for awhile the two boys went to Hardisty, in about 1906 or 1907. There Jim became a partner with a Mr. Small and another man in the storekeeping business. Jim was also the postmaster there The Johnson Brothers, who, with their father, later moved to the Gilby area, were also in Hardisty running a hotel. That was the year there was a severe blizzard which stopped the trains from running

In 1910 Jim and Walter went to Calgary where Jim worked in the Hub Cigar Store. Walter worked on a surveying crew out of Calgary While living in Calgary Jim joined the "Calgary Rifles" for five years. He also worked near the present town of Banff, at Bankhead Mines, as a carpenter's helper under a very fine man by the name of Peyto. For a time he was also night desk-clerk at the new Banff-Springs Hotel.

After returning to Calgary the Shorrock brothers met and married two lovely Irish sisters from the McIlveen family. Jim married Meg in November, 1911. Walter married Fanny about two years later. Jim and Meg had one little daughter named Alice Nancy For a short time they lived on Jim's homestead at Gull Lake, then Jim enlisted for overseas service in the Calgary Infantry as a Drill-Sergeant Before leaving for overseas he sold his farm and effects, with the young Clarence Damron as auctioneer. This sale was was in March, 1916.

Jim left Calgary with the 103rd Regiment, as a Bayonet Instructor and Lightweight Boxing Instructor He was wounded in action twice, on October 25 and on October 27, 1917, and spent seven months in an English Hospital, as a result Then he was sent back to a convalescent hospital in Victoria, B.C., where his wife and baby daughter joined him for a time. Returning to Calgary after 18 months in hospital with the rank of Regimental Sergeant-Major, and a Military Medal, he found that his marriage had ended. His daughter Alice was with relatives, so Jim's sister Florence came from England to care for Alice Florence later returned to England, taking Alice with her to live with her grandparents in Manchester Alice began her schooling there

In 1920 Jim joined his brother Walter and wife Fanny at Gilby where they ran the store and post office They formed a partnership under the name of Shorrock Bros Jim also was a notary public and justice of the peace. At that time there was also a blacksmith shop at Gilby across from the store, run by Mr B.E. Chadbourne

Many people dealt at the Gilby Store from all around the country, and came to get their mail and to chat There were many bachelors in the Leafland area, just west of Gilby, who never married but lived in the area for many years

One of the young ladies who came for the mail was Miss Norah Porter, from the Benjamin district, recently arrived with her parents from Council Bluffs, Iowa, U.S.A. Norah rode her horse about three miles across the unfenced Medicine Valley to the store. There she met the Postmaster, Jim Shorrock, and on August 23, 1923 they were married at the home of her parents. It was a lovely summer day and the ceremony was on the lawn, with a few close neighbors, making it a very happy occasion. Some of the guests at the wedding were the Lands and the Layes from nearby. Jim's sister Eveline from the States, bought Norah's wedding dress. It was a lovely silk in an apple-green. compliments Norah's auburn hair

By this time the Shorrock Brothers had dissolved their partnership, with Walter and Fanny getting the store and Jim taking over the farm which they had acquired, about four miles northwest of the store of S.E. 1-41-4-W5. So Jim and Norah, along with his sister Flo and ten-year-old Alice went to live on the farm. After Alice had attended school at Medicine Valley for

James and Mora Shorrock

about a year her Aunt Flo accompanied her to the home of their sister, Eveline Miltimore, in the States. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Miltimore then raised Alice as their foster-child. It was an unhappy parting for Jim and his child However, they kept up a steady correspondence and remained in touch by occasional visits between Portland, Maine, and Gilby

Jim and Norah Shorrock had three children. Edna was born in May, 1924, Alan was born in February of 1928, and Clifton was born in May of 1932. All three children were born at home, with Mrs. Sam Dyrland as midwife.

Irene Edna attended school at Medicine Valley with her first teacher being Mrs Lewis After finishing Grade 8, she went to the Eckville High School, boarding at the home of Mr. Robert Gish, of the Atlas Lumber store, but finishing out the year at the Andrew School. The next year she boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mann, Imperial Bank manager. Her Grade 10 teacher was Mr. Jack Lewis (no relation to her grade one teacher). Her years at school were happy ones, due in part to her excellent teachers Edna married Charlie Carroll in September, 1941

Alan and Clifton Shorrock both attended the Medicine Valley and Andrew's Schools. Later Alan enrolled in Olds Agricultural College for one term. They both took over the farming at a young age due to their father's war wounds, making it hard for him to handle heavy equipment and modern ways of farming.

In later life Mrs. Shorrock was an invalid brought on by diabetes, and the brothers took care of the home from then on. Mrs. Shorrock passed away in May, 1971 at the Calgary Foothills Hospital. She was buried beside her parents at the Rimbey Cemetery

James William Shorrock passed away at the Calgary Belcher Veteran's Hospital in October, 1958. He was carried to rest by an Honor Guard of Veteran's from the Red Deer Legion of which he was a longtime member. Burial was in the Military Plot on Michener Hill, overlooking Red Deer city

Both of them remained in good and cheerful spirits through long illnesses, and were an inspiration and a help to their children and grandchildren. They leave four children and nine grandchildren. Also two great-grandchildren from the family of Jim's first daughter

The second generation of Shorrock Bros. continue to farm the homeplace near the Medicine River They raise Hereford cattle. The cattle breed has been registered in their name since 1900.

After graduating as a nurse in Portland, Maine, the daughter, Alice Miltimore Shorrock married Mr. Hugh Wainwright, a draftsman, and they lived at Marblehead, Mass.; where their son Stephen was born. In short time Hugh Wainwright passed away and later Alice was remarried to Mr. Russel Copithorne. They have one son also, named Dick, who is about 20 years old and living at home in Topsfield, Mass., — Alice began an unusual craft shop between her marriages, and was very successful She manufactures creatively formed wooden dolls from a hardwood, dressing them in authentic old-time costumes

Her shop is under the name of "Polly Shorrock." Alice has two grandchildren, named Beth-Anne and Parnsen, of her son Stephen Wainwright.

**THE WALTER SHORROCK FAMILY — by Mrs. Walter (Fannie) Shorrock Age 92**

Jim Shorrock homesteaded three miles from Gull Lake in 1899. Three years later his younger brother, Walter, came out at the age of 15 years. Later Walter left to go to Banff to work for Brewster's. Jim left the farm and came to Calgary where he met and married my sister, Meg. Later came to visit them and met Walter Two years later, in December, 1913, we were married, and in May, 1915, Walter and I and our baby, six months old, came to Eckville to work in Mike Sestrap's store.

At that time Mr. McIntosh was the manager of the bank. At first there was no house for us and we stayed with Mrs. Matchett, until Dan Clausen, who worked for Mike, left to manage the Gilby Store. There was a Co-op Store at Eckville at that time. The Clausen's had been living in part of the house owned by Mike Sestrap and the McIntosh family lived in the other half. Although I had been in Canada since 1905 all this was new to me and the place was strange to me'

Walter and I moved to the Gilby Store. The first World War was on, and I remember on mail days the customers would discuss the news. At that time a schoolmaster named John Robinson taught school somewhere between Gilby and Eckville. Also at Eckville the Eckfords lived, giving their name to the village The Gilbertson family lived near Gilby, and Gilby was named

after them. Lots of the other folks I remember whose appearance I can still visualize but whose names I do not remember

In Eckville there was a big man who ran a livery barn. He was highly thought of and respected. His name was Charlie Gustavson. Our neighbors at Gilby were the Thubrons, Oscar and Alf. (Alf recently passed away.) No one ever had better neighbors! Most of the people around were Scandinavian, Finnish, or Estonian. Some soldiers took up homesteads after the War and brought out wives from England. The life on a farm and the loneliness was not easy for these wives.

There were very few cars in those days and in front of the old Gilby Store there was a long hitching post. I used to amuse myself guessing the weight of the horses. The mail man was a huge man named John Kemila. Another thing I remember was a woman from London who was very deaf. She and her husband and two little girls lived 13 miles north of the Gilby Store. She made the little girls' hats with crown and brims beautifully crocheted and trimmed with coloured crocheted flowers. She starched the brims. So the girls were well dressed in spite of very little money. About that time a woman whose husband had died in the house shot a man who tried to get in. He was looking through the keyhole at the time.

Another woman, an Icelander, a school teacher, I think, gave a wonderful picnic. She sent out fancy invitation cards "Picnic in the Month of Roses". Remember, this was 60 years ago, but I remember the whole neighborhood sitting on an easy hillside and having a lovely time. Also, I remember a wedding where the married men were ranged on one side and the unmarried ones on the opposite side. The bachelors tossed the groom from their side over to the married lines, singing and stomping their feet. Also they served a wonderful pink punch with froth on it. I never could get the recipe for it.

While I was there we had a few church services. There was a Mrs. Graham teaching at Medicine Valley school at that time.

First we had two heavy grey horses, Nancy and Maud, to haul freight from Eckville, then we had a Chevrolet, an open car. I think the Station Agent at Eckville had the first one.

The winter of 1919 and 1920 was a long and severe one. It froze hard on the 19th of October and it stayed frozen. That must have been when the influenza killed so many people. It must have been May 20 when there was a bad snow storm. It was a long time ago, but I was in my early thirties at the time.

The different nationalities of people interested me. Sometimes in the store we had political meetings. Also, upstairs we had a room where people could stay if they were traveling through the country. Also, before the hall was built, dances were held there. The store was 60 feet long and so the hall upstairs was big enough, but I remember people saying that the floor swayed with the dancers and if you didn't sway with it you lost the rhythm. The Estonians could sing perfectly in tune without any instruments. One little girl I think of so often because she sang "Annie Laurie" most beautifully. I often wonder if anything was done with that voice! For a time after the Gilby Hall was built moving-pictures were shown there, and I enjoyed them.

We, as I said, came to Eckville in 1916 and there were practically no jobs. As Walter's brothers were in the war, their father thought one of the family should keep out of it. At about this time the Thubrons were breeding red polled cattle and showing them at fairs.

The Kinna brothers lived south of the store. They loved music and had a good record player with wonderful records. One of them had had an accident to his back but was good at caring for cattle and horses. There was a full basement under the store and another one under that where we kept vegetables and fruit. The gasoline was kept on a stand at the side of the store door. The barrels were on a stand and were kept locked. One Sunday afternoon Walter and I went for a walk with the children, Billy and Freddie. When we came home the locks on the gasoline barrels were broken and the gas spilled over the veranda floor. It had seeped into the basement. Fortunately, Walter knew not to strike a match, for if he had the store would have burned.

As you know, the Medicine River is right by the store and one afternoon I was down by the river with the children and little Pat Thubron. The wife of a travelling salesman began amusing herself by shooting a 22 rifle over the river. I had Fred in my arms and a bullet just missed me. I shouted but she didn't stop until I ran up the bank.

Another thing I remember was that a young man died from west of us. He had been in the Red Deer Hospital and his body was brought home to Gilby. We were asked to keep the body in the store overnight. We had a store-room and it was left there. At the time one of my sisters was staying with us. In the evening we were sitting in the kitchen when we heard an awful racket. I suppose we were a little unnerved anyway, so Walter went into the store-room, but found everything as it should be. We were still worried, until he noticed that all the Christmas decorations had been knocked down by the cat.

Gilby was a different place then. No oil wells, few cars. Fred Bardenhagen used to ride with chaps. The quarter east of the store was not fenced and we drove across it to reach the road.

In May of 1918 or 1919 we had a terrible blizzard. John Kemila, the mailman, had to walk ahead of his horses first to make it possible for the horses to travel. He caught a bad cold and got rheumatism, and I don't think he ever fully recovered. It must have been about that time (because we left in 1922) that a lot of people drove their animals to the northern part of Alber-

ta because of poor crops in our area. We sold the store and moved to the farm which we had bought four miles northwest of Gilby. The store was sold to Mr. Jacobs.

The Walter Shorrock family moved to British Columbia with their little sons, Billy and Freddie. Mrs. Shorrock, at the time this was written, was 92 years of age, and was living at Parksville, B.C.

**SIMMONS, JAMES S. — by Mabel Barnes Simmons**

James S. Simmons and his wife, Grace, were both born in Claire, Illinois, U.S.A. and attended school there. They were married in the early 1900's, farmed for a while, and then moved to Missouri where he worked on a dredge boat. The swamps were being dredged to make way for more farms. Later they moved to Duluth, Minnesota, where he spent several years working for the government. Later they became homesteaders in Nebraska, some 50 miles north of Alliance. Here they lived in a sod house and burned cow "chips" for fuel.

In 1913 Sim, as he was called, heard about how beautiful northern Alberta was. He took a hurried-up trip north to look the country over with the result that he returned home, sold his homestead, shipped stock and other belongings by immigrant train, and settled on a piece of CPR land a mile south of the Barnes homestead. Here they built a nice place, with nice buildings.

Sim and Grace had no children, but they both liked young people. Each evening the young people in the neighborhood would gather at their place to play cards, dance and sing. We had many good times there. Grace passed away on August 15, 1917, and then Mr. and Mrs. Van Loon came to the Simmons farm. She cooked and he helped with the farm work, and crops were good.

After Grace's death a strong friendship developed between Sim and me, yet we were afraid to tell my folks. World War I was going full blast and finally Sim got his call to service. We decided not to marry until his return from service. Then came the Armistice in November of 1918, his orders were revoked, and we were married on November 27, 1918.

For three years we continued to farm then moved to Washington, U.S.A. and rented the farm in Canada. While in Washington we were blessed with a son, James, born in July, 1924. In 1925 the renters decided not to continue farming our place in Canada, so we returned to Canada. Through the years we had many experiences, both good and bad. From 1925 to 1927 we lost two infant girls and lost a farm building by fire. We talked things over and Sim said, "When the jinks get after you, it's time to move". This seemed the right thing to do, so we got busy and sold everything once more.

On February 18, 1927 we left the farm, with plans to return after a few years. We returned to the United States and settled at Hardin, Montana. Here, in September, a son, William, was born to us. The depression was beginning; also, Montana had a drought, then a scourge of grasshoppers and crickets; and the country was the hottest place I ever lived in. So we just worked, and lived, sitting out the depression.

James Simmons's Family

The boys grew, schools were good, the grade school and the high school being only three blocks away. After 11 years Janice, our only daughter, was born.

World War II ruined everyone's plans. James served overseas, came home, went back to college. As a chemical engineer he works at NASA near New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. He is married and has three sons and a daughter. Bill finished his education as a musician and is a teacher at Eastern Montana College. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He has never married. Janice and her husband are missionaries. They spent three years in Liberia, West Africa, with the Bassa Tribe. They now live in Springfield, Oregon. They have three children — two boys and one girl.

Sim passed away on March 21, 1956. I am living at the family home, 730 W. Third Street, Hardin, Montana. I operate a small nursing home.

There are so many things one could write about. Memories of the past are great. We had a good life.

**SJODAHL, HUGO — by Joan Maddex**

Hugo and Julia Sjodahl filed on S.E. 4-41-4-W5 about 1910. They came from Portland, Oregon U.S.A. where he had been a plasterer. He con-

tinued that work here. They had no children, but a little white pekinese dog named Nellie gave them great pleasure. When she grew too old to enjoy living Hugo got some chloroform from the drug store and put her to sleep.

They raised a large flock of turkeys each year. The neighbors would gather to help kill and dress them. This was always a sad day for Julia, as she made pets of them a..

Hugo and Julia had only one place but were hard workers and had a nice herd of shorthorn cattle when they sold out in 1922.

Hugo was councillor for the road building and also secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Valley school district for many years. They were both very kind poeple, always willing to help with any troubles.

They returned to Portland, Oregon and the Lawton Brothers now own the land.

**EDGAR SMALE FAMILY**

In 1933 Edgar Smale and Martha McCleary were married in Calgary. It was the depression time, but this young couple were lucky — they had jobs. He was a baggageman with the CPR and she was a ward maid at Baker Tuberculosis Sanitorium. More lay-offs on the railroad occurred in 1934, including Edgar. With Edgar's experience working on a dairy and fox farms west of Calgary, and Martha's girlhood experience on a farm in Ireland, they decided to become farmers and purchased the NE 34-40-4-W5 in the Gilby district from a well-known district cattle dealer, Leo Zaleski. Their worldly possessions included one team of horses, seven head of female cattle of various sizes and colors, sundry farm equipment, tools and household furnishings and a 1928 Chevrolet car, which was later bartered for a second team of horses.

These were unloaded at the CPR siding at Kootuk, and they walked the 17 miles to their new home. They often looked back to an incident on the road that day. During a noon stop-over at the Sestrap farm a cow gave birth to their first calf. It was a heifer, and proved to be a good omen.

The family soon became actively involved in community affairs. Edgar became secretary of the Medicine Valley School board in 1938 and remained on the board until the school was closed in favor of centralization in 1953. He was also secretary of the Eckville north local of Farmer's Union for several years. The family took an active part in 4-H Club work, belonging to the Benalto 4-H Beef Club, and the Grain Club. In 1951 Edgar helped organize the Medicine Valley 4-H Dairy Club and was leader for 11 years. Martha was a member of the Happy Valley Ladies' Club and could always be relied upon to lend a helping hand at showers, weddings, and serving lunches at the various community gatherings.

They raised six children. Evelyn Owofryszyn of Eckville, Jack of Leduc, Doreen Pegg of Dawson Creek, Helen Nielsen of Spruce Grove, William, who was killed in an auto accident at the age of 20 years, and Mark, who resides with his wife, the former Beth Lecerf, on the family farm.

Although there were many disappointments, and heartaches, lots of hard work and sacrifice, they never regretted their decision to leave the city and go farming. All who knew Edgar were saddened at his untimely death in February of 1973. Martha retired to Eckville in 1976.

**SPIRES, MAURICE — by Tom Spires**

My father, Maurice Spires, was born in the Lancashire town of Salford, in 1889. His father was a Superintendent with the Post Office, and they apparently had a good home. My father was educated at Grecian Street School in Salford and his early working life was as an office boy in the cotton industry. Upon leaving, his reference consisted of three words — "smart but cheeky".

I do not know exactly when he left for Canada, but I think it must have been about 1909. His elder brother, Leonard ("Len"), also went to Canada, and this necessitated the long sea voyage across the Atlantic followed by the transcontinental journey on the Canadian Pacific Railway. They arrived in Calgary, and I believe that one of my father's first jobs was at the Canadian Pacific Railway's works there. Apparently, there was a queue outside the works each morning and the number of men required were selected. My father thought this was not such a good idea and so he caught the works train next morning. He presented himself at the office and was given a job on the grounds of his initiative. He also spoke of working on railroad construction with gangs of men and teams of horses, and I think this may have been the line through Eckville to Rocky Mountain House. Another job around this time was working as a gardener at the Banff Springs Hote.

When the Great War started in 1914 Len joined the Medical Corps and was drafted to England. He got married in uniform and later served with the Canadian Forces in France. After the war he settled down in England and never returned to Canada. My father did not pass his medical examination and so did not serve in the Armed Forces.

Eventually, my father decided to homestead, and joined two friends, Tom Spencer and Bill Collins in the area of Carlos, near Lesliеville. They each had a quarter section and my father obtained the title deeds in 1921. I still have these deeds, but the land was sold for taxes after the Second World War. The homesteaders managed to clear enough land to grow wheat and also kept some cattle. They built a substantial barn and had a good house to live in. But things did not go well for them, perhaps due partly to inexperience and partly to the economic conditions of the time. They decided to leave the homestead and my father and Tom Spencer got a job with

McDonald's Nurseries in Lacombe, while Bill Collins went to the Experimental Station there.

In 1924, my father received a telegram to say that his father had died suddenly and he returned to England immediately. It was always his intention to go back to Canada in due course, and he still paid the taxes on his quarter of land. He knew my mother before going to Canada, and wrote to her regularly, trying to encourage her to join him there. She was reluctant to do so, but if she had, perhaps I would have been born in Alberta.

My father spent most of his working life in England as a gardener, but he also undertook furniture repairing and French polishing. He was always a very handy sort of man and could undertake most of the repair work around the home and garden. My mother died in 1952 after a long illness and my father died in 1960.

I was brought up on Canadian names and I was as familiar with towns like Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Lacombe and Medicine Hat as any Albertan. He always talked about Alberta and never gave up hope of going back, although that was not to be. He had a fund of stories, including the one about Old Mr Ostrem, who wore bear skins and was almost shot one day in the snow. He used to tell the story of the Indian trick by which it was possible to pull out dry sand from a basinful of water. I still don't know how it's done!

One of the highlights of my life was the visit I paid to Alberta with my wife and son in 1975. We met Mrs. McDonald in Lacombe and saw the Nurseries where my father worked. Other members of the family we met were Mr and Mrs David McDonald in Calgary. Mr McDonald remembered my father singing English music hall songs to him and his brother.

We stayed at Eckville with Mrs. Joan Maddox, who, as one of the Lawtons, was a neighbor of my father on the homestead. We also met the brothers of Mrs. Maddox who are still farming in the same place. We visited my father's quarter but found it was forest once again, with the exception of swaths cut for two pipe lines. The only disappointment I had was that there were no buildings left on the quarter, as I had been looking forward to seeing them. Of course, they had been built of timber and probably disappeared many years ago, either by fire or through neglect. We were able to have a picnic nearby, and I was glad to see the wild rose growing there.

We also met Mrs. Madge Walls, who remembered my father and Uncle Len in Calgary. She recalled the time when my father and Tom Spencer left for the homestead with a horse-drawn wagon. As it was approaching Christmas time, Mrs. Spencer packed up the seasonal fare for them, including plum pudding. The weather deteriorated and they exchanged the wagon for a sleigh, but, unfortunately, it overturned just before they reached the homestead. When the snow melted in the spring they were able to find plum puddings in the ditch!

We were also to see the Eckville Rodeo and this was quite a thrill. My father used to talk about the Calgary Stampede which was in its early days then. We were welcomed everywhere with Albertan hospitality and it was grand to see all the places which had been only names before.

**JOHN AND ARIA THYSSEN**

John Thyssen was born in Denhelder, Holland. He grew up learning how to handle horses by driving his father's surrey, taking folks around like a taxi. While a young man he went to sea to be a sailor. After a period of time spent as a sailor he emigrated to America, to the state of Iowa. Here he met Aria Koole, but it was not until some years later that they were married, in MacLeod, Alberta, where the rest of Aria's family lived.

After their marriage John and Aria returned to Holland where their daughter Nellie was born. In 1917 they came back to Canada and settled on a farm near Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1920 a daughter, Bessie, was born.

They had so many poor years of farming that they moved to central Alberta to a place close to Gilby, known as the Robert Keam place. Vera was born in 1923. In 1924 they moved over to a homestead belonging to Louis Gant, where Aria passed away in February, 1926. She was laid to rest in the Gilby Cemetery. After her death John and the two older girls left the homestead for a farm near the Gimlet school, where he lived until 1964.

John was a very good father and neighbour, and an excellent farmer. His animals were among the best in the country, and his crops and garden also grew and produced very well. He had such an abundance of everything that he shared it with his neighbors who did not have enough. When he went out driving in his buggy or cutter it was a thrill to see those beautiful horses prancing down the road.

Bessie and Nelly grew up and went to the Gimlet School. Vera became a foster child of a wonderful lady by the name of Mrs. Sara Dyrland.

When he left the farm in 1964 John went to live in the Lodge in Rocky Mountain House, later living in Lacombe, Three Hills and Sylvan Lake. While at Sylvan Lake he broke a bone in his leg and was sent to the Lacombe nursing home. He also stayed for a while in the Rimbey Three-way Hospital and then back to Lacombe.

John enjoyed drawing and painting pictures with water colours. He gave most of the pictures away to his friends and relatives. Just a month before his 90th birthday he suffered a stroke and passed away six weeks later in the Lacombe Nursing Home. He was laid to rest beside his wife Aria in April of 1973.

Bessie married Carl Nelson in 1940 and they have seven children and several grandchildren.

Nellie lives in Red Deer

Vera married Harold Molander in December 1944. They live in the Eckville area. They have eight children and two grandchildren.

**VERA THYSSON, CHILDHOOD TO MARRIAGE — by Vera Molander**

When Vera Thysson came to the home of Sam and Ellen Dyrland she was only two and a half years old and was a very sick child. They didn't think she would recover from whooping cough and scarlet fever. These were very serious diseases in those days and children weren't inoculated against them. Vera's hair was one solid mat of gum and Mrs. Dyrland and her daughter, Ruth, had quite a job cutting it all out and making it very short. She had to learn to walk all over again and also to talk, as no one was able to understand what she said. Her mother, Aria Thysson, had only spoken Dutch to her and she had to learn to speak English. She also learned to speak Norwegian while growing up in a Norwegian home. There were seven children in the Dyrland family, but they accepted Vera as a part of their family.

The school days are remembered best as she had Mrs. Lewis as one of her teachers. She had two miles to go to school through all sorts of weather. One thing Vera enjoyed doing was picking up a nice walking stick which belonged to Sam Dyrland, and off to school she would ride, pretending the stick was a real horse. Most of the time she wasn't late for school, either. In winter she would be so bundled up with warm coat, shawl, mitts, and, of course, buckled overshoes. Girls didn't go to school in slacks in those days. Vera wasn't a very good student in certain subjects such as mathematics, which really riled the teachers. One teacher got so angry he broke the ruler and chalk. What does Vera do but shed tears into her book until it was wet with tears. Another funny thing which happened was that her skirt came unbuttoned and dropped to the floor while she was doing mathematics on the blackboard. The children laughed to see her standing in her green broadcloth slip. The teacher looked to see what the youngsters were laughing at and said, "Vera, pull up that skirt and fasten it." Vera had a very close friend with whom she walked to school, Mary Ophus. They had lots of fun in little play houses in the woods and when summer holidays came Vera walked the three-quarters of a mile to Mary's house to play. Lots of mud bread loaves, pies and cakes were made and decorated with dandelion leaves and flowers.

When Vera was a little girl she wore clothes which Mary's mother sewed. Mrs. Ophus was a wonderful seamstress and the clothes looked just like they had come from Eaton's Catalog.

Vera went as far as Grade 8 in school at Medicine Valley. The last two years of school in Medicine Valley were spent riding on a real horse. Grade 9 was spent in the Andrew school, going horseback from spring to the end of the term. The next five years were spent at home growing up and learning to sew and embroidering linens for her hope chest.

When Vera was staying at the John Pederson home and going to school she met her future husband. At that time no one knew that six years later they would be married in the home where Vera grew up.

Vera and Harold Molander were married the 22nd of December, 1944. They went to live in a small house built by Harold Molander with the help of his brother. He cut logs for the building in the woods that now belong to Maurice Clark. Harold sawed the logs for the house at Haapala's sawmill.

**TILLEY, WILLIAM**

William Tilley came from Iowa about 1910 to homestead the SW 5-41 4-W5. He built a neat set of buildings near a big spring, farmed with horses and raised a small herd of good cattle. In his garden were a few rows of corn; the large ears a treat for his pigs.

On Saturday evening, he would meet with neighbors to talk over the clearing and breaking at the Rolfson home who had the Leafland post office.

He was a hard working man and a good friend to all who knew him.

In 1946, he sold to Gus Osterland and moved to Red Deer where he lived until his death.

**VOSBERG, JOHN AND HILDA**

John and Hilda Vosberg both came from St. Paul, Minnesota in 1911. They were married in Edmonton. He filed on SE 5-41 4-W5 that year.

Being a carpenter by trade, he built a neat two story log house and a barn. He also built the Leafland school.

When their second child was born, December 25, 1915, she had developed TB. Mrs. Best, a nurse, who lived on the Houston place rode through the swamps horseback to see her several times. She passed away in March 1916. Mrs. Best took the baby but it only lived a short time. The older child, Jean, about three years old, was taken back to St. Paul to Hilda's parents.

John sold the farm to Hugo Sjodahl. He returned to St. Paul late in 1916. Dick Lawton bought the farm from Hugo Sjodahl for five hundred dollars.

**WELLS, SETH — written by Linnie Gilfund, Hilda Gottschlich and Harriet Stears**

Seth Wells will live on as a legend in the Meadowbrooke district in the memories of all who chanced to meet this tremendous personality. Seth was born a dwarf and lived first in the area west of Blackfalds. In size he would be approximately 36 or 38 inches tall (I think 30 inches was nearer) but what he lacked in size he more than gained in personality. His philosophy of life could never be surpassed.

Always he earned his livelihood selling spices and fruits, and boiling wagon wheels in linseed oil to preserve them. Also he sharpened discs.

In the spring of 1924 he helped put in W. J. Riley's crop following Mr. Riley's illness. He drove four horses on the disc. He sat in an apple box for a seat. He stayed around the Riley home and took Mr. Riley for rides to entertain him. At this time he had one Shetland hitched to a cart. He loved taking the girls for rides in his cart and took any girl that would go with him. He also spent some time at Elmer Gilluads.

His first means of locomotion — two bull calves he himself broke and drove to school. Gradually he promoted himself to a team of mules. Many in the Blindman district will remember his many episodes with these. Finally he purchased the famous team Dixie and Floss, his team of horses, a gray and a buckskin. They drove him around for many years in Central Alberta as he went about his work. He sang constantly — a regular Johnny Appleseed. He had two voices — a man's and a lady's.

Finally in later years he came down to driving Shetlands. Age made it most difficult to board a buggy and a wagon. It must be remembered this wee man harnessed his own mules and horses by the use of his crutches (known as T-sticks). Buzz and Bum were his ever-faithful Shetland team that he drove in a cart or cutter. With ever increasing traffic and his age, he finally had to give up his driving. He made his home at Schmuland's in Millet, Alta. until his passing in his 70's. He was buried in the Ponoka cemetery by his midget sister.

I will add a few lines to their account as I knew Seth almost 40 years. Once he drove to Lacombe with a small team of mules hitched to a small red cutter. He put them in Fortune's Livery Barn and said he wanted them in three hours. When the time was up Seth hopped across the street from the barn and leaned on his crutches to see the fun. The livery man led them up to the cutter. They promptly turned and faced it. While the man turned one mule the other straddled the tongue or kept his rear end against the neck yoke. After a few minutes the man went for help. Two men could not get them faced in the right direction. Soon four men struggled. Seth hopped over and said "It took me just 10 minutes to hitch them up this morning." The men said "Let's see you do it." Seth gave each mule about three prods with his crutches and spoke in his deep voice. The little mules couldn't get into position fast enough.

Seth had grown up with mules in Missouri. He said nearly every mule had to have one lesson, tied to a post, whipped with a rawhide about half an hour and left with several cuts. If that mule lived to be 40 he would never disobey that man again.

He could harness Dixie and Floss. I said I liked to see him do it. Dixie and Floss each weighed about 1100 pounds and stood at least five feet four inches. Dad had hung the harness on pegs six feet above the floor. I put each harness in front of Seth. He took Dixie's harness to an empty stall and pushed it into the manger with his crutches. Then he led Dixie in and crawled up in the manger. She swung sidways as close to Seth as she could get. He put her collar on and pushed the harness up and fastened the hame strap. Then Dixie put her head on his hands and he put the bridle on. He went in the other stall and Floss did the same.

Seth didn't like to be helped. Once I lifted him into the democrat (he weighed about 80 pounds) I could see that he was hurt.

He loved to play croquet and was an excellent player and coach. He also played cards and read.

He enjoyed playing tricks. I was planting flower seed. Seth got my mother to give him a pocketful of garden peas. He planted them behind me. Twenty-seven came up. I let them grow and they were blooming when he came to visit next time. He asked how the flowers grew. I said that he had a little job of weeding and I grabbed him by the collar and dragged him out the back door. I didn't get much farther. He whacked my shins so hard (with the T sticks) that I had to drop him. I let the peas ripen and he shared them later on.

As I was coming home from Fort Vermilion a lady got on the bus at Millet. She told me they had taken Seth to the hospital and he was very sick. He did not recover. He certainly made the best of the life God willed he should live.

Seth Wells

**THE WHILLIER FAMILY**

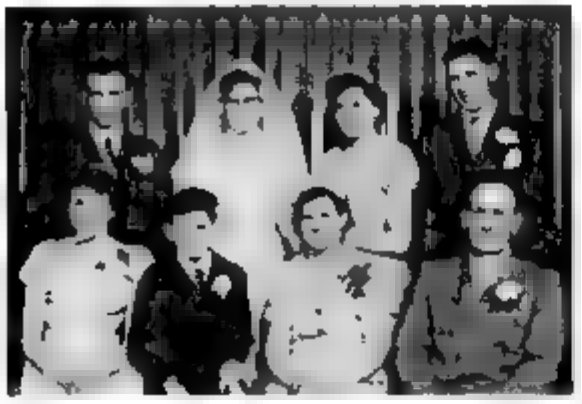
The Whillier family came to the Medicine Valley in October of 1918, from Forest Lawn east of Calgary. They settled on the N.W. 27-40-4 W5 (on the old Pat McNulty place.) The family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Whillier, Bert, Bob, and Reg. Three daughters were married and never came with the family. An older son had been killed overseas the previous year in World War I.

Mr. Whillier was a bricklayer by trade, and built many of the first brick chimneys in the valley, as well as the odd fireplace. He built the first chimney in the Gilby Hall.

In 1920 they bought the J. Huseby homestead S.E. 28-40-4-W5. Reg went to the Medicine Valley School for one term. The other boys had left

school and spent most of their time working out when their help was not needed at home

In 1927 Reg rented land owned by Frank Clevenger, now owned by Mrs. Stears. He farmed this land for three years, as well as farming his parent's land and the J. Severson land for several years. In October of 1929 Reg was married to Mary Gant, and they lived on the old place until 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Whillier left the Valley for Vancouver in 1932. They lived there for many years. Mr. Whillier passed away in November of 1940 and Mrs. Whillier died in April of 1955.



Back row: Dave, Dorothy, Shirley, Don. Front row: Betty, Tom, Mary and Reg Whillier, 1954

Reg and Mary's family consisted of Don of Slave Lake, David of Edmonton, Dorothy (Mrs. R Tyler) of Calgary, Shirley (Mrs E Kruetzfeld) of Saskatoon, Betty (Mrs J McNeil) of Wetaskewin, and Tom of Valleyview

In 1969 Reg and Mary sold their farm to Bob and Marge Sears and retired to Lacombe, where they are living at this time

**WITHERS, MR. AND MRS. E. T**

Mr. and Mrs. E T Withers of Nova Scotia with their three sons, William, Charles and Harry and daughter, Nora, all came west and filed on a homestead, SW 3-41-4-W5, in Medicine Valley in the spring of 1907

Harriet Mullins and Nellie Withers came from the Boston area in the spring of 1908, and Harriet and William Withers were married that same spring by Reverend Richard Shoup. Nellie Withers and Otto Huppelsheuser were married in 1909. They settled in Blind Man's Valley.

About 1910 Mr. and Mrs. E. T Withers had the first post office in Medicine Valley. (It was called Medicine Valley.) Later, when Medicine Valley post office was closed down there was a post office at Gilby and also at Wittenburg (All in Medicine Valley.) Mr and Mrs. Broderson had the Wittenburg post office, now known as Leedale. We got our mail at Lockhart until we got the Medicine Valley post office. At first the mail was brought from Lacombe on Saturdays. There would be a gathering of many people of the

Mr and Mrs E T Withers 50th Anniversary

area, who would stay for hours, and talk over their land-clearing, tell about their oxen or their machinery, and many other topics, of interest to all, were discussed.

Later, when Nora's parents had bought an organ, she would play for groups who would have a sing-song. The closest entertainment was at Bentley The Withers young folks would drive

Fred and Nora Lange 1913

Mr and Mrs. E T Withers Medicine Valley P O

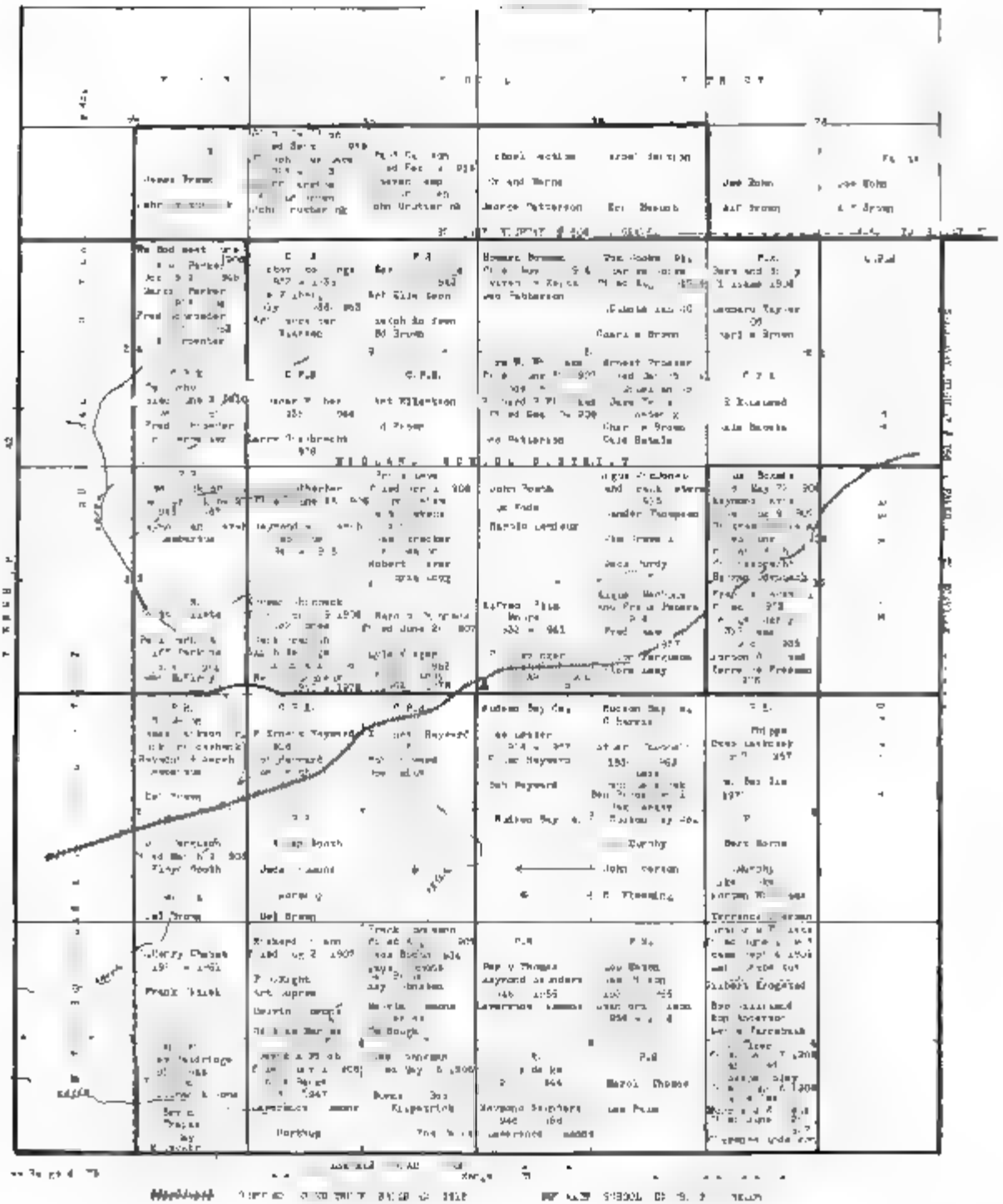
there to attend the dances. Mrs. Best was the only trained nurse and the closest doctor was in Lacombe. Mrs. Best would ride horseback through the swamps to assist at births and other illnesses.

Fred Lange, of Iowa, U.S.A. filed on a homestead in Medicine Valley in 1910 and he and Nora Withers were married in the spring of 1913. They lived on their homestead until 1917, when they and their two children moved to Iowa, U.S.A.

Mrs. Best (the trained nurse) started a girls' basketball team. From a previous marriage she had three girls and one boy by the name of Thompson. The girls on the original team were: Anna Bardenhagen, Mabel Easter, Helen Lockhart, Louella Thompson (Mrs. Best's daughter), and Nora Withers Lange.

Mr. Ames was the first mail carrier out of the Valley. The first bridge across the Medicine River in our area was built in 1911.

Mrs. Withers passed away in Calgary in 1929, and Mr. Withers passed on a few years later.



# Midland

**THE MIDLAND COMMUNITY AND ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

On the west slope of land between the valleys of the Medicine and Blindman rivers, lies the Midland community. Its borders are allied with the school division boundaries which were established on July 5, 1939. Prior to this the Midland School District No. 4856 was a part of Municipal District of Last West No. 431. On Jan. 1, 1952 the County of Ponoka No. 3 was incorporated by Ministerial order so the area now lies within the County boundaries.

Before being settled the land was covered with balm and poplar trees, with scattered birch on the higher ground. The lower ground was covered with willow, spruce and varying amounts of tamarack and pine. There were many springs which fed the streams and swamp areas. The streams that drain this low land are not large. The terrain is rolling with a general slope from northeast to southwest but no hills are too steep to cultivate. The climate is comparable to the Red Deer area, with its late and early frosts. It is possible to have snow storms in 11 of the 12 months. Heavy rains and severe hail storms have been experienced in many areas over the years.

The soil in the central and northeastern parts are generally clay mixed with gravel. The southwest, which is on the level with the Medicine River, is black loam. There are many large sloughs and swamp areas which cannot be cultivated but with drainage now, some can be used for pasture.

Owing to the combination of soil and climate conditions the area is entirely devoted to mixed farming. Barley is the main crop grown, with rape and oats becoming more common. Some wheat is grown but is not popular because of the short growing season. Many areas of tame hay is grown and oats cut early for greenfeed is used for cattle feed which is the majority of the livestock raised. There are some pigs, sheep and horses however.

The community is not an old one in light of some of the other settlements in Alberta, for the first settlers did not arrive until the turn of the century.

These pioneers came from two main points, England and the United States. They built their homes of log along the winding trails that joined Wittenburg (Leedale) and Kansas Ridge (Rimbey). Many of the homesteaders spent the rest of their lives in the district.

Two brothers who came from Ohio were Clem and Frank Johnsman. Clem homesteaded the SE 4-42-3-W5 in 1906. Frank came in 1907 and homesteaded the NE quarter in the same section.

Jack Rotherham, a friendly English bachelor from Coventry, England, homesteaded the NW 18 in 1907. He was noted because he had a wireless.

In 1908 Bertram, Richard, and William Williams came from Bristol, England to homestead NW 16, SW 20 and NW 21. They were followed by a cousin Ernest Prosser and his cousin Tom Cooke in 1911. They settled on the E half of 20. Francis Marshall homesteaded the SW 16 about the same time and George Williams who came in 1916 took over this quarter.

Norman, Harold and Ronald Chinneck came from Detroit, Mich. in 1907. Norman and Harold homesteaded the S half of 18 but Ronald went on to southern Alberta.

Frank Laye came from England and homesteaded the NE 18 in 1908. He sold it to Guy Graham from Chicago in 1929, then moved to the Benjamin district.

Jim Willets came from Minnesota in 1908. He took up the NW 4 and lived there until his death in 1952.

Other early settlers were Leon Henry Chabot who came in 1911 to the NE of 1, D. Finch in 1906 and N. G. Might who lived on the same section. Others were Wm. Murby, the Bodicoat family, Angus MacDonald, Frank Peters, Bert Horne, G. Harris, Lou Eaton, Jim Jackson, Dick Jones, Jack Brandon, Chris Bakke, Howard Bowman and probably others. In the early 1920's Theo Laye came to the SW 30, the Ernest Hayward family to the E half of 7, and Lyle Visger to SW 18.

In 1910 a railway was surveyed across the community. The stakes and cutline were in

evidence for many years, but it was abandoned when World War II broke out

When the depression years came on there were several families who came in on a government scheme, but very few of them stayed for more than a couple of years. Relief was available through the Municipality but there wasn't very many who took advantage of it Unless sickness or disability was a factor, the pioneer pride was always in command and people got along with what they had, depriving themselves of good food, clothing and comfort in many cases. Any relief obtained was paid back by road work or supplying wood for the schools

The rest of the land was quickly occupied by the influx of many settlers seeking land in Alberta, from the dust bowls of Saskatchewan. This period remembered as the "Dirty Thirties" were very trying years. Some of the families who came then were: Ole Hulberg, Sam Wilson, Jack, Floyd, Allan and John Booth, Carl and John Iverson, S. Macdonald, Sam Sprecker, Henry, Gilbert, and John Krogstad and Carl Brun. Because of this great influx of settlers with school age children the demand for a school became evident In August 1939 a contract was given to Clem Baldridge to build the Midland School and in January 1940 classes commenced It served the community until 1955 when it was closed and the children bussed into Rimbey. It was then sold and moved to Faraway, where it served as a school and community centre

Because of the new mode of travel the roads had to be improved. The trails which were rutty and rough were no longer good enough, so they were graded and gravelled

The roads, which were impassable for much of the winter, had to be plowed free of snow so the school bus could travel.

Most of the farmers did their grocery shopping in the Leedale General Store where they also got their mail.

The community had no newspaper of its own so the local news is published in the Rimbey Record

A Ladies' Club was formed in 1949 and still provides social gatherings, pot luck suppers and picnics for the members

In the relatively short period of fifty years, this community, which was a network of wagon trails had progressed to accommodate the automobile.

In the last 25 years progress has changed the country scene immensely. The horse which our very livelihood depended on, has been replaced by the tractor, and is used now only for pleasure The horse-drawn machinery, the wagon, binder, and threshing machine has now been replaced by the swather, baler and combine. The discovery of gas resulted in this revolutionary change to machines

Fine new homes now stand where the little log houses once accommodated many large families.

Electricity has brought a tremendous change in the lives of those in the community. It has brought in many labor saving devices and modern appliances. The change to power and lighting was a major step. There are very few homes that do not have indoor plumbing and running water now. In looking back to the early years we must thank those early pioneers who braved the unknown, with wife and family, to settle this area. We look to them with gratitude and admiration, for they are a generation who experienced many things that the generations now and in the future will never experience

I would like to thank Dale Visger for much of this information

Doris McElroy
District Representative

**WHAT PRICE SCROLL**

If you know the taste of bannock and you've lived on beans and bacon,
If you've squatted on the prairie when the land is for the taken,
If you've grubbed for roots and carried rocks and rode till you've been shaken,
Boy, you've had it, you're an A One **Pioneer**

If the social life was hearty and the plumbing out of doors,
If the water froze in pails, and frost came creeping through the floors,
If your hundred sixty acres was as sure as shootin yours,
Don't worry friend, you've been a **Pioneer**

If you've yearned for filet mignon when the menu boasted prunes,
If you've dressed in flour sacking and you've sung the cowboy tunes,
If you've choked in dust, from threshing under mellon harvest moon,
You can say for sure, you've been a **Pioneer**

If you've hummed in tune with fiddles while the caller called Quadrille,
If you've seen a prairie sunset through the haze upon the hills,
If you've heard the coyote serenade with all its pipes and thrill
You've been through it – you can say you've **Pioneered**

If you've added up your blessings and forgotten all the tasks,
If you've slept beneath tarpaulins when the rain came through the cracks,
If you've known the hospitality of always open shacks,
You Don't Need a Scroll, You've Been A **Pioneer**

**BAILLIE, WILLIAM AND ANITA — NW 8-42-3-W5**

My husband and I, Anita Baillie, came to the Midland district in the fall of 1972. We bought the quarter of land formerly owned by Otto Leskosek, and moved here from Salmon Arm, B.C.

Bill worked with his father in the real estate business for 12 years before the war. His father was the mayor of Hampstead, a suburb of Montreal.

Bill served in the Royal Canadian Airforce as Flight Sergeant for seven years. After the war he worked as an accident investigator and assessor with steamships Canada along the sea coast and St. Lawrence River.

I was born at Pincher Creek (Anita Fournier).

My parents came from New Brunswick in the early 1900's and were the first pioneers in that area.

My mother is living in the senior citizens lodge in Sylvan Lake and is still enjoying life at the age of 88 years.

I have been teaching school for 34 years with the exception of a two year period I spent in the armed forces.

We have one son, Mel. He married the former Beth Miller from Fort Saskatchewan in 1969. We are now boasting two grandchildren, Morrie — six and a half years and Danna — three months. Mel and Beth are both graduates of the University of Alberta with Bachelor of Education degrees.

During the 1975-1976 school term they were on an exchange program and went to Australia to teach. Mel taught in the Brisbane College and Beth also taught school nearby.

Mrs. Anita Baillie and grandaughter Morrie in Australia. Morrie holding a Koala bear, 1976

The men all teach school in shorts and knee socks. I took a holiday and made a trip to Australia to visit in the summer of 1976. It was a great experience and I enjoyed it immensely.

The Mel Baillies on returning from Australia have accepted a position with Northern Intercom of Canada in Telecommunications. They have been awarded a district managership in Winnipeg and are enjoying their new home there.

I am presently teaching school at Bluffton and looking forward to retiring. We have a few cattle and Bill keeps busy with farm work.

**BAKKE, CHRISTIAN AND ELIZABETH—by M. Faryna**

Christian Bakke was born on June 4, 1882 in Stravanga, Norway. In 1904 he came out to Montana U.S.A. to farm with his brother Elias who was born in Sanda, Norway in 1888.

In 1910 Chris went to Nome, Alaska to try his luck at prospecting and mining but returned to Washington where he farmed for a few years before coming to Canada in 1919. He homesteaded the SW 5-42-3-W5 just east of Leedale and was living there when he met Elizabeth Bolger who became his wife on March 6, 1922. They were married in the United Church in Rimbey. David Simpson was the minister at the time.

Chris and Eliza lived on the farm and raised a family of five children.

Carl Andrew was born December 25, 1922, Norine Viola arrived on March 14, 1926, Fern Hilma on December 18, 1930, Mildred Joyce on June 24, 1933 and Gladys Ingeborg on October 25, 1936.

Mrs. Bakke, Carl, Norine, Fern, Mildred as a baby. Taken in 1934

All the children went to Benjamin School at least for most of their schooling. Norine did attend the Leedale High School for some of her grades. When the Midland School opened Fern went there to take Grade 7, 8 and 9.

Norine was supervising classes at Benjamin School the first year Fern went to Midland but Mildred went to Benjamin as she had been doing. Norine was moved to a school out by Rocky Mountain House to supervise there as soon as a teacher out of University took her place.

On July 5, 1924 Christian Bakke took out his nationalization papers. His brother, Elias spent a part of each year with the family on the farm up until the 1930's. He was living in Edmonton at the time of his death on Dec. 28, 1954.

Carl worked in the logging camps and for the neighbors until he enlisted in the army in 1942. After one year of training at Calgary and Camrose he went overseas to Britain and on to North Africa in March 1943. After three years of active and occupational service he was discharged and came back to Rimbey in 1946. Carl left in 1948 and has worked and lived in several different places. He has a very nice family of eight children and he and his wife Leona now live in Mirror, Alberta. They have five grandchildren

Norine married Elmer Teskey on Dec. 23, 1946. He had been in the army and served overseas as well. They lived in Rocky Mountain House for a number of years and then Elmer started working for the Government. They made many moves before the children started school and then they settled in Grande Prairie, Alberta where they lived until moving to Edmonton. Elmer has just recently retired and they now live on an acreage near Waburnun, Alberta. They have five children and four grandchildren.

Fern married Lloyd Zutter in July 1949, who had served four years in the army. He joined up in 1942, took part in the invasion of France and was discharged in 1946. They lived in Red Water for a short time, then moved to Edmonton for a number of years before moving to Grande Prairie, where they still reside. They have a family of three. The oldest son is married and lives in Grande Prairie. The second son is living in Edmonton. The youngest, a girl is living at home and going to school

Mildred married Elmer Adrian in June 1951 and they lived on a farm south west of Rocky Mountain House. They had four children. Mildred lived at Rocky Mountain House until 1968 when she moved to Grande Prairie to live. She worked in the hospital there and then hired on as a cook's helper on the oil rig. A year later she moved to Edmonton and worked in a nursing home, but left there to cook in a cafe for a year. When it was sold she went back to work at the nursing home. In 1972 Mildred married Mike Faryna and in 1973 they moved to Alder Flats where they bought a small grocery store. In 1976 they were forced to sell the business due to illness and since March, 1977 they have been living in the small town of Breton, Alberta.

Gladys Bakke joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1956, and served for seven years, until 1963. She took her basic training in St. Johns, Quebec, clerk typist training at Alymer, Ontario and was posted to Comox, B.C. for nine months. She was then transferred to Air Division Nato Headquarters in Metz, France where she served for three years. In 1960 she received a promotion to Corporal. On her return to Canada she served at the Training Base in Clinton, Ontario for two years before her release. Gladys worked in Edmonton then, until January 1970 and went to Sydney, Australia in February, 1970 where she lived until May 1973. On her return to Canada she chose to live in Vancouver and is presently living in an eastern suburb at Port Coquitlam, B.C.

In 1947 Chris and Eliza sold the farm and moved into Rimbey. He worked in a planing mill for a time and then in 1949 when the Rimbey Municipal Hospital opened he became the caretaker there. He was a good natured man, interested in current affairs, and had many friends. He passed away suddenly at work on November 24, 1952

Eliza Bakke stayed on in Rimbey for a time but went to live with her daughter at Grande Prairie when she became ill. She passed away in the University Hospital in April 1964 after a lengthy illness.

**BALDRIDGE, CLEM AND HELEN — by M. Taylor**

Mr and Mrs. Baldridge moved to the Leedale district from Leduc in 1931. They bought the SE 1-42-3-W5 and lived there for 13 years

They had three children Gordon, Arthur and Marie. Clem was a good carpenter and did a lot of carpenter work besides his farming. He built the Midland school in 1939

Mrs. Baldridge was a member of the Leedale WI, and was one of many who had a leading part in the Old Maids Convention and the Amateur program. She always had a smile and was willing to lend a helping hand wherever she was needed.

The children attended the Leedale public school and High school. In 1944 the family moved

Taken in 1942. Clem Baldridge and his wife Helen. Mr. Baldridge had the contract to build the Midland School in Aug 1939

to Dawson Creek where Clem worked as a carpenter. A chosen daughter Joan joined the family that same year.

Clem Baldridge passed away in 1962 and Gordon who was living in California died in 1972.

Arthur had a trucking business in Grimshaw for many years but now lives in Surrey, B.C.

Marie married Don Taylor. They have four children. Bryan and James are married, Sherri Lee and Robert are still at home.

Joan is living at Kelowna, B.C.

Helen Baldridge is now living at Port Moody, B.C. She is 78 years of age.

**BLACKBOURNE—JACK**

Jack Blackbourne came to this district on April 22, 1965, from Wembley, Alberta. He bought the SW 10-42-3-W5 from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olds.

During the seven years he farmed here he cleared 35 acres of land and worked at Sylver Service in Rimbey in the winter.

He made many friends, was a good neighbor, and was always ready to lend a helping hand.

He sold the farm to Reg Wright in 1972 and left in June of that year for Sundre where he worked on a farm. In 1975 he went to Olds to a farm job.

He is planning to retire west of Olds in the spring of 1978.

**BODICOAT FROM MRS. PIERSON'S SCRAPBOOK — NW 24-42-3-W5 — 1915 — Father and Son Die in Well**

A very sad accident occurred in the valley on Tuesday of last week when Mr. Bodicoat and his son Willie lost their lives. It appears that Willie went down into the well to get a bucket which had fallen in, and had only gone down a short ways when his little sister who was standing near the top, heard him call for help and then fall into the water.

She immediately called for her father who was mixing in the yard. The father ran to the well and advised Mrs. Bodicoat to go for help. When help arrived it was only to find father and son dead. The well, which was about 60 feet deep, was filled with gas. Besides the wife and sister a little girl is left to mourn their loss.

**BOOTH, JACK AND EDITH — by D. Jennings**

Jack Booth along with his wife Edith moved from their home in Minnesota to Penhold, Alberta in 1900. His father-in-law, a brother-in-law and their families came also. They had all their machinery, cattle, horses and household goods shipped by train.

After the first winter there they decided to move back to Minnesota. They had their own family orchestra at that time and played for dances and parties in the area and in Red Deer.

In 1934 after living in southern Saskatchewan for four years they moved to the Leedale area. They came by covered wagons and trailed their cattle. The green pastures and trees were a lovely sight after the few years spent on the dry prairies.

At this time their family consisted of their oldest son, Floyd, his wife the former Alida Iverson, three single sons, John, Allan, and Murle. Two daughters, Alice and her husband Joe Lester and the youngest daughter, Violet.

The Booth Family. Left to right: Jack, Floyd (behind) Murle, Allan, son-in-law Hans, daughter Leona, holding Gloria and Edith. Front row: Opal, Delores, Jim, Bud and Joyce.

Jack and Floyd were both good blacksmiths and did a lot of work for neighbors. Jack bought the NE 6-42-3-W5 and Floyd the SW 12-42-4-W5.

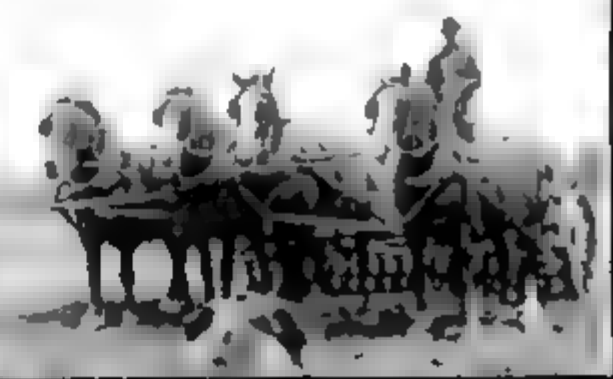
Allan and Murle returned to the United States at the beginning of the second World War and spent four years in the U.S. Army. After the war they returned to Minnesota, married and still live there.

John lived in the Midland district for several years on the NE 17-42-3-W5. He married Julia Heinsen from Spruceview. They had one daughter Marlene, who is now Mrs. Tom Sakaluk, and live in Rimbey with their three children. Alice and Joe Lester lived in the Midland area for 23 years, then sold their farm, NE 8-42-3-W5 and moved to Rolling Hills.

The oldest Booth daughter was married and remained in Minnesota.

Floyd, Alida and their family of eight children lived on the farm for 21 years and then moved to Rimbey. Floyd worked for O. B. Moore's Furniture Store and Alida worked in the hospital.

Floyd Booth seeding spring of 1940



Their children, Dolores, Bud, Opal, Joyce, Jim, Gloria, Earl and Bernard all attended school at Midland

Floyd passed away in 1970 in Kelowna, B.C. and Alida now lives in Red Deer

**BOWMAN, MR. AND MRS. HOWARD**

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bowman came to the NW 20-42-3-W5 before 1918 from the Southern United States

Mr Bowman was known as an excellent horseman and broke many acres of virgin land for the settlers with his team of draft horses and a walking breaking plow

Mrs. Bowman (Maude) was an excellent cook and at harvest time went to Southern Alberta to take charge of the cook house on the large threshing crews as they moved from ranch to ranch.

They were very hospitable people, and the younger members of the community loved to go there and partake of the refreshments which she always seemed to have on hand. In later years they sold their farm, which is now (1977) owned by the Patersons and moved to Lacombe, building a small new home in the north-west part of the town where they remained until their passing

There were no children.

**BRANDON, JACK**

Jack Brandon was born at Sault Ste Marie in 1871 and grew up in Ontario. In 1902 he homesteaded the land now owned by Mr. Dolman. He lived in this area for many years and passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital June 1, 1950 at the age of 79 years.

This is a picture of Jack Brandon (age about 73) taken about 1944. The children are Sharon and Wayne Hanna

**BROAD—MRS. MINERVA—by Joan Freeman**

Mrs. Minnie Broad was housekeeper, for a time, for Bertram Williams who lived on the NW 16-42-3-W5

Her father was Captain of the Royal Yacht in the time of Queen Victoria and held that position until he was retired by the Queen.

His daughter Minnie met and married William Walpole, who was a barrister. After eight years of marriage he died very suddenly of tuberculosis. There were no children

After eight years and being an accomplished pianist she met Percy Broad, who was first violinist in a symphony orchestra

They were married in 1905 and had one child Joan, now Mrs. Nige. Dodge of Hemet, California

Mrs. Broad left her husband and came to Canada about 1912 assuming the name of Mrs. Brooks for a time. The William's brothers had attended school with Percy Broad and when she arrived in Rimbey, she soon took her rightful name

In 1923, after keeping house for Bert Williams, she moved to Rimbey and taught music. From there she moved to Lacombe and about 1925 went back to England. After a short stay she returned to Canada and lived in or near Vancouver with her daughter now Mrs. Donald McKay Joan had two children Dinah and Donald

Donald had three children and Dinah had four children.

Mrs. Broad died in Vancouver She was over 90 years of age and was called by the workers on the Granville street bridge, "The Grand old Lady of Granville Street"

**BRZOSTOWSKI, MR. AND MRS. B. — NE 8-42-4-W5**

Benedict and Theresa Brzostowski bought a quarter of land from Otto Leskosek and moved from Armstrong, B.C. to the Midland district in June 1971. They farmed here for five years and had a few cattle. Ben built a sawmill and sawed lumber. They sold the land to Mr. and Mrs. Max Keesar and moved to Fort MacLeod in June 1976.

Mr. and Mrs Brzostowski have three children, Rudy is at Kelowna, Ludwig and his wife and daughter in Armstrong, B.C. and Rosa and her husband and wee son live in Calgary

**THE ART CARPENTER FAMILY**

I, Art Carpenter was born in Consul, Saskatchewan and came with my parents to the Trochu district in Alberta, at an early age. My folks farmed east of Trochu until 1929, when they sold the farm and moved to Winborne district west of Trochu

In 1937 I married Dorothy Bigelow We moved around for a few year, spending one year in the North West Territories at Fort Smith.

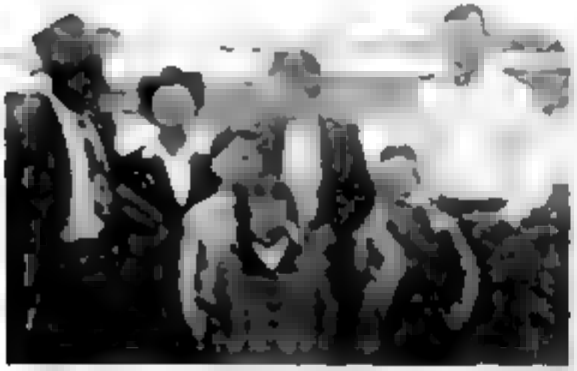
Our oldest boy Myron Walter was born in Edmonto May 4, 1938. The second boy Ivan Edwin was born in Trochu, November 7, 1940

In 1941 we moved to Sundre in the James River district where our four other children were born in the Olds hospital. Wayne Arthur born February 22, 1946, Ormand Emerson born, October 17, 1947, Sandra Beatrice born, September 3, 1949 and Stella Dorothy born June 20, 1951.

We farmed in the James River area for 16 years. The children rode two and one half miles to James River School. They found it rather chilly in winter and really appreciated the ride on the school bus when we moved to Rimbey in 1959.

We purchased a farm eight miles west of Rimbey from Fred Schroeder and still farm the NE 24-42-4 W 5.

My wife, being a registered nurse, went to work at the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital the fall of 1959 where she continued working until she retired in February 1975



The Carpenter family. Back row: Art Carpenter, son Ivan, Mrs. Dorothy Carpenter and son Myron. Second row: Wayne and Ormond. In front: Sandra and Stella. Taken in 1959

Left to right: Stella, Sandra, Ivan and Wayne Carpenter with team of colts the boys were breaking in 1959

In 1961 my father Frank Carpenter and two brothers, Hobe and Bill moved onto the Bill Becker farm. My brother Bill passed away in 1961 and Hobe in 1964.

Our two oldest sons, Myron and Ivan, took over their farm for the next two years, then Myron passed away suddenly as a result of a car accident in March 1965. We then farmed the place until 1972 when it was sold to Elwood Becker.

The boys and I farmed together for a few years. In 1972 Ivan married Donna Goodall of Winfield, Alberta. They lived here until the spring of 1976 when Ivan sold his land and they moved to Hoey, Saskatchewan. Donna worked in the CO-OP store in Rimbey while they lived here, she still works part time in the CO-OP in Prince Albert. Ivan is employed by Shell Oil.

Wayne married Sharon Newman of Calgary in 1969. They have three children: Brett, Paula and Travis. They lived here until this spring (1977) when Wayne accepted a job as Assistant Manager with Douglas Lake Cattle Co., near Merrit, B.C.

Orman married Sharon McMann of Eckville in 1969. They have two children: Darcy and Rhonda. They live in Drayton Valley where he is employed by Norette Oil.

Sandra married Charles Brockway of Nanton in 1967, where they farmed until Charles died following a tragic accident when he was thrown from a horse. He died nine days later in November 7, 1969 in the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. They had one daughter, Shannon born November 24, 1969. Sandra later married Fred Beelby of Winfield, where they purchased his father's farm. They have a boy, Myron.

Fred and his dad have a six horse hitch of black Percheron, which they have in parades. They won many trophies at pulling matches.

Stella married Ted Zielke of Edmonton. They have two children, Christina and Charity. They bought an acreage and trailer and live in our yard. They are in the chuckwagon business and were sponsored last year by John Deere of Canada.

**CHABOT, HENRY AND LAURA, NE 1-42-4 W5**

Leon Henry Chabot was born in St. Cessaire, Quebec on July 24, 1888. His wife, the former Laura St. Pierre, was born on May 17, 1887 in St. Pie, County of Bagot, Quebec. They were married in 1908 and came west to Lethbridge in 1910.

Laura and Henry Chabot with baby daughter Ernestine. Taken in 1910

The Chabot homestead. Mrs. Chabot by the tree. Taken in 1913

A daughter Ernestine Honorine was born on July 2, that same year.

They came to Wittenberg, now Leedale in 1911 and homesteaded the SE 14-42-5-W5, where they built a log house and barn. In August 1914 their second daughter Annette Marie was born with the help of midwives, Mrs. Terriotti and Mrs. Barker, close neighbors of the homestead.

Taken at the homestead in 1913. Annette in the Buggy, Ernestine, Chabot standing

Ernestine and Annette attended the Beaconsfield school until they moved to the SE of 34 at Wittenberg which is now owned by Lee Mannix.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Withers and family lived for several years on the old homestead, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Albach and family are the present owners.

Mr. and Mrs. Chabot then purchased the NE 1-42-4-W5 in 1920. They built their home near the creek on the east side of the quarter because of the road allowance but a passable road was never built so access to the land was made through the McKenzie quarter from the west. The girls then attended the Leedale school.

Mr. Chabot was a member of the school board, and worked as a farm assessor, besides the farming.

On March 29, 1928 a son Oliver Henry was born. Aunt Lou Challand and Mrs. Johnsman were on hand for this happy event.

Mrs. Laura Chabot, who was a dedicated mother and a hard working woman, passed away on March 15, 1948 after a lengthy illness. Ernestine married John Joseph O'Hara and had five daughters. Bernice (Mason) of Rocky Mountain House, Laura Ann (Current) and Shiela (Wilson) of Edmonton, Fay (Chatwood) and Myrna (Johnson) of Leslieville.

Ernestine passed away July 29, 1957 and her husband Joe on August 31, 1968. They lived in the Leedale area all their lives.

Annette married Albert Kemmis in 1936 and farmed south west of Rimbey until 1970 when ill health forced him to retire. They had eight children. George died in infancy in 1938. Sgt. Eddie Kemmis who joined the Signal Corps R. C.

The Chabot family in 1942. Left to right: Joe and Ernestine O'Hara with daughters Bernice and Laurastan standing in front. Henry and Laura Chabot, Annette and Albert Kemmis, son Eddie and daughter Theresa standing in front. Oliver missing from the picture

Reg in 1958 and is now stationed at Petawawa, Ontario.

Theresa (Taylor) lives at Onoway Elaine Cameron), in Ponoka, Clifford of Leslieville, Lenard who passed away suddenly as the result of a car accident in 1968, his twin sister Lenora (Carslence) of Calgary and Edith (Newman) of Rimbey

Albert passed away June 6, 1973 and Annette still lives in Rimbey

Oliver joined the army in 1948. He served with the Medical Corp at Camp Borden Ontario during the second World War. He now lives in Richmond, Virginia where he works as an X-ray technician He has three sons. Dean Richard, and Sherwood

**THE CHINNECK BROTHERS — 1907**

Harold, Norman, and Ronald Chinneck accompanied by their sister Geraldine, came to the Wittenberg district from Detroit, Michigan

In 1907, Harold homesteaded the SE 18-42-3-W5, now owned by Floris Looy In 1914, he joined His Majesties forces and served overseas until war was over in 1918. He no longer had a desire to farm, so went to Calgary and worked in the Wales Hotel for several years before moving to Regina where he was married

Norman also took a homestead in 1907 It joined Harold's quarter on the west and is now owned by Harold Lemieux. He was a stone mason and an expert in the trade. He worked on the Parliament Buildings in Edmonton

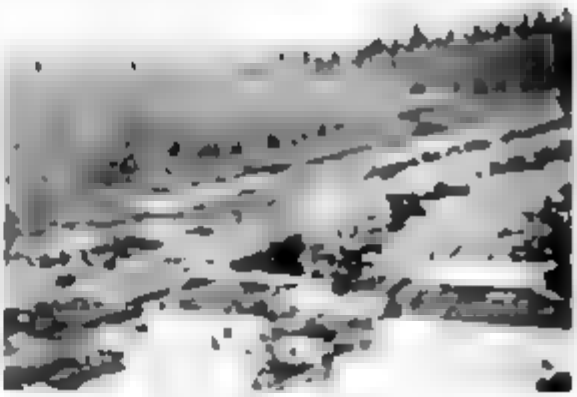
Ronald did not take up land, but worked in the area for awhile before going to Fort Macleod. He worked on the railroad and later died there

Geraldine, better known to her many friends as Gerry, married Leo Benson, who homesteaded the NW 16-42-4-W5 in 1906. They raised a big family and lived all their lives in the Rimbey area. Leo passed away in 1947 and Gerry in 1974.

**CRUIKSHANK, JACK AND LIL**

Jack and Lil, one son Wayne, and a daughter Celia, moved to Rimbey from Calgary in 1949 buying the Jim Jackson half section. Having been raised in the city, they also took on the task of logging out a great deal of lumber off the home

Threshing Bee for Jack Cruickshank who was kicked by a horse and broke his leg. Standing left to right: Ernie Downton, Harold Mason, Bob Hayward, Raymond Lambertus, Allen Stalong, Harold Lemieux, Eugene Lester, Junior McElroy, Russel Stewart Kneeling Tom Plumb. Sitting: Lyle Yinger 1950



Lumber and logs at the Jack Cruikshank farm. 1951

quarter. It took two years with Buster and Albert Adams moving their sawmills in for the summer months.

Two more children were born here, Jacqueiin and James. Sold the farm October of 1972 to Ray Lambertus. Jack is employed with Shell Canada Resources Ltd. We have never quit the farming operation. We have a piece of land three miles north of Olds, Alberta. Our son, Jim, and us have fullblood and purebred Charolais cattle We were the first to bring these cattle in this area in 1963

Celia is married to Wayne Dieke of Balkirk and have two children. They live in Calgary.

Jacquelin is married to Gary Latimer of Remittal Cattle Co. They have two children and live three miles south of Olds.

Wayne married Jill Richards of Olds. They have one child and live in Calgary

**GILLILAND, BOB**

Bob Gilliland was born in Ontario and came to Bowden when a young boy to farm with his brother

In 1950 he came to the Midland district where he bought the NW 4-42-3-W5 from Mr Krogstad

After 13 years of farming Bob sold the land to Ron Anderson and retired

He went to Sylvan Lake for awhile and then came to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hohn near Leedale. Irene is his niece.

When they moved into Rimbey he lived in a suite in their basement.

He is 80 years of age, still active and keeps quite well. He is now a resident of the Parkland Manor

**GRANDMOTHER'S "RECEET"**

We were recently informed by a young woman that years ago when her mother was a bride, her grandmother gave her the following "receet" for washing clothes. It appears below just as it was written. 1. Bild a fire in back yard to heet kettle of rain water 2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert. 3. Shave one hole cake lie soap in bilin water. 4. Sort things, make three piles, 1 pile white, 1 pile cullored, 1

pile work britches and rags. 5. Stir flour in cold water to smooth then thin down with bilin water 6. Rub derty spots on board, scrub hard, then bile. Rub cullord but don t bile, — just rench and starch. 7. Take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle then rench, blew and starch 8. Spred tee towels on grass. 9. Hang old rags on fence. 10. Pore rench water in flower bed. 11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. 12. Turn tubs upside down. 13. Go put on cleen dress, smooth hair with side combs — brew up cup of tee, set and rest and rock a spell and count blessings

**THE HAYWARD FAMILY Robert Ernest and Minnie Hayward — E½ 7-42-3-W5 NW 7-42-3-W5 by Irene Hayward Vellieux**

We left the Jabez McPherson farm, one mile east of Bentley one sunny morning in October 1921. Dad and George Calkins each had a load of furniture. Mother and we children went by car. Mr. Harold Veefkind was the driver who knew where to go. We got to the John Olsen farm west of Leedale about seven o'clock in the evening and found a threshing crew there.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Challand had the farm rented and were just finishing up. We were given supper, which was much enjoyed then found places to sleep. We were weary and tired.

When we moved to Leedale there were five children. Francis, Irene, Bob, Walter, and Ellen who was born that spring. Bertha our youngest sister arrived on August 2, 1924.

Minnie and R. Ernest Hayward

I went to school with two neighbor girls, Ernestine and Annette Chabot. We three girls all rode together on the same horse. Mr. Olsen's horses were all at Mrs. Olsen's brothers place, Ernest Jacobson, and Charlie. When the horses were brought home to the Olsen farm we got to ride our own ponies. Two of we children rode the one horse. We were all attending the Leedale school by Christmas 1921.

Dad went to work in the winter months for Varty's Lumber Company. I will say three winters but I could be wrong. Then farmed in the summer months.

There were summer picnics held at Jack Shermans' farm, a little over half mile from the farm we were on. To walk over we had to cross Hugh Lindsay's farm.

In 1922 or 1923 Dad took over the payments on the NW 3-42-4-W5 which was a quarter that belonged to William Gardener Sr. then Ed Quinn took over from dad, from there Pete Fraser bought it.

Dad bought land north east of Leedale E half 7-42-3-W5, later to become Midland district.

We children all went to Leedale school and Bertha also went to Midland school when it was built, in 1940. Ellen also attended the Leedale High school, went on to the University of Alberta and received her Bachelor of Education degree. She taught school at Meadowvale, Homeglen, Rose, Sylvan Heights and Rimbey. Ellen was well liked by young and old. She always looked on the lighter side and took things with a smile. She passed away in April 1967 after a lengthy illness. Dad passed away in December 1948, Mother and Francis in 1960 and a baby brother Charlie in 1927.

Francis and I lived just a short time in Midland district, although I have kept in contact for several years.

Bob still lives in Midland district. Walter and wife, Mary, at Clinton, B.C. Bertha at Midnapore and I live west of Red Deer.

This is a short story of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hayward and family.

**HAYWARD, WALTER AND MARY**

Walter was born at Langley, B.C. and moved to Carlos, Alberta with his parents while still a baby.

They moved to Bentley where Walter started school and then to Leedale in 1921 where he went to school until completion. He then lived in Crossfield a few years before joining the army in 1942.

He met Mary Baggot in Edmonton at that time. She was also in the army but never went overseas.

Mary was born in Linarea, Alberta and took her schooling there in a log school with 40 students and one teacher in one room.

When Walter returned from overseas in 1945 he and Mary were married and moved on the former Harold Thomas farm (SE 5-42-3-W5) in February 1946.

They have two daughters who are both married. Mary Ellen lives in B.C. and Cheryl in Saskatchewan. There are two grandchildren.

They left the farm and moved to Edmonton in

1953 where Walter was employed at Namao Air Base in the freight depot, until his retirement

They moved to Clinton, B C in 1976 and are enjoying their retirement.

**HULBERG, OLE AND DORTHEA NW 19-42-3-W5 — by Ingmar Hulberg**

Ole Hulberg was born in Ringsaker, Norway (near Oslo) and in 1892 moved to Benson, Minnesota where he worked on farms until 1905 when he homesteaded at Tioga, North Dakota. He farmed there until 1912 when he took up another homestead at Frontier, Saskatchewan. In 1911 he made a trip back to Norway and in 1913 married Dorthea Hagen from his home town in Norway

During the homestead years in Saskatchewan there were six children born to Ole and Dorthea without benefit of hospital or doctor Neighbor women served as mid-wives and luckily everyone was healthy and survived. They were Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo, Clara, Clifford and Edna.

In the 1920's crops and prices were good and some progress was made and we were able to buy a new car which seemed quite an achievement for those days . .

Then came the 1930's with the depression. On the prairies there was drought, as well, with terrible dust storms, 1936 and 1937 were the worst years and the reason for many people leaving Saskatchewan.

In 1936 Oscar moved to the Midland district, eight miles west of Rimbey, where he purchased a C P R. quarter of land, the SW 19-42-3-W5.

On July 1, 1938, Ole, Dorthea and family arrived in Rimbey and later purchased the north west quarter of the same section.

Now homestead days were to start all over again for the third time. It was nice here. There was rain, lots of good water and firewood, wild blueberries, raspberries and saskatoons were plentiful. The woods were full of chickens, so it seemed like a paradise compared to the dried out prairies.

Jack Rotherham who lived just to the south offered potatoes from his garden and told us to help ourselves to his eggs as they were worth only five cents a dozen. We took advantage of this neighborly gesture and we will always think kindly of the late Mr. Rotherham for his helpfulness.

I would like to relate an incident here which really amused us at the time. When Clifford was approximately 14 years old he liked to go out hunting prairie chicken and on one occasion he stopped at Rotherham's empty handed and was kidded about being a poor shot. Mr. Rotherham said "I'll bet you couldn't even hit that big black rooster standing over there". Cliff promptly took advantage of this opportunity to prove his markmanship and killed the old black rooster' much to Jack's surprise. He told Cliff "now that you shot him you might as well take him home", so the following evening Mr. Rotherham was invited for a tasty meal of chicken and dumplings.

The Brun, Bengston, LaPeare, Iverson, Wilson, Krogstad, Thompson, Cooper and Myers families from Frontier had already settled in this area so it seemed like home among so many old friends and all the new neighbors were friendly and easy to get acquainted with.

Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo and Clifford all worked for several winters at Varty's sawmill and the J H. Jones sawmill on the Wolf Creek

In 1948 we operated a sawmill at Nordegg and because the timber was in the Nordegg and Rocky Mountain House area, we relocated and still operate a sawmill in winter and do a bit of farming

Ole and Dorthea Hulberg lived on the farm until their retirement to Rimbey in 1953.

Ole and Dorthea Hulberg. Standing left to right. Oscar, Ingmar, Ardo, Clifford, Clara, and Edna, Mr and Mrs. Ole Hulberg seated. 1911

Ole Hulberg passed away in 1962 and Dorthea is in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital. She was 89 years old in March 1977

Oscar married Pauline Broderson, they have four sons: Allan, Wesley, Brian and Robbie.

Ingmar married Ileene Nugent, they have one son and twin daughters: Wendall, Lynda and Lynn

Ardo married Alice Varty, they have three daughters Ann, Lee and Trudy

Clara married Jim Demanchuck, they have two daughters and one son Diane, Gloria and Donald

Cliff married Mary Harrison. They have one daughter: Bobbi

Edna married Max Vliet, they have two sons and one daughter Wayne, Larry and Evonne.

Today both Ingmar and Oscar live on farms near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Ardo has rented his farm out and they live in Chauvin, Alberta. Clara lives at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. Cliff is at Widewater on the south shore

of Slave Lake, he is employed by the Department of Lands and Forests. Edna lives in Victoria, B.C. where she sells real estate.

We no longer own the old farm, it was sold to Eric Masuch but we recall with pleasant memories the good years spent in the Midland district.

**IVERSON, JOHNNY AND MARION SE 8-42-3-W5 — by Johnny Iverson**

My father, Carl Iverson, bought the SW 8-42-3-W5 and I bought the SE 8-42-3-W5 in 1936.

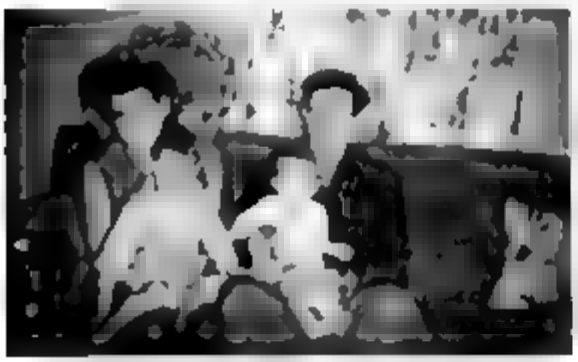
We both came from Frontier, Saskatchewan. We built a house and cleared some land.

Dad went back to Saskatchewan and brought my mother one brother and four sisters back in 1938. One sister, Alida Booth, had moved to the Leedale district in 1934. Brother, Selmer, lives in British Columbia. Sisters, Myrtle Taylor lives in Olds, Anna Thomas lives in British Columbia, Edna Wetzel lives in Red Deer, Fern Hayward lives in the United States. She was the only one who went to the Midland school.

In 1939 I worked with Mr. Clem Baldridge to build the Midland school.

I was in the army during World War II. After the war I came back to the farm and bought my fathers' quarter and the folks moved to British Columbia.

In 1948 I married the former Marion Jaffray. We have two children. Ian and Penny. We lived in Rimbey until 1960, then we moved to Edmonton where we still reside.



Marion and Johnnie and Ian and Penny Iverson. Taken in 1956

Penny is married and has two children, a boy and a girl. Our son, Ian, and I both work for the Alberta Government.

My father passed away in 1954, my mother in 1963.

**JOHNSMAN, CLEM — by Mary Kilpatrick**

Clem Johnsman, my uncle was born in Mercer County, Ohio, U.S.A. On July 27, 1878. He came to Canada in 1906 and settled in the Midland district near Leedale. He homesteaded on the SE 6-42-3-W5. Before coming to the Midland area he was in the U.S. Cavalry stationed in Oregon, U.S.A. This homestead was

Clem Johnsman taken 1906

his home for the rest of his life and he remained a bachelor all his life.

The first winter in this country was very lonesome for Uncle Clem, the weather was extremely cold and being a stranger in a new land he was not acquainted too well with what few settlers there were. His only reading that first winter was Dr. Chases' Almanac and by spring the pages were well worn.

The following year Uncle Clem's brother Frank came up from Ohio and filed on the NE of the same section. Money was scarce in those early days and their winters were spent in the lumber camps of B.C. and Oregon. Summers were also a busy time for them as they had grubbing, brushing and breaking to do. There was always a plentiful supply of wild game and they would take the bush partridge or the prairie chicken, dress them and then put them in a jam tin with salt, pepper and seasoning or onion then came the lid and into the oven they would go. The fire was stoked up and the dampers shut off and away they would go out to the fields where they were brushing or breaking the land. When lunch or dinner time came their dinner was always ready and the chicken was done to perfection.

The military training uncle had was always evident in his home and around the homestead as everything had a place and no woman could keep house any better than he did. It was always such a pleasure to go to town with him. He had a fast driving team, fed and with bells ajingling and the sleigh runners sliding and squeaking in the snow it was a thrill that our young children of today do not know. Later on as he acquired more capital he bought himself a Model T and the horses were used when the roads were impassable.

Clem Johnsman's homestead about 1916 and Model T car he bought new

The last years of Uncle Clem's life was not spent in the best of health. He went back to his home in Ohio two or three times and also travelled to Radium Hot Springs for his health. He went to many doctors and finally the last one told him he did not have long to live. His last days were spent at his brother's home with his sister-in-law nursing him. He passed away on October 8, 1939 at his brother Frank's home.

Frank Johnsman taken about 1907

**JOHNSMAN, FRANK**

Frank came from Ohio in 1907 and homesteaded east of Wittenburg and resided there until 1915 when he moved to the Benjamin district. The complete history will appear there.

No 235333

# DOMINION LANDS.

## INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 16436.

Agency,

DOM. LANDS OFFICE
AUG 22 1907
FED. TERR. MAN.

190

I Certify that I have received from Frank Johnsman

Knowlton

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for W½ Quarter of Section 6 Township 42 Range 3 West of 5 Meridian, and that the said F. Johnsman is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights

W. T. Cottingham
Local Agent.

NOTE.—All minerals except coal are reserved to His Majesty.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

**JONES, MR. AND MRS. R. D. (DICK)**

R. D. (Dick) and Eva Jones came with their sons Leslie (Frank) and Elmo to the Potter Creek District about 1921 and lived on the SE 21 42-3-W5 for a few years and then moved to the Manley Cumberland farm north east of Leedale; from there they moved to the Broderson farm, and finally to the place now being farmed 1977) by Harold Lemieux SW 18-42-3-W5, where they farmed until 1934. They held an auction sale and returned to Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Mr. Jones had been a cowboy in his younger days and learned the blacksmith trade, while his wife was a cook of some merit for the large threshing crews. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Galland of Spokane, Washington and later Nanton, Alberta.

Old timers will remember R. D.'s four horse drawn outfits with which he and his sons used to haul lumber from Varty's sawmill at Wolf Creek (now Rose Creek) to Rimbey. Open Creek was always a stop-over place for watering the horses as the creek stayed open all winter.

Mrs. Jones still lives in Spokane where Mr. Jones died about 1961, and where Leslie had married and lived until his death in 1976. Elmo married Nina Smith of Nanton, served time in the American army during the second World War, and now lives with his wife in Bakersfield, California. There were no grandchildren.

Elmo, Eva and Dick (R.D.) Jones.

Leslie and Lou Jones.

**KEESAR, MR. AND MRS. MAX — NE 8-42-3 W5**

My name is Alfriede Keesar. I live with my husband Max and our four children on the farm in the Midland district. We came from Merville, B.C. in April 1976. We have three boys and one girl. My oldest son, Ron, is 18 years old, Harold is 13, Roy is 12 and Karin is nine years old.

My husband is farming and I am working in the Grand Hotel in Rimbey.

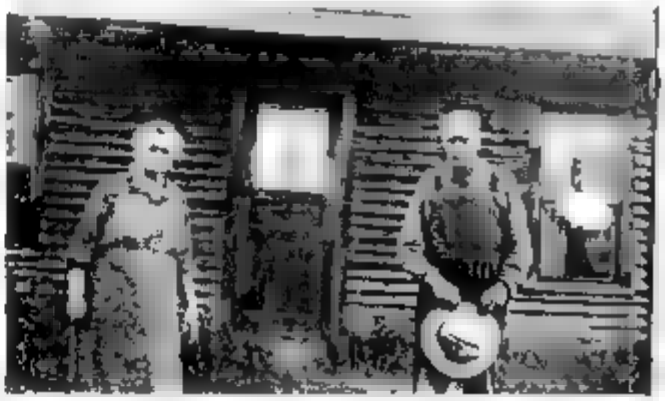
We like it here very much. The people are very nice and helpful.

**HENRY, TILLIE, RAMONA AND GILBERT KROGSTAD, ERLAND AND TILLIE HANNA — by T. Hanna**

We came to the Leedale district in 1936 by Model T coupe from Shaunavon, Saskatchewan where we had a lignite coal mine.

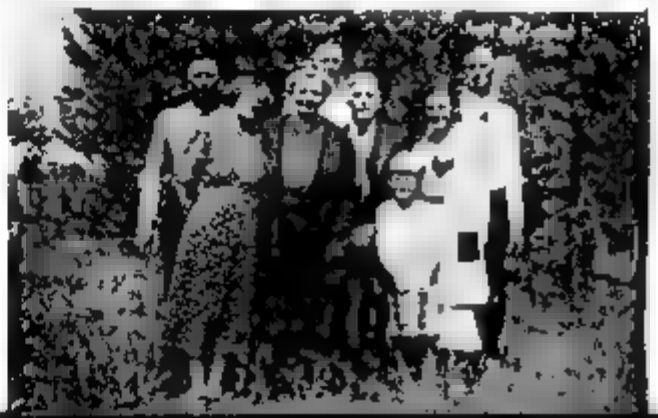
Henry's brother, Gilbert, bought the Lambertus' place, NW 4-42-3-W5 where we lived for a year. His parents also came up from Frontier, Saskatchewan and lived there with us.

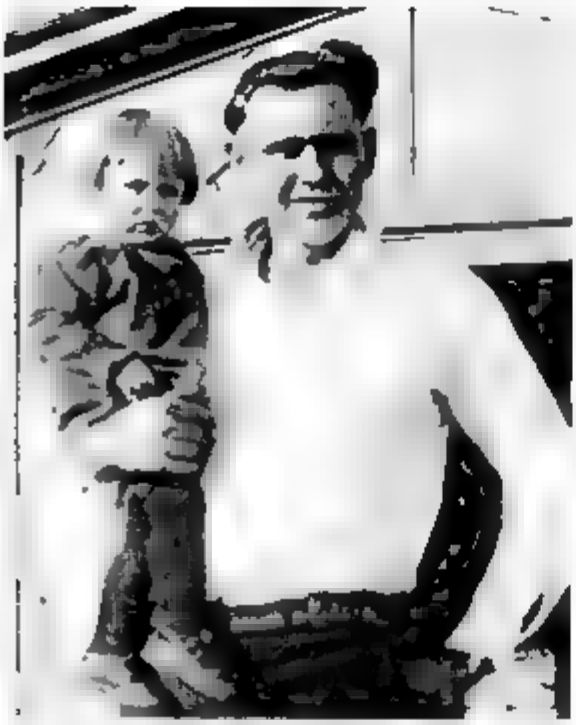
When Henry died in 1939, Ramona and I moved to my parents' place (Mr. and Mrs. John



Mr. and Mrs. Krogstad at the Lambertus Place at Leedale 1937. They came from Norway to Minnesota, then to Saskatchewan and onto Leedale Alberta. They had six children.

The Krogstad family. Back row left to right: Gilbert, Henry, and Johnny. Front: Mrs. Romo (Mrs. Krogstad's sister), Mrs. and Mr. Krogstad, Ramona and Tillie (Krogstad) Hanna.





Henry Krogstad and Ramona in 1933

Brun). Ramona was six years old. I then bought the SW 14-42-4 W5, two miles north of Leedale.

I later married Pte. Erland Hanna and we had a girl and two boys. Sharon, Wayne and Edward (Buster)

I sold the land to Cleland Price and moved to Erland's land the 29-42-3-W5, six miles west of Rimbey Later we sold the land and at this time live in Rimbey

Ramona married Elwood Becker of the Fuller district They have four girls and two boys, the older ones are married. Toni married Lyle Davies of Rimbey and have two girls; Debra married Ron Stevens of Rimbey and have two boys Laurel married Dave Donovan of Bluffton and have one son. Dorn, Kimberley and Philip are still at home

Sharon married Aurele Dube of Prince George, B C. They have three boys and one girl.

Wayne married Daryla Riggs of Prince George, B.C He has one daughter and three step-children.

Edward (Buster) is single.

**LAMBERTUS, MARY**

Mary Lambertus came to the Rimbey district in 1930. She worked for a year and then in 1931 she bought the NE 4-42-3-W5 which later was in the Midland district

Her son, Linus came with horses and machinery in the fall

He made a living farming and trading. He also sold fish in the winter for the big price of three for a quarter

Her daughter Margaret stayed with her and taught school at Potter Creek. It was a four and one half mile ride night and mornings on horseback. She taught there for three years. In 1933 her wages for the term was $400.00, in 1934 $500.00, and in 1935 $600.00. Another daughter Agatha worked in Calgary and visited the farm occasionally. Sons Lawrence and Raymond also came. Raymond bought land and made his home in the district

In 1937 Mrs. Lambertus had a farm sale and went to Ottawa where she resided until her death in 1940. Linus sold the farm for $700.00 and he and Lawrence joined their mother in Ottawa

Margaret went the following year and still resides there with her husband Tom Bones and their three children

Linus, Lawrence and Raymond have since passed away. Agatha is living in Calgary

**LAMBERTUS, RAYMOND AND SARAH — by S. Lambertus**

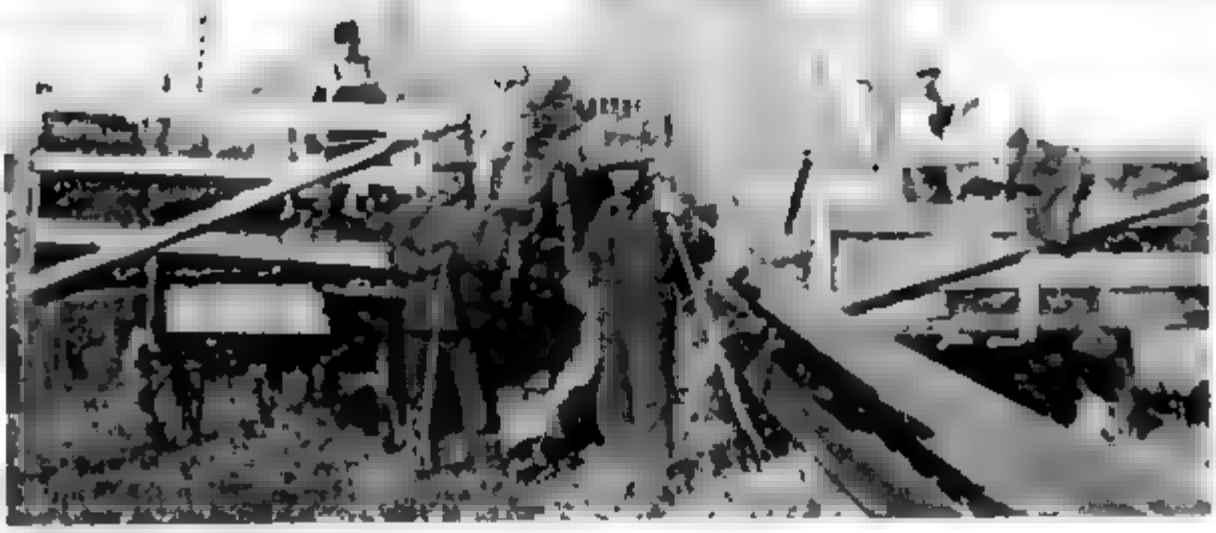
Raymond Joseph Lambertus was born in Olympia, Washington, and came with his parents to Throne, Alberta.

He came to this district in 1935 which was a municipal district then but became the Midland district in 1939. He worked as a farm labourer

He married the former Sarah Elizabeth Adams in 1938, who was born to a pioneer couple, Frank and Addie Adams of the Rose district

They rented a farm until 1942 when they

Taken in 1950. George Lambertus and John McElroy



Threshing at Piersons. Fall 1939. Mr. Yinger on left rack. Mr. Brugston on right rack. Paul Pierson and Raymond Lambertus standing.

bought the NE 18-42-3-W5 from Jack Rotherham. It has been the Lambertus home ever since.

During the years from 1938 to 1941 Raymond had a threshing machine, employed Paul Pierson as separator man and did threshing for district farmers.

He also did custom breaking and plowing, some years doing 100 to 150 acres in addition to farming his own land. This meant long hours and hard work, but he always did a good job.

Raymond enjoyed playing the violin and during the early years he and Earl Stollings who played the mandolin, furnished the music for many an enjoyable evening. Many happy memories and events can be recalled from the dances and the house parties.

Raymond and Sarah had two children, Henry was born in 1939 and George in 1953. Henry attended the Midland district school which was two miles away. George traveled by school bus to attend the Rimbey school.

Henry married the former Linda Carlstrom, worked in Edmonton and then moved to Zama Lake. He passed away in 1970 following a tragic fire which destroyed their mobile home. Although Linda was in serious condition at the time, she recovered. They have a daughter April Dawn.

George is a great outdoors man. Enjoys his snowmobile and motorcycle. He was employed by the town of Rimbey for three years as town police. He is presently working at Rocky Mountain House with wireline services.

The original farm was expanded to a three quarter section with the purchase of Jack Cruickshank's farm in 1962. Raymond continued to farm this land until he passed away in August 1969 and Sarah continues to make her home there although she has rented the land.

**LAYE, FRANK**

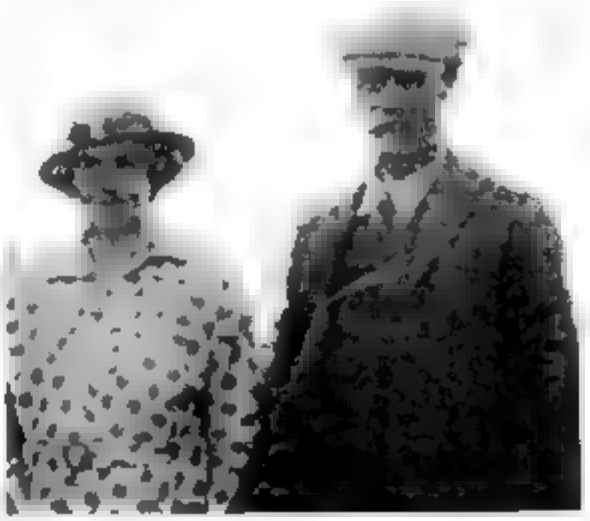
Frank came to Canada from England in 1906 and worked at Brandon, Manitoba for two years.

Then he homesteaded the NE 18-42-3-W5 and came out to this area on February 29, 1908. They left Lacombe with team, democrat and belongings and as Frank recalled the winter had been very mild. They drove across Gull Lake on the ice to save time and miles. A real blizzard blew in and they could not see anything. However, he arrived at the homestead safe and sound and set to work to build a log house. He also built two log barns but they were both destroyed by fire. Mr. Laye sold the homestead to Guy Graham in 1929 and moved to the Benjamin district where he and his wife still reside.

**LAYE — THEOPHILIUS AND KATHRYN**

Mr. and Mrs. Theophilius H. Laye were married in Liverpool, England on April 9, 1899.

Mr. Laye was born in England, his wife Kathryn in Ireland on August 23, 1876 and his



Mr. and Mrs. Theophilius A.H. Laye

stepdaughter Elizabeth Bolger in Dublin, Ireland on February 17, 1896

Mr. and Mrs. Laye and Eliza came to Canada in March 1921 and settled in the Benjamin district on the land presently owned by Frank and Dorothy Laye. Eliza met Christian Bakke while they lived there and they were married in March 1922.

In 1923 Theo and Kathryn bought the NE 30-42 3-W5, nine miles west of Rimbey where they lived for 30 years. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home on April 9, 1949 with 48 guests calling in to congratulate them.

Their five grandchildren used to look forward to going over and spending a Sunday with their grandparents.

They were well liked and highly respected by all who knew them.

Theophilus Laye passed away in 1953. Shortly after his death the farm was sold and his wife Kathryn moved to Rimbey. She passed away in the Rimbey Threeway Hospital on April 19, 1964 at the age of 87 years.

**LEMIEUX — HAROLD AND LUCILLE**

In the winter of 1934 my father ventured to the Leedale district to visit Mort Witse, and stayed on to work for Johnie Olsen. He then worked for Walt Stevens at Rimbey, and later for Gordon Wright.

Dad married my mother, Lucille Nugent, July 2, 1936. Mom was born and raised in the Gimlet-Gilby area. They went back to Saskatchewan to take up farming at Old Wives. The drought forced them to move to Swan River, Manitoba, where dad worked as a carpenter. In 1937 they moved back to the Gimlet area, renting the Whitley and Mottet land.

In 1941 they purchased SW 18-42-3-W5 from Smith Kellogg Liquidating Co. and started to carve out a farm. Their live-stock consisted of six horses (two of these were broke to use) and three cows. The first crop sown was late and frozen. The barley harvested weighed 28 pounds per bushel. Raymond Lambertus' tractor and Floyd Brun's machine, operated by Oscar Hulberg, were used to thresh that first crop. The following year they planted wheat and oats mixed, which was snowed under and never harvested.

My parents had to be resourceful to squeeze out a living for their family. Mom was a real help-mate, helping with milking cows, feeding cattle and working the land. A sample of her cinnamon buns will testify to her culinary abilities. Dad broke horses for Todd Hopper, Henry Chabot and Charlie Tocher in return for the use of the animals to get his crop in.

Dad worked for Gordon Wright at the Rimbey stockyard every Monday for 20 years. This weekly trip to town gave him the opportunity to haul cream, deliver mail and purchase supplies for neighbors. This service was particularly valuable as roads were not gravelled and transportation was difficult.

Dad owned a little team of greys that could make the trip in record time. I have pleasant recollections of many outings using this same team. The opportunity of being bundled up in a horse-drawn cutter with foot warmer and the sound of sleigh bells ringing on a frosty night is an experience everyone should have.

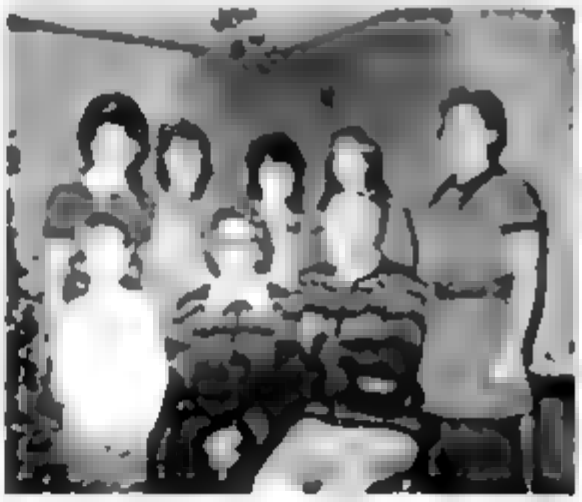
Dad served on the Midland School Board for several years prior to its closing. This position included chores such as pumping out the basement when it filled with water, putting up firewood for four dollars and seventy-five cents a cord (split and piled), helping raise funds for the annual Christmas concert and picnic and other tasks necessary to keep the school operating.

When Midland closed, dad drove, pushed and pulled the first school bus for the area. The road conditions made this an almost impossible chore, however, youngsters in the area did get to school.

During school hours dad worked for Virgil Stevens in the tire shop and garage. He continued to drive the school bus until 1962 and has many pleasant memories of his charges.

One wet spring a work horse became stuck in the muskeg north of the house. Raymond Lambertus brought his tractor in on Visger's place. They used all the rope and cable available to reach the animal. The preparations took so long that darkness set in, so dad took Raymond's lighted cigar to signal when to start and stop. This land is now a productive hayfield.

Another interesting incident several will remember was the trip to vote for councillor in 1950. The weather was most severe and roads impassable. Sam Ervin's four-horse outfit was changed at Cliff Parkin's and again at Lemieux's. Passengers included Dan Myers, Mrs. Rutledge, Sam and Mabel Ervin, Lavina Nichols, Cliff Parkins and Harold and Lucille.



Lemieux Family in 1973. Front: Gaia, Lucille and Harold. Back row left to right: Fay, Wendy, Carol, Cindy and Joyce.

Lemieux. On the return trip the outfit tipped over, spilling people into the snow. Mrs Rutledge all but smothered before someone pulled her out of a head-stand position. The laughing bunch took a well deserved coffee break at Lemieux's before going home

After experiencing farming in Saskatchewan, dad was always appreciative of the ample feed, water and fuel in the area.

My parents have put down real roots on their farm. Their pioneering activities were difficult but interesting and good. Their attitude is evident in two bits of advice often heard in our home; 'there is no such word as can't' and 'what your head doesn't do your feet will have to make up for'

There are six Lemieux daughters. It must have often taxed dad's patience with only females to help, but to our knowledge he never offered a trade. Joyce married Bob Stuart and lives in the Gimlet area. They have three daughters: Penni, Dallas and Carmyn. Fay married Dewey Smith and lives in Whitecourt, Alberta. They have three children: Lorie, Mitchel and Dean. Carol married Keith Quaife, and lives in Edmonton. They have two daughters: Sheri and Shelley. Wendy married Glen Graf, they live in Edmonton and have one son, Travis. Cindy married Curt Skjonsberg and live in Bentley with one daughter, Jodi. Gale is at home. A nephew, Ernie Downton, made his home with the Lemieuxs for several years. Ernie and his wife, June, live in Red Deer, Alberta. They have four children Robin, Colleen, Bonnie and Rocky

**LESKOSEK, OTTO AND BETTY — by B. Leskosek**

Otto Leskosek was born at Maple Leaf, a mining town in southern Alberta. He was working for Calgary Power in 1957 when he and his wife Betty bought the half section from Stewart MacDonald in the Midland district. We moved with our five children Francis, Leslie Ann, Rudy, Carol and Frank that same year

Otto continued to work with the Power Company and also did the farming

In the years that followed our family grew until we had a family of 12 healthy children. The older ones attended Rimbey school and went by school bus.

In 1967 the company transferred us to Rocky Mountain House so we sold the Rimbey farm and bought land just east of Rocky Mountain House.

Francis married Glen Owen of Blue Sky, Alberta. They now live west of Rocky Mountain House and have three children: Thresa, Dean and Dale

Leslie Ann married Vern Rigler of Grand Prairie where they reside. They have one child Tina.

Rudy married Lois Smith of Lacombe. They have one child Liza and live at Lethbridge

Carol married Arnold Orum of Red Deer They have two children Collin and Kimberley and live in Rocky Mountain House

Mary, Roxy, Otto Jr., Kathleen, Peter and Joe are still at home attending school

Otto has now been working with Calgary Power for 25 years. We are still farming and now raise purebred shorthorn cattle on what is known as Kluane Shorthorn Farm

**LESTER — JOE AND ALICE — NE 8-42-3-W5**

Joe and Alice Lester came to the Midland district in 1934. Joe was a carpenter and did a lot of this type of work around the area and in Rimbey

They had three children. Eugene, Darryl and Sharron. They sold their farm to Ellen Hayward in 1957 and moved to Rolling Hills

They still are living on the farm with their two sons

Eugene married the former Betty Tennant from Leedale. They have four boys. LaVern, Bradley, Colin and Dennis.

Sharron is a school teacher. She is married and living in Calgary

**LOOY, FLORIS AND ROSE SW 18-42-3-W5 — Written by Rose Looy**

Floris and Rose Looy moved to their home here in the Midland district in 1961, coming from Coronation in 1957, living in Rimbey and surrounding area till coming here in November

Seated Rose and Floris Looy: standing left to right: Bonnie, Carolyn, Valerie and Flora, Taken at their 25th Wedding Anniversary on November 9, 1974

1961. We bought this farm from Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Visger

Our oldest daughters, twins Valerie and Carolyn, were ten years old. Flora was eight years old, Bonnie was seven and our son Daryl was one year old

The old log house which was our home, still stands and we lived in it until we built a new home in 1967

Carolyn married Charles Rallison and they farm 12 miles north-west of us. Valerie married Ken Clement, a mechanic, they live on an acreage on the home quarter. Flora is home with us and Bonnie married Wayne Sczerba and lives in Calgary Son Daryl passed away at nine years of age in the spring of 1970

There was no one living on our back quarter when we came, but at one time Deacon's and Spreckers did. We rent the quarter east of us, and Flora has the next one to it. She bought it from Gordon Ferguson. We have had a good life here with no major catastrophes.

An old log chicken house burnt down, about the year 1964. Lost a few chickens but didn't lose any other buildings.

**McDONALD, STEWART AND MABEL**

Stewart McDonald was born in Grand Valley, Ontario. He married Mabel Anderson of Benson, Minnesota, U.S.A. in the year of 1919.

They lived at Bracken, Sask and four children were born, Doreen, Harvey, Shirley and Donna

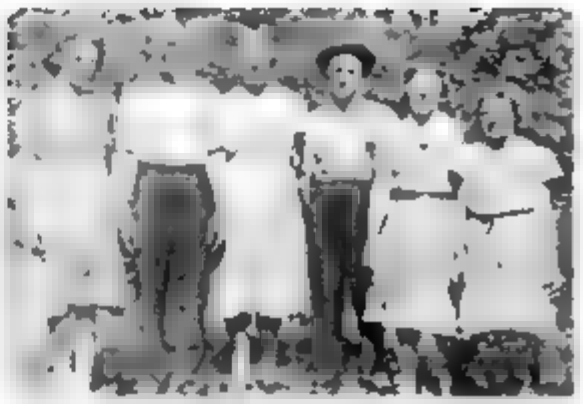
We left Saskatchewan for Alberta in 1934 in the "Hungry Thirties" We were dried out there many years.

McDonald Family moving to Alberta from Saskatchewan in 1934

We travelled here by caravan and wagon load of household effects pulled by four horses. We chased about 27 head of cattle. We were six weeks on the road to get to Art Dupras' where Bill Marles now lives

The McDonalds settled on NE 8-42-3-W5 at Rimbey where Max Keesar now lives, Midland district formed later in the year of 1939 but before that we walked three miles to Potter Creek school.

Stewart's mother and sister, Ethel, moved up



Stewart McDonald's Family Left to right Shirley, Harvey, Mabel, Stewart, Doreen and Donna

from Sask. in the year of 1939. In 1945 Stewart's mother, Mrs. Annie McDonald passed away. In 1953 Stewart passed away and 1964 Harvey passed away

Doreen Bryanton lives at Rimbey; Shirley Proskurniak at Kamloops, B.C. and Donna Gunderson at Edmonton.

Mabel is now living in a nursing home in Edmonton

**MEUKSCH, MR. AND MRS. FRANK**

Frank and Gina Meuksch (pronounced Mix) lived on the NE 16-42-3-W5 in the years prior to 1918 with their daughter Nellie and sons Henry and Isaac Mrs. Meuksch was a sister of Sanford Allison. Their daughter Nellie married a bachelor named Walter Young who lived on the south east quarter of the same section. Their children were born there and after a time Walter Young left and soon after the whole family moved to Armstrong, B.C. Nellie later remarried but is now deceased as are her parents. Henry was married and is now a widower and lives in Surrey, B.C. He had one son. Isaac is married and lives with his family near Rutland, B.C.

Sanford Allison's daughter Myrtle, with her husband, Joe Lamb, and four children, lived on the farm from about 1918 to 1922. Mr. Lamb was a trader and also had a beautiful purebred racing stallion which the oldest boy, Jimmie, (about seven or eight) had to exercise every day regardless of the weather Both Mr and Mrs. Lamb have since died having lived in various parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. One of their daughters, Mrs. Enid Hawking lives in Lacombe and another lives at Morningside, Mrs. Margaret MacAravey

They were followed by Mr and Mrs. Otto German. Rosa German was a sister of Sanford Allison. She had one son, Clarence Hart, by a former marriage and two grandchildren, Betty and Wesley (Buddy) During this time the big yellow house burned down and a new one was built

Many others lived on this quarter including Arthur Nalder and his wife, Hilda, and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Quast and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cummings and family until it was sold to Mr Merle Tarrabain, the present owner

**THE MIDLAND LADIES CLUB — by Doris McElroy**

The club was organized in 1948 by Mrs Layton, wife of Mr. Duncan Layton who taught school at Midland from 1946 to 1949.

The first officers were Mrs. Floyd (Alida) Booth, president and Mrs. Raymond (Miriam) Saunders, secretary. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. John (Marian) Iverson

The club is now in its 28th year. We have quite a few working members so the club is not as active as it was in the beginning.

In the early years the members made many quilts which were raffled to make money Old woolens were gathered and sent away to make wool blankets. The ladies served at weddings and auction sales, had a couple bake sales a year and usually a rummage sale. The proceeds were used for many community projects. Donations to fire victims, the Salvation Army, needy families, fruit baskets for the sick, and memorials for our loved ones were some of the projects. We still carry on in much the same manner and make the donations when they are needed We also buy Christmas treats for the club and district youngsters

In the summer members and their families enjoy a club picnic and in the fall a pot luck supper

I joined the club in March 1954. The members at that time were Mable Ervin, Mrs. Hayward, Marian Iverson, Grace Mason, Katie Laye, Miriam Saunders, Letha Simmons, Lillian Shaw, Zerola Visger, Elida Soberg, and Mrs Kilpatrick. Other early members were Mrs. S. McDonald, Alice Lester and Mary Hayward

Midland Ladies Club. Left to right. Lyle Visger, Melvin and Letha Simmons, Minnie Hayward, Zerola Visger, Doris McElroy, Miriam Saunders, Mable Ervin and Mrs. Kilpatrick 1954

On one occasion about 25 years ago the Ladies were to meet at Mrs. Shaw's home It had rained for days and the roads were very muddy as we had no gravel then. A car load of ladies drove within a mile and a half of Shaw's place and decided not to try the mudhole south of Sam Wilson's gate.

With rain still falling the ladies took off their shoes and stockings and proceeded barefoot

One of the members carried her small son and the ladies tied his diapers over their heads to help shed the rain We were quite a sight arriving at the Shaw home but the meeting was held as planned

The last couple of years the members have an "evening out" They arrange to have supper and then attend a show after that.

There are nine members in the club at the present time. Despite their age difference, their nationalities or religion we have yet to have any misunderstandings

**MIDLAND SCHOOL NO. 4856—BY D. McElroy**

A great influx of settlers came to this area in the 1930's from the dust bowl of Saskatchewan

Parents with school age children were soon concerned because of the distance between existing schools.

A delegation of interested parents consulted with the municipal councillor and then the Department of Education, to plan a school in the immediate area. They finally succeeded in proving the need for a school, which resulted in the establishment of the Midland School District No. 4856 on July 5, 1939. Prior to that, the district was a part of the Last West subdivision No. 431 and was now included in Subdivision 5 of the Ponoka School Division No. 34

The school district which lies in Township 42 and partly in Range 3 and 4 W5, comprised of the following land namely: Sections 6,7,8 and 17, 18, 19, 20, west halves of 4, 9, 16, and 21 north half and south east quarter of 5, south west quarter of Section 29, south half of 30 in Township 42 R3 east halves of Section 1, 12, 13, 24 south east quarter of Section 25 in Township 42 R4 W5. Later the south west of 5 and south east of 29 in R3 was also taken into the school district. It was bordered on the north by the Fuller district, on the west by Leedale and Mount View districts, on the south by the Benjamin district, and on the east by Potter Creek district. Consequently the name Midland was chosen because, it was in the middle, so to speak

A local school board was elected with Joe Lester elected secretary-treasurer and Ernest Hayward as chairman. Mr. John Scoffield was appointed official trustee at the provincial level and Percy Fordham the offical trustee for the subdivision of which Midland School was a part.

There were two school sites chosen and at the first school board meeting, held on August 14, 1939, Ernest Hayward made a motion that arrangements be made to brush and clean up the

school site as soon as its location was established. Sam Wilson made a motion to make a full size basement and Joe Lester made a motion that preference be given to unmarried teachers.

On August 15, 1939 a three acre site situated on the south west corner of section 17-42-3-W5 was approved. The other site suggested was one half mile south of this.

Clem Baldridge was given the contract to build the school and received 35¢an hour. He boarded at Haywards while he was building it. The lumber was purchased from Varty's mill. John Iverson helped with carpenter work, receiving a small wage. Many district residents volunteered their help and the school soon took shape.

On October 30, 1939 tenders for 12 cords of dry wood were called for, and at the November meeting Norton William's tender for $2.40 a cord was accepted if approved by the divisional trustee.

The December meeting was held in the new school house. The need for a barn was discussed and Mr. Hayward made a motion that Sam Wilson contact Johnny Jones and have him deliver the lumber for the barn.

Sam Wilson made a motion that Bertha Hayward and Ruby Sprecker be appointed to do the janitor work for the first month at 50¢ a week. The Grade 7, 8 and 9 students took turns after that doing the janitor work. Joe Lester later became janitor and received five dollars a month.

The school opened for the first time on January 3, 1940 with James Demanchuk teaching until the term end June 30, 1940. There were 26 pupils enrolled. He received a salary of $840.00, which was the minimum salary set by the Department of Education. He boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kutyiks for part of the term and paid $25.00 a month for board and room.

There was no well for the first while so Lawrence and Harvey Simmons hauled drinking water from Hayward's in five gallon cream cans. They got five cents for each can of water delivered. The well was then drilled by Gus Starozik.

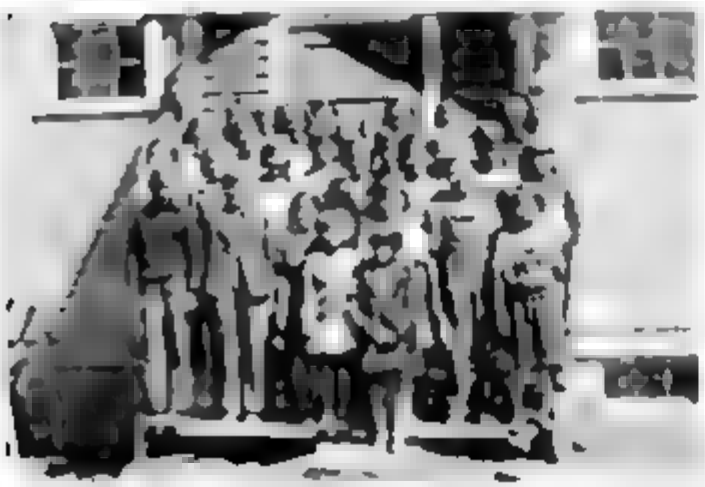
From date of opening the Midland school was administered by the Ponoka School Division. Mr. L.S. Walker was school inspector at the time.

Mr. Percy Fordham, the Divisional trustee had almost complete control of the operation of schools in his division. The local board members were responsible for minor matters and made recommendations for any improvements to the divisional board.

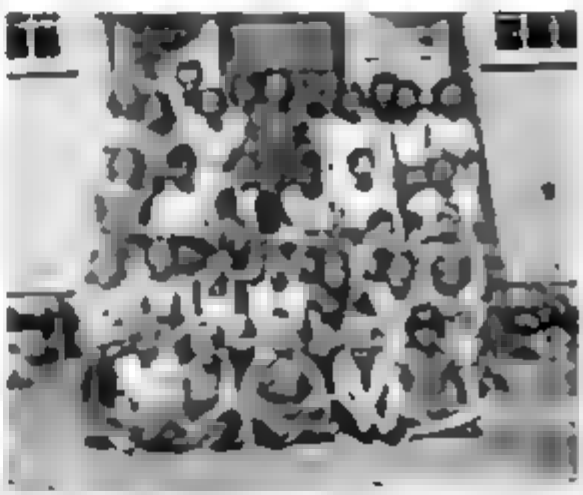
The annual meeting was held on February 20, 1940. Two tenders for posts to fence the school yard were rendered with Mr. Visger's bid being accepted at five cents a post over L.H. Chabot's seven cents. A motion by Harold Thomas that the posts be set 12 feet apart, with two smooth wires and two barbed wire on top, was seconded by Sam Sprecker and carried.

Water became a problem in the basement which resulted in many hours of work by members who volunteered their time.

The school subjects during the first school term were very much textbook oriented, as there



Midland School - First year students, January 1940 to June 1940. Back row left to right: Mr. Demanchuck, Bertha Hayward, Shirley MacDonald, Iris Moore, Eric Williams, Harvey and Lawrence Simmons. Second row left to right: Daphne Williams, Nora Visger, Fern Iverson, Lorraine Weitz, Florence Moore. Third row left to right: Muriel Williams, Bernice Simmons, Opal Booth, Bert Moore, Barbara Weitz, Robert Sprecker, Arvilla Moore, Donna McDonald, Dale Visger, Buddy Booth. Fourth row left to right: John Sprecker, Stanford Wilson, Joan Visger, Olga Garnick, Etta Moore, John Garnick, Leslie Garnick. Front: Bonnie Visger.



Midland School - September to June 1941-1942. From row left to right: Gladys Burke, Walter Sprecker, Eugene Lester, Cecil Stollings, Ronnie Visger. Second row left to right: Opal Booth, Barbara Weitz, Muriel Williams, Fern Burke, Joan Visger, Arvilla Morre, Bernice Simmons. Third row left to right: Buddy Booth, John Sprecker, Tommy Thomas, Alex Szoke, Stanford Wilson. Fourth row left to right: Edna Hallberg, Dale Visger, Oliver Chabot, Robert Sprecker, Bert Moore, Donna McDonald. Fifth row left to right: Dolores Booth, Nora Visger, Shirley McDonald, Daphne Williams, Lorraine Weitz. Back row left to right: Irma Mason, Lawrence Simmons, Bertha Hayward, Harvey Simmons, Florence Moore, the teacher was Mrs. Esther Stollings.

was very limited supplementary material or equipment.

Sports activities were also of a very limited nature. Softball was the main sport in the spring. Each school received a bat and a softball and this was the yearly allotment of sports equipment by the divisional board. Practicing for the track meet was started early in the spring. This resulted in the biggest event of the year when the contestants from each local school travelled in the back of a big truck to Ponoka to participate in the divisional tract meet in the early part of June. Midland school always brought many of the ribbons home.

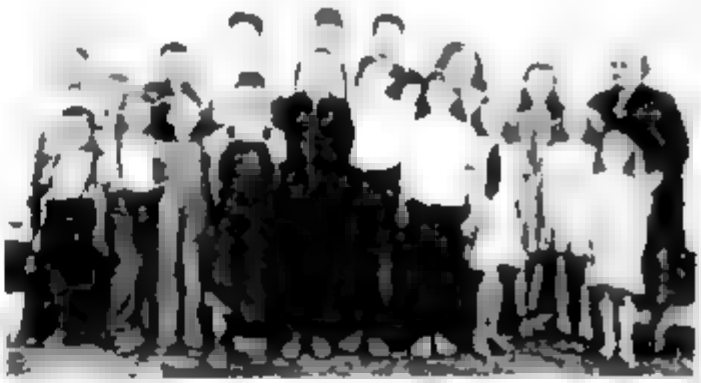
Mrs. Esther Stollings in front of Midland School. She taught 1940-1941 and 1941-1942

When the 1940 fall term opened Mrs. Esther Stollings accepted the teaching position which she held for two years. In 1944 the board felt a teacherage was necessary so the teacherage was built.

I am not sure in what order the teachers came for the next few years but Ruth Stevens (Frank), Miss Ingram, Miss Storeshanko, Doreen Mason sub, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Viola Benson taught until 1946.

Then Mr. Duncan Layton came in September 1946 and taught until June 1949. Dale Visger taught the 1949—1950 term, Mrs. C.I. Simon 1950—1951, Mrs. John Jones 1951—1952, Miss Janet Wiley 1952—1953, John Morrison 1953—1954 and Miss Marie Burnett the 1954—1955 term, the last term the school was open.

On February 18, 1947 the Ponoka School Division No. 34 was included in subdivision 4.



Midland School 1950 - 1951. Mrs. C.I. Simon - Teacher. Front row left to right: Wayne Shaw, Bernard Booth, Billy Parkins, Ken Shaw, Henry Lambertus, Darryl Lester, Fay Lemieux, Kathleen Fode, Helen McElroy, Ruby Parkins. Back row: Wayne Fode, Earl Booth, Jim Shaw, Jack Simmons, Bill Saunders, Jim Booth, Joyce Lemieux, Gloria Booth, and Mrs. Simon - teacher.

Then on December 22, 1951 all the Municipal Districts of Ponoka No. 66 and parts of Improvement Districts No. 65, No. 68 and No. 76 were incorporated by Ministerial Order so on January 1, 1952 the County of Ponoka No. 3 was established. Thus the Midland School District No. 4856 was included within the County boundaries and still is.

In a small community such as this, most interested parents were involved with school matters at one time or another. Besides those previously mentioned there was Stewart McDonald, Slim Moore, Sam Sprecker, J. R. Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas, Carl Iverson, Melvin Simmons, Mrs. Lambertus, Mr. and Mrs. Lemieux, Fred Shaw (Santa) and the ever faithful Mrs. Visger who played the organ at the Christmas concert. Also Mrs. Floyd Booth who scrubbed and cleaned the school from top to bottom including the basement for a mere seven dollars. Gus Fode was secretary and Harold Lemieux chairman of the board when the school closed.

During the 15 years the school was open there were many community picnics, Christmas concerts, ball games, and church services held at the school. Then, with the introduction of school centralization, the Midland school along with many other country schools, was closed and the children bussed to Rimbey.

Harold Lemieux was the first school bus driver. He was a very capable, efficient driver and was very conscientious of the safety and comfort of his passengers. The ride on the bus was quite a change from the rainy trip in summer and the freezing ride in winter but due to the roads and weather conditions there were some very trying experiences especially for the driver. Despite the near impassable roads the bus usually made it through one way or another. Harold drove the bus from 1955 to 1967 a total of 12 years.

The Midland school was sold to Frank Nugent and then he sold it to the Faraway district where it served as a school until it closed. It is now serving as a community centre at Faraway.

Fred Shaw bought the barn for $75.00, jacked it up and then sold it to Melvin Simmons for the same money.

The teacherage was moved to Mount View school where it was then sold to Mr. Ted Jenson. They lived in it for awhile and it still remains on the Jenson farm.

Thanks to all those who contributed the information for this article.

**MIDLAND REMINISCINGS — written by Joan (Visger) Ferguson**

In looking back to the eight years I spent at Midland school, I'd like to pay tribute to all the teachers. However, I owe a special thanks to one who taught two years there — Mrs. Earl (Esther) Stollings.

She was able to get us to strive for neatness (even though some of us never arrived) by offering prizes for the three divisions. Bonnie Visger got first in Division I, a lovely laced green album, which she still treasures today.

Mrs. Stollings always read to us while we ate our lunch. It was during this time we learned to love the carrot haired Anne from Green Gables to Ingleside.

Many will remember Cecil Stollings had trouble with the bones in his legs and had to be in casts and go on crutches. Someone would hold his crutches for him in a ready position while he batted, and then away he'd go in long hops.

It will also bring back memories to many to mention Mrs. Stollings letting us all go on the Moore quarter and choose an evergreen to plant around the perimeter of the school ground (mine never survived). I'm sure many of us chose poorly, but she made us all feel we had done well.

It wouldn't be right to not mention the FINE times we spent sleighriding on Hayward's hill, playing steal sticks at school, which included running all over Moore's and Lester's quarters. Our Christmas concerts were always a joy too when the little one room school house was transformed into a grand theatre with decorations, a lovely tree the boys always brought in, and everything smelling of spruce. Of course we can not forget Fred Shaw as Santa Claus. In the springtime, as soon as a tiny bit of dry ground appeared, we spent weeks preparing for our annual trackmeets.

During the war we had Red Cross programs Friday afternoons where we all took part. By the way, does anyone know what became of our War Bonds we bought?

**MOORE, MR. AND MRS. ALFRED (SLIM) SW 17-42-5-W5 — by Nettie (Mrs. Don Selby)**

In the summer of 1933 my dad and mother and seven of my brothers and sisters moved to the Midland district. Dad built a log house on the north west corner of the quarter next to the creek. The Midland School was built on the southeast corner of our land in 1939. The children who went to the school were Charles, Bill, Mae, George, Iris, Florence and Bert.

In the eight years we lived there, Arvilla, Etta, Alfred, Nettie (me) and Alice were born. We moved to Leedale in 1941 and Harvey was born in 1942. In 1943 we moved to Faraway. By this time Charles, Mae, Bill, Iris, George and Florence were away from home. The boys joined the army and the girls married.

We farmed in the Faraway district which is about 36 miles west of Rimbey, and daddy also worked in the sawmill there.

We moved to Edberg in 1954 where mom died of cancer in the Camrose hospital. In 1956 we moved to Edmonton where daddy worked as a guard for an oil refinery. In 1961 daddy died of a heart attack.

Charles married while he was in the army, they have four children and six grandchildren and live in Grimshaw where he works as a guard of the jail. Bill and his wife have one child and he is a salesman in Vancouver. Mae married and they have three children and 11 grandchildren. They are living on an acreage at Mara, B.C. where they farm and her husband works in the mill. Florence and her husband have one child and lives in Florida. They are both gemologist. Bert and his wife have seven children and four grandchildren. They live near Armstrong, B.C. on a farm. Arvilla (Kingston) has two children and two grandchildren. She works in the liquor store in Radium Hot Springs. Etta (Heisler) has five children and one grandchild. They live on a farm at Tees, Alberta and her husband works for the Department of Highways. Alfred and his wife have three children and one grandchild. They live in the States. Nettie (Selby) has five children and live on an acreage at Charlie Lake, B.C. My husband is an Engineer Technician and works for the Government. Alice (Lenny) has three children and lives in Winfield, B.C. on a small fruit farm. Her husband works for the town. Harvey and his wife have three children and lives on a ranch at Enderby, B.C. When daddy died in 1961 he had 34 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Had he lived, there are 69 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren now.

**PARKER, MARTIN AND HILDRED , NE 24-42-4-W5 — written by Martin A. Parker**

Harry Wm. Parker and his wife Della Jane Parker came to Rimbey in October 1919 from Harbine, Nebraska.

It was a trip to visit Mrs. Parker's sister and to see this grand country as so described by Lydia Shamp. It was so wonderful that weeds didn't grow in the gardens and such stories about wild fruit! Anyone from Nebraska knows how the weeds can grow down there and that explains the weed story

Bert J Shamp's had arrived the year previous and was working for E. A. Connelly at the time so they were the hosts of Dad and Mother Parker. They fell in love with the country and decided to buy a farm. Herb Connelly took them with team and cutter to look at various farms on October 12, 1919. Yes, a team and cutter as many will recall that the snow came early on October 6, and if I recall correctly it was a mean long winter. Six feet of snow on the level at Rimbey, but the farmers were getting on the land by May 21, 1920. Talks about floods, we sure had them that spring

It was on October 12, 1919 that they purchased the Bodicoat homestead, eight miles west of town, NE 24-42-4-W5 was the location. There is a sad story about this place being for sale. Dyar had the adjoining quarter to the west Bodicoat built his house and buildings by a large spring that he thought was on his land. Dyar claimed the spring and buildings were on his land and quite an argument was started. Mr. Bodicoat decided to build again so moved to the centre of his land. Dug a well by hand, some 40 feet deep His young son went to get a pail of water and dropped the pail to the bottom. He started down to get it but as soon as his head was below the surface he fell. His sister, being there too, screamed and his dad came running from the barn where he was working. Without thinking of gas he also started down to get his son. The same thing then happened to him. A grapple hook had to be used to bring them out, Jack Rotherham and Manley Cumberland both tried to go down but had to be brought up immediately Father and son are buried on the hill in the Leedale Cemetery Hildred Cumberland was the organist at their funeral which was in 1915.

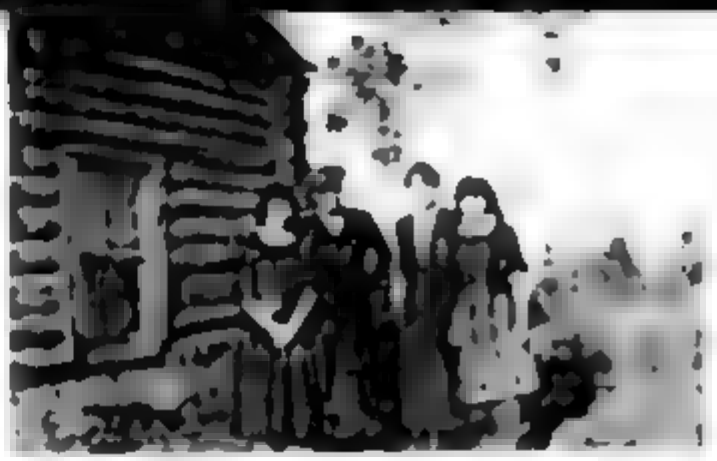
Mother and we four children arrived in Rimbey March 9, 1920. The railway had just been completed that winter. It took two days to come from Lacombe as the train stopped in Bentley over night

Irma, the oldest, married Gilbert Lloyd farmed the old Lloyd place for a long period and now reside at 272 2nd Ave. Chula Vista, California

Bert married and now retired at 5412 Horton Mission, Kansas

Martin married Hildred Cumberland both retired at 10535 87 Ave. Edmonton

Cella, recently widowed, married Warren K



The Parker family, left to right Irma, Martin, Mother (Della Jane Parker) and Celia. 1923

Hatz, and lives at 5779 Calvin Way, San Diego, California.

Dad and we two boys were born in Illinois Both girls were born in Nebraska and mother was an "Iowaay" born ga.

When we first arrived we rented three rooms in the old Jim Rimbey house. Mother made hats and had a millinery in the front room. In the last of March Jones and Cork built the green house that is directly across the street south of the cemtery

We moved out to the farm in April 1923 and I as a young punk batched out there much of the time

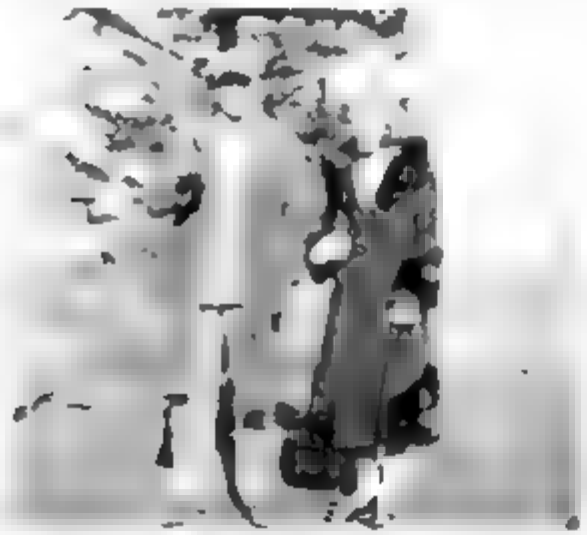
Wild? I'll say it was! At first it took over 12 miles of trail to get there. The graded road ended at the top of the river hill, which was some hill in those days. Some trail, Darby was on the hill and we went around that and angled across to the two mile corner The first house out of town was T A Iddings and after the two mile corner was Earl Jackson's place We trailed for one half mile inside his land and on west to the top of Joe Hohn Sr hill. At this five mile corner it was south for three quarters of a mile and angled across coming out at the Joe Lamb's. Then as the trail took us in and out and around sloughs we entered Prosser's land, across there into Bowman's, along his south line out onto a C.P R. quarter, then angling until we travelled a short ways on the Davidson place (later T Laye's). Around a few more pot holes and we entered our place near the east. The trail went along on the south of our buildings and out at out north west corner I walked it many a time. It was horse and buggy in those days and very few cars.

Mother and I farmed the home place together for three years. Lived in the old log house until we built a new one in 1925. We had hardly moved into it when we made another move to the Broderson place at Leedale. We farmed that place along with our own the year of 1926. We decided we had enough so we had a farm sale in March 1927 and moved back to Kansas and spent the year down there. Dad had never moved to Canada with us as he was a station agent on the Rock Island Railway Bert didn't stay to live in

Rimbey either as he was also a telegrapher and agent working for the same railway. Dad used to have me doing most of the office work when I wasn't working at something else so I became a ham operator.

Canada was in my blood so I came back in April 1928. Mother and Celia stayed down with Dad and came up that fall. Dad was also pensioned off that fall and came up in August. He didn't enjoy his pension very long as he passed away December 2.

I still had farming in my mind so bought some horses and broken down machinery and moved back to the farm, as we hadn't sold it when we had the sale. Hildred Cumberland and I were married November 7, 1930 and maybe that is what started the "Hungry Thirties". Celia married Warren K. Hatz of Chula Vista, California in April 1931 and mother went down there to live with them. She passed away on August 22, 1932.



Martin and Hildred Parker at Jim Cumberlands, Leedale 1930

I said I farmed the old place, farmed, if you could call it that. It sure was hard times and Hildred and I worked our heads off, and did our best. We ate but many times wondered where the next sack of sugar or flour was coming from. The garden was a godsend those days. Raised hogs to sell at three dollars each, milked cows and a five gallon can of cream delivered to town would bring two dollars and fifty cents to three dollars. Ate chicken until we were sick of it. Sold spring fryers for 25 cents, eggs for six cents a dozen. Hauled wood and fence posts to town. Just think tamarack posts at two and one half cents each. No use telling you old timers these things as you have all been through it. Took out logs to get a few dollars by selling bridge plank and lumber. Had a shingle mill so sawed shingles, yes, my fingers too. Played for dances for three and four dollars a night. Often having to drive a team and cutter when old man weather would have it down to 49 or 50 degrees below zero (Farenheit). Go to celebrations and hope to win some of the prize money. Call all that farming? Hard times? I thought so.

After 10 years of married life and hard times we had two children. We decided Hildred could help out by teaching again. Schools were hard to get but she managed to get one at Moose Portage and that was 12 miles out of Smith, Alberta, across the river and down it to the west and north side.

The helping out failed as the ratepayers were all broke and had no money to pay a teacher. The scheme was for the teacher to board at each place until the amount of board had paid up their back taxes. I stopped that in a hurry by taking the two kids up there and letting her hire a girl instead of me hiring one. After I did that I had to send up money for them to live on. She did get paid after a long wait.

Hildred and I had three children, James McPherson Parker was born January 8, 1934. He is the University Architect at the University of Alberta here in Edmonton and also a Professor there. He married June Hierman of Everest. They have two boys and two girls and live at St. Albert.

Shirley June Parker was born June 8, 1935 and married Serge Andreff, a section foreman on the C.N. out of Red Deer. She teaches music and piano lessons in Sylvan Lake where they reside. They have one boy and three girls.

Max Robert Parker, born November 10, 1937 didn't stay with us very long as he died of septic pneumonia March 23, 1940. Dad is buried in the Rimbey cemetery (as he died on the farm after retiring) and by his side is our little Max. So they each have company. Grandpa and grandson. Mother is buried near the Little Church of Roses at Chula Vista, California.

There was no school near the farm, Fuller was our district but built too far away. Leedale was our next closest but still four miles away. It was decided we would build another and we did. It was called Mountain View. It caused some high taxes and after we had paid them the neighbors to the west that wouldn't join the district at first, changed their minds and had the district enlarged. Also managed to have the school moved a mile west and one half mile north. As I have heard it is called Mount View now, they must have changed the name at that time also.

When coming to Rimbey, Sam Rimbey and other old timers told me that the Blindman river was named that because it wandered around like a blind man. Anyone that has skated on it as we did in the old days could sure see, that was a fact.

I joined the army in 1941, went overseas to active duty and was discharged in October 1945.

When we came to the farm in 1920 our neighbors were Howard and Maude Bowman on NE 20, Paul Carlson who was married to

Draper's daughter on SE 30, the Davidson family on SW 30. They had a boy and a girl. He owned four buckskin horses of the old wild type with a black line down their backs. When he sold the place to Theo Laye in 1922 or 23 the horses went with the land

To the north of us were the Draper family. A small lake known as Draper Lake was the south boundary of Harry Draper's homestead and it pretty well covered the east side of his land. A son Harry Jr. died there, and because it was possible to get a permit to bury on your land, he was buried directly across from the homestead in the curve of the lake. Gil and Lloyd Draper left in 1925. The Rogers family lived near Drapers and Geo Webb who married Margaret Rogers lived with them. Ed Hobeck, Herman Bowell, Charlie Jacobson and Patton lived on north. Others to the south west were Fred Perkins, John Beck, Clay Aldridge and Jim Jackson. Directly south was Bill Murby and Jack Rotherham

I've written too much, so will sign by dating this November 15, 1977

**PARKINS, CLIFFORD AND ANNIE — by A. Parkins**

Cliff was born at Heward, Saskatchewan and his wife the former Annie Corbett in Moose Jaw.

We were married in 1938 and came to the Leedale district that fall from Climax, Saskatchewan. We bought a C P R. quarter west of Leedale, where we lived for 10 years.

Those years were hard years as it took a lot of work and money to establish a home, get the necessary equipment to farm with and still make a living, as money was short

In the winter Cliff cut tamarack posts, hauled them home with team and sleigh and then cut them in post lengths by hand with a Swede saw. He then hauled them into Leedale where an old friend, Dan Myers, from the prairies, owned the store. He was paying three cents a post so a load of 100 posts was worth three dollars. This certainly helped to buy the groceries.

Taken in 1953. Front row: Ruby and Eddy Parkins, Larry Adams, Barbara McElroy, Bill Parkins. Back row: Allen Thomson, Bud Robinson, Helen McElroy, Judy Mason, and Helen Mason

We were blessed with two children, Bill and Ruby while we lived there

In 1948 we bought the SE 13-42-3-W5 from Scott Willets which was in the Midland district. Bill had started school at Leedale and then he and Ruby attended the Midland school.

Our youngest son Eddy was born here to complete our family

In 1954 we sold the quarter west of Leedale to Lester Robinson and bought the SW 30-42-3-W5 from Theo Laye. This quarter was on the main road west of Rimbey. It was closer to town and also on the school bus route into Rimbey. However our stay there was short as we decided to move into town in October 1956. We later sold one quarter of land to Art and Phyllis Green and the other to Owen and Doris McElroy

Cliff worked for different ones for awhile and then took the job of milk delivery for the town in 1963. We also kept quite a few pigs so it kept us busy

Bill worked part time at the Rimbey Creamery and upon completion of High School he accepted steady employment there with the Central Alberta Dairy Pool. He is now sales supervisor of Alpha Milk

Bill and his wife, the former Vivian Torwalt of Lannigan, Saskatchewan live in Red Deer. They have two girls Michelle and Kimberley

When Ruby completed school she took a course and became a Certified Nursing Aid. She worked for six years at the Rimbey General Hospital before she met and married Cyril Newsham. They live on a farm at Innisfail and have two children Rodney and Connie.

Eddy also worked at the Rimbey Creamery but took over the milk delivery from his parents and has been the Alpha Distibutor for the past 10 years. He married Audrey Berg of High Prairie and they have a little girl Tasha

They have built a nice new home in Rimbey where they reside.

**PURDY, JACK AND THELMA**

In August 1972 Jack and Thelma Purdy purchased a quarter of land from Jim and Martha Crowell and moved out from Calgary with their three sons, Dana, David and Dean.

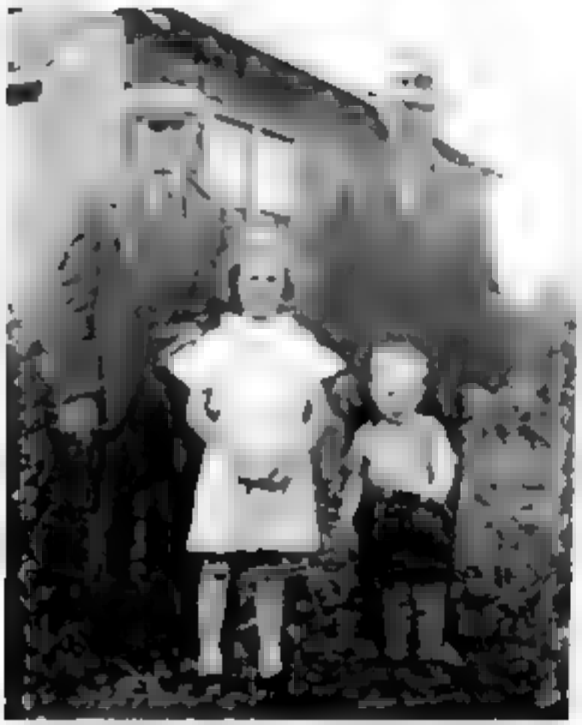
My husband, Jack, was born at Lestock, Saskatchewan and finished his schooling at the Lutheran College in Regina.

I, Thelma (French) was born at Grandview, Manitoba and my family moved to Alberta in 1946.

Jack and I first met in Calgary in 1952. Jack was employed with the C.P.R. for 17 years and was working at the Aquitaine Gas Plant at Ram River before coming to this area to farm

**JOHN GOULD ROTHERHAM — NW 18-42-3-W5**

John was born in Coventry, England on May 12, 1879. He came to Canada in 1902 and worked around Winnipeg for a few years and settled in the Leedale district in 1907



Wm. Lee, Jack Rotherham, Edith Lee and Cecil Stollings. Taken in May 1938

He had the first radio in the district and neighbors would come for miles around in the winter to listen to the Old Timers from Calgary on Thursday evenings. Gang Busters was another favorite program. The women would bring lunch and all would spend an enjoyable evening. He sold the farm to Ray Lambertus in 1941 and moved to Rimbey. He was almost blind when he passed away in the Rimbey Auxiliary Hospital on July 17, 1968. He was 89.

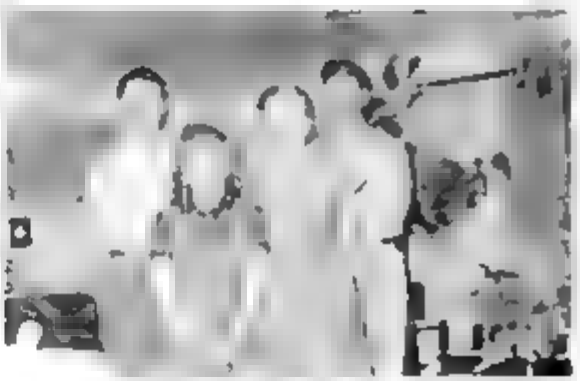
**SAUNDERS, RAYMOND AND MIRIAM—NW 5-42-3-W5**

Raymond Saunders, along with his wife Miriam and his nine-year-old son, Bill, moved to the Midland district in 1946, following Raymond's discharge from the airforce as a World War II veteran. They had farmed at Cactus Lake, Saskatchewan, until Raymond and a daughter, Polly, joined the airforce. At that time, Miriam and Bill moved to Lacombe for the duration of the war.

They bought the former Percy Thomas place situated at NW 5-42-3-W5. At the time, they had to drive through the quarter to the east of them where the Walter Hayward family lived. They later built a bridge over the creek in their land, so access was gained from the road to the west of their quarter.

In 1948, Raymond and Miriam adopted a young boy, Simon. The following spring they adopted 10 months old Joanne.

Raymond Saunders



Taken in October 1957. Left to right: Simon, Joanne, Miriam, and Bill Saunders

Besides farming, Raymond taught school, first at Leedale and later at Benjamin. He was well known for his sense of humor and his creative story-telling. In August, 1954, he died suddenly of a heart attack and was buried in Rimbey. He would have taught at the Midland school that term had he lived.

Miriam was the first secretary of the Midland Ladies Club. She enjoyed gardening and sewing. As well, Miriam had a beautiful contralto voice.

Following Raymond's death, Miriam and the children moved to Lacombe and then back again to the Midland district. Bill joined the Canadian Armed Forces and lives in Calgary with his family.

Miriam and the other two children went first to Georgia, U.S.A. in April 1958, and then to Florida, U.S.A., where Simon and Joanne both live with their families. Miriam died in 1974.

**SIMMONS, MELVIN AND LEITHA — given by Nora Simmons**

Melvin Simmons was born in Michigan in 1899 and with his parents later moved to Scottsguard, Saskatchewan. In 1924 he married Leitha Downs of Havre, Montana, who was born in 1905 in the state of Michigan also.

May 22, 1934 dawned bright and early for Melvin and Leitha; their two boys Lawrence, age nine, and Harvey, age seven, and small daughter Bernice, age two years. They were leaving the Saskatchewan dust bowl behind, heading west by covered wagon to Alberta. Melvin had made his own covered wagon eight by 14 feet on a 'Bennett Wagon' made from the rear ends of two Model T Fords.

They had one wagon with two cows in it. Another wagon had machinery and the covered wagon was tied behind this one. A four horse team pulled this outfit. They also had one saddle pony. Their main supplies included two 100 pound bags of flour and some groceries and $40 in cash

They stopped at Dixon, Alberta about three weeks and rested. Melvin helped clear land there

July 15, 1934 Melvin and his family arrived at Leedale where they camped on the Mighe place, perhaps better known to some as the Art Dupras place. Difficult times, moves and sickness followed. Later they returned to the Dupras place and bought it

In 1938 a new baby boy, Jack Albert, arrived to bless their home

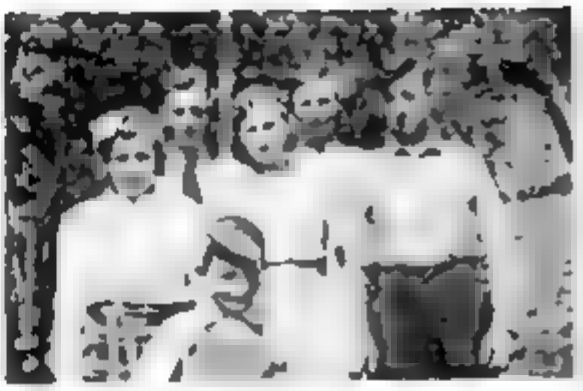
Their children now four, received their education at Mount View, the two Leedale schools, and Midland school.

Melvin and the boys helped build a number of roads in the community using horses and fresnos. He was kept busy farming and caring for his family but he always had time to help anyone who needed help

Community wood sawing days to ensure a good supply of fuel for the winter were memorable times. Fall harvest and threshing with threshing machines, hayracks, teams, and bundles was a time everyone looked forward to. Harvey did some brush cutting with Ernie Drader, using a caterpillar tractor. He also had a sawmill on his dad's place.

Recreation was healthful but simple and loads of fun. The whole neighborhood would gather together for ball games in the summer Winter found most of the children sleigh riding or skating on some slough or home rink

Melvin and Leitha Simmons leaving for town in 1941



The Simmons Family Left to right: Bernice, Lawrence, Leitha (Mrs.) Harvey Melvin (Mr.) and Jack standing if front. Taken July 1944

Wages weren't that great. Students who did janitor work at the Midland school received $2.00 a month and in winter time $2.50 a month, because the wood fires had to be kept going night and day to keep the school warm enough

War broke out. In 1943 their eldest son Lawrence took his place among the boys who fought to defend loved ones and country. When he returned he took up farming on the Chris Bakke homestead. In 1949 he married Ivy Hewes of Athabasca. They have seven children, Gail (Mrs. Clarence Hall), Dwayne, Ricky, Darlene, Terry, Margaret and Tammy. They still reside on the farm and are contributing their part to the community

July 1950 Harvey married Nora Visger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Visger of Leedale It rained every day for 17 days before the wedding but July 18 was sunny and bright. They made their home at Vulcan, Alberta. They have four girls, Judy (Mrs. John Wren) of Belt, Montana, Diane (Mrs. Robert Crawford) of Calgary, Karen living in Calgary and Wanda at home with her folks. Harvey is a contractor and owns the Vulcan S and S Concrete plant at Vulcan.

Bernice married William Perrault of St Albert, Alberta. They have five children, Marilyn, Jean (Mrs. Howard Thompson) of Devon, Brian, Bradley, and Debbie all of Rimbey. Bill served for some years as a town foreman for Rimbey where they still live. Jack married Darlene Schauermann of Champion, Alberta. Jack liked trucking and owned his own truck. They lived at Vulcan for some time and later moved to Rimbey. They had one girl, Sharon. Jack passed away in 1967

In 1971 Melvin and Leitha retired from farming and moved into town (Rimbey) where they now reside. They feel life has been good to them and greatly enjoy and appreciate visits from old time neighbors.

**SHAW, FRED AND LILLIAN SE 17-42-3-W5 — by Fred Shaw**

I was born in Blackburn, England on May 11,

1908. My mother died when I was five years old. In May 1914 my father, two brothers and I came to Canada on the Empress of Ireland. The war had just started and on the next trip abroad she was rammed by a Swedish boat and she sank. We came to Ga.ahad, Alberta for awhile and then dad went back to England in the first World War for two and a half years. During this time my brothers and I stayed with an uncle.

When dad returned we moved to Big Valley, Alberta where we farmed from May 1919 to April 1935.

We were dried out year after year so I decided to move. I had been out to Rimbey in 1934 and made a payment on the SE 17-42-3-W5. We travelled to Rimbey by train and I had three head of cattle. We arrived in the Midland district in May 1935.

It was a raw quarter of land, no fence, no buildings and all bush except 15 acres. I had only 50¢ left when I arrived at the farm. My first house was built out of C P R. doors. It was seven by 11 feet.

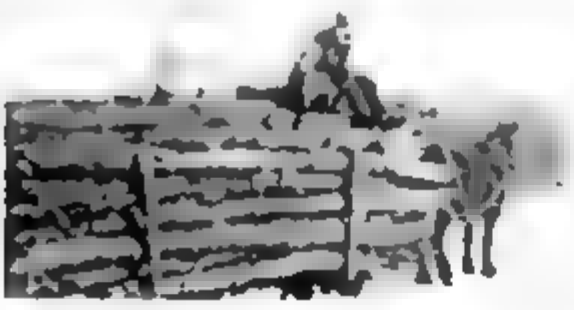
Lillian Shaw (nee Bryanton) came from Olds, Alberta with her mom and dad Mr. and Mrs. Herb Bryanton and sisters and brothers. They arrived on April 1, 1927 in Rimbey. They came by train.

They rode on a stone boat with sacks of grain and pulled by a team of horses from Rimbey out to the farm. There were stumps all over the road and lots of water. We settled in the Potter Creek district which was east of the Midland district which came later. Lillian had all her schooling at Potter Creek. On December 16, 1937 Lillian married Fred Shaw. They built a new house after they were married. It was 12 feet by 20 feet originally and then we built on to it after the children arrived.

We had 10 children. Seven boys and three girls. Eight are still alive. Two boys passed away.

We used to milk cows and sell cream and eggs. Fred sold wood to help make ends meet. Sometimes he would sell three loads of wood a week and hauled it into Rimbey. That was eight miles one way, 16 miles round trip.

Jim the oldest boy took all his schooling at Midland. He now lives around Rimbey.



Fred Shaw and son Jim 1943

Kenneth the second boy went to Midland to Grade 9, then took his high school in Rimbey. He and his wife and two children live in Singapore. Wayne started school at Midland and then the bus came. Wayne passed away in 1969. Allan and his wife live in Spruce Grove. Terry lives on the farm at Rimbey.

Linda Marchildon (Shaw) has two children and lives at Rocky Mountain House. Freda and Franklin were twins. Freda Steele (Shaw) has two children and lives at Wetaskiwin. Franklin works at the gas plant at Rimbey. Baby Dean passed away in 1961 and Karen our youngest will graduate in September this year (1977).

We enjoyed our lives at Midland. Everyone was friendly and we visited a lot. We had a Midland Ladies Club. We met once a month at different houses. Midland was very active in sports. The country schools always had track meets. We had a ball team. Jim Booth, Jack Simmons, Wayne Fode, Alec Szoke, Jim Shaw, Bill Saunders, Stanford Wilson and Earl Booth was on the team. I can not remember the rest. Stanford Wilson could really hit the ball. He was a big fellow and usually when Stanford came up to bat bases were loaded. He would knock a home run and would bring them all home.

We also had a good hockey team. We made a rink at our place with high board fence and lights. Jack Cruickshank, Eugene and Darryl Lester and the Shaws made up a hockey team.

We had a new 1948 Ford Ton Truck. We used to take all the team to the games. Sometimes we would have spectators ride along.

Mr. Layton (the School teacher) would bring along a heavy rope. Different times we got stuck and the kids would pull us out with the rope.

Clare Thomas, George McTighe and Fred Shaw, were a high scoring hockey line for Rimbey in the 1940's.

We lived in the Midland district until 1957, then we moved two miles south of Rimbey where we lived for three years. Then in 1960 we bought a farm six miles north west of Rimbey and we lived there until 1973. We are now retired in Rimbey. We will be married 40 years on December 16, 1977.

**SCHROEDER, FREDERICK AND LUCY — by Fred Schroeder Jr.**

Frederick Albert Leopold Schroeder Sr. was born October 18, 1895. His wife the former Lucy Bicke was born January 18, 1901. They were both born in the city of Quedlinburg, Province of Saxony, in Germany. They were married in 1919.

Their son Frederick Albert Leo was born May 18, 1921 also in Quedlinburg.

My parents chose to immigrate to Canada in the year 1929, coming directly to the southern (prairie) region of Alberta. They settled in the Vulcan district in 1932, working for a wheat farmer by the name of Jim Robson northwest of Vulcan.

I had stayed behind with my grandparents, so

In May 1933, four years later they sent for me. I celebrated my 12th birthday on the C P R. Liner (ship) Monterose the day it entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence

My parents then undertook to farm on their own in the Snake Creek district in 1935-1936. I attended Snake Creek school for four years

We were forced to abandon farming at Snake Creek and farmed another year at Vulcan in 1937 renting a half section from William Becker

We moved to the Rimbey district in the spring of 1939, purchasing what was then known as the Nels Cumberland homestead

In the year 1941 we purchased the home quarter known as the Parker place (NW 24-42-3-W5) from one Martin Parker, where Art Carpenter's are now, adding the quarter south of this, next to and in between us and the Jackson place, purchased from D. Defilippi in the year 1943. We sold the Nels Cumberland homestead to one William Goodrich in the year 1941. Bill perished on this place two years later, having been found dead by a neighbor, in his barn between his stabled team of horses

I bought the SW 36-42-4-W5 known as the Draper homestead, from the Municipality at a Tax Sale in the year 1942.

At the Parker Place taken in 1942. Freddie Schroeder Jr. and his parents; Lucy and Frederick Schroeder

I was promptly informed by a close neighbor, Gib Tricker, that the former owner (Draper) was still residing there in everlasting peace and did not wish to be disturbed. I sold this place to a gentleman speculator from Forest Lawn, Calgary in the year 1963.

Haying Time - Fred Sr. and Freddie Schroeder on the hay. Arthur Chapman on fence

We sold the Parker place in 1958 to Art Carpenter and moved to the Iola district

I married the former Myrtle Mary Morris in November 1949, and we had a family of four children all born at Rimbey

Albert Leonard Schroeder was born December 14, 1951. He married Lynn Limisky of Claresholm in June 1973.

Josephine Marie Schroeder was born December 17, 1952. She married Peter Calvert of Rocky Mountain House in July 1971. They have two daughters. Tannis born January 1, 1974 and Jackie born January 24, 1975.

Brenda Marlene Schroeder was born August 30, 1954. She married James Weber of Rocky Mountain House in June 1975. They live in Edmonton and have a daughter Januari born August 30, 1976

Harold Edward Schroeder was born August 31, 1956. He married Barbara Toth of High River and live in Rocky Mountain House. They have a son Jeremiah born on March 15, 1974 and a daughter Karla on March 18, 1976.

I married a second time and my wife and I both work at the Michener Centre formerly known as the Deerhome Institute

My father Frederick Albert Leopold Schroeder passed away March 2, 1962 at Bluffton with internment in the Rimbey Cemetery

My mother Lucy Schroeder lives in Rimbey and is keeping very well

**SPRECKER, SAM AND MARIE, NE 18-42-3-W5 — by Marie Sprecker**

Sam Sprecker was born in Garson, Russia, August 19, 1900. He lived there until the age of five years when he with his family moved to Tripp, North Dakota, U.S.A.

When he was 14 years old the family moved again to live in Hatton, Saskatchewan. He was united in marriage to Marie Laux, February 10, 1924. She came with her family to Lehr, North Dakota in 1909 from Roumania. Marie Laux was born April 15, 1903.

In 1918 the family moved to Hatton, Saskatchewan. That is where all my mother's family was living in 1924.

On September 21, Sam and I moved to Alliance, Alberta with two wagons, one covered

to live in, the other with a hay rack on, with all our belongings. Three of our milk cows we gave to my parents. The rest of our stock we sold for what we could get and that was very little. A ready for market pig, we got five dollars, for a cow we got $25. You were lucky to get that as there were no crops, as 1924 was the first year that the drought hit Saskatchewan.

Sam's brother, Jack, was living in Alliance so that is why we moved there. The crops were fairly good so there was work to be had. We got to Alliance October 4, 1924, and fixed up a 12 by 15 foot granary to live in. We lived in it until 1925 when we finally got a farm to rent. Sam's 14 year old brother had come with us to Alliance as he drove the four horse team on the hayrack when we moved there. The three of us got work on a threshing outfit. The men with wagon and team got seven dollars a day and I cooked for 21 men and got five dollars a day, worked 30 days and the snow came. We went back to our shack and got it ready for winter. Our baby daughter, Ruby, was born December 1, in that home. Sam went to work whenever he could get work. Times were good for us in 1926. It was our first year of farming. I boarded a teacher from 1926 to 1929. Our son, Robert, was born November 16, 1928 and a son, John, came along August 10, 1931. In 1932 we bought a farm seven miles south east of Alliance.

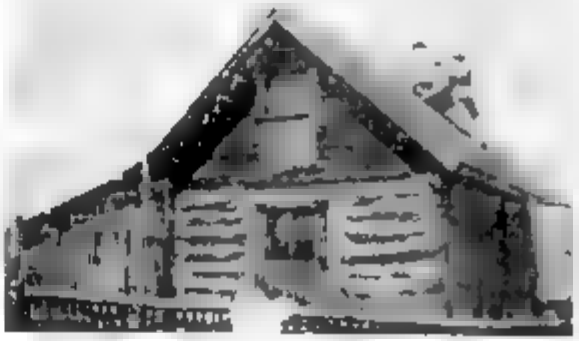
1933 is what was called the great depression or the "Dirty Thirties" or "Hungry Thirties". We never went hungry as we always had meat, milk, cream, butter and eggs. Our garden was down over a hill in a low spot so we always had potatoes and other garden produce. We always got enough feed for our stock. A lot of work. The things we sold we did not get much for them, but there was always enough money for tea, coffee, sugar and other little things we needed. I again boarded a teacher for sometime.

In 1934 our son, Walter, was born January 26, and son, Dick (Richard), was born December 1, 1935.

The drought and dust storms were not getting any better and we got tired of the dust blowing in our faces every day. We rented our farm to Sam's brother, made a sale, packed our truck this time and we started out for somewhere there was no dust blowing. Our plans we made were to go to British Columbia, however we never got there. We started out April 15, 1939.

Sam wanted to see his brother, Fred at Rimbey. We got there the same day Sam's brother-in-law and family had got back from B.C. He said things were bad. He said there was no way you could make a living for a family so we stayed at Rimbey. It was hard finding a farm that time of year. Finally, we bought a farm in the Midland district and moved there May 27, 1939.

Sam and Marie Sprecker and their five children: Ruby, Robert, John, Walter and Richard. Taken in front of the truck when they moved out to Midland District in 1939.



Sam and son Robert. Our house at Midland in 1939. N.E. 1/4 18-42-3-W5

There was no school as yet in the Midland district, but one was built that year. Our children missed school from April 1939 to January 1940. Everyone in the neighborhood helped build the school.

When we moved to our farm, there was only an old 12 by 24 foot log house with no doors or windows in it.

We just nicely got moved and it rained for two weeks. We could not get out with our truck to get lumber for a door, or windows for the house. We had a canvas cover for our truck. We cut that up and nailed it on the windows and door until we could get to town.

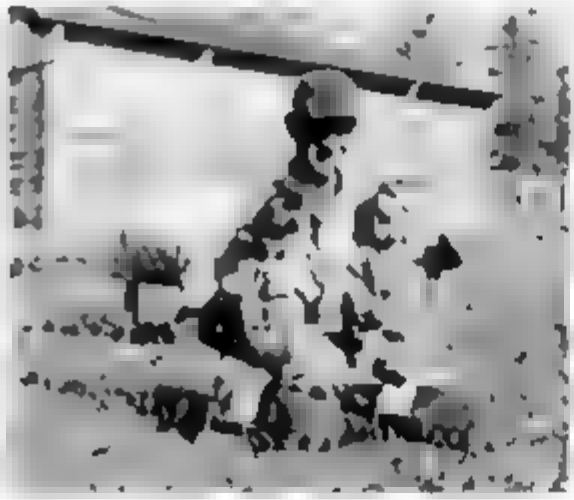
We got a bunk house from Fred Sprecker so we had a place to sleep in. We mixed mud to fill

between the logs, got lumber to build a bedroom and kitchen in the log house, also done a lot of other building and broke more land.

It was a busy summer and fall for us. In the winter Sam went to work in a saw mill. We moved into a good neighborhood. They were always ready to give a helping hand when we needed he.p

Our closest neighbors were Lesters and Visgers. Later the Johnny Booths lived right across the road from us. One of our first neighbors we met was Alice Lester. She and her two boys; we met them at the corner where we turned to go to our p.ace. She was coming back from Visgers

After we got settled on our farm we got 100 young chickens, four milk cows and some pigs and four horses. Besides the farm Sam worked wherever he could get work.



Sam Sprecker and ten month old twins Phyllis and Fay

In 1941 we were blessed with twin girls, Phyllis and Fay. We were getting along rea. good, were making a good living for our family then in 1945 Sam took very sick and was hospitalized till 1948. That was a sad time for us I thanked God often for the good neighbors we had. There were many times I do not know what I would have done without my neighbors. They were always there to lend a helping hand. Also my dear sister, Emelia Fode and family had moved there in 1945. Also my brother Reinhold, and his family had moved to the Rimbey district that year which was a blessing as they always were there when I needed someone to turn to. In 1950 we sold our farm and moved back to the farm at Alliance due too Sam's health as we lived too close to the swamp and it was too damp Some of the boys were old enough to farm by that time

In 1951 we had another son, Lorne, was born January 29. Sam Sprecker passed away after a lengthy illness on August 26, 1959 and I, Marie

Sam Sprecker and son Lorne

Sprecker, now reside in Strome, Alberta. The Hutterites farm the land now

Our eight children

Ruby Sprecker is now Mrs. Milton Cole. They live in Rimbey. They have four daughters, Karen, Janet, Wendy and Laurie.

Robert (Bob) Sprecker married Anna Coutierier of Alliance, Alberta. They have four daughters, Darlene, Shirley, Connie and Lynette. Robert farms 12 miles from Alliance.

John Sprecker married Lorrie Backmeier of Estevan, Sask. They have three children, Dawn, Darryl and Brent. They live at Brooks, Alberta where they are going into the Dairy Queen business in a shopping mall

Phyllis Sprecker married James Yarham of Alliance, Alberta. They have three children, Gean, Ricky and Shanna. They farm 12 miles north west of Strome, Alberta

Fay Sprecker married Ed Dembicki. They have two daughters, Debbie and Beverly. Ed works for the C.N R. They live at Kamloops, B.C.

Lorne Sprecker, the youngest, lives in Prince George, B C. He has one small daughter, Patricia. He works with a painting company

**STEVENS, WALTER J. NE 18-42-3-W5**

Walter was born near Harmony, Minnesota in 1882. He visited the Rimbey area in 1902, where his brothers Bill and Louis were farming

In 1914, he returned to Rimbey with his bride. the former Nettie Laurene Sauer, also of Harmony, Minnesota, and lived one mile south of town from 1914 to 1977

He also owned and farmed two farms in the Leedale area. The NW 24 and NE 23-41-4-W5 was south of Leedale and he farmed this land until he retired.

In 1931, he bought the NE 18-42-4-W5 from a family named Graham. These folk had come from Chicago and knew little of western farming. Because of adverse weather and the depression, Graham decided to pull out.

Walter and Nettie Stevens 40th Wedding Anniversary 1954

He approached Walt with the proposition that $1000.00 would buy his quarter of land, his livestock, harness, machinery, furniture, and even the cooking ustensils. Walt took him up on his proposition and Graham left with a suitcase of personal effects.

Walt and Nettie had four children Donald Violet, Virgil and Kieth

**STOLLINGS, EARL AND ESTHER NE 19-42-3-W5**

Earl Stollings was born to Cleophus and Biddie Stollings in Lacombe, Alberta on September 27, 1907 Earl was united in marriage to Esther Eritsland on July 9, 1932. Agnes and Esther Eritsland married the two Stollings brothers in a double wedding ceremony at the Eritaland farm home

Earl and Esther homesteaded the NE 19-42-3-W5 west of Rimbey in the early years of their married life. Two sons were born to them in Rimbey Earl joined the Forestry Service in the summer of 1943 and they moved to Saunders, Alberta. Their two daughters were born while they were living in this area. Earl served the Forestry in Foothills, moving there in 1947, Brule

Stollings. Back row left to right: Bill Lee, Doris, Lila and Paul Pierson, Earl Stolling, Jack Rotherham, Dorotha Pierson Thomson, Mrs. Margaret Lee, Jim Thomson, Esther Stolling. In front Cecil Stollings, Edith Lee, Lance Stollings

(west and north of Hinton) and Rock Lake which is close to Jasper Esther taught school in Jasper until her death in December 1971. After retiring from the Forestry in 1961, Earl was involved in maintenance at the Jasper Park Lodge. Following that he was head caretaker for the Jasper Park Schools until his retirement in 1973. Earl remarried in 1974 to Irene Classens. They moved to Kelowna, B.C. in January 1976. Earl passed away there on October 25 1976.

Esther and Earl had four children. Cecil Herman, born on November 16, 1933, in Rimbey, married Joan Woodring from Hattonford, Alberta. Cecil and Joan are living in Edmonton and have four children. Karen Marie, born September 17, 1960, Sandra Grace, born December 15, 1961 Linda Shirley, born July 28, 1963. and Susan Bernice born November 28 1968. All are living at home

Lars Samuel, born in Rimbey on April 25, 1935, married Eileen Cochrane from Edmonton Lars and Eileen have two children and are presently living in Edmonton. Darren Lee, born June 18, 1964, and Gary Dale born January 2 1966. Darren and Gary live at home

Shirley Eileen, born in Rocky Mountain House on January 10, 1946, married Chamers Whitelaw from Edmonton. Shirley and Chamers have two children and are currently living in Caroline, Alberta. James Earl, born August 9, 1965, and Laurel Joan, born June 18, 1968, are both at home.

Mavis Mary, born May 9, 1947, in Nordegg, is married to Warren Webber from Vulcan, Alberta. Mavis and Warren live in Calgary and have no family

**STOLLINGS, VICTOR AND AGNES—NW 19-42-3-W5**

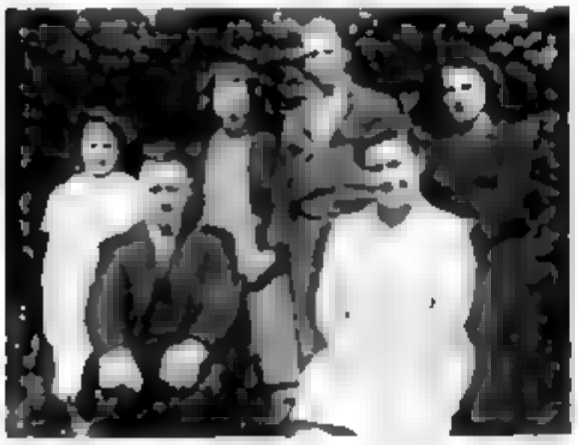
Cleophus Samuel Stollings was united in marriage to Biddie Webb in Boon County, West Virginia, in 1904. They moved to the Rimbey area soon after. He and his wife farmed in the district west of Rimbey, moving there in approximately 1905 or 1906.

Victor Hugo was born to them in Virginia on July 3, 1905. Earl, their second son was born in Lacombe on September 27, 1907. Cleophus and Biddie were divorced. Biddie moved to Calgary where she lived for a few years and then to Vernon, B.C. where she lived until her death from an automobile accident in July of 1969. Cleophus Stollings moved to Dawson Creek, B C. where he hauled water to the town residents by horse and wagon and later by truck as there was no water available in town. He passed away there in 1972.

Victor Stollings was united in marriage to Agnes Elsie Eritsland at the Eritaland farm home west of Leavieville on July 9, 1932. They lived on a farm west of Rimbey (NW 19-42-3-W5) Three children were born to them while they lived in this area. Robert Everett, born April 10, 1933, Anna Marie born May 30, 1934, and Myrtle Eleanor on December 31, 1935. In 1938, they

moved to the Eritsland farm at Lesneville for a short time while their home was being prepared on their land they purchased two and one half miles north of Alhambra. Their fourth and last child, Helen Irene, was born in the Eritsland home on January 2, 1939.

Victor and Agnes spent about 11 years on this land and had many interesting tales and events to tell from the old fishing hole in the Horseguard creek to driving horses over drifts of snow to get to school in Alhambra. The pike were so plentiful in the creek at that time that one day Agnes laid on the bank and scooped out fish with her bare hands, of course one had to be fast and perhaps the fish were a little slow! The mode of transportation to school or anywhere at that time was horses. In the winter there was the glorious "cutter" which was our "school bus" as we stopped and picked up the Bradshaws and anyone else who was on the route. There was some doubt as to which end was up sometimes as the cutter had a great reputation for tipping over on the numerous snow banks.



The Stollings family. Seated: Victor and Agnes Stolling. Standing: Left to right: Helen, Myrtle, Robert, and Anna. Taken in 1940

Victor enlisted in the army in 1941 and served until 1945. Agnes went back teaching in 1944 in Alhambra and did so until her death from cancer in 1964.

Victor married Edna von Hollen in the fall of 1965 in Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. They went from there to Pugwash, Nova Scotia where Victor passed away in 1974 and Edna in 1976.

Robert Stollings married Doris Payne from Lousana, Alberta on June 8, 1956. They live in Red Deer where Bob is employed as City Clerk and Doris works in a lawyer's office. They have two children. Bruce, born on July 11, 1958, completed his schooling in Red Deer and is currently employed there. Lynn Patricia, born November 11, 1960, is attending Grade 12 in the Lindsay Thurber High School in Red Deer.

(Anna) Marie Stollings married Norman Guenther who came to the Alhambra district from Maple Creek, Saskatchewan in 1949. They are farming south of Alhambra. Marie and Norman have five sons and two daughters. Wayne Guenther born May 5, 1953, lives at Alhambra and is employed on oil rigs in the Condor area. Brian born September 20, 1955 works at the Aquitaine Gas Plant. Brian married Laureen Holman of Cow Lake in 1974. They have two girls, Raechel two and one half years, and Lindsay one year. Randy born March 13, 1957, married Tammie Courtright of Cow Lake in 1976. They live at Rainbow Lake where Randy works for the Aquitaine Gas Plant. Ricky, born November 7, 1959, and Gary, born April 11, 1961, both live at home. Joanne, (adopted at six months) born June 1, 1963, lives at home and attends school in Condor. Terry, (adopted at one and one half years) born February 12, 1967, lives at home and also attends school in Condor.

Myrtle Stollings married James von Hollen of the Alhambra district on August 21, 1954. Myrtle and Jim have three children. Sharon Lynn born June 30, 1955, in Winnipeg, Manitoba where Jim was stationed with the RCAF. Sharon has attended University in Vancouver and is now working in the Vancouver area. James Everett born February 9, 1958, took his schooling in central Alberta and Haney, B.C. and is now employed in Red Deer. Jeffrey Ray born March 5, 1959, also took his schooling in Central Alberta and Haney and is now stationed in Petawawa, Ontario with the Armed Forces.

Helen Stollings married Cecil Andrew from the Gilbey area and they live in Blackfalds where Cec runs a Sand and Gravel business and Helen operates a Beauty Salon. Cec and Helen have three children. Diane Laura, born on October 18, 1957, took her schooling in Blackfalds and Lacombe. She then completed a year at the Red Deer College and is now employed in Edmonton. Darryl Raymond born on March 26, 1959. Darryl also went to school in Blackfalds and Lacombe. He is now employed with the family gravel business in Blackfalds. Shelley Lavonne was born on February 3, 1961. She is currently attending Grade 11 in Lacombe Composite High School.

**THE HAROLD THOMAS FAMILY — by Mrs. Harold Thomas**

Harold Thomas, eldest son of Harry E. Thomas, with his father and younger brother Boyd, came to the Ostrem home in 1929, seeking information about homesteads. I, Mabel, was only 15 years old at the time, but for us it was love at first sight. They obtained homesteads right near ours, and the next year, on October 25 1930, we were married at the Anglican Church in Fairview, Alberta. We left immediately for a wedding trip to Gilby. Our wedding dance, at the Gilby Hall, was attended by a record crowd, as I still had many friends in the area, as Harold had. A glorious, happy memory! The threshing gang chivareed us another evening, also, and brought us a carving set, which we still cherish. We also

received lovely gifts at the wedding dance, as well as good wishes and a decorated wedding cake. We returned then, to spend the winter on the homestead. We were almost caught by the train, crossing on the trestle at Smith, Alberta, as the river had frozen over and the ferry had been taken out while we were south, but the old Ford made it!

The next spring, 1931, Harold's dad had a bad attack of rheumatism, and wrote asking us to come back and help run the farm. The depression struck with full force that year, and it was not until 1934 that we again had a home of our own. The happiest event of those years was the birth of our little son, Sammy, in April, 1932, in the old Catholic Hospital at Rimbey. Dr. Sam Byers was so proud that his name was the same as his own that he carried the baby around on his rounds. Bright spots, also, were the house parties held in the neighborhood, with the Tim Sambrook home being the most frequent gathering place. The Kurzmans, Forsells, and Thomases had their turns, too! The families would get together to play whist, sing, play instruments and dance, and forget, for a while, that pile of dirty eggs to wash and sell for a nickel a doze. The warmth and the sharing helped so much.

We paid $25 down on a CPR quarter of land three miles east of Leedale, in the fall of 1933, and moved into our new log home in July, 1934. Harold still helped his dad with the farm work and ran the threshing machine every year for several years after that. Our first daughter, Judy, was born in April, 1936. With the river in flood, no doctor could get through, so she was a real "log cabin baby". A neighbor woman, Mary Lambertus, assisted in looking after us.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thomas.

Ronald was born in the Rimbey hospital in November of 1937, and Lita was born in the Eckville hospital in June, 1941. We had to wait until John Huseby had his appendix removed before Dr. Coppock could see to her. Genevieve, our youngest daughter, born a few minutes before midnight, October 29, 1949, brought Dr. George Boorman from his warm bed.

Harold, meantime, had discontinued active farming, leaving that to the children and I, as he began working on the County of Ponoka Road Building Crew. In 1950 he became foreman of his crew, and worked at that job until 1962. We moved to the Joe Burchnall place in 1946, selling our CPR quarter to Walter and Mary Hayward, after he had returned from overseas. We lived on our farm, three miles west and a mile south of Rimbey until moving to Red Deer in 1962. Harold, again changing careers, worked as a male attendant at Deerhome Institute until his retirement in 1973. In the following year we sold our home east of Red Deer and bought a lovely acre and a mobile home near Shuswap Lake, at Scotch Creek, B.C.

Our son Sam and his wife, Joan, are psychiatric nurses at the general hospital, in Calgary. Their eldest daughter, Karen, is married to D. D. Ferguson while Carol still lives at home and attends high school. Judy (Mrs. J. A. Vandenbrink), is manager of the Kamloops Zoo and Wildlife Park. Her husband is a security guard at the Provincial Jail. Ron is travelling in eastern Canada. Judy's three children, Dan, Tom and Debby are grown, and out on their own now. Lita and her husband, Don Ostapovich, an electrician, live eight miles from Chase. They have two sons, Allen and Harold, both at home.

Genevieve and her husband, Dan Bratton, have just completed university, have their teaching credentials, and hope to come west soon, to make their dreams come true, as we have, "Somewhere in the West".

**THE VISGER FAMILY — SW 10-42-3-W5 — Written by Mrs. L. Visger**

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Visger first settled in the Leedale district, working on the Pete Mulback farm in the spring of 1922. Lyle Visger was born in Baldwinsville, New York State, and had come to Canada as a young man, working in the Lacombe area. It was there that he met and married Zerona Wagner, whose parents, Mrs. and Mrs. James Wagner had come from Nova Scotia to Alberta in 1910, with three children: James, now of Kelowna, B.C., Zerola, and Zerella, now Mrs. Jack Thompson of Lacombe — to homestead in the Willesden Green district.

After Mr. and Mrs. Visger's marriage in 1917, they worked in the Calgary and Rosebud areas, then planned to homestead in the Willesden

The Visger house and yard after being landscaped. It includes the original home built by Harold Chinneck in 1908 or 1909. S.E 18-42-3W5

Green district. There they built a log cabin, but that spring of 1922, they with their small daughter, Alberta, moved to the farm of Pete Mulback of Leedale, where they remained for two years. Their first son, Robert, was born soon after moving to the Leedale district. Then they rented several farms: the Rostad place, the Cumberland place, the Coverdale place (four miles south-west of Rimbey) and back to the Leedale area on the Aldridge place for five years. During these years five more children were born: Elva, Nora, Dale, Joan and Bonnie.

The Visgers decided it was time to have a farm of their own and bought the Harold Chinneck place (SE 18-42-3-W5). Henry Vellieux helped clear the land and Minx Brothers did the breaking. The old log house had long been vacant except as a place of shade and refuge from the flies for the range horses. As a very temporary house, until they had time to build, the old log house was repaired, replacing some of the logs, and making a new floor, windows, etc. and the house was ready for the family to move in. With many renovations and additions through the years, the old house made a good 'home' for another 28 years, when the Visgers sold the farm and retired in Bentley village in 1962

Like so many families during the depression, when prices for produce were almost nil, the Visgers had to be resourceful to feed and clothe a growing family. They found it a challenge to invent recipes which would produce good meals from what could be grown, leaving the cream cheque for such things as shoes, coal oil, sugar, matches, flour and salt. Flour sacks were used to make sheets, pillow slips, dish-towels and many garments.

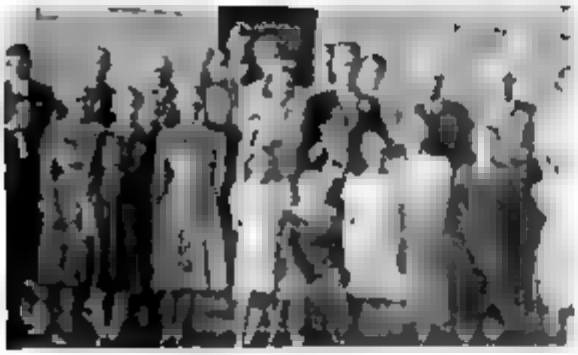
Lyle had a meat route and every week he would butcher a veal or beef in the evening and deliver it the next day. Mrs. Visger set up a large vats and presses to make cheese which was sold on the route. There wasn't much money in it but an extra dollar or two helped a lot in those hard times. In winter, Lyle and Robert took a four-

Lyle Visger with the walking plough, helping build the road by the Visger place. Earth was moved with slips and fresno pulled by fourhorse teams. Swampy places had to be corduroyed.

horse team and drove west to make dry tamarack fence-posts, which took three days, then several more days sometimes to deliver them as far away as Stettler. Lyle served as weed inspector, and travelled a stallion for Todd Hopper and also worked for O. B. Moore.

Most children rode horseback up to four miles to the Leedale School, except the younger ones who went to the Midland School when it was opened in 1940. The horses must have appreciated the new Midland school as much as anyone!

Leedale school had an enrollment of as high as 50 at one time. We remember Miss Eritsland (Mrs. Von Tettenborn) doing a super job of teaching the three R's and still managing to read to the children, teach them to love and memorize poetry, and put on most excellent Christmas Concerts in the Leedale Hall, which took weeks of rehearsing. Her concerts were attended by people from many other districts as well as from Leedale. She cheerfully stayed after regular school hours to help Grade 9 and 10 and didn't slight any of her duties because she had too much to do



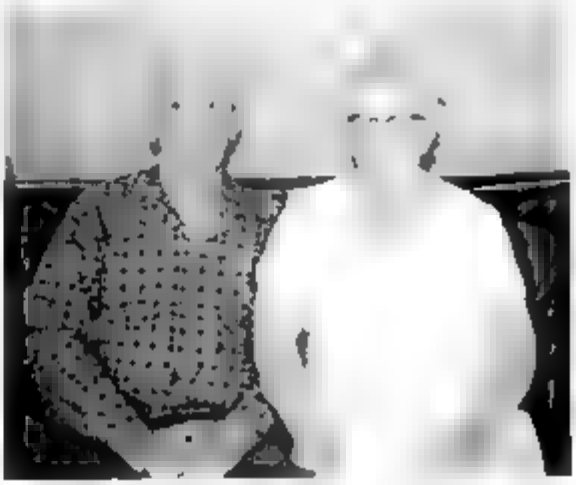
The Visger Family. Picture taken at the wedding of Alberta and Floyd Smith in 1943. Back row: Sam Sprecker, Pastor Walker, Oscar Brown, Nora Visger, Elva Visger, Alberta and Floyd Smith, Ernest Hayward, Lyle Visger, Bertha Hayward, Front row: Mrs Sprecker, Mrs. Walker, Beatrice Brown, Bonnie Visger, Grandma Wagner (Mrs. Visger's mother), Joan Visger, Mrs. Hayward, Mrs L. Visger, Marjorie Brown.

In 1937, Leedale took a big step forward when Leedale High school was opened in the old Leedale Store, which had been run by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lindsay. It was formerly the Bill Lee Store and before that, called Wittenburg Post Office and Store. The teacher had an apartment in the back of the building. Several threshing bunk houses were moved into Leedale, behind Tarrabain's store and used for bachelor apartments by a number of girls, some of them were: the Jackman girls (Myrtle and Jeanie), Ruth Belt, Elsie Johnson, Alberta and Elva Visger, Floy and Beatrice Brown, Mildred Walker and Fern Carmichael.

Elva, Nora, Dale, Joan and Bonnie received most of their High Schooling at Canadian Union College at Lacombe. Among Mrs. Visger's projects to help the young folks to finance their college expenses was raising turkeys, which roosted in the trees at night. Mrs. Visger took some visitors out in the evening, and shining a flashlight on the turkeys high in the branches, said "Who said, 'Money doesn't grow on trees'?"

In the early days frost was more prevalent and it was hard to grow grain that could be cut before frost. Late frosts in the spring sometimes cut down potatoes and corn in June and often in the end of August frost would finish the growth of potatoes before they finished growing. In 1951, on May 28, at the time of Joan's marriage to Calvin Ferguson, the snow was so deep that a tractor was needed to pull cars which had gotten stuck on their way to the wedding in the Free Methodist Church near the Leedale school.

In the years that the Visger children were teenagers, they did not lack entertainment, although there was no car, no gravelled roads, no T.V., or telephone. They made their own fun, having the neighbors in and playing games and tricks. In the winter they often had sleighriding parties with the Spreckers, Moores, Haywards and Simmons. Even when it was 40 degrees below Fahrenheit, they did not seem to know it was cold.



Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Visger taken in 1963

Robert Visger with his nephew, Darryl Visger in 1952

In March of 1962 Robert suddenly passed away and that spring Mr. and Mrs. Visger had an auction sale and sold the farm to Mr. Floris Looy, and moved to Bentley. Mr. Visger died in 1966.

In 1973, Mrs. Visger moved to British Columbia where she lives in a trailer by the home of her daughter Alberta and her husband Floyd Smith near Armstrong. They have one son and five daughters. Also living nearby are daughter Elva and her husband John Rice who have two boys and two girls plus three foster children, and her daughter Joan and her husband Calvin Ferguson who have three boys. Dale, with his wife and two sons spent a four year term teaching at Bangalore, India. At present (in 1977) he is studying for his doctorate in Vocational Education at Oregon State University and will be teaching

at Walla Walla College in Washington. Nora married Harvey Simmons and they have since lived in Vulcan, Alberta with their four daughters. Bonnie is married to Vernon Triebwasser and they live in Calgary with their three sons and one daughter.

**WEITZ, ADAM AND MARY—by Ray Weitz**

Mr and Mrs. Adam Weitz traded their home in Calgary for one half section of land 'then' in the Potter Creek District now in the Midland district in the winter of 1932-1933. They moved their family of six children Florence, Mary, Raymond, and Jacob (twins), Lorraine and Barbara in April of 1933. Ivan was born in 1935.

The furniture was moved in April and a week later we bought eight head of milk cows. The truck got as far as Forshee and got stuck so we unloaded the cows and started for the farm. The next morning it was still raining. The road from Forshee to Rimbey had no gravel so we arrived home late that night, wet, tired, and hungry. This was beautiful country, trees of many kinds small bushes and beautiful flowers of all kinds no pollution). No road, just a trail for the last three miles.

Jacob, Raymond, Lorraine and Barbara started school in Potter Creek school. Jacob in Grade five, Raymond in Grade 8, Lorraine in Grade 1 and Barbara in Grade 3. Raymond wrote his Grade 8 Departmental exams four subjects in Leedale school, 10 miles round trip on horse back, until Miss Margaret Lambertus got the remaining four subjects from the Department of Education.

We made many friends in the neighborhood and other school districts which were sparsely settled. We started to clear land by hand because we had no money for brush cutting. It was really hard work. That first summer the only recreation we had was to play soft ball and get acquainted with the neighborhood which was sparsely settled. Then later on in the summer we got acquainted with other districts and organized the first softball team which was called the 'Potter Creek Blue Devils' until the outbreak of World War II. We had many entertaining Sunday ball games, tournaments and get togethers with Midland, Potter Creek and Fuller school districts.

In the spring of 1934 Sander Thompson, the Shaw family, the McDonald family, the Sam Wilson family, the Joe Lester family and the Melvin Simmons family along with the old timers got together with Councillor and the Government and got the O.K. to build a school. Where they got the name of Midland district I do not know. Someone who helped build the school or the councillor would know. We were then transferred to the Midland district. Lorraine, Barbara, and Ivan attended school there and remember Ruth Stevens, Mr. Demanchuk and Mrs. Benson who were teachers.

The winters were long and very cold. We cut

The Weitz Family taken in 1948. Front row left to right Lorraine, Ivan, and Barbara. Back row left to right Florence, Adam and Mary Weitz (parents), Ray, Mary and John.

many cords of wood for the stove and heater to keep us warm during the winter. As far as I can remember there were a few blizzards that blocked the roads for a few days, if you were in good with the Councillor he saw that your roads were plowed out. Many times while hauling hay or staw for feed the sleigh would upset a couple of times which made it a long hard day. I remember one spring after a lot of snow the winter before, the Blindman River overflowed its banks, I started for town on foot, got a ride from Henry (Frenchy) Velleux. When we got to the foot of the Darby hill on the east side, the water was about two feet high and we hesitated for awhile whether to continue or turn back. Henry said the old team was pretty reliable so we continued. Everything went O.K. till we rounded the bend. The water there was up to the horses bellies and we couldn't turn around so we went on. The current got swifter the closer we got to the bridge. The horses started to go with the stream and finally the horse on the right slipped down the embankment and took the democrat with him. I had no choice but to jump. When I hit bottom the water was up to my neck and I scrambled for my life and finally made it back to the road bed. The water was above my waist. Luckily the horses didn't panic. We got them unhitched, turned around and headed homeward. When we got to the Beatty corner I got off and walked four miles north to the water tank then two miles east and four miles south to town. I finally ended up in town about supper-time soaking wet. "It was quite an experience."

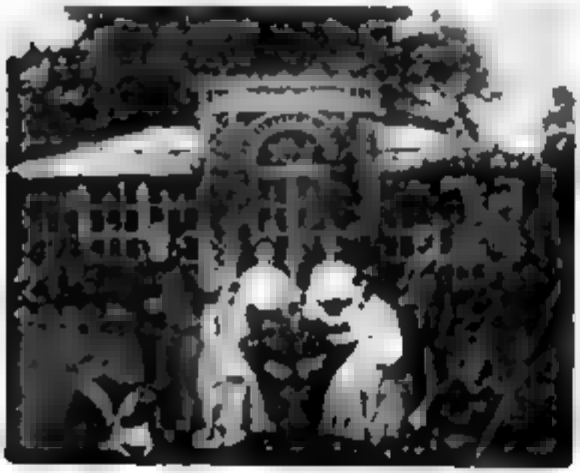
There were several Christain families which helped the Community stay together.

I (Ray) was married in March 1945 to Fern Knight of Willisden Green school district. We left the Midland school district in 1945 for Calgary and have been back several times since. I still refer to Rimbey as my home town.

**THE WILLIAMS FAMILIES — by Joan Williams Freeman**

Richard — SW 20-42-3-W5 1906
Bertram — NW 16-42-3-W5 1906
William — NW 21-42-3-W5 1906
Ernest Prosser — SE 20-42-3-W5 1911
Tom Cooke — NE 20-42-3-W5 1911
George (Harry) Williams — SW 16-42-3-W5 1916

In the early 1900's three sons of George Williams of Bristol, England (the same place as John Cabot had sailed from) sailed to Canada and worked in Manitoba for a year and then came to Rimbey area in 1906.



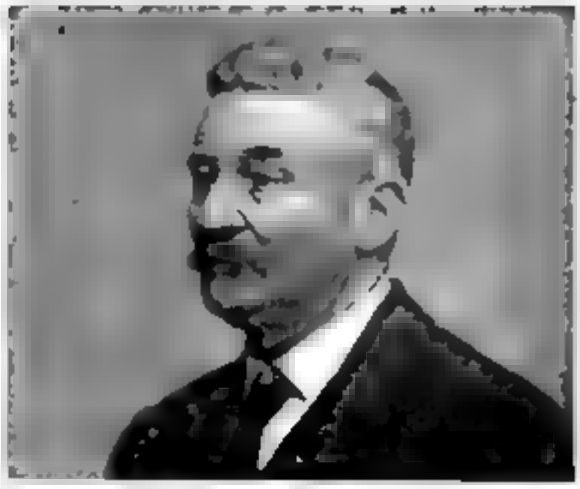
The George Williams Family in Hanburg, Ont. Left to right standing is Bertram, Edith, Lillian, and George (Harry). Sitting left to right. Flora, George (father) and Winnifred. On the ground left is William (Billy) right is Richard (Dick)

These sons were William, Bertram, and Richard, better known as Billy, Bert and Dick. They were followed in 1911 by a cousin, Ernest Prosser and his wife Cashie; Ernest's cousin Tom Cooke with his family, Ada Browne family and Tom Cooke's son William and wife and the younger son, Charlie.

All of these except Harold Browne settled in what was then known as the Potter Creek area and later a part became the Midland area.

A sister, Winifred Williams, also came out to housekeep for the brothers and later married Leonard Taylor. Dick Williams, Ernest Prosser and Tom Cooke took up land on one section. Dick's was the SW 20-42-3-W5, Ernest Prosser the NE of 20 and Tom Cooke the NE of 20, Bert and Billy lived on the NW 21-42-3-W5 with their sister. The place then became known as the Taylor place. Bert Williams finally settled on the NW 16-42-3-W5.

Mrs. Prosser had taught school in Bristol, England, and believed in discipline. Two young boys untied her horse one day and chased it down the road, while she was arranging for an entertainment at the Potter Creek school. She lost no time finding a switch and taking them over her knee, warmed them soundly.



Ernest Prosser Cousin of the Williams, who was a fine Musician, and had built an organ. The William's were all very musical

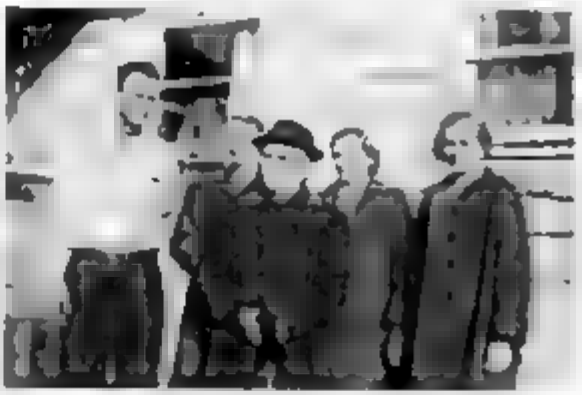
Mrs. Prosser was chosen one of the teachers to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria, which was quite an honor.

In 1915 Billy and Dick Williams and Leonard Taylor all joined the army. Due to a serious illness suffered in the Boer War in 1899 George (Harry) was not allowed to join His Majesty's forces so he also came to Canada in 1916 and took over Francis Marshalls homestead on SW 16-42-3-W5. His wife and four children came in September 1919.

Billy married the widow of Nick Nicholson. Mabel Violet, who had three children. The eldest of Mabel Violet's married Billy's brother, Bert. Isabella married Hugh Maclean of Rimbey, and Jack moved to British Columbia soon after. Billy had one son, Douglas, of Rimbey who had no children.

Dick did not return to Rimbey but went to Viking and married Winnifred Brown. There were three sons, Keith, George, and Bernard and two daughters Dorthy and June, all but Keith living in Alberta.

Bert and Mabel had four children, Eric of



Mabel Williams on her 80th birthday, taken in 1968. Her family Joan, Barbara, Mother Mabel, Helen and Norton

Nanaimo with three children, Daphne in Portland, Oregon with two children; Murle. of Powell River with two children and Ethel of Nanaimo with four children. Bert moved to Nanaimo several years ago and passed away in 1966. His daughters, Daphne, and Muriel attended the Midland school.

Winnifred (Williams) and Leonard Clower Taylor who was at one time Justice of the Peace in Rocky Mountain House before 1914 and also Superintendent of Hobbema Indian Reserve in 1920.

Winnifred (Williams) Taylor had two girls and a boy The youngest daughter, Audrey, was the first white baby to be born at Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

She married Sander Thompson of the Midland district and lived on the NE 17-42-3-W5 for some years before moving to Creston, B.C

**GEORGE HENRY EDWARD (HARRY) AND MABEL WILLIAMS — SW 16-42-3-W5**

Harry Williams was a veteran of the 1899 Boer War and because of a tropical fever he contracted during this war he was unable to join His Majesty's forces in the first World War

Three of his brothers had gone to Canada early in the 1900's and in 1916 he followed them.

He took over the Francis Marshall homestead on SW 16-42-3-W5 which joined his brothers land.

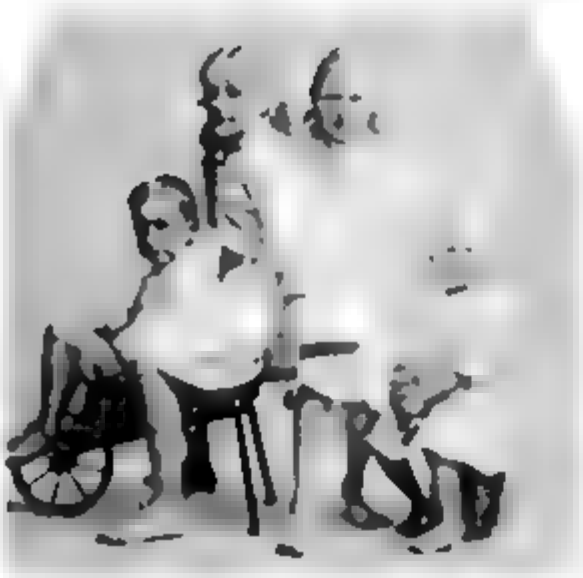
He freighted goods from Lacombe to Rimbey in 1918-1919 with his team Prince and Bess bought from Mel Sheppard of Rimbey

In September 1919 he was joined by his wife Mabel and four children, Barbara, Joan, Norton and Helen. They farmed there until Harry died in 1936. The farm was then taken over by his son Norton till he joined the army in 1943 in World War II. He returned in 1945, bought another quarter and continued farming until he passed away in February 1976 The family farm and

Taken in 1918. The small shack on the east is Francis Marshall's original home still standing. Harry and Mabel Wilkan s home and their pride and joy the garden they took many prizes at the Rimbey Fair

Mabel (Wetmore) Williams wife of Harry She had an excellent Musical education and was also a painter in oils and water colors.

George Henry Edward (Harry) Williams.



Passport photo taken in 1918 of Harry William's children; Helen, Barbara, Joan, and Norton

Norton s are now owned by a nephew Terence Freeman.

Harry Williams' daughter, Barbara became Mrs. Gus Nelson of Edgerton. She taught at the Fuller school a short time Also at Ricinus before going to Wainwright She has four children and nine grandchildren.

Joan taught at the Iola school for four years and married one of the pioneers of that area, Samuel Freeman. They have seven children and 19 grandchildren, one of which is deceased.

Helen married a fox farmer from Prince Edward Island. They moved to British Columbia and are now in Crescent Beach, B C. There are three children and seven grandchildren.

Joan's husband, Sam, died in 1963 and Joan lives on the farm with her unmarried son Philip

Of the others, Ralph is in Texas, Patricia at Witheroe, Terence at High Level, (Mayor) Gladys a Doctor in Peace River, Beatrice married a surveyor in B C., Sandra is in Calgary, her husband is now an electrician and spent many years in the army

Deaths: Harold Browne, 1929; Tom Cooke (father-in-law of Harold), 1929, Mrs. Billy Williams (Mabel Violet), 1944; Mr George (Harry) Williams, 1936, Mr. Ernest Prosser and Mrs Prosser, 1946; Mrs. Harry (Mabel) Williams, 1952, Billy Williams and twin sister Lillian, 1965, Winnifred (Williams) Taylor, 1968, Sam Freeman (husband of Joan Williams), 1963, Norton Williams, 1976, Mrs. Bert (Mabel Grace) Williams, 1977

**GEORGE HENRY NORTON WILLIAMS — NW 9-42-3-W5**

George Henry Norton Williams was born in Bristol, England and came to Canada in

George Henry Norton Williams: Norton's first car and his pride and joy, the bonded buckskin mare

September 1919 with his mother Mabel Williams, and sisters, Barbara, Joan and Helen. His father George (Harry) Williams had come over in 1916 when he settled on the SW 16-42-3-W5 where they resided until 1936 when his father passed away

Norton then took over the farm until 1943 when he joined the army in the World War II.

He served all through the Italian campaign His job was to service the tanks and bring them to the front lines and of course was a prime target for the enemy He also served in Belgium, Holland and France until the end of the war

He had seven medals for different campaigns. He returned to the home farm in 1945 and bought the Mike Szoke farm formerly owned by Bert Horne which was the NW 9-42-3-W5 with two years in between, working on gas lines in central Alberta

Norton died in February 1976 due to a fire that destroyed the log home. The medals that he so bravely earned were also destroyed in the fire and though retrieved were unidentifiable

The farm and the family farm are now owned by a nephew, Terence Freeman of High Level.

**WILSON, SAM AND SOPHIE**

Sam Wilson was born in Fosston, Minnesota, September 5, 1891. He married the former Sophie Krogstad. They moved to Canada in 1916 and homesteaded at Frontier, Saskatchewan

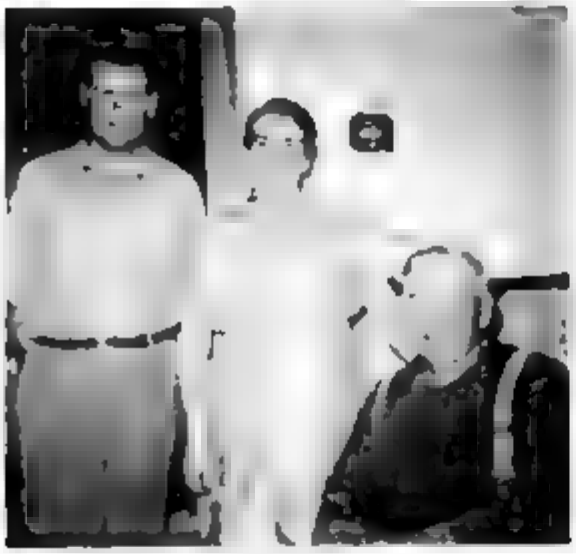
Then in 1938, when so many from the dust bowls in Saskatchewan came to this area Sam, Sophie and son, Stanford made the move in a 1936 Model T truck. They also had a car

They bought the NE 5-42-3-W5 but stayed with Sophie's brother and wife (Henry and Tillie Krogstad) for three weeks until they got settled

Stanford attended the Midland School that opened in 1940

Sam farmed until 1966 and then he and Sophie retired to Rimbey Stanford then took over the farm

They celebrated their 48th anniversary in November 1968. Sam passed away in July 1969 at the age of 77 years



Stanford with parents Sophie and Sam Wilson October 1956

Stanford married the former Kathleen Spetz of Wetaskiwin. She had been employed at the Senior Citizens Lodge there for 18 years. They lived on the farm until 1975, when they had a sale and moved to Erickson B C , taking Sophie with them.

Stanford and Kathleen were blessed with a son, Martin Stanford, in 1976.

They still own the farm but have it rented out.

**MIDLAND'S SANDS OF TIME**

Since the turn of the 19th century many pioneers have come and gone. The sands of time has now covered or changed the mark they made in this area and this is called progress.

With much difficulty we have searched to recover this history of many of our early pioneers. Others are still with us to relate their own interesting story which at best, was a hard life. It took the true pioneers with strong hearts, the courage and determination to surge on and exist in an unknown land. There were many draw backs but the settlers worked together to achieve the mere necessities and carry on despite storms and crop failures, disease and death. In times of trouble the settlers were concerned for one another and the warmth of true friendship was evident at all times.

With the passing of time there are some of these early settlers that we can no longer regain contact. Although we have no history or information available they undoubtly deserve honorable mention.

Of those who came early to this area and not previously mentioned in Township 42 Range 4 West of the 5th were J. W. Ferguson who filed on the SE of 12 on March 9, 1906 and H. Mason on the northeast quarter, no date or history found. Wm. Murby who lived on the SE 24 around 1912. Bodicoat on the NE 24 about the same time. James Brown on the SE 25, no further information and A. Vanigan who lived on the SE of 1 in the 1930 s. Mr. and Mrs. T. Upton also lived on the land for a few years. They had a daughter Aileen who attended Leedale High School in 1939. They had a sale and left shortly after.

Then in Range 3 West of 5, which is the bigger portion of the district, David Finch filed on the SW of 6 on June 1, 1906 and Richard Wilson filed on the NW quarter in the same section on August 27, 1907. P. G. Might also lived on this land but no dates or history was found.

During the 1930's Mr. and Mrs. Art Dupras and family lived there. They had a family of three children. Mrs. Dupras now lives in Brantford, Ontario but Art passed away some years back.

Angus McDonald another old timer farmed the E of 17 with a Frank Peters about 1915. Francis Marshall homesteaded the SW 16 but it was taken over by Harry Williams in 1916.

A man by the name of Phipps lived on the NW of 9 and Bert Horne had the SW quarter. Then C. Murphy owned the SW 9 and SE of 8. C. Harris lived on the NE of 8.

Arthur and Norris Willets homesteaded the E ½ of 4 in 1907 and 1908. Their histories will appear in the Leedale section, as well as Harold Thomas who lived on the SE of 5. Percy Thomas who lived on the NW of 5 and their history will be in the Andrew's history.

Then there are a few who spent some time in the district that we received no histories from but they did own land here and contributed to the history. Steven Kemp lived on the SE of 30 for several years. He was a bachelor but took a lot of pride in his little shack. The board floors were scrubbed clean and white and the wood cook stove was polished until your reflection could be seen in it. Mr. Kemp was a very ambitious, hard working man. During the winter months he would haul the big straw piles, piled high by the old threshing machine, out to the field with his team and stone boat where he spread it back on the land. Next fall the crop was evidence that his work was not in vain. On his retirement the land was sold to Art and Phyllis Green who came from Calgary and bought the adjoining quarter to the west. They have three boys. Wayne and his wife Gail live in Rimbey, Lawrence and his wife Gloria have a wee son and live in Calgary and Mark is still at home. They are now living in Rimbey.

Then across the road Art and Eileen (nee Sorenson) Ellertson lived on the NE of 19. They had two girls and two boys: Myrna, Dale, Grant and Linda. They later moved their house into Rimbey. The family is now all married. Ralph and Lily Rolfsen and family also lived there and the place is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brown and family of Calgary.

Sylvannus and Ethel Kieth and family, two

sons Jim and Rod, and a daughter Jerry lived on the NW 20 for awhile but moved into Rimbey where Syl was a partner in a garage and Ethel did hairdressing. They now live in Fort McMurray George and Isabel Paterson now own this land, also another half section. They have three sons, Isabel works as matron at the Rimbey General Hospital.

Charlie Brown owned the E of 20 and NW of 21 He comes from jolly old England and is an asset to the teaching staff at the Rimbey Junior High School. He sold the SE of 20 to Dale and Linda Hatala who also owns the SW 21 formerly owned by R. M. McLeod. They have three children, Tracy, Shawn and Tammy and live three miles west of Rimbey

Mr and Mrs Bordenik once lived on the SE of 20. Their house burned down there and they moved into the Fred Shaw house until spring and then they left the district

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Kish and Bill and Lorraine Giesbrecht and family lived on the NE 16. This quarter is now owned by Herman and Alice Odenbach. They have a son Ron and a daughter Marlaine who are both married

Mr. and Mrs. Sander Thompson once lived on the NE 17 They sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crowell and moved to British Columbia. The Crowells then sold to J. J Purdy and now live in Leduc

Guy Graham, an american, bought the NE 18 from Frank Laye, but after a year of farming sold out and went back to the states. W Stevens bought the land and then sold it to Sam Sprecker, then Mr and Mrs. Art Deacon and family bought it When they moved away Robert Visger purchased it and the present owner is Floris Looy

The Lazzari family lived on the NE of 8 for a short time They returned to Bowden where they came from

Bill and Marls Marles lives on the NW of 6. They came here from British Columbia. There family is all married. They have a son Les and two daughters Peggy and Linda.

Lawrence and Ivy Simmons own the W of 5. They have a family of seven children· Gail, Dwayne, Darlene and Rick are away from home. Terry, Margaret and Tammy are still at home.

Bud and Jodi Northup and two children Terry and Tonya have an acreage on the SW of 6. They came here from the States about five years ago.

Mr and Mrs. Merlin Becker and family live on the acreage on the NW 1. The rest of the quarter is owned by Dolman Brothers

Mr. and Mrs. Del Brown and family bought the W½ of 12 in Range 4 and the SW 7 in Range 3. They live in the U.S.A., but come up to the farm in the summer

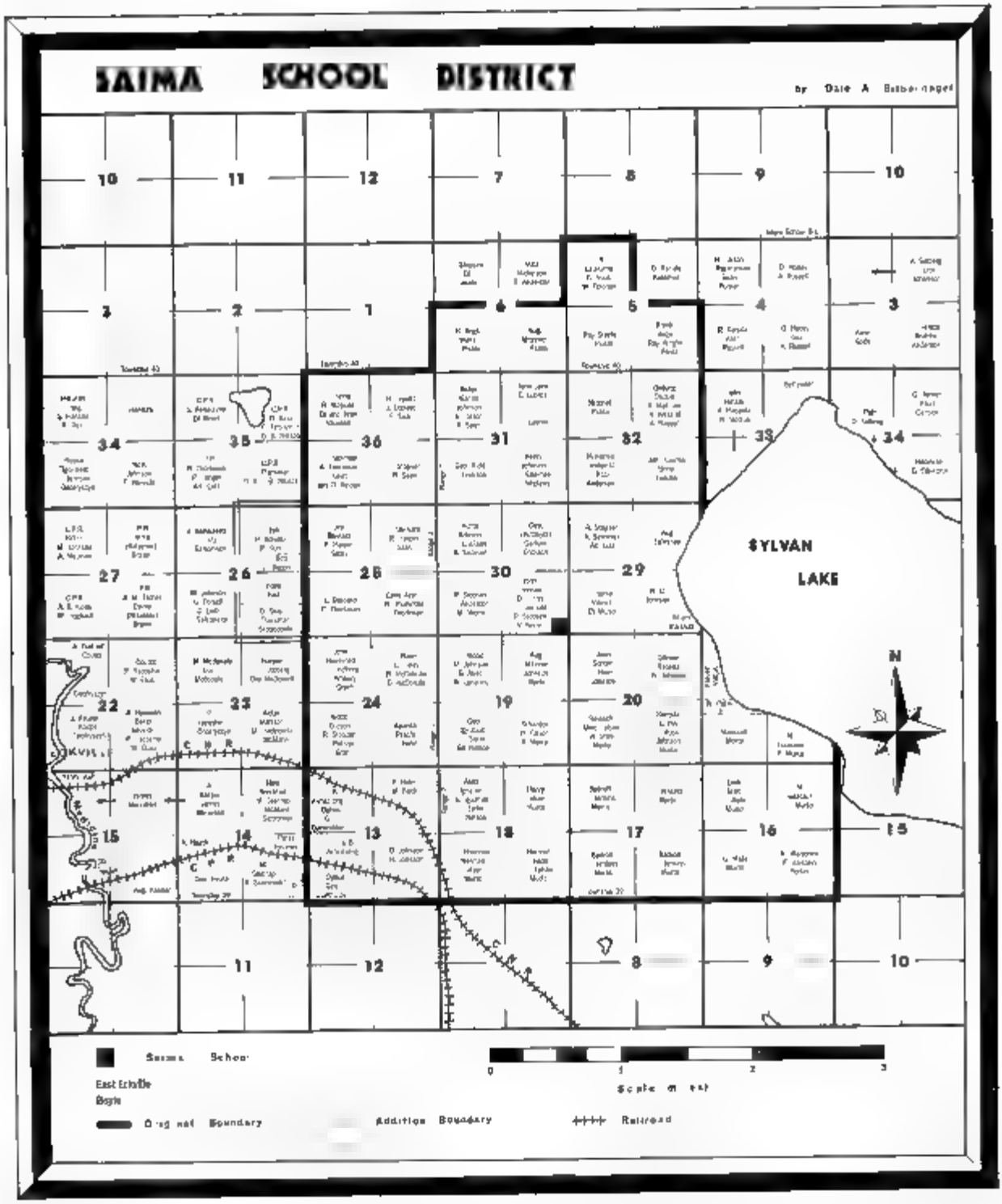
Bob and Vivan Kilpatrick and the three children lived on the east 80 acres of SE 6. They now live in Rocky Mountain House.

There are quite a few who owned land, or now own land in the area but do not reside here. Of these are Scott Willets, W I. Clevenger, K. M. Vig, Eric Masuch, Gordon Ferguson, R. F Klassen, Don Smith, Terence Freeman, John Grutterink, John and Frank Tkaick, J. C. May, Burns Kilpatrick, Clarence Anderson and Dale Hatala

We have a few newcomers, namely Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wells on SE 6 Mr and Mrs. Brian Jordan and wee daughter Jive on the NE of 5, Mr and Mrs. Ray Johnson and family and Mr. and Mrs. W Hough and family each have 80 acres on the NE 6.

I sincerely hope that none have been forgotten but hope you will bear with me if such is the case. Each one has played a part in the history of the district and as the next century approaches and the sand glass empties, many of us will also become history and the generations to follow will carry the knowledge forward into the unknown as did our pioneers.

This book will hold the records and evidence that we did indeed, live during this century


SAIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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# Saima

**MATT ANDERSON — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Matt Anderson was born in Harma, Finland Matt was a bachelor who lived in a shanty on the Leukumia farm He had a peg leg (losing his leg in a mining accident) but this didn't hold him back for he made his living repairing shoes and making harness.

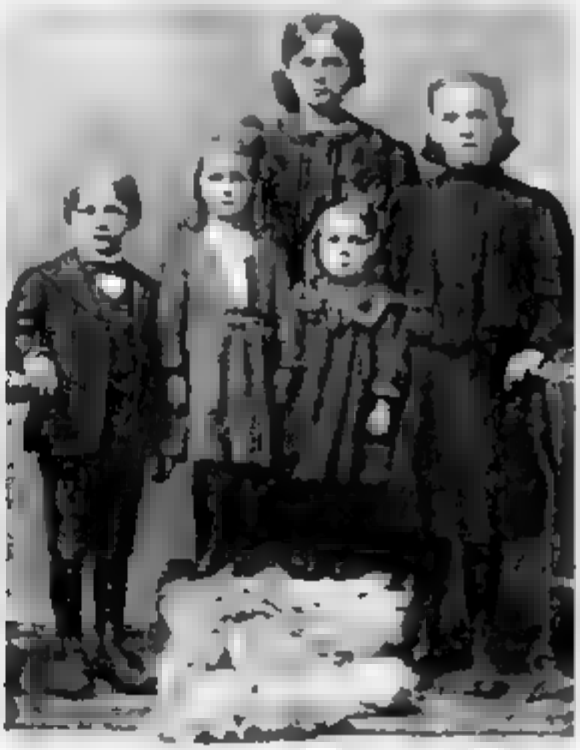
He passed away in the Bentley hospital and is buried in the Bentley cemetery

**ANGLE, CHARLES AND MARY — by Agnes Bardenhagen**

Charles and Mary Angle and family came from Butte, Montana in 1910. Their homestead was northeast of Eckville and is now the Psikla Farm. Mr. Angle had come ahead of his family to clear some land and build a home. He built a large log cabin, one room, which would house the family of seven. Mary Angle came up by train in the summer with her three children, Henry Helen and Esther Johnson, from her marriage to Matt Johnson. Her two eldest daughters, Ida and Lydia, remained in Butte. Ida was married to John Fordyce and Lydia later married his brother, and lived in Deer Lodge, Montana. Mrs Angle also brought with her two stepchildren, Annie and Henry Angle. Mr Angle's other son Jack had died from diphtheria at an early age in Butte.

Times were very hard and Esther recalls that the family had only one horse and one ox, which they hitched together as a team to do the farm

Charles and Mary Angle



Johnson Children taken in Butte, 1906. Left to right: Henry, Helen, Lydia, Esther and Ida

work. Esther attended the Sarma School but Helen, having had some schooling in Butte, had to help at home and also go out to work for neighbors

Charles Angle died in 1919. Mary remained on the homestead with Henry and Esther for a while. Helen married Ole Bardenhagen in 1919 and they started farming in the Gilby district. The Angle farm was sold to the Wells family and later to Louis Pskla. Mary Angle then made her home with Helen and Ole on their farm at Gilby. Henry and Annie Angle left Eckville and lived in Saskatchewan.

Henry Johnson married Leah Wells and they travelled a good deal. They lived in Calgary and in Vulcan, Alberta. They also lived for several years in Fairbanks, Alaska, and finally settled in Missoula, Montana where they are now retired.

Esther Johnson worked as a telephone operator in Drumheller where she met and married Sid Paston. They moved back to Eckville and Sid operated a garage which is now known as Eckville Motors. Their marriage ended in divorce and Esther then took charge of the Eckville telephone office, which she managed for ten years. Her mother lived with her during this time. In January, 1946, Esther married Bill Oliver and moved to a farm at Warner, Alberta, where they farmed until their retirement in 1966. They then lived for one year in Victoria, B.C. and then moved back to Red Deer. Mr. Oliver died in 1974 and Esther now lives in the Eckville Manor House. After Esther's second marriage Mary Angle lived with Ole and Helen Bardenhagen until her death in 1951.

Ida Fordyce passed away in Butte, Montana. Lydia Fordyce had one son, Emil, who passed away in a Veteran's Hospital in Helena, Montana. Lydia had a stroke and is presently in the Deer Lodge Nursing Home, in Deer Lodge, Montana.

Henry and Leah Johnson had one daughter, Roberta, and a grandson, Chad, who resides in Idaho. Roberta is now Mrs. Larry Nisle.

Helen and Ole Bardenhagen farmed for several years in the Gilby district, then moved into Eckville in 1935 where Ole went into the livestock business and Helen ran a boarding house. Ole passed away in 1958 and Helen in 196[illegible].

Ole and Helen had one son, Jack, who still resides in Eckville. He married Agnes Sveinson in 1950. Agnes had come to nurse at the Eckville Hospital in 1948. She resumed her nursing career after having her family, and is presently Director of Nursing at the Eckville Hospital. Their three children were Bill, who is still living at home; Beverly, who resides in Yellowknife, N.W.T.; and Donald, who married Beverly Smith in 1975. They have a son, Alan Donald, and they live in Eckville.

**THE ANTTI (ANDREW) BELLIKKA FAMILY — By Mary Moss**

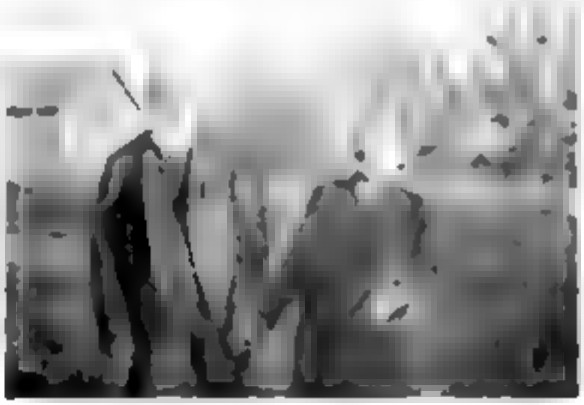
Antti Bellikka, with his wife, Saara, and children immigrated to the U.S.A. from Hango, Finland on the vessel Pennsylvania, arriving in New York on the 16th of June, 1904. The family lived in the U.S.A. until 1916 when they emmigrated from Minnesota to Shaunavon Saskatchewan. In 1918 they moved to Sylvan Lake, Alberta and moved to the Eckville district in 1926.

They lived north of Eckville about three miles for several years on a rented farm owned by the Hall sisters. They worked hard on the land, farming with horses. They raised hogs and chickens, and milked cows and sold cream. Whoever has hatched chicks in an incubator knows what it's like to be a foster mother to a flock of chicks! Mary found out what a racket they made. You couldn't build a fence high enough to keep them away from under your feet when they heard your voice.

The years passed until the folks got too old and tired to work a farm. They bought a small place about three miles east of Eckville. Mr. Bellikka was a Lutheran Minister and used to travel with horse and buggy throughout the countryside to hold church services in the homes where the people came to listen and heard the word of God. In the earlier years Mrs. Bellikka served as a mid-wife in the neighborhood.

Mr. Bellikka learned the trade of making shoes (shoe-pacs) and skis in the old country. He sewed together many a pair of shoe-pacs for the family and others. The children wore shoe-pacs to school in the wintertime and they were teased by the other children as the pacs had a turn on the toe. The toe curled up somewhat, but your feet never froze in them. He made many a pair of skis also, and there are still two pair of them in Arthur's family.

During the hungry thirties, when they lived east of Eckville, the railroad ran just past their place. It was a common sight to see the so-called hobos riding on the top of box cars. They rode the rails from town to town looking for work. Many a man would jump off the car when the train slowed down at the crossing to go to the house to ask for something to eat as they were hungry. (No work, no food.) It wasn't easy. Mrs. Bellikka



Mr. and Mrs. Bellikka. Taken in 1946

fed them. Some asked to work for their meal, and some just accepted the hand-out and went on their way to the next place. Yes, those were hard times, and yet the children remember the good times. There was always food on the table. We remember the blueberries, cranberries and saskatoons, and always enjoyed the picking times

The work was hard but the children had to work and learn to help Mom and Dad as there was no money to hire help. These were hard times, and, all in all, they were pretty good times. Children learned what life was really all about, "give and take", the good with the bad! It taught the children responsibility and to make the best of what one had

Mother Bellikka passed away in 1950 and Father Bellikka later was married to Mrs. Hilda Heikkinen from Sylvan Lake. Mr Bellikka sold his little place and bought a house in Sylvan Lake and moved there with his second wife. Mr and Mrs Bellikka are buried in the Eckville Cemetery

Yes, years have passed and left us with memories, some cherished, some sad, with all the trials and tribulations of growing up.

Antti (Andrew) Bellikka was born in 1871 in Piipola, Oulu, Finland and died in 1954.

Saara Bellikka was born in 1865 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland. died in 1950. Ten children were born to Antti and Saara, but four of them died when they were very young

Walter Joseph was born in 1888 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland. He stayed and settled in Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. He married there and his children are Walter Jr. and Viola.

Hilda Rita was born in 1897 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland, and died in 1969. She married Ouni Koskinen in 1918 and had five children. Helen and Arthur are deceased and the others are Loreen, Raymond and Dorothy

Ventla Sara was born in 1903 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland and died in 1976. She married Harold Dale in Red Deer in 1924. Harold also has passed away Their children are Robyn (Donna) and Bayard.

Arthur Johannes was born in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, U.S.A. in 1909 and died in 1959. He married Viola Byttynen in 1937 in Sylvan Lake. Their two children are Patricia and James.

(Bob) Andrew Wayne was born in 1899 in Tyrnava Oulu, Finland and died in 1975. He married Vicki Phillips in Vancouver in 1943. They had no children

Mary Anna was born in 1907 in Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A. She married Fred Moos (now deceased) in 1930. Their children are Donald, Leonard and Jennine. Mary now lives in the Sylvan Manor at Sylvan Lake.

**The Grandchildren**

Walter's children — Viola Bellikka Schler had one girl and one boy

Hilda Koskinen's children — Helen and Bill Lindsey, Meaford, Ontario, no children

Arthur (deceased) in Sudbury, Ontario, had two boys.

Loreen Gladys Larkin, Toronto, Ontario, had two boys

Ray Koskinen and Ellen (nee Ropsfelt) have one girl and one boy, both adopted.

Dorothy and Roy Fraser now live in U.S.A and have nine children, all living in Ontario

Ventla and Harold Dale have one girl, Robyn (Donna) and Ken Thurston who have one boy

Bayard and wife, Ann, have no children although Ann has a daughter from a previous marriage.

(Bob) Andrew and Vicki had no children

Mary's son, Donald, and his wife, Evelyn, have two girls and one boy

Mary's son Leonard and wife Freda, have four children from Freda's first marriage

Mary's daughter, Jennine, (Armstrong) Johannson has three girls and a boy — Debi, Dannel and Daileen Armstrong and Brett Johannson

**BERNARD BROTHERS — JIM, ERNIE AND TOM — by Sylvia Thorkman**

The Bernard Bros. were born and raised in Nova Scotia. Jim, Ernie and Tom all purchased C.P.R. land east of Eckville in 1906

Jim purchased the NE 25-39-3-W5 which he farmed for a number of years. An honest, kind and true neighborly spirited young man, Jim was a very able cook having cooked on ships before coming west

Jim married a district girl by the name of Ivy Badroff. Ivy was born in Montana and came west with her parents in a covered wagon. After Jim and Ivy's marriage, her parents moved to Roseberg, Oregon so the Bernards sold their farm to the Harper's and followed her parents to Roseberg. The district felt a great loss when Jim and Ivy held their auction sale and bid farewell in 1913

Tom Bernard purchased the NE 25-39-3-W5. His interest in farming was more for speculation. He sold his property to the Harper family Tom was a creamery manager and he and his family lived in Claresholm for a number years.

Ernie Bernard purchased the SW 25-39-3-W5 He worked as a cheese maker at the cheese factory in old Eckville for T. B. Miller. After the cheese factory closed, Ernie worked at sawmills and later returned to Nova Scotia. He sold his farm to the Thorkman Bros

**DOCKEN, R. FAMILY**

The Docken family bought the NE 32-40-2W5 formally owned by Ouberg

They sold the farm to Annala Family and moved to Breton, Alberta in the 1920's where there were homesteads available; the boys being old enough to file on a homestead.

Mr. Docken died in the 1940's and Mrs. Docken died in 1976 in an Edmonton nursing home at the age of 95 years.

**ECKROSS, VICTOR AND HILMA AND FAMILY**

Victor and Hilma Eckross immigrated to Canada in 1903 and homesteaded NW 30-39-2-W5 There were three children born in Canada — Leonard in June, 1904, Annie in September, 1905 and Jennie in March, 1907 In 1911 a diptheria epidemic swept the area. Five year old Harold and four-year old Jennie died. My brother George and I were spared

We were very poor in Canada and my father went to work in the coal mines at Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S A. during the winters. We lived a very simple life, and didn't get around too much in those days.

My uncle, Rudolph Stopsen, took me to Sunday School, and I learned to read and write Finnish. My father saw no future for us on the homestead so we held an auction sale in 1913 and sold the few things we had. We then moved to Berkshire, New York, U.S.A

My brother George died in a farm accident at the age of 14 years. Both my parents have now passed away, as well as Annie and Leonard. I am presently living in New Port, Florida.

**ERICKSON, ERIC AND PHYLLIS**

On June 24, 1947 Eric Gordon Erickson married Phyllis Irene Palm. They have resided on Gordon's family farm ever since. During the years they had seven daughters who were born in Eckville

Irene Gail was born February 8, 1949. On June 7, 1969 she married Douglas Frank Wine. They have two children, Gordon Douglas, born December 7, 1969 and Marcey Irene, born August 2, 1975. They live in Calgary where Douglas is employed as a geologist and Gail as a teacher.

Deborah Karen was born May 19, 1951. She married Philip Robert Gyori on October 14, 1972 Deborah gave birth to a girl, Carley Jill, on January 5, 1974. Philip is a farmer in the Bentley District

Joanne Orlene was born April 29, 1952. She was married to Kenneth Alfred Haarstad on April 10, 1971. They have two boys, Philip Jan born May 28, 1971 and Toby Lane born May 3, 1974. Joanne and boys live in Edmonton.

Norma Jean was born September 30, 1953. Jean married a Scottish lad, John George Robertson on April 7, 1973. They have one daughter, Daina Marie, born July 24, 1975. John is general manager for N.W.T Airways and Jean works in a local bank in Yellowknife, N.W.T

Donna Marie Minnie was born March 30, 1955. Gwen Christine was born December 24, 1958 They both live in Edmonton and are working in banks

Pamela Phyllis was born October 17, 1961 She is still at home completing her education

**ERICKSON, FRED**

Erick Gottfrid "Fred" Erickson was born in Lanna, Sweden, September 27, 1883. He immigrated to the United States when he was 18 years of age, and made his home in Chicago for about two years. His sister, Hanna, lived there He later left Chicago to enter the lumbering industry in and around Spokane, Washington, where he was employed for several years. His next move was to British Columbia where he again worked in the lumber industry, in the Arrow Lakes area.

Fred came to Alberta in 1912 and took up a homestead in the Eckville area on NW¼ 7-40-2-W5. He built a log house on this land, and cleared some land before returning to British Columbia to again work in the lumbering industry for another two years. When he returned to Alberta he bought a quarter of land from the Eckros family, which was to become his home This was NW ¼-30-39-2-W5

On February 16, 1915, he was married to Minnie Solberg, the youngest daughter of Mr. and

Mr. and Mrs. E.G. (Fred) Erickson married February, 1915

Mrs. Eric Solberg, a pioneer family of the Bentley district. They were married by Reverend A. H. Jortaas, in the Vig Church, west of Bentley, now known as Grace Lutheran Church. Of this marriage four children were born — two daughters, Hazel (Mrs. Peter Bobye) and Myrtle (Mrs. Arthur Raabis); the boys were Gordon and Grant.

Grampa Solberg, Hazel, Myrtle, Gordon and Grant

There were many years of hard work. The land was heavily wooded and had to be all cleared by hand before fields could be made. Neighbors at this time were the Rudolf Stopsen family to the south (now the Vester Niemi place); Ray Harper family to the west (later the John Saari home); George Kidd family to the north and the J. Heikkinen family to he east. Among the others of the close neighbors were the Thorkmans, Matt Johnsons, Niemis, Ludwig Stopsens, John Lundberg's, Eric Luomas, Henry Johnsons, and Frank Holm. Eventually the George Kidd family moved to Smithers, B.C., and Mr. Erickson bought their quarter of land and also the one belonging to Heikkinens.

In time the land was all cleared of the heavy timber, and became productive farm land. There were good years and bad years, then, as now, with the usual risks of hail, frost, etc., for some of the years. Wild berries grew in abundance and with them the winter preserves were made. Grain had to be hauled by four horse teams to Kootuk. This was a big job, and was mainly done during the winter months.

In December, 1917, the home was destroyed by fire. The Erickson family with two small children, escaped with only the clothing they were wearing. It was bitterly cold — 30 degrees below zero, and the fire was caused by an overheated stovepipe. Fortunately there were close neighbors — the Rudolf Stopsens, where the family was able to take shelter from the cold. Eventually a log cabin was hauled in and the family lived in it until a new house was built the following summer. This house was built by the Kopsala brothers, and is the home still occupied by the eldest son, Gordon, and his family.

Phyllis and Gordon Erickson, Pam, Gail, Jean, Donna, Gwen, Joanne, Debbie

Mr. Erickson was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and was one of the earliest people to grow Garnet wheat in the area. Mrs. Erickson served several years as trustee on the Salma school board. She was also a member of the U.F.W.A., Sakato Local. This was a very active ladies' group, holding chicken suppers, handicraft activities, quilting, etc. Entertainment those days consisted of card parties, box socials, and other local activities held at halls and schools, or in neighborhood homes. There was no TV or radio, so get-togethers were the order of the day.

Fire again took its toll. During haying season in the early 1930's the barn was struck by lightning. The barn was completely destroyed, as well as the year's supply of hay which had been stacked adjacent to the barn. The following year

a new barn was built by Henry Jokinen, and this building still stands today

Mr Erickson raised many cattle and built up a fine herd of Aberdeen Angus He also raised a fine bunch of Percheron horses. The raising of hogs was another of his specialties He was a hard worker, but found enjoyment in his work He continued actively farming until his death on May 17, 1937

**THE JAMES W GRANT FAMILY — by James Grant**

James Walter Grant and his wife, Nellie May, a son, Stanley James, and a daughter, Charlene Margaret, moved to the Eckville district in the summer of 1967, settling on the SW 24-39-3-W5 which they had purchased from John Potivar in the fall of 1960. They moved here from Calgary, Alberta. Jim was born at Drumheller, Alberta on April 29, 1929 to Henry and Margaret (nee Littlechilds) Grant. He was educated at Drumheller, Alberta and lived there until 1944 He then travelled and worked as far east as Port Arthur, Ontario, then moved to Calgary, Alberta. He lived there from 1951 to 1967

Nellie was born at Evarts, Alberta, July 22, 1932 to Joseph and Charlotte (nee Dennis) Brzak. She took her education at Gaetz School and lived in the Evergreen district until 1951, then moved to Calgary and remained there until 1967

The NW 24-39-3-W5 was purchased from John and Leah Ambury in the spring of 1967 and 12 acres adjoining and belonging to NW 24-39-3-W5 was purchased from Uno Lindquist's widow in the spring of 1970 by the Grants

Sheila Mae, born December 16, 1969 at Edmonton joined the family on September 14, 1971.

Jennifer Maureen was born at Eckville and joined the family on April 11, 1974

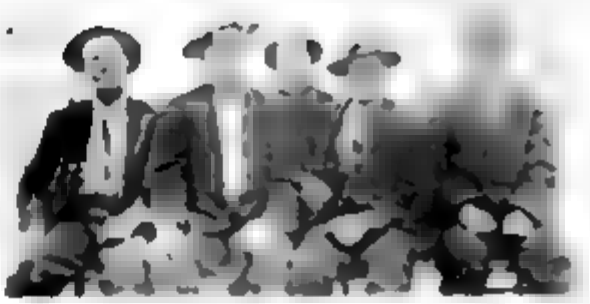
Stanley graduated from the Eckville High School in 1972 He married Suzanne Marie Bellerive on November 29, 1975, and they took up residence in Calgary, Alberta.

Charlene is attending the Eckville High School, taking grade 10 in 1977 and Sheila is attending Eckville Elementary School, taking grade two.

**HALSTEIN, FELIX**

I was born in Red Canon, Wyoming February 29, 1896. My parents were August and Matilda Halstein. They were born in Alajarvi, Finland and immigrated to the U.S. as young people. They were married in Almy, Wyoming in September 1892 and later moved to Red Canon and then to Belt, Montana. All I remember of my years in the States is that I fell into the creek in Belt and almost drowned. On our way to Canada all children had to be vaccinated for small pox at the border I heard kids crying and decided to skip the treatment. I went and stood outside on the train steps. However, I was found and given my shot

On arriving in Red Deer we hired a democrat and team to bring us to the homestead. The democrat had a hole in the bottom and my brother Bill fell out He wasn't missed at first but by backtracking he was found



William Halstein, Elmer Kalapoosa, Felix Halstein, Elmer Hill and Lillian Halstein in the back

After living on the bald prairie, 160 acres of trees were a real challenge. One such tree leaning at an angle made an aerial path between the house and well and resulted in lots of torn britches

One day father came home with a walking plow in the wagon. It had just been sharpened. Also in the wagon was a cowbell. I climbed into the wagon and was jumping and ringing the cowbell when I ran into the plow share. My leg was badly cut and the tendon severed. Father had had some training in suturing He sewed up the leg but the tendon wasn't connected. All my life I have had a lame foot

All three years of my formal education were at Kuusamo. All but two of the families attending were Finnish and that is what we spoke until the teacher made a ruling that only English was to be spoken on the school grounds. Already then there was a bilingual issue. One very shy boy headed for home every recess and the rest of us had to run him down and bring him back

At the end of grade three I became a full time farmer. Among other things father broke other peoples oxen for them. A log was fastened to the oxen. The driver sat on the log and drove, hoping to be out of line of fire when the oxen coughed. If the heel flies were bad you were liable to find yourself in the middle of a waterhole

One winter Ed Valli and I went to the States to look for work We got a job in the round house at Great Falls doing everything necessary to get the engines on the road. I lost that job so we went to work on a ranch. Ed looked after the sheep, a six days a week job. I fed cattle, a seven days a week job, hauling hay into the foothills with a wagon. There were steep slopes to navigate and coming down hill the only way to prevent a runaway was to run into a snowbank

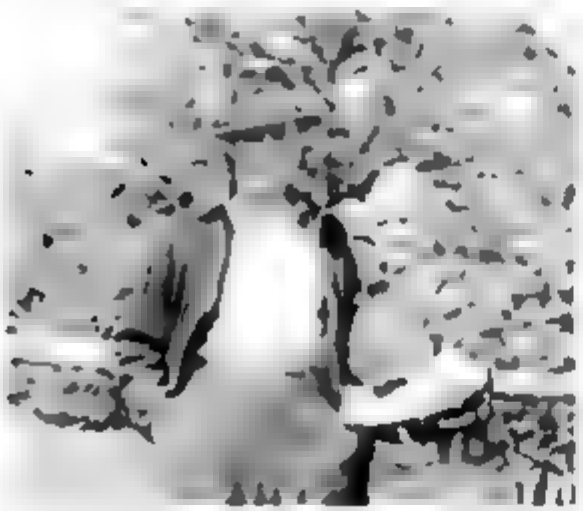
My wife, Ida May Harju, was born in Grand Marais, Michigan, August 29, 1900. Her parents were Matt and Sophia Harju who also emmigrated from Finland to various parts of the

U.S.A., then in 1910 to Canada. We were married January 12, 1919 and moved to our farm in the Saima district SE 16-39-2-W5, that same year. Except for one year when we worked at Grenfell, Saskatchewan we spent all our married life there.

The farm had had several previous owners. It had a livable house and some out buildings. Some of the land was under cultivation and some in bush which was gradually cleared by the elbow grease method. Those first years on the farm were hard ones. There was little to sell and cash for such things as clothes and shoes were hard to come by. Food was no problem. Ida was a real farmer. Her cows always showed her loving care. She raised chickens, too and there were always a few pigs. She had a good garden. I remember making Millie some moccasins from deer hide.

I had some violin lessons from Rev. Harju and enjoyed playing for dances. After my stint in Great Falls, I decided to try for my Steam Engineers license. With some coaching and my experience, I had no trouble getting my license. In those days when steam was the important power a license was a real asset.

I have always enjoyed hunting and went out every fall and generally got some game. I still have all my hunting licenses from the time a hunter got a button, then a license which cost 25¢, till a few years ago when my foot was so bad I could no longer hunt.



Felix and Ida Hautakin

Ida died suddenly on August 25, 1957. I stayed on the farm till 1960 when I sold out to Judge Porter. Our house which we had bought in 1950 and moved in, was sold and moved to Eckville. The other buildings were demolished. Today a landing strip occupies part of the farm. I retired to Sylvan Lake and built a new home.

Our family consisted of Mildred (Leeson) born November 1920. She attended Kunsamo school then worked in the Oliver Mental Institution and Deerhome where she received a back injury which meant early retirement. She and Roy retired from Red Deer Hospital in 1977 have a motor home and plan on traveling.

Raymond born in 1922, died in 1925.

Bette born January, 1941, attended school at Sylvan Lake and Eckville. She is also a graduate of the Reeves Business College and is now Junior Accountant in the bank in Sylvan Lake. She married Walter Gathercole who is maintenance man at the Sylvan Lake School. They have two children, Susan a 1976 graduate at Sylvan and now employed by an insurance firm in Edmonton. Rodney, who is attending school at Sylvan Lake.

**HARPER, JOHN — by Helen Harper Jewell**

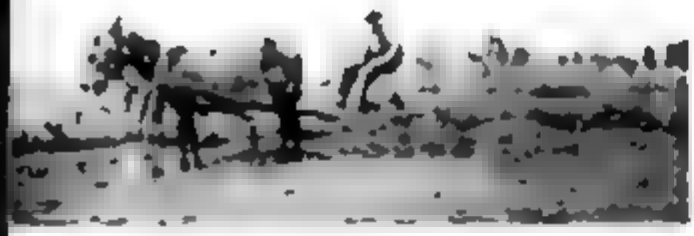
John Harper had the spirit of adventure in his soul. He wanted to raise cattle, and perhaps grain. Thus it was that we left our home in Roseburg, Oregon, U.S.A. In the early spring of 1916 John Harper and his son, Raymond, age 20, landed at the 12' x 12' depot of Kootuk with three box cars of livestock and household goods. The land which my father had obtained, but had not yet seen, was the N.W. 25-39-3-W5. The livestock were driven to this land but the household goods were not unloaded until later, when my mother, my sister Della, age 7, and myself, age 16, arrived.

The frost was just melting from the rich earth when we arrived, and the mud was unbelievable! As we walked behind the load of furniture to lessen the pull for the team, our shoes became very heavy with the sticky mud, and we found it hard to travel. The farm was about five miles northeast of Eckville.

The farm had not been misrepresented, but it was a sad sight compared to the home which we had left in Roseburg, Oregon. The house consisted of three bedrooms, a living-room, a lean to for a kitchen, pantry, and back porch. It was built of logs stuffed with mud and straw and banked with horse manure just beginning to smell.

Life was hard for Mother and Dad, with long hours of hard work and cold weather for long periods of time. We all survived the flu epidemic of 1918-1919; with no doctor in the community. Those who became ill either got well or died, on their own. The nearest doctor was in Red Deer, and in those days it would be a two-day trip to get a doctor.

The train stopped at Kootuk three times a week, and its coming always meant "mail day" at the little post office which was a part of the drug store at that time. Social life consisted of visits to neighbors' homes, dances held about once a month at different halls in the communities, and a would-be rodeo once in a while. There were no church services of any kind available in the area. We did have a piano, though, and this provided much pleasure for us.



Raymond Harper taking hay with a team of mules

The schoolhouse of one room was centrally located for all families. The children, and even the teacher, either walked or rode a horse to get to the school. The teacher taught grades from one to eight, in addition to being the janitor. He (or she) was required to arrive at the school early and make sure that the room was warm before the pupils arrived. A large wood heater was used for heating purposes. At the close of the school day the teacher had to clean up the room in readiness for the next school day. At that time a girl could teach school after graduating from high school. My sister attended school for a while.

Our pioneer life on a Canadian farm was a short one. I left in 1919 for Tacoma, Washington, to marry Henry Jewell. Because of illness my mother came the next year, and soon after that my father had an auction sale and he and Delia came to Tacoma. Raymond was the last to leave, but he didn't stay long after the rest of the family had returned to Washington. Father sold the farm to the John Saari family.

My life in Canada as a young girl was an exciting adventure with lots of experiences new to me.

**JOHN HEIKKINEN FAMILY — by Ted Heikkinen**

My father, John Henry Heikkinen, was born on October 27, 1873 in Oulu, Finland. At the age of 12 years he left home and travelled to Sweden, where he worked in the mines, and then later he went on to Russia. When he was 15 years old he journeyed to the United States, settling at Butte, Montana, where he was employed in the mines. It was there that he married Selina Lydia Kangas of Butte, Montana, in 1902.

An injury to his arm in the mine caused him to give up mining the next year. He then journeyed to Alberta and filed on a homestead two miles east of Eckville in 1903. This was NW 24-39-3-W5. He then went back to Butte and moved his wife and son Jalmer to the homestead in 1904. He was able to build a log house and buy one cow. Being short of funds, the next three winters he went back to Butte to work in the mines.

Four more children were born on the homestead, and all attended Salma school. It was during the fall of 1917 that Dad sold his farm (or homestead) to John Lundberg. He then travelled through Washington, Oregon and Idaho, in the United States, seeking a place to

Mr. and Mrs. John Heikkinen. Front row: Ted, Fred, Elmer, Wayne and Ina

farm, and finally came back to Canada, settling for a time in Manyberries, Alberta. The drought hit there and once again he pulled up stakes and came to Benalto in 1918, where he bought land next to Benalto. He farmed here until he retired in 1936. He then leased the land to his boys. Due to ill health, he and his wife spent the winters with their daughter in Vancouver, B.C. until his passing in Benalto, Alta. on December 14, 1940.

My mother, Selina Kangas, was born on August 2, 1880 in Finland. She immigrated to the United States in her early teens, and worked in Massachusetts for a time, living at her brother's home. Next she went to Butte, Montana, where she settled to work and where she met John Heikkinen. They were married in 1902. She came to Alberta with her husband and after his death she lived on the Benalto farm with her sons. Later she married Rudolph Stopsen — in 1943 — and continued to live on the farm until 1946, when she sold it to Mr. Carl Jenson. They then had a house built in Benalto where they resided. Mr. Stopsen took ill and passed away in 1947 but she continued living in Benalto until her passing in March, 1950. There were five children in the family.

Jalmer Heikkinen was born in Butte, Montana in March, 1904. Most of his life was spent in that area, although he later lived and worked in Edmonton. He now resides in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Edmonton, Alberta.

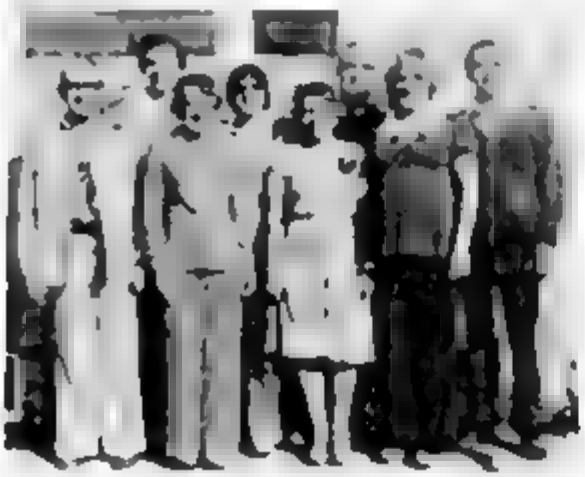
Ina (Mrs. Elnerd Sundstrom) was born in

John Heikkinen's farm

Eckville in 1906. She was married in Benalto in 1925, later moving to Edmonton where her husband was employed. They had two daughters and a son born to them there, and upon moving to Vancouver, B.C. in the year of 1936 another daughter was born. Ina passed away in March of 1963. Her husband and children all reside in Vancouver B.C

Ted Heikkinen (myself) was born in Eckville on December 18, 1907 I have lived most of my life in this area. In June 1936, I married Elsie Anderson, the eldest daughter of Charles A Anderson of Manyberries, Alberta. The Anderson family, who were close neighbors of ours while in Manyberries, again became neighbors when they settled in Benalto next to our farm

At the time of our marriage I was a grain buyer at Benalto and in 1939 we moved to my farm at Codnor (called Oras then) and farmed until 1941 when I took carpentry work in Calgary We again moved back to Benalto in 1946 where we still reside. We were blessed with three boys and three girls. Robert was born in 1938 and married Rose Whitford of Calgary in 1968. They still live in Calgary and have a son and a daughter Russell was born in 1941 and married



The Heikkinen Family. Left to right: Bob, Russell, Donna Watters, Linda, Elsie, Ted, Denise Hubl and Dick

Elaine Brown of Calgary in 1971 They have a son and they live in Calgary. Donna (Mrs. John Watters) was born in 1940 and married in 1958. She has a son and four daughters and they live in Joffre, Alberta

Richard, who was born in 1944, married Gloria Baraniuk of Calgary in 1968. They live in Whitecourt, Alberta and have three daughters.

Linda was born in 1947, but has not married having chosen a career instead She is a Registered Nurse in Kelowna Hospital in B.C However, she will be spending the year of 1977 in Australia

Denise was born in 1951. She is now Mrs. Allan Hubl of Eckville She and Allan were married in 1971 and now have a daughter and a son

Fred Heikkinen was married in 1936 to Effie Louis of Sylvan Lake. They had four sons and two daughters. Fred farmed and drilled wells in this area for a time then moved to Drumheller to work in the mines. He passed away in 1972. His wife still resides at Drumheller

Wayne Heikkinen married Dorothy Berch of Edmonton in 1942 and had a family of two sons and a daughter. Wayne farmed for a time then operated his own service station in Benalto. He sold out this business and moved to Edmonton in the 1950's. He was employed as a welder until his passing in February of 1975. His wife still lives and works in Edmonton.

The threshing days were fun in the early days. Dad would stack the grain bundles as you couldn't get it threshed in the stooks. The Langer steam thresher would arrive at night and we children were allowed to stay up late to watch it come. What a thrill it was to see the old steam engine throw sparks way up in the sky

The housewives were supremely busy at that time, serving the best of meals for that hungry crew, and they would exchange visits with each other as they exchanged help in the kitchen. We had coffee, which was traditionally a real treat for the children.

My mother purchased a fancy set of dishes when she worked out in Butte, Montana, and she was very proud to use them upon request, at the Baptismal ceremony of her son Fred and Laimi

Hill and others, held jointly at the home of Mr and Mrs Jack Hill. In those days there were no churches, and a traveling minister, Pastor F E Uhde, of the Evangelical Lutheran denomination, performed the Baptisimals.

After that function, on our way home in a wagon and two newly broken horses, we proceeded toward a small bridge across a creek at Dad's and Charlie Thorkman's corner (built up since) and Dad, being a green driver, the horses bolted into a runaway and missed the bridge at the bottom. The wagon upset and all of the dishes were broken. Naturally, Mother was very upset over this, and claimed it was the most depressing thing of the homestead days, as there wasn't any money to replace them.

One Christmas we were looking forward to attending our school concert at Salma School, as pupils. Since we were taking part in the concert we were all dressed and ready to go when Mother took sick. (She was expecting.) So it was out of the question for us to go as Dad had to get help for her. We were very disappointed, of course, as we had looked forward to it all year.

A mid-wife by the name of Melita Johnson was summoned from Sylvan Lake. She and her husband had homesteaded one-half mile north of Benalto along highway no. 11, on the spot where later Melita school stood. Mr. Johnson donated the land for the school yard, and the school was named for his wife.

Mrs. Johnson determined that there wasn't much she could do for Mother, and that a doctor was needed. Dad phoned our neighbor, Jack Hill, to come and fetch the horse and cutter and go and get a doctor from Bentley, which he did. However, the Bentley doctor was out in the country on an emergency call. Dad then phoned Dr. Richard Parsons in Red Deer. He promised to leave at once, but in the meantime a blizzard came up. In spite of the weather the doctor arrived in the early morning, and saved my mother's life. How many doctors these days would be that courageous, with a car, let alone a team of horses, in an open cutter and in a blizzard! We have never ceased thanking Dr. Parsons for this kind and humane act.

One incident comes to my mind. When a covered wagon got stuck in front of our homestead house, the oxen just wouldn't move. The driver beat them cruelly with a bull whip but to no avail. Finally he unhitched them and asked us for some hay and water for them. The next morning they walked away with the wagon, as much to say "Rest and fodder brings results."

We attended school at Salma until the spring of 1918 when we left the district and I remember only that the teacher we had then was Miss Quigley.

Mother was the official coffee-maker at social functions in those days of copper boiler "coffee pots". Fish mulligan picnics were favorite outings at Palm's shore, or Palm Bay, as it was called, enjoyed by relatives and neighbors alike.

Blueberries were plentiful in these areas in the early days, but disappeared when land was being cultivated and it became necessary to travel further west, past Rocky Mountain House over the Saskatchewan River on the ferry, for the blueberries and cranberries that grew wild all over that area. In berry-picking season the hillsides would just be covered with crowds of people of all ages, and picnic lunches were the order of the day.

Late fall and winter was, and still is, an exciting time for the men folk. They were busy preparing for their hunting expeditions to the West Country, such as Saunders and Nordegg. Most hunters would come home with loads of moose and deer meat, decorated with horns and antlers of all sizes.

Ted passed away Aug. 9, 1977 at the age of 69 years and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

**HEINO, EMIL — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Emil Heino came from Butte, Montana where he worked in the copper mines. He came to Canada and homesteaded the NW 36-39-3W5, later selling this homestead and buying the NW 6-40-2W5 jointly with Ludwig Stopaen.

Emil, was a bachelor, who instructed a gym group at the Young People's Hall for a number of years.

Selling his land to Ed Lilkala he went to live with his sister in Ontario, where he passed away.

**HILL, MR. AND MRS. ELMER**

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hill (Ida Talson) resided on S.W. 20-29-2-W5. Their two daughters attended Salma School. Helen passed away in 1956 and Elvie is now living in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

**HILL, EMIL FAMILY**

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hill, having both left their birthplace, Finland, in their early youth, lived in Coleman for about 25 years, where Mr. Hill was injured in a coal-mining accident. This left him crippled for life, and being unable to work, he was awarded a meager monthly disability pension.

Emil had a brother Jack, who, with his family, lived on a farm near Eckville, and they had visited them on a few occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Hill decided to move into the Eckville district, with their two youngest sons, Onnie and Bill, and their little granddaughter, Vivien. They purchased a small acreage about 1931, on the west shore of Sylvan Lake, from Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. Their eldest son, Tom, remained in Coleman, where he and his family still reside, and their daughters, Mamie and Elma, were by now on their own. Mamie (Mrs. Walter Johnson) later moved on the farm near her parents.

Their son Onnie, died in 1937, at the age of 22 years, after a long illness. Bill finished his public school education at Salma school, and later joined the Irish Fusiliers during the war. After

living for some time in Vancouver and Toronto. he settled in Calgary, where he has resided with his family for over 25 years.

Vivien also attended Salma School and recalls a scare the pupils had when it became known that a bear had been seen in the wooded area bordering the road to school. Hence it was a relief to pupils and parents alike when it was shot by Charlie Vianen while it was raiding Charlie's ice house where he kept his cream. This incident created a great deal of excitement in the district Vivien moved to Red Deer, and later to Calgary, where she attended Normal School. She then taught at near by schools until she went to Costa Rica to teach in an American Banana Company — owned community Here she met and married Robert Bliss and has lived with her husband and two daughters in Dearborn, Michigan, U.S.A. for the past 25 years

Mr and Mrs. Hill sold their lakeside property to the Y.W C.A. and bought a house in Eckville, about 1950. Their grandson, Kevin Mullen, had stayed with them from time to time in his early years while his mother worked as a nurse in the Eckville Hospital and later in an Edmonton hospital. Then he stayed with them again in town while attending high school and while he worked in Jenkins' Store in Eckville, and always remained an especially welcome guest at his grandparents' home after he moved to Calgary

Mr. Hill passed away in 1962 and Mrs. Hill moved into an apartment adjoining that of Mr and Mrs. Jack Hill shortly after Then, when Sylvan Lake Senior Citizens' Lodge opened in 1967, she and her sister-in-law became two of the first residents there. Mrs. Hill enjoyed life at the Lodge very much, declaring that every day seemed like Sunday. She had a bubbling sense of humor, which her tribulations, illness and the death of her husband and two children did not diminish. Unfortunately, she did not have much time to enjoy her life at the Lodge, as she passed away in August, 1969 after about six months in hospital in Eckville and Red Deer Her eldest daughter, Mamie (Mrs. Walter Johnson) predeceased her in July, 1966, and Elma (Mrs Roy Moore) passed away in Calgary in August. 1974

**HOLMEN, MELVIN — by Eileen Holmen**

Melvin Clarence, third son of Morris and Clara (Vig) Holmen was born in Bentley, Alberta, April 8, 1928. Melvin attended school at the Sunset school. After his schooling he helped his father on the family farm in the Sunset district west of Bentley Later he went to work in the Lochart district for Ernest Hawkins. This is where he met Eileen Lillian McFadden, the eldest daughter of Angus and Lillian (Holland) McFadden of Hespero, Alberta

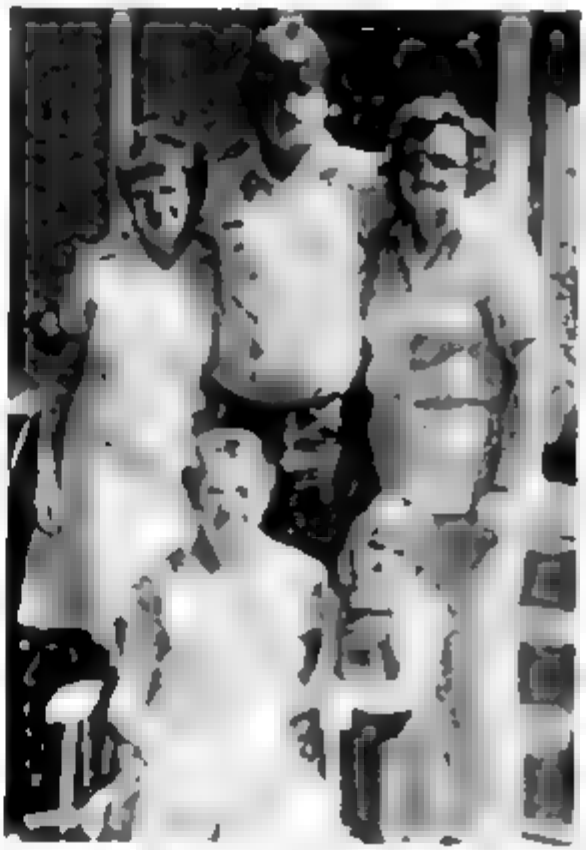
Eileen was born in Red Deer, September 12, 1935. She attended school at Daisy Nook, Red Deer and Condor. On September 17, 1954 Melvin and Eileen were marrried in the St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Eckville

After their marriage Melvin and Eileen moved back to the Lockhart district, later moving to the A. B. Haarstad farm in the Stevenson district where Melvin worked as a farm hand This is where their first child, Clarke Morris, was born on August 12, 1955. At this time Melvin was working at a saw mill west of Rocky Mountain House, where he was injured Due to his injuries the family moved to Edmonton so that Melvin could take therapy The family lived in Edmonton for four years. When Melvin had recovered from his injuries he went to work for Weaner-Williams at their feed lot in North Edmonton. While home for the Christmas holiday their second son, Glen Melvin, was born in the Bentley hospital on December 22, 1957

The family decided to move back to Eckville where Melvin and his cousin, Gordon Vig, started the "Vig and Holmen Painting and Decorating" business, which was in operation for four years — until Gordon and his family moved to British Columbia

On October 20, 1961 Melvin and Eileen were blessed with a baby girl, Diane Lillian

Soon the family moved one mile north, three



Five Generations. May, 1977 Mrs. Lillian McFadden-Great Grandmother, Clarke Holmen Father, Eileen Holmen - Grandmother, Mrs. Mary Holland - Great-Great Grandmother, 84 years, and Toni Marie Holmen, 3 years

Melvin, Glen, Clark, Dianne, Eileen Holmen.

miles east and one mile north of Eckville, to the late Wayne Stopsen property, which they rented for five years. Later they purchased an acreage one-half mile south, the NE 24-39-3-W5. At this time Melvin was working for Art Lutz, clearing right-of-ways for Calgary Power Upon the death of Art Lutz, Melvin purchased the business, which is now known as Holmen and Son Construction Ltd.

Clarke married Donna Delbridge of Bentley on August 24, 1973 and they have a daughter, Toni Marie. They reside in the Eckville Trailer Court

Glen resides in Red Deer, Alberta, and Diane is still at home and is attending high school in Eckville

**IGNATIUS, George and Olga**

George Edward Ignatius was born August 20, 1896, at Antracite, a small mining town, five miles east of Banff, where his father worked in a coal mine. The family left Antracite for Butte, Montana, U.S.A. where his mother operated a boarding house. After the death of his father, his mother thought it wise to leave the big city with the children, and return to Canada in hopes of finding a homestead where she could raise the family

George arrived at the homestead site, SW 18-39-2-W5, at the tender age of nine years, with his mother, two brothers and two sisters, in the year 1905.

Even though the children were very young, it was necessary for them to help in one way or another. George chose to help his mother fence the quarter

At the age of ten, George went to work for a farmer, Charles Urich, west of Bentley. There he worked on the threshing crew, cutting the twine from the bundles as they were fed into the threshing machine.

Supplementing the farm income, George worked at the coal mines in Nordegg and assisted in clearing more land on the home place

At the age of 28, in the early 1920's, just prior to his marriage George purchased the adjoining quarter, SW 19-39-2-W5, from Henry Tatson.

Money was difficult to borrow from banks, and George did not have sufficient funds to get married. Rudolph Stopsen kindly lent him $350 to defray the expenses. He was united in marriage to Olga Mary Huhtala, aged 21, July 13, 1925, in the United Church in Red Deer by the Rev Churchill. She was the eldest daughter of Abram and Mary Huhtala, born February 10, 1904 at her home, one mile west of Benalto. Olga took her schooling at Media. Education was difficult for her as she had to assist on the farm during the spring to fall months, leaving only the winter months for school attendance.

Olga and George Ignatius 1925.

One of her summer daily duties consisted of rounding up the cattle on horseback. Due to the lack of fences, there were miles and miles of open land for the cattle to graze on. Very often some would stray away from the herd, causing many tiring days of searching. Many times Olga reminisces about an incident happening while in search of cattle.

Daisy, her horse, being a highly spirited one, sensed a car following on highway 11 and wished to stay in the lead. This it did for approximately three quarters of a mile, when Olga decided to leave the highway and turn off on a side road The car also came to a halt and informed her thus, "Young lady you are now in the movies." The men in the car had been taking movies of their faultless performance

Hurdle jumping was known in those days, for

many a time she and the neighbor children jumped the fences with their horses. Olga being of a determined nature, kept in step, working alongside any man.

She was interested in dramatics, devoting her spare time to acting and taking a role in Finnish plays which were performed at the local halls Elspeth, Liberty, Codnor (Oras) and Eckville.

During the winters of 1922, 23, 24, she was employed at the Sylvan Lake Hotel, owned by Mr Hazelwood. It was situated on the north west corner of Main Street and also, she worked at a cafe situated where the Mayfair Store now stands She received wages of $15 a month

George brought his bride to his mother's home where they lived for two years. A daughter, Edith Helen, was born to them in 1926 Christmas Eve, 1927, they moved into their new home which was a frame building with four rooms, approximately 20 feet by 24 feet This was a pleasant Christmas gift, which brought them much enjoyment. Slowly the farmstead became a reality, barns, shop, chicken coop, and the Finnish Sauna were erected, hewn from logs and cut off their own land.

Those were the days when a dollar was a dollar When Olga and George erected their first house, in 1927, the following budget was kept, showing the cost of building a four room bungalow Cement — $10 00 Nails — $17.35 Lumber — $217 25 Doors and windows — $41.10 Lightning rods — $35.00 storm windows — $42.00 locks and hinges — $ 9.45 shingles — $30.00 plaster, brick and lime $62.25 finishing lumber — $68.45 window stops — $1.00 paint and varnish — $47.00 labor — $172.60 casings — $5.35 screens — $5.00 storm doors — $6.00 flooring and building paper — $17 25 miscellaneous — $44.40. The total was $832.05.

Hazel Eilleen Ignatius was born April 16, 1929 at her home, taking her elementary grades at the Saima School, going to Red Deer High for Grade 10, then upon the opening of the Composite High (1947-48) she attended there for Grade 11. In October 1951 she was employed at the Provincial Training School, Red Deer until May 1953, when she resigned, due to the death of her father. Helping her mother on the farm for two years, she assisted in skidding logs, which were later hewn to make approximately 50,000 board feet of lumber Early in 1956 she found employment in the poultry division — Alpha Plant in Red Deer December first, 1957, a new Institution opened, by the name of Deerhome. Hazel has worked there for the last 20 years. She was one of the first on the payroll and has held her position up to the present time (1957-77). She makes her home mainly with her mother and step-father at Sylvan Lake. In 1976 she accompanied her mother to her Grandmother's homeland. Finland. While overseas, she visited the USSR and Estonia. She enjoys travelling, fishing and leisure camp outs

Existence was a struggle during the thirties. Livestock, especially hogs, were valueless, hardly worth hauling to market into Benalto. All were slaughtered, rendered into lard for soap making and the meat was fed to the chickens. Bacon was made at home, and stored in grain bins which kept the moisture away

Grain was worthless as well. Oats, even when there was a market, brought a price of three to four cents a bushel. Wheat priced at 18 cents and barley at four cents a bushel, so they obtained their own flour from the wheat ground at the Lacombe Flour Mills

Olga was a keen gardener, having a large garden, raising all their own vegetables including tomatoes and cucumbers. Fresh fruit was not obtained from the stores, but grown in the garden, namely raspberries and strawberries Going to pick cranberries, huckleberries and blueberries was the main outing of the season, and as one might say "The holiday of the Year". She also created a natural technique for baking bread, always baking her own even to this day at the age of 73. All clothes were home made; stockings and mittens were knit for the family

George was sports minded, listening to hockey and baseball over the battery radio, also an ardent hunter and fisherman, bringing in an abundance of fish and wild game to supplement the food supply which was either smoked or canned.

George also served as councillor for the Municipal District of Lorne in the years 1936 1941

Winter, too, had its labors to be done Firewood had to be cut, sawed into blocks, split, and stored. Wood was the only source of fuel used in the cook stove, and heating the home. One can remember slaving over the stove, heating water in the copper boiler, with four sad irons strewn around heating for ironing to be done, and a few cluttered cooking utensils, room always seemed to be at a premium

Water in those days came, not from the tap. but had to be hand pumped, carried in pails for household consumption. Springs were an asset to any family This made the watering of livestock easier, otherwise water had to be pumped by hand

Their Model T Ford car obtained in 1927, was certainly a luxury, shortening the time required to get from one point to another, even though enjoyment was experienced from the horse and buggy days

Roads were no super race tracks, in marshy places corduroy roads were made by laying poles side by side and covering them with dirt. Construction had to be done carefully, laying the poles close to one another, for if a horse would sink through, broken bones would result Improvements came later. High grading was done past their place in 1952.

One did not flick a switch for light, but had to depend on the natural source of the sun, resulting

in the long working day, from dawn to dusk. The kerosene lamp and lanterns were the only source of light until 1943 when they purchased their own Delco Plant; this supplied their electricity for light, washing clothes and ironing. In the year 1948 Calgary Power came to the rescue, stringing their lines for the needed energy. This was the beginning of the Push Button Age

The telephone added to the luxury of living, each farmer supplied his own poles. A number of hours were spent visiting over the party lines with each other, drawing neighbors closer together

Those were the times of the tall narrow "Creamer Can". This had a tap on the bottom which allowed the skim milk to flow out and the cream remained in the can. The hand turned separator was mostly used, separating the cream from the milk. This was brought to the Eckville Creamery for sale, later replaced by the "Milk Delivery" driven by Vince Bell to the Alpha Plant in Red Deer Eight gallon milk cans carried the fluid supply

Accumulation of machinery was slowly building up. George bought his caterpillar tractor in 1938. During the summer months he did custom work, breaking the virgin soil for neighbors.

With the onset of fall, came the time for harvest, which meant cutting the grain with the binder drawn by horses, or the "Cat", operated by two men, one on the binder, and one on the tractor. Stooking usually was done by Olga and George, seldom a hired hand was obtained for assistance.

Harvest was a very enjoyable time of the year as one saw the threshing machine followed by eight teams, one then knew his yearly produce would soon be safely stored. Threshing of the crop was done by Oiva and Bill Huhtala, in later years by Clarence Anderson, and Oiva Huhtala, also Martin Delaney of Lesliеville. The crews usually consisted of 12 men

Preparation for food for the crew meant several days work for the woman folk, including baking bread, cookies, cakes, biscuits, and pies

Trucking of the grain to the Wheat Pool Elevators in Benalto was done by Henry Johnson and Albert Johnson, both of Benalto.

The family lived in their small house till 1942, when they built an addition, thus increasing the size to 44'x28'

In the year 1946, their daughter Edith married Ray Niemala, thus the couple gained a son. A year later they became the proud grandparents of Dorinda Marlene Niemela, born March 23, 1947, followed two years later by a grandson Terrance Raymond (Terry) Niemela, born July 12, 1949.

The advancement of the machinery age eased the burden, as the swather and combine replaced the binder and threshing machines. Harvest time saw custom work done by Ray Niemela, Clarence Anderson and later by the Psikla Brothers

Tragedy struck the family when George passed away May 17, 1953 at the age of 57 years. He is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery

Farming had to go on, and with the aid of her daughter, Hazel, and hired help, Olga capably managed the farm to the year 1955.

December 22, 1955, Olga married Andy Harvilow. They farmed together until selling their farms, Olga sold to Ted Sallor in 1963, retaining the oil rights on SW 19-39-2-W5, Andy to Toimi Tolonen. They then retired to Sylvan Lake. They resided in Andy's cottage on Lakeshore Drive during the construction of their home on 47A Avenue, moving into their new home for Christmas 1963.

Olga nursed her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raunio in her home for a number of years, until their deaths in 1971 and 1974; her mother, Mrs. Raunio is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery, her step-father in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Rocky Mountain House, beside his former wife.

The year 1972 was eventful as a great-granddaughter, Bonnie Marie Hietala, was born March 14, followed by a great-grandson, Trevor Lee Hietala, born June 18, 1973. Later arrived another great-granddaughter Karri-Lynn Alane Niemala, on August 14, 1974.

In the year 1976, Olga, accompanied by her daughter Hazel, visited her Mother's birthplace in Finland, also visiting a sister-in-law and three nieces in the USSR and Estonia.

Olga has gained numerous friends through the Sylvan Lake Fish and Game Association and the Friendship Club. Gardening and Leisure camping are still her most enjoyable pastimes.

**THE IGNATIUS FAMILY**

Mrs. Anna (Ignatius) Knuttila came to settle in the Eckville district in March, 1905, choosing N W 18-39-2-W5 as her homestead. It had been filed on previously, but not proved up, and had reverted to the crown That was one case in which the government had won, in the sardonic old joke of the time that the government bets ten dollars to 160 acres that you can't make a living there for three years. The place, therefore, already boasted a leaky log shack and a six-acre field. But, to its new aspirant, its greatest asset and lure was a beautiful spring of clear, ice-cold water that came bubbling out of the side of a hill near the middle of the quarter Here was the ideal place for their first house and farmyard, water, she had been told, was sometimes a problem in this country, and the existence of this little stream was the clincher in deciding where to locate

She was left a widow while living in Butte, Montana, and decided that a rough mining town was no place to bring up her family of five Better to move to a homestead, where the boys would be busy clearing land, plowing, haying,

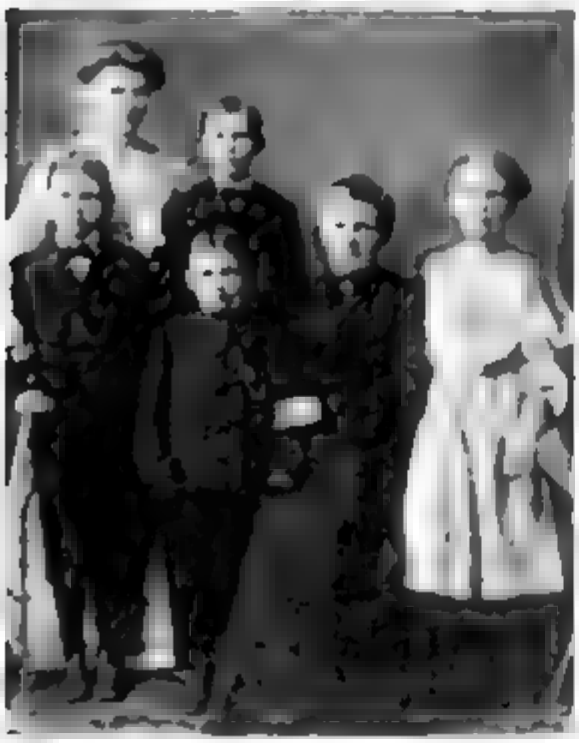
and harvesting, rather than chasing around with the gangs of toughs in a mining town. And this decision she was never to regret, despite all the hardships, poverty and deprivation involved in the slow, back-breaking job of carving a farm out of the wilderness

The family ranged in age from Mary, the eldest, who was 15, to George, aged five years Between were Jessie, 12, Martin, ten, Waino, eight, and George, the youngest, five. The mother had first come from Finland to the United States in 1894, to Ishpeming, Michigan, then moving to the state of Washington, and later to Anthracite, near Banff, where the youngest son, George, was born, the only Canadian-born member of the family Later, they all moved back to the States, to Butte, Montana, from where the final move to the homestead was made

Every member of the family remained to become permanent residents of the area. Mary was married to Mr G. K. Delaney, and had one daughter, Ingrid, (Mrs. Olva Huhtala), and a son, Mr Martin Delaney, formerly of Lesliеville, now of Red Deer Mary later married Mr Otto Hill, and had two daughters — Irene (Mrs. H Stovra of Victoria, B.C.), and Ruth, now living in Red Deer

Jessie Ignatius, the second daughter, lived all her life around Benalto and Sylvan Lake. She died in 1971

The oldest son, Martin, died in 1917, at the age of 24 years



Back row: Mary and Waino. Front row: Martin, George, Mrs Anna Ignatius, and Jessie

Waino Ignatius farmed for many years at Eckville. He married Matilda Talson, a member of another well-known pioneer family, and they had one son, Martin, and one daughter, Esther Martin lived all his life on the family farm until his death in 1974. Their daughter, Esther (Mrs. Glen Marshall) now lives in Bentley Waino now makes his home in the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Lacombe

George, the youngest son, took over his mother's original homestead and continued to farm it until his death in 1953. He married the former Olga Huhtala, and their two daughters, Edith (Mrs. Ray Niemela) and Hazel, now of Sylvan Lake, are life-long residents of the community

Life on the homestead in the early years of the century demanded courage, hard work, and resourcefulness: survival was not guaranteed by the welfare provisions of a benevolent government in those days. "Trust in God, and keep your bowels open" was one old-timer's recipe for survival. Under primitive conditions, how do a widow and her five children cope? Well, she spends the last of her precious dollars to buy a few milk cows. Then she can make butter and exchange it for what few groceries she cannot produce on her own land — sugar, coffee, salt and such essential — and have plenty of milk and meat. Vegetables she could grow for herself But, to get ahead, some way must be found to earn a bit of money if the farm is to progress. "Cash flow" was an unheard-of thing in those days. Mary, the oldest, though only 15 years old, found employment at the Alberta Hotel in Red Deer. That helped a little. And soon Jessie and the boys went to work for a farmer at Rainy Creek, a Mr Uhrich, for the summer.

During the winter, Waino remembers getting employment as a freighter's helper, hauling supplies from Red Deer to Killick's store at old Eckville, a mile north of the present townsite, well before the railroad was built west of Red Deer. He recalls one particular trip when he was driving his team of oxen with a load of supplies following his employer, who was in the lead. "He warned me to watch carefully when we were crossing the muskegs, not to get my wagon stuck." But travel by ox team is slow and boring for a young lad, and he dozed off

"When I woke up, I realized we were stopped — stuck fast in the middle of a mud hole. When my boss realized I was no longer following, he guessed what had happened, and it meant coming back, unhitching his team, pulling the wagon out onto hard ground, thus losing a lot of time. What he called me was not very flattering, and not expressed in the most polite language."

Oxen, however, were not widely used by the homesteaders of the area; horses provided the settlers' motive power To be a good horseman was a matter of pride, and every family had its favorite horse or team. For the Ignatius family it was Prince, a beautiful light gelding, too blond to

be called a sorrel, with white mane and tail. He was the one most frequently used for trips to town and for neighborhood visiting. "Prince and the buggy" was an equipage familiar to everyone in the community for many years. He was foaled by the first mare the family obtained to establish the herd of horses required on the farm.

Neighbors and the spirit of neighborly dependence helped pioneer families in many ways, not just in exchanging work and helping out in emergencies, but in the simple matter of friendly socializing so necessary to create a feeling of community. The family still recalls the names of close neighbors who shared their problems — and their triumphs — in those early days. Among those who lived nearest were the families of John Pesola (where the Frank Holm family later lived), A. Hyvonen, R. Stopsen, T. Thorkman, Jacob Hill, and Peter Tolvonen. With the exception of the Pesola family, all remained to become permanent residents.

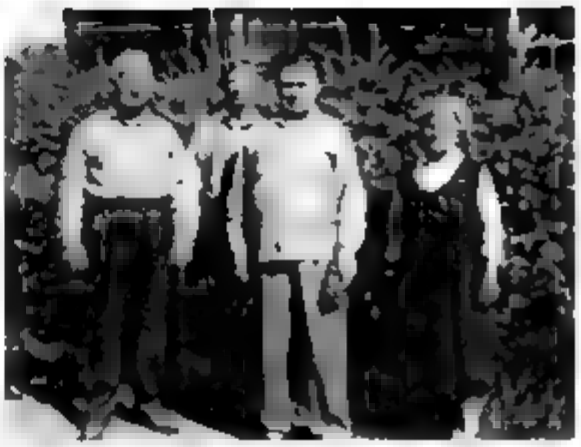
**IGNATIUS, WAINO**

Waino Ignatius was born in Ispeming, Michigan in 1895 and came to Eckville district from Butte, Montana in 1905, with his mother (Mrs. Anna Maria Ignatius) and two brothers, Martin and George, and two sisters, Mary and Jessie.

Waino Ignatius Family: Esther, Waino, Mathilda holding Patsy Nolan, Martin.

In 1925 he married Mathilda Talson and they farmed on N.W. 19-39-2-W5 for a number of years. Mrs. Mathilda Ignatius passed away in 1954. They had two children, Martin Carl, who passed away in January 1974, at the age of 49, and Esther Ethel, who is living in Bentley, Alberta, and is married to Glenn Marshall formerly of Rimbey and Tees.

Mr. Ignatius also has three grandsons, Jack Gerald and James McCrindle, also of Bentley. At the present time he is residing at the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Lacombe, Alberta.



Fred Talson, Waino Ignatius, Pete Kopsala and Susie Talson

**JAHELKA FAMILY**

Annie (Wine) Jahelka moved to Nordegg, Alberta in 1925 with her family and attended school there. On September 10, 1927 she married Charles Jahelka at Red Deer and Charles worked at the mines. A son, Norman Charles, was born. Later they moved to Bentley district and worked on various farms. They lived in a little house on the Louis Pakila farm and Norman attended Salma School. Later Norman stayed with the John Saari family while his parents worked at the Saari saw mill near Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Jahelka passed away in 1945.

In 1950 Norman married Verna Poff of Red Deer and they have two daughters, Judy and Jill. He has worked for the City of Red Deer since 1947 in the electrical department.

Annie now lives in Bentley and her brother, Joe Maister, is living with her.

**JARVI, JOHN — as told to Sylvia Thorkman**

John Jarvi was born in Finland, and had no known kin at the time of his death. He owned the NW 30-30-2-W5. He was a bachelor and lived with his cats. A small swinging door had been made purposely on the wall of his house to allow the cats to travel in and out at will. When a stranger approached the house cats scattered in through the opening, right into the cellar. The cellar door, always ajar, answered two purposes — for the cats to travel down, and when John aimed with his tobacco juice he could hit the target every time.

John was a very likeable fellow and able story-teller. His small log shack was a favorite place for neighboring teen-agers on week ends. He was always prepared to relate his humorous stories, but before he was able to get on with the story he took out his snuff box, some of the snuff was poured on the lid, then he flipped the brown spicy snuff into his mouth. This was a special art, and amused the visitors. He was a veteran of the Turkish War and always carried a gun on his travels, so was nicknamed Sota Uusi.

John spent his final years in a small house on the north shore of Sylvan Lake. He passed in 1930 and is buried in the Bentley Cemetery

**JOHNSON, JOHN FAMILY — by Annie Luoma**

John and Margaret Johnson were both born and raised in Finland. They raised a family of four sons, Alex, Matt, Pavo, Fred and one daughter, Ottilia. The Johnsons and their young family immigrated to Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A., and later to the Salma district where they homesteaded SE 30-39-2 W5. The family name in Finland was Harju, which was changed to Johnson when they arrived in America

Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson

Ottilia married Erick Luoma, who homesteaded one and one half miles north of her parents' farm. They raised a family of 12 children

Alex farmed NE 12-39-3-W5. Prior to farming in the area Alex's wife and family died as a result of a disease

Fred died in a shipwreck while serving in the Finnish Merchant Navy

Pavo died in a mine disaster in Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A.

John was an avid fisherman. He always fished on the same shore on Sylvan Lake. He cleared a path to and from the lake, where he could often be seen bringing home his bountiful catch. This shore soon became known as Johnson's Shore. It is located just north of the late Charles Donaldson property

Margaret was always busy spinning wool and knitting

In 1907 the Salma School was built on the southeast corner of the Johnson homestead.

The homestead was later given to their son Matt, who had it for a short time. The farm is now owned by Mildred and Vester Niemi, and the school site is owned by Dale and Valerie Smith.

Matt homesteaded the SE 34-39-3-W5, and later bought the NW 19-39-3-W5, which is presently owned by the Wayne Ignatius family

In 1906 Matt married Hulda Talson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Talson, who also had immigrated to Canada from Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. Matt and Hulda farmed extensively, renting additional land, and he employed several men throughout the years. He had one of the first gas tractors, owned and operated a case steamer and thresher, and for a few winters he operated a sawmill in the Rocky Mountain House area.

Matt was the district "handy man". He pulled teeth whenever someone had a tooth ache and wished an extraction. He did surgical work on horses, and was skilled in blacksmith and carpenter work. He could ride broncs and break horses, and was good to the animals.

After Matt bought the NW 27 39-3-W5 the children attended the Eckville School. He and Hulda raised a family of 14 children

**WALTER JOHNSON FAMILY HISTORY—by Lowell**

Walter Olof Johnson was born May 12, 1903, in Calumet, Michigan. Early in his childhood, the family moved to Butte, Montana, where his father had obtained employment as a miner. Walt was enrolled in Harrison School in Butte and completed Grades 1 to 4.

In early 1912, the family came to the Eckville area. Walt attended school along with rabbit shooting and threshing. He was described by his classmates as an extremely good student. Unfortunately for him, one room country schools in the Benalto area did not go beyond Grade 8, which he completed in 1918.

Walt left home at an early age to seek fortune and adventure in the west coast lumber camps. Even in his later years he spun tales of the exciting times he had as a young lumberjack in Portland, Oregon

Gradually, Walt developed roots and began to farm. He built a house on NE 20-39-2W5 of Sylvan Lake where he met his future wife, Mamie Hill. They were married August 15, 1944, and later had two children, Carolyn and Lowell. After a lengthy illness, Mamie passed away in 1966.

A few years later, the travelling bug got to Walt again and he spent much of his spare time in Europe and Asia. These trips provided Walt with tales to share with the Eckville Co-op coffee shop crowd where he and his friends shared a morning cup.

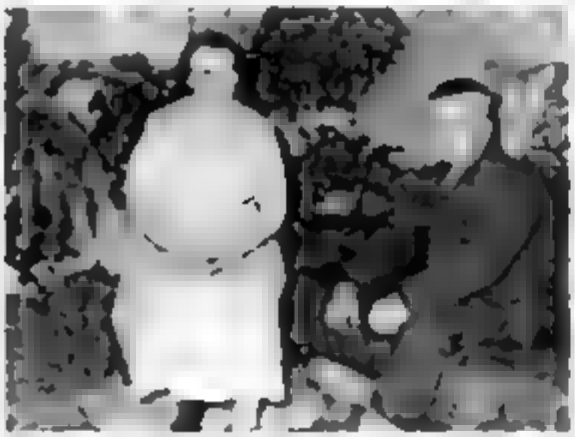
Farming continued to be a part of Walt's life until he passed away in 1977. Ironically, he was buried on his birthday. Walter and Mamie are buried in the Eckville cemetery

**KAKKINEN, MRS. FEMMIE**

Mrs. Femmie Kakkinen and her son Toivo moved to the Eckville area in 1949 from

Manyberries, Alberta. They bought the former Henry Johnston farm, 31-39-2-W5. Mrs. Kakkinen was the former Femmie Liikala. She was born at Kauhajoella, Finland, in 1894. In 1910 she came to Canada with her mother, one sister and four brothers, and they settled in the Manyberries area in southern Alberta, where their dad, Matt Liikala, had come before them and had proved on a homestead.

Femmie married Henry Kakkinen in 1911 in Medicine Hat, and they homesteaded just a few miles north west of her home place. I remember her telling me how the ranchers' animals used to scare her. The animals, which appeared quite wild, roamed at large for there were no fences. The coyotes, too, frightened her, as they were large and roamed in packs. One day she had walked to the home of her neighbors, Robert Tenhunens, and upon returning home in the evening, she didn't dare descend the hill to her home as the coyotes were howling, so she returned to Tenhunens and stayed the night with them.



Mrs. Kakkinen and her son Toivo

Femmie and Henry had two sons and two daughters. Toivo Henry was born in 1912, and remained a bachelor. Olga Elina was born in 1914, but died in 1915 as a baby of three months, from whooping cough. I, Vivian Ardella, (chosen daughter) came along in 1926. I married Emil Stuber and we farm and ranch here in the Manyberries area. We have four children — Shirley, Stanley, Barrey, and Westley.

Edwin Olavi was born in 1937 and died at birth.

Dad passed away in 1947 and Toivo and Mother continued farming in the Manyberries area for another two years. However, due to dry conditions, they decided to move to a wetter country to farm.

Mother passed away in 1965. Toivo continued farming until the spring of 1975, when he sold the place to Thomas E. Wickins. He continued to live on the farm until September, 1975, when he was found dead in the sauna by his uncle, Ed Liikala.

**(KARLSEN) (UUTAKYLA, GUST) — by Sylvia Therkman**

Gust Uutakyla had travelled extensively before coming to Canada. He fought in the Boer War, during which he was taken prisoner and sent to serve life imprisonment at Devil's Island. While there he accomplished the greatest feat known to man. After much planning, Gust and his friend decided to swim the shark infested waters to the mainland. They had all plans made and one dark rainy night they made their escape. They swam most of the night. His pal was not a strong swimmer and begged Gust to go on without him. He never made it to land. Gust made it to freedom and he was later pardoned because no man had ever been able to survive in those waters.

Gust worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana; also panned gold along the northern rivers. He came to the Saima district in 1902 and homesteaded in NE 30-30-2W5. He was very active in community affairs and was instrumental in forming the Saima School District and the building of the school.

While working in the copper mines in Butte he contacted a lung infection of which he died and is buried in the old Gibby Cemetery.

**KOPSALA, ANDREW**

Andrew Kopsala was born in Finland in 1855 and died in 1937. His wife, Eva, was also born in Finland, in 1859 and died in 1929.

Andrew entered the U.S.A. in 1888, settling in Wyoming, where he lived for about 15 years. In 1903 he move to Red Lodge, Montana, and continued north, to Alberta, in 1911.

As more homesteaders came into the Eckville area there became a need for people skilled in various trades. Andrew Kopsala filled the need for skilled carpenters. He settled in Eckville and built many fine houses, some of which are still standing and being used today. He was a fine finishing carpenter, and could design and build very intricate banisters and pillars. Whenever there was a death in the community he was called upon to build the coffin.

In addition to his carpentry skills, Andrew used to tan hides and make the leather into shoes or harness. In his later years he took great delight in his grandchildren, and spent much time making skis for them so that they could enjoy the winter snows.

Of their seven children Ida and John remained in the U.S.A. when the parents came to Alberta. Pete and Charlie later returned to the States and made their homes in Washington. Helga and Selma married the Talson brothers, and, along with Dick, they have made their homes in Alberta.

**KOSKI, JOHN ALEXANDER JR.**

John Koski Jr. was born in Oulu, Finland on March 22, 1888 and he was nine years of age when he came with his mother and sister Elizabeth in

1897 to join his father John Sr in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. who had emigrated to the United States before them.

The family lived in Rock Springs for six years where John Sr worked in the mines. Three more children were born to them during those years, Ellen and a set of twins who died in infancy.

John Sr. heard much talk of the Red Deer district in Alberta, Canada and of the homesteads available there. He decided to see for himself what it was like and try his hand at farming. He sent his wife and daughters back to their former home in Finland and shortly after their arrival there, another daughter, Senia, was born.

Mr Koski arrived in Red Deer in the Spring of 1903 and filed homestead rights on a quarter section of land six miles west and a half mile south of Sylvan Lake now owned by E. Muth. John Jr. arrived a few weeks later and filed on the homestead adjoining his Father's land a few years later. They stayed with Mr and Mrs. Matt Harju until they built a one room log house. Mr Koski brought a sewing machine from the United States but the rest of the furniture was homemade. That Fall, Mrs. Koski and three daughters arrived from Finland. Two acres of land had been cleared and broken that first summer and some potatoes had been planted at Harju's but a hail storm ruined the crop and very few potatoes were harvested. During the winter months Mr. Koski and son John worked at the Crow's Nest Pass mines laying mine railways. John Jr also helped build the Grand Trunk Railway in Jasper. A team of horses were bought for the farm but one died as did many horses that year from an unknown disease. As horses were expensive and money scarce, Mr. Koski improvised a one horse sleigh by putting a box on the front runners of a bob-sleigh and attaching double shafts. Two cows were bought and butter was made and traded for groceries in Red Deer. When the T.B. Millar cheese factory was built the milk was sold there. Grief came to the family when their little daughter Senia died after a few days illness.

John Jr worked many summers at Red Deer clearing land and doing construction work. He would walk the 23 miles home every two weeks, stay overnight and walk back again. In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Koski's second home, a three room log house burned down. They lost nearly all their household effects and there was no insurance. After the fire, a storey and a half house was built of lumber.

Elizabeth Koski married John Kemila of Gilby, they had a family of five children. Only one member of that family survives, Selma (Mrs. George Lahti) of Edmonton. Ellen Koski married William Bond of Nebraska.

Mrs. Koski died after a brief illness in 1914. John Sr married Mrs. Elmina Moilanen of Butte, Montana in 1919, who had three daughters by a former marriage. The only child of Mr Koski's second marriage, Hazel, lives in British Columbia. Mr Koski, Sr. passed away during the summer of 1931.

John Jr farmed with his Father until 1919, when he married Miss Hilda Tormala who came to the district from Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Soon after they left to make their home in Portland Oregon, they lived there for two years and during that time their daughter Ellen was born. They returned to Alberta and the Eckville district in 1921. Land was bought one mile north of the former Saima School. SW 32-38-2 W5.

John Koski Jr. was always in demand during long threshing periods when separators and steam engines were used. In each outfit of 12 men or more, he was always the separator man. Besides clearing the heavily wooded land during the summers he worked as foreman on road maintenance crews.

In the fall of 1931 Mr. and Mrs. Koski their children, Ellen and Wilfred went to Europe spending over two years in Russia and Finland. Following their return with the Depression at its height it wasn't easy to make a new beginning. However, Mr. Koski managed to open a blacksmith shop in Eckville to work at his former trade. He operated the shop for 15 years and worked later at the Co-op Lumber yard while his son Wilfred did trucking.

Mr and Mrs J A Koski

Ellen Koski married Walter Wolma of Sylvan Lake in 1937 and they lived on the Wolma homestead until 1957 when they moved to Calgary. Walter Wolma passed away in 1960 and his widow is now Mrs. Bruno Olszewski of Calgary. Wilfred Koski married Miss Elsie Kangas of Edmonton in 1955 and they live in Eckville. Both Mr and Mrs. John Koski will be remembered as neighborly, peace-loving people who had a kindly word for all. John Koski died at the Eckville Municipal Hospital December 2,

1964, aged 76. Mrs. Hilda Koski passed away in the Eckville Hospital July 9, 1969 at the age of 83 years. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Besides their children there are two grandchildren, Mrs. Doreen Kelly of Red Deer and Gordon Woima of Calgary, also five great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

**JOHN P. KOSKI — by Arnie Koski**

Mr. John Koskie came from Harma, Finland, and his wife came from Karvia Turun Laani, Finland, where she had been born on August 24, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Koski were married at Frank, Alberta in 1906. He was a miner at Frank, and escaped death in the Frank Slide because he was away on the business of filing on a homestead on the west side of Sylvan Lake.

Their oldest daughter, Lempi Marie, was born on the homestead. In 1911 they sold the homestead and bought a farm in the Salma district, where the other children, Arnie, Eileen and Effie were born. All of the children were born at home, and they all received their schooling at Salma school.

Mr. and Mrs. John Koski and Lempi Marie. Taken in Red Deer, 1911

Horses were valuable property in those days, for travelling was done by horse and buggy or sleighs in the wintertime. Farming was all done with the benefit of horse power, too. The family raised most of their food by having a big garden every year, by milking cows, raising chickens for meat and eggs, and raising hogs.

In those days neighbors and friends helped each other, especially at threshing time, and also when the roads needed maintenance. Our recreation was mainly having friends and neighbors drop in, or going visiting on Sundays, as well as picnics, ball games, school concerts, plays and dances at the local halls, and swimming in the lake during the summer.

The family bought a farm in the Boyle district in 1930. This was on the north end of the lake. They lived there until the time of their deaths, and their son Arnie farmed it until the early 1970's.

Lempi Marie married Raymond Wesley Kirk in Calgary. They have two daughters and a son. Marie passed away in Calgary on September 3, 1971.

Arnie married Lempi Valley in 1949. Lempi passed away in 1970. On December 21, 1974, Arnie married again. This time he married Lucy Noures and they are now living in Bentley.

Eileen married Wilfred Portlin in September of 1939. They moved to Vancouver and lived there for a period of time, later returning to the Sylvan Lake district. Wilfred passed away in March, 1969.

Effie married Spencer Wilson in 1942. At that time Spencer was in the services and was stationed in Red Deer. He served overseas from April, 1942 until 1945. They lived in Calgary until being transferred to Edmonton in 1971. They have a daughter.

**KUGE, FRANK — by Sylvia Therkmas**

Frank Kuge, of German descent, came from Kansas to the Eckville district in the early 1900's and homesteaded the SE 5-40-2W5. The land is now owned by the Psikla's.

He was a very ambitious man. He cleared his land and built buildings which at the present time are still standing.

He died accidently when he was hitching his horses on the binder. The horses bolted and he was run over with the binder. Nothing is known regarding his relatives.

**KUSISTO, MIKE — by Mrs. Roland Lewis**

My folks, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kusisto, moved to the S.E. 24-39-3-W5, in 1903 and moved away again in 1904. Dad never did sell the place — he just left it, thinking he would go back but never made it. The county or state later took it for taxes.

When the folks came out of Canada they settled in Spokane, Washington. They lived there for several years. Dad worked in wheat while in that area. Two brothers and myself were born in Spokane and a brother was born in Idaho and another one in Oregon.

Mother often talked about the place they started to homestead in Canada and how Dad built the log cabin they lived in. She liked it

there. They had a daughter born in the cabin there, but she didn't live. At that time there was no town of Eckville. Red Deer was the nearest town. My mother never did get back to Canada after they left in 1904.

**LAHTI, KONSTA AND FANNIE**

Konsta Lahti was born May 4, 1878, in Wirrat Finland. His wife Fannie Uljas was born February 1, 1882.

Leaving his wife and family behind, Konsta came to Canada in 1912. The family followed the next year. They had four children, Lydia was born April 3, 1902. Lauri born August 9, 1904, Olga born March 29, 1907 and Eino born April 14, 1911.

The family lived on the Victor Vianen farm in the Saima District for a time, later taking a homestead south of Condor. This property is owned by Kaspersons, who are still living in the homestead home built by Mr. Lahti.

Mrs. Lahti passed away in 1914 and is buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery. Mr. Lahti passed away in 1943 and is buried in the Hespero Cemetery.

Lydia married Mr. Slemko in Nordegg and they have three daughters, Fannie Bishop of Calgary, Jessie Hamilton of Hay River, N.W.T., Judy Bortnik living at Cross Lake, Manitoba. Judy and her husband both teach school there.

Lauri married Naimi Suiela and they have two sons Barry and Bernie. Barry is married to Grace Greenwood and they have four children — Kevin, Karen, Keltie and Karla. Barry, Grace and family live at Oliver, B.C. Bernie is married to Rosemary Martin and they have two daughters — Angela and Jody. Bernie and Rosemary reside on a farm SE 32-38-3-W5 south of Eckville.

Olga married Lloyd Harvey and they live in Rosebury, Oregon. They have five children.

Eino married Eva Taskila and made their home on the Oscar Lind farm, SW 15-38-4 W5 in the Hespero District. Eino, beside helping Oscar on the farm, was a carpenter who built many homes and cupboards in the district.

Eino passed away November, 1961 and is buried in the Hespero Cemetery.

**LEPISTO, HENRY AND JOHN — written by Sylvia Thorkman**

Henry and John Lepisto were born in the Finland on an island close to Oulu. They immigrated to the United States of America. Henry worked in the coal mines in Wyoming until coming to Canada to homestead the NW 36-39-3-W5 in 1902.

He was a hard worker and a good neighbour. An ardent fisherman, he knew the exact time when fishing was at its best and usually came back from a fishing trip with plenty of fish for himself and the neighbors along the way.

In 1911, his health deteriorated and he passed away. He was buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

John Lepisto

After Henry's passing, his brother John arrived from Butte, Montana, and stayed to farm Henry's land.

John was an athletic man and a long-distance runner. His travelling method was to walk wherever he went. His favorite pastime was reading, and he was also a capable speaker.

In the 1930's he sold the farm to Susie Bvttynen and bought CPR land, the SW 1-40-3-W5, where he raised cattle and large flocks of turkeys. During his years on the farm he was our neighbourhood veterinarian, and was always willing to help whenever called upon. John sold his farm in 1963 to Lorne McMann, and retired to the town of Eckville where he had purchased a small house. He passed away in 1970, at the age of 78 years and was buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**LOUKKOLA, MR. AND MRS. DAVID**

Mr. and Mrs. David Loukkola immigrated to Boston, Mass. in the 1800's. They arrived in the Saima district in 1905 homesteading the SE 7-40-2W5. They had one daughter Selma, who married Chris Odberg of the Sunset district. Selma and her daughter returned to the United States in 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Loukkola sold their farm, retired to Eckville, where they passed away in the 1940's.

**LUOMA, ERICK AND OTHEALIA — by Mrs. Annie Luoma**

One of the pioneer families to homestead in the Saima district was Erick and Othealia Luoma. Erick and Othealia and their two sons, John and Roy, arrived in the district in 1907, emmigrating from Diamondville, Wyoming, U.S.A. They were both born in Alva, Finland, immigrating to the United States as children. The Luoma's in Finland went by the name "Muursula". Mrs. Luoma's maiden name in Finland was Harju, which was changed to Johnson when they arrived in the United States.

When they arrived in the Salma district they homesteaded the NE 31-39-2-5W. This quarter was covered by dense bush. The first task was to build a log house. Erick had to borrow an axe with which to cut the logs. This homestead house was standing until approximately 1972, when it was demolished. After lots of hard work clearing the land Erick began breaking the sod, using his first team — an ox and a small red pony. During the winter months he was employed in coal mines at Nordegg.

The Luomas had a family of 12 children — eight sons and four daughters. The eldest son, John, will be remembered by many people for his great love of music. John could be heard playing his violin at many dances and parties. He would either walk or drive a team to the hall. He lived on the farm all his life, helping his father with the farming. He also owned and farmed his own quarter, SE 32-39-2-W5. This was located on the shore of Sylvan Lake. On October 28, 1954 John passed away at the age of 52, death being caused by cancer.

Ray is married and farms at Wetaskiwin, where he has been for several years. He has a stepson and a daughter, Uro and Goldie. Eidel is married and retired at Alberta Beach after farming for several years in that district. He enlisted in the army during the World War II. While in the service he was in a train wreck, which severely injured his back. He still suffers as a result of the injury.

Sylvia was married to Elmer Lund from the Kuusamo district, where they farmed, and where Sylvia resided until her passing in January of 1957 at the age of 45 years.

Their family of five sons and two daughters is as follows. Arne (Matt) lives in Teasdale Saskatchewan, where he is employed as a jail guard. He farmed for several years in the Tisdale area. Matt also served in the army.

Eino is retired, and lives in Rocky Mountain House. He worked for several years in the lumber camps west of Rocky Mountain House and in the Crimson Lake Park.

Ernest and his two sons reside in Los Angeles. Ernest is a machinist in a small factory. His wife passed away in 1969 from a liver ailment. Ernest also worked in Montreal and Buffalo, New York, U.S.A.

Marie is married to Frank Gabara. They live at Alberta Beach where Frank works. They have three sons.

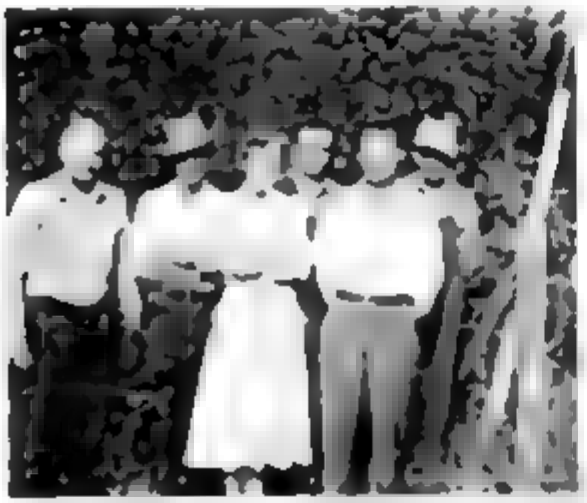
Eugene now owns and operates the Luoma homestead. He also served in the army during World War II until he was discharged because of rheumatic fever.

Mariam is married to Ernest Swartz, who works at Fort McMurray on the Syncrude project. They have two sons and one daughter.

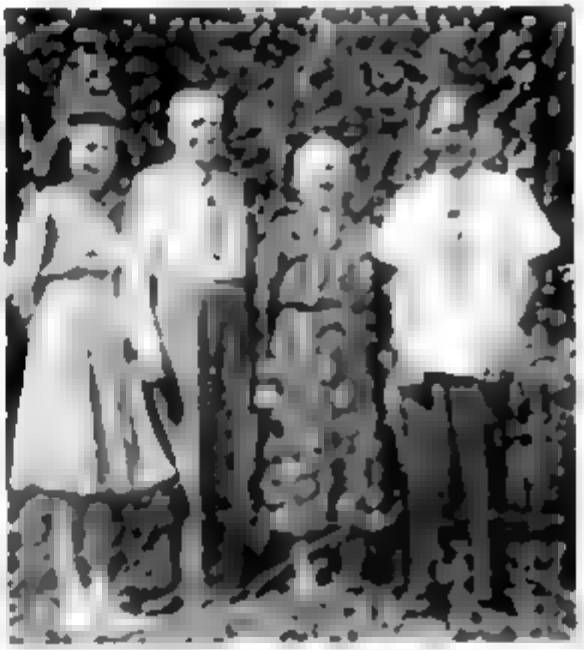
Elvira is married to Clifford Lawrence, who farms at Pine Lake. Cliff and Elvira have three daughters and two sons. Elmer is married to Anne Lund (nee Lauritsen) and lives and farms in the Kuusamo district. He has a step-daughter, step-son, and a son. Elmer also owns and farms the lakeshore quarter which John owned. Prior to his marriage he worked on the D.E.W. Line as a heavy-duty mechanic.

Erick and Othealia returned to Eckville in 1951, where they built a new home. Mrs. Luoma's health began to fail and she spent a great deal of time in hospital. She passed away January 7, 1958. Mr. Luoma passed away only five weeks following his wife's death, February 16, 1958.

Othealia contracted the flu during the epidemic of 1918, and lay in bed for months. However, the doctors came to the farm, giving medical aid. Soon after recovering from the flu Marie was born.



Eric Luoma, John, Sylvia, Elmer, Ernest and Eugene.



Mr. and Mrs. Erick Luoma, Miriam and Elmer

The frame house in which Eugene still resides was built in 1917. Ernest was the first child born in the present house. The sauna was built in 1935, and was used every Saturday night until about 1972. Many friends and relatives would gather on Saturday nights for the very popular Finnish bath.

The first tractor purchased was a John Deere 1527 Model D. A three bottom plow was bought along with the tractor, and the price was $900, in 1935. The first car was a Model T Ford, which was traded for a buzz saw motor. John would go about the neighborhood, sawing huge woodpiles to last the long cold winter, since no coal was burned.

The family managed quite well during the time of ration books because, with a large family there were lots of stamps. They lived mainly off the land, hunting, fishing, and raising a big garden. This, combined with the milk and eggs produced on the farm, left little to buy.

One memory which stands out in most pioneer families is the large threshing gangs which moved from farm to farm. The threshing began in October and would last for two weeks or more, until everyone's grain was in the bin. The aroma of the fine cooking coming from the country kitchens would make your mouth water.

The children were all born at home, with a midwife in attendance. All the children took their schooling at Saima. The children took turns doing janitor work, such as sweeping floors, packing in wood and water, cleaning blackboards and building fires. These chores were done on a monthly basis at the rate of $5.00 per month.

Ray and John were some of the first students to go to the Saima School, which was built in 1907. I have heard it told that the man teacher would go across the road from the school during class to smoke a pipe and eat blueberries, which were very plentiful in the area at that time.

**MAKI, BILL AND MIRIAM — by Mrs. Bill Maki**

In the spring of 1942 we left the dried-out prairie of Manyberries and moved to the Eckville area in search of greener pastures, and greener they were. We loved the lush green growth of grass, shrubs and trees. It was beautiful to us after being used to the bare brown prairie. It was also a great deal wetter. That summer was unusually rainy. The sun would be shining brightly, and the next minute it would pour with hardly a cloud in sight.

We rented the Fritz Kinna farm north of Eckville for that year. The road into town was not graveled, and many was the time that we were stuck in one of the many mud holes, sometimes even having to leave the old car and walk home. The farm buildings were located in the bend of the river, with the fields on the other side. That meant fording the river to get the machinery to the fields. There was a narrow foot bridge constructed of poles driven into the river bed and two planks to walk on. I had to cross on this bridge to take lunch to the men in the fields. Our boys, Stanley and Howard, were two and four years of age at the time and I was always so afraid that they would follow me and fall in the river. Old Grandpa Kinna stayed on the farm with us and kept an eye on the boys while I was gone but it was still quite a worry. The boys followed Grandpa Kinna wherever he went. He would talk to them in Estonian, which, naturally, they did not understand and they would run to tell me that "Grandpa is swearing at us again."

In 1943 we worked for Eli Murto on his farm in the Kuusamo district. It was a busy summer and we enjoyed our stay there. The boys liked to follow Eli around the farm, helping to fix the tractors by putting a few sticks and twigs into the gas tank, and learned a few choice words in the Finnish language in the process.

In 1944 we purchased the Adolph Talson farm in the Saima district. We lived here until 1954 when we moved into Eckville. I went to work at Forhan's Pharmacy, and Bill drove the school bus and continued farming operations until 1963, when we sold the farm to Fred Murto.

Our third son, Kenneth, was born in 1945. The older boys attended Saima school until it was closed and they began bussing the children into Eckville. Kenneth started school in Eckville when the Saima school was closed.

Bill worked for the county full time after selling the farm, until 1971, when he went to work at the Eckville Hospital where he was employed until the fall of 1973. Then he obtained employment at the Alberta School Hospital in Red Deer in transportation. I continued to work at Forhan's Pharmacy until 1973. In May, 1974, we sold our property in Eckville and moved to Red Deer, where we still reside.

Stanley married Helen Covlin in 1962. They have two sons, Camron and Wendell. They live in Rocky Mountain House, where Stan is manager of the Credit Union.

Howard married Helen McGowan of Red Deer in 1960, and they have a daughter, Shannon, and two sons, Brent and Todd. Howard is personnel administrator at the Michener Centre in Red Deer.

Kenneth married Peggy Welsh of Calgary in 1971. They live in Cranbrook, British Columbia. Ken is a manager with a firm of chartered accountants and Peggy is a registered nurse at the Cranbrook hospital.

In 1947 Bill's parents, Grandma and Granpa Maki, sold their farm in Manyberries and moved to the Eckville area. They built a house on our farm, which was later moved to Eckville. Grandpa Maki passed away in July of 1966, at the age of 91. In 1977 Grandma Maki is still in good health at the age of 92. She makes her home at the Eckville Manor House, but still maintains her own home in Eckville.

**MAKI, ERICK — by Mrs. Helen Doray**

Erik Maki was born at Yli-Harma, Vaasa, Finland, in 1856. He married at the age of 23 and immigrated to the U.S.A. at the age of 25 years. His son, Gust, was one year old when his father moved to the U.S.A.

Erik worked on the railroad in Montana for two years. He then moved to Wyoming where he worked in the coal mines. He brought his wife and son, Gust, to Wyoming in 1886. A daughter, Mary was born to them in 1888, at Carbon, Wyoming. Erik's wife died at Rock Springs in 1892, after a long illness. In 1894 he married Sanna-Maria Kirkkomaki, a recent widow. They had a son, Oiva (Jack) in 1895. In January 1903, Erik and his family immigrated to the Salma district of Red Deer, North West Territories, where he and his son, Gust, filed on homesteads. They built a home on Erik's land and proved up their quarters, NW 16-39-2 W5 and SW 16-39-2 W5. Gust worked in the coal fields of the Crow's Nest Pass during the winter months.

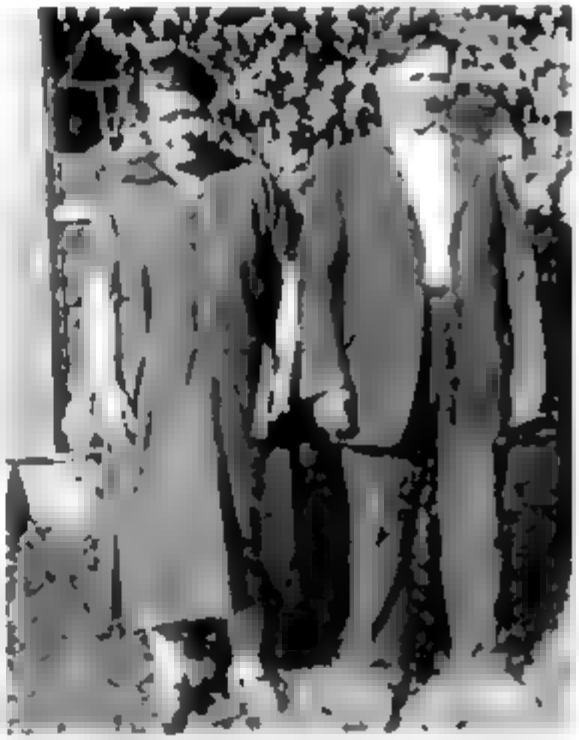
Erik and Sanna-Maria had three more children during this period. Helmi (Helen) in 1903, Ina in 1906, and Eino in 1911. Sanna Maria died a few days after giving life to Eino.

Erik Maki was authorized by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church to baptize and to officiate at funerals. He performed these functions for the Finnish communities of the immediate area as long as his health permitted. He died on July 5, 1928, and he lies beside his wife, Sanna-Maria, in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Gust continued to work in the coal mines during the winter and at clearing land during the summertime until 1914, when World War I was declared. Gust joined up early in 1915 and served overseas until April, 1919. He then resumed farming his father's homestead.

Gust became a councillor for the Municipality of Lorne, and secretary for the Salma School District. He later became a secretary for the enlarged school district of Rocky Mountain House. Gust also acted as advisor and interpreter for the Finns of this district. During these years Gust continued to farm his father's origina. homestead jointly with his sister, Mary, and her husband, John Maki, who owned the adjoining quarter. This quarter had been Gust's old homestead. When John Maki died in 1963 Gust and Mary sold out and moved to Sylvan Lake, where they retired. Gust died in 1965 and Mary died in 1969. They, and John Maki, are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery.

Mary Maki married John Maki (no relation), a homesteader from the Rocky Mountain House district, in 1910. They had two children — Laimie, born in 1912, and Waifrid, born in 1918.



John and Mary Maki

Gust Maki 1962

Oiva (Jack) Maki lives at Houston, B.C.

Helmi, (Mrs. Helen Doray) has a son, Raymond, living at Vancouver, two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren.

Ina (Mrs. F. E. Stunden) lives in Sierra Madre, California, and has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Eino Maki lives in Edmonton. He has three sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Laimie Maki, daughter of John and Mary Maki, taught school for 10 years in the Greater Rocky School Division and then worked for 30 years in the External Affairs Department of the federal government at Ottawa. She is now retired and lives in her home at Sylvan Lake.

Waifrid Maki, son of John and Mary Maki, lives in Red Deer.

**JOHN AND NONI MARSHAL OF EDMONTON**

We stumbled upon our lakefront property by accident. In 1957, while our daughters were at the Y Camp, we learned from Mr. Charlie Donaldson that a piece of land was for sale on the east side of the lake. We stopped to ask directions from a farmer who was repairing his tractor The farmer was Walter Johnson and the next morning we purchased our present property from him

In 1958 we built a log cabin which we sold in 1962 to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pitt of Calgary, and immediately started building the cottage which we now occupy. It has been our pleasure to be part of this friendly community for the past 20 years

**MICKELSON, MATT**

Matt Mickelson came to Mandan, North Dakota, U.S.A. with his father from Yliveska, Oululani, Finland in 1882 at the age of ten years.

Ten years later, in 1892, he was joined by his mother, sister Fredricka and brother, August.

Matt Mickelson married Katrina Marija Kangas in North Dakota after her arrival from Haapajarvi Ranta, Oululani, Finland in 1892. Matt and Katrina had 10 children, all born in North Dakota. These included Amanda, August, Anna, Jennie (deceased), Frank (deceased), Matt, Hilda, Fannie, twins Eddie and Lillian Jennie and Frank are buried in North Dakota

On April 28, 1910, the family moved to Seven Persons, Alberta. Later they moved to Manyberries, Alberta. This is where three of their children were born. Hilja on April 29, 1910, the day after their arrival; Hilma in 1912, and Hattie in 1915.

For 15 years the family lived on the homestead at Manyberries. In 1928, they moved to the Eckville district on NE 7-40-2-W5. Two of their children, Matt Jr. and Lillian, passed away at Manyberries.

Matt was a very active and capable man who could operate any machine. He was a First World War veteran In 1938, Matt passed away, at the age of 65 years.

Katrina passed away in 1959 at the age of 87 years Both are buried in the Eckville Cemetery Of their children, August, Hilda, Fannie, Annie, Hilja, Hilma and Hattie survive.

**THE HERMAN MURTO FAMILY**

Herman and Johanna Murto were among the early settlers of the Salma District.

Herman, who was born in Finland on October 26, 1872 and his wife Johanna born December 4, 1874 emigrated to Iron River, Michigan, a mining town, in 1905. A son, Paul, was born to them there. After working in the copper mines for a few months, they left to live at Seaside, Oregon Two sons, Alexander and Eli were born there, in April 1907 and March 1909, respectively. After cutting and sawing tall trees in Oregon for five years, Herman with his wife and their three

Seated: Eli Murto and Albert Pietikainen. Standing: Alex Murto

small sons travelled to Canada to the Manyberries district in Southern Alberta in 1910, where they took up farming On October 16, 1913 a daughter, Lilia was born. On October 25, 1923 Lilia passed away at the age of 10 years

In the fall of 1924, Herman, his wife and three sons came by train to the Hespero district renting a quarter of land from Jerry Macdonell — SE 2-39-4-W5. They brought with them their animals that they had in Manyberries. After one and a half years, in the spring of 1926 they moved to the Salma district to Sec. 17-39-2-W5 which they had purchased from Frank Jenkins. Again, sadness hit the family in February, 1928 when Paul passed away at Keith Sanitorium in Calgary at the age of 23 years.

On April 10, 1934 Alex married Seija Taskila of the Evergreen district. They have six children. **Selma**, born in November, 1935, married to Jack Saari of the Hespero district They have four children. **Eileen**, born June, 1940, presently living in Calgary. **Walter**, born in October, 1943. **Fred**, born in July, 1946 and **William**, born in January, 1952. All live and farm with their parents on the family farm. **Alice**, born in August, 1956, presently going to school in Calgary **Ellen**, born November 11, 1936 passed away in 1939 and is buried in the family plot of the Kuusamo Cemetery The three older children attended school at Salma until 1950 when they

Herman and Johanna Murto Taken in 1951

attended school at Benalto for one year. In the fall of 1951, bus service transported them to Eckville where all have graduated

In 1946, Herman and Johanna purchased the NE 10-38-2-W5 from O. Umari and moved there to live

Eli, the youngest of the Herman Murto family, farmed with his parents and brother Alex until 1936 when he purchased his own land in the Kuusamo district (NW 27-38-2-W5), and went on his own. In 1946 he moved in to live with his parents onto the quarter bought from O. Umari, which now is his present home.

Herman passed away in March, 1955 at the age of 82 years and Johanna passed away in May, 1960 at the age of 85 years.

**NELSON, EDWIN AND TERRY — SW 19-38-2-W5**

Edwin B. Nelson was born in Edmonton on May 18, 1930. He was raised and educated in Jarvie, Alberta, where, on August 20, 1953 he married Therese Allarie from the same hamlet, who was born February 13, 1933. Their first home was in Devon, Alberta where their first three children were born. Richard, November 18, 1955, Elaine, December 11, 1956 and Darryl, April 1, 1958. In the spring of 1959 Edwin left Imperial Oil and became employed in Cessford, Alberta by Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas. One month later he was transferred to the pipeline division and moved to Olds, where they remained until December of the same year. They then moved to Red Deer, where their youngest daughter, Shirley, was born on June 1, 1962. In October of 1966 the opportunity arose for Edwin to fulfill a lifelong dream to own and operate a farm, when his job took him to the Eckville area.

I suppose the most intriguing part of this farm was having our very own steam bath house. After having lived in towns and cities all of their lives the children were fascinated by all the space there was on a farm, and thought it would take months to explore it all. It took all of us a while to adjust to the new life on a farm, but we find it most worthwhile

Elaine married Sid Anderson from the Pigeon Lake area on October 13, 1973. They are now living in Eckville and have two daughters, Tammy, age three years and Jodie, age nine months

Rick married Charlene Berze from the Bentley District on September 27, 1975, and they are presently residing in Blackfalds, Alberta. They have one daughter, Vickie, who was born on August 15, 1976.

**NESS, JOHN — by Sylvia Thorkmas**

John Ness was born in Sweden. He came to British Columbia where he worked as a logger before coming to the Eckville district to homestead SW 7-40-2W5.

John was a happy-go-lucky type, who played his accordion, and enjoyed dancing the Scandinavian polka. He often spoke of his desire to move back to British Columbia. This is exactly what he did. Selling his land in 1924 to Fred Erickson, he returned to Boswell, B.C. He operated a ferry across Kootenay Lake for a number of years. He passed away at Boswell.

**NIEMI, ISAAC (JR.) AND JEAN**

Isaac Niemi Jr. (Ike) was born in Eckville in 1908 and married Jean Juuti in 1934. The first of their three children, Betty, was born in the Bentley hospital April 14, 1935. Jean was taken to the hospital on April 13, the day of the worst blizzard of the year, with George Ignatius' car. You never saw two more nervous men than Ike and George when they got stuck in the snow three times. Ike got a ride with Fred Moos to the hospital the day Betty was born, but had to walk back 18 miles.

Ike's first car was a 1928, 490 Chevrolet. It cost him only $15, but all his wages went into gas. This car gave all the young folks great enjoyment. Ike drove all summer without a license for the car, and sometimes, when the gates weren't open, he would drive right through them.

When Betty was three months old the family moved to a sawmill southwest of Rocky Mountain House, run by August Moro. Otto Moro drove them there through mud and pouring rain, to a shack with no doors or windows. They first set up the baby's crib, put her to sleep, and then set up the stove and started putting in doors and windows. The rainfall continued for a week, so it was hard to dry out anything

Jean's first refrigerator was made by Ike. It was a square wooden frame with burlap sacks all around it with a water pan on top. The ends of the burlap sacks were in the water and acted as wicks to keep the sides cool.

The first years of their marriage during the depression saw many hard times. Wages were $1 a day, if one could find work. The joke was "let's flavour the onions with potatoes for supper instead of the potatoes with onions for a change."

Many a prairie chicken, partridge and rabbit were shot for the table

They moved from the sawmill to Eckville where their second child, Janet, was born at home in 1936. They moved around the area because of the scarcity of work for a number of years, then moved to the coast of British Columbia in 1941 where their son Douglas was born in 1948

Janet, Jean, Isaac and Betty Niemi. Missing is Doug

Ike and Jean have made many trips back to the Eckville area to see old friends and the old homestead. The original house and barn still stand

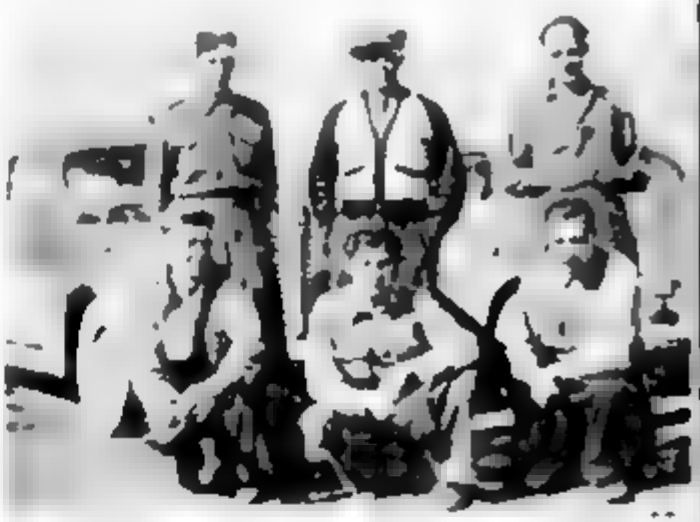
They are now retired and living in Aldergrove, B.C. on an acreage owned by their daughter Betty and her husband David Torsky Dave and Betty have three children and one grandson. Janet is married to Ronald Dinsdale. They live in Kamloops, B.C. and have two children. Douglas is married to Diana Cheney They live in Port Moody, B.C. and have one child.

**NIEMI-ISAAC AND JUUTI-GUST FAMILIES — as related by the Family**

Dad, Isaac Niemi, was born in Kuusamo Finland in 1877 His family was one of the more successful reindeer keepers there, having more than 1,000 head. He immigrated to the United States in 1895 where he worked in a copper mine in Butte, Montana. While there he married Emma Erickson in 1901. She was born in 1884 in Hancock, Michigan

In 1904 Dad came to Alberta to apply for a homestead, leaving his wife and young son, Oscar, in Butte, Montana. He bought a team of horses and a wagon in Great Falls for the seven day trip to bring their household goods to their new home On the way he had to lighten the burden for his horses, so he threw out some of the heavier belongings, including a stove (which he had to replace by carrying one home on his back from Eckville, a distance of four miles.)

When Mother and Oscar arrived later by train Dad met them in Red Deer and took them to the two-roomed log house which he had built on the homestead. In order to earn more money, Dad returned to Montana to work in the copper mines until his homestead would provide them with a living. In 1908 his application for the homestead, NE 24-39-3-W5, was approved. After coming to Alberta Mother and Dad had eight more children — John, Isaac, Jessie, Violet (who died at the age of 13 months), Vester, Charlie Lawrence and Henry. Our maternal grandmother lived with us until her passing



Lawrence, John and Charlie Niemi Vester Niemi. Ken Juuti and Henry Niemi

Mr. Isaac Niemi

Mrs. Isaac Niemi

Dad used a team of horses and a yoke of oxen for breaking the land. The oxen were very slow, but on one occasion when Oscar was driving them they were pestered so badly by flies that they took off with considerable speed for the bush. Poor Oscar couldn't do a thing about it!

Dad bought a stallion which once got him down in the corral and started to chew on his hair However, Dad yelled so loudly that he frightened the horse, and managed to escape This animal also had the habit of taking a piece of railing or tree in his mouth and galloping

along with it. Later a company was formed to purchase a stallion — a Suffolk punch. Being a member of the company, Dad cared for the stallion and travelled with it. Once, while Dad had this stallion in the corral, his infant son, Vester, crawled inside the corral and under the stud's feet. The stud merely sniffed the small intruder — but he would take a young pig by the skin of the back and contentedly stand and hold him and let the pig squeal. Therefore, Jessie, afraid her brother would get the same treatment, ran in and rescued him.

Dad took an active part in community affairs. He was a councillor in the Municipal District of Lorne. He worked on the telephone lines, putting in the poles, when the old crank wall telephone came to the Eckville area about 1918. His interest in farming led him to experiment with grains and animals to discover which were the most productive and suitable for this area.

Some winters, when Sylvan Lake was frozen before the snow appeared, Dad would go fishing when the ice was just thick enough to hold him. He first hit the fish, which he could see swimming just below the clear ice, to stun them, then he speared them. Often the John Heikkinen family, who lived on the quarter west of us, would come with horses and a wagon, and the two families would go together to Sylvan Lake. The men fished in a boat with nets while the women made a bonfire and prepared the potatoes in anticipation of adding the fish for fish mulligan "molkakaa". The nets had denim pockets filled with stones for weights and they used birch bark floats.

Dad had mid-leg length shoe-packs made for the children by Mr. Belikka. They were made of cowhide and featured the curled toe similar to the ones made in northern Finland. Since Mother was an expert seamstress, the children's clothes were home-made. Dyed sugar sacks furnished material for some of our clothing. After the sheep were sheared the raw wool was carded then spun into yarn and washed. From this yarn Mother knit toques, socks, sweaters, and mittens, wove blankets from the yarn and made rugs from rags on a loom. Raw wool was taken to Magrath woolen mills to be made into blankets in later years. Mother was known as a good, but thrifty, cook. Although we always had a huge garden, she also made use of what Nature provided, such as dandelion greens, wild berries, mushrooms, wild rabbit, and Labrador tea, made from a shrub that grew in the swamp. Another thrift food was prepared by putting a lump of flour into boiling salted water and letting it remain there while the water bubbled through it until it was cooked. This was called "muttia", a kind of quick bread. Dad called it "viheliainen muttia", a wretched bread.

After farming for some time, Dad bought two more quarters of land — the NW 30-39-2-W5 and the SE 30-39-2-W5. One Sunday shortly after Dad had acquired this land the whole family took a picnic lunch and went with him to burn brush. He first burned the hay around a building, which he planned to take down and move, and then burned some of the other brush further away. When we went back the next morning to start taking the building down, we found it burned to the ground. Dad vowed that he would never work on a Sunday again.

We older boys helped Dad haul logs from the west end of Sylvan Lake to enlarge the house with as the family increased in size. We also helped fence the land by erecting felled trees. We grew a great many potatoes, so bought a potato digger and sold potatoes to the Co-op Store by the wagonload. As well, we dug and picked potatoes for the neighbors. At first, scythes were used to cut all the hay, but after we got a mower they were used only around the bushes. In the early years when the waterwheel was running the Kinna Flour Mill, Dad and some of us boys used to haul wheat there to be ground into flour or left coarse-ground to be used for morning porridge. We older boys tore down the original Eckville store building and hauled the lumber two miles north to the Hiltunen quarter.

John drove a team of horses pulling a democrat for John Kemila in bad weather, but he also had the opportunity to drive Kemila's Model T delivery truck in Eckville, and sometimes used the excuse that he couldn't catch the horses, so that he would be allowed to drive the truck. He also delivered mail on Kemila's mail route. After Dad became unable to work John had to come home to do the farm work.

Mother served the women of the community as a midwife, and was called upon for many other health problems suffered by her neighbors. She believed in the sulphur-and-molasses cure for "what ails you" in the springtime. Mother would, on occasion, prepare the deceased for burial. Mr. Kopsaila Sr. and August Koski would make the coffins and Mother would line them. She would also make a dress, if required, and crepe paper flowers.

One day as Dad was doing chores in the barnyard, and, though he knew Grandma was paralysed so she couldn't walk he saw a form of her walking toward the steam bath with her familiar shawl over her shoulders. Then he saw her no more. His comment to Mother regarding this supernatural experience was that Grandma would leave us soon. She passed away soon after.

Each fall after threshing was finished, everyone got a new mattress — the old straw was emptied out and the ticking filled with new straw. Sometimes they were filled so full that you had to jump on the centre to flatten it so you wouldn't roll out of bed onto the floor. One year, due to a hard winter and a late spring, straw went up to $10 and hay to $100. This was in the late 1920's.

One evening when John had been sent to bring in the cows, he decided to go for a swim, along with Walter Stopsen. The cows waited patiently

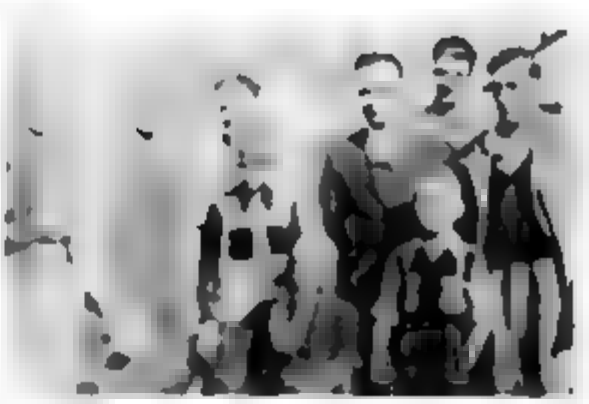
for him, and Dad was rather angry when they finally did get home. Knowing he was in trouble, John went and sat in the buggy and waited. When Dad came to apply the strap our faithful old dog "Muggins", grabbed Dad's leg and hindered the punishment. John "took off" and went to bed without any supper, thankful to have escaped the spanking. For three summers in a row it was Ike's job to take his lunch and drive the cattle two and a half miles north of the homestead every morning, herd them all day (there were no fences then), and then drive them home again in the evening. He found these summers very long and lonely.

We all attended Saima school a mile and a half away. Sometimes there were as many as 45 children attending the school. We took many a lunch of only bread and pancakes without butter — a boiled egg and a jam or peanutbutter sandwich was a real treat for us! During the wintertime the lunch as well as our feet, would nearly freeze, and had to be warmed up around the pot-bellied stove at school. In summer our bare feet became so chapped they were often red and cracked. Because this was a Finnish community, two Scottish children who attended school learned to speak Finnish, much to the dislike of their teacher and their parents. One year Della Harper was ashamed of the donkey which she rode to school, and tied it up to a fence post on the roadside before reaching the school. Her classmates soon learned about this, and each student then waited eagerly for a turn to ride the donkey. Every Christmas a colourful and very "real" Santa Claus, in the person of John Lundberg, presented the gifts to the children. The annual Christmas concert always drew a packed audience of parents and neighbours.

Church services were held in the Young People's Hall, and we attended the Presbyterian services, conducted by Johanson, Korhonen, Harju or Luomala. Mr. Harju formed a small orchestra among the young people, some of the members being Oscar Niemi, Ed Koski, Arvie Thorkman, John Viitala, Louis Mitzner, Fred Tauson, Okey Lundberg, Eino Kasper and Henry Tauson. Oscar could make music from almost anything — even an old hand saw. His specialty was the fiddle. Most of the Niemi children were gifted musically, and many of their children have inherited this natural talent.

Dad had never insured his crops, but a little over a year after his death, Mother was talked into buying crop insurance, which proved to be a very fortunate investment. During that same year, 1924, the crops were hailed out completely.

Gust Juuti, born in Alajarvi, Finland in 1881, immigrated to the United States in 1904 with his first wife and a year-old daughter. Late in the fall of 1924, as a widower of seven years, he came from Minnesota, U.S.A. and bought a farm north-east of Eckville. With him he brought six of his eight children. Mother married Gust Juuti in 1925 and from this union were born two children, Ken and Doris. When asked how many children he had, Dad Juuti would say, "I have 10 children, my wife has 10 children and altogether we have 18 children."



Mr. and Mrs. Juuti, Martha and Carl Juuti, Ken and Terra Juuti. Front row: Grandchildren, Dick, Ralph and Robert.

Dad Juuti filed on a homestead north of the first place he bought. This land was well known for its spring, and for the birch trees growing on it. It is now owned by the Bentley Ski Club. The family lived by turns on both the Niemi and Juuti places during the summer, when the cattle were pastured on the Juuti farm, but in the fall they were taken back to the Niemi farm and everybody lived together again.

During the wintertime fun for the family included skating at the north end of Sylvan Lake or on nearby ponds formed by springs. We also went sleigh riding down Ignatius's or Holmes's hill on homemade sleds. Ike built the most durable bobsled we ever had. It would hold ten riders. Sometimes the evening ended with a wiener roast. The whole school went on an afternoon sleigh riding party each winter, while in the summer there were picnics on the north shore of Sylvan Lake, which always included home made ice cream and fish mulligan. Holidays were family campouts, and berrypicking expeditions in the west country occurred every years.

Most of us boys owned skis made by Toivo Pajala. Vester, Charlie and Lawrence won prizes at ski track meets in Eckville. Many of us belonged to a young folks' athletic club called "Sisu", which was instructed by Henry Jokinen. We thought nothing of walking eight miles to Eckville where the club met, and then home again after the meeting. Groups of young folks used to travel miles to dances and Christmas concerts by hitching up our team, Lady and Baby, to the sleigh full of hay and covered with blankets. After the dance we could all sleep, and depend on the team getting us home in time for morning chores.

We boys made some money by snaring gophers and selling the tails at two to five cents. We also sold the eggs and legs of magpies and crows, and the hides of the rabbits we snared.

The family's reading material was the Family Herald, the Free Press Prairie Farmer, and the Eaton's Catalog

The first car in the family was a 490 Chevrolet. When we got the Model T Ford we sometimes had to back up a hill because the gas wouldn't run into the motor when going up a hill if the tank wasn't nearly full of gasoline. We bought the first tractor, a Twin City Minneapolis Moline, in the 1930's. We paid for the tractor and a plow partly in cash and partly with cows. Mother's first washing machine was a wooden barrel that had a hand crank to work the agitator. The next one was a more modern, round-bottomed one that had a hand crank which rocked the whole tub. Churning was done in an upright crock churn with a hand plunger and the surplus butter was sold to the store. Cream was sold to the creamery in Eckville, having been kept cold in cans lowered by rope down into the well.

From the Hill girls Dad Juuti bought a team of horses which included a roan named Lilac, and from Mr. Salo he was able, with much persuasion, to buy a perfect match for Lilac, which was named Buck. Dad Juuti was extremely proud of this team of roans, which people would often stop to admire. One day when the team was being shod, Buck stepped on a bag of horseshoe nails, blood poisoning resulted, and Buck had to be shot. Dad Juuti's comment was "Pride goeth before a fall."

During World War II, four of us boys were in the forces — Charlie with the Engineers, Vester in Artillery, Lawrence the Army Service Corps in the army, and Henry in maintenance in the Air Force.

Mother and Dad Juuti were active members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church. Services were held in the Unity Hall in the Marianne district. Most of the family were confirmed there or at the Young People's Hall. Dad Juuti was considered to be the mainstay of the church and many of the young people looked to him for guidance.

Of the six Juuti children who came to Eckville with their dad, only Jean, Carl and Toivo stayed. The others returned to the United States, married, and raised families. Carl married Martha Skjonsberg of Bentley. They have six children. Toivo married Gertrude Krushel of Innisfail. They are both deceased. Terry, their son, works in Calgary for the airlines. Jean and Isaac have three children.

Lawrence bought the original Niemi homestead through the V.L.A. Mother and Dad Juuti moved to New Westminster, B.C. in 1943, where Dad Juuti worked as a night watchman in a sawmill until his death in 1950. Mother died in 1952. Both are buried in the Ocean View Cemetery in New Westminster.

The "your and mine" family, Ken and Doris, are living on Pender Island, B.C. Ken is a carpenter.

Henry and Flora (Johnson) have two sons. After his discharge from the Air Force Henry worked at a sawmill in Port Radium, N.W.T., then as a foreman for elevator builders. His death occured in 1965, and he is buried in Alto Reste Gardens in Red Deer. His family resides in Calgary.

Lawrence and Rhona (Rempel) are Red Deer residents. Lawrence sold the homestead, after five years, to Mr. McColeman, who in turn sold it to Donald McDonald. After selling the farm Lawrence and Rhona moved to Lethbridge, where Lawrence drove an auto-carrier. They later moved to Red Deer, where he is now employed as a carpenter. They have three children.

Charlie and Dorothy (Johnson) moved to the interior of British Columbia in 1950. They have eight children. After his discharge from the Services he worked in and around Eckville but in British Columbia he was employed at sawmills as loader operator, scaler, and qualified first-aider. At the time of his death in 1976 Charlie was operating a Turbo Gas Service Station, which Dorothy and son Tim continue to operate. Charlie and their youngest son, Danny, are buried in Salmon Arm, B.C.

Vester and Mildred (Anderson) are presently living in Red Deer. They have three children.

Jessie and Earl Hibak have made their home in Burnaby, B.C. and are now retired there. Earl had worked as a commercial fisherman. They have five children.

The "step-brother — step-sister" couple, Ike and Jean, now are retired in Aldergrove, B.C., where Ike had been employed as millwright in New Westminster. They have three children.

John married Martha Finckman of the Faust district. John fished, trucked, and worked in a peat plant in B.C. They are now retired in Burnaby.

Oscar married Minnie Hibak of the Usona district west of Wetaskiwin. Of the seven children born of this union, five survived — Irene, Delmar, George, Arnold, and Doris. Oscar and Minnie farmed Dad's land, SE 30-39-2-W5, for a short while, then moved to the Usona district and later to British Columbia before returning to the homestead. Oscar died of a stroke in 1932. Minnie remarried, but she is now deceased, as is her son, Arnold. The family has spent most of their lives in Oregon, U.S.A.

Violet died as an infant. She, Dad, Oscar, and Grandma are buried in the Kuusamo Cemetery.

## NIEMI, VESTER AND MILDRED AND FAMILY

Vester was the sixth of nine children born to Emma and Isaac Niemi on the homestead in the Salma district. He, therefore lacked neither playmates nor baby-sitters, from the very start.

At an early age Vester's mechanical ability became evident. Helping John plan and construct a buzz-saw pulley system was of more interest to him than playing. To have an older

brother listen to and act upon your suggestions would be an unforgettable experience for any young lad. In their youth the boys, Ike, Charlie, Henry, Lawrence and Vester, along, with many other young people joined the athletic club "Sisu" with Henry Jokinen as instructor. They participated in gymnastics, track meets, and cross-country skiing. Charlie, Lawrence and Vester were among the winners in the youth's ski races. Mr. H. S. Mann was always on hand to act as timekeeper for the races.

The boys were also active in playing softball as members of "Sisu". This later developed into the Young Peoples' All Stars, with Ray Niemela as manager, and continued until many of the boys left to join the armed forces.

In his younger years, in the 1930's, Vester worked for neighboring farmers. For his first job he was paid 50¢ a day and board. His experience at a sawmill started a year or two after leaving school. Piling lumber at Henry Hietala's mill at the north end of Sylvan Lake was the beginning of his lengthy connection with sawmills.

In 1937 Vester paid $1 for a license, rented a boat and a gill-net from his brother in-law Earl Hibak, and became a commercial fisherman on the Fraser River. This proved to be a profitable venture, at $1 per fish, as this was the peak of a four-year cycle for salmon. Before returning home Vester bought a Rolls-Royce motor for $60. Using this motor for power for their MacLeod grinder, the boys ground grain for themselves and for the neighbors. Vester was also able to complete the payments on his first car, a 1929 Grahame-Paige costing about $250.

Vester's trucking years spanned the 1940's, from the time he drove a lumber truck from John Saari's mill to Rocky Mountain House until the time he sold his own truck which he had used for general trucking.

It was about this time that Vester and I became better acquainted. I was the second daughter born to Swan and Elma Anderson at home on the farm near Benalto.

As Annie and I were just over a year apart, we got into our share of mischief. As youngsters we started a fire in a toy stove in the upstairs of the old house, the one we were born in. This could have been serious, as only a platform porch separated our present home from the older one. Another episode that could have had serious consequences occurred when, on one of the rare occasions when Mother and Dad were not there when I arrived home from school, I went down to stoke up the furnace. As the fire seemed to be out, I threw in the wood and some kerosene. The ashes were hot! An explosive flame of fire shot out! Needless to say, my hair, eyebrows, and eyelashes were singed, as was the front of my new red woolen dress.

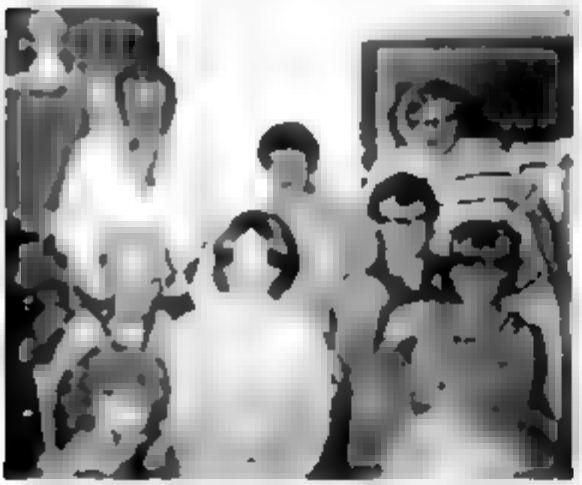
One August morning we were called to Mother's bedside. There, beside her, lay our baby brother, Arnold. What a surprise to me, but not so to my more observant sister. Now our family was complete.

Before Arnold was old enough to help Dad, we had certain outdoor tasks, one of which was to lead our large steady workhorse, Wirma, to either pull the potato cultivator while Dad walked behind keeping the plow share in the ground, or to lift the loaded hayfork up into the barnloft while Dad manipulated the fork and rope on the hay load.

While Annie had studied her lessons at home, I had memorized them. Had it not been for diligent Miss Barton, who made a brand new book for me, I would have floundered right from the start. After completing Grade 8 at Melita, to attend high school at Kuusamo four miles away, we either rode our pony-workhorse, Nellie, or she pulled us in a two-wheeled cart, or a cutter. Sometimes we walked. What a luxury it was to complete our high school years in Red Deer, where we were close to school again. Except for 25¢ a week which we were given to buy bread or other necessities (money was not plentiful), we brought our food from home. When Mother and Dad drove us to or from our place of residence each week, they didn't even stop in the city for a cup of coffee.

After staying home for a year after graduation from high school I attended Calgary Normal School, as there seemed to be no other promising occupation. That was a year of hard work, loneliness, new friends and fun! Although teaching opportunities were not plentiful, my first position was with the Rocky Mountain School Division at a salary of $700 per year. My board cost me $25 a month.

To help me get started in my new career at New Raven School, Annie came, as her school started later than mine did. Little did I realize that this was to be my life's work for over 30 years — a very satisfying but also a demanding profession. This was the year of the highs



The Vester Niemi Family. Back row: Vester Niemi and sons, Dale and Ron. Front row: Mildred Niemi and her mother, Alma Anderson, Esther Niemi, Swan Anderson celebrates his 80th birthday, Eugene and Barb Bernard.

and the lows — a new career, a trip to Victoria for Annie and me ($16 95 each, return) and the bitter realization that Arnold was diabetic

After transferring to Salma to teach, it so happened that Vester offered to drive part of our ball team to Benalto for a game. That's how it all began'

Vester served as a signaller in heavy artillery in the 25th R C.A. from 1942 until 1946. While he was thus "touring" Canada coast-to-coast, I continued teaching at Bluebell, Crossroads, Tilley and then at Eckville for three years where I taught Grades 7 and 8

After Vester's discharge from the army we were married in a quiet ceremony at my home Our honeymoon was spent visiting Vester s family in British Columbia. We hadn't really planned that my teaching career end in June, but in due time Ron arrived and Barbara followed two years and two weeks later At the time Barb arrived Vester was "relaxing" in the Rocky Mountain House hospital, having broken his leg while unloading logs at a sawmill at Horburg We were then living in a small house on Dad and Mother's farm. Vester helped Dad and Arnold with the farming in summer, and worked in sawmills in winter. As Mother's health was not the best, due to arthritis, she appreciated my help

In the fall of 1950 we moved to the Kettle Valley area of British Columbia where Vester worked as sawyer and millwright for Dewey Nielsen. After living there, and further up the river for three years, we returned to Alberta It was while we were in British Columbia that our second son was born, but he died shortly after birth.

Dad bought Walter Stopsen's farm, S 30-39-2-W5, and Vester, in turn bought the southeast quarter from Dad through the V L.A. We moved there in the spring of 1954. Dale was born less than a month later

The spring was late and the frost was early in the fall. Our only alternative was back to the sawmill for Vester and back to teaching for me Fortunately for us, I was temporarily employed to replace Marge Lazzer, as she had a two-months' leave-of-absence while awaiting Barry's arrival. Dame Fortune intervened again. The attendance was larger than had been expected so I was retained to teach Grade 4, and remained at Eckville for a very memorable and gratifying 12 years

In the intervening years Vester did various jobs besides farming, such as carpentering at the Eckville High School and Red Deer Composite, operating a lath mill at Camp 15, and eventually operating the sawmill there also. Finally he rented the farm to Art Lutz and began operating his front-end loader full time loading gravel, working at oil sites, digging basements, fencing and other custom work including donation work to the Benalto and Eckville communities

Except for the usual childhood diseases, our children were a healthy trio, and we seemed to be able to get ladies who had the children's welfare in mind, to care for them. Their grandparents, often serving as babysitters, supplied them with extra clothes, toys and spending money to help make a child's life more pleasant They could always depend on the grandprarents to give them chores to do so they could earn some spending money As grandparents, may we fulfil our role as wisely and as well!

Ron, Barb and Dale were active in extra curricular activities, particularly sports, band, Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and music lessons Like other farm families, in order to make these available for the children, we did a lot of chauffeuring. It was during these years that Summer School and Evening Credit courses occupied most of my spare time until I finally attained my Bachelor of Education.

Ron, Barb and Dale attended both Eckville and Red Deer Composite High Schools. Ron attended S.A.I.T before going to work at Steco. He married Esther Booth of Red Deer. Esther attended the Baptist Bible School College and Red Deer College. They have two children — Angela, attending Benalto school, and Todd, a pre-schooler. Ron is now apprenticing as sheet metal worker, with Hayhoe's in Red Deer, and Esther is employed in the office of Alpha Milk Company They are presently living on the farm formerly owned by Ron's grandparents

Barb attended O A V C. where she took Business Education. She was employed by Chevron in Calgary and Edmonton, and at the Red Deer College and Drayton Valley Elementary School Libraries. She married Gene Bednard. Gene was employed by the Royal Bank in Red Deer, Foremost, Edmonton and Drayton Valley, then he decided to go farming on his parent's farm in the Medicine Valley district for two years. Since then he had been employed by the Farm Credit Corporation in Vegreville and now is in Grande Prairie. Along with their two daughters, Traci and Karin, they are settled in their new home in this progressive community

Dale had travel on his mind. To make this possible he worked on the railroad until he had saved sufficient money to go with his friends on a trip to Europe. Upon his return he was employed by Moduline Industries, and is now with Midwest Mobile Homes, Red Deer He married Sandra Leinwieber Sandra has a course in Beauty Culture and is one of the instructors at Parkdale Beauty School. Along with their two sons, Patrick and Sean, they live in their mobile home at [illegible]

We have spent holidays travelling in Alberta. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and from Oregon to Wyoming, U.S.A. In 1976 Annie, Max and I visited Dad's home and all our relatives in Sweden, a fulfillment of a dream! In the not-too distant future we hope to continue our travels to where we've left off

**NUORISO SEURA (YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION) — translated from Finnish Minutes**

A meeting was held at the home of John Hyvonen Sr. on June 8, 1906. Samuel Saha was nominated chairman of the meeting.

The first item on the agenda was to find a name for the newly formed group. "Young People's" was chosen as the official name from several names suggested. Officers for the group were as follows: President, Henry Aho; Treasurer, Matti Johnson; Secretary, Elmer Hyvonen. Membership fee was set at 1 cents — 50 cents. Ladies — 25 cents and a quarter's fee of 15 cents per member. At this meeting 24 members joined.

Meetings were held in various homes, with a committee selected each time to provide entertainment such as recitations, music and songs. By August of 1906, the group membership had risen to 38. This was too large a group to gather in people's homes, so they gathered at different schools.

That year the Christmas Concert was held in Mehta School. Christmas donations were made by the members, amounting to $16.05 for treats.

The group decided to buy a pail of candy, coffee and cookies; sandwiches would be donated by the members for the first Christmas party.

In 1907 a mid-summer day picnic (Juhannus) or St. John's Day, a Scandinavian celebration, was held at the John Hyvonen farm. During the summer, fish and sauna picnics were held on the shore of Snake Lake (Swan Lake). The 1907 Christmas party was held in the Saima School, which had just recently been built.

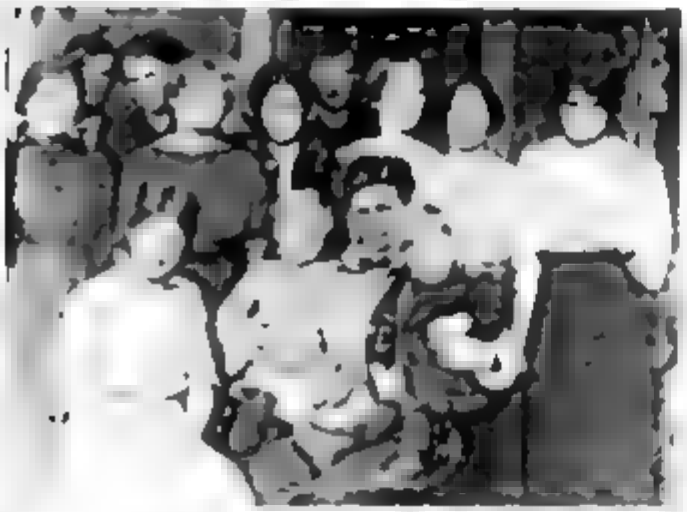
In March of 1908, a meeting was held at the home of John Hyvonen, which was the most central point. All meetings ended with a sing-song and a real good laugh. At this meeting Elmer Hyvonen was nominated as President, Peter Toivonen as Secretary and Matt Tarson as Treasurer.

A great need for a hall was very evident, and money was put away for this purpose. John Hyvonen Sr. offered a corner of his land, the SW ¼ NE ¼ W ¼, for $10 an acre, which was accepted. The first steps were taken to erect the Young Peoples' Hall when a building committee was formed. This was made up of Peter Toivonen, John Kinnunen, Jack Ropsfelt, Andy Hyvonen, Matt Tarson, Richard Thorkman, and Elmer Hyvonen.

The group decided the dimensions of the hall would be 24 feet by 36 feet. Matt Harju would enquire about lumber, 100 pounds of three-inch nails, 20 pounds of six-inch nails, 30 pounds of four inch nails, all of which were to be purchased. There was no record of the amount of lumber bought.

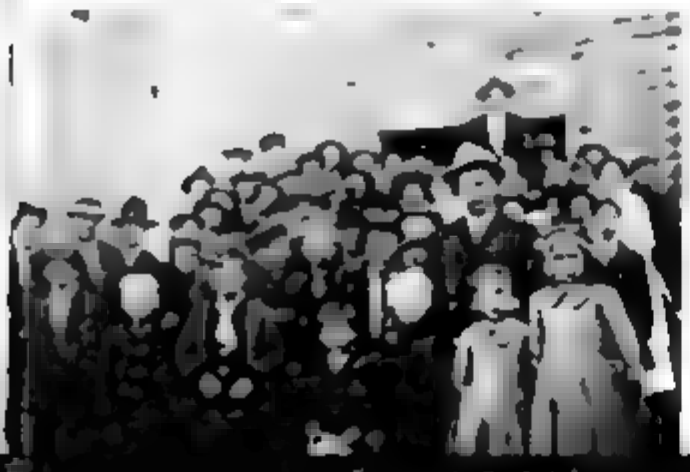
By the time for the Midsummers' Celebration in 1908, the hall was advanced enough for their first (Juhannus) picnic, program and dance.

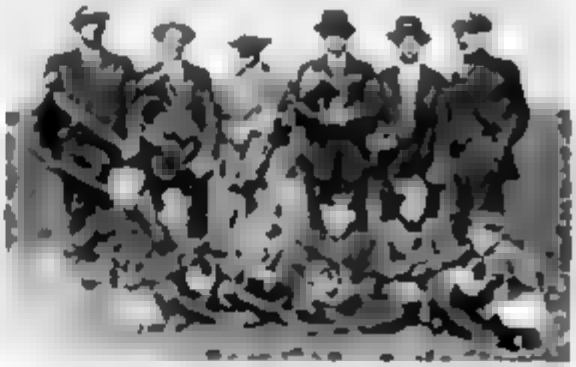
A special committee was elected to make the mid-summer day program and picnic as humorous and enjoyable as possible. The committee was made up of Peter Toivonen, Andrew Hyvonen, Matt Tarson, Jack Ropsfelt, John Kinnunen, Saima Ropsfelt, Sandra Halstein, Mary Ignatius, Stainer Johnson, and Aina Tarson.



Confirmation Class. Front row: The Harju's. Second row: Lydia Maki, Mae Kalaporos, Lillian Hoosein, Aina Rankki, Lily Valli, and Lempi Waima. Back row: Jack Mammola, Unknown, Ed Valli.

Young People's Picnic confirmation





John Pitcham's Band at the Young People's Hall. Back row: Henry Tarson, George Solomon, Arvid Thorkman, Pete Tarson, and John Pitcham. Front row: Fred Tarson, Okey Lundberg, Ed Kenis, Louis Mitzner, Oscar Niemi and Otto Kasper.

Waitresses would be Mary Ignatius, Lydia Joytsijarvi Olsen, and Ida Hyvonen. Dishwashers were Mary and Aina Talson, Sandra Halstein, and Saima Ropstelt. Andrew Hyvonen and Matt Talson were in charge of sports. Peter Toivonen and Matt Hyvonen were in charge of the prizes. The program committee would be Jacob Ropstelt, John Kinnunen, and Matt Johnson.

Supplies ordered for the picnic were 10 dozen lemons, five pounds of coffee, $2 worth of nuts, two boxes of oranges, two bags of sugar, and candles for light.

The highlight of one of the midsummer's picnics was when Mr. Goey Pederson arrived with his horse-drawn Merry-Go-Round. The children will all remember the long rides they received for 10 cents.

With the completion of the Young People's Hall, picnics, wedding dances, church services, funerals, confirmations — all aspects of social life of the district — were held there. The Saima School concerts were held regularly at the hall. It was very important to them to have the books audited regularly. The financial statement for the previous year would be read at the annual mid-summer celebration.

Sports were generally baseball, softball, and gymnastics during the winter, with boxing and wrestling being very popular through the years. The "Star Baseball Team" was one of the best in Central Alberta for a time, winning several awards. Most of the players were local boys, including John Johnson, Dave Hietala, Walter Stopsen, John Kalaputas, Ted Johnson, Charles Thorkman, Alex Hietala, Bud Hardsock, Aino Kasper, Oscar Moro, and George Ignatius.

The Junior U.F.A. also held their meetings in the hall, and in 1929 presented a dialogue "Nancy Ann Brown's Folks" which was played in several places west and as far east as Sylvan Lake.

The 16-mile trip to Sylvan Lake was driven with horses and sleigh. The cast of 12 players and equipment for the play was enough to fill a sleigh box. The cast would arrive home just before daybreak! What a happy sound it was to hear the sleigh bells ringing and people singing. This could be heard for miles on the cold winter nights.

In later years the hall was seldom used and the piano was donated to the Benalto Hall, the coal oil lamps disappeared, windows were broken, and the building was otherwise vandalized. As a result, the hall was sold to Bernard Molleken, who later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eckes. Mr. and Mrs. Eckes built a new home on the location, and all that is left of the Young Peoples' Hall are fond memories!

**OJA, MATT**

Matt Oja came to Canada from Finland in 1931. Arriving in this district in 1932, Matt made his home the first winter at the John Palm home at Palm Bay. As with many Finnish men, Matt

Matt Kivioja.

spent his evenings carving wood-chains and windmills. Matt helped many settlers of this district to clear their land — entirely done by hand in those days. He also worked at logging.

For a few years, Matt returned to the East. On his return to Eckville, he rented Sarah Johnson's farm yard where he raised pigs.

He enjoyed his sauna. Now, in his retirement years, Matt maintains his own home and continues to enjoy fishing and visiting his friends.

**JOHN OLLI — by Mrs. Bill Maki**

John Olli, uncle of Bill Maki, arrived in the Eckville district in the 1940's. For a number of years he made his home with his nephew Bill and wife Miriam. Later he moved into a little house on the west shore of Sylvan Lake, which was formerly owned by John Eski. He lived there for many years before moving to the town of Eckville, where he rented a home.

Around 1967 John returned to Finland to live. He passed away there in 1976 at the age of 88 or 89 years.

**OLSEN, CARL — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Carl Olsen was born in Norway and came to

Ole Olsen

Canada from North Dakota, U.S.A. Arriving in Canada he homesteaded the NE 7-40-2W5. He was a bachelor farmer, raised cattle and hogs. He loved to play his concertina and entertained at picnics and gatherings. He also enjoyed serenading the ladies

He died in a runaway in 1931 when his horses bolted and the team and wagon ran over him. He had no known relatives.

**THE RON PALM HISTORY — by Margaurette Palm**

Ronald and Margaurette Palm were married in Lacombe on September 1, 1955. This day also marked Alberta's official Golden Jubilee Celebration. Ron was the sixth child of Bill and Irene Palm of Eckville. Marg was the oldest daughter of Stan and Eileen Walker of Bentley. Marg's early life was spent on the family farm near Vegreville, Alberta and later the farm north of Bentley, Alberta.

Ron and Marg made their home in various places around Eckville, always preferring the country. Ron worked on construction jobs, in service stations and in tire shops. Marg taught primary Grades, 1 or 2, in Eckville school. Children born to this marriage were: Ronald Dale, born in 1956; Anne Marie, born in 1957, Allan Robert, born in 1959; Stanley William born in 1961, and Sharon Daleen, born in 1962. The children all attended school in Eckville. Marie graduated in 1975.

In 1962, the Palms acquired their own home, the acreage PT SW 29-39-2-W5, which was purchased from Eli Murto. This was the former Charlie Vianen home. The same year Ron bought a steam bath from Alex Murto off the former Henry Talson farm. The Finnish tradition of having a sauna every Saturday night has continued throughout the years. Ron started his own construction business which included a Cat, grader and gravel truck. With this machinery he did oil lease maintenance and farm jobs. Dale joined his dad in this endeavour

Dale died on October 22, 1972 at the age of 16 years as the result of injuries following a truck accident

Marg took university courses offered through Red Deer College. She received her Bachelor of Education Degree in 1975. Marg was appointed vice-principal of the Eckville Elementary School in 1974

Ron purchased his workshop from Bill Eluik in 1974. It was the former Shady Nook School. It had served as a classroom and music room in Eckville for many years.

Family ties have important meaning to Ron and Marg. Each summer, the family attended the Palm family picnic which was organized by Ole and Allie Solberg and held at Palm Bay; the north end of Sylvan Lake. The Johanson picnic, Ron's mother's family, was held at Emil and Hulda Wester's home at Sylvan Lake. In 1976 Ron and Marg organized the Palm-Johanson family picnic at their home. Eighty-five members attended. The second annual picnic was held in 1977. These will likely continue.

The family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Ron's parents in 1974. The same year, a 40th wedding anniversary party was held at Ron and Marg's home for the family and friends of Marg's parents, Stan and Eileen Walker

Ron and Marg's interests have centered around their home and children. Ron enjoys building planters for the flowers, planting trees and working in his shop. Marg enjoys her flowers and her yard

**PELTOKANGAS, LAURI (Larry Kangas)**

Larry Kangas was born February 20, 1902, in Finland. He came to the Eckville District about 1932

Larry and Eino Passi spent two winters trapping — one was spent west of Rocky Mountain House and the second one was spent at Medicine Lake trapping squirrels. In each case, they built their cabin to live in and went out with only the bare essentials, living off the land.

Larry was a carpenter by trade. His name is

Ron Palm Family. Left to right: Ron, Allan, Stan, Marie, Dale, Daleen, Marg. Taken at Hythe, Alberta in 1966

Larry Peltokangas

remembered in many homes for additions he built on to houses, cupboards or other renovations.

Larry had a real sense of humor as well as a great love of nature. The chikadees knew and trusted him. The deer had no fear of him and walked up to his doorstep. Every spring he would put out as many as one thousand strings for the orioles building their nests around his yard.

Larry enjoyed his sauna and always made a supply of hazelnut switches for himself and his friends.

His hobbies included fishing, gardening, and carving. Larry died December 9, 1976, and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**THE PESOLA FAMILY — by Vivian Pesola**

Mr. and Mrs. Pesola were married in Butte, Montana in 1905. A daughter, Vivian, was born to them there. Soon after that they went to the Eckville area in Canada. Mr. Pesola homesteaded the S.E. 24-39-3-W5. In this desolate land a son, Wilfred, was born on February 14, 1908. A daughter, Lillian, was born on June 30, 1914.

Our lives were lonely and humble. There were many struggles in those isolated, vast areas. There was very little opportunity for communication with other Finnish families in like conditions.

The family returned to the U.S.A. during World War I — perhaps 1915 or 1916. I am now the lone survivor of the Pesola family, and I am 70 years old.

**POTIVAR, JOHN**

John Potivar came to the Eckville District from Russia. He bought the quarter SW 24-39-3-W5 from Rudolph Stopsen. He engaged in mixed farming. John Potivar knew the secret of cleaning up quack grass. By keeping his land black for two summers, the roots rotted away and the land was free of this weed. He sold his land to Jim Grant and now makes his home in Calgary, Alberta.

**PSIKLA, JOE AND JENNIE**

Joe Psikla was born on March 19, 1921 in Coleman, Alberta and came to the Saima School District 1434 with his parents in the fall of 1930. Upon arrival in the district he started school taking Grade 5 with Miss Laimi Hill as teacher. The following year and up till Grade 8 Miss Laimi Maki was his teacher. He took his Grade 9 at Boyle School with Harry Laycock as teacher, returned to Saimi and took his Grade 10 under the supervision of Miss Maki. In 1937 he completed his Grade 11 at the Eckville School. After leaving school he started farming with his parents.

His hobby was music and he learned to play the violin at the age of 16. A few years later he, with his brother and Andy Harvilow, started to play for house parties and barn dances. When the war came along Joe received a postponement from the armed forces to continue farming. In the early 1940's Joe joined the "Benalto Hill Billies". Gordon Steadman had the drums, Laurel Nelson on the piano, Ted Johnson on the accordian and Joe with the violin.

On July 14, 1949 Joe married Jennie Trautman who was born in Strongfield, Saskatchewan on August 6, 1928. She then came to the Eckville district with her sister and brother-in-law who came to work for Ray Neimala. Jennie worked for John and Ida Lundberg and later for the Eckville Bakery, then operated by Mr. Ernest Jackson. In the spring of 1949 she worked for Jiffy Lunch operated by Mrs. Alex Thompson.

In August 1949 Joe and Jennie along with Peter and Jossie Liska started a dance orchestra and called themselves the "Polka Dots". Joe's brother Louis joined the group.

On September 6, 1950 a severe hailstorm harvested a very good crop the first storm for over 25 years in the district. The following year 1951 was marred by hailstorms and early winter.

On September 12, 1951 Ronald was born in Eckville Hospital. He was educated in the Eckville School and graduated in 1969. He worked for Whately Trucking, later for Skocdopole Construction and then for A.G.T. In 1972 he moved to Prince George, B.C. and worked for B.C. Telephones until 1974 when he returned to Eckville where he is presently working for Robert Rathole operating a "rat hole" drilling rig.

It was a great day on September 12, 1951 when the Calgary Power was turned on in our area.

On June 21, 1953 (Father's Day) twins, Gerald and Joan, were born to Joe and Jennie in the Eckville Hospital. They went to school in Eckville and graduated in 1971. Gerald worked for Whately Trucking and later on for Canada Packers. In 1972 he moved to Prince George, B.C. and was employed by Inland Natural Gas Company. In 1972 he returned to Eckville and in 1975 worked for Larrett's Trucking Company which he later purchased in the spring of 1977 and at present is operating his own trucking business known as Jaquar Trucking Limited.

Joan, after she graduated, worked for the Bank of Montreal in Red Deer at the Eastview Shopping Centre and later was transferred to a Calgary Branch. On October 12, 1974 she married John Carroll (known as Jack) who was born in Eckville on July 14, 1949. At the age of 16 Jack moved to Kitimat, B.C. with his parents where he finished high school and completed three years of commerce at the University of Victoria. On June 5, 1976 a daughter Jocelyn was born to them in Calgary. In the early spring they moved to Fox Creek where Jack is employed in the Hudson Bay Gas Plant.

In the mid 50's Joe with his uncle Peter and brother Louis joined with Waldo Raabis and Roy Leach in a dance band and called themselves "The Rhythm Boys" and played steady for almost five years.

On August 1, 1956 Robert was born in the Eckville Hospital. Robert received his education at the Eckville school and completed Grade 10. He took Grade 11 in Camille J. LaRouge school in Red Deer. He went to Edmonton and worked for Kenyan Industries and later worked for Air Vac in Red Deer. At present he is working with his brother for Robert Rathole Limited.

In 1959 Joe, Jennie and family, after living with Joe's parents, moved into a two room house which was remodelled into a four room bungalow.

On April 28, 1965 Loretta was born in the Eckville Hospital to compete their family of three boys, and two girls. Loretta attends Eckville School and is taking her Grade 7.

In the spring of 1971 Joe's parents retired from the farm. Joe along with his brother, Louis, continued farming. Joe and his family moved into the main house and at present still make their home there.

In 1975 the last of the heavy bush was bulldozed on the farm by Herb Oja, leaving only shelter belts.

Jennie at present is a member of the Catholic Women's League. Joe is a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge 404 and takes active part in Patrol Team work. Joe and Jennie along with Peter and Josie Liska still are in the dance orchestra business and call themselves "The Family Four".

**PSIKLA, LOUIS JR.**

Louis Psikla Junior was born on September 9, 1925 in Coleman, Alberta and came with his parents to Salma School district 1934 at the age of five years. He took his schooling at Salma School with Laimi Maki as teacher until Grade 4. From then on his teachers were Miss Martha Holms, Miss Mildred Anderson and Mrs. Watson.

After completing a Grade 9 education he took up farming with his parents and brother Joe. During the early 40's he was a musician and played with his brother Joe and Andy Harvilow for house parties and barn dances. Later on he joined a dance band with brother Joe and sister in-law, Jennie, and his Uncle Peter and Aunt Josie and they called themselves the "Polka Dots". In the mid 50's he played with the "Rhythm Boys" orchestra as drummer for a period of five years. After his parents retired in the spring of 1971 he continued to farm with his brother Joe.

In December 1975 Quasar Oil Company drilled an oil well on his property. The drilling rig that contracted the job was Cactus Rig 10 operated by his brother-in-law John Safronovich.

Louis is a member of the Benalto Elks Lodge 404 and takes an active part in Patrol Team work. He is also on several committees in various organizations.

**PSIKLA, MR. AND MRS. LOUIS SR. — by Virginia Safronovich**

Mr. Louis Psikla Sr. was born in Podbiel, Czechoslovakia on September 2, 1895. At the age of 17 years he landed in the United States of America and came to Coleman, Alberta from the States.

He married Mary Liska, who was born in Coleman on December 18, 1904. The marriage took place on May 3, 1920 in Coleman. Their first born, Joseph, was born on March 19, 1921; next was Mary, born March 2, 1922. Mary died of sunstroke on June 19, 1925. Helen was born on October 14, 1923 and died four months later of diphtheria. The girls both died slowly at home, as there were no hospitals at that time, but a doctor came to the house. Louis Jr. was born on September 9, 1925.

Mr. Psikla was a coal miner in Coleman. Since the gas in the mine started causing him health problems, he started working in the bush, cutting and hauling props for the mine. He decided that he would like to go farming so he bought 40 acres at Cranbrook, B.C. After thinking about making a living out of that, he knew it was impossible, so the search for land began. He travelled through Michigan and Washington. He finally came to Eckville, when a man by the name of Charles Nocilles, who owned a drygoods store in Coleman, said "Go to the Red Deer area. There is really nice farmland there."

On October 1, 1930 he made the deal on his home quarter, which was NW 32-39-2-W5. He paid $650 to Mr. Mitchell from Calgary who had bought the place but had never lived on it. This was 160 acres of solid timber! No house, no well, and no place even to build a house! When he went back to the Pass, he told his wife of the beautiful place he had bought. "Oh, Mary, you should see it, there are even hazel nuts growing there!" Well, Mary, being a town girl, had been quite happy living where she was, so when they came out on November 2, 1930, with two little boys, she came to the conclusion that the only nut she could see was her husband.

Arrangements were made with Mr. Wells, through Ray Wright, that the family should live at the Wells farm, as he was a widower, with a fair-sized house for those days. By this time Joe was nine years old and attending Salma school and Louis was four years old. The family stayed with Mr. Wells for the first winter.

Louis had great plans for the future, with four horses, a wagon and sleigh, acquired from his bush work, and four cows which were exchanged for the 40 acres in Cranbrook. Now, we must get some money. He went to the bank manager, Mr. Mann, to borrow some money so that he could hire a crew to clear the land. To his dismay, the government would not lend him anything, as he was not yet well-enough established. The requirement for getting a loan was 50 acres of cleared land.

During this first winter Mr. Psikla was a very busy man. He cleared a spot for a cabin and about one acre for a garden, and built a log

cabin. He also worked with Ray Wright and together they logged. Mr. Henry Heitala sawed the lumber, in return for half of the lumber sawed. For the winter's work Louis' share was 50,000 feet of lumber. He traded this for grain and hay and rent on machinery, which he later borrowed from neighbors at ten cents per acre. During this time Mrs. Psikla kept house and looked after Mr. Well's daughter, Unis, who was a midget, in return for their winter's keep.

Mr. Luoma and his boys helped drill a well, which was done by gin pole, drilling by hand. Mr. Luoma and Mr. Frank Wine were neighbors who helped the family on several occasions at the beginning, and were also of great help in the future, when Louis had to go back to the Pass and work.

In the spring of 1931 they moved to their new home, which was a log cabin 18 feet by 22 feet. Although the winter was beautiful, the cabin was not exactly warm. The potatoes froze behind the stove.

Louis' brother and Mary's sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Psikla, and their family, Joan, four months and Alex, five years old, arrived from Cranbrook in August of 1932. Annie was very sick with rheumatic fever. It was the time of the depression, and there was nowhere to go, so they moved in with Mary, Louis and family in their one-roomed cabin for the summer. Joe Psikla worked for different farmers around, which included Gilbertsons and Ericksons. His wages were one dollar per day or twenty five dollars per month. Hours were from sunrise to sunset, with no days off.

Winter was coming on and the place was pretty crowded, so Mary, Louis and family moved to Rapina's, as Louis rented the Rapina and Wells farms. The Rapina farm is now Walter Johnson's farm. The family wintered 1932 there and cropped it in 1933. During the winter they were also building another cabin for Joe and Annie, on the original place.

In the spring of 1932 they returned to their cabin and Joe and Annie moved into their own cabin. Everyone stayed until 1936, when Joe left in the spring for Coleman, where he became employed as a coal miner. Annie and their children followed two months later.

By this time the situation looked pretty tough. Louis hadn't paid taxes since he moved there, and the land was going to be sold for taxes. The taxes amounted to five hundred dollars, so Louis quit renting land, left his family and went to Coleman to work in the bush. This took the summer months of 1936 and 1937 to get the debt paid. During this time Mary looked towards the mountains with tears in her eyes and an aching heart, wondering what she was ever doing here in this bush, longing for her husband and parents who were also at Coleman at that time, and the small town life that she had been used to.

In 1938 Mr. Wells rented his land again to Louis. This included the buildings also, so the family moved for the final time. This is the Psikla farm, SW 6-40-2-W5, as it is known today. Mr. Wells built himself a two-room house on the same property.

A daughter, Virginia, was born to Louis and Mary on October 25, 1939. She attended Salma school, as her brothers had before her, until grade four, when the school bus started. She then completed her schooling in Eckville.

In 1942 the Mitzner property was purchased. It was fall, and Louis was shoveling grain from the threshing machine to the granary. Emma Brown came from the States to help her mother with business matters. It was Mrs. Mitzner's belief that a transaction must be done in the light of the moon in order to have any good fortune. It turned out that Mary shoveled grain while Louis made the deal.

In 1945 the Wells property was purchased by means of a loan made by Leopold Zaleski. By this time Joe and Louis were interested in the farm and it became a family operation.

Also life was getting to be a little easier. Mary belonged to the sewing circle. It was great fun! One day, Mary was a little late to catch Mrs. Parkkari, who was driving a horse and sleigh, with a load of ladies. Mary, carrying Virignia, was running through the snow, hollering and waving, never losing sight of the sleigh. The ladies in the sleigh, though, were a pretty happy bunch, talking and never looking back. About five minutes after they all sat down at Irene Palm's who should arrive but Mary, all puffed out!

On October 28, 1966 Mr. Psikla transferred their original place, including the two log cabins which stand in the open field, to his son Louis. By 1973 this place was finally cleared of all the bush and you can actually see the north end of Sylvan Lake, which was unknown to them when they came to the land in 1930.

In 1948, 1050 square feet were built on to the house. Joe married Jennie Trautman on July 14, 1949.

Virginia was married to John Safronovich of Buck Creek on July 23, 1959, after having

Louis Psikla's Golden Wedding Anniversary

graduated from school and being employed as bookkeeper in the Eckville Co-Op store

In 1970 Mr. and Mrs. Psikia celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They retired to their own home in Red Deer in March, 1972

These are some of the events in their life. I hope you enjoy them, and if you are ever in Red Deer, I am sure they can tell you a lot of other interesting stories.

**JOHN AND AINA SAARI — by Elma Jackson**

John Victor Saari was born in Finland in 1885 and in 1905, at the age of 20 years immigrated to the United States. He spent three years working in Duluth, Minnesota, and in Minneapolis, Minnesota prior to moving to Butte, Montana to work in the copper mines.

In January, 1911 he married Aina Maria Laxstrom. She was born in Republic, Michigan, U.S.A., and, after being employed for two years in Minneapolis, she moved to Butte. Their first child, Rexford John, was born there.

In 1912 the family moved to their homestead in the Golden Heights district north of Leslieville. It was here that Elma, Roy and Rudolph were born. Each winter John returned to Butte to work in the mine in order to make the required improvements on the homestead. After approximately seven years he decided to leave this farm because of the unproductiveness of the land

For a few years they rented land in the Leslieville and Eckville areas, and in 1925 they purchased the home farm, N 25-39-3-W5. In addition to farming, between 1937 and 1941 John operated a sawmill south-west of Rocky Mountain House on Prairie Creek.

John was always very actively involved in community affairs. He was a councillor for the municipality of Lochearn (Leslieville), and served as a school board member in Golden Heights, Saima and Eckville school districts. He was on the hospital board for many years, having been one of the original members who were responsible for the opening of the first hospital in Eckville

John was a very active supporter of the Eckville Co-op Association. Throughout his years in the community he served as a co-op director for most of that time. He was one of the founding members of the Eckville Credit Union and remained active in this organization throughout his life

He was a member of the telephone association and was also very instrumental in bringing about the electrification program into the rural area

Throughout these endeavors John received full support from Aina, who was also very pleased to see progress taking place in the community and was always willing to have committee meetings in their home.

John and Aina left the farm in 1950 to live in Eckville. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in January, 1961, with open house at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Roy and Marg Saari.

John and Aina Saari's golden wedding anniversary, January, 1961

John passed away on July 12, 1963. Aina continued to live in Eckville until six months prior to her passing when, due to her arthritic condition she was forced to take residence in Valley Park Manor, Red Deer. She passed away on February 17, 1971. They were predeceased by their son, Rex, in 1953. Elma and Jake Jackson are now residing in Calgary. Roy and Marg are in Eckville and Rudolph and Katie live on the home farm.

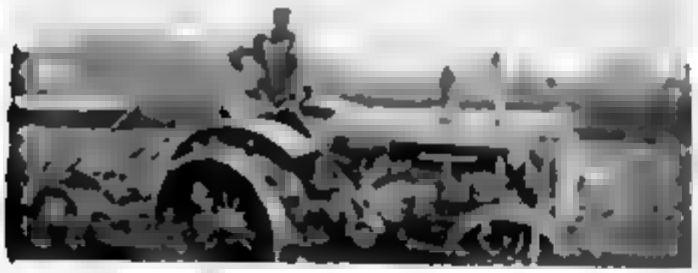
**SAIMA MEMORIES — fondly submitted by Fern Theriault Skocdopole**

In memory of some of the early pioneers of the Saima district. Without them the community would have been rather small and insignificant

I would like to mention two wonderful ladies, who were like grandmothers to me, Mrs. Ida Lundberg and Mrs. Hilda Salo.

At the Lundberg's I remember the afternoon tea parties we had — how lovely they were. Also the many times I stayed with her when Mr Lundberg was away at conventions. When I think of it now, how frightening it is! She was a diabetic and could not be left alone, and I was a youngster of only seven or eight years. Whenever help was needed by a neighbor, she was the first to come and help. Many a dolly and tiger lily I have to remember her by!

Mrs. Hilda Salo's is where I was always



Alfred Melander and Rudolph Saari

seated at the table, with a cup of coffee, cream and "a lot" of sugar — like little children love One day I shall always remember was when Mrs. Salo put little spoons on the table. (Little did I know them, they were coffee spoons.) I guess she could see the admiration in my big brown eyes when I looked at the little spoons, for this kindly lady gave me one of them. Now quick ly I rushed home with the spoon in my hot little fist. Thirty years have passed. I have the spoon in my silver chest and twice yearly take it out, polish it and tuck it away once more

Then there were times when tickets, cards or other articles had to be sold for school. The first place we would head for was to Wayne and Tillie Ignatius. They would make us so welcome. Tillie always had the best Finnish coffee bread! Whatever we were selling, they would buy. I'm sure some of the articles were of little use to them. We always came away happy, with change in our pockets. Wayne now resides in the Lacombe Senior Citizens Lodge. We see him now and then, enjoy a wonderful visit, which really brings back memories of when he lived in our community. Tillie passed away many years ago

Charles and Emma Donaldson, from Brockville, Ontario, owned Birch Crest on the west end of Sylvan Lake. This is where we spent many a Sunday During the summer Mr. Donaldson would take us for boat rides around the lake. We know where every sand bar and deep spot was located. After our boat ride, we would have a relaxing visit over lemonade and sugar cookies, in the summer house which Mr Donaldson had built on the bank overlooking the lake Sometimes we would work on puzzles, or have a game of scrabble, but the scrabble game usually ended quite soon, for one person in particular would invent words to fit any situation he encountered. There were a few arguments, dictionaries were brought out, and soon the game was scrapped for that day

Emma Donaldson was a dear little lady, who played the piano for all the school concerts and other community activities. She even taught some of us music — or tried to, that is Mrs. Donaldson played the piano in Ontario and later in Youngstown for the silent movies. When she would show us how she would play during different scenes, we were absolutely spell-bound.

The Donaldsons were relatives of Barbara Ann Scott, the world-famous figure skater. On one occasion when Barbara Ann was to pass through Red Deer Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson had arranged to board the train at a station up the line It was with great pride that they witnessed the outstanding ovation given to Barbara Ann upon her appearance at the railway station in Red Deer

The Donaldsons have passed away and are buried in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery. Those of us who had the opportunity of knowing them will remember that beautiful old car with curtains, which they drove, as well as their wonderful sense of humor

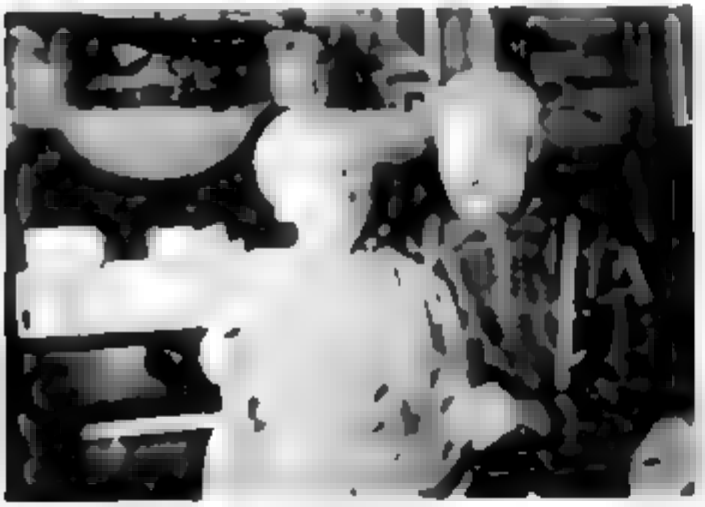
Hallowe'en was another period of time when we remember certain people. When we arrived at Walter and Mamie Johnson's, all decked out in our regalia, Walter always came up with a little something to improve our costumes. Once it was a corn cob pipe. There was always a humorous story or two, a nice treat and a wish for a very enjoyable evening. Last words were "See you next year!" Mamie passed away in July, 1966. Sad to say, Walter passed away on May 8, 1977, so never had the opportunity of seeing our book published. He would have enjoyed it so very much!

There were other people who were great fun at Hallowe'en, including Gordon and Phyllis Erickson. One time I recall Phyllis forgetting to buy treats, so we all enjoyed bacon and eggs. I'm sure Dad and my uncles were happy to see us grow up, because we must have been awfully hard on their clothing, especially the underwear when assembling our costumes. Come to think of it, maybe they weren't the only ones to be happy to see us grow up!

Walter Stopaen, SE 30-39-2W5, was a bachelor, but he enjoyed the company of children very much. One day the Salma School class went over to see Walter to discuss purchasing his farm. This was a social studies project, so the students had to go alone. Anyway, Walter told us to "go look at the machinery, stock and buildings." He stayed in the house to make lunch, so we could do our dealing over coffee.

Walter suggested we should have a lawyer on hand, but we assured him that we were very trustworthy and a lawyer would not be needed, and would just be an added expense. I can't recall the price we arrived at, but it was probably small How nice it was for him to take the time to bother with us!

Mr. Antti Heilikka was another person I shall remember fondly He had the most beautiful dancing blue eyes, and a snow-white beard. I



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Donaldson

Saima school, 1946

always thought he'd make one "Super Santa Claus." It just happened that he would be going by our gate every morning when we were on our way to school. In summer it was with horse and buggy, in winter, with horse and cutter. He would tuck the covers around us and off we would go. When school was over who was on the road but Mr. Bellikka! He told us he was going for milk, but I'm sure he never made so many trips for milk. As I remember, he had a nanny goat that stood on the little shed east of his house.

Mr. Bellikka loved to ski, but before starting out he would light his pipe. Every time he would push with his poles a puff of smoke would come out of his pipe. We found this most amusing, and thought that it would make one wonder how the effort was powered!

Mrs. Minnie Lindequist, SE 23-39-3W5, was a neighbor lady who always served maple sticks to us children. Now, they are referred to as "long johns." How times have changed. Before, when someone referred to "long johns" they meant someone's winter woolies. Must be the generation gap!

Dad had a hired man be the name of John Vaara. We children called him "Little John" because he wasn't very big, but he really knew how to work. Somehow, we found out when it was John's birthday, so we asked Mother to bake a cake and put candles on it. After supper that evening we brought the cake out, lit the candles and proceeded to sing "Happy Birthday." Tears came to John's eyes. We didn't know if it was our singing, or what. Apparently he had never had a birthday cake before, and was very touched. He said, "No one had ever done anything so nice for me before." Some people liked to make fun of John, but I guess they never took the time to get to know him or they would have felt differently.

Many a lovely visit we enjoyed with Wayne and Sadie Stopeen, SE 36-39-3W5, Sadie could whip up a delicious cake faster than anyone I know, when unexpected company arrived.

One humorous incident that comes to mind. When out in the fields at meal time, the men were summoned to the meal by Sadie swinging a white cloth. One day she decided to fry chicken for dinner, and had trouble wringing the leghorn chicken's neck. Wayne noticed the movement in the air, and immediately started home. A bit early for the meal! Many a laugh we had over this.

The lovely people mentioned are all gone now, with the exception of Gordon and Phyllis Erickson, who still are our neighbors.

My only regret is that this history book wasn't written 10 years sooner, so some of these wonderful people could have had the pleasure of reading it. I've very much enjoyed working with the group to compile the book. I have also had the pleasure of meeting many wonderful people through this work.

**SAIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1437**

A meeting to form a school district was called on December 27, 1906 at the home of John Schnoor (NW 20-39-2-W5). John Schnoor was elected the chairman with Edward Mitzner as the secretary. The other board members were Nels Waisanen, Herman Tasson, Thomas Thorkman, and Charles Reinhardt.

At the first board meeting held in 1907 on February 19, Edward Mitzner was appointed secretary-treasurer. He was to be bonded for the sum of $2,000, salary to be $30 for the year with the district to furnish the necessary postage stamps, paper, books, etc. Taxes were levied at seven and one-quarter percent per acre for 1907. At this meeting it was decided to build a frame schoolhouse 26 feet wide, 36 feet long and 14 feet high, (suitable to accommodate 40 pupils). The school house was to be built on the SE corner 30-39-2-W5 on two acres of ground purchased from J. Johnson for $8 an acre.

A loan of $1,500 was obtained from Canadian National Loan Co. Ltd. Tenders were opened for building the schoolhouse with C. M. Dyla submitting the lowest bid of $115. August Mitzner to post bond for work done. The contract for building the school was to include a woodshed and two outhouses. The sill for the school building to consist of two by eight's spiked together to form an eight by eight. The supports to be deeper than 18" for which the contractor would be paid extra.

Thomas Thorkman was paid for delivering 6042 feet of lumber at $5 per thousand and $2.50 for getting prices on lumber making a total of $32.75. Isaac Niemi was paid for drawing 3871 feet of lumber at $5 per thousand total $19.35. At the May 15, 1907 meeting the board of trustees decided the woodshed should be 10 feet by 12 feet, seven feet high with a slant roof. The school ground to be as follows: 208 feet eight inches running from east to west and 417 feet four inches running from south to north. The school site would be cleared of brush and fenced, the fence would be made of popular rails with posts driven in the ground and the fire guard 16 feet wide. The chimney for the school to be 16 inches square or

built six bricks to the round. John Johnson to furnish bricks, lime and sand and to put the chimney up for $20. There were 20 double seats ordered for pupils of the school — six large size, eight medium size, and six small size; also teacher's desk number five, teacher's chairs, two of number two. Also to be purchased were a globe, 100 feet of hyloplate blackboard with mouldings, 75¢ school hand bell, number one desk bell, also clock number one, three boxes alpha dustless crayons, five Christie's dustless, noiseless erasers, numeral frame, one Christies rubber-tip pointer, Imperial unabridged dictionary, 20 cards of reading tablets and 12 dozen school report cards.

It was resolved that a second class lady teacher was to be hired. (wonder why a first class lady wouldn't do)

When the school opened in 1907, the first teacher was Miss Nicly. During the first years the school was open from June to December, a six month period. The teachers salary was $50 per month. The children of the following parents attended classes in 1907: Eckross, Nick Isaacson, George Kidd, Rudolf Stopsen, Thomas Thorkman, Mrs. Ignatius, Batdorf, Herman Talson, Knutilla and Eric Maki

Business discussion at the second annual meeting of the ratepayers held on Jan. 11, 1908, beginning at 10 a.m., was the well. It was 106 feet deep and cost $141 with interest per annum of eight percent until paid. A great concern was the large bills being allowed by the board and that the government should be approached to see if something could be done about such bills. No delegates were sent to the Second Annual Convention of the Association of School Trustees to be held in Calgary, January 22-23, 1908 due to lack of funds. J. H. Batdorf proposed that the ratepayers should get together and fence the school grounds without the expense of hiring it done. This would save all the expenses except the nails. John Schnoor offered to donate all poles required. Fence to be an "A" fence. A motion was made by H. Schroeder and seconded by James Bernard that the ratepayers turn out on February 3, 1908 to put up the fence. Thomas Thorkman was appointed foreman. August Mitzner asked the board to release him from his bond as an assurance for building of Salma School by C. M. Dylla. This was accepted by the board. All future work was to be done by contract. A special meeting held March 6, 1908 at 3:30 p.m. at the home of John Schnoor was called to levy the school taxes. The taxes were set at seven and one-half cents per acre for 1908. It was noted that not enough ratepayers turned out to build the fence. Some who came objected to having a pole fence built so nothing was done at this time.

At the third annual meeting ratepayers decided to build a log stable to accommodate about six horses. Secretary-treasurer was instructed to write to Ottawa for a permit to cut enough logs from the school section for said purposes. If they would have gone to section 37, they could have had all the logs they wanted free.

The school taxes in 1910 were levied at six and one-half cents per acre. The fence was finally built in 1910 after tenders were let out with Henry Lepisto being awarded with the contract with a bid of $18. In 1910 Mr. Robinson was hired to teach for a salary of $60 per month for a period of six months. Taxes levied in 1911 were six and one-quarter cents per acre or $10 per quarter section. Taxes in 1912 were levied at seven and one-quarter cents per acre and a discount of 10 percent was allowed on all taxes paid by May. In 1914 Mr. E. Hoglund offered to paint the outside of the schoolhouse with two coats of paint for $50. He was to supply all the paint necessary and also to paint the two outhouses at the rate of 25¢ per square yard.

Taxes for the years 1915 to 1918 were set at 11¢ with the same discount as previous years. In 1918 the janitors salary was raised to four dollars per month, as well as the teachers salary raised to $70 per month. In 1919 the taxes went down to 10¢, the discount was five percent but the teachers salary went up to $80 per month. Taxes went up to 12¢ per acre in 1920, discount staying at five percent but in 1921 the taxes stayed at 12 cents but the discount was set at 10 percent. The teacher's salary was $1200 per year. Mr. A. Hoglund painted the inside of the school for $95. In 1922 the taxes went up to 15¢ an acre, discount of eight percent taxes were paid 30 days from the day the taxes were due. The teachers salary was reduced to $1000. Taxes were 11 mills in 1923 with 10 percent discount on all current taxes up to March 1 and five percent up to May with the teachers salary at $1200. In 1924 the taxes were levied at 11½ mills with a discount of 10 percent if paid by April 1. Teachers salary was again reduced to $1000. The tax discount and teachers salary remained the same in 1925. In 1926 the mill rate went up to 20 mills discount of 10 percent if paid before June 15. Teachers salary was $1100

Salma school and Pupils

(The above was taken from the first minute book kept of the trustees and ratepayers meetings.)

Bachelors living in the district at this time and later were Gust Carlson, John Jarvi, Henry Lepisto, Victor Vianen, James Bernard, Emil Heino. They played an important part in our community and we would be amiss if we didn't mention their names

Through the years the school was used for other purposes such as church services and social evenings and in later years card parties and bingos

Mother's day at Saima School May 10, 1942. Mrs. Oscar Solo, Minnie Erickson, Mary Pukin, Hilja Niemela, Ruth Mixmer, Elma Jackson holding Donna, Burt Mixmer, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs Hogland, Olga Ignatius, Mrs Viinanen, Tillie Ignatius, Elma Moore, Selma Murto, Mrs, A. Murto, Mrs. Henry Talsma and Mrs John Saari.

The winters were cold The mode of travel was walking or with a horse if you were fortunate enough to have a horse The school was very cold. Clothing was very important. Felt shoes, woolen stockings and long underwear were a must The children would sit until noon around the pot belly furnace to keep warm

Lutheran ministers resided in the area; a manse was built in 1910 in the SW corner of the SW 24-39-3-W5. Ministers in the district through the years were Rev Jelil, Rev. and Mrs Korhonen, Rev. and Mrs. Andrew Harju and Rev. John Luomala. Two laymen who performed baptismal and burial services when a minister was unavailable were Eric Maki and Andrew Bellikka. The manse was moved to Sylvan Lake in 1924 to be used as the Presbyterian manse

In 1946 the school was renovated and a full basement was built. The shortages of teachers in 1950 forced the board to close the school. The children were bused to Eckville. The school was moved to Eckville the following year where it was used as the Home Economics room. The last elected board for the Saima School from 1944-1950 was: Secretary treasurer, Mrs. Sylvia Thorkman, Trustees — Walter Johnson, Alex Murto and Viiho Maki

Teachers at Saima School were

1907 — Miss Nicly, 1908 — Mr C. Tancock, 1909 — Miss Drima Robertson, 1910 — Mr

One of the last classes at Saima School. Back row: Gordon Erickson, Grant Erickson, Betty Thorkman, Ethel Talsma, Miss Elma Jackson, Teacher, Hazel Ignatius. Front row: Eddie Enis, Margaret, Joan and Bernice Thorkman, Selma Murto and Aileen Murto

Thomas E. Robinson, 1911 — Mr. Campbell Innes, 1912 Mr. S. A. Wilkinson, 1913 — Miss Alberta MacLaughlin, 1914 Miss M. E. Stewarts, 1915 — Miss Florella Johnston (Barhan), 1916 — Miss Rodgers, 1917 - Miss Isea Grimson, 1918 — Mrs. A. R. Quigley, 1919 — Miss Lillian Gudmunson, 1920 — Miss Lenori Mollie Graham, 1921 — Miss Adini M. Farr, 1922 — Mrs Florella Barhan, 1923 — Miss Raymond, Mrs. Martin Rowell, 1924-25 Miss Winifred Arlendseon, 1926 - Miss Ruth Garries (Lundberg) 1927 — Miss Atzinger, 1928 — Miss Agnes Anderson, 1929-31 Miss Lyme Hill, (Shultz) 1932-36 Miss Laimie Marian Mackie, 1937-38 Miss Martha Holm, (Feidt) 1939-40 Miss Mildred Anderson (Niemi) 1941 — Mrs. Nancy Nolan, 1942 — Mrs. Dorothy Watson, 1945 — Mrs. Edith Russell, 1943 — Mrs. Elma Jackson, 1944 — Mrs. Dorothy Watson, 1946 — Mrs. Annie Martin, 1947 — Mrs. Carrie Neilson, 1948 — Miss Mary Gamble, 1949 — Mrs. Marion McCarroll, 1950 — Miss Wilma Wyatt (Steves)

**OSSIAN AUGUST SALMINEN FAMILY — by Audrey Jensen**

Ossian August Salminen was born February 22, 1901 in Tampere, Finland and came to the Eckville area in 1924. He was employed by Henry Barland as a carpenter, and they built many buildings in and around Eckville, the most notable of which was the Eckville creamery in 1925. He also worked with Henry Jokkinen and constructed private homes, some of which are still occupied today, including Takkinen's house which was moved to 5024-54 Avenue in Eckville, and Zeit's house on the farm.

The Finnish people in the Eckville district had a live theatre group, and August played the male lead roles while he was in the area in 1927, 1928, and 1929. During his stay in Eckville he also participated in the cross-country ski races, which he helped organize.

In 1930 August returned to Medicine Hat, where he had lived upon his arrival from Finland in 1922. He was employed as a hired hand for Matt Haapala on his farm near Manyberries. He also worked in the Red Cliff coal mines, as well as being employed in the maintenance department by the city of Medicine Hat

Esther Haapala, eldest child of Matt and Anna Haapala, was employed at the Medicine Hat hospital when she and August Salminen were married. They had four daughters Marlene, Audrey, Lenore, and Jeanette, all born at Medicine Hat

August moved his wife and daughters to Benalto in 1942 when he enlisted in the Canadian air force and went overseas to fight for his adopted land. Their only son, Norman, was born in the Eckville hospital in 1942 and was three years old before Gus saw him.

After the war, in 1946, Gus bought a farm from Rudolf Stopsen, the NW 28-39-2-W5 in the Saima district, and farmed for seven years until he ran out of money

Salminens moved into Eckville in 1953 and Esther worked at the hospital for two years while Gus was up north building micro-wave towers They left Eckville again in 1955 and resided at Stettler, Edmonton, Jasper Place and Seba Beach before returning in 1965 to their old house on 54th Avenue in Eckville. They resided here until their passing — Gus on May 1, 1975, followed by Esther on September 24, 1975

Marlene McLean has three sons. Lauren, Darren and Wade, and lives in Edmonton.

Audrey Jenson has two daughters, Debra and Sandra, and lives in the Eckville district

Lenore Gawryluk has two daughters and one son and they live in Edmonton. The children are Marcy, Kimberly and Kendell.

Jeanette Stanley and her family live in St Albert. She has two sons, Rodger and Tyler, and a daughter, Mary Dale.

Norman and Judy live in Edmonton. Judy is the former Judith Moses of Grand Prairie

**OSCAR AND HILDA SALO FAMILY**

Oscar Herman Bjorn emigrated from Suomusaiini, Finland, to Halifax in 1898, and worked at the shipyards for a time before moving on into the United States. Here he worked in various coal mines and in different states for 16 years, and spent one year working in a copper mine in Butte, Montana. Apparently Oscar had lost one or more of his pay cheques due to the misspelling of his name. He therefore vowed that he would change his name from "Bjorn" to "Salo" and this change prevented the loss of any more cheques

Hilda M. Vaisanen came into Sand Coulee, Montana, U.S.A. in 1912 from Oululani, Finland, to stay with her sisters, Elilsa, and Annie, (Mrs. Paul Kaikkonen). Soon after this Elilsa was married to Frank Holm and the couple left for Eckville, Alberta, to seek a career in farming

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Salo and eldest daughter Viena, 1917

Hilda then took over the boarding house which Elilsa had been operating.

Hilda and Oscar were married in Sand Coulee, Montana, on July 16, and in 1918 they, too, immigrated to Alberta and settled at Nordegg, where Oscar obtained employment in the coal mines. They, with their daughter Viena, lived in Nordegg for about a year. However, the idea of farming appealed to them and they bought the SE 28-39-3-W5 in the Eckville area. Here they built a house and the other necessary buildings and established their home. However, before the house was completed another daughter, Gertrude, was born at the home of Hilda's sister, Mrs. Frank Holm, east of Eckville Oscar would go back to work at Nordegg after the home was built and the family then lived by themselves while he was away

Oscar and Hilda had a family of seven children, losing one son, Arthur, when he was three years old in an accident. This occurred at threshing time in 1933. The lad had climbed onto a wagon which was temporarily idle, and then he was climbing down again over the wheel when the driver returned and started up the team, not knowing that the boy was there Arthur was run

over, and death resulted. The remaining children are Viena, Gertrude, Laila, Sally, Edwin, and Wilfred.

Oscar and Hilda farmed their quarter at Eckville until 1945, having also bought a C.P.R. quarter north of the home place during the 1930's.

At one time during this period Oscar had bought a Ford car. After a time the roof began to leak and on one occasion he had placed a tin can in the car to catch the dripping water. He had forgotten about this can being in the car and one day as he was driving down the road he heard this can rattling. He looked into the back of the car to see what was causing the noise, and while he was doing this the car took the liberty of running off the road into a deep ditch. The result was that he had to have the car pulled out by some nearby neighbors, and Oscar had to endure a lot of joshing about this incident for quite some time.

Hilda passed away on March 28, 1945, at 53 years of age. This same year Oscar sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Thorkman, nearby neighbors, and bought a home in Sylvan Lake, as his health did not permit him to continue farming. He continued to live in Sylvan Lake until his death in April, 1949 at the age of 75 years. Both Hilda and Oscar are buried in the Eckville cemetery.

The children are all in Alberta except for Wilfred (better known as Bill) who married Laura Sissons. Bill and Laura have lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba, since their marriage, and have a family of five boys and one girl. Bill finished his grade 12 in the Sylvan Lake school, and by continued self-education he became a supervisor of the City Gas Supply in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Edwin, even at a young age, was interested in electricity and "what made it work." Billy, the younger brother, was pressed into service as Edwin's assistant, or "guinea pig" in numerous experiments. Fortunately, Billy survived all of these experiences and Edwin went on to make electricity his life's work. He worked as a supervisor for a number of years and now has his own electrical business called Edcan Electrical Supplies, in Calgary. Edwin married Ода Nielson of Huxzar, Alberta, and they have a family of four daughters and one son.

Sally married Tiny Waldebeck from Claresholm, Alberta, and they have two adopted children, David and Nancy, who are still of school age. Tiny worked for the Geophysical Services International for some years, and is now in the G.S.I. office in Calgary, where they have lived for some time.

Laila married Albert Kult and they are Hespero farmers and have a family of three boys and a girl. Leslie lives in British Columbia, and has a family of two. Linda lives in Spruce Lake, Saskatchewan, and has a boy and a girl. Jim is attending University, preparing for a career in teaching. He was married on June 26, 1976, to Brenda Bott, of Lesliеville. Walter is thirteen in 1976, and is still at home.

Gertrude, the second oldest Salo girl, married Louis Johnson of Sylvan Lake after World War II. Both Gertrude and Louis had been in the service during the war. After his return to civilian life Louis worked as a mechanic for quite a few years in the Joe Untinen Garage and later он worked for the G.S.I. as a mechanic in the Rainbow Lake area. Louis passed away at Rainbow Lake in 1967 at the age of 51 years. Gertrude is living in Eckville at the present time. Their only son, Jim, suffered from a crippling disease and became confined to a wheelchair before he was sixteen. Jim now lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In 1938 Viena, the oldest daughter of Oscar and Hilda, married John Kangas, the son of Richard Kangas of Hespero. They have two sons, Lorne and Robert. While John was serving in the army Viena lived in Sylvan Lake and after his return they bought a farm in the Diamond Valley area. John later worked in elevators at Hespero and at Eckville but found that the dust was affecting his health so, in 1962, they moved to Sylvan Lake. John then worked at the water well drilling business until his death in 1970, at the age of 56. Viena still lives in Sylvan Lake. Lorne, their older son, married Glenda Anderson of Bentley, Alberta, and they have a family of two boys and two girls. Lorne and his family live at Leduc, and Lorne works as a chartered accountant and has his office in Edmonton. Robert married Ann Nylen of Edmonton and they live in Calgary with their family of two girls. Robert also is a chartered accountant and is employed by the oil industry.

As of April, 1976, the grandchildren of Oscar and Hilda number twenty and the great grandchildren number ten.

**SKOCDOPOLE, GLENN AND FERN**

Glenn Lyle, youngest son of Charles and Mildred (Strand) Skocdopole, was born June 3, 1935, at Barrhead, Alberta.

At an early age, Glenn moved with his family to a farm in the Hespero district. He received his education at Daisy Nook, Condor and Lindsay Thurber Composite High Schools in Red Deer.

Glenn and Fern Catherine, youngest daughter of Charles and Sylvia (Kalaputas) Thorkman of Eckville, were married in Red Deer, April 3, 1959.

Fern attended school at Saima, Eckville and Edmonton. During her school years, Fern was active in the Glee Club and Drama group as well as all sports. After their marriage they lived in a mobile home on the Skocdopole farm at Hespero. While on the farm they had three children, twins, Steven Charles and Susan Catherine born April 7, 1960 and Carla Jean, born November 21, 1963. Steven and Susan started Grade 1 at Condor school but due to illness, the family moved to the town of Eckville in July 1967. The family rented a home for a few years and Steven steadily im-

proved. A fourth child Gerald Edward was born April 20, 1970, in the Red Deer General Hospital.

In 1971, Glenn and Fern purchased SE 26-39-3 W5 from Fern's parents and built a new home. This property was formerly owned by Oscar and Hilda Salo. Glenn is presently installing rural gas systems throughout the province. He is an avid pilot, a member of C.O.P.A. and enjoys fishing and hunting when he finds the time. Fern was a Brownie leader and belonged to the Hespero Presbyterian Ladies' Aid while at Hespero. In Eckville, she taught Sunday School, is a member of the Country Ladies Aid and is presently secretary of the Eckville and District Historical Society. The children attend school in Eckville.

**THE SOCIALIST HALL**

The Socialist Hall was built around 1908. It was located on the south side of 17-39-2-W5 just west of a small lake which has dried up through the years.

Juhanus picnics were held there as well as other functions, basket socials, shadow socials, dancing and a large Christmas program and social evening.

In 1919, the hall was moved onto a new site next to No. 11 Highway on SW 12-39-2-W5. The new location was more central and there were better roads.

The hall was named Elspeth Hall, after a C.N.R. side track close by.

A two acre parcel of land was purchased on the west shore of Sylvan Lake in 1929 on NW 21-39-2-W5 which was the summer camp for teenagers and young adults.

In the late 1950's the Elspeth Hall was moved again, this time onto the acreage on the shore of Sylvan Lake called Tim Buck shore.

Two years later the hall and property was sold to the Ukranian Association of Edmonton.

**STOPSEN, LUDWIG**

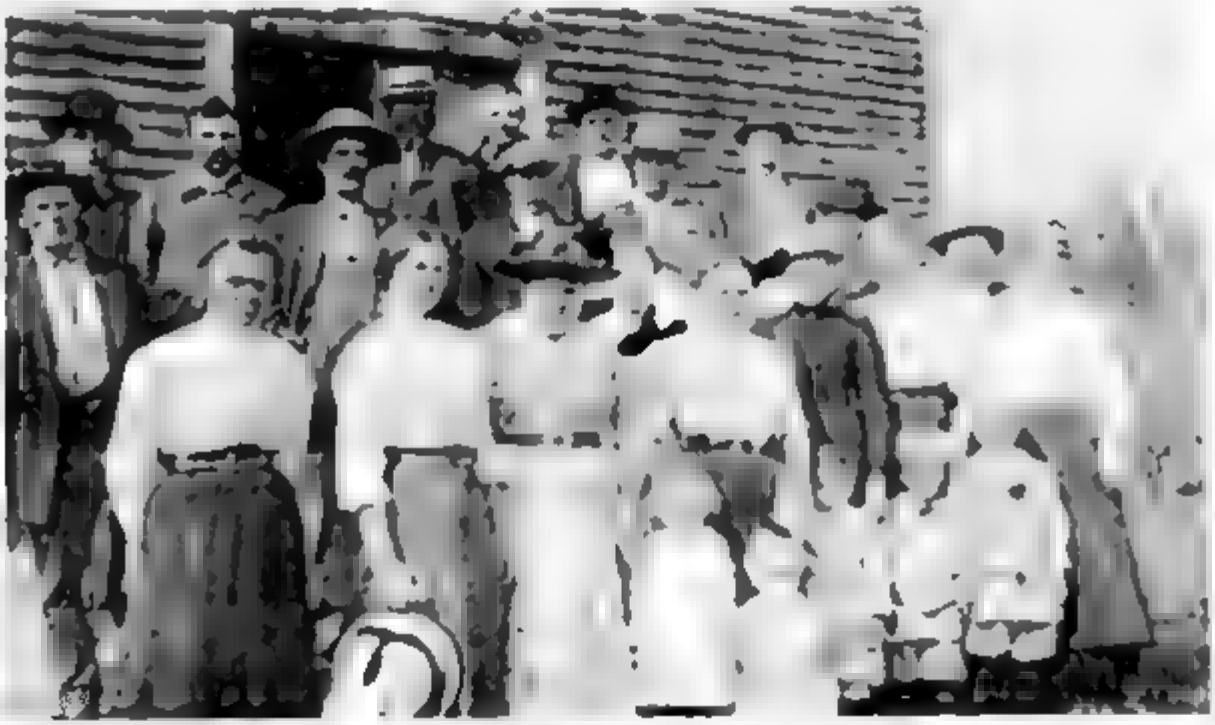
Ludwig Stopsen was born in Urjola, Finland in 1873. His future wife, Hilda Makioja, was born in Tempere, Finland in October, 1882.

Ludwig emigrated to Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1899, and Hilda to New York in 1911, where she was employed as a maid.

While working in the mines in the United States, word was spreading that there was homestead land available in an unsettled area west of Red Deer, in the NWT. As a result, Ludwig arrived at the land titles office in Red Deer to file on the NE 36-39-3-W5.

Since the land was heavily timbered the first thing on the agenda was to build a log cabin next to the creek that flowed through the property. Land had to be cleared to enable one to raise grain to make a living.

After having corresponded for a number of years, in 1915 Hilda arrived in Red Deer, Alberta where she and Ludwig were married. Hilda was a very hard-working lady, who must have found it very difficult living on the homestead, after being used to city living. The neighbors all



Back row: Jack Weeri, Siegfrid Jarvi, unknown, Matt Weeri, Sylvester Salo, John Heikkinen, unknown, Mr. Kujala, unknown. Front row: Albertina Nickanen, Ellen Jarvi, Mrs. Heikkinen, Mrs. Kujala, Mrs. Mattson, Ida Hill, and in front of her is Sylvia Weeri unknown, Jack Hill, Elma Nickanen and in front of her are Rauno and Walter Jarvi.

Mary Maki, Chas Maki, Mrs. L. Stopsen, Mr and Mrs. R Stopsen

remember what a tender and kindly person she was.

One cold day in January 1916, when the temperature dipped to 30 degrees below zero, help was needed at the Stopsens. Hilda, who was expecting went into labor and the help of a mid-wife was needed

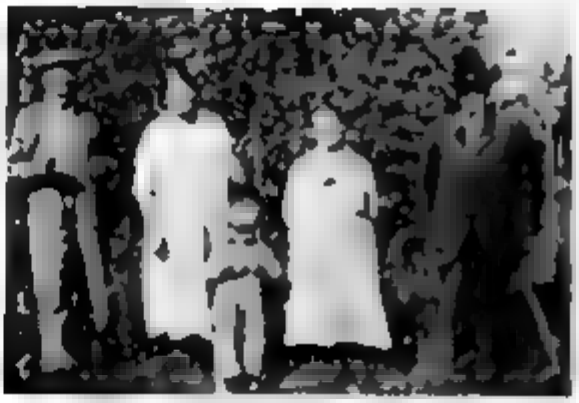
Ludwig, knowing his good friends, the Thomas Thorkmans, had fast horses, skied across the field and asked if someone would go get the closest mid-wife, Mrs. Wetelainen, who lived in the Kuusamo district William Thorkman, with horses and cutter, quickly set out to bring her to the Stopsen home. When the mid-wife arrived, she knew this case was out of her hands, and a doctor was needed. Off Bill went, this time to get Dr. Richard Parsons from Red Deer. Upon arriving at Hewson's Livery barn in Red Deer one look convinced the proprietor that the horses would never make the 30-mile trip back. Bill was given a fresh team, and with Dr. Parsons, off they sped west.

Dr Parsons saved Hilda, but the baby boy Leonard, died and is buried in the Kuusamo cemetery. Since there wasn't anything more for the doctor to do, Bill and Dr. Parsons set off for the return to Red Deer, making a total of 120 miles for a one-night trip—and this with horses' This goes to show that neighbors relied on one another very much. The old saying really came true' "What are neighbors for,if your can't use them when you need them"

Ludwig and Hilda didn't give up after this experience, for on February 17, 1918, Edward was born. He was followed by Wayne, born on June 21, 1920, with Mrs. Angle as the mid-wife

Ed and Wayne attended school in Salma, Eckville and Red Deer

Hilda passed away October 15, 1938 and Ludwig died May 25, 1949. Both are buried in the Kuusamo cemetery



Left to right: John Palm, Mrs. Palm, Harold Palm, Mrs Rudolph Stopsen and Rudolph Stopsen, taken in 1928

In 1940 Ed enlisted in the British Merchant Navy and Wayne enlisted in the R.C N V R. in 1942. Ed served on all seven seas, having his ships torpedoed in the North Sea in September, 1941 and in the North Atlantic in April, 1943. Ed took his discharge in May, 1946

Wayne married Sadie Hannah, eldest daughter of Obert and Gunda Anderson of Bentley in June, 1943. They have two children. Patricia Marlene married Mr Leslie Anderson, and they have three children, Dwayne, Lavonne and Shelley. Merle Wayne lives in Saskatoon.

Wayne passed away February 26, 1956 and is buried in the Eckville cemetery Sadie passed away June 10, 1977, and is buried in Vig cemetery

Ed married Jean Macrae, only daughter of Donald and May Macrae in Newcastle-on-Tyne, England in 1945. After serving overseas from 1940 to 1946, Ed returned to Canada with his new bride I guess there's no place like home, for Ed and Jean have made their home in Eckville

Ed was an accountant for the Co-op for some time, until he resigned in May 1950 to accept the position as manager of the Eckville and District Savings and Credit Union. He also started his own agencies at this time.

Ed and Jean's son Donald was born in June, 1947 but passed away in infancy He is buried in the Eckville cemetery. The following June, Jennifer was born and in May, 1953, Beverly arrived in the world

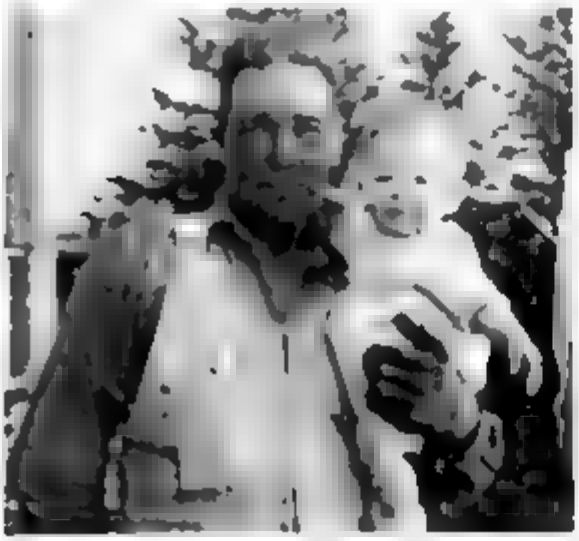
Jennifer and Bev took their schooling in Eckville, Jennifer going on to further her education in social work, during the summers working at Michener Centre. She is married to Michael Breen, and lives in Oshawa, Ontario. They have one daughter Jesica.

Beverly took her nurse's training at the Red Deer College and is presently working at the Calgary General Hospital

Both Ed and Jean take an active part in the community, mainly the Legion, Lions Club and the Presbyterian Church, and wherever help is needed

**TALSON, ADOLF — by Esther Marshall**

My uncle, Adolf (Happy) Talson was the eldest and only son of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Talson. He will be always remembered for his love of old-time dancing. He called many a square dance at Young People's Hall. He also was a great one for playing practical jokes on the younger children. One instance I recall is a bright wintry day when we were playing outside during the noon hour at Salma School. We could hear "Happy's" sleighbells on his favorite team, Molly and Prince. As usual, we broke the rules and went to meet him and all piled into the sleigh box for our ride back to the school. Instead of stopping to let us off at the school he made the horses gallop, so about a mile later he stopped. Needless to say, we were very late for school by the time we had walked back. We all spent considerable time after school, as our teacher, Miss Laimie Mackie, didn't appreciate the class going A W O L.



Adolph Talson and Nephew Jack McCrimmon

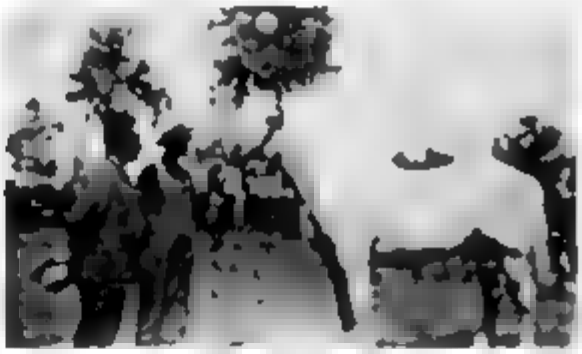
**TALSON, HENRY**

Henry Talson was born in Vaasa, Finland, in 1879. His wife, the former Helga Kopsala was born in Toholampi, Finland in 1885. Henry came to the U S A. in 1892, and went to work in the coal mines of Wyoming at the age of 14 years. In 1903 he and his friend, Jack Knutilla, decided to look for a new location, and tossed a coin to decide whether to come to Alberta or to take the Oregon Trail to Oregon. Alberta won, and he came and filed on a homestead as did almost all others coming to the country at that time. In 1905 he brought his family to Canada, but returned to Wyoming each winter to work in the mines there. Some cash money was needed to enable him to prove up on the homestead. The wife and young child were left on the homestead during these winters. The homestead was located on NE¼-18-39-2-W5 in the municipal district of Lorne No. 400.

After this the family was able to remain together, and they settled down on the homestead where they remained for the next 40 years and raised their family. During that time Henry Talson did a lot to help this part of Canada grow in stature. First he bought a team of oxen so that they had transportation to enable them to go to Red Deer for supplies. In those days there were no roads — just a wagon trail, and it would take about three days to make a round trip. Eventually a man by the name of Eckford started the first general store on the bank of the Medicine River about a mile and a half north of where Eckville is today. This relieved the settlers of the necessity of making the long trip to Red Deer.

Henry Talson was very active in community undertakings. He was a member of the municipal council for about twenty years and also served on the school board for many years. He was one of the original members of the local Co-op store and was a member of the board of directors and chairman for many years. The organization of local telephone association in 1919 saw Mr. Talson an active worker and he served on its board for many terms. He not only took an interest in public life at Eckville but served on the board of directors of the Benalto Fair, in which he took a great interest.

Henry and his brother Matt were one of the first settlers to introduce Registered Percheron Horses and Shorthorn cattle into the district. When, in 1930, his brother Matt and wife Selma both died Henry adopted their six children and raised them with his own. During the first World War six of the boys joined the armed forces and saw service overseas. Fortunately, they all arrived home safely. In 1944 Henry sold his farm and moved to British Columbia to spend his retirement years.



Henry and Matt Talson with their stallions, "Monte"

Of the nine Talson children only Irene remains in Alberta today. She is married, and has children and grandchildren also in Alberta. Fred and Matt are deceased, and the rest are all living in British Columbia. At last count Henry and Helga have 21 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

## MR. AND MRS. HENRY TALSON'S CHILDREN

Fred was born in 1903 and died in 1973. He had married Susanna Byttynen in 1935, and they had one son, Richard, now deceased. Susan lives in Bentley at the present time

Ida was born in 1906. She married Phil Laybourne of Eckville in 1940. Several years after Phil's death she married Frank Burnett of British Columbia. They are now retired and living in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia.

Ina, born in 1908, married Harvey Kalla of Sylvan Lake in 1931. Their three children are Kenneth, Marlene (Mrs J Hahn), and Sheila (Mrs Ross Jewell), and they have five grandchildren. They are now semi-retired, and are living in Langley, B.C

Mathew was born in 1910 and died in 1971. He married Dagney Nelson in 1943. They had one daughter, Linda, (Mrs. Don Reimer), and two grandchildren. Dagney now makes her home at Harrison Lake, B.C.

Walter was born in 1913. He married Irene Piper, in England, in 1944. They have one son, Larry, and one granddaughter Walter is now in British Columbia, working in the logging industry, and resides in Coquitlam.

Irene, born in 1915, married Barry Armstrong in 1938. Their four children are Buddy, Barbara (Mrs. W Partica), Betty Lou (Mrs. T Hannin) and Benny. There are five grandchildren. Irene is now Mrs. Clarence Lutz, Barry having died in 1949 Irene and Clarence are now retired and living in Sylvan Lake.

Mary was born in 1918 and married George Nelson in 1943. Their seven children are Sonie (Mr G. Graham), Steve, Stewart, Sharon (Mrs. M. Fahay), Susan, Sandy, and Shelley She now has eight grandchildren. George works in the logging industry and they live at Campbell River on Vancouver Island

Peter works in the logging industry and resides in British Columbia

Hazel was born in 1922. She and Ray Burnett were married in 1943. They have five children who are Gary, Brian, Jackie (now deceased), Carol (Mrs. B. Clark), and Ricky They have ten grandchildren. They are now retired and living in Mission

## HERMAN TALSON

Herman Talson was born in Laihia, Finland, in 1854 and died in 1930. His wife, Seraphia, was born in Laihia, Finland in 1855 and died in 1923 Herman entered the U.S.A. in 1882 and went to Wyoming to work in the coal mines there. In 1902 he came to Alberta and homesteaded on SE ¼ 18-39-2-W5 in the municipal district of Lorne No. 400.

The children of Herman and Seraphia were Henry, Hulda, Ann, Matt, Marie, and Charlie. Henry, Hulda, and Matt married and stayed in Alberta. Ann, Marie and Charlie eventually moved back to Great Falls, Montana, where they have since made their home

Mrs. Herman Talson

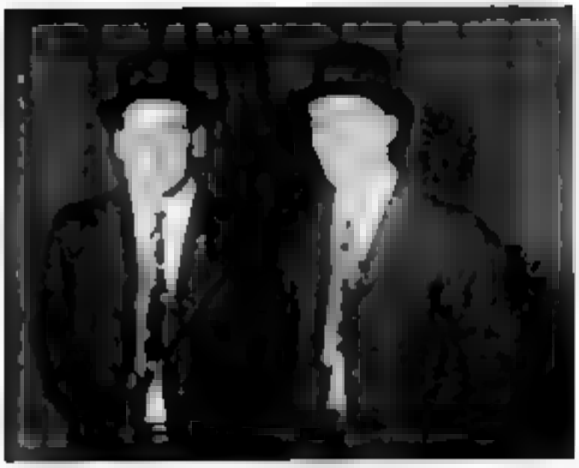
## TALSON, MARIA AND MIKKO

Maria and Mikko Talson came from Almy, Wyoming, U.S.A. in 1911 to farm on S W 20-39-2-W5. Mr. Talson passed away in 1916, leaving his wife with a family of seven children. Adolf, who passed away in 1958, Mathilda (Mrs. Waino Ignatius) died in 1954, Ida (Mrs. Elmer Hill) died in 1973, Laina (Mrs. Pete Rezunyk) of Kamloops, British Columbia, Laura (Mrs. Cedric Pietikanen) died in 1969, and the twins, Hulda (Mrs. Paul Kiengersky) of Hope, British Columbia and Hilja (Mrs. Arvi Niemela) of Bentley, Alberta were the children. Mrs. Talson passed away in 1957 at the age of 86 years.

Mrs. John Luomala, Mrs. Mike Talson, and Mrs. John Koski

## THORKMAN, ARTHUR MICHAEL — by Fern Skocdopole

Arthur Michael, the third son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born January 19, 1896 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. He attended school in Rock Springs until he immigrated to Red Deer, N.W.T. in April of 1903, with his parents. Arthur attended school at Sakatoe (old Eckville) until Salma School was completed. Later he attended Garbutts College in Calgary



Walter Bergum and Arthur Thorkman.

where he took up a course in Barbering. His week-ends at home would be spent cutting his neighbors' hair, free of charge, as barbers were few and far between

In 1915 Arthur enrolled at the North West College in Calgary to study drafting. In 1916 he enlisted in the army and was stationed at Sarcee (Calgary) He spent his army years at Sarcee as an instructor until the war ended. He held the rank of Staff Sargeant

Arthur's greatest desire in his younger days was to study law He was a good marksman, who could shoot a sparrow in flight— a feat that people never would have believed if they hadn't seen it for themselves. He was also noted for his very quick wit and his love of books and poetry

After the war Arthur was engaged in carpentry in Calgary and different parts of Alberta. He was one of the finishing carpenters who worked on the interior of the Wainwright Hotel, which is now a museum at Heritage Park in Calgary, Alberta. Arthur's army uniform is also in the archives at Glenbow Foundation in Calgary

When the Second World War broke out Arthur was a carpenter for army engineers working in construction of a prisoner-of war camp at Seebe west of Calgary, where he was injured in a fall For a year he was hospitalized, and due to his severe injuries he was never able to work again

Arthur passed away suddenly on June 5, 1944 in Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 48 years. He is buried in the Eckville cemetery

**THORKMAN, ARVIED WILTON — by his niece Mrs. Fern Skocdopole**

Arvied Wilton, the fifth son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born March 2, 1901 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. At the age of two years Arvied made the long journey to Red Deer N W T , with his parents in the spring of 1903.

He received his schooling at Saima School Arvied was the son, with a great gift for music There wasn't a musical instrument he couldn't play For years he played at wedding dances, community affairs and wherever there was music, there was Arvied. He and his friend, John Luoma, would travel to Wetaskiwin to the north and Trochu to the east to play for dances.

Arvied worked in the coal mines at Nordegg for a number of years. During the war he worked at the Namao Airport

In March of 1944 he returned home to the family farm

Arvied, retired from farming in 1965, sold his farm to his niece and her husband, Bernice and Doug Nelson, of Calgary At this time he made his home with his younger brother, Charles

In his later years Arvied's hobbies were repairing old violins and other instruments. His greatest desire was to have his grand-nephews and grand-nieces study music, if only for their own pleasure.

Arvied passed away on November 8, 1975 at the age of 74 years. He is buried in the Eckville Cemetery

**THORKMAN, CHARLES AND SYLVIA, 8 23-39-3-W5**

Charles Leonard Thorkman, youngest son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman was born December 26, 1904, on the homestead. The nearest post office was in Red Deer, N W.T Charles relates his past

My childhood memories are fond ones; of the tall trees, water aplenty, frogs, birds and animals.

Some days my dog and I would follow paths through the bush at great lengths, always finding the right path home. Each day I was warned not to venture far because of the bears and other wild animals. Before going on these jaunts, I filled my pockets with rocks, which I used for target throwing as we were exploring, looking into coyote and badger holes. My dog was just as anxious to go as I. But, this came to a sudden end when one day we decided to walk to Evarts to see the bar the men spoke of. We were on a trail south and had walked about two and a half miles, when I heard a big voice call. It was a big Finn by the name of Erickson. He asked where I was going and I answered "to Evarts to see the bar, which I have heard so much about " Mr Erickson said "don't you think we should leave it for another day as it was kind of late". Perhaps tomorrow we could start in the morning, if everything goes well between now and then. Mr Erickson lifted me onto his back and took me home. Needless to say, my pants and back-side had the dusting of the year.

This ended our pleasure jaunts. I decided to have a less venturesome life, so gathered eggs and helped mother with the chores around the house.

School days and the long walk to Saima School was looked forward to. Also meeting my friends along the trail. My route to school went to Jim Bernards then to Eckross's where I was

joined by Bill and Flora Kidd, Anna and Leonard Eckross. Further along we found Ted and Jaimer Heikkinen and Oscar and John Niemi waiting to join us.

Homesteaders did not have their land fenced. Cattle were out on open range in the summer and had to be gathered home each evening. A large fence was built for horses and a corral for the milk cows to keep them home for the night. Hay was cut and stacked on open land for winter. A pole fence was built around to keep cattle out. This hay was hauled home when the snow arrived.

There was work a plenty, but we always found time for sports, baseball practice at Young Peoples Hall and games, besides skating in winter, wrestling and boxing with Emil Heino as instructor.

Eckville in the early 20's had one elevator owned by Parrish & Heimbecker. I helped haul grain to the elevator with team and wagon. I would drive the team onto the scale, unhook the tugs and wait for the operator to come weigh the load. The man always arrived with a soggy cigar hanging on his lip. To weigh the load he would place the cigar on the beam weight then set the scale to balance. Smart thinking on his part. Didn't take me long to figure that one out either!

On March 20, 1928, I married Sylvia Katherine Kalaputas, the daughter of Gust and Emma Kalaputas of the Benalto district. After we were married, we leased land, farming with brothers William and Arvied. Later, we farmed my parents' farm, when they retired.

The first winter I worked on the C.N.R. construction, then at McDougal's lumber mill, operating the steam engine. While working at McDougal's, Ted Heikkinen and I decided to go to Rocky Mountain House and find a ride home. We arrived in town late Saturday evening so there were no rides going east. We walked most of the night and close to Hespero, we saw a hay stack near the road. We dug ourselves into the stack and slept there till morning. We arrived home in time for lunch, none the worse after a 30 mile walk and no snacks in between.

Farming was done with horse-power but with fields getting larger, we bought an Allis Chalmers tractor and an International thresher in the fall of 1930. We paid $800 for the tractor and $1700. for the thresher, F.O.B. Calgary. We had a bumper crop that year. Threshed 60 bushels of wheat per acre, selling it for 25 cents per bushel. We also did custom threshing and threshed 30 days straight. It was the driest and most beautiful harvest for many years to follow. In later years, we were snowed under till spring several times.

Depression was evident, prices of produce were going down. In 1933, we sold steers at three cents a pound, eggs at five cents a dozen, five gallons of cream at $1.90.

Men, who were dismissed from their work in the cities, came to the farms. Some stayed and worked, others were just transients and went on their way. Some came back, year after year, to work during the summer and through harvest. In those years, grain was cut with a binder. The sheaves were stooked, so men were in demand at harvest time. One morning when we were cutting grain, we saw a man across the field stooking. We never stopped to investigate, he seemed to know what he was doing. At lunch time he walked to the truck to go for lunch. He was none other than Andy Kojala. He always knew when an extra hand was needed. Art Stone from Leedale was another loyal fellow, who always arrived the day before we would start threshing. He worked for us several years.

We bought a three-ton truck and did commercial trucking, hauling grain for the farmers. Grain was loaded by shovelling the grain into the box. Gas was hauled by the barrel, 21 barrels just fit into the truck box. A trip to Turner Valley for gas was a 12-hour drive over gravel roads. A rack was built on top of the stock racks to hold the empty gas barrels. Unloading the cattle or hogs in Calgary, we drove on to Turner Valley and filled up with gas.

Food on the farm was plentiful. We raised our own beef, pork and chickens. We cured the bacon and hams, wrapped them in several layers of paper and buried them in the grain bin. They kept very well.

The Moro brothers operated the flour mill in Eckville. The best bread was baked from the flour milled by them. The mill was a busy place in the winter. Farmers had to wait their turn, so stood around visiting. One farmer was heard telling another he was very disgusted the way his wife had tied the bags of wheat. He had to stop and retie the bags five times.

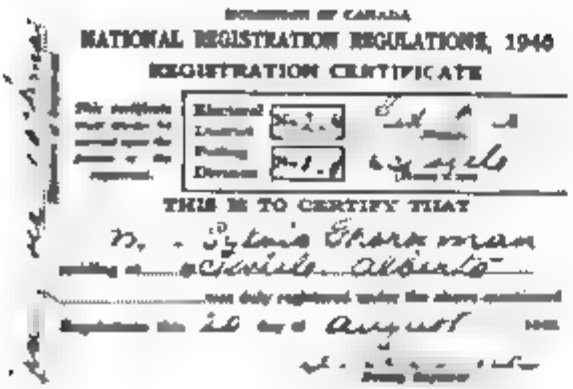
The war was on and food was rationed. Coffee, sugar, butter and meat were rationed but this had little effect on us.

Farming was getting more mechanized and we decided the horses must go. We trimmed and cuffed a truck load of horses to be sold at the Lacombe horse sale. All went well until a beautiful roan kicked the stalls out in the sales barn. Needless to say, he was sold for a very meagre price. Now that the horses were gone, we bought a used stook loader in Saskatchewan. It was horse drawn so we converted it all around and pulled it with a tractor. The loader saved many hours of hard labour and six men managed our threshing until we purchased the combine.

Through the years, we had time to be active in community affairs, and working for the betterment of the community.

In the late 30's we raised money to pay for gravel on the roads adjoining us. Each farmer paid $35 per 160 acres owned and this was the beginning of better roads. This, of course, had some bad effects too. Our taxes went up the following year due to the fact we lived along a gravel road.

Through the years our family had grown to



DOMINION OF CANADA
NATIONAL REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 1940
REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
M. Sylvia Thurman
residing at Eckville Alberta
was duly registered under the above-mentioned
Regulations this 20 day of August 1940

seven, we were blessed with five girls, Betty, Margaret, Bernice, Jean and Fern.

We served on the Saima School board. Sylvia was secretary-treasurer for a number of years, until the school was consolidated and moved to Eckville. The school is presently the Home Economics room. We have helped get the Calgary Power and Natural Gas into the community. Charles belongs to the Alberta Wheat Pool, Hog Pool, Credit Union and U F A.

Sylvia is a member of the Country Ladies Aid and has been for 36 years. She is president of the club and also holds an office on the Sunshine Gospel Mission Ladies Aid. She is president of the Eckville New Horizon Committee

Betty Marie, born February 15, 1930, attended school at Saima, Red Deer and took her R.N. at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. Betty is married to Mathias Leo Silbernagel and they reside in Calgary. The Silbernagel's have three sons—Peter, Jerry and Dale. Peter is married to Evelyn Poettcher of Pincher Creek and they have two children, Laura and Charles. Jerry is farming with his uncle at Water Valley. Dale is attending University of Calgary. Leo is employed with Gulf Oil of Canada.

Margaret Eileen, born July 3, 1932, attended Saima, Benalto, and Red Deer schools and went on to U of A in Edmonton to get her B.Ed. She is married to Morley Cuthbert Grose of Clive and they have two sons, Warren and David. Morley is a steam engineer at the Ponoka Mental Institute. Warren, resides in Rocky Mountain House and he is a steam engineer at the Strachan Gas Plant. David is attending school in Lacombe.

June Bernice, born June 3, 1934, attended school in Saima, Eckville and Red Deer. Bernice went to the U of A in Edmonton where she received her B.Sc. in Home Economics and her B.Ed. She is married to Douglas Whiteside Nelson and they live in Calgary. Doug is an aircraft maintenance engineer with Home Oil. Bernice and Doug have three children, Phillip, Tim and Kelly. Phillip works at S.A.I.T. Tim is attending U of C and Kelly is in Grade 9.

Jean Edith Elida, born January 16, 1937, attended school at Saima and Eckville. Jean is married to David Lewellyn Williams and they reside in Kitimat, B.C. Dave is employed with Alcan and Jean is loans manager with the Royal Bank. They have four children, Gregory, Katherine, Robert and Patrick. Gregory passed away in May, 1977. Katherine, Robert and Patrick are all attending school.

Fern Catherine, born May 2, 1939, attended school in Saima, Eckville and Edmonton. Fern is

Charles Thurmann Family. Left to right: Jean, Fern, Sylvia (Mother), Bernice, Charles (Dad), Betty and Margaret

Sylvia and Charles Thurmann's golden wedding anniversary, March 21, 1976

married to Glenn Skocdopole and they have four children, Steven, Susan, Carla Jean and Gerald. The children attend school in Eckville.

Charles retired from farming in 1976 and rented the farm. Charles and Sylvia enjoy travelling and have toured Europe and the U.S.A. on several occasions. Charles and Sylvia will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary March 20, 1978.

All the original Thorkman land is owned by family members, some with fourth generation.

We certainly should be thankful to the early pioneers, who paved the way for us.

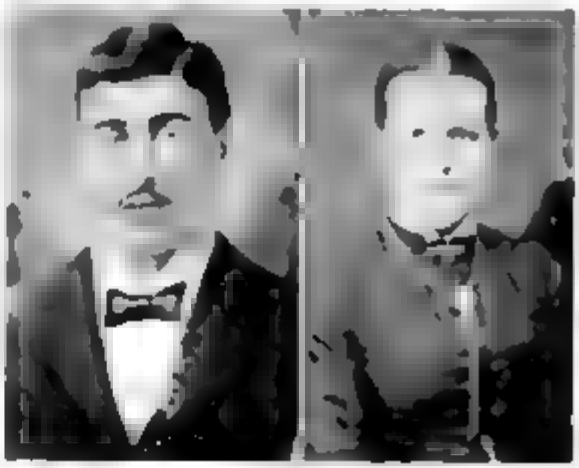
**THOMAS THORKMAN — by Fern Skocdopole (His Granddaughter)**

Thomas Thorkman was born December 12, 1864 in Vaasa, Finland. He received his schooling in Vaasa where he apprenticed as a tinsmith. He also helped his father and three brothers farm. Finland at that time was under Russian rule.

When the Russian army conscripted men, Thomas had to go — much to his dislike. On one of his furloughs, Thomas borrowed money from a cousin and secretly left, with skates and skis as his only possessions. The winter weather had been severe, so the Gulf of Bothnia had frozen over and Thomas, a speed skating medalist, set off for Sweden and freedom. Once on Swedish land, he put on his skis and skied to Stockholm, where he boarded a ship, hoping to arrive in America some day. Oh, what a happy sight it was for Thomas that day in 1886 when the ship docked in New York harbor. He had made it to the land of opportunity and the land of his dreams.

For a short period of time Thomas worked at the docks in New York. After that he worked for the Grande Central Railway at Ashtabula Harbour, Ohio, and as a ranch hand in Omaha, Nebraska. In Nebraska he purchased a horse and saddle and set off for Cumberland, Wyoming. On the way he came upon some Indians who were trying their hand at ranching. This particular day, the Indians had purchased a mower and were trying to figure out how the contraption worked. Thomas, being a very friendly fellow, decided to stop and render assistance. By means of sign language, Thomas got the message across on how the mower worked, and consequently got the job of mowing the hay. The Indians must have thought, "pretty smart paleface — good fellow to have around," for they insisted that he stay awhile. This was quite an experience, and the only thing Thomas found unpleasant was the lack of salt in their food. He tried to suggest that the use of salt would improve the flavor of the food, but the Chief would just shake his head, scratch his tongue and point to the sugar. Apparently he was trying to get the point across that sugar had a better flavor. His mission accomplished, off Thomas went on his way to Cumberland, where he was hired as a driver in the coal mine.

One day Thomas had the pleasure of meeting Maria Tunney from Harma, Finland, who was visiting her sister, Mrs. Gust Shamaki, at near by Carbon, Wyoming. It must have been love at first sight, for on June 10, 1889, they were married in Hanna, Wyoming.



Mr. Thomas Thorkman  Mrs. Thomas Thorkman

After their marriage they moved to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where they bought a boarding house, livery stable, and part ownership in a saloon. Thomas worked in the coal mine and Maria ran the boarding house which had accommodations for 30 or more miners. Their boarders were young men from the Scandinavian countries. This is where five of their children were born. Richard Jacob was born February 7, 1891, William Thomas on April 10, 1892, Arthur Michael on January 17, 1896, Allard Rudolph on September 12, 1898 and Arvied Wilton on March 2, 1901.

In 1902 word and promise came that there were 160 acres of land in the Northwest Territories for $10. This seemed like a real investment, so Thomas saved his money and soon was on his way. The destination was Red Deer, N.W.T., to the land titles office to file on a homestead. With John Johnson and Henry Lepisto, he travelled 30 miles west of Red Deer to where land was still available. Due to the wet spring and the amount of water, they were unable to find the surveyors' corner stakes. Regardless, they decided which parcel they would take for their own and proceeded to erect a tent on higher ground. The legal description of the land was SW 36-39-3-W5. With timber plentiful, mosquitoes, too) and not far to move logs, each decided to build a log cabin.

One day while looking for select logs, Thomas realized that his closest neighbor was a big black bear who had fled just over the hill. Neither bothered the other and life went on peacefully, until one day Thomas and Henry had gone away for the day. Upon their return, Henry found all

his belongings and his salted fish gone; his cooking utensils scattered everywhere and his tent in shreds. From then on Thomas and Henry lived together and built their cabins. Upon completion of the cabin, Thomas returned to Wyoming in the fall of 1902. That winter he worked again in the mines, played a few pranks (being a real prankster), and concentrated on gathering together articles he thought he would need on the homestead. One of the articles Thomas had a blacksmith friend make for him was an anvil out of railroad steel with the year engraved on it. This is still being used on his youngest son's farm. He also brought this prized possession — a hand-made saddle with a brass saddle horn, which he had bought in Nebraska.

Maria, who had no idea of what pioneer life would be like, brought crystal chandeliers, velour tablecloths, curtains and bedspreads, sheets and pillowcases with crocheted borders, and their finest silver. Being an expert seamstress, she made fancy clothes for the trip and her life in her new home. Of course, these garments were not practical for a pioneer wife. Her most treasured possessions were her family Bible, several photo albums of pictures of her family and dear friends she had left behind.

In April 1903, the family left Rock Springs for Red Deer by train with a boxcar load of household goods and personal effects, a team of horses and two cows. This part of the journey took two weeks.

A wagon was bought in Red Deer and the trek to the homestead 30 miles to the west began. Going was difficult at times. The twisting trails crossed stretches of muskeg and overflowing creeks. Other settlers often had to come to their rescue.

On May 1, 1903, the third day of traveling, the family arrived at the homestead. The first task for the family was potato planting to ensure potatoes for the winter. Other chores included preserving wild fruit, which was plentiful, putting up wild hay for the livestock; as well as building them a shelter. The following year was spent in clearing the land.

An Indian trail from the Medicine River encampment to Snake Lake crossed the land, and the Thorkman family had many an unexpected visit from Indians. Knocking on doors was not an Indian habit, and family members, unaccustomed to Indians, got quite a fright to find an Indian standing patiently at the door, waiting for someone to come out.

On December 26, 1904, the family was blessed with another baby boy, Charles Leonard. Now the Thorkman family consisted of six sons. A daughter, Fannie, was born in 1906, but developed pneumonia and passed away at the age of 18 months.

Fences were nonexistent in those days and cattle roamed the open range. Most of the time the boys would have to travel three or four miles to find the milk cows. In dense brush this was quite a chore.

Creameries were unheard of in those days. The cream was churned into butter and traded at the Evarts or Sakatoe (old Eckville) trading post for necessities. Eventually a cheese factory was built at Sakatoe by T. B. Miller, of Snake Lake (Sylvan Lake) with Ernie Bernard as cheese maker. Every morning the family delivered the whole milk in 30-gallon cans to the cheese factory. The milk had to be in the vats by nine o'clock in the morning for cheese making, so this meant that milk had to be ready to deliver early.

Thomas and his sons continued clearing land to sow rye, used to make flour for the family, and to grow oats for the stock. Picking the plentiful roots was a family task. As more land was cleared, machinery to farm it was the next consideration. The machinery purchased was a Massey Harris 14-inch plow for $28 in 1904, and a six-foot Deering binder for $150, which was meant to be drawn by three horses. Not having three horses, Thomas used two horses and an ox.

The community grew and prospered and in 1908 the first local improvement district was formed. The taxes amounted to the grand sum of $6 per quarter. The next priority was a school for the community. In 1906, for a salary of $[illegible] Thomas hauled lumber from a saw mill on the shore of Snake Lake to the SE 30-39-2-W5, where the school was to be erected. The boys rode horseback to school at Sakotoe until Salma School was completed.

Thomas took an active part in community affairs. He was a trustee on the Salma School board, the first member of the Eckville-Gilby Co-operative Store, member of the Alberta Wheat Pool when it was organized and also a member of the Young Peoples Hall board. If anyone ever needed help, Thomas was always ready to lend a helping hand.

With wild game being plentiful, there were laws one had to abide by. Arthur Eckford, who was Justice of the Peace, appointed Thomas as Game Warden, a position he held for several years.

The railroad had not been built west of Red Deer, so Thomas hauled groceries from Red Deer to Kimick-Forhan Store in Sakotoe with four head of horses hitched to a sled or wagon, depending on the time of year. The trip usually took two days, sometimes longer. In winter he would drive across the ice of Snake Lake, shortening the trip by several miles.

By 1911, when the railroad came through, Thomas had land cleared and was raising grain. However, the only hay the farmers had was wild, which they cut with a scythe, stacked and fenced, wherever it was found. It was hauled home in the winter when the wet lands could be crossed safely.

In 1918 the Thorkmans purchased a 40" Rumley separator and a 110 Case steam engine. The threshing crew that fall and every other fall

# PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

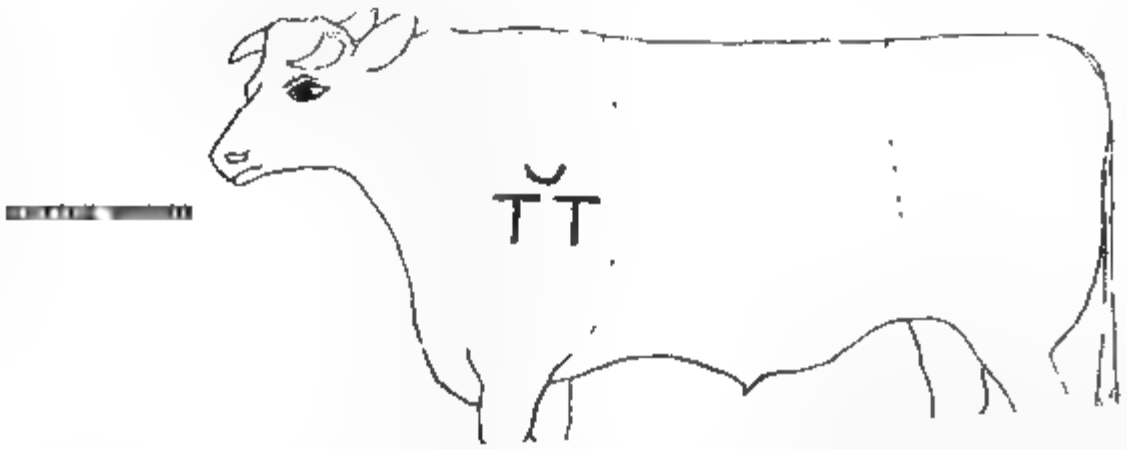
OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF BRANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.

F No. 577

*Extracts from Record of Brands, L K F 387 No. 6202*




POSITION LEFT . Shoulder, . .

... BE KEEP THIS OFFICE INFORMED OF ANY CHANGE OF YOUR ADDRESS

RECORDED VENT (IF ANY)

NAME OF OWNER . . . . . Thomas Thorkman,

POST OFFICE ADDRESS Eckville, Alberta.

DATE OF RECORD . . . . 25th, May, 1916.

DATE OF CANCELLATION 31st. December, 1920

*I, the undersigned, Recorder of Brands hereby certify that the above is a true and correct extract from the Record of Brands kept under the authority of the Brand Act of the Province of Alberta and amendments thereto, as it appeared on the* Twenty-fifth, *day of* May, *A D. 191*6

Jas. Wilson
*Recorder of Brands.*

*Medicine Hat, Alta.,* . 25th, May, *1916.*

TAX RECEIPT

was made up of neighboring farmers. A crew of 22 to 25 men was required to keep the operation going. Thomas took care of the duties at home while the sons, Bill, Arvied and Charles were away threshing. The crew consisted of Charles Mitzner as steam engineer, Arvied as fireman, Bill as separator man, a waterman, 14 bundle haulers, three or four grain haulers and two spikers. The youngest son, Charles, took over the position of steam engineer from C. Mitzner when he was old enough.

The fireman started to fire the boilers at four or five o'clock in the morning to have enough steam pressure to operate the separator by seven o'clock. Each farmer was responsible for the wood to fire the boilers. The steam engineer sat on the engine and monitored the gauges and the threshing operation. He had to be a qualified steam engineer. He was also responsible for alerting the crew if there was trouble. The separator man was responsible for the efficient operation of the separator. When he was satisfied that all was ready, he gave the signal to set the operation in motion. The spikers helped the separator man.

A water man hauled water for the engine from a stream or other source. The water wagon was pulled by four horses and sometimes the haul was quite a distance. The bundle haulers and grain haulers did just that — hauled bundles and grain.

Cooks and cooks' helpers were an important part of the crew. Each farmer being threshed was responsible for meals for the entire crew, as well as for feed for the horses. This was a busy time for the farmers' wives and their helpers. Preparations started days in advance. With little refrigeration and storage space, this was not a simple task, but no one complained because getting the grain into the bin was of prime importance.

The whistle of the steam engine was a means of communication. One short blast signalled trouble — shut down the separator, two short blasts meant start the separator, several short blasts meant a grain hauler was needed, the water wagon was summoned by three long blasts, two long and two short blasts meant the outfit was going on the road to the next job. In the fall one could have got along without a clock as the steam engine whistle was blown at six a.m., 12 noon and seven p.m., and could be heard for miles. Only seconds separated the time signals of the whistles from different steam engines around the community. The time spent away from home threshing was usually a month. The weather wasn't always on the side of the threshers, and the last of the threshing was sometimes done in the snow.

After several years of faithful service, the steam engine was sold to Martin Brothers, who had a lumber camp west of Rocky Mountain House. Years later the Rumley separator was sold for scrap to Lukala Brothers, as it was too large to be run by an ordinary tractor.

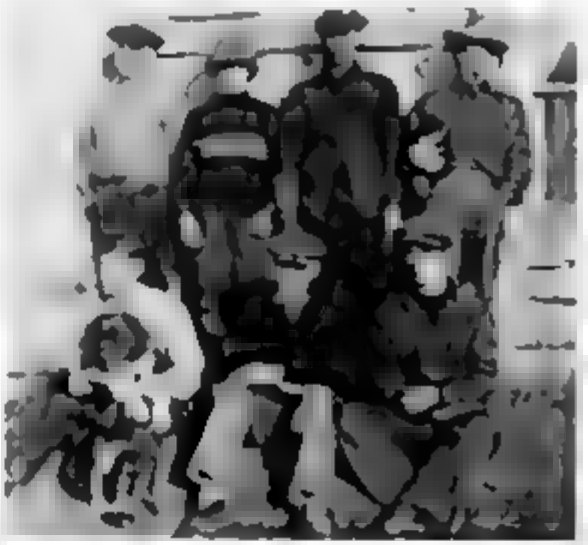
During the years Thomas farmed he acquired 800 acres of land, a herd of purebred cattle (Shorthorn), Percheron horses and light draft horses used for driving and riding. When he reached the age of 60 years Thomas turned the farming over to his sons, but kept active taking care of his stock and continued horseback riding.

Maria, by this time was very badly handicapped by arthritis, and was confined to a wheel chair. She passed away in April 1938, at the age of 70 years. She is buried in the Eckville Cemetery. Thomas led an active life almost until the time of his death on March 20, 1948, at the age of 84 years. He is buried in the Eckville Cemetery.

**THORKMAN, WILLIAM THOMAS — by his niece, Mrs. Fern Shacklopole**

William Thomas, the second son of Thomas and Maria Thorkman, was born in Rock Springs, Wyoming, U.S.A. on April 10, 1892. Bill attended school in Rock Springs until coming to Red Deer, N.W.T. with his parents at the age of 12 in April, 1903.

When the railway was being built Bill worked



Back row: Arvied, Mike (cousin), Dick, Arthur. Front row: Bill, John Kalopsias (brother-in-law), Charles.

on the construction, and also worked at bridge building

In 1910, Bill filed on a homestead in the Beaver Flats district, northeast of Rocky Mountain House. This was the N E. ¼ 34-39-6-W5. During his years on the homestead, he worked out during the winter. In 1911 he rode the railroad work train to Saunders Creek and walked the remainder of the way to Nordegg, where he worked on the construction of the town. Other years he worked at William McDougall's saw mill, operating the edger

In 1923 he sold his farm to Charles Serrell of Nordegg and returned to the Eckville district. Here he worked as a carpenter, and built numerous homes and farm buildings in the area, many of which are still standing and being used. Bill and Charlie Mitzner built Jake and Dan Clausen's houses in new Eckville. These were among the first houses built there. A few years ago these houses were demolished and replaced by the new telephone building

At summer horse races it was always Bill riding Henry Mitzner's horse, Jimmy or Cougar, who won all the top awards.

Bill soon decided to go back to the family farm where he made his home with his brother Charles. Bill and Charles went into partnership, in commercial trucking, custom threshing and later, combining. Bill was known for his sense of humor, quick wit, and always having a ready answer

In 1960 Bill retired, selling his land to his brother Charles

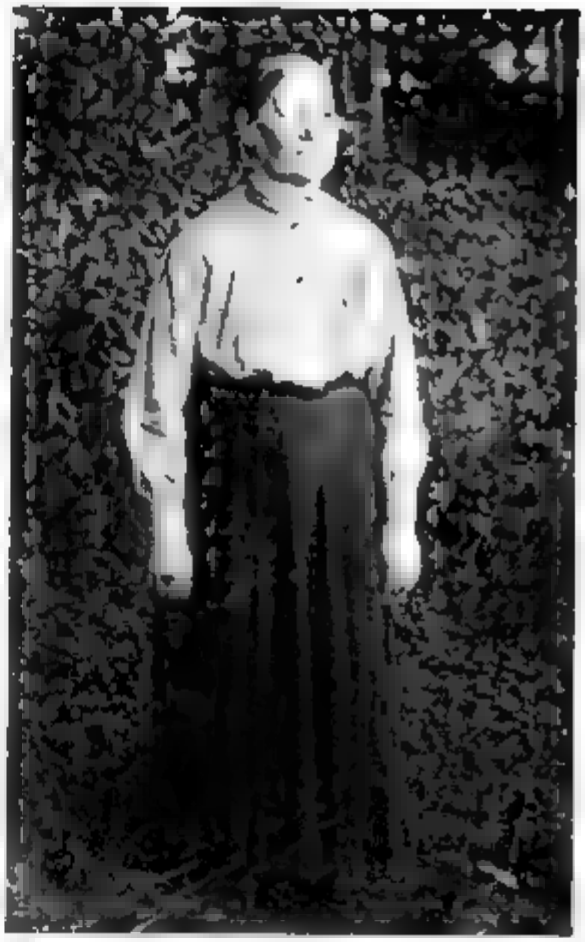
Bill passed away August 16, 1966 at the age of 74 years and is buried in the Eckville Cemetery

**VIANEN**

Charlie Vianen was born in 1899 in Finland. As a young boy he came to the Eckville district. For two years he worked for Alex Johnson for the salary of $100 per year. Next he worked for Albert Pihooja's father and then made his home with the Leukma family. In 1923, a parcel of school land was offered for sale and Charlie bought SW 29-39-2-W5. That year, his mother, Mrs. Edla Vianen, emigrated from Finland and upon arrival in the district, temporarily made her home with the Wayne Ignatius family

Charlie was a hard-working man. He began clearing his land by hand. He built his house about 1924, when his mother came to live with him. In the early 1920's Charlie bought a Model T Ford. He was always willing to chauffeur people around for the price of the gas. Many people paid for their rides by working a few hours or days for him. Charlie put up loads of wood which he sold for two dollars per wagonload. He hauled these to customers in Eckville or Sylvan Lake

In the early 1930's Charlie shot a black bear beside his house. The bear, having discovered a make-shift food cooler on the north side of the house, was robbing the family of butter and other food. Someone surmised the bear would return



Mrs. Elda Vianen Passport photo, 1923

Charlie Vianen and the bear that raided his cupboard

within three days and Charlie was waiting with his 38-55 gun.

Mrs. Vianen died in 1943 at the age of 79. She is buried in the Eckville cemetery. Charlie's brother, Victor, homesteaded NW 31-39-2-W5. He sold this land to Henry Johnson and moved to the United States where he became a fire-fighter. Charlie's sisters, Mary and Alma, made their homes in the United States. Charlie died in 1958 and was buried in the Eckville cemetery. His land was sold to Eli Murto and the building site is presently owned by Ron Palm.

**MR. AND MRS. NELS WAISANEN**

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Waisanen immigrated from Finland in the year 1900. They settled in the United States for a while, and then came to Canada, to the Sylvan Lake area. Mr. Waisanen had acquired a homestead on the north-west end of Sylvan Lake, which, in the early days, was known as Snake Lake. This homestead land is now owned by Judge Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Waisanen had five children. Emma (Mrs. Fuller) lived in California, U.S.A. before her death in 1967.

Junnie (Mrs. Harry Bloom) lived in Calgary. She had one daughter, Hazel, who married Reg Sinclair, a hockey player, and is now living in Georgia, U.S.A. Junnie died in 1931.

Lilly is now Mrs. August Moro, and lives with her husband in Eckville.

Charlie is living in Condor.

Nels passed away in 1939, at the age of 26 years.

Nels Waisanen used to go to work in the copper mines in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the U.S.A. Once when he was away working a prairie fire was burning towards the buildings and Mrs. Waisanen was trying to fight it all alone! Luckily, a neighbor came along and set another fire which burned towards the prairie fire. In this way the fire was put out, and the buildings were saved.

Nels Waisanen died suddenly of a heart attack in 1912. In 1914 Hilma Waisanen married Henry Johnson and they had a family of four daughters.

Sonja was married to Ed Mickelson. They had a son, Bi..., who died at the age of five months. Their daughter, Lillian, was married to Bill Lapp. They had four sons, Eldon, Daryl, Linden, and Jason. Ed Michelson passed away in 1942, and Sonja was remarried in 1954 to Lloyd Medwid. Sonja died of cancer in 1973 in Calgary.

Flora married Henry Niemi. He predeceased her. She has two sons, Bobby and Barry, and they live in Calgary.

Hilja (Mrs. Anderson) lives in British Columbia and has a son, Roger.

Dorothy married Robert Ashby. They and their two children, Donnie and Jackie, live in Oregon, U.S.A. Bob is a Greyhound Bus driver.

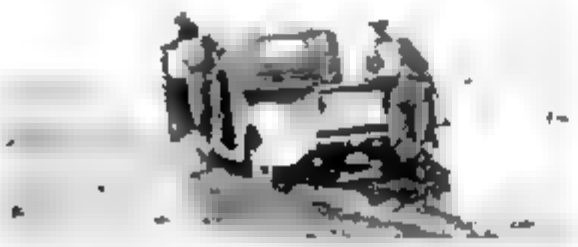
Henry Johnson died in 1959 at the age of 90 years.

Hilma Johnson died in 1949 at the age of 68 years.

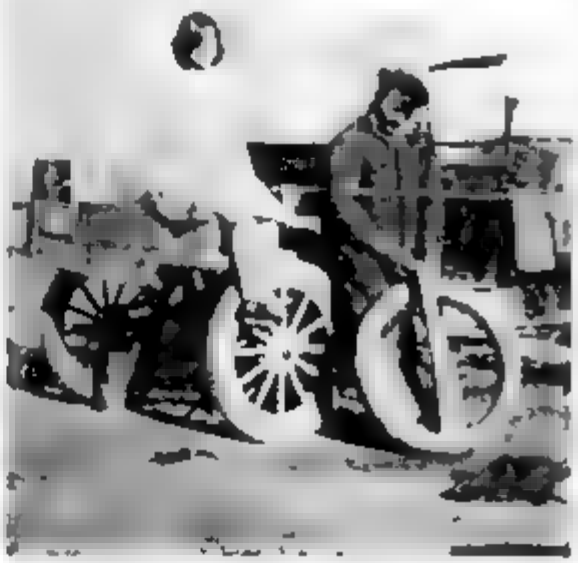
**WALNER, SEB**

Seb came to the Eckville District in 1930. He left here in 1970 to return to Germany to spend his retirement years. Seb farmed the quarter NW 8-39-2-5. He cleared most of this land. His farming involved raising pigs as well as grain. He enjoyed fishing.

Runnin' Buggy of the "Dirty Thirties"

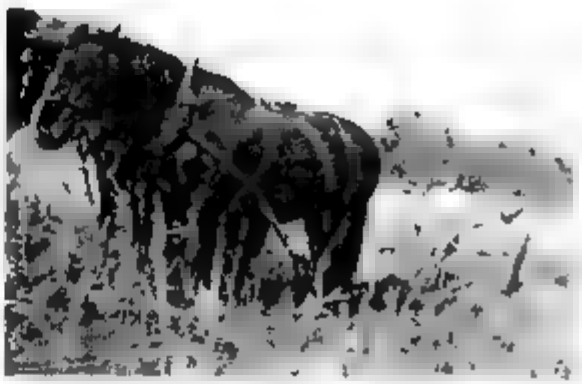


Elmer Fornell and Jimmy Steele crossing high water north of Eckville when Medicine River was one foot over the road May 5, 1948.



Courting Days, Alho and Hilda Stopsen

Extra traction



Annie Parkhurst and Kate MacKenzie plowing up potatoes during the War

Walter Hoglund - the wet years.

Accidents happened then, too.

Dale Yeager with a pair of crows. Jimmy and Jenny that were family pets. They were never kept in captivity and were so tame that they would go with the children to pick strawberries and get the crow to perch on Mrs. Yeager's shoulder as she hoed in the garden.

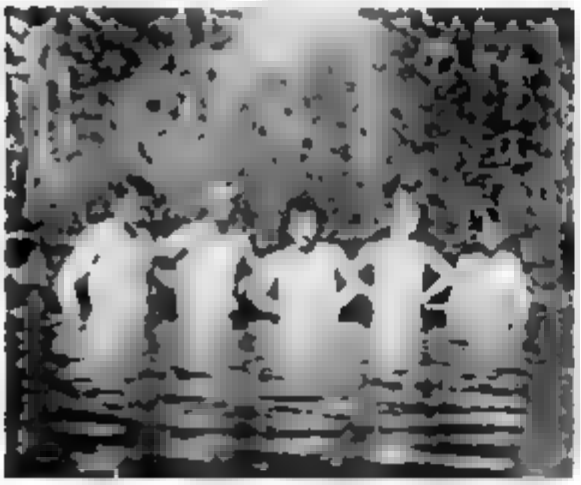
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holm, Silver Wedding Anniversary

Paul Parson and Jim Thomson making [illegible]

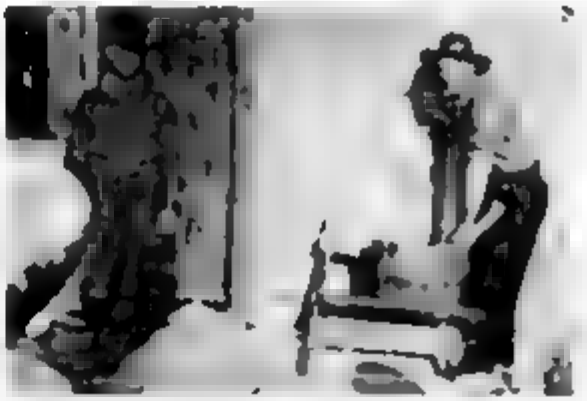
On April 2, 1941 after the wedding Robert Vinger took the young married couple to Rimbey by wagon. They had to cross the Blindman River which was flooded up to Darby's Hill. The water was so high that it reached up to the wagon box before they reached the bridge, just west of Rimbey. Left to right. John Smith, Pastor Peter Rick, Alberta and Floyd Smith and Robert Vinger.

Ester Bloom and her daughter after a chicken hawk. 1911

Hooking a rug



Skinny Dipping



How Sundays were spent in camp

# Withrow, Wolfe

**ABRAMSON, MR. AND MRS.**

Mr and Mrs. Abramson came to the Eckville area about 1904 from the United States. Mr Abramson, a native of Ireland, was a sailor. He had sailed most of the oceans before deciding to farm. He homesteaded the SE 6-40-3-W5. Little is known of the Abramsons, as they left the area in 1910.

However, their neighbors recall this story Bears were plentiful near their home. They were terrified, having no gun to protect themselves. A neighbor, Jack Hiltola, loaned them a gun just in case one got too friendly. The next evening they heard the bear scratching around the door Mrs. Abramson opened the door a crack while her husband emptied the gun in the general direction he thought the bear had taken. Not being convinced that his shooting had been successful, Mr and Mrs. Abramson quickly fled up the ladder to the attic of their one-room house, and to be doubly sure, they kicked the ladder down

The next day Jack Hiltala came to see how they fared and found them still upstairs, unable to get down without the ladder

**AHO, EDWARD AND ANNA LYDIA — by Sylvia Thorkman**

Edward Aho left his home in Alajarvie Halla Aho Finland when a young lad to find adventure in a new world with his brother, William, in 1902. He worked in coal mines at Frank and in the Crowsnest Pass, later moving to the Eckville district. Homesteads were available, so he filed on the NW 30-39-3-W5, west of Eckville.

He married Anna Lydia Olson in 1908. She was the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs. James Olson, also of Eckville. James Olson had hewed the logs for their new home, which was finished when Anna and Edward were married. A year later, 1909, a daughter, Lillian was born and in 1911 another daughter, Florence, arrived. During the years Anna's health was failing and she passed away in November, 1914

Edward left the children in care of the grandparents, Mr and Mrs. Olson, to find employment. He worked in the copper mines in Butte, Montana, U.S.A. for a while.

After he returned to the farm his daughter Lillian came to live with her father. Florence was raised by the Olsons

Edward was a very capable man. He was a tailor by trade. He sewed suits for the men in the area, and also made dresses and coats whenever the need arose. He was a watch maker, and there were always numerous watches, clocks, and even guns that needed repair in his home. He sold Rawleigh products for a number of years He always enjoyed the great outdoors and loved hunting big game. However, he had an unfortunate experience in 1934 when he was lost in the bush for three nights and two days. It was cold at the time, but he survived the incident, although his toes on one foot had to be amputated. He continued farming until his passing in 1943. Edward and Anna are laid to rest in the Kuusamo Cemetery

Lillian married William Huhtala of Benalto and they had three daughters. They later moved to Russia. Florence married M. P Doyle and they have one daughter They reside in Parksville, B.C.

**MR. AND MRS. JOHN SOLOMON ALBERT — by Marie Scidaha**

In 1918 Mr. and Mrs. John Solomon Albert came to Alberta by train with a few head of horses and cattle and a small amount of household possessions. They came from Plevna, Ontario. With their family of seven children, five boys and two girls, they settled two miles north and one-half mile west of Condor.

Their children are twins, Ralph of Wanham, Alberta, and Raymond of Sylvan Lake; Alfred (Tom) of Bingley, Alberta; Miss Grace Albert of Sylvan Lake, and Mrs. Evelyn Biswanger of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Lewis, better known as "Chief", of Camrose, and Charles of Lesleville have both passed away

In the 1950's John sold his farm and moved into Condor where he lived until his passing in 1964 at the age of 91 years. He was predeceased by his first wife in 1943.

His eldest son, Charles Wesley Albert, took up homesteading in 1927, nine miles northwest of Lesleville. In 1930 he married Violet Price of Bingley. Together they farmed there, and raised

16 children, listed oldest to youngest here: Harvey of Wanham, Alberta; Ervin of Wanham, Alberta; Mabie Schlahs of Calgary, Alberta, Marie Schlahs of Sylvan Lake, Alberta; Margaret Cunningham of Edmonton, Alberta, and Louie of Red Deer, Alberta. To date, there are 21 grandchildren.

In 1966, they sold the farm and retired to Sylvan Lake where he resided until his passing in 1971 at the age of 73 years. He was predeceased by his eldest daughter, Marion, in 1963. His wife, Violet, still lives in Sylvan Lake. The farm at Lesserville is now the residence of the Leonard Blackhurst family

**THE BANTON STORY**

The Banton family originated in Ireland, going to England as political refugees. Harry Banton was born in Leicester, England, April 16, 1850. His father operated a successful farrier business there. As a young man he belonged to a volunteer cavalry unit. In Feb. of 1881 he married Elizabeth Anne Wesley, (originally Wellesley, from the McGregor Clan in Scotland, born 1859). Shortly afterward they decided to emigrate to Canada, Harry coming first with his brother Ted ( later, editor of the Toronto Star) and her cousin Tom, ( a dentist) to be followed in the spring of 1882 by his wife and baby daughter, Florence Ruth, who was born in Nov 1881. They settled first in Winnipeg and while there Mr Banton, an accomplished violinist, played lead violin in the Winnipeg Opera House. Later, they moved on to Portage La Prairie where Mr Banton assisted his cousin in a butcher business. It was while there they got a taste of real pioneer life when their child, now two years old, was kidnapped by the Indians and taken off to their camp. Fortunately, she was successfully recovered.

When the Riel Rebellion took place (1884-85) Harry and Tom fought with the Canadian Militia during the campaign. Meanwhile, Mrs. Banton went to live in Toronto with Tom's family. While there a second child, Charles, was fatally injured in an accident and died of brain damage. This, coupled with the absence of her husband brought on a nervous condition and her doctor recommended a sea voyage as a remedy, so on the conclusion of the war they returned to Leicester. At this time Mr Banton's father died suddenly of a heart attack and Harry suddenly found himself in charge of the farrier business. Regretfully they dropped their plans to return to Canada, and settled into the job of shoeing horses. His deafness in later life was attributed to his having worked all day at an anvil between two other men also pounding anvils.

Three more children were born in England: Herbert (Bert) in 1889, Dorothy (Dolly) in 1894, and Frank, April 3, 1901. Also during this period Mr Banton served in the capacity of Sgt. Major with the British Yeomanry in Africa fighting in the Boer War.

In the spring of 1907 Bert, now in his 'teens and enchanted by his folk's stories of the West, came out to Alberta. Later in the same year his family followed, with the exception of Florence (nick-named Lolly) who was teaching school and had to wait till the following year. This time they took up some homestead land 30 miles east of Stettler, Alberta, taking residence in an abandoned sod shack. This was somewhat of a culture shock for comfortably fixed English folk but they were in for another shock when a prairie fire came by and very nearly wiped them all out. This spurred them to move to a more settled area, so they came to the Poplar Ridge district N W of Red Deer and bought a farm from a man named Perie. But again misfortune dogged them and in January of 1908 their home and barn were destroyed by fire and they lost everything but the precious violin, the piano, and the clothes they wore. (Harry even lost his false teeth)

Now severely pressed for funds, the Bantons headed West again and took up a homestead on the Blueberry Creek in the Withrow District, Harry on NW 33-40-4-W5 and son Bert on NE 33-40-4-W5 (now part of the Pattison farms). For once, luck was with him — he was just 20 minutes ahead of the next applicant for that land (Bill Hazlett)! This was to be the end of his travels. Harry supplemented his farm income by doing occasional blacksmith work for his neighbors and by giving violin lessons. In the struggle to make ends meet Mrs. Banton also did her share, working in turn as a house-keeper for Col. Marriett at Alix for two months in 1910, then as Matron of the Peigan Indian School at Brocket for a year and as a cook for the C P R mess-house at Hosmer, B.C. in 1912 and 1913. She returned to the homestead in 1914 and lived there till she retired.

The older daughter, Lolly, had married Ed Wigmore in June, 1910 and remained in the Blackfalds area near Poplar Ridge. They had three children, Arthur, Margaret Dorothy, and Frank. Arthur married Ruth Miller and they raised Dorothy, Dave and Ken. Margaret Dorothy married Cyril Ironsides; they had two children Lillian and Edmund but Margaret passed away while still quite young. Frank died as a child. The mother Lolly died October, 1965 and her husband in January, 1966.

Dolly made her own way as a pianist and stenographer till she married George Muddiman and left the area. Mr Muddiman, a business man, was employed by the Hudson Bay Company in Vancouver, and then in Winnipeg, where Dolly passed away. Then he went back to England working for Bird's Eye Frozen Foods — becoming manager of the entire operation in England before he passed away there. The Muddimans raised two girls and a boy, Shirley, Phyllis and Robert. The girls did not marry, but Robert married and has four children.

Bert (Herbert), the Banton's older son, married Bertha Glover, a sister of Mrs. Ethel

Buckby, in Red Deer in 1912. They lived on the homestead where Pattisons are now) until 1916. Then they went to Calgary till 1921 and also spent a year in Vancouver, B.C. where their daughter Verna was born. They also lived in the town of Drumheller and worked in the mines between 1923 and 1928 coming back to the homestead between times. Bert was very versatile and became a minister of the Gospel, preaching in Calgary and singing on radio programs over CFCN. Meanwhile his wife had died when Verna was very little. Bert married Etta Dowler in 1930 while he was in the ministry a couple of years later, moving out to his father's farm, having sold the homestead to Pattisons, and they were there till about 1936, soon after which they moved to Montreal and lived there until Bert's death, shortly after which Etta moved to Vancouver where she still makes her home.

In reminiscing in an old letter from Bert in 1956 not long before he died, he wrote: "It certainly takes my memories back to the good old days, when there was hardly a fence west of the Sylvan Lake Store and Post Office and Hespero was non-existent but was a house on a farm used as a store called Pitcox. They were strenuous but very happy days."

Bert and Bertha's children were Irene, Neville and Verna. Bert and Etta's were Frank and Beryl.

**Irene** (born in 1913) married Milton Dirsten and they have four boys and four girls. Milton died recently. Irene lives in Eckville, while three of her sons live in the Eckville area.

**Neville** married Gertie Albert from the Eckville district and they moved to the coast where they raised three sons, Fred, John and Max, their father passed away recently and Gertie continues to live at the coast with six grandchildren to enjoy.

**Verna** married Ole Krossenger and they live in Vancouver too. They have two girls and one boy, Donna, Bonny, and Terry and four grandchildren.

**Frank** and his wife have one boy and one girl.

**Beryl** and her husband have two boys and two girls.

Frank, the Harry Banton's younger son, remained on the homestead to help his father but supplementing his income by playing the violin for dances in surrounding community halls. However times were hard and he finally had to look for a better opportunity, so after Christmas in 1924, he went out to British Columbia. Frank is now the only living member of the Harry Banton family. He and his wife Helen live in Trail and have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Going back to the original family, disaster struck again in Februaruy, 1925 when fire took their home on the farm and Mr. and Mrs. Banton were hard pressed to get by, having lost their possessions. However they finally overcame their difficulties.

Harry Banton, being a gifted violinist and his wife an excellent pianist they were a real asset to the social life of the community, which was very important in those days. Mr. Banton used to teach the violin to the neighbour's children. Then, around 1929, Mr. Banton had an accident with a runaway team, striking his head on the bridge over the Blueberry, which laid him up for quite awhile and he lived with his daughter Lollie for a couple of years, before coming back to the farm. He died at Leslieville in 1935 at 85 years of age and is buried in the Leslieville Cemetery. Mrs. Banton had retired to live with her son Frank in Trail, B.C. She died in February 1937, but is buried in the Aspelund Cemetery west of Blackfalds.

It is estimated that there are at least 85 descendents of Harry and Elizabeth Banton.

**BODIN, ROY — by Iva Gustavson**

Roy Bodin, his sister Annie, and parents, Fred and Albertina Bodin, lived at Stony Plain. After the death of his father, he and his mother moved to Provost. His sister, now Mrs. Mielke and family farmed in this area. He farmed here, too, for a number of years.

In 1947, his mother married Charlie Gustavson of Eckville. Roy worked at different jobs in this locality, making his home with the Gilbert Gustavson family. Winter months were spent in sawmills in the Nordegg district. As soon as he was able to, he acquired his own land, the NW 24-39-4-W5, and later the NW 35-39-4-W5.

Roy was an enthusiastic hunter, always bringing home his share of game. Poor health sent him to the Sanatorium in Calgary for a time. A few years later he fell ill with cancer and passed away on July 24, 1966, at the early age of 42 years.

**RUDOLF DAHL**

Rudolf Dahl was born in Princeton, Michigan, U.S.A. in 1908. He came to Manyberries with his parents, brother Arthur and sister Lily to homestead.

In the fall of 1925 Rudolf came to the Eckville district in search of work. Having no trade or training he tried his hand at everything possible, working long hours for a few dollars a day.

In 1928 he joined a musical group of lads and they soon formed "The Dixie Land Minstrels", travelling around entertaining at every occasion possible. What a sight they were — in their black suits, white gloves, tall hats and large polka-dot red ties to show off their black faces! He soon won the heart of Meta Mottus, and in the hungry 30's (November 7, 1930) he gave up his acting career to marry her.

Rudolf and Meta moved to Barons, Alberta to farm but returned to Eckville the following year and bought a farm in the Withrow district, NW 26-39-4-W5. There was only an old house on the quarter, but they made kitchen cupboards from orange crates and a dresser from apple boxes and strung curtains over them.

Rudolf Dahl Family, 1930

Four children blessed this union. Jean Elizabeth was born in 1934. She married Alvin Burrows and they live in North Vancouver, B.C. They have two daughters, Nancy Lynn and Lori Lee.

Glen Rudolf, born in 1937, married Karen Warren and they have two daughters, Kelly Ann and Colleen. Glen remarried in 1965, to Lillian Woorron, and they had a son, Brian Glen. They live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Melvin Robert was born in 1941. Marilee Salsauler became his wife, and they have two children, Michelle Marie and Michael Robert. They now reside in North Vancouver, B.C.

Judy Pauline was born in 1946. She married Samuel Dyrland. They have four children: Ricky Steven, Darcy, and twin daughters, Glenda Joanne and Linda Charlene. They reside in Lacombe, Alberta.

Rudolf and Meta sold their farm and moved to Eckville, where they were employed as caretakers of the Eckville school until their retirement. Meta retired in 1971 and Rudolf retired in June, 1973. They have continued living in their home in Eckville and have been very active members of the Eckville & District Friendship Club, and take part in other local activities.

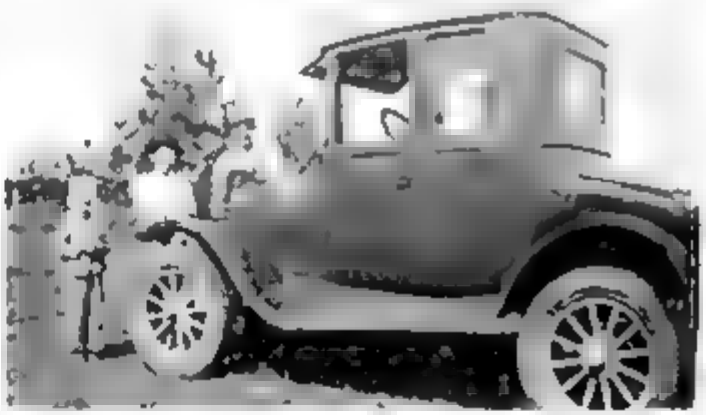
**DUNCAN, GEORGE AND HELEN**

George Duncan was born in Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland in 1892. In 1911, due to difficult conditions in Scotland, his father booked passage for his three sons on the ship "Athena" and sent them to Canada where he hoped they would find a more prosperous way of life. George came to the West Park area of Red Deer where he broke horses and then began hauling freight (mostly staple grocery items) from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House with his excellent four-horse team. The summer was very wet and the muddy roads nearly impassable. Many times during heavy rains George and his team took shelter in barns of abandoned homesteads along the route. During the winter, temperatures sometimes plummeted to -60 degrees F., adding to the discomfort of both men and horses. In 1912 George moved to a homestead in the Rocky Mountain House area, but continued to haul freight westward during the winter months until 1917 when he sold his team to Nordegg mines.

Abandoning his homestead, he moved back to Red Deer, where he was employed on district farms, on threshing crews on the prairies, and finally on a bridge building crew for the CPR in 1922. In the spring of 1923 George married and settled once more in the West Park area until 1927 when he moved with his wife and two small daughters to a farm in the Evarts district. His wife passed away shortly after this move, leaving George with the almost impossible task of running the farm and raising two very small girls all by himself. In 1929 he married Helen Gowans.

Helen Hutcheson Gowans was born at Woods Land, Baillieston, Scotland in 1905. In June, 1926, the Gowans family immigrated to Canada on the ship "Montcalm" and landed at Montreal as Empire Settlers. Immediately they boarded an immigrant train which began a tiring one-week journey westward to the station at Benalto, Alberta.

The family settled on a district farm and Helen, as one of the older children in the family, gained employment at several busy neighborhood homes, travelling on horseback to and from her work. She met George and his



George, Jim and Robert Duncan, Model A.

Haying time - George Duncan and boys

Snowplowing after blizzard of 1946 George Duncan

small daughters during this time, and in March 1929, they were married.

In 1935, George and Helen, with their family of five children, loaded their possessions on a wagon and moved to a farm west of Eckville where they still reside. During the next 11 years, three more sons were born to them. They faced the many hardships of farm life that the other district farmers did during the depression years, as well as the added hazard of raising their eight children beside a river and a busy railroad. Hobos drifting in from the trains were not uncommon. A few caused concern to Helen, who was alone with children during the fall and winter when George had to be away working on threshing crews or in lumber camps. Helen milked the many cows, raised poultry, tended a large garden and handled the many chores of the farm. She recalls a trip by bus to Red Deer to pick up her chickens in the spring and coming home across the flooded Horseguard River with the water up over her feet as she rode in a horse-drawn wagon on the last part of the journey.

Cream and eggs were taken to town by horse and wagon and sold to the creamery there. Barrels of gasoline were often part of the return cargo in the summer after a tractor had been acquired for doing the field work. The older children helped with the field work as well as attending classes at the Shady Lane school nearly three miles away. Roads were drifted in and impassable for many weeks during the winter months, and in the spring George and Helen faced the additional worry of sending their children to school across the flood-swollen river. The Duncans' eight children are: Hazel (Hamilton) and Gladys (Miller) now both of Rocky Mountain House, George Jr. of Eckville, Jean (Milne) of Red Deer, and Jim, Robert, Peter and Edward all of Eckville.

With the arrival of better roads, cars, and a new home, many of the early hardships vanished. But by reminiscing through the pages of Helen's many photo albums and listening to George recount the stories of their early years, the past becomes almost real to the many children and grandchildren who stop by to visit. One of the recent highlights of their busy life was a trip to Scotland in 1972 when George was reunited with his sister whom he hadn't seen since leaving for Canada 61 years before.

**ESKELIN, PETER AND HILDA**

In 1904 Peter and Hilda Eskelin came to the Eckville district from the United States. They homesteaded two and one-half miles west of town on the SE 18-39-3-W5. They had five children—Hilda, Peter, Ellen, Albert and Adam.

Mr. Eskelin worked out in winter and cared for the farm in the summertime. In 1910 he had an attack of appendicitis, but by the time the doctor from Red Deer could reach him it was too late.

Mrs. Eskelin, with the help of her children carried on the farming. She was thankful for the helping hands of her neighbors. Sometime later she married Matt Peterson, who had come to work for them. He homesteaded the SW 6-40-3-W5, and the family moved there. Three more children were born, Arthur, Elizabeth and Elsie Peterson. This farm was five and one-half miles north of Eckville, so the children had a long way to go to attend the Old Eckville school.

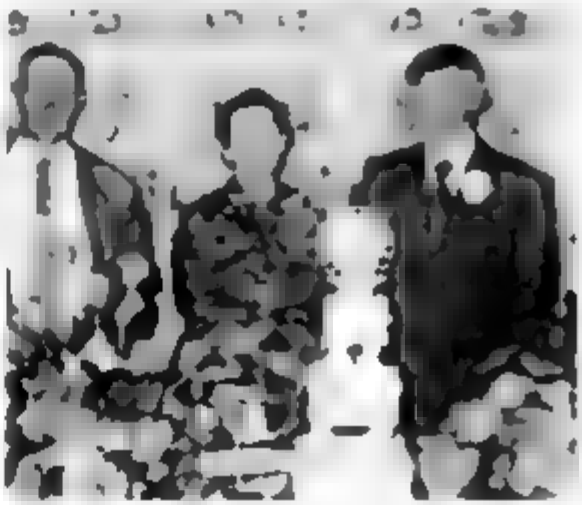
Later they moved to the Leslieville area and the children attended Blueberry Valley school. Mrs. Eskelin Peterson passed away in 1920 when her youngest was a small child.

The older girls worked in Nordegg, where they later married.

Most of the family has passed away. Peter, as a teen-ager in 1917, Albert in 1930, Adam in 1933, Hilda in Vancouver in 1970 and Ellen also in Vancouver in 1976.

**EVANS, EARLE AND JESSIE — by Vincent**

Earle Evans was born at Rock Valley, Iowa, U.S.A. December 26, 1887. The family moved to Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. where he completed his schooling. They moved to Bentley, Alberta, in 1906. In 1907, he homesteaded SE 4-40-4-W5 in the Withrow district.



Mr. and Mrs. Earle Evans on their Golden Wedding Anniversary and son Vincent, April, 1964

April 3, 1916, he married Jessie Bott, only daughter of Jerome and Laura Bott. Jessie was born February 1, 1895, in Napanee, Ontario. On February 21, 1917, a son, Vincent, was born.

A few years later, they purchased S 28-39-4 W5. Earle owned a number of steam engines doing breaking, threshing, and lumber planing. He operated a caterpillar for the M.D. of Lochern for eight seasons. Jessie was active in gardening, home, and church. They lived there and farmed for about 50 years. I attended school in Lesheville, Alberta, and helped with the farm for a number of years. I worked for the forestry in Calgary as a mechanic for eight years.

In April, 1966, Earle and Jessie celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Earle Evans passed away at the farm November 27, 1966, at the age of 78 years. Jessie lives in Maple Ridge, B.C. I, Vincent Evans, make my home at the farm, and with my mother (Jessie) in Mapse Ridge, B.C.

**EVANS, MATTHEW SIMPSON AND MARY — submitted by Ralph Evans**

Matthew Simpson Evans was born in Ohio, U.S.A. about 1860. The family moved to Pana, Illinois, where Matthew's mother died just before his eighteenth birthday. She had bought a Bible for his birthday. He carried his Bible with him for many years.

Soon after his mother died, he left home and settled in Rocky Valley, Iowa, where he married Mary Ernisee. Three sons were born to them at Rock Valley, Earle, Raye and Ralph. Matthew was in the dray and livery barn business for a number of years. He then farmed in Minnesota and South Dakota. A daughter Florence was born near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1900. In 1904 the family moved to Seattle, Washington where Matthew did street grading with horses and hauled gravel.

In the fall of 1906 Matt and two sons Earle and Raye came to Backfalds, Alberta, to homestead. Mr. Nels Nelson of Rainy Creek located them in the Leslieville district. Raye filed on NE 32-39-4-W5, Earle on SE 4-40-4-W5, Matt on SW 4-40-4-W5 which Matt relinquished, and John Meinzinger then homesteaded.

In the spring of 1907 they shipped a carload of machinery and household effects to Blackfalds and rented land near Bentley, where Ralph graduated from school in 1909. In 1911 Earle, Raye and Ralph bought their father's steam threshing machine and did custom threshing around the Bentley, Eckville and Leslieville districts for many years.

In 1916 Ralph and Dannie Bott went to Detroit, U.S.A. Shortly after Dannie was drowned in Rouge River. Ralph was in the U.S. Army stationed at Waco, Texas, for World War I during 1918 until peace was signed. He returned to Detroit, Michigan, and on March 26, 1919 married Ruth Meinzinger, sister of John Meinzinger, mentioned above, whom he met in Alberta.

In August 1919 Ralph and Ruth moved to Alberta to help Earle and Raye with threshing. They bought land and started farming.

Through the early years and the Depression Ralph, although farming, also ran sawmills during winters and was in the trucking business. Ralph thus became well known all over the country in the lumber business, having had sawmills in many places, including one at Jack Reid's — at Bingley and Wolfe Creek, later on at Longview and High River in the '50's.

In 1944 Evans had a sale and moved to Calgary and bought a home there, while still in the trucking business. They spent three years in the sawmill business between Portland, Oregon, and Dayton, Washington, coming back to Calgary in 1950. Calvin and Carole both got a lot of their education in Calgary.

They raised four children — Marie, born May 11, 1920, Bob on August 12, 1921, Calvin on July 13, 1935 and Carole on July 18, 1940.

They are all married and have families. Marie and her husband Lawrence Biswanger still farm the Earle Evans homestead and have raised four children. Lorraine, Mrs. W. Houston of Eckville, Larry at Fort McMurray, Fern, Mrs. Kenneth C. Bradshaw of Eckville, and Muriel at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Bob is in partnership with his dad in land clearing and construction business at Breton, Alberta. Bob married Isabelle Mortimer of Rocky Mountain House and they have five children; Darrell of Calgary, Darlene, Mrs. Bruce Burton, Calgary, Judy, Mrs. Robert Finney, Calgary, Cindy, Mrs. K. Hanson of Terrace, British Columbia. Sharon lives with her mother in Calgary. Bob and Isabelle separated. Bob married again. He and Ruth have four children, Crystal, Curtis, Dannie and Debbie — all in school.

Calvin has been with Imperial Oil Limited since he graduated from Oxford University, England. At present he is head of the Exploration Department of Imperial Oil Limited. Calvin married Doris Mohr of Edmonton. They have three children, Tom in university; Sandra and Darren in school in Calgary.

Carole taught school for several years in Calgary and Rimbey and married Zoley Garnick of Leedale. They farm and raise cattle. They have one son Zane, attending Leslieville school.

Ruth Evans passed on in 1975 at age of 75 years. Her body is at rest in Leslieville Cemetery but as inscribed on her head stone, she is "Absent from the body, present with the Lord."

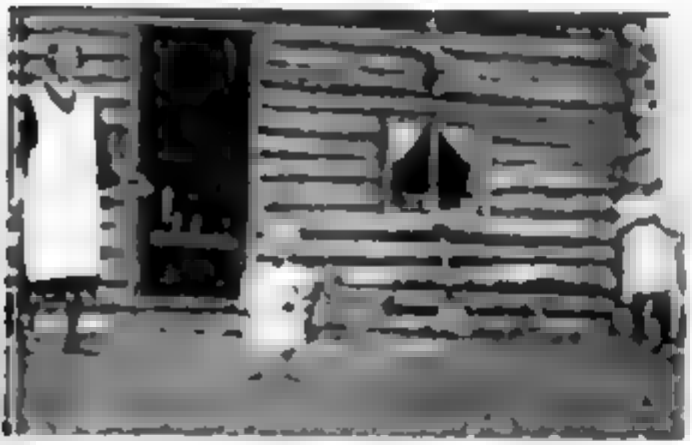
Florence Evans married Jack McFayden in 1925 and lived in the Leslieville area till about 1940 when they moved to Kamloops, B.C. where Florence and her family still reside.

A few years later mother and brother Raye moved to Kamloops, B.C. Ralph's mother passed away at 92 years of age. Raye has also passed on. Earle was laid to rest in the Leslieville Cemetery, November, 1966.

**THE GREENMAN FAMILY — by Mrs. Alvin Greenman**

The Everett Greenman family moved from Tracy, Minnesota, U.S.A. in the spring of 1907 to Granum, Alberta. In 1909 the father took a homestead about 60 miles northeast of Lethbridge, where they farmed for many years. Alvin Everett, the second son, took a homestead in the area and farmed for several years. On February 6, 1918, he married Elnora Belle Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones.

We, Alvin and Belle Greenman, farmed at Travers and in the Granum districts for about 25 years. Times were hard and the prairies were very dry. In 1933 we decided to look for a more prosperous place to live, where we could have pasture for stock and could realize some income from our work. The Eckville district was the location we decided on. We bought a quarter section of land from the C.P.R. with a down payment of $25. The C.P.R. shipped us with all our belongings, consisting of four head of horses, one colt, five cows, a sow, ten pigs, and some chickens.



Greenman log house - their home for 20 years

We, along with our family of eight girls, lived in a tent and a small shack until we could get a small log shack built. Our eldest son, Gordon, was born that fall and three older girls went to work that fall, to help make ends meet. Our neighbors were very good to us and helped with feed, all the straw we needed for the stock, and vegetables and milk for ourselves. There were a lot of partridges and wild fruit, and the nice long fall helped us so much. December and January were very cold and hard on the stock. The change in climate was too much for them and when spring came most of them died.

We spent the winter in the little log hut. When spring came neighbors got together and put up for us a little two-roomed log house on our own place. The first two years we had no floor. Finally we got some boards and dug a little cellar under the house. Here we lived for the next ten years.

Alvin Greenman Family and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jones - 1943

Dad and I cut logs from our place and had them sawed into lumber from which we built our house in 1946. A house 24 by 20 feet seemed pretty big after having lived in the two rooms for so long. By this time the older girls were all married to local boys. We were all quite happy.

On December 3, 1948 the first break came in our family. Ethelyn Saari, our eldest daughter, died of virus pneumonia, leaving two little girls and a baby boy. They were lovingly cared for by their Aunt Elma and Grandpa and Grandma Saari.

In 1954 we went to work for the winter at Camp Fifteen, west of Rocky Mountain House for the Atlas Lumber Company. In the spring of 1956 we moved in to Eckville and did the catering and the janitor work for the Lions Club. Several years later, in 1960, we moved our house from the farm, had a well dug and put in water works. What a relief! For the first time in our lives we had electricity and an indoor toilet of our very own.

We took in boarders for seven or eight years. Now, in 1977, we both have a pension and are very comfortable and happy.

Our boys, Gordon and Glenn, are married and live in Lillooet, B.C. They both work for the British Columbia Railroad, and have been there for over 20 years. Ruth is in Lillooet, B.C. with her family. She married Jim Goforth and they have seven children. Gordon married Marjorie Robinson, and they have three children. Glenn married Velma Pietkanen and they have four children.

Myrtle married Waldo Raabis and they have four children. Lucille married Ogden Cole (now deceased) and she then married Rolly Hankinson. She has three children. Fern married Walford Tolonen and has three children. Dora married Ralph Needhan, from whom she was

divorced. She is now Mrs. Doug Hunter. There are six children. Phyllis married Ray Meyers and they have three children. Audrey married Charlie Bolton and has seven children. Joyce married Roy Dyrland and they have five children. They live in Mackenzie, B.C.

We have 46 grandchildren and over 50 great grandchildren. In 1978 we will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary, if our Heavenly Father is willing. Every year we try to have a family reunion. Fortunately, our children and their families try to make this possible.

**HAYBALL, ERNEST ALFRED — by Gordon Hayball**

Mr. E. A. Hayball was born in England in 1882. He left his home and relatives at the early age of 19 years, to find a new life and adventure in Canada. He homesteaded in Manitoba and Saskatchewan for a few years before returning to England. While in England he married Mary Jane Fishlock, and they returned to Canada to the homestead in Saskatchewan.

Dad served in World War I, enlisting at Camrose.

In the spring of 1919 they moved from Calgary to a farm at Withrow — it seemed they had to be able to live off the land to keep from starving. Three of us children went to school at the Wolfe school. These were Frank, Irene and myself (Gordon). Desmond was born at Hespero. We moved to Lesliеville, in 1927.

Father passed away at the age of 94 years at Didsbury, in 1966 and Mother passed away at Calgary at 90 years of age in 1973. They were predeceased by their son Frank and their daughter Irene. Two sons are still living in Calgary.

Gordon, the oldest, and his wife have a son and a daughter and two grandsons. Gordon is a caretaker with the Calgary Public School Board.

Bud (Desmond) and his wife have four daughters and one son, and five grandchildren. Bud is a Foreman for Pool Construction.

Mother used to tell about the hard times they had at Withrow, and how she had to hold up the horse while Mr. Hayball or Frank drove the horse on the plough, as the horses were so thin. She always laughed about how she and son Frank often walked to dances. She loved to dance. Father was an ardent gardener.

Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Hayball on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

**HENRIKSON, JONAS ROBERT**

Jonas was one of a family of nine born in Stockholm, Sweden on the 24 of May, 1866. He was the only one of this family to immigrate to Canada. He came as a young man to Saskatchewan in 1904 where he acquired a job with the C.N.R. working in many localities as a section worker, bridge gang and later pump man at Burbank, Alberta, which was a siding where the locomotives stopped to fill with water. In 1908, he became a Canadian Citizen and took up land north east of Edmonton, close to the Saskatchewan Border. Around 1920, he came with the C.N.R. to the Sylvan Lake area where he met Esther Lindholm from the Burnt Lake district who was also a native of Sweden being born in Varmland on September 12, 1893, and came as a small girl with her parents Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Lindholm, three brothers — Linus, Charlie, Frank; two sisters — Charlotte, Mrs. Axel Lindman, Ellen, Mrs. Sandy Smith in 1895 to settle in the Burnt Lake area amongst a group of Scandinavians. Here they all grew up and received their education at the Burnt Lake School. Jonas and Esther were married in 1921, and purchased the SE 16-40-5W5 which was north of Withrow, Alberta, and known as the Twin Lakes Fur Farm where they made their home and raised mink. Here two daughters were born — Lily, February 24, 1923, and Rose, February 24, 1927.

Around 1930, the family moved to Sylvan Lake when Dad again returned to work on the C.N.R. We received all our education at Sylvan Lake. We always looked forward to the Scandinavian Mid Summer Celebration which was held at Grandad Lindholm's farm. Dad was an ardent hunter, trapper, and skier, making his own skis. Mother was always at home carding wool and spinning yarn, knitting for our family as well as for others. She enjoyed all types of hand work. Mother passed away on March 23, 1946, after a lengthy illness. Dad was active and healthy until his last year which he spent in the Rimbey Three Way Hospital where he passed away on Nov. 11, 1956. Both are laid to rest in the Sylvan Lake Cemetery.

Lily is Mrs. Johnson and resides in Red Deer. She has two boys. Rose still resides in Eckville. See Fred Moos History.

**THE THOMAS HOLLAND FAMILY**

Mr. Thomas Holland was born at Jarrow, England, where he was employed in the steel works, and later drove a dray team. He was married there in 1913, and in 1923 he immigrated to Canada, first finding work on a farm in the Provost district.

In June, 1924, his wife Mary joined him, along with their children, Mary, aged 10 years, Lilian, nine, Elizabeth, six, Daisy, two, and Thomas,

seven months. Another son, Kenneth, was born in 1938, the only Canadian-born member of the family.

The family later moved to Alhambra, where Mr. Holland worked for Mr. Roy Addy. These were hard days, as they were trying to get established in an unfamiliar land, learning new ways to cope with the Canadian climate. Like many pioneers, they lived largely on rabbits and prairie chickens that first winter.

In April, 1925, they moved to Condor, where he worked for Mr. Dave Blair and Dick Schouten, among others.

In 1931 they acquired their own farm, one and one-half miles north of the Blueberry Valley School. With little money to spend on machinery, Mr. Holland made do with what he had, his first plowing was done with one horse and a walking plow.

The oldest daughter, Mary, married Dick Thorkman, and they have five children.

Lilian married Angus McFadden, and also has a family of five.

Elizabeth married Roy Kendrew and they have two children. Daisy married Henry Heikkila, and they had three children. After her husband passed away, she married Allan Sambrooke, and has another son.

Kenneth married Vivian Hunter, they have two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Holland celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1963. Mr. Holland passed away later that same year.

Thomas Jr. remains on the original farm, where his mother likes to visit him whenever possible. She now lives in the Senior Citizens' Lodge at Rimbey.

**JACKSON, MATT**

Matt Jackson from Butte, Montana came to claim the SE 12-40-4 W5 in 1903. When Victor Lindgren came to look for his homestead in 1905, in the Wood Lake district, the only building he found was Jackson's big log barn. Matt Jackson had returned to Butte, where his wife was working. They later returned to the homestead, bringing with them a team of horses. A one-room log cabin was built which was home for many years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were hard workers. They raised both horses and cattle. Mrs. Jackson would make butter, which was exchanged for groceries at the store.

Victor Lindgren broke land for the Jacksons with a team of oxen. In return for his work, he was given a young mare. Jacksons farmed with horses.

A daughter, Ilma, the pride and joy of her happy parents, was born.

The busy years passed. Mrs. Jackson became ill and passed away. She was buried in Elspeth cemetery. Ilma attended Wolfe school. The homestead was sold so Matt and daughter, Ilma, moved a few miles farther north. They remained here until Matt passed away. His burial was in Gilby cemetery.

After some time with friends, Ilma went to work for Petersons in the Gilby district. Some years later, she married Ben Plested. They made their home in High River, where three children were born and raised. After a lengthy illness, Ilma passed away in Calgary.

**KIVINEN, KARL — by Hilja Sjoblom**

Mr. Karl Kivinen came to the Eckville district from the United States. He had worked in various states and at various jobs, but when he heard of the good land in Canada and the possibility of getting a homestead—a 160 acre piece of land—for $10, he was all for it! He had worked in Toronto, and in 1909 he came west and filed on a homestead SE 10-40-4 W5.

After Karl got a small house built, he sent for his bride from Toronto. His wife, Lena, found things quite different from the city, but stuck to it for over ten years. They had one son, Arthur, but finally she left and went back to Toronto with the boy.

Mr. Kivinen continued to live on the home place, raised cattle and horses, and always seemed to have a little money. He was a very sociable man and took part in all the social events of the district. He was known to be a very clean bachelor.

When he grew older and the time came for him to quit farming he sold out and moved to live in Eckville, where he had bought a small house. Here he lived for a number of years before moving to the Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House. He really enjoyed living there, and had said he should have gone there earlier. When he became ill and was no longer able to stay at the lodge he was taken to a nursing home in Olds, where he passed away about 1960.

Mrs. Lena Kivinen stayed in Toronto, came out a few times to visit the west country with her son Arthur. Arthur married in Toronto and has a family there, but his mother passed away, also in the early 1960's.

**KOPPEL FAMILY**

In 1944 Herman Koppel, with his wife Maria and daughter Tilu, left Estonia to make their home in Sweden. There they worked at a dairy farm and a factory until they saved enough money to come to Canada. They arrived in May, 1949, and Dome Creek, B.C. was their first location. There they looked after a farm and helped at a sawmill, however they did not feel at home among the high mountains. Friends wrote to them about a job obtainable at a farm at Eckville and they decided to come. They arrived in September of the same year. They worked on several farms until 1951 when they had enough money to start farming on their own. They bought the NW-4-40-3-W5 and in 1953 added another quarter NE-1-40-3-W5 to their farm. Due to health problems they had to sell their farm in

1973 and settled in Eckville, where they bought a home and also an apartment house

Their daughter Tiiu's first year of school was spent at Medicine Valley and at the Estonian school; from there she went to Wolfe School until it closed down. Then she continued her education at Eckville. Following this, she went to Calgary where she graduated as a Certified Nurses' Aid. She worked at nursing in Red Deer for a while, then came back to Eckville where she has worked for many years in the local hospital, until the raising of her family took all of her time. She was married in 1964 to a local farmer, Walter Kalev and they have a son Brian, nine years old, and two daughters, Lori, seven and Myrna, four years old.

**KULIKOWSKY, DAN AND STELLA**

Dan and Stella Kulikowsky lived in South Eckville (Kootuk). He worked on the C.P.R. section gang in 1920. Shortly after, C.P.R. land was selling, so, Dan and Stella bought a farm, the N 3-40-5-W5. Here they farmed with horses and raised cattle and pigs.

In 1942, farmers from the dried out prairies came to buy farms, as the rain was plentiful here. Matt Haapala bought our farm.

After holding an auction sale, they moved to Winnipeg. Dan didn't regain his health following a car accident and passed away in 1973. Mrs. Kulikowsky still lives in Winnipeg.

**VICTOR LINGREN FAMILY**

Victor Lingren came from Montana, U.S.A. to Eckville, Alberta, in 1905. Here he filed on a homestead by Gabriel Lake (later named Wood Lake). This land was the NW 6-40-3-W5. After locating and filing on his homestead Victor journeyed back to Montana to bring his family to Alberta. He had a wife and two children, Henry aged four years, and Hilda, aged one and one-half years.

The family travelled from Red Deer on a mail coach to Evarts and from Evarts the mailman

Mrs. V. Lingren's grandchildren, Lillian, Mamie, Arvo, Mrs. Victor Lingren, Thelma - 1910

Mrs. Selma Hill and Family. L. to R: Lillian, Thelma, Arvo Toivo on Selma's lap and Mamie

brought them to Kasper's farm where they got shelter for a short time. After a while they moved to Ericksons home, which was close to their homestead. They stayed with Ericksons until the house was built on the Wood Lake farm. Mr. Kasper had a team of horses at that time so he went to Red Deer to bring lumber and windows for the Lingrens and logs were used from the farm for the house and also to build a log barn and a chicken coop. They spaded up a small area for a garden and planted potatoes the first year.

Victor Lingren was a woodsman so he helped many other settlers build log houses and barns. At this time an older son, Frank, was working for Mr. Cronquist at Red Deer and in 1907 helped haul rocks to build the Cronquist house which in 1976 was moved and restored in Red Deer to be used as a museum.)

Mr. Lingren was soon able to acquire a team of oxen to work with. He even used them to drive to Lacombe for supplies. On one occasion the oxen ran away with the wagon and didn't stop until they got tangled up in the trees.

Mr. Lingren was a skilled craftsman and used some of his skill to build boats and make fish nets to be used on Wood Lake. Fish were plentiful in those days and settlers would come from miles away to put nets in the lake. Although people did not have much in the pioneer days, visitors, were always welcome to stay for coffee or for a meal.

When Henry became old enough to attend school he went to board at Kurt's place from which he had a mile and a half walk to the old Eckville School. Two years later Hilda went to board at Kasper's place so that she could go to school. Board in those days was cheap — only one dollar a week. Hilda later was able to milk cows at Kaspers night and morning and by this means she earned her board. After Henry became older he would walk from home to the old Eckville school about five miles distant.

When Henry grew up and married Ida Olsen he took over the home farm and looked after the parents, as they were pensioners and unable to work hard any longer. Hilda married Aake Stopsen and they settled on a farm nearby

Victor Lingren passed away at home on his homestead in December of 1936 and Mrs Lingren died in the fall of 1937. Both were buried in the Eckville cemetery

**LINQUIST, NESTER — by I.G**

A native of Finland, Nester Linquist, could tell some heart rending stories of the war between Finland and Russia. He spent a long time as a prisoner of war in Russia. The horrors of the war and the inhuman treatment of him as a prisoner affected his health and shattered his nerves

After his release he came first to Toronto and later, about 1930, to Eckville. He settled on the NE-26-39-W5. Having no buildings, he fashioned a dug-out type shelter in a hillside until a more permanent home could be built. Being an excellent carpenter, especially at hewing logs, he helped build a number of farm homes in the district He carried on farming as well

He sold his farm about 1945 to Mr and Mrs. A Demoulin, who farmed it till 1960, when they sold it to Charlie Mottus. The Demoulins continued to live there till moving to Lacombe to the Senior Citizens Lodge in 1964.

After selling his farm Nester bought a lot in Eckville, and built the house now occupied by Meta and Rudolf Dahl. Early in 1950 he sold the property to Ike Kalla and left to join his friends in Toronto. He passed away a few years later.

**WAINO MATTILA AND FAMILY**

Waino Mattila was born in Finland in 1883 Hilma Kaipo was born in 1878, also in Finland They were married in their native land in 1906 and immigrated to the U.S.A. the same year, settling in Michigan. Their two daughters were born in Michigan, Olga in 1906 and Lempi in 1909.

In 1910 or 1911 the family moved to Canada. Waino had a brother, John, living north and west of Eckville on the land which has since become known as the Carl (Pihooja) farm. The Waino Mattila family made their way to Alberta, hoping to find land near his brother John. They travelled to Lacombe by train, where John met them with a horse-drawn vehicle. He took them to his home, where they remained while looking for a place of their own.

While the Mattilas were living at the John Mattila home they were expecting their third child. In those days, when there was to be a childbirth, a capable neighbor woman would usually act as midwife, and usually nature took its course and all would go well. In Hilma's case this was not destined to be a natural childbirth. It was winter time. The nearest doctor was in Lacombe, 37 miles away There were no cars, and the roads were primitive. John hitched his horses to a cutter and drove through the snow to Lacombe, in great haste, for the doctor When the doctor arrived John's wife had everything in readiness for Hilma's confinement, and had water boiling on the wood stove. Upon examination, the doctor determined that the birth would be a very difficult one, and told Waino that he would probably not be able to save both the mother and the child. "Save the mother! Save Hilma!" was Waino's request. The child was delivered, but it died at birth. Hilma lived and had a complete recovery. John then had to make the long trip back to Lacombe to return the doctor to his home and practice.

West of John Mattila's there was a quarter section of land open for homesteading. This was the land which extended to the top of the high hill directly north of Withrow. Here Waino built a small log house, dug a well and built a barn, then brought his family to their new home. They were established settlers!

Waino was a jolly, friendly man. He was a good neighbor, always ready to help when help was needed, and he soon had a host of friends Hilma was quieter by nature than her husband, but was kind, hard-working and pleasant The family liked company, and their neighbors were always assured of a warm welcome and a friendly cup of coffee whenever they came to visit.

The next problem to be faced was what to do about their girls' education. There was no school in the area, none nearer than Eckville, nine miles away, and Olga had reached school age. They arranged for little Olga to stay with the Henry Kult family in Eckville, and from their home she attended school during the week. Waino would go to Eckville with horses on Friday and bring Olga home for the weekend. In 1922 Wolfe School was built, not too far from the Mattila home, so the girls finished their school ing there. All seemed to be going well for them.

As time went on, Waino began to have health problems. He found that he was always extremely thirsty, and he didn't feel as well as he should Neighbors laughingly told him "You must have been eating too much salty fish, Waino, you're always so thirsty!" Eventually Waino hitched up his horses and drove to Lacombe to see the doctor, as he knew that something was wrong. The doctor told him he had diabetes, and showed him how to give himself insulin shots

Olga Mattila was married to Art Mottus in 1927 They lived first at the John Mottus home, where Grandma Mottus, Art's mother, was still living. In August 1928 their daughter, Gladys, was born. There was no doctor assisting at the birth, but Grandma Mottus performed the duties of a midwife very capably.

After Gladys' arrival, Art, Olga and the baby moved to Olga's childhood home and lived with the Mattilas. Money was scarce, and it became necessary for Olga and Art to go out working They went to Barons, Alberta, where Art worked as harvest help and Olga cooked for the

harvesting crew. They left baby Gladys with her grandparents, and such good babysitters the Mattilas were! They adored their little granddaughter.

Waino was very fond of hunting and fishing. Not only did he enjoy the sport, but the game and fish he brought home were an important part of his family's diet. In summer he would fish for pike in Wood Lake. In the fall, when the big game season opened, he would head out into the west country in search of moose or deer.

In November 1932, Waino, along with Ed Aho, Alho Stopsen, Henry Lingren, Adam Eskelin and Art Mottus, went on a big game hunting trip. They loaded two horse-drawn sleighs with enough provisions and horse feed to last for many days. They drove to their favorite hunting area, about 35 miles southwest of Rocky Mountain House, a gruelling 60 miles from home. The hunting area, known locally as Camp Three, was densely wooded and quite isolated, but game was abundant, and a good hunter was usually certain of having a successful hunt.

The hunters reached the Camp Three area and pitched their tent, and made all necessary preparations for a lengthy stay. The next morning they were ready for the hunt. There had been a light snowfall — very conducive to good hunting. Waino and Ed Aho preferred hunting alone, so they started off first, in different directions. The remaining four hunters went off in pairs in other directions. The plan was for all to return to camp before nightfall.

The day was fairly warm for November, and some of the snow was melting under the bright sunshine. The hunters were having a good day. In the evening they returned to camp — all but one! Waino Mattila didn't come back! Darkness was beginning to fall, and the hunters realized that something had gone wrong. They shouted, listened, then shouted again and again. Not a sound broke the stillness of the forest's winter evening in reply. They then fired signal shots from their rifles. As the echoes of their shots died away they listened anxiously for answering shots, but not a sound did they hear. Again and again they fired signal shots, right up until midnight, but to no avail. It was very dark, and nothing more could be done until daylight. What an anxious night for the five friends, huddled around their camp fire. How well they knew the difficulties of surviving in the cold wintry night with no shelter. Where could Waino be? There was very little sleep in the camp that night!

Next morning, as soon as it was light, Art and Alho began the job of following Waino's tracks. Enough snow had melted that they soon lost the tracks, and they had to search without that advantage. All that day they searched through the forest, finding nothing. The following day Art Mottus went to Rocky Mountain House to notify the R.C.M.P. that Waino was missing. The constable advised the men to stay in their camp another week and keep looking. For seven days they stayed and hunted. The moose were forgotten. They were hunting for a man, their missing friend. At the end of a week they sadly and reluctantly abandoned the search.

In March of 1933, another group, Art Mottus, Rudolph Dahl and Alho Stopsen drove out to Camp Three to resume their search, but the snow was too deep to accomplish anything, so they returned to their homes. After the winter's snow had melted Alho Stopsen, Wally Mottus, Art Mottus and Hugo Mottus went once again to search for any trace of their missing friend, but once again the search was fruitless.

In the fall of 1933, after the leaves had fallen from the trees, a search party was organized among friends and neighbors. Two trucks that took the searchers and supplies out belonged to the Talson and Thorkman families. The drivers were Matt Talson and Bill Thorkman. To get through the men had to practically carry the trucks — the roads were literally impassable in places. About 30 people were involved, three of them were women — Olga Mottus, Lempi Hill and Mrs. Johnson. They were the cooks. The searchers walked in a line through the area where they suspected Waino might be, and systematically combed the countryside. It was a trying ordeal. Two of the searchers sat down on a windfall for a short rest and a smoke. Suddenly one of the men spotted a rifle leaning against the windfall — Waino's rifle. And there on the ground were strewn human bones. Waino's remains had been found.

Two of the search party went back to Rocky Mountain House to notify the police of their find. Dr. Greenaway and a police constable came back with them, to the scene. All the bones they could find were placed in a box and taken back to be buried in the Gilby cemetery.

More misfortune was to befall the family. In 1937 Olga Mottus died of cancer in the University Hospital in Edmonton. Little Gladys was a victim of cerebral palsy and could not walk without help, so her father, Art Mottus, took her to the Junior Red Cross Hospital in Calgary where she lived for many years, receiving her education and medical attention there.

Mrs. Mattila and Lempi stayed on the homestead a few years after Olga's death. Then they sold their home and moved to Eckville, where they lived for about a year. Mrs. Hilma Mattila suffered a stroke, and passed away. Lempi married John Vaara, and they lived in the Mattila house in Eckville. Lempi was not in good health — she had not been well for many years — and she, too, passed away in or about 1972.

Today the only near relative of the Mattila family still living is Gladys (Mrs. John Staite), and she is a widow with two children and a grandchild. They all live in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

**MEYERS, CONNIE**

I, Connie Robert, second son of John and

Rosie Meyers was born and raised on the NW 27 39-4-W5 adjoining Withrow townsite on the east. I started school in September 1936 at Wolfe school. My older sister Isabelle (Mrs. Dave Bott) rode horseback the two and one half miles to school. Dad bought our first pony, a little brown blaze face mare, from some native people who were passing by. After some horse dickering the price agreed on was $10. She ably did her job most of the winter until she became sick. Dad, being a horseman and somewhat of a self taught veterinarian, could see no reason for her failing health. However he knew when he bought her that something was wrong with one hip. Then one day Jack Ross, a young fellow from the Bluebell district, was at our place and saw the little mare. He recognized the problem as similar to a neighbor's horse who had been shot with a 22 rifle. Soon after she died an autopsy found a small slug lodged in the hip which had caused her death. Several horses followed, with two eventually being used when my two younger brothers were both in school. I often wonder how we escaped serious injury as we only knew one speed — as fast as the horse could run. Ice and mud made no difference. Spills were part of going to school.

Christine Munro, who later married Scott Murphy of the Diamond Valley district was my first teacher, staying at Wolfe school for three years. I think she should have been a drama teacher because she surely worked hard to put on a Christmas concert. We always had a packed house. She somehow raised enough money to buy each girl and boy a 25¢ to 50¢ gift and a bag of candy and nuts, when money was a scarce commodity in our district.

I guess every boy including myself learned the game of grab at Wolfe. The older boys put their goodies such as jack knives, marbles and so on in a pile. The victim was blindfolded and told anything he could grab was his. We were all eager but somehow all the goodies disappeared and all you ever got hold of was some fresh horse manure.

I finished Grade 9 at Wolfe in June 1944 and started riding horseback five miles to Lesliieville to take Grade 10. Soon after school started threshing started paying $8 a day for a man and team, hauling bundles which looked pretty good. So ended my school days. The next few years I helped on the farm in the summer. I guess the highlight of those summers was playing softball with the Withrow "Hep Cats" in the Lochearn League. We never won the cup but we sure had some good times.

We always spent a couple of weeks big game hunting out around Jackfish Coulee and then the rest of the winters we worked in the lumber camps around Rocky Mountain House.

In the fall of 1945 when I was 15 years old, my future brother-in-law Gordon Gibson, (who was pastoring Withrow Gospel Mission), and I, started contract stooking. We charged $1 per acre. We worked hard and stooked 500 or 600 acres. One day we got into a 40 acre field of Olli barley. It was a good crop but nice stooking. By 6 p.m. we were finished. The lady of the house where we worked that day sure didn't think it was right for me to make $20 in one day and still be on the Family Allowance Plan.

The summer of 1949 Joyce, Gordon's sister arrived in the Withrow district. Joyce, the fourth daughter of Donald and Dorothy Gibson was born on a farm in Saskatchewan. The family moved to Moose Jaw where her mother passed away in 1937. Work was scarce in Moose Jaw so Mr. Gibson went to Vancouver, B.C. to work in the shipyards in 1941. As soon as housing could be found, the rest of the family followed.

Joyce came to Alberta intending to attend Bible school, not realizing the nearest Bible college was 40 miles from where her brother and family lived. Without funds, it was not possible.

I am not sure if she was first attracted to me or my little red Model A Ford truck. Anyway we started a courtship through the hardest winter, 1949-50, that I've seen. It was 60° below zero in Lesliieville quite a few mornings and 40° below for days on end. With one person on the crank and one on the starter, that old Ford would always start.

Joyce and I were married July 6th, 1950 and soon after, started pioneering on the N½-11-40-4 W5, the west end of Wood Lake. We had the down payment on 320 acres of poplar trees, an Allis Chalmer 20-35 tractor, a good young team of horses from dad and about 20 head of beef cattle. We cut a trail about 200 feet and started building a house. We had cut and sawed 16,000 feet of lumber down by Wood Lake in the spring before we were married so the framing and sheeting we had. We went to the Atlas Lumber Co. in Eckville for the rest. I can still see the look on Ted Hanson's face (manager) when Joyce and I told him we were building a house. I guess he could see sales of $1000. However the total bill for the 20' x 24' house was under $600. This included cement for a surface foundation, cedar shingles, 200 lbs. of nails, plus shingle nails and finishing nails, tar paper, building paper, two doors, one with a window, eight double windows, door jams, window casings and even a new hammer. We moved in just before Christmas, 1950.

Our only source of income that first winter was selling firewood delivered to Eckville. We received $5 or $6 for a wagon box of dry split wood. Mr. Jackson of the Eckville Bakery was our best customer, with the hospital a close second. I recall taking a load one cold snowy day and as quite a few people sold wood, the bakery and hospital were filled up. I drove around town till about 4:30 p.m. and was afraid I'd have to take it back home. Someone told me to try Mr. Gust Mottus which I did. He said he didn't really need the wood but when I told him he could have it for $4 he said "okay". I could unload and he would see about some coffee. When I had

finished we tied up the team to have coffee. Mrs. Mottus had garlic sausage, pickled herring, cheese and rolls, all luxuries to Joyce and me. Then he gave me a cheque for $4 plus two $1 bills for the wood because he said he always paid $6 for wood, a real gentleman!

Our farming career was short as we soon found we just couldn't raise enough money to clear land and live, especially with the depressed cattle price of the fifties, and borrowing money wasn't as easy then as now. After cutting logs the winter of 1951-52 on Chambers Creek for William Brierley (we lived in a log cabin with a sod roof that winter), Joyce and I and our first child, Robert, moved to Ma-Me-O-Beach where I was a green roughneck on Commonwealth Rig 2. Five weeks later I was a green derrickman, a position I held for the next three and one half years, working in various parts of Alberta. It seemed we were always moving and as we were renting, we travelled pretty light.

In March, 1955 we racked Rig 1, west of Grand Prairie and most of the crew moved to Sundre to rig up Commonwealth No. 26, a brand new rig. We stayed there for two and a half years, working for Home Oil Co. I was set up to driller in the spring of 1956 and we bought a 8' x 28' new two-bedroom trailer. We really thought we had it made.

Robert (Bobby as we call him) started school in Sundre then just as he started Grade 2 in 1957 we moved to Pincher Creek for nearly two years. Then back west of Calgary to Bragg Creek. Rigs are not a bad life but are hard for school age children. As our second son Rodney was about to start school we started thinking of our farm again.

In the fall of 1959 Joyce and our family of two boys and two girls moved here to the farm and I stayed on at Bragg Creek till the following spring, when we purchased Dad and Mom's home quarter section.

We started into a mixed farming operation based on dairy and beef. As any farming operation takes a lot of money to get started, the first three or four winters, I still worked on the rigs and the farm chores pretty well fell on Joyce's shoulders with our two boys helping outside and Darlene doing her share of housework and babysitting.

As we were dairying, our children were anxious to be involved in the Medicine Valley 4-H Dairy Club, under the leadership of Mr. Abe Schofer. After the first Achievement day at Omar Jodoin's farm our family including Mom and Dad, had learned quite a lot about showing cattle. The lower end of most classes had a Meyers. Janice, who was three or four years old, just had to have a calf to show in the Pee Wee class. As we were fresh out of heifer calves, her brothers helped her train a little Guernsey bull. The judge lined up the calves starting with the lowest so Janice, having a bull in a heifer calf competition was naturally the first one called in line. Each child received a white ribbon with first, second and third receiving red, blue and green ribbons as well as $1. Being first called in line, getting a ribbon and a dollar, she was sure that she had won.

Mrs. Ruth Pattison led the club for several years during which time the membership changed from the Medicine Valley area to the Leslieville, Withrow and Condor area. The club was renamed the Leslieville 4-H Dairy Club. Our children have many trophies they won with our cattle as well as 4-H public speaking, showmanship, grooming and training. Several animals were shown at the provincial 4-H show at the Red Deer Fair, but none ever made the 'top ten'.

After 27 years we now have most of the original half section as well as the SW quarter of the same section under cultivation. Oastrom Bros. have done most of the brushing, starting in 1961 with a D4 cat and cutter at $7.50 per hour. We did a lot of our own breaking, first with the old Allis Chalmers and later with a model D John Deere. We even piled 30 acres with that old D. The last few years Dave Airey has disked our new land. Our family still think they should pick roots on the 24th of May long weekend. We presently farm one section of land. We raise hay and grain with a strict crop rotation, run 60 cows and feed out our calves.

Our Family: Meyers.

Robert Donald was born November, 1950. Bob, along with his wife Laurene (a Vulcan girl) and their 19 month old daughter Chantel, live in Calgary. Bob is a third year apprentice heavy duty mechanic for the city. Bob and Laurene are active in Ambassdor Baptist Church having both graduated from Berean Bible College.

Rodney John was born in April 1953. Rodney having an enquiring mind, enjoyed school and achieved good marks. He won the Governor General Award for highest marks in the Rocky School Division in Grade 9. He graduated with honors from David Thompson High School winning the Wm. Lougheed Memorial Award for highest marks in math. Rod spent one year at Red Deer College studying bio-chemistry but preferred to return to the farm. Rod and Elva Reiman, a Condor girl he met in high school were married in August, 1972. With their two children, David John and Dawn Marie, they live in a mobile home on our home farm. They bought our dairy operation and Rod works in the grocery department of the Eckville Co-op.

Darlene Joyce was born October 1954. Darlene is single and lives in Calgary. She attended Berean Bible College one year and has been employed with the Royal Bank for the past three years. Darlene does ceramics and sewing for hobbies — won't miss a football game, and she down-hill ski's in the winter.

Janice Faye was born in Calgary in 1959. Janice graduated from David Thompson High last June. She lives at home and is employed at

the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville. Janice doesn't have any specific hobby. She enjoys babysitting her nephew and niece

Wendy Lynn was born September 1963. She is our only child born after we moved back to the farm. She attends school at David Thompson where she is in Grade 9. Wendy enjoys most sports and is involved with Pioneer Girls and Young People's groups at the Leslieville church

**MEYERS, CONNIE FAMILY (Containing part of the Withrow Story) — by Johnnie Stewart and Faye Hoglund**

In 1935 the Connie Meyers family and Connie's brother Slim and his family arrived in the Withrow district from Manyberries, Alberta. Connie's family consisted of Connie, his wife Christina, daughters Johnnie 11 and Faye 13 and sons Ray, nine, and Leslie, two. Slim's family included Slim, his wife Lil, son Wallace 11 and daughter Dorothy, nine. They all arrived in two cars except for Connie who came by train on a flatcar with the livestock and machinery. Each family had only about $250 with which they planned to locate in the Eckville district. On arriving, Connie's family went to John Meyers' home, and Slim's went to Meta and Rudolph Dahl's. Later the two families moved to the Bill Dirsten house where they lived until the spring of 1936. Times were tough. The women and older children would trap rabbits to earn extra money for groceries. They would load the rabbits on the front bobs of a sleigh. The women would climb on top and drive to Eckville to sell the rabbits to Leavesly's Mink Farm. Bush rabbits brought 3¢ each, jack rabbits brought 5¢. Lil says, "We had a competition that first winter between the men and the women, when it came to shooting rabbits the women proved the better hunters but we were all generally pleased with the extra money it gave us and we managed through that winter even though there was a lot of snow."

In the fall of 1935 the Alberta Wheat Pool elevator was built at Withrow. Because of this elevator, the brothers were encouraged by the neighbors to start a town. Connie, having past experience in blacksmith and garage businesses, Lil says, they decided to see Ray Evans about some land, as Withrow siding and C.N.R. station was on his land. In the spring of 1936 hammers could be heard starting the building of the town. Oscar Mottus and Art Dahl were chief carpenters. To get lumber for the buildings, they traded most of the cattle and sold the horses they had to buy the materials they needed. A granary was moved from Rudolph Dahl's farm to use as a cookhouse. Lil would go there in the morning to cook for the men as they continued building. Christie would stay home and get the five school age children off to Blueberry Valley School. She'd have supper ready for everyone when they returned home. The first building to go up was Slim's home, then followed by the Meyers Brothers' Blacksmith Shop and Garage. Lil and Connie had applied for the Post Office, and as work began on Connie's house, the application was approved, so work began on the Post Office too. Lil became Postmistress. When the train whistle blew, Connie could be seen racing from the blacksmith shop down to cross the tracks before the train arrived to pick up the mail bags off the landing on the other side of the tracks. When the shells of the houses were completed, the families moved in. The cookhouse — granary became the store run by Meta and Rudolph Dahl. They built living quarters on to the back of the store

The first elevator agent was Stewart Dodsworth. Because Withrow was a single man's point, Stewart was later transferred to Leslieville when he married Marnie in the spring. Then Jack Bell of Leslieville became the new agent and took his meals at Connie and Christie's home

Interest was added to the town with the coming of the revival meetings held by Rev. Hefflefinger of the United States and soon a church was planned

More homes and businesses were added in the next few years — a sawmill by Bill Dirsten, the Withrow Mission and manse. Walter Hoglund and Alf Clark bought the store from the Dahls who went back to their farm. In the summer of 1938 Jack Bell married and left the elevator and Elmer Stewart became the new agent. Elmer boarded at Connie's home

All year round the community had some social life going on. In winter skating parties were held on the Horseguard River and a lot of time was spent sledding on homemade sleds behind Elmer's Model A. In the summer time games and picnics were held. The ball team was known as the "Withrow Hep Cats". They wore black sweaters with orange letters. A rifle club was organized. It was affiliated with the Canadian Rifle Association and even had two lady members — Faye Meyers and Ruth Pattison. That club led to turkey shoots and chocolate box shoots. Sometimes several carloads of people would start out at dawn on the dirt roads to Nordegg for a day of picnicking, it was usually dark by the time they returned! The annual picnic usually included a dance. The dance was held in various places such as Alex Mottus' barn, Gilby Hall and Fred Takkinen's barn. House parties were held in various homes

Lil tells of the group of women called the "Busy Bees Club". They held monthly meetings at the different homes of the ladies, they planned picnics, had quilting bees and raffled off their homemade quilts. Members were Lil Meyers (president), Johnnie Stewart, (secretary), Salme Mottus, (treasurer), Meta Dahl, Hilda Rein, Ella Dahl, Olga Mottus, Emma Tomingas, Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. B. French, Mrs. Bill Lowry, Hilja Soobom, Marie Meyers, Myrtle Raabis, Hilda Stopsen and others but memory fails.

Next, Art and Myrtle Raabis arrived to take

over the store. They moved into a house built by Bert Cooper. A sauna bath was built and was enjoyed by everyone, usually on a Saturday night. Next to the sauna was an ice house which was a necessity to the store for refrigeration purposes. Much time was spent in the winter time sawing blocks of ice from the river and hauling them by sled to the ice house. They were stored in sawdust so they would have a supply for the summer months.

The time period of 1938-1941 saw Withrow with its peak population. Ted Ensign built a small house there and was appointed as "Mayor of Withrow". He brought the population up to 21 people.

The C.N.R. put in livestock pens and the Meyers brothers and Elmer Stewart were all buyers at one time or another. Charlie Bott trucked the livestock to Withrow for the farmers. He also built a bulk service station south of the blacksmith shop. On one trucking trip when he had Les, who was about four years old, with him, Charlie rolled his truck over. Charlie and Les got out unhurt but the truck burned.

Time brought changes. Faye married Walter Hoglund on December 11, 1941 and they moved to his farm near Eckville. Johnnie married Elmer Stewart on July 3, 1942. Elmer was transferred to Leslieville elevator. In September he was called into the army and enlisted into active service — (Reg. No. M38469-Gnr. Stewart E.A.) He went overseas in November of 1942 and returned in January of 1944. Johnnie stayed with her folks and when Elmer returned in January they took over the store from Art Raabis. They built themselves a home on their acreage. Their son Jerry was born in 1945. Eventually the Post Office was moved into the store.

Connie enlisted in the army and because he was stationed at Red Deer, Christie and Les moved to Red Deer for a time too. For health reasons Connie received a medical discharge and they returned to Withrow. Then Connie became grain buyer as well as doing blacksmith work. Misfortune struck when Christie died in October of 1946 at the age of 43.

Ray worked at various jobs before buying a farm north of Withrow, which he later sold. He married Phyllis Greenman in November, 1946. Their son Stanley was born in 1947 and they left Withrow to start farming north of Eckville.

About a year after Christie's death, Slim and Lil moved to Alhambra, where Slim became the elevator agent or grain buyer.

Elmer was concerned as others in the area were about the distance the children walked to school, besides, his little son Jerry was almost school age! Elmer, assisted by other parents went through the necessary procedures to get a school district formed at Withrow in 1950. Elmer and Ruth Pattison went to see Sigurd Sande, the Divisional Trustee, and he told them if they could find a teacher, (they seemed to be scarce at the time), he would arrange to have the old Campbell School moved to Withrow and he was true to his word! They had contacted Wendell Phillips, a returned missionary from China, and he became the first teacher. Elmer very generously donated the land on which to put the school and also built and donated the necessary outhouses for it. The Department listed the school as "Blueberry Valley No. 2", but it was called Withrow School and served the purpose well until the schools were consolidated and the children were bussed into Leslieville.

Johnnie and Elmer moved to Wetaskiwin in 1952 where Elmer worked as accountant for the Co-op, their house at Withrow was sold and moved to Condor. The Stewarts still live in Wetaskiwin.

Connie continued to be grain buyer, and when Stewarts left, he became store manager and Postmaster as well. He had married Mrs. Marie McMeekin in January, 1949 and she was able to help him with the business.

Connie was an active member of the Masonic Lodge at Rocky Mountain House. He passed away suddenly while working at the Post Office on June 3rd, 1953. His passing left Withrow almost a ghost town.

Ray and Phyllis still live at Eckville and their children are Stanley, Lavonne and Dale.

Les lived at Eckville, first with Roy and Phyllis, then with Faye and Walt. Later he took up the auto body mechanic trade at Wetaskiwin. He married Ethel Vipond in 1958. He operated the Eckville Auto Body Shop from 1962 till 1965. They now live in Edmonton with their three children, Darcy, Kathy and Christine.

Faye and Walter now live at Summerland, B.C.

**EDWARD JOHN MEYERS FAMILY — by Mrs. Meyers**

Edward John Meyers, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Meyers, was born at Manyberries, Alberta. In 1925, at the age of six years, he came to the Withrow district with his parents, and here he attended the Wolfe School.

In 1943 Edward was married to Marie Lingren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lingren of the Eckville area. They farmed on N.E. 4-40-4-W5 for thirty years. In 1973 they sold their farm to Earl Loyeck of Rimbey, and moved to a home which they bought in Eckville. Ed is now doing carpenter work. Marie has been employed at the Eckville Hospital in the housekeeping department. They have two children, Richard and Patricia, both of whom attended school at the Leslieville and David Thompson Schools.

Richard, better known as "Dick", married Patricia Frid in 1975. They have one son, Dwayne. They make their home on a farm east of Benalto. Besides carrying on the farming work Dick does carpenter work. Patricia is employed at the Imperial Bank of Commerce in Eckville.

Patricia Marie married Frank Harriman in 1971. They make their home in Calgary. Their two children are a boy, Terence, and a girl, Cheryl. Frank is an electrician by trade.

**JOHN C. MEYERS FAMILY — by Edward Meyers**

John C. Meyers was born in 1895 at Peirz, Minnesota, U.S.A. In 1911 he moved to Alberta to homestead in the Manyberries district

Rose Seefried came with her mother and family from Leava, South Russia, in 1911 to Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1918 John and Rose were married

In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. John Meyers and the two eldest children moved to the Withrow district and bought the N W 27-38-4 W5, where he farmed until 1963. Three more children were born after they moved to the Withrow district

In 1963 Mr. and Mrs. Meyers sold their farm to their second eldest son. They then built another home on the farm where Rose still resides.

John Meyers passed away in 1966. He was a friend to all, never too busy to talk to people or help others in need. Five children were born to John and Rose.

Edward, the eldest, married Marie Lingren. They farmed in the Withrow district for thirty years. In 1973 they sold their farm and moved to Eckville where Edward is doing carpenter work They have two children, Richard and Patricia

Isabelle married Dave Bott, and they live on an acreage north of Lacombe. Their four children are Terry, Linda, Dwayne, and Dixie.

Connie married Joyce Gibson They have five children, and live on the farm. The children are Robert, Rodney, Darlene, Janice, and Wendy

Harry is married to Betty Dirsten and they live at Valley View. Harry works as a mechanic maintenance man in a gas plant there. Their four children are Barry, Dale, Keith and Timothy.

John Jr. (Jack) was married to Debbie Biswanger and they have two children, Charlene and Lorrel. Jack worked for the Youth for Christ organization and was well liked by the young people whom he served. He passed away in March of 1973.

**MOTTUS, ALBERT**

Albert Mottus remained on the farm, keeping up a home for his brothers and sisters. Then in December 1942 he married Miss Victoria Johanson from the Boyle district east of Eckville and they farmed for another year. A son Barry was born in December 1943. Albert enlisted in the army in 1944 and served 19 months. After his discharge from the army, the time had come to build a new life for the future. In 1946 after much land searching he purchased the Ted Ensign farm at Leslieville, where he and his family are still farming. In 1948 son, Brian, was born in October and in April 1960 another son, Kenneth was born

Albert was chairman of the Agriculture Service Board for I.D. 10 for nine years before resigning. He was hog buyer at Leslieville for the Eckville Livestock Co-op for 17 years until the Leslieville hog station closed, and is now hog assembler in Eckville for the Eckville Livestock Co-op. He also drove the school bus for 11 years and was captain of the Brucellosis calf program in Leslieville district for many years

Barry graduated from David Thompson High School and also from S.A.I.T. in Calgary and is now a manager of a Totem Lumber Company in Calgary. He married Miss Helene Cote of St Paul in 1970. They reside at Bragg Creek and have two sons, Cameron and Spencer

Brian graduated from David Thompson High School, and took two weather courses, one at Ottawa and one at Toronto. He was upper air technician at several locations in the N W T for seven years. Then he took another course at Ottawa to become a Pilot Briefer, working three years at YellowKnife airport. He married Miss Gwen MacLeod of Saskatoon in 1973. They have one son, Kevin, and a daughter, Reanne. They live at Airdrie and he works at the Calgary Airport as a weather forcaster

Ken is still at home and will graduate from David Thompson High School in 1978.

**MOTTUS, CHARLES HENRY — by Salme Mottus**

Charles Henry Mottus was born in 1942 to Arthur and Salme Mottus. He took his public schooling at the Wolfe School and his high school work at the Eckville High School. Following this education, he took a course at the Technical School in Calgary

After completing his education Charles started farming in partnership with his father. When Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Demoulin moved off their farm, which was the former Nestor Lindquist homestead, Charlie bought their farm.

In 1964 he married Madeline Werner. They have three children, Russell, Randy and Rhonda

**MOTTUS, OSCAR — by Meta Dahl**

Oscar Mottus came form Vurro, Estonia with his wife Juull and two daughters, Meta and Ella. They arrived at his brother Hugo's homestead near Gilby on May 16, 1914. Two days later a third child was born, another girl, which they named Adele

In 1916 Oscar filed on his own homestead, NW 2-2-41-W5. He worked hard, clearing the land by hand, with his wife at his side. Along with the land clearing he constructed log buildings, and thus proved up on his homestead.

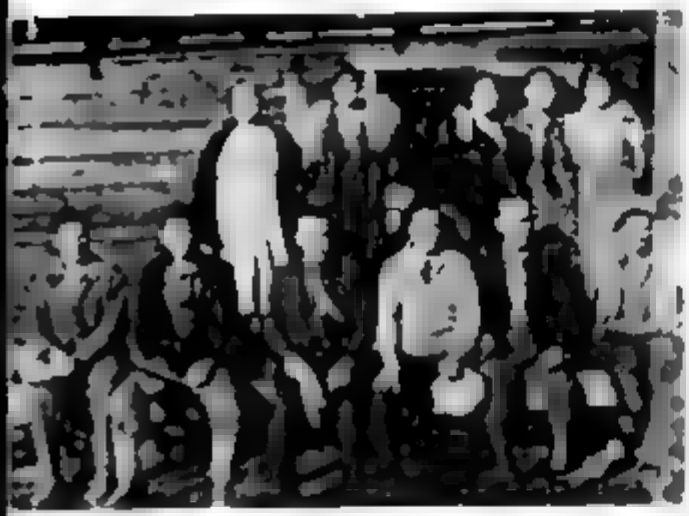
Five more children were born on the homestead—Albert, Hilda, Elmer, Louise and Robert.

In partnership with his two brothers, Oscar purchased a threshing outfit and travelled around the country at threshing time threshing

the grain for many of his neighbors. Together with his brother Arthur, he built the Wolfe School, finishing it in November, 1922. Sixteen pupils were enrolled in Grades 1 to 6, in one room. The first teacher was Mrs. Wigmore.

Oscar lost his wife Juul in 1925 through child birth. Meta, then only 15 years old, took over the job of raising a family of eight children. This was not easy, as the baby was just born and another child was only 18 months old. Water had to be carried and the clothes washed daily on a washboard. All the cooking, including the baking of bread, was done on a wood stove. Board floors were scrubbed white with a stiff brush and lye soap. With the father away from home for days at a time, everyone had to pitch in and share the responsibility.

In 1935 Oscar married Annie Dahl and they moved to Eckville where they lived until her passing in 1965. He retired to Westview Lodge in Rocky Mountain House and later to the Rimbey nursing home where he passed away in 1976 at the age of 89 years.



Oscar Mottus Family and Friends. Front row: L. to r., Oscar, Albert, Arthur Dahl, Matt Twiku, Robert Dahl, Roy Randall. Back row: Mother Annie Dahl, Ella, Meta, Adele, and Hilda, 1933.

Adele Mottus married William Herbert from Vancouver, B.C. They have four children—Beverly, Marlene, Marvin and Doris. The children are all married and are living in Nanaimo, B.C.

Louise Elizabeth Mottus married John Swanson of Mission, B.C. Their three sons are Robert, Daniel and David, all married and all living in Mission, B.C. Louise passed away in 1954 at the age of 36 years.

**MOTTUS, MR. AND MRS. JOHAN — (Written by Esther M. Mottus)**

Johan Mottus was born in 1861 in Vurro, Estonia. His wife, Lena, was born in 1865. After their marriage, they set up housekeeping and raised eight sons. Their occupation was farming. Three of their sons emigrated to Canada. Hugo in 1910, Alexander in 1912, and Oscar, with family, in 1914. They all settled around Gabriel Lake (Wood Lake, as it is commonly known) in the Gilby district north of Eckville.

War broke out in Europe in 1914 and brought anxious times to Estonia. It appeared that all of Europe was destined to become embroiled in the conflict. Mr. and Mrs. Mottus determined to get out of that hot spot that was Europe, and go across the ocean to Canada to join their sons Hugo, Alexander and Oscar. There were many arrangements to be made. Johan believed it would be better to have gold and silver money rather than paper, so he exchanged most of his paper money for gold and silver. They hired a tailor and a shoemaker to come to their home to make warm clothes for the entire family — heavy overcoats, fur caps and heavy leather shoes. They had heard from their older sons that Canada was a cold place — down to 60 degrees below zero! It never got that cold in Estonia.

In March 1916 they were ready to leave. There was no passenger service for travellers in those war years, and they knew facilities on their journey would be very limited, so they decided to bring food with them. They had pails of honey and butter, and they packed rye bread and home cured pork for the trip. Each person carried a pail or a package of food.

Their son, August, decided to stay in Estonia, but the parents and their sons Ludwig (20), John (16), Arthur (10) and Waldemar (8) left on March 26. At that time, they could hear cannon fire from the battle front, the ground shook, and at night the sky was lit up with artillery flashes. The war was too close to their home for comfort!

They did not take the customary route to Canada, across the Atlantic Ocean. That was much too dangerous — even impossible. The Atlantic was mined, frequented by battleships and submarines. They decided to take the only other route open to them, across Russia, Siberia, Japan and the Pacific Ocean.

They were able to board a troop train carrying wounded soldiers home from the battle front. The reason they could take that train was that the father bribed the conductor with a few gold pieces. Others who tried to board that train, without the benefit of gold pieces were ruthlessly booted off.

That train trip was far from comfortable, and it was down right unsanitary, for the train was crowded and the stops were few. Whenever there was a short stop, someone would get off and buy some hot water for tea. In Manchuria they bought horse milk. It was good! They were lucky to have had the foresight to bring food, or they would have been very hungry. It took two weeks by train to reach Vladivostok, — then on to Japan by boat. They waited five days in

Yokohama for a Japanese freighter which was to carry them across the Pacific

The Japanese freighter, the Ava Maru, was far from luxurious! The passengers were crowded into a large room where they stayed for the entire voyage. The room had a double row of bunks along all four walls. The only bedding provided was one grass mat for each bunk. There was a dining room which had two long tables — one for the Orientals and one for the whites. Several Jews shared the table with other white people. Whenever pork was served the Jews wouldn't eat any of it, so there was that much more for the others. Happy day! It wasn't often they had all they wanted to eat.

The ocean voyage took sixteen days. When the passengers disembarked in Seattle, they were interned for two days to clear immigration. The men and boys were all taken to one confined area, and the mother, Lena, was taken to the women's quarters. She was terrified! Separated from her family, not understanding a word that was spoken, and not knowing what was happening was the worst experience she endured on the entire journey.

After two long days of anguish the family were reunited and boarded a ship bound for Vancouver. That ship was beautiful — sheer luxury after their recent experiences. Somewhere along the way the whole family got infested with lice, and there was nothing they could do about it but scratch. From Vancouver to Red Deer they travelled by train. As they passed through the Rockies, and saw snow everywhere, they would have turned back if it had been possible. Their dismay at seeing snow in May was short lived. When they reached the prairies they found it was really spring. Their heavy clothes were much too warm.

Alexander Mottus was working in Red Deer at a saw mill and when his parents and brothers arrived there, they had a happy reunion. From Red Deer the Mottus family went on to Eckville by train. John Kemila (Sr.) had a horse-drawn covered democrat, and he drove them to Gilby, to the home of an uncle, John Teemer. It was May 24, 1916. The grain fields were nice and green. The ordeal of two months of travel were finally over.

The first thing Lena Mottus requested at the home of Uncle John Teemer was "Please heat up the sauna bath — we're lousy!" A good hot steam bath and a change of clothes put an end to the "cooties" and good riddance!

Johan and Lena Mottus bought a quarter of land, the same land later occupied by the Alho Stopson family, on the south shore of Wood Lake. The cost of the land was $1280.00. Neighbors were kind to the newcomers. Mart Sestrap gave them a sack of barley and some rye flour. The Matthews family gave them some chickens, and Uncle Teemer gave them a horse and a pregnant sow. From there on, they were on their own.

Their first crop, oats, yielded 280 bushels. In 1918 tragedy struck. Johan Mottus died, and the family had to carry on by themselves. Lena, the mother, lived until 1930, when she, too, passed away. Johan and Lena were both laid to rest in the Gilby cemetery.

**NEAL, CHAS.**

Charles and Ruth Neal and their four children moved to the Eckville area from Lake Lillian, Minnesota in the summer of 1972, after purchasing three quarters of land (SE 10-40-4-W5, home site, and NE 10-40-4-W5 and SE 15-40-4-W5).

The Neals had previously lived in various parts of the United States. Charles was born in Martinsville, Indiana and has two sisters. He spent four years in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II; attended Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin where he and Ruth Marcy met and were married in 1953.

Ruth, the youngest of eight children, was born in Newton Upper Falls, Massachusetts, attended the Massachusetts School of Art; taught art two years in Concord, New Hampshire, worked as a commercial artist and in mechanical drafting and reproduction lettering. Prior to this, she worked as a chocolate dipper for a small candy store chain and later in her sister's candy business.

The Neal's first child, Janice, was born in 1954 in Madison, Wisconsin. Jan is now attending the University of Calgary majoring in Elementary Education.

Radford was born in 1956 in Camden, New Jersey where Charles was working for the Campbell Soup Co. Rad is now taking graduate work at the University of Calgary, majoring in Computer Science.

A son, Hubert, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1958 where Charles worked for The Pillsbury Co., but, sadly, due to a heart defect, Hubert died in 1960.

Wesley was born also in Minneapolis in 1963. Douglas was born in Willmar, Minnesota in 1964 after the Neals had moved to their farm near Lake Lillian, Minnesota.

The Lake Lillian farm was located on the prairie of western Minnesota. Corn and soybeans were the main crops for this area, along with cattle and hogs. Because of the Neal's interest in a different type of farming, a dissatisfaction with the increasing cost of land taxes, a desire for a more scenic farmstead, coupled with a spirit of adventure, they made the decision in 1971 to move to Alberta. Also, the strong winds, threats of tornados, blizzards, hail, heavy rains and humid 100 degree F. temperatures of Lake Lillian made them decide it wasn't the climate for them.

Being half Canadian, herself, made it easy for Ruth to be receptive to the idea of moving to Canada. Ruth's mother was born in 1890 in the small lumbering settlement of Hastings, New Brunswick, near the Bay of Fundy. This home site is now a part of Fundy National Park.

Since moving, Ruth has not been troubled with the hay fever, asthma and bursitis that had bothered her both in Minnesota and Massachusetts. Living in the Eckville area has been all the Neals had hoped it would be . . . and more. The gorgeous scenery, the mountains, the clean, clear air, long summer days, wildlife native fruits, friendly people and a less vigorous climate are some of the reasons the Neals are happy with their move.

**ELVIN OLIVER FAMILY — by Mrs. Edith Oliver**

After spending the summer of 1928 with my parents in Washington, I, Edith Lockard Oliver accepted the position as teacher of the Wolfe School. I was informed by the secretary of the Wolfe S. D., Mr. Buckby, that I could reach my destination by going to Red Deer, then taking the train from there to Withrow. On being unable to locate Withrow on a map, I naturally expected that it was a small town.

I traveled by train to Red Deer, where I boarded the train going west. As it was a mixed train it didn't travel very fast. After being on the train for what seemed like hours, I finally asked the conductor if we were near Withrow yet, but he informed me we weren't nearly there yet as we had gone through Sylvan Lake only a short time before. Thinking that the conductor had forgotten to tell me when we reached Withrow, I inquired several times.

Finally, by evening the train came to a stop and I was informed that we were at Withrow. At that time there was only a platform. My luggage was unloaded. What a sensation when the train pulled out and I was left there in a strange country, surrounded by trees! I had lived all my life on the prairie, which was quite different.

Finally I got a glimpse of a team and democrat coming down a winding road. What a relief to see someone! This was Mrs. Buckby, the secretary's wife, who had come to meet me. We loaded my luggage into the democrat and wound our way up the hill. Finally we came to a creek which we had to ford. Before we reached the other side one of my suitcases fell off into the water. We rescued it and continued on our way. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Buckby. Their family consisted of two children, Roy and Dorothy.

The Wolfe school was about two and a half miles from Buckby's. Roy, Dorothy and I rode horseback to school. We had many experiences with the horses. One had a colt and as we had two or three gates to open on our way, the colt would stay behind. We often had to go back and chase it through the gate before we could continue. These were the trials we had in getting to a country school. There were about 12 children attending the Wolfe school at this time in grades one to nine. Many of the children walked to school through the bush, of which there was much at that time. The school was also used on Sunday for church services. I often rode horseback to Lesliеville for the mail, a distance of about five miles.

In July of 1931 I married Elvin Oliver, who originally came out west from Ontario and settled in the Pine View district. I was born at Cardston and moved to Fort Macleod at an early age where I remained until I went to teach the Rich Hill school, the year before going to Withrow. I then returned to Fort Macleod where I taught for three years before our marriage. Our family consists of Lorraine, Tim and Doreen.

In the fall of 1947 we moved to Leslieville after spending 16 years on the farm, the last six years of which I taught school at Pine View.

The first year I taught in Leslieville I had 42 pupils, with grades one to six. It was a two-room school. Mr. Hugh Horn taught grades seven to nine. Later a small room was built for grade one. Miss Nelson being the first teacher. Finally a new six-room school was built and grade 12 was included. When the David Thompson school was built grades seven to 12 were bussed to it and grades one to six remained in Leslieville. Each teacher had but one grade. I taught grade four.

Elvin worked for a construction company in northern Alberta for a few years. Later he managed the Imperial Oil bulk station in Leslieville. He was also caretaker of the David Thompson and Leslieville schools.

Our family were all married while we lived at Leslieville. Lorraine married Gilbert Hollingsworth of Leedale in 1954 and they now live in the Rimbey district. Gilbert has been engaged in trucking and has hauled cattle and horses to many parts of the States, as far south as Texas. They have five children — Maurice, Marlene, Merlin, Maureen and Merletta.

Doreen married Lee Hollingsworth in 1956, on her parents' 25th wedding anniversary. Lee works for an oil company. They have four children — Monty, Darcy, Angela and Rodney. They now live in the Leslieville district.

Tim married Louise Shatford of Claresholm in 1963. He is engaged in ranching. She taught school before and after her marriage. They have three children — Dale, Darlene and Darren. They live in the Caroline district.

We lived in Leslieville for 20 years, moving from there to Bentley where we later retired.

**PETERSON, MATT — by Elsie Anderson**

This is of necessity a very brief sketch of Matt Peterson's history. My dad was born in Finland at Iisalmi Ouulanl on November 15, 1881. He landed in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. in 1902. I don't know the exact year that he and my mother were married. She was the widow of Peter Eskelin. She was born in Finland on March 15, 1875, and passed away on August 30, 1918.

Mother had five children by Peter Eskelin. Hilda, the eldest was born in April, 1902 and died on September 4, 1971. Ellen was born in May,

1905, and died on November 11, 1976. Albert was born about 1906 and died about 1929, and Adam was born about 1910 and died about 1933. Peter was another of the sons, but I don't know where he fits in, age wise.

I don't know too much about the early years of the Petersons, but Elizabeth was born October 9, 1912. She now lives in Sacramento, California, U.S.A. In 1930, she married a young Norwegian, Hans Stange, and they have two daughters, one of whom lives in Seattle, Washington, and the other in San Mateo, California, both in the United States.

Arthur was born August 31, 1914. He married in England and passed away in April, 1963.

I, Elsie, was born April 15, 1916. I was the youngest living, as there was a baby when mother passed away. The baby was a boy August by name. I do not recall much of the early years in Eckville. When I was five years old I went to live in the Bingley District with the Alex Schroderus family. Arthur came there a year later. When I was 10 years old we all three went to live with dad.

Of my dad, I can say he was the hardest working and strongest little man! His prowess at bush camps was legion. He was a heavy drinker, and a man's man. He was as gentle as he was harsh, generous to a fault. However, I know our lives would have been very different if our mother had lived. My dad went to Korjala, or Karelia, in Northern Finland or Russia in 1934. He borrowed $250 for his ticket from Elizabeth, and she became sole beneficiary of his farm and chattels.

Looking back from where I "stand now", the bitter-sweet of a fragmented childhood becomes a treasured memory. The sun, moon and stars still set over my dad.

I have been married to Toivo Anderson of the Trochu District since October 3, 1939. We have one daughter, Dona, who is married to Phil Noble, from England. She has taught school (and continues to do so) since 1964. She and Phil have one daughter, who started school in 1977.

Here it might be well to pay tribute to Mrs. Alho Stopsen's mother, Mrs. Victor Lingren. She was a tiny, wiry little lady who performed the duties of midwife, and delivered all of us Petersons. She was indeed the "Lady with the Lamp."

For all those brave folk who settled that area I'd like to say, "To be remembered is to live."

**REMEMBERING WOLFE SCHOOL DAYS — by Shirley Dobirstein**

What really wonderful, carefree days those were when we traveled anywhere from one to three miles per day to the Wolfe School. Children from Grades 1 to 9 came by every mode of transportation, on foot, bicycles, horseback, skis in winter and some even drove a horse and buggy at times. Those faithful school ponies were very much loved by children fortunate enough to have one. Many carried up to three children at a time to school each day. They did have their fun with us as well. More than once upon leaving school my Shetland decided that it was my turn to walk and a couple of bucks later that's exactly what I did with my pony jogging home just out of reach in front of me.

Harsh weather conditions kept very few children home from school. They would arrive soaking wet in a summer rain or white with frost in the winter. Cold winter mornings were spent sitting around the large coal and wood furnace at the back of the room until the school warmed up. On very cold days we would crowd into the living room of the teacherage to do our school work. With no school buses at the gate I can remember father coming to meet us in the winter with a team and sleigh and being too cold to ride, my brother and I would hang on to the side of the sleigh box and run along to keep warm.

In milder weather, was the excitement of noon hour skating parties at the nearest slough. The older boys would shovel the snow off and we'd have a bon-fire for warm ups and skate till it was time to return to school. If we talked the teacher into allowing an extra half hour of skating we really were thrilled.

The Christmas Concerts were an exciting event that made budding actors of everyone. What excitement it was to practice our lines for the big night. The teachers also put in many extra hours of work in planning for the concerts. There would always be the odd case of stage fright with complete loss of memory of those well learned lines but each moment was enjoyed by students and audience. Santa Claus always found his way to that little country school house too.

Like children of all times and ages we got into our share of mischief as well. In the spring the odd frog would find its way under the teachers bed, to jump out frantically when the bell was picked up to ring classes in. Other furry and slithery creatures could sometimes unexplicably appear in a desk drawer. At times the rule about no running in the school would be forgotten in the noon hour when teacher was having lunch. I can remember the "consequences" of one running incidence where the large bump on my head and a classmate's "Blackeye" were sure signs of "Guilt" after meeting head on at a blind corner! That stopped the running for awhile anyway.

Spring brought lots of wet feet as everyone had to try and find the deepest pond to wade in. Some of the more adventurous ones would fashion some sort of a raft in order to become sailors for a day, the odd one ending up with more than wet feet. Summer games were prisoners' base, pump-pump pull away, tag, kick-the-can and baseball. Annual sports days at nearby towns where we went to play ball were a real thrill. Then the annual picnic at the end of the school year was a big highlite. Homemade ice cream was one of the treats along with races and ballgames and a scrumptious lunch prepared by the mothers.

With all these good times, who needed anything more while growing up. They really were the "good old days."

**MEMORIES OF LIFE FROM AN EARLIER ERA IN ECKVILLE AND DISTRICT — by Thomas Renne**

**RENNE, CONSTANTINE AND JULIE**

The Renne family, consisting of Constantine Renne, his wife Julie, and their two sons, Adolf and Thomas, emigrated from Estonia and arrived in the Eckville district in 1936. Following a short stay with the Sestrap family (Mr Sestrap was a local farmer and town merchant), they moved onto a C.P.R. quarter. This move of the family, with their two trunks, was facilitated by means of a hayrack borrowed from Mr Sestrap.

After moving onto the farm, a settling-in process began. The wide cracks in the two-room log house had to be filled with plaster. Further insulation, consisting of cardboard from cardboard boxes, was nailed on the interior walls. With this protection, many winters were braved while the temperature dipped, at times, to minus 60 F. Inside the house, a kitchen stove and a stone fireplace (built by the Bradley family), were the sources of heat.

A means of making a living had to be found. As was the case with many families in the immediate area, the farmland consisted entirely of trees. Only about an acre had been cleared on which a garden could be grown. The days between spring thaw and winter freeze-up were mainly spent in "grubbing" trees to clear land. The trees were at first sawn by hand into firewood. This was split, allowed to dry, and then in winter Mr. Renne, with a team of horses and a sleigh, would make the 12 mile round trip to Eckville, delivering firewood which the people in town used for heat. These trips occured three to four times a week during winter months when there was snow on the road. The whole family was involved in some phase of this enterprise. After a few years, Mr. Henry Lingren mounted a circular saw and a Model A motor onto a sleigh. This allowed neighbours to band together in forming a "sawing crew". This custom continued for many years.

The source of power for work in the early days was the human muscle teamed often with the horse. Mechanical power arrived at the Renne farmstead around 1944, with the purchase of a Model D John Deere tractor.

The area had its share of hailstorms. 1946 was such a year, yet, despite an early severe hailstorm, the remainder of the season was ideal so that a "bumper crop" of around 700 bushels of wheat was produced. Most of this was sold, the proceeds going to the C.P.R., in order to pay off the land. In 1948, an adjoining quarter section was purchased from Mr. Tom Rosson. This served as pasture for cattle.

Except for pet dogs, of the farm animals, Mrs. Julie Renne loved her cows the most. These she milked for many years so that the cream could be taken to town and sold at the local creamery. This provided a most important supplementary source of income for the family.

The social life of the Renne family (as well as that of others in the immediate neighbourhood), included visiting back and forth, birthday and Christmas parties, socials at Wolfe School, and gatherings held at Estonian Hall. At these events the men folk would frequently gather and play cards. The ladies meanwhile would gather into their circle to prepare food and some handiwork such as embroidery, knitting, crocheting and so forth.

Social events also occured at the homes of those people who had a "sauna". One such place was the farm of Mr. and Mrs. John Sibelin. Mr. and Mrs. Renne and sons often visited there. Another place where frequent visiting occured was the home of Mr. Clint Bromling, his daughter Hattie and son Curtis.

Travel of any distance, such as to Eckville, was with a horse and buggy (or sleigh in winter). Shorter distances were very often covered on foot. A few Model A's graced the roads. To the drivers of these cars, the horses were a boon, as frequently they were mired in the pot holes along the dirt roads following a rain. Some road repairs were done by the local people, in consideration of which there was a lowering of municipal taxes to the County of Rocky Mountain House.

The roads were upgraded in the late 40's and early 50's, being both widened and gravelled. This made it somewhat difficult to use horses especially with a sleigh. In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Renne purchased a Studebaker one half ton truck which Mr. Renne used until his death. This truck is presently being stored in Calgary by Thomas.

Primarily, the family was blessed with good health. However, Adolf suffered a lengthy bout with pleurisy as a very young man. Following his recovery, he left the farm at the age of 21 to work in the Baker Memorial Sanatorium in Calgary. In 1948, Thomas also left for Calgary and found employment there grinding lenses for eye glasses. The parents continued active farming until Mr. Renne attained the age of 70 years and received the old age pension. Following this, the fields were rented out to various neighbours. The couple continued living on the farm until Mr. Renne's death in 1966 at the age of 77. Mrs. Renne died in Calgary in 1970 at the age of 68.

Currently, Adolf is an accountant employed in Edmonton by the Alberta Government, and Thomas instructs mathematics and physics at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

The above is an account of farm life in those years. It centered around the home and family, and the community. Extensive travel, television, and such other aspects of modern life, were nonexistent. Even radios were not very prevalent in the immediate community. Life was

simpler, the effort to survive basic. Friendships were enduring, people tended to be more settled the spirit of co-operation and good fellowship was continually in evidence and of vital importance to all

**STAITE, GLADYS**

My parents, Arthur Mottus and Olga Matila, were married on February 14, 1927 I was born on August 4, 1928, at the home of my uncle, John Mottus, who lived near Wood Lake — My Grand mother Mottus was my mother's mid-wife

In September my mother and dad moved in with Grandpa and Grandma Matila so that my grandmother could take care of me during the time my folks worked at Barons, Alberta. throughout the grain harvesting season. After my parents returned from Barons we lived with Grandpa and Grandma Mottus.

My mother had been in poor health for some time, and in January of 1937 she entered the University Hospital in Edmonton for treatment for cancer, but she passed away in March, 1937 My father married Salme Raabis after my mother's death

In April of 1940 I was placed in the Junior Red Cross Hospital in Calgary because of my physical handicap. Here they gave the patients treatments for their physical disabilities, and also treated us very well otherwise, even though we may not have thought so at the time. I completed grade ten of my education while I was at the hospital.

For further education I attended Western Canada High School where I took grade eleven. Mrs. McClure was my guardian and I boarded and roomed with her during this time. She taught me everyday housework while I was living in her home, and I have found this to be very useful.

In 1949 I came to Eckville for a visit with Mrs McLean and also with Mrs. Buckby Jr., and Mrs. Buckby Sr I spent a happy Christmas that year in Rocky Mountain House at the home of Wally and Esther Mottus

On January 31, 1950 I left Rocky Mountain House to come to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Here, on February 2, 1950, I started to work at the Disabled Civilians' Workshop. My work included sewing dresses, nurses' uniforms, doctors' coats, aprons, smocks, and many other kinds of sewing. I worked there for about five years. I met my late husband there, and we were married in December of 1955

Our children were Marie Emily, born on September 23, 1956 and John Arthur, born on November 6, 1958

My husband, John, had been afflicted with tuberculosis, and in 1960 the ailment flared up again. He returned to the T B. sanitarium at Fort Qu'Appelle, where he had to spend the next eleven months His return home at the end of that period was a very happy time for us. However, our joy was not to last, for John passed away just eleven months after his return home

On October 13, 1973 Marie Emily was married to Myles Endicott. On June 22, 1974, Bobbi Dawn Bridget was born to them, and on August 8, 1976 Denise Marie was born, thus giving me two grandchildren.

My son, John Arthur, graduated from high school on June 18, 1976, and now is employed by the Allied Lumber Company in Moose Jaw

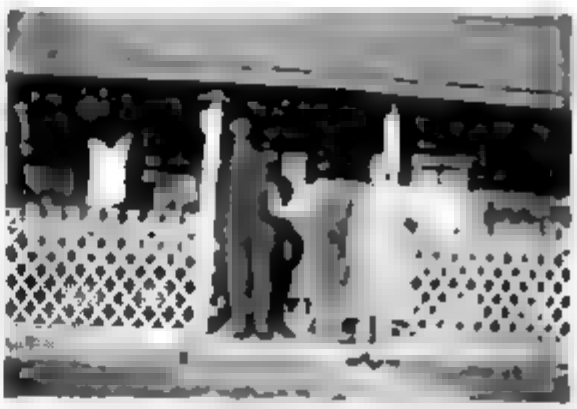
I keep busy doing housework and caring for children. I babysit for a family having three children, ages four to 11 years, and I enjoy this very much. I am presently living in my own home in Moose Jaw, and my son John lives with me

By Gladys Staite

**STRIDSBERG, JONAS PETER ERICKSON (1877-1948) — by Vera Molander**

Jonas Erickson was born and grew up in Sweden. He was a brother of Anna Molander, and had come to Canada on the same ship as Uncle John Molander. They worked together in the trenches in Ontario. When he heard there was land in western Canada, he journeyed by train to Alberta. He homesteaded the NE 2-40-4-W5, seven miles northwest of Eckville. He cleared the land and planted crops and garden, and built granaries and a barn out of logs. Some of the old buildings are still standing today

When Jonas Erickson settled here, he changed his last name to Stridsberg, because there were so many people named Erickson in the country First he farmed with oxen and then with horses. He never drove tractors or cars. He milked cows and had a few pigs and chickens Every week he took cream to the creamery in Eckville.



Paul Mottus and Jonas Stridsberg's homestead

Jonas was a very strong, hard-working man. He carried a can filled with milk on his back all the way to Lacombe, over 35 miles, and brought flour home in the can. The milk was for the cheese factory and, since he was there, he picked up his flour and groceries with the money from the milk. Anna and Henry Molander allowed Harold to help Jonas when he asked for his help

Harold and his Uncle Jonas had a large split-wood pile. Harold hauled the wood from his quarter, which is now owned by Maurice and Harriet Clark. They used a buzz (circular) saw and a Wallis tractor to saw the wood. They had sawing bees in which all the neighbors helped each other, going from farm to farm.

In July, 1946 Harold went to help Raino Haapala, his neighbor, saw lumber. Harold cut his hand badly and lost one finger. Dr. Coppock managed to save the others.

Jonas had the first threshing machine with a Stickney engine, and did custom threshing with Henry Molander. The Stickney engine was later used for grinding feed for pigs and cattle. Alfred and Harold threshed together for many years, until 1950, when Alfred bought a combine. Harold worked for Jonas Stridsberg from 1932 until Jonas passed away in 1948. Harold and Vera now own and live on the land that Jonas homesteaded.

**ALHO AND HILDA STOPSEN**

Alho Stopsen was born in Finland, Europe, on August 4, 1904. He received his army training in peacetime there, and then immigrated to Eckville, Alberta in 1926. Upon his arrival at Eckville, he was given employment on the farm of his uncle, Rudolf Stopsen.

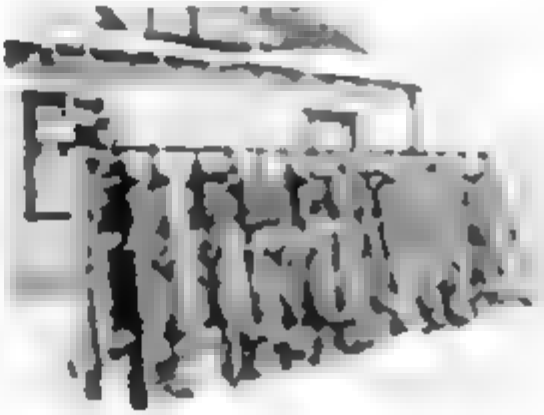
Hilda Lingren was born at Granite, Montana, U.S.A. in September of 1904, and came to Eckville in 1905 with her parents. In 1931 Alho and Hilda were married in Red Deer, Alberta. There was no honeymoon in those days — just back to work.

Mrs. Alho Stopsen's family, Henry Lingren, Victor Lingren, Hilda Lingren and Mrs. Victor Lingren.

Mr. and Mrs. Stopsen bought Ed Medin's homestead, NW 36-40-4-W5. They lived and farmed here until 1942. A son, Oliver, was born in March, 1933. They worked hard on the farm, clearing land by hand and milking cows.

In 1937 Shirley Mae was born, thus increasing the family to four members. Oliver turned five and began school at Wolfe School, which was one-fourth mile distant. The school teacher secured room and board at the Stopsen home at that time.

In 1942 the family moved to the Wood Lake farm, SW 12-40-4-W5. Here they lived until their retirement. Alho trapped muskrats and coyotes during the wintertime and fished in the lake during both summer and winter.



Alho Stopsen, coyote hide.

Oliver and Shirley completed Grade Nine at Wolfe School and then continued their education at the Composite High School in Red Deer, where Oliver graduated. Shirley took one year there but completed her schooling at the Eckville High School. Oliver was involved with his music and played in many bands. Shirley, however, was a horse lover and spent her spare time riding and showing horses. Many happy times were spent at Wood Lake with skating parties in the winter-time and boating during the summer.

Oliver married Faith Charles and they have two children — Faron and Cheryl. They are now living at Summerland, B.C. Shirley Mae married Fred Doberstein, from Lacombe, and they are presently living in the Lacombe area. They have two boys, Douglas and Jason.

Alho and Hilda continued to farm after their son and daughter were married and on their own. In 1972, though, they decided to sell the farm and retire to the town of Eckville to enjoy their leisure hours with friends.

**WOLFE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4010**

The Wolfe School District was established January 31, 1921, comprising the following lands: S 34-35, N½S 25-27 T39-R4, S-5 and 8, SE-18, and those portions of S9, 16, and 17 lying south and west of the Medicine River in T40, R3, S 1-3, 10-12, T40-R4-W5. Mr. E. Aho of Eckville, Albert, was Senior Trustee. The treasurer was Mr. W. C. Buckby of Withrow, Alberta.

School opened in 1922.

The first teacher was Mrs. Lottie Wigmore. Among others who taught at the Wolfe School were: Miss French, Miss Farnell, Mr. Lowe,

Gordon Gibson, Blanche Arndt, Artina Weller, Victor Brown, Bill Prunkl, Mr. Ambury, Mrs Salme Mottus

The school was closed in 1954, sold in 1956, and moved to a farm, SE-11 40-4 W5, remodelled for a home

The Charles Neal family live in it now

**MR. YRTIMAA**

Mr Yrtimaa was born in Finland, arrived on the homestead in 1908, NE 12-40-4-W5. He lived with the Lingren family until his log cabin was built

Horses were his next necessity. He bought a team of mares and raised many fine horses from them, His horses were well fed and always kept well groomed. He was once seen riding a shiny black horse to town, where he bought a hundred pound bag of flour. This he carried, while leading the horse home

He had cattle, milked some cows and separated the milk with a hand separator, taking the cream to the creamery in Eckville. He was skilled at tanning hides, from which he made harness, sewing colored buttons on the bridles for decoration. Some thought that his idea was to make an impression on the girls

He lived on the shore of Wood Lake, so spent a lot of time fishing, as well as always growing a beautiful garden. When his health began to fail he asked Shubroskis to care for him. In return he would will his Wood Lake farm to them. The Shubroskis did this for him until his death

**VOWS FOR THE RESOLUTION-LESS**

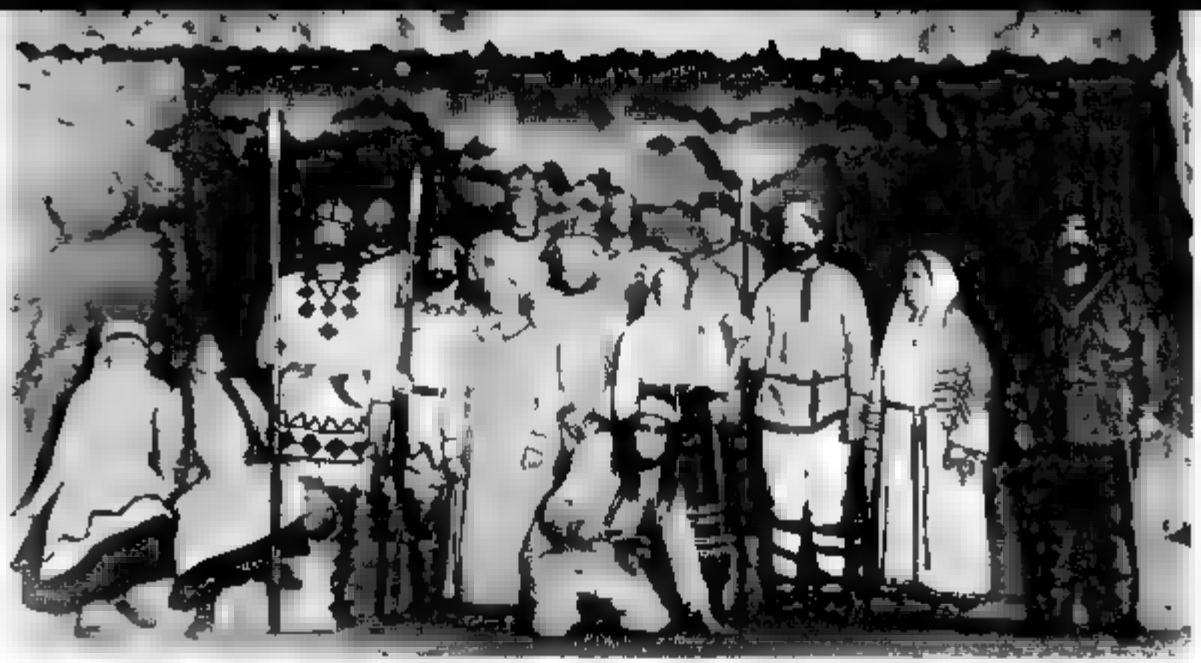
1) Keep me from thinking I must have something to say on every subject on every occasion
2) Keep me from trying to straighten out everybody's problems while ignoring my own
3) Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy
4) Keep my lips free from the recital of endless and tedious details
5) Seal my lips from reciting aches and pains. I don't feel better afterwards and those who listen feel worse
6) I ask not for the grace to enjoy the tales of others, but only for the patience to hear them with equanimity
7) Teach me the marvelous lesson of knowing that, occasionally I may be mistaken
8) And let me learn to see things in unlikely places and unexpected talents in good people, and give me the grace to say so.

adapted from Forethought.

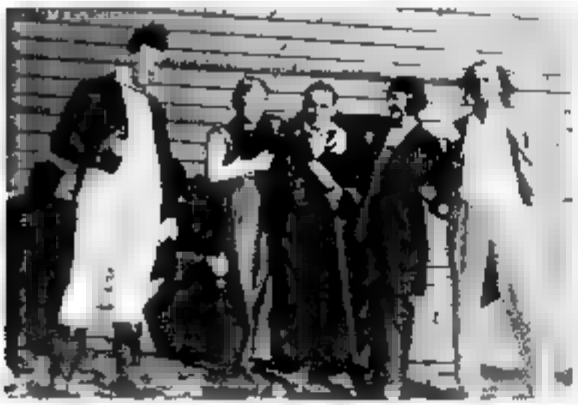
**MY DAILY PRAYER**

Lord help me to keep my ears and eyes
wide open
But my mouth shut and my nose out of
everyone else's business.

Church gathering at Tigerstedt. Rev. Harju, Lutheran minister

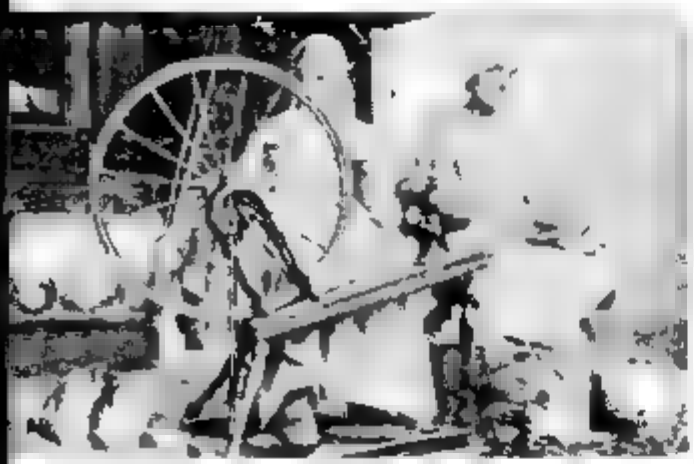


Cast in a Finnish Play at the opening of the Belville Hall.



Mesquerade in the early days

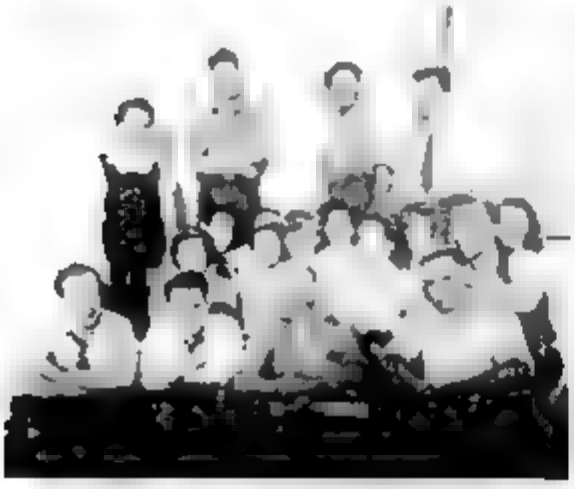
John Pinham's band before the first World War



Canada at Work L to R Mrs. Vinnen is spinning and Mrs. (Isaacson) Stewart is carding.

Saara Bellikka braiding rugs for a part time

At Sawyer's Sawmill on the forks of the Medicine River 1906.



Co-op Store staff 1942

Harriet Bacon while in training 1905

Helen and Chesser Kasha.

Mrs. F. Wingate on the left with her sister Marion

On Active Service

# WITH THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

15th June-1918

HEADQUARTERS
Wesleyan Army & Navy Board,
Central Buildings.

Nov 29th 1916

No. 91406 Coy. C Batt. 196th Reg't.

NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences not required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.

I am quite well

~~I have been admitted into hospital~~
{Sick / Wounded} and am going on well,
and hope to be discharged soon.
~~I am being sent down to the base.~~

I have received your {~~letter dated~~ / ~~telegram~~ / parcel} ~~,~~ ———

Letter follows at first opportunity.
I have received no letter from you
{~~lately~~ / for a long time}

Signature only } J. E. Lees

Date April 16th 1917

[Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]

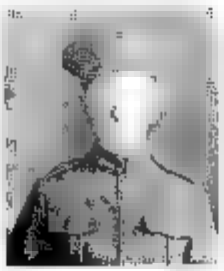
~~W. & W. 2287/33 2000m. 10/16. D. & Co., Grange Hill, E.W.~~

Well, there has been half-a-dozen of the 191st. men "napped" already, but I think I'll be safe enough, alright. We take our turn in the line again. They are feeding us very good just now in

LETTERS LIKE THE ONE ABOVE WERE SEVERELY CENSORED DURING THE FIERCE BATTLES IN FRANCE IN 1917. FINALLY LETTERS WERE NOT ALLOWED AT ALL, ONLY THE ABOVE TYPE OF CARD.

# Roll of Honour

Eckville Veterans



Francis W Andrew

Fred Bennett

W T Burns

Anthony A.H Bytynen

Araldo R Bytynen

John A. Bytynen

John James Cordon

Thomas R. Cunningham

Walter J Cunningham

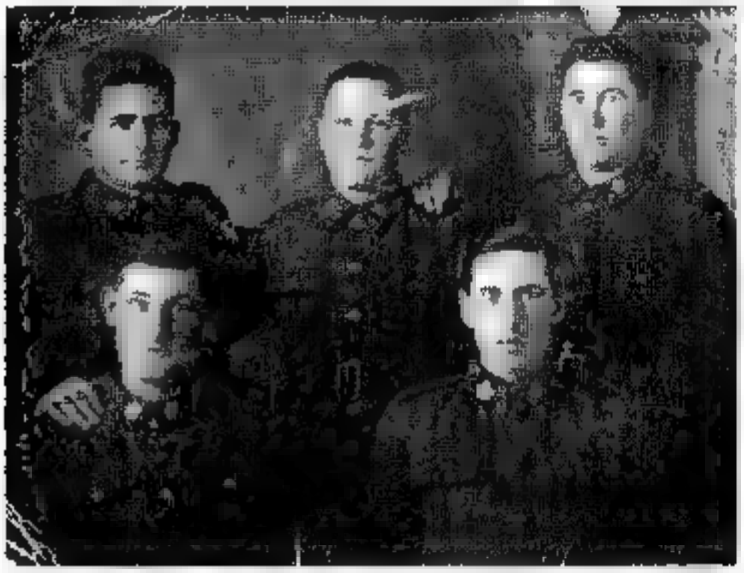
Harold Dale

Norman Eastman

W E Frame

L.A Haglund

Edwin Herbert



Standing: Bill Currie, Martin Gjefle, and Marion Gentry. Seated: Rudy Rasmussen and Dan McGentry

Wayne Hiitala

George Ignatius

Wayne Ignatius

Curtis Johnson

John Eric Kalapuras

August Kasper

Jack Kelm

Alfred William Kind

John Charles Kind

Floyd Kraft

Fred Kraft

Robert Kraft

Albert Lutz

Clarence Lutz

George Lutz

Simon MacKenzie

Oust Maki

John Maki

Reino Maki

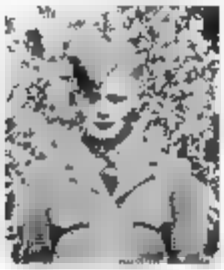
William Marks

Marie McDonell

James B. Merriman

Jim B. Merriman

Connie Meyers



Donald Stanley Mitzner

Rudy Mottus

Charlie Niemi

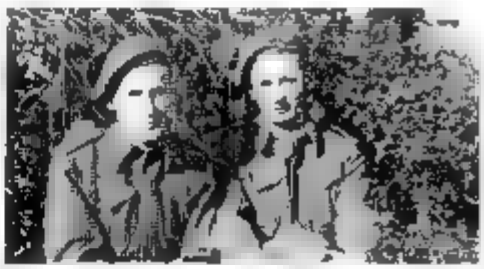
Henry Niemi

Lawrence Niemi

Verter Niemi

Donald Olsen

R M. Simpson



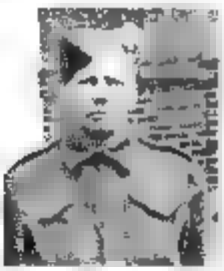
William and Thomas Smith

George Staudinger

Ronnie Staudinger

Edward Stopsen

Wayne Stopsen



Frank Talson

Oscar Talson

Irvin Thomas

Arthur M. Thorkman

Peter Ernest Toivanen

Ray Toivanen

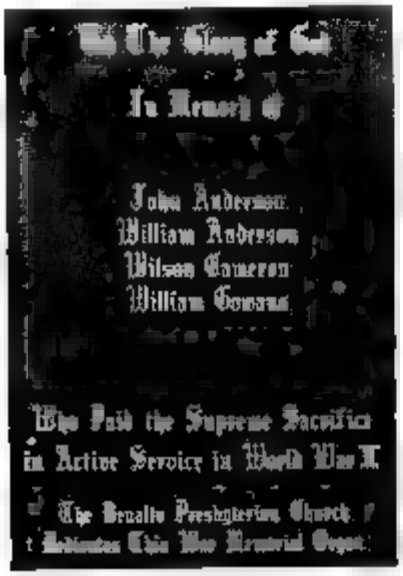
Alma Wuori

Roland Wuori

Mr and Mrs Hans Wuori

Thelma and Violet Wuori

Eckville Honor Roll




Benalto Church Scroll

Benjamin
Veterans

Charles Carroll

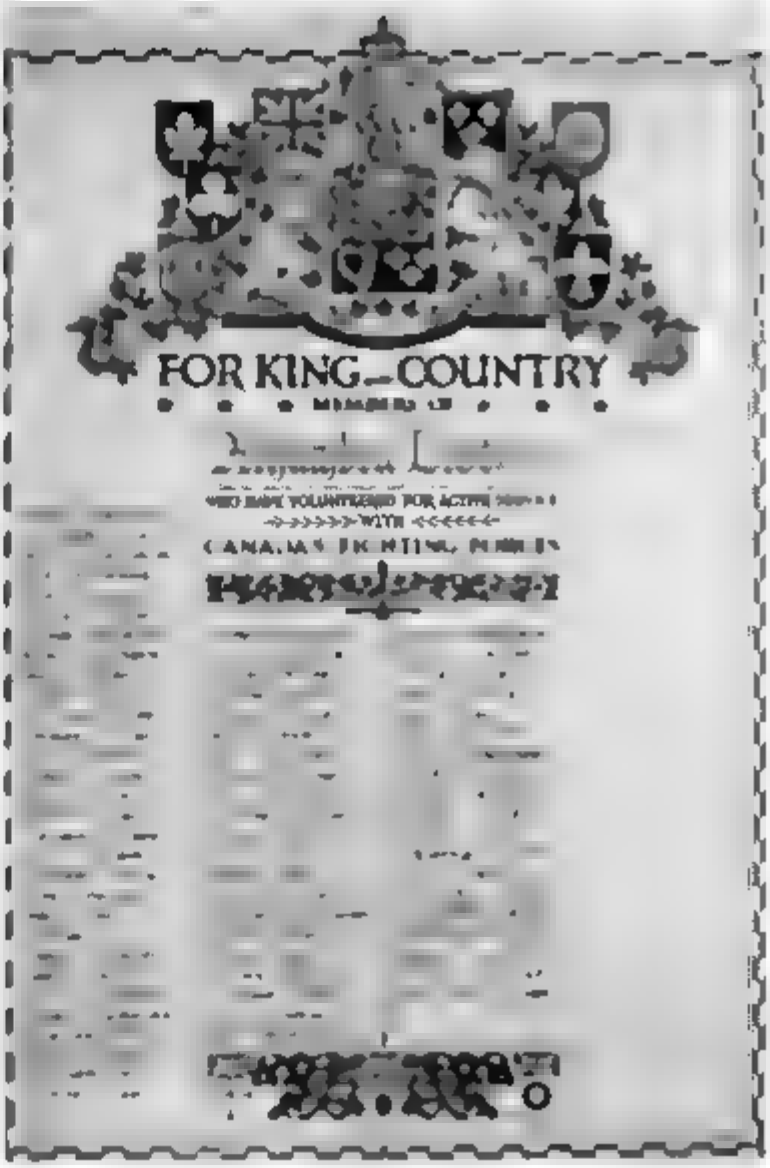
Albert Garat

Rudy Heyn

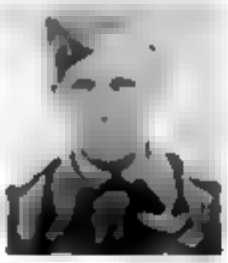
Johnnie Jones

Frankie Kilpatrick

Frank Lage



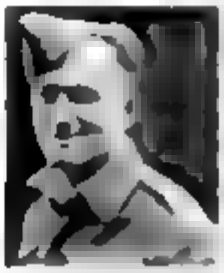

Carlos
Veterans



Charlie Elliot

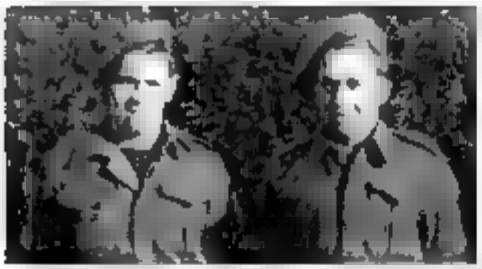
Jack Elliot

Walter Elliot



James Willard Pendergast

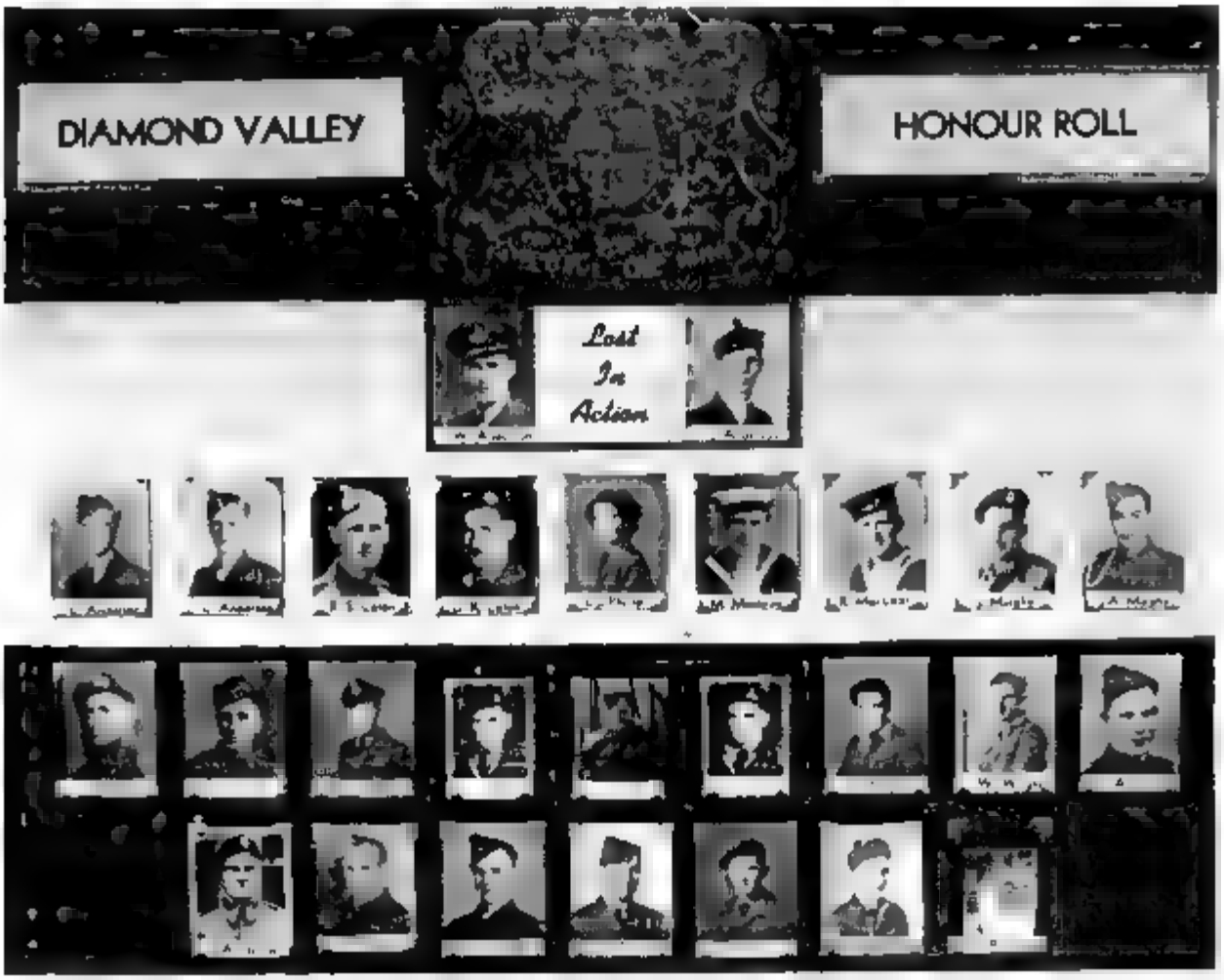
George Richardson



Jos and Lawrence Reidlinger

Condor Veteran

Bud Jayes




Gimlet Veterans

Sgt Warren L McElroy and L A.C Owen J McElroy

L.A.C Nugent, Frank A.

Jack Walls 1918

Last West Veterans

Herbert Beierbach

Norman Benson

Private Edwin Brown M.M

Bob and Yvonne Fox

Orval Hamilton

George Jensen

Ross and Walter McKinnon

Chester Misner

Lester Misner

William Perkins

David and Lloyd Shuler

Dave Thompson

W S. Thompson

Leedale Veterans

Cpl. Melvin Anka M616.2

F/O Dallas E. Belt

Edward Belt

Gordon Leslie Belt

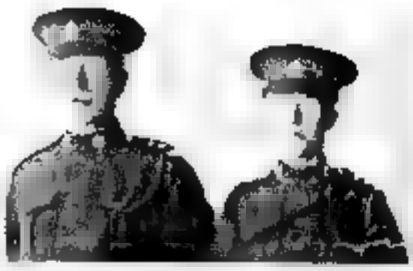
Roy Belt

Spr Arthur W Chapman

Pte Harry Klepadlo

Hugh Lindsay

O.V Little Cpl.



Edwin Teddy Plumb and John Plumb

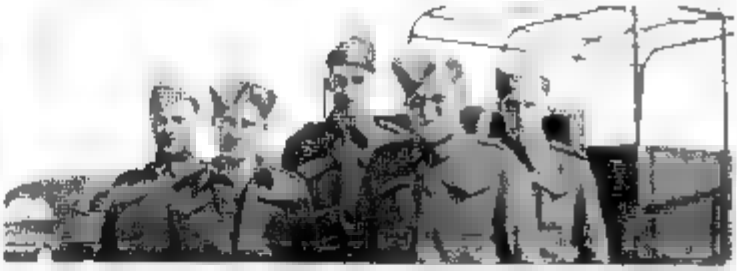
John Plumb M35563

Pte Thomas Henry Plumb

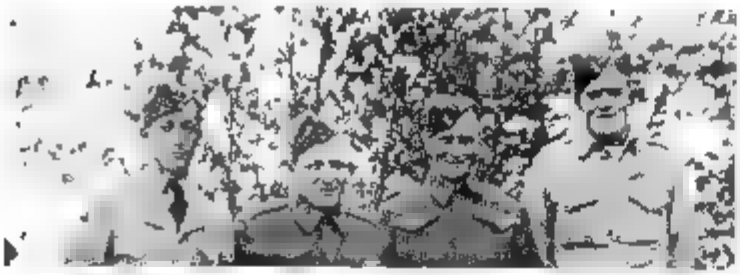
Joseph C Raudebaugh

George Royan

Valent Tkacik



Roy Belt, Ronald Westlake, Bert Varty, Dick Chappell and Melvin Ashe



Gordon Baldridge, George Royan, Art Baldridge and Charles Carroll

Lesliеville Veterans

Ethel Johnston, C.W.A.C

Gabriel Lebihan

Eric Mace

Cliff McBeth

Percy McGill

Harold Purnell

Samuel Sande

Jim Thompson

John Thompson

Medicine Valley Veterans

Jervei Maddox

# Midland Veterans

Arthur Whillier Jr

Arthur Whillier Sr

George H.E Williams

Harold Chinneck

L A W Gladys Bakke

Sgt. Carl Bakke

Pte Oliver Chabot

Flight Sgt Wm Baillie

C W A C Anita Baillie

Pte. Erland A. Hanna

Pte. Mary Jane Hayward

Walter Ernest Hayward

Cfn E Ardo Hulberg

L.A.C Clifford Hulberg

L A.C Ingmar Hulberg

Cpl John Iverson

Trooper Martin A Parker

Pte. Lawrence Simmons

Pte. Victor Stollings

George H.N. Williams

# Roll of Honour

Adrian, Robert
Anderson, C
Anderson J
Anderson, W
Avery B
Ballance G C
Berdenhagen, Elmer
Barnett Bill
Barnett Ruth
Barnett Ted
Billings, Leonard
Blair D.
Booth Allan
Booth Murle
Brookes E
Brooks A H
Bromling, Clatis
Brownlow, John
Byrnes, T
Caton, Cecil
Cairn, C. R.
Chevallier Frank
Chevallier Joseph
Clausen, Edgar
Clausen, Richard
Cochrane, Wm H
Cochrane, W
Cole Ralph
Conaty Jack
Conaty, May
Coutts, Donald
Cowee, Robert
Crabtree Horace
Cross, Harvey
Cross Morrie
Cunningham, Ronald
Cunningham
Davies, James
Davies William
Dentsery Douglas
Dennett Muriel
Dickson, James
Dickson, John L.
Diggins, Al
Diggins Fred
Diggins, George
Ensign, Ted
Fagg, D.
Farrington, George
Fletcher Kenneth
Forbes, Alex
Fox Bob
Fox, Yvonne
Fredine Adolph
Fredine Arthur
Fredine Henry
Frith, Lionel
Frith, Stanley
Frizzel, Crogan
Frodeen, Paul
Gallagher Donald
Gill, Charles
Goldfinch, Jack
Gordon, John
Gore Johnny
Gould, A
Gould, W E.
Granlund, Elmo
Green, Alec
Green, Barnard
Green, Kett
Hall, Reg
Hambleton, Harry
Hambleton, Wm
Hambrook
Hart E
Hicks, Alfred T
Hicks, Henry
Hicks, Hiram P
Hilbert, Herbert
Holt Frank
Hopkins, J
Horner L
Husain, James
Jones Elmer
Jones, Howard
Jones Norman
Jones, Richard
Kingrop, Ralph
Kickman, Fred
Kickman, Herbert
Klepaello, Eric
Kool, Ernest
Kujala, Roy
Lachmund, Carl
Lachmund, James
Laret A. A
Larson, John W
Latham John
Latour Frank
Lawson, Ray
Layton Robert
Leslie John
Lightbown, J E
Litchfield, Oscar Jr
Little W J
Land Alfred
Land, Christine
Land Otto
Laychfassel, Adolph
Laychfassel, P
Lyne, Barry
Lyne William
MacLeonald, Angus
MacDonald, Donald
MacDonald, J
MacDonald, John

CANADIAN ACTIVE SERVICE

MacDonald, N
Macnocclais, R.
MacNeil, D.
MacNeil, J
Magee, Barney
Makk, Allen
Malcolm, Andrew
Malcolm, David
Malcolm, James
Malcolm, Leonard
Manning, Fred
Martin, John
Martin, Murray
Maxwell, Lee
McBeth, J
McGowan, Archibald
McKinnon, James
McLean, A. A.
McLean, J. A.
McLean, R
McLellan, W
McMeekin, Alexander
McMeekin, Allan
McMeekin, Robert
McMeekin, Walter
McRoberts, Robert
Meston, G. Jr
Meston, George Sr
Metcalfe, Steve
Miles, Floyd
Miller, A.
Miller, Earl
Miller, Merle
Miller, R.
Miller, Trueman
Mitchell, J
Moore, Charles
Morris, Ray
Morris, Reg
Morrow, Edward
Murphy, J
Murphy, J. A.
Needham, Clifford
Nelson, G. A
Nelson, J. F
Newman, Clifford
Newman, Roy
Olson, Russ
Patterson, F. G.
Patterson, L.
Patterson, Leaman
Patterson, Ian
Paulachuk, Leon
Petersen, Norman
Phillips, E. J.
Pollitt, Edward
Pollitt, John M.
Pollitt, T.
Purnell, George Jr
Purnell, George Sr
Ramage, Mathew
Ramage, Wallace
Read, Walter
Redman, H.
Reid, Billy
Reid, Tom
Repas, Victor
Rodgers, Billy
Rose, Adolphe
Rooke, J
Rutledge, Clifford
Sabir, Claude
Sande, Leonard
Saunders, Raymond
Saunders, William
Sawyer, Wm
Selvais, Mary
Shetler, David
Sims, C. H.
Sims, E. E.
Sims, Roy
Sims, Veral
Sinlinger, Charles
Sinlinger, John
Smith, C.
Smith, J.
Smith, William
Speedie, R.
Steadman, Gordon
Steadman, Jim
Stelfox, Tom
Stockwell, W.
Stuart, W.
Sutherland, John
Sullivan, Ernest
Talson, Elmer
Taylor, Leonard Gower
Tennant, H. W.
Thompson, James
Thompson, John
Tolmari, Robert
Vig, Chester
Vig, Howard
von Holten, Fritz
von Holten, Lawrence
von Holten, Norman
Watson, R. M.
Walsh, W. R.
Watters, Mike
White, Harvey
Wickens, Harry
Williams, Frederick John William
Williams, Richard Estes
Winn, Donald
Wilson, Edward
Wilson, James
Wilson, William
Wright, C.
Wright, W.

The organizational meeting of the Eckville and District Historical Society was held January 31, 1977 at the home of Mrs. Helen Terry

What an enthusiastic group they were. Eckville and District was going to compile a book of their heritage.

Oh! We thought this would be a real challenge, everyone seemed like mature intelligent individuals who would enjoy working together

We were soon to find that we had problems. Due to these delays some of our pioneers are not with us to see our book in print

Our book will no doubt have errors and omissions. Please accept our apologies. If it had not been for sheer determination on the part of some members this book would not have materialized.

God willing, in the near future Eckville will compile a follow-up book and hopefully things will go more smoothly

The Book Committee

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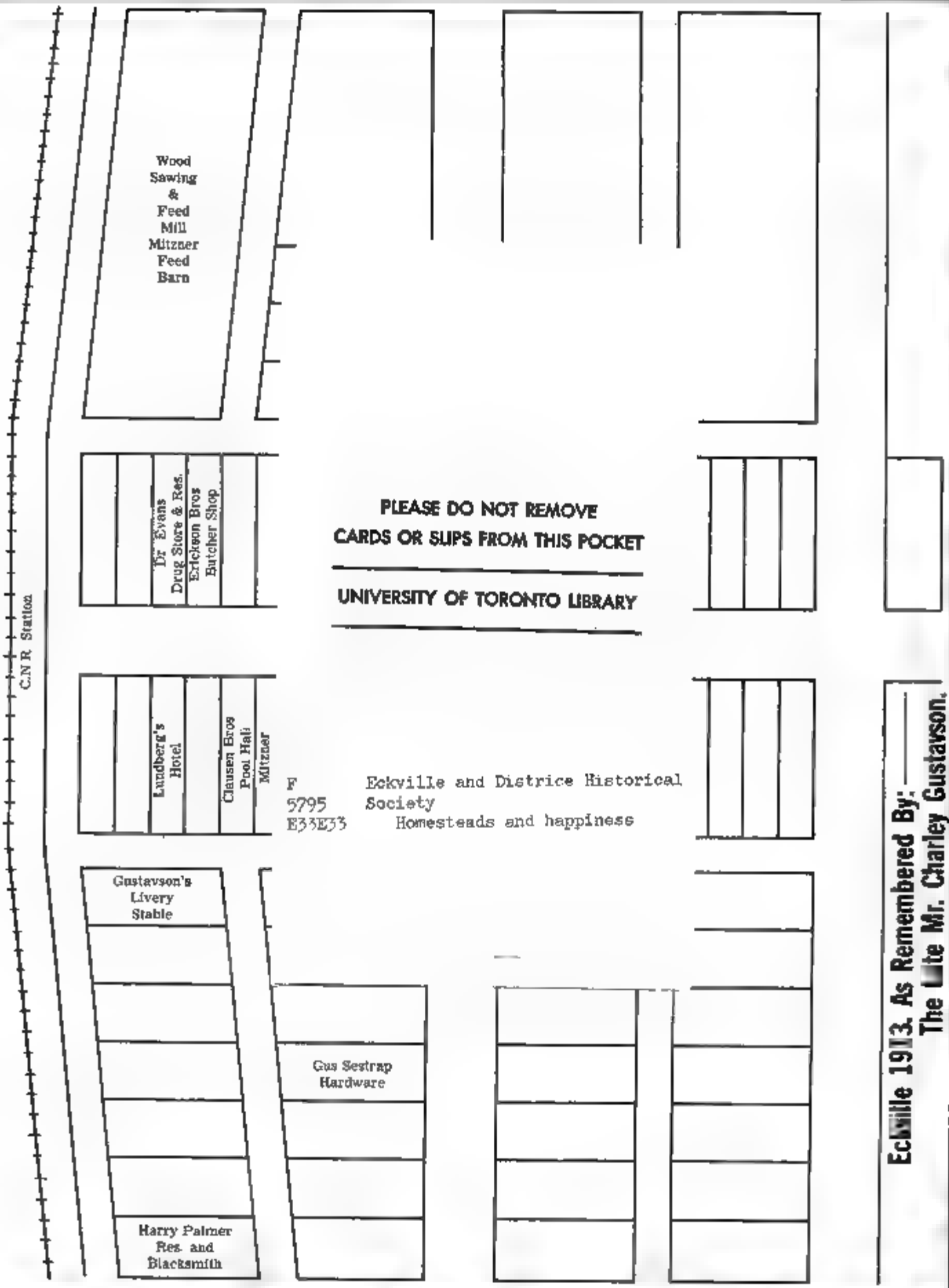


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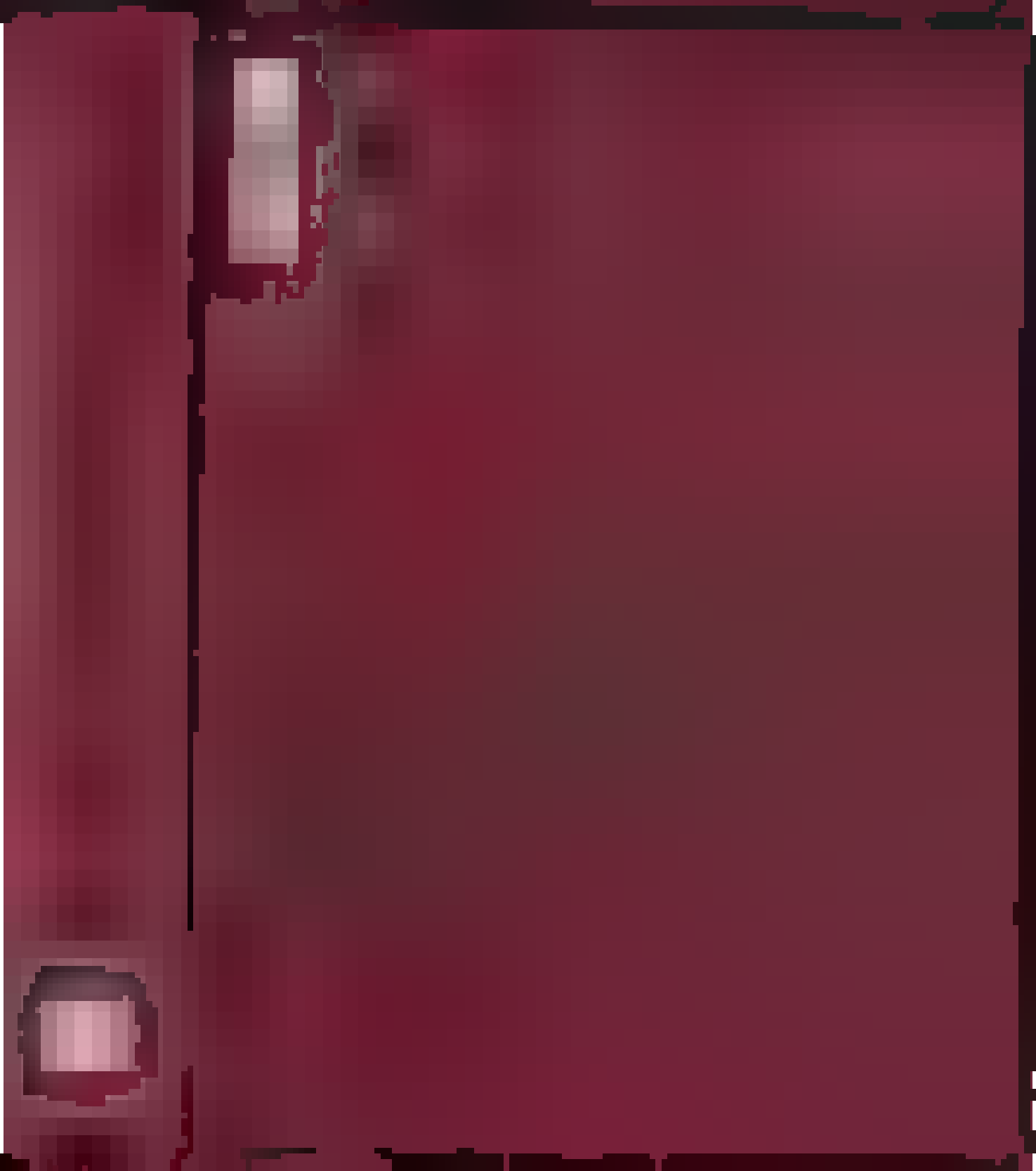
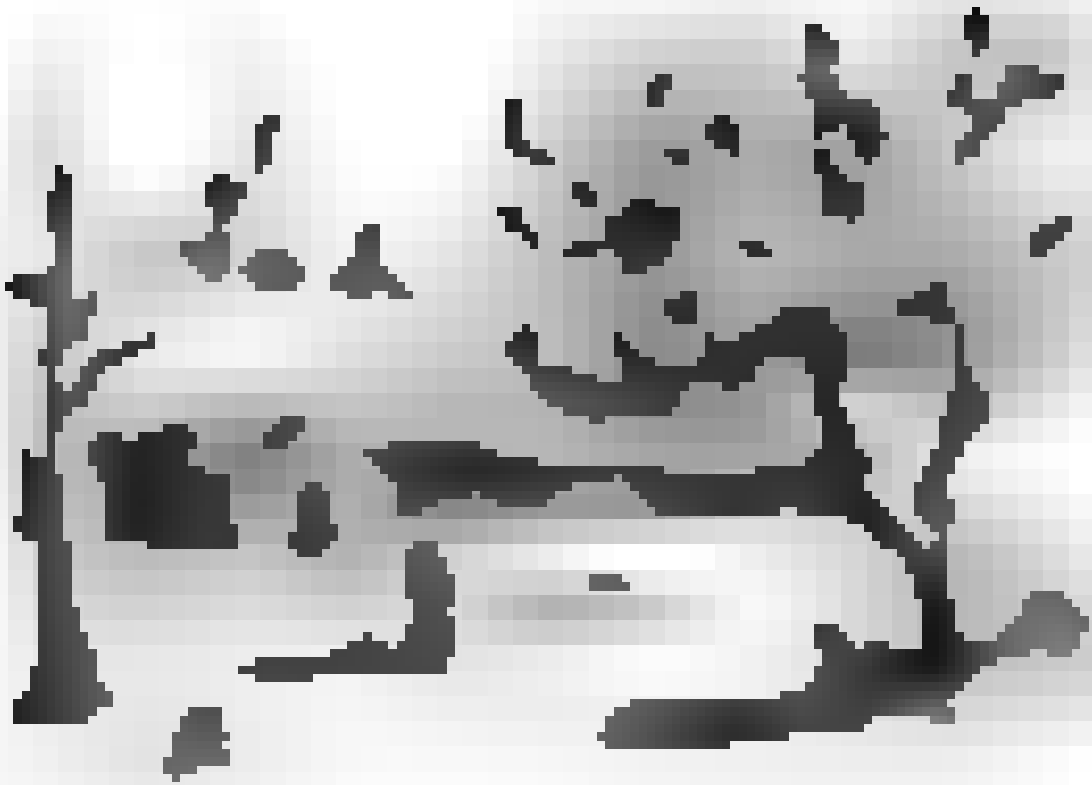
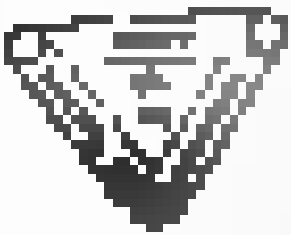
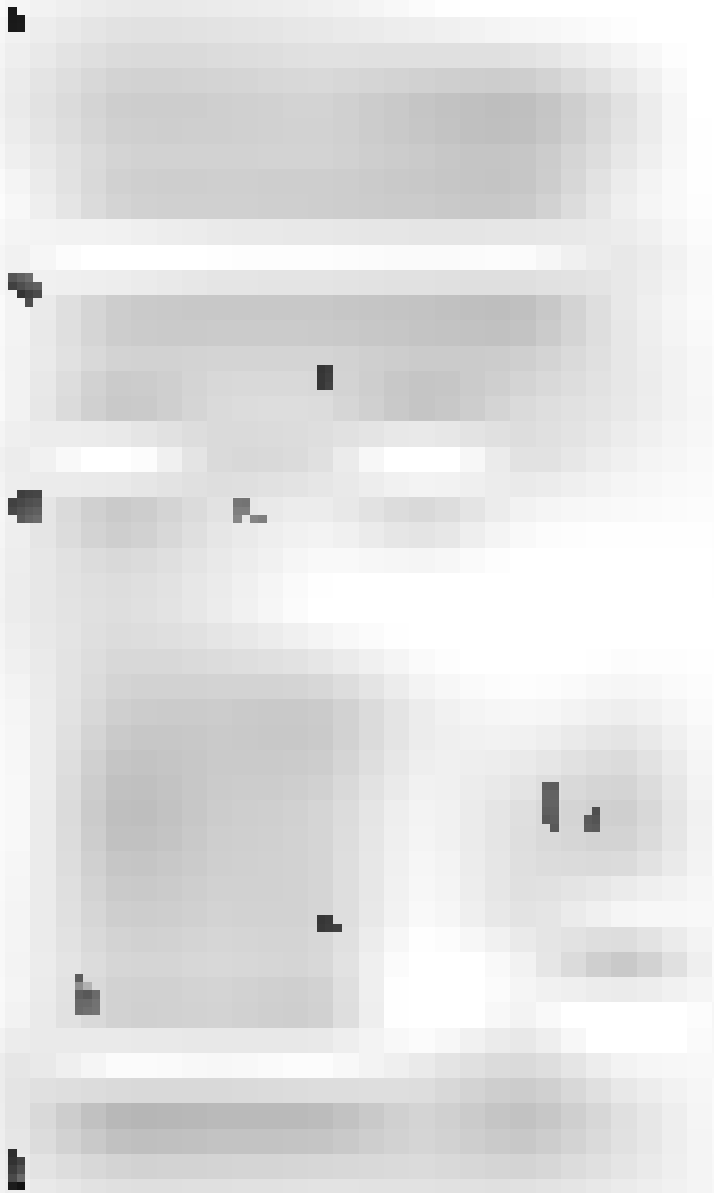
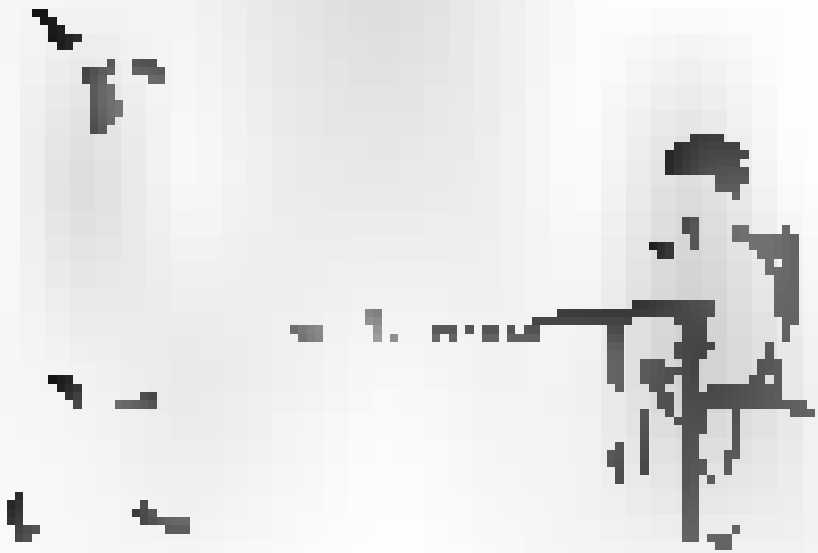
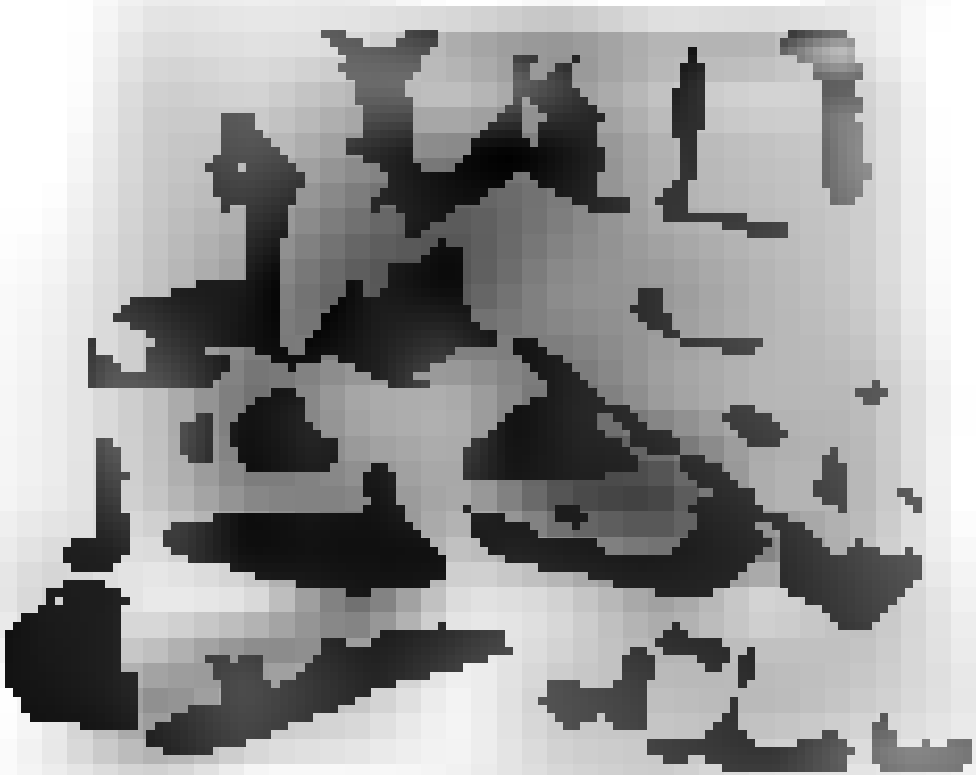


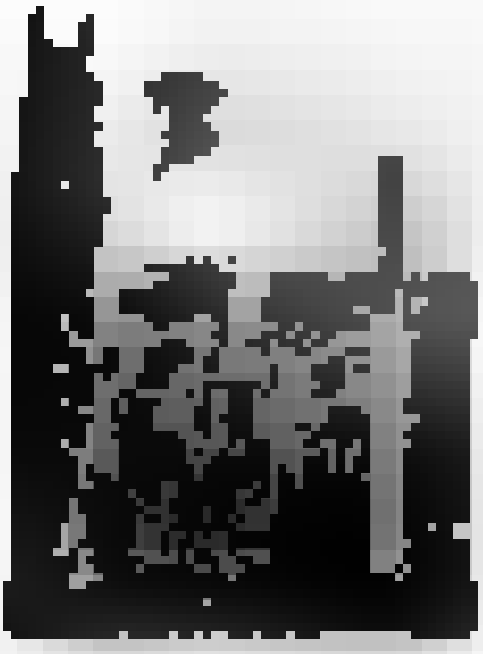


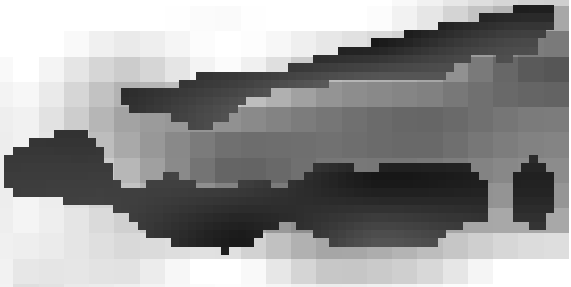


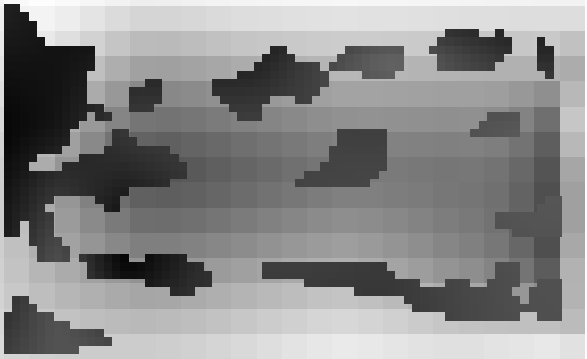


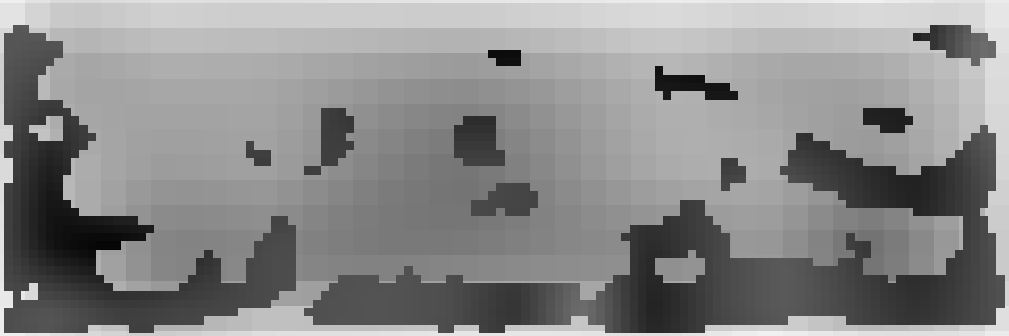


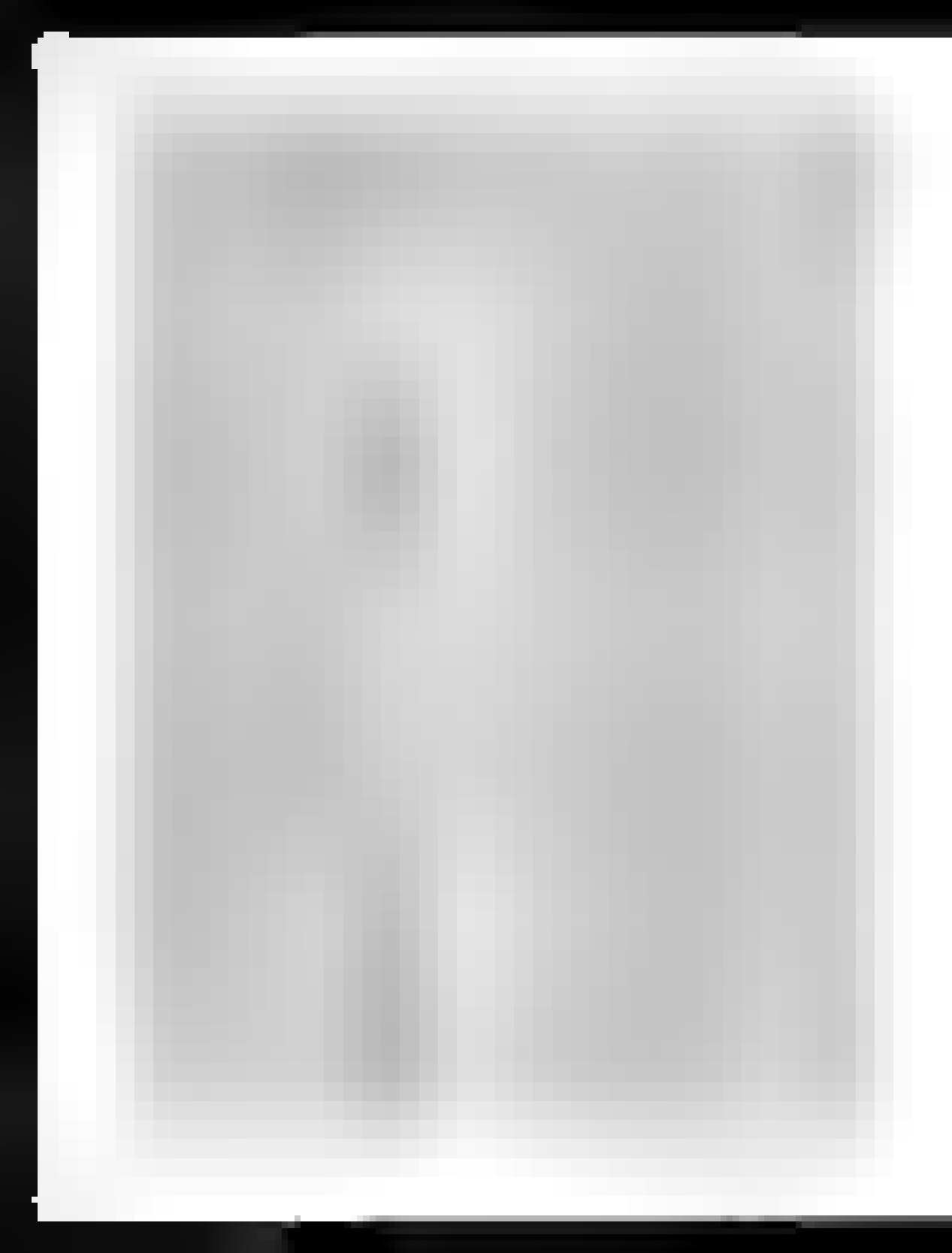


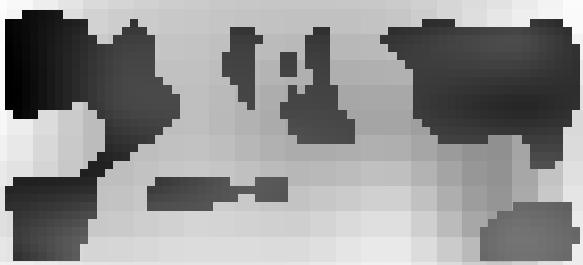


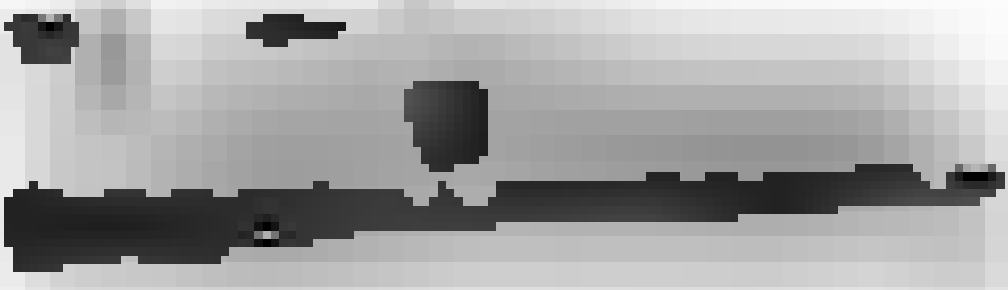


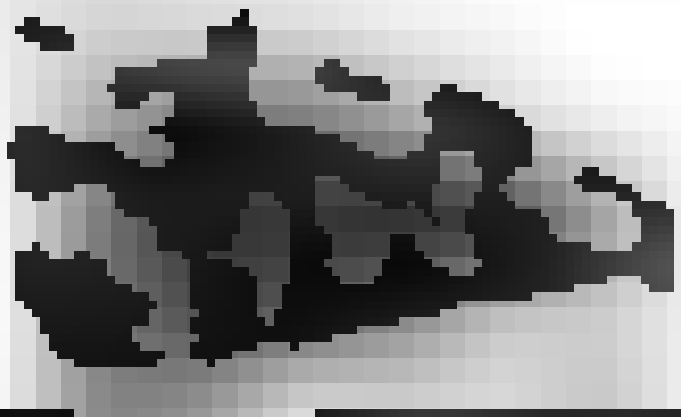


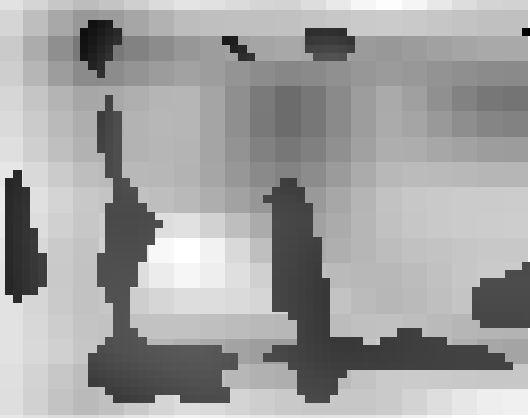


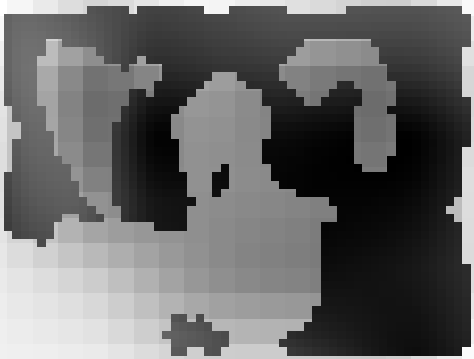


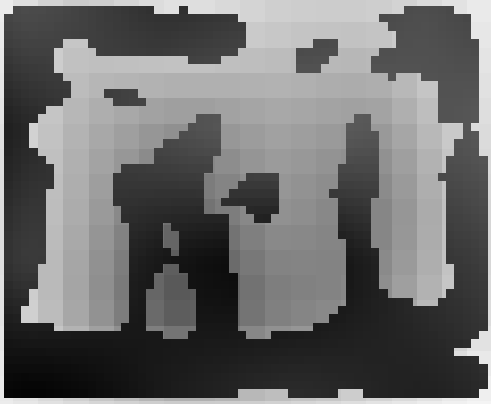


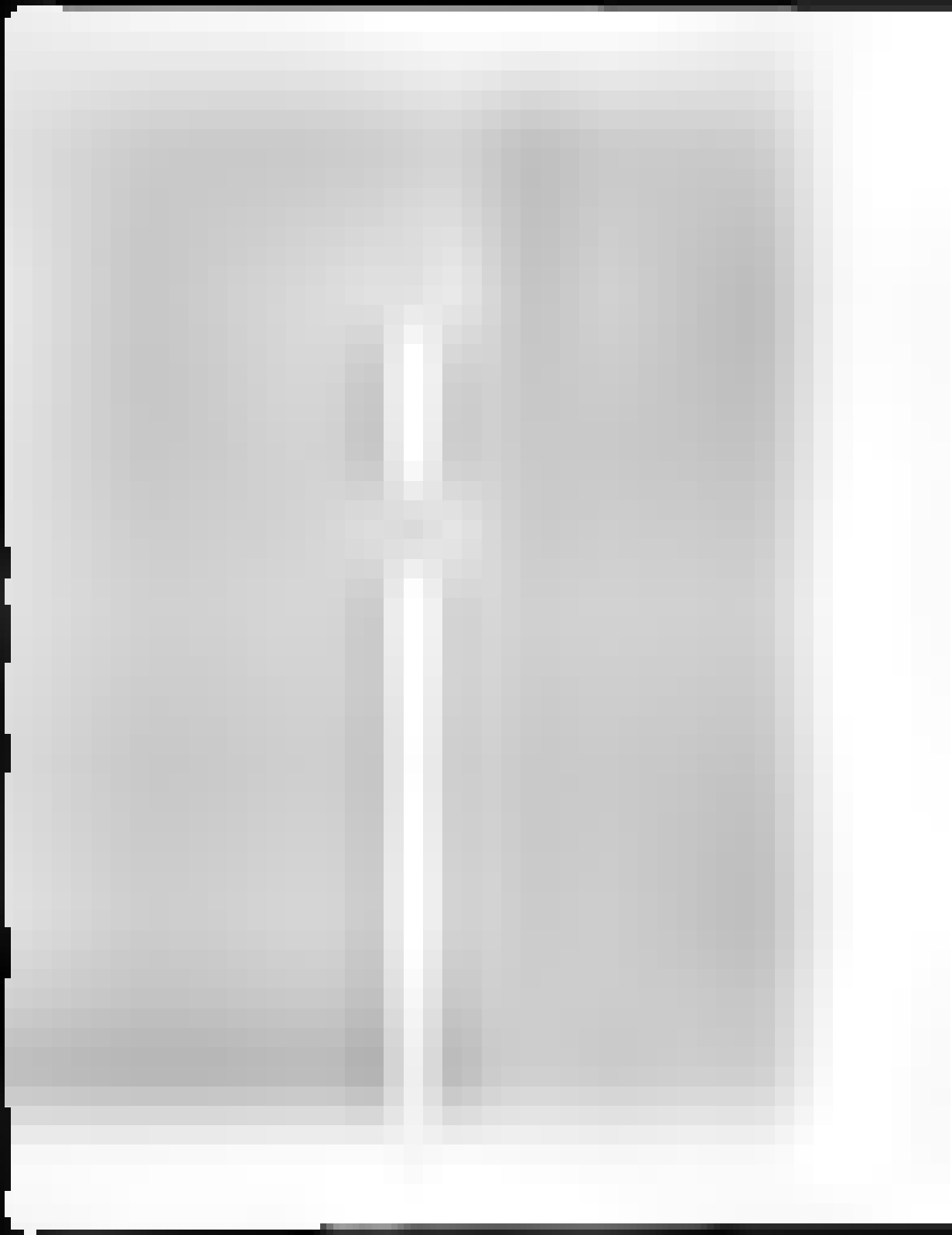


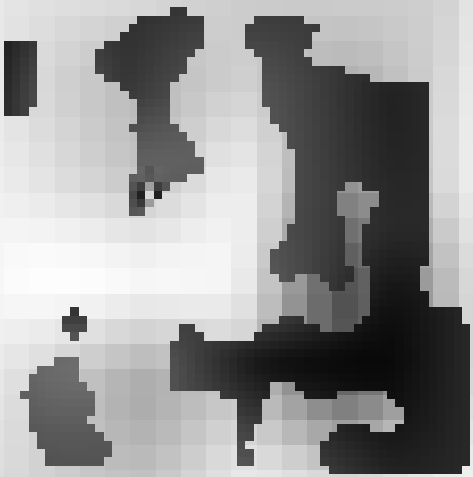


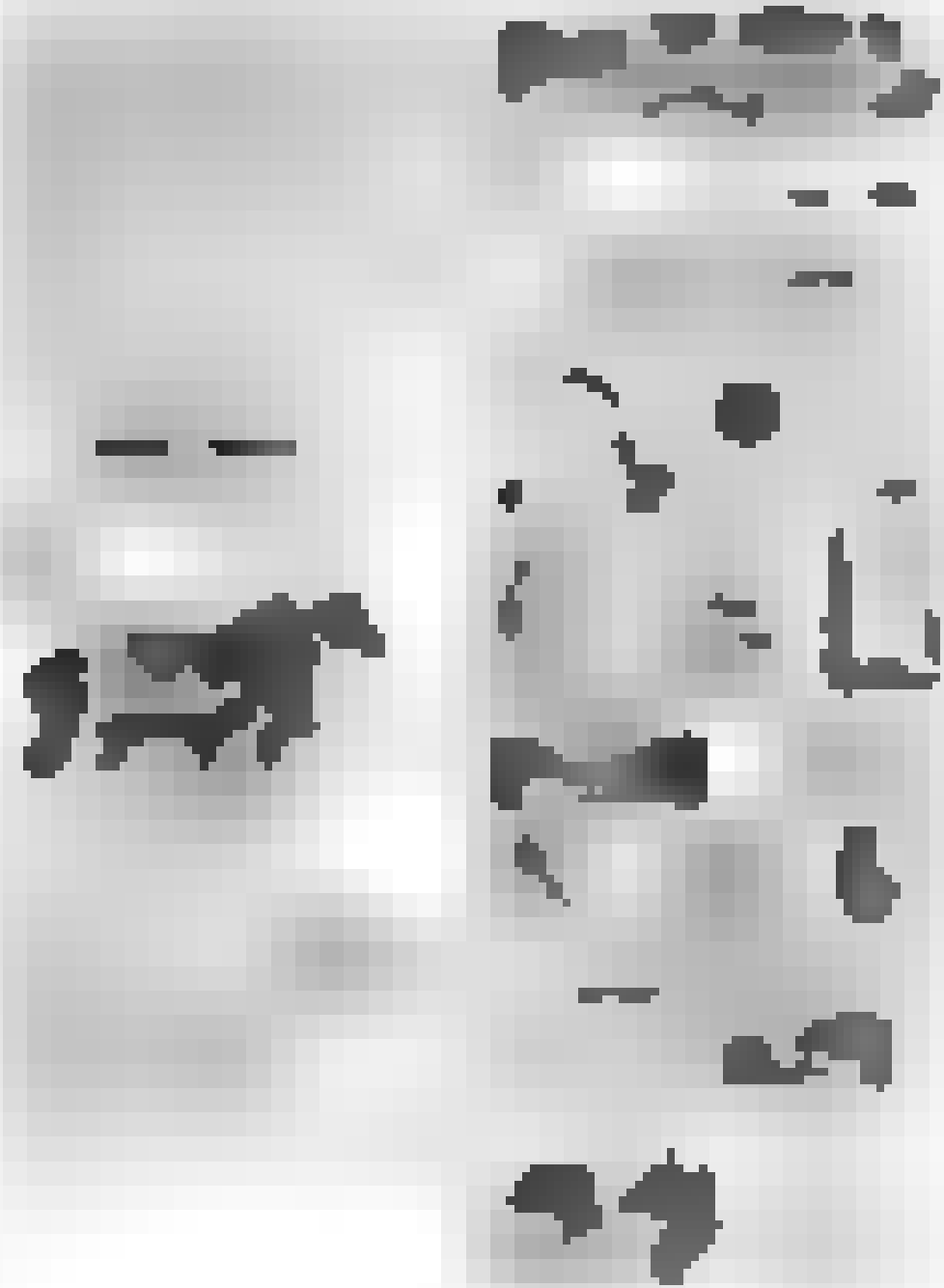


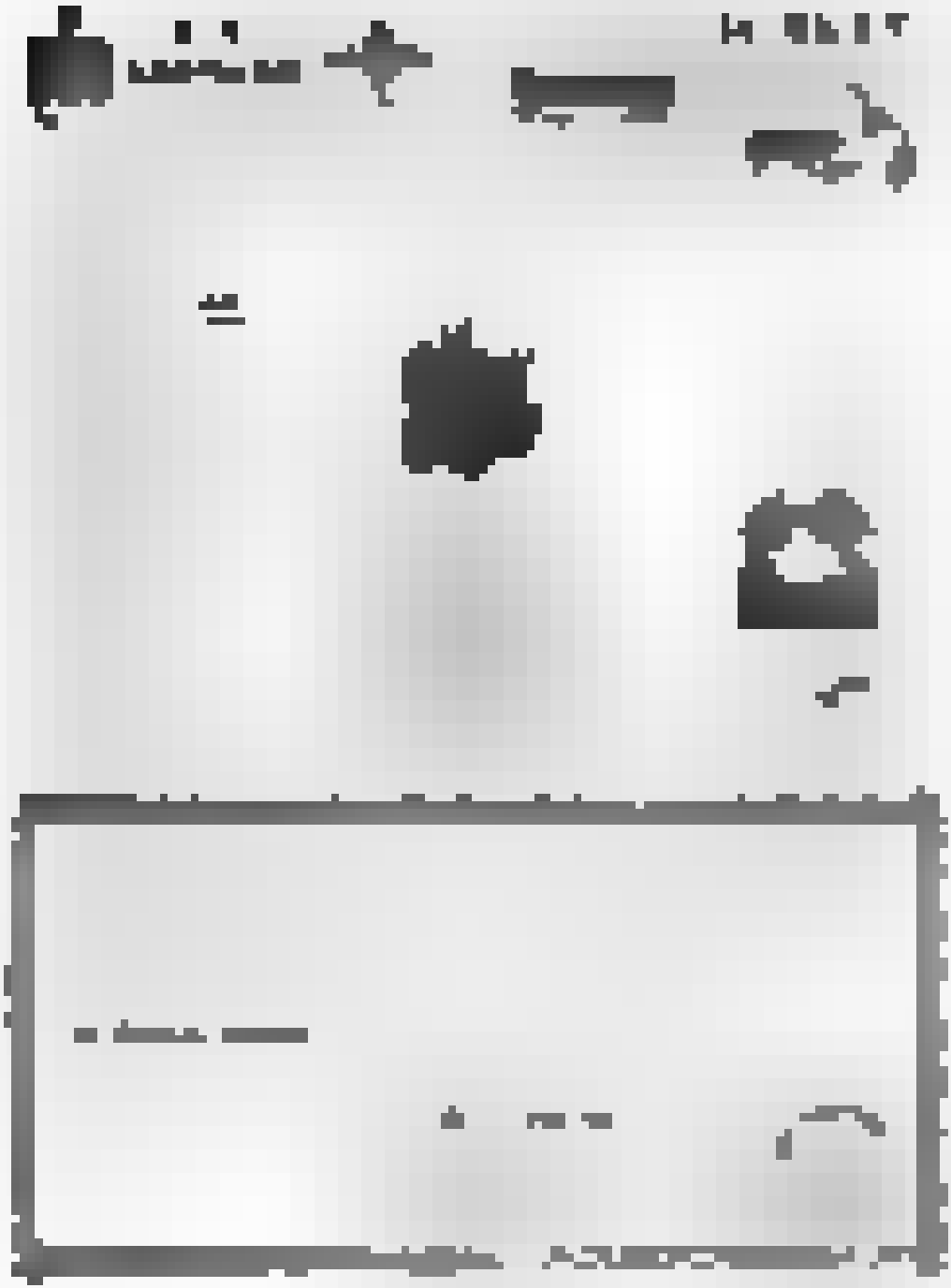


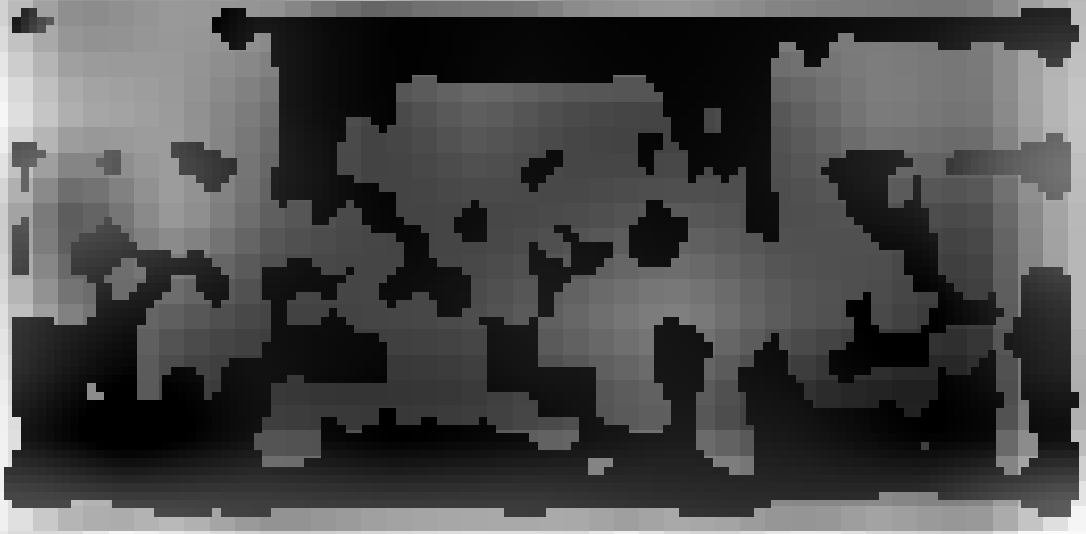


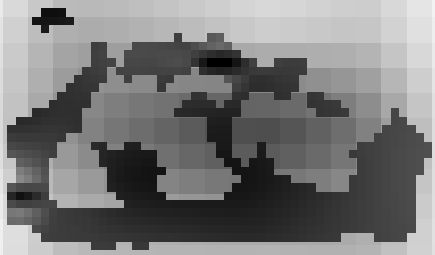


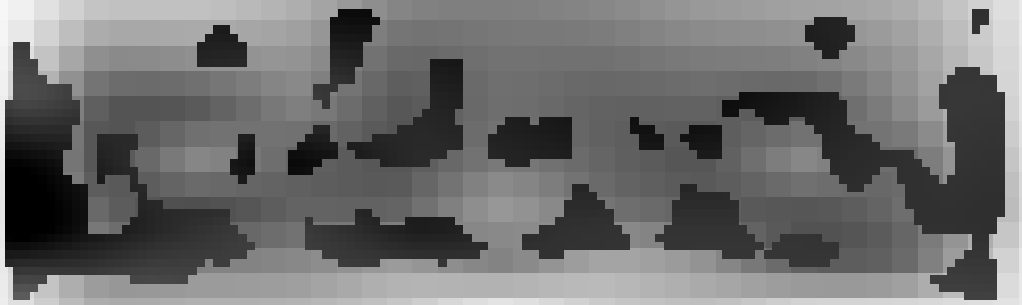


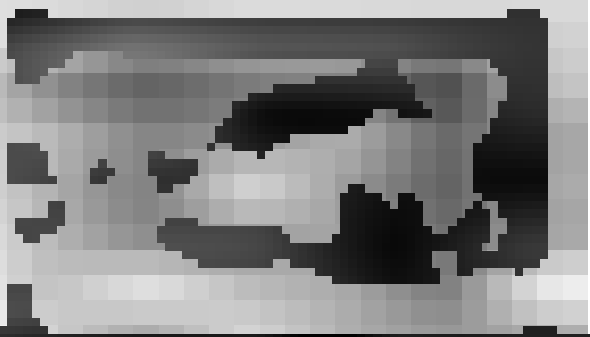


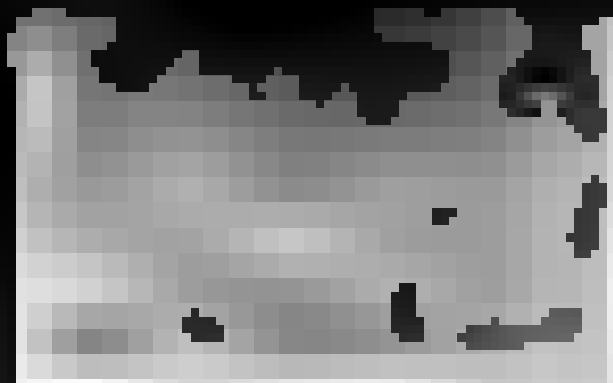


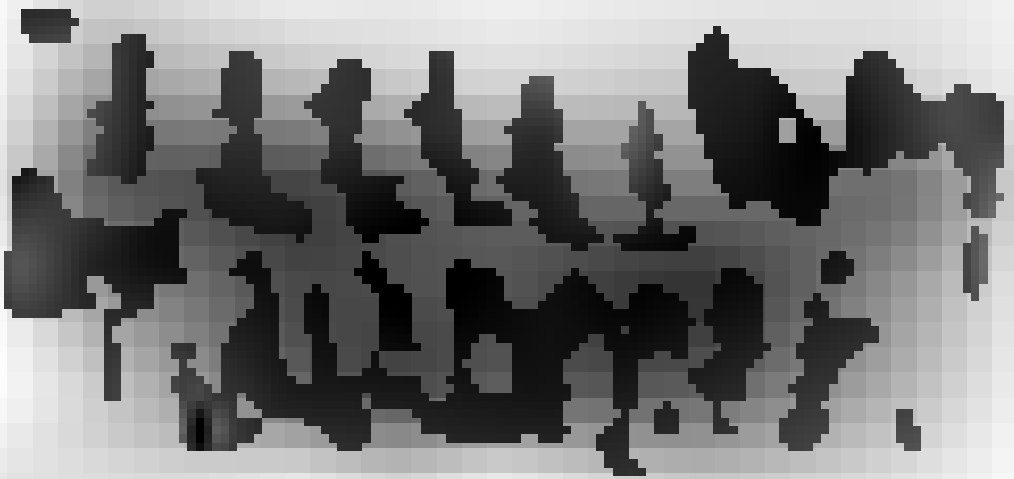


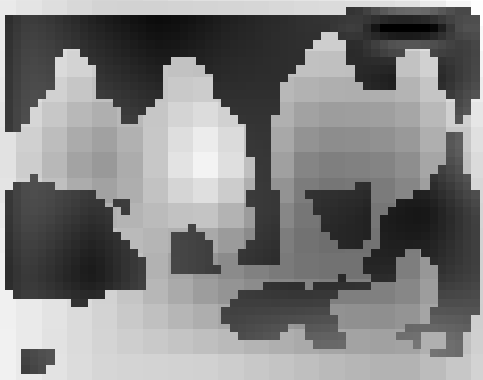


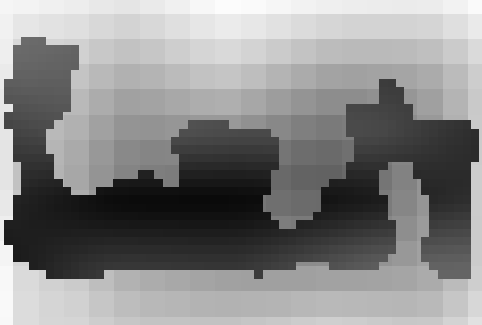


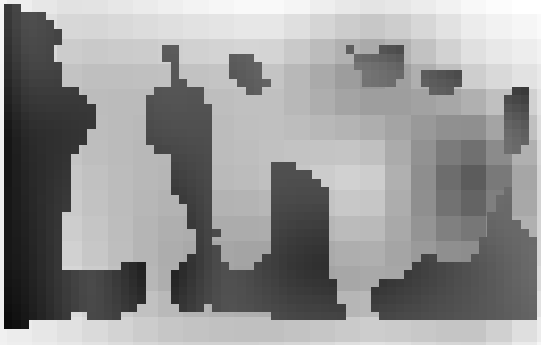


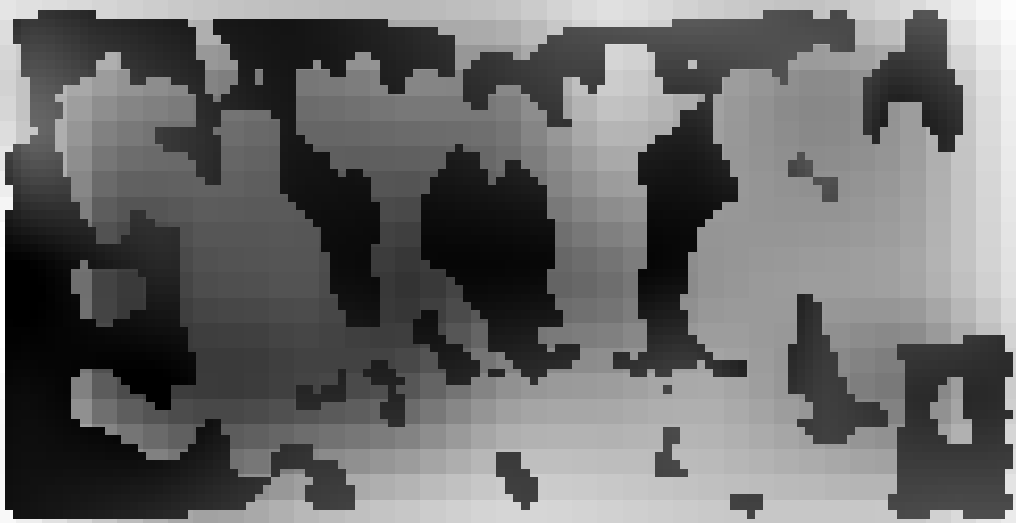


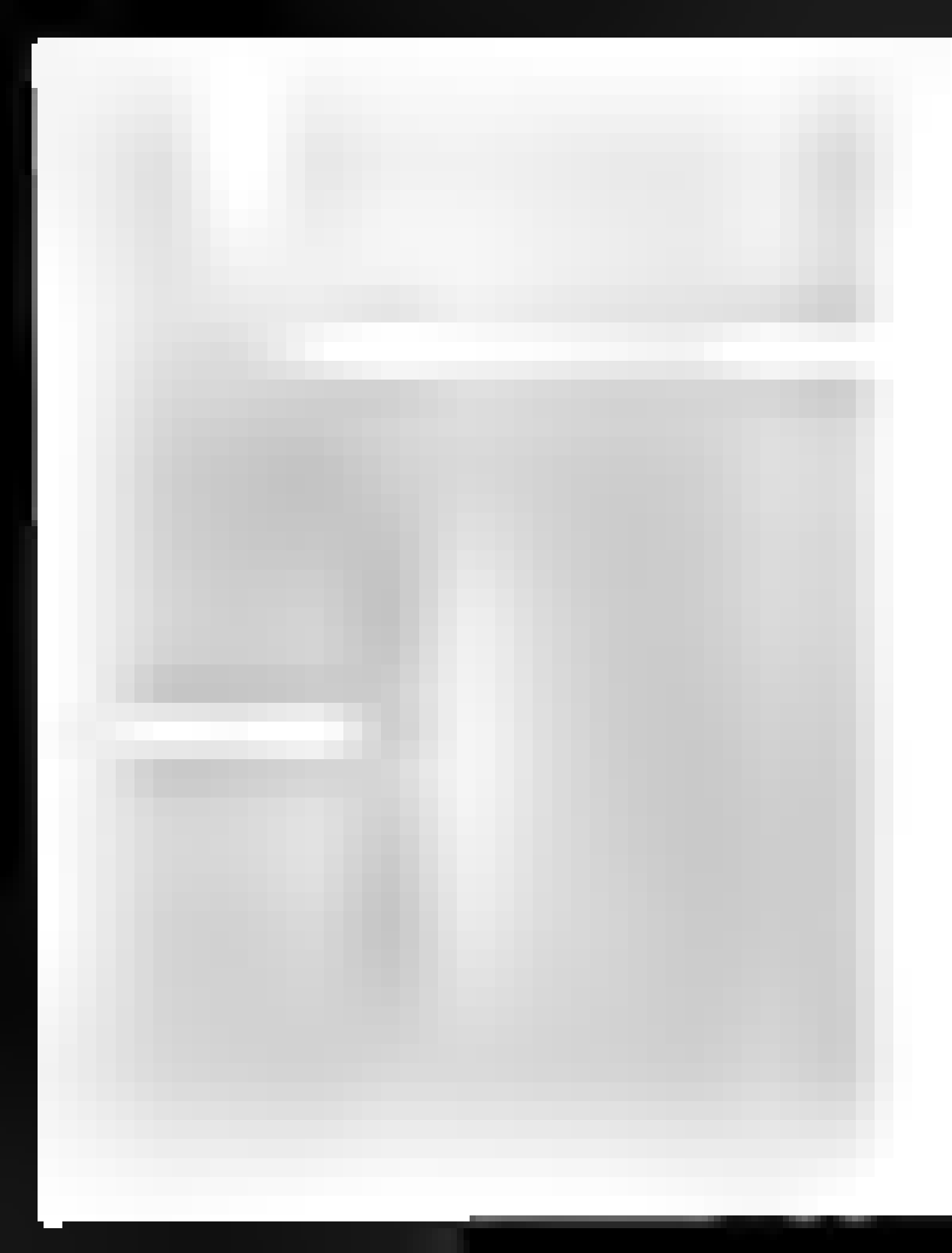


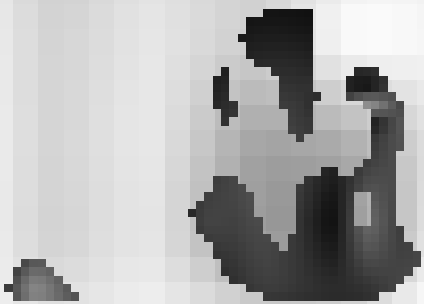




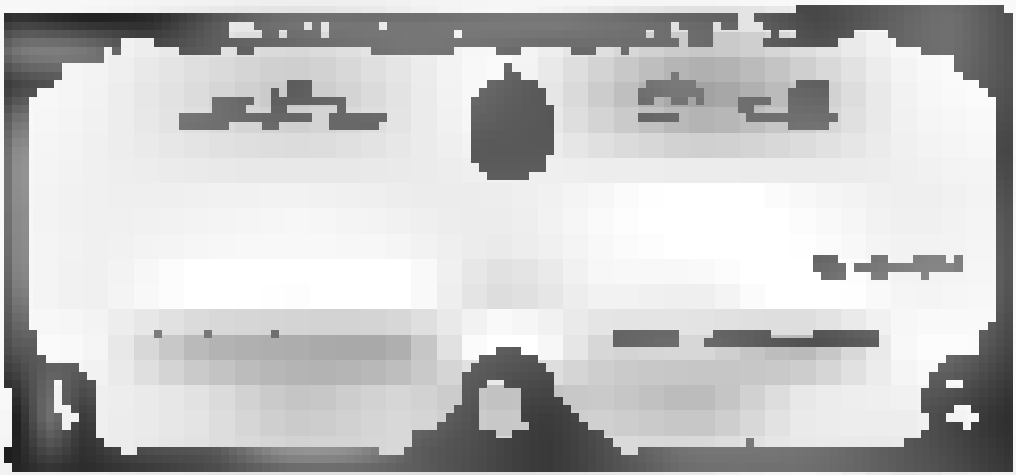


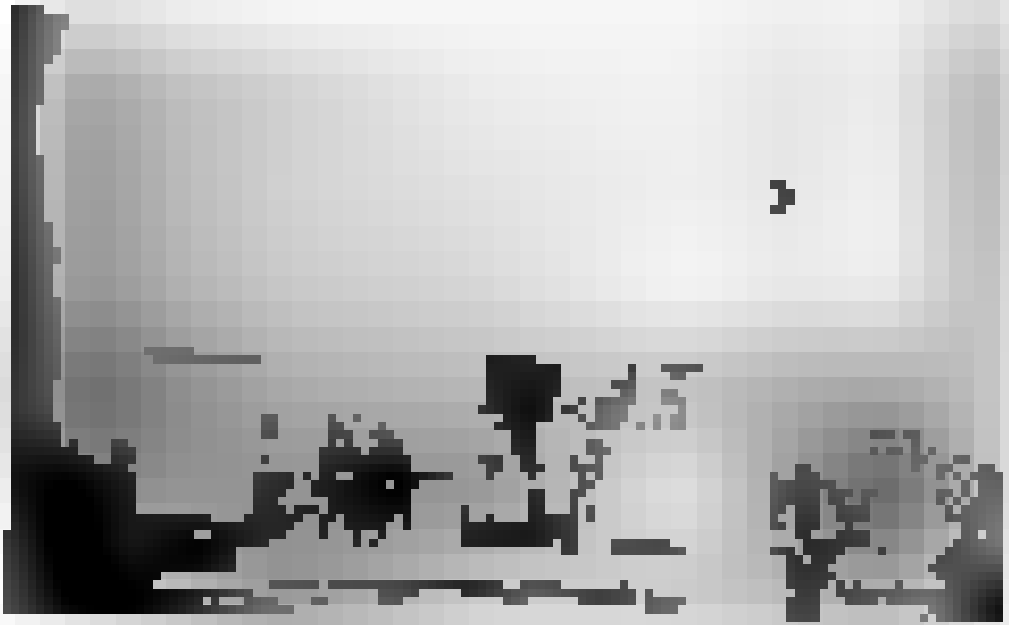


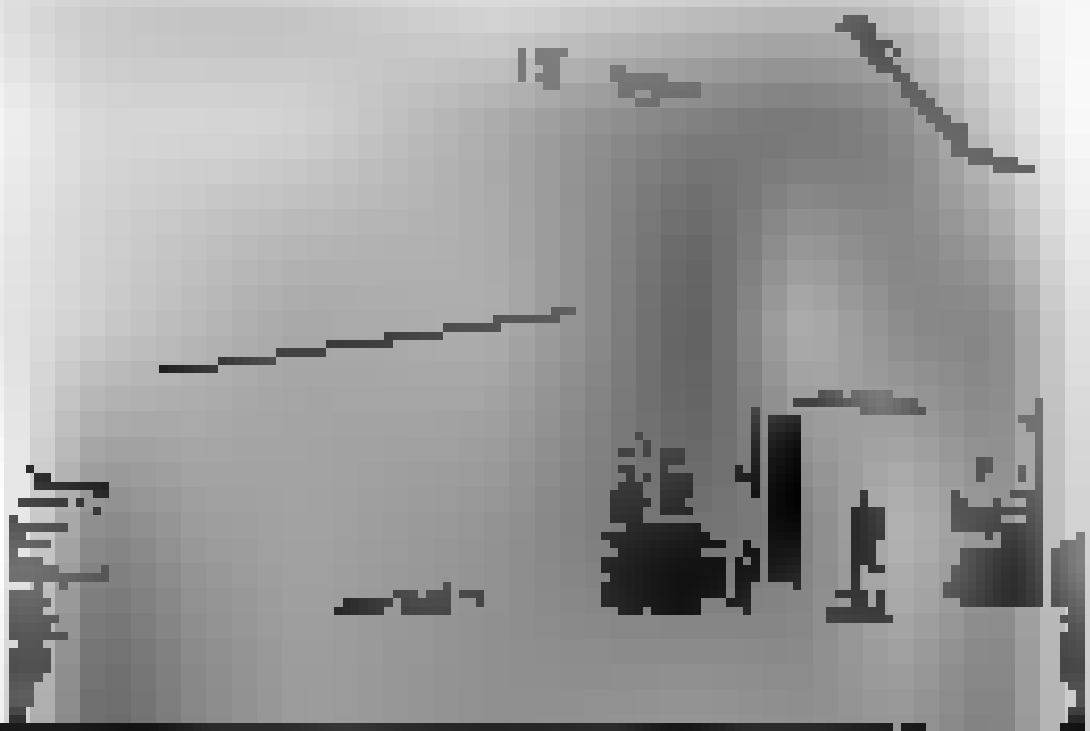


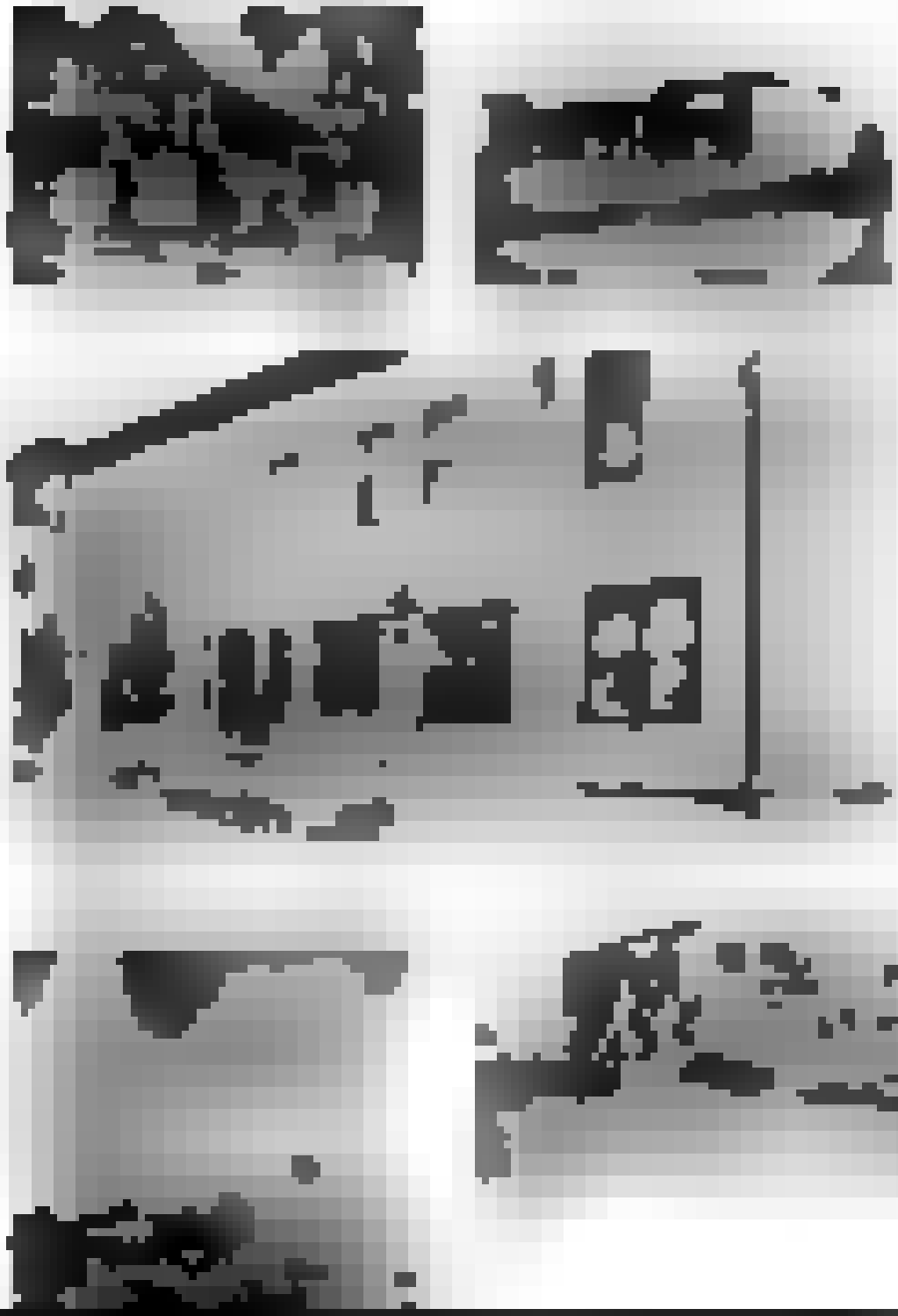


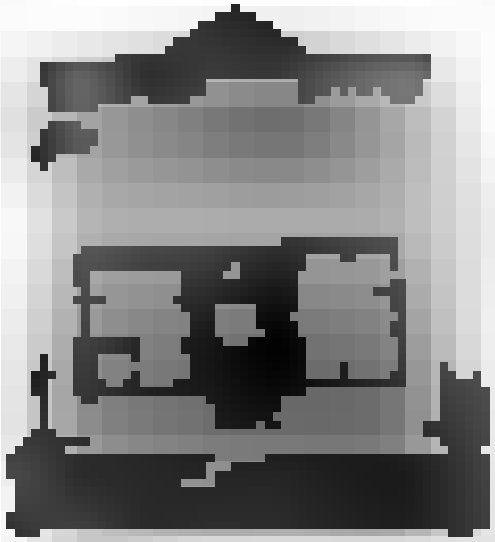
# INCOME TAX

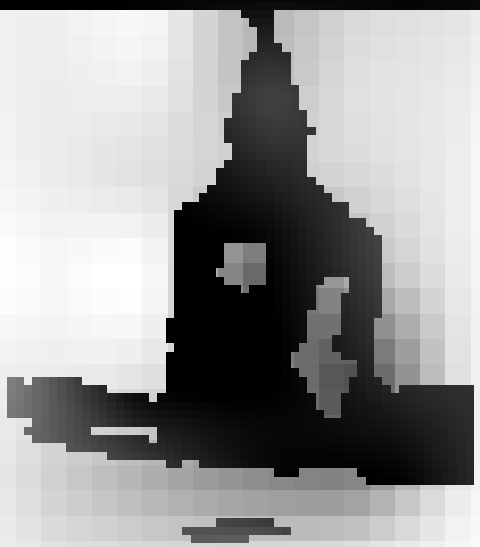


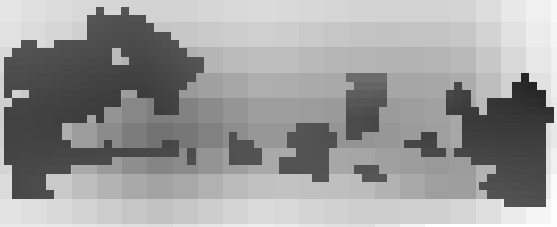


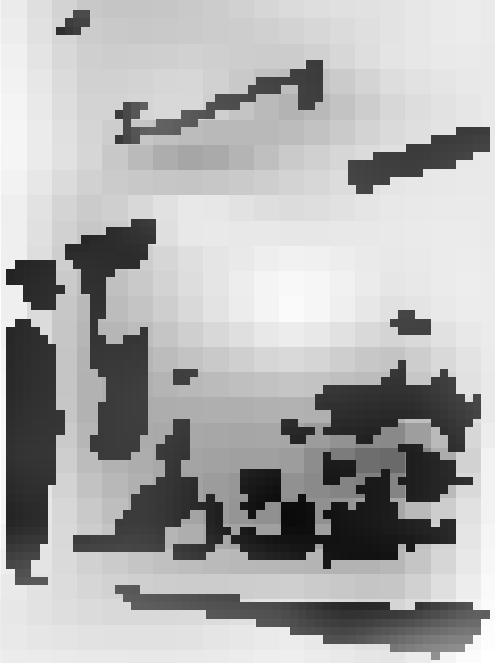


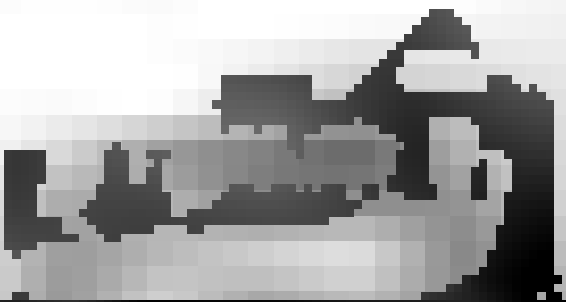


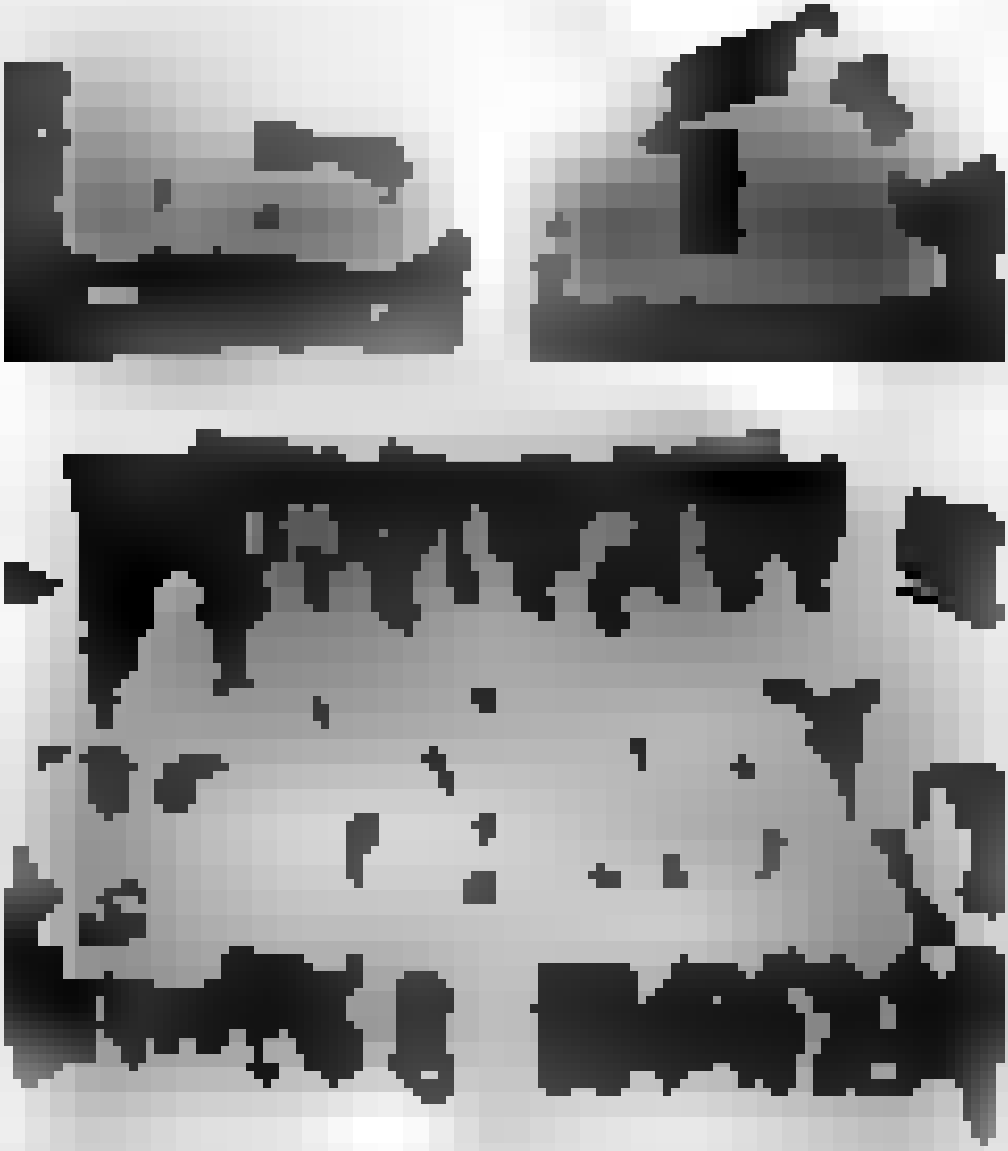


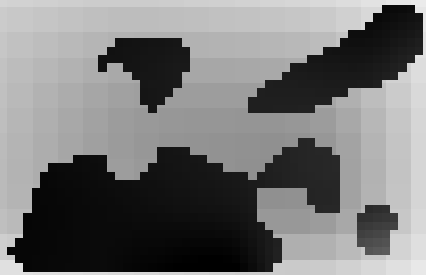


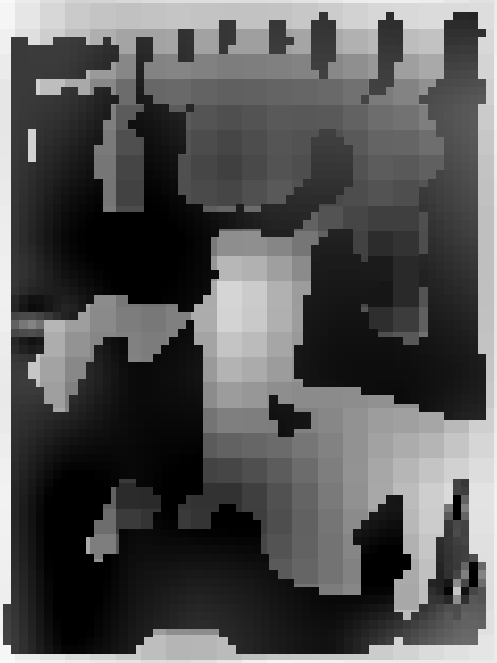


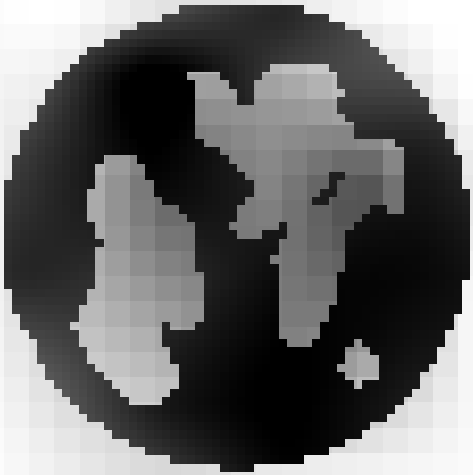


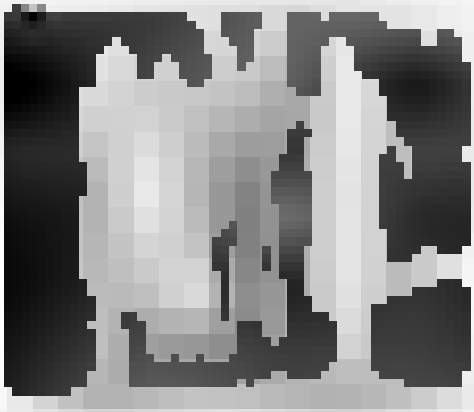


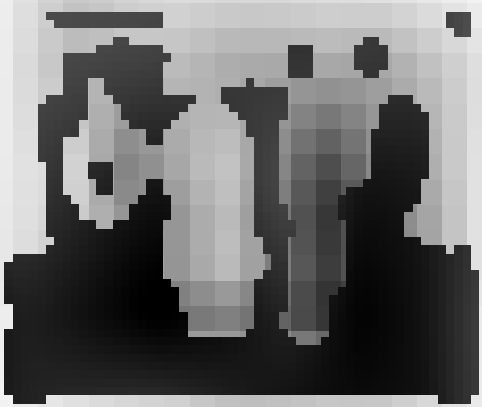


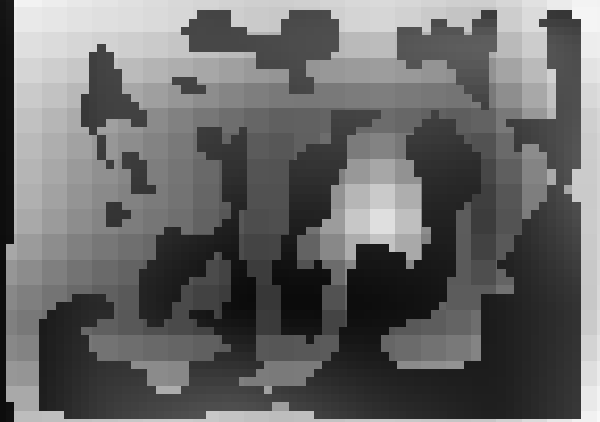


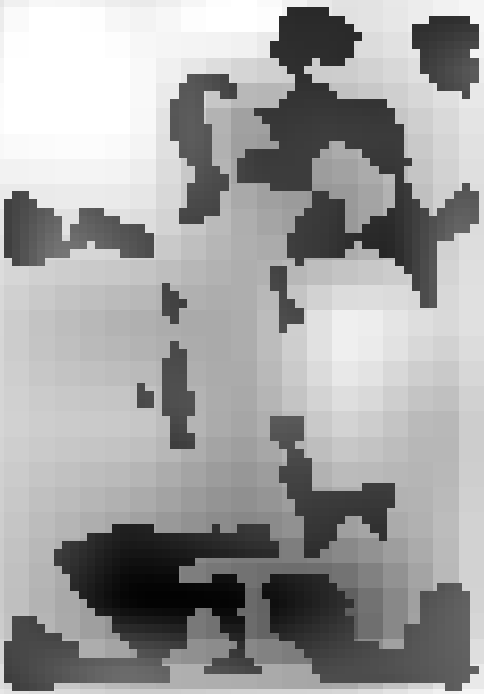


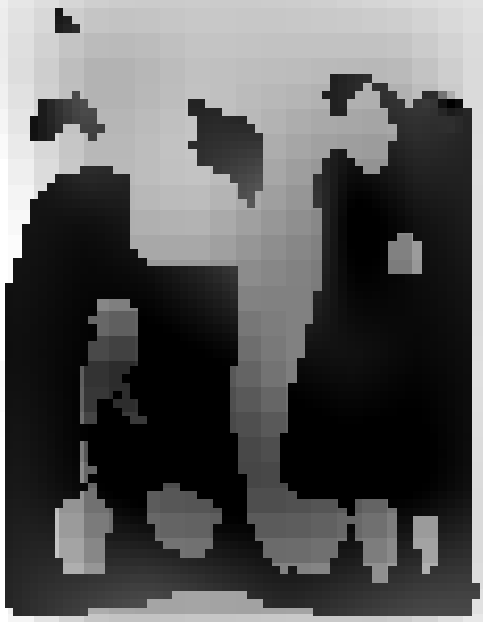


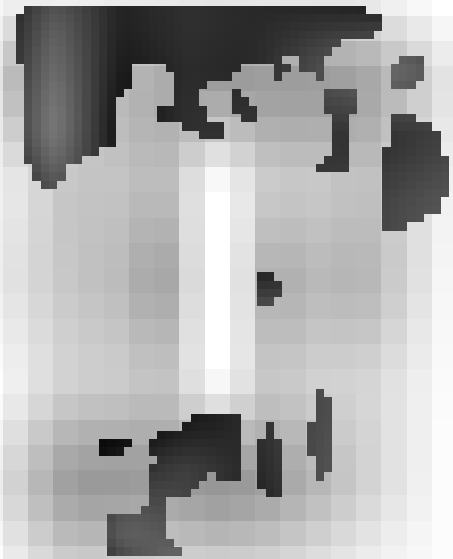


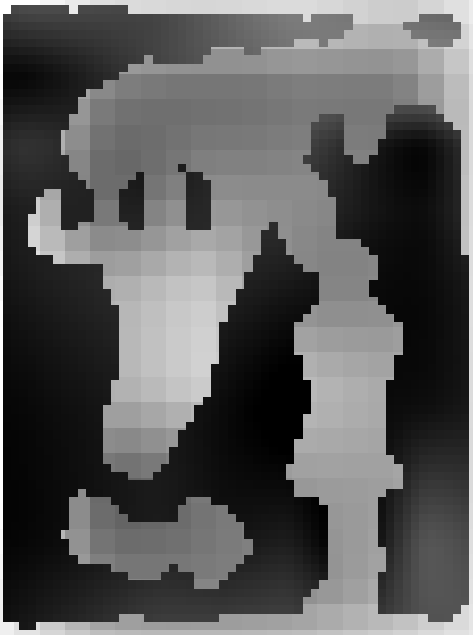


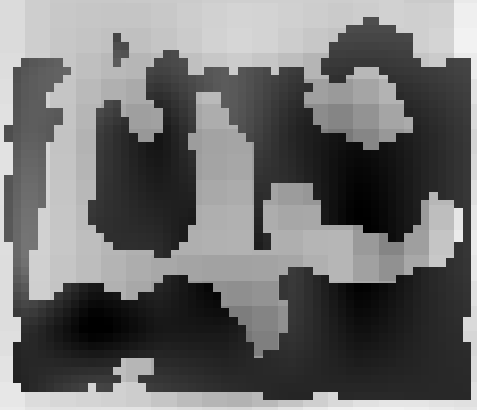


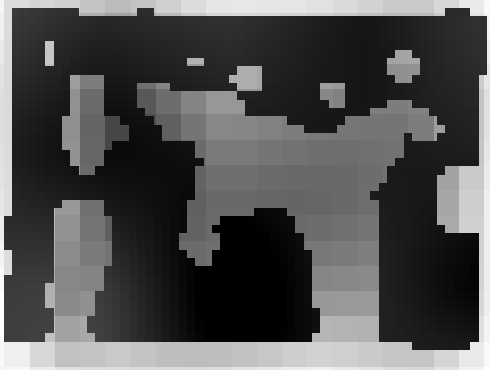


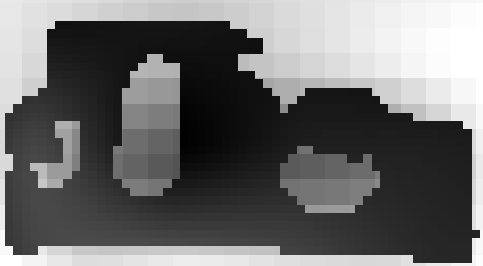


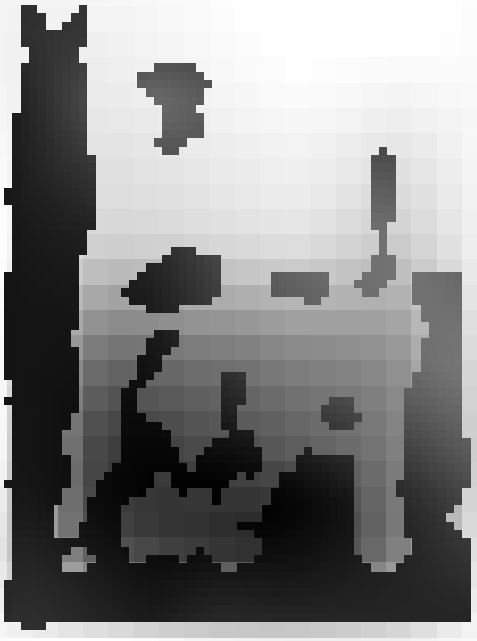


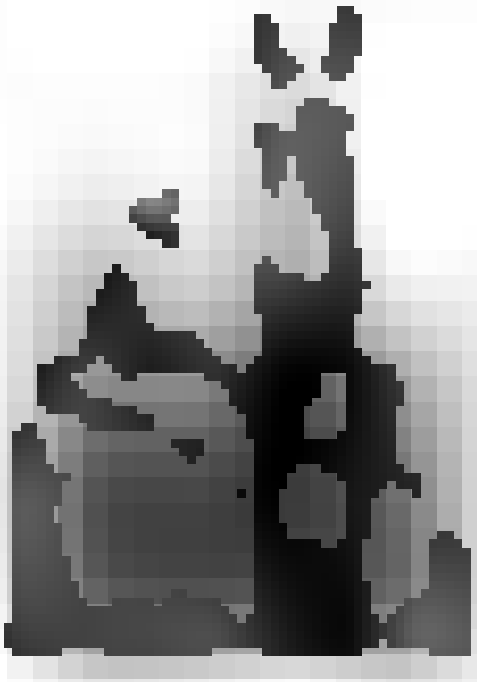


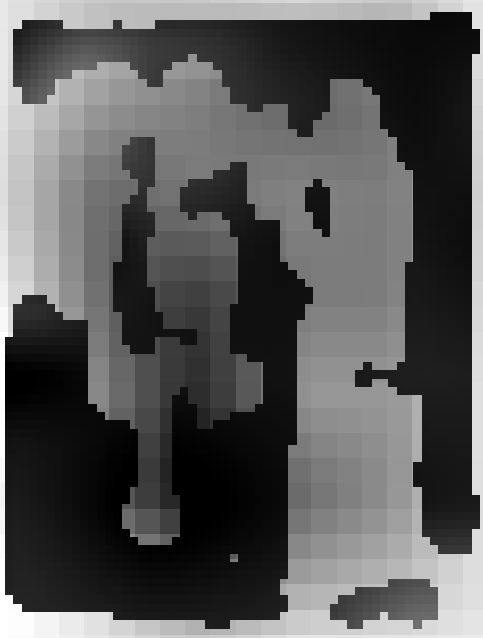


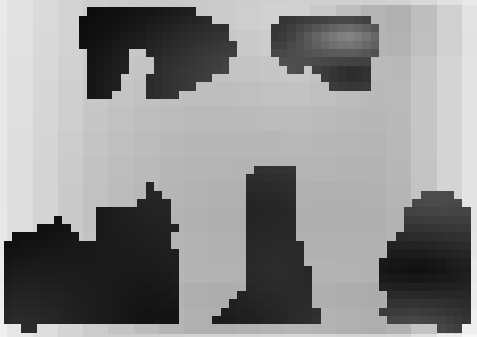


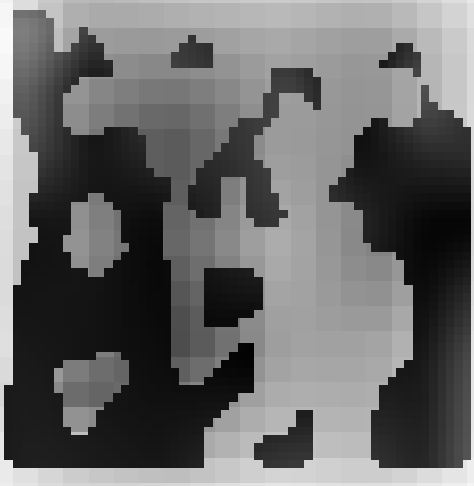


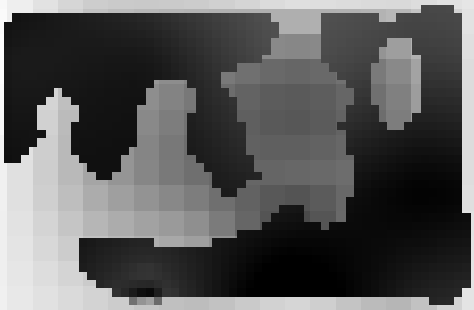


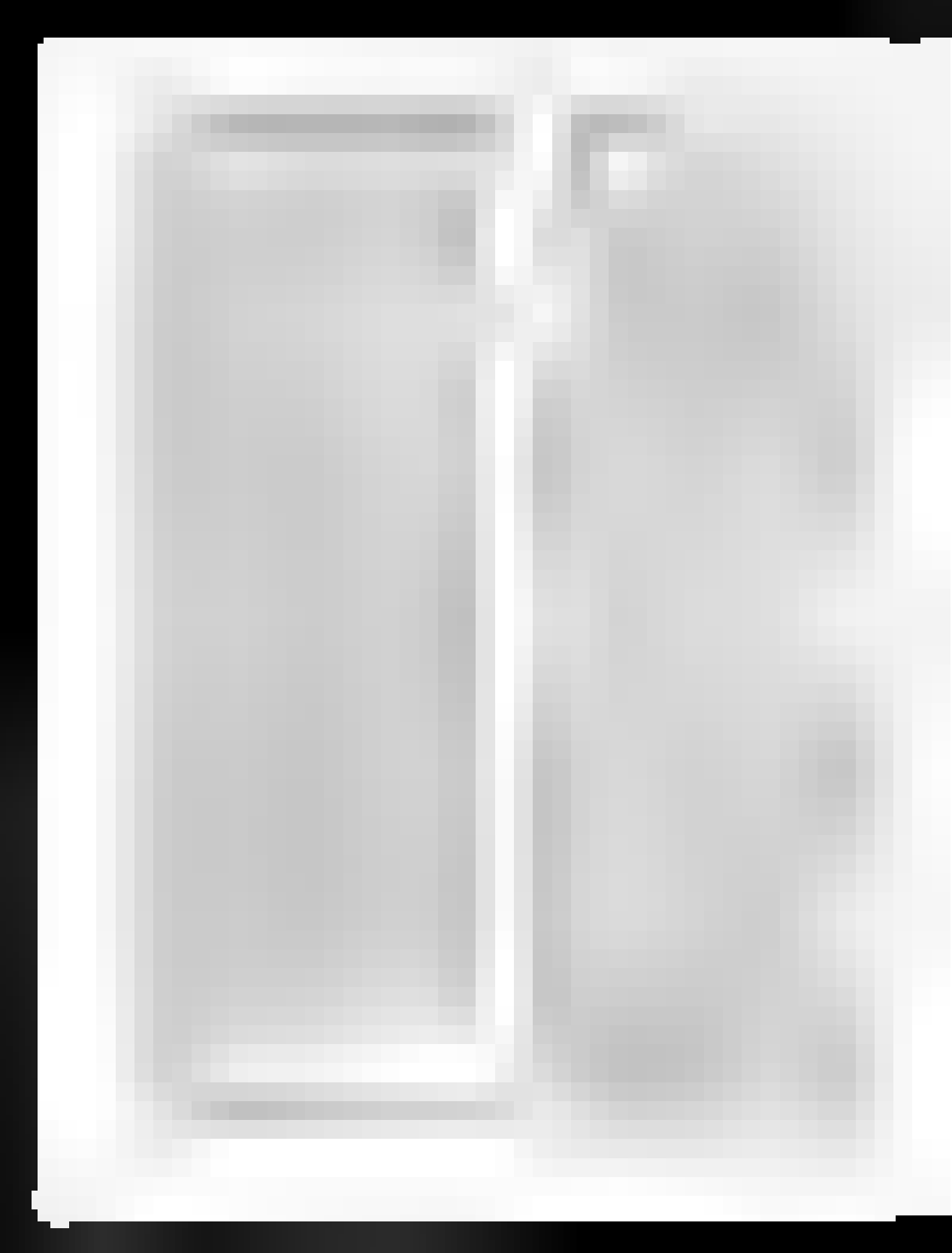


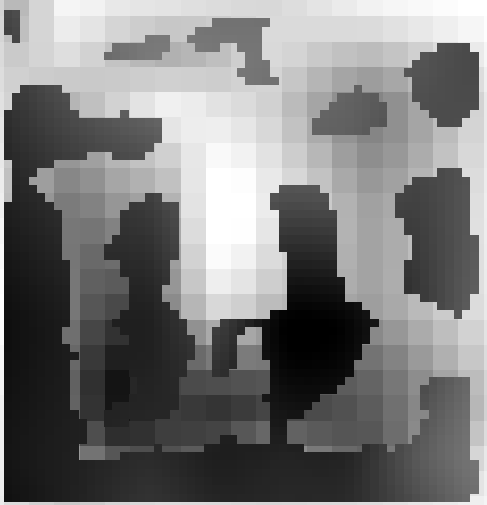


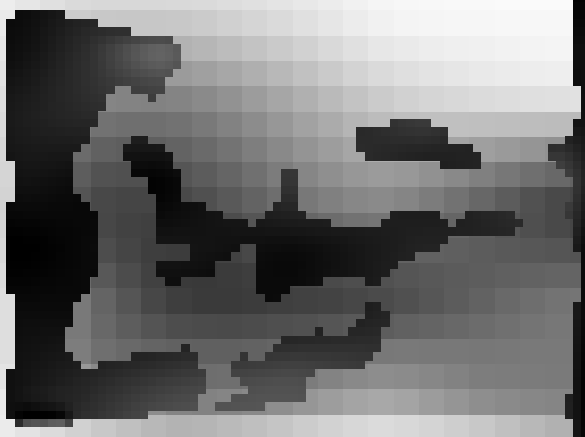


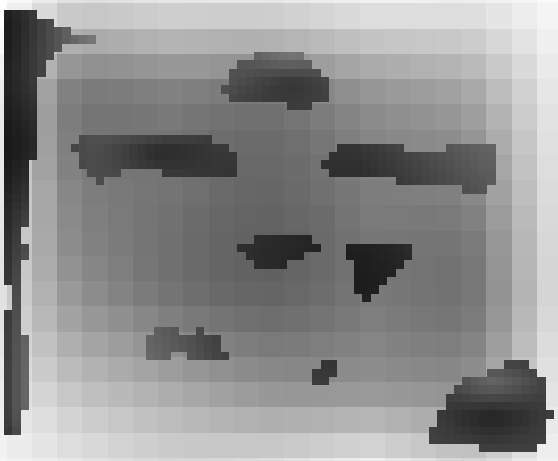


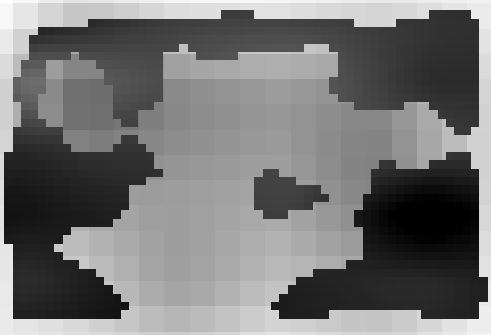


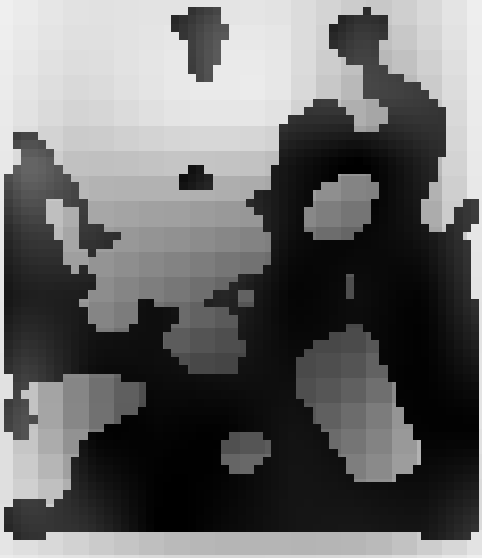


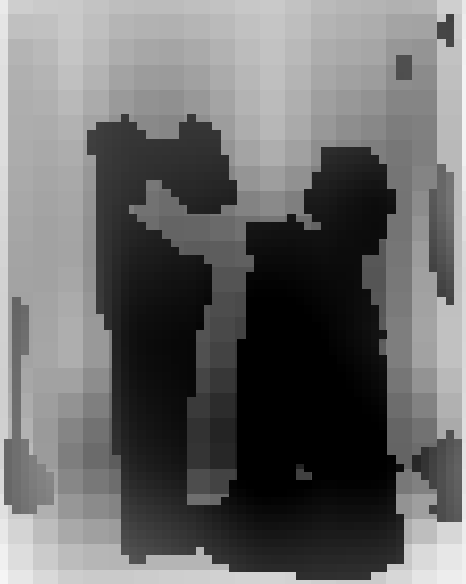


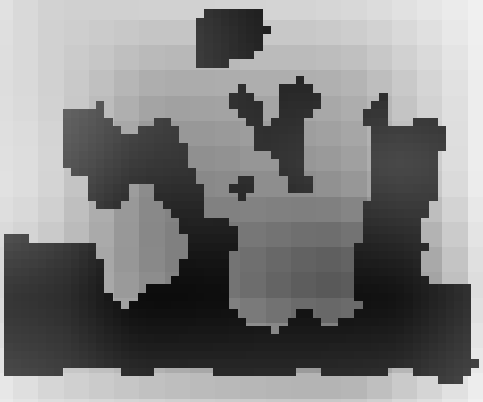


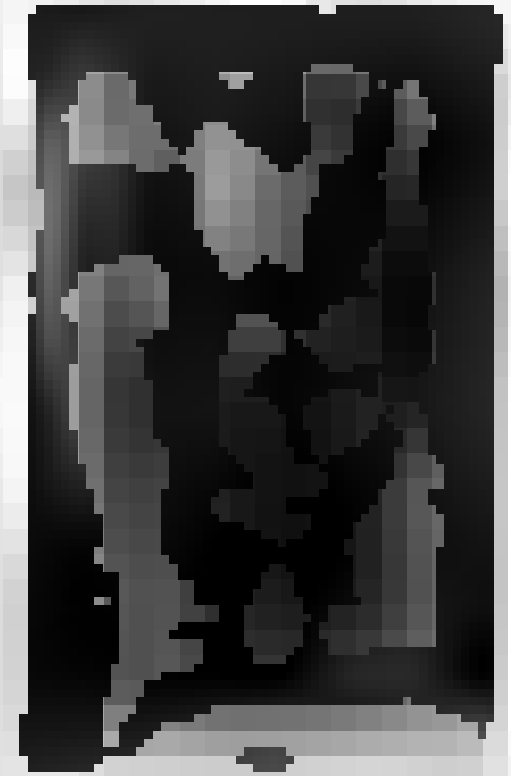


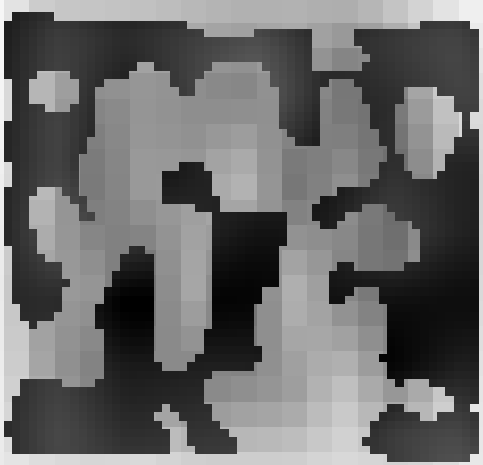


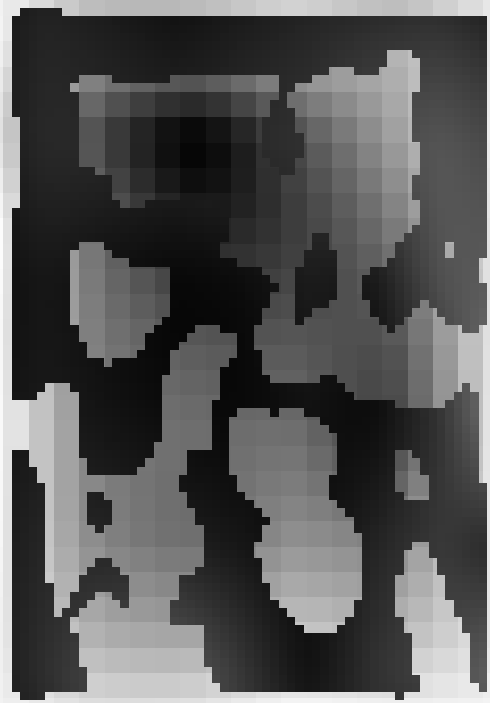


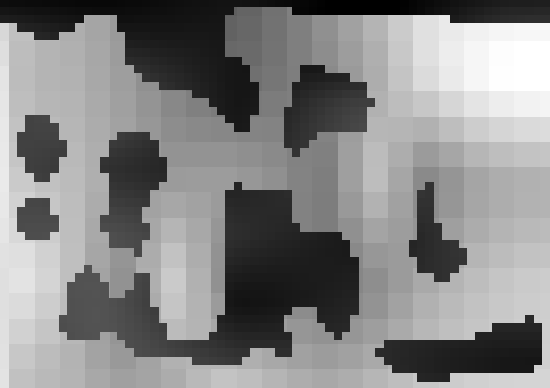


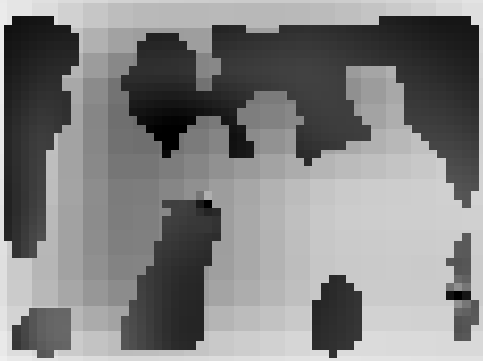


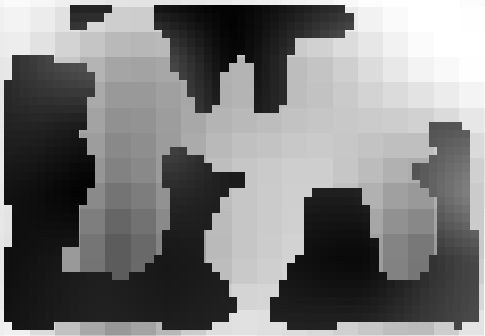


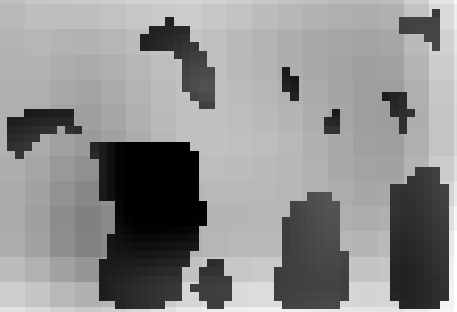


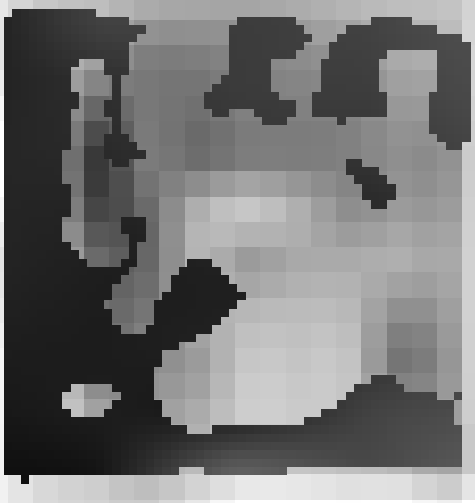


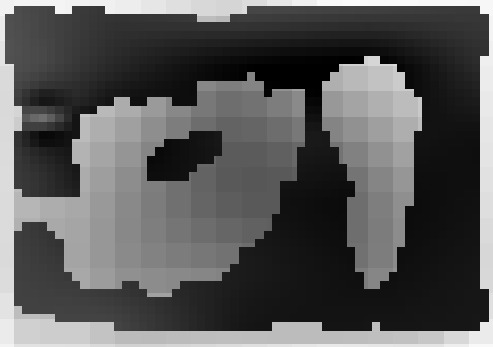


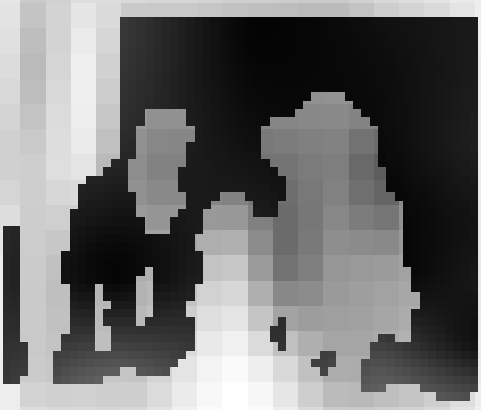


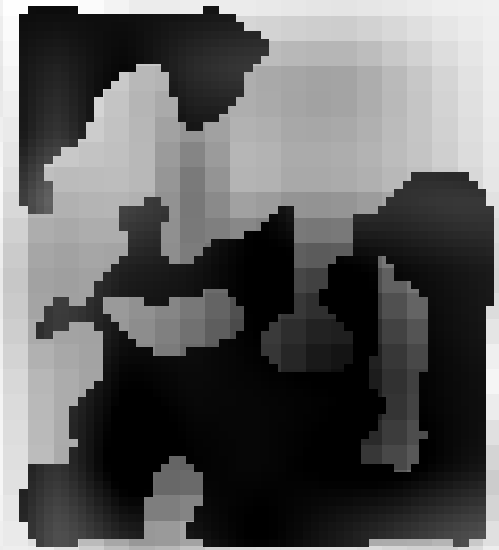


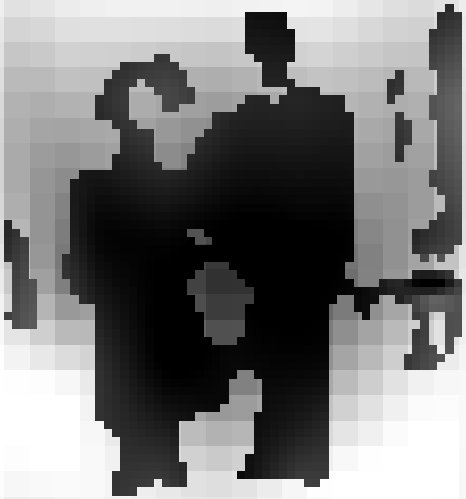


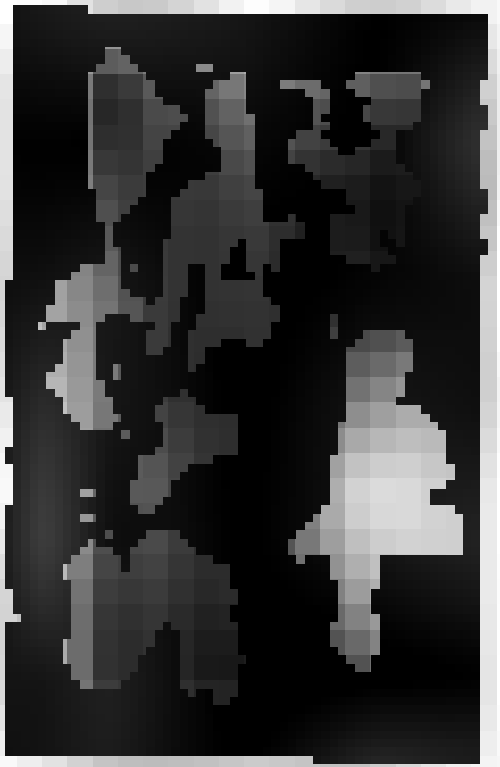


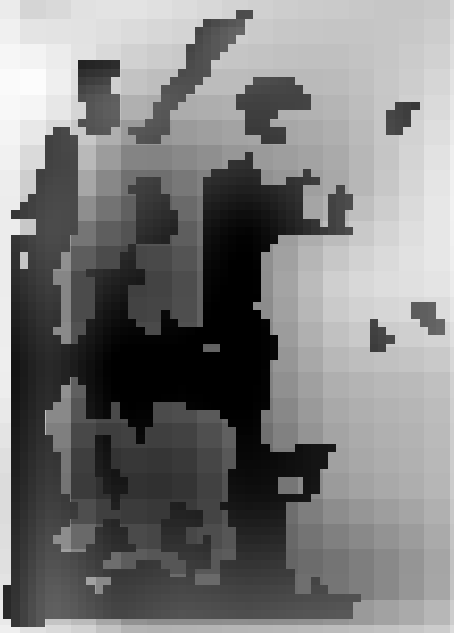


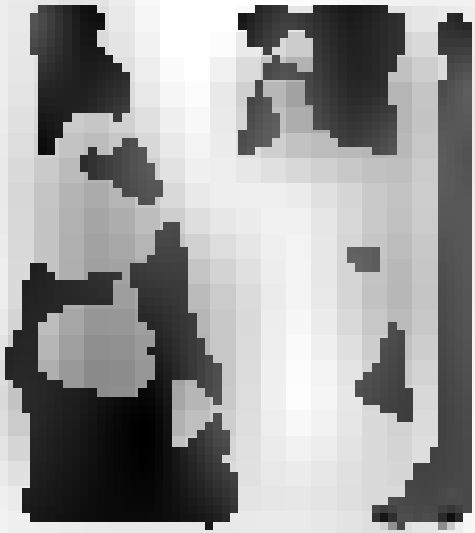


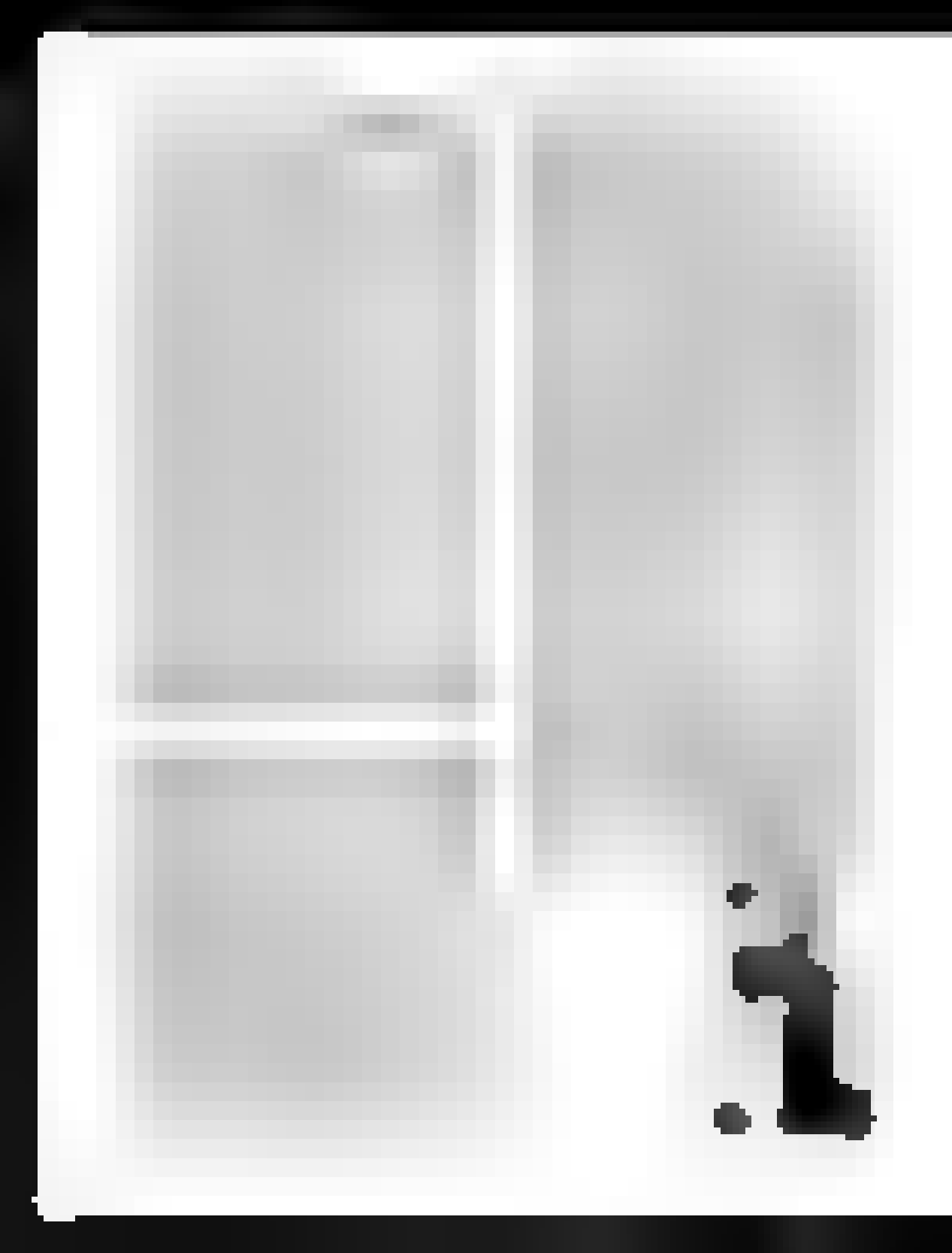


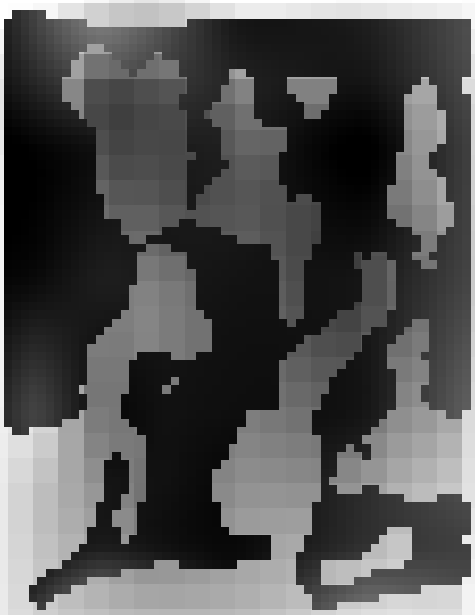


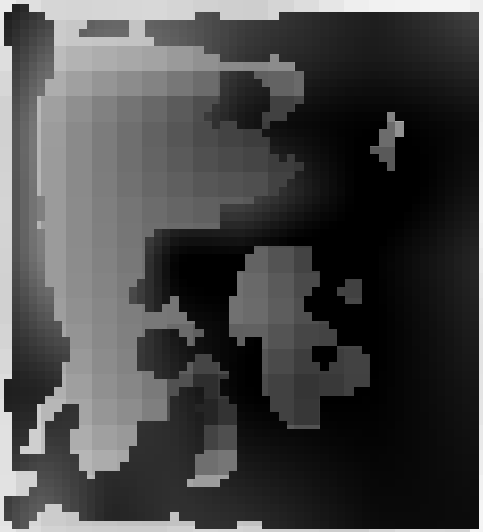


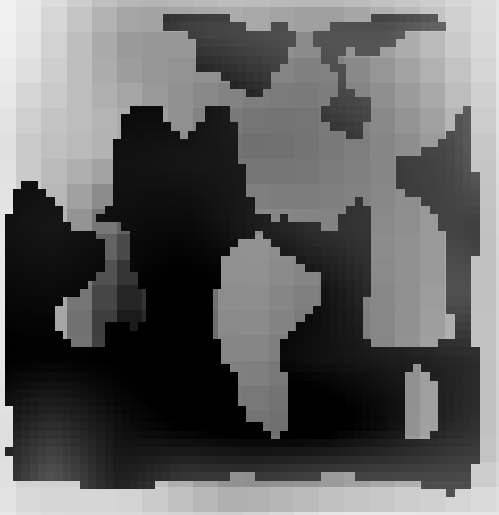


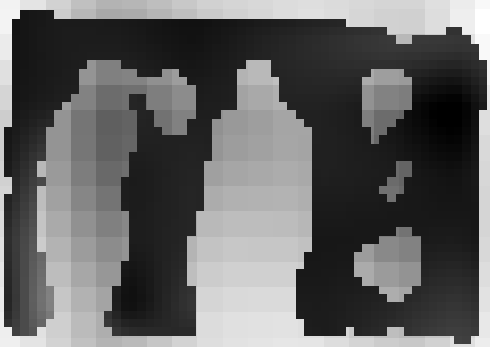


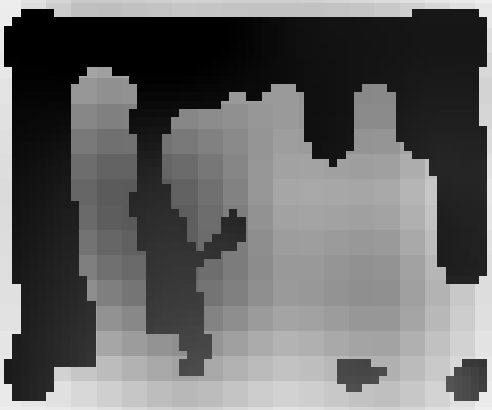


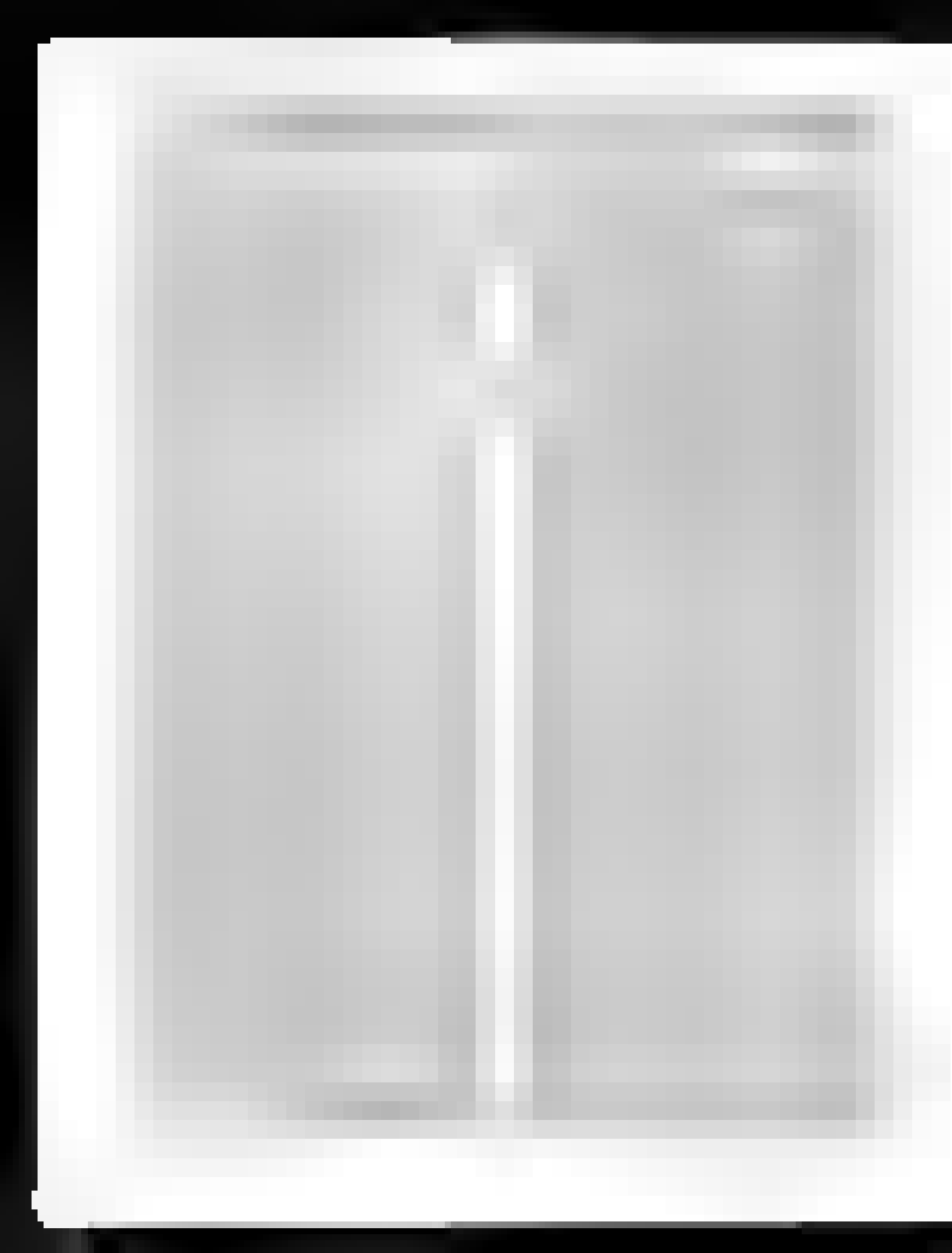


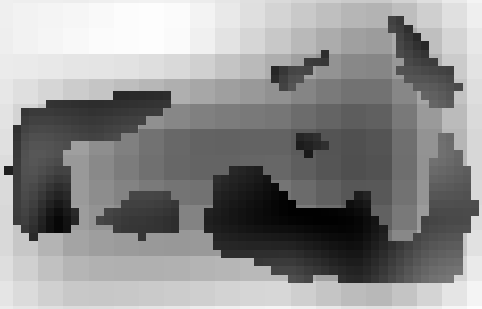


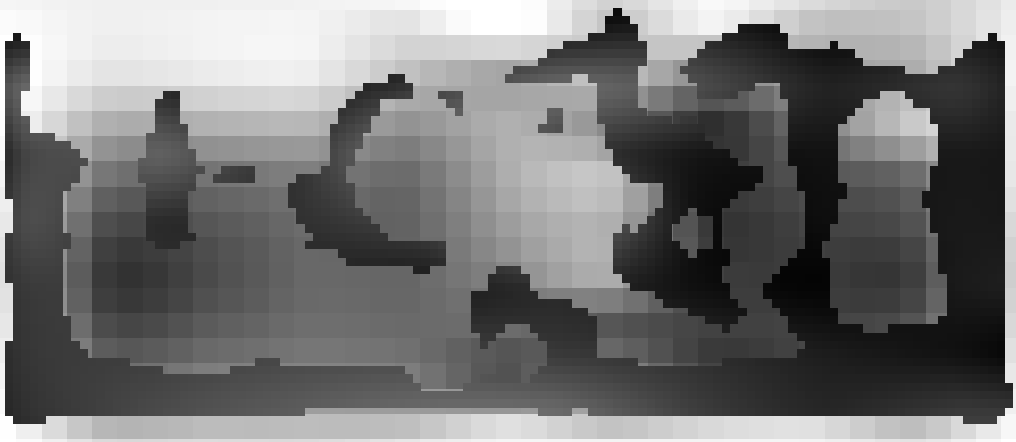


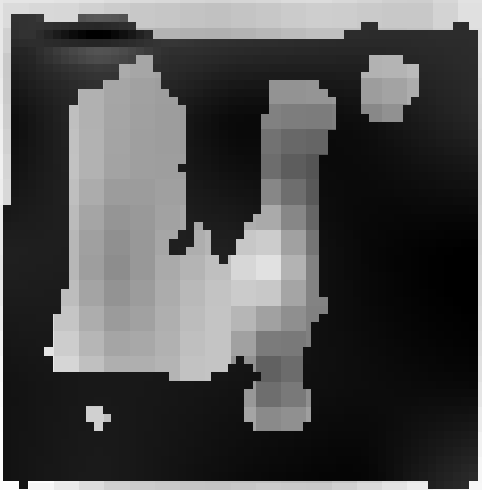


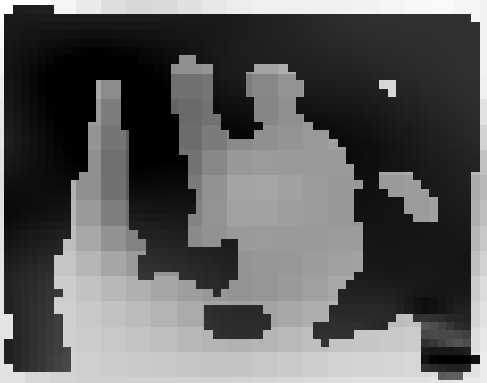


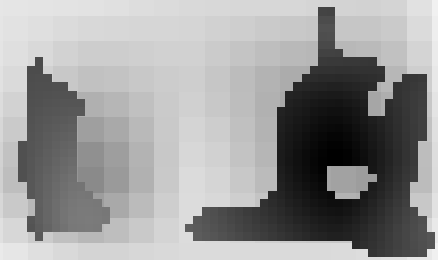


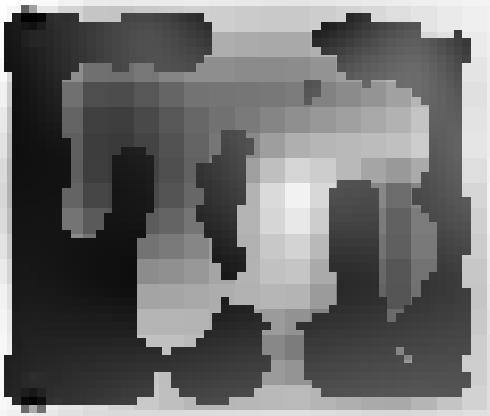


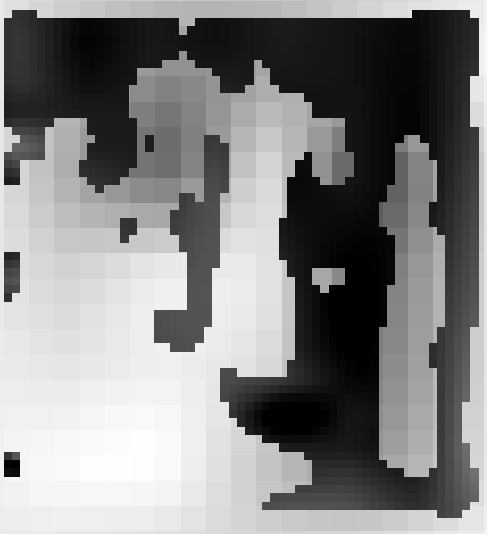


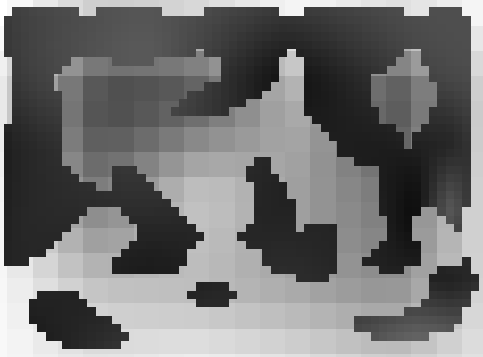


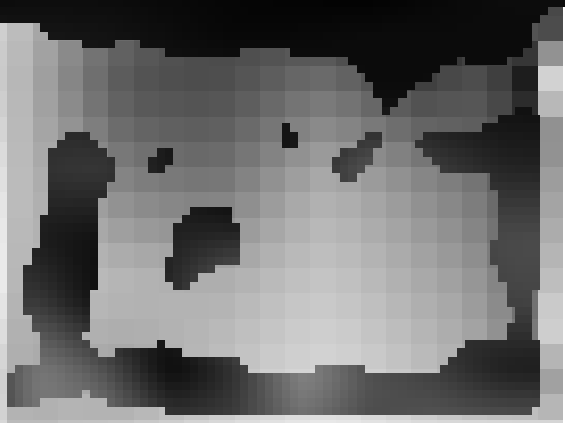


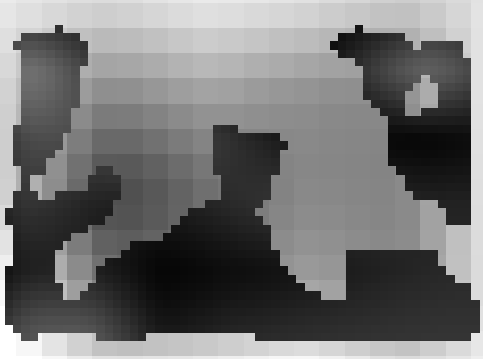


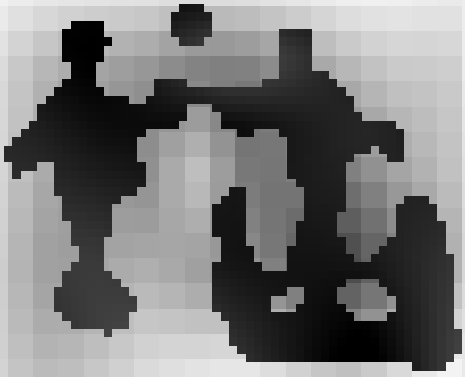


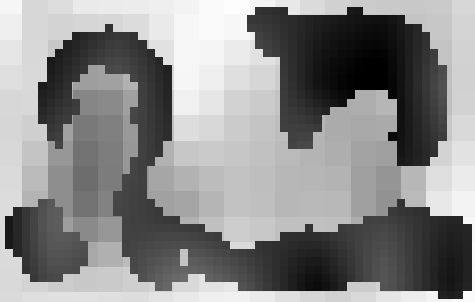


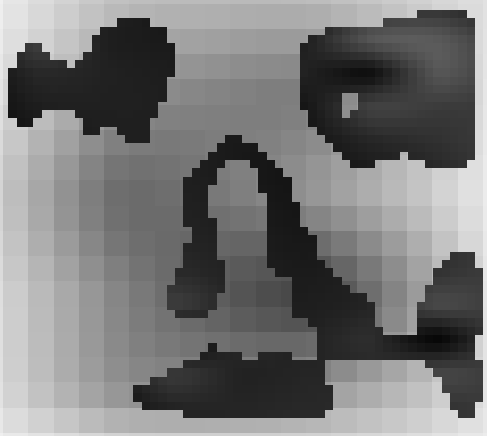


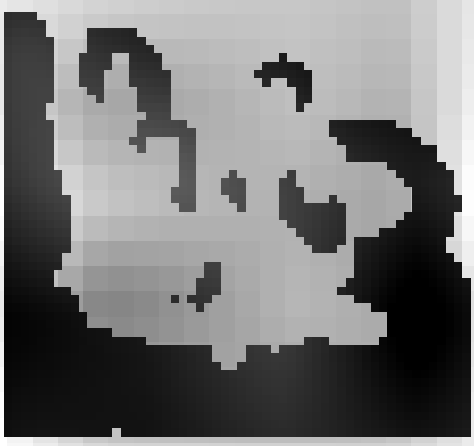


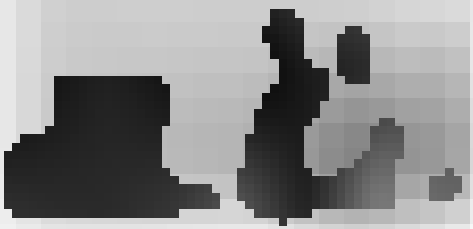


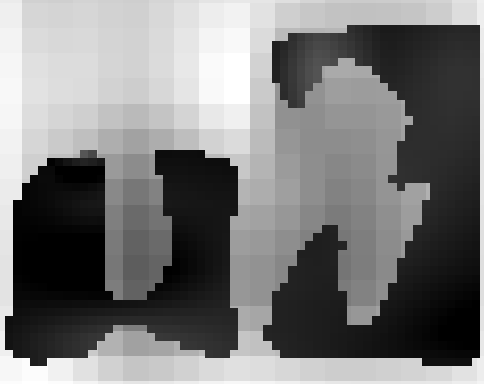


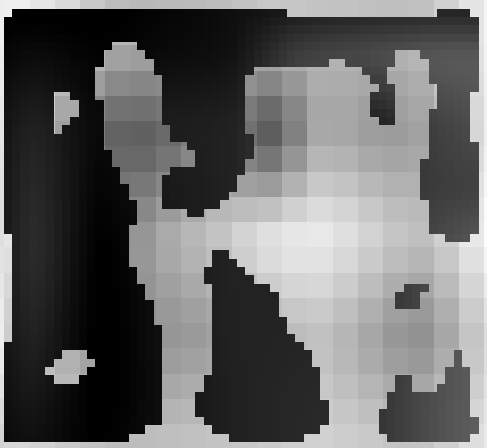


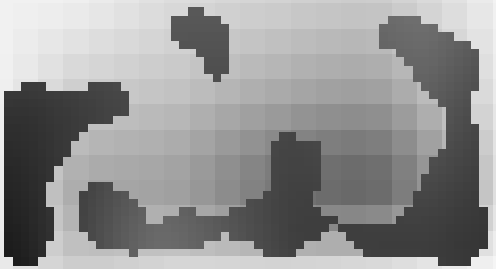


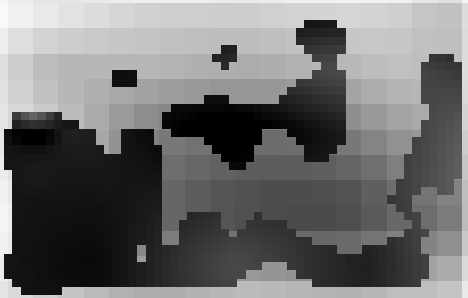


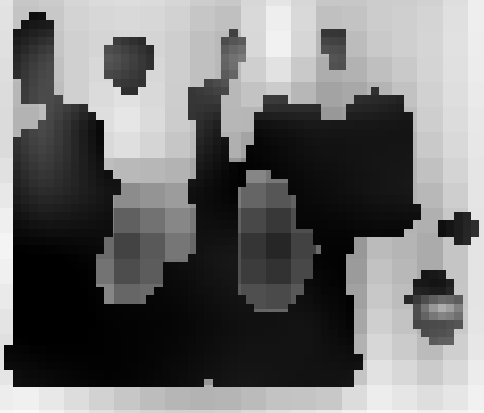


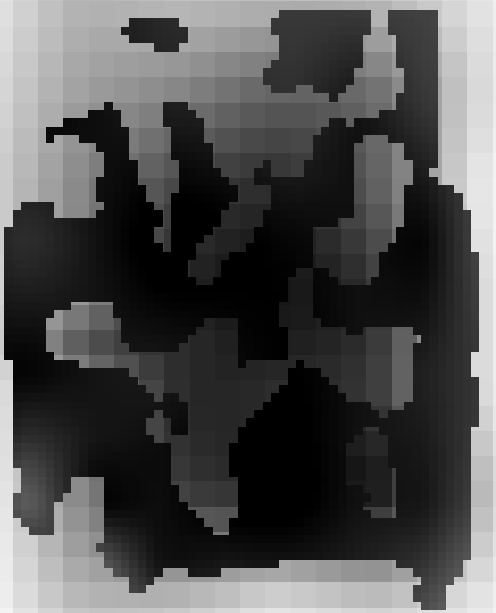


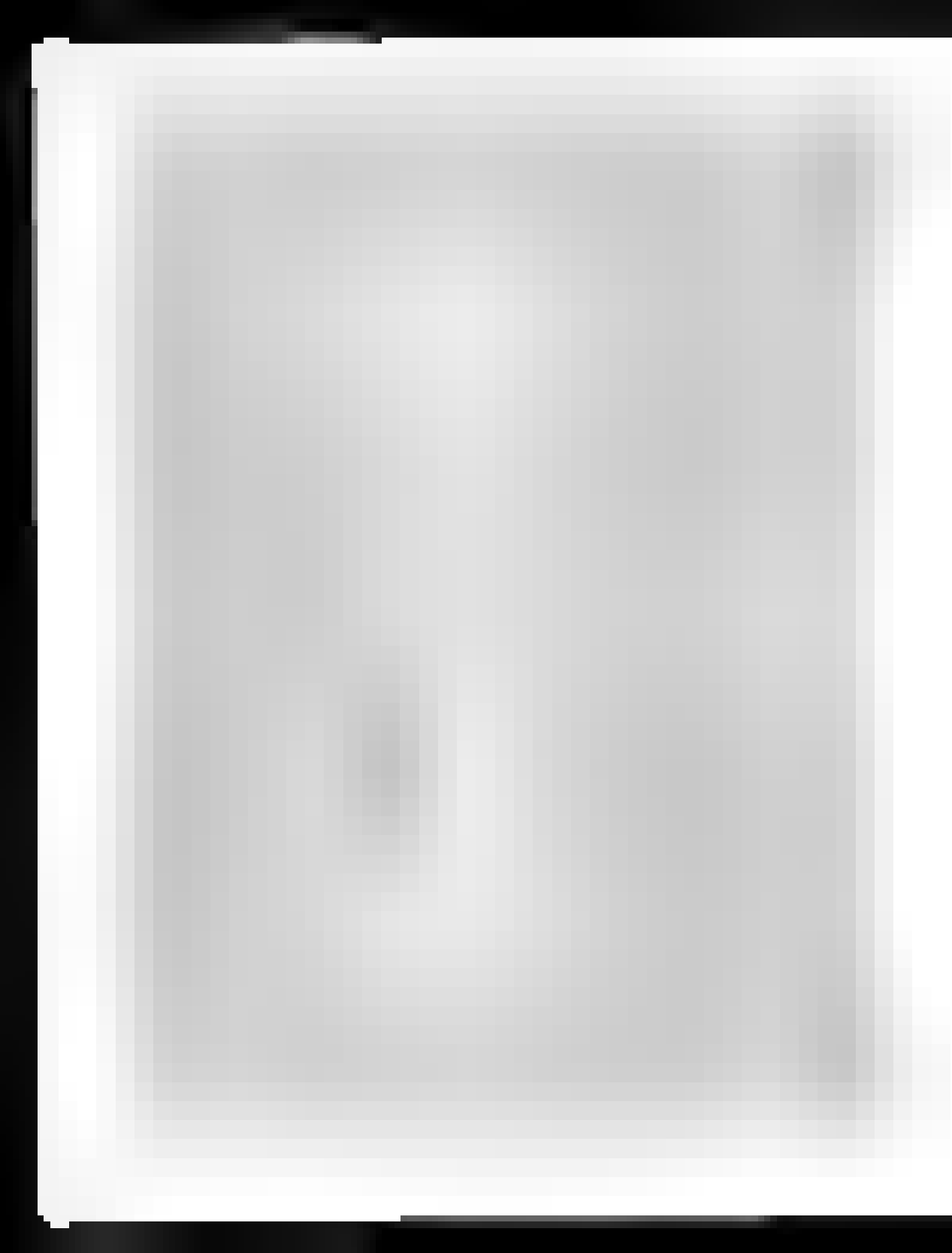


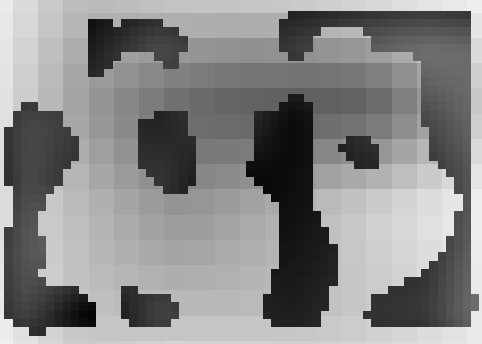


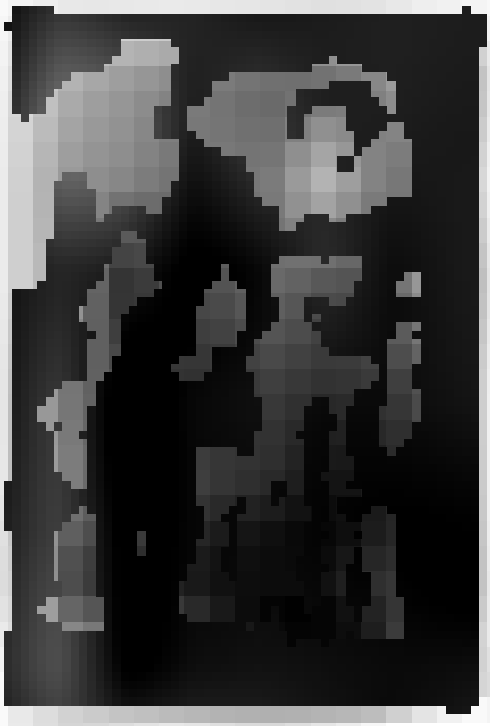


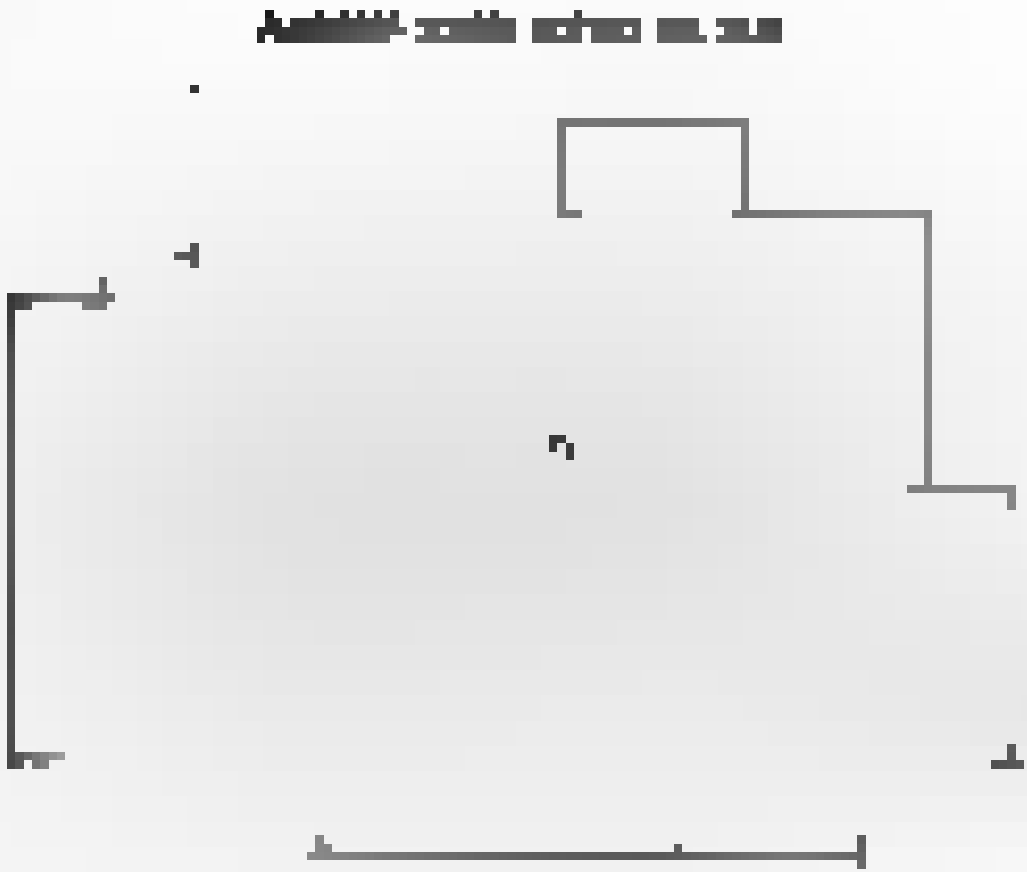


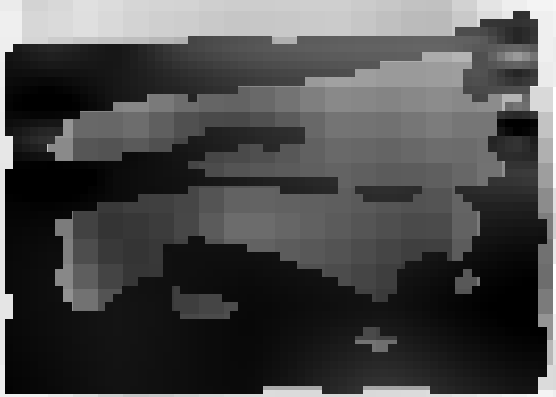


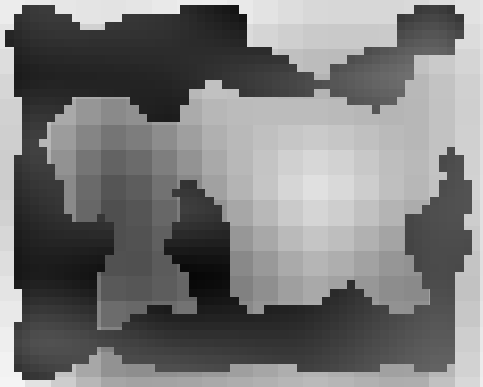


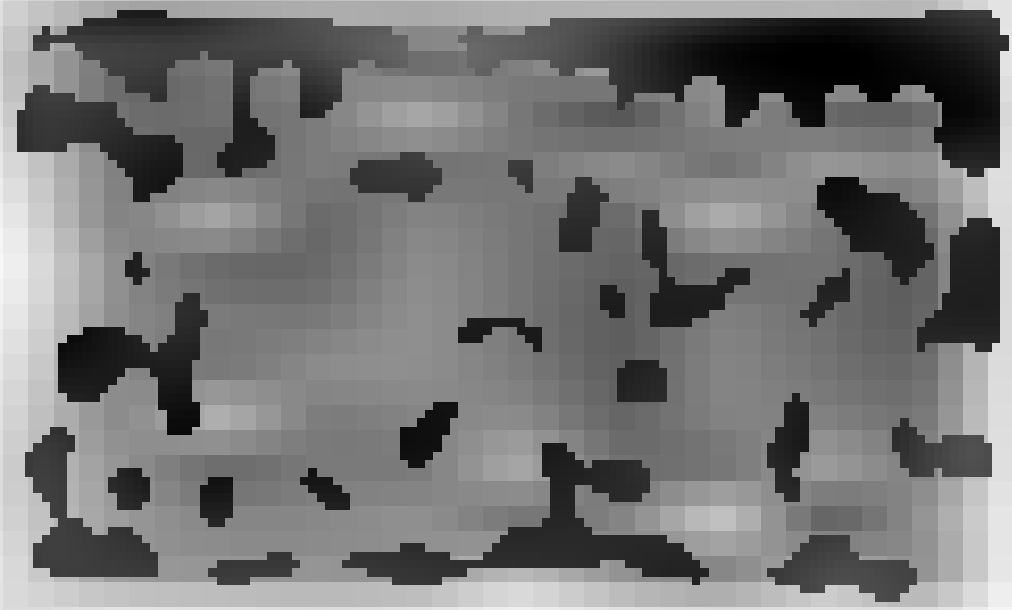


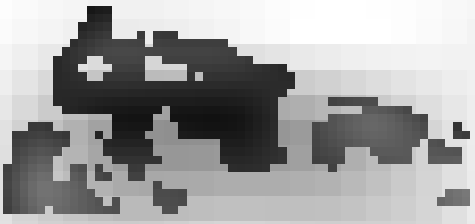


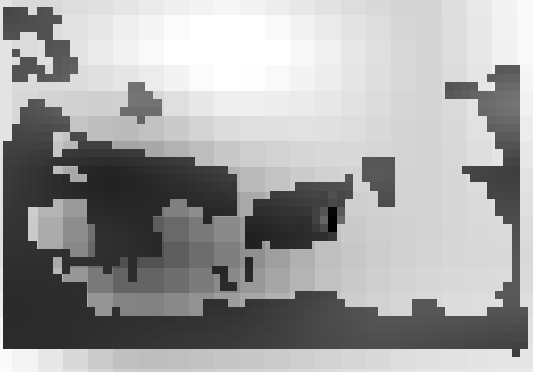


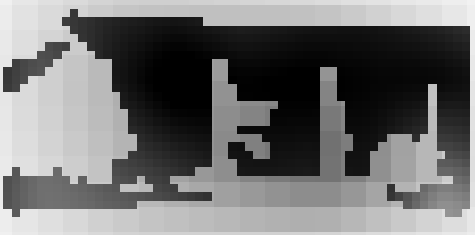


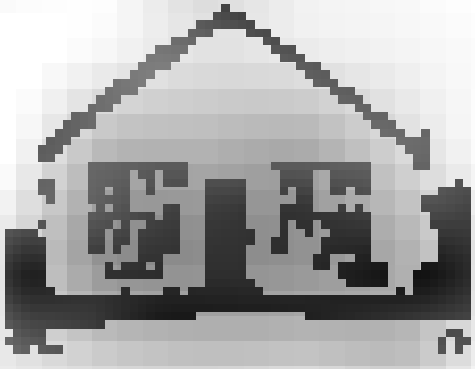


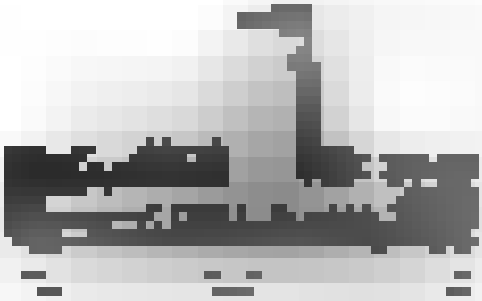


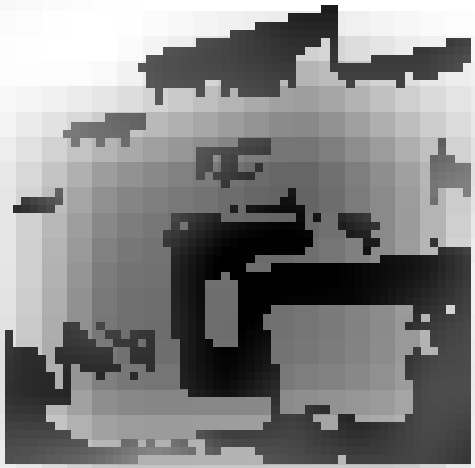


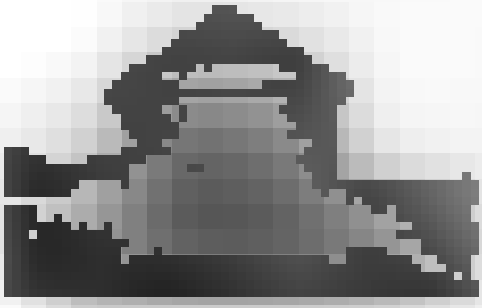


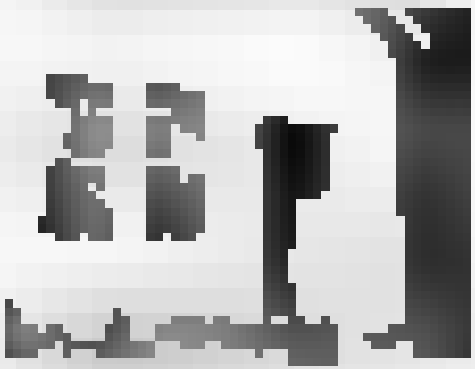


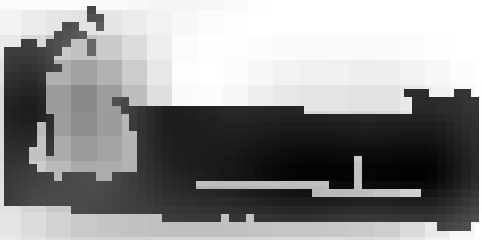


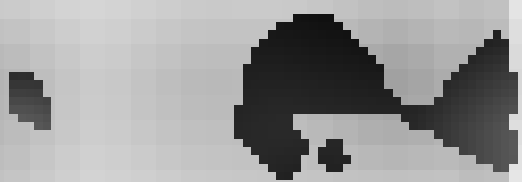


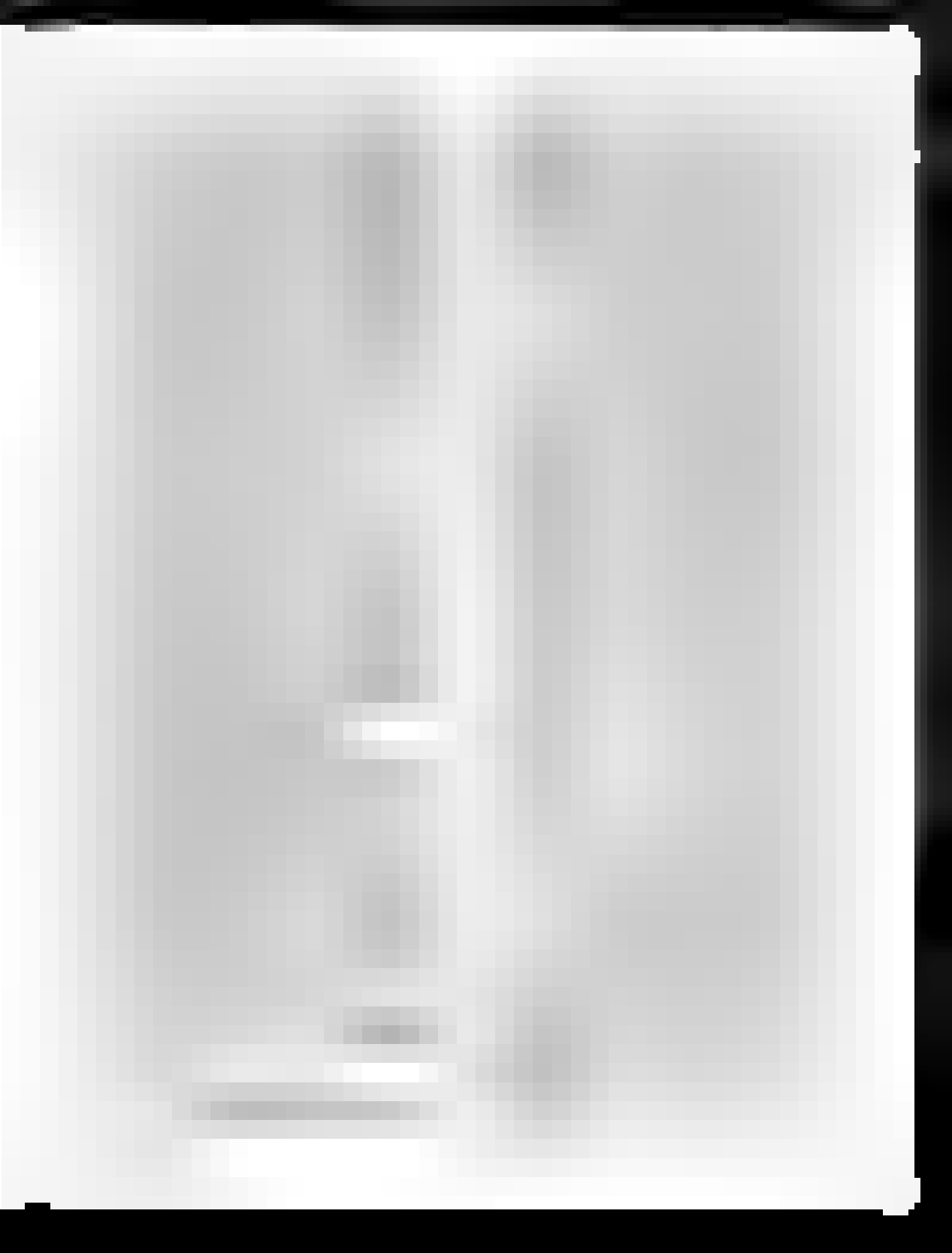


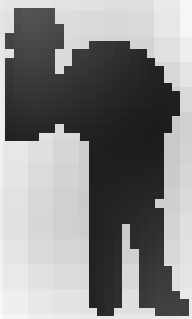


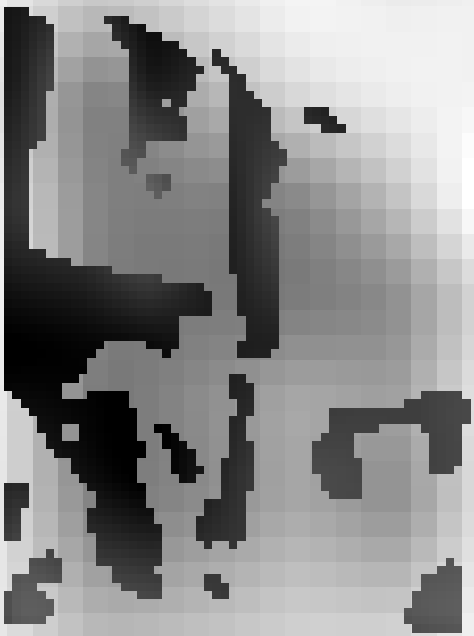


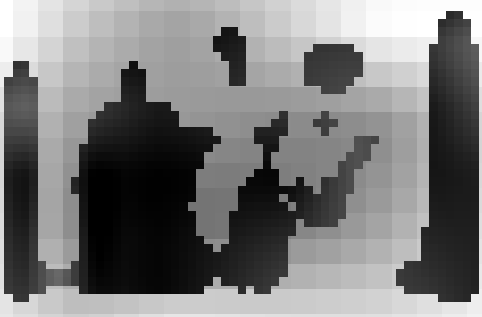


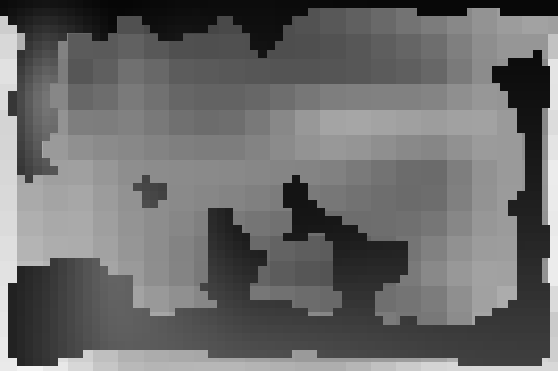


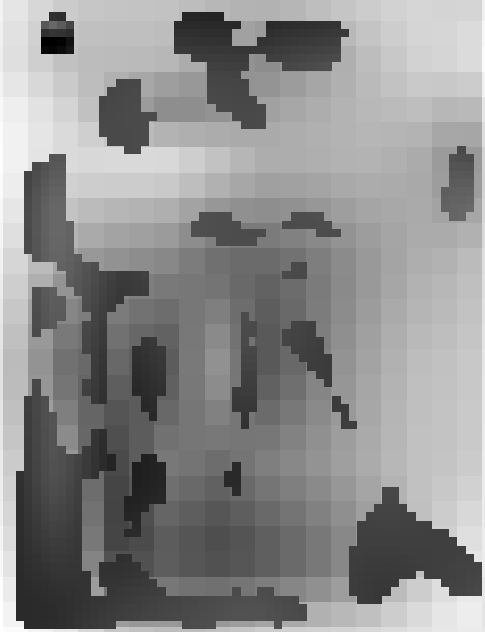


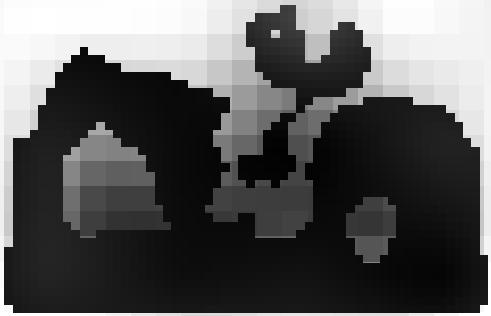


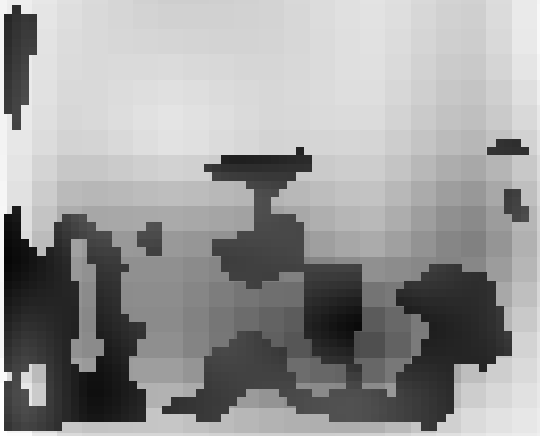


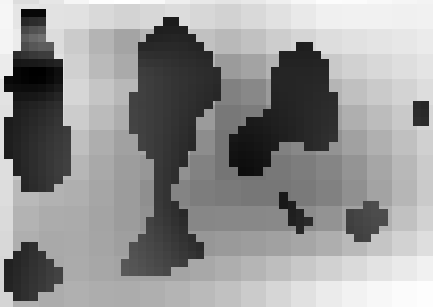


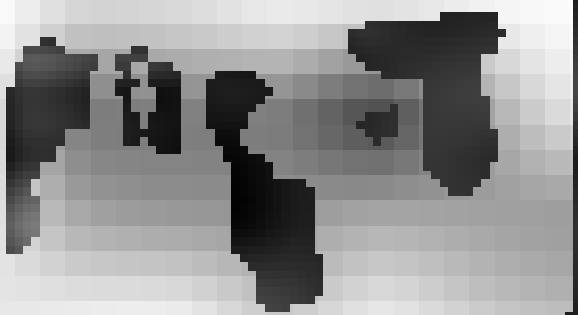


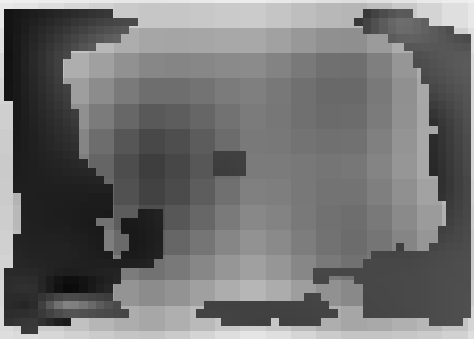


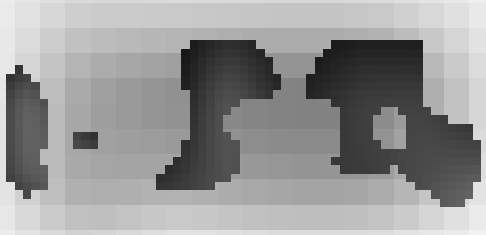


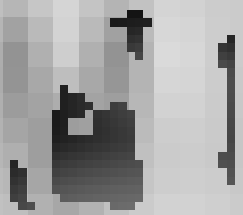


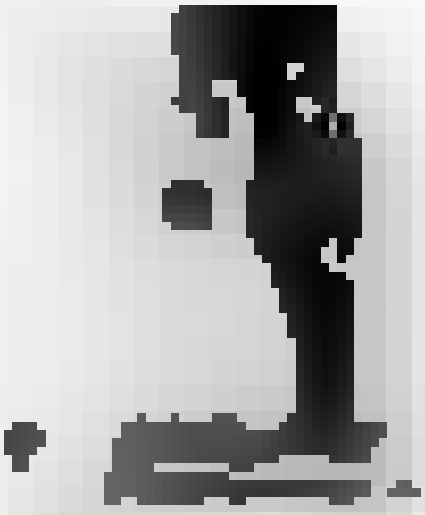


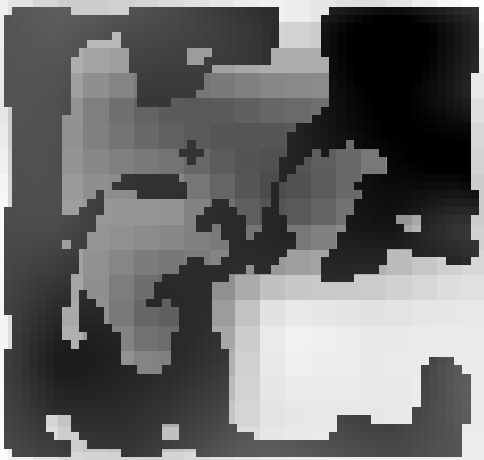


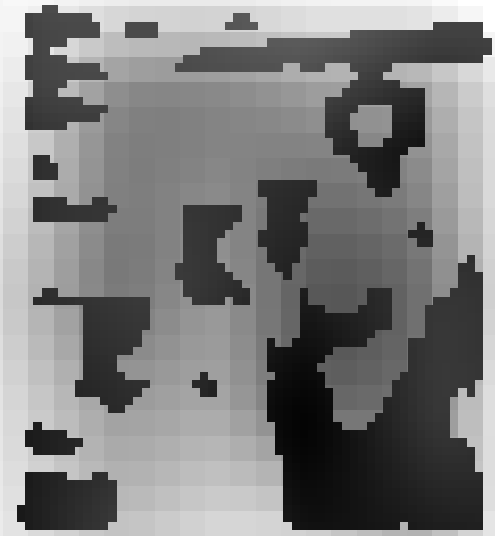


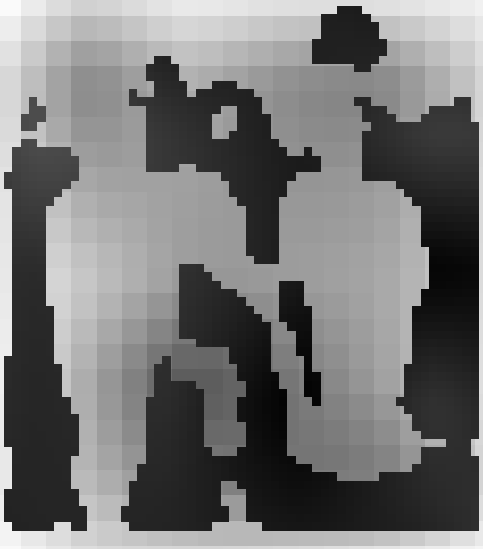


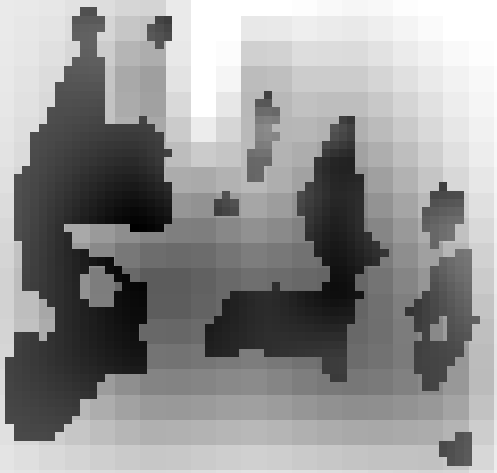


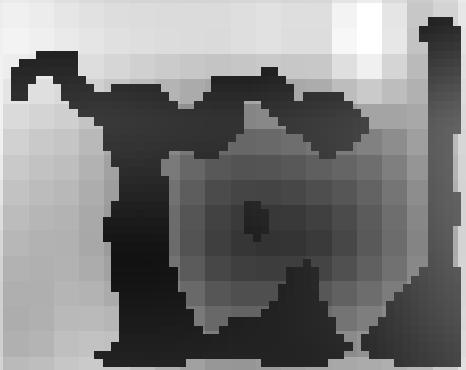


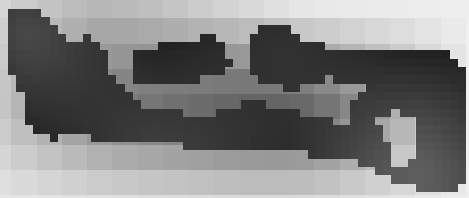


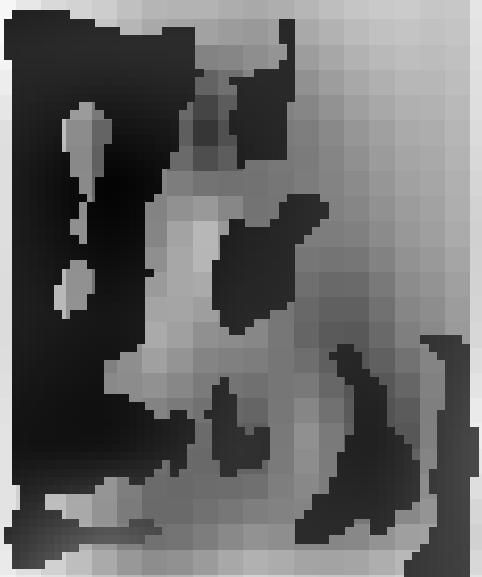


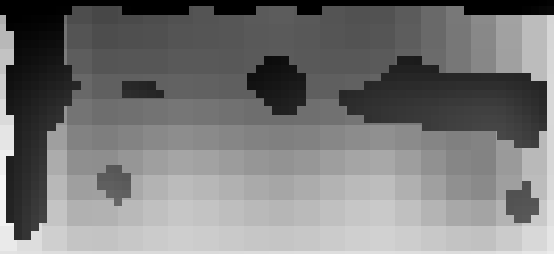


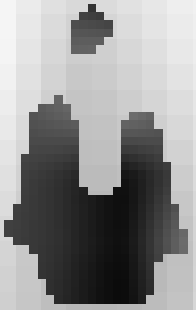


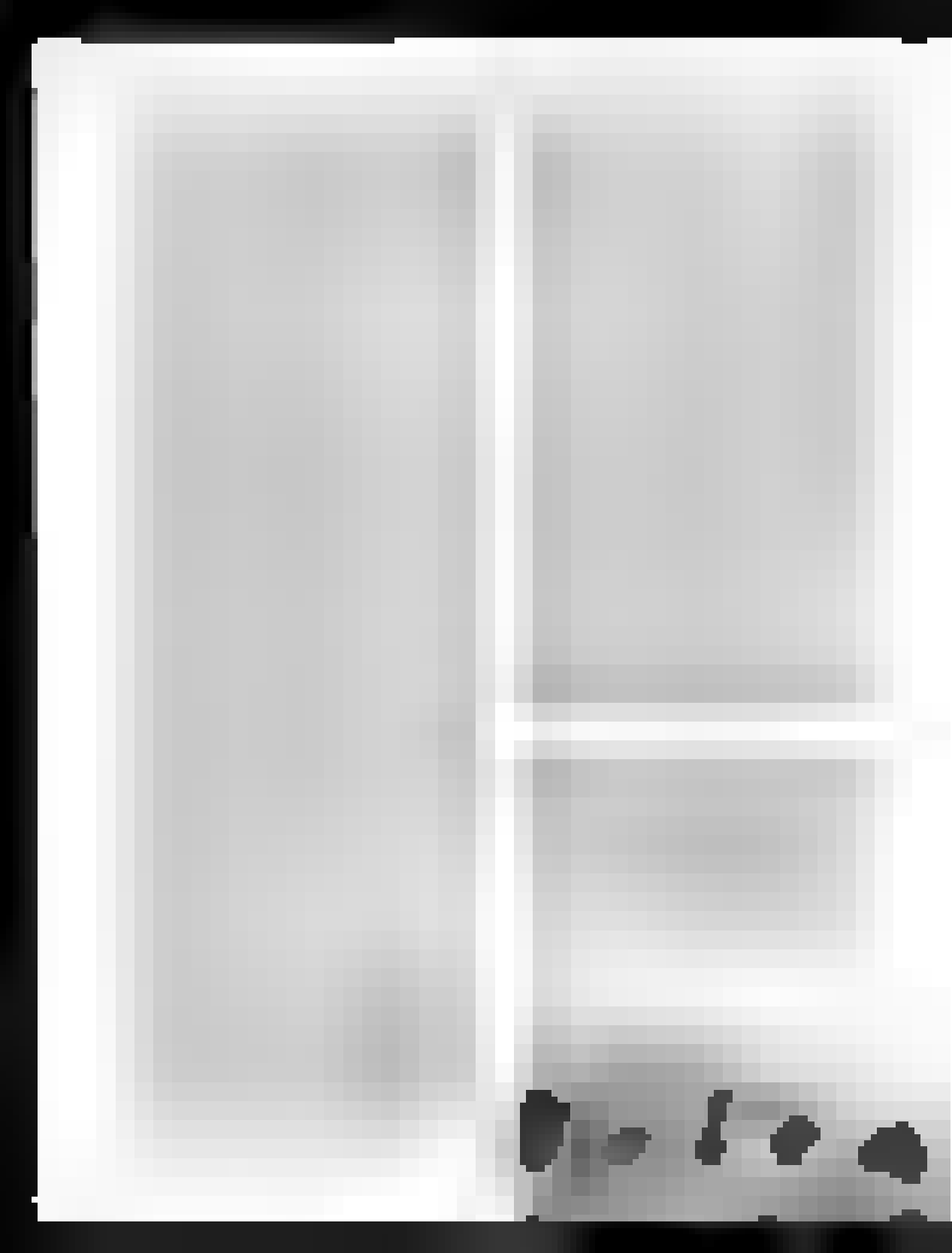


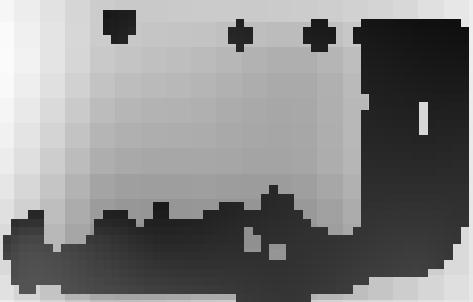


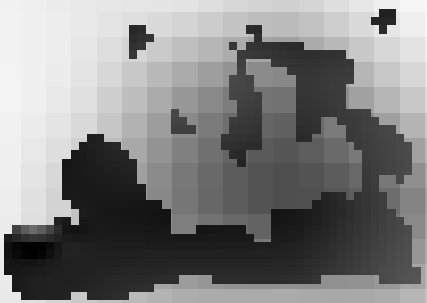


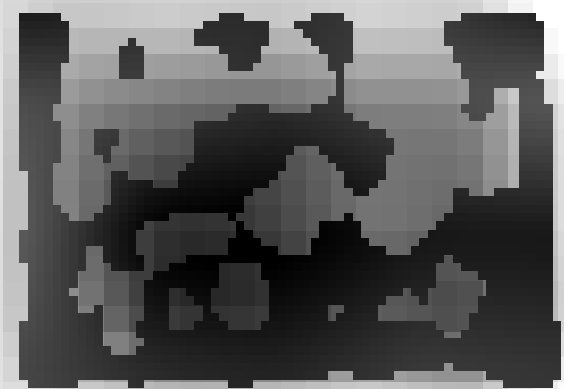


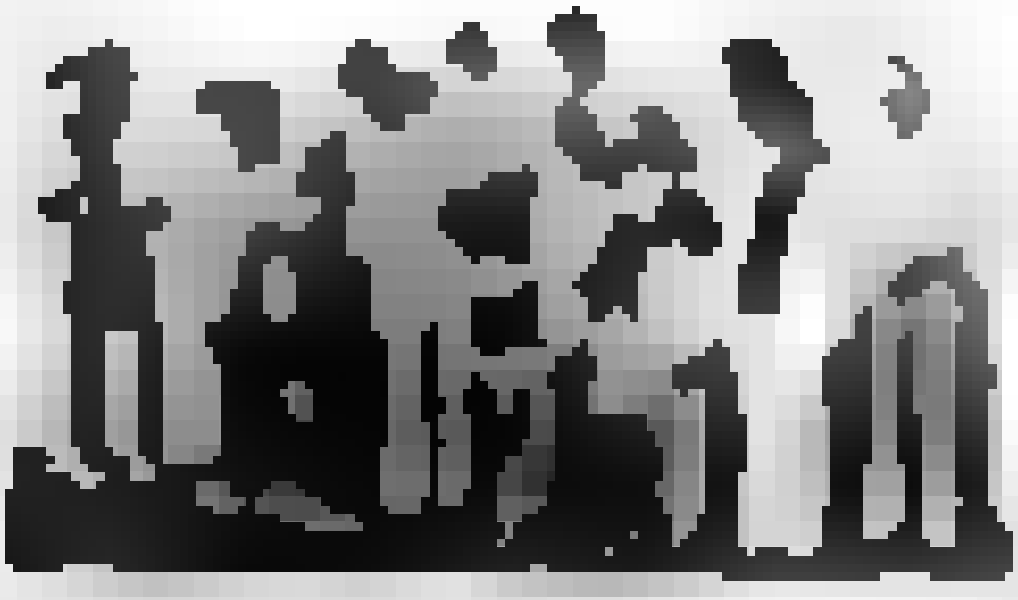


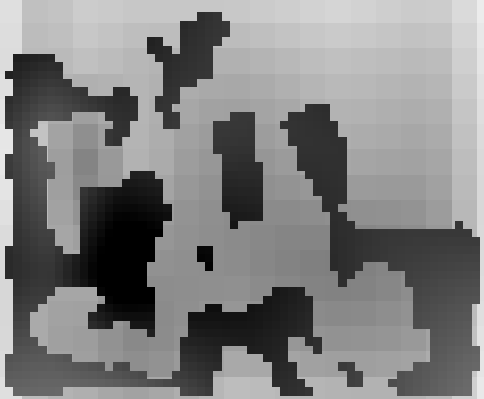


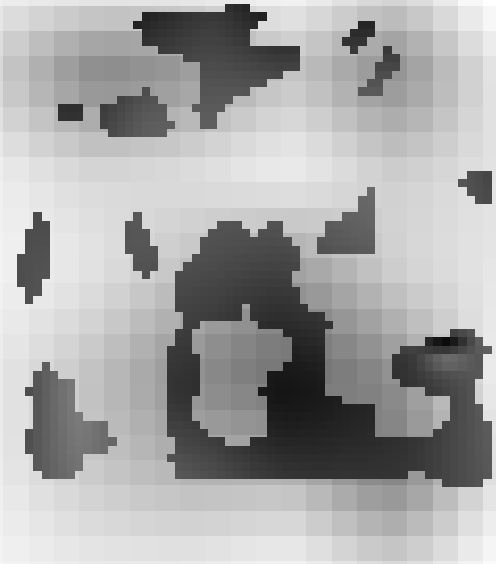


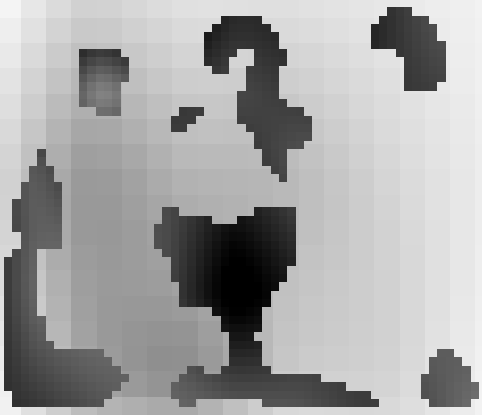


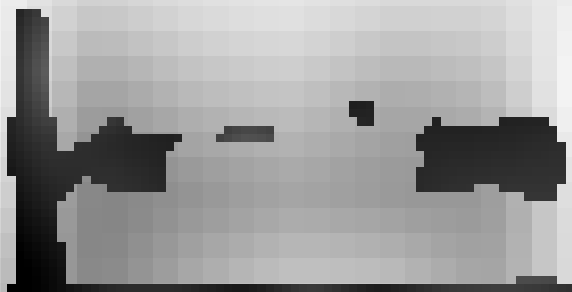


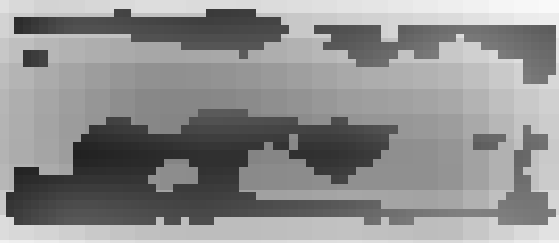


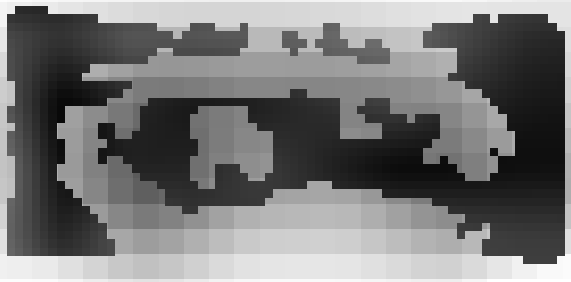


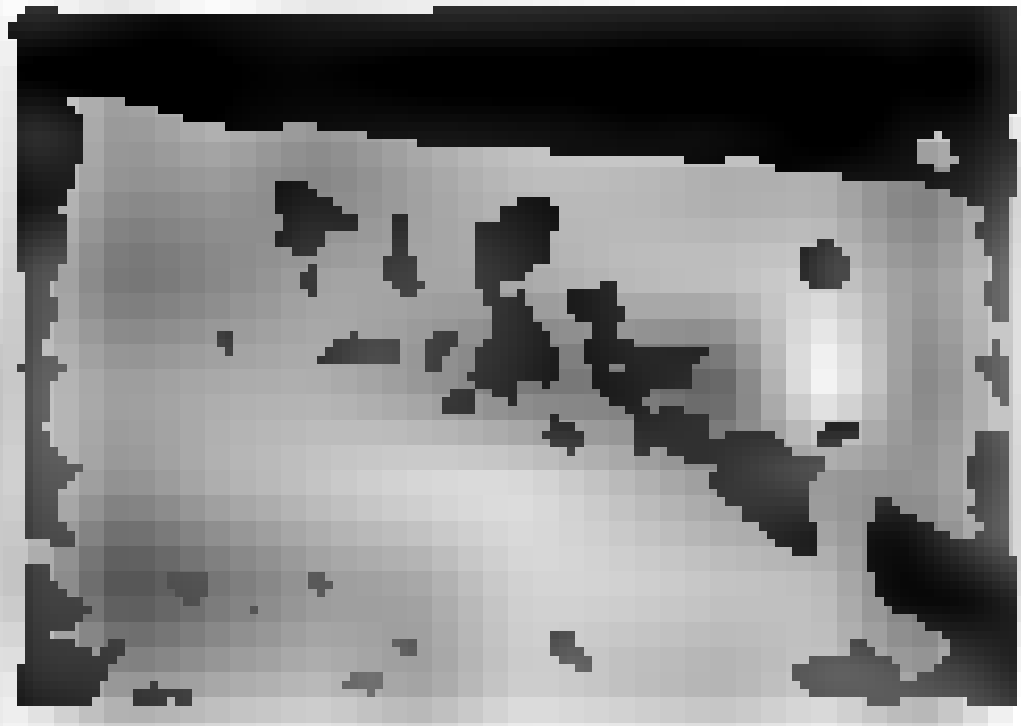


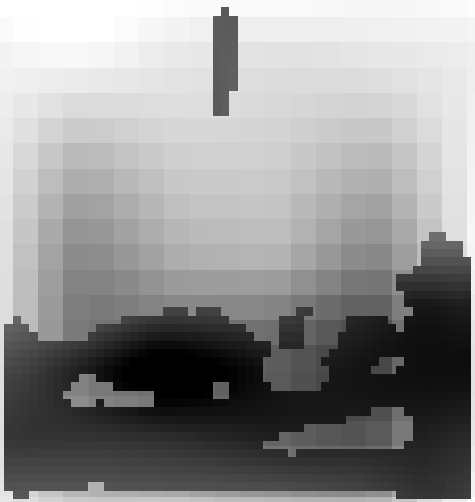


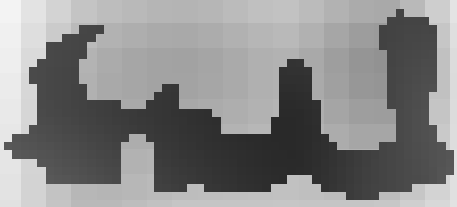


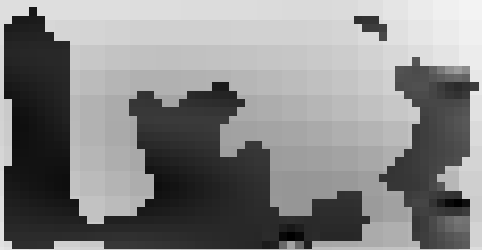


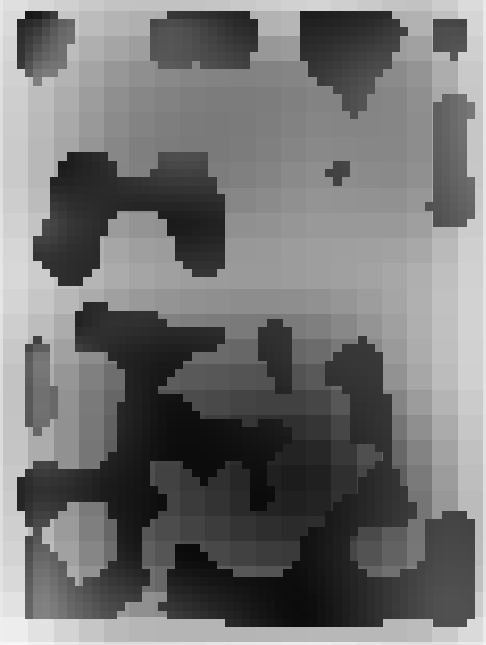


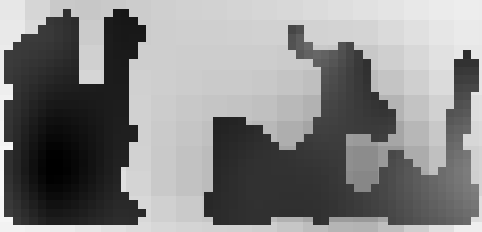


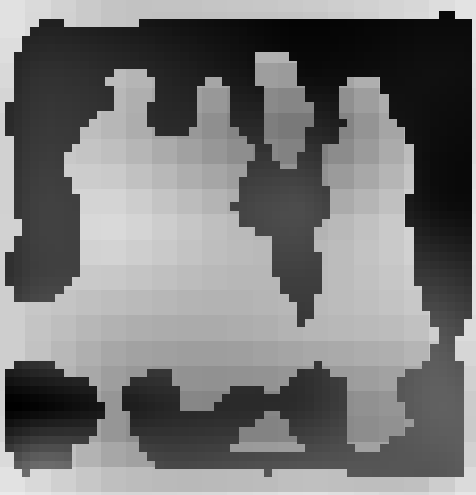


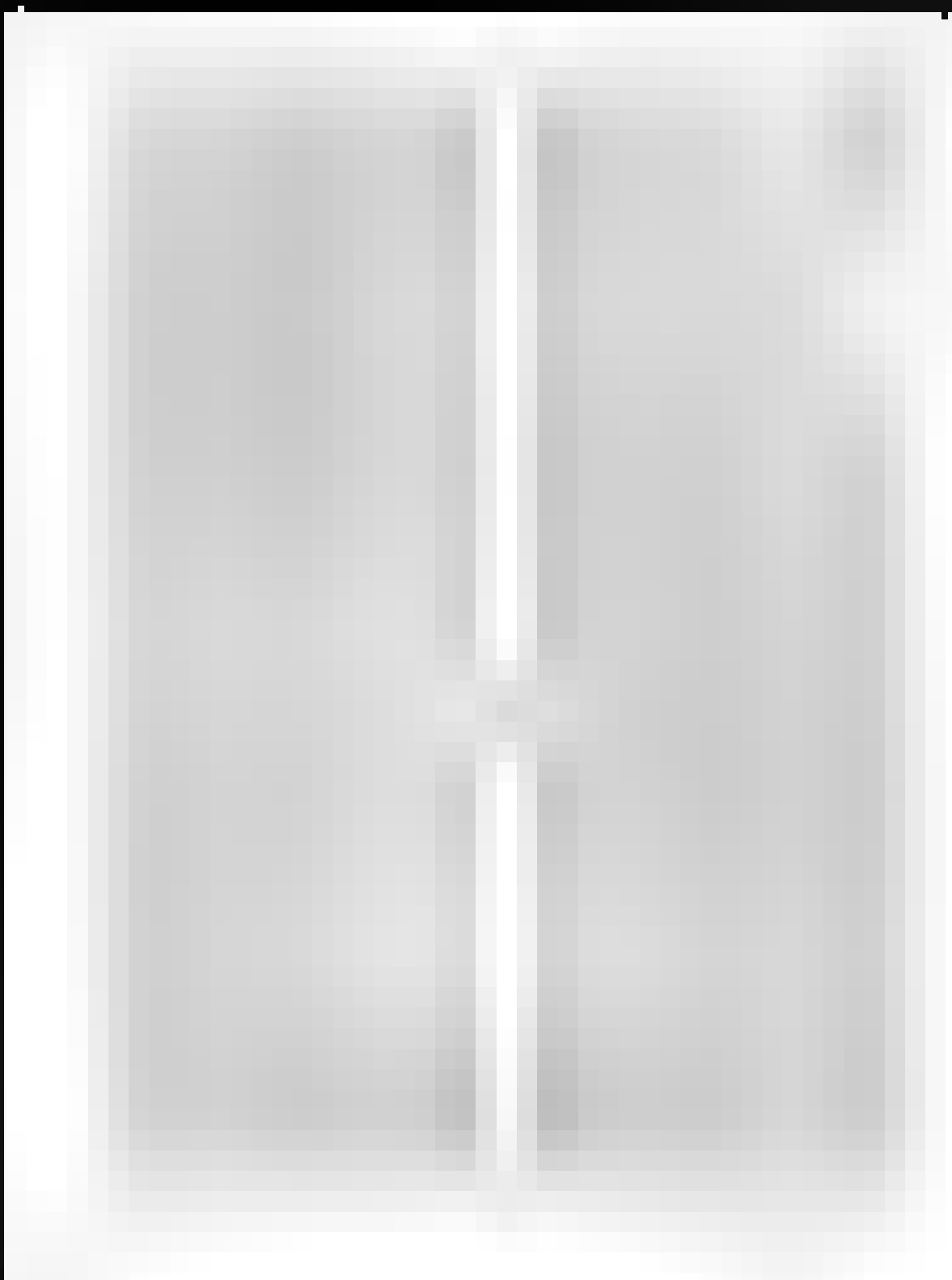


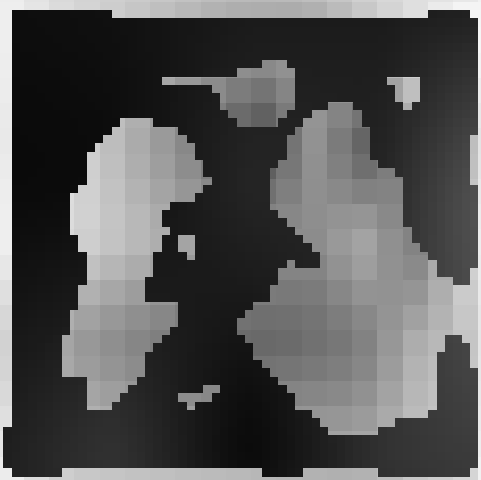


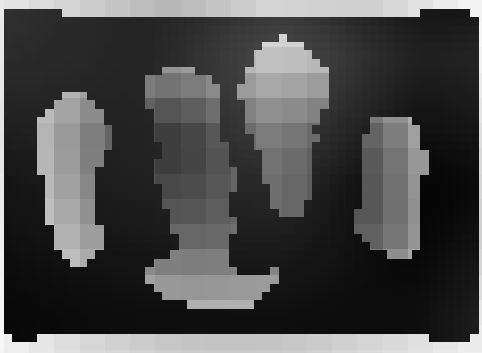


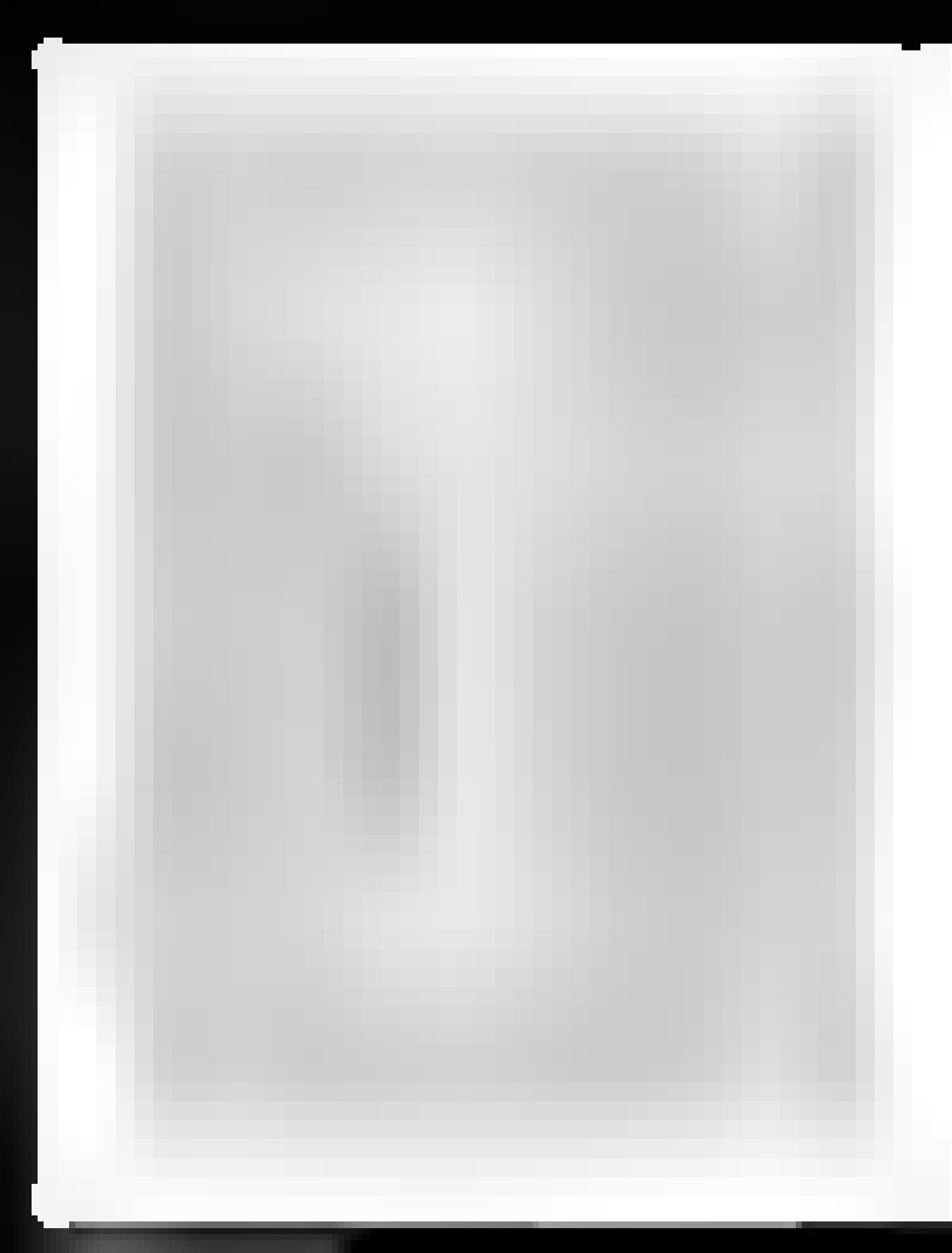


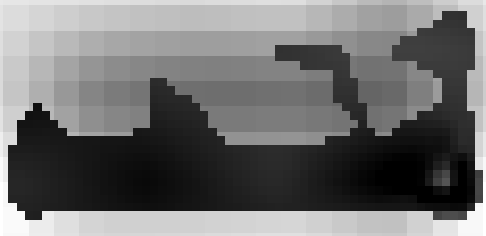


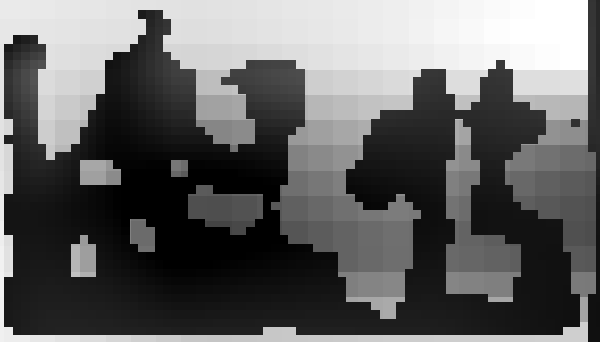


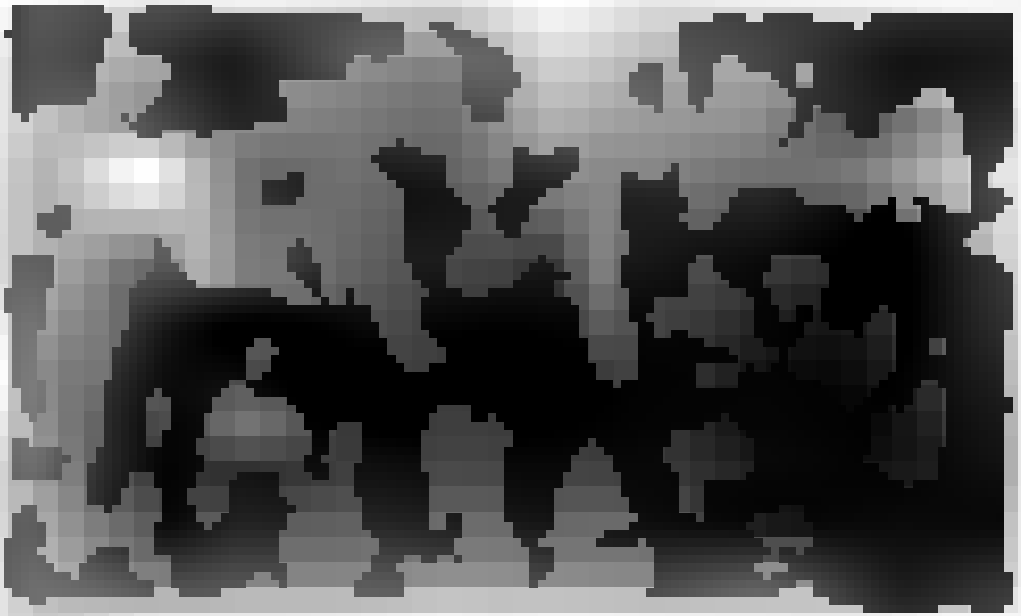


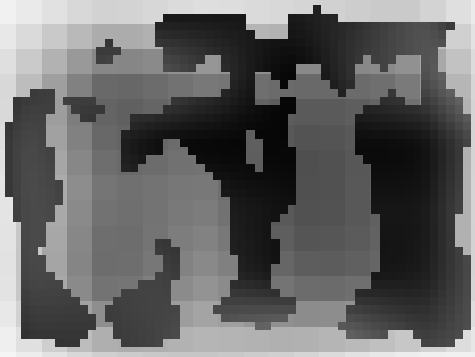


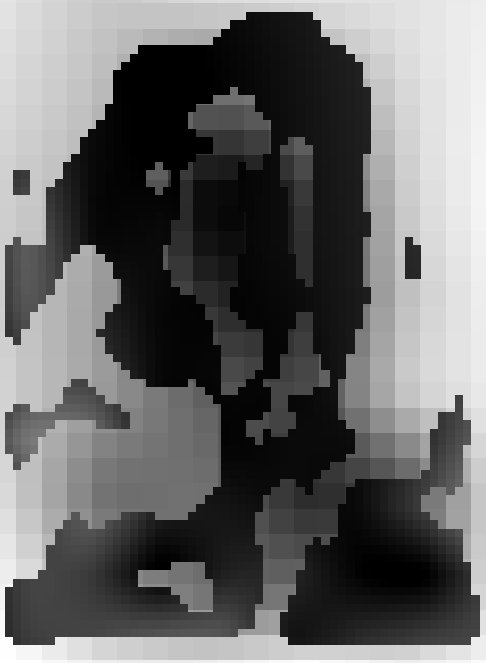


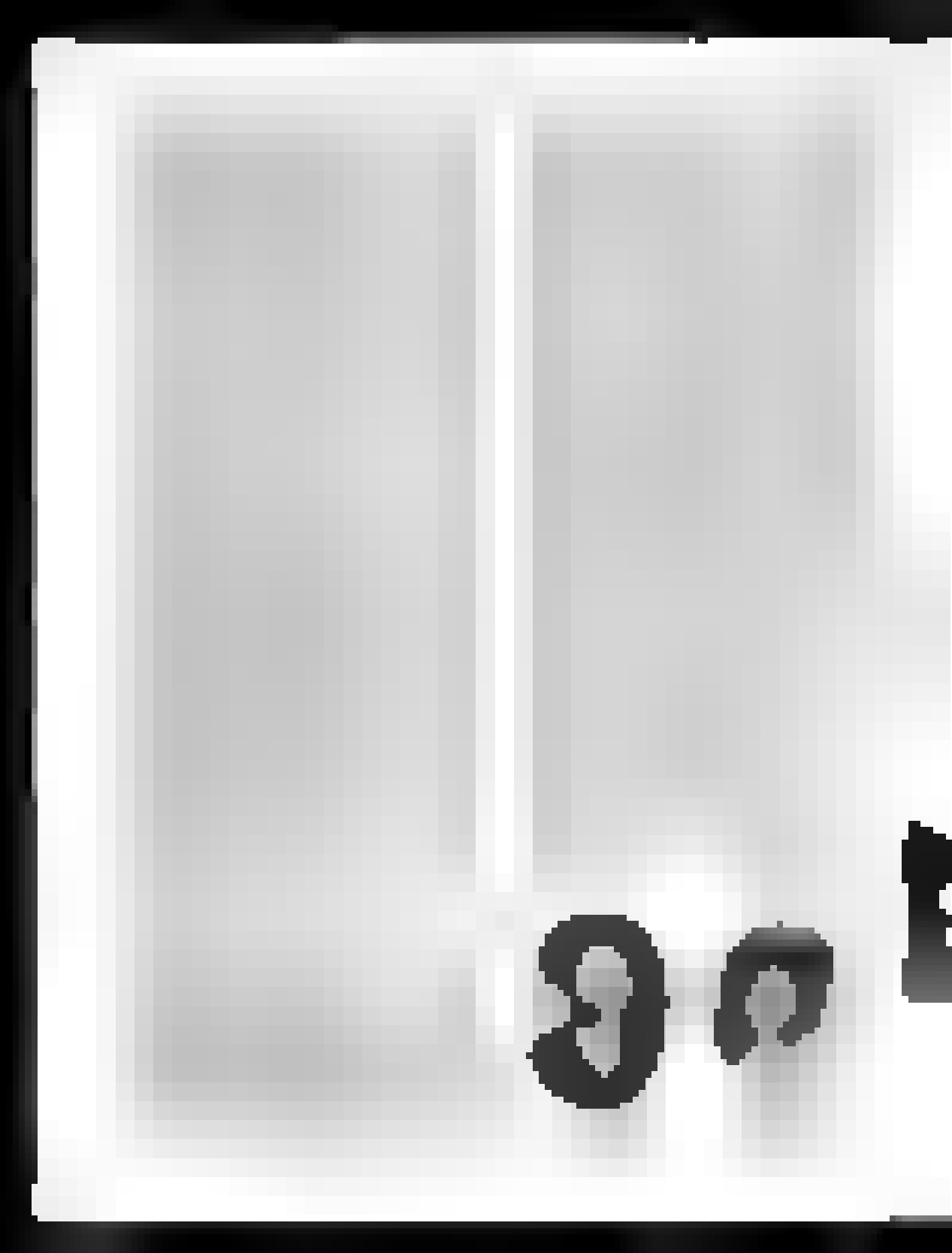


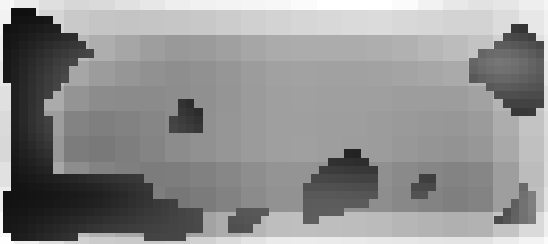


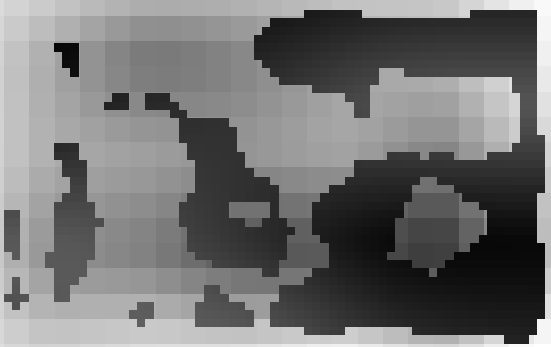


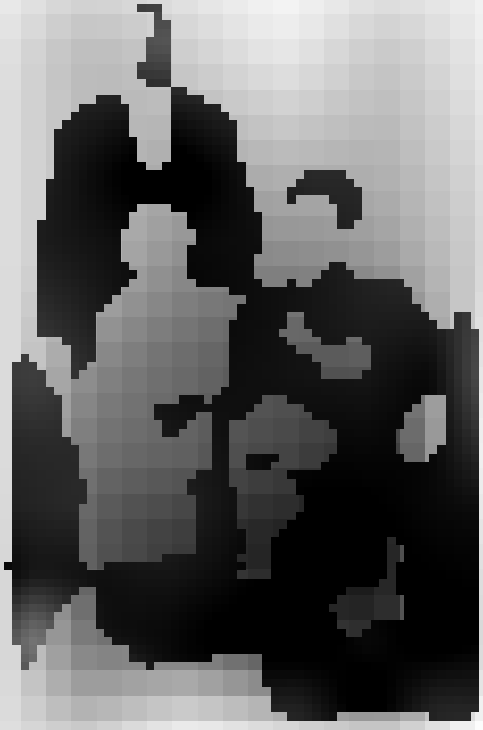


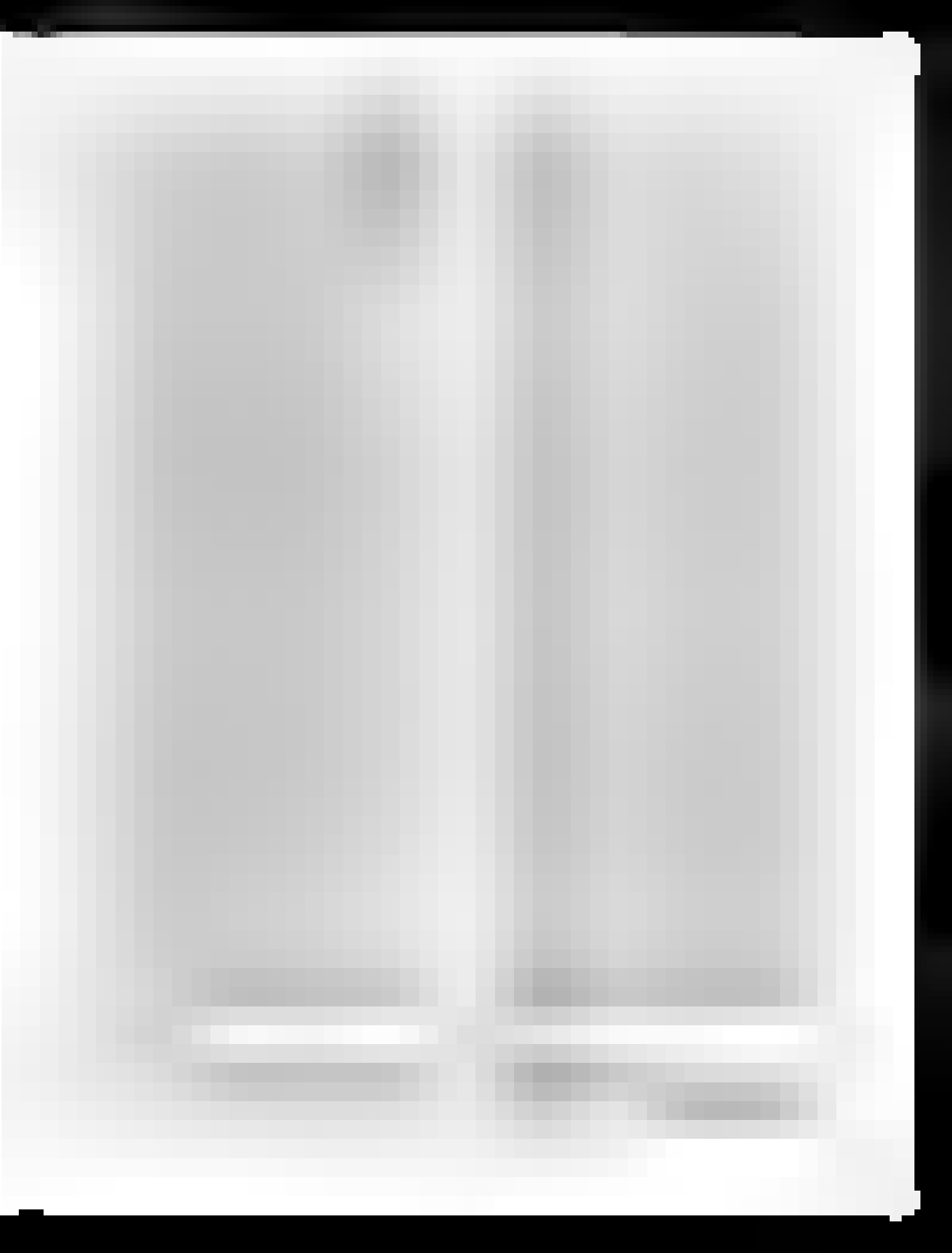


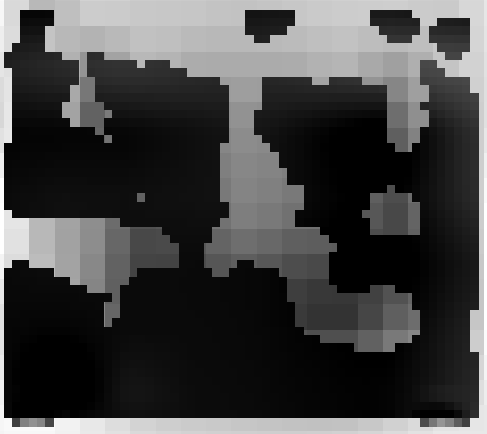


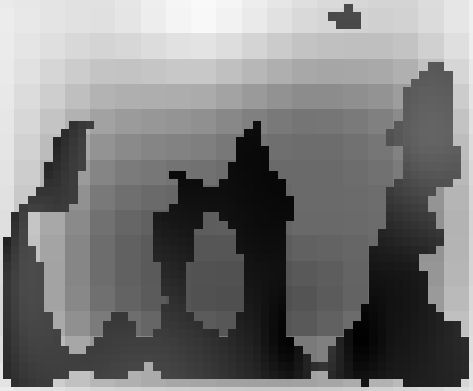


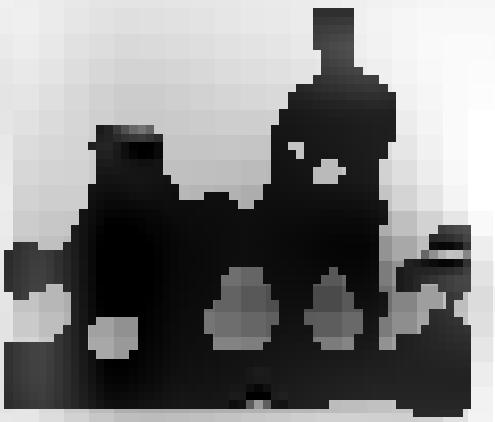


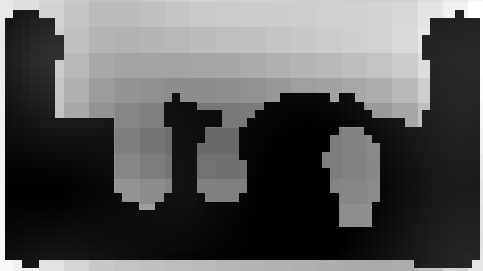


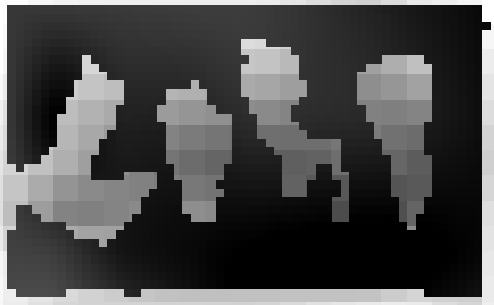


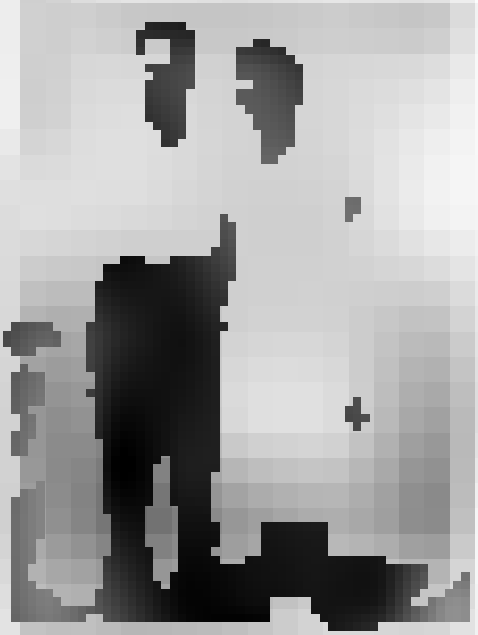


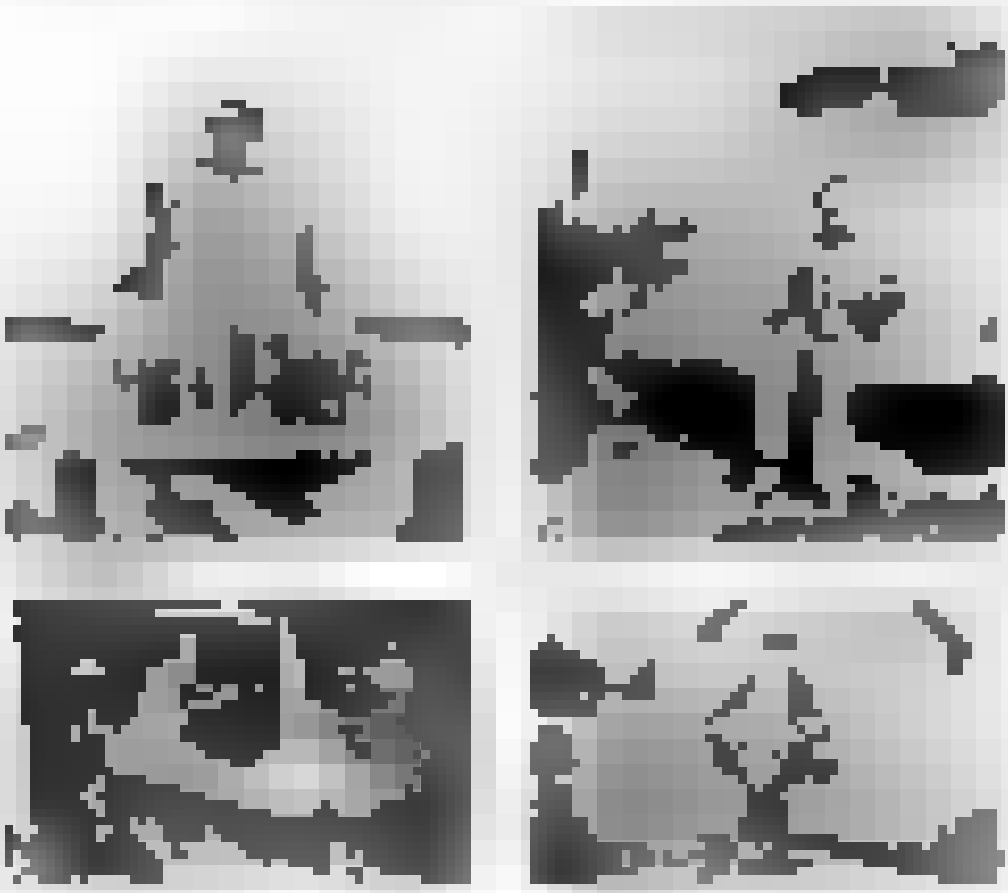


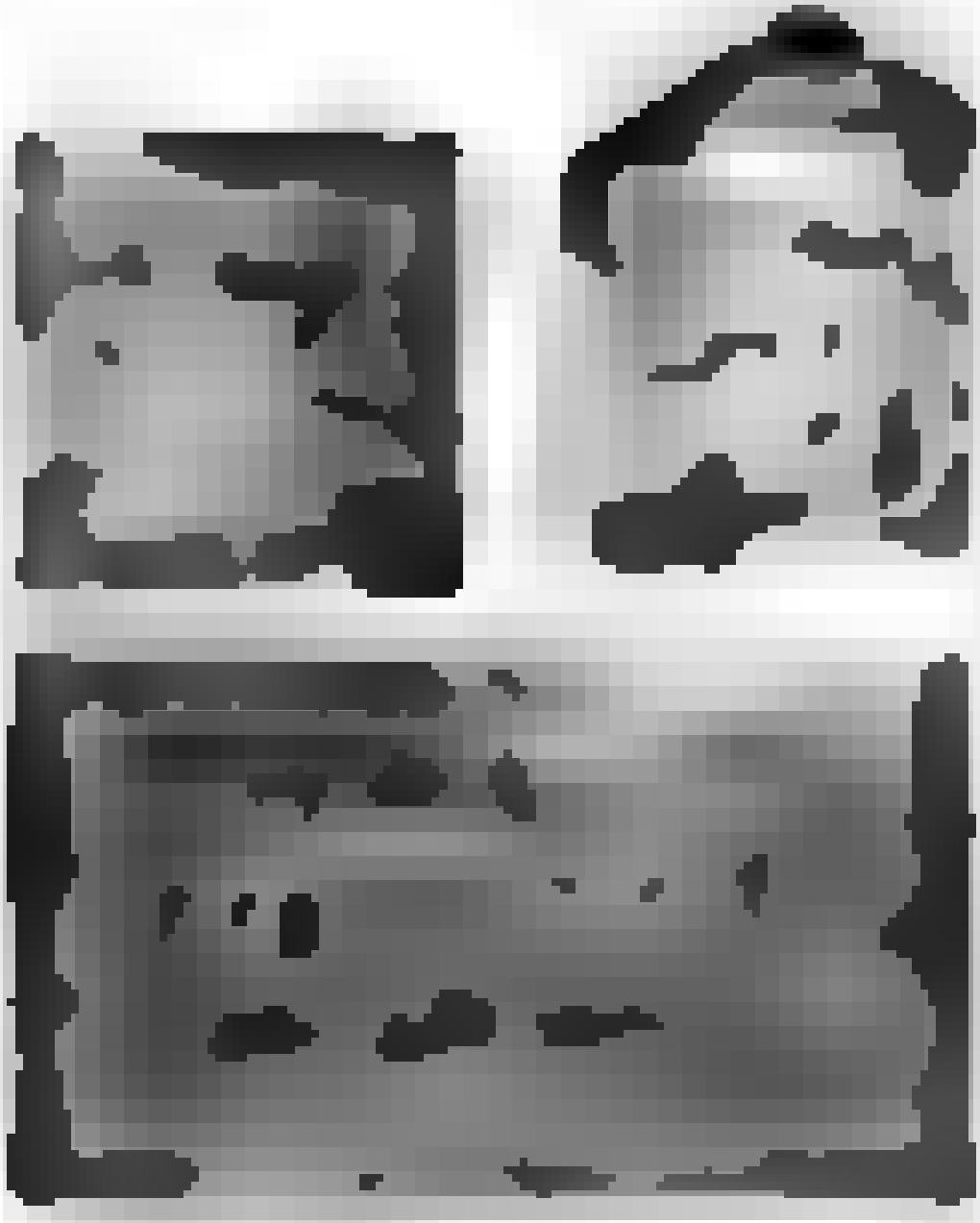


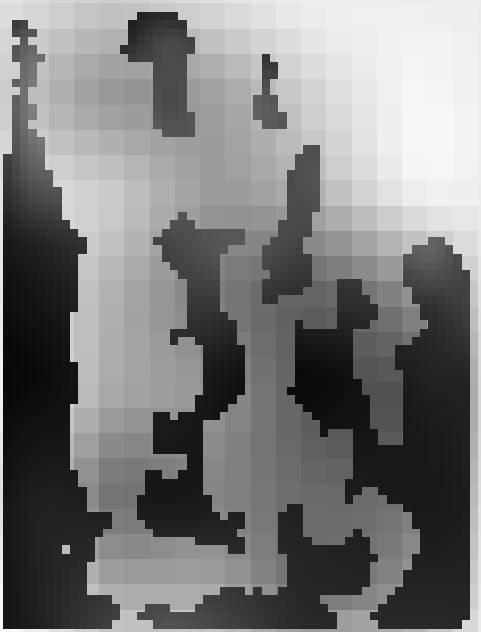


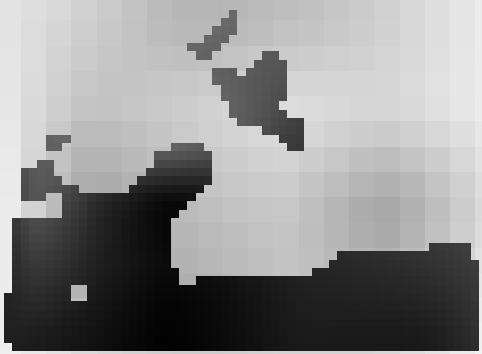


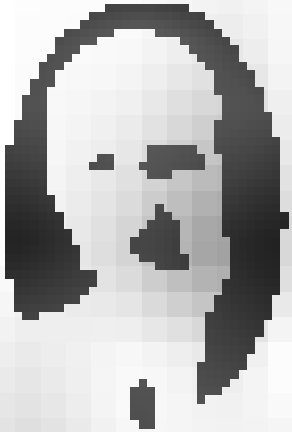


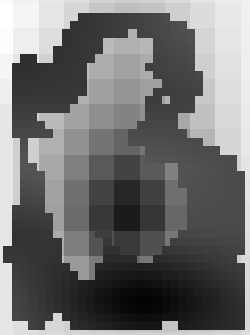


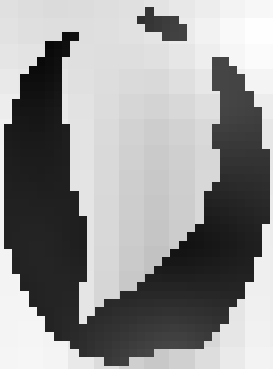


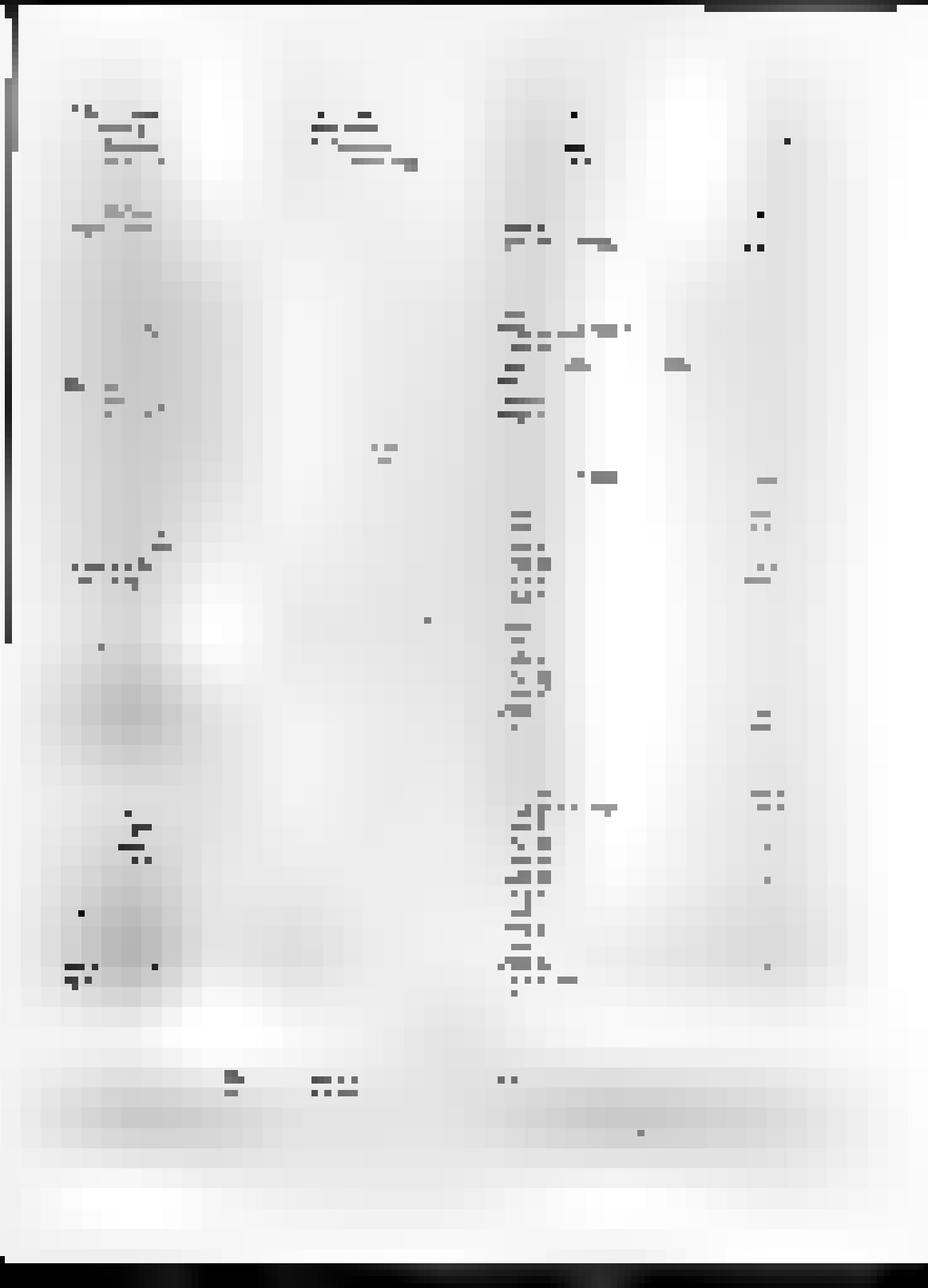


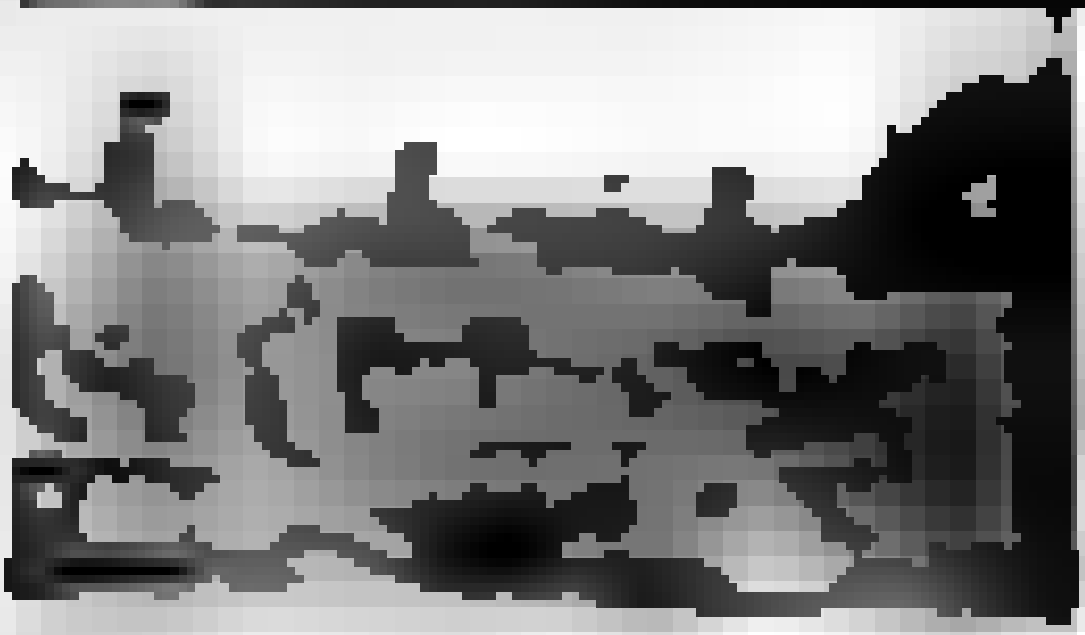


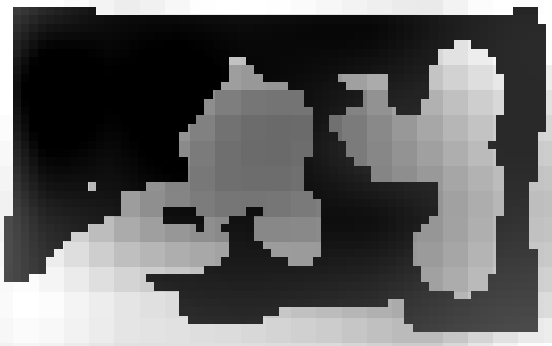


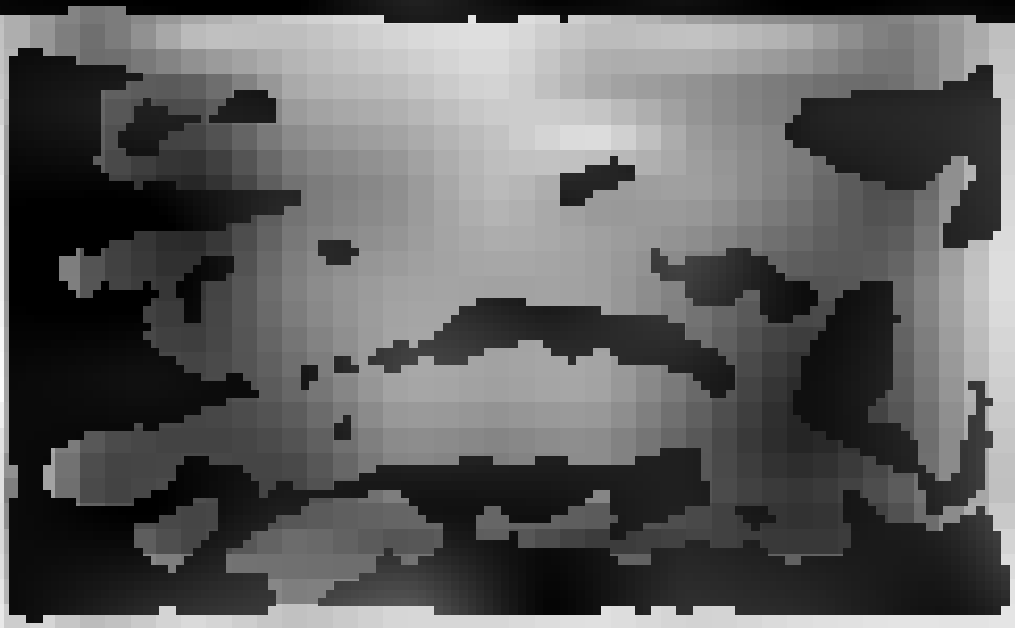


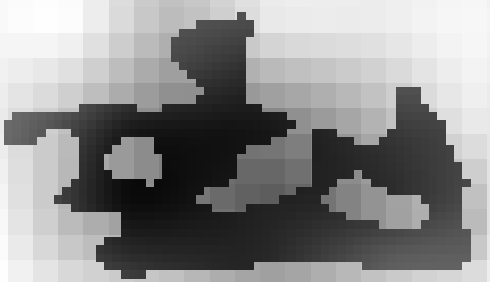


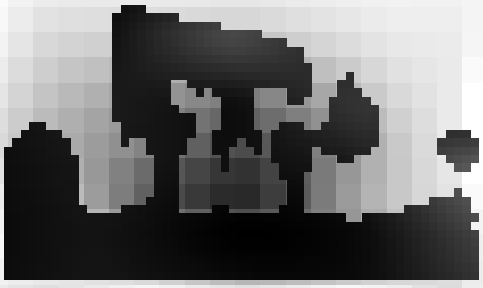


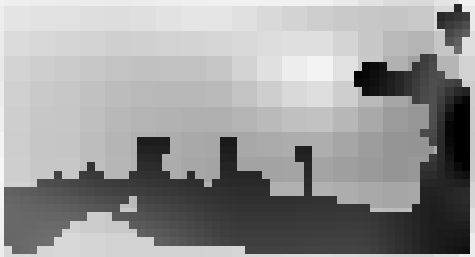


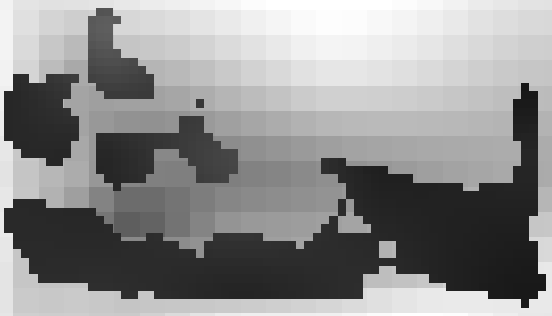


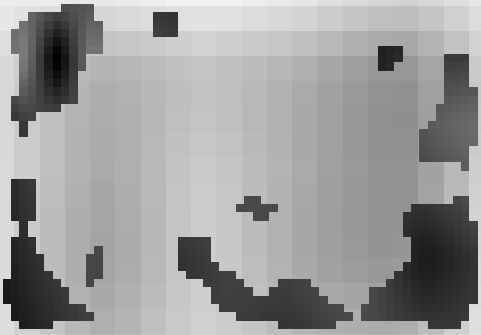


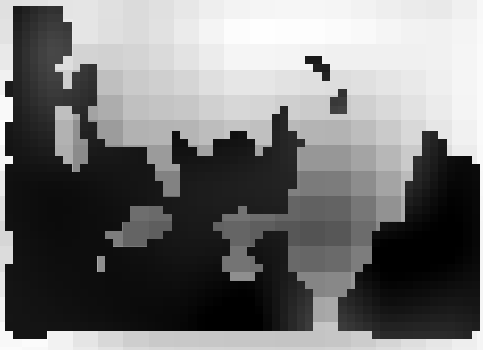


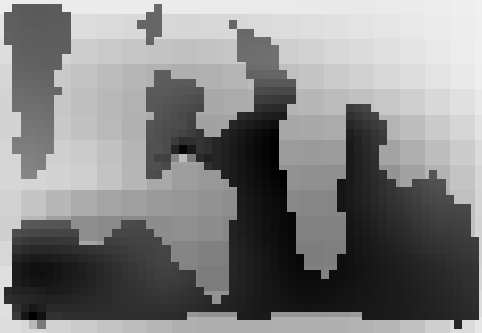


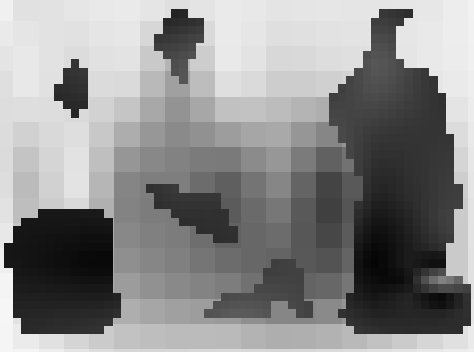


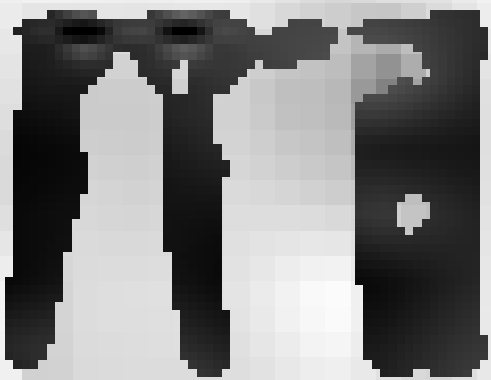


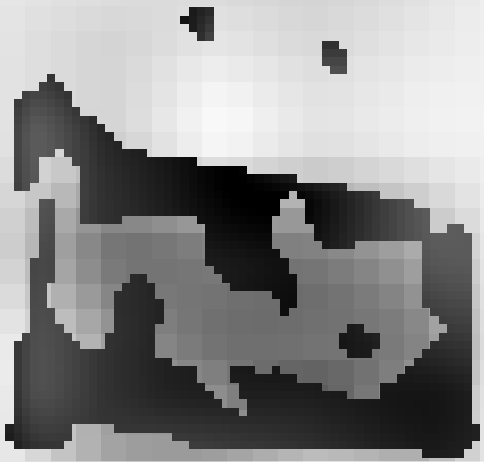


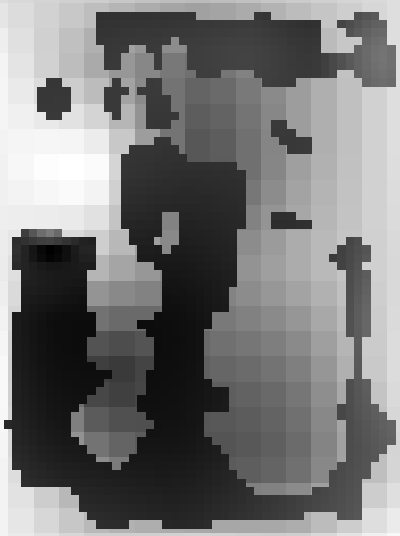


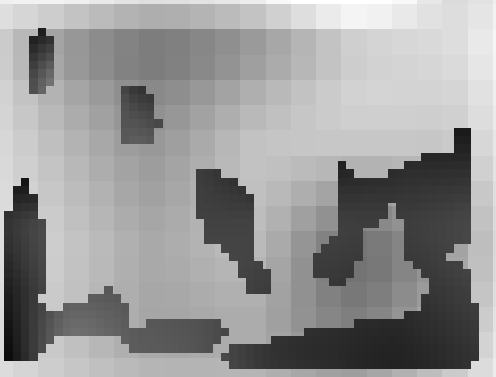


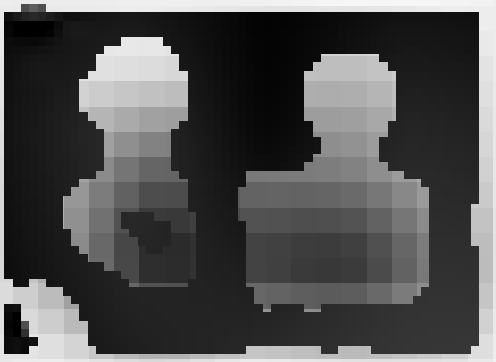


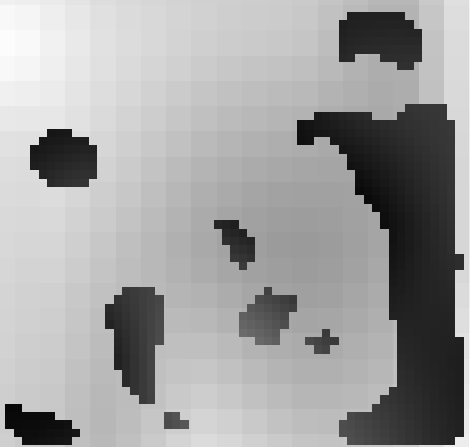


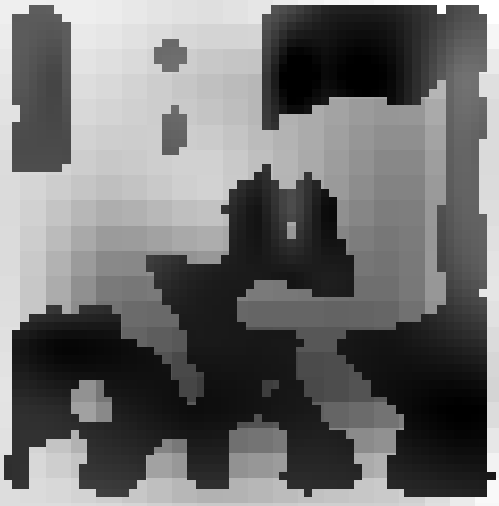


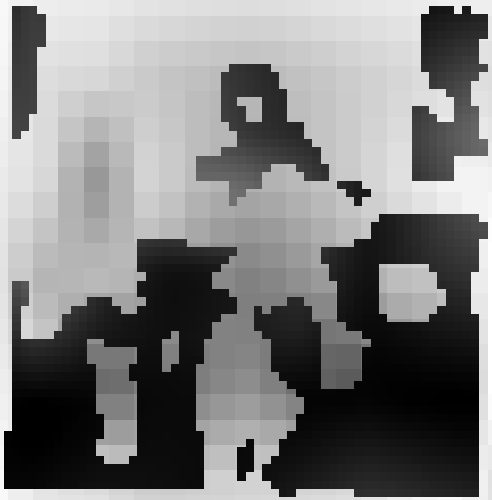


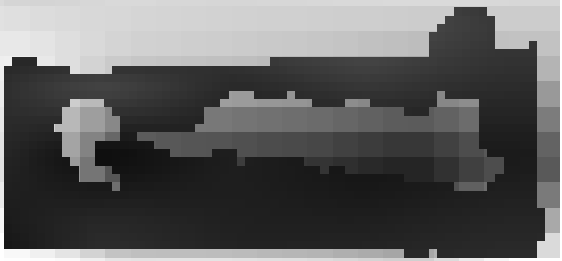


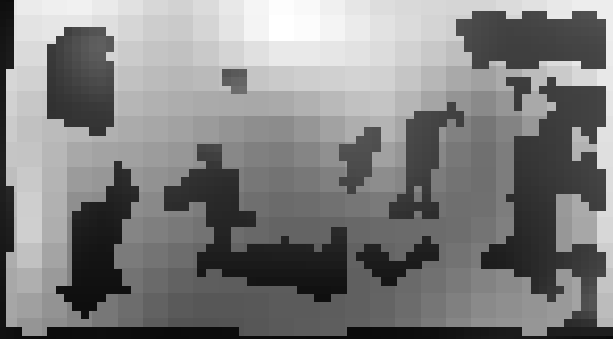


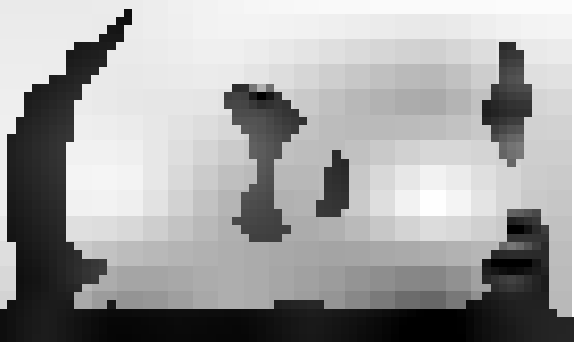


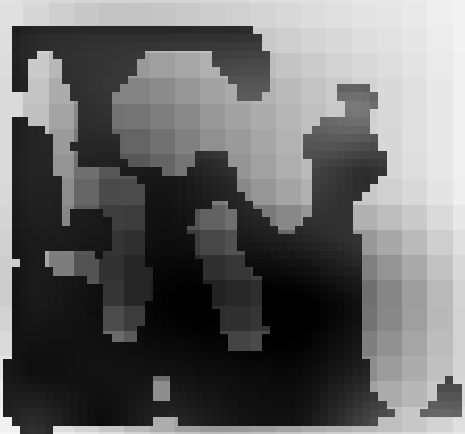


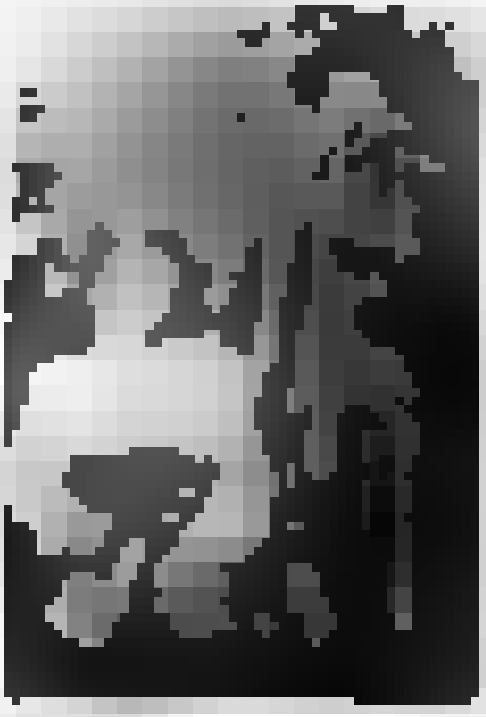


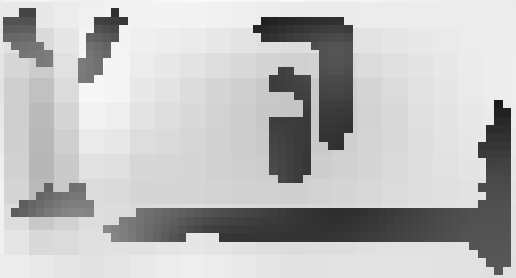


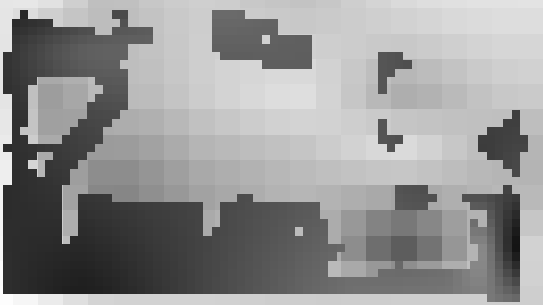


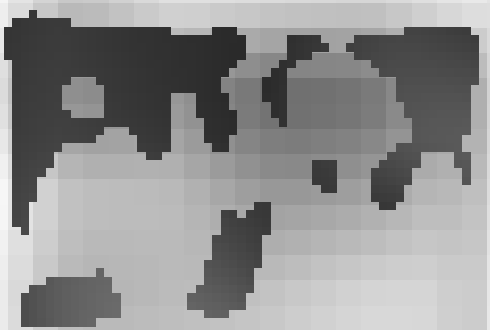


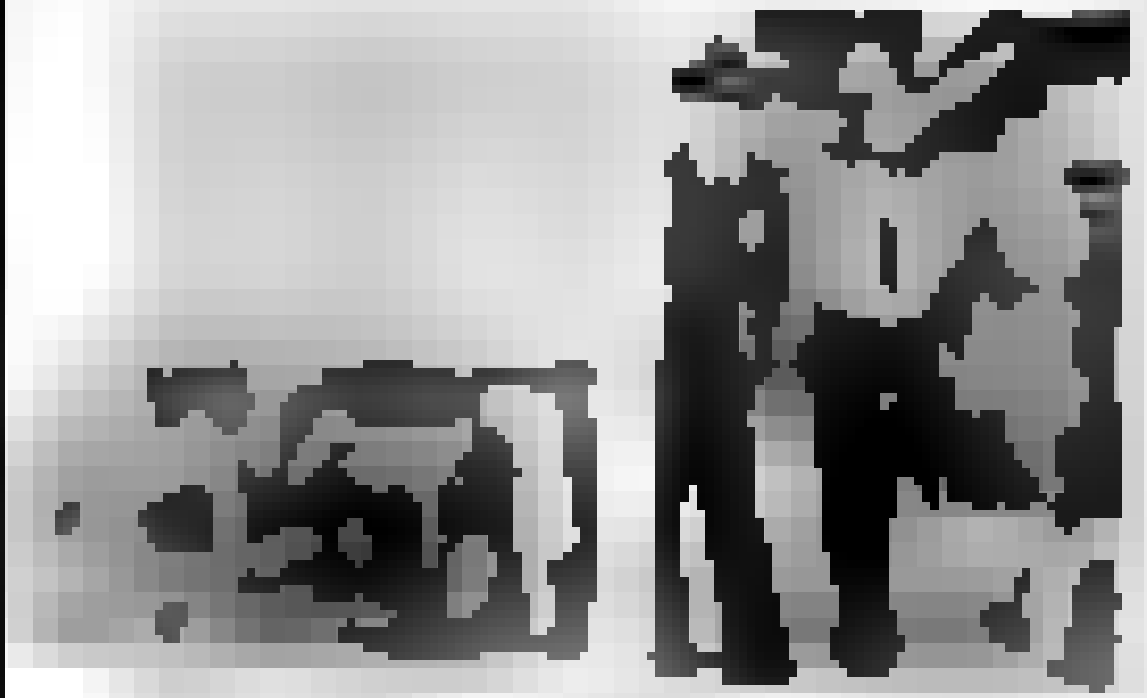


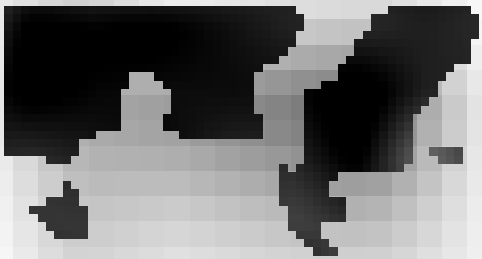


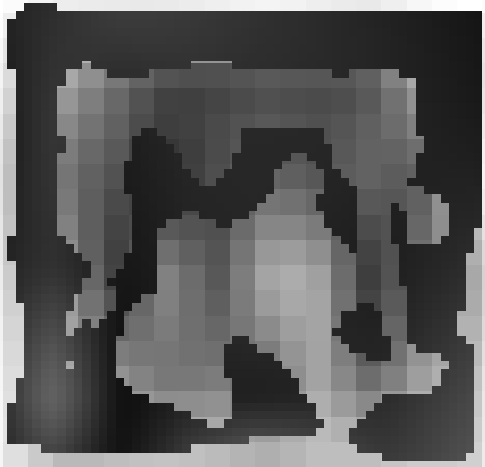


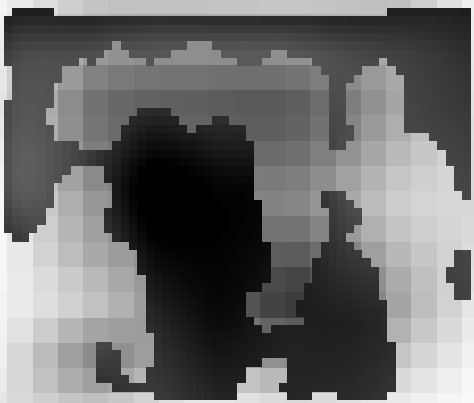


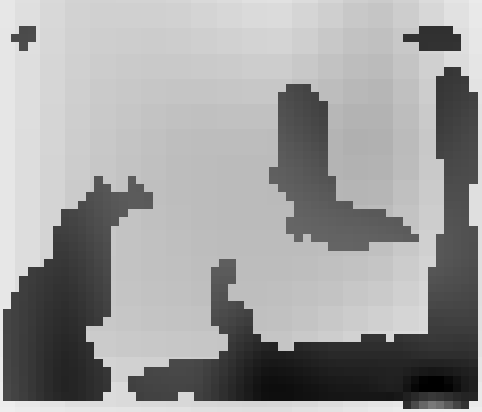


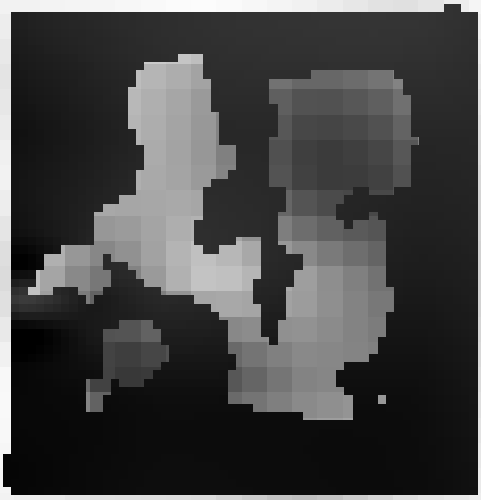


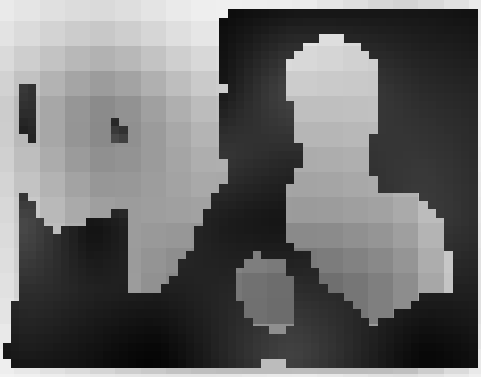


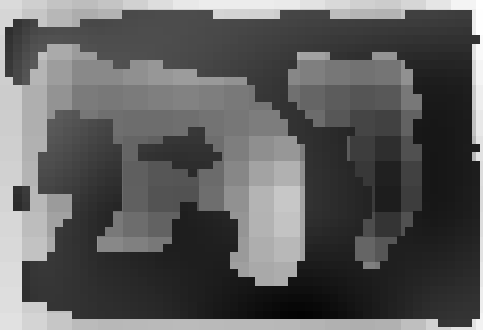


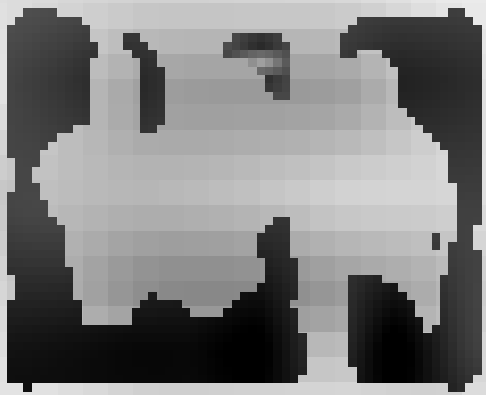


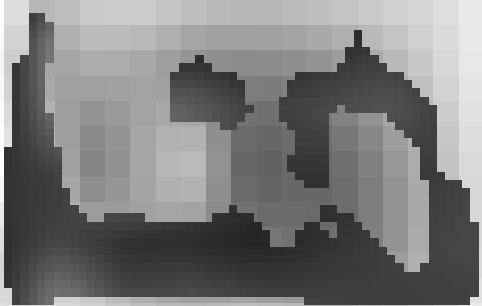


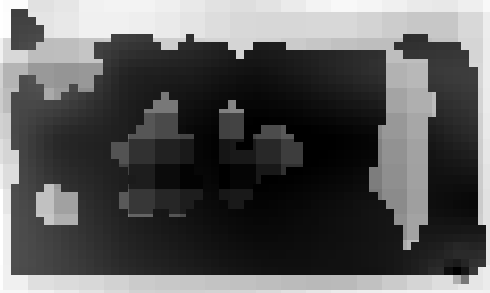


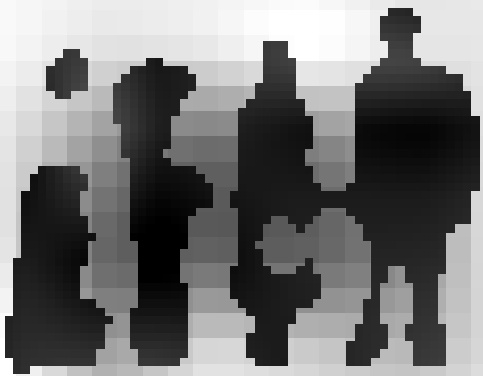


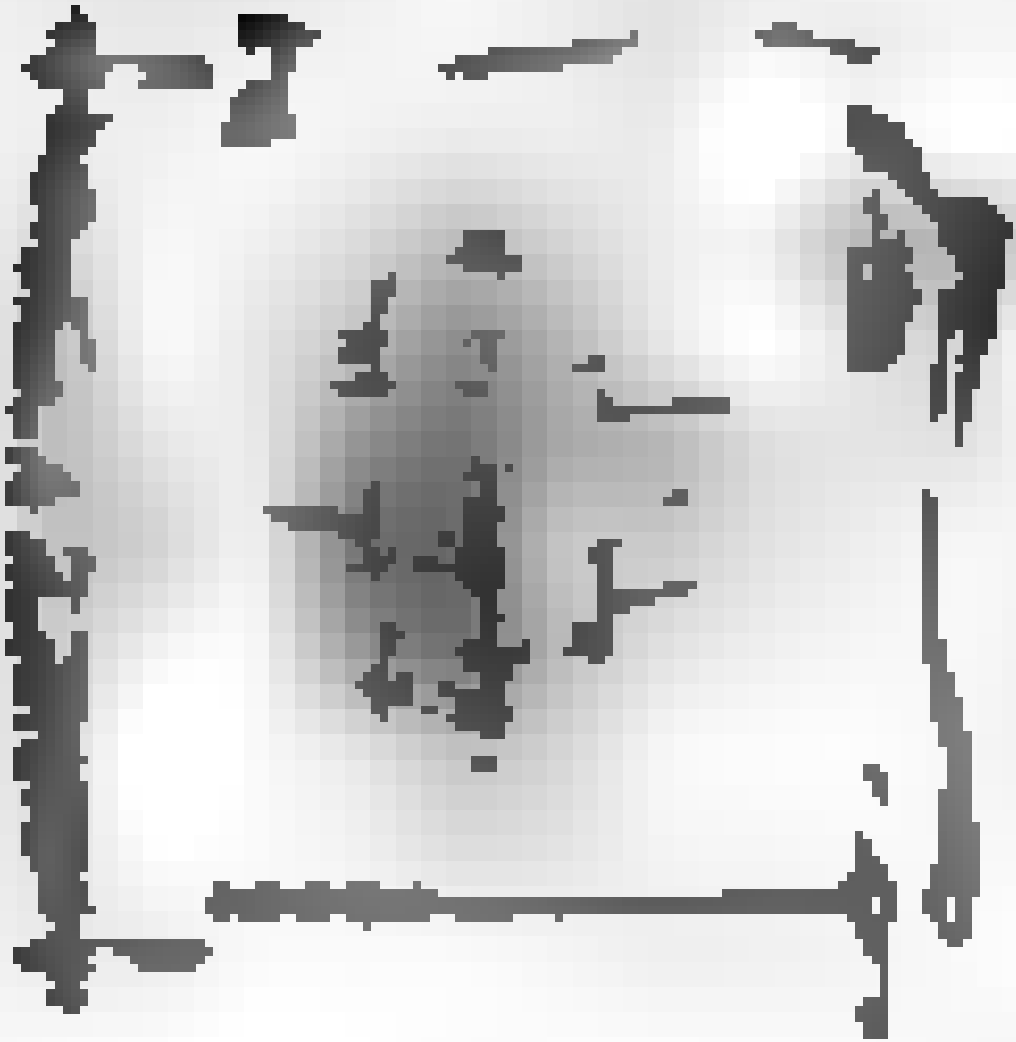


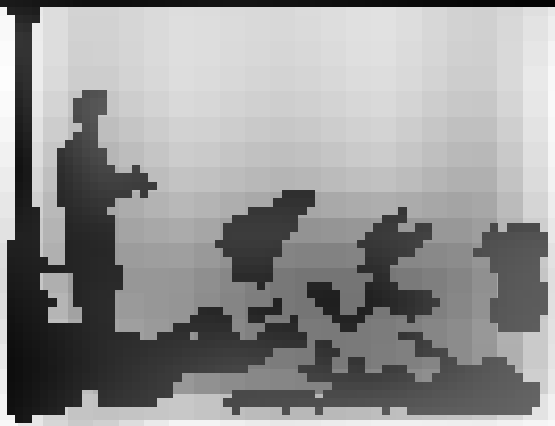
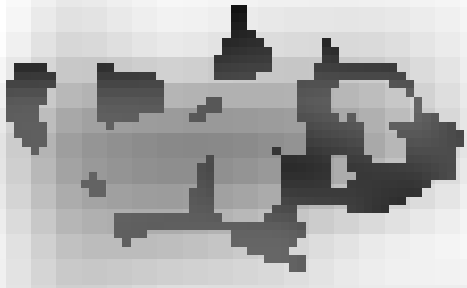
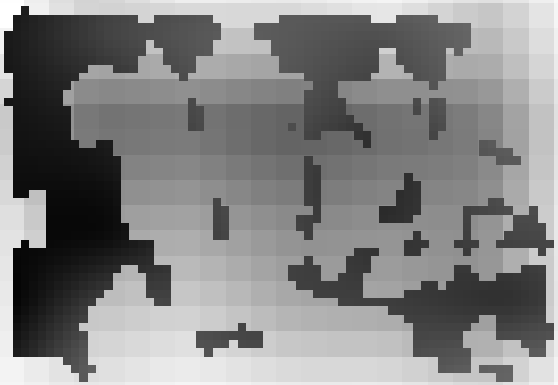


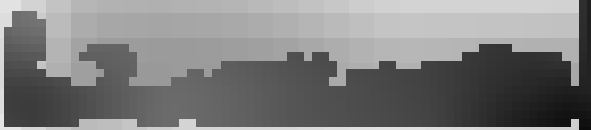


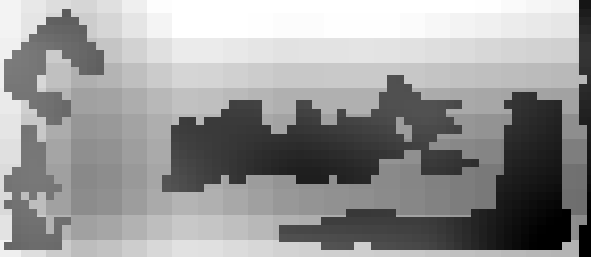


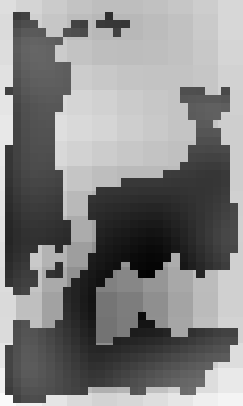


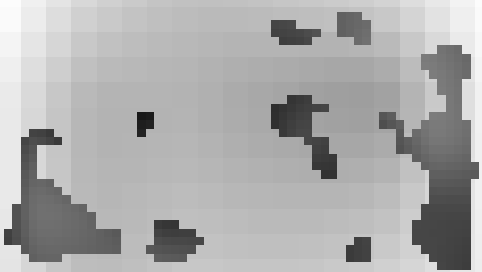


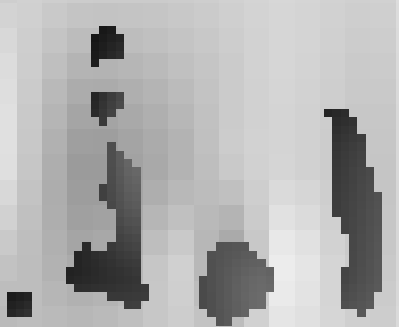




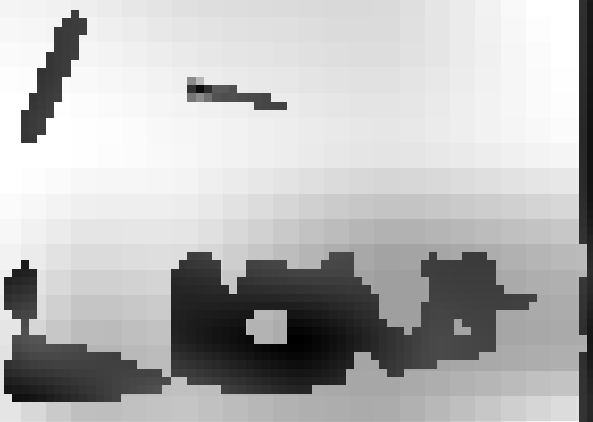


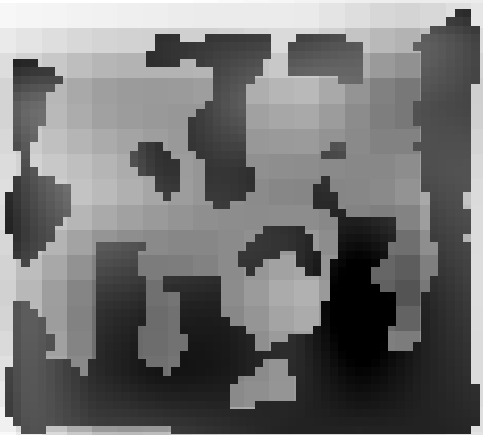


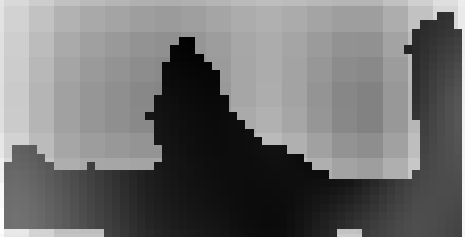


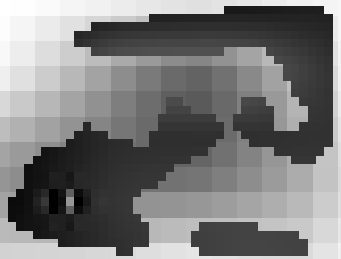


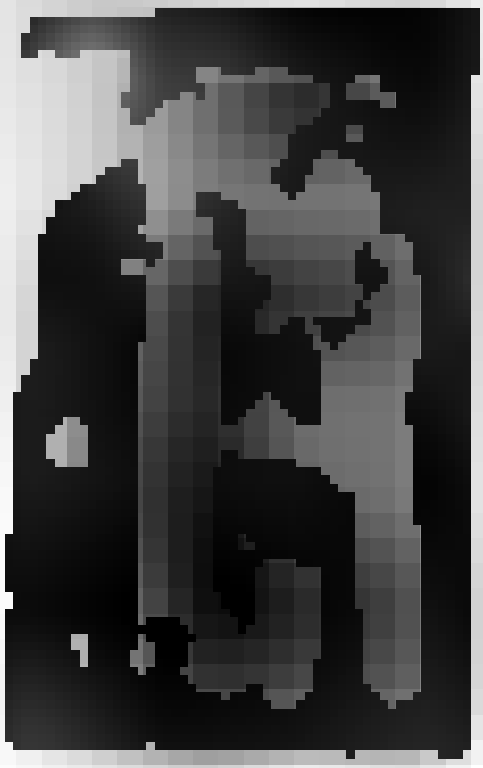


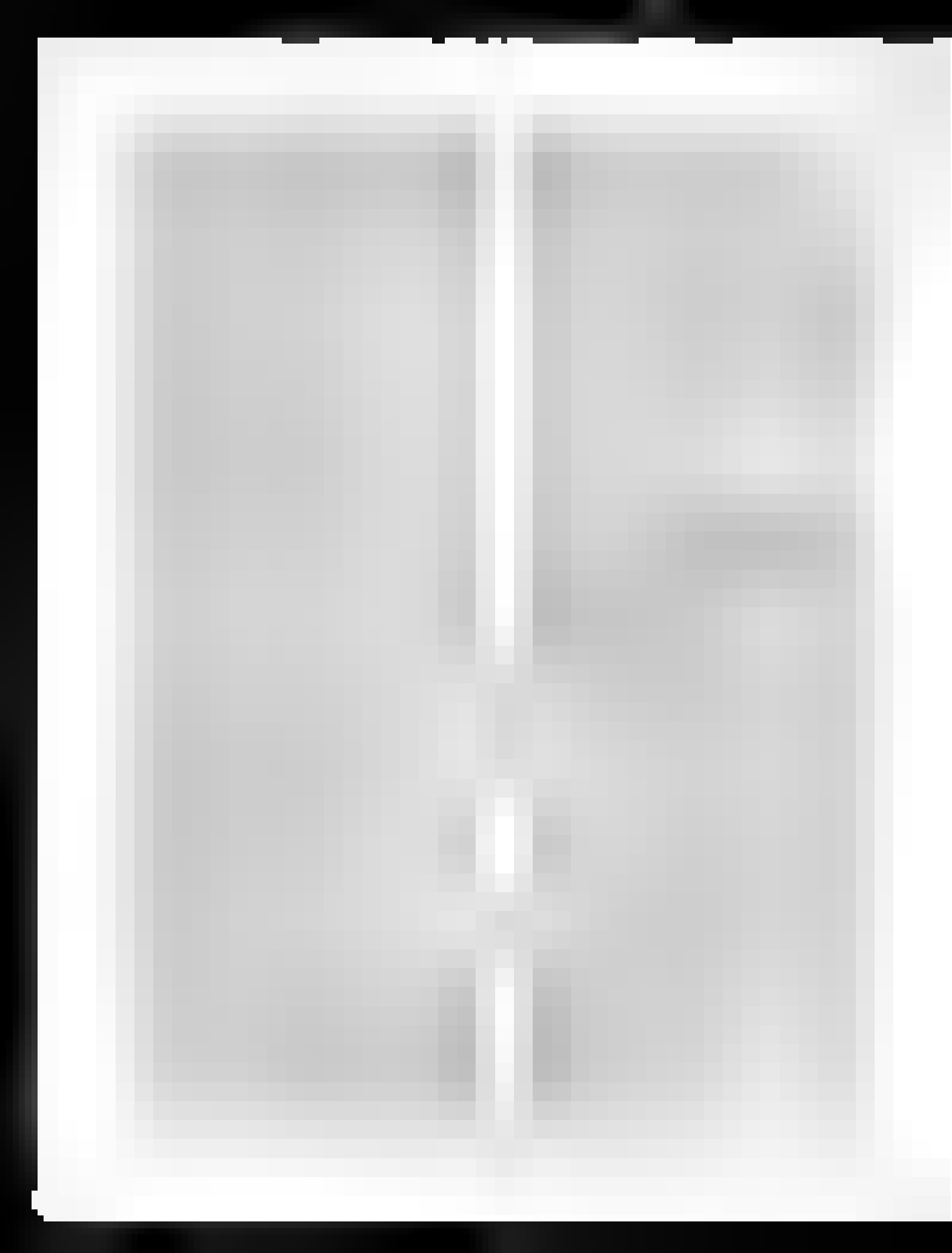


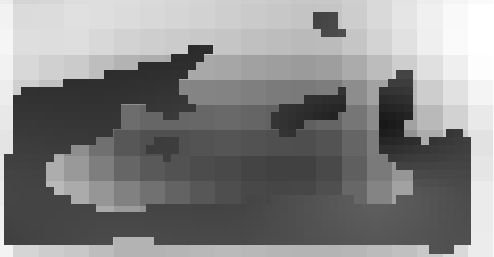


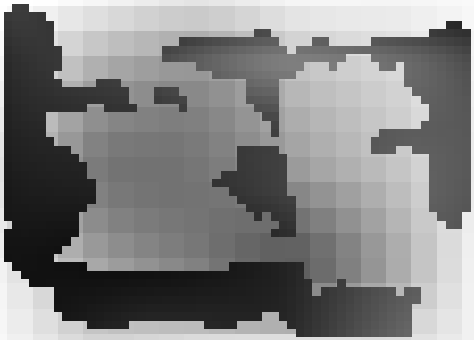


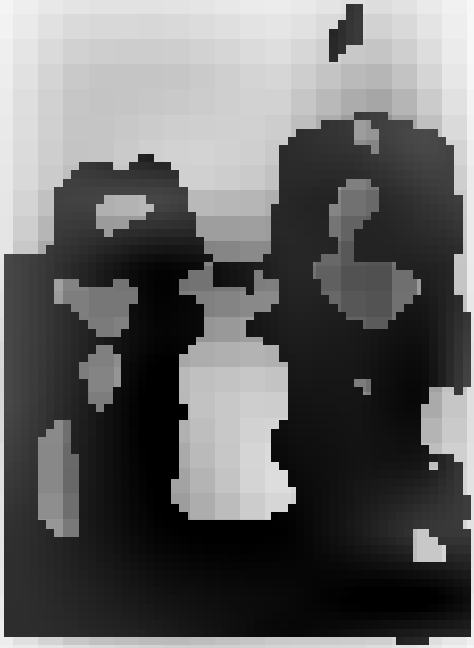


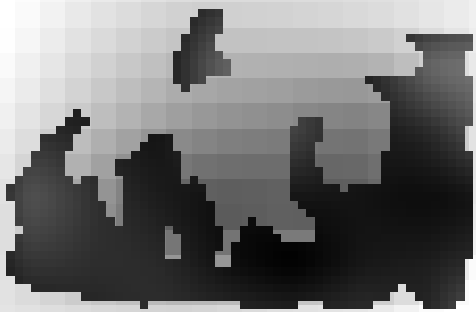


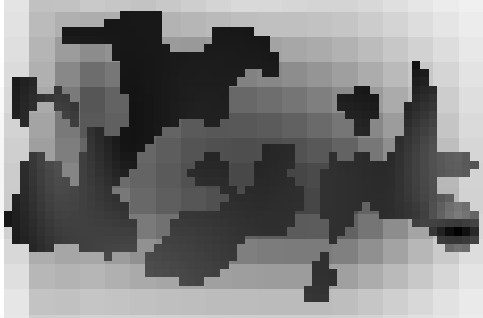


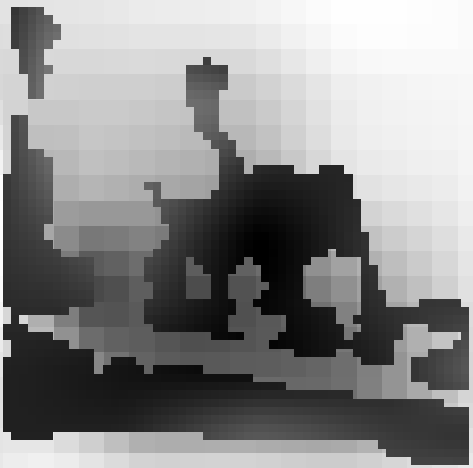


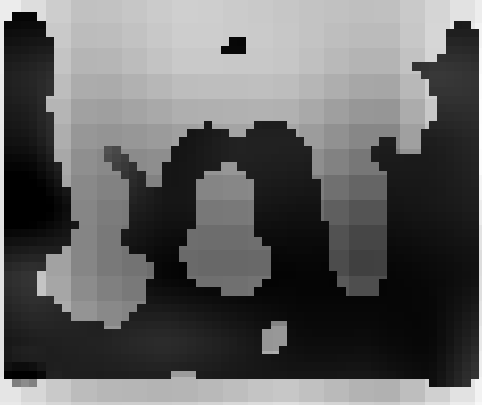


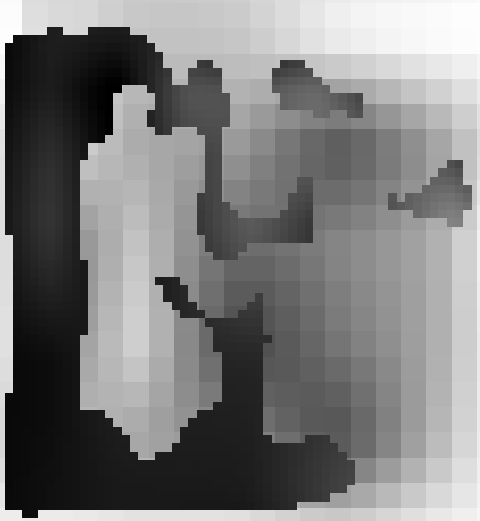


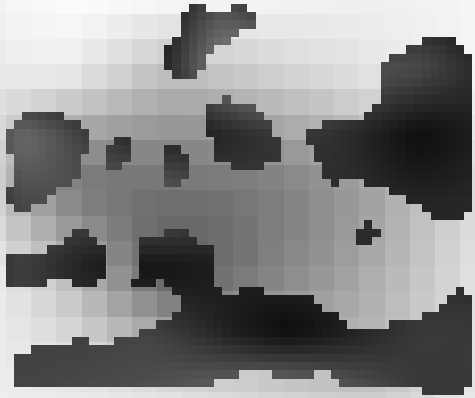


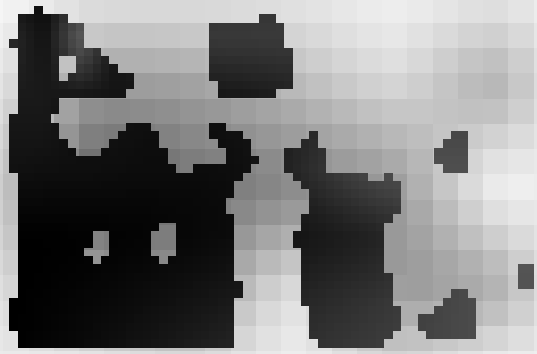


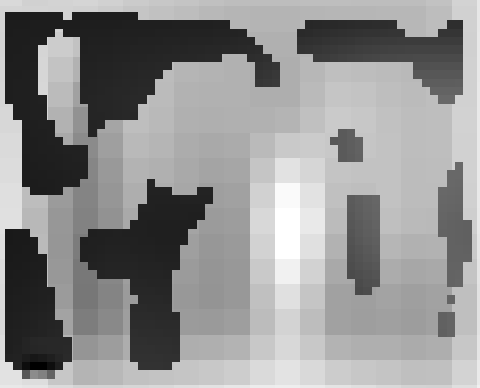


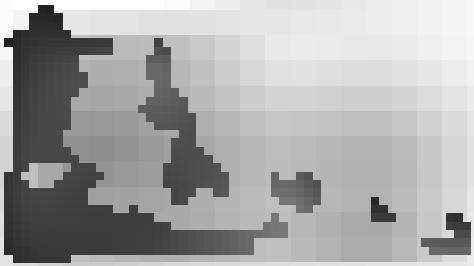


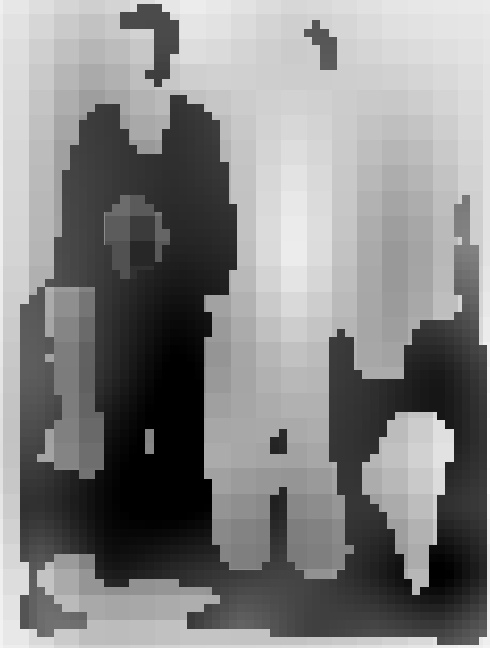


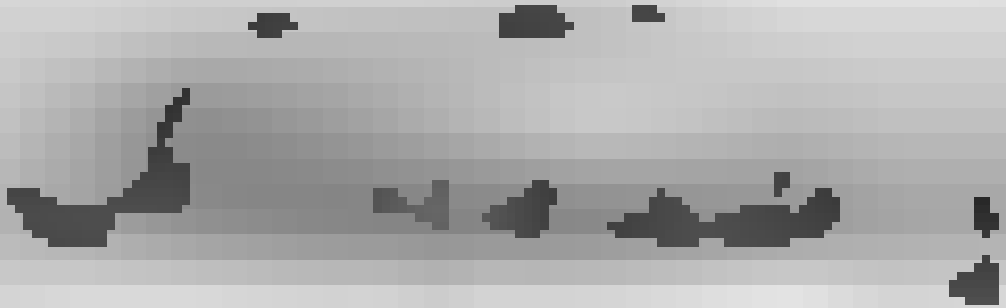


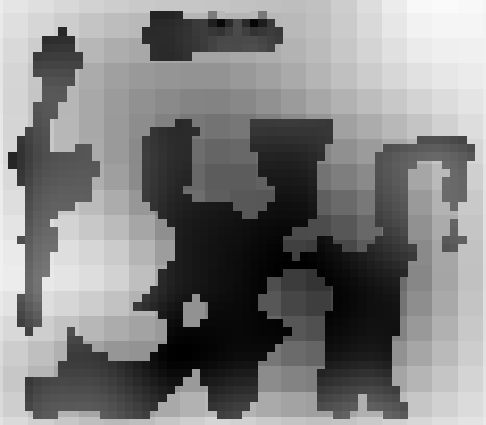


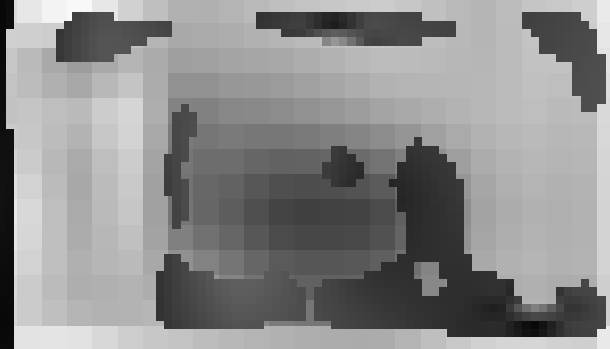


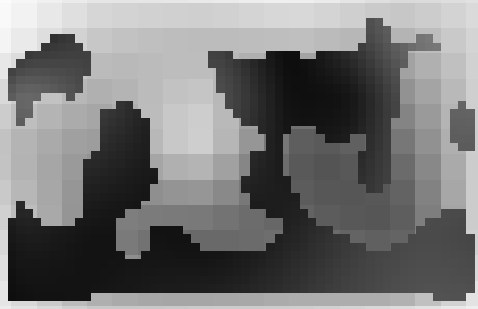


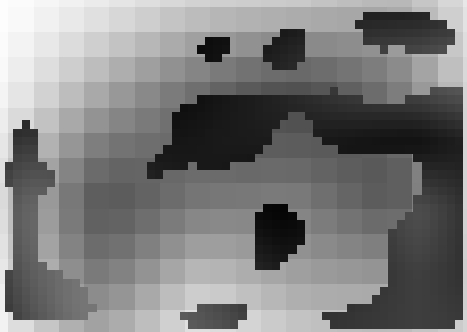


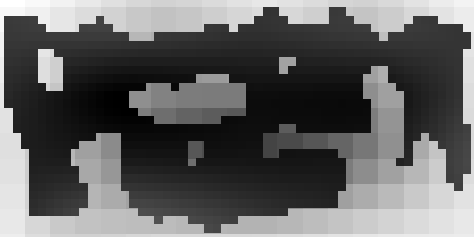


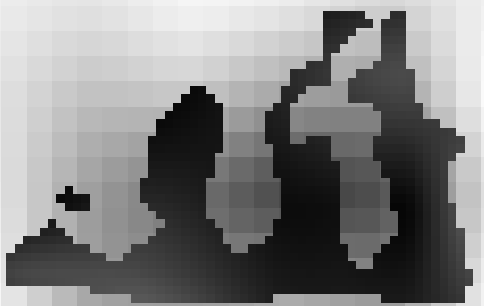


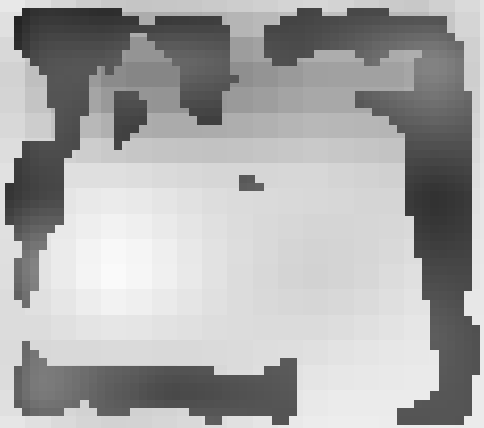


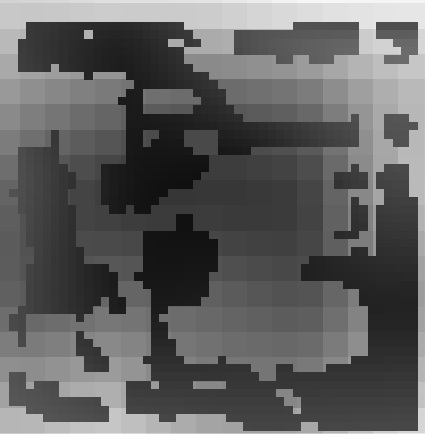


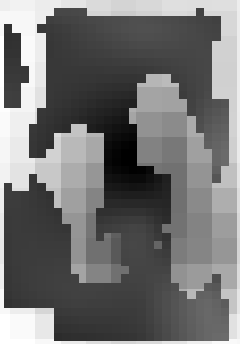


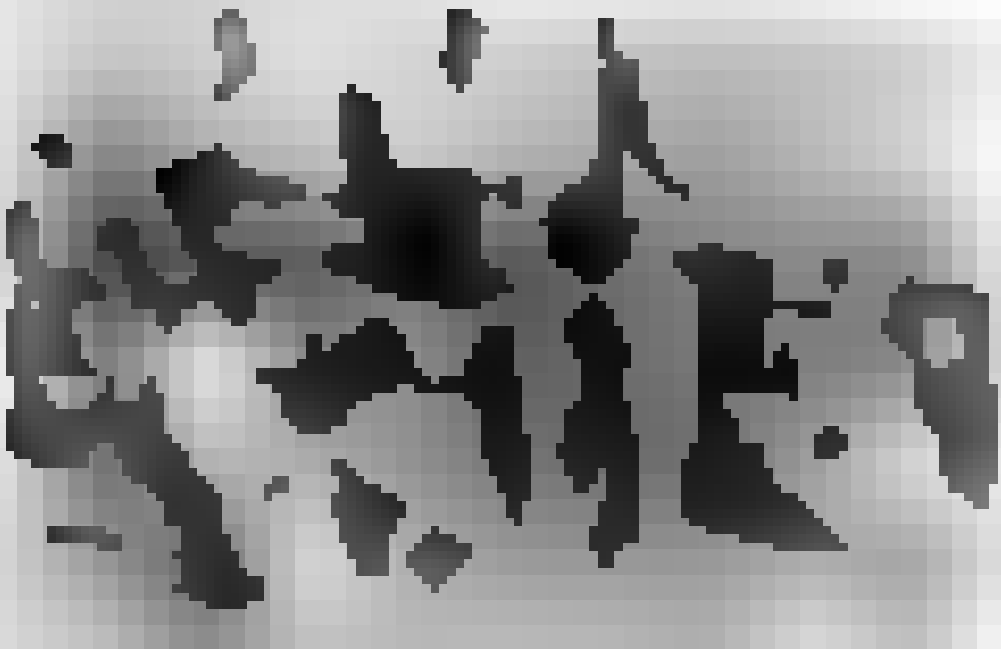


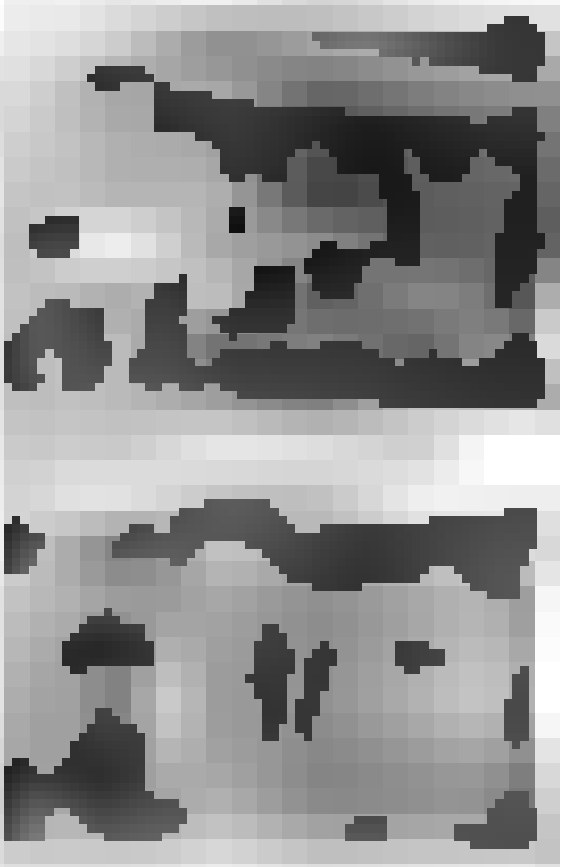


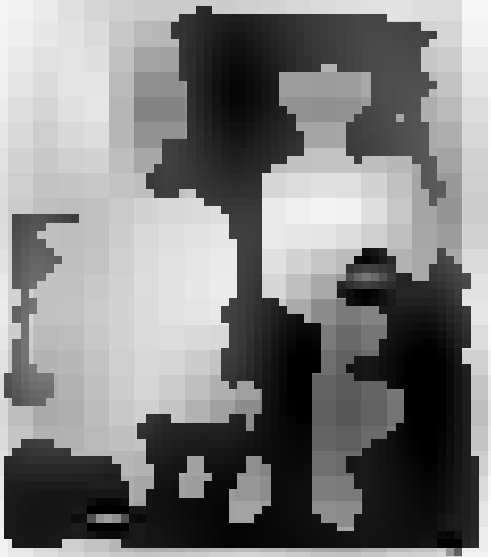


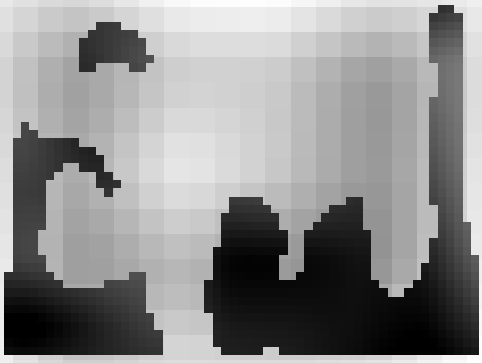


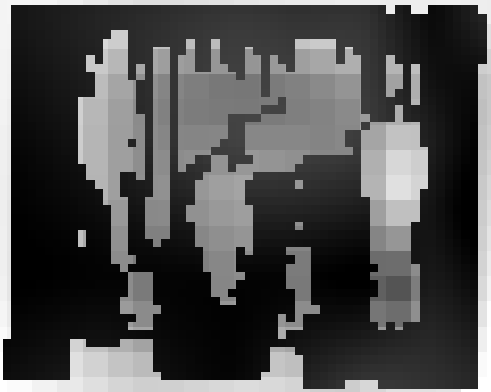


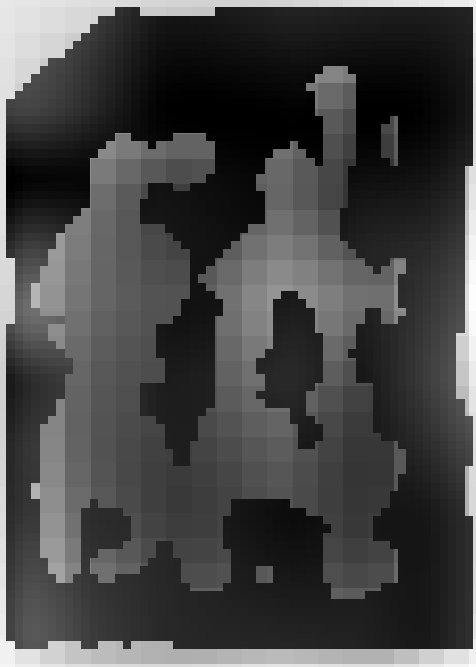


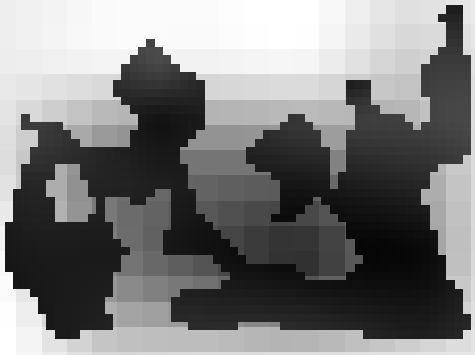


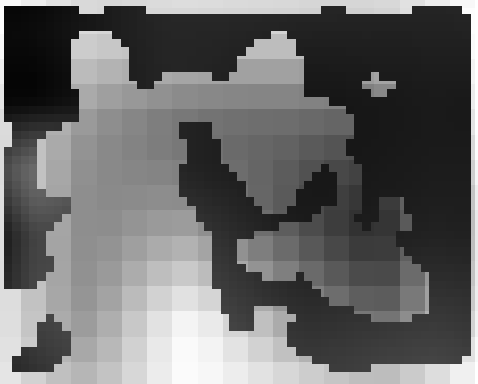


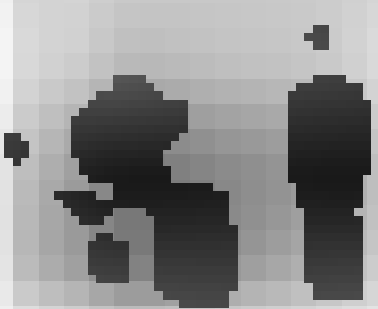


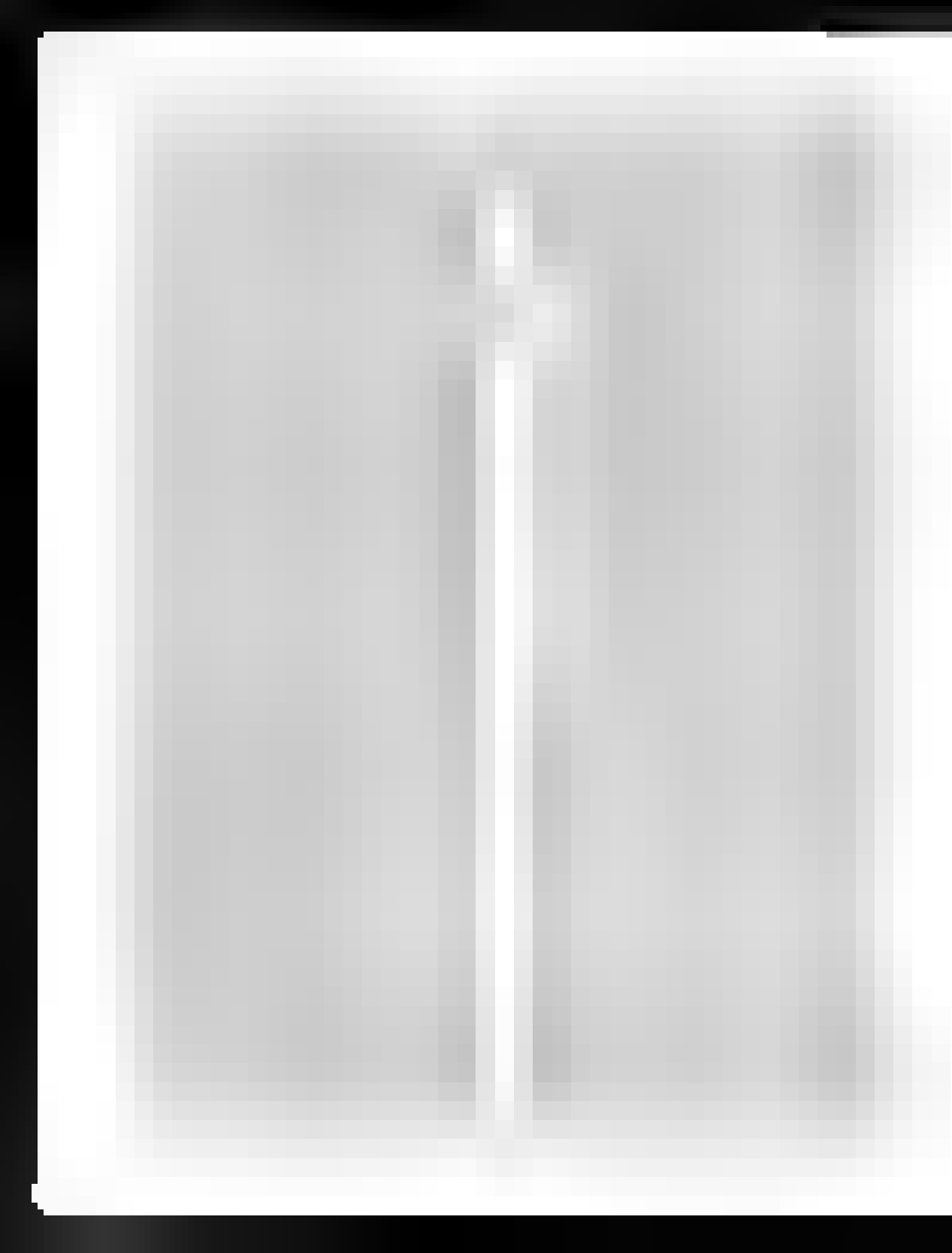


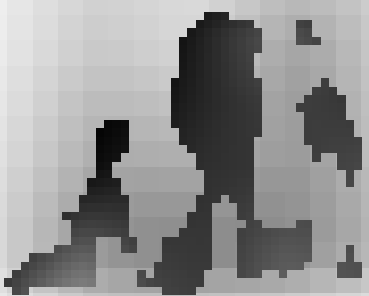


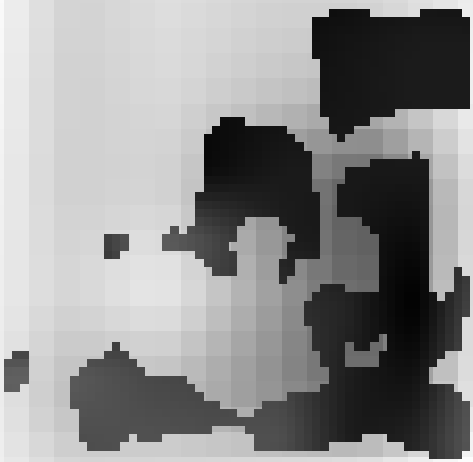


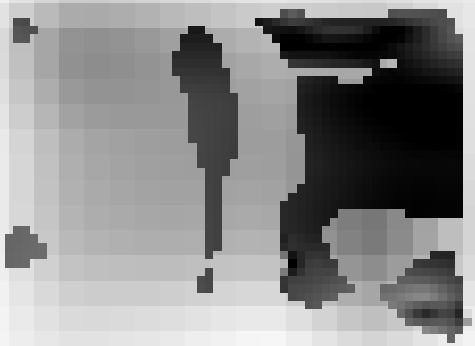


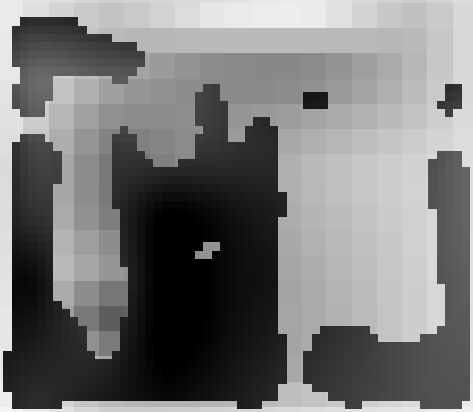


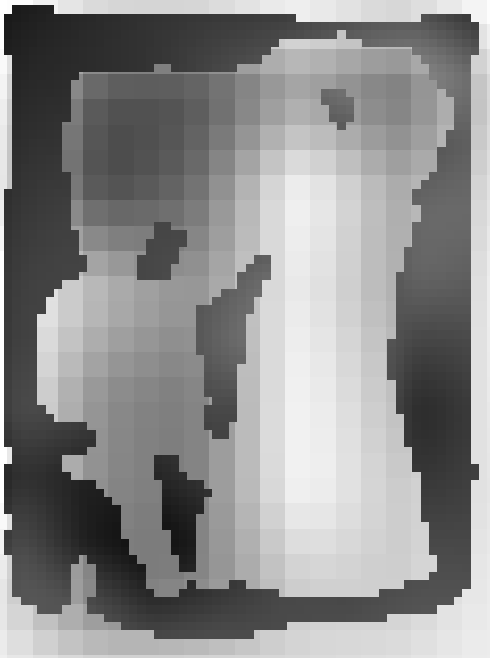


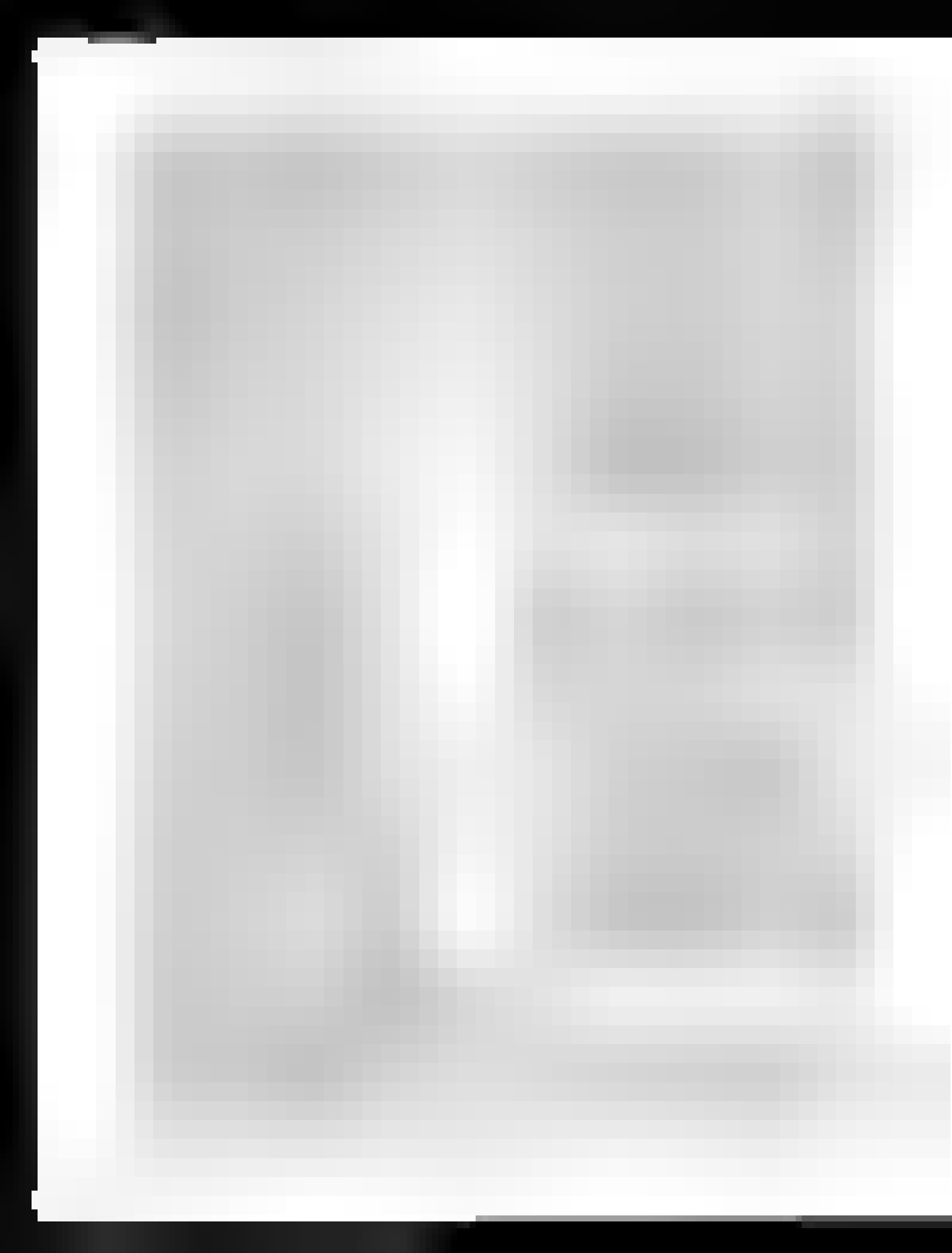


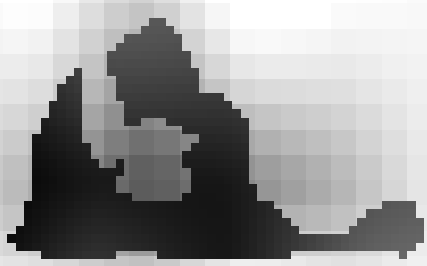


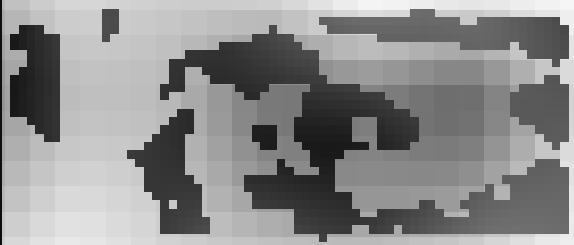


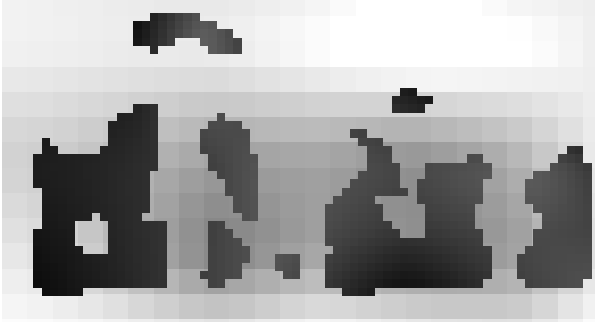


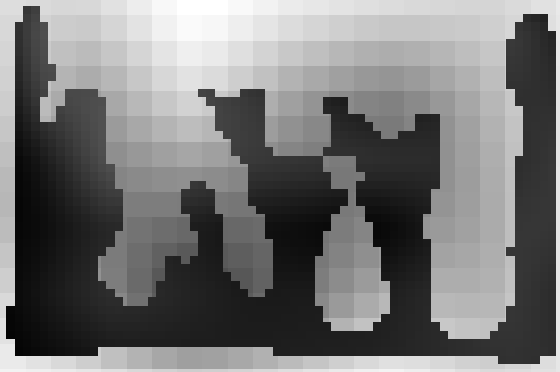


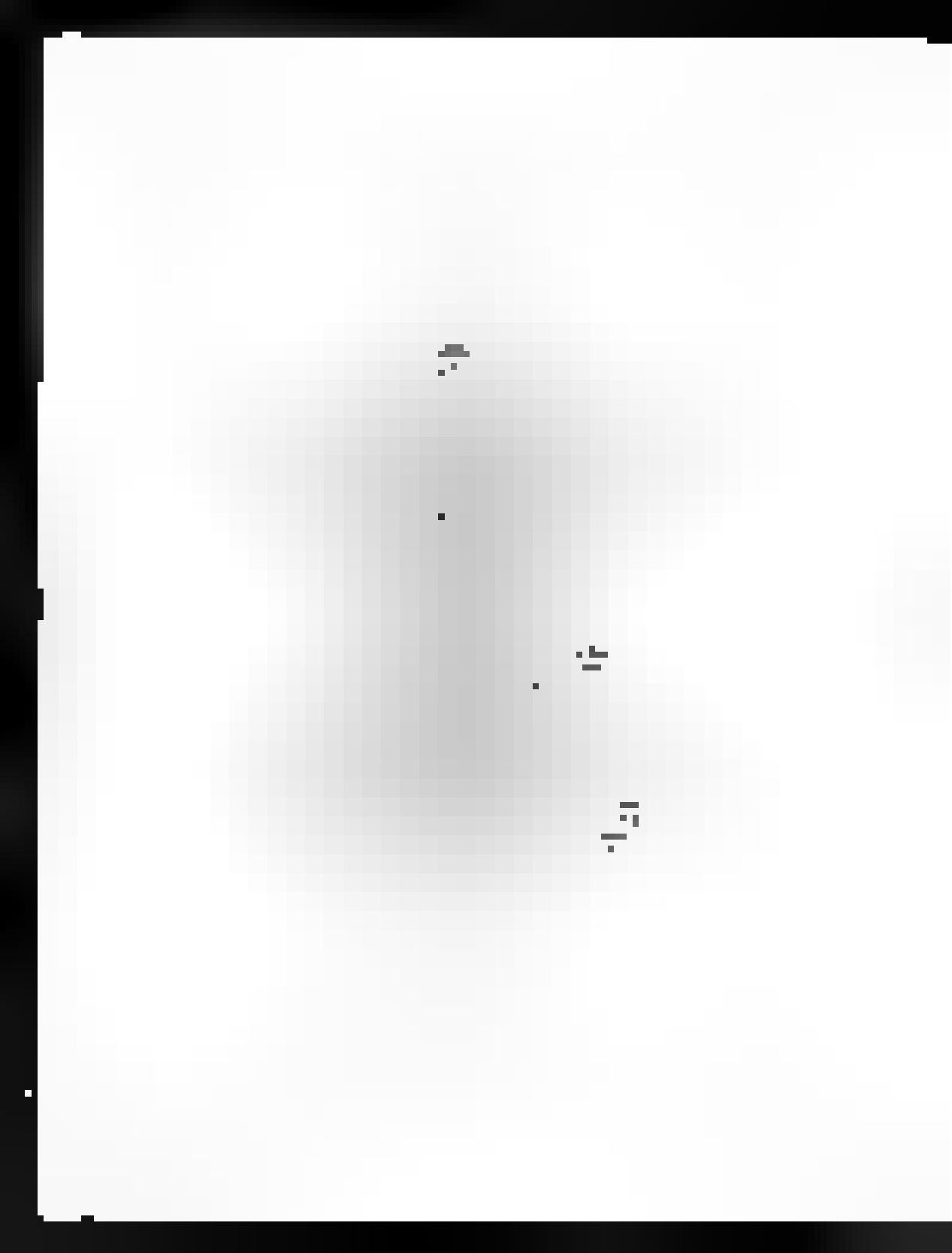


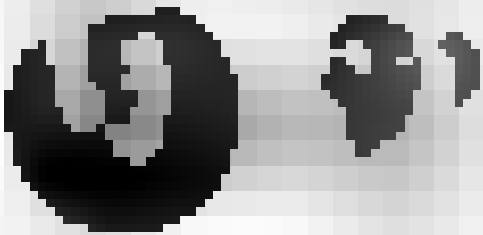


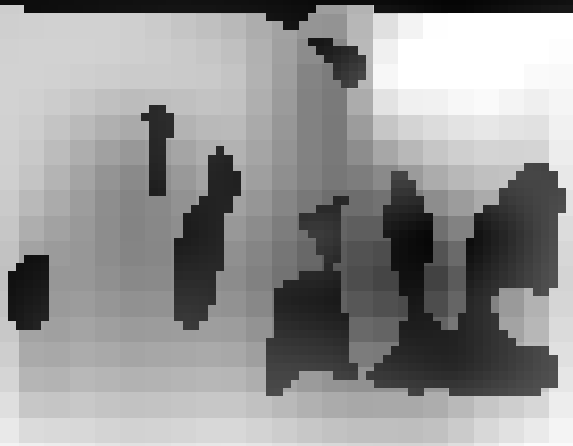


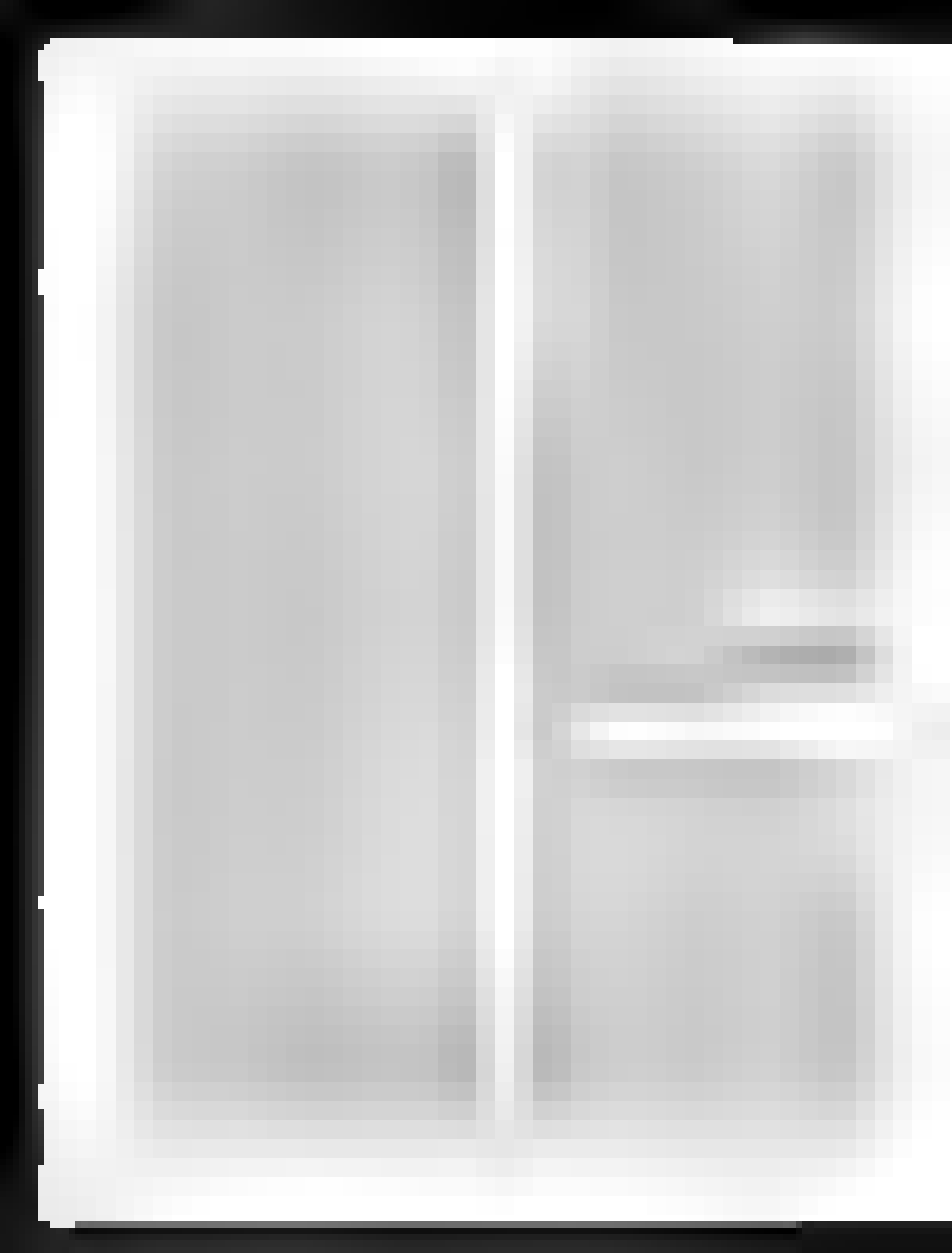


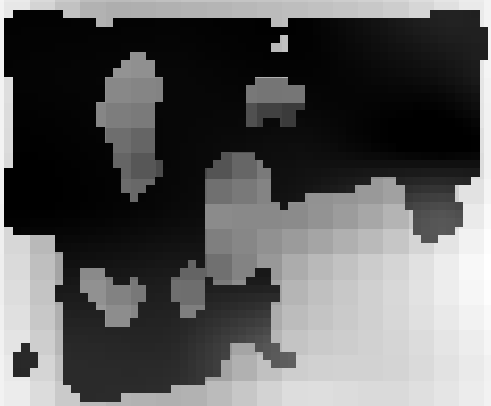


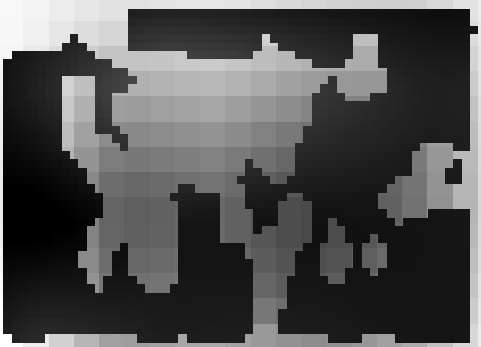


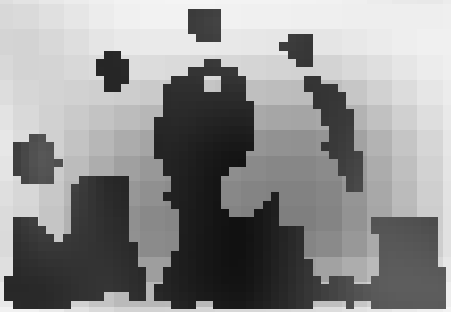


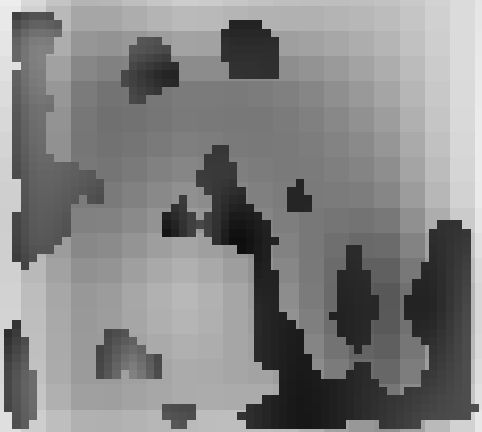


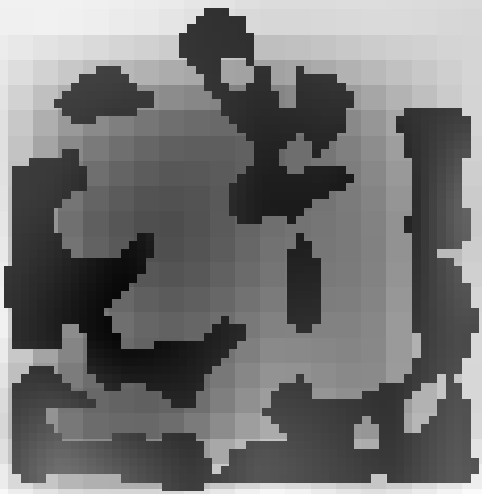


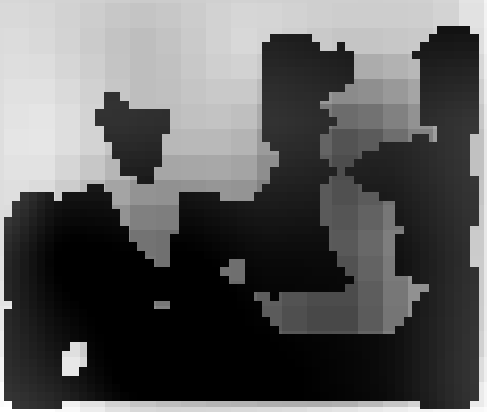


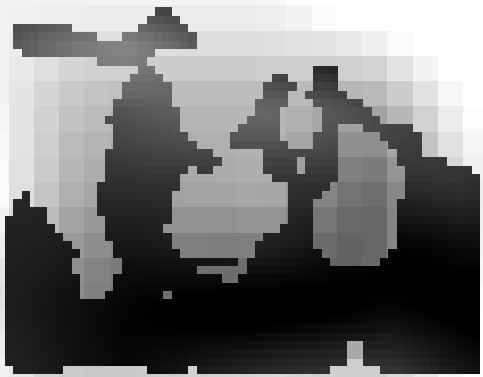


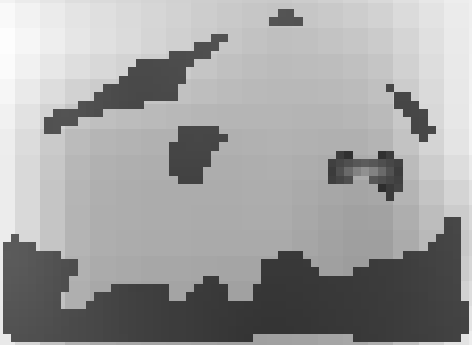


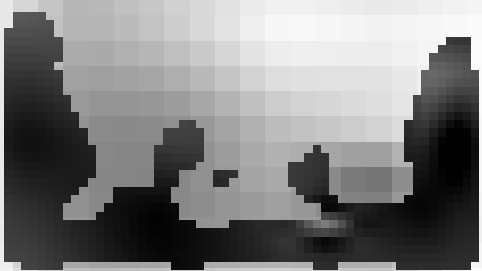


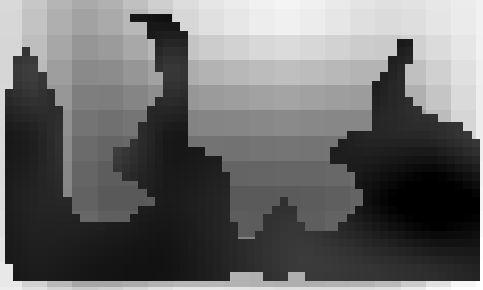


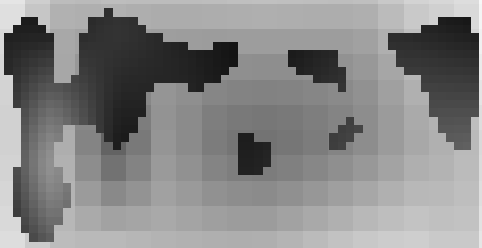


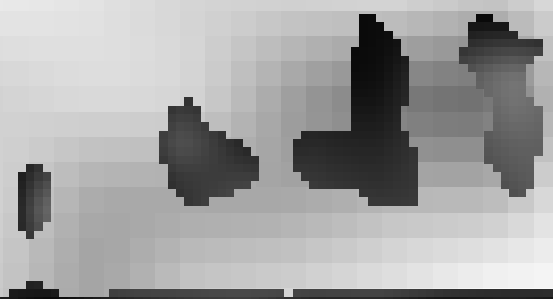


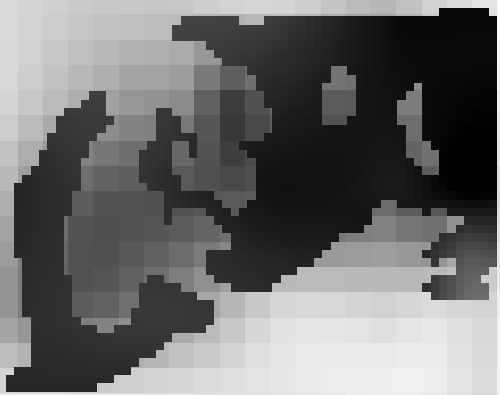


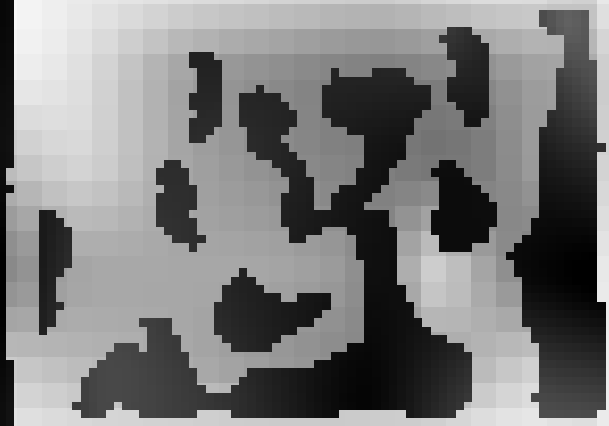


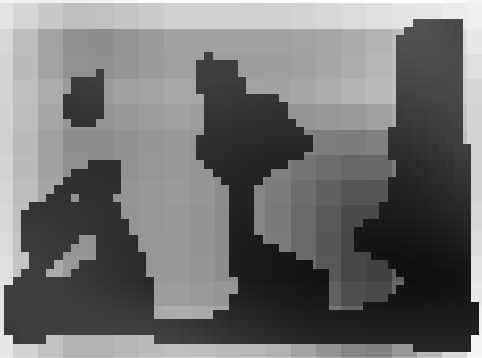


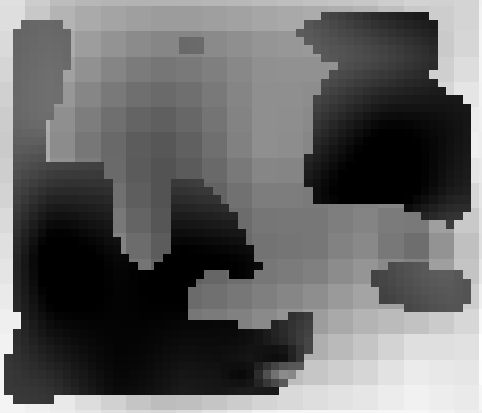


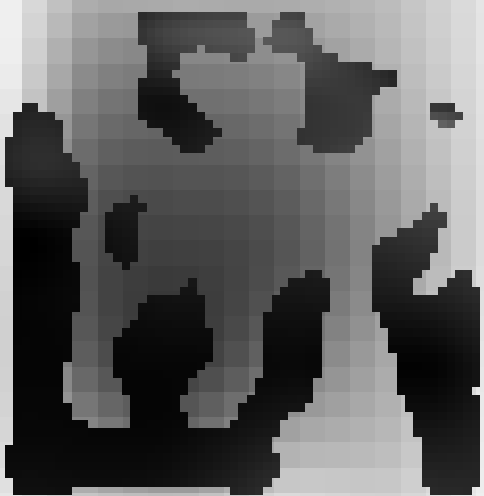


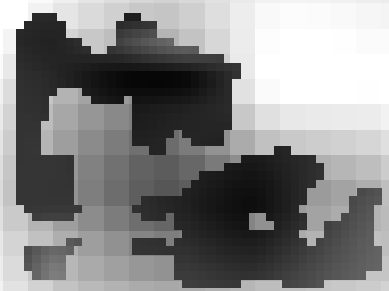


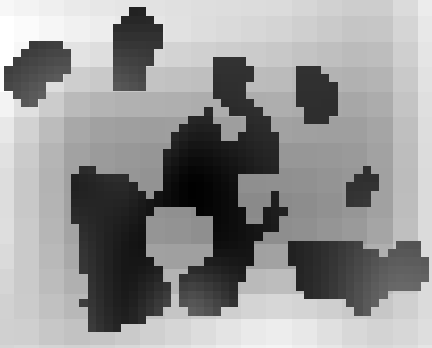


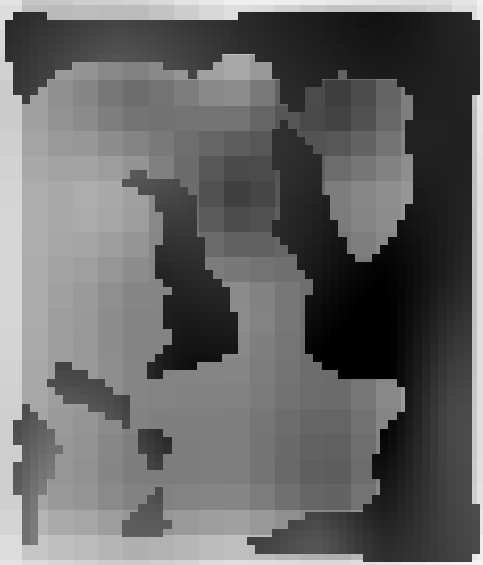


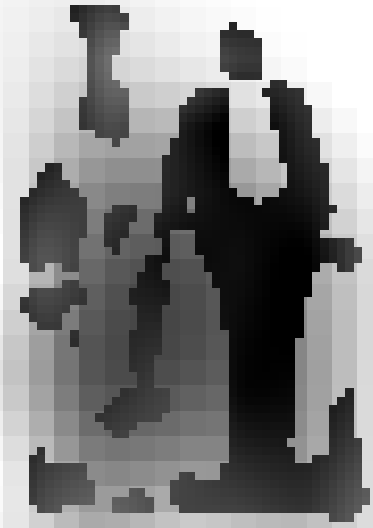


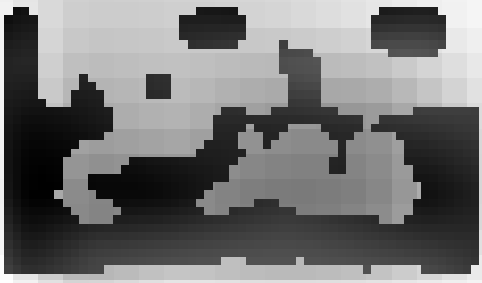


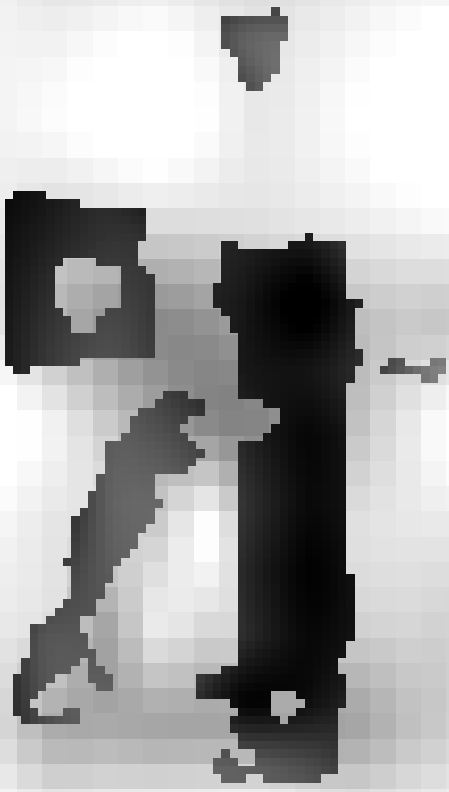


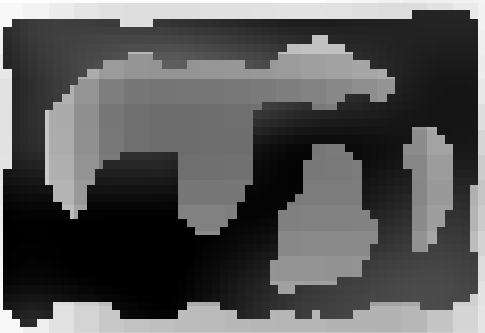


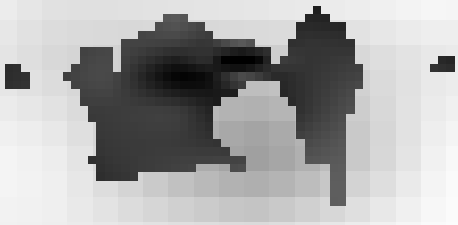


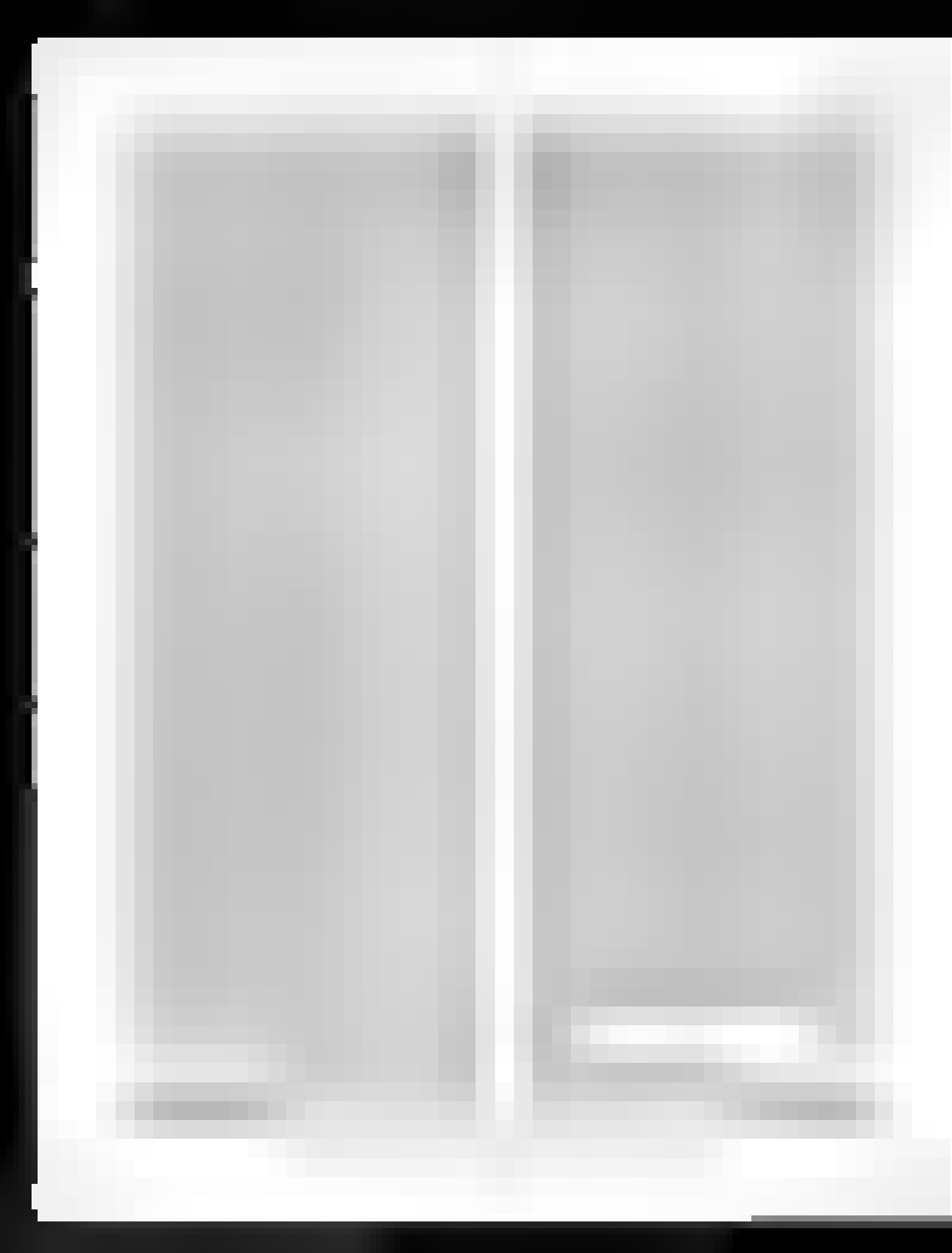


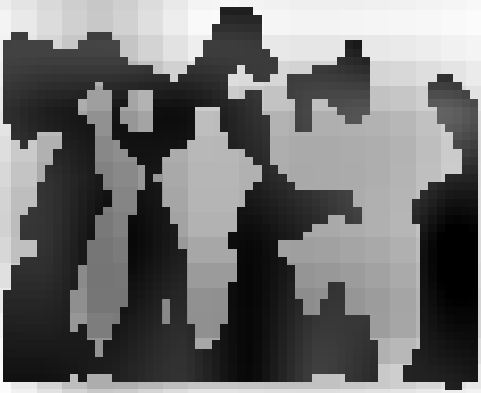


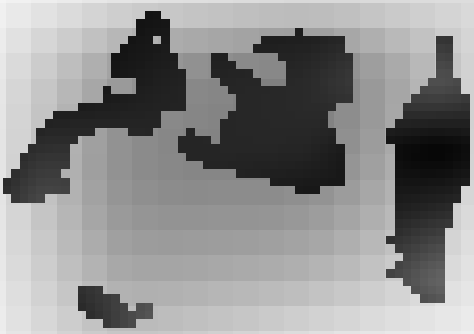


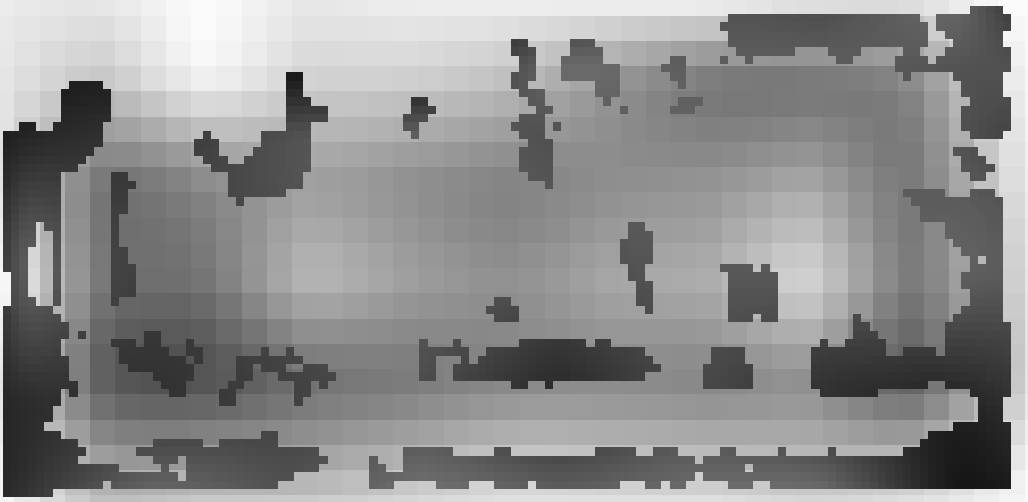


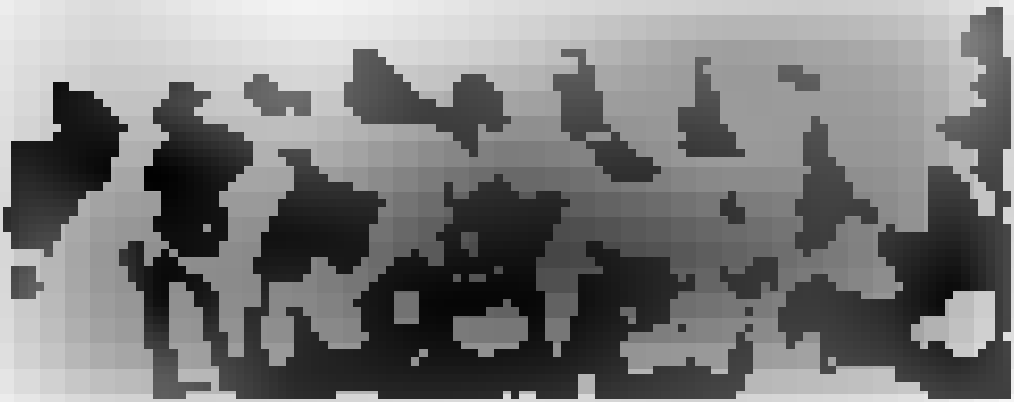


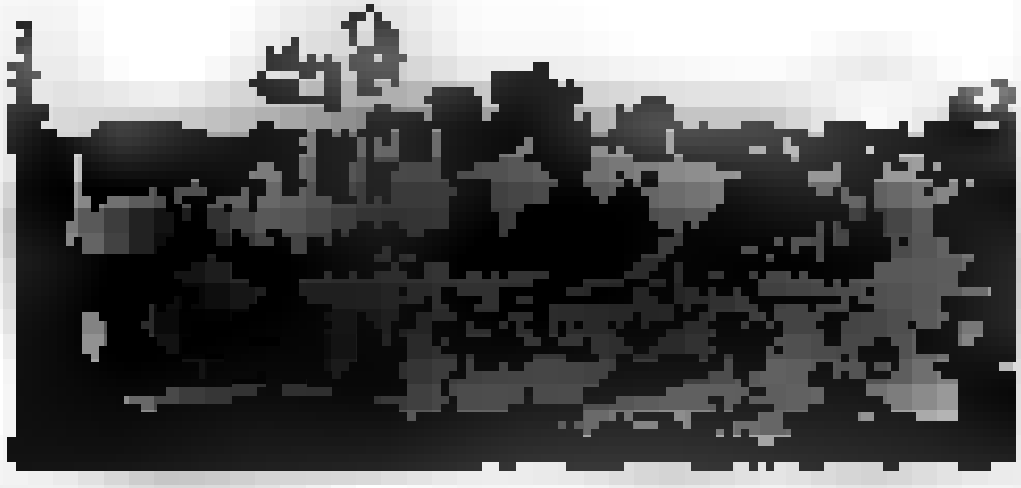


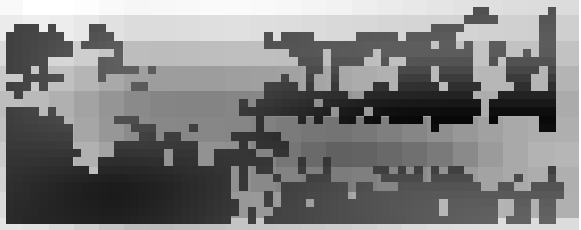


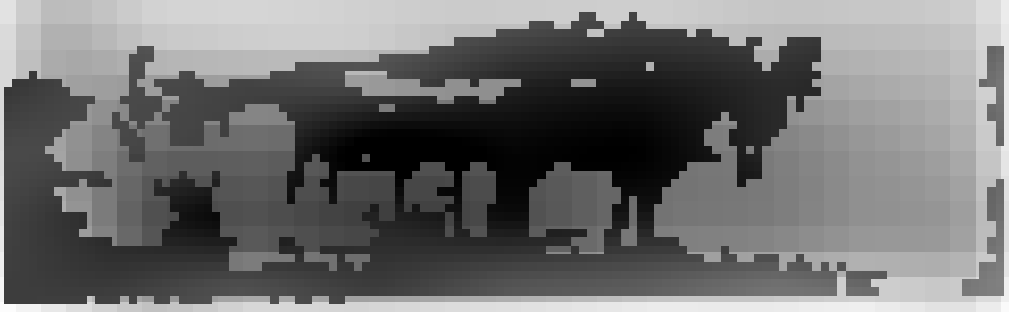


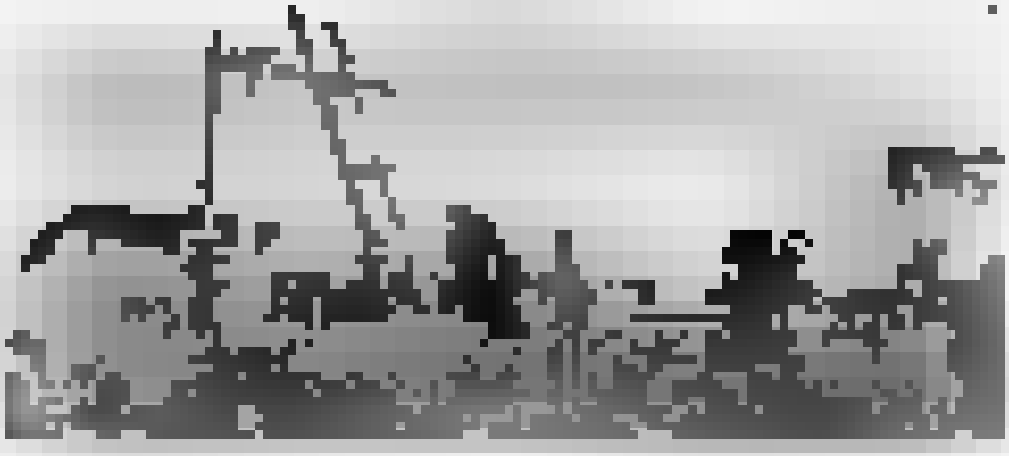


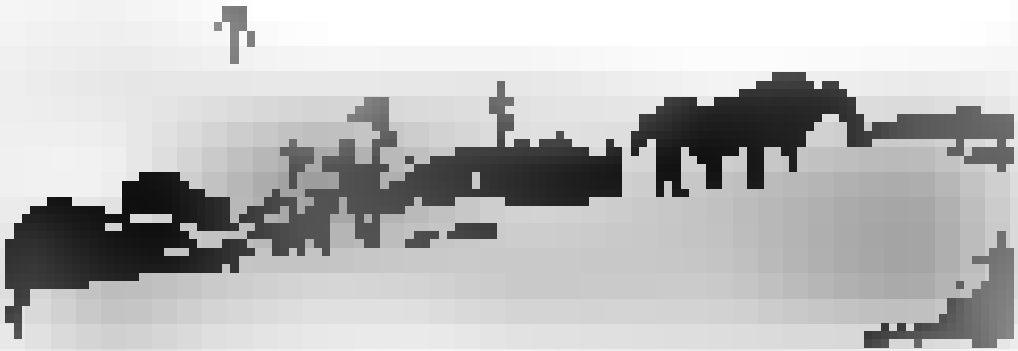


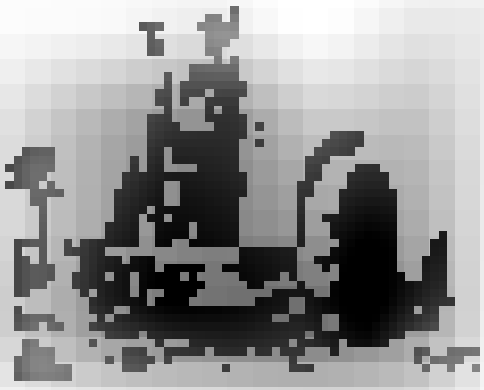


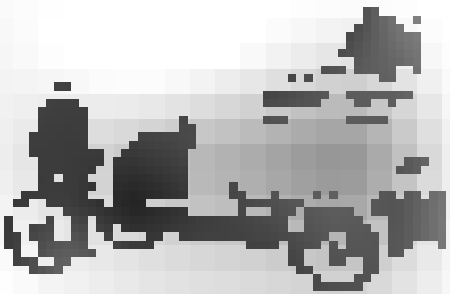


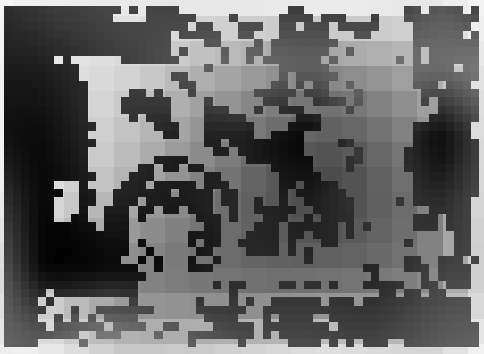


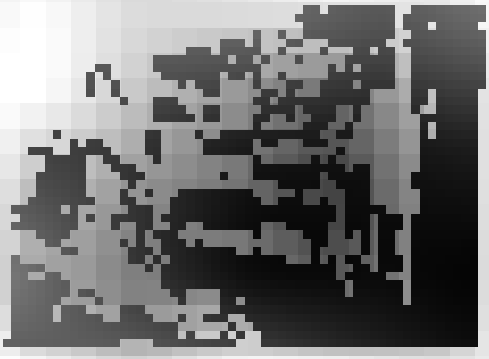


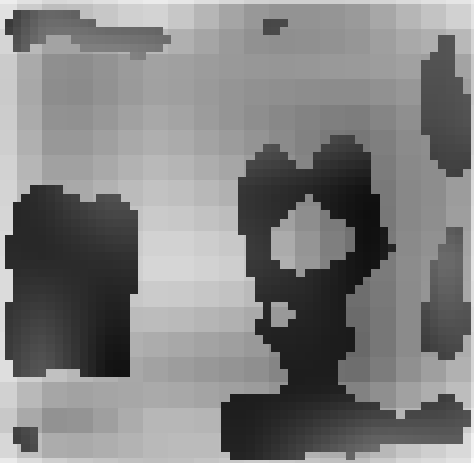


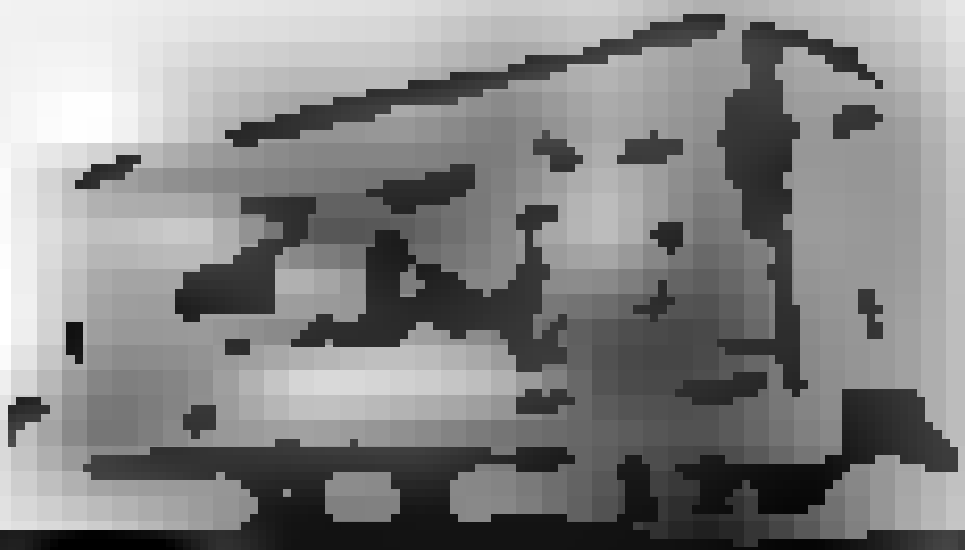


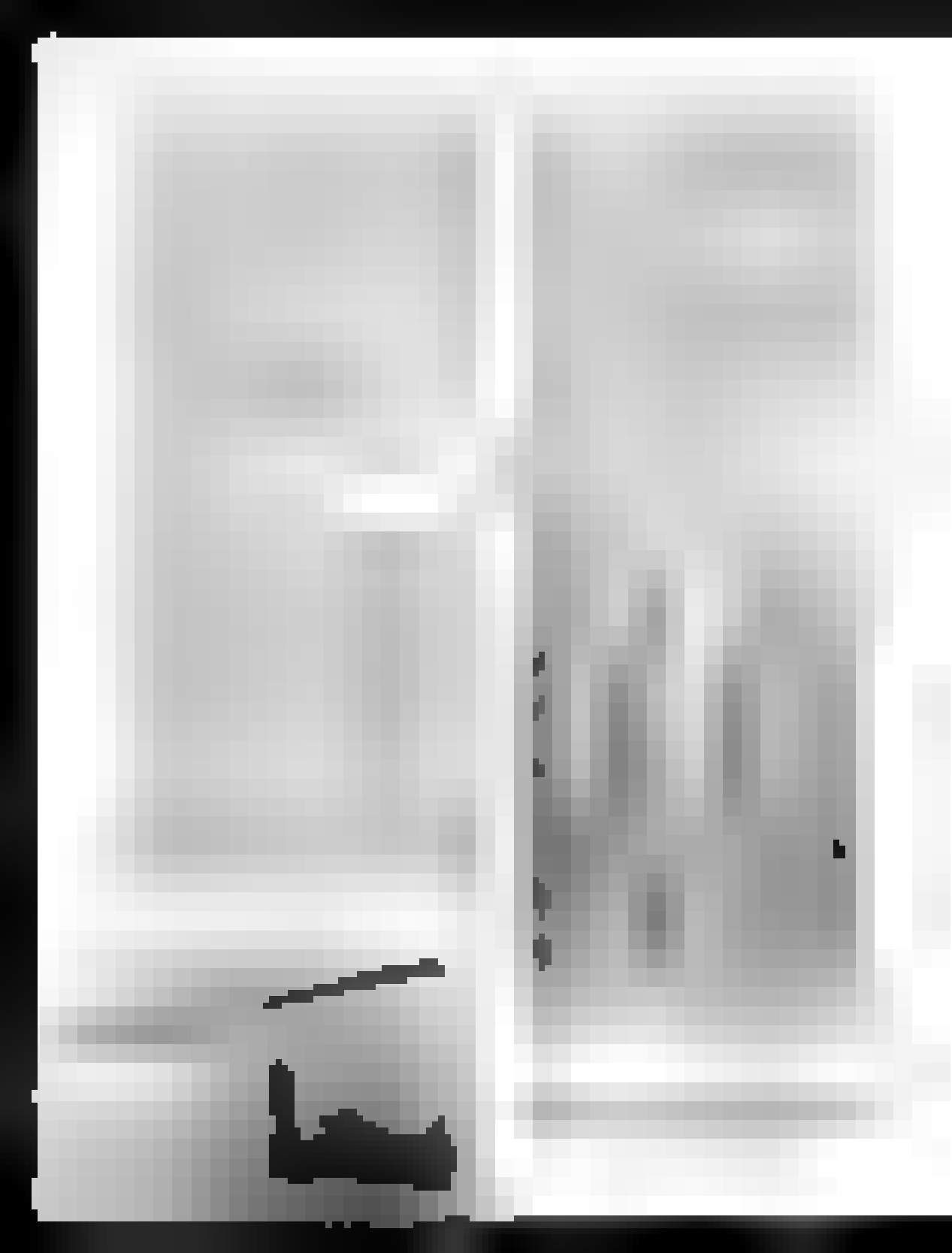


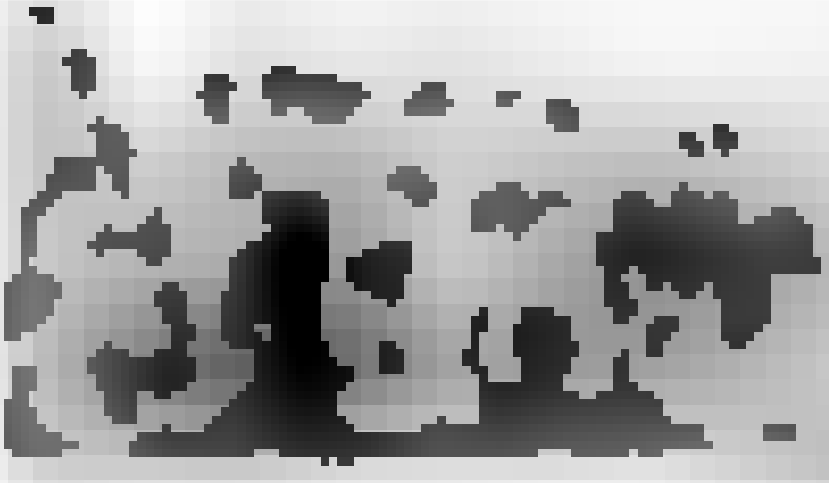


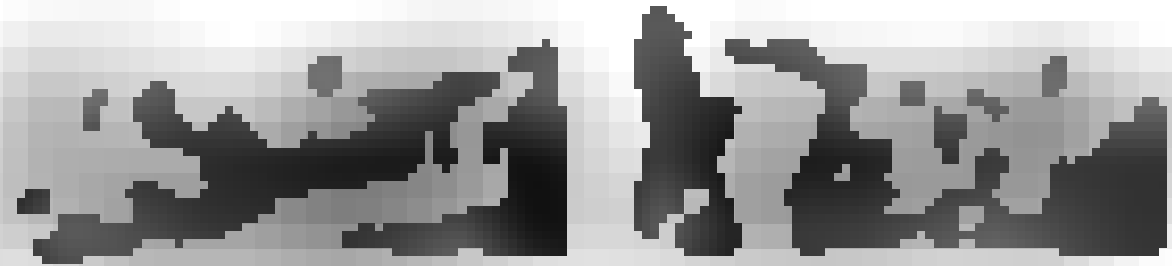


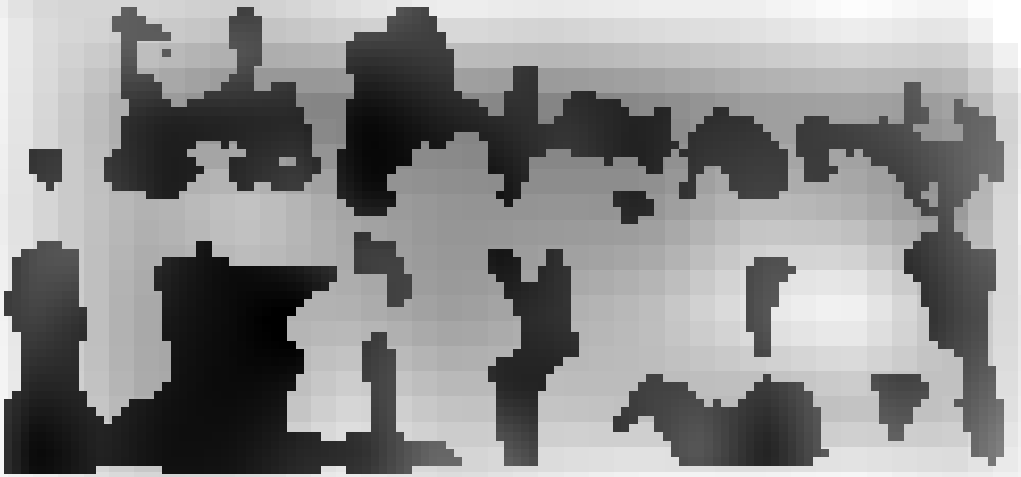


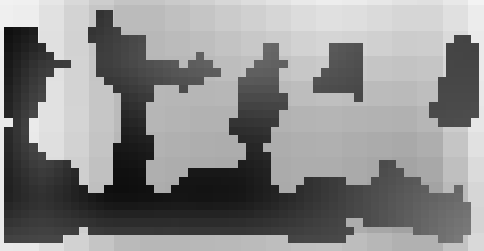


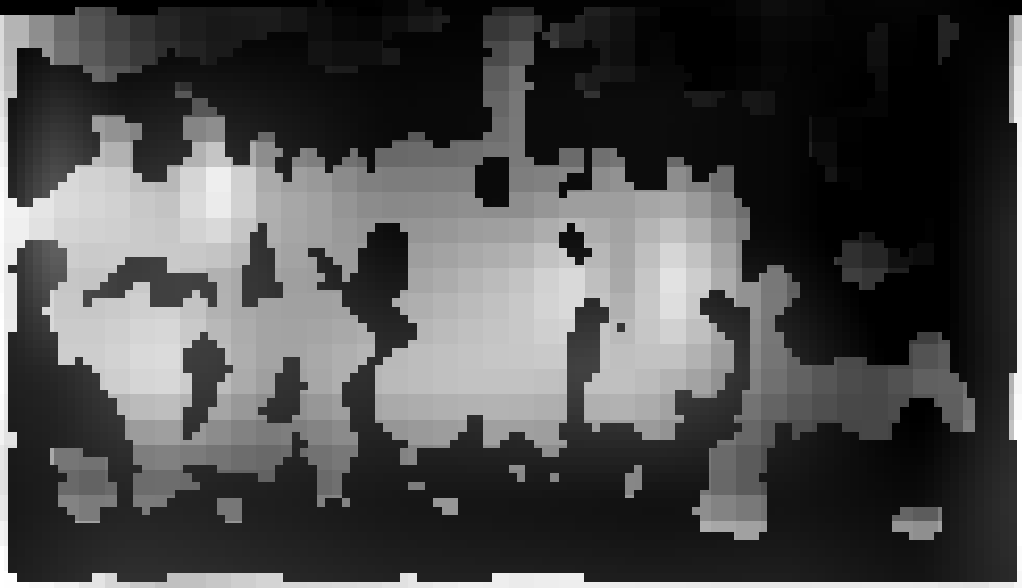


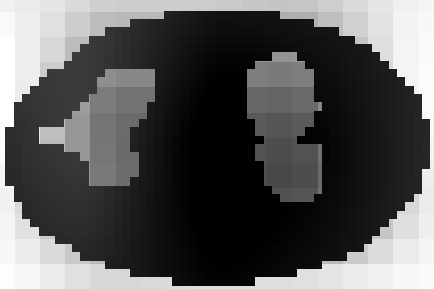


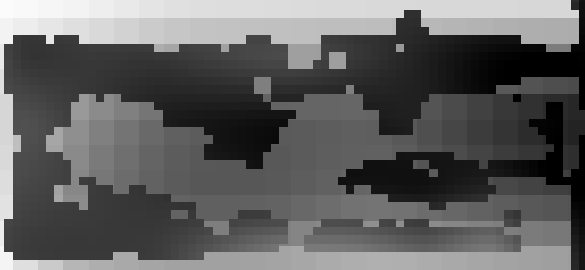


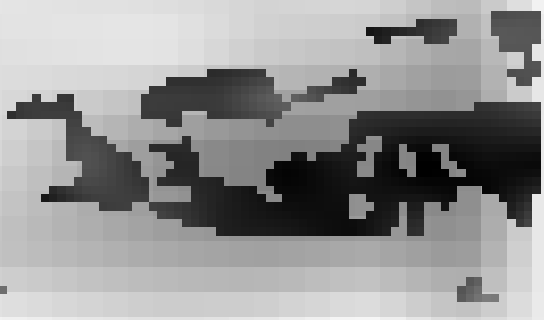


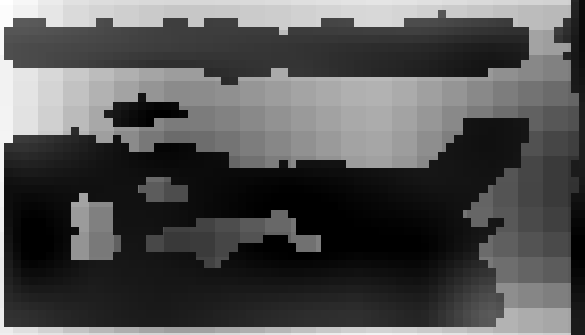


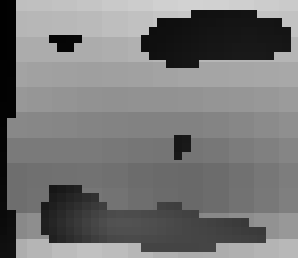


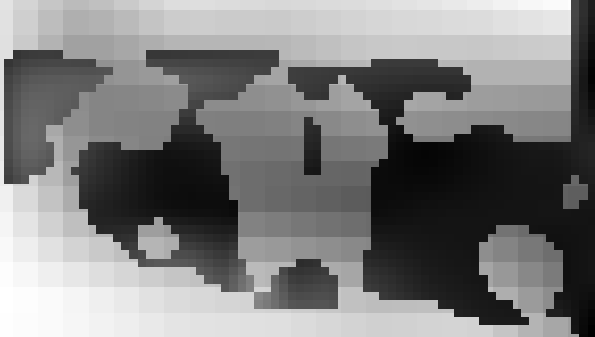


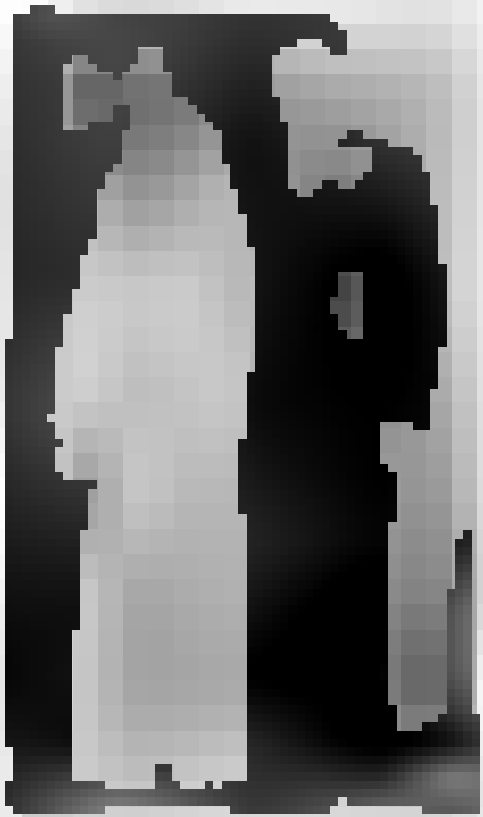


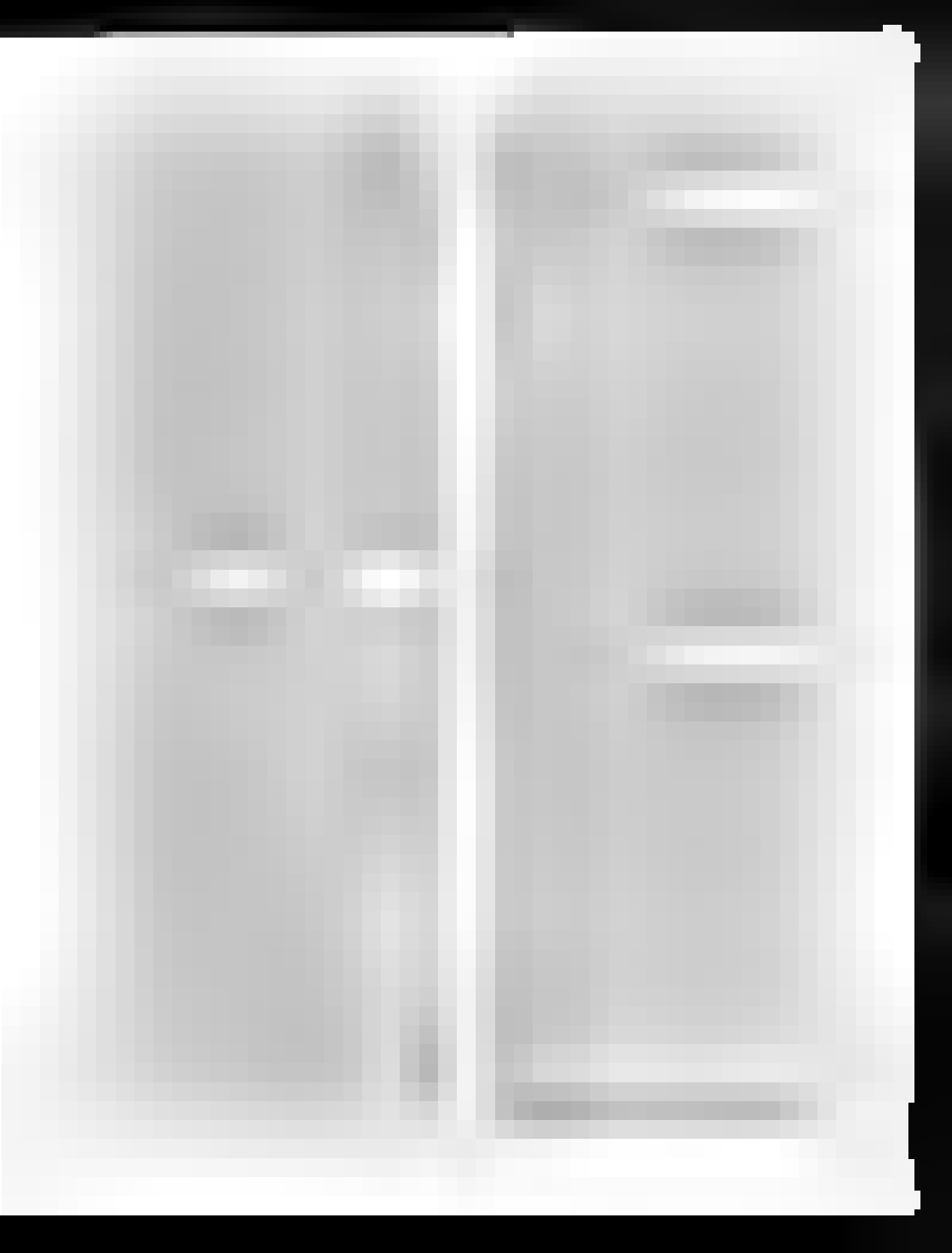


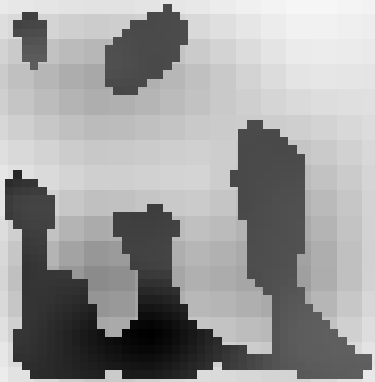


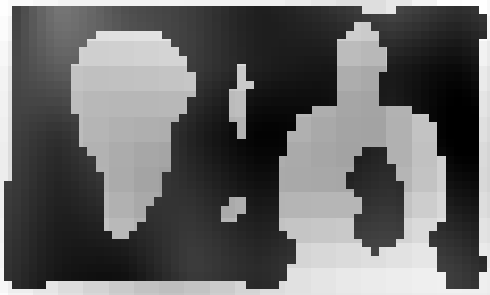


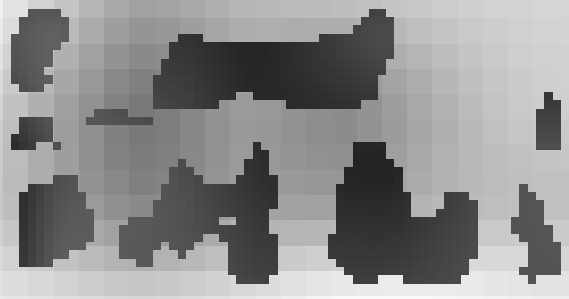


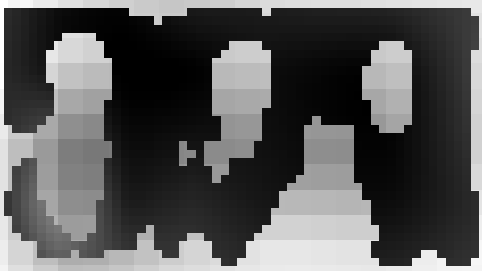


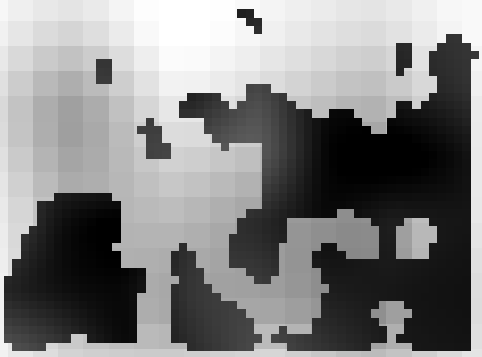


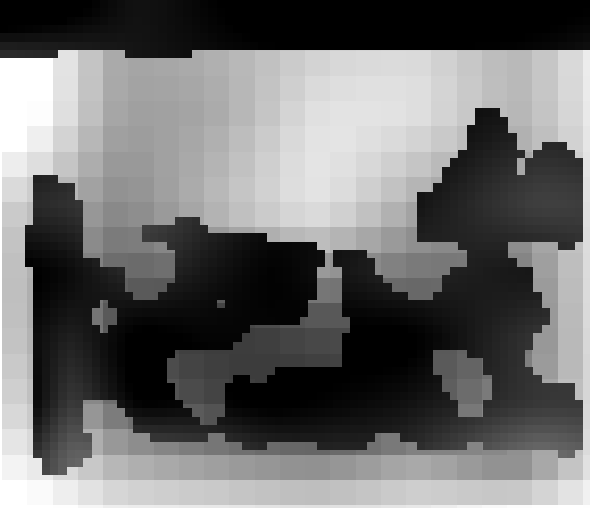


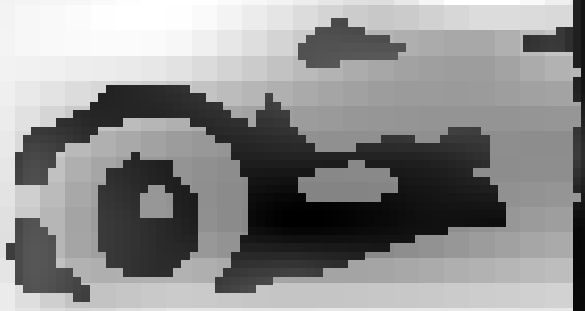


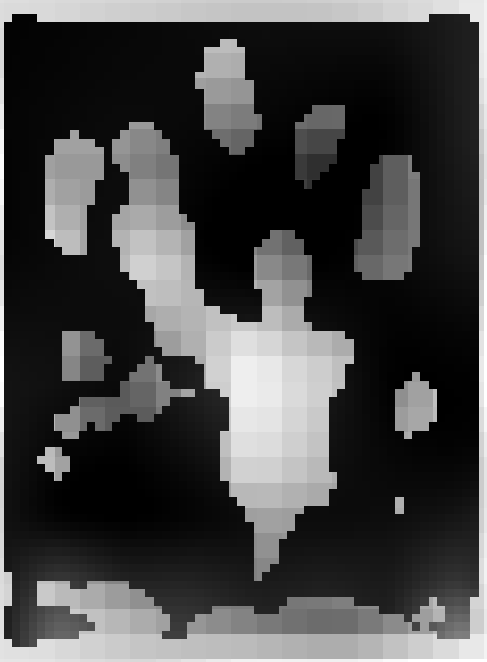


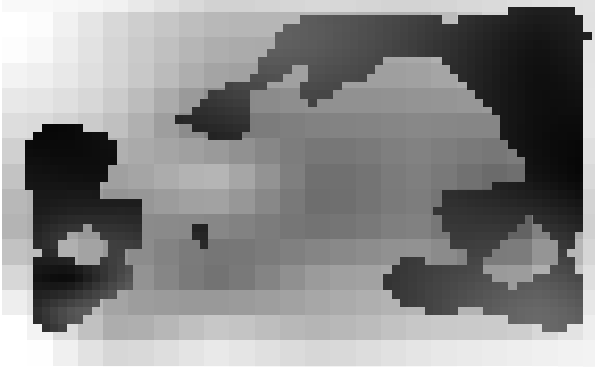


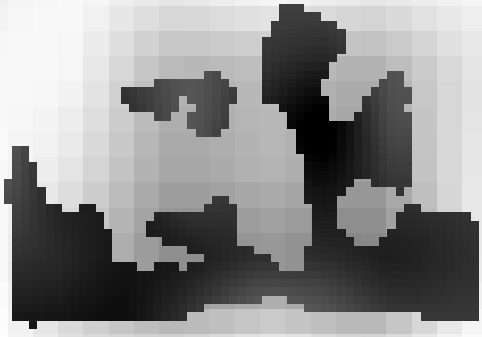


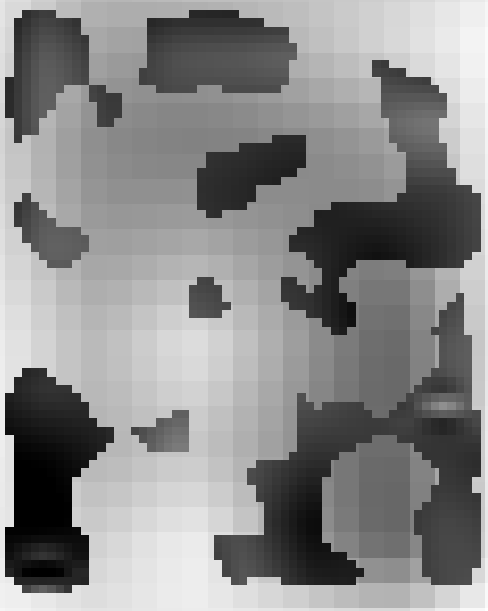


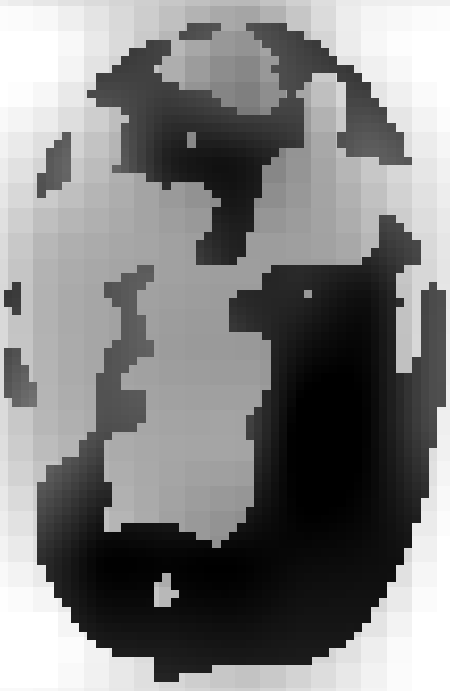


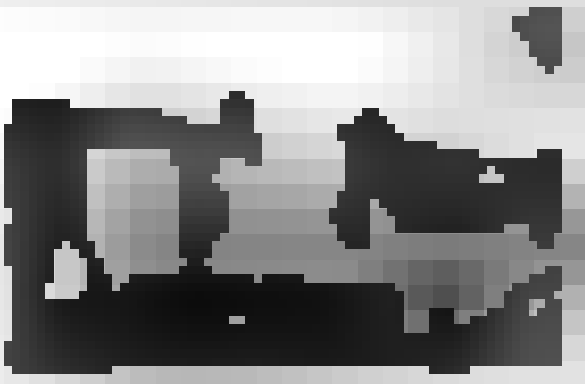


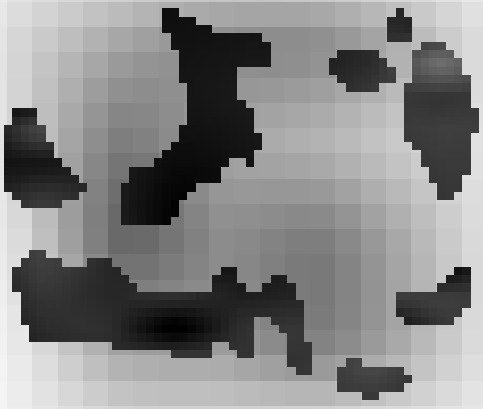


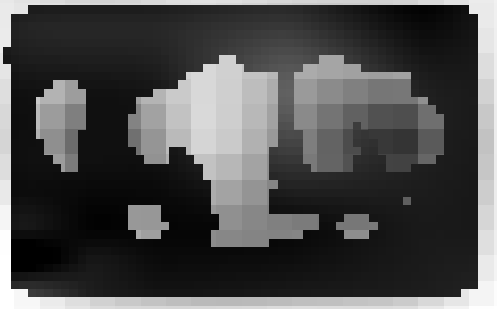


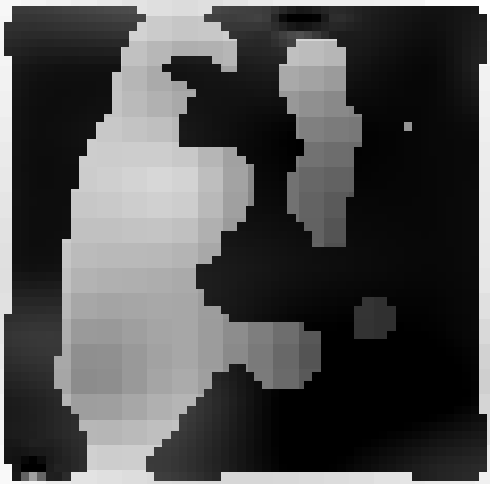


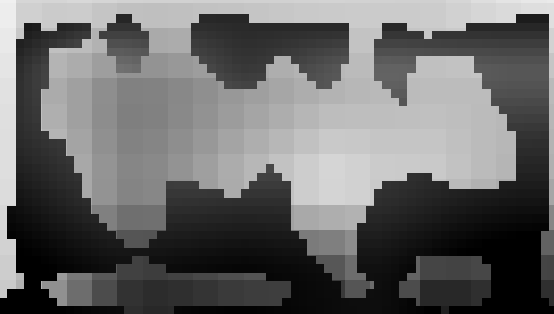


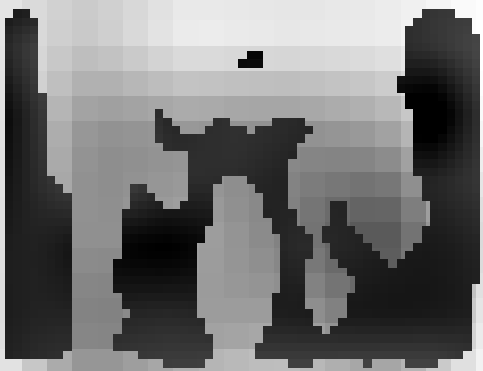


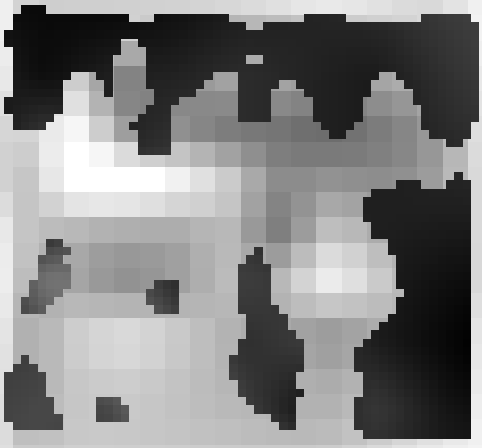


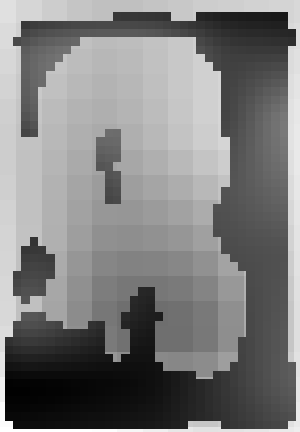


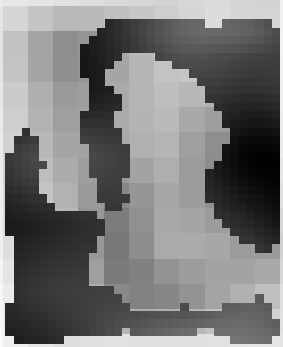


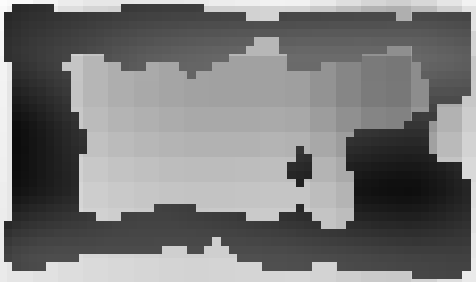


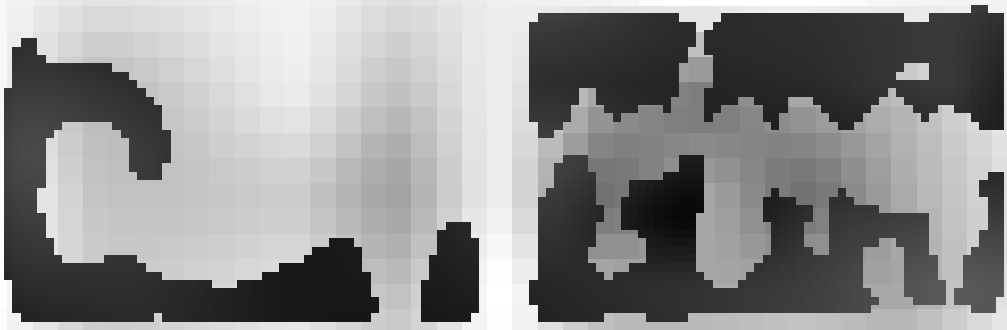


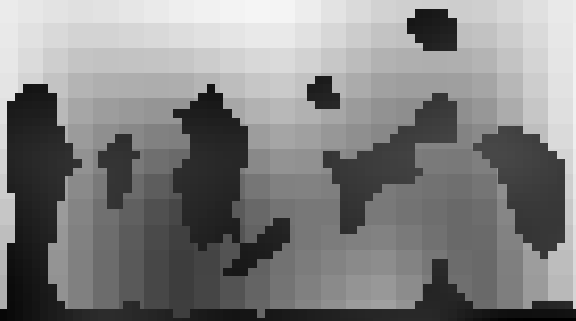


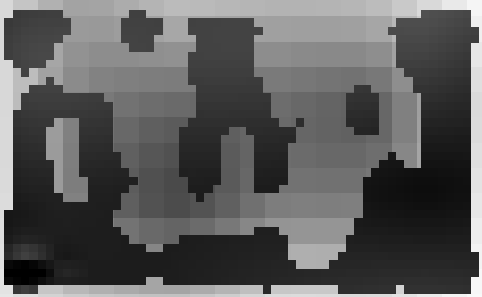


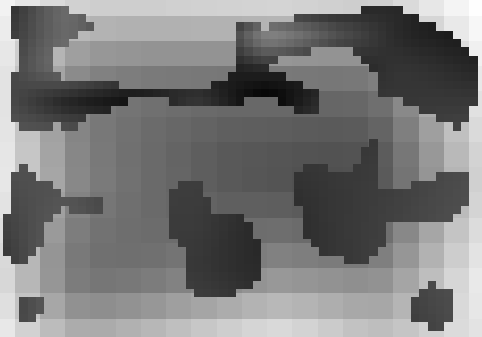


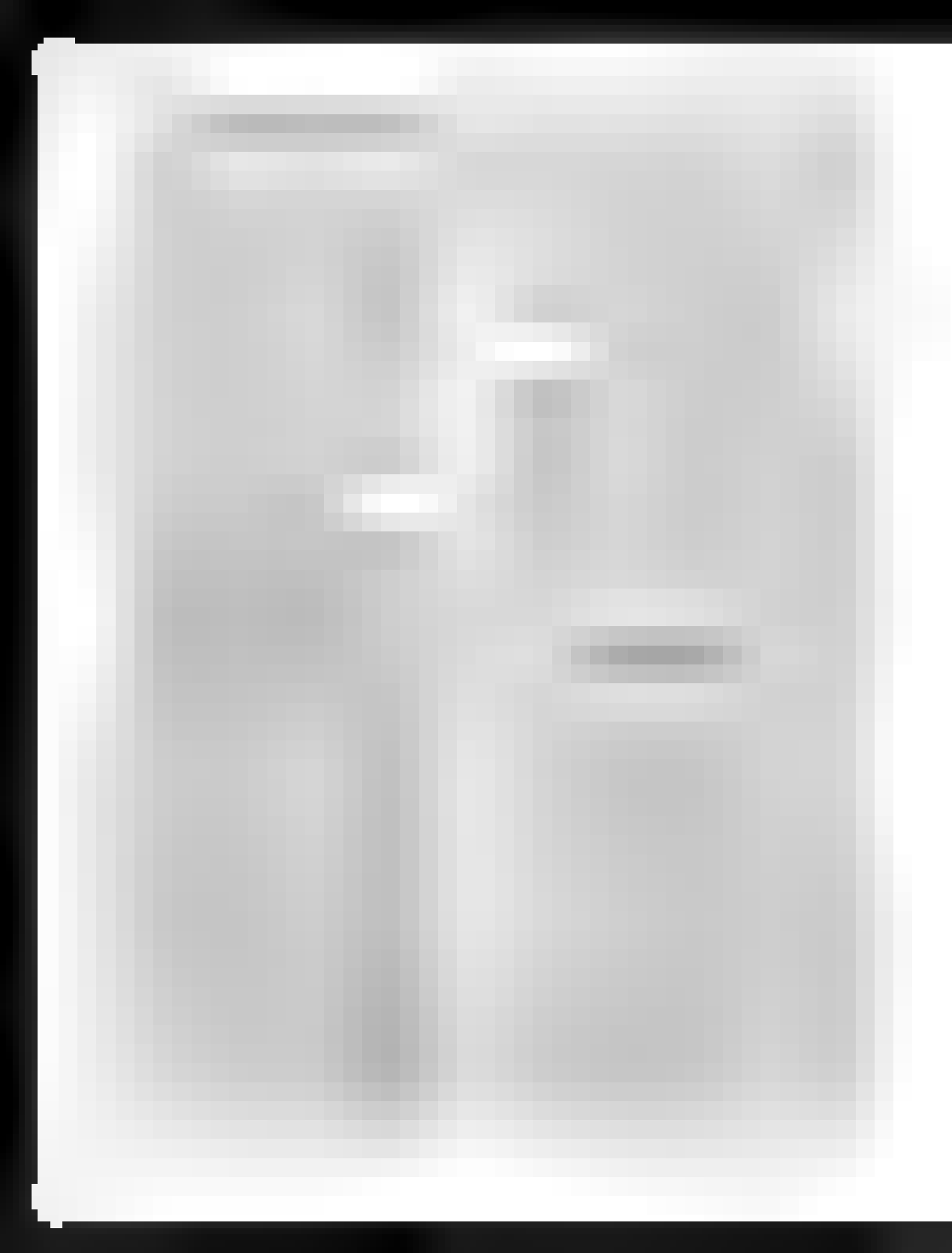


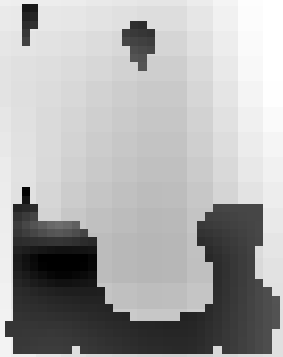


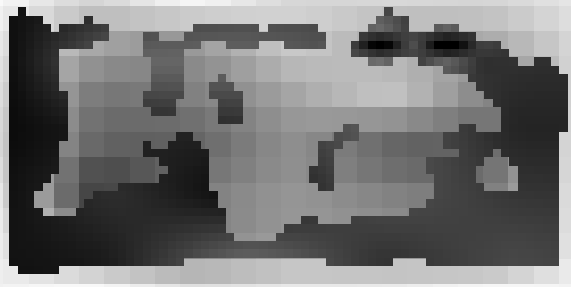


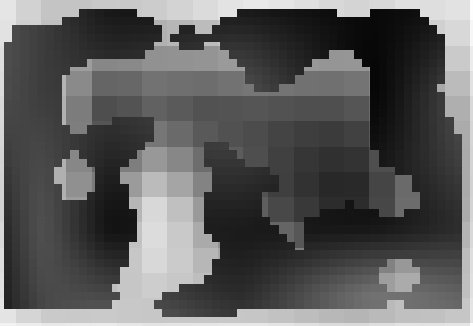


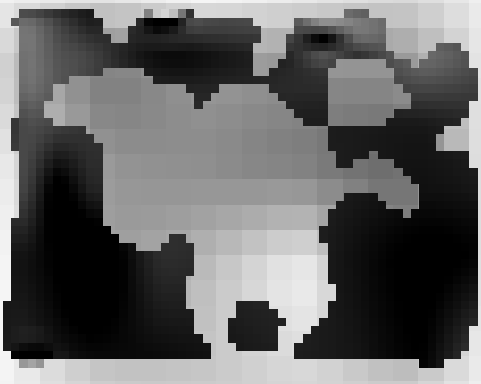


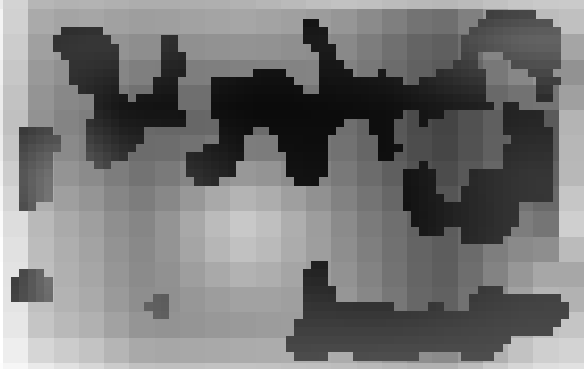


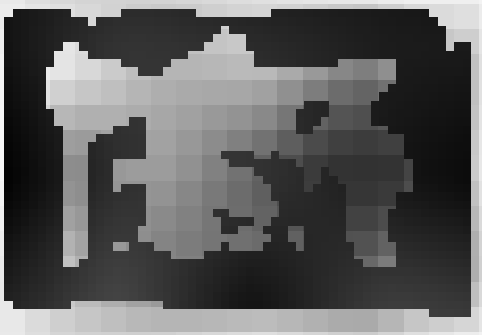


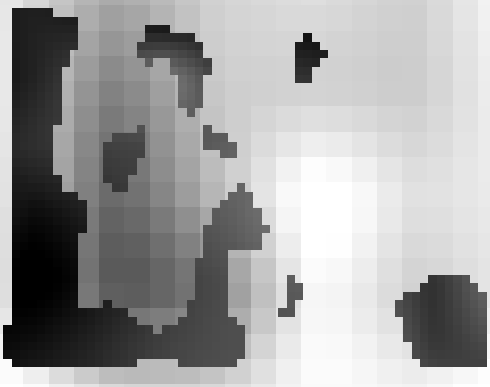


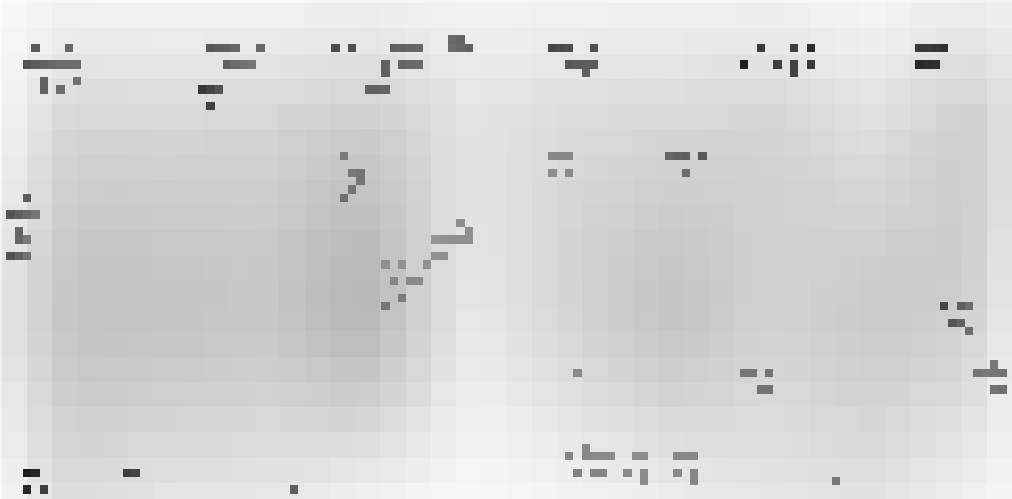


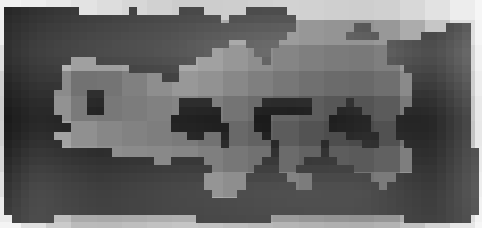


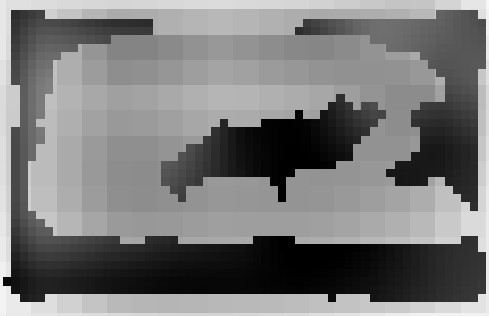


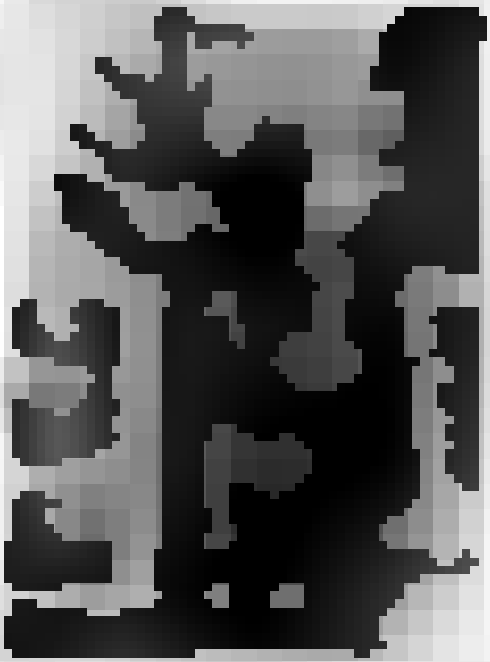


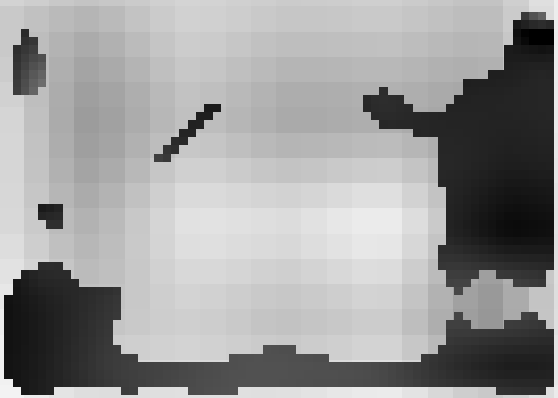


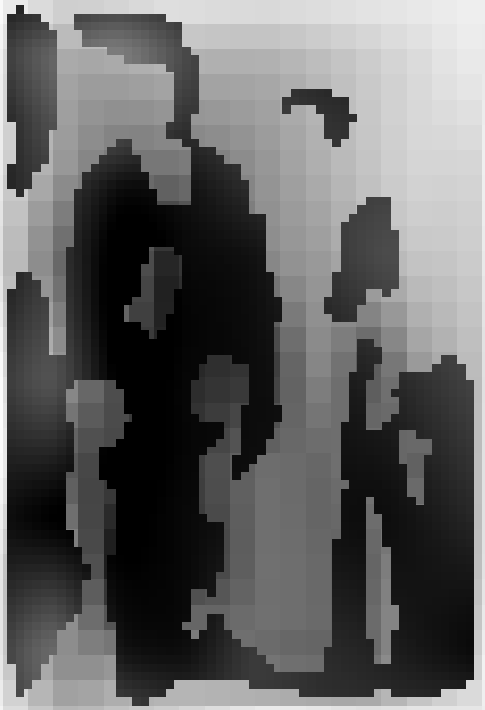


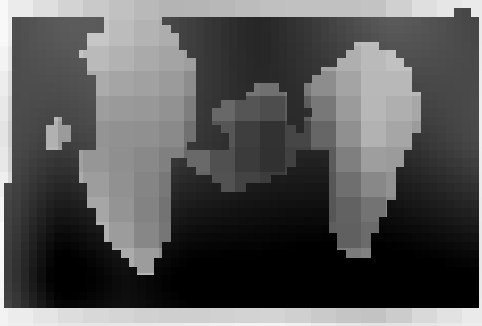


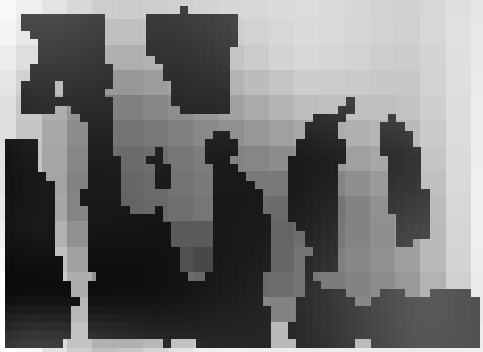


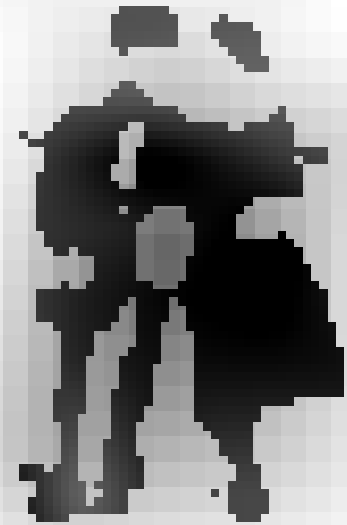


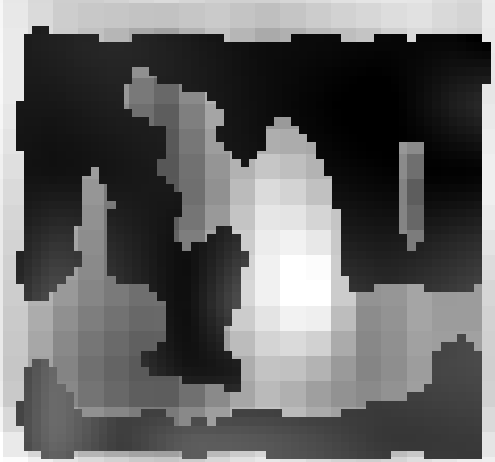


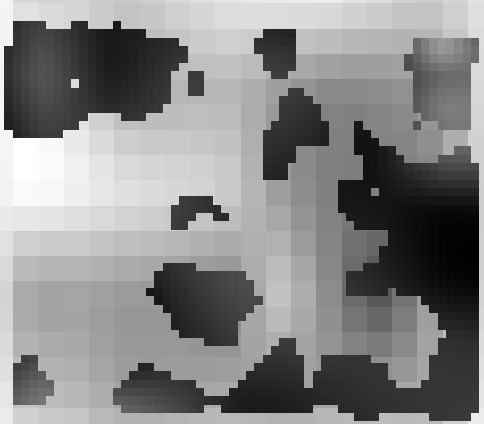


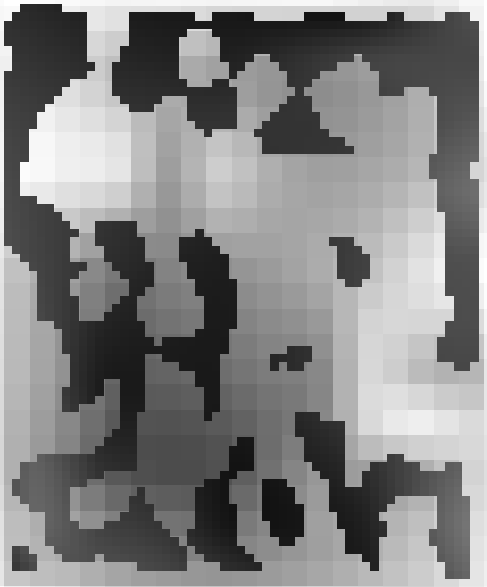


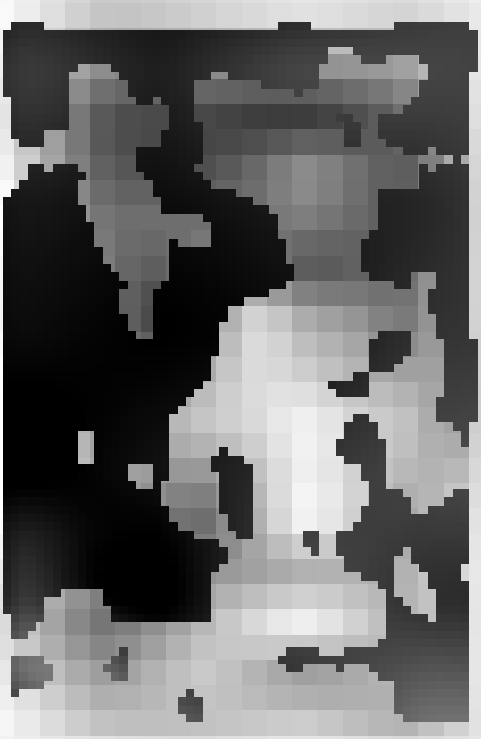


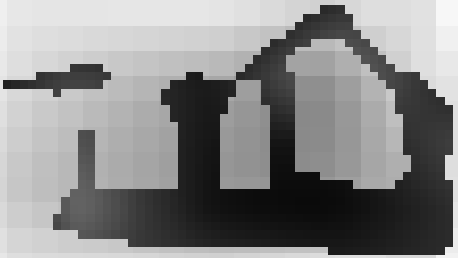


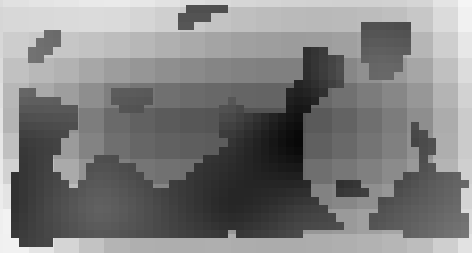


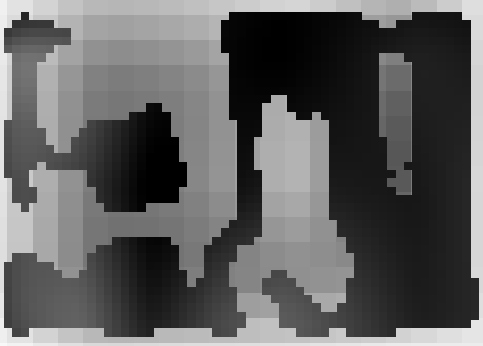


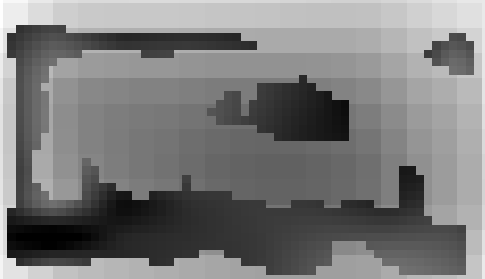


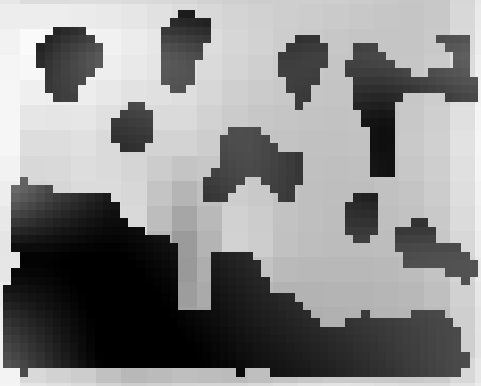


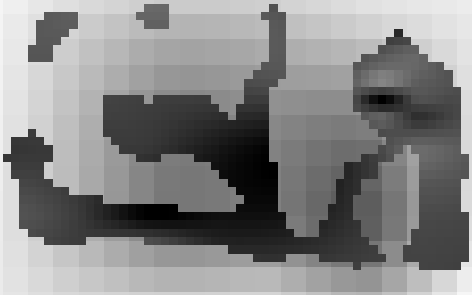


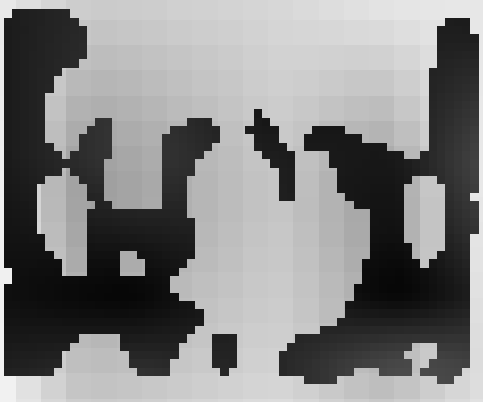


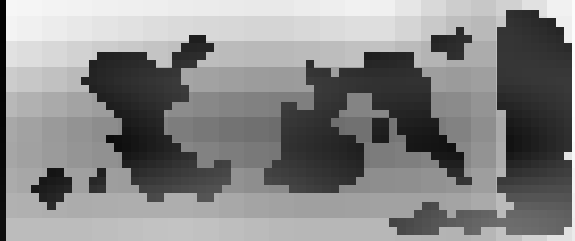


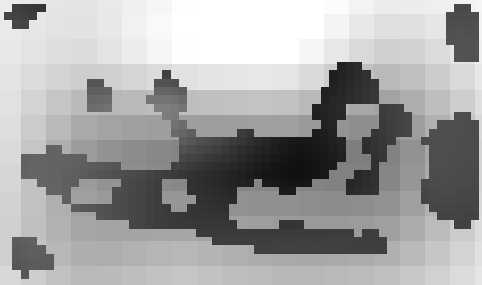


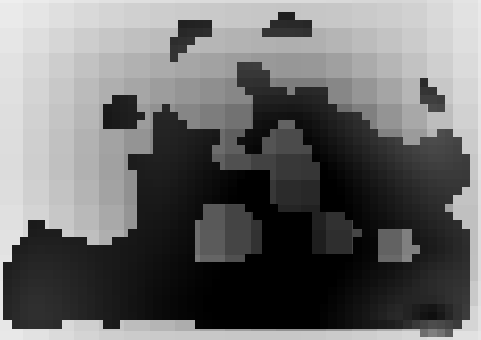


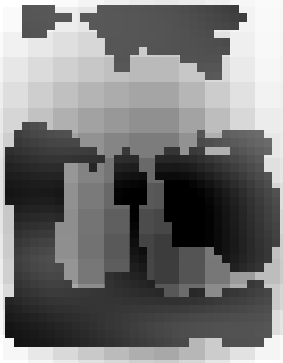


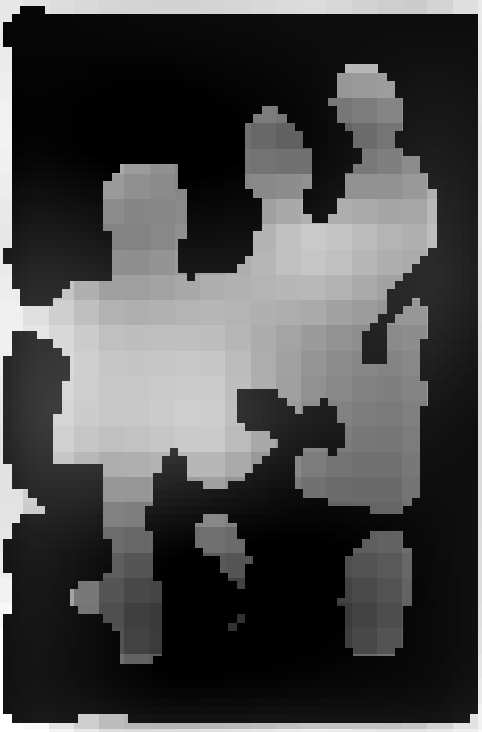


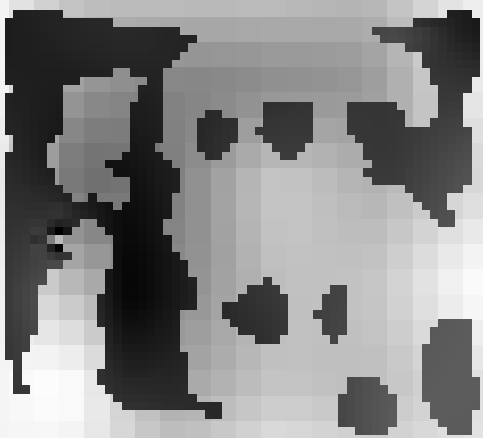


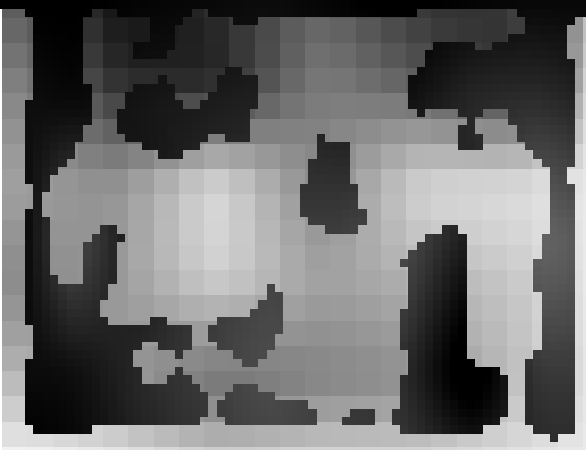


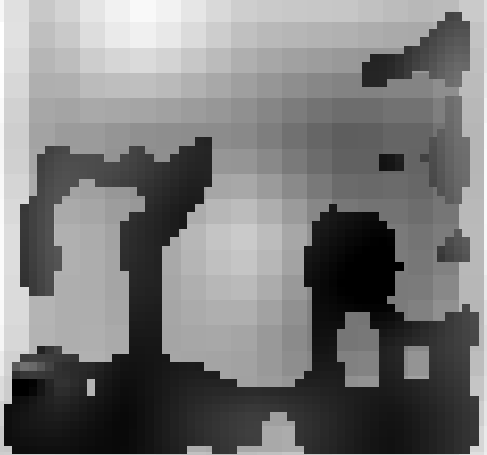


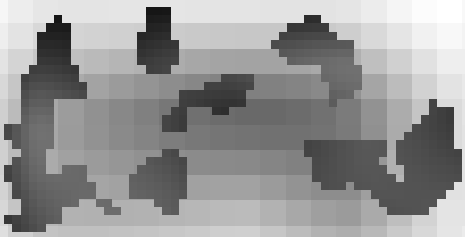


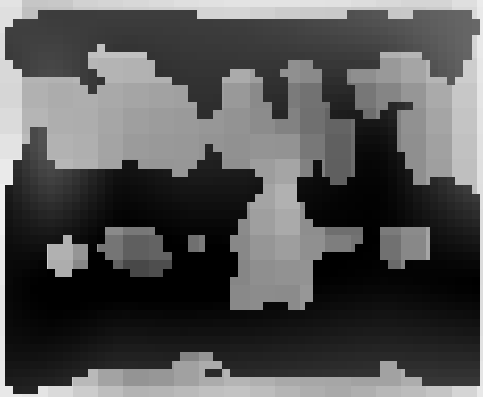


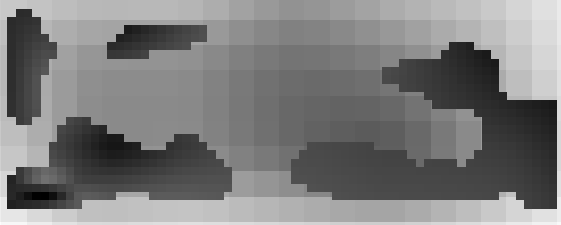


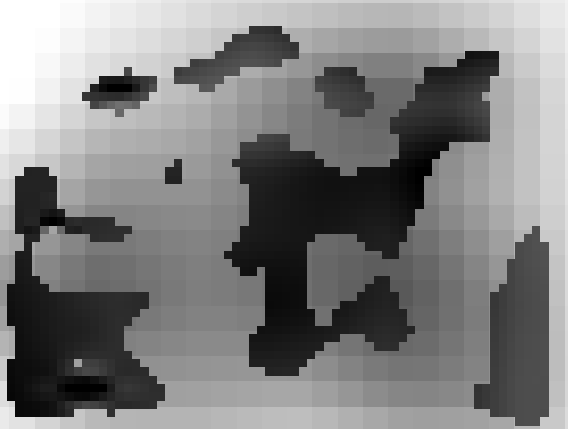


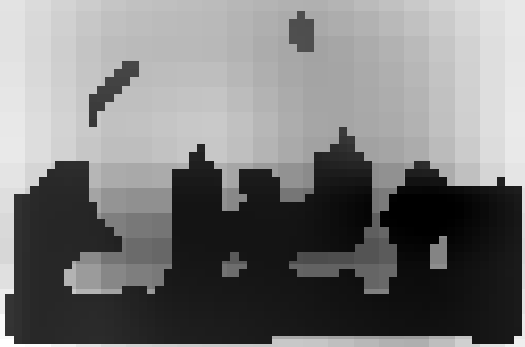


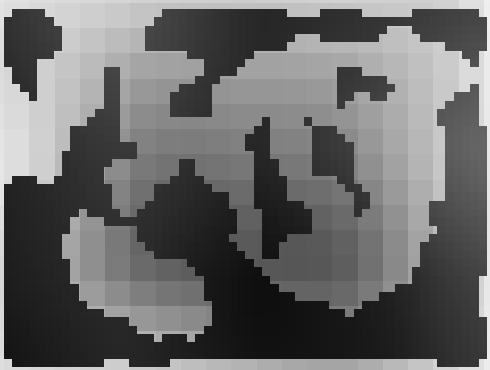


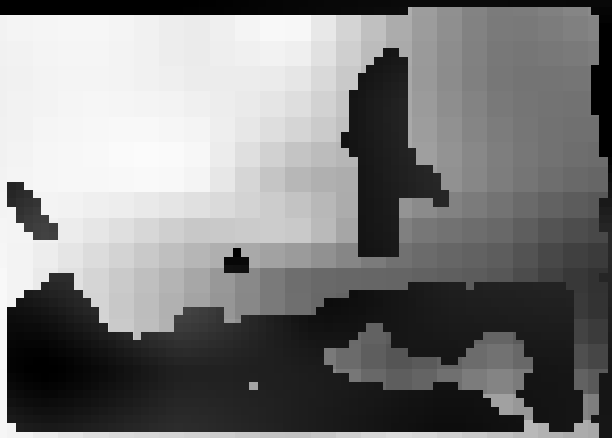


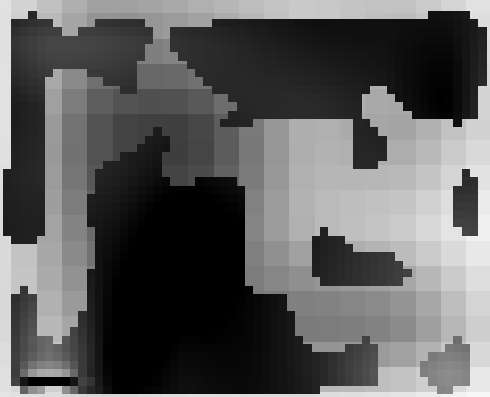


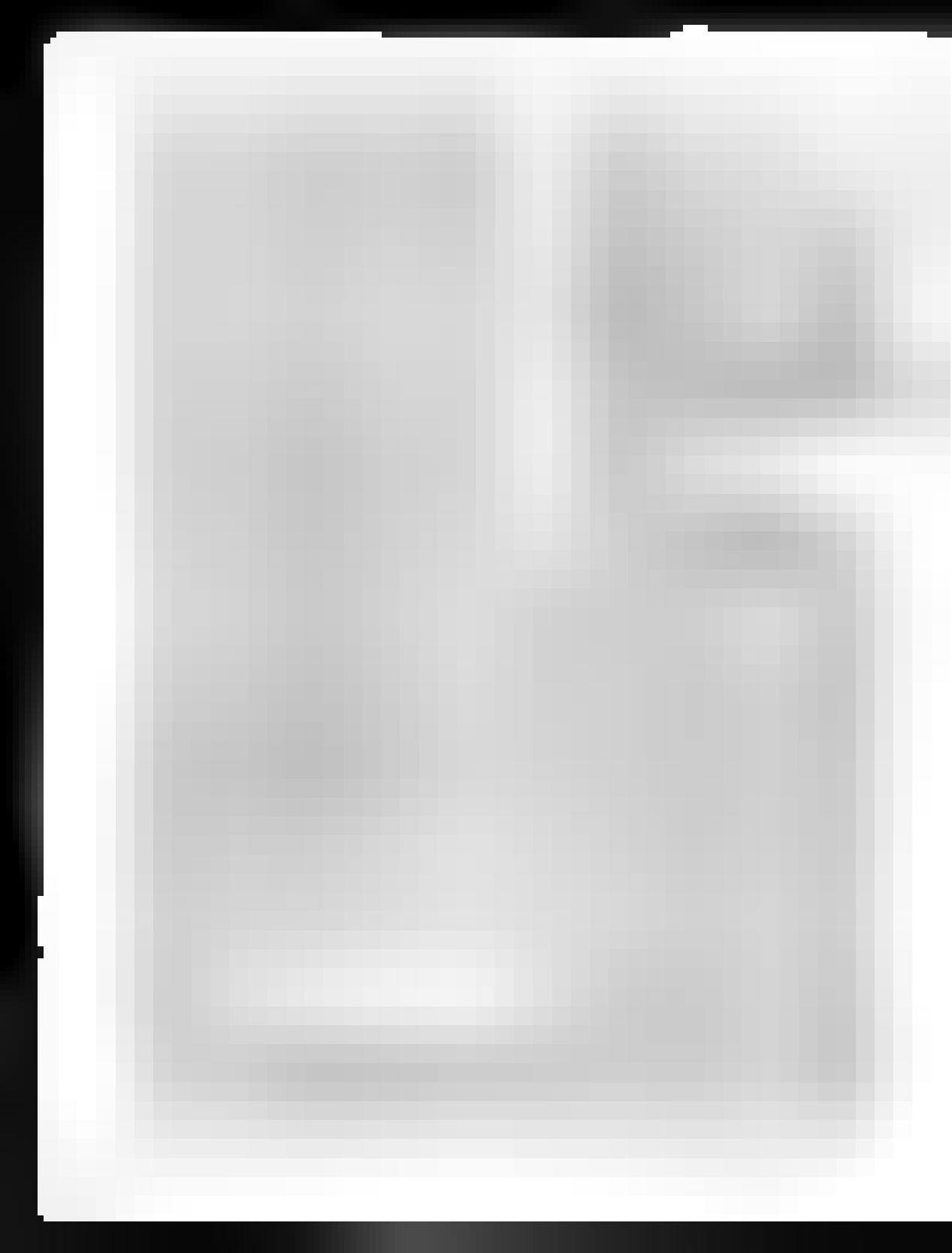


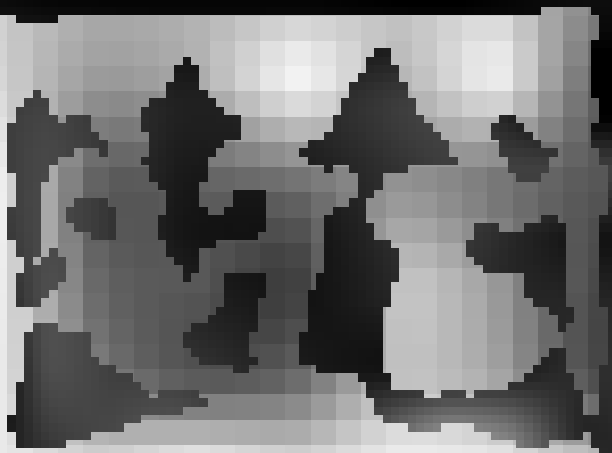


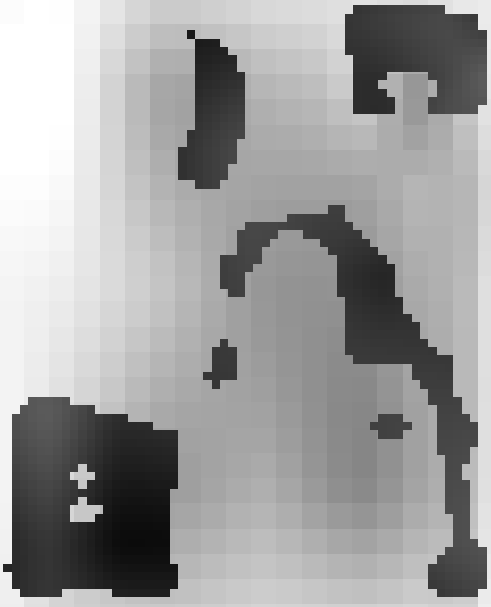


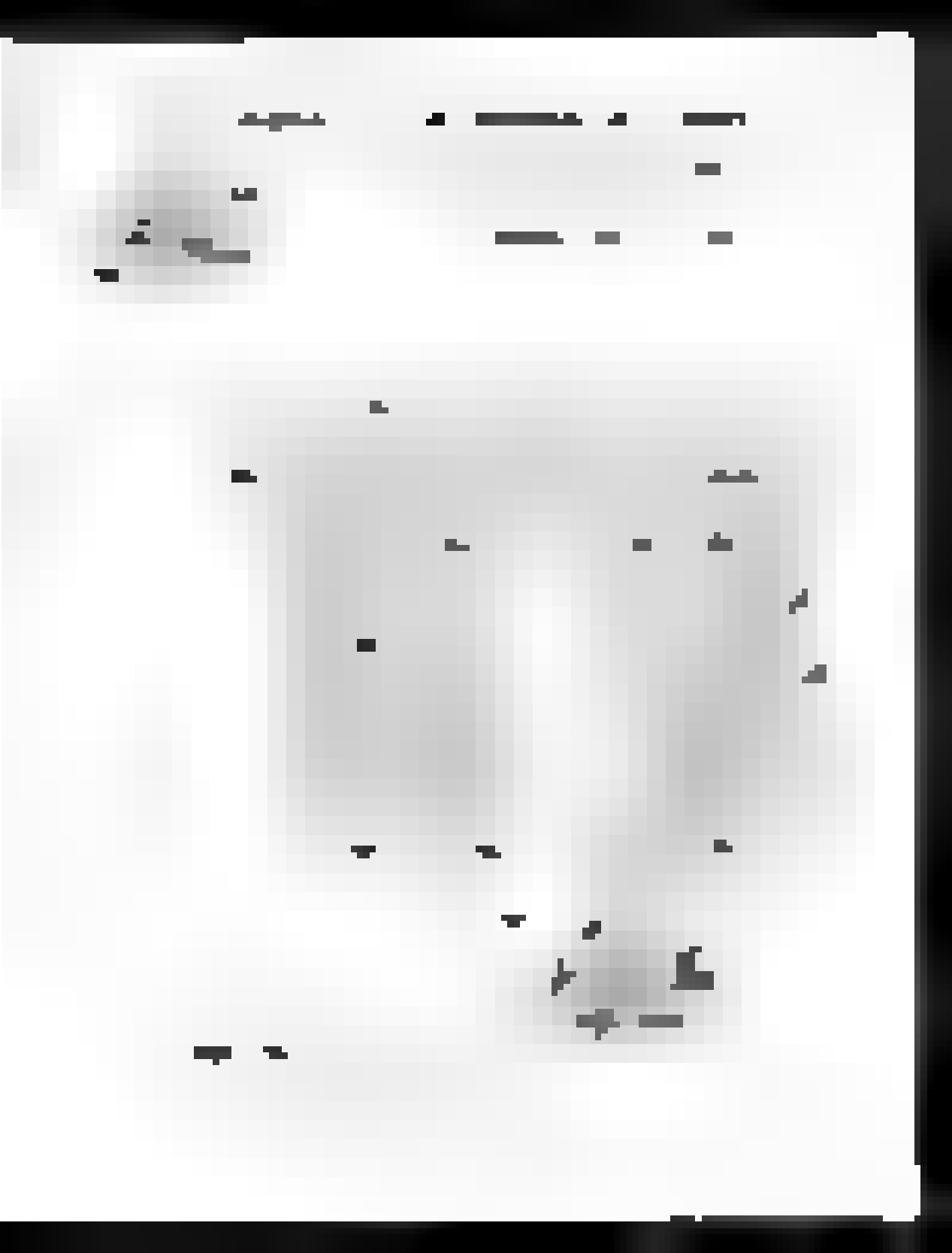


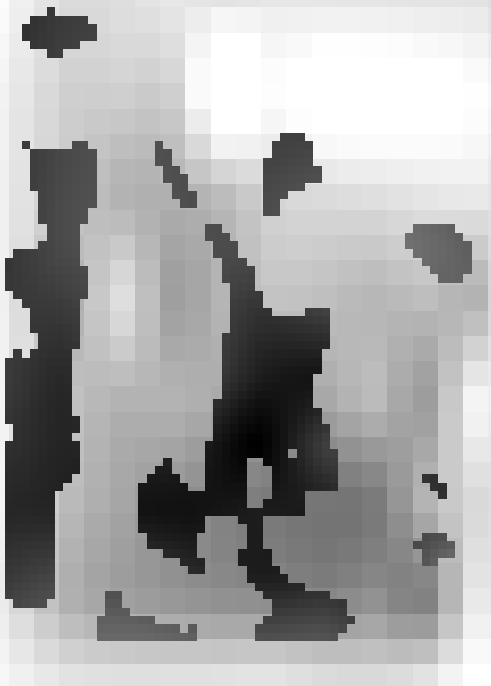


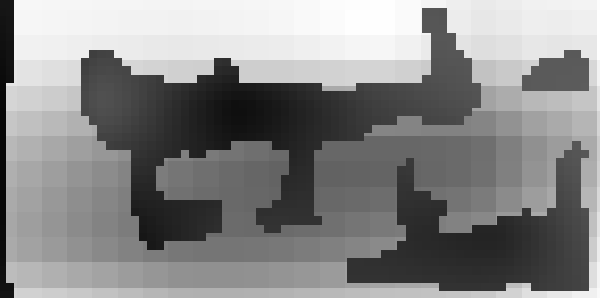


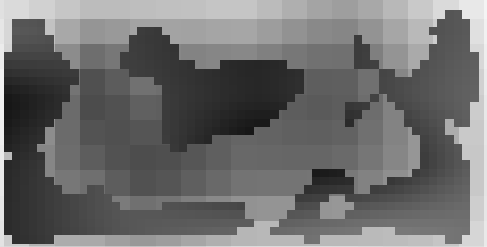


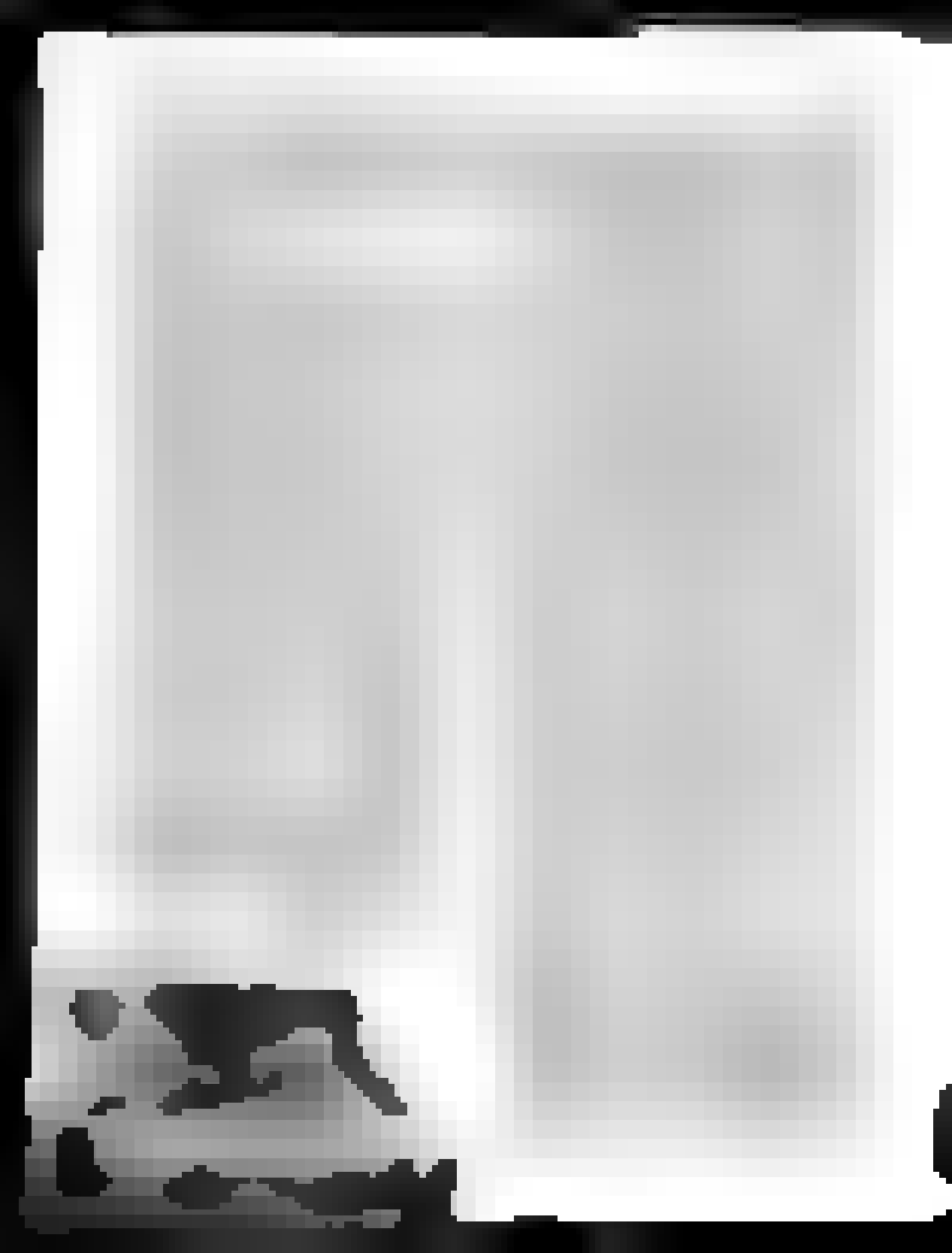


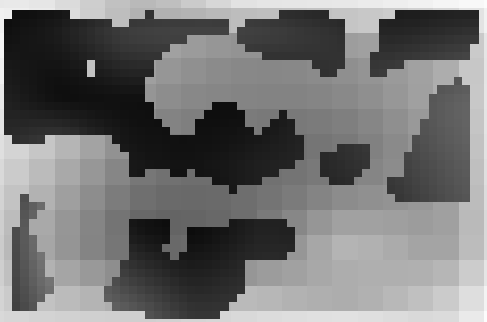


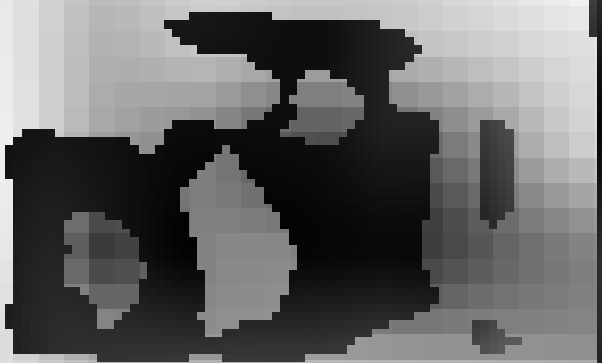


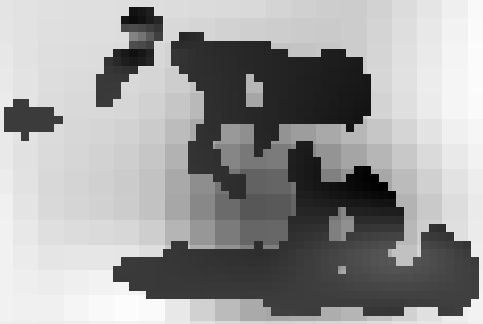


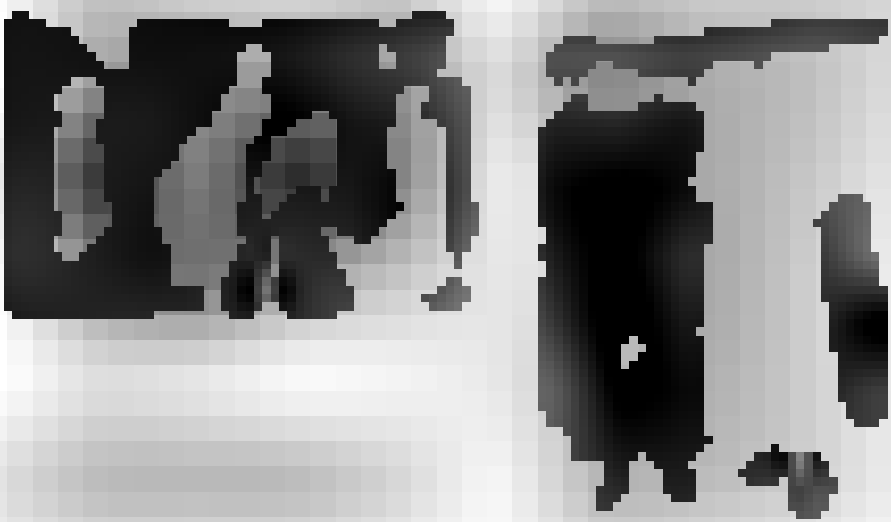


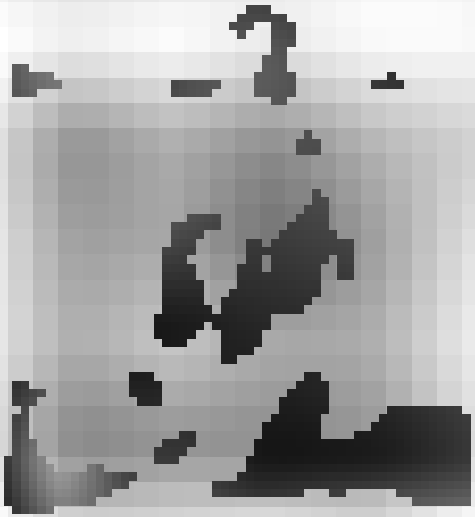


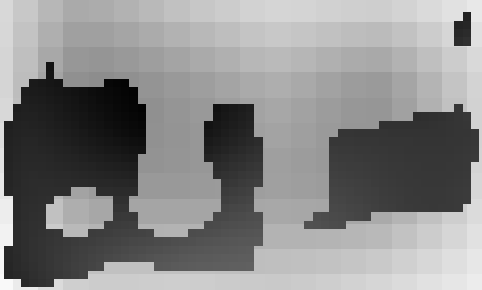


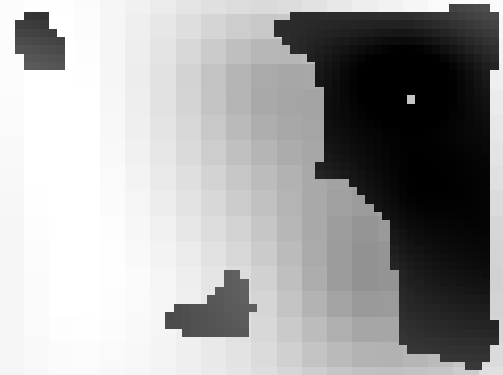


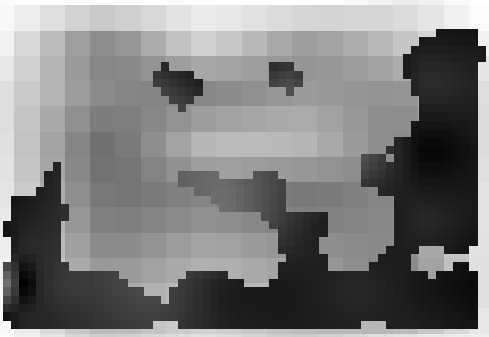


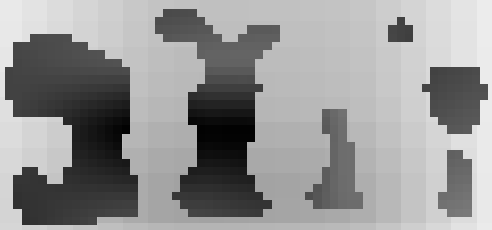


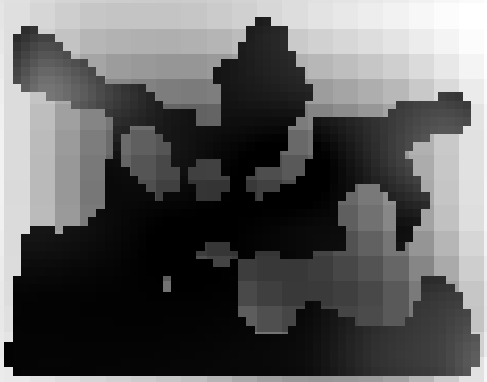


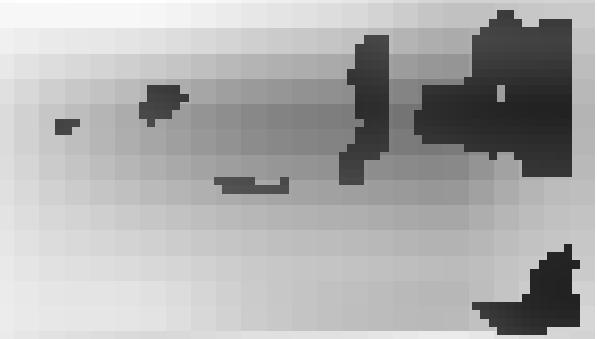


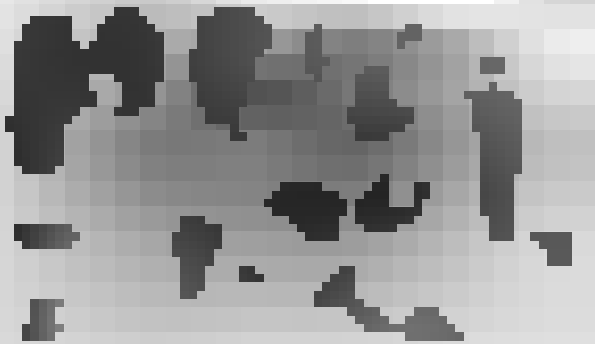


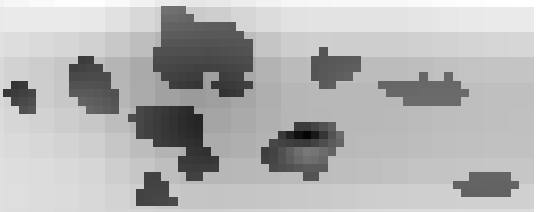


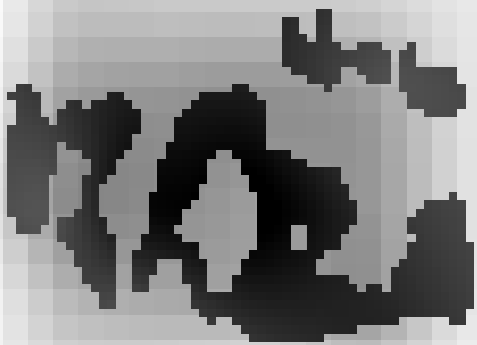


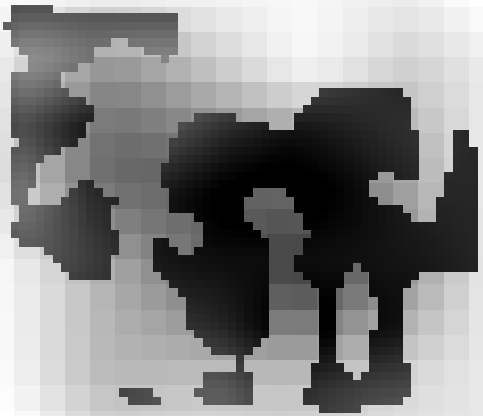


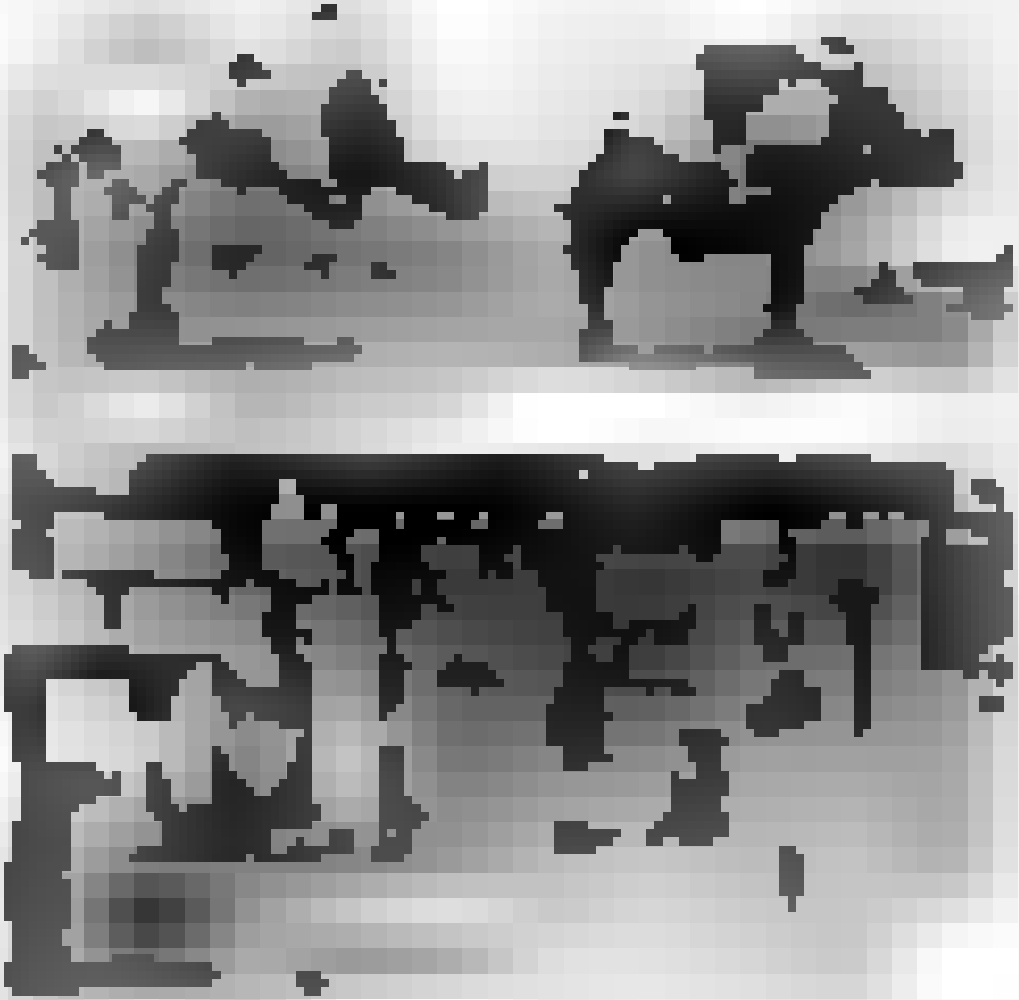


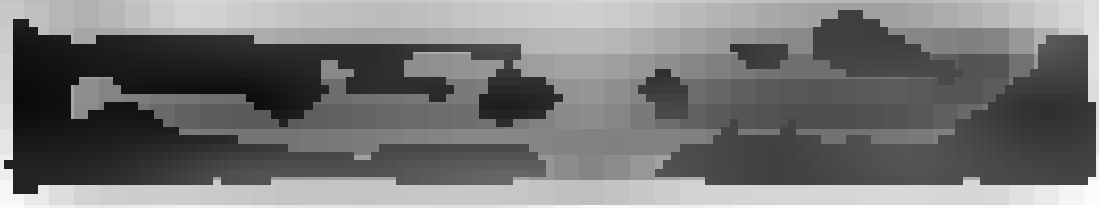


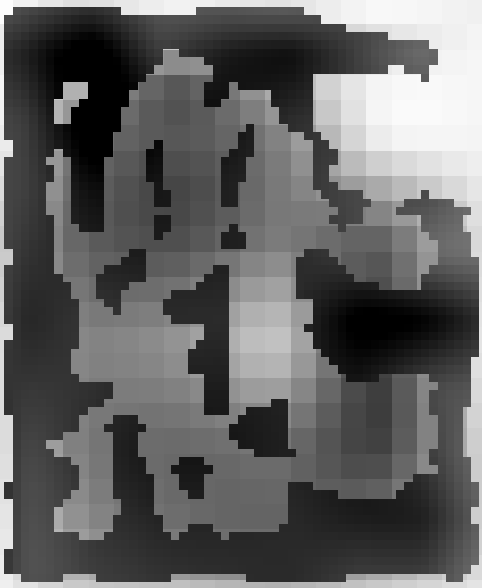


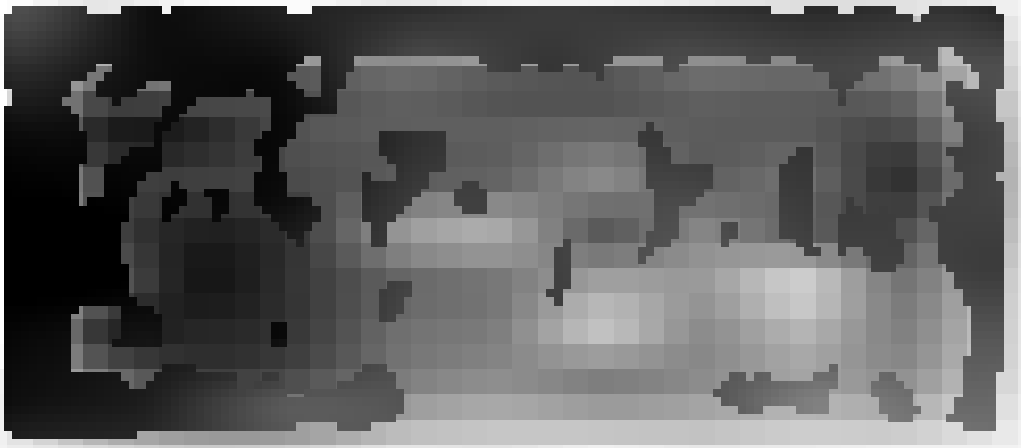


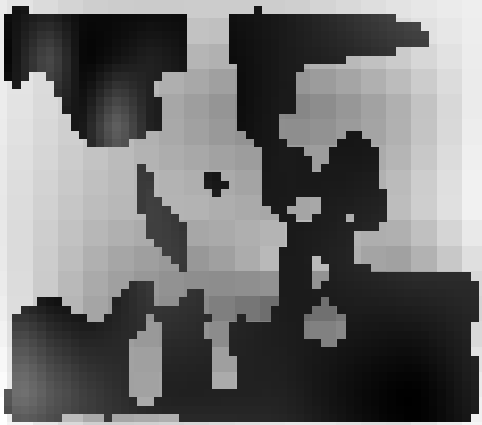


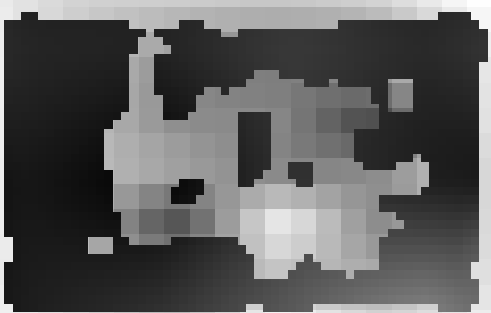


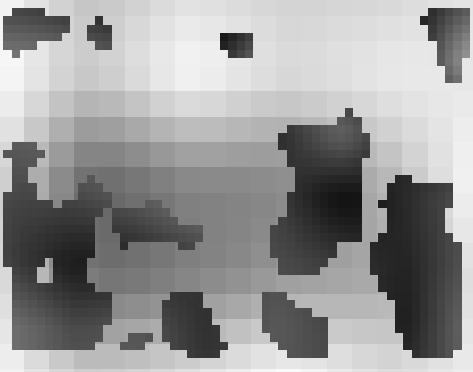


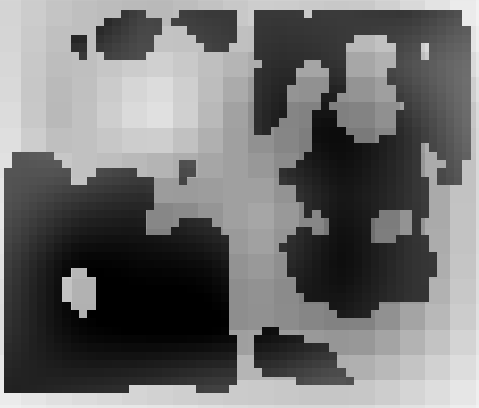


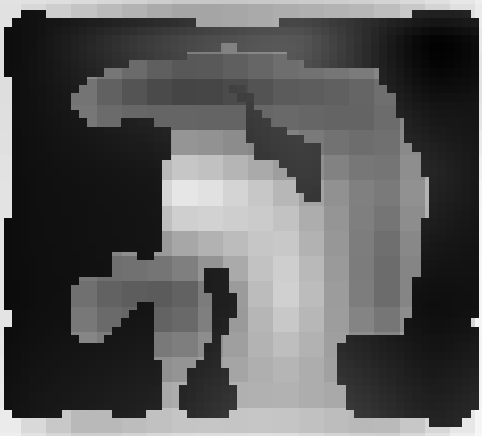


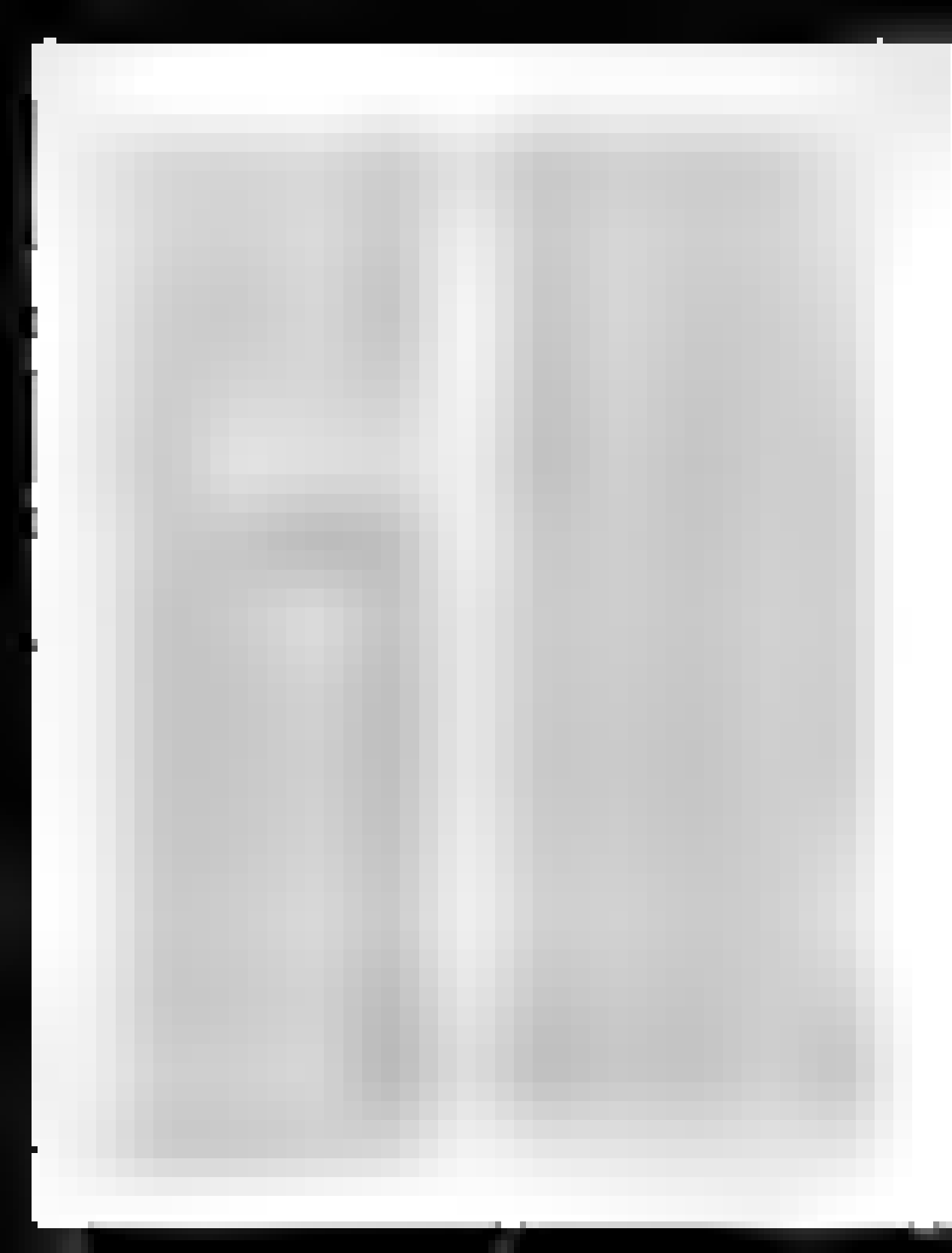


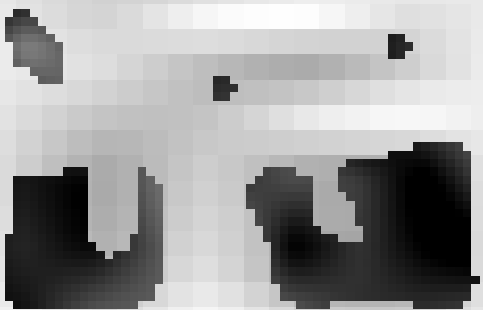


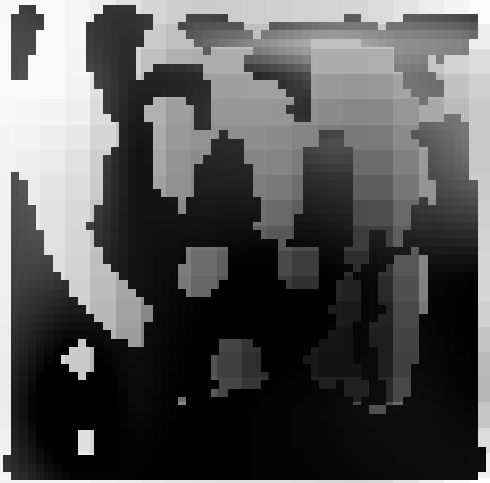


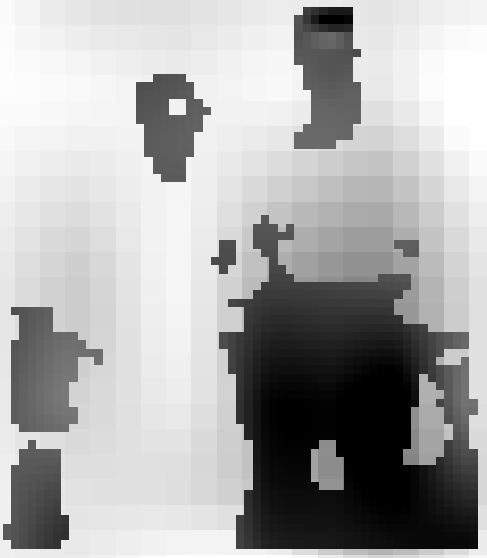


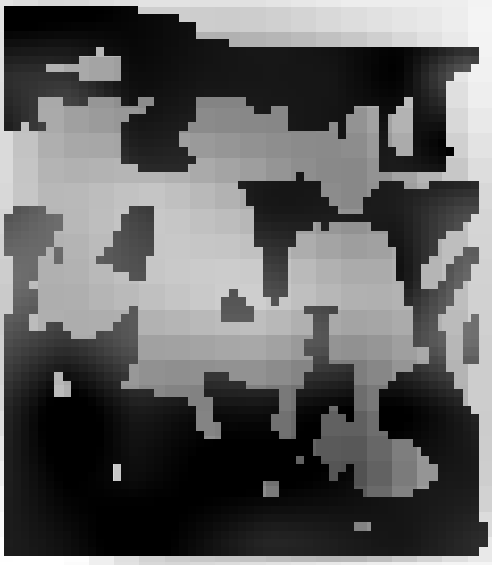


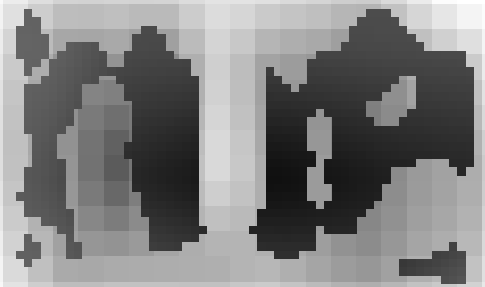


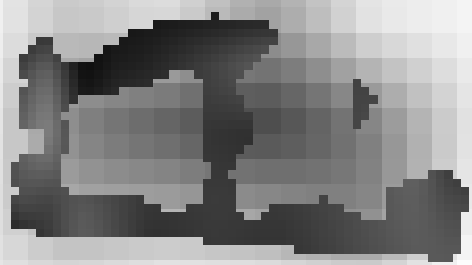


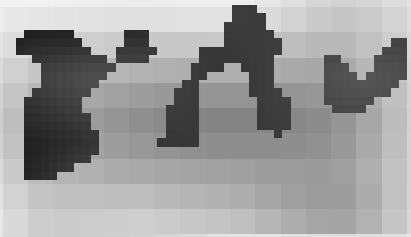


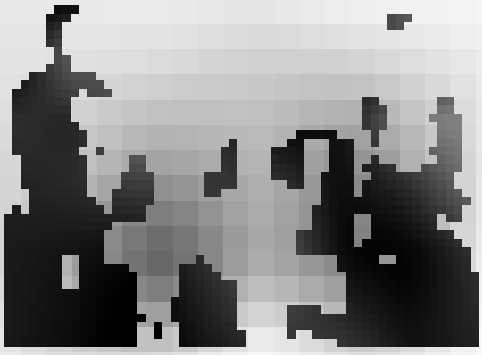


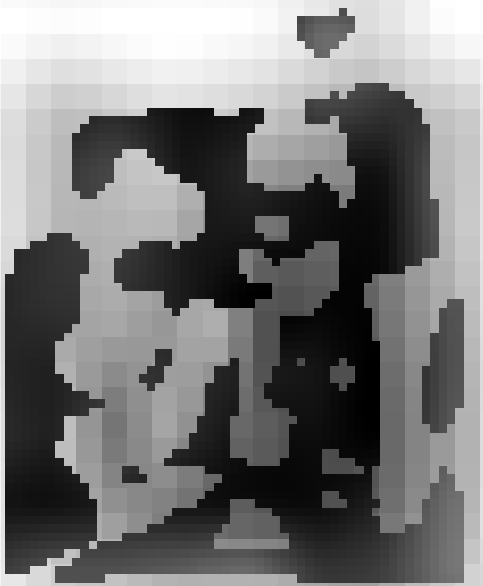


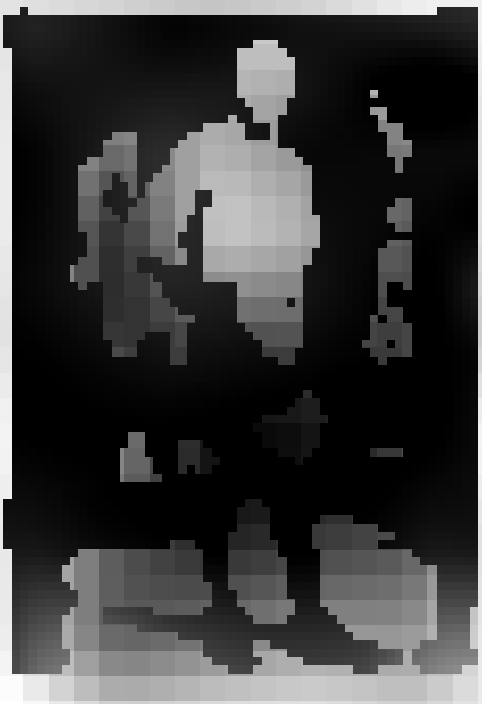


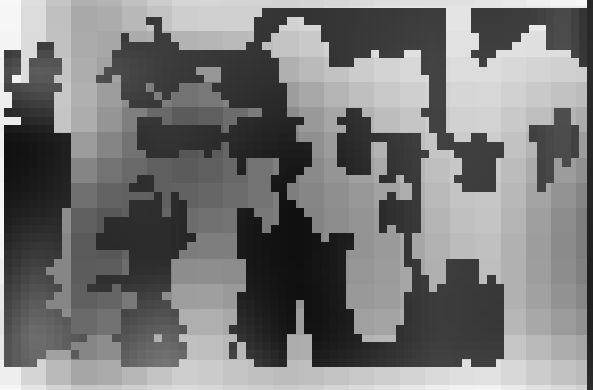


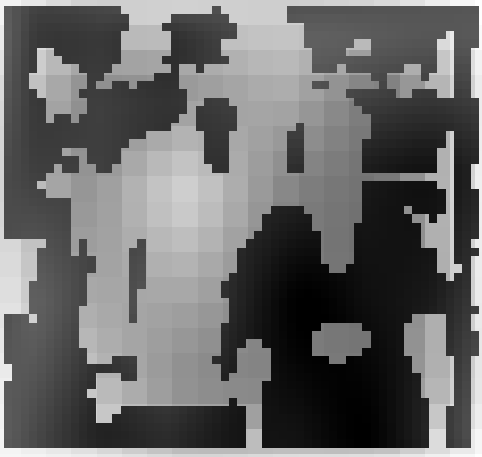


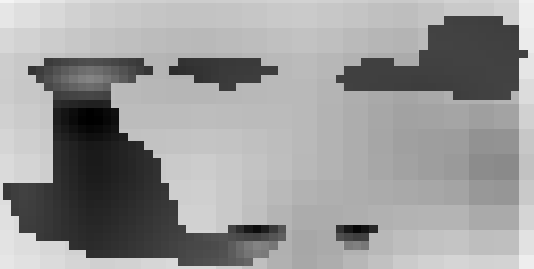


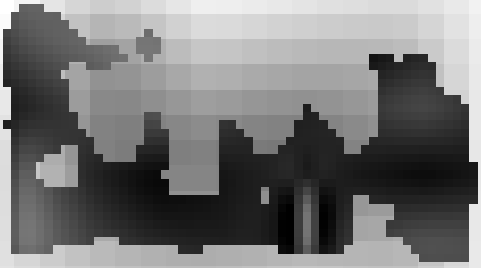


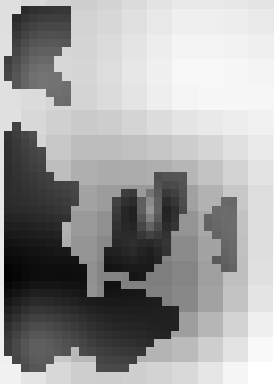


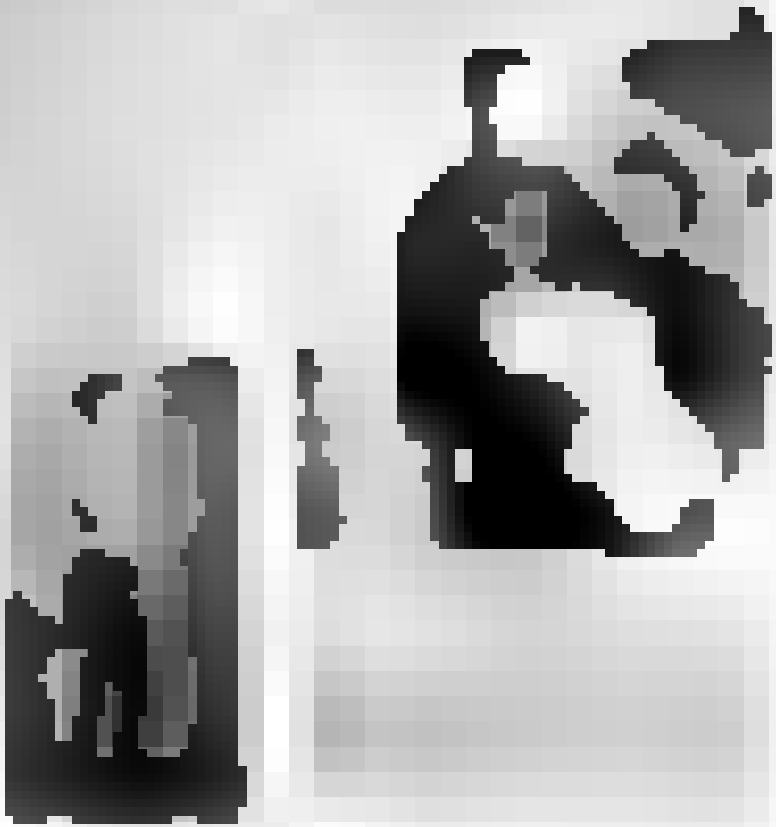


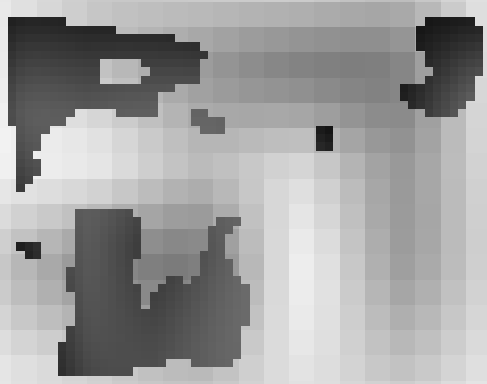


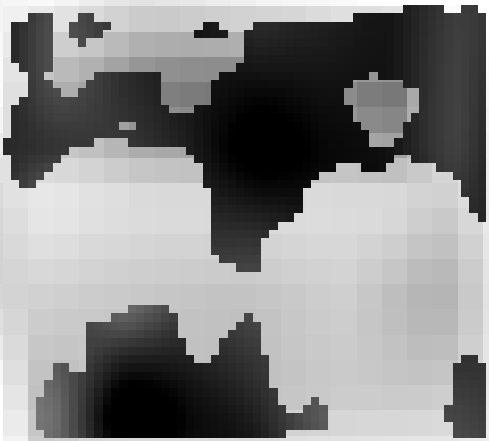


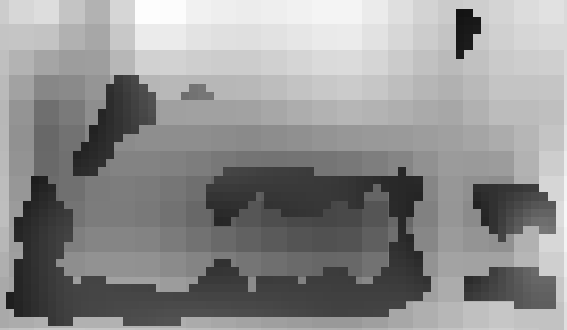


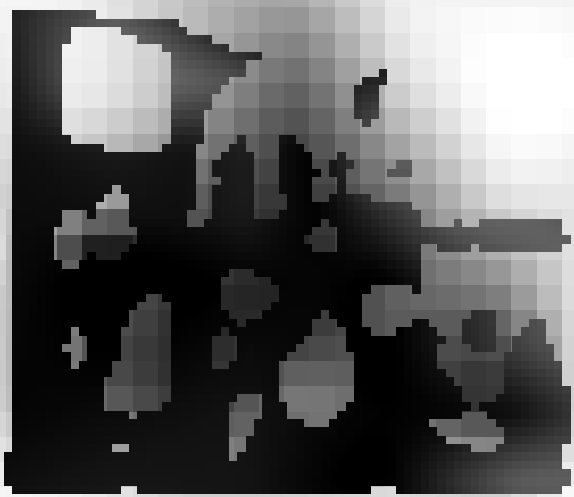


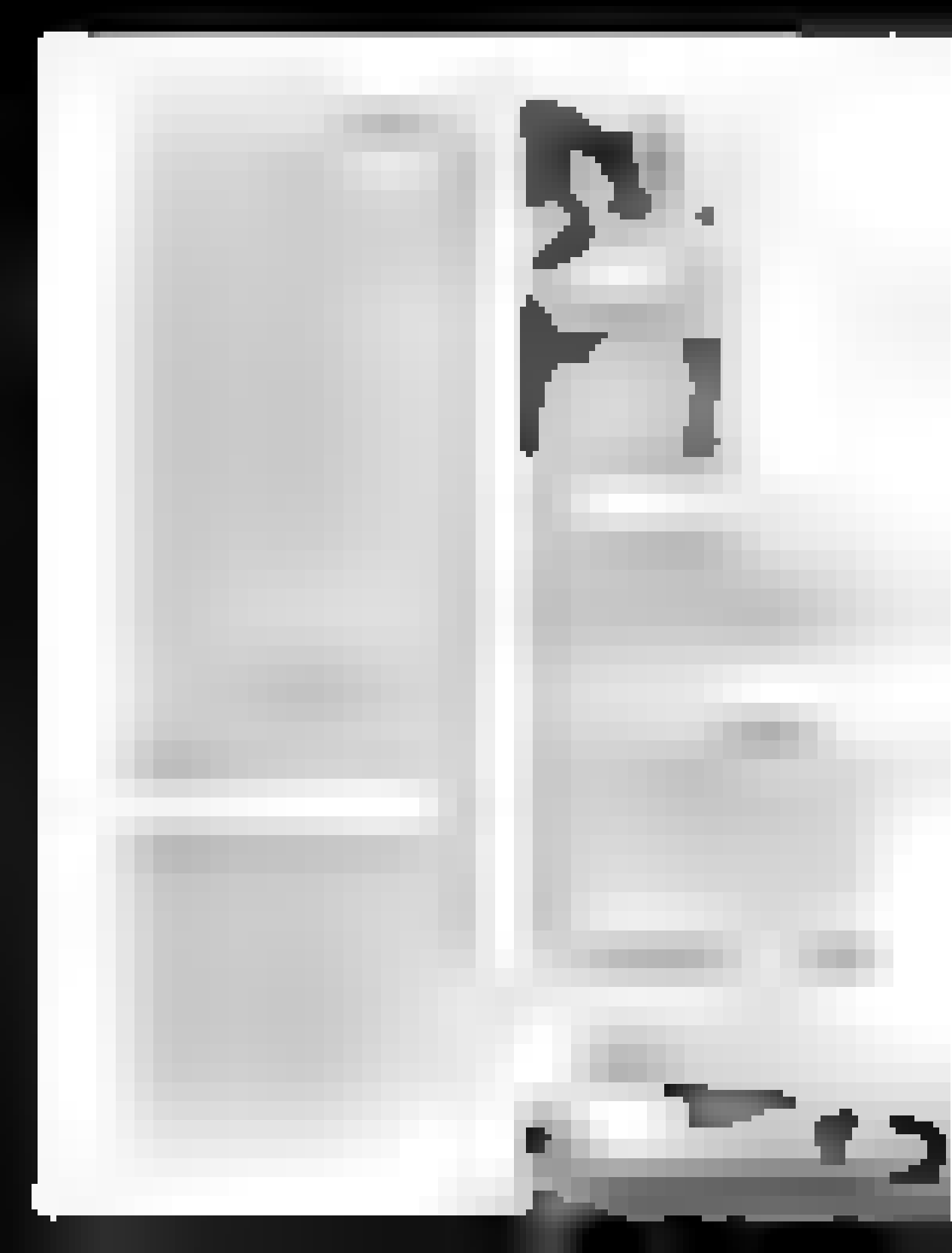


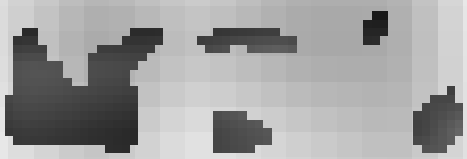


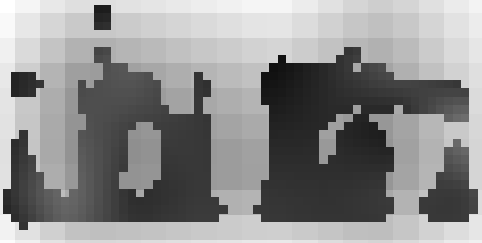


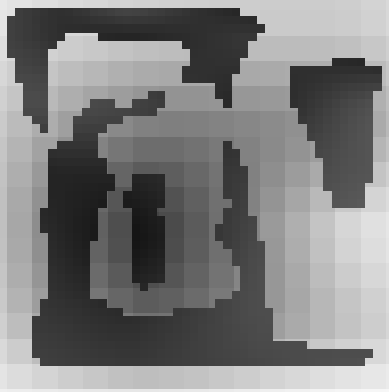


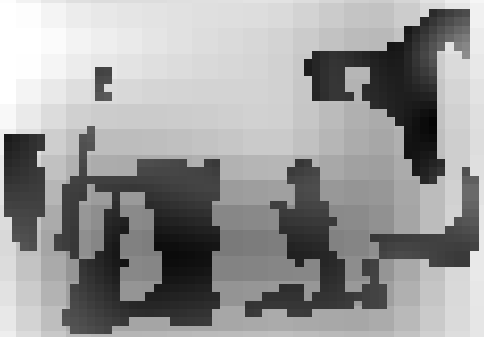


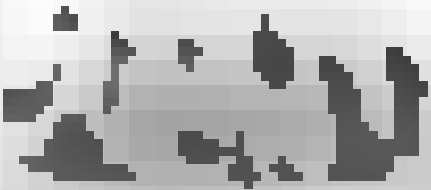


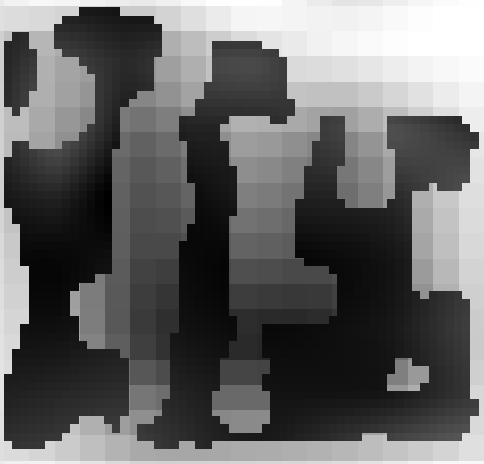


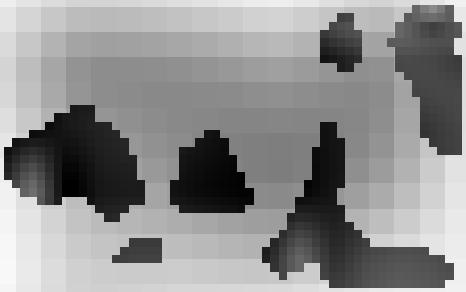


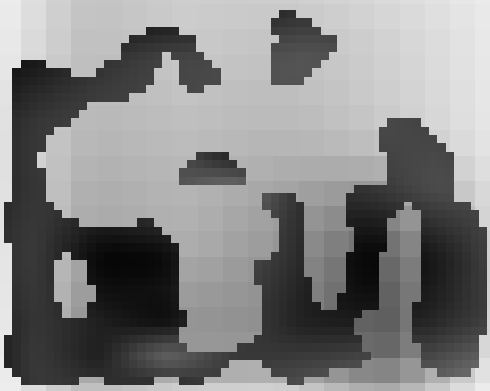


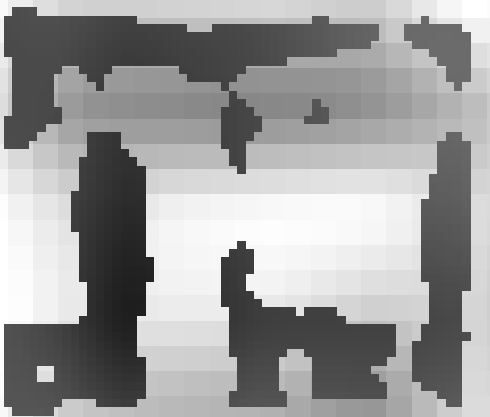


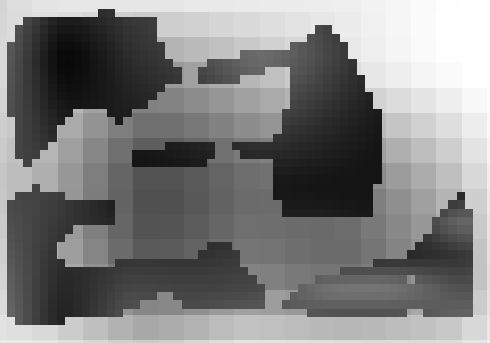


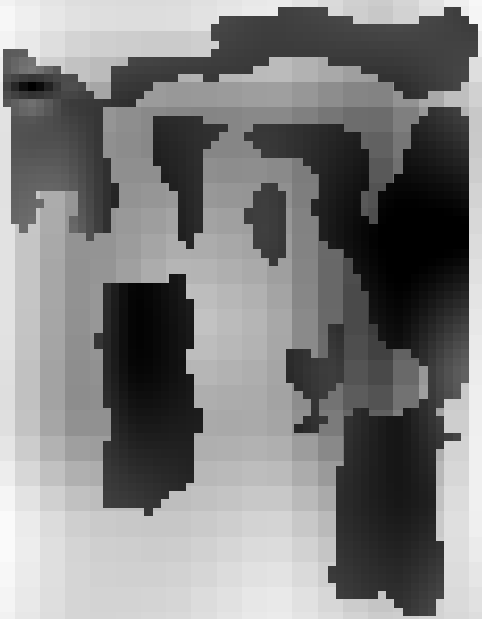


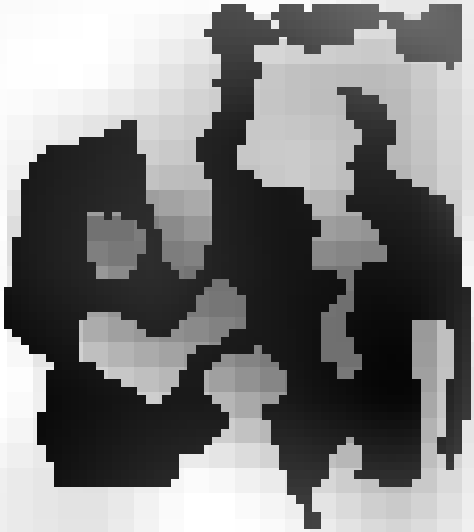


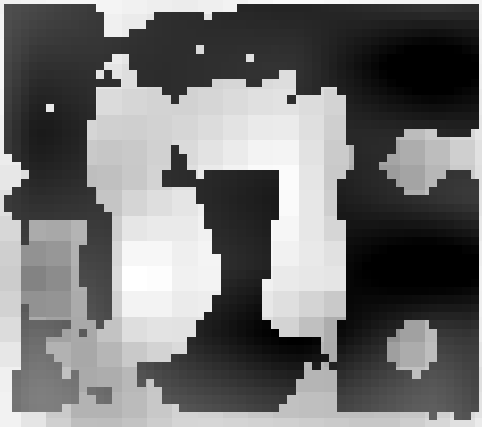


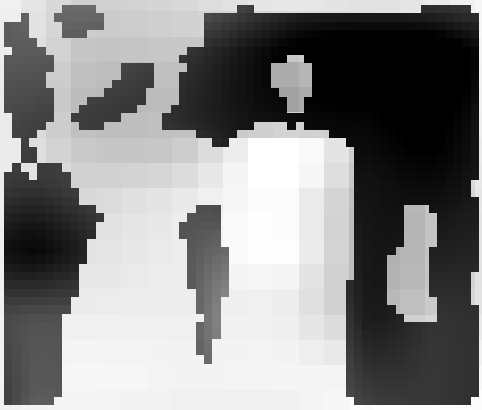


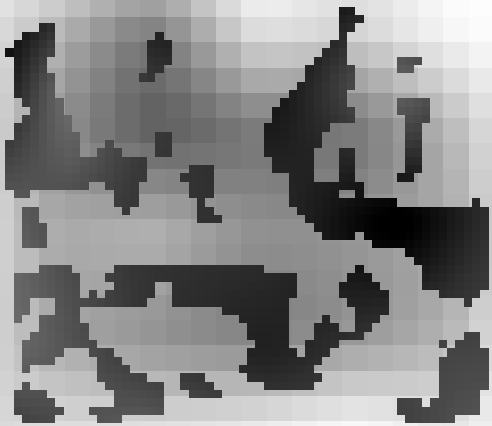


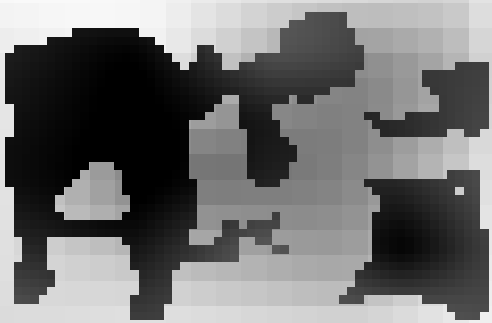


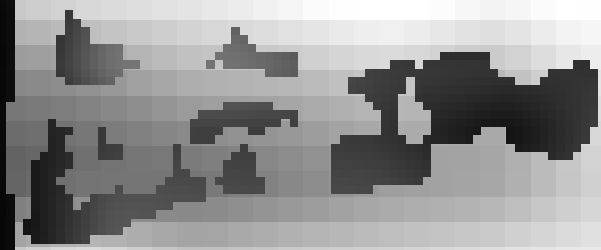


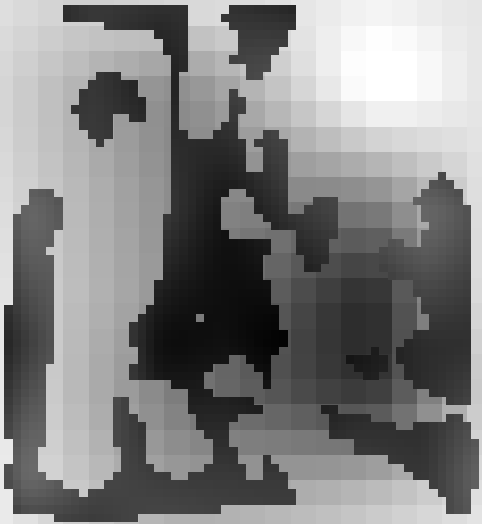


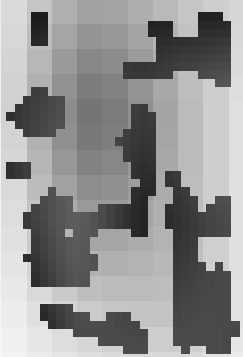


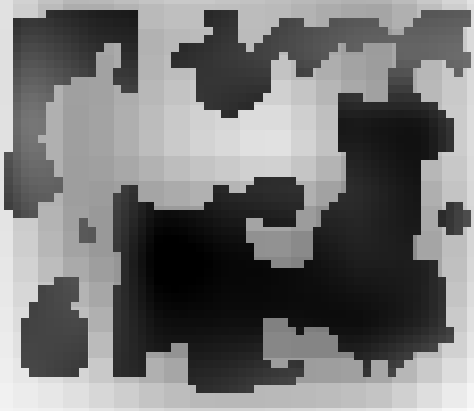


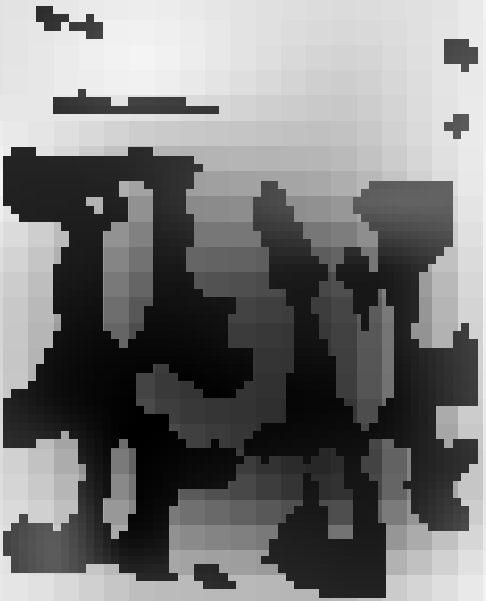


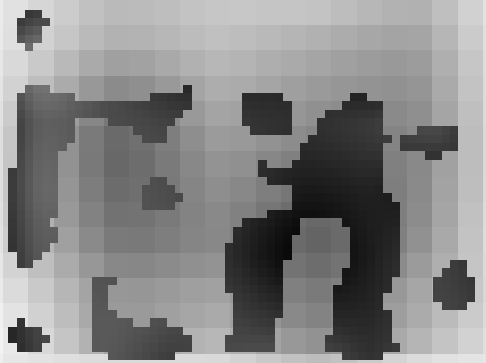


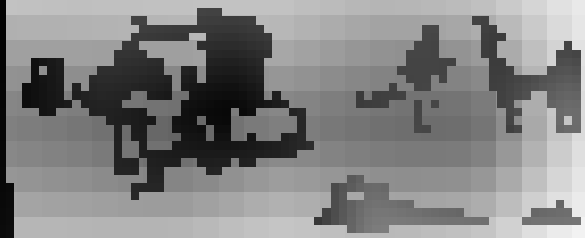


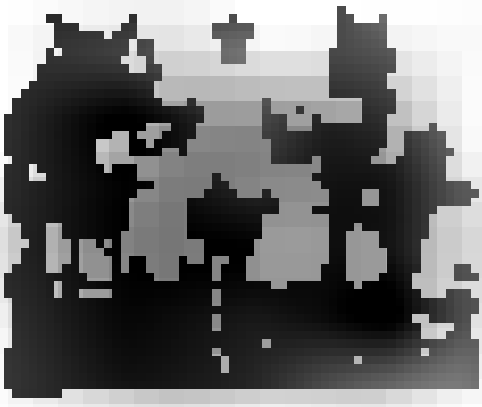


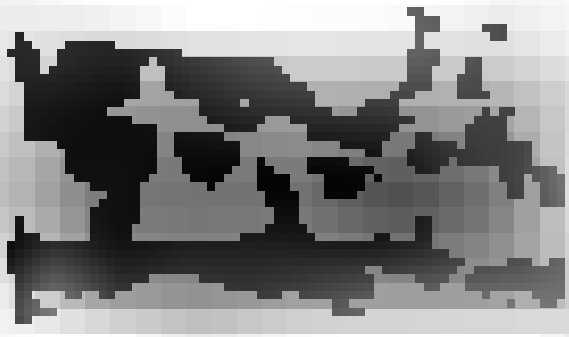


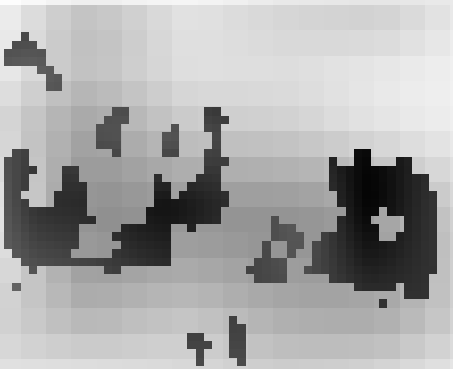


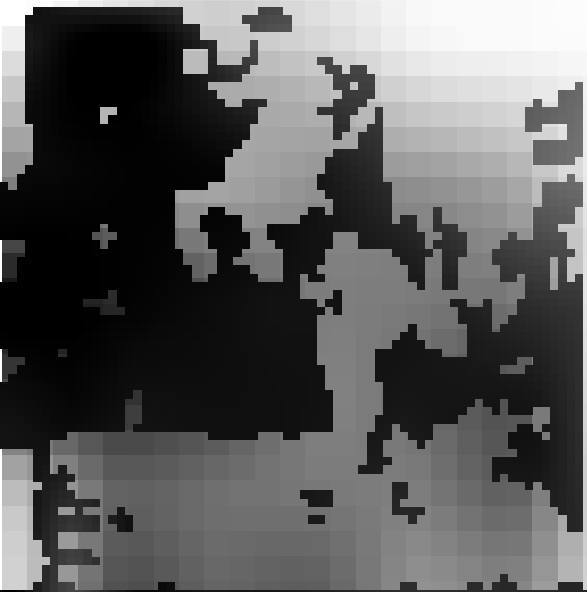


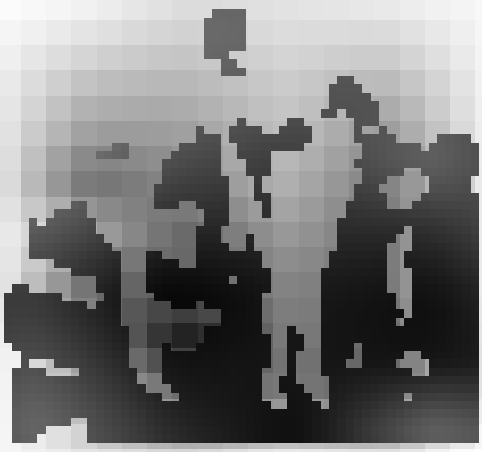


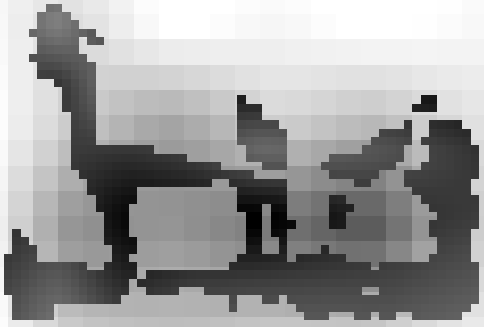


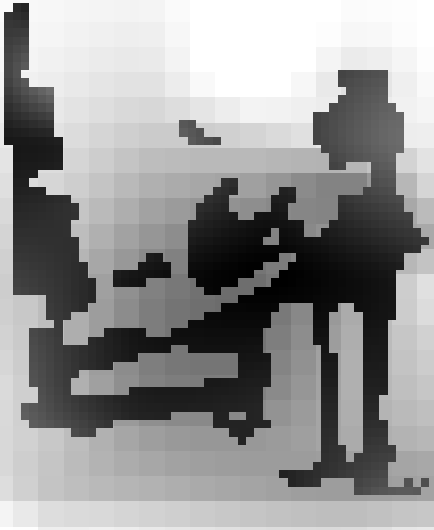


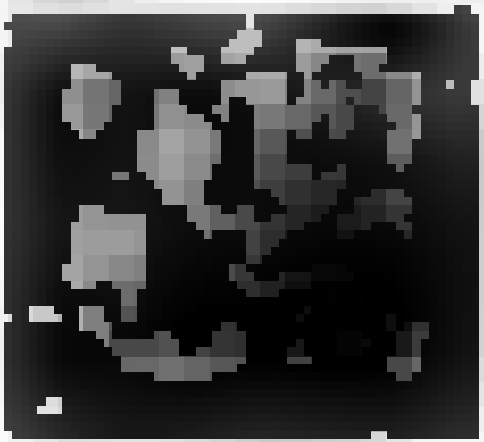


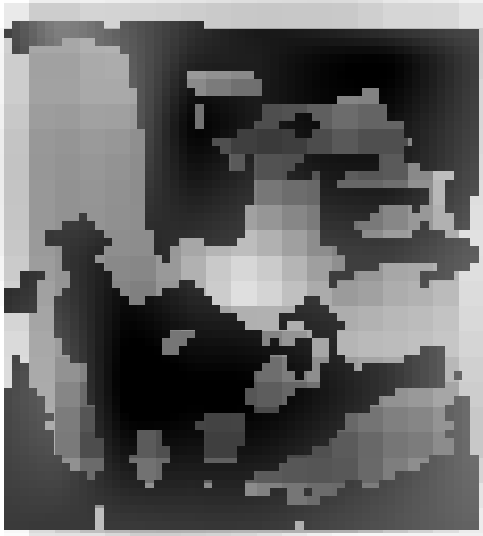


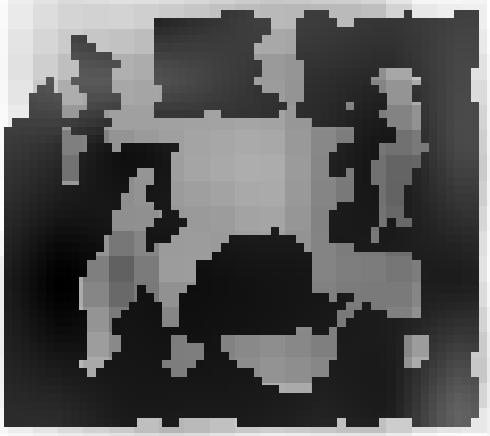


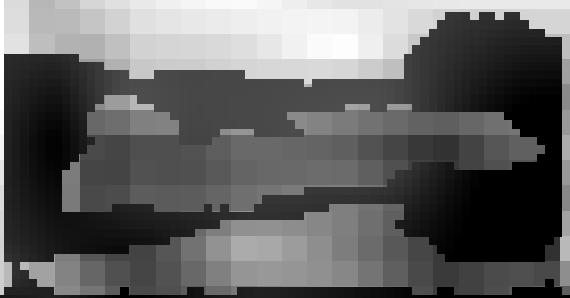


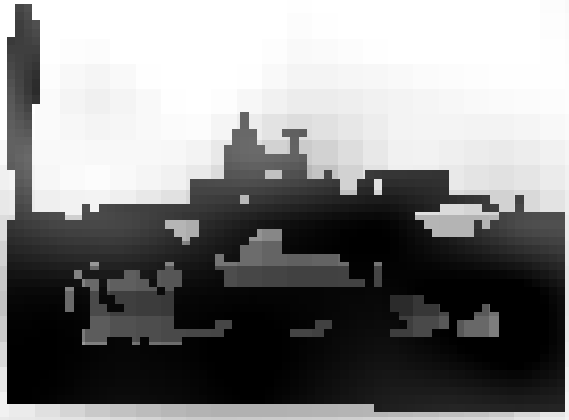


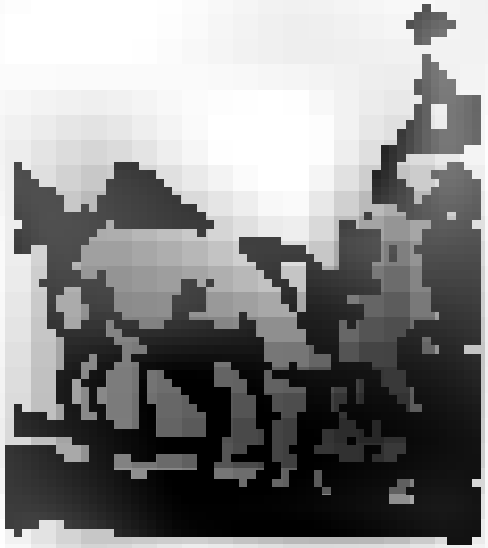


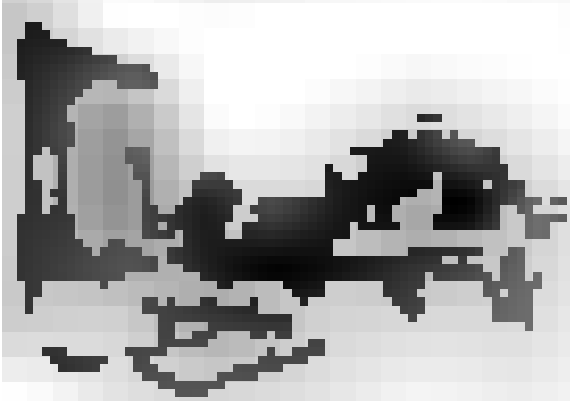


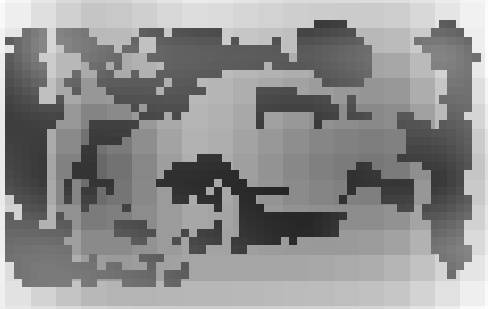


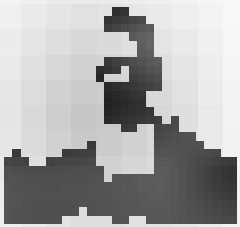


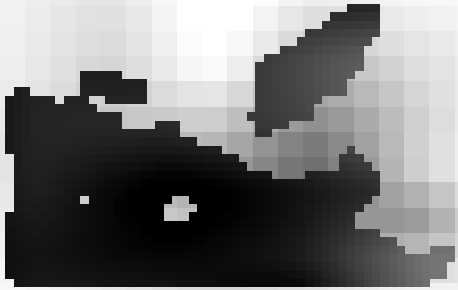


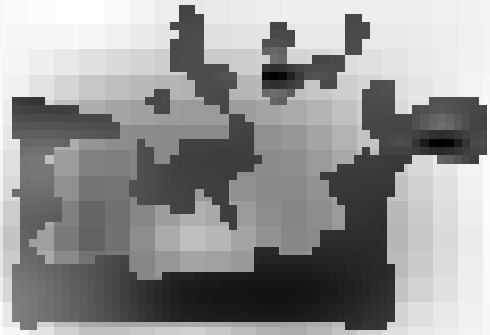


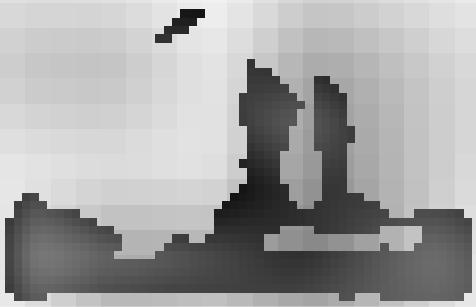


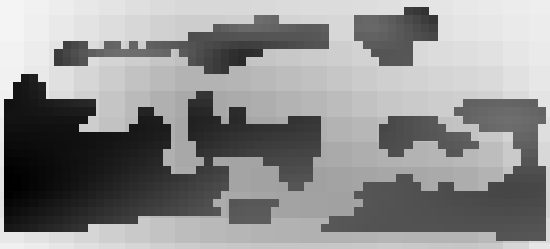


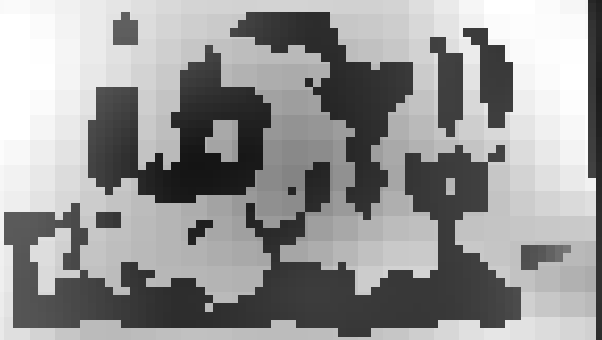


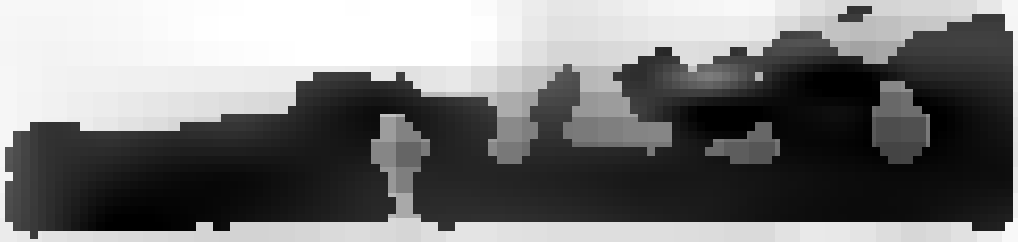


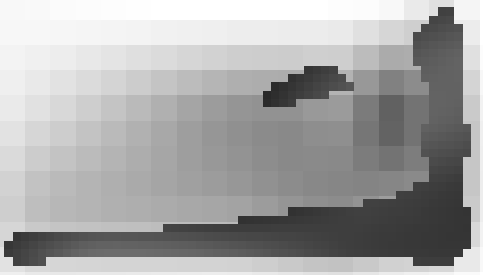


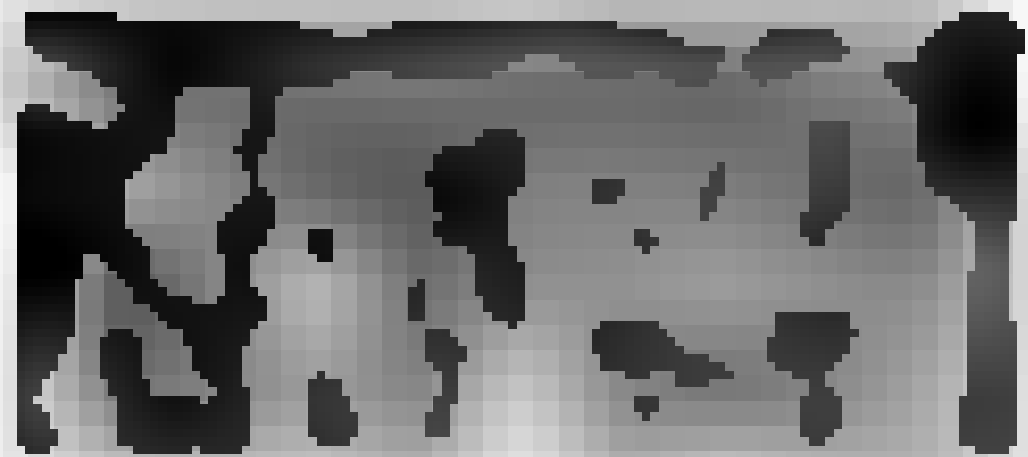


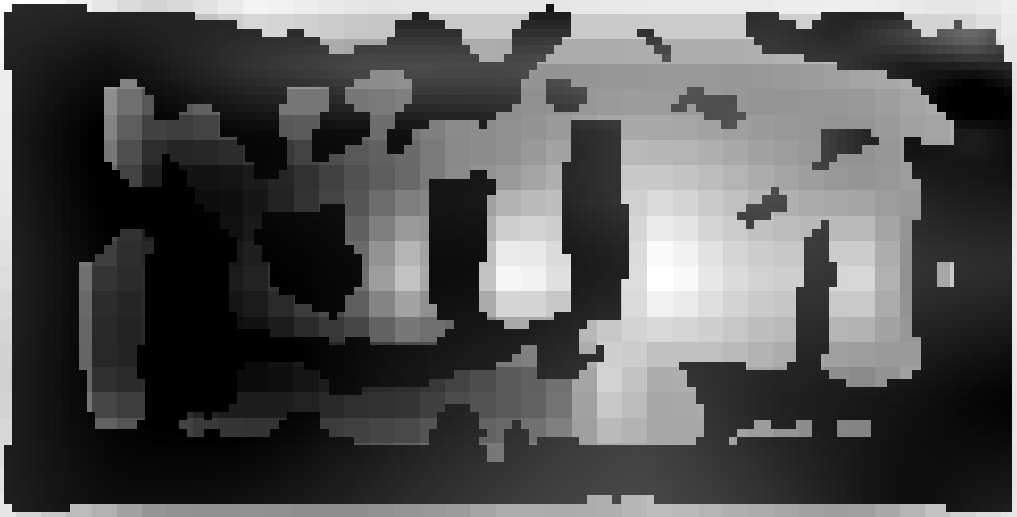


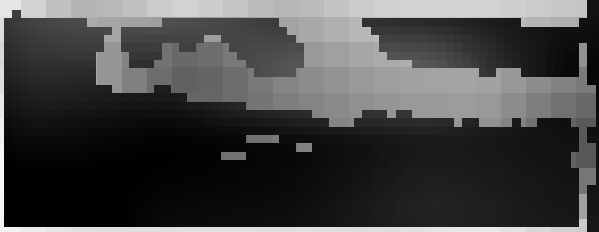


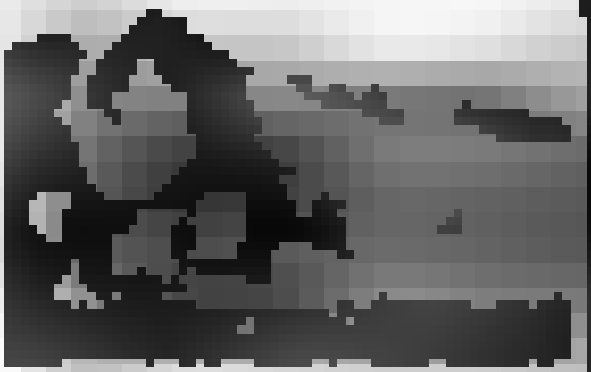


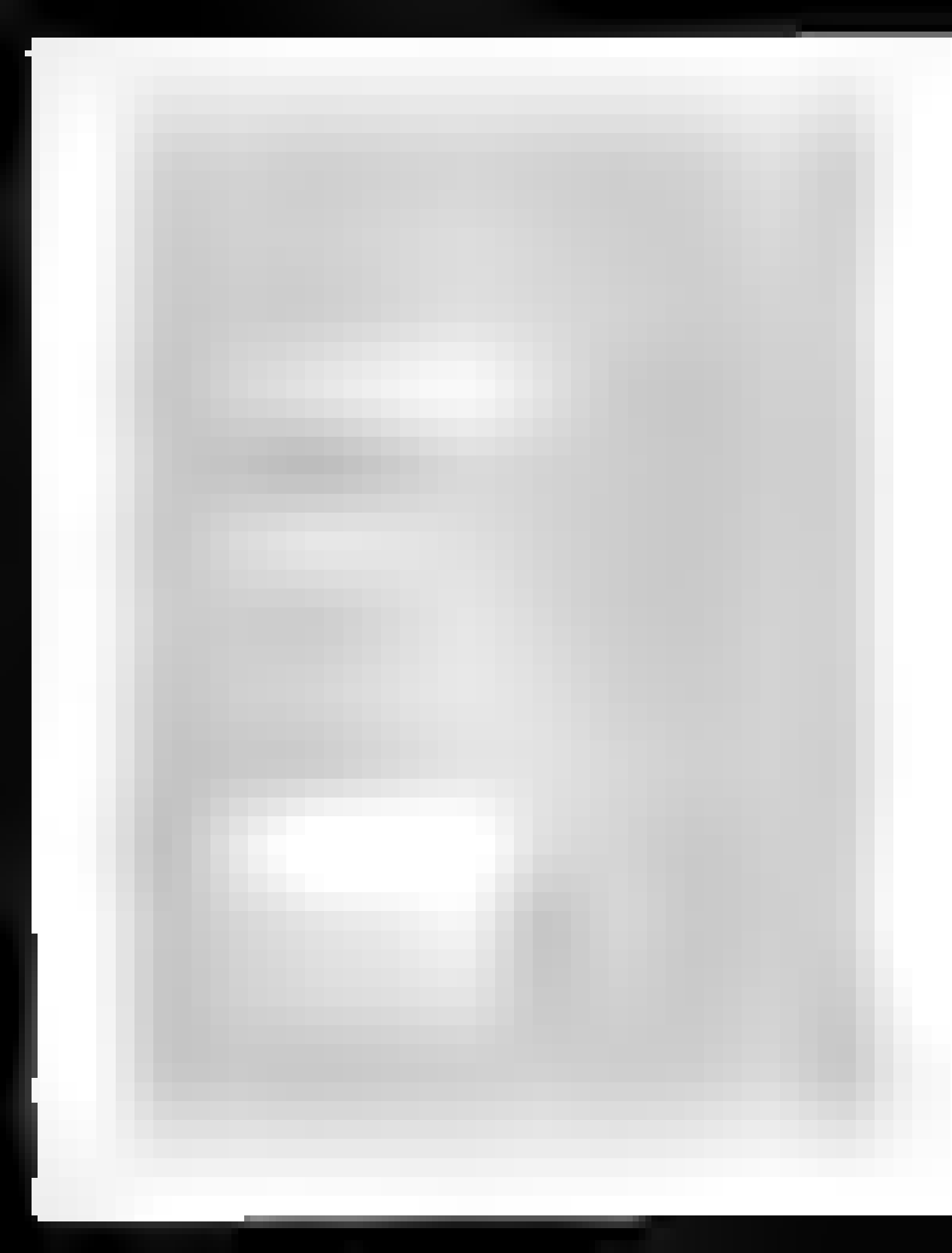


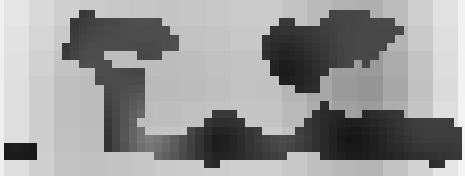


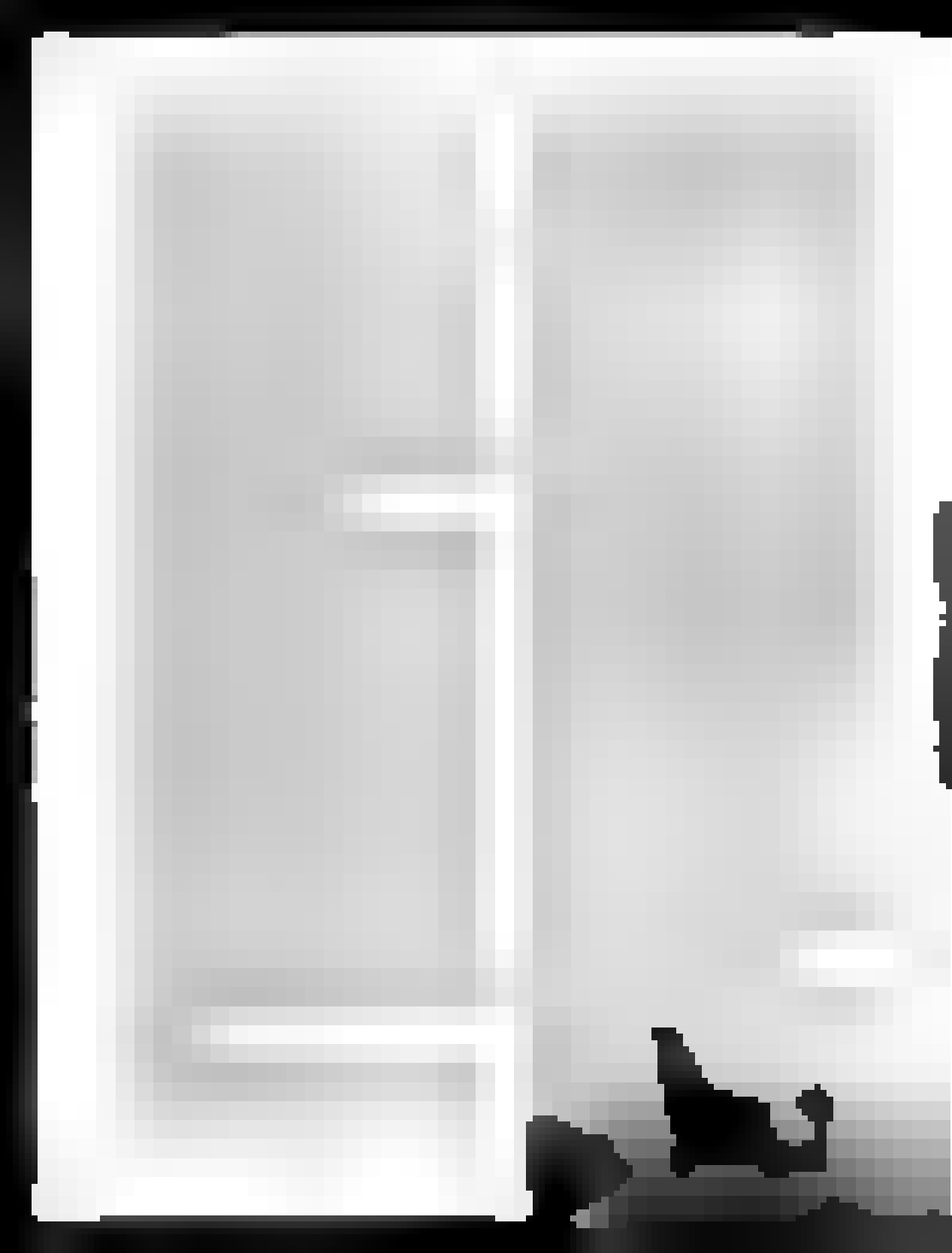


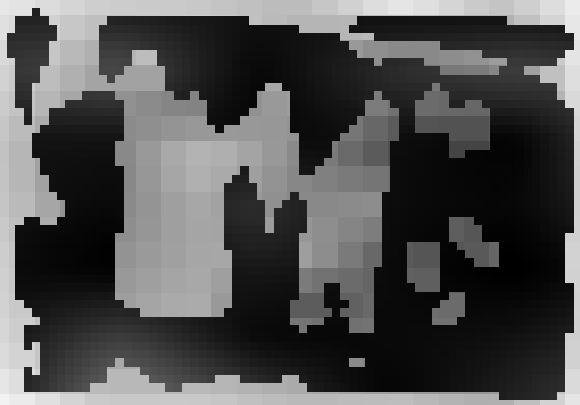


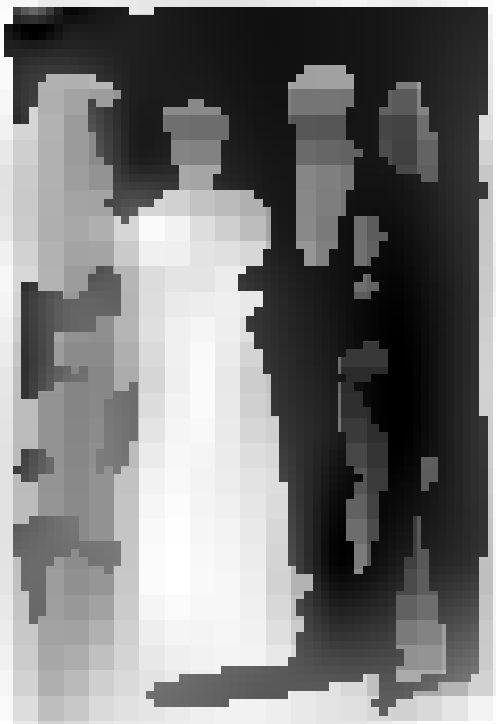


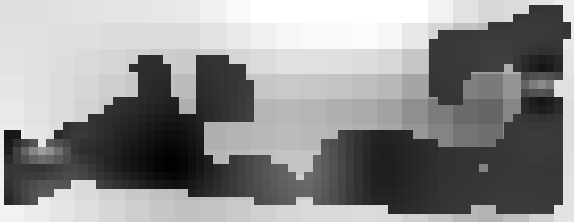


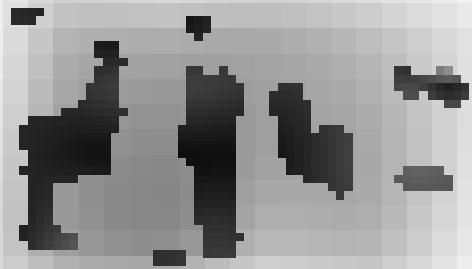


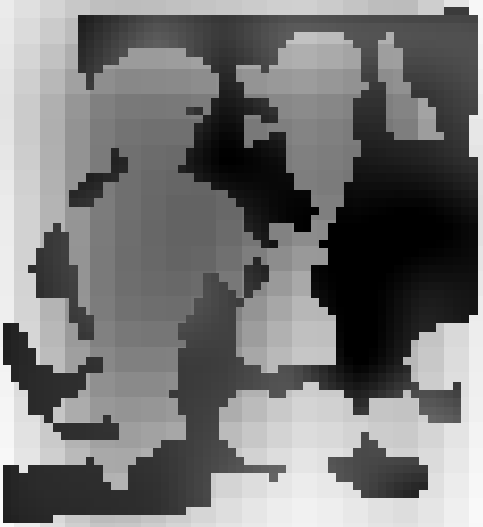


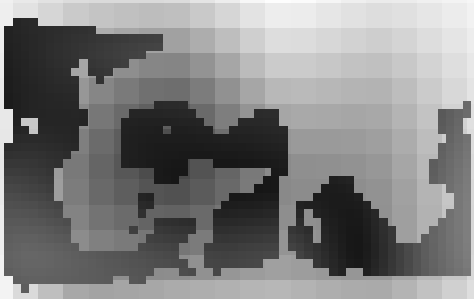


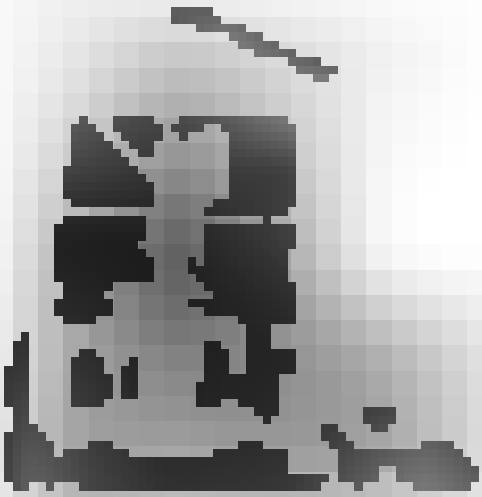


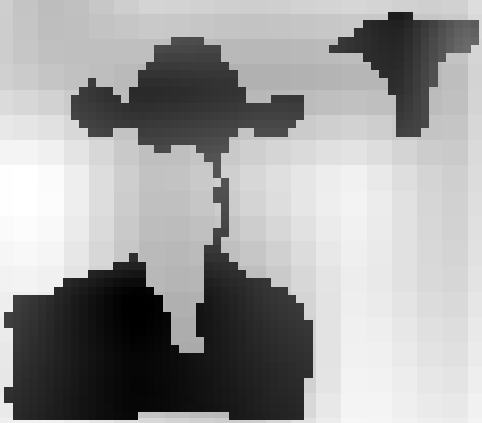


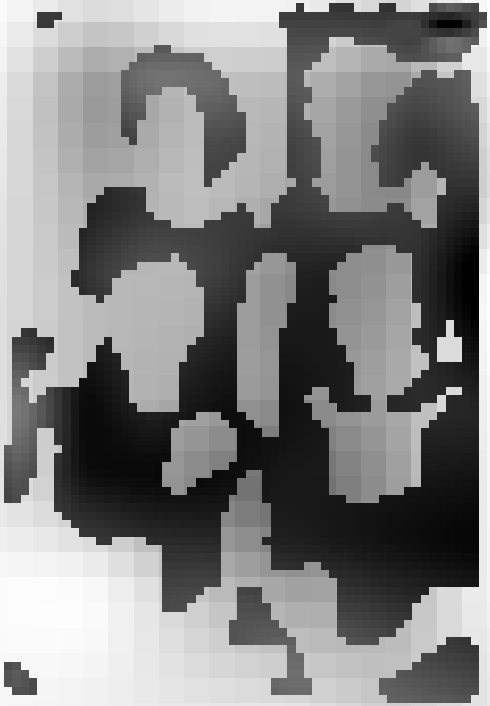


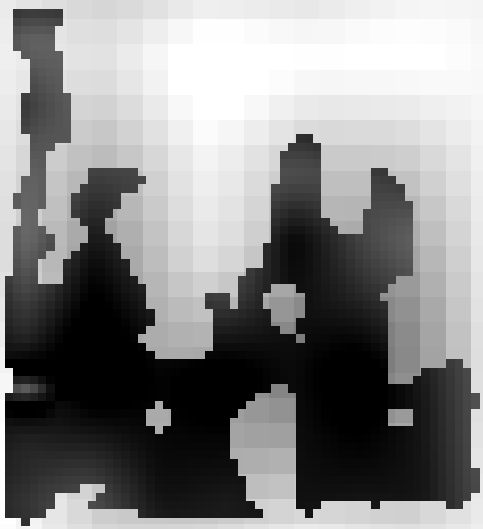


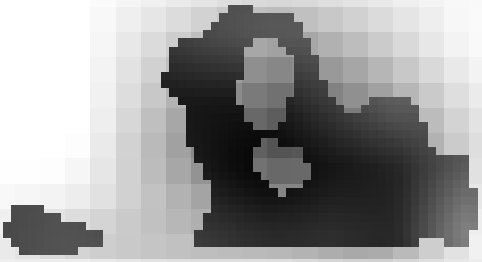


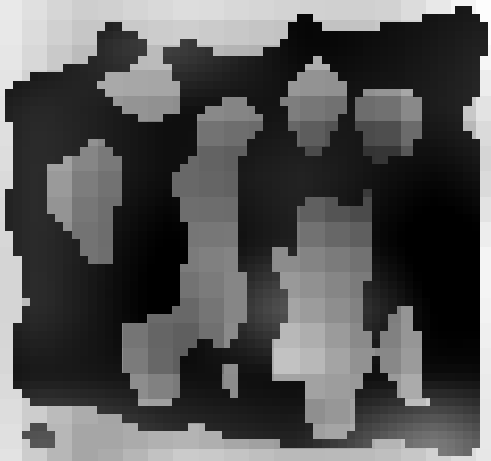


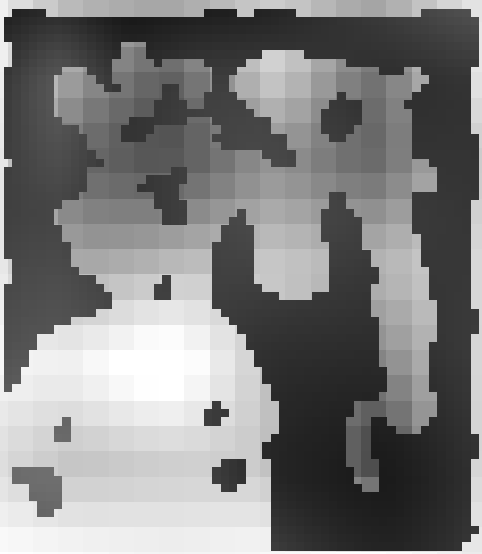


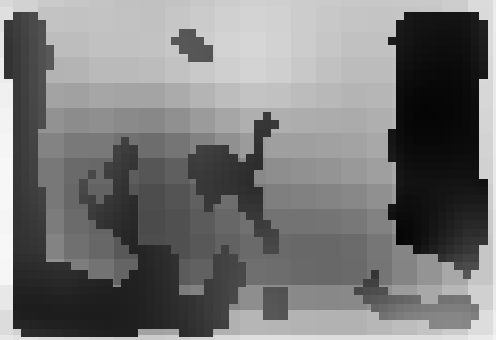


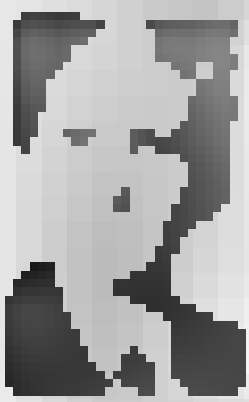


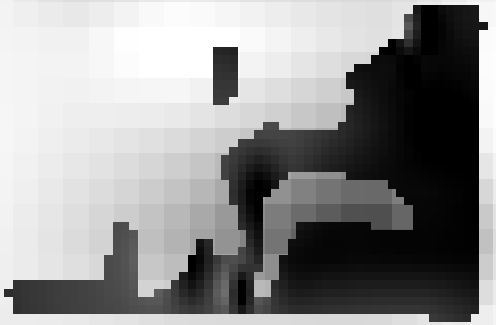


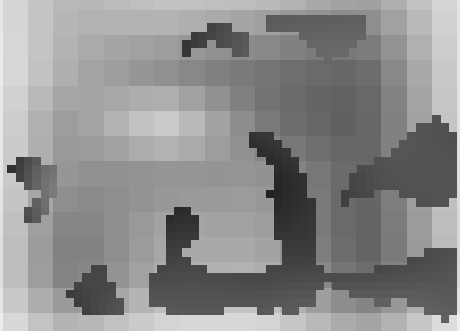


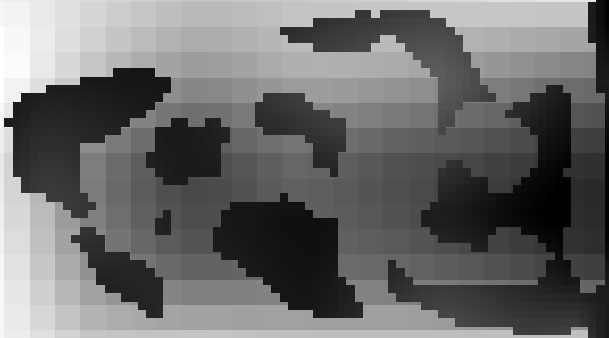


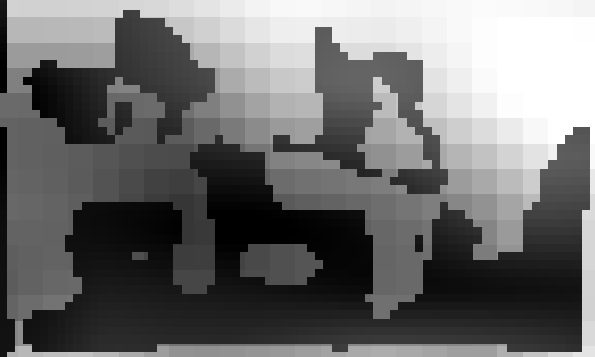


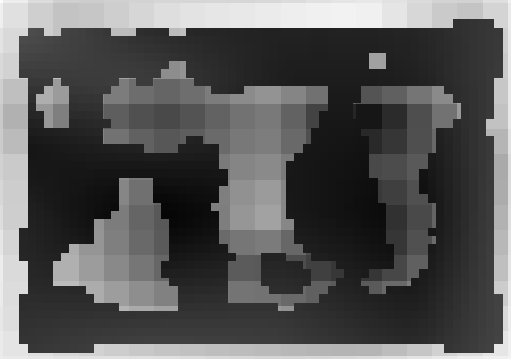


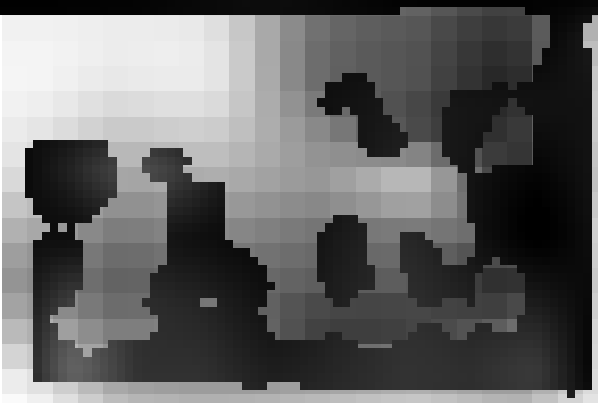


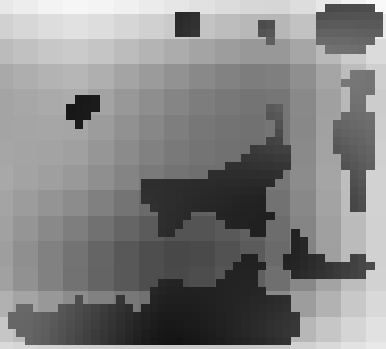


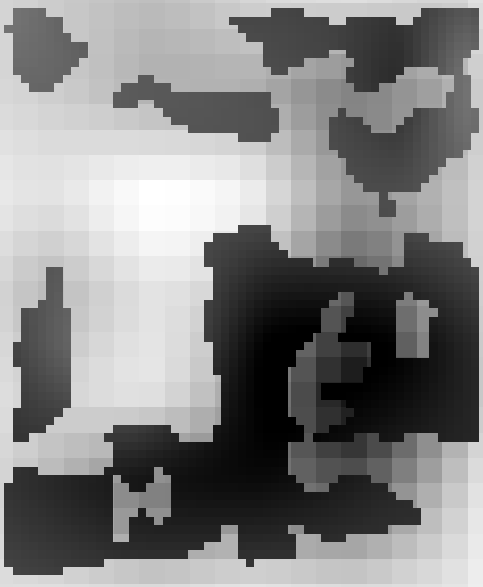


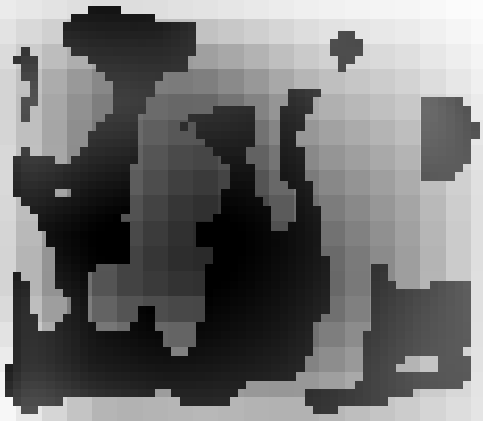


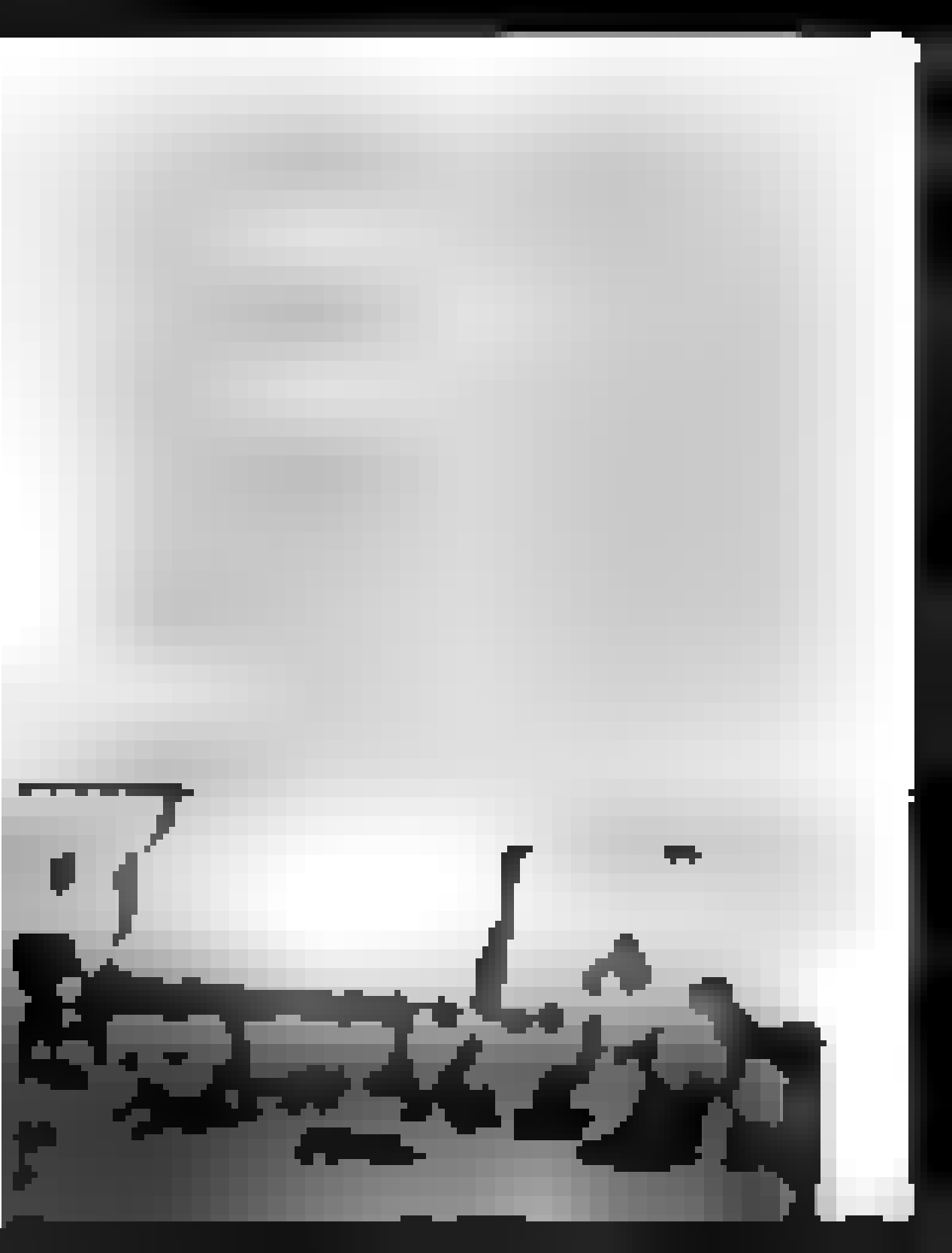


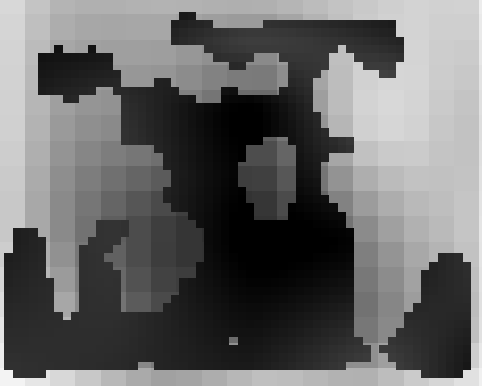


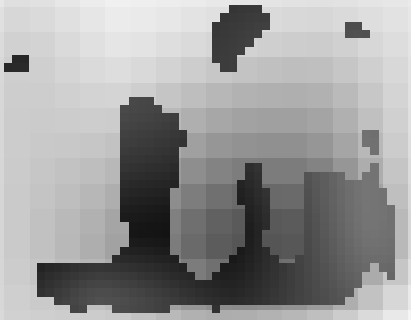


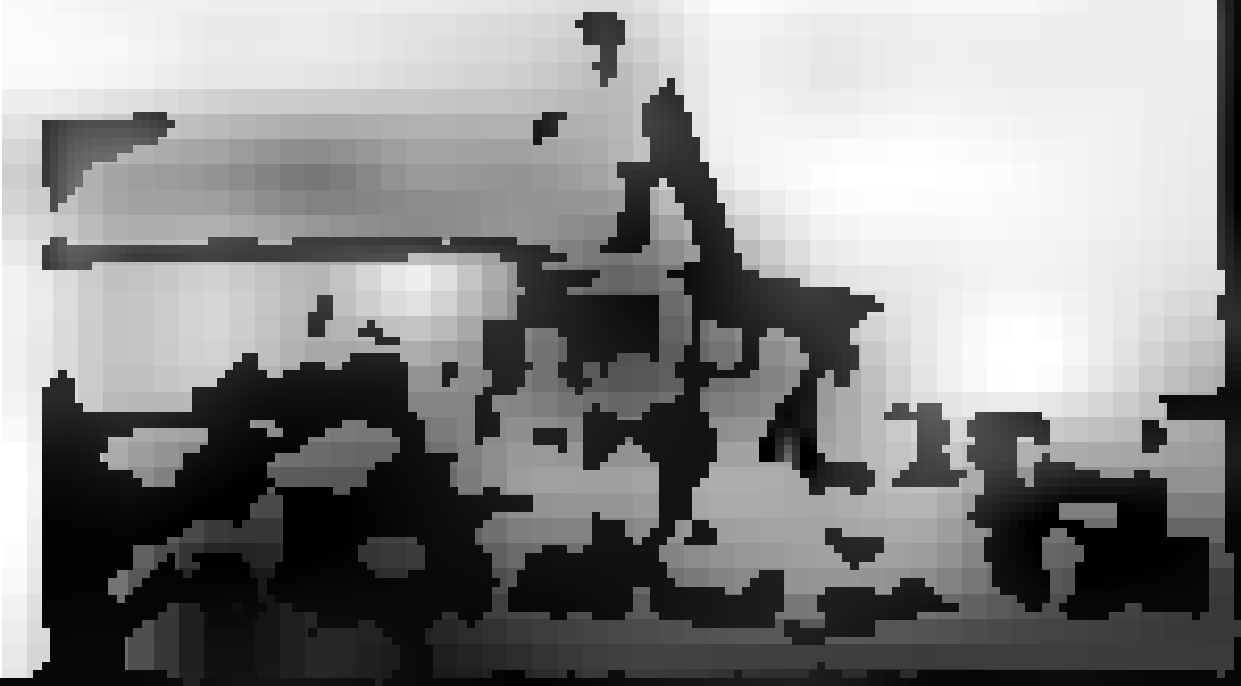


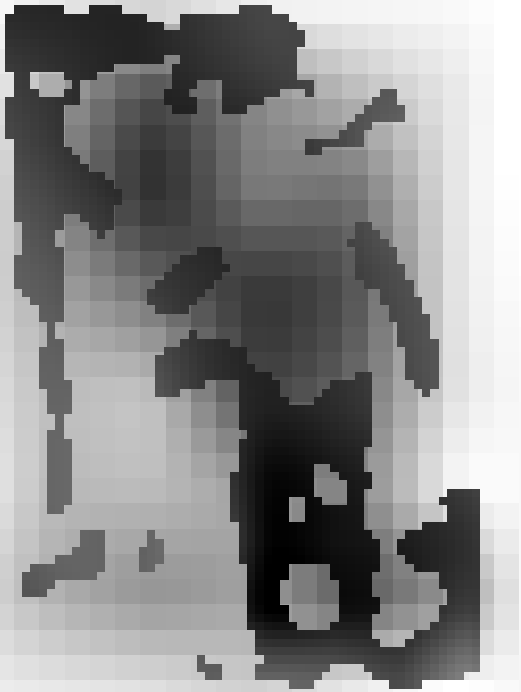


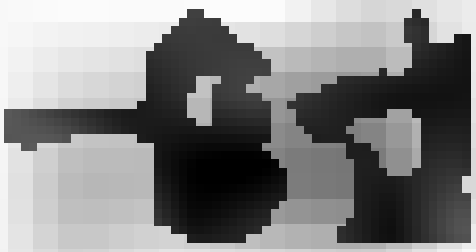


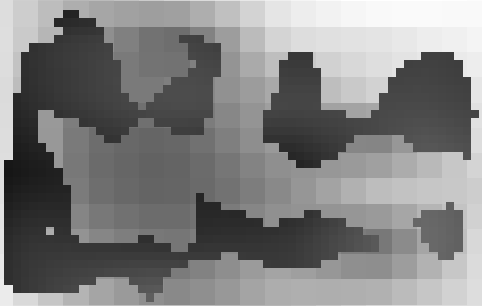


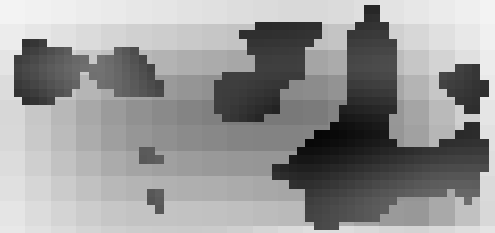


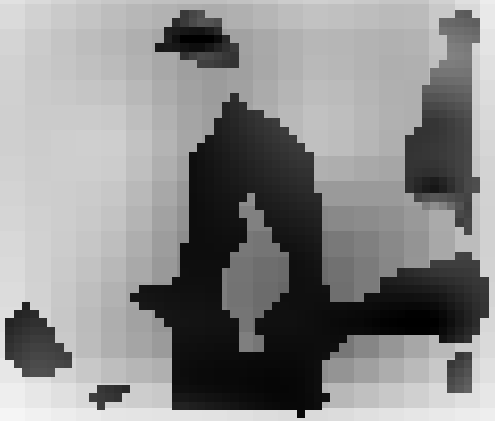


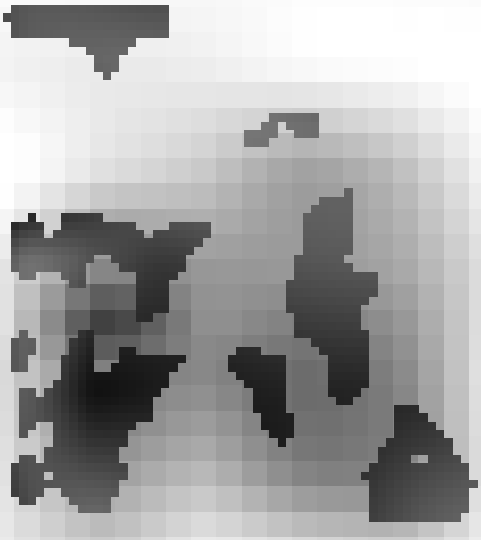


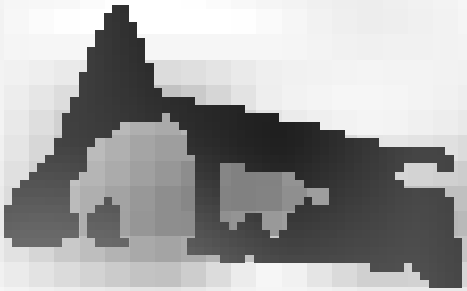


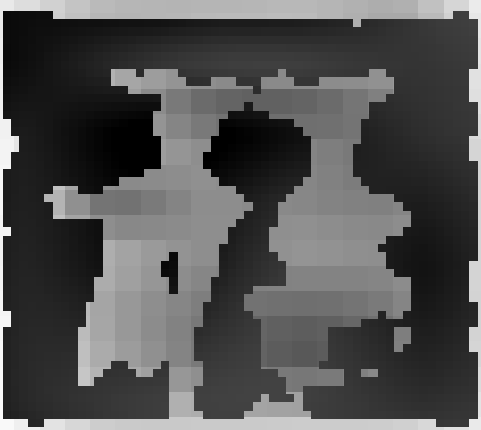


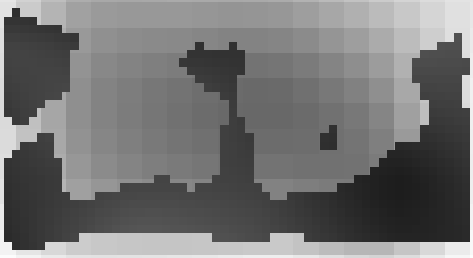


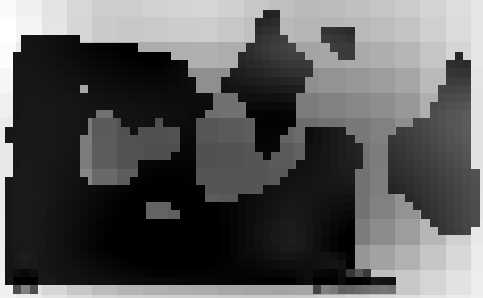


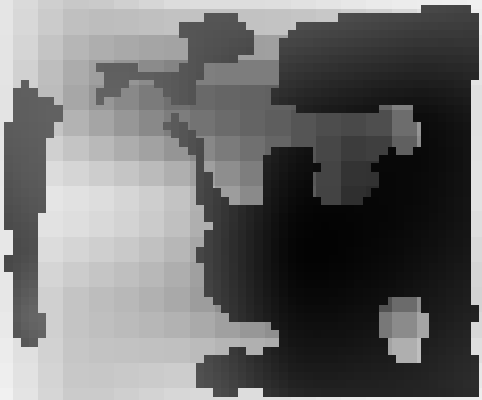


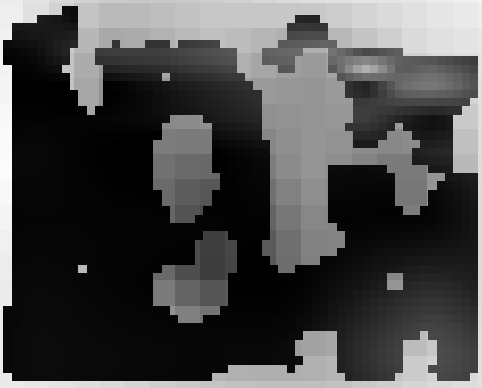


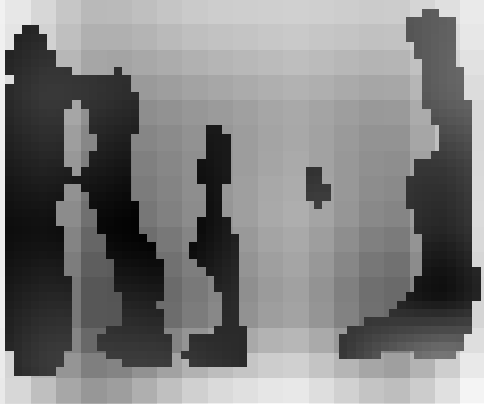


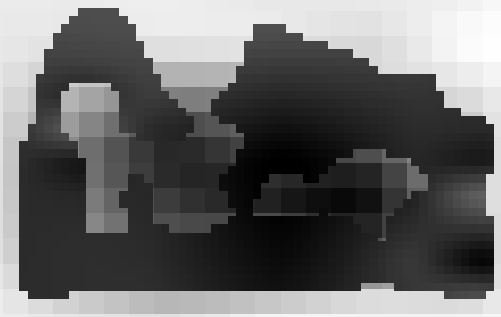


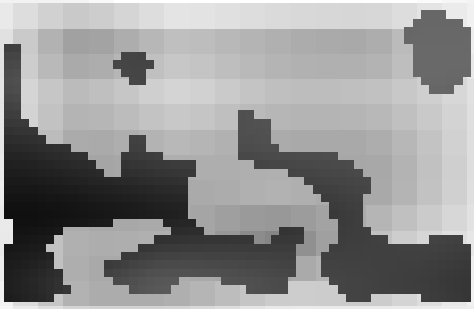


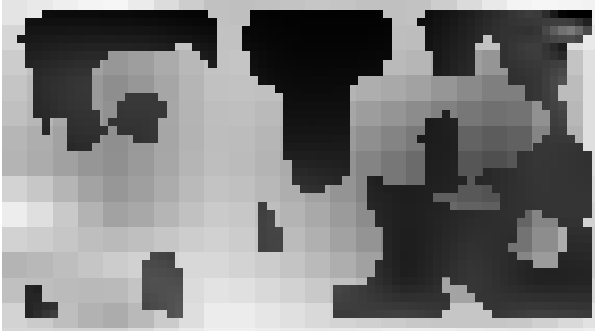


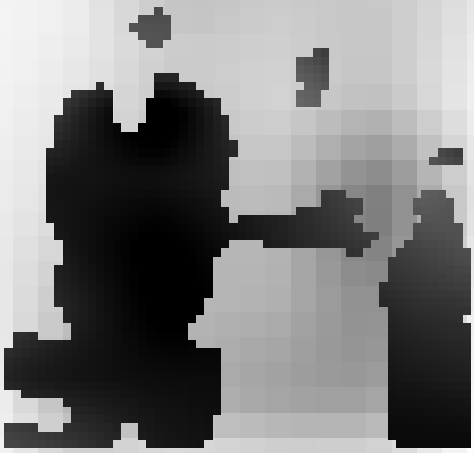


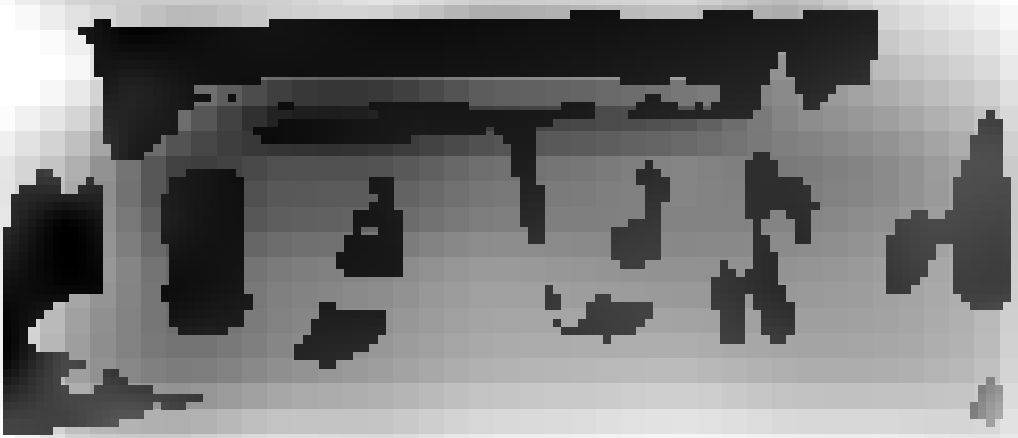
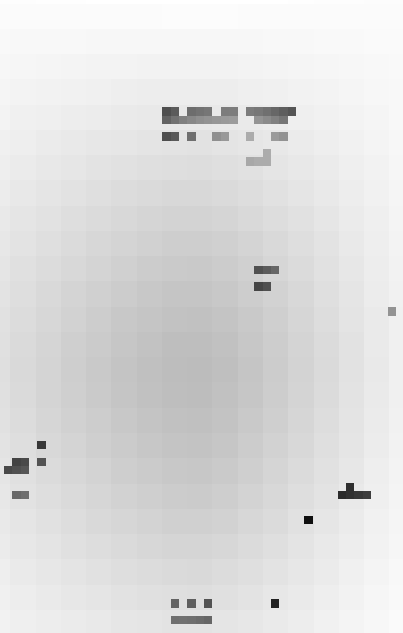
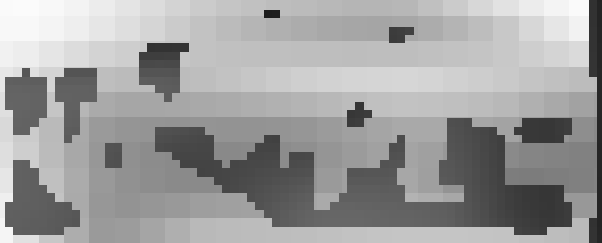
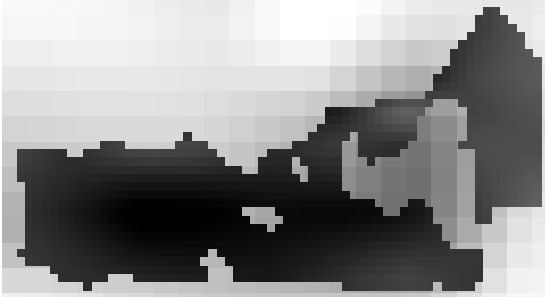
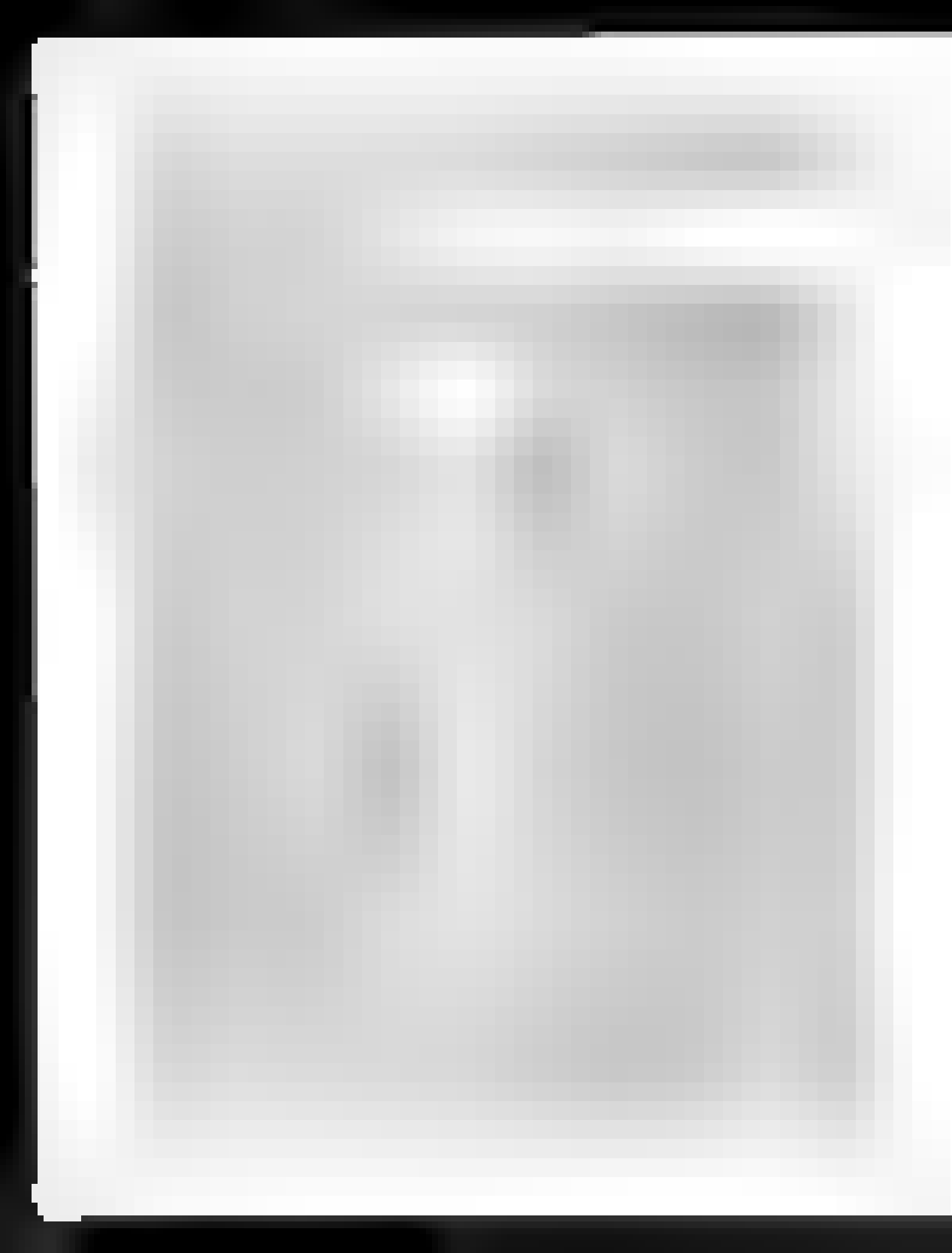
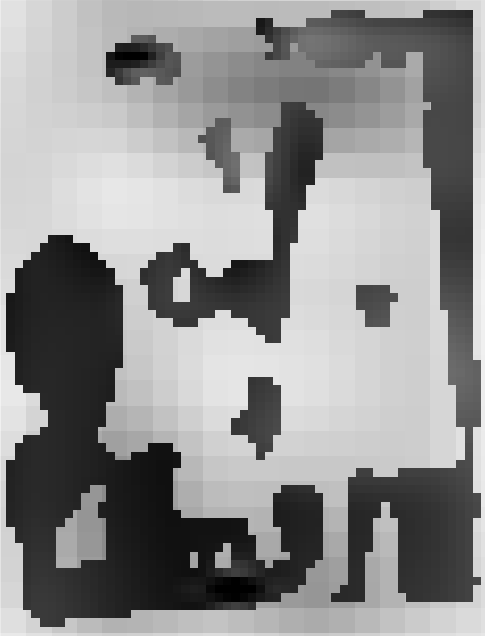
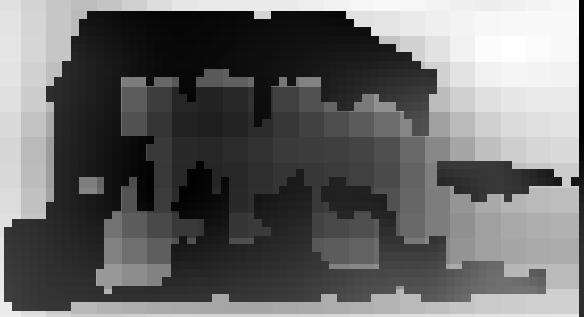
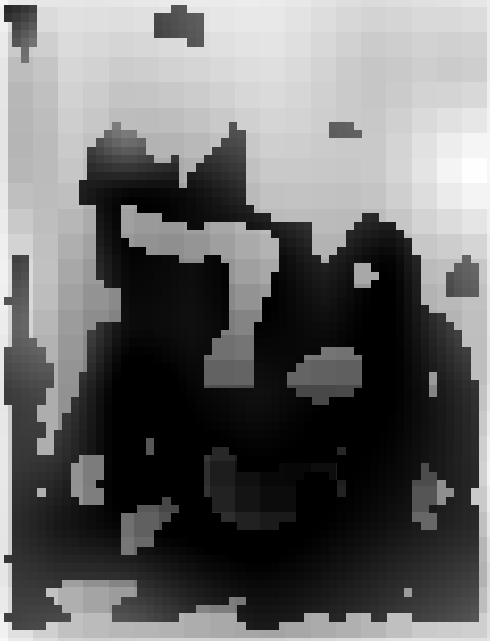
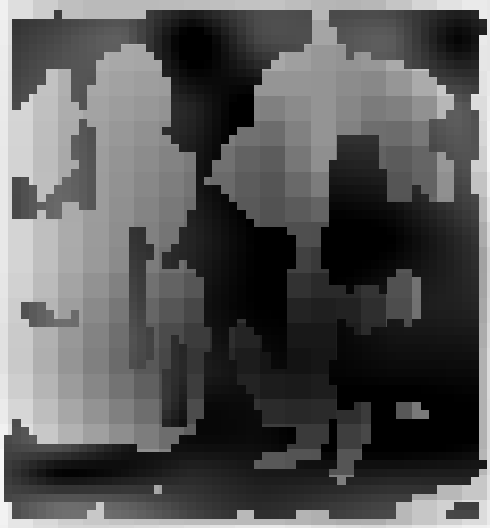
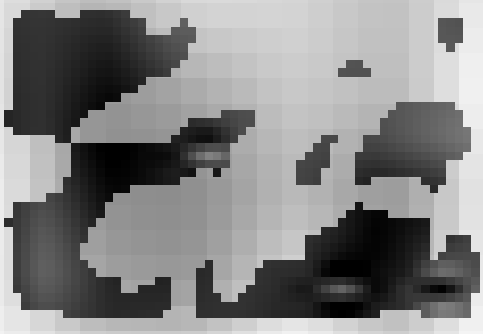
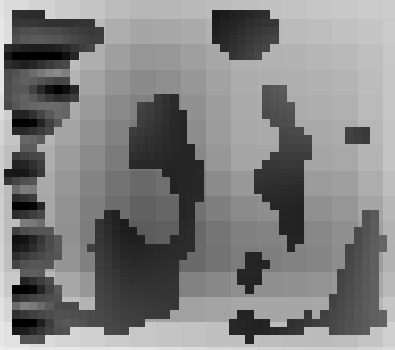
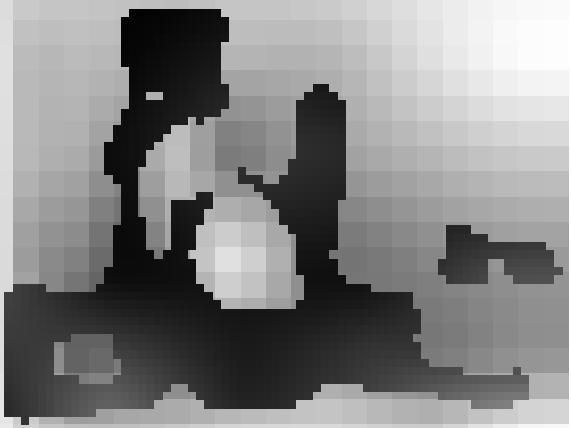
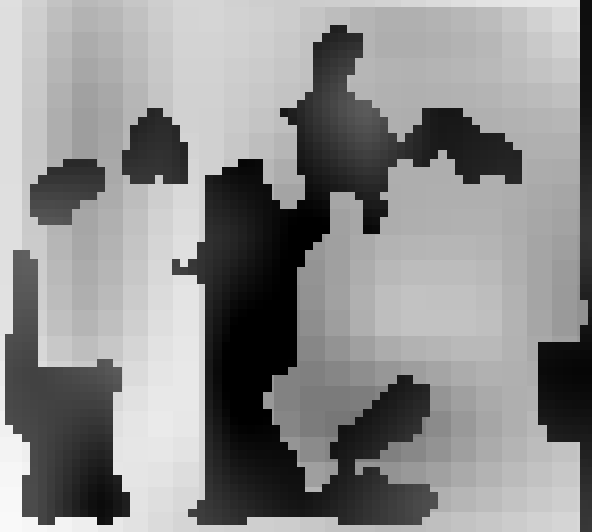
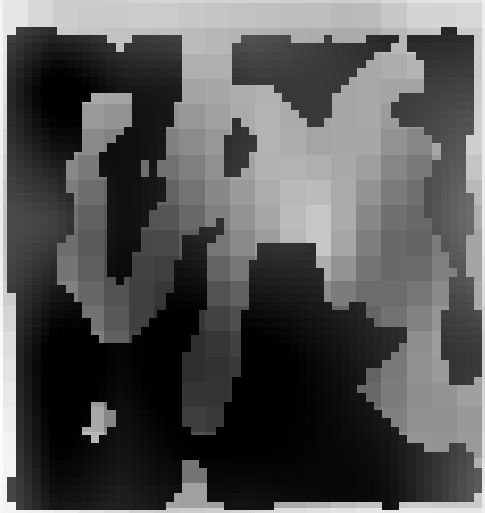
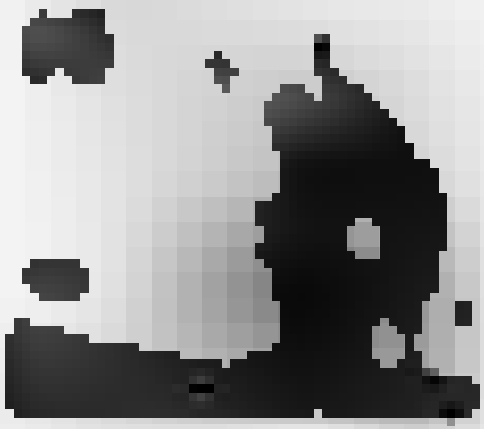
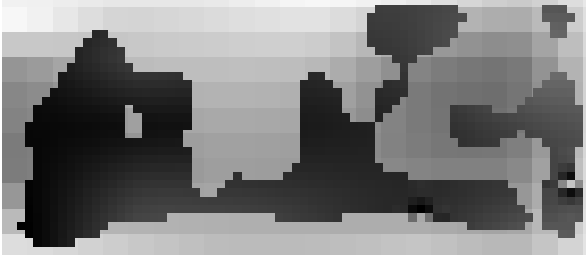
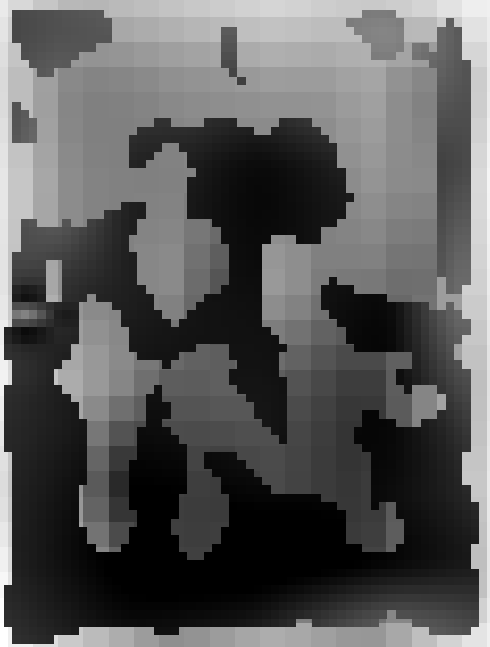
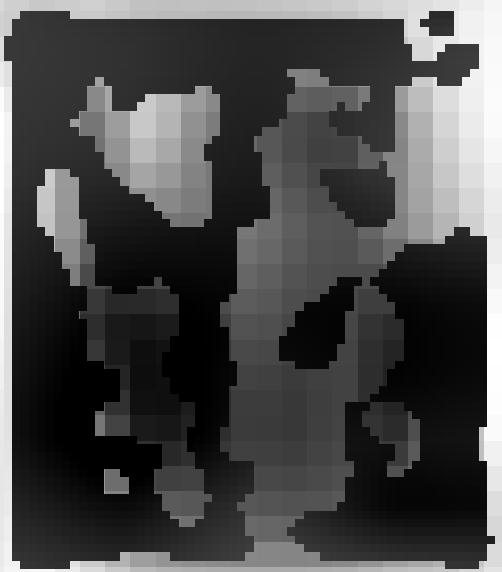
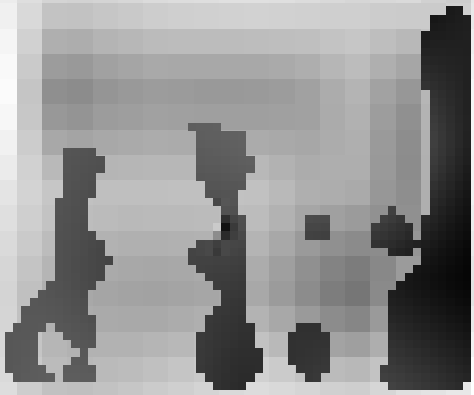
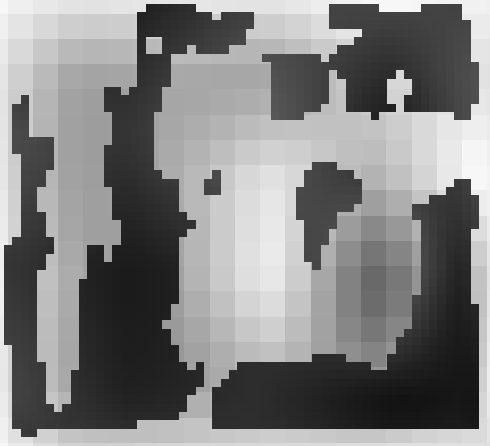
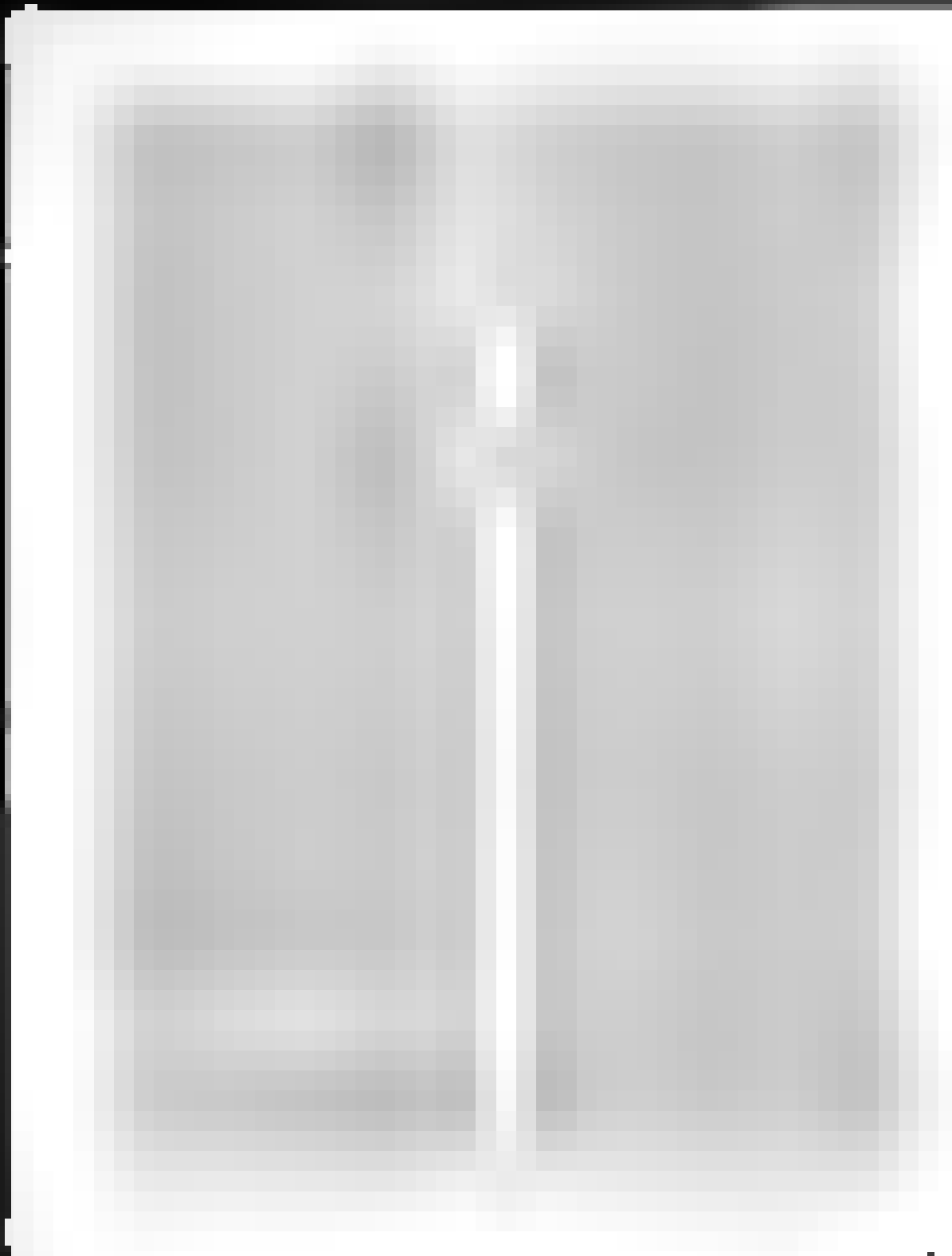
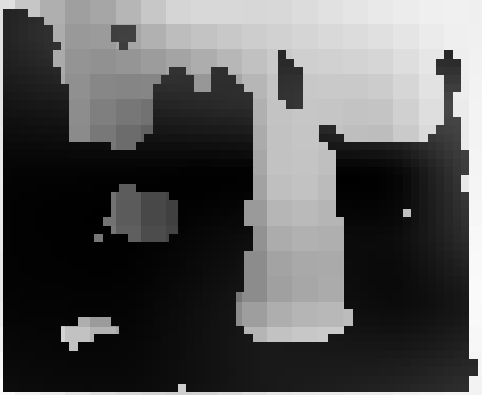
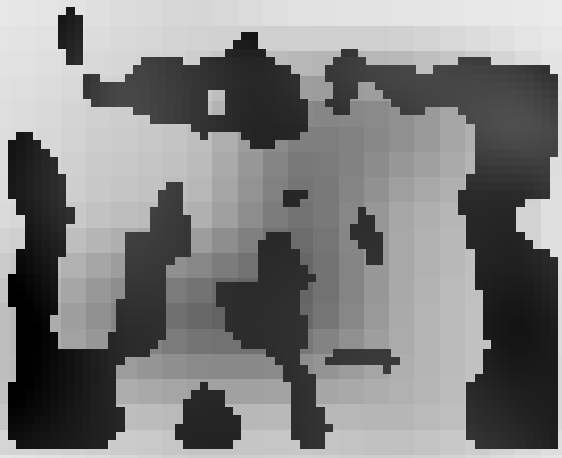
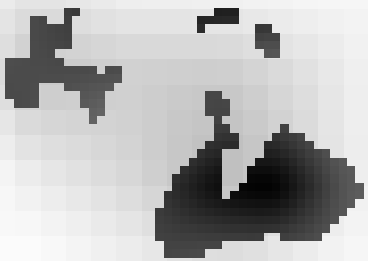
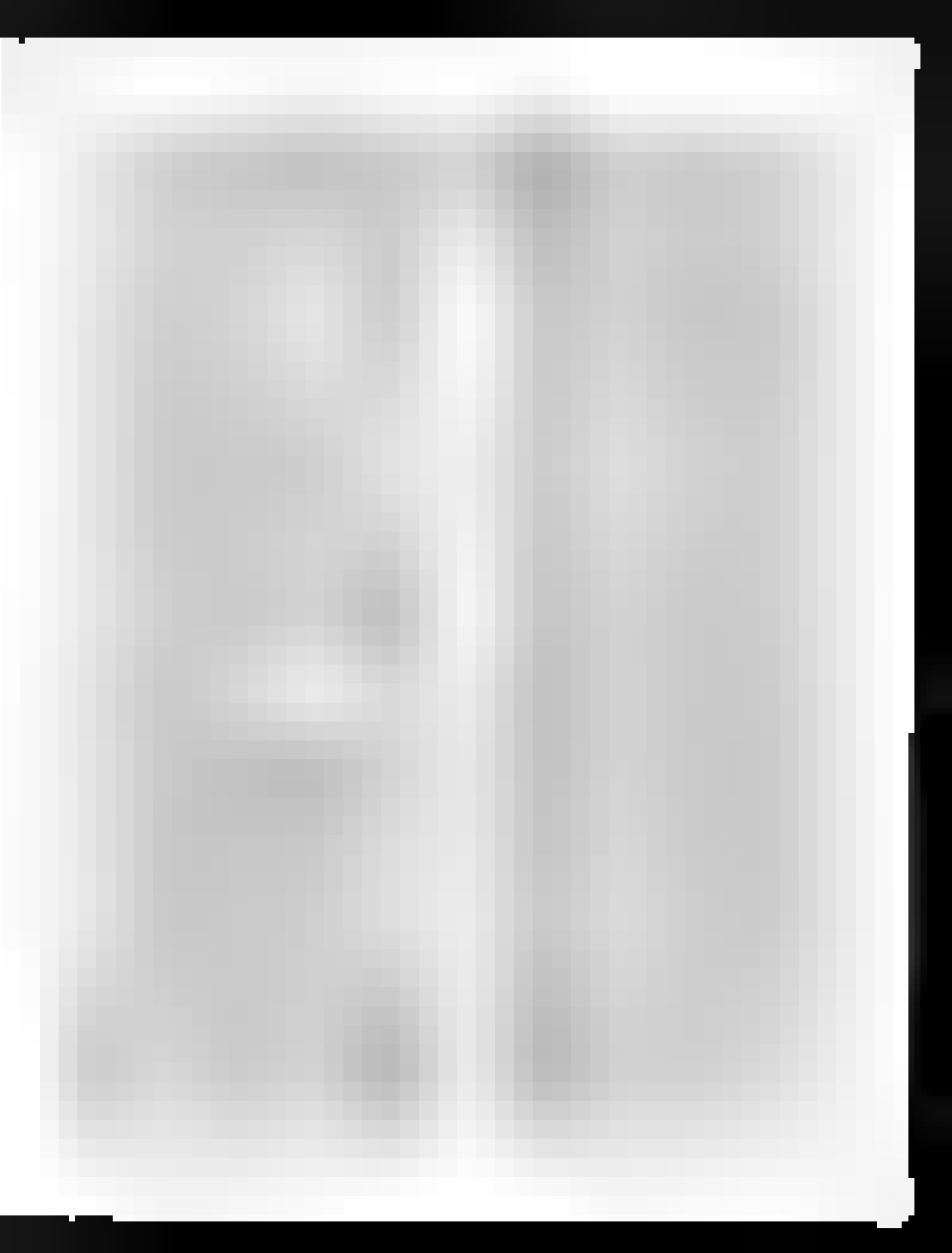
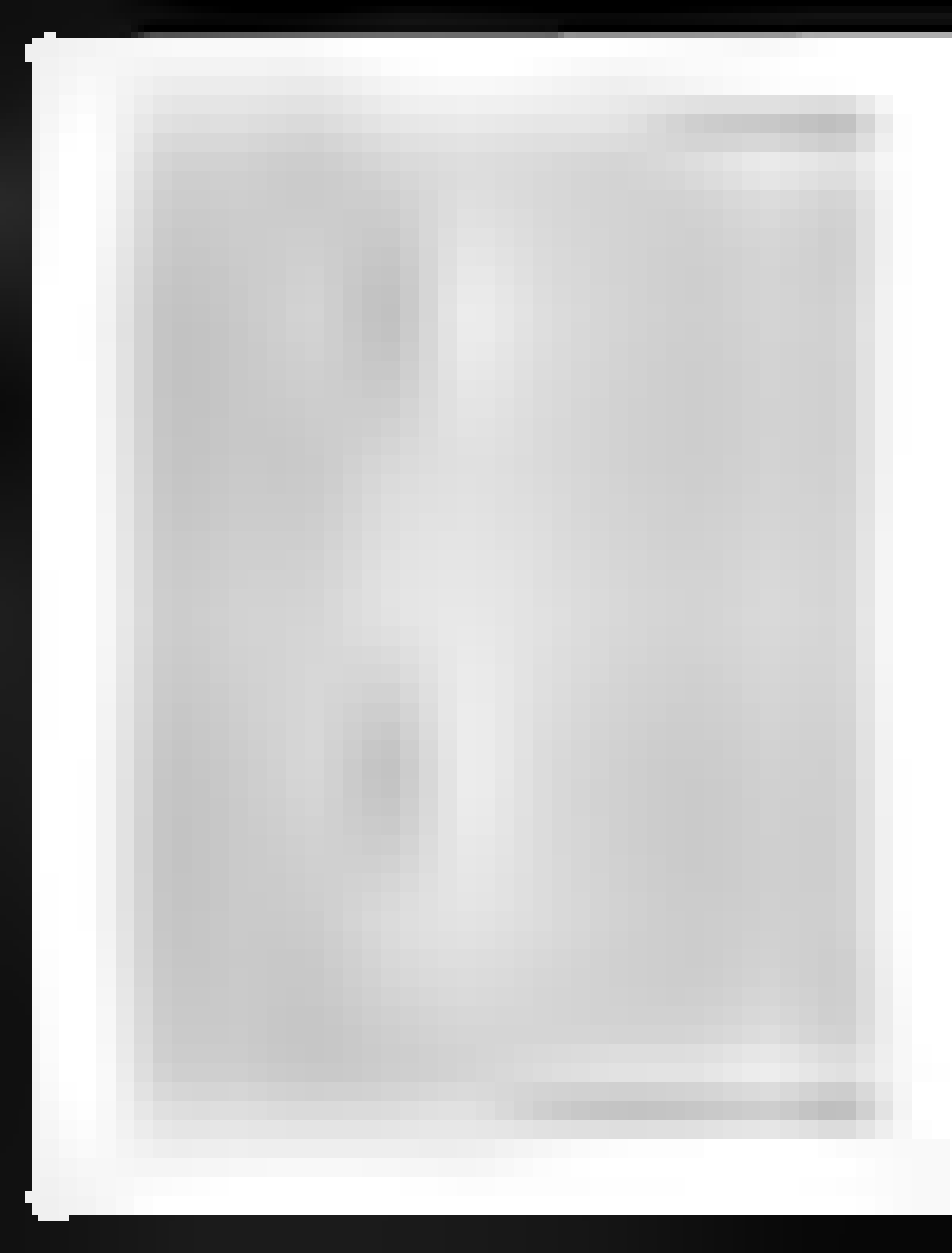
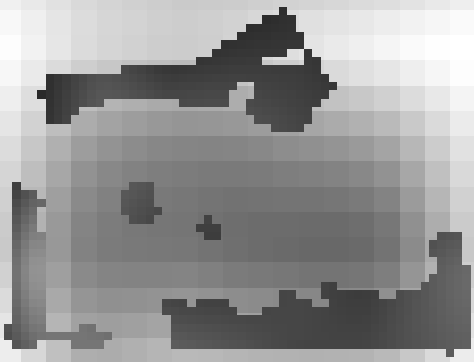
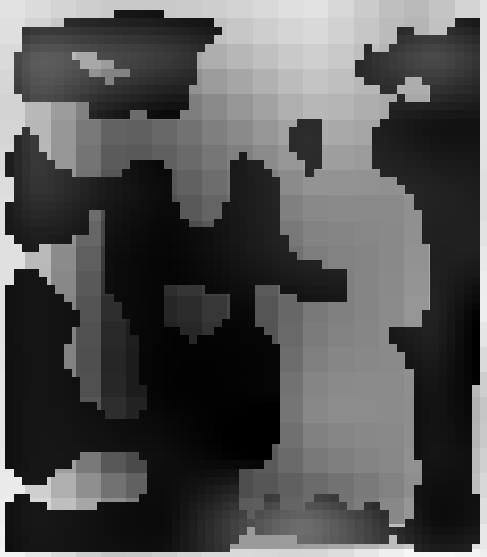
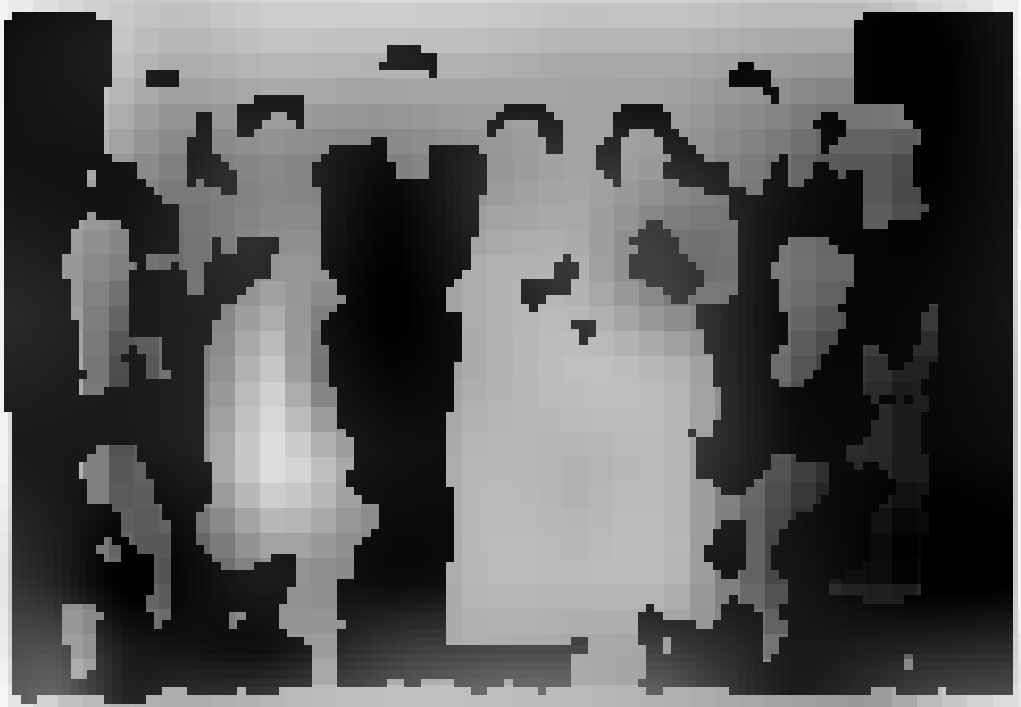
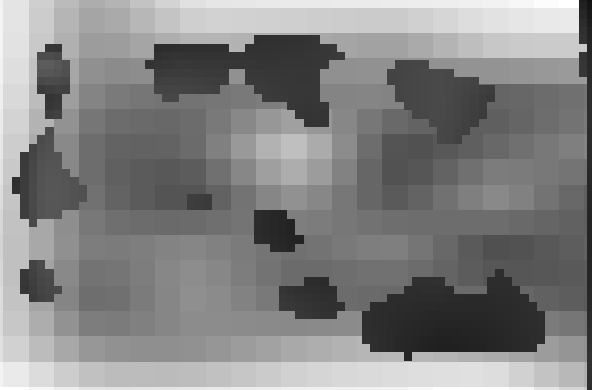
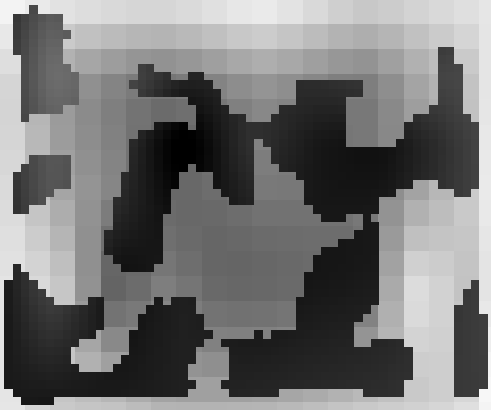
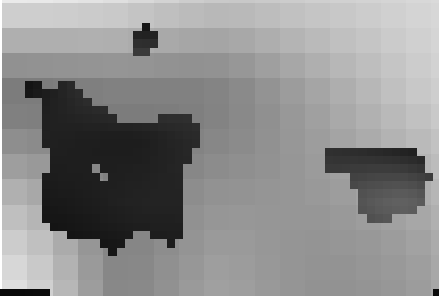
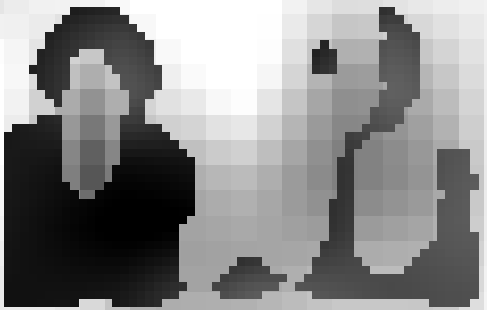
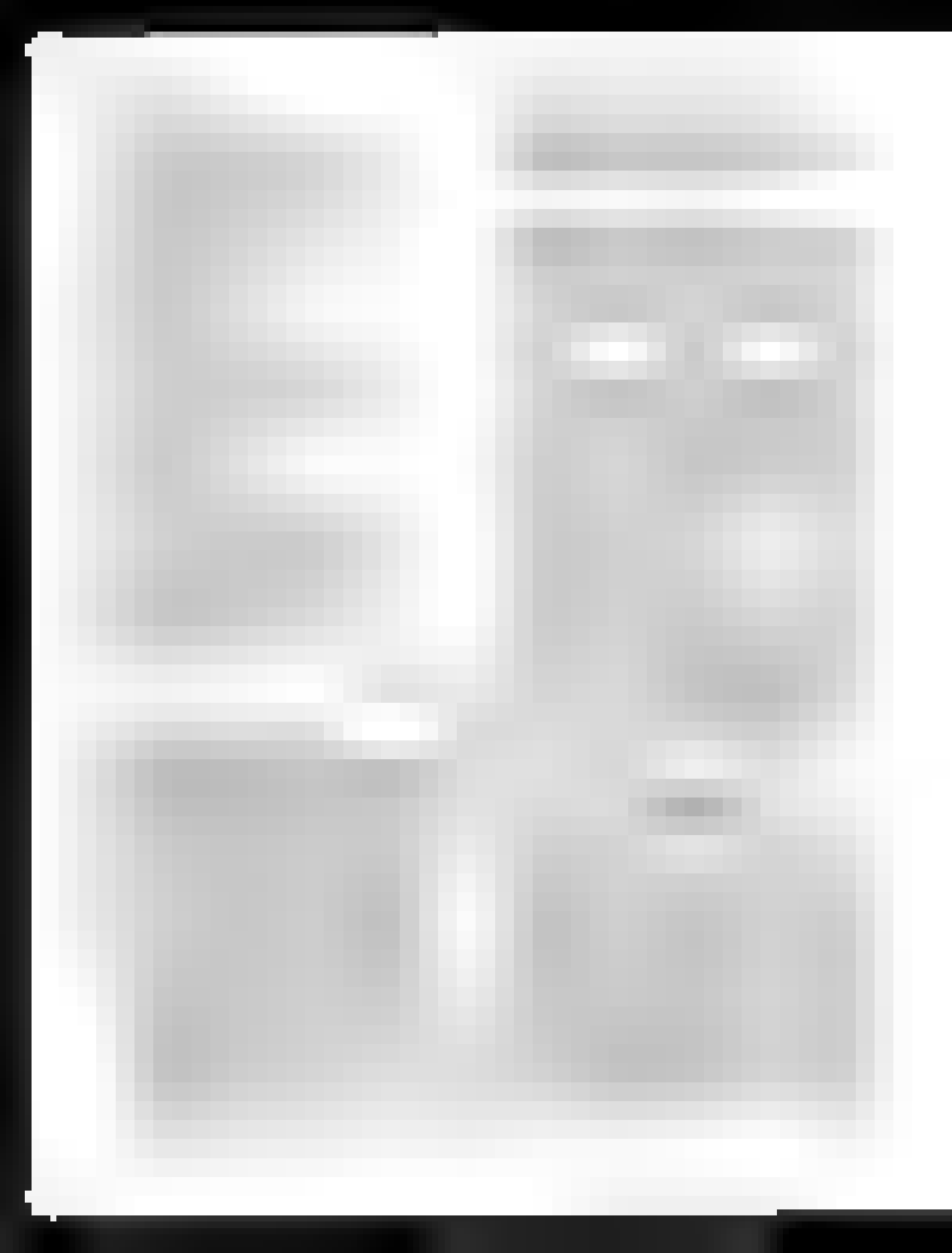
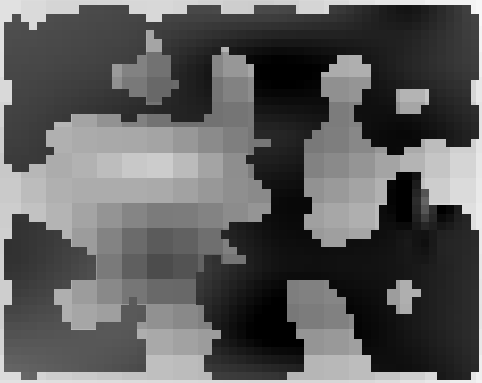
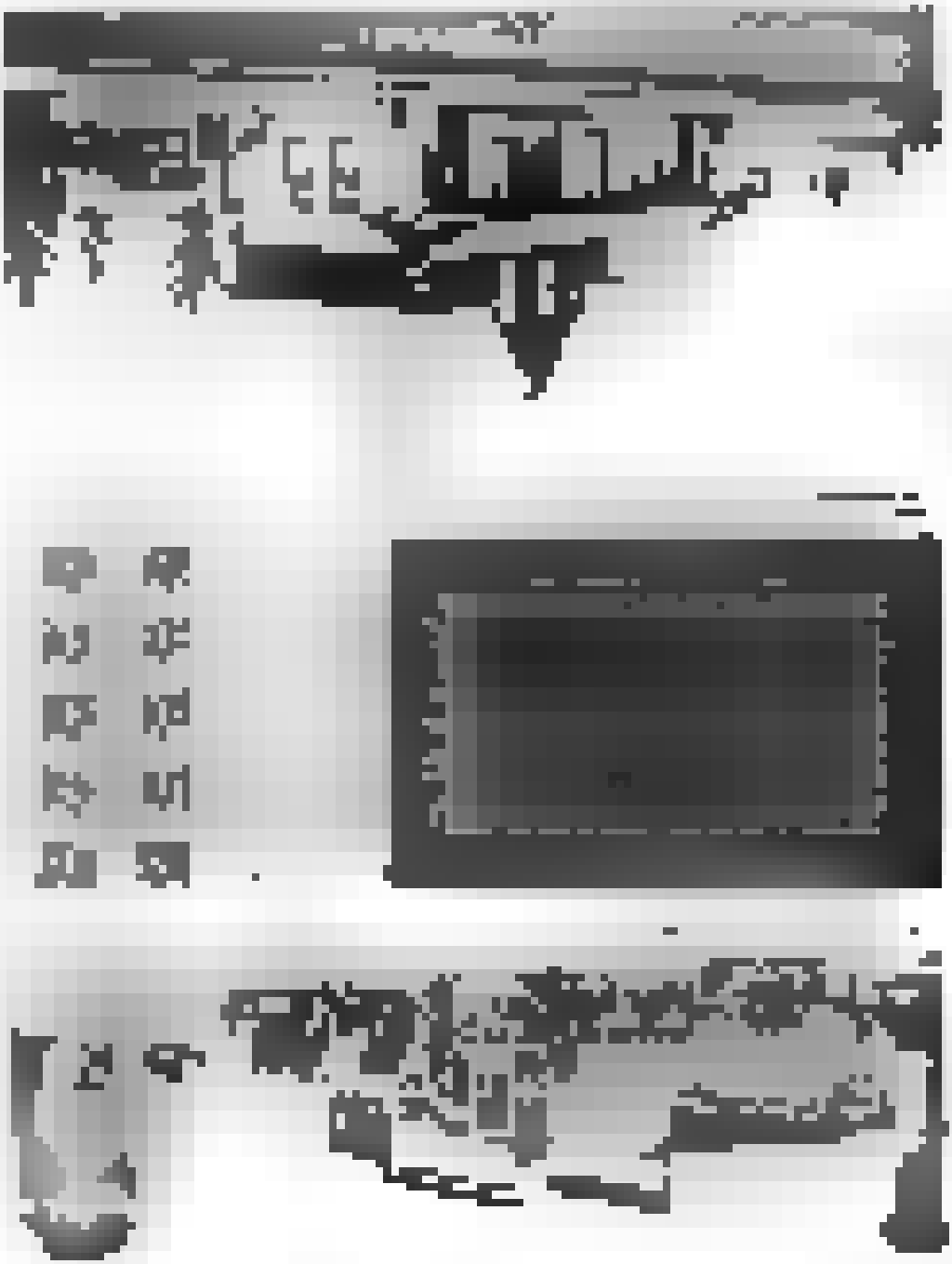
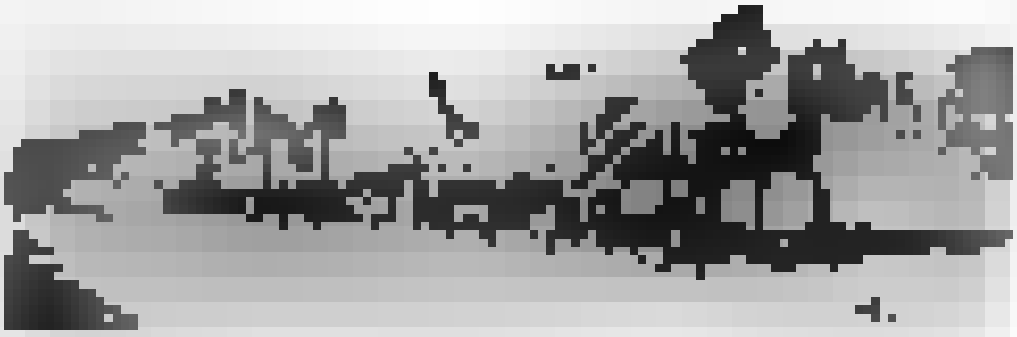
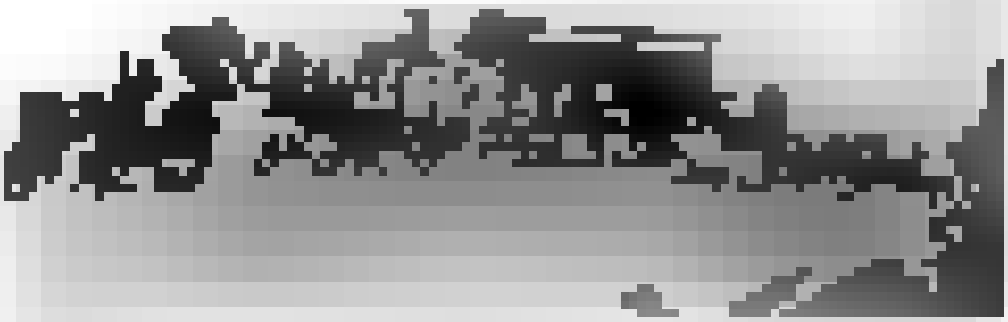
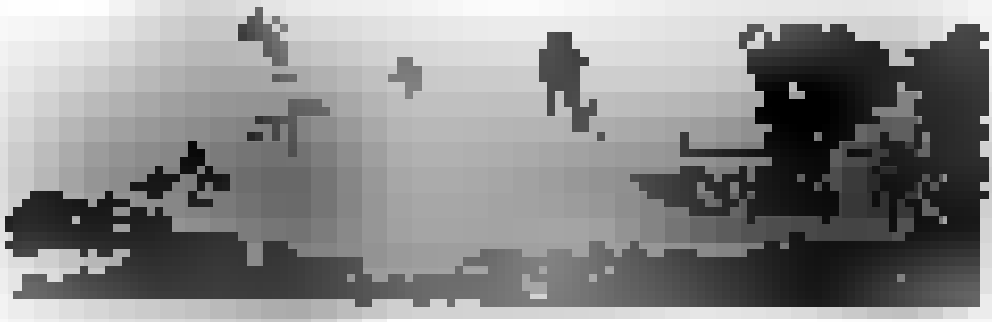
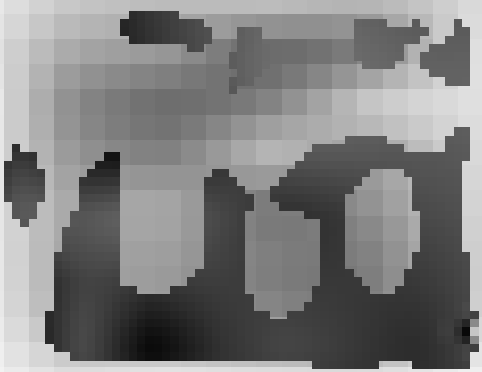
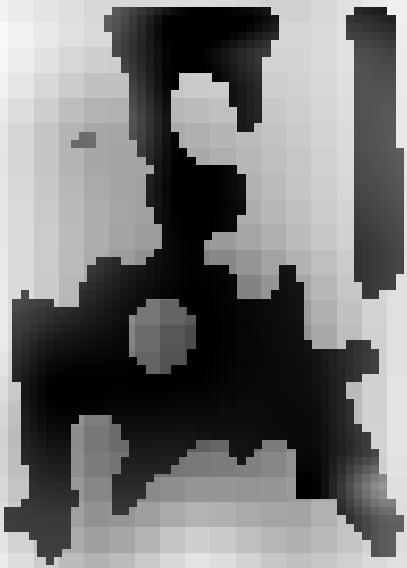
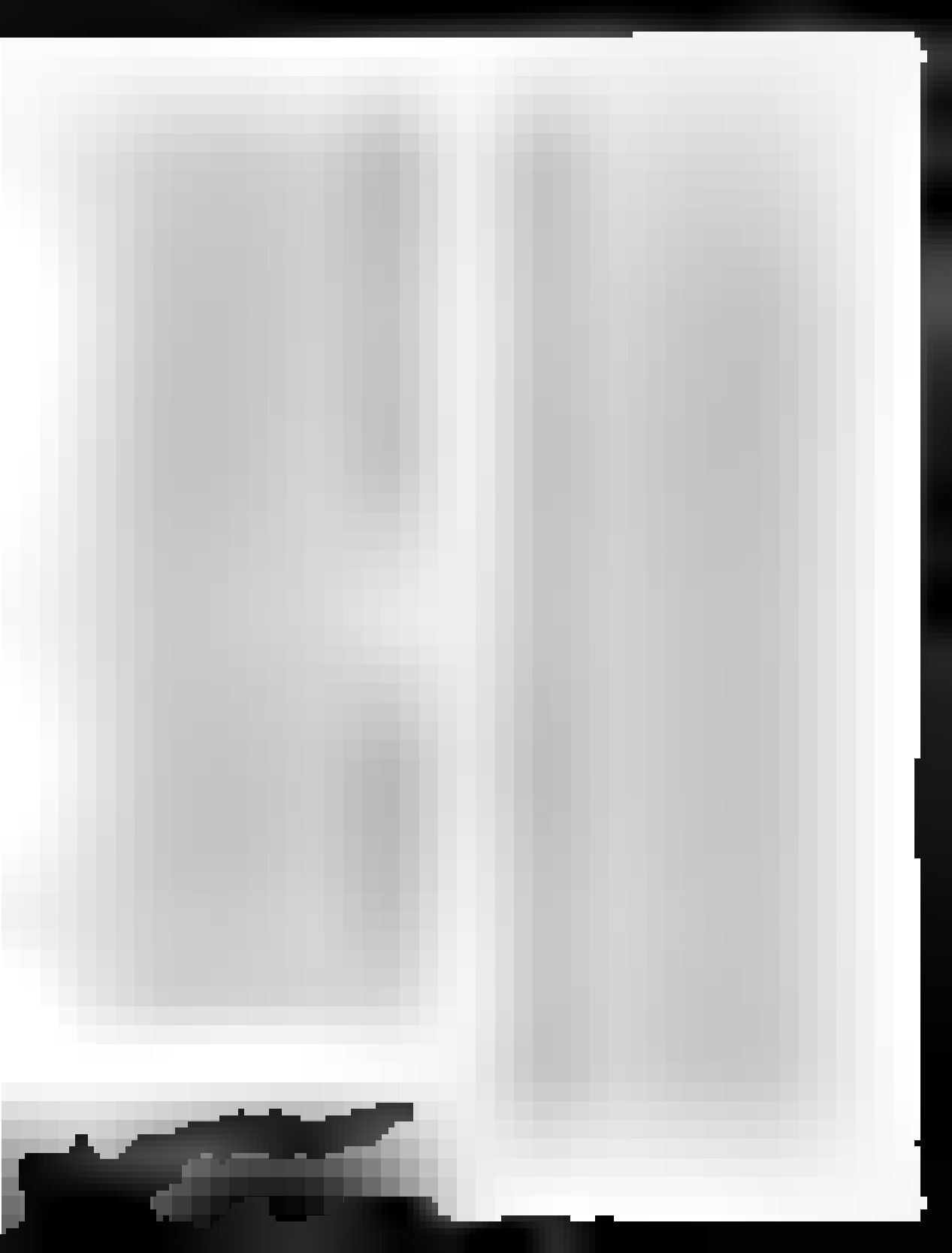
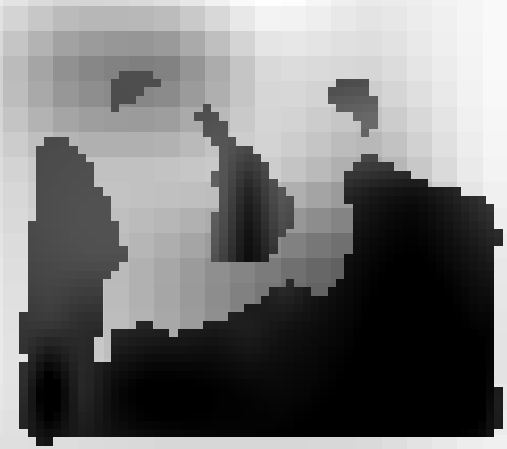
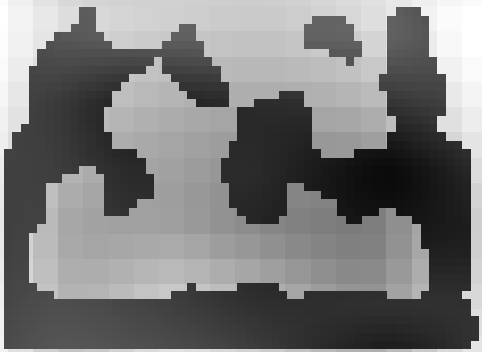
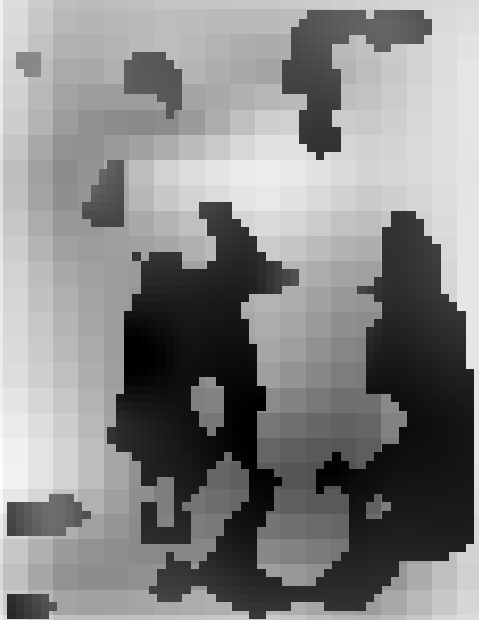
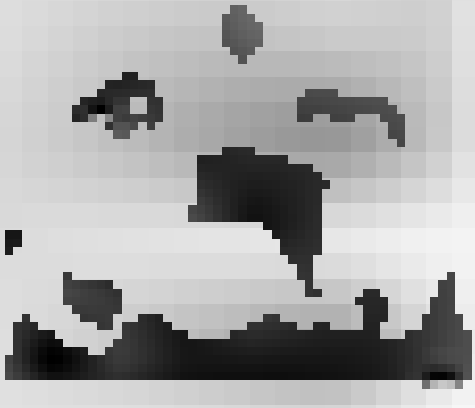
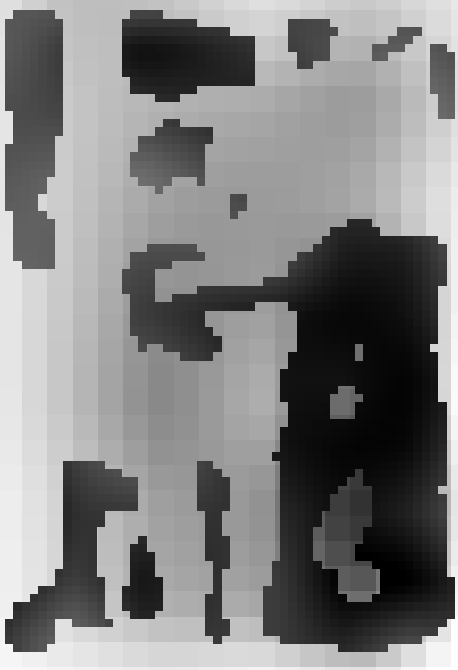
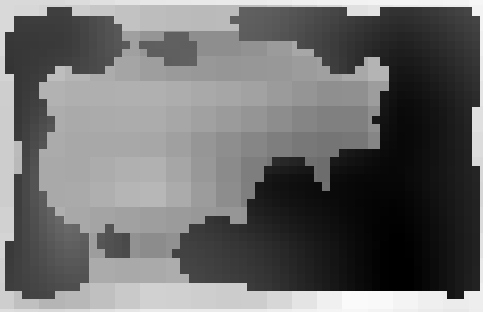
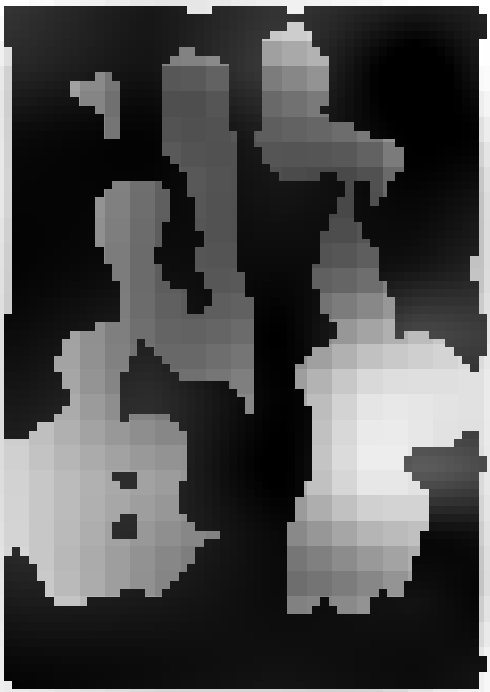
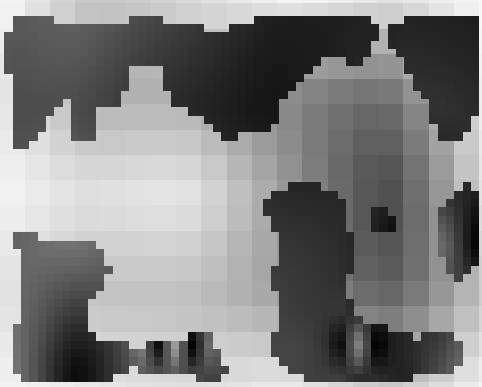
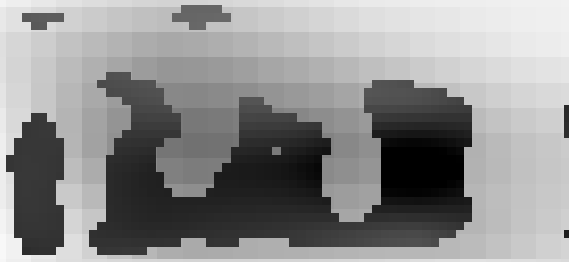
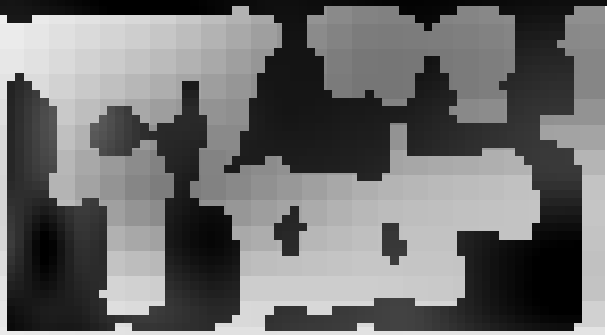
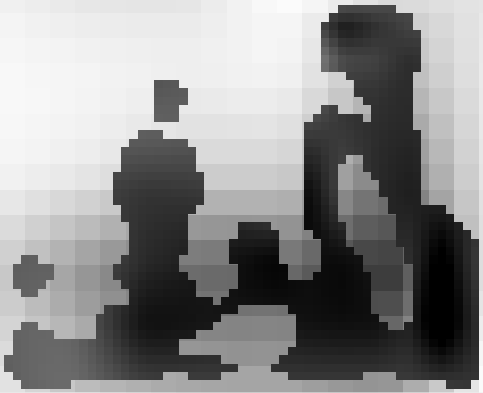
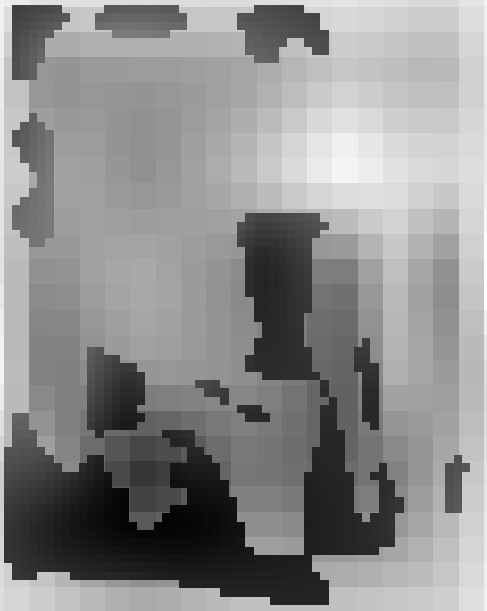
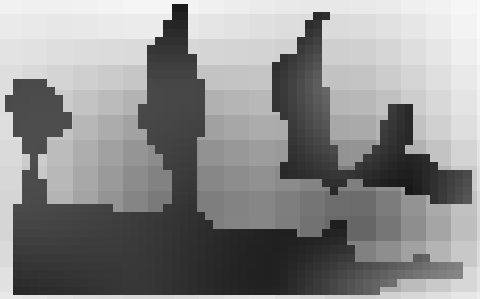
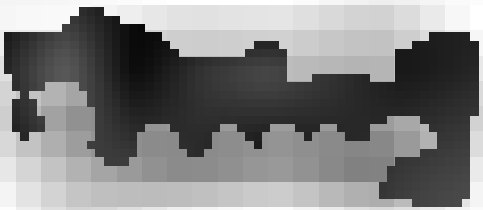
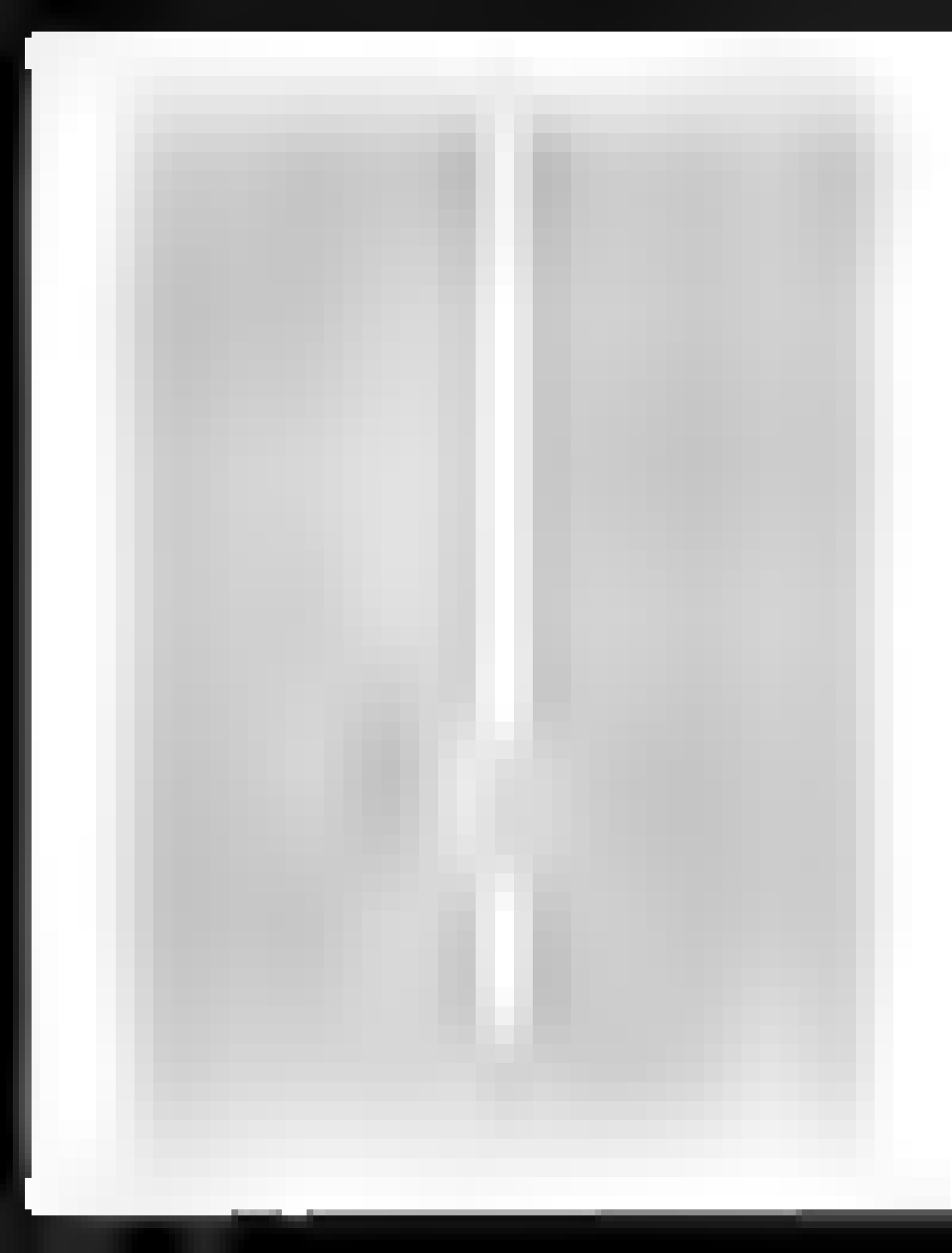
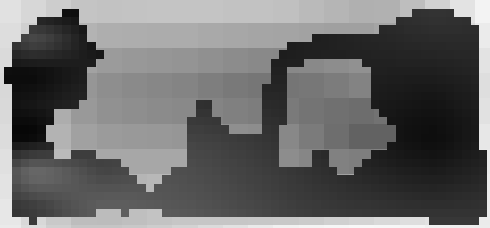
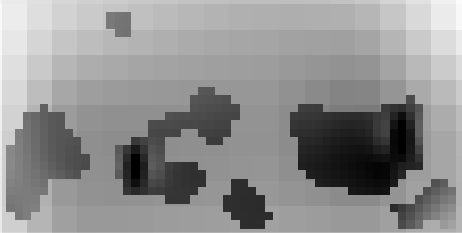
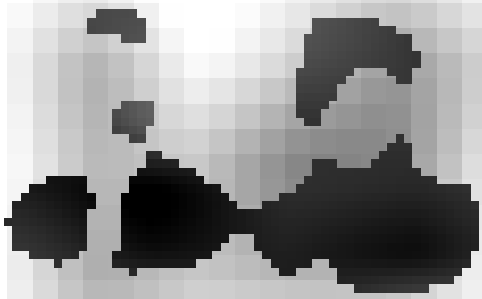
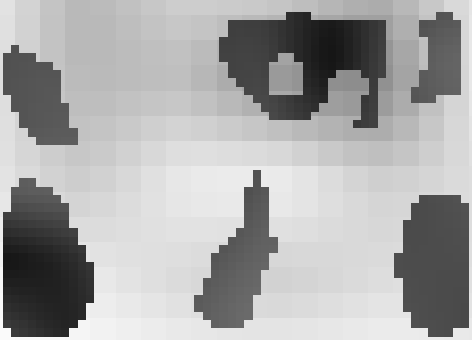
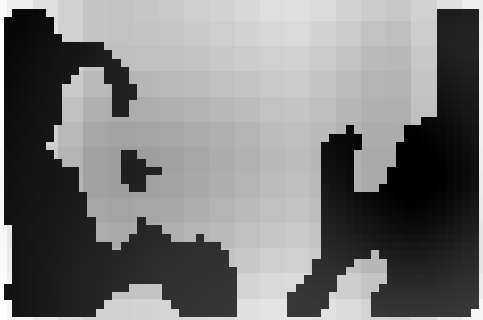
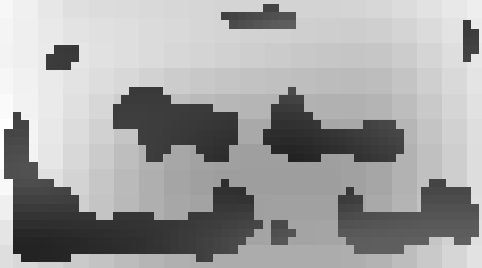
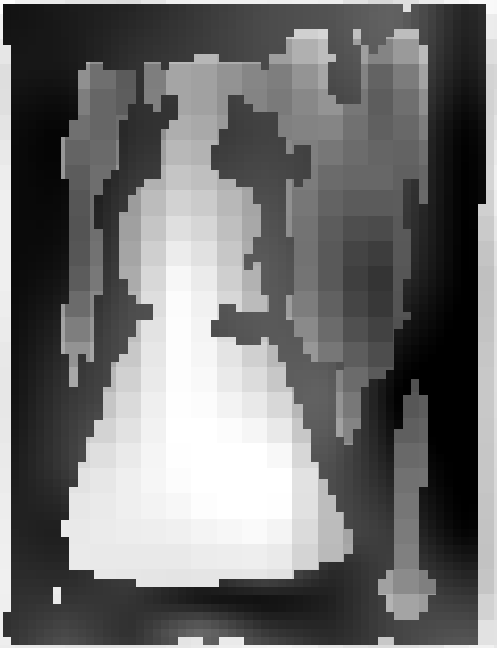
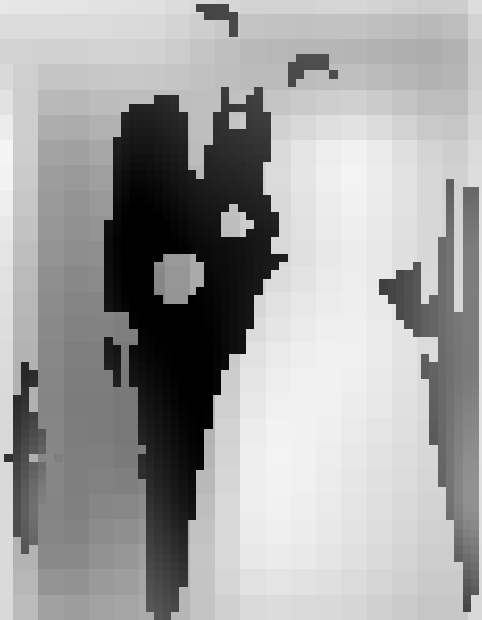
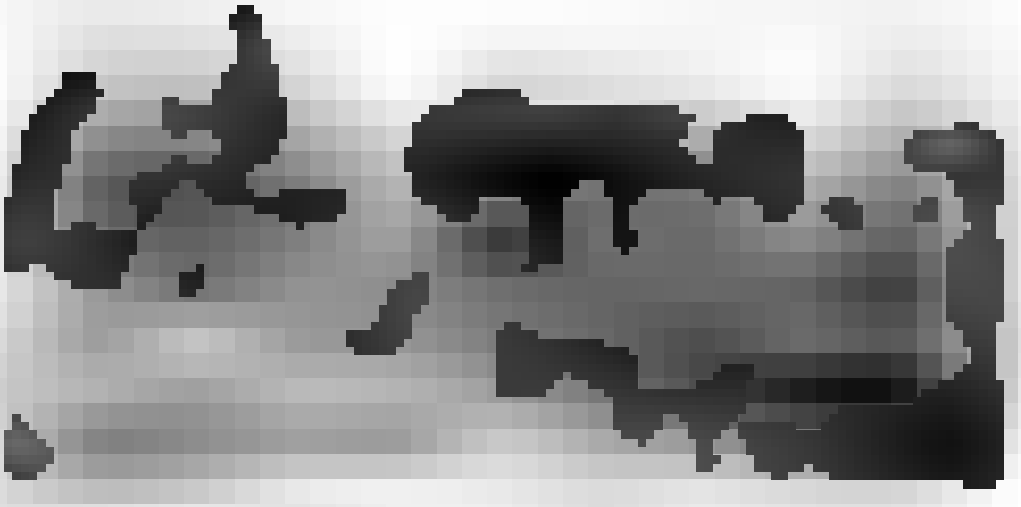
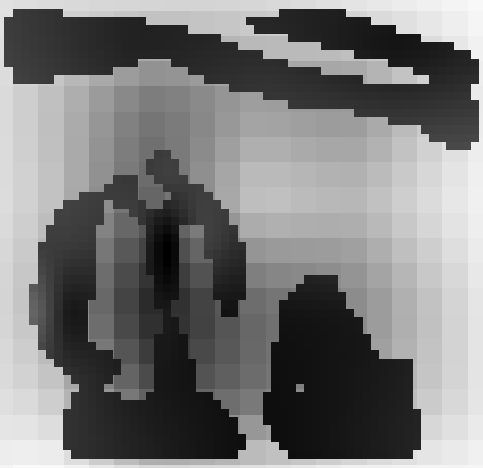
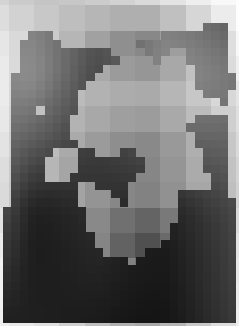
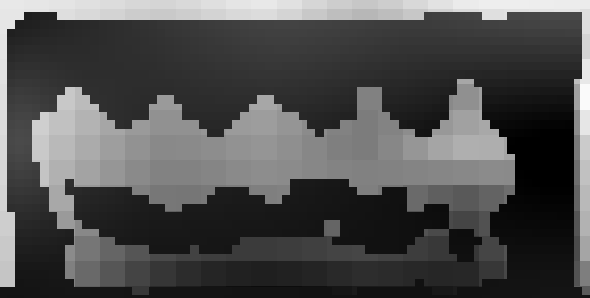
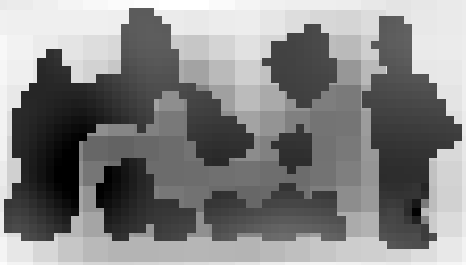
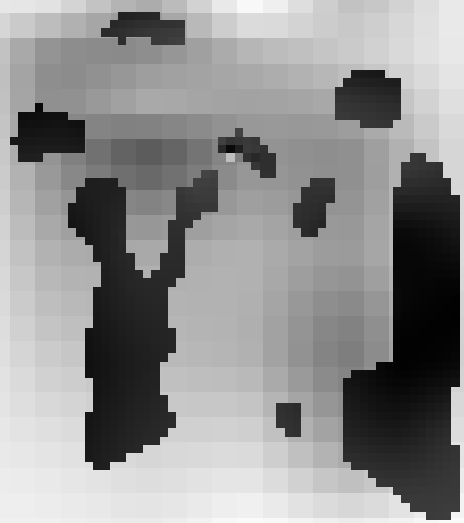
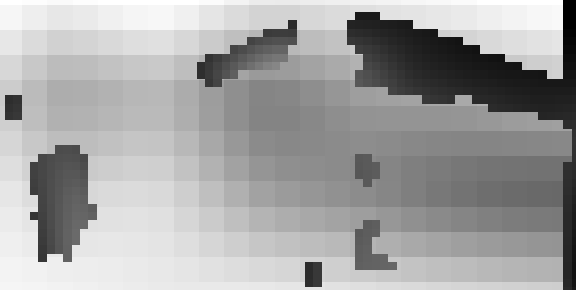
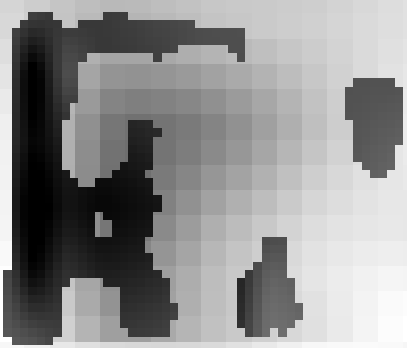
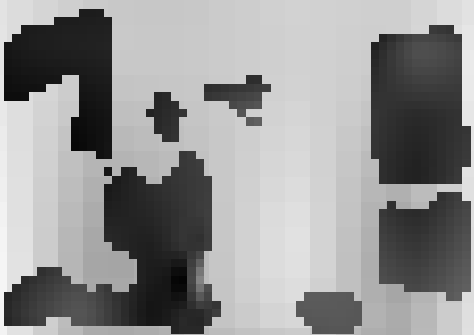
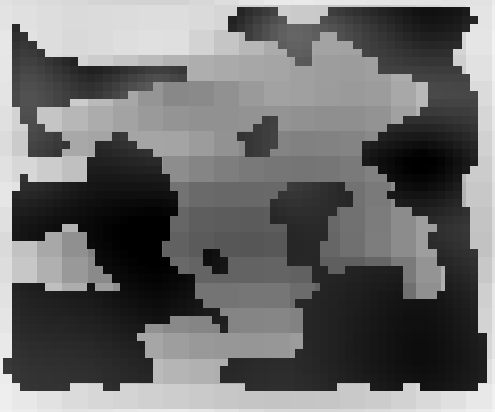
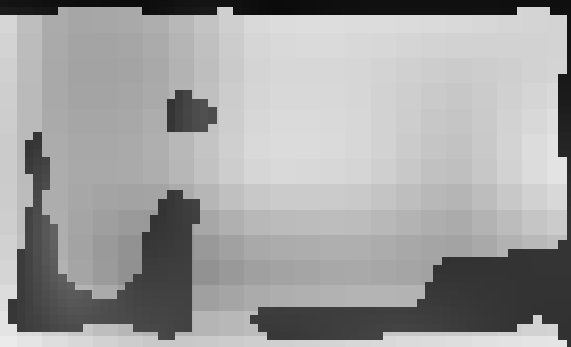
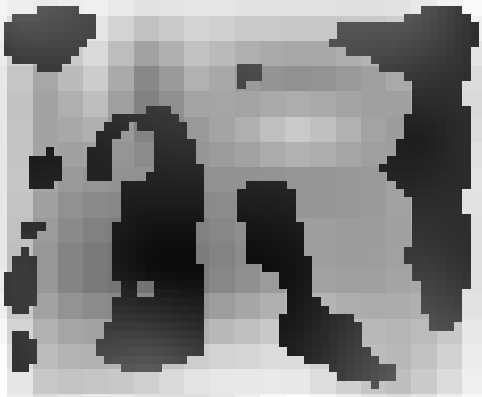
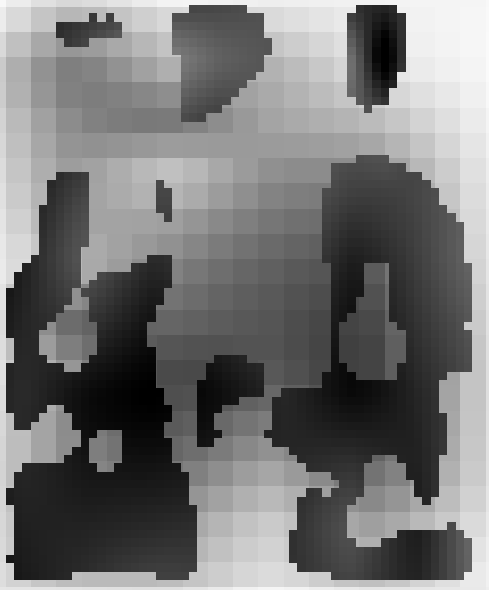
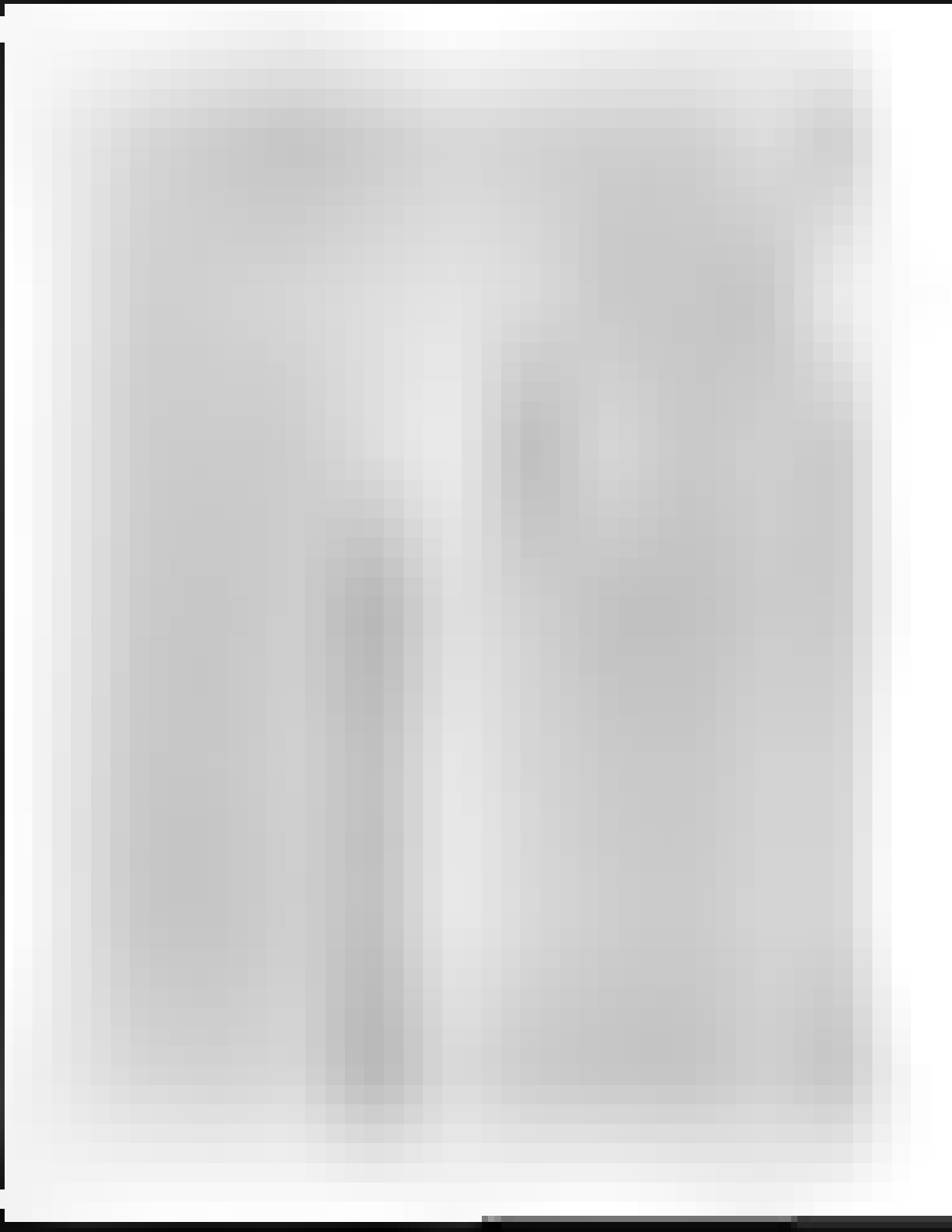
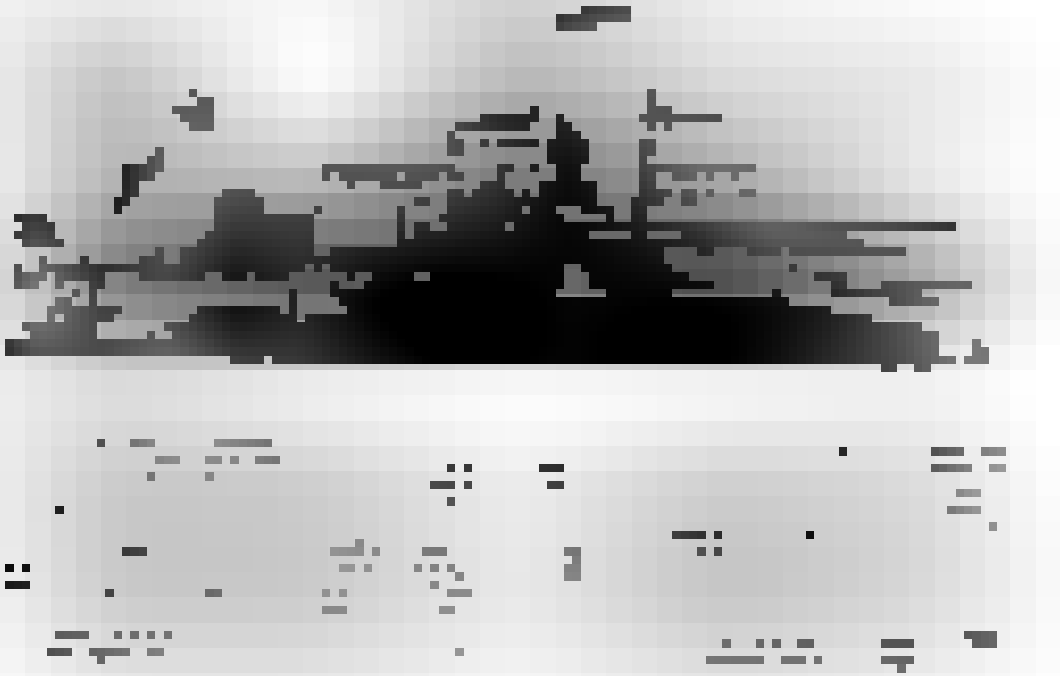
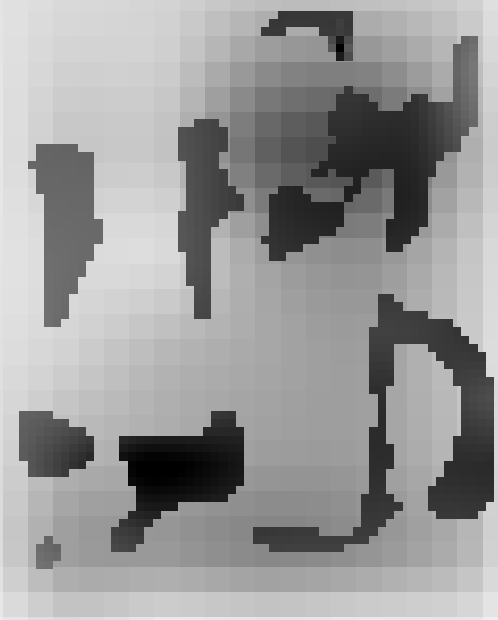
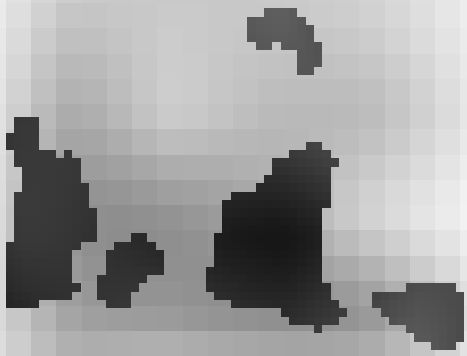
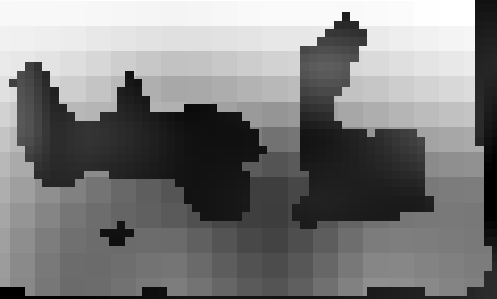
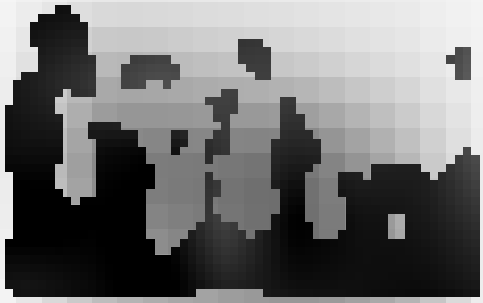
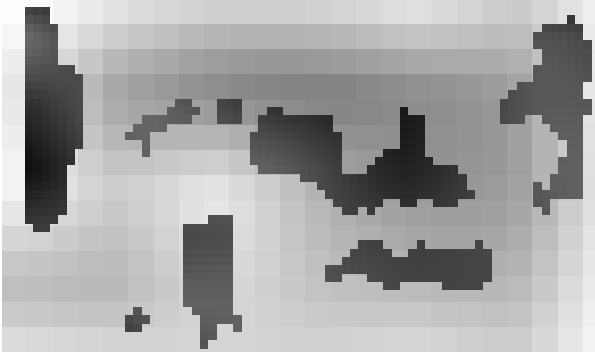
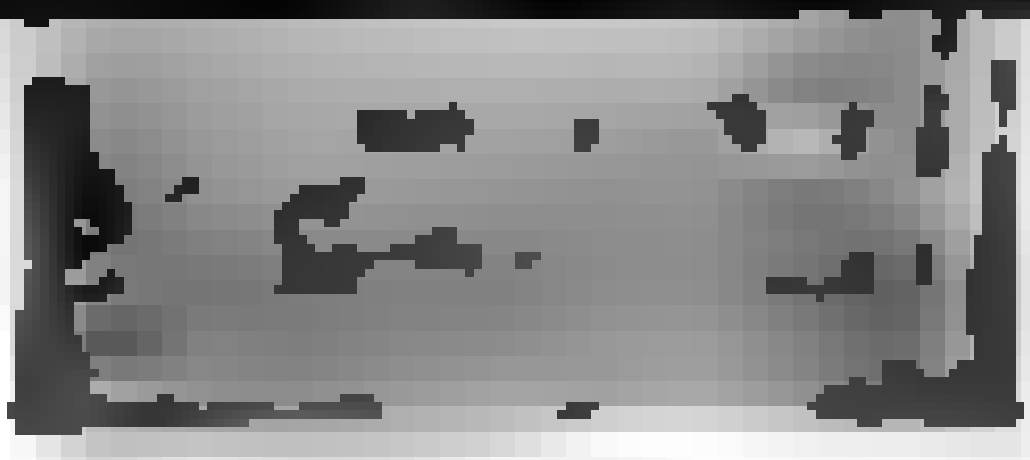
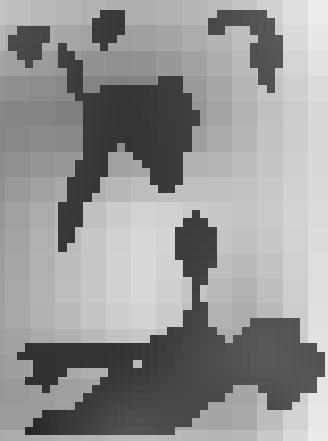
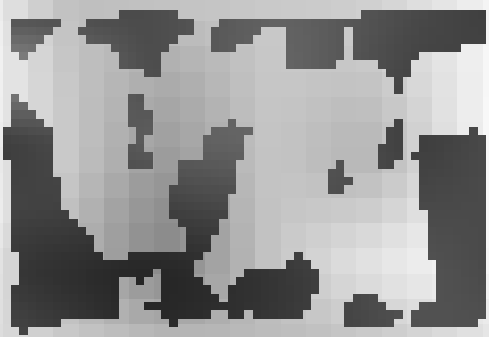
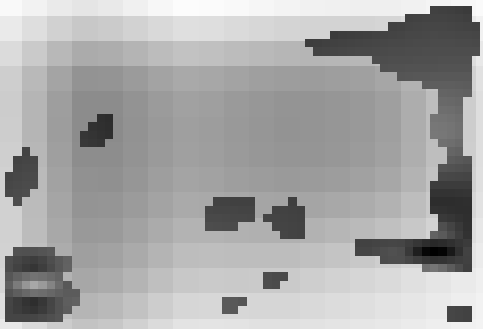
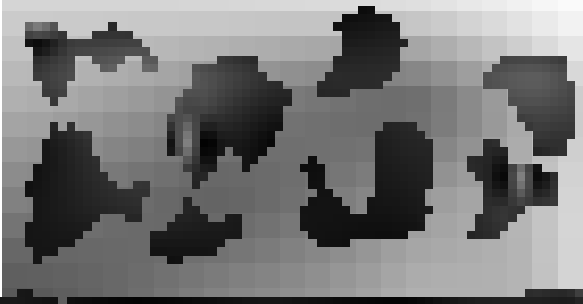
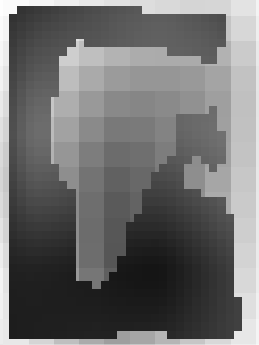
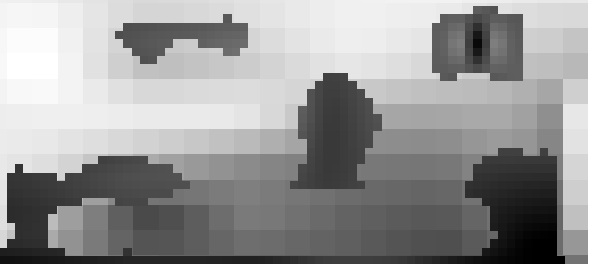
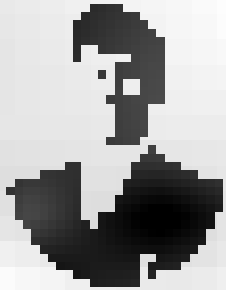
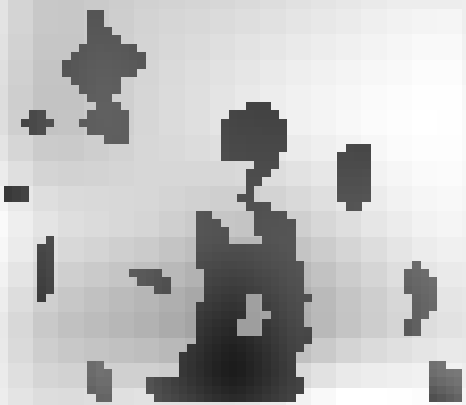
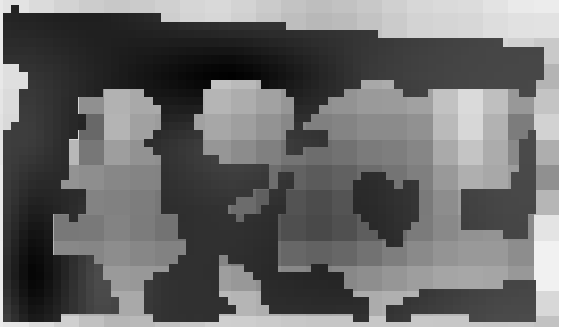
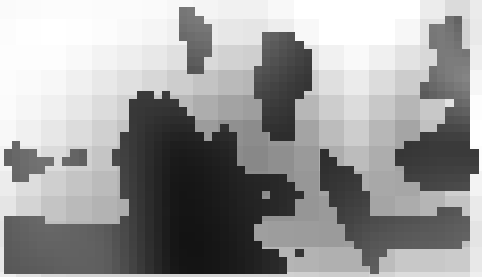
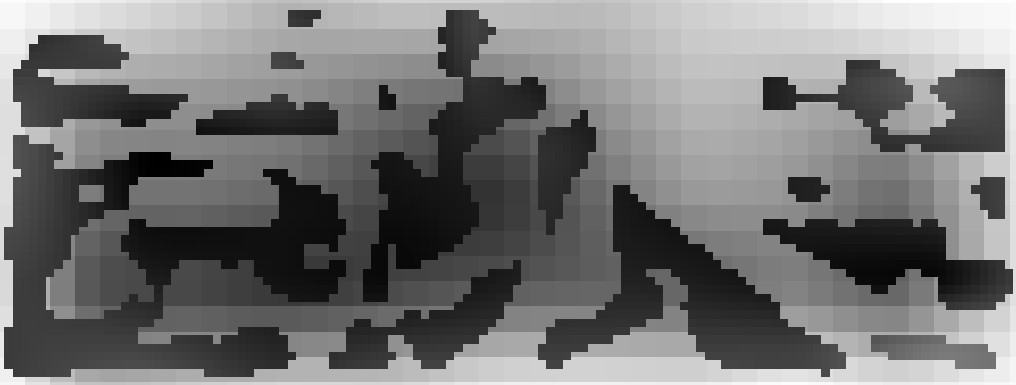
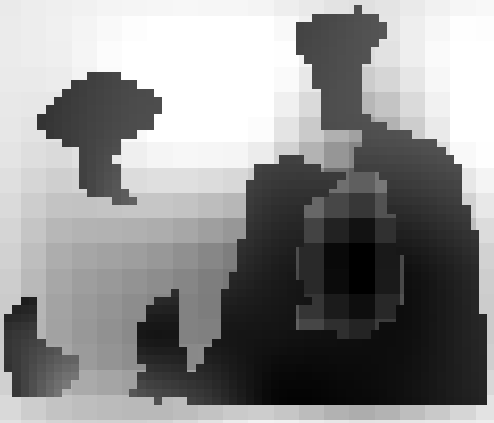
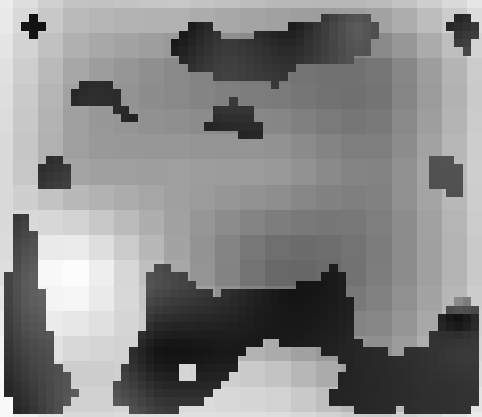
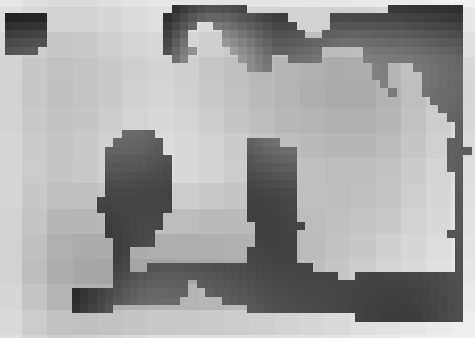
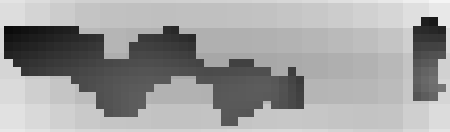
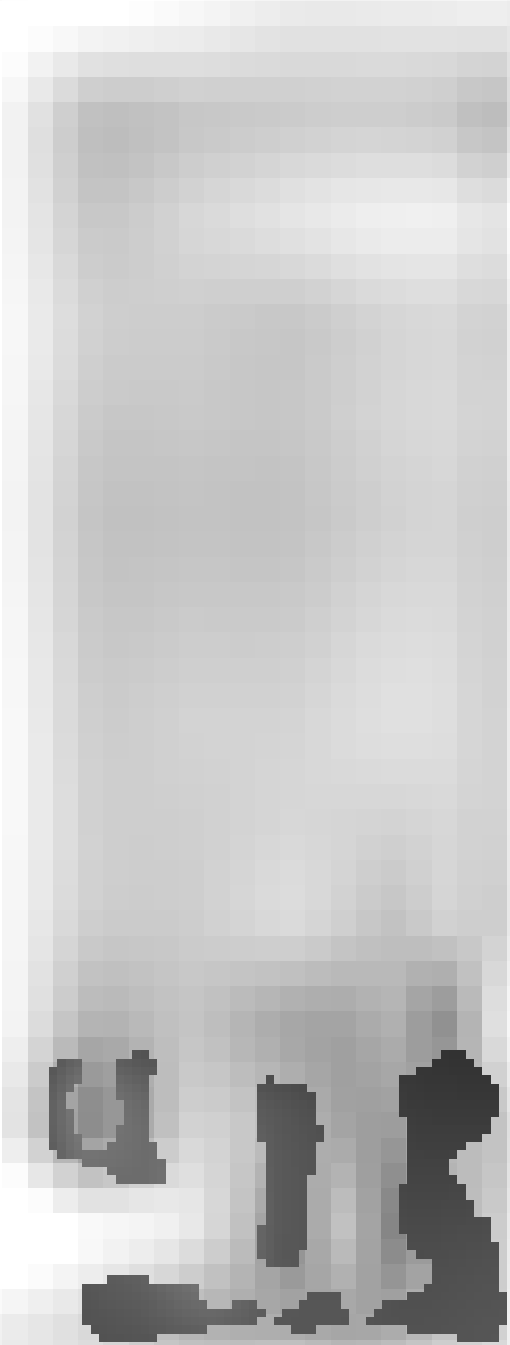
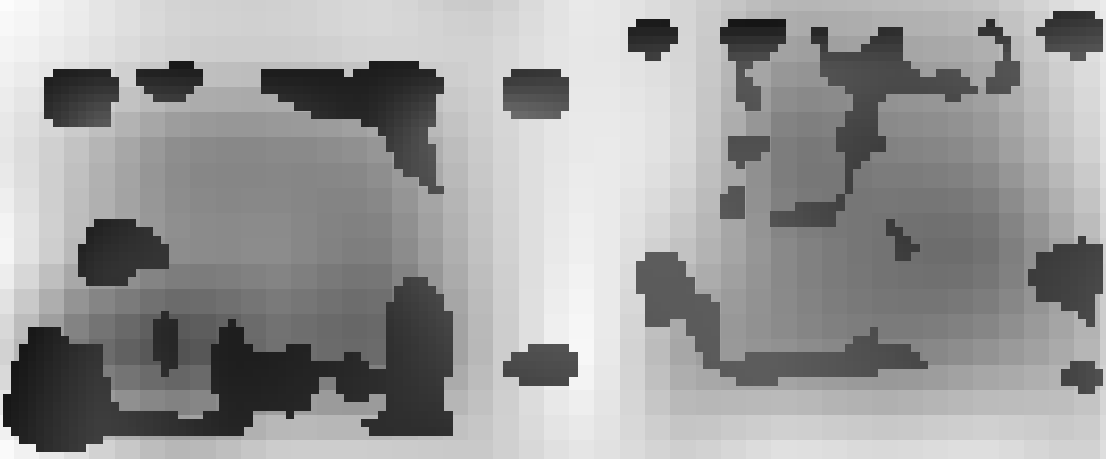
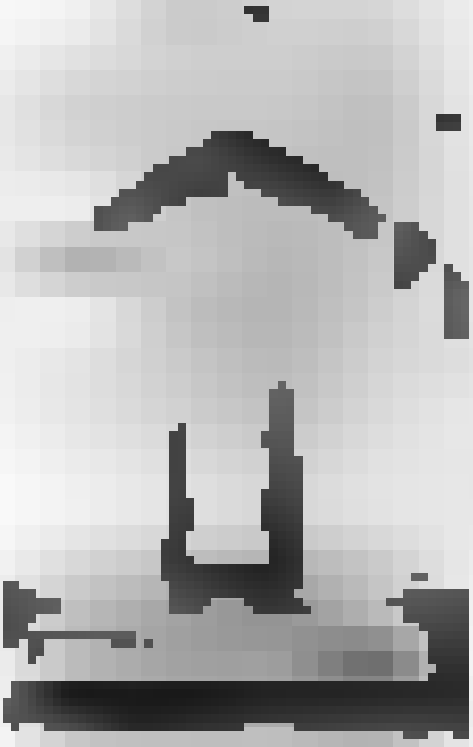
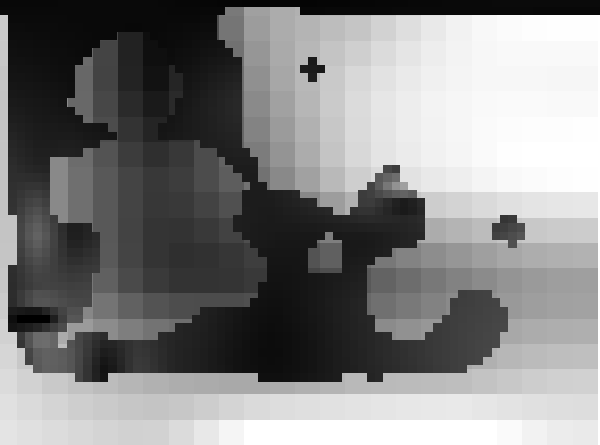
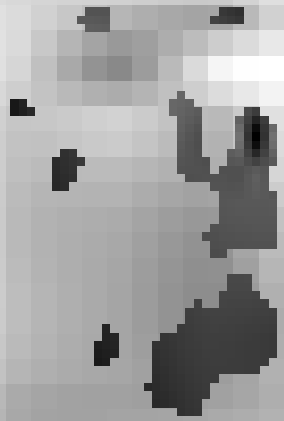
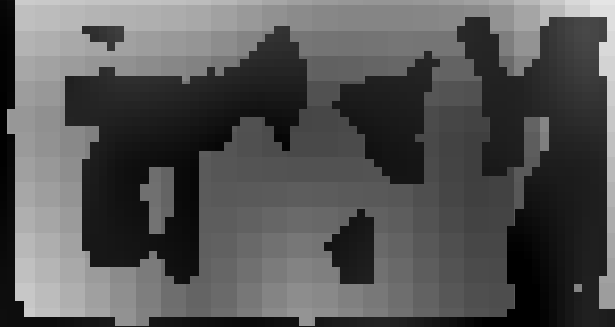
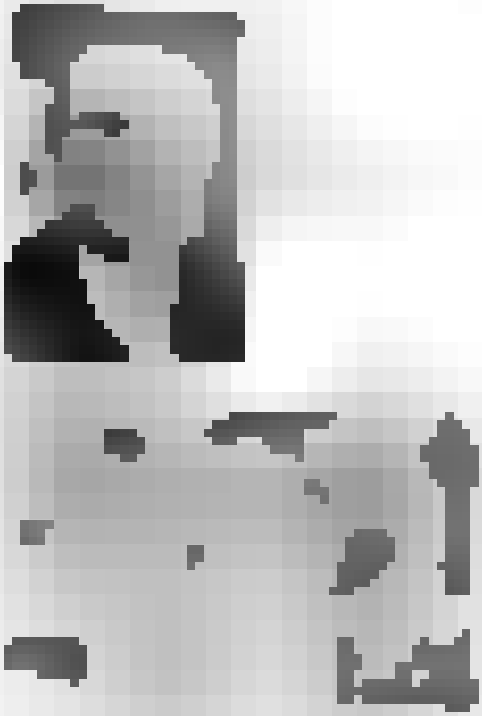
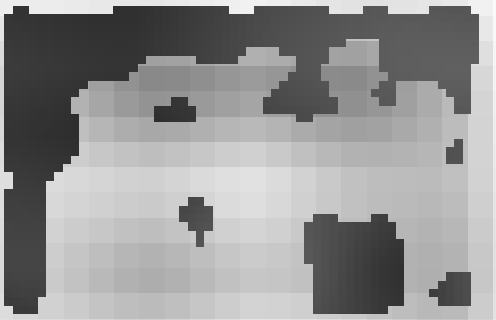
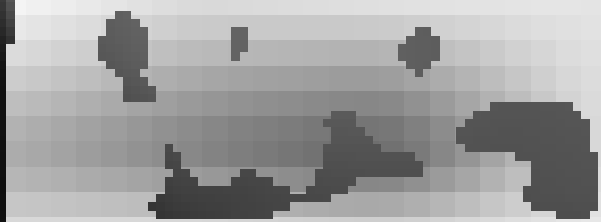
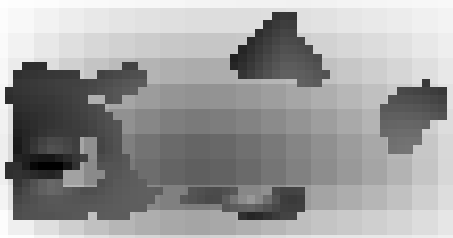
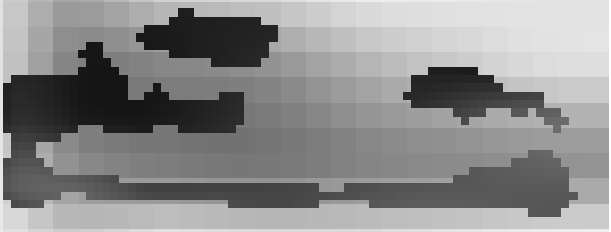
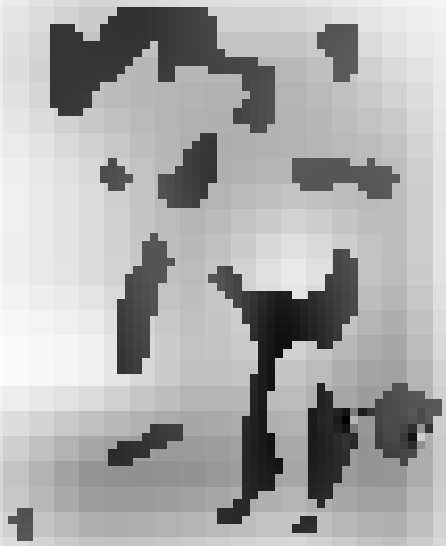
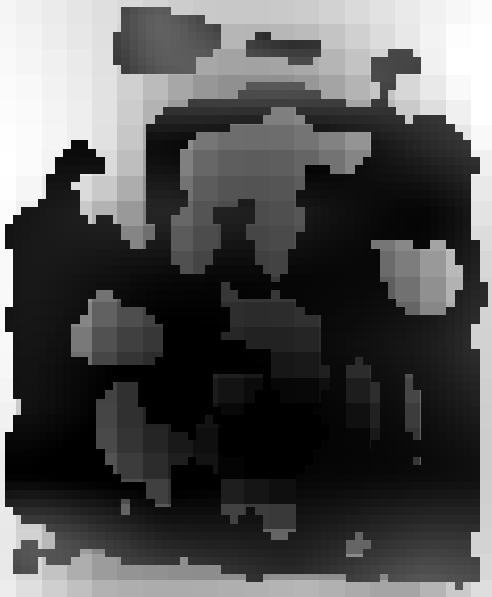
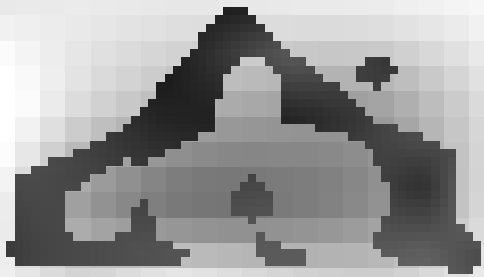
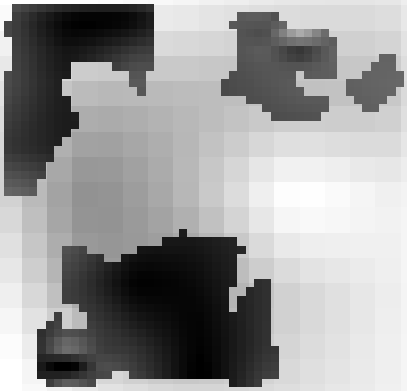
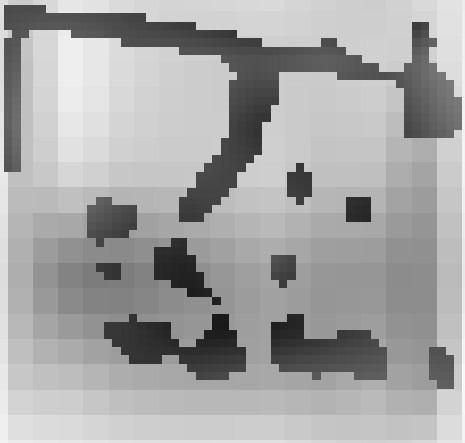
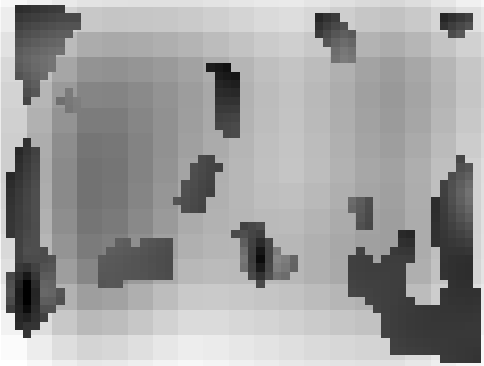
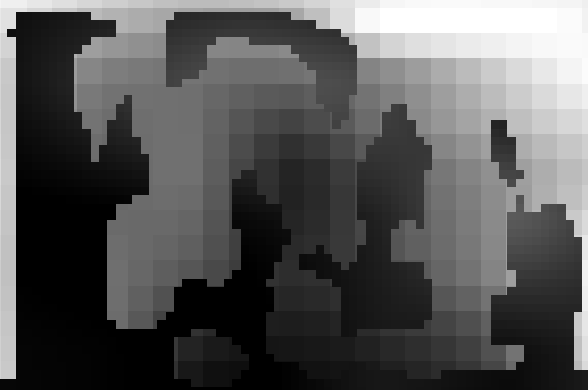
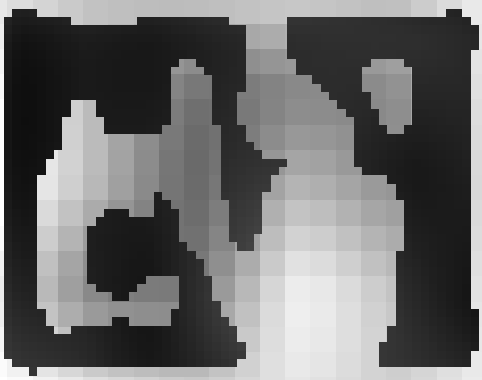
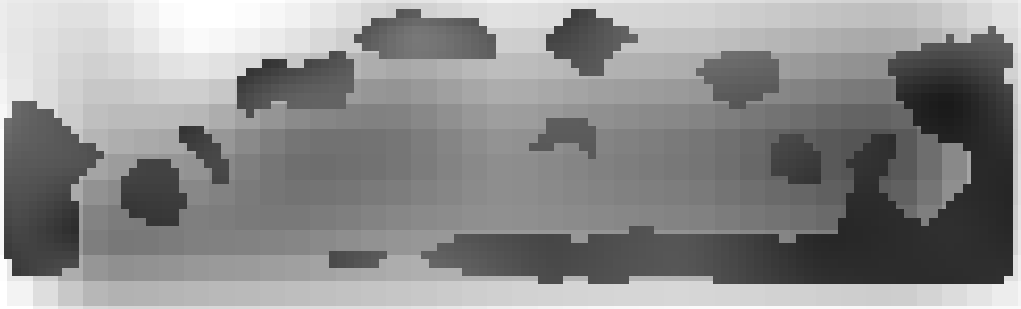
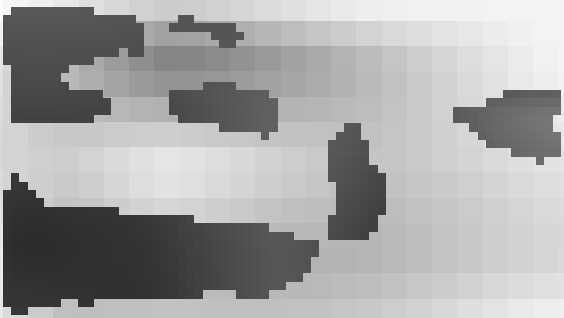
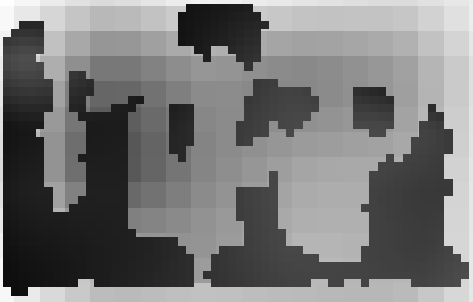
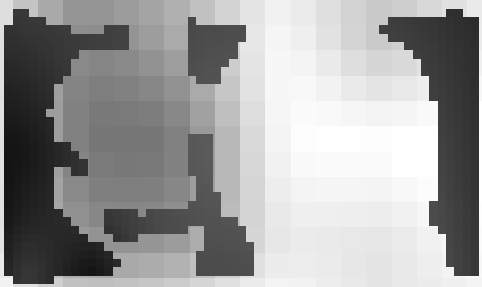
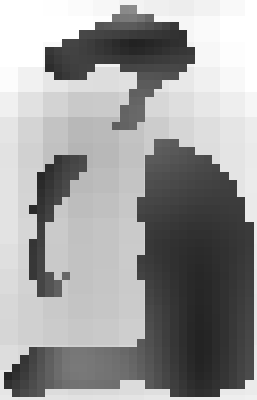
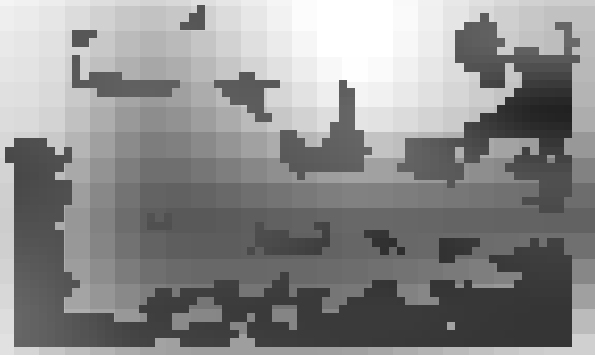
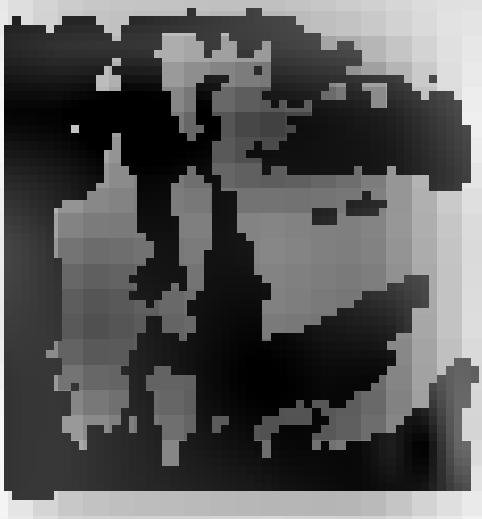
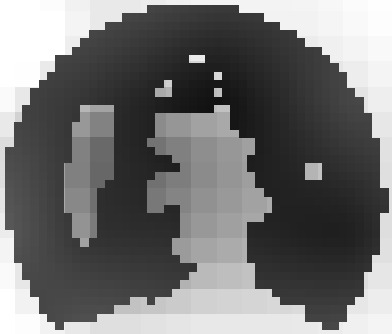
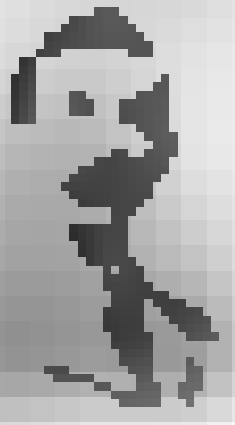
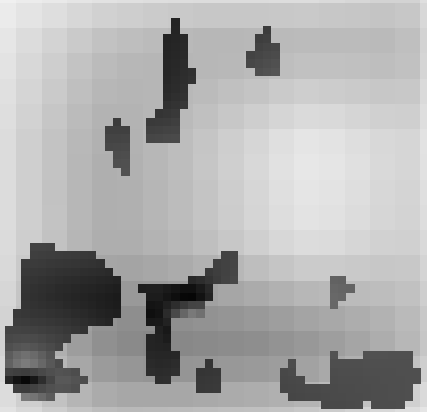
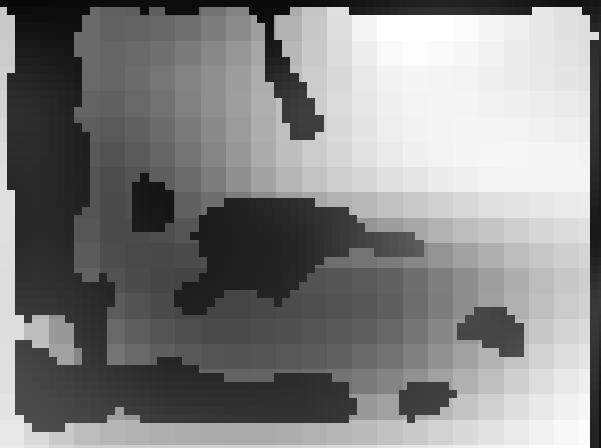
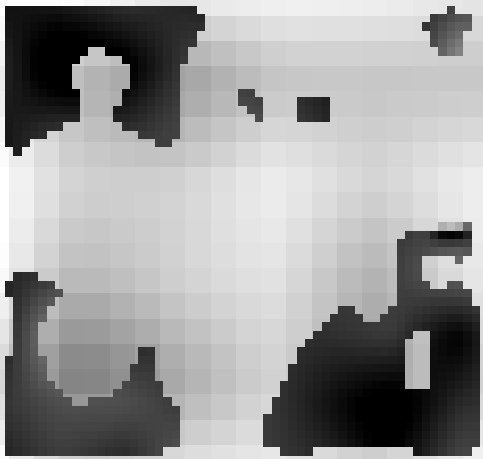
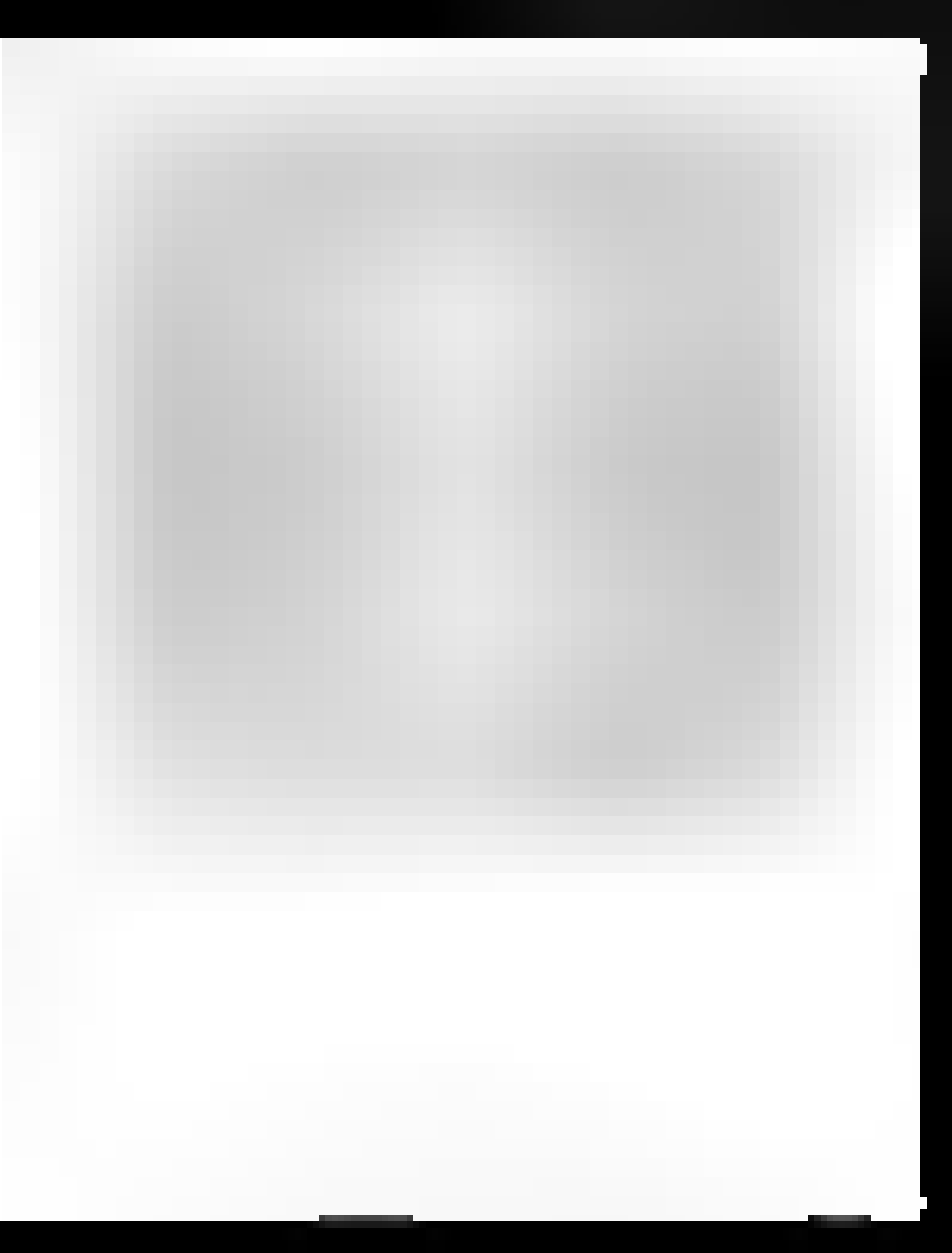
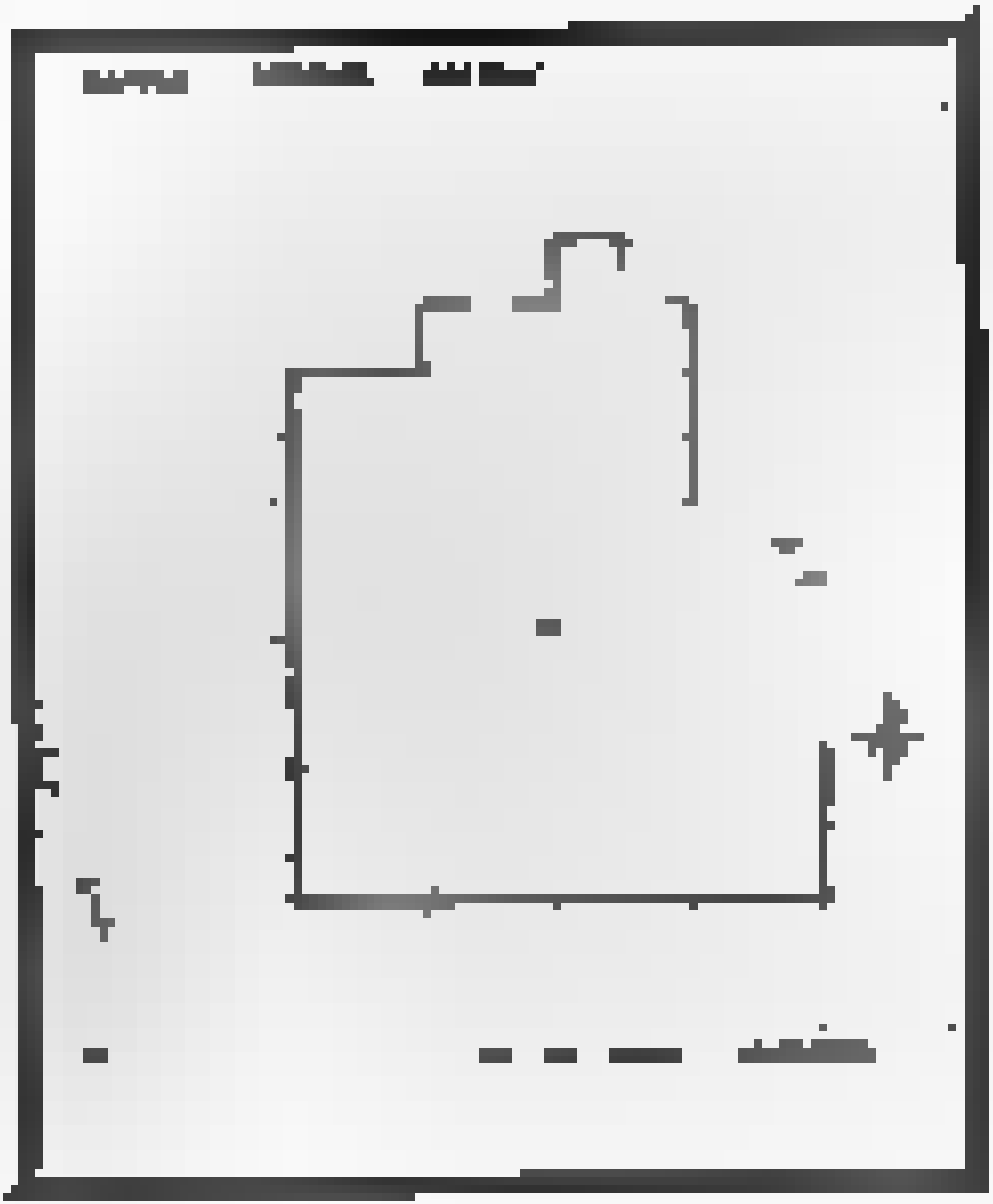
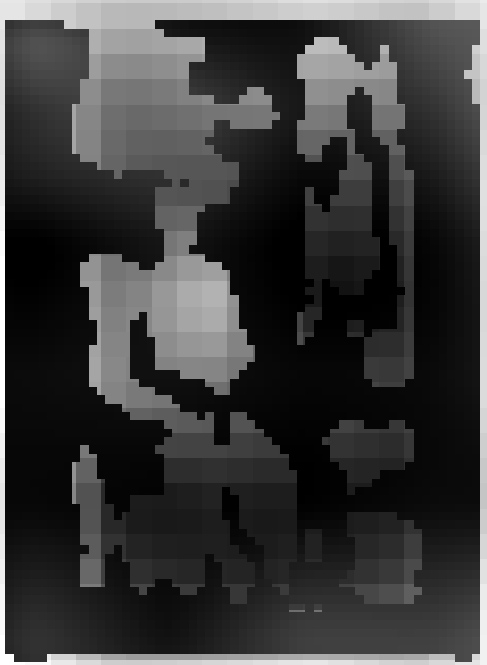
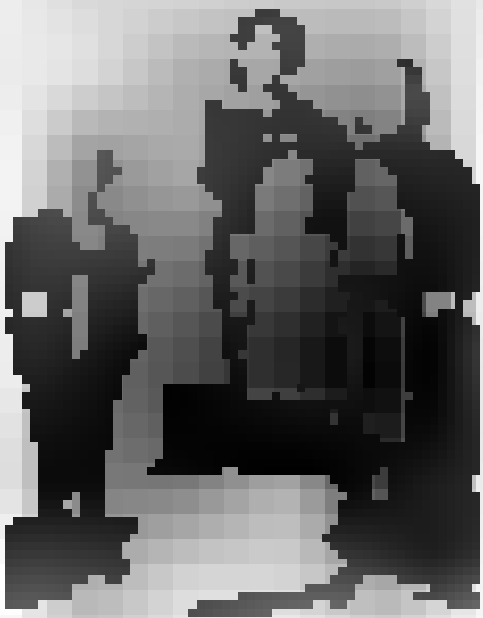
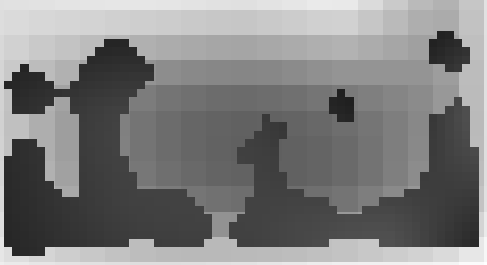
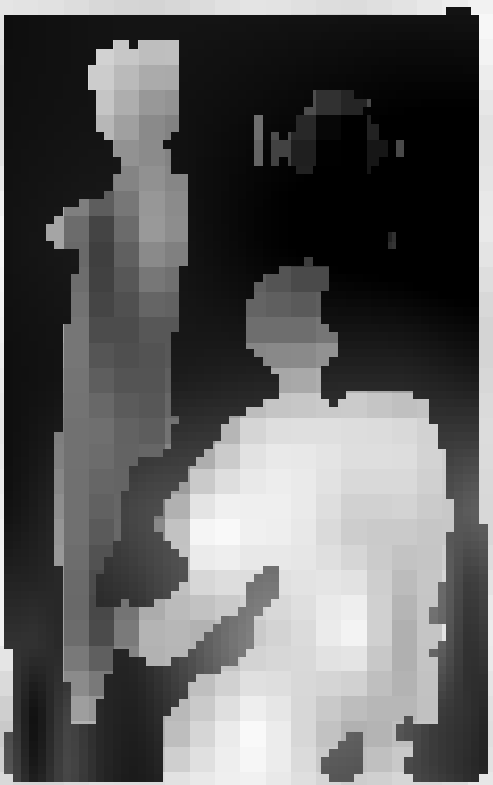
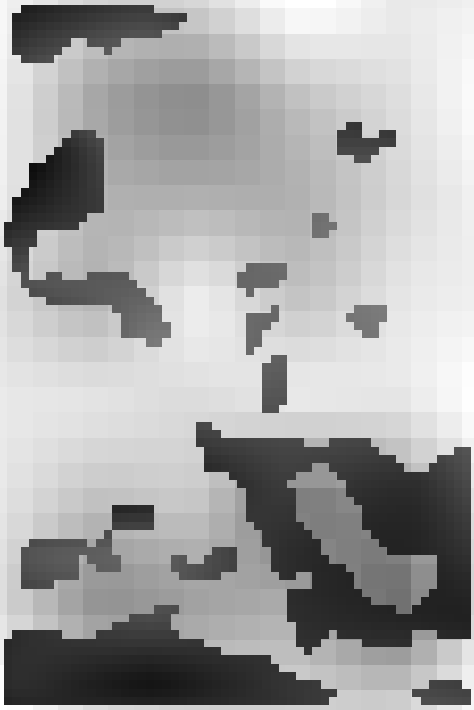
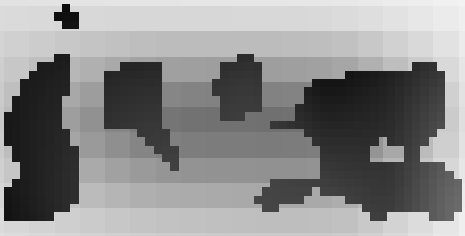
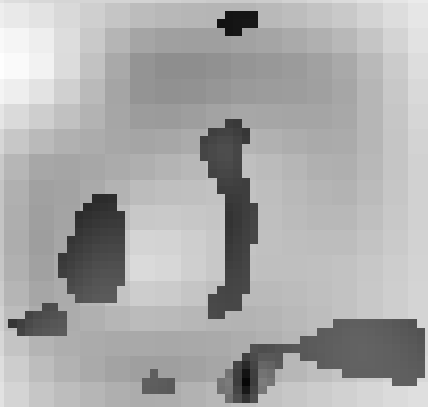
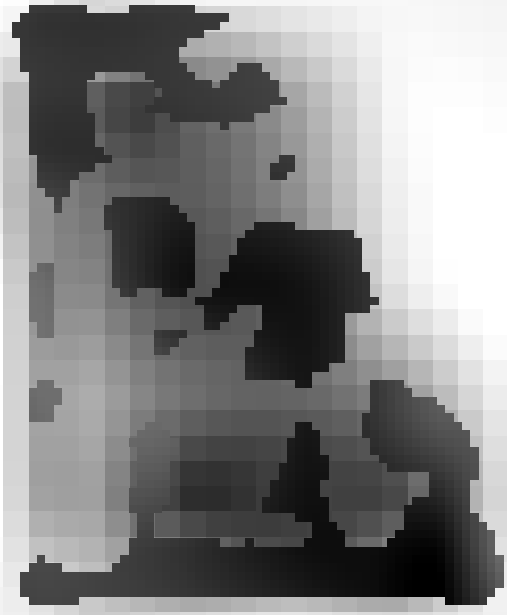
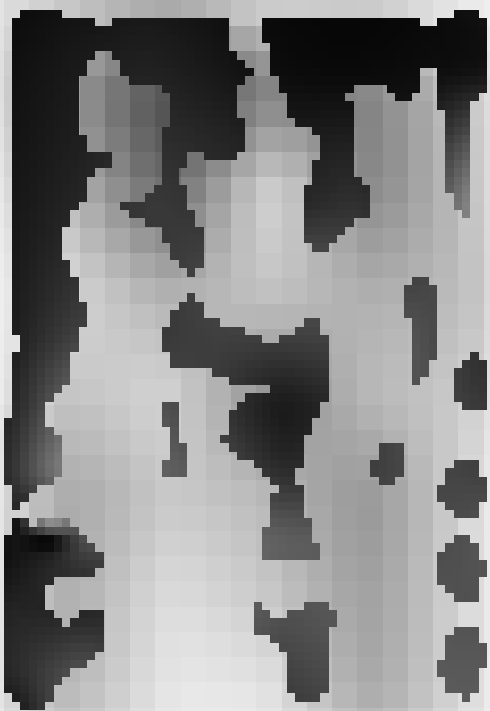
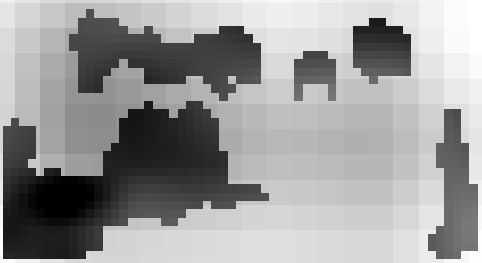
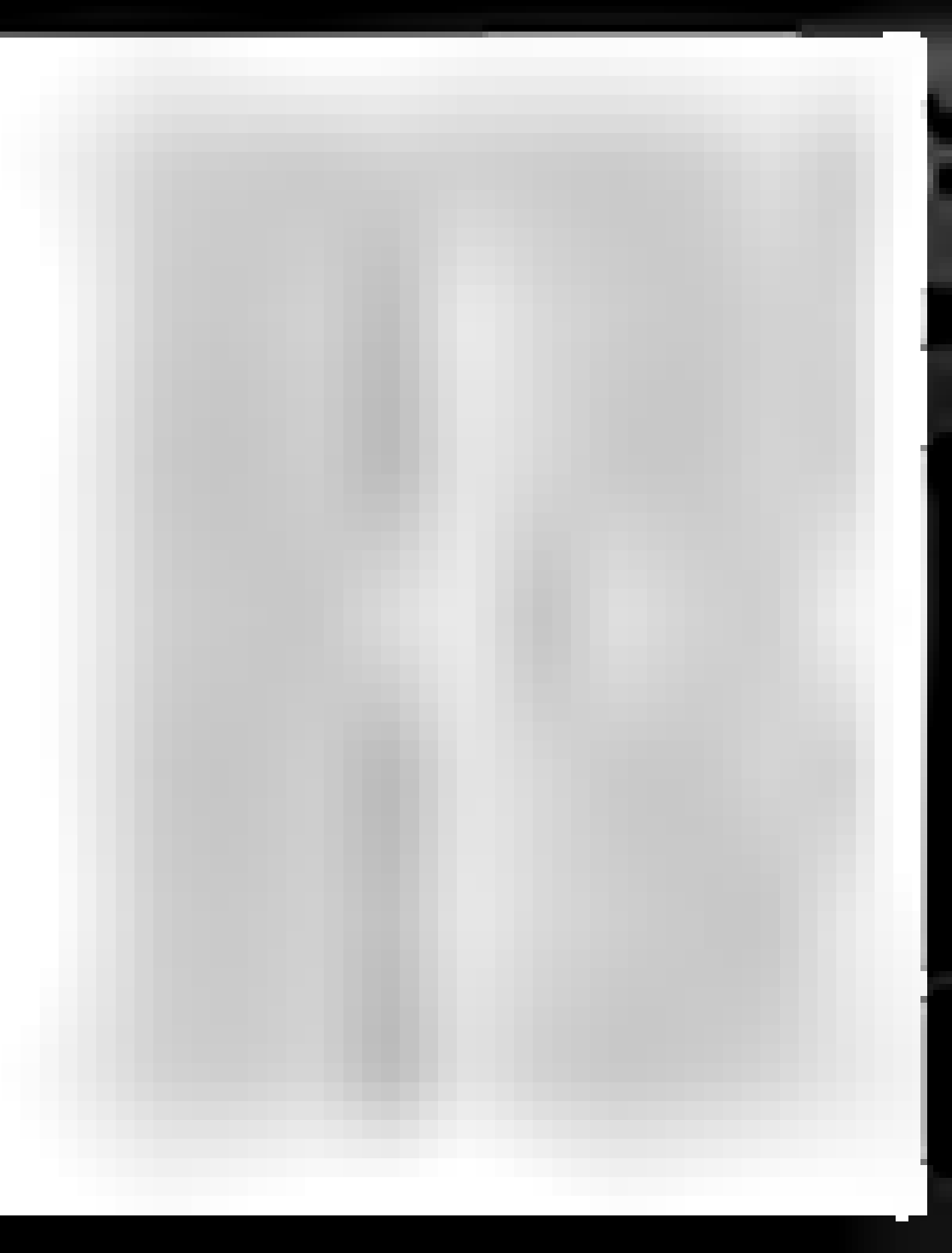
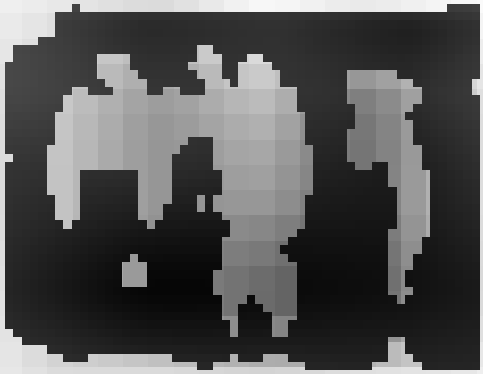
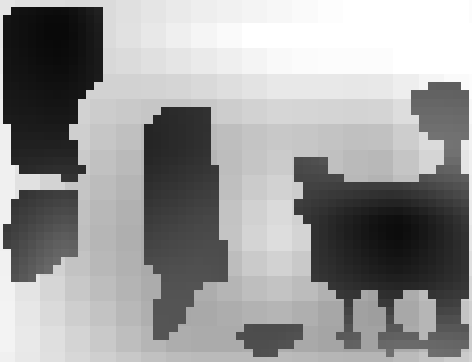
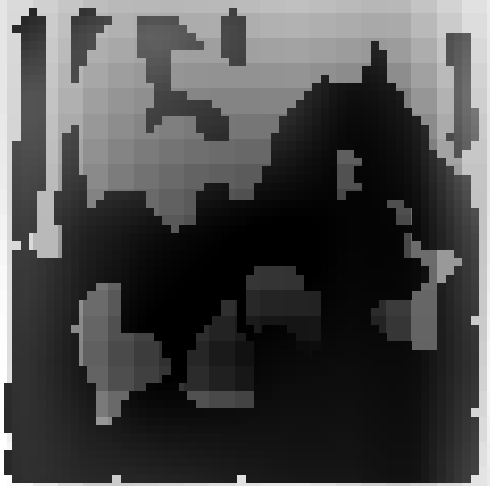
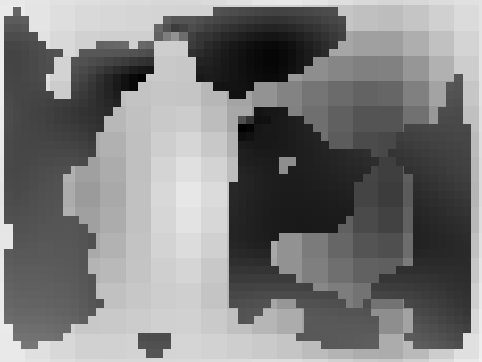
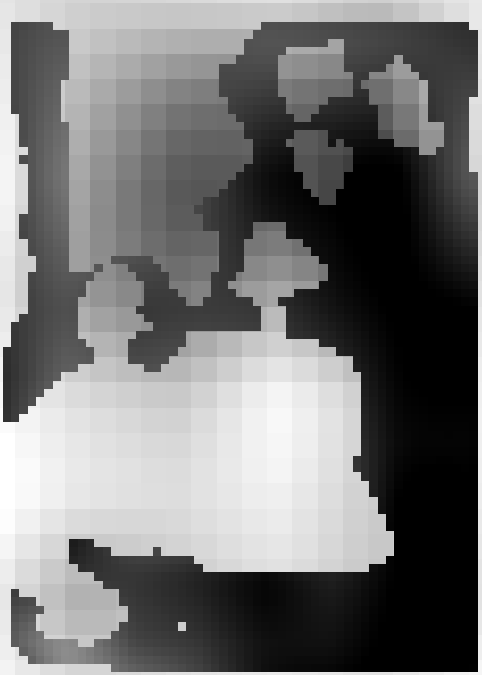
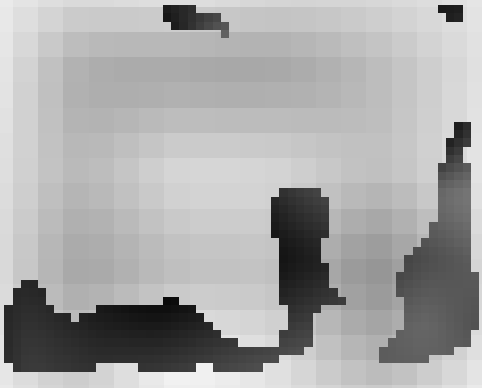
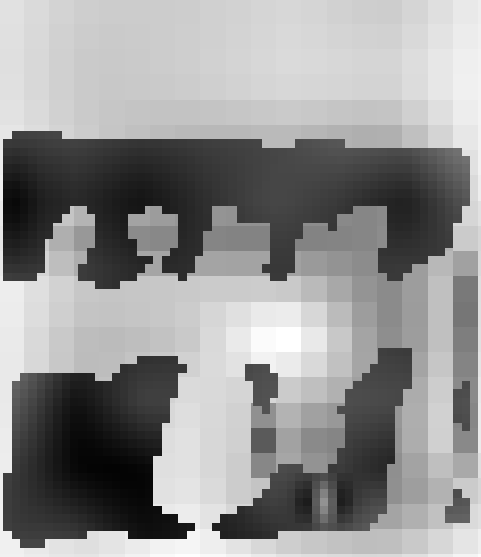
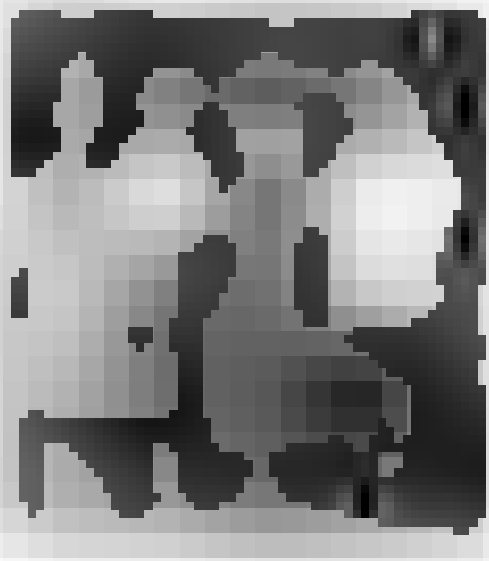
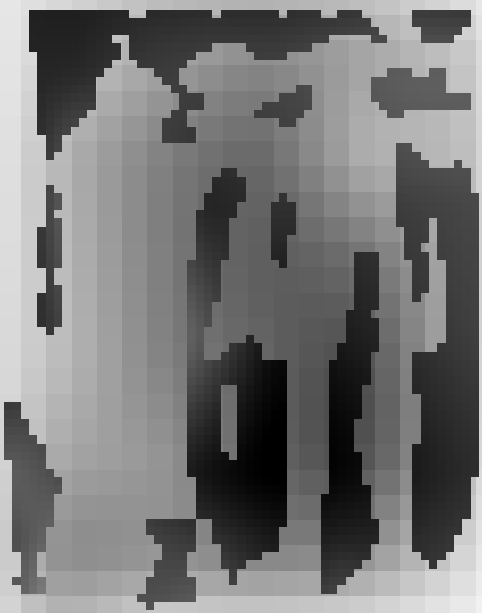
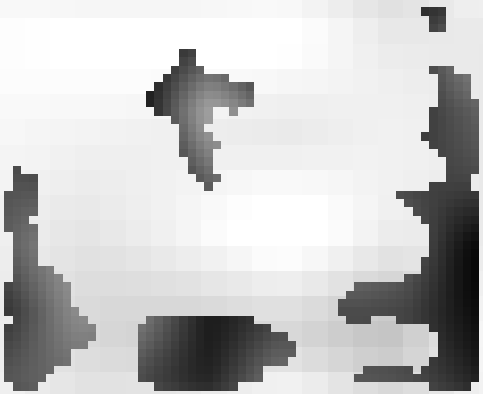
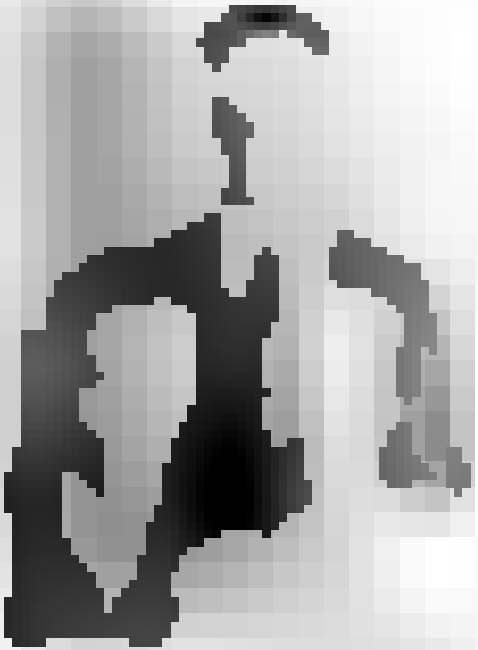
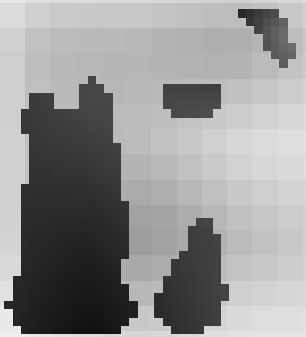
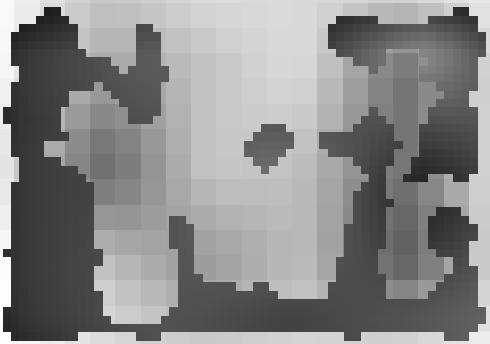
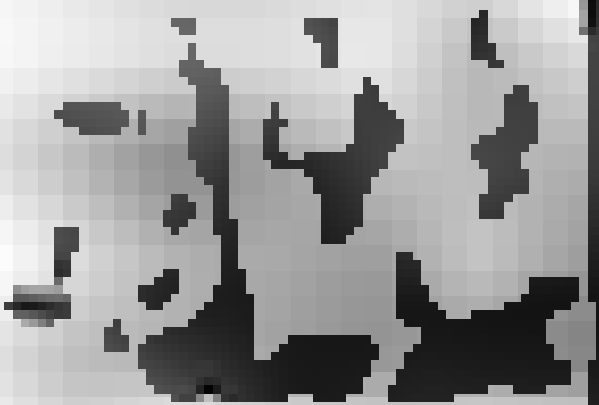
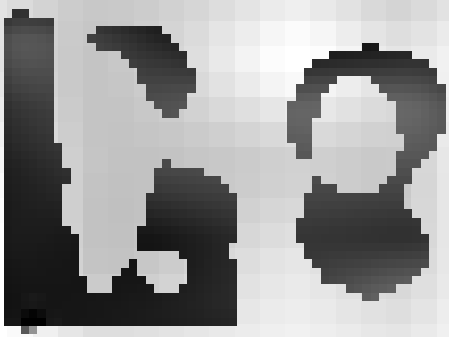
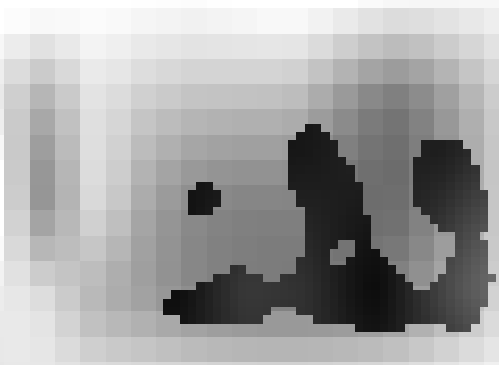
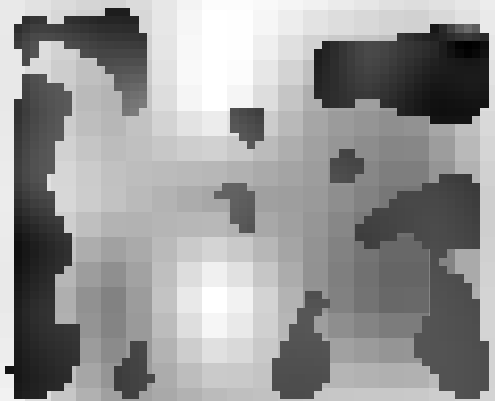
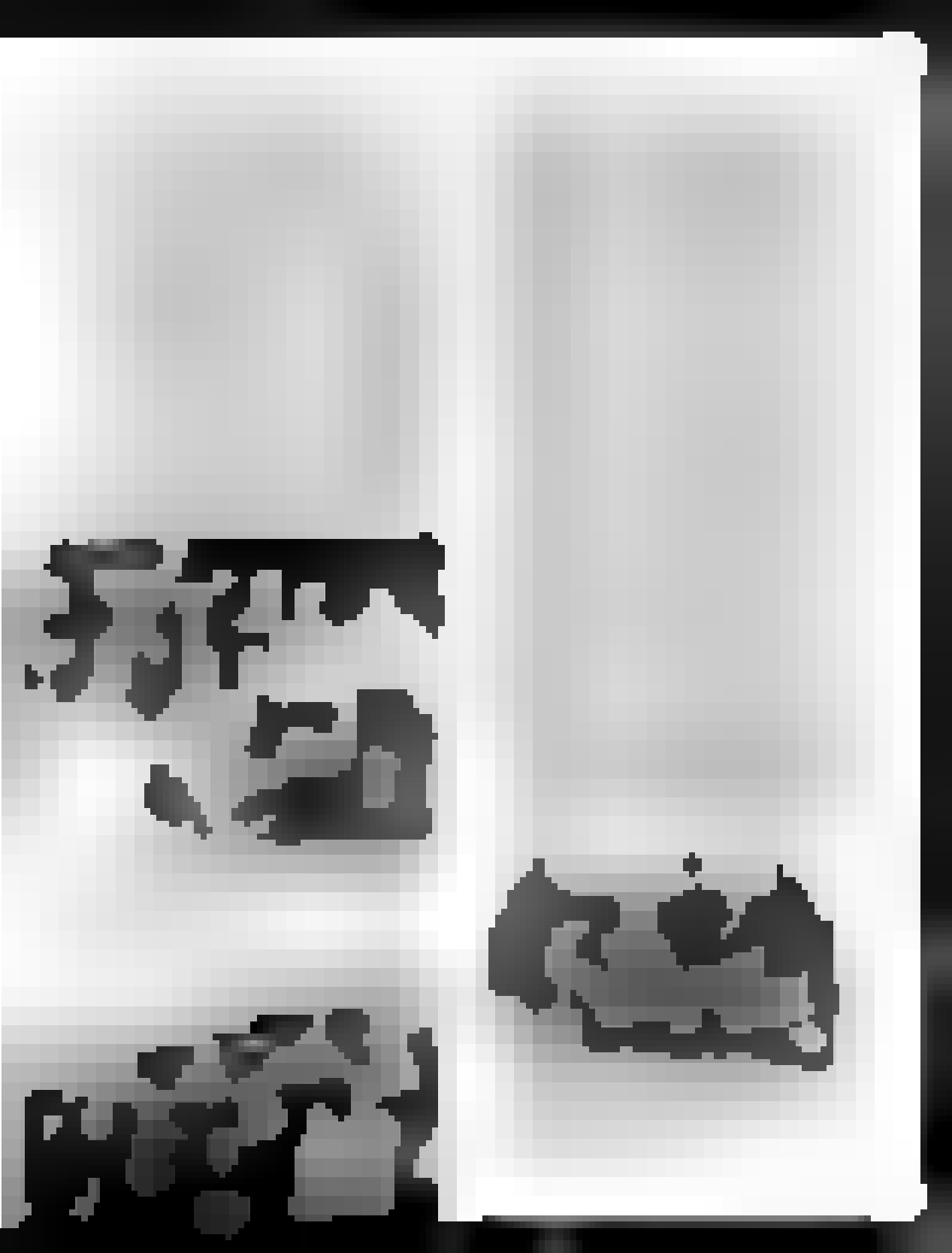
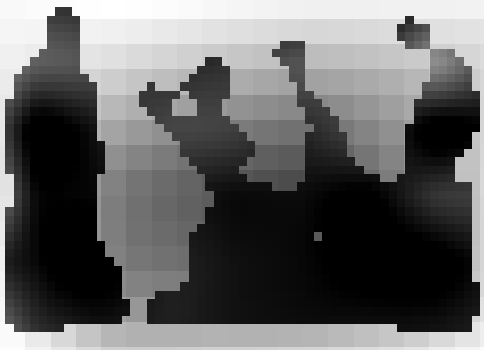
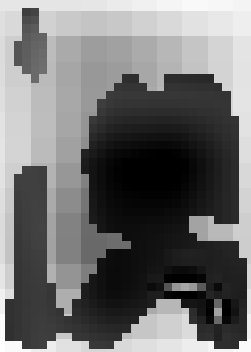
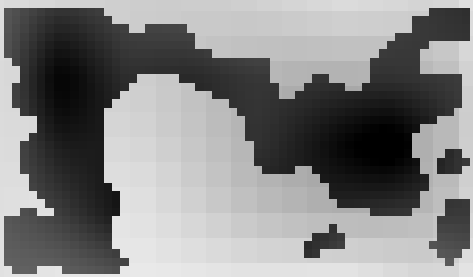
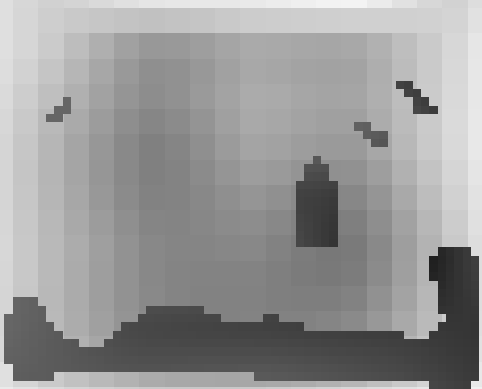
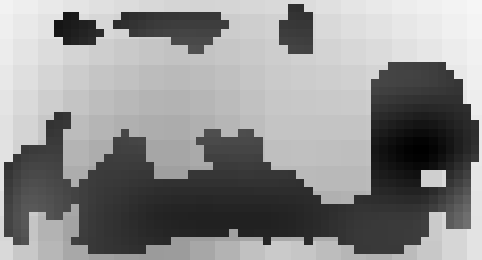
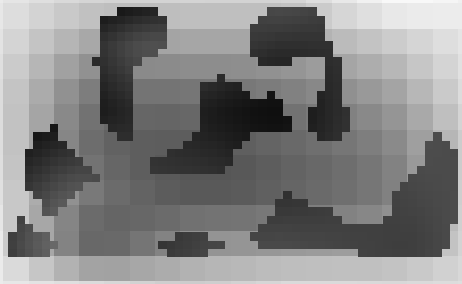
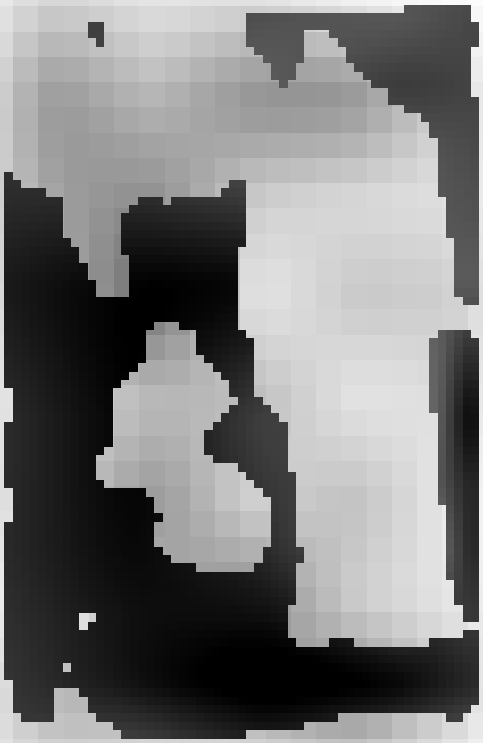
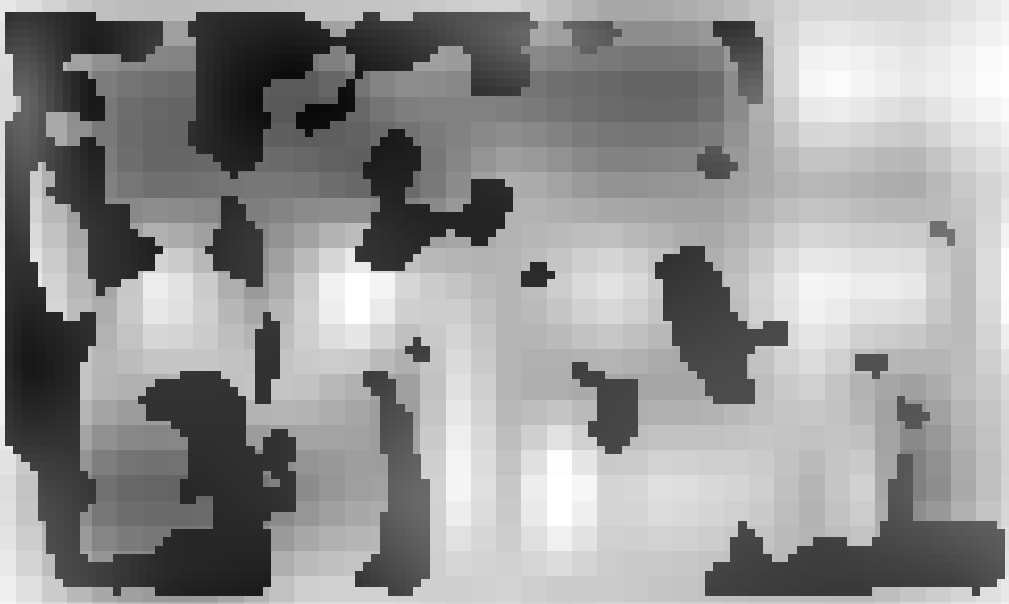
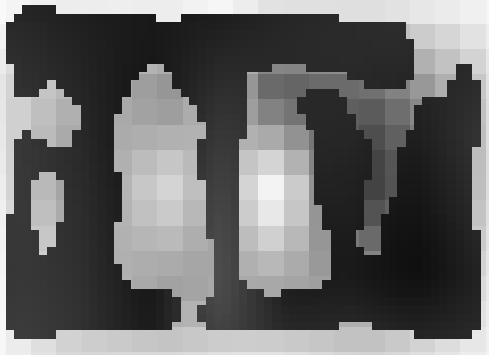
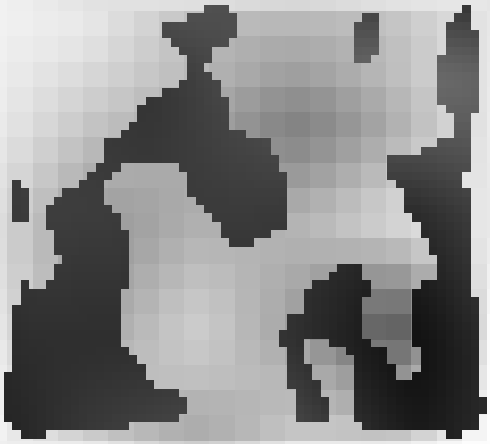
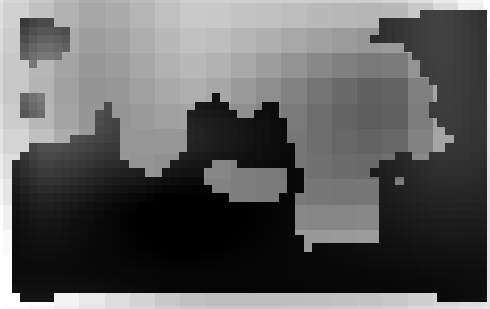
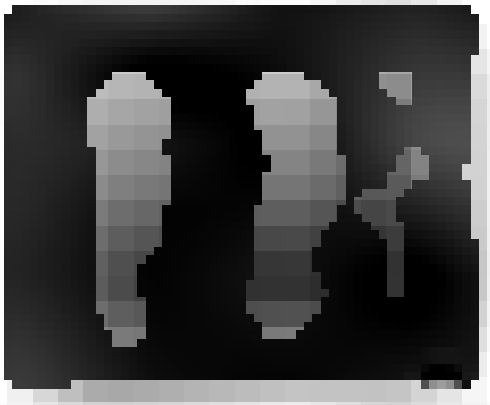
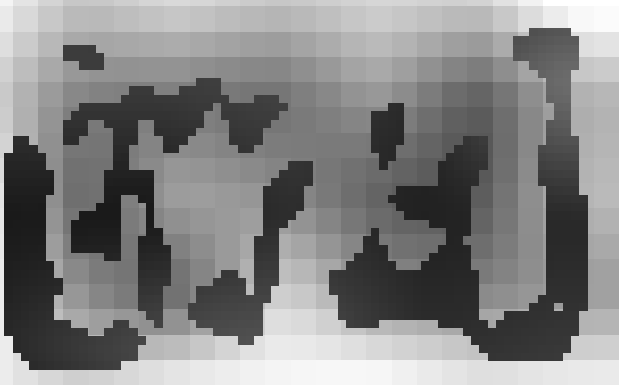
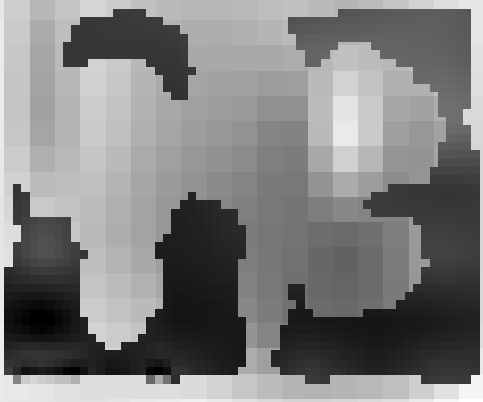
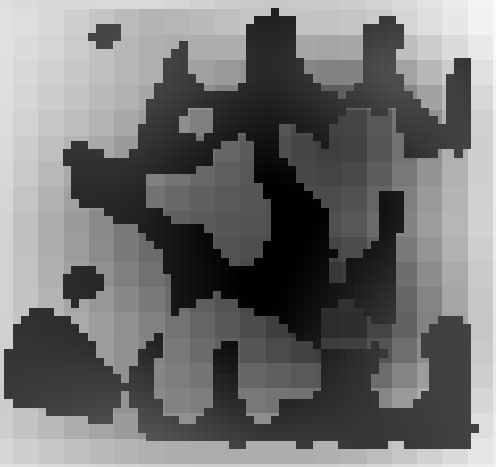
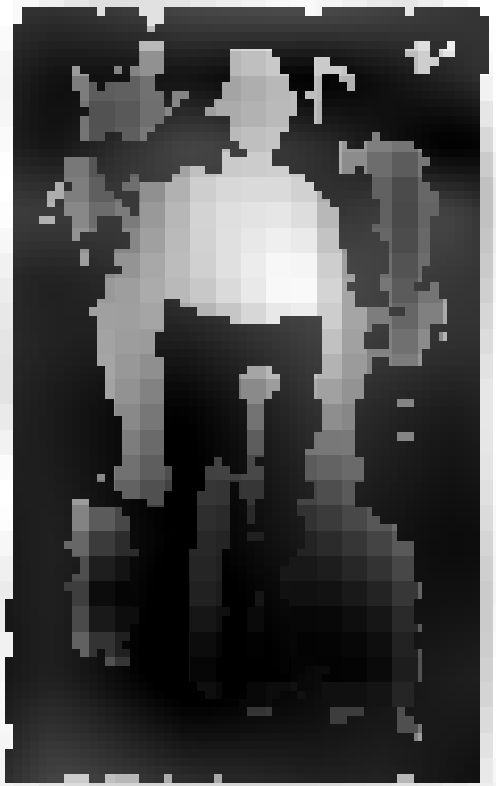
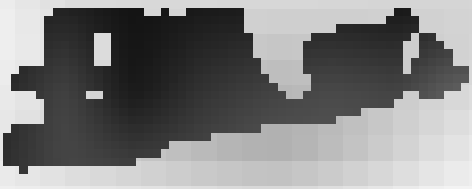
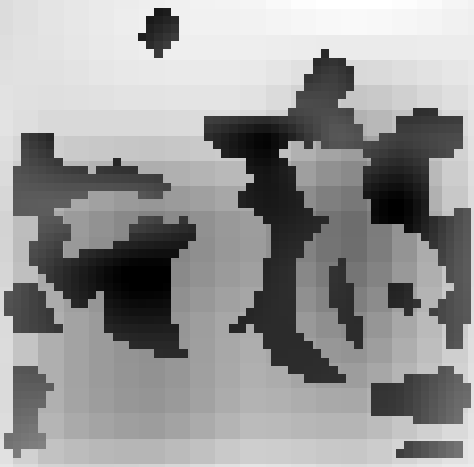
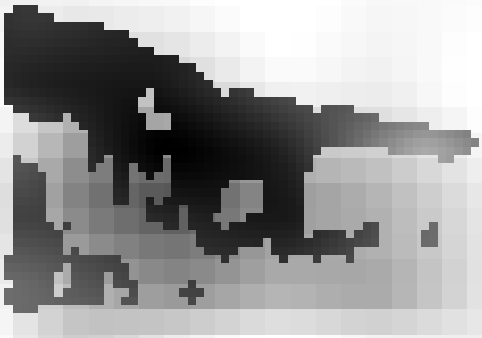
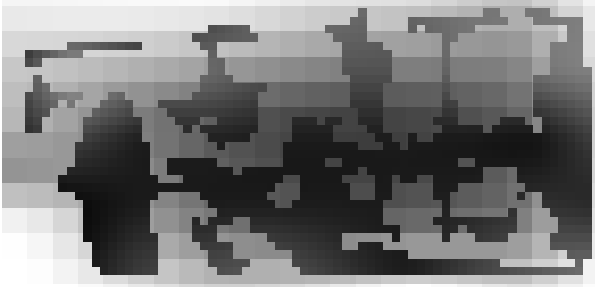
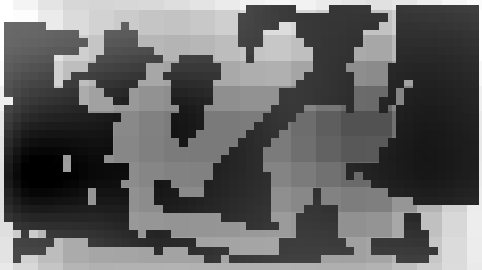
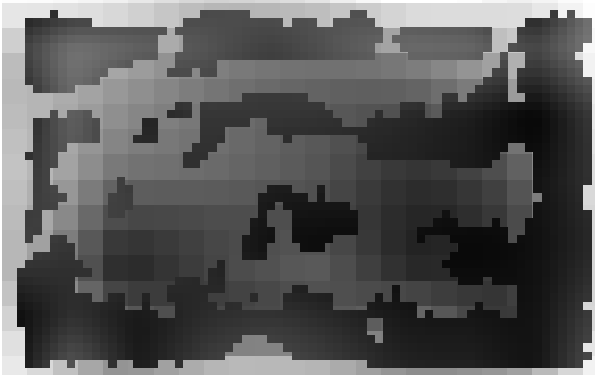
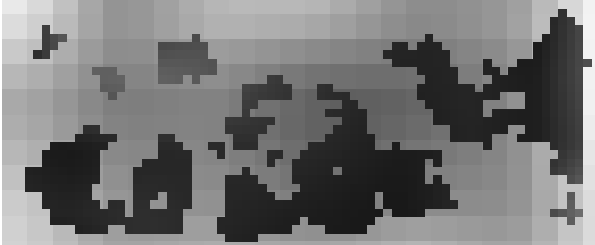
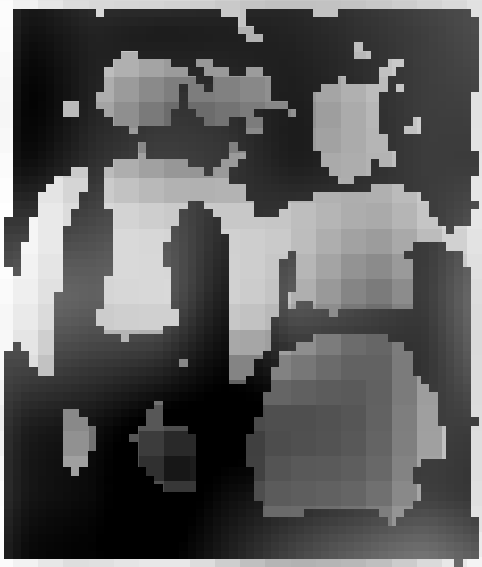
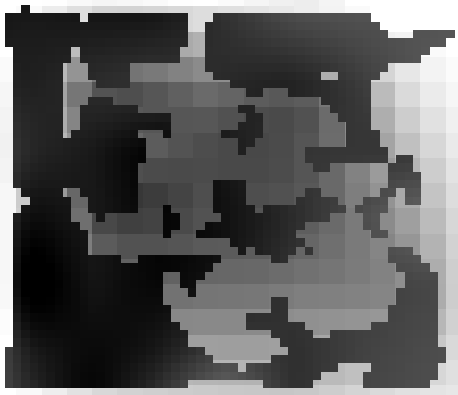
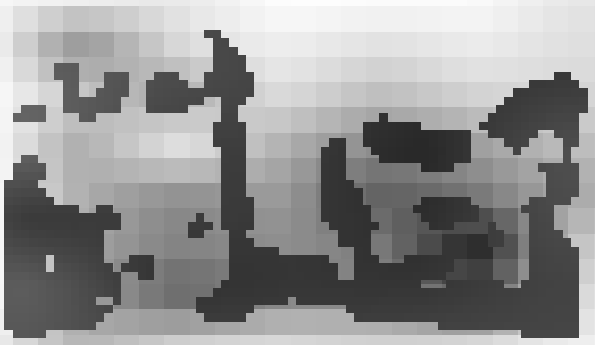
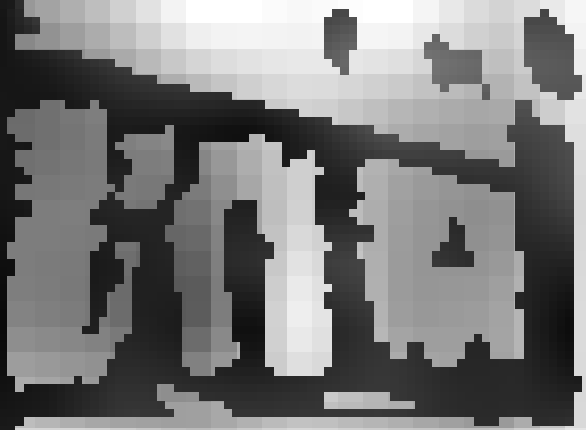
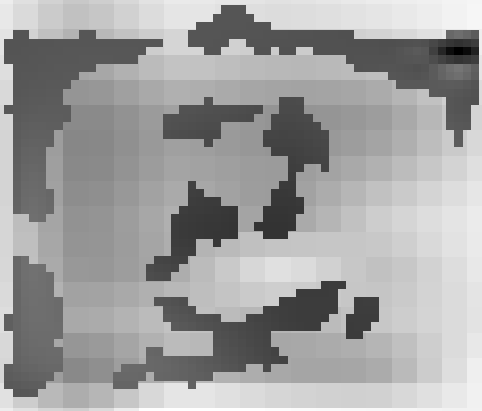
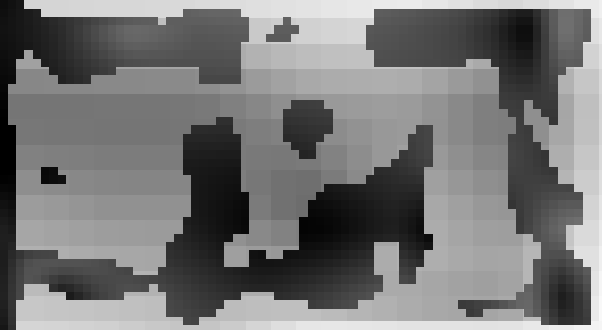
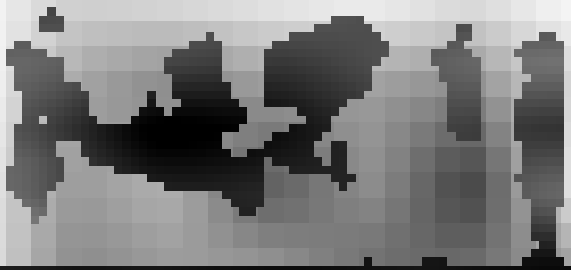
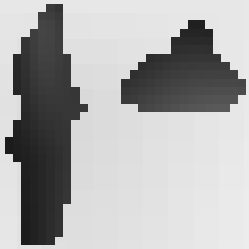
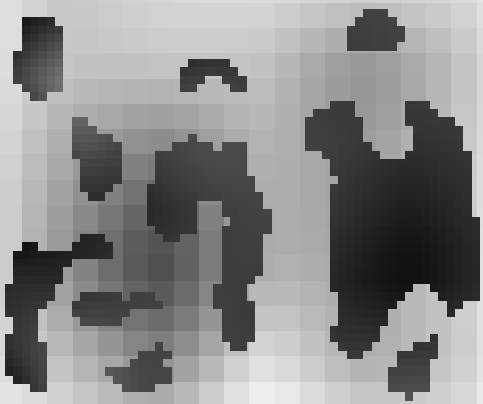
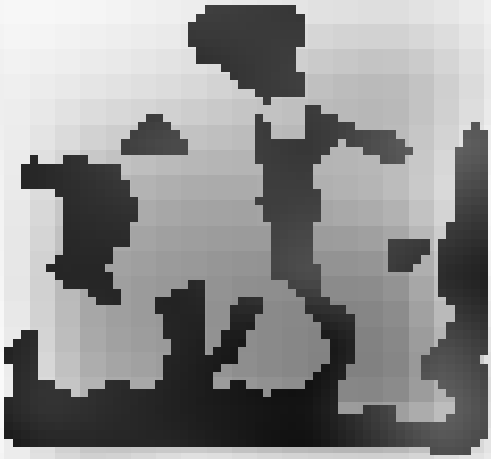
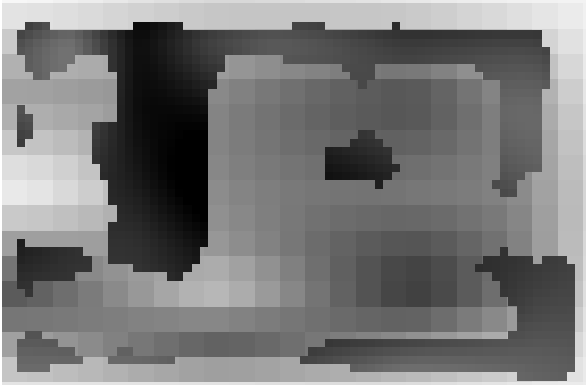
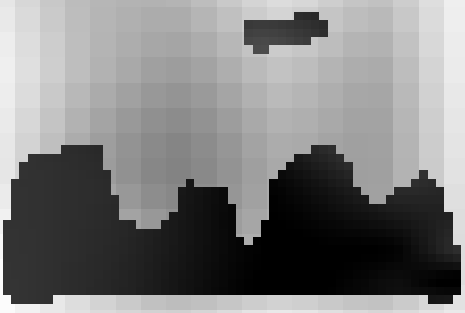
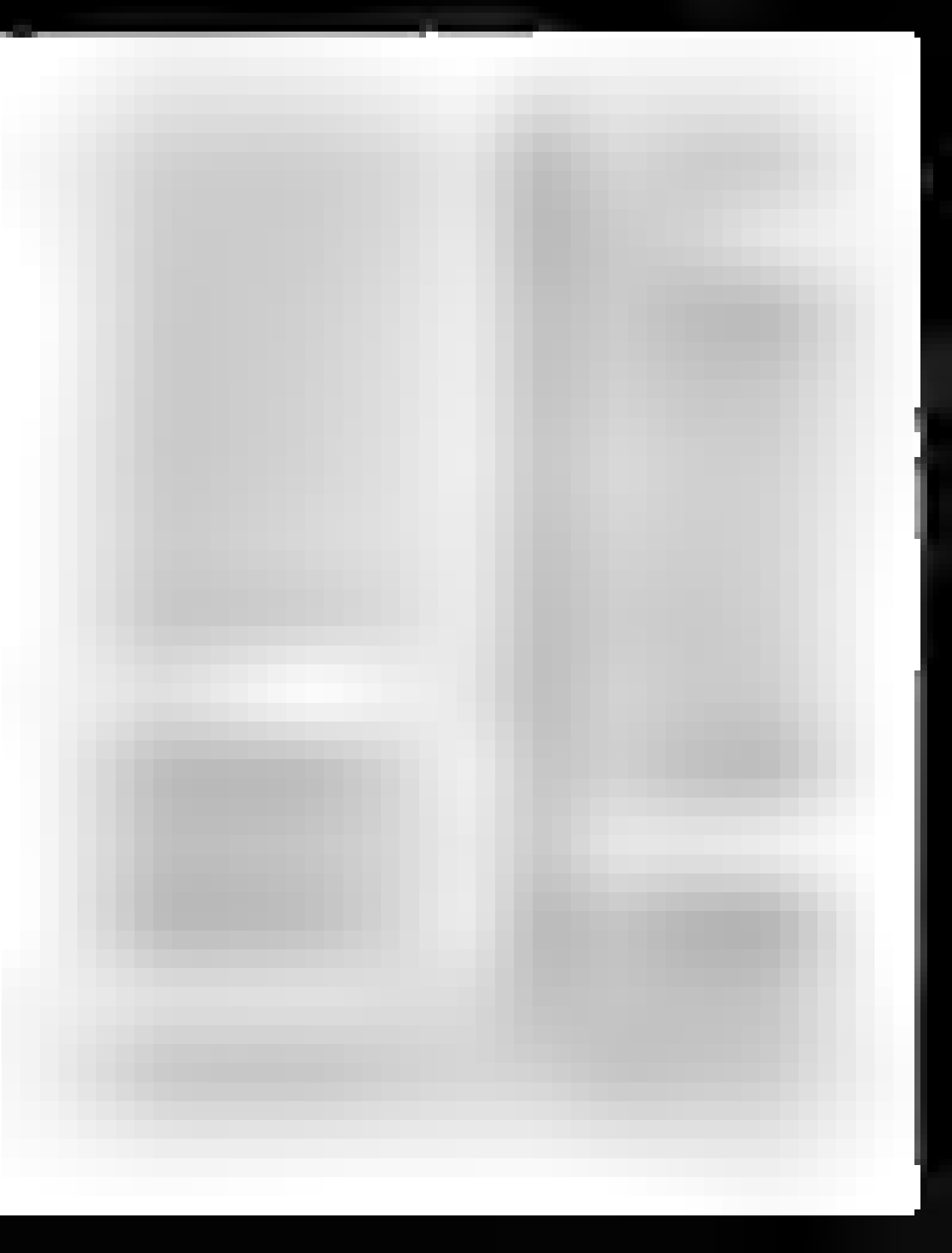
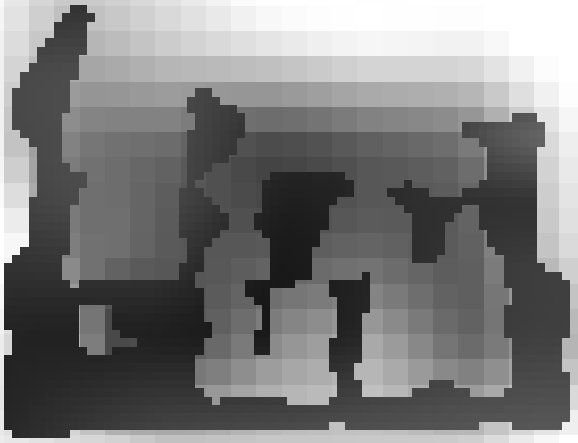
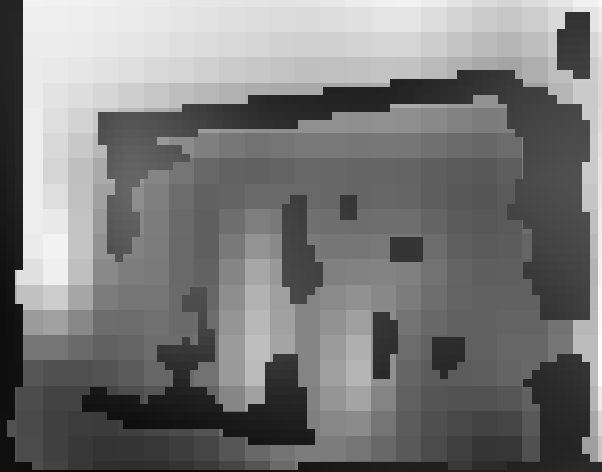
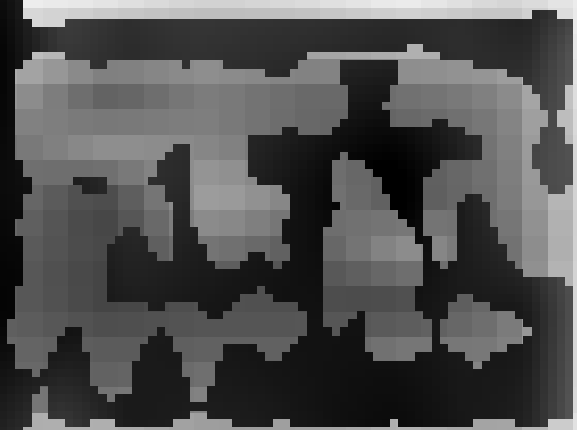
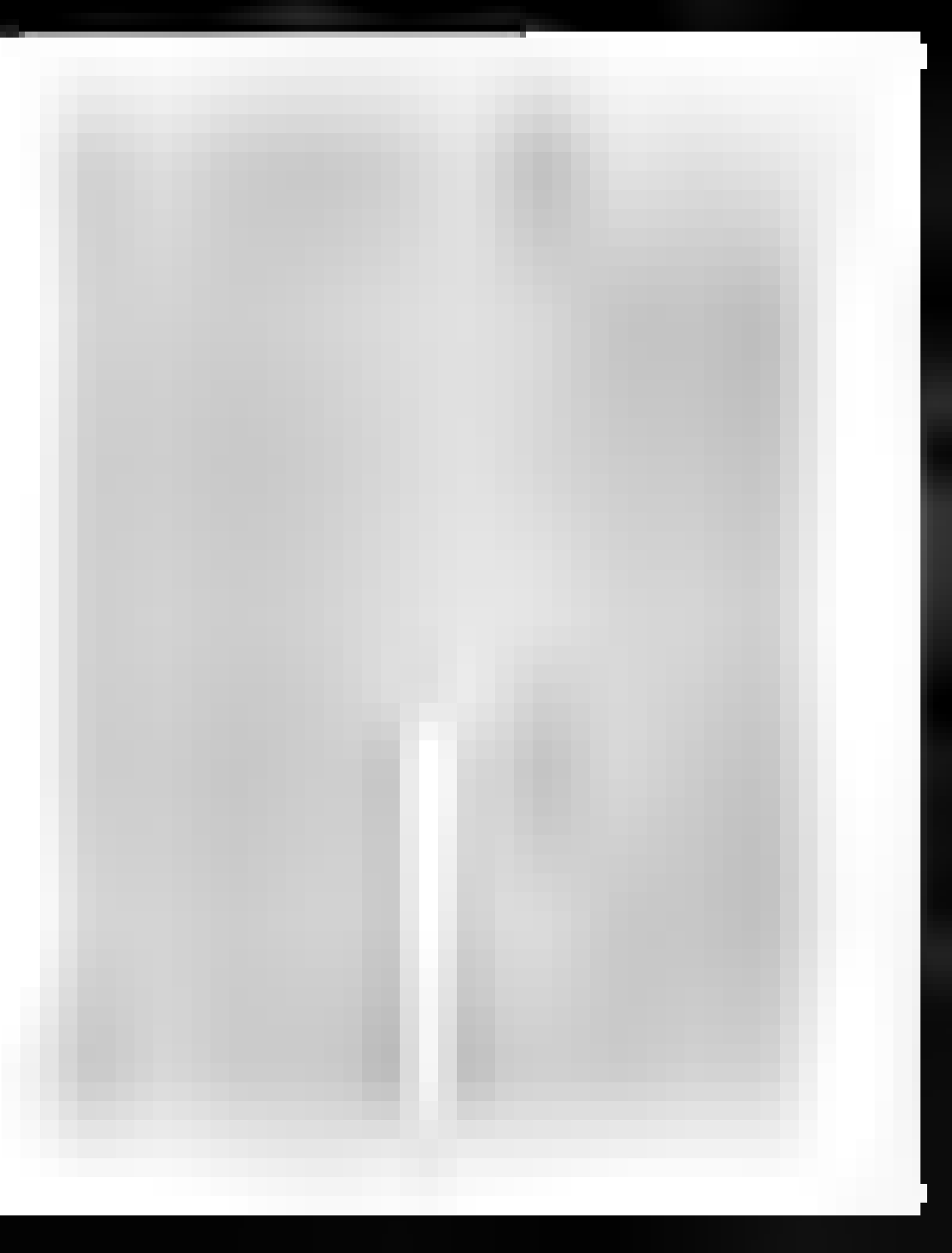
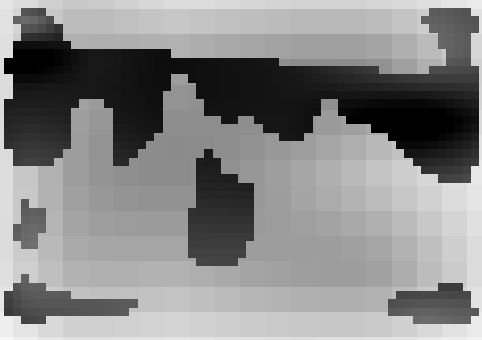
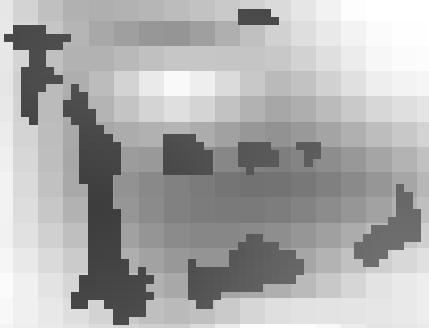
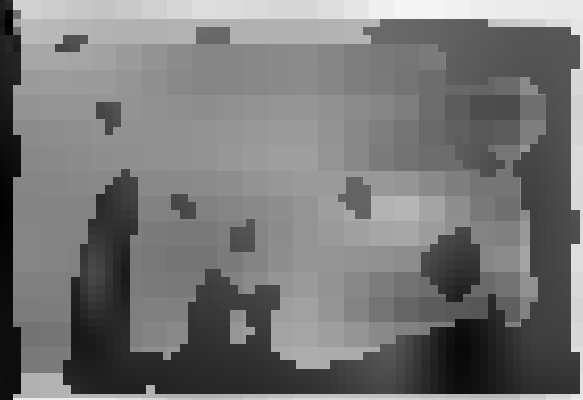
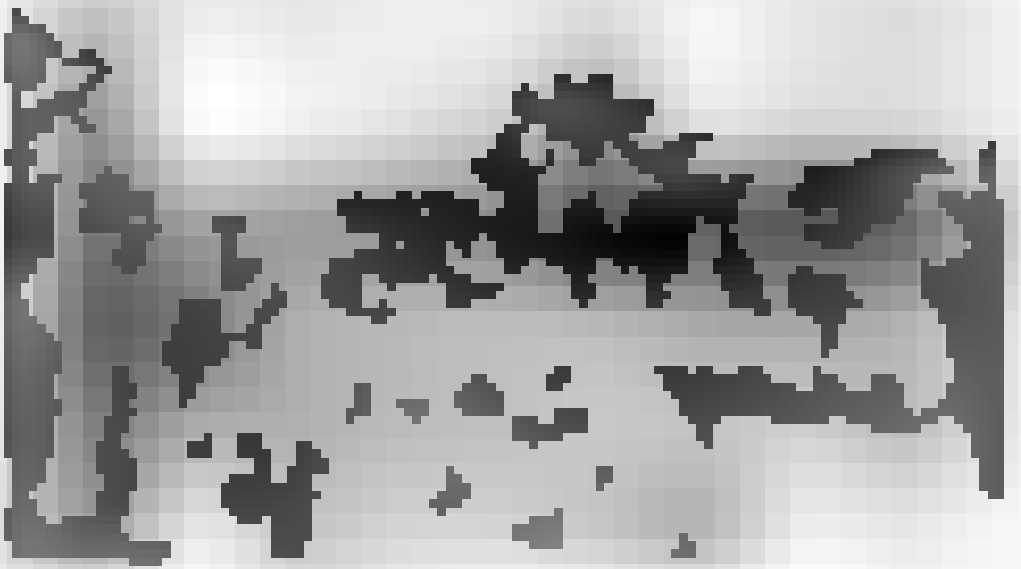
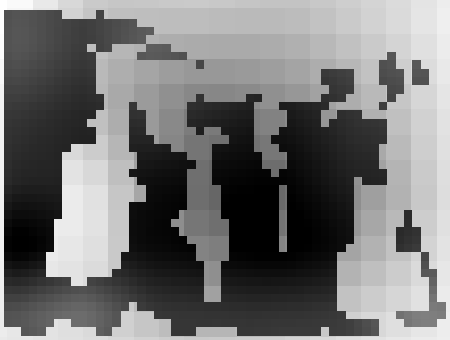
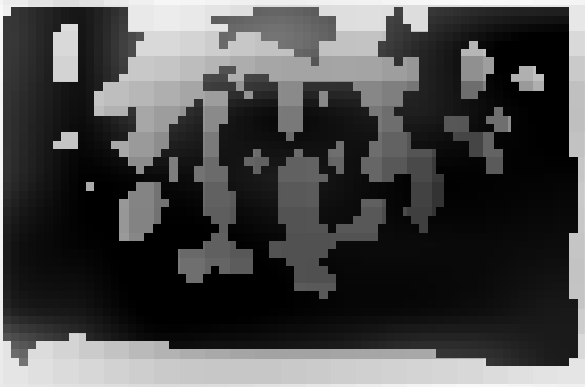
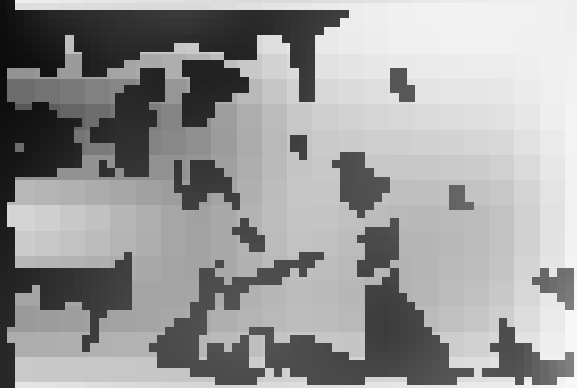
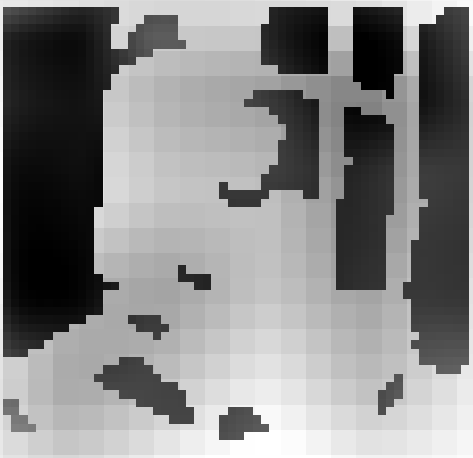
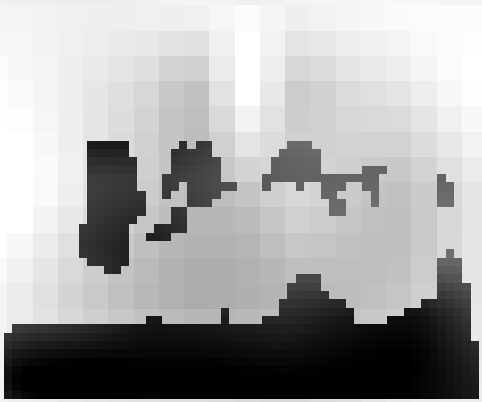
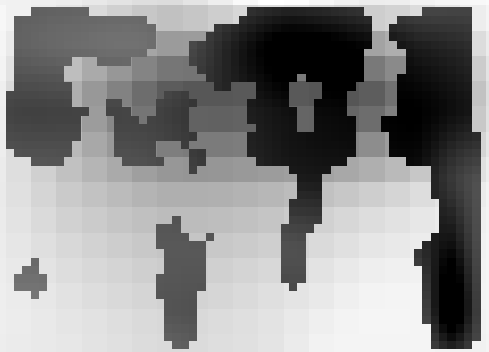
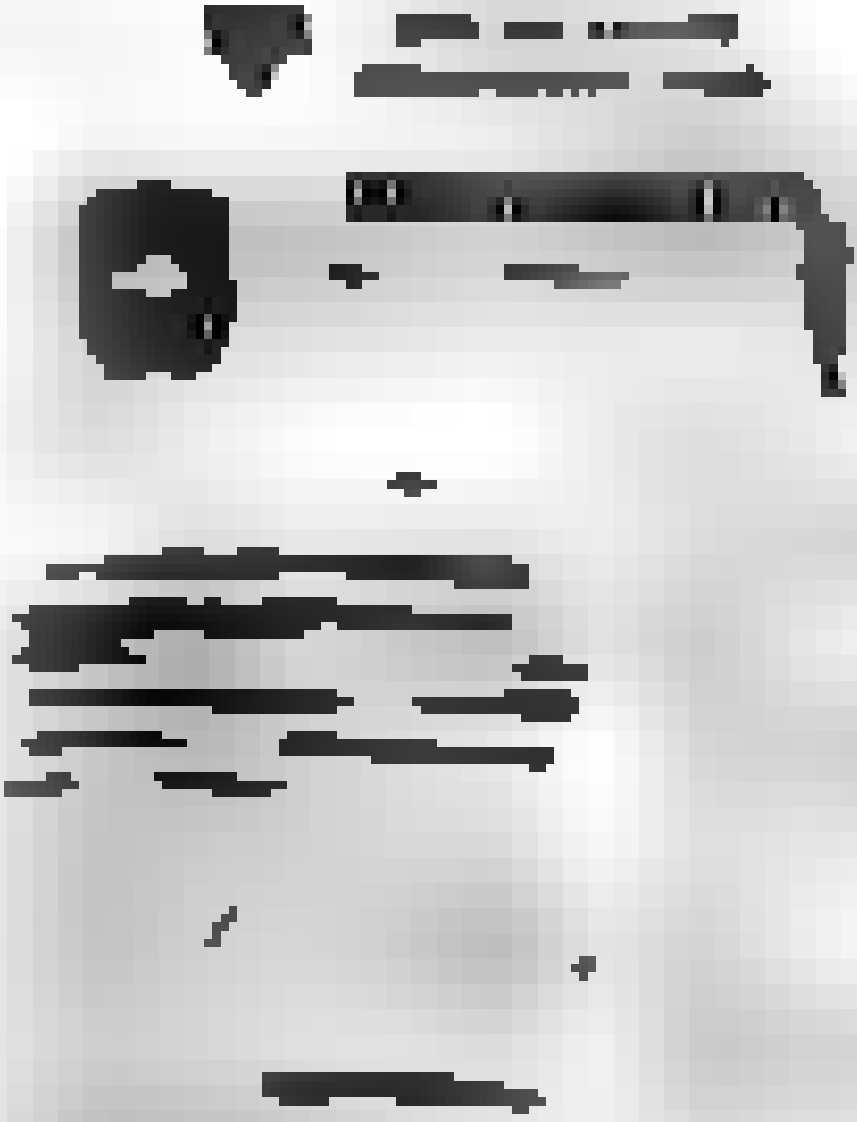
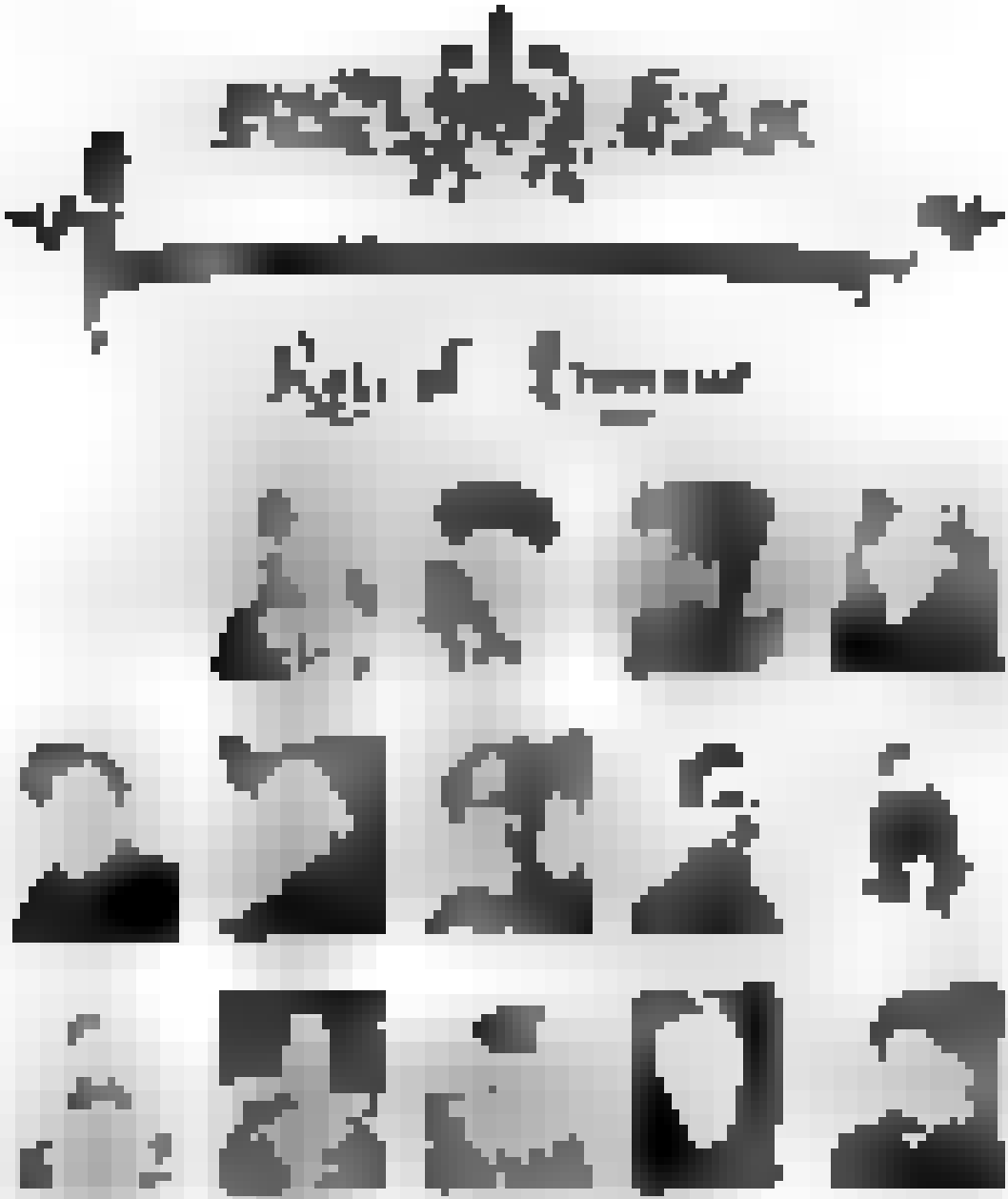
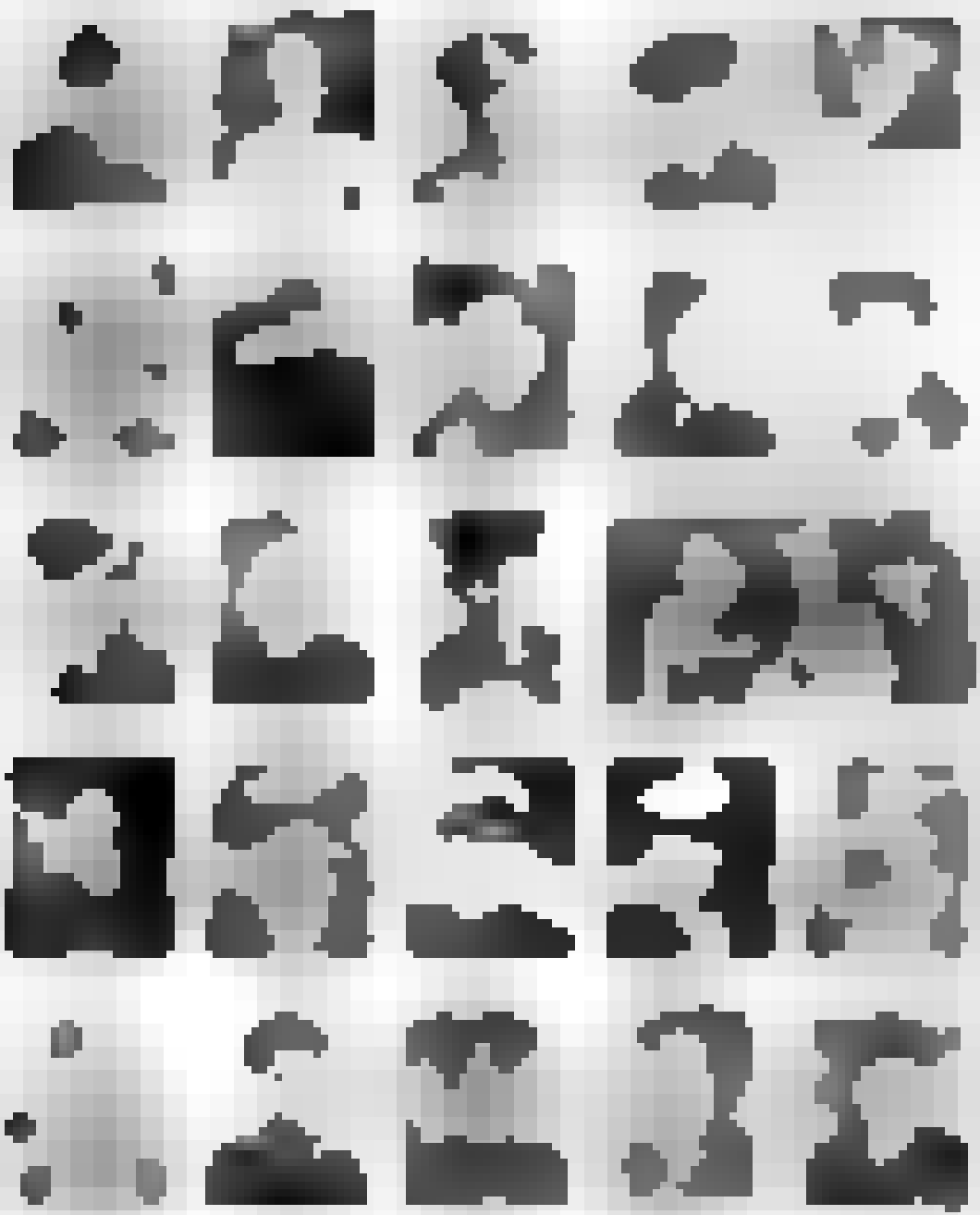
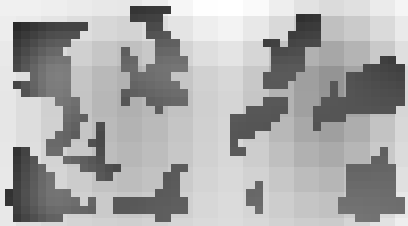
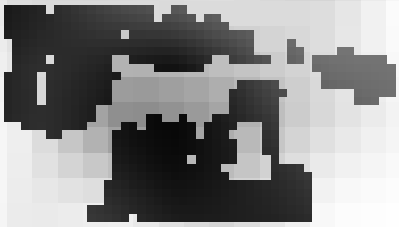
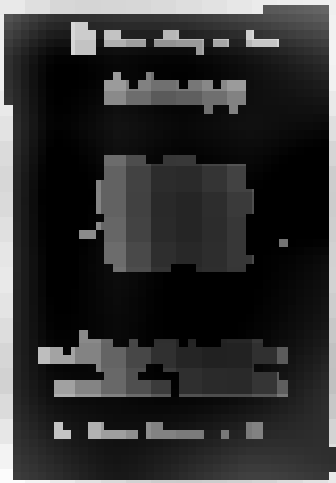
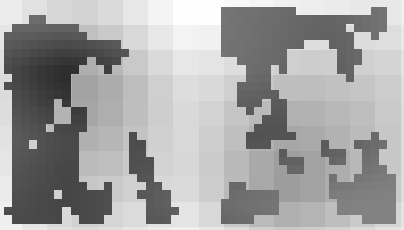
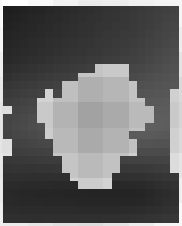
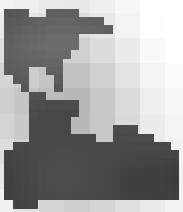
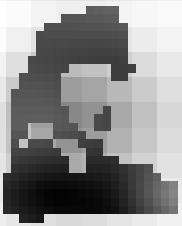
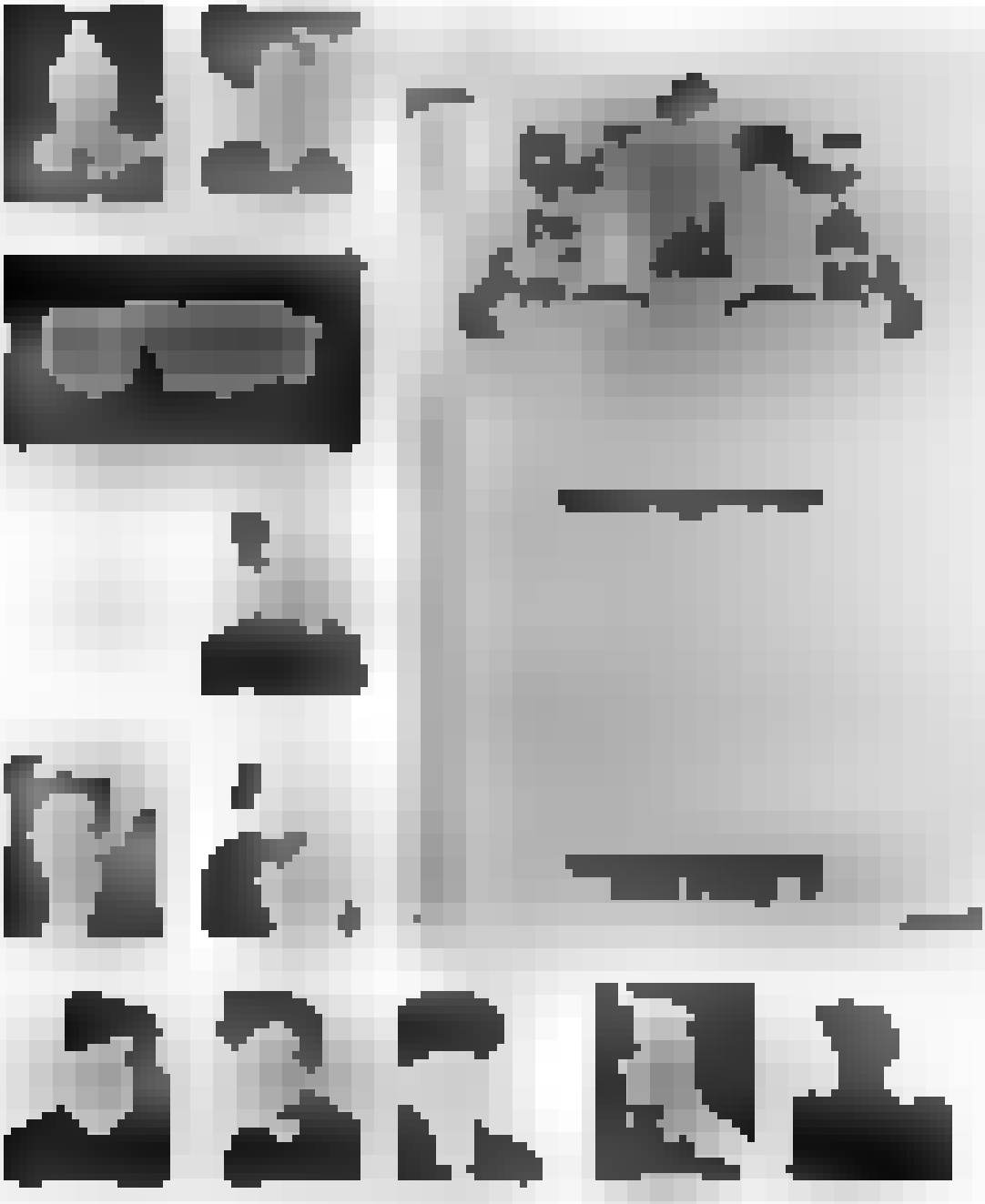
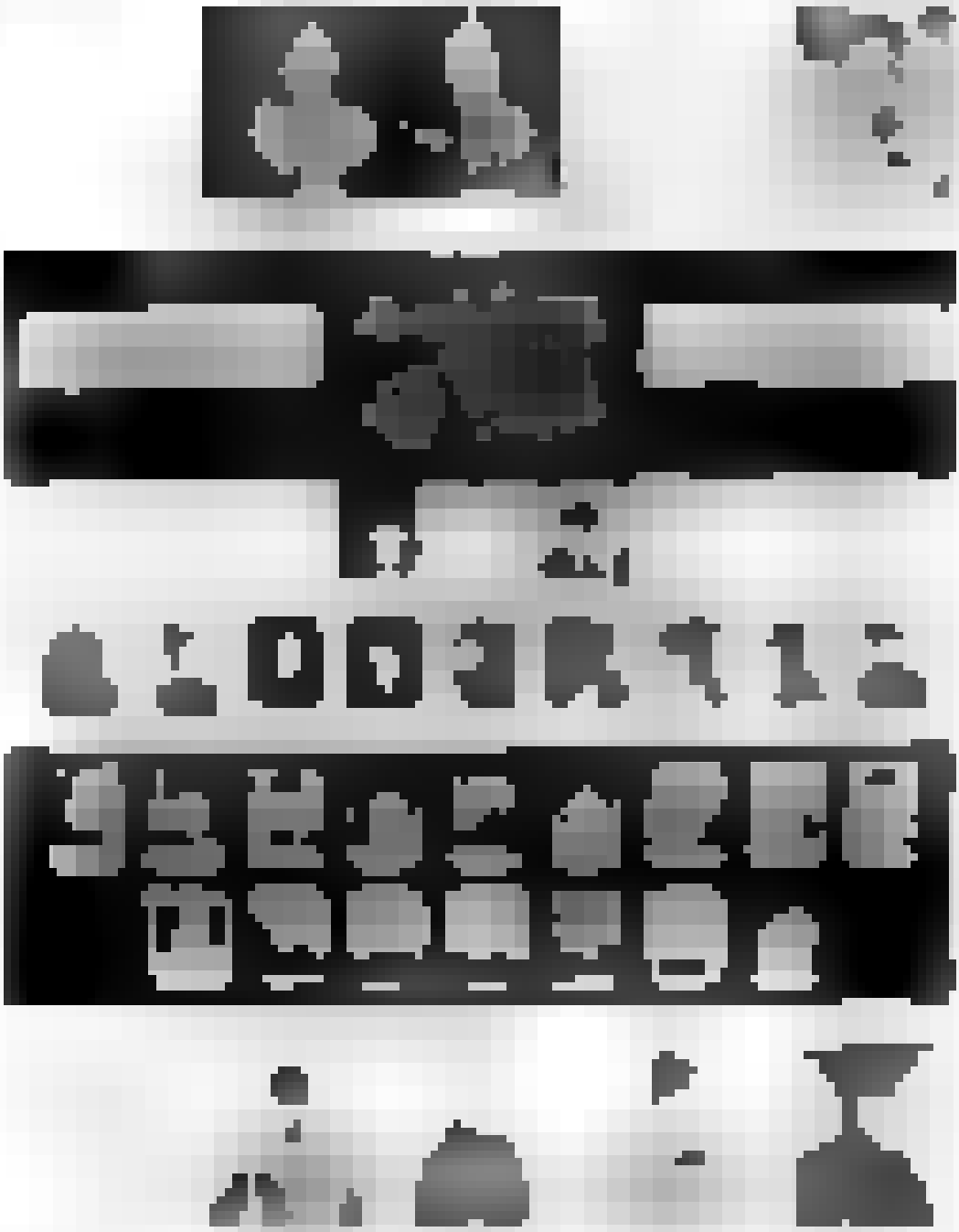
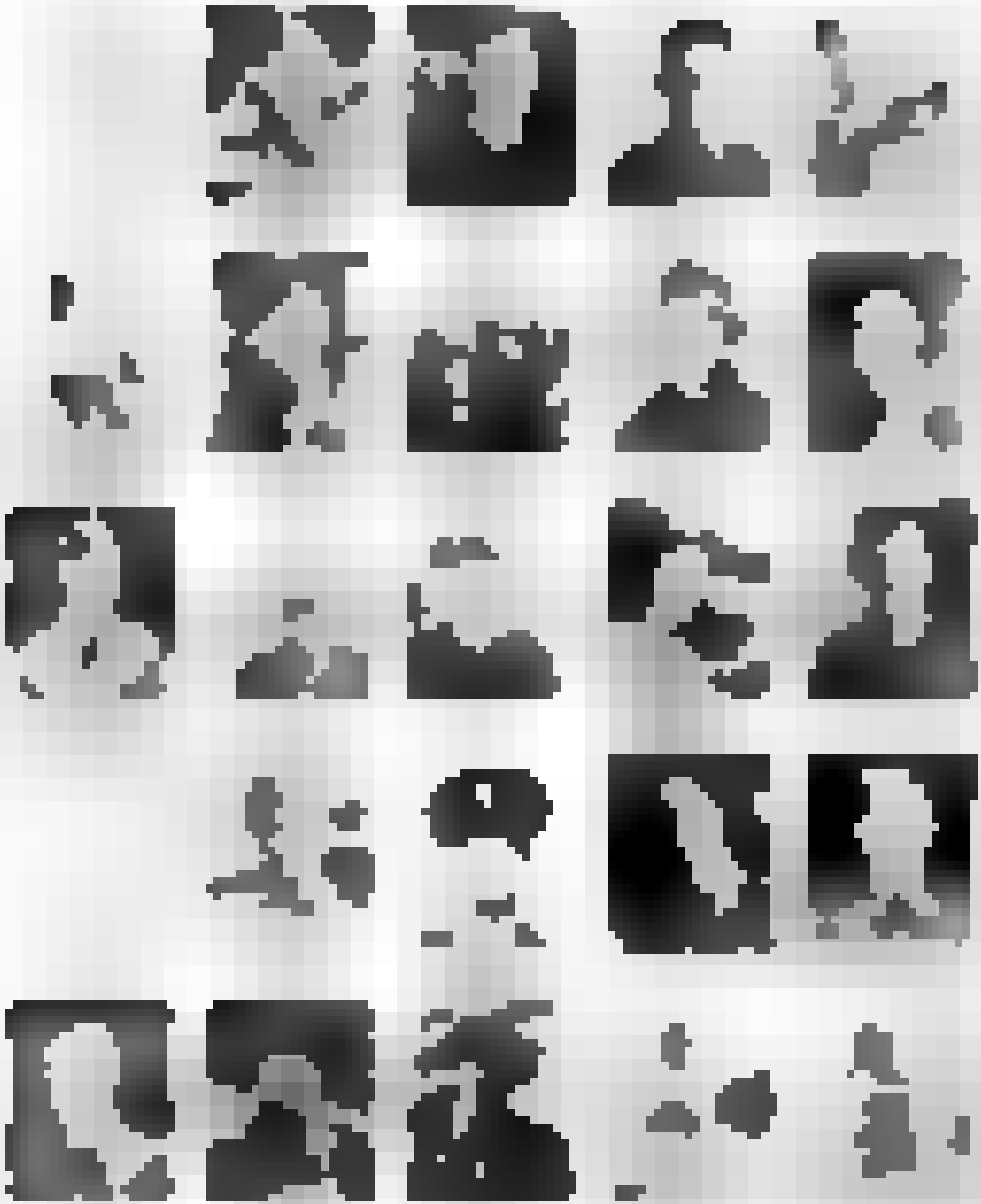
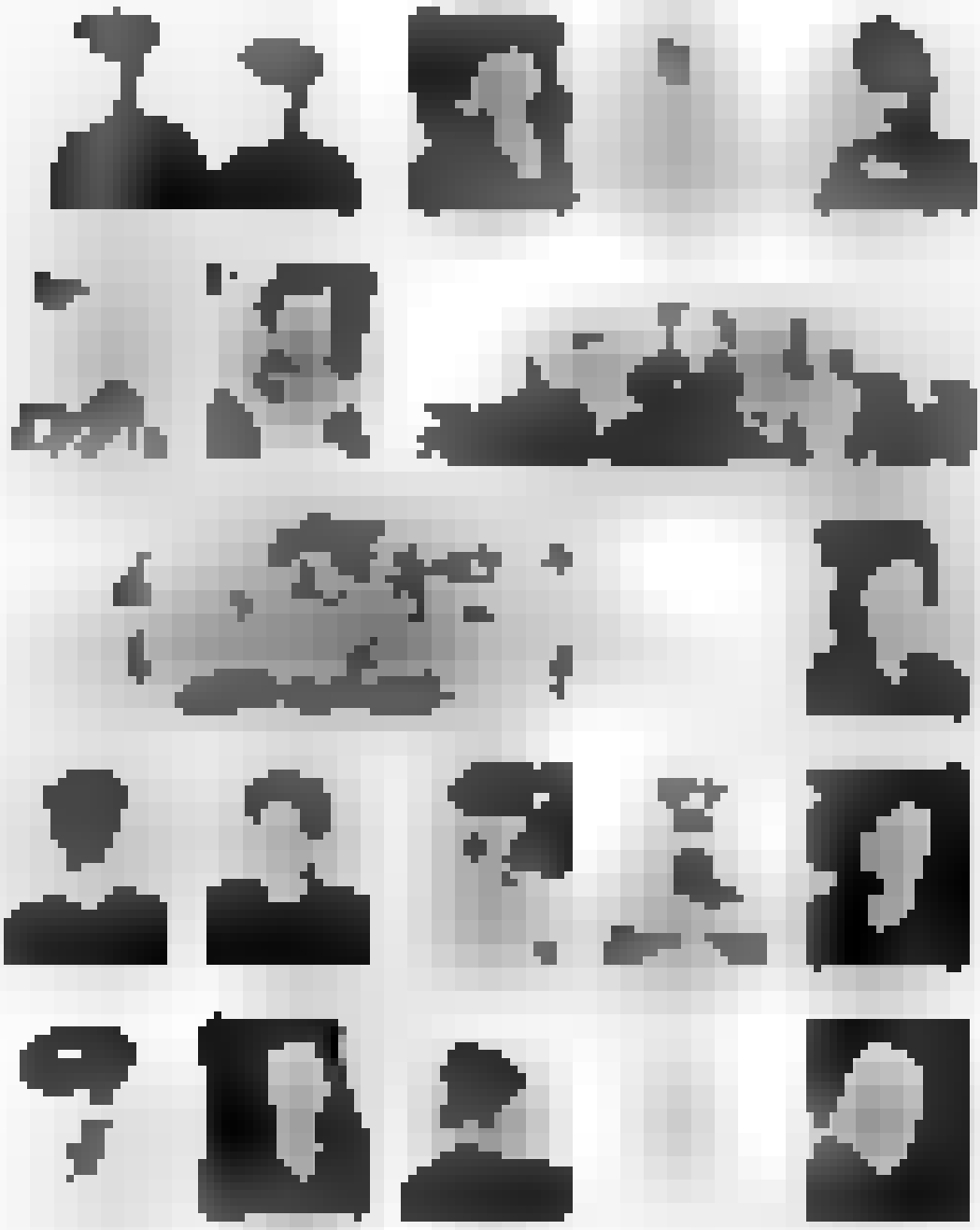
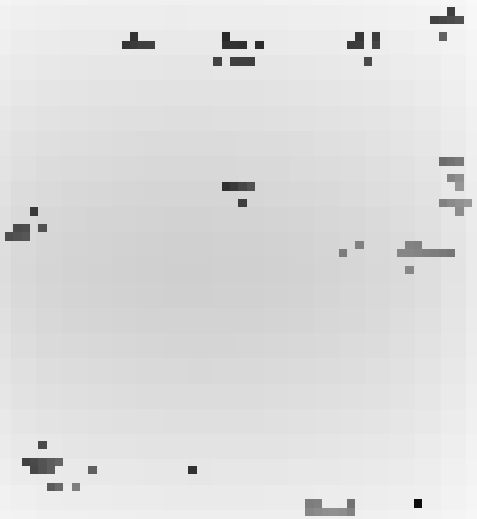
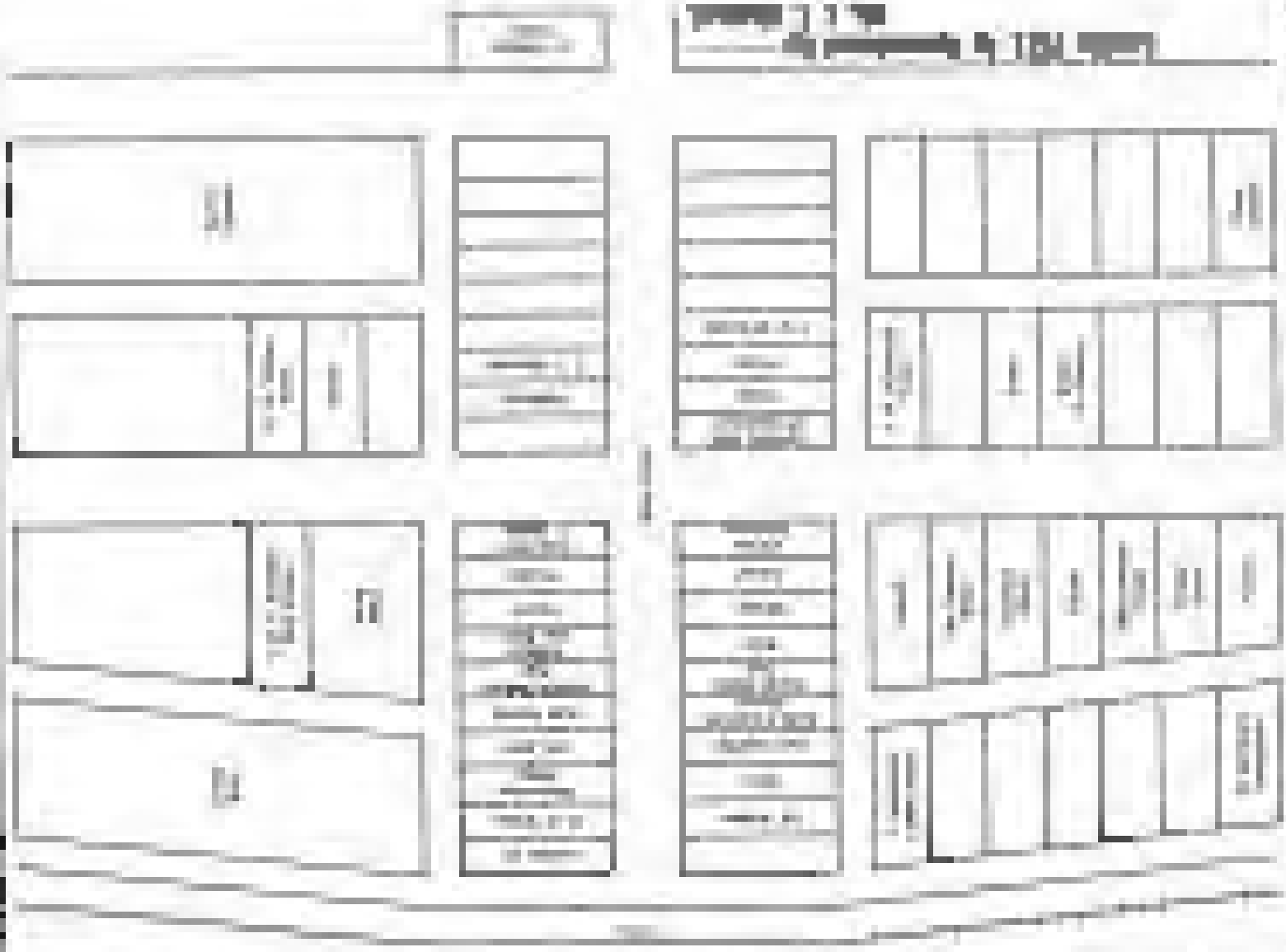








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